

7. Description

Inventory No. ^{M:} 15-116

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The site of Inez McAbee's home is located on a prominent site that once hosted over twenty families' that were slaves on the Mullinix Plantation. The site of the home was once cow path that lead to the Mullinix Plantation. In 1958 Park and Planning name this path Bellison rd, but due to the determination of the African Americans who lived on this road, they were successful in petitioning the rename of this road to Holsey RD.

This home was once owned by the Mullinix Family and was deeded to John Holsey in 1835. The structure of Mrs. McAbee home hasn't changed from the original diagram that was designed in the late 1700, but upgrades has been added to the windows, cement patio porch and roof. The home has the original two entrances that leads into the first level and a third entrance that leads to the basement were the original logs that were installed by slaves support the current structure for this dwellings.

One room was added to the structure in the early 1970's to accommodate a down stairs bath and living room. The home once resided two hundred yards from its current location and was moved during the early 1900's to Holsey Rd once John purchases the home from the Mullinix Family.

The first roof was made of tin and in the early 1900's the McAbee's upgraded the roof to meet the required standards. The age of the logs that supports the home can be viewed by an opening in the ceiling in the basement. This home has been in the Holsey family since deeded to John Holsey.

Inez McAbee is the great- great granddaughter of John Holsey.

8. Significance

Inventory No. ^{M:} 15-116

| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000- | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |

Specific dates Early 1800 purchase by John Holsey

Architect/Builder Labor by Slaves of Mullinix
Plantation

Construction dates unknown

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Mrs.: Inez McAbee was born in 1915 in Damascus Maryland and married the late Alexandra McAbee from Laystonsville Md. The home was purchase in 1945 by Inez and Alexandra from Hattie Holsey and the McAbee' raised four children that attended and graduated from the Montgomery county school system. Hattie Holsey was the granddaughter of John Holsey and the home has been in Inez and Alexandria McAbee's name since purchase.

Inez attended the Montgomery County Segregated school systems where she was force to ride to school on the milk truck. During her time busing for African Americans wasn't available, but this didn't stop Inez for the quest of obtaining an education. She was the president of her High School Class and her leadership skills allowed her to earn the position of President of the Homemaker Club where she led multiple efforts to integrate Montgomery County.

Under her direction, the Club itself integrated when she insisted that the Black and White Chapters merger. Mrs. McAbee was the first African-American resident to dine in a previously "white-only" restaurant in Damascus and brought public transportation to the Damascus area. The home of Inez McAbee has hosted many legislative fundraisers and tea parties for the county councilmember's and now is the headquarters for the Damascus Connection Committee, which Inez is a principal officer of the group.

9. Major Bibliographical References

M:
Inventory No. 15-116

Susan Bart-Singer "Woman honored for Civil rights work" "Gazette 4-7-2004
Washington Post (Journal) Inez McAbee introduced into Montgomery County NAACP Hall of Fame" 8/10/2004
Channel 7 News "Black History Month" 2/2004 "Reconitions of Aferican Americans in Montgomery County
Damasus Alliance Association "Communty Citizens Awards" 11/21/2003

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.8 Acres 935,392 sq ft
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| name/title | Warren Fleming | |
| organization | Damascus Connection Committie | date 9/7/04 |
| street & number | 9909 Founders Way | telephone 301-916-4522 |
| city or town | Damascus Maryland | state Maryland |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
 DHCD/DHCP
 100 Community Place
 Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
 410-514-7600

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Woman honored for civil rights work

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by **Susan Singer-Bart**
Staff Writer

Apr. 7, 2004

Inez McAbee, 89, of Damascus still remembers with anger walking four miles each way to elementary school, passing a school for whites three blocks from her house.

"White kids would hold hands and be all across the road when we'd be coming home and not let us through after school," McAbee said.

"They had a mentality it was good to do that," said Harvey Zeigler, 84, McAbee's brother.

The commute to the county's only black high school in Rockville was so difficult, a county social service worker arranged for McAbee to live with a white family in Rockville in exchange for domestic work while she attended school.

McAbee, the granddaughter of a runaway slave, channeled her anger into a lifetime of civil rights work.

From class president in high school to PTA president when her children were in elementary school, from a leader within the United Methodist church to a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, McAbee has worked to bring blacks and whites together.

"I was into everything," McAbee said. "I was sick of being denied."

On March 11, McAbee was one of six county residents inducted into the county's Human Rights Hall of Fame. Zeigler was named to the honorable mention list.

"She has also given her time and talents to countless groups, including the county's Executive Board of Community Action, the



Rachael Golden/The Gazette

Inez McAbee, relaxing in her home in Damascus, looks back at a lifetime of activism.

Montgomery County Census 1900

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- 122 Halsey, William H. May 1854 black, marr. 25 yrs. owns mortgaged house
Harriet E. Feb 1856 12 ch 9 living
Greenberry J. Oct 1880 farm laborer
Marshall M. May 1882 farm laborer
Bessie M. May 1883 attends school
Mary E. Mar 1889 attends school
William C. April 1892 attends school
Roberta A. Sept 1894 attends school
Delma B. Dec 1896
- 123 Welsh, Samuel B. Dec 1836 marr 35 yrs. black, stone mason
Mary E. Nov 1843 12 ch 6 living
James K. May 1876 farm laborer
Samuel A. Oct 1877 farm laborer
Milton N. Mar 1879 farm laborer
Lavinia M. May 1881 house servant
Edith M. May 1883 attends school
Lottie C. April 1897
- 124 Zeigler, Doc Dec 1841 marr 35 yrs. black, b. SC, parents: SC owns, free, house
Sarah F. May 1860 7 ch 3 living
William E. Feb 1888 attends school
Cora J. July 1892
Ida L. Oct 1898
- East Browningsville
- 125 Moxley, Robert B. Aug 1841 marr 35 yrs. owns mortgaged house
Susan S. Jan 1848 10 ch 8 living
Alvey A. Jan 1887 marr 1 yr. farm laborer
Becca Sept 1879
Hyatt, Towney T. Apr 1874 son-in-law, day laborer
Hyatt, Annie B. [Moxley] Sept 1873 marr 2 yrs. 0 ch
- 126 Watkins, John T. Sept 1834 marr 42 yrs. owns mortgaged farm
Mary B. March 1838 6 ch 5 living
Vernon D. March 1865 public school teacher
Arthur R. Sept 1873 public school teacher
- 127 Snowden, Horace L. April 1869 marr 6 yrs. rents house, farm laborer
Harriet R. Aug 1876 3 ch 3 living
Walter L. Sept 1894
Nonnie Feb 1896
George A. Mar 1899
- 128 Lawson, Josiah April 1849 marr 21 yrs. owns mortgaged farm
Lucretia May 1851 2 ch 2 living
Claudia O. April 1884
Ola B. Feb 1887
- 129 Clay, Henry L. Feb 1866 marr 13 yrs. owns mortgaged house
Ella L. April 1867 5 ch 4 living
Maude E. Mar 1888 attends school
William R. Aug 1892 attends school
Rhoda M. June 1896
Ethel A. Dec 1898

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Prison Reform Committee and the Damascus Community Alliance," according to the county announcement of her induction.

Through the years, McAbee encountered many helpful white people in Damascus and throughout the county.

"There had to be some nice white people or we couldn't have advanced as far as we had," she said.

"You have to have some white person ... to help you accomplish anything we done.... I have lived and associated with some good white people."

McAbee remembers an early employer, Marion Woodfield, who took her to see a Baltimore doctor for treatment of scoliosis and visited her regularly during six months of treatment.

McAbee also remembers Everett Jones, who was instrumental in integrating a Damascus restaurant and the movie theater.

During the early 1960s, the United Methodist churches were working on integrating the black and white congregations. Jones represented Damascus United Methodist Church and McAbee represented Friendship United Methodist Church. During a lunch break in a meeting attended by a large group, including some from the conference in Baltimore, Jones took a group of blacks and whites to lunch at Tom and Ray's restaurant.

A week or two later, he led a mixed group to the Druid Movie Theater to sit wherever they wanted, Zeigler said.

"I stuck my nose in some things -- it's a wonder I didn't get in trouble," McAbee said.

When she was active in the Homemaker's Club of Montgomery County, she insisted the black and white chapters merge. During the early days of the Vietnam War, she and her late husband were concerned local black veterans were not getting the same treatment as white veterans, so they worked to get them better service.

"If they had to go the white head of something, they'd get service if I was with them," McAbee said.

McAbee and Zeigler also worked to get better conditions for the county's black inmates.

She drove carloads of blacks to register to vote and to the polls to vote.

McAbee is a born leader and champion of her people, said Allie May Buxton, who has known her for years.

"She didn't antagonize the white people but had a way of relating to

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the white people others couldn't," Buxton said.

McAbee was the first chairperson of the charitable Damascus Ecumenical Laymen's Association Inc.

"She was instrumental in getting low-cost Section 8 housing [in Damascus]," Zeigler said.

Cathy Matthews, director of the Upcounty Regional Services Center, was aware of McAbee's civil rights and community work from an early age.

"A big concern of hers was making sure all children had equal access to a good education and were given the opportunity to excel in the classroom," Matthews said.

Matthews worked with McAbee in the late 1960s to find recreational opportunities for black children in the community. They arranged for a bus to take black Damascus children to a white minister's house in Potomac to swim in his pool, Matthews said.

"Today, anywhere I go, I have youth I trained and worked with," McAbee said.

The county started the Hall of Fame three years ago to honor people like McAbee whose contributions to civil rights may not be widely known, said Odessa Shannon, executive director of the county Human Rights Commission.

The community makes nominations to the Hall of Fame and a panel of community members selects the inductees, she said.

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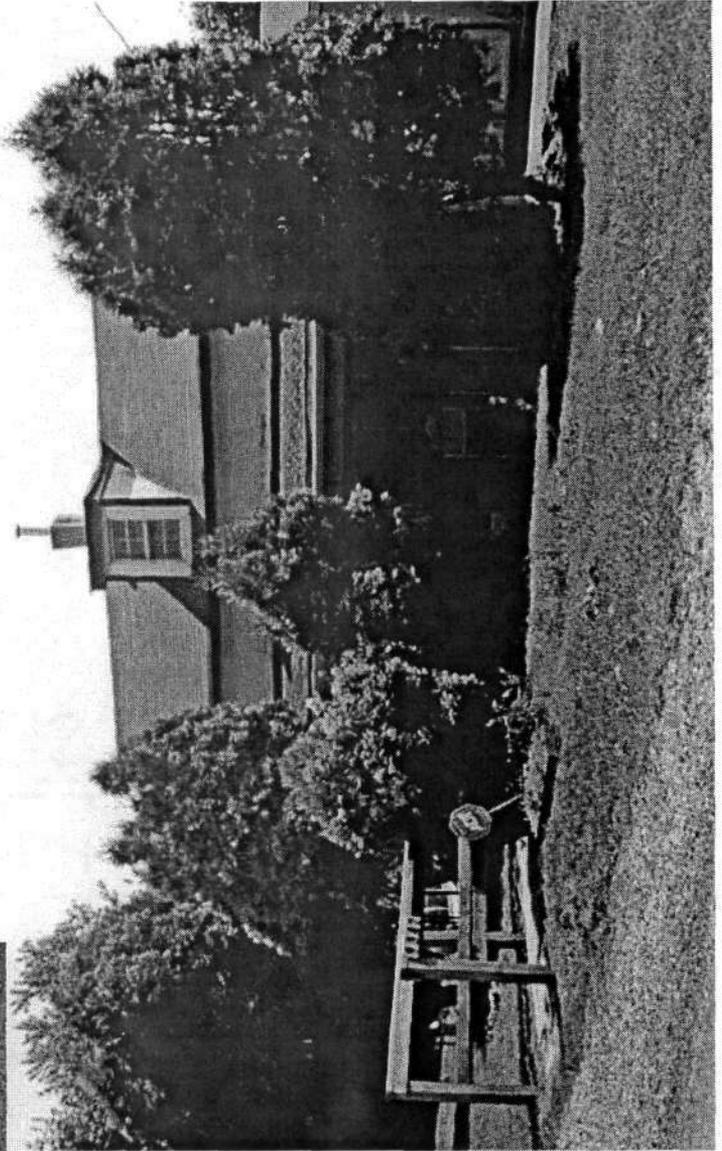
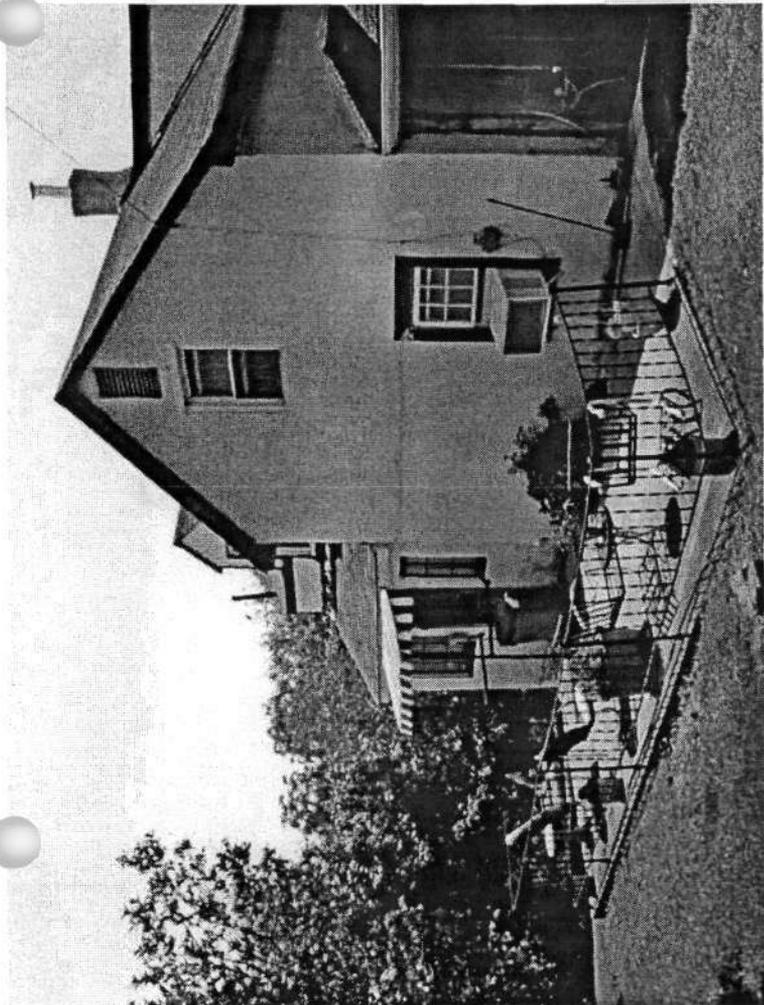
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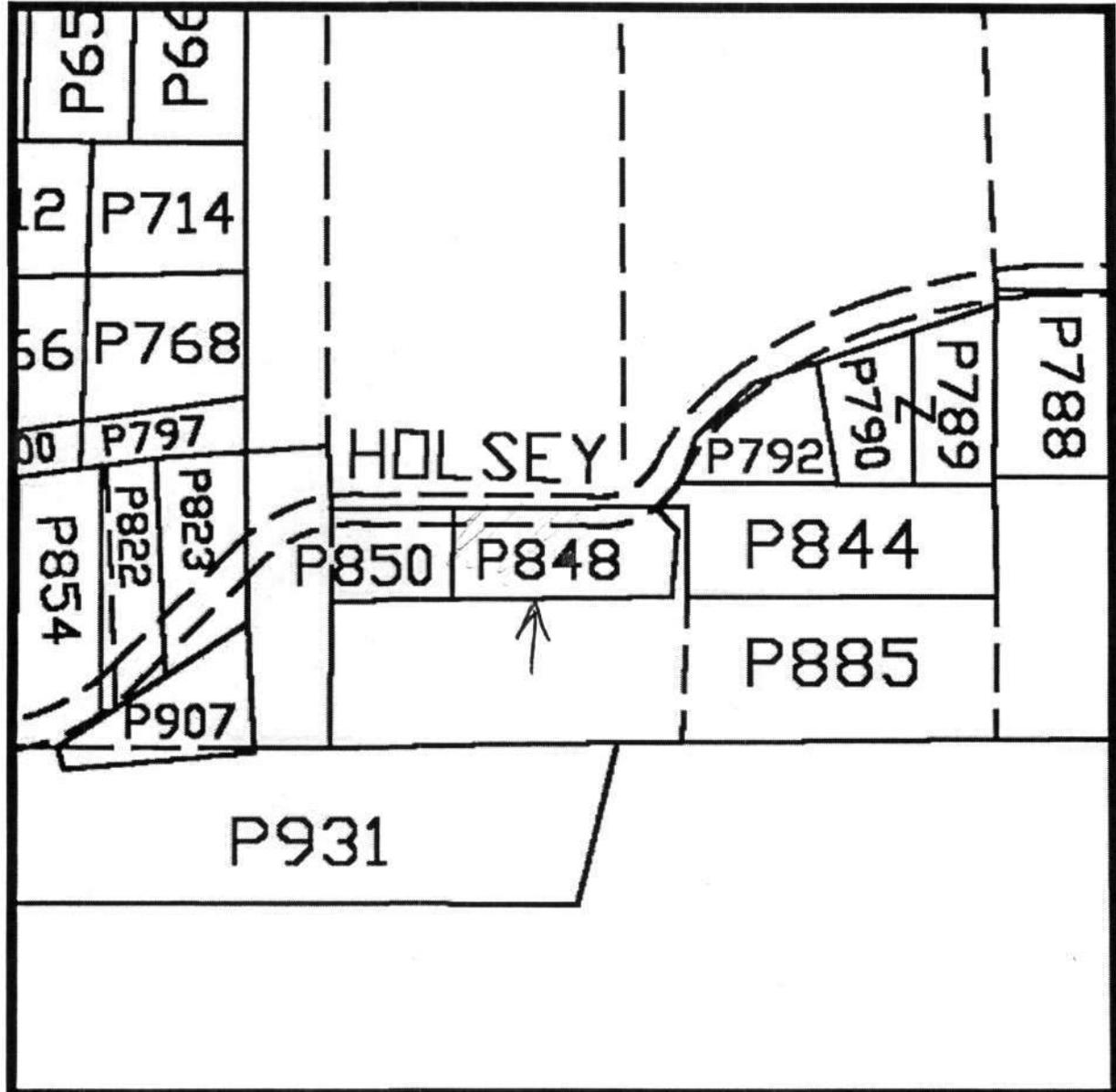


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| | | |
|---|--|---|
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|---|--|---|

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STR

Account Identifier: District - 12 Account Number - 00935943

Owner Information

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Owner Name: | MCABEE, ALEXANDER&I Z ETAL | Use: | RESIDENTIAL |
| | | Principal Residence: | YES |
| Mailing Address: | 9342 HOLSEY RD DAMASCUS MD 20872-2414 | Deed Reference: | 1) /14800/ 680 2) |

Location & Structure Information

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Premises Address 9342 HOLSEY RD DAMASCUS 20872 | Zoning RE2C | Legal Description MT RADNOR |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|

| Map | Grid | Parcel | Sub District | Subdivision | Section | Block | Lot | Group | Plat No: |
|------|------|--------|--------------|-------------|---------|-------|-----|-------|-----------|
| FY52 | | P848 | | 1 | | | | 80 | Plat Ref: |

| Special Tax Areas | Town Ad Valorem Tax Class | 42 |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----|
|-------------------|---------------------------|----|

| Primary Structure Built | Enclosed Area | Property Land Area | County Use |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1900 | 1,326 SF | 35,392.00 SF | 111 |

| Stories | Basement | Type | Exterior |
|---------|----------|---------------|----------|
| 1 1/2 | YES | STANDARD UNIT | FRAME |

Value Information

| | Base Value | Phase-in Assessments | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | Value As Of 01/01/2004 | Value As Of 07/01/2003 | Value As Of 07/01/2004 |
| Land: | 45,310 | 83,310 | | |
| Improvements: | 66,650 | 102,290 | | |
| Total: | 111,960 | 185,600 | 111,960 | 136,506 |
| Preferential Land: | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Transfer Information

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Seller: ALEXANDER&I A MCABEE | Date: 04/10/1997 | Price: \$0 |
| Type: NOT ARMS-LENGTH | Deed1: /14800/ 680 | Deed2: |
| Seller: | Date: | Price: |
| Type: | Deed1: | Deed2: |
| Seller: | Date: | Price: |
| Type: | Deed1: | Deed2: |

Exemption Information

| Partial Exempt Assessments | Class | 07/01/2003 | 07/01/2004 |
|----------------------------|-------|------------|------------|
| County | 000 | 0 | 0 |
| State | 000 | 0 | 0 |
| Municipal | 000 | 0 | 0 |

Tax Exempt: NO
Exempt Class:

Special Tax Recapture:
HOMEOWNERS TAX CREDIT

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RIDGE ROAD

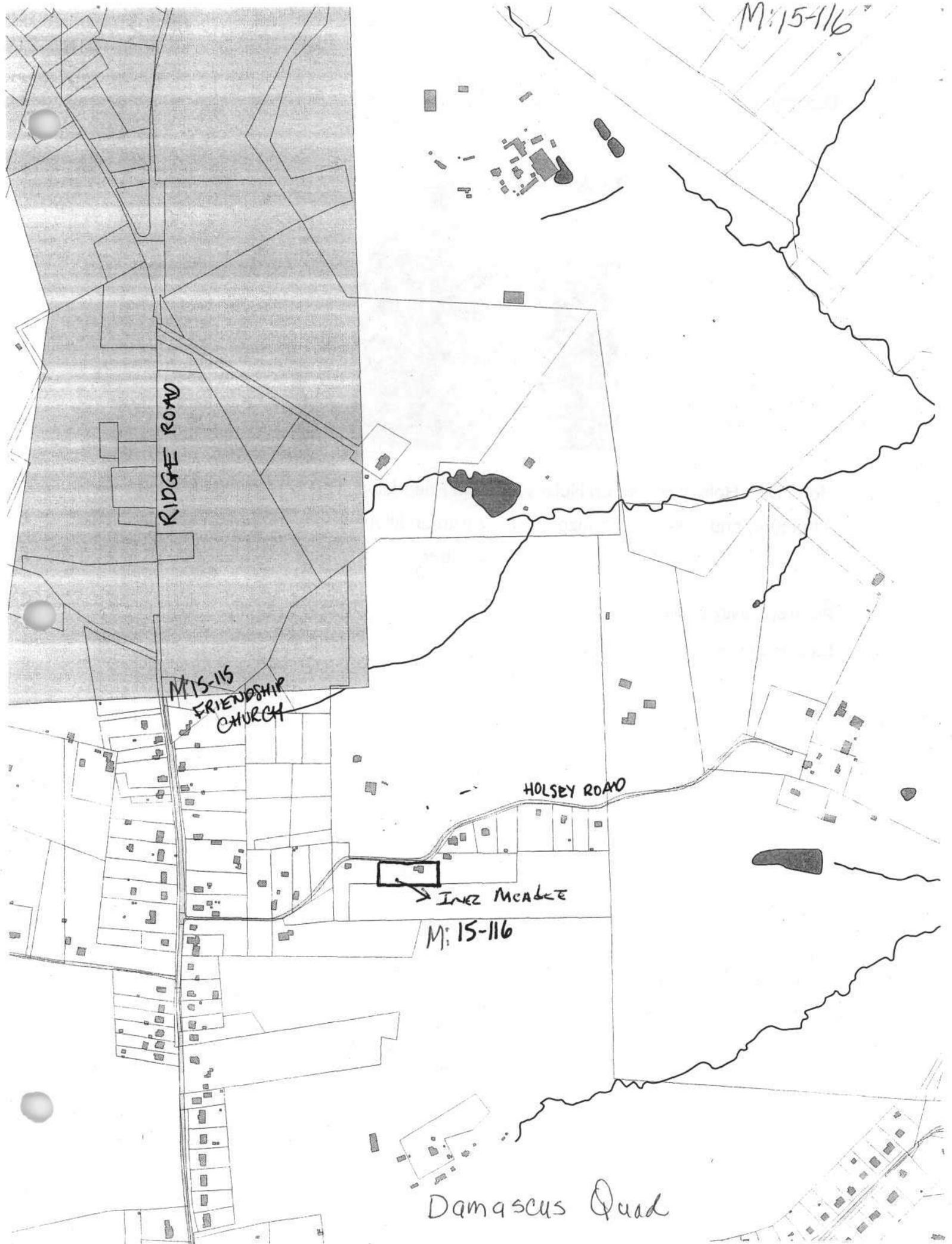
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FRIENDSHIP
CHURCH

HOLSEY ROAD

→ INEZ McABEE

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Damascus Quad



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Damascus History CD



John Dick Holsey House on Holsey Road in Friendship. This was originally a log structure, and it was modernized in 1972 with additions and is the present home of Inez McAbee.

Photo by Harvey Zeigler

Location 83A - Holsey House