

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

William Donald Schaefer
Governor

Jacqueline H. Rogers
Secretary, DHCD

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Hammer Hill, 28310 MD 355 Survey Number: M:13-10-11

Project: I-270 From Clarksburg, Montgomery County MD 124 to I-70 and US 15 From I-70 to north of Hayward Road Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name Ron Andrews Date 11/26/90

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Constructed c. 1900, Hammer Hill is an unusual high style example of Queen Anne style and ^{the} mostly vernacular, early to mid 19th houses of Clarksburg. The home of a prominent local professional, Hammer Hill boasts novelty siding, decorative turned posts, brackets and railings typical of the Queen Anne style.

(Hammer Hill is south of the Clarksburg Historic District)

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT Inventory Form M:13-10-11

Kevin Parker + Candy Reed 10/79

Prepared by: Elizabeth Hannold

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services [Signature] Date 12/3/90

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

Reviewer, NR program [Signature] Date [Signature]

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Residence

Known Design Source: N/A

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

Form 10-1
(Rev. 10-1-79)

1. Name: Hammer Hill
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 13/10/11 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 7
Clarksville H.D. A-4
4. Address: 23310 Frederick Road, Clarksburg

5. Classification Summary

Category <u>building</u>	Previous Survey Recording <u>M-NCPPC</u>
Ownership <u>private</u>	Title and Date: <u>1976 Inventory of</u>
Public Acquisition <u>N/A</u>	<u>Historical Sites</u>
Status <u>occupied</u>	
Accessible <u>no</u>	Federal <u> </u> State <u>x</u> County <u>x</u> Local <u> </u>
Present use <u>private residence</u>	

6. Date: c. 1900 7. Original Owner: Dr. James Deets

8. Apparent Condition

a. good b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This three bay by two bay, two-and-a-half story frame house sits on a hill facing northeast. Hammer Hill has green novelty siding. The northeast (front) porch has a shed roof supported by four pairs of turned posts with decorative brackets. There are two bay windows on the southeast elevation near the east corner and on the southwest elevation near the west corner. On the northeast elevation a central projecting pavilion extends through to the third story as a gabled dormer. There are two gabled dormer windows: on the northwest and southeast.

10. Significance: Hammer Hill represents an important architectural departure from the rest of the Clarksburg. Whereas earlier houses in the town arose out of a local, vernacular building tradition, Hammer Hill appears to have been professionally designed. The building stylistically could have been situated in the fashionable suburbs of New York or Washington around 1900, instead of Clarksburg.

Hammer Hill was built for Dr. James Deets who had moved to Clarksburg around 1890 after completing his medical studies at the University of Maryland. Originally from Jarrettsville in Harford County, he married into an influential Montgomery County family in 1886. Deets purchased the Hammer Hill property from the Lewis family in 1891 and was able to construct the house by 1900. Deets family maintained Hammer Hill until 1963. It has had three owners since.

Although there is no evidence of earlier structures on the property, the land is associated with the cultivation of the Catawba grape which brought national recognition to the town in the early 19th century.

1. Researcher and date researched: Kevin J. Parker-10/79 Candy Reed
Arch. Description
12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled: 10/79 14. Designation
Approval
15. Acreage: 3.061 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 13/10/11
 Clarksburg HD
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INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC "Hammer Hill"

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

23310 Frederick Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Hoffman

Telephone #: 301-428-0326

STREET & NUMBER

23310 Frederick Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
 Maryland 20734

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3763

Folio #: 274

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE
 Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

___ FEDERAL STATE COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE
 Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

M. 13-10-11

CONDITION

<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED

CHECK ONE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three bay by two bay, two and a half story Queen Anne/Shingle style frame house is rectangular and has a rear ell. It sits on a hill facing northeast.

Built on fieldstone foundations, Hammer Hill has green novelty siding. The northeast (front) porch has a shed roof which is supported by four pairs of turned posts with decorative brackets. Five wooden steps lead to the porch which is enclosed by a Chinese style railing. The northeast (front) door is set into a slightly projecting three story pavilion. It is a double wooden paneled door with flanking sidelights and is surmounted by a four-light transom. There is an enclosed two story addition on the northwest side of the southwest ell. This northwest porch is glassed in at the first level. Three wooden steps lead to the porch from the southwest elevation.

The two-over-two double-hung windows are flanked by darker green wooden louvered shutters. There is a five-sided bay window on the southeast elevation near the east corner. A second, modern, three-sided bay window is located on the southwest elevation near the west corner. On the northeast elevation, the projecting pavilion extends up into the third story as a gabled dormer window with a pair of two-over-two double-hung windows. There are gabled dormer windows on the southeast and northwest elevations.

The hipped roof has asbestos covering cut in a diamond design. The cornice line has very simple brackets. There is one interior chimney and two exterior chimneys. The two exterior chimneys are visible on the southwest and northwest elevations. The northwest chimney cuts through the northwest dormer window.

The northeast (front) door opens into a central hallway flanked on the northwest by the living room and on the southeast the dining room. Southwest of the hall is the kitchen. There is an open string single run stairway which ascends from northeast to southwest along the northwest interior wall. This staircase has a carved newel post and turned balusters. The banister railing curves slightly at the base of the stairs. The wooden floors have all been covered by wall to wall carpeting. The walls and ceilings have been covered by plaster over lath. The dining room (southeast) has tongue and groove wainscoting. There is an archway which opens into the five-sided bay window. There are bullseye door frames for the wooden paneled doors. Between the hall and living room (northwest) there are wooden paneled doors which slide into the walls. The first floor of Hammer Hill has ten foot high ceilings.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M: 13-10-11

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 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 c. 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The close of the 19th century ended a long period of growth and commercial success for the town of Clarksburg. The B & O Railroad bypassed the town in favor of Boyds and the lack of business encouraged numerous citizens to move elsewhere.¹ However, building activity in Clarksburg continued and in some instances, new structures exceeded the quality of those built in earlier decades. One such building is "Hammer Hill".

Standing at the southern end of Clarksburg, "Hammer Hill" represents an important architectural departure from the rest of the town. Whereas earlier in the century Clarksburg houses arose out of a local, vernacular building tradition, "Hammer Hill" appears to have been professionally designed. The builder demonstrated an awareness of current "high style" architectural forms and details gleaned from sources outside the immediate geographical area. "Hammer Hill", which was built for Dr. James Deets around 1900,² could easily have fitted in the fashionable suburbs of New York and Washington as well as Clarksburg. It signals Clarksburg's architectural leap into the 20th century.

Dr. James Deets, the owner of "Hammer Hill", moved to Clarksburg around 1890 after completing his medical studies at the University of Maryland. Originally from Jarrettsville in Harford County,³ his marriage in 1886 to Sarah Henderson, daughter of an influential Presbyterian minister, assured him of a friendly reception in Montgomery. Deets purchased the "Hammer Hill" property from the Lewis family in 1891,⁴ and was able to construct his new residence by the latter part of the decade.

Though there is no evidence of earlier structures on the site of "Hammer Hill", the property surrounding the house is intricately involved with the history of Clarksburg. Michael Ashford Dowden built his "ordinary" house on the lot adjoining "Hammer Hill" in the 1750's.⁵ Later, Jacob Sholl developed and cultivated the Catawba grape which brought national attention to the town in the early 19th century.⁶ The present owners of "Hammer Hill" still cultivate descendants of these original vines.

The Deets family maintained "Hammer Hill" until 1963 when Mrs. Nelle Deets, James Deet's daughter-in-law, sold the house and land to the Atherley family.⁷ The Atherleys sold to Mr. James Moore,⁸ who in turn sold the property to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hoffman.

(Footnotes on Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land and Tax Records of Montgomery County.
 Day, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence, Clarksburg. Interview
Portrait and Biographical Record (1898)
 Martz, Ralph Fraley. "Two Centuries of Clarksburg."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.061 acres

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

Kevin J. Parker

Candy Reed - Arch. Desc.

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

October 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20783

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.

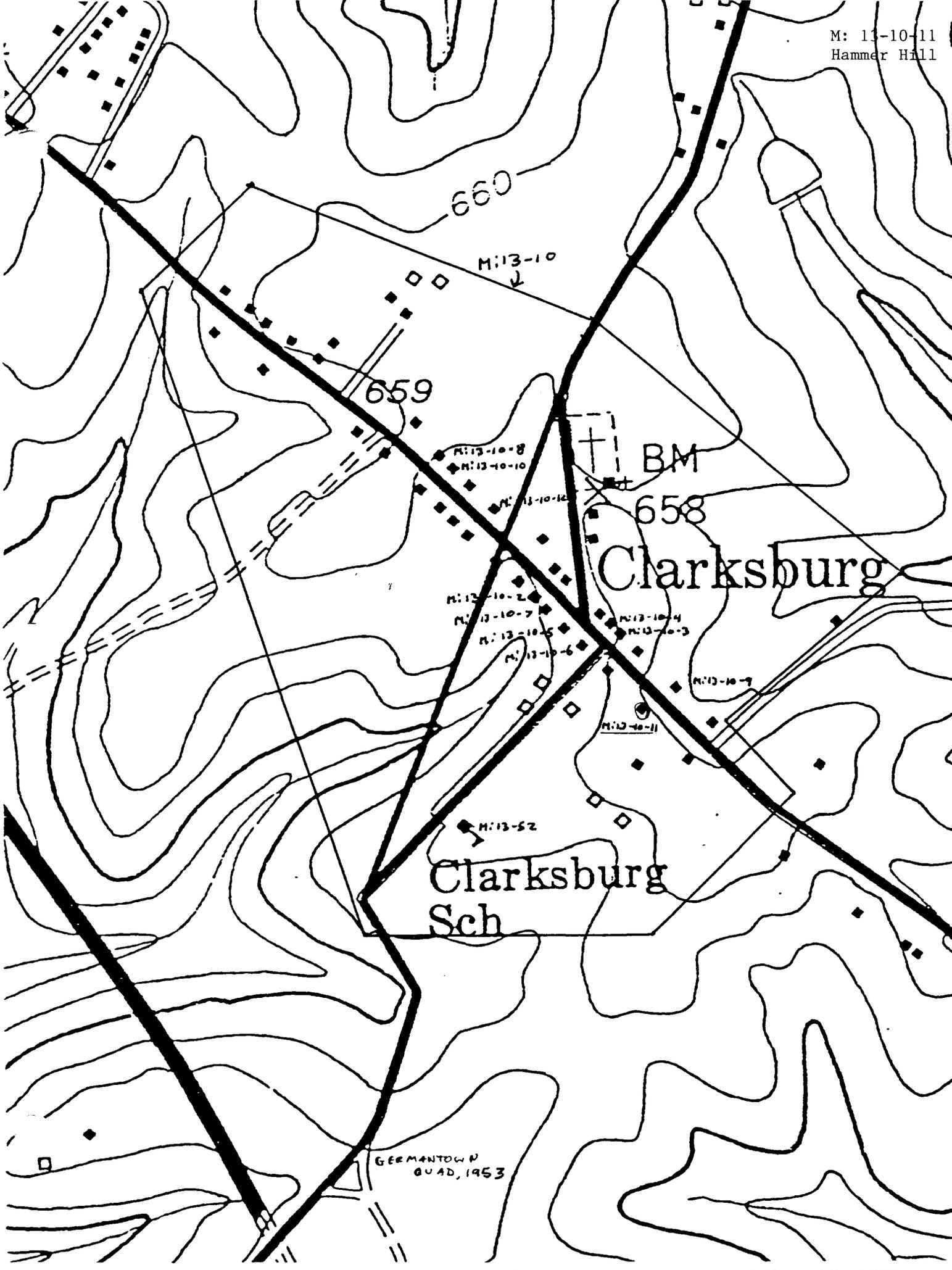
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

M: 13/10/11
Clarksburg HD
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FOOTNOTES

- 1 Martz, Ralph Fraley. Two Centuries of Clarksburg (unpub.)
September, 1954. (In the files of the Montgomery County Historical Society).
- 2 Montgomery County Assessment Records. 1894 assessment for Clarksburg
indicates that Dr. Deets owned unimproved land only. By 1902, however,
he lists \$1,803.00 in improvements.
- 3 anon. Portrait and Biographical Record 6th Cong. District. (unpub.)
at the Montgomery County Historical Society
- 4 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. Ja 22/494 (February 25, 1891).
- 5 Martz, op. cit.
- 6 Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland (Philadelphia, 1882:
reprint Baltimore, 1968) p. 720
- 7 Land Records, op. cit. 3170/347 (December 23, 1963).
- 8 Ibid. 3474/394 (March 1, 1966).



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Clarksburg

Clarksburg
Sch

GERMANTOWN
GUAD, 1953

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