Survey No. AA-2072

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic HARTWELL/BASSFORD HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3745 Birdsville Rd. ___ not for publication

city, town Davidsonville ___ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county AA

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
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Paul A., Nancy D. Bassford map 59/parcel 128 (32.59 a.)

street & number 3745 Birdsville Rd. telephone no.:

city, town Davidsonville state and zip code MD. 21035

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber 0416

street & number folio 006

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-2072

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	___ original site
___ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

8. Significance

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

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. AA 2072

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name South River, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan R. McMerill

organization A.A. Co. Planning & Zoning

date July 1987

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

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

PS-2746

Survey 6/24/87 Birdsville Rd. S. Wetherill

AA-2072

owner:
Paul A. Bassford (60-ish) born here. His great grandfather Charles Bassford bought house from a Mr. Hartwell from Pa. who built it in 1897. Original farm was 212 acres. Paul's father, Paul, in 1953 sold 125 acres of back NE edge. It has been resold several times since — now development is planned for at least 37 houses on there. Paul's children have new houses at NW side of farm.

Cross-wing plan house with elab. Victorian trim
covered with alum. siding; old 1/1 windows gradually being replaced with storm/screen combinations (keeping the same-size openings in most cases, with alum. covering the window surrounds except the top piece over each window where a nice bit of carved ornament is left uncovered & visible.

→ House has quite nice Victorian decorative work on full-width screened porch which also extends partway back both side walls.
- spindlework frieze suspended from porch ceiling
- fancy brackets atop turned porch posts
- brackets under eaves

photos color #25
b/w #33-37 (3.)
also b/w #21-3 (6.)

Numerous older outbuildings, including one barn said to be original, built of chestnut posts (see photo).
Mr. Bassford has quite an assortment of antique farm implements and tools, eg. grain grinders
a stationary drill with fancy iron wheel
a wooden ice chest (refrig.)
numerous iron hinges, etc.
He has the makings of a veritable "rural history museum" stored in his sheds.

cont'd

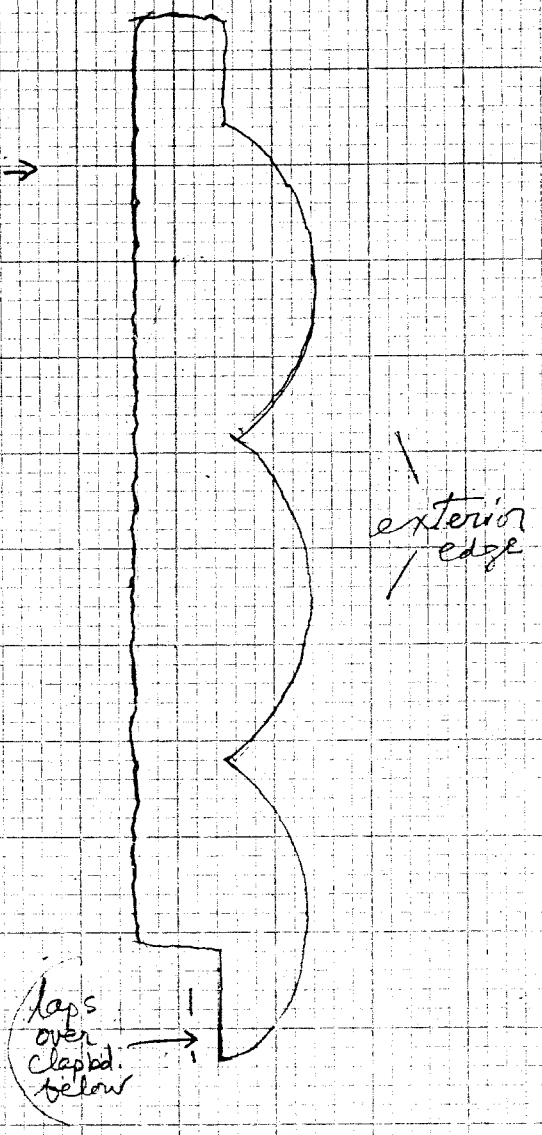
AA-2072

This house has interesting clapboard siding underneath the new alum. siding. See profile sketch at right → of one clapboard, made of fir, imported from Pa. by the builder in 1897.

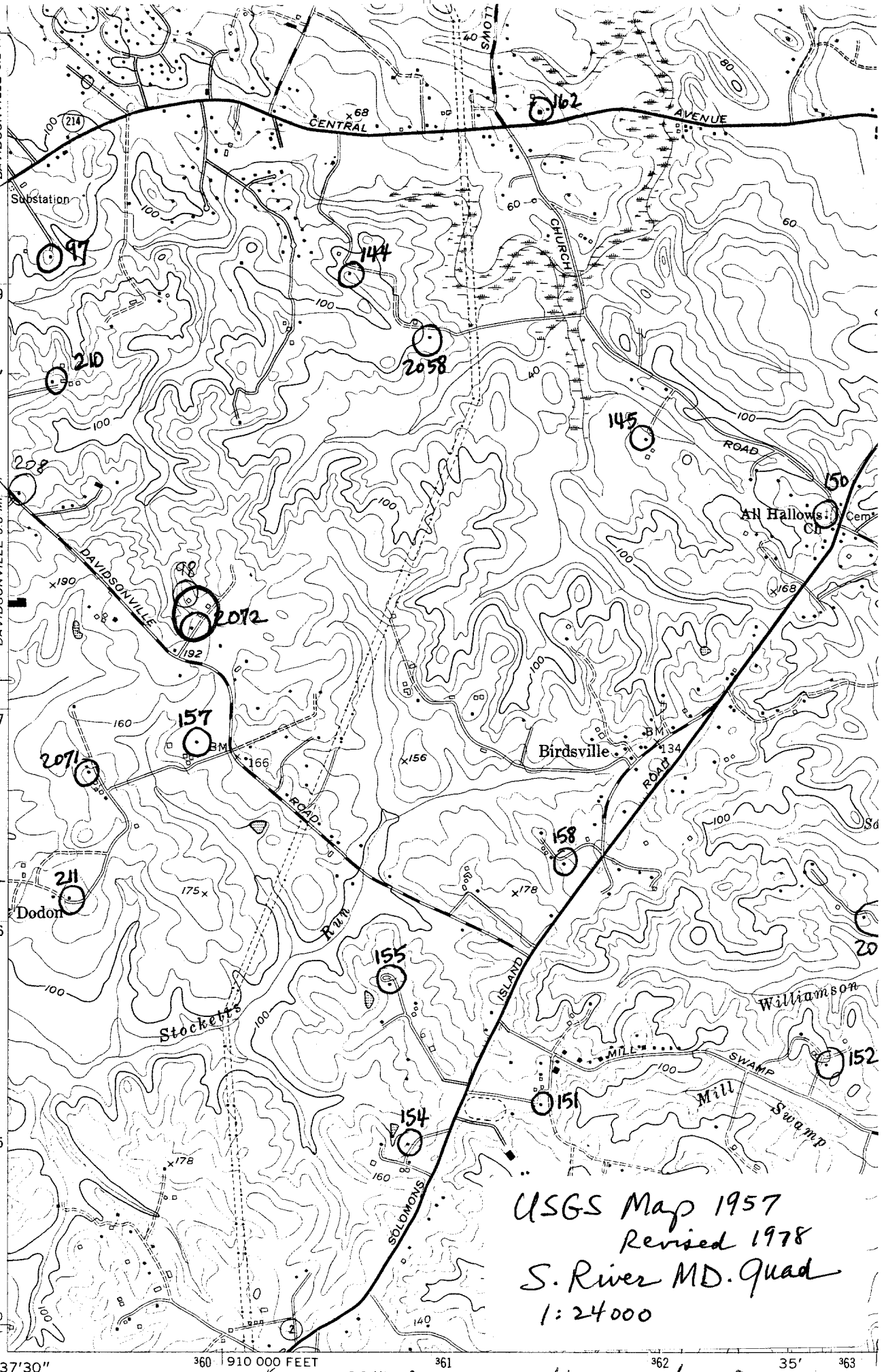
There was also a water cistern in the attic which filled with water pumped uphill from a windmill, and which served the plumbing fixtures in the house by gravity. When the attic cistern overflowed, someone had to run to the windmill and disconnect the pumping gears!

In the two right-hand parlors, 1st floor, are decorative Art-Nouveau ceiling fixtures.

Dark-stained door and window trim, interior of house



~~Mrs. Son Paul is current owner with wife Nancy.~~
~~Davis Sr. bought the bungalow (S-49) in 1930 – his~~
~~Nancy is now Mrs. Bassford living in S-46.~~



USGS Map 1957
Revised 1978
S. River MD. Quad
1:24000

AA 2072 - Hartwell/Bassford Hse.

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

AA-2072
HARTWELL - BASSFORD HOUSE
Davidsonville
A.A.Co. MD
S. Wetherill 6/87

S corner

AA 2072
HARTWELL - BASSFORD HSE
Davidsonville
A.A. Co. MD
S. Wetherill 6/87
Detail: West corner, front porch

AA 2072
HARTWELL - BASSFORD HSE
Davidsonville
A.A.Co. MD
S. Weberell 6/87
NW elev.

AA-2072
HARTWELL-BASSFORD HSE.
Davidsonville
A.A.Co. MD
S. Wetherill 6/87
East corner