

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: 7495 Bennsville Rd, Bennsville Survey Number: CH-393

Project: Cross County Connector Agency: F/COE

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility **not** recommended

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

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Siting askew, the one-story frame dwelling of three bays was constructed c. 1930 with a gable roof and interior brick chimney. Six/Six sash windows punctuate the clapboard. Supported by brick piers, the building is very simple in its features. The inventory form reveals little historical information. Its vernacular design fails to demonstrate Criterion C. The Trust concurred that it does not meet NR criteria.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MD Inventory form

Prepared by: Steve Moffson, Dames & Moore

Lauren Bowlin 12/18/96  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable  
Peter A. Kuntz 12/26/96  
Reviewer, NR program Date

*Gmg*

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): domestic/single dwelling

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

**Continuation Sheet  
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form  
7495 Bensville Road  
Charles County, Maryland  
CH-393**

**Historic Context**

The survey area lies in North Central Charles County along Route 228, also known as Bensville-Berryville Road. The survey area extends from the intersection of Elsa Road for about one half mile to the south, also including several houses on Bic-Pic Place, a side road several hundred feet in length. Structures in the survey area were constructed between approximately 1900 and the present; the majority of the properties were built after 1950.

Route 228 runs in a north-south direction following the high ground to the west of Port Tobacco Creek. The high ground is a natural transportation route leading north from the Colonial town of Port Tobacco to the Waldorf area and beyond. The road is at least 130-years old, as it appears on Martenet's 1866 map of Charles County. On that map, a school is shown in the approximate vicinity of the project area. This Civil War-era school is the earliest known property in the area, predating the earliest extant structure in the project area by at least 50 years. The earliest extant structure is an approximately 1900-vintage farm house and barn complex (7525 Bensville-Berryville Road) several hundred yards to the north of the presumed site of the former school house. Three 1930s houses, two of which are immediately to the north and south of 7525, are the next oldest structures in the area. Since all three of the 1930s structures appear to have been moved from other locations rather than constructed in place, it is uncertain whether there were any houses in the immediate area until 1940, the approximate date of the houses at 3545 Bic-Pic Place and 7520 Bensville Road. The remaining houses in the project area date from after 1950. The area does not correspond to a named community at present, nor is there any evidence that it did in the past. There are no churches shown in the vicinity in 1866, indicating sparse settlement.

The project area does not qualify as an historic district. Historically, the area was a country road through farmland with a school and a single farm house located at the roadside. The 1866 Martenet's map shows that a blacksmith shop was located about a mile south of the project area. The schoolhouse and blacksmith shop were contemporaneous and appear on historic maps from the late nineteenth century. The farmhouse was a later addition around the turn of the century. The date that the school house and blacksmith shop were abandoned is not known; they are no longer extant. Today, the community consists primarily of houses that were built in or moved to the area from the 1930s onward. The majority of the present houses are less than fifty years old.

**Continuation Sheet**

**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form**

**7495 Bensville Road**

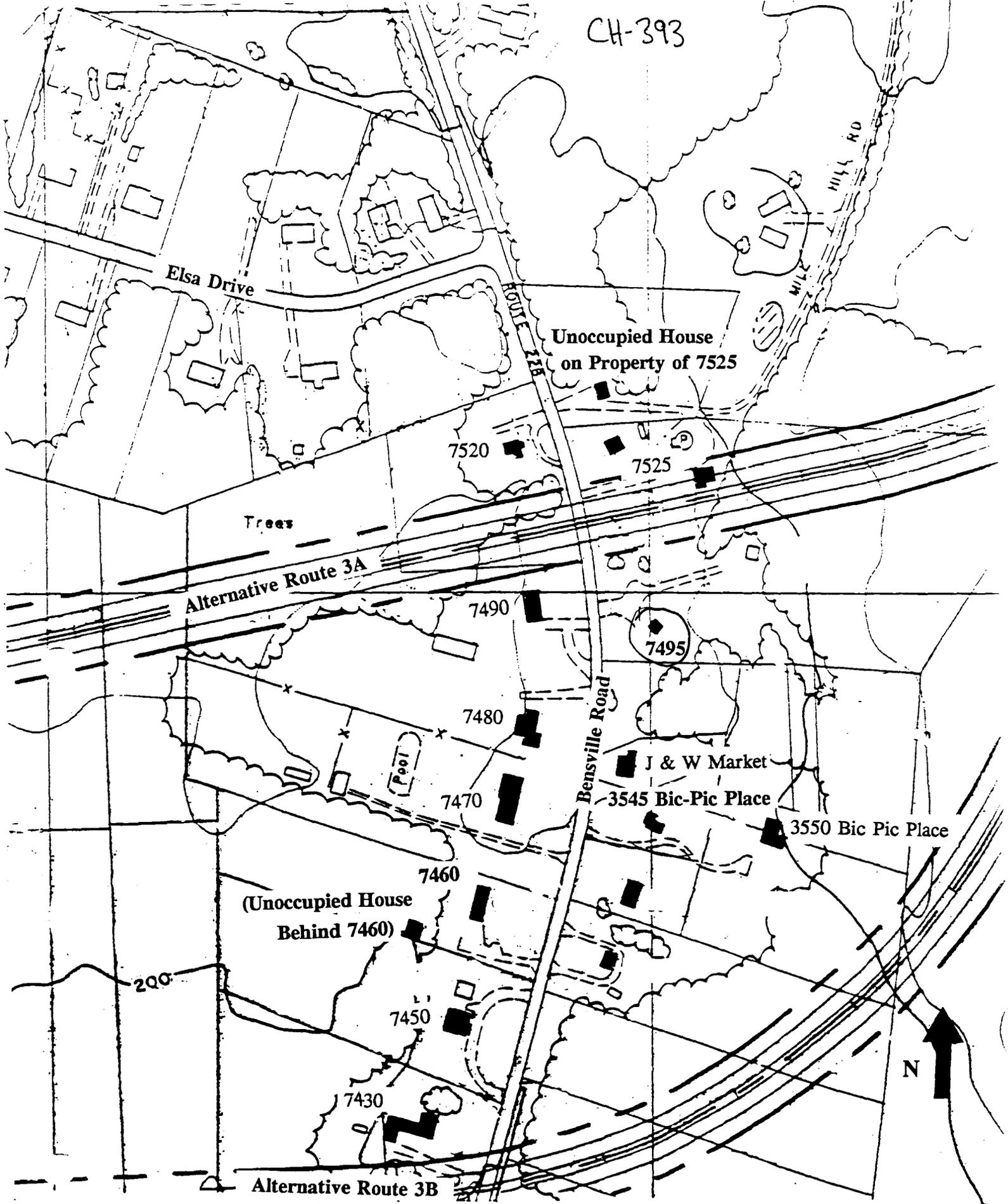
**Charles County, Maryland**

**CH-393**

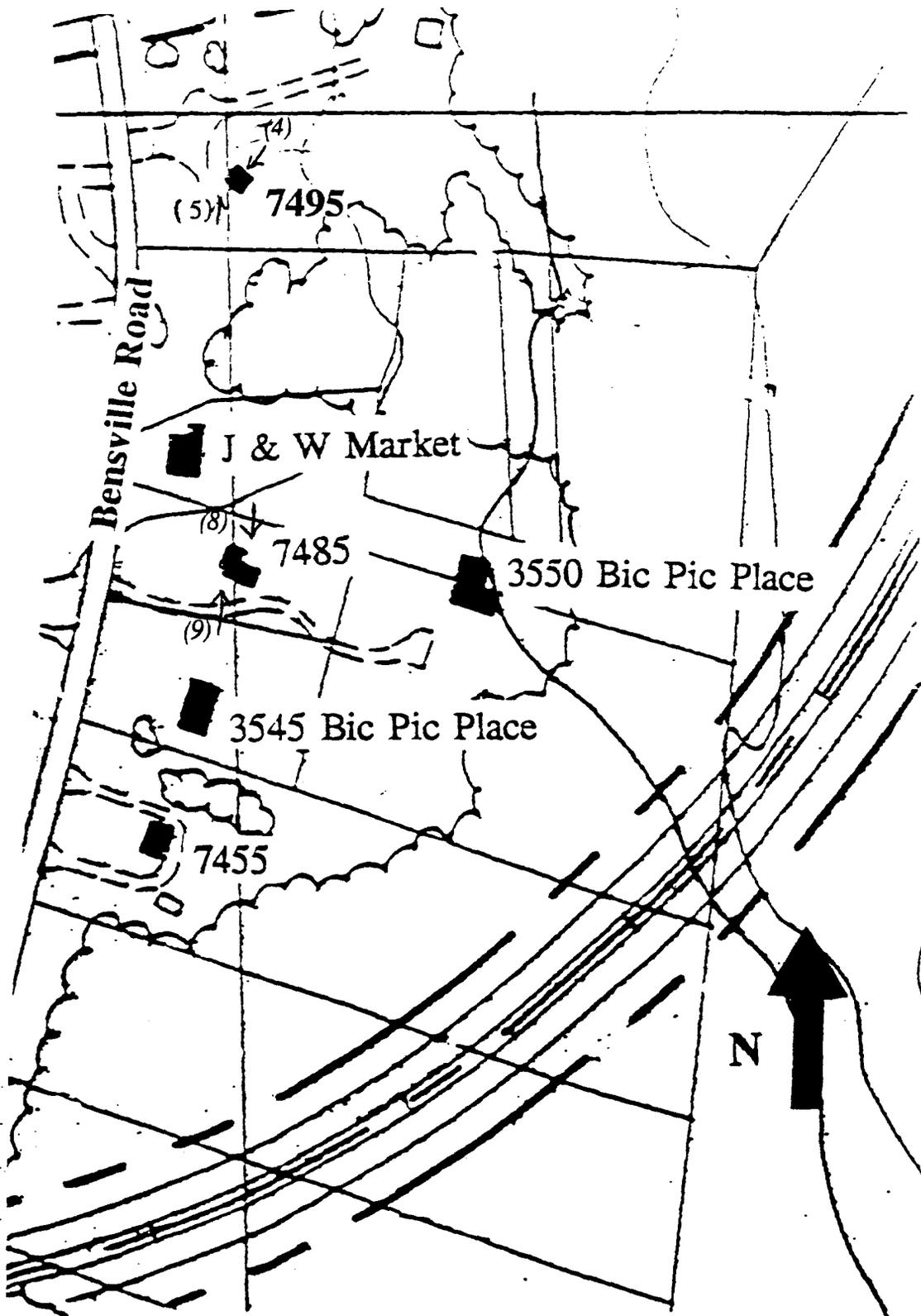
Preservation Planning Data:

- a. Geographic Organization: Western Shore
- b. Chronological/Development Periods: Modern Period, A. D. 1930-present
- c. Historic Period Theme: Architecture
- d. Resource Type: Single Dwelling

CH-393



**AREA OF IMPACT, ALTERNATIVE ROUTES 3A AND 3B,  
CHARLES COUNTY CROSS COUNTY CONNECTOR**



**PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF HOUSES IN PROJECT AREA**

(\*) numbers in parenthesis correspond to photographic negative numbers and indicate the direction of the photo.

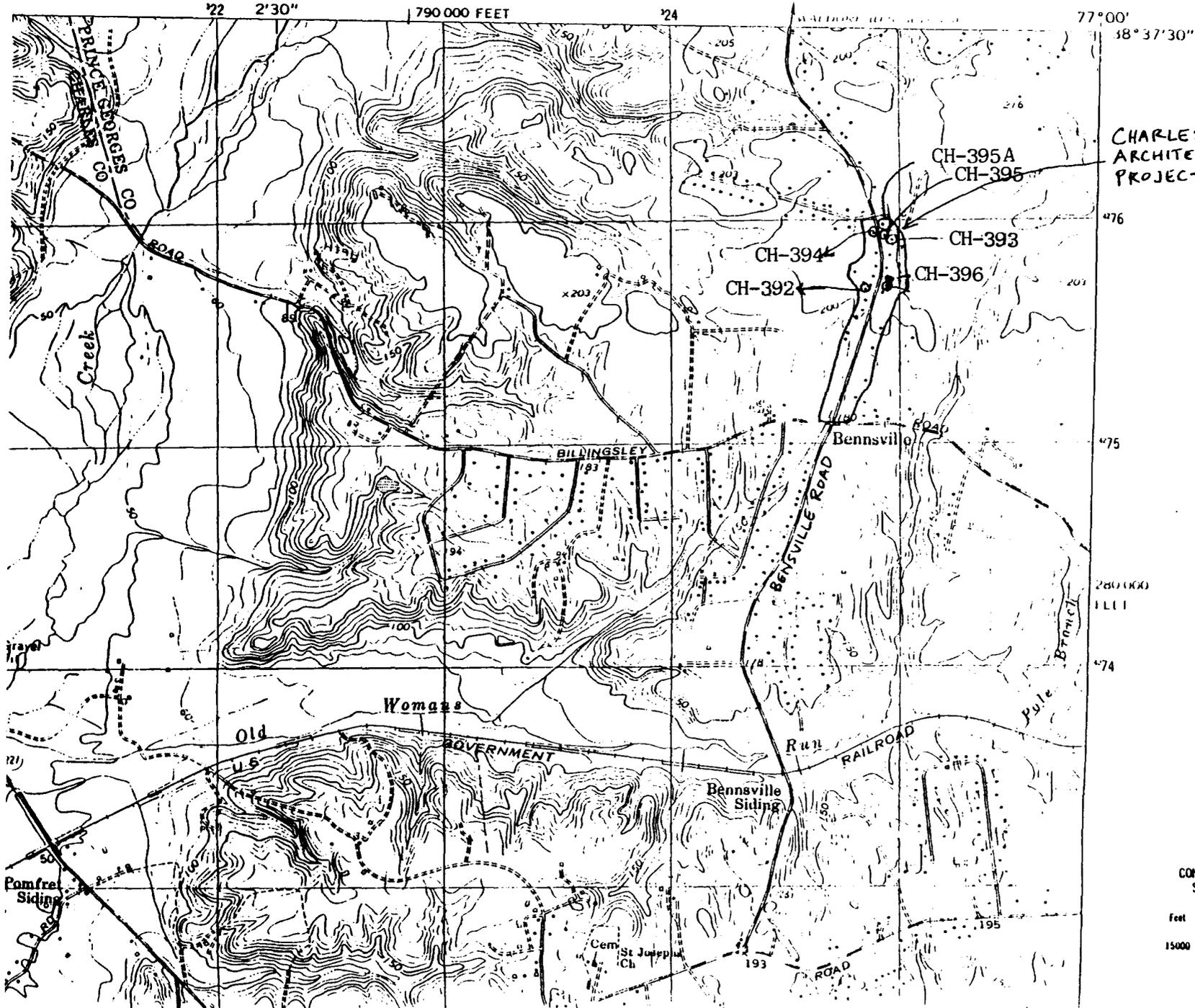
# PORT TOBACCO QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIAL (TOPOGRAPHIC-BATHYMETRIC)

SE/4 INDIAN HEAD 15' QUADRANGLE

5661 III NW  
(PISCATAWAY)



CHARLES COUNTY CONNECTOR  
ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY  
PROJECT AREA

CH-393

CONVERSION  
SCALES

| Feet  | Meters |
|-------|--------|
| 15000 | 4500   |

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CH-393

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic n/a

and/or common n/a

**2. Location**

street & number 7495 Bennsville Road  not for publication

city, town Bennsville  vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Charles

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership  | Status  | Present Use  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district    | <input type="checkbox"/> public                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                    |
|   | <input checked="" 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 Fenwick, Dudley et all c/o Sarah A. Moris  
street & number 7495 Bennsville Rd. 1371 Peabody St. NW Apt. 201  
city, town Waldorf, MD 20603 Washington DC 20011  
state and zip code

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number Charles Street (P.O. Box B) folio

city, town La Plata state MD 20646

**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. CH-393

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

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

7495 Bensville Road is a ca. 1930, one-story, three-bay, frame dwelling. The single-cell house features a side-gable roof, interior brick chimney, and weatherboard siding. The house is set on concrete-block piers and appears to have been moved to its current location. The general condition of the house is poor, with deteriorated roofing materials and weatherboard siding. (This house is pictured in Roll 1, Frames 4-5)

This architectural survey was conducted as part of a Phase I archeological investigation of proposed alternatives for the Cross County Connector. The architectural survey examined properties that would be impacted by two proposed alternatives that would intersect Bensville Road between Elsa Drive and Billingsley Road. Twenty-four properties were evaluated. Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms were completed for six dwellings that were determined to be at least fifty years of age. The remaining properties (eighteen properties) were determined to be not historically significant. Each property was photographed and identified on a project area map.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. CH-393

| 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/<br>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 checked="" 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   | Builder/Architect |
|--|-------------------|
| check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D<br>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.

7495 Bensville Road is an example of a small, one-cell domestic type building that is common in Charles County. This house is not architecturally significant because this vernacular building type is well represented by other examples that retain higher levels of architectural integrity. Architectural analysis of the building indicates that the dwelling may have been recently moved to the site. Historical research on this property and the surrounding area did not reveal any association with historically significant persons or events.

Asbestos shingles and the window styles on this house suggest a 1930s date for the property. It appears to have been a residence; there is no indication that it ever served as a school house or any other function. The pier foundation is of new materials suggesting that the building was moved to this location. No documentary evidence exists to confirm this. The siting of the building is different from other structures on the surveyed portion of the road. It is askew rather than facing the road and includes no landscape features such as garden plots or walkways. The building is not associated with any other properties in its current location, although two other c. 1930 buildings also appear to have been moved to the project area.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CH-393

"Map of Charles County Showing Topography and Election Districts",  
Maryland Geological Survey, 1914 and 1939.

Port Tobacco (Maryland) Quadrangle, U.S. Geological Survey, 1956.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approximately 3

Quadrangle name Port Tobacco

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| A | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|   | Zone                 | Easting              | Northing             |

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| B | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|   | Zone                 | Easting              | Northing             |

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| C | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| D | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| E | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| F | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| G | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

|   |                      |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| H | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steven Moffson, Architectural Historian; William Bushong, Historian

organization Dames & Moore date January 31, 1996

street & number 7101 Wisconsin Ave, Suite 700 telephone (301) 652-2215

city or town Bethesda, state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600



CH-393  
7495 Benningville Road  
Charles County, MD  
Steve Mattison  
January 31, 1996  
Maryland SHPO  
View from NE  
1 of 2 (frame 4)



CH - 513  
7495 Bensville Road  
Charles County, MD  
Steve Moffson  
January 31, 1996  
at Ryland SHPO  
View from South  
JLJ (Frame 5)