

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Georgia Smith House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 25690 MD 404

N/A not for publication

city, town Denton

___ vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

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 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 Anthony and Joan Osterman

street & number 8907 Osterman Court

telephone no.:

city, town Denton

state and zip code

Maryland 21629

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courthouse

liber 129

street & number

folio 76

city, town Denton

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date

 federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. CAR 198

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 198

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	1900	Builder/Architect	Unknown
----------------	------	-------------------	---------

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 8.1

CAR-198
Georgia Smith House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Description
Continuation Sheet 7.1

Description Summary

The Georgia Smith House, located in Caroline County, is a simple, balloon frame I-house. It was built in ca. 1913 soon after Georgia Smith and her husband purchased a 42-acre portion of the Lloyd Haines property, described as "unimproved" in the notice of the trustee sale (Denton Journal, June 11, 1913). According to the current owner, it was moved to another site on the property by the State Highway Administration to accommodate an expansion of MD 404 in 1957. The dwelling has been altered and expanded. There are no intact agricultural outbuildings on the property—a former cow barn, built by the Schoen family in the second quarter of the twentieth century and converted to a garage—is the only other structure on the property.

Description

The Georgia Smith House is accessed by means of a short entrance from the east side of MD 404 north of its intersection with Sennett Road. Much of the property has been subdivided, and is no longer associated with agriculture. 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 Georgia Smith after the first decade of the twentieth century. The dwelling (1) is oriented to the west (MD 404). It is a simple balloon-framed side-gable structure, of a type widely distributed and well represented in the architectural record in Maryland. Clad with asbestos siding, the structure is composed of a principle rectangular block, facing west, with a one-story small kitchen wing on the south side. An enclosed shed roofed porch on the west and a shed roof partially enclosed porch on the east have extended this small wing. The current owner, Mr. Osterman, added a large, one-story, shed-roofed addition on the rear, or east side, of the main block to expand the living space in ca. 1970. The only chimney is a replacement located midpoint along the length of the structure at the apex of the roof, and vents the sole stove, which principally provides heat. Much of the interior was gutted and altered by the current owner. The fenestration is regular, characterized by two-over-two wooden sash, with replacement paired windows on the principle facade, and some fixed pane windows in the south elevation. The three-bay wide west, or entrance facade, has a centered entrance sheltered by a one-story, one-bay wide, gable-front hood carried on brackets.

CAR-198
Georgia Smith House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Description
Continuation Sheet 7.2

A short distance from the northwest corner of the house is a former cow barn, built by the Schoen family in the second quarter of the twentieth century, and converted to a garage by the current owner. With its gable front entrance oriented to the west, the garage has been extended on the south with a corrugated metal shed roofed addition.

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 Georgia Smith 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.

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 Georgia Smith 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

CAR-198
Georgia Smith House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Description
Continuation Sheet 7.3

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 Georgia Smith 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. 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 Georgia Smith 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

CAR-198
Georgia Smith House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Description
Continuation Sheet 7.4

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-198
Georgia Smith House
Denton, Caroline County**

**Continuation Sheet 7.5
Description**

Chain of Title

William Osterman	To	Anthony Osterman 10 acres	129/76
Anne Schoen, widow	To	William Osterman \$10.00	112/433 5/7/1949

Two parcels

1) Josiah Beck	To	Anne Schoen ca. 2 acres	82/501 8/31/1920
2) Orville Mann	To	Henry and Anne Schoen 16 acres	82/352 5/28/1920
James Nichols	To	Orville Mann	79/250 10/12/1917
Georgia Smith and H. Earl Smith	To	James Nichols and Harvey Cooper	79/7 5/4/1917
Ella Pollard and husband	To	Georgia Smith \$2,350, 42 acres	77/252 2/23/1915
H. Earle Smith	To	Ella Pollard	77/117 11/30/1914
Harvey L. Cooper Trustee	To	Georgia Smith \$2,750 and H. Earle Smith	76/191 9/19/1913

Trustee's Sale, by decree of the Circuit Court
Georgia Smith vs. Carrie Crosby, Chancery Case 159
Sold at auction to Georgia Smith and husband H. Earle Smith
Part of the Lloyd Haines Farm (parcel 2, as described
"bounded on three sides by roads, 24 acres clear and 18 acres in pine timber.
There are no improvements on same."
(Denton Journal, June 11, 1913).

8. Significance

Survey No.

CAR 198

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	ca. 1913	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-198
Georgia Smith House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Significance
Continuation Sheet 8.1

Significance Summary

The Georgia Smith property, located on a 10-acre remnant of a former small farm, is composed of two heavily altered buildings—a dwelling and a former cow barn converted into a garage. Built in a ubiquitous architectural dwelling type—the I-house—the Georgia Smith House evokes little association with the past, and has no architectural significance.

The property was utilized for the cultivation of fruit, vegetables, soybeans and corn for most of the twentieth century by the in-laws (Schoen family) of the current owners, Ostermans. The property owed its economic viability as a farm 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 Georgia Smith 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 Georgia Smith 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, exhibit the largely ubiquitous I-house shape with balloon frame construction.

The Georgia Smith property, originally part of a small agricultural complex, has little integrity because, for one, most of the land has been sold off or subdivided. Its architectural integrity as an early twentieth century Caroline County dwelling has been somewhat compromised because it was moved onto its current location in 1957, and whatever agricultural outbuildings were located immediately adjacent to the structure at that time were destroyed for highway expansion, as reported by the current owner. The dwelling has been greatly altered on both the exterior and interior.

The Georgia Smith 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 farms owed their prosperity to the growth in railroad technology and service led to a more effective transportation network in the years

CAR-198
Georgia Smith House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Significance
Continuation Sheet 8.2

following 1870, which opened new markets for the county's produce. Opportunities to transport perishable products such as fruits and vegetables quickly became, with 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.

National Register Eligibility Evaluation

The Georgia Smith House, located in Caroline County, is a simple, balloon frame I-house, built in ca. 1913 and moved in 1957. The dwelling has been altered and expanded. There are no intact agricultural outbuildings on the property—a former cow barn, built by the Schoen family in the second quarter of the twentieth century and converted to a garage—is the only other structure on the property.

The Georgia Smith 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 Georgia Smith 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. In addition, it lacks integrity because of its having been moved. 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. The Georgia Smith 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

CAR-198
Georgia Smith House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland

Significance
Continuation Sheet 8.3

patterns of our history; or

- b. Association with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- 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). The area of construction impact was tested (Section A) as part of the Phase I Archeological Reconnaissance (See Figure a and page 24 of the report titled *Phase I Archeological Survey, MD 404, Legion Road to MD 16, Caroline County, Maryland* and determined to lack potential for significant archeological resources (in part due to the fact that the dwelling was moved to the site in 1957). No construction impacts have been identified, which would occur in a possibly archeologically sensitive area of this property, thus further archeological studies are not warranted.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW
Eligibility recommended _____
Comments: _____

Eligibility not recommended

Reviewer, Office of Preservation
Services: [Signature]

Date: Feb. 17, 1999

Reviewer, NR
program: [Signature]

Date: 9/2/99

[Signature]

CAR-198
Georgia Smith 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/Outbuilding

Known Design Sources: None

CAR-198

**Georgia Smith 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.

Horsey, 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.

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

Papenfuse, 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. 1095-1124. Chicago, Ill.: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1950.

CAR-198
Georgia Smith 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.

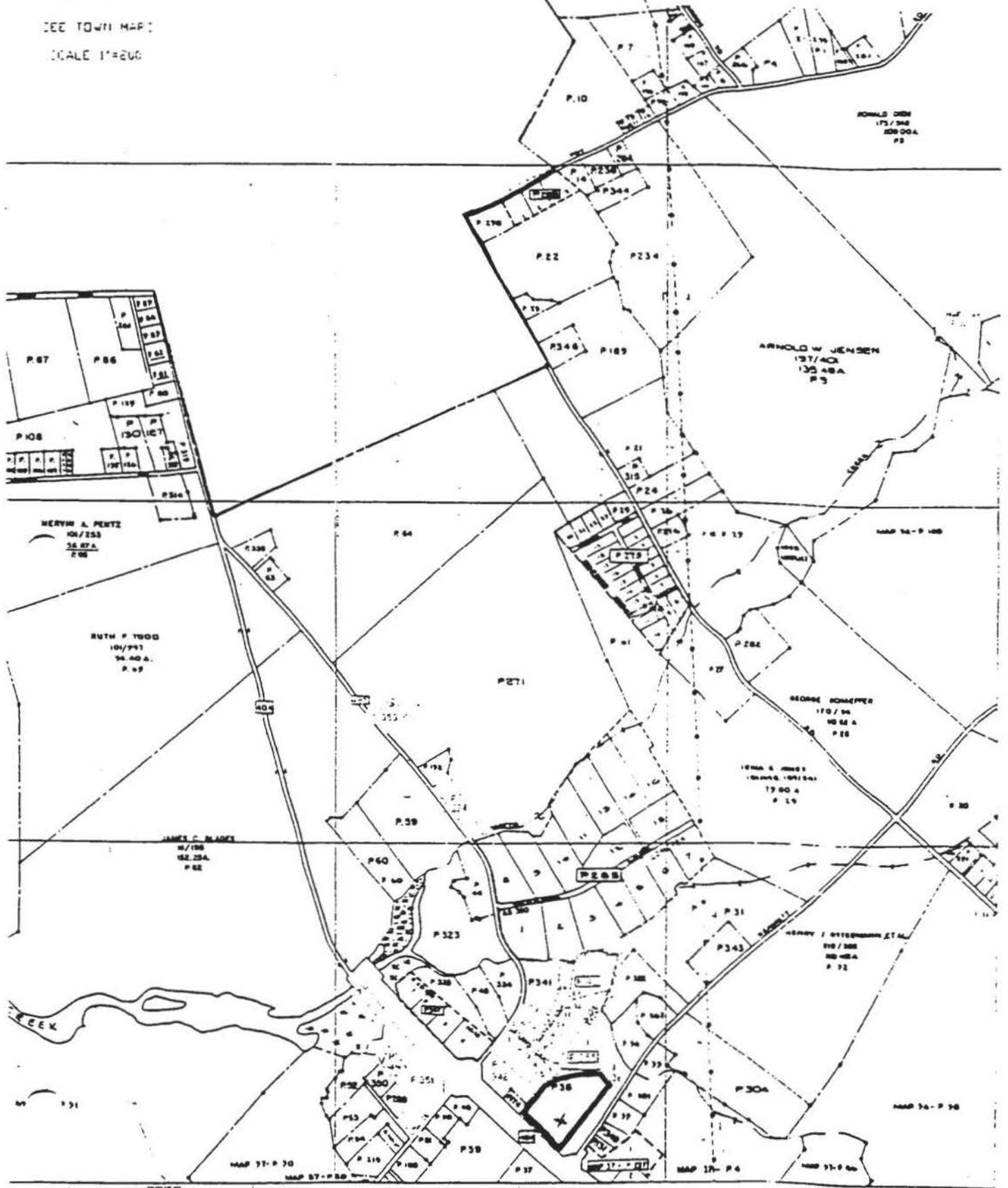
USGS Quadrangles for Denton, Maryland (7.5 minute edition of 1905).

CAR-198
Georgia Smith House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland
Tax Map

DENTON

SEE TOWN MAP:

SCALE 1"=200'



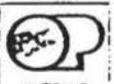
34

OFFICE OF
MARYLAND OFFICE OF PLANNING
PROPERTY MAPPING SECTION

THE INFORMATION SHOWN HEREON HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM CERTAIN SOURCES AND IS NOT AN OFFICIAL SURVEY. IT SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR LEGAL OR ENGINEERING PURPOSES. HOLDING AGENTS ARE LIABLE TO VERIFY THE PROPERTY INFORMATION SHOWN ON THIS MAP.

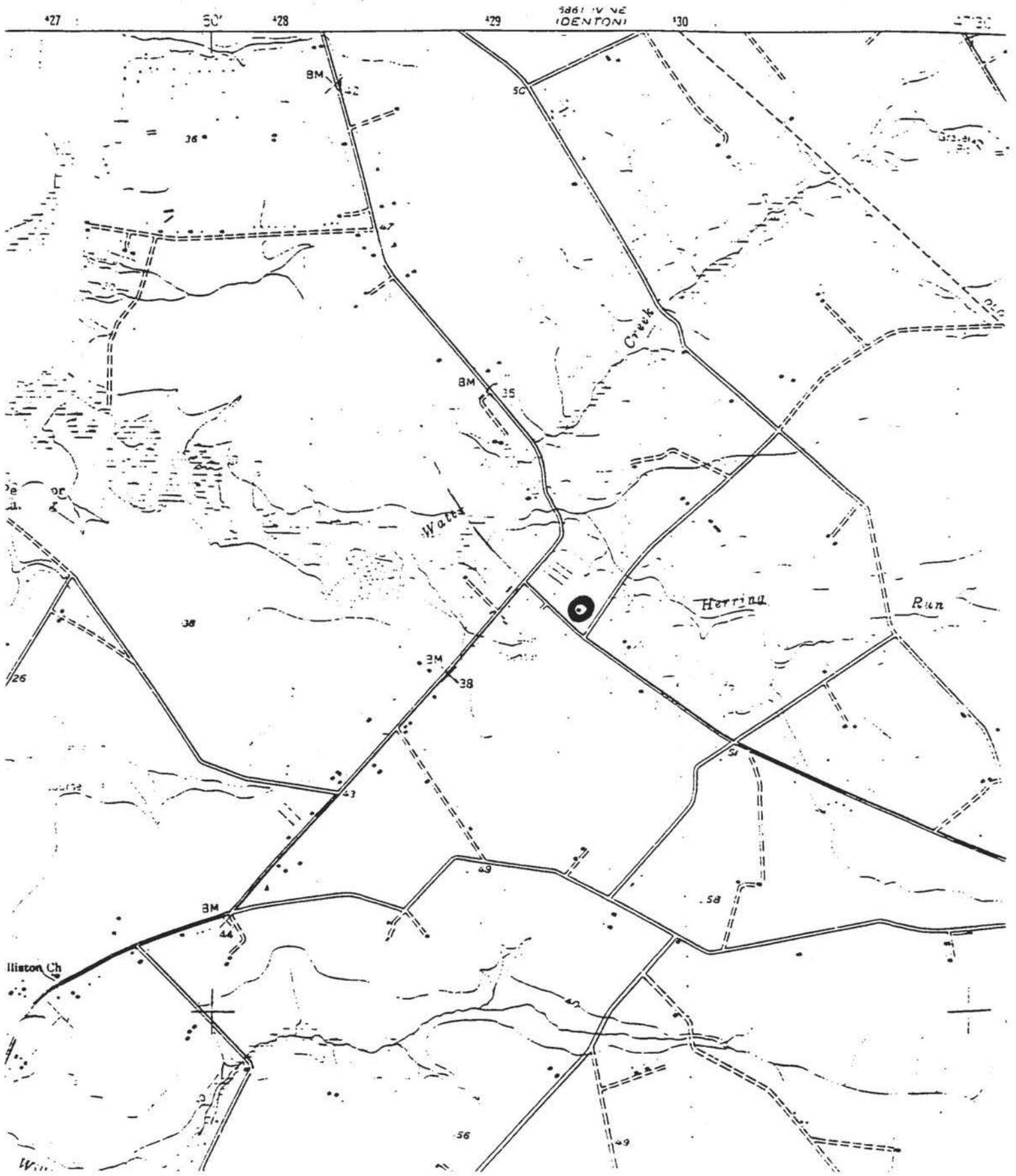
PROPERTY LINE
 INTERESTED PARTY
 CONTINGENT OWNERSHIP
 PARTIAL INTERESTS - P. 100 - 1000 TO COUNTY AND HOLD OWNERSHIP
 MUST BE PROCESSED BY A MAP MAKER

MAP 37-P-70
 MAP 37-P-80
 MAP 17-P-6
 MAP 34-P-98
 MAP 34-P-108



110

CAR-198
Georgia Smith House
Denton, Caroline County, Maryland
Location map
USGS Quadrangle-Hobbs





CAR-198

Georgia Smith House

Denton, MD

R. Sutfrens 10/98

neys at MD SHPO

Dwelling, moved 1957

~~North~~ corner

1/6



CAR-198

Georgia Smith House

Denton MD

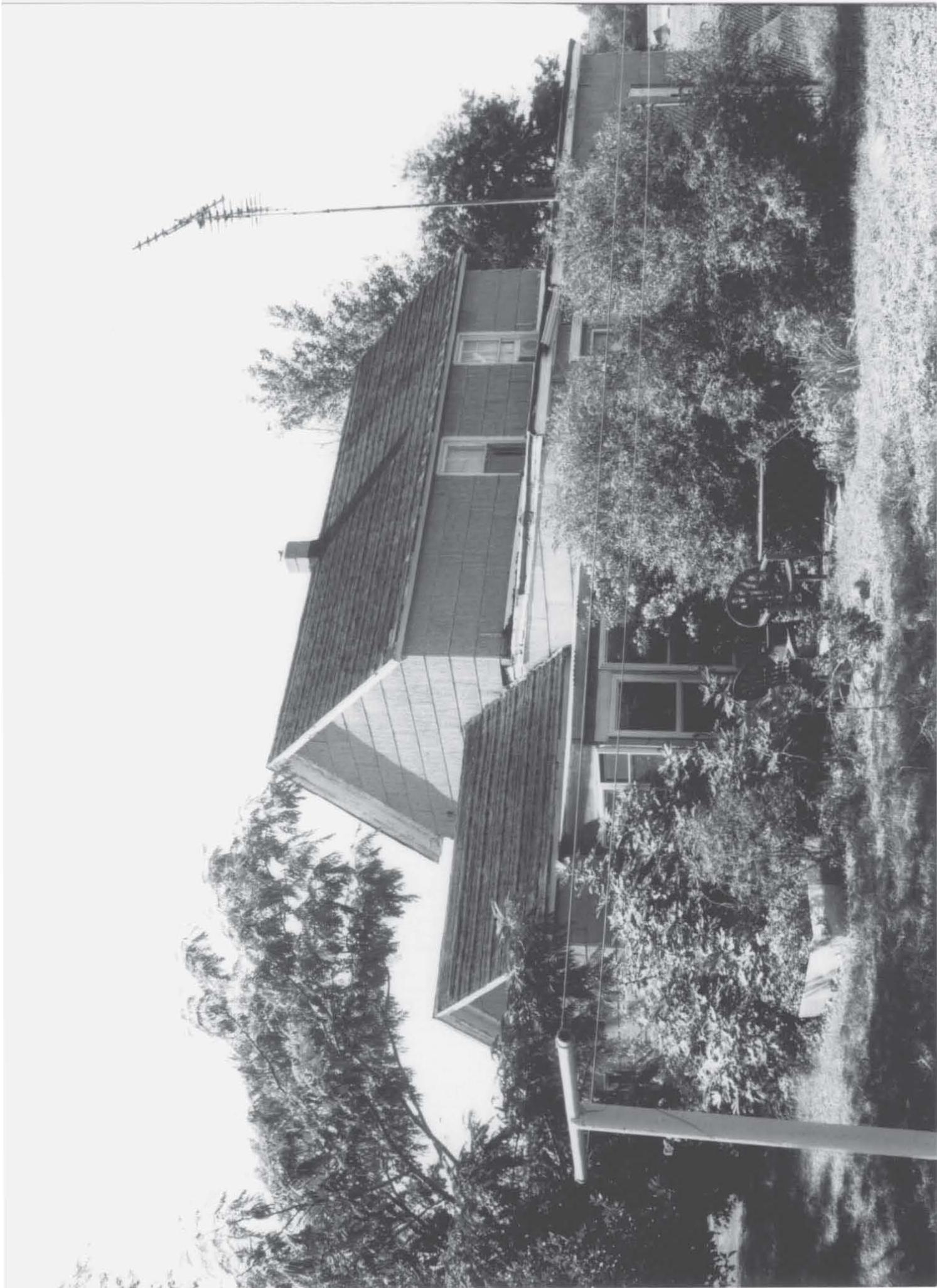
R. Sutfness 10/98

negs at MD 5120

Dwellings, moved 1957

SW corner

2/6



QAR-198

Georgia Smith Home
Denton MD

R Sutfren 10/98

neys at MD SHPO

Dwelling moved 1957

S East corner

3/6



CAR-198

Georgia Smith Howe

Denton MD

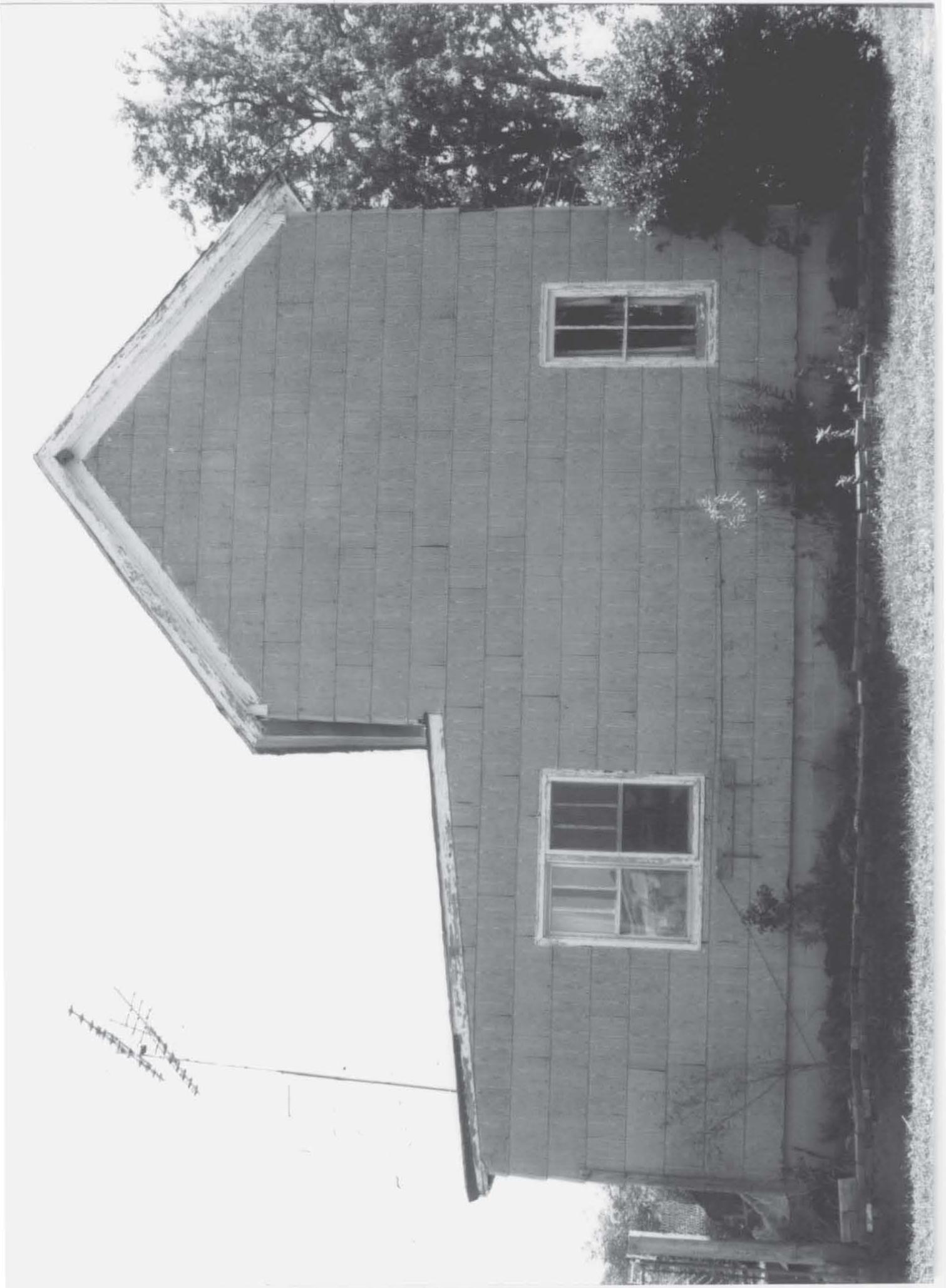
R Sutfren 10/98

keys at MD SHPO

Dwelling, moved 1957

E E I E U

416



CA 12-198

Georgia Smith House

Denton MD

R Sutfren 10/98

negs at MD SHPO

North Elevation

516



CAR 198

Georgia Smith Moore

Denton MD

D Sutfren 10/98

negs at MD SHPO

Garage
Westelevatusi

616