

HA-339

James Silver House
937 Priestford Road
Darlington vicinity
Private

1870

The James Silver House is a good example of vernacular architecture in the Victorian period, showing elements of decoration and planning based in the Queen Anne, Stick, and late Gothic Revival styles. The house is also significant as one of the several Silver family houses in the Deer Creek area, most of which display a high quality of exterior and interior workmanship.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

James Silver House; Silvermount Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Charles Durham House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

937 Priestford Road (MD 136)

CITY, TOWN

Darlington

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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
	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Charles B. Durham

Telephone #: 734-7531

STREET & NUMBER

937 Priestford Road

CITY, TOWN

Darlington

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 21034

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 295

Folio #: 375

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

c. 1970

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

HA 37

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The James Silver House is a 2½ story frame house with a two story wing located on the east side of Priestford Road (MD 136) across the road from Trappe Church (HA-166), about two miles north of Deer Creek near Darlington in Harford County, Maryland. The house was built in 1870 and faces south.

The main section of the house has a central hall plan and an irregular south or main elevation. The south elevation has a projecting eastern bay with a polygonal bay window on the first floor. A one-story porch with scroll-sawn brackets shelters the double-doored entry with sidelights and transom. A single gabled dormer breaks the roofline. The west elevation is the gable end and has a two-story polygonal bay. The north elevation is a five-bay, central entrance facade with a steep central dormer and smaller dormers flanking. The small dormers have a scroll-sawn floral bargeboard. The dormer window frames are pointed. The central doorway is presently closed off. An early 20th century photograph in the possession of the owner shows that there was originally a flat roofed porch with elaborate brackets on this elevation. It was removed in the late 1930's or early 1940's, but some of the bracketed columns were retained and are stored in the barn. The porch was very similar to that on the Janney House at Indian Spring Farm (HA-341).

The east wing is also 2½ stories, but lower in height than the main section. This was the original servants' quarters and kitchen, and is now a separate rental apartment. The wing has two bays on all exposed elevations and an enclosed shed porch on the east end. Two dormers on the south elevation have round-arched windows.

The fenestration of the house is as varied as its exterior: most windows have four over four sliding sash, but several new windows, particularly in the east wing, are six over six or two over two. On both the north and south elevations, the west bays on the first floor have tall narrow ten-light windows opening from the former ballroom.

The foundation of the house is stone. The original weatherboard siding has been covered with asbestos shingles. The roof was originally red painted metal but has been replaced by asbestos roofing material.

The interior has been largely altered, but much of the original woodwork, mantelpieces, and some decorative plasterwork remains intact. The former ballroom has some finely modeled plaster corbels and a black marble mantel. The central hall has a plaster ceiling medallion. The oak staircase and balustrade extend the full height of the house. The area of greatest alteration is on the third floor where several new walls were added when a rental apartment was put in.

Several agricultural outbuildings are located east and southeast of the house. Of these, only the frame garage and bank barn directly east

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

21-357

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James Silver House is a good example of vernacular architecture in the Victorian period, showing elements of decoration and planning based in the Queen Anne, Stick, and late Gothic Revival styles. The house is also significant as one of the several Silver family houses in the Deer Creek area, most of which display a high quality of exterior and interior workmanship.

History:

James Silver (1812-1876) was the brother of Benjamin Silver, Jr. and Dr. Silas Silver, whose houses are located on Harmony Church Road (see HA-398-406 and HA-407-408). He purchased the farms of James W. Williams and James Lee, forming Silvermount Farm, a tract of 250-300 acres (see plat). The house was begun on June 8, 1870 and the Silver family moved in on December 16.

The Martenet Map of 1878 and the Jennings and Herrick Map of 1858 both show a structure labeled "J. Silver" somewhat to the south of the Silver House. This location is incorrect if this referred to the existing Silver House. The J. Silver house may be that described in HA-340 as either Silverdale or the J. C. Nelson House. Since the James Silver House was completed long before the Martenet Map was published, the incorrect location of this very prominent building is unexplained. The James Silver family may have lived in the Silverdale or Nelson House or in the demolished Hopkins House prior to the completion of Silvermount.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Silver, Benjamin S., Our Silver Heritage, Gatesville Printing Co., Gatesville, TX, 1976, p. 3501. (Archives of Historical Society of Harford County)

Martenet's Map of Harford County, 1878

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

STATE	COUNTY
-------	--------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning

DATE

October 1982

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000 Ext 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air, MD 21014

STATE

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

7. DESCRIPTION--Continued

appear to be contemporary with the house. The garage may have originally been a carriage house. It has tongue-in-groove siding on a concrete block foundation. An open tractor shed has been built on the east side of the garage. The barn is a bank type with a stone foundation, board and batten and vertical board siding, and a metal roof with standing seams. The interior structure reveals hand-hewn timbers and pegged mortise and tenon joinery.

About 100 feet northeast of the barn are the unexposed foundations of an earlier house, which according to the owner was the Hopkins house. The 1858 Jennings and Herrick map and the 1878 Martenet map show G. W. Hopkins and William Hopkins, respectively, as owning houses near this site.

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: Durham house

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: East side of Priest Ford Road directly opposite

CITY OR TOWN: Darlington The western segment of Trappe Rd.

STATE: Maryland CODE: COUNTY: Harford CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Building</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Occupied</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <u>Restricted</u> <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Structure</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <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"/>	<u>Apartments + Farm house</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Charles B. Durham

STREET AND NUMBER: Priest Ford Road

CITY OR TOWN: Darlington STATE: MD CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: 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: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

8962

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

 ExcellentGood Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

INTEGRITY

 AlteredUnaltered Moved Original Site

(Check One)

(Check One)

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

~~XXXXXX~~

Frame house 2 1/2 stories, with
 2 story addition. Asphalt shingle
 cross clapboard. (5 bays by 3) + (3 x 2).
 Wide eaves and windows 4/4, and
 scale of main house characteristic of
 1880 - 90's. Interior chimneys
 rise from stoves at the inside walls,
 except at wing where a large cooking
 fireplace was removed.

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

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

Charles Durban still farms this large place but has given up his dairy herd ("not sheppin' milk"). Rental of apartments in this large house to workers at Aberdeen indicate, again, dependence on these military bases (Edgewood Aberdeen and Bainbridge) in Harford's economy. View south and east over Deer Creek Valley is very beautiful.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

[Empty space for major bibliographical references]

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

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 _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

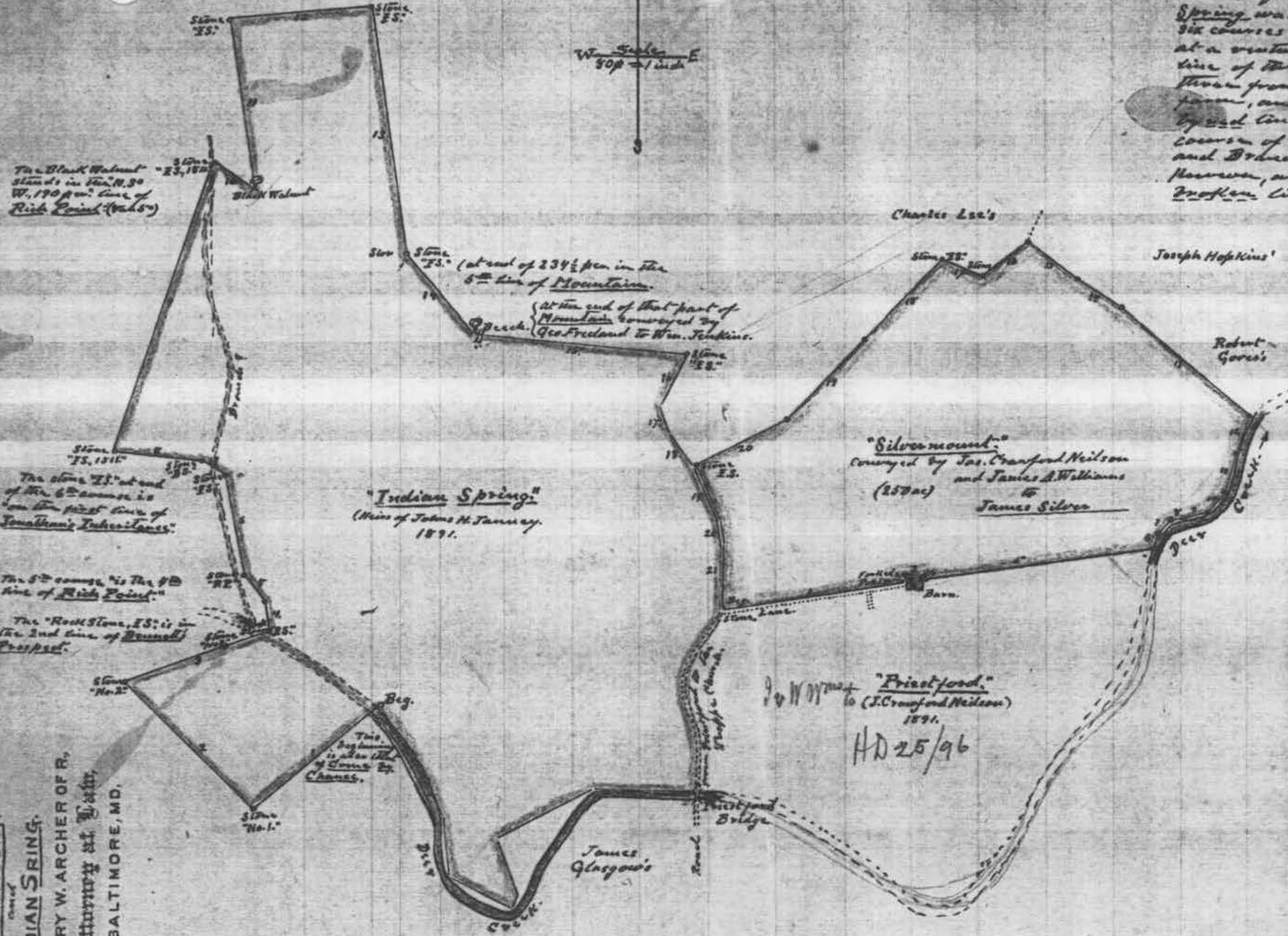
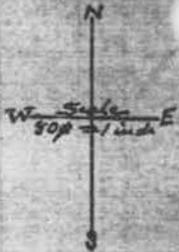
ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Copied and reduced to
 This scale from Plats in
 the possession of Benjamin
 Silver Esq. that of Indian
 Spring was surveyed and
 six courses were then added
 at a certain distance
 from the line of the Creek, and
 then from the adjacent
 farm, and was indicated
 by red lines. The probable
 courses of the Road, Creek
 and Branch, when not
 shown, was indicated by
 broken lines.



The Black Walnut stand in the N. 30 W. 170 feet line of Rich Point (No. 2)

Stone "25" (at end of 234 1/2 feet in the 5th line of Mountain)

At the end of that part of Mountain conveyed by Geo. Ireland to Wm. Jenkins.

The stone "23" at end of the 6th course is on the first line of Jonathan's Indulgences.

"Indian Spring" (Wm. of Johns H. January 1891)

"Silvermount" conveyed by Jas. Crawford Neilson and James A. Williams (1874) to James Silver

The 5th course is the 7th line of Rich Point

The "Rock Stone, 25" is in the 2nd line of Round Prospect

"Priestford" to (J. Crawford Neilson) 1891

HD 25/96

SILVERMOUNT
 AND
 INDIAN SPRING,
 HENRY W. ARCHER OF R.
 Attorney at Law,
 BALTIMORE, MD.
 7-9-91

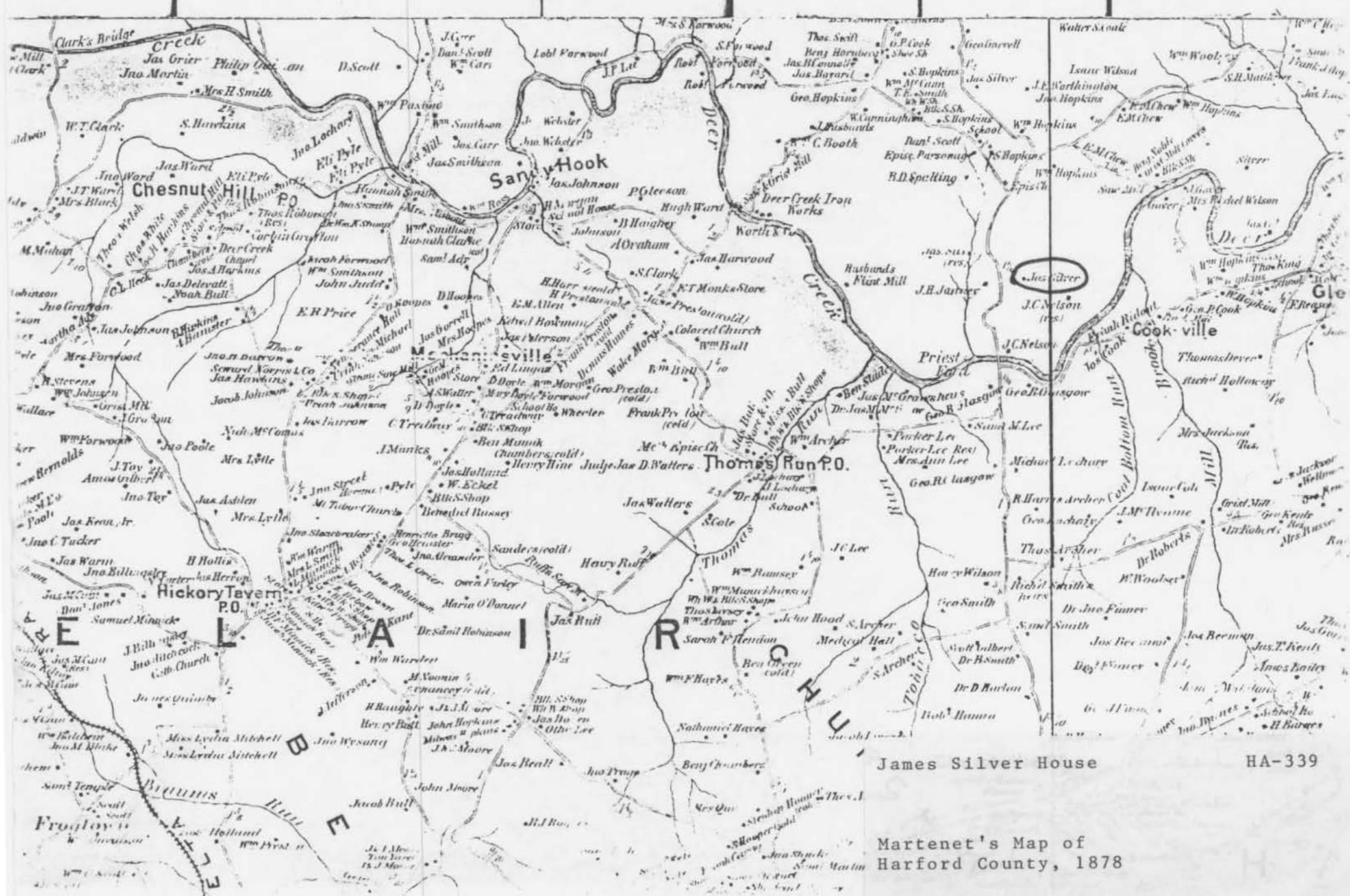
NA-339



James Silver House

HA-339

Jennings and Herrick
 Map of Harford County,
 1858



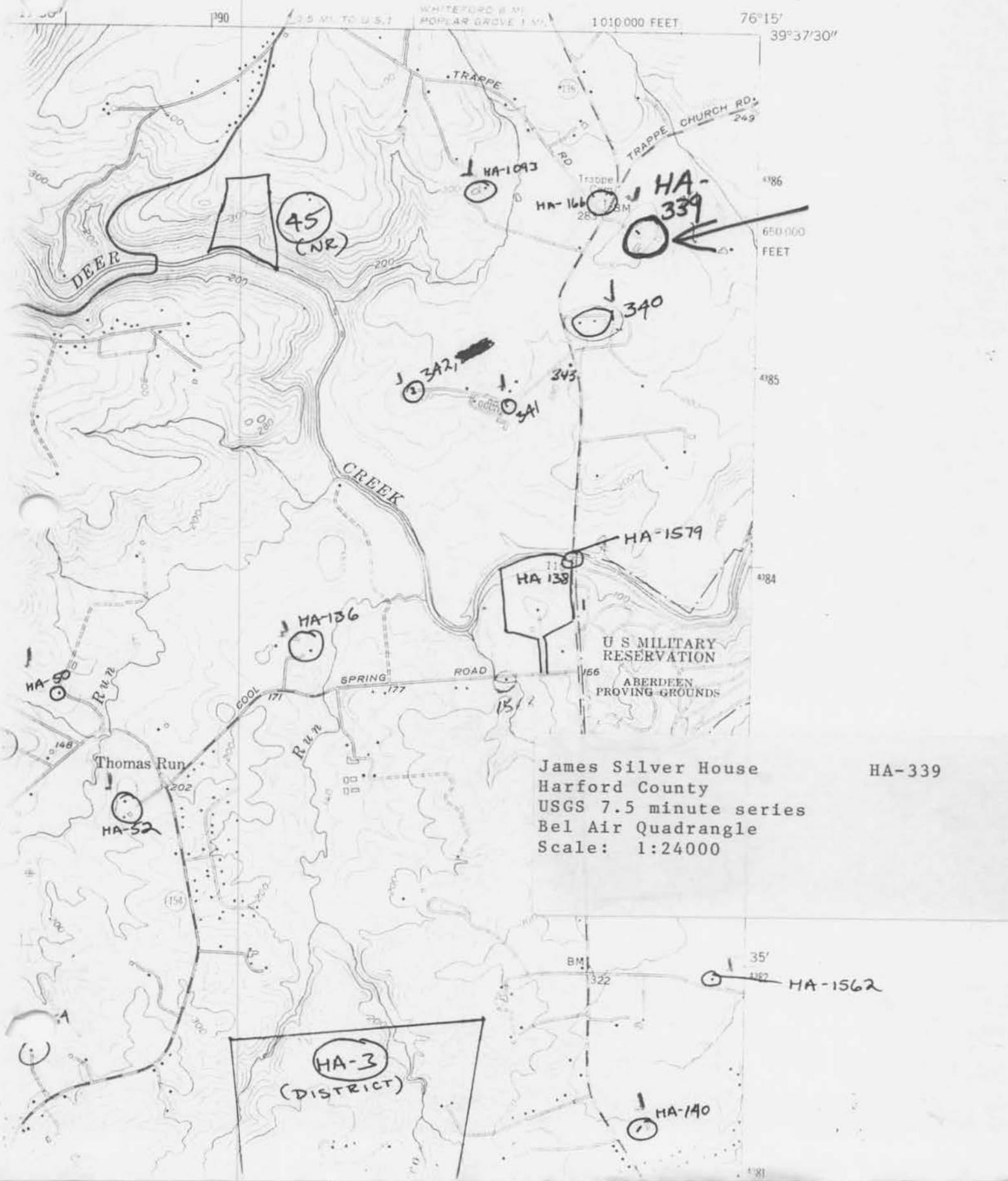
James Silver House

HA-339

Martenet's Map of Harford County, 1878

BEL AIR QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND—HARFORD CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5763 II NW
(CONOWINGO DAM)



James Silver House
Harford County
USGS 7.5 minute series
Bel Air Quadrangle
Scale: 1:24000

HA-339

HA-3
(DISTRICT)

HA-1562

HA-140



James Silver House
Darlington vicinity
Harford County

HA-339

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1982

Main section, north elevation

2/4



James Silver House
Darlington vicinity
Harford County
Photo: Janet Davis
September 1982
Main section, south elevation
1/4

HA-339



James Silver House
Darlington vicinity
Harford County

HA-339

Photo: Janet Davis
September 1982

View southeast from house toward Deer Creek
4/4



James Silver House
Darlington vicinity

HA-339

Harford County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1982

Wing, southeast corner view

3/4