PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: PG#84-23-24 Building Date: circa 1917

Building Name: Gallahan-Davis House

Location: 2306 Floral Park Road, Piscataway

Private/Residence/Unoccupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Gallahan-Davis House is a two story frame I-house plan dwelling with a gable roof, fronting on Floral Park Road in the village of Piscataway. It has a facade-wide entrance porch with turned posts and jig-sawn brackets. The front facade is surmounted by a central cross-gable and a small gable surmounts the porch roof above the central entrance bay. The house is located on a 4.16 acre property surrounded by mature plantings. It fronts directly on the village street and contributes to the historic streetscape.

Significance

The Gallahan-Davis House in Piscataway is significant as an example of an early twentieth century dwelling which reflects the Victorian vernacular architectural style of the fourth quarter of the 19th century. The dwelling has an I-house plan, with Victorian vernacular detail. It is one of the two most recent dwellings in the small cluster that remains of the 18th century village of Piscataway. Because of its architectural style and details, and its location fronting directly on Floral Park Road, it contributes to the historic character of the village. The house was constructed circa 1917 by John H. Gallahan, member of a family closely associated with Piscataway's late 19th and early 20th century history. It has belonged to the related Davis family, also long time residents of Piscataway, since 1930.

Acreage: 4.16 acres

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance - AD 1870 - 1930

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: Rural Village

Historic Functions and Uses: Domestic/Single Dwelling

Design Source: unknown

Survey No. PG#84-23-24

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Gallahan-Davis House

and/or common Davis House

2. Location

street & number 2306 Floral Park Road (Maryland Route 223) ___ not for publication

city, town Piscataway ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

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

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

name Mrs. Ella Davis

street & number 2306 Floral Park Road telephone no.:

city, town Piscataway state and zip code MD 20735

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 2442

street & number Main Street folio 175

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#84-23-24

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X 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.

The Gallahan-Davis House is a two story frame I-house plan dwelling with a gable roof, fronting on Floral Park Road in the village of Piscataway. It has a facade-wide entrance porch with turned posts and jig-sawn brackets. The front facade is surmounted by a central cross-gable and a small gable surmounts the porch roof above the central entrance bay. The house is located on a 4.16 acre property, surrounded by mature plantings.

Constructed circa 1917, the Gallahan-Davis is a three-by-one bay dwelling with two one story rear additions. The three-bay south, main elevation has central entrance through a wooden door with two vertical rectangular panels and six upper lights. The door is surmounted by a narrow rectangular transom. The entrance door is flanked by two 2/2 double-hung wood sash windows. All have plain flat board surrounds.

The entrance is sheltered by a three bay facade-wide entrance porch with a shallow hipped roof. There are deeply overhanging eaves and a boxed wood cornice. A triangular pediment above the central entrance bay is marked by cornice returns and is infilled with decorative tongue-and-groove paneling laid on a diagonal on either side of a central vertical molding. The porch is supported by slender turned and chamfered posts with jig-sawn brackets. The porch stands on a concrete slab, and is enclosed by a metal balustrade of modern design and materials.

There are three windows at second story level, shaded by aluminum awnings. A central cross-gable with a lunette window surmounts the facade. The boxed, crown-molded cornice is returned in the front cross-gable and the east and west gable ends. Two central interior brick chimneys rise from the gable ridge.

The house stands on a concrete block foundation. It is sheathed in aluminum siding and has an asphalt shingle roof.

The one bay east and west gable ends have a window at each level, from the first through the third story level. The attic story is lighted by a single six-light casement window in each gable end.

The three bay north, rear facade has three windows at second story level. The east bay on the first story also has a window opening. The other two first story bays are covered by the one story kitchen wing.

The one story frame kitchen wing is probably original to the house. Its gable roof is perpendicular to that of the main block. Probably originally one-by-one bay, the wing has had the addition of a sunroom and bathroom on the east side and a small concrete block utility room at the north gable end.

The sunroom/bathroom added approximately six feet to the depth of the wing on the east side. Because the kitchen wing is sheathed in aluminum siding, the seams marking the addition cannot be seen from the exterior. However, the greater depth on the east side has made the gable roof asymmetrical, with the long slope over the east side of the wing. There is an entrance door with four glazed upper lights, and a double 6/6 double-hung sash window in the east elevation, lighting the sunroom. The west elevation of the kitchen wing has a single double-hung sash window.

The north gable end of the kitchen wing has a small square awning-shaded window lighting the bathroom. An interior brick chimney rises at the gable ridge. The two-by-one bay concrete block utility room is attached at the north gable end, and has entrance on its east side. Both the kitchen wing and the utility room have standing-seam metal gable roofs.

The interior of the Gallahan-Davis House has a central entrance hall flanked by a parlor on the east and west. The entry hall is narrow, with a low ceiling. The stair rises along the west wall, with the entry to the stair at the rear (north) end of the hall. There is a rectangular paneled newel post with a flat top. The stairs have two turned balusters to the step and jig-sawn scrolled brackets on the stair ends. The north end of the hall has a door with multiple glazed panes which gives entrance to the small sunroom in the north kitchen wing.

The east parlor is reached through a door just to the right of the entrance door. The chimney in the west wall of the parlor has a hole for the attachment of a stovepipe and there is a register in the ceiling above where the stove would have been. Entrance to the west dining room is at the north end of the hall, at the foot of the stair. There is a chimney in the east wall of the dining room, also with a stovepipe hole and a register above.

The door and window surrounds are dark-stained banded moldings with bull's-eye corner blocks. The dark-stained interior doors are five-panel, with metal door knobs. The baseboards have a reverse ogee crown molding. The flooring is dark-stained regular width boards. The second story has a central stair hall and two bedrooms, one above each of the first floor parlors. The attic is unfinished.

The kitchen is reached through the north wall of the dining room. The ceiling in the kitchen is lower than in the main block. Door and window surrounds are plain board moldings. There is entrance to the sunroom and the bathroom in the east wall of the kitchen. A door in the north wall leads to the rear utility room.

The grounds of the Gallahan-Davis House include a concrete-capped well immediately north of the concrete block utility addition. According to family members, a well house once stood over the well. Also in the rear yard once stood a meat house, chicken house and outhouse. A white picket fence once

defined the immediate yard around the house, including the outbuildings.

A large tobacco barn stands north of the house. The barn has a standing-seam metal gable roof and vertical board siding. According to the family, a house once stood on the site of the barn. The house was made over into the barn and the barn has been rebuilt many times. Visual inspection indicated that there are few old timbers left inside of the barn. A hog-pen once stood northeast of the barn, at the north end of the field behind the house, bordering what is now the property of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#84-23-24

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

Specific dates 1917 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B X C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support. The Gallahan-Davis House in Piscataway is significant as an example of an early twentieth century dwelling which reflects the Victorian vernacular architectural style of the fourth quarter of the 19th century. The dwelling has an I-house plan, with Victorian vernacular detail. It is one of the two most recent dwellings in the small cluster that remains of the 18th century village of Piscataway. Because of its architectural style and details, and its location fronting directly on Floral Park Road, it contributes to the historic character of the village. The house was constructed circa 1917 by John H. Gallahan, member of a family closely associated with Piscataway's late 19th and early 20th century history. It has belonged to the related Davis family, also long time residents of Piscataway, since 1930.

Mandated by Act of the Colonial Assembly in 1707, Piscataway was a thriving commercial center with a port on Piscataway Creek, throughout the 18th century. As its port activity declined, as a result of siltation of the creek and a changing national economic structure after the American Revolution, Piscataway's regional importance began to fade. During the 19th and early part of the 20th century the village served as a small commercial center for the surrounding farms.[1]

The Gallahan-Davis House was built by John H. Gallahan, a farmer, circa 1917.[2] The I-House plan is one that had been used throughout the 19th century in Prince George's County for simple vernacular farm dwellings. It is one room deep, having a central hall flanked by a parlor on each side. Two bedrooms on the second floor are above the first floor parlors. The dwelling is embellished by late Victorian stylistic elements, including a central cross gable with a lunette window on the main elevation, and a facade-wide entrance porch with turned posts and jig-sawn brackets. The dwelling's plan and exterior detail reflect 19th rather than 20th century stylistic influences. The interior door and window surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks also reflect 19th century style. The house fits harmoniously into the historic village because of its use of 19th century stylistic elements, and its location fronting directly on Floral Park Road, aligned with the other older dwellings in the village.

John H. Gallahan was married to Lillian Brandt, a resident of Piscataway, who's family had long owned the only brick dwelling in Piscataway, called the Hardy Tavern.[3] Gallahan's sister, Mary Jane, was married to Henry C. Davis, a farmer who resided in and ran a small general store in Piscataway.[4] The Gallahans sold the dwelling to Mary Jane Davis's son, William Ralph Davis, in 1930. The dwelling has remained in the ownership of the Davis family since that time.[5]

Most of the outbuildings associated with the Gallahan-Davis House are now gone. A tobacco barn stands northwest of the house. According to the owners, the barn was built from the remains of an old dwelling that had stood on the site. The barn has been rebuilt numerous times and evidence of the early structure is not apparent. The well house, meat house and outhouse that stood in the rear yard and the hog pen that stood northeast of the barn are now gone. (see site plan)

The Gallahan-Davis house stands on a lot that is in the center of the 18th century village of Piscataway. It has had at least two other structures on it prior to the Davis house. On the 1861 Martinent Map of Prince George's County, a blacksmith's shop occupied by J. F. Miller is indicated on the site of the Gallahan-Davis house. Additionally, according to the Davis family, a dwelling stood on the present site of the tobacco barn.

1.Marina King, Piscataway Village Rural Conservation Study, Historic Preservation Section, Area Planning Division E/S, M-NCPPC Planning Department, June 1991, pg. 1.

2.Interview with Louise Kenlon, April 1991; and Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 5th Election District, 1912-1915 and 1916-1921.

3.United States Census, Prince George's County, 5th Election District, 1900 and 1910.

4.Interview with Nina Davis Edelen, November 1991.

5.Prince George's County Land Records, 345:441 and 2442:175.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#84-23-24

See Endnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4.16 acres Tax Map 142 Parcel 130

Quadrangle name Piscataway D Quadrangle scale

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

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, Preservation Planner

organization Historic Preservation Commission, M-NCPPC date Spring 1992

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr. telephone (301) 952-4609

city or town Upper Marlboro 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

CHAIN OF TITLE

Gallahan-Davis House

PG#84-23-24

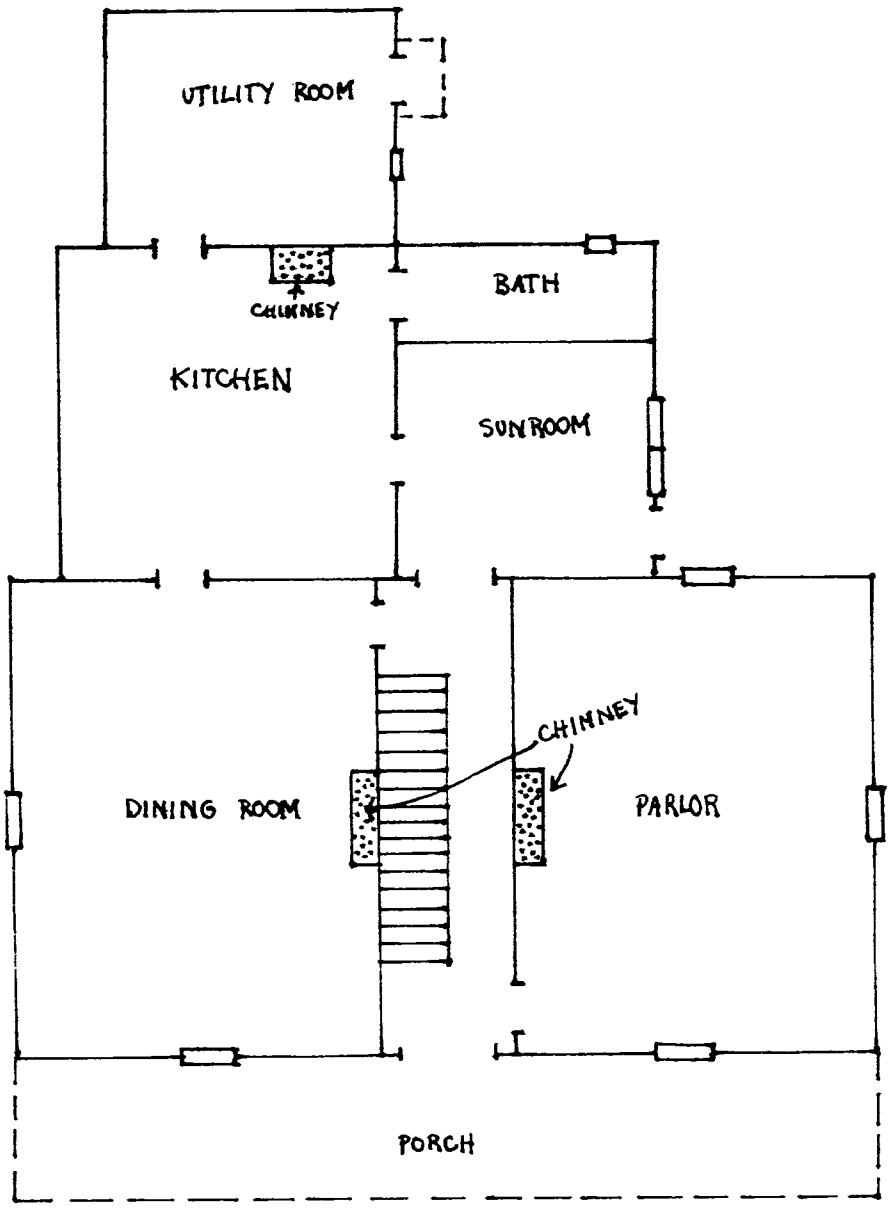
2442:175 22 April 1960 Deed	Patrick O'Boyle, R.C. Archbishop of Washington to William R. and Ella Davis, part of same obtained 1887:573, 1.16 acres.
1887:573 28 July 1955 Deed	John T. and Ruth M. Fisher to Patrick O'Boyle, 17.42 acres according to plat attached, bounded on S and E by fence of Davis and Forsht properties, on W by Nealy-Boswell tract, and on the E and N by creek. Part of second parcel conveyed to grantors by William B. Gallahan, July 7, 1938, 505:199.
505:199 7 July 1938 Deed	William B. and Marjorie F. Gallahan to John T. and Ruth M. Fisher, all of same from Annie T. Brandt, widow, 30 July, 1924, 219:329. Includes 1/2 acre south of road and all of 45 acres adjoining the R.C. Church lot excepting 8.78 acres conveyed to John H. Gallahan, 20 August 1909, 52:353, leaving 36.22 residue.
345:441 18 September 1930 Deed	John H. and Mary E. Gallahan to William R. and Ella Davis, all of the same from Annie T. Brandt, 7 August 1909, 52:353. A lot on N side of village, a part of Annie T. Brandt's land, 8 7/8 acres. Part of same conveyed 28:239.
52:353 7 August 1909 Deed	Annie T. Brandt to John H. Gallahan, for $400, a lot on N side of village, 8.78 acres. Part of 45 acres conveyed to Annie T. Brandt, 28:239, 29 January, 1906.
28:239 29 January 1906 Deed	Charles J. Bonaparte et ux of Baltimore entered into a bond to sell property, JB 9:153.
JB 9:153 30 September 1899 Bond	Charles J. and Ellen C. Bonaparte of Baltimore are bound to Annie T. Brandt for $1200. If she repays debt she receives 2 parcels in Piscataway, 1 1/2 acre and 45 acres adjoining the R.C. Church. Second parcel conveyed to Gerard W. Brandt by C.C. Magruder, Jr. and George C. Merrick, Trustees, 6 October 1869, HB 2:677.

PG:84-23-24

HB 2:677 6 October 1869 Deed	C.C. Magruder, Jr. and George C. Merrick, Trustees by decree in Equity #407, Administrators of Charles Bealle vs Rebecca R. Bealle et al, Trustees to sell land remaining unsold. Have sold 2 small tenements and the lots on which they stand, contiguous to one another and adjoining the R.C. Church, 45 acres, to Gerard W. Brandt.
JBB 4:97 2 January 1845 Indenture	Horatio and Elizabeth Dyer to Charles R. Bealle, for $900, lots with improvements adjoining Piscataway. Begins at the corner of Levi Gray's lot and adjoining lot of John F. Latimer, purchased from William G. and Mary P. Hardy, they of John and Rosmary Tippett, they of heirs of Joseph N. Bayne and (?) the heirs of yellow (?) Adams and the heirs of black John Adams, with the exception of the R.C. Church lot containing 1 1/2 acres whereon the church now stands, 22 1/2 acres more or less. Also the meadow the late Isadore Hardy purchased of Horatio C. McElderry and the land of Robert Hunter and others, 9 acres.

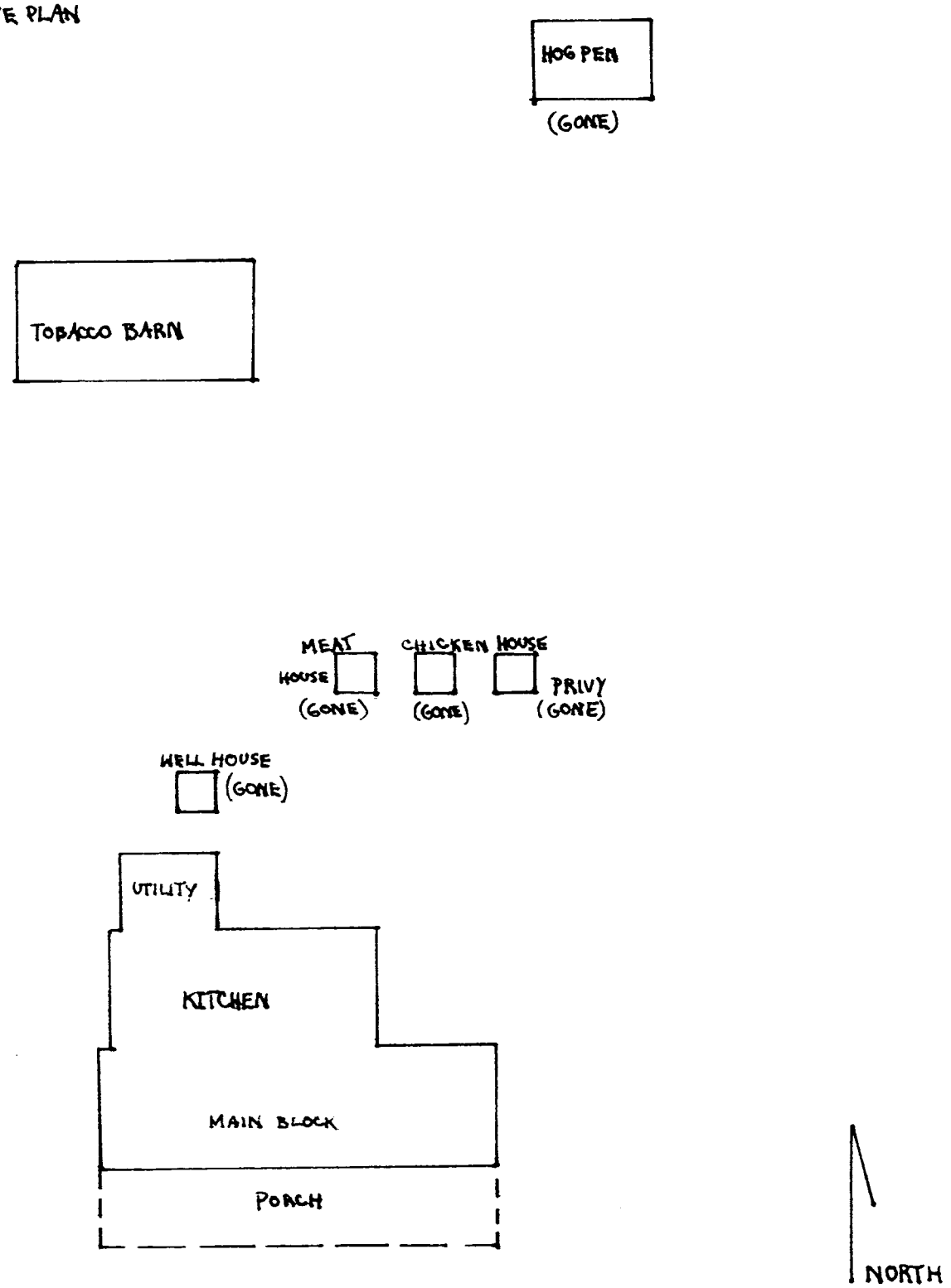
GALLAHAN-DAVIS HOUSE
FLOOR PLAN, NOVEMBER 1991
NOT TO SCALE

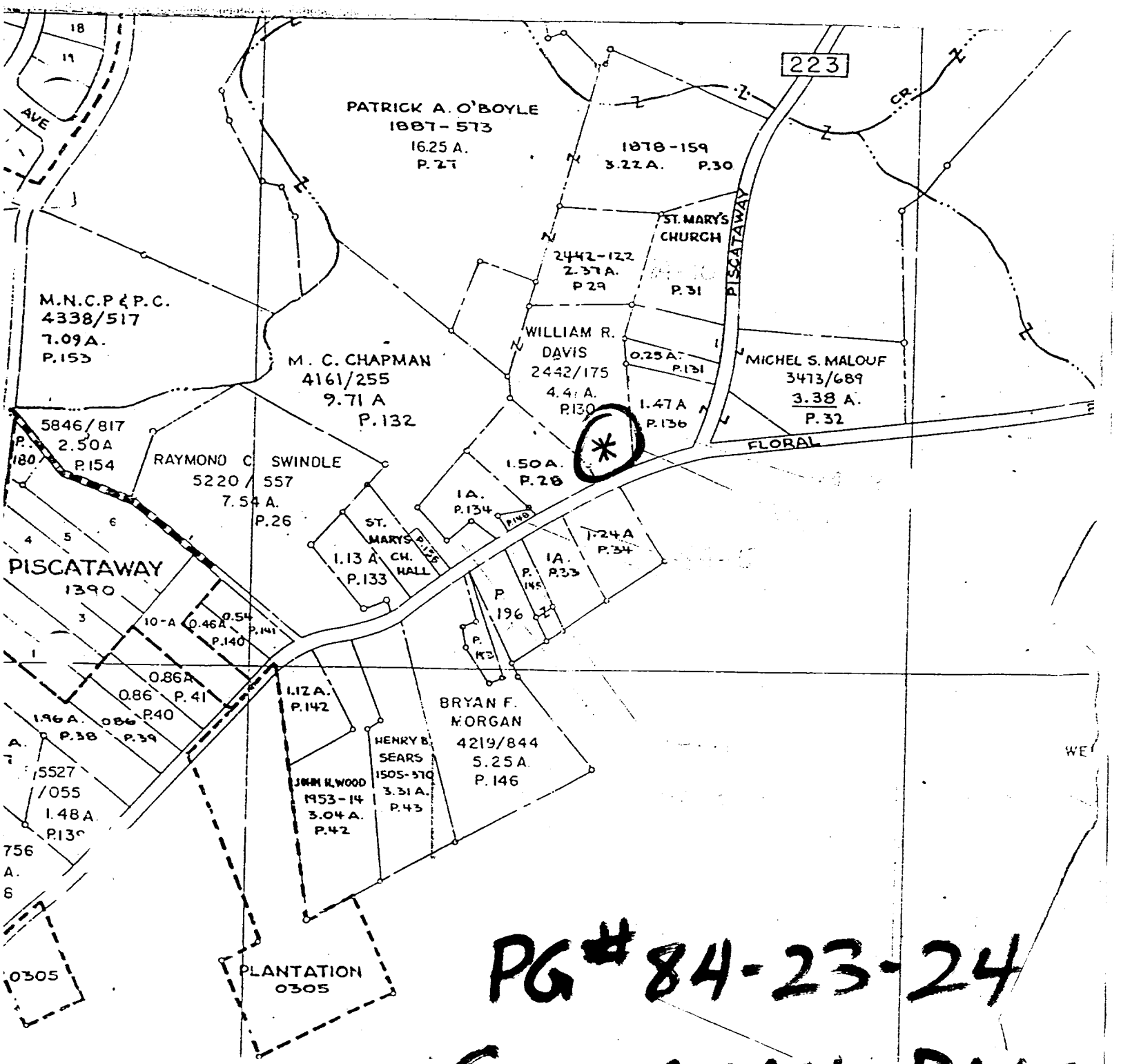
PG 84-23-24



PG #24-23-24

GALLAHAN-DAVIS HOUSE
HISTORIC SITE PLAN
NOT TO SCALE





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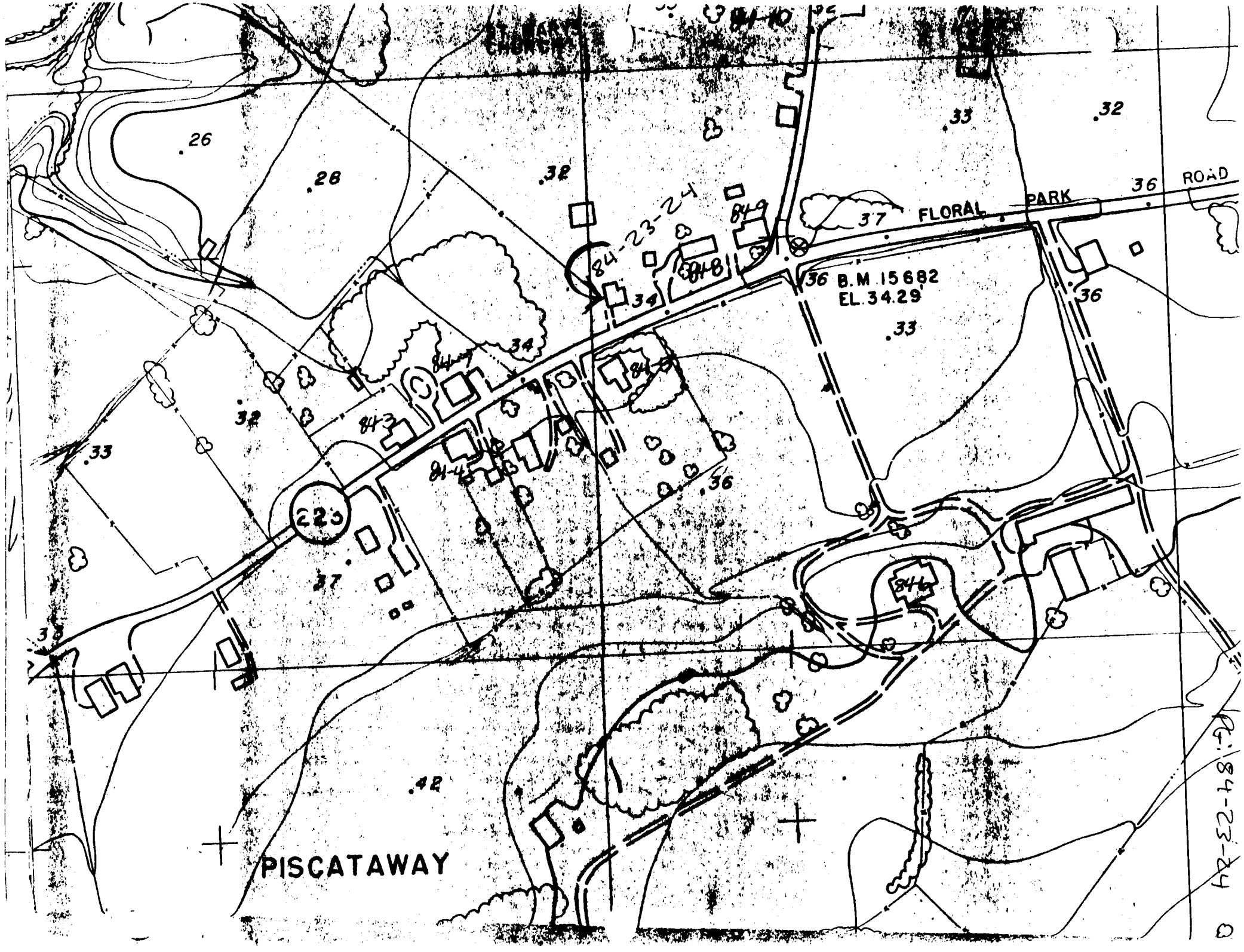
GALLAHAN - DAVIS House



FLORAL PARK ROAD
B.M. 15682
EL. 34.29
84-23-24
84-10
84-9
84-8
84-7
84-3
84-4
84-6
223
PISCATAWAY
26
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32
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34
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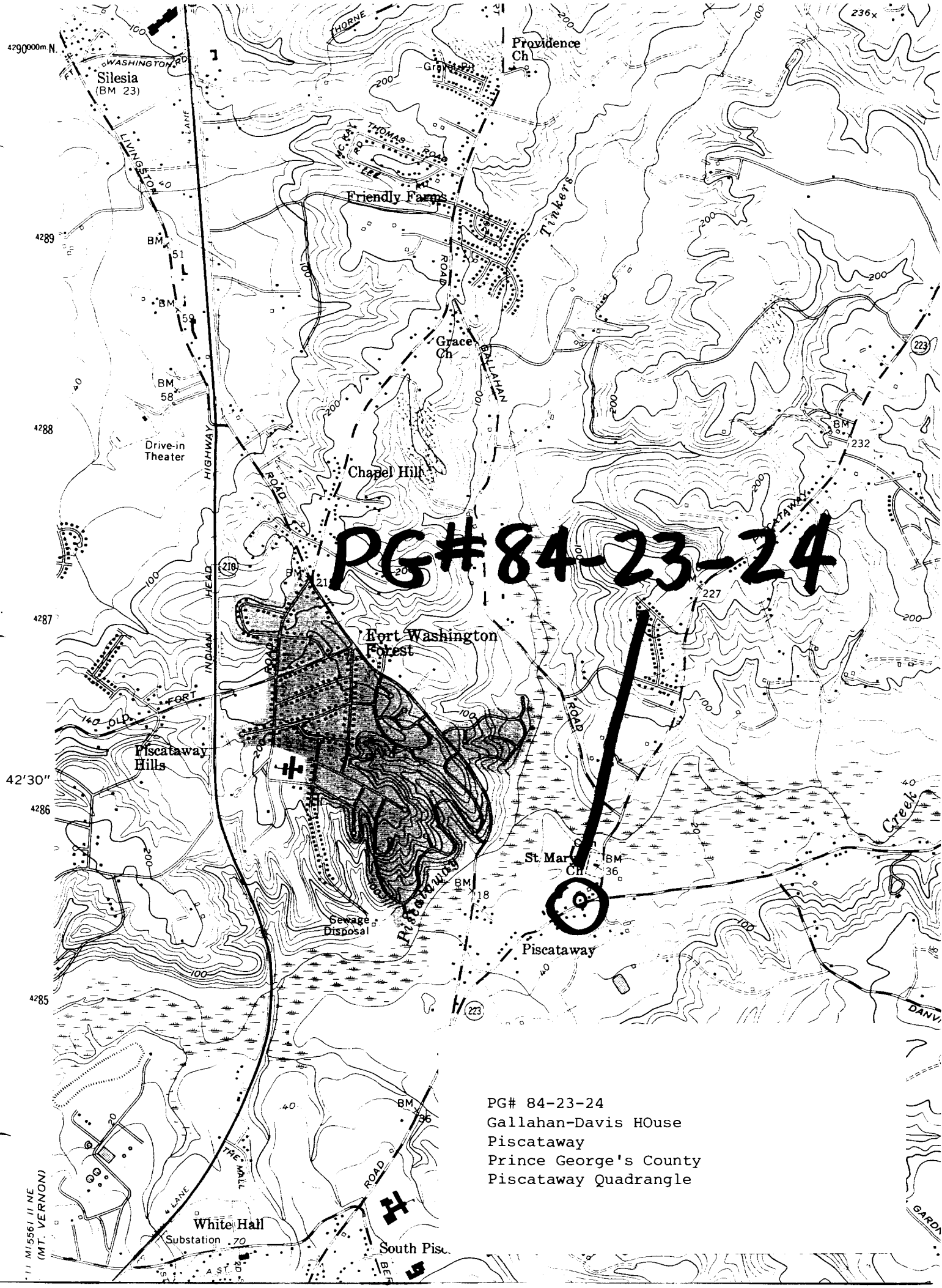
PG: 84-23-24



PG# 84-23-24
Gallahan-Davis HOuse
Piscataway
Prince George's County
Piscataway Quadrangle

Pg # 84-23-24

Gallahan Davis Hor

Piscataway

Nov. 1991

M. King

W

1 of 7

Pg # 84-23-24

Gallahan-Davis Hse
Piscataway
Nov. 1997
Mr King
N

PG # 94-23-24

Gallahan - Davis Hse
Piscataway
Nov 1991
M. King
barn SW

3 of 7

P/G # 84-23-24

Gallaher Dorsey
Piscataway
Nov 1991
M. King
W

4-07

PG # 84-23-24

Gallatin - Davis House
Piscataway, P.G. Co.
Marina King
November 1991
South facade

5 of 7

PG #84-23-24

Gallahan Lounge
Piscataway
Nov 1991
M. King
Newark Post

6 of 7

PG # 84-23-24

Gallahan-Davis Ave

Piscataway

Nov. 1991

M. King

Stair hall looking S

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