Capsule Summary
Village of Abingdon Survey District (Contiguous)
Abingdon, Harford County, MD
HA-2305:

The Village of Abingdon Survey District is composed of an irregularly shaped contiguous block located in Abingdon, Maryland in southern Harford County. Abingdon's primary intersection occupies the junction between the east-west thoroughfare, Philadelphia Road (Route 7), and the north-south route, Abingdon Road. The survey district encompasses approximately forty-eight acres, inclusive of lots located along Cokesbury Road, Philadelphia Road, Cogswell Court, and Abingdon Road. Property types include a collection of residential, commercial, institutional, and religious properties, corresponding to multiple periods of development from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century. The district includes six existing MIHP-listed properties and sites, including one NRHP-listed property, and one MIHP listed object, which date from 1785 to 1935.

Abingdon was laid out in 1799 by John Paca in response to the creation of Old Post Road, an important thoroughfare that connected landowners with the towns of Joppa and Old Baltimore. As a result of its prime location, Abingdon developed into a thriving crossroads community during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, attracting artisans and business owners to the growing village. Abingdon remained a small but important local hub, supported by the surrounding farms, nearby rail lines, and the developing canning industry. Like much of Harford County, Abingdon experienced a population boom at the start of twentieth century, resulting from the development of the Edgewood Arsenal and Aberdeen Proving Ground. By 1941, the construction of Pulaski Highway (Route 40) led many to bypass Abingdon, resulting in a loss of traffic and business for the crossroads village.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HA-2305

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic: Village of Abingdon Survey District

other:

2. Location

street and number: Abingdon Rd., Philadelphia Rd., Cokesbury Rd. __ not for publication

city, town: Abingdon __ vicinity

county: Harford 21009

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

name: Multiple Owners

street and number: telephone:

city, town: state: zip code:

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. multiple deeds liber: folio:

city, town: tax map 62 tax parcel: tax ID number:

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 at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
__x__ district
_____ building(s)
_____ structure
_____ site
_____ object

Ownership
_____ public
__x__ private
_____ both

Current Function
_____ agriculture
__x__ commerce/trade
_____ defense
__x__ domestic
_____ education
__x__ funerary
_____ government
_____ health care
_____ industry
_____ landscape
_____ recreation/culture
_____ religion
_____ social
_____ transportation
_____ work in progress
_____ unknown
_____ vacant/not in use
_____ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
19	7	buildings
3		sites
		structures
1		objects
23	7	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
6

7. Description

Inventory No. HA-2305

Condition

___ excellent	___ deteriorated
x 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.

Summary

The Village of Abingdon Survey District is in Abingdon, Maryland in the southern part of Harford County. Abingdon is a census-designated community situated just north of Otter Point Creek in the Upper Chesapeake Bay. Abingdon's primary intersection occupies the junction between Philadelphia Road (Route 7), and the north-west throughfare that historically served as the Old Post Road, and Abingdon Road, an east-west route. Typical of a village in a rural area, Abingdon has a mix of residential and public buildings, with smaller areas of commercial activity along the main roads.

Abingdon's historic significance is derived from its early development as a crossroads village at the intersection of two major thoroughfares. Crossroads communities served an important function in early rural America, acting as trade centers and the location of support services for agricultural populations. These villages owed their prosperity to the adjacent roads, which allowed for traffic and connection within geographically dispersed communities. Abingdon's most prosperous era was during the late eighteenth century, supported by its prime location along the Old Post Road that connected the northeastern states to Virginia. Nineteenth century infrastructure projects such as the railroad resulted in decreased national travel along the Old Post Road through Abingdon, but the village continued to be locally important as a rural services center for the surrounding region. Beginning in the early twentieth century, industrialization and wartime production bolstered the local economy, and Abingdon was once again positioned to support this new traffic. The Village of Abingdon was formally laid out by John Paca in 1779 in response to the creation of the Old Post Road. The towns importance as a crossroads community began to decline in 1941, when U.S. Route 40 was constructed, drawing traffic away from the historic crossroads village.

Site Description

The Village of Abingdon sits just north of Otter Point Creek, a tributary of Bush River, in southern Harford County. The town's main road is Philadelphia Road (Route 7), formerly known as Old Post Road, which runs north-south through the town's center. This road intersects with Abingdon Road, which runs east-west, forming a central junction where a commercial area developed. The survey district is comprised of a contiguous, irregularly shaped expanse of land bound on the south by the lots just south of Cokesbury Road; to the west by Cokesbury Church and the lots adjacent to the dwellings along Cogswell Court; to the north by the lots north of Philadelphia Road; and to the west by the lots just west of Abingdon Road, extending to meet the southern boundary just south of Cokesbury Road. The survey district contains mostly residential buildings and structures, with a few notable commercial and religious buildings. Additionally, two of the residential buildings were formerly commercial buildings that have been converted. The extant historic resources are in fair condition.

The survey district contains a varied collection of architecture located within the Village of Abingdon that illustrates the village's early development at the intersection of the Old Post Road and an important local thoroughfare. Resources within the district correspond to multiple periods of development from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century and reflect the evolving character of the county. The earliest resource in the district, the Nelson-Reardon-Kinard House (HA-854), reflects typical middle-class residential construction from that period and is notable as one of the oldest extant documented frame houses in the county. [1] Resources that date to the mid-to-late nineteenth century are typically two-story residential frame houses, with Georgian-influenced massing that includes shallow rectangular plans with central entries. Typical of a rural village, many of these houses feature outbuildings and porches, and are modestly set back from the street. The only other extant resource from this period is the historic cemetery, which dates to the eighteenth century, surrounding the Cokesbury Memorial Methodist Church (HA-848).[2] Although the masonry church with Gothic influences was not constructed until 1896, the property was the site of Cokesbury College from 1785 until it burned in 1795. Today, the Cokesbury College Monument and Site (HA-846) marks the site. Resources that date to the mid-to-late nineteenth

[1] Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Nelson-Reardon-Kinard House, Abingdon, Harford County, MIHP No. HA-854.
[2] Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Cokesbury Memorial Methodist Church, Abingdon Harford County, MIHP No. HA-848.

century are typically two-story residential frame houses, with Georgian-influenced massing that includes shallow rectangular plans with central entries. Typical of a rural village, many of these houses feature outbuildings and porches, and are modestly set back from the street. During the twentieth century, the vernacular styles that were pervasive in Abingdon were joined by more cost-effective one and two-story buildings that characterized the pre-war period. These were augmented by the construction of service-oriented structures that reflect a mix of utilitarian and vernacular styles and are concentrated along the major thoroughfares at the historic commercial junction of the village.[3]

The architecture of the Village of Abingdon Survey District is traditional and closely related to styles seen in other nearby areas of Harford County. The availability of building materials had the strongest impact on the regional design tradition; stone and timber were abundant while clay was scarce. Most residences are frame construction supported by stone or poured concrete foundations; with only a few exceptions, brick construction was limited to the thin walls of chimneys.

In addition to its collection of historic resources, the overall formal organization and layout of the crossroads community helps to convey its early history as a planned crossroad community, platted during the eighteenth century. The village centers on the intersection of Philadelphia (the Old Post Road) and Abingdon Roads (Washington Street), with resources radiating out from this main junction. Typical of a rural village, the extant pre-1920s residential structures share an orientation towards the two main roads, an architectural language, and general set back line. Early twentieth century structures share this orientation, although they vary in terms of form, style, and distance from the road. Historic civic, religious, and commercial buildings are set back farther from the road to communicate their importance and provide gathering spaces. The present organization also loosely correlated to the colonial lot divisions that defined the historic village. The organization of the village contrasts with the surrounding development, giving Abingdon a defined sense of place and clear boundaries. Resources are situated on larger lots with less overall density that reflect the village's rural character and create a clear boundary between the historic village and the surrounding more contemporary development. The residential development along cul-de-sacs that surround the survey district is more reflective of suburban development with smaller lots; the houses more densely constructed and the architecture and materials of each house more modern and suburban in character.

There are six resources within the boundary of the survey district that were documented in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places (MIHP) including the Cokesbury Memorial Methodist Church (HA-848), the Cokesbury College Monument and site (HA-846), the former Abingdon Fire Station (HA-2013), the McComas-Cunningham House site (HA-852), the Nelson-Reardon-Kinnard House (HA-854), and the Merritt Pumphouse (HA-855). The Nelson-Reardon-Kinnard House is also individually documented on the National Register of Historic Places. Two of the MIHP forms (Cokesbury College Monument and site and McComas-Cunningham House, document sites that were the location of former building. These were demolished at the time of the inventory form. The architectural resources surveyed date from c. 1785 to 1983; they reflect the growth of a town that served as a crossroads on the important Old Post Road and Abingdon Road. The survey district encompasses the majority of Abingdon's nineteenth and early twentieth century residential development, along with several commercial buildings.

Integrity

The survey district continues to convey the early rural character of the crossroad village through its overall organization and collection of architectural styles that represent the town's continued development from the late eighteenth to early twentieth century. The survey district is associated with Harford County's agricultural and transportation history that evolved over the course of a century and a half. During the eighteenth century, Abingdon was nationally important as a midway point between the north and the south, along the Old Post Road that was popular with travelers. Even after the decline in national importance of the Old Post Road, Abingdon continued to

[3] Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Cokesbury College Monument and Site, Abingdon, Harford County, MIHP No. HA-846.

function as an important local transportation hub, as stagecoach lines brought residents from nearby communities through Abingdon to the railroad station in Sewell. In the nineteenth and early twentieth century, Abingdon continued to serve as a locally important service center for the surrounding agricultural community, acting as a gathering place for trade, education, and religious practice.

Modern construction, demolition and pressing suburban development have diminished the integrity of design, materials, and workmanship within the survey district. Many of the houses in Abingdon have experienced material changes, including the application of synthetic siding and vinyl replacement windows and small additions, generally concentrated to the rear of buildings. Additionally, one previously documented resource, the Sonberg-Barker Apartment House (HA-851), has been demolished. However, the survey district does retain its overall feeling, association, setting, and location that conveys its growth and prosperity from the late eighteenth to early twentieth century. Extant resources share an architectural language common in rural villages, including similar massing, forms, and setbacks. The historic location of the district remains intact, situated at the crossroads of two historic main roads that prompted its development. The overall feelings and setting of a rural village are communicated through a localized "sense of place," achieved by the lot sizes, loose adherence to the colonial lot plan, and clear visual boundaries that differentiate it from the surrounding suburban development. The buildings and sites primarily date to the nineteenth and early twentieth century and characterize the survey district's importance in commerce for an agricultural region and its contribution to Harford County's early transportation history. Reflective of the village's growth and prosperity through this period, Abingdon's historic resources include collections of vernacular architecture as well as early twentieth century revival and popular architectural designs.

Resources within Survey District

1) 1304 Cokesbury Road, Cokesbury College Monument and Site (HA-846), c. 1787 (no longer extant), contributing
The marker at 1304 Cokesbury Road consists of a scale model of the Cokesbury Hall main building, about 24" by 9", on top of a brick pedestal. Cokesbury Hall (no longer extant) was a religious education building that was planned in 1784 with classes beginning in the building in 1787. The building burned down in 1795 and was never rebuilt. The primary plaque on the marker notes: 'COKESBURY COLLEGE. FIRST METHODIST COLLEGE IN THE WORLD PLANNED AT CHRISTMAS CONFERENCE. NAMES FOR BISHOPS THOMAS COKE AND FRANCIS ASBURY. CORNER STONE LAID ON THIS SITE JUNE 5, 1785, BY ASBURY. CLASSES BEGUN 1787. BURNED DECEMBER 4, 1795. MONUMENT DEDICATED 1968.' Another smaller plaque notes that Rev. R. Dennis Schulze and Mr. R. Burt Schulze made the model.

The marker is located at the top of a small hill that terminates at Abingdon Road to the north. It sits northwest of Cokesbury Memorial Methodist Church and is surrounded by a cemetery with stone grave markers of various sizes. There are a few small trees and shrubs that dot the landscape.

2) 3508 Philadelphia Road, McComas-Cunningham House, site (HA-852), late 18th to early 19th century, contributing

The historic residence at the former site of the Silk Hat Factory was demolished by 2010 due to poor maintenance for many years. The property is now occupied by a 7-11 convenience store and gas station.

3) 1217 Abingdon Road, 1920, contributing

The property at 1217 Abingdon Road contains a two-story, five-bay-wide by two-bay-deep, vernacular single-family residence. The building features a two-story main block, with a cross-gable roof with a central, steeply gabled front dormer on the façade (south elevation). The foundation is fieldstone, parged with cement, and the dwelling is clad in aluminum siding. An interior brick chimney with a corbelled cap is located at the northwest end of the asphalt-shingle roof. The windows are vinyl one-over-one double hung sash. The main entrance in the center of the façade is covered by a single-bay pedimented front porch with a concrete floor and PVC

wrapped posts. The single-leaf wood door features one light and is set behind an outer aluminum storm door. A non-original wood deck is located at the rear (north elevation).

The building also features one outbuilding: a one-story detached garage with a gabled roof.

4) 1221 Abingdon Road, 1864, contributing

The property at 1221 Abingdon Road contains a two-story, five-bay-wide by two-bay-deep, vernacular single-family residence. The building features a two-story main block with a side-gable roof and three pronounced shed-roofed dormer windows on the façade (south elevation), and a central rear, gabled addition flanked by two shed-roof porches. An interior brick end chimney with corbelled cap rises at the west end of the asphalt-shingle roof. The fieldstone foundation has been parged with cement, and the house is clad in aluminum siding. The windows are wood two-over-two double-hung sash with wood sills. The main entrance in the center of the façade is covered by a non-original, single-bay pedimented front porch with a concrete floor and wrought-iron posts. The single-leaf wood door features nine lights and is set behind an outer aluminum storm door.

The property also contains two outbuildings: a one-story detached garage with a gabled roof and a small shed.

5) 1320 Abingdon Road, c. 1870-1880s, contributing

The building at 1320 Abingdon Road is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay-wide by two-bay-deep, frame, vernacular I-house also zoned for commercial use. The L-plan dwelling features a side-gabled asphalt shingle roof with a centered front gabled dormer. A one-story, frame addition extends from the east elevation of the rear wing and has an additional shed roof sloping to the east. There is an enclosed shed-roof porch on the east elevation with a secondary entrance leading to a deck. The dwelling has an uncoursed fieldstone foundation and is clad in asbestos siding. An exterior end chimney, parged with cement, rises from the east elevation of the main block. The primary entrance in the north elevation is a single-leaf wood paneled door with side and transom lights. The entrance is accessed by a new frame entry porch and set of wood steps. The outline of the where the original porch was attached is still visible in the north elevation. The dwellings windows are two-over-two double-hung wood sash on wood sills. The first-story windows feature louvered wood shutters, while the second story windows have paneled wood shutters. The centered front gable is pierced by an arched gable window with an original wood casement sash.

6) 3504 Philadelphia Road, c. 1920, contributing

The building at 3504 Philadelphia Road is a two and a half story vernacular frame commercial building that has been converted into an apartment building with a large first story porch along the east-facing façade. The main block of the building has an L-shaped plan, which forms a rectangular footprint with the one-story block in the northwest corner. The building is clad in clapboard siding and has a steeply pitched metal seam gabled roof. The porch is sheltered with a shed roof clad with asphalt shingles and features a concrete slab floor. Fenestration includes one-over-one aluminum/vinyl replacement windows and a three-part storefront window at the first story. Windows are highlighted with simple wood surrounds. The two entrances are single-leaf paneled wood replacement doors with fanlights. The north elevation, visible from the right-of-way, is un-fenestrated. The building appears to have been modernized between 2022 and 2023 with a new metal roof but retains its overall massing and footprint.

This resource was formerly used as a general store, operated by Lester Tucker in the early twentieth century.

7) 1304 Cokesbury Road, Cokesbury Memorial Methodist Church (HA-848), 1896, contributing

The property at 1302 Cokesbury Road contains the Cokesbury Memorial Methodist Church (HA-848), a small, rectangular-plan, brick church with a steeply pitched, front-gabled, asphalt-shingled roof. The church features a fieldstone foundation. The brick exterior is laid in a seven-course common bond and the gables are clad in vinyl siding. The side elevations feature three Gothic, pointed arch, stained-glass windows. The main entrance pierces the façade (west elevation) and is sheltered by a front-gabled brick portico, accessed by a set of stone and brick steps and a cement ADA ramp with metal railing. There is a gothic arched transom window over the double-leaf, wood, paneled entry doors, flanked by gothic arched windows on either side. A small frame belfry with a metal pyramidal roof rises from the roof.

The property also contains a cemetery and several outbuildings. The cemetery takes up most of the five-acre lot and consists of both historic and modern headstones. There are roughly fifty-six rows of headstones, with each row containing between five and thirty headstones. Historic headstones appear to vary primarily between marble and granite and appear quite decorative, while modern headstones tend to feature partially unfinished granite markers.

8) 1322 Abingdon Road, late 19th century, contributing

The building at 1322 Abingdon Road is a two-and-a-half-story, frame, one-bay-wide by three-bay-deep, vernacular dwelling. The dwelling features a cross-gable roof with a central, steeply gabled front dormer on the façade (north elevation). The dwelling has a fieldstone foundation parged with cement, and the upper stories are clad in asbestos siding. The windows are one-over-one vinyl replacements (some with false muntins) on wood sills, and they feature paneled wood shutters. A two-story (basement and first story) enclosed, shed-roofed porch extends from the north elevation. The porch is enclosed with concrete block and aluminum siding and is pierced by two storefront windows at the basement level and a three-part one-over-one vinyl replacement window at the first story. The entrance, at the basement level of the porch is a single-leaf wood door with lights. A secondary entrance is located on the west elevation under a gabled porch. A gabled addition extends from the center of the rear (south) elevation, along with an additional shed-roof porch on the east elevation.

The property also contains two small gambrel roof sheds.

9) 1318 Abingdon Road, 1942, non-contributing

The building at 1318 Abingdon Road is a one-and-a-half-story, brick, L-plan, three-bay-wide by two-bay-deep, Cape Cod-Style dwelling. A side porch extends to the east of the main block and a second story, shed-roofed, frame addition extends from the south elevation. The overhang of the addition is supported by heavy wood posts, creating a rear porch with a concrete slab floor edged in brick. An interior brick chimney is located between the east elevation of the main block and the side porch. The dwelling rests on a concrete foundation and the exterior brick elevations are laid in stretcher bond. The rear addition is clad in vinyl siding. The side-gabled roof is clad in asphalt shingles and is pierced by two gabled dormers on the façade (north elevation). A front-gabled portico with a barrel-vaulted ceiling shelters the main entrance, which is accessed by a set of brick steps. Fenestration consists of one-over-one vinyl replacement windows with brick sills and lintels and paneled vinyl shutters. The side porch extending from the east elevation of the main block features a wood floor on brick piers and wood railing.

10) 1314 Abingdon Road, 1920, contributing

The dwelling at 1314 Abingdon Road is a two-story, frame, Colonial Revival-Style single-family residence. The building is also zoned for commercial use and was historically used as a general store and post office. The two-bay-wide by two-bay deep main block has a side-gabled saltbox roof covered in asphalt shingles. A flat-roof one-story addition on the east elevation connects the main block to the rear two-story side-gable ell, extending to the east. An additional one-story side-gabled wing extends from west elevation,

aligning with the façade; a shed-roof addition connects this wing with the rear (south) elevation. An exterior brick end chimney is located on the west elevation of the west wing. A non-original, two-story, flat-roofed porch with a concrete slab floor and fluted doric columns shelters the main entrance. The entrance is a single-leaf paneled wood door with a fanlight. The entrance surround features a pediment with dentils and fluted pilasters. Windows include two-over-two, four-over-four, and six-over-six double-hung wood windows with louvered vinyl shutters. Round-arched wood six-light casement windows are in the gables of the main block.

The property also contains two outbuildings: a one-story, two-bay detached garage and a gazebo. The front-gabled garage is clad in board and batten siding.

Another early twentieth-century two-and-a-half story single family dwelling on the property is accessed by a private driveway from Cokesbury Road. This was not visible from the right-of-way.

11) 1401 Abingdon Road, 1914, contributing

The building at 1401 Abingdon Road is a two-story, frame, rectangular-plan, five-bay-wide by three-bay-deep, Colonial Revival-Style dwelling that is currently functioning as a commercial building. The building features a steep, asphalt-shingled hipped roof with hipped gables on its north, south, and east elevations. The dwelling is clad in vinyl siding and features one-over-one double-hung vinyl replacement windows with louvered vinyl shutters. The main entrance is a single-leaf paneled wood door with lights behind an outer aluminum storm door. The entrance is in the center bay of the façade (south elevation) and is sheltered by an expansive hipped roof porch that wraps around the façade and east elevation. A one-story shed roof addition on the west side of the rear (north) elevation holds a secondary entrance.

12) 1303 Abingdon Road, 1920, contributing

The property at 1303 Abingdon Road contains a one-and-a-half-story, L-plan, three-bay-wide by three-bay-deep, Prairie-Style single-family residence. The dwelling features a cross-gabled hipped roof with an interior brick chimney and a combination of hipped and shed-roof dormers on all elevations. A screened-in porch spans the front hipped gable on the façade (south elevation). The porch features original tapered wood posts on brick piers. The dwelling features a masonry foundation parged with cement and is clad in synthetic stone that mimics rough-faced concrete block. The dormers are clad in vinyl siding.

The property also contains a two-story, three-bay detached concrete block garage with a hipped roof.

13) 1317 Abingdon Road, 1915, contributing

The building at 1317 Abingdon Road is a simple, one-story, vernacular style commercial building with an L-shaped footprint. The building sits on a steep grade, with an above-grade basement on the rear (north) elevation. It features a cross-gable hipped roof with shallow gabled dormer details holding arched windows and is clad in clapboard siding. The main entrance is located on the east elevation, and there is a service window on the south elevation.

14) 3604 Philadelphia Road, Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House (HA-854) and Merritt Milkhouse (HA-855), c. 1785, both contributing

The Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House (HA-854) is a two-story single-family residence representative of a Federal period, vernacular dwelling. The two-part frame house has a five-bay, two-story main block that was constructed c. 1785 and a three-bay, one-room rear service wing attached on the south side of the west (rear) elevation. The wing was originally one-and-a-half stories tall but altered to be two full stories in the late nineteenth century. The dwelling is clad in wood weatherboard siding, except for the second story of the

rear wing, which is clad in German siding. Windows include six-over-six and six-over-nine double-hung wood sash with louvered wood shutters. The main entrance is in the center bay on the façade (east elevation) of the main block; a six-post porch spans the front of the house. The porch was likely constructed by Harford County master craftsman Jacob Bull around c. 1888.[4]

The property also contains the Merritt Milkhouse (HA-855), a one-story common bond brick springhouse/dairy located about fifteen feet west of the rear wing. The structure features a hipped roof, slit-like louvered windows on the east and west elevations, and a slate doorsill with the date 1802 inscribed on it.

15) 3608 Philadelphia Road, 1920, contributing

The building at 3608 Philadelphia Road is a one-story, frame, L-plan, four-bay-wide by one-bay-deep, vernacular style single-family residence. The dwelling consists of a rectangular-plan cross-gabled block to the south, and a rectangular-plan, side-gabled wing that extends to the north. The cross-gabled block is likely the original pre-WWII vernacular dwelling, while the front gabled portion, which appears in aerial photographs after 1982, is reflective of a more contemporary construction. Entrances are in the south block, as well as the north addition. Both are single-leaf replacement doors accessed by sets of cement steps with metal railings. A long deck spans the south half of the rear (west) elevation.

16) 3610 Philadelphia Road, 1932, contributing
The building at 3610 Philadelphia Road is a one-and-a-half-story frame rectangular-plan, three-bay-wide by five-bay deep, Craftsman-Style single-family residence. The dwelling sits on a concrete block foundation and is clad in vinyl siding. It features a side-gabled roof, covered in asphalt shingles, and a shed roof dormer pierces the façade (east elevation). A shed roofed porch spans the façade, and features wood steps, and square tapered PVC posts. The main entrance is a single-leaf wood door with one light. Windows are vinyl one-over-one double hung sash.

The property also contains a one-story detached garage at the rear (west) elevation.

17) 3605 Philadelphia Road, 1926, contributing

The building at 3605 Philadelphia Road is a two-story, frame, rectangular-plan, three-bay-wide by two-bay-deep, vernacular I-house. The building features a cross-gabled slate shingle roof with a central gabled dormer on the façade (west elevation). The house is clad in aluminum or vinyl siding and features one-over-one vinyl double-hung sash windows on wood sills. The windows feature louvered vinyl shutters. A hipped-roof frame porch spans the façade. The porch has a wood floor, wood steps and railings, and features turned wood posts. The main entrance is a single-leaf wood replacement door with side and transom lights. A deck extends from the south side of the rear (east) elevation.

18) 1311 Abingdon Road, Abingdon Fire Station (HA-2013), 1929, non-contributing

The building at 1311 Abingdon Road is a low-profile, two-story, multi-block institutional building, formerly the Abingdon Fire Station (HA-2013). It no longer operates as a fire department and presently houses the offices for the Harford Transit. The building was historically one-story tall and brick, with several engine bays fire station. The building had been significantly altered with a new

[4] National Register of Historic Places, Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House (#91000001), Abingdon, Maryland.

parge coat on the exterior, as well as construction of several, large additions over the years. The engine bays remain visible, but the building has been extensively altered.

19) 1301 Abingdon Road, 1930, contributing

The property at 1301 Abingdon Road contains a one-and-a-half-story, frame, L-plan, three-bay-wide by three-bay-deep, vernacular cottage. The dwelling features a cross-gabled asphalt shingle roof. There is an exterior brick end chimney on the west elevation, as well as an interior brick chimney. The foundation is of concrete block and the dwelling is clad in aluminum or vinyl siding. A wide hipped-roof porch spanning the front gable on the façade (south elevation). The frame porch features a wood floor and turned wood posts. The single-leaf primary entrance, sheltered by the porch, is set behind an outer glass storm door. There is a hipped-roof addition and deck on the rear (north) elevation.

The property also contains a one-story detached garage with a gabled roof and shed roof addition.

20) 3503 Cokesbury Road, 1930, contributing
The building at 3503 Cokesbury Road is a two-story, frame, three-bay-wide by three-bay-deep, vernacular I-house. The dwelling appears to have originally consisted of a rectangular-plan side-gabled main block and rear wing, created an L-plan. A recently constructed two-story, frame, gabled rear addition joins the south elevation of the main block and the east elevation of the wing. The foundation of the main block was not visible at the time of survey, although the new rear addition is built on a concrete foundation. The dwelling is clad in a combination of vinyl siding and vinyl shingles. An interior brick chimney with corbelled top rises from the west end of the asphalt shingle roof of the main block. The main entrance on the west side of the façade (north elevation) is covered by a long shed-roofed porch supported by non-original wood posts. There is an additional shed-roof porch on the west side of the rear (south) elevation. Windows consist of six-over-six double-hung vinyl replacements.

The property also contains two outbuildings: a one-story, two-bay detached garage and a small shed.

21) 1302 Abingdon Road, 1935, contributing

The property at 1302 Abingdon Road contains a one-and-a-half-story, frame, rectangular-plan, three-bay-wide by five-bay-deep, Craftsman-Style single-family residence. The dwelling features a concrete block foundation and is clad in vinyl siding. The side-gabled roof is covered in asphalt shingles and a shed-roofed dormer pierces the north slope of the roof. A shed-roofed porch spans the façade. It features a wood floor, posts, steps, and railings. The main entrance is a single-leaf wood replacement door with side lights. Windows are one-over-one double-hung vinyl replacements on wood sills. A three-part window is in the front dormer. A hipped-roof addition extends from the west side of the rear (south) elevation.

The property also contains a one-story detached garage with a concrete block foundation, wood siding, and gabled asphalt shingle roof.

22) 3409 Philadelphia Road, 1937, contributing

The property at 3409 Philadelphia Road contains a one-and-a-half-story, frame, irregular-plan, four-bay-wide by two-bay-deep, Colonial Revival-Style single-family residence. The dwelling features a one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled main block, and a shed-roofed rear addition. Gabled wings or additions also extend from the south and east elevations of the main block. An additional gabled section protrudes from the west side of the north elevation. The dwelling features an interior brick chimney, as well as an exterior end chimney in the north elevation. The foundation is of concrete block and the house is clad in vinyl siding. Windows consist of six-over-

six double-hung vinyl replacements on wood sills. The main entrance, a single-leaf paneled wood replacement door with fanlight, is accessed by a set of brick steps that lead to a brick stoop, sheltered by a front-gabled portico with wood posts and a barrel-vaulted ceiling.

The property also contains several outbuildings including a one-story, tripartite detached garage with a combination of gabled and shed roofs, two large sheds with shed roofs, and a gazebo.

23) 1404 Abingdon Road, 1942, non-contributing

The property at 1404 Abingdon Road contains a one-and-one-half-story, frame, square-plan, three-bay-wide by two-bay-deep, Cape Cod-Style single-family residence also zoned for commercial use. The dwelling features a concrete foundation and is clad in vinyl siding. The side-gabled roof is covered in asphalt shingles, with two gabled dormers on the façade (north elevation). The incline of the roof above the rear (south) elevation is raised to facilitate a full second story, creating a shed roof south of the ridgeline. A brick exterior end chimney is in the east elevation. Windows include six-over-six and eight-over-eight double-hung, vinyl replacement units. The main entrance is centered on the façade, and is a single-leaf paneled wood door, with a brick stoop and brick steps.

The property also contains a small shed.

24) 1406 Abingdon Road, 1942, non-contributing

The property at 1406 Abingdon Road contains a two-story, frame, rectangular-plan, two-bay-wide by two-bay-deep, detached garage that has been converted into a dwelling. The building shares a lot with the residence at 1404 Abingdon Road and features a front-gabled roof covered in asphalt shingles. The dwelling is clad in vinyl siding. Two overhead-rolling metal garage doors are located at the first story of the north elevation, and two one-over-one double-hung vinyl windows pierce the second story.

25) 1304 Abingdon Road, c. 1957, non-contributing

Located at 1304 Abingdon Road, the Cokesbury Memorial Methodist Church is a one-story, L-plan, brick building with a cross-gabled asphalt shingle roof and interior brick chimney. The building is constructed on a concrete block foundation and the brick exterior is laid in stretcher bond. Windows consist of one-over-one double-hung vinyl replacement units on brick sills. A single leaf paneled hollow metal door is located in the north elevation at the basement level. A secondary east-elevation entrance is accessed by a concrete block side porch with metal railing. An ADA ramp extends from the south elevation secondary entrance, which consists of a single leaf, paneled, hollow metal door. The west-elevation entrance, in the rear wing, is a single-leaf, paneled, metal door in a pedimented surround with pilasters. A parking lot is located at the rear of the property. Brick signage is located to the west of the church.

26) 1309 Abingdon Road, 1965, non-contributing

The property at 1309 Abingdon Road contains a one-story, brick, rectangular-plan vernacular commercial building. The building features a tiered flat roof. The three-bay façade (south elevation) is faced in brick laid in stretcher bond, while the side elevations are of concrete block. The main entrance, in the south elevation, is a single-leaf aluminum-framed glass door. In addition, the south elevation is pierced by single and paired aluminum jalousie windows. The rear porch or deck is built on a concrete block foundation, and includes a shed roof supported by metal posts.

The property also contains several outbuildings that cannot be discerned from the right of way due to the presence of a high chain-link fence.

27) 1407 Abingdon Road, c. 1960s-1970s, non-contributing
The property at 1407 Abingdon Road contains a two-story, masonry and frame, rectangular-plan, four-bay-wide by one-bay-deep, Split-Level dwelling. Two staggered, two-story, frame, side-gabled garage additions extend from the west elevation. An exterior brick end chimney rises in the east elevation. The first story of the dwelling's main block is faced in brick laid in stretcher bond, while the second story is clad in aluminum or vinyl siding. The garage addition is also clad in siding. The low-pitched side-gabled roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The main entrance is a single-leaf door with a large oval light, accessed by a set of concrete steps with metal railings. The one-over-one vinyl windows feature louvered vinyl shutters, and a bay window is located at the second story of the south elevation.

The property also contains a cluster of small sheds.

28) 1317 Cokesbury Road, (HA-847), 1972, contributing

The property at 1317 Cokesbury Road contains a one-story brick mortuary and is the site of the Cokesbury College Historic Marker (HA-847), which has been temporarily removed to be refurbished.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HA-2305

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
x 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
x 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	x social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/ settlement	__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other: _____

Specific dates 1779-1941 **Architect/Builder** Multiple

Construction dates 1785-1983

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary Statement of Significance

The Village of Abingdon survey district possesses local significance under Criterion A, illustrating the development of an early rural village at the intersection of historic thoroughfares. Abingdon was laid out in 1779 by John Paca in response to the creation and increased use of the Old Post Road, an important thoroughfare in Harford County that connected landowners with the early seats of government in Joppa and Old Baltimore. Due to its prime location and prosperous surrounding farmland, Abingdon expanded into an important "crossroads village," attracting artisans and business owners, and by 1790, it included several stores. In 1785, Reverend Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury founded the first Methodist college in America, in Abingdon, called Cokesbury College. The original college building from 1785 burned in 1795 and was never rebuilt. Abingdon remained a small, but important, local hub throughout the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries, supported by the economy of the surrounding farms and agricultural produce, the construction of nearby rail lines, and the introduction of the canning industry. Like much of Harford County, wartime industry and production in the early twentieth century engendered a population boom, and Abingdon experienced a second wave of primarily residential development. In June of 1941, Pulaski Highway (Route 40), the longest numbered highway in Maryland, was completed just south of Abingdon. The completion of the highway led many to bypass Abingdon when travelling to and from Baltimore, contributing to a loss of traffic and business for the town.

The Village of Abingdon survey district possesses local significance under Criterion C, for its collection of buildings and sites that convey the history of an early crossroads village though multiple periods of development. Reflective of the village's growth and prosperity throughout these separate periods, Abingdon's earliest resources include late eighteenth century, nineteenth, and early twentieth vernacular dwellings. The survey district also includes two monuments, a late nineteenth century church, a firehouse, several commercial buildings, and a collection of early twentieth century single-family residences. In contrast to the surrounding twentieth century suburban development, the buildings and sites within the survey district maintain a strong relationship to the historic thoroughfares that defined the village's early development.

The period of significance of the Village of Abingdon survey district begins in 1779, the year that John Paca platted the village of Abingdon. The period of significance ends in 1941, when the completion of Route 40 led many to bypass Abingdon when travelling to and from Baltimore, resulting in a loss of traffic and prosperity.

Historical Context

History of Harford County

Harford County is in the northwest portion of Maryland, at the confluence of the Susquehanna River and the northern branch of the Chesapeake Bay. The county is bound to the north by Pennsylvania, and to the west and southwest by Baltimore County. Prior to European contact, present day Harford County was inhabited by the Susquehannock people, a hunting tribe, who primarily lived near streams of fresh water. They claimed as their hunting ground a wide expanse, stretching from Pennsylvania southward through Maryland on both sides of the bay to the Patuxent River and the Choptank River. In the latter half of the seventeenth century, the Susquehannock tribe fell into decline because of war with neighboring tribes, conflict with settlers, and disease spread by Europeans.[5]

Harford County retained a largely agricultural, rural character during the seventeenth eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries. In the early years of settlement, fertile soil benefitted the growth of tobacco, which was supported by the labor of enslaved workers. By the 1660s, Colonial leadership began layout of the Great Post Road, connecting New England to Virginia. Finding this road too circuitous, leadership constructed a new Post Road (known as the King's Road) to the north. Considered the grandest thoroughfare in the colonies during the time, the well-used road boasted numerous inns and taverns for travelers. By the eighteenth century, tobacco production gave way to a more diversified agriculture, and local farmers grew a variety of crops, such as corn and wheat, and raised cattle. This rural landscape required the development of crossroad villages, located at the intersection of local transportation routes, which played a critical role as centers for trade, gathering, and support services for geographically dispersed farming communities. These villages were also important for travelers, who relied on hotels, taverns, and commercial buildings for lodging and supply during long journeys. During the nineteenth century, the introduction of new railroad networks, coupled with the rise in the canning industry, spurred increased development and agricultural industry.

Eighteenth Century Development of Abingdon

In 1779, Abingdon was laid out by the prominent landowner John Paca. The Paca family was important politically in Maryland, and owned land in the area by the early eighteenth century. Paca acquired much of his wealth from production of his nearby plantation, which was operated using enslaved labor. John Paca's son, William Paca, went on to become the Governor of Maryland, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. John Paca laid out the town of Abingdon in response to the growing importance of the Post Road as a major thoroughfare throughout the county. Paca's plat for Abingdon contained sixty-six lots, laid out around seven streets; Post Road (now Philadelphia Road) ran north-south along with High, Market, Harford, Johnson, and Paca Streets, while Prospect and Washington Streets (now Abingdon Road) ran east-west. John Paca planned for Washington and Paca Streets to be sixty-six feet wide, with the other roads measuring thirty-three feet in width. Although the full layout was never realized, the village was erected in accordance with this grid system.

Due to its prime location at the intersection of the Post Road and local roads leading to Bel Air and other town in Harford County, Abingdon grew quickly, attracting artisans and educators, leading to its dominance over the nearby towns of Joppa and Bush in terms of importance. Abingdon boasted two hotels, one on the northeast corner of Paca and Washington Streets, and one on the south side of Paca Street. The town soon became a center for industry and business, with local merchants Joseph Toy, Isaac Nicholson Toy and William Wilson establishing prominent silversmithing enterprises. Another Abingdonian named William Dorney opened a gun shop, and town members also established three cabinet makers, a pottery, and a funeral parlor.[6] Abingdon was described by the compilers of the 1799 *U.S. Gazetteer* as containing "51 dwellings and 240 inhabitants of which 66 are black," and had "8 stores filled with West

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[5] Christoper Weeks, *An Architectural History of Harford County, Maryland*. Baltimore, Maryland: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996, 9.

[6] Milton C. Wright, *Our Harford Heritage*: *A History of Harford County*. Harford, Maryland, 1967, 334.

India produce and the various manufacturers of Europe, a tanyard, and several shops in which all the useful and mechanical arts are carried on..."[7] By the turn of the nineteenth century, it had secured a reputation as a major trade center for the county.

The Gazetteer also described the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Cokesbury College, which were established in Abingdon during the 1780s. Reverend Thomas Coke, superintendent of Methodism in American came to the United States in 1780 to meet with preacher Franis Asbury. Asbury and Coke agreed on the need for a college modeled on John Wesley's Kingswood School in England. In 1783, at a church conference, the two men decided to locate the college in Harford County, as it was situated at a midway point in the country.[8] On July 3, 1784, the church purchased land in Abingdon from John Paca, and on June 5, 1785, the cornerstone of the college was laid. The church constructed a three-story brick Georgian manor stye building, measuring 108 feet by 40 feet, which they called Cokesbury College. In 1787, Aquila Paca and Richard Dallam, trustees of the estate of the deceased John Paca, transferred lots 30 and 40 to the college for the construction of a preaching house.[9] Despite its grand beginnings, Cokesbury College was short lived as the young institution faced staffing issues and debt shortly after opening. On December 4, 1795, the building suffered from a devastating fire that was believed to be arson, and the building was never rebuilt.[10] The Cokesbury Memorial Church, originally named the Abingdon Methodist Chapel opened adjacent to Cokesbury College in 1784. The chapel survived the burning of the college building in 1795, however it was destroyed by fire a century later in 1895. The building that was constructed to replace the chapel remains standing today.[11] Residents of Abingdon during this period were generally middle-class farmers, merchants, and artisans. Early residents include John Reardon, Peregrine Browning, and Francis Crawford, all of whom constructed frame houses within the village by 1798. In 1785, John Reardon purchased Lot 3 from Aquila Paca, John Paca's son. Reardon constructed a two-story frame dwelling on the lot, located at present-day 3604 Philadelphia Road.

Like much of Harford County during this era, slavery was prevalent in Abingdon. Many of the residents are recorded in the 1798 tax assessment as owning enslaved persons, who likely worked in nearby agricultural fields or as part of village operations.[12] The presence of an enslaved population within Abingdon is further supported by newspaper advertisements placed by Abingdon residents seeking the return of enslaved persons who fled captivity. Freedom seekers such as Jesse Brown, Ned Nowland, Thomas Billingslea, Edward Morgan, Henry Johnson, Stephen Butler, and Jum Butler escaped bondage from residents in and around Abingdon.[13] Enslaved persons may have resided in Abingdon, or immediately outside of Abingdon on larger plantation estates.

Little architecture remains in Abingdon from the village's boom years. The only extant building from that period is the Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House (NR #91000001) located on Philadelphia Road. The site of Cokesbury College and the Cokesbury Memorial Church remain and are recorded by a plaque and a large historic cemetery.[14] The overall organization of the village remains loosely consistent with the layout from this period; the historic grid, defined by the two major thoroughfares, remains largely intact, and extant minor roads delineate the boundaries of historic lots. Cokesbury Road is located at the approximate location of Prospect and Market Steets and Henry Harford Drive begins at the historic location of the High Street.

Nineteenth Century Agricultural Development

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[7] National Register of Historic Places. Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House, Abingdon, Harford County, Maryland. National Register #91000001, Section 8, Page 3.
[8] Walter W. Preston, History *of Harford County, Maryland.* Baltimore, Maryland: Press of Sun Brook Office, 1901, 183.
[9] Milton C. Wright, *Our Harford Heritage*: *A History of Harford County*. Harford, Maryland, 1967, 236.
[10] Walter W. Preston, History *of Harford County, Maryland.* Baltimore, Maryland: Press of Sun Brook Office, 1901, 267.
[11] Cokesbury Memorial United Methodist Church, "About Us," Last modified 2023. https://www.cokesburymemorial.com/about
[12] Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House, Section 8, Page 3.
[13] Advertisement placed by Thomas b. Shwartz, *The Baltimore Sun*, June 5, 1850; advertisement placed by Washington Slade, *The Baltimore Sun*, August 23, 1851; advertisement placed by Elizabeth Brown and Thomas Johnson, *The Baltimore Sun*, June 5, 1857.
[14] National Register of Historic Places. Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House, Abingdon, Harford County, Maryland. National Register #91000001, Section 8, Page 5.

Abingdon's businesses continued to flourish into the early nineteenth century and supplied the surrounding farmland with necessary resources for farming, trade, and gathering. In 1800, James Billingsley named the first postmaster of the newly established Abingdon post office. On April 1, 1810, Abingdon post office closed, in part due to its proximity to the Harford post office; however, by 1830, the Harford Post Office had ceased operations, and Abingdon Post Office was reestablished on January 15, 1830.[15] In addition to the post office, early businesses included a tannery, two-gun factories, three silversmiths and three cabinetmakers. In 1808, John Clay McComas established a cabinetmaker and undertaker business near the center of the town, which has continued successfully through four family generations. The first newspapers produced in Harford County were established in Abingdon in the early nineteenth century. In 1805, Daniel P. Ruff established the Abingdon Patriot, a four-page weekly publication that presented local news and advertising media for lower Harford. It was met with little success, and after just a year and a half, Ruff gave up the publication.[16]

In 1821, Charles Sewell opened a silk hat factory on the corner of Paca and Washington Streets. Col. Charles S. Sewell was born in 1799 in Queen Anne's County, the son of Clement Sewell, who owned a valuable estate. Sewell lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and for a time in Baltimore City, prior to moving to Abingdon in 1812 with his wife and several children. Sewell purchased the previous estate of John Paca, the 432-acre property of Rose Hill, situated just south of Abingdon. Sewell's hat factory was located on a lot at the northwest corner of the intersection of present-day Old Philadelphia Road (Route 7) and Abingdon Road. The factory was established shortly before 1821 in partnership with Thomas W. Bond and operated under the name Bond and Sewell. On June 20, 1821, the partnership was dissolved, and the business operated under the sole ownership of Sewell. In 1821, a total of 1689 hats were produced, with 1488 hats sold at a retail price of $2,822. On July 16, 1822, Sewell's factory was destroyed by fire, however he quickly rebuilt and within two months was back in business. By 1824, production at the hat factory had decreased significantly, with only approximately forty hats being produced every other month. The last entry in the shop's account book is August 1824, at which time the business likely closed. Sewell represented Harford in the State Legislature from 1823-1826, after which he was elected to the State Senate. In 1832, he represented Harford and Cecil Counties in Congress. Sewell was also President of the Trustees of Abingdon Academy from 1829 until his death in 1848.[17]

Around the beginning of the nineteenth century, County leadership recognized the need for broader and more advanced educational opportunities. In response, the county created academies to prepare students for public life and entrance into institutions of higher learning. Abingdon Academy was opened in 1828, as the second preparatory school in Harford County. The Academy was located to the south of present-day Abingdon Road, on the first floor of a two-story stone building. It hosted a lodge for Odd Fellows on the second floor.[18] Around 1850, the public school succeeded the academy and was incorporated into the public school system in 1871. The Academy was run by Abingdon resident Robert Henry and burned down in 1869. [19]

The construction of the railroads in Harford County in the mid-nineteenth century further impacted the development of Abingdon. The novel Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line offered easy access to Baltimore via the nearby Sewell Station and was accessed directly by Abingdon Road. Abingdon continued to be a regular stagecoach stop during this period, with much of the traffic going to and from Sewell Station. Census data from this time show that during this period, Abingdon residents held a variety of occupations conducive to a thriving rural village such physicians, blacksmith, clergy, teachers, shoemakers, wheelwrights, hotel staff, carpenters, and merchants.[20] Much of the economy outside immediately surrounding Abingdon was agricultural in character, and Abingdon continued to serve as a central support center.

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[15] *Harford Historical Bulletin: History of Postal Service in Harford County*, Historical Society of Harford County, Inc., Winter 1993, pg. 19-20.
[16] *Harford Historical Bulletin No.50: Harford County Newspapers of the 19th Century*, Historical Society of Harford County, Inc., Fall 1991, pg. 96-97.
[17] Mary C. Wright, "Abingdon Hat Factory." *The Aegis.* September 24, 1982.
[18] "Fire at Abingdon," The Aegis.
[19] Milton C. Wright, *Our Harford Heritage*: *A History of Harford County*. Harford, Maryland, 1967.
[20] U.S. Federal Census. 1860. First District Village of Abingdon, 141-143.

During the mid-nineteenth century, Abingdon continued to be home to local businessmen and private residences. By 1858, the Jennings & Herrick map of Harford County shows approximately thirty residents at this intersection, including schoolteacher Robert Henry, merchant James Cunningham, carpenter William Griffin and farmers James Cochran and Lloyd Tidings who lived in houses at the crossroad junction.[21] Local merchant John Wilson constructed a store, warehouse and attached dwelling building, as well as a second dwelling building, on the southwest corner of Washington and Old Post Road Streets (presently Philadelphia and Abingdon Roads). Although only the property owners are recorded on the 1858 map, Abingdon continued to be home to a population enslaved African Americans. By the time of the 1860 census, wealthy Abingdon residents are recorded as owning between one and six enslaved persons each.[22]

In 1864, Robert Henry constructed a second dwelling house at 1221 Abingdon Road.[23] By 1878, Abingdon boasted two hotels, a schoolhouse, two churches, and a cabinet shop. Industry was clustered around the historic crossroad intersection for east access, while residential properties and schools radiated several blocks away along the two roads. The 1878 Map of Harford County also indicates that time, an African American family led by Thomas and Lucinda Kirke, constructed a house along Abingdon Road, next to Robert Henry. In the 1890s, John W. Wilson constructed several other dwellings on the north side of Abingdon Road, which he sold to local residents.[24] In 1896, the frame Cokesbury Methodist Church burned down. A new brick church was constructed in its place, which featured Gothic-Revival detailing.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Harford County began to transition towards a more industrial economy, supported by new technologies in agricultural preservation and access to urban markets along railroad lines. During its heyday, Harford County boasted one of the largest canning industries in the country, with more than 200 canneries operating within the county, processing local produce such as corn, tomatoes, and berries. Farmers in the county developed cannery operations along transportation lines, especially near railway stations, and found an eager market amongst military personnel and westward settlers. These operations also attracted additional laborers to the area; in addition to increased farm labor, canneries also brought the need for a manufacturing workforce. By the late nineteenth century, several canneries had opened in Abingdon, and throughout the surrounding farmlands. The village's location at the crossroads of Abingdon Road and Philadelphia Road, in addition to its proximity to railroad stations, facilitated the transport of products for local canners. Local canners around the intersection of Philadelphia and Abingdon Road included Fred Morlok, George A. Kimble & Bro., Samuel Norris, and Raymond S.W. & Son.[25] According to census records, during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the occupations of residents reflected Harford County's involvement in the canning industry, and many Abingdonians worked as farmers, laborers, grocers, or cannery employees. Abingdon's tomato canneries employed so many laborers that school attendance was impacted; in 1909, teachers at Abingdon Elementary school prepared to increase staffing to accommodate an influx of students during the winter session, when the end of the canning season allowed child laborers to return to school.[26]

In addition to its agro-industrial industry, Harford County developed a secondary industry of tourism and recreation, attracting interlopers from rapidly industrializing cities such as Baltimore and Philadelphia to the county with pastoral scenery and fresh air. Inspired by Victorian-era ideas about health and air quality, residents of nearby cities visited, and often bought property in the county. Abingdon, with its proximity to the railway stations and colonial charm, was an obvious choice for wealthy Baltimoreans looking for reprieve from the hustle and bustle of the city. Newspapers advertisements offer "country dwellings" for rent in the area, advertising a

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[21] U.S. Federal Census. 1850. Second District. Page Numbers 190-193; 1858
[22] U.S. Federal Census Slave Schedule. 1860. First District Village of Abingdon, 284.
[23] Harford County Circuit Court, Deed of Sale, Susan Henry to James Billingslea, September 25, 1885, Liber ALJ 53, Folio 11.
[24] "Abingdon News," *The Aegis*, December 25, 1896, 2.
[25] Erin Harkins Wiley, Harford Canneries from Directories Date 1872 through 1999, Harford County Government Planning and Zoning Division.
[26] "From Abingdon," *The Aegis*, September 17, 1909, 3.

"high and healthy" retreat in pastoral Harford County.[27] Some traveled from as far away as New York, keeping a residence in Abingdon as a summer home.[28]

There are several resources that remain from Abingdon's late nineteenth century development, including residences constructed in vernacular styles typical of a rural village with middle class residents. The house at 1221 Abingdon Road was constructed in 1864 for Robert Henry, a prominent Irish-born citizen of Abingdon who served as the sole teacher at the Abingdon Academy, a public school commissioner, and a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge.[29] The house at 1320 Abingdon Road was constructed in 1870s-1880s, likely for William H. Pierce, a wealthy merchant, postmaster, and cousin of President Franklin Pierce.[30] The neighboring house at 1322 Abingdon Road was constructed c. 1900, although research has not uncovered the original owner. These houses represent typical examples of folk styles popular at the time, most notably the two-story I-house and gable cottage forms. These typical rural forms are often augmented by stylistic details porches, and ell-shaped extensions that communicated wealth and prosperity in an architectural community. The brick Cokesbury Methodist Church also survives from this era.

Twentieth Century Development

During the early twentieth century, Harford County experienced dramatic changes as areas of the county began transitioning from rural, agrarian communities to more modern, industrial, and developed suburbs. The rapid development and spread of automobile and truck use in the first decades of the twentieth century led Maryland's road planners to upgrade many miles of dirt roads throughout the state. Old Post Road was named Route 40 after it was macadamized by 1911. It remained Route 40 until after the U.S. 40 (Pulaski Highway) was completed in 1941 to connect Baltimore to Aberdeen. After the completion of the highway, Old Post Road became Route 7. During this time, Route 7 was a small two-lane road that carried all traffic through Abingdon including that from the racetrack in Havre de Grace.[31]

World War I resulted in a shift in the character of Abingdon, and the entirety of Harford County, as the historic agricultural industries were quickly supplanted by wartime industrial needs. In 1917, the Federal government condemned approximately sixty square miles of land and water directly to the southwest of Abingdon to construct two new army facilities: the Edgewood Arsenal and the Aberdeen Proving Ground.[32] This new development effectively curtailed agricultural production in that area and displaced whole communities, many of which were comprised of African American tenant farmers.[33] For Abingdon, however, the proximity to this new wartime industry gave the town a modest economic boost. Service members and support workers used Abingdon Road as a thoroughfare, largely to transport people to and from Pulaski Highway (Route 40) to the Aberdeen Proving Ground in the west.

By the onset of World War II, industry in Harford County was in full swing. The war had the additional effect of bringing in an influx of European workers to support the evolving industrial nature of Harford County. The Bata Shoe Factory opened near Belcamp Station, along Philadelphia Road in 1933. At the onset of World War II, the Czechoslovakian company sent workers from its factory in Zlin, Czechoslovakia to work in its factories in the United States and Canada, including the newly established factory in Belcamp. Workers were placed in homes in Aberdeen, and Long Bar Harbor, and by the 1940s, census records indicate that many were also living in Abingdon.[34]

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[27] "Country Dwelling for Rent," *The Baltimore Sun*, May 19, 1877, 3.
[28] "Abingdon News," *The Aegis*, June 19, 1896, 3.
[29] "Death of Mr. Robert Henry," *The Aegis*, March 21, 1879.
[30] *The Aegis*, January 19, 1883.
[31] Harford County Public Library, "Interview with John Henry Peaker," Harford County Living Treasures, March 6, 1981.
[32] *History and Heritage of Harford County*, 2010.
[33] *History and Heritage of Harford County*, 2010.
[34] United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1940. T627, 4,643 rolls.

During the first half of the twentieth century, the village continues to offer services to the surrounding agricultural area. Charles Sonberg announced that he was giving up farming in 1919; he sold his house and purchased a lot to construct a general store.[35] Sonberg's Clover Farm Store operated as the post office, general store, and bakery of the town, located at 1314 Abingdon Road. Beginning in 1922, Lester Tucker operated a General Store at 3504 Philadelphia Road in 1922. In 1926, residents established the first fire department in Abingdon, called the Abingdon Fire Company. Previously, residents had waited for assistance to arrive from Bel Air or Aberdeen. The company purchased their first fire truck that same year, housed in a wooden lean-to attached to a local barn owned by Lester Tucker.[36] For several years, the Abingdon Fire Company put on an annual fundraising carnival, and in 1930, they constructed Abingdon's first fire department building across from the Cokesbury Methodist Church.[37] The two-story concrete building featured a public hall on the second floor, which was used for events (HA-2013).[38] Abingdon also had two garages in operation during the twentieth century including the automotive business J. Norman Davis & Son and Walter Famous garage. Businesses located outside of Abingdon, such as the Bata Shoe Factory, employed residents of Abingdon.[39]

By the 1930s, the development of the Aberdeen Proving Ground and other nearby industries has resulted in a wave of residential growth. Existing residents of the village worked in village industry support positions, such as undertakers, builders, and grocers, while others found jobs with the federal government.[40] New residents moved to the area, often to work at nearby government facilities. Although the vernacular architectural styles persisted into the twentieth century, new one and two-story houses in a range of styles, such as Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Prairie, cropped up along Abingdon and Philadelphia Road. These styles mark the shift away from the isolated, rural character of the town, and reflect the new building trends emphasizing revivalist styles popular throughout the county. Many of these resources are still extant today.

The postal service in Abingdon also underwent changes during the first half of the twentieth century. After the Civil War until about 1920, mail for Abingdon was transported on a B&O train to the nearby Sewell Station and was transported by local carrier to Abingdon for distribution. Between 1920 and 1927, the mail was delivered to the Edgewood Post Office by the PRR and then carried to Abingdon which was a Star Route under the Edgewood Post Office. In 1927, the Abingdon post office was established in Lester Tucker's store south of the intersection of Route 7 and Abingdon Road, where it remained until 1942. It was then relocated to Sonberg's Clover Farm Store across the street from the fire hall on Abingdon Road. In 1957, the Abingdon Post Office began handling its mail directly, and delivery changed from train to truck. In 1966, the Post Office moved across the street to a small brick building (1309 Abingdon Road) located near the fire hall, and the old post office was converted into a dwelling, presently at 1314 Abingdon Road.[41] In 1985, the Post Office moved to a larger facility two miles north of Abingdon.[42]

Infrastructural developments led to the decline of the village during the mid-twentieth century. The completion of Pulaski Highway in 1941 caused many to bypass Abingdon when travelling to and from Baltimore, resulting in a loss of traffic and business in the village.

Architectural Context

The first wave of architecture in Abingdon occurred in the late eighteenth century, along lots platted by John Paca. Early architecture was typical of the era; residential housing consisted of one and two-story frame dwellings constructed for middle-class and affluent

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[35] "Public Sale," *The Aegis*, March 14, 1919; "Local Affairs," *The Aegis*, December 20, 1929.
[36] Harford County Public Library, "Interview with Howard K. McComas III." Harford County Living Treasures, March 19, 2022.
[37] "Local Happenings," *The Midland Journal*, August 3, 1928.
[38] "Town and County," *The Midland Journal*, July 12, 1929.
[39] Harford County Public Library, "Interview with Lillian Rokytova Sonberg," Harford County Living Treasures, September 29, 1995.
[40] United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626, 2,667 rolls.
[41] Harford County Public Library, "Interview with Lillian Rokytova Sonberg," Harford County Living Treasures, September 29, 1995.
[42] *Harford Historical Bulletin: History of Postal Service in Harford County*, Historical Society of Harford County, Inc., Winter 1993, pg. 20-21.

residents. Many of these early houses were constructed with vernacular forms such as the gabled house and I-house forms, popular in rural tidewater Maryland during this period. Additionally, construction during this period included hotels, taverns, stores, and the Cokesbury Methodist College, which quickly burned down. The large lot for the College remains intact with its historic cemetery, although the remaining buildings have been demolished or burned down. The original Methodist Church burned down in 1896; the present Cokesbury Methodist Church was constructed immediately after. The present church was executed in the Gothic revival style, with a steeply pitched roof and pointed openings, typical of ecclesiastical construction during the period.

Residential resources that date to the eighteenth, nineteenth, and even early twentieth century were built in rural, vernacular styles prevalent in the Upper South and Chesapeake region, particularly the I-house form. The I-house evolved from the one-room English cottage in the eighteenth century and was popularized later as "the farmers mansion." The I-house form is characterized by a side-gable roof, two-story height, a symmetrical façade, and a floorplan that is one room deep and several rooms wide. This architectural form was relatively uncommon outside of the Southern United States until the early nineteenth century, when it was popularized by the introduction of railroad lines that could bring building materials. By the nineteenth century, this housing type had spread across the United States, becoming the preferred style for middle class farmers who sought to advertise their agricultural success; in Maryland, the I house plan was often constructed for "farm managers, independent farmers, well-off tenant farmers, and various merchants and professionals."

Folk houses, particularly those that adhere to the I-house form, are prevalent across Harford County and especially prominent in rural areas. This housing type is best exemplified by Abingdon's earliest extant building, the Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House (HA-854), built in c. 1785. Few frame dwellings from the county survive from this period, and the Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House is a rare early example. Another example of an early vernacular structure is the house at 1322 Abingdon Road. The two-story cross-gabled frame house at 1221 Abingdon Road was constructed c. 1864 for prominent resident Robert Henry. Many vernacular buildings of this style constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century feature romantic details. The I-house at 1322 Abingdon Road was constructed in the late nineteenth century, is accented by a steeply pitched center gable on the façade typical of Gothic styling. Demands for additional space necessitated the building of ells or wings at the rear of the house along with the addition of covered porches on the façade.

In the early twentieth century, Abingdon continued to function as a rural service center. Houses that date to the early to mid-twentieth century reflect a new wave of residential construction in the district, inspired by Harford County's transition towards an industrial economy and a county-wide population boom. Abingdon, with its proximity to the Aberdeen Proving Ground and the Edgewood Arsenal, was no exception. The resources constructed within the survey district during this pre-war period reflect typical residential development of the time and include a range of building styles with characteristics of the vernacular, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Prairie, and Contemporary styles. These houses also reflect the need for rapid construction, brought about by the rapid population increase at the time. Unlike the vernacular folk houses previously constructed in the village, these houses reflected nationwide stylistic trends of suburban development, with less emphasis on local building styles and construction. The house at 1401 Abingdon Road was constructed in 1914 in the Colonial Revival style and the house at 1303 Abingdon Road was constructed in the prairie style c. 1920. The house at 3610 Philadelphia Road was constructed in the Craftsman style in 1932.

In addition to residential construction, the twentieth century brought about significant construction of commercial and public buildings. Lester Tucker's General Store was constructed c. 1920 at 3504 Philadelphia Road. The vernacular-style clapboard-clad building originally included a barn that sheltered the first firetruck in Abingdon, and has since been converted to apartments, but retains its distinctive gabled roof and general form. The Sonberg General Store and Post Office was constructed in 1920 at 1314 Abingdon Road and was later converted to a private dwelling. The fire department constructed the Abingdon Fire Station (HA-2013) in 1930. The simple, modern concrete building has since been adapted for institutional use. These commercial structures all reflect simple service-oriented designs.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HA-2305

See continuation sheet.

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 47.8 acres
Acreage of historical setting
Quadrangle name Edgewood Quadrangle Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Village of Abingdon Survey District is comprised of an irregularly shaped contiguous block located in Abingdon, Maryland in southern Harford County just north of Otter Point Creek, a tributary of Bush River. Abingdon's primary intersection occupies the junction between the northeast-southwest thoroughfare, Philadelphia Road (Route 7), and the Norwest-southeast route, Abingdon Road. As one of the most important thoroughfares in the colonies, the post road was used by prominent early travelers during the settlement and rise to prosperity of Harford County. Old Post Road remained the primary transportation route connecting Baltimore to the east until the completion of U.S. 40 (Pulaski Highway) in 1941. The Abingdon Survey District is bounded on the south by the lots just south of Cokesbury Road. To the west, it is bounded by Cokesbury Church and the lots adjacent to the dwellings along Cogswell Court. The northern boundary is defined by the lots just north of Philadelphia Road, remaining south of Pomeroy Avenue on the western side of Abingdon Road. The western boundary is defined by the lots just west of Abingdon Road, extending to meet the southern boundary just south of Cokesbury Road.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Laura Hughes, Devon Murtha, Emily Pelesky, Nicole Starego, Neale Grisham		
organization	EHT Traceries	date	June 2024
street & number	440 Massachusetts Ave, NW	telephone	(202) 393-1199
city or town	Washington	state	District of Columbia

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
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-697-9591

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HA-2305

Village of Abingdon Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

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Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name of Property: Village of Abingdon Survey District
Location: Abingdon, Harford County

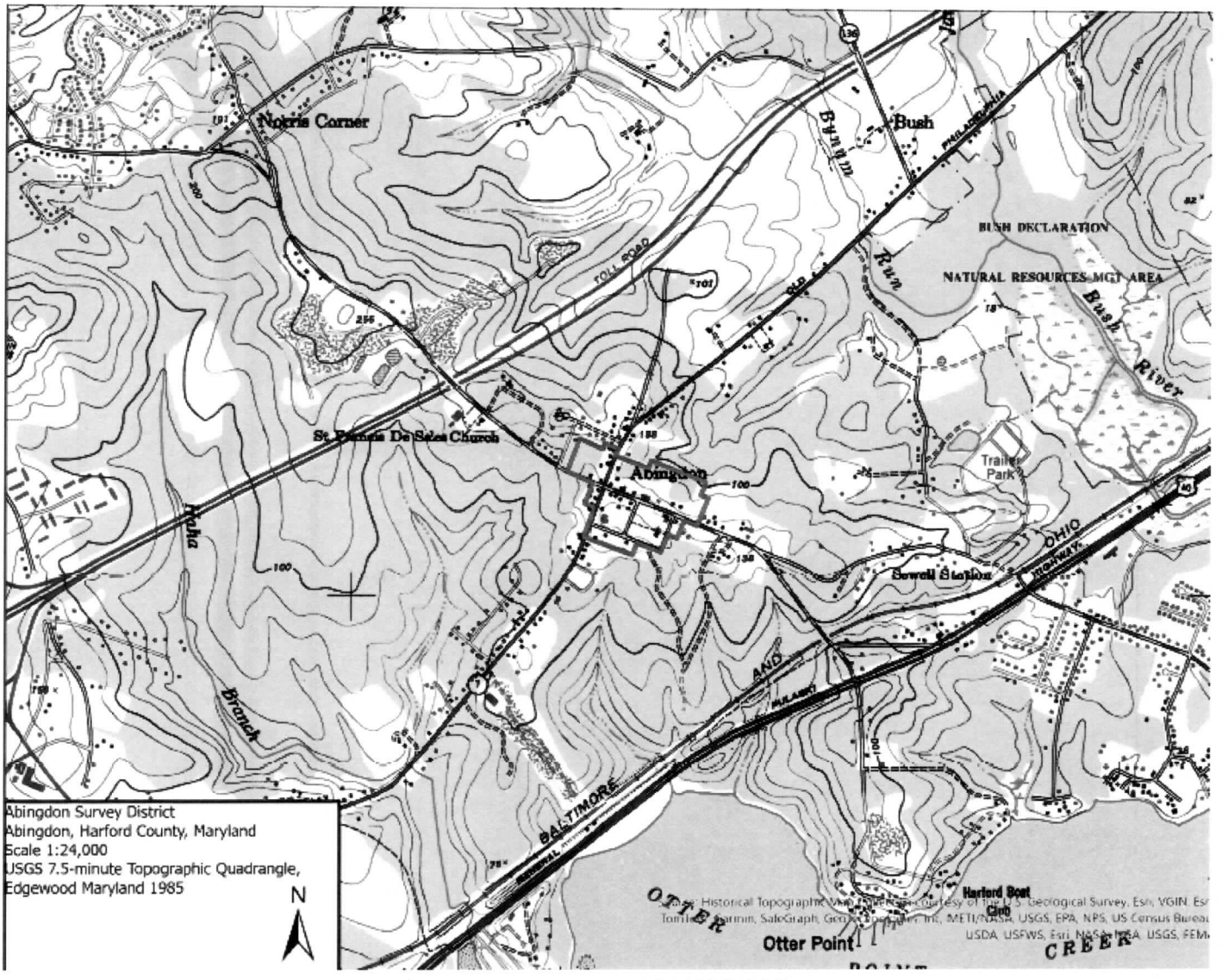


Figure 1: Locator Map at 1:24,000 (USGS)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name of Property: Village of Abingdon Survey District
Location: Abingdon, Harford County

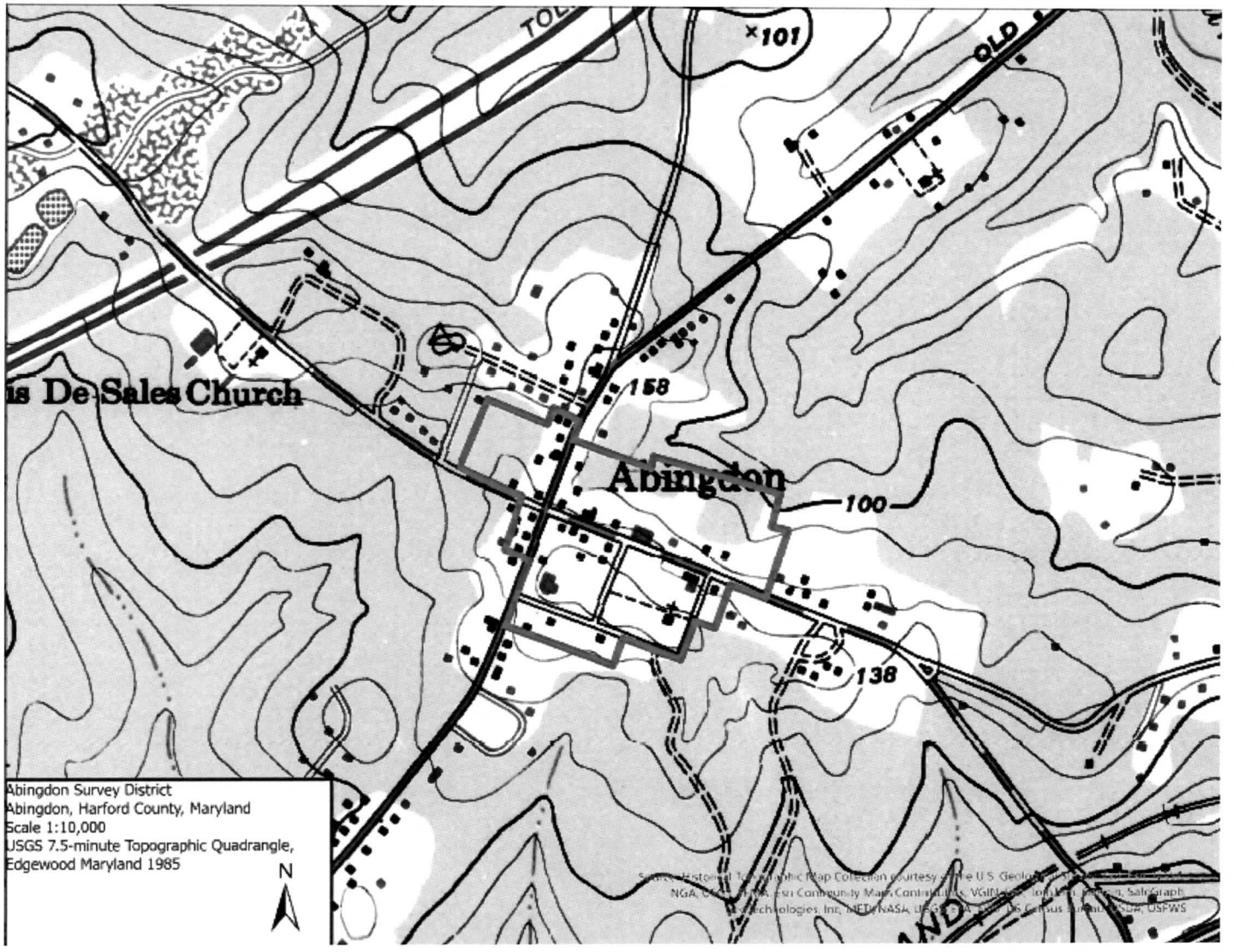


Figure 2: Locator Map at 1:10,000 (USGS)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name of Property: Village of Abingdon Survey District
Location: Abingdon, Harford County

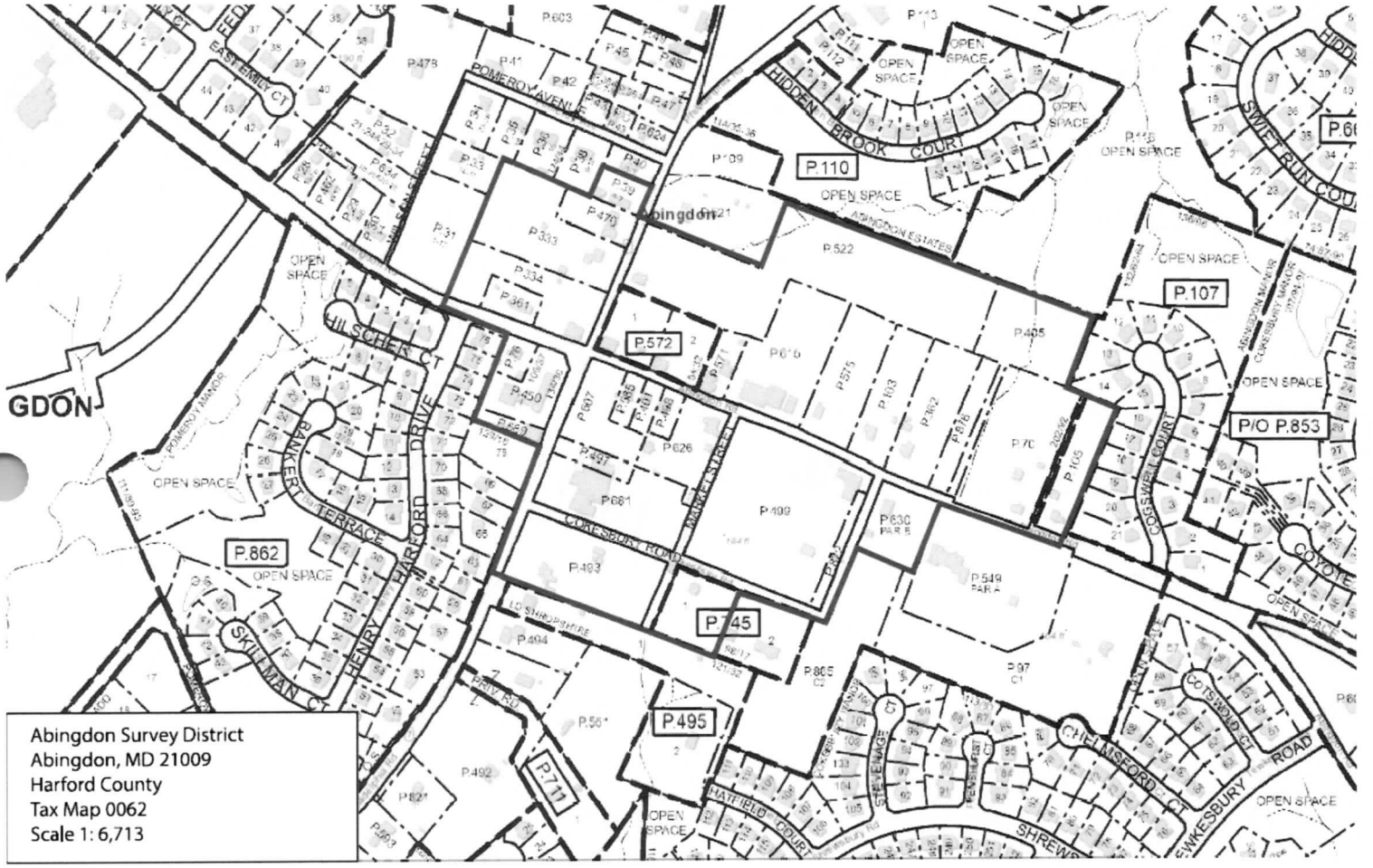


Figure 3: Tax Map at 1:6,713 (Merlin)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name of Property: Village of Abingdon Survey District
Location: Abingdon, Harford County

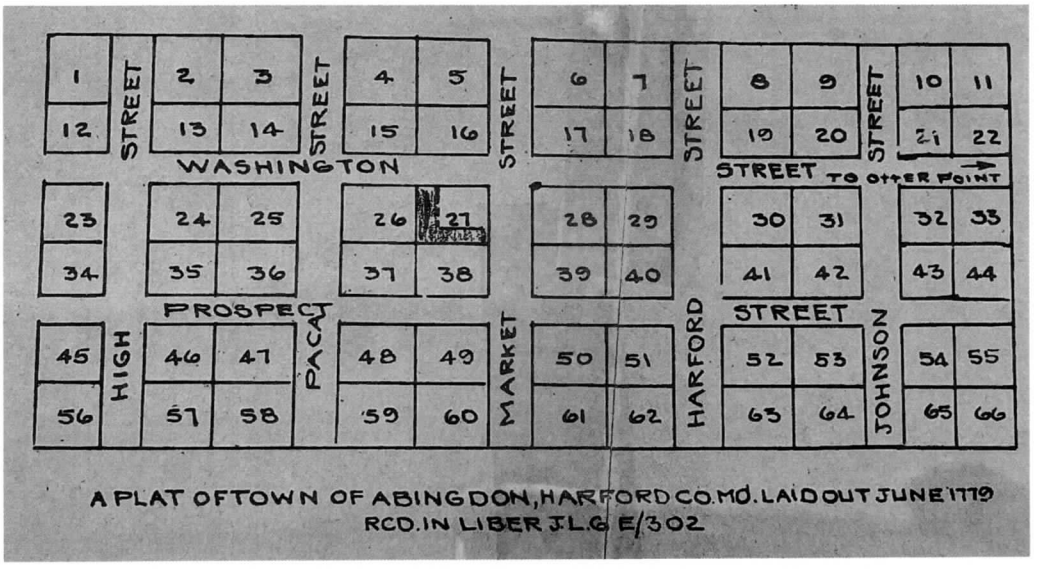


Figure 4: A Plat of Town of Abingdon, Harford County, Maryland (Harford County Historical Society)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name of Property: Village of Abingdon Survey District
Location: Abingdon, Harford County

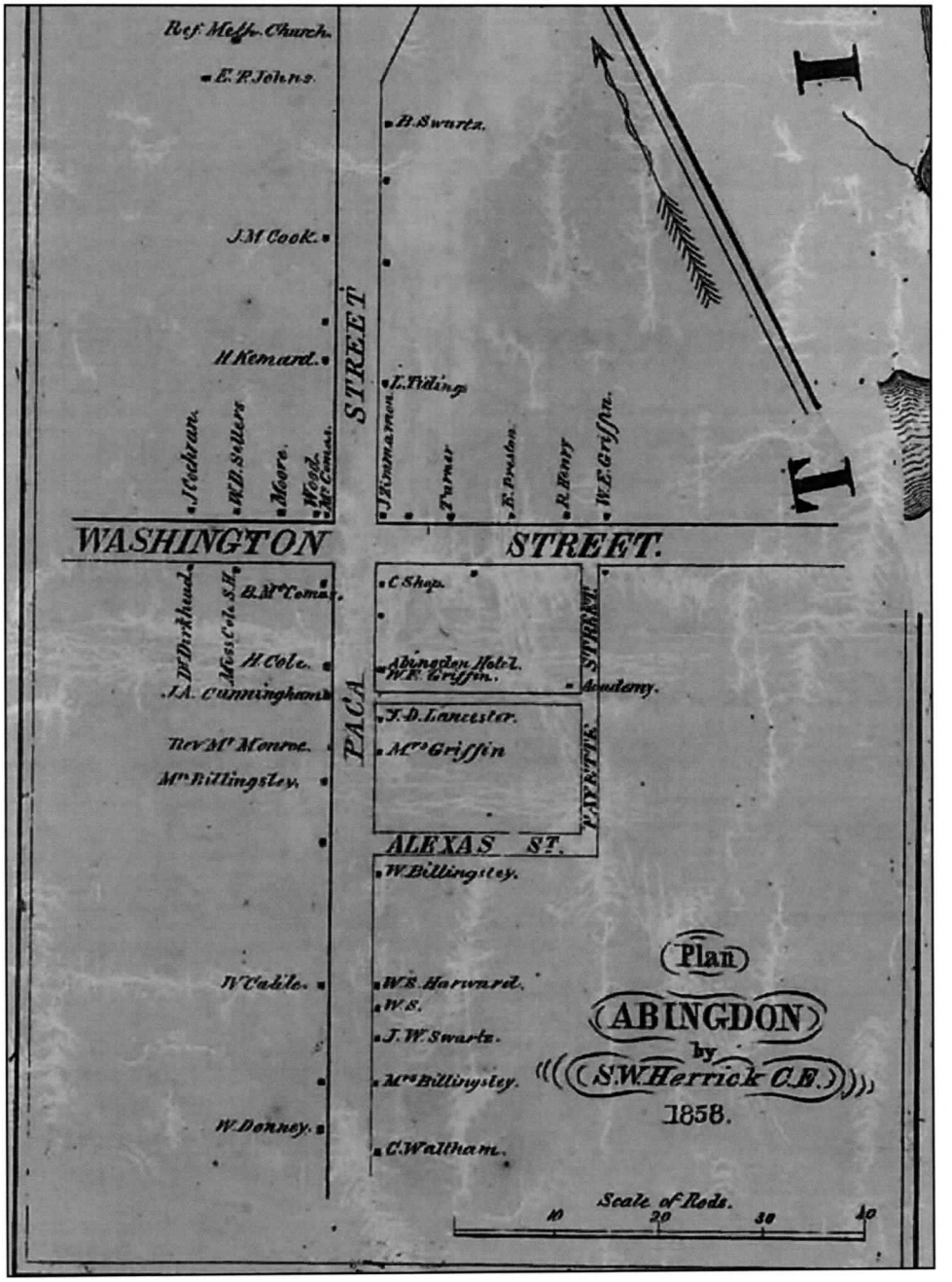


Figure 5: 1858 Plan of Abingdon by S.W. Herrick (Library of Congress)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name of Property: Village of Abingdon Survey District
Location: Abingdon, Harford County



Figure 6: 1878 Martenet's Map of Harford County, close-up view of Abingdon (Library of Congress)

Addendum to
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HA-2305

Name of Property: Village of Abingdon Survey District
Location: Abingdon, Harford County



Figure 1: Village of Abingdon Photo Key (EHT Traceries)

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HA-2305

Name Abingdon Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 1

Photo Log
MIHP Number: HA-2305
Name of Property: Village of Abingdon Survey District
City or Vicinity: Abingdon
County: Harford State: Maryland
Photographer: EHT Traceries (John Gentry, Emily Pelesky, Nicole Starego)
Date Photographed: March 1, 2024

Photo 1 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_01
Photo of 1221 Abingdon Road, façade and east elevation, looking northwest

Photo 2 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_02
Photo of 1301 Abingdon Road, façade, looking north

Photo 3 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_03
Photo of 1302 Abingdon Road, facade and west elevation, looking south

Photo 4 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_04
Photo of 1304 Cokesbury Road, façade and south elevation, looking northeast

Photo 5 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_05
Photo of 1303 Abingdon Road, façade, looking north

Photo 6 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_06
Photo of 1309 Abingdon Road, façade, looking north

Photo 7 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_07
Photo of 1311 Abingdon Road, façade, looking north

Photo 8 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_08
Photo of 1314 Abingdon Road, façade, looking south

Photo 9 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_09
Photo of 1317 Abingdon Road, east elevation, looking west

Photo 10 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_10
Photo of 1317 Cokesbury Road, facade and west elevation, looking northeast

Photo 11 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_11
Photo of 1318 Abingdon Road, façade, looking southwest

Photo 12 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_12
Photo of 1320 Abingdon Road, façade and east elevation, looking southeast

Photo 13 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_13

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Abingdon Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 2

Photo of 1322 Abingdon Road, façade and east elevation, looking southwest

Photo 14 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_14
Photo of 1401 Abingdon Road, façade and east elevation, looking northwest

Photo 15 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_15
Photo of 1404 Abingdon Road, façade, looking south

Photo 16 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_16
Photo of 1406 Abingdon Road, façade, looking south

Photo 17 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_17
Photo of 1407 Abingdon Road, façade, looking northeast

Photo 18 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_18
Photo of 3409 Philadelphia Road, façade, looking east

Photo 19 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_19
Photo of 3403 Philadelphia Road, façade and east elevation, looking southwest

Photo 20 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_20
Photo of 3504 Philadelphia Road, façade and south elevation, looking west

Photo 21 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_21
Photo of 3504 Philadelphia Road, façade, looking west

Photo 22 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_22
Photo of 3508 Philadelphia Road, façade, looking west

Photo 23 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_23
Photo of 3604 Philadelphia Road, looking west

Photo 24 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_24
Photo of 3605 Philadelphia Road, façade, looking east

Photo 25 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_25
Photo of 3608 Philadelphia Road, façade, looking west

Photo 26 of 26: HA-2305_2024-03-01_26
Photo of 1304 Abingdon Road, east elevation, looking west



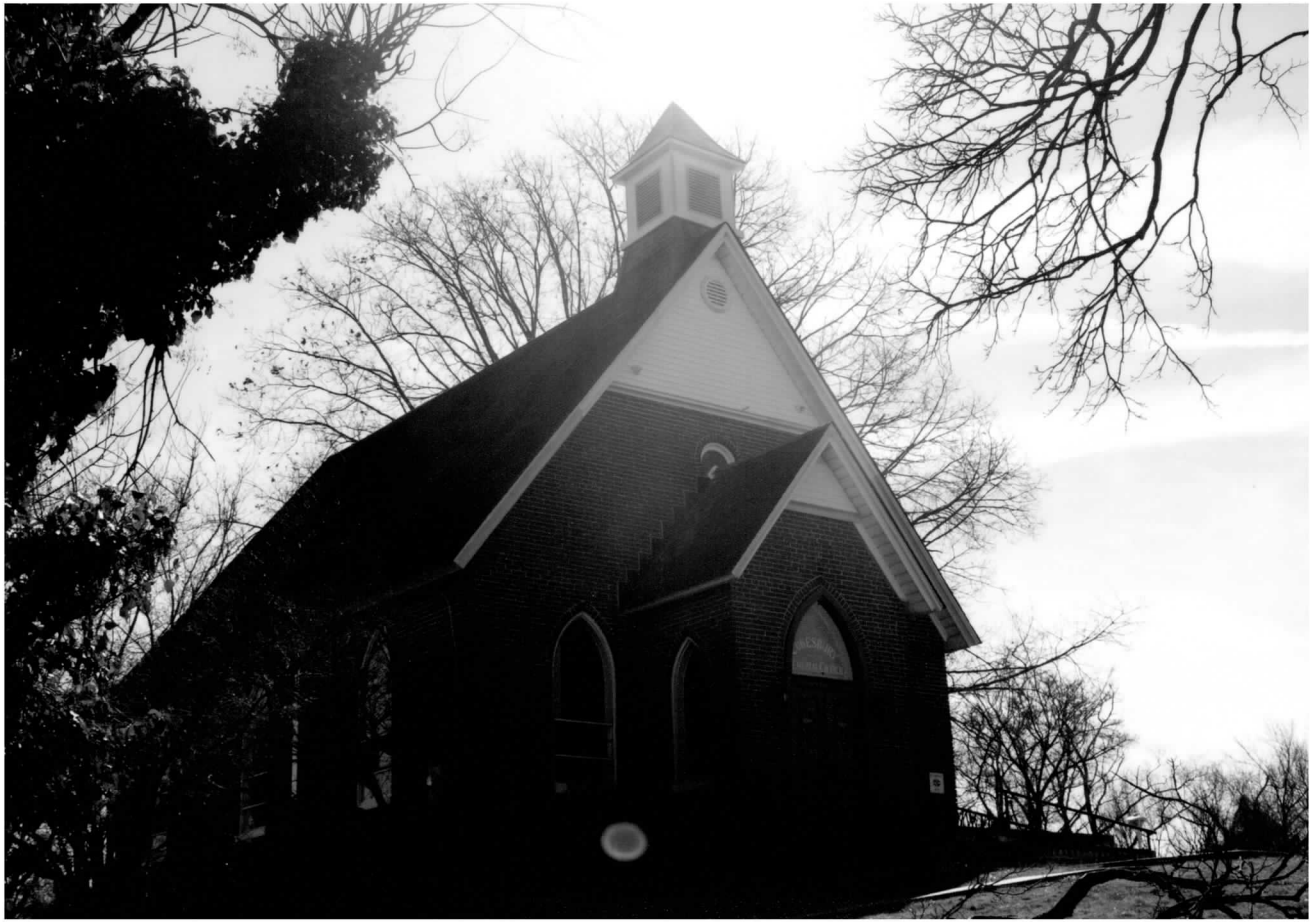
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