

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name Piscataway Village Historic District

Other names/site number PG: 84-023

### 2. Location

street & number Area bounded by Piscataway Creek to the north, Piscataway Road to the  not for publication  
east and south, and Livingston Road to the west

city or town Clinton  vicinity

State Maryland code MD county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20735

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

10-27-11  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain:)	_____	_____

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
12	12	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
13	12	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_

RELIGION: Religious Facility \_\_\_\_\_

FUNERARY: Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Field \_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_

RELIGION: Religious Facility \_\_\_\_\_

FUNERARY: Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

VACANT \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival, Gothic Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Colonial Revival

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT: Minimal Traditional

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: BRICK; STONE; CONCRETE

WOOD: Weatherboard; SYNTHETICS:

walls: Vinyl, METAL: Aluminum; BRICK

roof: ASPHALT; METAL; SLATE

other: WOOD, CONCRETE, BRICK (Porches)

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Piscataway Village Historic District includes approximately 116.58 acres south of the Piscataway Creek in southwestern Prince George's County, Maryland. The survey area includes residential property types from the mid-eighteenth century, the nineteenth century, and the early twentieth century representing an array of notable styles and forms. These include the eighteenth-century Piscataway Tavern (ca. 1750) with Federal addition (ca. 1810) and the Georgian Hardy's Tavern (ca. 1790), the Italianate Harbin House/Clagett Store (ca. 1860), the Colonial Revival Edelen House (ca. 1830; 1926); and the Thomas C. Underwood Bungalow (ca. 1928). In addition, the district contains properties exhibiting elements of the central cross gable and side-gable types. The district also includes St. Mary's Church, which was erected in the early twentieth century on the site of an earlier chapel and is a good example of the Gothic Revival Style. The buildings are oriented to Floral Park Road, which runs through the middle of the district, with open space to the rear of the lots. The lack of modern infill and surrounding open space contributes to the feeling of a rural linear district. The district historically provided goods and services to surrounding farms and retains three former stores, two former taverns, one former post office, one former doctor's office, and a church.

See Continuation Sheets 7.1 through 7.10.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**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)

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1747-1943

**Significant Dates**

1747; 1757; 1838; 1858; 1914; 1937; 1943

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

Unknown

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in 1747, with the establishment of a tobacco inspection warehouse in Piscataway, and ends in 1943, the year the town post office closed, one of the last vestiges of the services that the village historically provided to the surrounding agricultural area.

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

Piscataway Village Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the area of community planning and development as a notable collection of residential buildings that reflects development over time, from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries. Eighteenth-century growth of the district was made possible by Piscataway's designation as a tobacco inspection station in 1747. Since the early nineteenth century, the population of the village has remained the same or declined, resulting in a retention of the feeling of a rural linear district. The district is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its notable examples of eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century architectural styles and forms, as well as for its exemplification of specific types and periods of construction.

*Community Planning and Development*

The Piscataway Village Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the area of community planning and development. The district is a notable collection of buildings that reflect development from an eighteenth-century tobacco port to an early twentieth-century rural linear village. Piscataway includes a distinctly separate early crossroads community that developed at the intersection of roadways leading from Port Tobacco, Nottingham, and Upper Marlboro. Throughout the eighteenth, nineteenth and into the twentieth centuries, it provided services to the surrounding agricultural community, including taverns, stores, a church, schools, and doctors. Many of the buildings associated with the village's development over time remain, conveying a sense of a rural linear village in an agricultural area. The remaining surrounding fields and woodlots contribute to the sense of a rural village. Although the Edelen House (PG: 84-023-006) is now separated from the rest of the village by Piscataway Drive, there is the connection of intervening open space. Despite loss of some of the eighteenth and nineteenth-century dwellings in the village, the village retains the feeling of a linear historic district and lacks incompatible modern infill.

*Architecture*

The Piscataway Village Historic District is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a significant and distinguishable entity representing the distinctive characteristics of late eighteenth through early twentieth century residential and religious architecture. Although there are relatively few buildings, the district is able to convey a wide array of distinct styles, types, forms, and periods of construction from the eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. Styles and forms within the district include center-passage and side-passage plans, Federal, Georgian, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Folk Victorian, Colonial Revival, and bungalows.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

See Continuation Sheets 8.1 through 8.16.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_MD-  
52 \_\_\_\_\_

Prince George's County Department of  
Planning Vertical Files; Frederick S. Demarr  
Name of repository: Library

See Continuation Sheets 9.1 through 9.3.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 116.58  
(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

**UTM References**  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>328217</u>	<u>4285949</u>	3	<u>18</u>	<u>329078</u>	<u>4284947</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>18</u>	<u>329099</u>	<u>4285929</u>	4	<u>18</u>	<u>348195</u>	<u>4284966</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)  
The boundary includes approximately 116.58 acres situated south of Piscataway Creek, west and north of Piscataway Road, and east of Livingston Road. The boundary is drawn to exclude those parcels or portions of parcels that contain post-1940 development, including the rectory and school complex of St. Mary's Church. The boundary for the Piscataway Village Historic District is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map entitled "Piscataway Village Historic District Boundary Map."

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)  
The boundary includes those properties historically located within the Piscataway village during the period of significance (1747-1943).

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Barbara Frederick, Russel Stevenson, and Emma K. Young/Architectural Historians  
organization A.D. Marble & Company date August 2010  
street & number 10989 Red Run Blvd, Suite 209 telephone 410.902.1421  
city or town Owings Mills State MD zip code 21117  
Email bfrederick@admarble.com

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 7

Page 1

The village of Piscataway is located in southwestern Prince George's County, Maryland, on Piscataway Creek, approximately four miles upstream from where the waterway adjoins the Potomac River. The village sits in a valley, which runs southwest to northeast and is flanked on either side by wooded undeveloped land. Generally, views from the village are of the now wooded, formerly agricultural, lands to the north and south. The district, which includes approximately 116.58 acres, is bounded by modern properties and the Piscataway Creek to the north, Piscataway Road to the east (except where the boundary crosses the roadway to include an early twentieth-century plantation house), and Livingston Road to the west. Floral Park Road runs through the middle of the district between Livingston and Piscataway roads. Although historically many of the dwellings of the district served mixed uses, all are in residential use in 2010, with some secondary buildings used for domestic or storage purposes.

The Piscataway Village Historic District contains twenty-four buildings, the majority of which front Floral Park Road. The district consists of twelve contributing dwellings, dating from ca. 1750 to 1940. Among the dwellings are two former taverns, three former stores, one former post office, and one former doctor's office. A church and associated cemetery are also contributing resources. The district also includes twelve non-contributing buildings that post-date the period of significance (1747-1943) or lack integrity from the period of significance.

The village is linear in nature, with dwellings aligned along Floral Park Road, a curving, two-lane road without shoulders. The dwellings are oriented to the roadway. In some locations, the roadside is defined by fencing and hedges. Typical of rural communities, there are no sidewalks in the village. The lots are generally large, varying between one-half and nine-and-one-half acres. Thus, the dwellings occupy a small percentage of the land contained within the village. Notably, only two early building sites have been redeveloped and are now occupied by later dwellings; the other early lots remain vacant. Mature trees and plantings are located around the oldest dwellings. The land surrounding the developed properties is largely wooded, although there are some pockets of open space. Some of the larger lots contain barns, garages, or other outbuildings.

The collection of contributing properties represents the evolution of Piscataway from a small crossroads village centered on the intersection of Floral Park and Piscataway roads in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to a linear community that extended west along Floral Park Road in the early twentieth century. The dwellings are notable examples of a wide array of popular architectural forms including the bungalow, cross-gable, and side-gable cottage forms. Examples of the Federal, Georgian, Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic Revival, Folk Victorian, and Craftsmen styles are found in the village. The majority of the dwellings are frame, with the exception of the Bond Bungalow, St. Mary's Church, and Hardy's Tavern, which are masonry. Few properties retain their original siding and windows. Most have replacement siding and windows that imitate the appearance of the original materials and design.

The eastern entrance to the village from Piscataway Road is marked by a small wooden sign on the south side of Floral Park Road, adjacent to number 2308 Floral Park Road, that reads "Piscataway, Established 1640". The historic core of the village includes eight buildings dating from the mid-eighteenth through early twentieth centuries. In this portion of the village, the dwellings are closely spaced and have minimal setbacks that measure from three to sixteen feet from the edge of the roadway to the façade of the dwellings. Yards occupy

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 7

Page 2

the rear of the lots as necessitated by the lack of open space in front of the dwellings. Within the original crossroads core, a few of the eighteenth-century buildings remain. These include the Hardy Tavern at 2305 Floral Park Road, the western block of the Piscataway Tavern at 2204 Floral Park Road, and the first story of the Dr. Hurtt House at 2308 Floral Park Road. The Edelen House is shown on historic mapping as part of the Village of Piscataway, although it was not located in the immediate vicinity of the intersection of Floral Park and Piscataway roads. The dwelling remains within view of the village, although it is now separated from the village by an extension of Piscataway Road that was opened in 2006.

North of the crossroads core of the village is St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and Cemetery. A church has occupied this site since 1838, and the current building was erected in 1904. The church is accessible via a roadway that leads west from Piscataway Road. Adjacent to the church is a cemetery, that was present by the mid-nineteenth century. An associated mid-twentieth-century complex that includes a rectory, school, and larger church is located to the west of the church and cemetery.

The central portion of the village is characterized by open space with a few dwellings and a former store that date from the 1940s through the 1960s, located on the north and south sides of the roadway. Dwellings within this portion of the district are isolated on their parcels, set back from the roadway by twenty or more feet.

The western end of the district includes small lots that were created in the early to mid-twentieth century when former farmland was sold and subdivided. Dwellings in this portion of the district are examples of common twentieth-century forms including the bungalow, gable-front-with-wing, and side-gable cottages. Dwellings on the lots tend to be set back from the roadway, often centered on the associated parcel.

A more detailed description of the notable and/or representative properties within the Piscataway Village Historic District follows. The descriptions are presented, alphabetically by street name and in ascending numerical order.

*1908 Floral Park Road (Thomas C. Underwood Bungalow, PG: 84-023-026)*

The Thomas C. Underwood Bungalow is a one-and-one-half-story, frame, bungalow dwelling constructed in 1926 that exhibits Folk Victorian detailing at the front porch. The dwelling rests on a concrete block foundation. The exterior walls are clad with German siding, and the hipped roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The roof features deeply overhanging eaves. A later massive brick exterior chimney is attached to the north elevation, and a smaller brick chimney projects from the rear roof slope.

The façade (east elevation) is comprised of three symmetrical bays. Fenestration consists of a central entrance door flanked by paired window openings. An open, full-width porch is incorporated beneath the hipped roof. The porch is accessed by wood steps and features turned and chamfered wood posts, jigsaw brackets, and a simple wood balustrade. A large, hipped-roofed dormer containing a pair of six-over-six, double-hung, wood-lash windows is centered in the east roof slope. A rear ell with a hipped roof projects from the north elevation of the dwelling.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 7

Page 3

The dwelling is centered on a 2.532-acre parcel that extends from Floral Park Road north to Livingston Road. The dwelling is separated from the roadway by a dense growth of trees. A wood picket fence delineates the grass-covered front lawn. A gravel driveway provides access from Floral Park Road and to the modern two-story garage located to the northeast of the dwelling.

*2004 Floral Park Road (Underwood House, PG: 84-023-002)*

The Underwood House is a two-and-one-half-story, frame, gable-front-with-ell dwelling, constructed in 1914, that has detailing typical of the Folk Victorian style, although some of the detailing dates to recent alterations made by the current owner. The dwelling rests on a parged foundation. The façade (south elevation) is clad with imitation German siding, and the side and rear elevations are clad with imitation wood clapboard siding. The gable of the façade and west gable end are clad in imitation scalloped wood shingles. (Only the gable of the façade was originally clad in shingles.) The shingles of the gables are separated from the imitation wood clapboard below by wide freize boards and boxed cornice returns. The gable roof is clad with asphalt shingles that imitate scalloped slate shingles, a replacement for the original metal roof. A brick interior chimney projects from the ridge near the intersection of the two perpendicular roof sections. A second chimney once rose from the west gable end but was removed as part of the recent alterations.

The façade (south elevation) of the gable front main block is comprised of three symmetrical bays. Fenestration in the first story consists of an entrance in the west bay, containing a door flanked by two-light sidelights. Two window openings containing six-over-six, double-hung vinyl-sash windows are present in the eastern bays and are typical of the other windows of the dwelling. All openings in the first story have simple surrounds. Fenestration in the second story consists of three window openings. A single arched window is present in the gable. The ell extends westward from the main block and features two windows in each story. All window openings in the façade, including those of the ell, are flanked by operable louvered shutters. A wood porch with a hipped roof extends the width of the south elevation, across both the main block and the ell. The porch was rebuilt by the current owner. Although a porch of the same form was present in 1995, it did not have a wood floor nor did it feature scroll-sawn brackets at the turned posts or a wood balustrade. The wood steps that provide access to the porch at its west end are a recent addition.

The dwelling stands alone on a 1.543-acre parcel. The large yard is planted with grass and mature trees, with a few small shrubs immediately adjacent to the house.

*2204 Floral Park Road (Piscataway Tavern, PG: 84-023-003)*

The Piscataway Tavern is among the most intact examples of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century architecture in Prince George's County. The building consists of two linear, side-gable sections, which are in fair condition. The smaller, one-story west block was constructed ca. 1750 as a store house associated with a connected dwelling (together operating as a tavern) that is no longer extant. The two-and-one-half-story east block was constructed ca. 1810 to replace the original dwelling. Both blocks are three bays wide and face south toward Floral Park Road. The west block rests on a raised foundation, and the east block rests on a shallow fieldstone foundation. The west block and the first story of the east block are clad with asphalt siding, and the second story of the east block is clad with random width wood siding. The side-gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. A large exterior brick chimney, featuring corbelling at the base, shoulders, and cap, is attached

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 7

Page 4

to the east gable end of the east block. A smaller exterior brick chimney is attached to the west gable end of the west block.

The façade (south elevation) of the west block is comprised of three symmetrical bays, consisting of a central entrance with a simple wood panel door flanked by window openings that are currently covered with plywood. A shed roof porch and two dormers that were visible in the 1936 Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) photos of the building are no longer present.<sup>1</sup>

The façade of the east block is comprised of three asymmetrical bays, indicating an interior side-passage plan. Fenestration in the first story consists of an entrance containing a wood, six-panel double door in the westernmost bay and two window openings shielded by wood, operable, louvered shutters. Fenestration in the second story consists of three window openings containing six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Two gabled dormers with molded wood pilasters, round-arched lintels, and pediments contain, six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows. A one-story porch featuring a brick pier foundation, square wood posts, and a simple wood balustrade shelters the façade.

The dwelling is situated very close to Floral Park Road, with the southwest corner less than one foot from the edge of pavement. The dwelling occupies a 8.019-acre parcel that features trees and grass. A frame outbuilding used for storage is located to the north of the dwelling. Although the interior was not accessible at the time of the field visit, an area resident confirmed that the fireplace mantels, wood paneling, and notable stairway documented during the 1936 HABS recordation remain on the interior.<sup>2</sup>

*2207 Floral Park Road (Stanton-Blandford House, PG: 84-023-004)*

The Stanton-Blandford House is a two-and-one-half-story frame dwelling originally constructed ca. 1825 and modified ca. 1866 with some Greek Revival detailing. The rectangular dwelling has a dual orientation: the north, side-gable side fronts closely on Floral Park Road; and the east, front gable side fronts a driveway. Historically, the building functioned as a house and store, with the north entrance serving as the store and the east entrance serving as the residence. The dwelling rests on a brick foundation. A central cross gable is present in the north elevation. A one-story kitchen wing extends from the south elevation, perpendicular to the main block. The dwelling is clad with vinyl, and the roof is clad with asphalt shingles. All window openings throughout the dwelling contain one-over-one, double-hung-sash replacement windows and are flanked by modern, inoperable, louvered shutters, unless otherwise noted below. The south slope of the roof is extended, creating a saltbox roofline. The chimneys identified in the 1995 survey form prepared for the property are no longer present.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Piscataway Tavern, Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS MD-52. Library of Congress, Prints and Photograph Division, Washington, D.C.

<sup>2</sup> Interview with Dr. Raymond Swyndle, Piscataway Preservation Corporation, December 16, 2009. Notes on file in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

<sup>3</sup> Piscataway Tavern, Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS MD-52. Library of Congress, Prints and Photograph Division, Washington, D.C.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 7

Page 5

The façade (north elevation) is separated from the adjacent roadway by a wooden fence. The north elevation is comprised of four asymmetrical bays in the first story and three asymmetrical bays in the second story. The first-story entrance is located off center towards the west end. The remaining bays in both stories contain windows. A small, arched window opening in the cross gable contains a lunette window. A one-story porch with a concrete base, square wood posts, a simple wood balustrade, and a shed roof extends across the western two-thirds of the north elevation, sheltering the entrance.

The east elevation is comprised of three symmetrical bays in the first story and two symmetrical bays in the second story. The first-story, central entrance contains a wood, four-panel door flanked by narrow-light sidelights and topped by a four-light transom. The remaining bays in both stories contain windows. An off-center window is also present in the gable. An elaborate entry porch shelters the east entrance, featuring a brick and concrete base, paired Doric columns, wood pilasters, denticulated frieze, raked cornice, and pedimented gable.

The dwelling is situated on a 0.485-acre parcel. The yard is planted with grass and mature trees. An asphalt-paved driveway located immediately east and south of the dwelling provides access from Floral Park Road. Outbuildings located to the rear of the dwelling include a shed-roof garage and shed-roof former agricultural outbuilding, now abandoned.

*2208 Floral Park Road (Harbin House/Clagett Store, PG: 84-023-007)*

The Harbin House/Clagett Store is a ca.-1860, two-story, frame, Italianate-influenced, rectangular building with a shed roof sloping down to the north (rear). The building faces south towards Floral Park Road and is situated five feet from the edge of the roadway. A one-story kitchen addition is attached to the rear elevation, and a shallow one-story shed addition adjoins the front portion of the west elevation. The exterior walls are clad in imitation wood clapboard siding. Windows throughout the building are six-over-six, double-hung vinyl-sash replacement types.

The façade is comprised of five asymmetrical bays. The first-story bays are obscured by a partially screened, one-story hipped-roof porch supported by square posts that rest on a concrete slab. The exterior wall of the dwelling beneath the screened porch is clad in asphalt shingles that imitate the appearance of bricks. The entrances at the first story are in the first, third, and fifth bays. The east entrance was to the former general store operated by the Clagett family in the 1940s-1950s, and the central entrance was the formal residential entrance. A full-width porch with a hipped roof extends across the first story. Fenestration in the second story of the façade consists of five windows with projecting wood lintels. The roofline of the facade is embellished with a frieze, overhanging boxed cornice, and six evenly spaced scrolled brackets. The cornice and second-story windows demonstrate Italianate influences.

The dwelling occupies a 0.08-acre parcel planted with grass and mature trees. Driveways to the east and west provide access to the property from Floral Park Road.

*2209 Floral Park Road (Bond Bungalow, PG: 84-023-025)*

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 7

Page 6

The Bond Bungalow is a one-story, brick, Bungalow dwelling constructed ca. 1935.<sup>4</sup> Unlike other dwellings in this portion of the district, the house sits back from the edge of the roadway, a reflection of the dwelling's occupation of an earlier house site. The hipped roof features overhanging eaves and a raised basement. A brick exterior chimney with brick corbelling is attached to the north bay of the west elevation, and a small brick chimney emerges from the roof at the rear of the dwelling.

The façade (north elevation) is comprised of three symmetrical bays. Fenestration consists of an entrance in the west bay and two window openings. The entrance contains a door flanked by four-light sidelights. An open, full-width porch is incorporated beneath the hipped roof and is supported by brick piers. The porch is accessible by steps that are flanked by a stepped brick wall. A gable dormer with a pair of windows is centered in the north roof slope. There is a three-sided projecting bay with windows at the west elevation.

The dwelling is situated on a 1.05-acre parcel, accessible via a gravel drive that leads south from Floral Park Road. The dwelling is screened from view of the roadway by mature trees and vegetation.

*2305 Floral Park Road (Hardy's Tavern, PG: 84-023-005)*

Hardy's Tavern is a two-and-one-half-story, brick, Georgian-style dwelling constructed ca. 1790. It is the only remaining example of Georgian-style architecture in Piscataway. The building faces north towards Floral Park Road and is situated eight to ten feet from the edge of the roadway. A one-and-one-half-story, brick, kitchen wing is attached to the south (rear) elevation of the main block by a small brick hyphen, and is oriented perpendicular to the main block. The brick walls are laid in a Flemish bond pattern, and the side-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Windows throughout the building are six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash, and windows in the façade (north elevation) are flanked by operable, wood, louvered shutters. Corbelled brick chimneys are flush with the east and west gable walls. The kitchen addition features a large chimney at the south elevation and wall dormers at the east elevation. Both the kitchen wing and hyphen, added in 1995, feature splayed arches above the window openings.

A boxwood hedge and bed of ivy separate the dwelling from the adjacent roadway. The façade (north elevation) is comprised of three symmetrical bays, consisting of a central entrance to the interior hall and two windows in the first story and three windows in the second story. The central entrance is sheltered by a small entry porch featuring square wood posts and a pediment, a replacement for an early twentieth-century full-façade porch. The entrance contains double, four-panel doors surmounted by a multi-light transom with decorative wood tracery. The first and second stories are separated by a brick beltcourse, which extends to the west elevation. There are traces of white paint visible at portions of the façade. The roofline of the facade is embellished with a denticulated boxed cornice.

<sup>4</sup> The dwelling was screened from view of the roadway by vegetation during the site visit, so this description is written from information provided in the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study Part II* (Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, February 1995).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 7

Page 7

The dwelling occupies a 1.233-acre parcel planted with grass, mature trees, and shrubs. Outbuildings, including a smokehouse, garage, and guesthouse, also occupy the parcel. A gravel driveway west of the dwelling provides access from Floral Park Road and leads to the garage and guesthouse.

*2306 Floral Park Road (Gallahan-Davis House, PG: 84-023-024)*

The Gallahan-Davis House is a two-and-one-half-story, frame, ca.-1917 central cross-gable dwelling with center-passage plan. The rectangular, three-bay-wide by one-bay-deep dwelling faces south toward Floral Park Road. Two one-story additions are attached to the rear (north) elevation. The building rests on a parged foundation, and the walls and the central cross gable are clad in imitation wood siding. Windows throughout the building are one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl-sash replacement units, unless otherwise noted. Two interior brick chimneys project from the ridge line near the center of the roof. The rooflines of the central cross gables in the main block and front porch are accentuated by boxed cornices with returns.

The façade (south elevation) is comprised of three symmetrical bays, consisting of a central entrance and two windows in the first story and three windows in the second story. A small, fixed-pane lunette window is present in the central cross-gable. The first story is sheltered by an open, full-width porch featuring a concrete slab base, turned wood posts, scroll-sawn brackets, and a modern iron balustrade. The porch's hipped roof has a central cross gable. The entrance contains a six-light over wood-panel door surmounted by a single-light transom.

The dwelling occupies a 2.536-acre parcel planted with grass and mature trees. A poured concrete sidewalk leads from the edge of the roadway to the front porch. An asphalt-paved driveway is located immediately west of the dwelling. The driveway becomes a dirt lane that extends to the St. Mary's Church property. A tobacco barn, clad in vertical wood clapboard siding and sheltered by a metal roof, stands north of the dwelling and no longer appears to be in use. The tobacco barn was constructed from the remnants of an earlier dwelling that occupied the property.<sup>5</sup>

*2308 Floral Park Road (Dr. Edgar Hurtt House, PG: 84-023-008)*

The Dr. Edgar Hurtt House is a frame vernacular dwelling constructed in several parts: the first story of the two-and-one-half-story main block was constructed ca. 1790; the one-and-one-half-story kitchen wing was added to the west end of the main block in the first half of the nineteenth century; and the upper stories of the main block were added ca. 1912. The dwelling faces south towards Floral Park Road. The rectangular main block measures three bays wide by two bays deep. The dwelling rests on a brick pier foundation reinforced with concrete, is clad with synthetic siding, and has a side-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Windows in the main block consist of one-over-one, double-hung vinyl-sash replacement units. A brick interior chimney projects from the roof ridge at the east gable end, and a larger exterior brick chimney is attached to the west elevation, partially enclosed by the kitchen wing.

The façade (south elevation) of the main block is comprised of three symmetrical bays consisting of a central entrance to the interior hall flanked by windows in the first story and three windows in the second story. The

<sup>5</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study Part II*, 30.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 7

Page 8

entrance is sheltered by a small entry porch featuring a concrete base and stoop, simple wood posts, and a gable roof. Ornamental brackets, balusters, and benches that once adorned the entry porch are no longer present. The entrance contains a single-light over two-panel wood door protected by a metal storm door. A shed-roof dormer containing a pair of fixed-light windows is centered in the south roof slope. The entrance to the kitchen wing is in the west gable end.

The dwelling occupies a 1.182-acre parcel planted with grass, mature trees, and shrubs. A frame, gable front garage with wood clapboard siding and wood vertical plank double doors is located west of the dwelling, at the north end of the driveway.

*2312 Floral Park Road (Miller House, PG: 84-023-009)*

The Miller House is a two-and-one-half-story, frame, ca.-1860 vernacular dwelling with a current central cross gable form. The rectangular, three-bay-wide by two-bay-deep main block faces south toward Floral Park Road and is situated very close to the road. The dwelling has a one-story linear wing attached to the west gable end and multiple one-story additions to the rear (north) elevation. The walls are clad in imitation wood clapboard siding. Windows throughout the main block are one-over-one, double-hung, vinyl-sash replacement units, unless otherwise noted. Exterior brick chimneys are centered in the east and west gable ends, and the west chimney is partially enclosed by the west wing. The rooflines of the gables, including the central cross gable, are accentuated by boxed cornices with returns. The one-story west wing rests on a concrete foundation, the walls are clad in imitation wood clapboard siding. The roof of the main block and addition are clad in metal.

The façade (south elevation) of the main block is comprised of three symmetrical bays, consisting of a central entrance and two windows in the first story and three windows in the second story. A small, fixed-pane lunette window is present in the central cross gable. The central entrance is sheltered by an open entry porch featuring a concrete slab base, simple wood posts, and a gable roof. The entrance contains a wood four-panel door. The façade of the west wing is comprised of an entrance in the west bay and a modern, three-part picture window in the east bay. The entrance contains a wood four-panel door.<sup>6</sup>

The dwelling occupies a 0.501-acre parcel at the northeast corner of the intersection of Piscataway and Floral Park roads. The yard is planted with grass and mature trees. A modern split rail fence delineates the southeastern corner of the property. An asphalt-paved driveway located immediately west of the dwelling provides access from Floral Park Road. The driveway extends north to the St. Mary's Church property.

*13401 Piscataway Road (St. Mary's Church and Cemetery, PG: 84-023-010)*

The St. Mary's Church was constructed in 1904 on the site of an earlier church. The church is a rectangular, brick, one-story, Gothic Revival-style building with a two-story bell tower centered in the façade (east elevation). The building is three-bays wide by six-bays deep and faces east towards the access roadway to the church and Piscataway Road. The brick walls are laid in a common-bond pattern. The gable-front roof is clad

<sup>6</sup> This door was present at the time of the documentation of the property in 1985, and was a replacement for an earlier glass and panel door that had the words "Piscataway Post Office" etched into the glass. Marina King, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, Miller House, 1985.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 7

Page 9

with asphalt shingles. A small interior brick chimney projects from the north roof slope between the second and third bays from the east end.

The bell tower has a pyramidal roof with a plain frieze and crown-molded cornice. Brick buttresses accentuate the corners of the main block and bell tower at the east elevation and define the bays in the north and south elevations. A foundation block located at the base of the buttress at the bell tower's northeast corner reads, "St. Mary's A.D. 1906." Pointed-arch, stained glass windows occupy most window openings. A rosette window is centered in the north elevation of the bell tower's first story.

The main entrance, located in the first story of the bell tower, features a pointed-arch opening and contains double, paneled, wood doors. A stone plaque located above the entrance reads, "Come to me all that labour and are heavy laden and I will refresh you, 1838." Secondary entrances, also with pointed-arch openings, are located in the bays flanking the tower and contain single, paneled, wood doors. An arched foil window is centered in the second story of the bell tower. The side elevations feature overhanging eaves with projecting rafters. Buttresses separate the pointed-arch windows. At the rear (north) elevation are two openings with paneled wood doors. A small stone plaque centered in the gable reads, "IHS".

A low brick wall featuring tall brick posts with concrete caps and an iron balustrade encloses the area immediately adjacent to the church's main entrance, separating the church from the surrounding cemetery. Similar posts connected by a chain fence enclose the cemetery property along the east side and along an access road to the north. The cemetery, which extends to the north and south of the church, includes headstones ranging in date from 1841 to 1982. The church and cemetery occupy the eastern end of a large parcel owned by the Archdiocese of Washington. Other buildings that occupy the property date to the mid-twentieth century or later and include a rectory, school, and larger church. The small church is still used for special functions.

*2445 Baileys Pond Road/2401 Floral Park Road (Edelen House, PG: 84-023-006)*

The Edelen House is a ca.-1830, two-and-one-half-story, frame dwelling with Colonial Revival-style additions and modifications made in 1926. The three-part dwelling consists of a two-and-one-half-story, side-gable central block flanked by hyphens and two-story wings. The main block faces north. The wings are oriented to the rear, perpendicular to the main block and have side-gable roofs. The exterior walls are clad with brick (1920s alteration to the main block). Two exterior brick double chimneys are attached to the west gable end of the main block, and an additional brick double chimney projects from the center of the west wing's roof ridge. The dwelling's main block was constructed in the 1830s, and the brick cladding, wings, and the portico were added in 1926.<sup>7</sup>

The façade (north elevation) of the main block presents the appearance of a side-passage plan, comprised of three symmetrical bays. The easternmost bay contains a six-panel door and two window openings are located in the western bays. Fenestration in the second story is aligned with that of the first. Three gabled dormers are gned above the openings of the facade. A two-story, full-width portico with rectangular wood columns shelters the façade, giving it the appearance of a Colonial Revival-era dwelling.

<sup>7</sup> Susan G. Pearl, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, Edelen House, 1985.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 7

Page 10

One-story hyphens, measuring one-bay deep, project from the east and west gable ends of the main block, connecting it to the wings. The rectangular wings are two-bays deep and four-bays wide. Pedimented wall dormers are present at both wings.

The dwelling is situated on a 3.34-acre parcel, approximately two-hundred-feet east of Piscatway Road and five-hundred feet south of Floral Park Road. The address for the property, formerly 2401 Floral Park Road, has been changed to 2445 Baileys Pond Road to reflect the name of roadways that are to be constructed as part of a planned subdivision located immediately west of the dwelling. A stormwater management pond occupies the parcel to the north, at the southeastern corner of the intersection of Piscataway and Floral Park roads. Mature trees are located in the immediate vicinity of the dwelling. The former agricultural outbuildings associated with the property have either been removed or are located on separate tax parcels.

Alterations

The majority of the buildings in the district retain their original massing, design, and materials. Exterior alterations to the buildings generally consist of the replacement of windows and wall and roof cladding materials. If later additions have been made to the dwellings, they are to the rear elevations. Despite alterations to the dwellings, the original style and massing of the buildings is still apparent. In addition, the village retains its original layout with an orientation to Piscataway Creek and Floral Park Road. Nearly half of the historic buildings have been lost due to deterioration or removal. However, with the exception of two parcels, the former building sites have not been redeveloped. The introduction of modern dwellings within the village does not alter the sense of a historic linear community, as they are similar in scale and size. Thus, the overall integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association of the district is retained.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG- 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 1

Establishment of Prince George's County

The coastal plain of the Potomac River basin and the wooded ridges and fertile valley along Piscataway Creek served as home and hunting grounds for Native American tribes for nearly five thousand years prior to the first European contact. The Piscataway, the namesake of the region, creek, and village, were a peaceful tribe whose village sites extended from Piscataway Creek to Anne Arundel County and across to the Chesapeake Bay. The first recorded European visit to what would become Prince George's County occurred in 1608, when Captain John Smith sailed up the Potomac River. Captain Smith prepared a map that illustrated numerous Native American settlements of the Piscataway and the Susquehannock tribes in the vicinity.<sup>8</sup> After Smith's exploratory expedition, British traders began to frequent the native settlements along the Potomac River. In 1634, the first Maryland colonists landed at the mouth of the Potomac River, and shortly thereafter, Governor Leonard Calvert established St. Mary's City, Maryland's first settlement.<sup>9</sup>

The settlement at St. Mary's City flourished, and counties and parishes were subsequently created as settlers traveled beyond the confines of the original settlement. Within thirty years, farms and plantations lined the Patuxent River, which was within the boundaries of Calvert County (established 1654) and the Potomac River in Charles County (established 1658). By 1695, approximately 1,700 colonists inhabited the area, warranting the right of self-government. On April 23, 1696, the General Assembly established Prince George's County from portions of Calvert and Charles counties.<sup>10</sup> The county served as Maryland's western frontier, extending from the Charles County line at the south northward to the Pennsylvania border.<sup>11</sup> The county was divided into six hundreds, including Piscataway Hundred. King George's Hundred, in which the village is located, came into existence in 1741.<sup>12</sup>

Patents for land tracts in the Piscataway area were given between 1658 and 1690. The earliest settlement in the area consisted of small, timber frame dwellings erected on large tracts of land. Many of the earliest settlers were English Catholics who came to this area seeking religious freedom from the oppression imposed on members of the faith by the Royal governor of Maryland Francis Nicholson.<sup>13</sup>

Piscataway Village, 1707-1776

Agriculture was the mainstay of the pre-Revolutionary War economy of Prince George's County. Due to generally high demand and pricing, tobacco served as the foundation upon which the county's settlement and

<sup>8</sup> John Smith, *Virginia* (Oxford: John Smith, 1608). On file in the Huntingfield Corporation Map Collection, Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>9</sup> Daniel M. Greene, *A Brief History of Prince George's County in the Perspective of Three Centuries Commemorating Its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* (Avondale, Maryland: Daniel M. Greene, 1946), 9-10.

<sup>10</sup> Maryland State Archives, "Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, 1696/7; 1698, Volume 23, Page 23," <http://aomol.net/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001.000023/html/am23--23.html> (February 4, 2010). Prince George's County was named for Prince George of Denmark, husband of Princess Anne, heir to the throne of England.

Prince George's County remained Maryland's frontier until 1748, when Frederick County was formed.

<sup>12</sup> Marina King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study* (Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1991), 4.

<sup>13</sup> URS, *Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery, Preserve at Piscataway*. Prepared for Bailey's Associates, LP. March 2005, 3-9.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 2

growth relied. During the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, nearly all of the settlers in the Maryland colony engaged in the cultivation of tobacco due to the fertile soil and the convenience of water transportation. Tobacco served as the legal tender for the colony almost until the Revolutionary War. The crop affected nearly every aspect of life, including government, as the Assembly passed laws to protect and maintain its value in price. Despite pricing fluctuations, there was always a ready market for tobacco, with England as the principal buyer, followed later by France, Belgium, and other European countries.<sup>14</sup>

Given the labor-intensive nature of the cultivation, harvest, and curing of tobacco, most farmers and their families could only produce enough tobacco to provide for a subsistence living. To increase production, the farmer needed extra labor, and throughout the seventeenth and early eighteenth century, those who could afford extra help took on indentured servants. However, as farmers and planters became more numerous and prosperous, the number of indentured servants and the temporary nature of their terms could not meet labor demands. Therefore, beginning in the early decades of the eighteenth century, large numbers of Africans were brought to the county to work as slave labor. By the early eighteenth century approximately a quarter of the households in Prince George's County owned slaves. By the 1750s, that number may have reached half of the households as slaveholding was not limited to a small upper class but was instead widespread throughout the population. Nearly all of the settlers in Maryland cultivated tobacco, including those of Prince George's County where the fertile soil and access to markets via waterway made the area particularly adaptable to the crop.<sup>15</sup>

To promote commerce and growth associated with the tobacco trade, in 1706 and 1707 the General Assembly of the Province of Maryland passed the "Act for the Advancement of Trade and Erecting Ports and Towns" thereby officially establishing commercial port towns along Maryland's waterways. The 1706 act resulted in the reestablishment of Charles Town (created in a 1683 act) and the creation of five new port towns: Queen Anne, Nottingham and Mill Town on the Patuxent River; Marlborough on the western branch of the Patuxent River; and Aire at Broad Creek on the Potomac River. As part of a supplementary act passed the following year, a town was to be located on the Piscataway Creek on the Potomac. The establishment of only two port towns near the Potomac River, Aire and Piscataway, indicated that the concentration of population and commerce at this time was focused in the eastern part of the county, along the Patuxent River.<sup>16</sup>

There was already some commercial activity along Piscataway Creek at the time of establishment of the port town. William Hutchinson owned a storehouse along the creek that was likely served by a landing. The new town was to be located "on the South Side of Piscataway [sic] Creek, at or near the Head thereof, to contain forty or fifty Acres of Land, at the Discretion of the said Commissioners"<sup>17</sup> Although records of town plans exist for contemporary port towns, such as Bladensburg, no documentation has been uncovered that specifies

<sup>14</sup> Daniel M. Greene, *A Brief History of Prince George's County in the Perspective of Three Centuries, Commemorating its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, 9-10.

<sup>15</sup> Alan Virta, "The Tobacco County," <http://www.pghistory.org/PG/PG300/tobacounty.html> (February 4, 2010).

<sup>16</sup> Of the five towns established by the assembly in 1706 and 1707, only Mill Town failed to develop. Alan Virta, "Prince George's County: Over 300 Years of History," <http://www.pghistory.org/PG/PG300/history.html> (February 4, 2010).

<sup>17</sup> King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, 4 and Maryland State Archives, "Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, March, 1707-November, 1710, Volume 27, Page 160.

<http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000027/html/am27--160.html> (February 17, 2010).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 3

the layout or lots of Piscataway as was mandated by the Assembly. The Act of 1706 dictated that new towns were to be:

Divided into Convenient streets, lanes and alleys with open Space places to be left on which may be erected Church Chapell and Market houses and other public buildings and the remaining part as near as may be into One hundred Equall Lots...out of which lotts the Owner of the Land shall have his first Choice for on Lott and after such Choice the remaining lotts may be taken up by others but no psn shall Presume to Purchase more than One lott...during the first four months...<sup>18</sup>

In 1708, a petition was made to the General Assembly by the Freemen of Piscataway Hundred asking that "a Towne allready apptd may be set aside and another appointed on a more convenient place."<sup>19</sup> Later records suggest that a town of Piscataway was in existence by 1733, the year the county court ordered the erection of a whipping post and stocks in the village. In 1735, several local citizens made a petition to request the sale of 60 acres on Piscataway Creek for development of a town site.<sup>20</sup> Thus, it appears the nucleus of the town of Piscataway was present by the 1730s.

Water travel remained the most efficient means of transporting goods in the colonial era. Trans-Atlantic ships carried tobacco and wares along the Potomac, while smaller vessels moved passengers and goods further inland along smaller waterways. Piscataway Creek was conveniently located off the Potomac River making it a desirable location for early trade. Once farms were established, many of the largest tobacco planters erected their own wharves along the creek for the shipment of their cash crop. British merchant-traders would trade directly with the planters exchanging tobacco for goods. The shallowness of the upper portion of the creek, extending to the town of Piscataway, earned it the name "Long Boat Channel" early on, as only smaller flat boats, or scows, could negotiate this portion of the channel.<sup>21</sup>

In 1747, in an effort to ensure uniform quality of the tobacco that was being exported, the General Assembly established official tobacco inspection warehouses in the port towns of Upper Marlborough, Nottingham, Aire, Queen Anne, and Piscataway. Each warehouse had an inspector who was selected by the vestry of the surrounding parish. Piscataway's tobacco inspection warehouse was located on land owned by John Hawkins Jr., in 1748 and was retained when the act was renewed in 1773.<sup>22</sup> County land records show the "tobacco

<sup>18</sup> Maryland State Archives, "Proceedings of the Council of Maryland, 1704-1706, Volume 26, Page 639," <http://aomol.net/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000023/html/am23--23.html> (February 17, 2010).

<sup>19</sup> As quoted in Katherine A. Kellock, *Colonial Piscataway in Maryland* (Accokeek, Maryland: The Alice Ferguson Foundation), 1962, 38.

King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, 4 and Kellock, *Colonial Piscataway in Maryland*, 38.

John H. Clagett, IV, "Piscataway Tavern: A Maryland Legacy," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1992), Volume 87, No. 4, Winter 1992, 408 and Kellock, *Colonial Piscataway in Maryland*, 38-39.

<sup>22</sup> Maryland State Archives, "Bacon's Laws of Maryland", Volume 75, 596,

<http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000075/html/am75--596.html> (February 4, 2010).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 4

warehouse lot" in the Piscataway village was located on those parcels associated with present-day 2102-2106 Floral Park Road.<sup>23</sup>

The port communities profited from the increased commercial activity brought about by the warehouses. Export firms established company stores in the towns, purchasing tobacco from local farmers and selling imported goods. By 1774, there were three local firms and three import firms from Glasgow with stores in Piscataway.<sup>24</sup> One of the firms from Glasgow was owned by John Glassford who opened tobacco warehouses in Piscataway and Bladensburg around 1760. Alexander Hamilton was employed as Glassford's factor at his store in Piscataway, which sold a variety of goods including "...velvets for the gentry and osnaburg or 'blew' Scotch-cloth for the field hands, fine china, rich carpets, plows, and even occasionally books".<sup>25</sup> Glassford's record books dating between 1753 and 1844 list customers to the Piscataway storehouse including George Washington, who resided across the Potomac River from Piscataway, and George Mason, who also resided on the Virginia side of the Potomac.<sup>26</sup> Thomas Claggett of Claggett and Company ran his operations out of the Piscataway Tavern (2204 Floral Park Road) until his death in 1792. Claggett exported tobacco and imported a large variety of goods. Not only did his store give residents and travelers a means to acquire foreign goods, but he also supplied the Continental Army with gloves, hats, blankets, and ammunition during the Revolutionary War.<sup>27</sup>

In addition to its designation as a regional tobacco inspection site, Piscataway's early growth can be attributed to its connection with other communities by roadway. By the early eighteenth century, a network of roadways connected tobacco plantations to port towns and rural churches to surrounding parishes. In 1739, a road was laid from Broad Creek "to ye head of Piscataway," which most likely formed at least a portion of the present-day Livingston Road, to the north and west of the district. This road would come to serve to connect many colonial towns between Piscataway and Alexandria, Virginia.<sup>28</sup> A 1739 road survey described a network of more than fifty roads between those towns established in 1706/1707 and the parish churches. As the population increased and new hundreds and church parishes were created, more roadways were cleared, as evidenced by a comparison of the 1739 and 1762 road surveys.<sup>29</sup>

Present-day Floral Park Road, which runs more or less parallel to Piscataway Creek, was part of a roadway system that connected Port Tobacco on the Potomac River and Upper Marlboro on the Patuxent River. It appears that the Village of Piscataway developed along the creek and the parallel roadway. Short small roads

<sup>23</sup> King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, 5.

<sup>24</sup> King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, 4-5.

<sup>25</sup> Richard K. MacMaster and David C. Skaggs, ed., "Letterbooks of Alexander Hamilton, Piscataway Factor," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Volume 61, 1966, 146.

<sup>26</sup> George Mason was a delegate from Virginia to the U.S. Constitutional Convention. Thomas W. Cuddy, *Revolutionary Economics: What Archaeology Tells About the Birth of American Capitalism*. (Lanham, Maryland: AltMira Press), 2008.

<sup>27</sup> Claggett, "Piscataway Tavern: A Maryland Legacy," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 408.

<sup>28</sup> Prince George's County Circuit Record, Records, 1739; By the early 1800s, Livingston Road was established as the main route along the Potomac River between Washington, D.C. and Prince George's County. During the Civil War, the road carried Union troops on patrols from Fort Washington and by the late-nineteenth century, cut a path southward toward Indian Head in Charles County, where the U.S. Navy established a gunpowder factory. The road was paved to accommodate automobiles in the early 1900s. Jackie Spinner, "Historic Twists and Turns," *The Washington Post*, 4 December 1997.

<sup>29</sup> Alan Kulikoff, *Public Roads in Prince George's County, 1739 and 1762*. Maryland State Archives, Special Collections.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 5

ran from the main road down to a creek road that connected the various wharves and warehouses. A wider roadway that connected the village to the Piscataway Creek near the present-day location of the Livingston Road bridge formed the western edge of the village core during this period. In 1757, Piscataway became part of a postal route that was established between the Colonial capital of Annapolis and St. Mary's County.<sup>30</sup>

Along the early roadways, taverns were established to accommodate the needs of travelers. The taverns also served as gathering places for the exchange of local news and opinion, and the conduct of business between merchants, buyers, planters, and factors. In 1741, Catharine Playfay operated a tavern at present-day 2305 Floral Park Road (Hardy's Tavern, PG: 84-023-005). This tavern was a center of entertainment for the village, as it is reported to have contained a ballroom. Along with his store, Thomas Claggett operated a tavern at present-day 2204 Floral Park Road (Piscataway Tavern, PG: 84-023-003).

On occasion, the town of Piscataway served as a venue for entertainment and celebrations. A 1752 advertisement for the Murray-Kean Company of Comedians stated they would be playing at Playfay's tavern following an engagement in Upper Marlboro.<sup>31</sup> Community celebrations were also reported in the *Maryland Gazette*, including a grand party in 1759:

On Friday last was a Day of Public Rejoicing here for the Success of his Majesty's Arms in the Reduction of Quebec. There was the greatest Concourse of People assembled upon the Occasion that was ever seen at one Time in this Place: Upwards of Fifty Gentlemen and Ladies dined in a most elegant Manner, and many loyal and patriotic Toasts were drank. At Night the Town was illuminated, and a Ball given at Mrs. Playfay's, at which the Ladies made a brilliant Appearance.<sup>32</sup>

Unlike other parts of Maryland where large tracts of land were divided into smaller plots, land tracts in the Piscataway area were combined to create family estates during this period.<sup>33</sup> The Edelen family came to hold most of the land in the vicinity of Piscataway in the eighteenth century. In 1756, Edward Edeleln's will provided several tracts around the village, including *Thomas His Chance* and *Little Ease*, to his son James. Based on store records, James Edelen made large purchases of household goods, construction materials, and consumables from the Glassford & Company store in the 1760s, paying with tobacco notes. It is believed he constructed the post-in-ground dwelling with attached kitchen and support structures on a hill overlooking present-day Edelen house at this time. Edelen's wife's family owned a tract of land to the west known as

<sup>30</sup> The first mention of a post office in Piscataway is not until 1803 when it is listed in official Post Office records. King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, 11-14, 19.

<sup>31</sup> Kellock, *Colonial Piscataway in Maryland*, 48.

<sup>32</sup> Louise J. Heinton, *Prince George's Heritage* (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1972), 136.

<sup>33</sup> Among the family homes surrounding Piscataway in the eighteenth century was the home of the William Marbury family. William Marbury, Jr. grew up here and became famous as one of the "Midnight Judges" appointed by President John Adams the night before he was to leave office to serve as a Justice of the Peace in the District of Columbia. He was appointed provide the Federalists with a stronghold in the judicial branch. When Marbury tried to take office, he was blocked by President James Madison. Marbury subsequently sued, resulting in the landmark Supreme Court case of *Marbury v. Madison*.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 6

*Littleworth*. In 1762, after assembling surrounding tracts, James Edelen applied for a resurvey of his properties and adjacent vacant lands to the north; he subsequently renamed the tract *Edelen's Enlargement*. James Edelen was engaged in multiple pursuits on the property, operating a tobacco plantation and a mill with George Hardy, Jr. that was located near the present-day bridge that carries Piscataway Road over Piscataway Creek, east of the district.<sup>34</sup>

Following James Edelen's death in 1768, Edward Edelen became the owner of the property. In 1811, Edward passed his estate on to his brother Joseph, and the original dwelling was abandoned sometime thereafter and was later removed.<sup>35</sup> Dr. Horace Edelen, Joseph's son, resided in Edelen House (PG: 84-023-006), the dwelling at present-day 2445 Baileys Pond Road/2401 Floral Park Road, from the 1830s until his death in 1882. During this time, the surrounding acreage was used to grow tobacco, corn, wheat, potatoes, hay, and to raise livestock.<sup>36</sup>

By 1778, a Catholic congregation was meeting in Piscataway, served by Jesuit fathers from St. Ignatius at Chapel Point in nearby Port Tobacco. It is likely that area Catholic families worshipped in area homes, although small chapels were sometimes erected on the plantation of the wealthiest citizens. Based on the historical record, it appears the Piscataway Catholics did not have a formal meeting place until the erection of St. Mary's Church (PG: 84-023-010) just north of the village core in 1838.<sup>37</sup>

Economic changes to the active port towns along the Potomac River and its tributaries were afoot as tensions mounted between the colonists and British authorities. The resolutions of the first Continental Congress ceased the importation of British goods by December 1774 and halted American exports to Britain by September 1775. Trade at the port towns continued as practicality allowed, but the battles at Lexington and Concord in the spring of 1775 marked a turning point, after which, planters of southern Prince George's County recognized that war was inevitable and that the booming tobacco trade was coming to an end. Consequently, planters scaled back their cultivation of tobacco, instead planting their fields largely with flax and corn. The tobacco crop harvested in 1775 went largely unsold.<sup>38</sup>

#### Piscataway Village, 1776-1865

The end of the Revolutionary War coincided with the beginning of the end of the tobacco inspection station system, and an active and dependable tobacco trade. After the war, the majority of activity at tobacco inspection points were located in larger communities like Baltimore, and the storehouses of the foreign firms were

<sup>34</sup> Kellock, *Colonial Piscataway in Maryland*, 40.

<sup>35</sup> Cuddy, *Revolutionary Economies: What Archaeology Tells About the Birth of American Capitalism*, 65-69.

Greenhorne & O'Mara, *Edelen House: Historic Preservation Process and Feasibility Report*. Prepared for Greenvest, LC by Greenhorne & O'Mara, Greenbelt, Maryland. Ownership of the tobacco plantation passed out of the family and through the hands of a number of owners in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

<sup>37</sup> Marina King, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, St. Mary's Church and Cemetery, Piscataway, 1985.

<sup>38</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 22.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 7

removed from many of the port towns. The lack of commerce provided an impetus for the decline of the port town at Piscataway as well as the port towns established by the 1706 Act.<sup>39</sup>

Only Clagett and Company remained in the village and appeared to thrive due to lack of local competition. In the years following the war, the company opened an office in London, with Thomas Clagett maintaining a residence there by 1787. Thomas's brother, Horatio Clagett, ran the London store, importing tobacco from Piscataway and exporting European goods. The company underwent changes in ownership following Thomas Clagett's death in 1792 but continued to operate as Clagett and Company until around 1800.<sup>40</sup> In 1792, the "deteriorating" tavern was sold to Clagett's brother, Nathaniel, and the eastern two-and-one-half story block was constructed around 1810.<sup>41</sup> The small western block dates to the mid-eighteenth century.

Even at the height of the prosperity brought by the tobacco trade, Piscataway never grew to be larger than a small village concentrated along the creek and main roadway. A traveler passing between Port Tobacco and Upper Marlboro gave the following description of the village's appearance in 1774: "This is a small Town of Low houses not more than two in it two Stories High; It lies however in a fine rich valey [sic]."<sup>42</sup>

In the 1790s, the tavern at 2305 Floral Park Road was removed. The Hardy family constructed a new brick building in its place and continued to operate the facility until the mid-nineteenth century. After Isadore Hardy purchased the property in 1786, he replaced the frame structure with a brick building, which he operated as a tavern until the mid-nineteenth century. The replacement structure was the only brick building reported in the village in the 1798 Direct Tax. The Brandt family acquired the tavern in 1859 and retained ownership and operation of the facility for sixty years. A second tavern is said to have operated on the same side of the road as Hardy's Tavern, further to the west and was still present in 1962.<sup>43</sup>

In 1798, the village comprised twenty-eight acres, divided into approximately twenty-eight lots of varying sizes aligned along present-day Floral Park Road. The lots were occupied by twenty-one houses, six storehouses, and forty smaller associated outbuildings including meat houses, lumber houses, dairies, and kitchens. Several inns or taverns were listed, along with a ballroom, counting room, three granaries, a school, and a bake house. The two-story frame school house occupied the William Jenkins property and also served as a dwelling.<sup>44</sup> There was a store operated by John W. Ward until the 1840s or 1850s. A general store under the ownership of the Stanton and Blanford families operated at 2207 Floral Park Road (PG: 84-023-004) from 1832 until the 1920s.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study Part II*, 9 and Clagett, IV, "Piscataway Tavern: A Maryland Legacy," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 408.

<sup>40</sup> Clagett, IV, "Piscataway Tavern: A Maryland Legacy," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 409-410.

<sup>41</sup> The circa 1810 section of the building is believed to have been constructed for a mulatto daughter of Nathaniel Clagett, to whom Clagett willed the property. Fanny Oden occupied the property until it was sold by her son in 1841. The building was purchased by Piscataway merchant John W. Ward. Clagett, "Piscataway Tavern: A Maryland Legacy," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 410 and Susan G. Pearl, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, Piscataway Tavern, 1981.

<sup>42</sup> As quoted in Kellock, *Colonial Piscataway in Maryland*, 52.

<sup>43</sup> Susan G. Pearl, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, Piscataway Tavern, 1981, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study Part II*, 32, and Kellock, *Colonial Piscataway in Maryland*, 40.

<sup>44</sup> King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, 5 and 14.

<sup>45</sup> Marina King, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, Stanton-Blandford House, 1985.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 8

Although Piscataway had established a Catholic congregation by the late-eighteenth century, a church was not erected in the village until 1838, as parishoners likely met in their homes. That year, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church was erected on the west side of Piscataway Road, south of the creek. The new church was dedicated by Reverend Father Edward McCotgan, who was serving as pastor of the congregation. This was the second Catholic church to be built in Prince George's County. The official register for the church began in 1874. A cemetery located adjacent to the church, reveals the surnames of early attendees, with Edelen, Hurtt, and Blandford being among the most common. The earliest marked grave dates to 1841.<sup>46</sup>

Beginning in the late eighteenth century, siltation made the Piscataway Creek increasingly un-navigable for boats. By 1835, boat traffic was so obstructed that the majority of tobacco and goods had to be hauled overland to and from Piscataway via Green Landing, located nearly one-half mile down stream. Alarmed by the decline in waterway traffic to the village, in 1836, twenty-seven area citizens, including John W. Ward, appeared before the Prince George's County Levy Court and complained that "for the last three or four years it appeared to be almost impossible for boats to pass up and down [the creek] . . . unless the tide [was] . . . very high." The citizens petitioned the court to construct a road to "some navigable point on Piscataway Creek".<sup>47</sup>

In response to ongoing complaints of restricted boat travel, the state of Maryland instructed state engineer and geologist, John Henry Alexander, to carry out a survey of conditions along Piscataway Creek in order to seek ways to improve commercial transport. Alexander presented his findings in an 1841 report. A public wharf was subsequently erected three and one-half miles downstream in Farmington. Construction of the new wharf in Farmington led to growth of the surrounding town and greater decline in commercial activity in the Piscataway village.<sup>48</sup>

Changes in the tobacco inspection system contributed to further decline of the village. Beginning in the late-eighteenth century, Baltimore had begun to develop as a port city. Baltimore's large natural harbor and location on the Chesapeake Bay allowed the passage of ocean going vessels, making the tobacco trade more efficient, while simultaneously reducing the need of local inspection warehouses in southern Maryland. In 1816, a centralized state warehouse and inspection station was established in Baltimore, replacing Piscataway and other inspection towns. This prompted many local farmers to begin to utilizing Baltimore for the inspection, shipping, and exportation of their tobacco.<sup>49</sup>

The construction of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (1835) and the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad (1870s) through Prince George's County contributed to the rise of towns along the rail lines as commercial centers. Consequently, dependence upon the waterways for transportation and commerce decreased. As a result, those

<sup>46</sup> Marina King, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, St. Mary's Church and Cemetery, Piscataway, 1985 and Prince George's County Land Records, Record Book 84, page 10. <http://files.usgwarchives.org/md/princegeorge/cemeteries/stmary-pisc.txt> (17 February 2010).

<sup>47</sup> Clagett, "Piscataway Tavern: A Maryland Legacy," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 40.

<sup>48</sup> Clagett, "Piscataway Tavern: A Maryland Legacy," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 40.

<sup>49</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study Part II*, 9.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 9

towns without access to the railroads declined. In 1858, the state sold the tobacco warehouse along Piscataway Creek to private owners, signaling the end of Piscataway's importance as a commercial port town.<sup>50</sup>

Piscataway remained a small commercial village for the remainder of the nineteenth century, primarily serving local farmers. In the second half of the nineteenth century, the Miller family resided in the dwelling at 2312 Floral Park Road (PG: 84-023-009) and operated a store in the Piscataway Tavern (then the Harbin House Hotel) which primarily served locals. Goods were transported to Miller's store on a flat-bottomed steamboat via the Farmington landing and then hauled by horse along the creek road to Piscataway. The store remained open into the early twentieth century.<sup>51</sup> Dr. Edgar Dewitt Hurtt, who graduated with a degree in medicine from the University of Maryland in 1854, moved to Piscataway the same year and began his sixty-year-long practice, which occupied his dwelling at 2308 Floral Park Road (Dr. Edgar Hurtt House, PG: 84-023-008). The western block served as both his kitchen and his office.<sup>52</sup> The 1860 census reveals the village had a population of 125 people, including seventeen farmers, seven blacksmiths, six physicians, five carpenters, four merchants, three wheelwrights, two hotel keepers, two bar keepers, two seamstresses, one tailor, one shoemaker, one overseer, one constable, one trader, one planter, and many farm hands and laborers. The 1861 tax assessment details the various structures standing in Piscataway, including twenty-seven dwellings, three taverns, three store houses, one blacksmith shop and one mill, as well as surrounding farms.<sup>53</sup>

As illustrated in Martenet's 1861 atlas, the village occupied land immediately to the west of the intersection of present-day Floral Park and Piscataway roads. The post office occupied a store under the ownership of James H. Griffin, who served as the town's postmaster from 1846 until 1865. A roadway led south from Floral Park Road to the farm of Dr. Horace Edelen (PG: 84-023-006). This roadway is no longer present on the landscape today.<sup>54</sup>

In addition to providing commercial services, the town was the center of elementary education for area school children. Prince George's County had only private schools until the establishment of public schools for white students in 1860. Schooling for African-American students was mandated two years later. Hopkins Atlas of 1878 shows a school house on the road to the Dr. Horace Edelen farm, south of the farm complex. A Methodist Episcopal Church was located on the same road, further to the south. There is no evidence of the roadway or either of these structures on the landscape today.<sup>55</sup>

The success of area tobacco plantations was dependent on slavery prior to the Civil War. Thus, although Maryland did not secede from the Union, much of Prince George's County was sympathetic to the Southern cause. The area saw no Civil War action but many troops passed through on their way south. During the war,

<sup>50</sup> King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, 7.

<sup>51</sup> Clagett, "Piscataway Tavern: A Maryland Legacy," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 410-411.

<sup>52</sup> Susan G. Pearl, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, Dr. Edgar Hurtt House, 1985.

<sup>53</sup> King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, 7.

<sup>54</sup> King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, 14 and Martinet, *Map of Prince George's County, Maryland*, 1861.

<sup>55</sup> Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Prince George, Maryland*, 1878.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 10

many slaves in Prince George's County fled to nearby Washington, D.C., which had abolished slavery in 1862. The Piscataway Tavern is said to have been a meeting place for those loyal to the Confederate cause.<sup>56</sup>

Piscataway Village, 1865-1945

After the Civil War, the loss of labor led to the decline of the plantation system and the creation of a number of smaller farms, many of which were owned by free slaves. Farmers also began to plant other crops in soils that had been depleted by centuries of tobacco growth. The wooden hills flanking the valley provided income in the form of firewood for sale. For as long as agriculture prospered, Piscataway continued to provide services to area residents and travelers.

By 1878, the town included two blacksmith shops, two taverns, two stores, and two doctors. The post office was located in Louisa B. Miller's store attached to her dwelling at the northeast corner of Piscataway and Floral Park roads. This building, which is standing at 2312 Floral Park Road, served in this capacity until the post office was removed in 1943.<sup>57</sup>

On October 5, 1880, the Board of County School Commissioners purchased a dwelling that occupied present-day 2108 Floral Park Road with the intention of converting the dwelling to a school. The school remained in use until 1914 when the Board of County School Commissioners authorized the construction of a new school for white students on a one-acre lot purchased from Elizabeth H. A. Boran (present-day 2102-2104 Floral Park Road). The old school was sold into private ownership but continued to be used as a hall for some community functions, including as a voting place for African-American residents. The old school was removed from the village by 1968.<sup>58</sup>

Conditions along the creek in 1890 were reported from a site visit made by Peter C. Haines, Lieutenant Colonel of the United States Corps of Engineers, who was investigating the viability of reopening the channel:

The trade [at Farmington] is in grain, tobacco, cord wood, and supplies for stores. There is no trade above Farmington Wharf. There are three houses and a store at and near Farmington. A road leads from Farmington to Piscataway, about 3.5 miles. Piscataway is a dilapidated village of some twenty houses, about one-third of which are untenanted or in a state of decay. The population is less than 100. There is a church and four small stores, which are said to do an annual business of \$4,000 a year. It was estimated that some 80,000 pounds of tobacco were raised annually in the district. Brandywine Station, on the Popes Creek Branch of the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad, is eight miles east of Piscataway, and the railroad probably takes much trade which formerly went by water. It is estimated that the trade on the creek is about from \$10,000 to \$12,000 per year. While it is possible that some trade might be developed by

Katharine D. Bryant and Donna L. Schneider, *Images of America: Prince George's County, Maryland*. Prepared on behalf of the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust. (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia, 2000), 56.

<sup>57</sup> Prince George's County, Maryland Directory, 1878. Available at <http://newrivernotes.com/md/pg1878.htm>, accessed 17 February 2010 and King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, 14. Today, the Clinton and Accokeek post offices serve the study area.

<sup>58</sup> King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, 16 and 1968 aerial mapping.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 11

improving the navigation, it is, in my opinion, too local in its character and too insignificant in its proportions to justify the General Government in undertaking the work, and in my opinion not worthy of improvement by the National Government.<sup>59</sup>

As the 1890 description indicates, the population of the village was on the decline, and nearly one-third of the buildings had lost their usefulness and had fallen into a state of deterioration.

By 1900, the occupations of those villagers listed as heads of household included four farmers, three merchant/farmers, two merchants, two government employees, two gardeners, one physician, one mail carrier, one blacksmith, one tobacco buyer, one domestic, and one laborer. There were only nineteen buildings in the village, nearly one-third less than the village's most active period in the eighteenth century. Buildings standing in 1900 included nine dwellings, three combination store/dwellings, St. Mary's Catholic Church, a church hall, a school house, and a blacksmith shop. A new church was constructed in the village in 1904 on the site of the earlier chapel. As the church is similar in appearance to the ca.-1899 St. Mary's Church in Upper Marlboro, it may have also have been constructed by the Wyvill Brothers.<sup>60</sup>

By the early twentieth century, farm operations involving large tracts of land were becoming less common, as more and more farms were subdivided into smaller parcels. In 1913, Sarah and George Underwood acquired a sixty-two-acre tract of land on the north side of Floral Park Road, west of the village core. The Underwoods constructed a dwelling on a portion of the property adjacent to Floral Park Road in 1914 (Underwood House, PG: 84-023-002); the associated agricultural outbuildings were located to the north.<sup>61</sup>

The Edelen House and property (PG: 84-023-006) was a notable exception to the trend of downsizing agricultural operations of the area. The farm, which had passed through a number of hands after ownership by the Edelen family, was acquired by the Maryland Tobacco Planters Company in 1926 for the purposes of the development of a tobacco investment farm. The company purchased additional surrounding land to form a nine-hundred-plus-acre tract. The farm included a number of tenant houses and tobacco barns. One of the Company directors, David Bailey, bought the property in 1930 and converted the dwelling into a clubhouse for the company. Bailey made extensive alterations to the eighteenth-century dwelling including encasement of the exterior walls in brick, addition of brick hyphens and wings, and construction of a two-story portico across the façade. Bailey and his family came to occupy the dwelling in 1941 and it has since been known as "The Bailey Plantation." The commercial tobacco farm continued to operate into the 1970s.<sup>62</sup>

While other areas of Prince George's County immediately adjacent to Washington, D.C., experienced residential growth during this period due to the coming of rail and streetcar lines that connected the suburbs to the city, Piscataway remained a small rural hamlet that provided limited services to the surrounding family farms. The

<sup>59</sup> United States War Department, *Annual Reports of the War Department* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1911), Volume II, Part II.

<sup>60</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study Part II*, 11. Marina King, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, St. Mary's Church and Cemetery, 1981.

<sup>61</sup> Marina King, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, George Underwood House, 1981.

<sup>62</sup> Susan G. Pearl, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, Edelen House, 1985.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 12

isolation of the area, surrounding wooded hills, and access to water were all factors that contributed to the success of moonshine operations established in the area following the enactment of Prohibition.

The 1930s brought change to the small rural village concentrated at the intersection of Piscataway and Floral Park roads. Widening of Floral Park Road was planned. The widening effort impacted at least one dwelling: a timber frame dwelling built ca. 1750 by George Parker located west of the Hardy's Tavern was slated for demolition.<sup>63</sup> Charles Collins, resident of nearby Broad Creek and attorney in Washington, D.C., acquired the dwelling for the price of moving it from the site. An equity deed from 1932 proclaimed that the dwelling was uninhabitable at the time that Collins acquired the house from the heirs of Henrietta Ward.<sup>64</sup> Upon his acquisition, Collins had interior and exterior architectural drawings and photographs made of the dwelling, followed by the disassembly of the entire building, including its massive brick chimneys, numbering each piece for reassembly.<sup>65</sup> Collins subsequently had the dwelling transported via waterway to the community of Broad Creek, located approximately four miles to the north. A bungalow was erected on the vacant parcel shortly thereafter (Bond Bungalow, PG: 84-023-025). Other early dwellings in Piscataway were identified in the 1930s by the Historic American Buildings Survey: the Piscataway Tavern and Hardy's Tavern were recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1936.<sup>66</sup> Another nearby roadway improvement of this period was the relocation of a portion of Livingston Road through the Underwood Farm in 1938. This was done in order to provide a direct connection to Accokeek Road.

A continued decline in agricultural pursuits resulted in the closing of small businesses and the loss of public institutions in the village. Government services were eliminated from the village during this time; the elementary school closed in 1937, and the post office closed in 1943.<sup>67</sup> The former school parcel was subdivided and a new dwelling was erected at 2102 Floral Park Road. According to the owner of 2104 Floral Park Road, the school was purchased by his father in 1932. He subsequently removed half of the building and incorporated the remainder into the current dwelling. Also, in 1940, the Underwood Farm was subdivided into small parcels that fronted Floral Park Road. A five-acre tract surrounding the dwelling was retained. Several new single-family dwellings were erected on the former farmland.

Piscataway Village, 1945-Present

Increased residential development characterized the general area surrounding Piscataway after World War II due to improvements in regional transportation systems including the Capital Beltway and Indian Head Highway. Although no significant number of new dwellings were introduced in Piscataway, residential growth of the surrounding area was on the rise. Reflective of the increase in area population, St. Mary's Church property underwent a number of changes in the 1950s. The church hall, which was a center of social activity in

<sup>63</sup> This dwelling was situated at the present-day location of 2209 Floral Park Road.

<sup>64</sup> Prince George's County Circuit Court-Land Records Department, Prince George's County Equity 8628, 1932.

<sup>65</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Broad Creek Historic District Preservation Planning Study*, 34. Piscataway Tavern, Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS MD-52. Library of Congress, Prints and Photograph Division, Washington, D.C.

<sup>67</sup> Ella Haynes purchased the old school property in 1937. The dwelling at 2104 Floral Park Road does not have any resemblance to the school, so it is likely Ms. Haynes removed the school and built a new dwelling on the property.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 13

Piscataway, burned to the ground. Until 1955, both the original and current church stood on the same 1.5-acre lot surrounded by a cemetery. In that year, the church began purchasing adjacent land to the west. A rectory was constructed in 1956, a convent and school in 1961, and a larger church in 1988. In 2010, the current complex consists of six buildings on twenty-seven acres.<sup>68</sup>

By the end of the twentieth century, the transformation from a thriving village with its own distinct economy and institutions to a mainly residential community along an important transportation corridor was complete.<sup>69</sup> The Wood family's general store, the last commercial enterprise in operation in Piscataway at 2105 Floral Park Road, closed in the early 1980s. Detailed cartographic and land ownership research indicates that the number of existing building sites in the village equals the number of abandoned sites.<sup>70</sup> Thus, unlike other rural towns in Prince George's County, when a historic building was demolished in Piscataway the site on which it stood was typically left vacant.

Despite recent encroaching development, the district has been able to retain its historic appearance and feeling as a rural linear village. In 1988, ownership of Edelen House passed out of the Bailey family and to a development company, which planned a large residential subdivision on the 878-acre tract.<sup>71</sup> Concerned, area citizens formed the Piscataway Preservation Corporation to protect the rural character and setting of the linear village. Working with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, a plan for the long-term protection of the village was developed. The plan included design strategies for new construction, rehabilitation of historic buildings, improvements to streets, and protection of open space. A bypass of traffic passing through the village was also investigated. A new roadway alignment was recently constructed to bypass the village to the east and south. The roadway cut off Edelen House from the crossroads portion of the village. More recently, the Villages of Piscataway, a mixed-use development, broke ground south of Floral Park Road at the intersection with Piscataway Drive and Danville Road. This new construction is screened from view of the village by intervening space and trees.

### Architecture in the Village of Piscataway

#### *Colonial*

The earliest extant dwellings in Piscataway date to the eighteenth century. The western block of Piscataway Tavern, constructed ca. 1750, reflects the center-passage plan, with a centrally placed doorway at the exterior. A large chimney is attached to the western elevation. A one-story eighteenth-century dwelling is also incorporated into the Dr. Edgar Hurtt House. Hardy's Tavern is an example of the two-story center-passage plan. In eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century examples of the center-passage plan, the first-floor rooms on either side of the central passage were typically the parlor and dining room. The neatly balanced five-bay

Marina King, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, St. Mary's Church and Cemetery, Piscataway, 1981; Anonymous, Washington edition of the *Times*, 25 November 1988; and King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, 21.

<sup>69</sup> King, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, 11.

<sup>70</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study Part II*, 12.

<sup>71</sup> Bernard Harris, "Bailey Plantation May Be Developed," *The Gazette*, 5 December 1991.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 14

façade, as seen in Hardy's Tavern, was represented from the Pennsylvania Piedmont to Virginia's Eastern Shore throughout the mid- to late-eighteenth and into the early decades of the nineteenth century.<sup>72</sup>

Edelen House, initially erected ca. 1830 and enlarged in the early twentieth century, reflects a side-passage plan in which a stair passage runs along one side of the structure, usually for its full depth, flanked on one side by two nearly equal-sized rooms. On plantations, such as the Edelen House property, the first floor typically housed a downstairs parlor, while the back room was set aside as a dining room. The upper floors were delegated as sleeping rooms.<sup>73</sup>

#### *Georgian*

Hardy's Tavern, constructed ca. 1790, exemplifies the Georgian style of architecture popular from the beginning of the eighteenth century through 1800. The Georgian-style dwelling measures two stories in height with a center passage, characterized by formal symmetry embellished with bold Classical detail that includes paneled doors emphasized by classical surrounds, and projecting horizontal divisions, such as water tables and belt courses. In addition, windows are typically aligned horizontally and vertically.<sup>74</sup>

#### *Federal*

In the early nineteenth century, the dominant Colonial style was surpassed in elegance by its shorter-lived successor, the Federal style. The Edelen House and eastern block of the Piscataway Tavern retain architectural features that are common to less elaborate examples of the style including arched dormer windows and symmetrical fenestration.<sup>75</sup>

#### *Greek Revival*

The Greek Revival style (ca. 1825-1860) did not take hold in Piscataway with the same vigor one would find in more urban locations, such as Annapolis and Washington, D.C. Instead, "[local] builders tended to use Greek Revival motifs without resort to the total image."<sup>76</sup> The resulting style included a symmetrical façade, low-pitched gable roofs, pedimented gables, classical proportions, and heavy cornices with unadorned friezes.

One dwelling within the district, the Stanton-Blandford House, exhibits notable features of the Greek Revival style at the portico of the eastern entrance. This portion of the dwelling was added to an earlier ca. 1825 block around 1866. The entrance features the typical transom and sidelights and a detailed portico with modillioned cornice supported by slender Doric columns.

#### *Italianate*

Like the Gothic Revival, the Italianate style, fashionable ca. 1850 to 1880, "originated in the romanticism of the Picturesque movement" and was disseminated in the United States via pattern books. The Harbin

<sup>72</sup> Gabrielle M. Lanier and Bernard L. Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic* (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 28-32.

<sup>73</sup> Lanier and Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*, 32-38.

<sup>74</sup> Lanier and Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*, 124-126.

<sup>75</sup> Lanier and Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*, 127-138.

<sup>76</sup> Lanier and Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*, 138.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 15

House/Clagett Store exhibits the most essential elements of the style including tall, squarish proportion as, a projecting bracketed cornice, and projecting lintels.<sup>77</sup>

*Gothic Revival*

St. Mary's Church is a notable example of a local adaptation of the Gothic style (ca. 1840-1880) The pointed-arch windows, rosette window, buttresses, tower, and steeply pitched roofs are all features typical of vernacular ecclesiastical architecture executed in the style.<sup>78</sup>

*Folk Victorian*

Piscataway includes one dwelling that exhibits detailing of the Folk Victorian style (1870-1910). The Thomas C. Underwood Bungalow was constructed in 1928, a very late example of this particular style. The front porch of the dwelling retains notable spindlework detailing, unusual architectural detailing for the bungalow form which was more commonly elaborated through Colonial Revival and Craftsman style architectural detailing.

*Bungalow*

The bungalow dwelling type was very popular in the Mid-Atlantic between the 1910s and the 1930s. The bungalow's low cost, versatility, and ease of construction all contributed to its proliferation. Single dwellings were commonly built in villages and rural areas of the state, although most bungalows were constructed in multiples in the new suburbs that developed around Washington, D.C. The distinctive characteristics of the bungalow type are its one-and-one-half-story height, low-pitched roof, deep, overhanging eaves, and full- or partial-width porch across the façade. Most bungalows were three bays wide with central entrances, and bay windows were common. Both the Thomas C. Underwood Bungalow and Bond Bungalow exhibit features of the dwelling type.<sup>79</sup>

*Colonial Revival*

The Colonial Revival style had its origins in the Centennial and was not widely constructed in the district. Colonial Revival-style detailing was applied to the Edelen House in 1926. At that time, the frame dwelling was encased in brick to immitate Colonial era dwellings. Also, two hyphens were added in order to attach large rear wings, which feature symmetrical fenestration and wall dormers. The two-story portico at the façade of the dwelling is also a common feature of more elaborate examples of the Colonial Revial style.<sup>80</sup> Notably, the Colonial Revival style continued to influence dwellings throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century; the persistence of the Colonial Revival style is most visible in the modern residential subdivisions constructed on the landscape just outside the district's boundaries.

Statement of Significance:

Lanier and Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*, 149-153.

<sup>78</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002), 197.

<sup>79</sup> Lanier and Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic*, 180.

<sup>80</sup> McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 320-323.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 16

The Piscataway Village Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the area of community planning and development. The district is a notable collection of buildings that reflect development from an eighteenth-century tobacco port to an early twentieth-century rural linear village. Throughout the eighteenth, nineteenth and into the twentieth centuries, the district provided services to the surrounding agricultural community, including taverns, stores, a church, schools, and doctors. Many of the buildings associated with its development over time remain, conveying a sense of a rural linear village in an agricultural area. The remaining surrounding fields and woodlots contribute to the sense of a rural village.

Piscataway is among one of the best-preserved and intact of the tobacco inspection ports established in the eighteenth century in the state. The isolation of the village away from highways and population centers and historic preservation concerns of the local citizenry has enabled the community to retain its rural character. Although the tobacco wharves and warehouses no longer remain, the village retains its proximity to the creek, with intervening undeveloped lands. In comparison, while four eighteenth-century buildings remain in Bladensburg, the setting of the eighteenth-century tobacco warehouse community has been lost due to development brought about by the coming of the Alexandria Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in the 1870s and the streetcar system in the early twentieth century.<sup>81</sup> The community of Nottingham was destroyed by a fire in the early twentieth century, resulting in a loss of most of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings in the community, leaving only a few early buildings. Today, the town is mostly composed of late twentieth century infill, affecting its historic appearance and setting.<sup>82</sup> Upper Marlboro experienced extensive growth in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as the commercial and political center of Prince George's County. While vestiges of the eighteenth century remain, they are located amidst later development and infill and no longer retain a relationship to the Western Branch of the Patuxent River.<sup>83</sup>

The Piscataway Village Historic District is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a significant and distinguishable entity representing the distinctive characteristics of late eighteenth through early twentieth century residential and religious architecture. Although there are relatively few buildings, the district is able to convey a wide array of distinct styles, types, forms, and periods of construction from the eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. Styles and forms within the district include center-passage and side-passage plans, Federal, Georgian, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Folk Victorian, Colonial Revival, and bungalows.

The period of significance begins in 1747, with the designation of Piscataway as a tobacco inspection port, and ends in 1943, with the closing of the community post office.

#### Integrity

The Piscataway Village Historic District is comprised of a historically related collection of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century buildings and sites. The town retains its location on the south side of Piscataway Creek and orientation to Floral Park Road. Large wooded areas to the north and south of the village

<sup>81</sup> Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission, *DRAFT Historic Sites and Districts Plan Update*. September 2009, 298-299.

<sup>82</sup> Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission, *DRAFT Historic Sites and Districts Plan Update*. September 2009, 335.

<sup>83</sup> Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission, *DRAFT Historic Sites and Districts Plan Update*. September 2009, 326-327.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 8

Page 17

screen it from surrounding residential development, enabling the community to retain the feeling of a rural linear village. Although there is some evidence of replacement materials and additions, overall the dwellings of the district convey their historic appearance and many retain character-defining features of notable architecture styles and types. Except for a few dwellings, which are set back from the roadway, there are no modern intrusions within the limits of the district.

For a list of contributing and non-contributing properties within the district, please see the attached Building Inventory.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 9

Page 1

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 9

Page 2

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 9

Page 3

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Piscataway Village Historic District (PG: 84-023)

Prince George's County, Maryland

Section number 9

Page 4

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PG 84-023

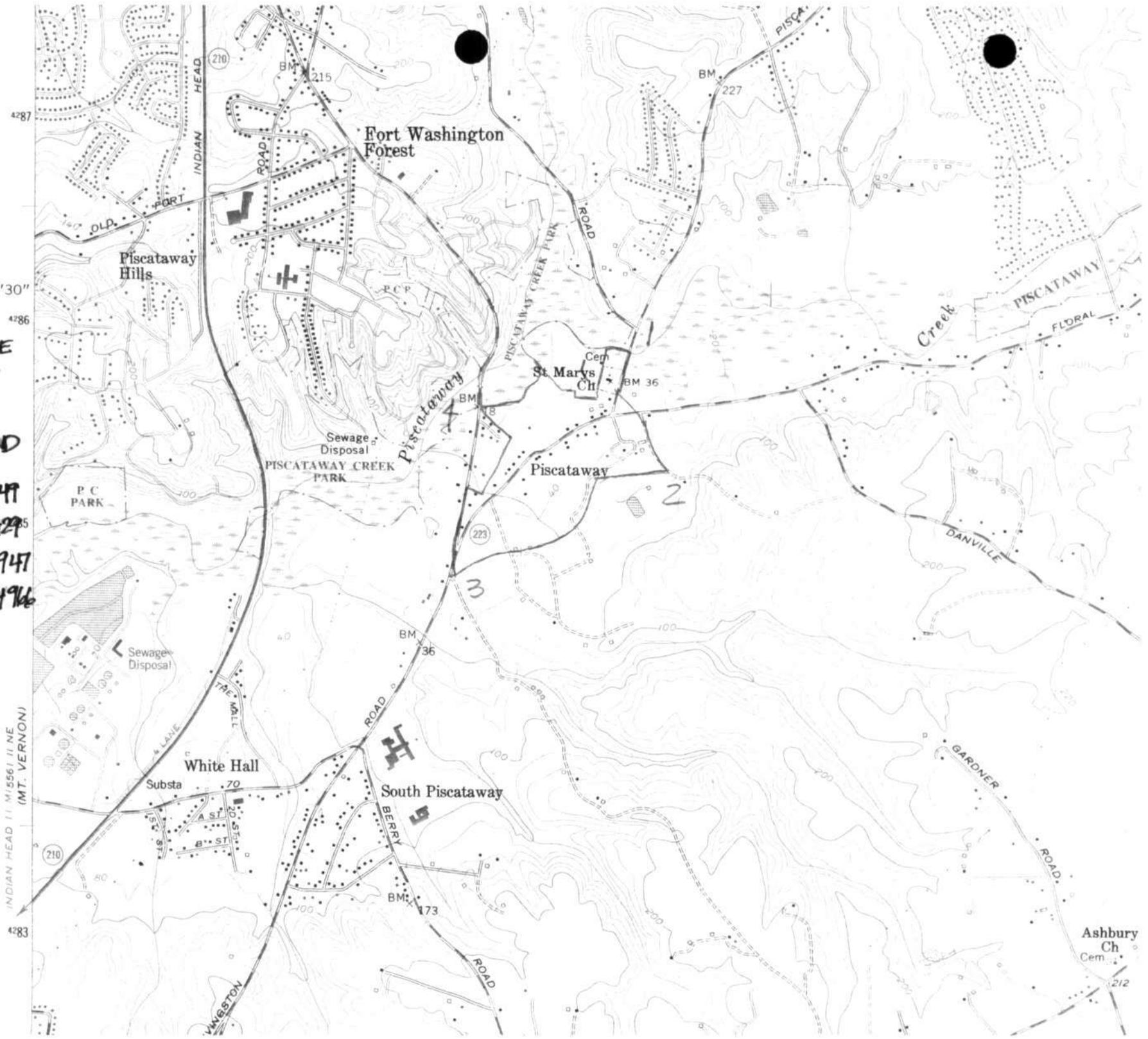
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2445 BAILEYS POND RD/2401 BAILEYS POND RD ACCOKEEK, MD 20607	Edelen House (PG:84-023-006)	BAILEYS ASSOCIATES L P 8614 WESTWOOD CENTER DR VIENNA, VA 22182 c/o SUITE 900	3.339	ca. 1830; 1926	Colonial Revival	Dwelling	Contributing
1906 FLORAL PARK RD ACCOKEEK, MD 20607		WEAVER, KATHYRN H 8303 BELLA VISTA TER FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	0.798	1948			Non-Contributing; post-dates period of significance
1908 FLORAL PARK RD ACCOKEEK, MD 20607	Thomas C. Underwood Bungalow (PG: 84-023-026)	DANNER, MELANIE & BEVERLY 1908 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	2.532		Bungalow; 1926 Folk Victorian	Dwelling	Contributing
2004 FLORAL PARK RD ACCOKEEK, MD 20607	Underwood House (PG: 84-023- 002)	FILES-MOORE, ANNETTE M 2004 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	1.543		Gable Front with Ell; Folk 1914 Victorian	Dwelling	Non-Contributing; lacks integrity
2006 FLORAL PARK RD ACCOKEEK, MD 20607		BANNERMAN, WANDA 2006 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	0.848	1984			Non-Contributing; post-dates period of significance
2008 FLORAL PARK RD ACCOKEEK, MD 20607		BOND, DAVID W 2008 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	0.738	1944			Non-Contributing; post-dates period of significance
2010 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735		GHEEN, ROBERT & KELLY 5904 CHURCH DR BRANDYWINE, MD 20613	0.937	1948			Non-Contributing; post-dates period of significance
2101 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735		OSBORNE, JAMES D 2101 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	7.325	1949			Non-Contributing; post-dates period of significance
2102 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735		WALLACE, ROBERT S & CHARLENE 2102 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	0.534	ca. 1950			Non-Contributing; post-dates period of significance

Property Address	Historic Name/Site Number (Previously Identified Resource)	Owner Name/Address	Acres	Construction Date	Style	Resource Type	Contributing/Non-Contributing Status
2104 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735		JENNESS,GERALDINE B ETAL 2104 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	0.6	1914; 1940		Side Gable Cottage	Contributing
2105 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735		GEBHARDT INCORPORATED PO BOX 297 CLINTON, MD 20735	1.093	1949			Non-Contributing; post-dates period of significance
002106 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735		SWINDLE,RAYMOND C & JUDITH M 2106 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	9.179	1980			Non-Contributing; post-dates period of significance
002201 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735		ARCHER,RUFUS 9311 MESSINA DR FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	3.29	1955			Non-Contributing; post-dates period of significance
002204 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	Piscataway Tavern (PG:84-023-03)	CHAPMAN,MILTON C 2204 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	8.019	ca. 1750; ca. 1810	Federal	Dwelling	Contributing
002205 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735		ARCHER,RUFUS L ETAL 11805 MAHER DR FORT WASHINGTON, MD 20744	5.158	ca. 1950		Dwelling	Non-Contributing; post-dates period of significance
002207 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	Stanton-Blandford House (PG: 84-023-004)	CHESELDINE,GAIL A & DENNIS P 2207 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	0.485	ca. 1825; ca. 1866	Central cross gable; Greek Revival	Dwelling	Contributing
002208 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	Harbin House (Clagett Store) (PG: 84-023-007)	CHAPMAN,MICHAEL 2208 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	0.08	ca. 1860	Italianate	Dwelling	Contributing
002209 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	Bond Bungalow (PG: 84-023-025)	BOND,DAVID W 2008 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	1.05	ca. 1935	Bungalow	Dwelling	Contributing

Property Address	Historic Name/Site Number (Previously Identified Resource)	Owner Name/Address	Acres	Construction Date	Style	Resource Type	Contributing/Non-Contributing Status
002305 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	Hardy's Tavern (PG: 84-023-005)	YERKIE, JOHN W JR & DOROTHY B 2305 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	1.233	ca. 1790	Georgian	Dwelling	Contributing
002306 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	Gallahan-Davis House (PG: 84-023-024)	ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCH OF WASH 13401 PISCATAWAY RD CLINTON, MD 20735	2.536	ca. 1917	Central cross gable		Contributing
002308 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	Dr. Edgar Hurtt House (PG: 84-023-008)	DUDIK, ROLLIE M & NANCY A SLICNER PO BOX 390670 DELTONA, FL 32739	1.182	ca. 1790; ca. 1912	Vernacular	Dwelling	Contributing
002312 FLORAL PARK RD CLINTON, MD 20735	Miller House (PG: 84-023-009)	ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCH OF WASH PO BOX 29260 WASHINGTON, DC 20017	0.501	ca. 1860	Central cross gable	Dwelling	Contributing
013712 LIVINGSTON RD CLINTON, MD 20735		GRIMSLEY, CHERYLENE E & LINDA M 13712 LIVINGSTON RD CLINTON, MD 20735		1956			Non-Contributing; post-dates period of significance
13401 PISCATAWAY RD ACCOKEEK, MD 20607	St. Mary's Church and Cemetery (PG: 84-023-010)	OBOYLE, PATRICK A ST MARYS CORP SOLE 13407 PISCATAWAY RD CLINTON, MD 20735		1904	Gothic Revival	Ecclesiastical	Contributing

PISCATAWAY VILLAGE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PRINCE GEORGE'S  
COUNTY, MARYLAND

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- 2: 18 329079 4205127
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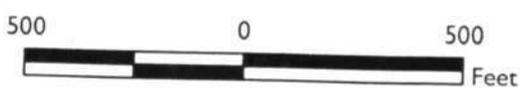
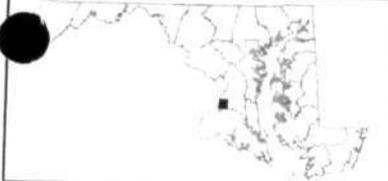
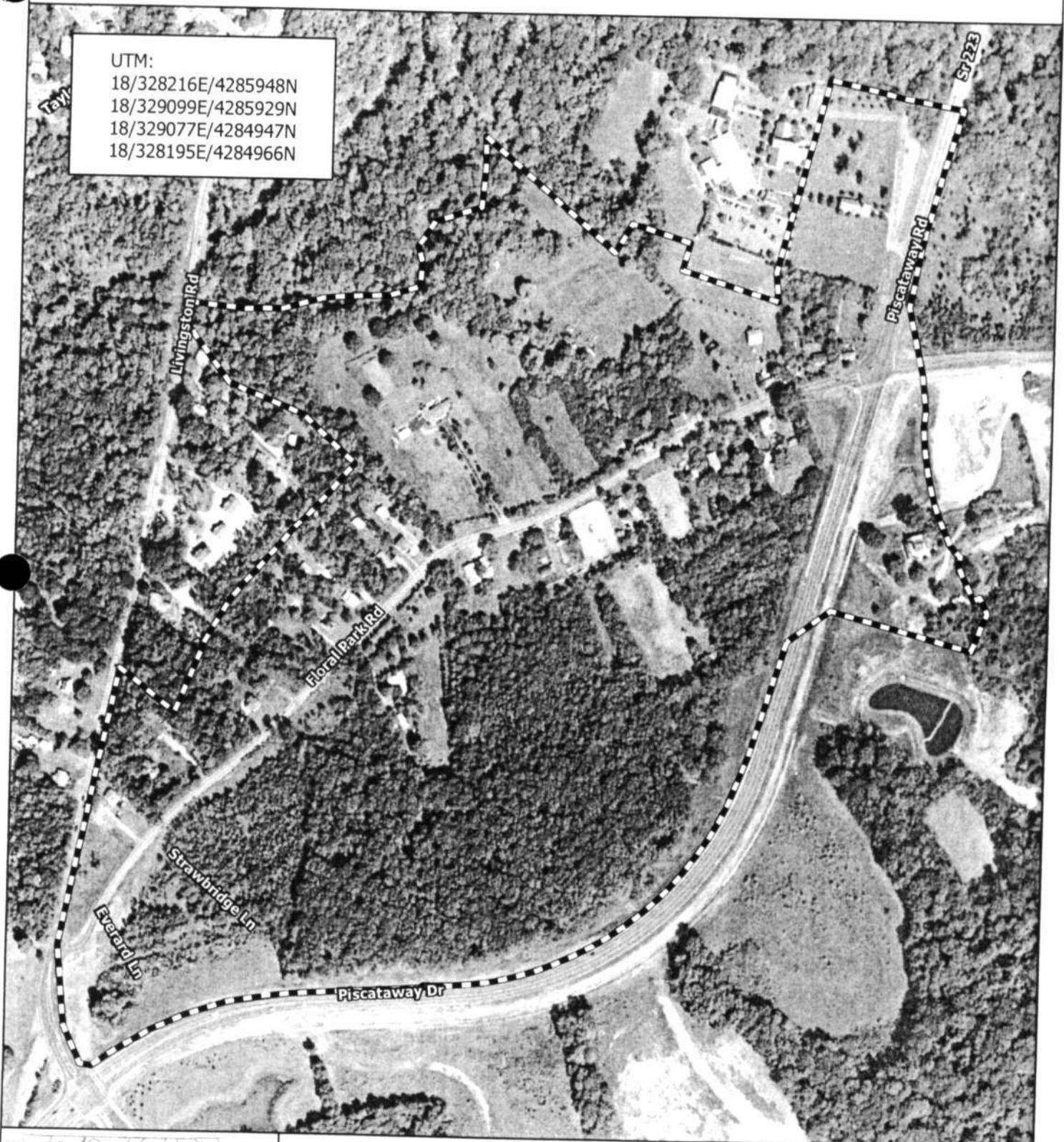
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Piscataway Village Historic District  
PG: 84-023  
Boundary Map  
Prince George's County, Maryland

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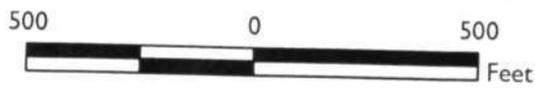
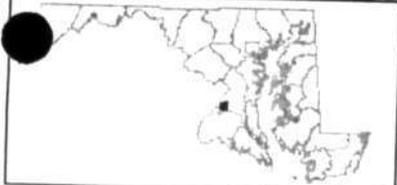
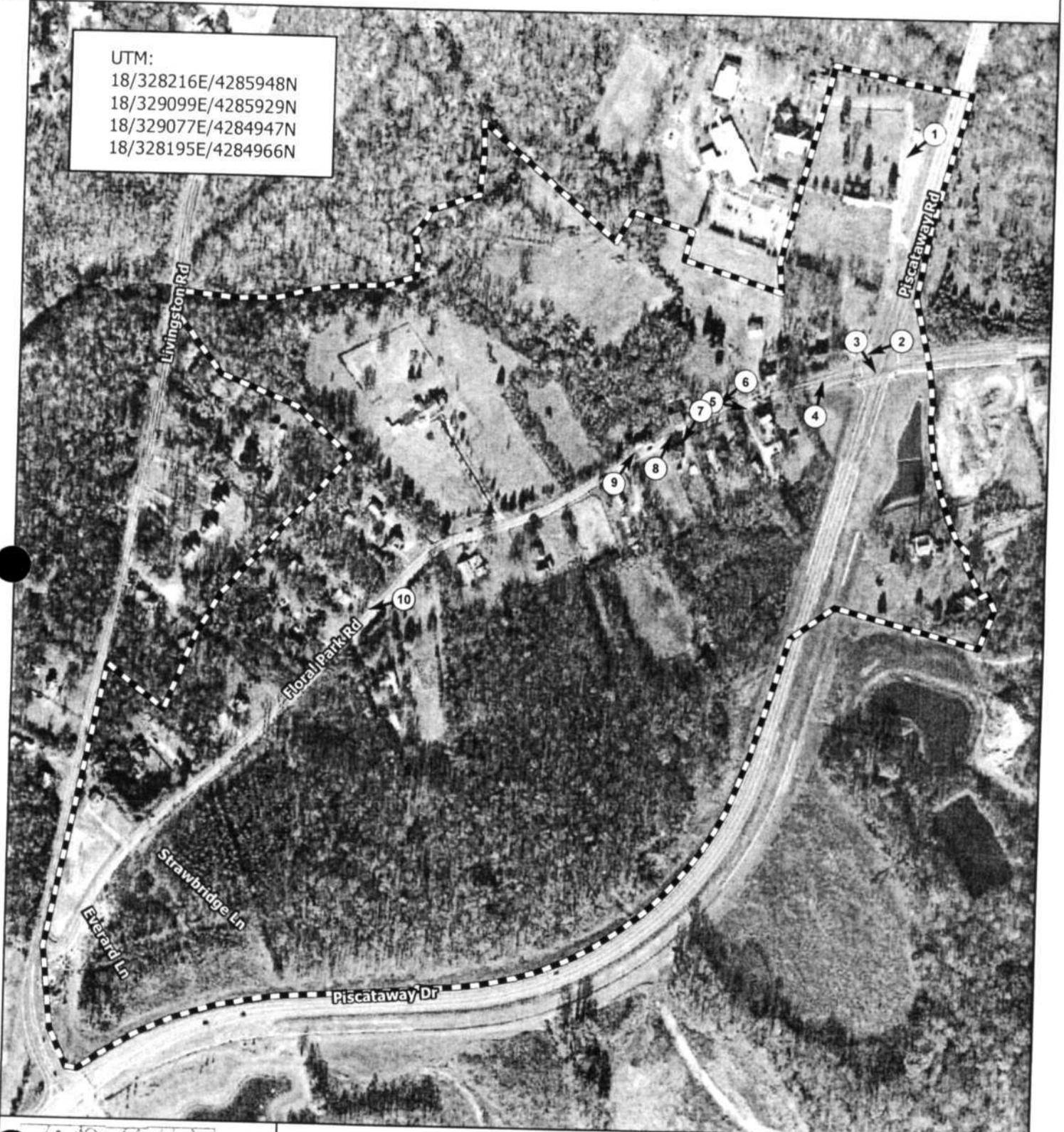


 National Register Boundary



Piscataway Village Historic District  
PG: 84-023  
Photograph Location Map  
Prince George's County, Maryland

UTM:  
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18/329099E/4285929N  
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Photograph Location



National Register  
Boundary

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG: 84-023  
Piscataway Village Historic District

Name of Property

Prince George's County, MD

County and State

Section PHOTO Page 1

### Index to Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs which accompany this documentation:

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Number: PG: 84-023  
Name of Property: Piscataway Village Historic District  
Location: Prince George's County, Maryland  
Photographer: Emma Young  
Date taken: December 2009  
Location of original digital files: MD SHPO

#### Photo captions:

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_PiscatawayVillageHistoricDistrict\_0001.tif  
Floral Park Road, view to SW

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_PiscatawayVillageHistoricDistrict\_0002.tif  
2401 Floral Park Road, view to SE

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_PiscatawayVillageHistoricDistrict\_0003.tif  
2308 Floral Park Road, view to NE

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_PiscatawayVillageHistoricDistrict\_0004.tif  
2305 Floral Park Road, view to SE

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Floral Park Road, view to SW

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2207 Floral Park Road, view to SW

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2208 Floral Park Road, view to NW

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_PiscatawayVillageHistoricDistrict\_0008.tif  
2204 Floral Park Road, view to NW

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PG: 84-023  
Piscataway Village Historic District

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Name of Property

Prince George's County, MD

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County and State

Section PHOTO Page 2

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MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_PiscatawayVillageHistoricDistrict\_0009.tif  
2008 and 2010 Floral Park Road, view to W

MD\_PrinceGeorgesCounty\_PiscatawayVillageHistoricDistrict\_0010.tif  
St. Mary's Church, view to SW



PG: 84-023

PISCATAWAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

E. YOUNG

12. 2009

MD SHPO

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

VIEW TO SW

PHOTO 1 OF 10

EPSON

EPSON

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Professional Paper



SPEED  
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PISCATAWAY  
Est. 1940

PG: 84-023

PISCATAWAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

E. YOUNG

12.2009

MD SHPO

FLORAL PARK ROAD  
VIEW TO SW

PHOTO 2 OF 10

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Epson  
Professional Paper

EPSON



SPEED  
LIMIT  
40

PG:84-023

PISCATAWAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

E. YOUNG

12-2009

MD SHPO

2401 FLORAL PARK ROAD

VIEW TO SE

PHOTO 3 OF 10

EPSON



PG: 84-023

PISCATAWAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

E. YOUNG

12. 2009

MD SHPO

2308 FLORAL PARK ROAD

VIEW TO NE

PHOTO 4 of 10



PG. 84-023

PISCATAWAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MARYLAND

E. YOUNG

12.2009

MD SHPO

2305 FLORAL PARK ROAD  
VIEW TO SE

PHOTO 5 OF 10

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Epson  
Professional Paper

EPSON



P6: 84-023

PISCATAWAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

E. YOUNG

12.2009

MDSHPO

FLORAL PARK ROAD

PHOTO 6 OF 10

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Professional Paper

EPSON



PG: 84-023

PISCATAWAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

E. YOUNG

12. 2009

MD SHPO

2207 FLORAL PARK ROAD, VIEW TO NW

PHOTO 1 OF 10

EPSON

EPSON

Epson  
Professional Paper



PG:84-023

PISCATAWAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

E. YOUNG

12.2009

MD SHPO

2208 FLORAL PARK ROAD, VIEW TO NW

PHOTO 8 OF 10

Epson  
Professional Paper



PG: 84-023

PISCATAWAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

E. YOUNG

12. 2009

MD SHPO

2204 FLORAL PARK ROAD, VIEW TO NW

PHOTO 9 OF 10

Epson  
Professional Paper

Epson  
Professional Paper

EPSON



PG:84-023

PISCATAWAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

E. YOUNG

12.2009

MD SHPO

2008 AND 2010 FLORAL PARK ROAD

VIEW TO NW

PHOTO 10 OF 10

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Epson  
Professional Paper

EPS

9602492

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Piscataway Village Historic District Survey Number: PG:84-23

Project: Piscataway Villages development Agency: COE

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name Elizabeth Hannold Date 1994

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the available information, including that prepared by Prince George's County M-NCCP and R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, the village of Piscataway appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. Piscataway was established as a port and government tobacco inspection station in 1707. The village suffered a setback in the 19th century, <sup>when</sup> Baltimore became the center for state tobacco inspection and the Piscataway Creek silted up, limiting the shipping capabilities. Although its importance was reduced, Piscataway continued to serve as a commercial center for the surrounding farms and included taverns, stores, a hotel, schools, a church, a post office, and residences throughout the 19th and into the early 20th centuries. Today the village consists of mostly residences, dating from the late 19th through the 20th centuries, arranged in a linear pattern along Floral Park Road. All the buildings face the road and in general the surrounding land is open fields or woods, contributing to a strong sense of rural village. The Edelen House (PG: 84-23-6), a 19th century plantation house, is located at the southeastern end of the village and is connected to it by an expanse of agricultural fields.

Piscataway Village meets National Register Criterion A for its association with the development of early towns in Prince George's County during the 18th century and for its representative evolution as a crossroads rural village during the 19th and early 20th centuries. It also meet Criterion C as a significant and distinguishable entity representing the distinctive characteristics of late 18th through early 20th century residential, commercial, and religious architecture in a rural village layout. Piscataway is one of the best remaining examples of a rural linear village in Prince George's County today. An 800-acre "neotraditional" development is planned for the property adjoining the southern border of the historic village.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project file, Maryland Inventory

PG:84-23, Phase I Archeological and Phase II Architectural Investigations for The Villages at Piscataway, Volumes I and II (R. Christopher Goodwin, June 13, 1996), Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study (PG-MNCPPC, Part I & II)

Prepared by: R. Christopher Goodwin, PG-MNCPPC

Elizabeth Hannold  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

September 25, 1996  
Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

Peter E. Kirby  
Reviewer, NR program

9/30/96  
Date

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: District

Historic Environment: Village, rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): residential, commercial, government, religious

Known Design Source: na



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 buildings are mostly nineteenth century structures, built of frame with A-roofs. Some have service wings that are probably older than the present main buildings. The store is a shed-roofed, two story building. Adjacent to it is the tavern, a central doorway building that probably predates the other houses. The church is a nineteenth century brick building with an entrance tower on the main facade. Most of the remaining buildings have three bay facades with end doorways, typical of Federal houses in the area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century
- 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Historic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Art</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communications</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Invention</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Literature</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Military</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Music</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Political</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Theater</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|--|

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area 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:

Blank area for Acreage Justification.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC      DATE: 31 July 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 \_\_\_\_\_

THE MARYLAND - NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
 REGIONAL AND METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS IN MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTIES, MARYLAND



Regional Headquarters Building  
 8787 Georgia Avenue  
 Silver Spring, Maryland 20907  
 27 April 1973

557 1480  
 Area Code 301

TO: ROBERT ARCIPRETE  
 Chief Park Planner, PGRO

FROM: CHRISTOPHER OWENS  
 Park Historian

SUBJECT: PISCATAWAY

I have received the copies of the tax maps of Piscataway and surrounding areas and shall return them as requested as soon as I have an opportunity to spend a day in the town locating and identifying the important sites on the map.

Piscataway, as I indicated to you on the telephone, was once a major tobacco port for southern Prince George's County. By 1700 there was a store house in the area and evidently the surrounding population was large enough and cultivated enough tobacco to make commercial ventures in the area attractive. Ebenezer Cook's fictional tobacco factor in "The Sot-Weed Factor" visited the town with a view toward opening a store in the same year (1708) that the freemen of the town petitioned the Assembly to remove to another site. But for some reason, perhaps inaction on the Assembly's part, the community was never allowed to remove to its preferred site on Broad Creek. In 1735, Edward Edelen and some other citizens became interested in establishing the town on a firmer footing and petitioned the Assembly to erect a town under the Act of 1706 for the establishment of new towns. The town was never platted--as Upper Marlborough was--into the 100 lots required by the Act, but instead it developed along the south side of the creek along present day Floral Park Road, with narrower lanes running from the major street to the creek. After the passage of the Tobacco Inspection Act of 1747, Piscataway became one of the tobacco inspection stations on the Potomac River; by then, several major English and Scottish factors had established warehouses in the little town where the tobacco planters would bring their crops for sale to the factor, who would ship the combined purchases to England for resale.

The history of Piscataway is not terribly dramatic or exciting, but the importance of the town for the modern world lies in the

page two

unexciting events that took place there. The town is the best preserved, most completely intact, least intruded upon of the old tobacco inspection ports. During the eighteenth century--indeed, until World War I--tobacco was the mainstay of the Prince George's County economy and thus the basis of its social and community life. No interpretation of the county's history can ignore the importance of tobacco and the institutions and towns it gave rise to. When such a town retains enough of its character and quality to serve as a basis for interpretation of colonial Prince George's County society, it is truly worthy of preservation. Unlike Port Tobacco, where several important buildings have been destroyed, or Bladensburg, where commercial development has all but destroyed the remains of the old port town, or Nottingham, where destruction and construction have changed the environment, Piscataway retains an integrity unusual in Prince George's County in the 1970's.

The Piscataway vicinity is marked on the Preliminary Master Plan for Subregion VI as a special protection area, although the form and character of the "protection" is left unspecified. What follows is an outline for a protection plan that emphasizes the retention of buildings by private owners and combines the preservation of "living" buildings with parks and open space. The basic assumption is that the preservation of the remaining buildings depends on the maintenance of an environment that gives a sense of Piscataway as a tobacco port and agricultural community; interpretation in this case should emphasize the organic relation of town to natural environment. A second assumption is that any plan that contemplates erecting new buildings in the town will effectively destroy the sense of an earlier time that the town now conveys. Even reconstructions as meticulously researched and planned as those at Williamsburg or Plymouth Plantation distort the past and convey a stilted sense of what it really was like; "subdivision colonial" does worse, for it neither conveys a sense of the past nor makes a statement about the present that could stand in contrast to the real past around it. Furthermore, making Piscataway so "alive" that it becomes busy would give a false sense of activity--while closing off the roads and isolating it from traffic would give a false sense of stasis.

What I propose is a program of preservation utilizing the easement program now operating to protect open space and the easement program now being worked out to protect historic structures, with the selective purchase of a minimum number of parcels of land. The former site of one building--Piscataway House, which has been moved to Broad Creek--should become parkland, with an exhibit explaining what was there, as well as a more general exhibit about the town and the area; other park facilities--picnic areas, parking, etc.--could use the same site. A former warehouse site near the creek would also be included in the land to be purchased (if it is not already within the take lines)

page three

and the foundations would be exposed with an exhibit showing a plausible reconstruction. A path could lead down to the parkland along the creek, and perhaps the National Park Service would cooperate in building a trail from Fort Washington to Piscataway for hikers or bicyclers. Easements would prevent building on the lots not purchased, as well as prevent the mutilation of the structures now standing. Interpretation would combine ecological and historical aspects of the area--the creek and its history, tobacco culture and its effects on the land, man's imprint before the arrival of the English, the effects of settlement on the environment and of the environment on settlement, and the development of town life in colonial Maryland.

Piscataway is probably the only town in Prince George's County where the concept outlined above is still practical. In most other cases, preservation is of single buildings that stand in an agricultural setting or are located in towns where the surrounding environment has already undergone change; "Marietta" is an example of the former, Upper Marlboro of the latter. Rather than have to reconstruct the townlife of the past--as Port Tobacco is now attempting--we can preserve it before it disappears; towns were an important, indeed necessary, adjunct to agricultural society and thus were an intimate part of the landscape of colonial Maryland. It seems reasonable and proper to save at least one.

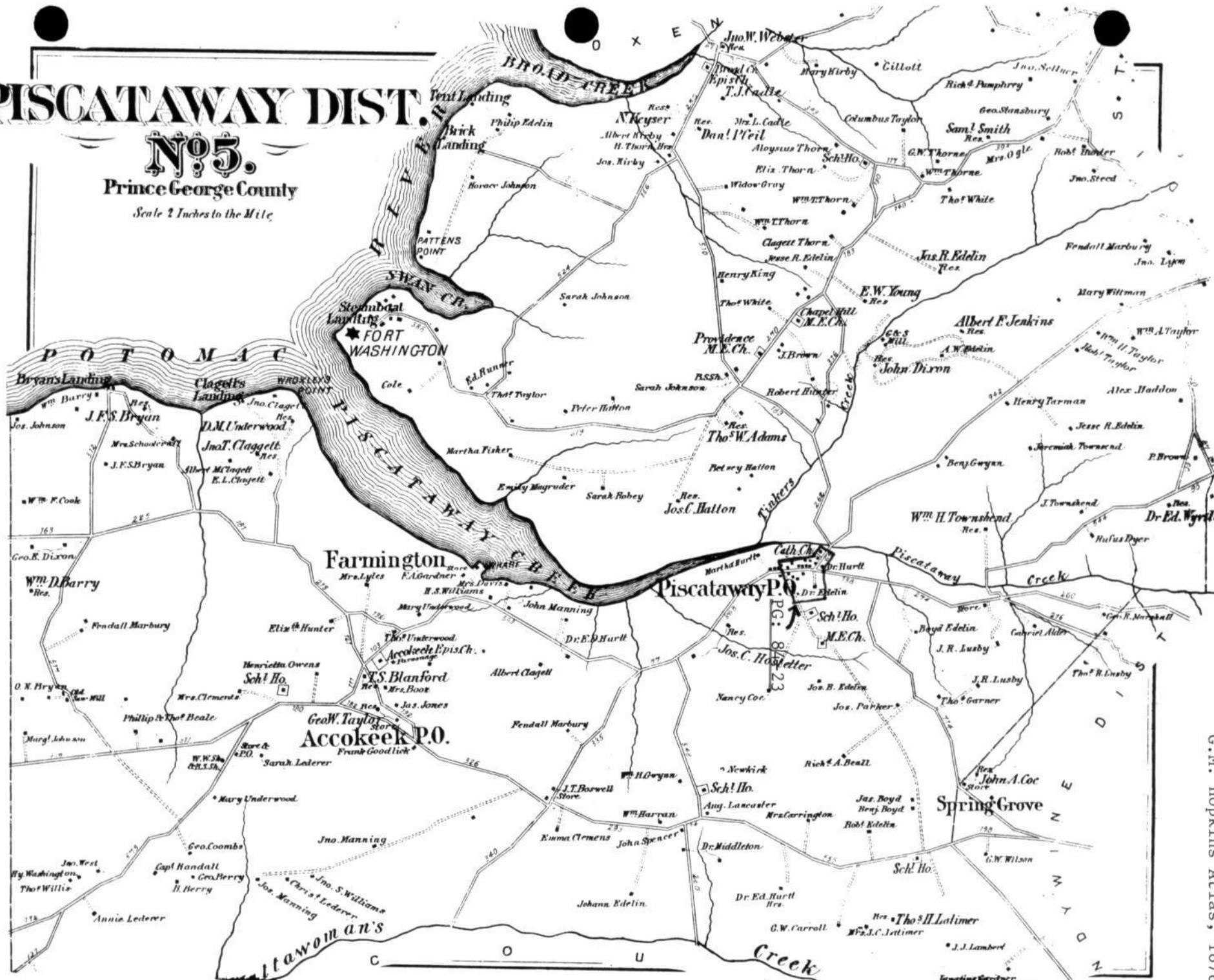
cc: Commissioner Crawley  
F. Frank Rubini  
Hugh Robey  
Herb Robinson  
Wesley Johnson

# PISCATAWAY DIST.

## No. 5.

### Prince George County

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile



ST. MARY'S  
CHURCH

84-10

.26

.28

.32

.33

.32

ROAD

FLORAL PARK

.36

84-23-24

B.M. 15682  
EL. 34.29

.33

.36

.32

.33

220

.37

84-23-25

.36

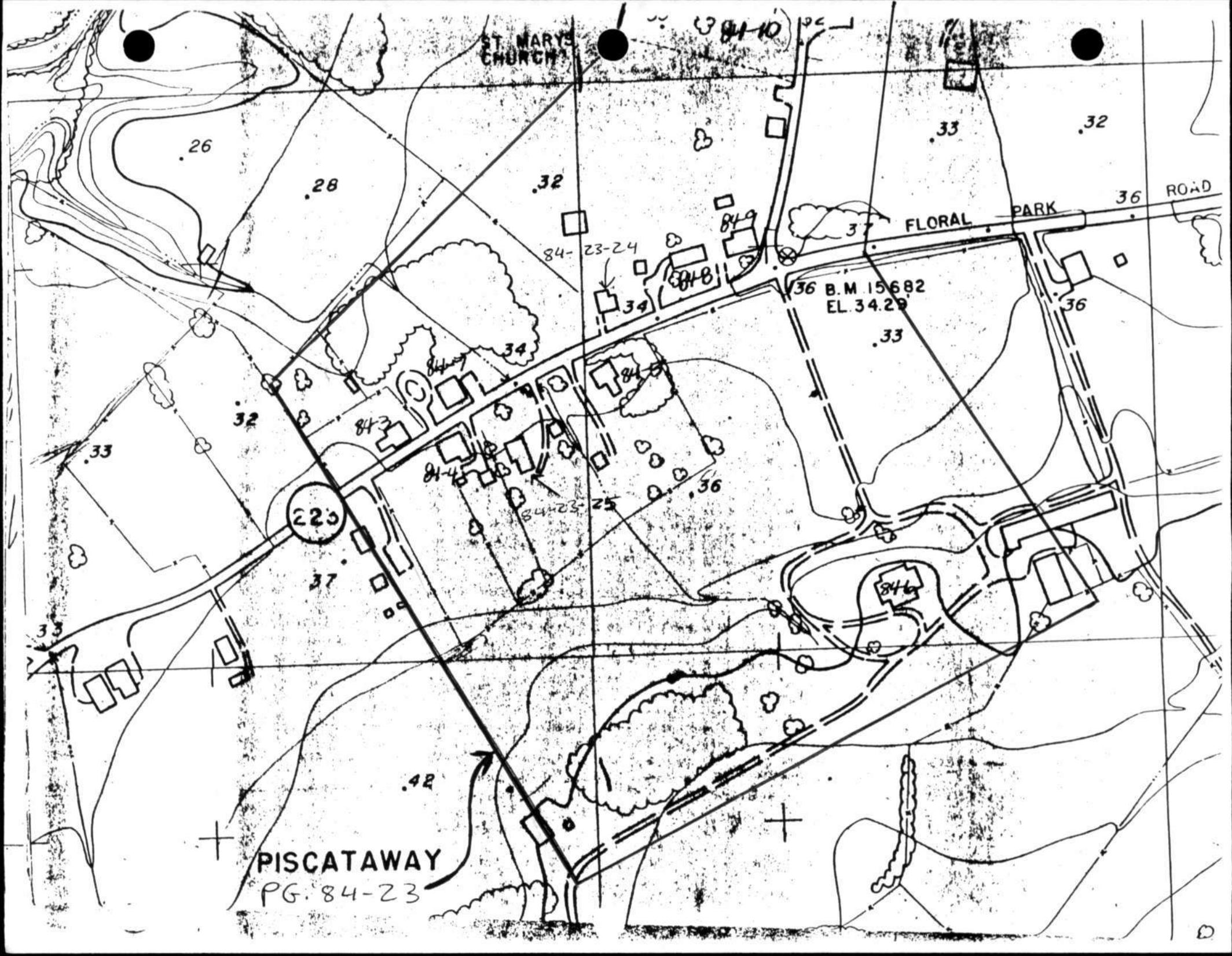
846

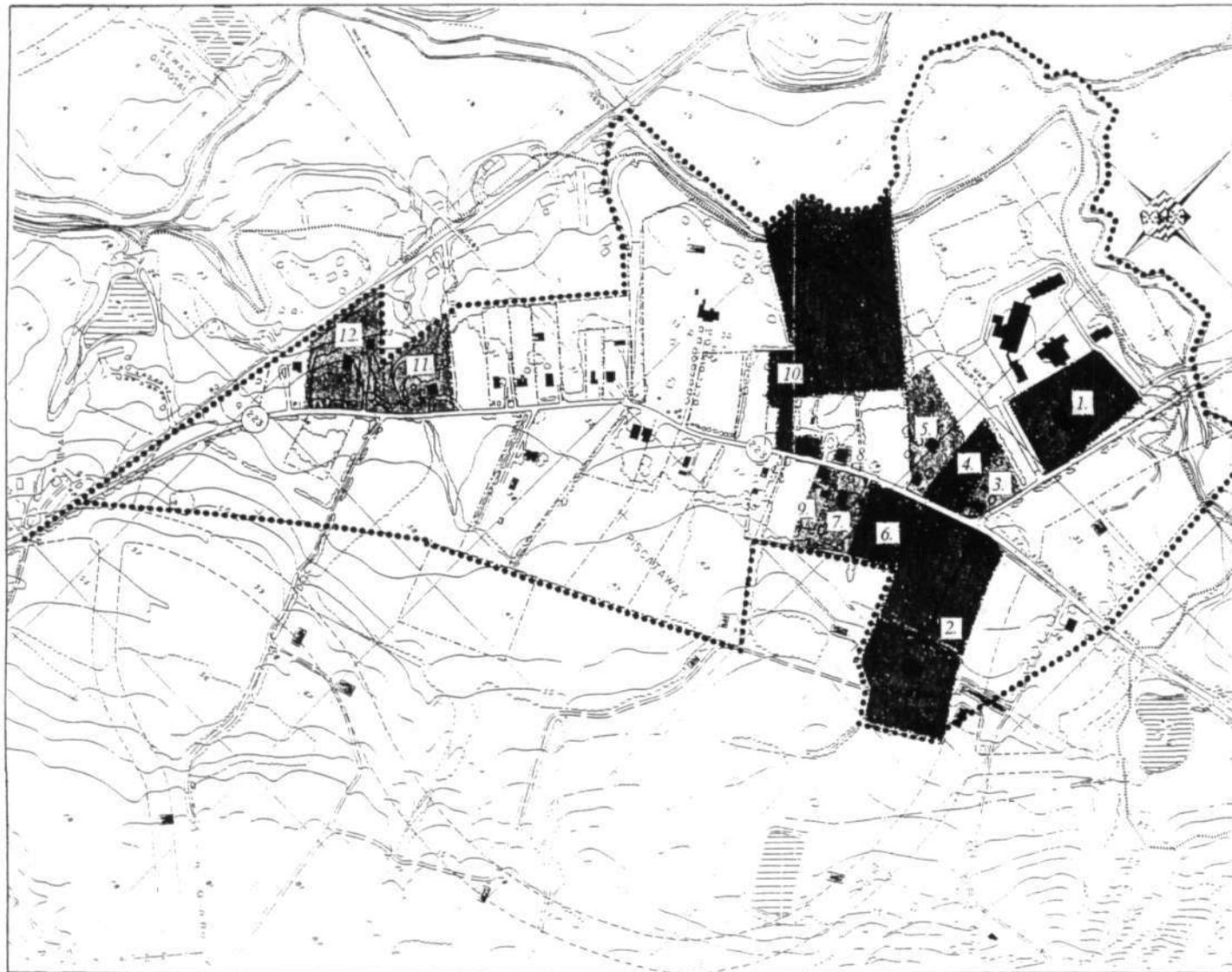
.42

PISCATAWAY

PG. 84-23

D





## Historic Properties in Piscataway

## LEGEND

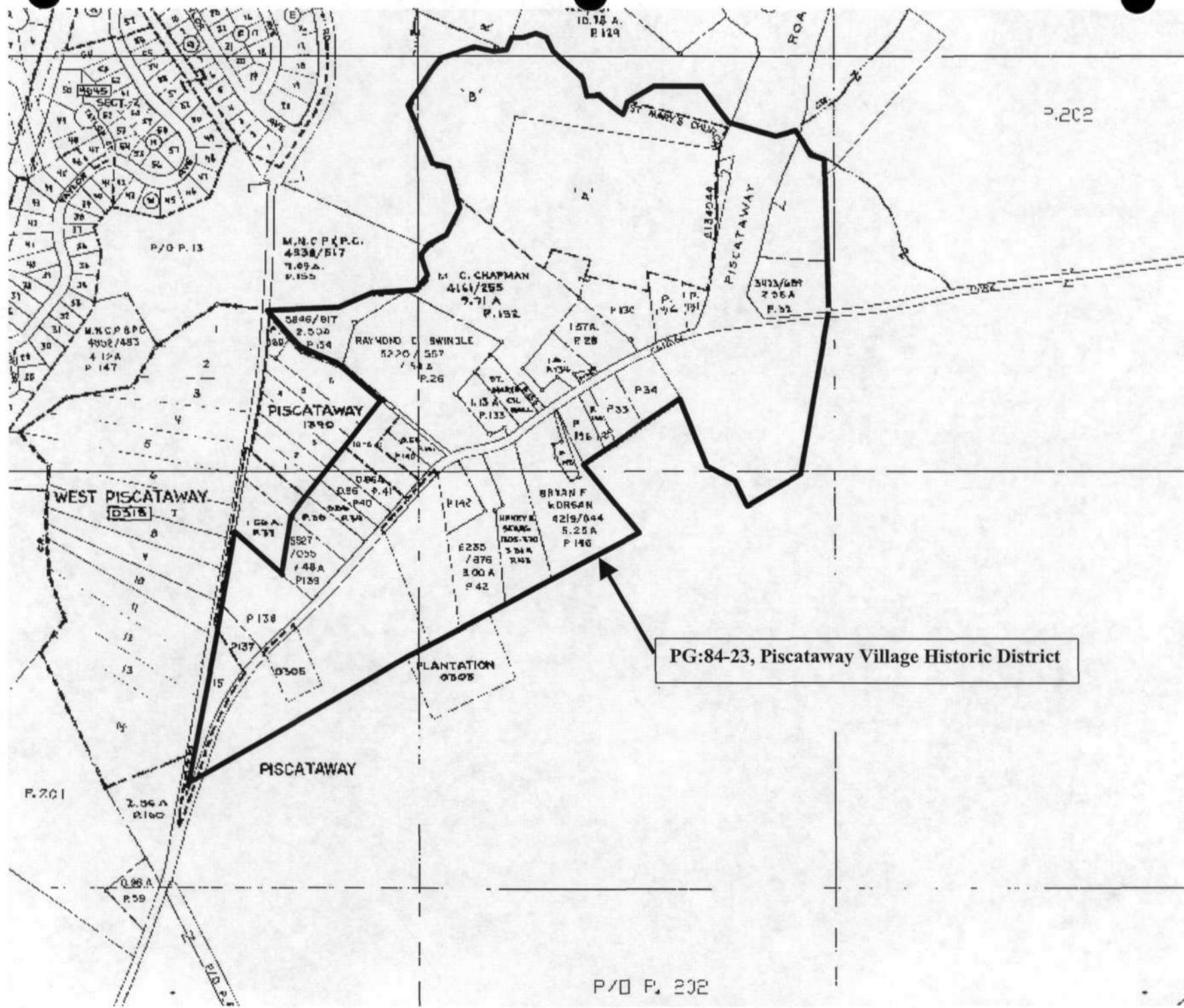
-  Historic Site
-  Historic Resource
-  Survey Property
-  Piscataway Historic Survey Area

1. St. Mary's Church and Cemetery  
Historic Site #84-23-10
2. Edelen House  
Historic Site #84-23-6
3. Miller House  
Historic Resource #84-23-9
4. Dr. Edgar Hurtt House  
Historic Site #84-23-8
5. Gallahan-Davis House  
Survey Property #84-23-24
6. Hardy's Tavern  
Historic Site #84-23-5
7. Bond Bungalow  
Survey Property #84-23-25
8. Harbin House (Clagett Store)  
Historic Resource #84-23-7
9. Stanton-Blandford House  
Historic Resource #84-23-4
10. Piscataway Tavern  
Historic Site #84-23-3
11. Underwood House  
Historic Resource #84-23-2
12. Thomas C. Underwood Bungalow  
Survey Property #84-3-26



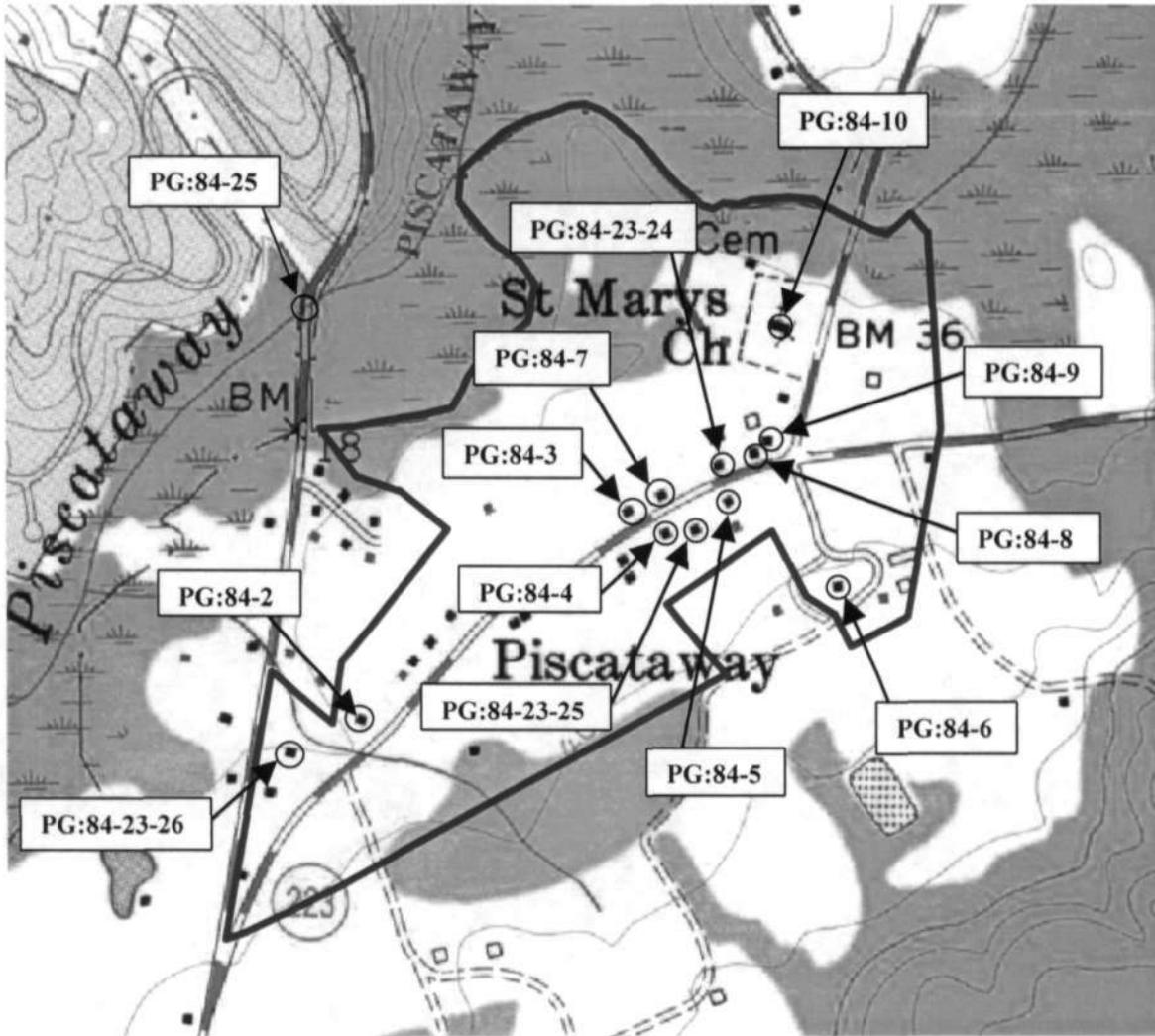
NO SCALE AVAILABLE

Figure 46. Map of Piscataway Village, depicting Historic Sites, Historic Resources, other properties surveyed by M-NCPPC staff, and the boundaries of the historic survey area (from King and Rivers, *Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study*, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1995)

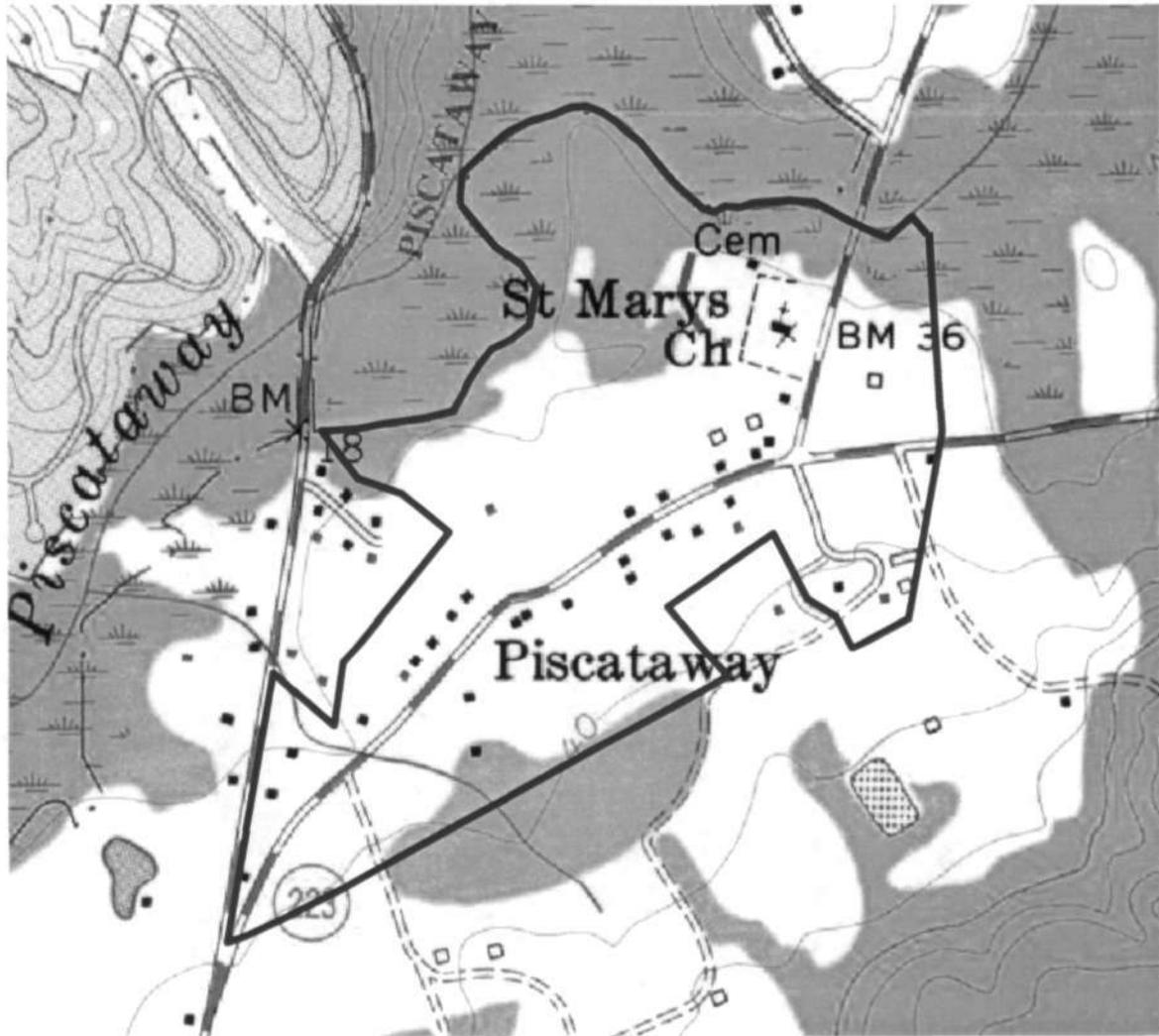


PG:84-23, Piscataway Village Historic District

PG:84-23  
Piscataway Village Historic District  
Piscataway quadrangle



PG:84-23  
Piscataway Village Historic District  
Piscataway quadrangle





PG: 84-23

P.G.#84-3, -7, -4

Piscataway Village Historic District

Piscat. Tavern, Clagett's store, saltbox

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

From southwest

Neg: Md. Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.



PG: 84-23

Piscataway Village Historic District

Davis house

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

From east

Neg: Md. Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.