

BA 2029

ROWE-RUHL HOUSE

1846-1848

HEREFORD

PRIVATE

Deeds prove that a house appeared on this town lot between 1846 and 1848; probably built by John K. Rowe, who endowed the nearby church. A Rowe house appeared here on the 1850 map. The Rev. Joseph L. Morris appeared in the 1852 assessment list. One of the many owners lost the house through default of mortgage and it was publicly auctioned in 1883. The 1896 tax ledger enumerated the workshop and hearse of George W. Howard, town undertaker. An eyewitness recalled in 1980 that Howard had a white and a black hearse, the white one for children. In 1980, the house was vacant, in the hands of speculators. It is a spacious, cross-gabled Victorian structure of 2-½ stories, five bays wide, with center-hall plan, and full-width front porch. The cross-gable and gable ends are filled with fish-scale shingles. There is a large rear wing with side porch. (Demolished in November, 1980, to build some commonplace stores.)

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC ROWE-RUHL HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

Ruhl House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

16,946 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Hereford

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION (vac.)
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME HARFORD JOINT VENTURE, INC.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

16,950 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Monkton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21111

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

Liber #: EHK JR. 6079

Folio #: 132

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NONE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

The Rowe-Ruhl House is a spacious, 2-1/2 story, frame and clapboard structure rendered Victorian by its cross-gable and its porch decoration. The house is only two steps above grade, reached by two poured concrete steps. There is a full-width, unrailed, shed-roofed front porch, its roof supported by six square posts and two recessed posts. The posts along the street side are decorated with scroll brackets. The porch roof is covered with standing-seam tin.

The house is five bays wide at first-story level, the main door in the center, producing a center-hall plan. The door is paneled, set in a plain frame. Two windows flank the entrance, double-hung sash types of generous proportions, 2-over-2 in layout, irregularly spaced.

There are four upper-story windows, three of them aligned over doors or windows on the floor below, the southernmost window aligned between bays of the story below. The second-story windows are smaller than those on the floor below, 2-over-2 in format, three of the four fitted with shutters.

The cross-gable contains a large 2-over-2 double-hung sash window, and its pediment is filled in with fish-scale shingles. The main roof is gabled, covered with large sheets of corrugated steel or galvanized iron. There are two inside end chimneys with corbeled caps.

The north end of the main block is entirely windowless. The south wall is two bays deep, with four typical 2-over-2 windows, equipped with shutters. The attic windows are square, 2-over-2 double hung sash types.

At each end, the gable pediments are filled in with fish-scale shingles.

The rear wing is frame, two stories, gable-roofed. The southside of this wing includes a side porch, three bays in depth. The southside is two bays deep at second-story level, fitted with 2-over-2 double-hung sash windows (with shutters). The northside of the rear wing is one bay deep, with a double-hung sash window of 2-over-2 design.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-2029

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
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 1846-1848

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rowe-Ruhl house stands on the second lot south of Mount Carmel Road on the westside of York Road. It sold in 1846 for \$48.75 when Nicholas R. Merryman, planner of much of the town, conveyed to John K. Rowe. In September 1848, John K. Rowe conveyed to William Rowe for \$550, which suggests that a modest or substantial house had been added in the meanwhile. William Rowe's name is shown among the crowded markings on J. C. Sidney's 1850 county map. (1, 2)

The 1852 Assessment shows an entry for Heirs of Rev. Joseph L. Morris, who had a lot and improvements assessed at \$600. The heirs were sandwiched between the entries for Rebecca Gailey and Samuel Price, as was the physical lot. (3) Mr. Morris had purchased the property for \$800 in October of 1850. (4)

The Morris attorney deeded the property to Thomas Gorsuch in 1856, stating that Mr. Morris had been a resident of Baltimore City. (5) Thomas Gorsuch held until 1873, selling to Mrs. Anna Tracey. (6) The house was a nameless square in the 1877 atlas by J. C. Sidney. The 1876 tax ledger had listed Annie Tracy's property at \$600, plus two shoats worth \$3.00 each and \$50 in household furniture. (7)

Annie Tracey lost the property at a public sale for unpaid 1883 taxes and it passed to Thomas J. Hunter for \$500. (8) Hunter and wife, Ada B., sold in 1887 to George W. Howard. (9)

The various deeds that refer to the Miss Gailey property on the south are using as a reference the Morton Store of the 1850 map and the millinery shop of Miss Rebecca Gailey that is listed in the 1878 State business directory. (10)

The 1896 Assessment listed Mrs. Esther J. Howard with a frame dwelling worth \$500, a frame shop worth \$120, and "one hearse \$150." (11) Mrs. Howard had to buy the place back at public auction in 1898 after her husband conveyed all his assets in trust for the benefits of his creditors. (12) The

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

house was evaluated at \$1,080 in the 1911 tax ledger; there was a shop, but no mention of a hearse. (13) Mrs. Beulah B. Bull, age 82 in 1980, recalls going out to the turnpike as a child to watch Mr. Howard's hearses pass: a black one for adults, a white one for children; their destination was usually Foster's Burying Ground on present Hereford Road.

Mrs. Howard sold to Thomas W. Wilhelm in 1916, but the new owner only lived two years and his widow, Sallie E. Wilhelm, deeded to John G. and Lizzie Milstead, who held three months and sold to William H. and Emma B. Collett. (14) At the time of the 1918 tax ledger, the house belonged to Thomas W. Wilhelm and wife, and their neighbors were John T. Hicks (north) and Wm. Carnes (east). The Wilhelm home was listed as:

Dwelling	18 x 20		
	18 x 42	2 stories	\$1,369
Carpenter Shop	18 x 32	2 stories	403
2 Outbuildings			50. (15)

Mrs. Bull recalls that in 1917, half of this double house could be rented for \$2 a month.

The Colletts sold to W. Delamere Akehurst and wife in 1927; the Akehursts had considerable town property and an adjoining farm. They held until 1955, selling to Levering V. and Allene M. Ruhl. (16) The latter deed still mentioned the adjoining property as that of Miss Gailey, who had flourished at least a century before as the town's only milliner.

This house is on one of the central town lots and is one of the building blocks of the streetscape—which is threatened by erosion. It probably grew considerably after its 1846-48 beginning. The association with a local carpenter-undertaker adds an element of interest to its otherwise prosaic history. It was sold to an investment corporation in 1979 and demolished in November 1980.

## NOTES:

1. Baltimore City Deeds, AWB 363:42.
2. Baltimore City Deeds, AWB 405:466.
3. Assessment, District 7, 1852, n.p. (Hall of Records #8256).
4. Baltimore City Deeds, AWB 450:318.
5. Baltimore County Deeds, HMF 18:152.
6. B.C. Deeds, WMI 129:404.
7. Assessor's Field Book, District 7, 1876, n.p.
8. Equity Docket, 9:32 (Case #127).
9. B.C. Deeds, JWS 162:17.
10. J. Frank Lewis & Co., Maryland Directory (Baltimore, 1878), p. 530.
11. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1896, entry #258-51.
12. B.C. Deeds, WPC 340:154.
13. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1911, f. 553.
14. B.C. Deeds, WPC 652:105; also WPC 504:316; also, WPC 501:394.
15. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 837.
16. B.C. Deeds, GLB 2706:456.

BA-2029

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

ROWE-RUHL HOUSE

Baltimore City Deed Books  
Baltimore County Deed Books, Tax Ledgers.

Personal Communication from Mrs. Beulah H. Bull of Monkton Road,  
March 26, 1980.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.0

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

West 380 feet, binding on former Gailey lot.  
North 100 feet.  
East 380 feet to westside of Baltimore and York Turnpike.  
South 96 feet along westside of York Road (Map 22, Parcel P25)

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

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning and Zoning

DATE

March 26, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

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.

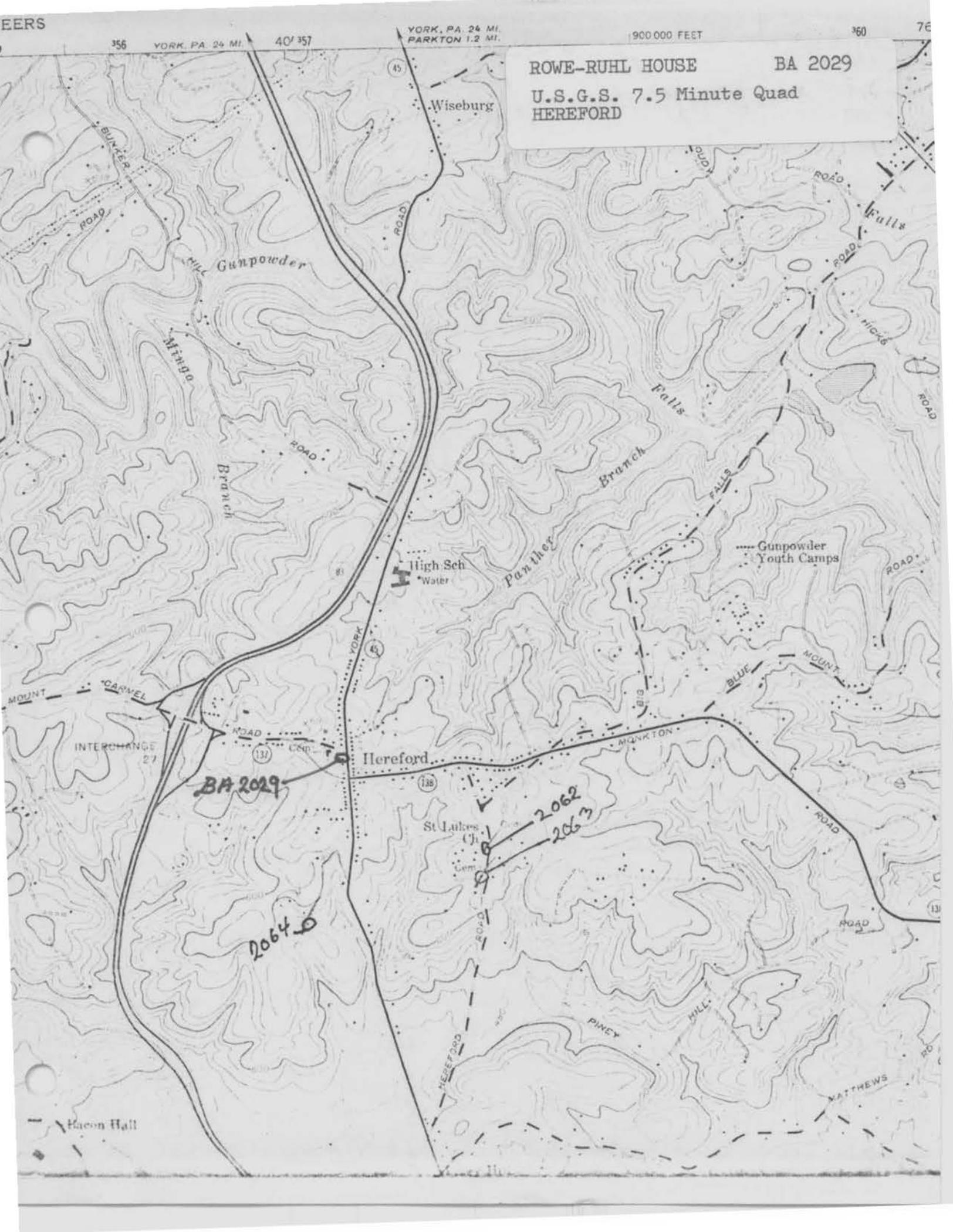
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

ROWE-RUHL HOUSE

BA 2029

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quad  
HEREFORD



BA 2029

2062  
2063

2064

Hereford

St. Luke's  
Ch.  
Sem.

Gunpowder Hill

Panther Branch

Blue Mountain

Wiseburg

Falls

INTERCHANGE 27

Hacon Hall

Gunpowder Youth Camps

High Sch  
Water

PARKTON

PINEY HILL

MATTHEWS

HEREFORD

CARMEL

Mingo

BUNKER

ROAD



ROWE-RUHL HOUSE            BA 2029  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, OCT 1979  
Neg. located at MHT  
Main (E) & south facades



ROWE-RUHL HOUSE      BA 2029  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, OCT 1979  
Neg. located at MHT  
Main (E) facade & north facade