

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # ~~71A-20~~ 71B-16 Date c. 1810

Building Name Melford

Location Md. Rte.#3, at #50, vicinity of Bowie, Maryland

Open to Public  yes  no

Melford is a two-and-one-half story, three-bay brick structure with a two part, two story wing, each with a gable roof. The most unusual feature of the house is the two story semi-circular bay in the center of the south wall of the main block. Flush chimneys rise on each side of this bay. The space between the stacks has been filled in with brick to a level above the roof ridge. A three-part window is centered in the gable end above the bay. The wing extends north from the main part of the house. Its lower floor and basement are constructed of native, uncoursed stone while the upper portion is of brick. The 19th century outbuildings include a barn, a meat house, and an office.

Melford is situated in the midst of a 400 acre tract patented to John Howerton in 1670. An earlier dwelling house existed on Howerton's Range in 1798, and the present house was constructed after 1809. During most of the 19th century it was the property of the Duckett family, the most illustrious member of which was Allen Bowie Duckett, Circuit Court Judge of the District of Columbia. In the 1870's, Melford was acquired by Richard Hardisty, storekeeper and postmaster at nearby Collington. It remains in the hands of his descendants.

#71B-16

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1701355204

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Slingluff House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Melford

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Rte. 301

CITY OR TOWN: Bowie

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Prince George's

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Lerner Corporation

STREET AND NUMBER: Wheaton Plaza

CITY OR TOWN: Wheaton STATE: Maryland

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

**6. REFERENCE TO OTHER EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER: 10 First Street SE

CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC STATE:

8. SIGNIFICANCE			
<b>PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
<b>SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)</b>			
<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>			
<p style="text-align: center;">The house was originally a Duckett House. In the late 1860's, it was sold to Richard Hardesty, grandfather of the present owner.</p>			

SEE INST INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

[Empty space for Major Bibliographical References]

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

**Acreage Justification:**

[Empty space for Acreage Justification]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 27 Sept. 74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## MEMORANDUM

Date: September 16, 1986

To: Survey Files

From: Orlando Ridout V

RE: Melford; PG-71A-20  
Summary of field site visit September 9, 1986

Research File: Southern Maryland; Architecture; 1815-1870

## Cross Reference:

Plan form and function: Side-passage double parlor with  
variation  
Storage/Closet

Interior Finish: Stair Details, 1840-60  
Greek Revival Woodwork, 1840-60  
Hardware, 1800-1860  
Graining and Stenciling, Federal period

Historic Landscape Features, 19th century  
Agricultural Buildings, 1840-1920  
Domestic Outbuildings, 1800-1920  
Slave Quarters, circa 1850 (unconfirmed)

On September 9, 1986 Orlando Ridout V and Peter Kurtze spent two hours at Melford with Susan Pearl and Marina King to review the following issues raised while preparing a National Register nomination for Melford:

- a) The date of construction of the main house, proposed in present form as circa 1830s;
- b) A review of the semi-circular two-story projecting bay on the south gable, variously interpreted as original to early 20th century;
- c) A review of the date, function and significance of outbuildings and associated agricultural buildings; and
- d) A review of the overall significance of the house, associated buildings and grounds.

Summary of Setting: Melford is located on the west side of the Patuxent River in Prince George's County, north of Governor's

Bridge and south of the historic road now known as Defense Highway. The house is sited on high ground about 1/4 mile west of the river, surrounded by a well-tended yard and gardens.

The house is oriented on a north-south axis; a single terrace forms the circular drive on the west side. The lawn to the east drops in a series of terraced falls to a boundary fence largely concealed among nature plantings that border an abandoned farm road and a gravel farm lane still in use.

An early pyramidal roof meat house is sited on axis with the first terrace to the east; a small frame building known as "the quarter" and a pyramidal roof pump house of circa 1912 lie along the north boundary of the east garden.

A large horse barn is the focus of a complex of farm buildings to the northeast of the house; tenant houses may be found to the southwest, east, and northeast; a tobacco barn in ruinous condition is sited on high ground to the east near the sharp embankment that drops down to the river bottom.

Dwelling House: In its present form the main house and wing are an excellent example of a Greek Revival house with service wing with virtually pristine interior woodwork, mantels, stair and hardware. The main house is a 2 1/2 story brick structure on a cellar foundation of local "iron" stone. The house is three bays wide and two rooms deep with a side passage, double-parlor plan. A two-story brick and stone wing projects from the north gable. This wing is one room deep and four bays long, with a dining room adjoining the main house and a kitchen several steps lower to the north on the first story and two chambers and a passage on the second story.

Several features are notably unusual about this structure.

- 1) A semi-circular two-story brick bay projects from the center of the south gable of the main house.
- 2) The brickwork of the upper gables of the main house is different in color and general character from the first two stories. This difference is particularly apparent on the north gable, but is not readily explained by other evidence.
- 3) The north gable of the wing is primarily constructed of local "iron" stone, with nicely worked corner "quoins"

extending around the corners on the front and rear facades. The upper gable is brick and appears to date to circa 1840s-1860.

- 4) The brickwork on the front (west) facade of the wing is noticeably different in character on the first and second story. The second story is capped with a corbeled brick cornice, doubtless dating to the Greek Revival finish found throughout the house.
- 5) The fenestration of the wing is not uniform on each floor. The two south bays are approximately level with the comparable floors of the main house, while the two north bays are significantly lower. All openings appear to be original and share similar sill and lintel details.

A review of these features, however brief, provides clarification in some cases and little clear resolution in others:

- 1) While it has been proposed that the semi-circular bay may have been added as late as the early 20th century, there is extensive evidence to conclude that this feature is original. The brickwork of the projecting bay perfectly matches the adjacent gable in color, size, texture and horizontal course alignment. The brick bonding pattern does vary from the adjacent gable walls, but the brickwork remains keyed together on the west side and the seam between the two sections seems clearly to be the result of repairs necessitated by settling of the bay rather than by a later construction. Note in particular the undisturbed area of the west seam and the visible broken key bricks in the upper wall where the patched seam has opened once again. Furthermore, the stone foundation of the bay matches the adjacent house foundation and the interior woodwork matches in every respect, including the Greek Revival architrave form, paneled doors and even the signed hinges and silver plated hardware. The first floor framing of the bay has been rebuilt and there is evidence of an altered opening in the foundation wall, both visible from a crawl space accessible through the floor of the first story closet.
- 2) There is no ready explanation for the contrasting brickwork in the upper gables of the main house. The overall character of the brickwork above and below the second story eaves lines is representative of the second quarter of the 19th century, and no obvious evidence

could be found to suggest any rebuilding of the roof and/or upper gable. This contrast might be a remnant of a whitewash finish on the two main stories, or perhaps a change in materials during construction. Perhaps a more careful analysis will suggest a more complex explanation.

- 3) The stonework in the north gable of the wing has been interpreted elsewhere as evidence that the wing is an earlier structure that was incorporated into the existing house. While there is no question that this wing is a puzzling and anomalous patchwork of contrasting masonry, no direct evidence could be found to support this hypothesis. The ironstone used in the wing is readily available locally and has a long history of use in this region. In nearby Annapolis, in particular, this stone is most commonly associated with buildings dating to the colonial period, but elsewhere in the region numerous examples may be found dating to the first half of the 19th century, and on the Melford Farm ironstone is uniformly found in virtually all antebellum buildings, including the circa 1840-60 tobacco barn located to the east of the house.

The quoining on the corners of the north gable leave little doubt that the stonework was always keyed into masonry rather than frame facades, but the height of the stonework suggests the possibility of an earlier, lower two-story wing that was raised circa 1840-60. The contrast between the first and second story brickwork on the facades could be interpreted as supporting evidence for this hypothesis, but the dual floor levels expressed by the first story windows proves problematical (see below). Once again, a clear explanation is not immediately evident, and the most likely choices appear to be:

- a) The wing has always been somewhat casual in execution, perhaps indicating a mixture of materials intended to be concealed by white wash; or
  - b) A lower two-story stone and brick wing was raised to the present form circa 1840-60.
- 4) The contrasting brickwork on the facades is a contributing factor to the confusion caused by the stone gable of the wing. Perhaps most puzzling is that both the first and second story of the wing appear to be keyed into the main house, even though only the first story

matches the main house in color and texture.

- 5) The most significant feature to consider in this puzzle in my opinion is the fenestration, which reflects the two interior floor levels on each story. These windows do not show any evidence of alternation, and therefore leave little doubt that the present wing was never an independent structure but has always performed a function comparable to the present relationship. It is worth noting that the cellar plan suggests a single build and that the present house and wing bear no relationship to the dwelling described on this tract in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax.

Other features worthy of note in the main house and wing include:

- a) The interior dates almost entirely to the Greek Revival period, most likely circa 1840-60. Architrave trim includes a standard profile most recognizable by the "peaked" center field flanked by standard routed and beaded components. Mantels on the first story have columns flanking the opening below side blocks flanking a plain frieze and surmounted by complex molded shelves with standard Greek molding components. Oral tradition regarding changes to the mantels in the main house seems to suggest that the two first floor parlor mantels were moved to the second story in the 19th century and replaced with Victorian marble mantels. About 1910, the marble mantels were removed, the Greek mantels were returned to the first floor, and the present Greek mantels were installed on the second story. This theory is highly conjectural, but is compatible with all evidence.
- b) The principal stair (in the main house) is an excellent example of a popular Greek Revival design in rural Maryland, consisting of an open-string dog-leg design with heavy turned walnut newel, simple walnut rail and tapered round tiger maple balusters; the design is consistent all the way to the third story.
- c) A particularly fine collection of hardware dating to 1840-60 survives throughout the house, including box locks bearing the mark of J.A. Stewart Co. of Baltimore and others bearing the more widely recognized Carpenter patent mark, as well as unsigned mortise locks and butt hinges marked "Thos. Clark."

- d) A very fine six-panel Federal door survives in the front room of the cellar, retaining the original mahogany graining with stenciled panel borders, a remarkable brass latch and wrought H-L hinges with leather washers. A smaller four-panel Federal door survives in the attic of the wing, cut down for a small opening but retaining clear evidence of mahogany graining with stenciled borders on the flat, recessed inner face of the door, but not on the raised panels of the outer face.

Summary of dating evidence for the main house: The dwelling house listed for this tract on the 1798 Federal Direct Tax bears no apparent relation to this house. No wrought or early machine nails could be located in this survey of the house. The exterior appearance of the house could be interpreted as Federal or Greek Revival in overall form, but the brickwork is more representative of a post-Federal house and the wood cornice of the main house is Greek Revival in character. The corbeled brick cornice of the wing is typical of the period 1820s-50s. The interior woodwork and detailing is consistently representative of the Greek Revival period with the exception of the two reused Federal doors. All visible plaster lathing is machine sawn, usually indicating a post-1840 date. No evidence was readily apparent that the plaster dated to a later alteration or repair. The hardware appears consistent with a date of circa 1840s-50s. More research should provide specific dating information regarding this particular selection of hardware.

Conclusion: The house was almost certainly built by Dr. Richard Duckett (died 1854) circa 1840-54 or by his grand-nephew, Richard Duckett (died 1864), circa 1854-64. It is possible this principal period of construction incorporated an earlier building, but no substantive evidence could be found to support this hypothesis.

Meat House: A frame meat house with pyramidal roof is located at the north side of the terraced east yard. Constructed with close-studding and a complex roof frame, the building is an excellent example of this building form and appears to be constructed with wrought nails, suggesting it may be earlier than the main house.

Quarter: A one-story frame building to the northeast of the house is said to be a slave quarter. The size and materials of the building match an entry for a slave quarter in the

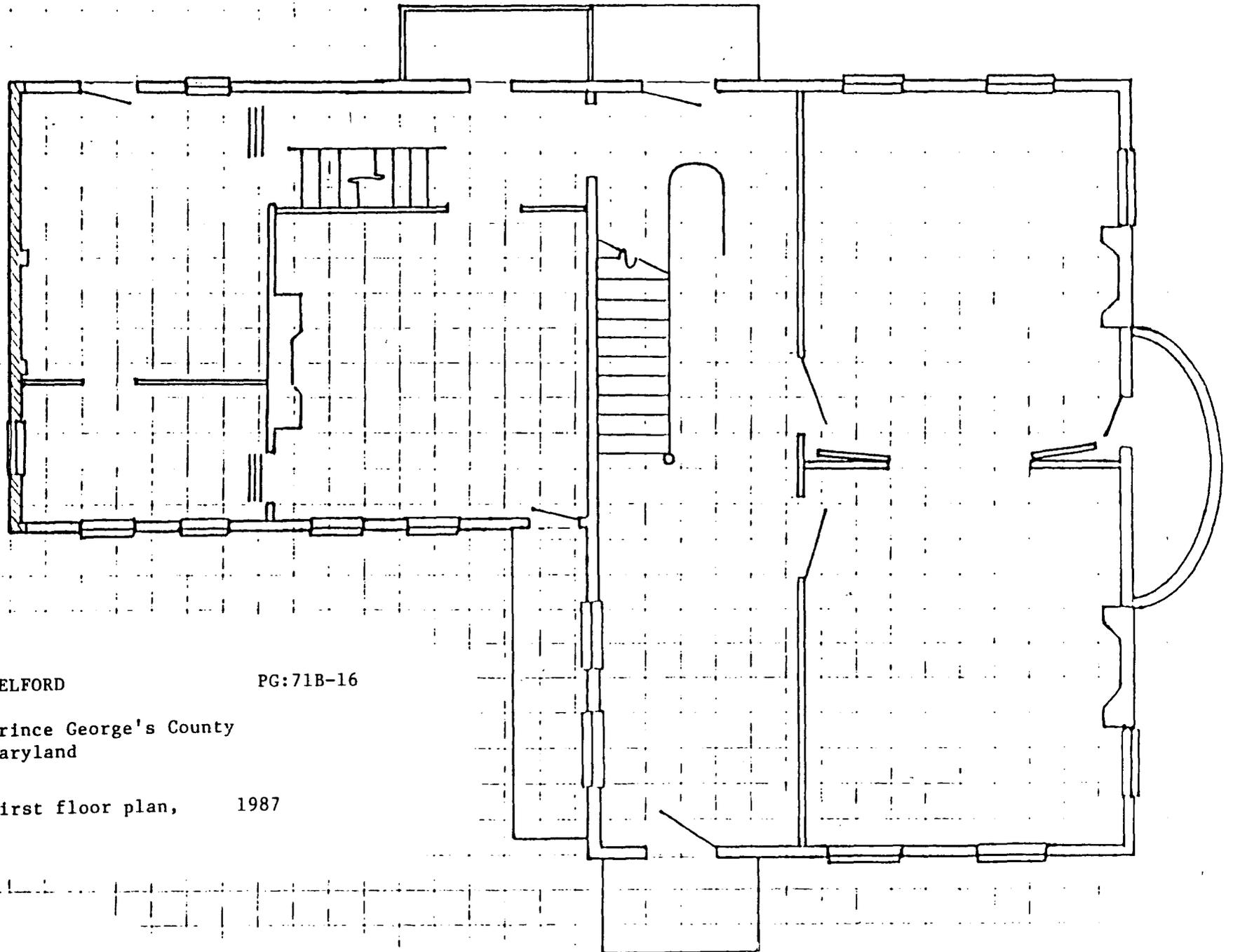
1798 Federal Direct Tax, but 20th century materials conceal virtually all potentially diagnostic features. A more detailed investigation should be able to establish a general date of construction and may provide further clues of the original function. It seems highly likely that the building dates to the same general period as the main house.

Pump House: A frame pump house to the north of the quarter incorporates a hand pump dated 1912, and it seems likely the pump house is of similar date.

Barns: There are at least two tobacco houses and a large horse barn on the property. The earliest of these is a frame tobacco house sited on high ground to the east of the house, near the bank of the Patuxent River. The original building appears to date to the mid-19th century and was later enlarged. It is now in ruinous condition. A second tobacco house that probably dates to the early 20th century is located to the southeast of the house, just beyond the terraced garden and the farm lane. The house barn is located to the northeast of the house and appears to date to the late 19th or early 20th centuries. This is a particularly large and well-built barn.

Miscellaneous: The farm complex at Melford also includes at least three tenant houses, a corn crib, garage, and several other outbuildings, none of which were examined in detail.

CC: Susan Pearl

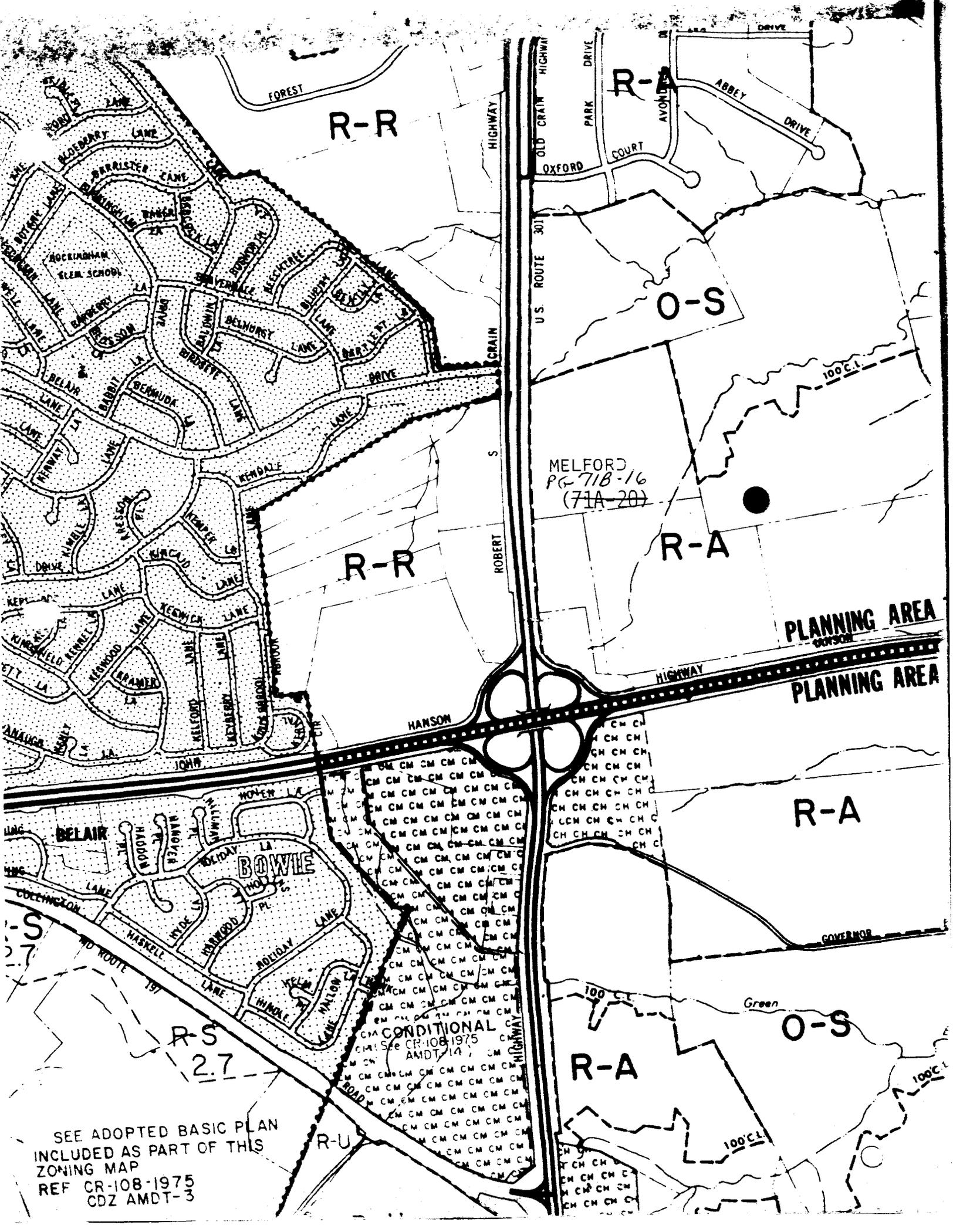


MELFORD

PG:71B-16

Prince George's County  
Maryland

first floor plan, 1987



R-R

R-A

O-S

R-R

R-A

PLANNING AREA

PLANNING AREA

R-A

O-S

R-A

R-U

MELFORD  
PG-71B-16  
(71A-20)

SEE ADOPTED BASIC PLAN  
INCLUDED AS PART OF THIS  
ZONING MAP  
REF CR-108-1975  
CDZ AMDT-3

CONDITIONAL  
See CR-108-1975  
AMDT 14

0

EL F  
SA  
77  
PARCEL G  
0.84A

R-R

US. 301

Robert Crain Highway

E-1-A

CARLEY CAPITAL GROUP  
5823/876  
466.44A.  
P.32

PG: 71B-16

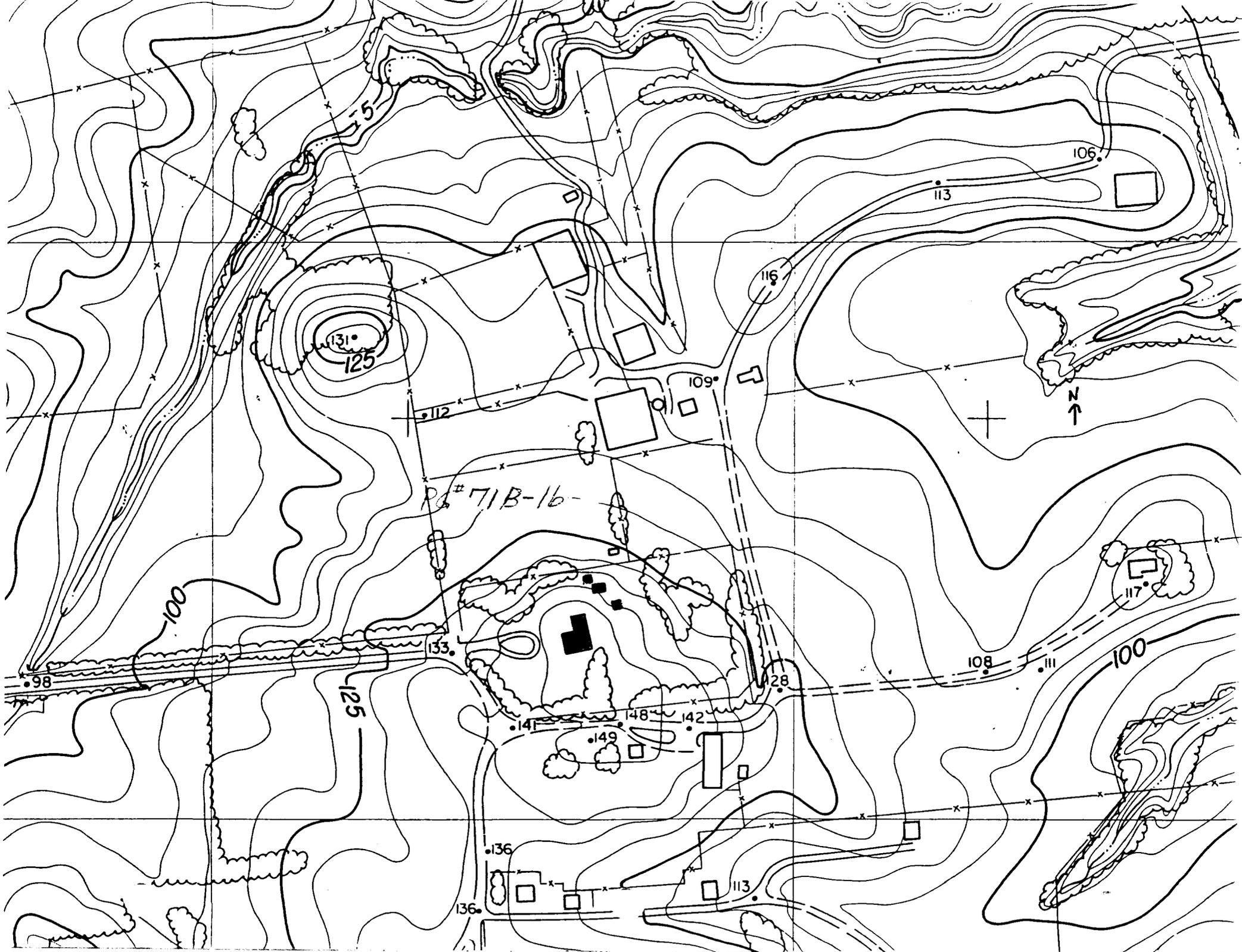
JEFFREY H. KAMINS  
5659/378  
6.03A.

71  
R-A

P/O P 26

John H son Highway U.S. 50

R-A



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5662 III SE  
(LAUREL)

76°45'  
39°00'

349000m E

350

351

42

4317000m N

WASHINGTON, D. C. (CAPITOL) 17 MI.  
BUENA VISTA 4.7 MI.

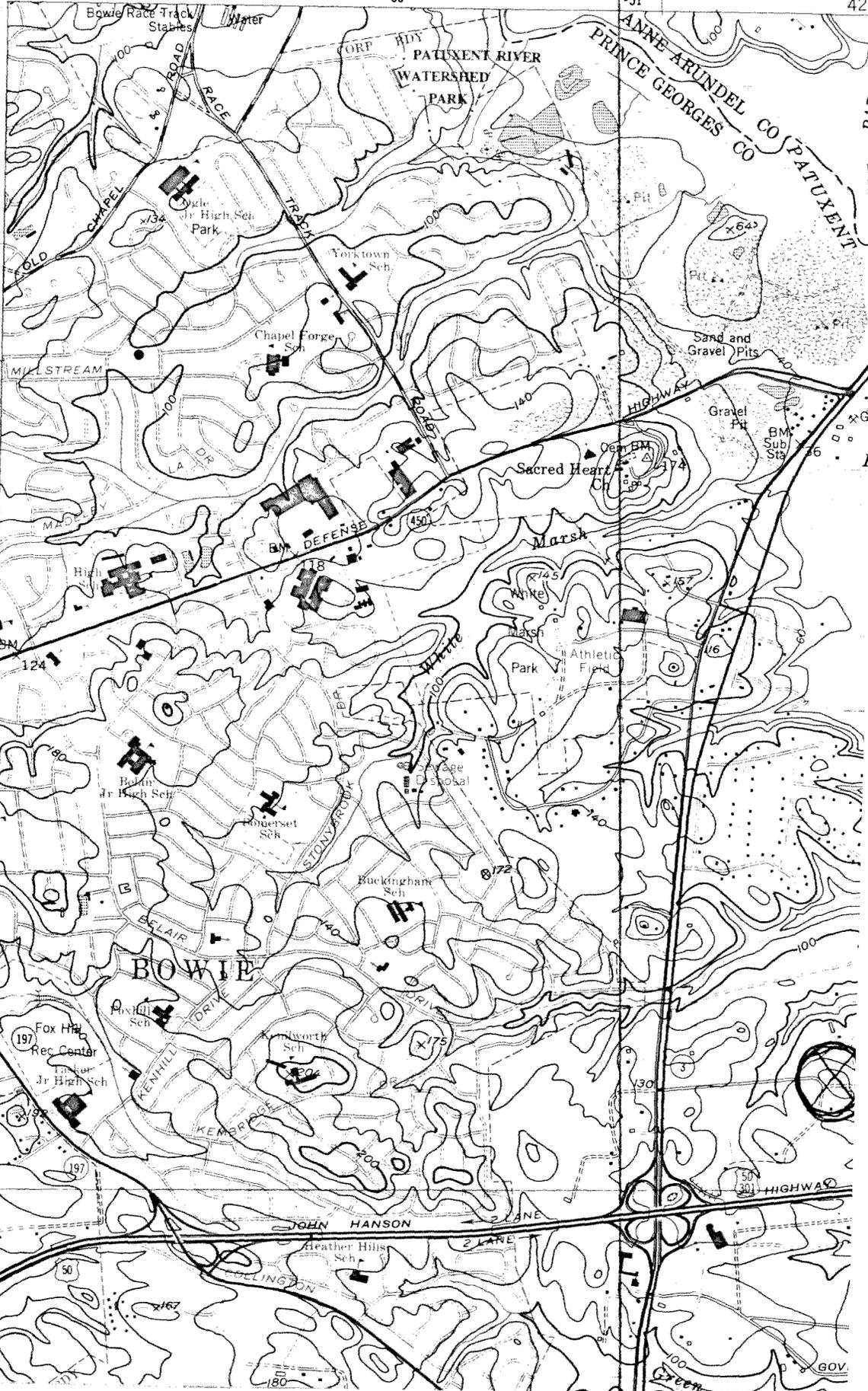
4315

4314

57'30"

4313

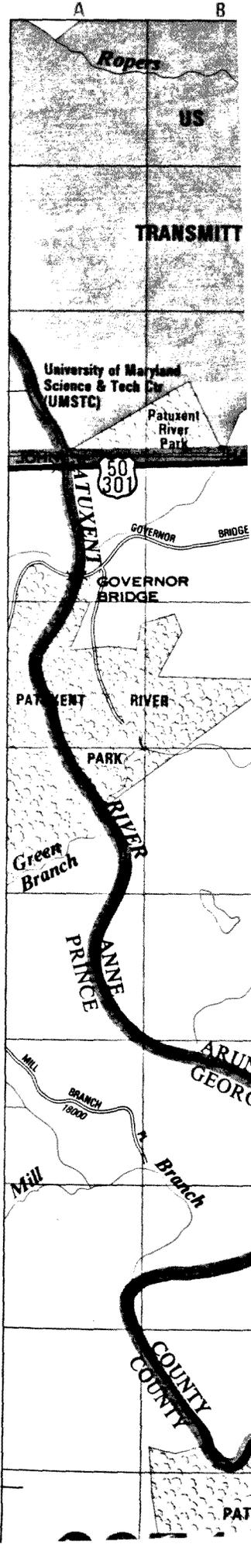
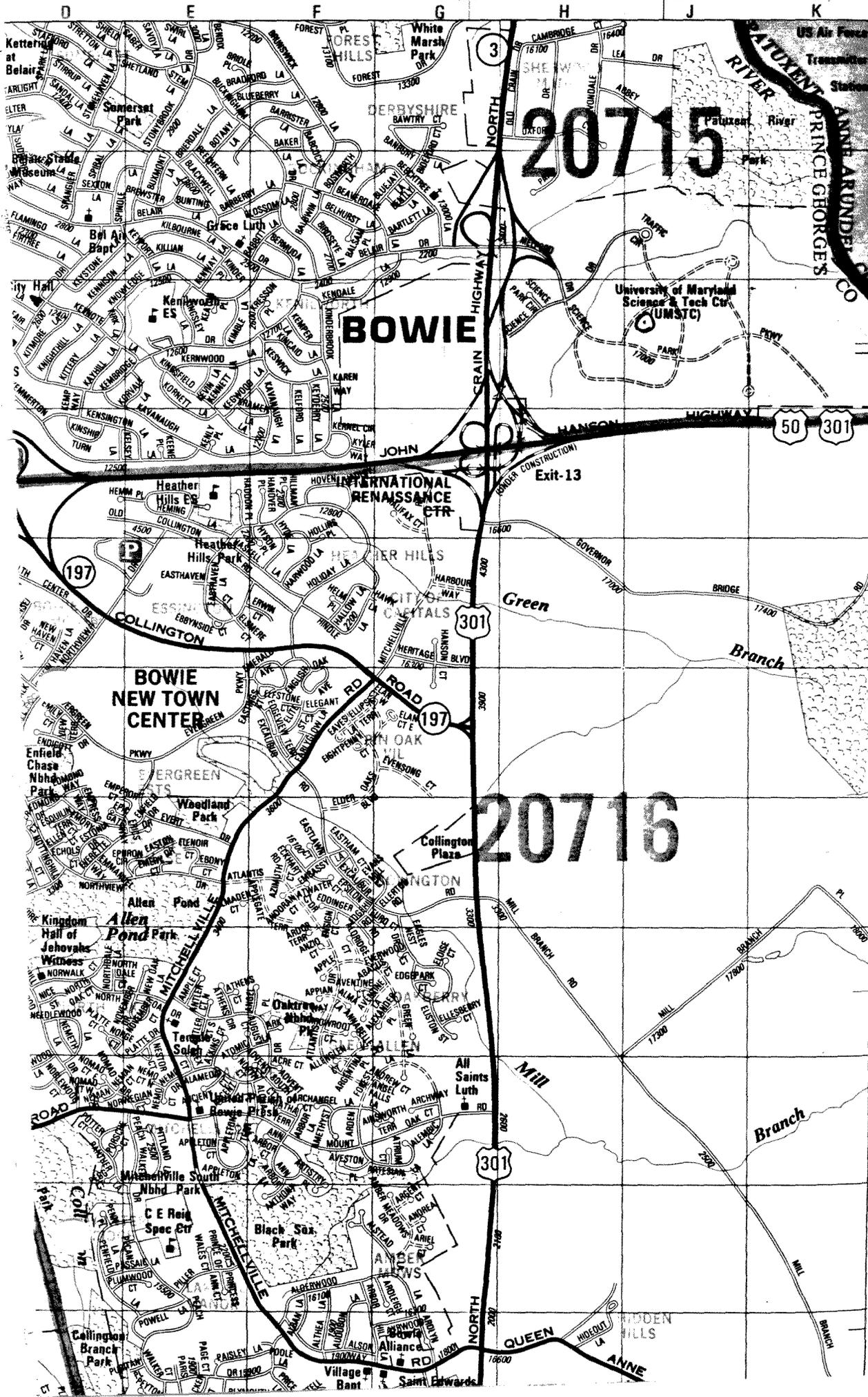
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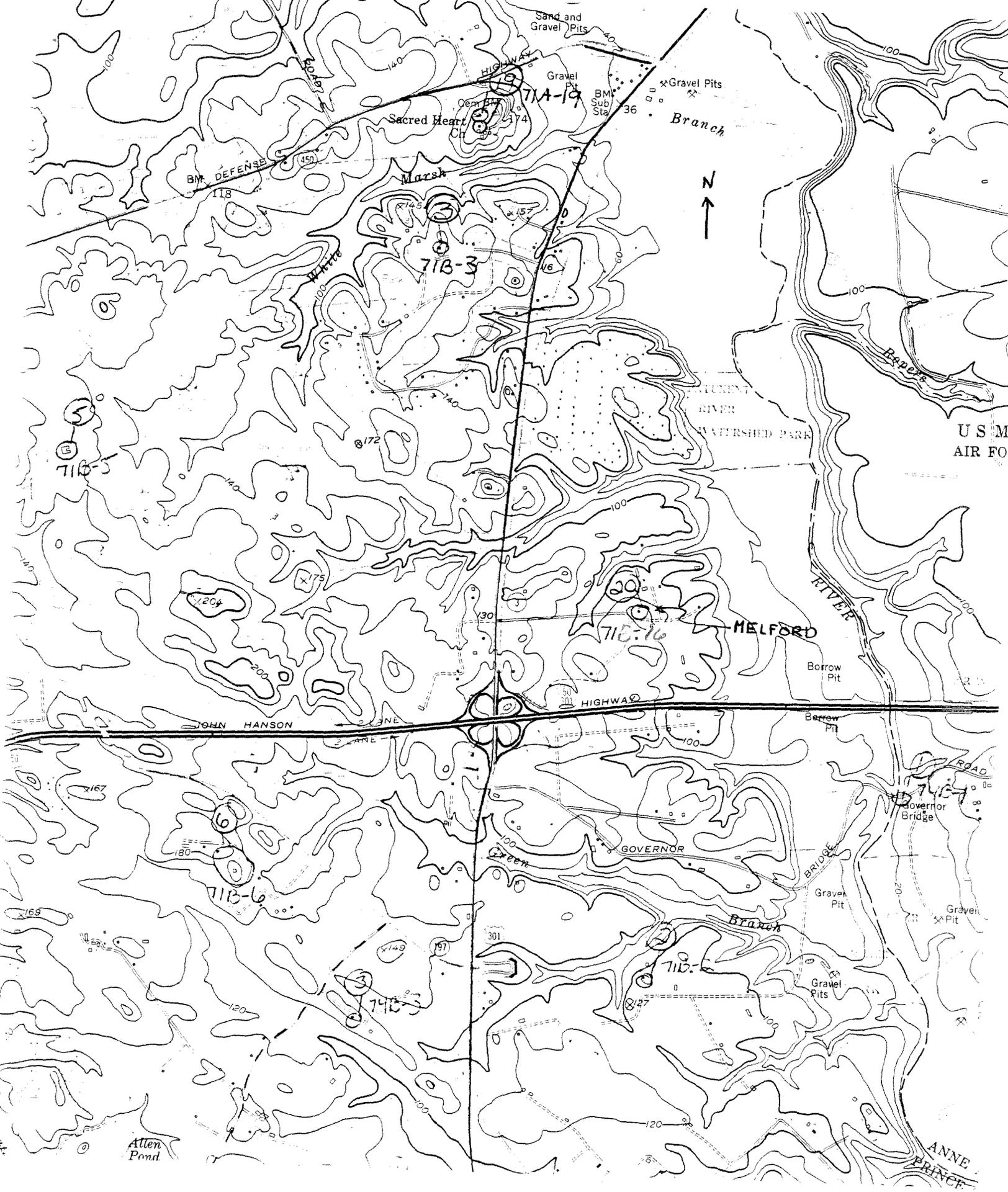


Melford  
PG: 71B-16

Prince George's  
Co.  
Maryland

18/351880/4313480







NAME MELFORD

LOCATION Rt 301 + Rt 50 Bowie, Md

FACADE W

PHOTO TAKEN 9/27/74 MOWYER



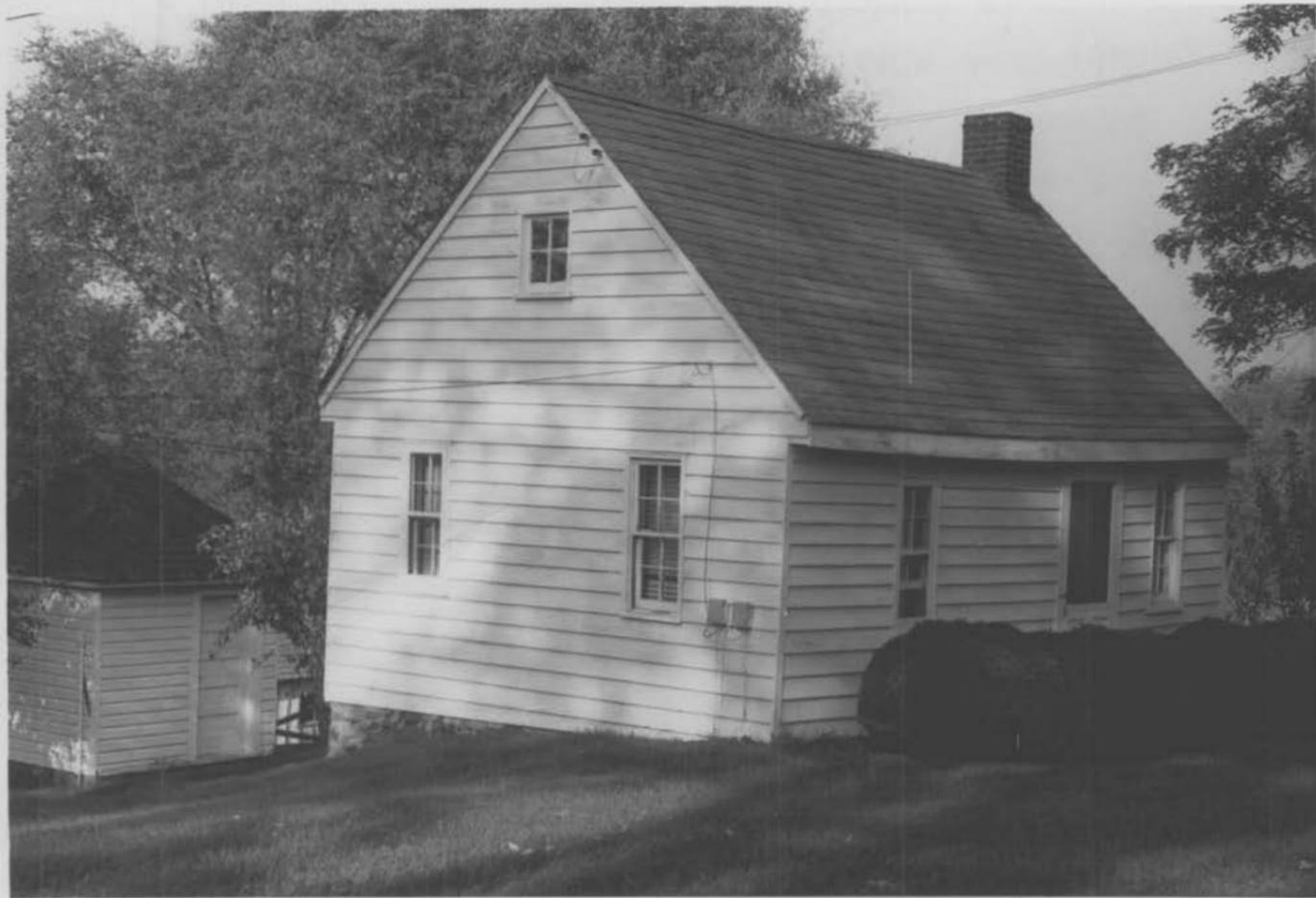
NAME MELFORD

PG# 71B-16

LOCATION Rt 301 + Rt 50 BOWIE, Md

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 9/27/74 MOWYER



NAME MELFORD - SLAVE QUARTERS

PG # 716-16

LOCATION Rt 301 & Rt 50 BOWIE, Md.

EACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 9/27/74 M DWYER



P.G.#71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
December 1985  
Northwest 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME MELFORD

PG #71B-16

LOCATION Rt 301 & Rt 50 BOWIE, Md.

FACADE NW

PHOTO TAKEN 9/27/74 M DWYER



NAME MELFORD

PG # 718-16

LOCATION Rt. 301 & Rt 50 BOWIE, Md.

FACADE LOOKING NORTH

PHOTO TAKEN... 9/27/74 M DWYER



PG#71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
December 1985  
North elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. 71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
December 1985  
West door  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. 71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
December 1985  
West door, interior  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



PG

71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
December 1985  
Stairhall, View to west  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG

71B-16

Melford

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

December 1985

Staircase

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.

71B-16

Melford

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

December 1985

Stairhall, View to east

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G.

71B-16

Melford

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

December 1985

Parlors, View to west

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G.

71B-16

Melford

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

December 1985

Parlors, View to east

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



PG

71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
December 1985  
Inside semicircular bay, first story  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.

71B-16

Melford

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

December 1985

Kitchen fireplace

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



PG

71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
January 1986  
West elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG 71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
January 1986  
East elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG 71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
January 1986  
Southeast 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG 71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
January 1986  
Mantel, west parlor  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG 71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
January 1986  
Pumphouse & slave quarter from west  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG 71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
January 1986  
Slave quarter, southwest  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG 71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
January 1986  
Meat house, southwest  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG 71B-16

Melford  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
January 1986  
Pumphouse, east elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-16

Melford

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1987

Mantel, Bedroom over Dining Room

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG71B-16

Melford

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1987

Mantel, Bedroom over Kitchen

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.