NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Merry Sherwood

other names/site number: WO-19

2. Location

street & number: 8909 Worcester Highway — N/A [ ] not for publication

city, town: Berlin — [X] vicinity

state: Maryland code: MD county: Worcester code: 047 zip code: 21811

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
[X] private	[X] building(s)	1	0	buildings
[ ] public-local	[ ] district	0	0	sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site	0	0	structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure	0	0	objects
	[ ] object	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER — Date: 8/15/91

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[ ] entered in the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.

[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.

[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.

[ ] removed from the National Register.

[ ] other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WEATHERBOARD
roof TIN
other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Merry Sherwood, a c.1859, massive, three-story, five-bay, double-pile, frame dwelling, is located in Worcester County, Maryland on Maryland's Eastern Shore on U.S. Route 113, about 2.5 miles south of the town of Berlin. The land is relatively flat and moderately drained. The primary use of the surrounding land is agricultural, although some commercial development is beginning to spread south from Berlin and west from Ocean City. Sinepuxent Bay, Assateague Island, and the Atlantic Ocean are between five and six miles to the east. The Delaware state line is about ten miles to the north. The house is set back from the highway about 200 feet. A circular drive with a central ellipse leads to the house. Mature trees line the drive while a specimen tree fills the ellipse and shields the house from direct full-frontal view from the highway. There are no gardens or outbuildings associated with Merry Sherwood. The house dominates the surrounding agricultural land. While its scale and massing quickly labels the dwelling as Italianate in style, there is sufficient exterior trim on the porch and on the openings and the cornice to recall the Gothic-Revival influences of an earlier building period.

[X] See continuation sheet No. 1
For GENERAL DESCRIPTION

A full three stories in height, Merry Sherwood is topped by a flat roof, projecting cornice, and a large cupola. The height of the house is enhanced by a raised common-bond foundation enclosing a fully-excavated cellar. A two-story wing extends from the main block on the south end while another wing, for service functions, extends to the west, the rear of the house.

The entire house is clad in wood weatherboard. Until recently the weatherboard was hidden by modern, wood shingles. The corners are closed and decorated with wide pilasters. The siding is lapped over each lower course except under the porch. Here the siding is laid flat and carefully filled to provide a smooth finish. The siding is also wider than the rest of the weatherboard in order to have as few breaks as possible.

The pilasters have a flat doric capital. The shaft is composed of a plain, recessed field. The cornice overhangs the exterior walls about 30 inches. While no brackets support the overhang, the window hood motif is repeated under the overhang. A narrow trim line defines the entablature's lower limit. The same decorative motif is repeated on the south wing but not on the rear wing. The rear wing has an addition that is slightly lower in height. A glazed, enclosed porch runs the length of the service wing's south wall. This porch replaces in scale and finish a deteriorated enclosed porch that was rotten and unsafe. Another enclosed porch runs along the west wall of the main block from the service wing to the middle of the building.

The cupola is trimmed in a similar fashion to the rest of the house. There is a four-over-four, double-hung sash window in each of the walls. The roof of the cupola is capped with a pointed wooden spire.

The main facade (east) shows the center entrance and flanking, four-over-four, double-hung sash windows. The first-floor windows are quite tall and narrow, almost eight feet high and two foot, four inches wide. The windows have a wide, reeded entablature capped by a wide hood or lintel carved with a series of four rounded arches topped off by a narrow reeded band. The windows are flanked by paneled shutters set on strap hinges. The shutter dogs are decorated with a scallop-shell motif.

The porch extends across the front and wraps around two sides of the house. There are eight columns across the front and six on the north side. The south side of the porch was enclosed

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

and converted into a sun room in 1915. The area under the porch is protected by wooden grill work. The grills are set between the brick supporting piers and consist of a cross pattern with a round medallion in the center.

The porch columns have recently been replaced, as has the porch floor and roof because of extensive water damage caused by neglect by previous owners. The new columns are exact copies of the originals. They are twelve inches square at the bottom and taper to seven inches at the top. Each side of the columns shows a recessed panel topped by a gothic arch. At the top of each column there is a plan crown molding. While elaborate in detail, the columns are simple in construction. They consist of four tapered boards nailed together. To that assembly are applied trim pieces to create the recessed panel, the arch and then additional flat boards are added to build up the crown molding. From each crown molding, an arched spandrel hangs to bind each column together. The porch roof is unadorned although historic photographs show that a crown of short, carved, vertical boards had been placed across the expanse of the porch roof.

The center entrance is the most complicated example of wood work at Merry Sherwood. The double-leaf door is surrounded by a heavy entablature with side lights and a transom. The carvings on the entablature and the door are Gothic-Revival in detail. Each of the four pilasters are distinguished by a recessed panel with a pointed arch at the top. The cornice is very wide with fifteen flat C-scroll brackets in the field topped by a horizontal C-scroll band into which are punched eleven decorative circles. A gothic arch is carved into the cornice below the brackets and joins the two inner pilasters. The glass in the transom and the side lights are alternating pieces of blue and red stained glass with an etched floral pattern in each. The doors themselves are heavy two-panel leaves with a gothic arch in the top panel. The rails are decorated with hexagons. The entire assembly is painted white. Paint scrapings indicated that the door has always been painted and not grained or stained.

Entering through the door, one is in the central hall. It is eight feet wide and thirty-six feet long. The ceiling height is ten feet, eleven inches high. The stairs to the upper floors are located to the rear of the hall. The closed-string stair is trimmed with a heavy, turned newel post and turned balusters.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

The stringer is decorated with a plain scroll trim at each tread. Under the stair is another set of stairs that lead to the basement and a small powder room which sits on the stair landing.

At the rear of the hall is a door that once led to the outside but which now leads to a rear enclosed porch. This change dates to the 1915 remodeling of Merry Sherwood. The first-floor principal rooms are accessible from the hall. The hall is plainly decorated except for a heavy, reeded plaster cornice. The door frames on this floor and throughout the rest of the house are composed of a series of flat boards and one inch square trim which is nailed to the boards to create the impression of a heavily-worked entablature. Even the corner blocks are pieces of flat board with trim nailed to them to provide decoration. The wide baseboard trim is constructed in a similar fashion. Wide boards are laid up at the floor level and then one inch square trim is applied to the top and bottom. Short vertical trim is then nailed between the horizontal bands to create separate plain fields.

The principal rooms of the first floor consist of a dining room, a library, and a parlor. The dining room and library are on the south side of the hall; while the parlor runs the length of the north side. The parlor was originally a double room but the partition wall was removed early in the twentieth century. Prior to that, each of the four rooms would have been the same size, about sixteen foot square. The rooms are plainly fitted out with plaster walls and no decorative plaster work. There is a modern ogee cornice in the parlor. Each of the rooms is heated by its own hearth. The north mantels are a gray-white marble with an arched opening, a scrollcut shelf, and a scroll-leaf faux keystone. The mantel in the southeast room, the library, is made of the same material but its throat is defined by a flat moorish-arched rail and a rectangular shelf. There is a large plate-glass, gilt-framed mirror over the mantel which appears to have been constructed for that space. The dining room mantel is wood and consists of reeded trim with corner blocks. The shelf is supported by light brackets. There is a large glass and gilt-frame mirror over that mantel. To the right side of the hearth there is a built-in cupboard with a multi-pane door. Each of the mantels project into its room about 2.75 feet.

Access between the library and the dining room is by a six-foot wide opening. It is assumed that a similar wall and opening

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

had defined the two parlors. The dining room provides access to the south porch/sun room, the south wing, and to the rear enclosed porch.

The first floor of the south wing consists of one room with a hearth. Originally used as a bedroom, it has been concerted to a library/office function as part of the 1915 remodeling of the house. It has been paneled with vertical beaded boards, stained and not painted. The end-wall closets have had their doors converted to swinging shelving. Built-in book cases line the north and west walls. The door and window surrounds and the baseboard matches that in the rest of the house. The mantel is made of the same gray-white marble as the other mantels but its design is less elaborate. The plain side pilasters are topped by a narrow capitol band on top of which sits a header piece with a flat arch cut into it. The shelf is a plain piece of rectangular marble.

To the east of this room is the enclosed porch/sun room. Consisting of fully glazed panels, it is positioned to get maximum exposure from the sun. Access is from the wing, from the dining room and by a set of double-leaf doors from the front porch. A side door by the wing leads to the south area of the property which at one time contained a garden area.

The rear wing has been altered over the years as kitchen needs and appliances changed. At present, the first floor is basically one large room since the dividing walls between the rear addition and the south-side porch have been removed. Counters, cupboards and appliances line the north and south walls. The east wall is pierced by doors that lead to the side wing and the main part of the house as well as by a set of rear steps that lead to the second floor of the wing. At the west wall another set of service steps leads up to the back addition's second floor.

Across the rear of the house there is a small, shed-roofed, enclosed porch. The wall finish is mostly windows. The trim matches that in the rest of the house. At the south end of this enclosed area is a bathroom in what was originally a pantry located beneath the service wing steps. This pantry would have provided direct access from the kitchen to the dining room but that was changed early in this century when the access door was closed and plastered over.

The fully-excavated basement is located under the main block

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

of the house and not under the wings. With the brick foundation serving as walls, the basement consists of three rooms to the front and two rooms to the rear. The front three rooms correspond to the hall and the front two rooms of the first floor while the rear is divided by a wall that is under the south wall of the main hall. A set of internal steps leads down from the hall under the main steps while external access is by a bulkhead entrance at the rear. Ventilation is provided by grills set into the brick work. Since they open up under the porch, they would not have provided much light. The brick walls were whitewashed as were the round-arched brick chimney bases. The north east room shows evidence of having once had a plastered ceiling. The other rooms simply had whitewashed ceilings. All the floor framing shows circular-sawn wood.

The second floor has three points of access. The principal access is the principal stair in the main block. The rear service wing has two sets of stairs, one in each of the blocks of that wing. The height of the ceiling on the second floor, main block is nine feet, nine inches. The layout of the rooms basically mirrors that of the first floor with four bedrooms in the main block, one on the south wing and then two rooms in the rear wing. A bathroom has been inserted between the two rooms of the main block's south side. It is narrow and was created by taking space from the south west bedroom. This change dates to the early twentieth century modernization of Merry Sherwood. The trim throughout the second floor is constructed in the same fashion as the first floor. Plain boards provide the background and then one inch square boards are applied to the boards to create recessed fields. Most of the corner blocks on the door and window surround are simply plain, flat blocks but several have been trimmed in a fashion similar to the first floor with short length of cut trim mailed on to the flat boards. The doors are all wood, four-panel doors.

The wall finish is smooth plaster without any applied decoration. The rooms in the main block are heated by individual hearths. The mantels are all the same. They are constructed from component pieces of gray-white marble with flat pilasters, a narrow horizontal capitol, and a shallow-arched lintel. The shelf is a rectangular piece of marble without brackets. The hearths project two feet into their rooms. The two north rooms and the south, front room have built-in closets that extend the hearth wall to the interior north-south wall. Because of these closets, the north and south exterior walls only have

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

three windows each on the second floor. The middle window is a false front since it is portioned at the juncture of the internal north-south wall.

The room in the south wing's second floor has no historic heating system. It might have been heated with wood stoves since an 1867 estate inventory listed seven wood stoves and two coal stoves in the house. The rear wing and the service wing are both accessed through the south west bedroom The rear wing consist of two plain rooms. The original block of the wing is trimmed in the same fashion as the rest of the house. This room has been made somewhat smaller by the addition of a narrow bathroom next to the stair hall. The bathroom is only three feet wide. The windows in the rear block of the wing are modern, replacement windows with plain surrounds. A balustrade of turned spindles guards the rear stairway to the first floor. The spindles match those on the other stairs.

The stair to the third floor continues the trim and design of the lower flights of stairs, with a mid-floor landing, and a nine inch, floor cut-out between flights. The third floor consists of four main rooms, laid out in the same fashion as the floors below. A bathroom is centered over the second floor bath in the main block. It was created by taking some space from the south west room. The ceiling is low on this floor, only seven feet high. The rooms on this floor were all heated with stoves. Marks can still be seen for the flues in each of the chimney stacks. All of the trim, baseboards, door and window surrounds and the doors all match the trim throughout the rest of the house.

A steep flight of steps leads from the third floor hall to the cupola. The cupola, seven foot square, is trimmed with horizontal boards. The cupola is nine foot, eight inches high. The window trim matches the trim of the lower floors. The spandrels match those of the lower floors. The finish of this room is different in that all of the wood surfaces are grained. This graining may not have been the first finish but it does date to the early period of the house since the estate of Henry B. Johnson paid to have graining done in the house in 1868. The estate also paid out money for roof repairs.

The cupola gives a clear view of the surrounding landscape. While most of the historic buildings have been removed over the years, the field patterns are still visible from this vantage

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

point which is just over thirty feet in the air. Tree lines and ditches still delineate the historic fields that were noted on a survey of lands done for Johnson just before he died. The only historic buildings insight, other than the town of Berlin, is a small one and one-half story cottage across Route 113 from Merry Sherwood.

There are no outbuildings associated with Merry Sherwood, although it once included several of an unknown type and size. Over the years the landscape of the house plot have gone to ruin. The evidence of gardens can still be seen to the south of the house. Pieces of Gothic-Revival influenced, white marble fence posts and some pieces of wrought iron fencing remain scattered under bushes and trees. The drive and the house grounds contain numerous exotic specimen trees. Among the exotic plantings are fishpole bamboo, an empress tree, and mulberry trees. Most of the plantings date to the early twentieth century and are the result of collecting by the then current owners.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

All photographs submitted with this nomination were taken by Stephen G. Del Sordo in January of 1991. The negatives are housed at Merry Sherwood.

Photograph view and number:
(for ease of identification, the house is assumed to face east.)

1. view from east
2. view from east
3. view from south east
4. view from south east
5. view from south west
6. view from west
7. view from north west
8. view from north east
9. view from east
10. view from east
11. view from west; center hall, first floor
12. view from east; center hall, first floor
13. view from east; parlor, first floor
14. view from south east; mantel in parlor
15. view from north east; library
16. view from north; dining room
17. view from north; side wing, first floor
18. view from north west; sun room
19. view from west; second floor hall
20. view from south east; second floor, north east room
21. view from south east; second floor, north west room
22. view from east; second floor hall
23. view from north; second floor, south west room
24. view from north; second floor, entrance to bathroom
25. view from north; second floor, south wing
26. view from east; second floor, rear wing
27. view from south east; third floor, north west room
28. view from north; entrance to bathroom, third floor
29. view from south; third floor, north east room
30. view from west; third floor hall
31. view from below; lantern
32. view from west from lantern; mid 19th-century dwelling across road.
33. view from east from lantern; view towards fields and rear line of nominated acreage.
34. view from east; field behind house

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural/Industrial/Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

8. Statement of Significance WO-19

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	c.1859	c.1859

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Merry Sherwood, c.1859, is one of the best examples of Italianate architecture on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. One of the largest houses in the area, the three-story, square block building with two wings, the house rises over thirty feet into the air and dominates the surrounding agricultural landscape. The good use of Italianate trim on a traditional double-pile, center-hall plan demonstrates the skill of the local craftsmen in using a style that was only just beginning to spread to the lower Delmarva Peninsula. As such, Merry Sherwood is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C as an excellent example of the use of the Italianate style on a domestic building. Architecturally, Merry Sherwood is a significant home seat vastly different than the average dwelling in Worcester County and for that matter on the lower Delmarva Peninsula. In their Historic Sites Inventory, Lower Eastern Shore, the Maryland Historical Trust has described the building as "the best surviving Italianate-style dwelling in Worcester."

☒ See continuation sheet No. 10
For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

Merry Sherwood was begun in 1859 for Henry B. Johnson. Johnson was born in Philadelphia in 1833. On 3 May 1859, he married Elizabeth Grey Henry, a local women born in 1833 in Worcester County. She was the daughter of a wealthy local merchant, Zadock P. Henry and his wife Sally. Johnson's background and his reasons for moving to Worcester County, other than to marry are not clear.

Johnson made his first land purchase on 11 July 1859 by buying a property known as Oak Grove. The price of $3500 would tend to indicate a farmstead of just over 150 acres. A second purchase was made from his wife's parents on 31 March 1860. The 55 acre parcel is identified as part of Merry Sherwood and adjoining to Johnson's first purchases. Johnson made two more purchases of adjoining land by 1862. The four acre and 90 acre parcels all adjoined his home plot and gave him a total acreage of 354 acres. His land purchases were all made from members of his wife's family. The purchases were financed by a mortgage taken out in 1856 by Johnson from Granville Stokes of Philadelphia, PA.

In 1860, Johnson reported to the federal census taker that his occupation was that of a farmer. He listed his real estate as having a value of $75,000 and that he had personal property of $25,000. Living in Merry Sherwood were his wife and three others, Harriet Jarmin, mulato cook, and William Bowen and Isaac Bridle, both black farm laborers.

Johnson died of unknown causes in 1867. At that time he left his widow and two children, Moses and Mary. At his death, an inventory was made of his property which showed a value of personal property totaling $5,875.62. Of that amount, only $1,492.50 was household goods. (The household inventory is attached.) His farm animals consisted of a cattle herd of 34, 46 sheep, over 30 pigs, 5 horses, and 6 mules. His inventory, taken in August, shows that he grew oats, corn, and potatoes. Later estate records show that he grew wheat. This is a typical mix of crops for the farmers of this region.

When Johnson died he was heavily in debt. His estate was settled in 1870. At that time his creditors were paid 47.6¢ on the dollar towards his total debt of $32,626.05. Johnson's body was returned to Philadelphia for burial soon after he died. His principal executor was Moses T. Johnson, a gentlemen of Philadelphia. The relationship to Henry B. is unclear but he was appointed guardian of the two children. In 1871, the

See Continuation Sheet No. 12

children were moved to Philadelphia. The widow also moved to that city. She continued to be listed in Philadelphia city directories into the 1880s.
When the estate was settled, the farm land was turned over to Granville Stokes by right of his mortgage on the property. The property remained in Stokes family hands as a tenant farm until 1902. At that time the farm, consisting of 285 acres, was sold to Orlando Harrison, a local farmer and nurseryman. He sold it in 1916 to Elizabeth S. and Harry S. Purnell.

The Purnells held the property as their home until 1956. The Purnells modernized Merry Sherwood. They added the sun room on the south side of the porch. They also removed the wall between the two parlors on the north side of the first floor and added the enclosed porches on the rear wing. The Purnells probably added the bathrooms, since they did not exist when the house was built. They may have also extended the rear wing. The Purnells also improved the landscape and they are responsible for some of the exotic plantings around the house.

While there are other large or well-designed dwellings in the region, they date to the eighteenth century or the early part of the nineteenth century. Although house building continued throughout during the 1790-1830 period. There are some Gothic-Revival influenced dwellings in the region but the decorative feature most used from that style is the cross-gable and an occasional lancet window. The Italianate style, which became the preferred style on the Peninsula after the Civil War, is not very evident in domestic buildings at all until the late 1850s.

Part of the reason for the gap in large house building is related to a downturn in the agricultural prosperity of the region. A home such as Merry Sherwood was an expensive undertaking which the local economy could not support. This house, for instance, was financed by Philadelphia interests. Berlin had not yet been connected to the rest of the peninsula by railroad so that transportation was by poor roads and by the use of local waters at some distance from Berlin. As a result, the area was somewhat isolated and more connected to Philadelphia since it was easier to sail up the coast than it was to sail down to the Chesapeake Bay and then up to Baltimore. Norfolk, Virginia did serve as a local market source. Real growth in Berlin did not occur until after the railroad came through in the early 1870s.

In Worcester County, the property that comes closest to Merry

See Continuation Sheet No. 13

Sherwood in design and scale is the Hargis House (Wo-93) in Snow Hill. While only three bays wide and somewhat narrower in depth, it does have the three-story height of Merry Sherwood along with the flat roof and lantern. It does not have a front porch at this time. This house was constructed about 1860.

An important architectural element of Merry Sherwood is the design and execution of the decorative elements. While Johnson ordered the construction of a large house in the latest style, the local carpenters interpreted his orders to fit their skills and knowledge of carpentry The entire house blends together in an attractive fashion. The craftsmen used easily available trim work to create the columns, baseboards, and the door and window surrounds. Rather than passing this off to imply a lack of sophistication on the part of their carpenters, it actually demonstrates the skill of the craftsmen who were able to put simple elements together in a complicated and pleasing fashion according to the dictates of the Italianate idiom.

See Continuation Sheet No. 14

ESTATE INVENTORY
HENRY B. JOHNSON
MERRY SHERWOOD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
August 14, 1867

Lumber Room, 3rd Story

1	riding saddle & bridle	20.00
1	riding saddle & bridle	12.00
1	ladies saddle & bridle	10.00
1	boys saddle & bridle	2.00
5	horse blankets	12.50
2	coal stoves	10.00
2	wood stoves	12.00
2	wood stoves	12.00
3	old wood stoves	1.00
1	lot trumpery	3.00

SE Room, 3rd Story

1	set cottage furniture	20.00
1	matress	5.00
7	pairs sheets	15.00
4	white bed spreads	10.00
1	lot pillow slips	5.00
1	lot towels	2.00
1	lot napkins	2.00
1	lot table cloths	5.00
6	comfortables	12.00
1	lot blankets	12.00
1	hip bath	2.00
1	carpet on the floor	5.00

NE room, 3rd Story

1	set cottage furniture	20.00
1	feather bed	20.00
1	matress	5.00
1	carpet on floor	10.00

See Continuation Sheet No. 15

HENRY B. JOHNSON ESTATE, MERRY SHERWOOD

NE Room, 2cd Story		
1	carpet on floor	25.00
1	pair shovel & tongs	2.00
	mantle ornaments	2.00
SE Room, 2cd Story		
1	set furniture	50.00
1	centre table	2.00
1	feather bed	20.00
1	matress	5.00
1	carpet on floor	20.00
1	set plated ware	25.00
1	lot silver	100.00
Nursery Room		
1	set cottage furniture	25.00
1	straw matress	1.00
1	corn & feather bed	10.00
1	carpet on floor	5.00
SW Room, 2cd Story		
	furniture in room	10.00
1	sewing machine	25.00
Room over Colonade		
1	set furniture	15.00
1	shuck matress	2.00
1	carpet on floor	2.00
10	roller curtains	7.50
9	curtains	2.00
1	work stand & cover	2.00

See Continuation Sheet No. 16

HENRY B. JOHNSON ESTATE, MERRY SHERWOOD

Bedroom on 1st Floor

1	pair matress & pillows	8.00
1	set furniture	50.00
1	carpet on floor	15.00
1	straw carpet	5.00

Dining Room, 1st Floor

1	side board	20.00
1	dining table	20.00
1	side table	1.00
1	chairs	12.00
1	clock	3.00
2	candle holders	1.50
4	lamps	2.00
6	small lamps	1.50
1	carpet	20.00
1	straw carpet	5.00
1	dining set	20.00
1	tea set	10.00
1	set waiters	5.00
1	ice pitcher	3.00
1	doz goblets	2.00
10	goblets	2.00
1	doz egg glasses	1.50
½	doz wine glasses	1.00
1	glass bowl	1.00
1	doz fancy glasses	2.00
1	doz preserve plates	.50
½	doz tumblers	.50
1	doz finger bowels	1.50
1	cellary glass	.50
3	brittania pots	1.00
1	lot decanters	1.50
1	lot knives & forks	5.00

In the Pantry

1	gilt dining set	20.00
1	gilt tea set	10.00
	residue in pantry	5.00

See Continuation Sheet No. 17

HENRY B. JOHNSON ESTATE, MERRY SHERWOOD

Library Room

2	book cases	40.00
1	book cases	10.00
1	lot books	50.00
1	centre table & cover	10.00
1	sofa	15.00
1	work stand	5.00
8	chairs	12.00
1	melodian	15.00
1	clock	10.00
1	lot pictures	5.00
1	woven carpet	25.00
1	grass carpet on floor	10.00
2	spittons	1.00
1	pair andirons	1.50

Parlors

2	sofas	50.00
1	doz hair bottom chairs	50.00
2	arm chairs	20.00
4	cane seat chairs	5.00
1	damask arm chair	5.00
1	centre table	20.00
1	whatnot	20.00
1	small stand	2.00
1	musical box, out-of-order	2.00
	mantle ornaments	5.00
	shovel & tongs	2.50
	carpet on floor	61.00
1	large lamp	3.00
8	mirror shades	10.00
1	hat rack	5.00
1	shot gun	40.00
2	old rifles	5.00

Kitchen (not separated out in inventory)

1	cook stove	20.00
	kitchen furniture	20.00

See Continuation Sheet No. 18

[X] See continuation sheet No. 18

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- [ ] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [X] Other

Specify repository: Owner

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 10.8 acres
USGS Quad: Berlin, Maryland

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	480640	4239650
B	18	480620	4239470
C	18	480380	4239380
D	18	480430	4239690

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The bounds of the nominated property use the east, north, and south property lines of the legal parcel. The west property line for purposes of this nomination runs along an historic tree line located 686 feet west of the property line along Route 113. This line is shown on the attached parcel survey.

[ ] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the home field of Merry Sherwood as shown on an 1860s survey map of the lands of H.B. Johnson. The boundary also corresponds to historic ditch and tree lines that remain on the property from the nineteenth century.

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen G. Del Sordo, Historian
organization Private Consultant date January 1991
street & number 305 Oakley Street telephone (301) 228-8934
city or town Cambridge state Maryland zip code 21613

Maryland Historical Trust, Historic Sites Inventory, Volume Two, Lower Eastern Shore. (Annapolis, MD; Maryland Historical Trust, n.d.).

Reginald V. Truitt and Millard G. Lew Callette, Worcester County; Maryland's Arcadia. (Snow Hill, MD: The Worcester County Historical Society, 1977).

U.S. Census of Population, Worcester County for 1850, 1860, and 1870

Worcester County Deed Records for Merry Sherwood parcel

Worcester County Recorder of Wills, The Estate of Henry B. Johnson

Worcester County Public Library Maryland Room Geneological materials and Pitts collection of land surveys

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Worcester County. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

Survey No. WO-19

Magi No. 2400195504

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic MERRY SHERWOOD

and/or common

2. Location

street & number RTE 113, 2.4 miles south of US RTE 50 ___ not for publication

city, town Berlin _x_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_x_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_x_ building(s)	_x_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	x private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_x_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	_x_not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James and Wanda Yackle

street & number RTE 3 Box 627 telephone no.:

city, town Berlin state and zip code MD 21811

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber 366

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 315

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1969 ___ federal _x_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. WO-19

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_x_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	x altered	___ moved date of move _____
x fair	___ unexposed		

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

The property known as Merry Sherwood borders US Route 113 2.4 miles south of US Route 50 in the vicinity of Berlin, Worcester County, Maryland. The three-story, center hall frame house faces east.

Built in 1858-1859, the three-story, five-bay wood shingled frame house is supported by an four-course common bond brick foundation with an excavated cellar. The original plain weatherboards of the house have been covered with modern pressed wood shingles, and the nearly flat roof, originally sheathed with standing seam tin, has benn tarred and painted. Rising from the center of the house is a frame cupola or lantern. The large squarish main block is extended southward by a two-story, two-bay wing and to the west by another two-story wing which contained the kitchen and servants quarters.

The east (main) facade is a basically symmetrical five-bay elevation with a center double door entrance and flanking four-over-four sash windows. The exhuberantly molded front doors are framed by colored glass sidelights and transom. The door surrounds follow the pointed arch motif found in the upper door panels, and an unconventional bracketed cornice stretches above the transom. The windows to each side are flanked by paneled shutters that retain original strap hinges, shell-motif shutter dogs, and slide bar keepers. The area above each window is embellished with a repeating arch design below a bold lintel. Sheltering the entire first floor is a single story porch supported by tapered posts. The original posts, a few of which remain to the north end of the porch, have pointed inset panels on each face below a projecting crown molding. Also surviving in a few bays is a segmental arched spandrel with the beginning points of the arch springing from the crown molding on each post. Beneath the porch between pairs of brick piers are wooden screens that follow a cross pattern with a center round medallion. The second floor above the porch is lighted by five four-over-four sash windows of slightly smaller dimensions which are framed by louvered shutters. Lighting the third floor are even smaller four-over-four sash windows with louvered shutters as well. The house is surmounted by a square, frame lantern with four-over-four sash windows on each side and a pointed spire atop the roof.

The north side of the house is a basically symmetrical facade with shuttered four-over-four sash windows lighting the first floor. Similar to the front the molded window surrounds are topped by an unusually arch-decorated lintel. The long two-panel shutters retain strap hinges. Sheltering the first floor is the tapered post porch, and some of the original posts and in-between spandrals survive on the along the north side. The second floor is marked by four-over-four sash windows, however the two shuttered bays in the center are false windows. Smaller four-over-four sash windows light the third floor, and piercing the roofline are stuccoed, interior brick chimney stacks. The soffit has been covered with aluminum.

(continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-19

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	x architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
x 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates 1858-1859 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B x C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state x local

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

Merry Sherwood stands out on the lower Eastern Shore as one of the most distinctive and personal interpretations of the Italianate style. The squarish, three-story, center hall, double-pile dwelling surmounted with a decorated lantern repeats the proportions and mass of houses common to the nationally popular form, but the imaginative nature of many exterior and interior finishes point clearly to the local vernacular expression of a high-style academic design. The tapered post porch is an unusual design as is the arched lintel decoration over each of the windows. Inside, unconventional paneled baseboard and window aprons are combined with more traditional marble mantels, four-panel doors, and a continuous mahogany handrail that rises three floors. Also significant is the oak grained finish that survives within the rooftop lantern.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Henry B. Johnson is credited with financing the construction of this impressive Italianate style house after his purchase of several adjacent parcels, beginning in 1859.(WET 1/506) In four separate tranfers he acquired parts of tracts known as "Merry Sherwood," "Oak Grove," and "Unity" as well as property called the Franklin farm.(see WET 2/198, WET 2/486, WET 3/271) In 1872, Worcester County Circuit Court appointed George W. Covington as a trustee to sell the lands of Henry B. Johnson, "...upon which he resided at the time of his death.(ITM 2/403) Evidently Henry Johnson had executed a mortgage on his properties with Granville Stokes and his wife, Cornelia, in March of 1856, and after Johnson's death the property was assumed by Stokes. Granville Stokes is designated on the 1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson Atlas as owning this house along with 1200 acres, making him one of the larger land owners in the Berlin area. Stokes family ownership of the house continued until 1902 when Orlando and George Harrison purchased the house and 285 acres for $6,000.(FHP 16/414) The Harrisons owned the property for fourteen years before transferring the title to Harry S. and Elizabeth K. Purnell. While Harry Purnell died in 1946, his widow Elizabeth continued to own the property for ten additional years.(FWH 97/105) William A. and Beryl Dryden purchased the house and twenty acres that accompanied it in 1956, and occupied the house until 1972 when the property was sold to Frank and Wanda Lee Scanlon.(366/315)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-19

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

A	Zone	Easting	Northing	B	Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	**code**	**county**	**code**
state	**code**	**county**	**code**

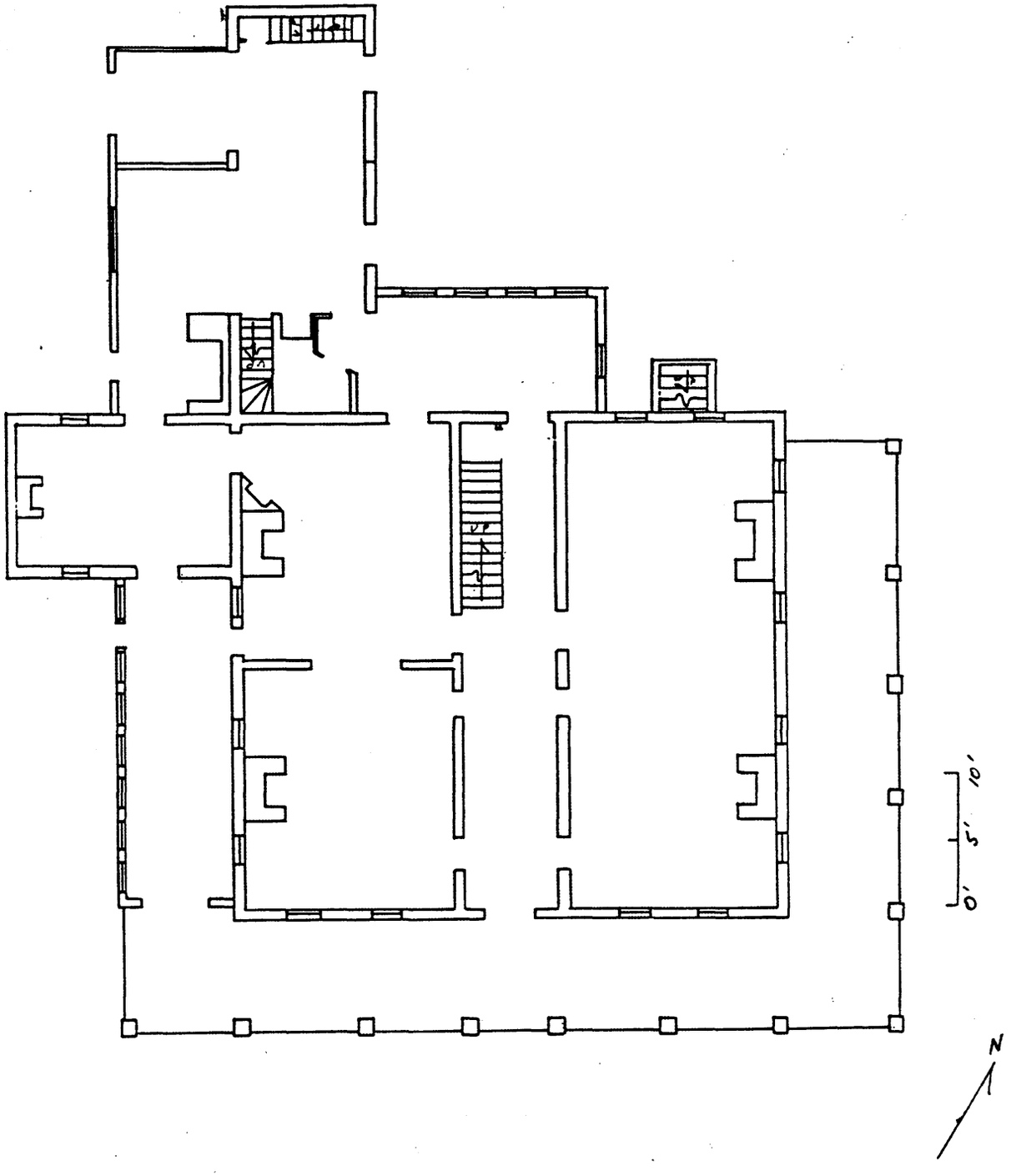
11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul B. Touart Architectural Historian		
organization	Worcester County	**date**	9/29/88
street & number	Worcester County Courthouse	**telephone**	301-632-1194
city or town	Snow Hill	**state**	MD 21863

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.

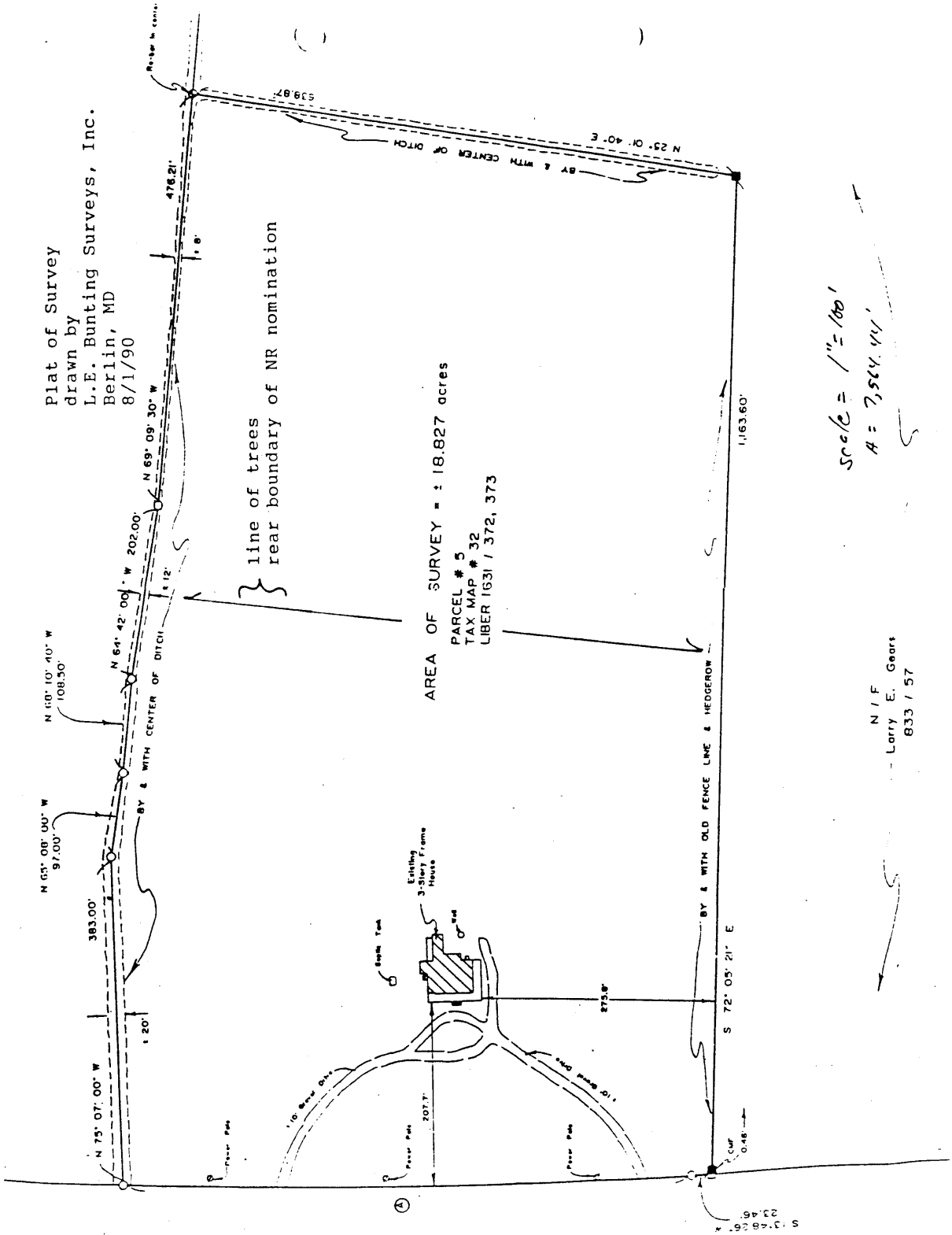
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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



Merry Sherwood
Worcester County, MD
drawn by Stephen G. Del Sordo
January, 1991

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

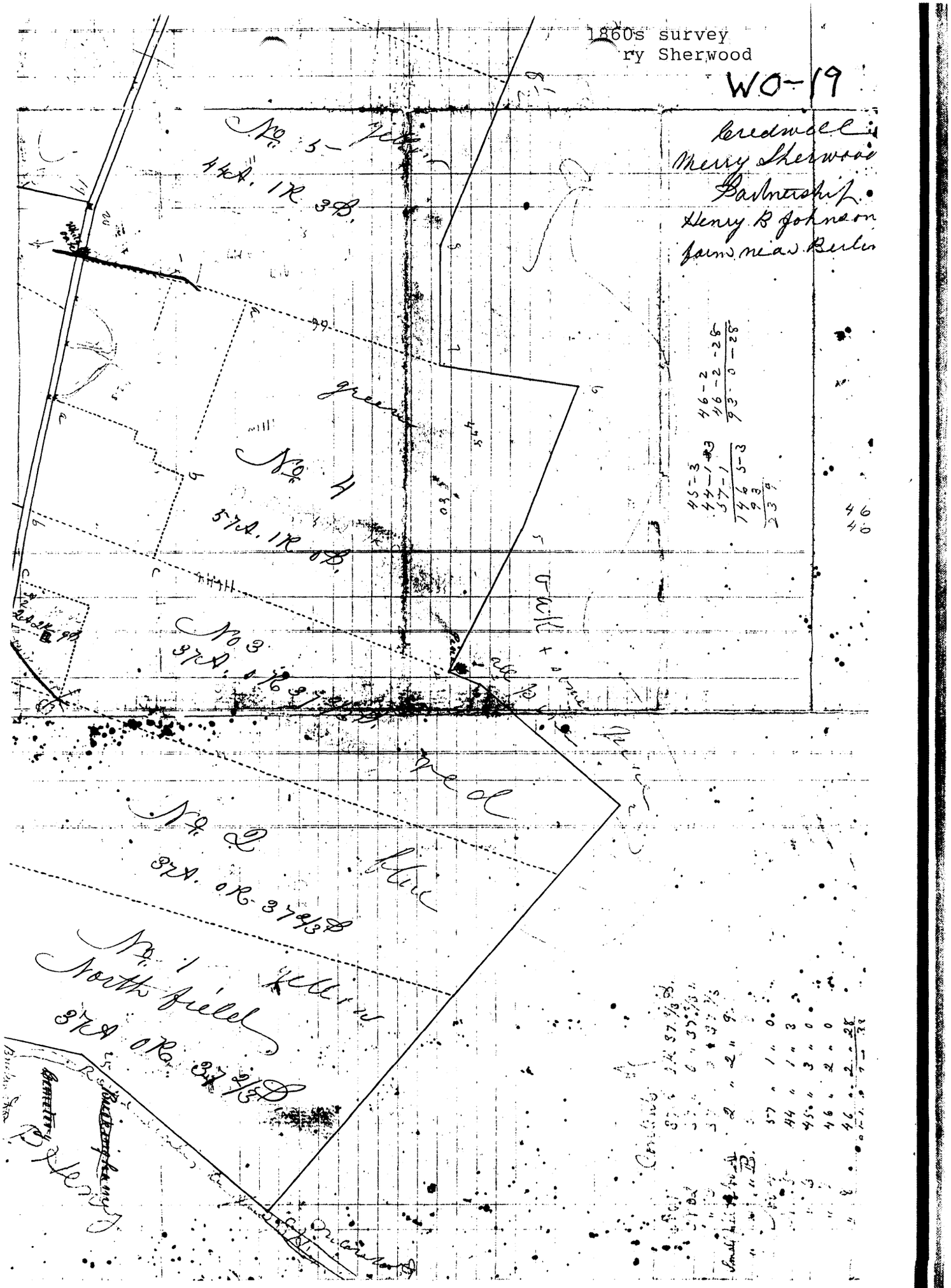

Plat of Survey
drawn by
L.E. Bunting Surveys, Inc.
Berlin, MD
8/1/90
line of trees
rear boundary of NR nomination
AREA OF SURVEY = ± 18.827 acres
PARCEL # 5
TAX MAP # 32
LIBER 1631 / 372, 373
N 25° 01' 40" E
BY & WITH CENTER OF DITCH
N 69° 09' 30" W
N 64° 42' 00" W
202.00'
N 68° 10' 40" W
108.50'
N 65° 08' 00" W
97.00'
383.00'
N 75° 07' 00" W
BY & WITH CENTER OF DITCH
BY & WITH OLD FENCE LINE & HEDGEROW
1,163.60'
S 72° 05' 21" E
Existing 3-Story Frame House
Septic Tank
Well
Power Pole
207.7'
275.8'
N I F
Larry E. Gears
833 / 57
Scale = 1" = 100'
A = 7,564.44'

1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas

WO - 19

1860s survey
ry Sherwood

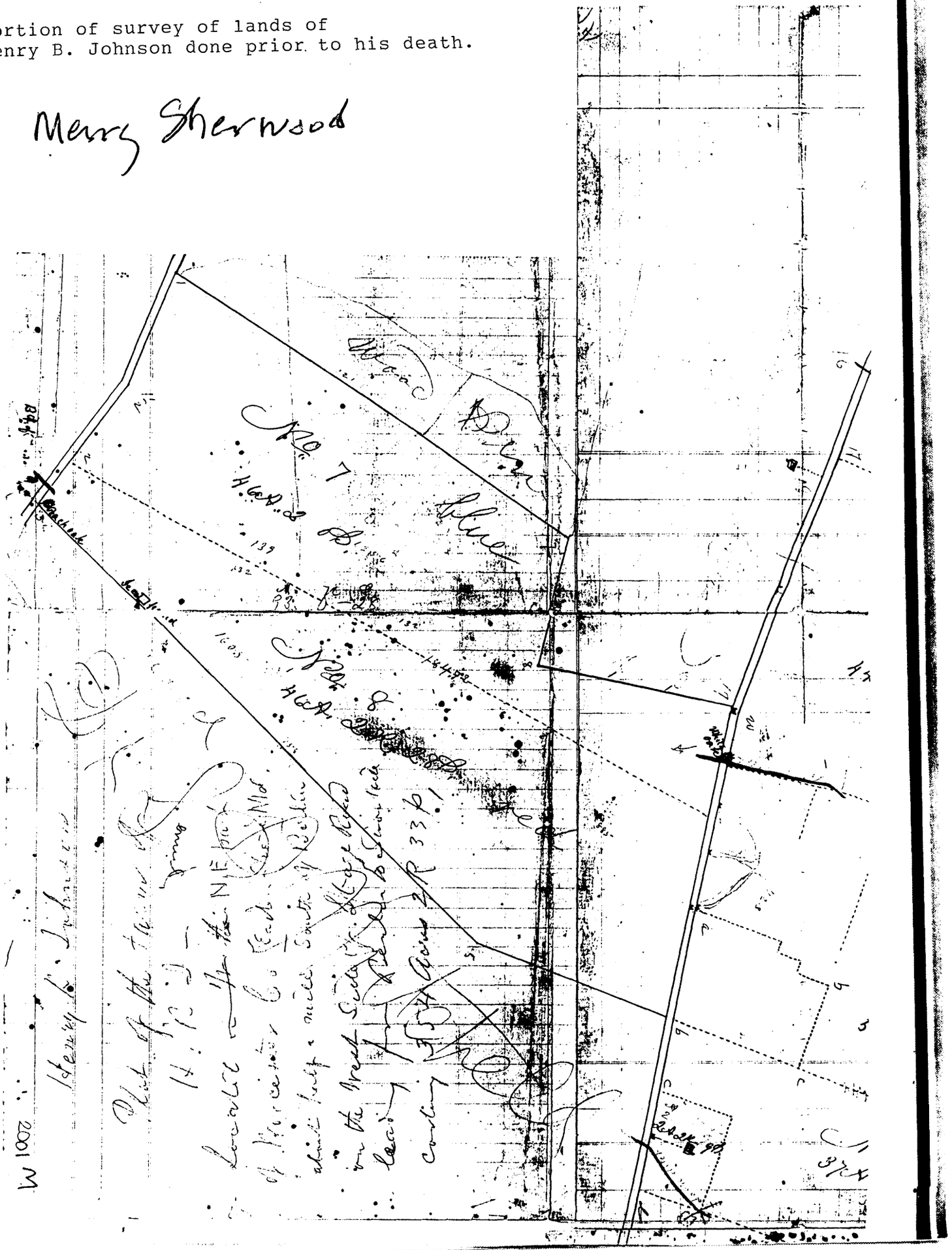
WO-19



WO-19

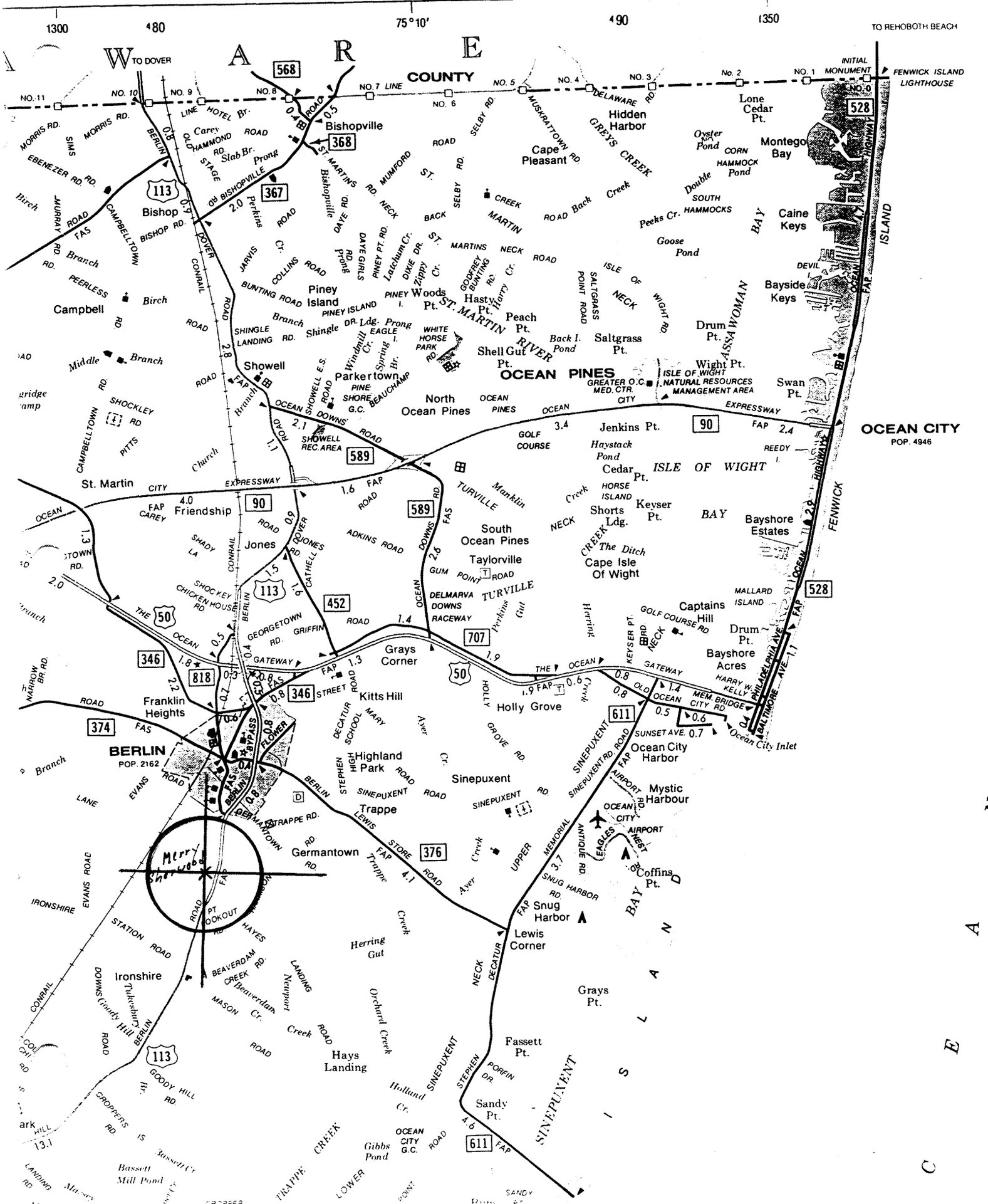
portion of survey of lands of
Henry B. Johnson done prior to his death.

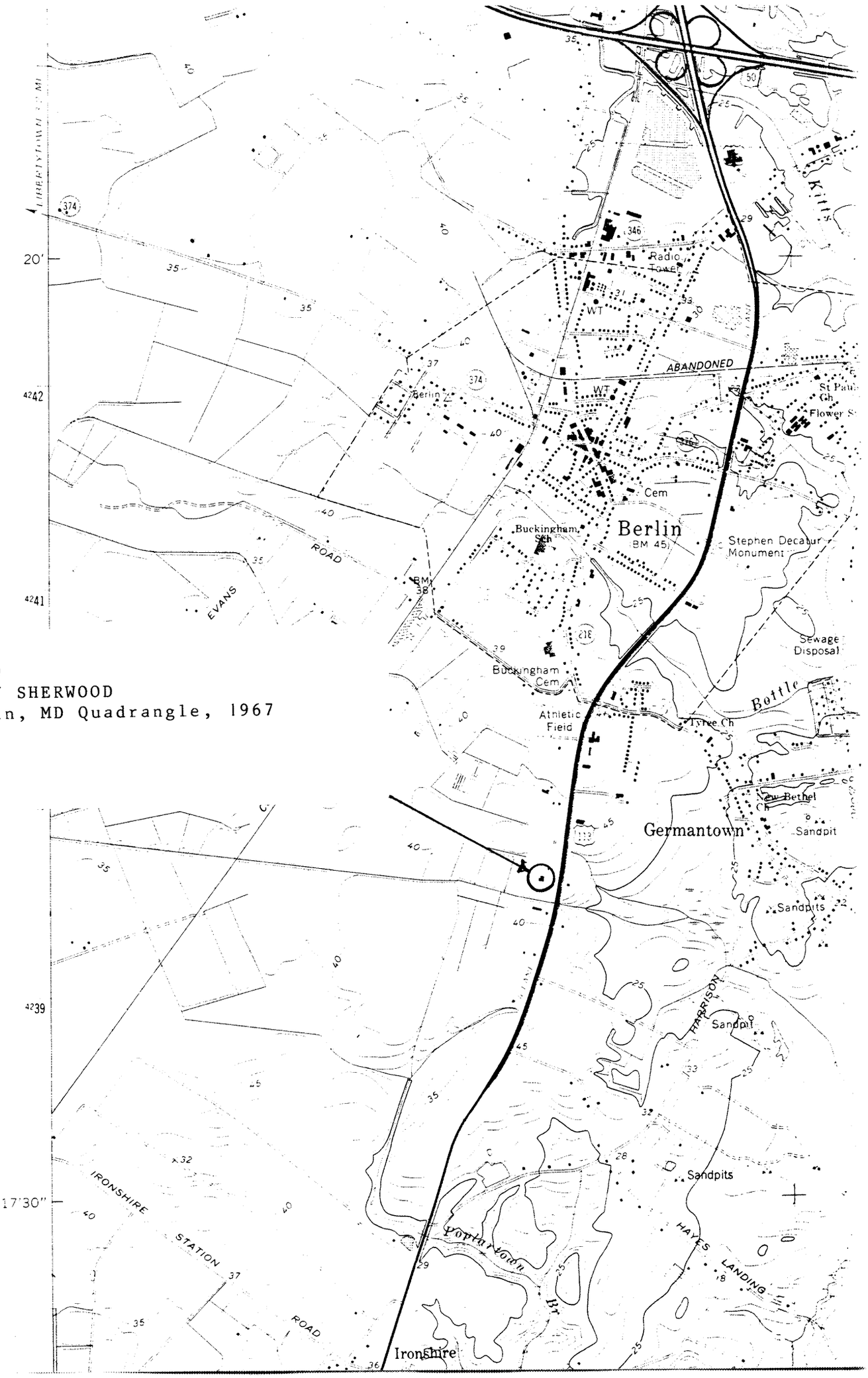
Merry Sherwood



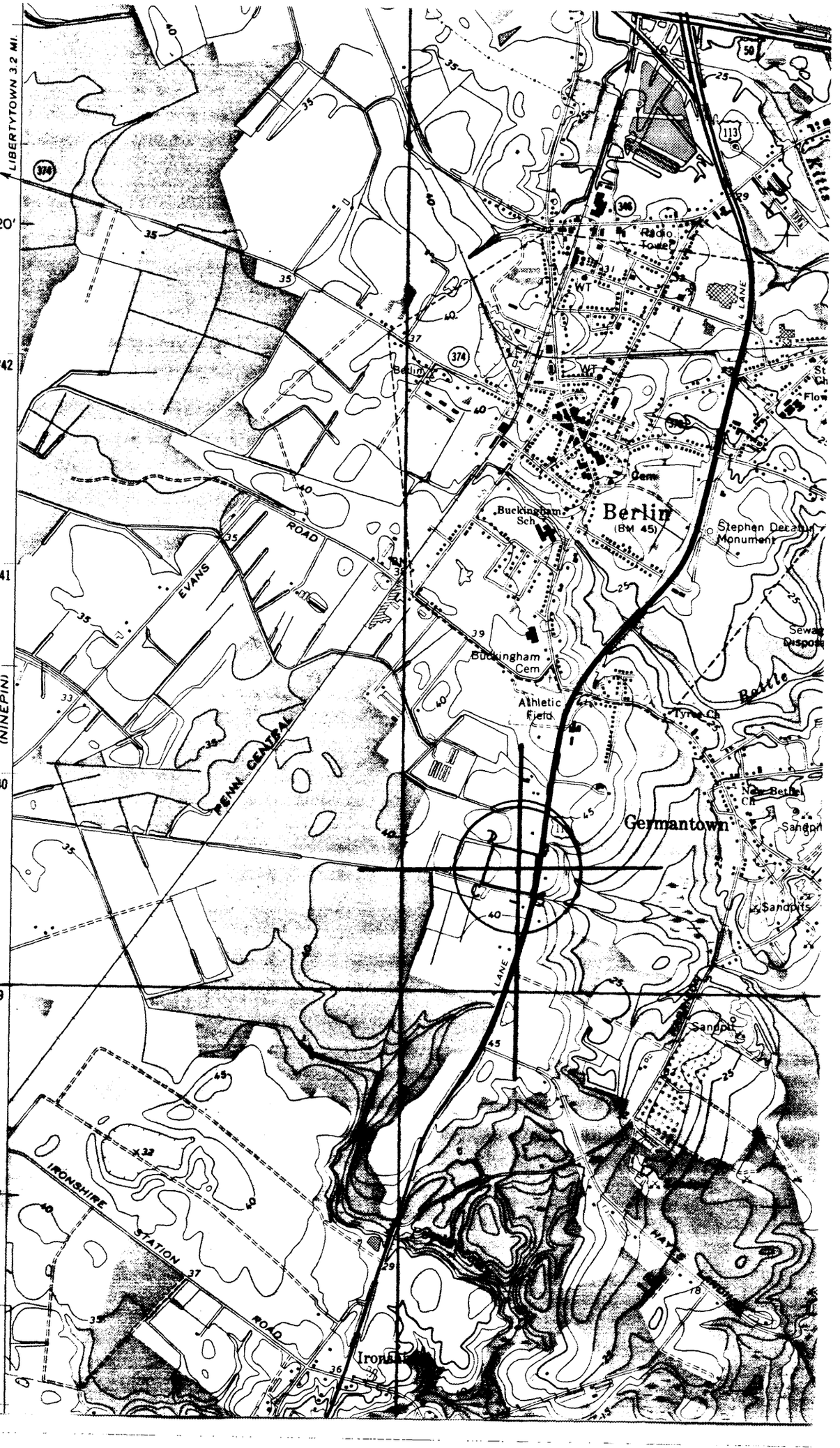
Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD

WO-19





WO-19
MERRY SHERWOOD
Berlin, MD Quadrangle, 1967



Merry Sherwood
Worcester County, MD

A 18/480 640/4239 650

B 18/480 620/4239 420

C 18/480 380/4239 520

D 18/480 430/4239 690

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #1

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #3

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #34

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #33

WO-19

Merry Sherwood [Vicinity], Worcester County, MD #32

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #31

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #30

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #29

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #38

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #27

WO-19

Merry sherwood, worcester county, MD #26

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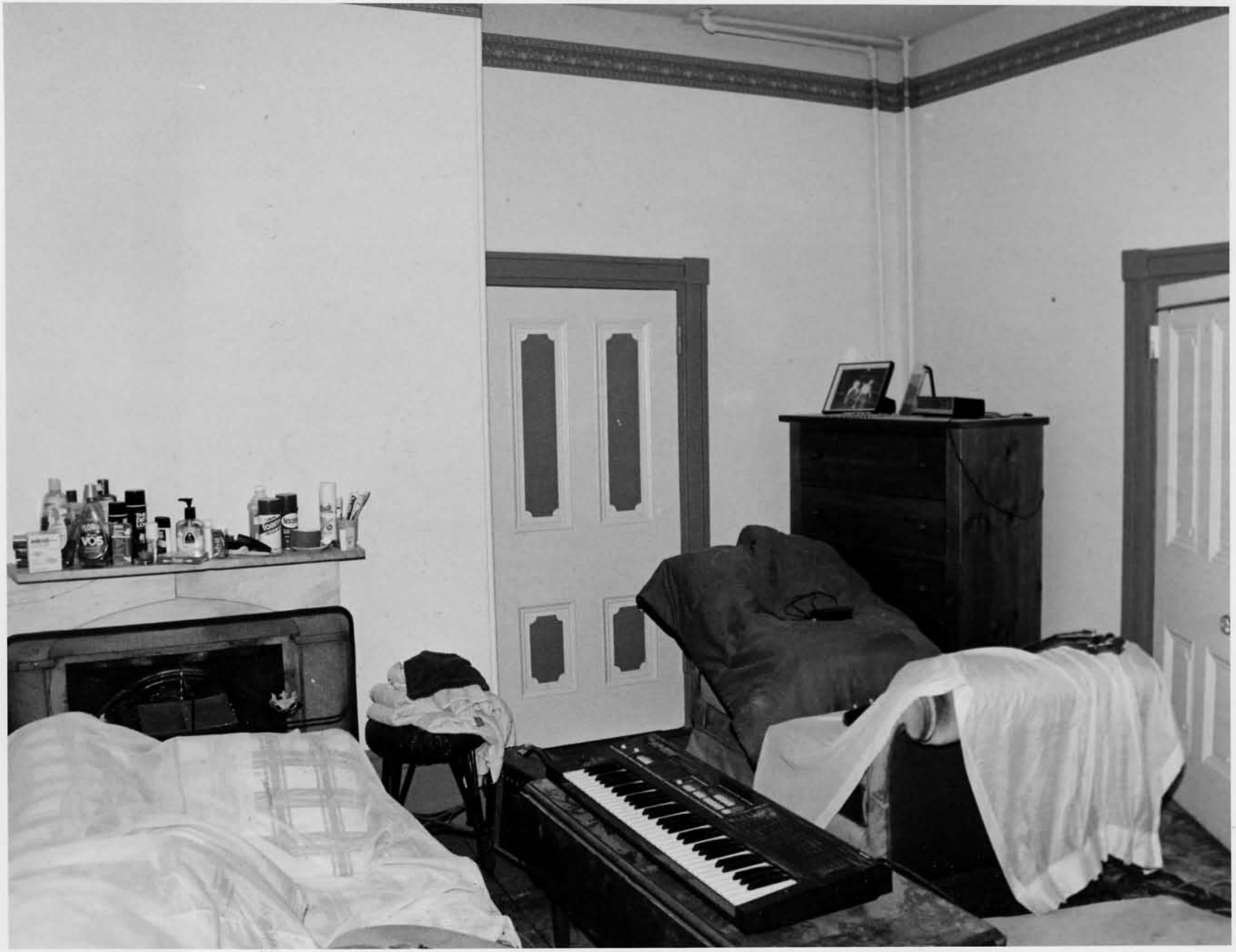
Merry sherwood, worcester county, MD #25

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #24

WO-19



Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #23

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #21

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #22

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #20

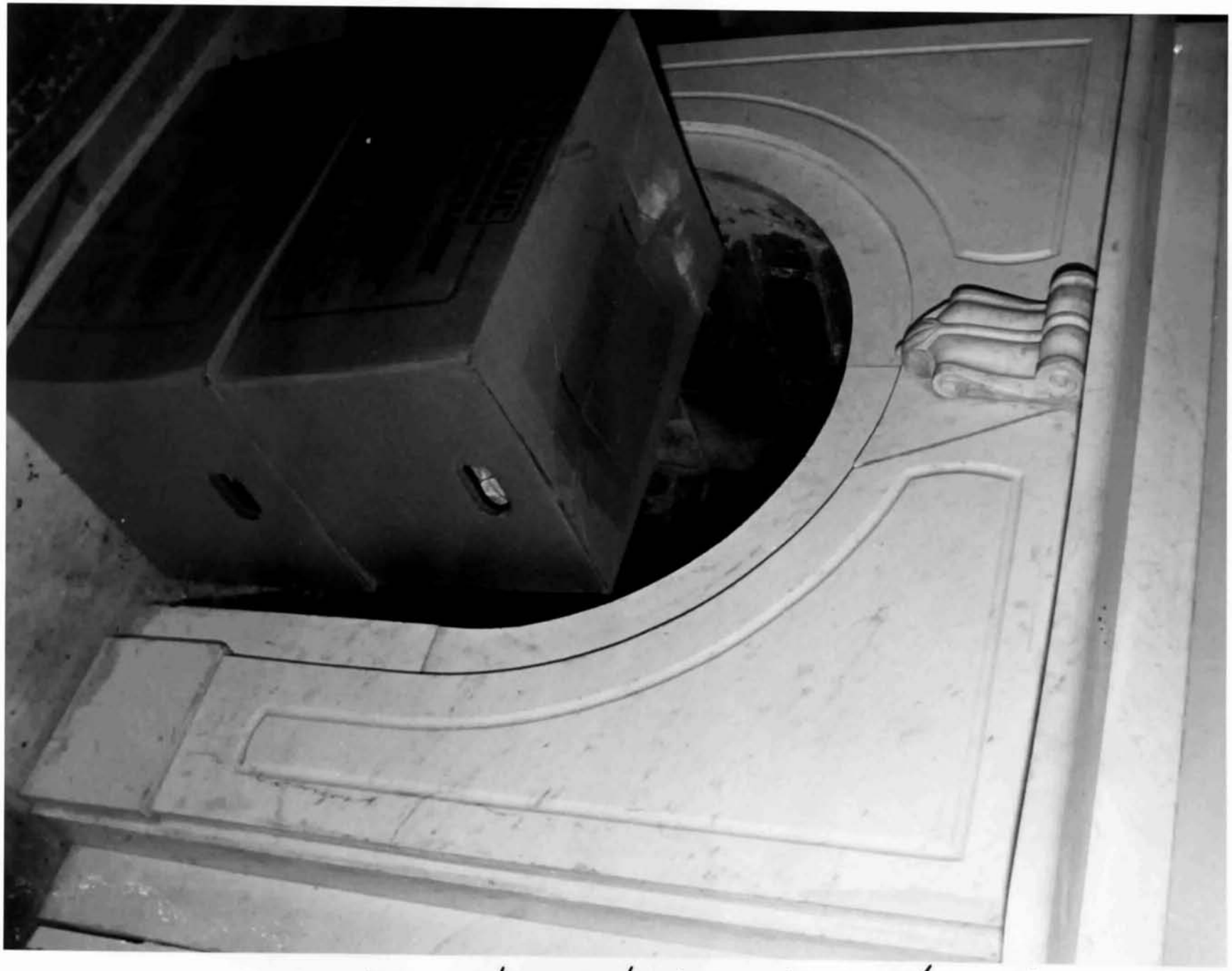
Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #19

Merry sherwood, worcester county, MD #18

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #17

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #16

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #15



Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #14

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD IR 13

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #12

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #11

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #10

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #9

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #8

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #7

Merrysherwood, Worcester County, MD #6

WO-19

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #5

Merry Sherwood, Worcester County, MD #2

WO-19 - Merry Sherwood

WO-19

WO-19