

HIGGINS BRICK RUINS

AL-I-C-007

mid 19th century

The Higgins Brick Ruins once consisted of a two story brick house abutted by a large frame addition. Fire destroyed nearly all but the interesting two story brick chimney that had two openings on each of the two floors. One corner of the brick house is also left standing, and it shows that there was a combination of American Common Bonding as well as Flemish Bonding, a mixture of style unique in Allegany County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AL-I-C-007

0101106404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Higgins Brick Ruins

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

near Green Ridge Station on C & O Canal

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER None

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Leon Bick

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 403

Folio #: 176

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland,

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Higgins Brick Ruins is located 3/4 mile northwest of the Stickpile Tunnel with a close frontage to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

The Higgins Brick House was gutted by fire and now stands in ruins. However, it consisted of a two story brick half abutted by a two story frame structure. One corner of the brick half still stands, and features both American Common Bond and Flemish Bonding. The huge brick chimney still stands erect and has two openings for fireplaces on the first floor and two openings on the second floor. The frame portion was built upon a low stone foundation which is all that is left standing on that half of the former structure.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 465.32 acres**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Nelson, Joan Baldwin & Steve Beale

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

11/3/76

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-8991

CITY OR TOWN

LaVale,

STATE

Maryland

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, 1974 Supplement.

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

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AL-1-C-007-063 (Stone Chimney)
AL-1-C-007 (Higgins Brick Ruins)
GREEN RIDGE STATE FOREST
DNR#: NONE

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Stone Chimney and Higgins Brick Ruins (private)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Carroll Road

CITY, TOWN

Orleans

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Green Ridge State Forest

NAME

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Taylor Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: private site: 403

Folio #: 176

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Allegany County Maryland Historical Trust Survey (Higgins Ruins only)

DATE

November, 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401-

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-I-C-007

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the property of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at Green Ridge State Forest in Allegany County along Carroll Road is a single large stone furnace stack and foundations presumably associated with an industrial complex. The site is located at the southeast edge of Green Ridge State Forest in a hollow known as Devil's Alley at the east base of Town Hill. Approximately one mile southeast of the stone chimney are ruins of a brick dwelling house which stood facing east along the Potomac River and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal at the mouth of Devil's Alley. Although the brick house stands on private property, it is proposed for future acquisition by the Department of Natural Resources, according to rangers at Green Ridge. The two sites are linked by a small run or stream by which stands the stone chimney. The stream opens into the Potomac River near the brick house site. Following the stream is the course of a narrow gauge railroad and a depression in the earth suggesting either an old washed out road bed or a sluiceway. These sites are unexplained at present.

The furnace stack stands approximately 30 feet high, is built of coursed native stones, and is tapered, becoming narrow at its top. A stone corbel forms a drip source near the top of the chimney. It rests on roughly coursed fieldstone foundations which continue, where visible, to form a rectangular base for a building. The chimney stands at the east end of the structure with a low opening partially hidden by a pile of earth and rubble. Inside, the stack is lined with brick. In 1974 the chimney was restored by the Youth Conservation Corps.

The brick house ruins consist of parts of east and north walls along with foundations and rubble. It was a two story structure, possibly three bays wide with Flemish bonding used at the front or east elevation. Evidence remains of a frame addition at the south end wall. Common bonding on the side and rear walls is of a type associated with 18th and very early 19th century construction. This bonding has three courses of stretchers between header rows. Mortar joints are struck and some retain white accent lines over red oxide paint. Diagonal fireplaces, typical of the 18th century, were located within the north end wall and several hand wrought nails were found on the site.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The location of the stone chimney and the brick house ruins suggest that their history is somehow linked. Together they have merit for the architectural form they suggest and as artifacts of industrial or commercial and residential activity along the Potomac River during the late 18th and 19th centuries. There are questions about the original purpose of the complex. The chimney's appearance suggest some sort of industrial use although it is unlike iron furnace stacks in the area. Its proximity to the Potomac River, the C & O Canal and the Western Maryland Railway with the tram railroad linking the chimney site to the canal and railroad does support the presumed industrial nature of the complex. While the use of the railroad and canal would be associated with the second quarter of the 19th century and later, the presence of the brick house seemingly dating from the 18th century must also be considered. Although the house is in ruins enough evidence remains to indicate that it was relatively refined among houses of the period in Allegany County.

Land records for the stone chimney on DNR property were checked by rangers at Green Ridge State Forest but were found not to be helpful since much confusion arose around identification and ownership of the mountain land parcels belonging to DNR. Therefore, deeds for the brick house ruins known as the Higgins property were searched in an effort to find a clue to former use and history of both sites.

Since 1859 the property upon which the brick house ruins stand has been made up of three land grant tracts with like acreage except for several out conveyances over the past century. The three tracts were "Hermit's Abode: (311 acres), "River Hill" (175-7/8 acres) and "Sisterhood" (52-7/8 acres). The largest parcel, "Hermit's Abode" carried with it the explanation that it had been resurveyed for Ovid McCrackin on June 25, 1810. The property was described as that upon which Ovid McCrackin's dwelling stood. In 1859, (19/363) John T. Edwards, trustee in equity proceedings between Ellen Bevans and Joseph Bevan's sold the property containing the three above mentioned tracts to Ransom Higgins. The tracts, "River Hill" and "Sisterhood" were patented to Henry Bevans on March 3, 1840 and March 2, 1840 respectively

On September 17, 1832, Samuel Jesse of Shelby County, Kentucky sold "Hermit's Abode" to Henry Bevans, for \$1,600. (Q/125) Samuel Jesse had held the property only for a few months having acquired it on June 23, 1832, from Moses Rawlings, Esq. (Q/69). Rawlings, who was Sheriff of Allegany County, sold the property as a result of a judgement against the Heirs of Daniel Lantz.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

POINT LOOKOUT

AL-I-C-052

STONE CHIMNEY

AL-I-C-054

063

HIGGINS BRICK TOWNS

(NOT DARK)

AL-I-C-059

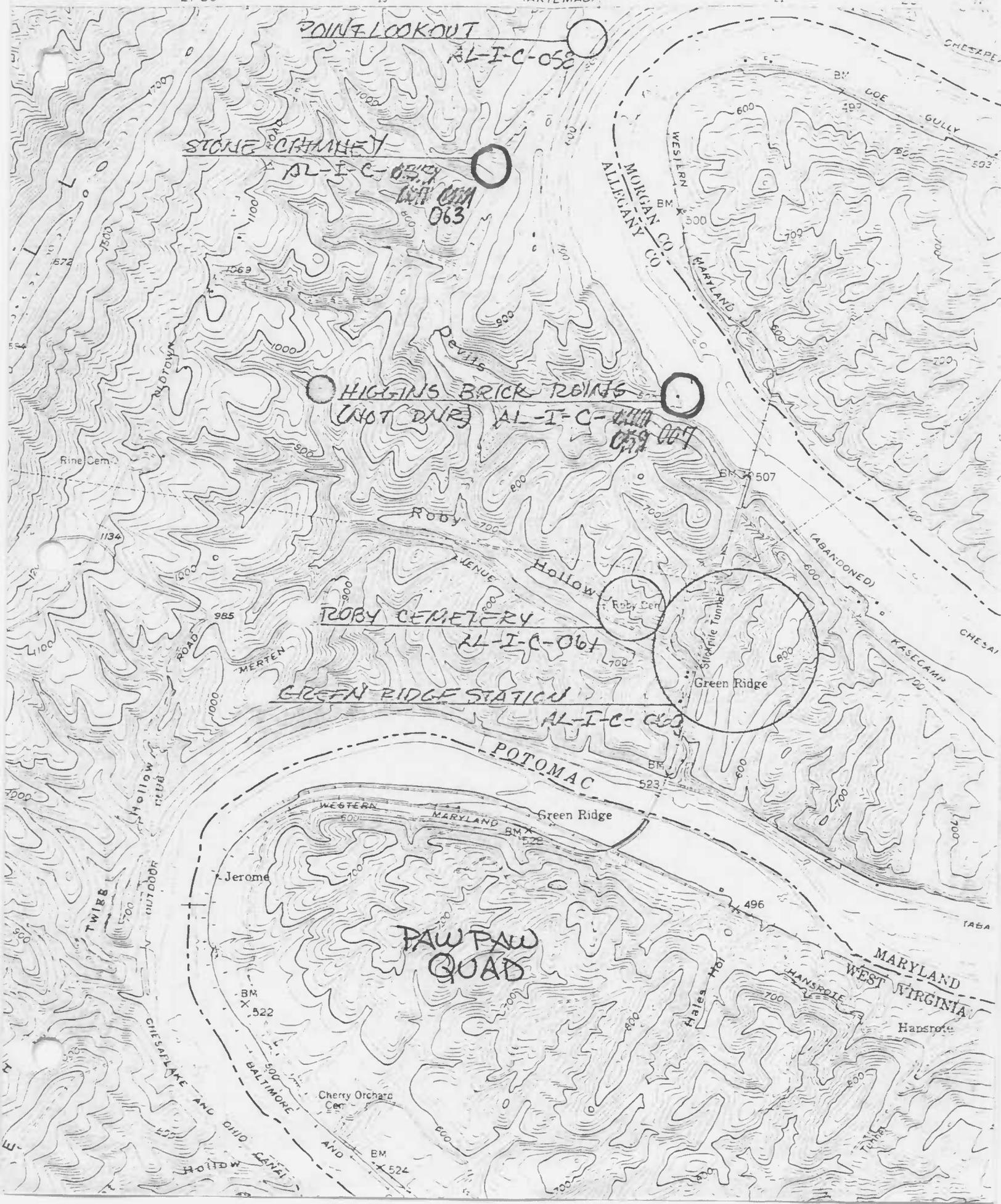
ROBY CEMETERY

AL-I-C-061

GREEN RIDGE STATION

AL-I-C-060

PAW PAW QUAD



CHESAPE

GULLY

593

MORGAN CO
ALLEGANY CO

MARYLAND

Devils

Rine Cem.

Roby

VENUE

Hollow

Roby Cem.

Green Ridge

(ABANDONED)

CHESA

KASECAMP

POTOMAC

WESTERN MARYLAND

Jerome

MARYLAND WEST VIRGINIA

Hansrote

Cherry Orchard Cem.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL

BALTIMORE AND

EM X 524

Hales Mt

HANSROLE

WEST VIRGINIA

Hansrote

Cherry Orchard Cem.

EM X 524

Hales Mt

HANSROLE

WEST VIRGINIA

Hansrote

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner and Douglass Reed

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

February, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 202

TELEPHONE

(301)432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

STATE

Maryland 21782

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

AL-I-C-007
A-17
Green Ridge State Forest
DNR#: None
Stone Chimney and Higgins Brick Ruins (private)
Allegany County

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Daniel Lantz acquired the 311 acres tract (F/307) "Hermit's Abode" on October 22, 1811 from Ovid McCrackin. No records were found prior to Ovid McCracken's ownership.

Ransom Higgins for whom the property is named and his heirs owned this and surrounding land from 1859 til 1952. (242/525).

Unfortunately the deeds did not leave any clues as to the use of this piece of property. Out conveyances were noted for the C & O Canal and a lock house but there were no other references to any industrial or commercial complex.

One supposed explanation for the stone chimney could be that its use was connected somehow with the construction of the C & O Canal during the mid 19th century. Another suggestion offered was the possibility of the stone chimney site having been a distillery.

It would seem that with the lack of historical data about the sites, some archeological work might be in order. A search should be made for artifacts in the vicinity of the stone chimney which could aid in pinpointing the use and the age of the structure.

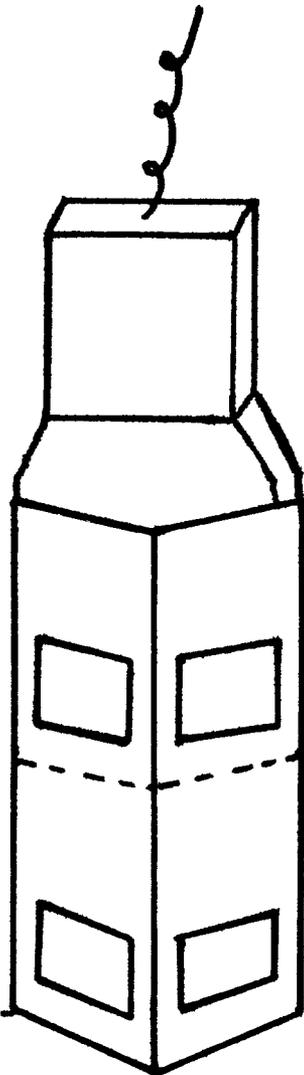
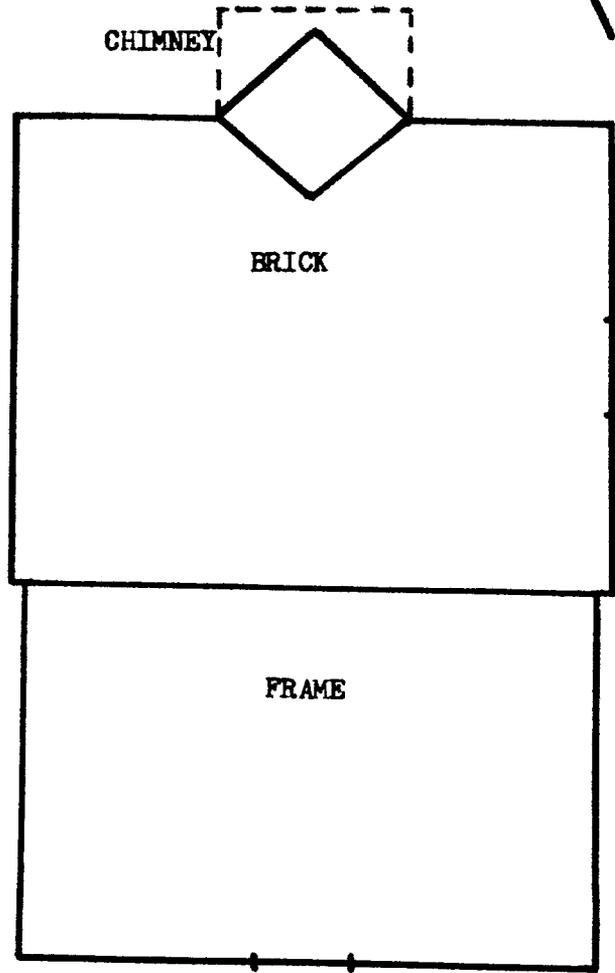
HIGGINS BRICK RUINS

AI - I - C - 007



ACTUAL FLOOR PLAN

SCALE : 1 : 96



SKETCH OF FOUR CHIMNEY OPENINGS

INVENTORY NO. AL-I-C-007

403/176

DATE: 10/14/76

465.32 Acres

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Higgins Brick Ruins (Lower End Higgins Estate)

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Near Green Ridge Station on C+O canal

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: _____

NAME OF OWNER: Leon Bick

ADDRESS: _____

STORIES: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

Dwelling Shape: (square, cross, rectangular)

24' x 16' Frame with low stone in front but burned 24 x 20' Brick part in rear

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
- () BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants. 3 to 1 Both Found
- () STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- () LOG
- () Other: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS _____

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, FLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other()
pegged () nailed() wide () narrow () mitred () pediment ()

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: _____

HARDWARE: original() replaced()
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)
original() replaced() Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze, Architrave

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, SHED, MANSARD, GAMBREL, FLAT, DORMERS # _____
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original() replaced()

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable()

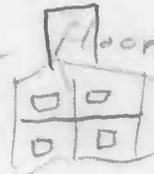
CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 1 BRICK() STONE() CORBELLED() original() replaced()
LOCATION: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior ()

ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

Use - None
Significance - Arch
Date Constructed - Canal, Early
Condition - Ruins

Chimney was on 45° c with 2 openings per floor



AL-I^C007

ADDENDA

In 1984 the Department of Natural Resources contracted with Joe Getty to conduct a follow-up survey of selected historic properties on DNR lands. DNR funded the field survey and photography but did not prepare finished copy. The attached photocopy pages were forwarded to the Maryland Historical Trust to supplement existing files. All original material and photographs remain in the possession of the Department of Natural Resources under the supervision of Ross Kimmel (x3771).

DRAFT--Description for Higgins Brick Ruins

The Higgins Brick Ruins is the site of a brick house that once stood along the C & O Canal. All that remains of the structure is its foundation wall and a two-story chimney. It appears that the chimney has been able to withstand the deterioration ^{of the remainder of the house} because it consisted of corner fireplaces that created a triangular base for the stability of the chimney. Otherwise, it is difficult to determine the features of the original house. The brick walls that exist are all laid in common bond. It appears that there is a cellarway at the ~~eastern~~ ^{northern} side of the ~~south~~ ^{east} facade and cellar windows in the ~~east~~ ^{north} facade where the chimney exists. So it appears there was a partially excavated cellar much of which has been filled in by the rubble brick. There is also evidence of a wing that projected from the ~~west~~ ^{south} side of the structure. The brick ruins give evidence that a fairly refined Federal style brick house stood on this site. However, there is little that remains today.

~~(Fix the elevations: chimney on the north facade, addition at the south facade, and east facade probably the main facade on the structure)~~

The Higgins Brick Ruins are located along the C & O Canal at the mouth of Devils Alley. This site is located north of Green ^{idge} Station, approximately one mile from Kasecamp Road. The structure was constructed on a level area along a stream approximately four hundred feet west of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. The ruins have the appearance of a rather refined structure for this region and are probably linked in some way to the life along the canal.

Judging by evidence in the brick ruins, the original structure was a two-story brick house with a gable roof. The main facade faced east and was constructed of ^Flemish bond. Common bond was used on the other facades laid in three courses of stretchers between each header row (a bonding type

associated with the eighteenth and very early nineteenth century construction). The mortar joints are struck and retain some white accent lines over red oxide paint. The dimensions of the structure are twenty-two feet by twenty-six feet. It is not possible to determine where the doors and windows were on the first floor.

The chimney to the house is still standing and has diagonal fireplaces that were located on the north gable wall of the structure. We can speculate that the structure was built with a Federal style plan of two rooms perhaps with a hallway on the south side of the house (a stairhall) as was typically used in the late eighteenth century. On the interior wall, plaster was applied directly onto a brick surface. The plaster is made of a lime, horse-hair and sand substance. The chimney with its deteriorated brick shows the flue system that ~~lead the smoke away from~~ ^{of} the fireplaces. There are also marks along the chimney surface that show where the gable roof was at the top of the house. ~~On one section of the chimney~~ On the first and second floor of the east end of the chimney, ^{sections} ~~pieces~~ of wood are located in the brick surface which probably held the mantel piece for the chimney.

On the south end of the structure, it appeared that there was an addition that provided a wing to the main building. There is a foundation wall that runs along the west side on the south facade for a ten foot by sixteen foot frame wing. There is no other evidence about the use or construction of this wing. About forty feet northwest of the structure is a covered opening of the well for the property.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common

Higgin Brick Ruins

2. Location

street & number north of Base Camp Road at Carroll Road not for publication

city, town

Orleans

Green Ridge Station

 vicinity of

congressional district

Sixth

state

Maryland

county

Allegany

3. Classification

Category

 district building(s) structure site object

Ownership

 public private both

Public Acquisition

 in process being considered not applicable

Status

 occupied unoccupied work in progress

Accessible

 yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no

Present Use

 agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other: None

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

name

Department of Natural Resources

street & number

Times State Office Bldg

telephone no.: 269-3771

city, town

Annapolis

state and zip code

MD

21401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Allegany Co. Courthouse

liber 403

street & number

Washington Street

folio 176

city, town:

Cumberland

state

MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

DHS Survey

date

February 1974

 federal state county local

depository for survey records

Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town

Annapolis

state

MD

7. Description

Survey No. AL-I-C-007

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.

8. Significance

Survey No. AL-I-C-007

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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

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.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AL-I-C-007

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name PAW PAWQuadrangle scale 1:25000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state code county code

state code county code

1. Form Prepared By

name/title

Joe Getty

organization

Dept. of Natural Resources

date

February 1984

street & number

Texas State Office Bldg

telephone

269-3771

city or town

Annapolis

state

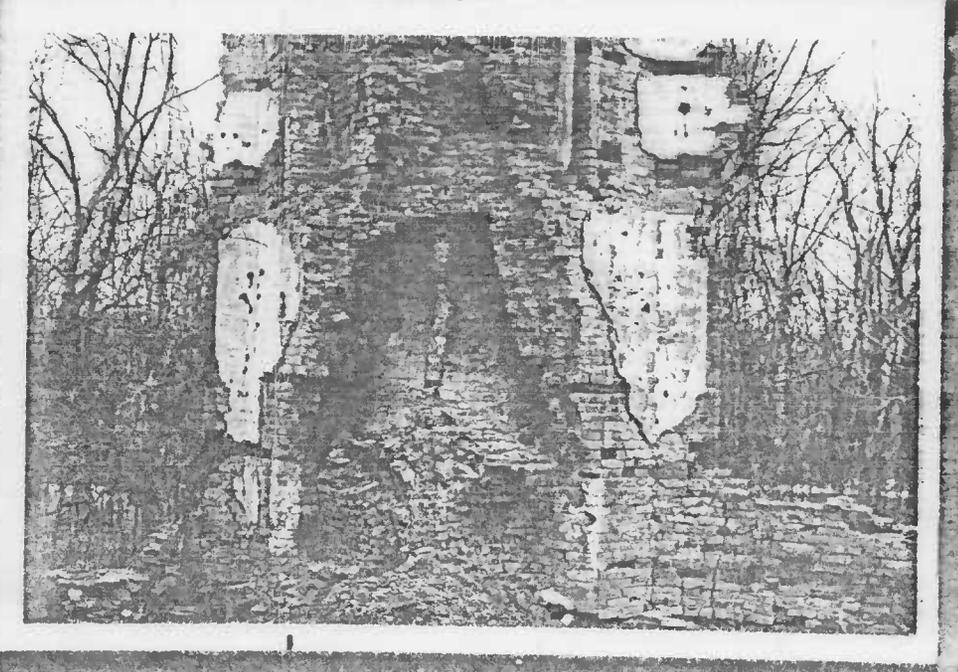
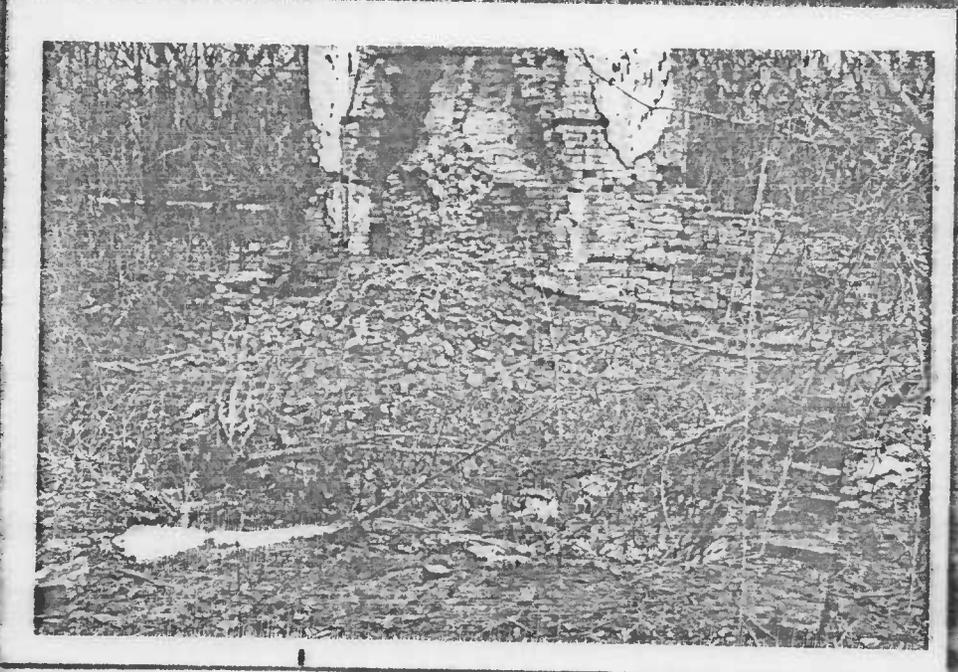
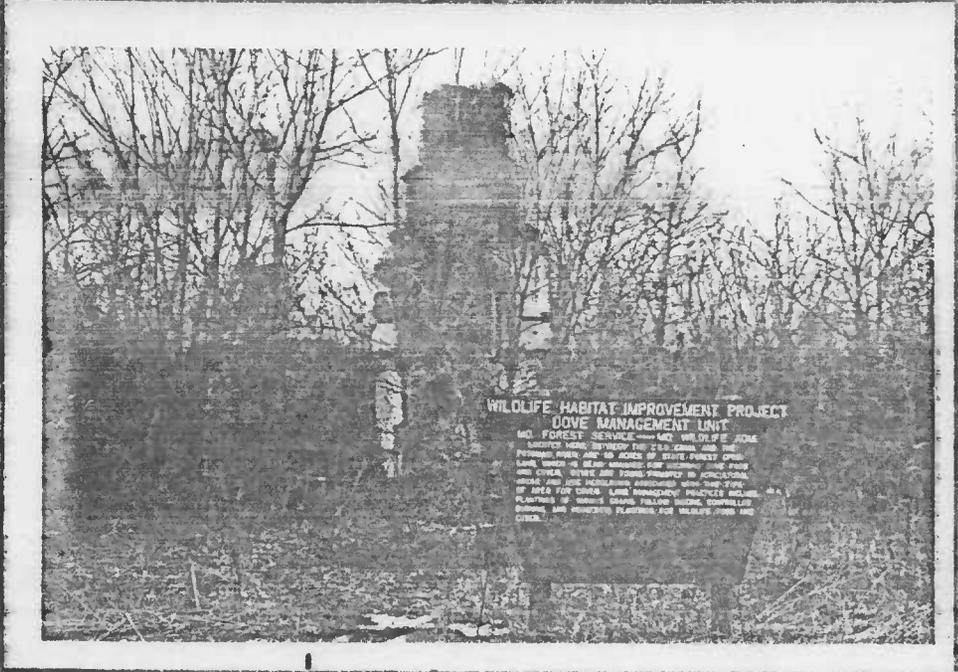
MD

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, 1974 supplement.

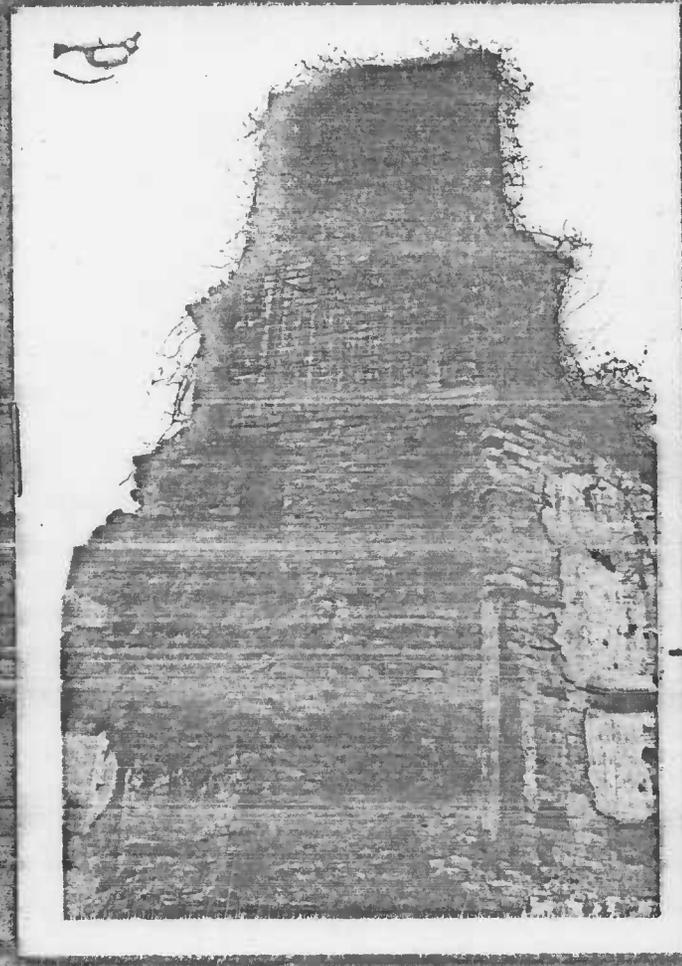
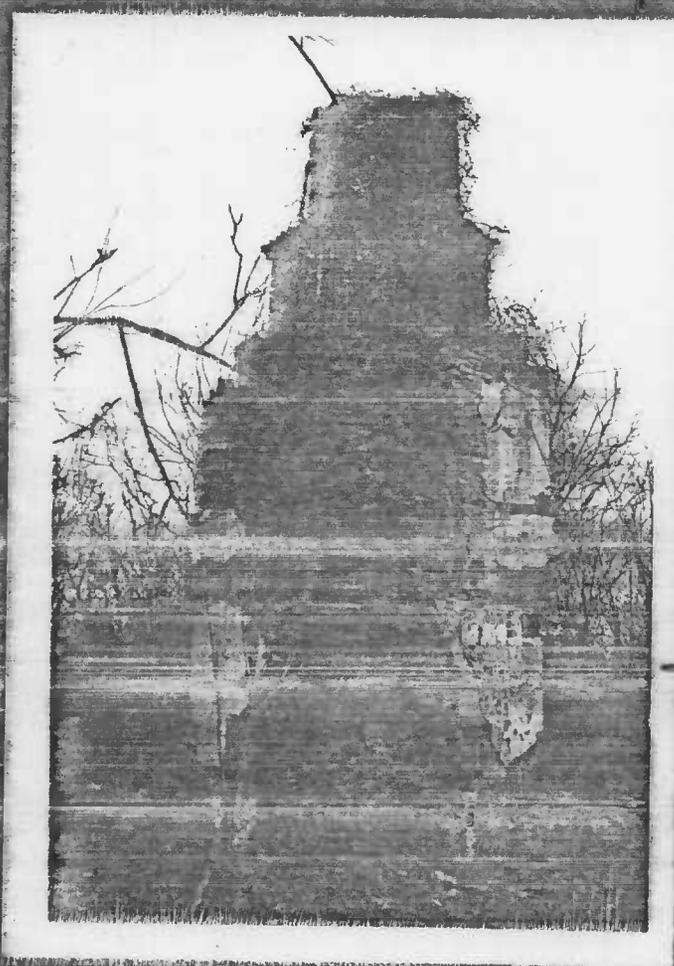
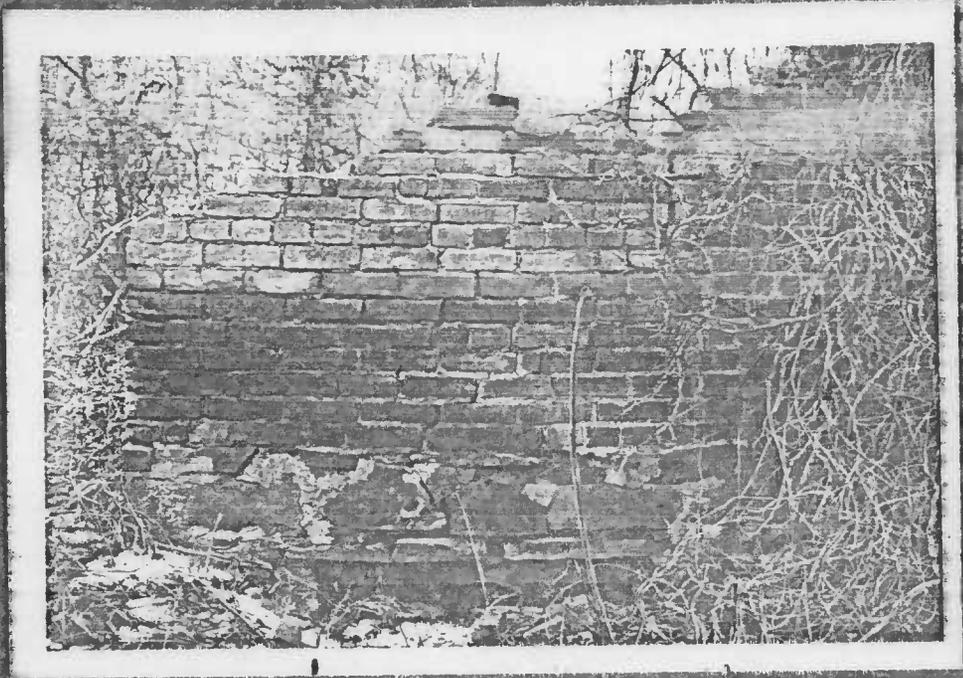
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

LIL-007 Higgin Brick Ruins
 top - View of Site
 center - Foundation ruins
 bottom - Chimney lower section
 AL-I-C-007



AL-I-C-007 Higgin Brick Run
top - Etcain brickwork - north wall
at left - Chimney
at right - " Upper Section



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

~~AL-1-C-007~~ (Stone Chimney)
 AL-1-C-007 (Higgins Brick Ruins)
 GREEN RIDGE STATE FOREST
 DNR#: NONE

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Stone Chimney and Higgins Brick Ruins (private)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Carroll Road

CITY, TOWN

Orleans

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Green Ridge State Forest

NAME

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Taylor Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: private site: 403
 Folio #: 176

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Allegany County Maryland Historical Trust Survey (Higgins Ruins only)

DATE

November, 1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401-

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the property of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at Green Ridge State Forest in Allegany County along Carroll Road is a single large stone furnace stack and foundations presumably associated with an industrial complex. The site is located at the southeast edge of Green Ridge State Forest in a hollow known as Devil's Alley at the east base of Town Hill. Approximately one mile southeast of the stone chimney are ruins of a brick dwelling house which stood facing east along the Potomac River and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal at the mouth of Devil's Alley. Although the brick house stands on private property, it is proposed for future acquisition by the Department of Natural Resources, according to rangers at Green Ridge. The two sites are linked by a small run or stream by which stands the stone chimney. The stream opens into the Potomac River near the brick house site. Following the stream is the course of a narrow gauge railroad and a depression in the earth suggesting either an old washed out road bed or a sluiceway. These sites are unexplained at present.

The furnace stack stands approximately 30 feet high, is built of coursed native stones, and is tapered, becoming narrow at its top. A stone corbel forms a drip source near the top of the chimney. It rests on roughly coursed fieldstone foundations which continue, where visible, to form a rectangular base for a building. The chimney stands at the east end of the structure with a low opening partially hidden by a pile of earth and rubble. Inside, the stack is lined with brick. In 1974 the chimney was restored by the Youth Conservation Corps.

The brick house ruins consist of parts of east and north walls along with foundations and rubble. It was a two story structure, possibly three bays wide with Flemish bonding used at the front or east elevation. Evidence remains of a frame addition at the south end wall. Common bonding on the side and rear walls is of a type associated with 18th and very early 19th century construction. This bonding has three courses of stretchers between header rows. Mortar joints are struck and some retain white accent lines over red oxide paint. Diagonal fireplaces, typical of the 18th century, were located within the north end wall and several hand wrought nails were found on the site.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The location of the stone chimney and the brick house ruins suggest that their history is somehow linked. Together they have merit for the architectural form they suggest and as artifacts of industrial or commercial and residential activity along the Potomac River during the late 18th and 19th centuries. There are questions about the original purpose of the complex. The chimney's appearance suggest some sort of industrial use although it is unlike iron furnace stacks in the area. Its proximity to the Potomac River, the C & O Canal and the Western Maryland Railway with the tram railroad linking the chimney site to the canal and railroad does support the presumed industrial nature of the complex. While the use of the railroad and canal would be associated with the second quarter of the 19th century and later, the presence of the brick house seemingly dating from the 18th century must also be considered. Although the house is in ruins enough evidence remains to indicate that it was relatively refined among houses of the period in Allegany County.

Land records for the stone chimney on DNR property were checked by rangers at Green Ridge State Forest but were found not to be helpful since much confusion arose around identification and ownership of the mountain land parcels belonging to DNR. Therefore, deeds for the brick house ruins known as the Higgins property were searched in an effort to find a clue to former use and history of both sites.

Since 1859 the property upon which the brick house ruins stand has been made up of three land grant tracts with like acreage except for several out conveyances over the past century. The three tracts were "Hermit's Abode: (311 acres), "River Hill" (175-7/8 acres) and "Sisterhood" (52-7/8 acres). The largest parcel, "Hermit's Abode" carried with it the explanation that it had been resurveyed for Ovid McCrackin on June 25, 1810. The property was described as that upon which Ovid McCrackin's dwelling stood. In 1859, (18/363) John T. Edwards, trustee in equity proceedings between Ellen Bevans and Joseph Bevan's sold the property containing the three above mentioned tracts to Ransom Higgins. The tracts, "River Hill" and "Sisterhood" were patented to Henry Bevans on March 3, 1840 and March 2, 1840 respectively

On September 17, 1832, Samuel Jesse of Shelby County, Kentucky sold "Hermit's Abode" to Henry Bevans, for \$1,600. (Q/125) Samuel Jesse had held the property only for a few months having acquired it on June 23, 1832, from Moses Rawlings, Esq. (Q/69). Rawlings, who was Sheriff of Allegany County, sold the property as a result of a judgement against the Heirs of Daniel Lantz.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner and Douglass Reed

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

February, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 202

TELEPHONE

(301)432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

STATE

Maryland 21782

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, 1974 Supplement.

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

AL-I-C-007

A-17

Green Ridge State Forest

DNR#: None

Stone Chimney and Higgins Brick Ruins (private)

Allegany County

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Daniel Lantz acquired the 311 acres tract (F/307) "Hermit's Abode" on October 22, 1811 from Ovid McCrackin. No records were found prior to Ovid McCrackin's ownership.

Ransom Higgins for whom the property is named and his heirs owned this and surrounding land from 1859 til 1952. (242/525).

Unfortunately the deeds did not leave any clues as to the use of this piece of property. Out conveyances were noted for the C & O Canal and a lock house but there were no other references to any industrial or commercial complex.

One supposed explanation for the stone chimney could be that its use was connected somehow with the construction of the C & O Canal during the mid 19th century. Another suggestion offered was the possibility of the stone chimney site having been a distillery.

It would seem that with the lack of historical data about the sites, some archeological work might be in order. A search should be made for artifacts in the vicinity of the stone chimney which could aid in pinpointing the use and the age of the structure.

27°30'

ARTEMAS

POINT LOOKOUT

AL-I-C-058

STONE CHIMNEY

AL-I-C-063

HIGGINS BRICK TOWNS

(NOT DNR) AL-I-C-067

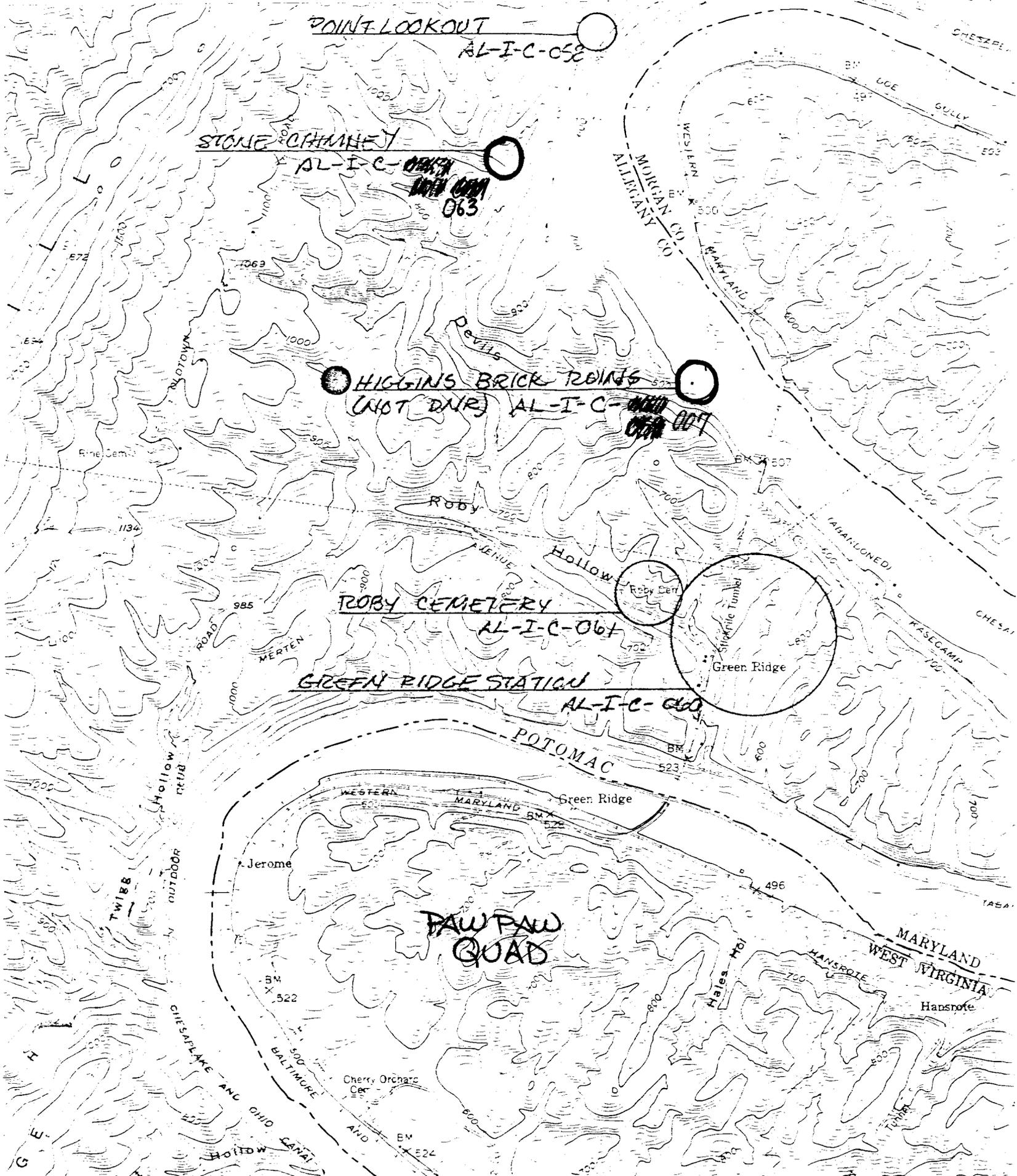
ROBY CEMETERY

AL-I-C-061

GREEN RIDGE STATION

AL-I-C-060

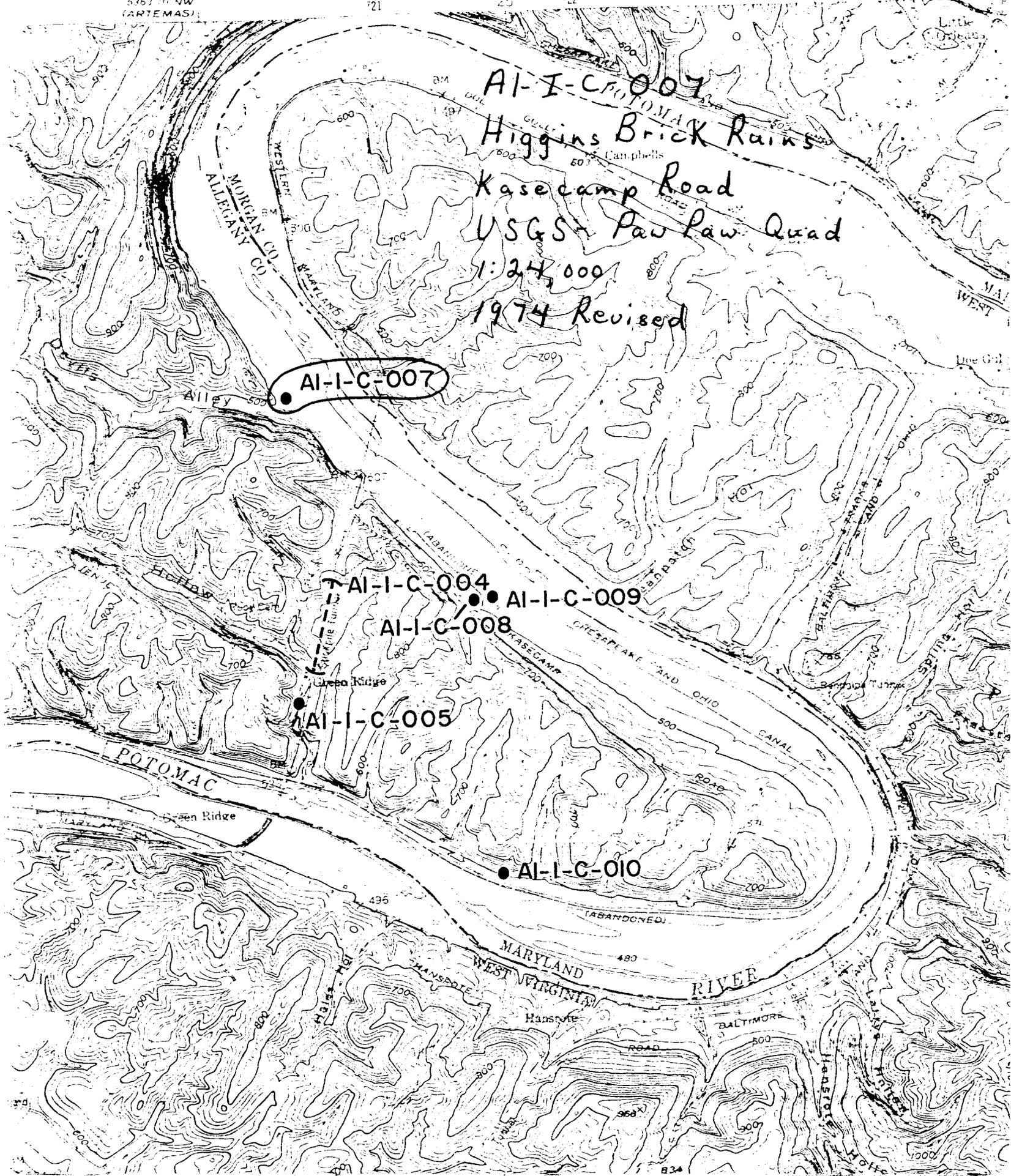
**PAW PAW
QUAD**



DRANGLE C

WEST 7 30 MINUTE 1974

5363 NW (ARTEMAS) 721 25' 122 723 23130-1 EAST N.A. 71





AL-7

~~A-17~~

Green Ridge State Forest

Stone Chimney

S View

Sept 1978

AL-1-C-007

Paula Stoner
Reservation Associates



AL-7
~~AL-7~~

Green Ridge St. Forest

Brick house ruins

N. W. corner

Sept. 1978

AL-1-C-007
DNR Survey

Paula Stoner
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AL-7

~~A-17~~

Green Ridge St. Forest

Brick house ruins

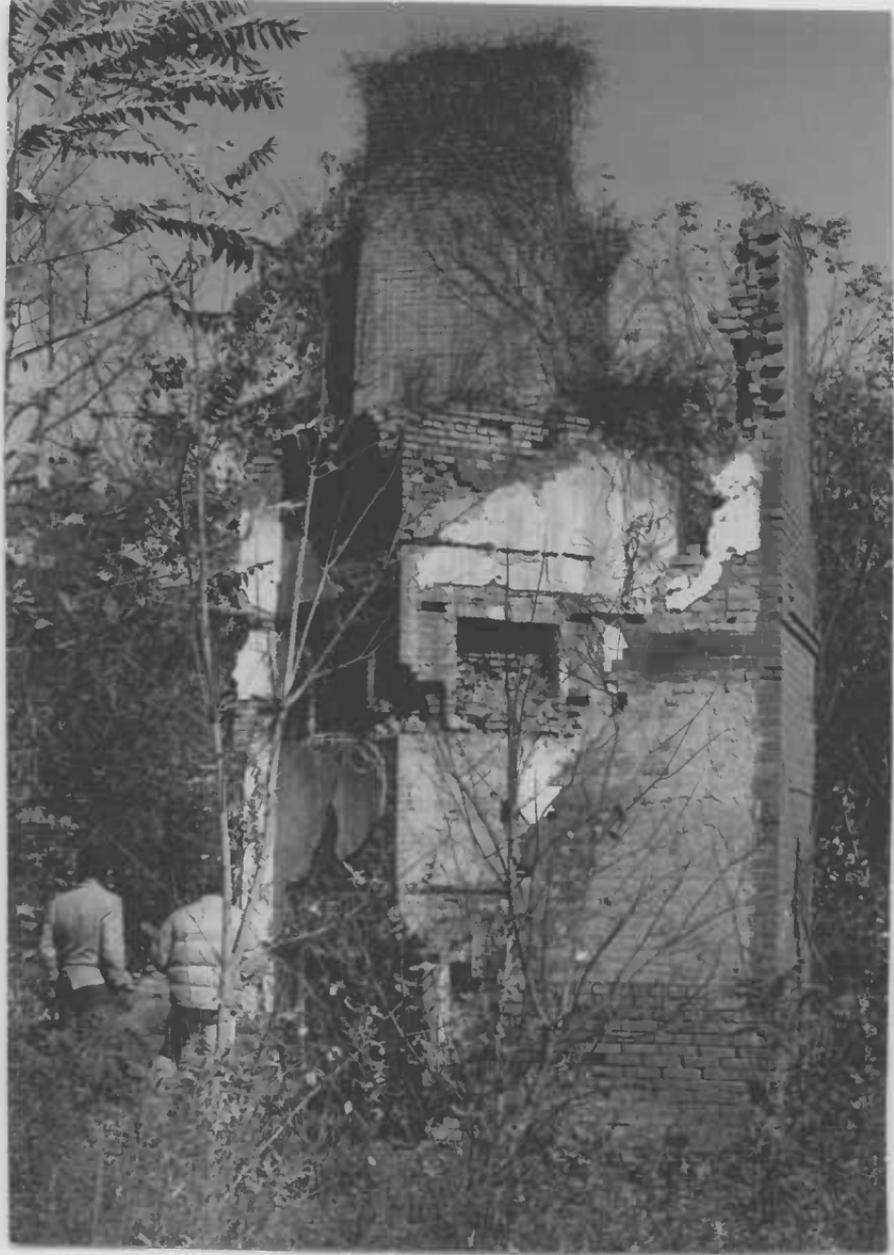
N. View

Sept. 1978

AL-1-C-007

DNR Survey

Paula Stoner
Preservation Associates



Higgins Brick Ruins

AL-I-C-007

Near Green Ridge Station on C+O Canal

John Nelson

10/14/76

Northeast



AL-7

AL-1-C-007

~~A-17~~

Green Ridge St. Forest

Brick house ruins

W. View

Sept. 1978

DNR Survey

Paula Stoner
Preservation Association



AL-7

AL-1-C-007

A-17

Green Ridge St Forest

Brick house ruins

DNR Survey

N.W. view

Sept. 1978

Paula Stoner
Preservation Associates



AL-7

AL-1-C-007

~~AL-7~~
Green Ridge State Forest

Stone Chimney

E View

DNR Survey

Sept. 1978

Paula Stoner
Preservation Associates