

CH-656

George J. Turner House

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

George J. Turner House
CH-656
Gallant Green vic.
Private

1928

Constructed in 1928, the George J. Turner House is an excellent local example of a four-square dwelling with modest Prairie-style details, most clearly expressed in its overall emphasis on horizontal lines. Situated in the quickly developing northeastern section of Charles County, the site rests on eleven acres that is buffered by forested areas and open meadows. The house retains a substantial amount of original materials and is surrounded by three likely contemporary outbuildings including a shed, chicken house and garage.

In 1919 two brothers, George J. Turner and T. Spence Turner, purchased 585 acres on the road leading from Gallant Green and Aquasco, and by 1928 George J. Turner had constructed a sizeable dwelling on the northern portion of the property. After his death in 1936, the land was formally divided and his wife, Mary Chichester Turner acquired 285 acres surrounding the dwelling. She lived there until her death in the late 1950's.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-656

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic George J. Turner House
other

2. Location

street and number 16305 Woodville Road not for publication
city, town Gallant Green X vicinity
county Charles

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

name Anthony and Judith Reynolds
street and number P.O. Box 774 telephone Unknown
city, town Lacrosse state KS zip code 67548

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 17 p. 95
city, town LaPlata liber 248 folio 438

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
- Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>3</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>4</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> social		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				<u>0</u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-656

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

Constructed in 1928, the George J. Turner House is a two-story, two-bay, four-square dwelling with modest Prairie-style details. The house rests on an eleven acre parcel a short distance from Woodville Road in the northeastern section of Charles County. Although this area has experienced one of the the higher growth rates in the county over the last decade, the site is well buffered with trees and open meadows. Near the dwelling is a garage, chicken house and shed, all considered to contribute to the site's overall significance.

The dwelling, which faces north, is two stories in height with two bays on each elevation. The frame structure rests on a concrete foundation and is clad with cedar shingle siding. The hipped roof with ridge, has been reclad with asphalt shingles and is broken by two brick chimneys. Prairie style details include wide overhanging eaves, banding at the cornices and sill which emphasize horizontal lines, the 6/1 windows throughout, and a full width hipped porch.

The front elevation is distinguished by a the porch which rests on four Tuscan columns and is covered with a metal seam roof. The sheltered entrance to the dwelling is near the east wall and consists of a 12-light door surrounded by a 3-light transom and sidelights. The opposite bay on the first floor is a three window grouping of a standard 6/1 window flanked by a pair of narrower 6/1 windows. The second floor includes two pair of 6/1 windows.

Moving clockwise, the east elevation has a projecting three bay window near the south wall. This bay repeats the same wide cornice banding found under the main roof. The remaining windows are single 6/1; with one found on the first floor and two on the second.

Two single first floor and two single second story 6/1 windows appear on the main wall of the rear elevation next to a more complex fenestration found in the two story shed addition to the east. The addition includes an incised porch entrance on the first floor. A narrow 6/1 window is situated under the incised porch but along the main exterior wall. The door just to the west is further incised and is approached by a later wooden deck. Finally a narrow 6/1 window is found on the first floor south elevation of the shed addition. The second story of this ell has two pair of narrow 6/6 lights on the south wall and a pair each on the east and west elevations. An exterior basement entrance is accessed by a below grade stair nest to the main wall which is sheltered by two joined shed awnings around the first floor east easternmost window.

The west elevation has a projecting bay with a wide banded cornice on the first floor with braced supports. The bay includes a pair of 4-light fixed windows. Additional fenestration includes a 6/1 window on the first floor to the south, and two 6/1 windows on the second story.

The interior was not accessible at the time of the survey. Although the dominant stylistic features would point to a construction date between 1905-1920, tax records indicate a construction date of 1928.

OUTBUILDINGS

The shed, located off the southwest corner of the dwelling, is a small square frame structure covered with wood shingles. Having a front gable orientation, a centered wood panel door provides the only access into the structure. It appears to be in very good condition.

The chicken house is a long rectangular building located at the edge of the rear yard. It is a frame structure with vertical board siding, reclad in asphalt panels intended to resemble brick. A simple vertical board door is located near the east wall.

The garage is a front gable frame structure that faces west. Both the roof and the walls are currently clad in asphalt panels. Double doors are composed of vertical boards.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-656

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

Specific dates 1928

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1928

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

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 George J. Turner House is one of a handful of documented examples of the Prairie style in Charles County. Believed to have been built in 1928, the house retains an exceptional amount of original materials. In 1919, two brothers T. Spank Turner and George J. Turner purchased a farm known as part of Reading, Gravelly Walk and Butler's Place along the main road between Aquasco and Gallant Green. By 1936 George J. Turner had died, leaving his portion of the property to his wife, Mary Chichester Turner. Shortly afterwards T. Spence Turner and his sister-in-law, Mary Chichester Turner, decided to divide the property. Mary Chichester Turner acquired the dwelling house along with 215 acres standing on the northern section of the original parcel and continued to live in the dwelling for the remainder of her life until 1958 when it was willed to Margaret J. Chichester. In 1971 the property, then reduced to 12 acres, was transferred to Anthony and Judith Reynolds.

Originating in Chicago, the Prairie style is one of the few indigenous American styles. While landmark examples tend to appear in early 20th century suburbs, vernacular versions were popularized by pattern books and popular magazines. Largely fading out of fashion after World War II, this example, which according to tax records was constructed in 1928, illustrates how popular styles tended to remain popular in rural areas like Charles County after fading from national prominence.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-656

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 11.02

Acreage of historical setting 275

Quadrangle name Hughesville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

This site is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 17, Grid 24, Parcel 95.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning Dept.

date 4/10/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-656

Section 8 Page 1

George J. Turner House

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

Chain of title:

- May 9, 1919 Marion Duckett et al to T. Spence Turner and George J. Turner. "Reading", "Gravelly Walk" and "Butler's Place" more commonly known as the "Peter Wood Place". 585 acres.
- November 18, 1936 Will of George J. Turner leaving proerty to wife Mary Chichester Turner.
Wills 22 Folio 528
- July 31, 1944 T. Spence Turner and Mary C. Turner agree to divide the property with Mary keeping the dwelling and the north section of the property and T. Spence retaining the southernmost portion which borders the Prince **Georges County line.**
80:269
- January 1959 Last will and testament of Mary C. Turner to Margaret J. Chichester. Dwelling house and 12.02 acres. Followed through in deed 139:484
Wills 25:348
- December 29, 1971 Margaret J. Chichester to Anthony and Judith Reynolds. 12.02 acres.
248:438

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-656

Section 9 Page 1

George J. Turner House

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

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

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

Klaphor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 2/2001

North arrow:



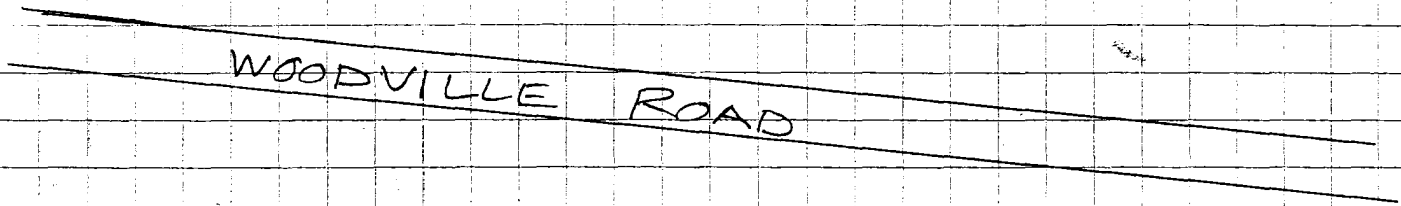
Name: GEORGE J. TURNER HOUSE

Address: 16305 WOODVILLE ROAD

CH - 656

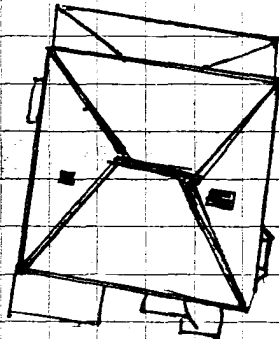
Charles County, Maryland

GALLANT GREEN X Vicinity

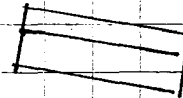


WOODDED

S

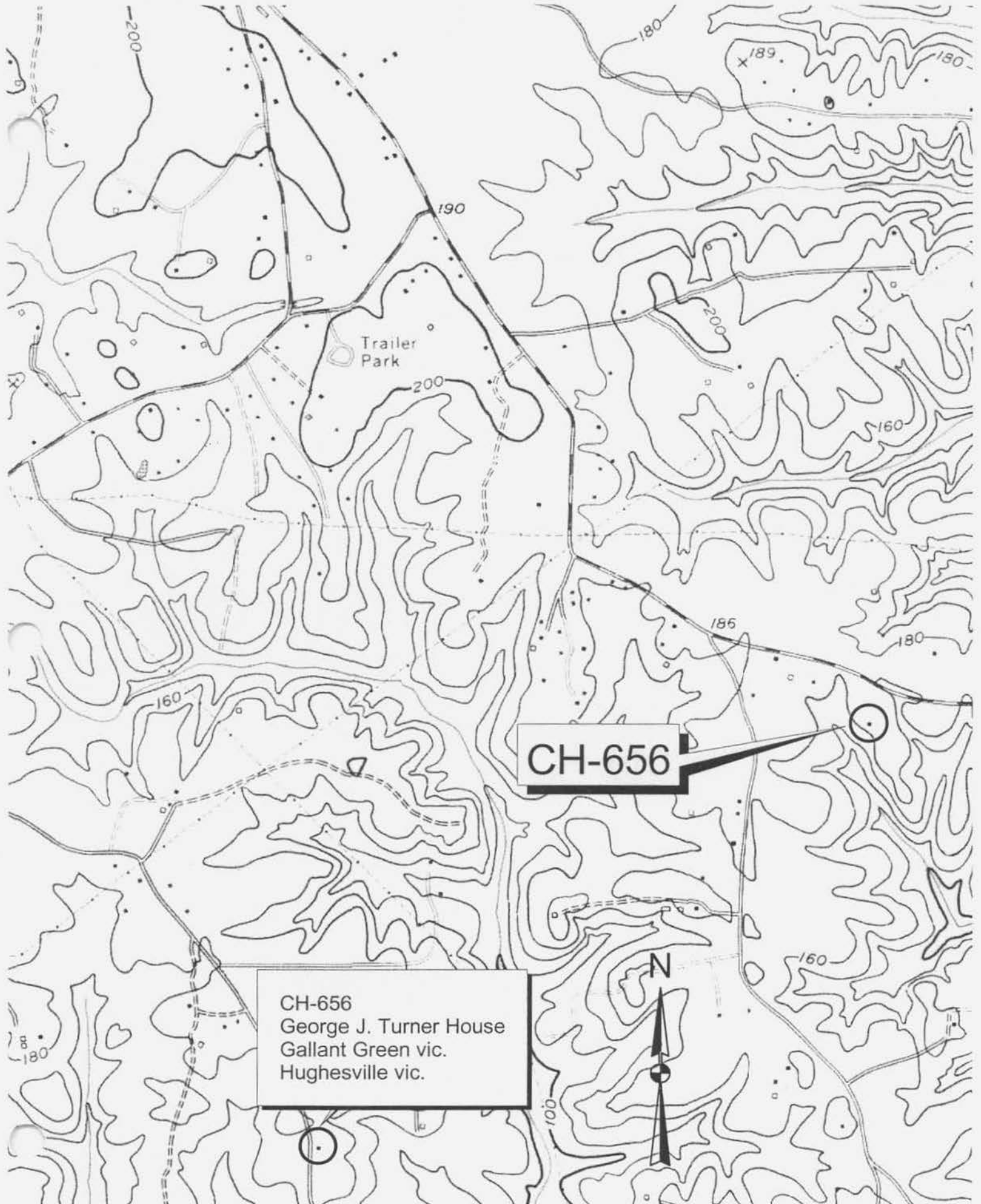


GARAGE



CHICKEN HOUSE

REAR FIELD



CH-656

CH-656
George J. Turner House
Gallant Green vic.
Hughesville vic.



CH. 656

GEORGE J TURNER HOUSE

GALLANT GREEN VIC.

2/2001

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

LOOKING SW

1 OF 6



CH. 656

GEORGE J. TURNER HOUSE

GALLANT GREEN VIC

2/2001

C. CURREY

MD - SHPO

REAR ELEVATION

? OF 6



CH-656

GEORGE J TURNER HOUSE

GALLANT GREEN VIC.

2/2001

C. CURREY

MD - HPS

WEST ELEVATION 3056



2/2001

GEORGE J. TURNER HOUSE
SAWANT GREEN VIC.

2/2001

C. CURRY

NO SHIP

SHED, LOOKING WEST

1 of 2



CH-656

GEORGE J. TURNER HOUSE

311 ANT STEEN VIC.

3/2001

C. CURREY

MO SHPO

CARAGE, LOOKING EAST

5 DE 2



CH. 656

GEORGE J. TURNER'S HOUSE

GALLANT GREEN VIC.

2/2001

C. CURREY

MID SHPD

CHICKEN HOUSE, LOOKING SE

6 OF 6