

HA-1001

Clark-Grier House
3246 Grier Nursery Road
Cherry Hill vicinity
Private

1859-61

The Clark-Grier House is significant in local architecture as a rare example of mid-19th century brickmasonry in the Deer Creek valley, an area where stone and frame structures predominated. The house is also significant in local history for its association with the Grier family, the founders in the early 20th century of a nursery which is still in operation and from which the main north-south road crossing Deer Creek at this point takes its name.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Clark-Grier House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
3246 Grier Nursery Road

CITY, TOWN
Cherry Hill

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd

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 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	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
George Grier

Telephone #: 848-3431

STREET & NUMBER
2307 Uniontown Road

CITY, TOWN
Westminster

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
MD, 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 635
Folio #: 152

STREET & NUMBER
20 West Courtland Street

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

STATE
MD

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

NA-1001

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

The Clark-Grier House is an 1861 two-story brick house with a smaller two-story service wing which is located on the west side of Grier Nursery Road just south of Deer Creek, near Cherry Hill, Harford County, Maryland. The main elevation faces east.

The principal facade of the main section has five bays with a center entrance and a shed porch over the three central bays. The porch has chamfered square posts and a concrete deck. The doorway has rectangular transom and sidelights. The window and door openings have flat brick arches and stone sills. The windows are 6/6. The exterior walls are laid in 7-course American bond. The slate gable roof is broken by prominent interior chimney stacks at each gable end. The two-bay south elevation has an inset datestone near the gable peak which is inscribed "B.J. Clark 1861". The eaves are extended and have exposed rafter ends. The wood cornice returns on the gable ends. This cornice is simple, consisting of a crown molding and corona over the deep soffit with the exposed rafter ends here visually functioning as block modillions. The cornice and prominent chimney stacks add greatly to the character of the house, giving a more sophisticated appearance than that usually found in rural houses of the mid-19th century. The west or rear elevation of the main section has three bays with an additional window on the first floor between the center entry and the outer bay. Three iron hooks protrude from the brick below the second floor center window, indicating a hood or porch roof was probably originally attached there.

The smaller wing adjoins the main section on the north gable end. This was the original kitchen and slave quarters. An enclosed stair formerly led from the kitchen to the second floor which had no communications with the second floor of the main section. Shed porches with standing seam metal or corrugated metal roofs shade both the east and west elevations of the wing. The porches have plain square posts and balustrades. The basement is exposed on the north and east sides and a series of windows, probably recent additions, encloses this area. A third chimney stack is located on the north end of the wing. The interior has much original woodwork intact, but has been divided into two separate rental units. The surveyor was only able to examine the apartment in the service wing.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
100-1499	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1859-61 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James A. Grier, builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clark-Grier House is significant in local architecture as a rare example of mid-19th century brickmasonry in an area where stone and frame structures predominated. The house is also significant in local history for its association with the Grier family, the founders in the early 20th century of a nursery which is still in operation and from which the main north-south road crossing Deer Creek at this point takes its name.

BACKGROUND AND SUPPORT

The house was built from 1859 to 1861 for Barnet J. Clark, a Harford County commissioner, farmer, and surveyor. Clark had an earlier log house and a saw mill on the property, according to the 1858 and 1878 maps. The bridge at the Deer Creek crossing of the present Grier Nursery Road was known as Clark's Bridge. It was replaced by the present concrete and steel bridge in 1955.

James Alexander Grier, the builder of the house, was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania on February 26, 1817. He was apprenticed to a Philadelphia carpenter at the age of 16 for a three-year period. After finishing his apprenticeship and working an additional two years in Philadelphia, Grier moved to Baltimore County, settling near Towson, and worked as a carpenter there for several years. Later he moved to Washington, where he lived for 25 years, including the period of the Civil War. He was the superintendent of the John Lord Construction Company. During the period Grier lived in Washington, he worked on Robert E. Lee's Arlington mansion, according to family information.

Having married Mary Jane Thomas of Harford County, Grier retained family ties to this area, perhaps leading to his commission to build Barnet Clark's house in 1859. The bricks were made on the farm and slave labor was used for much of the work. The Kellog Brothers of Rocks did the brickmasonry and Grier himself did the carpentry work. The main staircase was built by James Polk Martin of New York. The soapstone hearths came from a quarry on the north bank of Deer Creek.

In 1894, James Grier's son John P. Grier bought the brick house from the son of Barnet Clark and James moved to Harford

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Article on George Grier, Harford Record/Democrat, June 15, 1983
Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties,
Chapman Publishing Co., Chicago, 1897.
Notes compiled by Elwood T. Grier, ca. 1956. (Historical Society
of Harford County Archives)

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	
Janet Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning	May 1984
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
45 So. Main St.	(301) 838-6000, ext. 207
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Bel Air	MD 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

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Cont.)

County to live with his son's family in the house he had built 33 years earlier.

In 1908, Elwood Grier, grandson of James Grier, started a nursery on the farm and did much of the private landscaping in Havre de Grace as well as the grounds of the Bayou Hotel (HA-1127) and U.S. Senator Millard Tydings' estate Oakington (HA-9) near Havre de Grace. The Perry Point Veterans Administration Medical Center in Cecil County was also landscaped by the Grier Nursery. The nursery is now located on the north bank of Deer Creek just east of Grier Nursery Road and is owned by the brother of George Grier, the current owner of the Clark-Grier House.

CLARK-GRIER HOUSE

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CHAIN OF TITLE (PARTIAL)

635/152
22 August 1963

Grantor: Ethel A. Grier, widow, also known as
G. Ethel Grier
Grantee: George A. and Betty J. Grier
Acreage: 130; ". . . subject to the right of
. . . Ethel A. Grier to occupy the
brick dwelling thereon for and during
her natural life"

410/114
13 February 1954

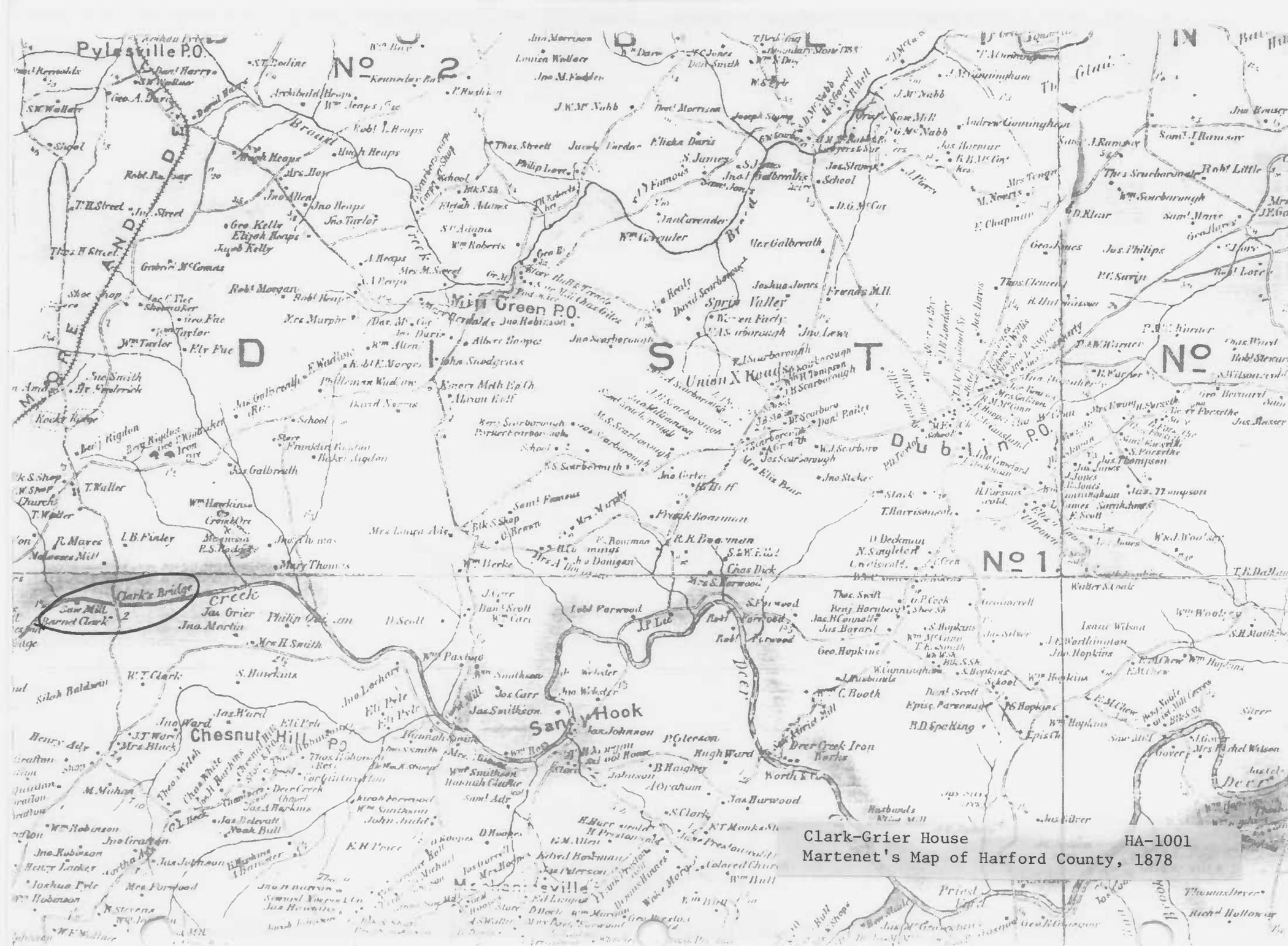
Grantor: Anne Louise O'Neill, unmarried
Grantee: Elwood T. and Ethel A. Grier
Acreage: 55, on the east side of Grier Nursery Rd.

198/29
8 March 1926

Grantor: John P. Grier, widower
Grantee: Elwood T. and G. Ethel Grier
Acreage: 135

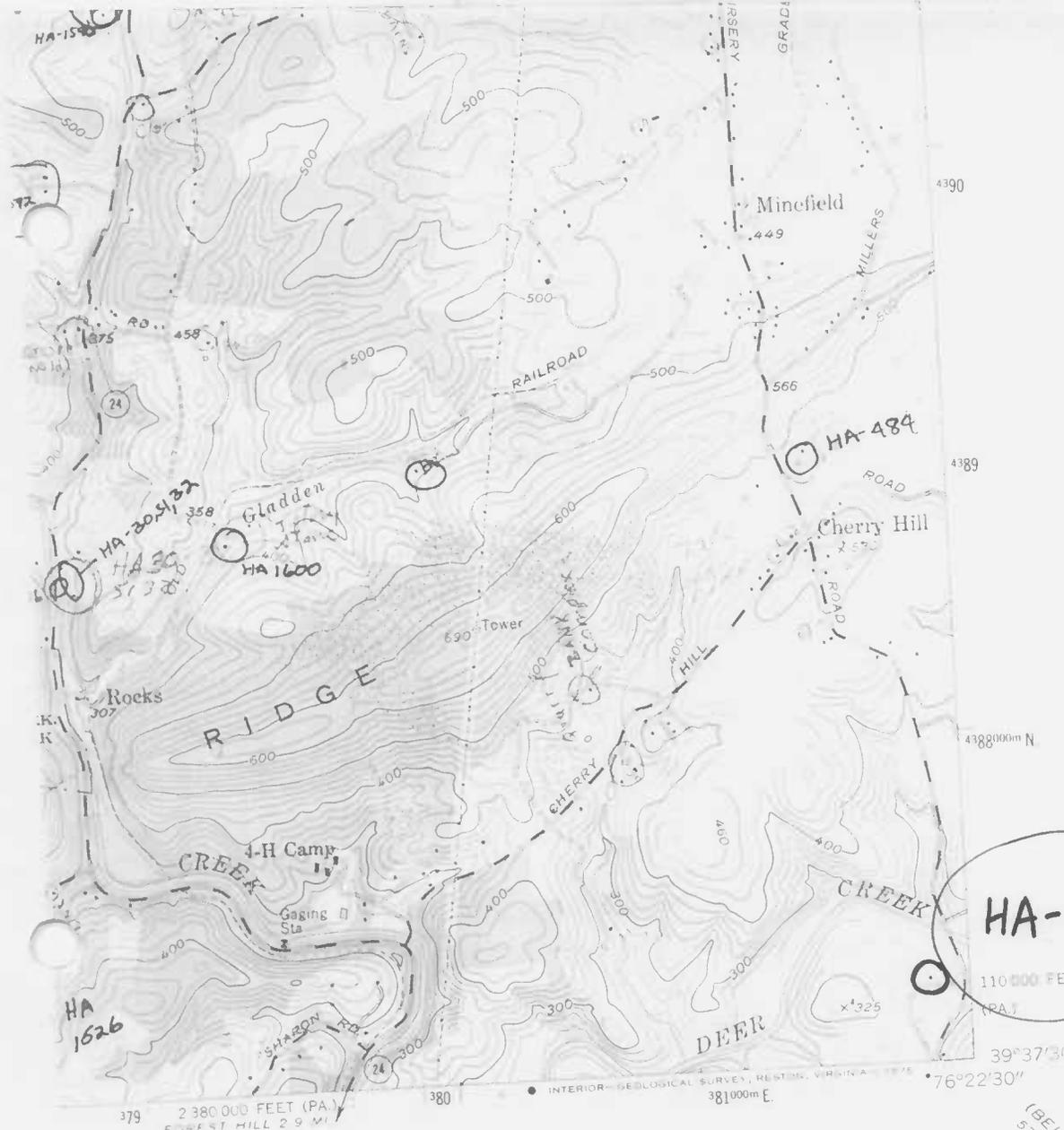
71/19
19 March 1891

Grantor: Barnet R. and Addie V. Clark
Grantee: John P. Grier, of Baltimore County
Acreage: 135; ". . . being all the land be-
queathed to Barnet R. Clark by his
father Barnet J. Clark (Will Book
BHH 3/15)
Amount : \$5500



Clark-Grier House
Martenet's Map of Harford County, 1878

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110 000 FEET (PA.)

39°37'30"

76°22'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty Light-duty
- Medium-duty Unimproved dirt

Clark-Grier House
 Harford County
 USGS 7.5 minute series
 Fawn Grove Quadrangle
 Scale: 1:24000

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QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1956
 PHOTOREVISED 1974
 AMS 5763 III NW - SERIES V935

shown in purple compiled from aerial
 photos taken 1974. This information not field checked

(BEL AIR)
 5763 III SE



Clark-Grier House

HA-1001

Harford County

Photographer: Janet Davis

April 1984

N eg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust

East elevation

1/3



Clark-Grier House

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Harford County

Photographer: Janet Davis

April 1984

Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust

South elevation

2/3



Clark-Grier House

HA-1001

Harford County

Photographer: Janet Davis

April 1984

Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust

West elevation

3/3