

19990324

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Tharpe Property Stone Ridge Survey Number: HA-1721  
Project: GTA, Stone Ridge Agency: US Army Corps of Engineers  
Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Tharpe Farm is a complex of eleven structures situated on 158 acres, south of Fountain Green Road (MD Rt. 543). The Main House, Chicken/Turkey Shed, Tool Shed, and Garage are set apart from the other farm buildings (barns, corn cribs, workshop, and tenant housing) with landscape screening, setting off the family domain from the working farm. The other structures flank the driveway, the functional backbone of the dairy farm. Approximately 80 acres of the property are farmed and the remainder is wooded, pond, driveway, and buildings.

The main house, c. 1930, vernacular frame dwelling has late Bungalow style features in its raised foundation, wide porch with square piers, paired windows and wall dormers. The eight-foot deep porch extends the full width of the dwelling and is accessed by wide steps ascending the south end. The porch roof is a shallow-pitch hipped roof and is supported by four square piers. The dwelling foundation is poured concrete. The wooden siding is wide clapboard and the paint is peeling. Vinyl shutters have been nailed to the south and east side windows and triple-track aluminum storm windows have been installed on most window frames, except those openings on the front porch, which appear to have removable wooden storm/screens.

The farm is typical of Harford County, but not outstanding. It is a typical mid-20th Century Harford county dairy farm, and does not possess significance making it eligible for the National Dairy Register. There is no evidence to suggest that it made significant contributions to the broad patterns of history association with lives of significant persons, nor information important to prehistory or history. The dwelling is a vernacular example or maybe a catalog style (Sears) of c.1930 mid-Atlantic single-family dwelling.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review & Compliance Files

Prepared by: Geo-Technology Associates, Lisa Jensen Wingate

Patricia McCloskey December 20, 1999  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable  
[Signature] 1/3/00  
Reviewer, NR program Date

*[Handwritten mark]*

Survey No. AA-1721

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Site

Historic Environment Rural/Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Farm

Known Design Source: Unknown

CAPSULE SUMMARY

The Tharpe Property is a 158 acre farm with eleven structures, located between Bel Air and Churchville, southwest of Fountain Green Road (MD Rt 543) between Fountain Green and Creswell. It is located across the road from "Christopher's Camp," an MHT easement property with a 1771 house. The Tharpe land has been farmed for well over a hundred years by a series of owners. Parts of the land were once part of several tracts: "Christopher's Camp" (originally surveyed in 1684 as 1000 acres), "St. George" (originally surveyed in 1684 as 400 acres), and "Broom's Bloom" (once 1000 acres). In the 20th century, the significance of the site is tied to its ownership and use by the Tharpe family for over 60 years, its use as a dairy farm, and the fact that this farm represents a typical mid 20th century Harford County dairy farm. The name Tharpe Property was selected to reflect not only its recent use, but also the ownership for the longest period of time after the construction of the site's structures. The Main House, Chicken/Turkey Shed, Tool Shed, and Garage are set apart from the other farm buildings (barns, corn cribs, workshop, and tenant housing) with landscape screening, setting off the family domain from the working farm. The other structures flank the driveway, the functional backbone of the dairy farm. Approximately 80 acres of the property are farmed and the remainder is wooded, pond, driveway, and buildings.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

**Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data**

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Periods: 11) Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930  
12) Modern Period 1930-present

Prehistoric/Historic Theme Period: 1) Agriculture

Resource Type:

Category: Site

Historic Environment: Rural/Suburban

Historic Function and Use: Farm (dairy)

Known Design Source: Unknown

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

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. HA-1721  
Magi No.  
DOE yes no

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

historic THARPE PROPERTY

and/or common ↓

**2. Location**

street & number 1022 SOUTH FOUNTAIN GREEN ROAD not for publication

city, town CHURCHVILLE vicinity of congressional district

state MD county HARFORD

**3. Classification**

|  |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Category</b>                          | <b>Ownership</b>                                   | <b>Status</b>                                       | <b>Present Use</b>                              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district        | <input type="checkbox"/> public                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum            |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input checked="" 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 1022 SOUTH FOUNTAIN GREEN ROAD LLC

street & number 336 SOUTH MAIN STREET telephone no.: 410-879-0630

city, town BEL AIR state and zip code MD 21014-3974

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. BEL AIR/HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE <sup>7/21/1916</sup> liber 2412

street & number MAIN STREET folio 419

city, town BEL AIR state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

\_\_\_\_\_ repository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

Survey No. HA-1721

|  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <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 attached*

# 8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1721

| 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"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

**Specific dates** **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 attached*

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1721

see attached

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 158 AC

Quadrangle name BEL AIR, MARYLAND

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"/> |
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| E | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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| F | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
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|   |                      |                      |                      |
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| G | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| H | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

### Verbal boundary description and justification

158 acre property sold by the estate of Ruth Lena Tharpe to current owners.

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title LISA JENSEN WINGATE, PRESERVATION CONSULTANT

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 11/99

street & number 8262 Old Frederick Rd telephone 410-465-3121

city or town ELICOTT CITY state MD

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 HISTORIC TRUST  
 100 CONSTITUTION PLACE  
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
 514 7000

***Tharpe Property  
Harford County, MD***

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 11

**DESCRIPTION**

The Tharpe Farm is a complex of eleven structures situated on 158 acres, south of Fountain Green Road (MD Rt 543). The Main House, Chicken/Turkey Shed, Tool Shed, and Garage are set apart from the other farm buildings (barns, corn cribs, workshop, and tenant housing) with landscape screening, setting off the family domain from the working farm. The other structures flank the driveway, the functional backbone of the dairy farm. Approximately 80 acres of the property are farmed and the remainder is wooded, pond, driveway, and buildings.

The structures on the property appear to have been well constructed and maintained by the owners (until recently -- paint peeling, landscaping overgrown, flower gardens mowed over). Construction seems substantial, albeit plain. All the buildings are painted white with the exception of the red Dairy Barn, Detached Corn Crib and the trim on the Granary/Equipment Shed. Most of the structures have electricity and glass-globed lightning rods along the ridge, some still intact.

**#1 -- MAIN HOUSE**

The c. 1930, vernacular frame dwelling (34' x 28' plus porch and addition) has late Bungalow style features in its raised foundation, wide porch with square piers, paired windows and wall dormers. The eight-foot deep porch extends the full width of the dwelling and is accessed by wide steps ascending the south end. The porch roof is a typically shallow-pitch, hipped roof and is supported by four square piers. The dwelling foundation is poured concrete. The wooden siding is wide clapboard and the paint is peeling. Vinyl shutters have been nailed to the south and east side windows and triple-track aluminum storm windows have been installed on most window frames, except those opening on the front porch, which appear to have had removable wooden storm/screens.

The house has two chimneys, one very large exterior one of a hard-fired brick serving the fireplace at the west end of the double parlor and another of softer brick (probably original) extending above the main ridge, serving the dining room fireplace.

An extension on the back of the house appears to be an enclosure of a back porch. The continuation of the roof to the north end of the house has created a covered, concrete patio.

Inside the house, the first floor is divided into approximately four equal, almost square rooms, flanking a wide stair hall running through from front-to-back.

The painted exterior doors are two tall panels topped with six, square panes of glass, while the

interior doors are of a lower height and have five horizontal panels. The door hardware is mostly brass-plated tin, typical of the era of construction.

The walls are painted rough plaster with wall paper applied in several rooms, such as the dining room and kitchen. Most of the trim is varnished yellow pine. The vertical casings of the doors and windows have tall, stepped plinths and they are molded, topped by a thin, beaded header cap and plain horizontal casing. The open staircase's square newel, rail and steps are varnished yellow pine, while the rectangular balusters have been painted.

The kitchen has dark-stained, plain front cabinets with copper accent hardware and sheet vinyl on the floor. There is a basement accessible from the kitchen via a two-panel door. The door from the kitchen to the enclosed porch at the rear is the taller, two-panel and glass entry door style and the trim inside the enclosed porch is plain stock. The enclosed porch has wall-to-wall carpet.

The house has baseboard heat. A large square patch in the wooden flooring at the wide doorway between the entry hall and the front parlor appears to been installed when a gravity hot air heat system was removed.

Upstairs there are two main bedrooms, one on each side of the wide stair hall. Each has walk-in closets under the eaves. The bathroom is located in the SW corner and the dining room chimney projects into the smaller bedroom. At the west end of the stair hall, a paired window wall dormer provides light and head room, as does a triple window wall dormer at the east end of the hall in a small nursery/sewing room.

#### **#2 -- CHICKEN/TURKEY SHED**

Located off to the NW of the main house, this shed, used for housing chickens and turkeys, has rotted flooring, a full bank of east-facing windows and doors on each end.

#### **#3 -- TOOL SHED**

Located directly behind (west of) the house, the small, gable-roofed shed has vertical plank siding.

#### **#4 -- GARAGE**

The typical, two-car, detached garage is covered with vinyl siding and has a concrete block foundation, composite shingle, shallow-pitch gable roof and wooden doors for vehicles and pedestrians.

#### **#5 -- GRANARY/EQUIPMENT SHED**

This banked building has a lower equipment storage area opening east to the driveway. The upper level is accessed by a sliding door at the north end. After stepping up into the building, the framing is exposed. The open room is lighted by small, 6/6 windows. Not all sash match, implying some were replaced or were recycled from other structures. The gable ends have single, 6/6 attic windows. The window trim and eaves had been set off with red paint that has now worn thin.

**#6 -- DETACHED CORN CRIB**

Besides the barn, this is the only structure in the complex other than the barn that is painted red. The gable structure has an equipment storage bay in the center with corn cribs on each side. This larger corn crib is newer (c. 1950s) than the smaller one connected to Workroom.

**#7 -- REMAINS OF TRAILER HOUSE**

The shell of a trailer sits atop concrete block piers. The windows are gone and most of the siding has come off, exposing the batt insulation.

**#8 -- TENANT HOUSE**

A small, concrete block dwelling sits facing north at the end of the gravel driveway. It appears to be a compact, well-kept, 1 ½ story house with vinyl shutters matching those on the main house.

**#9 -- WORKROOM, CORNCRIB, ANIMAL SHELTER**

This structure is a small collection of attached outbuildings. There is an open animal shelter at the NE corner, an open pole shed (now used for straw storage) on the SE corner, a concrete block work room with nine-pane sash and brick window sills at the SW corner, and an older corn crib sided using wire nails at the NW corner. All are covered with standing seam metal roofs.

**#10 -- SECONDARY DAIRY BARN**

The banked, gable barn used for young animals has a shed-roofed extension to the east. It has a concrete block foundation and a standing seam metal roof.

**#11 -- MAIN DAIRY BARN**

The banked barn has evolved over time. It retains its slate roof. The original foundation of the approximately 45' x 62' barn is stone, although the stone is only visible at the SE and NE corners, as the remainder has been parged or covered with additions. The original mortar is fairly hard, tan in color, and there are a variety of aggregate sizes and colors. Portions of the exposed stonework have been repointed with a portland mortar. Some of the foot-wide, rough sawn, vertical siding has been replaced, such as on the west and north sides of the barn. The newer siding is circular sawn, while the older siding has rough, straight saw marks, as seen on the east side and the center of the north side. Almost all the nails are wire nails. Although some cut nails can be found.

The main framing of the barn, used for hay storage, is eight inch square timbers. Some of the 8" x 8" timbers were cut with a circular saw, some have rough straight cuts, and the horizontal timbers at the eave level were hewn. The framing is pegged and there is no evidence of chamfered shoulders, all timbers being rectangular cut. The ladder leading to the hay loft was put together with wire nails, but some cut nails are visible.

This barn appears to be a late 19th century barn, converted in the early 20th century to its current system for dairying. According to a local history book, the slate industry in NE Harford County was in its heyday from 1830-1930, with slate roofs on barns being quite typical. Furthermore, although replaced by circular saws, up-and-down saws were used on many

Harford county streams as late as the turn of the 20th century. Demand for lumber was so great there were sawmills on almost every stream. (Wright, pp. 149, 152) These two pieces of information point to a late 19th century date of construction for the main barn on this farm with its combination of hewn, up-and-down and circular sawn timbers, the construction taking place when the local sawmill industry was converting from up-and-down to circular saw manufacturing.

The lower level was enclosed with concrete block along the east side to create a milking barn, where the cows were both housed and milked, complete with troughed concrete floor, metal pipe stanchion dividers, beaded board ceiling, parged walls, ceiling fans and lights. It opens out onto a concrete pad that is connected to a sloped concrete walk/driveway leading between the structures to the south. The lower level windows were added or enlarged on the north, east and south sides.

At the north end of the barn is a small link connecting to two upright silos. The older (c.1930s) western one is glazed block and the eastern one is a stave silo, "corrugated" concrete vertical panels bound together with clamped wire bands, on a poured concrete foundation. Both have metal roofs.

At the south end are two additions. The first is a frame addition, an enclosed walkway, with a concrete block foundation. Then further south is a glazed block addition, the dairy house, with a poured concrete foundation. Milk was stored here, awaiting transportation, and the milking equipment was washed up in this building.

A farm pond is located south of the Main Dairy Barn near the secondary barn.

***Tharpe Property  
Harford County, MD***

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Tharpe Property is a 158 acre farm, located between Bel Air and Churchville, southwest of Fountain Green Road (MD Rt 543) between Fountain Green and Creswell. It is located across the road from "Christopher's Camp," an MHT easement property with a 1771 house. The Tharpe land has been farmed for well over a hundred years by a series of owners. Parts of the land were once part of several tracts: "Christopher's Camp" (originally surveyed in 1684 as 1000 acres), "St. George" (originally surveyed in 1684 as 400 acres), and "Broom's Bloom" (once 1000 acres). In the 20th century, the significance of the site is tied to its ownership and use by the Tharpe family for over 60 years, its use as a dairy farm, and the fact that this farm represents a typical mid 20th century Harford County dairy farm. The name Tharpe Property was selected to reflect not only its recent use, but also the ownership for the longest period of time after the construction of the site's structures.

According to "A Map of Harford County: 1858," the land was owned by W. Forward (a spelling error of the family name Forwood). The "1878 Martenet's Map of Harford County, Maryland" indicates the land was owned by S.W. Forwood. The then 183 acre parcel changed hands three times between 1886 and 1896 when it was valued at \$6,500. When the Carsin family sold the land upon which they resided in 1918, it was valued at \$16,500. The land was subdivided in the 1920s with a 103 acre parcel and a 35 acre parcel, etc. and a number of transfers of ownership and mortgage in the 1920s and 1930s.

The estate of Lena Ruth Tharpe (died 1995, widow of Theo R. Tharpe) sold the 158 acre farm to the current developers in 1996. Dewitt Tharpe, nephew of Ruth and Theo, continues to grow and store hay on the property. Ruth and Theo Tharpe purchased 148 acres of land in 1940 from relatives, two widows in the Kirk family who had inherited the land from their husband of less than one year and son Stanley J. Kirk who had bought the farm in 1934 (103 acres). In 1943 Ruth and Theo Tharpe purchased two more parcels on the NW side of the lane leading to their residence from the Graybeal family. (One of these parcels had been part of the land owned by William O. Michael prior to 1923. The Michael's family bought the Christopher's Camp farm in 1879 and continues to own the land.) Ruth and Theo Tharpe had sold off parcels in 1961, 1962, 1980 and 1989.

The property represents a typical mid-20th century Harford County dairy farm in several ways: its production, its acreage and its construction. Harford County had 1873 farms in 1950 whose principal products included hay, corn, wheat, barley, oats, vegetables, dairy products, poultry and poultry products and livestock. Many of these were produced on the Tharpe farm: hay, corn, barley, wheat, and milk, along with garden products and chickens and turkeys for home consumption. The size of the farm was considered average for a dairy farm in the middle of the 20th century, although now dairy farms need to be larger to survive economically.

No evidence has been uncovered of what the earlier farm house(s) looked like or where it (they) was (were) located. The house now associated with the farm dates from c. 1930 according to tax records and its architectural styling appears to be consistent with that construction date. Theo and Ruth Tharpe's niece, Louise Tharpe, said the existing house was on the property when the Kirk family purchased the land, so surviving family members have no recollection of a previous dwelling.

Theo and Ruth had no children to help on the farm. The Tenant House was constructed to shelter the help for the farm. During Theo Tharpe's lifetime, the tenant farmers were a man and his son who helped the Tharpes with the farm work. Ruth Tharpe, who continued to run the farm after her husband's death in 1977, had the mobile home placed on the property in the early 1980s to house additional farm labor. The Tharpes also exchanged labor and equipment with the Michael's family across the road on the Christopher's Camp property.

In its heyday as a dairy barn, say the 1940s and 1950s, it was considered up-to-date among dairy farmers. Approximately 50 cows were milked by the Tharpes, with another 20 or so added in the last years of production by the tenant farmer. According to Lynn Warman, a Harford County Agricultural Extension agent from 1957-1984, the stanchion barn system where the cows were tied into their stalls, as seen in the lower level of the main barn, had been used for a long time and is now approaching obsolescence. Now a loose housing system with an independent milking parlor is more typical, with at least some degree of computerization. The barn has been well maintained, until recently, and appears to be typical, but not outstanding for Harford County.

Harford County was not always a dairy farming county. There were few local processing plants for dairy products in the county prior to 1880. One of the first creameries, Harford Creamery, was built in 1897. Soon thereafter, creameries began to process milk in other areas such as nearby Churchville. (Wright, p.164.) It is possible the conversion of this farm to dairying took place around that time. According to Dewitt Tharpe, the milking was once done by hand and later converted to machine, but never computerized on this farm.

With the coming of truck transportation and methods of refrigeration, most local creameries disappeared. (Wright, p.164.) In the late 1940s, milk was shipped in 10 gallon cans. (Warman) By the early 1950s, tank trucks were just beginning to take a foothold and the milk was shipped in bulk to Baltimore and Washington. (Harford Directory, p.231) In 1953 Harford county's 20,000 milk cows produced over \$5,000,000 of milk annually. (Harford Directory, p.231) In 1957, there were approximately 700 farms shipping milk. (Warman)

According to Dewitt Tharpe, his uncle Theo Tharpe participated in the Maryland Co-op, a cooperative marketing service agency for over 50 years. The producing dairymen pooled and then marketed their milk, acquiring a milk routes and a substation. (Warman) In recent times, the Tharpe's milk was picked up daily.

Theo Tharpe also participated in the University of Maryland's DHI Testing Program, a record-keeping program that tracked breeding and bloodline facts and tested milk samples monthly for butterfat content. Participation in this program points to the acceptance of the dairy farm as one of good quality, echoing community perception of Theo Tharpe's farm as a better dairy farm. (Warman)

To conclude, Theo and Ruth Tharpe ran this dairy farm for over half of the 20th century. Their lives, accomplishments and farm property appear to be typical for Harford County for their times, but not necessarily outstanding. Little is known about the previous owners or previous construction, making it difficult to assess earlier significance.

***Tharpe Property***  
***Harford County, MD***

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES**

"1878 Martenet's Map of Harford County, Maryland"

*Harford County Directory*. State Directory Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1953.

Jennings and Herrick. "A Map of Harford County: 1858"

Land Records, Bel Air Courthouse, Main Street, Bel Air MD 1886-1996.

Wright, C. Milton. *Our Harford Heritage: A History of Harford County, Maryland*. Glen Burnie, Maryland, 1967.

Interviews with:

Marlene Magnum, 11/3/99 -- archivist at the Harford County Historical Society and farmer.

Dewitt Tharpe, 10/28/99 -- nephew of Theo and Ruth Tharpe (now 57) Worked on the farm off and on throughout his life. Currently grows and stores hay on farm as a tenant farmer to the present owner.

Louise Tharpe, 10/28/99 and 11/9/99 -- niece of Theo and Ruth Tharpe.

Lynn Warman, 10/29/99, Forest Hill, MD -- retired Harford County Agricultural Extension Agent (1957-1984)

Chris Weeks, 10/29/99 -- local historian and staff to Harford County Historic Preservation Commission.

HA-1721

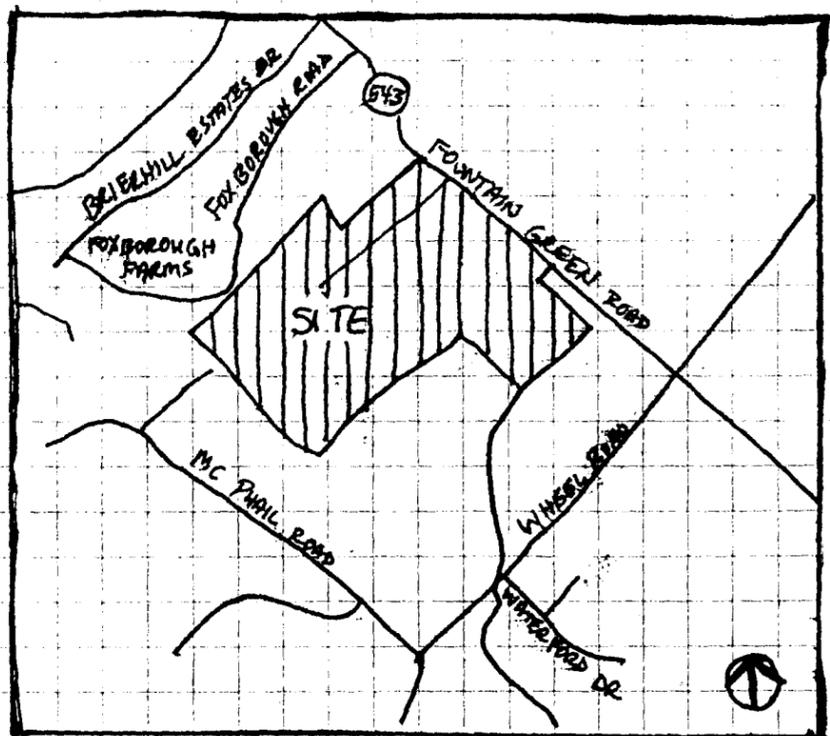
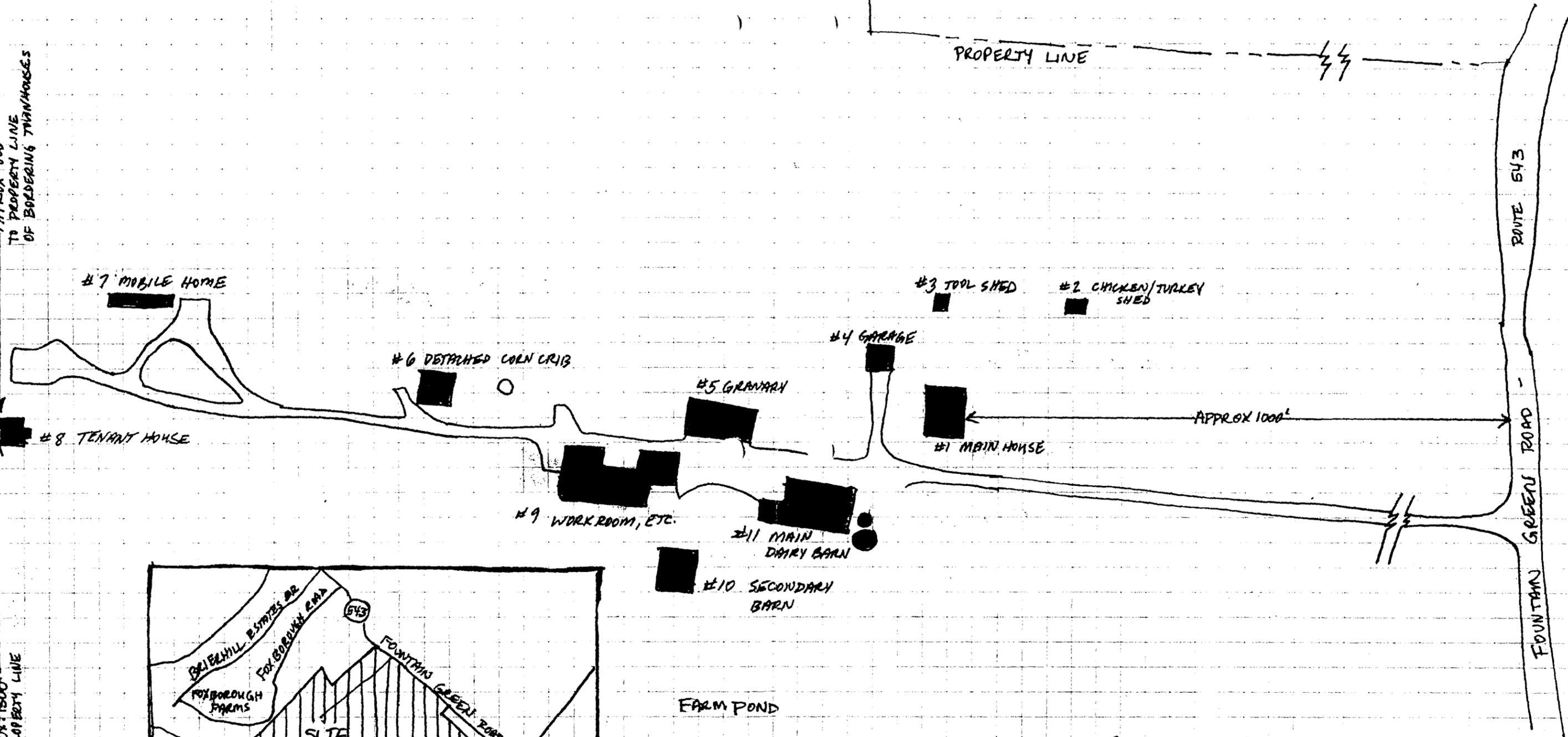
SCALE 4 X 4 TO THE 17-48-04

APPROX 800' TO PROPERTY LINE OF BORDERING TENNHOUSES

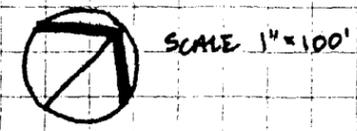
AP 1100' TO PROPERTY LINE

APPROX 1300' TO PROPERTY LINE

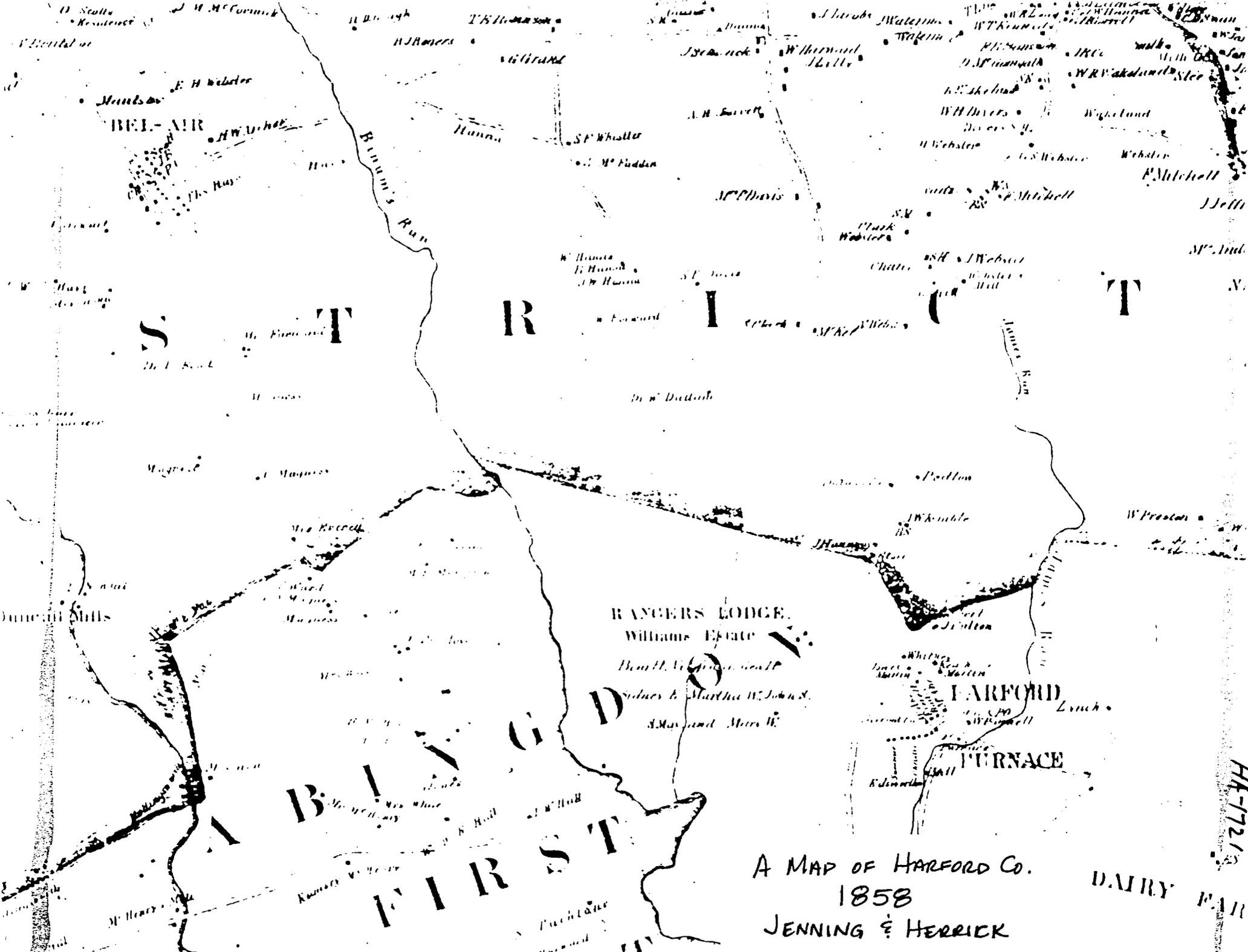
DRAFTING INC. GRAPHIC CENTERS CORPORATION Buffalo, New York



RESOURCE SKETCH MAP  
 THARPE PROPERTY  
 CHURCHVILLE, HARFORD CO MD







A MAP OF HARFORD CO.  
1858  
JENNING & HERRICK

HA-1721

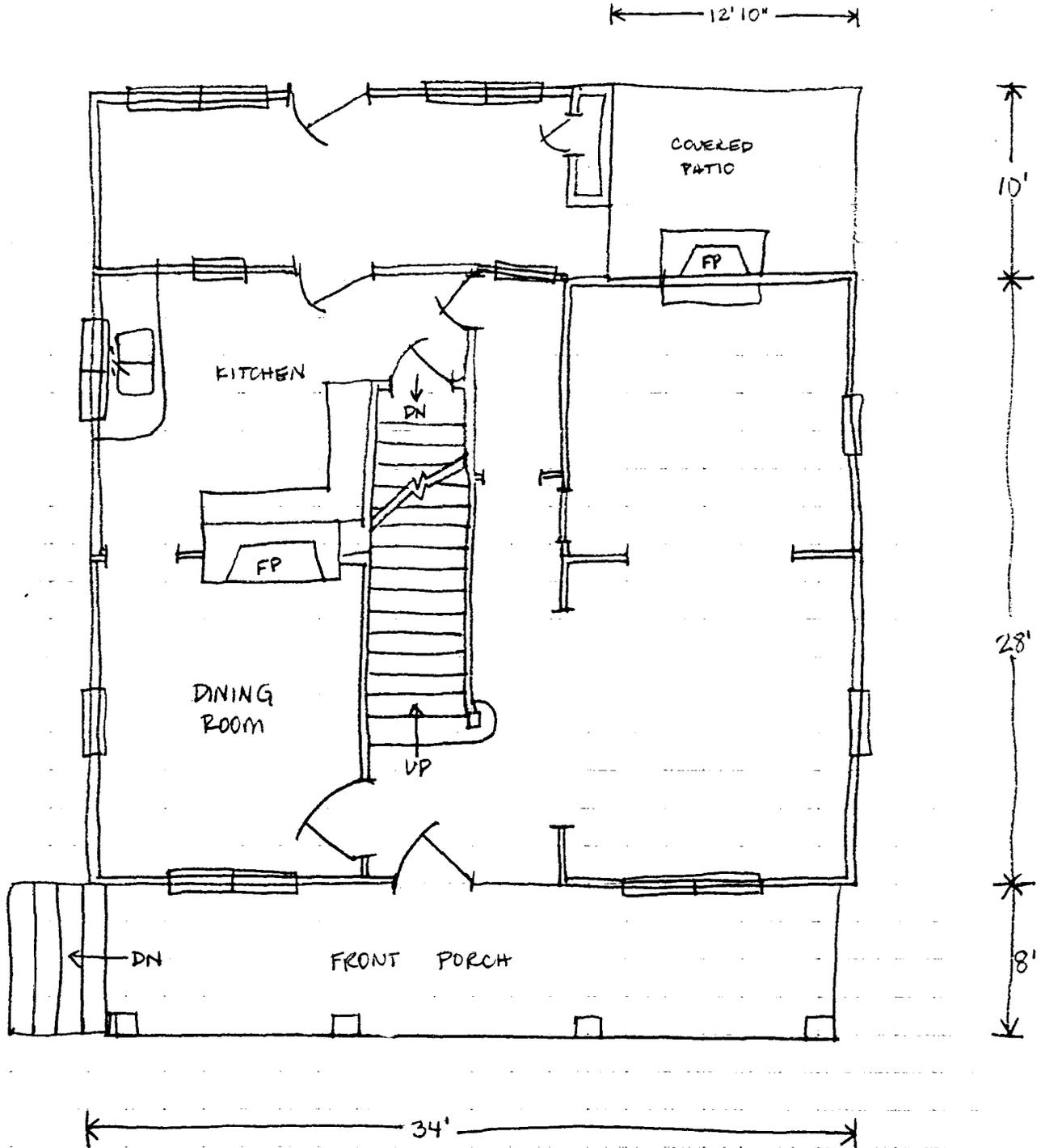
DAIRY FAR



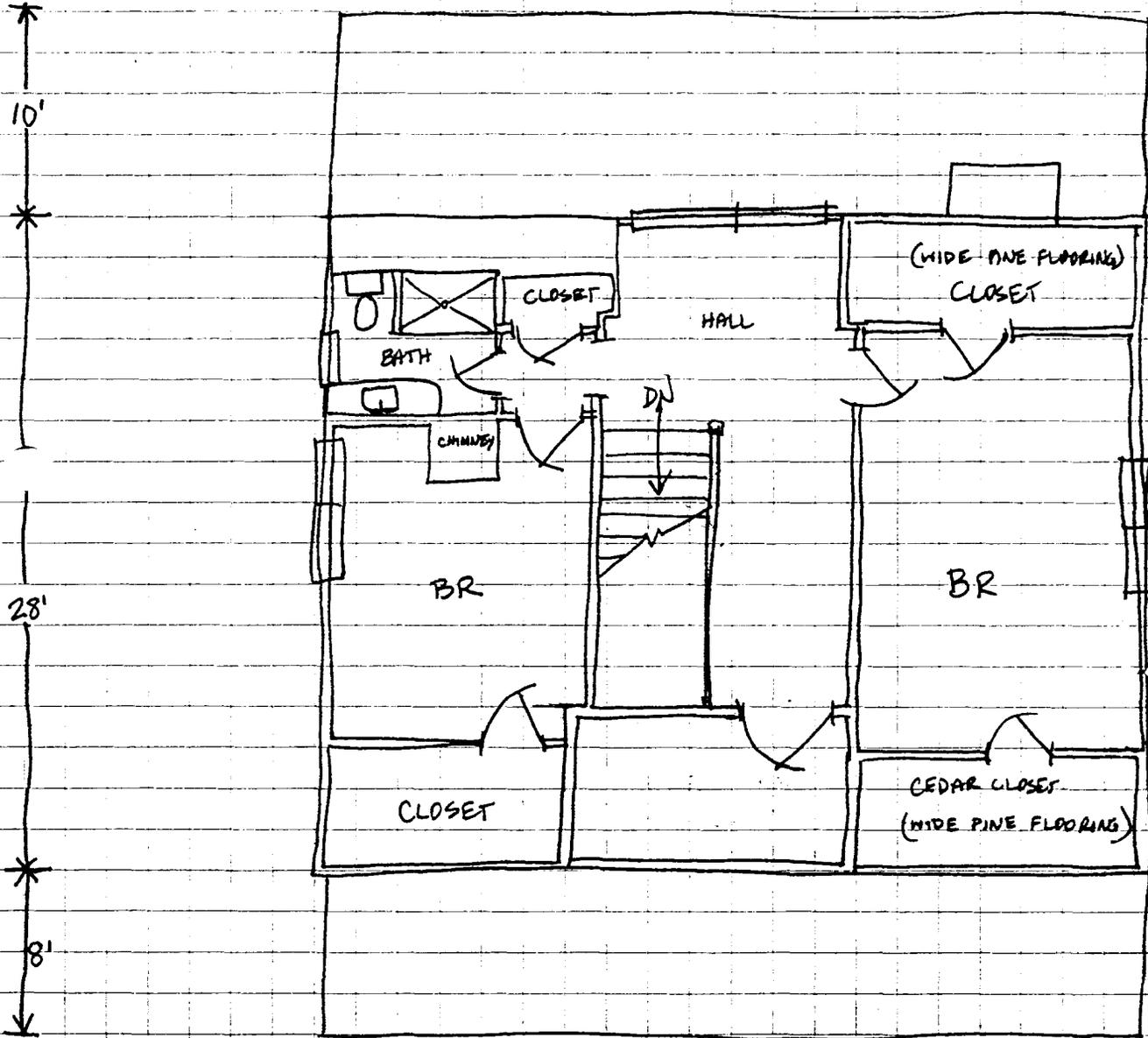
BY SSV DATE 10/2/93  
CHKD. BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
NOT TO SCALE

SUBJECT MARKS FARMHOUSE  
STONE RIDGE  
CHURCHVILLE MD

HA-1721  
SHEET NO. 1 OF 4  
JOB NO. \_\_\_\_\_

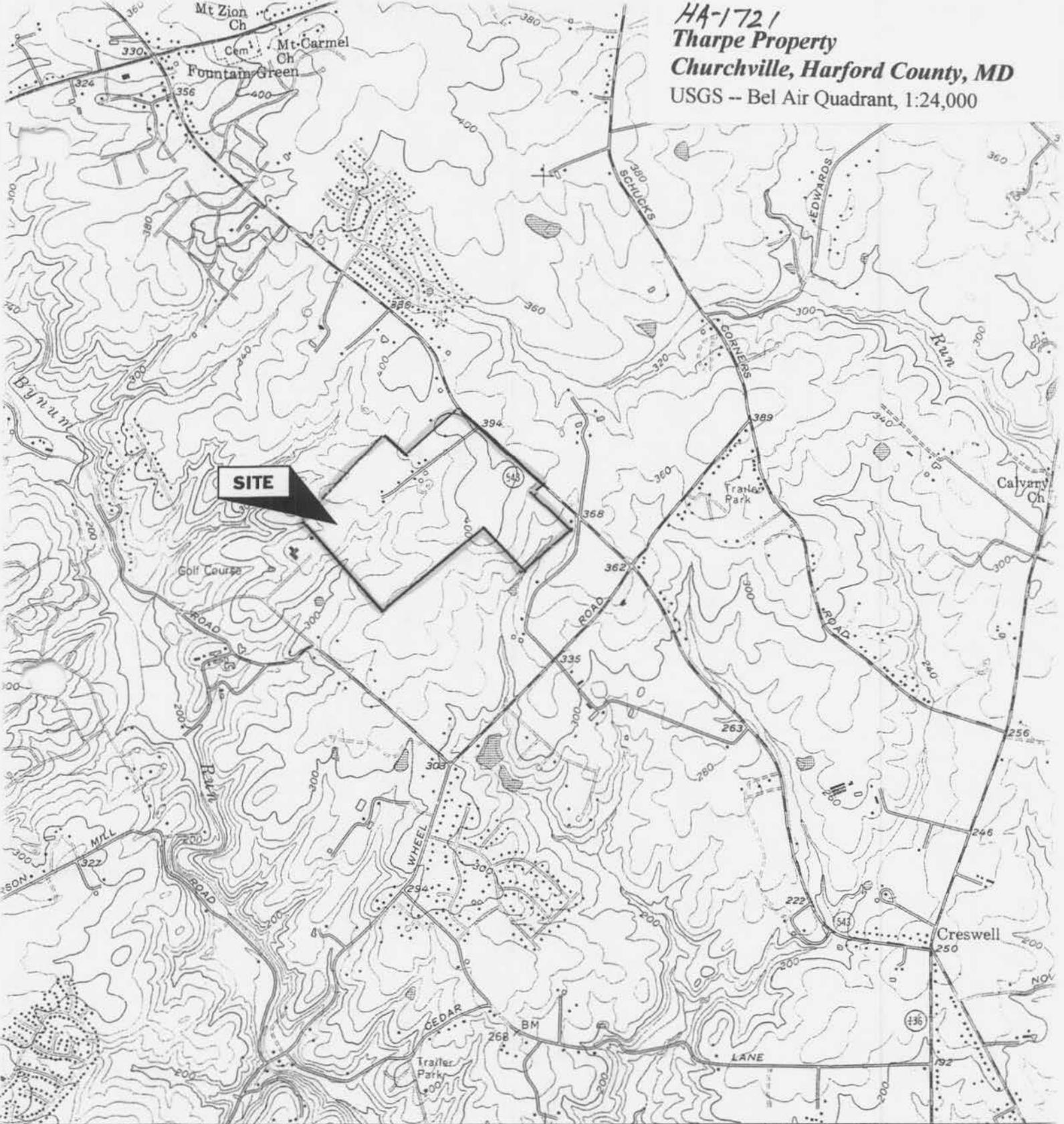


FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

**HA-1721**  
**Tharpe Property**  
**Churchville, Harford County, MD**  
 USGS -- Bel Air Quadrant, 1:24,000



**SITE**

(EDGEWOOD) 5762 IV NE

17'30"

SCALE 1:24000

1 MILE

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

● INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, R

1.9 MI. TO MD. 7

ROAD

Heavy-duty ———

Medium-duty ———

U. S. Ro

MARYLAND

QUADRANGLE LOCATION



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Harford Co. MD

L. Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

Looking south down driveway entering farm.

House on right, main barn @ center, and farm pond  
on left side of photo



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Harford Co MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

NE corner of main house







SADDLE RIDGE  
Single Family Homes

92-7400

n Beam

ELKH

HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Hartford Co MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

Rear elevation (west) of main house)

Enclosed porch @ right.



HA-1721  
Tharpe Property  
Howard Co MD  
L Wingate 10/99  
MD SHPO

SE corner of main house.  
Steps leading up to front porch.



HA-1721

Tharpe Property  
Hartford Co MD  
L Wingate 10/99  
MD SHPO

Front porch



HA-1721  
Tharpe Property  
Harford Co MD  
L Wingate 10/99  
MD SHPO

View from front parlor back toward  
stair hall.



HA-1721

Tharpe Property  
Harford Co MD  
L Wingate 10/99  
MD SHPO

View from front parlor into back  
parlor. Fireplace is connected  
to broad <sup>exterior</sup> chimney in covered patio



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Harford Co MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

Dining Room of main House looking  
SW toward kitchen door.

Misc. new construction bldg. parts stored  
in room cover brick FP @ right



HA-1721

Tharpe Property  
Hartford Co MD  
L Wingate 10/99  
MD SHPO

Kitchen of main House looking west  
toward enclosed porch

10/36



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Hartford Co MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

2nd stain hall in Main House  
looking east

11/36



HA-1721

Thurpe Property  
Harford Co MD  
L Wingate 10/99  
MD SHPO

2nd floor ~~east~~ north BR of main house

12/35



1HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Warford Co MD

N. Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

Tool shed west of house



HA-1721

Tharpe Property  
Harford Co MD  
L Wingate 10/99  
MD SHPO

SE corner of <sup>house and the</sup> garage



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Harford Co MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

NW corner of garage



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Hartford Co MD

L Wingate 1499

MD SHPO

Shed for chickens/turkeys  
located NW of house



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Harford Co MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

View of farm pond, silos, main dairy barn,  
driveway, small corn crib and granary  
looking south



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Hartford Co MD

C Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

Granary - NE corner  
(and Equipment Storage below)



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Harford Co MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

View looking south with granary in foreground and corn crib beyond.



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Hartford Co MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

Inside granary looking south.



HA-1721

Tharpe Property  
Howard Co MD

L Wingate 10/99  
MD SHPO

South end of driveway leading to Tenant House  
and mobile home.



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Hartford Co MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

Tenant House

Ten houses on adjacent parcel can be seen  
at left.



1/A-1721  
Tharpe Property  
Harford Co MD  
L Wingate 10/99  
MD SHPD

Remains of mobile home at south end of driveway  
near Tenant House. Townhouses on the  
adjoining parcel to the west can be seen in  
background at left.



HA-1721  
Thurpe Property  
Harford Co MD  
L Wingate 10/99  
MD SHPO

View looking north from Tenant House.  
Trees in distance at right are across  
Fountain Green Rd on parcel with  
MHT easement. Corn crib @ left.



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Hartford County MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

Looking NE across driveway from <sup>Detached</sup> Corn Crib  
at concrete block Workshop at right  
and white corn crib. Main Dairy Barn  
in background and Granary @ left



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Harford Co MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

Open shed on east side of workroom and  
concrete path leading north to main  
dairy barn



HA-1721  
Tharpe Property  
Hartford Co MD  
L Wingate 10/99  
MD SHPO

SW corner of <sup>secondary</sup> smaller barn used for  
younger animals. Main dairy barn @ left.



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Harford Co MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

Secondary

Small er barn used for younger animals.

View looking SE.



HA-1721

Tharpe Property  
Harford Co. MD  
L. Wingate 10/99  
MD SHPD

Looking south

Farm pond on left, secondary dairy barn @ center  
and Tenant House @ right of photo.



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Hartford Co MD

L. Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

Main Dairy Barn - SE corner

Dairy House at left with covered walkway into ~~building~~

~~lower~~ lower level



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

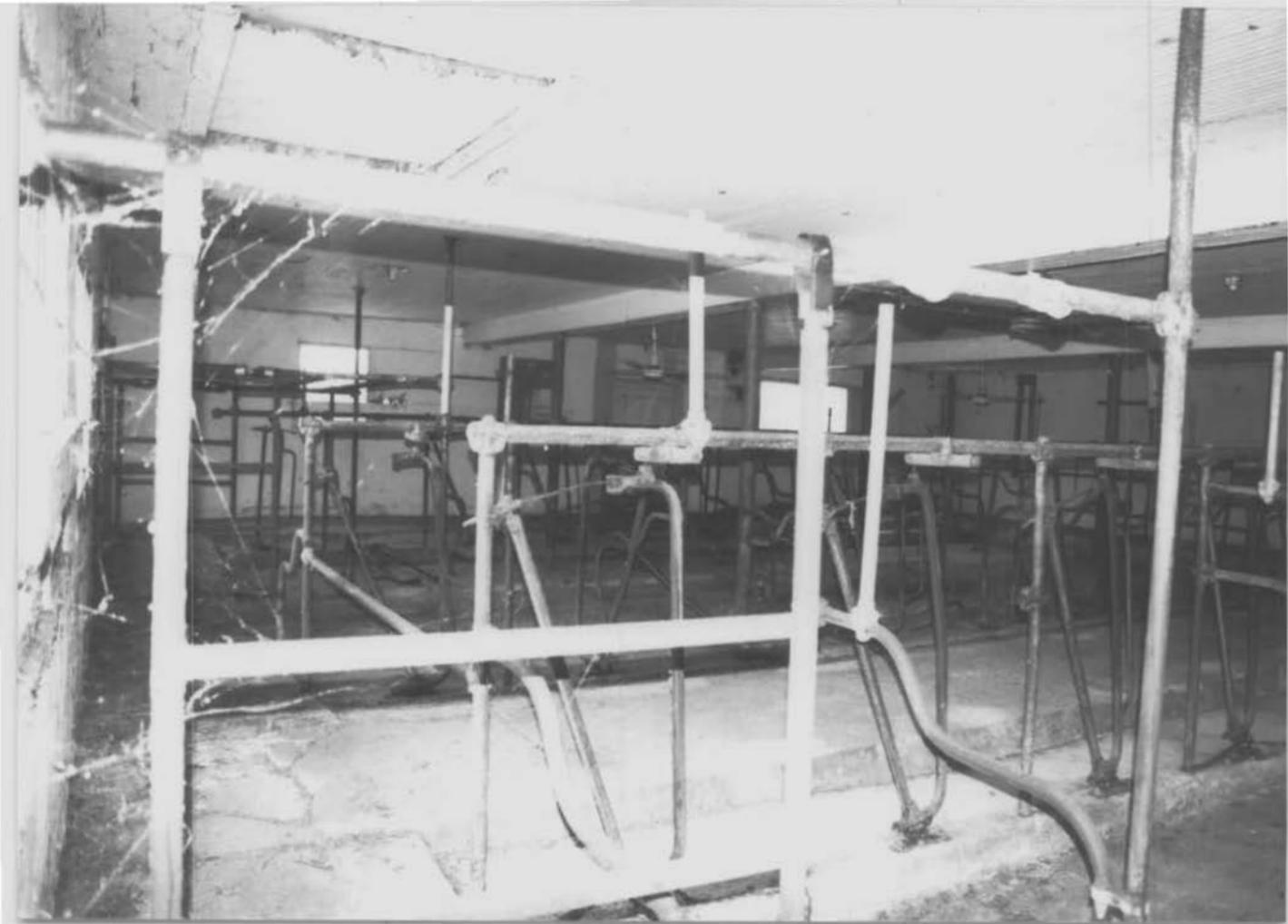
Harford Co MD

L. Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

Main Dairy Barn - NE corner  
Entrance to milking parlour/  
stanchion stalls

5/1/95



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Hartford County MD

L. Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

Looking toward south end of milking parlour.  
Lower level of Main Dairy Barn.

stanchion stalls/



HA-1721

Tharpe Property  
Harford Co MD  
L Wingate 10/99  
MD SHPO

West elevation of main dairy barn.

Silos at left and walkway and milk house  
@ right



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Harford Co MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPO

NW corner of Main Dairy Barn



HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Hartford Co. MD

L Wingate 10/99

MD SHPD

Main Dairy Barn

Looking toward NE corner



1HA-1721

Tharpe Property

Harford County MD

L. Wingate 10/99

MD SHPD

Main Dairy Barn

Looking toward SE corner