

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

AA-2317

Property Name: West Benning Road ^{Historic} ~~Survey~~ District Inventory Number: addendum to AA-2242

Address: West Benning Road City: Galesville Zip Code: 20765

County: Anne Arundel USGS Topographic Map: Deale

Owner: Various Owners Is the property being evaluated a district? yes

Tax Parcel Number: various Tax Map Number: 69 Tax Account ID Number: various

Project: Moreland Property (910-002-030B) Agency: FCC

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Is the property located within a historic district? yes no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: addendum to AA-2242

NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes District Name: West Benning Road

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible yes no

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

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

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

The West Benning Road Survey District is composed of six previously surveyed structures, and fourteen unsurveyed structures. Two of the previously-surveyed structures have been demolished: the Thomas Booze House (AA-915), which was located at 926 West Benning Road, and Margaret Crowner's Lunch Room (AA-918), at 954 West Benning Road. The Galesville Community Center, also known as the Old Galesville Elementary School (AA-914), located at 916 West Benning Road, is a one-story, five-bay wood-framed structure.¹ It sits on rock-faced concrete block piers, is clad in wood German siding, and has a side-gabled roof that is sheathed in asphalt shingles. It has one interior-end brick chimney, and a one-story, one-bay wood portico, supported by unadorned wood brackets. Other defining features of the structure include exposed roof rafters, and square-edged wood window and door surrounds. The doors, front and rear, are still in place, but the majority of the windows are at least partially boarded up. Judging from the exterior, the building otherwise seems to be in relatively good condition. There is a playground to the south of the building. The James Hicks house (AA-916), located at 946 West Benning Road, is a two-story, four-bay wood-framed building. It sits on a solid concrete block foundation, is clad with vinyl siding, and has a side-gabled roof with asphalt shingles. Other defining features include 6/1 vinyl sash windows, and a central interior brick chimney. There is a one-story side-gable-roofed addition on the southeast side of the building. There are two sheds behind the building: one constructed of concrete blocks, and the other wood, both with shed roofs. The Benjamin Crowner house (AA-917) at 950 West Benning Road, is a two-story, three-bay wood-framed building. It sits on a solid stretcher-bond brick masonry foundation, is clad with asbestos shingles, has wood corner boards, molded window and door surrounds, and a hipped roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. There are jerkinhead dormers front and rear. It has one central interior brick chimney.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

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

Comments: _____

[Signature]
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services
[Signature]
Reviewer, NR Program

9/10/03
4/9/03
Date
Date

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

AA-2317

There is a one-story, three-bay porch, the lower half of which is enclosed by the same asbestos shingles used on the house, and the top half of which is screened. The turned wood posts of the porch are still visible. The roof of the porch is partially collapsed. There is a large shed to the north of the house that is clad in asphalt shingles. It has two wood doors, one of which is paneled, and one window with a square-edged surround. The Turner/Smith house (AA-919), at 947 West Benning Road, is a one-story, three-bay wood-framed building. It sits on a solid concrete block foundation, is clad with vertical board siding, and has a cross-gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The windows are 2/2 wood sash, and have square-edged surrounds. There is an exterior-end stretcher bond brick chimney. The one-story, two-bay porch has square wood posts, and is enclosed on the lower half, and screened on the upper half. It shares a driveway with 951 West Benning Road, the Weston/Crowner House (AA-920). The Weston/Crowner house is a two-story, three-bay wood-framed building. It sits upon rock-faced concrete block piers, is clad with wood German siding, and has a side-gabled roof with asphalt shingles. There are shed dormers front and rear. Other defining features of the house include square-edged window surrounds, exposed roof rafters, and rectangular louvered vents in the gable ends. There is a centrally-located interior brick chimney, a one-story, three-bay porch with square wood posts, and a shed-roofed addition on the rear of the house. This house greatly resembles Rose Turner's house (AA-911), at 4677 Muddy Creek Road. The last previously-surveyed structure is the Robert Crowner house (AA-921), located at 955 West Benning Road. It is a two-story, three-bay wood-framed building that sits on a solid concrete block foundation, is clad with vinyl German siding, and has a side-gabled roof with asphalt shingles. Further defining features include 6/6 vinyl sash windows, a vinyl soffit, mitered wooden window surrounds, and rectangular louvered vents in the gable ends. There is a vinyl-clad and screened one-story, three-bay porch with square wood posts.

In addition to those buildings previously surveyed, there are twenty-one unsurveyed structures. Nine of these have a degree of visual continuity: 927, 928, 935, 937, 939, 941, 945, 961/963, and 967/969 West Benning Road. Each one-story, nine-bay building seems to contain two living units. There are two front entries for each building, each sheltered by a one-story, one-bay portico that is supported by sinuous wooden brackets. The buildings are clad in wood or vinyl weatherboarding, and have side-gabled roofs that are sheathed with asphalt shingles. The buildings at 935, 937, and 939 West Benning Road surround a courtyard, with 935 and 939 West Benning Road situated perpendicularly to the road, and 937 parallel to the road. In addition to these structures, there are five other structures that are all visually dissimilar, but that appear to have been built during the same period. There are seven additional structures located in the West Benning Road Survey District, some of which may prove to belong to the same period.

The West Benning Road Survey District is at the heart of an historically African-American neighborhood in Galesville. Many of its occupants worked for the Woodfield Oyster Company, whose factory was located nearby on Tenthouse Creek. During its heyday in the 1940s, the company employed over one hundred people, cleaning approximately 800 bushels of oysters a day.² At least two of the surveyed dwellings seem to have been built by the company for its workers: 951 and 955 West Benning Road. The now-demolished Margaret Crowner Lunch Room, which opened in 1941, provided meals for many local residents, including Woodfield Company employees. Locally prominent African Americans built several of the houses in the survey district, including the Benjamin Crowner House, and the now-demolished Thomas Booze House.

The West Benning Road Survey District meets National Register Criteria A, B, and C. The structures included in the district are associated with the development of an historically African-American neighborhood in Galesville that depended upon several employers – primarily the Woodfield Oyster Company – for its livelihood. Thus, the district is associated with the history of those major local employers, as well as with several prominent local African-American families. Additionally, almost all of the structures appear to have been built during the first half of the twentieth century. Many of them display stylistic and visual continuity, and appear to be typical of the period. It is recommended that the previously unsurveyed properties be more closely examined, as well as adjoining areas on Main Street and around the Woodfield Company factory. These areas do not seem to demonstrate the same integrity as West Benning Road, but many of the structures appear to date from the same period.

Prepared by: Laura H. Hughes, Andrea F. Schoenfeld, and Gerald M. Maready, Jr.,
Architectural Historians

Date Prepared: February 25, 2003

¹ An Internal NR-Eligibility Review Form was completed for the Galesville Community Center by Donna Ware in 1995. In it, she states that the structure was built as an elementary school for the African-American children of Galesville. The funds for its construction were provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, who sponsored the construction of 5,357 such schools throughout the South. This structure is one of six surviving such schools in Anne Arundel County. Ms. Ware recommends the building as eligible for National Register of Historic Places listing under Criterion C.

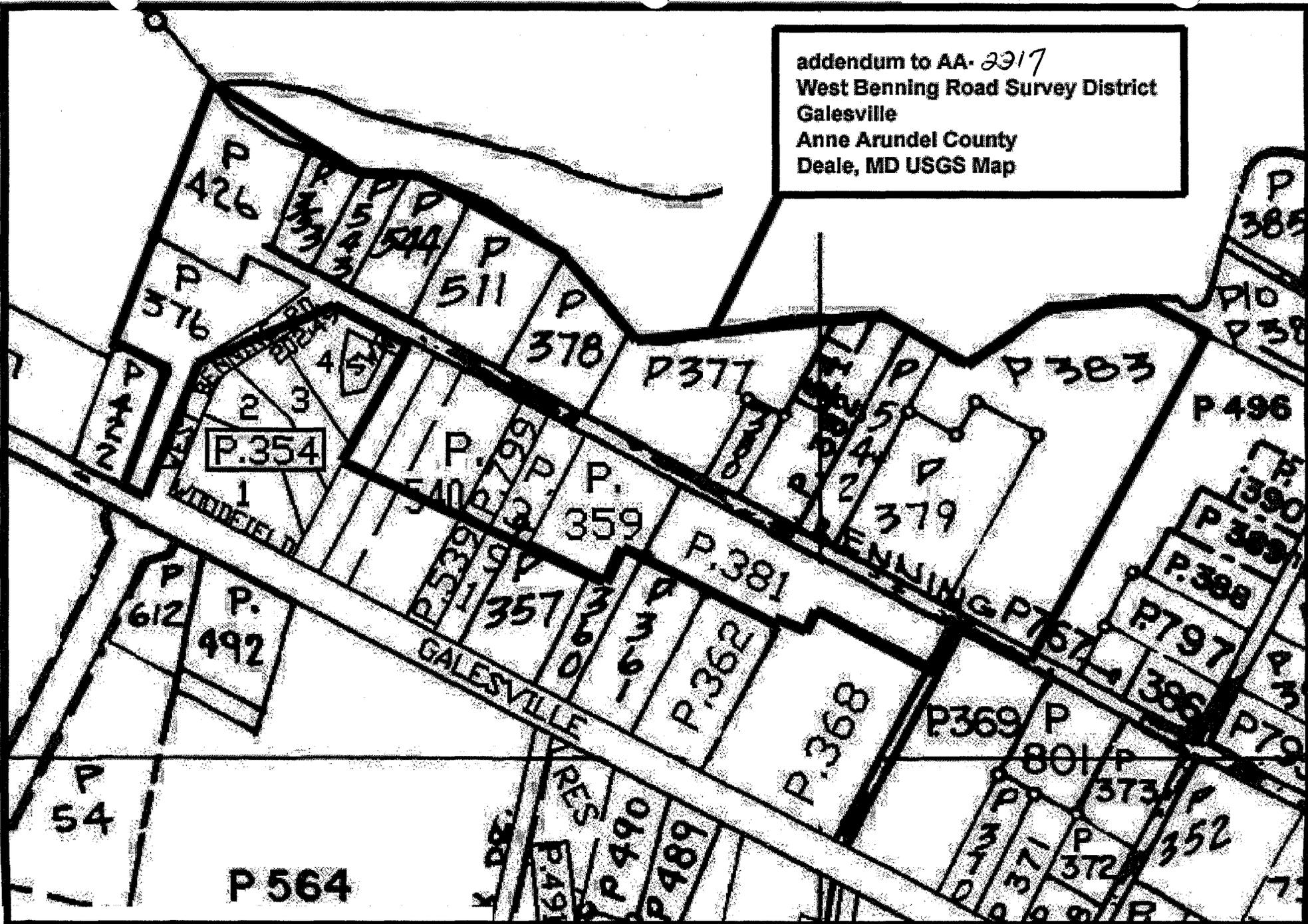
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 2

AA-2317

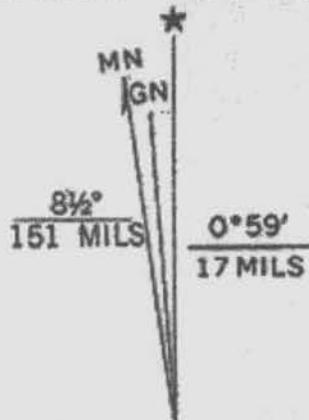
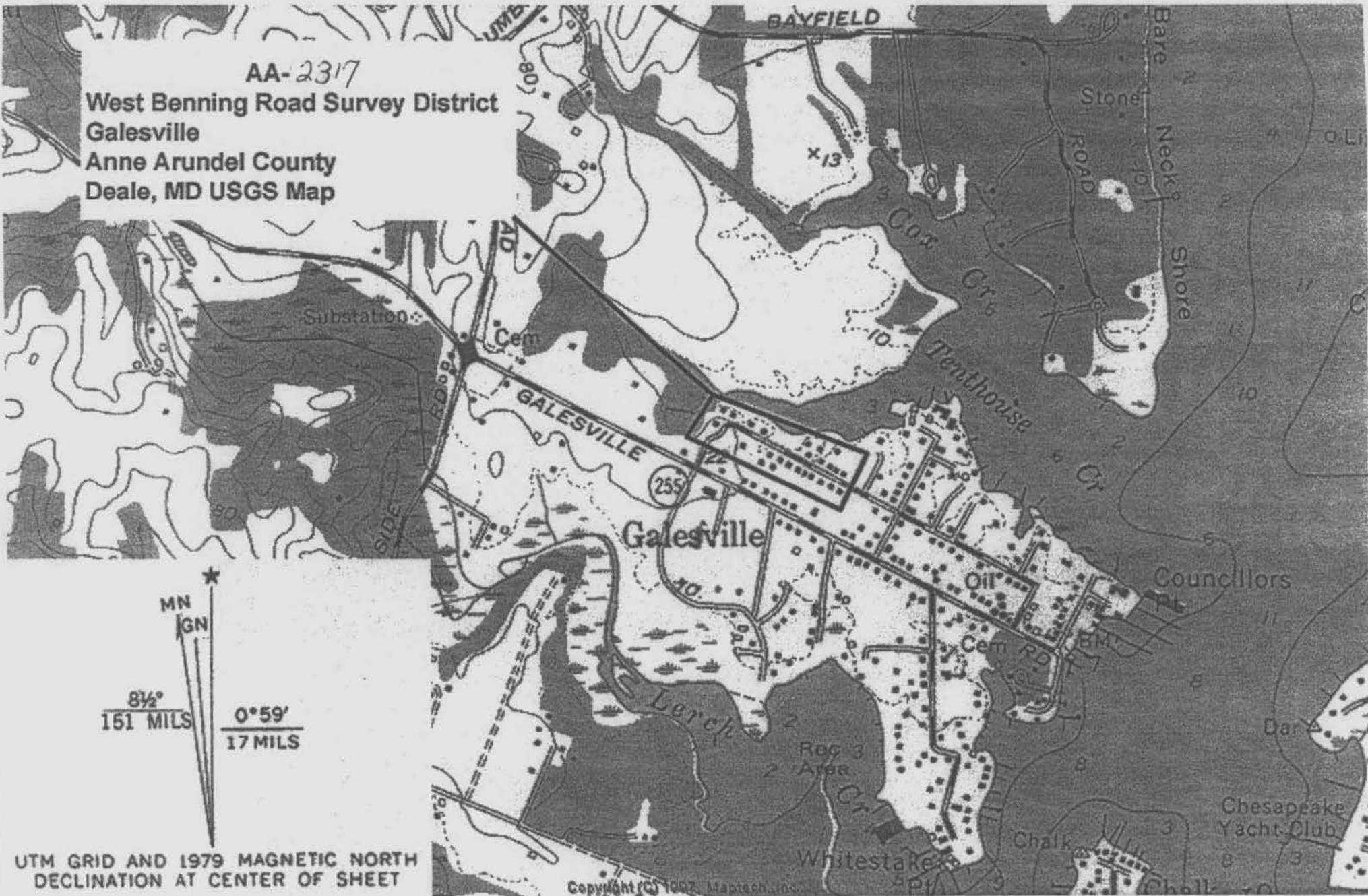
² The historical information used for this Determination of Eligibility is taken from a Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) State Historic Sites Inventory Form for this property. Susan R. Wetherill, a volunteer, completed the inventory form in 1986 on behalf of MHT.

addendum to AA-2317
West Benning Road Survey District
Galesville
Anne Arundel County
Deale, MD USGS Map



AA-2317

West Benning Road Survey District
Galesville
Anne Arundel County
Deale, MD USGS Map



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

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~~addendum to~~ AA-2317

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

Galesville Community Center, 916 West Benning Road
southeast elevation

1 of 20



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~~addendum to AA-2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traces

2/2003

MD SHPO

Galesville Community Center, 916 West Benning Road
west corner and northwest elevation

2 of 20



~~addendum to AA-2317~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHTPO

Galesville Community Center

916 West Benning Road

looking east, showing some surrounding structures

3 of 20



AA-2317

~~addendum to AA-~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
EHT Traceries

2/2003

MS Stpo

Gatesville Community Center, 916 West Benning Road
looking west, towards tower site



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West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
EHT Traceries

2/2003

MS SHPO

928 West Benning Road, west corner

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~~addendum to AA-2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

935-939 West Benning Road, looking south

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West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

961-969 West Benning Road, looking southeast

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~~addendum to AA-2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

956 West Benning Road, south corner

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~~addendum to AA-2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

941-945 West Benning Road, looking southeast

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AA-2317

~~addendum to AA 2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

927 West Benning Road, looking west

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AA-2317

~~addendum to AA 2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

view west towards tower site

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~~addendum to AA-2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

James Hicks House, 946 West Benning Road
west corner

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~~addendum to AA-2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District

Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

James Hicks House, 946 West Benning Road

northwest elevation and sheds

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AA-2317

~~addendum to AA-2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

site of Margaret Crowner's Lunch Room

954 West Benning Road, with 950 West Benning
Road in background

14 of 20



AA-2317

~~addendum to AA-2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

Benjamin Crowner House, 950 West Benning Road
view of surrounding structures

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AA-2317

~~addendum to AA-2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

Benjamin Crowner House, 950 West Benning Road
south corner

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~~addendum to AA-2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD STPO

Benjamin Crowner House, 950 West Benning Road
east corner

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AA-2317

~~addendum to AA-2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

Turner/Smith House, 947 West Benning Road
north corner



AA-2317

~~addendum to AA 2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD stpo

Weston/crowner House, 951 West Benning Road
north corner

19 of 20



AA-2317

~~addendum to AA-2242~~

West Benning Road Survey District
Anne Arundel County, Maryland

EHT Traceries

2/2003

MD SHPO

Robert Crowner House, 951 West Benning Road
north corner

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