

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: Sydney and Elizabeth Renehan House Inventory Number: HO-1139  
 Address: 1740 Sykesville Road (MD 32) Historic district:  yes  no  
 City: Sykesville Zip Code: 21784 County: Howard  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Sykesville  
 Property Owner: William Keeler Tax Account ID Number: 293890  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0021 Tax Map Number: 0009  
 Project: MD 32 from MD 99 to Amberwoods Way Agency: SHA  
 Agency Prepared By: EHT Tracerics  
 Preparer's Name: Eric Griffitts Date Prepared: 6/16/2014

Documentation is presented in: \_\_\_\_\_

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  no Listed:  yes  no

Site visit by MHT Staff  yes  no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Sydney and Elizabeth Renehan House, located at 1740 Sykesville Road, is situated on a 37.24 acre tract on the west side of Sykesville Road (MD Route 32), just northwest of the intersection of Sykesville Road with Old Frederick Road (MD Route 99). A paved driveway extends through the property 300 feet west of Sykesville Road, ending at a paved parking area that is adjacent with the north end of the main house. A clump of mature trees is located behind, or west of the main house. The agricultural setting is characterized by cultivated fields located north, south, and west of the main house. The area east of the main house consists of a manicured lawn that is fairly level, but dips into a drainage ditch that lines the west side of Sykesville Road. A few mature trees are scattered across the lawn where it drops into the ditch.

The Sydney and Elizabeth Renehan House is a one-story rectangular, Minimal Traditional styled house with Ranch influences constructed in 1954. The dwelling is constructed on a compound plan consisting of a side-gabled main block, a side-gabled wing extending from the north end of the main block, front-gabled projecting bays extending from the north and south ends of the east (front) elevation, and a side-gabled bay extending from the southwest end of the main block. All building components are clad with permastone veneer and are capped by asphalt-shingle clad roofs. The roof of the building's main block is pierced by an interior stone chimney.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
<b>MHT Comments:</b>	
<u>Jim VanCura</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>8/20/2014</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, National Register Program	<u>8/25/14</u> Date

The east elevation is asymmetrical, containing a total of seven bays of irregular fenestration. The main block's east (front) elevation contains a centrally placed front entrance accessed by a concrete stoop, consisting of a single-leaf door with three square-shaped lights, covered by a metal storm door. To the south of the front entrance, the façade is pierced by a rounded oriel window which contains fifty square panes arranged in five rows of ten. North of the front entrance are two, double-hung wood windows. The window closer to the front door is six-over-six, while the other window is eight over eight. Two front-gabled projections extend eastward from both ends of the façade. The southern projecting bay is pierced by a single eight-over-eight, double-hung wood window on both its north and east elevations. The northern projecting bay's east elevation facing Sykesville Road is pierced by two, eight-over-eight, double-hung wood windows.

The south elevation of dwelling is asymmetrical containing irregular fenestration and massing consisting of the south end of the main block, south gabled projecting bay extending east from the main block, and another cross-gabled bay extending from the southwest end of the main block. The entire elevation consists of four bays. The first story of the main block is pierced by a six-over-six, double-hung window and has a wood clapboard clad gabled end pierced by another six-over-six, double-hung wood window. The south end of the projecting bay extending from the main block's east elevation is pierced by a six-over-six, double-hung window and a two-light, metal basement windows. The cross-gabled projecting bay extends from the southwest end of the main block is pierced by three six-over-six, double-hung, wooden windows.

The west, or rear, elevation of the main block is asymmetrical containing irregular fenestration consisting of a five-bay main block, a two-bay side-gabled wing north of the main block, and a single bay in the cross-gabled bay extending from the southwest end of the main block. The main block contains a stone porch that provides access to a single-leaf, three-light wood door enclosed by a two-light, metal storm door. The west elevation of the main block is also pierced by two, single, six-over-six, double-hung, wood windows; a three-part window consisting of a one-light wood window flanked by four-over-four, double-hung, wood windows; and a bay window consisting of a one-light wood window flanked by six-over-six, double-hung wood windows. The roof is pierced by a front-gabled dormer with wood, clapboard siding and contains a six-over-six, double-hung window. Two, two-light metal basement windows also pierced the west elevation of the main block. The cross-gabled wing located at the south end of the elevation is pierced by a paired, double-hung, six-over-six window. The side-gabled wing extending from the north end of the main block contains a roof stepped slightly below than that of the main block. The west elevation of the wing is pierced by paired, six-over-six, double-hung, wood windows and a three-part window consisting of a one-light wood window flanked by six-light wood windows. The roof of the side-gabled wing is also pierced by two gabled dormers containing six-over-six, double-hung, wood windows. The west elevation of the side-gabled wing is also pierced by two-light metal basement windows.

The north elevation of the dwelling is asymmetrical consisting of two bays with irregular fenestration and massing. The north front gabled projecting bay extends around a portion of the north elevation and contains a garage with one large garage opening with an overhead garage door. A wood cupola is located atop the roof. A single-leaf, four-light, wood door is located on the north elevation of the side-gabled wing, west of the garage entrance. This entrance is accessible from a stone porch.

Sydney and Elizabeth Renehan purchased the property from the Monumental Realty Company on 23 August 1954 (Howard County Deeds 1954: Liber 259, Folio 580). The dwelling was likely constructed in 1954-1955, shortly after the Renehan's purchase of the property. The dwelling is not identified on USGS mapping from 1953 (USGS 1953). The Renehans resided on the property until their deaths. Sydney died in 1986, and Elizabeth died in 1990 (Howard County Deeds 1993:Liber 2940, Folio 187-188). Sydney Renehan was proprietor of the A.H. Renehan & Son, a cannery that produced apple butter. The company was founded by Sydney's father Aloysius, who was a plumber prior to founding the canning business sometime between 1920 and 1930. Census records for 1930 indicate Renehan's occupation as a fruit packer manufacturing apple butter. The census lists his son Sydney, age 17, as a plumber working at home. Aloysius died in 1935. Census records indicate his widow Mary as head of a

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MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date  
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 Reviewer, National Register Program Date

household that included her son Sydney, his wife Elizabeth and their four children. The Census also identifies Sydney as a manufacturer of apple butter, indicating that he took over his father's company, which continued to be known as A.H. Renehan & Son. In 1944, Renehan relocated his manufacturing operations to the old cannier previously operated by B. F. Shriver Company in Sykesville, Maryland. This building (HO-751), also known as the Howard Cotton Factory, is located on Forsythe Road in Sykesville. A.H. Renehan & Son is no longer in business. The company closed its Sykesville operations likely when Sydney retired or died in 1986.

Following Elizabeth Renehan's death, her property was devised onto her heirs. In 1997, the Renehan heirs sold the property to Cardinal William Keeler, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore, who currently owns the property (Howard County Deeds 1997:liber 4404, folio 623-633). Cardinal William Keeler served as Archbishop of Baltimore from 1989 to 2007. During his tenure, Cardinal Keeler was appointed to the College of Cardinals by Pope John Paul II on 28 November 1994. He has also served as the President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB). During his tenure with the NCCB, Cardinal Keeler was noted for his interfaith work with furthering Catholic-Jewish relations beginning in the 1980s (The Archdiocese of Baltimore, Biography of His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler).

The Sydney and Elizabeth Renehan House is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The dwelling is representative of standard post-1950 suburban development in Howard County and holds no association with any significant event important to history. As such, the property does not meet Criterion A. Research has indicated that the dwelling has had two prior owners. Although he was a local business owner, there is no evidence to suggest that apple butter factory Sydney Renehan operated had any significant impact upon the development of Sykesville. As such, Sydney Renehan is not a historically important individual whose association with the property would qualify under NRHP Criterion B. Cardinal William Keeler, who acquired the house in 1997, was the Archbishop of Baltimore from 1989 to his retirement in 2007. Although a recognized leader of the Baltimore Roman Catholic Church, Cardinal Keeler has only been associated with the property within the last 17 years, and there is no evidence to suggest that he has played an exceptional important within the history of the Catholic church that would qualify the property as meeting Criterion B under Criterion Consideration G. Furthermore, there are better church related properties that illustrate Cardinal Keeler's association with the Baltimore's Catholic diocese.

The Renehan House is not eligible under Criterion C as possessing architectural distinction. The house is an example of Minimal Traditional construction which also embodies some Ranch influences. Minimal Traditional was one of the most ubiquitous house styles constructed throughout the United States during the 1940s and 1950s. These houses were a simplified modern interpretation of revival style architecture popular during the 1920s and 1930s. While minimalist in terms of architectural elaboration and detailing, Minimal Traditional houses were commonly constructed of the same quality of materials as larger more expensive homes. The Renehan house very much embodies this standard characteristic. The house lacks architectural elaboration but is constructed of permastone veneer to provide a more permanence to the design. Because Minimal Traditional houses were commonly constructed throughout the United States during the mid-twentieth century, this type of dwelling has generally been determined eligible only within the context of entire neighborhoods in conjunction with important historic associations and must retain excellent integrity. Individual examples only meet Criterion C if they possess innovative building technology that represent a significant construction achievement or are particularly elaborate architectural statement that retains a high degree of integrity. The Renehan house embodies the standard characteristics of a Minimal Traditional dwelling but lacks any notable achievement in style or construction that would meet Criterion C. Criterion D was not investigated as part of this assessment. Historic boundaries for the property include all of Parcel 21 of Map 9, which consists of 37.24 acres.

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MHT Comments:	
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services</b>	<b>Date</b>
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, National Register Program</b>	<b>Date</b>

REFERENCES:

Howard County Deeds. Various. Accessed online at <http://www.mdlandrec.net/main/>

Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation

2013 Howard County Real Property Data for Map 9, Parcel 21. Accessed online at <http://sdat.resiusa.org/RealProperty/Pages/default.aspx>

The Archdiocese of Baltimore, Biography of His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler

No Date available at <https://www.archbalt.org/about-us/the-archdiocese/our-history/people/keeler.cfm>.

United States Census

1920 West Friendship, Howard, Maryland; Roll: T625\_653; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 59; Image: 407.

1930 West Friendship, Howard, Maryland; Roll: 876; Page: 8B; Enumeration District: 0008; Image: 158.0; FHL microfilm: 2340611.

1940 Census, Howard, Maryland; Roll: T627\_1552; Page: 22A; Enumeration District: 14-7.

United States Geological Survey

1953 Sykesville, MD Quadrangle. 15-Minute Series. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

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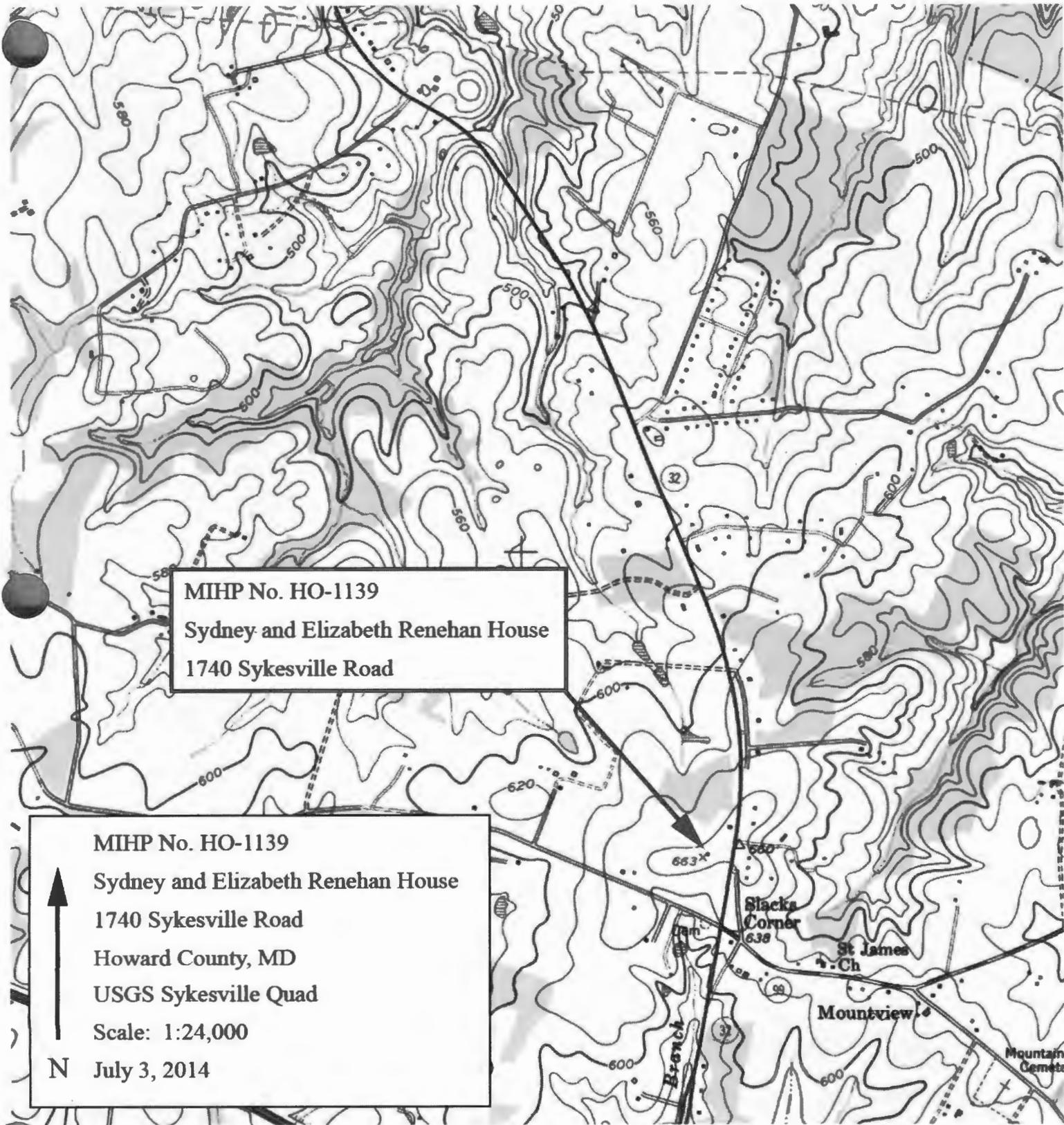
MHT Comments:

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

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Date

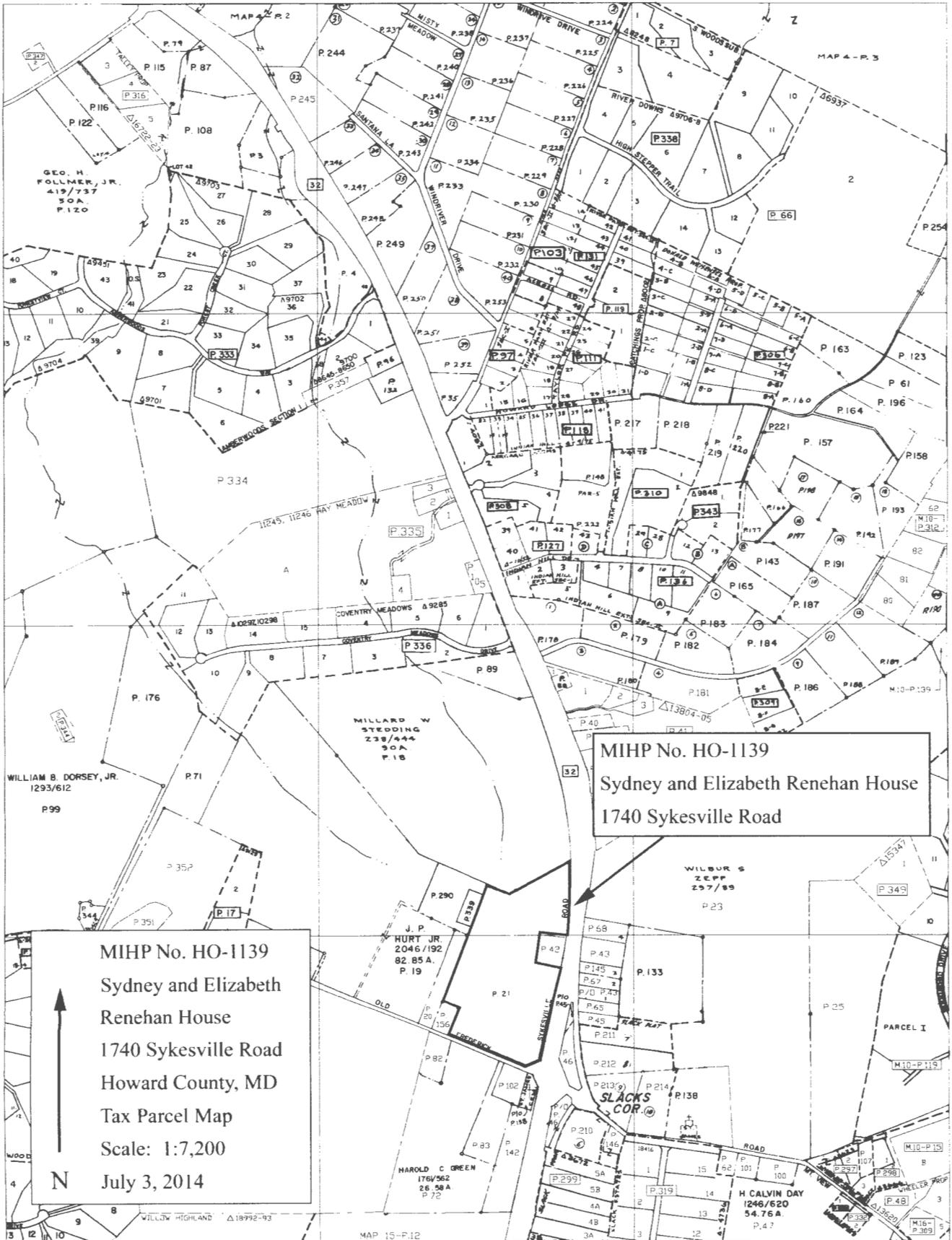
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Sydney and Elizabeth Renehan House  
1740 Sykesville Road  
Howard County, MD  
USGS Sykesville Quad  
Scale: 1:24,000  
N July 3, 2014



MIHP No. HO-1139  
 Sydney and Elizabeth  
 Renehan House  
 1740 Sykesville Road  
 Howard County, MD  
 Tax Parcel Map  
 Scale: 1:7,200  
 July 3, 2014

MIHP No. HO-1139  
 Sydney and Elizabeth Renehan House  
 1740 Sykesville Road

**Maryland State Highway Administration  
Cultural Resources Section  
Photo Log**

**Project No.:** HO210A21

**Project Name:** MD 32 from MD 99 to Amberwoods Way

**MIHP No.:** HO-1139

**MIHP Name:** Sydney and Elizabeth Renehan House Property

**County:** Howard

**Photographer:** Eric Griffitts (EHT Traceies)

**Date:** June 19, 2014

**Ink and Paper Combination:** True Black and White on Matte Photo Paper (100 Year Archival Quality)

**CD/DVD:** Verbatim, DVD-R, Archival Gold

<b>Image File Name</b>	<b>Description of View</b>
HO-1139_2014-06-19_01.tif	East Elevation, Looking West
HO-1139_2014-06-19_02.tif	North Elevation, Looking South
HO-1139_2014-06-19_03.tif	West Elevation, Looking East
HO-1139_2014-06-19_04.tif	Detail of Dormers, Looking East



HO-1139

Sydney and Elizabeth Renahan House

Howard County, Maryland

Eric Griffiths (EHT Traceries)

June 19, 2014

MD SHPO

East Elevation, Looking West

1 of 4

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0119\_1139\_0191\_016\_014\_014\_02014\_Front



HO # 1139

Sydney and Elizabeth Benehn House  
Howard County Maryland  
Eric Griffiths (EHT Traceries)

June 19, 2014

MD HPO

North Elevation, Looking South

2 of 4



HO-1139

Sydney and Elizabeth Renahan House  
Howard County, Maryland  
Eric Griffiths (EHT Traceries)

June 19, 2014

MD SHPO

West Elevation Looking East

3 of 4

FN 174014032 West elevation view 1

Order ID A110025 #0017 I#17 2014 From



HO #1139

Sydney and Elizabeth House

Howard County, Maryland

Eric Griffiths (EHT Traceries)

June 19, 2014

MD SHPO

Detail of Dormers, Looking East

4 of 4

Order #1748 MD321 uses elevation north of

Order #1748 MD321 uses elevation north of