

EA-1614

Bishop Frame House  
Gravelly Hill, Md.

Capsule-Summary

This is one of the older surviving residences in the small black community of Gravelly Hill, located west of Havre de Grace. This relatively small house is distinguished by a large cross gable on its main facade, a common architectonic device on vernacular dwellings of the 19th and even 20th century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Bishop Frame House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Gravelly Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Gravelly Hill

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF Havre de Grace

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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Oscar A. Bishop

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

4145 Gravelly Hill Road

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

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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 checked="" 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

The Bishop House is located on the north side of Gravelly Hill Road and faces south. It is a two story frame structure with a gable end roof (running east-west), and it rests on a rubblestone foundation. Although relatively narrow across the south elevation, it is four bays wide and has a prominent cross gable across the two middle bays. The house is one bay deep and has a two bay deep ell that is two bays wide, or half the width of the house. There are two front doors (2nd and third bays) on the south elevation. Windows are 6/1. A later one story shed roof porch extends across the south elevation. The house is clad with a variety of modern materials, primarily asphalt shingles in imitation of brick. However, wooden drop siding was observed on the north wall underneath the later material. There are two brick chimneys; one in the center of the main block, and one in the north end of the ell. It was not possible to view the interior at this time. The house is presently abandoned, and there are no apparent plans for any renovation work.

Note-no measurements or floor plan done as of 5/1961

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

<b>PERIOD</b>		<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b>			
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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			

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<b>SPECIFIC DATES</b>	<b>BUILDER/ARCHITECT</b>
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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Bishop House is one of the older surviving residences in the Gravelly Hill community. Like most other black residences constructed in the late 19th or early 20th century, 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 6-1981) 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 Records) 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 blacks role here. More work in the Gravelly Hills area, including oral taping 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 on this property.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

100-5-1

**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

6/1981

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

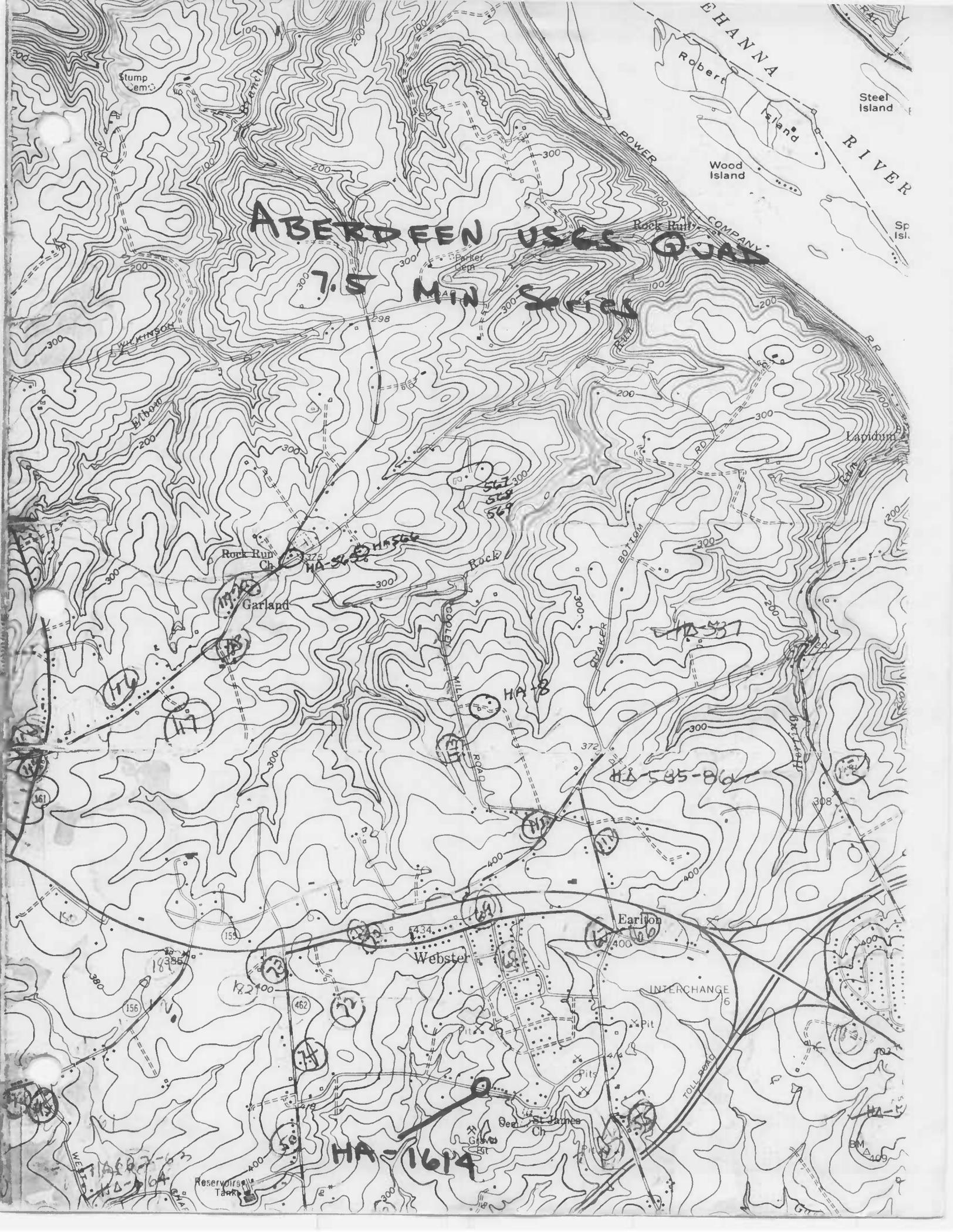
STATE

M.D. 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



**ABERDEEN USGS QUAD**  
**7.5 MIN SERIES**

E HANNA RIVER  
Robert Island  
Wood Island  
Steel Island  
Sp. Isl.

Rock Run Ch  
Garland

Webster

Earlton

HA-1614

INTERCHANGE 6

TOLL POND

HA-536

HA-537

HA-535-86

HA-536

HA-536

HA-536

HA-536

HA-536

HA-536

HA-536

EM 109

HA-536

HA



Bishop House      HA-1614

Gravelly Hills, Md.

Phillip Lord 12/80

South elevation



Bishop House      HA-1614

Gravelly Hills, Md.

Phillip Lord 12/80

Northwest elevation