CH-628

Alexius L. Middleton House, (Ware's Folly)

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

Alexius L. Middleton House **Circa 1920**
CH-628
Waldorf vic.
Private

The Alexius L. Middleton House is a two-story, three bay adaptation of an I-house, a very common house form found in Charles County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It exhibits many of the locally common features of the I-house such as a decorative center gable adorned with a lunette window and a wide porch on the facade. However, along with the Henry Dyer Middleton House nearby, these dwellings are unique in their use of a projecting bay that extends the full height of the facade. This bay accentuates the decorative gable, and lunette window as well as the first floor entranceway. The dwelling has a L-plan with an original two-story kitchen wing extending from the rear elevation. Despite its location near Waldorf, Charles County's most heavily developed area, the property retains a good deal of its rural character and is surrounded by open fields, a pond to the east and several agricultural buildings. Other structures on the site considered as contributing resources include two tobacco barns and a corncrib.

Believed to have been built by Alexius Llewellyn Middleton during the first quarter of the twentieth century, the site is also significant both architecturally and in relation to several other Middleton family farms in the vicinity including the Henry Dyer Middleton House(CH-615), Cedar Hill Farm (CH-600) and Holly Cut (CH-340).

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-628

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Alexius L. Middleton House (preferred)
other	Ware's Folly

2. Location

street and number	13155 Tommy Middleton Lane	___ not for publication
city, town	Waldorf	x vicinity
county	Charles	

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

name	Lawrence K. and Lynn A. Bruffy				
street and number	13155 Tommy Middleton Lane			telephone	301-645-8183
city, town	Waldorf	state	MD	zip code	20604

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Charles County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	24-12-112
city, town	LaPlata	liber 2281	folio 303

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
x private
___ both

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

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	___	buildings
___	___	sites
3	4	structures
___	___	objects
4	4	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-628

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 Alexius L. Middleton House is a two story, three bay farmhouse with a center gable that projects from the full height of the front elevation. The dwelling has an original L-Plan with a two story kitchen wing extending from the rear elevation. While originally consisting of over 150 acres and known as Part of Ware's Folly, today the house is associated with slightly over three acres. Despite its location near Waldorf, Charles County's most heavily developed area, the property is nestled in an isolated agricultural district and retains a good deal of its rural character. It is surrounded by open fields, a pond to the east and several agricultural buildings. The structures considered to be contributing resources include two tobacco barns and a corncrib. Other standing structures present include two concrete block sheds, a concrete block tobacco stripping shed and a frame workshop.

The two-story frame dwelling has undergone extensive renovation in recent years. The building is currently clad in vinyl siding over the original weatherboards and has an asphalt shingle roof. A hipped roof porch extends the full length of the façade. Original doors and windows have been replaced throughout. While probably consisting of 2/2 light wood sash, replacement windows are of 1/1 light composition. Several additions to the rear have recently been constructed including a large deck off the eastern elevation.

The facade is three bays in length with a projecting gable that stands approximately one foot from the main eave wall. A single lunette window is located in the center gable attic story. First and second story fenestration is vertically symmetrical and includes three second story replacement 1/1 windows above two 1/1 windows flanking a centered door. The primary entrance is marked by a replacement door in its original frame adorned with a three part transom and sidelights. The porch is supported on turned wooden posts.

The west elevation of the main block includes single, centered windows on the first and second story. Moving to the rear, the kitchen wing includes a later enclosed porch shed addition with a pair of three contemporary 6/6 light windows flanking either side of the exterior door. While the first floor of the original wing exterior is no longer visible the second story consists of a single, center window.

The north and east elevations include several later additions and, in the earlier portions of the dwelling, alterations to the original fenestration. The east elevation main block includes a 1/1 light replacement window on the second story. The first floor fenestration has been modified to include a three part projecting bay window.

The interior was not accessible at the time of the survey.

OUTBUILDINGS
All contributing outbuildings appear to date from the early to mid-20th century. The rectangular corncrib is located near the house and stands on a east west axis. It rests on a high concrete block pier foundation and the gable roof is sheathed with a metal seam roof. The entrance is found on the east gable end wall with steps leading up to door.

Two large tobacco barns are located nearby which were originally associated with the

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CH-628

Name Alexius L. Middleton House (preferr
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

dwelling although they are no longer part of the house lot. The first is a large tobacco barn that stands to the west of the corncrib and has a standing seam roof and a concrete foundation. "Drive-through" double doors are centered on the eave walls and found on both the east and west elevations. The second tobacco barn is located south of the dwelling along Tommy Middleton Road. This barn has large drive-through double doors on the gable ends and a shed addition to one side.

Non-contributing resources include a concrete block tobacco stripping shed and two small concrete block sheds. A frame workshop covered in vinyl siding, also considered non-contributing, is found near the stripping shed.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-628

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
___ 1600-1699	x agriculture	___ economics	___ health/medicine	performing arts
___ 1700-1799	___ archeology	___ education	___ industry	philosophy
___ 1800-1899	x architecture	___ engineering	___ invention	politics/government
x 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	1920	**Architect**	Unknown
Construction dates	1920	**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 Alexius L. Middleton House is a good example of late folk Victorian architecture in Charles County. As one of a dwindling number of standing historic structures in the fastest growing and most developed section of the County, the dwelling is an important reminder of the area's rural heritage. Closely related to the Alexius L. Middleton House is the Henry Dyer Middleton House(CH-615) nearby which shows a number of identical features including the presence of a unique projecting bay.

Following the Civil War, Charles County suffered the same fate as most of the southern states. The basis of the economy, slave labor, was gone. Land ceased to be cultivated, credit collapsed and many planters fell deep into debt.
Despite this, Charles County and most of the surrounding counties retained their dependence on tobacco cultivation. While some diversification did occur, the reliance on agriculture, mainly tobacco, remained throughout the nineteenth and well into the twentieth century.

While tobacco remained the main export in Charles County throughout the late 19th and early twentieth century, changes in its usage altered production methods and trading. With the outset of World War I, domestic manufacturers began producing vast quantities of cigarettes for the American servicemen in Europe. In turn, the servicemen introduced this product to the Europeans, increasing the demand for Maryland tobacco. Charles County planters responded by increasing the acreage of land under cultivation. No longer was tobacco exported directly to foreign markets, but was first transported to cigarette manufacturers.

In 1847, Joseph Stewart, acting Sheriff of Charles County sold at public auction 165 acres known as part of Ware's Folly once owned by Thomas M. Queen. John D. Bowling, purchaser of the property retained ownership until 1872 when he and his wife Elizabeth sold the property to Mary E. Middleton. In 1905, Mary E. Middleton sold the farm to Alexius L. Middleton who later built a the dwelling that stands today on the property. The property and premises remained in Middleton Family until 1965 when Alexius Middleton's son Charles who had inherited the farm sold 158 acres to Russell and Grace Howard.

Alexius Llewelyn Middleton was born in 1864 as the sixth child of William Jordan and Molly Dyer Middleton. Later in life he was employed at St. Elizabeth's Mental Hospital where he met his wife Mary Jane Martin of nearby Pomfret. After his death in 1945, and

the death of his wife in 1959 the property descended to their oldest son Charles Elsworth Middleton. In 1965 Charles sold 158 acres and the dwelling to the Howard family, retaining the rest as a place of residence for himself.

The Alexius L. Middleton House shows many characteristics of late Victorian architecture in the Charles County. The two story frame dwelling one room deep with service wings attached to the rear was by far the most common dwelling for planters of middling means. Also a full-width hipped roof porch was a ubiquitous component of domestic architecture. The center passage was common nationally as well as regionally.

Although the Alexius L. Middleton house has lost a fair amount of its historic materials it yet retains a good deal of its historic character and setting. Nestled in an agricultural pocket surrounded by contemporary development, the Middleton Family homes including the Alexius L. Middleton House, Henry Dyer Middleton House (CH-615), and the Thomas A. Middleton Property (CH-610) are excellent surviving resources of the area's rural heritage.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-628

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	3.3486		
Acreage of historical setting	5		
Quadrangle name	LaPlata	Quadrangle scale	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property at 13155 Tommy Middleton Lane is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 24, Grid 12, Parcel 112.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Department	date	11/28/2000
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:

November 29, 1847	Joseph Stewart, Sheriff, at public auction 165 a. to John D. Bowling. **WM 3 Folio 46-47**
July 18, 1872	John D. and Elizabeth Bowling to Mary E. Middleton. 165 a. **GAH 2 Folio 102**
March 27, 1905	Mary E. Middleton to Alexius L. Middleton. $1000.00 "Part of Ware's Folly" formerly owned by Thomas M. Queen sold at public auction to John D. Bowling. 165 a. **Liber 16 Folio 123**
Date ?	Last will and testament of Alexius L. Middleton. To son Charles E. Middleton. **REC 23 Folio 70**
October 1965	Charles E. Middleton to Russell T. Howard, Jr. and Grace Howard. His wife. 158 a. known as Ware's Folly. **Liber 177 Folio 573**

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History.
LaPlata, MD: 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.

Lloyd, Daniel B. The Middletons and Kindred Families of Southern Maryland.
Bethesda, MD: Self-published, 1975.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 11/2000

North arrow:

N

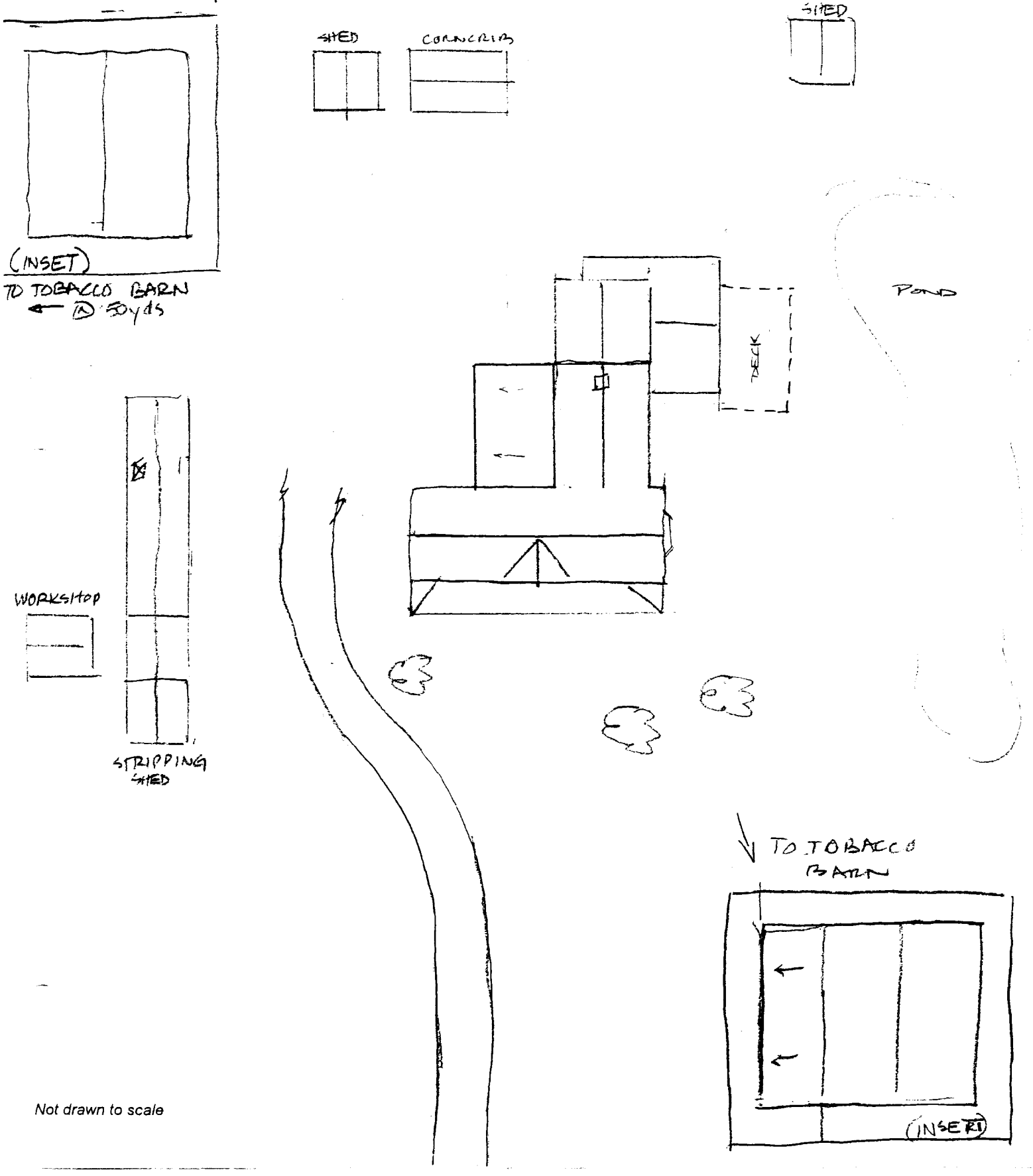
Name: ALEXIUS L. MIDDLETON HOUSE

Address: 13155 TOMMY MIDDLETON LN.

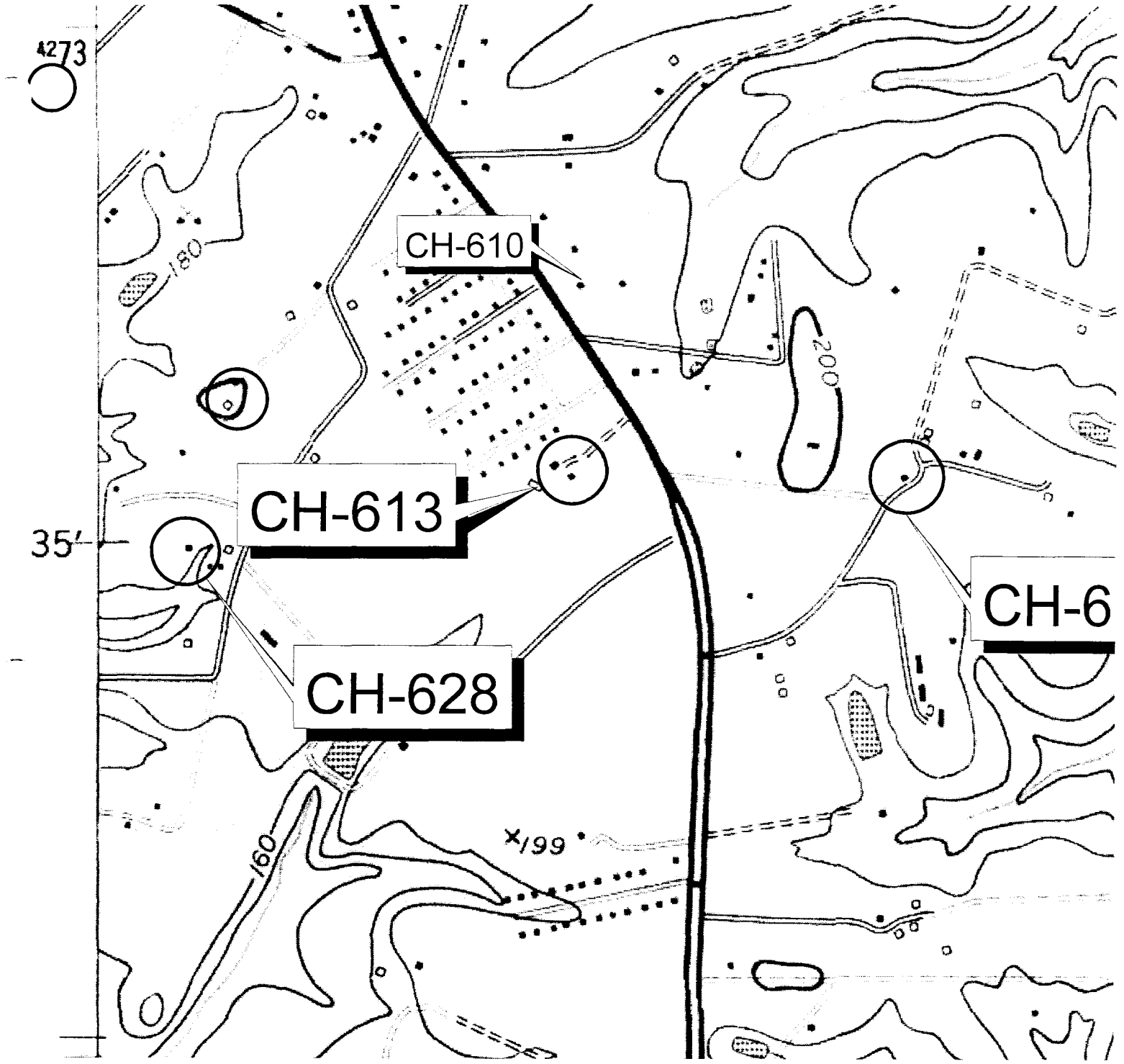
CH - 628

Charles County, Maryland

WALDORF ☒ Vicinity



Not drawn to scale



CH-628
Alexius L. Middleton House
Charles County, MD
Waldorf vic.



CH - 628
ALEXIUS L. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
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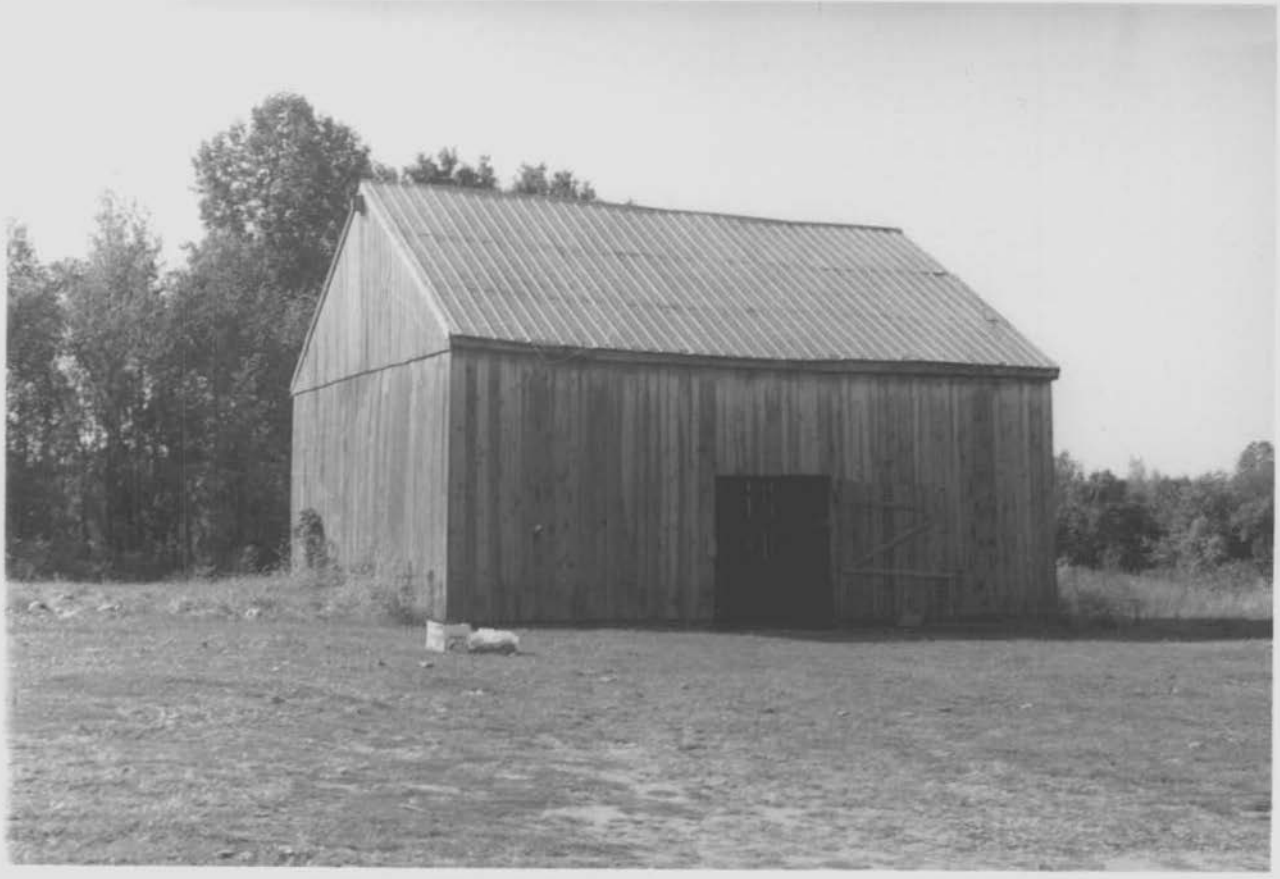
CH-628
ALEXIUS L. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
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CH - 628
ALEXIUS L. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
11/2000
C. CURREY
MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING WEST



CH-628
ALEXIUS L. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
11/2000
C. CURREY
MARYLAND SHPO
CORNCRIB, LOOKING NORTH



CH-628
ALEXIUS L. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
11/2000
C. CURREY/SHPO
MARYLAND
TOBACCO BARN. LOOKING WEST



CH-628
ALEXIUS L. MIDDLETON HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
11/2000
C. CURREY
MARYLAND SHPO
TOBACCO BARN & MAIN DRIVE, LOOKING SOUTH