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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Beer Creek Friends Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

One quarter mile south of U.S. Route 1
in Darlington

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Darlington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Harford

CODE

025

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Chester P. Holloway, Jr., Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Troyer Road

CITY, TOWN

White Hall

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Deer Creek Friends Meeting house is located on the west side of Maryland Route 161, south of its intersection with U.S. Route 1 in Darlington, Harford County, Maryland. It is a one-story fieldstone structure six bays long on the south, four bays on the north, and three bays wide. It has a gable roof covered with slate shingles. The building was constructed in 1784 to replace a building of 1737 and renovated in 1888. A one-story, frame addition containing kitchen and bathrooms was built on the west end several years ago.

The six bays of the south facade contain 6/6 sash windows at each end, double doors in the next bays in, and two 6/6 windows in the center. The windows have paneled shutters and a stone lintel above wooden surrounds. Each leaf of the double doors has two panels, and the knobs and escutcheons are of raised pattern cast metal and were installed in 1888. A stone step leads up to the stone sill of each door; these also have stone lintels.

The east end has a double door flanked by two windows; these are identical to the doors and windows on the south facade. Above the door lintel is a datestone which reads: Founded 1737; Rebuilt 1784; Restored by Hugh J. Jewett 1888.

The north facade has four small 2/2, double-hung sash windows. Set high in the wall as on the inside the raised elders' benches are below them. They are spaced two in the center and one at each end so that on the interior they are situated at opposite ends of the rear wall of each room.

Two Victorian period chimneys rise from the lower corners of the south slope of the roof. The west one services a fireplace added in 1888; the east one is decorative.

The west end is covered by the 20th century frame addition, but a double door and flanking windows identical to those at the east end are still visible inside. The addition is a one bay long by three bays deep structure with gable roof lower than the house. It is also not as deep as the house, but has a shed-roofed porch across the south that brings it to the full depth of the meeting house. It is a compatible addition that does not affect the structure of the meeting house and is screened by shrubs and trees.

The interior of the meeting house is divided into two spaces by an original paneled partition. The paneling is divided into three horizontal rooms; the middle one slides down to open the rooms to each other. The rooms, the east for men and the west for women, are also connected by a double door in the center of the partition. The latch to this door is held in place with rose head nails.

The benches on each side are also original to the 1784 structure. There are two risers containing the elders benches facing the congregation in each room. Most of these benches are fixed. There are ten benches in each room, with an aisle down the center, these are not fixed.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

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Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland . . . ITEM NUMBER . . . PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

Most other features of the interior date from the 1888 renovation. The ceiling is narrow boards, as are the window reveals. Narrow board wainscoting was also installed, and the pine floor dates from this time. The window and door trim and the doors inside are varnished. (The partition is painted and the benches left untouched. The 1888 fireplace is a corner one in the southwest corner of the women's side. The mantel has a "Tudor" or four-centered arched fascia, simple shelf, and plain pilasters.

Also on the property is a five-stall horse shed. The stalls are formed by heavy hand-hewn beams which also support the roof. The rafters are round logs. The walls are sheathed with wide vertical planks, and the shed has a new shingle roof. The open side faces east into the yard in front of the meeting house. The shed appears to date from the same time as the house.

A cemetery is located to the north of (behind) the meeting house. The earliest marker in it is a slate one reading Sarah Ely 1775. Burials in the cemetery ended in 1930. It probably dates from the meeting house before this one, which was located across the road, as Sarah Ely's death predates the current structure, and early Friends did not mark their graves.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1784, 1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The Deer Creek Friends Meeting house is a typical structure of its type in form, with an interesting combination of late 18th century and Victorian details. The house is similar to the West Nottingham and Colora meeting houses across the Susquehanna River in Cecil County. All three are of similar size and shape, with two entrance doors in the main facade and the interior space divided in half by sliding partitions. The two meeting houses in Cecil County are noted for their lack of alteration. Deer Creek is different in that many changes in detail were made to its interior in 1888 by a member of the Meeting who was able to afford the work. These changes were and are controversial, as they basically added stylish features to a plain building reflective of the simplicity of the Quaker faith. This is the only meeting house in Maryland that has such later style-conscious alterations.

The Meeting itself is a very old one, the second in Harford County, founded in 1734, and is still an active Meeting today.

The horse shed on the property is a very early one, possibly dating from the construction of the meeting house in 1784. Such sheds at other meeting houses and churches in Maryland have not survived. The graveyard here contains several early Quaker headstones of slate.

HISTORY

In 1701 William Penn, in order to secure his boundaries against Lord Baltimore, opened a section of his province "far back in the wilderness" to Friends. The area was called the Nottingham Lots. When the Mason-Dixon line was run in 1764, some Friends on the Lots learned they were in Lord Baltimore's territory. East Nottingham, the parent body of Quakers in that area, was in Cecil County, and was set up by the Western Quarter of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Among the meetings were Bush River and Deer Creek.

The Deer Creek Meeting was founded in 1734 and established in 1737. Nathan Rigbie conveyed three and a half acres, part of Phillip's Purchase, to the trustees of the Meeting. On May 25, 1789, Colonel James Rigbie executed a confirmatory deed of the same lot to Joseph Warner, Hugh Ely, Jacob Baldwin, and Isaiah Baldwin, trustees. (Land Records of Baltimore County HHSIA 1/17 and Land Records of Harford County JLG K/347; Preston, 1901, pp. 193-197.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

After the American Revolution, proponents of two different emphases were circulating their ideas on Quaker beliefs in the Baltimore area: In 1800 Stephen Gellet advocated the fundamental doctrines of the new evangelism in a talk at the Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Elias Hicks journeyed through this same area between 1797 and 1829. He advocated Christian rationalism combined with the Quietist emphasis on the Inner Light. Hicks could not admit that all parts of the Bible were divinely inspired. He insisted that people could not know the Holy Scriptures unless they first recognized the spirit of God within themselves. A separation occurred in the faith in 1828 through the influence of these visitors from England. More than four-fifths of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting sided with Hicksite philosophy, including the Deer Creek Meeting.

In 1853 the Yearly Meeting at Lombard Street asked each meeting to list the number of children and their schooling. Deer Creek had 103 children, but had no school under the care of the Meeting. They indicated, however, that several public schools were taught by Friends.

In 1876 the Hicksite Yearly Meeting Committee was reorganized. Friends were urged to reopen closed schools. A census in 1876 showed that Deer Creek Meeting had thirty-eight children. Thirty attended school, seven under Friend teachers.

Susannah J. Jewett, who served as Clerk of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Women Friends in 1808 and from 1813 through 1820, preached in the Deer Creek Friends Meeting house. Her son, Hugh J. Jewett, born July 1, 1817, was a lawyer who spent the greater part of his life near Zanesville, Ohio. He served in the legislature of Ohio and in the U. S. House of Representatives. In 1884 he returned to Harford County, and in 1888 he "restored" the Deer Creek Friends Meeting house. The Victorian details of the building a the result of his work.

Membership statistics for the Deer Creek Meeting, obtained from Forbush's History (p. 115), show a decline after the Civil War:

<u>Just before the Civil War</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1900</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>
228	196	180	146	96	99	80

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Conowingo Dam

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	396580	4388960	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Reference Harford County Deed JLG #K/347

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Pamela James, National Register Coordinator/
Susan M. Deeney, Field Historian

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust/
Historic District Commission

DATE 9/78 / 9/76

STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle/
45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE (301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis/Bel Air

STATE Maryland 21401/21041

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature] 2-15-80

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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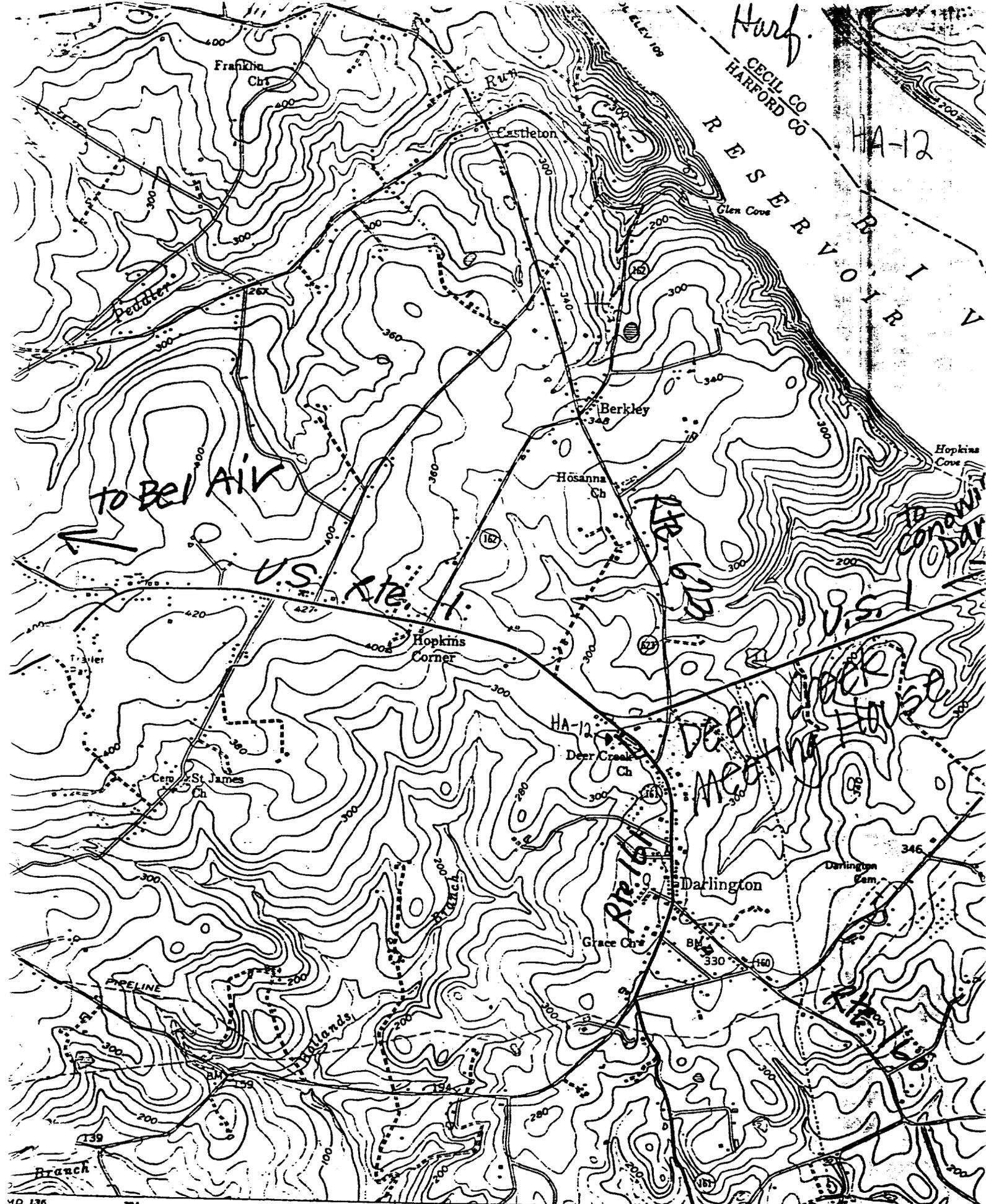
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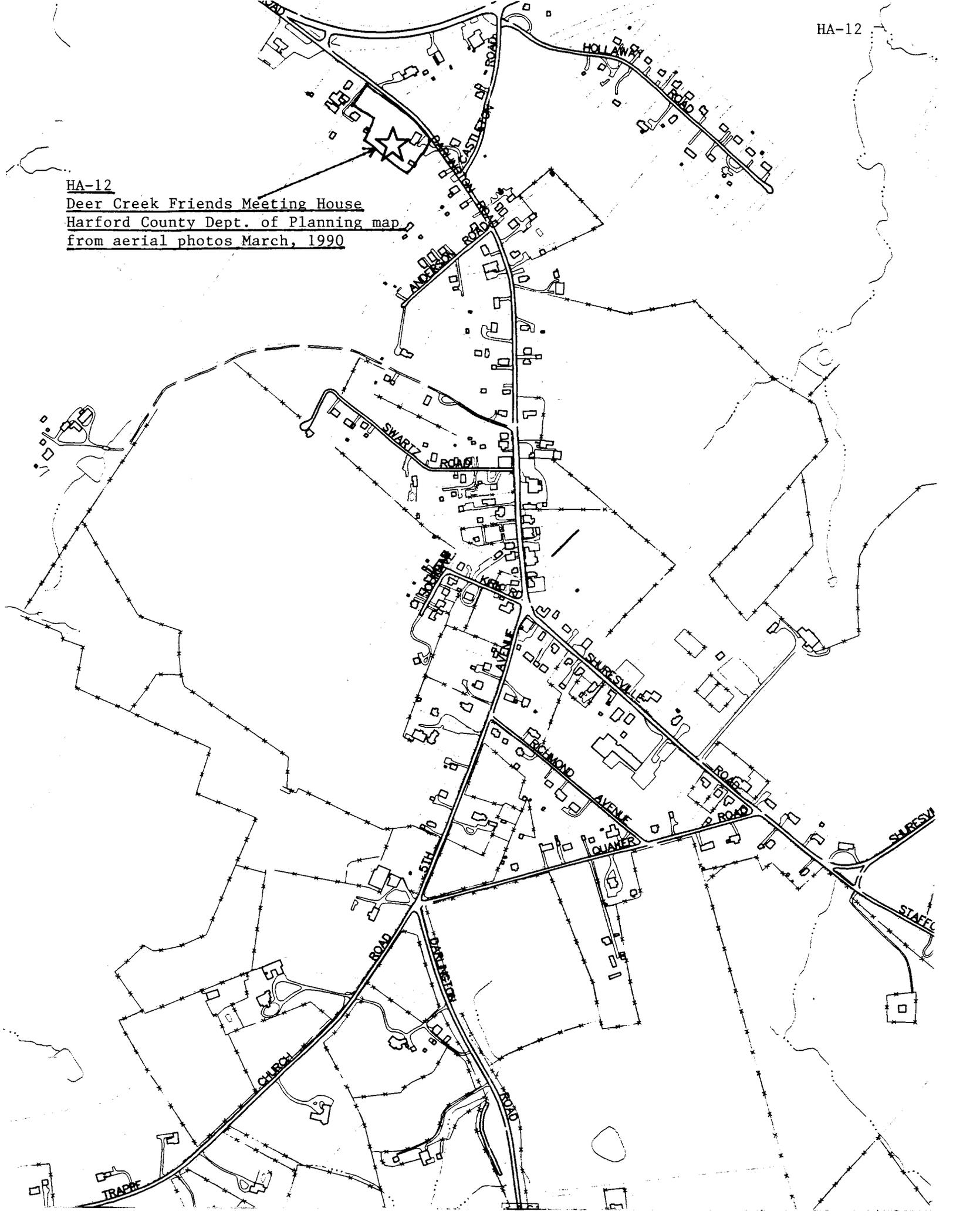
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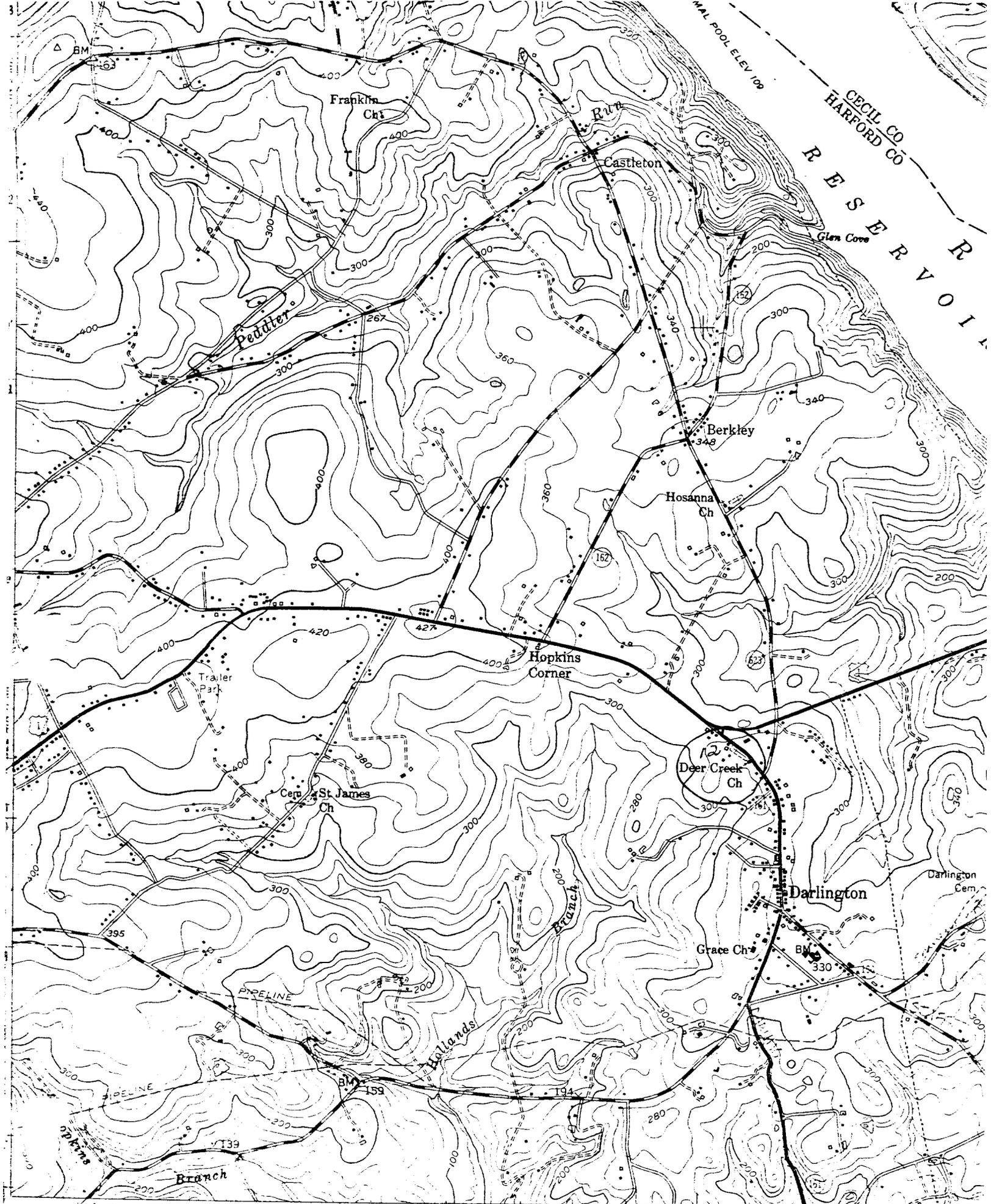
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The Aegis, 8/19/76, p. B1.



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Deer Creek Friends Meeting House
Harford County Dept. of Planning map
from aerial photos March, 1990





15' 394 395 11 020 000 FEET (MD.) 396 12'30" 397 (L&E) 5763



Deer Creek Friends Meeting HA-12
Darlington, MD
Susan M. Deeney . 9/1/76
South