

STATE: HA-357  
 COUNTY:  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: JUN 5 1974

11

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES  
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME  
 COMMON: Building Number E-5715  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Gunpowder Meeting House *use this*

2. LOCATION  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Magnolia Road  
 CITY OR TOWN: Aberdeen Proving Ground - EA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First  
 STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Harford CODE: 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Comments:

4. AGENCY  
 United States Department of the Army  
 REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)  
 CITY OR TOWN: Aberdeen  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Aberdeen Proving Ground  
 STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Harford County Courthouse, Land Records Office  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Bel Air STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Executive Order 11593 Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment (Inventory of Historic Places)  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 20 Jan 1972  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Headquarters, US Army Materiel Command  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 5001 Eisenhower Avenue  
 CITY OR TOWN: Alexandria STATE: Va. CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
 COUNTY:  
 ENTRY NUMBER:  
 DATE: JUN 5 1974  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

6

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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 building is a one room brick structure 26'-2" x 35'-4", containing 925 square feet. The brick is laid in common bond with every 6th course being headers. The cornice consists of several corbeled courses of brick. Jack arches over all openings are unbonded. All windows and door openings, except one of the latter, are boarded up. Brickwork near the ground is deteriorating; many soft brick are in evidence, and the pointing is falling out; a few bricks at the corners, and under doors, have fallen out. Oyster shell is evident in the mortar.

A door is centered between the windows on the south end and on both the east and west sides. Two windows flank the former pulpit on the north end; a window in the south gable lit a former balcony, evidence of which may be seen inside. A small arched recess, which may once have been stuccoed and contained founding and erection dates of this church, is high in the south gable.

Inside, walls are plastered directly on brick; trim (baseboard is missing, and window and trim partially existing) was applied directly to the brick, and the former pulpit platform is outlined on the north wall.

The ceiling is covered with bead - center - bead boarding, and follows the roof pitch a short way to the ridge and then follows the level collar beams. A trap door does not exist to get to the attic.

Double doors, probably original, still exist in the east and west openings, each set of double doors contain eight panels -- six square panels above two vertical rectangular ones. Only fragments of hardware exist and is of various periods. A pair of cast iron butt hinges and part of a sliding bolt are probably original.

The floor is of modern rough sawn 2" lumber installed by the military to convert the building to a storehouse. The stairway to the balcony was in the southwest corner. The balcony floor sloped and had very little headroom. The profile of stair, balcony floor and its front rail can be seen in the plaster. The chimney in the north gable appears original; the flue is built into the thickness of the wall.

The roof is covered with granulated rolled roofing.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" 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

Attempts have been made by the United Methodist Historical Society of Baltimore, Maryland, through church records and the land records of Harford County, to establish for certain whether it was the "lately erected" structure mentioned in a deed of one acre from Joseph Presbury to Methodist trustees March 31, 1773. While they have not been able to demonstrate with absolute certainty that the existing building is the original 1773 structure, neither was evidence found that it is not, and they learned that the relatively unique door arrangement is copied from the building of Old St. Pauls' Church in Baltimore erected in 1731.

If, in the future, the 1773 construction can be conclusively demonstrated, then the building may well turn out to be the oldest surviving structure in the country built as a Methodist Church.

The matter of dating this meeting house may also be influenced by the observation that the trim elements that remain inside on the window and door frames are characteristic of the Greek Revival style, and as they appear to be original, may properly indicate this was not the meeting house of 1773 built on this site, but a structure of a later date, possibly of the period 1810-1825.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

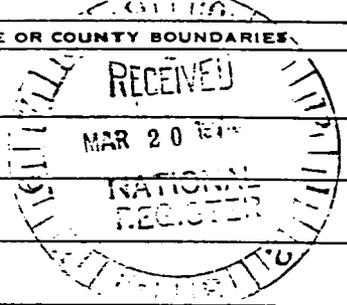
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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		
NW	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	N39°	24'	12" 14"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	W76°	18'	30" 29"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .25 + or -

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Thomas W. Alexander, Realty Specialist DATE: 5 Feb 74

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Facilities Engineering Directorate, APG

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: Aberdeen Proving Ground STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

**12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes  
 No  
 None

Orlando R. Jantun  
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is  National  State  Local

[Signature] 3/6/74  
 Federal Representative Signature Date

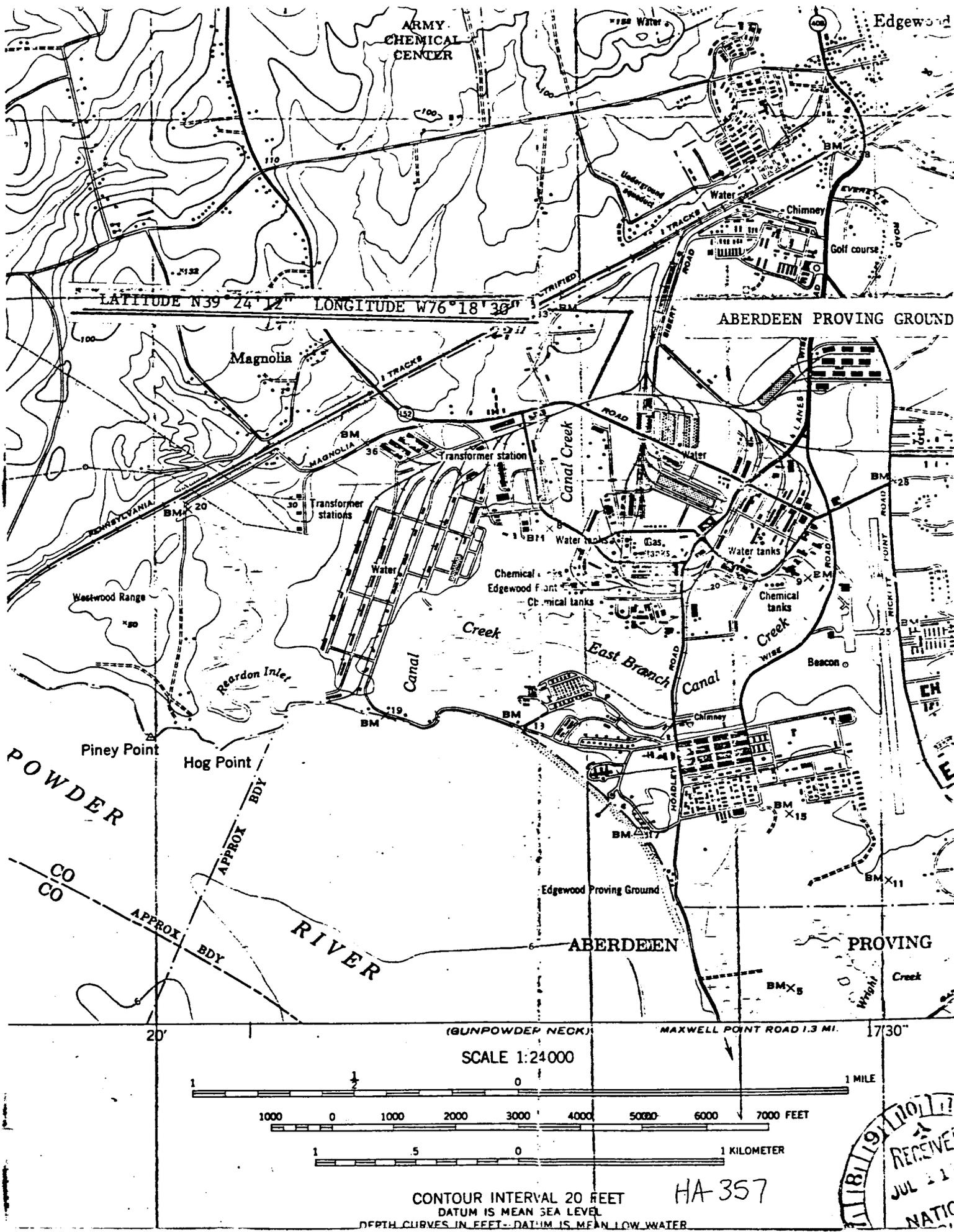
\_\_\_\_\_  
 Title

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Associate Director  
 Professional Services  
 Date JUN 5 1974

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date 6-4-74



RECEIVED  
 JUL 21  
 NATIO

HA 357

EDGEWOOD QUAD

21303572210  
R. FIELD SHEET

HA 357

NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Gunpowder Falls Meeting House

AND/OR HISTORIC: GUNPOWDER NECK METHODIST MEETING HOUSE

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Building # 5715

CITY OR TOWN: Edgewood Arsenal

STATE: Maryland CODE:      COUNTY: Harford CODE:     

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Building</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Public</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition:	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Bath <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Unoccupied</u>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>		Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
			No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Religious</u>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		<u>Vacant - boarded up.</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: U.S. Dept of the Army Acquisition Council

STREET AND NUMBER: C.O., Edgewood Arsenal - Attn: SMUEA - F

CITY OR TOWN: Edgewood STATE: md CODE: 24

Attention  
W.A.N  
HARTMAN

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

STREET AND NUMBER: HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 40 S. MAIN ST.

CITY OR TOWN: BEL AIR STATE: MARYLAND CODE:     

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:     

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:     

DATE OF SURVEY:      Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:     

STREET AND NUMBER:     

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:     

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER      DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	(Check One) Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	(Check One) Shipped of good Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>woodwork</i>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	(Check One) Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brick building, one story, 3 bays x 3 with a door between two windows on the east, south, and west sides. Facing south the ridge line runs north-south, with a ~~door~~ <sup>window</sup> on the south wall above the door, and under a semicircular place for a datestone that is not there. A chimney rises inside to the peak of the north wall.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian  16th Century  18th Century  20th Century   
 15th Century  17th Century  19th Century  *(perhaps)*

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

This building is said to be the oldest Methodist Meeting House in this country. It appears to have been built in the late 1700's or more likely early 1800's. A moderate slope to the roof (A-line) shallow eaves, simple cornice in Flemish bond brickwork are all typical of building over a large span of the early 19th Century, especially where street simplicity is desired. Now boarded up.

The condition of this structure is fast deteriorating by erosion of weather after abuse as a warehouse. The Arsenal management should probably be urged to find an active use of this structure as an excuse for restoring and maintaining it, since it is at least the site of and perhaps the building of an early Methodist meeting house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

N. R. FIELD SHEET

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wright, C. Milton, Our Har/dot Heritage p.212-13

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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

STATE:	COOE	COUNTY	COOE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **JEAN S. EWING**

ORGANIZATION: **MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST** DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER: **50 STATE CIRCLE**

CITY OR TOWN: **ANNAPOLIS** STATE: **MARYLAND** COOE: \_\_\_\_\_

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Bldgs #5715

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: *Buildings 715*  
 Gun powder *Methodist Meeting House*  
 AND/OR HISTORIC NAME: *Old Presbury House*  
*Bldgs. #5715*

*Correct*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *South of RR track where track runs E/W; Edgewood Arsenal*  
*N side of Magnolia Road between Alley Road & 900 St. intersections.*  
 CITY OR TOWN: *Edgewood Arsenal Grounds*  
 STATE: *Ind* CODE: COUNTY: *Harford* COOE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP			STATUS		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
District <input type="checkbox"/>	Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/>	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>				In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>					Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Bounded up</i>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: *US Army Munitions Command*  
 STREET AND NUMBER: *CO Edgewood Arsenal at SMVCAF*  
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: *Ind 21010* CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: COOE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local   
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: COOE:

*Mr AN Hart La*  
*Mr R Jek Moss*  
*Col Davies and CO #2*

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

NA-357

ORIN M. BULLOCK, JR., F. A. I. A., Architect

1432 JOHN STREET

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21217

TELEPHONE: (301) 523-7822

September 4, 1970

Mrs. Preston Parish  
c/o Maryland Historical Trust  
P. O. Box 1704  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Ann:

As nearly as I can make all this out, Edgewood Arsenal's Building number 4630 is Quiet Lodge or Presbury House, and Edgewood Arsenal's Building number 5715 is Gunpowder Neck Methodist Meeting House, affectionately known by some as Old Presbury Meeting House or Church, etc. I understand (tradition so far as I know) that the Presbury family gave it.

Map indications are right.

357  
Yours very truly,

James T. Wollon, Jr.

Enclosures

900 Mountain Road  
Joppa, Maryland 21085  
July 22, 1970

Mr. Orlando Ridout IV, Director  
The Maryland Historical Trust  
P. O. Box #1704  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Ridout;

The Harford County Committee, The Maryland Historical Trust has visited the Gunpowder Neck Methodist Meeting House on Edgewood Arsenal. An account of what we saw is enclosed along with a copy.

The committee feels the building represents an historical institution, even though it is apparently a later structure for that institution than the original. We believe it could be stablized or preserved with but little expenditure by the Federal Government. It may seem unimportant now and may serve no function however, it may in the future. We did not feel we should give the Federal officials license to raze it.

Our guide, Mr. Cresthull, says the officials at Edgewood should receive a copy of our report. Would you be kind enough to forward the enclosed copy along with a brief note? The note should be addressed to: Mr. James Lawrence  
Chief, Facilities Engineering Directorate  
% The Commanding Officer  
Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland 21010

The Harford County Committee appreciates the Federal Officials seeking our opinion and commend them for their interest.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. M. Carl Johnson*  
Mrs. M. Carl Johnson  
Chairman, Harford County Committee  
The Maryland Historical Trust

## GUNPOWDER NECK METHODIST MEETING HOUSE

On 21 June, 1970, members of the Harford County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust visited the Gunpowder Neck (or Old Presbury) Methodist Meeting House on the Edgewood Arsenal military reservation with archaeologist Paul Cresthull as our guide. The abandoned structure was reported to be in decaying condition, and Federal officials on post desired the opinion of a local historical agency or group.

C. Milton Wright has recorded the history of this structure in his book, Our Harford Heritage (A History of Harford County, Maryland), 1967. Mr. Wright states that the structure was erected in 1772, but all visible evidence on the building indicates a date of c. 1850.

The brick is laid in common bond with every 6th course being headers. The cornice consists of several corbeled courses of brick. Jack arches over all openings are unbonded. All window and door openings, except one of the latter, are boarded up. Brickwork near the ground is deteriorating; many soft bricks are in evidence, and the pointing is falling out; a few bricks at the corners, and under the doors, have fallen out. Oyster shell is evident in the mortar.

A door is centered between two windows on the south end (toward the road) and on both the east and west sides; two windows flank the former pulpit on the north end; a window in the south gable lit a former balcony, evidence of which can be seen inside, and a small arched recess, which may once have been stuccoed and contained founding and erection dates of this church, is high in the south gable.

Inside, walls are plastered directly on brick; trim (baseboard, now missing, and window and door trim partially existing) was applied directly to the brick, and the former pulpit platform opposite the south end door is outlined on the wall.

The ceiling is covered with bead-center-bead boarding, and follows the roof pitch a short way to the ridge, and then follows the level collar beams. A trap door does not exist to get to the attic.

Double doors, which are probably original, still exist in the east and west openings; together, a set of double doors contains eight panels - six square panels arranged above two vertical rectangular ones. Only fragments of hardware exist, and what remains is of various periods. A pair of cast iron butt hinges and part of a sliding bolt are probably original. The floor is of modern, rough sawn 2 x's installed by the

military to convert the building to a warehouse.

The former stair to the former gallery was in the southwest corner. The gallery floor sloped, and had very low headroom. The profile of the stair, the gallery floor and its north front rail can all be seen in the plaster.

The chimney in the north gable appears original; the flue is built into the thickness of the wall.

The area immediately surrounding the church is fairly remote; woods surround the building across a rather well mown grassy area to the north, east, and west, and the roadbed of a former railroad is nearby to the northwest. The closest buildings are up and down the road to the east and west, half a mile away or so.

We could see no evidence of a cemetery.

1. J. Edmund Bull
2. W. Paul Hicks II
3. Mrs. Carl Johnson
4. J. Harlan Livezey
5. James T. Wollon, Jr.

H

I

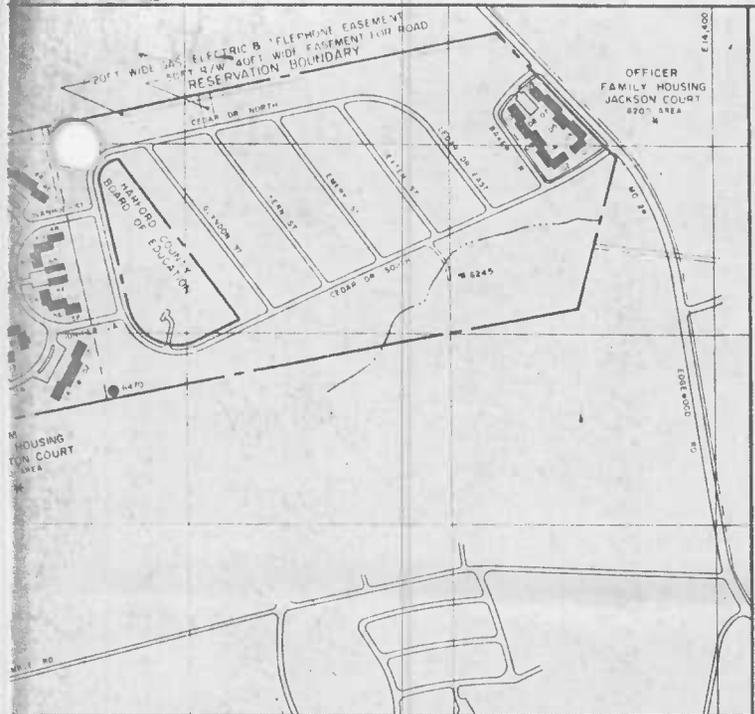
J

K

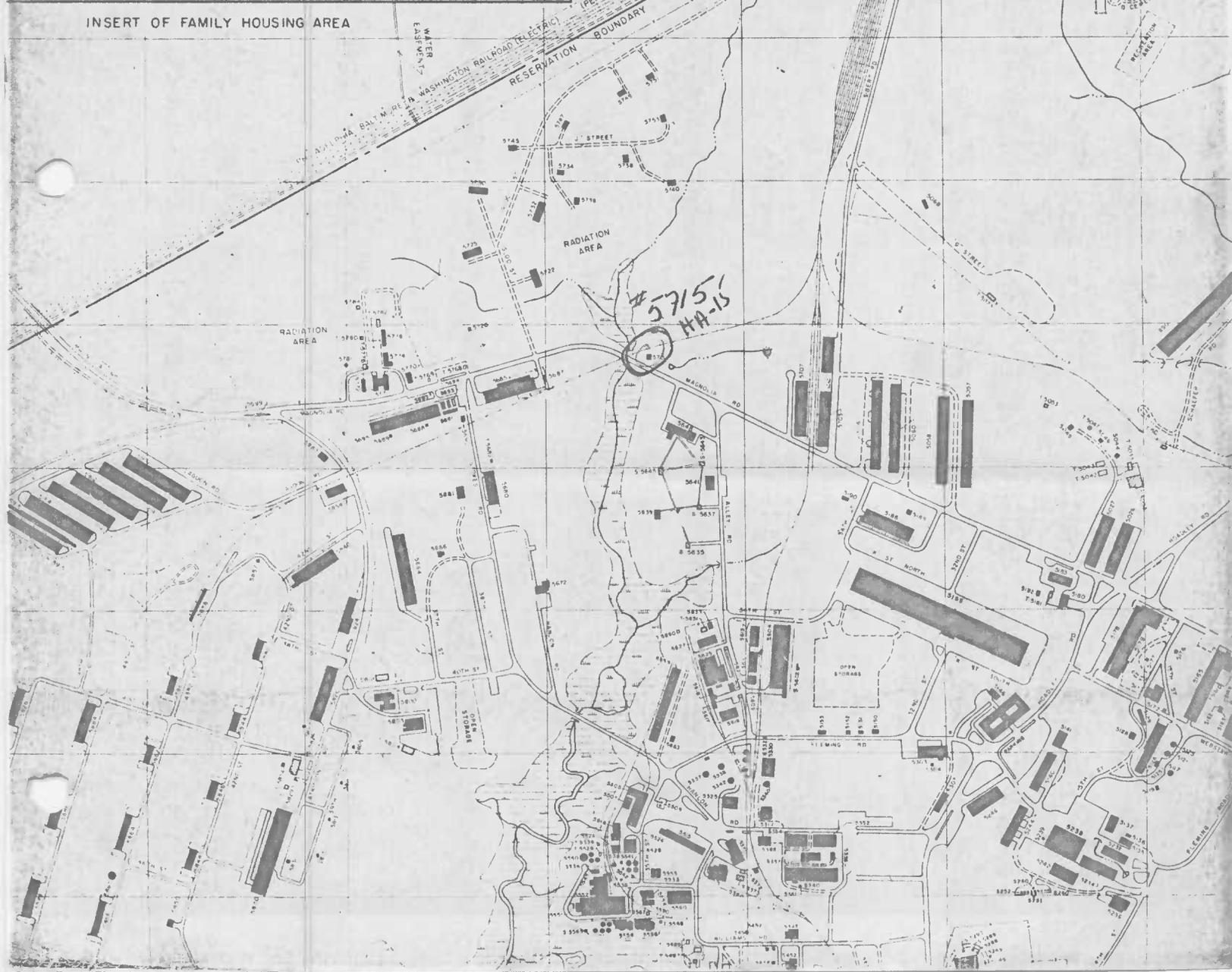
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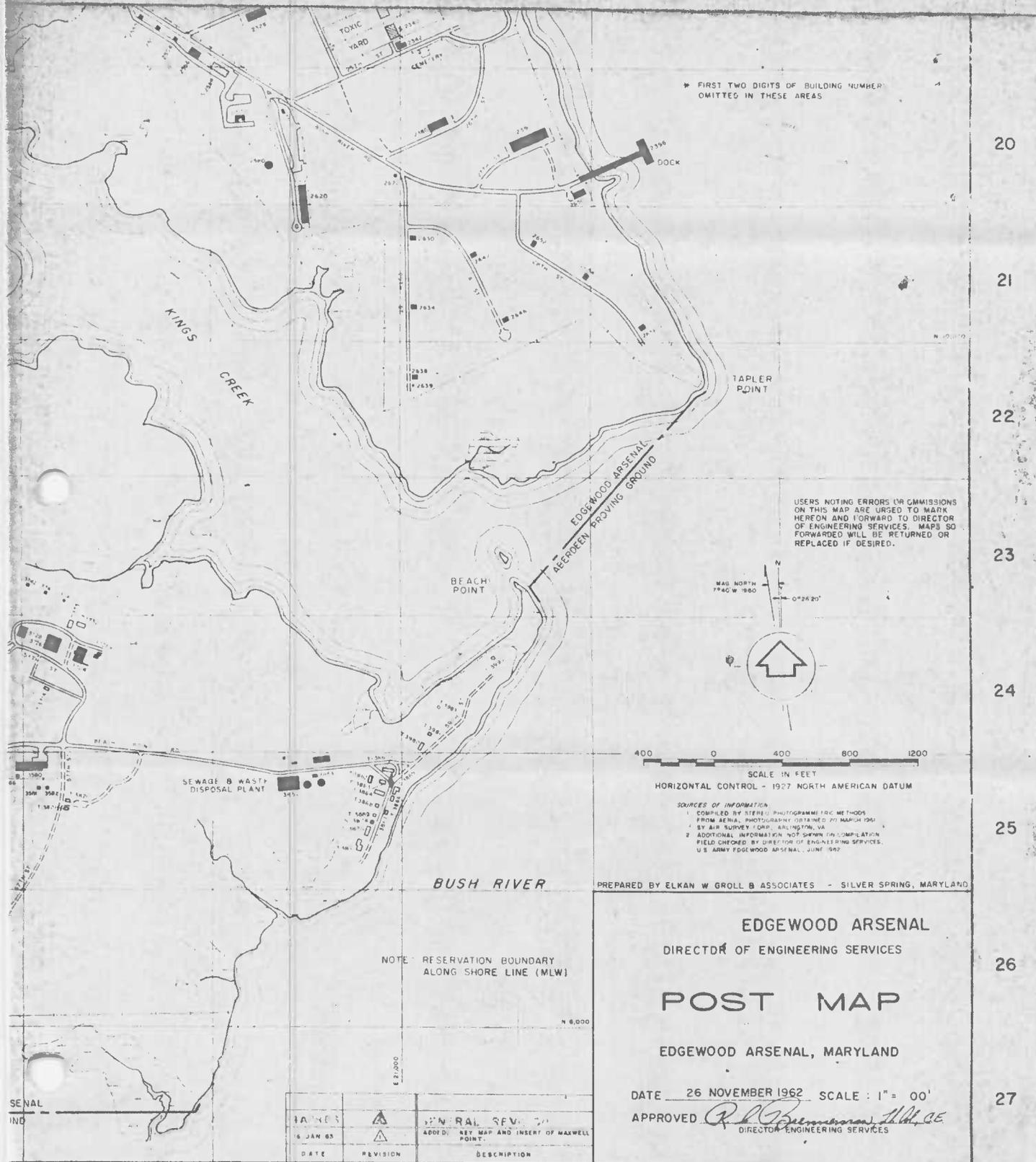
M

Gunpowder Meeting House HA 357  
Blg 5715



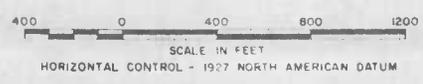
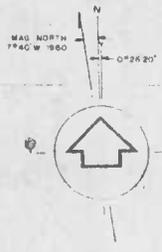
INSERT OF FAMILY HOUSING AREA





\* FIRST TWO DIGITS OF BUILDING NUMBER OMITTED IN THESE AREAS

USERS NOTING ERRORS OR OMISSIONS ON THIS MAP ARE URGED TO MARK HEREON AND FORWARD TO DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES. MAPS SO FORWARDED WILL BE RETURNED OR REPLACED IF DESIRED.



SOURCES OF INFORMATION  
1. COMPILED BY STEREO PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OBTAINED 27 MARCH 1961 BY AIR SURVEY CORP., ARLINGTON, VA.  
2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT SHOWN IN COMPILATION FIELD CHECKED BY DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES, U.S. ARMY EDGEWOOD ARSENAL, JUNE 1962.

PREPARED BY ELKAN W. GROLL & ASSOCIATES - SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

EDGEWOOD ARSENAL  
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

**POST MAP**

EDGEWOOD ARSENAL, MARYLAND

DATE 26 NOVEMBER 1962 SCALE: 1" = 60'

APPROVED *R. P. Beamesderfer, Jr.*  
DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING SERVICES

NOTE: RESERVATION BOUNDARY ALONG SHORE LINE (MLW)

DATE	REVISION	DESCRIPTION
16 JAN 63	1	GENERAL REVISION ADDED: SET MAP AND INSERT OF MAXWELL POINT.