CH-604

Aquilla Turner House, (Zekiah Manor)

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: 11-21-2003

Aquilla Turner House **circa 1850**
CH-604
Bryantown vic.
Public

The Aquilla Turner House, circa 1850, is a 2 ½ story, five bay single pile frame I-house with an attached 1 ½ story frame dependency situated on a 4.674 acre parcel on Old Leonardtown Road between Waldolf and Bryantown. The main block is flanked by slender brick exterior chimneys, in contrast to the massive exterior brick chimney attached to the south wall of the dependency. Although the original doors and windows have been replaced, the essential form remains intact. Despite alterations, the dwelling is significant as one of a handful of surviving examples of a mid-19th century center-passage I-house in Charles County.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-604

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Aquilla Turner House
other	Aquilla Turner House

2. Location

street and number	13000 Zekiah Drive	___ not for publication
city, town	Waldorf	x vicinity
county	Charles	

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

name	Grace Bretheren Church				
street and number	13000 Zekiah Drive			telephone	301-645-0407
city, town	Waldorf	state	MD	zip code	20601

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse			tax map and parcel:	25-14-226
city, town	LaPlata			liber 1807	folio 212

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
___ district
x building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership
___ public
___ private
x both

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

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	___	buildings
___	___	sites
___	2	structures
___	___	objects
1	2	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-604

Condition

___ excellent	___ deteriorated
x good	___ ruins
___ fair	___ altered

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

The Aquilla Turner House, circa 1830, is a 2 1/2 story, single-pile, center passage frame dwelling with an attached 1 1/2 story frame dependency that is currently situated on a 4.674 acre parcel on Old Leonardtown Road between Waldolf and Bryantown. The main block is flanked by slender brick exterior chimneys, in contrast to the massive exterior brick chimney attached to the south wall of the dependency. The property is currently owned by Grace Brethern Church and is located on a rise above Route 5 facing west. The dwelling is approached by a driveway off Zekiah Drive that opens onto a large asphalt parking area at the rear of the house. Non-contributing resources include a late twentieth century gamrel roof garage and an early twentieth century smokehouse.

Due to later alterations, much of the historic materials of the dwelling have been obscured or lost. The entire building is currently clad in vinyl siding; the window configuration has been altered, and most of the windows are modern replacements. Asphalt shingles cover the side gable roof which meets the eave wall with an enclosed and reclad cornice. The original five-course American bond brick foundation supports the frame construction.

The dwelling's façade faces west and includes five assymetrically alligned bays. The current door is not original, nor are the nine 2/2 light double-hung sash windows found in the main block. A one story concrete base screened-in shed porch extends the full width of the building and is clad with asphalt shingles.

Moving clockwise, the northern elevation includes a single first floor replacement window near the façade wall and paired attic windows flanking the chimney. The 4/4 light wood sash double-hung attic windows are possibly original.

The eastern elevation first floor is obscured by a modern enclosed shed addition. The second story fenestration mirrors that found on façade and is characterized by the assymetrical placement of windows. These windows are also modern replacements.

The southern elevation is largely obscured by the kitchen dependency. An exterior brick chimney with a corbelled cap is flanked by a pair of possibly original attic story windows of 4/4 light composition.

The one story dependency is characterized by a massive brick chimney found on the southern elevation. A single attic story window is found to the right of the chimney with 4/4 light composition. Access to the chimney is provided by a pent covered porch next to the chimney. The façade consists of a set of twentieth century paired windows near the main block. Two additional modern replacement windows are found to the south. The rear or eastern elevation is obscured by a modern porch enclosure of the porch.

The floorplan consists of a center passage flanked by two rooms on either side. While the first floor seems to have retained much of its original plan, the second story has had significant alterations including the addition of partition walls and two bathrooms. Interior detail includes a single stair with scroll-sawn end decoration, stair panelling on the first and second floor, two part door and window trim, original six panel doors and two high style late Federal mantels.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-604

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
___ 1600-1699	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ health/medicine	performing arts
___ 1700-1799	___ archeology	___ education	___ industry	philosophy
x 1800-1899	x architecture	___ engineering	___ invention	politics/government
___ 1900-1999	___ art	___ entertainment/ recreation	___ landscape architecture	religion
___ 2000-	___ commerce	___ ethnic heritage	___ law	science
	___ communications	___ exploration/ settlement	___ literature	social history
	___ community planning		___ maritime history	transportation
	___ conservation		___ military	other:

Specific dates	Circa 1830	**Architect**	Unknown
Construction dates	Circa 1830	**Builder**	Unknown

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____ Maryland Register __x__ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Aquilla Turner House is a rare surviving example of a center-passage dwelling in Charles County that was constructed during the second quarter of the ninteeth century.

Since its formal establishment in 1658, well until the mid twentieth century, Charles County has relied on tobacco as its major cash crop. Despite the disruptions of the American Revolution, several years of depressed tobacco prices, and the War of 1812, Charles County continued to grow. During the early nineteenth century the County experienced a period of economic stability. Although competition from other tobacco-growing regions intensified during the first half of the nineteenth century, the large-scale planters seem to have maintained their economic stability. By 1820, most of the out migration caused by the depredations of war and the inability of small tenant farmers to prosper had ceased. Although tobacco prices became unstable, and remained so throughout the early nineteenth century the wealthiest of the landowners in the county remained prosperous. Many diversified their interests, investing in corn or wheat cultivation or in commercial industries, such as milling, fishing, and commerce.

Through the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s, Charles County continued to thrive on its agricultural and growing commercial trade. Although census records reveal no significant population growth during these years, there are no indications of economic depression. However, the relative calm of county life was disrupted by the initial rumblings of dispute that would lead to the Civil War. Charles County was sensitively located between the northern or Unionist states and the southern, secessionist states. Although, as a state, Maryland voted to support the Union, Charles County maintained its Confederate sympathies throughout the war.

This era of prosperity is reflected in the County's built environment by the great number of buildings constructed during the first half of the century. The overwhelming majority of these dwelling were late Federal, side passage buildings most often with at least one frame dependency flanking the gable wall. The center passage dwelling was somewhat less common in Charles County until the late 1800's when the form began to appear with decorative center gables. Nearby Wiltshire Plains (CH-292) after extensive alterations in 1857 is one of a small number of surviving center passage structures that date from the mid-nineteenth century.

The Aquilla and Kitty Ann Turner House was originally associated with several adjacent

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CH-604

Name Aquilla Turner House

Continuation Sheet
Number 8 Page 2

tracts consisting of over 300 acres known as "Part of Jordan", "Zekiah Manor", "Twice Bought" and "Charity". This property followed a matrilineal line descending from Jane Queen Barker to her granddaughter Kitty Ann Turner in 1830, to daughter Jane E. Robinson after 1860, and then finally to Jane's sisters and subsequent heirs Kitty Ann McPherson.

Kitty Ann Turner was married to Aquilla Turner, Clerk of Court for Charles County. Aquilla Turner's will of 1860 refers to the house "where I now dwell" which he gave as a life estate to his second wife Catherine Turner. After her death it was to descend to his daughter Jane E. Robinson.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-604

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	4.674		
Acreage of historical setting	4.674		
Quadrangle name	Hughesville	Quadrangle scale	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property at 5550 Leonardtown Road is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 25, Grid 14, Parcel 226.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Department	date	11/30/2000
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-581
city or town	LaPlata	state MD	zipcode 20646

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

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

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Chain of title:

January 25, 1830	William R. Barker to Kitty Ann Turner, daughter. Land deeded to my mother Jane [Queen?] Barker from Thomas C. Reeves. "Part of Jordan" ; and a tract patented by Hezekiah Reeves, "Twice Bought" houses and buildings. **IB 19 Folio 8**
March 9, 1860	Last will and testament of Aquilla Turner. **A**- to wife Catherine S. Turner and then daughter Jane E. Robinson. Where I now dwell. **B**-daughter Kitty Ann (McPherson) ("Jordan", "Maidstone", and land from Davis'). **C**- son John Thomas Turner, part of Jordan tract, part of Beaver Dam, part of Zekiah Manor **JS 17 Folio 321**
January 1, 1889	A- Jane E. Robinson and William T. Robinson her husband of Prince Georges County to John Thomas Turner. Land upon which Aquiila Turner resided at the time of his death and which the late Catherine Turner resided at the time of her death 300a. Which Jane E. Robinson inherited from her mother Kitty Ann (Barker?) , first wife of Aquilla Turner. **JST No.2 Folio 413**
circa 1895	A-C John Thomas Turner, died interstate, next of kin McPherson's
circa 1900	B-Kitty Ann (Turner) McPherson died interstate and left as next of kin McPherson's
July 21, 1911	A-B-C-William T. McPherson acquirred undivided interest from Jane B. McPherson and Edward A. T. McPherson. **HCC 23 Folio 389**
March 6, 1920	William T. and Mary C. McPherson. To John G. and Martha E. Jameson.

	(A)First-several contiguous lots on both sides of the county road from Waldorf to Bryantown bordering Zekiah Swamp. "Jordan", "Part of Jordan", "Zekiah Manor", "Twice Bought", "Charity", 300a. Acqiured from John Thomas Turner, property which was devised to Jane E. Robinson as remaining portion of her inheritance from her mother Kitty Ann Turner, nee Barker. (B)Second-"Part of Jordan", "Maidstone" 29 1/4 a. (C)Third- East side of road "Part of Jordan", "Part of Beaver Dam", "Part of Zekiah Manor" 200a. Excepting 150a to Henry A. Bean WMA 34 Folio 189 **Totalling 330a.** **WMA 36 Folio 198**
September 22, 1972	Aubrey B. Jameson and Alice I. Jameson, hiers to Giordano, et al. 262.6829 a. **Liber 263 Folio 558**
Date "?""""""""	Gilbert R. Giordano, Gary R. Alexander, Vernon G. Haas and Patrick Mahoney to Iradj Sadechian. **262.6829 a.** **Liber 362 Folio 256**
December 1, 1986	Iradj Sadechian to Lewis and Barbara Vest. Save and excepting Parcel 1, 2 and A. **Liber 1177 Folio 415**
September 9, 1988	Lewis R. Vest and Barbara M. to James and Julia Merkle. $160,000. **262.6829 a.** **Liber 1329 Folio 313**
October 4, 1991	James E. Merkel and Julia L. to Fabio and Catherine Lombardo. Lot #35 Section 1"Zeckiah Valley" **Liber 1592 Folio 104**

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History.* Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

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

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 11/12/99

North arrow:

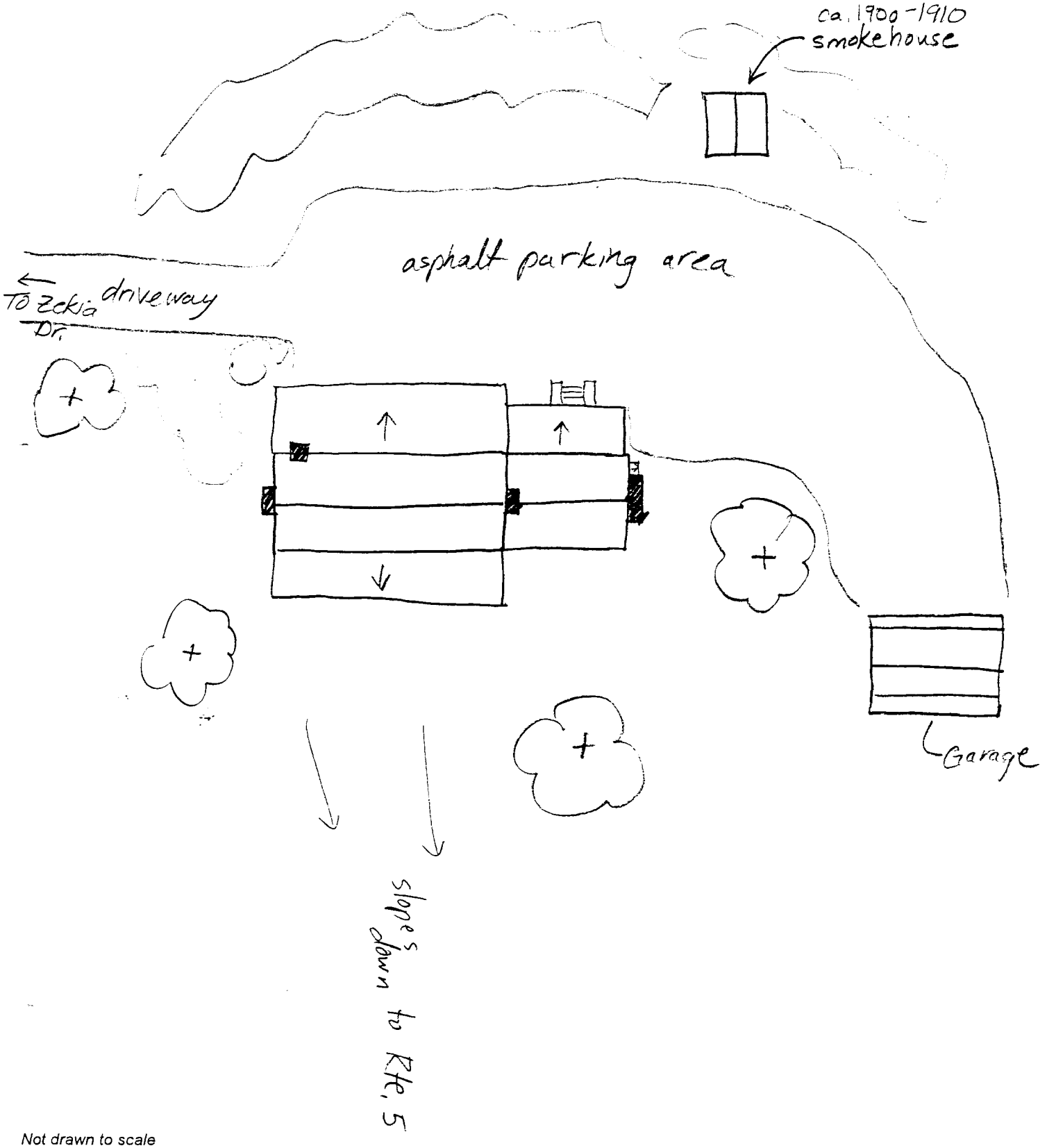
Name: Aquilla / Kitty Ann Turner House

Address: 5550 Leonardtown Rd.

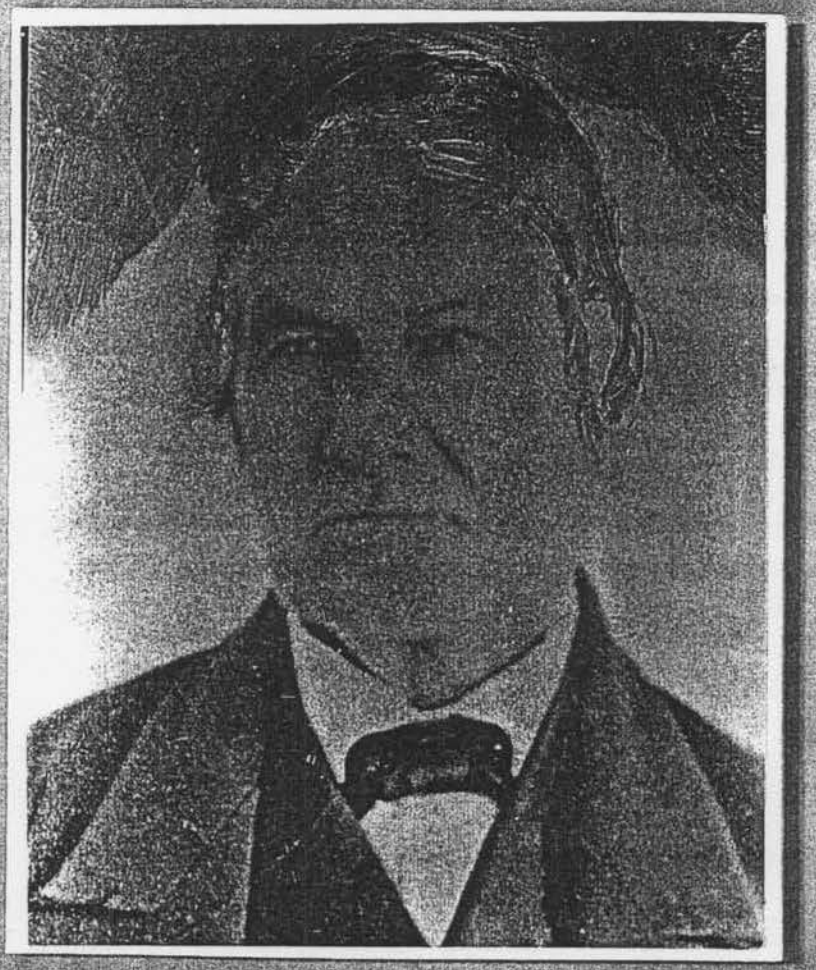
CH - 604

Charles County, Maryland

Waldorf ☒ Vicinity



Not drawn to scale

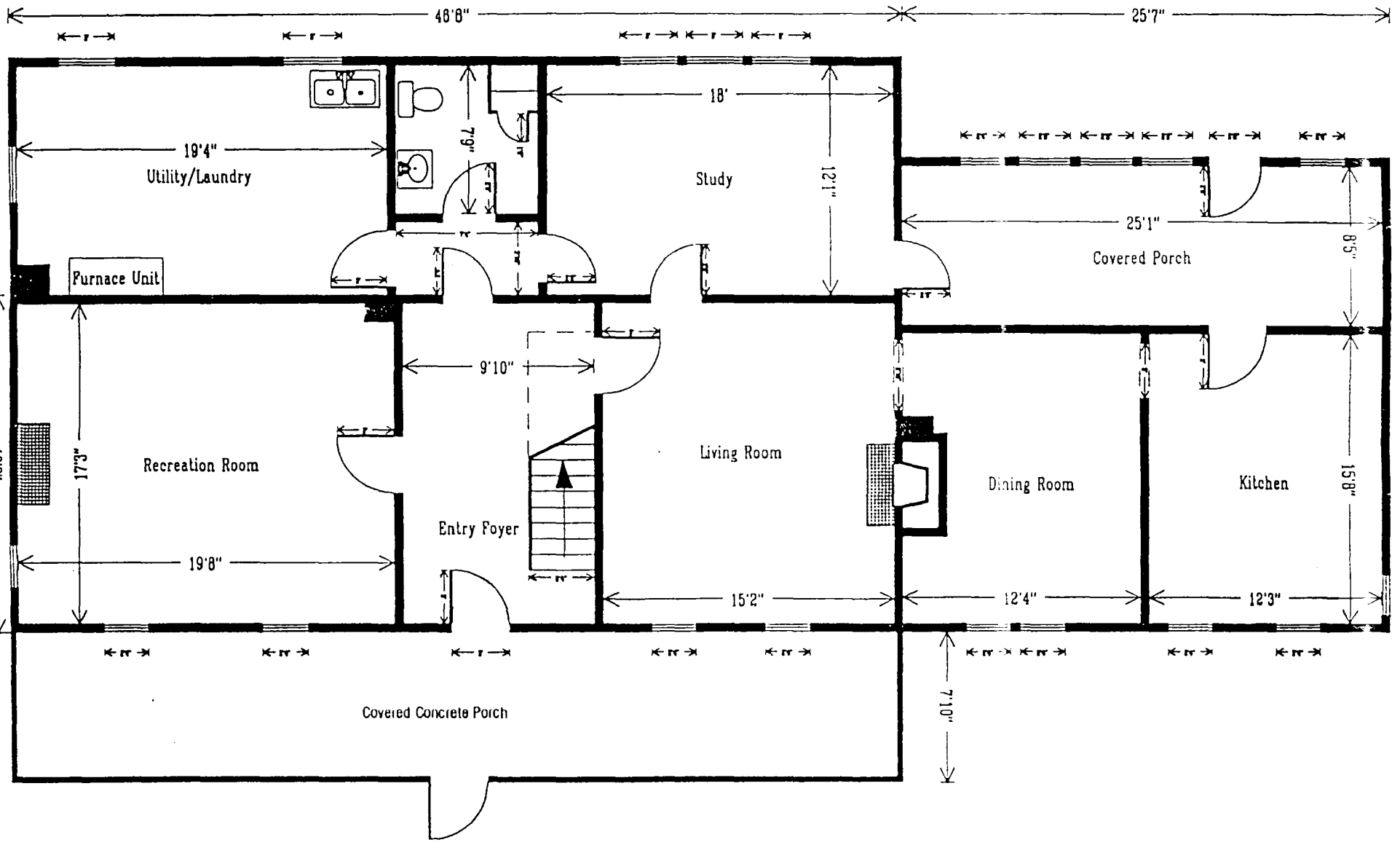


Aquila Turner, 1786-1863
original owner of property
"Zekiah Manor"

SOURCE : GRACE BRETHEREN CHURCH
CH-604

SOURCE: GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH

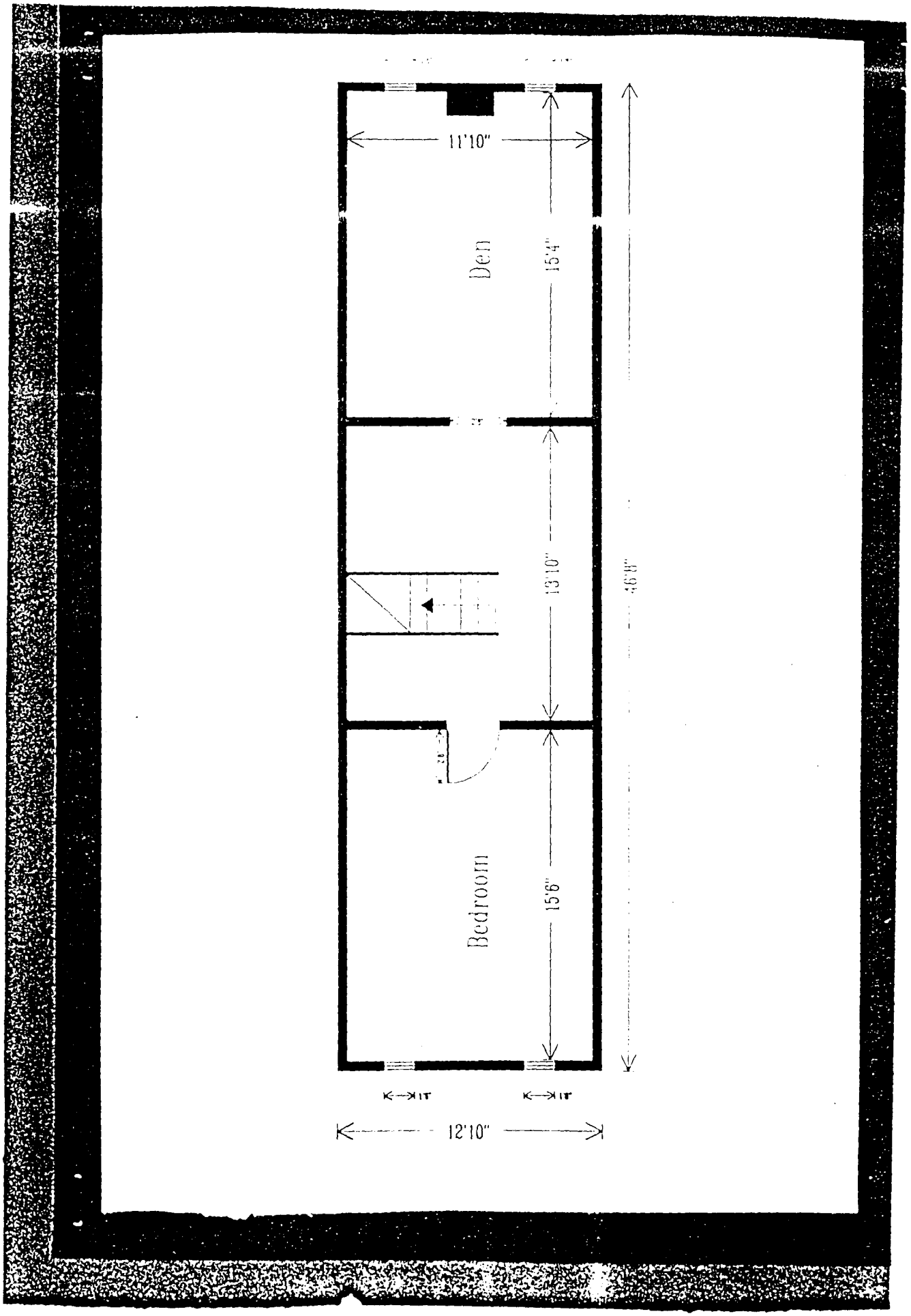
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CH-604

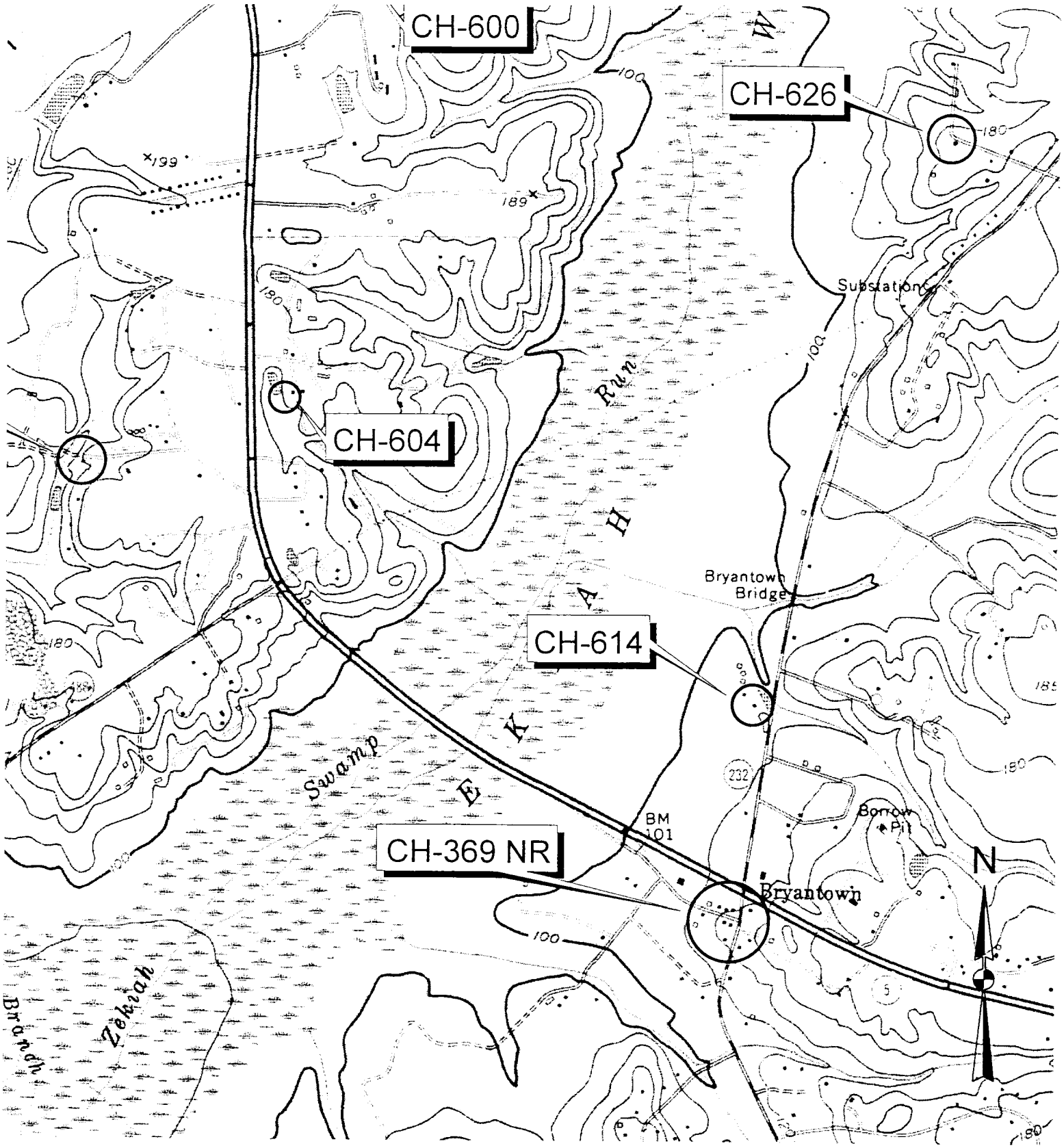
SOURCE: GBC ARCHITECT UNKNOWN

CH-604



SOURCE: GRACE BRETHEREN CHURCH
ARCHITECT UNKNOWN

CH-604



Aquilla and Kitty Ann Turner House
CH-604
Charles County, MD
Hughesville, MD Quad



CH-604
TURNER HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
11/99
MARYLAND SHPO
WEST ELEVATION
1 OF 6



CH-604
TURNER HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
11/99
MARYLAND SHPO
NORTH ELEVATION
2 OF 6



CH-604
TURNER HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
11/99
MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING NE
3 of 6



CH 604
TURNER HOUSE
CHARLES CO. MD
K.G SMITH
11/94
MD SHPO
NORTH ELEVATION, CHIMNEY
4 OF 6



CH-604
TURNER HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
K.G. SMITH
11/99
MARYLAND SHPO
SMOKEHOUSE, LOOKING SE
5 OF 6



CH-604
TURNER HOUSE
CHARLES CO. MD
11/99
K.G. SMITH
MD SHPO
GARAGE, LOOKING SW
6 OF 6