

Mont. 17-8-4
Harper Family Log House
Wheaton Regional Park
Public

late 18th century
early 19th century

This one and a half story log house was dismantled and reassembled in Wheaton Regional Park as a "pioneer cabin" exhibit. In the late 19th century and throughout half of the 20th, it was the home of a Black landowning family. It contained one room down and two up and had a large stone fireplace with brick stack. The parents raised a total of 15 children in this three room house, though not all children were living here at the same time.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 17-8-4

Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Richard Thomas Harper House (Site)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER West side of Cattail Road

CITY, TOWN Poolesville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Jonesville 8

STATE Maryland VICINITY OF COUNTY Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	No	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER
			Woods

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME H.W Pumphrey Telephone #: 349-2691

STREET & NUMBER 19825 Fisher Avenue

CITY, TOWN Poolesville VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 20837

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 2276 Property Map Folio #: 338 (CT 43 p. 735)

STREET & NUMBER County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE M-NCPPC: 17-6

DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS M-NCPPC

CITY, TOWN Silver Spring STATE Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1976</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This small one and a half story house was dismantled and reassembled in the Wheaton Regional Park as an example of a "pioneer house" for the Bicentennial in 1976. The following description is based upon the recollection of Mr. Joe Harper, who was raised in the log house. Further notes will be added from the research collection of the park personnel who dismantled it.

The house was plain in design. Its facade contained three bays, a door centrally located and a window with double hung sash and six over six panes. The upstairs had two windows in the front length (and back too). The logs were covered with weatherboards, were not whitewashed, according to Harper.

Along the gable end ascended a large, stone firebox with a brick stack. Wood shingles covered the gable roof.

Inside, the dwelling consisted of one room down and two up. The downstairs room served a multiplicity of purposes: kitchen, dining room, sitting room, wash room and family room for work and gathering. The logs were not sheathed inside and were whitewashed. There was a wood cook stove.

The upstairs was frame, instead of log. One room was the parents' and infants' room, and the other bedroom for the children.

Behind the house was a hen house, smoke house, and privy. There was a hog pen at a further distance. The family also had a vegetable garden and a large orchard with apple, peach, plum and crabapple trees, along with quince bushes. Harper's mother made jellies from these fruits, and canned them, in addition to vegetables.

If a visit can be arranged with Joe Harper to Wheaton Park more details will be added to this description.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1976 this log house was dismantled by the M-NCPPC and re-assembled in the Wheaton Regional Park as an example of a "pioneer" log cabin, according to Mike Dwyer, Park Historian. Since the house is on exhibit to the public, it would make for a fine exhibit on the life styles of specific families who lived in it. Three of the Harper brothers, who were raised in this house, are still living and reside in upper western Montgomery County. I have notified the M-NCPPC about these people, who would be willing to serve as oral informants, in order to enrich the present exhibit with their personal history. At this time, I am still awaiting their response.

According to Mike Dwyer, who examined this house while it was still standing in situ, the house was late 18th century or early 19th century, based upon the presence of beaded boards for the enclosed stairway and the large stone fireplace. According to Joe Harper, one of the brothers raised in this house, his father did not build the house and it was considered an old house in the early 1900's so its oral history does indicate that it was built at least before the third quarter of the 19th century. Further examination of the structure might permit more accurate dating, if its original pieces remain.

The title search on this property did not produce clear results because the records led to a dead-end, which further research might circumvent. In 1942 this tract of 4 acres plus improvements was sold for taxes. The sale was recorded in item #18, Judgement Record 66/156, Miscellaneous Petitions, 1222. The tract was assessed in the name of Thomas Harper, the father of the family who was raised in this house in the early 1900's. There was no "being clause" in item #18, nor was there a Thomas Harper listed as grantee in the land records index for 1777-1927 or 1928-1952. It is most likely that the land was purchased under another name, perhaps Richard Harper or Rachel Harper. There were several Richard Harpers listed as grantees, but the names of the grantors were not familiar to this vicinity, and time did not permit further research. Perhaps park historians can pursue these leads further.

According to the 1900 U.S. Census for Montgomery County, Richard Harper was born in 1855. His wife Rachel, was born in 1866. Living with them were eight children, listed on the attached page. All of the family were born in Maryland. Richard Harper was employed as a farm laborer.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Land Records, Montgomery County, Rockville, Maryland
- 2) U.S. Census, 1900, Montgomery County, Maryland, E.D. 52, p 11B
- 3) Oral interviews with Joe Harper, Jerusalem community, September-October, 1978, by George McDaniel.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, SurveyorWesley Stubbs, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

Sept. 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

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

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
Box 87, Stronghold
Dickerson, Md. 20753
(301) 926-4510

Significance (continued)

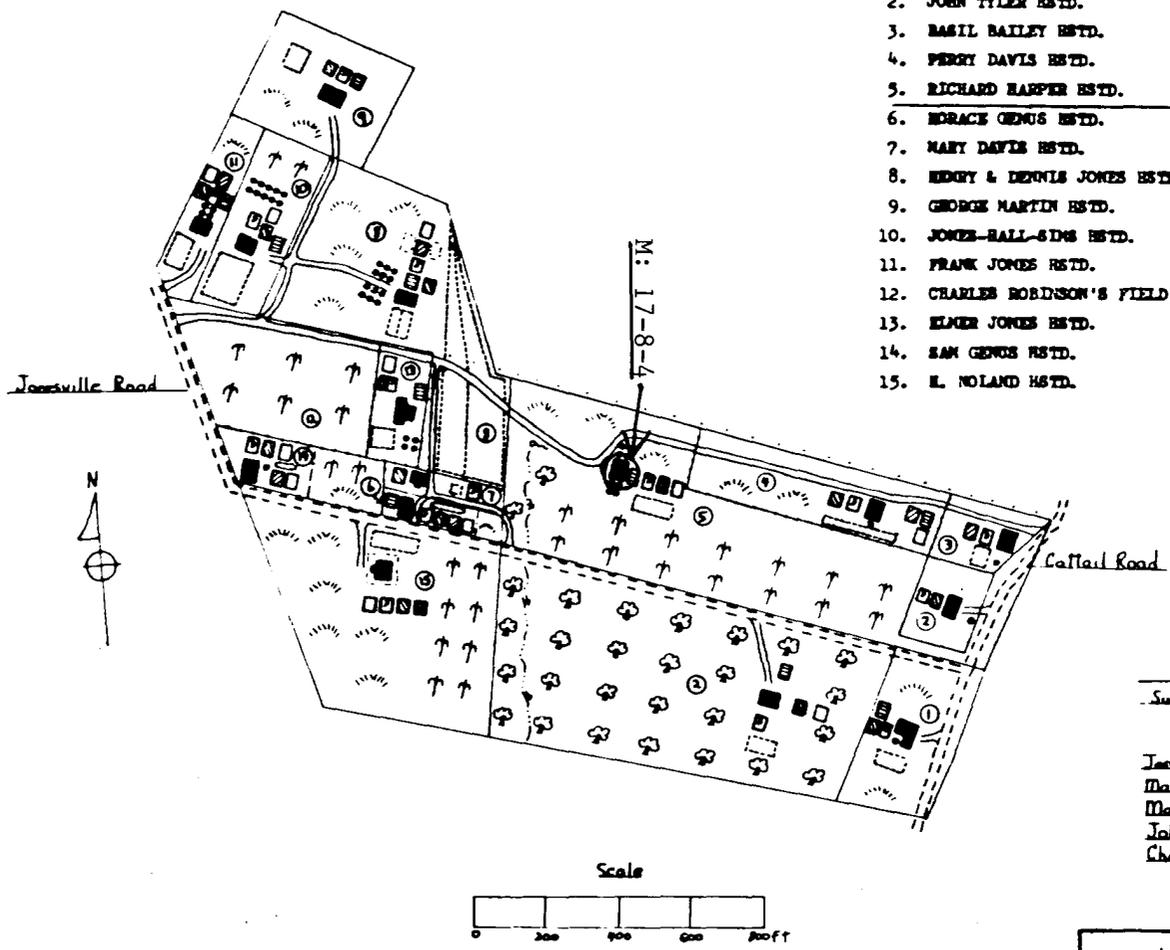
According to Joe Harper, 15 children were raised in this house.

The family photograph of Richard Harper's father, Thomas Harper, was copied as part of this survey and may be seen with the Henry Payne site in the Peachtree Road community, 12-41-2. Henry Payne's wife, Julie Ann Harper Payne, was the sister of Richard Harper and daughter of Thomas Harper.

Another photograph copied during this survey was the one of Rachael Ann Hall Harper. She was born in Jonesville, and was the daughter of Levin Hall, whose house was recorded in this, 17-51-17.

- CHURCH
- CEMETERY
- LODGE
- COMMUNITY CENTER
- STORE
- POST OFFICE
- SCHOOL
- DWELLING
- PIG PEN
- STABLE
- MEAT HOUSE
- BEE HOUSE
- MILK HOUSE
- CORN/VEGET. HOUSE
- PIG PEN
- GARDEN
- PASTURE
- CORNFIELD
- HAY FIELD
- ORCHARD
- FOREST
- THICKET
- WELL
- SPRING
- STREAM
- POND
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- FENCED PARCEL BDY.
- FENCE
- DIRT ROAD
- LANE
- PATH
- STREAM FLOW

DWELLINGS AND OUTBUILDINGS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE
 HSTD. = HOMESTEAD PROP. = PROPERTY

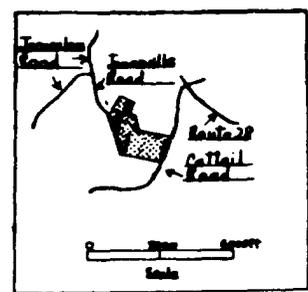
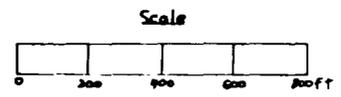


Key

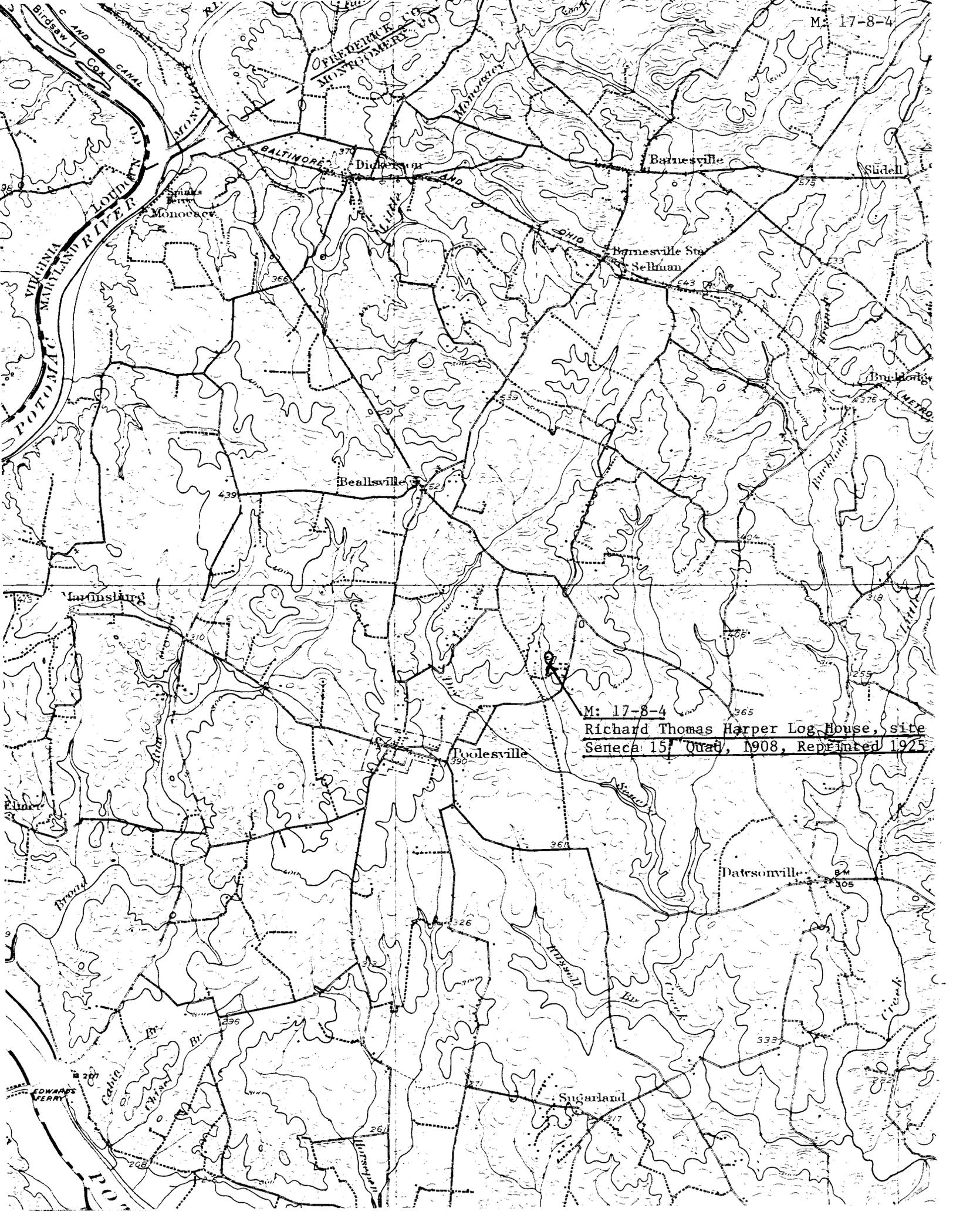
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. SOLOMON OWENS HSTD. | 2.50 AC. |
| 2. JOHN TYLER HSTD. | 10.66 AC. |
| 3. BASIL BAILEY HSTD. | 1.75 AC. |
| 4. PERRY DAVIS HSTD. | 3.00 AC. |
| 5. RICHARD HARPER HSTD. | 8.25 AC. |
| 6. HORACE GEVUS HSTD. | 1.00 AC. |
| 7. MARY DAVIS HSTD. | 1.00 AC. |
| 8. HEDDY & DENNIS JONES HSTD. | 5.76 AC. |
| 9. GEORGE MARTIN HSTD. | 2.50 AC. |
| 10. JONES-BALL-SIMS HSTD. | 2.00 AC. |
| 11. FRANK JONES HSTD. | 1.13 AC. |
| 12. CHARLES ROBINSON'S FIELD | 3.00 AC. |
| 13. ELMER JONES HSTD. | 1.00 AC. |
| 14. SAM GEVUS HSTD. | 1.30 AC. |
| 15. E. NOLAND HSTD. | 7.75 AC. |

Source
 Steven Donville
 Sugmeleaf Regional Trails

Oral Informants
 Joseph Harper
 Martha Johnson
 Mary Reed
 John Sims
 Charlie Turner

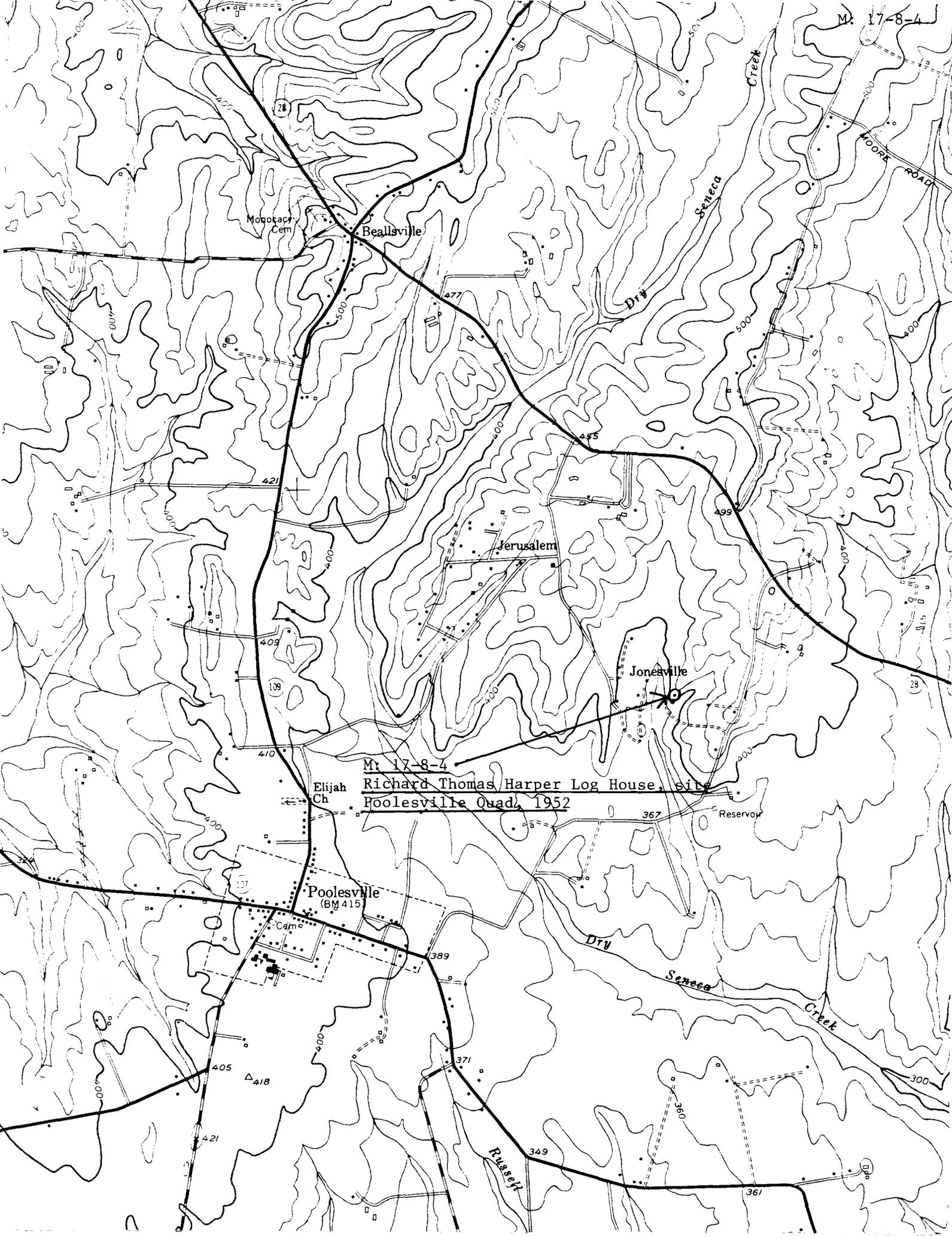


MAP 7
 JONESVILLE COMMUNITY, c. 1900-1925

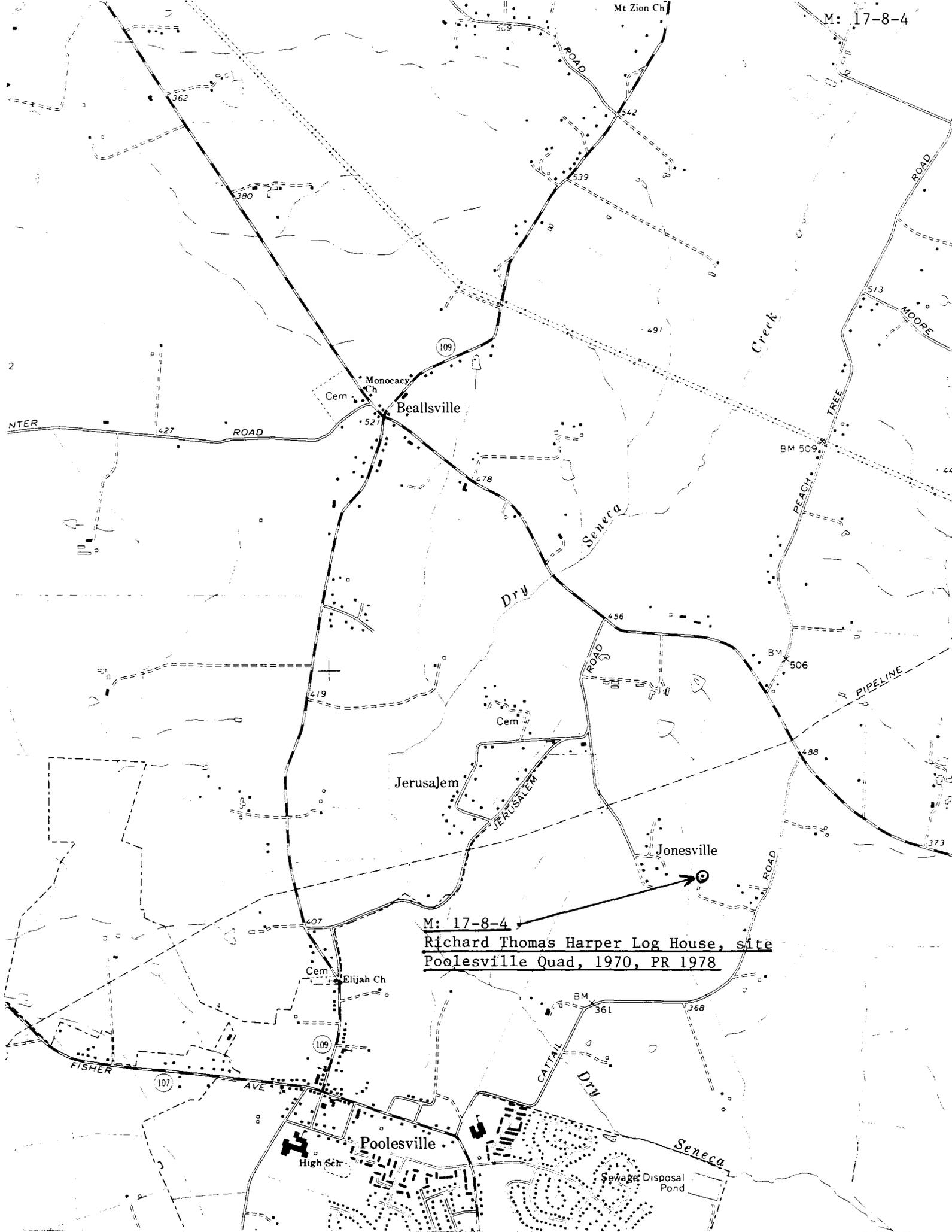


M: 17-8-4
Richard Thomas Harper Log House, site
Seneca 15' Quad, 1908, Reprinted 1925

M. 17-8-4



M. 17-8-4
Richard Thomas Harper Log House, site
Poolesville Quad, 1952



M: 17-8-4
Richard Thomas Harper Log House, site
Poolesville Quad, 1970, PR 1978



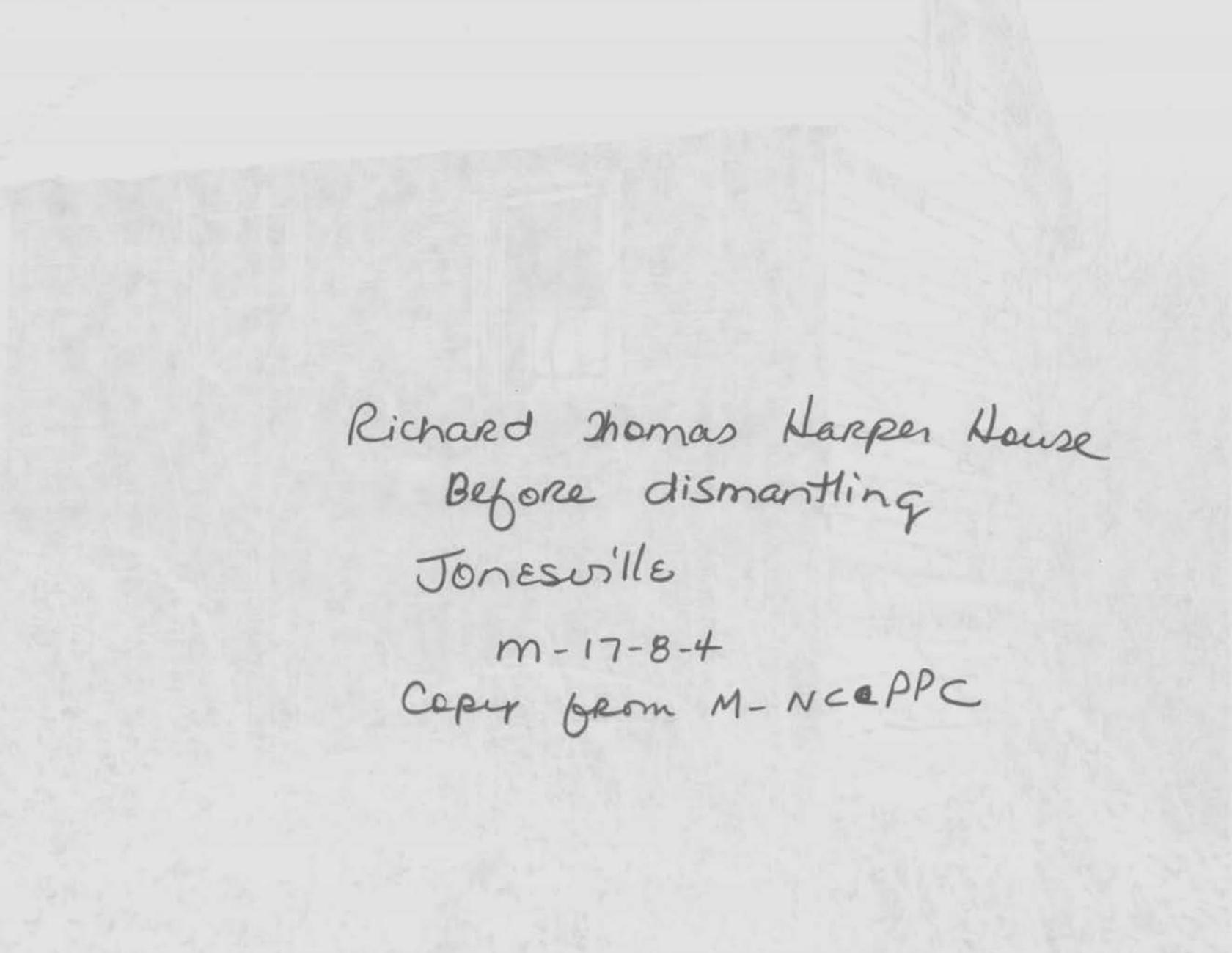
3 ~~2~~ Harper, wife of
M-17-8-4 Richard Thomas Harper

Jonesville

10/78

Arme Lewis





Richard Thomas Harper House
Before dismantling
Jonesville

m-17-8-4

Copy from M-NCAAPC



Richard Thomas Harper House
before dismounting

Lowville
M-17-8-4

copy from M-NCRCC

