Richard Rees House
HA 1923

This circa 1905 two-story frame house is one of four similarly designed houses on the uphill, east side of Chestnut Street. An impressive structure with delicate porch detailing, the house is representative of the waning Victorian era and the return to simpler, neo-colonial lines of the early twentieth century. With a spindle porch frieze and scroll brackets, turned posts and simple balustrade, the remnant Victorian decoration creates a sense of elegance on an otherwise plain house. Coursed slate and cast iron stair rail further enhance the structure's grandeur. The use of slate in the building's foundation, roof and decoration truly manifests slate's significance as the primary industry and life-blood of this region.

The adjacent towns of Whiteford, Cardiff, and Delta (PA) developed primarily from the region's tremendous slate industry, which attracted workers and their families from the slate quarries of Wales. The three linear, connecting towns developed rapidly during the second half of the nineteenth century, resulting in the construction of Chestnut Street in 1890 and its subsequent development. This house was built for Richard Rees, owner of one of the many quarries situated on the ridge above town.

Survey No. HA 1923

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Richard Rees House

2. Location

street & number 1629 Chestnut Street N/A not for publication

city, town Cardiff ___ vicinity of congressional district 5th

state Maryland county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
✓ district	✓ public	✓ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
✓ building(s)	✓ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	✓ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	✓ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	✓ being considered	✓ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	✓ not applicable	✓ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Elra M., Sr. and Gloria L. Carter

street & number 1308 Ontario Street telephone no.: (410)939-4261

city, town Havre De Grace state and zip code MD, 21078

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber CGH 1538

street & number 20 W. Courtland Pl. folio 674

city, town Bel Air state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HA 1923

Condition		Check one	Check one
✓ excellent	___ deteriorated	✓ unaltered	✓ original site
___ good	___ ruins	✓ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located on the uphill, east side of Chestnut Street overlooking the town of Cardiff, Maryland, this large two-story frame house is three bays wide by a deep two bays, with a short service ell to the north of the building's rear wall. The roof of the main house has a north-south ridge paralleling Chestnut Street, with a perpendicular gable roof on the ell. The main part of the house has a shed-roofed porch runs the length of the first-story west, main facade and a two-story three-paneled bay window located on the east bay of the south side. An unusual and apparently modern addition in the angle is of a first-story open porch and a second-story enclosure supported by slate pilings. An original flue runs internal to the south endwall. As typical of and unique to this world-famous slate region, the foundation is of coursed slate and the roof is slate shingled.

The main entrance, delineating the first-story north bay of the main facade, is surrounded by a three-light transom and two-light sidelights Windows decorate this house in every available space. All remaining main facade bays are articulated by the 6/6 sash windows of this structure. The three-panels of the two-story bay on the east bay of the south side have 1/1 sash, however, the south side upper and lower story west bay, the second story angle enclosure, and two small windows flanking the chimney at the gable return to multi-light sash. All windows of the north side, the two upper and lower bays of the north side and the ell's one upper and lower bay have 6/6 windows. All standard windows are highlighted by shutters.

Resting on the high side of Chestnut with and evenly stepped front yard, the imposing nature of this house is heightened. Two courses of steps lead to the main entrance which are made stately by a rail of coursed slate and cast iron. Decoration of the structure is limited to the porch, with a spindle porch frieze and scroll brackets, turned posts, and a simple balustrade. The spindle frieze and balustrade creates an etheral look to an otherwise weighty house.

8. Significance

Survey No. HA 1923

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	√ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
√ 1800–1899	___ commerce	√ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
√ 1900–	___ communications	√ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B √ C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state √ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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The adjacent towns of Whiteford, Cardiff, and Delta (PA) developed primarily from the region's tremendous slate industry, which attracted workers and their families from the slate quarries of Wales. The three linear, connecting towns developed rapidly during the second half of the nineteenth century, resulting in the construction of Chestnut Street in 1890 and its subsequent development. This house was built for Richard Rees, owner of one of the many quarries situated on the ridge above town.

Originally owned by Thomas Hawkins (farmer) in a patented land grant known as "Hawkins Chance", this land was part of the tract sold by the Hawkins family to Rowland Parry, a Welsh quarry owner who operated one of the first prominent commercial quarries in the area. It was Parry who exhibited Peach Bottom slate in the London Crystal Palace exposition in 1850, winning it international recognition as the world's finest slate. "Hawkins Chance" was divided and sold in pieces, passing through the hands of Parry's relatives and countrymen. The land for this relatively small came from two sources who had ultimately received it from Parry, as indicated by the title search. One piece of the lot was platted and subdivided following the Equity Case of William H. Harlan v. Annie H. Whitaker in 1889 (plat included as documentation). The other piece was received from Humphrey R. Lloyd and his wife, who were heavily involved with the development of north Cardiff in late 1800's (no plat found).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA 1923

See additional sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .345 acres

Quadrangle name Delta **Quadrangle scale** 24000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 216 on tax map 5, as provided in accompanying map

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	none	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dianne Klair

organization Harford County Planning and Zoning **date** September 1995

street & number 220 S. Main Street **telephone** (410)638-3103

city or town Bel Air **state** MD

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023

PS-2746

RICHARD REES HOUSE
Title Search

CGH 1538/674	March 30, 1989	Grantor: Gary September 21, 1995. and Cheryl L. Williams Grantee: Elra M., Sr. and Gloria L. Carter Granted: (no description)
HDC 909/7	October 10, 1972	Grantor: Richard L. and Mary A. Rees Grantee: Gary D. and Cheryl L. Williams Granted: town lot with improvements, plat included here
GRG 572/607	June 19, 1961	Grantor: Richard Rees Grantee: Richard L. and Mary A. Rees Granted: town lot of .391 acres with improvements
GCB 292/28	November 12, 1945	Grantor: Spencer K. Heaps Grantee: Richard, Jr. and Adele B. Rees Granted: same
GCB 292/27	November 12, 1945	Grantor: Richard, Jr. and Adele B. Rees Grantee: Spencer K. Heaps Granted: same
WSF 113/7	April 13, 1904	Grantor: Humphrey R. and Jane H. Lloyd Grantee: Richard Rees, Jr. Granted: town lot of .391 acres for $250.00. This lot described in 2 deeds.
WSF 113/4 (1)	April 13, 1904	Grantor: Rachel A. McComas et al. Grantee: Humphrey R. Lloyd Granted: lot 16 for $75.00.
WSF 89/454 (1)	December 12, 1896	Grantor: William H. Harlan, Trustee (in Equity Case WSF 60/475, William H. Harlan v. Annie H. (Whitaker) McConkey et al., January 1889) Grantee: Rachel A. McComas and G. Jordan McComas Granted: remaining lands after some lots purchased of the 25 acres sold to Annie Whitaker, for $2000.00. Lots platted for and included in the equity case.
ALJ 50/343 (1)	May 28, 1884	Grantor: William H. Harlan et al Grantee: Annie H. Whitaker Granted: 25 acres, of "Hawkins Chance"

ALJ 32/84 (mortgage) (1)	May 26, 1875	Mortgagor: John Feruley, Executor of Estate of James Whitaker Mortgagee: Oliver and Mary E. Whitaker Granted: 25 acres, of "Hawkins Chance" Oliver Whitaker indebted to estate of James Whitaker for $6400.00.
ALJ 25/346 (2)	April 1, 1871	Grantor: Richard Hughes and wife Grantee: Jane H. Lloyd (wife of Humphrey R. Lloyd) Granted: two parcels of "Hawkins Chance"; 1). 5 acres 105 perches, 2). 2 acres 1 perch for $1800.00
ALJ 23/474 (1)	April 6, 1870	Grantor: David Swope et al. Grantee: Oliver Whitaker Granted: 25 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for $12,000.00
WHD 15/362 (1)	September 14, 1864	Grantor: Alexander Garrett et al. Grantee: West Bangor Mining Company (Alexander Garrett, David Swope part of this company) Granted: same
WHD 15/361 (1)	September 14, 1864	Grantor: I. Holmes Grover Grantee: Alexander Garrett and David Swope Granted: same
WHD 15/261 (1)	May 31, 1864	Grantor: Rowland Parry Grantee: I. Holmes Grover Granted: same
ALJ 9/29 (2)	May 29, 1857	Grantor: John and Eleanor Parry Grantee: Richard Hughes Granted: two parcels of "Hawkins Chance"; 1). 5 acres 105 perches, 2). 2 acres 1 perch for $500.00
HDG 36/424 (2)	July 27, 1850	Grantor: Ro(w)land and Anne Parry Grantee: John Parry and Richard Hughes Granted: 3 1/2 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for $350.00
HDG 36/215 (2)	February 5, 1850	Grantor: Rowland Perry Grantee: John Perry and Richard Hughes Granted: 12 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for $600.00
HDG 36/214 (indenture) (2)	February 5, 1850	Grantor: Benjamin Williams Grantee: John Perry et al. Granted: 12 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for $200.00

HDG 34/492	February 9, 1849	Grantor: Edward Proctor et al. Grantee: Archabald A. Hawkins Granted: "Hawkins Chance", being part of Thomas Hawkins landholdings; 74 acres 5 perches
HD 14/336	August 3, 1831	Grantor: Isaac Hawkins, heir to Thomas Hawkins Grantee: Thomas Proctor, heir to Edward Proctor Granted: The eighth part of land tracts "Hawkins Chance", " Williams Birthright", Mount Pleasant", and "Montgomerys Delight" . The four tracts contain 188 acres total. No mention of "eighth part" acreage.
Land Tract, Patented	After March 1774, when Harford est.	"Hawkins Chance", tract of 74 acres 5 perches granted to Thomas Hawkins. Located on the Maryland and Pennsylvania line at the north end of present day Cardiff. Divided, sold, and reworked often.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Common Houses in America's Small Towns: The Atlantic Seaboard to the Mississippi Valley, John A. Jakle, Robert W. Bastian, and Douglas K. Meyer. 1989.

Land Records, Harford County Courthouse.

Delta Centenial, A souvenir book from the 1953 centenial celebration which was organized by the Delta-Cardiff Fire Company.

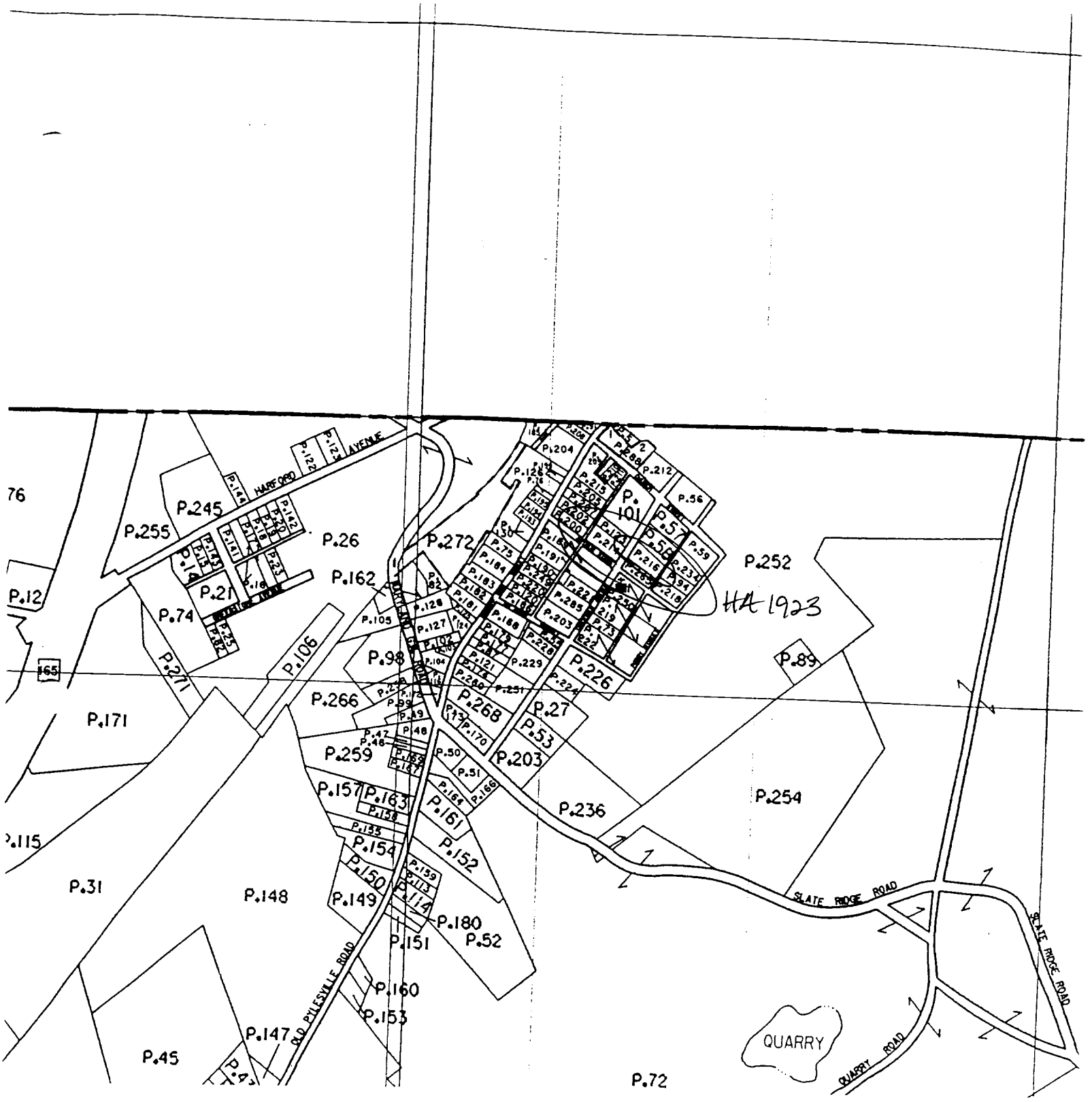
History of York County, Gibson. 1880.

Conversation with Mrs. Darcy Lloyd, April 11, 1995.

Conversations with Mrs. Marion Scaborough, June 20, June 22, July 25, and August 1, 1995 regarding Parry family history.

Harford County Historical Society Archives.

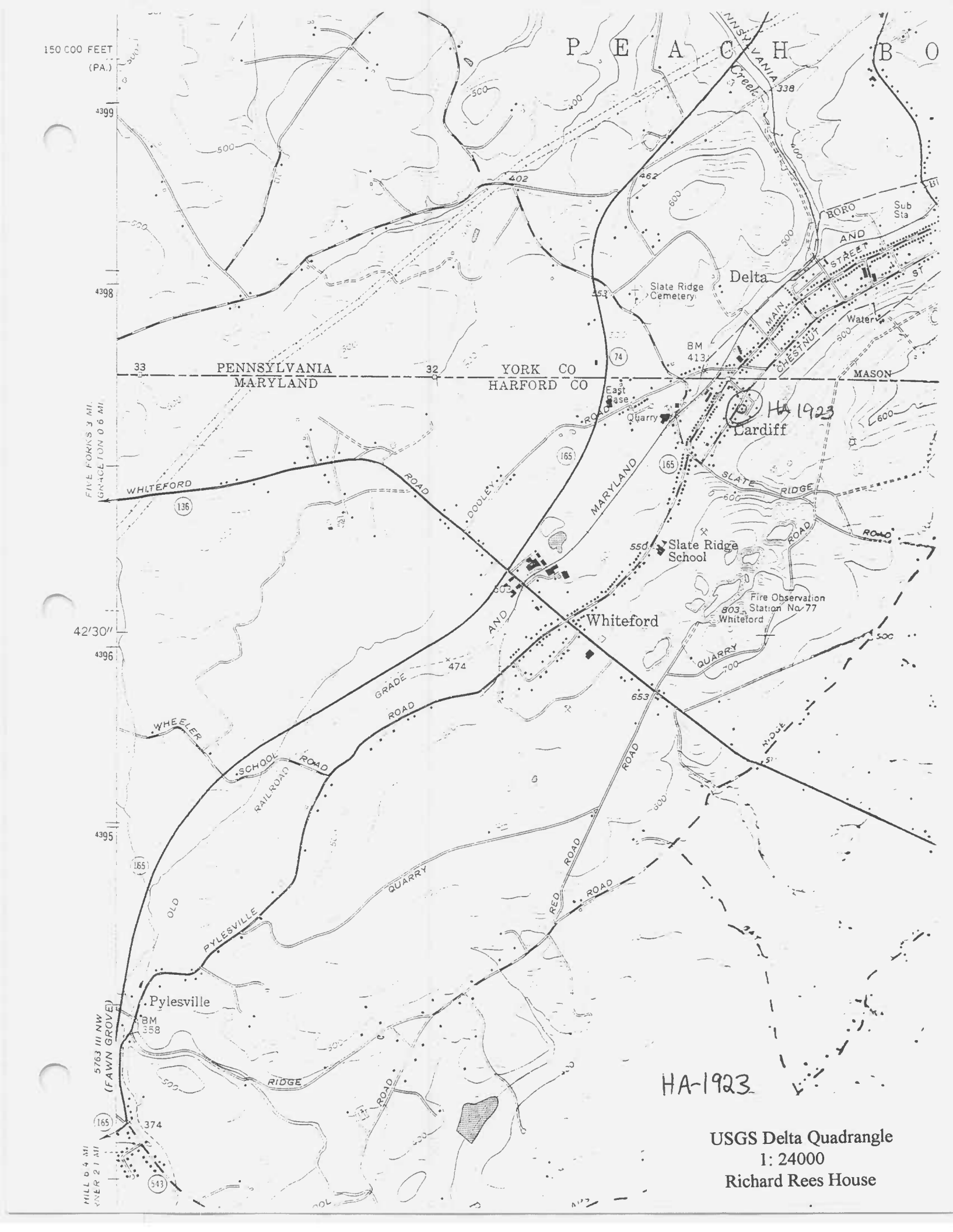
Various conversations with area residents for a contextual history of the inventory structures.



HA-1923

Richard Rees House
Parcel 216, Tax Map 5

HA-1923
1896 Plat in Equity Case
WSF 60/475
Richard Rees House



USGS Delta Quadrangle
1: 24000
Richard Rees House

HA 1923
Richard Rees House
Harford County, Maryland
Dianne Klar
3/95
Maryland SHPO
~~Chris Weeks, Harford County, Dept of Planning & Zoning~~
View northeast from Chestnut Street

1/2

~~HA~~ 1923
Richard Rees House
Harford County, Maryland
Dianne Klar
3/95
Maryland SHPO
~~Chris Weeks, Harford County, Dept. of Planning & Zoning~~
View Southeast from Chestnut Street
2/3

HA 923
Richard Reschhouse
Harford County, Maryland
Diane Klair
3/95
Maryland SHPO
~~Chris Weeks, Harford County, Dept. of~~
View east from Chestnut Street
3/3