

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic THE ROBERT CROWNER HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 955 West Benning Road _____ not for publication

city, town Galesville _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district

state MD _____ county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(§)	<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 checked="" 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 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 (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William R. Woodfield, Jr. and R. Harold Day

street & number c/o Woodfield Fish & Oyster Company telephone no.: 867-3421

city, town Galesville state and zip code MD 20765

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. A.A.Co.Registry of Deeds liber 3027

street & number _____ folio 50 (Parcel #2)

city, town Annapolis state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MD Historic Sites Inventory

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records MD Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD

7. Description

Survey No. AA-921

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The main block of the Robert Crowner House was built circa 1878-1900. It is 22' wide x 14' deep, one story tall, faces Northeast, rests on brick piers, and has a gable roof. There are three bays consisting of a central door and two windows, 6 over 6 double hung sash. One narrow brick chimney is enclosed inside the SE gable end wall. The wood frame structure is probably post and beam. Wall covering is asbestos shingle.

Later additions to the original block are a screen-enclosed front porch (16'2" wide x 6'6" deep) with shed roof, and a rear kitchen wing (13'4" x 9'11") with shed roof. Both additions rest on concrete block corner piers. Recent asphalt shingle covers all three roofs.

Interior not surveyed.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-921

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <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 Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Robert Crowner House, purchased in 1929 from the Trustees of Samuel Stein's Estate, may date to before 1895 when Samuel Stein was still alive.

Here is some background on Samuel Stein's real estate holdings in Galesville: On June 3, 1869, at a public auction of the property of George Gale, Samuel Stein of Baltimore was the highest bidder for Lots #15,16 & 17. He paid \$6,725 for a total of 67½ acres, or \$100 per acre. (S.H.A.4/239) The property was bounded by Main Street on the south, Tenthouse Creek (or Brown's Creek) on the north, the Old Galesville School on the west, and approximately E.Benning Road on the east.

Samuel Stein apparently envisioned a populous summer colony on his property. By May 1871 he had recorded in the Clerk's office in A.A.Co. "the Plat for Steins first Addition to Galesville". (S.H.5/496 mentions this Plat.) (See G.M.Hopkins Atlas of A.A.Co., First District, 1878, inset of Galesville for copy of Plat.) Laid out on the Plat were Streets and Alleys, a large "Hotel Site", a "Church Site", plenty of community land along the waterfront, and 288 tiny 1/20-of-an-acre (approx'ly) building lots. He probably anticipated buyers among the many city people who arrived by steamboat from Baltimore to vacation in Galesville's boarding-houses.

Samuel Stein built a summer home for himself on a 3-acre parcel in "Steins Addition", but the sale of his development lots proved sluggish. He leased only two lots (@ \$3/yr) and sold only two lots (@ \$100) before his death prior to December 1895. (S.H.5/496; S.H.8/121; S.H.43/69) The Trustees of his Estate however were more successful. They abandoned his 1871 Plan for 1/20-acre lots and instead offered minimum 1/2-acre parcels @ \$75 each. Between 1897 and 1908, they sold 13 lots. Between 1909 and 1930, they sold 27 more. The buyers were not summer visitors at all, but year-round residents, many of whom bought a full acre or more. Black buyers as well as white were welcomed, although the parcels sold to blacks were clustered at the west end of Main St. and along the north side of W.Benning Rd., nearest to the segregated black School House. Stein's proposed "Hotel Site", "Church Site", and waterfront areas were divided up and sold off as building lots along with the rest of the subdivision.

The Robert Crowner House was already standing on a 1½-acre piece of "Steins Addition" when Albert W. Woodfield had it surveyed on August 11, 1919. It was "old, vacant, and a mess", according to his brother William R. Woodfield Sr. According to Jack Booze, a native of W.Benning Road, born in 1913, the house had been there for as

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-921

1. Oral Interviews: William R. Woodfield, Sr. (867-0595); Jack Booze, W. Benning Road, Galesville.
- 2 G.M. Hopkins Atlas of A.A. Co., Md., First District, 1878.
- 3 "Stein's Property", Platted (about 1929) by John Shepherd, Surveyor, Bristol, Md., traced Feb. 24, 1955 by Hall III, Surveyor, Annapolis, Md.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Deale 1957; photorevised 1970

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan R. Wetherill, Volunteer

organization Anne Arundel Co. Committee/MHT date 6/86

street & number P.O. Box 1573 telephone

city or town Annapolis state MD 21404

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

long as he could remember. Title to the property was not transferred to Albert until 1929, perhaps after he had completed payments for it. (F.S.R.54/194) In any event, he appears to have used the 1½-acre parcel, as well as an adjacent 1-acre piece, prior to 1929. He fixed up the "old" house and rented it to Robert Crowner, brother of Benjamin (AA-917), sometime during the 1920's. On the second acre he built two rental houses for employees of the Woodfield Oyster Co.: the Turner-Smith House (AA-919) c.1927, and the Weston-Crowner House (AA-920) c.1928. Albert paid \$925 in 1929 for the entire 2½-acre parcel containing these three houses, identified as Lot #20 on "Stein's Property", a Plat prepared about 1929 by John Shepherd, Surveyor, Bristol, Md. (See attached copy).

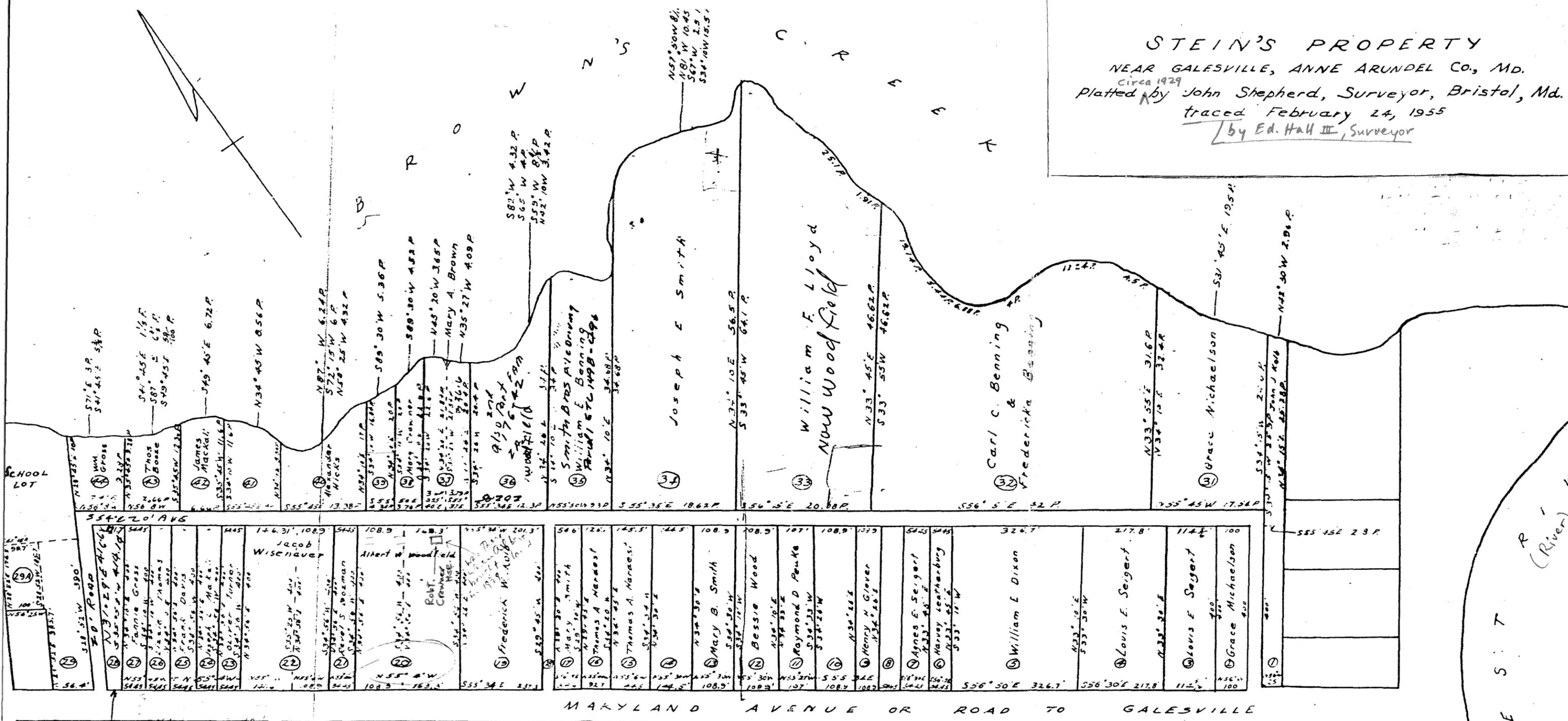
So, the Robert Crowner House which was already "old" in 1919 probably dates to at least 1900. But who built it and why? When Samuel Stein bought the land in 1870, the R.C. House was not yet there because it does not show up on the 1878 Hopkins Atlas of A.A.Co.,Md. If Samuel Stein himself built this house, then it pre-dates his death c.1895. If Samuel did not build it, then his Trustees, Annie and Simon H. Stein and Harry Friedenwald, must have; but this seems unlikely since their function was to hold Stein's money in trust for his daughter Bertha. (See ref. to Bertha in G.W.23/220.) Upon Stein's death, the Trustees applied immediately to the Circuit Court in Baltimore City for permission to sell his Galesville real estate. (Equity Case #1992, August 21, 1895)

My theory is that the Robert Crowner House was built by Samuel Stein sometime between 1878 and 1895, perhaps as the residence of a caretaker or other employee of "Steins Addition"; or, it was built by someone who, like Albert Woodfield, proceeded to use his new property before completing payments on it, and later forfeited the property for lack of money, so a deed was never recorded. Whichever, the house sat abandoned for some years before 1919 when Albert contracted to buy it.

Samuel Stein's own summer house, located on Lot #5 (see 1929 Plat of "Stein's Property"), was sold in 1901 to William E. Dixon. (G.W.23/218)

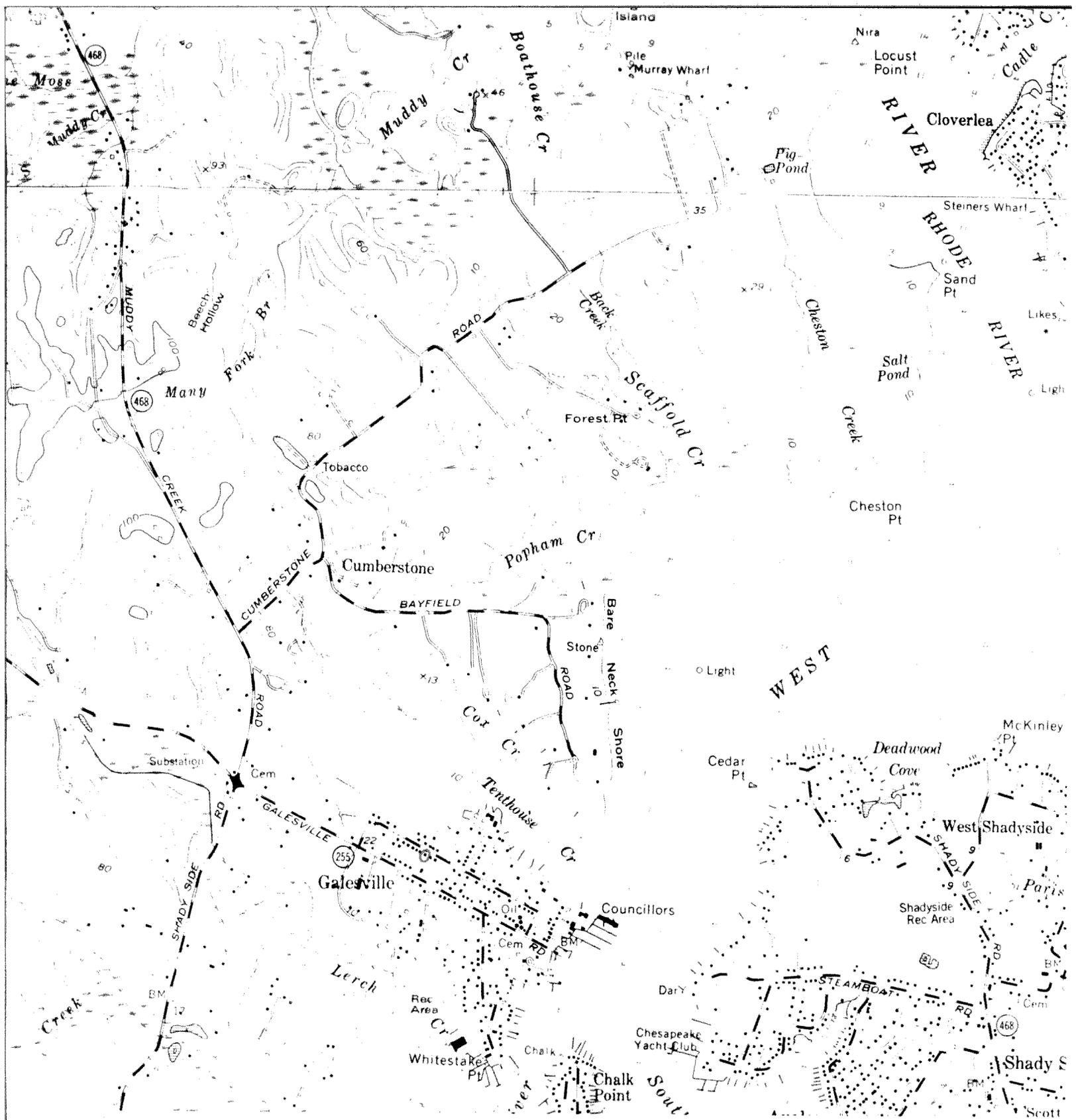
Today the Robert Crowner House is still used as rental housing for Woodfield Company employees. The current tenant is William Turner, son of Rose Turner who owns the Rose Turner House (AA-911, Md. Historic Sites Inventory).

STEIN'S PROPERTY
 NEAR GALESVILLE, ANNE ARUNDEL Co., MD.
 Circa 1929
 Platted by John Shepherd, Surveyor, Bristol, Md.
 traced February 24, 1955
 by Ed. Hall III, Surveyor



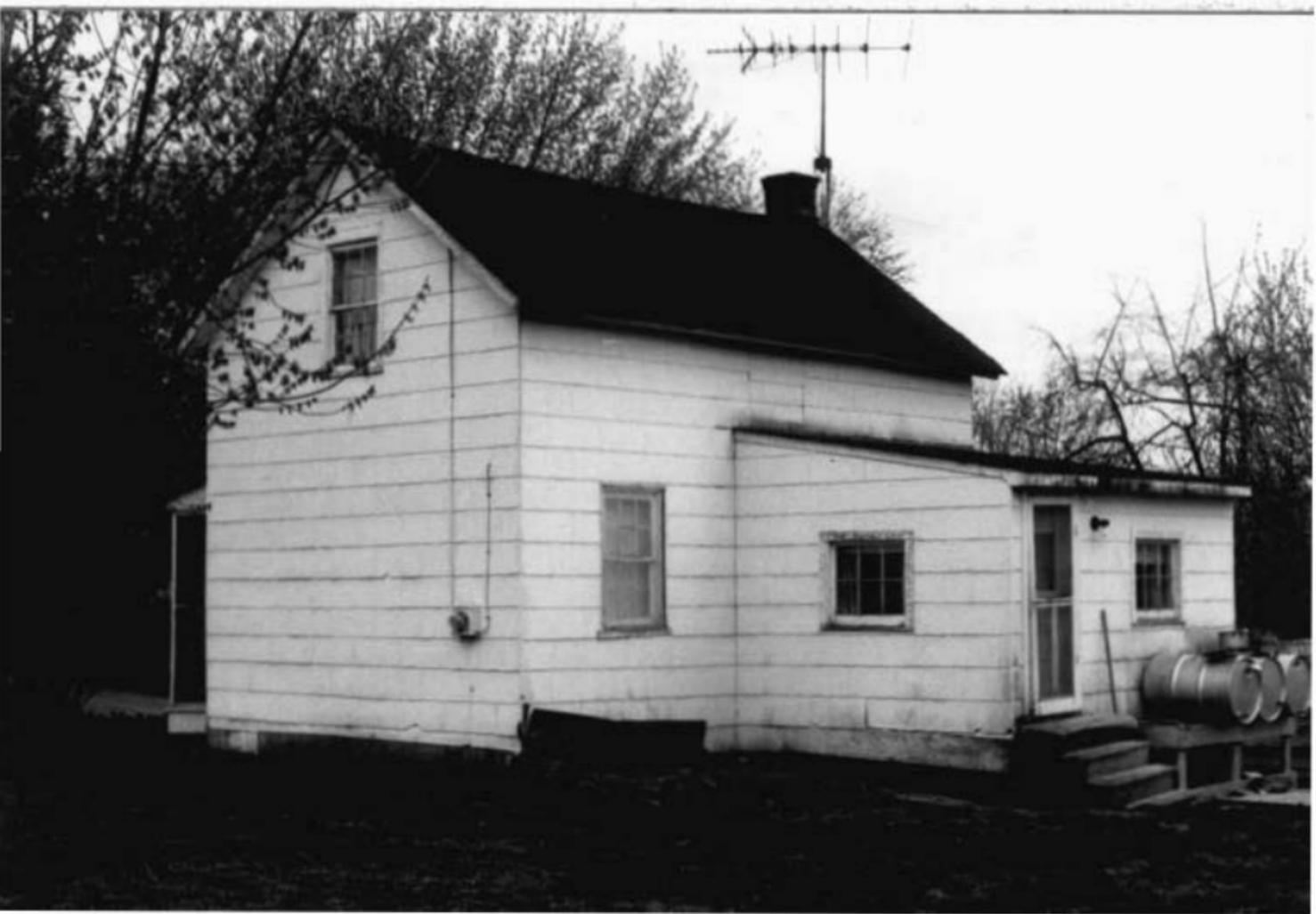
(This copy obtained from Edward Hall III, Surveyor, Annapolis, 8/85.
 Ed. Hall's files have been turned over to Richard Walker, Surveyor, 111 Chinquapin Rd., Annapolis.)
 - S.W.

AA-921



Deale, MS
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series
 Scale 1:24,000
 1959; photorevised 1970

AA-921
 Robert Crowner House,
 955 West Penning Rd.
 Galesville



Robert Crowner House

A.A.Co., Md.

S. Wetherid, 4/85

West corner

AA-921



Robert Crowner House

4/85, A.A. Co., MD.

S. Weatherill

facade, NE elevation

AA-921

~~Roll #10~~

~~FRAME 19~~



AA-921

Robert Crowner House (in background of photo)

A.A. Co., Md.

~~Roll # 5~~

~~FRAME 17~~

S. We Therill, 2/85

North corner

(in foreground: Weston/Crowner Hse. AA-920)



~~WILLIAM TURNER HOUSE, CALESVILLE, MD~~

FEBRUARY 1985

Robert Crowner House AA-921

A. A. Co., MD.

S. Wetherill, 2/85, East corner

~~Roll #6~~

~~FRAME 35~~



AA-921

Robert Crowner House

A.A. Co. Md.

S. Wetherill, 4/85

North corner

~~Roll # 10~~

~~FRAME 17~~