

## SUMMARY

HA-1595  
Harper Log House  
1132 Main Street  
Darlington, Maryland 21034

While significantly altered, this log house retains its 19th century one room down one up plan with a huge cooking fireplace as well as original floors, mouldings, and doors. Even the rear kitchen addition is a relatively early addition. This particular house was owned by the Harper family at least from 1875, and may have been built by or for Samuel Harper, who was a blacksmith in Darlington. Houses like this were once common in Harford County, but in 1981, many are either long since abandoned, or unrecognizably altered and added to.

Being early in its construction, the log house is shown on the 1878 Martenet Map, but not on the 1858 map. The latter is probably an oversight since this house and the one immediately to the south (HA-1586) have Federal period characteristics. These two houses are part of a group of 30 mid-19th century and earlier buildings that survive in Darlington.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Harper Log House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1132 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Darlington

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland 21034

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Jean S. Ewing

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

1130 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Darlington

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21034

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 962

Folio #: 440

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

NA-1595

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

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

This 1-1/2 story log dwelling has a gable roof and an attached kitchen lean to. The house faces east and the ridge is parallel to the front of the house. The roof is opened by large modern shed dormers, front and rear which help disguise the fact that this is a 19th century log house.

The house measures 20' 9" wide X 28' deep and rests on a low uncoursed rubble foundation, concealed except at the north side. It is clad with random width shingles (widths varying from 6 1/2", 11 1/2", 14 1/2") which are over earlier clapboards in the front main block (E) and drop siding at the rear (W) kitchen addition. The roof is of modern asphalt shingles.

At the front (east), the house is 3 bays wide, (window-door-window arrangement) with 6/6 pane windows. A one bay shed roof porch (16' wide X 6' deep) with a shed roof is attached at the front and is supported at its corners by rubble piers. The porch roof is supported by 5" X 5" wood posts with chamfered edges. Floor and ceiling planking is 3 1/4" - 3 1/2" tongue and groove strip planking. The railing is of modern materials.

At second floor level, the dormer is lighted by two 6/6 double hung windows. A simple box cornice finishes the eaves. The projecting ends of the original treepole rafters can still be seen under the eaves below the dormer. These were squared off at their ends, and these ends were protected by the overhang of the roof.

The south side contains the entry to the basement and reveals a break in the wall where the kitchen was joined to the main house. The gable ends, north and south sides, are finished with plain 4" rake boards. There is an entry door on the south side into the front room of the house. A single 6/6 window lights the upstairs on the south and north sides.

The rear (west side) is 2 bays wide and includes a panel door at the southwest corner, and a 6 light panel on the kitchen addition. A cinder block flue rises 9' above the rear wall of the kitchen, which is only 6'6" high.

The north wall contains a 6/6 window in the kitchen, and 2- 6/6 windows at second floor level. A brick interior chimney breaks through and projects above the ridge line, and there are no 1st floor windows. Since the interior wall at this side is dominated by a large fireplace.

The basement of this house reveals massive uncoursed rubble foundation walls, up to 30" thick. The size of this basement space, 11'X14', is smaller than the corresponding space upstairs. The foundation was recently underpinned with concrete in order to stop settling, and the basement now has a modern concrete floor, allowing 6' headroom. A large fireplace foundation 7' wide by 4 1/2' deep is observed on the north wall. All the basement walls were whitewashed suggesting an earlier dirt floor basement with 5' headroom.

See Description continuation sheet #1

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

HA-1595

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
REHISTORIC	<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

While significantly altered, this log house retains its 19th century one room down one up plan with a huge cooking fireplace as well as original floors, mouldings and doors. Even the rear kitchen addition is a relatively early addition. This particular house was owned by the Harper family at least from 1875, and may have been built by or for Samuel Harper, who was a blacksmith in Darlington. Houses like this were once common in Harford County, but in 1981, many are either long since abandoned, or unrecognizably altered and added to.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HA-1595

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

Phillip R. Lord, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning

DATE

April, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

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

## Description Continuation Sheet #1

HA-1595

Harper Log House

The first floor joists are 8" puncheons, 22" on center. In the northeast corner, there are traces of lathe and plaster, and the joist center is increased to 28", suggesting that there may have been access from the interior of the house to a finished basement. Examination around the modern exterior bulkhead reveals whitewash and lathing underneath the original clapboards, suggesting that this has always been an exterior basement entrance.

Entering the main room on the first floor the following observations are made. The plan is centered on a huge interior stone fireplace on the north wall, which projects out 2'7" from the wall, and has an opening 4'6" wide. The fireplace still contains a wrought crane, and a curvilinear chimney piece under under a shelf. The walls are 7" thick, and ceiling height varies from 7'2" to 7'4". Flooring is random width oak planking (5 1/2 - 7" wide), attached with cut nails. There are off-center entry doors in the south and east sides. The east entry (front door) has 3 battens, with beaded tongue and groove boards attached with wrought nails. There are off-center entry doors in the south and east sides. The east entry (front door) has 3 battens, with beaded tongue and groove boards attached with wrought nails. The east door is supported on wrought loop ends, strap hinges and pintles. The door at the west end (former exterior entrance?) has been removed, but there are still pintles in the jamb. There are two windows in the east wall, and they are trimmed with a wide 5" architrave mouldings. The door and fireplace are trimmed with a narrower but similar moulding. The doorway trim for the east and west doorways, is pegged at the corners. Throughout this room is a 5" beaded chair rail. Originally, a set winding stairs were located in the northeast corner of the room, adjacent to the fireplace, but the stairway has been relocated to the northwest part of the room. A rectangular mortise is still visible in the floor where the former stairs were secured. The new stairs treads are 3' wide, and rise against the west wall, starting at a switchback landing which abuts the fireplace. A lateral partition wall was built 24" out from the original west (rear) wall, with a doorway placement corresponding to the original wall. This newer wall supports the later stairway and provides closet space.

A lean to addition, containing the kitchen, is attached to the west wall of the house. Since there is no exterior wall of the main section, it is possible to read this as a fairly early addition. There is no basement, or crawl space under this section so joist type was not determined. The present floor is 2 1/4" tongue and groove planking. A number of 1" diameter wooden plugs were observed, approximately 2' out from the wall, sometimes occurring in the middle of the plank, and sometimes at a seam. Their significance is not known. The south wall of the kitchen was formerly an exterior wall, and contains a doorway and 6/6 pane double hung sash window. The glass in the window is quite bubbled and wavy. While this kitchen entrance has been enclosed with a modern entryway, wide (12") vertical planks that were once the exterior siding are still visible. There are no traces of battens, and the seams are caulked with an oakum like material, covered later by modern caulking.

### Second Floor

This area can be characterized as one large room treated by altering the roof line to accommodate large 2 bay dormers on the front (east) and Rear (west) sides.

See Description Continuation Sheet #2

Description Continuation Sheet #2

HA-1595

Harper Log House

Two original tree pole rafters remain at both north and south gable ends, but it was not possible to determine the fastening method at the ridge. The ends of the original rafters have been maintained in the front wall as decorative elements. Also, 3 courses of log have been uncovered, cleaned and sanded for the same reason. It was possible to determine that the original rafters were notched at the plate, nail holes were seen in the logs suggesting that the upstairs room was finished with lathe and plaster. A beaded baseboard, 5 1/2" high was observed throughout the room, attached with cut nails. This baseboard was whitewashed, but under this was observed a "Williamsburg Green" colored print of earlier origin. This paint color was also observed on baseboard trim on the north wall underneath the later stairs. The floorboards on the second floor are random width pine, sizes 12 1/2", 13 1/2", and 15 1/2". A chimney is visible on the north wall, measuring 27" wide X 24" deep, and whitewashed to a height of 30". Above 30", the chimney has been rebuilt re-using the old brick; some bricks showed whitewash, others had been reversed and showed the soot discoloring from the interior.

Two modern closets, and a modern 3 piece bathroom (South west corner) are also at second floor level.

HARPER LOG HOUSE

Title Search  
HA-1595

1. HDC 962/440 November 15, 1978 Grantor: Jimmie Miller  
Grantee: Jean S. Ewart  
Acreage: 0.78
2. HDC 944/657 January 31, 1974 Grantor: Albert Silver Executive  
for estate of Isabel Brown  
Grantee: Jimmie D. Miller
3. Will REcord TLA  
33/610 June 13, 1973 Will of Isabel Brown - "Jimmie  
Miller shall have the option to  
purchase the land improved by two  
dwellings, one frame, one stucco,  
which I inherited from my aunt Anna  
J. Hopkins." Cost is \$10,000 payable  
in 6 months time.
4. GCB 259/70 December 29, 1939 Grantor: Anna J. Hopkins - unmarried  
Grantee: Isabel Brown  
Acreage: 1  
  
Isabel Brown assumed Mortgage of  
\$1500.00 from A. Hopkins to Charles  
and Adelaide Bull
5. Mortgage GCB 256/375 September 6, 1939 Grantor: Anna J. Hopkins  
Grantee: Charles and Adelaide Bull  
Acreage: 1  
Sum: \$1500.00  
Anna Hopkins indebted for sum of  
\$1,500.00 mortgage for one year  
at 5% interest.
6. SWC 223/533 September 6, 1932 Grantor: John Robinson, Assignee  
Grantee: Anna J. Hopkins  
Acreage: 3/4's more or less  
Sum: \$1,200.00  
Purchased at Public Sale held  
August 1, 1932 - John Robinson
7. Mortgage -  
DGW 214/237 August 28, 1929 Grantor: Sarah E. Harper, feme sole  
and Sallie W. Harper, feme  
sole, sometimes known as  
Sarah W. Harper  
Acreage: 3/4's more or less  
Sum: \$1,200.00  
Two year mortgage.



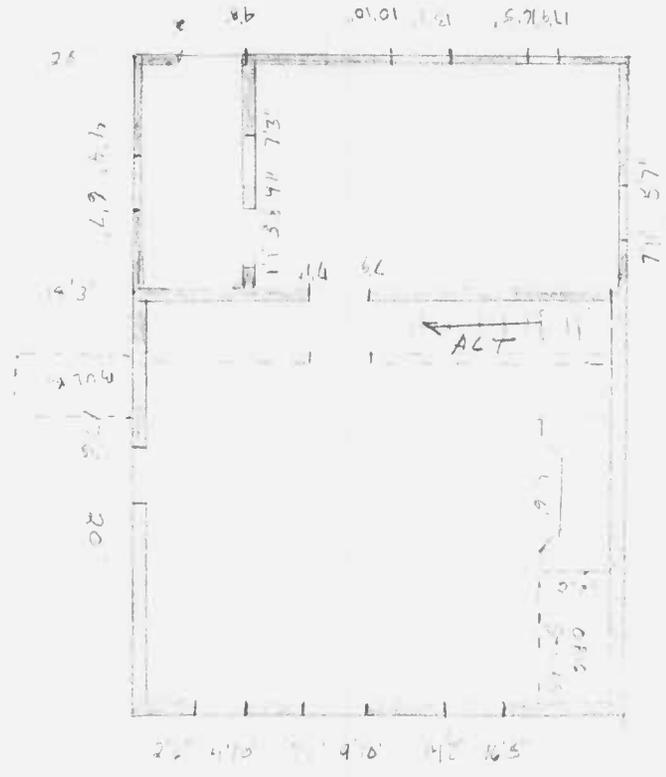
BY WJ DATE 10/7/80  
CHKD. BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
HA-1595

SUBJECT HARPER LOG HOUSE  
1132 Parkway

SHEET NO. \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_  
JOB NO. \_\_\_\_\_

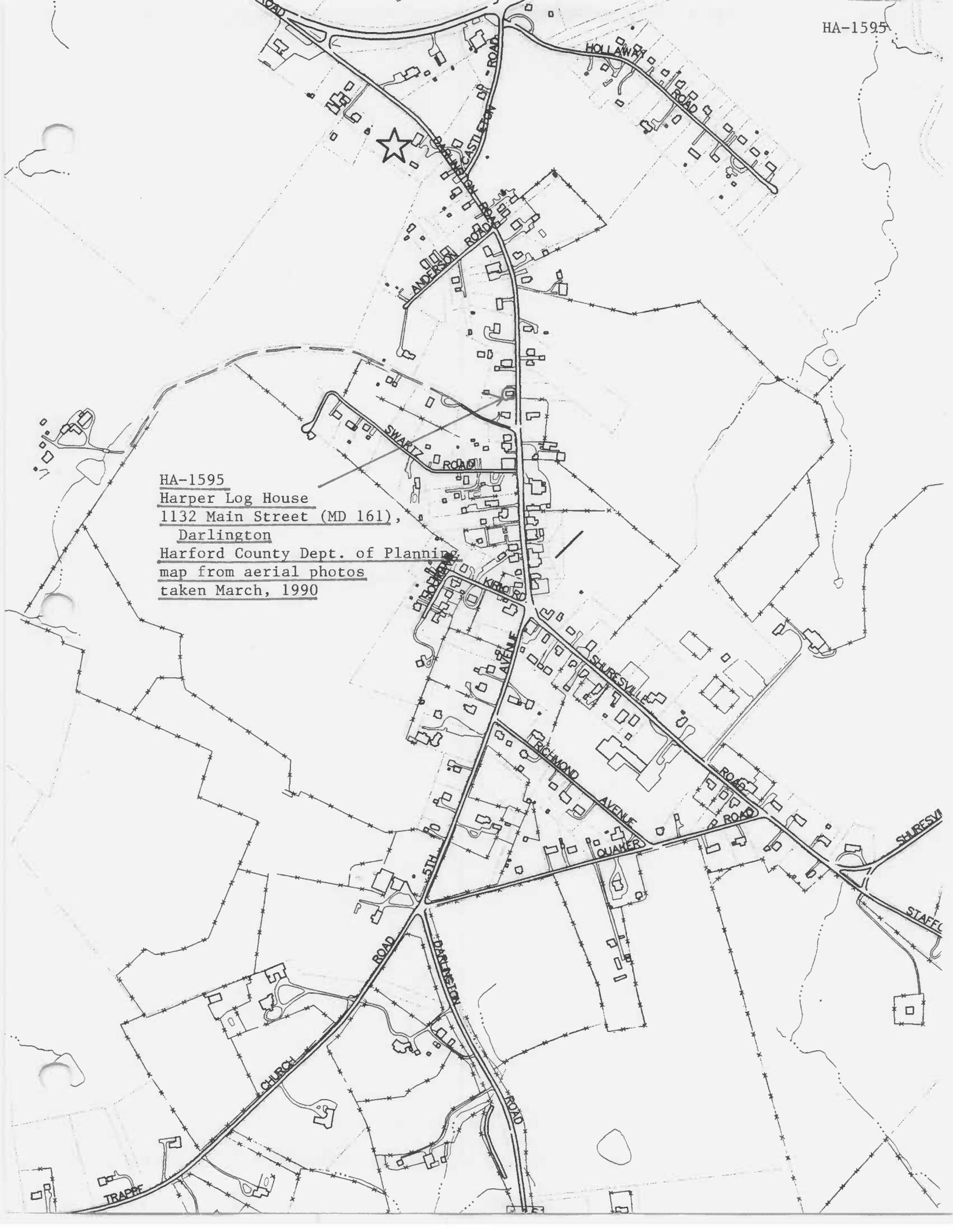
MAN  
PATA  
4/20/80

7' thick wall  
7'8" ceiling



20'9"

HA-1595  
Harper Log House  
1132 Main Street (MD 161),  
Darlington  
Harford County Dept. of Planning  
map from aerial photos  
taken March, 1990





Edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
USGS and USC&GS

Drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
Topography by plane-table surveys, 1939 and 1940

Projection. 1927 North American datum  
Grids based on Maryland coordinate system.  
Magnetic coordinate system, south zone  
Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks  
shown in blue

Map compiled from  
1970 This information



GRID AND TRUE MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR IN  
DATUM IS M

# Conowengo Quad

## 7.5 Minute Series

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NAT  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MA



HA-1595

Harper Log House

Darlington, Md.

Phillip R. Lord      10/80

Northeast



HA-1595

Harper Log House

Darlington, Md.

Phillip R. Lord 10/80

South