

SUMMARY

OTTO MONSEES HOUSE

HA-75

The Village of Darlington contains over forty 19th century buildings, and this is one of them. The Otto Monsees house anchors a virtually uninterrupted row of 19th century structures on the northwest side of Shuresville Road. It is a relatively small structure that according to the 1878 Map and oral tradition housed a shoe shop.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Otto Monsees House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 2129 Shuresville Road

CITY, TOWN Darlington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

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	<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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Richard and Judith Briggs

Telephone #: 836-3985

STREET & NUMBER 2129 Shuresville Road

CITY, TOWN Darlington,

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE Harford County Courthouse  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Liber #: 974

Folio #: 239

STREET & NUMBER 40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN Bel Air,

STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

NA-75

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 Otto Monsees house is located at 2129 Shuresville Road, on the northwest corner of the intersection of Shuresville Road and Old Quaker Road. The house faces southeast, and is situated less than 25' from either road surface.

This is a two story frame structure, approximately 28' square, sitting on a raised uncoursed rubble foundation with a full basement. It has a slate covered combination hipped and gable end roof, and is covered with circular sawn clapboards. The southeast elevation is 3 bays wide with a center hall, and the northeast is 3 bays wide. Windows are 6/6, with the upper sash fixed in position and the exterior doors are 4 panel with raised moulding. There is a large brick stack with a rather ornate corbelled cap on the northeast, and a plainer brick chimney on the southwest.

On the southeast elevation, there is a 1-story shed roof porch supported by square columns, and on the northeast is a small deck, sheltered by a gable roof. A stone porch knee wall found at the north corner, plus the door on the northeast wall support the conclusion that there was an earlier wraparound 1 story porch. There are modern shed and garage additions on the southwest elevation.

The interior has 4 rooms down and 5 up (originally 3 rooms up, later subdivided.) Inspection of the basement revealed log joists in the front (southeast) half of the house, and sawn joists in the northwest portion. On the southwest wall is a masonry fireplace, which was sealed off preventing further exploration. The basement area was plastered and whitewashed. There is a stone foundation wall between the north east and south west walls dividing the basement space in half - this may have been the original northwest wall, with the house extended approximately 12' to the northwest. A doorway was cut through in the southwest section, but in the northeast, there is an opening with curved side walls that appears to be original. This suggests an original L-plan.

The first floor has a central enclosed staircase flanked by 1 room on each side. The room to the southwest is 15'4" X 10'5" and has a projecting fireplace with built in closets above the chimney piece. The mantelpiece has an opening flanked by pilasters simply articulated with moulding. The frieze above the opening has a triangular or pediment design, the design articulated by applied moulding.

In the northwest section (rear half) there is a wood wainscot 35" high, made with 5 1/4" wide verticle boards butted together. This is capped with a simple moulding. Brick flues are visible in each of these rear rooms, and the flue in the west room has chamfered edges. These rear rooms were apparently the Quarters for a Cobblers Shop.

(See Description Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Land Records extending back to 1857 indicate that James Baldwin sold Otto Monsees 29 1/2 square perches for \$350.00. It is on these small parcels that the present structure stands.

Architectural evidence suggests a construction date of the third quarter of the 19th century. All materials are sawn and the exterior doors and decoration have the flavor of the early Victorian. The overall small scale of the house is reminiscent of earlier Vernacular dwellings though, and it is clear on this note that the influence of the pattern books (Dowing especially) had not been felt in rural Darlington.

Today this house is one of about three dozen 19th century dwellings that survive in Darlington. It is a contributing element in one of Harford County's best preserved 19th century rural Crossroads Villages.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

NA-75

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

Phillip R. Lord, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning

DATE

June, 1981

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

Description Continuation Sheet #1

HA 175  
Otto Monsees House  
2129 Shuresville Road  
Darlington, Maryland 21034

The attic revealed 3" X 3 1/2" circular sawn rafters, mitred and nailed at the ridge. Cut nails were observed in the gable end studs, and the attic floor boards. The roof line has been altered at least once.

Initially, the front (south east) section was sheltered by a gable roof and the present roof line maintains this old pitch on the southeast. The roof was later raised and extended to the north west, and a portion of the older roof rafter and sheathing are still visible.

There are no outbuildings associated with this structure. It does not appear on the 1858 Jennings & Herrick Map, although this cannot be taken as conclusive proof that it wasn't there at that time. The relatively small size and the plan, as well as architectural evidence (sawn materials, cut nails, lack of hewn materials) don't suggest any thing earlier than third quarter though. The 1878 Martenet Map only identifies this as the "Shoe Shop."

TITLE SEARCH

HA-75

OTTO MONSEES HOUSE

2129 Shuresville Rd., Darlington, Maryland

HDC 974/239	June 11, 1975	Grantor: Joseph and Mazel Murphy Grantee: Richard and Judith Briggs Acreage: 29-1/2 square perches
GRG 311/424	Dec. 22, 1947	Grantor: Charles and Pauline Swift Grantee: Joseph and Hazel Murphy Acreage: 29-1/2 square perches
GCB 269/392	Dec. 5, 1941	Grantor: Edward J. Stively, Executor Grantee: Charles A. Swift Acreage: 29-1/2 square perches Sum: \$2,500.  from Will of Rebecca J. Dern - Wills AJG 20/499 - June 14, 1941 Stively is her executor - Rebecca Dern acquires land through Will of Charles P. Dern March 8, 1907 - Wills HTB 13/434
WSF 90/248	Feb. 17, 1896	Grantor: Walter W. Preston and J. Martin McNabb, Trustees. Grantee: Charles P. Dern Acreage: 29-1/2 square perches Sum: \$530. Trustees appointed from equity case decision April 17, 1895 Anne Monsees, complainant John A. Monsees et. al., defendants Ann Monsees buys land at public sale for \$530. on May 20, 1895, then sells to Charles Dern before title is executed.
ALJ 9/305	Dec. 21, 1857	Grantor: James Baldwin Grantee: Otto Monsees and wife Sum: \$350. Acreage: 29-1/2 square perches "Beginning at the corner east of the house and on the edge of the road leading from Darlington to Stafford...." is on part of the tract called "Arabia Petrea"  James Baldwin may have purchased this land from Aquila Massey (HDG 36/181 June 8, 1850 99-1/2 perches) but the description of the land in the 1850 deed cannot be matched exactly and so a positive connection cannot be established.

HA-75  
1300754501  
N. R. FIELD SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Joseph Murphy house

AND/OR HISTORIC: Monsee's Shoemaker Shop and house

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: West corner of Stafford Road and Meeting house Lane

CITY OR TOWN: Darlington

STATE: Maryland

CODE: COUNTY: Harford

**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 type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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"/>		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: Joseph Murphy

STREET AND NUMBER: Stafford Road

CITY OR TOWN: Darlington

STATE: Maryland

**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 21014

STATE: Md

**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:

Color: 6873

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

An L Shaped frame house on the corner (Meetinghouse & Stafford Roads) with a slate roof running NW-SE along Stafford Road, turning to run NE-SW along Meetinghouse Road. Two stories high, three bays in each facade. Windows are six lights over six.

Covered now with aluminum siding and sporting aluminum awnings, it has not basically been improved to death but its appearance is almost ruined.

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"/>		
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Architectural</u>	
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-			
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input checked="" 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.)

This once-charming simple frame house  
 once was the work shop and sales-shop of  
 Oth Moussee, a German shoemaker.  
 His work was one of the basic service  
 businesses that made Dartington a  
 sustaining center for the rich farm land  
 around it.

Moussee was working here in 1888 - how long  
~~before~~ before and after is not recorded.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jones, Fred: The Village of Darlington p.23  
 Farrington, Harry Webb; Ketts to Togs p.122

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				
	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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Jean S Ewing

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historic Trust DATE: Jan '78

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

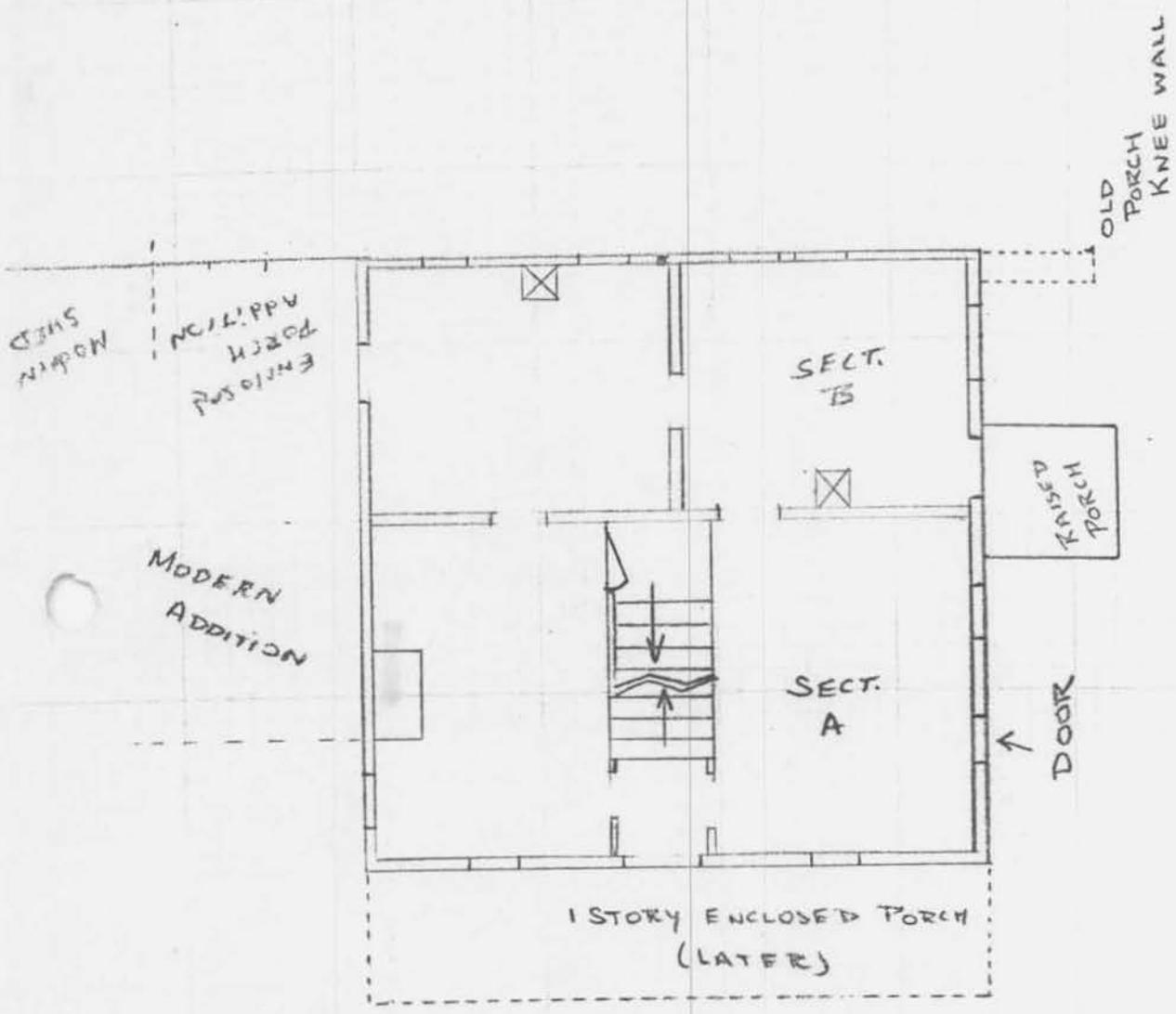
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

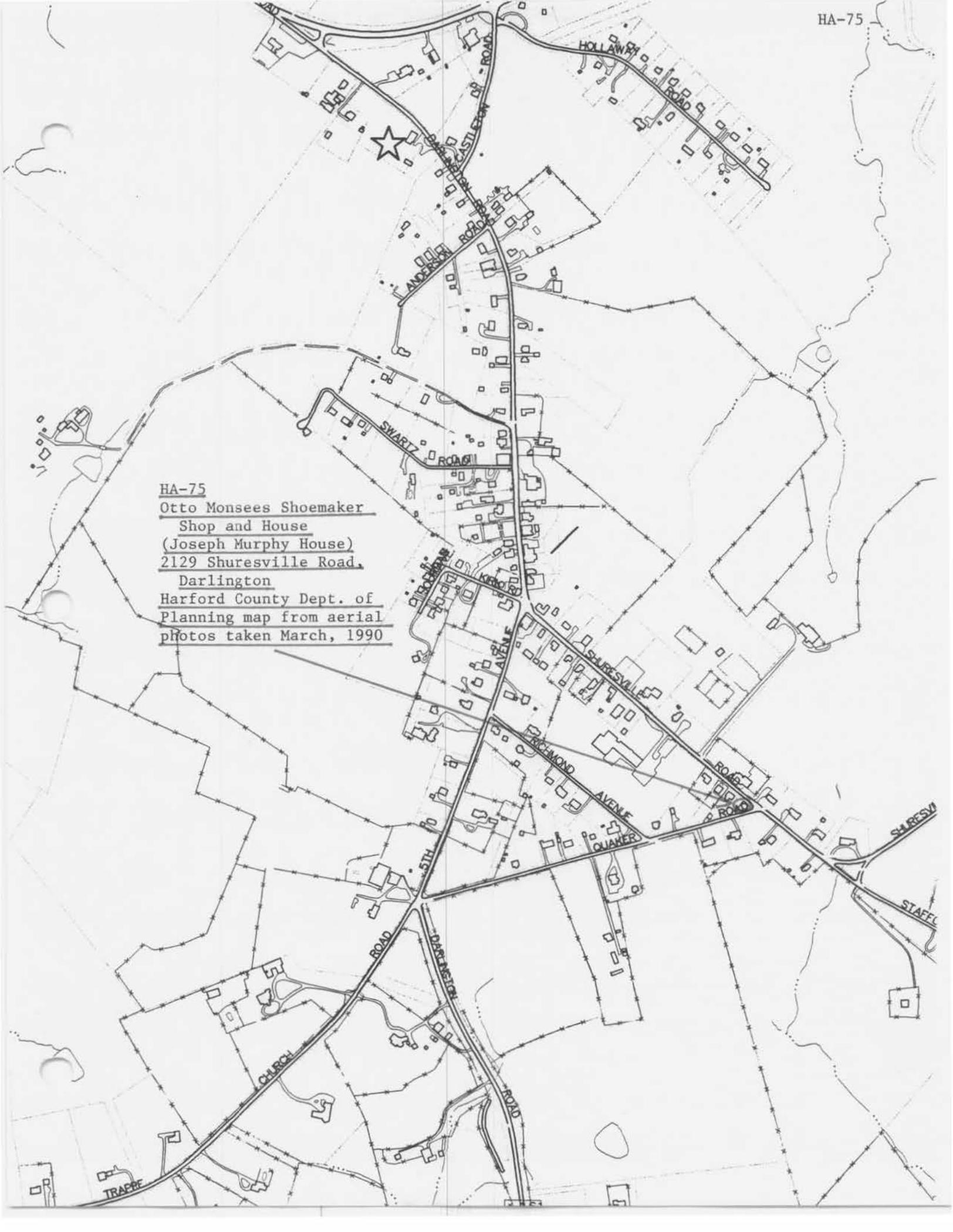
Date \_\_\_\_\_

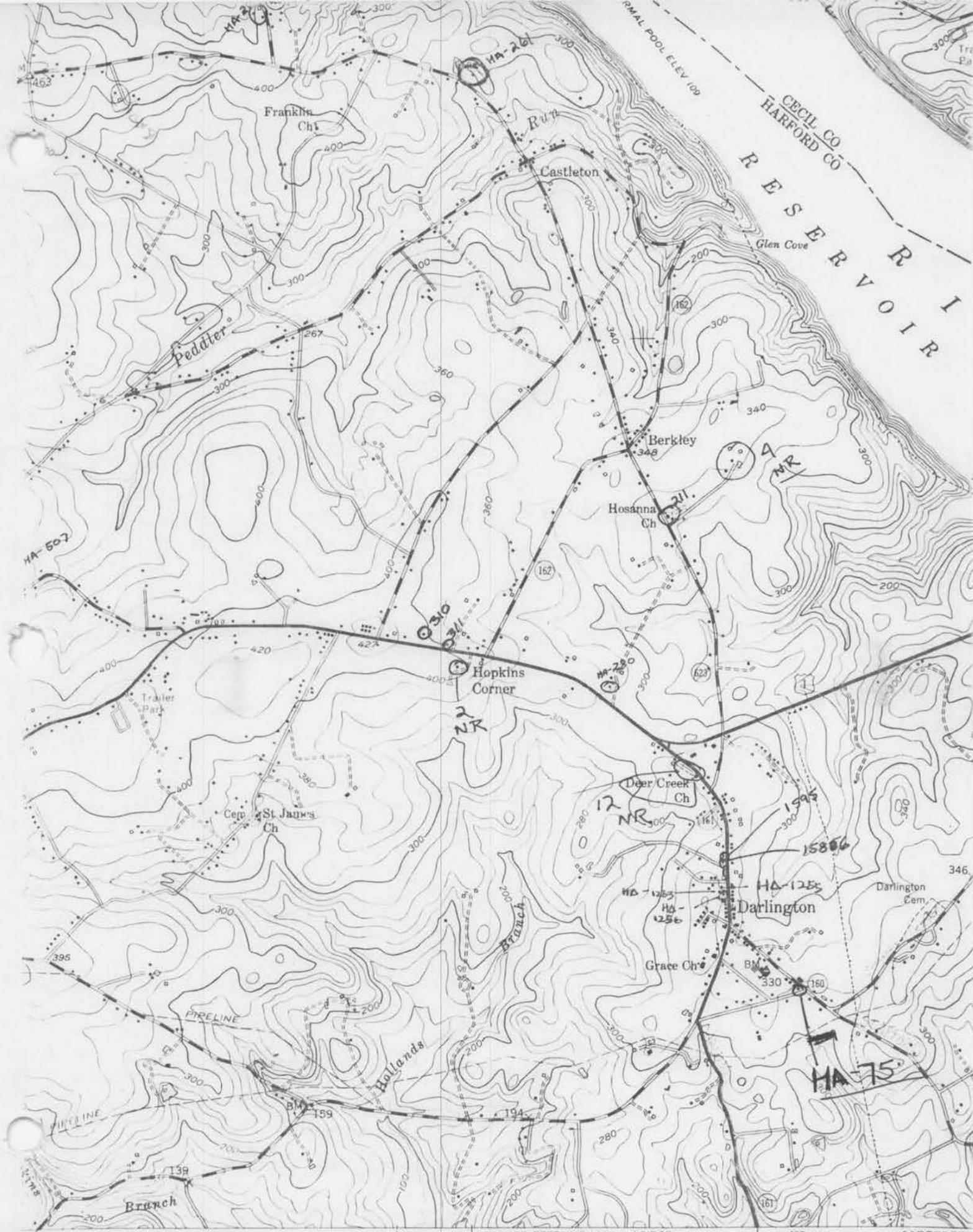
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Scale 1/8" = 1'

HA-75  
Otto Monsees Shoemaker  
Shop and House  
(Joseph Murphy House)  
2129 Shuresville Road,  
Darlington  
Harford County Dept. of  
Planning map from aerial  
photos taken March, 1990





0.5 MI TO MD 136 394 395 1:102000 FEET (MD.) 396 12'30" ABERDEEN 94 MI 397 (ABERDEEN 5763 II SW) SCALE

edited, and published by the Geological Survey



HA-75

OTTO MONSEES HOUSE

Phillip R. Lord

June, 1981