

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Sasscer House at Keys Quarters

and/or common Breezy Hill

2. Location

street & number 13907 Candy Hill Road ___ not for publication

city, town Brandywine North Keys
___ vicinity of congressional district 4

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 Kathryn G. Sasscer, et. al.

street & number 13907 Candy Hill Road telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code MD. 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5161

street & number Main Street folio 522

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ___ federal ___ state county ___ local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

Survey No. PG#86B-3

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date 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 Wallis Sasscer House at Keys Quarters is a two-and-one-half-story late Victorian frame farmhouse, a variation of the traditional I-house. Sheathed with white aluminum siding, it stands on a hill in open farmland in an area known as North Keys. The house consists of a hip-roof main block, five bays by one bay, with a rear kitchen wing attached at right angles, giving the house an L shape. It is distinguished by its strongly vertical lines, and its visibility in this area of rolling farmland.

The Wallis Sasscer House fronts to the north toward Candy Hill Road, set back from the old road between Brandywine and Nottingham near its intersection with the Rock Branch Road. Entrance is in the central bay of the principal five-bay north facade. Early in this century, the door was moved forward from the main facade, forming a shallow projecting entryway of trapezoidal shape, and adding depth to the stairhall within. The six-panel door retains its original enframing: a wide three-pane transom, and narrower three-pane sidelights over molded wainscot panels. Between the door and the transom is a narrow course of decorative molding, in the form of a chain of small molded blocks. Originally, the five-bay north facade was sheltered by a one-story Victorian porch. This porch was removed circa 1960 and replaced at the central entrance by the present semi-circular stoop. This two-step brick stoop is covered by a semi-circular flat roof with plain balustrade; the roof is supported by tall turned posts, possibly reused from another building.

The wood siding of the dwelling is covered with white grained aluminum siding; the original siding is nowhere visible, but was probably German. Windows in the main block are 2/2 double hung sash, full length on the first story of the principal north facade. Sills are of plain white aluminum, but the original narrow molded surrounds are visible inside the borders of the aluminum siding. Windows have black louvered aluminum shutters.

Center in the north plane of the roof of the main block is a steeply-pitched crossgable dormer, which forms a pediment at loft level over the entrance. This crossgable dormer is repeated also in the east and west planes of the roof; each is sided with the same grained aluminum as the rest of the building, and each is lighted by a 2/2 round-arch window. The east and west elevations of the main block are varied by asymmetrical projecting bays. Beneath the crossgable dormer on the west elevation is a two-story semi-octagonal projecting bay. It has a hip roof which projects just below the crossgable, and east of its three faces is lighted by a narrow 2/2 double hung sash window on each of the two stories. The windows on the first story are shaded by fixed white metal awnings.

Beneath the crossgable on the east elevation is a one-story rectangular projecting bay with gable roof, probably not part of the original design of the house. The wider east face of this rectangular bay is lighted by two side-by-side 2/2 windows, shaded by a fixed metal awning. Each of the north and south faces of this bay is lighted by a single 2/2 window, and the south window is shaded by a similar awning.

The hip roof of the main block is covered with patterned metal, and has a slight overhang at the eaves; the cross gables have narrow molded raking cornices. Rising from the ridge just west of the central passage is a corbelled brick stove chimney, painted white. There is a similar stove chimney at the juncture of the main block and the kitchen ell.

Extending south at right angles to the main block, and flush with the east elevation of the main block, is a two-and-one-half-story gable-roof kitchen ell, two bays by one. It has the same grained aluminum siding and its gable roof is covered with the same patterned metal, continuous from the roof of the main block. Windows in the wing, however, are 6/6 double hung sash, unlike those of the main block; in some locations they are positioned in pairs, all have black aluminum louvered shutters, and the pair in the first story of the east elevation has a fixed awning. Entrance to the kitchen is in the second (southmost) bay of the west elevation through a modern door accessible by a flight of modern brick steps with metal railing. This rear entrance is sheltered by an awning canopy. The molded boxed cornice of the kitchen wing is returned at its south gable end, enclosing a 2/2 round-arch window at loft level identical to those in the north, east, and west crossgable dormers.

Filling the southwest corner formed by the intersection of the main block and wing is a small square bathroom addition; this modern infill is two stories high, one bay by one, and has a shed roof.

The entire building stands on a brick foundation which encloses a full basement. Within the last four years a new brick facing has been applied over the exterior of the foundation, topped by one course of brick in rowlock.

Interior of the main block consists of a central stairhall with a parlor on each side. The principal north entrance leads into a long stairhall; the open-string stair rises along the east wall of the stairhall to a landing, then turns 180° and rises to the second story. It has a handsome heavy turned newel with octagonal shaft and mitred cap, turned balusters, scroll-bracketed stairends, and panelled spandrel. Door and window surrounds are generally multi-band wood molding with bullseye corner blocks, painted tan. The door at the south end of the stairhall, originally exterior, now leads into the bathroom addition. It is surmounted by a wide two-light transom. Beside it, to the west, a closet door (like the door which leads from stairhall to west parlor) has a plain board surround and corner blocks of different profile. The door into the west parlor is surmounted by a three-light transom. Floorboards are narrow and date from the middle of this century; baseboards are high with crown molding.

There is no evidence of any fireplaces in the house, which was apparently built to be heated with stoves. The stove chimney in the main block now serves the furnace, by means of a duct projecting from the west wall of the stairhall. In the south wall of the east parlor is a built-in cupboard, with three shelves over closed cupboard doors; this cupboard is enframed with multiband molding and bullseye cornerblocks, and is probably original to the house.

The kitchen wing consists of two spaces: a small dining area adjoining the east parlor, and kitchen to the south. The dining area has been completely panelled in wood, and the kitchen fully modernized.

The Sasscer House stands atop a small knoll in rolling farmland. The house is approached by an unpaved drive which runs south from Candy Hill Road (the old road to Nottingham); one fork of the drive bends east toward two twentieth-century tobacco barns, the other curves west to the west side of the house and a small garage, these turns sharply east and runs past another tobacco barn to Molly Berry Road (the old Rock Branch Road). Framing the principal north facade of the house is a large Japanese spruce on the east and flowering shrubs on the west. South of the house are two old pear trees, and to the southeast a box elder.

Immediately south of the house is a small square outbuilding, probably dating from the turn of this century. It has circular-sawn vertical siding, and a plain frieze board at the eaves; its gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal, and it rests on a pebble concrete foundation. Entrance is off center in the north elevation.

West of this outbuilding is a twentieth-century garage, accessible from the drive as it curves to the west around the main dwelling. The garage is front-gabled, with entrance in the north gable end through hanging sliding doors. Its gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal painted green, siding is of wide vertical board, and the building rests in a concrete foundation.

There are three twentieth century tobacco barns on the property. At the west end of the drive, fronting on Molly Berry Road is a gambrel-roof barn with vertical board siding, vertical hinged ventilators, and standing-seam roof; it stands on a concrete foundation. On lower ground to the east, accessible by the unpaved lane, are two gable-roof tobacco barns. They have vertical board siding, vertical ventilators, and standing seam aluminum roofs, and they stand on concrete block foundations.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#86B-3

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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1894 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 Wallis Sasscer House at Keys Quarters is an example of a late Victorian frame dwelling, built on farmland purchased by the Sasscer family after the Civil War; it is a variant of the traditional I-house, with crossgable dormers and projecting bays, and strongly vertical lines. Once representative of stylish late Victorian farmhouses, it is still the home of the third generation of the family that built it, but has been significantly altered in this century.

The Wallis Sasscer House stands on a 150-acre tract known as Keys Quarters, purchased in 1867 by John W. Sasscer.¹ At that time there stood on the property a small one-and-one-half-story dwelling, in which Sasscer raised his family; when he died in 1882, he bequeathed Keys Quarters to his wife, and after her death to his two sons, Clarence D. and T. Reverdy Sasscer; it was the latter who subsequently made his home at Keys Quarters.² At the time of his marriage in 1894 to Evalina Wallis, T. Reverdy Sasscer built the present Victorian farmhouse, and tore down the smaller older building which had been his childhood home. The configuration of the 1878 Hopkins Atlas suggests that this older home was located a short distance southeast of the present dwelling. A reused dated (1804) brick was found during recent renovations to the kitchen chimney footings.³

After the construction of the Victorian farmhouse, T. Reverdy Sasscer's farm came to be known as Breezy Hill. Before his death in the 1920's Sasscer deeded Breezy Hill to his wife, who deeded her interest in the farm to her son, Wallis Sasscer, while retaining for herself a life estate. The Sasscer family owns and occupies the farm to the present day.⁴ It is a working farm, and a prominent landmark in rural southern Prince George's County.

At the time of its construction in 1894, the house at Breezy Hill was a prominent example of late Victorian vernacular architecture. It bears some resemblance to several slightly earlier I-house types, e.g., the Hamilton House (74B-7) and McLeod-Forrester House (61-11) from the 1870's,

and Navajo (78-22) and Highlands (71A-33) from the 1880's. The Sasscer House differs, however, in its strongly vertical lines, and its hip (rather than the more common gable) roof; it differs also in its decorative detail, being much more simple and subdued than the above-cited examples. The Wallis Sasscer House can also be compared to the slightly later William C. Duley House (#82B-28) at Brookridge. The Duley House was built in 1900, and is similar in plan, but has a great deal more Queen Anne style decorative detail. Although its two-and-one-half story hip-roof main block is similar to the Sasscer House, the Duley House is further distinguished by a projecting central bay on the main facade, surmounted by a steeply pitched crossgable with decorative vergeboards; it also has a pyramidal-roof corner tower projecting diagonally from each end of the main facade, and an ornate Victorian porch which spans the front and wraps around each corner tower. The resulting impression is of a much more distinctive and stylish residence.

Compared to these other examples, the Wallis Sasscer House is a less outstanding example of late Victorian domestic architecture. It has been altered by the removal of the Victorian porch, its replacement with a modern stoop, and the application of aluminum siding and brick foundation veneer on the entire building. The house is still a very noticeable landmark in the rural area of North Keys. It retains its turn-of-the-century setting with its circle drive and agricultural outbuildings amid rolling farmland.

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Deed, HB #10:407.
- 2 Prince George's County Will, WAJ Jr. #1:272.
- 3 Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1890's; conversation with Mrs. Sasscer, 1981, 1989.
- 4 cf. Chain of Title.
- 5 See MHT form PG #82B-28, the William C. Duley House.

Chain of Title

Sasscer House at Keys Quarters (Breezy Hill)
P.G. #86B-3

#5161:522 18 Sept. 1979 Deed	Charles G. and F. Wallis Sasscer, trustees to Lillian Kells, their interest in land described in #4038:887, minus exceptions, which grantors acquired by #4876:127; 126.72 acres.
#4876:127 11 Jan. 1977 Deed	Lillian Kells to Charles G. and F. Wallis Sasscer, trustees, land which grantor acquired by #4038:887.
#4038:887 22 Jan. 1972 Deed	Kathryn G. Sasscer to F. Wallis and Charles Sasscer, and Lillian Kells, her 1/2 interest in land acquired by #3000:428.
#3000:428 8 July 1964 Deed	Thelma Sherbert to Kathryn G. Sasscer, two parcels described in #484:369, which grantor acquired on even date.
#3000:427 8 July 1964 Deed	F. Wallis and Kathryn G. Sasscer to Thelma Sherbert; two parcels described in #484:369.
#3000:420 7 July 1964 Deed	Eunice L. Turner and Jarman, executors of estate of Theresa E. Sasscer (#15401), to F. Wallis and Kathryn G. Sasscer. Theresa E. Sasscer sold (by #1464:467) to grantees two parcels of land; executors now convey to said grantees the half interest in these parcels of Clarence Sasscer acquired by #486:255.
#1464:467 29 Dec. 1937 Tripartite Agreement	Between Theresa Evalina Sasscer and F. Wallis Sasscer and Kathryn G. Sasscer; T.E. Sasscer has conveyed to F.W. and K.G. Sasscer half interest in the farm now occupied by all three parties. F.W. and K.G. Sasscer shall have management of farm and home, T.E. Sasscer shall retain right of residence. F.W. and K.G. Sasscer shall have right to buy remaining 1/2 interest within 6 months of T.E. Sasscer's death.
#484:369 29 Dec. 1937 Deed	Theresa E. Sasscer, widow, to F.W. and K.G. Sasscer, 1/2 interest in Keys Quarters now known as Breezy Hill, 149 acres, which grantor acquired from Clarence D. Sasscer in 1937.
486:255 18 Nov. 1937 Deed	Clarence D. Sasscer et ux to Theresa E. Sasscer, widow, same land which grantors acquired by #332:327.

- 2 -

#332:327 24 Oct. 1928 Deed	Theresa E. Sasscer, widow, to Clarence D. Sasscer, land which grantor acquired from T.R. Sasscer #152:388, Keys Quarters.
#152:388 29 Feb. 1920 Deed	Thomas Reverdy Sasscer to his wife Theresa Evalina Wallis Sasscer, Keys Quarters, which grantor acquired by #129:178.
#129:178 19 Nov. 1917 Deed	Clarence D. Sasscer et al to Thomas Reverdy Sasscer, his interest in Keys Quarters now known as Breezy Hill, 149 acres, one of two tracts devised to Clarence Sasscer and wife by will of John W. Sasscer. (Laura V. Sasscer, widow of John W., died in 1886).
WAJ Jr. #1:272 30 Oct. 1882 Will	Testator, John W. Sasscer; to wife Laura, 1/3 interest in farm on which testator resides, Keys Quarters ca. 150 acres; after her death, to sons Thomas Reverdy and Clarence D. Sasscer. All residue to said sons.
HB #10:407 15 Mar. 1867 Deed	Charles C. Hill et ux to John W. Sasscer for #8984.25, part of Keys Quarters (149 acres), at northeast side of road from Brandywine to Nottingham near intersection of said road with Rock Branch Road.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #86B-3 Building Date: 1894

Building Name: Sasscer House at Keys Quarters (Breezy Hill)

Location: 13907 Candy Hill Road, Brandywine, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

The Sasscer house at Keys Quarters is a two-and-one-half-story frame farmhouse which stands on a hill in open farmland in the area known as North Keys. It consists of a hip-roofed main block, five bays by one-bay, with a rear kitchen wing which gives it the shape of an L. Entrance is in the central bay of the five-bay north facade, through a door with three-pane transom and three-pane sidelights. Centered in the north plane of the hipped roof is a pedimented cross gable with a four-pane round-headed window at loft level. This pedimented cross-gable is repeated at loft level on the east and west planes of the roof. Beneath the cross gable on the east facade is a one-story, rectangular projecting bay; on the west facade is a two-story semi-octagonal projecting bay. The main block is one room deep, and consists of a central stairhall with a parlor on each side. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney (painted white) at the ridge of the hipped roof, west of the stairhall. Extending south and flush with the east facade of the main block is a two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed kitchen wing which rests on brick foundations parged with concrete. The boxed cornice is returned at the south gable end, and there is a corbelled brick chimney at the ridge where the ell joins the main block.

Significance:

The Sasscer house at Keys Quarters is a prominent landmark in the rolling farmland of North Keys. Although significantly altered in this century, it still exemplifies the Victorian vernacular farmhouse of late nineteenth century Prince George's County. It is a variant on the one-room-deep I-house, with its pedimented gable, its projecting bays and strongly vertical lines. It stands on a 150 acre tract known as Keys Quarters, purchased by John W. Sasscer in 1867. At that time there stood on the property a small one-and-one-half-story dwelling. When Sasscer died in 1882, the farm passed to his son, T. Reverdy Sasscer, who tore down the old house and in 1894 constructed the present Victorian farmhouse partly resting on the old foundations. Before his death in 1920, T. Reverdy Sasscer deeded the farm, by then known as Breezy Hill, to his wife who deeded her interest in the farm to her son, Wallis Sasscer, while retaining for herself a life estate. The Sasscer family owns and occupies the farm to the present day. It is a working farm, and a prominent landmark in rural southern Prince George's County.

Acreage: 126.72 acres

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #86B-3 Building Date: 1894

Building Name: Wallis Sasscer House at Keys Quarters (Breezy Hill)

Location: 13907 Candy Hill Road, Brandywine (Naylor), Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Wallis Sasscer House is a two-and-one-half-story late Victorian frame farmhouse, a variant of the traditional I-house. Sheathed with white aluminum siding, it stands on a hill in open farmland in an area known as North Keys. The house consists of a hip-roof main block, five bays by one bay, with a rear kitchen wing attached at right angles, giving the house an L shape. Entrance is in the central bay of the main five-bay north facade, originally sheltered by a one-story Victorian porch, and now accessible by a modern semi-circular stoop. The wood siding of the dwelling is covered with white grained vinyl siding; windows in the main block are 2/2 double hung sash. Centered in the north plane of the roof of the main block is a cross-gable dormer, which forms a pediment at loft level over the entrance. This crossgable with its round-arch window is repeated in the east and west planes of the roof, above a two-story semi-octagonal projecting bay on the west, and a one-story rectangular bay on the east. Extending south at right angles to the main block is a two-and-one-half story gable-roof kitchen ell. Interior of the main block consists of a central stairhall with a parlor on each side; original features include the staircase, and multi-band moldings with bulleye corner blocks. The house stands atop a small knoll in rolling farmland. To the south is a small square outbuilding, probably dating from the turn of this century. There are three twentieth century tobacco barns on the property.

Significance:

The Wallis Sasscer House is an example of a late Victorian frame dwelling, a variant of the traditional I-house, with crossgable dormers and projecting bays, and strongly vertical lines. Once representative of stylish late Victorian farmhouses, it has been significantly altered in this century. The house stands on a 150-acre tract known as Keys Quarters, purchased in 1867 by John W. Sasscer; it was built in 1894 by his son, T. Reverdy Sasscer who called the farm Breezy Hill. It is still the home of his descendants. At the time of its construction, the house was a prominent example of late Victorian rural domestic architecture. It has in this century been altered by the removal of the Victorian porch, its replacement with a modern stoop, and the application of aluminum siding and brick foundation veneer on the entire building. The house is still a very noticeable landmark in the rural area of North Keys. It retains its turn-of-the-century setting with its circle drive and agricultural outbuildings amid rolling farmland.

Acreage: 70.86 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Sasscer House at Keys Quarters

and/or common Breezy Hill

2. Location

street & number 13907 Candy Hill Road not for publication

city, town Brandywine North Keys vicinity of congressional district 4

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 Kathryn G. Sasscer, et. al.

street & number 13907 Candy Hill Road telephone no.:

city, town Brandywine state and zip code MD. 20613

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5161

street & number Main Street folio 522

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #86B-3

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

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

The Sasscer house at Keys Quarters is a two-and-one-half-story frame farmhouse which stands on a hill in open farmland in the area known as North Keys. It consists of a hip-roofed main block, five bays by one-bay, with a rear kitchen wing which gives it the shape of an L. Entrance is in the central bay of the five-bay north facade, through a door with three-pane transom and three-pane sidelights; there are molded panels under the sidelights. Originally, a one-story Victorian porch ran the length of the north facade; it has been replaced at the central entrance by a semicircular brick stoop with a balcony-roof supported by tall, turned posts. Centered in the north plane of the hipped roof is a pedimented cross gable with a four-pane round-headed window at loft level.

The pedimented cross-gable with round-headed window is repeated at loft level on the east and west planes of the roof. Beneath the cross gable on the east facade is a one-story, gable-roofed projecting bay; it is rectangular in shape, and has a 2/2 window on each side and two windows in its east face. On the west facade is a two-story projecting bay; it is semi-octagonal, with a 2/2 window on each of its three faces, and a shallow hipped roof which is surmounted by a pedimented cross gable identical to those on the north and east planes of the roof. The main block is one room deep, and consists of a central stairhall with a parlor on each side. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney (painted white) at the ridge of the hipped roof, west of the stairhall. The house rests on a brick foundation, is sheathed with aluminum siding, and has a roof of patterned tin. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash, and are full-length on the first story of the north facade.

Extending south and flush with the east facade of the main block is a two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed kitchen wing which rests on brick foundations parged with concrete. The boxed cornice is returned at the south gable end, enclosing a round-headed window like those in the pedimented cross gables of the main block. There is a corbelled brick chimney at the ridge where the ell joins the main block. There is an entrance to the wing on its west facade. Windows in the wing are 6/6 double hung sash.

Directly south of the dwelling is a small square outbuilding. It has a tin gable roof, vertical siding, and rests on concrete foundations. There are two tobacco barns in the valley east of the house, and a third to the west near Molly Berry Road.

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 checked="" 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 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 1894 **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 Sasscer house at Keys Quarters is a prominent landmark in the rolling farmland of North Keys. Although significantly altered in this century, it still exemplifies the Victorian vernacular farmhouse of late nineteenth century Prince George's County. It is a variant on the one-room-deep I-house, with its pedimented gable, its projecting bays and strongly vertical lines. It stands on a 150 acre tract known as Keys Quarters, purchased by John W. Sasscer in 1867.¹ At that time there stood on the property a small one-and-one-half-story dwelling, in which Sasscer raised his family; when he died in 1882, he bequeathed Keys Quarters to his wife, and after her death to his two sons, Clarence D. and T. Reverdy Sasscer; it was the latter who subsequently made his home at Keys Quarters.² At the time of his marriage in 1894 to Evalina Wallis, T. Reverdy Sasscer built the present Victorian farmhouse, and tore down the smaller older building which had been his childhood home. On its foundations, according to family tradition, he constructed the present south kitchen wing; this tradition has been confirmed by the discovery of a dated (1804) brick in the kitchen chimney footings.³

After the construction of the Victorian farmhouse, T. Reverdy Sasscer's farm come to be known as Breezy Hill. Before his death in the 1920's Sasscer deeded Breezy Hill to his wife, who deeded her interest in the farm to her son, Wallis Sasscer, while retaining for herself a life estate. The Sasscer family owns and occupies the farm to the present day.⁴ It is a working farm, and a prominent landmark in rural southern Prince George's County.

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Deed, HB #10:407.
- 2 Prince George's County Will, WAJ Jr. #1:272.
- 3 Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1890's; conversation with Mrs. Sasscer, 1981.
- 4 cf. Chain of Title.

DESCRIPTION		(Check One)				
CONDITION	<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 type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Unclered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two-story, frame structure with a five bay (th) facade. The tall hipped roof with a ridge has a large, steeply-pitched dormer on each facade. On the west end is a two-story bay window. The windows are 2/2 double hung sash; in the gable lights only they have round-arched heads. The facade has a semi-circular, one story porch covering the central (entrance) bay.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. 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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
CHRISTOPHER OWENS, PARK HISTORIAN

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 28 Aug. 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

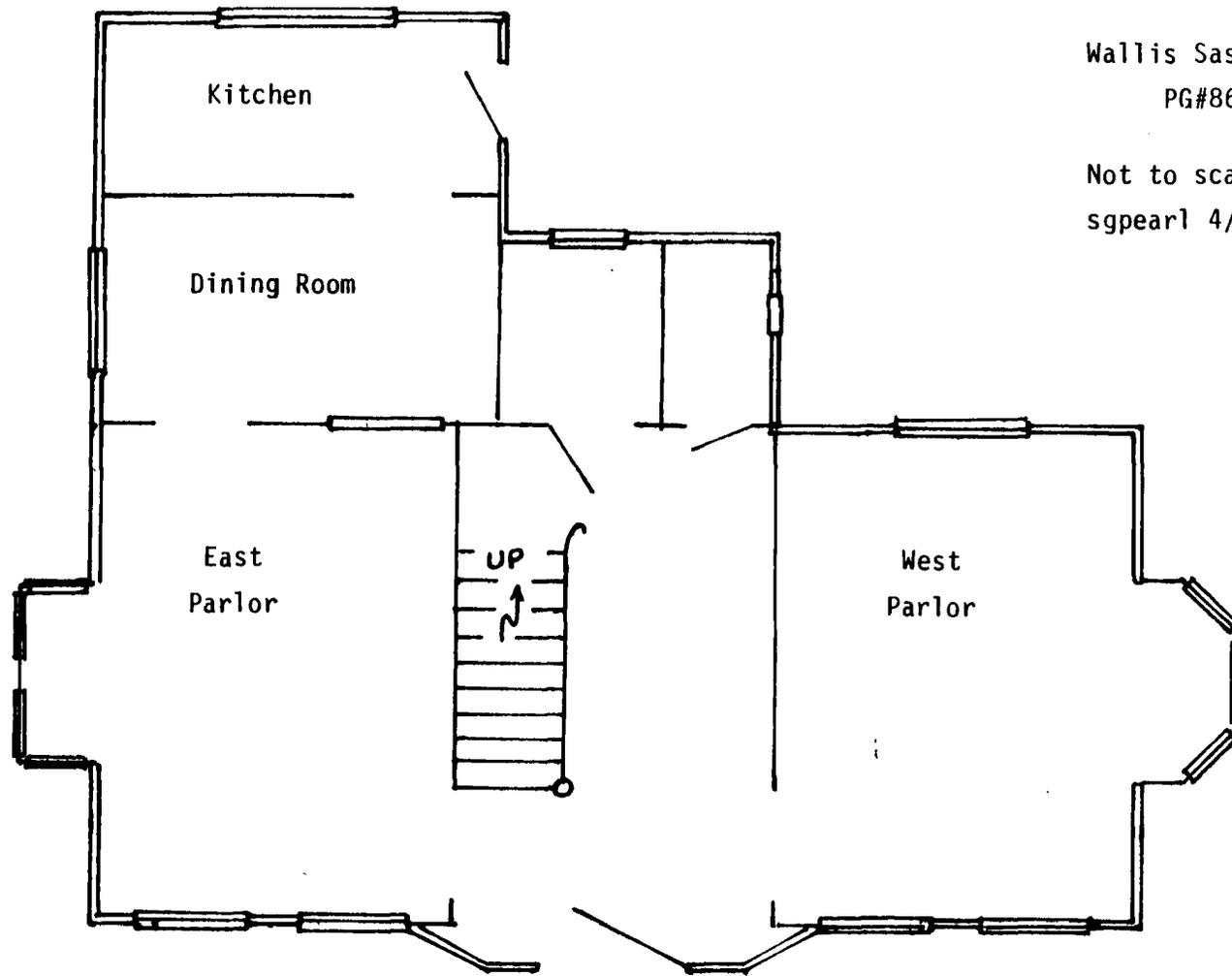
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Wallis Sasscer House
PG#86B-3

Not to scale
sgpearl 4/89



Chain of Title

Sasscer House at Keys Quarters (Breezy Hill)
P.G. #86B-3

#5161:522 18 Sept. 1979 Deed	Charles G. and F. Wallis Sasscer, trustees to Lillian Kells, their interest in land described in #4038:887, minus exceptions, which grantors acquired by #4876:127; 126.72 acres.
#4876:127 11 Jan. 1977 Deed	Lillian Kells to Charles G. and F. Wallis Sasscer, trustees, land which grantor acquired by #4038:887.
#4038:887 22 Jan. 1972 Deed	Kathryn G. Sasscer to F. Wallis and Charles Sasscer, and Lillian Kells, her 1/2 interest in land acquired by #3000:428.
#3000:428 8 July 1964 Deed	Thelma Sherbert to Kathryn G. Sasscer, two parcels described in #484:369, which grantor acquired on even date.
#3000:427 8 July 1964 Deed	F. Wallis and Kathryn G. Sasscer to Thelma Sherbert; two parcels described in #484:369.
#3000:420 7 July 1964 Deed	Eunice L. Turner and Jarman, executors of estate of Theresa E. Sasscer (#15401), to F. Wallis and Kathryn G. Sasscer. Theresa E. Sasscer sold (by #1464:467) to grantees two parcels of land; executors now convey to said grantees the half interest in these parcels of Clarence Sasscer acquired by #486:255.
#1464:467 29 Dec. 1937 Tripartite Agreement	Between Theresa Evalina Sasscer and F. Wallis Sasscer and Kathryn G. Sasscer; T.E. Sasscer has conveyed to F.W. and K.G. Sasscer half interest in the farm now occupied by all three parties. F.W. and K.G. Sasscer shall have management of farm and home, T.E. Sasscer shall retain right of residence. F.W. and K.G. Sasscer shall have right to buy remaining 1/2 interest within 6 months of T.E. Sasscer's death.
#484:369 29 Dec. 1937 Deed	Theresa E. Sasscer, widow, to F.W. and K.G. Sasscer, 1/2 interest in Keys Quarters now known as Breezy Hill, 149 acres, which grantor acquired from Clarence D. Sasscer in 1937.
486:255 18 Nov. 1937 Deed	Clarence D. Sasscer et ux to Theresa E. Sasscer, widow, same land which grantors acquired by #332:327.

- 2 -

#332:327
24 Oct. 1928
Deed
Theresa E. Sasscer, widow, to Clarence D. Sasscer, land which grantor acquired from T.R. Sasscer #152:388, Keys Quarters.

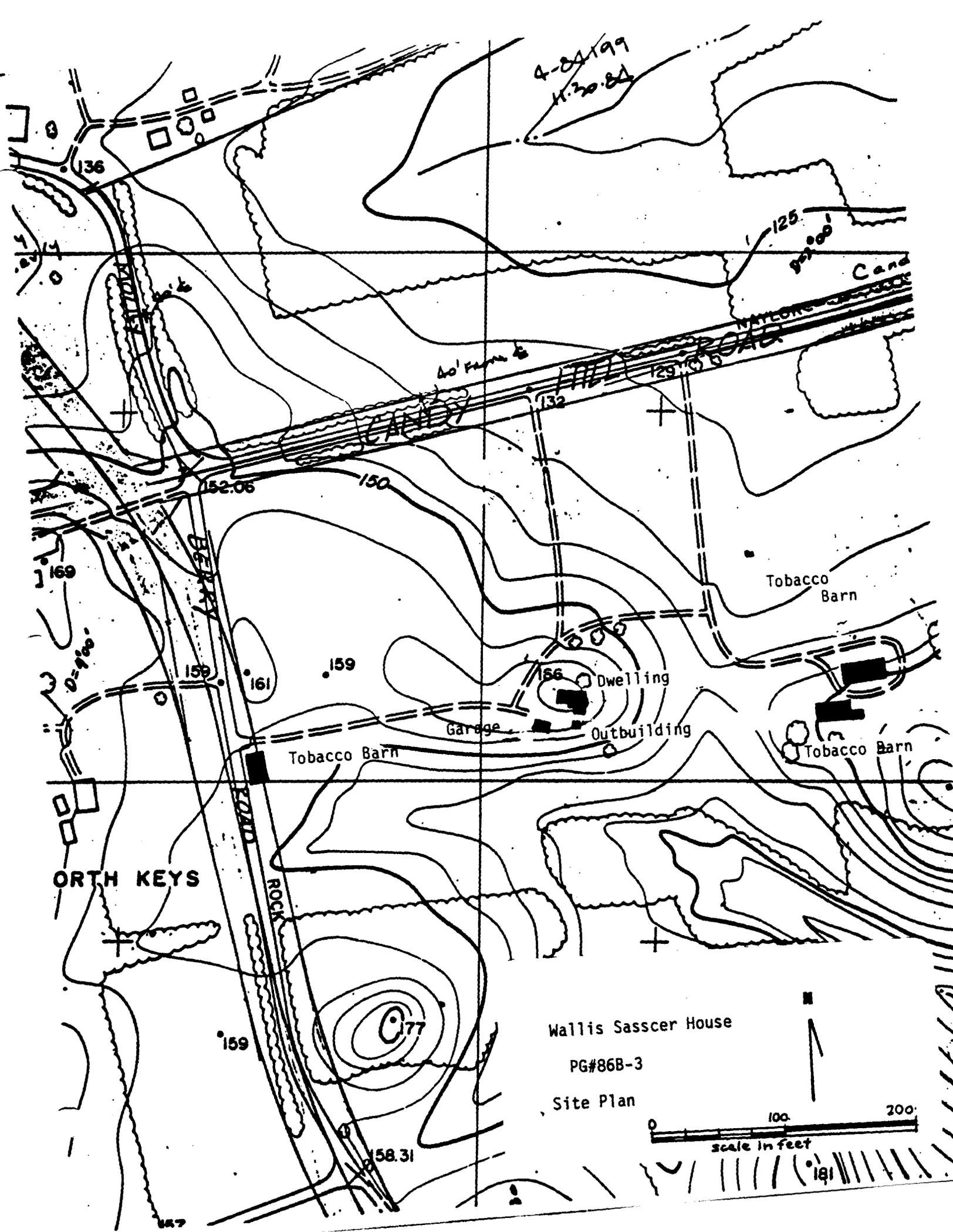
#152:388
29 Feb. 1920
Deed
Thomas Reverdy Sasscer to his wife Theresa Evalina Wallis Sasscer, Keys Quarters, which grantor acquired by #129:178.

#129:178
19 Nov. 1917
Deed
Clarence D. Sasscer et al to Thomas Reverdy Sasscer, his interest in Keys Quarters now known as Breezy Hill, 149 acres, one of two tracts devised to Clarence Sasscer and wife by will of John W. Sasscer. (Laura V. Sasscer, widow of John W., died in 1886).

WAJ Jr. #1:272
30 Oct. 1882
Will
Testator, John W. Sasscer; to wife Laura, 1/3 interest in farm on which testator resides, Keys Quarters ca. 150 acres; after her death, to sons Thomas Reverdy and Clarence D. Sasscer. All residue to said sons.

HB #10:407
15 Mar. 1867
Deed
Charles C. Hill et ux to John W. Sasscer for #8984.25, part of Keys Quarters (149 acres), at northeast side of road from Brandywine to Nottingham near intersection of said road with Rock Branch Road.

4-21-99
11.30.84



ORTH KEYS

159

159

161

166

158.31

Tobacco Barn

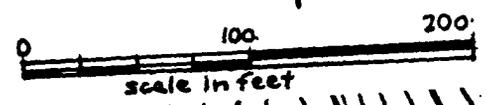
Garage

Outbuilding

Wallis Sasscer House

PG#86B-3

Site Plan



Tobacco Barn

Tobacco Barn

125

Canal

NATLON ROAD

40' FENCE

129.05

132

150

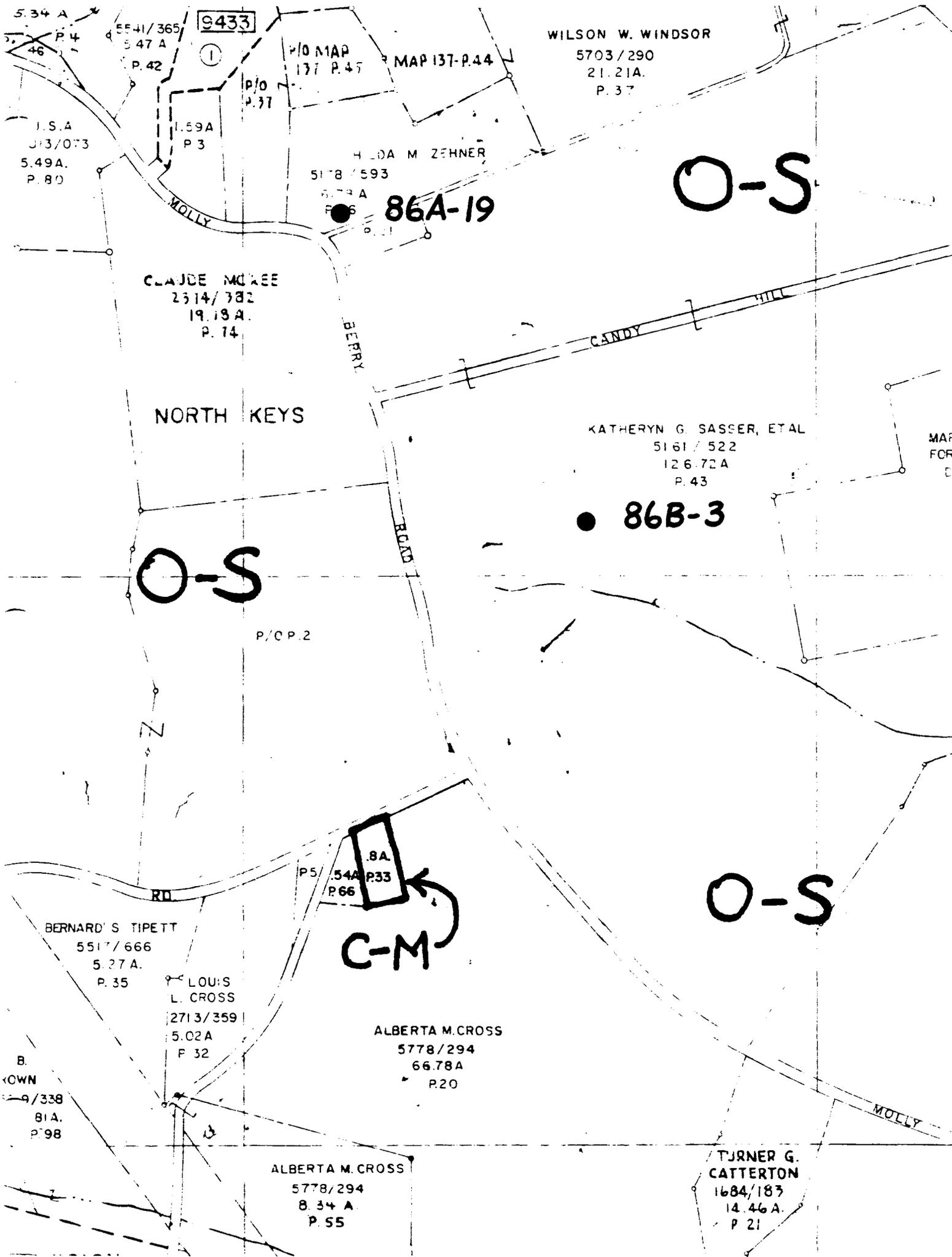
152.06

169

159

177

187



WILSON W. WINDSOR
5703/290
21.21A.
P. 37

9433

P/O MAP 137 P.47
MAP 137-P.44

HILDA M ZEHNER
5178/593
6.78A
P. 36

● 86A-19

O-S

CLAUDE MCKEE
2314/382
19.13A.
P. 74

NORTH KEYS

KATHERYN G. SASSER, ETAL
5161/522
126.72A
P. 43

MAP FOR D

● 86B-3

O-S

P/C.P.2

8A
5.54A P.33
P.66
C-M

O-S

BERNARD S. TIPETT
5517/666
5.27A.
P. 35

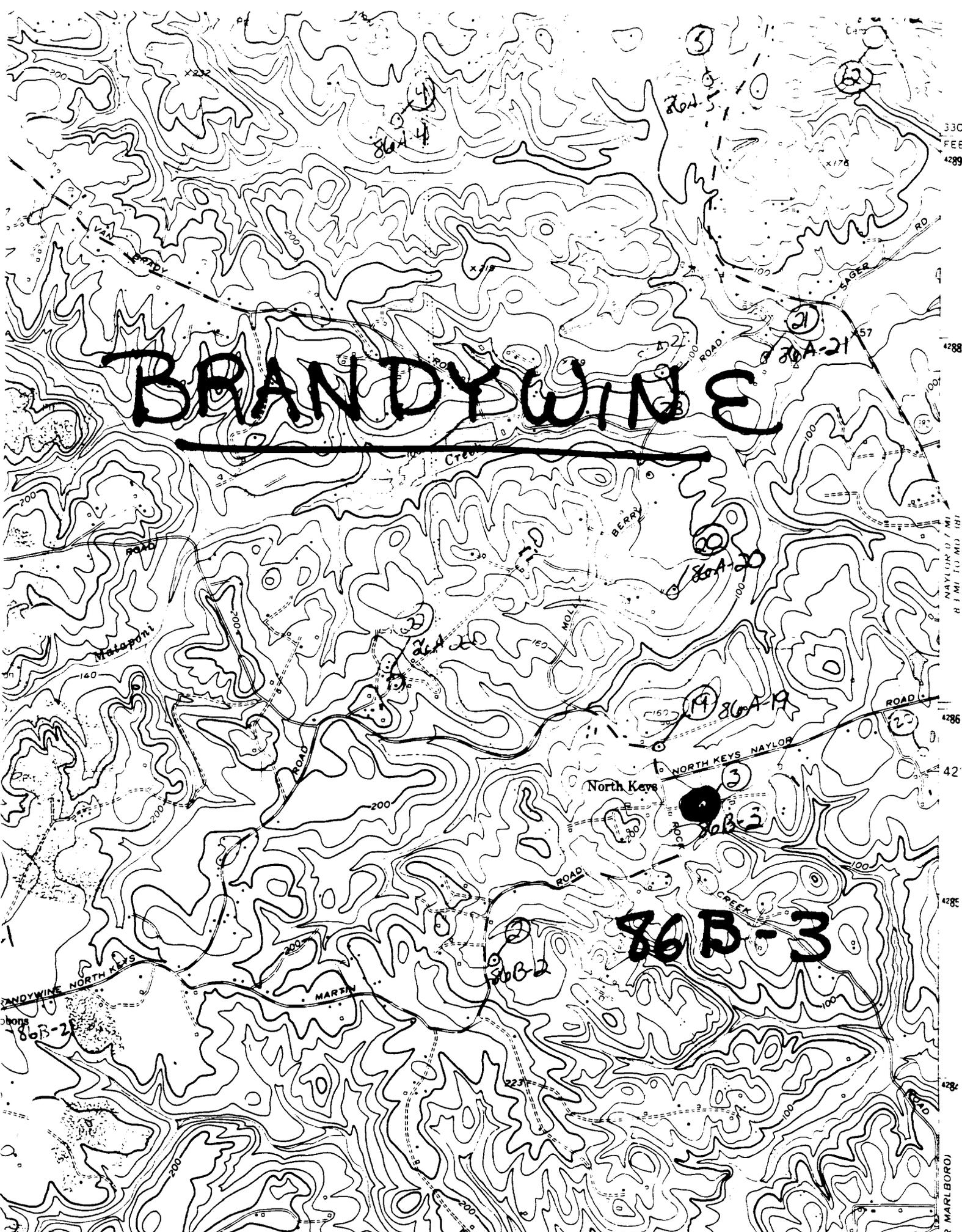
LOUIS L. CROSS
2713/359
5.02A
P. 32

ALBERTA M. CROSS
5778/294
66.78A
P.20

B. TOWN
9/338
81A.
P.98

ALBERTA M. CROSS
5778/294
8.34A.
P. 55

TURNER G. CATTERTON
1684/183
14.46A.
P. 21



BRANDYWINE

86A-4

86A-5

86A-21

86A-20

86A-19

86B-3

86B-2

86B-21

86B-3

330
300
270
240
210
180
150
120
90
60
30
0

4288
4286
4284

NAVLOR 0.7 MI
R 1 MI TO MD 181

4286
42
4284

4284

4284

R MARLBORO



DEG # 86B-3

WALLIS LASSER R HOUSE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

SUSAN G. PEARL

MARCH 1989

NORTH ELEVATION

NEG: R.D. HIST. TRUST

10 FG



PLATE 5 P-3

WILLIS SASSLER HOUSE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
SUSAN B. PLACE

MARCH 1989

NORTH ENTRANCE

NETS: MD. HIST. TRUST

2 OF 6



PE# 86B-3

WALTER SASSER HOUSE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

SUSAN G. PEARL

MARCH 1969

LOUTH ELEVATION

NEP: MD. HIST. TRUST

3 OF 6



REF# 86B-3

WALTER SPISSEIL HOUSE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

BURNING. DESTRUCTION

MARCH 1989

EAST ELEVATION

NEGATIVE HIST. TRUST

4 OF 6



Ky # E6B-2

WALLIS SASSON HOUSE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

SUSAN E. DEAR

MARCH 1967

EPICUREAN TRIP

WILMINGTON, DE

5076



1 P. H. 56B-3

1915 PINE HOUSE
KING GEORGE COUNTY, VA
WILLIAM B. PEARL
MAY - 1989

WILL

NEW KID HIST. TRUST
6026



P.G. #86B-3

Sasscer House (Breezy Hill)
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #86B-3

Sasscer House (Breezy Hill)
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #86B-3

Sasscer House (Breezy Hill)
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #86B-3

Sasscer House (Breezy Hill)
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME JOHN T. BERRY HSE.

PG 86B-3

LOCATION SE CORNER OF N. KEYS/NAYLOR
AND ROCK BRANCH RDS.

FACADE NW

NAYLOR, MD.

PHOTO TAKEN 8/27/74 M. DWYER