Doctor Thomas L. Higdon Farmhouse and Office **1899**
CH-701
Wayside
Private

Established at the turn of the 20th century, the Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Farmhouse and Office, also known as "Pleasant View" is situated on a high rise overlooking the Potomac River valley in Cobb Neck. The 87 acre farm is anchored by an attractive Victorian farmhouse surrounded by a few domestic and agricultural outbuildings including a smokehouse, dairy, corncrib and ruinous stable. The frame two-story, three bay I-House is one room deep, and embellished with a characteristic decorative center gable and wrap-around porch. A two-story rear service wing extending from the northwest corner forms an overall L-plan. Victorian ornamentation consists of bracketed porch columns and fishscale shingles in the porch gable. Extensive landscaping in the form of terracing is visible in the steep decline from the dwelling's façade to the main road.

Thomas Lawson Higdon was born in 1868 near Pisgah at his family home known as "Planter's Delight". He graduated from Charlotte Hall Military Academy in 1889 and after teaching for several years, entered medical school at Georgetown University and the University Baltimore. Soon after receiving his M.D. in 1898, he set up an office at his home serving the maritime and agricultural communities of the Cobb Neck region until his retirement around 1950. One of his noteable accomplishments was the establishment of an early health insurance policy with local organizations including the Watermen and Oystermen Association and the Willing Helpers Association. In 1989, a nearby elementary school was renamed in his honor.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. Ch-701

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Farmhouse and Office
other	

2. Location

street and number	11060 Milton Hill Place	___ not for publication
city, town	Wayside	___ vicinity
county	Charles	

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

name	Thomas L. Higdon Jr. et al				
street and number	P.O. Box 236			telephone	Unknown
city, town	LaPlata	state	MD	zip code	20646-0236

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	83 p.22
city, town	LaPlata	liber 1923	folio 367

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

Ownership
___ public
X private
___ both

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

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	___	buildings
___	___	sites
5	___	structures
___	___	objects
6	___	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. Ch-701

Condition

___ excellent	___ deteriorated
_X_ good	___ ruins
___ fair	___ altered

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

Established at the turn of the 20th century, the Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Farmhouse and Office is situated on a high rise overlooking the expansive cultivated fields of the Potomac River valley in Cobb Neck. The 87 acre farm is anchored by an attractive Victorian farmhouse that faces southwest. The dwelling is surrounded by a few domestic and agricultural outbuildings including a smokehouse, dairy, corncrib and ruinous stable. The frame two- story, three-bay I-House is one room deep, and embellished with a characteristic decorative center gable and wrap-around porch. A two-story rear service wing extending from the northwest corner forms an overall L-plan. Victorian ornamentation consists of bracketed porch columns and fishscale siding in the porch gable. Extensive landscaping, in the form of terracing is visible in the sleep decline from the dwelling's façade to the main road.

The dwelling rests on a brick pier and infill foundation. The standing seam metal roof is pierced by two interior brick chimneys and equipped with a weathervane and lightening rod. The cornice is boxed and a decorative center gable holds a 3-light arched window. Original working shutters and 2/2 windows are found throughout with the likely exception of paired 6/6 windows in the rear wing of the dwelling. The hipped roof porch rests on concrete piers and is adorned with a decorative center gable of a lesser pitch than the center gable of the main block. Original weatherboard siding has been reclad with asbestos shingles.

The symmetrical façade includes three bays with three windows above and two below. A transom and sidelights surround the centered entry way. Moving clockwise, the northwest gable elevation has single windows, centered on each of the first and second stories. On this elevation, the service wing exterior wall is flush with the main block and holds four asymmetrical windows on the second story. The first floor includes two 2/2 windows near the main block and a pair of 6/6 windows to the rear. The rear gable elevation of the kitchen wing is without fenestration. The southeast elevation of the service wing includes three second story windows. The first floor has two door and two windows. One door is sheltered by the wrap-around porch. The other, flanked by windows, is open. The rear of the main block consists of a single second story window in the southernmost bay and one directly underneath on the first floor. A fourth door is found near the interior service wing corner.

The interior was not available for study at the time of the survey.

OUTBUILDINGS

To the west of the dwelling stand a pair of front gable outbuildings facing the drive. Both are sheathed in vertical board siding and attached with late machine cut nails. Each has a centered vertical plank door. The larger of the two served as a smokehouse stands on a fieldstone pier foundation. The other, believed to be a dairy, includes single windows on each of the eave walls. This structure, believed be a dairy is entirely paneled with closely laid interior plank.

A small front gable corncrib with a metal roof stands to the northeast of the dwelling. It has a centered vertical plank door. The frame is exposed with narrow slats nailed to the interior of the structure. Near the corncrib is a collapse stable.

DOCTOR"S OFFICE

Standing roughly opposite the smokehouse and dairy, the doctor's office is a one story front gable building built into a slope. The frame structure, sheathed in original novelty siding, rests on a poured concrete basement accessed from the rear elevation. A shed roof porch resting on narrow turned wooden posts protects the dual entryway flanked by windows on the exterior. Two windows are set symmetrically on either eave wall, while the rear elevation is without fenestration. All windows, doors and hardware appear to be original as does the pressed tin roof. The porch floor is of poured concrete. A small square 4-light window is set in the center of the front gable above the porch.

8. Significance

Inventory No. Ch-701

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

Specific dates 1900-1939 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1900

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.)

The Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Farmhouse and Office is an outstanding example of late 19th century architecture and one of only a few examples of a intact physician's office in Charles County. Thomas Lawson Higdon was born in 1868 near Pisgah at his family home known as Planter's Delight. After attending Charles County schools he graduated from Charlotte Hall Military Academy in 1889. Higdon taught for several years and then entered medical school at Georgetown University and later the University of Baltimore. He received his M.D. in 1898. Soon after he established an office at his home, also known as "Pleasant View". Higdon practiced there until his retirement around 1950.

Dr. Higdon primarily served the maritime and agricultural communities of the Cobb Neck region. In 1989, a nearby elementary school, constructed on land owned by his wife Ella Norris, was renamed in his honor. At the time of the school's dedication, local residents recounted memories of this country doctor who visited patients in a horse and buggy. At times he would travel to the water's edge, before meeting fishermen to escort him to treat lighthouse operators in Morgantown and Cobb Point. His fee schedule was $1 for an office visit, $2 for a house call and $5 for a night visit. Higdon arranged an early health insurance policy with local organizations. Patients who belonged to the Waterman and Oysterman Association and the Willing Helpers Association paid premiums of $1 a month and the associations paid Higdon $1 for his treatment, including medicine. Country doctors provided the only form of medical care in Charles County until the construction of the first Physicians Memorial Hospital in 1939.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. Ch-701

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 10

Acreage of historical setting 87

Quadrangle name Colonial Beach North Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

This property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 83, Parcel 22.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Dept.	date	8/10/01
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-5815
city or town	LaPlata	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

Chain of title:

February 24, 1994	Thomas L. Higdon, Jr. to heirs. Part of Milton Hill. 87.61 a. **1923:367**
April 11, 1972	Thomas L. Higdon for Ella R. Higdon estate to hiers. **253:237**
April 18, 1899	Rachael and William Hamilton and Anne L. and A.T. Lloyd to Ella R. Higdon. (Real estate of late Dr. Patrick Hamilton allotted to Mary C. Sheiburn) 87.61 acres. **9:626**

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, La Plata, Maryland.

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

Vertical File & Documents Room, Southern Maryland Studeis Center,
College of Southern Maryland. LaPlata, MD

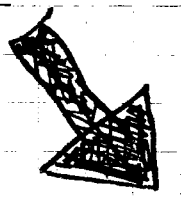
CH-701

SOUTHERN MARYLAND STUDIES CENTER
COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND
LA PLATA, MD
85195 - # 83 thru 85
Persons - Thomas Hyde

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 7/01

North arrow:



Name: DR. T. L. HIGDON FARMHOUSE & OFFICE

Address: 11060 MILTON HILL PLACE

CH - 701

Charles County, Maryland

WAYSIDE ☐ Vicinity

ROCK POINT ROAD

TERRACING

DWELLING

OFFICE

MILKHOUSE / SMOKEHOUSE

CORNCRIB

RUINOUS STABLE

Not drawn to scale

CH-701 Charles County, MD
Name: DR. HIGDON FARMHOUSE
Location: WAYSIDE
Quad: COLONIAL BEACH NORTH

CH-701

Dr. Thomas Higdon Farmhouse

Charles Co, MD

C. Currey

8/2001

MD SHPO

LOOKING NE

CH-701
Dr. Thomas Higdon Farmhouse
Charles Co., MD
C Currey
8/2001
MD SHPO
LOOKING SW
2 OF 6

dr'l

CH-701
Dr Thomas Higdon Farmhouse
Charles Co MD
C Cuccry
2/2001
MD SHPO
LOOKING S
Sash

CH-701
Dr. Thomas Higdon Farmhouse
Charles Co, MD
C. Currey
8/7001
MD SHPO
SMOKEHOUSE & DAIRY LOOKING NW
1 of 1

CH-701
Dr. Thomas Higdon Farmhouse
Charles Co., MD
C. Currey
8/2001
MD SHPO
OFFICE, FACING SE

5 of 6

CL-101
Dr Thomas Higdon Farmhouse
Charles Co, MD
C Carney
8/2001
MD 5480
FARMHOUSE
6076