

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

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: Ensor Farm Complex Inventory Number: BA-2949

Address: 15801 Buffalo Run Road City: Sparks, MD Zip Code: 21152

County: Baltimore USGS Topographic Map: Hereford

Owner: Charles E. Ensor, et al.

Tax Parcel Number: 39 Tax Map Number: 28 Tax Account ID Number: 0805062375

Project: _____ Agency: _____

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

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended

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

Is the property located within a historic district? no X yes Name of district: Western Run-Belfast Road

Is district listed? no X yes Determined eligible? no X yes District Inventory Number: BA-2214

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP form

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

The Ensor Farm Complex, part of the Cold Bottom Farm, is a mid to late 19th century complex comprised of a bank barn, a small outbuilding set into a bank and called a 'goat house,' a carriage barn, and a dwelling. All have been extensively altered through additions and/or manufactured siding and replacement windows. The dwelling, reputedly constructed in 1890, appears to post-date the outbuildings. The carriage barn and bank barn both are post and beam structures, the principal elements of which a hewn, partially hewn, or merely barked. The buildings and their setting (a 112.46-acre farm) retain the character of a late 19th/early 20th century family farm, a direct descendant of the large farms previously worked largely through tenancy.

Occupied continuously at least since 1854 by the Ensor family, none of the owner occupants appears to have played a specifically identifiable role in the history of the community, State, or nation (Criterion B). The Ensor Farm Complex lacks the architectural integrity that would have made it eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. The site does not appear to have the potential to yield information important to the understanding of history (Criterion D).

The Ensor Farm Complex, considered in the context of its current agricultural setting, is a fine example of a late 19th/early 20th century family farm (Criterion A). Such farms represent an adaptation of earlier practices to the 'new agriculture' that developed after the Civil War, an agriculture in this part of the state built around family ownership of the farm, increasing reliance on agricultural machinery, application of scientific principles to farming—as developed in agricultural experiment stations and transmitted through Farmers' Institutes and reformed rural schools—and reliance on household labor.

Prepared by: James G. Gibb

Date Prepared: 11 April 2001

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <u> A </u>	Eligibility not recommended <u> </u>
Criteria: <u> X </u> A <u> </u> B <u> </u> C <u> </u> D	Considerations: <u> </u> A <u> </u> B <u> </u> C <u> </u> D <u> </u> E <u> </u> F <u> </u> G <u> </u> None
Comments: <u> Contributes to significance of Western Run-Belfast Rd. Historic District, listed in NR </u>	
<u> James G. Gibb </u>	<u> 5-17-01 </u>
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
<u> [Signature] </u>	<u> 5/23/01 </u>
Reviewer, NR program	Date

Capsule Summary

Property Name: Ensor Farm Complex

MIHP: BA-2949

Location: 15801 Buffalo Run Road

Town: Sparks

Date of Construction: circa 1890

Access: Private

Prepared by: James G. Gibb

The Ensor Farm Complex is a late 19th-century farmhouse with three associated outbuildings in the midst of a 112.46-acre farm. Ancestors of the current occupants built the house and the family has occupied the farm at least since 1854, and possibly as early, or earlier than, 1842, and owned in since 1865. The current owners and occupants cultivate fields to the east, north, and west. Land to the south is wooded. The main building complex consists of: the dwelling with rear addition, enclosed front porch, and front deck; a carriage house now largely enveloped by garage and shop additions; and a renovated 'goat house,' now a storehouse. A bank barn lies downhill from the complex, a distance of about 200 ft.

Title research demonstrates that the farm and its buildings have been in the possession of the Ensor family at least since 1854, and the setting of the complex illustrates that of a typical farm of modest size and wealth from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, hived off from much larger plantations after the Civil War. It represents a significant trend in the agricultural economy of Maryland (Criterion A).

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2949

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 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 Ensor Farm Complex is a late 19th-century farmhouse with three associated outbuildings in the midst of a 112.46-acre farm. Ancestors of the current occupants built the house and the family has occupied the farm at least since 1854, and possibly as early, or earlier than, 1842, and owned in since 1865. The current owners and occupants cultivate fields to the east, north, and west. Land to the south is wooded. The main building complex consists of: the dwelling with rear addition, enclosed front porch, and front deck; a carriage house now largely enveloped by garage and shop additions; and a renovated 'goat house,' now a storehouse. A bank barn lies downhill from the complex, a distance of about 200 ft.

The main part of the dwelling is a 2½ story, two-room deep, 5-bay cross-gable frame building on a mortared fieldstone foundation. All but five of the windows on the dwelling are 6/6 double hung sashes, recent replacements of what probably also were 6/6 double hung sashes. The original shutters have been replaced with red fixed plastic faux shutters. There are pairs of diminutive double-hung 6/6 sashes on each gable end for the half-story, and a single arched window occupies the pediment of the cross gable. The entire dwelling, including additions, is sided with white vinyl siding over asbestos shingles, which reputedly in turn overlie plain horizontal siding, and the entire structure is roofed with raised seam metal painted red. The lower portions of the roofing have been replaced with plain, unseamed metal, the lower original edges and attached metal gutters having deteriorated.

On the east (facing S79°E), or principal, façade, upper and lower pairs of windows are symmetrically placed about the front entrance, now obscured by the enclosed front porch (frame on concrete parged stone foundation). A fifth second floor window is centered over the front door. The north façade has two pairs of windows, one placed above the other, for the two main floors and two smaller windows near the apex of the gable. The south façade of the main part of the dwelling is identical. The owner-occupants report original horsehair plaster walls throughout the dwelling. A pair of well-pointed interior end chimneys extend above the ridgeline at each gable end. The finish on each is simple: two slightly protruding belt courses below the uppermost course.

The two-story frame rear ell with simple gable-end is centrally placed on the rear façade of the main part of the dwelling. There are two 6/6 replacement windows on the second floor of the north façade, and two 6/6 windows on the south façade, one for each floor, as well as a door on the first floor (a one-story wrap-around addition obscures much of the first floor). The wrap-around addition appears to replace an earlier rear porch or ell, as evidenced by two stone piers incorporated into the concrete block foundation, the addition having extended at least 15 ft out from the main rear ell. The rear ell chimney is identical to the two chimneys in the main part of the dwelling in terms of placement (interior of the west gable end, centered on the ridgeline, and with the same simple finish).

A paved parking area separates the dwelling from a small, two-story, gable-end carriage house of simple post and beam construction, a number of the horizontal members clearly having been hewn on two sides and barked

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on the other two. Several exposed vertical members had been barked, but are otherwise unfinished. The original chestnut plank siding has been salvaged and used to cover some interior walls of the shop addition on the north side of the carriage house. The first floor is now a concrete slab and the second floor, used at one time to house chickens, has a relatively recent tongue and groove floor. Motorized garage doors replace the original doors. The two central beams run parallel to the long axis of the carriage house and span 20 ft or more unsupported. The shorter perpendicular joists, also hewn, however, carry the load of the second floor to the exterior walls. The building has white vinyl siding and a red raised seam metal roof identical to those of the dwelling.

A two-story frame outbuilding on mortared fieldstone foundation with shed roof stands directly behind (south of) the carriage house. A beaded board door with simple pull handle, hung on new leaf hinges, provides access to the second floor on the north side of the outbuilding. Paired divided doors of vertical tongue and groove board hung with strap hinges on pintles provide access to the first floor on the south façade. Fixed single pane sashes light the second floor on the north and south façades. Sliding glass sashes penetrate the east and west façades of the second floor. The red raised seam metal roofing is comparable to that on the carriage house and dwelling; aluminum painted white rather than vinyl, however, serves as siding.

Cultivated surfaces to the north and east of these two outbuildings were briefly inspected, but no indications of ruins or artifact deposits were noted, just stray fragments of coal, brick, and bottle glass.

The bank barn is of post and beam construction on a dressed and partially dressed, coursed, mortared stone foundation. The principal beams are spliced above each of the barked posts. The hayloft overhangs the first floor stalls on the east façade. Sliding hung doors replace the original doors on the entrance side (north) of the mow. The roof does not project far beyond the walls, but far enough to expose the rafter ends. Upper horizontal members project several inches through the aluminum siding. The windows perforating the stone foundation have been covered with molded plastic.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates Architect/Builder unknown

Construction dates 1890s

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register 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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Ensor Farm Complex is a two-story frame dwelling with cross-gable and rear ell, typical of late 19th and early 20th-century farmhouses in the Chesapeake Basin. It reputedly dates to 1890. Associated outbuildings may predate the dwelling, comprised as they are of hewn and partially hewn timbers. Each of the buildings has been altered, largely through additions, the application of vinyl and aluminum siding, and installation of new windows. Although the original window sashes were completely removed and replaced with those of non-restoration grade, they retain the overall appearance of the dwelling. The modern addition to the rear of the dwelling, partially enveloping the rear ell, is subordinate in scale to the main house block, although its massing and fenestration are inconsistent with the dwelling's verticality and pattern of window placement. The carriage barn is largely hidden beneath new construction. The so-called 'goat house' is somewhat hidden beneath aluminum siding and the fenestration undoubtedly differs from that originally intended, thereby obscuring original functions and materials. The barn retains its overall appearance and function, despite the aluminum siding and hung sliding doors.

Title research demonstrates that the farm and its buildings have been in the possession of the Ensor family at least since the 1850s, and the setting of the complex illustrates that of a typical farm of modest size and wealth from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This farm represents a class of modest size farms hived off from much larger plantations after the Civil War and, thereby, represents a significant trend in the agricultural economy of Maryland (Criterion A). Specific contributions of this branch of the Ensor family to the state's historical development, or that of the community, have not been identified (Criterion B), nor do any of the buildings retain sufficient integrity to meet any of the four requirements to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register under Criterion C. None of the buildings appear to contain information critical to the understanding of local, state, or national history (Criterion D). The Ensor Farm Complex appears to be eligible for the National Register as a property associated with the post-bellum agricultural development of Maryland and the rise of the 'new agriculture' of the Progressive era. The outbuildings, which appear to predate the dwelling, indicate an adaptation of an earlier pattern of farm tenancy on a large plantation to smaller, more adaptable farms relying principally on household labor and increasingly available agricultural machinery.

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Table. Chain of title, Ensor Farm Complex.

Grantor	Grantee	Acres	Date	Instrument
Raymond E. Ensor				Deed
Mary Beulah Ensor, widow	Raymond E. & Gladys L. Ensor and Charles E. & Marguerite V. Ensor	112a 124p ²	6 Dec 1972	Deed 5322/314
Wm. L. Ensor, widower	Mary Beulah & Robert L. Ensor	112a 124p ²	08 Feb 1929	Deed WHM813/230
Charlotte Ophelia Ensor, est.	Wm. L. Ensor, widower	112a 124p ²	25 Nov 1928	Intestate conveyance
John E. Ensor of J. & Mary E. Ensor	Charlotte Ophelia Ensor	19	07 Aug 1905	Deed WPC289/318
Orrick M. & Elizabeth D. Ensor	John E. Ensor of J.	115a 56p ²	07 Aug 1905	Deed WPC289/320
Geo. E. & Delilah Ensor	Orrick M. Ensor	115a 56p ²	05 Dec 1892	Deed LMB195/223
Samuel S. Cole et ux	Charlotte O. Ensor	110	21 Mar 1895	Deed LMB 211/50
Charlotte O. & Wm. L. Ensor	Samuel S. Cole	110	16 May 1896	Deed LMB 217/246
John J. Yellott, assignee of Luke E. Ensor	Samuel S. Cole	110.6	16 Dec 1890	Deed JWS184/72
Luke E. Ensor	Charles C. Wittig	110.6	02 Apr 1883	Deed WMJ106/135
John & Ann Louisa Merryman	Luke E. Ensor	155.25	06 Jan 1872	Deed EHA73/425
Geo. & Martha Ensor & Wm H. & Mary Ann Ensor	Luke E. Ensor	110.6	20 Mar 1865	Deed JHL44/363
Luke B. Ensor	George, Wm H., & Luke E. Ensor	155.25	1855	Wills JLR1/250
John Merryman, Jr.	Luke B. Ensor	155.25	07 Nov 1854	Agrmnt HMF10/27
John B. Merryman	John Merryman, Jr.	50	15 Jan 1842	TK316/456
Grafton Meryman	John Merryman	54	27 Sept 1842	TK324/70

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The Ensor Farm Complex occupies a knoll in the midst of a 112.46-acre and dominates the almost exclusively agricultural landscape of the area. Comprised of at least three tracts, in whole or in part (Cold Bottom Farm [54 acres], part of Thomas's Addition [50 acres], and addition to Merryman's Lot [6 acres]), this farm retains its 1928 configuration, minor alienations to the State Roads Commission and utility companies excepted. It can be traced back at least as early as 1842 and appears to have been divided from the massive Merryman tract in 1865. Although the chain of title is somewhat confused by frequent conveyances among the Ensors and their collateral kin, the Ensor family occupied the land as early as 1854 when John Merryman agreed to convey Cold Bottom farm and part of the addition to Merryman's Lot, a total then of 155.25 acres, to Luke B. Ensor for \$10,000. Ensor may have been a tenant at the time. He bequeathed the farm to his three sons George, William H., and Luke E. Ensor in 1855, reserving his wife Naomi's interest for the remainder of her life or duration of her widowhood. George and William, and their wives Martha and Mary Ann, sold their interests to Luke E. Ensor in 1865. The farm remained under mortgage until Merryman released it in 1872.

Luke Ensor mortgaged the property to Charles C. Wittig in 1883. He defaulted and Samuel S. Cole purchased it at public sale in 1890. Although the chain of conveyances and reasons for transference remain uncertain, Cole conveyed the property to his daughter Charlotte Ophelia Ensor, described as the wife of William L. Ensor. The tract has remained in the Ensor family, conveyed through inheritance. The post and beam construction of the outbuildings suggests that they may have been part of the earliest Ensor occupation, the extant balloon-frame house possibly replacing an earlier dwelling. A branch of the Ensor family operated a nearby mill in the 19th and 20th centuries, and other mills in the area could have provided milled dimensional lumber by the second half of the 19th century.

The Ensor Farm Complex was built and altered as early as the middle of the 19th century and adapted to the emerging 'new agriculture' of the 1890s and first decade of the 20th century; an agricultural economy that changed slowly during the post-bellum decades and then rapidly mechanized toward the end of the 19th century. It was a period in Maryland and Baltimore County history of significant social and economic change with the arrival of Eastern and Southern European immigrants, the development of a modern school system, annual Farmers' Institutes, and, by the second and third decades of the 20th century, widespread adoption of the automobile and the creation of a state highway system.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Land Records of Baltimore County, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Ensor, Jr., 05 April 2001.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>112.46</u>		
Acreage of historical setting	<u>112.46</u>		
Quadrangle name	<u>Hereford, MD</u>	Quadrangle scale:	<u>1:2400</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The farm complex lies within a 112.46-acre farm on the south side of cold Bottom road and on the west side of I-97. The boundaries of the current tract date at least to 1928 and, with some modifications, to at least 1865.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	James G. Gibb		
organization	Andrew Garte & Associates	date	06 April 2001
street & number	6285 Shady Side Road	telephone	410.867.4600
city or town	Shady Side	state	MD 20764

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 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name
Continuation Sheet

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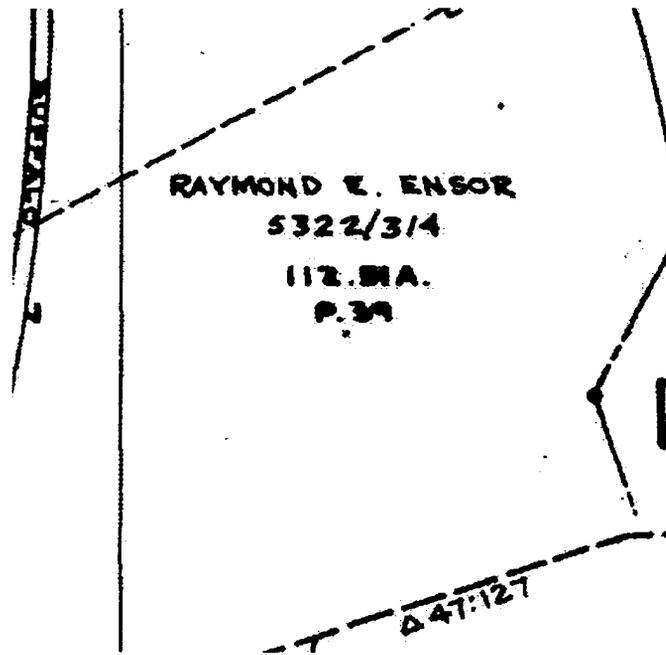


Figure 1. Ensor Farmhouse tract.

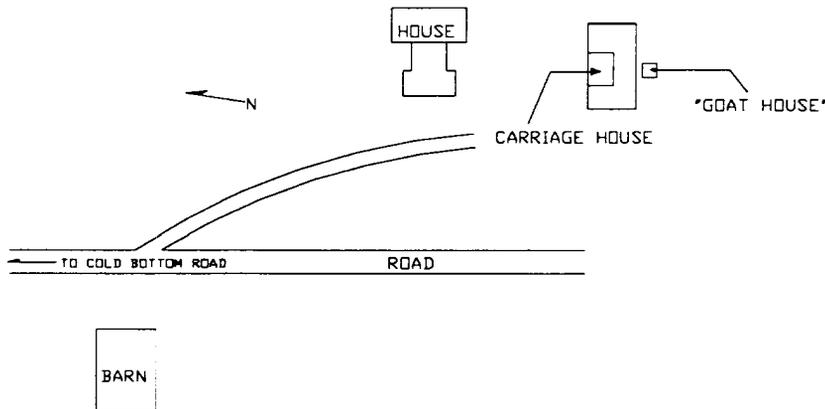
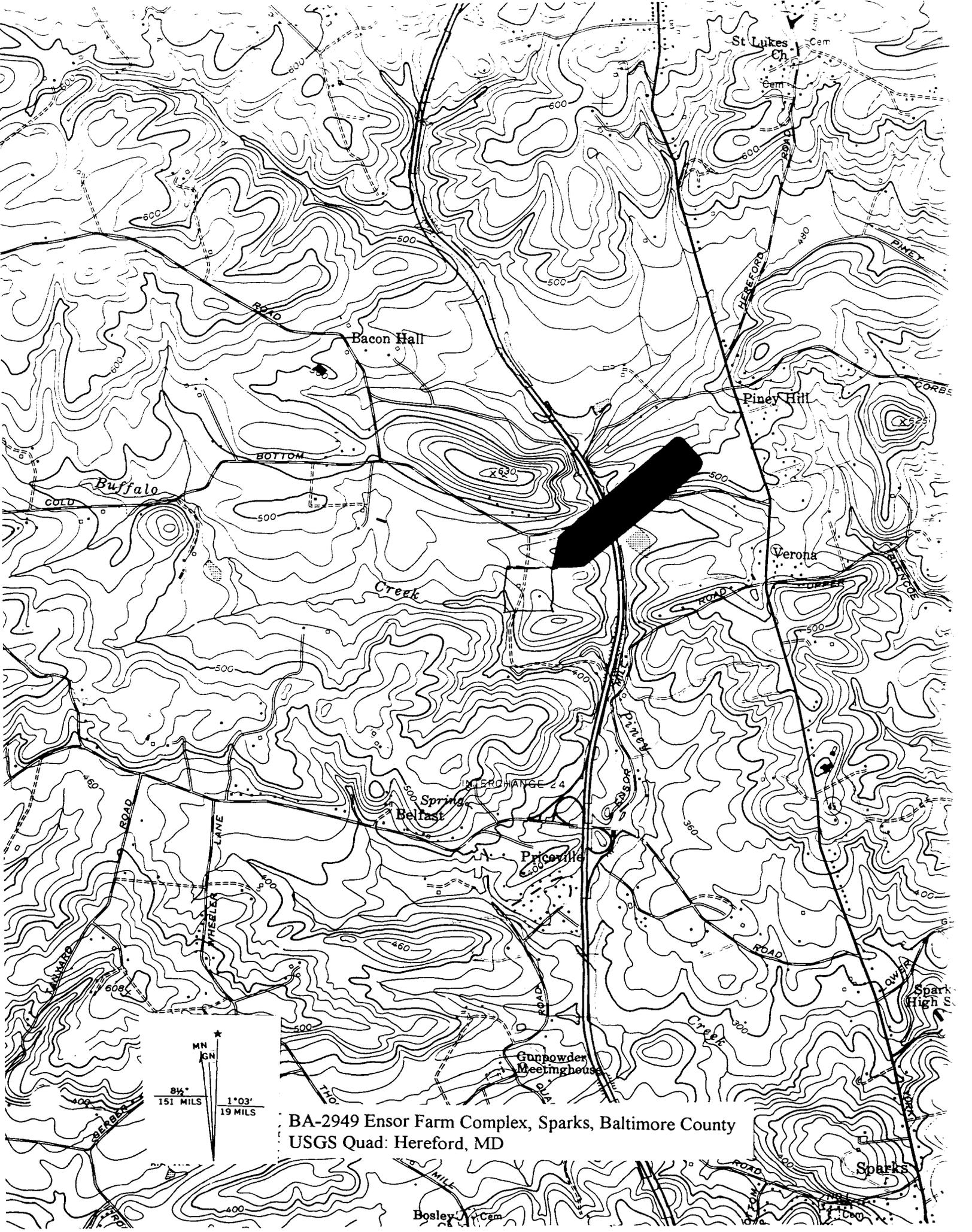


Figure 2. Sketch map of Ensor Farmhouse and outbuildings.



St Lukes Ch

Bacon Hall

Piney Hill

Buffalo

Creek

Verona

Spring Bellast

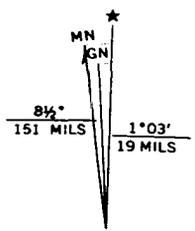
Pricoville

Gunpowder Meetinghouse

Spark High S

Sparks

Bosley Cem



BA-2949 Enzor Farm Complex, Sparks, Baltimore County
USGS Quad: Hereford, MD



BA-2949

1/12

Ensor Farm Complex

Baltimore, MD

James G. Gibb

B1010ANX0 NNN 0 1716

April 11, 2001

MD SHHC

024

B01-THX

69524

Principal (east) facade of the Ensor
Farmhouse.



BA-2949

2/13

Ensor Farm Complex

Baltimore, MD

James G. Webb

B1010ANX0 NNN- 1 1716

April 11, 2001

MD SHPO

022

B&W TMY

69522

North elevation of the Ensor
Farmhouse.



BA-2949

3/8

Ensor Farm Complex

Baltimore, MD

James G. Gilb

B1010ANX0 NNN 0 1716

April 11, 2001

MD SHPO

021

BBN-TMX

69521

Pier remnant (one of two), north
elevation of recent addition.



BA-2949

4/1a

Ensor Farm Complex

Baltimore, MD

James G. G. bb

B1010ANX0 NNN 0 1716

April 11, 2001

MD SHPO

020

8901-TMX

89520

West and south elevations of the
Ensor Farmhouse.



BA-2949

5/12

Energy Farm Complex

Baltimore, MD

James G. Gubb

81010ANXB NNN 0 1716

April 1 2001

MD SHPO

016

8011-THY

69516

North elevation of the carriage house
and recent east and west additions.



BA-2949

6/12

Ensor Farm Complex

Baltimore, MD

James G. Gibb

B1010ANX0 NNN- 1 1716

April 11, 2001

MD SHPO

013

0014-TMX

69513

East and south elevations of the
'goat house'.



BA-2949

7/12

Ensor Farm Complex

Baltimore, MD

James G. Gibb

B1010ANX0 NNN- 1 1716

April 11, 2001

MD SHPO

011

B01W-TMY

69511

East elevation of east addition to the
carriage house.



BA-2949

8/12

Ensor Farm Complex

Baltimore, MD

James G. Gibb

B1010ANX0 NNN 0 1716

April 11, 2001

MD SHPO

010

000-TMX

09510

View looking north from the front of
the Ensor Farmhouse.



BA-2949

9112

Ensor Farm Complex

Baltimore, MD

James G. Gibb

B1010ANX0 NNN 0 1716

April 11, 2001

MD SHPO

000

000-THX

69500

View looking east from the front of
the Ensor Farmhouse.



BA-2949

10/13

Ensor Farm Complex

Baltimore, MD

James G. Gibb

B1010ANX0 NNN 0 1716

April 11, 2001

MD SHPO

008

BBU-TMX

69508

View looking west from the rear of the
Ensor Farmhouse.



BA-2949

11/12

Ensor Farm Complex

Baltimore, MD

James G. Gibb

B1010ANX0 NNN 0 1716

April 11, 2001

MD SHPO

003

B&W-TMY

69503

Splice beams, first floor stalls.



BA-2949

12/12

Ensor Farm Complex

Baltimore, MD

James G. Gibb

B1010ANX0 NNN 0 1716

April 11, 2001

MD SHPS

001

B&W-TMY

69501

North elevation of the bank barn.