

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #84-9

Building Date: ca. 1860-70

Building Name: Miller House

Location: 2312 Floral Park Road, Piscataway, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Miller House is on a town lot at the southwest corner of Floral Park and Piscataway Roads. It is a frame two story structure, rectangular in plan, with a center front cross-gable and a one-story gable roof west wing. The three-bay south (front) facade of the main block has 4/1 windows. The central entrance, a door of vertical boards, was added recently. Beneath it the original door has two horizontal panels with an upper glass light. The one-bay, gable roof entrance porch has a crown molded cornice and enclosed pediment resting on square wood posts. A lunette window is centered in the cross-gable. The roof is of patterned tin. The west gable end of the main structure has an exterior corbelled brick chimney. The west wing has a steep gable, corrugated metal roof and German siding. Its north facade is two bays with entrance in the first bay. A door in the barn has two horizontal lower panels and an upper glass light with "Piscataway Post Office" etched into the glass. The owner believes it an original door for the west wing. The west gable end has two 6/1 windows on its first story and a small 4/2 window in the loft. The wing has a boxed cornice and corner boards. The north (rear) has a central entrance which has been boarded over. The facade is covered with headed wood siding. The north (rear) of the main structure has a three-bay, one-story shed roof kitchen addition across the facade. The two-bay east facade has a centered exterior corbelled brick chimney. The interior has a central stair hall with two flanking parlors. There is a crown molded cornice and a chair rail. The door surrounds are banded molding with corner blocks. The interior of the west wing is one room with a fireplace on its east wall. The interior is altered, with a modern ceiling and wood paneling. A stair way to the loft space in the northeast corner has been removed.

Significance

The Miller House is significant for its late 19th century vernacular style and its location marking the east entrance to Piscataway. Its west wing may date from the 18th or early 19th century, making it significant as part of the early building stock in the village. The house contributes to the proposed Piscataway historic district. The site of the house was significant during the 18th and 19th centuries. Dock facilities for the town were north of the house on the present Piscataway Road. St. Mary's Church is (and was) also located in that area. Much activity would pass the corner daily. A building was on the site in 1861. Because of its beaded siding, steep gable roof and interior plan, the west wing of the house appears to date earlier than the main block. The Miller house was constructed by 1872, by Richard H. and Louisa B. Miller. Richard H. Miller was a hotel keeper during the 1860's, and died in 1868. Louisa Miller mortgaged the house and lot in 1872 and it has been held by a series of owners since that time. The west wing served as Piscataway Post Office during the later 19th century. The main block of the Miller house is a handsome example of the cross-gable vernacular dwelling built in the County in the mid-to-late nineteenth century.

Acreage: .53 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Miller Houseand/or common Humphries House

2. Location

street & number 2312 Floral Park Road (Maryland Route 223) not for publicationcity, town Clinton Piscataway
 vicinity of congressional district 4state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

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

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

name Wayne F. Humphriesstreet & number 2312 Floral Park Drive telephone no.:city, town Clinton state and zip code Md. 20755

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5874street & number Main Street folio 404city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and District Plandate July 1981 federal state county localdepository for survey records History Division MNCPPCcity, town Riverdale state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. ~~f~~ 84-9

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

The Miller House is situated on a town lot at the southwest corner of the intersection of Floral Park and Piscataway Roads. It is a frame two story structure, rectangular in plan, with a center front cross-gable and a one-story gable roof west wing.

The three-bay south (front) facade of the main block has 4/1 double hung sash windows. The central entrance has a door of vertical boards called a "Williamsburg" door, which was added recently. Beneath it the original door has two horizontal panels with an upper glass light. Both door and windows have plain wood surrounds. There is a one-bay, gable roof entrance porch with a crown molded cornice and enclosed pediment resting on square wood posts on high bases. Photographs indicate that the porch was screened at one time. A lunette window is centered in the cross-gable. The roof is of patterned tin.

The west gable end of the main structure has an exterior corbelled brick chimney centered on the facade, flanked by two 4/1 windows at the attic story. The facade is dominated by the west wing. The wing has a steep gable, corrugated metal roof and German siding. Its north facade is two bays with entrance in the first bay. The door is a "Williamsburg" door, added recently. According to the owner there is a door in the barn that has two horizontal lower panels and an upper glass light with the words "Piscataway Post Office" etched into the glass. He believes this is an original door for the west wing. The second bay on the north side is a large, single-pane "picture" window, flanked by two 4/1 sash windows. The west gable end has two 6/1 windows on its first story and a small 4/2 window in the loft. The wing has a boxed cornice and corner boards. The north (rear) side has two bays composed of a 6/1 window and a central entrance which has been boarded over. The facade is covered with wide horizontal wood siding with a lower bead. The north (rear) of the main structure has a three-bay, one-story shed roof kitchen addition across the facade. There is a central entrance flanked by two 6/6 widows and a one-bay, gable roof back porch with wood posts. There are three 6/1 windows on the second floor of the main structure. The siding of the kitchen addition is plain, horizontal wood siding. The two-bay east facade has a centered exterior corbelled brick chimney flanked by 4/1 windows at the attic level, and two flanking 6/1 windows on the first and second floors.

The interior of the Miller House has a central stair hall with two flanking parlors. The stair is entered from the north, kitchen side rather from the entrance door. The entrance to the kitchen addition is a double door, indicating that perhaps the house orientation was once to the north rather than its present south orientation. There is a crown molded cornice and a chair rail. The door surrounds are banded molding with corner blocks.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates ca. 1860-70 **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.

The Miller House is significant for its late nineteenth century vernacular style and its location marking the east entrance to the village of Piscataway. Its two-by-one-bay west wing may date from the eighteenth or early nineteenth century, making it significant as part of the early building stock in the village. The house is one of the buildings contributing to the proposed Piscataway historic district.¹

The corner site of the Miller House was a significant location in Piscataway during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Some of the dock facilities for the town were located north of the Miller house on the present Piscataway Road.² St. Mary's Church is (and historically was) also located in that area.³ Much town activity would pass the corner daily. A building appears on the corner lot on the 1861 Martenet Map of Prince George's County. Because of its beaded siding, steep gable roof and interior plan, the west wing of the Miller House appears to date earlier than the main block, indicating that a small house or utilitarian structure stood on the site before the Miller house was constructed.

The Miller house was constructed by 1872, by Richard H. and Louisa B. Miller.⁴ Richard H. Miller was hotel keeper at the Harbin House Hotel in Piscataway during the 1860's, and died in 1868.⁵ Louisa Miller mortgaged the house and lot in 1872 and it has been held by a series of owners since that time.⁶ The west wing served as the Piscataway Post Office during the later nineteenth century.⁷

The main block of the Miller house is a handsome example of the cross-gable vernacular dwelling built in the County in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. Characteristics it shares with buildings built during the period include its pedimented center front cross gable with lunette window, its interior "I" house plan, and austerity in further architectural detail.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG-84-9

See Footnotes, #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .53 acre

May 143 p.131

Quadrangle name Piscataway, Sec. D

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing							

B

Zone	Easting			Northing							

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Marina King, Architectural Historian		
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organization	Historic Preservation Commission	date	September, 1985
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street & number	14743 Govenor Oden Bowie Drive	telephone	952-3521
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city or town	Upper Marlboro	state	Md.
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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

#7. Continued

The interior of the west wing is one room with a fireplace on its east wall, sharing the west side chimney with the main structure. The interior is significantly altered, with a modern ceiling and wood paneling. There was a stair way to the loft space in the northeast corner of the wing, which has been removed.

There is a small frame barn northwest of the house in a spacious tree shaded backyard.

Chain of Title

Miller House
P.G. #84-9

- #5874:404
6 April 1984
Deed
Michael L. Kirchiro and Heather L. Kirchiro, his wife, and Margaret B. Blandford to Wayne F. Humphries and Rosemary L. Humphries, his wife. For \$113,000 grantors convey same parcel which Michael L. Kirchiro obtained from Margaret B. Blandford, 27 Oct. 1977, 4844:861.
- #4844:861
27 Oct. 1977
Deed
Margaret B. Blandford, widow of Roland B. Blandford, to Michael L. Kirchiro and Heather L. Kirchiro. For \$10.00 grantor conveys that lot in Piscataway previously conveyed by George H. Boswell to Mary L. Roland, 2-02-1893, JWB 25:75.
- JWB 25:75
2 Feb. 1893
Indenture
George H. Boswell and Eliza J. Boswell of Washington, D.C. to Mary L. Roland. For \$200 grantors convey that parcel assessed in the name of Louisa B. Miller, adjoining lands of Dr. E. D. Hurt and Henry Davis - with buildings and improvements thereon. George H. Boswell from Louis B. Miller Tax Deed 1889 JWB 10:641.
- JWB 10:641
19 Feb. 1889
Deed
James T. Perkins, Trustee of Prince George's County to George H. Boswell. By #1592, 1593 Equity, Charles Claget vs. Ruth A. Hall, adm. of John G. Hall, said Perkins was appointed Trustee to collect taxes uncollected by John G. Hall a Treasurer for Prince George's County. On 8 Oct. 1887, taxes in arrears for years 1872-85 for \$138.67, assessed in name of Louisa B. Miller. Perkins sold to Boswell for \$205.00.
- HB 7:237
14 Aug. 1872
Mortgage
Louisa B. Miller to James Westerfield of Washington, D.C. Miller owes Westerfield \$250. To secure debt she grant to him a house and lot in Piscataway adjoining lot of Dr. Hurtt. Voided if debt repaid by 1 Nov. 1874.
- Admin. #778
16 May 1868
Louise Miller is wife of late Richard H. Miller. From list of possession sold, Miller kept a bar - was hotel keeper at Harbin House, 1861.

#8. Continued

Notes

1 Piscataway Historic District, Donna Ware, M-NCPPC, CAB Room 4010, Upper Marlboro, September 1983.

2 The Parish of St. Marys, Piscataway, Maryland, 1980. Booklet at History Division, M-NCPPC, Riverdale.

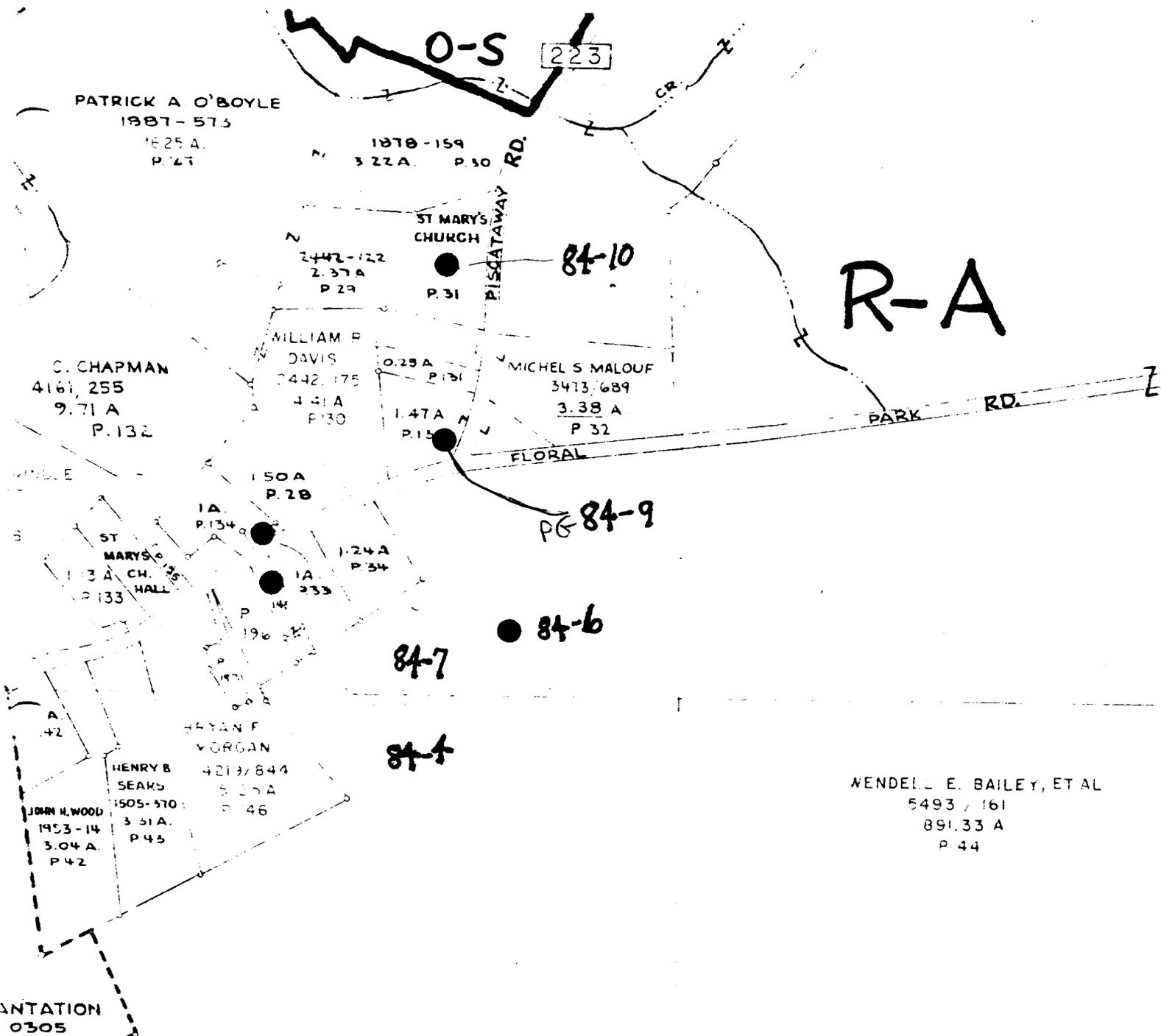
3 Ibid.

4 Land Records of Prince George's County, Tax Assessments, Piscataway District, 1871, 11055.

5 Ibid. CSM 4:172, 1861; and Administration #778, 1868.

6 Ibid. HB 7:237, 1872

7 Conversation with Wayne Humphries, May 1985.



PATRICK A. O'BOYLE
1987-573
1625 A.
P. 47

1978-159
3.22 A. P. 30

ST MARY'S
CHURCH

2442-122
2.37 A
P. 29

84-10

R-A

C. CHAPMAN
4161, 255
9.71 A
P. 132

WILLIAM P.
DAVIS
2442, 175
4.41 A
P. 30

MICHEL S. MALOUF
3473, 689
3.38 A
P. 32

0.29 A
P. 31

1.47 A
P. 15

PARK RD.

FLORAL

1.50 A
P. 28

PG 84-9

1A
P. 134

1.24 A
P. 34

● 84-6

ST MARY'S
CH. HALL

1A
P. 14

84-7

84-4

RYAN F.
VORGAN
4219, 844
5.25 A
P. 46

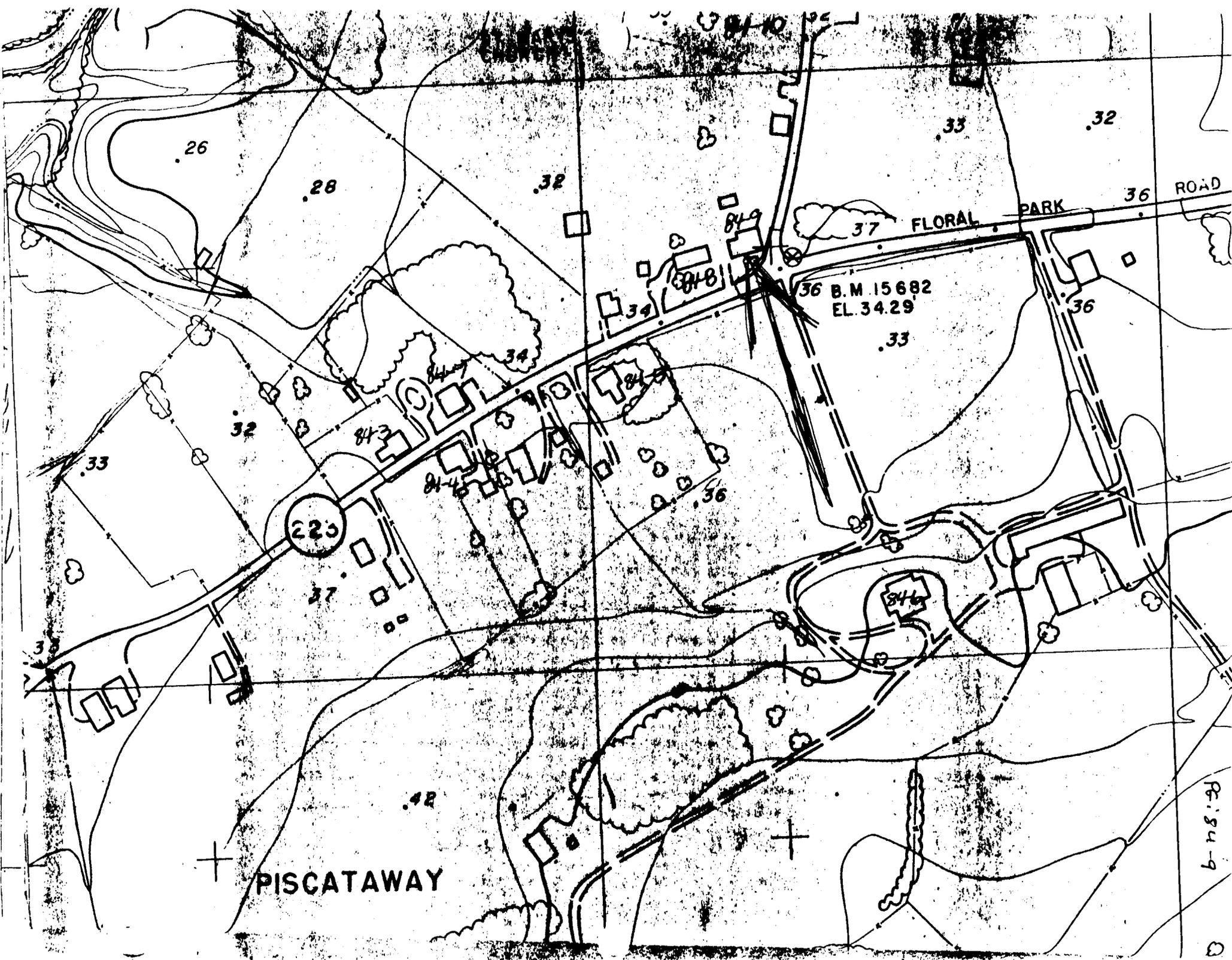
WENDELL E. BAILEY, ET AL
5493 / 161
891.33 A
P. 44

HENRY B.
SEAKS
1505-570
3.51 A.
P. 45

JOHN H. WOOD
1953-14
3.04 A.
P. 42

ANTATION
0305

R-A



.26

.28

.32

.33

.32

FLORAL PARK ROAD

.36

B.M. 15682
EL. 34.29

.33

.36

.32

.33

229

.37

.36

.42

PISCATAWAY

6-18-89



P. G. #84-9

Miller House

Prince George's County, Maryland

Marina King

May 1985

Southwest elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P. G. #84-9

Miller House

Prince George's County, Maryland

Marina King

May 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P. G. #84-9

Miller House

Prince George's County, Maryland

Marina King

May 1985

Southeast elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P. G. #84-9

Miller House

Prince George's County, Maryland

Marina King

May 1985

North elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #84-9

Piscataway Village Historic District

Kirchus house

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

From south

Neg: Md. Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #84-9

Piscataway Village Historic District

Kirchus house

Susan G. Pearl

October 1984

From southeast

Neg: Md. Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME

#84-9

LOCATION

FLORAL PARK Rd PISCATAWAY, Md

FACADE

S

PHOTO TAKEN

APRIL 3, 1973 COWENS



NAME

#84-9

LOCATION

FLORAL PARK Rd PISCATAWAY, Md

FACADE

S

PHOTO TAKEN

7/31/74 MDWYER