

CH-729

## Tompkinsville Store and Post Office

### **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](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 11-21-2003***

**Tompkinsville Store and Post Office**  
**CH-729**  
**Tompkinsville**  
**Private**

**Circa 1930**

The Tompkinsville Store and Post Office is a simple 1 story, front gable frame structure that stands directly on the south side of Rock Point Road. Believed to have been constructed around 1930, the store faces east and is three bays in width at the façade and three bays in length on the eave elevations. The structure includes typical Craftsmen-style details including a 6-light and panel door and 3/1 windows throughout. The Tompkinsville Store and Post Office is a good example of the very simple commercial structures built in Charles County during the first half of the 20th century. Believed to be constructed by members of the Frere family, this building as well as others along Rt. 257 are associated with the construction of the Southern Maryland Truckline during the 1920's, the first large scale State road improvement project in Charles County.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-729

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Tompkinsville Store and Post Office  
other

### 2. Location

street and number 15089 Rock Point Road not for publication  
city, town Tompkinsville vicinity  
county Charles

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

name William J. and Louise C. Frere  
street and number 15095 Rock Point Road telephone Unknown  
city, town Newburg state MD zip code 20664-3206

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 86, p 68  
city, town La Plata liber 158 folio 743

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
			0	

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. CH-729

### Condition

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

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

The Tompkinsville Store and Post Office is a simple 1 story, front gable frame structure that stands directly on the south side of Rock Point Road in one of Charles County's many small crossroads villages that developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Believed to have been constructed around 1930, the store faces east and is three bays in width at the façade and three bays in length on the eave elevations. The roof is now covered in asphalt shingles and is pierced by a chimney in the rear of the structure at the ridge line. A hipped roof porch resting on four simple square wood posts extends the full width of the front elevation. Above the porch is a diamond shaped grate which provides attic ventilation. The structure includes typical Craftsmen-style details including a 6-light and panel door and 3/1 windows throughout. The store has been re-clad in vinyl siding. While currently serving as a private residence, evidence of its former commercial use exists in the presence of a concrete block island which once held gas pumps, but now contains only an early light fixture and post. The interior was not available at the time of the survey.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-729

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 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 checked="" 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** circa 1930

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** circa 1930

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 Tompkinsville Store and Post Office is a good example of the very simple commercial structures built in Charles County during the first half of the 20th century. Believed to be constructed around 1930 by members of the Frere family, this building as well as others along Rt. 257 are associated with the construction of the Southern Maryland Truckline in Charles County during the 1920's.

Running north-south through the center of the county, the Crain Highway as it was later named, (Route 301 today) eventually linked Charles County to Baltimore and points north. Robert Crain, a prominent county resident, was instrumental in lobbying the state for funds to build the highway. Originally known as the Southern Maryland Trunk Line, it was renamed Robert Crain Highway after its most fervent supporter. Ground was broken for this concrete-paved highway on September 30, 1922 which extended from Lancaster Wharf in Rock Point through LaPlata, White Plains and Waldorf on its way to Baltimore. The highway made automobile travel speedy and convenient for both farmers transporting goods to market in Baltimore, and for passengers doing business or visiting outside the county. The road also opened the area to tourism, as urban and suburban dwellers sought to escape to the country for a day or a weekend.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-729

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 1  
Acreage of historical setting 1  
Quadrangle name Colonial Beach North Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Tompkinsville Store and Post Office is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 86, Parcel 68.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Dept	date	10/30/01
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-729

Section 8 Page 1

Tompkinsville Store & Post Office  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

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Chain of Title:

1962                      Phyllis M. Frere, widow to William J. Frere and Louise C. Frere  
**158/743**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-729

Section 9 Page 1

Tompkinsville Store and Post Office  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

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**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.



CH-729 Charles County, MD  
Name: TOMPKINSVILLE STORE  
Location: TOMPKINSVILLE  
Quad: COLONIAL BEACH NORTH



CA-729

TOMPKINSVILLE SPRE # PO

CHARLES CO. MD

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

5/2001

LOOKING W



CH-729  
TOMPKINSVILLE STORE & PO  
CHARLES CO, MD  
C. CURREY  
MD SHPD  
5/2001  
LOOKING NW  
2052