

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #87B-1 Building Date: ca. 1820

Building Name: Spring Hill

Location: 16421 Aquasco Farm Road, Aquasco, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

Spring Hill is a large gable-roofed frame dwelling house, which stands between the Aquasco road and the Patuxent River. The house is five-bays by two-bays, and two-and-one-half stories high, with entrance in the central bay of the main west facade. There is a corresponding entrance in the central bay of the east facade; both entrances are unadorned and unsheltered. The building is covered with white asbestos shingle. Windows are small 6/6 double hung sash. The building rests on a brick foundation, partially covered with concrete, which encloses a basement. Cornices are boxed and plain. There are large exterior brick chimneys at the gable ends. At the south gable end one tall chimney stands at the ridge, with weatherings above the second story windows; the bricks are laid in Flemish bond. At the north gable end are two tall chimneys connected by a two-story pent, with bricks laid in Flemish bond. The Historic American Buildings Survey photographs show that in 1936 the house was covered with random-width board siding, probably original. Its first story windows were long 9/9 double-hung-sash, while the second story windows were 9/6. A one-story shed-roof porch sheltered the three inner bays of the west facade.

Significance

The house at Spring Hill is a rare surviving example of an early nineteenth century frame plantation house. It is particularly distinguished by its chimney treatment: two massive freestanding stacks with an unusual two-story pent between them. The house was built circa 1820 by John Somerville on land which he inherited from his father, James, in 1815. This 300-acre plantation, "Spring Hill", was part of a large tract of land known as Brook Court. John Somerville died in 1827, and his plantation was sold to James Somerville, Jr. During the Civil War period, Spring Hill was the home of William Worthington and later belonged to George Forbes. Until 1948, Spring Hill remained in the possession of Forbes' descendants; in that year, circa 550 acres were sold to Vernon Richardson, whose family remains there today. Spring Hill has been considerably altered since it was acquired by the Richardson family. Fenestration has been changed throughout. The long windows have been replaced by smaller ones and the siding covered by asbestos shingle. Although the appearance of the building has been significantly changed by these alterations, Spring Hill is still an impressive and important structure. It is the only dwelling of this early nineteenth century type still standing in Prince George's County, and the only survival in the County of a two-story chimney pent.

Acreege: 623.65 acres

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Spring Hill

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 16421 Aquasco Farm Road not for publicationcity, town Aquasco vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland county Prince George's County

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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Richardson Family Limited Partnership

street & number P.O. Box 116 telephone no.:

city, town Brandywine state and zip code Maryland 20613

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6028

street & number Main Street folio 203

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites, and Historic American Buildings

date 1974 and 1936 federal state county local

repository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #87B-1

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.

Spring Hill is a large gable-roofed frame dwelling house, which stands by the side of a long unpaved lane between the Aquasco road and the Patuxent River. It stands on a cleared spot in a wooded area which borders on the lands of Patuxent River Park. The house is five-bays by two-bays, and two-and-one-half stories high, with entrance in the central bay of the main west facade. There is a corresponding entrance in the central bay of the east facade; both entrances are unadorned and unsheltered, and approached by stepped concrete stoops. The building is covered with white asbestos shingle, and the roof with gray-green asphalt shingle. Windows are small 6/6 double hung sash and have plain board surrounds; some windows have new molded surrounds. The building rests on a brick foundation, partially covered with concrete, which encloses a basement. Cornices are boxed and plain, and are not returned at the gable ends.

There are large exterior brick chimneys at the gable ends. At the south gable end (closest to the lane), one tall chimney stands at the ridge, with weatherings above the second story windows; the bricks are laid in Flemish bond. At loft level, the stack is flanked by two small 6/6 windows. At the north gable end are two tall chimneys connected by a two-story pent, with bricks laid in Flemish bond. Above the small roof of the pent, the stacks appear to be rebuilt with new brick. There are no loft level windows in this north gable end. There is a side entrance into the westmost bay of this north gable end. It is sheltered by a small one-story enclosed entry vestibule with a gable roof.

North of the house is a board-and-batten shed-roof storage shed. There are no barns.

The Historic American Buildings Survey photographs show that Spring Hill has undergone many changes in the last fifty years. In 1936, when these photographs were taken, the house was covered with random-width board siding (probably original). Its first story windows were long 9/9 double-hung-sash, while the second story windows were 9/6. A one-story shed-roof porch (not original) sheltered the three inner bays of the west facade. Anomalies in the siding indicate that this porch had been preceded by a porch with a hipped roof. The small entry vestibule just west of the double chimney had a shed roof.

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 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. 1820 **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 house at Spring Hill is a rare surviving example of an early nineteenth century frame plantation house. It is particularly distinguished by its chimney treatment: two massive freestanding stacks with an unusual two-story pent between them.

The house was built circa 1820 by John Somerville on land which he inherited from his father, James, in 1815.¹ This 300-acre plantation, "Spring Hill", was part of a large tract of land known as Brook Court, one of the earliest tracts patented in Prince George's County. (James Somerville had lived in a sizable brick house on another part of the tract; it was later known as the "Brick House Lot". This house, which was closer to the river, no longer stands.)² John Somerville died in 1827, and the Chancery Court appointed a trustee to sell the land. The plantation was sold to James Somerville, Jr., probably brother of the deceased John.³ During the Civil War period, Spring Hill was the home of William Worthington. Unable to keep up with mortgage payments, Worthington was ordered by the Equity Court to complete his payments in 1871; he died before the end of the year, and his property passed to George Forbes, who owned extensive property in the area of Woodville (Aquasco).⁴ From that time until 1948, both Spring Hill and the Brick House Lot remained in the possession of Forbes' descendants; in that year both tracts (circa 550 acres) were sold to Vernon Richardson, whose family remains there today.⁵

Spring Hill has been considerably altered since it was acquired by the Richardson family. The west porch has been removed, and the small north entry vestibule rebuilt. Fenestration has been changed throughout. The long windows (which appear in the 1936 photograph, and were themselves probably Victorian replacements of smaller originals) have been replaced by small 6/6 sashes. The old horizontal board siding has been replaced by asbestos shingle.⁶ Although the appearance of the building has been significantly changed by these alterations, Spring Hill is still an impressive and important structure. It is the only dwelling of this early nineteenth century type still standing in Prince George's County, and the only survival in the County of a two-story chimney pent.

#7. Continued

Note

Inspection of the interior was not possible at the time of this survey, but there does exist a description of the stairhall: ..."a plain stairway in the main passageway: ..."the newel post is unique in its design - something like a four-way triumphal arch on four posts, with a heavy top of torus and cavetto profiles." (H. Chandlee Forman, Old Buildings, Gardens and Furniture, 1967, page 233.)

#8. Continued

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Wills TT #1:133.
- 2 Federal Direct Tax, 1798, for Prince George's County; cf. also chain of title.
- 3 Estate file, John Somerville; Chancery case, 1833, papers not found. Prince George's County Land Records JBB #2:458; JBB #5:563.
- 4 Equity #687; Prince George's County Land Records HB #12:27
- 5 cf. Chain of Title.
- 6 Historic American Buildings Survey, two photographs, 1936, Library of Congress.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1705115310

P.H. 875-1

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Spring Hill				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Aguasco Farm Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Aguasco				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC				
Yes:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted				
<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Private	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	Club	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Richardson Farm (Private Hunt Club)				
STREET AND NUMBER: Aguasco Farm Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Aguasco		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg, #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress				
STREET AND NUMBER: 10 First St. SE				
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC		STATE:		

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
	(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 house is a two story frame structure with a five bay main (east) facade. The central doorway is flanked by two 6/6 double hung sash on either side (formerly 9/9 sash); the second floor windows are also 6/6 double hung sash (formerly 9/6 sash).

On the north end, there are double, two story chimneys with free standing stacks (rebuilt); they are joined by a two story brick pent with a shed roof. The chimneys themselves are relatively narrow, without weatherings.

On the south end, there is a single chimney rising two stories with stepped weatherings and free standing stack.

The house has been covered with asbestos shingle siding and the windows have been rebuilt.

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		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:

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 11 Jun 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 _____

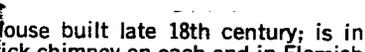
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-445
(62)

1. STATE Md. COUNTY PG TOWN STREET NO. off Aquasco Farm rd. VICINITY #88 ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE priv dwell PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION brick NO. OF STORIES	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY	
	2. NAME DATE OR PERIOD late 18th STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE		

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <p style="text-align: center;">shingle siding large house Flemish bond brick chimneys each side all siding and sash modern storm windows all around appears in excell cond</p>	OPEN TO PUBLIC
--	----------------

Source - Historic Sites Identification Map /
 published by Md. Nat'l Capital
 Park Planning Comm.

 house built late 18th century; is in
 brick chimney on each end in Flemish
 bond. The siding, sash, and storm windows are modern.
 Presently a private home. 

 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER DATE OF RECORD

MAY BE ADDED UN SHEET IF SAME SIZE

SUPP

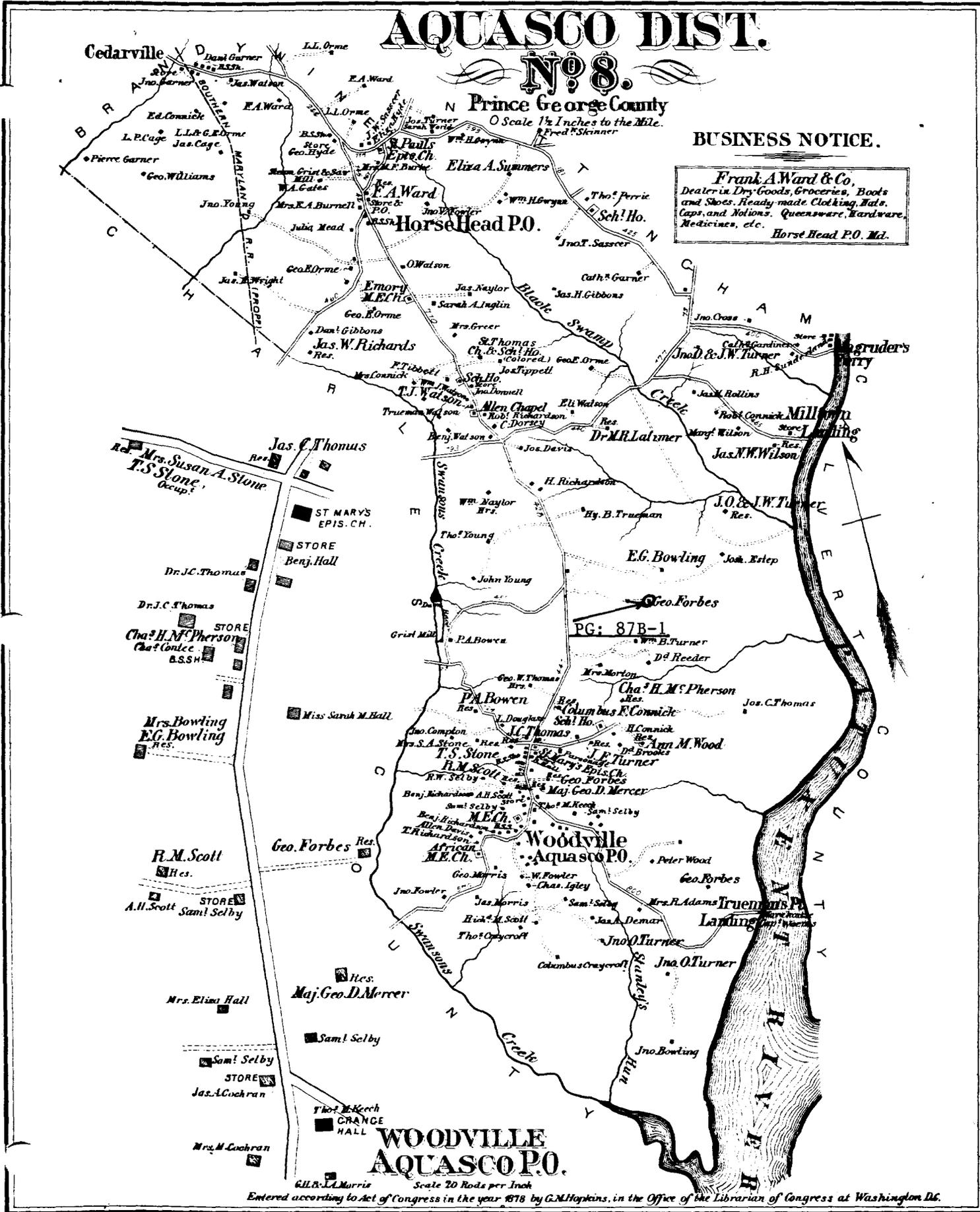
AQUASCO DIST. No. 8.

Prince George County

Scale 1/2 Inches to the Mile.

BUSINESS NOTICE.

Frank A. Ward & Co.
Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Ready-made Clothing, Hats, Caps, and Notions, Queensware, Hardware, Medicines, etc.
Horse Head P.O. Md.

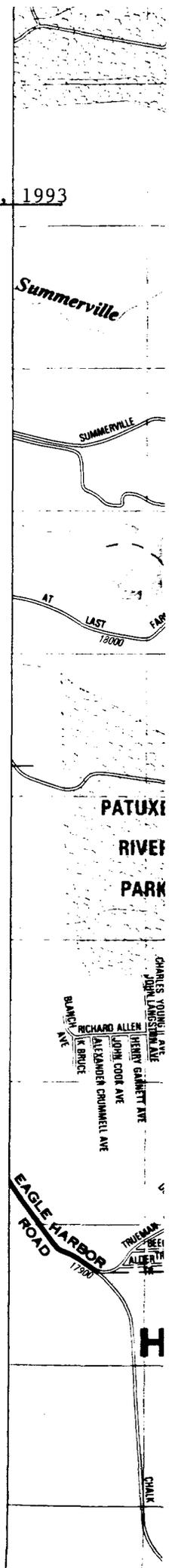
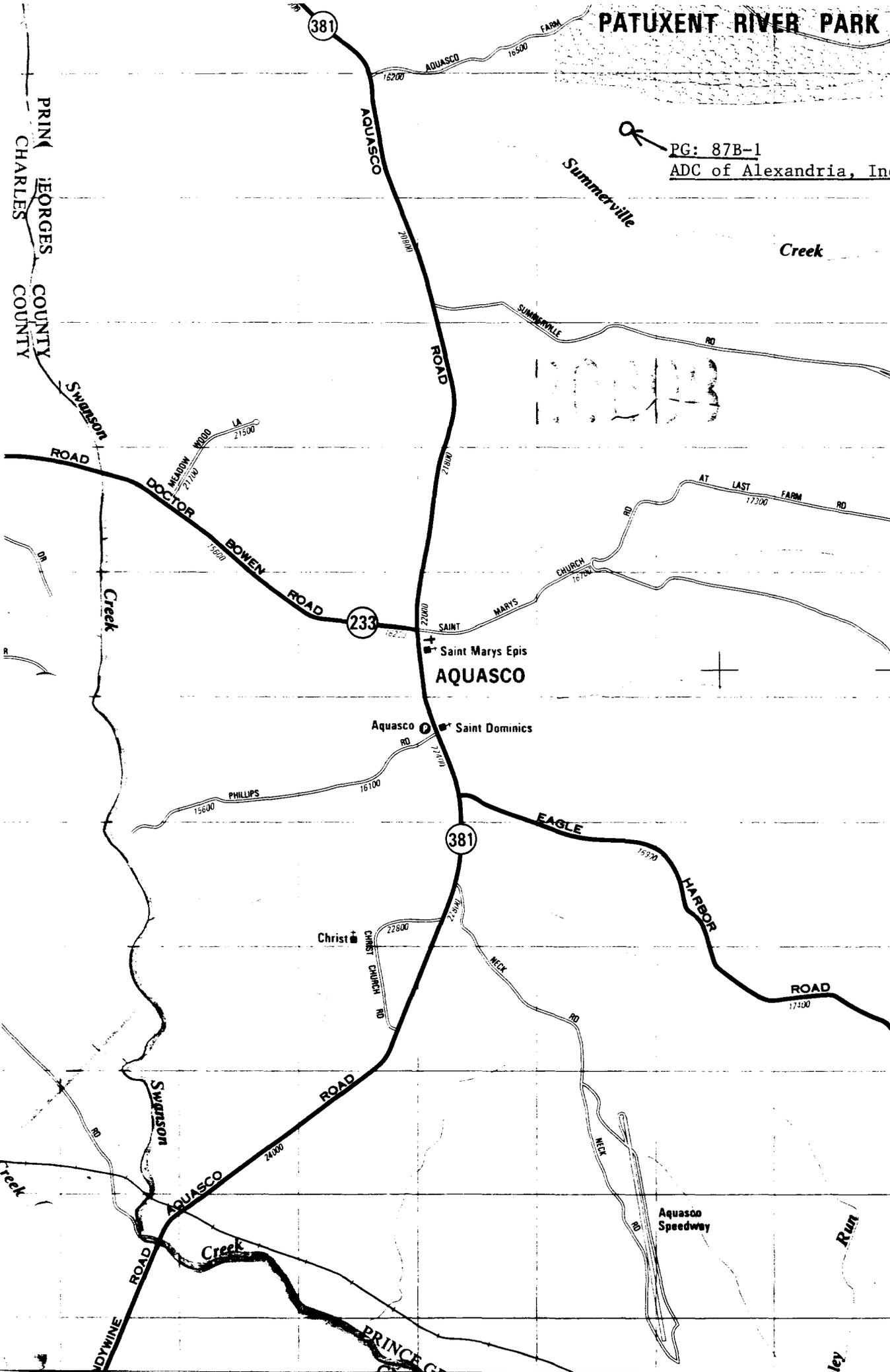


Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878 by G.M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington D.C.

PATUXENT RIVER PARK

PG: 87B-1

ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1993



Line PRINCE GEORGES CO CHARLES CO

PG: 87B-1
Spring Hill
Benedict Quad, 1953, PR 1974

Summerville

Creek

Creek

Kennedy

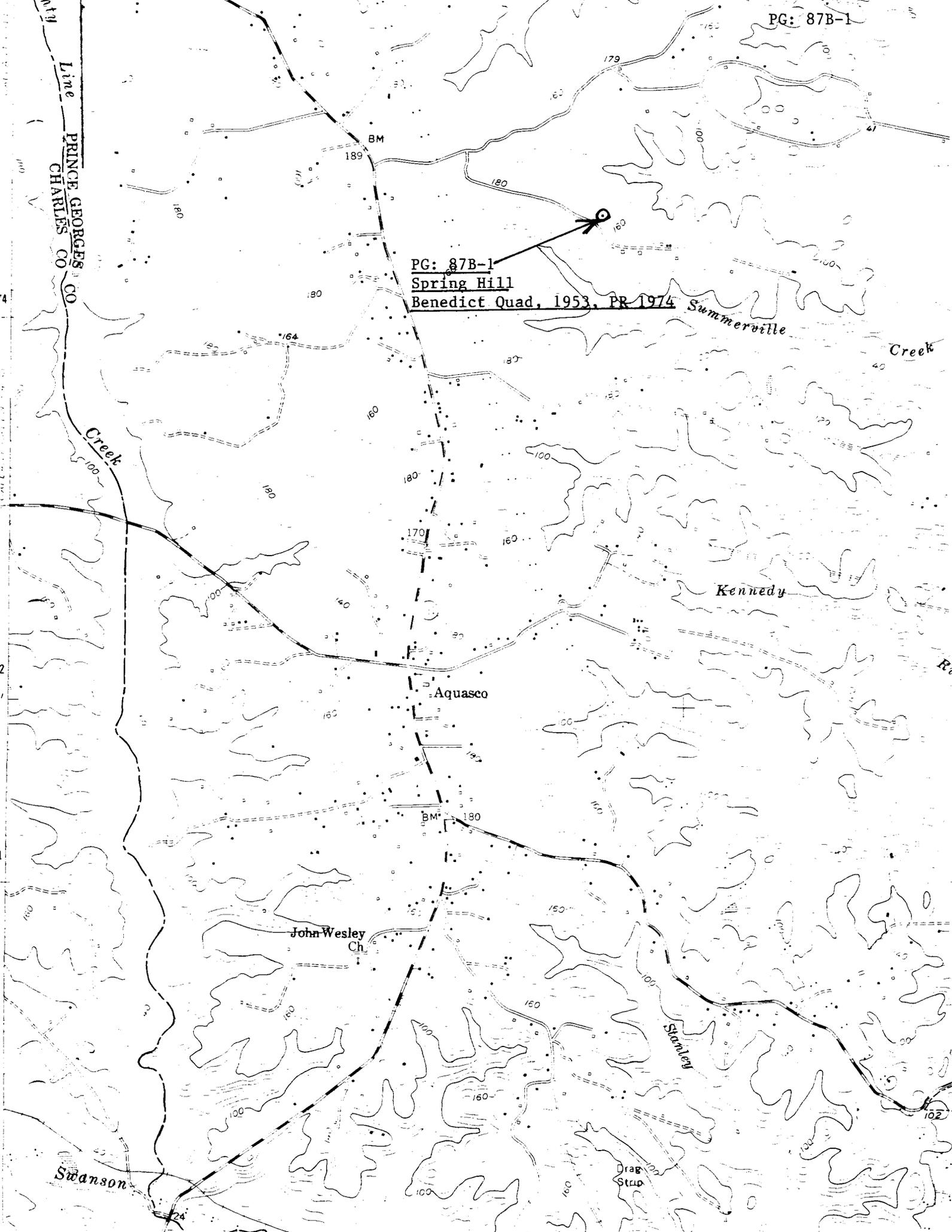
Aquasco

John Wesley Ch

Stanley

Swanson

Drag Strip



PG #87B-1

Spring Hill
Aguasco, Maryland
VICINITY



Historic American Buildings Survey
John O. Brostrup, Photographer

October 13, 1936
1:45 P. M.

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST (front)

HABS No.

M.D.
17-AQUA.V
2-1



P.G.#87B-1

Spring Hill

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

Northwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #87B-1

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



P.G.#87B-1

Spring Hill
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #87B-1

Spring Hill
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME SPRING HILL PG: 87B-1
LOCATION OFF AQUASCO FARM Rd AQUASCO, Md
FACADE SE
PHOTO TAKEN 6/11/74 MDWYER



NAME SPRING HILL

PG 87B-1

LOCATION OFF AQUASCO FARM RD AQUASCO, MD

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 6/11/74 MDWYER