

**HARFORD COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET**

**SURVEY NUMBER:** HA-1718

**BUILDING NAME:** Robert Amos House

**LOCATION:** Putnam, (near Upper Crossroads), MD

**BUILDING DATE:** ca. 1850

**DESCRIPTION:** The Robert Amos House is a frame, large, side-gable frame dwelling that grew by accretion over a number of decades. It is an undistinguished example of the common I-house typically used in the nineteenth century. Neither the house nor the setting has integrity, as the dwelling is devoid of most interior original finishing materials and the setting has been diminished by the loss of all period buildings and the placement on site of a mobile home and a school bus. The Robert Amos House, located at the former Amos "Farm and Mill Seat" on a ca. 5 acre parcel, is one of innumerable remnants of rural and urban properties owned by the Amos (or Amoss) family, prominent in Harford County history. This property was the former location of the Robert Amos Mill, located downhill from the house near the confluence of two tributaries of the West Branch of Winters Run, which has not been extant since at least the turn of the century.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The Robert Amos House, highly modified throughout the last decades since its construction in 1850, has, in its present state, little historical association with the past, and minimal architectural interest. With the loss of the original nineteenth century mill and all outbuildings, it has little association with the era when mills were such a vital part of the economic and social infrastructure. In addition, the siting of the property retains little integrity, given that it is the location of a mobile home and school bus, moved to the property by the current owner. Finally, the gutting of the interior of the dwelling, with great loss of interior fabric, has considerably compromised its integrity of materials and workmanship.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HA 1718

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Robert Amos House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 2208 Baldwin Mill Road

N/A not for publication

Putnam

city, town (near Upper Crossroads)

vicinity of

congressional district

4th

state MD

county Harford

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. & Mrs. Howard J. Popp, Jr.

street & number 2208 Baldwin Mill Road

telephone no.:

city, town Fallston

state and zip code MD 21047

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courthouse

liber 836

street & number

folio 153

city, town Bel Air

state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title N/A

date

federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

# 7. Description

Survey No. HA-1718

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See Continuation Sheet 7.1

# 8. Significance

Survey No. HA 1718

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** ca.1850      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See Continuation Sheet 8.1

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1718

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of inventoried property 4.86 acres

Quadrangle name Jarrettsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax parcel

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Ms. Rita M. Suffness, Architectural Historian</u>		
organization	<u>MD</u>	<u>SHA</u>	date <u>7/11/00</u>
street & number	<u>707 N. Calvert St.</u>		telephone <u>410-545-8561</u>
city or town	<u>Baltimore</u>	state	<u>MD</u>

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: ~~Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438~~

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

**HA-1718  
ROBERT AMOS HOUSE  
PUTNAM, MARYLAND**

**CONTINUATION SHEET 7.1**

**DESCRIPTION**

**Contributing Resources: 1**

**Non-Contributing Resources: 3**

**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:** The Robert Amos House, located at the former Amos Mill Seat on a ca. 5 acre parcel, is located between two tributaries of the West Fork of Winters Run where they cross Baldwin Mill Road (MD 165). This area is located between Upper Crossroads and Putnam in Harford County. There are four structures on the property, with only one pre-dating the final quarter of the twentieth century—the heavily altered, mid-nineteenth century, frame ell-shaped farmhouse located on a rise overlooking the MD 165 and its junction with the tributaries of Winters Run and Charles Street. The remaining three structures are a mobile home, a school bus and a dilapidated frame shed, which the current owner constructed or moved to the property since buying it in 1969.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Robert Amos property is located at the junction of MD 165 and Charles Street in rural Harford County. It is located north of Upper Crossroads in rural Harford County. The dwelling was constructed on a mill property, a remnant of portions of large land grants known as Salisbury, Improvement and Ogg, King of Basham. These were, for the most part, included in the 190 acres purchased by Tudor Chocke (Chorke, Chalk) in 1813 for 5 shillings. It is probable that the Robert Amos property, along with the John Roach House (HA1719) across Charles Street from it, were located on a portion of Salisbury, small parts of which were purchased by William Amos in 1879 (Land Record BBN1, F192) for 5 pounds, and Corbin Amos in 1836 for \$55.

The Amos farmhouse is located on a largely cleared remnant (ca. 5 acre) of a formerly nineteenth-century mill property, which encompassed 30 to 40 acres until the 1930's. The mill, which had disappeared by the 1902 USGS quadrangle map, was located downhill from the house near the confluence of the two branches of Winters Run. This property was the former location of the Robert Amos Mill, which has not been extant since at least the turn of the century. It is one of numerous remnants of rural and urban properties owned by the Amos (or Amoss) family, prominent in Harford County history. After 1899, when the property was sold by the Amos descendants, it rapidly passed through the possession of nine owners before the current resident, Howard Popp, Jr. purchased it in 1969.

There are four structures on the property, with the only one pre-dating the last thirty years being the dwelling, likely built by Robert Amos upon his acquisition of four small parcels in the 1850's (William Hilt may be noted as the resident on the 1878 Martenet map, although the mill is clearly that of Robert Amos). This frame house (1), sheathed with brick-pattern, asphalt siding, is an ell-shaped structure, on a rubble masonry foundation. According to the owner, the original part is the main, side-gable section, which faces east toward MD 165. It was extended at an unknown date with a lower gable-roofed wing that continues the north wall plane. This wing, with a modernized kitchen, was subsequently extended to both the north (with an open porch) and to the south with a one-story enclosed porch, which is also clad with the same asphalt sheathing characteristic of the main block and the ell. The angle, in the northwest, formed by the junction of these perpendicular wings, has been partially infilled with a frame, shed-roofed addition.

The structure was thoroughly modernized by the current owner. All of the windows are aluminum-frame, one-over-one replacements, and most of the exterior trim is clad with vinyl siding. The interior was largely removed, some walls moved, and new floors, walls, and lowered ceilings installed. On the interior all of the plaster was replaced with plaster board or masonite paneling, and fireplaces closed up, although they are expressed on the exterior by the two

**HA-1718  
ROBERT AMOS HOUSE  
PUTNAM, MARYLAND**

**CONTINUATION SHEET 7.2  
DESCRIPTION**

The east, or entrance façade, is five bays wide, with a shed roof porch, three bays wide, sheltering the centered entrance. On the north elevation, which is five bays long given the main section and the wing, there is a bulkhead entrance to the basement. The fenestration is regular in the gable end of the main section, with two sets of windows on the two main levels and two one-over-two windows centered near the peak. This north elevation is continued by the three-bay long ell with a secondary entrance in the center, sheltered by an open shed-roofed porch carried by openwork wrought iron foliate-pattern supports. The concrete floor of this porch is supported by rubble masonry walls which extends from the wall plane, with two large open sections filled in by open, lattice, wood screens.

The rear, or west elevation (gable end) of the ell has no fenestration or openings. The south gable end of the main block is likewise almost blank, except for two small, one-over-two windows near the peak of the roof.

A mobile home (2) is located off the northwest corner. It was moved to the site about twenty years ago by the current owner, as has a school bus (3), located at a right angle and off the southwest corner of the mobile home. Just downslope from the mobile home, and within a wooded area, is a dilapidated frame, shed-roofed shed (4), which the owner built during his tenure on the property.

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PUTNAM, MARYLAND**

**CONTINUATION SHEET 7.3  
DESCRIPTION**

<b>CHAIN OF TITLE</b>			
Milton Poe and wife	to	Howard Popp Jr. and wife 4.86 acres	836/153 1/19/1969
Virginia Coe Widow	to	Milton Poe and wife 5.5 acres \$3,500	604/448 11/5/1962
Charles Coe	to	Virginia Coe Probated 7/28/1947	Will Record 22/40
Henry Emrick and wife	to	Charles Coe Salisbury, Improvement and Ogg, King of Basham 40 acres	213/85 7/11/1929
Martin Thomas and wife	to	Henry Emrick and wife Amos Mill Property, 40 acres  \$3,000	155/272 4/6/1917
Edgar McAllister and wife	to	Martin Thomas \$3,000	145/78 3/31/14
John Cooney and wife	to	Edgar McAllister Amos Mill Property \$3,000	20/448 5/9/1907
James Baird and wife	to	John Cooney	104/278 5/21/1902

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**MILL NO LONGER EXTANT: DWELLING REMAINS**

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Caroline F. Amos	to	James Baird \$2,000 Zachariah Amos died seized	98/393 10/23/1899
B. Abbott Amos and wife	to	Caroline F. Amos Farm and Mill Seat  Zachariah Amos died 12/29/1890  Caroline F. Amos, Administrator	89/435 11/12/1896  Reg. of Will File 5200 JMM21/336

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ROBERT AMOS HOUSE  
PUTNAM, MARYLAND

CONTINUATION SHEET 7.4  
DESCRIPTION

Robert Amos and Elizabeth	to	Zachariah Amos	17/77
	\$3,000, 30 acres	Improvement and Salisbury Farm and Mill Seat	3/10/1866
1) Abraham Amos	to	Robert Amos	2/125
	\$450, 9 acres, Improvement and Salisbury		11/2/1852
2) George Chalk	to	Robert Amos	2/288
	\$500, 9 acres, Salisbury		2/23/1853
3) John Chalk	to	Robert Amos	9/37
			5/18/1857
4) Mason Chalk	to	Robert Amos	10/347
			2/2/1859

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MILL APPEARS ON JENNINGS AND HERRICK'S MAP OF 1858

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**HA-1718  
ROBERT AMOS HOUSE  
PUTNAM, HARFORD COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
CONTINUATION SHEET 8.1**

**SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY**

The Robert Amos House, highly modified throughout the last decades since its construction in 1850, has, in its present state, little historical association with the past, and minimal architectural interest. With the loss of the original nineteenth century mill and all outbuildings, it has little association with the past eras when mills were such a vital part of the economic and social infrastructure. In addition, the siting of the property retains little integrity, given that it is the location of a mobile home and school bus, moved to the property by the current owner. Finally, the gutting of the interior of the dwelling, with great loss of interior fabric, has considerably compromised its integrity of materials and workmanship.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Robert Amos House has been evaluated in the context of milling, as it was likely the residence of the miller during the time the mill is likely to have been extant, at least during the last half of the nineteenth century. Its demise, probably by fire or flood, probably occurred about the time that the late nineteenth century owner, Zachariah Amos, died, as the value of the "Farm and Mill Seat" had fallen by one-third between the time he purchased it in 1866 and the sale by Caroline Amos to the Baird family in 1899.

Milling was a pivotal industry in Harford County, and the county had a plethora of mills, blessed as it was with numerous fall line locations advantageous for mill seats, powerful streams and farmland conducive to the cultivation of grain. According to official counts of businesses with over \$500 of annual business in the mid century, the county is known to have had a total of 12 mills in 1850, increasing almost fourfold to 46 by 1880. It is likely that the Robert Amos Mill operated in this time frame, as a gristmill, given the presence of a grinding stone and wheat tub listed in the personal inventory of Zachariah Amos. That it was also a profitable enterprise is borne out by the value of the personal inventory of Zachariah Amos, who purchased the mill from Robert Amos in 1866 and died in ca. 1890. His will records (JMM21/336) note his considerable inventory of personal items, worth \$208.10: there were the usual accoutrements of everyday rural farm life (buggy, wagons, feed cutters, saddles, scales, carriage) plus many valuable worldly goods, such as an extension table, side board, wood stove, 16 cane seat chairs, 1 sofa, 2 chairs, 2 feather beds, 2 bedsteads, 15 window curtains, 25 yards of bedroom carpet and a silver watch.

The Robert Amos House has been analyzed within the context of the *Industrial/Urban Dominance Period* (1870-1930) and the *Modern Era* (1930-Present) in Harford County as a former component of a long since ceased rural milling operation. The area in which the site is located is known as Putnam, west of Bel Air. This area, like other areas in the hinterland of the county seat, Bel Air, was settled in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Harford County was officially established in 1773, by which time the center of population had shifted to the interior, thus occasioning the moving of the county seat to Bel Air by 1782 where a courthouse and jail were constructed by 1791.

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ROBERT AMOS HOUSE  
PUTNAM, HARFORD COUNTY

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
CONTINUATION SHEET 8.2

Commercial and industrial growth in Harford County began in the 18th century. The establishment of early industries was aided by the abundance of natural resources and exploitable waterpower along the Fall Line. By 1727 soil exhaustion had initiated the gradual replacement of tobacco by wheat cultivation, encouraging the milling industry. A gristmill, a sawmill and tannery were in operation along Bynums Run before 1773. Further commercial and industrial growth characterized the *Agricultural-Industrial Transition Period* (1815 to 1870). Development of the lumber industry led to the establishment of sawmills on most of the county's steams in the early nineteenth century.

The economy of Baltimore dominated the region during the *Industrial/Urban Dominance Period* (1870-1930), retarding additional industrial development in the county. Although new industries were established, including flint mining and vegetable canning, industrialization in urban areas far outpaced Harford County's development. During the *Modern Period* (1930-Present) Harford County underwent rapid development as population in the Baltimore region has increased and agricultural land is today being rapidly replaced by suburban housing development.

The Robert Amos House has been analyzed under applicable criteria of the National Register of Historic Places. It does not meet the requirements of Criterion A (association with a significant event); Criterion B (association with a significant person); and Criterion C (the work of a master or architectural merit). It has no known significance association with an historical event, an historical person, and as an undistinguished example of a rural farmhouse, it would not meet the requirements of Criterion C. Without archeological investigations it is uncertain whether there is any information potential, but it does not appear unlikely that narrow sections of the frontage of the property along MD 165 would likely contain information potential meeting the requirements of Criterion D for listing in the National Register.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended <u>X</u>
Criteria: <u>A</u> <u>B</u> <u>X</u> C <u>D</u>	Considerations: <u>A</u> <u>B</u> <u>C</u> <u>D</u> <u>E</u> <u>F</u> <u>G</u> <u>None</u>
Comments: _____	
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>8/23/00</u> Date
_____ Reviewer, NR Program	<u>8/23/00</u> Date

Chris

**HA-1718  
ROBERT AMOS HOUSE  
PUTNAM, HARFORD COUNTY**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY  
CONTINUATION SHEET 9.1**

Griffith, Dennis. Map of Harford County (1794).

Harford County Court Records—Land Records Office and Registrar of Wills.

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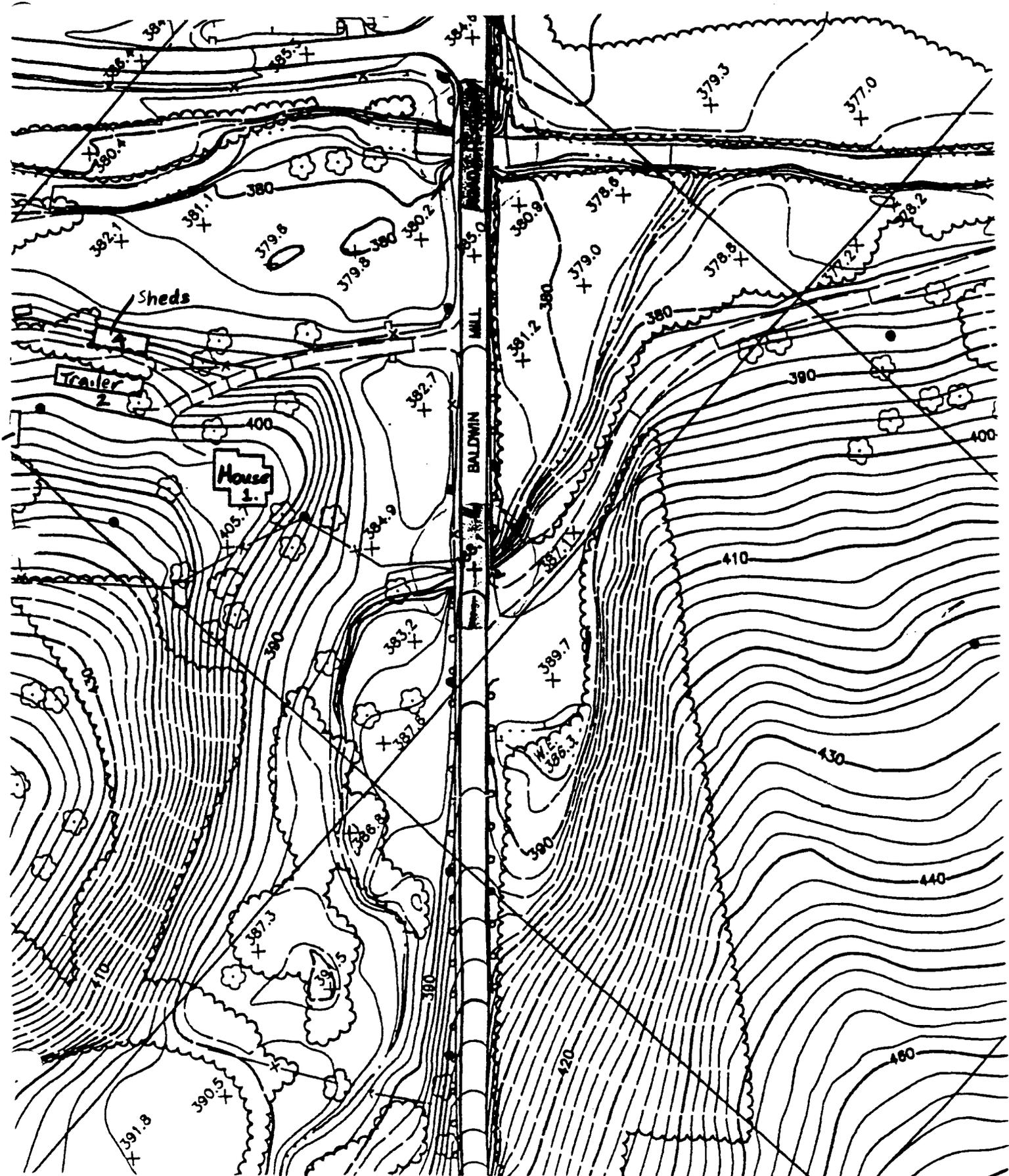
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Weeks, Christopher. An Architectural History of Harford County, MD (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996).

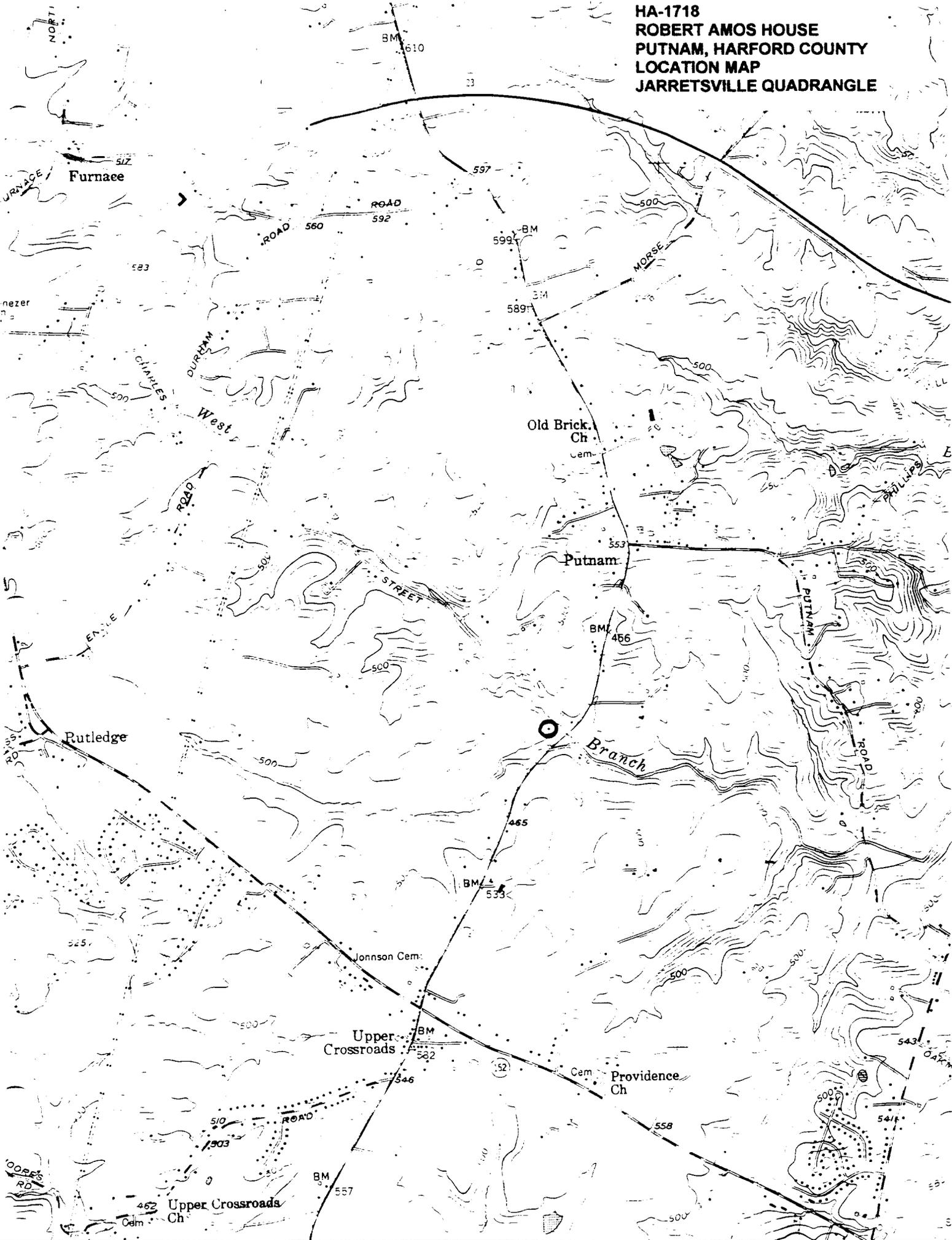
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HA-1718  
ROBERT AMOS HOUSE  
PUTMAN, HARFORD COUNTY  
SITE MAP-1"= 50 FEET



HA-1718  
ROBERT AMOS HOUSE  
PUTNAM, HARFORD COUNTY  
LOCATION MAP  
JARRETSVILLE QUADRANGLE





HA-1718

Robert Amos House

Putnam MD

12 Suffness 8-10-99  
negs at MD SHPO

Dwelling

NE corner

1 of 5



HA 1718

Robert Arnoz House

Putnam MD

R Suffren 8-10-99

negs at MDSH PC

Dwelling

NW Corner

2 of 5



HA 1718

Robert Amos Howe

Putnam MD

R Suffren 8-10-99

Neys at MD SHPO  
Dwelling

SW corner

3 of 5



HA 1718

Robert Amos House

Putname MD

R Suffren 8-10-95

negs at MD SHPO

mobile home and school bus  
on property

4 of 5



H 17 1718

Robert Ancoz Home

Putnam MD

R Suffren 8-10-99

keys at MD SHPC

Sheds

5 of 5