

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000141 Date Listed: 3/27/92

Davidsonville Historic District
Property Name:

Anne Arundel MD
County: State:

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

4/20/92
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

In Section 3 of the form, this nomination was inadvertently categorized as "buildings" rather than a district. The form is officially amended to categorize this as a district. The MD SHPO has been informed of this change.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name DAVIDSONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
other names/site number AA-1006

2. Location

street & number State Route 214 and Davidsonville Road N/A not for publication
city, town Davidsonville N/A vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Anne Arundel code 003 zip code 21035

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
[Signature] Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 2/5/92
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrus 3/27/92
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain): _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

AA-1006

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingCOMMERCE/TRADE/department storeRELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingCOMMERCE/TRADE/department storeRELIGION/religious structure**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

FederalLate VictorianBungalow

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICKwalls SYNTHETICSBRICKroof ASPHALTother WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Davidsonville Historic District comprises a rural crossroads community located at the intersection of Maryland Route 214 (Central Avenue) and Davidsonville Road (county road 424) in central Anne Arundel County, Maryland. A total of fifteen properties are located within the district, including three churches, one commercial building, and eleven houses, representing the period from the village's initial settlement ca. 1835 through the early 20th century, when it achieved its present form. Primarily dating from around the turn of the 20th century, the resources within the district reflect a variety of building forms and stylistic influences which characterized rural communities of the period in the region. They are located along Route 214 (Central Avenue), on lots of varying sizes; several of the houses on the north side of the road maintain a uniform setback line. The village reflects a pattern of linear development which is typical of small rural communities in agricultural settings in the Western Shore region of Maryland.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The following are brief descriptions of the resources within the Davidsonville Historic District. The order of presentation corresponds to the numerical code used on the accompanying Resource Sketch Map. The AA prefixed numbers are Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties numbers.

1. All Hallows' Chapel and Cemetery (AA-202), a brick Gothic Revival church constructed in 1860 as a chapel of ease for All Hallows Parish, supplementing the Colonial-period parish church located in Birdsville. The chapel is unusually large for a building of its type in a rural setting, and reflects the influence of the Ecclesiological movement. The entrance is located in the west gable end; a double-leaf door is set in a lancet-arched opening, flanked by lancet windows on either side and with a triple lancet above. The openings are surmounted by projecting hoods of corbeled brick. The gable wall is finished with a stone weathering and surmounted by a small bell-cote. Lancet windows define the four bays of the side walls; an entry porch is located in the second bay from the west on the south elevation, flanked by a chimney. The building corners and side walls are buttressed. A lower chancel projects from the north gable, below a triple lancet window; the chancel is crossed by a transept whose ends are flush with the side walls of the nave. A small vestry is attached by a hyphen to the north side of the nave. The building is sited within a picturesque cemetery on the edge of the village of Davidsonville. The markers within the cemetery date from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

2. The Brown/Davis House is a two-story gable-roofed frame dwelling probably constructed in the early 20th century, located on the north side of Central Avenue. The building's present form is the result of one or more campaigns of alterations creating an L-plan, with a two-story wing projecting to the south. The entrance is located in the east side wall of the wing, with a 1/1 window to its left and two 1/1 windows above. A pair of 1/1 windows is centered in the wing's gable end on each level, and paired 6/1 windows mark the south elevation of the main block. The building is sheathed in synthetic siding.

3. The Suit Residence/Talbot's Lot III (AA-860) is a late 19th century two-story gable-front frame house, two bays wide by two rooms deep, with a lower gable-roofed kitchen wing at the rear. The principal facade faces south; the sidelighted entrance is located in the western bay, with a 2/2 window in the east. A shed porch supported on turned posts with scrolled brackets spans the facade. Two 2/2 windows are aligned above the first-floor openings; window openings throughout the house are fitted with operable louvered shutters. The

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gable is covered with imbricated shingles, and has a small oculus in the peak. A corbeled chimney is centered in the roof ridge. The building retains a high level of integrity; the only notable alterations are the enclosure of a porch off the kitchen wing and the installation of aluminum siding.

4. The Suitt Residence/Talbot's Lot II (AA-861) is a late 19th century two-story, gable-roofed frame house, two bays wide by two rooms deep, which faces south. A recent one-story wing extends from the west gable; an enclosed porch spans the facade and wraps around the west side to meet the wing. Despite alterations, the original form and massing of the house remain discernible, and it continues to occupy its place in the Davidsonville streetscape; it is considered a contributing element in the historic district.

5. The Hegge House/Talbot's Lot (AA-858) comprises a mid-19th century two-story, three-bay, side passage plan frame house, which was remodeled and expanded early in the twentieth century by the construction of a two-bay-wide shed-roofed wing against the east gable, and the relocation of the entrance to the wing. A Colonial Revival porch spans the elongated facade. The original ownership of the building is attributed to Thomas Talbot, who operated a blacksmith shop in the village.

6. The Simmons/Beall House (AA-1005) is a ca. 1920s 1½-story frame house reflecting the influence of the Bungalow and Colonial Revival styles. The central entrance is sheltered by an overscaled pedimented portico, and flanked by paired 6/1 windows. A brick exterior chimney decorates the east gable. The house has a hipped roof with truncated ends.

7. A mid-20th century house which does not contribute to the significance of the district.

8. The Holy Family Catholic Church (AA-850) is a small shingled frame church building constructed in 1929, reputedly prefabricated by Sears, Roebuck. The entrance is located in a gabled vestibule which projects from the south gable end; double leaf doors are framed within a lancet-arched recess. The side walls of the vestibule are pierced by double-hung Queen Anne style windows, with each sash comprising a large central pane of blue-grey colored glass surrounded by small amber lights. Similar windows flank the vestibule in the south gable of the nave. A small circular window is centered in the gable peak, below a small belfry with a bell-cast pyramidal roof. The eaves are finished with vergeboards with scrolled ends; projecting rafter ends are detailed similarly. The building is five bays deep; the northernmost bay is occupied by a transept, and the

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remaining bays are defined by paired windows. The building retains an exceptionally high level of integrity on both the exterior and interior.

9. The Davidson House (AA-159), located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Routes 214 and 424, was constructed about 1835, the first house in what was to become the village of Davidsonville. It is a two-story gable-roofed frame house comprising two sections. The principal facade faces south. The main block is three bays wide and one room deep; the entrance is located in the easternmost bay. A two-story columned portico spans the facade, and there is a two-level recessed porch across the rear elevation. A brick exterior chimney rises against the west gable end. A lower two-story wing extends from the east gable of the main block.

10. The Davidson/Neall House (AA-862) is a Victorian period L-shaped frame house which appears to date from the 1880s. It is located on the south side of Central Avenue, west of the intersection of Route 424. The house comprises a 2½ story, three-bay main section whose north facade is oriented parallel to the road, with a projecting gable-front wing, one bay wide, at the west end. The entrance is located in the west bay of the main block, and is detailed with sidelights and transom. Windows are 6/6 sash throughout. The building features a bracketed overhanging cornice with returns. Interior chimneys rise from the east gable of the main block and the center of the wing. The interior is arranged in a center-hall plan, two rooms deep. The building retains a high level of integrity.

11. The Davidsonville Methodist Church (AA-79) is a hip-roofed masonry building constructed in 1924 to replace an 1854 church. A Classical pedimented portico spans the north entrance facade. The recessed entrance is located in the central bay, flanked by lancet-arched windows; similar windows define the four bays of the side walls, which are further articulated by pilasters. The building has a modillion cornice; a small circular window is located in the pediment, and the portico supports a three-stage steeple. The roof is covered with slate. A shed-roofed wing of recent construction extends from the rear of the building at the southwest corner.

12. Adjacent to the Methodist Church on the east, the Parsonage (AA-1003) is a 2½ story hip-roofed Foursquare type house, finished in stucco. The north facade is spanned by a one-story porch with Tuscan columns and a simple balustrade. The entrance is located at the eastern side of the facade, with a triple 6/1 window to the west. Three 6/1 windows light the second story. A large hipped dormer with a triple window of 9-light casements is centered on the

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north slope of the roof. There is an exterior brick chimney against the west side wall.

13. All Hallows Rectory (AA-96) is a mid-19th century 2½ story side passage plan frame house with a 1½ story, 3 bay wing which may incorporate an 18th century structure. The building was renovated in 1973, and retains a good level of integrity. Interior trim representing Greek Revival and Victorian periods remains in place.

14. Davidsonville Market and Deli (AA-1002) is a 1½ story frame commercial building occupying the southwest corner of the intersection of Routes 424 and 214. A general store has been located on this corner since the 1830s; the present configuration of the building appears to date primarily from the late 19th or early 20th century. It is a simple rectangular structure covered by a broad gable roof. The north gable facade faces Central Avenue; an enclosed porch spans the facade, and a single window is centered in the upper gable. Two gabled dormers are located on the west slope of the roof. The roof is covered in standing seam metal.

15. Irving King/Neal House (AA-1001), located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Routes 424 and 214, is a 1½ story frame building, rectangular in plan, covered by a broad gable roof. Apparently dating from the late 19th century, local tradition states that this house was the residence of the keeper of the general store. A small one story building is located perpendicular to the house, abutting it at the northwest corner; this structure has a recessed porch at its east end, and an exterior brick chimney against its west gable.

16. Methodist Church Cemetery, located just south of the intersection of routes 214 and 424, consists of nineteenth and twentieth century markers.

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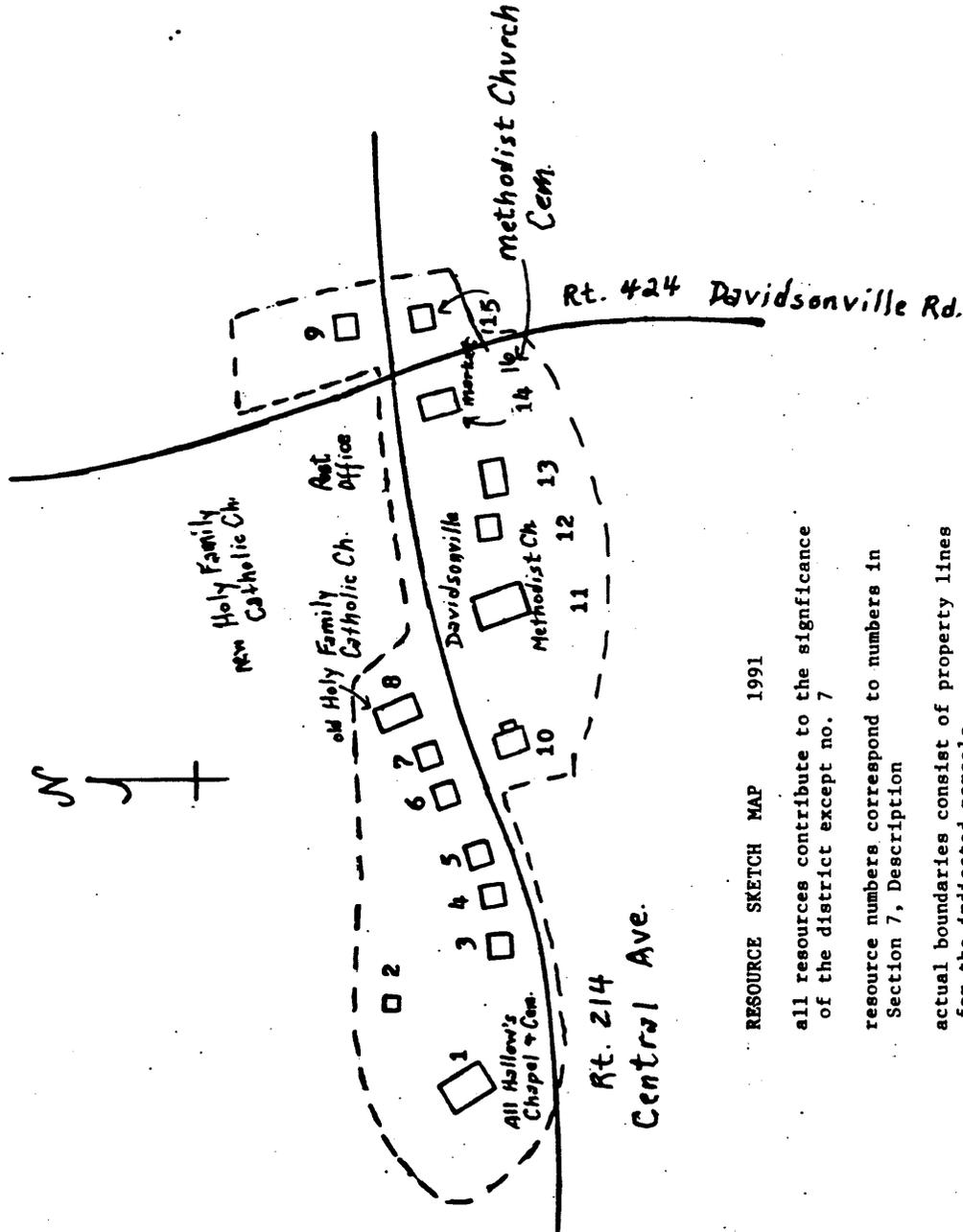
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RESOURCE SKETCH MAP 1991

all resources contribute to the significance of the district except no. 7

resource numbers correspond to numbers in Section 7, Description

actual boundaries consist of property lines for the indicated parcels

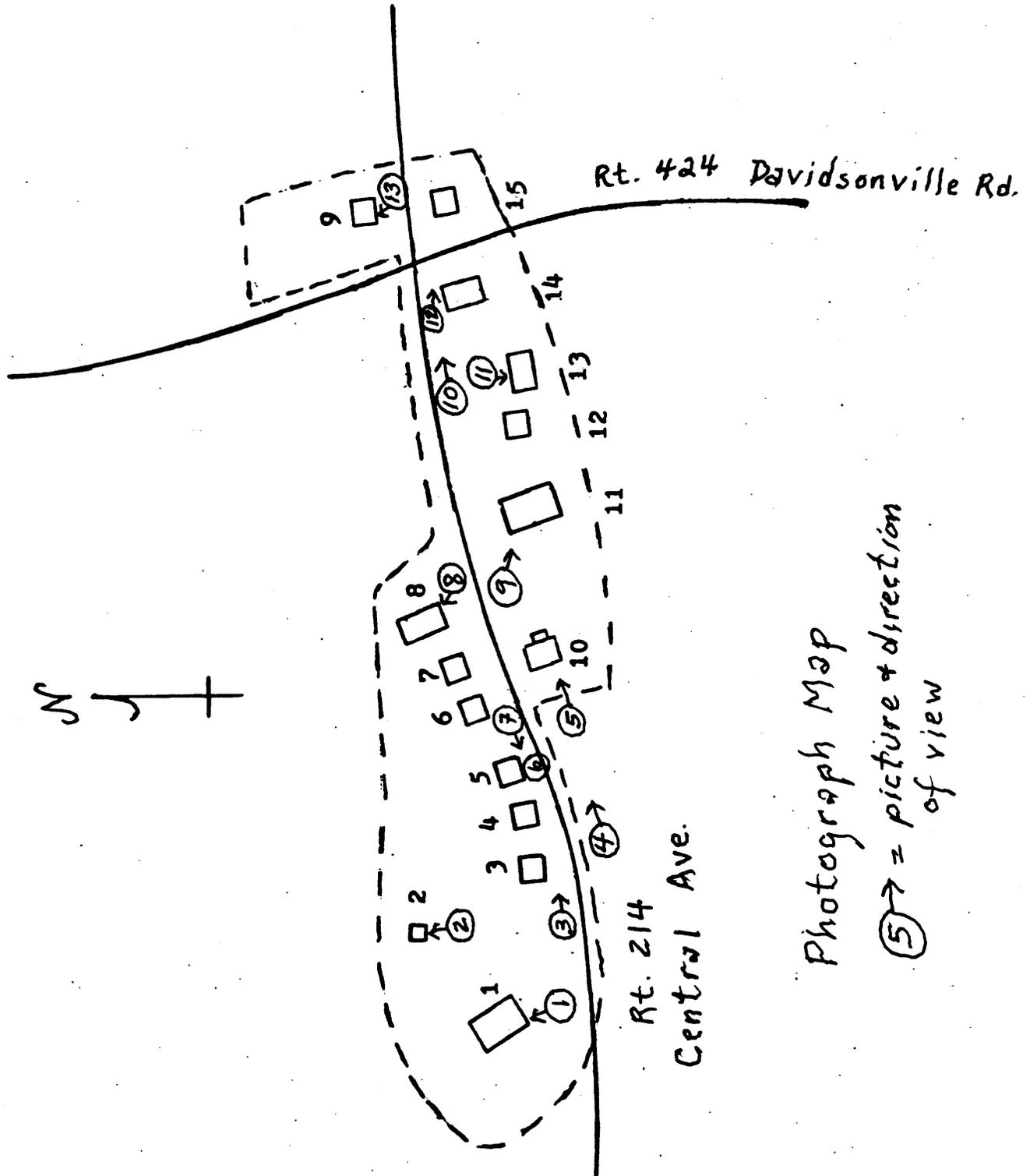
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Photograph Map
⑤ → = picture + direction
of view

8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
c.1835-1941

Significant Dates
c.1835

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Davidsonville Historic District is significant under Criterion C as a largely intact representative example of the type of crossroads community which characterized rural Anne Arundel County in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Davidsonville is among the best preserved examples of this type of community remaining in the county; other comparable villages have been obliterated by subsequent development. The village has maintained substantial integrity despite increasingly intensive development pressure in the surrounding area.

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

 See continuation sheet No. 10

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Approximately 15 acres
 USGS Quad: Bowie, Maryland

UTM References

A	1,8	3,5,8,8,8,0	4,3,0,9,4,7,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,8	3,5,8,3,6,0	4,3,0,8,9,0,0

B	1,8	3,5,8,8,8,0	4,3,0,9,1,8,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1,8	3,5,8,2,9,0	4,3,0,9,0,3,0

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

 See continuation sheet No. 11

Boundary Justification

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 See continuation sheet No. 11

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian</u>		
organization	<u>Davidsonville Area Community Association</u>	date	<u>August 19, 1991</u>
street & number	<u>109 Brandon Road</u>	telephone	<u>(410) 296-7538</u>
city or town	<u>Baltimore</u>	state	<u>Maryland</u> zip code <u>21212</u>

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification, A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural/Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930
Modern Period, A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: District

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store
RELIGION/religious structure

Known Design Source: None

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Section number 8 Page 8HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The village of Davidsonville was effectively founded about 1835, when the first house was constructed by Thomas Davidson, on land owned by his father, James Davidson. James Davidson had emigrated from England to Pennsylvania in 1775. In the Revolutionary War, he served in the patriot regiment of the Pennsylvania army, and was later transferred to the Maryland Line under General Smallwood. He also fought in the Battle of North Point during the War of 1812. Davidson settled in Anne Arundel County and died in 1841.

The economic and social basis of central Anne Arundel County traditionally depended upon agriculture; farming still plays an important role in the area, but residential development has begun to alter the character of the landscape. The first settlers in the area found the region's loamy soil and long growing season well suited to tobacco culture, and this crop provided the economic mainstay from the seventeenth century well into the twentieth. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, farmers in the Davidsonville area cultivated a variety of garden truck in addition to this basic crop, and seem to have practiced more diversified agriculture than their counterparts elsewhere in the county, particularly those in the southern region.

The intersection of two major early roads provided the impetus for Davidsonville's development into a focus of commercial and social activity for the surrounding agricultural region. By the turn of the twentieth century, churches serving Methodist and Protestant Episcopal denominations were located in the village, and a Catholic church was nearby. The town had a public school, post office, and telephone facilities. A railroad depot at Parole Station, seven miles away, and a landing on the South River at Taylorsville (now Riva), four miles from the village, offered transportation linkages. A series of failed attempts to create a closer rail connection with Davidsonville began in the late 19th century and ended in 1912, as motor trucks came to be recognized as an economical alternative to trains. The community remained intimately tied to agriculture; a boys' farm club was founded in 1913.

A new Methodist Church was constructed in 1924, replacing the original 1854 building, and the Holy Family Roman Catholic Church was added to the community in 1929. The public school was rebuilt in 1927. The school is not included in the nominated district.

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The village saw little further change through the second World War. A description of the community prepared in 1952 indicated that agriculture continued to provide its economic basis, including tobacco, corn, grain, livestock and dairy farming. However, by this time, intimations of the community's future character as a commuter suburb were beginning to appear; the writer observed that the community offered good roads, a location within commuting distance to Baltimore, Washington, and Annapolis, and two bus lines serving these destinations. Further, the writer noted that farmland was increasingly being converted to housing development.

The period of significance extends from the establishment of the village ca. 1835 up to the beginning of World War II, by which time it had substantially achieved its present appearance.

Throughout the nineteenth century and up to the start of World War II, Anne Arundel County remained a rural, agricultural county. Virtually no towns of substance outside of Annapolis, the county seat and state capital, developed except for a series of small cross roads communities. Davidsonville is typical of these cross roads communities. It contained a post office and store which served the surrounding agricultural community. Also found here were churches representing the three major religious sects found in the county: Episcopalian, Methodist, and Roman Catholic; and a handful of houses. Several other communities of this sort developed, generally on a linear arrangement with maybe a dozen and a half or two dozen buildings.

Prominent among these communities are Bristol, Owensville, and Millersville in southern Anne Arundel County. In the northern and western portion of the county, similar communities developed as intermediate stops along the railroad: Odenton, Severn, Harmons, and Annapolis Junction as examples. All were established generally in the second and third quarter of the nineteenth century.

Of the communities, Davidsonville and Owensville are the most intact in terms of historic character. Both retain the nineteenth century appearance through placement of buildings and sites along historic roadways, still two lanes, with historic landscape features and building set backs, service buildings, building materials and configurations, and a general sense of openness. In each, some buildings have non-historic additions and/or siding, but the historic sense of past time and place are strikingly evident. Unfortunately, the surrounding areas, originally agricultural and still so to a great extent, are becoming built-up rapidly.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Henry, Helen, "Heirloom Accents in Renovated Rectory," Sun Magazine, September 2, 1973.

Riley, Elihu S. A History of Anne Arundel County, in Maryland. Annapolis: Charles G. Feldmeyer, 1905, pp. 114-115.

Warfield, J. D. The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland. Baltimore: Kohn & Pollock, 1905, p. 329.

Watkins, Mildred R. [ed.], "Discovering Our School Community, by Grade V, 1952-1953, Davidsonville Elementary School." (Manuscript.)

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: Anne Arundel County. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The accompanying Resource Sketch Map schematically indicates the location and juxtaposition of the properties included within the Davidsonville Historic District. The boundaries of the Davidsonville Historic District are defined by the existing property lines of these resources, as recorded in the Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property comprises approximately 15 acres, including the resources which comprise the village within its immediate environment and excluding modern buildings, except one, and the surrounding acreage which do not contribute directly to the significance of the district. The individual property parcels average about an acre a piece with some larger and some smaller. Parcel lines were selected as back boundaries primarily for convenience. Several parcels appear to still retain the original boundaries.

Some owners, such as the Davidsonville Methodist Church, have larger acreage than is included in this nomination. The nominated acreage concentrates primarily, but not exclusively, on the parcels which border on Central Avenue and Davidsonville and Birdsville roads, the paths of which form this historic cross roads. The parcels included here, as shown on state assessment map number 54 for Anne Arundel County are 105, 197, 52, 222, 237, 221, 122, 126, 118, 50, 245-9, 245-10, 108, 48, 123, 159, 154, 54, 153, and 128.