

HA-385

c. 1850

John A. Silver House Site and Outbuildings; Vignon
East side of Darlington Road (MD 161) near Harmony Church
Road intersection
Darlington vicinity
Private

The John A. Silver House Site, with the remaining outbuildings, was the location of the largest of the Silver family houses which clustered around this complex. The estate was called "Vignon" and it stood near the center of the original Silver plantation. In the late 19th century, at least four large stone Silver mansions could be seen from Vignon and their surrounding farmlands formed the visual character of the Deer Creek valley near the Darlington road.

NOT TO BE RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION WITHOUT OWNER'S CONSENT

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC John A. Silver House Site and Outbuildings; Vignon
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side of Darlington Road (MD 161) near Harmony Church Road intersection

CITY, TOWN Darlington VICINITY OF 1st CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Maryland COUNTY Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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
	not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Howard N. Moxley, et al Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 3646 Harmony Church Road

CITY, TOWN Darlington VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland, 21034

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER 40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN Bel Air STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory

DATE c. 1970 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

52-285

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"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John A. Silver House Site consists of the unexposed foundations and root cellar of the main house, which burned in 1902, the large frame barn, two frame wagon sheds converted to other uses, a frame tenant house, and a second unoccupied, deteriorated frame tenant house. All except the deteriorated house are grouped on a hilltop site in the center of open fields south of Deer Creek, east of Darlington Road, and north of Wilkinson Road. The deteriorated house is about 300 yards west of the frame tenant house at the foot of the hill on which the site is located.

The main house consisted of a ten-room stone original section, probably built in the period 1840-1850, with a ten-room stone addition built about 1870. This would have made the house one of the largest in the county and certainly the largest of the Silver family houses. The addition is said to have been panelled throughout with walnut, according to Francis S. Silver, John A. Silver's grandson. (A Family Chronicle: William Silver of John and Edith Wistar Stokes, his Wife, 1968, p.6). No drawings or photographs of the house have been located. The stone foundations are just below the grass about 150 feet west of the barn near a fence line and an apple tree. About 50 feet north of the apple tree is the entrance to the root cellar, with stone steps leading down into the cellar, surrounded by stone blocks overgrown by weeds.

The barn is a large frame bank barn with two ramp entrances on the north elevation. The exterior is board and batten siding with several boards displaying arking holes. The sawn lumber was tied into rafts and piled with goods to be sent downriver from ports on the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania. The interior framing is hand-hewn mortise and tenon posts and beams. The slate roof has a louvred cupola with decorative eave trim.

Two wagon sheds are located about 100 feet northeast and east of the barn. These frame structures are also board and batten with slate roofs. The northern shed was later converted to a corncrib; the southern shed became a garage and shop.

The frame tenant house is located about 200 feet north of the barn. It consists of 1½ stories on a stone foundation with a two-story rear wing. A small garage adjoins the west side of the house. The main elevation faces south and has two dormers breaking the cornice of the roof. A central chimney also breaks the roof. A shed roofed porch shelters the three-bay main facade. The exterior is covered in aluminum siding and the roof is composition material. The current owner said the tenant house existed at the time of the 1902 fire and was later moved about 100 feet north to its present location.

The deteriorated tenant house is separated from the rest of the out-buildings at the bottom of the hillside to the west. It is a two-story

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Silver, Francis S. A Family Chronicle: William Silver of John and Edi. Wistar Stokes, his Wife, 1968 (Harford County Library, Bel Air branch)
 Silver, Benjamin S. Our Silver Heritage, 1976 (Historical Society of Harford County Archives)
 Martenet's Map of Harford County, 1878

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

Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning

DATE

November 1982

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

(301) 838-6000 Ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland 21014

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

#7 DESCRIPTION--Continued

frame building with a hipped slate roof. The board and batten siding shows evidence that a shed porch once stood on the main or south elevation over the three-bay central entry facade. The porch apparently collapsed and the debris remains on the ground in front of the house. The window frames are plain and the interior shows the wall structure to be plaster over lath. The house appears to date from the late 19th century.

N.P.R. FIELD SHEET

STATE: HA-385
 MAGI # 1303854535
 COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Moxley ⁱⁿ Silon Barn

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Lane enters east of Darlington Road (Md 161) about 0.2 mi south

CITY OR TOWN: Darlington of Harmony Church Road

STATE: Maryland CODE: COUNTY: Harford CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input checked="" 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"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Howard Moxley

STREET AND NUMBER: Harmony Church Road near Glenville

CITY OR TOWN: Darlington STATE: Maryland CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 40 S. MAIN

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

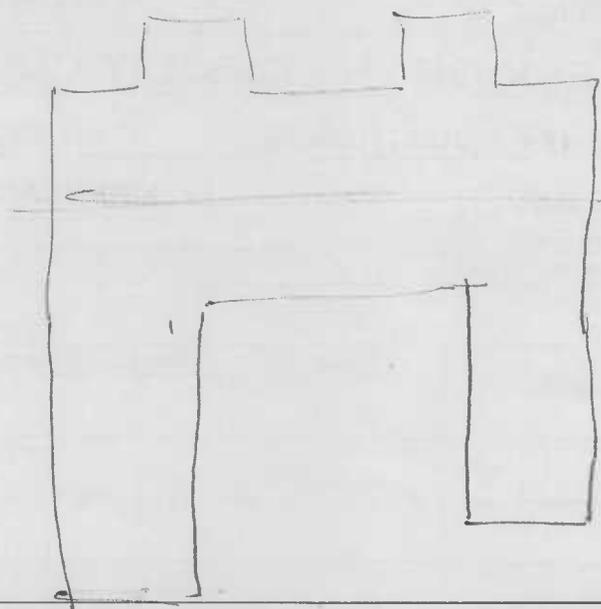
STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On stone foundations, frame barn,
 11 shops, with two barn bridges to
 admit hay wagons to ^{access to} the ~~two~~ six or more
 hay mows. The barnyard faces south,
 the mows are entered on the north, ^{the ridge line of} the mow section runs
 east-west.
 Extra storage space for farm wagons in
 the entries to the mows. ~~at the~~
 Stalls below for large herd of cattle
 with bull pens and calf pens. Dovecote
 on the roof. Lowwood bays for utilitarian mows.



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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

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

This large barn housed the dairy of William Silva's farm (see HA 385) long after the owner moved away his farmer kept the place going. (Recent owners have lived in a much smaller frame house.)
 Present owner, Howard Moxley, lives on adjacent farm.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(This section is currently blank, containing only a diagonal line.)

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	CODE

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** CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

1303854535 HA

STATE: HA-385	
MAGI # 1303854535	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Moxley
~~Dancker~~ - abandoned house

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Line enters east of Darlington Road (Md 161) about 0.2 mi

CITY OR TOWN: Darlington south of Harmony Church Rd

STATE: Maryland CODE: 21034 COUNTY: Harford CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Abandoned house</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: ~~Dillon & Dancker~~ Howard Moxley

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~Ex Road~~ Harmony Church Road

CITY OR TOWN: Darlington STATE: Maryland CODE: 21034

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER: HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 40 S. MAIN

CITY OR TOWN: BEL AIR STATE: MARYLAND CODE: 21014

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: ENTRY NUMBER DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Deteriorated</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One) Altered <input type="checkbox"/> <u>vandalized</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>destroyed</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			(Check One) Moved <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Original Site</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Frame house with hip roof, two stories, two bays by ~~one~~. One chimney rises from an inside wall. Board and batten, all traces of paint are worn off, windows and doors missing.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CLERK OF THE COURT
 HANFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONER
 BEL AIR
 MARYLAND



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

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

Abandoned house with no love, this tenant farmer house on the William Silver Farm (HA 384) was allowed to deteriorate as farm help migrate to the city despite the growing need ^{since} for low-cost housing as the Country becomes suburbanized.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORINATES OEPINING 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	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	COOE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

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** CODE: _____

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

railroad cars for shipment to market. The country was in a depression at that time --

Just prior to the Spanish-American War -- and white pine was selling for \$12.00 per 1,000 feet and hemlock for only \$6.00. Gilpin Wilson was manager of the Mill and Father's boss, and (I understand) gave Father who had lost all his money a very 'hard' time. No doubt this was largely the reason for Father's pulling out shortly after my birth and returning to take over and run 'Vignon', the large farm inherited from his father. This was possible, for by this time, Cousin Will Bayless had paid off Father's endorsement debts incurred in the Paper Mill failure."

This farm had been operated by Albert P. Silver, son of Jeremiah. Record of the detailed day to day operations are recorded in Albert's diaries, kept during this period. The most important entries can be found in Chapter 6, Section 3, Sub-section 7.

Francis Silver's recollections of this farm are quoted below: "The farm was fertile, the barn was tremendous, four - 100 ton mows for hay and one for straw. Father was a splendid farmer and crops were good. I was told that he netted over \$1,000 each year on his wheat and cattle alone which would be the equivalent of \$10,000 at today's values.

The farm had a splendid well-watered, blue-grass meadow where the cattle were grazed in spring and summer and a large double silo - one of the earliest to be built in Harford County - from which they were fed ensilage in winter.

There were no tractors in those days, all work being done with horses, mules or oxen, and Father kept the best. The only 'power' equipment was the coal-fired steam-driven 'traction engines' with huge iron wheels which each year came by, drawing its thrashing machine behind it to thrash our wheat and oats which were cut with a McCormick 'Reaper and binder' and hauled into the barn in the string-tied 'sheaves'. In those days, unlike Father, many farmers, not having such a good barn, would stack their grain in the field where, in wet years, it would often 'sprout' and so lose quality and value.

Oxen were used extensively in those days when labor was but \$18.00 per month. Father had an excellent 'yoke' driven by a faithful old colored man long employed on the farm. Father was young and wanted 'action' and once chided Old Jim to 'get a move on those oxen' to which Old Jim replied; 'Now Mr. Willie, we'll get there little by degrees'; at which Father laughed and never again tried to speed the deliberate pace of team or driver.

We lived happily at 'Vignon' until June of 1902. Father farmed both our place and also 'Deerdale' where Aunt and Uncle Easter, then quite elderly, still lived.

The spring of 1902 had come and all hands were busy. Father with his crops and Mother with the housekeeping and with us children (Billy and me). Father had driven over to 'Deerdale' two and one-half miles away. Mother was in the kitchen preserving strawberries and Rose, the colored girl from Baltimore, was 'opening up' the front parlors which had been closed off all winter and removing the old tinder-dry decorations. Foolishly, and against Mother's orders, she piled them in the large never-used parlor fireplace and set them afire. They burned with a tremendous roar setting the third floor attic afire -- thru an open 'pipe hole' -- and the tinder-dry shingle roof. Slate to re-roof this wing which Father had obtained for use after harvest that summer, unfortunately was not in place to protect the house.

I was playing in the kitchen, and Billy had been bathed and put to bed when Rose came out of the parlor to tell Mother, 'Miss Silver, I think the chimney on fire!' At that Mother ran out in the yard to see and, sure enough, sparks were roaring out of the top of the chimney and spots on the roof had kindled. Mother then ran out on the hill in front of the house and called 'Fire! Fire!' in her high clear voice. We were told later that her call had been heard at John Price's (now Iddings) one and one-half miles distant across the creek. In those days there were neither telephones or a fire company and only neighbors to be summoned in such an emergency.

The house, as I have said, had twenty rooms. It was built of stone and even the partitions were stone walls. The only water used in the house was pumped into a tank in the attic by a 'ram' at a spring down in the South Meadow.

Our Silver Heritage

B. S. Silver 1976

Word spread fast and people came from far and near. Father was at Uncle Easter's but the neighbors worked with a will forming a bucket brigade and carrying out furniture and any thing movable. That the walls were thick and well built is attested by the fact that the huge house took six hours to burn. The men would empty one room and close the heavy walnut door, then move to the next and next and so it went.

The kitchen, too, with its groceries, had been emptied and to confound confusion, Billy and I got into the strawberry preserves and then into the cocoa and the resulting 'mess' was spectacular!

The loss, other than furnishings most of which were saved, was total, the insurance far from adequate and we were without a home. We spent that night and sometime thereafter with Cousin Etta and Cousin Harry Silver (now Miss Jane Dewey's) while Father 'cleaned up' the mess and prepared to move the family to 'Meadow Farm' four miles away above Darlington where we were to live until the fall of 1905."

In September 1905 the family moved to Aberdeen.

In 1903 William Silver entered into the canning business with Mr. Wright. Francis Silver describes this business venture as follows: "In 1905 he 'bought out' Steckel and Hewitt to form Strasbaugh-Silver & Company, a partnership. In 1911 he bought out Strasbaugh to form the canned goods brokerage firm of William Silver & Company which he incorporated and ran until the tremendous 'over-packs' of 1925.

There were many 'packs' by his canner customers that he had helped finance or had endorsed at Baltimore or Philadelphia banks and the huge 1925 surplus 'broke the markets' and caused his financial failure in 1927, after a futile effort in both 1926 and 1927 to salvage the business through a 'Bankers' Committee'.

During these twenty-five odd years, Father's influence and impact on the canned food industry was spectacular. In 1908, at the National Convention in Buffalo, he helped form the National Cannery Association with headquarters in Washington, D. C., with Frank E. Gorrell, his personal friend, formerly of Bel Air, as its first Executive Secretary. The Association was to become an organization of not only national but indeed world-wide reputation and influence.

In 1914, I believe it was, Father for The National Food Brokers Association, and Mr. Simms of Austin Nichols, New York, representing the Wholesale Grocers, established arbitration as the accepted method of settling Canner/Buyer disputes. This was a great contribution. Father Silver was a member of the important Industry Price Committee during World War I and thereafter Chairman of the National Cannery Cost Accounting Committee, of which the Treasurer of The California Packing Corporation (Del Monte) and the Controller of the New York Cannery and Charles McCarthy, foremost canner of Ohio, were members.

Father was also Chairman of the National Tomato Section and Chairman of the National Tomato Grade Committee of this great food association. In 1911 he built the cannery at Colora to pack Fancy Cream-style Corn (Country Gentlemen) and imported experts from Maine (Fritz Tyler of Bethel) to supervise the packing. This employment of specialists and packing of fancy products was a policy he adhered to at subsequent corn factories at Georgetown in South Cecil County and at Henderson and Trappe, Maryland.

After World War I in 1921 (I believe) he reorganized the Tri-State Packers' Association, formed of all canners of Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey, and employed Frank She as first Executive Secretary with Easton as headquarters, and became the first President of this revitalized organization.

In 1923 he introduced Federal Grading and Federal Warehousing as a more reliable method of financing packs for sale 'as wanted', and commenced doing a large volume of financing his own and his Commission Packers' output through the Philadelphia Warehousing Company. This was increasingly necessary as less and less 'futures' were sold and small local banks were unable to extend the large credits needed to carry the large proportions of the various packs until consumer required - a function formerly performed by the great Wholesale Grocers but progressively abandoned by them to compete with fast-growing chains who pur-

JOHN A. SILVER HOUSE (SITE)

HA-385

CHAIN OF TITLE (PARTIAL)

486/499	7 August 1957	Grantor: Zero, Inc. Grantee: Howard N. & Dolores W. Moxley Acreage: 160
486/497	7 August 1957	Grantor: Howard N. & Dolores W. Moxley Grantee: Zero, Inc. Acreage: 160
314/535	3 May 1948	Grantor: Edith W. S. Silver, widow Grantee: Howard N. Moxley Acreage: 162 less 2.07 A. sold to William Dubree 13 November 1946 (301/101) " . . . devised to Edith W. S. Silver by the last will and testament of William Silver (see Will Book AJG 19/209)." (William Silver, or William Silver of John, was the only son of John A. Silver.)

□
Deteriorated
Tenant House

John A. Silver House Site

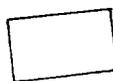
HA-385

Not to scale

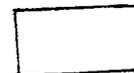
Janet Davis, November 1982



Tenant House



Wagon Sheds

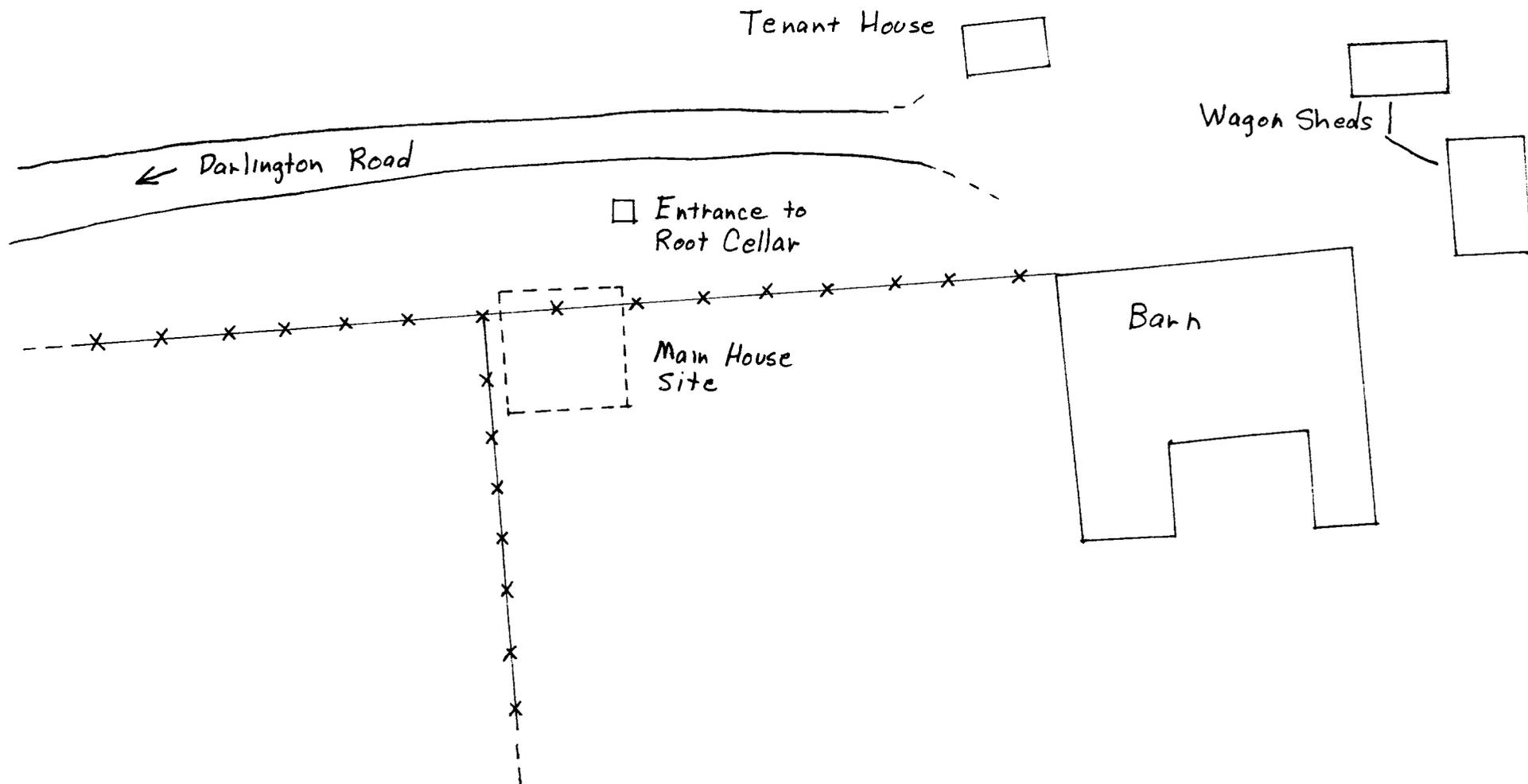


← Darlington Road

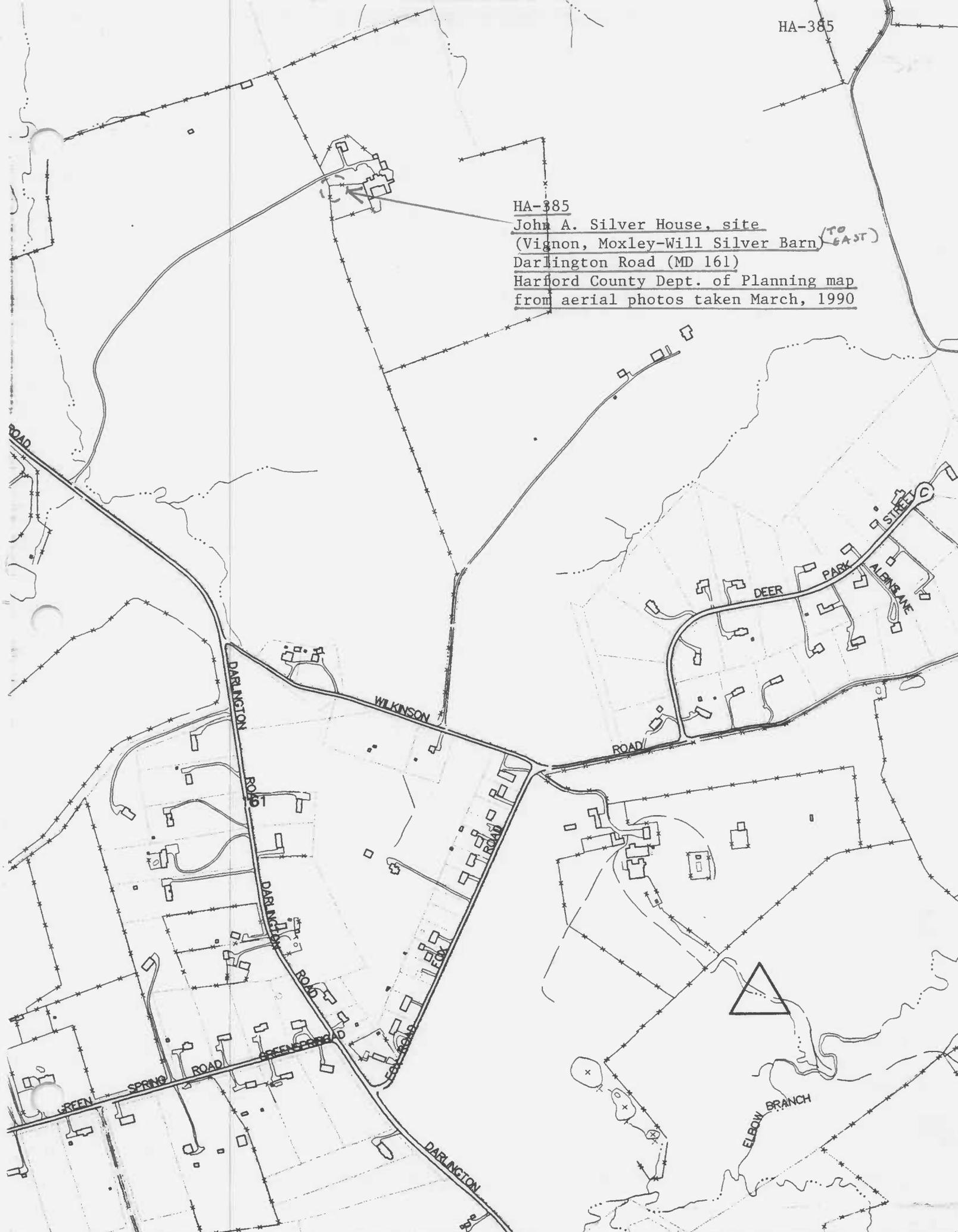
□ Entrance to
Root Cellar

Main House
Site

Barn



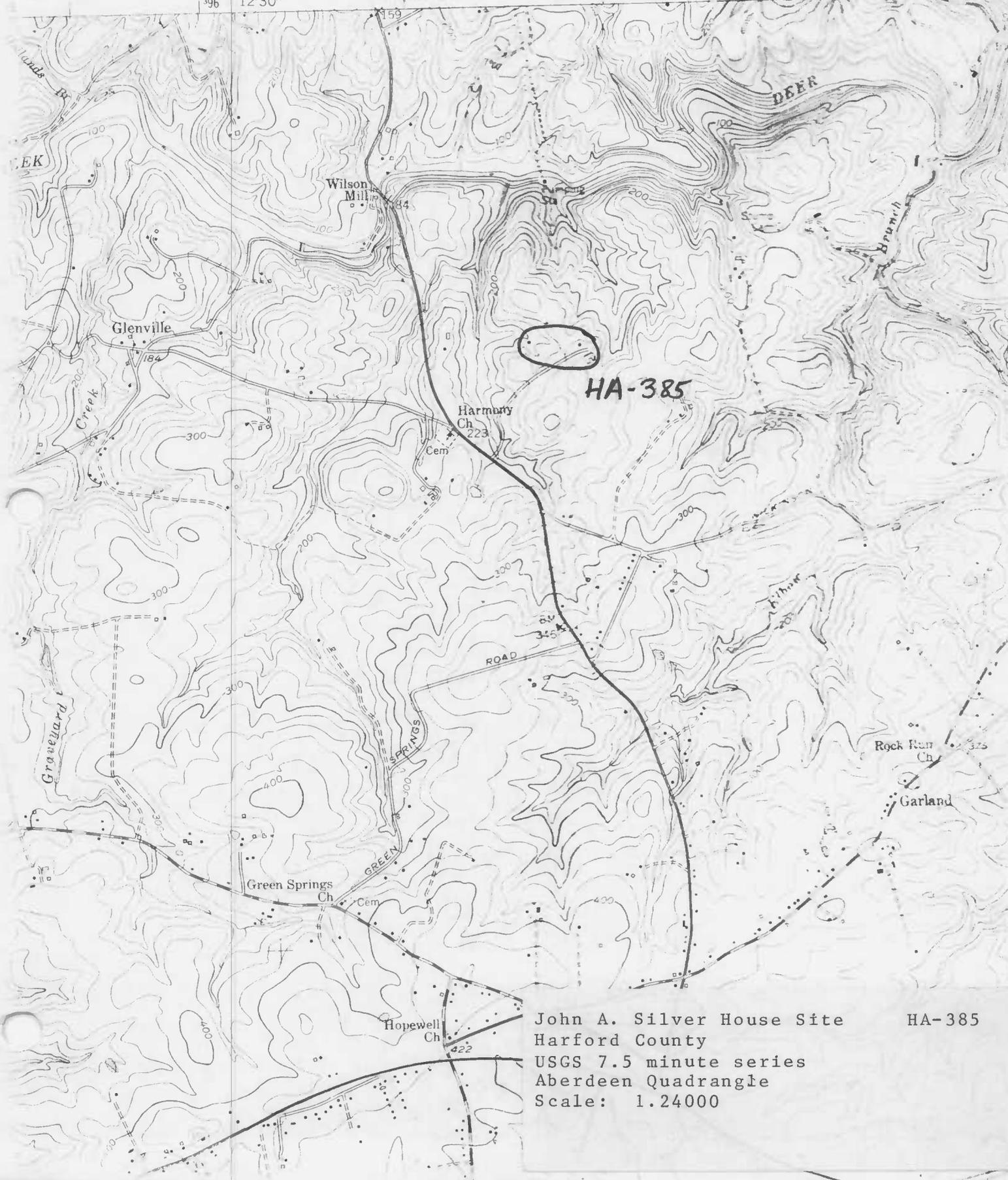
HA-385
John A. Silver House, site
(Vignon, Moxley-Will Silver Barn) ^(TO EAST)
Darlington Road (MD 161)
Harford County Dept. of Planning map
from aerial photos taken March, 1990





J.A. Silver (Res)

HA-385
John A. Silver House Site
Martenet's Map of
Harford County, 1878



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John A. Silver House Site HA-385
Harford County
USGS 7.5 minute series
Aberdeen Quadrangle
Scale: 1.24000



John A. Silver House Site

HA-385

Harford County

Photo: Janet Davis

November 1982

Barn, North elevation



John A. Silver House Site
Harford County
Photo: Janet Davis
October 1982
Tenant House, South elevation

HA-385



John A. Silver House Site HA-385
Harford County Photo: Janet Davis
October 1982
View, south across site;
entrance to root cellar at left



John A. Silver House Site HA-385
Harford County
Photo: Janet Davis
November 1982
Entrance to root cellar



John A. Silver House Site HA-385

Harford County

Photo: Janet Davis

November 1982

View west from site (L to R) Deer Creek
Harmony Church, Silvertown, B. Silver
House, William F. Silver House

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