NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Berkley Crossroads Historic District

other names HA-1212

2. Location

street & number Berkley Road and Castleton Road (MD Route 623) ☐ not for publication

city or town Darlington ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Harford code 025 zip code 21034

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as 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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
36	7	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
37	7	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

2 [Rigbie House; Hosanna School]

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
RELIGION/religious facility
EDUCATION/school
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agric. outbuilding
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum
RELIGION/religious facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agric. outbuilding
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL
EARLY REPUBLIC
MID-19TH CENTURY
LATE VICTORIAN

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls STONE; WOOD
roof SLATE
other METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Description Summary:

The Berkley Crossroads Historic District, located at the intersection of Berkley Road and Castleton Road (Maryland Route 623) near Darlington in Harford County, Maryland, comprises a cohesive collection of 37 contributing resources reflecting the evolution of a small rural crossroads community from the late 18th century through the early 20th century.

General Description:

The Berkley Crossroads Historic District lies on a gently contoured ridge of the Piedmont Plateau between the watershed of Hopkins Creek on the south and the southern branch of Peddler's Run on the north in rural northeastern Harford County, Maryland. Both streams flow eastward into the Susquehanna River just north of the Conowingo Dam. The community is focused on the intersection of Berkley and Castleton Roads (Route 623) and lies about one mile north of U.S. Route 1. Berkley Road traverses the ridge and dead ends at Glen Cove, where Peddler's Run flows into the Susquehanna River.

Extensive documentation exists to confirm the presence of the Susquehannock Indians, part of the Five Nations of the Iroquois, in the lower Susquehanna basin. By 1676 the Susquehannocks were widely dispersed from Pennsylvania to the Potomac in Southern Maryland. A recorded map published in Livingston's Indian Records, 1666-1723 gives the travel distance from the various "castles" of the of the Five Nations to the "Susquehanna Castle" on the Susquehanna River. There has been some speculation that one of the "castles" was located at Bald Friar, about one mile north of Berkley Road. This information does spur on the question of the origin of name of Castleton, located one-mile from the Berkley intersection on Castleton Road.

Significant Indian artifacts, sherds, etc. have been found in Berkley and are in private hands. These artifacts range from Susquehannock arrowheads to mixing bowls, which suggest both hunting and settlement. Indian petroglyphs were found in the caves along the Susquehanna River at the foot of Berkley Road. These were recorded and photographed in the 1920s prior to the construction of the Conowingo Dam.

The entire area is agricultural in nature. Steeper slopes of the stream beds tend to be wooded, this is particularly true at the eastern end of the area where slopes drop steeply to the Susquehanna River. Principal crops are hayage from grasses and mixes of grasses and legumes, corn and soybeans with lesser amounts of other grains and alfalfa in crop rotations. The dominant farm animals are horses followed by cattle, sheep and goats. There is also a tree farm and an orchard. Wetlands not only include Hopkins Creek, Peddler's Run and the Susquehanna River, but several farm ponds, at least four of which are visible from Berkley Road. Two of the ponds are in open pastures, the other two are associated with treed areas. The wet areas support standing populations of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds including Bald Eagles and Wood Ducks.

The wildlife of the entire district is diverse with deer as the largest of the visible resident mammals, which include fox, opossum, rabbit, groundhog, gray squirrel and bats. Reptiles include at least four species of turtle, one species of lizard and several species of snakes to include one venomous snake, the Northern Copperhead.

The woodlands are typical of both upper Piedmont Forest (oaks and beeches) and lower Piedmont Forest (ash and tulip poplar). At least one threatened species of plant, Goldenseal, is found in the area.

There are several foundations/ruins near the Susquehanna River along the Berkley and Glen Cove Roads, which were the former sites of the paper mill, flint factory, etc.

Four aspects of the geography and topography of the area convey a sense of cohesiveness. The first and dominant aspect is the gently contoured ridge that serves as the backbone upon which Berkley Road is built.

The second feature is the sloping watershed terrain of Hopkins Creek and the southern branch of Peddler's Run on either side of ridge with their accompanying streambeds and ponds.

The third aspect, which is the direct result of the first two features, is the consistent agricultural land use that arises from the physiography of the terrain.

The final feature is that trees, standing as woodlots or marking the perimeters of lots and fields, limit sightlines throughout the area and establish visual boundaries.

The houses and outbuildings in the district reflect regional architectural or construction practices of the period. Two-story and three-story structures dominate the community. The earliest structures, dating from the late 18th and early 19th century are of log construction, in whole or part. The Rigbie House and the McNutt House are existing examples of the construction of that period - one owned by one of the wealthiest men in the colony (Rigbie House) and the other a one-room log cabin. Several of the African-American early and mid-19th century houses still stand, including the earliest - the original Peca/Paca site. The 19th and early 20th century houses are clapboard with a predominance of slate roofs mined from the near-by Peach Bottom slate quarries.

Swallowfield, originally constructed in the early 1800s, expanded with the advance of the century with an addition in the 1860s and a final subtle Victorian wing at the turn of the 20th century. The barn at Swallowfield is distinctive in the area because of its three-stage construction - paralleling the expansion of the house - with the earliest stage consisting of hand-hewn logs and the latest with pit sawn beams. It is also one of the few barns existing whose lumber retains holes indicating that it was milled from logs that had been lashed together and rafted down the Susquehanna River. The icehouse at Swallowfield, traditionally believed a shelter for fugitive slaves, still stands also.

The late 19th century houses gave gentle nods to the Victorian period with high-pitched roofs and discreet scrolling and "gingerbread". Red Gate, designed by architect Walter Cope of Philadelphia, is the primary example of this period, with the first central chimney for central heating. The Cooley House, next to Rigbie House, was also designed by Walter Cope to accommodate central heating and plumbing. These houses represent an on-going connection to Philadelphia. They are early suburban houses, up-to-date in the 1880s and financed by other than farm incomes. Many of the large houses in Berkley were used as summer homes for Quakers from Philadelphia and Baltimore. The tenants stayed year round to maintain and work the farms.

Senator Andrew's house is another example of the early Victorian building with its steep slate roof and adornments typical of the period. Senator Andrew was an influential member of the community. For his pleasure and others, he constructed a sulky racetrack in his back pasture that was frequented by enthusiasts from across the State. He also built the Eacho and Bodycombe houses across Castleton Road for his daughters. No longer standing was a chapel he built between his house and Swallowfield. The chapel burned in the mid-1980s. Other outbuildings of interest are granaries, icehouses and springhouses.

In the centuries before the construction of the Conowingo Dam in 1924 and the resultant broadening of the Susquehanna River (creating Conowingo Lake), Berkley would have been viewed as a community elevated high above the banks of the river, serving as the last major crossroads before crossing the Susquehanna by ford, boat, ferry or bridge.

Berkley's history as a community or gathering place for trade, commerce, war, peace, and livelihood can be traced and documented to the early colonial period with one of the wealthiest men in the colonies, Col. Nathaniel Rigbie, residing and overseeing his vast holdings from his home in Berkley and his son, James, quartering General LaFayette's troops during the Revolutionary War. A free African-American community with land ownership can be traced to the late 18th and early 19th century with continued residence until today with the Hosanna AME Church continuing to thrive as it did in the mid-19th Century and the Hosanna School standing as a testimonial museum to the education of Berkley's African-American citizens until the mid-1940s.

During the 19th century, Berkley Road (old U.S. Route 1) crossed the Susquehanna River near Glen Cove via the Conowingo Bridge. This toll bridge was so important to the north/south transport of goods and general commerce and the viability of the Berkley/Conowingo villages that it was rebuilt twice, becoming a covered bridge in 1857. The bridge was finally dynamited in 1928 upon the completion of the Conowingo Dam and the concomitant re-routing of U.S. Route #1 over the newly constructed road built on top of the dam.

Pre-dam access via this important route, which connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad at the Conowingo Station on the east bank of the Susquehanna River, resulted in the
growth of activity and commerce at the Berkley Crossroads including the Berkley Driving Park, a popular race track constructed by State Senator Charles A. Andrew; Oliver Thomas's blacksmith and wagon building shop,

and later, a Ford dealership and gas station. A general store remained open until the 1960s and the Berkley Post Office located in the General Store closed in 1923. There was a feed and grain store. Close to the banks of the Susquehanna River were found the Towpath Tea House, where President Grover Cleveland ate, a tanbark factory, a flint mill, a paper mill and other industries.

The orientation of the crossroads has changed very little. Prior to the mid-18th century, the Berkley road stopped at the intersection of Castleton and did not proceed to the current day U.S. Route #1. The second obvious change occurred in the mid-1920s with the opening of the Conowingo Dam. The lower northern part of the Berkley Road is now underwater, stopping at today's Glen Cove Marina.

The crossroads width is the same as the turn of the century, based on retrieved photographs. All four structures were constructed at the crossroads prior to the turn of the 20th Century. The McNutt house located on the southeast corner still has log inner-structure and is the suspected site of LaFayette's "hanging tree" with the 200+-year-old tree still standing. The store on the southwest corner is still standing and continued to operate as a commercial operation until the 1970s. It is now a private residence. The Senator Andrew house, built in the mid-late 1800s, sits on the northwest corner and appears almost the same as it did in those early years, including century-old trees close to the intersection. On the northeast corner stands one of two houses built by Senator Andrew for his daughters.

Most of the dwellings in the district front close to either Castleton or Berkley Roads. The community is embraced by productive and protected agricultural lands, with a significant amount of the surrounding acreage in the Maryland and Harford County Agricultural Preservation Program.

The district is agricultural and rural-residential in nature. It comprises 37 contributing resources whose construction dates span the late 18th thorough early 20th Century. While some of these structures were used for commercial purposes at one time, the primary uses in the district today are agricultural and residential.

The district contains a few springhouses, at least one icehouse orally-documented as part of the Underground Railroad, and several barns, one of which dates its first construction to the early 1800s. Foundation remnants of past structures include the remnants of past industries, e.g. the tanbark mill, the paper mill, and an old and disrupted African-American cemetery.

Seven recently-constructed houses do not contribute to the significance of the district.

The following resources contribute to the significance of the Berkley Crossroads Historic District:

Rigbie House; c. 1752; HA-4; National Register. Originally built by Nathaniel Rigbie on his 2,000-acre tract, Phillip's Purchase, the 1 ½-story, frame dwelling was remodeled shortly after Rigbie's eldest son, James,

inherited the property in 1752. James kept the basic plan intact but added superb pine paneling and replaced the original closeted stair with a grand, open one whose step ends are embellished in carving.

Hosanna School; 1868; HA-210; National Register. One of two surviving Freedmen's Bureau schools in Harford County, the Hosanna School was a center of African-American education until it closed in 1945. Originally two stories tall (the second story was demolished in a hurricane in the 1940s), the gable-roof building has a small entry vestibule and one large, three-bay deep schoolroom. It retains its original black board, simple pine paneling, and raised teacher's dais. It was restored c. 1990 with State bond bill funds.

Hosanna A.M.E. Church; 1880 (with additions); HA-211. Still serving the religious needs of descendants of the original worshippers, the frame, gable-roof church probably replaced an earlier structure. (The adjacent **cemetery** was established in the early 19th century.) It is three bays deep with a small, one-bay entry vestibule. There is an adjacent stuccoed parish house (1949) and annex (1961) which are smaller in scale than the church and do not detract from it.

Paca/Peaker House; c. 1822 (with alterations); HA-1044. A two-story, two-part frame-over-log gable-roof dwelling constructed by Cupid Paca (later Peaker) on 50 acres of land purchased from the Rigbie heirs in 1822. Peaker, described in the deed as a " free man of color," founded the notable family that played crucial roles in establishing the Hosanna Church, Cemetery, and School, all built on that 50-acre tract. (See Significance.) On his death in 1847, Peaker left "the homestead property" to his son Joseph. Joseph Peaker and his wife, Sarah, died intestate and in debt and in 1897 the property (diminished to 12 acres) was sold out of the family.

2317 Castleton Road (Red Gate); c. 1881; This large 2 ½-story frame irregularly massed dwelling was designed by the noted Philadelphia architect Walter Cope for industrialist B. Gilpin Smith (a Cope relative). In massing and scale it resembles other Cope houses in the area such as Rosecrea and Grey Gables, both listed in the National Register. The two-section house has a T-shape plan beneath sweeping gable roofs. A single chimney rises in the center of the front (east) section. An original front porch has been enclosed. Behind is a large, Queen Anne style **barn/carriage house** with an irregularly massed shingled exterior, gable roof (pierced by a dormer on the north), and a large conical bell tower in the center.

2321 Castleton Road (Swallowfield); HA-175. This large frame dwelling consists of at least three sections. The earliest, the present laundry room, is built of log and dates from the early 19th century; it was certainly standing at the time of the Civil War. Around 1850 a 2 1/2-story frame wing was added to the east containing a stair hall, parlor, and dining room. There is a deep, one-story porch around the three exposed sides. The south wing, also 2 ½-stories, dates to c. 1880. It has a large bay window facing south. The grounds contain a one-story stone **spring house** (HA-361), a one-story frame gable roofed **ice house** (HA-359) built over deep stone foundations, a large frame board-and-batten gable roof **barn** (HA-360), and a long, low, frame, one-story **outbuilding** (HA-362) that contained a smokehouse, tool shed, chicken house, and wood shed.

2328 Castleton Road; c. 1910. A 1 ½-story frame dwelling beneath a gable roof, it was built by Sen. Charles Andrew for his daughter Estelle Andrew Wilson. It is two bays wide towards the road and four bays deep. A one-story deep porch shades the house on the north and west facades. The gable roof is pierced by two gables on the north.

2330 Castleton Road; mid 19th century. This two-story, two-bay frame dwelling faces west towards Castleton Road. It has a gable roof.

2332 Castleton Road; c. 1888. A two-story L-plan frame dwelling beneath a gable roof, this house faces west towards Castleton Road. The one-bay L is to the south while the longer three-bay section's roofline runs north-south.

2334 Castleton Road; 1888; added to 1924. Three bays wide on the main (west front) this two-story frame dwelling had at least two distinct periods of growth. The oldest part was built by James James, a free black man, on land his family had owned at least as far back as 1848. The original (front) section dates to the late 19th century while the rest was built in the early 20th century. Three-bay wide, one-story additions are on the north and east facades.

2336 Castleton Road; late 19th century. There is a picturesque one-story frame barn to the rear (east).

2338 Castleton Road; c. 1911. This compact, two-story, three-bay frame dwelling was built by Sen. Charles Andrew for his daughter Estelle Andrew Wilson.

2339 Castleton Road; c. 1895. A large frame two-story L-plan dwelling built by Sen. Charles Andrew, it dominates the intersection of Berkley and Castleton Roads. It is shaded by a one-story porch on the south and east (main) facades and sports the most elaborate decorative woodwork in the village.

2400 Castleton Road; HA-1028; early 19th century (with additions). This picturesque, three-part dwelling has grown over more than a century. The front (west) frame section is two stories tall and three bays wide beneath a gable roof .It is covered in board-and-batten siding. Behind and perpendicular is a two-story, three-bay-wide add-on facing south. Behind and facing south is the original section, an 11/2-story two-bay frame dwelling. All sections have gable roofs. There is a 11/2-story frame **barn** to the south of the original section.

2408 Castleton Road; mid 19th century. A two-story, three-bay frame dwelling beneath a gable roof with a one-story porch across the main (east) facade, this structure sits back from Castleton Road. One-story kitchen wing to rear.

3631 Berkley Road; c. 1848; c. 1895. This two-part frame house was built by the McNutt family. The older (rear or south) section is two stories tall and three bays wide beneath a gable roof. The front section has the same mass as the older part but has a fashionable late-Victorian gable window in the attic. A deep, one-story porch shades the north and west facades.

3639 Berkley Road; c. 1910. HA-1029. Frame clapboard Berkley store; 1-½ stories tall with a T plan. Large storeroom in main (north) wing; storekeeper's house in rear (south) wing. Gable roof.

2409 Castleton Road; c. 1896. A three-bay, 21/2-story frame dwelling of some distinction, this house boasts elaborate front porch trim, a front-facing gabled attic window, and, to echo, a peak in the front porch roof directly below the attic window.

?420 Castleton Road; Jones-Cooley House; HA-209. c. 1883 A picturesque 2 ½-story frame dwelling designed by the noted Philadelphia architect Walter Cope, this house was built on the original Paca-Peaker tract of land. It has a cross-gable plan; the front (south) section measures two bays by two bays and boasts decorative bargeboard trim and a one-story front porch. The rear section, three bays wide, projects slightly on the east and west facades. Windows are 12 over 1, a further picturesque touch.

3704 Berkley Road; c. 1905. Two story, two bay frame dwelling. Gable roof. Original siding recently covered in vinyl. Original front (west) porch enclosed.

3705 Berkley Road; c. 1891. Two story, three bay frame dwelling beneath a gable roof. Two bay two-story wing to rear (south); large three-sided two-story bay window to one side (west) of front section. Original one story porch covers front (north façade) of main section.

3707 Berkley Road; late 19th century. Modest two story, three bay frame dwelling. Original one story porch across front (north façade).

3708 Berkley Road; early 20th century. Three-bay, two-story gable roofed house with small, one-bay one-story entrance porch.

3709 Berkley Road; c. 1885. Two story three bay frame dwelling beneath a gable roof. Original one story porch enclosed. Title deed (1885) notes property is "six feet northwest of the school house" (referring to 3711 Berkley Road).

3711 Berkley Road; mid 19th century. Two story, three bay frame dwelling beneath a gable roof. House appears to have original unpainted shingles. Original front porch enclosed. Owned by the Hosanna A.M.E. Church. Used as village school in 19th century.

3714 Berkley Road; HA-1031; c. 1926. Two-part, two-story frame house beneath a gable roof. Built as dwelling and beauty shop. Three-bay house to west; two-bay shop. Windows 6/6.

3722 Berkley Road; c. 1896. Three-bay, two-story frame dwelling with L plan. Gable roof. Original one-story porch spans entire front (west). Large shaded lot.

3726 Berkley Road; c. 1906. Five-bay, two-story frame dwelling with smaller two-story kitchen wing to rear. Original one-story porch enclosed. Gable roof.

3730 Berkley Road; late 19th century. 2 ½-story three-bay frame dwelling. Gable roof. Original one-story porch still spans the entire front (west).

3734 Berkley Road; c. 1923. Two-story, three-bay frame dwelling with gable roof. Central door. Sits on high foundations with three-bay porch on entrance (west) façade).

Berkley is now "frozen in time". The opening of the Conowingo Dam and the realignment of U.S. Route #1 signaled the end of Berkley's prominence as an important thoroughfare.

Today, the Berkley Crossroads with its small community looks much as it did at the turn of the 20th Century, without the flurry and hustle that would have been the daily routine. The structures and houses have been maintained with no new construction at the crossroads and only seven new dwellings built in the past 50 years in the district.

The simple rural crossroads in one of the few remaining unsullied snapshots of early Harford County, maintaining its historic presence. It is also the only one so steeped in the history of our people as a nation - a thriving crossroads serving the travelers and commerce between Florida and Maine, an interrupted history of Free Blacks in America, and the site of significance during both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

This configuration defined and kept this community's footprint intact until today. This definition has also produced a contemporary landscape that closely resembles the landscape of over 200 years.

8. Statement of Significance

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 pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property 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)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☒ **C** a birthplace or 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.

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Ethnic Heritage
Military
Transportation

Period of Significance

c. 1752-c. 1925

Significant Dates

1752; 1868

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cope, Walter, architect [Red Gate; Jones-Cooley House]
Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Berkley Crossroads is significant under Criteria A and C as a representative example of a type of crossroads community that characterized rural Maryland from the 18th century through the early 20th. It is one of the few remaining rural crossroads in Harford County. It derives additional significance from the breadth and depth of its documented social and economic history – as an important 19th century Free Black community, and for its association with the development of transportation and commerce throughout the region. The period of significance, ca. 1752-ca. 1925, begins with the construction of the earliest property in the district and ends at a point in the early 20th century by which the district had substantially achieved its present form and appearance.

Resource History and Historic Context:

European habitation can be documented at the Berkley Crossroads to the Seventeenth Century with growth in the Berkley area beginning to occur in the late-1700s.

Throughout the Colonial, Revolutionary and Pose-Revolutionary periods of American history, the Berkley area, in addition to being a significant corridor for commerce and trade, can make and document two significant claims:

(1) During the Revolutionary War, General LaFayette's troops were quartered at Rigbie House, at which time LaFayette quelled a rebellion among his troops by hanging a spy, Walter Pigot, on a tree in a nearby yard. The Rigbie House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and remains unchanged.

It has also been noted that George Washington and Rochambeau followed this same "post road", bringing troops and supplies down from the North, crossing the Susquehanna River at Bald Friar. (See Recollections of Edward Clifford Jones, Sr., published 1936.)

(2) Free Blacks began to dwell in Berkley in the late 1700s and the first purchase of land by a Black resident, Cupid Peaker, was registered in 1822. The Course/Peca (later Peaker) deed establishes a second major line of reference in Berkley as Castleton Road.

In describing this period, Christopher Weeks in his Architectural History of Harford County, Maryland noted:

> This is also the era that the County's black citizens, too, came into their own, when real, documented faces - such as that of entrepreneur Cupid Peaker - began to emerge from the county's sizable and heretofore dimly defined African-American population.

"Men and women like Peaker", Darlington farmer Sam Mason wrote in the 1930s, *"made Harford County what it is. They were the wheels that made our clocks tick."*

The census information shows the growth of free Blacks in Harford County. The following numbers show that growth:

DATE	FREE BLACKS	SLAVES
1790	755	3,417
1830	2058	2947
1850	3644	1800
1870	4855	0

That there was a significant number of African-Americans in Berkley during this entire period can be documented as well as the vitality of their lives.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries Berkley continued to be a part of the growth of the nation:

Berkley Road, then U.S. Route # 1, crossed the Susquehanna River near Glen Cove via the Conowingo Bridge. This toll bridge was so important to the north/south transport of goods and general commerce and the viability of the Berkley/Conowingo villages that the bridge was rebuilt twice, becoming a covered bridge in 1857. The last bridge was dynamited in 1928 upon the completion of the Conowingo Dam and the concomitant re-routing of U.S. Route #1 over the newly-constructed road built on top of the dam.

Pre-dam access via this important route, which connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad at the Conowingo Station on the east bank of the Susquehanna River, resulted in the growth of activity and commerce at the Berkley Crossroads, including the Berkley Driving Park, a popular race track constructed by State Senator Charles A. Andrew, Oliver Thomas' blacksmith and wagon building shop, and later, a Ford dealership and gas station. A general store remained open until the 1960s but the Berkley Post Office located the store closed in 1923. There was a feed and grain store. Close to the banks of the Susquehanna River were found the Towpath Tea House, where President Grover Cleveland ate, a tanbark factory, a flint mill, a paper mill, and other industries.

The contributions and presence of the free African-American community during this period were significant and noteworthy:

Subsequent land transactions by Cupid Peaker, which extended into Darlington, resulted in the construction in 1836, of "a house for the exclusive privilege of the coloured people to occupy as a place of religious worship". Hosanna AME Church has been in continuous use since its inception. The Church today is the spiritual and cultural hub of the Berkley African-American community. The Berkley Cemetery Company owns the cemetery abutting the Church An earlier African-American cemetery connected to the Hosanna AME Church has been documented near the current cemetery site. Tombstones from that original site are currently stacked against the Hosanna School awaiting the opportunity to be replaced on the original site.

In 1867, with the assistance of the Freedman's Act, the Hosanna School was established to educate the children of Berkley. The school continued to educate African-American citizens until the mid-20th century. A few of the teachers at the school are still alive, as well as several of the students. A grant from the Maryland Historical Trust in July 1999 was obtained to acquire the oral histories of these former teachers and students. Today, Hosanna School has been restored and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a museum of that era of education in American and is used throughout the region for class trips to educate today's students.

The Quaker influence in the Berkley community over these two centuries is noteworthy also. Many owned farms in the area providing dairy and garden products to Newark, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Later, some properties were used as summer homes to escape the heat of Philadelphia summers. The Quakers were active during the abolitionist period, and by oral histories, considered friends of the African-American community in Berkley. Swallowfield, located near the crossroads and a Quaker homestead since the early 1800s has been identified in oral histories of local African-Americans as a stop on the Underground Railroad. These recorded histories recall being told of fugitive slaves hiding in the corn, then huddled in the Swallowfield ice house, hidden under straw, or on other sites on the property until they were rowed north on the Susquehanna River to freedom in Pennsylvania and other points north.

There is significance also in the quality and diversity of the housing represented in the district. Independent of this nomination for the Berkley Crossroads, nearly 25% of the sites in the district were identified as being historically significant in the Maryland Historical Trust Survey of 1972, with two of the sites now on the National Register of Historic Places. All of these structures, taken together, tell the story of Berkley and the Berkley crossroads - from log cabins to a Philadelphia architect; from farm houses to a one room-school house, from a paper mill to the well-regarded Rigbie House - all representing 150 years of Berkley's participation in the growth of the nation.

The Berkley Crossroads' commercial and transportation era is over. This quiet, little-travelled crossroads has made its contributions to the economic growth and vitality of the County, State and Nation. This tiny spur of old U.S. Route #1 is, today, bordered with houses and structures, large and small, that hold the history of that era in visible and subtle ways.

The African-American story continues. The school teachers of Hosanna School still live in Berkley; the sons and daughters, grand-children and great-grandchildren of the early Websters, Jones, Presberry and other Black families still have those names on the mailboxes in Berkley.

Major Bibliographical References:

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Dent, Richard J., Chesapeake Prehistory - Old Traditions, New Directions. Plenum Press, 1995.

Eff, Elaine, Ph.D., You Should Have Been Here Yesterday. Maryland Historical Trust Press, 1995.

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Mason, Samuel, Jr. Historical Sketches of Harford County, Maryland. Intelligencer Printing Company, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1995.

Preston, Walter W., A.M. History of Harford County. Originally published in Baltimore, Maryland, 1901. Available through Higginson Book Company, Salem, Massachusetts.

Stranahan, Susan Q. Susquehanna - River of Dreams. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 1993.

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Wright, C. Milton, Our Harford Heritage. Privately published, copyright by C. Milton Wright, 1967.

Berkley Crossroads Historic District (HA-1212)
Name of Property

Harford County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 150 acres

UTM References Conowingo Dam, MD-PA Quad
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				3			
2				4			

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher Weeks, Preservation Planner

organization Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning date June 29, 2001

street & number 220 South Main Street telephone (410) 638-3103

city or town Bel Air state MD zip code 21014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

UTM References:

Conowingo Dam, MD-PA Quad

A: 18-396511-4391536
B: 18-397028-4391105
C: 18-397331-4390400
D: 18-396695-4390041
E: 18-395986-4390846
F: 18-395988-4391342

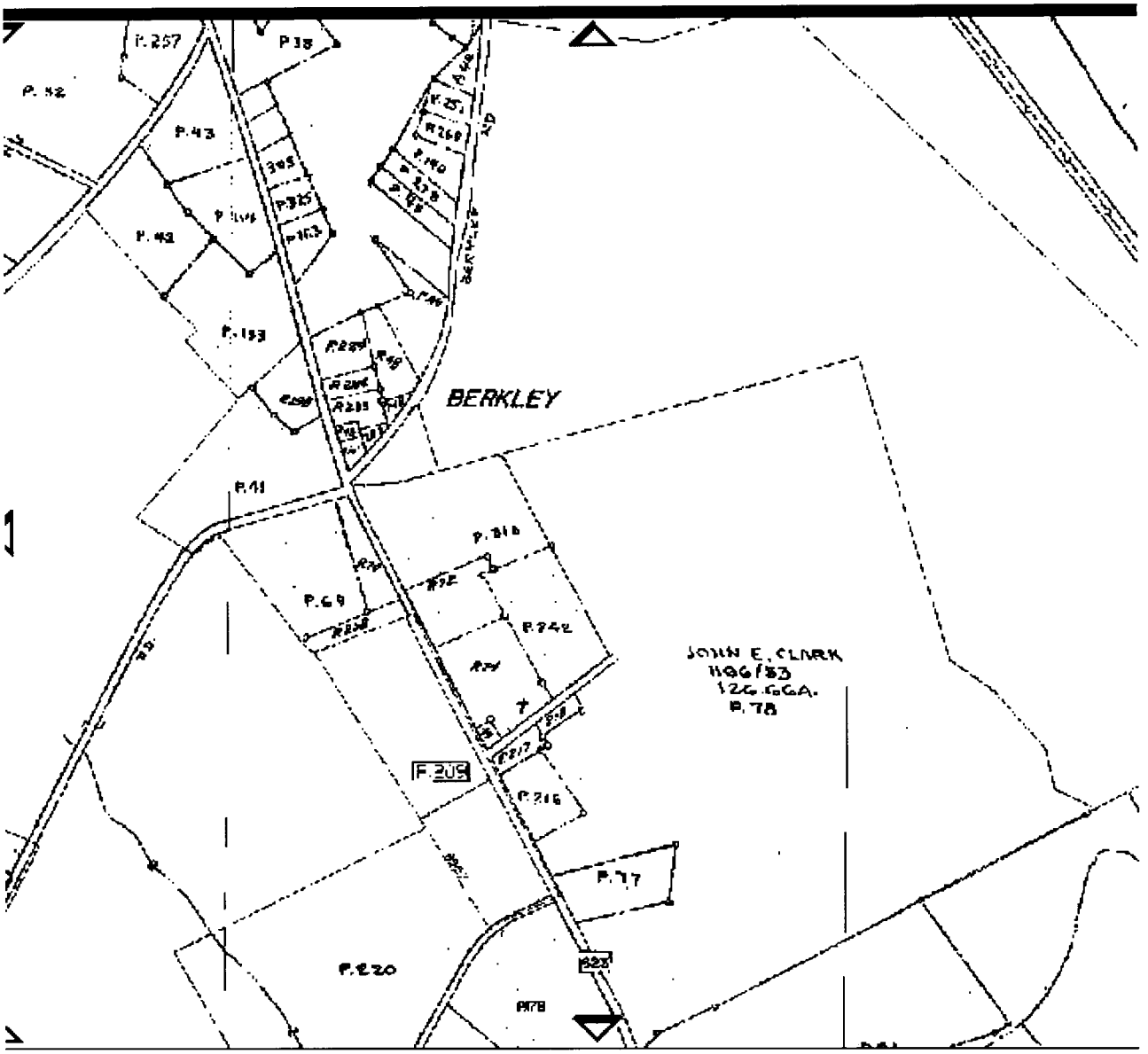
Verbal Boundary Description:

Boundaries are indicated by the heavy line on the map entitled "National Register Boundaries" which accompanies this nomination. Source: Harford County Real Property Map No. 20.

Boundary Justification:

The intersection of Berkley and Castleton roads is the physical focus of the district. The boundaries are drawn to enclose those properties on Berkley and Castleton roads which make up the crossroads community, while excluding recent development and surrounding open space which does not contribute directly to the significance of the district. The boundaries also encompass the large tract of protected agricultural land which is associated with the Rigbie House, the earliest property in the district (ca. 1752), which is already individually listed in the National Register.

National Register Boundaries:



P.38

P.312

P.257

3748

P.38

P.197

P.280

P.43

305

P.325

P.114

P.163

P.42

P.133

P.224

P.18

P.204

P.150

P.285

P.148

P.10

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241

P.50

P.41

P.44

P.251

P.260

P.140

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P.45

RD

BERKLEY

P.46

P.316

P.70

P.72

P.69

P.242

RD.

P.74

P.218

P.217

P.209

P.216

BERKLEY

JOHN

1160

12

P

Berkley Historic Distict
Harford Co. MD
Photo Sketch map

HA-1212

Conowingo Dam Qual

HA-1212

~~1221~~

BERKLEY CROSSROADS HISTORIC DISTRICT

HARFORD COUNTY, MD

A: 18-396511-4391536

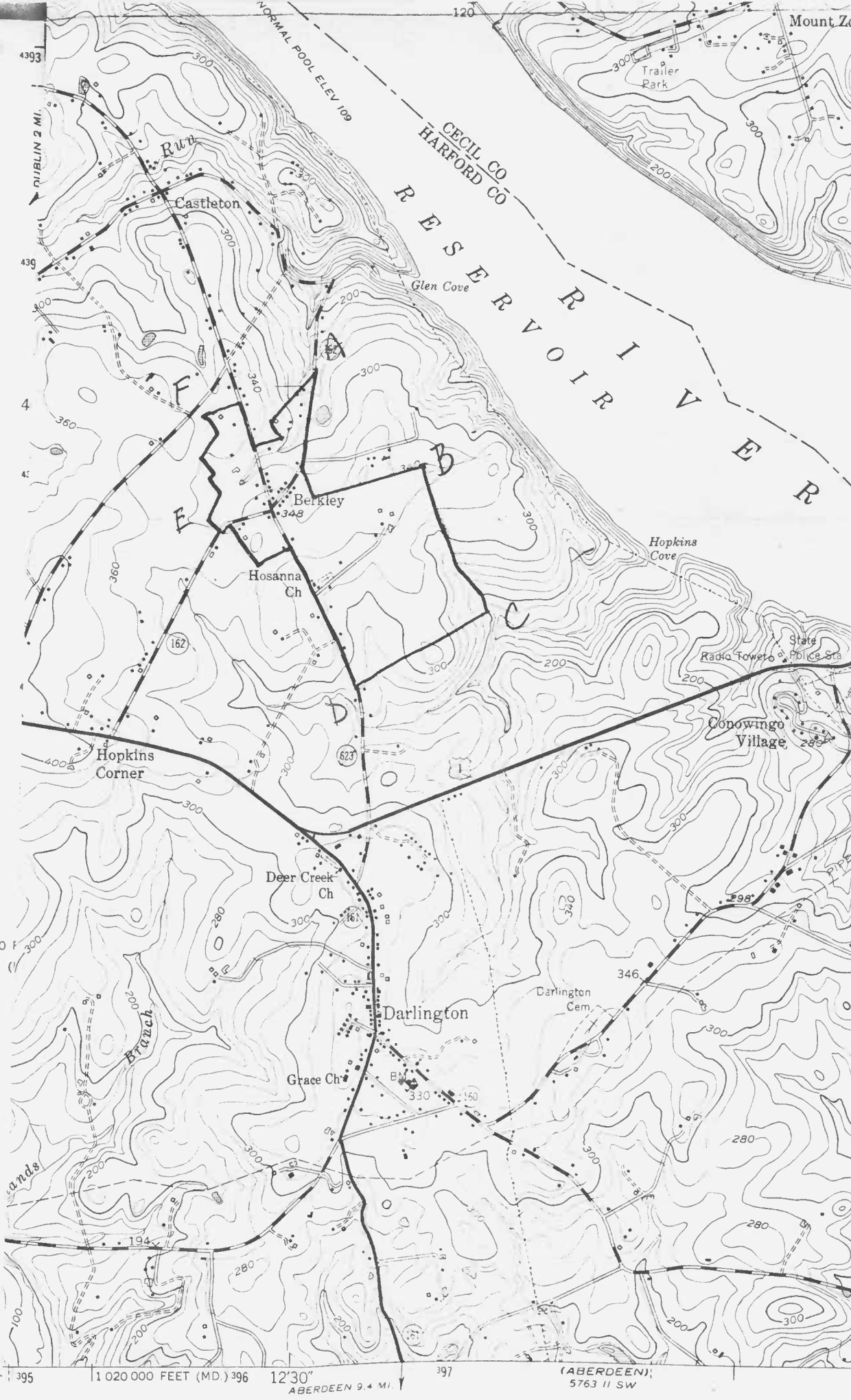
B: 18-397028-4391105

C: 18-397331-4390400

D: 18-396695-4390041

E: 18-395926-4390846

F: 18-395788-4391342



Swallowfield
Berkley Historic District

HA-1212

Swallowfield Barn
Berkley Historic District

3 HA-1212

Swallowfield Ice House
Berkley Historic District

4 HA-1212

2 330
Berkley Historic District

6

HA-1212

2332 Castleton Rd
Berkley Historic District

7 HA-1212

12 0111 NNN 4 2 1803

2332 Castleton Rd
Berkley Historic District
Hartford County, MD

8 HA-1212

12 01 11 NN 72 19 02

2334 Castleton Rd.

9 HA-1212

12 0111 NW 22192

2334 Castleton Rd

[illegible]

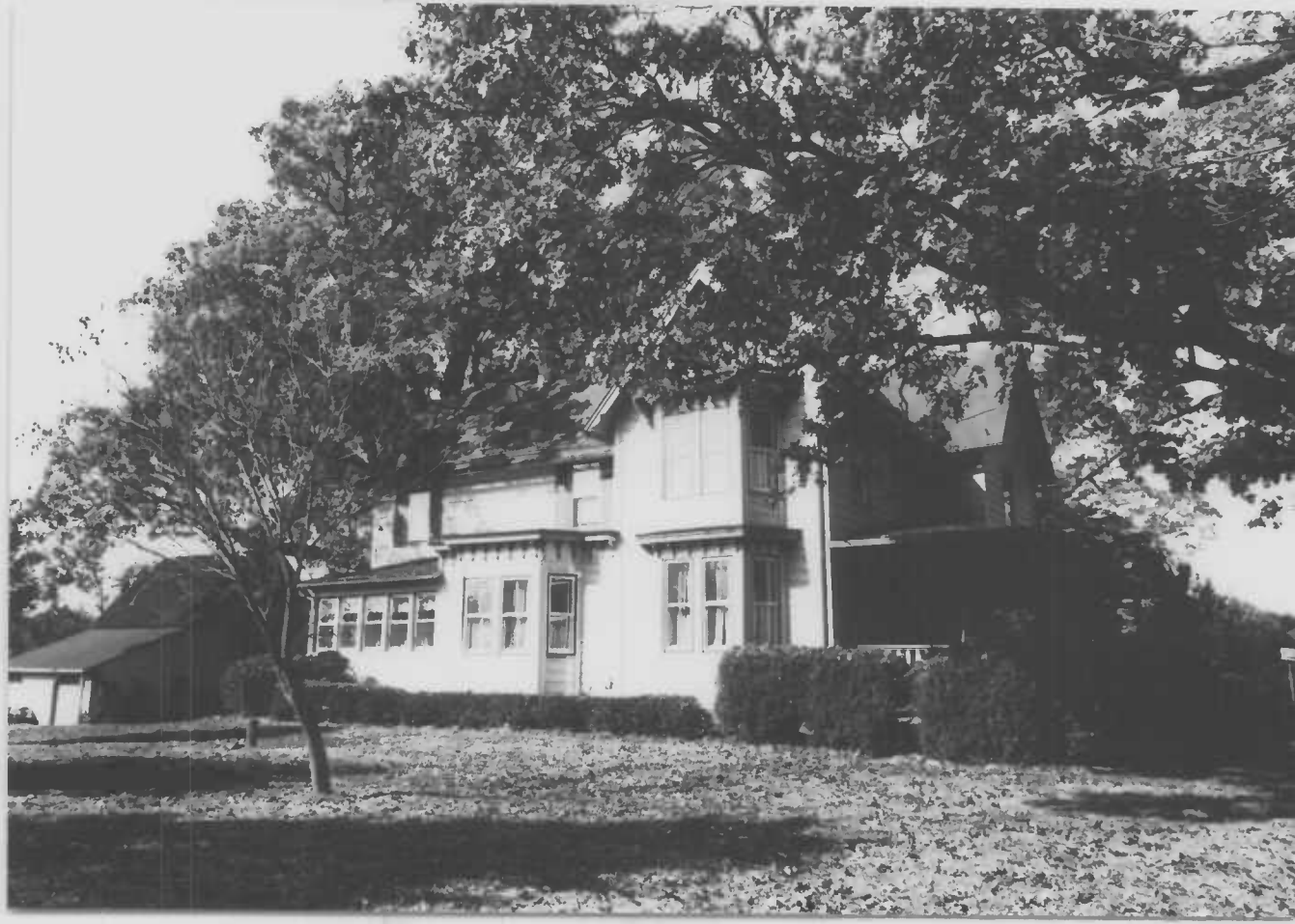
[illegible]

10 HA-1212

12 0111 NNN 52 18 06

2336 Castleton Rd
Berkley Historic District

11 HA-1212



2339 Castleton Rd.
Berkley Historic District

15 HA-1212

120111 NNN 42 15 08

2339 Castleton Rd.
Berkley Historic District

16 HA-1212

12 0111 NNN 1 2 19 17

2400 Castleton Rd.
Berkley Historic District

17 NA-1212

12 0111 NNN 52 19 11

2408 Castleton Rd.
Berkley Historic District

18 - HA-1212

Rigbie House
Berkley Historic District

21 HA-1212

Rigbie House
Berkley Historic District

22 HA-1212

LAFAYETTE
AT
COL. RIGBIE'S HOUSE

Hosanna Church
Berkley Historic District

23 HA-1212

HOSANNA A.M.E. CHURCH
A.D.
1880.

Hosanna Church
Berkley Historic District

24 HA-1212

Berkley Historic District

25 HA-1212

12 0111 NNNN 21904

3631 Berkley Rd.
Berkley Historic District

26 HA-1212

3639 Berkley Rd.
Berkley Historic District

27 HA-1212

Swallowfield Ice House
Berkley Historic District

28 HA-1212

Berkley Rd.
Berkley Historic District

30 HA-1212

Berkley Rd.
Berkley Historic District
31 HA-1212

GLEN COVE
MARINA

Berkley Rd.
Berkley Historic District

32. HA-1212

Berkley Cemetery
Berkley Historic District

34 HA-1212

MOTHER
KIZIAH E. PRESBERR
BORN IN CASTLETON
SEPT. 6, 1887
DIED JUNE 15, 1952
BY HER CHILDREN
EDWARD-AGNES-ISABEL

Berkley Cemetery
Berkley Historic District

35 HA-1212

Hosanna School
Berkley Historic District

36 HA-1212

Berkley Historic District

37 HA-1212

Cooley - Jones House
Berkley Historic District

38
HA-1212

2409 Castleton Rd.
Berkley Historic District
39 HA-1212

3705 Berkley Rd.
Berkley Historic District

41 HA-1212

50

3707 Berkley Rd.

Berkley Historic District

42 HA-1212

280

3709 Berkley Rd.
Berkley Historic District

43 HA-1212

3714 Berkley Rd.
Berkley Historic District
44 HA-1212

3722 Berkley Rd.
Berkley Historic District
45 HA-1212

3726 Berkley Rd.
Berkley Historic District
46 HA-1212

3730 Berkley Rd
Berkley Historic District

47
HA-1212

3734 Berkley Rd
Berkley Historic District

48

HA-1212