

23/68 THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE  
20501 Georgia Ave.

DEAD 7/2002



**Thomas D. Riggs House**  
20501 Georgia Avenue  
#23/068

The Thomas Riggs House, located on the east side of Route 97, near Sunshine, is now part of Camp Bennett of the Central Union Mission. The property includes the mid-19th-century Thomas Riggs House, a 19th century crib barn, a chicken house, and several non-contributing buildings and structures associated with the camp, including sleeping cabins, crafts cabins, a chapel, and a swimming pool. The Riggs family cemetery, which is located within the boundaries of the adjacent property, is located east of the dwelling, in a wooded area. The Thomas Riggs House currently serves as the residence/office for the director of the camp. This structure is the surviving, much altered, remnant of a productive 19th-century farming operation in this part of Montgomery County. The farm was begun and run for much of its history by Thomas Riggs, great-grandson of the founding member of the Maryland line of the prominent Riggs family, and nephew of George W. Riggs of Washington, D.C., founder of the Corcoran, Riggs and Company, predecessor of the Riggs National Bank of Washington. However, the property lacks the integrity necessary to meet the requirements for historic designation based on the criteria stated in Section 24A-3 of the *Historic Preservation Ordinance*.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: 219.57 acres, Parcel P375 on tax map HU 63.

M: 23-68  
Thomas D. Riggs House  
Montgomery County, MD

The Thomas Riggs House, located on the east side of Route 97, near Sunshine, is now part of Camp Bennett of the Central Union Mission. The property includes the mid-19th-century Thomas Riggs House, a 19th century crib barn, a chicken house, and several non-contributing buildings and structures associated with the camp, including sleeping cabins, crafts cabins, a chapel, and a swimming pool. The Riggs family cemetery, which is located within the boundaries of the adjacent property, is located east of the dwelling, in a wooded area. The Thomas Riggs House currently serves as the residence/office for the director of the camp. This structure is the surviving, much altered, remnant of a productive 19th-century farming operation in this part of Montgomery County. The farm was begun and run for much of its history by Thomas Riggs, great-grandson of the founding member of the Maryland line of the prominent Riggs family, and nephew of George Riggs of Washington, D.C., founder of the Corcoran, Riggs and Company, predecessor of the Riggs National Bank of Washington. However, the property lacks the integrity necessary to meet the Criteria of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. M-23-68

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Thomas Riggs House

common/other name Camp Bennett

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 20501 Georgia Ave Not for publication       

city or town Brookeville vicinity X state Maryland code MD

county Montgomery code        zip code 20833

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>	sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes        Name of Listing        No X

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE Crib Barn

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
RELIGIOUS Church Office

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
roof Gable: Asphalt shingles  
walls Log and frame with vinyl siding  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance circa 1865-circa 1879  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates circa 1865  
circa 1879  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1





=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreage of Property 219.57 acres

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)** The Thomas Riggs House occupies a 219.57 acre tract of land on the east side of Georgia Avenue north of the city of Brookeville.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

This 234-acre parcel has been associated with the Thomas Riggs House since its construction circa 1865.

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Kimberly Williams/Michele Naru, Architectural Historians  
organization M-NCPPC date 7-14-99  
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301/563-3403  
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910  
=====

12. Property Owner  
=====

name Central Union Mission  
street & number 1350 R Street, N.W. telephone 301-774-4420  
city or town Washington, D.C. state DC zip code 20009  
=====

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Inventory No. M-23-68  
Thomas Riggs House  
name of property  
Montgomery County, MD  
county and state

=====  
The Thomas Riggs House, located on the east side of Route 97, near Sunshine, is now part of Camp Bennett of the Central Union Mission. The property includes the mid-19th-century Thomas Riggs House, a 19th century crib barn, a chicken house, and several non-contributing buildings and structures associated with the camp, including sleeping cabins, crafts cabins, a chapel, and a swimming pool. The Riggs family cemetery, which is located within the boundaries of the adjacent property, is located east of the dwelling, in a wooded area. The Thomas Riggs House currently serves as the residence/office for the director of the camp.

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The Thomas Riggs House was built in two distinct phases in the mid-19th century and has been significantly altered during the second half of the 20th century. The dwelling consists of a small, one-room, gable-roofed stone structure with a massive stone and brick end chimney, built circa 1865, and now serving as a kitchen/dining wing; and a two-story, two-bay, gable-roofed frame structure abutting the original stone structure and built circa 1879. These two sections of the house are enveloped by a one-story, wrap-around, shed-roofed addition built in the mid-20th century.

Exterior Description:

The stone wing:

The stone wing is the oldest part of the house. Probably originally built as a dwelling when constructed circa 1865<sup>1</sup>, this stone structure became the kitchen, when the frame house now adjoining it was built in 1879.<sup>2</sup> The original house has been significantly altered on the exterior and interior by modern additions, leaving only the roofline and end chimney wall intact and visible.

The south elevation is the only exposed exterior wall of the house. It consists of the gable end wall with the chimney. The stone wall is parged with concrete or stucco and its attic level windows to either side of the end chimney have been blocked up. The chimney has a large stone and brick shaft. It has been heavily parged and the brickwork reworked.

The east and west elevations of the stone wing are behind the one-story, wrap-around addition, while the north elevation abuts the

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<sup>1</sup>A house is indicated on the 1865 Martenet and Bond Map at this site.

<sup>2</sup>Montgomery County Judgement Records, Equity #327, EBP 9/70

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Inventory No. M-23-68

Thomas Riggs House

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====  
larger frame structure. The steeply pitched gable roof, however, is visible above the wrap-around addition, providing a view of the building's original massing.

The interior of the building reveals partially exposed hewn rafters and a large stone fireplace surround.

The main block:

The main block of the house--the two-story frame structure--was built by 1879, as described in an 1879 deed. This deed describes the frame house as having five rooms and a kitchen (the stone wing). It is today encased on the first story by a contemporary wrap-around addition, and features all new doors and windows, vinyl siding and a standing seam metal roof. The interior retains no historic fabric.

The west (front) elevation of the house is two bays wide with two single, 1/1 windows in the second story and the wrap-around shed-roofed porch on the first story. The shed-roof extension has banks of vinyl windows and a single entry door.

The north elevation is three bays deep with a tri-partite replacement window towards the rear bay on the first story and three, single 1/1 replacement windows on the second story. The attic level has a single 1/1 replacement window on center.

The east elevation has a one-story, shed-roof addition against the first story and wood deck above, corresponding with the second story. The shed-roofed addition is, here, set upon a stone foundation, and though clad with vinyl siding and featuring new windows, was an original shed wing to the house.

Outbuildings and Cemetery:

**Crib Barn:** The crib barn and attached chicken house is located to the north of the house and is in deteriorating condition. The crib barn is a timber frame, mortise-and-tenon structure with a side-drive crib, covered with a gable roof. The walls are clad with the vertical wood boards, and the roof with standing seam metal. The attached chicken house abuts the west end of the crib barn, making the drive-through crib unusable for vehicles. It is a frame, make-shift type addition with vertical board siding and a standing seam metal roof.

**Riggs Family Cemetery:** The Riggs family cemetery is located several hundred yards east of the dwelling in a patch of woods located on adjacent property. The cemetery is overgrown with vegetation, and

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Inventory No. M-23-68  
Thomas Riggs House  
name of property  
Montgomery County, MD  
county and state

=====  
includes several inscribed tombstones, both upright and fallen. The most notable tombstone is that of Remus Riggs (1790-1867) and his wife Catherine (1811-1893). It is a stone obelisk set upon a stone base with the name RIGGS embossed on it. One face of the obelisk includes the name, birth and death dates of the couple, an epigraph, and at the top and bottom of the obelisk, decorative stonework. Thomas Riggs (died 1889) is not buried in the cemetery, but was apparently laid to rest in a cemetery on adjacent property.

**Non-Contributing Buildings:**

There are several non-contributing buildings which are part of the camp facility. One of these structures is a low-lying concrete block living facility northwest of the house and barn. The other buildings are clustered at the end of the long drive that leads from Georgia Avenue to the house and beyond to the camp. These buildings include log sleeping cabins, mess cabin, swimming pool and other facilities.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Inventory No. M-23-68

Thomas Riggs House

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

=====

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Thomas Riggs House, located at 20501 Georgia Avenue is presently a part of Camp Bennett and standing in a much altered state. This structure is the surviving remnant of a productive 19th-century farming operation in this part of Montgomery County. The farm was begun and run for much of its history by Thomas Riggs, great-grandson of the founding member of the Maryland line of the prominent Riggs family, and nephew of George Riggs of Washington, D.C., founder of the Corcoran, Riggs and Company, predecessor of the Riggs National Bank of Washington. However, the property lacks the integrity necessary to meet the Criteria of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Context:

The Thomas Riggs House appears on the 1865 *Martenet and Bond Map of Montgomery County* as the home of Thomas Riggs. Thomas Riggs was the son of Remus Riggs (1790-1867) and Catharine Riggs (1811-1893), both of whom are buried in the family cemetery located on adjoining property to the Thomas Riggs House.

The house was built by 1865 by either Thomas Riggs, or his father, Remus Riggs. Remus Riggs was the grandson of John Riggs (1687-1762), who established the Maryland line of the Riggs family in the 18th century. Remus Riggs was also the brother of George Riggs of Washington, partner of the Washington banking firm of Corcoran, Riggs and Company, predecessor of the Riggs National Bank of Washington.

Remus Riggs owned the property on which he and his son, Thomas, both had houses until his death in December 1867. As stated in his will, "to my son, Thomas D. Riggs, I bequeath the farm on which he now resides."<sup>3</sup> Although it is not certain when Remus Riggs came to Montgomery County, the 1879 G.M. Hopkins Map indicates that Thomas Riggs, listed as a farmer in the directory, had settled there in 1833.<sup>4</sup>

In 1876 Thomas Riggs conveyed a mortgage on his farm to Robert H.

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<sup>3</sup> Will book JWS 1 Folio 249.

<sup>4</sup> The 1879 G.M. Hopkins *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including Montgomery County, Maryland*, includes a list of patrons, their occupation and when they settled in the county, as well as other information.

=====  
MacGill, his brother-in-law. The following year, MacGill died leaving his wife and Thomas' sister, Amelia Riggs MacGill, as the recipient of this mortgage. In 1879, Amelia MacGill foreclosed on the mortgage and offered the farm for sale. The notice of the sale described the farm as being 275-1/4 acres and improved by a "frame dwelling of five rooms and a kitchen (probably the stone section), a stable accommodatng eleven horses with 70 feet of shed attached, a corn house, wagon sheds, blacksmith shop, dairy, two tenant houses and all the other necessary outbuildings." Orchards of apples, pears and peaches were also found on the farm, which was reported to be one of the most productive farms in the area. Receiving no acceptable bids on the farm, Amelia MacGill purchased it herself for \$6,055.50 in October of 1879.<sup>5</sup> That same year, Thomas Riggs was listed as the owner of 275-3/4 acres of land in the area.<sup>6</sup> Thomas Riggs died in 1889; his obituary in the *Sentinel*, identifies him as a "young farmer" and son of Remus D. Riggs.<sup>7</sup>

In 1902, Amelia MacGill died. In her will, she stated that the farm was to be held in trust for the use of Thomas D. Riggs, during his lifetime<sup>8</sup>, and then sold and the proceeds to be divided between the children of John A. Riggs. In August of 1920, the executor of Amelia's will conveyed the "Thomas Riggs Farm" to Susan, Robert, Anna, Lawrason and John Riggs and Elizabeth Howard. Five months later, the heirs sold the 276 acre farm to Charles Thomas Nicholson.

Charles and his wife, Mamie, defaulted on their mortgage, and in 1932, the property was put up for sale at public auction. It was purchased by a Ober W. and Mary C. Daily, who the following year, sold 234 acres to the Central Union Mission for the establishment of Camp Bennett. Dedicated in July 1934, camp Bennett provided work for unemployed men, and provided garden produce for the Emergency Children's Home and Homeless. Over the years, thousands of children from inner-city neighborhoods in Washington, D.C. have

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<sup>5</sup> Catherine Crawford, Maryland Historical Trust State Inventory of Historic Sites form, 1982.

<sup>6</sup> G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including Montgomery County, Maryland*, 19. Based upon the acreage, it appears to be the same land in question.

<sup>7</sup> *The Sentinel*, Nov. 1, 1889

<sup>8</sup> This must be another relation, because Thomas Riggs, son of Remus, died in 1889 (see above).

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Inventory No. M-23-68  
Thomas Riggs House  
name of property  
Montgomery County, MD  
county and state

=====

attended summer camp sessions at Camp Bennett. The camp is supported by donations from individuals, churches and other interested groups and supports about 235 or more campers each summer.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-23-68  
Thomas Riggs House  
name of property  
Montgomery County, MD  
county and state

=====  
**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Piedmont

**Chronological/Development Period (s):** Agricultural-Industrial  
Transition, 1815-1870

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

Agriculture;  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Standing Structure

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** Domestic

**Known Design Source:**



MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-23-68  
Thomas Riggs House  
name of property  
Montgomery County, MD  
county and state

=====  
**Chain of Title:**

December 18, 1867            Remus Riggs died. (Tombstone located in  
                                 cemetery on Thomas Riggs Farm)

1868                         Remus Riggs leaves the property to his  
                                 son, Thomas D. Riggs. (Will Book JWS 1  
                                 Folio 249)

February 8, 1876            Thomas D Riggs to Robert H. MacGill and  
                                 Amelia J. (Riggs) MacGill.

                                 Robert H. MacGill died.

                                 Robert H. MacGill to Amelia J. MacGill.

                                 "For value received and by order of the  
                                 Order of Orphans Court for Frederick  
                                 County, we the undersigned, Executrix and  
                                 Executor of Robert H. MacGill, late of  
                                 Frederick County died, hereby transferred,  
                                 assign the withsenth and foregoing  
                                 mortgage to Amelia J. MacGill the same  
                                 being devised to her by the last will of  
                                 said R.H. MacGill, deed dated January 24,  
                                 1877." (Written along the margin of Deed  
                                 Book EBP 14/377)

January 26, 1880            Hattersly W. Talbott, trustee, to Amelia  
                                 J. MacGill. (Deed Book EBP 21 Folio 452)

August 5, 1920             Richard P. Tippet, executor of Amelia J.  
                                 MacGill's will, to Lawrason B. Riggs et  
                                 al. (Deed book 300 Liber 491)

January 26, 1921            Lawrason B. Riggs et al to Charles Thomas  
                                 Nicholson (Deed Book 302 Folio 115)

1921                         Charles T. and Mamie F. Nicholson  
                                 defaulted on their mortgage. Property  
                                 went up for sale at a public auction on  
                                 July 2, 1932. Mr. Ober W. Dailey was the  
                                 highest bidder and bought the property.  
                                 Albert M. Bouic was the attorney.  
                                 (Referenced to in Deed Book 540 Folio 326)

August 1, 1932             Albert M. Bouic, Attorney, to Ober W. and  
                                 Mary C. Dailey. (Deed Book 540 Folio 326)

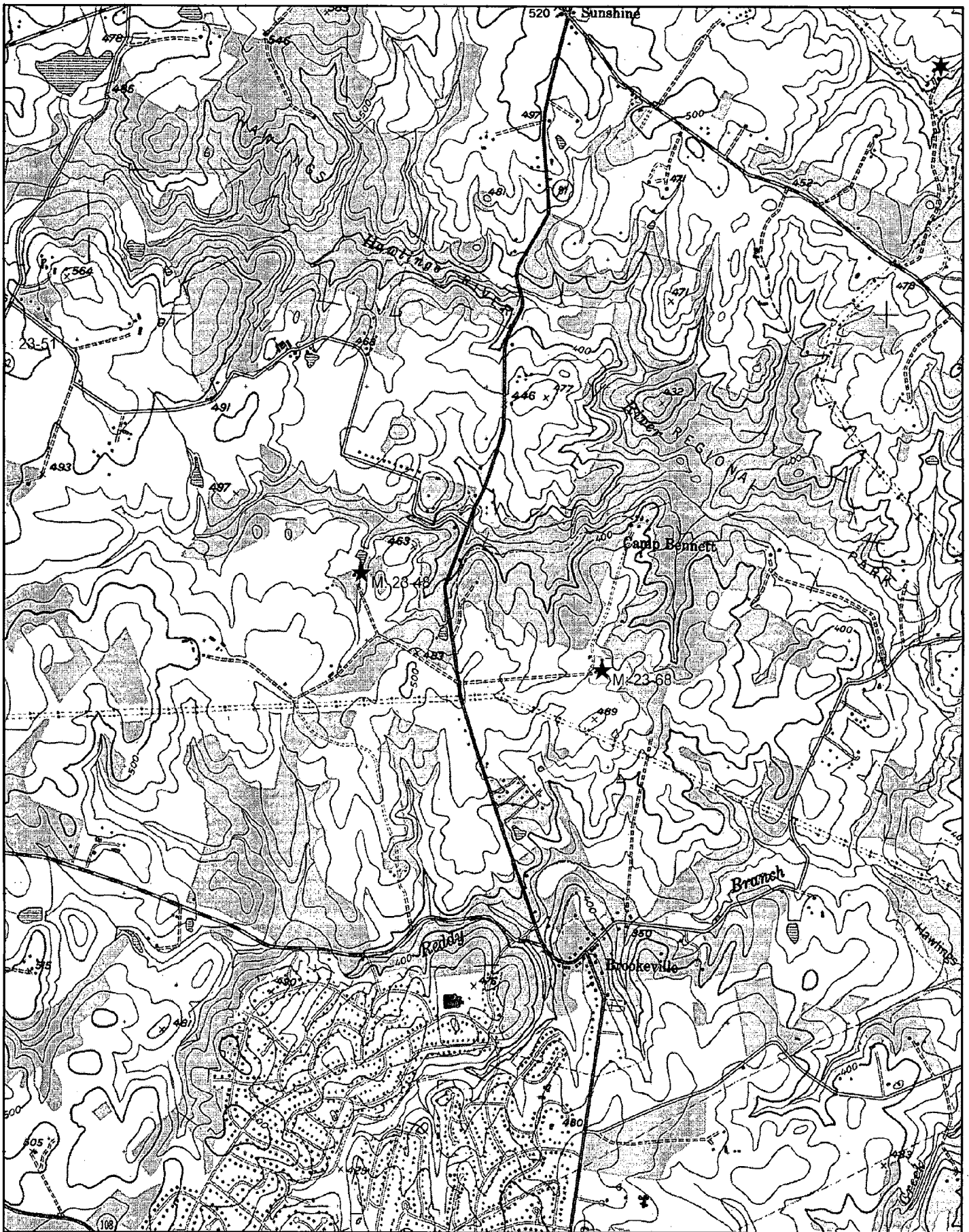
MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-23-68  
Thomas Riggs House  
name of property  
Montgomery County, MD  
county and state

=====

September 20, 1933

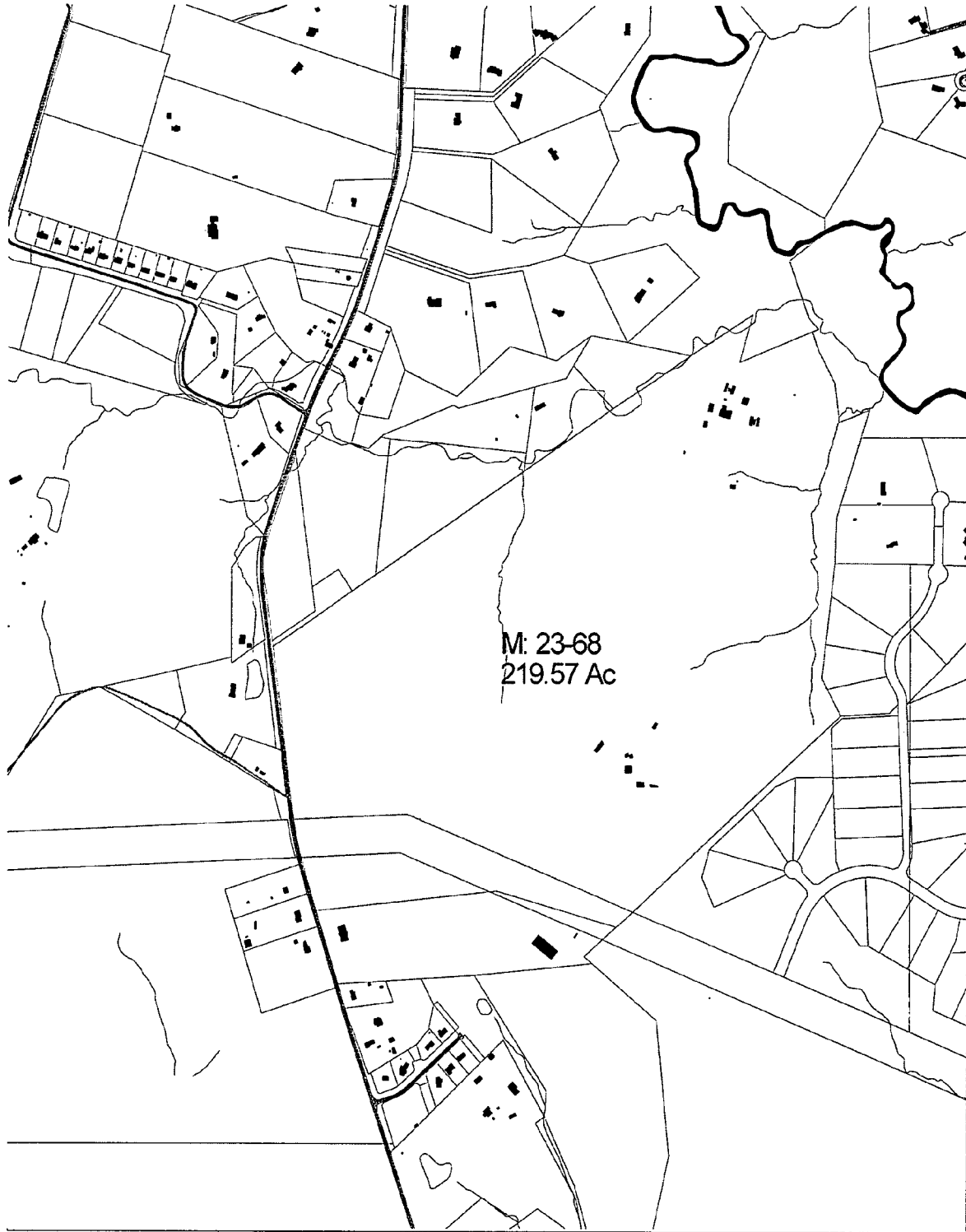
Ober W. and Mary C. Dailey to Central  
Union Mission (Present Owners).  
(Deed Book 560 Folio 172)



Name: SANDY SPRING  
Date: 7/13/99  
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 11' 42.5" N 077° 03' 54.6" W  
Caption: THOMAS D. RIGGS HOUSE (M: 23-68)  
20501 Georgia Av.

# THOMAS D. RIGGS HOUSE & CEMETERY (M: 23-68)



M: 23-68  
219.57 Ac

Casual User Application

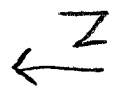


MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

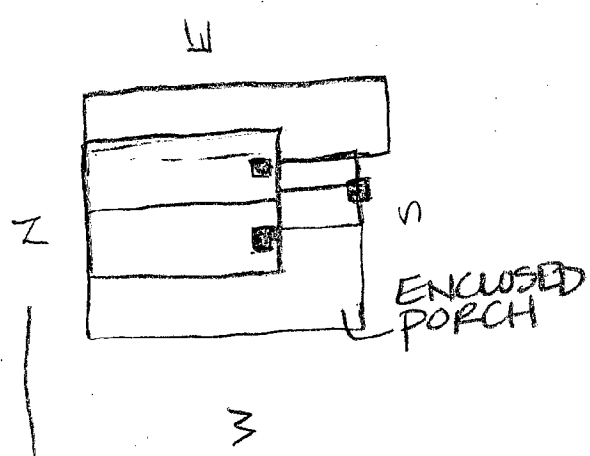
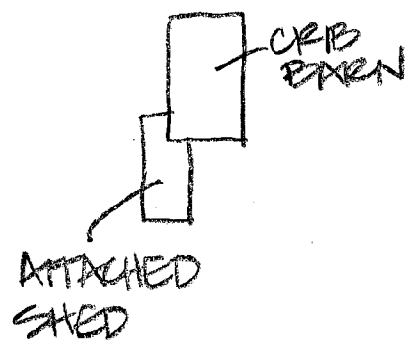
N  
Scale 1" = 1000'



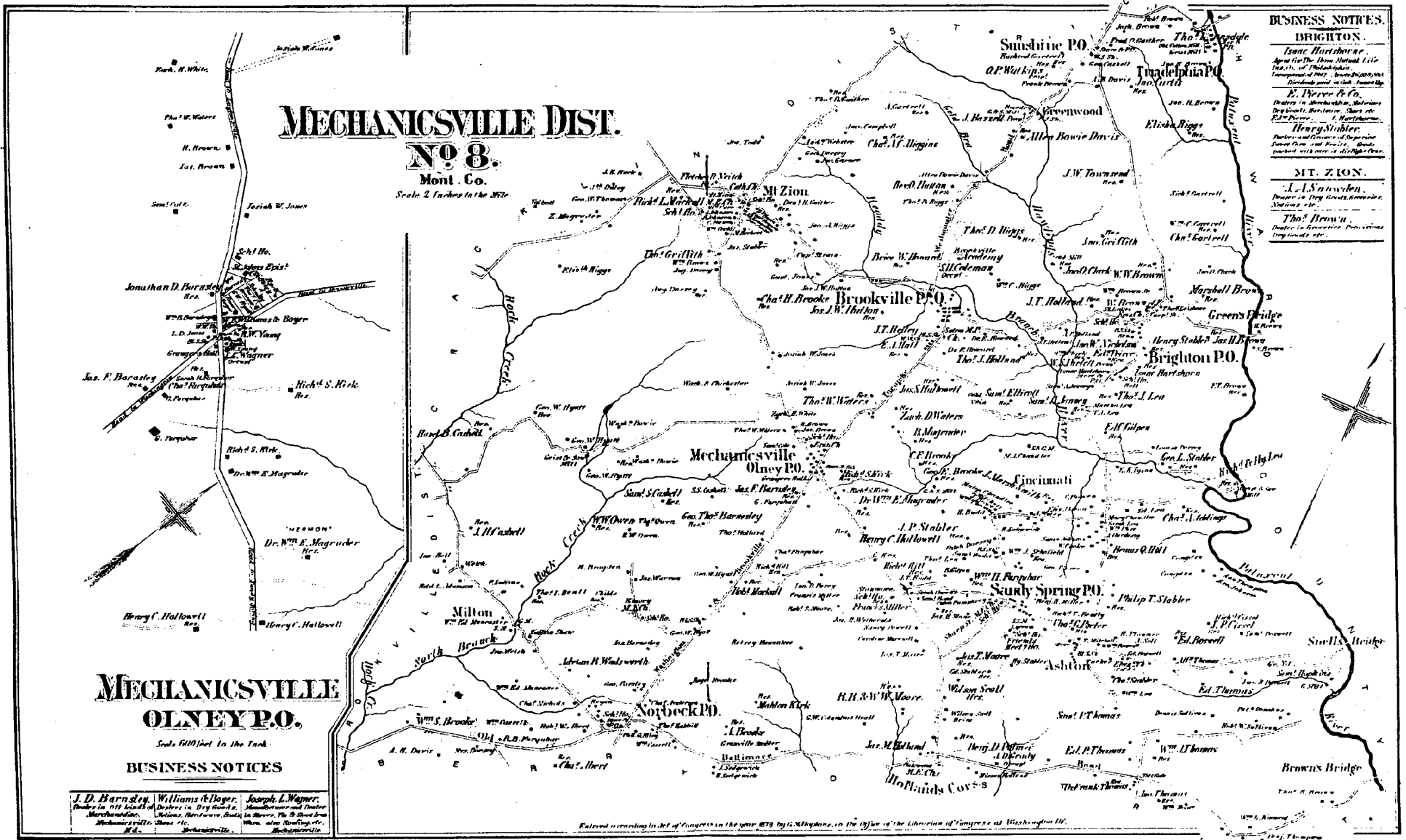
23-08  
THOMAS RIEFF CEMETERY  
HOUSE



ON SEPARATE  
PARCEL IN  
WOODS



GEORGIA AVE



# MECHANICSVILLE DIST.

## No. 8.

Mont. Co.

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile

# MECHANICSVILLE OLNEY P.O.

Scale 1/2 Mile to the Inch

### BUSINESS NOTICES

<b>J. D. Barnsley</b> Dealer in Old Scotch Whisky, Mechanicsville, Md.	<b>Williams &amp; Boyer</b> Wholesale and Retail Merchandise, Mechanicsville, Md.	<b>Joseph L. Wagner</b> Wholesale and Retail Merchandise, Mechanicsville, Md.
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### BUSINESS NOTICES BRIGHTON.

**Isaac Hartshorn**  
Agent for The Home National Life  
Ins. Co. of Philadelphia  
Transferred from Mechanicsville  
Residence in Brighton, Md.

**E. Bevier & Co.**  
Wholesale and Retail  
Dry Goods, Hardware, Shoes etc.  
Ed. Bevier, J. Hartshorn

**Henry Stabler**  
Wholesale and Retail  
Dry Goods, Hardware, Shoes etc.  
Residence in Brighton, Md.

### MT. ZION.

**A. I. Sawicki**  
Dealer in Dry Goods, Hardware,  
Notions etc.

**Thos. Brown**  
Dealer in Hardware, Provisionary  
Dry Goods etc.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1879 by G. M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington, D.C.

Hopkins, G.M., comp. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland, 1879. Reprint. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

















23-68

THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO  
SOUTH ELEVATION

2 OF 9



23-08

THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO

BARN, LOCATED NORTH OF MAIN HOUSE

(079)







23-68

THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD  
KIM WILLIAMS

4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO  
NORTH ELEVATION

4 of 9



23-68

THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

KIM WILLIAMS

4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO  
EAST ELEVATION

3 OF 9



23-08

THOMAS RIGGS HOUSE

MONTGOMERY CO., MD  
KIM WILLIAMS

4-12-99

MARYLAND SHPO

STONE FIREPLACE, LOCATED IN ORIGINAL

SECTION OF HOUSE

5 of 9

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Thomas D. Riggs House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Camp Bennett-Rte. 97, north of Brookeville

CITY, TOWN

Brookeville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Central Union Mission-Camp Bennett Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Rte. 97

CITY, TOWN

Brookeville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE



**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Part of this building may be quite old, but most of it has been obscured from view by various remodelings. The main house is a square, two-story frame building, of two bays on its main (west) facade. It may have been built in its present shape, but the presence of an old brick chimney stack at the SW corner (and a number of other older features) indicates an earlier dwelling underneath. Affixed to the south side of this house is a low, one-story-with-loft, fieldstone wing. This wing has a massive, stone fireplace chimney on the outside south wall, and there is a pair of tiny attic windows here, also.

Most of the house is further obscured by an enclosed, jalousie porch, that covers the first floor on the west and south facades.

There are several, rough-sawn-lumber farm buildings on the property.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

8/15/75

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

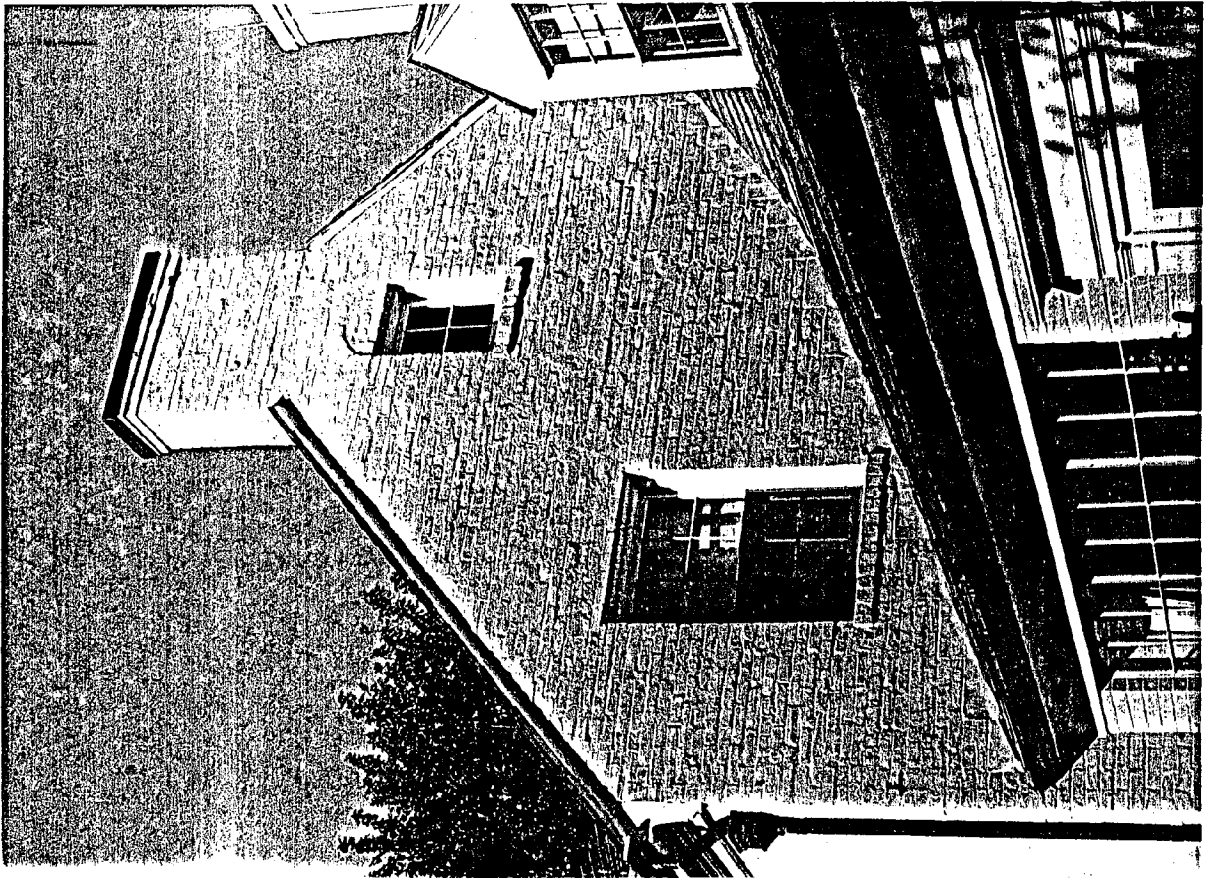
STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas D. Riggs Farmhouse

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Camp Bennett, Rt. 97, north of Brookeville  not for publicationcity, town Brookeville  vicinity of congressional district 8th

state Maryland county Montgomery

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Central Union Mission, Camp Bennett

street &amp; number 613 C St. NW telephone no.:

city, town Washington, D.C. state and zip code 20004

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Court House liber 560

street &amp; number folio 172

city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MNCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Park Historian's Office

city, town Rockville state Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Part of this building may be quite old, but most of it has been obscured from view by various remodelings. The main house is a square, two-story frame building, of two bays on its main (west) facade. It may have been built in its present shape, but the presence of an old brick chimney stack at the SW corner (and a number of other older features) indicates an earlier dwelling underneath. Affixed to the south side of this house is a low, one-story-with-loft, fieldstone wing. This wing has a massive, stone fireplace chimney on the outside south wall, and there is a pair of tiny attic windows here, also.

Most of the house is further obscured by an enclosed, jalousie porch, that covers the first floor on the west and south facades.

There are several, rough-sawn-lumber farm buildings on the property.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8. Significance

Survey No. \_\_\_\_\_

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Thomas D. Riggs farmhouse is significant as an example of vernacular architecture typical of that constructed in Montgomery County from the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries. The single story stone wing (with a large stone chimney) at the south elevation of the later frame structure is very old. It appears on the 1865 map of the county, as the home of Thomas D. Riggs, but may be older than 1865. It was probably built by either Thomas or his father, Remus Riggs, who owned the property until his death in 1867 when the farm became the legal property of his son. As stated in his will, "to my son, Thomas D. Riggs, I Bequeath the farm on which he now resides."<sup>1</sup> Thomas, who first settled in the area in 1833, was a Brookeville farmer.<sup>2</sup>

In February of 1876, Thomas conveyed a mortgage on his farm to Robert H. MacGill.<sup>3</sup> In 1879, Amelia Riggs MacGill, wife of the late Robert MacGill, foreclosed on the mortgage and offered the farm for sale. The notice of the sale described the farm as being 275 1/4 acres located on the road from Brookeville to Westminster (1 1/2 miles from Brookeville) near the intersection with the Union turnpike. The property adjoined the lands of A.B. Davis, Rev. Hutton and B.W. Howard. It was reported to be one of the most productive farms in the area. At this time, it was improved by a frame dwelling of five rooms and a kitchen (probably the stone section), a stable accommodating eleven horses with 70 feet of shed attached, a corn house, wagon sheds, blacksmith shop, dairy, two tenant houses and all the other necessary outbuildings. Orchards of apples, pears and peaches were also found on the farm. Amelia MacGill, receiving no acceptable bids on the farm, purchased it herself for \$6055.50 in October of 1879.<sup>4</sup>

In March of 1902,<sup>5</sup> Amelia died. In her will she stated that the farm was to be held in trust for the use of Thomas D. Riggs, during his lifetime, and then to be sold and the proceeds to be divided between the children of John A. Riggs.<sup>5</sup> In August of 1920, the executor of Amelia's will conveyed the "Thomas D. Riggs Farm" to Susan, Robert, Anna, Lawrason and John Riggs and Elizabeth Howard.<sup>6</sup> Five months later, the heirs sold the 276 acre farm to Charles Thomas Nicholson.<sup>7</sup>

see attachment sheet A

attachment sheet A

In 1932, Charles and his wife, Mamie, defaulted on their mortgage and the farm was offered at a public sale. The property was described as a farm of 240 acres adjoining the lands of Harry Musgrove, Austin Powell and others, including 160 to 170 acres of cleared, farmable land. The improvements to the farm consisted of a seven room stone and frame house with a pantry, three porches and a cellar. Also on the farm were a corn house with a wagon shed attached, a large hog house, machine shed, meat house, two tenant houses and other necessary outbuildings. The farm was sold to Ober W. Daily for \$8000.<sup>8</sup> A year later, Daily sold the farm (then consisting of 233.4 acres) to the presentowner, Central Union Mission.<sup>9</sup> The house serves as the private residence of the director of this still operating farm.

<sup>1</sup>Will JWS 1/249, Mont. Co. Register of Wills.

<sup>2</sup>Hopkins Atlas of 1878, p.19.

<sup>3</sup>Mtg. EBP 14/377, Mont. Co. Land Records.

<sup>4</sup>Equity #327, EBP 9/70, Mont. Co. Judgement Records.

<sup>5</sup>Will HCA 14/175, Mont. Co. Register of Wills.

<sup>6</sup>Deed 300/491, Mont. Co. Land Records.

<sup>7</sup>Deed 305/115, " " " "

<sup>8</sup>Equity #6468, 58/427, Mont. Co. Judgement Records.

<sup>9</sup>Deed 560/172.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mont. Co. Land Records  
Mont. Co. Judgement Records  
Mont. Co. Register of Wills

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 219.57 acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catherine Crawford

organization M.C. Hist. Preservation Commission date 10/82

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Rockville state Maryland

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return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438



## ANNAPOLIS INTENSIVE SURVEY - EXTERIOR FORM

ADDRESS: *Thomas Reggs*

Architectural Style:

Date of Construction:

Type of Resource:

Number of Stories:

Component	#	Type/Form	Material	Treatment
Foundation		<i>stone</i>		
Struc. System			<i>vinyl siding</i>	
Chimney		<i>Brick + stone/Brick (historic)</i>		
Roof			<i>asphalt shingles</i>	
Porch		<i>enclosed</i>		
Cornice				

Windows: *aluminum*

Elevation/story	#	Type/lights	Surrounds/sills

Doors:

Location	#	Type/material	Surrounds/lintel

Barn (side drive-thru crib barn)

- hewn members

- hewn rafters, pegged @ ridge

Thomas D. Riggs House  
"Camp Bennett"

→ also known @ one time  
as Mt. Pleasant Farm

①

23-68

Present Owners:

Central Union Mission

1350 R. St. NW

Washington D.C. 20009

Deed Reference:

500/172

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Ref #</u>
9-20-1933	Ober W. Dauley Mary C. Dauley, w.	Central Union Mission	500/172

\* parts of tracts of land called "Bordley's Choice",  
"Good Friday" + "the resurvey on Heck's lot".

8-1-32	Albert M. Bouic, attorney	Ober W. Dauley + wife	540/326
--------	------------------------------	--------------------------	---------

1 \* at a public sale made July 2, 1932  
@ 11:00 by the said Albert M. Bouic,  
in pursuance of the special power  
+ authority vested to him, as attorney  
in + by a certain mortgage from  
Charles T. Nicholson + Mamie F. Nicholson, w.  
to Thomas G. Benson - 1-22-1921 303/131.  
which sale was made after default had occurred  
on mortgage and after due public notices  
of sale, + after bond had been duly filed →

In the circuit court, the parcel of land + premises hereinafter described, being the property by said mortgage conveyed, was sold to O. W. Darley, who was the highest bidder.

276 acres.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>ref #</u>
Jan 26, 1921	Laurason B. Riggs + Alverdo O. Riggs, w. Susan G. Riggs, Anna S. Riggs, Robert Lee Riggs + Louise T. Riggs, w., Elizabeth R. Howard + Marshall P. Howard, H. John D. Riggs + Anna M.C. Riggs, w.	Charles T. Nicholson (Thomas)	302/115

designated as  
executors of will  
in will (Baltimore city)  
SPM #88/257

the Grantees being substituted purchasers by order of court, in place of Marshall P. Howard who bought property @ the sale 15,180 → paid in full to executor.

276 acres +

Aug. 5, 1920 Richard P. Tippet, executor of (A.R. Wood formerly) to L. Riggs et al. 300/491  
 Jan. 26, 1880 Hatterly W. Talbott, trustee Amelia J. Macgill EBP 21/452  
 Feb 8, 1876 Thomas D. Riggs to Robert H. Macgill EBP 14/377  
 1868 Remus Riggs to (son) Thomas D. Riggs Will book →  
 Dec 24, 1867 Remus Riggs died. (Tombs stone says JWS 1/249  
 275 1/4 acres. (see 1864)

23/08

(2)

from EBP: 4/17/77 ~~Thomas Ruggs~~ ~~1871, 8~~  
 "For value received ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Order~~ of  
 the Order of the ~~Prudent~~ ~~Court~~ for  
 Frederick County, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~signed~~,  
 executrix & executor of Robert H.  
 Mac Gill, ~~of~~ ~~Frederick~~ ~~County~~, 1871  
 dec'd, hereby ~~stands~~ ~~repealed~~ ~~and~~ ~~rescinded~~,  
 the withdrawal & ~~payment~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~mortgage~~  
 to Amelia J. ~~Maguire~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~  
 being devised to her by the last  
 will of said ~~Robert H. Mac Gill~~ ~~dated~~ ~~October~~ ~~1871~~ ~~to~~  
 January 24, 1877. ~~clearly~~ ~~signed~~

~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~written~~ ~~along~~ ~~the~~  
 margins of the EBP: 4/17/77 ~~1871~~ ~~1871~~

~~Amelia Ruggs~~ ~~to~~ ~~Thomas~~ ~~Ruggs~~  
 & then to be sold &  
 the proceeds to be divided  
 among the children of ~~Robert H. Mac Gill~~  
 Will H. A. 14/175.

~~order of Amelia Ruggs~~ ~~and~~ ~~children~~  
~~Ward~~ ~~to~~ ~~Charles~~ ~~Thomas~~ ~~Maguire~~  
 1871/11

1871/11  
 1871/11  
 1871/11

Charles & Thomas defendant in  
 Ward's case  
 1871/11  
 1871/11

2, 1876

Thomas Riggs conveyed a mortgage on his farm to Robert H. MacGill.  
Mtg. EBP 14/377

1879

Amelia Riggs MacGill, wife of Robert foreclosed on the mortgage + offered the farm for sale. Equity #327

Oct 1879

Amelia purchased farm for herself.

March 1902

Robert → Amelia (EBP 9/70)  
Amelia died.

Judgement Records.

Amelia Riggs to Thomas Riggs <sup>for his lifetime.</sup>  
+ then to be sold + the proceeds to be divided among the children of John A. Riggs Will HCA 14/175.

August 1920

executors of Amelia Riggs will convey to children 300/491

Jan 20, 1921 →

then to Charles Thomas Nicholson 200/115

1932 →

Charles + Mamie default on mortgage → farm was offered @ public sale.  
equity case #6408 58/427

< 1867

Grantee

Renno Riggs

James Far

X/289

James Holland

X/398

Elizabeth Shuffan

X/399

Mary Moore

B 56/128

Roger Brooke

B 56/130

Richard D. Brooke

B 58/402

Henry Howard

B 516/213

Elena q Hall

B 510/400

Richard Moore

B 511/429

Elena J. Hall

STS 1/151

Thomas J. Bourne

STS 1/433

Thomas M. Harris  
Trust

STS 2/94

Wm. Pearson

STS 2/472

## Cemetery @ Thomas Riggs House

- \* Samuel L. Riggs - son of George W. Riggs  
B. June 28, 1808
- \* Reuben Riggs - B. May 23, 1775  
D. April 29, 1823
- \* William C. Riggs  
B 1835  
D 1900
- \* Remus H. Riggs  
B. Nov 27, 1835  
D. April 19, 1866
- \* Remus Riggs                      wife Catherine Riggs  
B. Jan 12, 1790                      B. June 22, 1811  
D. Dec 18, 1867                      D. Dec 12, 1893
- \* Remus Riggs  
B. June 25, 1859  
D. Oct 2, 1861



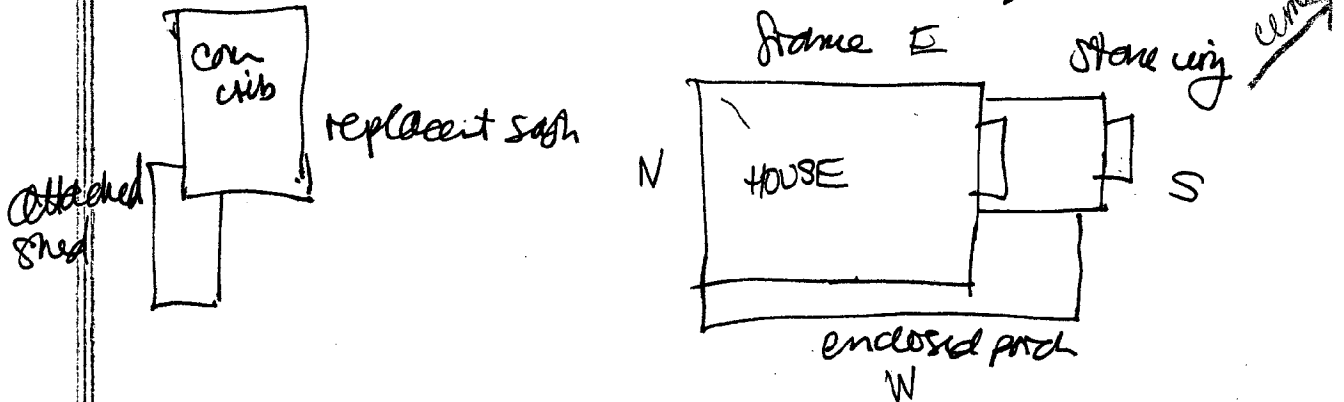
SITE VISIT  
CLARE LISE CAVICCHI  
12-1995

23/68 Camp Bennett - Central Union Mission  
20501 Georgia Ave Brentwood 20833  
Camp phone 774-4420  
Mission phone 202-745-7118

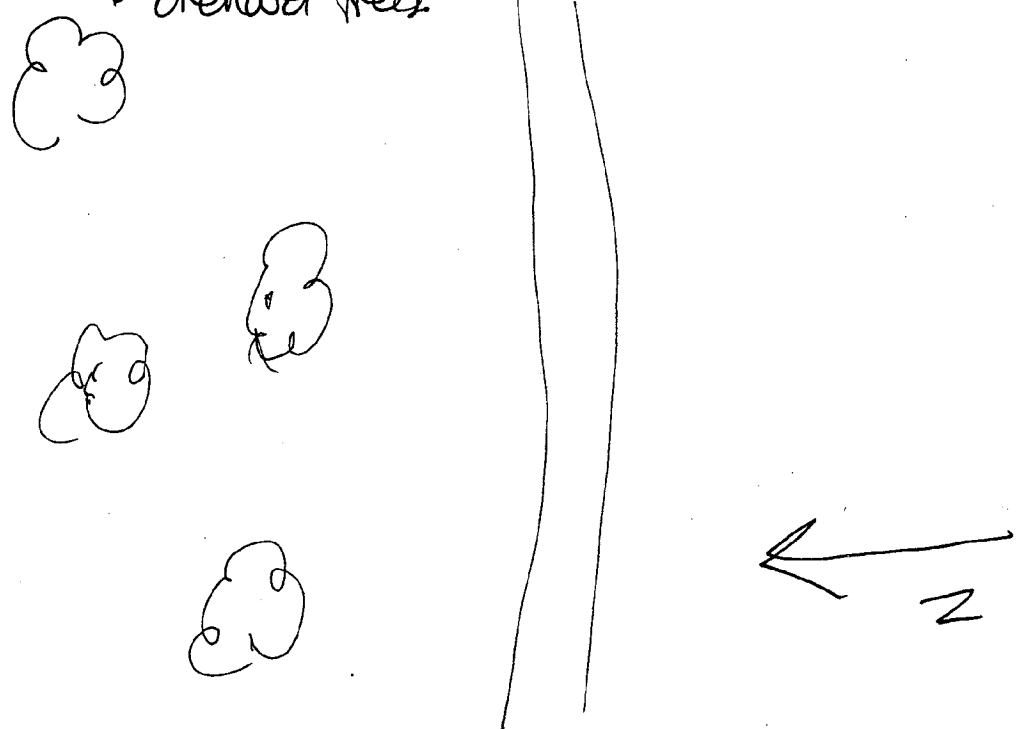
Talked w/ Mr Burns  
Riggs Cemetery nearby  
4-6 stones me w/ Riggs born 1740s

contact  
See Steve Hoge  
(south of APCO drive)

- may know more history  
site marked by  
2 tall evergreens



land N of drive marked w/ cedar trees  
# orchard trees



23/68 THOMAS D RIGGS  
20501 GEORGIA AVE

House by 1865 - <sup>(kitchen) south</sup> stone wing? Main west facade  
By 1879 horse stable w/ shed attached Frame seen by 1879

corn house

wagon sheds

blacksmith shop

dairy

chick houses

Still operating as farm 1982.

23/124 THOMAS BENSON HOUSE  
20207 Georgia.

Post 1879 - c 1900 house

HISTORIC SITES

Nov-1972  
Anya

1. Name THOMAS D. RIGGS HOUSE (CAMP BENNETT - METHODIST CHURCH)
2. On Historic Sites Map of 1969? NO
3. Town BROOKVILLE, Md.
4. Vicinity BROOKVILLE - SUNSHINE E. SIDE OF Rt. 97 S. OF GOLD'S  
BRANCH  
SEE SANDY SPRING U.S.G.S. QUAD MAP
5. Exact Street Address Rt. 97
6. Open to Public? NO
7. Name of Present Owner CAMP BENNETT - CHURCH CENTRAL UNION  
MISSION
8. Zoning Status OK - R-A, 1966 OLNEY MASTER PLAN  
Endangered? NO
9. Present Use and Condition PRIVATE DWELLING FOR DIRECTOR  
WORKING FARM
10. Brief Historical Description 2 STORY FRAME, POSSIBLY MID 19TH C  
W/ VERY OLD 1 STORY <sup>STONE</sup> WING (POSSIBLY KITCHEN) W/ LARGE  
STONE CHIMNEY ON SOUTH OF HOUSE. (RECENT 1 STORY  
ENCLOSURE ALMOST SURROUNDS HOUSE) APPEARS TO BE  
HOUSE OF THOS. D. RIGGS ON 1878 MAP.  
NICE OUTBUDGS.

*Biggs # 23-68*  
*Central Union Mission*

# RELIGION

## Highlights

by Margaret Grzeszkiewicz  
Gazette Correspondent

**B'nai Shalom of Olney** will hold its Shabbat Anniversary Service, Friday at 7:55 p.m. to honor couples who are celebrating their anniversary during August, with a special prayer by Rabbi Pohl and with Cantor Weisman. An Oneg will follow the service.

Saturday, the Shabbat service will begin at 9:15 a.m. Steven Goldstein will become a Bar Mitzvah. A Kiddush will follow that service.

Bingo dates for the balance of 1990 are as follows: Aug. 20, 27; Sept. 10, 13, 17; Oct. 1, 8, 14, 19, 22; Nov. 5, 12, 16, 19; and Dec. 3, 10, 17. Early-bird games begin at 7:45 p.m. For information, call 774-0879 or 977-5579.

**Olney Baptist Church** will

continue its summer Wednesday-night programs. Tonight will be a "singspiration" service with fellowship. Contact Bill Bloomquish, 924-4604, for further details.

Aug. 22 is "Comedy Film Classics Night", with popcorn and soda for all. "Talent Night" will be held Aug. 29.

**New Hope Presbyterian Church** has been having a series of "Dinners of Six," which give families an opportunity to know each other better.

The church recently conducted an audio-technology workshop. Tapes of worship services and of important congregational meetings are shared with shut-ins, travelers and anyone who wishes to hear them.

The church meets in the Seventh Day Adventist Church at Briars Road and Route 108. The

Rev. Wally Harman is the pastor and can be reached at the church office at 570-3829.

**Ashton United Methodist Church** continues its family service at 10 a.m., weekly through Sept. 2. The 8:15 a.m. indoor chapel service continues for those who want an early start in the day. Weekly Bible study is held Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m.

The Rev. Lyle Harper is the new pastor. He began his ministry with the church July 1.

**St. John's Episcopal Church** women are working hard on crafts for their annual bazaar coming up in October. They are learning how to make a variety of crafts including "bandanna necklaces," "stiffy bows" and "painted heart wreaths." Of course, there will be white elephant items.

## Olney's Camp Bennett holds annual open house

by Margaret Grzeszkiewicz  
Gazette Correspondent

"Train up a child in the way he should go" has long been on the Camp Bennett sign in Brookeville. For many years, the camp has tried to fulfill this goal.

Potential campers were able to visit the camp at an open house Aug. 5. Unfortunately it was delayed 45 minutes because of a serious accident at the infamous Olney "S" curve.

Camp Bennett began as an outgrowth of the Women's Guild of the Central Union Mission established in 1924. The women sewed for the children of the Emergency Home in Washington, D.C. Out of their earnings and donations, and four concerts at Constitution Hall, they raised \$12,500. In 1933, these funds were used by Ada Jean Bennett (superintendent, 1937-1943) to purchase 234 acres of lush Maryland farmland to provide a country getaway for the Central

Union Mission Orphans.

Camp Bennett provided work for unemployed men and garden produce for the Emergency Children's Home and Homeless being fed, daily. The camp was dedicated Sunday, July 22, 1934.

Over the years, the camp has had many children attend camp from Washington, D.C., according to Jo Etta Dornes, director of the Family Services Department. They sent about 235 children to camp this summer. The camp is supported by donations from individuals, churches and groups in the metropolitan area interested in the program.

Dornes said, "Most children come from homes with drug, and alcohol problems. Usually they are single parents who love their children and are happy for them to attend Camp Bennett. Many churches have adopted and sponsored children for a week at camp."

Resident camp director and manager is Jeff Marshall, assist-

ed by his wife Robin, who live there with their three children.

At the "open house," visitors heard a brief report on the camp activities with 17 children who sang and recited Bible verses. These were children who stayed over from the last camp.

There are two cabins for boys and two for girls, a lounge with kitchen facilities, a crafts cabin, a chapel and a new swimming pool at the camp. Six camps beginning July 1 to Aug. 17 were held for youngsters from 6 to 12 years old. There is one week for teens.

The children are picked up Monday morning and returned Friday evening. Crafts and swimming along with Bible teaching and worship are primary activities. The camp is accredited by the American Camping Association.

The camp is available for retreats. For more information, call the camp director, Jeff Marshall at 774-4420.

United Methodist install new pastor

I couldn't find the  
file to file it.

Row -

Can you?

M-NCPPC



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL  
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

February 3, 1999

Ms. Angela Clark  
Department of Permitting Services  
250 Hungerford Drive - 2nd Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Ms. Clark:

Thank you for contacting us with questions on 20501 Georgia Avenue. Please note that this is ~~Locational Atlas site #23768 (The Thomas D. Riggs House)~~ As a Locational Atlas site, DPS must make the first determination as to whether or not the proposed work constitutes Substantial Alteration at this site.

Our office has some information about the site in our files. The historic house is located at a great distance from the proposed new house site. In addition, the historic house is sited at a great distance from Georgia Avenue, sitting deep within its environmental setting. It appears that the proposal will have no effect on the historic house, either directly or in terms of even being within its view. As such, it should have no effect on subsequent deliberations by the Historic Preservation Commission as to its potential for historic designation.

I hope this is helpful in terms of providing some additional information to assist you with your determination. I know the applicants are eager to proceed with their construction project.

If you have any further questions, I can be reached at (301) 563-3400.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin D. Ziek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R' and 'Z'.

Robin D. Ziek  
Historic Preservation Planner

M-NCPPC



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING**

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL  
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

**FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

**Historic Preservation Section  
Department of Park & Planning**

Telephone Number: (301) 563-3400

Fax Number: (301) 563-3412

TO: Angela Clark FAX NUMBER: 301.247-6374

FROM: Robin D. Ziek

DATE: Feb 3, 1999

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS TRANSMITTAL SHEET: 2

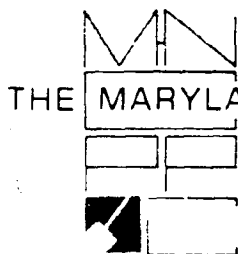
NOTE:

Call if you need anything!

Polina

23-68  
23-124

23-62  
23-67



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring Maryland 20910-3760

*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
Chase-  
#23/124  
Gwen

December 6, 1995

Rita Suffness  
Maryland State Highway Administration  
P.O. Box 717  
Baltimore, MD 21203-0717

Dear Rita:

At your request, we have reviewed the MHT Inventory Forms for resource #23/68, the Thomas P. Riggs House, and #23/124, the Thomas Benson House. We have also made site visits to each of these properties.

The Thomas P. Riggs House, #23/68, is an interesting site - portions of it appear to be early 19th century and it is associated with the prominent Riggs family. However, there have been numerous alterations to the structure including a relatively recent one-story addition that wraps the house. These alterations and additions have seriously impaired the architectural integrity of the resource. For this reason, it is our staff's judgement that the Thomas P. Riggs House would **not** be eligible for the National Register.

The Thomas Benson House, #23/124, is relatively intact except for the asbestos shingle siding and the some of the rear additions. The house form is somewhat unusual for the Brookeville area and jerkin head gable ends are not extremely common in this part of the County. Based on the available information, it is difficult to determine if the resource has important historical associations - little information on Thomas Benson is included on the MHT Inventory Form. We can concur that the property is not eligible for the National Register, but may want to consider the resource for designation on the County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

I also understand that your office has noted resources #23/62, Belmont, and #23/67, Pleasant Hill, as being demolished. In both cases, the primary structures on these two sites were demolished many years ago - long before the resources were included in the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites. Belmont was included in the County inventory because of the existence of a two-story structure that may have been a slave quarters and a family cemetery. Pleasant Hill was included because of the existence of building ruins and a family cemetery. As part of a recent approved subdivision, these ruins and cemetery on the Pleasant Hill site have specifically been protected and will have interpretive markers. In all likelihood, neither resource is eligible for the National Register.