

SUMMARY

HA-312

Foards Blacksmith Shop

The rural crossroads service is an important factor in American town planning. Where major thoroughfares met one was likely to find a store which sold nearly everything and was a post-office as well, one or more craftsman such as a harness maker or cabinet maker and perhaps even a doctor or lawyers office. One would also expect to find a blacksmith and wheelwright.

Such was/is the case with Hopewell Crossroads (now called Level) and the blacksmithy run by William Foard and his father has been an integral part of this village for a hundred years.

It was my privilege on August 6, 1980 to spend some time with the son of Edison H. Foard, William Foard. Mr. Foard is 95 years old, having been born , 1885. He is of healthy body and mind and a bit of a "ham". He is one of the most important historical resources I have encountered.

It is not the first time that I have met him as I was introduced to him by Natalie at the beginning of the summer.

It has taken that long to get to Level and to investigate this N.R. district. (multiple resource). Very old log houses, frame houses, stores and the almost famous Foards Blacksmith Shop are the visual documents of 19th C. "X Roads" life in Harford County. More than these are the people who still live in these buildings, equally valuable historical resources with even less chances of survival than constructions of wood, clay or rock.

Although the shop no longer produces wrought metal necessities it is nevertheless "open" and this venerable information of that which is gone is present each day to greet those who would enter. The forges are cold, they have been for years, there is even pre-auto left-over stock, but he is there. Mr. Foard is aware of his importance both as a retired social necessity and a link with the past.....

Whatever can be said of the value of Mr. Foard as a human link with history can also be said of Mrs. Annie Stearn (HA-921). We learned much about the woman on August 6, 1980; not as much as we could have or wanted to.

Mrs. Stearn is 84 years old and has spent all of that time within a couple of miles of Level. She has lived in her loghouse on the X-Roads since 1937. Hers has not been an easy life; it is whatever its quality (considered personally to be high) part of the history of this building.

Mrs. Stearn lives in a log house where she raised 10 children alone during the great United States Depression of the 1930s.

See Summary Continuation Sheet #1

Summary continuation sheet #1

HA-312

Foards Blacksmith Shop

1935 was a particularly bad year for this Harford County farm-girl. While pregnant with her 10th child she lost both her eldest son and husband in the same year. She "kept store" at a location in E. Level (HA-919) for two years and then quit to devote all of her time to keeping her family together. She sewed the clothes for ten, she grew a garden as she does now, canned for winter time and accepted the generosity of her family and neighbors. Her father and brother cut the wood she needed for the stove. As the children grew they did not leave. Nine of her ten children still live within 2 miles of their mother. Mrs. Stearn said that while they were home there was never any thought of having money 'of your own'. Whenever they acquired any the family members always gave their money to Mrs. Stearn to use in the family's interest.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Foards Blacksmith Shop

AND/OR COMMON

Foards Blacksmith Shop

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rock Run Road

CITY, TOWN

Level

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES RESTRICTED
- YES UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jerry W. Gilbert

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

3704 Rock Run Road

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Md., 21078

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 845

Folio #: 108

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air, Maryland 21014

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although the house and site played an earlier role in the history of the rural crossroads service center of Hopewell Crossroads the real significance of the site is the old blacksmithy which Edson Foard erected c. 1882.

The stores, wheelwright and blacksmith shop, saddle maker, carpenter and coffin maker, doctor etc. were an important collection of services in a rural community which knew literally miles of open space. It is an "egg-and-chicken" argument as to whether the crossroads drew such services or the collection of such needed matters came first, but it is an unarguable fact that they existed and Hopewell Crossroads was one of them.

Chief among the necessities in an early automated society was the blacksmith. Edson Foard and his son William were the blacksmiths for this area. We are fortunate that William has lived 95 years and has maintained his health. He has been interviewed, taped and photographed repeatedly for years. He has not lost his enthusiasm for explaining his lost art or desire to communicate with those maturing in a time much different from his own.

Building Description

The old house, smithy and its additions form a rather large complex. The original shop, however, is only 24' wide and 40' long. A 24' X 30' work area has a storage in its north end. The shop is right in the north side of the old road to Havre de Grace approximately 100 yards east of the crossroad. It is designed for its process.

This is a frame building, gable ended with a longitudinal plan covered with but joined vertical weather board. It is and always has been painted barn red.

Longitudinal in plan the smithy has large 8' wide double doors opening to the road. Inside are two forges, an open work area, and an endless collection of materials and tools, many of which have been custom made in the site.

This is a frame building built of circular sawn materials, but having the ancient method of post-beam and brace construction. It is well lighted by at least a dozen and a half openings. It is assumed that these windows and doors were for both ventilation and light as this work is both intricate and hot. Mr. Foard recalls that in its prime as many as "several smiths" might be working about the forges with "others on the floor" and in summer "you'd be wet in the seat of your pants". This is a space in which heat and human strength have been brought to bear on steel and iron in order to keep a community plowing, harvesting, hauling, etc. for almost a century.

The forges themselves are stone construction approximately 4-1/2' X 4' and waist high. They are hollowed out to burn coal and are served by brick flues. Three feet in front of each forge also at waist level, is an anvil.

See continuation sheet #1

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

17-10-1

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The rural crossroads service is an important factor in American town planning. Where major thoroughfares met one was likely to find a store which sold nearly everything and was a post-office as well, one or more craftsman such as a harness maker or cabinet maker and perhaps even a doctor or lawyers office. One would also expect to find a blacksmith and wheelwright.

Such was/is the case with Hopewell Crossroads (now called Level) and the blacksmithy run by William Foard and his father has been an integral part of this village for a hundred years.

It was my privilege on August 6, 1980 to spend some time with the son of Edison H. Ford, William Foard. Mr. Foard is 95 years old, having been born 1885. He is of healthy body and mind and a bit of a "ham". He is one of the most important historical resources I have encountered.

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See continuation sheet #1

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wayne L. Nield II, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning

DATE

Sept. 1980

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000 ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland 21014

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Foards Blacksmith Shop
Level Road
Level, Maryland

The north wall of the room contains the work bench; the wall is made of wide pine planks nailed vertically and butt joined. That wall has hung on it every kind of metal tool and object. Foards Blacksmith Shop is a virtual museum of handcrafted tools and such everyday objects as hinges, latches, wheels, plows etc.

Foards Blacksmith Shop

Mrs. Stearn is 84 years old and has spent all of that time within a couple of miles of Level. She has lived in her loghouse on the X-roads since 1937. Hers has not been an easy life; it is whatever its quality (considered personally to be high) part of the history of this building.

Mrs. Stearn lives in a log house where she raised 10 children alone during the great United States Depression of the 1930s.

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1303124811
N. R. FIELD SHEET

HA 312

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Foard's Blacksmith Shop

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: North side of Rock Run Road about 100 yards east of

CITY OR TOWN: Level Old Level Road

STATE: Maryland CODE: COUNTY: Harford CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
			No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Blacksmith Shop	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: William Foard

STREET AND NUMBER: Level

CITY OR TOWN: Habre de Grace BFD STATE: Maryland CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

STREET AND NUMBER: HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 40 S. MAIN ST

CITY OR TOWN: BEL AIR STATE: MARYLAND CODE:

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Frame building, board and batten, facing south through two wide doors, the ridge line north-south. Well lighted, the doors have windows, and windows are beside them, the west wall having 4 windows $\frac{6}{6}$ and a door. One each of 6 pines under the peak.

The stone floor supports 4 several anvils and the forge, still running. The rafters are hung with supports of iron bars and straps.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Aboriginal | Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Political | <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric | Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phi- | | Other (Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | losophy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Industry -</u> | |
| Agriculture | Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Art | Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Commerce | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Human- | | _____ | |
| Communications | Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> | itarian | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Conservation | Military | <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| | Music | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Five blacksmiths worked here simultaneously in the busy summer season when Mr Ford was a young man. Two would shoe horses all day, the others make tools, mend wagons and replace metal tires on the wheels, etc.

Now 82 years old, Mr Ford gave up shoeing horses about 10 years ago, but still runs the forge, mostly to repair antiques.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES W. R. FIELD SHEET

Interview with William Fozard at the Shop, August 1970.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **JEAN S. EWING**

ORGANIZATION: **MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: **50 STATE CIRCLE**

CITY OR TOWN: **ANNAPOLIS** STATE: **MARYLAND** CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

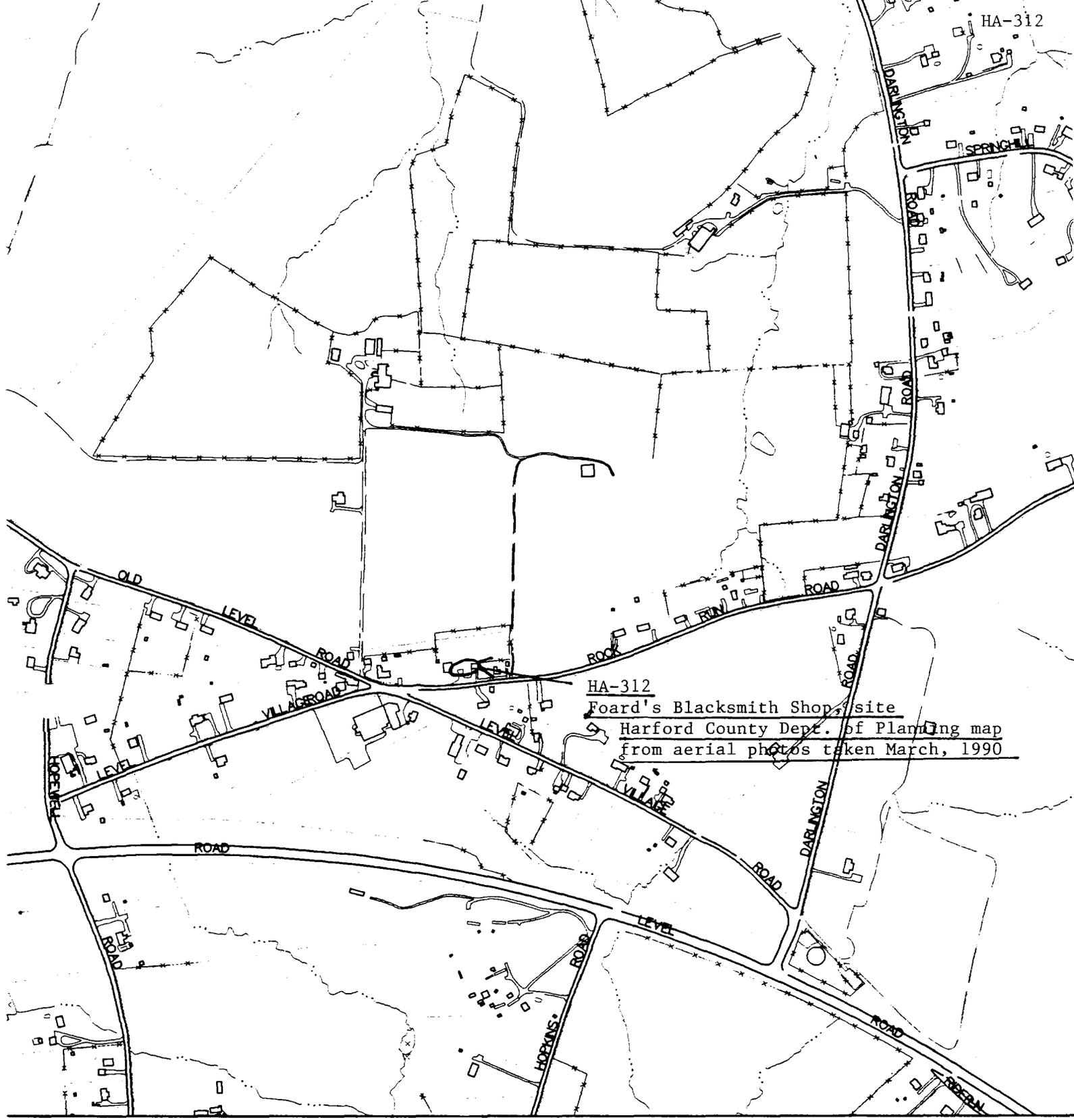
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

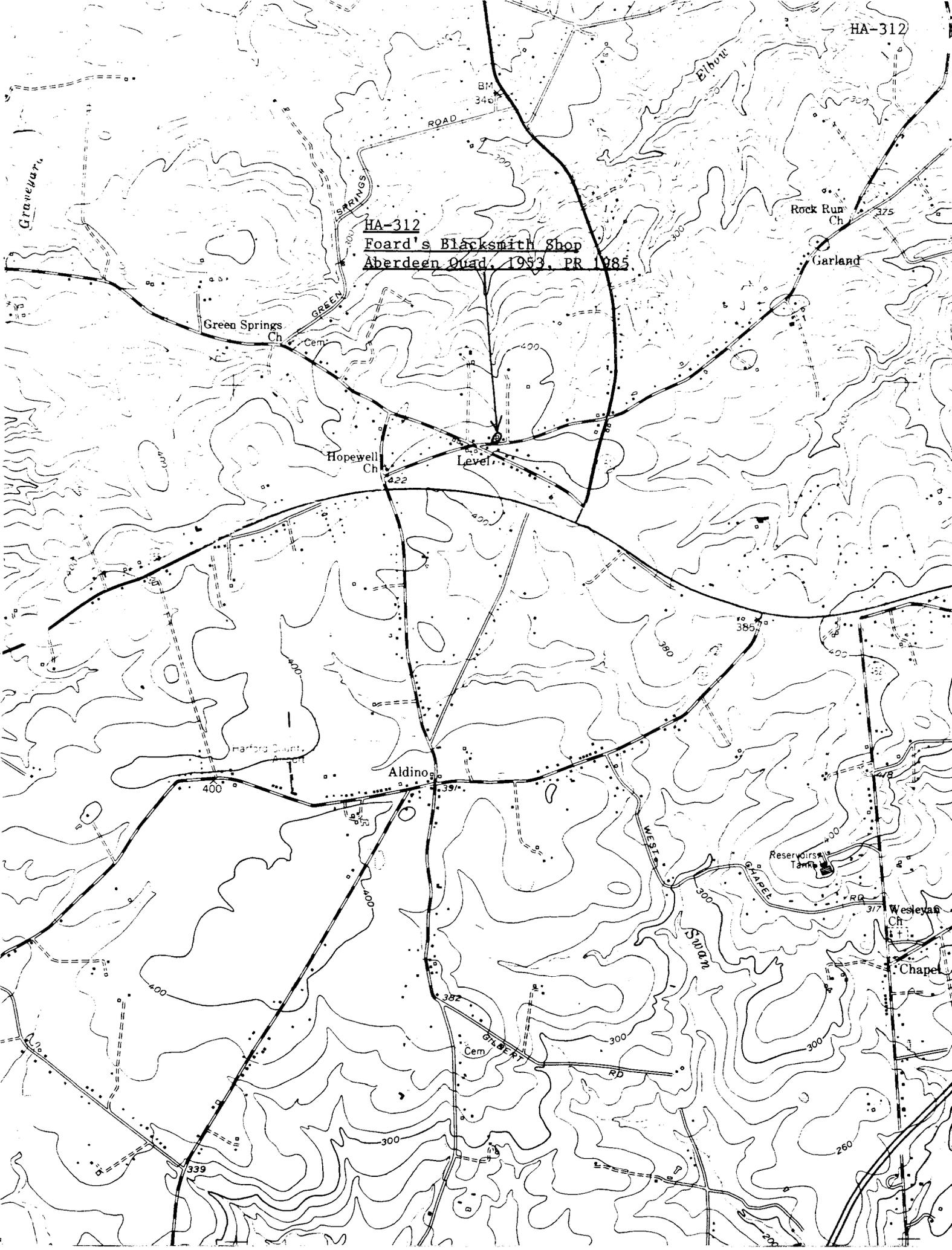
Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



HA-312
Foard's Blacksmith Shop, site
Harford County Dept. of Planning map
from aerial photos taken March, 1990

Historic Area Maryland



HA-312
 Foard's Blacksmith Shop
 Aberdeen Quad, 1953, PR 1985



HA-312

Foard's Blacksmith Shop
Level, Md.

Wayne L. Nield II 6/80
Southeast



HA-312

Foard's Blacksmith Shop
Level, Md.

Wayne L. Nield II 6/80
Northwest



HA-312

Foards Blacksmith Shop
Level, Md.
Wayne L. Nield 6/80
Interior



HA-312

Foards's Blacksmith Shop
Level, Md.
Wayne L. Nield 6/80
Interior



HA-312

Foard's Blacksmith Shop
Level, Md.

Wayne L. Nield II 6/80
Interior - Forge