

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST ADDENDUM SHEET
INTERCOUNTY CONNECTOR PROJECT

Property Name: Spencerville Historic District
Survey No.: M:15-54

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Property Address | 2125 - 2230 Spencerville Road |
| Owner Name/Address | Multiple |
| Year Built | 1850-1917 |

Description:

The Spencerville Historic District, containing late nineteenth century and early twentieth century commercial and residential properties, was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in 1976 and December of 1994. The Maryland Historical Trust determined the district eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on April 10, 1984, while the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission did not recommend the district for placement on the County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation until January 21, 1988. The buildings in the district are currently unaltered from their appearance and condition at the time of the previous survey in 1994; however, significant alteration has taken place since 1984.

National Register Evaluation:

The Spencerville Historic District is not recommended for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, due to a lack of architectural integrity and continuity. Since the time of the first survey of the Spencerville Historic District many of the buildings, including the Spencerville Store, have been significantly altered. The district is not a cohesive group of structures. Later twentieth century infill is located in and around the district and a new subdivision is under construction on 6.47 hectare (16 acres) immediately adjacent to the district. The district no longer has sufficient integrity to reflect the period of significance of the town. Therefore, re-evaluation of the Spencerville Historic District is recommended as ongoing development and intrusions have considerably altered the historic features and character of the community.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| MHT CONCURRENCE: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eligibility | recommended | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | not recommended | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| Comments: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E. Hannold/K. Williams | | | | 8/13/1996 | | <i>[Signature]</i> | | | | 3/11/02 | | | |
| Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services | | | | Date | | Reviewer, NR program | | | | Date | | | |

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
October 1996

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

Property/District Name: Spencerville Historic District Survey Number: M: 15-54

Project: ~~the~~ Spencerville Post Office Agency: ~~the~~ USPS

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name Elizabeth Hannold Date 2/23/96

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)

The town of Spencerville, in Montgomery County, is located about seven miles west of Laurel, near the Patuxent River. The Spencerville Historic District lies along MD Route 198 and is a primarily residential area that includes a mixture of domestic buildings which ranges from mid-to late 19th-century rural vernacular to mid-20th-century suburban house types alongside modern residential and commercial buildings. Most of the surviving housing stock, erected between 1850 and 1920, has been heavily altered or expanded over the years. Additionally, more than half of the fifteen structures in the district are modest post-1925 bungalow or Colonial Revival-style residences, or post 1970 intrusions. The district no longer retains sufficient architectural integrity to qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Spencerville derived its name from its reputed founder William H. Spencer who spearheaded a settlement of Pennsylvanians into the area after 1848. The town retains a crossroads store from the late 19th century, an early 20th century tenant house and four vernacular dwellings representative of rural architectural building patterns in Montgomery County between 1840 and 1917. During the first suburban boom in the region between 1920 and 1945, Spencerville acquired a range of cottages and bungalows that filled in the spacious rural character of the early residential lots. In recent years a further concentration of modern residential and commercial construction has impaired Spencerville's historic spatial continuity and village layout.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT Library; Review & Compliance Files

Prepared by: Bill Bushong (MHT Form), Dec. 1994

Kim W. / Beth H.
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

Peter Kuntz
Reviewer, NR program Date 8/12/96

Survey No. M: 15-54

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 Adaptation

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: District

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Residential/Single Dwellings

Known Design Source: _____

7. Description

Survey No. M: 15-54

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

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

The town of Spencerville is located about seven miles west of Laurel, twelve miles east from Rockville, and twenty five miles south of Baltimore near the Patuxent River. The Spencerville district lies along Route 198 and is primarily a residential area that includes a mixture of domestic architecture that ranges from late nineteenth century rural vernacular to mid-twentieth century suburban house types alongside modern residential and commercial buildings. Most of the surviving housing stock, erected between 1850 and 1920, has been heavily altered or expanded over the years. Additionally, more than half of the fifteen structures in the district are modest post-1925 Bungalow or Colonial Revival style residences or modern intrusions erected after 1970.

Spencerville derived its name from its reputed founder William H. Spencer who spearheaded a settlement of Pennsylvanians into the area after 1848. The town retains a crossroads store from the late nineteenth century, an early twentieth century tenant house and four vernacular houses representative of rural architectural building patterns in Montgomery County between 1840 and 1917. During the first suburban boom in the region between 1920 and 1945, Spencerville acquired a range of cottages and bungalows that infilled the spacious rural character of the early residential lots. In recent years a further concentration of modern residential and commercial construction has further impaired Spencerville's historic spatial continuity and village layout.

CONTRIBUTING

Buildings Representing Spencerville's Importance as a Rural Village between 1850 and 1920.

William H. Phair Residence, 2130 Spencerville Road [P436] [1865]

The Phair house was originally a two story log structure built around 1865. The oldest section of the building faces south and has a central hall I-house plan with walls of hewn log (visible on the second floor interior). The logs are V-notched with chinking covered with a lime-based plaster material. The three-bay exterior was covered with clapboards and has a gable-end form with symmetrical ranks of windows. In the early twentieth century, a two story frame ell was erected on the north (rear) facade and in 1987 a modern kitchen and bedroom extension was added infilling the ell. The building has been covered with vinyl siding.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 15-54

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| 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/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1850-1917 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary

The Spencerville Historic District is a largely altered linear village, which during the period of 1850 to 1920 was a significant economic and social rural village center in northeastern Montgomery county. The town today contains the remnants of this nineteenth century village clustered near the intersection of Batson and the Spencerville Roads (Route 198).

At the height of its development as a flourishing agricultural community about 1892, Spencerville comprised about fifteen buildings housing two stores, a post office, and residences including properties where carpenter James Barnes, blacksmith Austin Black, nurseryman William Phair, postmaster William H. Spencer, and farmer and store proprietor Henry Chaney provided support services for the surrounding agricultural community. Today the Spencer/Carr (Master Plan site # 15/55), the Spencerville store, the Chaney, and the Phair houses, are the only visible reminders of the community's nineteenth century heritage. As a result, the Spencerville district along Route 198 no longer retains a sufficient concentration of buildings with the historic or architectural integrity to represent a nineteenth century rural village. However, the Phair, Black, Chaney houses and the Rectory may have individual architectural and historic merit.

Development of Spencerville

Spencerville began as a rural settlement along the Laurel Road (today Spencerville Road, Route 198). Town founder William H. Spencer, born in 1805 in Pennsylvania, brought his family and settled in the area about 1848. He was soon followed by John Gainer who built his residence and a country store adjacent to this road. The Laurel Road connected the flourishing Quaker agricultural community at Sandy Spring and Ashton to the railroad line at Laurel. Gainer built his store and residence just north of the

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Rectory, 2134 Spencerville Road [P299]
[1917]

The ca. 1917 Rectory is a large two and one-half story frame house that combines the form of a then popular Foursquare residence with Folk Victorian ornamentation. The dominant feature of the house is its massive cross gable roof with four gable ends decorated with Queen Anne lace-like verge boards. This complex roof form creates a dramatic attic level. The house is light by symmetrical ranks of one-over-one shuttered windows with smaller paired windows in the gables and has a main side-hall entrance common to gable front houses. The strict symmetry of the Foursquare form is offset by the decorative vergeboards and a full width one-story hip-roofed porch with bracketed turned posts and balustrade.

John Gainer/Henry C. Chaney House, 2200 Spencerville Road [P326]
[1848-50]

The Chaney residence is a frame vernacular house originally built ca. 1848 and later remodeled and expanded by subsequent owners into its current Folk Victorian gable-end and wing form sometime before 1881. The center hall building is two-stories in height with a front gable on the east side facing Spencerville Road. The house has a low pitched cross gable roof with a raised seam metal covering. The foundation is stone and there are two stone "root cellars" built beneath the house. Between the cellars under the main hallway floorboards is a "pit" with stairs without a visible opening to the inside or outside of the house. Local tradition holds that this space may have been a hiding place for runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad. The central main entrance has an enframed entry with sidelights and the house is light by symmetrical ranks of largely six-over-six sash windows. The building's exterior has little stylistic embellishment save the main facade's full width one-story, hipped porch with bracketed turned posts and balustrade. The west elevation also has a Neo-classical porte cochere covering the side entrance that probably dates from the 1920s. To the building's rear (north) are several one and two story frame additions. The house has recently been covered with vinyl siding.

Harry Black Residence, 2230 Spencerville Road [P319]
[1915]

Harry Black built this residence on the foundation of an earlier house erected by Spencerville's blacksmith Austin Black in 1877 that had burned to the ground. The present house may have been an attempt to replicate Austin Black's house because its vernacular

(Continued)

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Gothic Revival form, characterized by an I-house core with a steep pitched front gable, was a farmhouse type commonly built in Montgomery County during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The main core of the two story house faces Spencerville Road and has a center hall plan with symmetrical ranks of one-over-one sash. A two story rear ell was extended on the northwest corner of the three bay I-house core. The walls were originally clapboard but have been covered by asbestos shingle. The building has a roof covered by decoratively stamped metal and includes distinctive lightning rods at the gable peaks. A full width front porch, has turned posts and scrollsaw bracketing.

Tenant House, 2233 Spencerville Road [P436]
[ca.1900]

This small two-story gable-front house built at the turn of the century has a central entrance and simple shuttered one-over-one windows. The house has been sided with asbestos shingles.

Spencerville Store, 2215 Spencerville Road [P430]
[ca. 1890]

The Spencerville Store is a heavily altered two-story gable end and one-story wing frame structure originally built ca. 1892. The building rests on a stone foundation and comprises two major sections originally laid out in a T-plan with a two-story main block and a one-story wing. Substantial modern two-story frame additions have been made to the east and south. An old photograph of the building dating from ca. 1892 illustrates the building's original overall form as viewed from Spencerville Road is intact. However, the accumulative additions, sheathing with vinyl siding, replacement of windows, construction of a new shed roofed porch, and extensive remodeling of the interior have diminished the structure's ability to convey its historic associations with the development of Spencerville.

NON-CONTRIBUTING

Infill Buildings Representing Spencerville's Development between 1920 and 1945.

2125 Spencerville Road [P402]
[1945]

Eclectic Neoclassic style cottage residence representative of small house architecture of post-World War II suburbs.

(Continued)

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2129 Spencerville Road [P354]
[1945]

Small frame side gabled cottage with Neoclassical influences representative of small house architecture of post-World War II suburbs.

Jessie and Nellie H. Jennings House, 2133 Spencerville Road [P408]
[1929]

Primly symmetrical brick Colonial Revival style house common to the neighborhoods of Eastern Montgomery County in this period.

George and Sarah Richardson Residence, 2201 Spencerville Road
[P432]
[1925]

Classic example of the ubiquitous one and one-half story Craftsman/Bungalow style house built by the thousands in the suburban developments of Montgomery County between 1905 and 1930.

Fredericks House, 2144 Spencerville Road, [P324]
[1940]

Simple one and one-half story side gabled house with Neoclassical design influences.

Linda and Michael Kerr House, 2138 Spencerville Road [P297]
[1940]

Simple one and one-half story side gabled house with Bungalow style design influences.

Modern Buildings

Spencerville Post Office [P378] Modern aluminum trailer.

Maryland Electric Truck Yard and Maintenance Facility [P432]
Modern one-story industrial building.

2140 Spencerville Road [298] Modern Ranch style house, 1984.

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road, which later was bisected by Batson Road when it was cut in the 1870s to create a route into Howard County across the Patuxent River. Gainer's remodeled house is extant on the northeast corner of Batson and Spencerville Roads. The store building, later purchased and operated on the northwest corner by John Mabitt about 1860, George Duvall between 1863 and 1866, Henry C. Chaney in the 1870s, and Andrew McCoy in the 1880s, is no longer extant.¹

In 1856 and 1857 carpenter James Barnes, blacksmith Austin Black and nurseryman William H. Phair came from Pennsylvania and settled in Spencerville bringing artisan skills and horticultural expertise to the village. Spencer probably had persuaded these men to come to Spencerville to expand the emerging village's support services to the surrounding farms. By 1865 Martinet and Bond's Montgomery County map indicated that the village had prospered and now included about a dozen buildings including residences, a store and post office, and had a nearby steam saw mill (located on the present Thompson Road). The area was now identified as Spencerville Post Office rather than Drayton after the nearby farm of Caleb Stabler where the local post office had been located before 1860.²

By the early 1890s Spencerville reached its peak as a thriving agricultural village of more than 100 residents. The community boasted two general merchandise stores, a post office, a blacksmith's shop, a physician's office (Dr. Charles Waters), and the Liberty Grove Grange, No. 50, Patrons of Husbandry. It was during this period that the present Spencerville store was built by George F. Phair and by 1892 was operating as Phair and Lindsay "Dealers in General Merchandise." The grange hall (no longer extant) provided a place for political and social organization for the county's farmers in this period and provided a center for concerts, dances, church festivals, and ice cream socials.³

As Spencerville established its importance as a local economic and social center in northeastern Montgomery county between 1850 and 1900, farmers on the surrounding land cultivated wheat, corn, and hay. By 1925 the wheat market had shifted to the midwestern United States and many of the farms in the area diversified their operations to include growing vegetables, dairy production, and raising poultry for urban markets in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. An interesting social component of Spencerville's nineteenth century developmental history was the character and attitudes of the early settlers. Many of the early settlers of Spencerville and the surrounding community were Quakers or Methodists with strong views against slavery and favored upgrading the living conditions of African Americans. Local tradition holds that Spencerville may have been tied into the Underground Railroad harboring fugitive slaves on the journey north to freedom. To date only the town's founders' associations with the anti-slavery stance of the Quaker community at Sandy

(Continued)

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Spring and interesting architectural features such as false floor in the case of the Phair barn or a "hole" under the center hall of the Gainer/Chaney house sustain legends concerning the of hiding slaves in Spencerville. Nearby Edgewood II (Master Plan #15-52), the home of Quaker Richard Stabler, is the best known suspected safe house and has a hidden panel that opens up with enough space to hide several people.⁴

Whether Spencerville's rumored past as a stop on the Underground Railroad was a factor, the town can distinguish itself from other villages in the region in that it was a catalyst for nineteenth century African American settlement. Nearby at Round Oak (Good Hope Road), Batson Road, and Oak Hill and Brogden Roads were black settlements all within easy walking distance of the center of this district at the intersection of Spencerville and Batson Roads. The town's Quaker residents loaned money to potential black landowners or assisted them in obtaining loans from the Sandy Spring bank. African Americans built houses and raised families surrounding the town and those who could not afford to buy would rent or sharecrop. The men largely obtained employment as farm laborers, hucksters, and teamsters, occupations common to the Spencerville area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Women and girls worked on nearby dairy farms or raised poultry to supplement the family income.⁵

Spencerville continued to prosper as a rural crossroads community into the first two decades of the twentieth century. In 1905 the Free Methodists built a church in Spencerville bringing a significant institution to the community which would influence the area's future character. Inspired by talented circuit rider A. G. Miller, the organizer of popular camp meetings in the Cloverly area off the Colesville Road and at "Crosdale's grove" in Burtonsville at the turn of the century, Spencerville residents formed the Free Methodist Church. The Gothic Revival style church (moved from the roadside and heavily remodeled in 1954) was a thriving rural congregation just before 1917 and built a fashionable Foursquare house with Gothic Revival trim for their pastor. The members of this church established a permanent camp meeting ground off Peach Orchard Road (Atlas site #15-54/2) where members of the Free Methodist New York Conference "were entertained" beginning around 1908.⁶ In 1930 the present tabernacle and cabins began construction as permanent replacements for earlier temporary platforms and tents.

Spencerville's decline as a rural village center began just after World War I as Montgomery County's real estate bordering Washington, D.C. boomed and automobile suburbs sprang up. Residents experienced profound social and cultural changes between 1920 and 1940 as the county's economy made a dramatic transition from a traditional agrarian base to a heavy dependency

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on the burgeoning federal government and the real estate, insurance, and banking industries.⁷ This trend was reflected as far out as Spencerville with the infill addition of smaller suburban house types into the once rural village landscape as well as the stylistic updating of older houses. This developmental process was accelerated after World War II and today modern infill construction, coupled with the continuing loss or alteration of nineteenth century houses, has seriously effected the historic and architectural continuity of the community.

Continuation Sheet
M: 15-54 - Spencerville Historic District

ENDNOTES

1. T. H. S. Boyd, *The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From Its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879*. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968 (originally 1879), 142; Thomas J. Scharf, *History of Western Maryland*. 1879. (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968 reprint), 757; Catherine Crawford, *Maryland Historical Trust Form for the Spencerville Historic District*, 1982. (MHT) and Alan Newcomb, "Historic Chronology of Spencerville, Maryland, 1850-1987." Copy on File, M-NCPPC.

2. Simon J. Martenet, *Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County*. (Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1865. Library of Congress); Roger Brooke Farquhar, *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland*. (Washington, D.C.: Judd & Detweiler, Inc., 1962), 133-136.

3. G. M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Montgomery Maryland*. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1879. (Library of Congress; Rockville Public Library) Scharf, *History of Western Maryland*, 757; Crawford, *Maryland Historical Trust Form for the Spencerville Historic District*, 1982. (MHT); and Newcomb, "Historic Chronology of Spencerville, Maryland, 1850-1987." For a discussion of grange hall activities in this period, see Ray E. Hiebert and Richard K. MacMaster. *A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland*. (Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976), 244.

4. For a discussion of the folklore concerning Spencerville's connection to the Underground Railroad, see Joel Davis, "Secrets of Spencerville," Free Press (February 28, 1990), 15-17.

5. Everett L. and La Barbara Wigfall Fly, *Northeastern Montgomery County: Black Oral History Study* (Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Development, 1983), 140-144.

6. *Spencerville Free Methodist Church, 80th Anniversary, October 26-28, 1979*; and *Golden Anniversary of Free Methodism in Spencerville, Maryland, 1899-1949*. Pamphlets on File at M-NCPPC, Silver Spring, MD.

7. Hiebert and MacMaster, *A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland*, 302-303.

Continuation Sheet
M: 15-54 Spencerville Historic District

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Page 9.1

Unpublished Sources

Crawford, Catherine. Maryland Historical Trust Form for the Spencerville Historic District, 1982. (MHT)

Montgomery County Historical Society Vertical File and Photographs.

Newcomb, Alan E. "Historic Chronology of Spencerville, Maryland, 1850-1987." Copy on File, M-NCPPC.

Published Sources

Boyd, T.H.S. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From Its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968 (originally 1879).

Davis, Joel. "Secrets of Spencerville," Free Press (February 28, 1990): 15-17.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland. Washington, D.C.: Judd & Detweiler, Inc., 1962.

Fly, Everett L. and La Barbara Wigfall, Northeastern Montgomery County: Black Oral History Study. Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Development, 1983.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon and Richard K. MacMaster. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Montgomery Maryland. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1879. (Library of Congress; Rockville Public Library)

Martenet, Simon J. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County. Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1865. (Library of Congress)

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. 1879. (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968 reprint)

Sween, Jane Chinn. Montgomery County: Two Centuries of Change. Woodland Hills, Cal: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1984.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Spencerville, Maryland

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Spencerville Rd. (Rt.198) not for publication

city, town Spencerville vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input checked="" 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 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"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Multiple ownership- see listing

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title M-NCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Park Historian's Office

city, town Rockville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. M. 15-54

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

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

The Spencerville historic district includes a strip of later nineteenth structures intermixed with early to mid twentieth century structures, lying along the Spencerville Road (Rt. 198). The small village is surrounded by a mix of farm land and suburban residential development. The district runs from Peach Orchard Road at the east to Thompson Road at the west. Spencerville is primarily a residential community with a store building, a trailer post office and a bungalow currently being used to house a real estate office clustered together in the center of the village. Recently, a small subdivision was made off of the Spencerville Road, between the Chaney and Black houses. This has not yet been developed.

Most of the early residences are typical rural vernacular, two story, gable roof structures with facade porches and rear wings. Most have been altered and/or added to over the years. These are intermixed with a number of twentieth century structures including a Bungalow, a brick Colonial Revival dwelling, a few Cape Cods and small cottage-like residences.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 15-54

| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) | | | |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Spencerville is significant as one of the earlier, small rural villages to develop in eastern Montgomery County. Spencerville was said to have been founded in 1850 by William H. Spencer. It had (and has maintained) a store and post office to serve the needs of the surrounding farm community, at a time when few such towns existed in this area. The surrounding area was largely wheat, corn and hay producing, with little industry of commercial enterprise.

HISTORY & SUPPORT

According to Thomas Scharf in his 1882, History of Western Maryland, Spencerville was founded in 1850 by William A. (sic., H.) Spencer, from whom the town derives its name (p. 757). William H. Spencer was born in 1805 in Pennsylvania. He married Sarah Talbert Search of South Hampton Pennsylvania (Elizabeth M. Lord, Burtonsville Heritage, p. 256). They later settled in what would become Spencerville in 1848, where they purchased a farm (OldBuilding Survey of Burtonsville, p. 14) Mr. spencer is said to have established the first post office in Spencerville. The Spencer House still stands just outside the district, to the east (Site #15-55).

By 1865, Spencerville was a thriving community. A concentration of perhaps a dozen buildings appears on the Martinet & Bond Map of 1865 in approximately the same location as the present concentration of structures is found. It included a store and post office and a Steam Saw Mill (on the present Thompson Road), surrounded by farms. According to Scharf, John Gainer established the first general merchandise store in Spencerville. He was succeeded by Joseph Mabbit about 1860. Henry C. Chaney, whos residence still stands, later acquired the store which sat on the opposite corner of Spencerville and Batson roads from his house. In 1882 when Scharf wrote his history, Andrew McCoy operated the store. Another business in town was Austin Black's blacksmith shop.

In his History of Montgomery County, Maryland, T.H. Boyd described Spencerville in 1879 as a community of 106 residents, most of whom appear to have been engaged in farming. According to Boyd, the area farms produced wheat, corn and hay. William H. Spencer was listed as postmaster (p.).

The 1879 Hopkins Atlas indicates some growth. Spencerville now supports two stores, one with a post office. Still are found approximately a dozen residences. The Steam Saw Mill no longer appears, but across from its site is the "colored" Round Oak Baptist Church and adjacent school building. The store and post office of Henry C. Chaney was still in operation as was a second store just a few doors down to the west, operated by J.L. Bradford. Neither of these store buildings are standing today. However, a later store building remains. During the 1880's, George F. Phair established a store across Spencerville Road from the earlier businesses, which is still in operation.

The twentieth century has seen a number of residential additions to Spencerville including a few Bungalow, Cape Cod and other small cottage-like structures. The present Spencerville includes eight residences and a store building dating from the 1860's to the 1910's period with infills of the above mentioned twentieth century structures along with a few more modern dwellings.

RESOURCES

Beginning at the western end of the district, on the southern side of the Spencerville Road (Rt. 198), the first structure sits on the corner of Rt. 198 and Thompson Road. This is a vernacular residence typical of the rural architecture of late nineteenth to early twentieth century Montgomery County. Some changes have been made over the years including the application of asbestos shingles, the enclosure of the facade porch and the addition to the side elevation. The main block is a two story, three bay by one bay frame building with a shingled gable roof. The porch, which covers the facade bays, has been enclosed with wooden panels on the bottom with screening above. The house is lit mostly by one over one sash windows with a few six over six (in the gable ends). To the west side elevation is a one and a half story, front facing gable roof section, one bay by one, adjoining the main block. At the facade is a squared, two bay extended window with a hipped roof. In the gable end above is another window. The roof is covered with raised seam metal as is the roof of the porch. There is a small shed addition with an entry stoop to the rear of the one and a half story section.

This house was probably built by Griffith M. Search in the 1880's. In July of 1881 Mr. Search purchased the property on which his residence was constructed, 1.29 acres, from the Farmers Saw & Grist Mill Company of Montgomery County for \$700 (Deed EBP 24/336). According to the 1879 tax assessment records Griffith M. Search was the president of the steam mill which appears here on the 1865 map. By the time Mr. Search purchased the property to build this residence, however, the mill no longer appears. In March of 1899 he conveyed this property to his two unmarried daughters, Alice and Ida Search (Deed TD 8/47). It remained in the family until finally being sold after the death of Ida Search, the surviving tenant, at a public auction in 1942.

To the east of the Search House are a couple of small cottage-like residences which create a fairly sympathetic infill. They are single story gable roof buildings.

To the east of these is the early twentieth century Jennings Brick house, #2133. The Jennings house is a simple brick Colonial Revival dwelling, a style very popular during the late nineteenth century continuing into the 1950's. This style generally became more simplified with time, as this house indicates. The Jennings house was built in 1928-1929 according to the tax assessment records, by Jessie B. and Nellie H. Jennings. The Jennings purchased the two acres on which the house was built from the heirs of Dr. John R. Batson in April of 1928 (Deed 458-473). After the death of Nellie Jennings, April 6, 1964 the property was assessed and described as 1.725 acres improved by a two story

brick house with composition roof, basement, oil, hot water heat, in two apartments. The first floor consisted of a living room, kitchen, one bedrooms and a bath and the second floor of a living room, kitchen, two bedrooms and a bath (Real Inventory, Wills, VMB 172/559).

This is a two story brick dwelling, three bays by four bays with a side gabled roof. The unornamented entry is to the center of the facade. The second story facade has only two bays, one over each of the windows on the first floor. The house is lit by six over one sash windows on the first floor and one over one sash windows on the second floor. There is a central brick chimney. To the rear is a small shed addition.

To the east of this the the Spencerville Post Office, housed in a trailer, with a gravel parking lot in front.

Next, is an example of the ever popular Bungalow, the house for every man which appeared throughout the country during the early twentieth century. This house was built during the 1930's by Harold and Ruth Robinson who purchased the store property, on which the Bungalow was built, in June of 1930 (Deed 504/291).

This is a good example of the typical Bungalow style dwelling of the 1930's era. It is a one and a half story frame building with a gable roof that slopes down to form the roof of the facade porch, supported by battered, shingled posts which rest on rock-faced concrete block piers. To the center of the roof is a single, one bay gabled dormer. The house is three bays by three bays with the entry to the center facade. It is lit by three over one sash windows. At the western elevation is a squared bay window with a shed roof. Same sized windows appear in the gable ends. In the rear, the roof slopes down to cover a single story shed section. The exterior walls are covered with asbestos shingles.

Next door is the Spencerville Store, #2225. The Spencerville Store is significant as one of the remaining general merchandise store from the nineteenth century standing in Montgomery County. The store was begun by George Franklin Phair, probably in the early 1880's and operated as "Phair & Lindsay" during the 1890's. George F. Phair pruchased a two and a half acre lot for \$250 from Dr. Charles H. and Ella J. Waters in October of 1883 (Deed EBP 30/115). A 1892 photograph (found on p. 148 of Jane Sween's Montgomery County, Two Centuries of Change) shows that the basic store building, including rear side wing, exists today as it was then with some changes such as the application of aluminum siding and the replacement of the facade porch and changes in the fenestration at the facade. George and Bessie Phair sold the store property in 1920 to Frederick and Mary Kruhm who owned it ten years (Deed 298/337). They later sold it to Harold

S. and Ruth B Robinson who also had it ten years. During their ownership, the Robinsons erected a Bungalow on the property. After that time, the store passed through a succession of owners.

This is a frame building with a two story, front facing gable roof main block intersected by a one and a half story side gable roof wing. The facade totals five bays across, with the main entry to the center of the one and a half story wing. At the eastern side elevation is a two story, one bay by three bay shed roof section to the rear of which is a single story shed roof section. To the rear at the western end is a long, single story wing. The original six over six sash windows have been replaced on the first story facade by large, store front picture windows. A shed roof porch supported by plain posts and railings runs the length of the facade (the original porch was supported by turned posts). The old store rests on a stone foundation. The exterior walls are covered with aluminum siding. The roof of the main building is covered with raised seam metal and the roof of the small additions are covered with with composition shingles.

To the east of the store building, set back is a small frame residence which looks as if it may have been a tenant house. It is a rectangularly shaped two story building with a front facing gable roof. It is one bay wide. To the facade is an entry covered by a small, low hipped roof entry porch. Above this is a six over six sash window, with shutters.

To the east of this and down the road is the last house at this end of the district. #2323 sits near the corner of Rt. 198 and Peach Orchard Road. It is a simple, early twentieth century vernacular dwelling. It is a two story, L-shaped narrow frame building with a three bay by one bay main block with a gable roof covered with standing seam metal. The entry is located to the center of the facade. There is no porch at the facade. The house is lit by one over one sash windows. At the western end of the main block is a corbelled brick chimney. There is a window towards the front of the house, south of the chimney block on both the first and second stories and two small windows in the gable end, one to either side of the chimney. A similar window arrangement appears on the opposite end except the windows here are centered. To the rear, eastern elevation is a two story gable roof ell. To the south side of the ell is an enclosed porch.

This house was probably built by John W. Gibson. Mr. Gibson purchased a three and a half acre lot from Franklin and Julia Chaney in July of 1901 for \$350 (Deed TD 22/397). By 1903 an improvement value is recorded on the property in the Montgomery County Commissions Tax Assessment Books. John and Annie Gibson sold the house in June of 1921 to E.H. and Laura Carr, the current owners (Deed 320/174).

Heading back towards the west, along the northern side of the Spencerville Road, Rt. 198, the first building is #2218. This is a late nineteenth century vernacular Victorian residence typical of the residences found throughout rural Montgomery County dating from this period. This house appears on the 1879 Hopkin's Atlas as the Austin Black residence. Austin Black purchased four and a quarter acres from William H. Spencer in August of 1877 (Deed EBP 17/75). According to Scharf's History of Western Maryland, Austin Black was the "pioneer blacksmith of the vicinity" (p. 757). In September of 1901 Austin Black conveyed the property to Harry V. Black (Deed TD 17/426). The property remained in the family until 1957.

This is a two story, three bay by one bay frame dwelling with a two story rear wing to the western side. It has a gable roof, covered with decoratively stamped metal, with a center gable facade. In the front gable end is a window, like those appearing throughout the house which are one over one sash. In the western gable end is a single, small window and in the eastern gable end are two. The entry is to the center of the facade. A low hipped roof porch supported by bracketed turned posts runs the length of the facade. There are two interior, corbelled brick chimneys, one at the eastern gable end of the main block and the other at the rear wing. There is a single story shed roof addition at the eastern side of the rear elevation. The exterior walls are covered with asbestos shingles.

To the west of the Austin Black house a subdivision has been made in the past year or so, sitting back off the road. It has not yet, however, been developed.

The next building in the district is #2200. The Henry C. Chaney residence, as it appears on the 1879 Hopkins Atlas, is a rural vernacular residence with a Victorian, jig-sawn bracketed and turned post porch. Unlike the typical vernacular, Victorian era rural dwellings found in Montgomery County this house has an unornamented, cross gable roof rather than a gable roof with a center gable facade. With the exception of the porch there is an absence of ornamentation. Its plain styling and six over six sash windows suggest this may have been an older, perhaps 1860's pre-Victorian era residence, later Victorianized.

According to the chain of title and Martinet & Bond's 1865 map, George W. Duvall had a residence and adjacent store building at this site then. Mr. Duvall purchased twelve acres from Joseph and Annie Mabbett in April of 1863 (Deed JGH 9/194). The Mabbetts themselves had purchased this property from William H. Spencer, the towns founder as part of his farm in April of 1859 (Deed JGH 7/416). Scharf identified Joseph Mabbitt as succeeding John Gainer in the mercantile business in 1860 (the store later owned by Andrew McCoy, p. 757). The tax assesment records do indicate that Mr. Duvall had a store and dwelling here in 1866.

In June of 1870, the Duvalls sold the property to Annie M. Chaney for \$6000 (Deed EBP 7/413). She and her husband, Henry C. Chaney, who was engaged in farming, lived here only two years before Annie passed away. The property was sold to Mr. Chaney's brother, Franklin P. Chaney who later sold it to Henry Chaney's second wife, Leona M. Chaney three and a half years later in 1876 (Interrogation of Henry Chaney in Equity #299-1877, Judgement Record EBP 9/316). The Chaney's, However, later defaulted on their mortgage and the property was sold in March of 1881. The assignee's report of sale described the property then as thirteen and three quarters acres in the village of Spencerville, improved by "a large and commodious dwelling and storehouse.... with all the necessary outbuildings and a variety of fruit trees" (Equity #299-1877, Judgement Record, EBP 9/316). The property was sold to Clara C. and Andrew McCoy (Deed EBP 25/28). Andrew McCoy is mentioned by scharf in 1882 as the current proprietor of a store in Spencerville (p. 757).

In October of 1890, Dr. John R. Batson purchased the property (JA 21/447). Presumably the road running to the western side of the house, Batson Road, was named for him. No longer do the tax assessment records mention "stock in trade" along with the assessment of this lot. It is probable that the McCoys were the last to operate the store. By now, however, Phair & Lindsay's store across the road would have been in operation. The property remained in the Batson family until 1928.

The house on .754 acres was purchased by Henry E. and Margaret I. Brown in March of 1945 (Deed 963/299). The Browns later converted the house into two apartments and used it as a rental property. After the death in Henry in June of 1976 and Margaret on August of 1977, the property was assessed. It was then described as a "very old farmhouse," approximately 200 x 180 square feet with a stone foundation, partial basement (joists lying directly on the sill and the dirt basement floor), frame walls covered with aluminum siding, a metal roof and front and rear porches. Inside was listed a foyer, two living rooms, two dining rooms, two kitchens, four bedrooms, two baths, utility room and attic (Estate #053 09 77). The heirs sold the house in March of 1981 to the current owners, Lee A. Birmingham and Alan E. Newcomb (Deed 5670/900).

This is a two story, three bay by two bay frame residence with a cross gable roof. The front facing gable appears at the eastern end of the facade and has a window in it like those that appear throughout the house. The entrance is to the center of the facade. A low hipped roof porch with bracketed, turned post porch with balustrade runs the length of the facade. The house is lit by six over six sash windows with shutters. There is a plain, interior brick chimney to the center of both side elevations. The roof, with no ornamentation in the eaves or cornice line, is covered with raised seam metal. The foundation is stone and the exterior walls are frame covered with aluminum siding. There is a two story

one bay by one bay rear wing to the eastern side. Also to the rear is a single story shed roof, three bay by two bay addition with an entry and a center brick chimney. To the western side elevation has been added a porte-cochere.

On the other side of Batson Road, on the site of the old Chaney store building is another small, single story, gable roof cottage-like dwelling. Next to this is a modern dwelling constructed within the past couple of years. East of this is a single story gable roof, dormered Cape Cod style residence. These three dwellings create a fairly sympathetic infill grouping.

Next, is #2134 which is a simple, late Queen Anne style residence. This house was probably built about 1917, the year that Dr. John R. Batson donated this half acre lot to the trustees of the Free Methodist Episcopal Church for a parsonage site (Deed 264/168). This presumably was used as the parsonage house for the Free Methodist Church of Spencerville until 1965 when the church trustees sold the house to Maurice E. and Sylvia A. Waltz (Deed 3354/638).

The house seems to combine the cross gable roof and jig-sawn trimmed gable ends and porch elements of the Queen Anne style with the more squared box-like dimensions of the early twentieth century Four-Square design. It is a two story three bay by three bay frame residence. A low hipped roof porch supported by bracketed turned posts with balustrade runs the length of the facade. The entry is to the eastern end of the facade. The house is lit by shuttered, one over one sash windows with smaller, paired windows in the gable ends. At the eastern side elevation on the first floor is a three bay extended window with a hipped roof. In the eaves at the top of the gable ends is jig-sawn ornamentation. There is a brick chimney just west of the center of the roof. Across the rear is a single story, shed roof addition.

To the other side of the Parsonage is #2130. This is a plain, vernacular residence which appears on the Martinet & Bond Map of 1865 as the residence of William H. Phair. The Hopkins Atlas of 1879 identifies William Phair as a nurseryman from Ireland who settled here in 1857 (p. 18). Mr. Phair purchased ten acres from William H. and Sarah Spencer for \$350 in April of 1859 (Deed JGH 7/417). He Presumably lived here all his life, possibly operating a nursery here. Mr. Phair died in February of 1923. His son, George Phair ran the Spencerville general merchandise store located across the street. His children and heirs George F., John H., Charles L. and Jane L. sold the house to Robert H. and Emma A. Kruhm in December of that same year (Deed 342/301).

In 1938 Henry R. and Elizabeth G. Link purchased the property (Deed 692/358). Elizabeth died in 1973 and Henry in 1978. The real estate inventory of Henry Link described

the property as 1.9536 acres improved by "one of the early homes built in Spencerville." It was described as a two story frame house, approximately 140 x 600 square feet with frame walls covered with asbestos shingles (now aluminum siding), asphalt shingles on the roof and resting on a stone foundation. It included a living room, dining room, kitchen, a bedroom and a bath on the first floor and three bedrooms and a bath on the second. It had only a partial basement with the floor set over logs, an open front porch and rear screened porch (Estate #030 06 78). Additions have since been made to the rear by recent owners.

This is a simple vernacular, two story, three bay by one bay frame residence with a gable roof. The entry is to the center of the facade and is flanked by sidelights. A porch supported by bracketed turned posts covers the entry only. The house is lit by two over two sash windows, with two bays in the gable ends. To the west elevation is an interior brick end chimney. To the rear western side elevation is a two story, two bay by one bay gable roof wing to the rear of which is an open, shed roof porch. To the eastern side of the rear elevation adjoining are two story, modern additions.

Behind the main house is another building, use unknown, probably a tenant house rather than an outbuilding. It is a Saltbox shaped building with a two story main block with adjoining one and a half story rear shed section sloping off. It is a frame building covered with asbestos shingles made to look like brick. The roof is covered with raised seam metal. The entry is at the front corner of the eastern side elevation. At the western elevation there are two bays at the first floor of the main block and one small casement window above the first floor window towards the front. At the main, southern elevation there are two bays on the second floor and a single bay on the first floor under the easterly bay. These are six over six sash windows. The building rests on a stone foundation.

CURRENT OWNERS

- P-303 Search House, corner Rt. 198 and Thompson Road
George & G. Saah et al
641 TYLER DRIVE
SARASOTA, FLORIDA
- P-400 Infill, #2111 Spencerville Rd.
William W. Schmidt, Sr. et al
525 Main St., Laurel, Md. 20707
- P-347 Infill
David M. & M.J. Corcoran
2119 Spencerville, Md.
- P-402 Cottage infill
Glenn & P.K. Gealy
2125 Spencerville Rd.
- P-354 Cottage infill
Donald P. & S.D.U. Cassidy
2129 Spencerville Rd.
- P-408 Jennings brick house
Garland J & M.J. Godwin
2133 Spencerville Rd.
- P-565
S.M.J. Brock
- P-378 Unimproved
Clara A. Carr
2420 Spencerville Rd.
- P-459 same
- P-432, 431, 430 Store & Bungalow, etc.
Spencerville LTD. Partnership % Burtonsville Realty
15440 Columbia Pike
Burtonsville, Md. 20730
- P-436 Small rectangular dwelling
Clara A. Carr
- P-428 Unimproved, same
- P-439 Infill
Timothy & J. Gallagher
2301 Spencerville Rd.

- P-440 Unimproved
Forest L. & V.A. Grauel
2801 Spencerville Rd.
- P-447 Gibson House, corner Rt. 198 and Peach Orchard Rd., #2323
Gilbert C. Carr, et al
2420 Spencerville Rd.
- P-246 William H. Phair House
Louis Coffee
2130 Spencerville Rd.
- P-299 Parsonage
William M. & K.W. Daniels
2134 Spencerville Rd.
- P-297 Cape Cod infill
Michael R. & L.A. Kerr
2138 Spencerville Rd.
- P-298 Infill, #2140
Isis R. Johnson, et al
1901 Chillum Rd.
Hyattsville, Md. 20782
- P-324 Cottage infill, #2144
Housing Oppurtunities Commission of Montgomery County
1400 Fenwick La.
Silver Spring, Md. 20910
- P-326 Chaney House
Lee A. Burmingham & Alan E. Newcomb
2200 Spencerville Rd.
- P-321 Unimproved, Kellbrodan Estates
C.S. Stephens, Jr., et al *90 ARBOR LANDSCAPERS, INC.
13500 GEORGIA AVE., SILVER SPRING, M.D. 20907*
- P-319 Austin Black House
Franklin A. & M.E. Hume
2230 Spencerville Rd.

BOUNDARY:

The district consists of 2 sections of 19th century construction divided by 20th century buildings. The larger of the two, encompassing both sides of Maryland Route 198 (Spencerville Road) from west of Peach Orchard of Batson Road, encompasses 7 buildings dating from the late 19th century. The smaller district on the north side of Maryland Route 198 west of Batson Road has only two residences.

DESCRIPTION:

The Spencerville Historic District is a small, quiet country farm village consisting of about 9 buildings dating from the 19th century. The town is basically of the linear form with a few side roads situated along what is now Maryland Route 198, a main east-west route in Northeastern Montgomery County. Maryland Route 198, also known as Spencerville Road, thus forms the main street, which intersects Batson and Peach Orchard Road, which are infrequently travelled. The Spencerville Store is the focus of the community.

Along Spencerville Road, the houses in the district are grouped rather loosely and are, for the most part, set back from the road, so that two facing houses are at least 500 feet apart. While there are some large old trees near the houses, there are very few major plantings dating back to the construction of the buildings. This reinforces the concept that the town was formed for agricultural purposes.

Spencerville is sited on rather level ground in gently rolling countryside, which, along with the rather widely-spaced siting of the houses, contributes to the gentle transition from open country to rural village. The older houses are of the same basic scale and size, and are the same basic shape: that is, a two-story, gable-roofed frame dwelling. All the old houses have attics, with windows, (and none have dormers), along with wood clapboard siding, and frame porches at their main entrances.

The town was founded in 1850 by William A. Spencer, its first postmaster. Despite modern intrusions, such as 20th century houses, and the aluminum sided warehouse of Maryland Electric just west of the store, the town retains considerable historic integrity.

The Spencerville Store (E), focus of the community, was not constructed until the 1880's. In the 1978 Hopkins Atlas, two stores are shown on the north side of Maryland Route 198 west of Batson Road, and no buildings evidently existed on the south side where the present store is located. Except for aluminum cladding, and two modern picture windows in front, the store has the same overall appearance it had in the 1892 photograph (attached).

The central section runs perpendicular to the road, and is two bays wide and 5 bays deep. A doorway is located on the left. A lancet shaped slated vent is in the gable end. On the east side there is lean to which is 1 bay wide and 3 bays deep with a 1 story addition in the rear. On the west side is a store proper, a 1 story 2 bay wide portion with the gable parallel to the road. The entrance is located in the right bay, and a modern picture window in the left. The address may be 2225 Spencerville Road.

RESIDENCES:

A. 2323 Spencerville Road

This house is at the southwest corner of Spencerville and Peach Orchard Roads. It is a two-story, L-shaped frame house, with gables at each end of the main section facing the main road. All the roofing is of metal, standing seam. There is no porch on the facade, which has three bays with a central entrance.

There is a one-story addition at the southeast corner, filling in the first floor to make a rectangular house. The windows, 1/1 double-hung, are all covered by storm windows, and there is a storm door at the entrance, all of aluminum.

The east end has one large window at each floor, centered, and two small attic windows. The west end has a corbelled brick chimney, with one large window, south of the chimney, at each floor; there are two small attic windows flanking the chimney.

B. 2229 Spencerville Road

This house is just east of the Store, and basically is a small two-story frame building with a shingled gable roof. There are two additions at the rear, one being a full-length, two-story shed, the other a smaller shed attached to the first shed.

The north facade has two bays, with the entrance at the northeast corner. There is a brick chimney at the east end, which also has two flanking windows at the first floor and one at the second floor, all 2/2 double-hung. The west end has one window, at the first floor. All the windows have louvered shutters, and the exterior is covered with narrow, beaded German wood siding.

There is a full-length wood porch at the front, with three simple turned posts; the porch is on a concrete foundation. The house foundation is stone.

C. Immediately behind B, this is a two-story gable-roofed frame structure with the gable running perpendicular to the road. Only one bay wide on the entrance facade, it has a door and porch on the first level in the center, with a window directly above.

D. 2218 Spencerville Road

This is apparently the Austin Black house as shown on the 1878 Hopkins Atlas (Mr. Black was the town's first blacksmith). It is opposite the Store and 2229 Spencerville Road. It is a two-story frame house with a gable roof of stamped metal. There is a large center pediment in the south facade over a three-bay front having a central entrance.

The facade also has a full-length frame porch, with Victorian turned and bracketed posts on brick piers. The main section has large 1/1 double-hung windows, and there is a two-story wing at the northwest corner.

The east gable end has two small attic windows either side of a small brick chimney. The first and second floors each have one window at this end. The exterior is entirely of shingle siding.

E. Spencerville Store

(Discussed first in the description portion of this form).

F. Hines Property

This may possibly be the Amos Spencer residence as designated on the 1878 Atlas, although it may sit too far from the road to be the same.

This two-story frame structure, clad with asbestos shingles, has its gable roof running perpendicular to the road. There are three bays in the west or entrance facade, with the door in the south one. An open shed-roofed porch, one bay in width, shelters the entrance.

G. 2200 Spencerville Road (Chaney House)

This house is at the northeast corner of Spencerville Road and Batson Roads, and is known as the Henry Chaney House. It is two and one half stories high and is L-shaped. The facade faces south, to the road, and the leg of the L is at the northeast corner. The leg has two gable ends, and the west end of the facade also has a gable. There is a lower, two-story wing at the northwest corner, forming in finality a U shape, with the core of the U filled in by a one-story shed addition which extends beyond the face of the legs. At the facade is a full-length one-story frame porch, with Victorian brackets at the posts which rest on brick piers. The porch has a shingle roof, but the rest of the house has metal standing seam roofing.

The facade has three bays and a central entrance. The windows are double-hung, those at the first floor being 6/3, and those at the second floor being 6/6. All the major windows have louvered shutters. The L-leg gables have two attic windows each, which are very small, and two larger windows at each other level. The attic windows are also 6/6.

The northwest wing has three bays across its west front, with a center entrance. Also at the west facade is a drive-through canopy, not apparently related to the entrance. The extremities of the L include small brick chimneys. The entire exterior is covered with wide clapboard siding.

H. 2134 Spencerville Road

Here is a two and a half story frame building with a gable roof which has an unusual form. Basically running east-west, parallel to Maryland Route 198, the roof has an extremely broad cross gable in the south or entrance facade, above a 1 story porch extending 3 bays across the front. This three-bay facade contains a ^{east bay} center entrance. The full-length one-story porch is frame, with Victorian carved brackets on the posts, similar in detail to the ornamentation at the gables and pediment. The entire exterior is covered by wide clapboard siding.

At the rear is a full-length one-story lean-to addition, part of which is enclosed, and part of which is an open porch. Above this addition, and at the front, are 1/1 double-hung windows. At the east end are two windows, not horizontally aligned -- one is apparently at a stair landing. There is a large window in the attic, and at the first floor there is a small, ~~octagonal protrusion~~ bay window.

At the west end, there are three windows at the second floor and two, unmatched, at the first floor. There is one small window at the attic level.

I. 2130 Spencerville Road

Of the same basic form as the rest of the residences included in the Spencerville Historic District, it is set apart, first, by reputedly having a log section, and secondly, having what might be a slave dwelling in the rear. Obliterated by modern sheathing materials, this 1 1/2 story slave structure has a catslide profile.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

This village is significant as a fairly intact example of a mid to late 19th century rural farming community in Montgomery County, Maryland.

This information compiled by Mr. Mike Dwyer, Park Historian with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and Ms. Rita Suffness, Architectural Historian with Maryland State Highway Administration (659-1183).

BERRY DISTRICT, No. 5.

This district is bounded on the north by Mechanicsville District, on the east by the Patuxent River, dividing it from Prince George's County, on the south by the District of Columbia, and on the west by Bethesda and Rockville Districts. On the northwest Rock Creek divides it from Rockville District. Paint Branch, Sligo Branch, and Northwest Branch of the Potomac flow southeast into Prince George's County. The boundaries of the district until 1878 were as follows: Beginning at the mouth of Hawling's River and running down Patuxent to Prince George's County line, then with said line to the Territory of Columbia, then with said Territory to Rock Creek, then up Rock Creek to Robertson's mill, then up the Bladensburg road until it intersects the line of the First District at the lower end of Benjamin Ricketts' plantation, then with the line of the Second District reversed to the beginning.

The limits of the district were reduced in 1878 by the erection of Mechanicsville, which was formed in that year from portions of Berry and Cracklin Districts.

Among the earliest settlers in the district were William Joseph, Alexander Beall, Richard Snowden, Neal Clark, the Duvalls, Dorseys, Cashells, Rileys, Kemps, Van Horns, Bonifants, Stablers, Hardings, Shaws, and Lassells.

School Meetings. At a school meeting of School District No. 2, held Sept. 5, 1839, Thomas Fawcett was president, and John McCutchen, clerk. Washington Duvall, John McCutchen, George D. Spencer, Thomas and William Valdenar were appointed a committee to ascertain the number of white children between the ages of six and sixteen years and select a site for a school, and report at the next meeting. At an adjourned meeting on the 13th the committee reported eighty-two children, and recommended for the school-house site the one near a spring situated east of the road leading from Colesville to the Burnt Mills, west of the Paint Branch, north of John Selby's residence, and south of the house then occupied by John Mullican, known as Patrick Arme's old place. The trustees selected were Thomas Fawcett, George B. Seaggs, George D. Spencer. Three hundred dollars were levied.

The First School District held its meeting on September 14th, at the house of David Parker, at Leesboro', of which Robert Y. Brent was president, and Charles Bunting, clerk. Adjourned until March 3, 1840.

The meeting of the Second District was held Sep-

tember 12th, of which John Cook was president, and John Brewer, clerk. Adjourned to June, 1840, without any further action.

District No. 4, on September 4th, held its meeting, of which Eden Beall was president, and Richard S. Anderson, clerk. The trustees elected were Richard S. Anderson, Eden Beall, and John Rabbitt. A committee was appointed to ascertain the legal number of school youths and look out a site for a new school-house, and report at the January meeting following. Four hundred dollars was levied.

Drumeldra.—On July 18, 1831, Abraham Brooke, Elizabeth Lukens, and Hannah Lukens opened a boarding school for girls at this point, near Colesville. Being but fourteen miles from Washington City, and having an able corps of teachers, it was for many years one of the best institutions in the State.

Spencerville is seven miles from Laurel, twelve from Rockville, twenty five from Baltimore, and near the Patuxent River. The town derives its name from Wm. A. Spencer, who founded it in 1850. The first store of general merchandise was established and conducted by John Gainer. He was succeeded by Joseph Mabbitt about 1860, and the store is now owned by Andrew McCoy. In 1869, Mr. Chaney founded the business that is now so successfully carried on by Messrs. Chaney & Fair. Austin Black was the pioneer blacksmith of the vicinity. The post office was established about 1860 by William Spencer. Wm. H. Phair is the present postmaster, having been appointed in February, 1881. Liberty Grove Grange, No. 50, P. of H., is located in the place, of which John E. Phair is the Master, and Wm. Rich, secretary. Dr. Charles H. Waters is the physician. The land in the vicinity of this village produces from fifteen to thirty-five bushels of wheat, and eight to twelve barrels of corn, and two tons of hay to the acre.

Union Cemetery Association.—This association was formed about 1862. The present officers are: President, C. W. Rich, and Secretary, W. H. Phair. The cemetery is situated about two miles west of Spencerville, on the road leading to Burtonsville. Among the graves inclosed within its limits are those of

Mary Louisa, wife of Griffith M. Smith, died May 2, 1862, aged 36 years, 2 days.

Joseph Green, born Sept. 5, 1850, died Aug. 27, 1880.

Hiram Spencer, died April 23, 1870, aged 32.

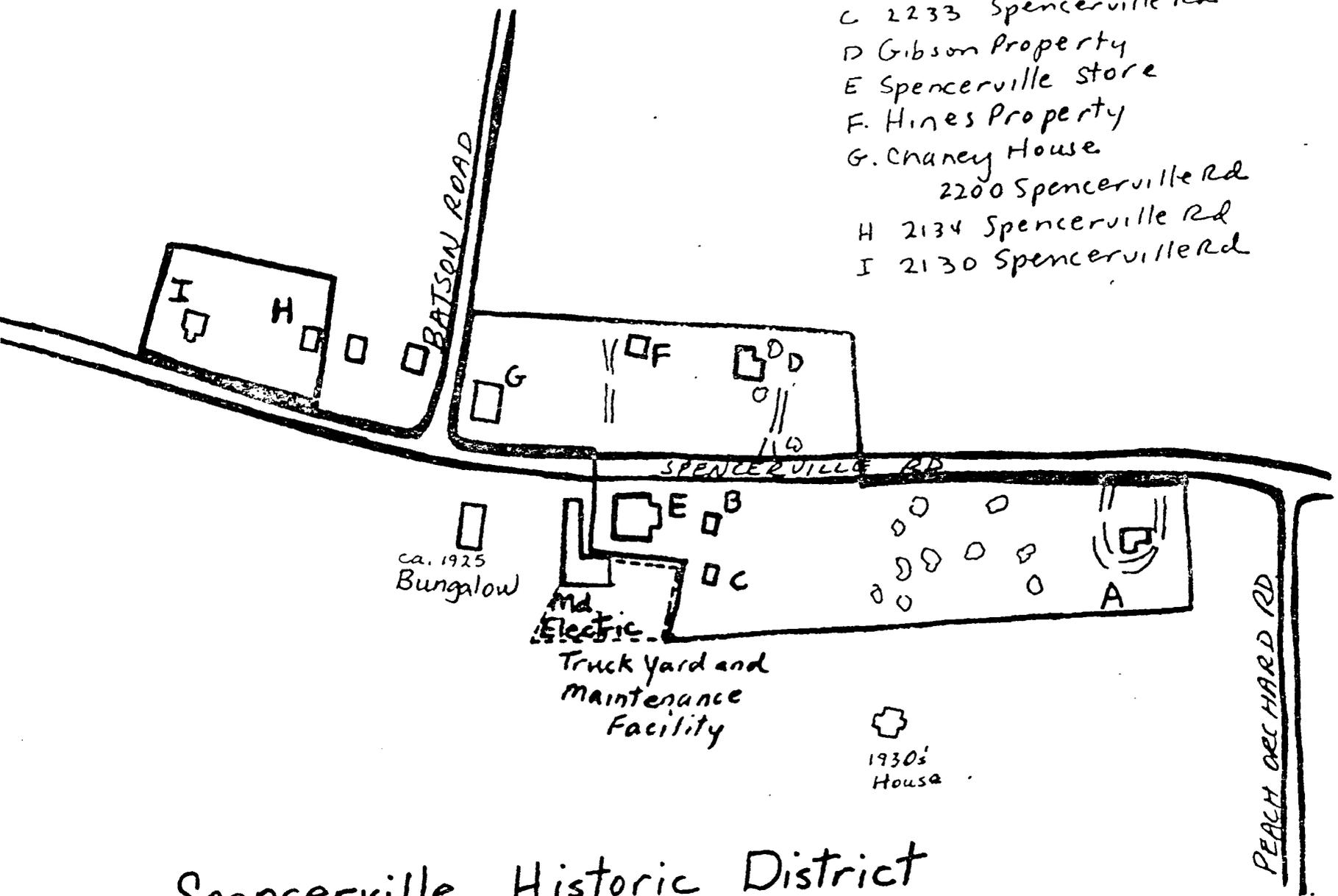
Charles Dickinson, died Jan. 5, 1858, aged 31.

Amelia, his wife, died April 8, 1861, aged 31.

Sarah T., wife of William H. Spencer, died Sept. 12, 1865, aged 66.

Mary A., wife of Charles E. Burns, born Jan. 9, 1819, died Nov. 23, 1876.

- A. 2323 Spencerville Rd
- B. 2229 Spencerville Rd.
- C. 2233 Spencerville Rd
- D. Gibson Property
- E. Spencerville store
- F. Hines Property
- G. Chaney House
2200 Spencerville Rd
- H. 2134 Spencerville Rd
- I. 2130 Spencerville Rd



Spencerville Historic District
see revised boundary map

MS-54

#15 54



General Store at Spencerville, 1892

M:15-54

NORTH PART OF BERRY DIST.

N^o 5.

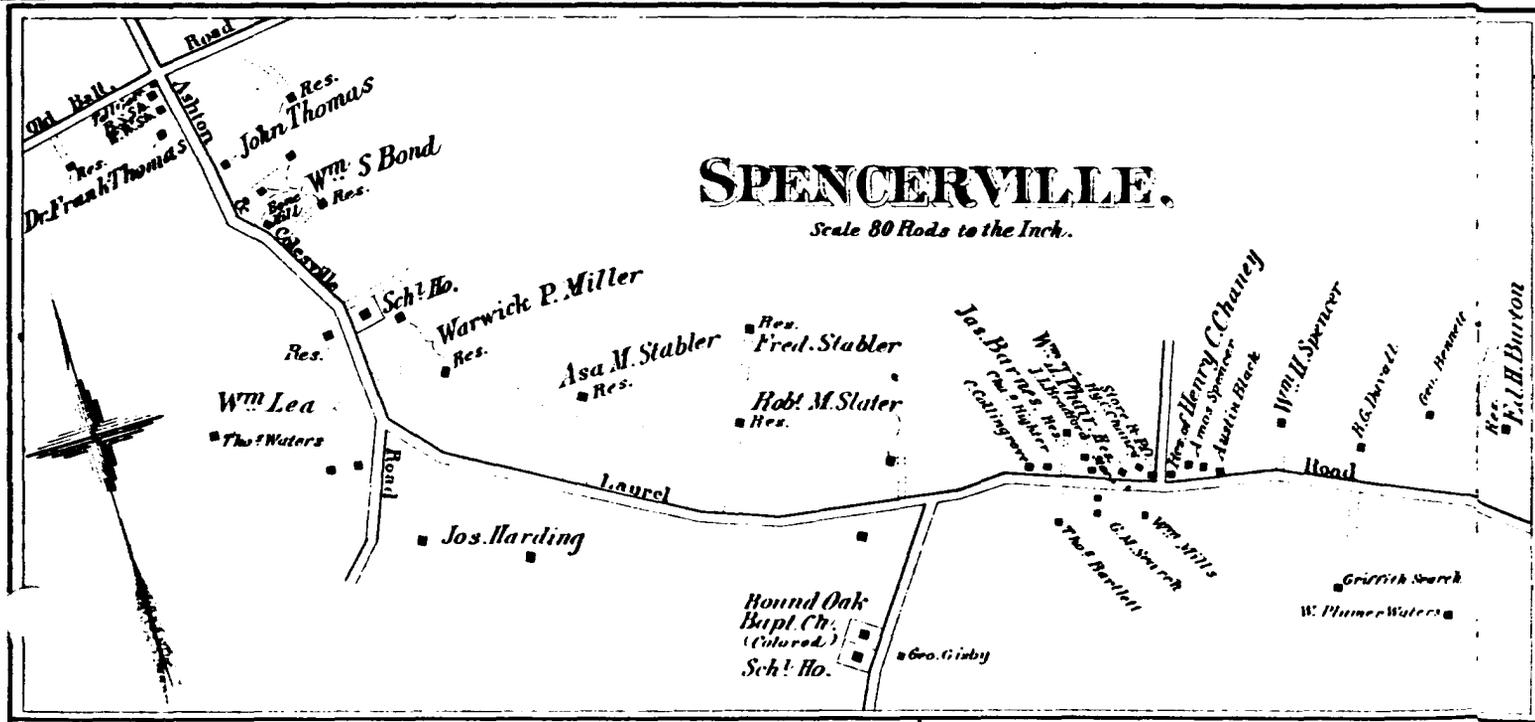
Mont. Co.

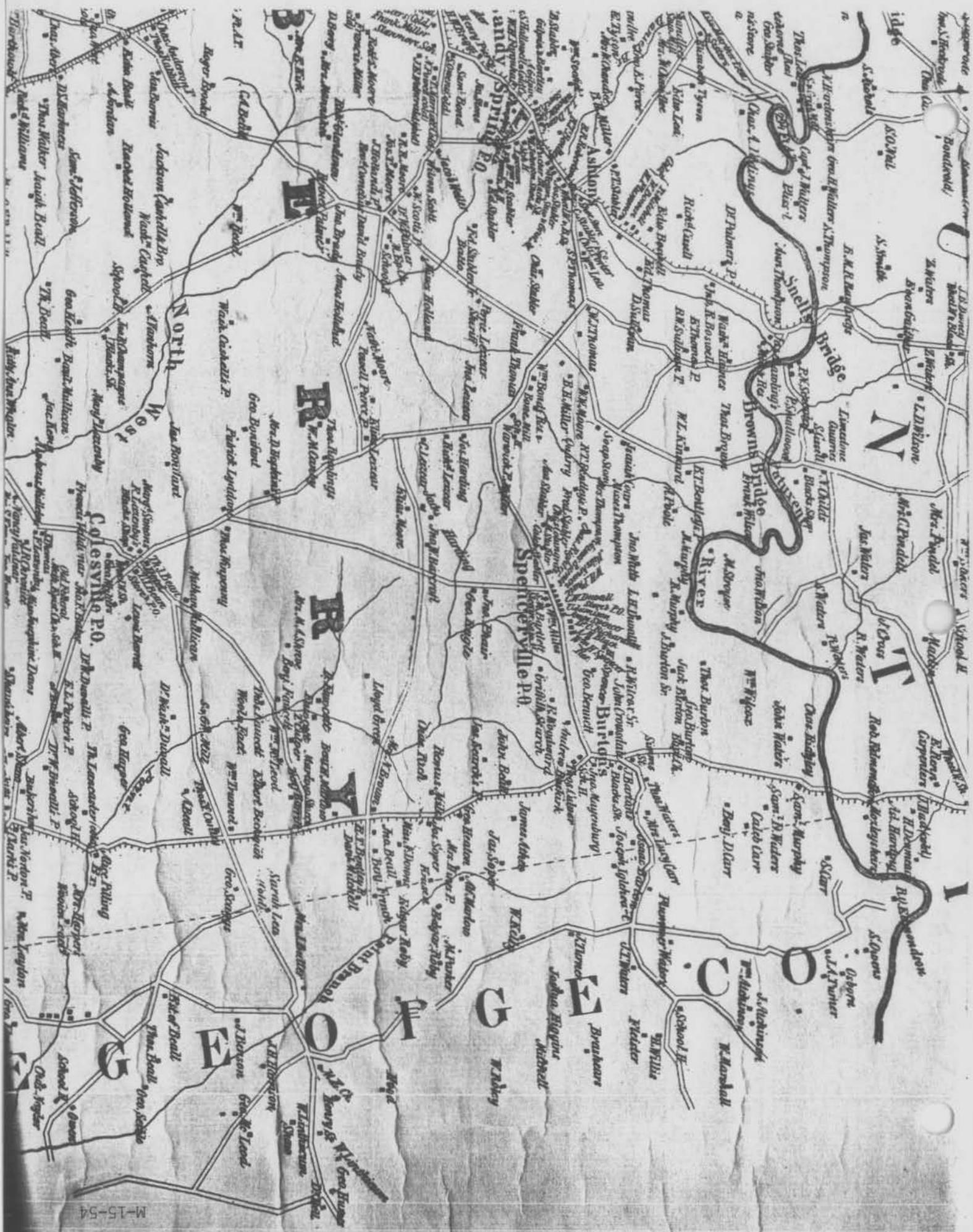
Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.



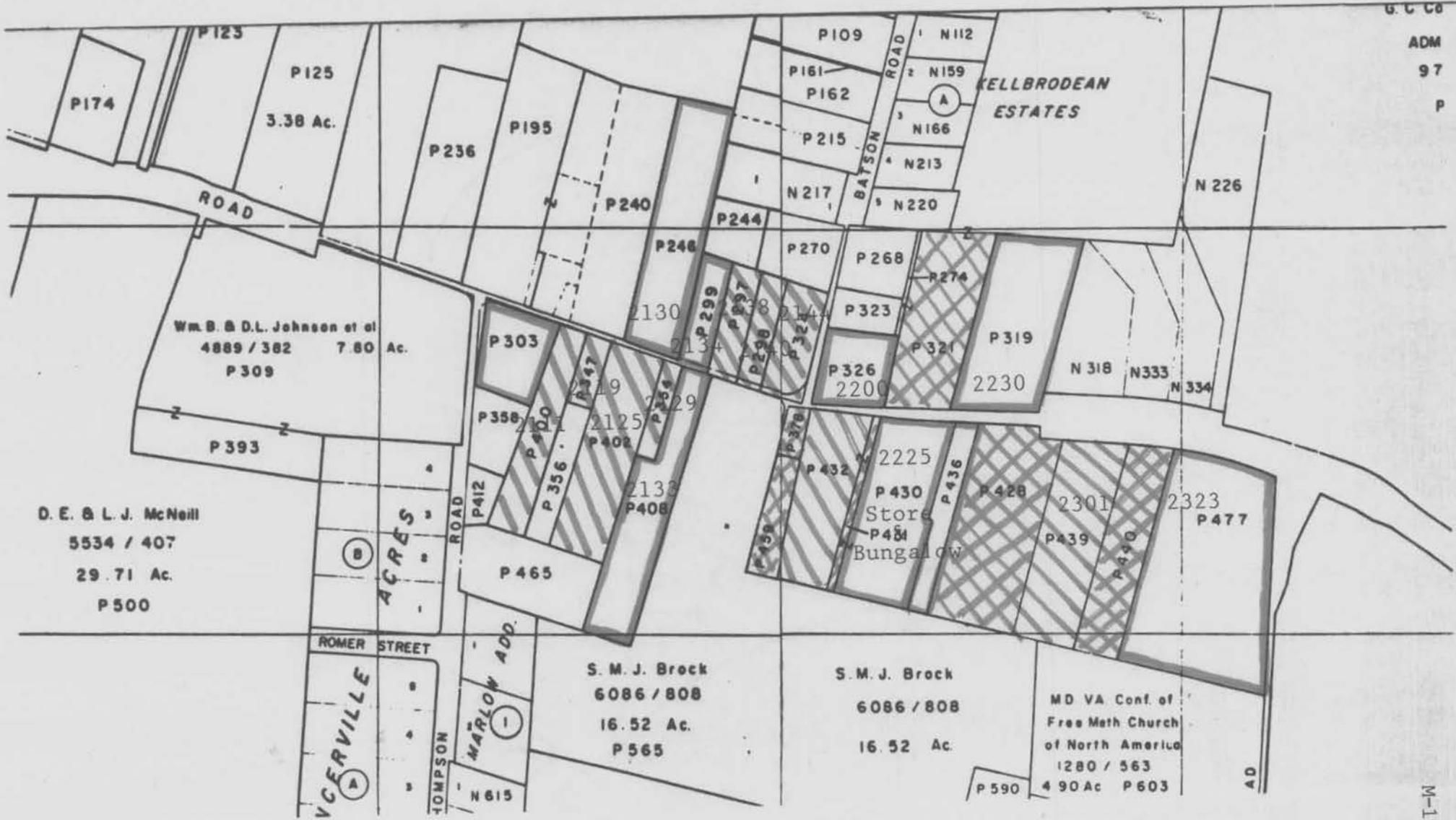
SPENCERVILLE.

Scale 80 Rods to the Inch.





SPENCERVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT



KEY
 [Solid Black Box] Contributing Buildings
 [Diagonal Lines Box] Infill
 [Cross-hatched Box] Unimproved

G. C. CO
 ADM
 97
 P

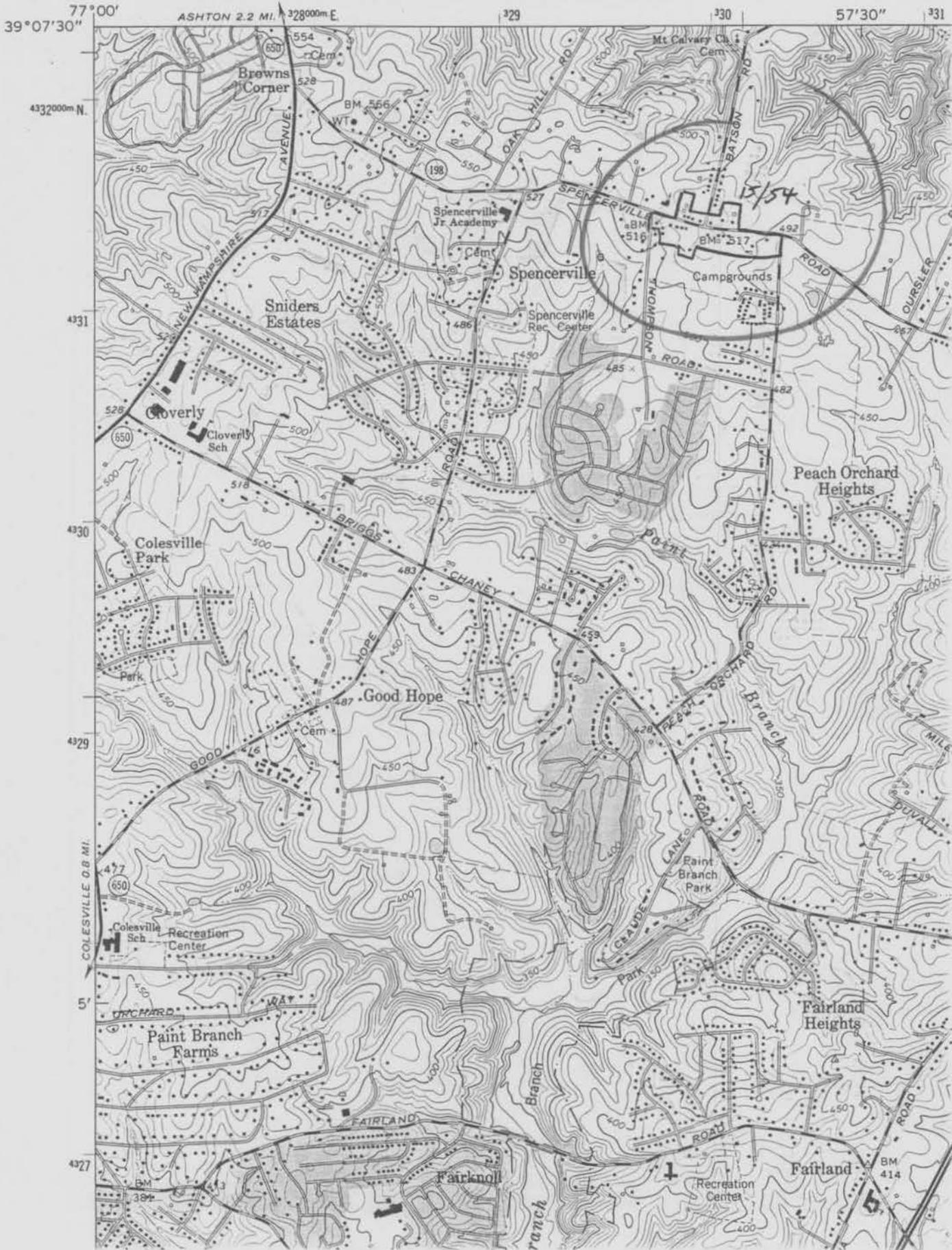
M-15-54

5562 II NE
(SANDY SPRING)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



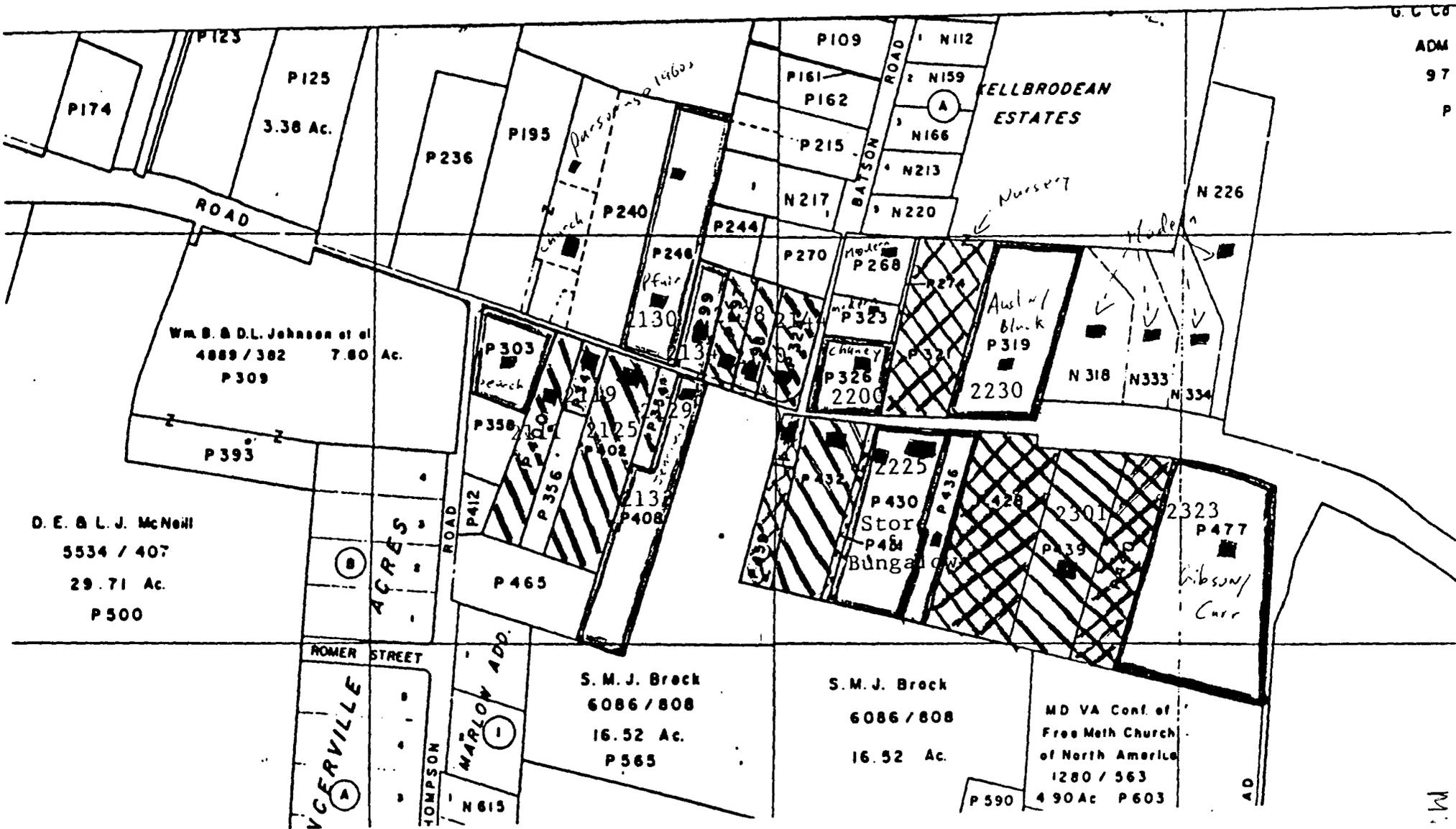
Beltsville Quad
M:15-54



**Inter County Connector Project
Northern Alternative
Quad Beltsville
Survey No. M:15-54
Spencerville Historic District**



SPENCERVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT



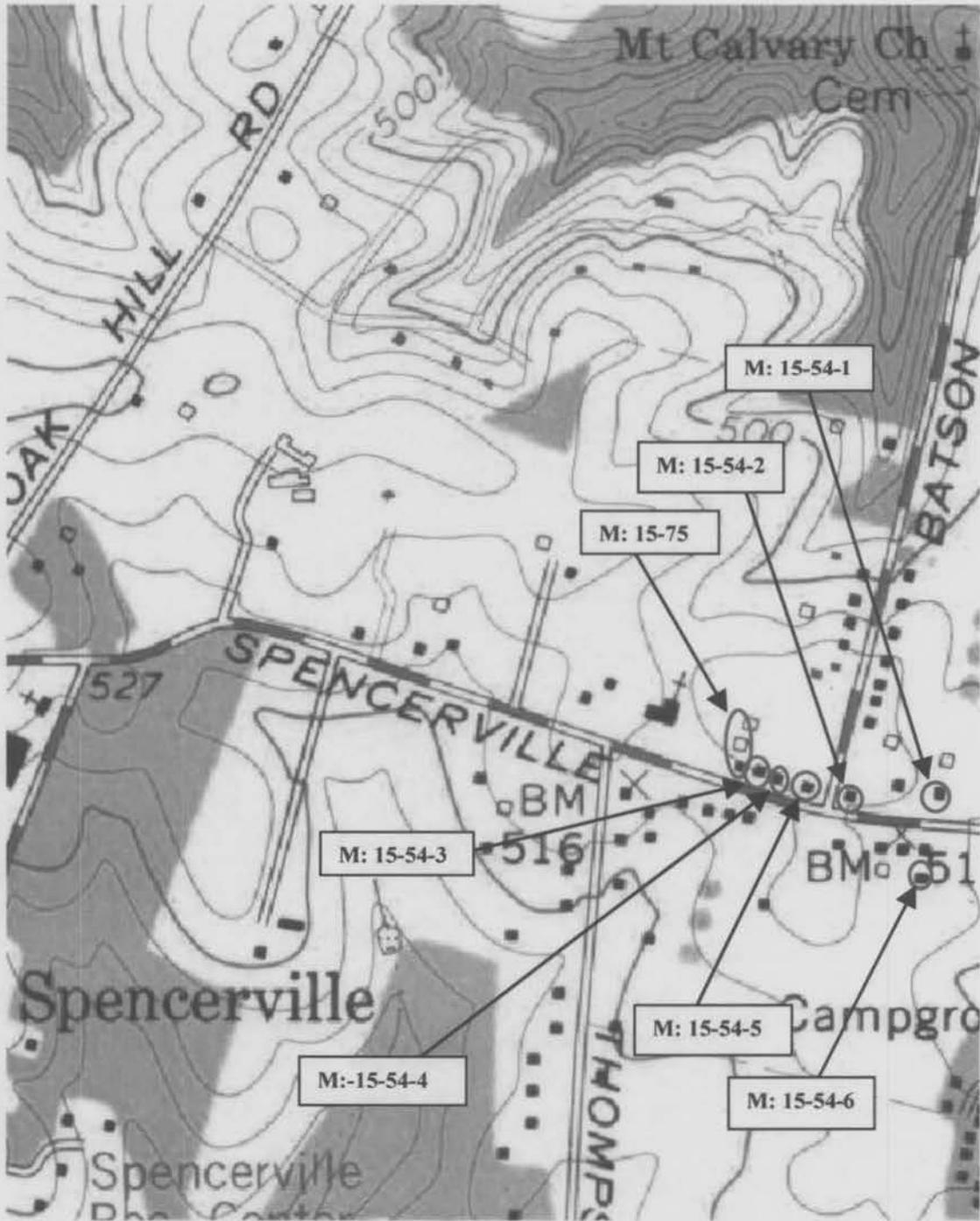
KEY

- Contributing Buildings
- Infill
- Unimproved

G. C. C. B.
ADM
97
P

M:15-54

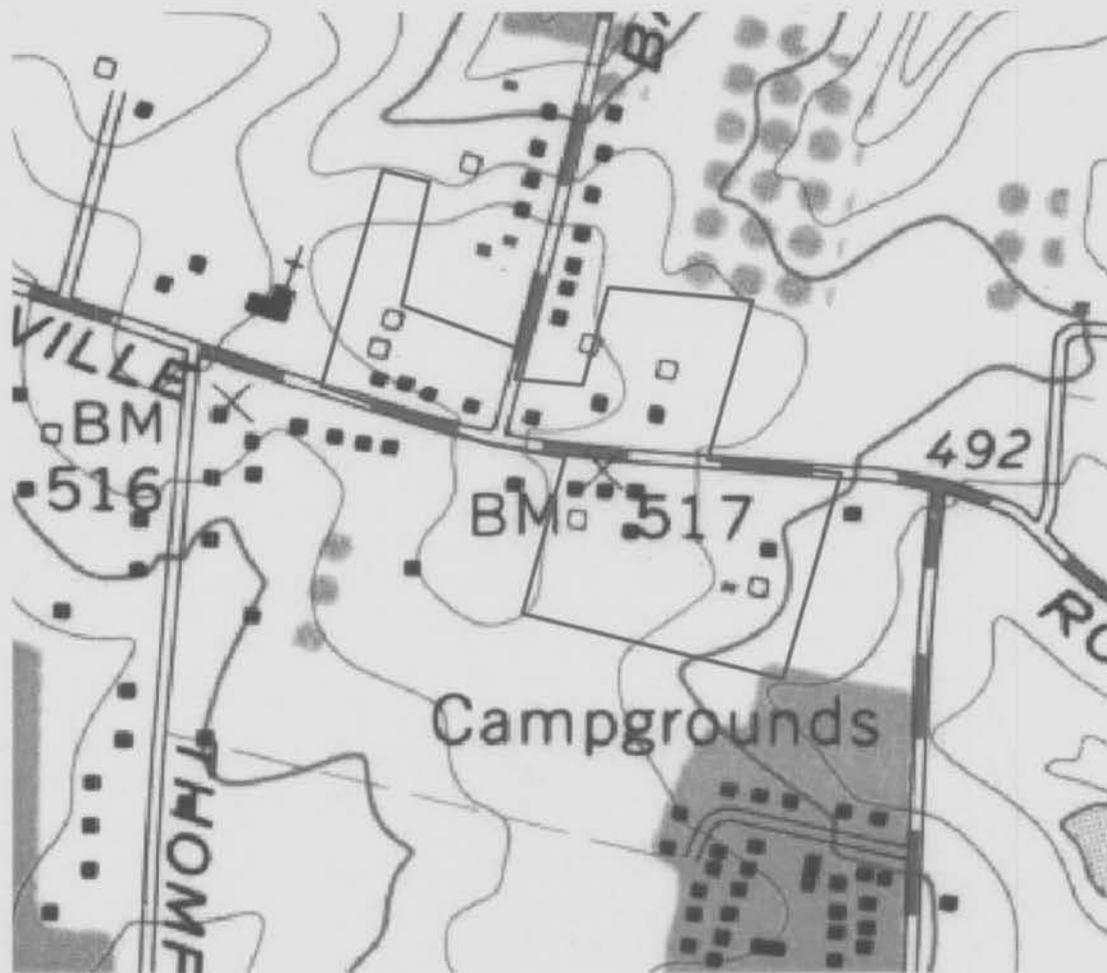
Spencerville
Beltsville Quad



M: 15-54
Spencerville Historic District
Beltsville Quadrangle



M: 15-54
Spencerville Historic District
Beltsville Quadrangle





1. M 15-54
 2. Sandwell Historic District
 3. Montgomery County, Maryland
 4. Tim Tamburino
 5. October 1996
 6. PAC Spew & Company
40W Chesapeake Avenue - Suite 412
Baltimore, MD 21204
 7. View east towards Spencer's Store
- E. 1 of 16



1. M. 15-54
2. Spencerville Historic District
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Tim Tamburino
5. October 1996
6. PAC Spew & Company
40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412
Baltimore, MD 21204
7. 230 Spencerville Road Front Elevation -
View North
8. 2 of 16



1. M. 15-54
2. Spencerville Historic District
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Tom Tamburris
5. October 1976
6. PAC Spero & Company
40 W Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412
Baltimore, MD 21204
7. 2134 Spencerville Road, Front Elevation
View North
8. 3 of 6



1. M: 15-54

2. Spencerville Historic District

3. Montgomery County, Maryland

4. Tim Lambourna

5. October 1996

6. PAC Spencerville Company

4301 Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

Bethesda, MD 20814

7. 2133 Spencerville Road, Front Elevation
View South

8. 4.1.18



1. M15-54
2. Spencerville Historic District
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Tim Tamburino
5. October 1976
6. PAC Special Company
40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 402
Baltimore, MD 21204
7. 2138 - 2142 Spencer & King Front Elevators
View North-west
8. 5 of 6



1. M: 15-54
2. Spencerville Historic District
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Tom Tamburino
5. October 1996
6. PAC Spero & Company
40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 42
Baltimore, MD 21204
7. Post Office, Spencerville Road, Front Elevation
View South
8. 6 of 16



1. M 15 54

2. Spencerville Historic District

3. Montgomery County, Maryland

4. Tim - Ambrose

5. October 1976

6. PAC Spenc & Company

40 W Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

Baltimore MD 21202

7. 220' Spencerville Road Front & location
View South

8. 7 of 6



1. M: 5-54

2. Spencerville Historic District

3. Montgomery County, Maryland

4. Tim Tamburino

5. October 1996

6. PACSpend & Company

40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

Baltimore, MD 21204

7. 2200 Spencerville Road Four-Fluorine
View North

8. 8 of 10



1. M 5 201

2. Spencer's Historic District

3. Management Comm. Minutes

4. Tim Timmerman

5. October 1996

6. PAC Spencer Company

410 W Chesapeake Avenue Suite 42

Baltimore MD 21204

7. Maryland Electric Spencer's Road
From Elevation View South

8. 9 of 16



1. M15-54
2. Spencer v. Historic District
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Tim Tamburino
5. October 1992
6. PAC Spens & Company
40 W Chesapeake Avenue Suite 412
Farmingdale NY 11737
7. Spencer v State 2215-30000 & Fed
Firm Flouider Van Southeast
8. 1006



1 M. 15-54

2 Spencer's Division District

3 Montross County, Plaintiff

4 Tim Gumburine

5 Cedar 1916

6 PAC Sporo & Company

40 W Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412
Baltimore MD 21204

7 A First newspaper, Inc. - View Number

8. 11 of 16



1. M 5 54

2. Spencer & Historic District

3. Montgomery County, Maryland

4. Tim Tamour

5. October 1996

6. PAC Speno & Company

40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 402

Baltimore, MD 21204

7. 2233 Spencerville Road Front Elevation
View South

8. 12 of 16



1 M 15-54

2. Spencerville Historic District

3. Montgomery County Maryland

4. Tax Assessment

5. October 1996

6. PAC Spew & Company

40 W. Chesapeake Avenue Suite 42

Baltimore, MD 21204

7. 2230 Spencerville Road Front Elevation
View North

8. 13 of 16



1. M 15.54

2. Spencerville Historic District

3. Montgomery County, Maryland

4. Tom Tamburino

5. October 1976

6. PAC Spero & Company

40 W. Chesapeake Avenue Suite 412

Baltimore MD 21204

7. 2301 Spencerville Road North Elevation
View South

8. 14 of 16



1. M 13.54
2. Spencer's Historic District
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Tim Tamovics
5. October 1996
6. PAC Spero & Company
40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412
Baltimore, MD 21204
7. Street-scrap. View West from Spencer's
Store
8. 16 of 16



1. M. 15-54
2. Spencerville Historic District
3. Montgomery County, Maryland
4. Tim Tamburrino
5. October 1996
6. PAC Spere & Company
40 W. Chesapeake Avenue Suite 40
Baltimore MD 21201
7. Streetscape View West from Post Office
8. 16 of 16



#15-54 SPENCERVILLE HISTORIC DIST.
SEARCH HS., RT 198 & THOMPSON RD.
3/86



#15-54 SPENCERVILLE HISTORIC DIST.

#2200 SPENCERVILLE RD.

3/86



#15-54 SPENCERVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
NORTH SIDE RT. 1983 LOOKING WEST
STREETSCAPE w/ INFILL IN FOREGROUND
3/86



15-54 SPENCERVILLE HISTORIC DIST.
2230 SPENCERVILLE RD.
AUSTIN BLACK HOUSE
3/ex



#15-54 SPENCERVILLE HISTORIC DIST.
STRUCTURE BEHIND #2130
SPENCERVILLE RD.

3/26



15 54 SPENCERVILLE HIST. DIST.
STREETSCAPE - SO. ~~SIDE~~ RT 198
LOOKING WEST - INFILL

3/86



15-54 SPENCERVILLE HISTORIC DIST.
2133 SPENCERVILLE RD.

3/26



15-54 SPENCERVILLE HISTORIC DIST.

2134 SPENCERVILLE RD.

PARSONAGE HS.

3/86



B-5A SPENCERVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
SPENCERVILLE STORE

3/86



#1554 SPENCERVILLE HISTORIC DIST.

3/20



#1554 SPENCERVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
2130 SPENCERVILLE RD.
WILLIAM THAIR ITS

3/96



#15-54 SPENCERVILLE HISTORIC DIST.

2420 SPENCERVILLE RD.

GIBSON HOUSE

3/86



HENRY C. CHANEY HOUSE

NAME 2200 SPENCERVILLE Rd (Rt. 198) CORNER OF BATSON Rd SPENCERVILLE, Md

LOCATION ~~END OF SUPPLEE CA, OFF BROOKLYN BRIDGE Rd. CHANDEL, Md~~

FACADE ~~E~~ S

PHOTO TAKEN ~~1/18/73 H. DWYER~~ 1/17/73 H. DWYER



NAME 2218 Spencerville Road

#15-54

LOCATION Rt. 198 OPPOSITE SPENCERVILLE STORE, SPENCERVILLE, Md.

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 1/17/73 M. DWYER