

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic	Corbett				
and/or common	Corbett His	toric District	(pr	eferred)	
2. Loca	ation				
street & number	1615-1827 0	orbett Road & 1	6200-162	25 Corbett Village ₁	Lane n/anot for publication
city, town	Monkton	<u> </u>	ity of	congressional district	Second
state	Maryland	code 24	county	Baltimore	code 005
3. Clas	sification				
Category X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public brivate both Public Acquisition in process being consider X not applica	ed yes: rest	ied progress ricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residenc religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Pro	perty			
name		ation Sheet No.	1		
street & number					
city, town		vicin	ity of	state	
5. Loca	tion of L	egal Desc	riptic	n	
courthouse, regis street & number	stry of deeds, etc. ^I	Saltimore County	Courtho	use	
city, town	נ	lowson		state	Maryland 21204
6. Repr	resentatio	on in Exist	ting S	Surveys	
•	Historical Tru Sites Inventor		is this prop	perty been determined ele	gible? yes _X
date ¹⁹⁸⁵				federalX_ stat	e county lo
depository for su	rvey records	faryland Histori	cal Trus	t, 21 State Circle	
city, town	ł	Annapolis		state	Maryland 21401

7. Description

Co	ndi	iti	on	
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Condition	•	Check one	Check one		
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	<u>X</u> original s	ite	,
X good	ruins	$\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ altered	moved	date	n/a
fair	unexposed				

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resource	S	Number of previously listed National
21	<u>2</u> buildings	Register properties included in this
0	0 sites	nomination:0
0	<u>0</u> structures	
0	<u> </u>	Original and historic functions and
21	_2Total	uses: <u>agricultural, residential,</u> commercial, transportation industrial

The Corbett Historic District is a group of 20 dwellings, a doctor's office, a former store/post office and a school (the latter two buildings have been converted to residences) comprising the village of Corbett in rural northern Baltimore County, Maryland. Most of the buildings date from c. 1880 through c. 1920, reflecting the period of Corbett's development as a stop on the Northern Central railroad, and a local commercial, industrial, and transportation center for the surrounding farms. Two earlier buildings - a c. 1830 Greek Revival influenced stone farmhouse and its associated tenant house - are located within the community, remnants of the original farm upon which the community was developed following the advent of the railroad. With these two exceptions, the houses in the village are all of frame construction and conform to vernacular or popular types of the period. Most numerous are two-story gable-roofed vernacular "I-houses" three bays wide by one room deep, usually with an ell or shed kitchen at the rear; several of these present a regional variant incorporating a four-bay first-floor facade with entrances in each of two central bays. These houses are generally clad in German siding, and their decorative detailing is confined to turned or scroll-sawn porch trim and occasionally imbricated shingles in the gable peaks. The influence of late 19th century pattern books is apparent in other houses, including two $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story gable fronted dwellings (16207 and 16209 Corbett Village Lane). Pivotal structures within the district include the former general store/post office at 1702 Corbett Road, a large six-bay by two-bay building located opposite the site of the 1888 railroad depot (demolished). Also noteworthy are the large homes of the two brothers, a builder and a sawmill operator, whose activities were responsible for much of Corbett's development: 15213 Corbett Village Lane, home of builder Marion Merryman, is a massive Mansard-roofed dwelling with a wraparound porch; Lumberman Robert Merryman constructed an outstanding 3-story Queen Anne house at 1732 Corbett Road, with a wealth of sawn and turned wooden ornament. A large and ornate Colonial Revival house is located at 16205 Corbett Road. Early 20th century structures include a small office constructed by the town's first physician, and a Foursquare house whose prefabricated components were brought in by the convenient railroad. The buildings are clustered along Corbeet Road, centering on its intersection with the railroad tracks, and along the town's single side street, Corbett Village Lane (formerly Railroad Avenue), which runs north from Corbett Road parallelling the tracks. Of the 23 major structures within the district, 21, or 91.3% contribute to its significance.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 2

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Corbett Historic District Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number

OWNERS OF PROPERTY:

Mr. & Mrs. John Neighbors 1615 Corbett Road Monkton, MD 21111 472-2605

Mr. & Mrs. H. Lawrence Kelley 1628 Corbett Road Monkton, MD 21111 472-2488

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Gray 1640 Corbett Road Monkton, MD 21111 472-2592

Mr. & Mrs. Paul F. Phillips 1702 Corbett Road Monkton, MD 21111 472-4094

Mrs. Mary Beall 1717 Corbett Road Monkton, MD 21111 472-2498

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Shuppert 1718 Corbett Road Monkton, MD 21111 472-2538

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ewing 1732 Corbett Road Monkton, MD 21111 771-4780

Mr. & Mrs. C. Bard Cole 1826 Corbett Road Monkton, MD 21111 472-2468

Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Hartley 1827 Corbett Road Monkton, MD 21111 472-4216 State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources c/o Dr. Torrey Brown, Secretary Tawes State Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Monkton, MD 21111 472-2294 Ms. Edith Tor 1607 Corbett Village Lane Monkton, MD 21111 472-2615 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Pfeifer 16209 Corbett Village Lane Monkton, MD 21111 472-2866

4

Rear Adm. Kemp Tolley U.S.N. Ret.

1605 Corbett Village Lane

Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Altman 16213 Corbett Village Lane Monkton, MD 21111 771-4646

Mr. & Mrs. Henry D. Fuller 16215 Corbett Village Lane Monkton, MD 21111 472-2510

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Fink 16217 Corbett Village Lane Monkton, MD 21111 771-4536

Mr. & Mrs. John Macfarlane 16220 Corbett Village Lane Monkton, MD 21111 472-9380

Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Clemens 16223 Corbett Village Lane Monkton, MD 21111 472-2684

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry White 16221 Corbett Village Lane Monkton, MD 21111 771-4487



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1



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered 7 Page 2

Corbett Historic District Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

- 1615 Corbett Road: c. 1830 2 story stuccoed stone house, 3 bays wide, 2 rooms deep with ell, gable roof with 2 dormers, Greek Revival detailing.
- 2. 1615 Corbett Road: c. 1830-1881 2 story tenant duplex, stuccoed stone and brick, 4 bays by 2 bays, shingled gable roof with jigsawn bargeboard and eave decoration.
- 3. 1628 Corbett Road: 1919 2 story frame Foursquare, German siding, stone foundation, reputedly Sears prefab.
- 1640 Corbett Road: c. 1888 2 story gable-roofed Germansided frame house, 5 bay by 2 bay, projecting central bay with cross gable, porch with turned posts and curved brackets.
- 1702 Corbett Road: c. 1884 2 story gable roofed frame store and post office, 6 bay by 2 bay, two fornt-facing gables, porch with jigsawn brackets and turned balusters, German siding, stone foundation.
- 6. 16202 Corbett Village Lane: c. 1889 2 story gable-roofed frame house, center gable, 4 bays by 2 bays with shed at rear, german siding, stone foundation.
- 16220 Corbett Village Lane: 1980 2 story stuccoed concrete block house, gable roof, non-contributing.
- 8. 16223 Corbett Village Lane: 1890 2 story gable roofed frame house, center gable, 3 bay by 2 bay with sheds at rear, glass-enclosed porch, German siding.
- 9. 16221 Corbett Village Lane: 1912 2 story gable roofed house, front-facing gable, 3 bays by 2 bays with ell, screened porch, bevel siding.
- 10. 16217 Corbett Village Lane: c. 1963 2 story gable roofed frame house with shed at rear and 1-story wings, non-contributing.
- 11. 16215 Corbett Village Lane: c. 1919 2 story gable roofed frame house, 2 bay by 1 bay with ell, German siding, enclosed porch.
- 12. 16213 Corbett Village Lane: c. 1892 2 story plus mansard, 5 bay by 3 bay, bracketed cornice, wraparound porch with jigsawn balustrade, square posts with scrolled brackets, shallow pediments marking corners.
- 13. 16209 Corbett Village Lane: c. 1896 gable-fronted frame house, bevel siding with fishscale shingles in gable peak, 3 bay by 2 bay with shed at rear, side-entrance plan.
- 14. 16207 Corbett Village Lane: c. 1896 2¹/₂ story gable-fronted frame house, German siding, semicircular pedimented gable with decorated bargeboards, porch with turned posts and balusters, 3 bay by 2 bay with shed at rear, side entrance plan.



2

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Page

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Corbett Historic District Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

- 15. 16205 Corbett Village Lane: c. 1896 Colonial Revival 2 story gable roofed frame house, broad center gable flanked by shed dormers all with 15/15 sash, 5 bay by 2 bay, 9/1 windows, open porch with turned columns and balusters, central entrance with transom and sidelights.
- 16. 16205 Corbett Village Lane: 2 bay by 2 bay frame doctor's office, built as 1 story c. 1900, later raised to two stories; gable front, German siding.
- 17. 16203 Corbett Village Lane: c. 1889 2 story gable-roofed dwelling (originally carriage house), 4 bays by 1 bay with extensions to rear.
- 1706 Corbett Road: c. 1898 2 story gable roofed frame house, cross gable, 3 bay by 1 bay, German siding with scroll-sawn shingles in gable peaks, open porch with square posts, stone foundation.
- 19. 1717 Corbett Road: 2 story gable roofed frame house, 2 bays by 1 bay with ell, wings to rear and side, enclosed porch, aluminum siding.
- 20. 1718 Corbett Road: c. 1896 2 story gable roofed frame house, 4 bays by 2 bays, cross gable, open porch with square posts, scroll-sawn brackets, drilled frieze, "Chinese Chippendale" balustrade; stone foundation; aluminum siding, large recent shed and garage attached at rear.
- 21. 1732 Corbett Road: 1889 outstanding 2¹/₂ story frame Queen Anne house, hip-roofed main block with multiple gables and dormers; drilled, scroll-sawn, and turned ornament; fishscale shingles and German siding; Queen Anne sash edged with colored lights; 2 second-story sleeping porches.
- 22. 1826 Corbett Road: c. 1910 2 story multigabled frame house, German siding, 3-sided bay, porch with turned posts.
- 23. 1827 Corbett Road: one story hip-roofed frame building, built 1896 as village school, converted to residence in 1910, shingled.

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8. Significance

BA-2260

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art X commerce communications		Iandscape architectur Iaw Iterature	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater X_ transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	c. 1830-c. 1920	Builder/Architect Va	arious builders	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, C Applicable Exceptions: none Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Corbett Historic District is locally significant for its association with the growth of small centralized communities in rural Baltimore County as a result of the development of rail transportation in the area into the late 19th century. The district comprises a cohesive group of buildings reflecting the village's importance as a local commercial, industrial, and transportation center around the turn of the 20th century. The frame houses which predominantly characterize the district display Victorian ornament in the form of turned spindles and balusters, scroll-sawn brackets, and imbricated shingles, recalling the importance of the sawmill to the town's early economy. The district retains its turn-of-the-20th-century character, with few insensitive alterations and little recent construction.

9. Major Biblio aphical Reference

BA-2260

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Clemens, S.B. and C.E. Clemens, <u>From Marble Hill to Maryland Line</u> (n.p.: Authors, rev. ed. 1983).

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel, <u>A History of Baltimore County</u> (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, 1980).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property <u>approximately 72</u> acres Quadrangle name <u>Phoenix</u>, <u>MD</u>

UMT References

A 1 8 Zone	3 6 11 3 8 0 Easting	4 13 8 1 2 4 0 Northing	B 1 8 Zone	3611620 Easting	4_3 8_0 8_0_0 Northing
c [1 8]	3 6 0 9 7 0	4 3 8 0 7 0 0	D 118	360510	41380860
E 118	3 6 0 7 0 0	413 811 11910	F 🛄		
G			н		

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

state n/	'a	code	county	•···· ·	code
state		code	county		code
11. For	m Prepar	ed By	•		
name/title	Andrew C. Cler	mens			
organization)			date 3	31 March 1985
street & number	16202 Corbett	Village Lar	16	telephone	301-472-4365
city or town	Monkton			state	Maryland 21111
12. Sta	te Histor	The second se	state is:	n Offic	er Certification
12. Sta The evaluated sig As the designated 665), I hereby non	nificance of this prop national I State Historic Prese	perty within the state ervation Officer f for inclusion in t	state is: X local for the National the National Reg	Historic Preser	vation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– y that it has been evaluated
12. Sta The evaluated sig As the designated 665), I hereby non according to the d	nificance of this prop national I State Historic Present ninate this property f	perty within the state ervation Officer f for inclusion in t res set forth by t	state is: X local for the National the National Reg	Historic Preser	vation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– y that it has been evaluated
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HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Corbett's earliest history is documented by a series of land transactions. Cromwell's Park, patented to Joseph Cromwell in 1719, adjoined My Landy's Manor on the southeast. The boundary between this land and 'the manor' was in dispute until it was resurveyed in 1771. Part of Cromwell's Park was leased to Nicholas Merryman. This parcel, known as The Lease, would later become Corbett.

In 1846 William Gywnn bought Cromwell's Park from John Hunter. The stuccocovered stone Greek Revival house (1615 Corbett Road) was standing at this time and was known as the Cromwell's Park house. None of the other houses in the neighborhood existed at this time. Gywnn's daughter, Elinor, carved her name into a pane of glass with a diamond ring and this can still be seen today.

The next owner of note was Isaac Corbett who bought the land in 1864. Corbett immortalized his name when he deeded a small parcel of land to the Northern Central Railroad that same year. This land was to be used as a flag station and the area became known as Corbett's Station. An interesting provision of this deed stated that if trains did not stop for a person of two weeks the land would revert to Corbett, his heirs, or assignees. There must have been some problem between the two parties because in an 1886 newspaper article stated that "the siding had been taken up by the railroad owing to an argument about the right of a strip of land."

In 1881, when Daniel Alder bought the property, Cromwell's Park and another stone house very close by were still the only houses standing in what is now Corbett. The railroad tracks were here, although there was no station and no scheduled stops. The Corbett Road, as we know it did not exist. A road did begin at York Road and followed the present course of Corbett Road east to Matthews Road, but it then followed the course of Matthews Road into Monkton.

It is said that Daniel Alder conceived the idea "of a new road running directly through the station and intersecting York Road at one end and Old York Road at the other." This road was built, complete with a covered bridge over the Gunpowder River that was accepted by County Commissioners in 1883.

Daniel Alder then set out to "build Corbett." First, he erected a large building (1702 Corbett Road) that would be a store, Post Office, and railroad station. This building would also be the home of Methodist Church services and Sunday School. Alder then built a wheelwright and blacksmith shop on his property.



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Corbett Historic District Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number

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8

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

In 1885 Robert Merryman, a lumberman and builder from Monkton, bought land and located his sawmill in Corbett. He was attracted to this area because he was able to purchase land very close to the railroad. This sawmill was a two building affair and was powered by a large steam engine. He also built a small, frame tenant house next to the mill. With this local source of lumber, building in Corbett began in earnest.

In 1888 Isaac Prosser, son-in-law of Daniel Alder, had a frame house built somewhere on Alder property. John Miller also built here (1640 Corbett Road), a shoemaker, was the first to buy land from Alder instead of just renting. Miller also built a lean-to on the rear of his house to use as his cobbler shop.

Also in 1888 the Northern Central Railroad built a railroad station and warehouse in Corbett. The station replaced the room that was rented in the store building and the "warehouse" appears to have been a tool shed.

Robert Merryman was also busy in 1888. With his new mill a success, he began to put up the foundation walls for his new residence. This house, at 1732 Corbett Road, would take over two years to complete. Merryman drew plans and constructed the house to be the very finest for its day. His plans would include a large Queen Anne style residence with porches, balconies, an eight foot wide hall, two parlors, five or six bed chambers, large kitchen and a dumbwaiter. Unfortunately, he never lived to see the house completed; he died of pneumonia in 1889. Testimony given in a court case in 1891 indicates that the house had just been completed and that efforts had been made to rent it. These efforts had been unsuccessful, the house had stood empty for two years and expenses were adding up. The Merryman family asked permission of the Orphans Court to sell the property; this was granted and the property sold in 1892 to County Commissioner John V. Slade for \$3,500.00.

1889 marked the year that Daniel Alder built a house "immediately in back of the store" for his son Harry, who was the station agent. Marion Merryman, Robert's brother and a builder by trade, also built a large mansard-roofed home that year. In 1890 two houses were built. Henry Sutzka built his house on a hill in Corbett and Jacob Fisher built his house lower down in the village. Although an exact date cannot be found, it must have been at this time First Avenue came into being. This street would later be called Railroad Avenue and in 1982 the residents changed the name again to Corbett Village Lane.

During the years 1886-1890 several businesses also started in the village. The saw mill and coal yard were in operation, located just across Corbett Road from the end of First Avenue. The store and post office were thriving and John Miller was busy plying his shoemaking trade from his house at 1640 Corbett Road,





United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Corbett Historic District Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number

8	Page 6
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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

just across the tracks. The blacksmith and wheelwright shop, under a variety of persons, was expanding and was relocated down into the village proper. The railroad was busy too; shipping milk for area farmers, materials and finished products to and from the mill, and, of course, passengers. In 1890 block stations, or signal towers, were added to the line just south of the #28 bridge.

The young village lost one house and almost lost another in 1892. First, Isaac Prosser's house burned to the ground. His tenant was able to save the furniture. Shortly after that, disaster struck again when lightning struck the home of John Miller. The lightning knocked off shingles, plaster, and exited out the stove. The Miller family made their escape by exiting through the cobbler shop and the house was saved.

Despite these setbacks growth still continued at a fast pace. John Slade, who had just bought the store, built a warehouse just south of the station and also a stable near the store. He also added to the store building, painted it and readied it for opening. Marion Merryman also built two more houses on his property here. Marion was now owner of the mill having bought it from his brother's estate. Daniel Alder also had four more houses built in the village.

The 1896 tax list provides a clear picture of Corbett that year:

John Stutzka - 1 house John Miller - 1 house l chicken house John Slade - 1 frame store/dwelling combined stable/coal house building and warehouse dwelling and outbuildings Marion Merryman - 3 houses 1 office Daniel Alder - 6 houses blacksmith shop 3 barns corn house barrack Ida Merryman - sawmill tenant house

The following people were listed as owning personal property only and no real estate.





United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Corbett Historic District Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number

8

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

D. R. Allen - Surveyor Harry Merryman J. V. Storms George Alder Harry Alder Oliver Peregoy - storekeeper

Also in 1896 a new village school was built to replace the quarters that were rented in the store. This two-room school was built by Marion Merryman. The front room was used for the public school and the room in the rear was used for Methodist Church services and Sunday School. This building almost did not see completion. On a Wednesday night, when the building was almost finished, persons unknown poured coal oil on wood shavings around the foundation and set it ablaze. Mrs. Charles Alder saw the fire, the neighborhood was aroused and the fire was put out.

Newspaper accounts also tell us of the human side of Corbett. Romances, illness, accidents at the mill, and poor conditions of the roads are all recounted. The story of a murder is reported in an 1887 story about Corbett. Apparently a scuffle broke out at the blacksmith shop. It continued as the participants went behind a barrack barn. There one stabbed the other. The newspaper speaks of a trial but does not report the outcome of it.

In the early 1900s Dr. Josiah Payne and his son, T. Ross Payne, moved to Corbett and began to practice medicine. The Doctors Payne, one of whom lived at the corner of Corbett Village Lane and Corbett Road and the other in a large house just east of Corbett Village Lane, used a small building at 16205 Corbett Village Lane for their office. A stable was built between their office and home for the horse and carriage. One of the earliest telephone systems in this area linked the doctors to the Monkton Hotel. Dr. T. Ross Payne eventually raised the office to two stories, his yardman lived on the second floor. A subsequent owner converted the stable to a residence although it shares its well and septic system with the house next door.

Although building did not continue at as furious a pace, several more houses were built during the 1900s. Josiah Sheppard built a house for his married daughter, Mrs. Harry Elliot, on the property next to the house he had bought from Stutzka. This Harry Elliot then had a house built at the end of a new road called Second Avenue. This street, providing access to this house only, was built as a public road. Since that time it has become a private driveway. The house at the end of Second Avenue (16205 Corbett Village Lane) stood unpainted for about 20 years. It also had no well; water came from the house up the hill.





8

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Corbett Historic District Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Around 1910 Edward Merryman bought land and built his house (1826 Corbett Road) on the hill above the village school. Robert Merryman, son of the man who started the mill, built a home in Corbett just after the turn of the century. In 1919 the Keys family had a prefabricated house brought in by railroad and assembled it just across Corbett Road from the Cromwell Park House.

Despite these signs of growth, Corbett was beginning to show signs of decline. Around 1900 the saw mill closed. The small tenant house on the mill lot fell into disrepair and was demolished. In the 1930s the farm machinery shop closed. Also in the 1930s the Tolley family bought the house that Jacob Fisher built and had it demolished.

Although all other commercial enterprises had closed Corbett maintained its identity through the store, Post Office and railroad station. Another blow came on December 31, 1944 when the Post Office was closed and all mail was postmarked "Monkton."

The 1950-1980 period has brought more changes to Corbett. Local train service was halted and the station demolished. In 1971 all trains stopped running on the line due to flood damage. In 1984 the Northern Central rightof-way became a bike/hike trail. Two house were added to the village in this period and a barn has been converted to a duplex apartment.

In spite of all of the changes that have occurred, Corbett has retained its Victorian charm through its architecture, stately trees and quiet pace.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description and justification:

The boundaries of the Corbett Historic District are indicated on the attached map, and were drawn to encompass the tight cluster of resources which contribute to the significance of the district while excluding the surrounding open farmland and forest. Boundaries utilize existing property lines as lines of convenience; these lines, however, correspond closely to changes in topography and land use. The Gunpowder Falls defines the southeastern boundary of the district; woodland lies to the southwest, east and north; rolling farmland extends to the west.



8 and 10 Page

