

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes _____
no

Property Name: James Curtis Thomas Property Inventory Number: HO-1111
Address: 499 Sykesville Road (MD 32) Historic district: yes no
City: Sykesville Zip Code: 21784 County: Howard
USGS Quadrangle(s): Sykesville
Property Owner: James R. Measmer and Constance I. Measmer Tax Account ID Number: 03-285308
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0016-0014 Tax Map Number: 0004
Project: MD 32 from S. of Day Road to N. of W. Friendship Road Wide Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration
Agency Prepared By: Skelly and Loy, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Laura Ricketts Date Prepared: 10/24/2012
Documentation is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes
Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Description:

The James Curtis Thomas Property (HO-1111) is located at 499 Maryland Route 32 (MD 32) Sykesville Road about half of a mile south of the historic town of Sykesville and the South Branch Patapsco River. The property is comprised of a substantially enlarged house, a front gambrel frame shed with attached chicken coop, a front gable concrete block shed, and an elaborate terraced garden. Its one-acre lot sits on the east side of the highway immediately north of a former access road that now is mostly overgrown. Its setting is rural with a mixture of nineteenth and early twentieth century farms, post-World War II houses, and more recently constructed homes in the vicinity.

The original part of the building is a two-and-a-half story frame cross gable house with a central brick chimney that dates to ca. 1908 (Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation 2012). It has a full-width enclosed front porch with a half-hipped roof. A one-story enclosed breezeway connects the north side of the original house to a two-story front gable addition. The house has a stone foundation that supports the L-shaped plan of the original section and both poured concrete and concrete block foundations for the additions. The house has a replacement asphalt shingle roof, replacement vinyl siding, and replacement double-hung sash

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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MHT Comments:

Jim Salermo ✓ Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date 12/18/12
P. Kuntz Reviewer, National Register Program Date 12/18/12

windows with applied muntins. The enclosed porch has sliding glass doors with sidelights and double hung sash windows that are not historic. The façade (west) of the north end of the addition features double glass doors flanked by full-height double hung sash windows and capped by a round arch multi-pane window at the left, a single entrance with a broken pediment molding and a wall-mounted fountain at the right, and a double-pane sliding window with vinyl shutters at the upper right.

The side (north) elevation of the addition is a blank wall except for two tall double hung sash windows. A detached prefabricated front gambrel shed from ca. 1995 is located immediately to the north of this side elevation. The shed has swinging doors on its front (west) façade, vertical groove panel siding, and an asphalt shingle roof. A double story frame chicken coop structure enclosed with wire fencing is attached to the east side of the shed. It has a steep front gable standing seam metal roof.

The opposite side (south) elevation of the house features gable returns, two bays of replacement double hung sash windows, and an attic level replacement window on the original part of the house. To the right (southeast corner of the house), a narrow one-bay wide, two-story addition and a one-story enclosed wrap-around porch addition are visible. A front gable concrete block storage shed from ca. 1980 is situated immediately to the southeast of the house. The shed has a door on the front (west) façade, a sliding window on the north side, and a patched area (probably a former window) on the south elevation; there is a frame lean-to structure attached to the east elevation with a shed roof and vertical board siding. The shallow front gable roof is covered with sheets of corrugated metal.

The rear (east) elevation of the house reveals the extent of the additions. At the far left (southeast), the two-and-a-half story structure of the original house with its original rear wing marked by gable returns is visible. The original portion has a partial wrap-around rear porch addition; a two-story, one-bay addition which widens the rear wing; and a one-story, one-room lean-to addition. At the middle of the elevation is the one-story connector addition, which leads to a raised rear deck addition through glass sliding doors. At the north end of the rear (east) elevation is the two-story addition with a rear entrance. The house is built into a slightly sloping site so that most of the basement foundation is also visible at the rear. To the east of the house, there is an extensive, terraced formal garden that has been cultivated and expanded over the past several decades by the current owner.

The James Curtis Thomas Property (HO-1111) does not retain integrity. The footprint of the original house has been nearly tripled by substantial additions. Changes to the design (enclosed porches and multiple large additions), materials (siding, roofing, and windows), and workmanship (lost historic details) compromise the building's integrity.

History:

One of the current owners of the house, Constance Measmer, has held this property since 1971, and as a young child lived next door at 525 Sykesville Road (Measmer, personal communication 2012; Howard County Deeds 1971). Mrs. Measmer provided a photograph of the house as it looked in 1971, when it was covered with faux brick asphalt siding and the front porch had turned posts supported on a half wall. The major changes to the house (primarily the additions, replacement materials, enclosed porch, and formal garden) have occurred in the intervening forty year period.

The property was owned by Susan and William Fowble (Mrs. Measmer's mother and step-father) in the late 1960s, and before that it belonged to the Linton family (Howard County Deeds 1967). According to Mrs. Measmer, the Lintons operated a tavern in the house in the early twentieth century. Reportedly, the tavern was popular among Carroll County residents because at that time that county, which was located a half of a mile to the north, was dry (Measmer, personal communication 2012). According to Mrs. Measmer, white customers were served on the first floor but black customers were served in the basement, which was accessed through a rear door (Measmer, personal communication 2012). Mrs. Measmer and her husband, James Measmer, maintained that the tavern was operated through the 1930s even though Prohibition was in effect in the United States from 1920 to 1933

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

(Measmer, personal communication 2012). According to the deeds, Susanna M. Linton and her husband Charles H. Linton owned the house during this period. They are listed as residents of Baltimore in the 1920 Population Census, where Charles is described as a brake inspector for a steam railroad (U.S. Census 1920). In 1930, they are residents of Sykesville State Road and Charles is identified as a general hauler (U.S. Census 1930).

No other information about the tavern was found despite searching in the deed and tax assessment records, census information, and local histories. Mrs. Measmer also recalled a smokehouse, an outhouse, and a corn crib that were once associated with the property but which are no longer extant.

The property was sold to Susanna M. Linton by James Curtis Thomas and his wife Beulah in 1911 (Howard County Deeds 1911). The Thomas' purchased the property from Ursula Brooks in 1908 and (it is presumed) built the house (Howard County Deeds 1908). Ursula Brooks gained possession of the one-acre parcel in 1907 as part of the disbursement of the more than 372-acre estate of her late grandfather, Chauncey Brooks (Howard County Deeds 1907). She arranged to have the property platted in January of 1908, just a month before the sale to Thomas (Howard County Deeds 1911). This property was a small part of the much larger holdings sold to Chauncey Brooks by James W. Tyson and his wife Elizabeth in 1868 (Howard County Deeds 1868). A topographic map of the area from 1906 shows Sykesville Road (old alignment), but there are no structures in the vicinity of the James Curtis Thomas Property location (USGS 1906).

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation

The James Curtis Thomas Property (HO-1111) is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The property does not retain integrity. It is no longer able to convey a sense of its historic appearance. Additionally, the property is not significant under NRHP Criteria A, B, or C. There is no evidence the house is associated with an event or person of local, statewide, or national significance. The information about the house's early history as a tavern has not been confirmed, and the house's unquestionable loss of integrity makes the importance of the tavern a moot point. Architecturally, the house is extensively altered and architecturally undistinguished. The James Curtis Thomas Property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

References

Howard County Aerial Photography Viewer
2012 Website at <http://data.howardcountymd.gov/GAerialPhoto/GAerialPhoto.asp#>. Accessed October 10, 2012.

Howard County Deeds

1868 James W. Tyson and Elizabeth W. Tyson to Chauncey Brooks to Ursula Brooks. Deed Book 28, Page 179. On file, Howard County Land Records Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Columbia, Maryland.

1907 Harry Fahnestock, Walter B. Brooks and Gaylord Brooks (under the will of Chauncey Brooks) to Ursula Brooks. Deed Book 84, Page 35. On file, Howard County Land Records Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Columbia, Maryland.

1908 Ursula Brooks to James Curtis Thomas. Deed Book 85, Page 235. On file, Howard County Land Records Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Columbia, Maryland.

1911 James Curtis Thomas and Beulah E. Thomas to Susanna M. Linton. Deed Book 91, Page 206. On file, Howard County Land Records Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Columbia, Maryland.

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 Reviewer, National Register Program Date

1961 Levi L. Linton et al. to State of Maryland State Roads Commission. Deed Book 386, Page 578. On file, Howard County Land Records Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Columbia, Maryland.

1967 Blanche Linton, Estella M. Pumphrey and William J. Pumphrey, Charles M. Linton and Naomi Linton, Nellie L. Ridgely and Benjamin C. Ridgely to William H. Fowble and Susan L. Fowble. Deed Book 480, Page 671. On file, Howard County Land Records Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Columbia, Maryland.

1971 William H. Fowble and Susan L. Fowble to Patrick A. McGinn and Constance I. McGinn. Deed Book 574, Page 326. On file, Howard County Land Records Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Columbia, Maryland.

1973 Patrick A. McGinn and Constance I. McGinn to William H. Fowble and Susan L. Fowble. Deed Book 631, Page 374. On file, Howard County Land Records Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Columbia, Maryland.

1976 William H. Fowble and Susan L. Fowble to Constance I. Measmer. Deed Book 797, Page 516. On file, Howard County Land Records Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Columbia, Maryland.

1991 Constance I. Measmer to James R. Measmer and Constance I. Measmer. Deed Book 2347, Page 743. On file, Howard County Land Records Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Columbia, Maryland.

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation

2012 Assessment Record for Tax Account District 03, Account 285308. Website at http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/details.aspx?County=14&SearchType=STREET&AccountNumber=03%20285308. Accessed October 15, 2012.

Measmer, C.I.

2012 Personal communication with Constance I. Measmer, current owner of 499 Sykesville Road. September 26, 2012.

State Roads Commission of Maryland

1961 Plat No. 19800, Project No. HO-292-002-720, Issued 10-9-1958, Received 1-10-1961. On file, Howard County Land Records Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Columbia, Maryland.

United States Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census)

1920 Population Schedule for the Third District, Howard County, Maryland. Website at Ancestry.com. Accessed October 15, 2012.

1930 Population Schedule for the Third District, Howard County, Maryland. Website at Ancestry.com. Accessed October 15, 2012.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

1906 Ellicott, Maryland topographic map, 15 minute quadrangle. United States Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

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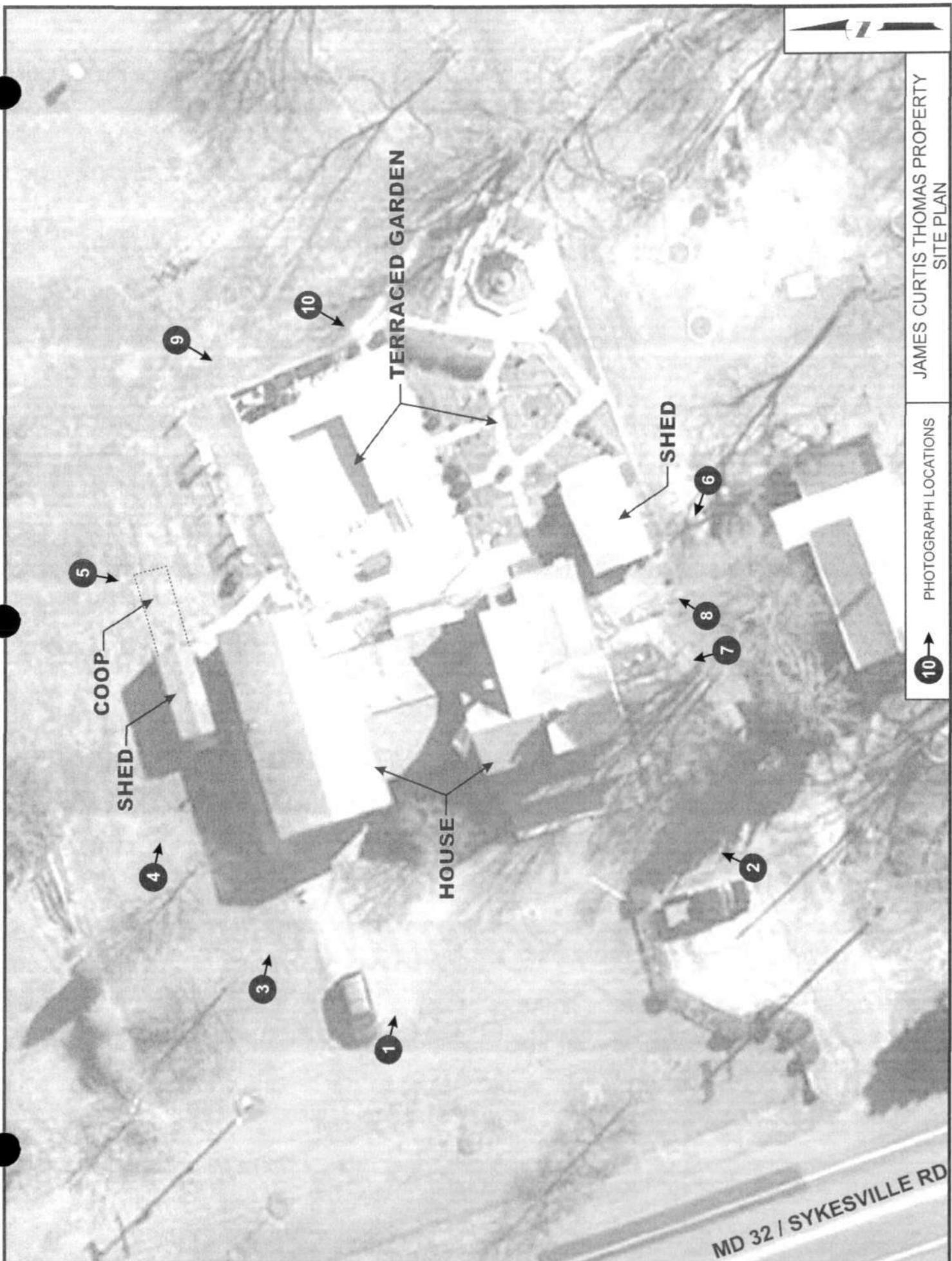
Reviewer, National Register Program

Date



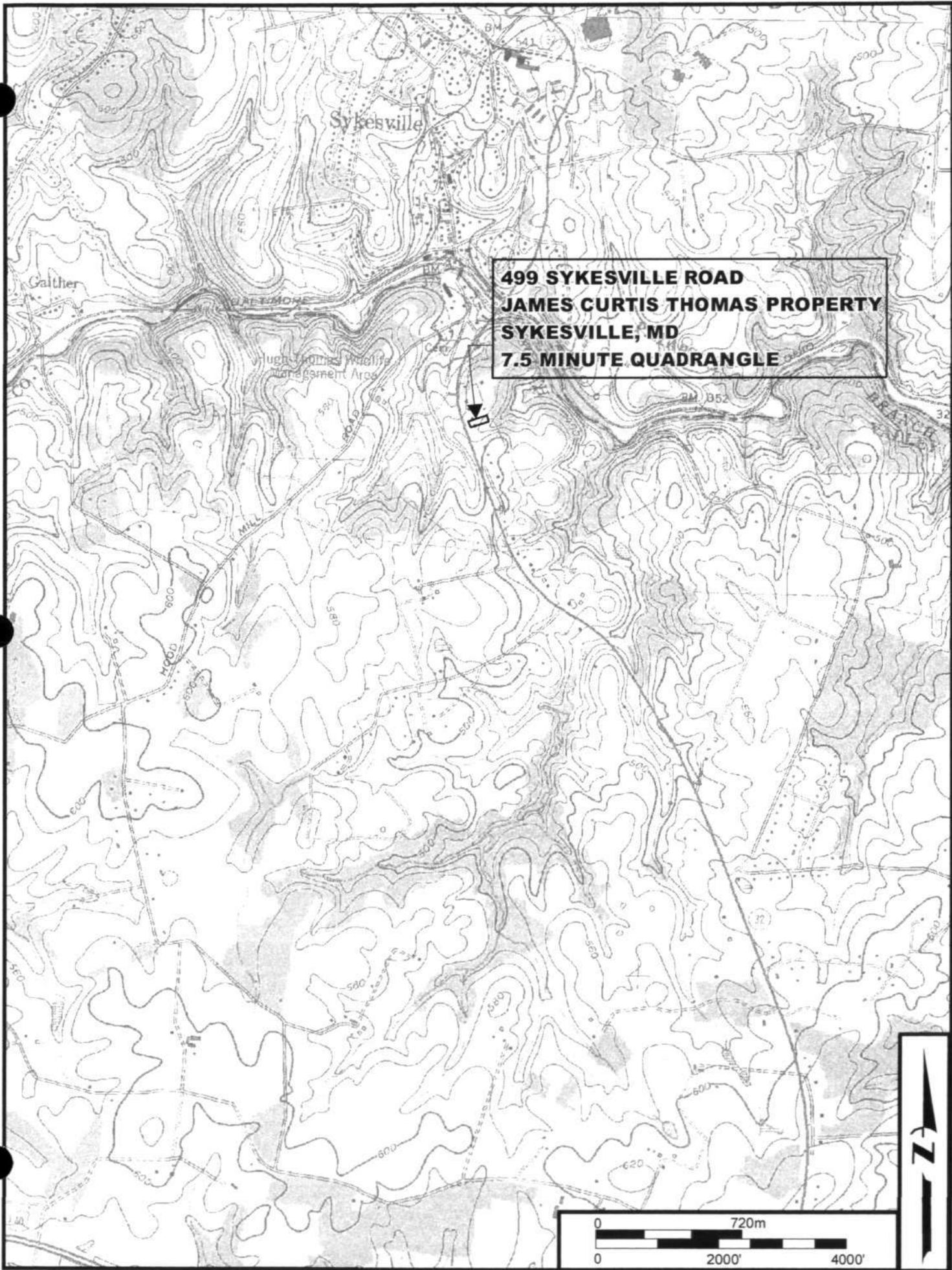
JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY
SITE PLAN

PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS



MD 32 / SYKESVILLE RD

**499 SYKESVILLE ROAD
JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY
SYKESVILLE, MD
7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE**





TAX PARCEL MAP
499 SYKESVILLE RD



**JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY
HO-1111
SYKESVILLE, HOWARD COUNTY
PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

Project No. HO472B21

MD 32 from S. of Day Road to N. of W. Friendship Road Widening Project

Howard County, Maryland

Photographer: Laura C. Ricketts, Skelly and Loy, Inc.

Date: September 26, 2012

Ink and Paper: HP 564 80+ Years Permanent Ink and HP Premium Plus Photo Paper

CD-R Gold: Verbatim Ultralife Archival Grade CD-R, 24 karat gold and patented Phthalocyanine phase-changing dye

HO-1111_2012-09-26_01.tif. Front (west) elevation of the house with additions at left, facing southeast.

HO-1111_2012-09-26_02.tif. Front (west) and south elevations of the original part of the house, facing northeast.

HO-1111_2012-09-26_03.tif. Front (west) elevation of the *ca.* 1986 addition, facing southeast.

HO-1111_2012-09-26_04.tif. North elevation of the house and north and front (west) elevations of the detached front gambrel shed (middle ground), facing southeast.

HO-1111_2012-09-26_05.tif. North elevation of the chicken coop attached to the front gambrel shed at the northeast corner of the house, facing southwest.

HO-1111_2012-09-26_06.tif. South elevation of the house with south elevation of the front gable shed in the right foreground, facing northwest.

HO-1111_2012-09-26_07.tif. South elevation of the house, facing north.

HO-1111_2012-09-26_08.tif. Front (west) and south elevations of the detached front gable shed, facing northeast.

HO-1111_2012-09-26_09.tif. Rear (east) elevation of the house with terraced garden, facing southwest. The original section of the house (behind additions) is visible at left.

HO-1111_2012-09-26_10.tif. Rear (east) elevation of house, front gable shed, and terraced gardens with neighboring property at rear, facing southwest.

HO-1111_2012-09-26_11.tif. Historic photograph of the front (west) façade before renovations; date stamped October 1971. (Private collection of Constance I. Measmer).



HO-1111

JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: LAURA C RICKETTS

DATE: 9/20/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHA

FRONT (W) ELEVATION OF THE HOUSE WITH ADDITIONS
AT LEFT, FACING SE

HO-1111-2012-09-20-01-TIF

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HO-1111

JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: LAURA C. RICKETTS

DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHA

FRONT (W) AND S ELEVATIONS OF THE ORIGINAL PART
OF THE HOUSE, FACING NE

HO-1111 - 2012.09.26 - 02.TIF

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HO-1111

JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: LAURA C. RICKETS

DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHA

FRONT (W) ELEVATION OF THE CA. 1986 ADDITION,
FACING SE

HO-1111 — 2012-09-26 — 03.T112

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HO-1111

JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: LAURA C. RICKETS

DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHA

N ELEVATION OF THE HOUSE AND N AND FRONT (W)
ELEVATIONS OF THE DETACHED FRONT GAMBREL SHED,
FACED SE

HO-1111 - 2012-09-26 - 04-TIF

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HO-1111

JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: LAURA C. RICKETTS

DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MD SNA

N ELEVATION OF THE CHICKEN COOP ATTACHED TO THE
FRONT GAMBREL SHED AT THE NE CORNER OF THE
HOUSE, FACING SW.

HO-1111-2012.09.26-05.TIF

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HO-1111

JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY
HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: LAURA C. RICKETTS

DATE: 9/20/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MD S11A

S ELEVATION OF THE HOUSE WITH S ELEVATION OF
THE FRONT GABLE SHED IN THE RIGHT FOREGROUND,
FACING NW

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HO-1111

JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: LAURA C. RICKETTS

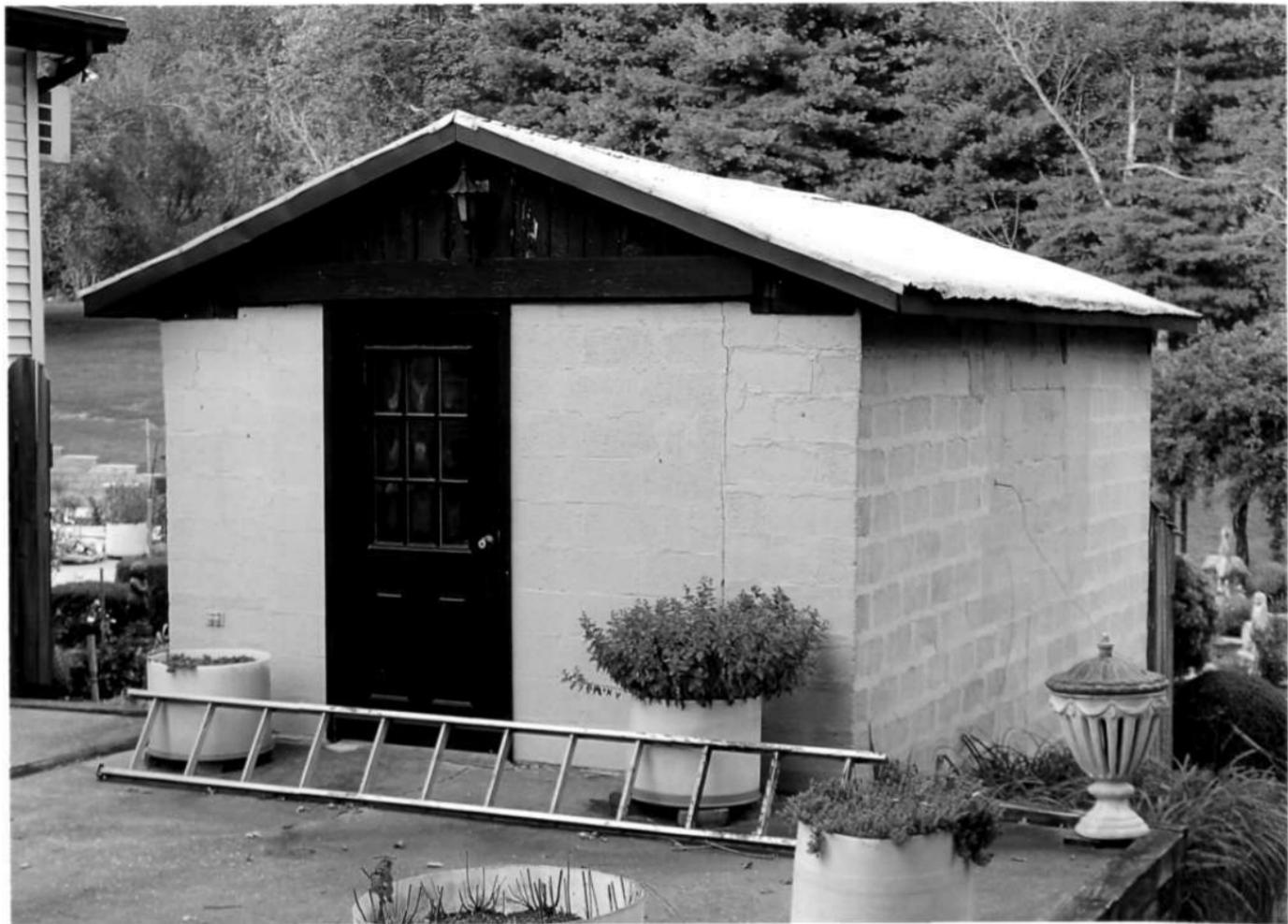
DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHA

S ELEVATION OF THE HOUSE, FACING N.

HO-1111_2012.09.26_07.TIF

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HO-1111

JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: LAURA C. RICKETTS

DATE: 9/20/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHA

FRONT (W) AND S ELEVATIONS OF THE DETACHED

FRONT GABLE SHED, FACING NE

HO-1111 - 2012-09-26 - 08. T110

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HO-1111

JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: LAURA C. RICKETTS

DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHA

REAR (E) ELEVATION OF THE HOUSE WITH TERRACE
GARDEN, FACING SW

HO-1111_2012.09.26-09.TIF

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HO-1111

JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: LAURA C. RICKETS

DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHA

REAR (E) ELEVATION OF THE HOUSE, FRONT GARAGE
SHED, AND TERRACED GARDENS WITH NEIGHBORING
PROPERTY AT REAR, FACING SW

HO-1111 - 2012-09-26 - 10-T11

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HO-1111

JAMES CURTIS THOMAS PROPERTY

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPHER: LAURA C. RICKETS

DATE: 9/26/2012

DIGITAL FILE: MD SHH

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF THE FRONT (W) FACADE
BEFORE RENOVATIONS.

HO-1111-2012-09-26-2012-11-T11

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