

HB-1247

Harford Furnace Charcoal Shed/David Smith House  
Creswell Road  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

This one-story, gable-roofed stone structure measuring 70 X 22 feet was built as a charcoal shed for the Harford Furnace ironworks. It probably dates from the final ironworks owned and run by Clement Dietrich from 1867 until 1876. His holdings comprised 5873 acres as well as a water and steam power charcoal iron furnace, ore and charcoal kilns, a pyroligneous acid chemical works, a carbonization building, a mythelene building, a building for the manufacture of acetic acid and acetates, a "flouring mill", a steam saw mill, and a variety of dwellings and community service buildings for the workers. The charcoal shed and some ruins on James Run are all that remain of this once-huge industrial complex.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

David Smith house

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

(2606)

West side of, Creswell Road, south of intersection with Goat Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

21014

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	<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

Mr. & Mrs. David Smith

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Creswell Road., Harford Furnace,

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21014

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 21014

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

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

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

2A-1247

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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

This structure, said to have been the charcoal shed, <sup>for Harvard furnace</sup> is located on Creswell Road, just south of the intersection with Goat Hill Road.

This one-story, stone building measuring 70 x 22 feet was converted into a residence 30 years ago. With a recent addition on the south, the building is of coursed stone with a slate gable roof, a bargeboard with a wave pattern, and an interior brick chimney east of center. All woodwork has been replaced (mostly with duplicates of the original elements) as have the doors and windows (now mostly with 6/1 sash). Original windows-in the gables, at least-had 6/6 sash, and the doors were of vertical boards braced and battened; the original bargeboard was of a wave design similar to the present one.

In addition, several window openings are new: where there were single gable windows are now paired windows; in the east end, the original door was made into a window and a new door was opened south of it; in the north side where apparently there was a central entrance flanked by a window on each side are now two windows east of the center entrance and two windows and three lunettes to the west. (The latter fills in the space that held the original entrance.)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 checked="" 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 house was probably a charcoal shed for the Harford Furnace ironworks.

The Harford Furnace ironworks that closed down in 1876 was the last in a series of furnaces on Bush River. The first-Bush River Ironworks-was among the fifteen or twenty furnaces that were established between 1733 and 1767 under the Maryland General Assembly Acts allowing for land acquisition by writ ad quod damnum. The date of precept for the Bush River Ironworks was February 27, 1746; the date of patent was 1750: 70 acres on Bush River were granted to Isaac Webster, John Hall, and Jacob Giles. The exact location of the Bush River Ironworks is unknown. Described as being part of the "Come By Chance" and "Whitaker's Enlargement", it is thought to have been close to the town of Bush, since the original patent was described as being near the Quaker meeting house.

By the time the ironworks (comprising a furnace, grist mill, saw mill, dwellings, oles, smith shops and dam) were sold in 1776, John Bond, John Webster, and James Webster had joined the partnership. The reason for dissolution is undocumented, but one source suggests that the labor supply was erratic, consisting primarily of convicts transported or indented here (i.e. redemptioners whose services were sold to repay their passage expenses).

The second furnace in this area was established by three Pennsylvanians: John Kirk, Samuel Irwin, and John Withers. They agreed to raise a capital stock of \$18,000, each partner contributing a third. Land they acquired included 500 acres of "Montreal", 300 acres of "Mile's Forest", 500 acres of "Abbotts Forest", and 120 acres of "Creeds" as well as parts of "Jones' Addition" and "Hathaway's Hazard". They also acquired 205 acres of "Rangers Lodge" and "Nova Scotia" from St. George's Vestry, making a total of 1947 acres.

In 1831 they sold out to Joseph and Edward Patterson and Richard Green who, in 1833, reorganized as the Harford Furnace Company.

They added to the land holdings with parts of "Daniel's Lott", "Come By Chance", "Bond's Adventure", and "Strawberry Hill" purchased at a public sale held by Albert Constable, Trustee. They also purchased 287 acres of "Acker's Hope" and "HA HA Indeed" from Martha and Sophia Hall, 166 acres of "Montreal" and "Stony Ridge" from William Holland Divers, and 326 acres of "Friendship" and "Littleworth" from Henry D. Farnandis, Trustee.

The furnace was disassembled in 1839 and in 1845 was rebuilt as a steam and water furnace, 33 feet high, and 7½ feet wide at the boshes. By 1857, its main product was car-wheel metal and production had reached 1421 tons annually.

In 1861 ownership changed hands again. At that time, William F. Pannell (listed as postmaster and storekeeper on the 1858 Jennings and Herrick Map) purchased the furnace. During his proprietorship, the furnace was supplied by two ore banks: the Walsh ore bank-½ mile northeast of Sewell, with an opening 100 yards wide and 100-200 yards deep; and the S all ore bank-¼ mile north of Sewell, with an opening 300 feet wide and 60 feet deep. In

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Alexander, J.H., Report on The Manufacture of Iron Addressed to the Governor of Maryland Annapolis, William McNeir, Printer to the Senate, 1840. (Alexander was Topographical Engineer of the State).  
Archer, George W., History of St. George's Parish, Harford County (from papers presented to the Maryland Historical Society by Joseph Lee Hughes)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

**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

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

addition, Davies suggests that ore banks near Little Gunpowder Falls around Joppa were leased on a royalty basis. Transportation of raw materials and the finished products was by the B&O and the Baltimore, Wilmington and Philadelphia railroads.

In 1867, William Pannell sold his 5056 acre holdings to Clement Dietrich, who added a chemical works to the furnace complex. By the time his mortgage was foreclosed and his property ordered to be sold in 1876, Harford Furnace comprised 5873 acres. According to a newspaper advertisement, the 5056 acre parcel sold to Dietrich by Pannell had on it: one charcoal iron furnace, water and steam power, of fifty tons capacity per week, the ore and charcoal kilns; a large chemical works for the manufacture of such products as pyroligneous acid, wood alcohol, acetic acid, sugar of lead, and acetates, consisting in part of: a carbonization building, 100 x 65 feet, with 24 cylinders and 8 furnaces, having a capacity of 600 bushels of charcoal and 1600 gallons of pyroligneous acid per day; a mythelene building, 60 x 20 feet, for manufacturing wood alcohol, with a 1000 gallons per month capacity; a building, 200 x 65 feet, for manufacturing acetic acid and acetates, etc., with stills, evaporators, engines, etc., with a 60 x 30 foot warehouse attached to it to store acids; also a "flouring mill" with water power, and a steam sawmill, 65 x 50 feet, with circular and upright saws. The parcel also included what is described as a stone mansion house "with the usual outbuildings", a stone dwelling, store house, warehouse and offices; three comfortable dwelling houses; 35 dwellings for employees, workmen, etc.; wheelwright, blacksmith, coppersmith, cooper and harness shops; barns, stables, barracks, "and other necessary outbuildings"; 400 acres in cultivation around the mansion house, with wood cuttings, young timber, and iron ore banks.

Two other parcels were included in Clement Dietrich's Harford Furnace holdings: one known as the Long Bar Farm, consisting of 510 acres sold to Dietrich by Josiah Lee in 1872. On it were a dwelling house, new corn and wagon house, new stables and other outbuildings, a 50 acre young peach orchard, a 1 acre pear orchard, iron ore banks and 4 new dwellings "for the use of the hands employed thereat". The other 298 acre parcel, described as "unimproved", lay near Perryman. Fifty acres of wheat, 62 mules, 8 horses, 5 yoke of oxen, cows, and farm implements were also included in the package.

The demise of the Harford Furnace in 1876 paralleled concurrent developments in Maryland's iron industry. Between 1865 and 1885, 19 furnaces in Maryland were abandoned: the industry's antiquated and economically irrational methods could not compete with the rest of the country. Like Harford Furnace, most Maryland iron furnaces made their own charcoal and mined their own iron ore--they were relatively small hand-scale operations carried on in costly ways, run by a furnace boss who knew everything. Between 1860 and 1880, the industry became a highly-specialized, intricately-financed, automated production complex, and steel replaced iron as the main product.

- Davies, M., Iron Forging and Smelting in Maryland; a Relict Industry; 1972, University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- McBrain, John, The Molinography of Maryland  
Portrait and Biographical Sketches of Harford and Cecil Counties, New York, 1897.
- Robbins, Michael W.; Maryland's Iron Industry During the Revolutionary War Era; prepared for the Maryland Bicentennial Commission
- Scharf, J. Thomas, The Natural and Industrial Resources and Advantages of Maryland, C. H. Baughman and Co., 1892
- Simmons, James R., "Surveyor's Notation Recalls To Mind the History of Old Harford Furnace", Harford Gazette, June 27, 1949
- Singewald, Joseph; The Iron Ores of Maryland; Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1911
- Wright, C. Milton, Our Harford Heritage, 1967.
- Land Records: SWC 246/414, SWC 242/294; ALJ 60/508-523; ALJ 60/434, ALJ 54/82, ALJ 48/340, ALJ 38/274, ALJ 31/432, HD 17/80, ALJ 2/217, WG 13/149, HD 24/209, HD 12/1, HD 18/151, HDG 35/278, HD 14/136, HD 18/150, HD 11/38, JGLP/69, JLGA /235, JLGA/218, JIG A/221, JLGA/184
- Equity Records: ALJ 38/27
- 1798 Tax Assessment
- 1878 Martenet's Map
- 1858 Jennings & Herrick Map

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

HA-1247

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetHarford Furnace Historic District  
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1755

Section number 7 Page 7.3

had its stonework relaid. A Massive frame lintel marks the original large opening which is said to have been the location of the barn door. That bay now houses a kitchen door and three small kitchen windows.

In 1835 the Glebe was purchased by the owners of Harford Furnace<sup>4</sup> who used it to house factory workers.

There is a one-story, gable-roofed brick spring-milk house about 100 yards downhill southeast of the house. Like the main section it was standing in 1798 and is cited in the tax list, "milk house 11' by 10'." There is also a modern outbuilding east of the house constructed by the Glebe's present owners for recreational purposes, it does not contribute to the historic significance of the property.

CHARCOAL HOUSE, 2606 Creswell Road; C. 1845 (HA-1247)

This one-story, stone structure measures 70' by 22'. Maryland mill scholar John McGrain, among other sources, has determined that the building was the charcoal shed for the "steam and water cold-blast charcoal furnace" built here in 1845.<sup>5</sup> It is located on Creswell Road, just south of Goat Hill Road. Converted to a residence c. 1950, the building is of coursed stone with a slate gable roof and an interior brick chimney. The roof's bargeboards are sawn into a distinctive wavy pattern. Other woodwork, doors and window frames, dates to the 1950 adaptive reuse but, when the shed was converted into domestic use, great care was taken to duplicate the original design. Some window openings date to 1950; in the east end, the original door was made into a window and a new door was opened south of it. The three-bay north side originally had a center door and two windows but it now has a center door with two windows to the east and two to the west.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

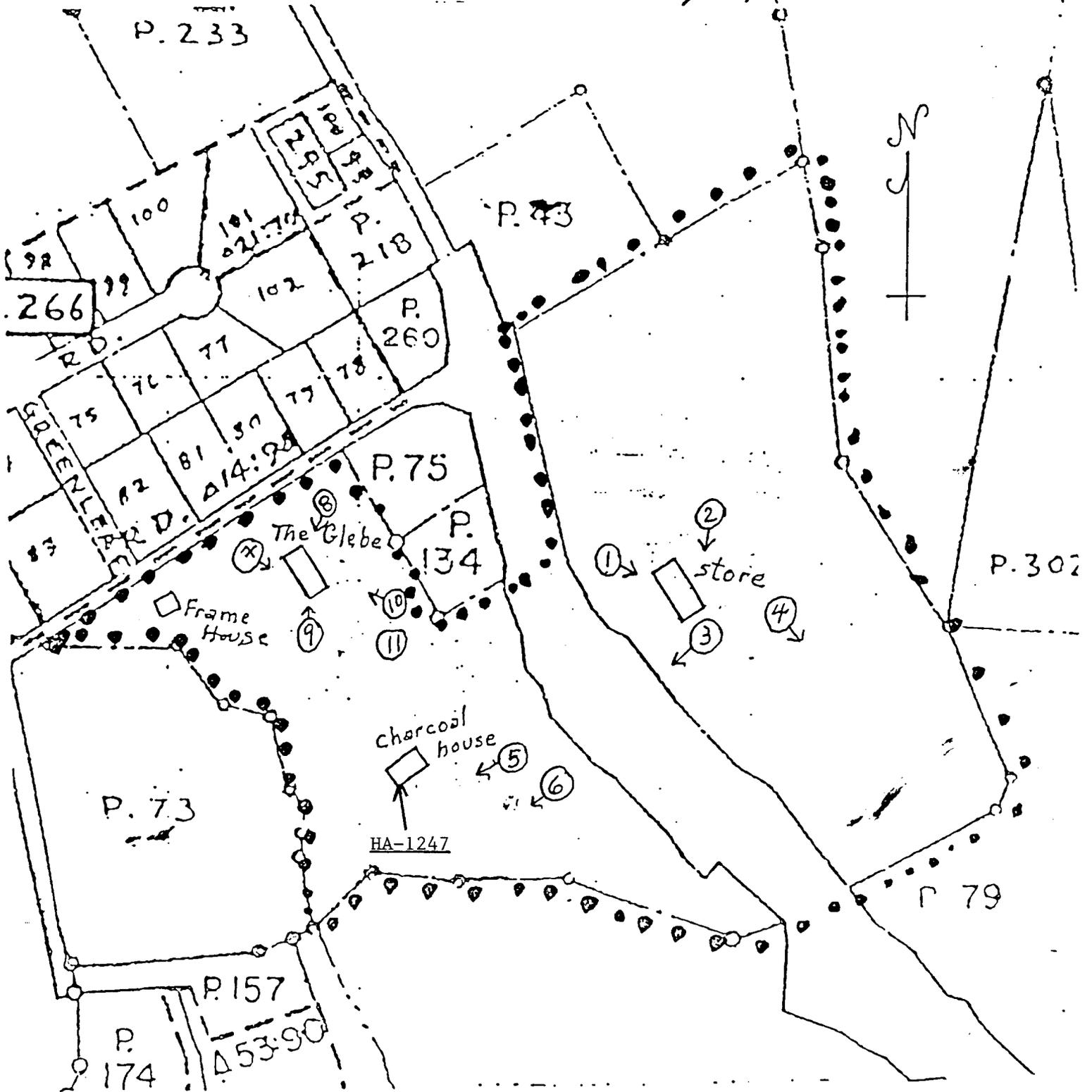
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

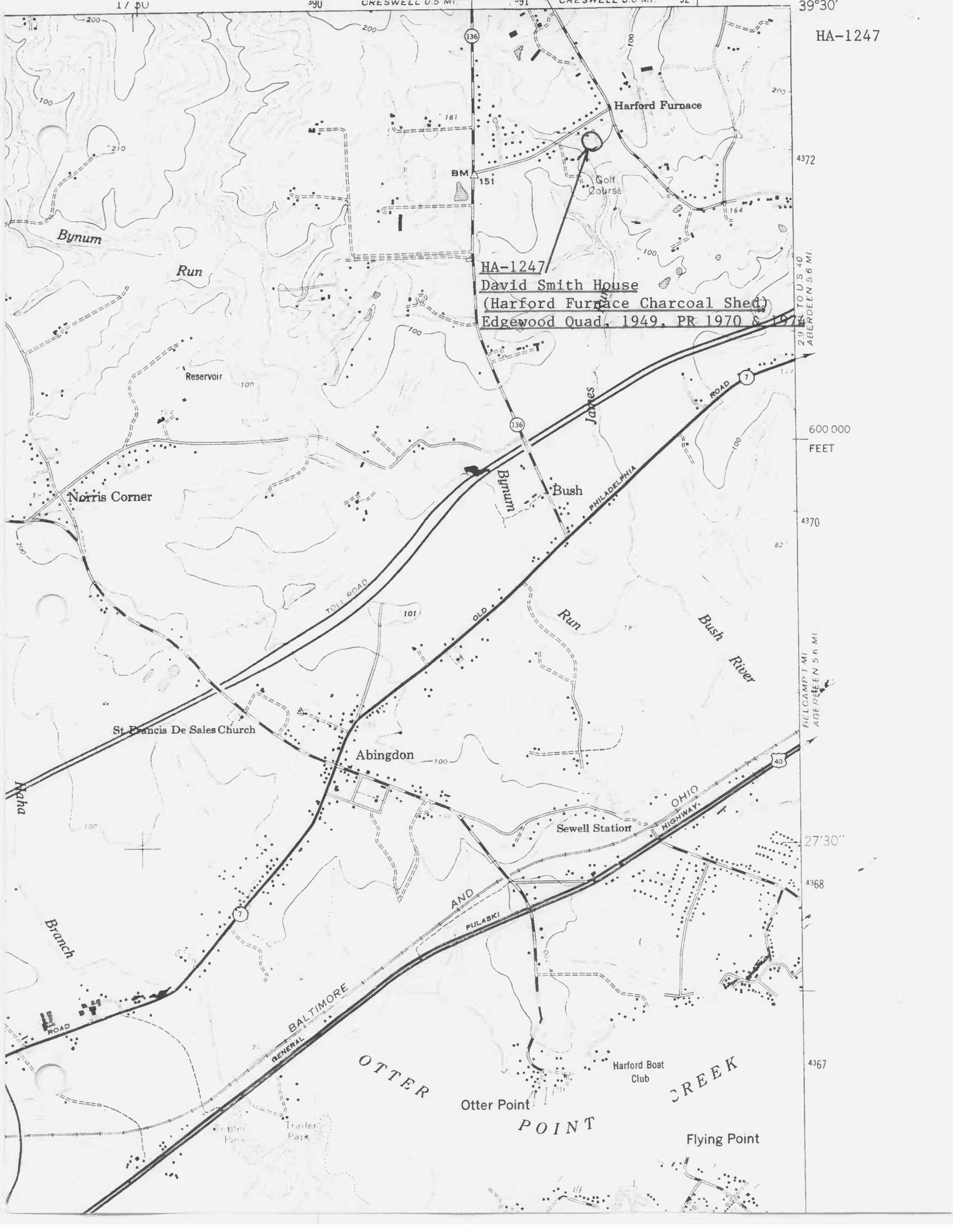
Harford Furnace Historic District  
Harford County, Maryland

HA-1755

Section number 7 Page 10

Photograph Map





HA-1247  
 David Smith House  
 (Harford Furnace Charcoal Shed)  
 Edgewood Quad, 1949, PR 1970 & 1974

29.4 TO US 40  
 ABERDEEN 5.6 MI.  
 600 000  
 FEET  
 4372  
 4370  
 4368  
 4367  
 27°30"  
 BELCAMP 1 MI  
 ABERDEEN 5.6 MI

St. Francis De Sales Church

Abingdon

Sewell Station

Harford Boat Club

Otter Point

POINT

Flying Point

OTTER

CREEK

BALTIMORE  
 GENERAL

AND  
 PULASKI

OHIO  
 HIGHWAY

TOLL ROAD

James

Bynum

Bush

Run

Bush River

Run

Bynum

Norris Corner

Reservoir

BM 151

Golf Course

Harford Furnace

17 50

990 CRESWELL 0.5 MI.

991 CRESWELL 0.5 MI.

39°30'



HA-1247

David Smith House, Building H.  
Creswell, Md.  
Natalie Shivers  
June, 1979  
North facade



HA-1247

HOLDEN PHOTOGRAPHY  
30 Pennsylvania Ave., East  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014  
1-301-838-6820

Charcoal Shed now David Smith House  
Harford Furnace *Building 11.*  
Creswell, Maryland