

CAPSULE SUMMARY
4550 Crain Highway (CH: 555)
Charles County, Maryland

This house was originally part of the Mudd estate , with Henry L. Mudd and his wife Eva owning this portion of the property from 1922 to 1963. According to the current owner, construction of the house was completed on November 9, 1922. The house exhibits the American Four-square form, which was popular in both the suburban and rural areas of America between the 1890s and the 1920s.

Located at the intersection of Crain Highway (MD 301) and Theodore Green Boulevard, the house is currently used as an antique store. The imposing Colonial Revival style Four-square house is two-and-a-half stories in height and four bays wide. Set on a parged concrete foundation, the house features both wood German siding and ornamental asbestos shingles. A one-story porch wraps around the northwest, southwest, and northeast sides of the house. Three dormers rise from the asbestos-shingled hip roof.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH:555

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____
common/other name Tomorrow's Heirlooms

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 4550 Crain Highway not for publication _____
city or town White Plains vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Charles County code 17 zip code 20695

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that 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

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>		buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>		Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
4550 Crain Highway
Charles County, Maryland

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6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: Specialty Store

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Parged Concrete

Roof Hipped: Asphalt Shingle

Walls Frame: Wood German Siding and
Asbestos Shingles

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance
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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 patterns of our history.
- B Property is 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.)

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

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4550 Crain Highway
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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1922-1963

Significant Dates 1922

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)
Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

Hanchett, Thomas W. "The Four Square House Type in the United States," In *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, edited by Camille Wells, pp. 51-53. Columbia, Missouri: The University of Missouri Press for the Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1987.

Massey, James C. and Shirley Maxwell. "The All-American Family House: A Look at the Four-Square." In *Old-House Journal*, Volume XXIII, Number 6 (November/December 1995): p. 31.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 1.337 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 4550 Crain Highway is designated as Parcel 166, Grid 6 as indicated on Map 23.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building at 4550 Crain Highway has historically been associated with Parcel 166 since its construction in 1922.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 1, 1999
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====
12. Property Owner
=====

name Edward A. and Alice C. Dobry
street & number 23187 Falling Leaf Lane telephone _____
city or town California state MD zip code 20619-6104

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 555

Section 7 Page 1

4550 Crain Highway
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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Located at the intersection of Crain Highway (MD 301) and Theodore Green Boulevard, the house is currently used as an antique store. Mature trees and a paved parking lot surround the building. Constructed in 1922, the Colonial Revival style Four-square house is two-and-a-half stories in height and four bays wide. Set on a parged concrete foundation, the house features both wood German siding and ornamental asbestos shingles. A one-story porch wraps around the northwest, southwest, and northeast sides of the house. Three dormers rise from the asbestos-shingled hip roof.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The façade, or the northwest elevation of the building, is four bays in width. The first story of the house is clad in wood German siding and the second story has diamond-shaped asbestos shingles. A one-story wrap-around porch extends across the full width of the house. It is seven bays wide across the façade and features a brick pier foundation and a half-hipped asphalt shingle roof supported by square wood posts atop brick piers. A wood railing with square-cut balusters adorns the porch. Ten replacement 1/1 aluminum windows grace the façade. A four-light transom and one-light sidelights with paneled bases frame the entry. Flanking the single leaf door are one-story, three-sided projecting bays. The house is covered by an asphalt shingled hipped roof with wide, enclosed eaves. The hipped roof dormer, like the second story of the house, is clad in diamond-shaped asbestos shingles. It contains paired 1/1 windows.

The half-hipped wrap-around porch extends three bays on the southwest elevation. The first story of this elevation contains two sets of paired replacement 1/1 aluminum windows. Three single replacement 1/1 aluminum sash windows grace the second story. Like the hipped roof dormer on the façade, the dormer on the southwest roof slope is clad in asbestos shingles and contains paired 1/1 windows. At the rear of the house, there is an enclosed rear porch and a one-story concrete block addition. Three 1-light metal sliding windows pierce the upper portion of the masonry wall.

The rear or southeast elevation has an enclosed, wood frame porch with a half-hipped roof. The porch is obscured by the one-story concrete block addition. The northernmost half of the concrete addition has been gutted and the roof has been removed. Despite

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this deconstruction, the rear wall of the addition contains two single leaf doors. The flush metal door has a concrete lintel and sill and the flush wood door has a square-edged wood surround. Three replacement 1/1 aluminum windows pierce the second story of the house.

The half-hipped porch extends two bays onto the northeast elevation. One of these bays has been enclosed with wood German siding. Three replacement 1/1 aluminum windows pierce the first story. The second story contains two replacement 1/1 aluminum windows and a single leaf metal paneled door. Wood fire stairs lead to this second story entrance. The hipped roof dormer, like the other two, is clad in asbestos shingles and contains paired 1/1 windows.

SUPPORTING BUILDINGS:

To the northeast of the house sits a 1960s era masonry shed with a flat roof. It is one-story in height and two bays in width. A single leaf, wood paneled door with lights and two windows with rowlock sills pierce the concrete block wall.

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This house was originally part of the Mudd estate , with Henry L. Mudd and his wife Eva owning this portion of the property from 1922 to 1963. According to the current owner, construction of the house was completed on November 9, 1922. The house exhibits the American Four-square form, which was popular in both the suburban and rural areas of America between the 1890s and the 1920s.

The Mudd family has been a long-standing member of the Charles County community; Dr. Samuel Mudd set John Wilkes Booth's fractured legs after the assassination of President Lincoln in 1865.

Popular throughout the nation, the Four-square provided the working and middle class with a larger, more stylish form that lacked the traditional ornamentation. Consequently, the form was cheaper to construct and fit well with an egalitarian society's demand for simple building materials that made no false claim to richness.¹ Additionally, the Four-square suited the modern building techniques and materials that ranged from conventional frames covered in weatherboard siding, shingles, or brick veneer to solid brick, cast-cement block, or poured concrete. Built above a raised basement, Four-squares were generally two or three bays wide, two- or two-and-a-half-stories high with a hipped or pyramidal roof pierced by dormers. Basically open in plan, the interior has four equally sized rooms on each floor with a side stair. The corner reception hall, parlor and dining room were all connected by open archways or large sliding doors, and only the kitchen was fully partitioned off.² Although the Four-square developed as an independent house form, these houses often contain features of the Colonial Revival or Prairie styles. Like those of the Colonial Revival style, they emphasized geometric forms, however, Four-squares do not generally feature historical elements such as Palladian windows or fanlights.

Located at the intersection of the railroad and U.S. 301, the property was impacted by both the railroad and the expansion of the highway system. Close to the White Plains Station on the Baltimore and Potomac rail line, this house reflects the profound influence the railroad had on development in southern Maryland. Following

1 James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, "The All-American Family House: A Look at the Four-Square," *Old-House Journal*, Volume XXIII, Number 6, November/December 1995, p. 31.

2 Thomas W. Hanchett, "The Four Square House Type in the United States," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, edited by Camille Wells, (Columbia, Missouri: The University of Missouri Press for the Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1987), p. 51-53.

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the Civil War, southern Maryland adjusted to shifts in economic activity and population centers. Railroads made the greatest impact upon community development in this period, particularly the completion of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad's (B & P) main line from Bowie in Prince George's County to Pope's Creek in Charles County in 1872. Small towns grew when they became regular stops on the B & P line, and developed as service centers for the surrounding rural areas. In 1922, construction began on the Robert Crain Highway, U.S. 301's predecessor. The dependence on the automobile and the expansion of the highway, linking rural Maryland to the urban centers, contributed to the development and suburbanization of the region.

National Register Evaluation:

The building at 4550 Crain Highway is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility recommended _____	Not Recommended <u> X </u>
Comments: _____ _____ _____	
Review, OPS: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	Date: <u>11/4/99</u>
Reviewer, NR Program: _____	Date: _____

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and
Community Planning
Economic

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Chain of Title:

Parcel 1

June 13, 1886: James P. Hicks to Josephine Hicks
Land Records of Charles County
Liber BGS 8 Folio 662

March 22, 1917: James I. Hicks, heir of Josephine Hicks, to
Henry L. Mudd
Land Records of Charles County
Liber CP 31 Folio 285

Parcel 2

September 19, 1905: Robert W. Imbrie to Joseph E. Roby
Land Records of Charles County
Liber FDM 16 Folio 431

January 24, 1913: Joseph E. and Emma G. Roby to Horace L. Collins
Land Records of Charles County
Liber HCC 25 Folio 444

March 6, 1916: Horace L. and Lillian A. Collins to Henry L.
Mudd
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 29 Folio 396

Parcels 1 and 2

April 12, 1922: Henry L. and Eva A. Mudd to Walter J. Mitchell
Land Records of Charles County
Liber WMA 39 Folio 107

April 12, 1922: Walter J. and Florence J. Mitchell to Henry L.
and Eva A. Mudd
Land Records of Charles County
Liber WMA 39 Folio 110

October 2, 1963: Eva A. Mudd and James C. Mitchell, committee of
Henry L. Mudd, incompetent, to Eugene and
Grace W. Chaney
Land Records of Charles County
Liber PCM 165 Folio 535

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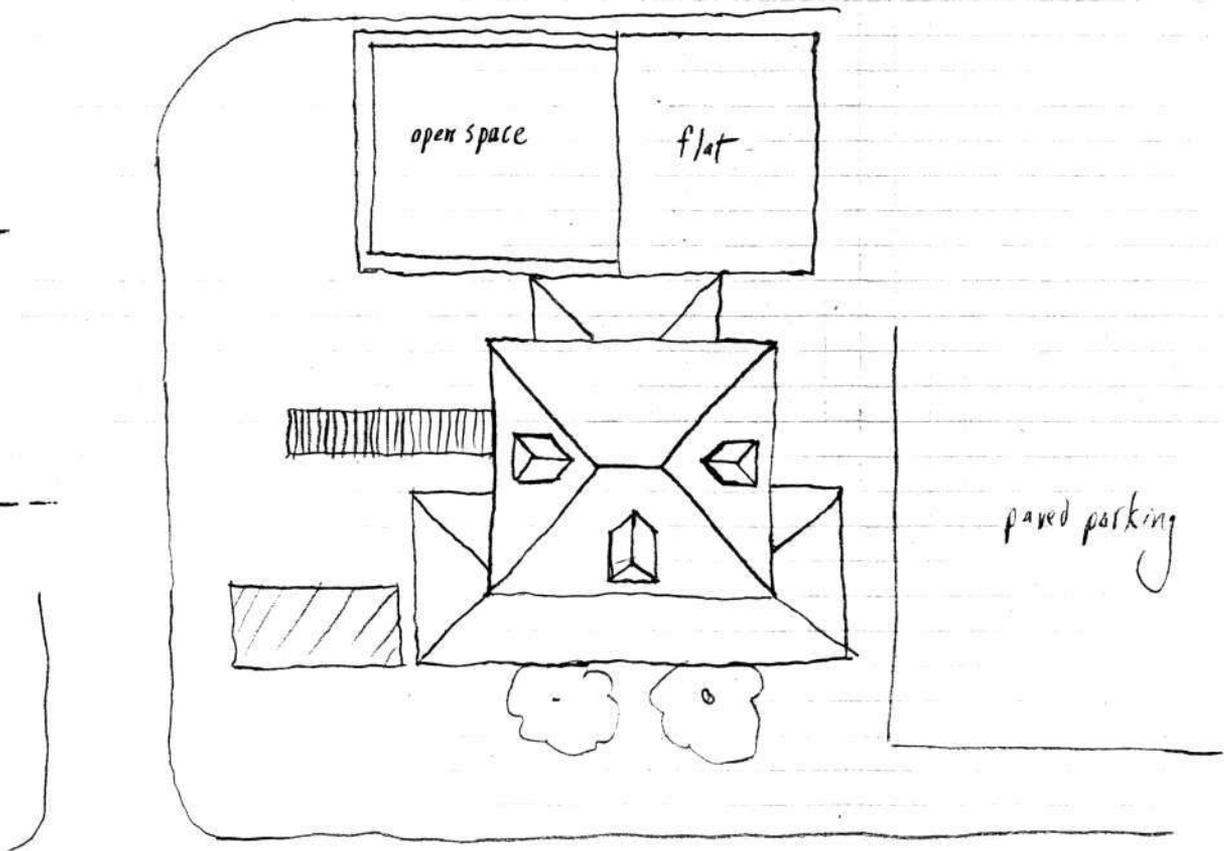
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August 26, 1965: Eugene and Grace W. Chaney to Betty E. Proctor
and Raymond A. Burch
Land Records of Charles County
Liber PCM 176 Folio 707

June 7, 1966: Betty E. Proctor and Raymond A. Burch to Edward
A. and Alice C. Dobry
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 182 Folio 694

CH-555



Crain Highway

Tomorrow's Heirlooms CH:555
4550 Crain Highway

Charles County
Maryland

Resource Sketch Map 1999
Not Drawn to Scale

N ↙

4274
35'
4272
4271

4050 DERRICO PLACE
CH-554

4550 CRAIN HIGHWAY
CH-555

4960 CRAIN HIGHWAY
CH-556

5561 II SE
RT TOBACCO

La Plata USGS Quad



CH-555



CH:555

4550 CRAIN HIGHWAY

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

WEST CORNER, LOOKING EAST

1 of 4



CH:555

4550 CRAIN HIGHWAY

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SAPO

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTHEAST

2 of 4



CH:555

4550 CRAIN HIGHWAY

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

SOUTH CORNER, LOOKING NORTH

3 of 4



CH: 555

4550 CRAIN HIGHWAY

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

NORTHEAST ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

4 of 4