

CAPSULE SUMMARY
4000 Crain Highway, SE (PG: 79-78)
Prince George's County, Maryland

Built between 1850 and 1860, this vernacular farmhouse is one of the few dwellings in the survey area that survives from the mid-19th century. The property was historically part of the 304 acres Bleek Hill, which was owned in the middle part of the 19th century by Frank W. and Richard Hill.

The house at 4000 Crain Highway, SE is set on a sloping lot with mature trees, shrubs, foundation plantings, and a gravel driveway. This vernacular farmhouse is two-stories high and four bays wide. Rectangular in plan, the dwelling features a two-story, two-bay wide central section which is flanked by two one-story, one-bay wide wings. The house rests on a solid brick foundation laid in stretcher bond. The wood frame walls are clad with weatherboard siding, and a one-story, three-bay wide porch projects in front of the central section. A side gable, asphalt shingle roof covers the building. An interior end brick chimney is located on the east end of the central section. A central interior brick chimney is located in the west wing.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG:79-78

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____
common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 4000 Crain Highway, SE not for publication _____
city or town Upper Marlboro vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Prince George's County code 33 zip code _____

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
4000 Crain Highway, SE
Prince George's County, Maryland

Inventory No. PG: 79-78
Page 2

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Brick
Roof Gable: Rolled Asphalt
Walls Wood Frame: Weatherboard Siding
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
4000 Crain Highway, SE
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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1850-1950

Significant Dates 1850-1860

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property .6790 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 4000 Crain Highway, SE is designated as Parcel 8, Grid C2 as indicated on Map 93.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building at 4000 Crain Highway, SE has historically been associated with Parcel 8 since its construction circa 1850.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 7, 1999
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====
12. Property Owner
=====

name John M. and Frances Hill Myers
street & number 3610 Crain Highway, SE telephone _____
city or town Upper Marlboro state MD zip code _____

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 79-78

Section 7 Page 1

4000 Crain Highway, SE
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====

The house at 4000 Crain Highway, SE is set on a sloping lot with mature trees, shrubs, foundation plantings, and a gravel driveway. Built between 1850 and 1860, this vernacular farmhouse is two-stories high and features a two-bay wide main block flanked by two one-story, one-bay wide wings. The rectangular house rests on a solid brick foundation laid in stretcher bond. The wood frame walls are clad with weatherboard siding, and a one-story, three-bay wide porch projects in front of the central section. A side gable, asphalt shingle roof covers the building. An interior end brick chimney is located on the east end of the central section. A central interior brick chimney is located in the west wing.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The façade, or north elevation of the building, is four bays wide. The three-bay porch rests upon concrete block piers, has square wood post supports, and is covered by a standing seam metal shed roof. On the first story, the center section is marked by a single-leaf panel-and-light door. The left (east) wing features a 4/4 wood window, while the right (west) wing has a 6/6 wood window. The second story of the center section contains two 6/6 wood windows.

The west elevation features two 6/6 wood windows on the first story, and one 6/6 wood window on the second story. The rear, or south elevation, of the building is composed of the two-story central section and the one-story flanking wings. The first story of the central section contains a single-leaf panel-and-light wood door and a 6/6 wood window. Above these on the second story are two 6/6 wood windows. The left (west) wing features a 6/6 wood window and a single-leaf paneled wood door. The right (east) wing has a 6/6 wood window and a single-leaf panel-and-light wood door.

This elevation also has two small porches with square wood post supports and rolled asphalt, shed roofs. Both of these porches are additions, and are in different stages of deterioration. The east elevation features a 4/4 wood window on the first story and a 6/6 wood window on the second story.

SUPPORTING BUILDINGS:

A small shed is located to the southwest of the house. It rests on a poured concrete foundation, and has plywood walls.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 79-78

Section 8 Page 1

4000 Crain Highway, SE
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====
Built between 1850 and 1860, this vernacular farmhouse is one of the few dwellings in the survey area that survives from the mid-19th century. The property was historically part of the 304 acres Bleek Hill, which was owned in the middle part of the 19th century by Frank W. and Richard Hill.

Between 1815 and 1870 tobacco cultivation was the main economic and agricultural activity in Prince George's County, and development in the area was dominated by large agricultural plantations until the Civil War. Throughout this period Prince George's County served as the state's leading tobacco producer. However, by the 1850s, much of the soil in the state had been depleted by over-cultivation of tobacco. During these years, many planters in southern Maryland left to pursue opportunities in newly acquired lands to the west. Those who stayed implemented progressive agricultural techniques to rejuvenate their cropland. New settlers from Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey replaced most of the planters emigrating from southern Maryland, and helped to initiate greater diversification and upgrading of the region's agriculture. As a result, production of tobacco peaked in 1860. Following the Civil War and the demise of the plantation system, farm size in Prince George's County slowly decreased. While the average farm size decreased from 263 acres in 1860 to 159 acres in 1880 and 104 acres in 1910, the number of farms in the county increased from 800 in 1860 to approximately 2,400 by 1900. Tenant farming and sharecropping were also practiced, but the availability of credit placed a greater proportion of Maryland's farmland under independent ownership than in other former slave states. While tobacco continued to serve as a major cash crop, southern Maryland farmers, especially those nearer the urban markets of Washington and Baltimore, began diversifying and produced more crops, such as grains and potatoes, for consumption in the cities.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 79-78

Section 8 Page 2

4000 Crain Highway, SE
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

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National Register Evaluation:

The house at 4000 Crain Highway, SE is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Not Recommended X

Comments:

Review, OPS: [Signature] ✓ Date: 12/1/98

Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: _____

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 79-78

4000 Crain Highway, SE
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870)
Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and
Community Planning
Agriculture

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 79-78

4000 Crain Highway, SE
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

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Chain of Title:

- September 8, 1896: Catherine S. Hill to Mildred W.N. Bowling
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber JWB 38 Folio 263
- November 15, 1901: Mildred W.N. Bowling to Michael J. Wyvill
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 5 Folio 371
- December 28, 1931: Michael J. Wyvill and Gertrude B. Wyville to
Russell LeRoy Beall and Geneva M. Beall
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 381 Folio 359
- January 12, 1937: M. Hampton Magruder and Mittie M. Magruder to
Russell Leroy Beall and Geneva M. Beall
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 465 Folio 149
- June 3, 1958: Russell Leroy Beall and Geneva M. Beall to M.
Hampton Magruder
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 2215 Folio 126
- M. Hampton Magruder bequeathed to Mittie Hall
Magruder
Will Records of Prince George's County
Will Administrator No. 14522
- June 29, 1984: Florence Hall Magruder and Mary M. Mustin,
personal representatives of the estate of
Mittie Hall Magruder, to John M. Myers and
Frances Hill Myers
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 5923 Folio 214

4303000m N

1394 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SW
PG: 79-75

4302

2901 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SW
PG: 79-76

4301

3807 OLD CRAIN HIGHWAY
PG: 79-77

4000 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SE
PG: 79-78

4300

4109 CRAIN HIGHWAY, SW
PG: 79-79

50'

BLADENSBURG 14 MI.
LARGO (JUNC. MD 214) 7.6 MI.

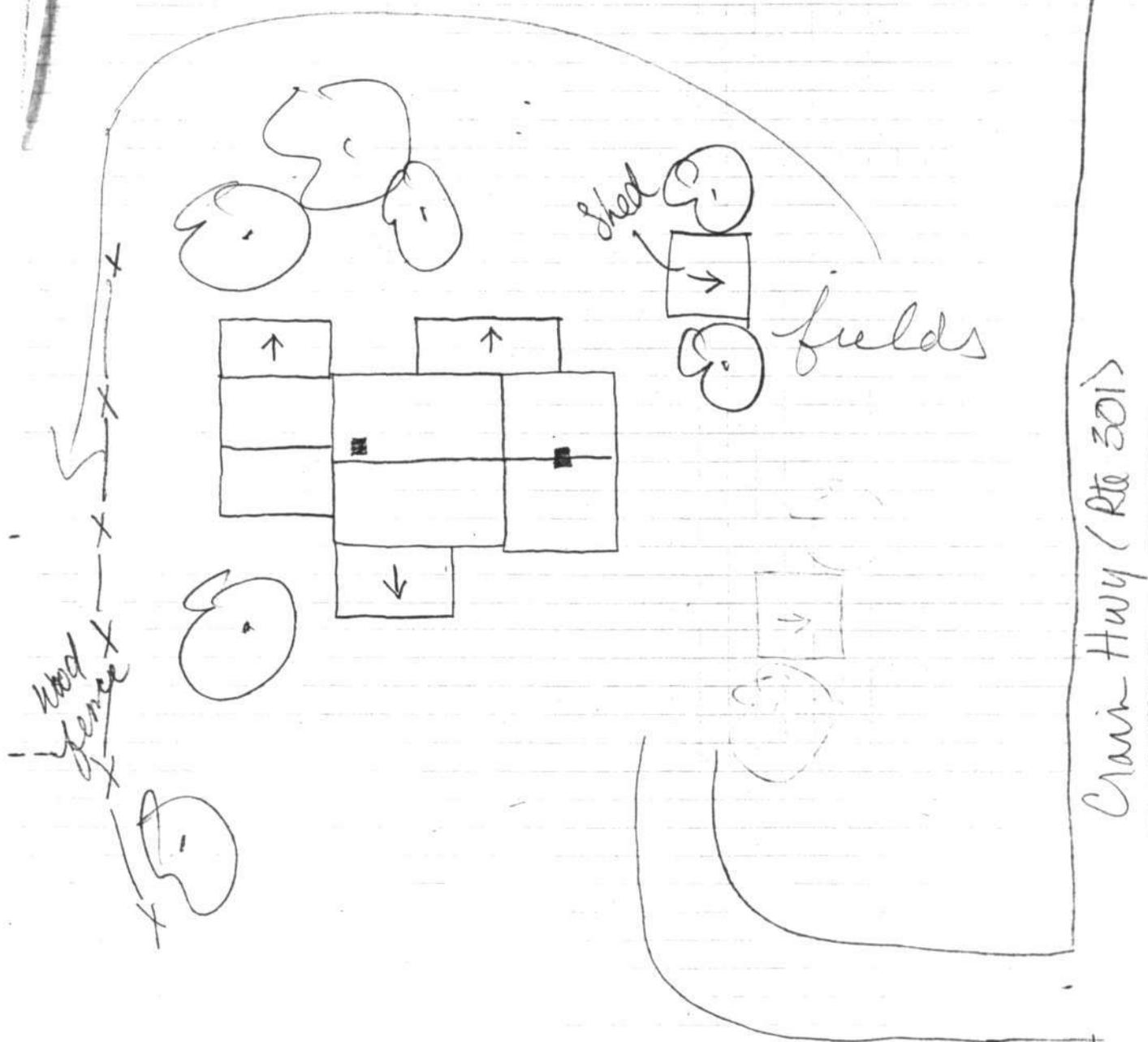
15008 MARLBORO PIKE
PG: 79-80

1/4 SE
MARLBORO



Bristol USGS Quad





4000 Cran Highway, SE PG: 79-78

Prince George's County
Maryland

Resource Sketch Map 1999
Not Drawn to Scale

Survey #99



PB: 79-78

4000 Crain Highway, SE
Prince George's County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

northeast elevation

1 of 5



PG: 79-78

4000 Crain Highway, SE
Prince George's County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

northwest elevation

2 of 5



PG: 77-78

4000 Crain Highway, SE
Prince George's County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

southwest elevation

3 of 5



PG: 77-78

4000 Crain Highway, SE
Prince George's County, MD

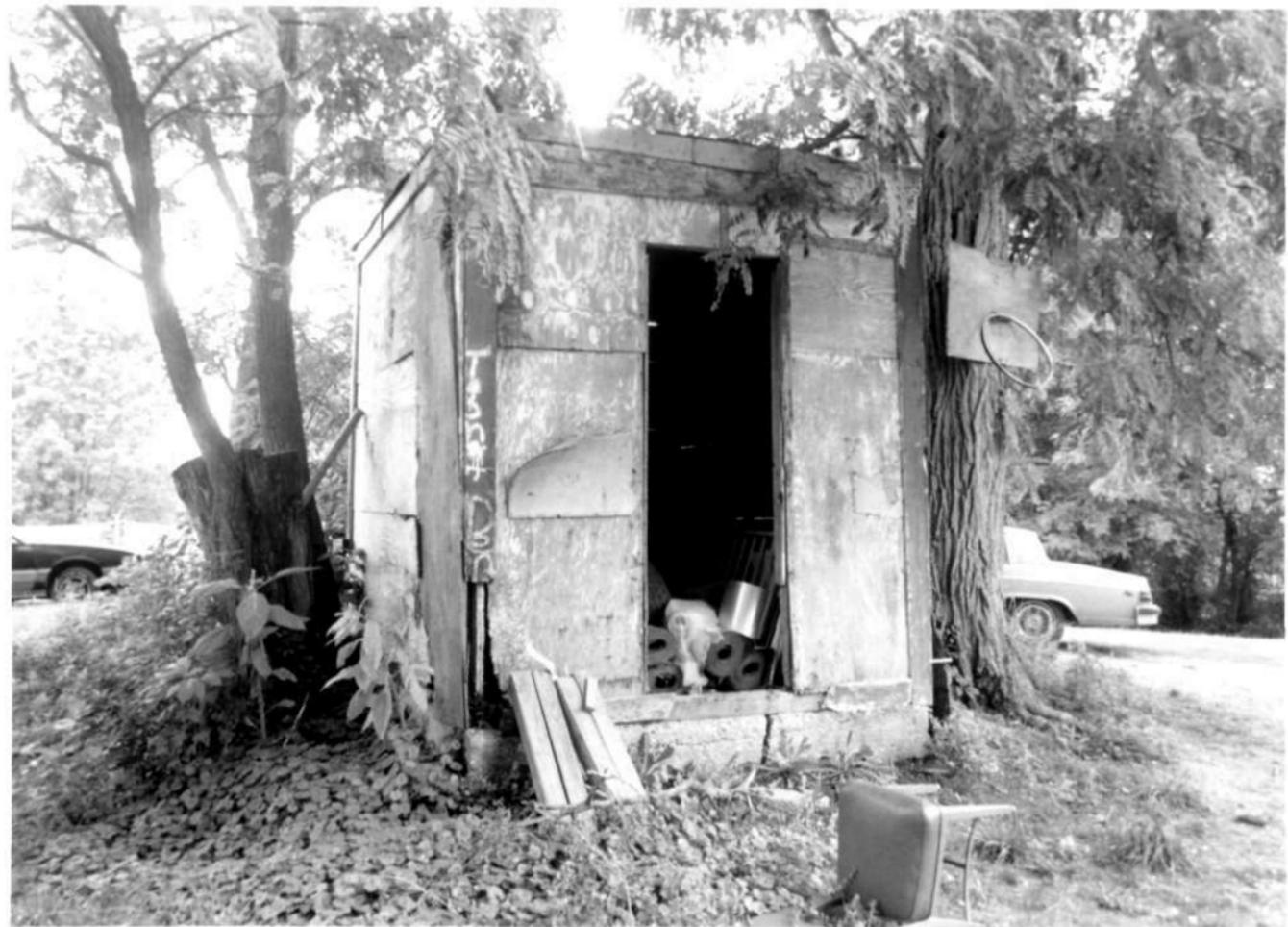
Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

southeast elevation

4 of 5



PG: 79-78

4000 Cram Highway, SE
Prince George's County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

sked

5 of 5