

**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

| |
|-------------------|
| For HGRS use only |
| received |
| date entered |

1. Name

historic Sunnyfields

and/or common Sunnyfields

2. Location

street & number 825 Hammonds Lane

N/A not for publication

city, town Linthicum Heights N/A vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Maryland code 24 county Anne Arundel code 003

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" 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 | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <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 checked="" 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

name Mrs. Myrtle D. Helfrich

street & number 825 Hammonds Lane

city, town Baltimore N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21215

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse

street & number Church Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970s federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

AA-116

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" 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

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The house known as Sunnyfields sits approximately 200 yards south of Hammonds Lane, a half mile east of the Old Annapolis Road in northern Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The west portion of the house is brick, two-and-a-half stories tall and three bays wide. The east portion is of frame construction, six bays long and two stories high. The principal facade faces north; along the south side are several one story, frame additions. The earliest portion of the house, the frame section at the east end, apparently dates from about 1785 and contains several original mantels and portions of the original window casings. The brick part on the west apparently was built in 1810. This contains all of its original woodwork - mantels, casings, doors, the staircase and most of the original wide floor boards. There is also an original plaster ceiling medallion in the first floor hall. Several times during the 19th century, the frame portion was modified and enlarged. About 1912 it was altered to reflect current taste and again enlarged. Since 1965, the kitchen and bathrooms have been modified and a family room added on the south side.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Sunnyfields sits on part of Hopkins Lot, an 81 acre tract patented by Robert Hopkins in 1695. In 1753, Hopkins Lot was sold to William Forrest who, in 1784, deeded the property to his son George. The earliest surviving woodwork indicates that the present house was begun at the time George Forrest took over the plantation or very shortly thereafter. This first portion was two stories, three bays wide and clapboarded (see plan, part of living room). Attached to it was a one-and-a-half story wing, three bays long and also clapboarded (see plan, dining room). From surviving evidence, the wing possibly had a gambrel roof.

The two story section had a 6-0 x 12-0 stair passage and one chamber 12-0 x 16-0 on the first floor. The ceiling height is 7-4. The chamber had two windows in its south wall, two in its north and a fireplace on the west wall. The simple pilastered Federal style mantel is still in place. The three-bay-wide wing has been altered several times and no original interior work survives. There is no evidence suggesting it contained more than one room 12-6 x 22-6. There is a door in the center of its west wall leading to what was the stair passage and a fireplace on its east wall.

The second floor of the two story section has a bed chamber over the chamber below. This upper room retains its original window casing on its north windows and its original mantel composed of a beaded board with a moulded backband. There is also a vertical beaded board partition forming a closet next to the chimney. At the four corners of the bed chamber are exposed, beaded wooden posts. The similar posts in the room below were covered about 1912 by plaster and decorative woodwork when that room was altered.

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Sunnyfields

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Access to an attic space was by a ceiling hatch in the stair passage. The attic was floored with wide random-width pine boards which are still in place. In the east gable was one window. The window was off center because of the ridge of the wing roof. The surviving portion of the east gable wall of the two story section has random width, unbeaded clapboards. The barge board is beaded. The clapboards were cut for the wing roof indicating that the two frame sections were constructed at the same time. The roofs of both parts of the house were the same rather low pitch which suggests that the wing may have had a gambrel roof. The nailing strips for the wood shingle roof survive in the attic.

The foundation under the early frame portion of Sunnyfields is constructed of field stone and brick, with the brick starting at the ground line. At the east end is a white-washed basement room 12-0 x 14-0, with access from a door in the east end. There was one window in the north wall. There is a crawl space under the rest of the house. Many of the original floor joists, some with bark still on them, are in place.

The next portion of the house to be constructed was a high-style Federal addition - built of brick, three bays wide and two-and-a half stories tall (see plan, Hall and Parlor). All the work in this portion displays fine craftsmanship. In 1810 George Forrest sold the plantation to Nicholas Sank. It is believed that this high-style addition was constructed between the time the Sank family purchased the property and 1811 when Mrs. Sank died.

The north wall, which contains the front entrance, is laid in Flemish bond. The north and west walls are laid in common bond. The cornices along the north and south walls are three courses of stepped brick. The east wall abuts the earlier frame section. Where it can be seen beyond the earlier gable of the frame section, the brickwork is much rougher than on the exposed walls. The brick wall above the lower roof is covered with metal and cannot be seen. The simple cap on the chimney on the west gable wall is typical of early 19th century Maryland architecture. There are widely splayed jack arches over the front door and two first floor windows on the north elevation. The arches are four-and-a-half courses tall and constructed with rubbed and gauged bricks. The jack arches over all the other openings in the north and south elevations are moderately splayed, three courses tall, with gauged, but not rubbed bricks. All the brickwork is painted white. It has been painted since before the 1890s when the earliest known photograph of the house was taken.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The front door originally had six panels, but early in this century the upper four panels were removed for glazing. The door on the south elevation still has its six panels. Over the front door is a rectangular transom with three lights. All the windows on the north and south elevations are double hung and retain their original sashes with six-over-six light sashes. There are two dormers on the north, with six-over-six sashes. The west gable has a four-light casement in the east gable.

The first floor of the brick addition has a stair hall 7-10 x 19-4 and a parlor 19-4 x 22-3. The ceiling height is 9-10. Except for the floor in the parlor, all the original woodwork in the brick portion of Sunnyfields is intact. The casing in the parlor has heavy reeding similar to that found in other high-style Baltimore area houses of the Federal period. The same pattern of reeded casing survives in Druid Hill houses built between 1797 and 1799 in Baltimore. Richard Randall, former Director of the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, has stated that this reeding was a characteristic of Federal period design in the Baltimore region. Not only was it used on casings and mantels, but cabinetmakers, such as James Needles, were noted for their use of heavy reeding. The window casing runs to the floor. The jambs of the windows have a slight splay. The window and door casings have square corner blocks with inset circular mouldings. The mantel in the parlor has pilasters with the same reeding as the casing, forming a continuity of decorative elements in the room.

The same casing is used at the door openings in the stair hall. The west wall of the hall contains the door to the parlor. The front door is on the north wall. At the north corner of the east wall is a door to the earlier frame house. The door had to be placed in the corner, without space for casing along its left side, because of the small amount of wall space next to the chimney in the earlier room. In the ceiling of the stair hall is a fine, moulded, circular plaster medallion. The chairrails and cornices in the hall and parlor are 20th century additions.

The stair rises up the east wall of the hall. Under the landing on the south wall was an exterior door. The stair has a simple, turned newel and a rounded handrail. The balusters are slightly rectangular. All this work is in the Baltimore Federal idiom. Curved stair brackets and raised panelling in the partition under the steps are decorative elements typical of the finer work in the Baltimore area.

The stair hall widens at the second floor making the bed chamber over the parlor about three feet narrower. At the north end of the hall is a small room. Since this room has a door to the bed chamber as well as the hall, it might have been intended for use as a nursery or dressing room. The mouldings on this floor are simpler than those on the first and the mantel in the bed chamber is a simpler variation of the one in the parlor below.

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Continuation sheet Sunnyfields Anne Arundel Co., Maryland Item number 7 Page 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

An enclosed stair leads to the attic which contains two rooms. The spaces are fully plastered. The west room has a dormer window on the north and a small window to each side of the chimney on the west wall. The other room has a dormer window on the north and one small window in the center of the east gable. Because the rooms are finished, it is impossible to see the roof framing.

Phase 3

Eight foot wide porches were added along the south side of the frame portion of the house about 1845. (See plan, Kitchen, Bath and part of Living Room.) There was a second floor gallery to the porch along the two story section. Doors were cut through to the gallery from the stair passage in the frame section and from the landing of the stair in the brick addition. Oral tradition ascribes the porches to the mid-1840s. That date is appropriate for the door and casing on the stair landing which have simple Greek Revival detailing. The property changed hands several times between 1839 and 1846 and any of the purchasers could have added the porches.

Phase 4

Some time later in the 19th century, the east end of the frame portion of the house was raised to a full two stories. (See plan, Dining Room.) The new roof continued the height and pitch of the existing roof to the west. The entire roof was then covered with tin. The wood framing for the new roof is joined quite differently than the earlier and is nailed.

A photograph believed taken in the 1890s shows the north front of the house after the east end was raised. It also shows a porch covering the two entrance doors and the space between them. The porch posts appear to be unornamented and possibly could date from the construction of the south porch.

Phase 5

Sunnyfields was sold in 1910 and shortly thereafter major changes were made to the frame portion of the house. (See plan, Living Room, Dining Room, Bath, Kitchen, Breakfast Area, Shed and Storage.) The west room was enlarged by removing the partition between that room and the stair passage. The porch to the south was enclosed. The original south wall was removed to further enlarge the room and the two windows in that wall were re-installed in the new south wall. Round wooden Roman Doric columns on pedestals were inserted to support the added wooden beams which held existing partitions above the new,

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

wide openings. A new stair with turned balusters and a square newel was installed. In the flat panels of the newel are composition ornaments of foliage, ribbons, and bellflowers. The use of columns on pedestals to frame wide openings and ornamented square newels are very typical of Classical Revival detailing in the United States at this time. The north entrance, which now opened into the living room, was altered to a glass door flanked by sidelights.

The east end of the south porch was also enclosed and an addition containing a kitchen and another room, now used for storage, was constructed. These two rooms still have their wainscoting of narrow, vertical, beaded boards. A small shed was built off the kitchen. There was no internal connection to the shed which was entered from the back stoop.

The porch on the second floor was enclosed, forming another bedroom. Very possibly at this same time, the bathroom to the south of the stair passage and over the new room next to the kitchen was constructed.

The double hung sashes in the windows of the frame part of the house were changed to one-over-one and the first-floor windows on the north side were lengthened.

Phase 6

In 1954, the porch on the north side of the house was removed and a terrace built in its place. The kitchen and bathrooms were modernized in 1965. At the same time, a family room 17-6 x 23-6, with a bathroom and a furnace room, was added to the south. (See plan, Family Room.) This room is reached from the brick wing by the south door under the stair landing. The house is now roofed with composition shingles and the wood clapboards are covered with aluminum siding.

8. Significance

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| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" 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 1785;1797;1810;1845; **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criterion: C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Sunnyfields embodies the distinctive characteristics of several periods of Maryland architecture: pre-Federal vernacular (original frame wing), high style Federal (brick wing), and early 20th century mass produced, Classical Revival (columns and stair added in pre-Federal portion). The fine detailing of the Federal brick section is especially noteworthy; it reflects the influence of urbane architectural fashions current in Baltimore as they diffused to outlying rural areas. The importance of Sunnyfields is augmented by the fact that it remains well preserved in spite of its being surrounded by dense, post World War II suburban development. Sunnyfields is one of the very few historic structures remaining in northern Anne Arundel County, now characterized by strip commercial development, densely populated residential sub-divisions and major highways.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Sunnyfields is located on part of a tract of 81 acres known as Hopkins Lot, which was patented by Robert Hopkins in 1695. In 1753, Hopkins Lot was sold to William Forrest who, in 1784, deeded the property to his son George. The earliest surviving woodwork indicates that the present house was begun at the time George Forrest took over the plantation or very shortly thereafter. In 1810 George Forrest sold the property to Nicholas Sank; it is believed that the high-style Federal-influenced brick addition was constructed between the time the Sank family purchased the property and 1811, when Mrs. Sank died.

Sunnyfields achieved notoriety in the early 20th century as the home of Edwin Von Hagel. Although Von Hagel is officially known as the operator of a stall in the Lexington Market in Baltimore, he is best remembered for the speakeasy he ran during Prohibition at the then-rural Sunnyfields. Von Hagel, according to local tradition, personally "prepared" his spirits in the fields south of the house.

In 1910 Edwin Von Hagel purchased the rural farm. Local tradition states that he maintained a lucrative, if illicit, business in Sunnyfields during Prohibition. Mr. Von Hagel made the Classical Revival additions in the frame section.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Myrtle Helfrich, Sunnyfields scrap book containing the results of a decade of research in primary and secondary sources and in oral history, Sunnyfields, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.
Federal Direct Tax Assessment, 1798, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1.467 acres

Quadrangle name Relay, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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| Zone | | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael F. Trostel, AIA

organization date March 1983

street & number 1307 Bolton Street telephone 301/669-3964

city or town Baltimore state Maryland

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] 6-30-83

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 8/11/83

Keuper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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date entered

Continuation sheet Sunnyfields
Anne Arundel Co., Maryland Item number 8 and 10 Page 5HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

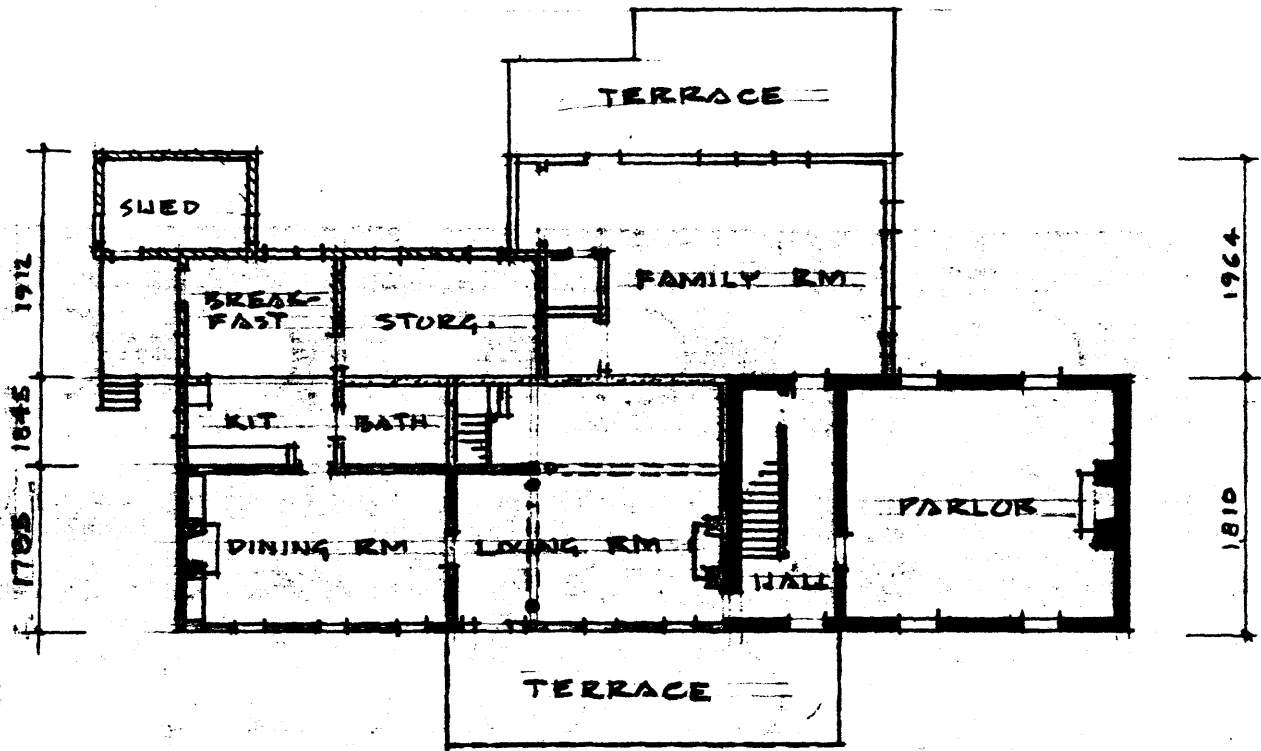
The present owner acquired the property in 1939 with the express purpose of undertaking a restoration project. Mrs. Helfrich was therefore part of the silent beginnings of the Maryland preservation movement. For in the 1930s many of Maryland's historic properties were acquired by individuals for preservation purposes, often to provide an appropriate setting for antiques. In a period where "later additions" were normally ripped down by early preservationists to return to the "original," Mrs. Helfrich took the unusual approach of preserving intact all the elements of the evolution of her historic property.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning for the same at a point on the southerly side of Hammonds Lane 40 ft. wide and located South 63 degrees 30 minutes 55 seconds West 130.81 ft. from the intersection formed by the westerly side of a 150 ft. Baltimore Gas & Electric Company right-of-way described among the Land Records of Anne Arundel County in Liber J.H.H. No. 829, folio 141 and said Hammonds Lane; said point also marks the intersection formed by the southerly side of Hammonds Lane and the westerly side of a right-of-way previously established leading from the property herein northerly to the southerly side of Hammonds Lane. Thence from the point of beginning so fixed leaving said Hammonds Lane and binding on and with the westerly side of said previously created right-of-way with meridian corrected to Anne Arundel County Grid North, South 02 degrees 12 minutes 50 seconds East 295.23 ft. and South 03 degrees 03 minutes 00 seconds East 80.99 ft.; thence South 42 degrees 21 minutes 30 seconds East 24.86 ft. to the southerly end of said right-of-way leading to Hammonds Lane; thence South 02 degrees 12 minutes 52 seconds East 150.00 ft. to the southerly side of the lot herein described; thence South 87 degrees 47 minutes 08 seconds West 135.00 and North 02 degrees 12 minutes 52 seconds West 492.11 ft. to a point on the southerly side of said Hammonds Lane; thence binding on and with said side of Hammonds Lane, North 63 degrees 30 minutes 55 seconds East 129.30 ft. to the point of beginning. (See sketch map.)


BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the approximately two-acre parcel included in this nomination encompasses the historic environment of the property and are derived from clear visual edges. On two sides the boundaries are defined by roadways: on the north by Hammonds Lane, a county road, and by a driveway on the east. The remaining boundaries consist of plantings (an old orchard and trees and shrubs) around the south and part of the west side of the property. The remaining western boundary is an extension of the tree line to the county road. These boundaries define the vista from Hammonds Lane south to Sunnyfields sitting in an open field framed in the rear by plantings.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"


 CALLED
 NORTH

SUNNYFIELDS

HAMMON'S LANE

LINTHICUM HEIGHTS

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

MFT
 FEB 83

HAMMOND'S LANE

129.30'

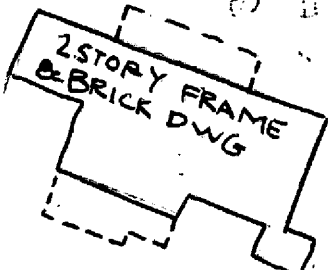


1" = 50'

TREE LINE

TREE LINE

AREA: 1.467 AC ±



2 STORY FRAME
BRICK DWG

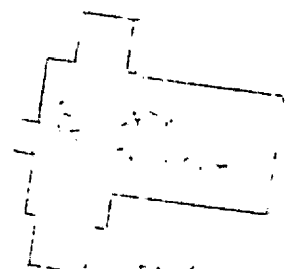
"JESSICA SCHULER"

ST. 1551/1553

GRAVEL DRIVE

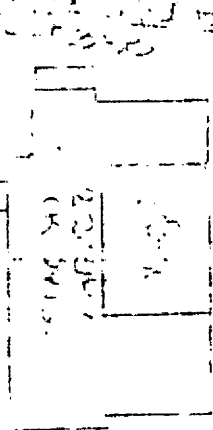
N 21° 12' 52" W 348.92'

0.287 AC ±
"GFORNS"



20.77'

40' FRONT



"LAFAY"

AA-116
SUNNY FIELDS
ANNE ARUNDEL CO., MD.

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY