

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes no

Property Name: Sandy Spring Meeting House Properties Inventory Number: M: 28-11-09
Address: Meeting House Road Olney-Sandy Spring Road (MD 108) Historic district: yes no
City: Sandy Spring Zip Code: 10860 County: Montgomery
USGS Quadrangle(s): Sandy Spring
Property Owner: Multiple Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: JT 32
Project: MD 108 Agency: SHA
Agency Prepared By: EHT Tracerics, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Laura Trieschmann Date Prepared: 3/10/2011

Documentation is presented in: _____

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes no Listed: yes no

Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Sandy Spring Meeting House Properties (M: 28-11-09) was included within the Sandy Spring Historic District (M: 28-11). This larger historic district was recorded on a Maryland Inventory of Historic Places (MIHP) form in 1985 by the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission. Since that time, historic buildings along MD 108, the district's main thoroughfare, have been demolished and altered. Although the larger Sandy Spring District is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the the Sandy Spring Meeting House Properties possess the historic and architectural significance and integrity to reflect the historic context of the larger Quaker community.

The properties to be included include in the Sandy Spring Meeting House Properties:

- 1) Harewood (M: 28-11-3)
- 2) Auburn Farm (M: 28-11-6)
- 3) Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House (M: 28-11-5)
- 4) Sandy Spring Friends Cemetery
- 5) The Lyceum
- 6) Montgomery Insurance Companies Building

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Jim Zulawski
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/8/2011
Date

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/13/11
Date

M: 28-11-09

Sandy Spring Meeting House Properties

Page 2

The Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1972. Additionally, the meeting house property, Harewood, and Auburn Farm have all been documented on individual MIHP forms.

In 1988, the Montgomery County Council approved a small section of the Sandy Spring Historic District as part of the Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, Maryland. The Master Plan district boundaries include Montgomery Mutual Insurance Company Building on the corner of MD 108 and Meetinghouse Road, the meeting house, cemetery, and the neighboring Lyceum. Listed as individual resources in the Master Plan are Harewood at 17600 Meetinghouse Road and the Sandy Spring at the end of Meetinghouse Road.(1)

The Sandy Spring Meeting House Properties consists roughly of 35.66 acres.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Sandy Spring was settled in the 1720s and construction began soon thereafter. Although no buildings remain from its original period of development, Sandy Spring is home to a number of significant properties that reflect its late-eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early-twentieth-century history. Historically, Sandy Spring was a rural Quaker community held together by a small commercial district. The residential development predates the commercial aspect of the town as Quakers settled in the area in the eighteenth century and named the settlement Sandy Spring after a spring located on Harewood, an expansive agricultural property owned by Deborah Stabler that was improved by a 1793 wood-frame house. The brick house known as Auburn was constructed in 1818 by the father of Eliza Thomas upon her marriage to William Henry Stabler. Edward Stabler, who inherited Harewood, served as the first president of the Montgomery Fire Insurance Company, an innovative company established in 1857 to insure properties throughout the county and state against fire. The first building for the fire insurance company was constructed to the north of Harewood on Olney-Sandy Spring Road. The present brick building, constructed in 1904, serves as a gateway to these two historic estates, which are reached by Meeting House Road. Once a farm lane, this road leads to several of the most significant historic resources reflecting the Quaker heritage of Sandy Spring. These include the 1817 Friends Meeting House, located near the site of the first log meeting house; the Friends Cemetery, which was established in 1754 as the final resting place for many of most notable Sandy Spring's residents; and The Lyceum, an 1858-1859 wood-frame structure used "as a temple of literature and practical science." These resources, all located on property historically associated with the Meeting House Tract owned in 1751 by James Brooke (the father of Deborah Stabler), possess the historic and architectural significance to recount the Quaker and agricultural history of Sandy Spring in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

INDIVIDUAL DESCRIPTIONS AND HISTORIES

Harewood is located at 17600 Meeting House Road, consisting of a 20-acre parcel. The two-and-a-half-story house is wood frame, extending five bays wide because of additions to the side elevations. It is set on a fieldstone foundation and has a wood frame clad in clapboard siding. Standing two stories with imposing front-gabled dormers, the house is covered by a side-gabled roof with boxed cornice and wood shingles. There is one central interior chimney over the main block and two exterior chimneys on the west elevations of the east and west wings that project from the main block's south elevation. The house is located on property historically known as The Meeting House Tract, a 392-acre parcel owned in 1751 by James Brooke. The land, with the exception of three acres deeded to the Friends as the proposed site of a new meeting house and cemetery, was devised to Elizabeth Pleasants. Deborah Pleasants Stabler inherited the property in 1793, occupying an existing tobacco barn they rehabilitated into a dwelling. A Quaker minister, Stabler divided the property into three tracts—Harewood, Auburn, and Sandy Spring Farm. Edward Stabler lived at Harewood until 1883, raising ten children. He served for 53 years as postmaster, and was a published writer, gunsmith, inventor, engraver, and founder of the Montgomery Fire Insurance Company. He introduced the use of Peruvian guano as fertilizer in 1844,

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

which increased his wheat yield from three to twenty-five bushels per acre. Harewood remained in the Stabler family until 1925, when it was purchased by Dean G. Acheson as a summer retreat. Architect John Bancroft was hired to repair and modernize the house. Acheson (1893-1971) was an attorney who left private practice to serve as Under Secretary of Treasury under Franklin D. Roosevelt and as Assistant Secretary of State and later as Secretary of State under Harry S Truman. Mrs. Acheson sold the property, which also includes a one-story stone house and the sandy spring from which the community received its name, to the current owners in 1977.

The tract known as Auburn, located at 17617 Meeting House Road, was devised to William Henry Stabler by his mother, Deborah Stabler, in 1825. The property had been improved by William Thomas of Cherry Grove, who oversaw construction of the main house in honor of his daughter's marriage to William Stabler in 1818. The brick house stands two-and-a-half stories in height and because of a series of additions now extends six bays wide. It is believed that the north one-and-a-half-story ell was the original structure. Constructed of stretcher-bond brick, the main block of the house is two bays wide, with a one-bay-wide wood-frame addition on the east elevation. Circa 1945, a two-bay addition of brick was added to the west elevation. The south porch has a shed roof supported by six wood columns. The window openings, all symmetrically placed despite the additions, hold 6/6 sash set in segmental arches. Bay windows have been added to the west elevation. To the east of the house is a two-story spring/smokehouse constructed of fieldstone on the first story and brick on the second. A brick bank barn with hand-hewn pegged beams is located to the southwest of the house. The barn was used as part of the Auburn Dairy. Stabler was a blacksmith and farmer. In 1878, he granted one-third of an acre to the Sand Spring Friends Meeting as an addition to the graveyard, where in 1883, he and his wife were buried. Auburn was sold out of the family in 1945.

The Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House, located on the two-acre parcel granted by James Brooke now designated as 17715 Meeting House Road, is an imposing Flemish-bond brick building designed in the Federal style. The Quaker meeting house was completed in 1817 and extends six bays wide and three bays deep. It is two-and-a-half stories in height with a steeply pitched side gable roof. Typical of such buildings, there are two doors on the west elevation, both located in the second inner bays of the façade. They are each flanked by elongated 12/12 windows. Symmetrically placed above on the second story are 12/8 windows. The first story of the façade is sheltered by a full-width porch with a half-hipped roof of wood shingles supported by chamfered square posts. The original meeting house, a log structure used for over 64 years, was constructed soon after the Friends received ownership of the land from Brooke. The meeting house is associated with several prominent figures of national importance, including the first president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; the inventor of an early refrigerator and an innovational deep plow; the designer of the first iron hull steamboat, a surveyor of the Louisiana Purchase; the author of a mid-nineteenth-century cookbook and designer of seals used by the United States House of Representatives and Senate. Further, the meeting house was frequented by members of the founding families of Sandy Spring and Montgomery County, including the Stablers, Brooks, Snowdens, and Thomases.

The Sandy Spring Friends Cemetery was established in 1754 on one acre of land deeded to the Friends by Brooke. Enclosed by a metal fence with square balusters and rock-faced concrete-block and brick posts, the cemetery is located on flat tract of land with few mature trees. Mature vegetation is located outside the cemetery along the south and east boundaries of the tract. Following Quaker custom, the earliest burials were simple and offered a degree of privacy. The dead were buried "one beside another in the order of their passing, in graves designated only by rough pieces of fieldstone – unmarked in anyway."⁽²⁾ Some time around 1852, the burial custom was modified, permitting the use of more formal headstones with both the name and date of the deceased. By 1881, family lots were laid out in the first addition to property.⁽³⁾ Corresponding to local history, the earliest extant marker in the cemetery is dated 1852 and belongs to Hannah C. Beirge, who was born in 1789. Cemetery remains active with burials occurring in the twenty-first century. The cemetery contains approximately 500 graves organized into three columns that run east to west separated by grass paths. Within the columns, the graves are arranged in rows. The gravestones are simple, consisting entirely of tablets and flush markers, with some footstones.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____
 Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

 Date

 Reviewer, National Register Program

 Date

To the north of the cemetery is the Lyceum, which was constructed in 1858-1859 as a temple of literature and practical science. Its construction was a community effort, financed through contributions of labor and supplies. The building has been used as a lecture hall, for public discussions, for meetings of various societies and clubs, and for school and group exhibits, among other things. Moreover, on April 6, 1863, the Lyceum Company appointed an historian to keep the records of the community, documents which became known as the Annals of Sandy Spring. The original building is a one-story structure of wood frame that extends four bays wide. It is covered by a side gable roof of raised-seam metal with supporting brackets. The entry porch has a hipped roof with overhanging eaves and brackets. In 1928-1930, the building was renovated by architect Milton Bancroft for use as a community house. The original entry on the west elevation was blocked by the addition of a brick chimney and a new entry and porch were built onto the south elevation facing the meeting house. In 1958, a one-story addition was added to the east elevation. The enlargement and renovation of this historically significant building has ensured its continued use as a community center and Sunday school.

The first purpose-built building for the Mutual Fire Insurance Company (now Montgomery Mutual) was constructed at 900 Olney-Sandy Spring Road on property purchased by the company in 1857. It was a one-story stone building with a gable roof and interior chimney. The present building replaced the original structure in 1904. This Colonial Revival-style building was enlarged in 1934 on the south elevation and on the east elevation in 1960. The building is now isolated by paved parking lots, which speaks of the effects the automobile has had on Sandy Spring. The much-enlarged building, now referred to as the Edward Stabler Building, is now leased as office space and no longer has an association with Montgomery Mutual. In 1977, the property was expanded with the construction of a second, very imposing building at 17810 Meeting House Road. The fire insurance company was founded by Edward Stabler of Harewood. He maintained the company's offices at his home, acting as president and purchasing the first policy in 1857.

EVALUATION

The Sandy Spring Meeting House Properties collectively are significant as hallmarks of the community's Quaker and agricultural heritage, having been owned and associated with prominent members of Sandy Spring since the mid-eighteenth century. The period of significance is 1751 to 1904. This captures the period when James Brooke received ownership of the Meeting House Tract and granted three acres to the Quakers as the site of their meeting house and cemetery and extends to the construction of the second Mutual Fire Insurance Company Building was constructed in 1904. All identified resources are contributing to the identified areas of significance, specifically architecture, agriculture, religion, exploration/settlement, and social/humanitarian. The Meeting House Properties are eligible under Criterion A for their contribution to the Quaker history of Sandy Spring and under Criterion C for architecture dating from 1793 to 1904. The Meeting House Properties retains substantial integrity of setting, location, feeling, association, design, workmanship, and materials.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, "Approved and Adopted Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, Maryland. Sandy Spring/Ashton Historic Resources," approved April 1988, 2-6.
- (2) "A Bit of Sandy Spring History," reprinted from Gleanings from Friends House vol. 3, November 1983.
- (3) Ibid.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

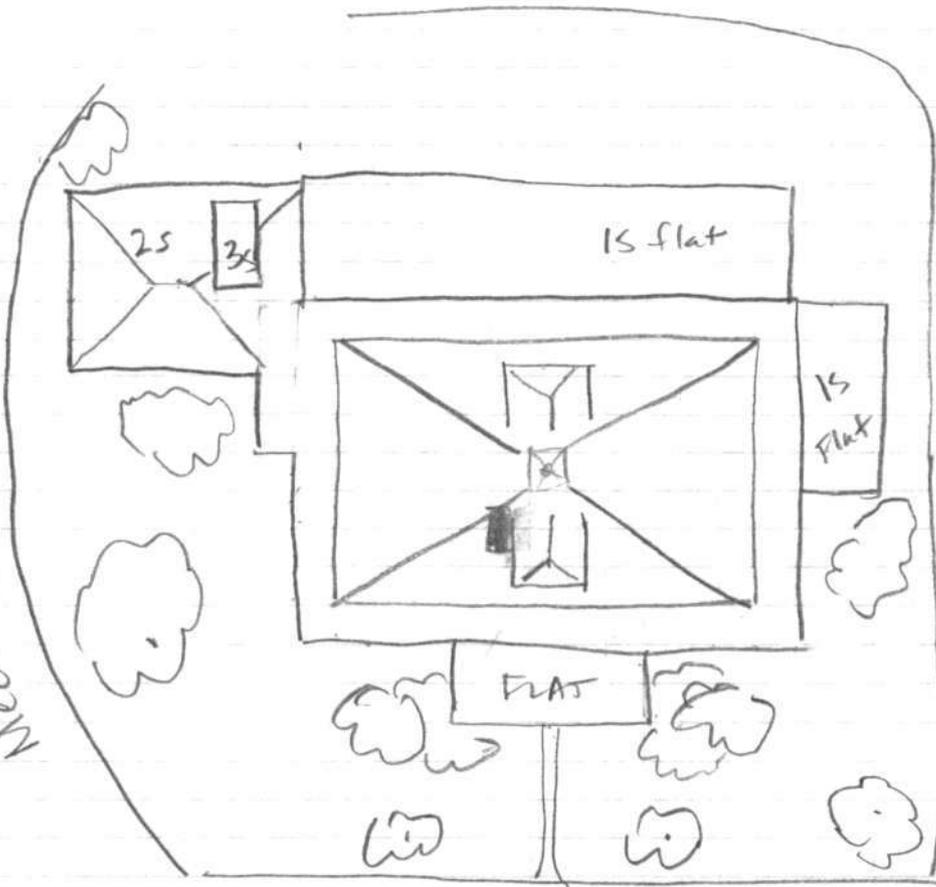
Date

PARKING

PAVED

PARKING

Mechanics Rd

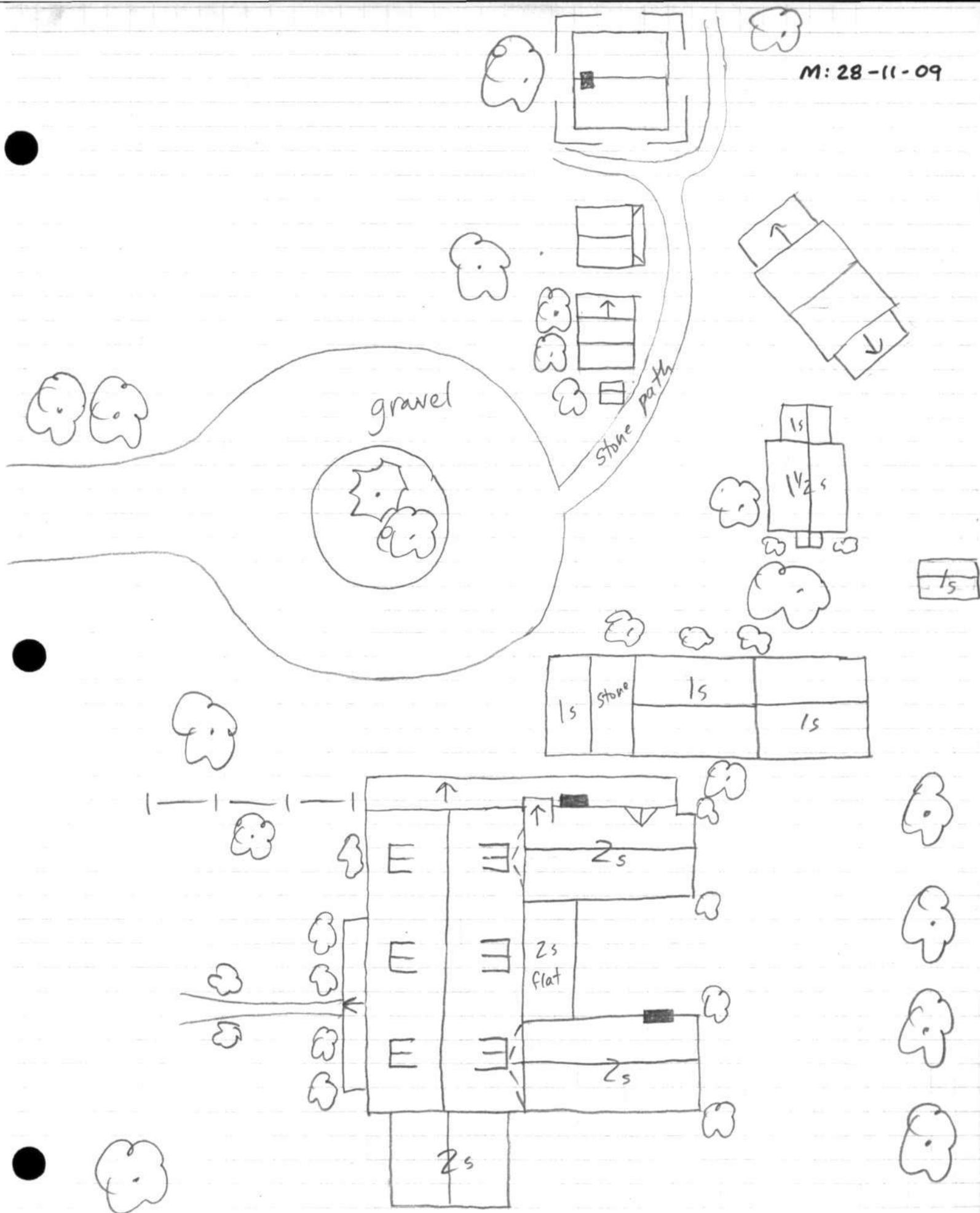


MD 108

900 Olney Sandy Spring Road (Mutual Fire Insurance)



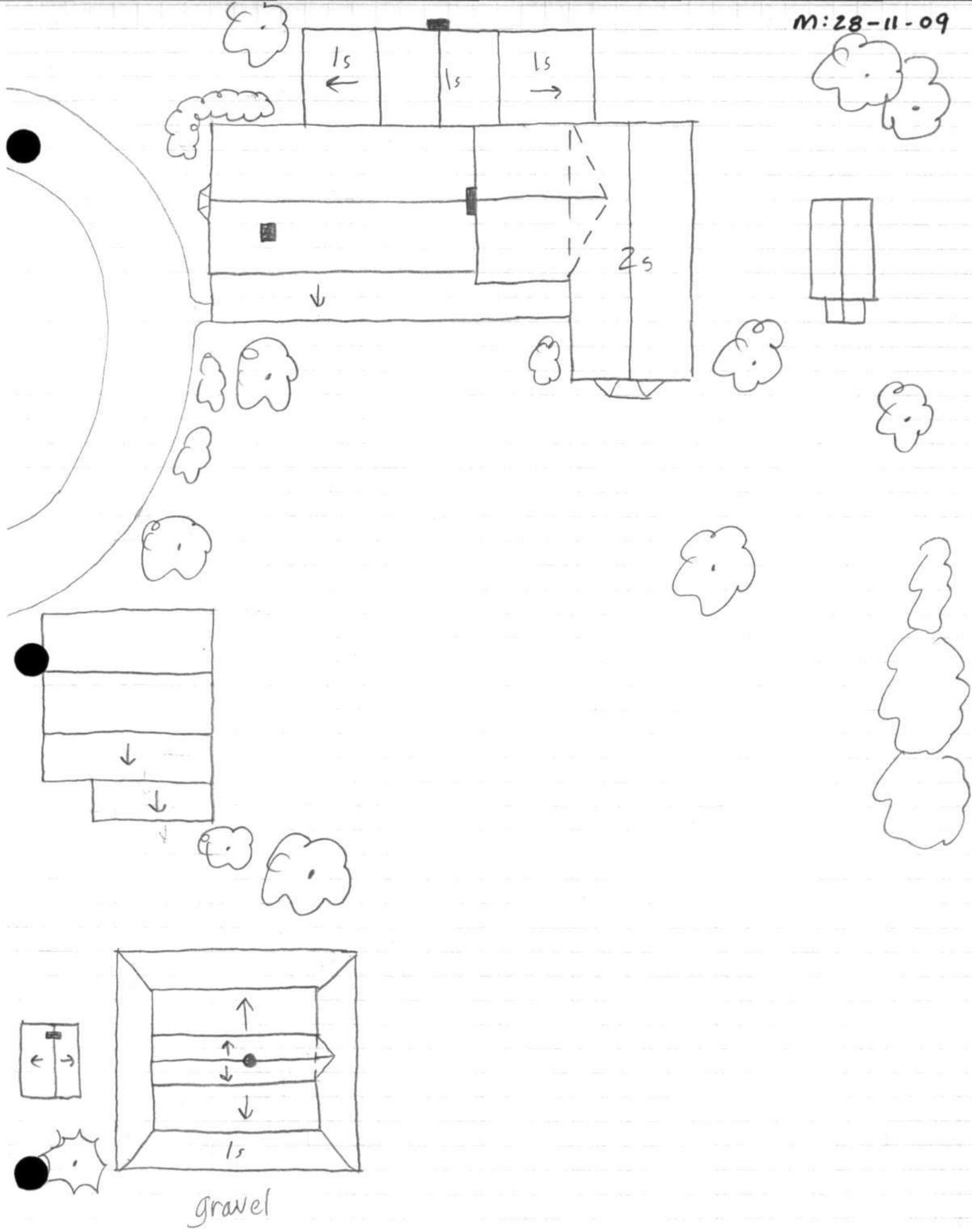
M: 28-11-09



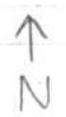
17600 Meetinghouse Road "Harewood"



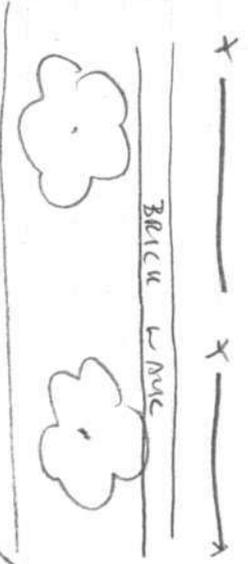
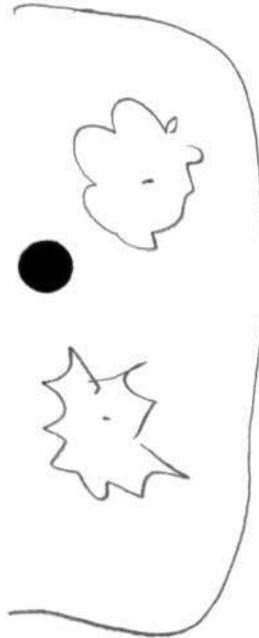
M:28-11-09



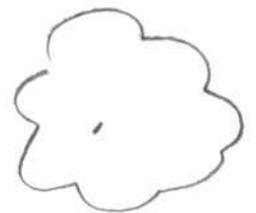
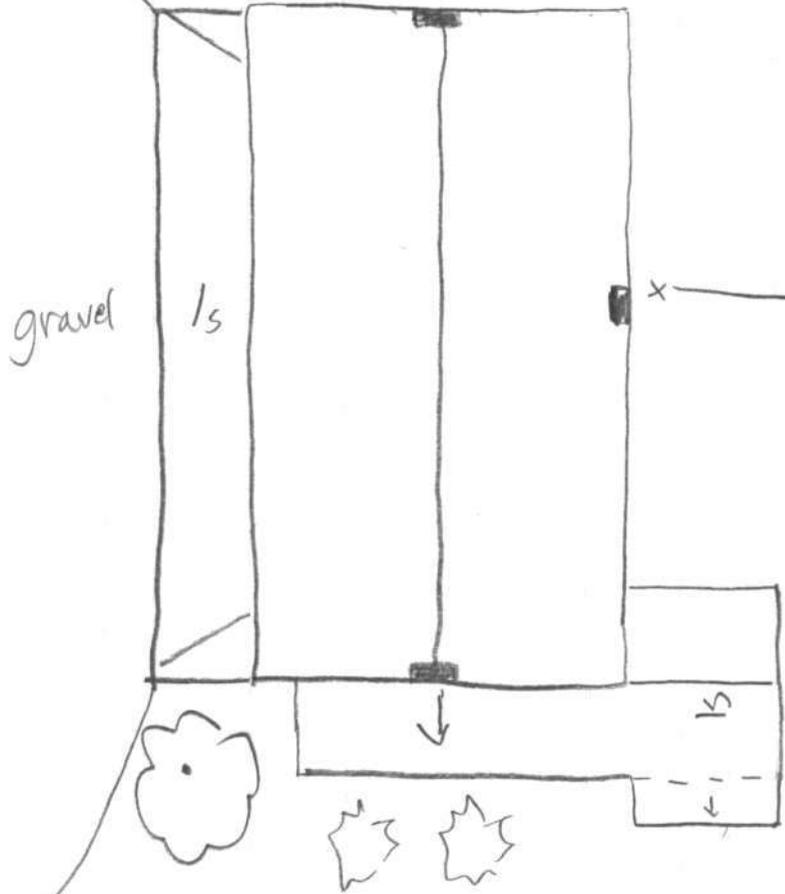
17617 Meetinghouse Road "Auburn"



● Meetinghouse Road

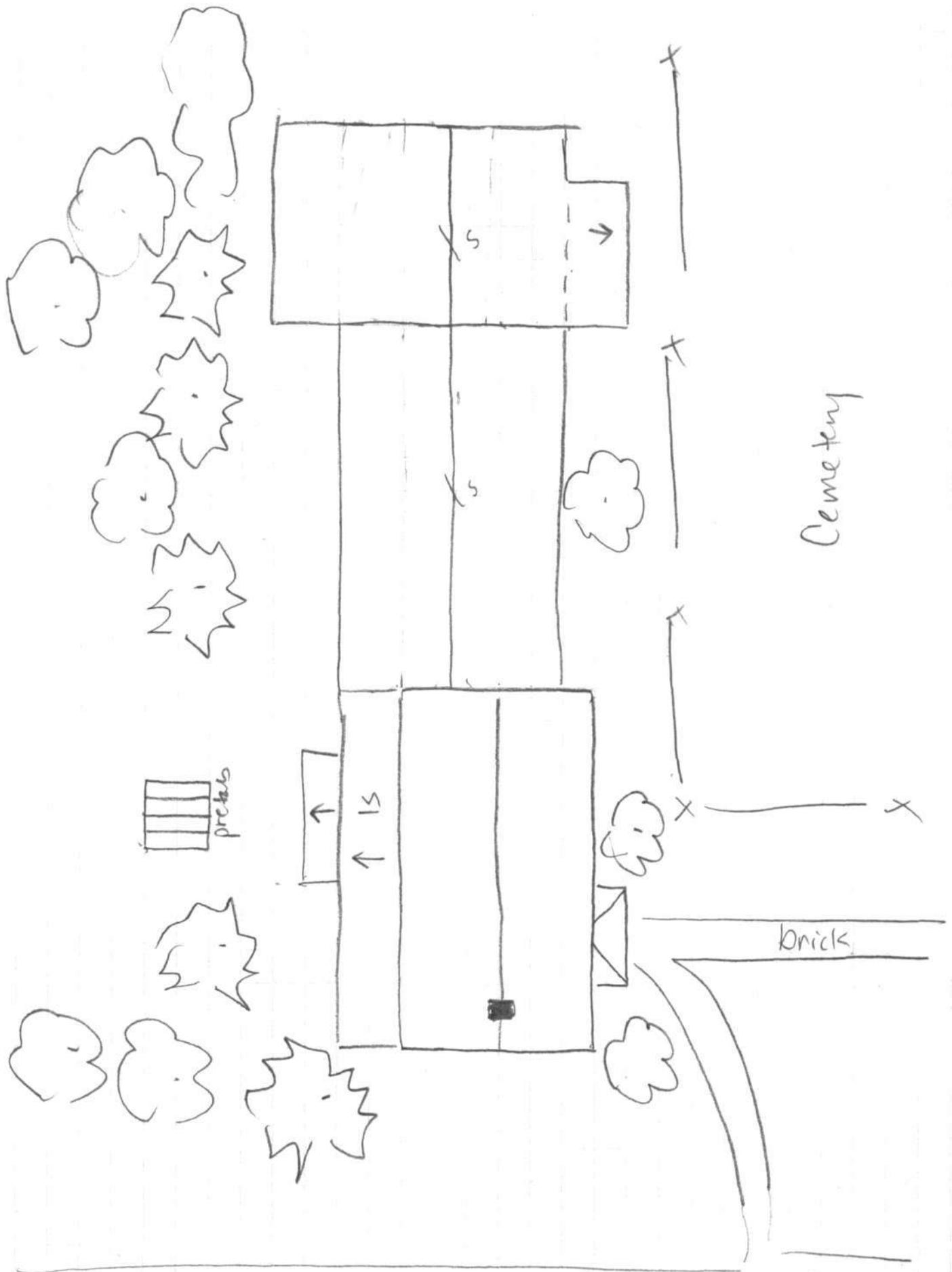


Cemetery



17715 Meetinghouse Road



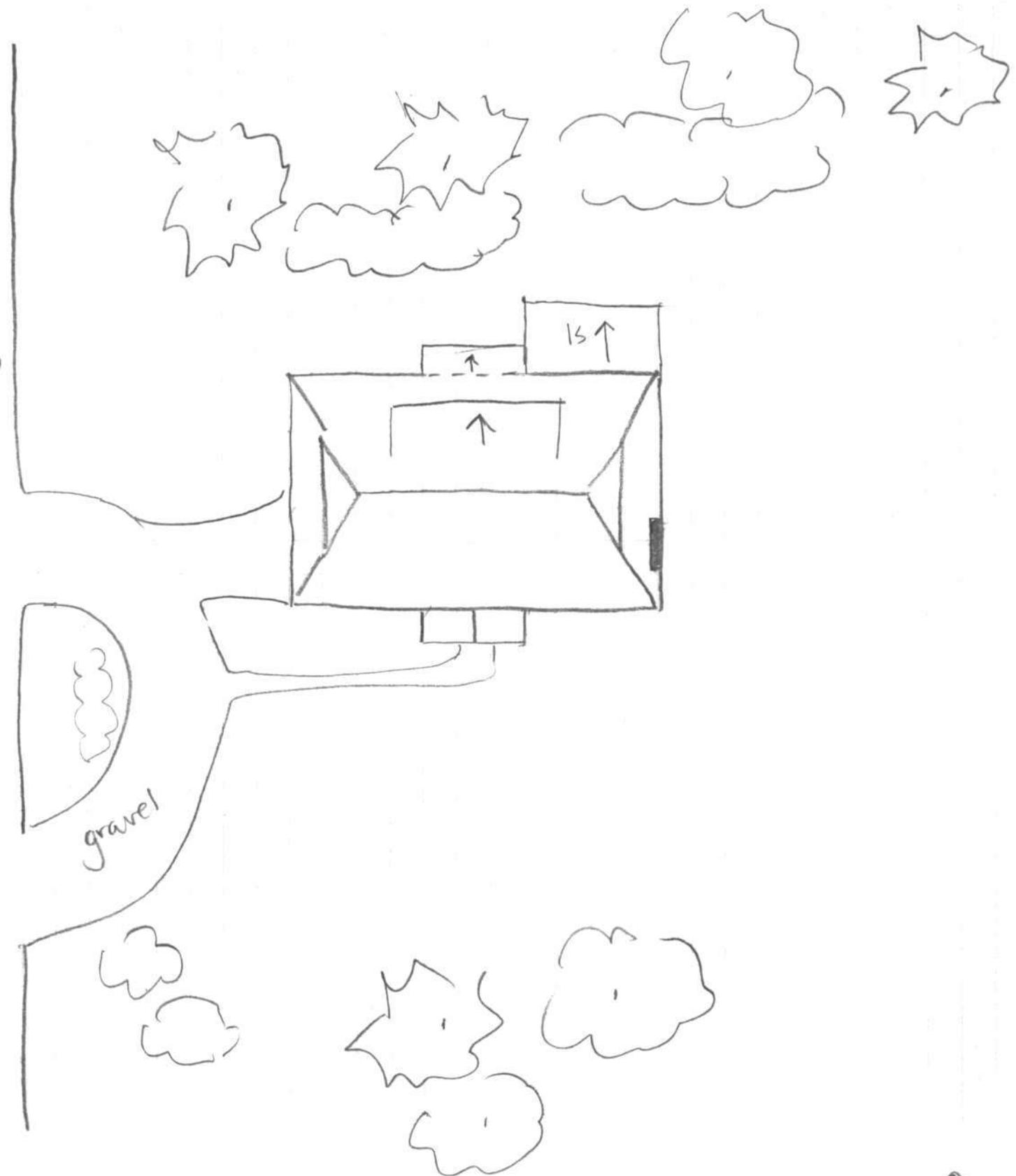


17801 Meetinghouse Road "Lyceum"

Meeting house Road

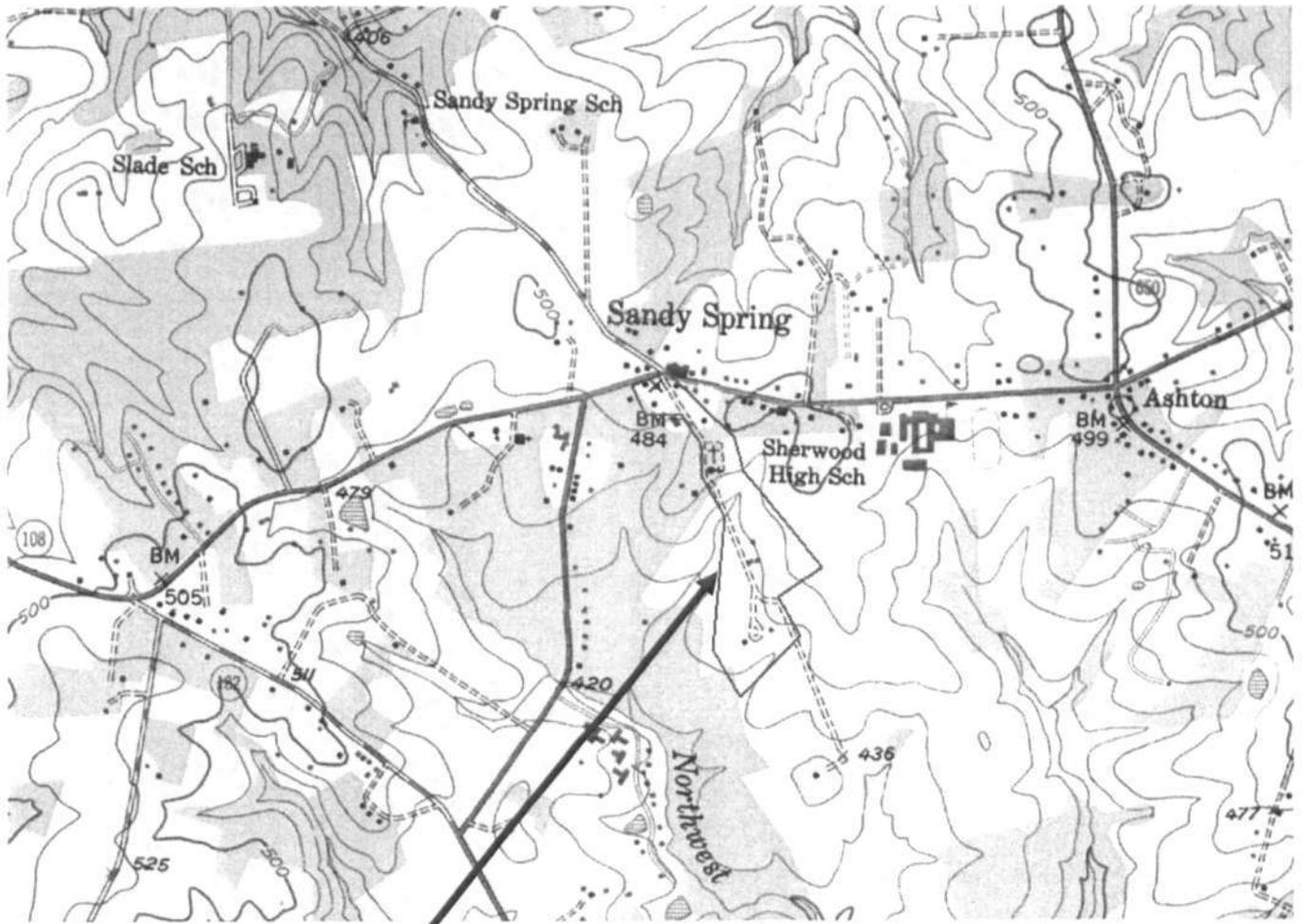
← N

Myhouse Rd



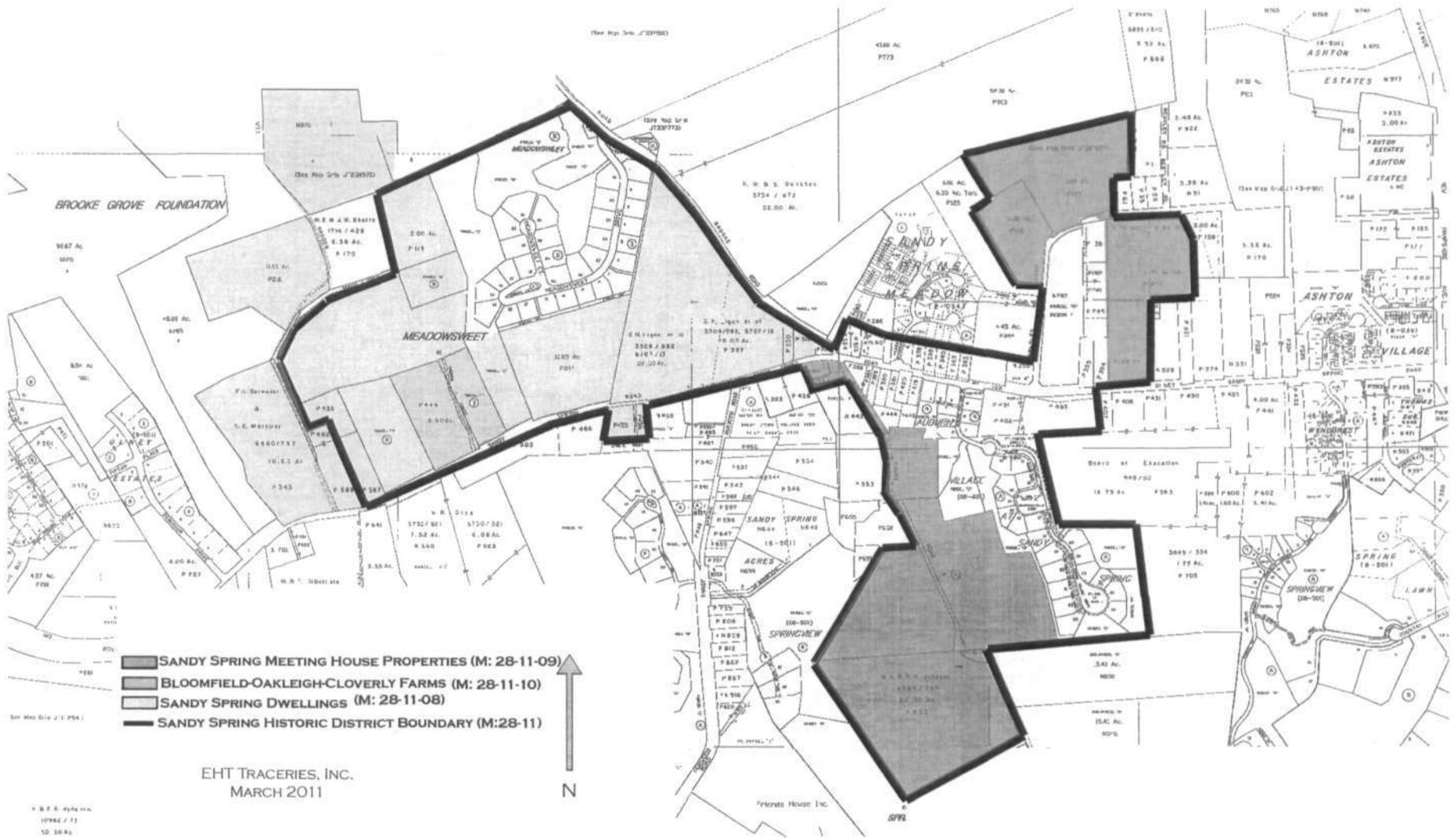
17809 Meetinghouse Road





Sandy Spring Meeting House Properties (M: 28-11-10)
MD 108 (MO405A21)
Montgomery County, MD: Sandy Spring
Sandy Spring, MD USGS Map, 1979
EHT Tracerics, Inc.

N ↑



- SANDY SPRING MEETING HOUSE PROPERTIES (M: 28-11-09)
- BLOOMFIELD-OAKLEIGH-CLOVERLY FARMS (M: 28-11-10)
- SANDY SPRING DWELLINGS (M: 28-11-08)
- SANDY SPRING HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY (M:28-11)



EHT TRACERIES, INC.
MARCH 2011

10982 / 11
10 00 00



M: 28-11-09

SANDY SPRING MEETING HOUSE PROPERTIES

SANDY SPRING FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

17715 MEETING HOUSE ROAD

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACELIES, INC.

APRIL 2007

MD SHPO

MAINELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

1 OF 7



M: 28-11-09

SANDY SPRING MEETING, HOUSE PROPERTIES
AUBURN, 17617 MEETING HOUSE ROAD

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

APRIL 2007

MD SHPO

MAIN ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH

2 OF 7



M: 28-11-09

SANDY SPRING, MEETING HOUSE PROPERTIES
AUBURN, 17617 MEETING HOUSE ROAD

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

APRIL 2007

MD SHPO

BARN, LOOKING SOUTH

3 OF 7



M:28-11-09

SANDY SPRING MEETING HOUSE PROPERTIES
HAREWOOD, 17000 MEETING HOUSE ROAD

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

APRIL 2007

MDSHPD

MAIN HOUSE, LOOKING SOUTH

4 OF 7



M: 28-11-09

SANDY SPRING MEETING HOUSE PROPERTIES
LYCEUM, 17801 MEETING HOUSE ROAD

3
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACEMES, INC.

APRIL 2007

MD SHPO

LOOKING NORTH

5 OF 7



M: 28-11-09

SANDY SPRING MEETING HOUSE PROPERTIES
SANDY SPRING FRIENDS CEMETERY

MEETING HOUSE ROAD

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACERIES, INC.

APRIL 2007

MDSHPD

LOOKING EAST

6 OF 7



M: 28-11-09

SANDY SPRING MEETING HOUSE PROPERTIES

MONTGOMERY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

900 OLNEY SANDY SPRING ROAD

MONTGOMERY COUNTY Maryland

EHT TRACKERS, INC.

APRIL 2007

MD SHPO

MAIN ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH

7 OF 7