

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

PG: 84-7

Survey: ~~PG# 84-23-7~~ Building Date: 1850s

Building Name: Harbin House (Clagett Store)

Location: 2208 Floral Park Road, Piscataway

Private/Residence/Occupied/Deteriorated/Inaccessible

Description

The Harbin House (Clagett Store) stands on a town lot in Piscataway, fronting directly on Floral Park Road. It is a two-story structure, roughly square in plan, with a shed roof sloping toward the rear, distinguished by its dentillated and bracketed cornice. There are three later additions to the main block, all one-story, two on the rear and one on the east side. The principal south facade of the main block is five bays wide; the principal entrance is in the third (center) bay through a five-panel door with sidelights and transom. A hip-roof porch shelters the south facade; the westerly section of the porch is screen-enclosed, while the easterly unenclosed section leads into the part of the building that served as the store. Windows of the main block are 6/6 double hung sash with projecting wood lintels. The most distinguishing feature of the building is the Italianate cornice: a wide wooden frieze, surmounted by a boxed cornice ornamented with dentils and scroll brackets. The horizontal wood siding of the main block is covered with yellowish brick-pattern asphalt shingle. A corbelled brick chimney rises from the west section of the shed roof. At the rear is a one-story gable-roof kitchen addition, sheathed with aluminum siding.

Significance

The Harbin House (Clagett Store) has served as hotel, dwelling and store. Piscataway, which had been an active commercial port town during the eighteenth century, became a quiet rural village during the nineteenth century, but its location on one of the principal roads of Southern Maryland still justified the existence of a hotel. This house was built in the 1850s by Thomas Henry Harbin, who operated a hotel here until the beginning of the Civil War. Harbin sold the property in 1861 and became active as a Confederate secret signal agent. His property then passed through a series of short term owners, but continued to be known as "Harbin House" at least until 1890. In the mid twentieth century it was purchased by Alexander and Camillus Clagett, who operated a store in the building until the late 1970s. Although altered over time, the Harbin House/Clagett Store is still representative of a large mid-nineteenth century commercial/residential building with Italianate decorative detail. It exemplifies the commercial and social history of the village of Piscataway, and is one of the most noticeable architectural features of this rural community.

Acreage: .125 acre

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (Indicate preferred name)

historic Harbin House

and/ or common Clagett Store

2. Location

street & number 2208 Floral Park Road

city, town Piscataway _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Michael and Symphony Chapman

street & number 2208 Floral Park Road telephone no. _____

city, town Piscataway state and zip code MD 20735

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Administration Building liber 11941

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive folio 680

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1992 _____ federal _____ state county _____ local

depository for survey records Planning & Preservation Section, M-NCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

7. DescriptionSurvey No. ~~PG#84-23-7~~

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved Date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Harbin House (Clagett Store) is a two-story frame structure, which stands on a small lot fronting directly on Floral Park Road in the village of Piscataway. An integral feature of the village streetscape, this building is distinguished by its shed-roof form and its Italianate dentilated, bracketed cornice.

Main Block

The main block of the Harbin House is a two-story, frame structure, roughly square in plan; its shed roof has a very shallow pitch, sloping downward to the north (rear). There are three later additions to the main block, all one-story, two on the rear and one on the east side. (The main block itself may be a multi-period structure, built in two or three stages, but it constitutes an integrated nucleus to the structure.)

The principal (south) facade of the main block fronts on Floral Park, almost directly on the paved road. The main block is five bays wide, with entrances in the first, third and fifth bays. The principal entrance is the third (center) bay through a five-panel door with three-light sidelights and four-light transom. The other two doors feature upper glazing over two lower horizontal panels and have two-light transoms. A facade-wide one-story hip-roof porch shelters the south facade; the westernmost three bays of this porch are screen-enclosed. The door in the easternmost fifth bay, in the unenclosed part of the porch, leads into the part of the building that served as a store. The first-story south facade of this unenclosed section has been faced with a brick veneer.

Windows in the south facade are 6/6 double hung sash; those on the first story are longer in dimension, and those on the second story have prominent projecting wood lintels. The plain wood molding is painted white, and there are no shutters. The windows are irregularly spaced across the south facade, suggesting that the easterly two-bay section of the house may have been constructed somewhat later than the westerly three-bay section. (No structural evidence of the above suggestion has yet been discovered, but it is hoped that proposed structural work may be revealing.) There is one window on the east side of the main block (it retains one lattice-style wood shutter); there are two windows on each story on the west side of the building.

The most distinguishing feature of the building is the Italianate cornice: a wide wooden frieze, surmounted by a boxed cornice ornamented with dentils and scroll brackets, all painted white. Six intricately scrolled brackets are regularly spaced across the facade cornice, and at the east and west ends of the cornice, the brackets are doubled at right angles. There is no cornice and no decoration on the sides or rear of the building.

The main block rests on a deteriorating brick foundation which encloses a shallow crawl space. Siding is of wide circular-sawn wood, covered with yellowish brick-pattern asphalt shingle. The roof is covered with dark asphalt shingle. A corbelled brick chimney rises approximately half way back from the south front in the westerly section of the building; it once served the back-to-back fireplaces in the two rooms on each of the first and second stories of this westerly part of the building.

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

In the corresponding location in the easterly part of the building, there rises a metal stove vent, now serving the furnace installed in that space.

Interior

Interior of the main block consists of a central stairhall, with two parlors on the west, and a large commercial space on the east. (There are two bedchambers over the two west parlors, and two bedchambers above the easterly store space.) The open-string stair rises to the north along the west wall of the stairhall to a landing, then turns 180 degrees and rises a few more steps to the second story. The stair has a heavy turned newel, typical of the mid-nineteenth century, turned balusters, and bracketed stair-ends. The handsome stair-rail is continuous through its 180-degree turn. At the landing, an unusual, chunky, more modern double set of stairs (with centered stair-rail) continues northward a few more steps to the rooms in the rear of the main block. The centered stair-rail that bisects this secondary flight features a plain newel, square in section, and a stair-rail of plain rectangular balusters. Walls of the stairhall have been sheathed with modern synthetic-wood panelling.

Moldings of doors and windows in the main block are generally plain, but varied, suggesting frequent alterations over time. Some are of plain board, some of narrow two-step profile, and some of early twentieth-century multi-band form. There are plain wood mantels, typical of the mid-nineteenth century, in the two first-story west parlors and the spaces above them: each has a plain wide frieze and minimal ornament. The east section of the first story consists of one large space that still retains evidence of its use as a store: a large and sturdy wood counter, and abundant wall shelves. The east wall of this commercial space has been opened up, to lead into the small shed-roof addition to the east. From the interior can be viewed the prominent decorated architrave of this large opening, itself reminiscent of the main exterior cornice of the building: with prominent boxed cornice over a dentilated frieze, and a simplified scroll bracket at each end.

Additions

There is a one-bay deep, one-story, gable-roof kitchen addition along the westerly three-fifths of the rear (north) elevation, flush with the west side wall of the main block; it was probably constructed early in the twentieth century. A shed-roof addition (of the same depth) was subsequently added at its east end, so that the entire addition now covers four-fifths of the rear elevation of the house. The main west portion consists of a kitchen space, with an additional mud-room on the west. Entrance is through the north elevation of the mud-room. The remainder of the addition is lighted by four 6/6 double-hung-sash windows, one on each of the east and west elevations, and two on the north elevation lighting the kitchen space. The entire addition is sheathed with cream-colored aluminum siding; it rests on a concrete foundation, and there is an exterior brick chimney just west of the ridge.

The small one-story, shed-roof addition attached to the east side of the main block is sheathed with the same brick-pattern asphalt shingle as the main block. This small addition, which extended the commercial space of the building, is lighted by one 4/4 window in each of its north and south elevations; the south window retains one lattice-style wood shutter. The shed roof of this east addition is disguised from the front by a small raised parapet.

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Description (continued)

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Setting

The building fronts on Floral Park Road, almost directly on the paved right-of-way. The grounds of this very small property (only .125 acre) allow for a small parking area immediately east of the main block. There is a covered well just north of the small east shed-roof addition. There is a very shallow partially wooded space behind the building. Features of the rear yard, such as the small dog house and kennel, are probably actually located on the adjoining property to the north.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Survey No. ~~PG#84-23-7~~

Period	Areas of Significance-check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>community planning</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		local history

Specific dates 1850s Builder/Architect _____

check: Applicable Criteria A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception A B C D
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Harbin House (Clagett Store) is a large frame structure which has served as hotel, dwelling and store. With its shed roof and prominent Italianate cornice brackets, it exemplifies the commercial and social history of the village of Piscataway, and is one of the most noticeable architectural features of this rural community.

The town of Piscataway was established on the south side of Piscataway Creek at the beginning of the eighteenth century, mandated by act of Maryland's General Assembly in 1707. This "Supplementary Act to the Act for Advancement of Trade" specified that the town was to be erected on the south side of Piscataway Creek at or near its head, and was to contain 40 or 50 acres. Six other towns, on the Patuxent River, the Western Branch, and at Broad Creek, had been designated in the previous year. After a slow start, the town of Piscataway became the principal commercial port in southwestern Prince George's County; in 1747, it was selected as the site of one of the tobacco inspection warehouses in the County, and during the 1750s it was well known as the area's social and cultural center.¹

The establishment of a tobacco inspection station at Piscataway ensured the success of this port town for the remainder of the eighteenth century. The tobacco, brought to the warehouses by local planters, was inspected by the Vestry-chosen inspectors, and, once passed, was selected by agents from various British/Scottish export firms for export across the Atlantic. These agents in turn supplied the local planters with products such as fabric, nails, sugar and rum. British ships pulled into the broad estuary of Piscataway Creek, and smaller scows carried products to and from the ships along the narrower and shallower extent of the Creek from and to the warehouses.²

¹ *Archives of Maryland XXVII*, 159; *Prince George's County Court Records* HH:348; Hienton, L.J., *Prince George's Heritage*, Maryland Historical Society, 1972, pp. 135-136.

² "The Letterbooks of Alexander Hamilton, Piscataway Factor," edited by R.K. MacMaster and D.C. Skaggs. *Maryland Historical Magazine* LXI (1966), pp. 146-166, 305-328

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

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Even at the height of its commercial activity, Piscataway was never larger than a village. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax describes a community of approximately 28 acres, divided into approximately 28 lots of varying sizes. In that year, there were recorded 17 dwellings, six storehouses and one ballroom, plus the standard auxiliary buildings such as meat houses, lumberhouses, granaries, dairies and kitchens.³ After the Revolutionary War, the British factorage system came to an end, and with it ended the inspection station system and the active and dependable tobacco trade. Two factors, the rise of Baltimore as the Chesapeake area's principal market and the heavy siltation of the river tributaries, added to the decline of Piscataway as a successful port town. During the early nineteenth century, the tobacco warehouses were disbanded and sold, the market shifted to Baltimore, and water transportation of tobacco and other crops would soon be replaced by the new railroad.⁴

During the remainder of the nineteenth century, the village of Piscataway remained a small gathering place for the surrounding farmland, a cluster of a few small stores, taverns, church, school, and blacksmith shop. Moderate commercial activity, and the location of the village at the intersection of two early roads much used by travelers in Southern Maryland, justified the maintenance of a small hotel as well. By the end of the nineteenth century, however, the number of structures in the village had decreased to nineteen. Today only a small cluster of buildings marks the site of the village of Piscataway, mostly representing the nineteenth and early twentieth century; only three of these buildings are believed to incorporate eighteenth-century construction. Although there are plans for major residential development in the immediate area, very few modern houses have yet been constructed. The area remains quiet, agricultural and rural in character.

The Harbin House stands on the north side of the main road through Piscataway, between the Piscataway Tavern on the west, and the Gallahan-Davis House on the east. Across the street on the south stands Hardy's Tavern. All four of these buildings are visible representatives of the long history of the village: the two taverns incorporate eighteenth-century construction, and the Harbin House and Gallahan-Davis House represent the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries respectively.⁵

The Harbin House was built by Thomas Henry Harbin in the 1850s. Harbin belonged to a family from Charles County; his father, Walter Harbin, is believed to have been born in Piscataway in 1785, but he raised his family in the area of Bryantown, approximately 12 miles southeast of Piscataway in Charles County. Thomas Henry Harbin, born in 1833, is recorded in the 1850 census of Charles County as working as a clerk at Allen's Fresh. At about this time he purchased the property on the north side of the road through Piscataway, and had this large frame building constructed for use as hotel and residence.⁶ In 1855, Harbin married Mary E. Stewart of Bryantown in Charles County,

³ Federal Direct Tax for Prince George's County, 1798, Maryland State Archives.

⁴ Alexander, J.H., *Report of the Engineer & Geologist in relation to the New Map to the Executive of Maryland*, Annapolis, 1836; Toogood, Anna C., *Piscataway Park Maryland, General Historic Background Study*, National Park Service, 1969.

⁵ See also Maryland Inventory forms PG#84-23-3, -5, and -24.

⁶ The main block of the house may have been constructed in several stages, possibly beginning with the westerly, front section. Structural investigation may reveal details of the

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

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and together with his wife and growing family, resided at his Piscataway property. He operated the hotel in this building throughout the 1850s.⁷

In May 1860, Harbin suffered two devastating losses: the death of his infant son, Joseph, and three weeks later the death of his wife, Mary, at age 24. When, only a month later, the census records for 1860 were collected, Harbin was still living at the subject building with his surviving three-year-old son, James, and listed, at age 26, as "hotel keeper." Also occupying the building were "bar keeper" John E. Thompson (age 21), and two hotel guests.⁸

Thomas Harbin was actively sympathetic to the southern cause. Within a few months of the outbreak of the Civil War, he turned over management of his hotel to Richard H. Miller, who would soon build his own house just a few lots to the east of the hotel. Harbin then sold the "hotel, stables and lot in Piscataway, known as the Harbin House" to Walter Griffith and George Hunter for \$1000, noting that the hotel was occupied by Richard H. Miller as hotel keeper.⁹ Harbin returned, at least temporarily, to Bryantown, and became active as a Confederate secret signal agent (alias Thomas A. Wilson). He was directly involved with John Wilkes Booth and John H. Surratt in the plot to kidnap President Lincoln, and when that plan led instead to Lincoln's assassination, Harbin was among the group that assisted Booth in his escape. Harbin left the area after the assassination (he later reported that he had fled to Cuba and then to England) but returned to Washington by 1870. One of the Confederacy's most successful agents, he was never charged with complicity in the assassination. He remarried and had two more children, and worked as a clerk at the National Hotel in Washington until his death in 1886. He is buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery.¹⁰

As late as 1890, the building was still known as the "Harbin House," but during the latter years of the nineteenth century, it passed through a series of short-term owners, including Joseph Parker, Joseph Rennoe and William D. Blandford. Members of the Blandford family owned the property until 1927, at which time it was sold to the Boswell family. The property was purchased in 1948 by Alexander and Camillus Clagett, who operated a store in the eastern section of the house. Mrs. Clagett continued to operate the store (after her husband's death in 1974) until the late 1970s. The building remained her home until her death in 1991. In accordance with her will, it was legally conveyed to her grandson, Michael Chapman, in 1998.¹¹

⁷ Prince George's County Deed CSM#4:172; Meyering, Joan M., *Harbin Branch*, genealogical website; *Planters' Advocate*, newspaper printed in Upper Marlborough, 2 May 1860.

⁸ *Planters' Advocate*, newspaper printed in Upper Marlborough, 16 May and 30 May 1860; Federal Census Records for Prince George's County, 1860.

⁹ Prince George's County Deed CSM#4:172

¹⁰ Kauffman, Michael W., "John Wilkes Booth and the Murder of Abraham Lincoln", *Blue and Gray*, Magazine of the Civil War, June 1998; Tidwell, William A., *Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln*, Kent State University Press, 1995.

¹¹ Prince George's County Deeds JWB#32:767, JWB#37:141, #290:133, #1019:1, #8485-429, 11941-680

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG: 84-7
PG#84-23-

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The Harbin House exemplifies the commercial, social and historical heritage of the County in the nineteenth-century village of Piscataway, and is identified with an individual (Thomas H. Harbin) who played an active role in the events of the Civil War period. The Harbin House is one of the most noticeable architectural features of the village of Piscataway. Although it has been considerably altered over time, its principal facade and public view are still clearly representative of a large mid-nineteenth century commercial/residential building with Italianate decorative detail. This Italianate Commercial style of building, with shallow shed roof and prominent Italianate cornice brackets, is unique in this still rural section of Prince George's County; it is an established and familiar visual feature of the Piscataway community.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Survey No. PG#84-23-7

See notes, Item 8

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage at nominated property .125 acre

Tax Map 142 Parcel 148

Quadrangle name Piscataway

Quadrangle scale

UTM References

A						B					

C						D					

E						F					

G						H					

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By Susan G. Pearl

name/title Research/Architectural Historian

organization Prince George's County M-NCPPC date July 2001

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive telephone 301-952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, I 974 supplement.

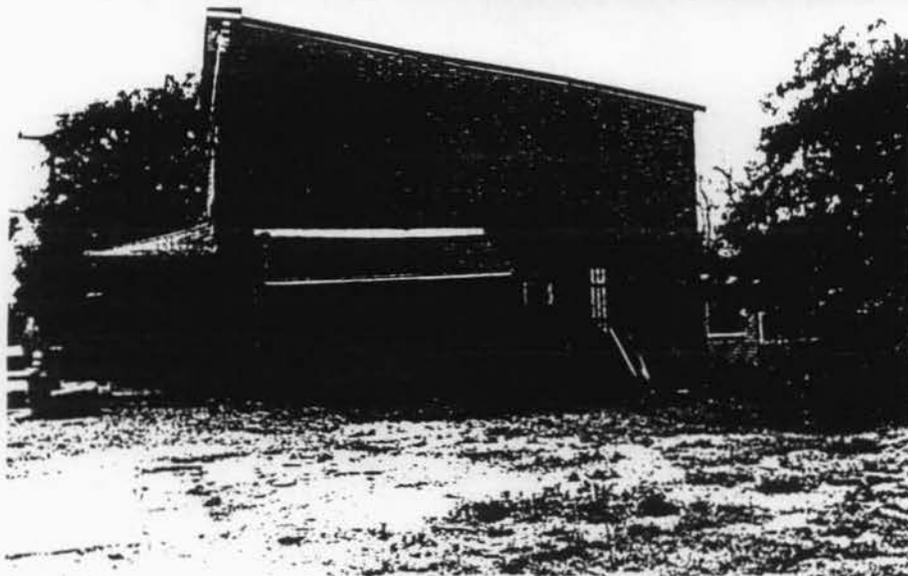
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.



South facade



North elevation

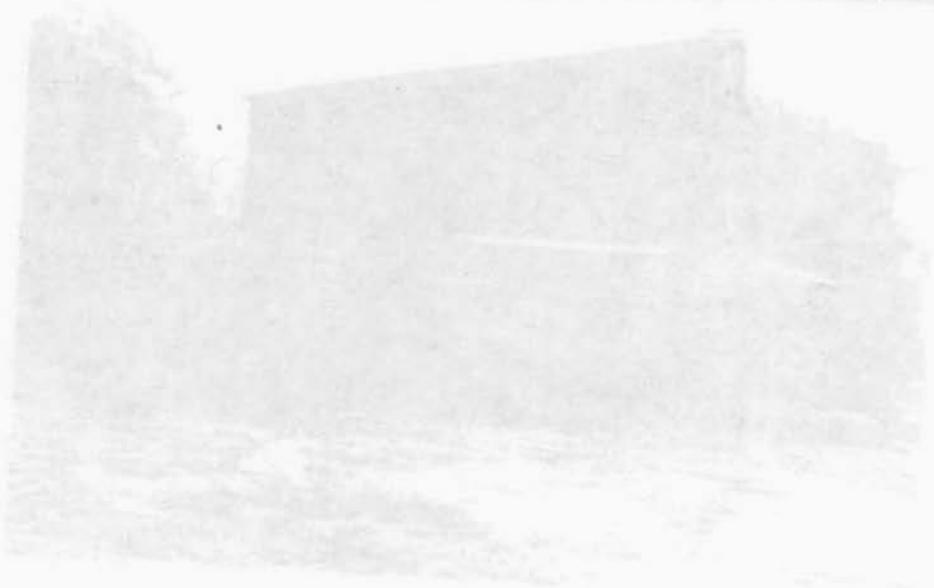
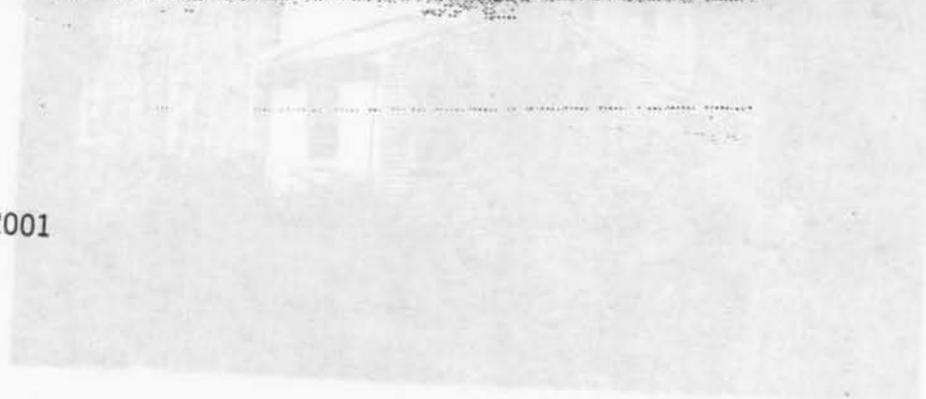


East side elevation

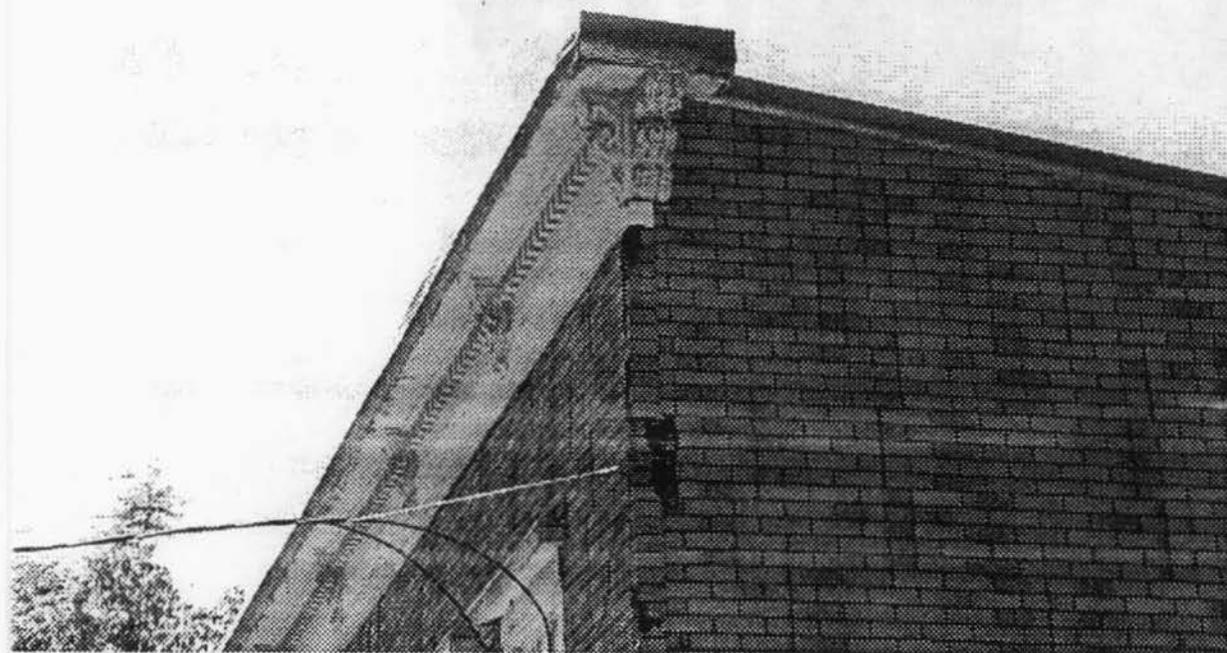
PG 84-7
Harbin House/Clagett Store (84-23-7)
May 1985



PG 84-0-7
South facade, July 2001



PG 84-0-7
South facade, July 2001



PG 84-20-7

Cornice detail, July 2001



PG 84-B-7

Stair, view to north, July 2001

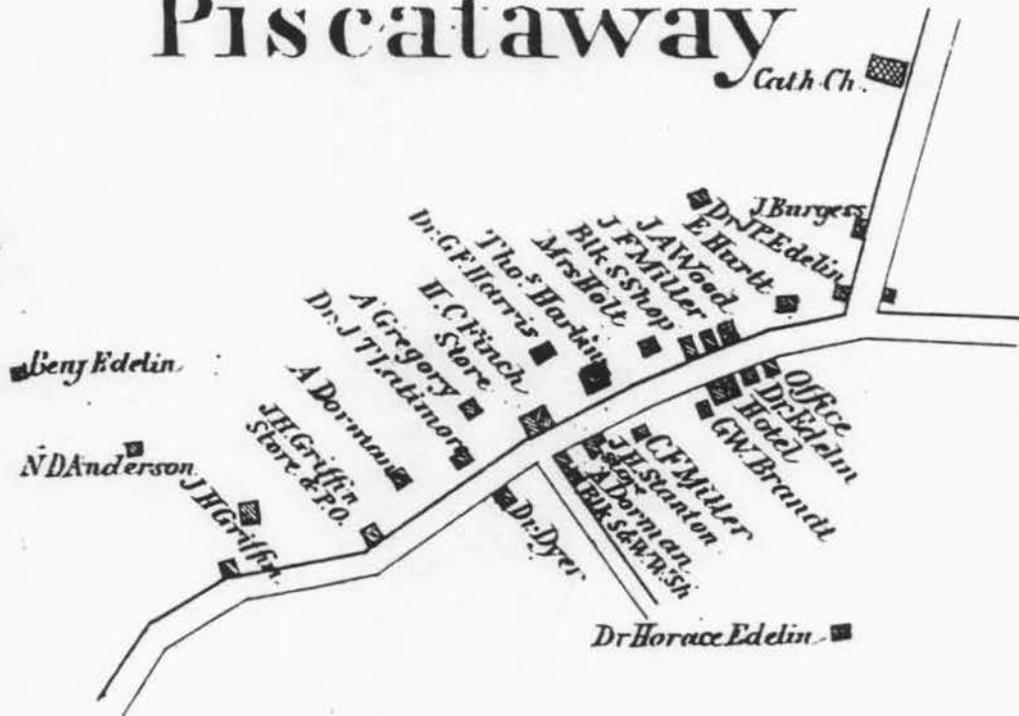
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PG-84-~~2~~-7

Northwest parlor, July 2001

Piscataway

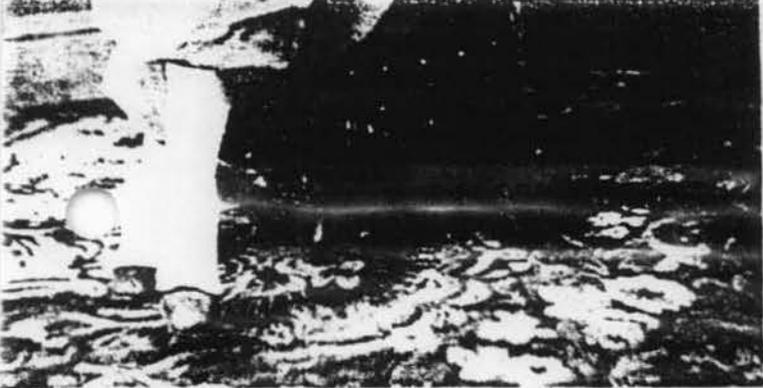


Alexan

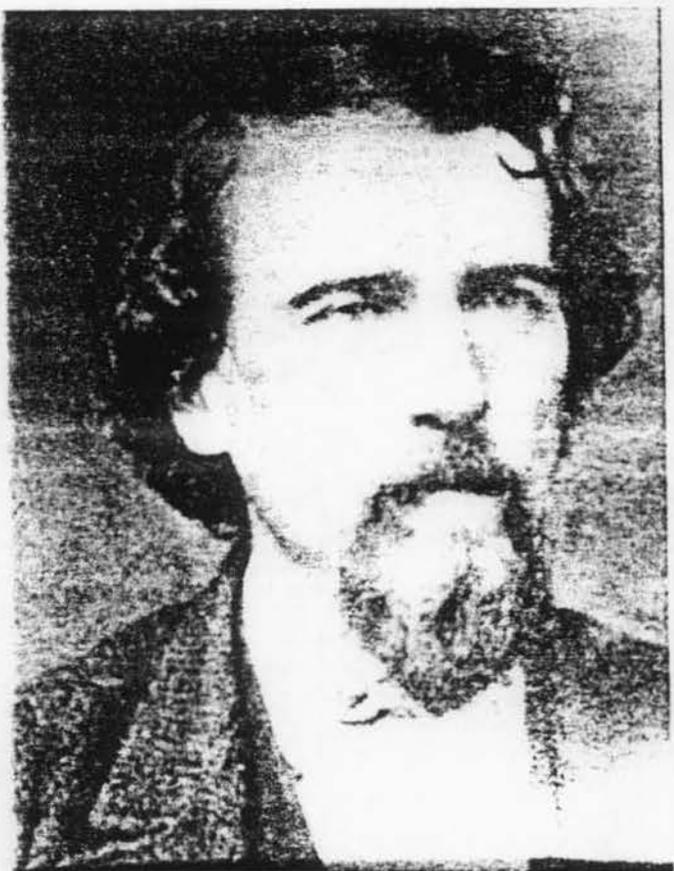
RIVER

Maxton Map, 1861

TABLE OF DISTANCES, IN MILES AND HUNDRETHS.	
Upper Marlborough	
To Hill's Landing,	2.30
To	00



Dr. Samuel A. Mudd. Courtesy National Park Service



Thomas H. Harbin (alias Thomas A. Wilson), a Confederate agent who reported directly to President Jefferson Davis and was deeply involved in the Booth operation. From the picture collection of Colonel Julian Raymond, courtesy of Walter Burke, Ft. Myers, Florida

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #84-7 Building Date: ca. 1850-60

Building Name: Harbin House (Clagett Store)

Location: 2208 Floral Park Road, Piscataway

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Harbin House (Clagett Store) is on a town lot in Piscataway, fronting directly on Floral Park Road. The building is frame, two-stories, square in plan with a shed roof sloping toward the north. The five-bay south (main) facade has entrances in the first, third and fifth bays. The formal central entrance is through a wide five-panel door with three light sidelights and four-light transom. This entrance is flanked by two 6/6 double hung sash windows. Entrances in the first and fifth bays have two horizontal lower panels and upper glass lights. There is a one-story porch across the facade, the southwest three bays are enclosed and screened. The open section of the porch shelters the store entrance. Five 6/6 windows with wood sills and wood lintels cross the second story. The building has a crown molded frieze and a large boxed cornice with heavy corner brackets and small brackets and dentils evenly spaced across the facade. Its horizontal wood siding is covered by asphalt shingle siding. There is a brick foundation. The north (rear) facade is covered with aluminum siding. The one-story gable roof kitchen addition across the facade was enlarged and repaired after it was damaged by fire in 1973. The house interior had a central hall, four parlor plan. The east two parlors were made into one room to serve as a store. The fire exposed hand-hewn, pegged wooden structural timbers including "cut-out" corner studs.

Significance

The Harbin House (Clagett Store) is a large structure built in the Commercial Italianate style, usually used in the mid-19th century for urban dwellings and commercial buildings. It is unique in this rural section of the County. The style is characterized by a square or rectangular plan, shed roof sloping toward the rear, a false cornice and heavy Italianate brackets. Piscataway, established in 1707, is significant as one of Maryland's earliest port towns. The town began to decline as Piscataway Creek, its access to the Potomac River, silted up in the 19th century. The Harbin House was probably built during the 1850's by Thomas Harbin. Harbin was described in the 1860 census as a hotel keeper, aged 26. He sold the Harbin House in 1861. The structure had a series of owners during the nineteenth century including Joseph M. Parker, Joseph Rennoe and William D. Blandford, individuals connected with other properties in Piscataway. The structure was acquired by Camilus J. Clagett in 1948, run as a store until recently, and now used as a residence.

Acreage:

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Harbin House

and/or common Clagett Store

2. Location

street & number 2208 Floral Park Road (Maryland Route 223) not for publication

city, town Clinton ^{Piscataway} vicinity of congressional district 4

state MD county Prince George

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Alexander Clagett

street & number 2208 Floral Park Road telephone no.:

city, town Clinton state and zip code MD 20735

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 3388

street & number Main Street folio 559

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date July 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records History Division M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state MD

7. Description

Survey No. ^{PG}84-7

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Harbin House (Clagett Store) is situated on a town lot in Piscataway, facing south and fronting directly on Floral Park Road. The building is frame, two-stories, square in plan with a shed roof sloping toward the north.

The five-bay south (main) facade has entrances in the first, third and fifth bays. The formal entrance is the third (center) bay, composed of a wide five-panel door with three light sidelights and a four-light transom. This entrance is flanked by two 6/6 double hung sash windows. The entrances in the first and fifth bays have two horizontal lower panels and upper glass lights. There is a one-story hipped roof porch across the facade. The southwest three bays of the porch are enclosed and screened. The southeast, open section of the porch shelters the store entrance; the roof supported by two chamfered wood posts. There are five 6/6 windows with wood sills and projecting wood lintels across the second story. The building has a crown molded frieze and a large boxed cornice with heavy corner brackets and smaller brackets and dentils evenly spaced across the facade. It was sided with horizontal wood siding which is now covered by asphalt shingle siding. There is a brick foundation.

The east facade has a shed roof one-bay, one-story addition with a 4/4 window and a false front facing north. There is a centered first story 6/6 window on the east facade. The west facade is two-bays, composed of two 6/6 windows with plain wood surrounds on the first story.

The north (rear) facade is covered with aluminum siding. There is a one-story gable roof kitchen addition across the facade, with a shed roof extension on the northeast corner. The kitchen rests on a cement block base and has an exterior brick chimney. The kitchen addition was enlarged and repaired after it was damaged by fire in 1973.

The interior of the building has plain molded door and window surrounds. The house originally had a central hall, four parlor plan. The east two parlors were made into one large room to serve as a store. According to the owner, the fire at the back of the house exposed hand-hewn, pegged wooden structural timbers including "cut-out" corner studs.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1850's **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Harbin House (Clagett Store) located in Piscataway, is a large structure built in the Commercial Italianate style. This style, used in the mid-nineteenth century for urban dwellings and commercial buildings, is unique in this rural section of Prince George's County. The style is characterized by a simple square or rectangular plan, shed roof sloping toward the rear, a false cornice and heavy Italianate brackets. Built as a hotel, probably during the 1850's, the Harbin House has also been used as a store and a residence.

Piscataway, established in 1707 on the south side of Piscataway Creek, is significant as the site of one of Maryland's earliest port towns. Prominent on early maps of the County, Piscataway began to decline as Piscataway Creek, its access to the Potomac River, began to silt up early in the nineteenth century.

The Harbin House was probably built during the 1850's by Thomas Harbin. Harbin was described in the 1860 census as a hotel keeper, aged 26.¹ He sold the Harbin House, described as a hotel, in 1861.² The structure had a series of owners during the nineteenth century including Joseph M. Parker, Joseph Rennoe and William D. Blandford, all individuals connected with many of the other properties in Piscataway. The structure was acquired by Camilus J. Clagett in 1948 and run as a store until recently.³ It is now used only as a residence.

Notes

- 1 United States Census, Prince George's County, 1860, Piscataway district, #43.
- 2 Land Records of Prince George's County, CSM 4:172, 1861.
- 3 Ibid. 1019:3.

Chain of Title

Harbin House (Clagett Store)
P.G. #84-7

- #3388:559
13 Sept. 1966
Deed
Bessie May Wyvill and Alexander B. Clagett and Camillus L. Clagett for \$10.00 grantor conveys a parcel on the north side of main street leading through Village of Piscataway. Same property grantor acquired from Wendell E. Bailey by prior record hereof.
- #3388:559
13 Sept. 1966
Deed
Wendell E. Bailey and Eleanor L. Bailey and Alexander B. Clagett and Camillus L. Clagett to Bessie May Wyvill. For \$10 grantors convey that property described in deed from Camillus L. Johnson to Harvey S. Lehman and Daisy E. Lehman, dated 3-16-1948, and recorded 1019:3.
- #1019:3
16 March 1948
Deed
Camillus L. Johnson to Harvey S. and Daisy E. Lehman, for \$10 grantor conveys that property obtained from grantees on this same date - all that tract of land described in deed from William D. Blandford and wife to William D. Boswell, dated 1927, 290:133.
- #290:133
5 July 1927
Deed
William D. Blandford and Frances M. (wife) to William D. Boswell, for \$775 grantors convey all that parcel obtained from T. Van Clagett, attorney, by deed dated 4-21-1925, 242:51.
- #242:51
21 April 1925
Mortgage
In pursuance of special power vested in T. Van Clagett by mortgage from George B. Blandford to T. Van Clagett, Trustee, dated 7-19-1916, 110:489, default occurred, property sold to Clagett for \$700 and Blandford substituted as purchaser, of parcel consisting of lot and improvements described in mortgage.
- #110:489
19 May 1916
Mortgage
George B. Blandford and T. Van Clagett, trustee for heirs of Gonsolvo Clagett, dec'd Blandford indebted to Clagett \$600. In consideration of the debt grantor conveys that parcel in Piscataway on north side of street, same conveyed to Blandford by deed from William D. Blandford and wife, 12-13-1905, 28:174.
- #28:174
13 Dec. 1905
Deed
William D. and Frances M. Blandford to George B. Blandford. For \$1,150, grantors convey that lot located same as above, same conveyed to William D. Blandford by deed from John W. Dean, 5-30-1896, JWB 37:141.

- 2 -

JWB 37:141
30 May 1896
Deed

John W. and Mamie V. Dean of Washington, D.C., to William D. Blandford, for \$100, grantor conveys a lot with a frame building located in the Village of Piscataway, same lot conveyed by J.M. Parker and wife to Joseph Rennoe and wife as per deed JWB # : .

JWB 32:767
24 Sept. 1890
Deed

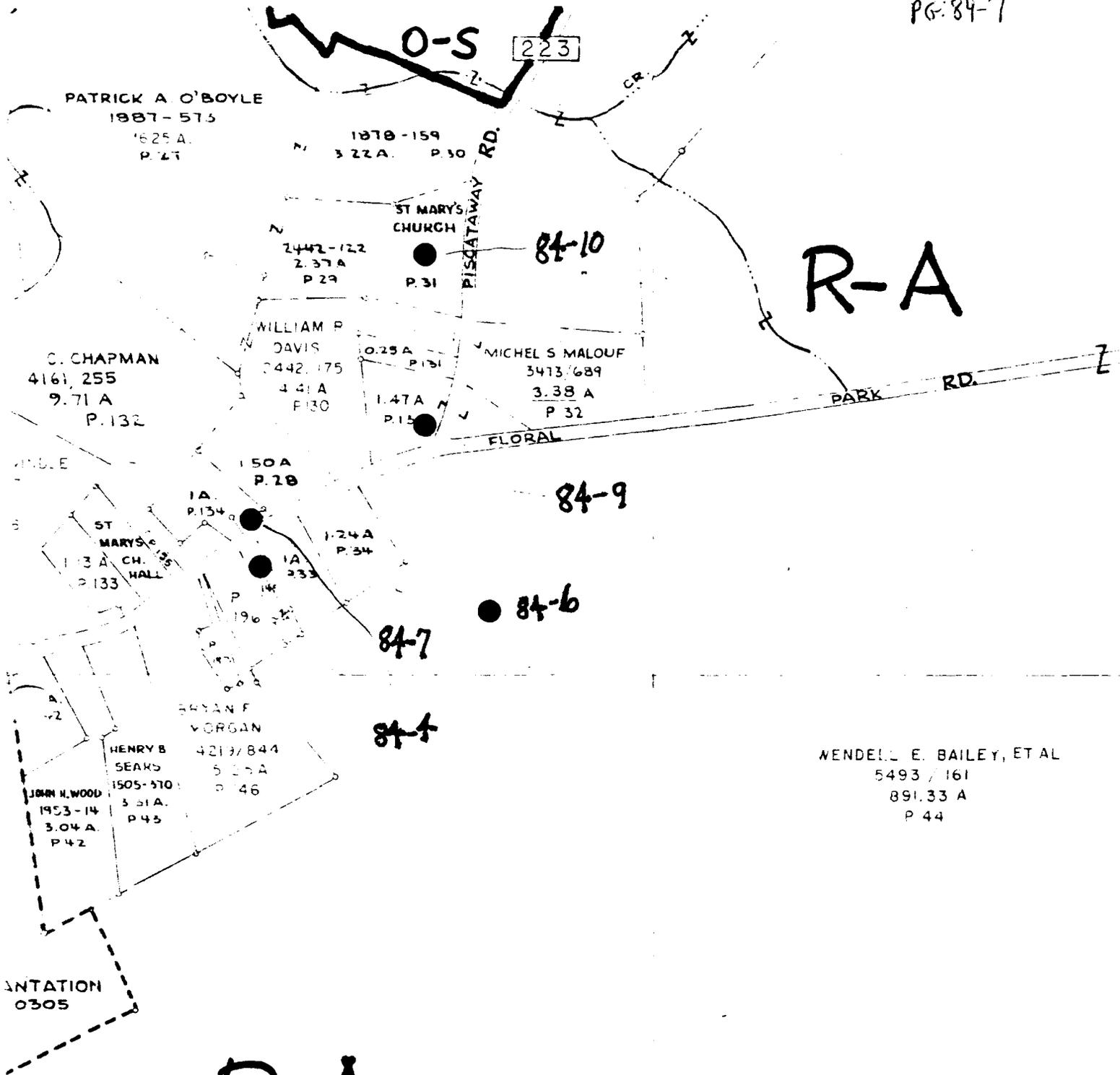
J.M. Parker and Grace D. Parker of Washington, D.C., for \$5.00 paid by Joseph Rennoe, grantors conveys lot in Piscataway known as Fanny Edelen Lot on which is situated the "Harbin" House. Same bequeathed by will to Grace D. Parker, wife of Dr. J. M. Parker by the late J.M. Parker dec'd.

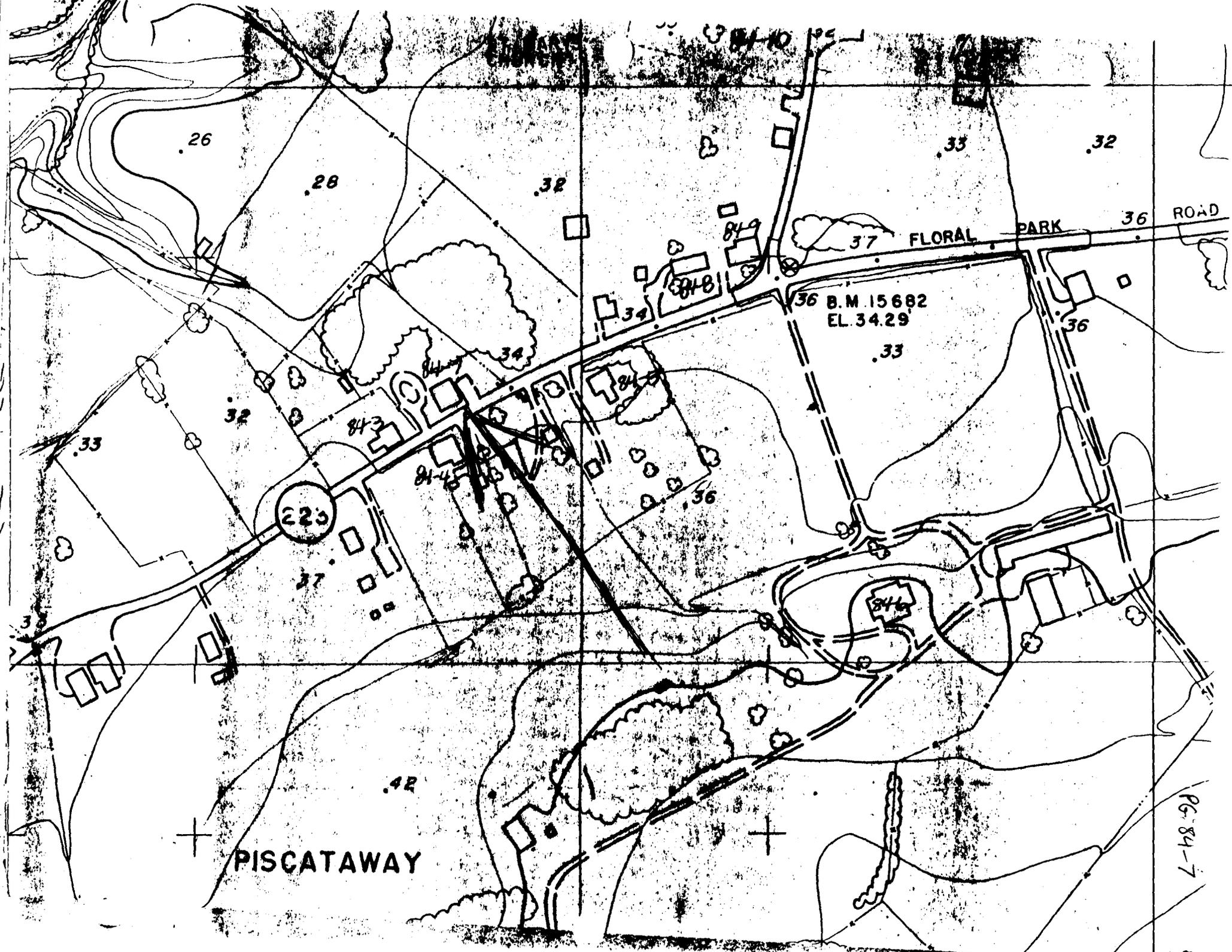
WAJ, Jr. 1:554
14 Jan. 1889
Will

Joseph M. Parker 1-24-1889, WAJ, Jr. 1:554 to son Joseph's wife Grace - my house and lot in Piscataway and \$50.00. Balance of property to daughter.

CSM 4:172
20 Aug. 1861 1861
Bill of Sale

Thomas H. Harbin for \$1,000 sells to Walter P. Griffith and George H. Hunter one hotel, stables and lot in Piscataway - known as the Harbin House - now occupied by Richard H. Miller as hotel keeper.



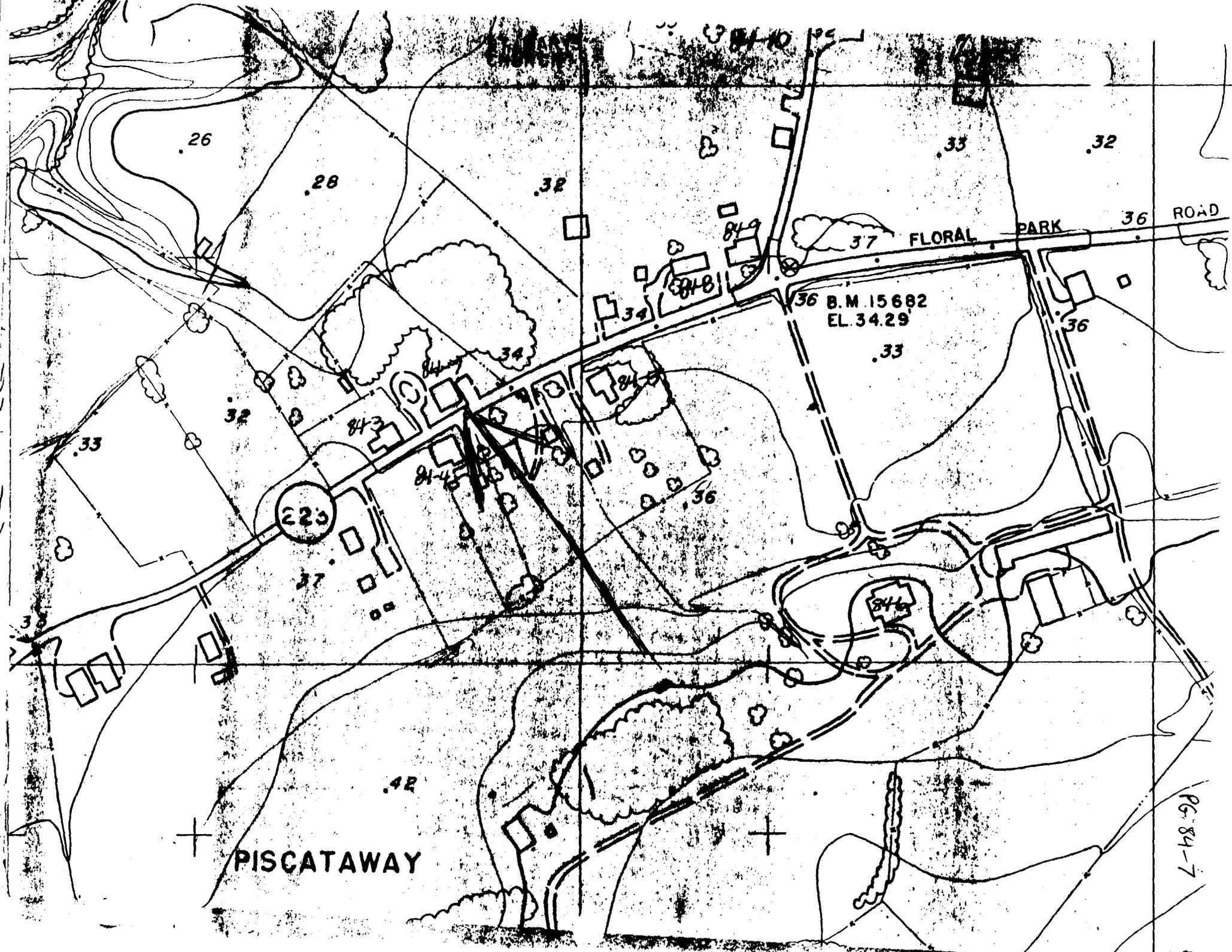


PISCATAWAY

FLORAL PARK ROAD

B.M. 15682
EL. 34.29

PG-84-7



PISCATAWAY

FLORAL PARK ROAD

B.M. 15682
EL. 34.29

PG-84-7



P.G. #84-7

Harbin House/Clagett Store
Prince George's County, MD.

Marina King

May 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #84-7

Harbin House/Clagett Store
Prince George's County, MD.
Marina King May 1985
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #84-7

Harbin House/Clagett Store
Prince George's County, MD.

Marina King

May 1985

Northwest elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G.#84-7

Piscataway Village Historic Distirct

Clagett's store

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

From southeast

Neg: Md. Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME #84-7 CLAGETT'S STORE

LOCATION FLORAL PARK RD DISCATAWAY, MD

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 4/3/73 C OWENS