

**CH-765**  
**Twiford's Store**  
**Marbury**  
**Private**

1916

Typical of other general stores built in Charles County, the 1916 Twiford's Store is a two-story, front-gable frame structure located at a prominent intersection in the early 20th century village of Marbury. Despite many alterations, Twiford's Store is one of several commercial and public structures in Marbury that date from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Together they reveal the town's size and significance as one of Charles County's largest late-Victorian villages. Marbury grew in response to the establishment of the Naval Proving Ground in Indian Head during the 1890's. As a major employer in Charles County, the proving ground paved the way for a building boom in the region during the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-765

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Twiford's Store

other

### 2. Location

street and number 5105 Marbury Run Road not for publication

city, town Marbury vicinity

county Charles

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

name Patricia A. Long

street and number 5105 Marbury Run Rd telephone 804-453-7226

city, town Marbury state MD zip code 20658

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 20 p. 18

city, town La Plata liber 1997 folio 15

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	2	
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	2	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
			0	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-765

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

Typical of other general stores built in Charles County, the 1916 Twiford's Store is a two-story, front-gable frame structure located at the a prominent intersection in the early 20th century village of Marbury. It stands facing southeast directly on Marbury Run Road, once the main Road leading from Nanjemoy to Glymont. The frame dwelling, which was originally covered in German siding and a pressed metal shingle roof, is currently covered in aluminum siding with an asphalt shingle roof. A combination of original 2/2 and replacement windows are found throughout. Several one-story additions flank the side elevations and a two-story wing extends from the south elevation. The porch has been substantially altered with the removal of original turned wood posts and brackets and the erection of a low brick retaining wall. The foundation was not visible.

The front elevation includes a centered replacement window in the attic above two second-story 2/2 windows. The first floor is sheltered by a hipped, partially enclosed wrap-around porch. The altered fenestration includes a centered three-part window next to the principal entranceway. The side elevations are characterized by a row of windows on the second floor and enclosed ell additions on the first floor.

To the rear of the dwelling is a former storehouse, now used as a detached apartment. An early 20th century structure which was used as a lumber shed extends northward from the storehouse. The shed is covered in white-washed vertical board siding and is characterized by two rows of hinged doors that provide access to two interior levels where various lumber products were stored.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-765

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Specific dates** 1916 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1916

Evaluation for:

National Register  Maryland Register  not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Erected in 1916, Twiford's Store was once a prominent landmark in the village of Marbury and is representative of the types of general stores found in villages throughout Charles County during the period. Marbury developed in response to the naval ordnance manufacturing plant built at Mattawoman Neck in 1890. The plant was the single most important and long-lasting industry established in Charles County during the late 19th century.

The Naval Proving Ground was moved to Mattawoman Neck when transportation from the former Proving Ground at Annapolis to the Naval Gun Factory in Washington, DC became too dangerous. Nearly nine hundred acres of land was purchased for the proving ground, and later supplemented by an additional ten thousand acres on Stump Neck. In 1898, the Naval Powder Factory was constructed, and the first powder was manufactured in 1900. During World War I, transportation to and from the factory was improved by the construction of a railroad spur from White Plains in 1917.

Although the Proving Ground was moved to Dahlgren, Virginia in 1921, the plant continued to operate and began tests that would lead to the development of jet propulsion and rocket testing at the naval station. From the beginning, the plant and proving ground provided an important and stable center of employment for the county. During the war years, the plant expanded, requiring more laborers. The town of Indian Head grew up just opposite the gates of the installation. The Navy contributed to the housing and education of its employees and their children by building housing and a school at Indian Head.

Marbury was connected to the proving ground at first by a locally built narrow footbridge, and after 1917 by a unique hand-drawn footbridge that allowed coal barges to proceed upstream in Mattawoman Creek. Congressman Sydney Mudd was the driving force behind the federally-funded footbridge construction stating that, "The purposes of this bridge is to afford direct and convenient communication to the government employees, for nearly 50% of them have homes on the Marbury side of the creek."

Further evidence of the proving ground's impact on the adjoining region can be found in census records from 1890-1920. While all other election districts reflected populations that stagnated or dwindled, the Pomonkey district, including Indian Head and Marbury, was the only area of growth. Between 1910 and 1920 the population nearly doubled from 1589 to 3,124. In 1920, a new census district was established in Marbury having a population of 1,392. (1)

The village of Marbury is situated on high ground on the former plantation of the Marbury family. During the early 20th century, Marbury included a post office and barber shop as well as Twiford's Store and Lumber Yard. Most of the town residents were in some way dependent on Indian Head for their livelihood. The property now associated with Twiford's Store, was purchased in 1916 from Benson Hammock. (Liber 169/ Folio 657). The Twiford's owned the store until 1964.

Endnotes

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No CH-765

Name Twiford's Store

Continuation Sheet

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(1) Carlisle, Rodney. Powder and Propellants. Energetic Material at Indian Head, Maryland, 1890-1990. pg. 96.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-765

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 1.15

Acreage of historical setting 1.15

Quadrangle name Indian Head

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Twiford's Store is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 20, Parcel 18.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 3/17/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

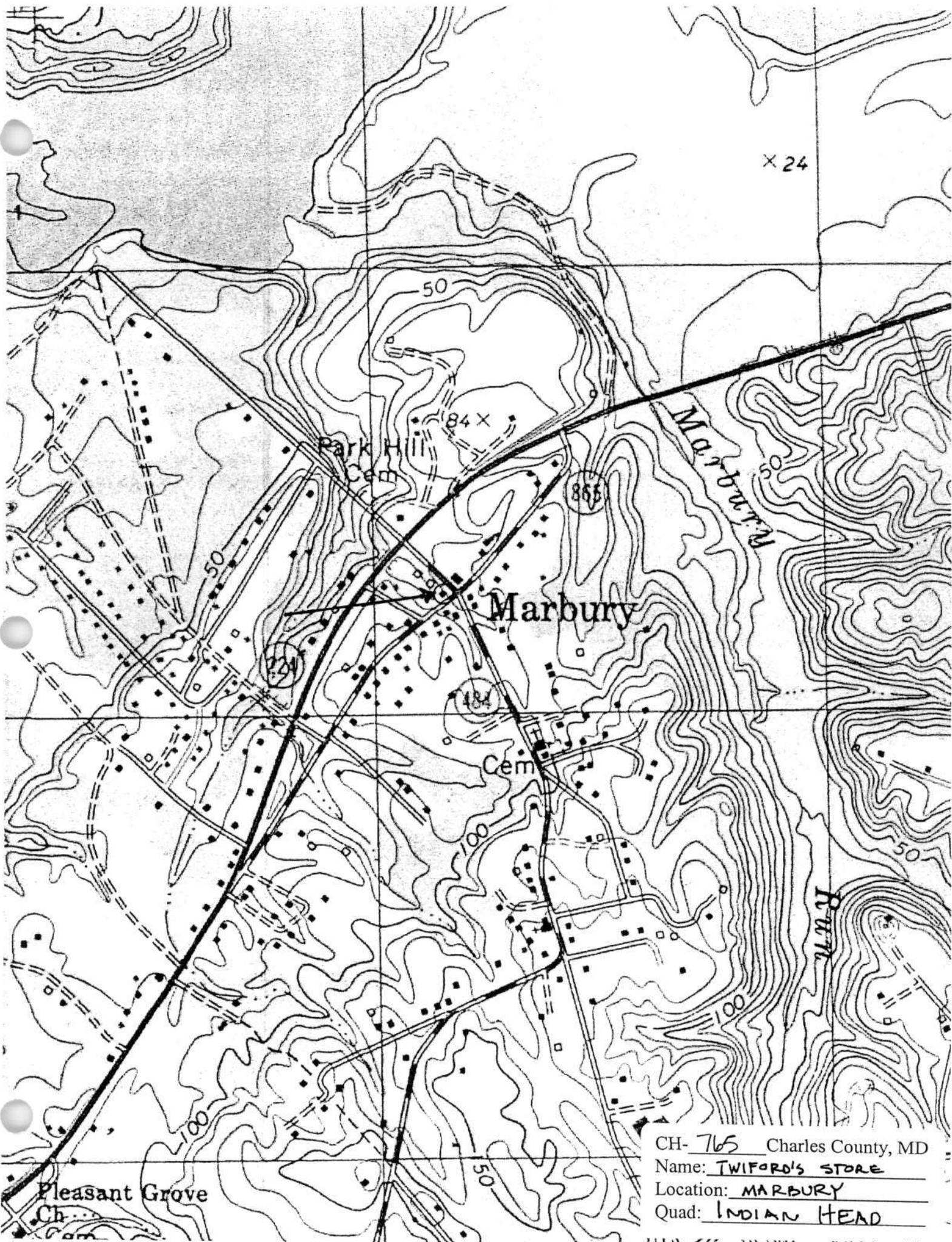
city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600



X 24

50

84 X

865

Marbury

Cem

100

50

Run

100

50

Pleasant Grove

Ch

CH- 765 Charles County, MD  
Name: TWIFORD'S STORE  
Location: MARBURY  
Quad: INDIAN HEAD



CH-765



CH-765

TWIFORD'S STORE

MARBURY, MD

11/2002

P. HARDY

MD SHPD

LOOKING

10/24

WEST



CA-765  
TWIFORD'S STORE  
MARBURY, MD  
11/2002  
C. HARDY  
MD SHIP  
LOOKING NE  
2014



CA-765

TWIFORD'S STORE  
MARBURY, MD

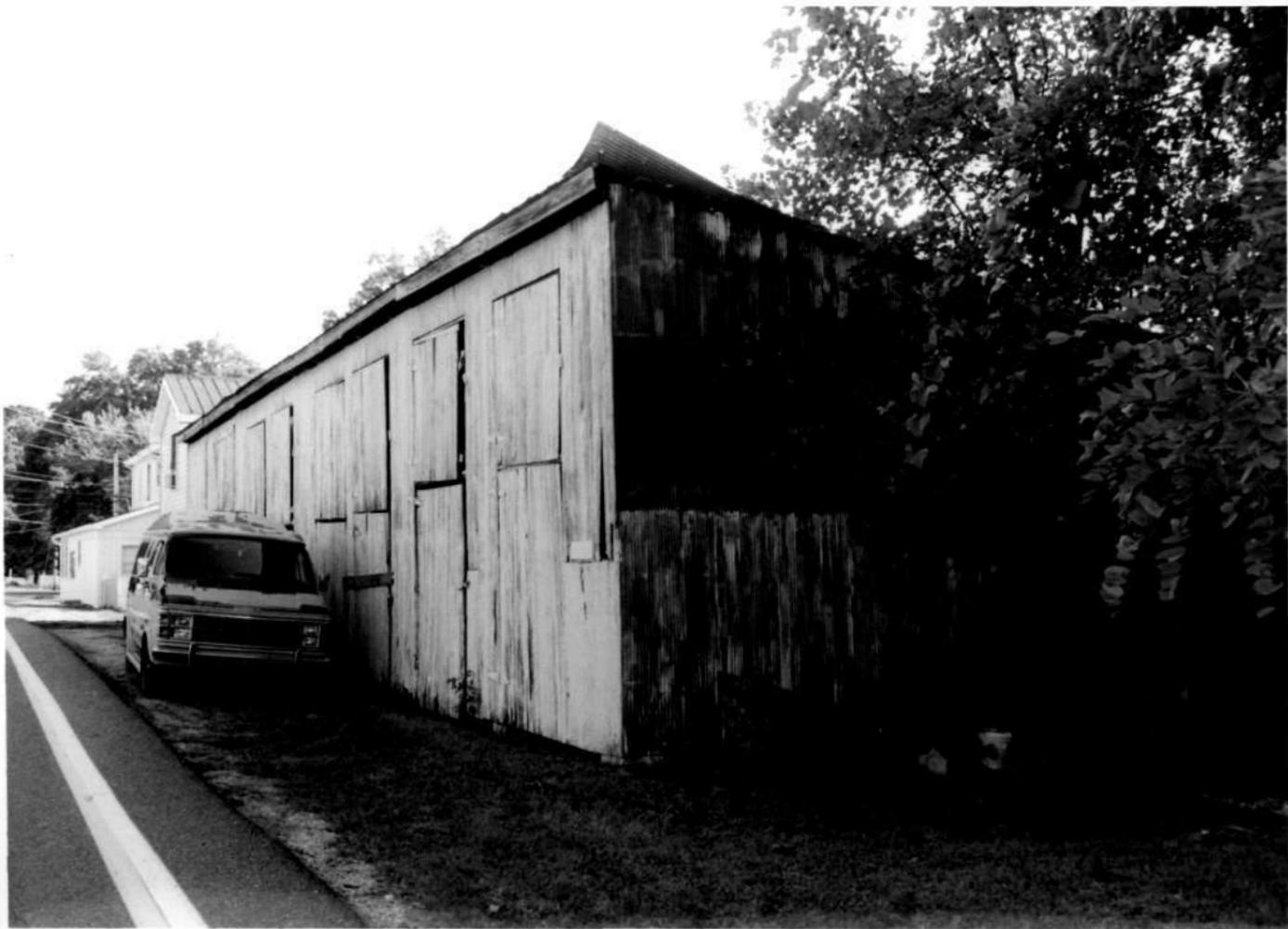
11/2002

C. HARDY

MD SHPO

LUMBER SHED, LOOKING NW

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TWIFORD'S STORE  
MARBURY, MD

11/2002

C. HARDY  
MD SHPO

LUMBER SHED, LOOKING SW

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