

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

DEMOLISHED

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Inventory Number: ~~72004~~ CH-977

Address: 9555 Crain Highway, Charles County - in the vicinity of Bel Altan

Owner: Wheeler, Fulton and Mildred E

Tax Parcel Number: 18 Tax Map Number: 64

Project MD 301 Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

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

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended

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

Is property located within a historic district?:  no \_\_\_ yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed?:  no \_\_\_ yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

9555 Crain Highway is a one-story, three-bay wide, wood frame dwelling with a front gable roof. A shed roof porch, supported by simple wood posts, extends across almost the full width of the main elevation (east). Both the house and the porch have standing seam metal roofs. The door is placed slightly off-center and is flanked by single 2/2 double-hung, wood sash windows. The windows and door are have wide wood surrounds.

Charles County's late 19th- and early 20th-century history is dominated by industrial and urban development. The greatest impact upon community growth came from the railroad. The completion of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad's (B&P) mainline from Bowie in Prince George's County to Pope's Creek in Charles County in 1872 prompted local entrepreneurs to establish stores and other commercial facilities near the railroad stations. The B&P Railroad also made inland farms accessible, thus, increasing their value and revitalizing the practice of agriculture in Southern Maryland. La Plata station still stands at the intersection of the rail line with Charles Street.

As La Plata grew, Charles County citizens lobbied to have the county seat moved from Port Tobacco to La Plata.

Prepared by EHT Traceries, Inc.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended ___	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Consideration ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None
_____ Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	_____ Date 10/27/95
_____ Reviewer, NR Program	_____ Date

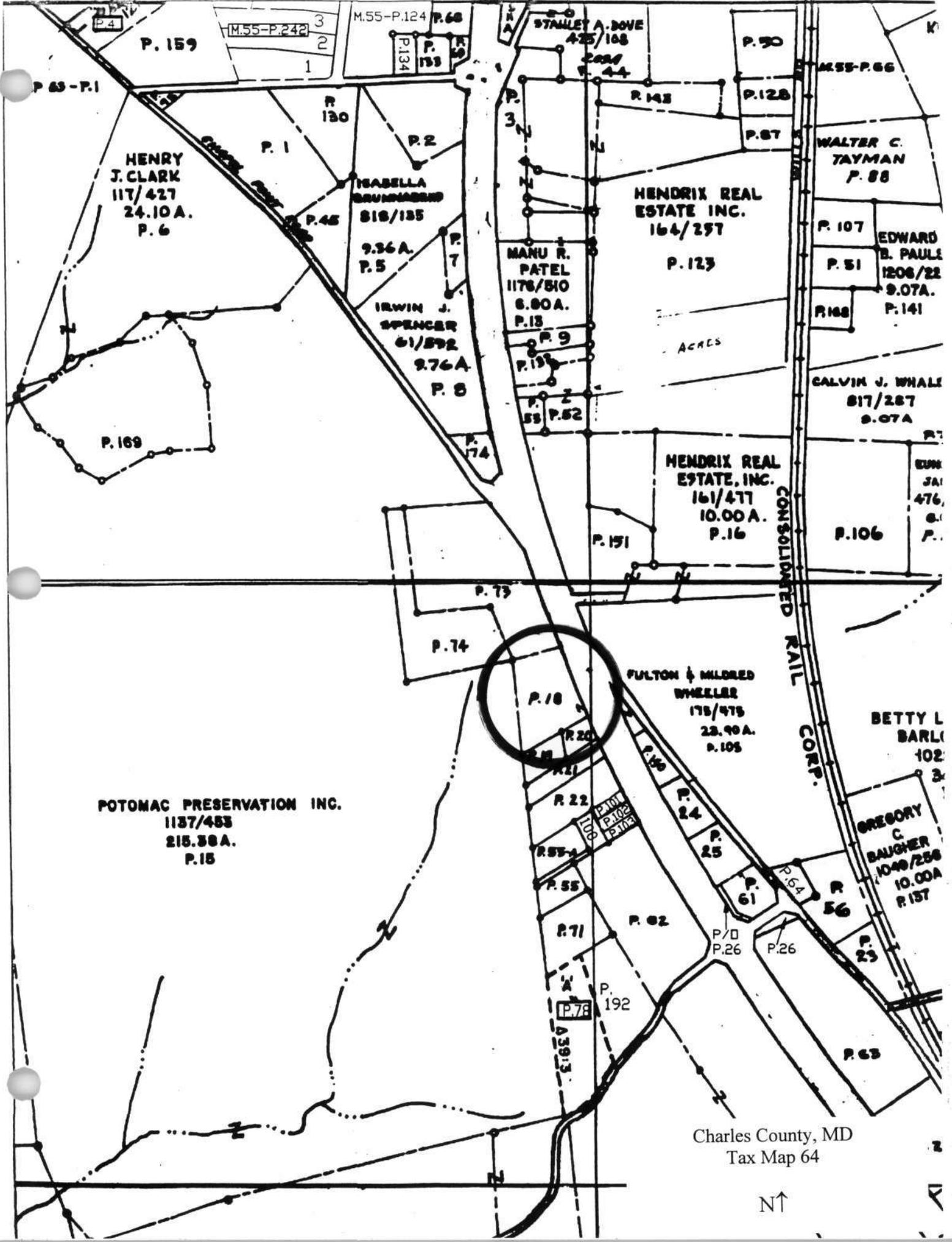
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La Plata became the county seat of Charles County's government in 1895 and a new courthouse was erected in 1896.

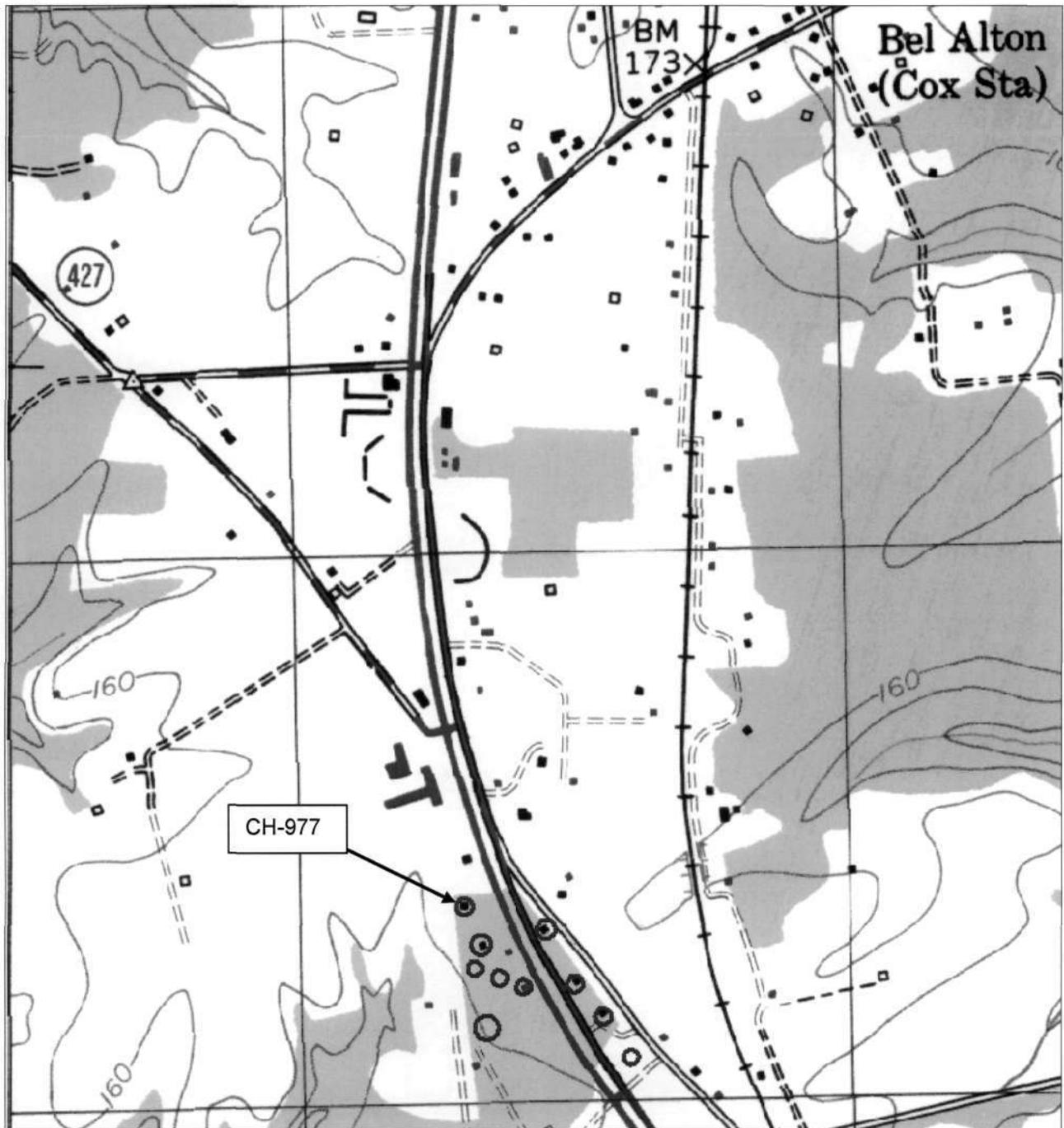
Towards the end of the first quarter of the 20th century, road improvements and developments also contributed to Charles County's community evolution. In particular, the Robert Crain Highway, later expanded as part of U.S. 301, attracted new development to older communities along its corridor. Crain Highway brought commercial development on La Plata's west side and contributed to the Charles County seat's overall growth in the 1920s and 1930s.

Built circa 1900, this vernacular house is not eligible for the National Register. While it is an earlier example of the modest residential development along U.S. 301, this resource lacks significance related to events, persons, or architecture. Criterion D, information potential, was not assessed for this study.



CH-977  
9555 Crain Highway (US 301), Bel Alton, site  
Pope's Creek Quadrangle

DEMOLISHED





~~11/10/99~~ CH-977

9555 Crain Highway  
Charles County, MD

Traceries

June, 1999

MD SHPO

View of east elevation

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