

## SUMMARY

HA-920

Bowman - Taylor House  
Level, Maryland

This is one of maybe twelve buildings, most of them recordable, that help to define the crossroads village of Level, known earlier as Hopewell X-roads. It is a complex structure which has evolved in at least five stages. It is and has been a private dwelling although oral history supported by some physical evidence suggests that it was at least for a time in the late 19th century an inn.

Its structural significance includes not only 18th century fabric in its oldest part but exposed post-and-beam framing in its early additions.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bowman-Taylor House  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Level Crossroads

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Isabelle Stearn

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Level

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 242

Folio #: 403

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air, Maryland 21014

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

HA-920

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

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This building is in the north side of Level Road facing the crossroads. In its final form it is a large two story 1-plan dwelling that is Victorian in appearance. Its 7-bay main block has a full porch with bracketed posts etc. and its multiple gabled roofs have exposed rafters. The north wing is 4 bays deep plus it has a shed roofed lean-to. Most of the windows are 6/6 although fashionable 2/2 are seen in the porch area.

These Victorian elements unify the building however examination shows it has many periods. The evolution of this structure includes at least five additions. What is perceived to be the earliest part is the single room on the east end that is now a kitchen. It contains an almost massive chimney with a fireplace which had an opening 42 1/2" X 47" it has what appears to be an early chimney piece with an architrave surround and two simple trusses beneath the shelf which is 65" long and 8 1/2" wide (see photos).

Examination of the roof over this section revealed tree pole rafters and cut nails suggesting a roof raising later than the plan and mantle suggest but prior to the other portions of the roof.

Section B is interesting because of its exposed plates in the first floor room. Its attic contains a mixture of mechanically sawn and hewn members and a very clear separation between this section and "C" including a fragment of the original west gable. Section B provided an additional room downstairs while the upstairs is laid off with a long lengthwise hall running along the south wall with several small individual rooms leading off of it. This is the same arrangement observed in the Cocky Tavern on the Old Falls Turnpike in Baltimore County (BA- ).

Section C predates the 2-plan and a now defunct window in its north west cupboard proves it. This same area allows one to see the rough hewn corner post and whitewashed clapboards with cut nails.

Section C added two more rooms, one up and one down. Although modern panelling covers the corner posts and plates their outline can be clearly seen in both the upper and lower levels of section C. The post visible in the north east corner of the first floor is clearly a rough hewn piece. Mrs. Stearn recalls seeing the upper posts prior to renovation and that they were the same. In the lower room these posts are tapered by 3 1/4" wide at the base and 2 3/4" at the top. The roof construction (mech. sawn materials with cut nails) is the same as section B possibly suggesting a replacement roof incorporating both sections. There is a stove flue in the west gable end of section C, there is no basement and no known evidence of an earlier chimney.

Sections D and E were added in this century during the ownership of Mrs. Stearn's parents Charles and Helen Taylor. Section D was a kitchen that is still made distinctive by 3" wide butt joined horizontal wainscot below chair rail level. It is now a dining room with east being a more recent kitchen addition.

(See Description continuation sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

HA-920

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is one of maybe twelve buildings, most of them recordable, that help to define the crossroads village of Level, known earlier as Hopewell X-roads. It is a complex structure which has evolved in at least five stages. It is and has been a private dwelling although oral history supported by some physical evidence suggests that it was at least for a time in the late 19th century an inn.

Its structural significance includes not only 18th century fabric in its oldest part but exposed post-and-beam framing in its early additions.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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

Wayne L. Nield II, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning

DATE

April, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

(301) 838-6000 ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

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

Like others encountered in Level Mrs. Harold Stearn is someone with a sense of place and time. Her snapshot albums are full of the people and events of this community and like the fragments of buildings that appear so often in those photographs the village of Level itself is a backdrop to the events of human lives. Although she is only in her fifties Mrs. Stearn has been watching Level all of that time, listening to its citizens, participating in its changes and developing a genuine appreciation for its specialness. Her albums and memories include the following topics:

1. About ten years ago her mother, Mrs. Chas. A. Taylor was interviewed by The Record about the June 5, 1851 newspaper found in the walls of this house.
2. Photographs and memories of Asa A. Taylor and Sarah Levena Taylor her grandparents. They lived in the 18th century log house now owned by Harkins HA-1085. They came there in the early 1920's after losing their farm to the A.P.G. That farm was called "Castle Crab".
3. Photographs of the barn being moved from the firehouse site.
4. Photographs of the Level store including one of its owner holding two of the biggest rockfish you can imagine.
5. A photograph of the no longer extant outbuilding behind the Taylor home which prompts the recollection of "Chic the Tomato Pic".

It is a frame and weatherboard building with a longitudinal plan and an unusually placed door. It is a standard size 2-1/2' X 6' door left (west) of center. One would guess this to be a carriage house if it had a larger door. According to Mrs. Stearn it was a storage building with a loft above where Chic the Tomato Pic stayed.

No one knew where Chic came from or where he went most of the year but in Summer, when the tomatoes were "in", he would arrive. He picked tomatoes and he ate them along with the bread that was given him. The picker slept in the loft of this outbuilding and when the tomatoes were gone, so was Chic.

Mrs. Stearn remembers seeing a photograph of him somewhere.

## TITLE SEARCH

HA - 921 - Same as HA - 920

242/403	Nov. 11, 1936	Grantor: Jon. Young of the First National Bank of Havre de Grace Grantee: Annie M. Stearn - (Widow of Leonard W. Stearn) Sum: \$1,875. Acreage: 2 Acres
150/343	Jan. 17, 1916	Grantor: George A. Hughes Grantee: L. Stearn Acreage: 2 Acres
147/139	Sept. 16, 1914	Grantor: Oliver A. Sheridan et al Grantee: G. Hughes Acreage: 2 Acres
117/88	Nov. 12, 1904	Grantor: Rich. Sheridan et al heirs of Jon. Sheridan Grantee: Luther Sheridan Acreage: 2 Acres
109/61	Feb. 21, 1903	Grantor: Rachel Rogers & husband Grantee: Jm. Sheridan Acreage: 2 Acres
62/529	Feb. 4, 1888	Grantor: A. Preston Gilbert and Albert Bowman Grantee: Rachel L. Rogers
Equity Case #3751	1888	Jas. H. Bowman vs. Henry C. Bowman Settlement of Estate of Henry Bowman

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: *Charles Taylor log house*

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: *North east corner of Old Level Road & Rock Run Rd.*

CITY OR TOWN: *Level*

STATE: *Maryland*      CODE:      COUNTY: *HARFORD*      CODE:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Park</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Private Residence</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>land 2 Rental units</i>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: *Mrs Charles Taylor*

STREET AND NUMBER: *Level - Hare de Grace RFD*

CITY OR TOWN: *Maryland*      STATE: *21078*      CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER: *HARFORD COUNTY*

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

ACREAGE 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:

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)			
	Much Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Formerly an inn, this long, L shaped building is of log and frame, with asphalt shingles covering clapboard.

Facing south, ~~the west wall runs north~~  
~~along the west wall.~~ 1 bay by 2,  
 a wing, 2 bays by 2, runs north  
 along the west wall. 4 windows upstairs  
 are ~~widely spaced~~ (and 3 out of 4 are  
 quite small,) lighted to one to thruout.

A one-story porch shelters the three  
 doors that face south, leading to  
 separate apartments, lending unity to  
 a building that may have been built  
 in 4 stages.

SIGNIFICANCE				
<b>PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>				
Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)</b>				
<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>				
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/Phi- losophy <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/Humon- itarion <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
<u>Commerce</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Transportation</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>			
Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)</b>				
<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Traditionally, this was an inn along the road from Baltimore to Philadelphia that crossed the Susquehanna at Rock Run.</p>				

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 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 Turip

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

2424 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

MD

21404

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 \_\_\_\_\_

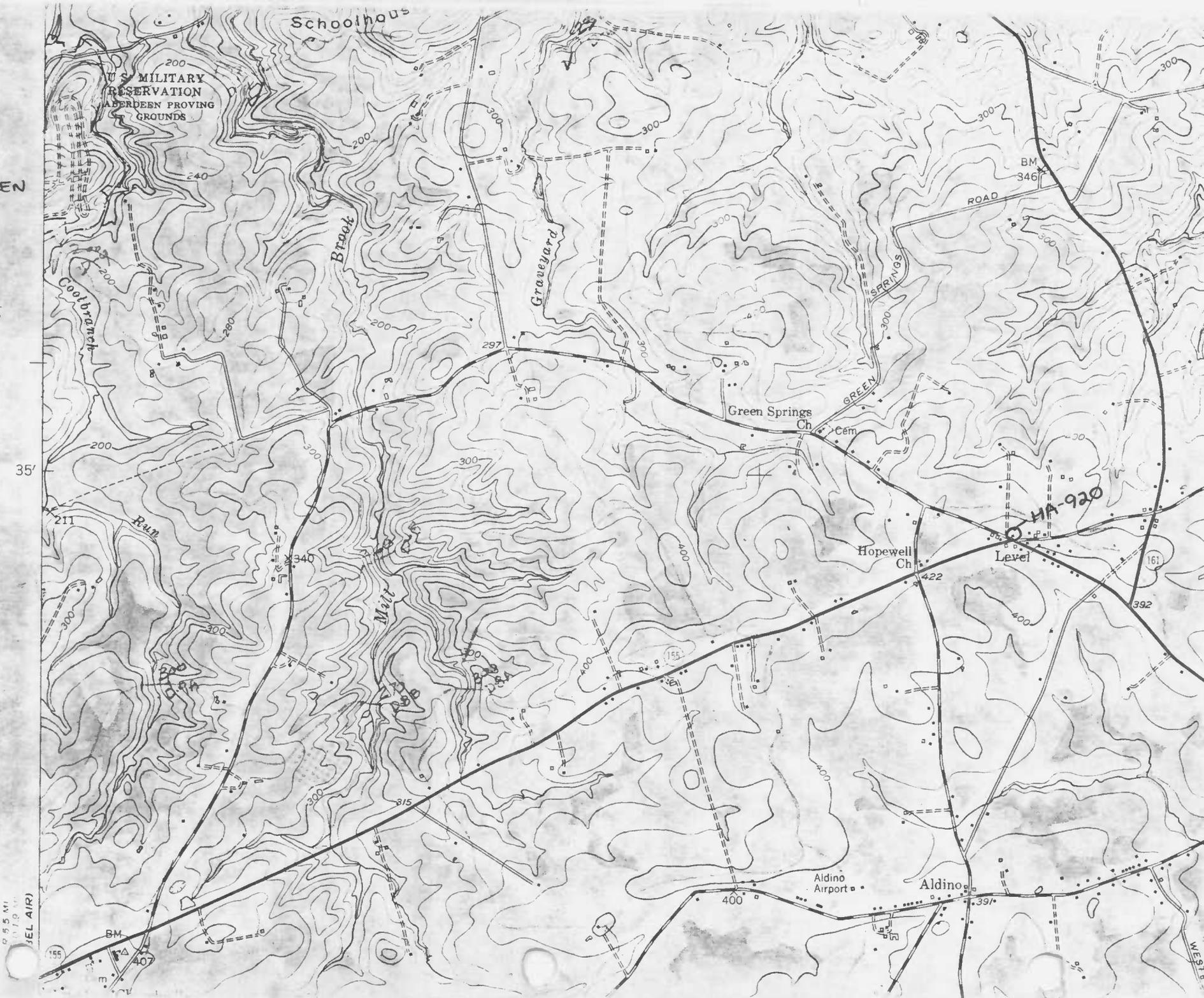




HA-920  
Charles Taylor Log House (Bowman-Taylor House)  
Level Village and Old Level Roads  
Harford County Department of Planning map  
from aerial photos taken  
March, 1990

# Historic Area Maryland

ABERDEEN  
MD  
QUAD,  
7.5 Min  
Series



0.55 MI  
SCALE  
(SEE AIR)



HA-920

Bowman-Taylor House  
Level, Md.

Wayne L. Nield II 8/80  
Southwest



HA-920

Bowman-Taylor House  
Level, Md.

Northeast

Wayne L. Nield II 8/80