Sleepy Hollow
CH-606
Dentsville vic.
Private

circa 1850

Sleepy Hollow is located on the north side of Keech Road at the intersection with Stasch Place in the eastern-central section of the county. Today, the farmstead consists of 246 acres and includes a dwelling and several outbuildings clustered in an area of approximately five acres. The dwelling exhibits the characteristics of a modest telescoping plan consisting of a 2 ½ story, three-bay, double pile main block flanked by a 1 3/4 story single pile attached dependency to the west. The side-gable roof is currently clad with pressed metal shingles and cornice returns are visible on the gable-ends. A one story hipped roof porch extends the entire length of the facade and western elevation and is supported by turned wooden posts.

Sleepy Hollow is a very good example of the regionally prevalent side passage plan with a telescoping service wing attached to the gable end. The dwelling was built circa 1850 and was the home of a prominent physician and planter, Dr. William Sothern Keech. Known as the Keech "Family Home or Mansion House Farm," Sleepy Hollow remained in the Keech family for over a century. Today the farm consists of almost 250 of its original 365 acres and retains much of its original materials and character.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-606

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Sleepy Hollow (preferred)
other	Keech Family Home Farm

2. Location

street and number	8285 Keech Road	___ not for publication
city, town	Charlotte Hall	x vicinity
county	Charles	

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

name	Mary C. and Otto Stash				
street and number	P.O. Box 431			telephone	301-884-8159
city, town	Charlotte Hall	state	MD	zip code	20622-0431

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	46-21-8
city, town	LaPlata	liber 162	folio 56

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 at MHT
___ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category
___ district
x building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership
___ public
x private
___ both

Current Function
___ agriculture
___ commerce/trade
___ defense
x domestic
___ education
___ funerary
___ government
___ health care
___ industry
___ landscape
___ recreation/culture
___ religion
___ social
___ transportation
___ work in progress
___ unknown
___ vacant/not in use
___ other: _____

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	4	structures
		objects
1	4	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-606

Condition

__ excellent	__ deteriorated
__ good	__ ruins
x fair	__ altered

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

Sleepy Hollow is located on the north side of Keech Road at the intersection with Stasch Place in the eastern-central section of the county. Today, the farmstead consists of 246 acres and includes a dwelling and several outbuildings clustered in an area of approximately five acres. The dwelling was built circa 1850 by Dr. William Sothern Keech and retains much of its original materials and character. Additional non-contributing resources on the site include a circa 1910 corncrib, a trailer/mobile home, shed, and garage/shop.

The dwelling exhibits the characteristics of a modest telescoping plan consisting of a 2 1/2 story, three-bay, double pile main block flanked by a 1 3/4 story single pile attached dependency to the west. The frame is clad with a range of materials including vinyl siding on the façade and asphalt sheeting on the east and west elevations. The side-gable roof is currently clad with pressed metal shingles. Cornice returns are visible on the gable-end walls. A one story hipped porch extends the entire length of the façade and western elevation and is supported by nine wooden turned posts. The foundation was not visible at the time of the survey.

The main block consists of a 2 1/2 story three-bay frame structure with a side passage entrance on the easternmost bay. The roofline is interrupted by a curious interior double flue, brick chimney with a corbeled cap which is uncharacteristic of regional building practices and may be a later modification. The façade features vertically symmetrical first and second story windows. The 6/6 light double-hung wood sash
windows appear to be original. A transom and sidelights surround the single wood panel door.

The façade of the dependency is two bays wide. This wing is recessed from the main block façade to stand flush with the rear or northern elevation. A secondary entrance is found at the first floor easternmost bay. Above this is a second story frame pent with a centered 6/6 light wood sash double-hung window of smaller proportion than those found on the main block. The westernmost bay consists of vertically symmetrical windows of the same smaller proportions. The wing dependency has an interior end chimney with a corbeled cap.

The eastern elevation of the main block features a single attic story 1/1 light double-hung wooden sash window and a first floor single wood panel and lights door. A frame shed addition extends from the eastern wall and probably provides access to a basement.

The western elevation of the dependency includes a 6/6 light wood sash double-hung window in the enclosed porch. A small window opening is currently boarded up in the attic story. An additional secondary entrance is found on the first floor northwestern corner of the gable wall.

The rear or northern façade is characterized by vertically symmetrical fenestration on the secondary wing which is identical to that found on the dependency façade. The main block is also symmetrical with the exception of a now boarded additional rear doorway located toward the eastern elevation between the first and second bays. A concrete block exterior flue has been added to the rear façade at the junction between the main block and the wing.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CH-606

Name Sleepy Hollow (preferred)
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

INTERIOR
The main block largely follows a typical side passage plan, popular in the region into the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The stair, located on the eastern gable wall, retains its original materials and includes a massive turned newel. The double parlors feature and unusual central hearth. This hearth is oriented along the roof ridge although the chimney stack is perpendicular to the ridge. The interior has been remodeled including the rebuilding of the mantels using rough-cut wooden posts and lintel.

OUTBUILDINGS
The corn crib, located to the west of the dwelling, is a rectangular frame structure. The entrance is located on the eastern gable wall and is situated asymmetrically under the ridge. The roof is sheathed with corrugated metal and the ridge runs on a east-west axis. Narrow vertical slats cover the walls. The structure is heavily covered in vegetation.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-606

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

Specific dates	Circa 1850-1865	**Architect**	Unknown
Construction dates	Circa 1850	**Builder**	Unknown

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____ Maryland Register x 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.)

Sleepy Hollow is an interesting example of the regionally prevalent side passage plan with a telescoping service wing attached to the gable end. The dwelling was built circa 1850 and was the home of a prominent physician and planter, Dr. William Sothern Keech. Known as the Keech "Family Home or Mansion House Farm" Sleepy Hollow remained in the Keech family for over a century. Today the farm consists of almost 250 of its original 365 acres.

In 1839 James E. Keech left to his wife Martha Ann 168 acres known as "Dement's Enlargement" and "Oversight" referred to as the "plantation where I now dwell". James had acquired this property two years before from the heirs of Aquilla Turner in 1837.

Their son, Dr. William Sothern Keech (1806-1885) was deeded the property in 1850 as well as two parcel's totaling an additional 200 acres known as "Dent's Inheritance and Dent's Addition" which had been inherited by Martha Ann Keech from her father John E. Dent. It appears that William S. Keech took possession of the farm at least as early as 1848. In that year the Port Tobacco Times listed Dr. Keech as a member of the Charles County Agricultural Society which recognized his achievements in various agricultural endeavors. In 1851 he was noted for growing an outstanding wheat crop, in 1853 for garden products, and in 1854 for homemade cloth.

Dr. William Sothern Keech's relative prominence in the community is evidenced by his appointment as delegate to the State Convention in 1855. He was consistently chosen as a leader in the local community representing the Bryantown area as a delegate at the Democratic Mass Meeting, the Oyster Monopoly Meeting and the Tobacco Planters delegation at Port Tobacco in 1860.

During the 1830's, 1840's and 1850's Charles County continued to thrive on its agriculturally based economy. Larger planters found the side passage dwelling with an attached service wing an especially appropriate domestic plan as evidence by their survival in the county today. Sleepy Hollow is largely typical of this plan with the exception of an unusual single interior chimney which rarely appears in Charles County pre-Civil War domestic architecture. More typical was the single or paired exterior end chimneys. Future fieldwork should look for evidence of the existence of such chimneys.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-606

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	365		
Acreage of historical setting	5		
Quadrangle name	Charlotte Hall	Quadrangle scale	1:25,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property at 8285 Keech Road is and has historically been associated with Charles County Property Map 46, Grid 21, Parcel 8.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Site Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Department	date	9/15/2000
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-581
city or town	LaPlata	state MD	zipcode 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

Chain of title:

February 1839	Last will and testament of James E. Keech to wife Martha Ann " plantation where I now dwell", "Dement's Enlargement" and "The Oversight" **168a.** Acquired from Kitty Turner Nov. 8 1837. **WB 17 Folio 21**
December 23, 1850	James E. and Martha Ann Keech, widow to William S. Keech, "Dement's Enlargement" **160a**.; "The Oversight" **5a.**; "Dent's Inheritance" and "Dent's Addition" **200a..** Inherited from Martha Ann Keech's father John E. Dent. **R.H.M.1 Folio 27, 28, 29**
April 13, 1898	Frederick J. Keech, et al (heirs of William S. Keech) to William L. Keech. "Home or Mansion House Farm and Plantation". **B.G.S. 9 Folio 46**
March 5, 1936	Annie Keech, heir to Annie and William W. Keech. **W.M.A. 62 Folio 349**
January 10, 1938	Annie L. and William W. Keech to William R. and Nancy V. Thomas. **W.M.A. 67 Folio 270**
June 30, 1941	William R. and Nancy V. Thomas to Walter A. Jameson and heirs. **W.M.A. 74 Folio 451**
August 6, 1943	Jameson heirs to Otto H. Stasch. **246a.** **T.B.M. 78 Folio 571**

Major Bibliographic References:

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

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

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

Wearmouth, Roberta J., ed. Port Tobacco Times and Charles County Advertiser Vol. 1&2 1844-1860. Heritage Books, Inc. 1990.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 11/19/99

North arrow:

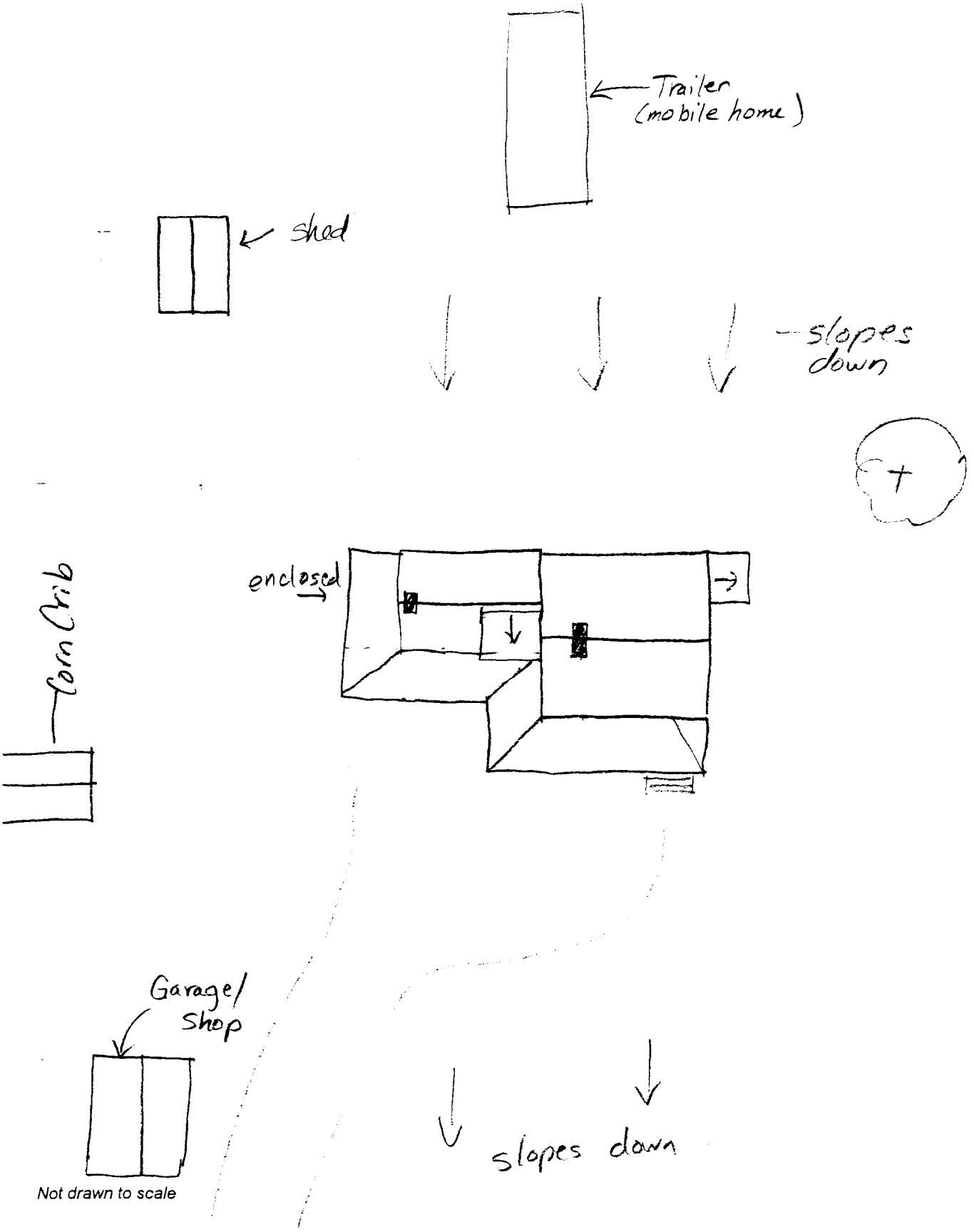
Name: SLEEPY HOLLOW

Address: Stasch Place

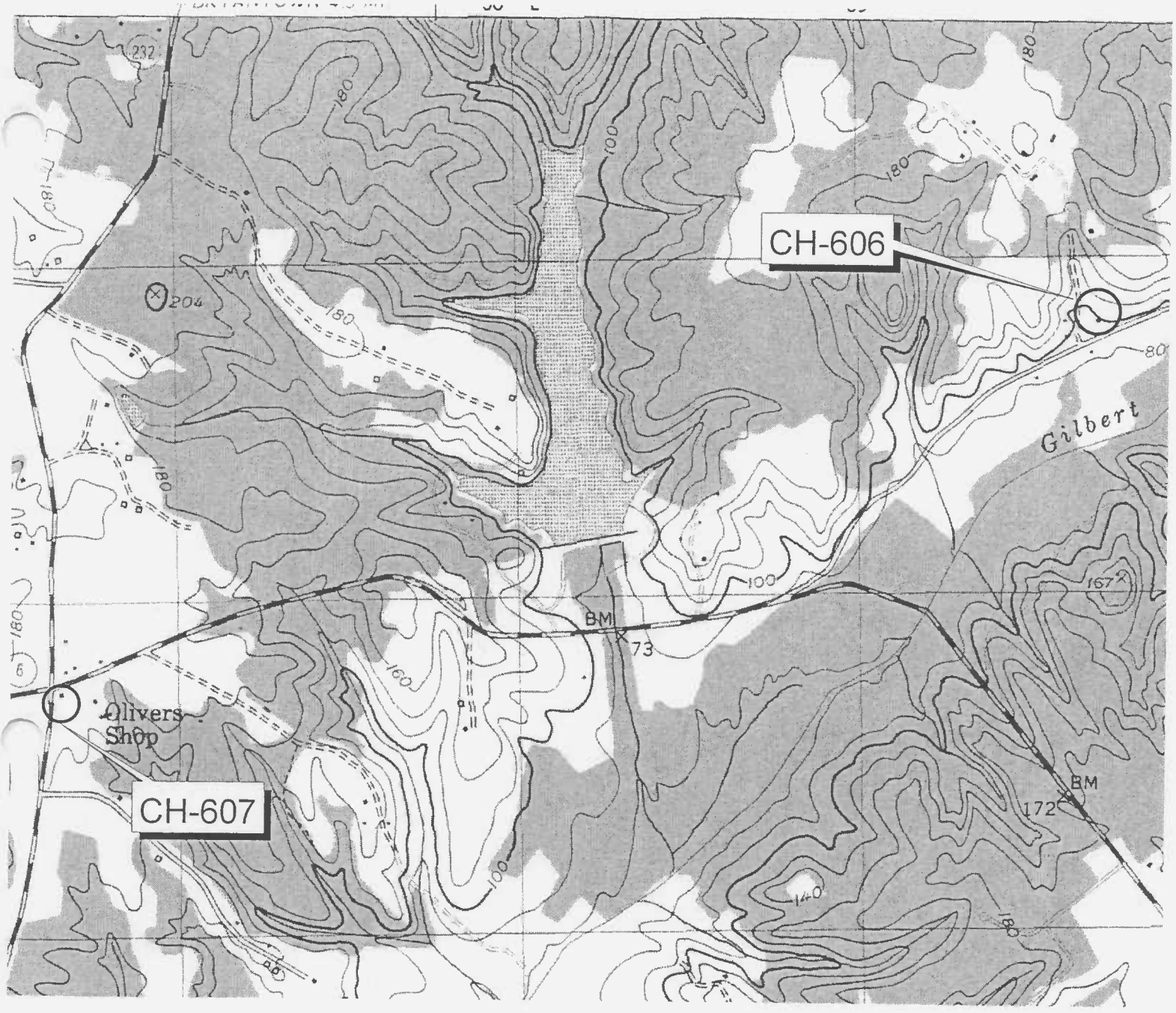
CH - 606

Charles County, Maryland

Olivers Shop ☒ Vicinity



Not drawn to scale



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Sleepy Hollow
CH-606
Charles County MD
Charlotte Hall, MD Quad

CH-606
SLEEPY HOLLOW
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
11/99
MARYLAND SHPO
SOUTH ELEVATION
2 OF 5

CH-606
SLEEPY HOLLOW
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K. G SMITH
11/99
MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING NW
1 OF 5

CH-606
SLEEPY HOLLOW
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G SMITH
11/99
MARYLAND SHPO
NORTH ELEVATION
3 OF 5

CH-606
SLEEPY HOLLOW
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
11/99
MARYLAND SHPO
GARAGE + CORN CRIB, LOOKING SOUTH
4 OF 5

CH-606
SLEEPY HOLLOW
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G SMITH
11/99
MARYLAND SHPO
SHED, LOOKING NORTH
5 OF 5