

AL-I-C-007

Higgins Brick Ruins & Stone Chimney

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 12-11-2003

HIGGINS BRICK RUINS

AL-I-C-007

mid 19th century

The Higgins Brick Ruins once consisted of a two story brick house abutted by a large frame addition. Fire destroyed nearly all but the interesting two story brick chimney that had two openings on each of the two floors. One corner of the brick house is also left standing, and it shows that there was a combination of American Common Bonding as well as Flemish Bonding, a mixture of style unique in Allegany County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AL-I-C-007

0101106404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Higgins Brick Ruins

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

near Green Ridge Station on C & O Canal

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

—BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

☒ SITE

—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

—OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

—YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER None

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Leon Bick

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland,

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: 403

Folio #: 176

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD	☒ RUINS	☒ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Higgins Brick Ruins is located 3/4 mile northwest of the Stickpile Tunnel with a close frontage to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

The Higgins Brick House was gutted by fire and now stands in ruins. However, it consisted of a two story brick half abutted by a two story frame structure. One corner of the brick half still stands, and features both American Common Bond and Flemish Bonding. The huge brick chimney still stands erect and has two openings for fireplaces on the first floor and two openings on the second floor. The frame portion was built upon a low stone foundation which is all that is left standing on that half of the former structure.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Mid 19th century

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A two story brick house abutted by a large frame addition once stood on the site of what is known today as the Higgins Brick Ruins. Unfortunately, the structure was destroyed by fire, so we must depend upon first hand reports as to what it once looked like. Still standing is the interesting two story brick chimney. It had four openings; two to the first floor and two on the second, each of which was facing their respective rooms at 45° angles (See enclosed diagram). Farming was the probable occupation of the household because of location near the Potomac River and C & O Canal.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 465.32 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Nelson, Joan Baldwin & Steve Beale

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

11/3/76

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-8991

CITY OR TOWN

LaVale,

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AL-1-C-007-063 (Stone Chimney)
AL-1-C-007 (Higgins Brick Ruins)
GREEN RIDGE STATE FOREST
DNR#: NONE

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Stone Chimney and Higgins Brick Ruins (private)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Carroll Road

CITY, TOWN

Orleans

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☒ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES RESTRICTED
☐ YES UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☒ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Green Ridge State Forest

NAME

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Taylor Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: private site: 403
Folio #: 176

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Allegany County Maryland Historical Trust Survey (Higgins Ruins only)

DATE

November, 1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401-

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-I-C-007

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD	☒ RUINS	☒ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the property of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at Green Ridge State Forest in Allegany County along Carroll Road is a single large stone furnace stack and foundations presumably associated with an industrial complex. The site is located at the southeast edge of Green Ridge State Forest in a hollow known as Devil's Alley at the east base of Town Hill. Approximately one mile southeast of the stone chimney are ruins of a brick dwelling house which stood facing east along the Potomac River and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal at the mouth of Devil's Alley. Although the brick house stands on private property, it is proposed for future acquisition by the Department of Natural Resources, according to rangers at Green Ridge. The two sites are linked by a small run or stream by which stands the stone chimney. The stream opens into the Potomac River near the brick house site. Following the stream is the course of a narrow gauge railroad and a depression in the earth suggesting either an old washed out road bed or a sluiceway. These sites are unexplained at present.

The furnace stack stands approximately 30 feet high, is built of coursed native stones, and is tapered, becoming narrow at its top. A stone corbel forms a drip source near the top of the chimney. It rests on roughly coursed fieldstone foundations which continue, where visible, to form a rectangular base for a building. The chimney stands at the east end of the structure with a low opening partially hidden by a pile of earth and rubble. Inside, the stack is lined with brick. In 1974 the chimney was restored by the Youth Conservation Corps.

The brick house ruins consist of parts of east and north walls along with foundations and rubble. It was a two story structure, possibly three bays wide with Flemish bonding used at the front or east elevation. Evidence remains of a frame addition at the south end wall. Common bonding on the side and rear walls is of a type associated with 18th and very early 19th century construction. This bonding has three courses of stretchers between header rows. Mortar joints are struck and some retain white accent lines over red oxide paint. Diagonal fireplaces, typical of the 18th century, were located within the north end wall and several hand wrought nails were found on the site.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

AL-I-C-007

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☒ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☒ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☒ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The location of the stone chimney and the brick house ruins suggest that their history is somehow linked. Together they have merit for the architectural form they suggest and as artifacts of industrial or commercial and residential activity along the Potomac River during the late 18th and 19th centuries. There are questions about the original purpose of the complex. The chimney's appearance suggest some sort of industrial use although it is unlike iron furnace stacks in the area. Its proximity to the Potomac River, the C & O Canal and the Western Maryland Railway with the tram railroad linking the chimney site to the canal and railroad does support the presumed industrial nature of the complex. While the use of the railroad and canal would be associated with the second quarter of the 19th century and later, the presence of the brick house seemingly dating from the 18th century must also be considered. Although the house is in ruins enough evidence remains to indicate that it was relatively refined among houses of the period in Allegany County.

Land records for the stone chimney on DNR property were checked by rangers at Green Ridge State Forest but were found not to be helpful since much confusion arose around identification and ownership of the mountain land parcels belonging to DNR. Therefore, deeds for the brick house ruins known as the Higgins property were searched in an effort to find a clue to former use and history of both sites.

Since 1859 the property upon which the brick house ruins stand has been made up of three land grant tracts with like acreage except for several out conveyances over the past century. The three tracts were "Hermit's Abode: (311 acres), "River Hill" (175-7/8 acres) and "Sisterhood" (52-7/8 acres). The largest parcel, "Hermit's Abode" carried with it the explanation that it had been resurveyed for Ovid McCrackin on June 25, 1810. The property was described as that upon which Ovid McCrackin's dwelling stood. In 1859, (19/363) John T. Edwards, trustee in equity proceedings between Ellen Bevans and Joseph Bevan's sold the property containing the three above mentioned tracts to Ransom Higgins. The tracts, "River Hill" and "Sisterhood" were patented to Henry Bevans on March 3, 1840 and March 2, 1840 respectively.

On September 17, 1832, Samuel Jesse of Shelby County, Kentucky sold "Hermit's Abode" to Henry Bevans, for \$1,600. (Q/125) Samuel Jesse had held the property only for a few months having acquired it on June 23, 1832, from Moses Rawlings, Esq. (Q/69). Rawlings, who was Sheriff of Allegany County, sold the property as a result of a judgement against the Heirs of Daniel Lantz.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AL-I-C-007

27°30"

719

5363 III NW
(ARTEMAS)

721

25'

25'

POINT LOOKOUT

AL-I-C-058

STONE CHANNEY

AL-I-C-059

063

HIGGINS BRICK ROINGS

(NOT DNR)

AL-I-C-060

069 007

ROBY CEMETERY

AL-I-C-061

GREEN RIDGE STATION

AL-I-C-062

POTOMAC

PAW PAW
QUAD

MARYLAND
WEST VIRGINIA

HANROSE

Cherry Orchard
Cem

BM 524

BM 507

Roby Cem

BM 523

496

700

600

500

400

300

200

100

0

-100

-200

-300

-400

-500

-600

-700

-800

-900

-1000

-1100

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-21200

-21300

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-28000

-28100

-28200

-28300

-28400

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-29100

91 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner and Douglass Reed

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

February, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 202

TELEPHONE

(301)432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

STATE

Maryland 21782

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

AL-I-C-007

A-17

Green Ridge State Forest

DNR#: None

Stone Chimney and Higgins Brick Ruins (private)

Allegany County

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Daniel Lantz acquired the 311 acres tract (F/307) "Hermit's Abode" on October 22, 1811 from Ovid McCrackin. No records were found prior to Ovid McCracken's ownership.

Ransom Higgins for whom the property is named and his heirs owned this and surrounding land from 1859 til 1952. (242/525).

Unfortunately the deeds did not leave any clues as to the use of this piece of property. Out conveyances were noted for the C & O Canal and a lock house but there were no other references to any industrial or commercial complex.

One supposed explanation for the stone chimney could be that its use was connected somehow with the construction of the C & O Canal during the mid 19th century. Another suggestion offered was the possibility of the stone chimney site having been a distillery.

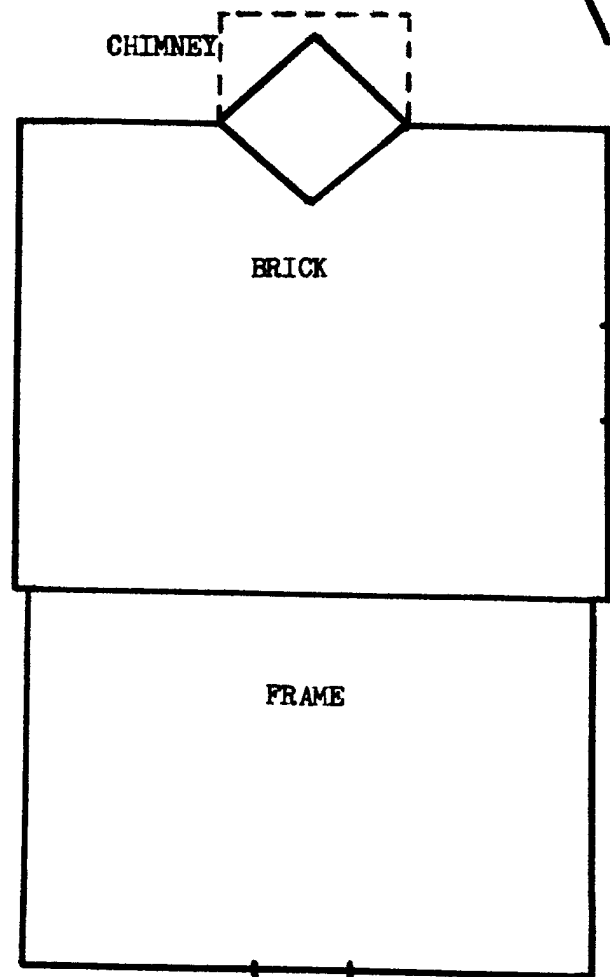
It would seem that with the lack of historical data about the sites, some archeological work might be in order. A search should be made for artifacts in the vicinity of the stone chimney which could aid in pinpointing the use and the age of the structure.

HIGGINS BRICK RUINS

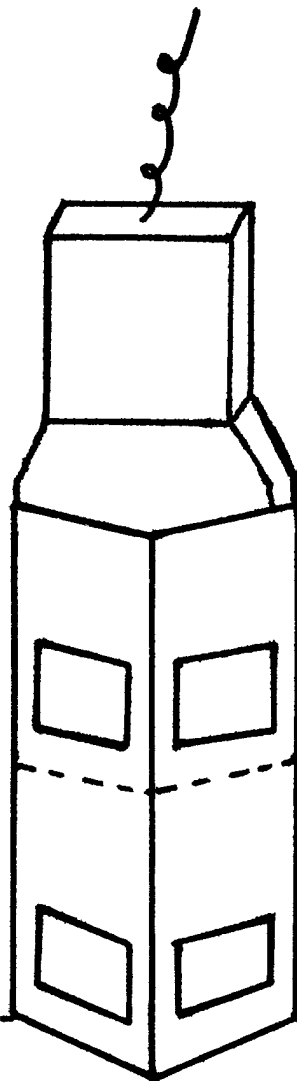
A1 - I - C - 007

ACTUAL FLOOR PLAN

SCALE : 1 : 96



0 5 10
Feet



SKETCH OF FOUR CHIMNEY OPENINGS

INVENTORY NO. AL-I-C-007

403/176

DATE: 10/14/76

465.32 Acres

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY:

Higgins Brick Ruins (Lower End Higgins Estate)

LOCATION OF PROPERTY:

Near Green Ridge Station on C+D canal

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES:

NAME OF OWNER:

Leon Bick

ADDRESS:

STORIES: 1() 2(☒) 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3(☒) 4() 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

Dwelling Shape: (square, cross, rectangular)24' x 16' Frame with low
stone in front but burned
24 x 20' Brick part in rear

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
(☒) BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants. 3 to 1 Both Found
() STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
() LOG
() Other: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other()
pegged () nailed () wide () narrow () mitred () pediment ()

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION:

HARDWARE: original() replaced()
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)

original() replaced() Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze,
Architrave

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, SHED, MANSARD, GAMEREL, FLAT, DORMERS #

MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original() replaced()

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable()

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 1 BRICK(☒) STONE() CORBELED(☒) original(☒) replaced()LOCATION: Flush end(☒) Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior()

ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

Use - None

Significance - Arch

Date Constructed - Canal, Early

Condition - Ruins

Chimney was on 45° C with
2 openings per floor

ADDENDA

In 1984 the Department of Natural Resources contracted with Joe Getty to conduct a follow-up survey of selected historic properties on DNR lands. DNR funded the field survey and photography but did not prepare finished copy. The attached photocopy pages were forwarded to the Maryland Historical Trust to supplement existing files. All original material and photographs remain in the possession of the Department of Natural Resources under the supervision of Ross Kimmel (x3771).

DRAFT--Description for Higgins Brick Ruins

The Higgins Brick Ruins is the site of a brick house that once stood along the C & O Canal. All that remains of the structure is its foundation wall and a two-story chimney. It appears that the chimney has been able to withstand the deterioration ^{of the remainder of the house} because it consisted of corner fireplaces that created a triangular base for the stability of the chimney. Otherwise, it is difficult to determine the features of the original house. The brick walls that exist are all laid in common bond. It appears that there is a cellarway at the ~~eastern~~ ^{north} side of the ~~east~~ ^{east} facade and cellar windows in the ~~east~~ ^{north} facade where the chimney exists. So it appears there was a partially excavated cellar much of which has been filled in by the rubble brick. There is also evidence of a wing that projected from the ~~west~~ ^{south} side of the structure. The brick ruins give evidence that a fairly refined Federal style brick house stood on this site. However, there is little that remains today.

~~(Fix the elevations: chimney on the north facade, addition at the south facade, and east facade probably the main facade on the structure)~~

The Higgins Brick Ruins are located along the C & O Canal at the mouth of Devils Alley. This site is located north of Greenbridge Station, approximately one mile from Kasecamp Road. The structure was constructed on a level area along a stream approximately four hundred feet west of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. The ruins have the appearance of a rather refined structure for this region and are probably linked in some way to the life along the canal.

Judging by evidence in the brick ruins, the original structure was a two-story brick house with a gable roof. The main facade faced east and was constructed of Flemish bond. Common bond was used on the other facades laid in three courses of stretchers between each header row (a bonding type

associated with the eighteenth and very early nineteenth century construction). The mortar joints are struck and retain some white accent lines over red oxide paint. The dimensions of the structure are twenty-two feet by twenty-six feet. It is not possible to determine where the doors and windows were on the first floor.

The chimney to the house is still standing and has diagonal fireplaces that were located on the north gable wall of the structure. We can speculate that the structure was built with a Federal style plan of two rooms perhaps with a hallway on the south side of the house (a stairhall) as was typically used in the late eighteenth century. On the interior wall, plaster was applied directly onto a brick surface. The plaster is made of a lime, horse-hair and sand substance. The chimney with its deteriorated brick shows the flue system ~~that lead the smoke away from~~ st the fireplaces. There are also marks along the chimney surface that show where the gable roof was at the top of the house. ~~On one section of the chimney~~ ^{section} On the first and second floor of the east end of the chimney, ~~pieces~~ ^{pieces} of wood are located in the brick surface which probably held the mantel piece for the chimney.

On the south end of the structure, it appeared that there was an addition that provided a wing to the main building. There is a foundation wall that runs along the west side on the south facade for a ten foot by sixteen foot frame wing. There is no other evidence about the use or construction of this wing. About forty feet northwest of the structure is a covered opening of the well for the property.

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common

Higgin Brick Ruins

2. Location

street & number north of Rose Camp Road at Carroll Road not for publicationcity, town Orleans ~~Green Ridge Station~~ X vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Allegany

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☒ public	☐ occupied	☐ agriculture ☐ museum
☐ building(s)	☐ private	☒ unoccupied	☐ commercial ☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational ☐ private residence
☒ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment ☐ religious
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government ☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial ☐ transportation
	☐ not applicable	☐ no	☒ other: none

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

name Department of Natural Resources

street & number Taxes State Office Bldg telephone no.: 269-3771

city, town Annapolis state and zip code MD 21401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegany Co. Courthouse liber 403

street & number Washington Street folio 176

city, town Cumberland state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title DMS Survey

date February 1974 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Annapolis state MD

7. Description

Survey No. AL-I-C-007

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated
☒ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

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

8. Significance

Survey No. AL-I-C-007

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☒ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AL-I-C-007

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name PAW PAW

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

1. Form Prepared By

name/title

Joe Gatty

organization

Dept. of Natural Resources

date

February 1984

street & number

Texas State Office Bldg

telephone

269-3771

city or town

Annapolis

state

MD

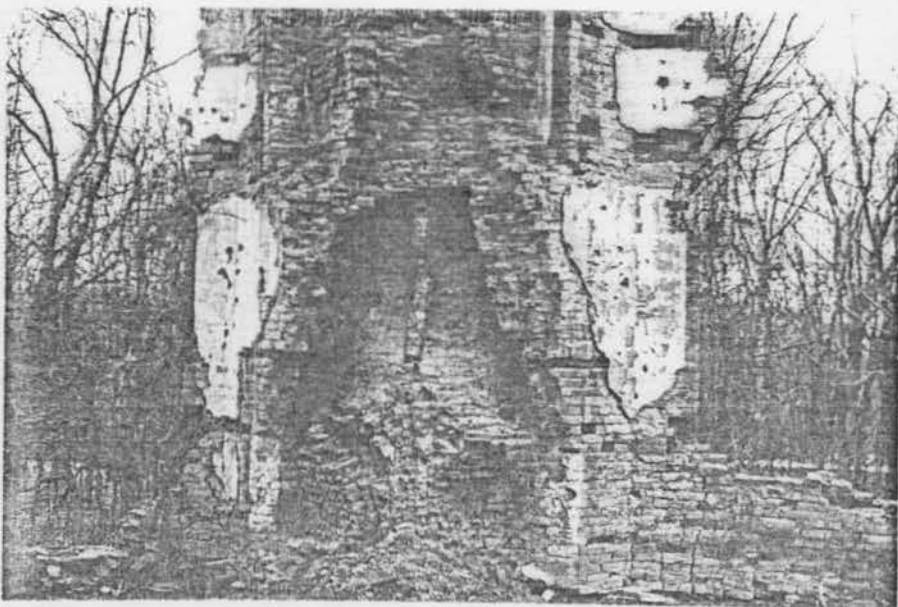
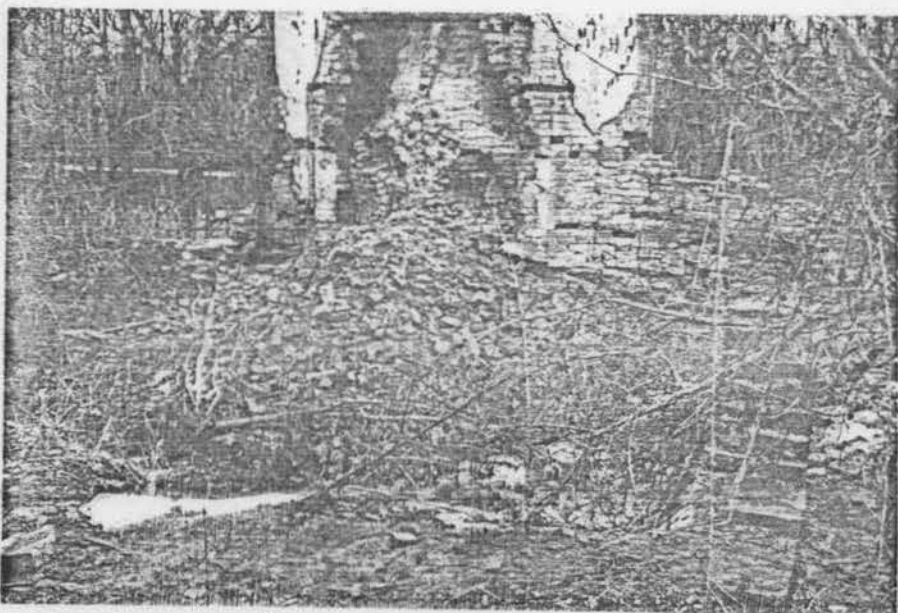
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

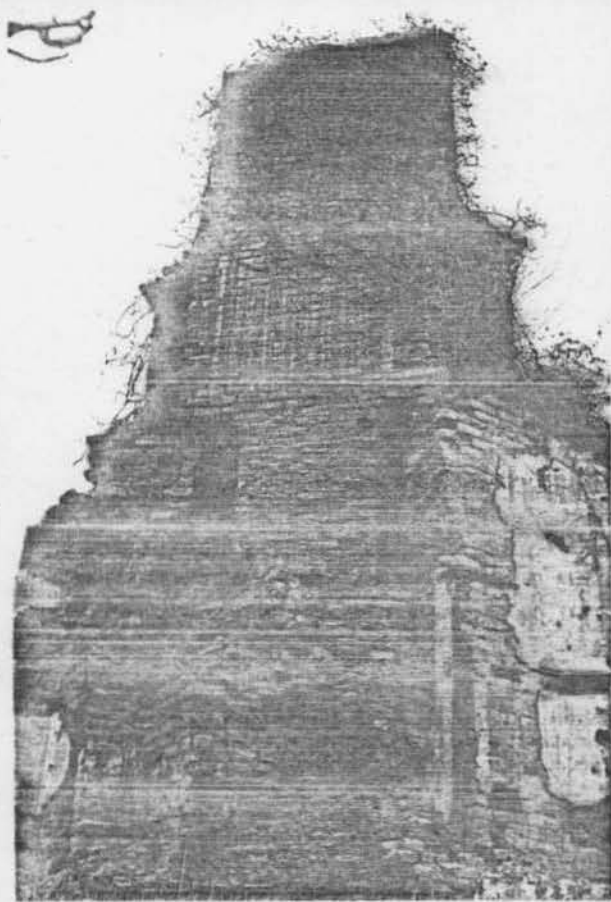
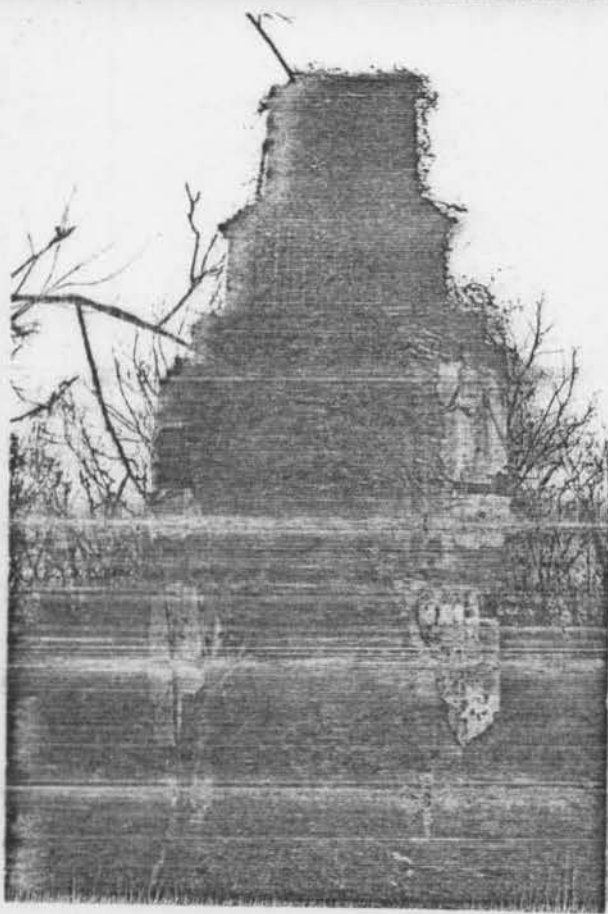
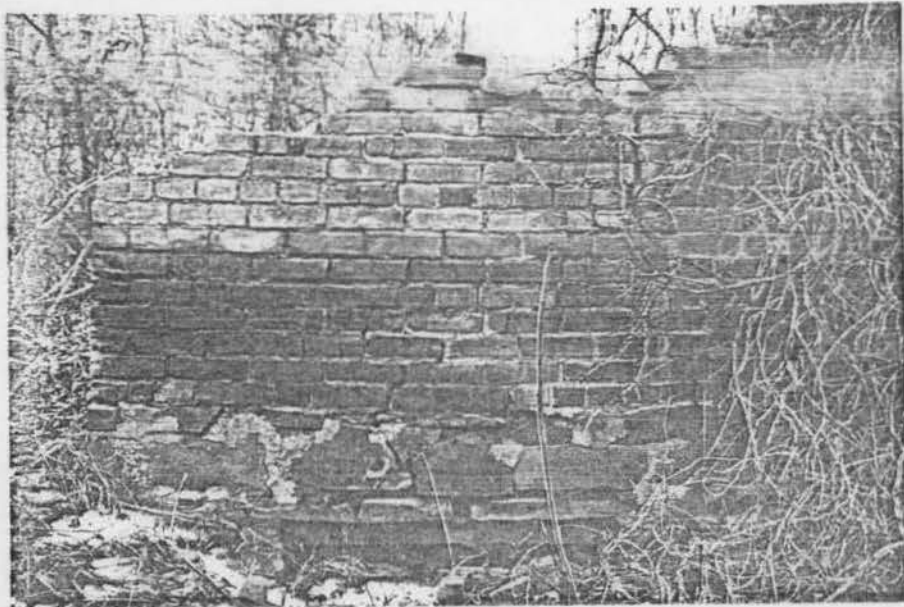
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

LIC-007 Higgin Brick Ruins
 top - View of Site
 center - Foundation ruins
 bottom - Chimney lower section

AL-I-C-007



AL-I-C-007 Higgin Brick Run
 top - Exterior brickwork - north wall
 bot. left - Chimney
 bot. right - " Upper Section



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AL-1-C-007 (Higgins Brick Ruins)
GREEN RIDGE STATE FOREST
DNR#: NONE

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Stone Chimney and Higgins Brick Ruins (private)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Carroll Road

CITY, TOWN

Orleans

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☒ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE

☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☒ EDUCATIONAL

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Green Ridge State Forest

NAME

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Taylor Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: private site: 403

Folio #: 176

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Allegany County Maryland Historical Trust Survey (Higgins Ruins only)

DATE

November, 1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401-

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD	☒ RUINS	☒ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the property of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at Green Ridge State Forest in Allegany County along Carroll Road is a single large stone furnace stack and foundations presumably associated with an industrial complex. The site is located at the southeast edge of Green Ridge State Forest in a hollow known as Devil's Alley at the east base of Town Hill. Approximately one mile southeast of the stone chimney are ruins of a brick dwelling house which stood facing east along the Potomac River and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal at the mouth of Devil's Alley. Although the brick house stands on private property, it is proposed for future acquisition by the Department of Natural Resources, according to rangers at Green Ridge. The two sites are linked by a small run or stream by which stands the stone chimney. The stream opens into the Potomac River near the brick house site. Following the stream is the course of a narrow gauge railroad and a depression in the earth suggesting either an old washed out road bed or a sluiceway. These sites are unexplained at present.

The furnace stack stands approximately 30 feet high, is built of coursed native stones, and is tapered, becoming narrow at its top. A stone corbel forms a drip source near the top of the chimney. It rests on roughly coursed fieldstone foundations which continue, where visible, to form a rectangular base for a building. The chimney stands at the east end of the structure with a low opening partially hidden by a pile of earth and rubble. Inside, the stack is lined with brick. In 1974 the chimney was restored by the Youth Conservation Corps.

The brick house ruins consist of parts of east and north walls along with foundations and rubble. It was a two story structure, possibly three bays wide with Flemish bonding used at the front or east elevation. Evidence remains of a frame addition at the south end wall. Common bonding on the side and rear walls is of a type associated with 18th and very early 19th century construction. This bonding has three courses of stretchers between header rows. Mortar joints are struck and some retain white accent lines over red oxide paint. Diagonal fireplaces, typical of the 18th century, were located within the north end wall and several hand wrought nails were found on the site.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☒ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☒ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☒ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The location of the stone chimney and the brick house ruins suggest that their history is somehow linked. Together they have merit for the architectural form they suggest and as artifacts of industrial or commercial and residential activity along the Potomac River during the late 18th and 19th centuries. There are questions about the original purpose of the complex. The chimney's appearance suggest some sort of industrial use although it is unlike iron furnace stacks in the area. Its proximity to the Potomac River, the C & O Canal and the Western Maryland Railway with the tram railroad linking the chimney site to the canal and railroad does support the presumed industrial nature of the complex. While the use of the railroad and canal would be associated with the second quarter of the 19th century and later, the presence of the brick house seemingly dating from the 18th century must also be considered. Although the house is in ruins enough evidence remains to indicate that it was relatively refined among houses of the period in Allegany County.

Land records for the stone chimney on DNR property were checked by rangers at Green Ridge State Forest but were found not to be helpful since much confusion arose around identification and ownership of the mountain land parcels belonging to DNR. Therefore, deeds for the brick house ruins known as the Higgins property were searched in an effort to find a clue to former use and history of both sites.

Since 1859 the property upon which the brick house ruins stand has been made up of three land grant tracts with like acreage except for several out conveyances over the past century. The three tracts were "Hermit's Abode: (311 acres), "River Hill" (175-7/8 acres) and "Sisterhood" (52-7/8 acres). The largest parcel, "Hermit's Abode" carried with it the explanation that it had been resurveyed for Ovid McCrackin on June 25, 1810. The property was described as that upon which Ovid McCrackin's dwelling stood. In 1859, (18/363) John T. Edwards, trustee in equity proceedings between Ellen Bevans and Joseph Bevan's sold the property containing the three above mentioned tracts to Ransom Higgins. The tracts, "River Hill" and "Sisterhood" were patented to Henry Bevans on March 3, 1840 and March 2, 1840 respectively.

On September 17, 1832, Samuel Jesse of Shelby County, Kentucky sold "Hermit's Abode" to Henry Bevans, for \$1,600. (Q/125) Samuel Jesse had held the property only for a few months having acquired it on June 23, 1832, from Moses Rawlings, Esq. (Q/69). Rawlings, who was Sheriff of Allegany County, sold the property as a result of a judgement against the Heirs of Daniel Lantz.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner and Douglass Reed

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

February, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 202

TELEPHONE

(301) 432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

STATE

Maryland 21782

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

AL-I-C-007
A-17
Green Ridge State Forest
DNR#: None
Stone Chimney and Higgins Brick Ruins (private)
Allegany County

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Daniel Lantz acquired the 311 acres tract (F/307) "Hermit's Abode" on October 22, 1811 from Ovid McCrackin. No records were found prior to Ovid McCracken's ownership.

Ransom Higgins for whom the property is named and his heirs owned this and surrounding land from 1859 til 1952. (242/525).

Unfortunately the deeds did not leave any clues as to the use of this piece of property. Out conveyances were noted for the C & O Canal and a lock house but there were no other references to any industrial or commercial complex.

One supposed explanation for the stone chimney could be that its use was connected somehow with the construction of the C & O Canal during the mid 19th century. Another suggestion offered was the possibility of the stone chimney site having been a distillery.

It would seem that with the lack of historical data about the sites, some archeological work might be in order. A search should be made for artifacts in the vicinity of the stone chimney which could aid in pinpointing the use and the age of the structure.

271301

ARTEMAS

POINT LOOKOUT

AL-I-C-052

STONE CHIMNEY

AL-I-C-063

063

HIGGINS BRICK POINTS

(NOT DNR) AL-I-C-007

007

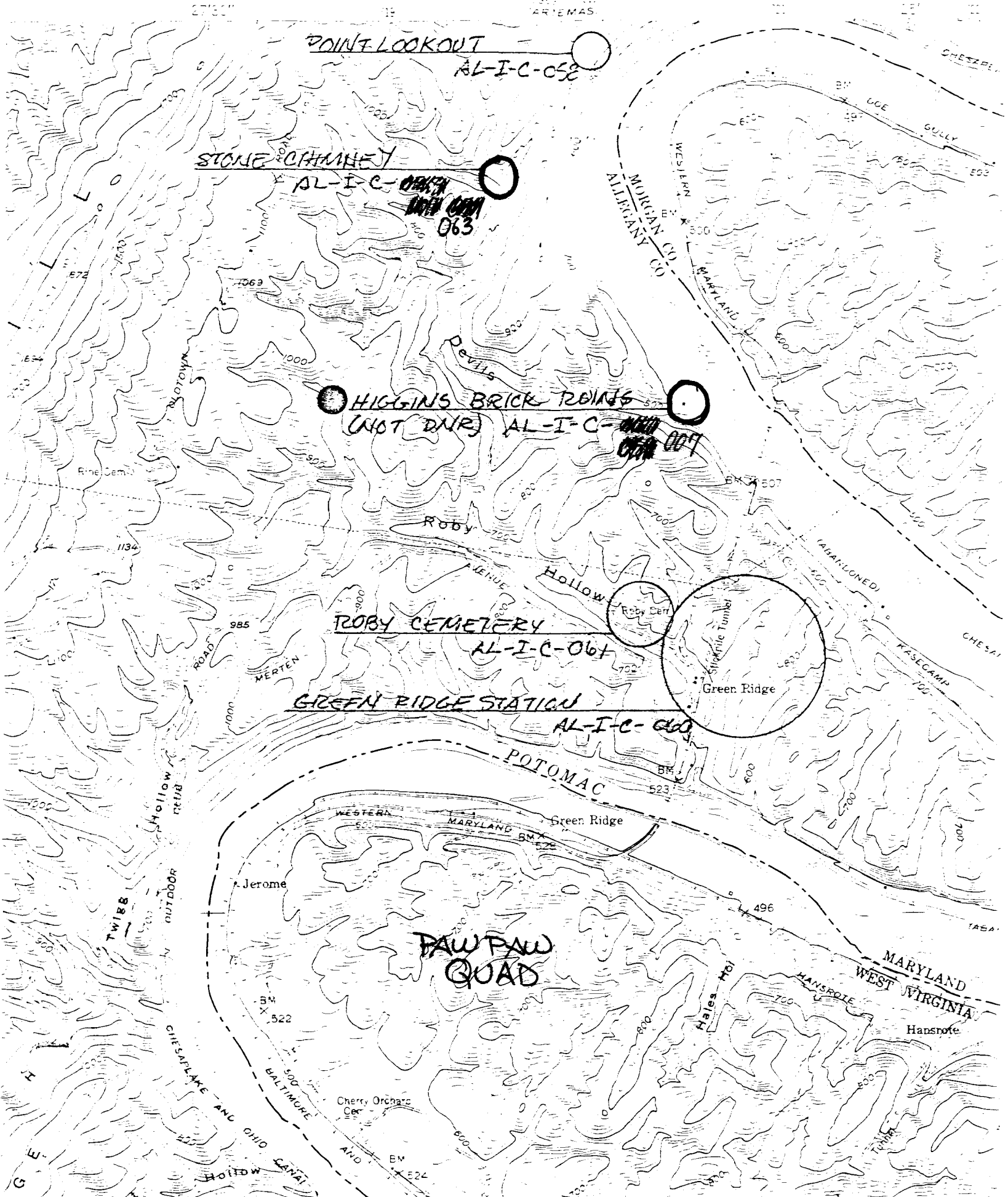
ROBY CEMETERY

AL-I-C-061

GREEN RIDGE STATION

AL-I-C-000

PAUPA W
QUAD



5362 NW
(ARTEMAS)

721

25'

122

723

23100 L. F. 17.1 A

171

AI-I-C-007

Higgins Brick Rains

Kasecamp Road

USGS - Paw Paw Quad

1:24,000

1974 Revised

AI-I-C-007

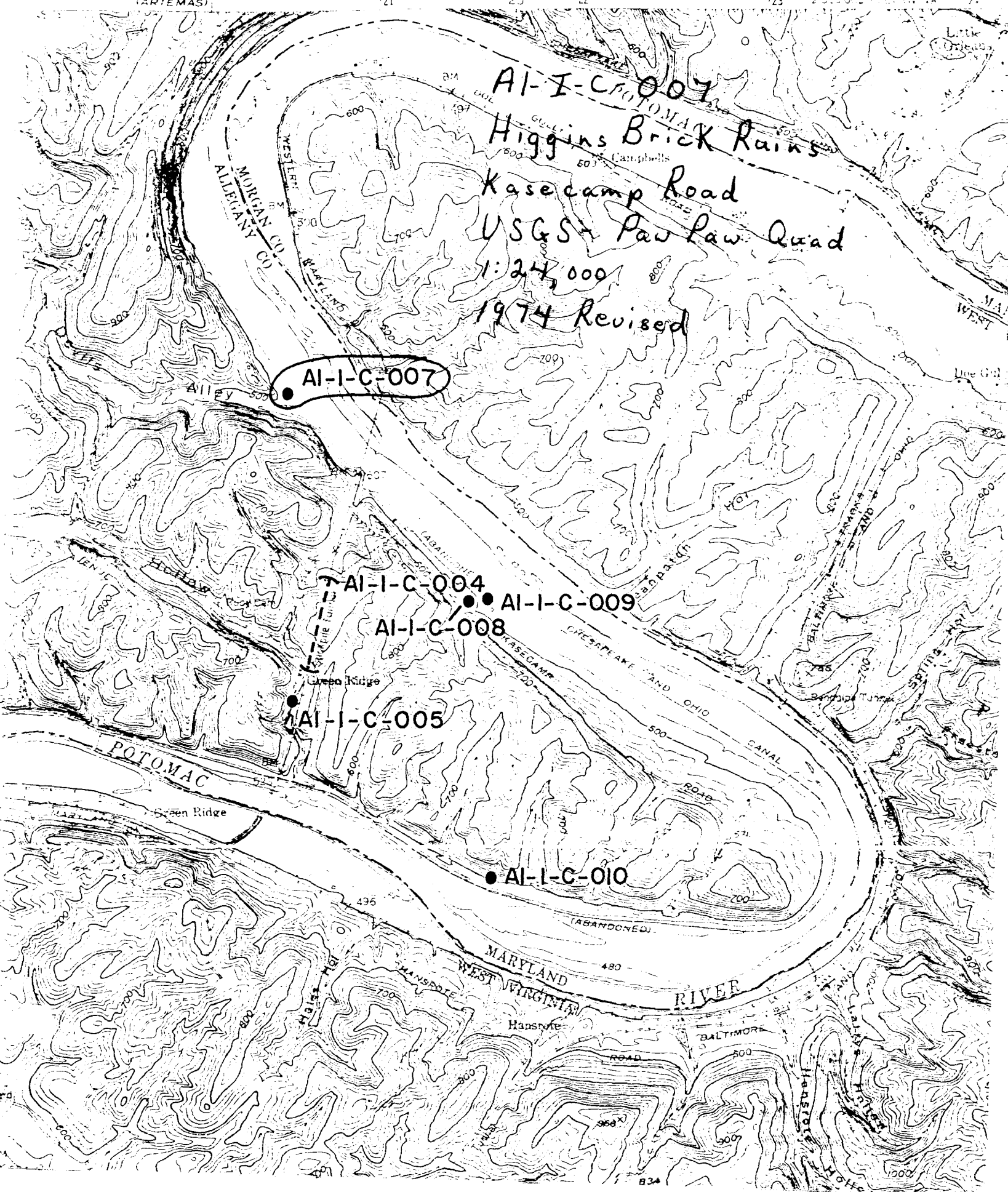
AI-I-C-004

AI-I-C-009

AI-I-C-008

AI-I-C-005

AI-I-C-010





AL-7

~~A-11~~

Green Ridge State Forest
Stone Chimney

S. View

Sept. 1978

AL-1-C-007

Paula Stoner
Preservation Associates



AL-7

~~AT~~

Green Ridge St. Forest

Brick house ruins

N. W. view

Sept. 1978

AL-1-C-007

DNR Survey

Paula Stoner
Preservation Association



AL-7

~~A-17~~

Green Ridge St. Forest

Brick house ruins

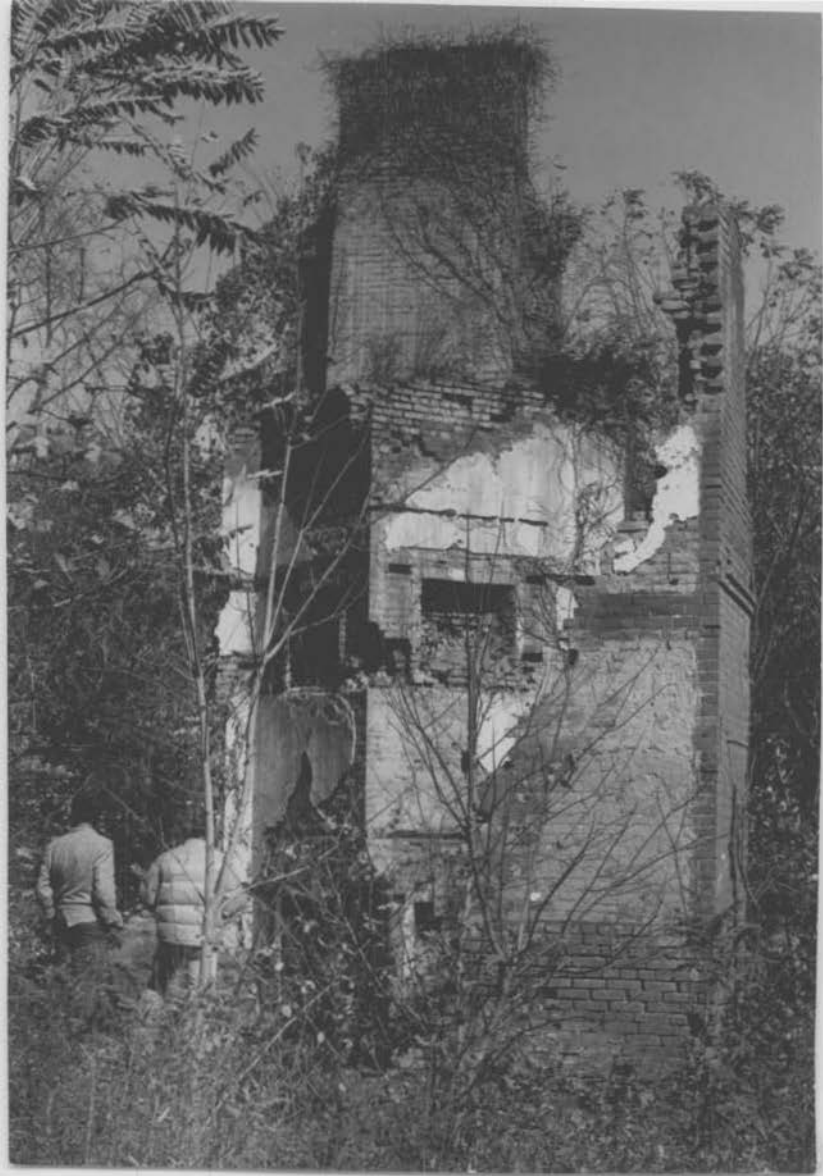
N. View

Sept. 1978

AL-1-C-007

DNR Survey

Paula Stoner
Preservation Associates



Higgins Brick Ruins

AL-I-C-007

Near Green Ridge Station on C&O Canal

John Nelson

10/14/76

Northeast



AL-7

AL-1-C-007

~~A-17~~

Green Ridge St. Forest

Brick house ruins

W. View

Sept. 1978

DNR Survey

Paula Stoner
Preservation Association



AL-7

AL-1-C-007

~~A-17~~

Green Ridge St. Forest

Brick house ruins

DNR Survey

N.W. view

Sept, 1978

Paula Stoner
Preservation Associates



AL-7

~~A-7~~

AL-1-C-007

Green Ridge State Forest
Stone Chimney

E. View

DNR Survey

Sept, 1978

Paula Stoner
Preservation Associates