

CH-143

**Joseph C. Parks House
Bryans Road vic.
Private**

circa 1927

Erected circa 1927, the J.C. Parks house consists of a 2-story frame Colonial Revival-style dwelling with a wrap-around front porch. Built on a small parcel in Bryans Road, the house features several decorative elements typical of the early 20th century.

The Parks House represents a rare example of a relatively refined early-20th century dwelling built by an African-American professional. While modest in its architectural statement, the house displays an ambition towards architectural refinement that reflects the training and education of its builder, Joseph C. Parks. Parks served as Charles County's first Supervisor of Colored Schools, and had architectural and engineering training.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-143

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Joseph C. Parks House

common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 7020 Matthews Road not for publication _____
city or town Bryans Road vicinity X state Maryland code MD
county Charles code 017 zip code 20616

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No X

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-143

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6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

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7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation pier: poured concrete
roof front gable: pressed metal sheets
walls frame: vinyl German siding
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-143

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance circa 1927

Significant Dates circa 1927

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Joseph Christopher Parks

Cultural Affiliation African American

Architect/Builder Joseph Christopher Parks

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Charles County Retired Teachers Association. *A Legacy: One- and Two-Room Schools in Charles County*. 1984.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 3.23 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 7020 Matthews Road is designated as Parcel 290 on Map 5, Grid 24 on the Charles County Property Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The dwelling at 7020 Matthews Road has been associated with Parcel 290, Map 5 since its construction circa 1927.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian
organization Charles County Planning Dept. date Dec. 2, 1998
street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

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12. Property Owner
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name Lillian V. Parks
street & number P.O. Box 1315 telephone 301-283-6336
city or town Bryans Road state MD zip code 20616
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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-143

Section 7 Page 1

J.C. Parks House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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Erected circa 1927, the J.C. Parks house consists of a 2-story frame Colonial Revival-style dwelling with a wrap-around front porch. Built on a small parcel in Bryans Road, the house features several decorative elements typical of the early 20th century.

Located on a 3.23-acre lot on the northwest side of Matthews Road near its junction with Indian Head Highway (MD Route 210), the Joseph C. Parks House stands on a level open site and is set back from the road approximately fifty feet. Several mature evergreen trees frame the front of the house, and a tall hedge screens the front yard from the road. The open lot is surrounded on three sides by forest.

The dwelling itself consists of a 2-story front gable frame block with a wrap-around front porch. Colonial Revival in style, the house features gable end cornice returns, boxed eaves, and Tuscan porch columns. Diamond windows pierce both the front and rear gable ends. The house originally sat on poured concrete piers that have since been infilled with concrete block and brick. An original interior brick stove flue has been removed and the exterior of the building reclad with vinyl German-style siding. However, the original decorative pressed metal roof remains intact.

The dwelling's facade is two bays wide with a side-passage entry consisting of a single-leaf panel-and-light wood door framed by sidelights and topped by a fixed rectangular transom. The second facade bay of the first story holds a coupled double-hung window containing two replacement 1/1 metal sashes. At the second story two vertically aligned window bays pierce the wall. The southernmost of these is identical to the coupled window below, while the northern bay contains a single replacement 1/1 sash window.

The north elevation of the house contains one of the building's more interesting architectural elements. At the western end of this elevation the wall is pierced by two windows and a door. The windows are unique in their construction. Set side-by-side, they function as drop-pocket windows that slide down into pockets set in the frame wall. However, their lighting pattern is configured to look like a standard 6/6 double-hung sash window. The accompanying entry holds a single-leaf panel-and-light wood door typical of the 1930s. This combination door and two windows is sheltered by a shed roof porch set on square wood posts. At the second story, the north elevation contains a single window opening that contains a replacement 1/1 metal sash.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-143

Section 7 Page 2

J.C. Parks House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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The rear or west elevation of the house again contains two bays below and two above. A pair of the same unusual drop-pocket style windows occupy the northern bay of the first story. The remaining three window bays contain replacement 1/1 sash.

Finally, the southern elevation contains three window bays on the first story and two above. From west to east, the first story openings consist of two single 1/1 replacement windows and a pair of 1/1 sash windows. On the second story, two single 1/1 replacement sash windows pierce the south wall.

OUTBUILDINGS:

There are no associated outbuildings standing on the property. The owner indicated that an outhouse originally stood at the rear of the property. Additionally, a 2-story, side gable log tenant house that pre-dated the present house once stood just north of the dwelling.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-143

Section 8 Page 1

J.C. Parks House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====
The Colonial Revival-style Joseph C. Parks House represents a rare example of a relatively refined early-20th century dwelling built by an African-American professional. While rather modest in its architectural statement, the house displays an ambition towards architectural refinement that reflects the training and education of its builder. Joseph C. Parks served as Charles County's first Supervisor of Colored Schools, and had trained as an engineer and architect in school.

The Joseph C. Parks house was built circa 1927 by Joseph Christopher Parks, the Supervisor of Colored Schools for Charles County between 1919 and 1961. As an amateur builder/architect Parks designed and constructed his house over a period of several years. As Supervisor, Parks was involved in the planning and construction of numerous grammar and high schools throughout the County, including Pomonkey Elementary, Pomonkey High School and Bel Alton High School. Parks also took an active role in recruiting, training, and housing teachers; negotiating the purchase of land for school construction; maintenance of school buildings; and transportation of students to one of two County high schools for African Americans.¹ According to J.C. Park's daughter, her father also was responsible for the design of many of the small grammar schools erected in Charles County between the 1920s and 1940s.²

In addition, Supervisor Parks played an instrumental role in securing and utilizing Rosenwald funding to erect a number of grammar and high schools, including the schools at La Plata, Marbury, Mason Springs, Mount Hope, Oak Grove, Bel Alton, Thompkinsville, and Waldorf. The Rosenwald Foundation, a nationwide charitable organization set up by Sears, Roebuck & Company chairman, Julius Rosenwald, made funds available to local jurisdictions for the construction of schools, especially for African-American children. J.C. Parks has since been honored by the Charles County Board of Education by the naming of a school near Bryans Road after him.

Joseph Christopher Parks was born to Lillie Lee and Reverend

¹ Charles County Retired Teachers Association, A Legacy: One- and Two-Room Schools in Charles County, 1984: p.13.

² Interview with Lillian V. Parks, 11/30/1998. Miss Parks indicated that she or the African-American Heritage Society of Charles County may still possess some of the drawings of the schools designed by J.C. Parks.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-143

Section 8 Page 2

J.C. Parks House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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Hannibal Parks in Fayette County, Kentucky. He attended grammar and high school in Lexington, Kentucky; and later was sent to Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia where he completed the course in the Division of Technology and Trade in 1916 and Teacher Training in 1917. He went on to study at Hampton University, Penn State, Morgan State and Catholic University. During this time he took preliminary engineering and architecture courses where he learned to execute architectural drawings.

J.C. Parks began his teaching career as principal of the Centerville Colored Elementary School in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. His career was interrupted by his service in the armed services during World War I. In February 1919, he returned to America from Europe, and resumed his career accepting the supervisory position in Charles County that would occupy him until his retirement.

After moving to Charles County in 1919, J.C. Parks took up residence as a boarder with several different families in the County. It is said that he boarded for nearly twenty years with George & Annie Butler at their residence on Marshall Hall Road near Bryans Road (2664 Marshall Hall Road, see CH-098).³

In 1927, J. C. Parks purchased three acres of land that had formerly been a part of the Colonial estate known as Market Overton (see CH-56) from Alice & Robert Johnson. Over the next several years, Parks planned and built his residents for himself and his wife, Carliza Clayton Parks. His daughter retains the professionally executed architectural drawings for the house, and indicated that, as planned, the house was designed to replicate the family home of his wife in Newport News, Virginia. The original design for the house was a substantial symmetrically arranged 2-story Colonial Revival dwelling with a hipped roof and full-width front porch. However, due to time or money constraints, the plans were scaled back, and essentially only half of the original design was erected. It appears that the house at 7020 Matthews Road was complete by 1932 (as appears in the County assessment records).

The house retains much of its original design although some significant alterations to the interior and exterior have been made. The side passage plan remains, although an arched opening dividing the front and back parlors has been removed on the first

³ Retired Teachers Association, p.13.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-143

Section 8 Page 3

J.C. Parks House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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floor.

As built, the house represents a relatively substantial and architecturally refined dwelling built by an African American professional during the early 20th century. Its generously scaled first floor rooms, and decorative interior and exterior finishes reflect it owner's aspirations of architectural refinement.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-143

J.C. Parks House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-
1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-143

J.C. Parks House
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====
Chain of Title:

May 2, 1885: Florence C. Southerland, et al. to
Samuel B. Barkley
11,362 square feet
Charles County Land Records
Liber BGS 8 Folio 93

September 28, 1897: Paul L. Barkley to Samuel Barkley
Charles County Land Records
Liber JST 9 Folio 295

August 2, 1899: Samuel B. Barkley, et al. to Alice
L. Johnson (formerly Alice L.
Hawkins)
3 acres
Charles County Land Records
Liber BGS 10 Folio 64

September 24, 1927: Alice L. & Robert Johnson to Joseph
C. Parks
\$400
3 acres, Two contiguous lots on
state road from Pomonkey to
Piscataway, part of "Market Road"
Charles County Land Records
Liber WMA 47 Folio 509

August 12, 1980: Lillian V. Parks to Household
Finance Corporation
\$14,056.40
Mortgage
3 acres, Part of a tract known as
"Market Overton"
Charles County Land Records
Liber 730 Folio 254

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

10/98

CH-143



J.C. Parks House
7020 Matthews Rd.
Bryans Road Vic.
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

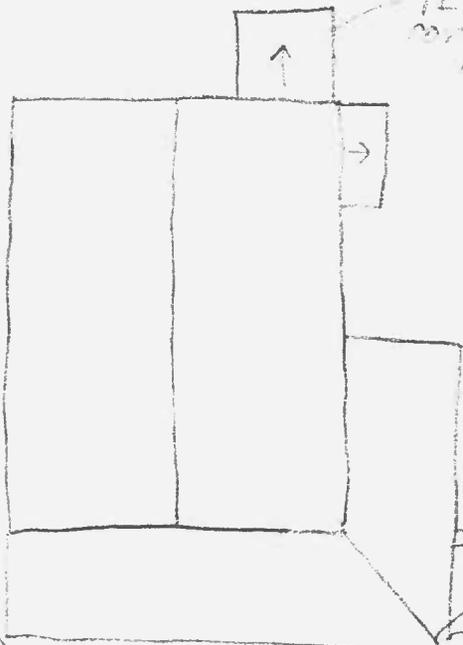
Wooded
Area

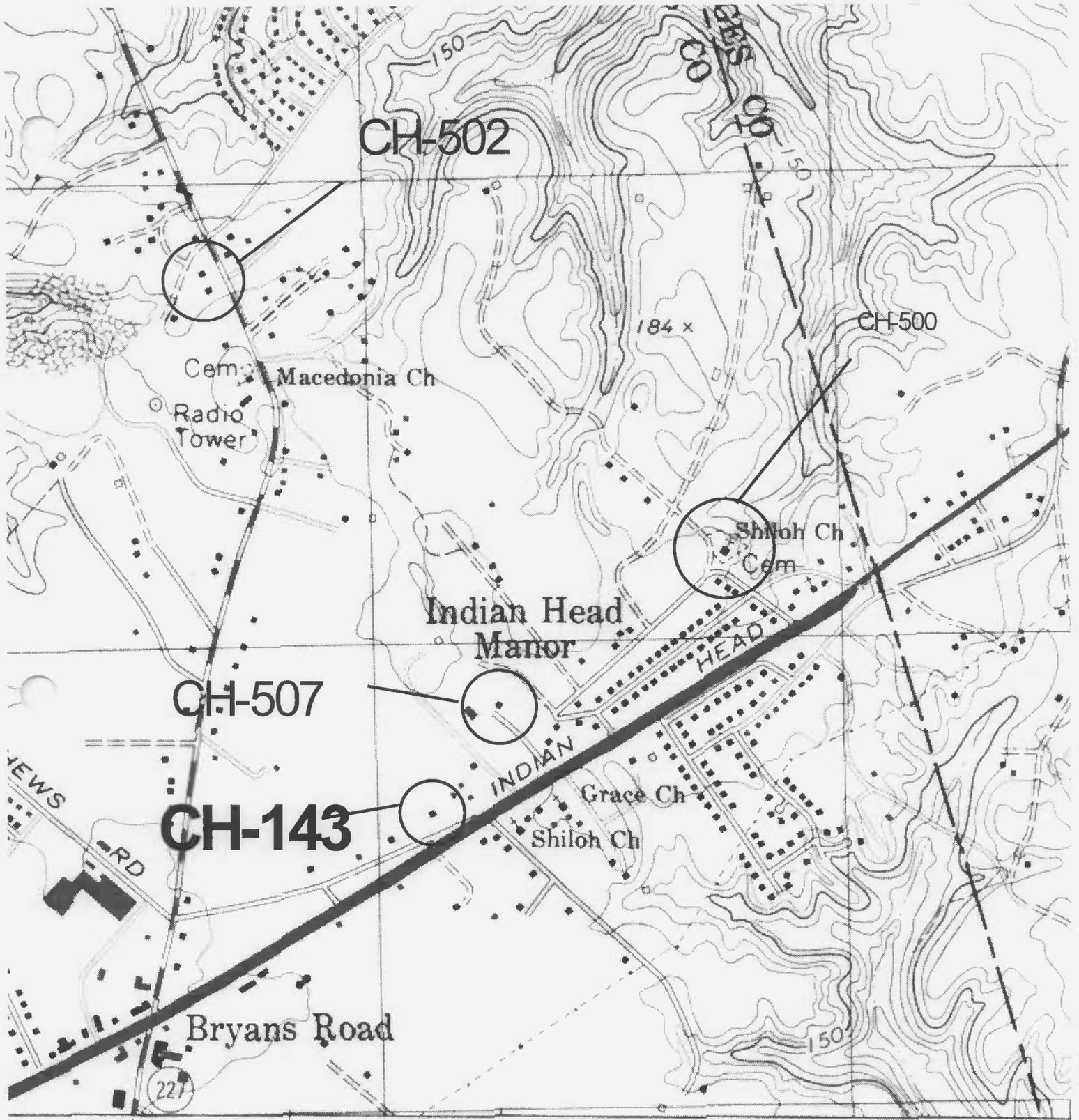
Wooded
Area

1/2-story
concrete blk.
addn

gravel driveway

Matthews Rd.





Joseph C. Parks House
 Charles County, MD
 CH-143
 MOUNT VERNON, MD-VA QUAD



CH-143

J.C. Parks House

Charles County, MD

K.G. Smith

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO
EAST ELEVATION

1 OF 3



CH-143

J.C. PARKS HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING NE

2 OF 3



CH-143

J.C. PARKS HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO
NORTH ELEVATION

3 OF 3