

Margaret Demby House

HA-1603

SUMMARY

This house was probably built in the late first quarter of the 20th century. It is one of a cluster of residences in the area known as Dembytown, a Black community started in 1917. This particular house is quite small, thereby and says much about the Black experience in early 20th century Harford County.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Margaret Demby House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East side of Dembytown Road #413

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Magnolia

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Storage

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jennie B. Demby

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

415 Dembytown Road

CITY, TOWN

Joppa

VICINITY OF

STATE zip code
Maryland 21085

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: JAR 155

Folio #: 462

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

PERIOD

PREHISTORIC

1400-1499

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

COMMUNITY PLANNING

CONSERVATION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LAW

RELIGION

SCIENCE

7 DESCRIPTION

HA-1603

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This one-story gable roof frame residence faces southwest, and is located east of Dembytown Road, immediately northeast of the modern stucco residence at 411 Dembytown Road.

The house measures 24' 2" X 16' 2", is 3 bays wide by 1 deep, and rests on concrete piers measuring 12" X 10". Circular sawn joists were observed under the house. The roof ridge runs parallel with the long (southwest) side, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The roof overhangs the walls by approximately 12" - 14" and the plumb cut rafter ends and rakes are all simply finished with a plain piece of 1 X 4 board. The gable peaks are finished with a styled down Jerkin head treatment, almost undetected except at close range, but a stylish bit of carpentry work for such a small house.

The house is covered with 5" drop siding, over building paper, and has 1" X 4" cornerboards. Windows are 3/1 pane double hung wood sashes, and the southwest door (front) is 4 lights over 3 horizontal panels. The door is set slightly off center between two windows in the southwest facade. The most distinguishing feature of the house is a gabled porch hood supported by plain wooden brackets that shelters the southwest door. The hood rises up above the roof at the eaves, and the effect is that of a small but unmistakable cross-gable.

On the north east wall is another door, 1 light over two vertical panels and an exterior brick chimney supported by a concrete pad. The chimney base is 42" wide but it narrows down to 18" before it rises above the roof. There are two windows on the southeast wall, and one on the northwest.

The interior is currently used for storage, and was not accessible. However, the following observations were made; the interior space is divided into two halves by a partition that runs between the northeast and southwest walls, with a passage way near the door on the southwest wall. The smaller room to the west was probably a bedroom, and the larger room served by the chimney was probably a combination kitchen-living room area. An abandoned white enamel wood fired cooking stove was found outside.

Interior walls are of plaster, with floors of 2 1/2" tongue and groove planks. Interior door and window trim is rounded edge flat boards with bulls eye corner blocks. The house has been uninhabited for some time.

HA-1603

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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 structure is one of the older houses in the Black settlement called Dembytown. This small community was started in 1917, when the federal government purchased the Gunpowder Neck for use as a military reservation, thereby forcing the longtime residents black and white, to relocate. A number of Blacks (the Gilberts and Dembys especially) purchased small parcels of land from a white farmer Joshua Hammond, and settled there.

Nothing is known of the former occupant of this house. Funding difficulties prevented intensive research and survey work from taking place in Dembytown, and consequently an important aspect of the Black experience in Harford County is being left unrecorded. The older buildings (HA-1602, HA-1604) are being abandoned and demolished, and the longtime residents are also falling victims to the march of time. Much work remains to be carried out.

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

Phillip R. Lord, Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning

DATE

April, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000 ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air, Maryland

STATE

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

Title Search
Margaret Demby House

HA-1603

Map 65 Parcel 335

JAR 155/462	August 9, 1917	Grantor: Joshua Hammond Grantee: Charles and Jennie Demby Acreage: 10-1/100 acre
JAR 147/308	April 29, 1915	Grantor: Charles Carter, trustee Grantee: Joshua Hammond Sale of 327 1/2 acres as a result of public sale from equity case decision

BY P. LORD DATE 18 JAN 81

SUBJECT MARGARET DENBY HOUSE

SHEET NO. _____ OF _____

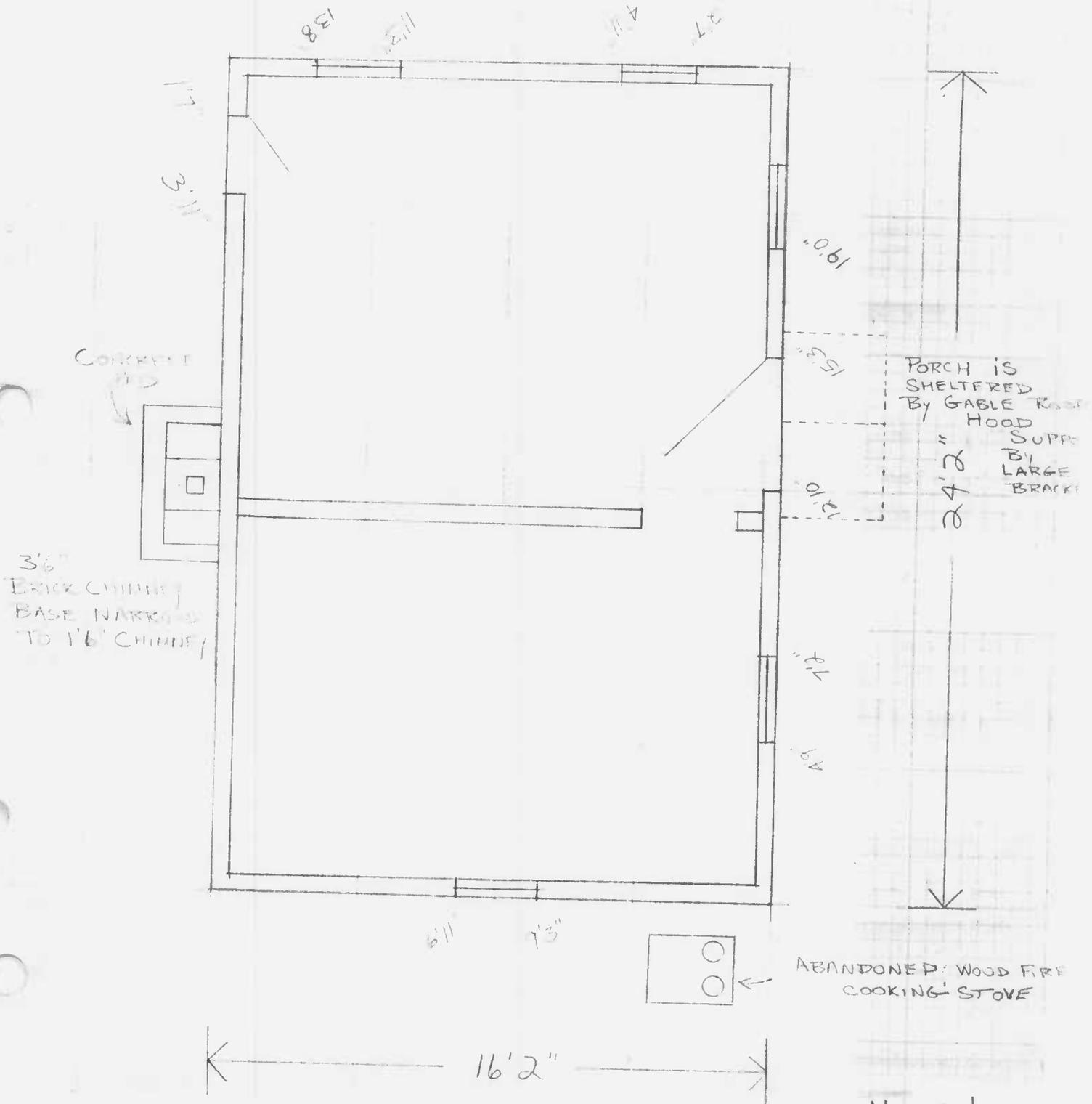
CHKD. BY _____ DATE _____

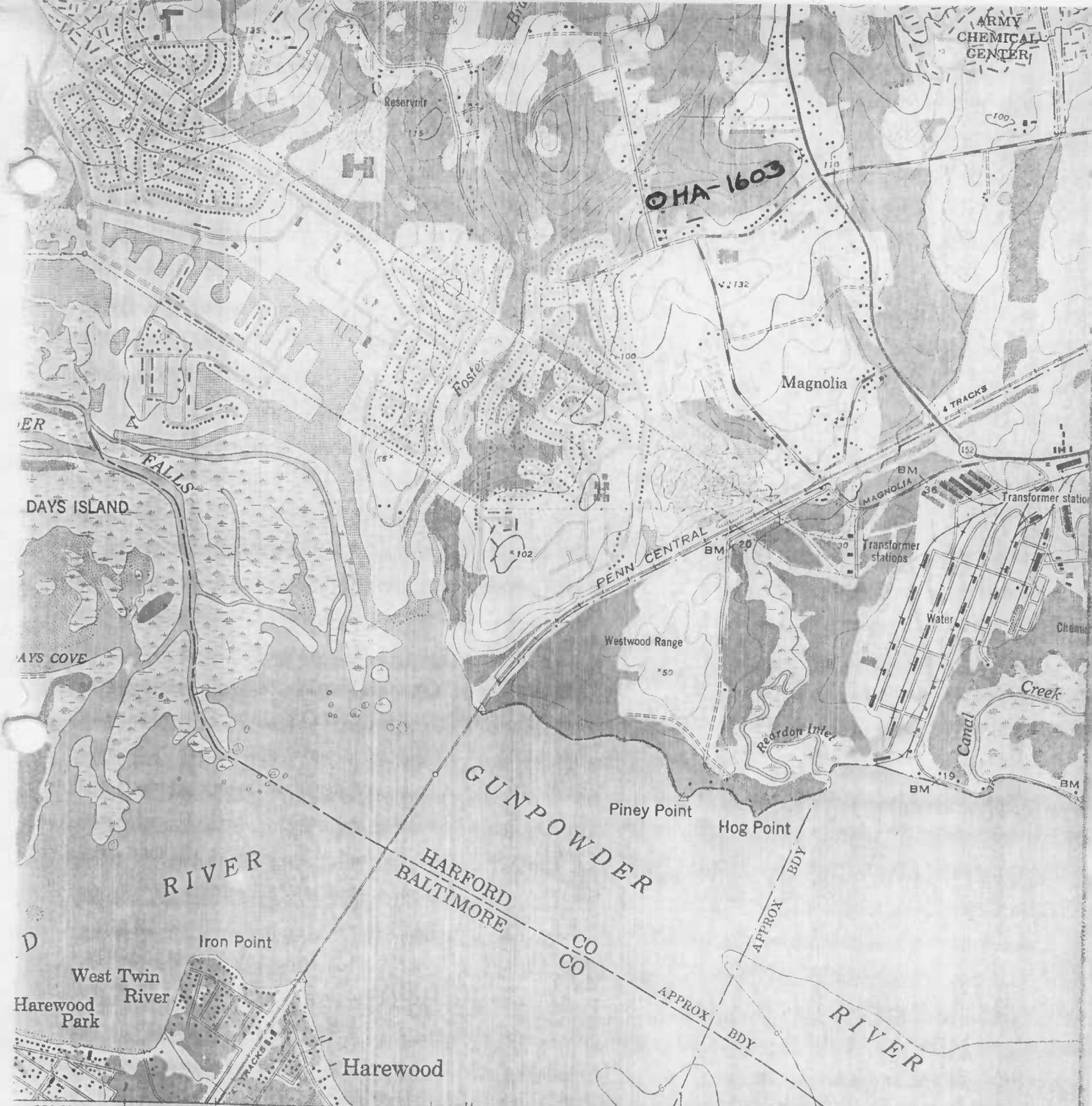
E SIDE of DENBY TOWN ROAD

JOB NO. _____

HA-1603

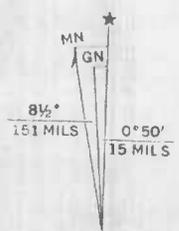
BUILDING RESTS ON CONCRETE PIERS 12" X 12"
WINDOWS ARE 3/1 DOUBLE HUNG WOOD SASH



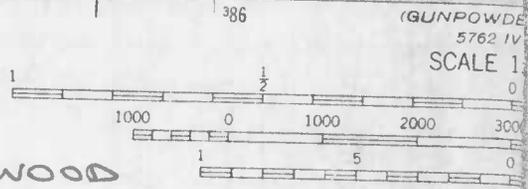


82 980 000 FEET | 383 CHASE 1 MI. MIDDLE RIVER 57 MI. | 384 | 385 20' | 386

e Army Map Service
 rom USC&GS surveys
 civil use by the Geological Survey
 &GS, CE, and USGS
 n aerial photographs by multiplex methods
 taken 1947. Field check 1949
 on. 1927 North American datum
 d based on Maryland coordinate system
 iversal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 in blue
 s made between dwellings, barns,
 industrial buildings



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



EDGEWOOD
QUAD MAP
7.5 &
MINUTE
SERIES

CONTOUR INTER
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERT
 DEPTH CURVES IN FEET
 SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APP
 THE AVERAGE RANGE OF TIDE

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS



HA-1603

Margaret Demby H0use

Dembytown, Md.

Phillip R. Lord 11/80

West