

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # 71B-5 Date c.1900  
Building Name Belair Stables  
Location Belair Drive, Bowie, Md.  
Open to Public  yes  no

BELAIR is recognized as the only great estate where breeding for the turf was carried on for three centuries, laying the foundation of American thoroughbred racing. Samuel Ogle, original owner, imported the stallion "Spark", the filly "Queen Mab" and other prize horses. His brother-in-law, Benjamin Tasker, Jr., continuing family tradition, bred "Othello" and "Selima", prides of the colonies. Belair Stud Farm blood flows in the veins of almost every American racehorse of distinction, William Woodward, Sr., last private owner, fielded Triple Crown winners "Gallant Fox", 1930, and "Omaha", 1935. Operation of the farm continued until 1955.

STATE:	Maryland	1701402603
COUNTY:	Prince George's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY DATE:		

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
City of Bowie Stable Museum

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Belair Stables

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2235 Belair Drive

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bowie

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Fifth

STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24      COUNTY: Prince George's      COOP: 033

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Bowie

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Tulip Grove Drive

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bowie

STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Upper Marlboro

STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Annapolis

STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Prince George's

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: 1701402603

7 DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Belair Stables are located on the eastern side of Belair Drive, approximately 1000 feet northeast of Belair Mansion circa 1742, the home of Maryland Colonial governors.

The approximate ground coverage of the stables is 8810 square feet. The property is 2 acres, or 71,294 square feet.

The present stables were constructed by Mr. Woodward, sometime around the turn of this century, to house his racing horses and coach team. Horses such as Gallant Fox, Nashua, and Omaha were stabled within the structure.

The original and present appearance of the structure is a "U" shaped plan, with the open end, which leads into pastures. The structure was constructed in two stages, the first section being the bottom of the "U". This section is wall bearing, constructed of local dark-brown sandstone 24 inches thick, laid in ashlar courses of random pattern on a foundation of the same material. Each side of the bottom of the "U" flanks a center arch, the focal point of the structure, and leads into the exercise yard. The entire structure has a hip roof, of green slate, with dormers on both sides of the arch. The wooden windows and sills possess diamond patterned muntin bars and a sandstone jack arch at the window heads.

The sides that flank the arch, which comprise the bottom of the "U", housed the stable master's quarters and tack room on the right, and at the left the carriage house and feed rooms.

The second stage of construction was the right and left legs of the "U", which contained the stables and box stalls. These wings are constructed of brick bearing walls, with matching slate roofs. Earth floors are within the stables and paving brick is outside the stalls, in the corridor between the exterior wall and the stalls. The ceilings are constructed of a beaded ceiling board 4" wide nailed to the bottom side of the roof joist.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input 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	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<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/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Sport - Horse</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>Racing</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The importance of Belair Stables is in its association with thoroughbred horse racing and breeding at Belair Estate. Belair Estate is recognized as being the only one of the great colonial estates where breeding for the Course was carried on through three centuries.

Mr. William Woodward, noted in racing circles, and chairman of the Jockey Club (1916) built the present stables, around the turn of this century. The Stable housed foals which later became famous race horses, including two winners of the Triple Crown: Gallant Fox and Omaha.

The present stable was actively used until 1955. It was acquired by the City of Bowie in 1969 for the purpose of establishing a racing museum and library. The city is restoring the stables and placing trophies and memorabilia of the horses in the stalls.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

[Harrison, Fairfax]. The Belair Stud 1747-1761. Richmond, Virginia: Old Dominion Press, 1929.

**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	38° 57' 58"	76° 44' 40"				
NE	38° 57' 59"	76° 44' 35"				
SE	38° 57' 56"	76° 44' 36"				
SW	38° 57' 55"	76° 44' 38"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Leonard E. Fiehler, Public Facilities Director

ORGANIZATION: City of Bowie DATE: November 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Tulip Grove Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Bowie STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV  
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer  
for Maryland

Date November 20, 1972

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

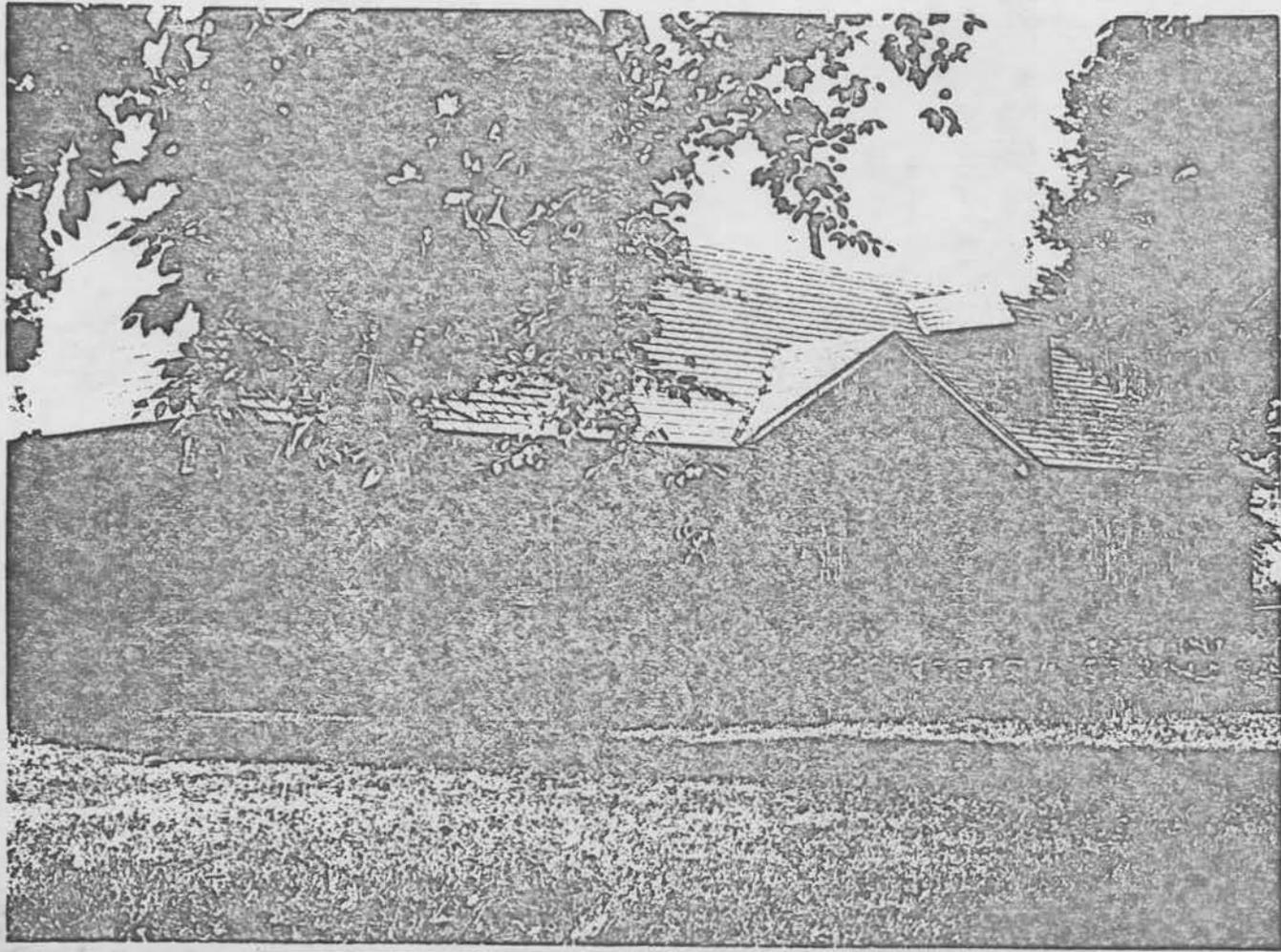
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Maryland PG:718P-5	
COUNTY Prince George's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:		City of Bowie Stable Museum	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Belair Stables	
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Belair Drive			
CITY OR TOWN: Bowie			
STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Prince George's	CODE 055
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Wally Gibbs	
DATE OF PHOTO:		July 1972	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Belair Stable Museum	
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
West facade			

PG:71B-5



STATE	Maryland	PG: 718-5
COUNTY	Prince George's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:		City of Bowie Stable Museum	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Belair Stables	
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Belair Drive			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Bowie			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:
Maryland		24	Prince George's
			CODE
			035
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map Bowie Quadrangle			
SCALE:			
1:24,000			
DATE:			
1957 Photorevised 1970			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

562 III SE  
(LAUREL)

76°45'  
39°00'



4317000m N

PG. 71B-5  
BLAIR STATION MUSEUM<sup>4315</sup>

- NW Lat. 38° 57' 58"
- Long. 76° 44' 40"
- NE Lat. 38° 57' 59"
- Long. 76° 44' 35"
- SE Lat. 38° 57' 56"<sup>4314</sup>
- Long. 76° 44' 36"
- SW Lat. 38° 57' 55"
- Long. 76° 44' 38"<sup>57/30"</sup>



17000m N

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

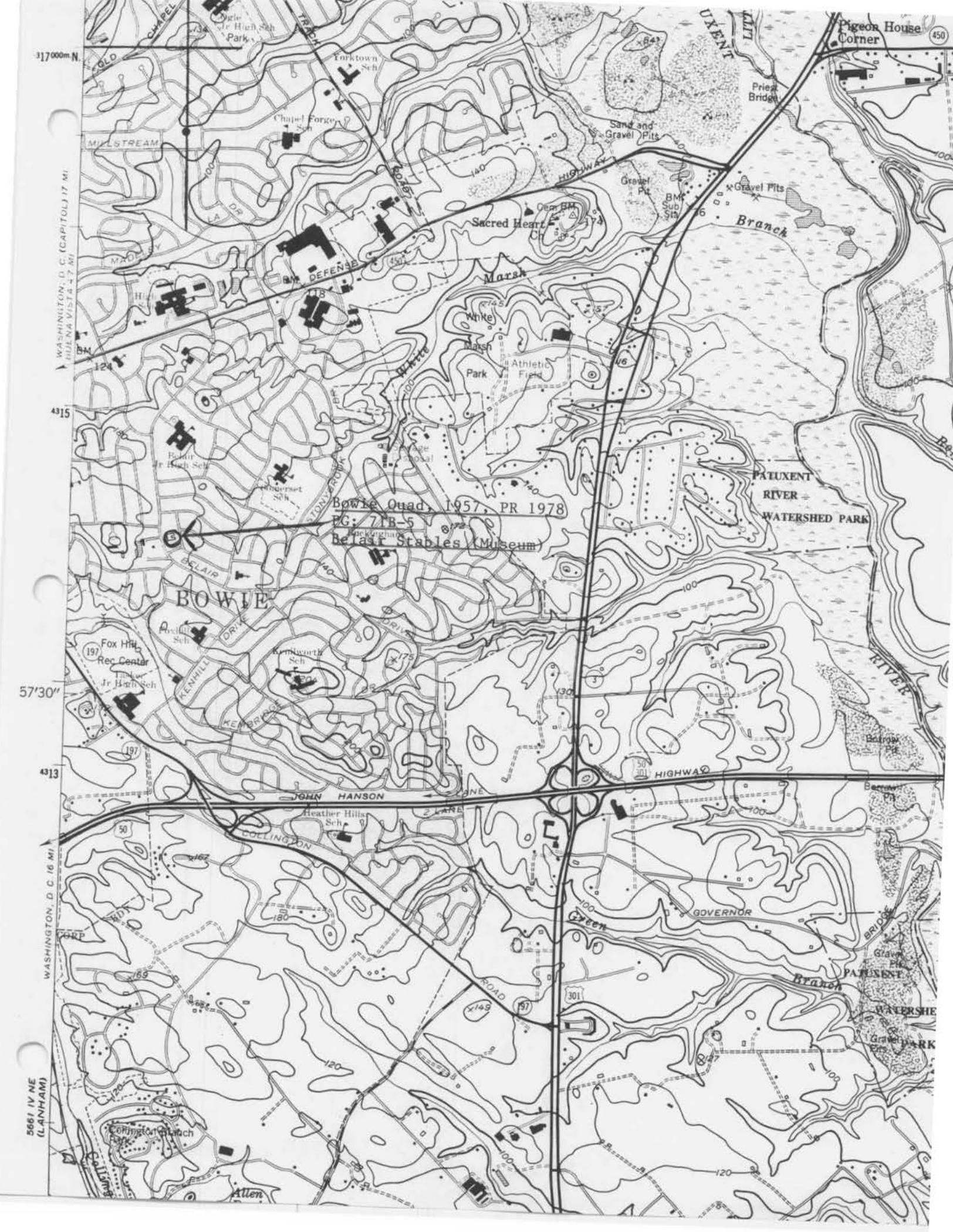
4915

57'30"

4913

WASHINGTON, D. C. 16 MI

5661 IV NE  
(LANHAM)



Bowie Quad, 1957, PR 1978  
 PG: 71B-5  
 Belair Stables (Museum)

BOWIE

Pigeon House Corner 450

PATUXENT RIVER  
 WATERSHED PARK

HIGHWAY 301

JOHN HANSON AVE

GOVERNOR

WATERSHED PARK  
 Grave Pits

Collington Branch

Allen



P.G. 71 B-5

P.G.  
Bellevue Stables



Belair Stables

P.O. 71 B-5



Belair Stables P.G. 71 B-5







Belair Stables

P.G. 71 B-9



Belair Stables P. G. 71 B-5



PG: 71B-5

Belair stables



Belair Stables  
Project No. 24-75-00161-00

West facade of interior courtyard

FE: 71B-5



Belair Stables  
Project No. 24-75-00161-00

North facade of interior courtyard

PG: 71B-5



NAME BELAIR STABLES

PG: 71B-5

LOCATION BELAIR DRIVE, BOWIE, Md.

EACADE W

PHOTO TAKEN 9/27/74 M DWYER



NAME BELAIR STABLES

PG: 71B-5

LOCATION BELAIR DRIVE, BOWIE, Md.

FACADE E

PHOTO TAKEN 9/27/74 M DWYER



## THE BELAIR STUD FARM CRADLE OF AMERICAN RACING

COLONIAL MANOR WHERE BREEDING FOR THE TURF WAS CARRIED ON FOR THREE CENTURIES, LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN THOROUGHBRED RACING. SAMUEL OGLE, ORIGINAL OWNER, IMPORTED THE STALLION "SPARK", THE FILLY "QUEEN MAB" AND OTHER PRIZE HORSES. HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, BENJAMIN TASKER, JR., CONTINUING FAMILY TRADITION, BRED "OTHELLO" AND "SELIMA", PRIDES OF THE COLONIES. BELAIR STUD FARM BLOOD FLOWS IN THE VEINS OF ALMOST EVERY AMERICAN RACE-HORSE OF DISTINCTION. WILLIAM WOODWARD, SR., LAST PRIVATE OWNER, FIELDED TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS "GALLANT FOX", 1930, AND "OMAHA", 1935. OPERATION OF THE FARM CONTINUED UNTIL 1955.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME BELAIR STUD FARM MARKER

LOCATION Rt. 450, BOWIE, Md. PG:718-5

FACADE

PHOTO TAKEN 9/27/74 M DWYER



BELAIR STABLE

P.G. ~~13~~ 71 B-5

135

MOB - 6/68