

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CAR 125

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Edward Noble House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 9347 Double Hills Road N/A not for publication

city, town Denton _____ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Caroline

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input 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 | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <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 type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Paul deFord

street & number 9347 Double Hills Road telephone no.:

city, town Denton state and zip code Maryland 21629

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courthouse liber 230

street & number folio 812

city, town Denton state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CAR 125

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved date of move _____

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 7.1

8. Significance

Survey No. CAR 125

| 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 | ca. 1900 | Builder/Architect | Unknown |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|---------|
| 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 type="checkbox"/> local | | |

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 8.1

CAR-125
Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Description
Continuation Sheet 7.1

Description Summary

The Edward Noble House, located in Caroline County, is a L-shaped frame dwelling built in ca. 1900. Located on a very small remnant of a former farm, it was likely constructed on a portion of the large estate, called Plaindealing (CAR-9). The descendants of the Dukes family sold considerable acreage connected with this property in the nineteenth century. The Noble House was subsequently owned by a number of families before being purchased by the father of the current owners, Edward DeFord, in 1943. Although many of the early twentieth century outbuildings remain on the property, they are extensively altered, having been gutted, vinyl-sided, expanded and converted to non-agricultural uses. The dwelling has been also gutted, altered and expanded, thus none of the buildings retain integrity of materials or design

Description

The Edward Noble House is accessed by means of a short entrance from the east side of Double Hills Road, near its intersection with MD 404. Much of the property has been subdivided, and is no longer associated with agriculture, although the layout does reflect a traditional agricultural property. The property borders the increasingly commercialized and developed strip of MD 404 on the south side of Denton, characterized by industrial parks, shopping centers, gas stations and car dealerships.

The two-story frame dwelling was built on property purchased by Edward Noble around the turn of the twentieth century. The dwelling (1) is oriented to the west (MD 404) with four heavily altered agricultural outbuildings located behind it. The property represents two periods of construction—the period around 1900 in which the dwelling was constructed, and likely some of the outbuildings. The second period is the tenure of the present owners during the last fifteen years (after 1987) in which all of the buildings were gutted, vinyl-sided and the windows replaced. In addition, the porch was constructed and/or enclosed, the hyphen between the dwelling and the new garage was constructed, and a machine shed/garage constructed.

The dwelling (1) is an L-shaped, side-gable, frame structure, of a type widely distributed and well represented in the architectural record in Maryland. Clad with vinyl siding, the structure is composed of a principle rectangular block, facing west, with a two-story ell wing offset to the west on the rear, or east elevation. A one-story porch, now enclosed, is appended to the south elevation of the L, with a hyphen on the north side constituting a transition between the dwelling and the garage. The sole chimney is a replacement located outside of the east gable end. All of the chimneys, fireplaces, interior finishes and

CAR-125
Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Description
Continuation Sheet 7.2

plaster have been replaced. The fenestration is regular, characterized by six-over-six replacement vinyl, with hopper windows in the enclosed porch on the south elevation of the ell.

The three-bay wide east, or entrance facade, has a transomed entrance, with sidelights, located in the south bay, and sheltered by a one-story, full-width porch carried on brick posts. This south elevation is composed of the gable end of the principle block, devoid of windows and with returns of the boxed cornice. It is also composed of the south elevation of the side-gable ell-wing continuing the forward plane of the wall. The porch is enclosed with brick with hopper windows in the west bays and an entrance in the second to east bay. A one-story, three bay long, is set back and appended to the east elevation of the ell, connecting with the two-car garage. The north elevation is composed of three sections representing two periods of construction—the gable end of the original block, the shed roof addition of the addition in the northeast angle, the end bay of the ell, and the one-story bedroom suite. Directly east of the garage is a meathouse (2), used for storage, with a cowshed (3), converted to wood shelter, located beyond that. Across from, or south of, the access road and off the southeast corner of the dwelling are a garage/shed (4), and a chicken house (5), converted to a workroom. All of these agricultural outbuildings have been heavily modified and converted to other than the original uses.

Historic Context

The first settlement of Maryland, following the initial colonization by Cecilius Calvert at St. Mary's in 1633, occurred along the waterways, moving from the Chesapeake Bay to its tributary streams. What was to become Caroline County was thus settled later than areas with frontage on the Chesapeake Bay. The area was agricultural in character, with tobacco, which had been introduced to early settlers by the Native Americans, being the primary crop. Fluctuating prices and competition from other markets in the mid-eighteenth century had disastrous results for the growers, and by the 1770s, the acreage of tobacco had been greatly reduced.

The Edward Noble farm is located a few miles from Denton, on the road from Denton to Williston, thus its viability as an agricultural complex would have been affected by improvements in transportation and the development of Denton as a trading hub. Denton, originally known as Pig Point, was established at a ferry landing on the Choptank, just south of Melvill's Landing. In the late eighteenth century it became the county seat and the first courthouse was built there in 1797. A bridge replaced the ferry that had originally crossed the Choptank, as the town grew in the early nineteenth century.

CAR-125
Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Description
Continuation Sheet 7.3

The Revolutionary War affected the markets for local products, prompting a switch in agricultural production to wheat and other grains. By 1780, approximately one-third of the land was cultivated. Landings along the Choptank had always been important as a means of taking produce to market and receiving goods. Potter's Landing was first used around the middle of the eighteenth century. During the Revolution, the landing served as a depot for collecting supplies for the soldiers. The town of Williston, located a few miles southeast of the Edward Noble farm, grew up around the landing and early trading villages.

The county retained its agricultural character into the nineteenth century. Slaves were used on some of the plantations, but the slave population generally declined over time, with many freed between 1790 and 1860, reflecting the decline of tobacco farming. The population in Caroline County shrank in the early nineteenth century, primarily because of the exhaustion of land from tobacco-farming, the decline of tobacco and the falling agricultural economy. With the eclipse of tobacco as a major cash crop, most of the land was farmed by small self-sufficient landowners working without slaves and growing diversified crops. By the middle of the century, the Maryland Agricultural Society for the Eastern Shore was helping the farmers to plan marketable crops and improve the land. Local mid-nineteenth century farmers were raising sheep, cattle and chickens, and were growing Indian corn, oats, wheat, rye and potatoes.

There were important improvements in transportation. The first steamboat arrived in Denton before 1850, which provided for the easy transport of goods and people by water, as the steamboats made weekly trips between Denton and Baltimore.

In 1875 there was little settlement in the area south of Denton, in the vicinity of the Edward Noble House, although settlement had occurred nearby. Potter's Landing, to the southwest of the study area, plus other landings in the vicinity, indicate the importance of the Choptank River to the local economy. Railroads were eventually built in Caroline County in the second half of the nineteenth century. The Delaware and Chesapeake Railroad had been constructed to the north of the study area in the 1870's. By the end of the century, the Queen Anne Railroad had been laid through Denton and Hobbs, near the study area. The railroad stimulated population growth in Denton and the rural areas through the early twentieth century, with the result that Denton became the population and administrative center of the surrounding agricultural community.

By 1870, peaches were the prime agricultural crop. Strawberries replaced them as the dominant export in the early 1900's, after diseases had ruined the peach orchards.

CAR-125
Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Description
Continuation Sheet 7.4

Vegetable production increased in the 1930s, and soybeans were introduced as a cash crop in 1940. Many canneries appeared in Caroline County, among them the first tomato cannery in the United States. At the high point in 1920, Caroline County had at least 62 businesses canning peas and tomatoes. The Edward Noble farm was utilized to grow fruits and vegetables for sale to the local populations and to the canneries.

The county has always been predominantly rural, with towns centered on local industries or water. Caroline County prospered in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, following the introduction of the railroads that provided improved access to larger markets. Despite the consequent growth of established towns like Denton and the appearance of new towns like Goldsboro, Caroline County retained its rural and agricultural character.

Although sections of Caroline County were settled in the seventeenth century, the county was populated slowly and has retained its generally rural character. Little population growth has occurred outside of the small towns, with only scattered homes along rural roads. Much of the local development, including the extension of rail lines throughout the county, dates to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Recent changes in the study area include the Denton bypass and road construction in the study area.

**CAR-125
Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County**

**Continuation Sheet 7.5
Description**

Chain of Title

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|---|----------------------|
| Paul and Phyllis DeFord | To | Paul and Anne DeFord 1.64 acres | 230/812 2/19/1982 |
| Helen Mae Brown, et. al. | To | Paul DeFord Estate of Mary DeFord \$40,000 | 230/809 8/28/1986 |
| H. Saulsbury Sparks | To | Edward DeFord \$6,750 Land of W. W. Noble 82 acres | 103/245 6/3/1943 |
| Ambrose Taylor, Widower, et.al | To | H. Saulsbury Sparks \$4,500 | 100/393 8/17/1940 |
| Austin Murphy | To | Tilghman Taylor \$3,550 | 96/89 8/9/1936 |
| Edward Noble | To | Austin Murphy \$3,000 82 acres | 95/552 2/2/1936 |
| Clement Noble | To | Edward Noble | 83/275 3/18/1899 |

CAR-125
Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Significance
Continuation Sheet 8.1

Significance Summary

The Edward Noble property, constructed on a small remnant of a former farm, is composed of gutted and heavily altered buildings—a dwelling and four likely original outbuildings, plus new additions built on the east and north elevations of the dwelling in ca. 1995. Of a ubiquitous architectural dwelling type, the Edward Noble House evokes little association with the past and is only marginally significant.

Used as a dairy farm for most of the latter part twentieth century by the parents of the current owners, the DeFords, before the land was sold off, the property owed its economic viability to improvements in transportation that occurred in the late nineteenth century with the arrival of railroad service. Growth in railroad technology and service led to a more effective transportation network in the years following 1870, which opened new markets for Caroline County's produce.

Significance

The Edward Noble House has been analyzed within the contexts of architecture and agriculture in relation to an historic period of increasing industrialization and urbanization (Maryland Historical Trust Historic Context—*Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870 to 1930*). The Edward Noble House conforms to a standard, I-house design that is ubiquitous in Caroline County. Many of these dwellings, dating to the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries, have two-story rear wings that give them an L or, occasionally, a T shape.

The Edward Noble property, although containing an agricultural complex, has little integrity because, for one, it is no longer used for agriculture, as the land has been largely sold off or subdivided. Its agricultural integrity as an early twentieth century Caroline County farm has been further compromised because the buildings have been gutted, vinyl sided and, except for the dwelling, converted to other uses. Thus, outbuildings pre-dating 1950 are extant, though heavily modified.

The Edward Noble House has also been analyzed within the context of agriculture in relation to an historic period of increasing industrialization and urbanization (1870-1930), which was closely tied to the continued development of an extended transportation network. Caroline County Houses owed their prosperity to the growth in railroad technology and service led to a more effective transportation network in the years following 1870, which opened new markets for the county's produce. Opportunities to transport perishable products such as fruits and vegetables quickly became, with

CAR-125
Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Significance
Continuation Sheet 8.2

vegetable production increased in the 1930s, and the introduction of soybean cultivation as a cash crop in 1940. Many canneries appeared in Caroline County, among them the first tomato cannery in the United States.

Evaluation of National Register Eligibility

The Edward Noble House (CAR-125), is a ell-shaped frame dwelling built in ca. 1900. Located on a very small remnant of a former farm, it was likely constructed on a portion of the large estate, called Plaindealing (CAR-9). The descendants of the Dukes family sold considerable acreage connected with this property in the nineteenth century. The Noble House was subsequently owned by a number of families before being purchased by the father of the current owners, William DeFord, in 1943. Although many of the early twentieth century outbuildings remain on the property, they are extensively altered, having been gutted, vinyl-sided, expanded and converted to non-agricultural uses. The dwelling has been also gutted, altered and expanded, thus none of the buildings retain integrity of materials or design.

The Edward Noble House has been evaluated in light of the National Register criteria, with a careful consideration of the criteria of integrity. It has no documented history, insofar as we have been able to determine, as the location of a store, post office, or any known association with the historical identity of the region. Thus it does not convey a strong connection with the past, or an immediate association or feeling in an historic sense of a particular period of time. In its present state it conveys little association with any historic event or person.

No information has come to light that indicates any association of this dwelling with persons important in history on any level. In its current modified state, it does not retain key elements required by the national register criteria as regards integrity. It does not retain a high degree of integrity of design materials, feeling, or association with the past. In sum, the Edward Noble House does not convey a significant historical link with the history of the county, region or state, and therefore is not likely to meet the criteria of listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

This building has been evaluated under National Register of Historic Places Criteria A, B, and C. It does not meet the requirements for significance under Criterion C for its architectural merit because of its extensive alteration. It is not known to have been associated with significant historical events or persons, and is not, therefore, eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A or B.

CAR-125
Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Significance
Continuation Sheet 8.3

The Edward Noble House does not appear to meet any of the National Register criteria, which are listed below:

- a. Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- b. Association with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- c. Embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or works of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction; or
- d. Potential to yield information important in prehistory or history. No construction impacts have been determined to occur in an archeologically sensitive area of this property with this project, thus archeological studies are not warranted.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended

Comments: _____

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services: Carl M. ...

Date: July 12, 1999

Reviewer, NR program: B. Kuntz

Date: 9/2/99

Jmg

CAR-125
Edward Noble House
Denton
Caroline County, Maryland

Continuation Sheet 8.4
Statement of Significance

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Architecture

Resource Type:

Categories:

Standing Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Functions and Uses (former and/or present):

Subsistence/Dwelling/Outbuildings

Known Design Sources: None

CAR-125

Edward Noble House

Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

9.1 Major Bibliographical References

Bourne, Michael. Inventory of Historic Sites in Caroline County. Annapolis, MD., Maryland Historical Trust, 1980.

Cochrane, L.C., et.al. History of Caroline County, Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1971.

"Commemorating the Two Hundredth Anniversary of Caroline County, Maryland", 1974.

Earle, Swepson. Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore. Baltimore, MD., Munder-Thomsen Press, 1916.

Horse, Eleanor F. Origins of Caroline County, Maryland. Denton, Maryland, privately published, 1974.

Ishler, John B. Map of Caroline County, 1875 (reprinted in the 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, 1976).

Martenet, Simon J. Martenet's Map of Maryland. 1884, Philadelphia, PA.: J.L. Smith, 1884.

Maryland Writers Program, Maryland: Guide to the Old Line State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1973.

Noble, Edward M. The History of Caroline County. Federalsburg, Maryland: Stowell Printing Company, 1918.

Papenfuss, Edward C., and Joseph M. Coale, III. Atlas of Historical Maps of Maryland 1608-1908. Baltimore, MD., Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984.

Raber, Paul A., and Patti I. Byra. Phase I Archaeological Survey: MD 404, Legion Road to MD 16, Caroline County, Maryland. Maryland State Highway Administration, Baltimore, MD., 1998.

Rairigh, William N. "A Narrative History of Caroline County" in The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, edited by Charles B. Clark, pp. 1095-i 124. Chicago, Ill.: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1950.

CAR-125
Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

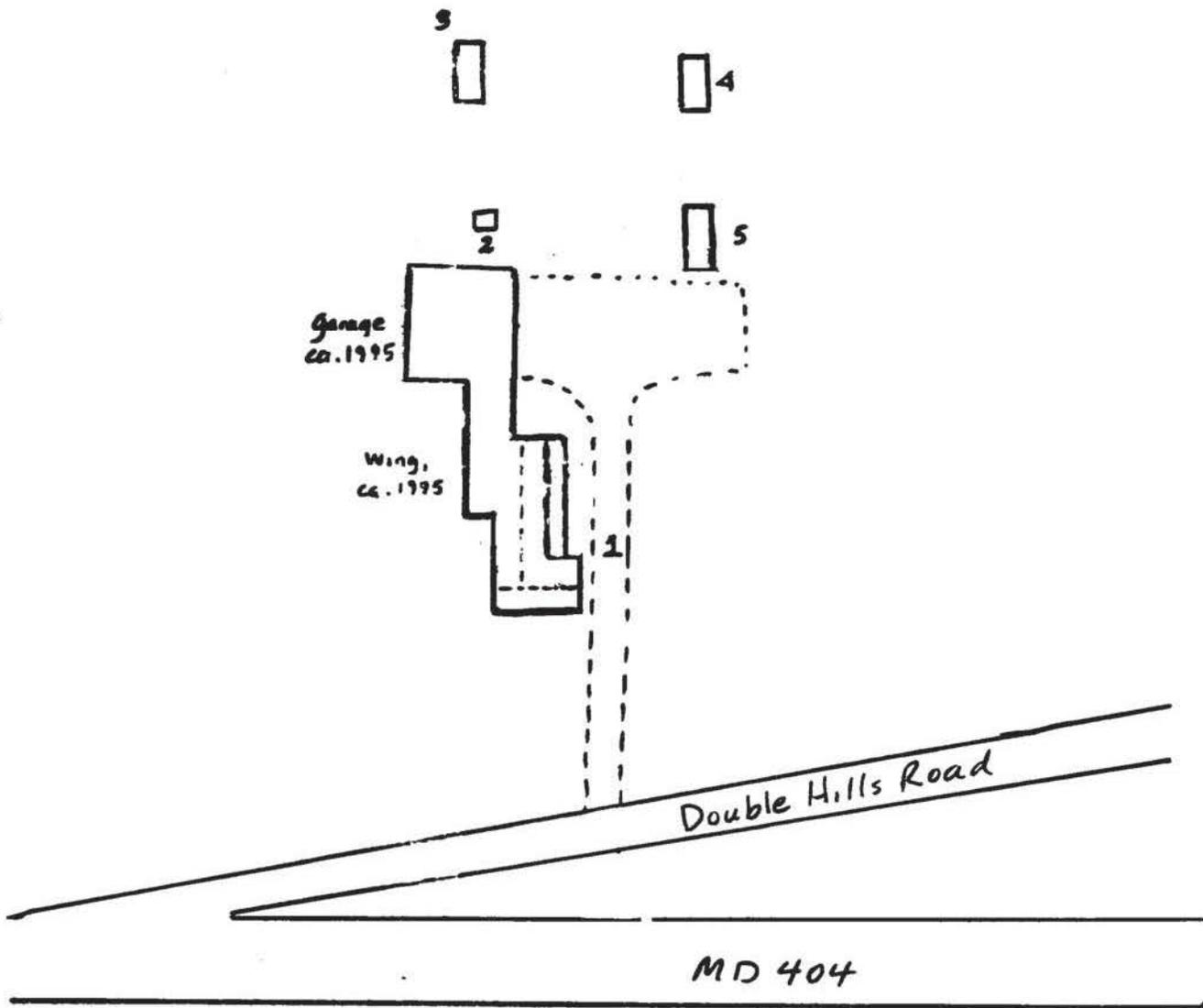
Continuation Sheet 9.2
Major Bibliographical References

Stein, Elaine. "Caroline's Farming Began in 1660", in Caroline County's Story of Progress During the 350th Year of the Founding of Maryland, edited by Nona Medford. pp. 24-25. Denton, Maryland: Caroline County Committee for the Celebration of the 350th Year of the Founding of Maryland, 1984.

Truitt, Charles J. Breadbasket of the Revolution: Delmarva 's Turbulent War Years. Salisbury, Maryland: Historical Books, Inc., 1975.

USGS Quadrangles for Denton, Maryland (7.5 minute edition of 1905).

CAR-125
Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland
Sketch Map-Not to Scale

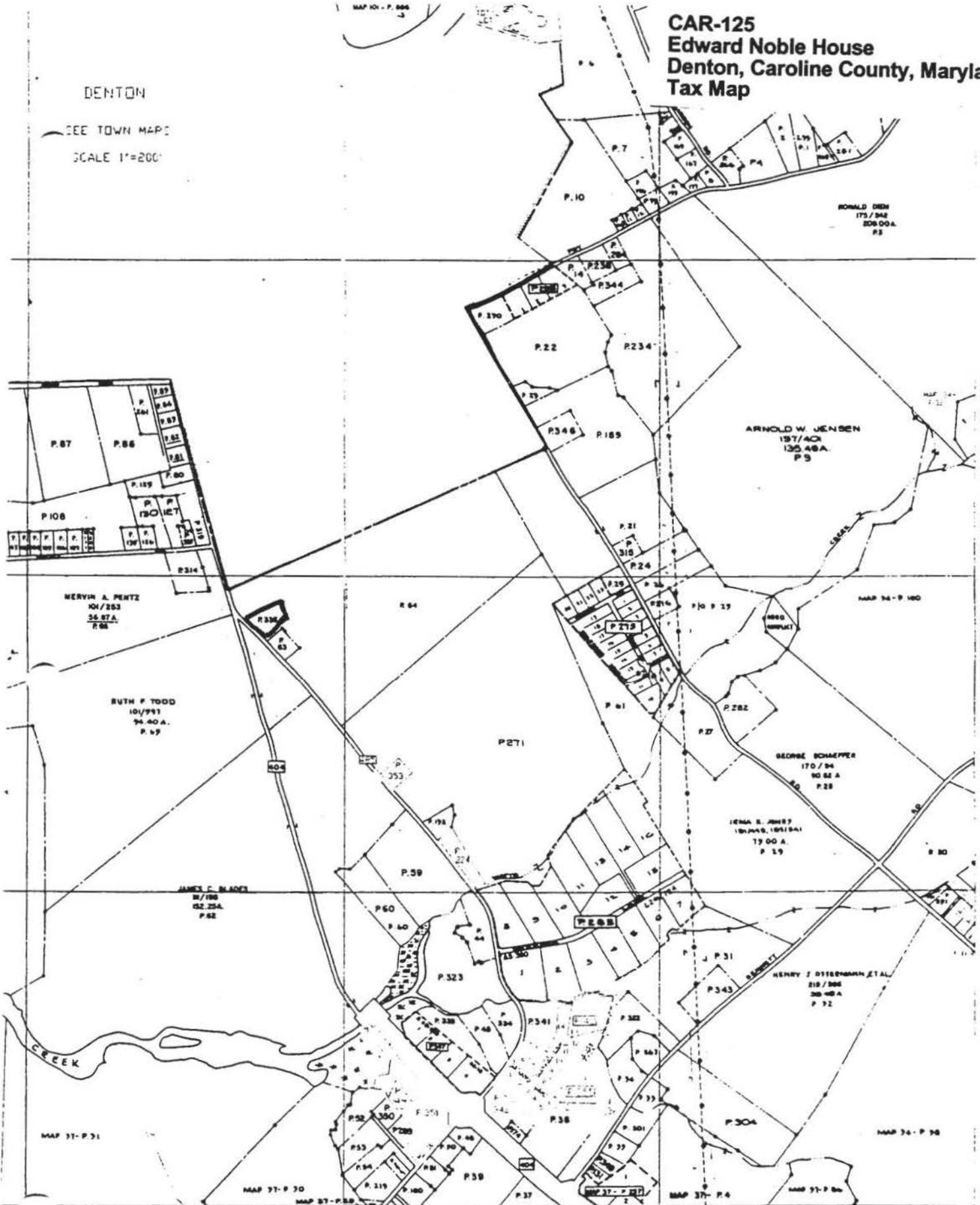


↑

CAR-125
Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland
Tax Map

DENTON

SEE TOWN MAPS
 SCALE 1"=200'



34

COMPILED BY
MARYLAND OFFICE OF PLANNING
PROPERTY MAPPING SECTION

THE INFORMATION SHOWN HEREON HAS BEEN COMPIL-
 ED FROM DEED RECORDS AND IS NOT AN ACTUAL SURVEY.
 IT SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS UNLESS
 ADEQUATE CROSS-REFERENCING IS USED TO VERIFY THE PROPERTY
 MAPPING SECTION, OR IN PRESENCE OF, AN ARCHIVE, MD 28B

REVISED TO: _____ DATE: MAR 1977 LIBER: _____

PROPERTY LINE
 SUBDIVISION BOUNDARY
 COMPULSORY CONVEYANCE

ENCLOSURE - P 444 REFERRED TO EVIDENTLY AND NEED A CHANGE
 MUST BE PRECEDED BY A MAP NUMBER

SCALE T-500' (RF 17200)

DATE: _____ LAST P. NO: _____ PHOTO: _____ QUADRANGLE: _____



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CAROLINE COUNTY,
 MARYLAND

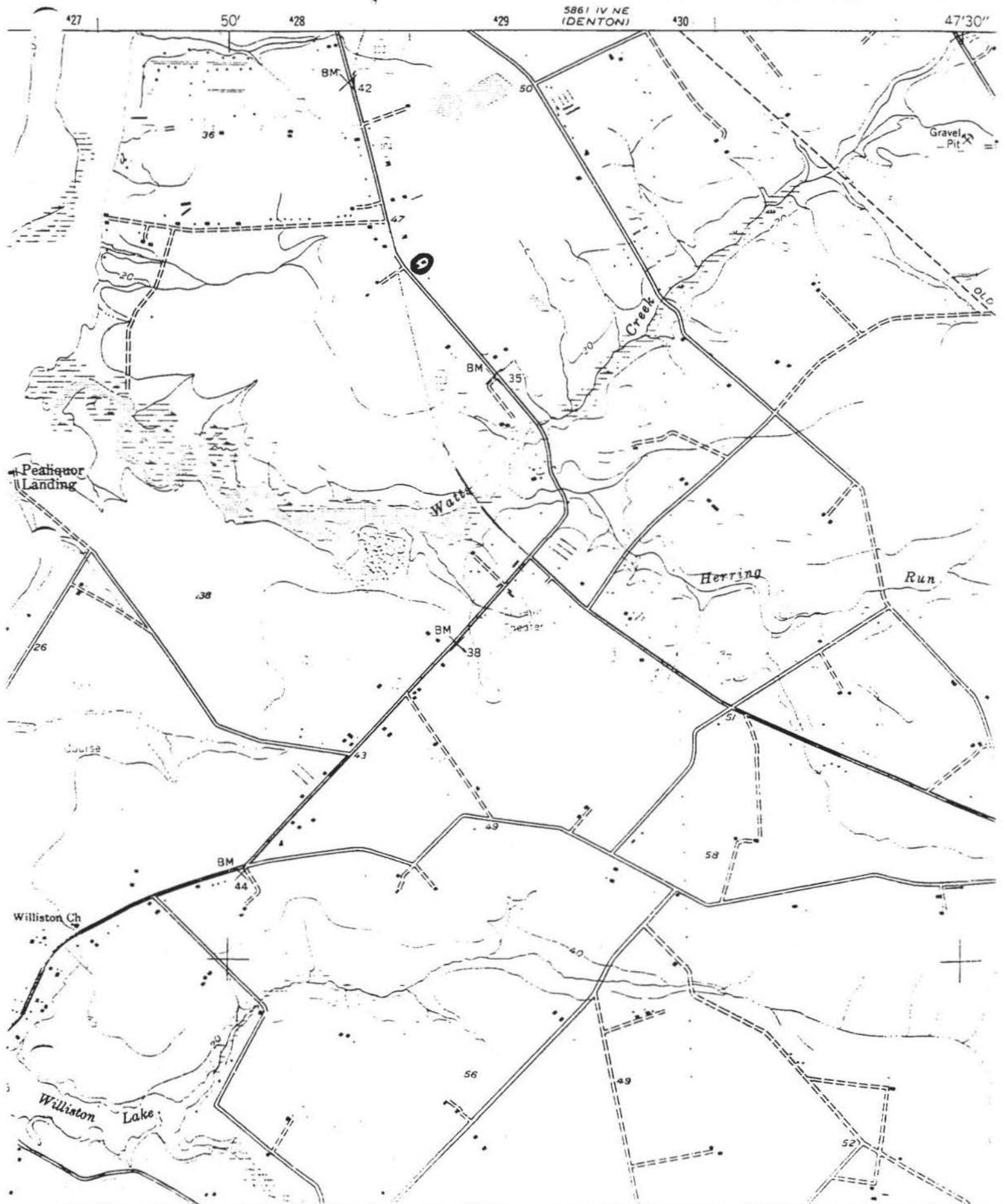
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11:

CAR-125
Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland
Location map
USGS Quadrangle-Hobbs





CAR 125

Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County

R Suffern negs at ~~AND~~ SHPO
MPSHA 10/98

General view, looking SE
most buildings ca. 1980

17



CAR (2) -

Edward Noble Horn

Denton, Caroline County

Ruffin negs at MP 511 P 0
10/98

MB SH P

Dwelling

Southwest corner

2/7



CAR 125

Edward Noble Home

Denton, Caroline County,

R Suffern. negs at MDSHP0

11/98

Dwelling, North Elevation

Happen and Garage ca 1980

#17



CAR 125

Edward Noble Home

Denton, Caroline County

negs at MD SHPO

Resuffman

10/58

Dwellings, South Elevation

Hyphum / Garage ca 1980

417



CA 12 125

Edward Noble Home

Denton, Caroline County

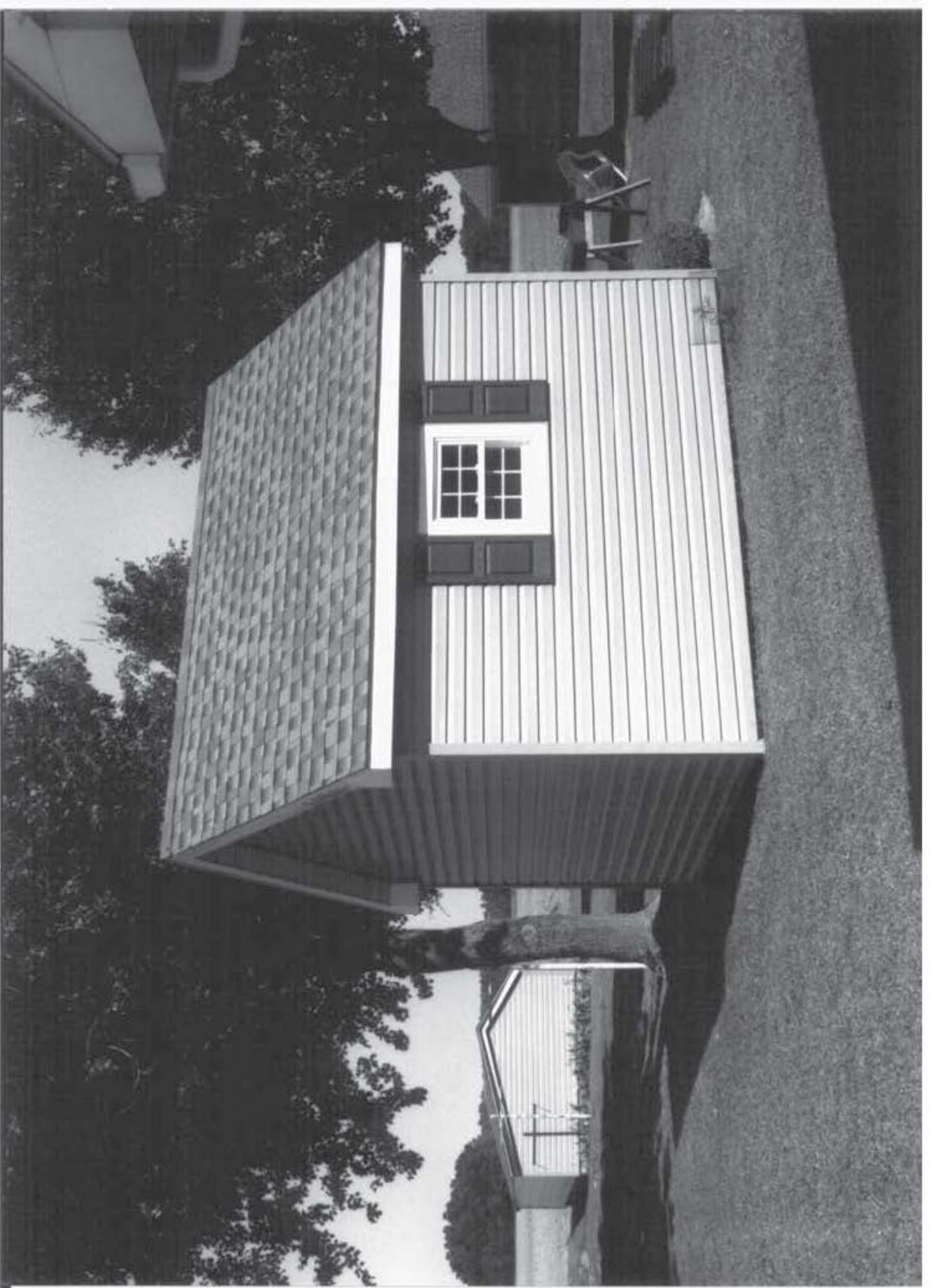
Ruffner negs at MD
SHP 00

10/98

Dwelling, ca 1900, NE Corner

Gutted ca. 1980

5/17

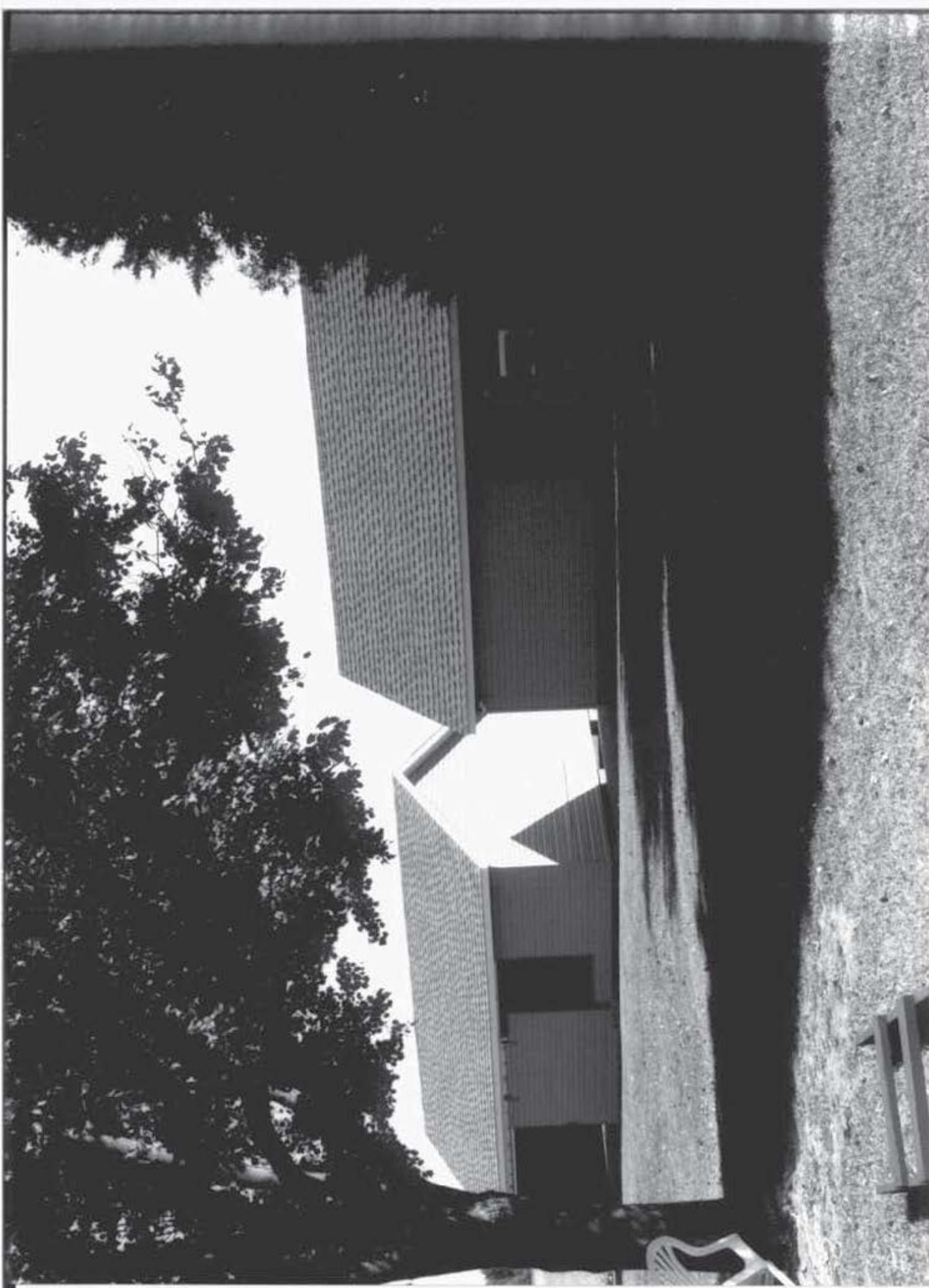


CAF 12 125
Edward Noble House
Denton, Caroline County

Ruffner Keys at
10198 MD SHPO

Meathouse, gutted 1980
NW Corner

6/7



CAR 125

Edward Noble Home

Denton, Caroline County

R sufferer negs at MDSHPU
10/98

Gutted chicken Home (left).

Game-dshed (right)

17/17