

Addendum

M 23-8A

Gaither/Howard House

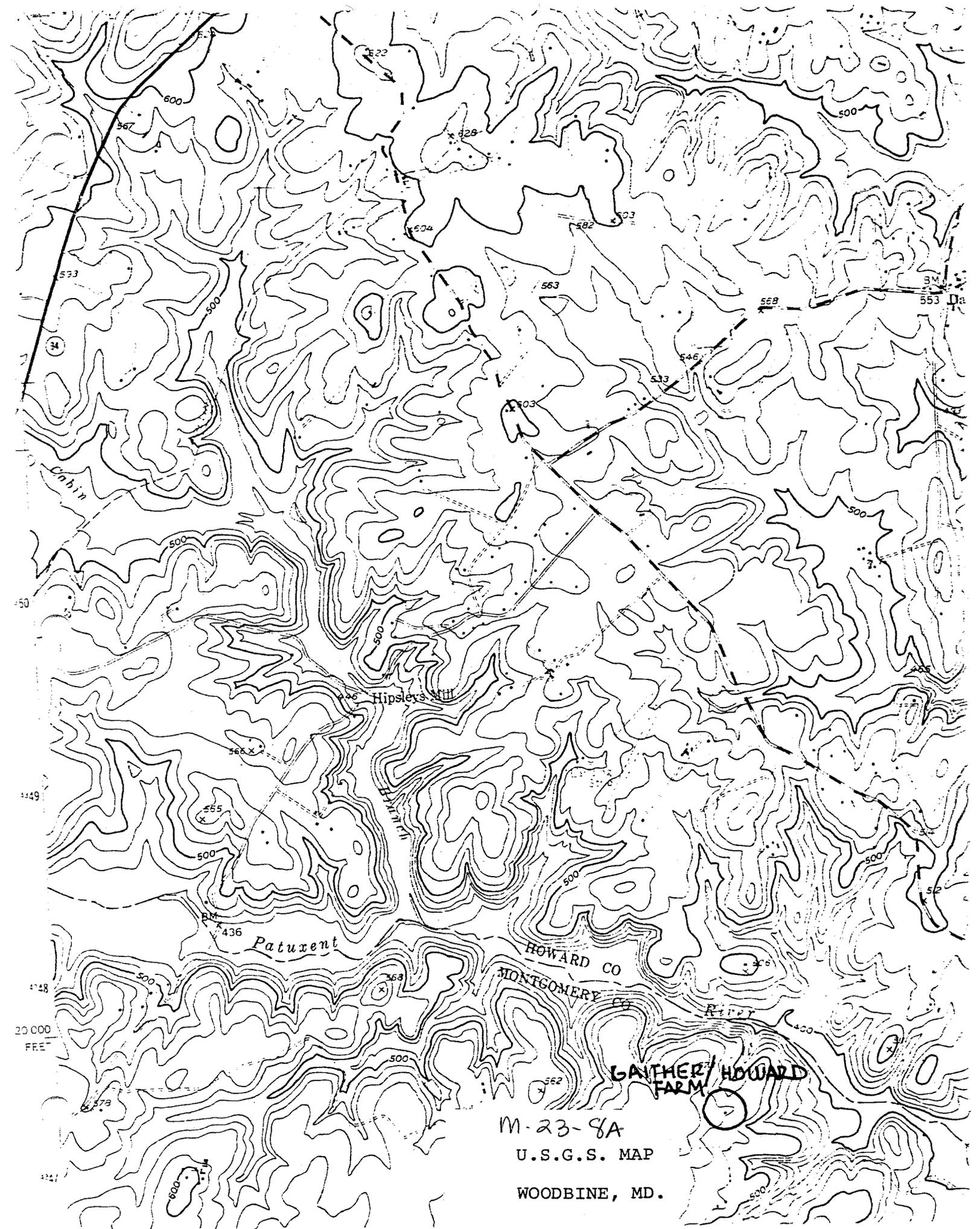
Montgomery, Co.; MD.

C. Mazurek

Feb. 1997

Section 7.1

This structure has deteriorated extensively since the last update of condition was completed in 1984. The stone walls on each elevation are at the point of total collapse, due to the loss of the roof and the water that has entered the structure. Almost all wood framing has rotted away. The extent to which this structure has deteriorated severely limits any future usage.



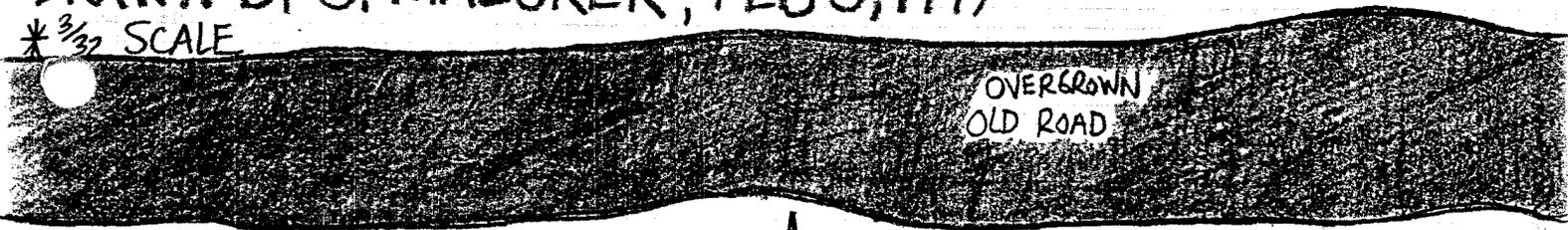
M-23-8A

U.S.G.S. MAP

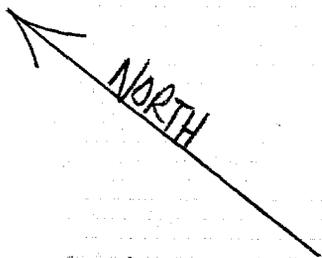
WOODBINE, MD.

GAITHER / HOWARD HOUSE M-23-8A
MONTGOMERY CO., MD; VICINITY OF UNITY
DRAWN BY C. MAZUREK, FEB 3, 1997

* 3/32 SCALE

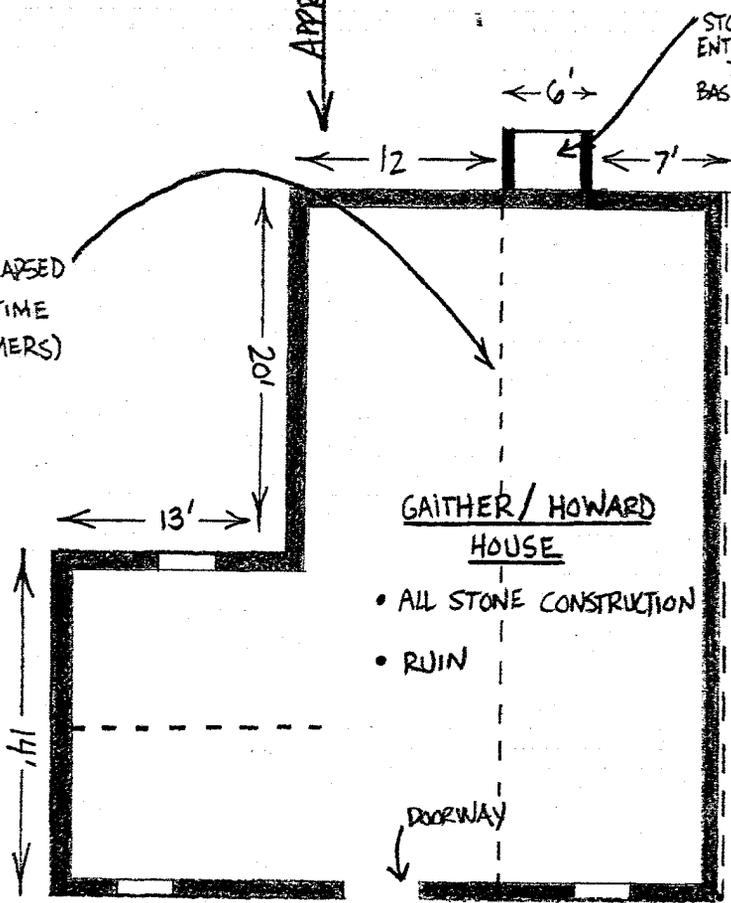


OVERGROWN
OLD ROAD



APPROX 10'

• ROOF COLLAPSED
(AT ONE TIME
HAD DORMERS)



GAITHER / HOWARD
HOUSE

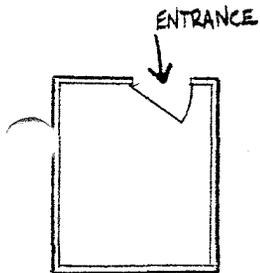
- ALL STONE CONSTRUCTION
- RUIN

DOORWAY

COLLAPSED
STONE
WALL
(IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE
FENESTRATION)

38'

APPROX. 15'



WOODEN
SHED



GAITHER/HOWARD HOUSE M 23-8A

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

C. MAZUREK

FEB 97

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SOUTH VIEW OF HOUSE SITE

#1 OF 9



M 23-8X

GAITHER / HOWARD HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

C. MAZUREK

FEB 97

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NORTH VIEW OF PROPERTY

2 OF 9



M23-8A

GAITHER / HOWARD HOUSE
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
C. MAZUREK

FEB 97

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

S.E. ELEVATION

3 OF 9



M 23-8A

GAITHER/HOWARD HOUSE
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
C. MAZUREK

FEB 97

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

S.E. ELEVATION

4 OF 9



GAITHER/HOWARD HOUSE M 23-8A

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

C. MAZUREK

FEB 97

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTERIOR VIEW LOOKING NORTH

5 OF 9



M23-8A

GAITHER/HOWARD HOUSE
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
C. MAZUREK

FEB 97

MD Dept. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INTERIOR VIEW LOOKING EAST

6 OF 9



M23-8A

GAITHER/HOWARD HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

C. MAZUREK

FEB 97

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

N.E. ELEVATION

7 OF 9



M23-8A

GAITHER/HOWARD HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

C. MAZUREK

FEB 97

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

N.E. ELEVATION

8 OF 9



M23-8A

HOWARD CEMETERY
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
C. MAZUREK

FEB 97

MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
VIEW LOOKING NORTH

9 OF 9

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 Gaither/Howard House
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
 North side of Damascus Road (access through Middleton Farms)
 CITY, TOWN
 Laytonsville _____ VICINITY OF _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____
 STATE
 Maryland _____ COUNTY
 Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL | <input 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
 Maryland Department of Natural Resources Telephone #:
 STREET & NUMBER
 Taylor Avenue
 CITY, TOWN
 Annapolis, Maryland _____ VICINITY OF _____ STATE, zip code
 Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Court House

Liber #: 3825
 Folio #: 745

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
 Rockville STATE
 Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:23-8A

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This fieldstone structure is two stories tall with a three-bay main (east) facade. On the first story, a central doorway is flanked by large window openings; on the second story are two smaller window openings. Door and window surrounds, what little remains of them, are pegged into simple timber sills. An H/L hinge is visible on what remains of the door.

A one-story single room ell projects from the rear (west) wall. Dormers are located on both slopes of this gable roof. An interior chimney is found in the west gable end.

Both the main section and the ell have standing seam tin roofs. This covers a wood shingled roof which is still visible in the attic.

In plan, the main section is very straightforward--two rooms down and two rooms up. The entrance is found in the north room. Boxed stairs rise between both rooms; triangular treads at the beginning of the straight run give access to the stairs from both rooms. The walls are plastered with split oak lath over the studding. The chair rail is a beaded board capped by an ogee moulding. Doors and window jambs are splayed and paneled. A fireplace was located in the north room which was later replaced by a stove with flue. Only the flue hole remains. The floor is almost nonexistent thus exposing the massive hand hewn oak floor joists and the dirt cellar. The cellar is accessible through a bulkhead on the north gable.

The second floor has a hallway with rooms opening on either side. A doorway along the west hall wall leads to the loft of the rear wing. The hall partition walls are vertical beaded boards with applied quarter round mouldings at the door openings. The hall has an alcove at the east end, where the stairs rise to the attic.

The rear wing is a few steps lower than the main section. A large hearth is located on the west wall. The opening has a stone lining. On either side of the fireplace are cabinets with architraved surrounds whose vertical and horizontal members are joined by a bullseye corner block. This type of detail also appears around the door and window openings. Again, little is left of the finished floor, thus revealing the hand hewn floor joists. There is no first floor access to the loft area above.

The burial plot for the Howard family lies east of the Gaither/Howard house. Although overgrown, some of the markers are visible, the most prominent being an impressive monument of Greenbury Howard. Enoch George Howard and his wife, Harriet, the first Howard occupants of the house, are also buried there. Their respective markers read: "E. George Howard, born in Montgomery County, October 11, 1814, died January 14, 1895" and "Harriet E. Howard, born June 12 A.D. 1818, died December 22, 1882".

A fieldstone wall, which runs along a depressed path from the Gaither/Howard house to a small creek which crosses Elton Farm Road was supposedly built by Gaither slaves.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:23-8A

| 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 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 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 1790 ca. 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gaither/Howard house, although in poor condition, is a fine example of rural architecture of the early 19th century interpreted in local stone. It is a modest yet typical Gaither-built house, two stories in height. Other nearby Gaither houses include Rolling Acres, built by Frederick Gaither c. 1806, and Pleasant Field, built by Henry Gaither 1st c. 1775.

A datestone, until quite recently located in the north gable end (a gaping hole in the masonry attests to its disappearance) attributes this stone building to B.G.; its legend read "B.G. 1790".

"B.G." most probably is Beale Gaither, one of the many children of Henry and Martha Gaither. Little is known of Beale Gaither. He was listed as a farmer in the tax assessment of 1793, owning property on a tract of land known as Mount Calvary. He died in 1839 without issue. In his will (probated in Montgomery County 3/26/1839, W154) he gave his dwelling plantation to his nephew Samuel Riggs Gaither. After Samuel's death the property was to be given to Beale's brother, Frederick. Beale Gaither's will was contested by some of his next of kin who claimed that Beale was not of sound mind when he drew up his will and that he was at that time under the guardianship of Frederick. The court, however, ruled against the complainants.

Gaither's will also includes specific provisions for his slaves. Item 5 states "to my negroes I give freedom and set each of them free at the period herein mentioned viz all the males that shall or may be 21 years or upward at the time of my death and the same for all females 16 or up and those males that aren't 21 and those females that aren't 16 shall have their liberty . . . as I am particularly desirous that each and all of my negroes should enjoy their freedom . . . I hereby manuscrit and set free all such children and the children of such children to the latest generation when they arrive respectively the males to 21 and the females to 16 years of age." Item 9 states: "to each of my negroes I give all the beds and bedding belonging to each, and it is my desire that if any of my negroes, male or female, should claim or possess any little article usual for slaves to possess then I advise my executors to relinquish it to them, but in all such cases my executors are to execute a discretionary power. . ." His will also outlines specific sums of money to be given to specific slaves.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

CONTINUATION SHEET

Gaither/Howard House (Significance) ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

When Frederick Gaither died in 1843 (probated will in Montgomery County 8/1/1843 Y 253) he devised to his "daughter Maria, wife of SamMuel R. Gaither, the farm willed by Beale Gaither to him the said Sammuel R. in the event of his death . . ." After the death of himself and his wife the property was to be equally divided among the "daughters of my daughters Martha and Elizabeth Griffith and Rebecca Warfield and daughters of my son Perry. . ." Although it is not known when Sammuel R or his wife Maria G. Gaither died, land records confirm the sale of this property and the equal distribution of the revenues among the daughters of Frederick's daughters and sons. This sale occurred 8/5/1862 (Montgomery County land records JGH 8/671)." At the request of George Howard, colored man, the following deed was recorded. . ." By those Gaither heirs mentioned above. The parcel consisted of 289½ acres of land.

Tax assessment book reveals that in 1853 a George Howard, age 23, was the slave of another Gaither, Elisha, also a nephew of Frederick Gaither who lived in Montgomery County. A Harriet Howard is listed under the property of Sammuel Riggs Gaither. By 1857 George Howard has gained his freedom for he is mentioned in the U.S. Census records for Montgomery County as a free negro living in the first election district of Montgomery County. It is also in this year that Elisha Gaither dies. Harriet Howard's name disappears from the 1853-1863 slave statistics after 1855.

George Howard, (his full name was Enoch George Howard) farmer, continued to live in this house until his death 1895. At the time of his death a newspaper obituary stated that he was a well respected man of the community. He had given land to found Howard Chapel (M23-11) and to establish a black school which was located on the east side of Howard Chapel Road south of the church. The chapel still stands although it is now primarily supported by scrub trees which have grown up around it. This structure is also within Patuxent River State Park.

The descendants of Enoch George Howard resided in the stone house until 1960 when they sold the property to Middleton Farms (Montgomery County land records 1/19/1960, 2854/206) who then sold it to the State for park development (Montgomery County land records 1/20/1969, 3825/745).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

Bridget Deale, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

August 1979

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

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

Recommendations Gaither/Howard House

The houses are in poor condition due to gross neglect by park authorities. Since plumbing, electric and gas facilities were never installed in either structure, renovation/restoration cost would be astronomical. A viable alternative, however, would be to stabilize the exterior walls of both buildings and convert these shells into picnic or camping shelter area for limited access use. These sites readily lend themselves to scenic rest stops for horse or hiking trails.

If however immediate attention cannot be given to the stabilization of these structures by the Department of Natural Resources, then it is recommended that both properties be returned to private ownership with a protective easement affixed to both the two dwellings and the surrounding land.

The Howard cemetery should be cleared of the extensive vegetation which has grown around it and then continued to be properly landscaped.

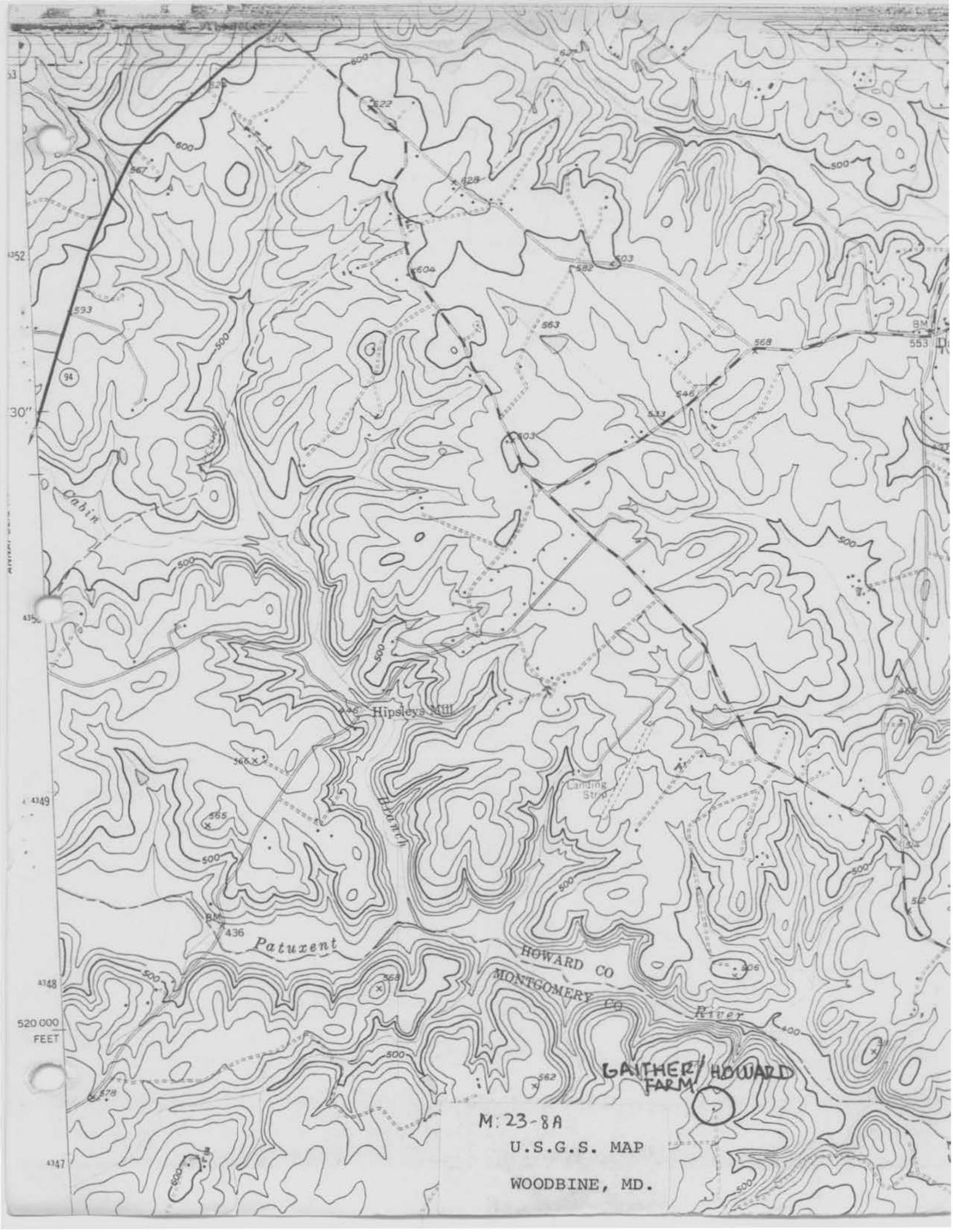
Gaither/Howard House - Title Search

| <u>Land Record/ Date</u> | <u>Grantor/Grantee</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--|---|--|
| 3825/745 1/20/1969 | Middletown, Thomas Blair and Mary Virginia to Maryland DNR | 200 acres [±] parcel which includes 3 parcels of land (1) from Howard to Middletown 2859/206/1960 (2) from Middletown to DNR 2859/215, 7/5/1960 (3) from Tydings to Middleton 1510/280, 3/26/1951 |
| 2859/206 1/19/1960 | Howard, George Samuel, Laura E., Daniel H., Mary M. to Middleton, Thomas Blair, Mary Virginia | |
| 434/472 8/29/1927, Wills PEW 9/79 | Howard, Greenbury (deceased) to Howard, George S. and Daniel H. | The 300 [±] acre estate of Greenbury Howard was divided as follows: (1) his wife received the farm of 100 acres (wills PEW 9/79) (2) his sons, George Samuel and Daniel H. purchased for \$2,000 the remaining parcel of land (3) his sons George Samuel, Frederick A. Daniel H. were left in trust ½ acre of land to be used as a family burial ground |
| Wills GCD 2/227 1895 | Howard, George to Howard, Green- bury | The will of Enoch George Howard directs his executors to provide his personal and real estate equally among his 5 children, John Henry, Mary Alice, Coxen, Martha Murphy, Green and Maria Gaither Oliver in the event of his wife's death or remarriage. His wife had died in 1882. |
| TD22/260 6/31/1902 | Oliver, Maria and Jacob to Howard, Greenbury | Parcel of land known as Lot 1 in the division of the home farm of George Howard which the grantor received according to the will of George Howard. |
| TD 2/222 1/29/1898 | Murphy, Martha E. and John H. to Howard, Green | For \$408.75 the parcel of land known as lot 3, in the division of George Howard's estate. |
| JGH 8/671 8/5/1862 | Griffith, Maria G. and Martha J; Warfield, Kate Ann and Augustus; Maria G. and Israel G; Crowder, Deborah Jane and Alexander N. to Howard, George | Received a parcel of land totaling 289½ acres [±] parts of Gaither's Forest, Mount Calvary, Hard to Get and Dear Paid For, and Green- spring Resurveyed |

Gaither/Howard House - Title Search (continued)

2

| <u>Land Record/ Date</u> | <u>Grantor/Grantee</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Wills Y 253 | Gaither, Frederick to Griffith, Maria G., Martha Jane; Warfield, Kate Ann, Maria G; Crowder, Deborah Jane | According to the will of Frederick Gaither the property "where Samuel Riggs Gaither now lives after the death of himself and his wife, Maria !who is Frederick's daughter/...the property was divided equally among daughters of my daughters Martha and Elizabeth Griffith and Rebecca Warfield and daughters of my son Perry. |
| Wills W 154 | Gaither, Beale to Gaither, Frederick | According to the will of Beale Gaither "to nephew Samuel R. Gaither I give my dwelling plantation...and I give and devise my dwelling plantation...to my brother Frederick...after the death of my nephew Samuel R..." |



33
30"
435
4349
4348
520 000
FEET
4347

94

Cabin

Hipsleys Mill

Patuxent

HOWARD CO
MONTGOMERY CO

GATHER/HOWARD
FARM

M: 23-8A
U.S.G.S. MAP
WOODBINE, MD.



M 23-8

Gaither/Howard House
north side of Damascus Road
Patuxent River State Park
Damascus, MD
S.E. Elevation

MD; 11/78

A



M 23-8

Gaither/Howard House
north side of Damascus Road
Patuxent State Park
Damascus, MD
Interior of rear addition
BMD; 4/79



M 23-8

Gaither/Howard House
north side of Damascus Road
Patuxent River State Park
Damascus, MD
Interior detail of
front parlor

MD;11/74



M 23-8

Gaither/Howard House
north side of Damascus Road
Patuxent River State Park
Damascus, MD

Interior; step detail

MD; 11/74