

Montgomery County Historic Site Survey, Site ^{M:}#23-34
Unity Historic District
Unity, Maryland
Access: Public/Restricted

Description:

Unity is located in the largely rural region of northeastern Montgomery County, along the Damascus Road just north of the intersection of Rt.s 650 & 97. Unity consists of a cluster of nineteenth century structures lying directly along the Damascus Road, all contiguous to each other and without noncontributing infill. The majority are typical of the vernacular architecture found in rural Montgomery County. They are two story frame residences with gable roofs with center gable facades, many with rear ells and elements of Victorian architecture. Also included are two residences, one brick and one frame, dating from the period around the turn of the eighteenth century.

Significance:

Unity is significant for its cluster of nineteenth century structures which rest undisturbed along a small stretch of the Damascus Road. Largely vernacular Victorian in style, these structures exemplify the type of architecture found in the rural areas of Montgomery County. Unity remains as what is left of a once prosperous nineteenth century village of residences and businesses which served the local farming community as well as trade traffice between Baltimore and Annapolis. During this period Unity included a tavern or Inn, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, a shoe shop, general store and post office.

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Unity, Maryland

and/or common Unity Historic District

2. Location

street & number 3315 through 3431 Damascus Road not for publicationcity, town Brookeville vicinity of congressional district 1st

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 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 attached)

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 Rockville state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title M-NCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records M-NCPPC Park Historian's Office

city, town Rockville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. M:23-34

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.

Unity is located in the largely rural region of north-eastern Montgomery County along the Damascus road (Rt. 650), just north of the intersection of Rt.s 650 & 97. It is only within a mile or two below the Patuxent River and the Howard County line. The Unity Historic District consists of a cluster of nineteenth century structures lying directly along the Damascus Road. They are all contiguous to each other, without the inclusion of any new, noncontributing structures.

The majority of these buildings (all of which currently serve as private residences) are typical of the vernacular architecture found in rural Montgomery County. They are two story, frame houses with gable roofs with center gable facades. Many include rear ells and elements of Victorian architecture. The exceptions to this are #3315 and #3324, both dating from the period around the turn of the eighteenth century. #3315 is a large, brick residence and #3324, which was constructed in parts, now has a Colonial Revival appearance.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 23-34

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/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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
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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.

The Unity Historic District is significant for its cluster of nineteenth century structures which rest undisturbed along a small stretch of the Damascus Road. Largely vernacular Victorian in style, these structures exemplify the type of architecture found in the rural areas of Montgomery County dating from the latter part of the nineteenth century. A few earlier structures are also standing.

Unity remains as what is left of a once prosperous nineteenth century village of residences and businesses which served the local farming community as well as trade traffic between Baltimore and Annapolis. Unity was said to have been only one days journey from Annapolis and, therefore, a good stopping point for trade traffic. Unity was also located on the road to Tridelphia which during the first half of the nineteenth century was an industrial center with a grist mill, saw mill, cotton factory and village (wiped out in the flood of 1868). Tridelphia, then, provided additional patronage of Unity's businesses and services. Indeed, much of the commercial enterprises in Unity catered to such traffic. During the nineteenth century Unity included a tavern or hotel, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, a shoe shop, general merchandise stores and a post office in addition to a church, school and a number of residences.

The town began its economic decline in the early twentieth century as growth in the county started to concentrate in down county areas closer to Washington, D.C. and as changes in transportation (ie. the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O railroad and the rise of the autobomile) were created. The road through Unity, then, no longer served as an important trade route. By the early twentieth century the town had only a store and blacksmith shop and

See Attachment Sheet

Attachment Sheet-

was thus, as it is today, largely residential. The last of Unity's commercial enterprises, the general merchandise store, closed down in the 1950's.

The centers of population and trade in Montgomery County have changed greatly during the twentieth century. Modern technology has revolutionized industry and transport and in the process created new areas of growth, leaving the old behind. Villages like Unity (and like Hyattstown, Clarksburg, Darnestown, etc.) which once served a valuable function in the old modes and routes of trade and industry are now largely nonproductive. Thus, while Unity today is strictly a community of nineteenth century residences, it also serves as a reminder of early patterns of growth and commerce in Montgomery County.

HISTORY & SUPPORT

The history of Unity dates back quite far, to the eighteenth century. The tract of land upon which the town rests, "John & Sarah," was surveyed in 1724 for John Philburn and included 200 acres. It was Henry Griffith and Henry Gaither, both prominent citizens of Montgomery County who featured significantly in the Revolutionary War efforts, who have been credited with the founding of the town. Both had large estates not far from the present town site and were perhaps the earliest settlers in this area, establishing their families here circa. 1775. However, it is not until 1700's that further evidence of inhabitation in the Unity area is discovered. The 1783 tax assessments list three males as owning parts of the "John & Sarah" tract. John Prather had 160 acres with a frame dwelling, a log dwelling and four out houses. Joseph West Plummer had 61 1/4 acres with three log cabins and John Musgrove had 10 1/4 acres of unimproved land. Dennis Griffith's 1794 map is the first acknowledgment of the small crossroads village which appeared as "Unity T." According to Thomas Scharf's, History of Western Maryland, p. 717, the town of Unity was officially created by an Act of Assembly prior to 1806. Scharf also mentions that the first house, however, was not erected until 1811 by Elisha Gaither (now gone). Evidently this structure was soon followed by others. Scharf goes on to list the first business, probably a general merchandise store, established by Garrett Gaither in 1813; the first hotel established by Hugh Anderson prior to 1818, and a post office with William Price as the first postmaster in 1824. By 1827, the village included six dwellings.

The development of Unity was undoubtedly due at least in part to its location along a major road from Baltimore to Annapolis as well as its proximity to the town of Tridelfia with its cotton factory and grist mills. Supposedly there was also a cattle weighing station in the area at one time. The town was said to have been one days journey from Annapolis. Unity, then, was a convenient stopping point for travelers on business to or from one of these locations. Indeed, the commercial enterprises in Unity catered to such traffic with a tavern or hotel, blacksmiths and wheelwrights, a shoe shop and general merchandise store, all of which appeared in Unity over the years.

By 1865, the Martinet & Bond Map shows in the village of Unity a church (an Episcopal chapel now gone), blacksmith shop, shoe shop, a store and six residences. Thus, it was a thriving community. Unity appears much

the same on the Hopkin's Atlas of 1879, with the addition of a few more residences.

T.S. Boyd's, History of Montgomery County, Maryland, speaks of Sunshine, but not Unity in 1879. Evidently Sunshine (located approximately one mile east of Unity) and Unity were often mixed and either name used to refer to the two villages together. Or else, there was a rivalry going on as to which town the area post office would be located. In fact, the Unity post office was moved to Sunshine in December of 1870, reverted back to Unity in January of 1874, back to Sunshine in March of 1874 and finally to Unity in March of 1885 where it remained until discontinued in August of 1908 in favor of rural free delivery. In fact, Unity is said to have had the third oldest post office in the county (Scharf). The post offices of each town were located in the town's general store. In addition, Boyd's Discussion of Sunshine describes it as having good soil, producing corn, wheat and hay. He gives a population of 150 persons. A study of Hopkin's Atlas of that same year reveals that Boyd is referring to Sunshine as a community encompassing the village of Unity as well as the surrounding farms within a few miles radius of Sunshine. Thus, Unity can also be described in general terms as a rural farming community with a concentration of residences and businesses which serve the local farmers as well as travelers along the roadway.

Unity must have seen prosperous years from the last quarter of the nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Evidence of this is seen in the present village of Unity which includes a number of residences and a general store constructed during this period. During this time Unity still had a number of businesses such as store, shoe shop, blacksmith and wheelwright. It also boasted a church and a school (at least two in Unity's history, one still standing). The town also had a resident doctor, Dr. Spurrier, who had an office in his home in town, and a dentist, Dr. Dwyer who actually made house-calls. The store in Unity had always been a mainstay of the community. It provided all the necessary goods including groceries, clothing, dry goods, hardware and anything else the area residents might need. Over the years it also served as a center of activity for the community as a place where residents could gather (for more information see resources, Unity Store).

By the early part of the 1900's, however, business in Unity would be reduced to a blacksmith shop and a general merchandise store. Changes in the pattern of growth in Montgomery County as well as changes in trans-

portation and industry were undoubtedly responsible for the decline in the economy of Unity. The growth areas of the county switched to the more southerly regions closer to Washington, D.C. The coming of the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad greatly affected transportation and transport routes (it did not pass through or even close to Unity). In additon, a disasterous flood had years ago destroyed the town of Tridelphia which had supplied business to Unity.

During most of the twentieth century Unity was a residential town with a general store. The last of its commercial enterprises, the store, finally closed down in the 1950's. Thus, the present village of Unity remains as a cluster of eighteenth and nineteenth century structures lining a small section of the Damuscus Road. It is now a residential community, peacefully situated in the largely undisturbed countryside of northeastern Montgomery County.

RESOURCES

The Unity Store building is all that remains of the commercial structures once found in the town. This is an L-shaped, two story, five bay wide frame structure with a gable roof. The building has two facade entries, one on each of the two main blocks. The first, on the long block, is covered by a porch supported by plain wooden posts. The second, on the forward extending block, is a commercial front with double, glass paneled doors. The larger block is lit by six over six sash windows and the extending block by one over one windows (probably replacements). The house has a small brick center chimney. It rests on a stone foundation, is covered with asbestos shingles and has a raised seam metal roof.

The store building was probably constructed by Lloyd Colliflower sometime between 1887 and 1892 during which time he purchased two lots from the Davis family (Deed JA 33/234 & JA 6/168). Lloyd Colliflower was the town's merchant. According to Hopkin's Atlas of 1879, he traded as "Colliflower & Harvey" selling "dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, oil, paint, fish, oysters, etc." This store was evidently a move for Colliflower as his store appears across the road from the present site in 1879.

In April of 1896, after Mr. Colliflower had defaulted on the mortgage, the property was sold by trustee. The description which appeared in the advertisement for mortgagee's sale went as follows; "The property fronts on the main street through said village (Unity) and is nearly surrounded by the rich farm formerly owned by Franklin Groomes. It is improved by a 2 story frame store house, about 20 x 40 feet, stable and other outbuildings. This is a well known and valuable business stand" (Equity, case #1380, Judgement Record 10/338). The store was sold for \$1400 to Charles Adler of Baltimore City (Deed JA 53/242).

In January of 1899, the store was purchased by Joshua Higgins and Clifford Howard who traded for a few years as "Higgins & Howard" until Mr. Howard sold out to Mr. Higgins who continued to run the store. Mr. Higgins originally had a store in Laytonsville but the number of other stores in that area created too much competition. Thus, he purchased the Unity store and moved his family into the town. The store sold general merchandise--groceries, clothing, hardware, etc. A warehouse building was then connected to the side of the store for the storage of excess goods. The store also housed the Unity post office. In addition, there was a road scale to the side of the store. Here, local farmers would bring their wa-

gons loaded with grain to be weighed before taking it to be sold (Mrs. Anna Higgins White, daughter of Joshua Higgins, October, 1984). Mr. Higgins was finally forced by debts to sell the store in 1922. It then consisted of 1/8 acre of land improved by a frame store house along with "a quantity of stock, goods, wares and Merchandise." Included on the 1/8 acre was a stable, wagon shed and corn house combined. According to the advertisement which appeared upon the sale, "This store is well located in a thriving community and is a splendid location for anyone desiring to enter the general merchandise Business..." (Judicals, March Term 1922, Judgement Record 33/115).

The store was purchased in June of 1926 by Charles N. Zeilter (402/244). He sold it in April of 1932 to John Fletcher Brown (534/423). Mr. Brown sold groceries, hardware, dry goods, gas & oil, work clothes, ice cream & candy, etc. Much of his merchandise was purchased from traveling salesmen and from his weekly trips to the Atlantic Wholesale Grocery Company located at the Baltimore inner harbor. Mr. Brown would close the store on Sunday afternoons to make these trips. As the only commercial enterprise in town at this time, Mr. Brown's store served as a community gathering place. The store stayed open until 9 or 10 o'clock in the evenings so that the local "loafers" and "liars" could sit around the coal stove or on the front porch and relax and tell their stories. Mr. Brown also speaks of the gypsies that would periodically come through town. One would attempt to keep the storekeeper busy while others stole from the store (Mr. John Fletcher Brown and daughter, Gloria Kennedy, October 1984).

Mr. Brown sold the store in May of 1954 to James and Eva Givens, the current owners (Deed 2128/180). They continued to run it as a general store for a few more years then finally went out of business. The store was then converted into a private residence which the Givens rent out.

Unity includes two, very early nineteenth century residences, the first and most authentic of which is the brick house at 3315 Damascus Road. This is a vernacular Georgian style brick house. It is rectangularly shaped and is four bays wide with a side gable roof. The entry is to the west side. The house is lit by six over six sash windows. The cornice is emphasized in the front with a shallow, stepped molding and in the rear by a more elaborate, dentiled molding. It has brick end chimneys with a small window vent to each side of the chimneys. A cut-out brick balcony-like porch covered by an arbor of vines runs the length of the facade. Underneath, a doorway is

open to the cellar. At the east side of the rear elevation is a 1 1/2 story, gable roofed brick wing. To the other side of that, also to the rear, is a single story, modern room addition. The current owners, Merritt and Nancy Chance, were told that the two inner layers of brick were made locally and that the outer layer including the curved brick used in the cornice were imported from England. Sand and lime was used to mortar the brick together. The house's end chimneys supply it with five fireplaces, two on each of the first and second stories and one large fireplace suitable for cooking in the cellar.

This residence is highly significant to the history of Unity not only because it is an early brick dwelling but because it has a long history of service to the community. This house served as the town's first hotel. It was used over the years as a hotel, tavern and as a store as well as a private residence. It was constructed circa 1810 by Hugh Anderson. Mr. Anderson purchased the lot on which this structure was built, 36 1/4 square perches, for \$18.12 1/2 in January of 1806 from Henry Gaither of Montgomery County (Deed M/454). According to Scharf's, History of Western Maryland, p.717, Hugh Anderson kept the first hotel in Unity, occupying what was later (1843-1884) the home of Nimrod Davis, for that purpose. In December of 1819, Mr. Anderson sold the property for \$1000 to Levi Chambers of Anne Arundel County (Deed V/51). He kept it only a short time, selling it to Andrew Graff of Montgomery County in January of 1820 (Deed V/175). Scharf states that Mr. Graff too ran a hotel here. He must have rented it out as well. An advertisement which appeared in the Maryland Journal on November 29, 1825 states, "The subscriber will rent his tavern stand in Unity, at present occupied by William Price, to a good tenant....-- Andrew Graff."

Later, in August of 1843, the Graff family sold the property to Nimrod Davis. Mr. Davis ran a tavern here, serving food and drink (Mrs. Anna H. White, Oct. 1984). In addition, Mr. Davis was the town's blacksmith and wheelwright with a shop adjacent to the house. Nimrod Davis died on October 4, 1884, leaving his property-personal and real- to his second wife, Susan Elms Davis, and his four children, William K. Davis, Lucretia A. Colli-flower, Silas W. Davis, and Mary Jane Young. The property was divided into lots and sold. The "brick house lot," being the former residence of Nimrod Davis, was sold for \$600 to Mr. Thomas J. Groomes.

Mr. Groomes later defaulted on the mortgage and in May of 1894, the house was offered for sale by a court appointed trustee. The improvements as listed in the advertisement of sale included a large, two story brick house of eight rooms and cellar with a new porch, a hen house, meat house,

well and garden with fruit growing (Equity, case #1209-1894, Judgement Records JA 12/484). It was purchased by Henry C. Brown (Deed TD 6/98) who in turn sold it to Mary E. Ensey in October of 1898 (Deed TD 6/100). Mary Ensey (later Mrs. John H. Connor) lived on the farm next door and rented this house out. For many years it was the home of Joshua Higgins, the town merchant, and his family.

In December of 1919 the house was sold to Charles N. Zeitler (288/388). Mr. Zeitler later purchased Mr. Higgin's store and became the town merchant. He later ran a small store out of the cellar of this house after selling the store to Mr. Brown (Mr. Brown, Oct.1984). Mr. Zeitler later conveyed the house to his daughter, Lillian Z. White, a widow from Washington, D.C. It was later conveyed to Mr. Zeitler's grandson, Nelson Whipp, who had cared for him in his later years.

In March of 1953, the house was sold to the current owners, Merritt and Nancy Chance (Deed 1771/75). The Chances spent three years making what was a somewhat dilapidated house livable. When they purchased it, the house had no central heat, running water in the kitchen only, the floors sagged, the house needed remortaring, etc. The Chances also replaced the wooden porch with the present brick one. They put regular walls in the second story which had previously been divided by thin partitions (apparently it had originally been one room). Later, part of the rear kitchen wing was removed and a family room added to the side of it. A carport was also added to the east side of the house at this time, in 1974. The chances keep the house well maintained with a fabulous garden to the rear.

Also quite old is 3324 Damascus Road which sits back off the street. This house was built in sections, the two rear parts being the oldest. Some say this is the oldest house standing in Unity. Assuming this is so, the rear part of the house was probably constructed by either Ephriam Gaither or John Prather. In July of 1799, Mr. Gaither purchased 103 acres of the "John & Sarah" tract for 164 pounds and 16 shillings from a trustee appointed to sell the real estate of John Prather, deceased (Deed H/537). John Prather does appear in the 1783 tax records as owning 160 acres of "John & Sarah" improved by a frame dwelling (16 x 24) and a log dwelling along with four out houses.

In August of 1823, Ephraim Gaither sold his farm with additional acreage to Francis Simpson (Deed x/165). It was stated in the deed that it had been agreed that

Gaither would exchange his farm in Montgomery County for Simpson's farm in Anne Arundle County. Scharf does mention in his History of Western Maryland that in 1827 Francis Simpson was living in the house later resided in by Francis Groomes (p. 718).

In May of 1828, Simpson sold the house along with 94 3/4 acres to William Price for \$1,421 (Deed BS 1/518). According to an advertisement which appeared in the Maryland Journal, November 29, 1825, William Price ran a tavern stand, first renting a house owned by Andrew Graff (#3315), then moving to a house "100 yards below his former stand." Whether this house was used as Mr. Price's new tavern stand is not known for sure. Following the death of William Price, his property was sold by trustee in September of 1860. It consisted of four improved lots. By process of elimination, our house was probably on lot #2 which was described as adjoining the village of Unity and consisting of over 100 acres improved by an "old dwelling house," stable and other outbuildings with a pump of "excellent" water in the yard (Equity # 171-1860, Judgment Record EBP 3/475). It was purchased by John and Mary Kinsey who appear here on the Martinet & Bond map of 1865. According to Hopkin's Atlas of 1879, John Kinsey was a farmer, originally from Howard County.

In June of 1871 the Kinseys sold the farm of approximately 100 acres to Franklin Groomes for \$600 (Deed EBP 9/116). T.S. Boyd's, History of Montgomery County lists Franklin Groomes as a farmer. Groomes sold the farm in April of 1884 and it then passed through a succession of owners.

In December of 1910, William B. and Susanna M. Ricketts purchased the farm. Mr. Ricketts was a recently retired farmer from Redlands, Md. This farm was run by tenant farmers while Mr. Ricketts owned it. It was the Ricketts who added on the present main block of the house, probably about 1912 (Montgomery County Commissioners Tax Assessment books). The new section of the house when built was in vernacular Victorian style, fairly typical of the rural architecture of turn-of-the-century Montgomery County. It was a two story, five bay wide frame house with a gable roof with a center gable and a porch running the length of the facade. It was built perpendicular to the original section of the house. The Ricketts sold the farm in May of 1929 and moved to a smaller house across the street.

In October of 1939 the farm was purchased by James and Mabel Hambleton of Washington, D.C. (Deed 754/287). Mr. Hambleton was the Chief of Bee Culture at the Beltsvill Agricultural Center. The farm, again, was farmed

by a tenant farmer. The Hambletons remodeled the house, changing it from a Victorian style residence into a Colonial Revival home. This was done by removing the center gable facade and porch and adding a pilastered entry and asbestos shingles. The rear wing was changed also. The central entry was removed and a large bay window was added. James and Mabel Hambleton passed away in 1969 and 1972 respectively. The farm then was passed on to their three daughters Jean H. Miller, Nancy H. Chance and Edwina H. Earp. In June of 1973, they sold the property to S. Wyatt and Madgalene S. Maynard (Deed 4405/896). They made a change to the house as well, enlarging the rear wing. The property was sold to the current owner, Felecia A. Lovelett, in April of 1983 (Deed 6057/214).

This house, #3324, has a two story, five bay by one bay frame main block with a gable roof. This section is symmetrically balanced with a central entry flanked with pilasters and topped with a cornice. It is lit by two over two sash windows. Two small windows appear in each gable end. To the rear of the house are two wings. The first is the oldest section of the house. It is a two story, three bay wide gable roof section with a large field stone and brick chimney block. A porch runs the length of the east elevation of this section. To the rear of this is a one and a half story, two bay wide, gable roof section, also pre-dating the main block. An addition has been made to this section, extending the roof outward. A single story screened -in porch has been added to the rear. The house rests on a stone foundation, is covered with asbestos shingles and has a raised seam metal roof. The rear portions, however, which are quite old, rest on a large timber foundation laid directly on the ground.

Still connected with this property is a tenant house which sits directly on the Damascus Road. It was probably constructed during the late nineteenth century. Throughout its existence it has been used to house the tenant farmer for this farm or rented out.

It is a two story, three bay by one bay frame house with a steeply pitched gable roof. It is symmetrically balanced with a center entry and a window to either side. The second story has two windows, one over each of those on the first story. A porch supported by chamfered posts runs the length of the facade. It is lit by one over one sash windows with shutters. The house rests on a stone foundation, is covered with asbestos shingles and has a corrugated metal roof. There is an exterior stone chimney. To the rear is a single story shed roof addition.

Unity also includes a number of late nineteenth century, vernacular Victorian style dwellings. Five appear in a row along the north side of the Damascus Road. The first is #3321. This is an L-shaped, two story, three bay by three bay frame house with a gable roof. The front entry has a full transom and sidelights. Six over six sash windows light the house. A porch supported by chamfered posts with a cut-out balustrade at the open end runs the length of the facade to the front, extending ell. The house rests on a stone foundation and is covered with unpainted novelty siding. This house, unlike the others, faces east instead of south.

This house was probably built by Lloyd Colliflower and his wife, Lucretia Davis Colliflower, in the 1880's. Mr. Colliflower, the local merchant, purchased two lots from the Davises, his wife's family, during the period between 1880 and 1885 (Deed EBP 23/211 & 300/66). One of these lots was listed in the docket of real estate following the death of Nimrod Davis as improved by a log dwelling. Mr. Colliflower must have replaced this earlier dwelling with the present one (Docket RWC 14/326).

In 1935, the house was purchased by Allen B. and Eliza Brown (Deed 592/260) and immediately conveyed to their three unmarried daughters (Deed 592/261). Mr. Brown had recently retired from farming, turning the family farm below Sunshine over to his youngest son, Robert. He and his wife lived here with their daughters. The sisters held on to the property for many years. Bertha, who lived here the longest, used to take in "welfare" or homeless children (John Fletcher Brown, Oct. 1984). Martha died in 1971 and in December of 1973 Helen and Bertha sold the house to their neighbors, Merritt and Nancy Chance, and moved to a home for the elderly (Deed 4476/399). The house, which has inadequate plumbing and septic system, was condemned by the county after it was vacated by the Browns. The Chances now use the house for storage with hopes that it may someday be made livable.

Next door is #3401. This house was constructed by William Fenton Howes sometime between 1887 and 1892. In 1885, Mr. Howes purchased a lot of 75 square perches from Silas Davis, the executor of the last will and testament of his father, Nimrod Davis, for \$315. This lot, #3, was then improved by Nimrod Davis's blacksmith and wheelwright shop. Mr. Howes evidently continued in the same business, building himself a residence as well.

Then, in 1892, William and his wife, Caroline V. Howes, defaulted on their mortgage and the property was sold by

trustee. The advertisement the sale of the property mentions that it was improved by a "good" blacksmith shop, a "new" six room frame dwelling house and other outbuildings plus a garden, orchard and a well at the door (Equity #1008, Judgement Record JA 9/102). It was purchased in August of 1892 by John D. Dwyer for \$603 (Deed JA 46/212). John Dwyer was the local dentist who lived down the road at "Bleakwood." This property was probably rented out. In April of 1920, Dr. Dwyer sold the house and it then passed through a succession of owners. It was owned for many years by Blanche M. Howes, from 1928 until 1942, and then by Grace Townsend until 1960. It was then purchased by the present owners, James and Eva Givens (Deed 2760/311).

The house is a two story, three bay by one bay frame house with a gable roof with a center gable facade. The central entry is topped with a transom and is covered by a porch, supported by plain squared posts, which runs the length of the facade. The house is lit by two over two sash windows with a small half circle window in the center gable. There is a central brick chimney. The house rests on a stone foundation and is covered with yellow aluminum siding. To the rear is a one and a half story shed roof addition.

#3411, next door, is very similar. It too is a two story, three bay wide frame dwelling with a gable roof with a center gable. A porch supported by decorative Victorian turned posts with jig-sawn brackets runs the length of the facade. On the first story facade, the windows are full length. The second story windows are one over one replacements. The house rests on a stone foundation and is covered with white aluminum siding with an asphalt shingle roof. To the rear is a one and a half story, two bay long rear wing with a gable roof and a porch extending across the east elevation.

This house was probably constructed in the early 1880's by the Nimrod Davis family. Following the death of Nimrod Davis in 1884, this property (lot #4) was sold to one of his daughters, Mary Jane Young, for \$700. It was described as a 1/2 acre lot improved by a four room house with a back building (Docket RWC 14/326). Mrs. Young sold the property in September of 1917 and it then passed through a succession of owners. It was owned by the Ricketts family for a number of years, from 1925 until 1940. Mr. William B. Ricketts moved here from the farm across the street after selling it. The house was purchased in 1951 by Lester and Edna Charlton who sold it in 1975. In 1983, it was purchased by the current owners, Stephen A. and Julia Barbar (Deed 6109/574).

"Shadylawn," #3421, is next. This home is larger and slightly more elaborate than the other Victorian residences in Unity. In addition, it appears to remain unaltered. It is a two story frame structure in a T-plan, with a gable roof with a center gable. The main block is three bays by one bay with a centrally located entry with transom. It has a porch supported by Victorian beveled posts with decoratively carved brackets. The T extending forward on the west end is one bay wide and has a projecting bay window on the first story. The house is lit by two over two sash windows. In the two facade gable ends are half circle windows. There is a central brick chimney on each block of the house. It rests on a stone foundation, is covered with novelty siding and has a raised seam metal roof. To the rear is a modern two story frame addition at the north side of the east wing.

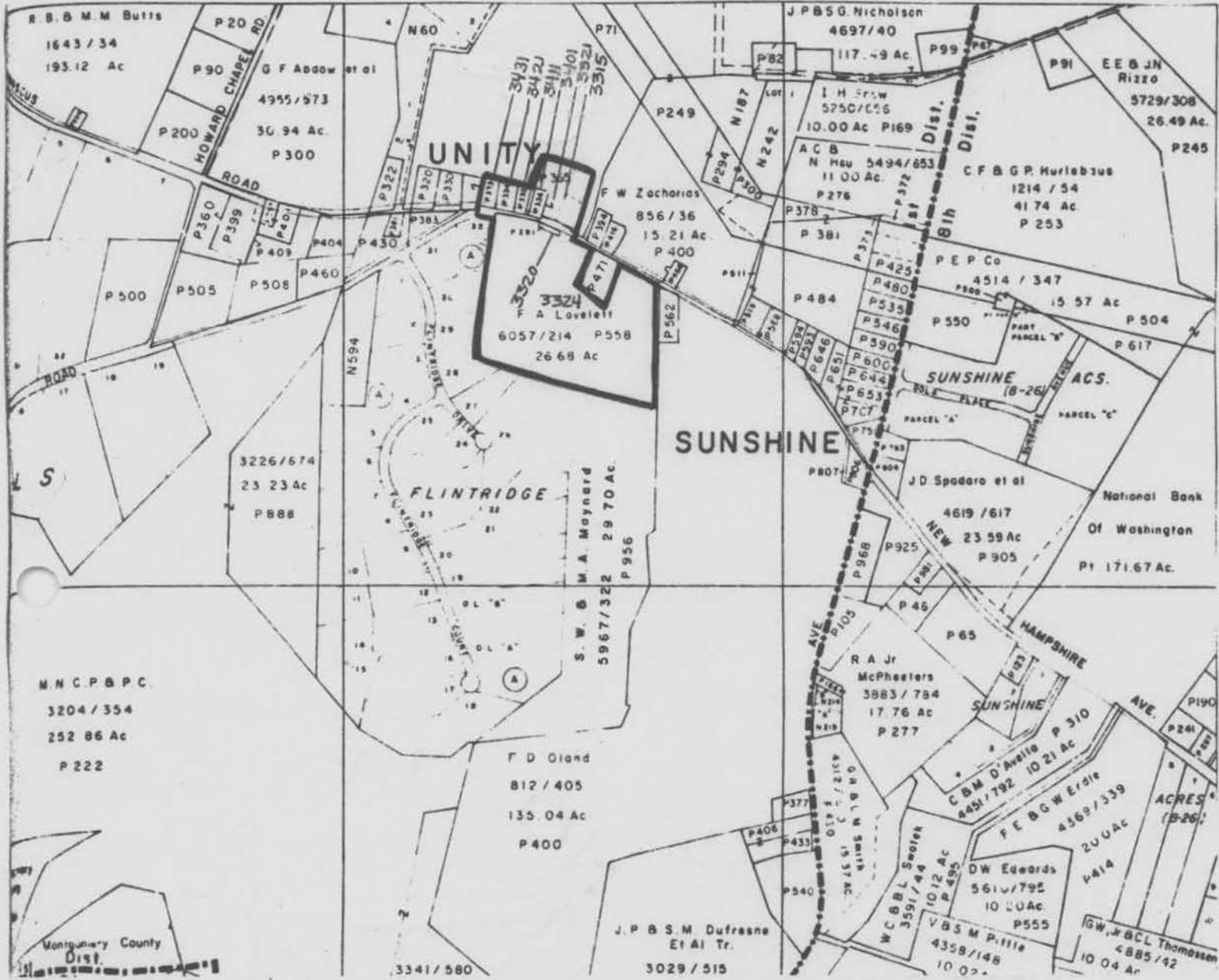
This residence was probably constructed by Achsah Davis, sometime between 1883 and 1897. In August of 1883 Achsah Davis purchased this 1/2 acre lot for \$50 from his father, Nimrod Davis (Deed EBP 30/56). It was sold for \$850 in August of 1899 to William K. Young (Deed 246/168). Then, in September of 1914, "Shadylawn" was purchased by Clifford H. Howard. Mr. Howard was a farmer who later became the sheriff. His wife, Lucy, taught at the Unity school. The house remained in the Howard family for many years. In 1933, it was conveyed to Myrtle Howard, who owned it until 1972. Ms. Howard was a sales representative for the Rumford Baking Powder Company. She lived most of the year in Washington, D.C. and spent her summers here at "Shadylawn." In October of 1972 the house was purchased by the present owners, Jerry and Deborah Seitz (Deed 4297/230).

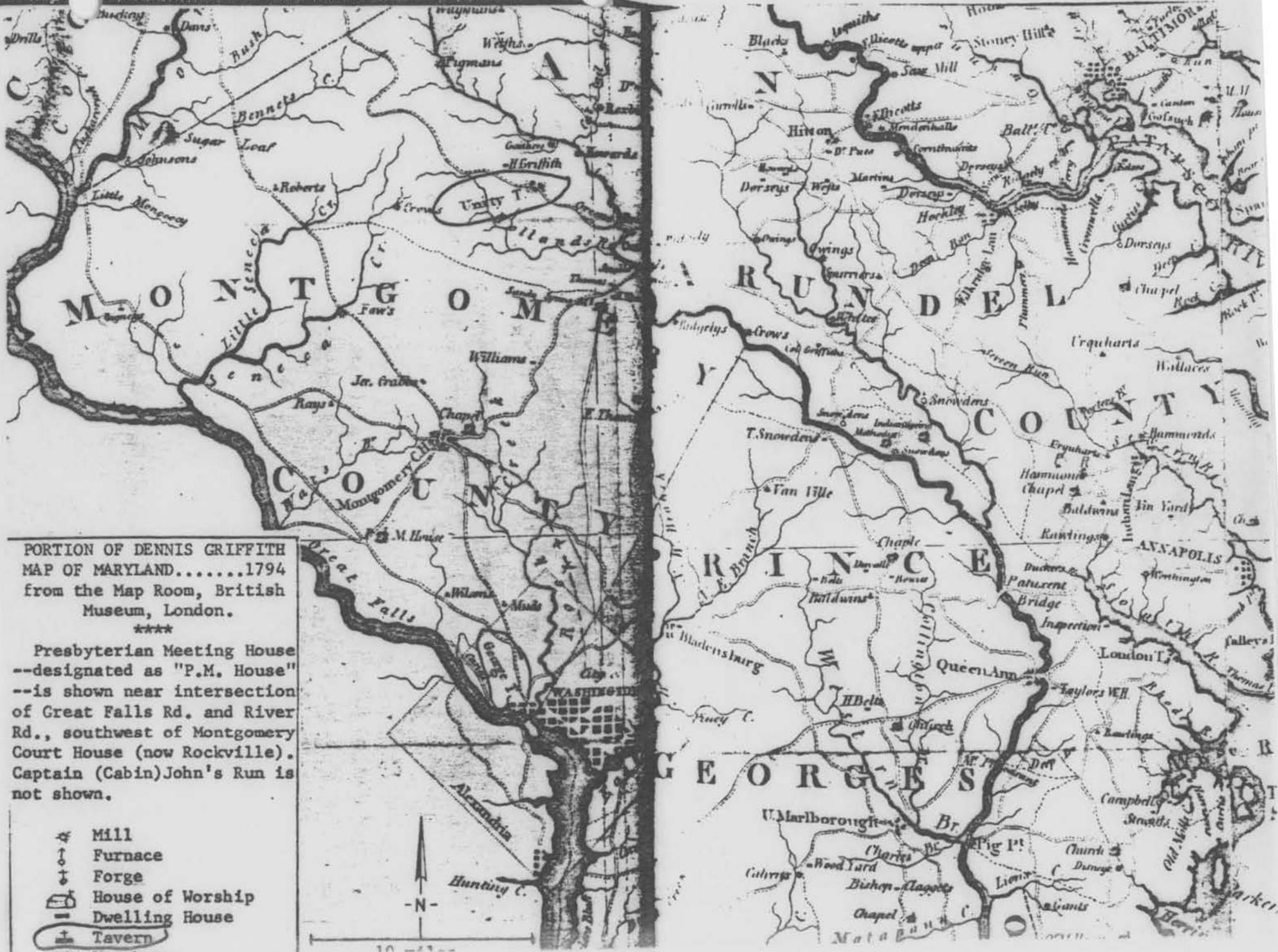
The last house in the row is #3431. This is a two story, three bay by one bay frame house with a gable roof. It has a Colonial Revival look due largely to the pedimented portico supported by slender, doric columns which covers the facade entry. The house is symmetrically balanced. It is lit by six over six sash windows with shutters. It has a central brick chimney. It rests on a stone foundation, is covered with white aluminum siding and has a raised metal seam roof.

This house was probably constructed in 1878 by George and Ann Zeitler (Montgomery County Commissioner's Tax Assessment Books). The Zeitlers purchased a lot a little over 1/2 acre from Nimrod and Susan Davis for \$50 in March of 1878 (Deed EBP 18/412). They lived here for about twenty-one years, finally selling the house for \$600 in

June of 1899 to Harry G. Spurrier (Deed TD 8/21). Harry Spurrier was the town's doctor with an office here in this house (also his home). Then, in December of 1917 the house was sold to G. Robert Howes, who owned it until 1935 (Deed 270/25). After this time, the house passed through a succession of owners. It was owned and lived in for about seventeen years by John Fletcher Brown, the owner and storekeeper of the Unity store, and his family (from 1936 to 1953, Deed 634/102). Finally, in July of 1982 it was purchased by the current owner, Sally Ann O'Connor (Deed 5904/201).

UNITY HISTORIC DISTRICT



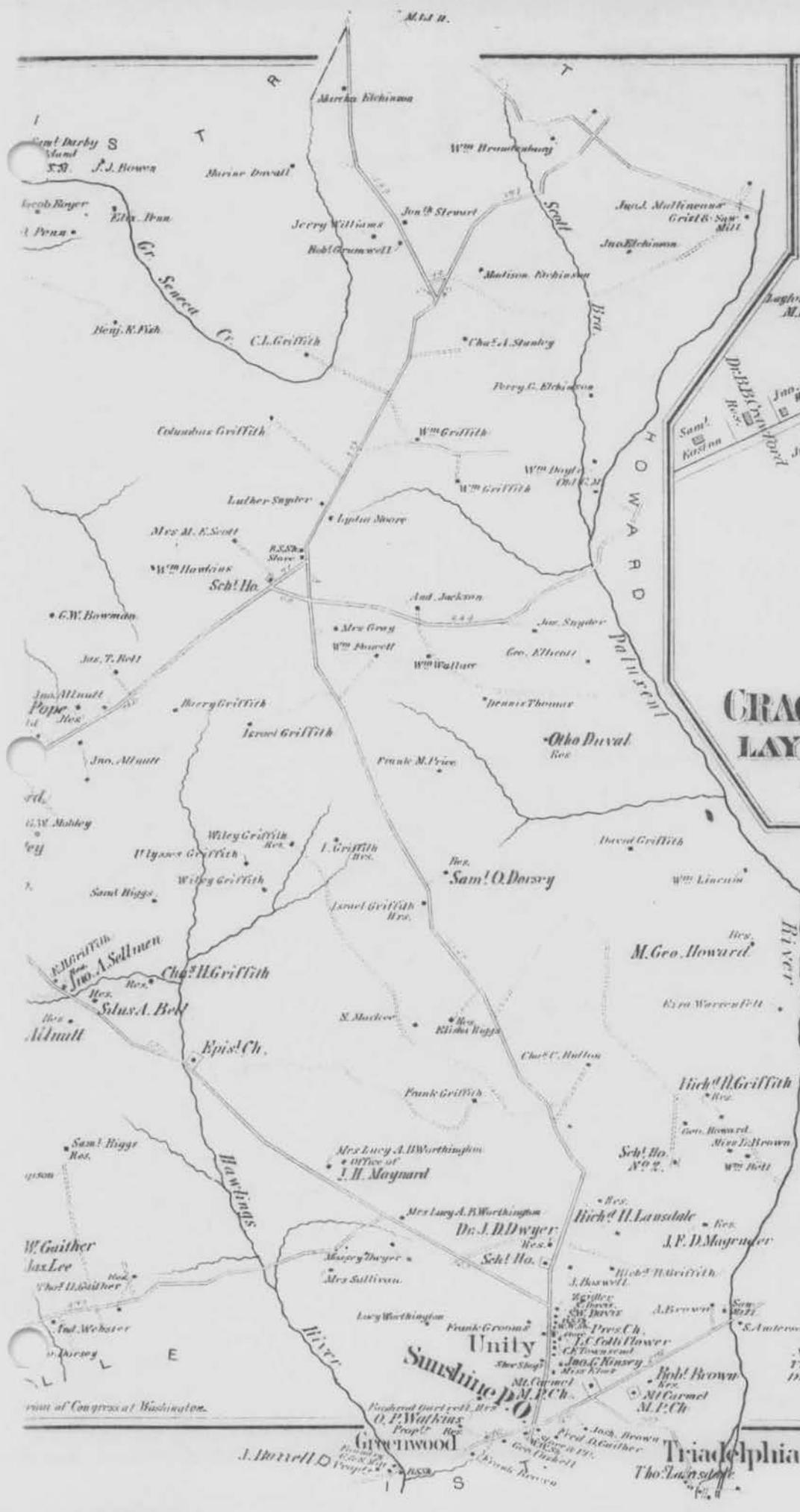


PORTION OF DENNIS GRIFFITH
 MAP OF MARYLAND.....1794
 from the Map Room, British
 Museum, London.

Presbyterian Meeting House
 --designated as "P.M. House"
 --is shown near intersection
 of Great Falls Rd. and River
 Rd., southwest of Montgomery
 Court House (now Rockville).
 Captain (Cabin) John's Run is
 not shown.

- ⊙ Mill
- ⊙ Furnace
- ⊙ Forge
- ⊙ House of Worship
- ⊙ Dwelling House
- ⊙ Tavern

M:23-34



BUSINESS NOTICES.

John A. Sellman
Merchant Tailor

G.W. Mobley
Dealer in Dry Goods, Notions
etc.
Laytonville.

**CRACKLINTOWN
LAYTONVILLE P.O.**

Scale 400 Feet per inch

BUSINESS NOTICES.

HEDLAND.
H. B. Penn
Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, etc.

Hy S. Thompson
Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, etc.

GOSHEN.
Asbury H. Martin
Merchant and Post Master

UNITY.
Colliflower & Harvey
Merchants and General Dealers in
Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Oil,
Paint, Fish, Oysters, etc.
Buyers and Shippers of Produce, etc.

CLAYSVILLE.
H. H. Kinsey
Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries,
Notions, etc.

Note.
The Figures on the Roads, represent the
Distance in Rods from the junctions.

CURRENT OWNERS

- 3320 Damascus Road (Unity General Store)
James & Eva Givens
3401 Damascus Road
Brookeville, Md. 20729
1/8 acre, 2128/180
- 3315 Damascus Road (Brick House)
Merritt O. & Nancy H. Chance
2.98 acres, 1771/75
- 3324 Damascus Road (Old House & Tenant House)
Felicia A. Lovelett
2713 Dumbarton Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
26.68 acres, 6057-214
- 3321 Damascus Road
Merritt O. & Nancy H. Chance
3315 Damascus Road
1.488 acres, 4476/399
- 3401 Damascus Road
James F. & Eva H. Givens
20419 square feet, 2760/311
- 3411 Damascus Road
Stephen A. & Julia Barbar
1/2 acre, 6109/574
- 3421 Damascus Road
Jerry L. & Deborah Seitz
1/2 acre, 4297/230
- 3431 Damascus Road
Sally A. O'Connor
22545 square feet, 5904/201

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:23-34
(date entered 5-13-80)

1. Name: Unity Historic District

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 23/34/1
Unity H.D.

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 9
G-7

4. Address: Damascus Road, Unity

5. Classification Summary

Category	<u>District</u>	Previous Survey Recording	<u>M-NCPPC</u>
Ownership	<u>Private</u>	Title and Date:	<u>1976 Inventory of</u>
Public Acquisition	<u>N/A</u>		<u>Historical Sites</u>
Status	<u>Occupied</u>		
Accessible	<u>No</u>	Federal	<u>State</u> <u>County</u> <u>Local</u>
Present use	<u>Private Residences</u>		

6. Date: late 18th century 7. Original Owner:

8. Apparent Condition

a. good b. altered c. original site

9. Description: The district consists of mostly 19th century houses built along the north side of the road. Most of the houses are frame, two stories, with central doorways and double-hung sash windows. Porches run across the facades, most with bracketed posts. Chimneys are small and centrally positioned. Several of the houses have had additions at one end that give them all plans with gables facing the road.

Typical of the houses is 3311 Damascus Road: it is a simple three bay by one bay frame house has an ell plan. It has stone foundations, a great variety of windows, cross gable roof, and front porch, and the clapboard is now sheathed in aluminum siding.

3324 Damascus Road is believed to be the oldest house in Unity. Built in sections, the middle, three bay 2½ story frame section is thought to be the original; it has a gable roof, massive fieldstone chimney, and is covered with asbestos siding.

10. Significance: The village of Unity dates back to the 18th century, although most of the existing buildings were constructed in the 19th. The 1783 Assessment Records mention three log cabins, a frame dwelling house, a log dwelling house and four outbuildings. The crossroads town is labeled "Unity T." in on Dennis Griffith's 1794 map. The town at various times supported several stores, blacksmith and wheelwright shops, a shoe shop, school, church, and tavern. The Unity Post Office was established in 1824; this appointment moved back and forth between Unity and Sunshine until 1908 when free delivery routes were established in the area.

The village economy declined by the early 20th century and the general store finally closed in the 1940s.

11. Researcher and date researched: Ellen Olson-6 79 Candy Reed/Michael Dwyer Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled: 10/79 14. Designation Approval

15. Acreage: approximately 50 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 23/34

Unity H.D.
MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Unity Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Damascus Road

CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Unity VICINITY OF Brookeville 6

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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code
Brookeville VICINITY OF Unity Maryland 20729

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:
Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN STATE
Rockville Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M.23-34

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The district consists of mostly 19th century houses built along the north side of the road. Most of the houses are frame, two stories, with central doorways and double-hung sash windows. Porches run across the facades, most with bracketed posts. Chimneys are small and centrally positioned. Several of the houses have had additions at one end that give them ell plans with gables facing the road.

Some of the buildings:

3311 Damascus Road: This simple three bay by one bay frame house has an ell plan. It has stone foundations, a great variety of windows, cross gable roof, and front porch, and the clapboard is now sheathed in aluminum siding.

3401 Damascus Road: This house is similar to 3311. It also has stone foundations, aluminum siding, and a half-hipped roofed porch with wooden posts. The cross gable roof is covered with raised seam metal.

3321 Damascus Road: This ell-shaped three bay by three bay frame house has stone foundations and unpainted novelty siding. There is a shed-roofed porch on the east side of the ell.

3315 Damascus Road: This brick house is beautifully proportioned and has an unusually heavy corbelled cornice line. It is four bays and two-and-a-half stories, and has double interior end chimneys at the east and west gable ends.

3421 Damascus Road: "Shadylawn" is a T-plan two-and-a-half story frame house with stone and brick foundations. There is white novelty siding and intersecting and cross gable roofs with green raised seam metal covering. There are two interior brick chimneys with corbelled caps. A modern two story frame addition has been built on the north side of the east wing.

3431 Damascus Road: This simple two-and-a-half story frame house is three bays across and one bay deep. Built on stone foundations, the exterior walls have recently been covered by wide white aluminum siding. The house originally had an L-plan with a two-story sleeping porch on the east elevation of the north ell. There are two stove chimneys.

3324 Damascus Road: This is believed to be the oldest house in Unity. Built in sections, the middle, three bay two-and-a-half story frame section is thought to be the original; it has a gable roof, massive fieldstone chimney, and is covered with asbestos siding. North of this section is a later two-and-a-half story frame section that is five bays across and one bay deep, and south of the original section is a frame one-and-a-half story section with gable roof.

3324 Damascus Road: This two-and-a-half story frame tenant house sits close to the road. It is three bays across and one bay deep, has stone foundations, and is covered by asbestos siding. There is a gable roof covered by corrugated metal, an exterior stone chimney, and a one-story addition to the south.

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

3301 Damascus Road: The original part of this two-and-a-half story frame house is two bays across and two bays deep. The entrance is in the west bay of the gable end. Windows are two-over-two double-hung. There is a four light casement window in the gable end. The house has a large, modern one story shed addition.

3300 Damascus Road: On the south side of the road at the eastern end of Unity is a large, turn-of-the century, brick house with a hip roof, covered with asphalt shingles. Each side of the roof has a centered dormer with double windows. There are two central corbelled brick chimneys. The house has been altered with a two story front porch and other additions.

3201 Damascus Road: This simple two story bungalow, situated at the far east end of Unity, has its entrance in the gable end. The gable roof is covered with asbestos shingles. Windows are three-over-one upstairs and down. Behind the house is a board and batten shed and a carriage shed with a raised seam metal roof.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES late 18th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The village of Unity dates back to the 18th century, although most of the existing buildings were constructed in the 19th. Two prominent County settlers, Henry Griffith and Henry Gaither, are credited with founding the town. Gaither and Griffith both featured in the Revolutionary War, Gaither as a soldier and Griffith as a leading member of the Colonial Assembly. The first recognition of this rural crossroads town is on Dennis Griffith's 1794 map; it is labeled "Unity T." Situated on the 1724 land grant "John and Sarah", surveyed for John Philburn in 1724,¹ by 1783 the "Resurvey on John and Sarah" supported John Prather, Joseph West, and Plummer and John Musgrove with a total of three log cabins, a framed 16 x 24 dwelling house, a log dwelling house, and four outhouses. The 131½ acres included cleared land, marsh, sapling land and "midling soil".²

According to Scharf,³ Unity was created by act of the General Assembly prior to 1806. Stores and residences soon followed. The town, at various times, supported several stores, blacksmith and wheelwright shops, a shoe shop, school, church, and tavern. The post office was established in Unity in 1824, with William Price as postmaster; the honor and convenience of this appointment moved back and forth from Unity to nearby Sunshine until 1908 when free delivery routes were established in the area. Unity for most of its history was oriented to Annapolis and to Baltimore rather than to Rockville and Georgetown, and received much of its support and market from nearby Triadelphia's mills and factory.

With the revolutions in transportation and industry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries came a decline in the economy of the village. The general store operated here until the 1940s, when it too closed for lack of business. Today Unity is a rural village with clusters of historic structures orienting to the Damascus Road.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland, (p. 717).
2. Montgomery County Assessment Records, 1783.
3. Scharf, op. cit.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land and Assessment Records of Montgomery County, Md.
 Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland (1882).
 Files of the Montgomery County Historical Society.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 50 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Ellen Olson	Candy Reed/Michael Dwyer Architectural Description
ORGANIZATION	Sugarloaf Regional Trails	DATE June 1979
STREET & NUMBER	Box 87	TELEPHONE 926-4510
CITY OR TOWN	Dickerson	STATE Maryland 20753

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

1605395929

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Unity Historic District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
3300 Block Damascus Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Brookeville

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Montgomery

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Various private owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Rockville STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Sites in the Bi-County Region (one house)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The district consists of nineteenth century houses built along the north side of the road. Most of the houses are frame, two stories, with central doorways and double hung sash windows. Porches run across the facades, most with bracketed posts. Chimneys are small and centrally positioned. Several of the houses have had additions at one end that give them all plans with gables facing the road.

The "Chance House" is a two-story, brick building with flush gable end chimneys. The four bay facade has a doorway in the second bay from the west end. The cornice consists of several courses of moulded bricks that form bed and crown mouldings of cove and ogee profile respectively. The first floor windows are now large 2/2 double hung sash; the second floor windows are still small 6/6 double hung sash. It dates from about 1808.

The oldest house in the town is south of the road. The back part of the house is the oldest; it has a three bay, main (east) facade with a central doorway and flanking 6/6 double hung sash windows. The window surrounds are a board with a moulding around the outside edge. The chimney on the south end has a stone base and free-standing brick stack; east of the chimney proper is a large stone base for an oven. The boxed cornice is returned into the gable end. The front section has a five bay facade with a central doorway. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash. On either end are small, internal chimneys.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Town of Unity dates back to the Eighteen century, although the existing buildings are mostly nineteenth century. The Town, at various times, had several stores, blacksmith and wheelright shops, a shoe shop, church and tavern. The post office was established at Unity and later moved to Sunshine. It was one day's ride from Annapolis and thus a small commercial center developed. Triadelphia, with mills and a factory employing up to 400 hands at its height, was also nearby, and the road to Baltimore via Green's Bridge ran through the Town.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Empty box for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 8 Nov 74

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature _____

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DISTRICTS.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

CRACKLIN DISTRICT, No. 1.

ALTHOUGH Montgomery County was created in 1776, it was not divided into election districts until 1798, when an act of Assembly was passed for this purpose, which was confirmed in the following year. The returns of the commissioners appointed to lay off the districts under these acts is not of record, so that it is now impossible to indicate with certainty their original boundaries. In 1821, however, they were directed to be laid off anew, and under this division Cracklin District, No. 1, was assigned the following metes and bounds:

"Beginning at Marshberger's old mill on Patuxent, and running down Patuxent to the mouth of Hawling's River; then running up said river to the mouth of Reed's Branch, from thence to the head of the late Gerard Brooke's spring; thence to the pole bridge near where Cyrus, a black man, formerly kept a blacksmith shop; then with a small road, leaving the house formerly owned by Surret Dickerson on the right, until it intersects the road passing in front of Mrs. Magruder's house at the corner of her fence; thence with said road, leaving the house where the late Capt. Benjamin Ricketts did live on the right, until it intersects the Bladensburg road at the lower end of said Ricketts' plantation; then with the road through the place where Zadok Ricketts once lived to the head-waters of Muddy Branch; then down said branch to the Georgetown road; then with said road to Middlebrook Mills on Seneca; then up Seneca to the head thereof; then with a straight line by Barnall's spring to the main road; then with said road until it intersects a road leading by Benjamin Benton's; thence with said road to the beginning."

These boundaries continued unchanged until 1878, when a portion of the district was taken to form Mechanicsville, and in 1880 it was still further reduced by the creation of Gaithersburg District, No. 9.

Cracklin is bounded on the north by Clarksburg District, on the east by Howard County, on the south by Mechanicsville District, and on the northwest by Gaithersburg District. The Patuxent River divides it from Howard County, and Great Seneca Creek forms a part of its northern boundary line, separating it for a portion of the distance from Clarksburg District, No. 2. The land is well watered by Whetstone and Cabin Branches in the west, by Goshen Branch in the centre, Scott's Branch in the east, by Rock Creek in the southwest, and by Hawling's River, which rises in the district and flows southeast through Mechanicsville into the Patuxent.

Among the earliest settlers in the district were John Banks, Benjamin Wallingford, Benjamin Penn,

and Higson Belt, who were followed by the Griffiths, the Darbys, Mackalls, Gaithers, Neels, Allnutts, Bells, Plummers, Popes, Riggs, Warfields, Bowmans, Stewarts, Crawford, and the Waters'.

The first representative of the last-named family in Montgomery was Dr. Richard Waters, who was born about 1760 in Prince George's County. He served as a surgeon in the Revolutionary war, and was distinguished both as a surgeon and physician. At the close of the war he purchased a large estate, called "Spring Garden," in Montgomery County, on the road leading from Goshen to Gaithersburg. He married Miss Margaret Smith, of Prince George's, by whom he had several children, among whom were Somerset, a commission merchant of Baltimore, and for many years State tobacco inspector, and Hon. Richard Waters, who was born at the old homestead on the 19th of December, 1794. The latter became prominent in politics at an early age, and held many positions of trust and honor, filling the important office of sheriff with fidelity and efficiency, and representing his county in the State Legislature. In his canvass for the General Assembly he discovered that the State appropriation for the education of poor children was often misapplied by the trustees, and making this the great issue in his campaign, he was elected by an overwhelming majority. He at once directed his energies to the removal of the evil, and succeeded in securing the passage of a bill providing a general system of public education. This was the initial movement in the important work of establishing the present public-school system of the State, and Mr. Waters' services were so much appreciated by his constituents that on the expiration of his first term he was again chosen to represent them in the General Assembly. Mr. Waters left several children, some of whom are still living. His son Samuel is an eminent divine in the Missouri Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, another, William, is the agent of the Adams Express Company in Cincinnati, a third, Somerset, is a leading physician in Carroll County, and has served several terms in the General Assembly, and a fourth, George, resides near the old homestead. His only daughter, Rebecca, married Jesse T. Higgins, formerly of Poolesville, and now a merchant of Baltimore.

Unity.—The village of Unity is situated near the southeastern boundary of the district, on a part of a tract of two hundred acres surveyed for John Philburn on the 21st of December, 1724, and called, after the curious fashion of that day, "John and Sarah," probably in honor of the first master and mistress of the estate. Unity was created by act of Assembly prior

to 1806, but the first house, which is now occupied by Rezin Duvall, was not built until 1811.

In 1827 the village comprised six dwellings. William Price resided in the house now occupied by John G. Kinsey; Elisha R. Gaither lived in the house now the residence of Rezin Duvall; Philemon Plummer in that of Charles F. Townsend; Philemon Griffith in that of Mr. Nimrod Davis; Francis Simpson in the house now occupied by Francis Groomes, and Erasmus Daly in that of James E. Harvey. Garret Gaither, the first merchant known in this place, commenced business there as early as the year 1813. His place of business was situated between the residence of Mr. Nimrod Davis and the store of Col. Halloway & Harvey. The pioneer blacksmith of this vicinity was a man by the name of Smith. Hugh Anderson kept the first hotel in the place, occupying what is now the residence of Mr. Davis for that purpose. After a few years he was succeeded by Mr. Levi Chambers, who about the year 1818 sold out to Mr. Graff, by whom it was conducted until about 1860. Dr. Anderson settled here about 1831, and was the first resident physician of the town. Edward Bell, who was the pioneer teacher, and renowned as "a learned man" in those days, was succeeded in his duties by William Musgrove, who for many years was the schoolmaster of the neighborhood. Daniel Grant, the first shoemaker in the neighborhood, worked at his trade in the house now owned by Judson Balswaer. Unity boasted for many years the third oldest post-office in the county, but it was finally discontinued, and the mails are now received at Sunshine Post-office.

Bartholomew Protestant Episcopal Church is located about one mile from the village, on the road leading from Laytonsville to Unity. The congregation belonged originally to Prince George's Parish, and was organized in 1821. Among the founders and original members were Thomas Griffith, Henry Griffith, Henry C. Gaither, Thomas Davis, Nathaniel Clagett, and Jesse Wilcoxon. The church was erected about the time of the formation of the congregation, but was remodeled and otherwise improved in 1871. Among its pastors have been Rev. Mr. Allen, Rev. Levin Gills, who was its rector for many years, Rev. Chandler Hutton, Rev. Mr. Duncan, Rev. Dr. Mason, and Rev. Mr. Lorne. The vestrymen are Elisha Griffith, Col. Edward Owen, Richard Lansdale, Charles Higgins, John F. D. Magruder, F. Griffith.

The Presbyterian Church was erected in 1874, and is situated in the village of Unity. The congregation was organized the same year, prior to the building of the church, under the charge of Rev. Thomas Duncan. The erection of the church was chiefly due

to Dr. James H. Maynard and Nimrod Davis, the former of whom solicited the greater part of the funds necessary for its construction, the latter giving the lot upon which the building stands. The original trustees were Elisha Griffith, Col. Edward Owen, Thomas Lansdale, Charles Higgins, John F. D. Magruder, Richard Lansdale, and F. Griffith. Rev. Mr. Duncan was succeeded as the pastor by the Rev. Dr. Mason, and he by Rev. Mr. Lorne. The congregation now numbers thirty-five members, and the officers are as follows: Treasurer, Richard Lansdale; Secretary, Charles Higgins. The vestry are the same as at its organization, with the exception of one deceased.

The Methodist Protestant Church (Mount Carmel) is located between Unity and Tradelpho.

Sunshine.—This is the post office for the village of Unity, and is situated about ten miles from Gaithersburg and one mile from Unity.

Laytonsville.—This village is part of an addition to "Brooke Grove," surveyed for James Brooke, Sept. 4, 1728. The locality was originally settled by the Layton family among others, and to John L. Layton it is indebted for its name. It is situated seven miles from Gaithersburg, on the road leading from Goshen to Unity. F. L. Beall is the postmaster, and Dr. B. B. Crawford, born in Howard County, has been its physician for thirty years. The Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in 1867, the present pastor is Rev. J. Thomas Cross. Attached to the church is a cemetery, in which among others are the graves of Rev. Henry Walker, born Feb. 22, 1809, died March 16, 1877; Lizzie C., wife of George W. Mobley, born Sept. 24, 1843, died Dec. 5, 1875, aged thirty-two years, two months; Mollie F., wife of George W. Mobley, born Nov. 27, 1853, died Sept. 7, 1880. Brooke Chapel, near the village, was built in 1871, and rebuilt in 1879.

Goshen is situated five miles northeast of Gaithersburg, on Goshen Branch. The Goshen mills, which are located at this point, are under the care of J. S. Davis and J. W. Lewis. A. R. Martin is the postmaster.

The Methodist Episcopal Church South was erected in 1869-70, and was dedicated to divine worship Sunday, May 21, 1870, the dedication services being conducted by Rev. Dr. Munsey, of Baltimore City, assisted by other eminent clergymen. The burying-ground in the rear of the church contains among others the graves of

Rev. James Layne, born in Sussex County, Del., died March 1, 1840; joined the church of which he was a minister in 1792. Joshua W. Dorsey, died June 6, 1875.

Mrs. M. A. E. Dorsey, born Aug. 14, 1814; died Sept. 5, 1817.

Wm. Thompson, born Feb. 14, 1812; died June 23, 1872.



SANDY SPRING

LAYTONSVILLE 1.2 MI
LAYTONSVILLE 0.2 MI
LAYTONSVILLE 1.6 MI
PETERSBURG

Claysville

Mt Zion

Camp Bennett

Sunshine

Unity

POTOMAC RIVER
POTOMAC REGIONAL PARK

HAMMER RIVER

SANDY SPRING RIVER

M. 23-34

30°

31°

76°

77°

512 550

518

520

520

496

564

491

527

530

499

528

524

582

497

463

446

477

432

489

429

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#23-34 Unity Hst Deck
Streetscape

1/10



#23-34 Unity Hist Dist
Streetscape

2/10



#23-34 Unity Hsk Dist.

3/10

#3431 Damascus Rd.



#23-34 Unity Nest Dist

4/10

#3421 Damascus kel.

"Shady lawn"



23-34 Unity Hist Dept

5/10

3411 Damascus Rel.



23-34 Unity Heat Dist
3401 Damascus Rd.

6/10



#23-34 Unity Heat Dist

7/10



#23-34 Unity Hst. Dist
3315 Damascus Rd.

8/10



#23-34 Unity Host Dist

9/10

3324 Damascus Rd.

tenant house



23-34-2 Unity Hest Dist.
Unity Store

10/10

Colliflower and Harvey's Store
3320 Damers Road



#23-34

NAME *UNITY, Md*

LOCATION *LOOKING E ALONG DAMASCUS Rd*

FACADE *SW*

PHOTO TAKEN *11/8/74 MDWYER*



#23-34

NAME OLD TAVERN (NOW CHANCE HOUSE)

UNITY HIST. DIST.

LOCATION DAMASCUS Rd UNITY, Md

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 11/8/74 MDWYER



#23-34
(UNITY HIST. DIST.)

NAME GROOMES HOUSE

LOCATION 3324 DAMASCUS RD., UNITY, MD.

FACADE N

PHOTO TAKEN 11/8/74

M. Bwyer



NAME GROOMES HOUSE

(UNITY HIST. DIST.)

#23-34

LOCATION 3324 DAMASCUS RD., UNITY, MD.

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 11/8/74

m. Newyer



#23-34

NAME UNITY SCHOOL HOUSE SITE (Now MNCPPC
LOCATION DAMASCUS Rd UNITY, MD PLAYGROUND)
FACADE N
PHOTO TAKEN 11/8/74 MDWYER