

**James and Margaret Bowling Property**

**Circa 1930**

**CH-741**

**Wicomico**

**Private**

The James and Margaret Bowling Property is a typical early 20<sup>th</sup> century farmstead in Charles County consisting of a three bay, 2-story frame farmhouse surrounded by representative domestic and agricultural outbuildings. These outbuildings include a meathouse, heated workshop, equipment shed, chicken house, two granaries, cornhouse, garage and three tobacco barns on a 96 acre parcel. Although the earliest history of the property is not known, by 1945 it was formally deeded to the Bowling family from the heirs of Zachary Fowler.



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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-741

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

Established in 1933, the James and Margaret Bowling Property is a typical early 20th century farmstead that consists of a two-story frame farmhouse surrounded by a collection of domestic and agricultural outbuildings. The site includes 96 acres on the north side of Old Mill Road in the once thriving village of Wicomico. A meathouse, workshop, equipment shed, chicken house, cornhouse, wagon house/garage, two granaries and two standing tobacco barns. Another tobacco barn that once stood on the property has recently collapsed. All are believed to have been erected around the time the dwelling was constructed.

The dwelling, which faces south, stands near the road and is approached by an arched driveway. Two stories in height and three bays wide, the building includes a side gable, single-pile main block attached to a double-pile front gable rear wing. A one-story ell kitchen is attached to the rear wing. The entire structure currently is clad in asbestos shingle siding, and has a composition shingle roof which is pierced by two interior brick chimneys with corbelled caps. The boxed cornice is inverted at the eaves. The frame is supported by a poured concrete foundation. A one story hipped-roof screened porch spans the front elevation and is supported by turned wooden posts decorated with scrollsawn brackets.

Windows throughout are 6/6 and most include additional 1/1 storm windows. The front or south elevation includes two paired 6/6 windows on both the first and second story end bays. The second floor center bay includes a single 6/6 window. The east and west elevation of the main block includes typical single symmetrical 6/6 windows on the first and second story. The west elevation includes a single 6/6 window on the second floor and on the first floor, a centered exterior door next to a 6/1 window near the northwest corner. The rear elevation has an offset second story and first floor 6/6 window. The north wall of the ell includes a 4-panel Victorian door, likely re-used from a previous structure, while the east wall includes a replacement 1/1 window. A single 4/4 window is set in the second story of the service wing east elevation, above two replacement 3-light windows flanking a doorway. To the north is an additional 4/4 window. Finally, single 6/6 windows are found on the exposed rear elevation of the main block. The interior was not available at the time of the survey.

All outbuildings appear to date from around the time of the construction of the dwelling. All are constructed using modern wire cut nails. Although in fair to poor condition, the large number of surviving outbuildings and their representative arrangement around a farm yard to the rear of the dwelling, make this property especially noteworthy.

### MEATHOUSE

Directly behind the dwelling is a front gable meathouse with a metal roof and whitewashed vertical board siding. A single fixed window is now found in the rear. Also of note is large iron dinner bell stands high on a round post at the corner of this structure.

### WORKSHOP

To the northeast of the dwelling and meathouse is a heated side-gable workshop with a metal roof and weatherboard siding. The shed is entered by a centered doorway containing a 4-panel Victorian door on the north elevation which is flanked by single 6/6 windows on either end. Likely, this building was used at some time as a sewing shed as attested by the lace curtain remnants covering the windows. The shed was heated by a concrete block exterior-end chimney on the west end. A single window is found on the north elevation.

### EQUIPMENT SHED

Behind the workshop is a seven bay, shed-roof machine shed with vertical board siding standing at the edge of a treeline.

### CHICKEN HOUSE

Moving westward generally along the treeline is a shed-roof chicken coop with a metal roof and vertical board siding. This building has two hinged plank doors that provide access to the south elevation, and exposed roof rafters.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory N CH-741

Name James and Margaret Bowling Property

Continuation Sheet

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### GRANARY

Next to the coop is a front gable structure believed to have served as a granary for either the storage or processing of grains. The structure is accessed through an offset narrow hinged plank door. The plank floor is raised and metal paneling extends mid-way up the wall. A grain cleaner is housed inside. The structure has a metal roof, vertical board siding and a log post foundation.

### CORN HOUSE

The cornhouse stands the furthest west in the farm yard. It is partially clad in vertical board siding above and partially slated below. The roof is covered in metal and the frame rests on log posts.

### GRANARY

To the southeast of the cornhouse stands an additional granary. Like the cornhouse, the front gable structure faces east toward the farmyard. It is covered with a metal roof, board and batten siding, a raised plank floor and a log post foundation. The interior is enclosed with wood planks boards.

### WAGONHOUSE/GARAGE

The wagonhouse or car shed standing to the south of the granary and has a metal roof, and vertical board siding. The side gable structure is divided into two parts with the north bay comprising an open bay. To the south is an enclosed room with a doorway opening onto the east elevation. This room likely served as a tool shed or machine shop.

### TOBACCO BARNS

Beyond the farm yard are three tobacco barns, one of which has collapsed (site). To the west is a gable roof barn with an attached stripping shed. The barn has vertical board siding with a roof ridge running in a north/south axis. A metal roof covers the shed. This barn is in poor condition. Much of the metal roof sheathing is missing from the north end and vegetation is overgrown in the entire area surrounding the barn.

On the opposite side of the dwelling are the remaining two barns. The first is a center isle gable roof barn with a shed addition extending the length of the west eave elevation. Beyond this to the west is the remains of the collapsed barn.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-741

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

<b>Specific dates</b>	1933	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	1933		

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The James and Margaret Bowling Farm is an excellent example of an early 20th century farmstead in Charles County. Although the earliest history of the property is not completely understood, by 1945, James S. and Margaret M. Bowling purchased four parcels from the heirs of Zack Fowler who had acquired the tracts between 1894 and 1907. The property is located in the village of Wicomico, a small but thriving hamlet during the first quarter of the 20th century and included at least one schoolhouse, three stores, a post office and a mill clustered around the main road leading from Newport to Budd's Ferry.

Despite the long lasting economic stagnation in Charles County after the Civil War, largely due to improved transportation, some agricultural diversification took place during the late-19th and early-20th century. Increasingly farmers produced a variety of crops including honey, assorted vegetables, and orchard products that were sold at local or regional markets. These market gardens increased in value from a meager \$580 in 1880 to \$69,610 in 1910. Dairy production increased from 53,878 in 1870 to over 140,000 in 1920. The total number of chickens raised locally doubled within one decade from 55,330 in 1880 to 109,551 in 1890. By 1910 that number had increased to 184,389. Modernization of agricultural equipment also affected the output of county farmers. Reapers, threshers, and bailers as well as steam-powered and combustion equipment arrived from the railroad in the early-20th century, allowing farmers to produce more goods using fewer farm hands. Improved fertilizers shipped from plants in Baltimore enhanced the county's soils, increasing their yield. With its collection of typical farm buildings, the James and Margaret Bowling Property reflects the agricultural trends that shaped the lives of farm families in Charles County during the first half of the 20th century.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-741

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 96.01

Acreage of historical setting 96.01

Quadrangle name Popes Creek

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

James and Margaret Bowling Farm is associated with Charles County {property Tax Map 74 p. 45.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 5/17/2002

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

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  
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-741

Section 8 Page 1

James and Margaret Bowling Property  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

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**Chain of Title:**

- 1993            Last will and testament Margaret M. Bowling  
                    To Hilda M. Herbert. 96 acres. Comprised of the following:
- 1) 1897            Julien E. Norris and Helen A. Norris to Zachariah M. Fowler and William S. Yates. Originally composed of two tracts and known as Parnham's Amendment" 43 acres.
  - 2) 1905            "Part of Parnham's Retreat" Thomas R. Gough to William S. Yates....50 acres
  - 3) 1907            Eliza Campbell et al to William S. Yates. 3 acres.
  - 4) 1894            Zarah and Samuel Lancaster to Fowler and Yates. 1 acre.

Being the land acquired in 1945 by James S. Bowling, Jr. and Margaret M. Bowling from Zack Fowler, Jr. et al.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-741

Section 9 Page 1

James and Margaret Bowling Property  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

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**Major Bibliographic References:**

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

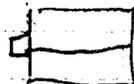
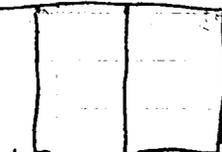
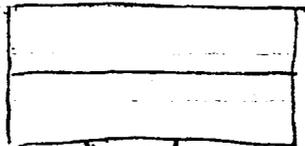
Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klaphor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland.  
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

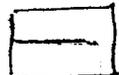


← OLD MILL RD

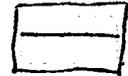
O WELL



WORKSHOP



GRANARY



CORNHOUSE



EQUIPMENT SHED



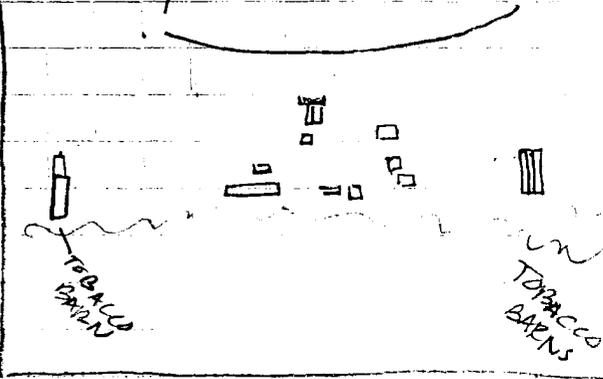
CHICKEN HOUSE



GRANARY

TREELINE

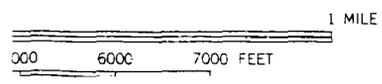
SITE PLAN W/ TOBACCO BARN



CH- 741 Charles County, MD  
Name: Seamus & Margaret Penby  
Location: Wicomico  
Quad: Peper Creek



CH- 741 Charles County, MD  
 Name: JAMES & MARGARET Bowling His  
 Location: WICOMICO  
 • Quad: POPES CREEK



Heavy-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE Light-duty   
 Medium-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE Unimproved dirt

424900  
 38°  
 2'30"



CH-741

JAMES & MARGARET BOWLING HOUSE

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY

3/2002

MD SHPO

LOOKING NE

10F8



CH-741  
JAMES & MARGARET BOWLING HOUSE  
CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

3/2002

MD SHPO

LOOKING SW

20F8



CH-741  
JAMES & MARGARET BOWLING HOUSE  
CHARLES CO. MD  
C. HARDY  
3/2002  
MD SHPO  
DINNER BELL & MEATHOUSE

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CH-741  
JAMES & MARGARET BOWLING HOUSE  
CHARLES CO. MO  
C. HARDY  
3/2002  
MO SHPO  
WORKSHOP, LOOKING N  
4 of 8



CH-741  
JAMES & MARGARET BOWLING HOUSE  
CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

3/2002

MD SHPO

OUTBUILDINGS LOOKING W

5 OF 8



CH-741

JAMES : Margaret Bowling House

CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

3/2002

MD SHPO

OUTBUILDINGS, LOOKING W

60F &



CH-741  
JAMES & MARGARET BOWLING HOUSE

CHARLES Co. MD

C. HARPY

3/2002

MD SHPO

OUTBUILDINGS, LOOKING N

70E8



CH-741  
JAMES & MARGARET BOWLING HOUSE  
CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

3/2002

MD SHPO

OUTBUILDINGS, LOOKING NW

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