

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: 8555 Murphy Road Survey Number: HO-694

Tax Parcel#: 137

Project: Maryland 216/29 Project Planning Study Agency: MDOT-SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The house at 8555 Murphy Road 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 dwelling 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). Vernacular in design, 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.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form

and Maryland 29/216 Project Planning Report

Prepared by: Tracerics, 5420 Western Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815 November 1997

Conner O'Connell _____ Date 2/10/98
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

B. Kuntz _____ Date 3/31/99
Reviewer, NR Program

Just

CAPSULE SUMMARY
8555 Murphy Road
(HO-694)

Erected between 1867 and 1878, the vernacular building at 8555 Murphy Road represents a common house form in rural Maryland, despite its alterations and additions. Christopher Renn acquired four tracts of land in the vicinity of Old Columbia Road, south of Scaggsville Road and Murphy Road between 1867 and 1886. Based on map research, the property in this vicinity was owned and improved by the Renn family about the time of the Civil War, if not earlier. In 1899, Christopher Renn transferred 69 acres of the tract to his son George W. Renn. The Renn family continuously owned the property associated with 8555 Murphy Road until 1914 when 10 acres, including the house, was sold to William H. and Mary C. Miles. The property stayed in the Miles family until 1978, when it was sold by Miles heirs' Vernon and Myrtle I. Brown to current owners, Anthony W. and Patsy A. Kelly.

Substantially altered, the two-and-a-half-story dwelling at 8555 Murphy Road is constructed of wood frame clad with vinyl siding. The building is covered by a steeply pitched side gable, clad with asphalt shingles. An exterior end chimney, now clad in metal, extends from the southeast elevation, while an interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap projects off-center from the ridge of the building. Retaining its original I-house form, the vernacular building is set upon a random rubble stone foundation. This foundation, together with the steeply pitched roof and building form, provide the only physical evidence to the building's date of construction in circa 1867-1878. The facade, facing southwest, has a full-width one-story addition that appears to have been an open porch at one time.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. HO-694

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____

common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 8555 Murphy Road not for publication _____

city or town Laurel vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD

county Howard County code 27 zip code 20723

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

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>3</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>3</u> | | Total |

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No X

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Solid: Random Rubble Stone

roof Side Gable: Asphalt Shingles

walls Wood Frame: Vinyl Siding

other _____

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

=====
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.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
8555 Murphy Road
Howard County, Maryland

Inventory No. HO-694
Page 4

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1867-1947

Significant Dates 1867-1878

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.)

Howard County Land Records, Recorder of Deeds, Howard County,
Ellicott City, Maryland

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10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 1.731 acres

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

The property at 8555 Murphy Road is designated as Parcel 137, Grid 9 as indicated on Map 46.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property at 8555 Murphy Road has historically been associated with Parcel 137 since the building's construction in circa 1867-1878.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Kathryn A. Gettings, Architectural Historian
organization Traceries date October 30, 1997
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 23185

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12. Property Owner
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name Anthony W. and Patsy A. Kelly
street & number 8555 Murphy Road telephone _____
city or town Laurel state MD zip code 20723
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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. HO-694

Section 7 Page 1

8555 Murphy Road
name of property
Howard County, Maryland
county and state

=====
Substantially altered, the two-and-a-half-story dwelling at 8555 Murphy Road is constructed of wood frame clad with vinyl siding. The building is covered by a steeply pitched side gable, clad with asphalt shingles. An exterior end chimney, now clad in metal, extends from the southeast elevation, while an interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap projects off-center from the ridge of the building. Retaining its original I-house form, the vernacular building is set upon a random rubble stone foundation. This foundation, together with the steeply pitched roof and building form, provide the only physical evidence to the building's date of construction in circa 1867-1878.¹ The facade, facing southwest, has a full-width one-story addition that appears to have been an open porch at one time.

Physical evidence in the foundation and the roof, suggest the building was enlarged to the northwest. Further on-site investigations on the interior of the building are required to determine its original form.

The property at 8555 Murphy Road occupies a narrow, deep lot that slopes down to Murphy Road. The house, set back approximately 100 feet from the road, faces southwest and occupies a slight rise with several mature trees shading property. The property backs up onto open fields and a split-rail wood fence bounds the east side of the site.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The southwest elevation, reading as the facade, is marked by the one-story addition. Asymmetrical, the window openings are paired, filled with wide 1/1 metal sash that flank the single entry opening. The addition has a heavy half-hipped roof with asphalt shingles and molded cornice. A late 20th century wooden deck with a ramp and stairs provides access to the main entry. The second story of this elevation is pierced by three 1/1 windows with replacement sash.

The southeast side of the house has been altered by the construction of the single bay entry vestibule and a metal clad exterior end chimney. The gable end of the main block of the building is pierced by two openings, each filled with louvered

¹ The property, owned by the Renn family during the second half of the 19th century, was improved by a dwelling prior to the plotting of the 1878 Hopkins map.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. HO-694

Section 7 Page 2

8555 Murphy Road
name of property
Howard County, Maryland
county and state

=====
vents. Based on the window openings of the northwest elevation, it appears that when the southeast elevation was clad with vinyl siding, many of the original openings were covered. A pair of 6/1 windows with thick mullions is extant on the first story. The vestibule has a front gable roof with a thick cornice encased in metal. The entry has a four-panel, four-light wood door. The gable end has a two openings with louvered vents.

The northeast elevation is unornamented. The first story has a side-passage entry with a wood and glass replacement door, and two single window openings. One of the openings has a 2/2 window with wide square-edged surrounds, while the other has a 1/1 window and no surrounds. The second story has two window openings, unequally spaced. The larger of the openings has a 6/6 window with square-edged surrounds and the smaller, a 1/1 window with narrow surrounds.

The northwest elevation has a single replacement 1/1 window on the first story with out-of-scale louvered shutters. The second story has two window openings that vary in size, filled with 6/6 and 1/1 windows. The gable end has a single opening with louvered vents.

OUTBUILDINGS:

Three associated outbuildings, none of which are historic, stand north and northeast of the main dwelling. A 1980s wood frame shed with an asphalt shingle gambrel roof clad stands just north of the dwelling. A 1950s wood frame guesthouse with a side gable roof, elongated rectangular footprint, and concrete foundation stands north of the dwelling facing northwest. A glass enclosed porch extends across the front of the guesthouse. Farther northeast of the main dwelling is a wood frame shed, dating to the 1980s. It has a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles and is clad in texture 1-11 siding.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. HO-694

Section 8 Page 1

8555 Murphy Road
name of property
Howard County, Maryland
county and state

=====
Erected between 1867 and 1878, the vernacular building at 8555 Murphy Road represents a common house form in rural Maryland, despite its alterations and additions. Built for the Renn family, who owned a substantial amount of property in the vicinity during the second half of the nineteenth century, the house overlooks agricultural fields, and likely served as the homestead for a large farm.

Christopher Renn acquired four tracts of land in the vicinity of Old Columbia Road, south of Scaggsville Road between 1867 and 1886. Based on map research, the property in this vicinity was owned and improved by the Renn family about the time of the Civil War, if not earlier. In 1899, Christopher Renn transferred 69 acres of the tract to his son George W. Renn. The Renn family continuously owned the property associated with 8555 Murphy Road until 1914 when 10 acres, including the house, was sold to William H. and Mary C. Miles. The property stayed in the Miles family until 1978, when it was sold by Miles heirs' Vernon and Myrtle I. Brown to current owners, Anthony W. and Patsy A. Kelly.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. HO-694

8555 Murphy Road
name of property
Howard County, Maryland
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870)
Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. HO-694

8555 Murphy Road
name of property
Howard County, Maryland
county and state

=====
Chain of Title:

Parcel 1:

December 31, 1867: John Renn and wife to Christopher Renn
Land Records of Howard County
Liber WWW 28 Folio 530

Parcel 2:

July 22, 1874: John Renn and wife to Christopher Renn
Land Records of Howard County
Liber LJW 34 Folio 104

Parcel 3:

December 15, 1886: Henry A. Iager, et al. to Christopher Renn
Land Records of Howard County
Liber LJW 51 Folio 396

Parcel 4:

November 11, 1884: Seth W. Warfield and wife to Christopher Renn
Land Records of Howard County
Liber LJW 48 Folio 591

December 11, 1899: Christopher and Barbara Renn to George W. Renn
"Neal's Delight"=69 acres, 28 square perches
4 parcels, conveyed by previous 4 deeds
Land Records of Howard County
Liber 71 Folio 287

October 27, 1914: George W. and Louise E. Renn to William H. and
Mary C. Miles
10 acres
Land Records of Howard County
Liber WWLC 98 Folio 102

November 15, 1952: Harry C. Miles, Lloyd F. Miles, Ruth G. Miles,
Myrtle I. Brown, Mary Helen Brown, Philip
Brown, Ethel V. and Roland H. Park to Irving
L. Miles

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. HO-694

8555 Murphy Road
name of property
Howard County, Maryland
county and state

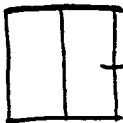
=====

June 30, 1978: Vernon W. and Myrtle I. Brown to Anthony W.
 and Patsy A. Kelly
 1.731 acres
 Myrtle I. Brown inherited property from her
 parents William H. and Mary C. Miles
 Land Records of Howard County
 Liber 890 Folio 151

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

8555 Murphy Rd., Laurel,
Howard County, MD

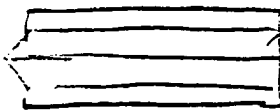
HO-694



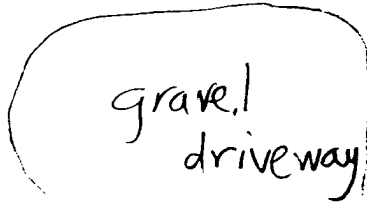
frame shed



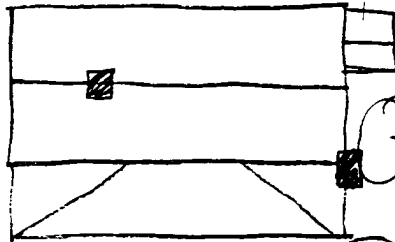
1-story
frame
guesthouse



frame
shed



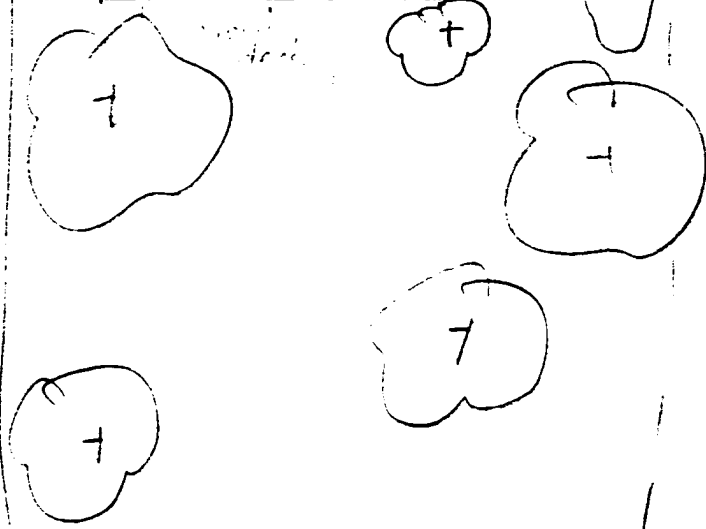
gravel
driveway



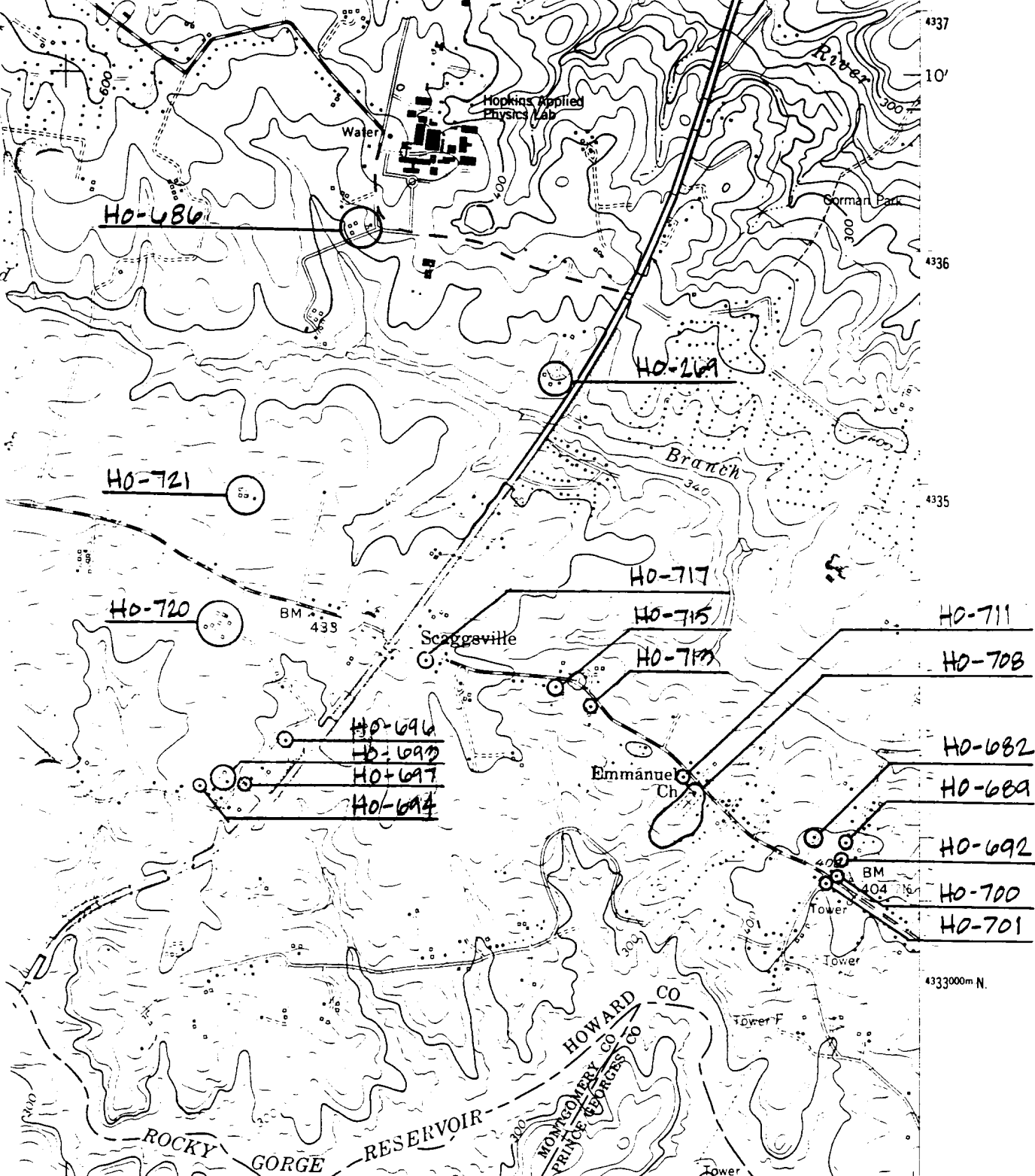
frame
vestibule
entry
addn.

wood fence

wood fence



Murphy Rd.



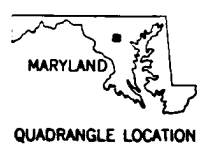
55' 335 336 337000m E 39°07'30" 76°52'30" 4333000m N

1/4 MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

| | | | |
|-------------|-------|-----------------|-----------|
| Heavy-duty | ————— | Light-duty | ————— |
| Medium-duty | ————— | Unimproved dirt | - - - - - |

U. S. Route State Route



CLARKSVILLE, MD.
 NW/4 LAUREL 15' QUADRANGLE
 39076-B8-TF-024
 1957
 PHOTOREVISED 1979
 DMA 5662 III NW—SERIES V833

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
 move the projection lines 8 meters south and
 26 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

(LAUREL)
 5662 III SE



HO-694

8555 Murphy Rd.
Howard County, MD

Tracerics

October 1997

MDSHPO

House - SW Elevation

1 OF 8



HO-694

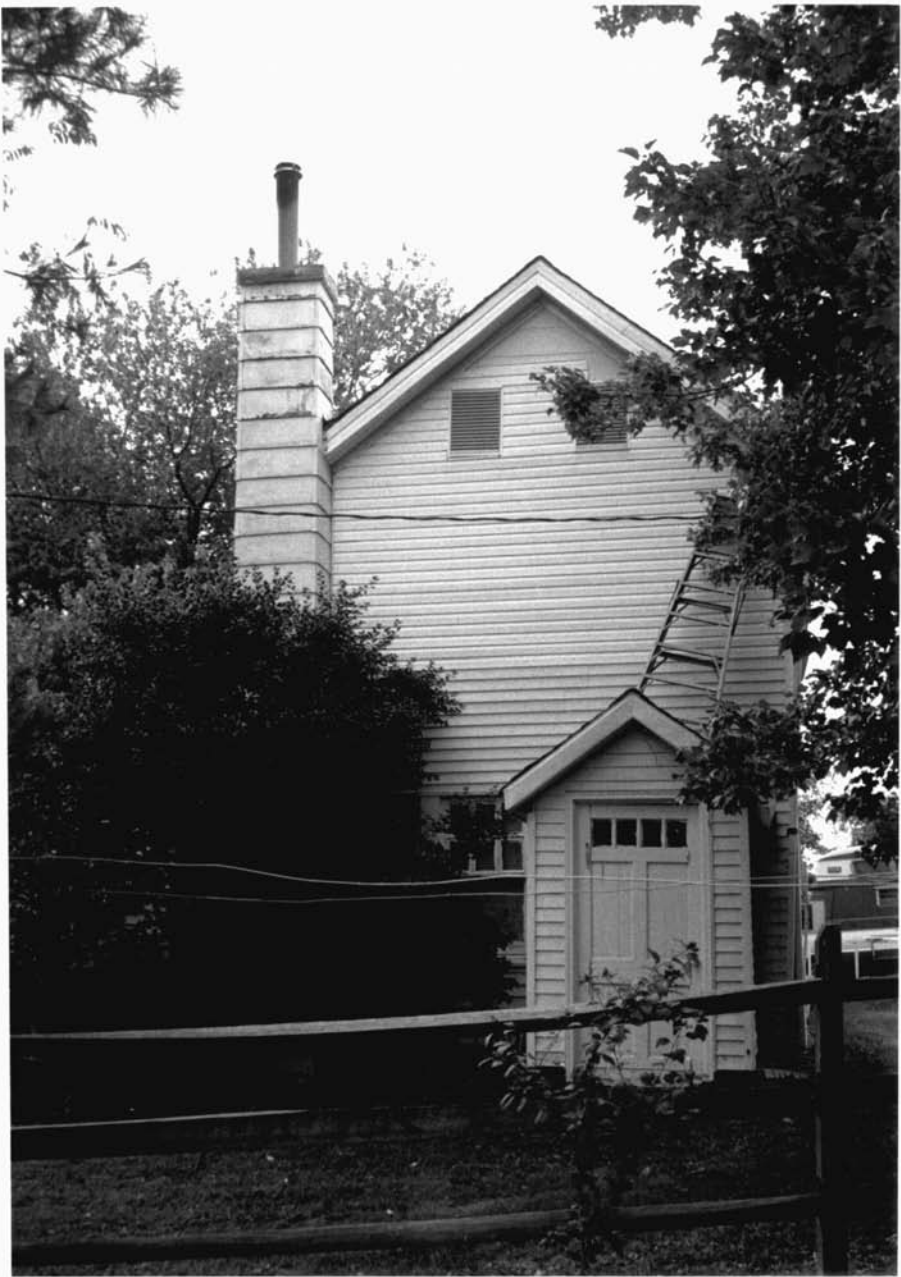
8555 Murphy Rd,
Howard County, MD

Traceries
October 1997

MDSHPO

House - SW Elevation

2 OF 8



HO-694

8555 Murphy Rd.
Howard County, MD

Traceries

October 1997

MD SHPO

HOUSE, SE Elevation

3 OF 8



HO-694

8555 Murphy Rd,
Howard County, MD
Tracerics

October 1997

MD SHPO

House, NE Elevation

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HO-694

8555 Murphy Rd.

Howard County, MD

Traceries

October 1997

MDSHPO

House, NW Elevation

5 OF 8



HO-694

8555 Murphy Rd.
Howard County, MD

Tracerics

October 1997

MDSHPO

Shed - West Corner

6 OF 8



HO-694

8555 Murphy Rd,
Howard County, MD

Traceries

October 1997

MDSHPO

Guesthouse - NW Elevation

7 OF 8



147-193

HO-694

8555 Murphy Rd,
Howard County, MD

Tracerics

October 1997

MDSHPO

Shed - South Corner

8 OF 8