CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-3120
Chase African American Survey District
Baltimore County, MD
1890-1950s

The area of Chase is located in the Middle River Neck of Baltimore County in the Fifteenth District. In 1850, the community of Chase's Station Post Office was beginning to form at the intersection of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad and Marble Avenue. It developed as a station for the Baltimore Railroad. The historic area of Chase was off Eastern Avenue at the crossroads of Ebenezer Road (originally called Marble Road) and Eastern Avenue Extended. Eight residences existed along Eastern Avenue Extended according to the 1877 Hopkins Atlas. The area gained a few more residences by 1915 as exhibited on the Bromley Atlas. According to the 1920 United States Census, African American residents in Chase predominantly resided along Eastern Avenue Extended. The families included Jones, Meyers, Brown, Reed, Cooper, Logan, Johnson, Scott, Griffin, Pitts, Berry, and League. In 1969, approximately 42 properties are located along Eastern Avenue Extended between Shining Star Baptist Church and Brinkmans Road. At the turn of the 21st century, very few African Americans remain in area.

The Chase African American Survey District consists of approximately 21 residences, and two churches. The majority of the single-family houses are sited next to Eastern Avenue Extended. These houses are a mixture of one to two-and-a-half story house types. One of the earliest dwellings in the Chase survey district appears to be 12152 Eastern Avenue Extended. Constructed circa 1890, this large house is six bays wide, two-and-a-half stories high, and rests on a random-rubble stone foundation. It most likely served as a multiple dwelling when it was constructed. It features a center-cross-gable roof, of which the center gable is pierced with a round-arched 2/2 wood-sash window. The first floor is pierced with four 6/6 wood-sash windows and two single-leaf paneled-wood doors.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3120

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Chase African American Survey District
other	

2. Location

street and number	Eastern Avenue, Marshy Point Rd., Minnow Branch Rd	___	not for publication
city, town	Middle River	X	vicinity
county	Baltimore County		

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

name	Multiple Ownership		
street and number		telephone	Not Available
city, town	state	zip code	

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	tax map 91
city, town	Towson	liber	folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
___ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
___ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
___ Other _____

6. Classification

Category
X district
___ building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership
___ public
X private
___ both

Current Function
___ agriculture
___ commerce/trade
___ defense
X domestic
___ education
___ funerary
___ government
___ health care
___ industry
___ landscape
___ recreation/culture
X religion
___ social
___ transportation
___ work in progress
___ unknown
___ vacant/not in use
___ other: _____

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
23	40	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
23	40	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3120

Condition

___	excellent	___	deteriorated
X	good	___	ruins
___	fair	___	altered

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

The Chase African American Survey District consists of approximately 21 residences, and two churches. The majority of the single-family houses are sited next to Eastern Avenue Extended. These houses are a mixture of one to two-and-a-half story house types.

One of the earliest dwellings in the Chase survey district appears to be 12152 Eastern Avenue Extended. Constructed circa 1890, this large house is six bays wide, two-and-a-half stories high, and rests on a random-rubble stone foundation. It most likely served as a multiple dwelling when it was constructed. It features a center-cross-gable roof, of which the center gable is pierced with a round-arched 2/2 wood-sash window. The first floor is pierced with four 6/6 wood-sash windows and two single-leaf paneled-wood doors. Across the façade is a shed-roof porch supported with Tuscan columns. A bulkhead cellar entrance is located on the western side elevation and the original weatherboard siding is covered with asbestos shingles.

Another early dwelling in the Chase survey district is 7021 Marshy Point Road dating to circa 1897. This residence, set back from the road, is two-and-a-half stories high, three bays wide, and is covered with a side-gable roof. The wood-frame structural system rests on a solid foundation and is clad with vinyl siding. West of the house is a detached front-gable roof garage dating circa 1930.

The Sharp Street United Methodist Church (BA-512) dates to 1902 according to the cornerstone. The cornerstone calls the church Sharp Street M.E. Church. It is one story high plus a full basement, three bays wide, and the wood frame structural system is clad with a brick veneer. The rectangular-shaped church is seven bays deep and is pierced with replacement 1/1 windows. The façade contains a central double-leaf entry flanked by two 1/1 windows. Across the façade is a non-historic gable-roof porch. Atop the ridgeline is a steeple capped with a cross. The church is flanked on the east and west sides by the cemetery. The oldest marker appears to date from 1902, which is associated with Elizabeth Rogers. Other historic markers are for Charles H. Rogers (1905), William J. Brown (1905), Edna Beatrice (1910), John Hooper (1912), Jeremiah H. Branch (1912), George Griffin (1918), John A. Griffin (1919). The markers are made out of marble or granite and several are in poor condition and the woods have grown over a small section. A total of 16 markers are exhibited in the old cemetery. The newer cemetery is located on the west side of the church.

At 2409 Eastern Avenue Extended is a circa 1910 two-and-a-half story wood-frame dwelling measuring two bays across. Asphalt shingles cover the side-gable roof and the shed-roof porch across the façade. The foundation is not visible and the structural system is clad with wood shingles. The rear ell has an interior-end and an exterior-end brick chimney. The replacement windows are 2/2 horizontal wood sash and the center cross-gable 2/2 window is wood sash. Next to this house is 2411 Eastern Avenue Extended dating to circa 1910. This wood-frame house is two-and-a-half stories high and three bays wide featuring a central single-leaf entry. The side-gable roof features a center cross-gable on the façade. The windows are 2/2 wood sash, the foundation is not visible, and the structural system is clad with asbestos shingles.

The wood-frame I-house at 12133 Eastern Avenue is two-stories high and three bays wide featuring a single-leaf center entrance. Constructed circa 1910, this side-gable roof house rests on a solid parged random-rubble stone foundation. The replacement windows are 1/1 vinyl sash and a shed-roof porch covers the three bays on the façade. Several wood-frame additions are located on the rear elevation.

Summer Scott's Garden, what is referred to as Scott's Beer Garden, is sited on the northwest side of Eastern Avenue Extended. This wood-frame four-square dwelling rests on a parged stone foundation and was constructed circa 1920. Rising two-and-a-half stories in height this house is capped with a hipped roof with a hipped roof dormer on the façade. It is two bays across with a single-leaf entry and features 1/1 wood-sash windows. Across the façade is a half-hipped roof porch supported with wood columns and square balusters.

Several bungalows are located in the district, 12417 Eastern Avenue and 12312 are two examples. The house at 12417 Eastern Avenue, is a one-and-a-half story bungalow with a side-gable roof. Dating to circa 1930, this house is three bays wide featuring a single-leaf central entry flanked with 4-light sidelights. Rising above the asphalt-shingle roof is a gable dormer and the house is clad with stucco. The inset porch across the façade is supported with wood columns. The second house, 12312 Eastern Avenue, dates to circa 1930, is covered with a front-gable roof and is clad with asbestos shingles. It is one-and-a-half-stories high, three bays wide, three bays deep, and rests on a rock-faced concrete-block foundation. Rising above the roof is a shed-roof dormer on the side elevations and a rock-faced concrete-block chimney. A half-hipped roof enclosed porch covers the full-width of the façade.

Constructed in 1959, the Shining Star Baptist Church at 11832 Eastern Avenue, is a rectangular-shaped church with a front-gable roof and a gable roof vestibule. This church rises one-story high, one bay wide, and five bays deep. It rests on a solid parged foundation, is clad with stucco, and features parged buttresses along the side elevations. A pyramidal-roof steeple rises above the asphalt-shingle roof.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-3120

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
___ 1600-1699	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ health/medicine	___ performing arts
___ 1700-1799	___ archeology	___ education	___ industry	___ philospohy
X 1800-1899	___ architecture	___ engineering	___ invention	___ politics/government
X 1900-1999	___ art	___ entertainment/ recreation	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 2000-	___ commerce		___ law	___ science
	___ communications	X ethnic heritage	___ literature	___ social history
	X community planning	___ exploration/ settlement	___ maritime industry	___ transportation
	___ conservation		___ military	___ other:

Specific dates 1890-1950s **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1890-1950s

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____ Maryland Register X not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The area of Chase is located in the Middle River Neck of Baltimore County in the Fifteenth District. Just prior to 1915, the Fifteenth District was developed out of the Twelfth District. The Twelfth District was divided into three districts, the Twelfth, Fourteenth, and the Fifteenth. According to Scharf in 1881, the Twelfth District, was the largest in square-mileage and second in total population among all the districts in Baltimore County.(1) The Fifteenth District is known for the availability of commercial and recreational fishing and hunting along the Patapasco River, Middle River, Back River, and Gunpowder River.

In 1850, the community of Chase's Station Post Office was beginning to form at the intersection of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad and Marble Avenue.(2) Since 1915, Chase's Station and Post Office has been shortened merely to Chase. It developed as a station for the Baltimore Railroad. The historic area of Chase was off Eastern Avenue at the crossroads of Ebenezer Road (originally called Marble Road) and Eastern Avenue Extended. Eight residences existed along Eastern Avenue Extended according to the 1877 Hopkins Atlas.(3) The area gained a few more residences by 1915 as exhibited on the Bromley Atlas. A few of the families denoted on the 1915 atlas include Earl, Ulrich, Chase, and Richardson.(4)

According to the 1920 United States Census, African American residents in Chase predominantly resided along Eastern Avenue Extended. The families included Jones, Meyers, Brown, Reed, Cooper, Logan, Johnson, Scott, Griffin, Pitts, Berry, and League. Of 18 different households eight family names were listed, eight households were renters, eight owned their property without a mortgage, and one owned their property with a mortgage. Each of the heads of households and their spouses were able to read and write. All of the African American heads of households originated from Maryland except one who came from Virginia. The most common job among the male residents was as a laborer for the railroad company. Three other types of male occupations listed include preacher, J.L. Brown, foreman, and a private family chauffeur. Only two women from the 18 households were employed and both worked for private families as washerwomen.(5)

Sharp Street United Methodist Church (BA-512) was established in 1865 when former slaves formed the church. Several of the founders include the Scotts, John Johns, and Johanna Johns. The first church was a log cabin that was used until 1902. A second church was constructed and then an extension was finished in 1978. It is called Sharp Street U.M. Church because members of the Sharp Street U.M. Church on Etting Street in Baltimore City assisted in organizing the church.(6)

According to an interview by Louis Diggs of Bessie Russell, a resident of Chase, the African American settlement area was considered to extend along Eastern Avenue Extended to the Post Office which is just north of Brinkmans Road. Marshy Point Road and Minnow Branch Road were two side roads on which African Americans lived. Russell lists several African American families that lived in Chase during the first half of the 20th century. These names include John Conners, Wesley Reed, Wippens, Georgie Ockemy, and Grinage. The local unlicensed preacher at Sharp Street United Methodist Church was Gus Hill, whom also was employed as a carpenter. Sharp Street U.M. Church served as the African American church for the area.(7)

Sharp Street U.M. was the only church for African Americans until the Shining Star Baptist Church was established. Shining Star Baptist Church was founded in 1920 by the Staten family. They held church in their home and were joined by the Smith family. When the membership grew, the services were moved to vacant house on Bull Neck Road. Later, Shining Star Baptist Church relocated to a small church on two acres next to the Martin Airport. At this time the congregation was over 50 members. In 1957, the church relocated again because the Air National Guard was to build facilities at the site next to the current airport. First, the church spent two years at Moses Hall in Chase before moving to 11832 Eastern Avenue in 1959. According to an article written in 1997, the congregation has about 250 members.(8)

A community hall was built called Moses Hall, which held the meetings of the Moses Society. It functioned separate from the Sharp Street Church and served as a benevolence society. Many of the African American residents in Chase and neighboring communities are familiar with this society.

The Chase Elementary School, a one-room school, was located south of Moses Hall. When the county constructed public schools, a two-room school was provided for the resident children. This school is located on the southeastern side of Eastern Avenue south of the Chase Consolidated School.

One of the only African American business owner was Harvey Scott who ran Scott's Beer Garden located on Eastern Avenue Extended. This business was a place for residents to congregate and socialize and for local baseball teams to play.(9)

In 1969, approximately 42 properties are located along Eastern Avenue Extended between Shining Star Baptist Church and Brinkmans Road. At the turn of the 21st century, very few African Americans remain in area. The length of the peninsula through which Marshy Point Road runs is owned by Baltimore County and is called the Dundee Saltpeter Park. Amtrak now runs trains along the historic railroad line. Today, very few of the members of the Sharp Street U.M. Church are locals from Chase. Many of the members are from Loreley and Edgewood.(10)

1. Thomas J. Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men, (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881), p. 926.
2. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys, (Baltimore, MD: J.C. Sidney, 1850).
3. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).
4. Map of Baltimore County (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).
5. United States Census, 1920. National Archives, Washington, DC
6. Baltimore County Landmark Inventory, Office of Planning, Towson.
7. Louis Diggs, Interview with Bessie Johns Russell in Chase, Baltimore County 7 May 2003.
8. Jean A. Flanagan, "Small Church With Big Plans," Avenue News: 11 December 1997.
9. Louis Diggs, Interview with Bessie Johns Russell in Chase, Baltimore County 7 May 2003.
10. Louis Diggs, Interview with Bessie Johns Russell in Chase, Baltimore County 7 May 2003.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-3120

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	100 acres		
Acreage of historical setting	Unknown		
Quadrangle name	Middle River & Gunpowder Neck	Quadrangle scale	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Chase African American Survey District is located near Middle River in the Fifteenth District of Baltimore County. The properties have been historically associated with tax map 91 since their construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historian		
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc.	dat	6/20/2003
street and number	1121 Fifth Street, NW	telephone	202-393-1199
city or town	Washington	state DC	zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory, Office of Planning, Towson.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Diggs, Louis. Interview with Bessie Johns Russell in Chase, Baltimore County. Not Published, 7 May 2003.

Flanagan, Jean A. "Small Church With Big Plans," Avenue News: 11 December 1997

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

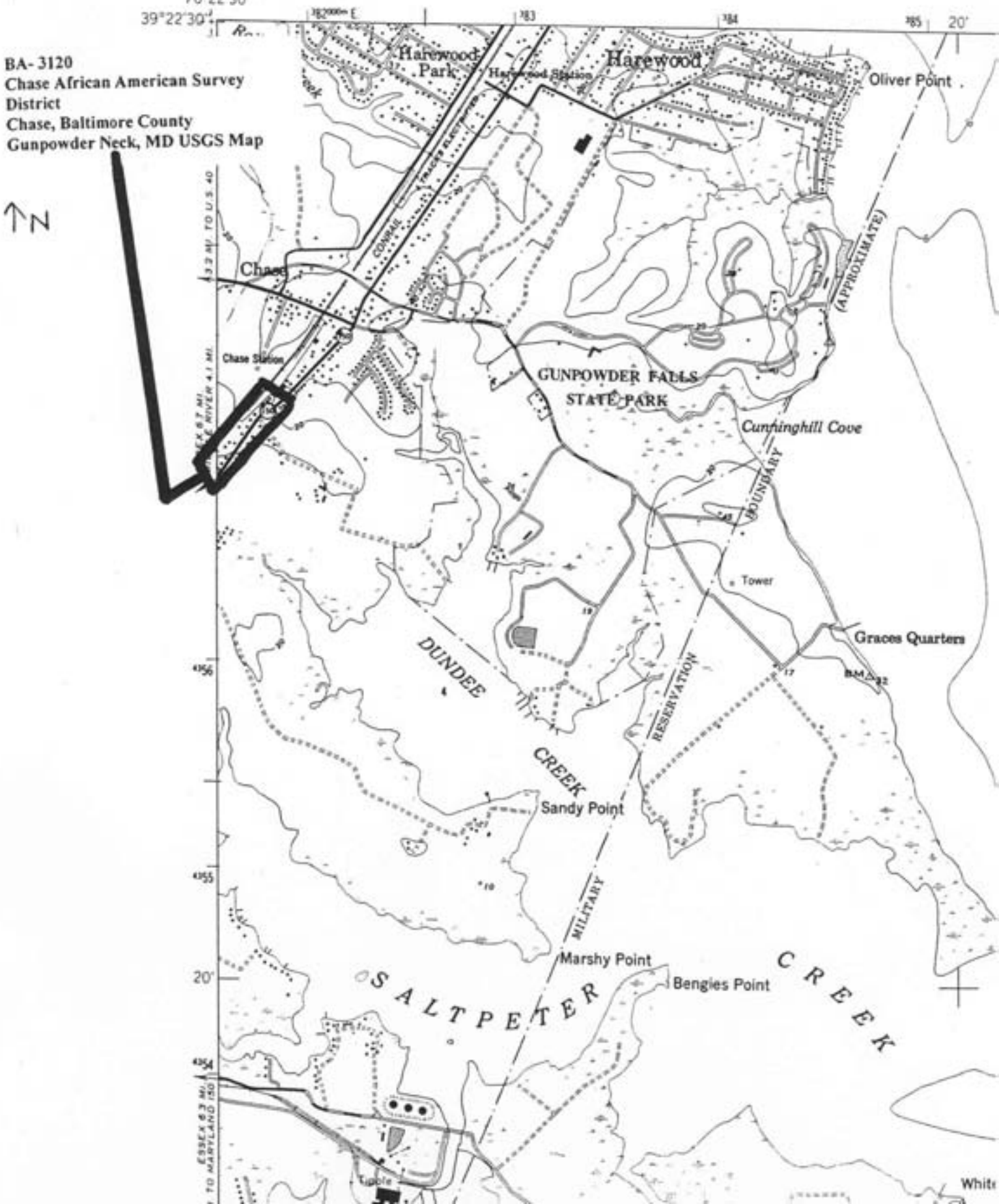
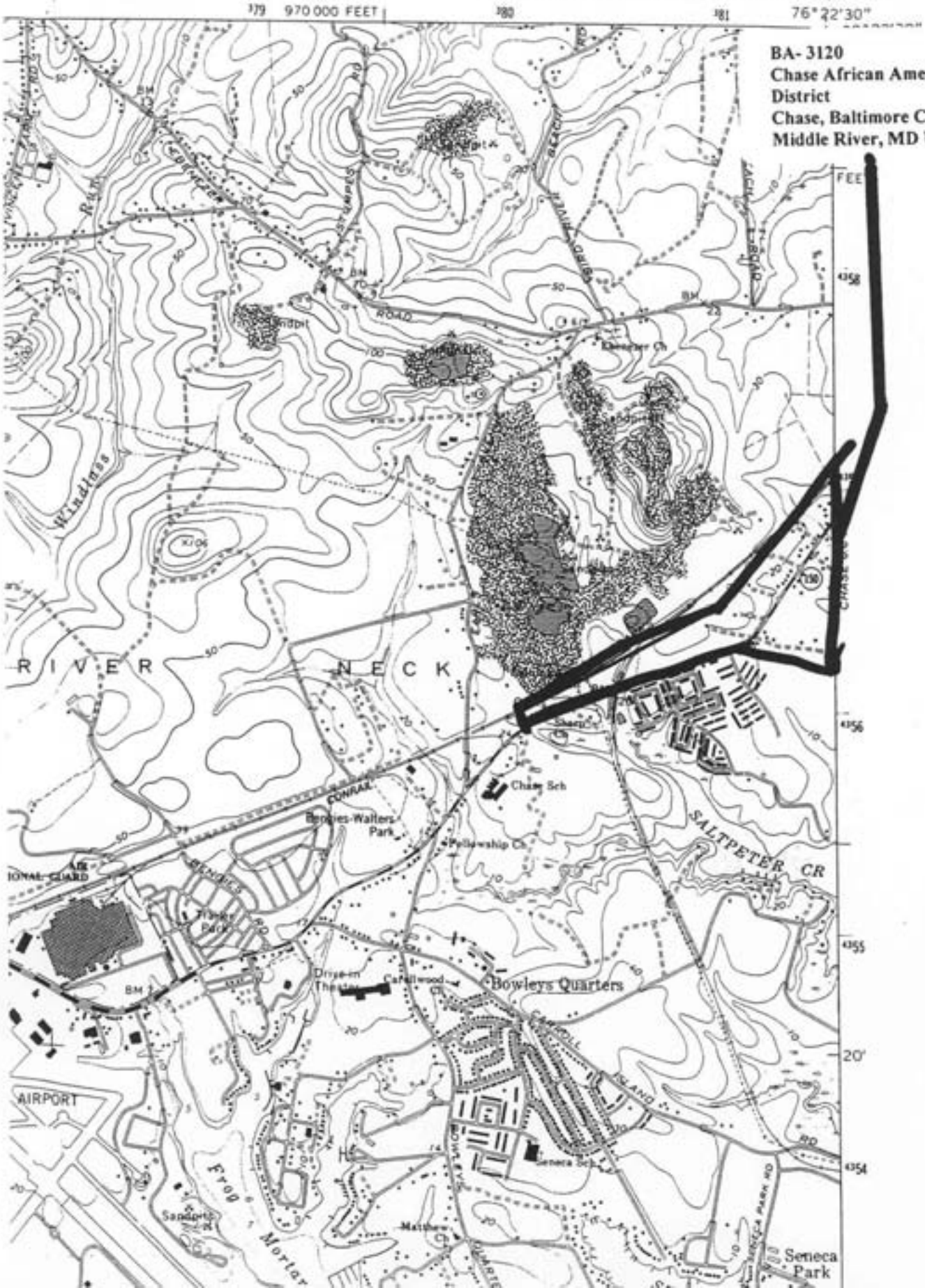
Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Census of 1920, Baltimore County, Maryland. National Archives.

Antiques

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BA- 3120
Chase African American Survey District
Chase, Baltimore County
Gunpowder Neck, MD USGS Map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