William Hess House **Circa 1901**
CH-727
Tompkinsville
Private

The William Hess House, likely constructed around 1901, is a typical vernacular I-house with an attached rear wing forming an overall T-plan. Three bays on the front elevation and two stories in height with a center hall, the house faces east and stands approximately 20 yards from Rock Point Road in the village of Tompkinsville. A shed roof porch extends the width of the façade and a decorative centered cross gable accentuates the front elevation. A one story kitchen wing with a shed roof extends from the south gable elevation.

The William H. Hess House is significant as a typical example of Charles County's domestic architecture at the turn of the 20th century and in it's association with the crossroads village of Tompkinsville. The house stands on land which was originally part of the 400 acre tract known as Plainfield. Owned by the Frere family in the late 19th century, in 1901, William H. Hess acquired the entire parcel and likely constructed the earliest portions of the nearby storehouse known as Simms' Store (CH-728).

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-727

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	William Hess House
other	

2. Location

street and number	11915 Frere Place	___	not for publication
city, town	Tompkinsville	___	vicinity
county	Charles		

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

name	Carol Ann Frere				
street and number	14885 Rock Point Road			telephone	301-259-2269
city, town	Newburg	state	MD	zip code	20664-3026

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	86 p. 8		
city, town	LaPlata	liber	971	folio	179

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
___ agriculture
___ commerce/trade
___ defense
X 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
___	___	structures
___	___	objects
1	___	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-727

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.

The William Hess House, likely constructed around 1901, is a typical vernacular I-house with an attached rear wing forming an overall T-plan. Three bays on the front elevation and two stories in height with a center hall, the house faces east and stands approximately 20 yards from Rock Point Road in the village of Tompkinsville. A shed roof porch extends the width of the façade and a decorative centered cross gable accentuates the front elevation. A one story kitchen wing with a shed roof extends from the south gable elevation.

Extensively renovated in the last decade, earlier photographs reveal the dwelling's original 2/2 windows, and novelty siding. Originally, the porch held the dwellings only embellishment consisting of a cross gable with fishscale siding and scrollsawn brackets on the porch columns. Although replaced by concrete blocks, the frame originally rested on wood piers. Chimneys are no longer present and asphalt shingles now replace the pressed tin roof.

The east elevation includes three second story replacement windows above two first floor windows and a centered replacement door. An original lunette window adorns the decorative gable. The porch now has a brick floor and replacement posts. The shed addition on the south wall holds a replacement window. Moving clockwise, the north elevation includes the original shed addition as well as a one story enclosed shed now service as a utility room. The rear or west elevation includes single first and second story windows. The north elevation once held the original chimney, which has since been removed and replaced with windows on the first and second story.

During the recent renovation, the entire house was gutted and reconstructed. At this time several rooms were altered including the partition of an upstairs bedroom to accommodate bathroom and the widening of the doorway between the dining room and the kitchen wing.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-727

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ 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	__ social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/ settlement	__ maritime industry	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Specific dates 1901-1935 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates circa 1901

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 William H. Hess House is significant as a typical example of Charles County's domestic architecture at the turn of the 20th century and in it's association with the crossroads village of Tompkinsville. The house stands on land which was originally part of the 400 acre tract known as Plainfield. Owned by the Frere family in the late 19th century, in 1901, William H. Hess acquired the entire parcel and likely constructed the earliest portions of the nearby storehouse known as Simms' Store (CH-728) In 1914, William H. Hess died, leaving his property to his brother John J. Hess and his half sister Sarah L. Dean and their heirs. The estate, was not resolved for until 1935. Depositions taken in 1933 indicate that at the time his property "consisted of what is known as the store property on the east side of the road. This property, about one acre of land, is improved by a store building in good repair..worth about $1000. On the opposite side of the State Road is the farm property, about 80 acres ... improved by two dwellings, a barn and other outbuildings. One of the dwellings, a 4-room house is in good repair and the other dwelling, also a 4-room house with kitchen attached is in a fair state of repair."(1) The latter description probably refers to the William Hess House.

The William Hess House is associated with the development of the crossroads village of Tompkinsville which first appears in Martinet's Map of 1865.(2) By 1880, the Maryland Directory identifies this hamlet, located 12 miles from Cox's Station and near Lancaster's Wharf, as having a meager population of 10. Despite it's small number of residents within the village, Tompkinsville nevertheless boasted two general stores, two mills, a blacksmith, wheelwright, carpenter and physician. (3)

(1) Charles County Equity Record, 1933 WMA 22/351
(2) Martinet, Simon J. Map of Maryland. Atlas edition. Baltimore. 1866.
(3) The Maryland Directory, 1880 Published by J. Frank Lewis and Company, Baltimore

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-727

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 52.28

Acreage of historical setting 400

Quadrangle name Colonial Beach North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

William Hess House is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 86, Parcel 8.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning	date	11/5/01
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:

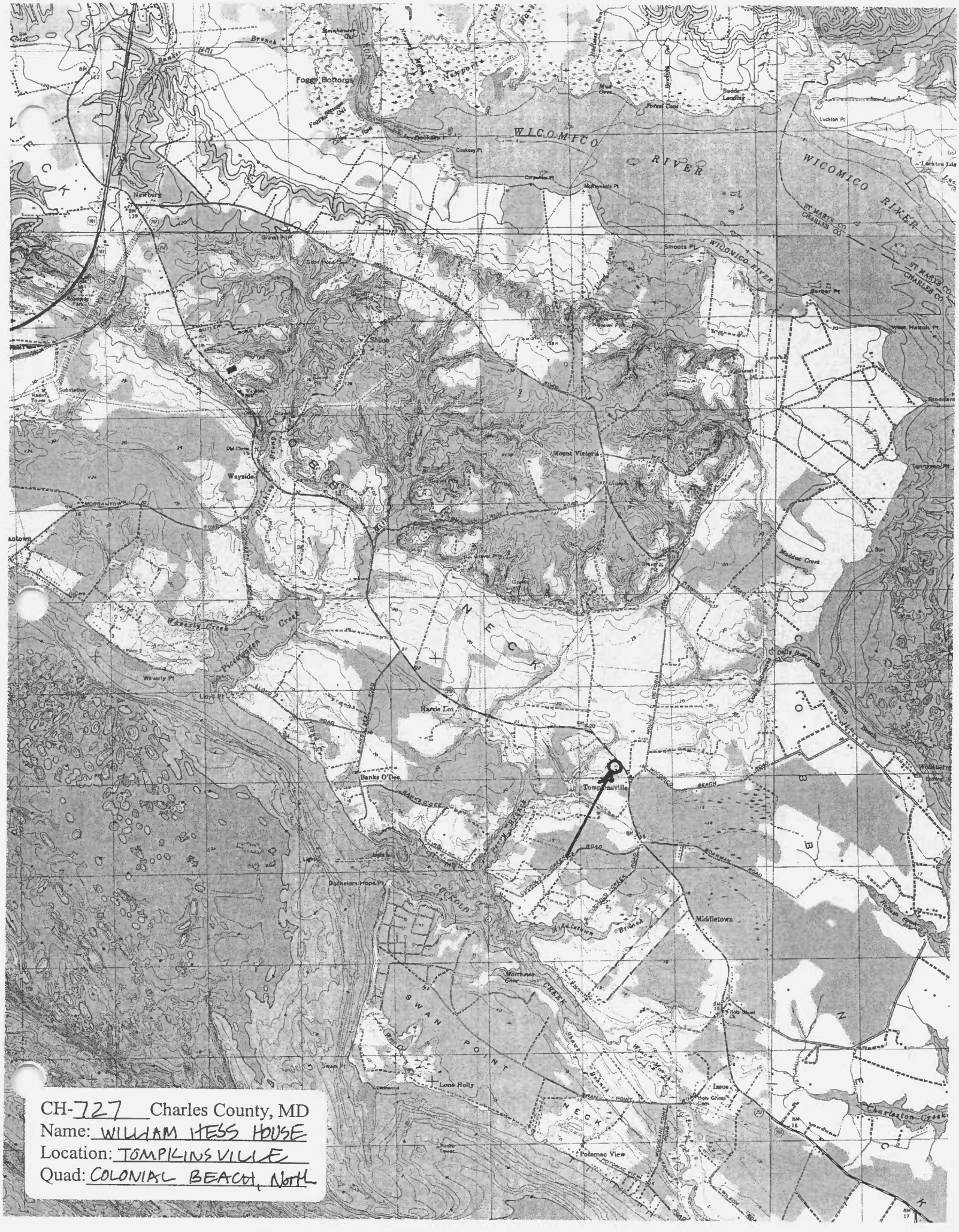
March 1984	Francis Carroll Boarman to Carol Ann Boarman, now Carol Ann Frere. 1st - "Part of Plainfield" 76 acres. 2nd - land of Camilla Edelen, 15 acres. The two tracts being respectively the first and fifth tracts from Joseph A. Wilmer et al to Eugene Lloyd August 1935 **971/179**
March 1980	John William Hess to Francis Carroll Boarman and Carroll Ann Boarman **707/287**
November 1935	Eugene K. Lloyd et ux to James Urchea William hess provided..shall not operate or permit to be operated on the property any store or business establishment for the sale of any type of merchandise during 4the period of three years. **WMA 62/36**
August 1935	H.T. Briscoe, Joseph A. Wilmer and F. deSales Mudd, trustee estate of William H. Hess to Eugene K. Lloyd. **61/334**
October 1901	To William H. Hess. Mary A. Green and George Washington Green, husband, Henry Robinson, William J. Frere and Josephine, wife, and Adrian Posey, all of Charles County to William H. Hess. Mary Green purchased a lot from Robinson but has not paid the full amount. Robinson purchased a lot from William Frere, but has not paid the full amount. Adrian Posey holds two mortgages. Frere's lot was given directly to him in 1894 JST 7/126 ; the other given to Mary Frances in 1894 JST 7/115. All concerned join in deed to William H. Hess. **BGS 12/277**

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.



CH-727 Charles County, MD
Name: WILLIAM HESS HOUSE
Location: TOMPKINSVILLE
Quad: COLONIAL BEACH, North

CH-727
WILLIAM HESS HOUSE
CHARLES CO, MD
8/2001
C. CURREY
MD SHPO
EAST ~~WEST~~ ELEVATION

1 OF 4

CH-727
WILLIAM HESS HOUSE
CHARLES CO. MD
8/2001
C. CURREY
MD SHPO
LOOKING NE
2 OF 4

CH-727
WILLIAM IRES HOUSE
CHARLES CO, MD
4/2001
C. CURRY
MD SHPO
LOOKING SE
30 of 4

CH 727
WILLIAM HIGGS HOUSE
CHARLES CO. MD
8/2001
C. OURLEY
MD SHPO
C. 1990
4 OF 4