

**CH-520**

**1944**

**Leo C. Bowie's General Store**

**Pisgah vic.**

**Private**

Leo C. Bowie's General Store is a simple 1-story commercial concrete block building with a brick clad facade with a stepped parapet. Erected in 1944, the building reflects a typical early 20th century commercial form. Its facade is divided into three main bays with the center bay dominated by a projecting vestibule enclosed with 2/2 wood frame sash windows and covered by a flat roofed canopy.

Leo C. Bowie's General Store is the sole surviving commercial structure in the crossroads village of Pisgah. Its distinctive commercial architecture identify it as a store from the first half of the 20th century. It has been minorly altered by the re-cladding of its side walls, but is otherwise in nearly original condition.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-520

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Leo C. Bowie's General Store

common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number SE cnr PoorHouse & Mason Springs rds. not for  
publication \_\_\_\_\_ city or town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity \_\_\_ state

Maryland code MD county Charles code 017

zip code 20640

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>		buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>		Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_

No

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-520

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCIAL Sub: General store  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCIAL Sub: General store  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Modern  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Solid: not visible (concrete block?)  
roof Flat with parapet (stepped at facade)  
walls Concrete block faced w/ brick & vinyl siding  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-520

=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCIAL  
ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1944  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1944  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation Undefined  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records. Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.1325 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is designated as Parcel 119 on Map 30, Grid 17 on the Charles County Property Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Leo C. Bowie General Store has been associated with Parcel 119, Map 30 since its construction in 1944.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian  
organization Charles County Planning Dept. date May 5, 1999  
street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689  
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

12. Property Owner

name Leo C. Bowie, Incorporated c/o Gary L. Bowie  
street & number 6005 Hannon Drive telephone 301-932-6571  
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-520

Section 7 Page 1

Bowie's General Store  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====  
Leo C. Bowie's General Store is a simple 1-story commercial concrete block building with a brick clad facade with a stepped parapet. Erected in 1944, the building reflects the typical early 20th century commercial form. It's facade is divided into three main bays with the center bay dominated by a projecting vestibule enclosed with 2/2 wood frame sash windows and covered by a flat roofed canopy.

The entrance is flanked by 2-part fixed plate glass windows that run in a continuous band to either side of the vestibule. The windows are related stylistically to ribbon windows of the International Style. The facade is plainly finished with the only ornament being the stepped decorative parapet, rowlock window sills, soldier lintels, and a soldier course defining the cornice line. A large block-lettered sign announcing the stores name and products adorns the center of the facade parapet.

The sides of the store reflect the stepped ceiling heights of the interior. Clad in vinyl siding, the side walls are pierced by several fixed 2-light metal windows set high on the wall. A single 1/1 metal sash window opens into the rear-most section of the building on the east elevation. The west elevation reveals a 1-story masonry addition that extends one bay westward from the main building. The addition contains one metal roll-up garage door on its west wall and a single paneled metal door on its north wall.

A small frame office stands directly west of the store and appears to have once served as the village post office. The structure is one story with a side gable, asphalt shingle-clad roof. It has a single panel-and-light wood door set off center on its north face along with a single 1/1 wood sash window. other window openings include a 2-light wood hopper window on the west gable end. The building also features an interior concrete block flue at the rear. It has been altered by the addition of vinyl siding cladding the exterior. A flag pole and a large metal mailbox stand near the northwest corner of the structure.

The store and office occupy an open site located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Poor House and Mason Springs roads in the village of Pisgah. A small stream runs directly east of the building, while open fields extend to the south and southwest of the building. Pisgah is a small rural village located at a crossroads.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-520

Section 8 Page 1

Bowie's General Store  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

Leo C. Bowie's General Store is the sole surviving commercial structure in the crossroads village of Pisgah. Its distinctive commercial architecture identify it as a store from the first half of the 20th century. It has been minorly altered by the re-cladding of its side walls, but is otherwise in nearly original condition.

The store stands in the crossroads village of Pisgah, a mid-19th century postal stop located on the main road between Port Tobacco and Marbury. The village once boasted several stores, a post office, school, and church. In 1878, the community of Pisgah encompassed a population of one hundred, and included two doctors.<sup>1</sup>

Leo C. Bowie acquired 20 acres of land in the village of Pisgah in 1937 from his relative, Maximillian Bowie. In 1944, he reacquired an adjacent 1-acre lot at the crossroads which had been sold to the County's Board of Education in 1916. It is believed that this is the site upon which the present store was shortly thereafter constructed. At the same time, Bowie built himself a small brick clad house to the rear of his store across the open field.

The property has remained in the Bowie family and is today leased to the storekeeper, but retains the Bowie name.

The small frame office appears to have once served as the Pisgah Post Office.

---

<sup>1</sup> Brown, et al., p. 387.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-520

Bowie's General Store  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Modern Period, 1930-present

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

ECONOMIC/Commercial  
ARCHITECTURE

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** COMMERCIAL/General store

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-520

Bowie's General Store  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====  
**Chain of Title:**

Parcel 1:

October 13, 1919: H. Ethel Welsh, et al. to  
Maximillian Bowie  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber WMA 35 Folio 435

August 23, 1937: Maximillian Bowie, widower to Leo C.  
Bowie  
20 acres  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 65 Folio 656

Parcel 2:

November 13, 1916: to Board of Education of Charles  
County  
1 acre  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber CP 30 Folio 564

June 13, 1944: Board of Education of Charles County  
to Leo C. Bowie  
\$1400  
1 acre  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber TBM 80 Folio 153

April 10, 1956: Leo C. & Miriam E. Bowie to Miriam  
E. Matthews  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 123 Folio 308

April 10, 1956: Miriam E. Matthews to Leo C. and  
Miriam E. Bowie  
2 lots on south side of Grinder's  
Wharf - Port Tobacco Road  
1: 20 acres  
2: 1 acres  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 123 Folio 311

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-520

Bowie's General Store  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

November 15, 1991:

Leo Carlton Bowie, Jr. & Gregg Gerard Bowie, personal representatives of estate of Miriam E. Bowie to Leo Carlton Bowie, Jr., Gregg Gerard, Gary L., Cynthia C. Dyer & Gay Tunney  
Parcel "A" = 2.1325  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 1601 Folio 69

March 11, 1993:

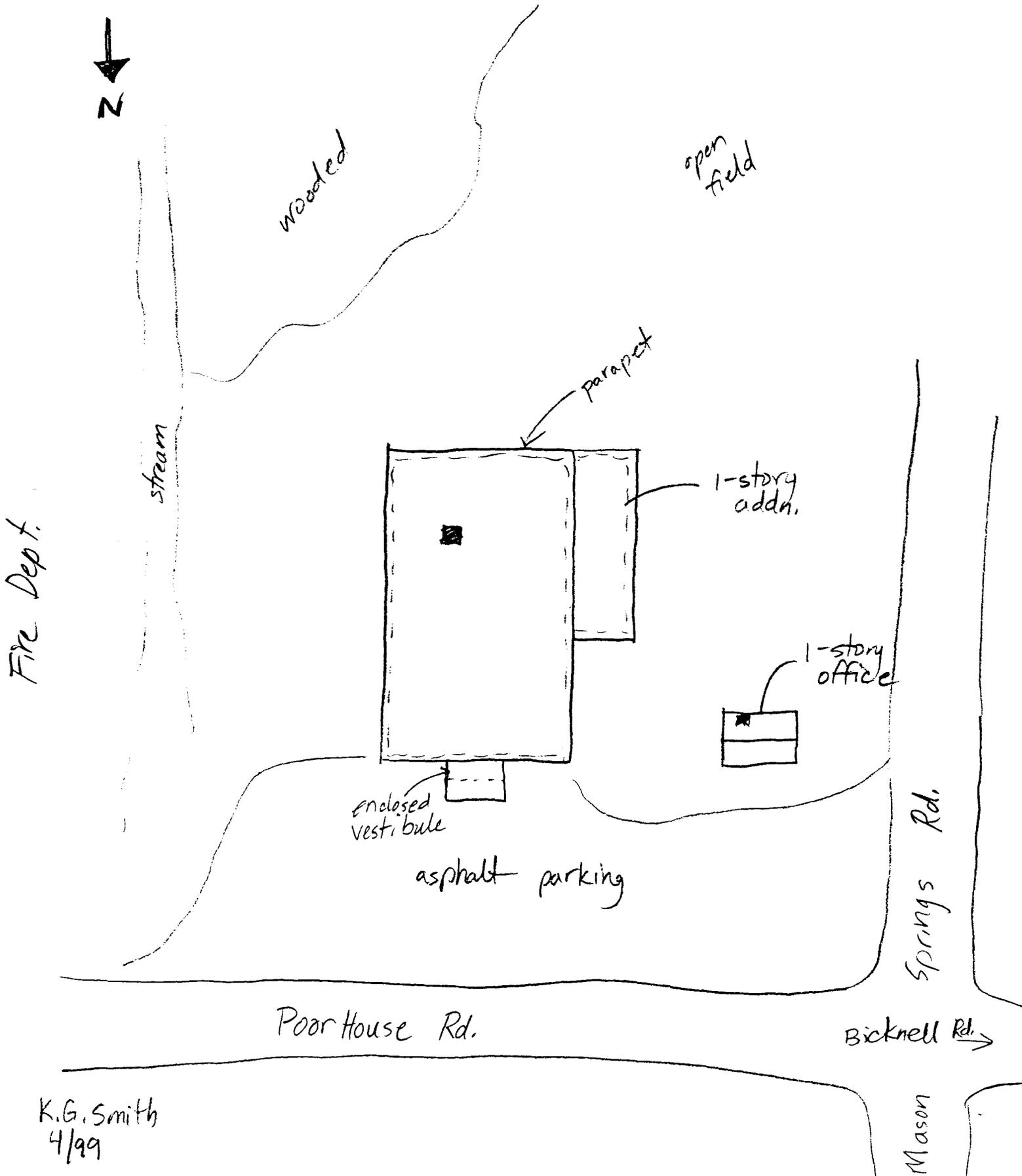
Leo Carlton Bowie, Jr., Gregg Gerard Bowie, Gary L. Bowie, Cynthia C. Dyer Bowie & Gay S. Tunney to Gary L. Bowie, Leo C. Bowie, Inc.  
Parcel A = 2.1325 acres as recorded in plat of "Parcels A-F, Bowie Subdivision" Plat Book 42 Folio 231  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 1760 Folio 391

RESOURCE  
SKETCH  
MAP

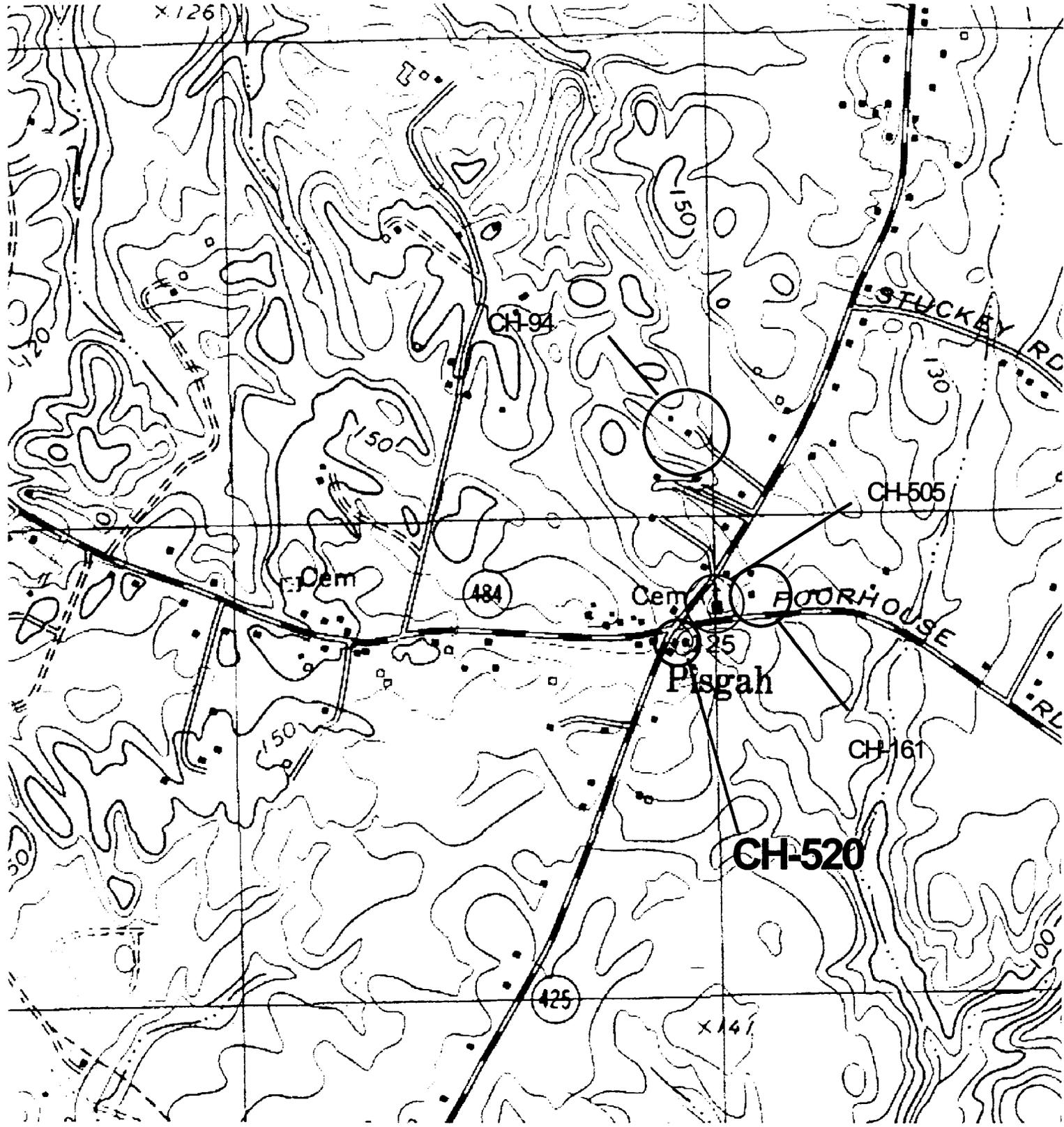
21

LEO C. BOWIE'S GENERAL STORE  
CHARLES COUNTY, M.D.  
PISGAH VIC.

CH-520



K.G. Smith  
4/99



Leo C. Bowie's General Store Charles County, MD	CH-520
INDIAN HEAD, MD QUAD	

**LEO C. BOWIE'S GENERAL STORE**  
BEER · WINE · LIQUOR · PACKAGE GOODS



CH-520

BOWIE'S GENERAL STORE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
K.G. SMITH

2/99

MARYLAND SHPO

FACADE - LOOKING SOUTH

1 OF 4



CH-520

BOWIE'S GENERAL STORE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

2/99

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST ELEVATION

2 OF 4



CH-520  
BOWIE'S GENERAL STORE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
K.G. SMITH

2/99  
MARYLAND SHPO  
WEST ELEVATION  
3 OF 4



CH-520

BOWIE'S GENERAL STORE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K. G. SMITH

2/99

MARYLAND SHPO

OFFICE - LOOKING SE

4 OF 4