HA-1813

Presbury Frame House
Gravelly Hill, Md.

Capsule-Summary

This is one of the older surviving houses in the small black community of Gravelly Hill. It is currently abandoned. In scale and plan, it resembles rural vernacular dwellings found elsewhere in Harford County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-1613

MAGI #1316137604

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON
Presbury Frame House

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Gravelly Hills

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
west of Havre de Grace

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Harford

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

**CATEGORY**
__DISTRICT
X BUILDING(S)
__STRUCTURE
__SITE
__OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**
__PUBLIC
X PRIVATE
__BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
__IN PROCESS
__BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**
__OCCUPIED
X UNOCCUPIED
__WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**
X YES: RESTRICTED
__YES: UNRESTRICTED
__NO

**PRESENT USE**
__AGRICULTURE
__COMMERCIAL
__EDUCATIONAL
__ENTERTAINMENT
__GOVERNMENT
__INDUSTRIAL
__MILITARY
__MUSEUM
__PARK
X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__RELIGIOUS
__SCIENTIFIC
__TRANSPORTATION
__OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Ralph D. Presbury

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 83

CITY, TOWN
Havre de Grace

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21078

## 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

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

NA-1613

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| __EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | X UNALTERED | X ORIGINAL SITE |
| __GOOD | __RUINS | __ALTERED | __MOVED DATE_____ |
| X FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Presbury House is located on the north side of 4124 Gravelly Hill Road. It is a two story frame residence that faces south, and it has a gable end roof(ridge runs E-W) and an L-plan. The house rests on fieldstone piers and is three bays wide by one bay deep, with a 1½ story ell to the north that is one bay by one bay. On the south facade, there is a center entrance, and a one story shed roof porch supported by plain square posts. The house is covered with asphalt shingles in imitation of brick, but under this covering on the south, beaded horizontal tongue and groove planks were observed. Vertical planks were observed on the other three elevations. Windows on the first story are 6/6, and 3/5 on the second story. There are brick chimneys in the west end of the main block and the north end of the ell.

The interior was not accessible; howeverit would appear that the plan is a one room down and one or two room up, so typical of rural vernacular residences.

Note-no measurements or floor plan done

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

HA-1613

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __PREHISTORIC | __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | __COMMUNITY PLANNING | __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | __RELIGION |
| __1400-1499 | __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | __CONSERVATION | __LAW | __SCIENCE |
| __1500-1599 | __AGRICULTURE | __ECONOMICS | __LITERATURE | __SCULPTURE |
| __1600-1699 | X ARCHITECTURE | __EDUCATION | __MILITARY | X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| X 1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Presbury House is one of the older surviving residences in the Gravelly Hill community. Like most other black residences constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it is relatively plain and straightforward in plan, and is not unlike residences constructed by and for rural whites of the same period. However, not enough research and field work has been done in Harford County (as of 6-81) to be able to draw specific conclusions about regional black architectural characteristics. Due to the fact that many of these older homes are inadequate by twentieth century standards, they have been abandoned and are in deteriorating condition. The possibility exists that they will quietly vanish without ever having been adequately recorded.

Gravelly Hills is apparently one of Harford County's older discrete black settlements. In fact, archival research (see 26/151 Harford Co. Land Rec.) shows that there were land transactions between whites and blacks in 1842 in this area. As of December 1980, the village still has a number of older residents who have distinct memories about the past (social life, family life, farming, schools, and churches). While much has been written about the white experience in Harford County, little is known, and even less is documented about the black role here. More work in the Gravelly Hills area, including oraltaping sessions, examination of personal memorabilia, as well as detailed recording of the remaining buildings would ensure that a vital part of Harford's local history would not be forgotten.

Note- no title search done for this property.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

HA-1613

## 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 Lord/Wayne Nield Historic Site Surveyors

ORGANIZATION
Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning

DATE
June, 1981

STREET & NUMBER
45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE
838-6000

CITY OR TOWN
Bel Air

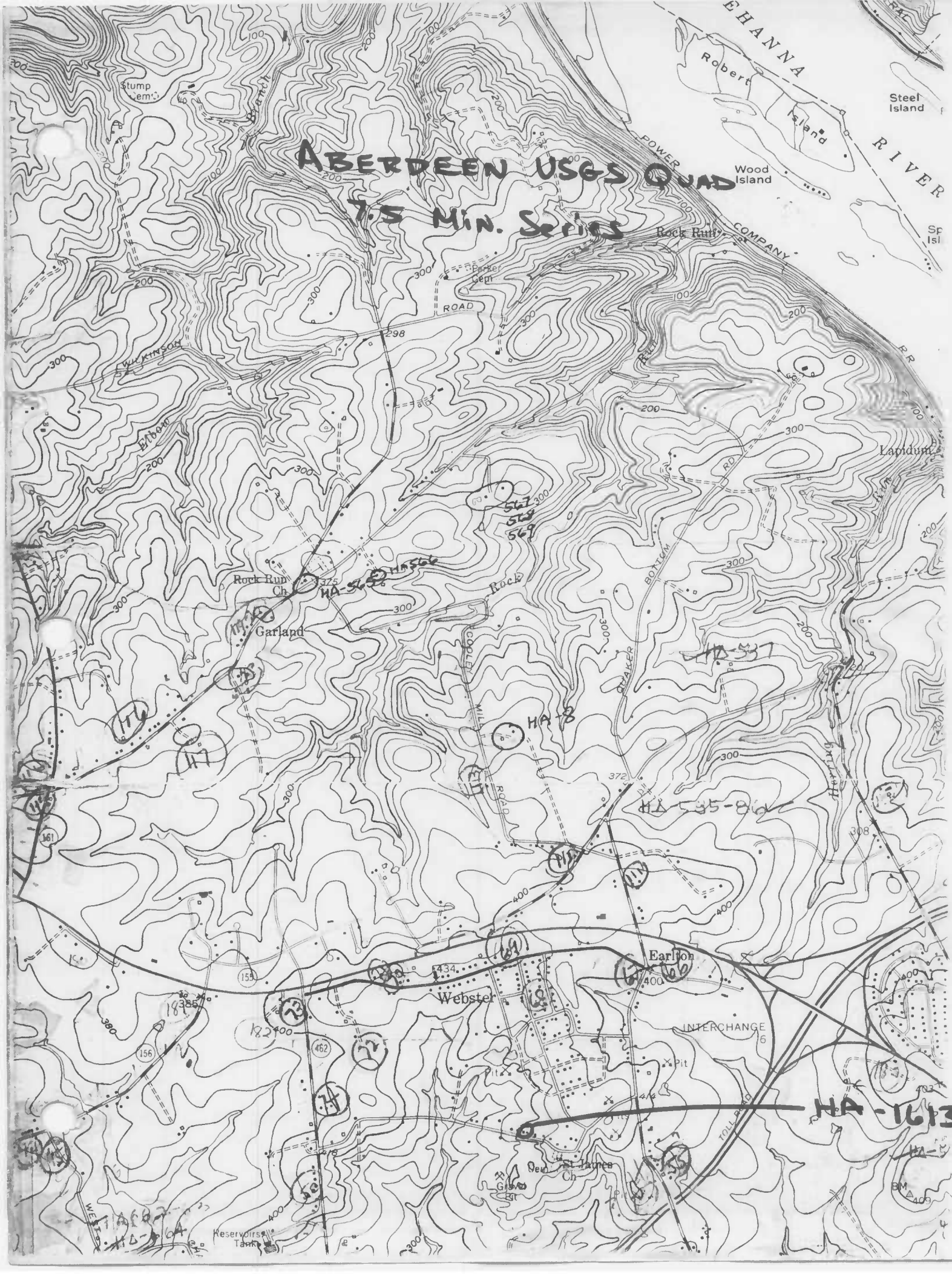
STATE
Maryland

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

PS-1108


ABERDEEN USGS QUAD
7.5 Min. Series
HA-1613
HA-8
HA-565
HA-566
567
568
569
HA-537
HA-535-861
Robert Island
Steel Island
Wood Island
Rock Run
Lapidum
Garland
Rock Run Ch
Earlton
Webster
INTERCHANGE
St James Ch
Reservoirs Tank
Stump Cem
Parker Cem
WILKINSON
ROAD
POWER
COMPANY
RR
QUAKER
BOTTOM
RD
TOLL ROAD
Elbow
Branch
Run
Pit
Gravel Pit
Cem
BM

Presbury House HA-1613

Gravelly Hills, Md.

Phillip Lord 12/80

Southwest elevation

Presbury House HA-1613
Gravelly Hills, Md.
Phillip Lord 12/80
Southeast elevation