Catherine Dyson Farm **1885**
CH-733
Dubois
Private

Established in 1885, the Catherine Dyson Farm is a representative example of a Victorian Farmstead in Charles County. Now consisting of 40 of its original 125 acres, the farm includes a farmhouse directly on Roundhill Road surrounded by a typical array of outbuildings including a meathouse, dairy, garage, shed, corncrib, chicken house, equipment shed, and three tobacco barns. The farmhouse is a two-story, five bay Victorian dwelling with a wrap-around porch extending to the rear of the two-story kitchen wing. The principal elevation is adorned with double decorative cross-gables and scrollsawn porch brackets.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-733

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Catherine Dyson Farm
other	

2. Location

street and number	8346 Roundhill Road	___	not for publication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	Mark C. Cord				
street and number	PO Box 348			telephone	301-396-5815
city, town	Charlotte Hall	state	MD	zip code	20622-0348

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	57 p. 31		
city, town	LaPlata	liber	2428	folio	432

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
___ 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
9	___	structures
___	___	objects
10	___	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-733

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.

Established in 1885, the Catherine Dyson Farm consists 40 of its original 125 acres, on the south side of the old road leading from LaPlata to Charlotte Hall, now Roundhill Road. The Farm is anchored by a two-story frame farmhouse that sits directly on the road and was constructed around the turn of the 20th century. The dwelling surrounded by a typical array of domestic and agricultural outbuildings including a meathouse, dairy, garage, shed corncrib, chickenhouse, equipment shed, a gable-roof barn with shed addition and two gambrel roof tobacco barns.

The dwelling represents a unique elaboration of a typical L- plan, a house form built extensively in Charles County after the Civil War. The front elevation faces north and consists of five symmetrical bays on the second floor above a centered doorway. The gable roof is adorned with a pair of decorative cross-gables containing a single Gothic- inspired 4-light window in a lancet window. A wrap-around porch extends the full width of the front elevation and extends to the east wall. The hipped roof porch, adorned with turned wooden posts and scrollsawn brackets, shelters a first floor bay window to the east of the entrance door and two 2/2 windows to the west.

The east gable and wing elevation represents the most visually prominent side elevation.....door and the farm lane passed next to this wing on its way to the rear of the farm. The gable contains a square 4-light window set in a lancet frame, matching those found on the front elevation. The main block includes two first floor and two second story asymmetrical windows. The service wing includes a single second floor and a single first floor window and door. The wrap-around porch continues throughout this elevation to shelter the rear entrance door, which is connected to the lane by a cement sidewalk. However, the brackets on the front and side elevation differ in style.
The entire structure has been reclad in asbestos shingle siding and. The roof is covered in asphalt and is pierced by three interior chimney flues with corbelled caps. The cornice is boxed. Several large trees adorn the small yard. The interior was not available at the time of the survey.

The two gambrel roof tobacco barns are noteworthy in that they both include late Victorian ornamentation in the form of weathervanes and lighting rods placed along the roof ridge. Both have metal roofs, vertical board siding and hinged ventilators.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-733

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	_X_ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philospohy
_X_ 1800-1899	__ 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	1885-1932	**Architect/Builder**	Unknown
Construction dates	1885-1932		

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 Catherine Dyson Farm is a well-preserved example of a relatively prosperous late 19th, early 20th century farm in Charles County. In 1885 Thomas and Ann Carrico sold 125 acres known by the name of Bird's Head or Davis' Enlargement to Catherine Dyson, the wife of William W. Dyson. Catherine's will of 1932, leaves "the home farm upon which I now reside and of which I am the owner in fee simple" to her two sons William W. and George P. Dyson. In 1969, William sold his portion to his brother George and his wife Minnie. The property is owned by heirs of the Dyson family today. Tax records indicate a construction date of 1925.

Charles County has remained largely agricultural since the time of European colonization. Before the Civil War large plantations relying on enslaved labor were typical and could include as much as 1000 acres. After the Civil War, Charles County's economy collapsed. Large farms were divided, and planters struggled to keep their farms viable. In 1870 there were 545 farms in Charles County. By 1900 that number had more than tripled at 1900 farms. Farm size continually decreased as large farms, containing over 500 acres, were divided. The most dramatic increase was seen in the number of farms under fifty acres, which more than doubled between 361 farms in 1880 and 728 farms in 1920. lines, the limited extent of the railroad system made the continued use of steamboat wharfs necessary in many parts of the county. Numerous steamboat lines continued to ply the Potomac, Patuxent, and Wicomico Rivers. The heyday of the steamer lasted from around 1880 to 1920. Over the course of this period, several dozen steamboat companies served Charles County's numerous wharves. Among these were the Weems Line, the Potomac Steam Navigation Company, Ephraim S. Randall, and the successor to the Weems Line, the Maryland and Virginia Steamboat Company.

Tobacco cultivation which had been the predominant cash crop since the 17th century, remained so in the early 20th century. However, largely due to improved transportation, some agricultural diversification took place during the late-19th and early-20th century. Increasingly farmers produced a variety of crops including honey, assorted vegetables, and orchard products that were sold at local or regional markets. These market gardens increased in value from a meager $580 in 1880 to $69,610 in 1910. Dairy production increased from 53,878 in1870 to over 140,000 in 1920. The total number of chickens raised locally doubled within one decade from 55,330 in 1880 to 109, 551 in 1890. By 1910 that number had increased to 184,389. An agricultural depression during the early years of the 20th century prompted some farmers to begin the cultivation of tomatoes and other canning crops. In conjunction with this agricultural diversification, a small canning industry took hold in the county. The first cannery in Charles County was opened in La Plata in 1883, and in the same year A.T. Whiting Co. operated a packing establishment at Rock Point for canning tomatoes, corn and other vegetables. By 1920 there were twenty-nine manufacturing facilities in the county. Modernization of agricultural equipment also affected the output of county farmers. Reapers, threshers, and bailers as well as steam-powered and combustion equipment arrived from the railroad in the early-20th century, allowing farmers to produce more goods using fewer farm hands. Improved fertilizers shipped from plants in Baltimore enhanced the county's soils, increasing their yield.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-733

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	39.78		
Acreage of historical setting	125		
Quadrangle name	Charlotte hall	Quadrangle scale	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Catherine Dyson Farm is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 57 parcel 31.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning	dat	3/18/2002
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-5815
city or town	LaPlata	stat 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:

1997 Mary E. Cord, (cousin of Minnie C. Dyson) trustee of the Testamentary Trust for the benefit of Mary Catherine Dyson (daughter of Minnie C. Dyson) as established in item 4 will of Minnie C. Dyson. WB51:128 to Mark C. Cord
2428/432 See 2048/519, 1994

1979 Last will and testament of Minnie C. Dyson. Power of attornery to Mary E. Cord for benefit of daughter Mary Catherine Dyson
WB51/128

1977 George P. and Minne C. Dyson to Robert J. and Mary E. Cord
Second
549/27

1969 William W. Dyson and Cornelia Dyson, wife to George P. and Minne C. Dyson wife
First: 62.2986 acres; Second: 19.1474 acres
210/390

1932 Will of Catherine Dyson. To my two sons William W. and George P. Dyson the home farm upon which I now reside and of which I am the owner in fee simple together with all the livestock, tobacco, implements and other personal property.
GAW 21/172

1885 Thomas A. Carrico and Ann E. Carrico, wife to Catherine Dyson, wife of William W. Dyson, "Bird's Head" or "Davis' Enlargement" 125 acres.
BGS 7/686

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; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

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

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 1/2002

North arrow

Name: CATHERINE DYSON FARM

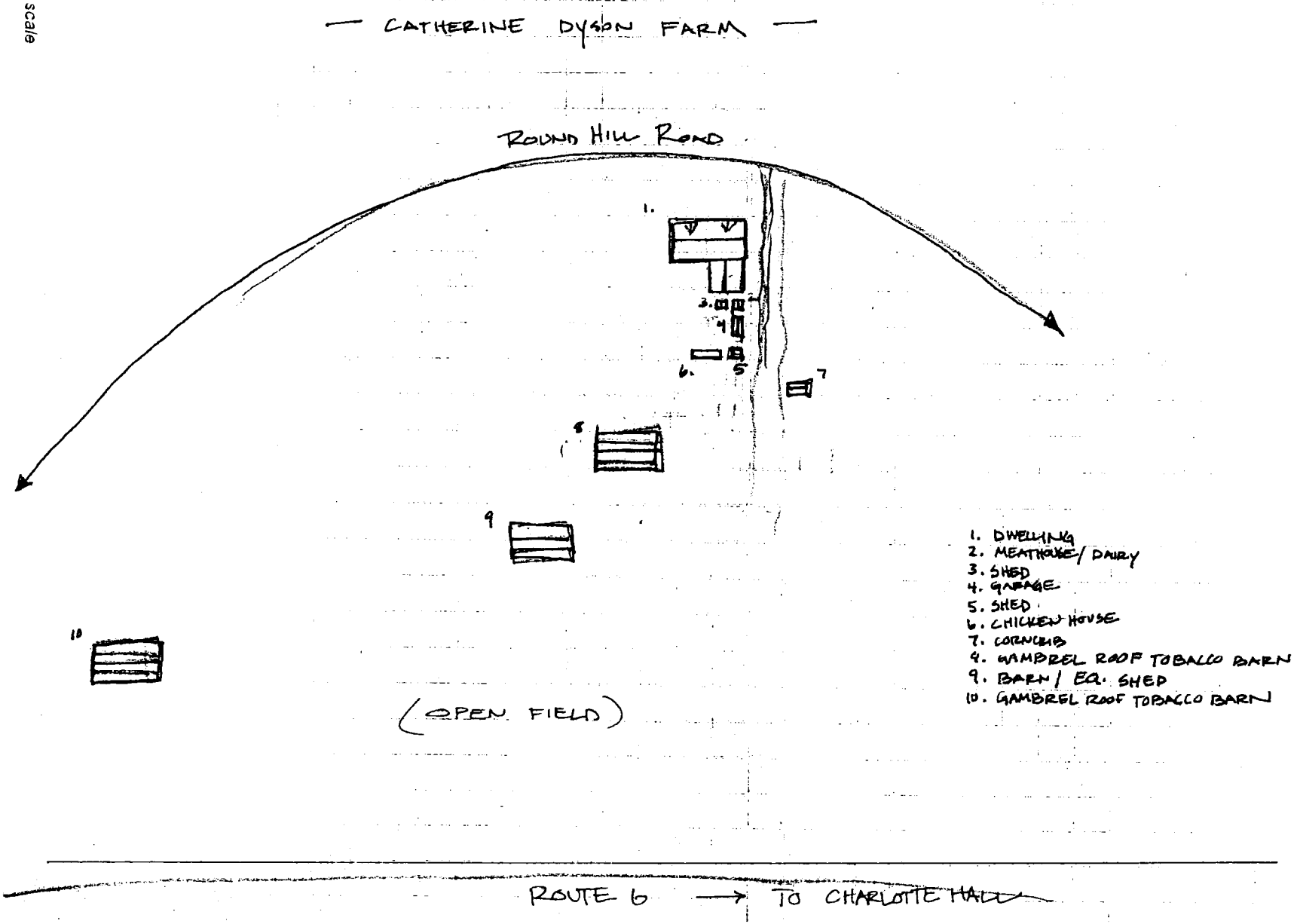
Address: 8346 ROUNDHILL ROAD

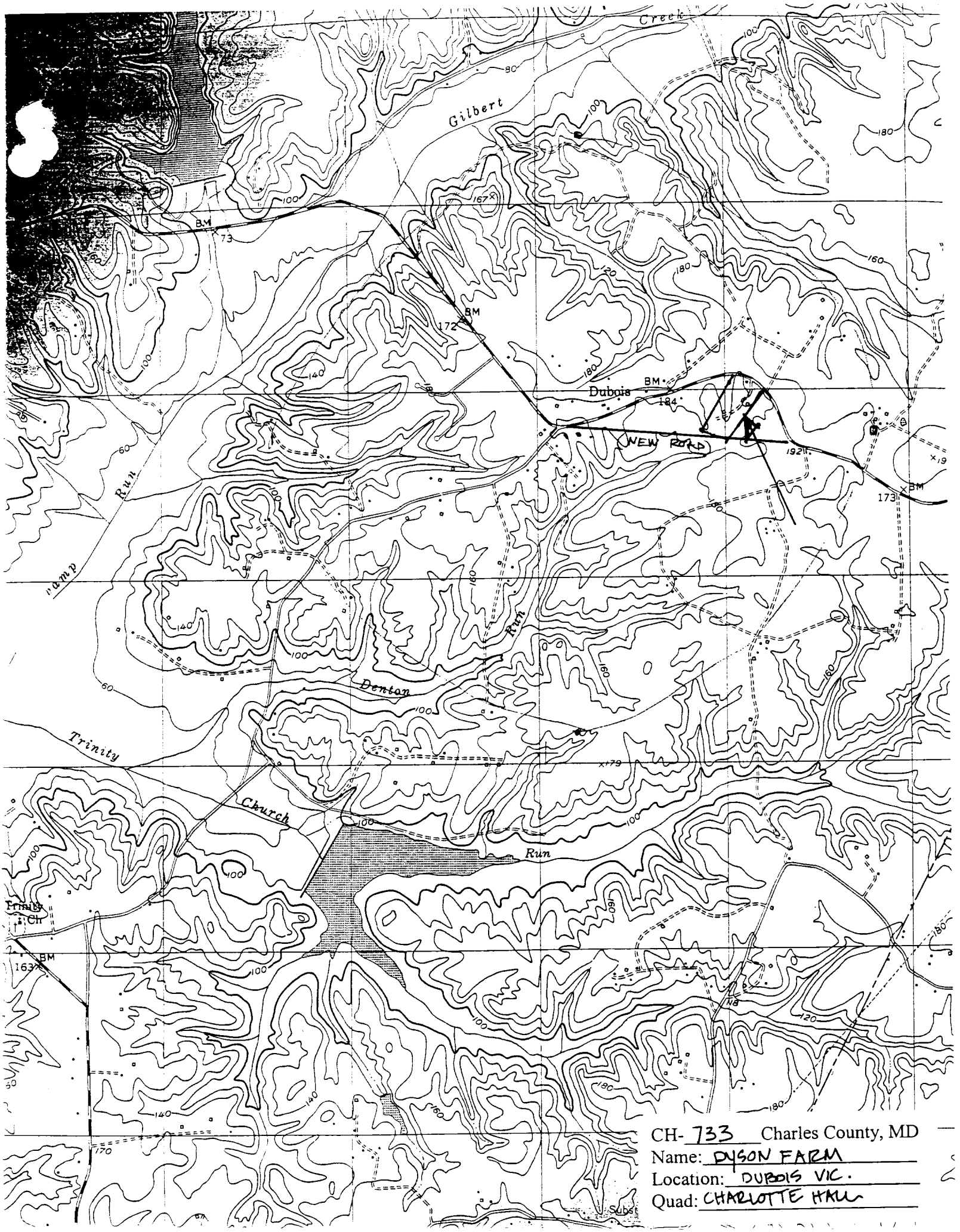
CH - 733

Charles County, Maryland

CHARLOTTE HALL Vicinity

Not drawn to scale





CH- 733 Charles County, MD
Name: DYSON FARM
Location: DUBOIS VIC.
Quad: CHARLOTTE HALL

CH-733
Dyson Farmhouse
Charles Co, MD
C. Hardy
11 2002
MD SHPO
LOOKING W
2 OF 6

CH-733
Dyson Farmhouse
Charles Co, MD
C. Hardy
1/2002
MD SHPO
LOOKING SOUTH
FRONT ELEVATION 1 of 6

CH-733
Dyson Farmhouse
Charles Co, MD
C Hardy
1/2002
MD SHPO
E ELEVATION, GABLE DETAIL
3 OF 6

CH-733
Dyson Farmhouse
Charles Co, MD
C. Hardy
11/2002
MD SHPO
LANE & OUTBUILDINGS, LOOKING SW
4 OF 6

CH-733
Dyson Farmhouse
Charles Co., MD
C. Hardy
1/2002
MD SHPO
BARNS. LOOKING N FROM RT. 6
5 OF 6

CH-733
Dyson Farmhouse
Charles Co, MD
C. Hardy
1/2002
MD SHPO
TOBACCO BARN, LOOKING NW
6 OF 6