

HA-955

## Slate Ridge Quarries

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 02-18-2004***

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: Slate Ridge Quarries Inventory Number: HA-955

Surrounded by Whiteford Road, Quarry

Address: Road, Slate Ridge Road and Main Street City: Whiteford Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

County: Harford USGS Topographic Map: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner: Multiple property owners

Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: multiple

Project: Proposed Antennae Site, Whiteford Road Agency: Federal Communications Commission

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Is the property located within a historic district?  no  yes Name of district: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed?  no  yes Determined eligible?  no  yes District Inventory Number: HA-955

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form #955

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

Located within a heavily wooded area, the Slate Ridge Quarries lie in a rectangular formation between Main Street, Slate Ridge Road, Quarry Road and Whiteford Road (also known as S.R. 0136) in Whiteford, Maryland. These quarries have been previously surveyed. The National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, on file at the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office, (Ewins, Jean G.) indicated four quarry pits. One of the four quarries at this site is currently being used as a recreation area during the summer months. Another nearby quarry did not appear to be in use, but is filled with clear spring water. The remaining two quarries were never found on the site visit and are assumed to have been filled in over the years between the original survey and the current field view. The quarries were mined for over 200 years. The largest pit eventually reached a size 300 feet wide (91.44 meters) and 200 feet deep (60.96 meters). Huge mounds of slate debris were formed beside the pits that grew to add another 100 feet (30.48 meters) to the ridge edge along the top of the quarry pit. A network of dirt roads that lead from quarry-to-quarry are still in existence. Some of the dirt paths appear to have served as outlets to the main roadways that surround the property's boundaries, as that is where they ended. A channel, now nearly filled by slate pieces, with wire a cable extending from one end was found leading in the northern direction. It is believed that this conduit could have been a section of a once existing railroad/cart track system that transported loads of slate to the main roads for further transport. Also present atop the tallest formation of slate debris is the foundation of a forest fire tower.

Whiteford, Maryland is located along "Slate Ridge" – a 10-mile ridge of Cambrian slate in southern York County, Pennsylvania and northern Harford County, Maryland. Whiteford is one of several small villages located along the ridgeline and is closely associated with neighboring Cardiff, located just northeast of Whiteford, and Delta, Pennsylvania, located

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: <u>Boundaries could be expanded to encompass road system.</u>	
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>5/29/02</u>
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>6/7/02</u>
Reviewer, NR program	Date

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**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

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adjacent to Cardiff. All three settlements arose around the quarrying of slate in the late nineteenth century. Whiteford is located approximately 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) southwest of the 29<sup>th</sup> "milestone" of the Mason-Dixon line.

In 1725, Welshmen William Reese and James Reese bought land in the vicinity of Delta, Pennsylvania. Over the next few years as the brothers erected their farm buildings they discovered "slate rock" and proceeded to roof their buildings with the rock. The first commercial cut of slate in the area was made in 1785 and a quarry was opened at Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania in 1812 (Robinson 1979:1).

By the 1840s Welsh immigrants, experienced in working in the quarries of their homeland, were relocating to the area. A map of the area published in 1858 however shows very little development in the area comprising present-day Whiteford (Herrick 1858). Northern Harford County consisted of only a few rudimentary roads, several farmsteads, and a general area identified as "Slate Quarries." The area was still sparsely settled in 1878 (Martenet 1878). "Whiteford" was not identified on a map of the area published during that year, nor was the more developed area to the northeast known today as "Cardiff." The only reference to "Whiteford" was the surname "Whiteford" attributed to several dwellings in the area. Several buildings were erected at the intersection of present-day Main Street and Whiteford Road by this date. The Baltimore and Delta Railroad (later incorporated as the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad and commonly known as the "Ma and Pa") had been erected west of present-day Main Street by this time. Numerous slate quarries were in operation in the area by this date. Other development had occurred northeast of present-day Whiteford along what is known today as "Ridge Road."

The heyday of "Whiteford" evidently occurred in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries during a "boom" in slate quarrying (Hutt 1999:C1). The boom supported employment in the three developing communities of Whiteford, Cardiff and Delta which were described as "very much alive with various businesses and activities" (The Darlington Times 1990:1). First known as Cambria, it is not known when the name of "Whiteford" became commonplace (McLaughlin 1982:39). A vein of green marble was also mined in the area between 1929 and 1942 (The York Daily Record 1985:D1).

With the development of synthetic roofing materials and increased competition, slate passed out of favor. As the quarries slowly closed, some companies began searching for alternative uses for slate. The Staso Milling Company of Whiteford, organized in 1923, shipped ground slate to roofing companies for over thirty years (Wright 1937:156). Like the slate quarries, the use of the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad declined in the twentieth century. By the 1980s, all railroad service south of York on the line had ceased (Wheeler 1999:n.p.). The creation of a new state road—S.R. 0165—west of Main Street and the railroad sometime between 1956 and 1990 diverted traffic from the three settlements (USGS 1990).

The Slate Ridge Quarries are excellent examples of an early stone quarrying industry that dates back to 1725 in Harford County, Maryland. Originally dug by local individuals, commercial slate quarrying in the area began in 1785 when David Jones and Roland Perry went into business at the site of the Slate Ridge Quarries. These four quarries were mined for over 200 years, eventually reaching as large as 300 feet wide (91.44 meters) and 200 feet deep (60.96 meters). Huge mounds of slate debris were formed beside the pits that grew to add another 100 feet (30.48 meters) to the ridge. During the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries slate was being used in a number of ways, including use as roofing material, paving blocks and tombstones. However, by the 1920s the slate quarrying industry had declined significantly. Around this time, many of the quarries (including those at Slate Ridge) were allowed to fill with spring water. Slate Ridge Quarries eventually went out of business completely and closed by 1930. For a short time during the 1960s-70s some of the scrap stones were ground into granules for topping asphalt and paper roofing. Huge heaps of slate debris were also taken down and broken up into road material for the Harford County Highway Department.

The property is not known to have been associated with any notable individual or significant historic events. Therefore, the Slate Ridge quarries is not eligible under Criterion B. Historic structures, equipment or buildings associated to the quarries no longer exist. Therefore the Slate Ridge quarries are not eligible under Criterion C. The Slate Ridge Quarries are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, history. The Slate Ridge Quarries are excellent examples of an early stone quarrying industry that dates back to 1725 in Harford County, Maryland. Although the ancillary buildings are no longer extant, the quarries and associated roads have sufficient integrity to provide the feeling and association with the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> century use of slate.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

HA-955

Continuation Sheet No. 2

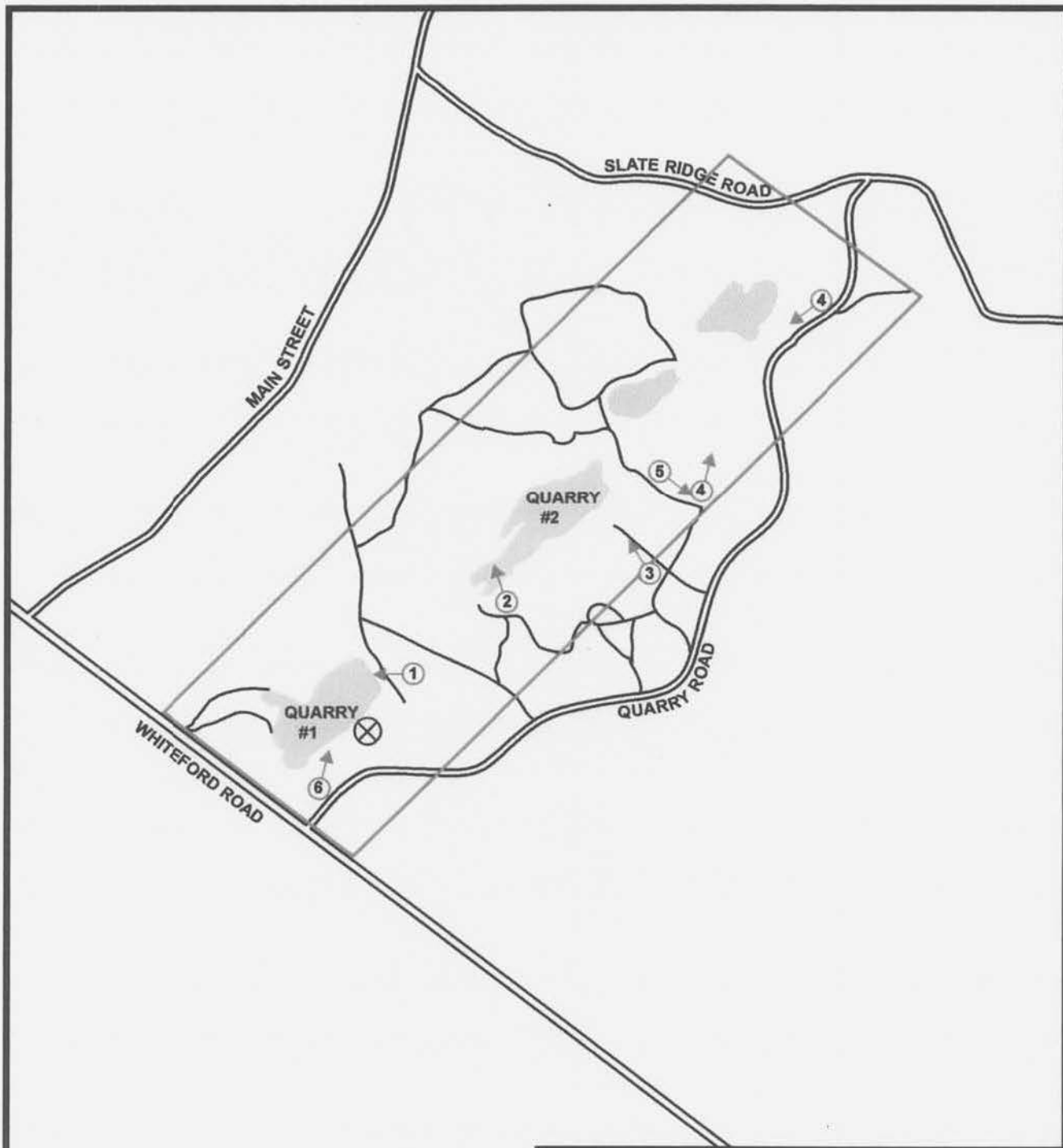
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**REFERNCES CITED:**

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1985 "The Greenstone." In The York Daily Record, edition of April 1, 1985. In the "Industries - Green Marble" vertical file of the Harford County Historical Society Library, Bel Air, MD.

Prepared by: Courtney Lynch

Date Prepared: May 21, 2002



NOT TO SCALE

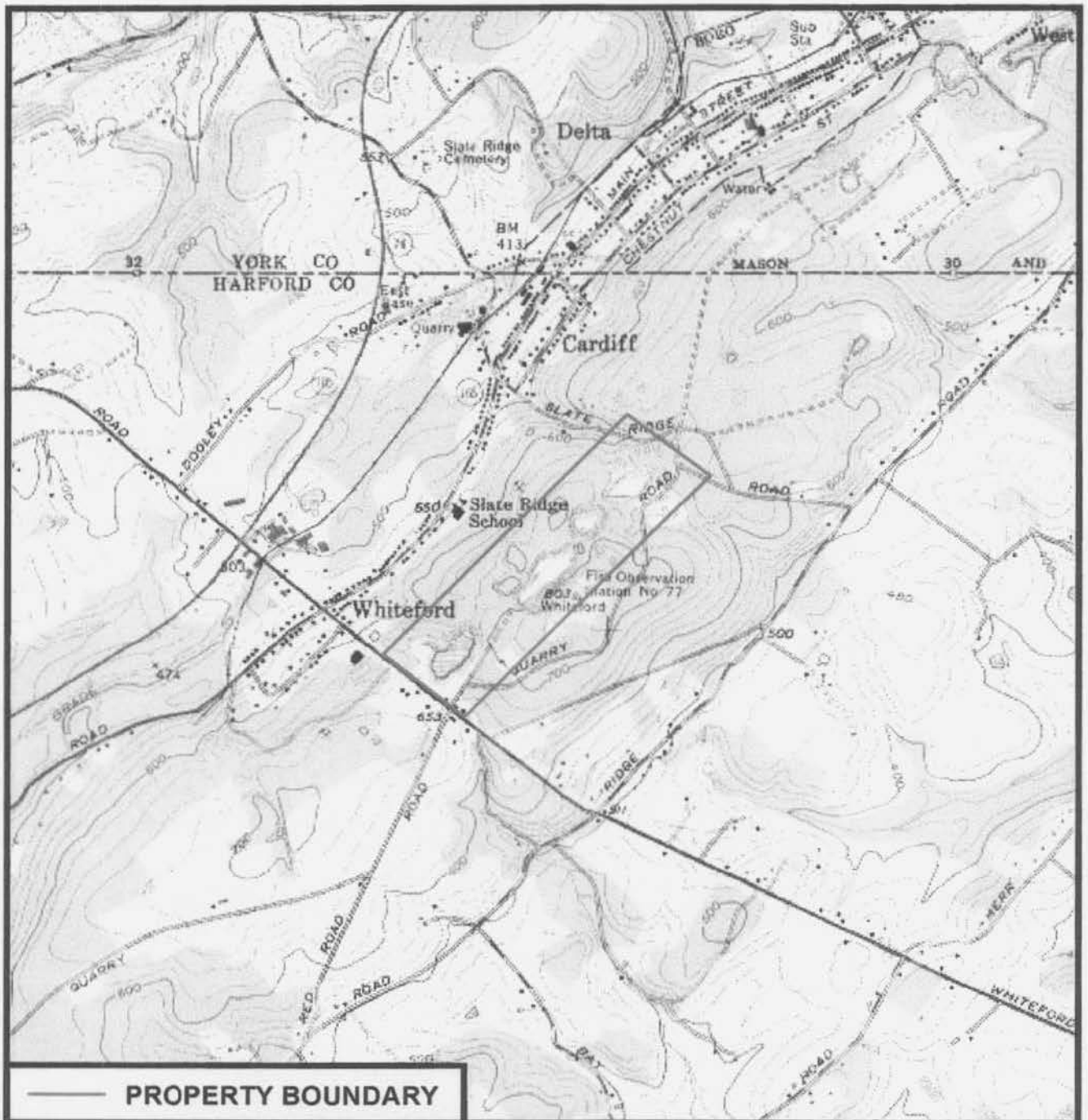
Prepared by CHRS, Inc.

- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- ▨ ACTIVE QUARRY
- ▨ FILLED FORMER QUARRY
- ➔ PHOTO LOCATION

SLATE RIDGE QUARRIES - SITE PLAN

SLATE RIDGE QUARRIES, BELLGROVE SLATE HILL SITE

HA-955



— PROPERTY BOUNDARY

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

SCALE

SOURCE



USGS 1990  
DELTA, PA - MD

Prepared by CHRS, Inc.

**PROJECT LOCATION MAP**

**SLATE RIDGE QUARRIES, BELLGROVE SLATE HILL SITE**

HA-955



- HA-955
- STATE BRIDGE GUARDRAILS
- HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND
- COURTNEY LYNCH
- MARCH 21, 2002
- MD SHPO
- QUARRY #1, LOOKING WEST
- 1/6

2002 3 21 PM 10 11 41 416 016  
COURTNEY LYNCH





- HH-055
- STATE RIDGE QUARRIES
- HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND
- COURTNEY JONES
- MARCH 21, 2022
- MD SHPO
- QUARRY #2, LOOKING NORTHWEST
- 2/6

MARCH 2022  
MD SHPO  
COURTNEY JONES



HA 255

- STATE RIDGE QUARRIES
- HANFORD COUNTY, MD
- COURTNEY LYNCH
- MARCH 2, 2002
- MD SHPO
- ROLLICART PATH,  
looking NORTH
- 3/6

PROJECT 2002-1149-9 (2002)  
R10 2002-1149-9 (2002)  
R10 2002-1149-9 (2002)



- HA955
- STATE RIDGE QUARRIES
- HANFORD COUNTY, MD
- COURTNEY LYNCH
- MARCH 2, 2002
- MD SH20
- AHP TRAIL - DUPONT, LOOKING NORTH
- 4/6

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- HA-955
- SLATE RIDGE QUARRIES
- WATFORD COUNTY,  
MD
- Courtney Lynch
- March 21, 2002
- NYD SUPD

• FOUNDATION REMA'N of FIRE TOWER,  
LOOKING SOUTH

• 5/6





1HA-050

• STATE BRIDGE NUMBER

• HANFORD COUNTY, MD

• FOUR-SPAN BRIDGE

• MARCH 21, 2002

• MD SHPO

• PROPOSED LOWER SITE, LOOKING NORTH

• 6/6

2002-03-21 11:00 AM  
2002-03-21 11:00 AM

1309554216 HA 955

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Slate Ridge Quarries

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: This series of quarries is accessible from Quarry Road

CITY OR TOWN: Cardif-Whitelord northeast of Whitelord Road about 0.4 mi southeast of Pylesville Road

STATE: Maryland CODE: COUNTY: Harford CODE:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object			<input type="checkbox"/> No:

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		<u>Abandoned Quarries</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: Virginia Tennant / and other owners

STREET AND NUMBER: to Mrs Douglas Smith Madonna Road

CITY OR TOWN: Street STATE: Maryland CODE: 21154

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

STREET AND NUMBER: HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 40 S. MAIN ST.

CITY OR TOWN: BEL AIR STATE: MARYLAND CODE:

ACREAGE APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A sharp geographic ridge about 700 feet high running northeast from Fylesville to Peachbottom, Pa., was found in the early 1700's to have rich veins of slate. For over 200 years this was mined from open pits that grew to be about 300' wide and 200' deep, while huge heaps of slag beside the pits grew to add another 100' to the ridge, visible almost to the Chesapeake Bay.

In the 1920's demand for this material fell off, and one mine after the other was allowed to fill with springwater. More recently the slag heaps have been pulled down to supply stone for the County Highway Department. A fire lookout station remains, however, on the tallest of the old peaks.

*This particular pit was worked by four companies at one time in opposite corners - Proctor and Reese among them. It was opened up originally by a man with a wheelbarrow and hand chisel and hammer!*

SIGNIFICANCE				
<b>PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>				
Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>18th Century</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)</b>				
<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>				
Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>	
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Industry</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>State</u>	
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Quarrying &amp;</u>	
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Finishing.</u>	
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>		
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>		
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>			
<u>Architecture</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	Music <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)</b>				

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wright, C. Miller - Our Harbor Heritage pp 152-6  
 Interview with Milo Williams at Cardiff Sept 72 by SSE.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: JEAN S. SWING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STREET AND NUMBER: 2556 RIVER ROAD

CITY OR TOWN: ANNAPOLIS STATE: MARYLAND CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

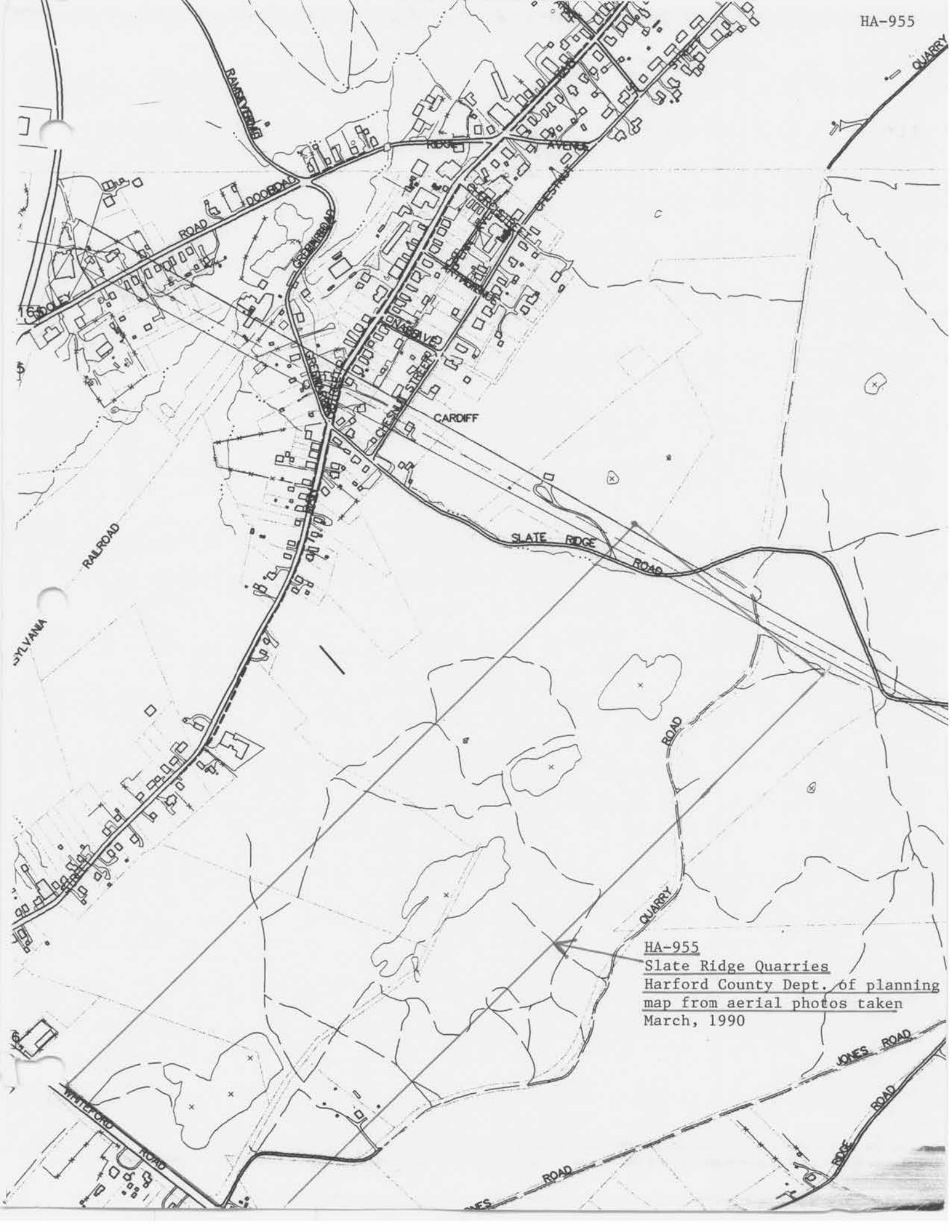
\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Harford County architecture owes its greatest single debt, perhaps, to the excellent slate roofs that protect and enhance many if not most of the houses, churches, schools, barns, and even the minor farm work buildings. The slate quarries, operated for over two hundred years, were discovered by two Welshmen, William and James Reese, in 1725 as they dug the foundations for their farm buildings on the ridge above Cardiff, one of which survived until 1932 with its slate roof intact. Used by other Welsh families in this area, slate was not quarried commercially until 1785 when David Jones and Roland Perry each went into business, followed soon by eight others: William C. Williams, E.D. Davies, William C. Roberts, Thomas W. Jones, John Jones, Paulk Jones, Hugh Jones, and Kilgour and Company. In 1849 the firm of John Humphries Company relocated here from Wales. The quality of the Cardiff strain of slate won world-wide recognition when Roland Perry won the first prize with his samples exhibited at the London Crystal Palace Exposition in 1850.

Within one year any one of several quarries could produce from 3,000 to 5,000 "squares" (material for 100 sq. ft. of roof) with slates that were 10" x 12" or 12" x 20", along with paving blocks, tombstones, and other finished stonework. Solid masses of slate were blasted loose in the open pit mines and broken into smaller pieces for the mill. Splitting demanded special skill with a chisel or knife thrust into the block. Sheets were then shaped by a machine using foot power. The highly skilled Welsh mine workers never disclosed to an outsider, even if he was the owner of the quarry, how they dressed the slate; when a strange carriage or auto came to the mill the operation would close down until everybody went away again.

In the 1920's this important local industry faced competitive cost of production and began a decline that closed all the quarries by 1930. Scrap stones were ground into granules for topping asphalt and paper roofing for a while. Recently the huge heaps of slag are being taken down and broken up into road materials for the County Highway Department. A forest fire lookout station remains on the highest of the slagheaps at this time, *the Robert Reese quarry.*



HA-955  
Slate Ridge Quarries  
Harford County Dept. of planning  
map from aerial photos taken  
March, 1990