

Inventory Number: HA-1989
Hitchcock/Davis Farm
Harford County, Maryland
C. Mazurek
12/28/99

Capsule Summary

The Hitchcock/Davis farm is located within Susquehanna State Park and is accessed off of Wilkinson Road. Structures on this farmstead include a two story frame farmhouse, that has a mid to late Nineteenth century western section and an early Twentieth century eastern section, as well as a bank barn, a dairy barn, a corn crib, and a dismantled frame barn. This property has been a rental property by the Department of Natural Resources, who acquired the land in 1973 from Lester and Virginia Davis, however it has been vacant since 1990 and due to its dilapidated condition is scheduled to be razed.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. HA-1989

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Davis Farm

other Hitchcock Farm

2. Location

street & number Wilkinson Road, reached by a dirt access road

not for publication

city, town Havre de Grace (Susquehanna State Park)

vicinity

county Harford

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

name Maryland Department of Natural Resources

street & number Tawes State Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue

telephone (410) 260-8192

city, town Annapolis

state and zip code Maryland 21401

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse

tax map and parcel

city, town Bel Air

liber and folio HDC929/589

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Individually Listed in the National Register/Maryland Register
 Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 HSR or Research report at MHT
 Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>4</u> <u> </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<u> </u> <u> </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/ culture	<u>1</u> <u> </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u> </u> <u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u> </u> <u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u>5</u> <u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u> </u> <u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u> </u> <u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<u> </u> <u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<u> </u> <u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u> </u> <u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u> </u> <u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u> </u> <u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u> </u> <u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<u> </u> <u> </u>
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	<u> </u> <u> </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	<u> </u> <u> </u>
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u> </u>

7. Description

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Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

* See attached

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Harford County, MD
C. Mazurek
Section 7.1

The Hitchcock/Davis Farm is located in Harford County, Maryland within Susquehanna State Park. The Farm is reached off of Wilkinson Road by following the winding dirt access road past the Henry Stump House. It is to the south of the Stump Cemetery, to the west of the Susquehanna River, to the north of Wilkinson Road, and to the east of Interstate 95.

The farmhouse has an "I"-shaped design with a front facing gable, and is situated on a ridge overlooking the farmstead. It has been constructed in two sections with a newer addition located towards the entrance on the front (east), and an older section located towards the rear (west). This has created an interior space with a telescoping linear plan, three rooms deep.

The newer section is three-stories tall, has frame construction, and has a stone foundation with a thin covering of concrete. Asbestos shingles cover the exterior, while the interior has a covering of plaster and lath. The roof is covered with composition shingles, and has open eaves with exposed rafters. A cinderblock interior chimney is positioned on the ridge of the west side of this addition's roof. Windows are all 1/1 double-hung sash, with wooden sills and lintels, and most of the glass is missing due to vandalism. A simple entrance porch is located on the front (east) facade, that has no pillars or supports. Upon entering the structure from this doorway there is a living room to the right, and a staircase to the left that leads to two upstairs bedrooms and an attic. No basement is located underneath this addition, however major structural elements are still visible because vandals have removed the floorboards in the living room exposing split log floor joists. These joists still have bark on the undersides and appear to be pine. Interior window and door trim is simple, with decoration very sparse.

The older section is one-story tall with an attic converted to living space with the addition of dormers. Three gabled dormers are located on the composition shingled roof, two on the south facade and one on the north facade, along with a cinderblock exterior gable wall chimney on the west facade. Roof eaves are boxed with "V"-shaped fascias. The entire structure is constructed of frame with an exterior covering of asbestos shingles, and an interior covering of plaster and lath. Most of the windows are broken, but they resemble those on the addition; 1/1 double-hung sash, with the exception of a window on the north facade which is 6/1 double-hung sash. Most likely the 1/1 window sashes are replacements. A one-story porch and side room are present on the north facade, with a doorway that leads to the kitchen. From the kitchen a stairway on the right leads to the second floor dormered space, as well as, the second-story rooms in the addition. Interior window and door trim is plain. An irregular coursed fieldstone basement is located under this older section, with sawn wood rafters, as well as, split pine log rafters. In a corner a furnace with metal ducts radiates out from it to various sections of the farmhouse.

Other farm buildings are located below the hill on which the farmhouse stands. These include a bank barn, a dairy barn, a corn crib, and a dismantled barn. The structures are overgrown with weeds and in various states of disrepair, as are the vast farm fields where multi-flora rose grows rampantly.

The bank barn is constructed of wood frame, with a fieldstone foundation, and covered with vertical wood siding and a metal roof. On the west facade is an addition, with particle board siding, and a cinderblock foundation. It appears to be in good condition, and structurally sound.

The dairy barn is constructed of vertical wood siding with a concrete pad foundation. A metal roof is now half removed on the west facade, and most of the side walls are missing. Overall the structure is in very deteriorated condition.

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Section 7.2

Behind the dairy barn is a wire corn crib with a metal roof and a concrete pad for the foundation. This is in poor condition with rust all over the frame and roof.

The dismantled barn was constructed of hewn and pegged timber beams and covered with vertical wood siding. It was set upon a fieldstone foundation and covered over by a metal roof, most likely a replacement for wood shingle shakes. The entire structure is in poor condition, and set upon the ground haphazardly.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, and a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, discuss evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual).

*See attached

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The Hitchcock/Davis Farm is significant as an example of a mid to late Nineteenth century farmstead that was modified into a larger Twentieth century farmstead.

Portions of the farmstead, such as the bank barn, the dismantled barn, and the western section of the farmhouse appear to date from the mid to late Nineteenth century, however much of the historic fabric has been removed or altered. The comprehensive later additions to the farmstead to accommodate a larger working farm mask the elements of what was originally a very small family farm, or section of an adjoining farmstead. The key to the age of the farmstead is to separate the later Twentieth century additions from the earlier farm arrangement. The form of the western section of the farmhouse appears to have been a two room open plan with a fireplace located on the eastern side of the house. On the second floor there was an open sleeping room, and the dormers appear to have been an original part of the construction. "Open plans were associated with the earliest periods of settlement through the mid 1800's. The room connected to the outside was the main living room, and was generally the site of all the day to day functions of the house". (Lanier and Herman). Visible construction elements such as framing, nails, and sheathing, do not suggest a construction date earlier than that of the mid to late 1800's. The plan was then altered in the Twentieth century with the addition of the balloon frame, eastern, two story addition which added a third room on the first floor and a bedroom and a bathroom on the second floor.

The Farm is located within the middle of the Lower Deer Creek Valley Historic District, close to the Henry Stump House (HA-204) and bordering the Stump Cemetery. It is also within Susquehanna State Park, with the Conowingo Dam to the northeast and the Susquehanna River due east approximately 2 miles from the farmhouse.

This property which encompasses 189 acres, was purchased in fee simple by the State of Maryland on March 19, 1973 for the Department of Natural Resources, Forest and Parks to include in Susquehanna State Park. It was purchased from W. Lester and Virginia R. Davis, who had acquired three contiguous parcels in 1966 to assemble this farmstead. In this year land was bought from Madeline and William Breeden (Liber GRG No. 700, Folio 167), Carson and Mary Ellen Fuller (Liber GRG No. 703, Folio 592), and William and Anna Long (Liber GRG No. 703, Folio 596). Deed information about the sale from Lester and Virginia Davis to the State of Maryland is included among Harford County land records at Liber HDC 929/Folio 589. Up until 1990 the farm was a rental property by the Department of Natural Resources, but since then it has been vacant and due to its dilapidated condition it is scheduled to be razed, with the land to revert back to forest.

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Name
Continuation Sheet
Number 8 Page 2

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning; Agriculture.

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment : Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Agriculture, Shelter

Known Design Source: Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic-Looking at Buildings and Landscapes.
Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 189+ acres

Quadrangle name Aberdeen

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

This property is around 189 acres and stretches from Wilkinson road to the south, the Harmony Chapel boundary to the west, Elbow Branch to the east, and the Stump Cemetery to the north.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charlie Mazurek, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization MD Department of Natural Resources

date 8/17/98; revised 12/28/99

street & number Tawes State Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue

telephone (410) 260-8192

city or town Annapolis

state and zip code MD 21401

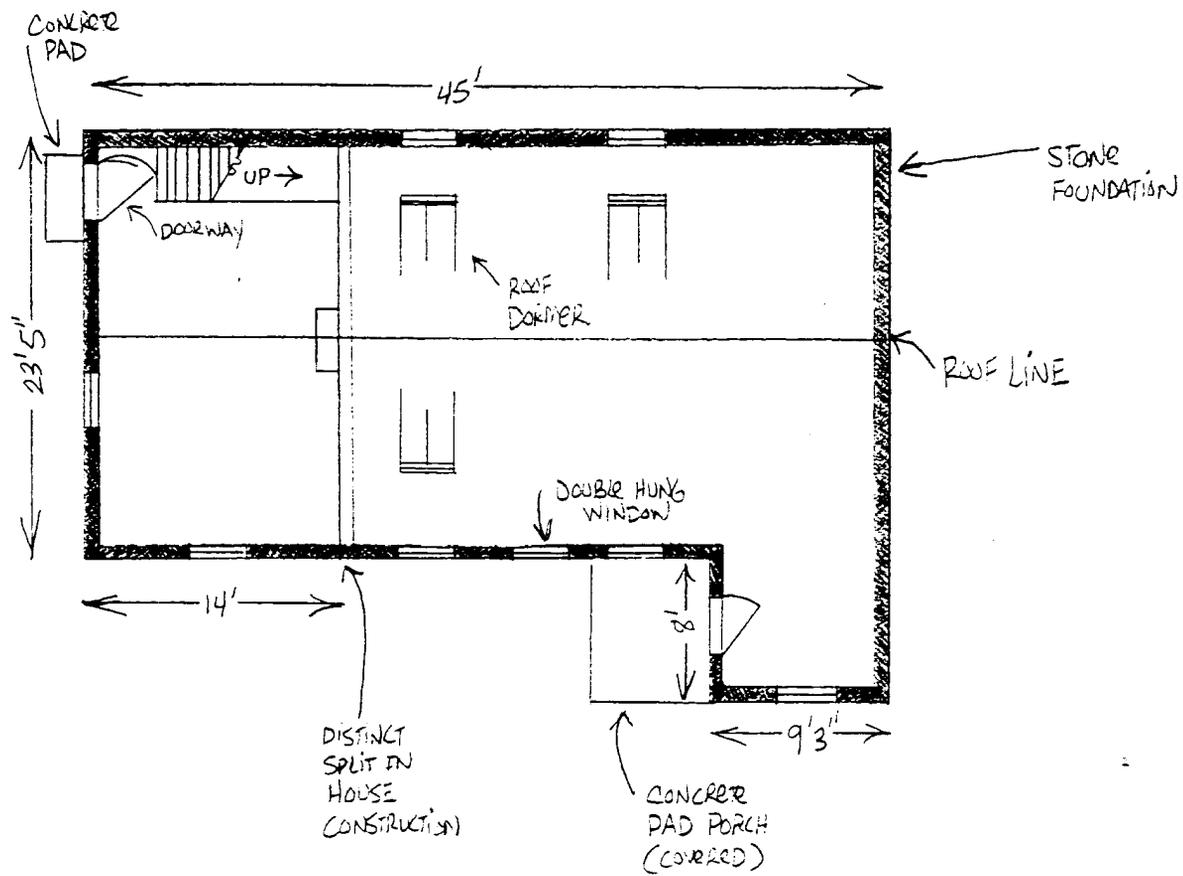
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2 023
410-514-7646

HA-1987
HITCHCOCK - DAVIS FARM
SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK; HARFORD CO., MD.
DRAWN ON MARCH 17, 1998
3/32 SCALE

FARMHOUSE



NORTH
↓

HA-1989

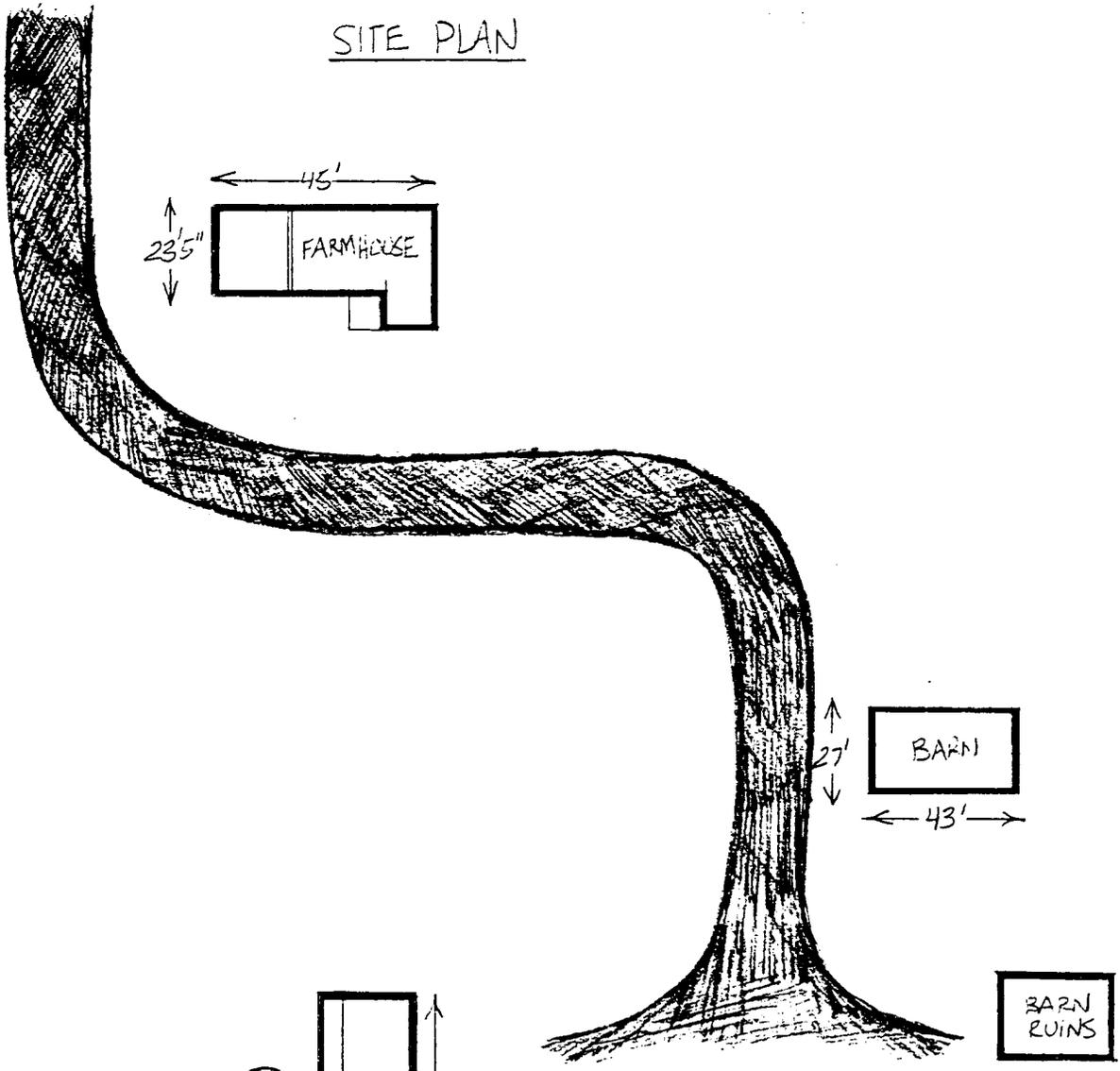
HITCHCOCK - DAVIS FARM

SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK; HARFORD CO., MD

DP IN ON MARCH 17, 1998

NO SCALE USED

SITE PLAN



↓ NORTH

HA-1989
ABERDEEN USGS

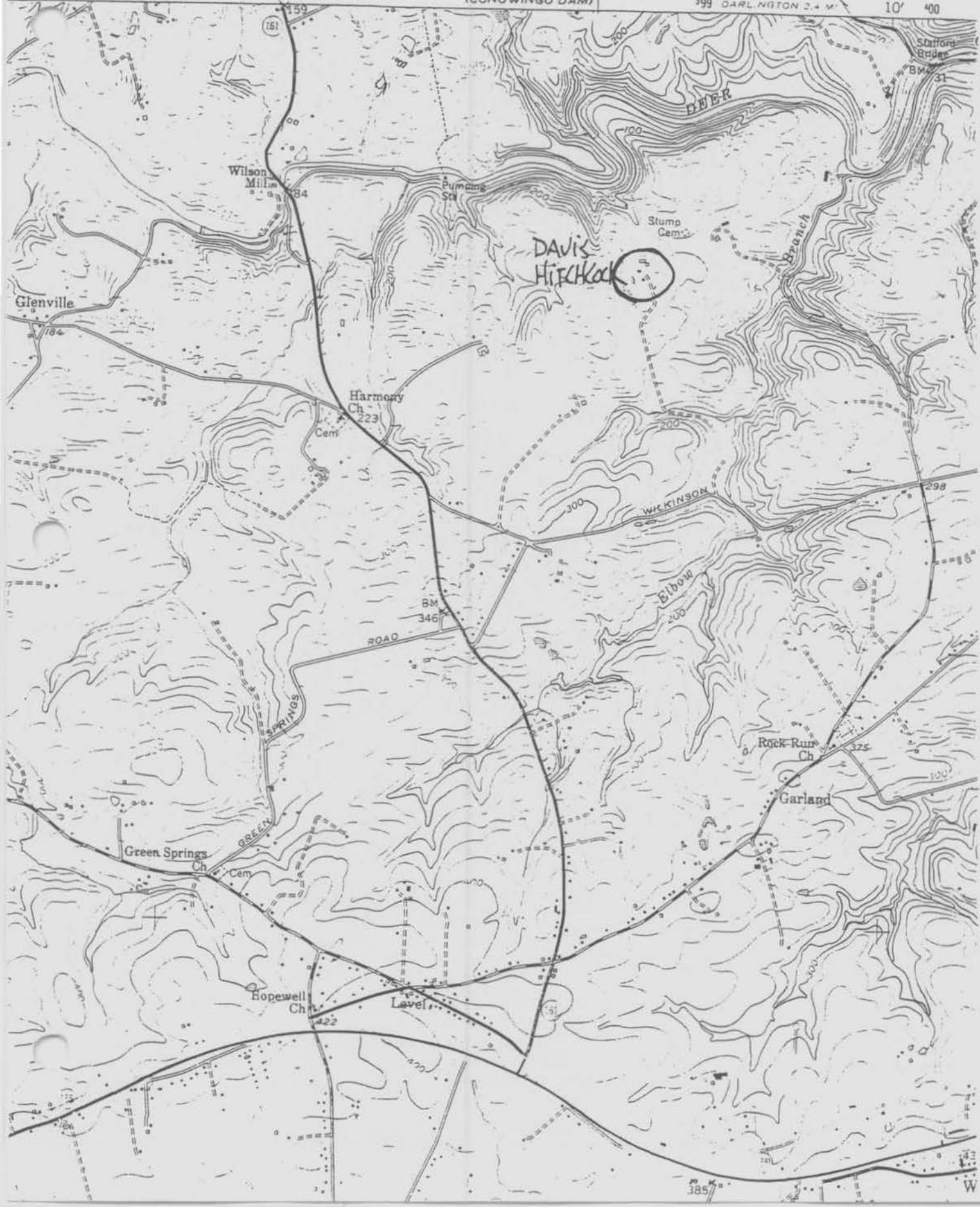
396 12'30"

1.7 MI. TO U.S. 1
DARLINGTON 1 MI.

5763 II NW
(CONOWINGO DAM)

399 DARLINGTON 2.4 MI

10' 400





HA 029

DAVIS/HITCHCOCK FARM; SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK
WARREN CO. PA

C. MAZUREK

3/1998

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FARMHOUSE, N.E. ELEVATIONS

1 OF 2



HE 1789

DAVIS/HITCHCOCK FARM; SUSQUEHANNA STATE PARK

HARFORD CO, MD

C. MAZUREK

3/1998

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

VIEW OF BARNS; FACING NORTH

2 OF 2