CH-247
Charles A. Boswell House
Pomfret vic.
Private

circa 1880

Erected circa 1880, the Charles A. Boswell House consists of a modest 2-story, single-pile, side-passage frame dwelling with an original rear "ell." Its elongated first story windows and interior decoration indicate that it was influenced by the Italianate style of the mid-to-late 19th century. The building incorporates several 20th century extensions, the most recent of which was under construction at the time of the survey.

The house is a rare example of Italianate-influenced vernacular domestic architecture in the rural areas of Charles County. The building's side-passage, single-pile plan, elongated windows, and typical Victorian interior finishes depart from the standard rural I-house configuration and design. While modest in scale, the house was erected by a relatively wealthy landowner, who had the means to purchase stock interior finishes, including the Victorian mantel and stair.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST Inventory No. CH-247
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Charles A. Boswell House
common/other name _____

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2. Location

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street & number 5570 Laurie Place not for publication _____
city or town Pomfret vicinity X state Maryland code MD
county Charles code 017 zip code 20675

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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)

X private
____ public-local
____ public-State
____ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

X building(s)
____ district
____ site
____ structure
____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
6	0	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-247

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
DOMESTIC	Single dwelling
AGRICULTURAL/Processing	Tobacco barn

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
DOMESTIC	Single dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular Victorian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation pier: brick
roof side gable: pressed metal shingles
walls frame: asbestos shingles
other original cladding: wood weatherboard

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.

_X_ 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-247

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance circa 1880

Significant Dates circa 1880

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

CH-247

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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.

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 5 acres

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

The property at 5570 Laurie Place is designated as Parcel 276 on Map 22, Grid 21 on the Charles County Property Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Charles A. Boswell House has been associated with Parcel 276, Map 22 since its construction circa 1880.

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian
organization Charles County Planning Dept. date Dec. 1, 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 Larry Harris & Cynthia Gleich
street & number 5570 Laurie Place telephone 301-934-6974
city or town Pomfret state MD zip code 20675

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Erected circa 1880, the Charles A. Boswell House consists of a modest 2-story, single-pile, side-passage frame dwelling with an original rear "ell." Its elongated first story windows and interior decoration indicate that it was influenced by the Italianate style of the mid-to-late 19th century. The building incorporates several 20th century extensions, the most recent of which was under construction at the time of the survey.

The house occupies a mainly level 5-acre parcel sparsely scattered with trees. A mature tree grows at the front of the house and a gravel drive approaches the house from Laurie Place to the south.

The Charles A. Boswell house stands on a brick pier foundation that has been infilled with poured concrete. Originally clad in lapped wood weatherboard, the house has been recovered in asbestos shingles. The original decorative pressed metal roof with its open eaves remains, as does the interior gable end chimney on the main block. Another original exterior brick chimney is located at the rear of the "ell." The front porch has been replaced by a modern, 1-story, 2-bay frame construction with square wood post supports and an asphalt shingled shed roof. Two substantial additions have been made. One, erected in the 1930s, extends the length of the rear "ell," and the other, built in the 1950s, acts as a 1-story, side-gable west wing.

The facade of the original house is organized into three bays, with a 1-bay 1-story frame wing extending off the west side. The westernmost of these contains a single-leaf replacement panel-and-light wood door of mid-20th century design. The door is crowned by a 2-light transom and framed by replacement molded wood trim. The remaining two bays of the facade's first story hold the only remaining original sash in the house. These elongated windows are filled by double-hung 2/2 vertical sash and trimmed by the same replacement moldings as the main door. The west end holds paired 6/6 wood sash windows trimmed with molded Colonial Revival casings. At the facade's second story the three window openings are aligned with the three bays below. These openings have been enlarged and filled with 1/1 metal replacement sash.

The east elevation of the dwelling reveals the blank gable-end wall of the front section and the long wall of the 1-story partially enclosed frame porch that was added across the east wall of the rear "ell." Another frame addition is visible here. This is a 1-3/4-story gable-roof extension built off the rear of the "ell" in the 1930s. The east wall of the enclosed porch contains a single

metal 1/1 sash window. The east wall of the "ell" extension is pierced by two openings, one containing a single-leaf flush-with-light wood door, and the other another 1/1 metal window. At the second story, this elevation contains just two window openings. One holds a single 1/1 metal sash and is located on the rear "ell," while the other occupies the "ell" extension and holds identically configured sash.

The rear of the house is generally obscured by the new construction that is in progress. It is evident that one original window opening occupied the first story at the back of the "ell" extension but has been removed during the current construction project. However, no other openings are evident on the first story except one 6/6 wood sash window opening into the 1-story west wing. A single second story window pierces the second story. This window is located on the rear of the main section, near its northeast corner, and holds a replacement 1/1 sash.

The western side of the house displays only two openings on each level. Two in the original "ell" and two in its extension. Vertically aligned, these windows hold three replacement 1/1 metal sashes, and one original 2/2 wood sash.

INTERIOR:

The Charles A. Boswell House displays a single-pile, side hall plan with a single first floor room in the original rear "ell." The three original first floor rooms, the entry/stair hall, the front parlor, and the original dining room/kitchen are adorned with consistent wide molded wood window and door casings featuring a wide square-edged backband, cavetto, and an inner bead. Also apparent throughout the original rooms is an plain wood baseboard featuring a square-edged top and a single score-line set approximately one inch below the top. This Victorian style trim, along with the characteristic Victorian mantle and stair reveal the Italianate influence. The flooring throughout the original house consists of three inch tongue-and-groove boards.

The entry hall is approximately ten feet wide and runs the depth of the house. A 3-panel and 9-light early 20th century door opens into the south end of the hall from the front of the house. A closed stringer winder stair occupies the west wall of the hall. The stair features a molded stringboard, and a robust turned newel post, rounded handrail, and "fancy" turned balusters. The walls of the hall are finished in smooth plaster, and the ceiling has been

recovered with plasterboard. The original baseboard adorns the entire perimeter of the room. A closet accessed through a single-leaf vertical board door opens under the stair. The hall's original floors have been covered by wall-to-wall carpet.

The parlor is entered from the hall through a 4-panel door with elongated top panels of Victorian design and its original hardware. The parlor is similarly decorated. The door casings and baseboard match those of the rest of the original house. The window trim in this room is the only original trim that remains in place. The top and side moldings match the door casing profiles, while the sill is formed by a run of the same molding augmented by a molded sill below. A projecting chimney breast stands centered on the east wall of the parlor. A raised panel wood mantel surrounds the enclosed firebox of the chimney. The mantel features flanking pilasters, a flat frieze adorned by raised panels and a central roundel motif, and a shaped mantel shelf. The room's walls are finished with smooth plaster, and the ceiling with applied plasterboard. The floor has been covered by wall-to-wall carpet.

The remainder of the first floor reveals very little original material. The first floor room in the rear "ell" has linoleum covered floors, smooth plaster walls, a rough stuccoed ceiling, and replacement Colonial Revival-style window and door casings. Two original door casings remain in place however. A slate hearth stone has been added at the north end of the room where a wood-burning stove is located. The living room in the west wing of the house is finished in 1950s Colonial Revival trim.

The second floor has been largely remodeled. A modern bathroom and hall occupy the space above the first floor entry hall. The only remaining original elements are located in this hall and in the bedroom located in the rear "ell." Some original door casings and doors appear to have been reused. The original baseboard remains in the "ell" bedroom. Otherwise stock Colonial Revival-style decorative elements have replaced the original finishes.

OUTBUILDINGS:

There are five outbuildings associated with the main house. These include a 20th century tobacco barn, storage/machine shed, a former henhouse converted to a garage, a tool shed, and an animal shelter. All these outbuildings appear to be nearly contemporary with one another, dating to the first half of the 20th century. All the buildings are of frame construction and clad in vertical boards,

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except the former henhouse which is clad in board-and-batten siding.

The tobacco barn is a 1-story gambrel roof frame building with a standing seam metal roof, vertical board cladding, and a poured concrete foundation. A 1-story frame shed extends off its western side.

The storage/machine shed stands behind the tobacco barn and consists of a small front gable building with a loft. The building has been extended by a west end shed addition designed to house machinery.

The former henhouse stands on concrete piers and is covered by a gable roof clad in standing seam metal sheets. The toolshed is a small frame building with a front gable roof and a single vertical board door on its gable end. The animal shelter has a sloped shed roof and double vertical board doors. Both roofs are clad in corrugated metal.

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Erected circa 1880, the Charles A. Boswell House is a rare example of Italianate-influenced domestic architecture in the rural areas of Charles County. The building's side-passage, single-pile plan, elongated windows, and typical Victorian interior finishes depart from the standard rural I-house configuration and design. While modest in scale, the house was erected by a relatively wealthy landowner, who had the means to purchase stock interior finishes, including the Victorian mantel and stair.

During the post-Civil War period, few rural Charles Countians had the means to purchase the sort of decorative finishes seen on the interior of this dwelling. The house was built by Charles A. Boswell on a parcel of land he acquired through his relation to the Robey family. The Robey's owned a large tract of land in the Pomfret vicinity known as "Green Spring." According to oral evidence, an 18th century manor house stood on this property, a short distance to the northeast of the present dwelling. The Boswell House was likely erected by Charles A. Boswell, Sr., who may have occupied the 18th century manor house, for one of his children.

In 1859, Henry M. Robey died, leaving as item two in his will, a 297-acre tract of land known as "Green Spring" or "St. Matthew" to his three daughters. The sisters continued to jointly own the property for many years, but gradually sold off their interest to their sister Mary's husband, Charles A. Boswell, Sr. Between 1865 and 1882, Boswell acquired rights to most of the original 297 acres. By 1902, however, it became necessary to divide the property among Charles & Mary Boswell's children. At that time, Thomas H. & Nettie C. Boswell received a 32-acre portion of the property, on which the present house stands. Thomas & Nettie lived there until 1917 when they sold the property, along with an additional 43 acres they had acquired, to Bayard Hanson. Retaining it for twenty years, the Hansons deeded the land and house to Margaret C. Mudd in 1937. The Mudds remained in possession of the property for 52 years. In 1989, Margaret Mudd sold 5 acres and the house to Michael Simpson for $190,000. The present owners acquired the property in 1996.

Judging from the architecture it is likely that the house was erected around 1880. This would mean that Charles A. Boswell, Sr. was the owner of the property at the time. Considering it likely that Boswell occupied the older manor house on the site, it is possible that he had this house built for one of his sons.

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The Italianate-influenced dwelling is a good example of a modest late 19th century dwelling in Charles County, and one of the few exhibiting this stylistic affinity.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single dwelling
AGRICULTURAL/Tobacco barn

Known Design Source: Unknown

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Chain of Title:

February 15, 1859:	Will of Henry M. Robey Devised a tract of land to his three daughters, Christiana A. Robey, Mary E.C. Robey, and Caroline C. Robey Lands known as "Green Spring" or "St. Matthew": 297.25 acres located on Port Tobacco Run or Swamp in 6th E.D., adjoining the lands of Mrs. Ida Robey on North, heirs of John H. Mitchell on the South, and lands of Mary O. Hodges on the West Charles County Register of Wills Liber JS 17 Folio 245
December 18, 1902:	Charles A. Boswell, Jr. & Ann C. Boswell, wife to Thomas H. & Nettie C. Boswell, and William E. Boswell Deed of partition Henry M. Robey died January 19, 1859; devised as item 2 in his will (Liber JS 17 Folio 245)a tract of land to his 3 daughters: Christiana A. Robey, Mary E.C. Robey, and Caroline C. Robey. Thereafter, Christiana married Wilmer E.W. Rowe and conveyed her interest in land to Charles A. Boswell, Sr. (JS 2/125); Caroline married Henry DeLozier and conveyed her interest to William Hamilton & T. Yates Robey, who turned the land over to Charles A. Boswell, Sr. (BGS 5/582, April 12, 1882); Mary married Charles A. Boswell, Sr. and she died intestate during 1881, leaving her interest in the land to her husband, Charles A. Boswell, Sr. and her children: Thomas H. Boswell, William E. Boswell, Emma Jane Boswell, and Charles A. Boswell, Jr. Emma Jane died intestate in 1892. Charles A. Boswell, Jr. conveyed his interest in his mother's land to his father,

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Charles A. Boswell, Sr.
Land known as "Green Spring" or "St. Matthew": 297.25 acres located on Port Tobacco Run or Swamp, adjoining lands of Mrs. Ida Robey on north, heirs of John H. Mitchell on south, and Mary O. Hodges on the west.
Deed of partition divides property into 3 parts:
Thomas H. Boswell: 32 acres, 1 rood, 34 perches beginning at the gate post on the road leading into the farm, shown in survey by S. Henry Cox made May 30, 1898
Wm. E. Boswell: 48 acres shown in survey of S. Henry Cox made November 14, 1901
Charles A. Boswell, Jr.: remaining land, 216.75 acres
Land Records of Charles County
Liber BGS 13 Folio 439

October 17, 1917:

Thomas H. & Nettie C. Boswell to Bayard Hanson
$2500
75 acres, land on which Thomas H. Boswell now resides: part of a subdivision of an original tract known as "Green Spring" and "St. Matthews," near Pomfret
Land Records of Charles County
Liber FBM 32 Folio 221

February 20, 1937:

Bayard & Mary E. Hanson to Margaret Mudd of Upper Marlboro, PG county
$600
75 acres
Land Records of Charles County
Liber WMA 64 Folio 540

September 16, 1971:

Margaret Carrico and William E. Mudd to Mathilde Owen
$1.00
53.03 acres, Part of original tract

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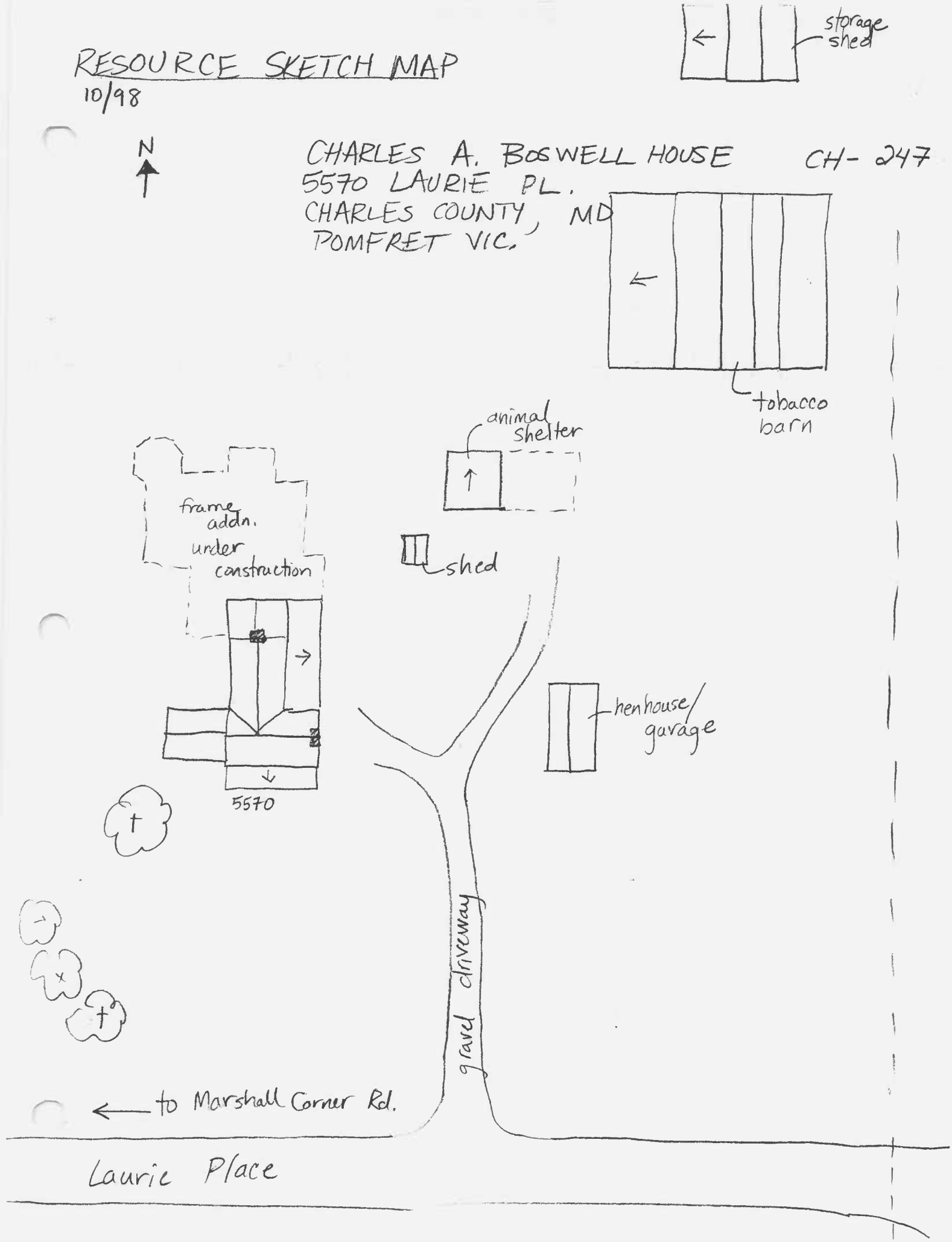
	known as "Green Springs" and "St. Matthews" near Pomfret Land Records of Charles County Liber 242 Folio 504
September 16, 1971:	Mathilde Owen to Margaret C. & William E. Mudd $1.00 Parcel 2: 53.03 acres, Part of original tract known as "Green Springs" and "St. Matthews" near Pomfret Land Records of Charles County Liber 242 Folio 507
May 12, 1989:	Margaret Carrico Mudd to Michael Simpson $190,000 Parcel 1:5 acres, east side of Marshall Corner Rd. Land Records of Charles County Liber 1382 Folio 355
August 28, 1989:	Michael Simpson to William & Nancy Orton Land Records of Charles County Liber 1407 Folio 179
November 1, 1996:	William & Nancy Orton to Larry L. Harris & Cynthia J. Gleich $154,000 5 acres Land Records of Charles County Liber 2298 Folio 258

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
10/98

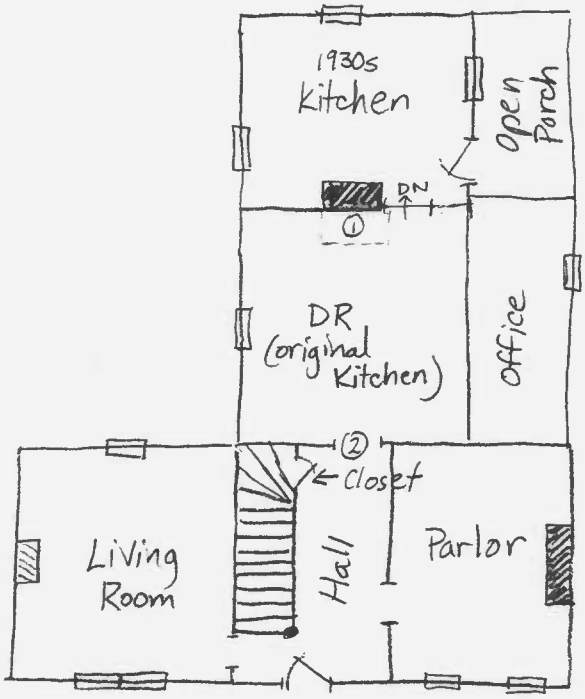
CHARLES A. BOSWELL HOUSE CH-247
5570 LAURIE PL.
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
POMFRET VIC.



FLOOR PLAN
10/98

CHARLES A. BOSWELL HOUSE CH-247
5570 LAURIE PL.
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
POMFRET VIC.

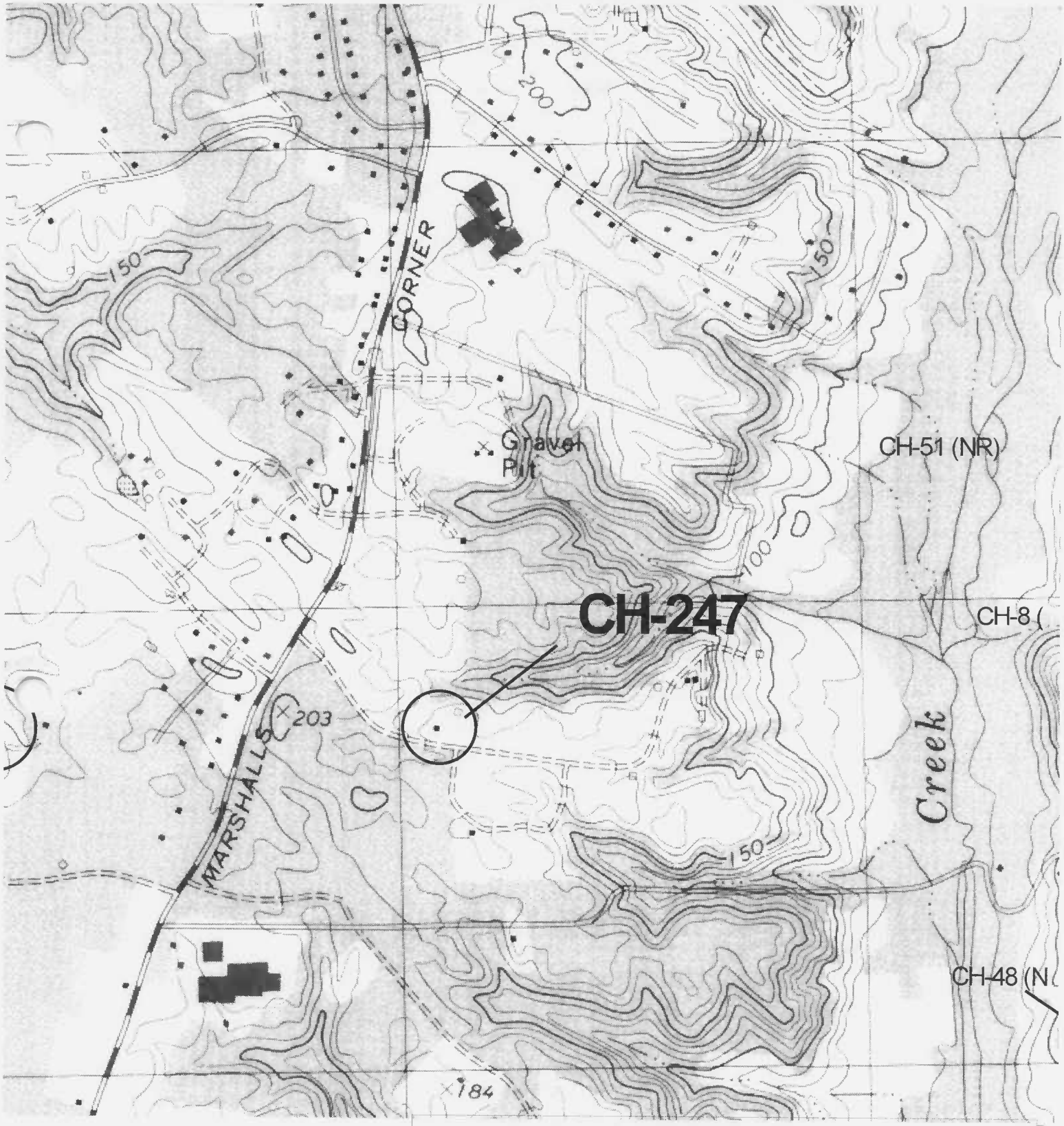
N



1 Hearth
2 Door removed

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
(NOT TO SCALE)

K.G. SMTH



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Charles A. Boswell House
Charles County, MD

CH-247

PORT TOBACCO, MD QUAD
(1966) 1978

CH-247
BOSWELL HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
SOUTH ELEVATION
1 OF 11

CH-247
BOSWELL HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
EAST ELEVATION
2 OF 11

CH-247
BOSWELL HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING SW
3 OF 11

CH-247
BOSWELL HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
WEST ELEVATION

4 OF 11

CH-247
BOSWELL HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
INTERIOR - ENTRY FROM DINING ROOM INTO HALL
5 OF 11

CH-247
BOSWELL HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
INTERIOR- HALL
6 OF 11

CH-247
BOSWELL HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
INTERIOR - PARLOR FIREPLACE
7 OF 11

CH-247
BOSWELL HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K. G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
OUTBUILDINGS-SHED & CHICKEN COOP - LOOKING NW
8 OF 11

CH-247
BOSWELL HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
BARN - LOOKING NE
9 OF 11

CH-247
BOSWELL HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
HENHOUSE - LOOKING NE
10 OF 11

CH-247
BOSWELL HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
10/98
MARYLAND SHPO
(SMALL) BARN - LOOKING NE
11 OF 11