

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: Tobacco Barns at W.W.W. Bowie House (site) Inventory Number: PG: 74B-2  
 Address: 17501 Governor's Bridge Road (new) City: Bowie Zip Code: 20716  
 County: Prince George's USGS Topographic Map: Bowie  
 Owner: Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission Is the property being evaluated a district? \_\_\_yes  
 56 A#&  
 Tax Parcel Number: 06&21 Tax Map Number: 55E3 Tax Account ID Number: 0796979 & 0801191  
 Project: Green Branch Athletic Complex Bond Bill Agency: Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission  
 Site visit by MHT Staff: X no \_\_\_yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is the property located within a historic district? \_\_\_yes X no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NR-listed district \_\_\_yes Eligible district \_\_\_yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no Non-contributing but eligible in another context \_\_\_

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*  
 Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible \_\_\_yes X no

Criteria: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D Considerations: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D \_\_\_E \_\_\_F \_\_\_G \_\_\_None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Historical Trust NR-Eligibility Review Form, Green Branch Community Park (POS #3809-16-549, MD 200010221-0137), PG:74B-2, 2001.

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

**Background**

A DOE was first carried out for the buildings examined in this study in 2001, in preparation for the then-planned Green Branch Community Park Expansion. That original investigation recorded seven abandoned farm buildings. The dwelling historically associated with the property, the c. 1840 W.W.W. Bowie House, burned in 1987. The 2001 DOE concluded that the surviving agricultural structures were not eligible for National Register listing. Among the resources evaluated were four mid-20<sup>th</sup> century tobacco barns.

In the years following that review, Southern Maryland tobacco barns have become a resource type of special interest to preservationists. This is because of the 2001 tobacco buyout program that paid tobacco farmers to cease production and, as a result, the majority of Southern Maryland's barns quickly became obsolete. In recognition of the threat posed to these iconic Southern Maryland structures, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland as one of the nation's 11 most endangered historic properties in 2004. That high-profile designation inspired scholarly interest in 20<sup>th</sup>

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended ___	Eligibility not recommended <u>X</u>
Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D	Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None
Comments: _____	
_____ Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	_____ Date
_____ Reviewer, NR Program	_____ Date

2014 04363

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

PG 74B-2

century tobacco barns; a rural building type previously considered as an ordinary and common place. As part of the proposed Green Branch Athletic Complex project, MHT asked that the four barns documented in 2001 be examined in the context of evaluation criteria set out in the 2010 National Register of Historic Places multiple property nomination (Thursby and Schomig 2010: F5).

This DOE examines the four tobacco barns identified in the 2001 study, as well as one previously undocumented tobacco barn. The earlier DOE left out the one structure, identified in this study as Barn 5, because it was located on a different parcel. As it will be impacted by the proposed development it is included in this evaluation.

**Description:**

The 254-acre study area is located on the east side of Crain Highway (Rt. 301), south of Governor's Bridge Road. Much of this land is historically associated with the c. 1840 W.W.W. Bowie House (destroyed 1987). Four of the five barns are located in open fields, in a manner consistent with their historical setting. Barn 4 (identified in the 2001 DOE as Structure 7) serves as the exception. This barn is surrounded on three sides by a copse of new-growth woods, although the area was likely open at the time of the barn's construction.

Historically unpaved paths connected the barns. Some of these old routes are still visible, especially from aerial photographs. Some are even remain traversable, but others are now partially or completely overgrown from lack of use.

**Barn #1 (Structure 1 in 2001 DOE form):**

Built between 1944 and 1957, this drive-through, center-aisle-plan barn measures 100' x 40'. The ridge line of the badly damaged, standing-seam- metal-clad roof runs north to south. The balloon-framed walls rest on a pier foundation infilled with concrete blocks. Wall sheathing is random-width vertical board siding measuring between 6" and 1'. Siding is fixed to interior 4" x 2.5" horizontal rails with wire nails. An approximately 3/4" gap between vertical boards allows for ventilation. Approximately 50% of the siding is missing. The doors are also missing. Encroaching vines, trees and brush surround much of the structure.

The barn is divided into four, 20' bays with each bay containing four, 5' rooms. The bays and rooms are 16' wide and separated on each side by a 14' center aisle. Each bay begins and ends with a toe-nailed downbrace that extends from the sill to above the fifth tier pole. The barn is 8 tiers high. Common rafters rest on a thin false plate. Despite the long length of this barn, there are no upper level wind braces. The absence of windbraces is at least a contributing reason for the condition of the siding and roof.

All building material is light circular-sawn material, attached with wire nails. Interior posts are 6" square, formed by assembling two, 2"x 6" pieces of lumber. These are separated by a 2" gap used to receive tier poles. Interior posts rest on a 2'-tall concrete piers. Sills measure 8"x 6", segments of which are lap-joined and nailed together. Framing associated with three of the former rooms is removed, and approximately 15% of the tiers poles are also gone, but the majority of the interior framing remains intact and only beginning to exhibit damage from the extensive siding loss.

Rubble associated with a now-collapsed concrete block stripping shed is located at barn's south end.

**Barn #2 (Structure 4 in 2001 DOE form):**

This badly over grown and deteriorated transverse-aisle plan barn measures 34' x 130', and displays three building episodes. This fact is not evident from the exterior due to re-siding and re-roofing, apparently associated with the last period of construction. The oldest part probably dates to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Foundation material suggests the two later sections were built at different times in the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The steeply pitched gable roof, mostly sheathed in deteriorated standing seam metal, is oriented with the longitudinal axis running north to south. Doorways (now absent doors) are located exclusively in the long east and west walls. The entire structure is sheathed with vertical siding with every fourth or fifth board hinged at the top to open for ventilation. Approximately half of the wall sheathing is now missing and much of that which remains is in poor condition.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 2

PC: 74B-2

The period 1 barn forms the building's north end. Measuring 34' x 50', this 8-tier-high section features a 10'-wide center aisle, flanked on either side by two 17' x 20' bays. Each of the four bays is divided into four, 5' rooms. A 10" x 6" continuous sill (except across the doorways) defines the aisles, bays and rooms. The sills use relatively short pieces of timber that are scarf-joined and pegged together. The sills occasionally rest on ironstone piers, but in many areas the piers are removed and the framing rests directly on the ground resulting in a substantial amount of rot.

All framing materials in the period 1 barn, including sills (8" x 6"), posts (6" x 5"), down-braces (4" x 6"), tier polls (3"-4" x 5"), and rafters, were fashioned with a circular saw. Downbraces extend from the sill up to immediately beneath the fourth tier. The original vertical spacing between tier poles has been lengthened to just over 4'. The lateral tiers are joined to the center posts by mortise and tenon joints, while the longitudinal members are removable, and supported by wood blocks scabbed onto the sides of the vertical posts. According to long-time Calvert County tobacco farmer, Wilson Freeland, this feature is known as a "tier pole cleat." Many tier poles have been pulled out and some broken. Where present, secondary framing material and tiers are generally in good condition, but in some areas a significant amount of siding, and non-structural members have been removed, leaving only the timber-frame skeleton of the barn.

The center, period 2 section of the barn, measures 40' x 34'. Map evidence indicates this section, and the period 3 structure, were both built between 1944 and 1957. Here the balloon-framed walls rest on a 2'-tall, coarsely textured, poured concrete foundation. The interrupted wall sills measure 7.5" x 6", with the 5" x 6" wall posts resting directly on the foundation. The gaps between sill and posts has allowed for moisture penetration. As a result of this poor craftsmanship, the framing of this section, which may be nearly a century later than the Period 1 barn, is in much worse condition.

The 10'-wide, long-wall doorways provide access to a transverse aisle (absent doors) that runs immediately adjacent to the end wall of the period 1 structure. The remaining 30' of this section is divided into six, 4'-5" rooms. The interior posts, which run longitudinally down the center, are built up from two pieces of 4" x 6" lumber with a center gap, in the same fashion seen in Barn 1. They rest on a low poured concrete pad. This section is 9 tiers high.

The partially collapsed remains of a concrete block, 30' x 15' stripping room projects from the east exterior wall of the period 2 structure. The stripping room could not be accessed from inside the barn. It appears contemporary with the barn's third building episode.

The period 3 building represents the last 40' of the structure's south end. Originally four, 4'6" rooms were located on either side of the center, 10'-wide, transverse aisle. The rooms on the south side of the aisle have been destroyed by arsonists. Damage extends up into the rafters. Walls rest on a two-block high concrete block foundation. Blocks have a modern quality and appear mid-century or possibly later. Again, the doors and much of the vertical siding is missing. The posts, tier poles and tier cleats are the same types used in the period 2 section.

**Barn #3:** This 20<sup>th</sup> century center-aisle-plan barn is a collapsed ruin.

**Barn #4** (Structure 7 on 2001 DOE form): Built between 1944 and 1957, this balloon-framed, center-aisle plan barn measures 100' x 36'. It is by far the most intact of the study area's five barns. The galvanized, sheet-metal-clad roof's ridgeline runs north to south. Double hinged doors are located in both of the gable ends. Walls are sheathed with 1' wide siding with a 1.5" gap between boards to allow for ventilation. Every sixth board is hinged at the side and opens like a door. Wall boards are generally in good condition except for minor water damage near the base. The balloon-framed walls originally rested on sills a top of concrete piers, but the foundation was later made continuous by the insertion of concrete blocks.

The interior features a 12'-wide aisle flanked on either side by a 12'-long room and bay system. There are five, 20'-long bays divided into four, 5' rooms. The barn is 8 tiers high. The room and tier system is largely intact. Horizontal tiers measure 2.5" x 4", sills 7 1/2" x 6 1/2", and downbraces 4" x 6". Downbraces are found at the beginning and end of each bay. They begin at the sills, in both the rooms and the exterior wall, and rise up to engage their respective posts just beneath the level of the fourth tier pole.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 3

PG-74B-2

All framing members are modern, circular-sawn pieces attached with wire nails. Again, the vertical posts are 6" square, formed by assembling together two 2"x 6" pieces of lumber. These pieces of lumber are separated by a 2" gap used to receive tier poles. The posts rest on concrete piers covered with wood.

**Barn # 5** (not documented in 2001 DOE):

This structure dates to between 1944 and 1957. Vines and brush now cover much of this 38' x 98' center-aisle-plan barn, but the internal structure remains mostly intact. It is in the second-best condition of the five barns examined in this study. The metal-covered roof is in poor condition and, in some areas, missing. The roof's ridgeline runs off axis with cardinal directions, and is oriented roughly northwest to southeast. Upwards of 15% of the random-width vertical wall siding is absent, and a significant number of other boards broken or otherwise damaged. It is the hinged ventilator boards that have been most susceptible to removal.

The barn is eight tiers high and divided into five bays, each measuring slightly less than 20'. Exterior wall framing exclusively uses hole-set utility poles. There is no foundation or sill structure associated with the exterior wall posts. On the interior, each bay is also structurally defined by the presence of a utility pole. A 4" x 5" down brace is toe-nailed into each interior pole, 1' above grade. It rises upward and is in turn toe-nailed into the exterior wall pole just below the fourth tier pole.

The barn's 20 rooms, measuring slightly less than 4' long, and 13' wide, are situated on either side of a 12'-wide center aisle. Spray-painted numbers identify the rooms. Numbers increase from south to north. The paired board-and brace doors remain in place, though in deteriorating condition, especially near the bottom. The vertical posts rest on 1'-6" poured concrete piers that are in turn clad with wood. The building's exterior walls lack intermediate posts. The non-utility pole inner support posts that create the bays are the same as those in the other barns. They are formed by nailing together two pieces of 2" x 6" lumber, separated by a small gap, with the gap space is used to receive the tier poles. On the pole posts, tier cleats attached to the side of the pole suspend the tiers. Exterior walls lack secondary posts. Here the tier poles rest on the horizontal rails to which the exterior siding is nailed. About 75% of the tier poles remain in place or still inside of the barn.

This barn is unique among the study's five structures for being the only resource with an intact stripping room. Located in the southwest interior corner and measuring 18' (l) x 12' (w) x 8' (h), the walls are structurally formed up from a combination of horizontal and vertical siding. The room's interior is sheathed with corrugated metal. The floor is dirt. A pedestrian opening is located inside the barn, with vehicle access provided by a doorway (absent door) in the west side of the south gable end. According to Martin, prior to the availability of electricity, stripping rooms were typically located in the north end of the barn and had windows, because stripping required indirect light in order to properly see the color of the leaf. This stripping room is located in the south end and lacks windows, suggesting that the barn once was hooked up to electricity or some artificial light source (Martin 1992, 38).

**History and Significance:**

The tobacco barn represents Southern Maryland's most visible and iconic surviving symbol of the region's 350 year relationship with tobacco production. The paramount importance of tobacco to Southern Maryland's economy, culture and landscape cannot be overstated, and is well documented (see Kulikoff 1986; Middleton 1984). These distinctive buildings represent the most common and enduring tangible artifact of tobacco culture, and through their various designs illustrate how area tobacco farmers negotiated changing economic cycles, technology and farming practices (Ranzetta 2005, 82).

As previously stated, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named *Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland* as one of the nation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in 2004. The attention the listing generated resulted in funding for barn preservation projects and additional research and scholarship, culminating with the 2010 Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland: Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties*. That document brings together published and unpublished scholarship about tobacco culture in Maryland's five southern counties. It also describes in valuable detail the various types of Maryland tobacco barns; examines each form in its historic context; and provides a framework for evaluating and nominating tobacco barns to the National Register.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 4

PG 74B-2

Four of the five barns examined in this study are or, in the case of collapsed Barn #3 were, center-aisle-plan structures. Christopher Martin's 1991 and 1992 studies tobacco culture studies revealed how the center-aisle tobacco barn developed in response to the widespread use of gasoline-powered tractors and trucks (Martin 1992, 39). Prior to 1900 barns were typically smaller, measuring 20' to 30' in width and about 36 feet in length, and usually constructed with a transverse plan with double doors on the long walls. These smaller barns built amid the fields, which reflected the difficulty in moving tobacco. The crop was not so much brought to the barn as the barn was built near the crop. The advent of trucks and tractors allowed the cumbersome tobacco leaves to be transported directly into larger barns built in locations better suited to drying, i.e. open areas or on higher elevation. The benefit of the new style of air-cure barn was recognized by The University of Maryland Agricultural Extension Service whose publications promoted the use of "drive-through barns" and lauded them for their labor-saving benefits (Thursby and Schomig, E 54).

In contrast, Barn #2 is an older type known as a transverse aisle barn. It has door openings in the long walls. The continuous interior aisle sills in the period 1 structure are typical of barns constructed before the ingress and egress of motorized vehicles became a consideration. Although the period 2 and 3 sections maintain the transverse aisle plan of the original section, continuous sills are absent. Instead interior vertical supports rest upon piers. The period 2 and 3 sections were built during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century when the accommodation of tractors or trucks would have been an important design consideration.

Three of the surviving barns in this study (Barn #1, #4 and #5) were built between 1944 and 1957. It was also during this period that Barn #2 was expanded. The years following World War II were a boom period for tobacco farmers. Demand for tobacco greatly increased after the war in response to American and European demand for cigarette tobacco (Thursby and Schomig, E 21).

### National Register Eligibility

Barns #1, #3, #4 and #5 are associated with the historically important theme of *tobacco production in Southern Maryland 1630-2005* (Criterion A) and representative of identified *air-curing barn types constructed in Southern Maryland, 1790-1958* (Criterion C). These buildings are not potentially eligible under other criteria as there is no known association with persons important in our past (Criterion B) or have the potential to reveal important information about history (Criterion D).

In addition to historical significance, tobacco barns must retain the majority of character-defining features, and have a somewhat rural or agricultural setting in order to be eligible for the National Register. Because 20<sup>th</sup> century barns survive greater numbers than their predecessors, integrity should be assessed more stringently than earlier and rarer examples. In addition, a 20th century barns with an intact stripping room should be given weighted more heavily than on barn without this feature (Thursby and Schomig: F1). The Maryland Historical Trust's *Determination of Eligibility* database was reviewed as part of this study, and no barns of this type and age, or with a commensurate level of deterioration as exhibited by all but one structure in this study, have previously been found eligible for National Register listing.

**Barn #1** is not eligible for National Register listing due to its deteriorated condition. About half of the exterior siding has been lost, the doors are missing, the roof is damaged and the structure partially overgrown with vines and brush. In addition, the stripping room has been demolished. It has greatly diminished integrity of materials, workmanship and feeling.

**Barn #2** is the most architecturally interesting of the barns examined in this study for illustrating changing framing techniques over time. Specifically, how transition away from timber frame construction, with mortise and tenon joinery, to balloon frame systems and wire nails. The use of simplified construction methods and a reliance on light-dimensioned construction material dominated tobacco barn construction in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The two systems are juxtaposed in this example.

The plan and building materials of the period 1 section are typical of construction practices associated with tobacco barns built between 1830 and 1900.<sup>1</sup> The complete use of circular sawn material, even for the larger timbers, suggests a date of construction in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It likely originally had at least one stripping shed. The change in the height of the tier poles is telling and probably reflects the adoption of the modern Type-32 tobacco species.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 5

PG: 74B-2

This section's 5'-room spacing system is considered highly unusual for a mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century barn (Thursby and Schomig 2010: E49). The 5' unit, both for dwellings as well as agricultural buildings, has antecedents in 17<sup>th</sup> century building traditions, but this metric for tobacco barns fell from practice in favor of a four foot room in the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. (Ranzetta 2005: 86). As such, this barn is interesting and raises questions about lingering building traditions, but it is not considered typical. Do to this, as well as its overall poor condition, is not a good example of its type.

The period 2 and 3 sections reflect changing building practices in response to the use of tractors and other motorized vehicles. For example, the absence of ground sills inside in this part of the structure allowed vehicle ingress/egress, and facilitated ease of movement around barn's interior. The construction methods used in these sections are typical for the period, but again are not a good example of their type due to deterioration and arson.

This barn is not eligible due to diminished integrity of design, materials, workmanship and feeling. Its overgrown situation also undermines its integrity of association.

**Barn #3** is clearly not eligible due to its complete state of collapse.

**Barn #4** is in very good condition. Its feeling and association are somewhat compromised by the fact that it is not in a field, but surrounded by woods, but other aspects of integrity are largely undiminished. Despite these merits, it is not recommended as National Register eligible. Most likely built late in the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this is a relatively late example of a Southern Maryland tobacco barn, and may only fall within the Period of Significance (built before 1958) by as little as one year. Center-aisle plan barns remain fairly common and survive in the largest numbers out of all tobacco barn types. No less than seven barns of this type and in good condition are located within one-mile of this structure along Old Mill Lane. This barn is an undistinguished example of its type. Evaluation guidelines state that the eligibility of 20<sup>th</sup> century barns should weigh heavily in favor of those with an intact stripping room. That feature is absent in this example. Were it present this barn would likely be considered eligible.

**Barn #5** has an intact interior, but damaged and deteriorated exterior. Although more siding survives here than in the case of Barn #1, this structure has still lost a significant amount character-defining wall sheathing, and the roof is in far worse condition. Vines and brush cover most of the exterior. Some of the roots are so large that they are displacing siding and even vertical studs. In addition to issues of integrity, the barn's construction using re-purposed, hole-set utility poles for principal framing members is not typical building practice. These posts are set directly into the ground without use of sills, interrupted or otherwise. Although this technique is not unheard of, it is not normal, meaning this structure is not a good representative of its type. This fact seriously undermines its eligibility for listing under Criterion C. But as previously mentioned Barn #5 retains its stripping room and therefore was given extra consideration. Despite the presence of this feature, this barn is not recommended as National Register eligible -- not just because of the Criterion C issues -- but also as a result of diminished integrity of workmanship, materials and feeling resulting from the exterior's dilapidated and over-grown condition.

#### Major Bibliographical References

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 6

PG: 74B-2

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 7

PG:74B-2

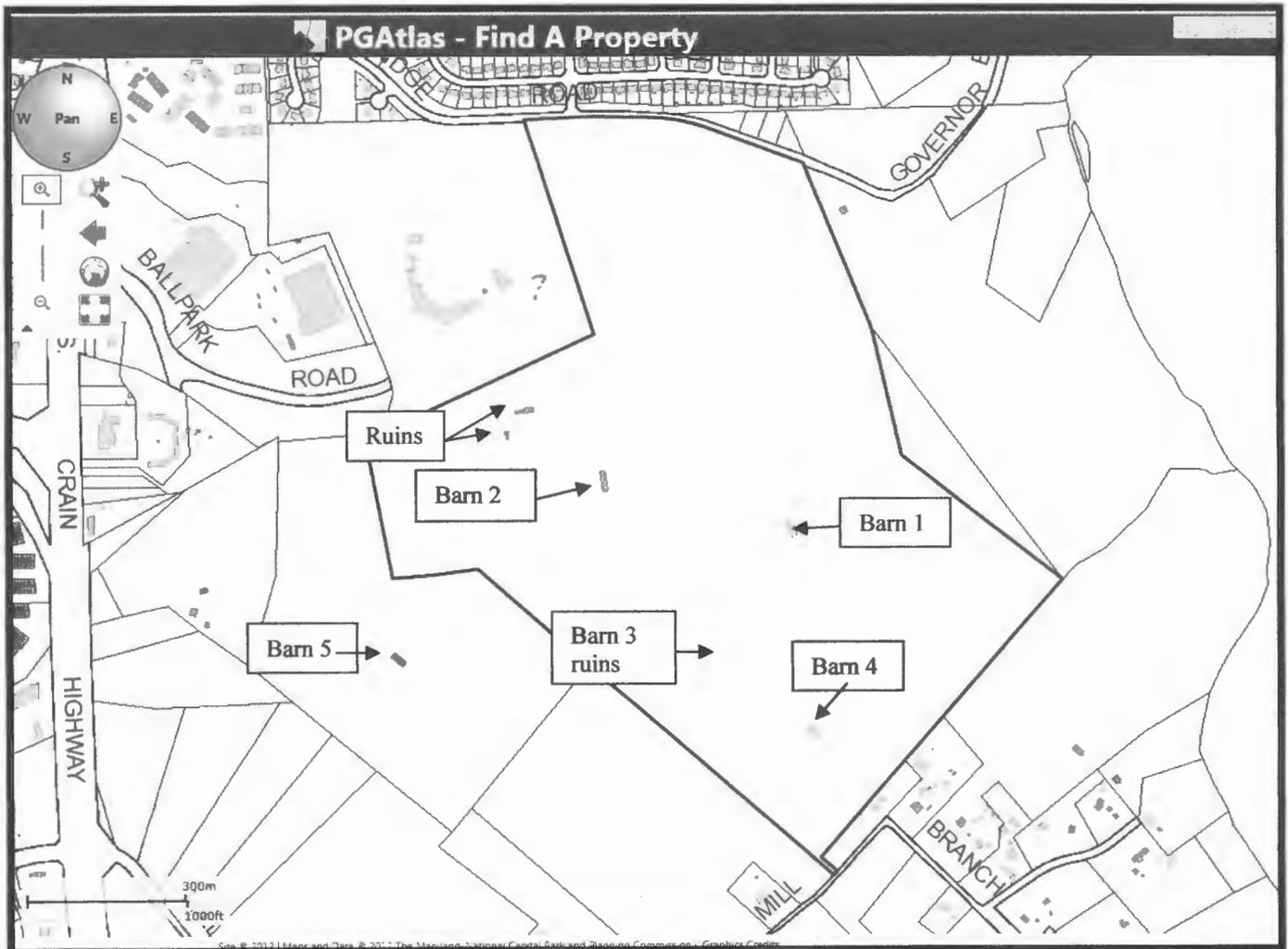
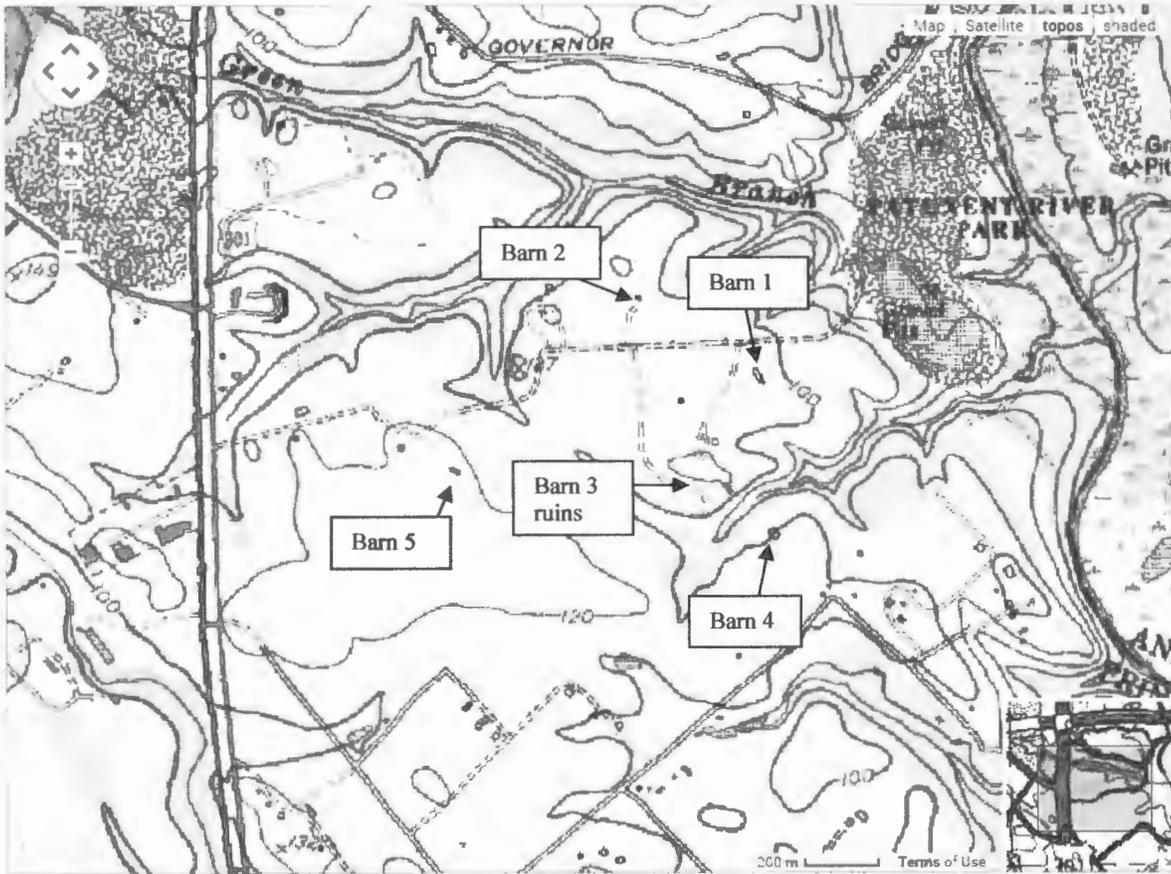


Figure 1: Site plan showing the location of the study's five barns and the ruins of buildings documented in 2001.  
Source: PG ATLAS <http://www.pgatlas.com>.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 8

PG: 74B-2



Center: 38.9418°N 76.7108°W  
Elevation at center: 131 feet (40 meters)  
Quad: Bowie  
Drg Name: o38076h6  
Drg Source Scale: 1:24,000  
Projection: NAD83/WGS84

Display format:  
Decimal Degrees  
[Show center marker](#)

Figure 2: USGS map excerpt (Bowie Quad) showing the location of the tobacco barns discussed in this study. Source: Trails.com.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 9

PG: 74B-2

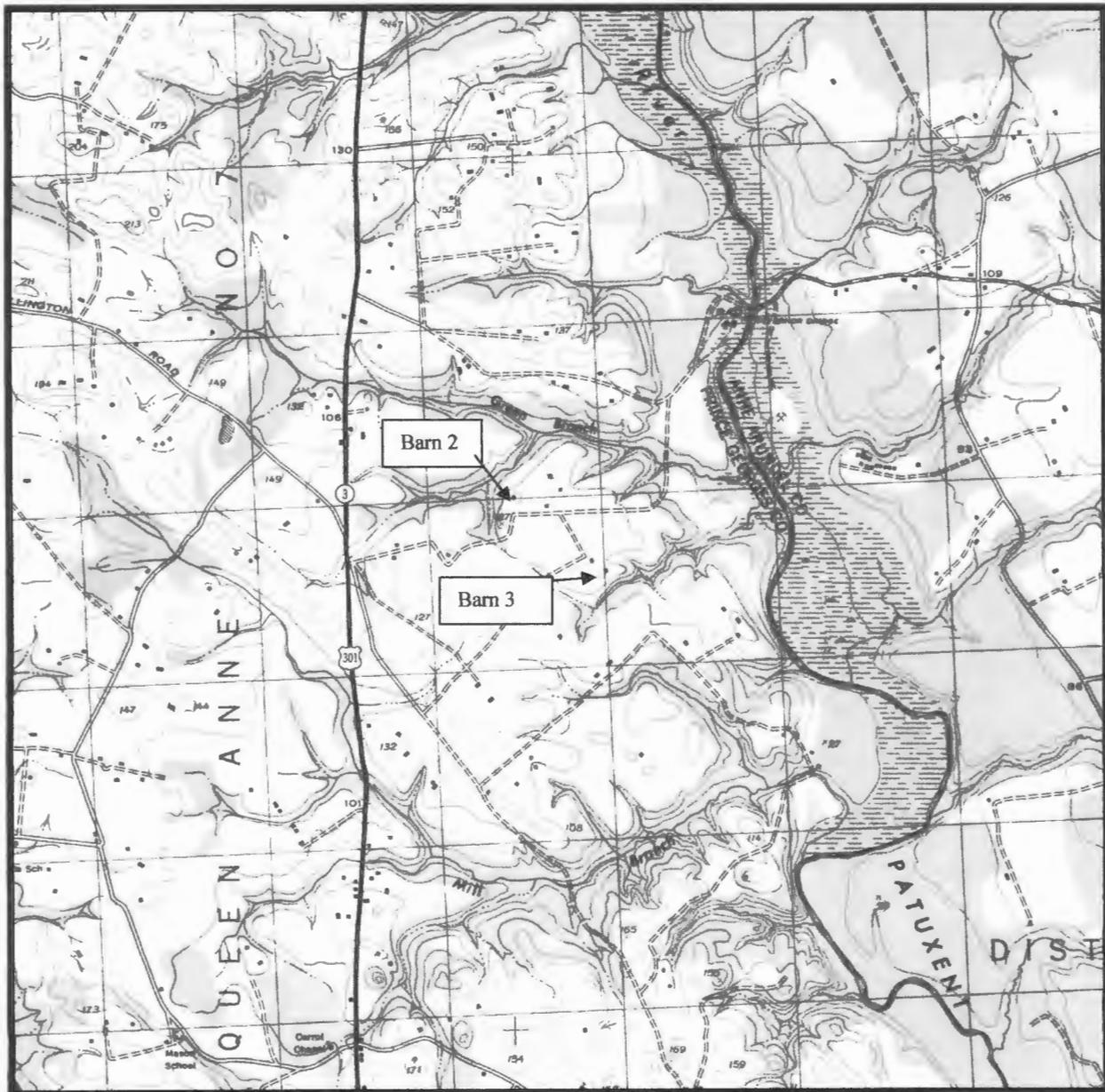


Figure 3: This 1944 USGS map show the presence of numerous now lost buildings and a different farm road network than exists at present. Barns #1, #4 and #5 are not shown on this map, and Barn #2 appears smaller.  
Source: USGS Map (Quad Bowie, 1944).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 10

PG:74B-2

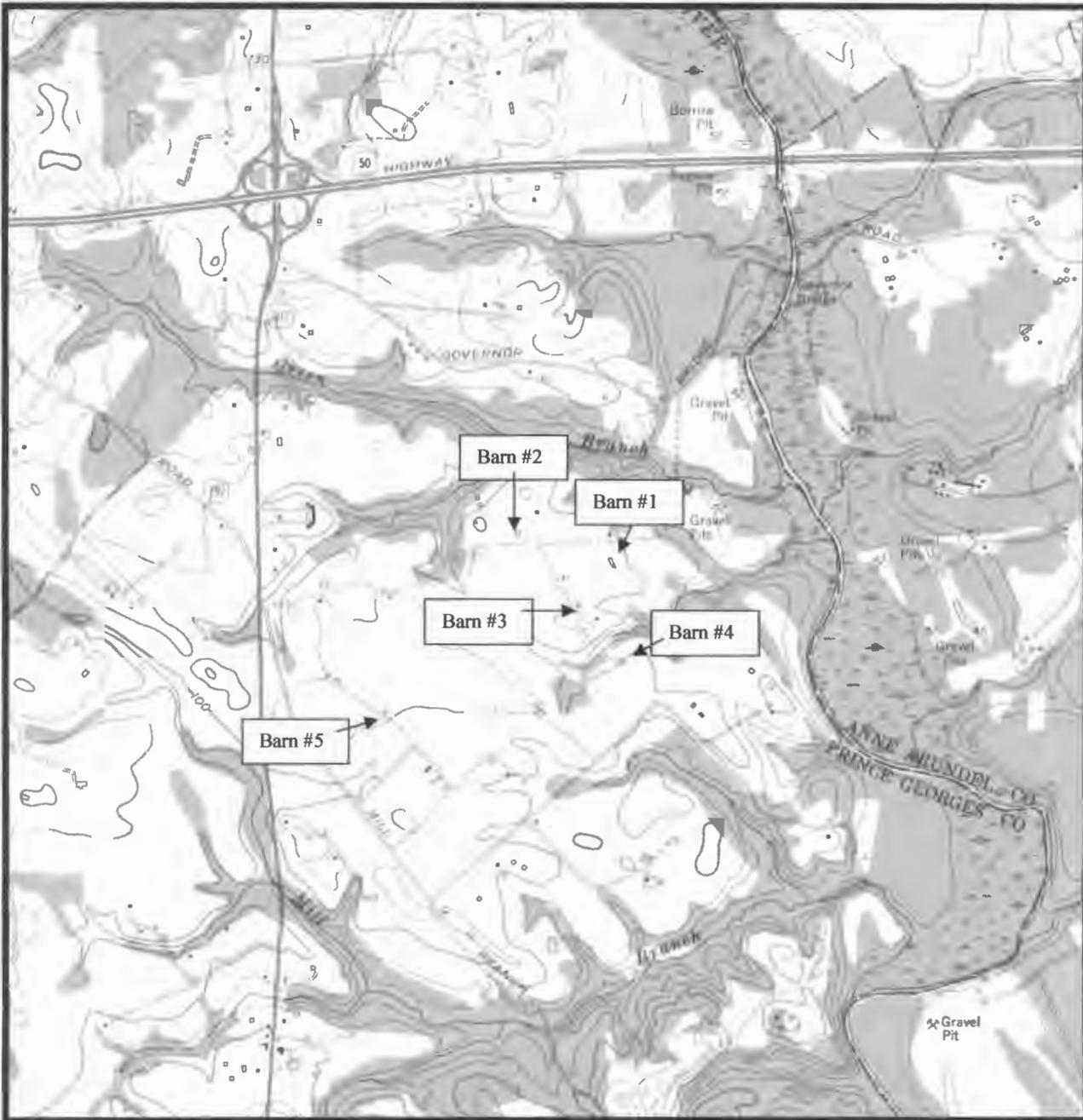
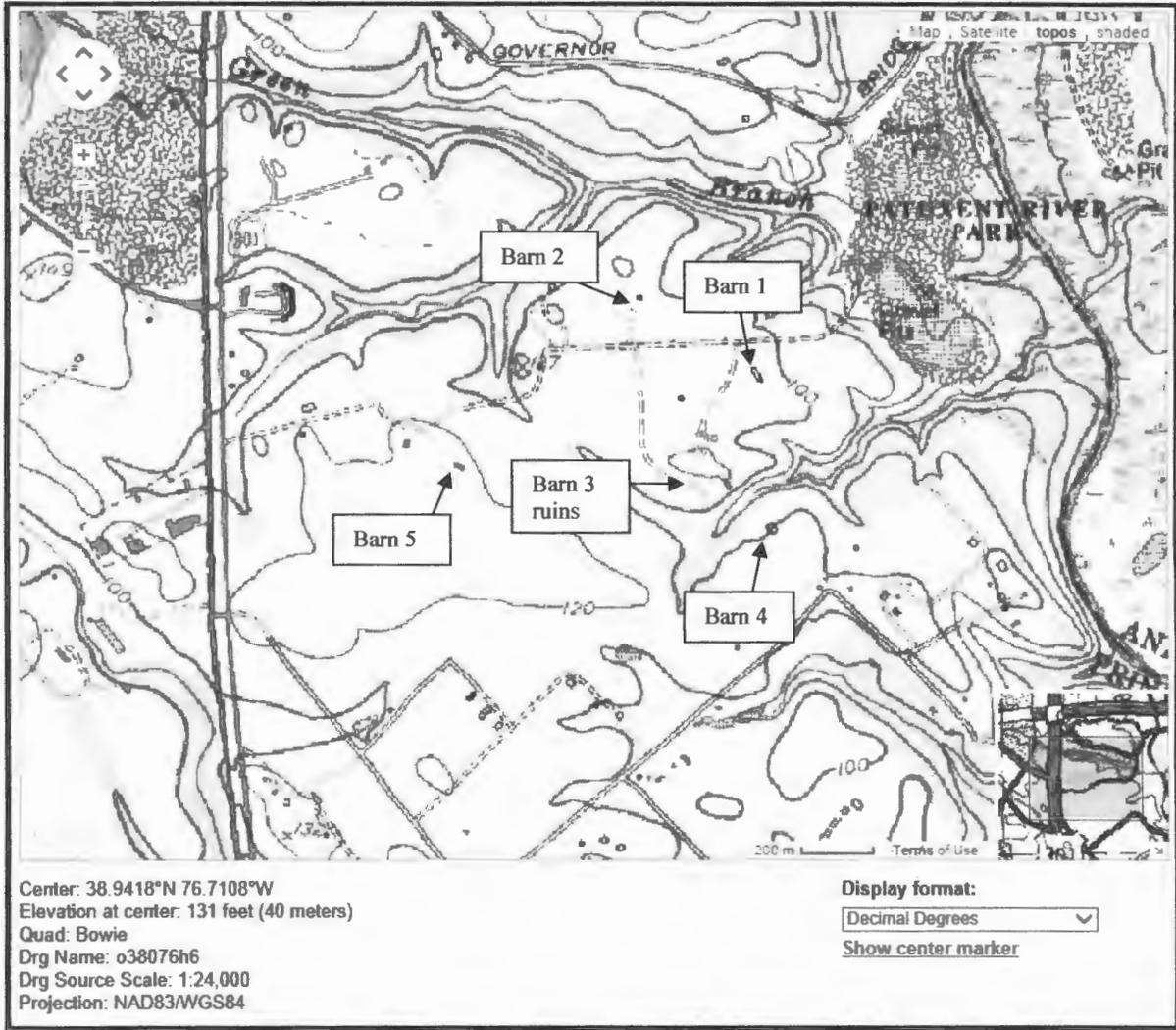


Figure 4: All of the barns examined in this report appear to be in place by the time this 1957 USGS map was published. Source: USGS Map (Bowie Quad, 1957). Note the change in size of Barn #2 and the change in road patterns in response to the new barns.

Prepared by: Sherri Marsh Johns  
Retrospect Architectural Research,  
LLC

Date Prepared: April 18, 2014



USGS map excerpt (Bowie Quad) showing the location of the tobacco barns associated with the W.W.W. Bowie House property (PG:74B-2) at 17501 Governor's Bridge Road, Bowie, MD 20717.

## Photograph Log

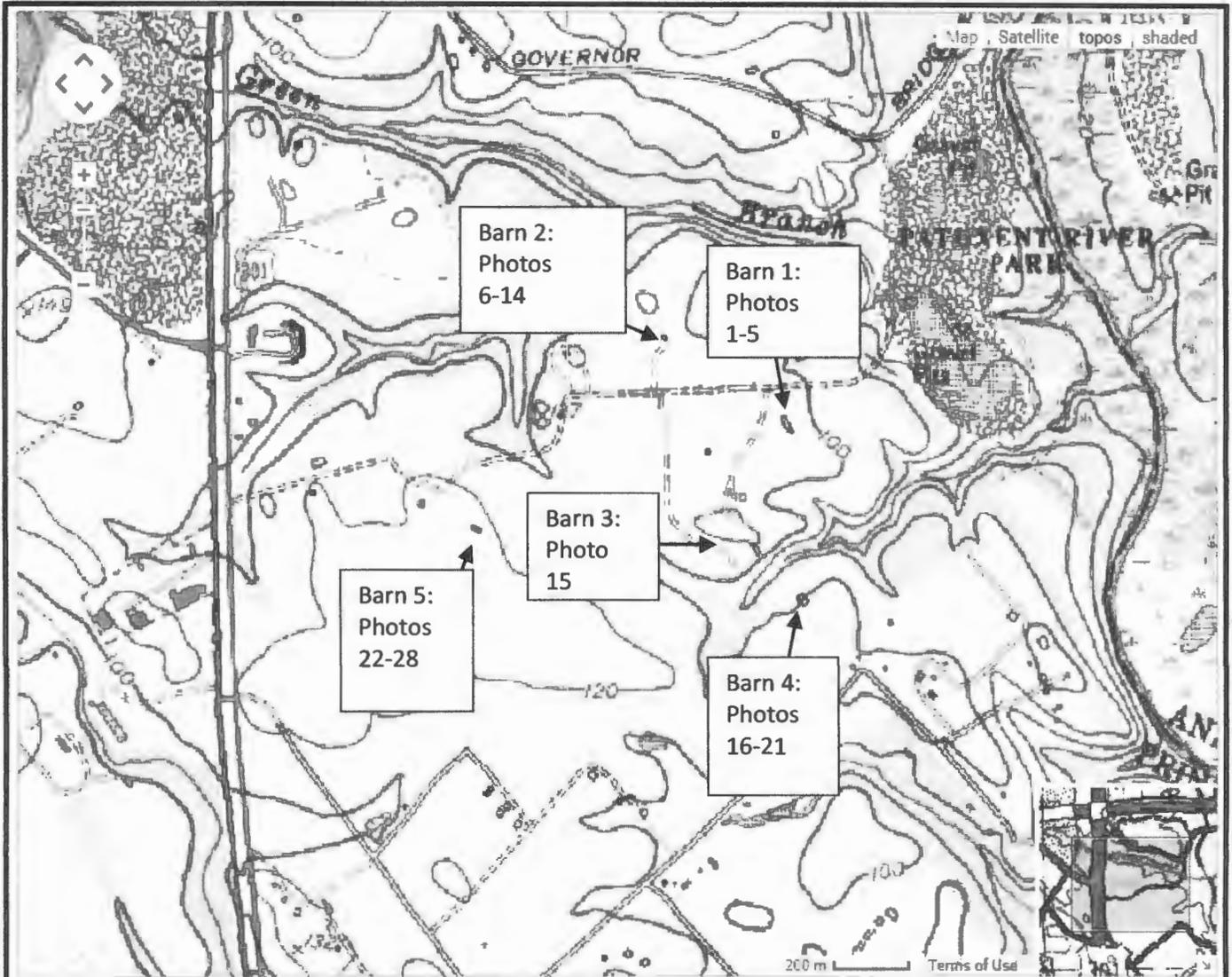
### W.W.W. Bowie House Site (PG: 74B-2)

Determination of Eligibility evaluation related to Green Branch Athletic Complex Bond Bill

Photographs by Sherri Marsh Johns October 2013 and February 2014

Photographs, printed by Fromex Photo & Digital, using true black and white chemical process, printed on Ilford black- and-white silver gelatin photograph paper and recorded on Verbatim UltraLife Archival Grade DVD-R 24K with AZO with hard coat.

1. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_1: Tobacco Barn #1, facing southwest
2. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-10\_2: Tobacco Barn #1, facing southeast
3. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_3: Tobacco Barn #1, framing detail facing north
4. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_4: Tobacco Barn #1, framing detail facing northwest
5. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_5: Tobacco Barn #1, facing detail of foundation
6. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_6: Tobacco Barn #2, facing northwest
7. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_7: Tobacco Barn #2, facing northeast
8. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_8: Tobacco Barn #2, facing southeast
9. PG;74B-2\_2013-04-01\_9: Tobacco Barn #2, period one side aisle entrance
10. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_10: Tobacco Barn #2, interior aisle framing detail facing north
11. PG;74B-2\_2013-04-01\_11: Tobacco Barn #2, framing detail from period 1 section, looking south towards period 2
12. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_12: Tobacco Barn #2, period 1 section facing northeast
13. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_13: View from period 3 facing northeast at period 2 construction;
14. PG;74B-2\_2013-10-01\_14: Tobacco Barn #2, foundation detail of period 2 section
15. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_15: Tobacco Barn #3 ruins
16. PG;74B-2\_2013-10-01\_16: Tobacco Barn #4, facing northeast
17. PG;74B-2\_2013-10-01\_17: Tobacco Barn #4, facing south/southeast
18. PG;74B-2\_2013-10-01\_18: Tobacco Barn #4, interior framing detail, facing north/northwest
19. PG;74B-2\_2013-10-01\_19: Tobacco Barn #4, interior framing detail, facing south/southwest
20. PG;74B-2\_2013-10-01\_20: Tobacco Barn #4, bay system framing detail
21. PG;74B-2\_2013-10-01\_21: Tobacco Barn #4, corner framing detail
22. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_22: Tobacco Barn #5, facing northwest
23. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_23: Tobacco Barn #5, facing southwest
24. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_24: Tobacco Barn #5, interior facing northwest
25. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_25: Tobacco Barn #5, interior framing detail facing southwest, stripping shed at left
26. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_26: Tobacco Barn #5, stripping shed in northeast corner
27. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_27: Tobacco Barn #5, stripping shed interior
28. PG;74B-2\_2014-04-01\_28: Tobacco Barn #5, framing detail of bay 8



Center: 38.9418°N 76.7108°W  
Elevation at center: 131 feet (40 meters)  
Quad: Bowie  
Drg Name: o38076h6  
Drg Source Scale: 1:24,000  
Projection: NAD83/WGS84

Display format:  
Decimal Degrees   
[Show center marker](#)



PG 74 B-2 W.W.W. Bowie Farm Tobacco Barns

PRINCE GEORGE'S Co, MD

by S.M. Johns

0113371, PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_1 copy\_000

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

Tobacco BARN #1

<ILFORD>, <Froner True ES&D>, 04/09/14

Camera facing South West

1 of 28



PG 74B-2 WWW BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARNs  
PRINCE GEORGES CO, MD

by S. M. Johns

0113371, PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_2 copy\_B14

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO  
Tobacco barn #1

(ILFORD), (Phase True B&W), 04/01/14

CAMERA FACING SE

2 of 28



PG 74B-2 W W W BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARN  
PRINCE GEORGES CO, MD

by S. M. JOHNS

0113371, PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_3 copy\_022

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

Interior Tobacco Barn #1, facing North  
(ILFORD), (Freeze True B&W), 04/09/14

3 of 28



PG 74B-2 W.W.W. Bowie Farm Tobacco Barns  
PRINCE Georges Co., MD  
by S.M. Johns

0113371. PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_4 copy\_023

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

INTERIOR Tobacco Barn #1, Facing NW

<ILFORD>. <Fraser True ESU>. 04/09/14

4 of 28



PG 74 B-2 WWW Bowie FARM Tobacco BARN

PRINCE Georges Co, MD

by S.M. Johns

8113371, PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_5 copy\_024

April 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPU

Tobacco BARN # 1 FRAMING DETAIL

(ILFORD), (Fronex True B&W), 04/09/14

5 of 28



PG 748-2 WWW Bowie FARM Tobacco BARNs  
PRINCE GEORGES Co., MD  
by S. M. Johns

0113371, PG748-2\_2014-04-01\_6 copy\_025

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPU  
Tobacco BARN #2

(ILFORD), (Fossil True B&W), 04/09/14

CAMERA FACING NW

photo 6 of 28



DG 74B-2 WWW Bowie Farm Tobacco Barns  
PRINCE Georges Co., MD

by S.M. Johns

0113371, PG74B 2\_2014-04-01\_7 copy\_026

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPU

Tobacco Barn # 2

(ILFORD), (Fomex True B&W), 04/09/14

CAMERA facing NE, Period 3 at Right  
Photo <sup>Period 2 in</sup> 7 of 28 center, Period 1 at left



PG 74B-2 W.W.W. Bowie FARM Tobacco Barns  
PRINCE George's Co., MD  
by S.M. Johns

B113371, PG74B-2\_2014 B4-B1\_8 copy\_827

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER at MD SITPO  
Tobacco Barn #2

(ILFORD), (Fisheye True B&W), B4/09/14

CAMERA FACING SE, at Period 3 section  
Photo 8 of 28



PG 74B-2 W W W. BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARN  
PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD  
by S.M. Johns

0113371, PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_9 copy\_028

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

Tobacco Barn #2, Period 1 section  
(ILFORD), (Freshe True B&W), 05/09/14

FACING EAST

Photo 9 of 28



PG 74B-2 W.W.W. Bowie Farm Tobacco Barns  
Prince George's Co., MD

by S.M. Johns

0113371, PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_18 copy\_009

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

<ILFORD>, (Framex True B&W), 04/09/14  
TOBACCO BARN #2, Interior aisle  
FRAMING DETAIL, facing NORTH  
Photo 10 of 28



PG-74B-2 WWW. Bowie FARM Tobacco BARNs  
Prince George's Co., MD  
by S.M. Johns

0113371. PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_11 copy\_010

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER at MD SHPO

Tobacco BARN #2, Period 1 FRAMING

Detail, facing south towards period  
2 section

Photo 11 of 28



PG 74B-2 W.W.W. BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARNs  
PRINCE GEORGE'S Co., MD  
by S.M. Johns

8113371, PG74B-2\_2814-04-01\_12 copy\_811

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

TOBACCO BARN # 2

<ILFORD>, <Fronex True B&W>, 04/09/14

FIRE DAMAGE IN PERIOD I section  
FACING NORTH East

Photo 12 of 28



PG 74 B-2 W.W.W BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARN  
PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD

by S.M. Johns

0113371, PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_13 copy\_012

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

TOBACCO BARN #2

<ILFORD>, <FRENK, TRUB B&L>, 04/09/14

VIEW from PERIOD 3 section FACING  
NE at PERIOD 2 - Stripping shed

Ruins outside at Right side of photo

Photo 13 of 28



PG-74B-2 W.W.W BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARNS

PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD

by S.M. Johns

0113371, PG74B-2\_2013-10-01\_14 copy\_001

OCTOBER 2013

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

PERIOD TWO FOUNDATION Detail of  
BARN #2

FORD, (Frank True B2U). 04-09/14

Photo 14 of 28



PG-74B-2 W.W.W. BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARN  
PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD  
by S.M. JOHNS

8113371, PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_15 copy\_013

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO  
TOBACCO BARN # 3 - RUINS

<ILFORD>, <Frolex True B&W>, 04/09/14

PHOTO 15 OF 28



PG 74 B-2 W.W.W. BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARN  
PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD  
by S.M. Johns

0113371, P6748-2\_2813-10-01\_16 copy\_002

OCTOBER 2013

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

TOBACCO BARN #4

<ILFORD>, <Frolex True B&W>, 04/09/14

CAMERA FACING NE

Photo 16 of 28



PG 74B-2 W.W.W. BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARN  
PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD  
by S.M. Johns

0113371, PG74B-2\_2013-10-01\_17 copy\_003

OCT, 2013

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO  
Tobacco Barn #4

(ILFORD), (Fronex True B&W), 04/09/14

CAMERA FACING SOUTH / SOUTH EAST

Photo 17 of 28



PG-74B-2 W.W.W. Bowie Farm Tobacco Barns  
Prince George's Co., MD

by S.M. Johns

OCT 2013

0113371, PG74B-2\_2013-10-01\_13 copy\_004

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

Tobacco Barn #4

INTERIOR FRAMING Detail facing

<ILFORD>, <Frolex True B&W>, 04/09/14

NORTH / Northwest

photo 18 of 28



PG-74 B-2 W.W.W BOWIE FARM Tobacco Barns  
Prince Georges Co., MD

by S.M. Johns

OCT. 2013

8113371. PG74B-2\_2013-10-01\_19 copy\_005

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO  
Tobacco Barn #4

<ILFORD>, (Frolex True B&W), 04/09/14

INTERIOR FRAMING DETAIL  
FACING SOUTH/SOUTH WEST

Photo 19 of 28



PG 74B-2 W.W. W. BOWIE FARM Tobacco Barns

Prince Georges Co, MD

by S.M. Johns

0113371, PG74B-2\_2013-18-01\_20 copy\_006

OCT 2013

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

Tobacco Barn #4

(ILFORD), (Froner True B&W), B4/09/14

FRAMING DETAIL

Photo 20 of 28



PG 748-2 W.W.W. BOWIE FARM TOBACCO Barns

Prince Georges Co, MD

by S.M. Johns

0113371. PG748-2\_2013-10-01\_21 copy\_007

OCT 2013

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

Tobacco BARN #4

SEP 09 11 04 AM '14 (Prolex True 580) 04/09/14

CORNER FRAMING DETAIL

Photo 21 of 28



PG-74B-2 W.W.W. BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARN

PRINGE George's Co, MD

by S.M. Johns

0113371. PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_22 copy\_015

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

TOBACCO BARN #5

(ILFORD). (Fronex True B&W) 04/09/14

CAMERA FACING NORTHWEST

Photo 22 of 28



PG 74 B-2 W.W.W. BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARNs  
PRINCE Georges Co., MD  
by S.M. Johns

0113371, PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_23 copy\_016

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

TOBACCO BARN #5

<ILFORD>, <Frolex True B&W>, 04/09/14

CAMERA FACING southwest

PHOTO 23 of 28



PG-74 B-2 WW. W. BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARN  
PRINCE GEORGE'S CO, MD  
by S. M. Johns

0113371. PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_24 copy\_017

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPU

Tobacco Barn #5

(ILFORD), (Fovek True B&W), 04/09/14

INTERIOR FACING SOUTHEAST

Photo 24 of 28



PG 74B-2 W.W.W. BOWIE FARM Tobacco Barns  
PRINCE George's County, MD  
By J.M. Johns

0113371. PG74B-2\_2214 04-01\_25 copy\_018

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

Tobacco BARN #5

(ILFORD), (Fresco True B&W), 04/03/14

INTERIOR FACING Northwest, stripping  
Shed at left

Photo 25 of 28



PG-74B-2 W.W.W. BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARN5  
PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD

By S.M. Johns  
APRIL 2014

0113371, PG74B-2\_2014-04 01\_26 copy\_019

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO  
TOBACCO BARN #5

(ILFORD), (Fujimax True B&W), 05/09/14

Stripping shed located in BARN5  
Southwest CORNER

Photo 26 of 28



PG-74B-2 W.W.W. BOWIE FARM TOBACCO BARN5  
PRINCE GEORGES CO., MD

by S.M. Johns

0113371, PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_27 copy\_020

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO

<ILFDRD>, <Process True B&D>, 04/09/14

Tobacco BARN #5

Stripping shed interior

Photo 27 of 28



PG 74 B-2 W.W.W. BOWIE FARM TOBACCO Barns  
PRINCE George's Co., MD  
by S.M. Johns

0113371, PG74B-2\_2014-04-01\_28 crop\_021

APRIL 2014

Digital MASTER AT MD SHPO  
TOBACCO BARN #5

(ILFORD), (Fronex True B&W), 04/09/14

FRAMING DETAIL OF BAY #8

(NOTE NUMBER on tier pole cleat)

Photo 28 of 28

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Green Branch Community park  
Expansion, WSSC Tract Prince George's  
County, (POS #3809-16-

Property Name: 549,MD200010221-0137 Inventory Number: PG74B-2

Address: 3705 N.E. Crain Highway City: Bowie Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

County: Prince George's USGS Topographic Map: Bowie Wood

Owner: WSSC (Tract 6) Tax Map Page 55 Grids: F1,F2,F3 Page 56 Grids A1,A2, A3, A4

Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Project: Green Branch Community Park Expansion Agency: Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Site visit by MHT 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 the property located within a historic district?  no  yes Name of district: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed?  no  yes Determined eligible?  no  yes District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT State Historic Site Inventory Form for PG #74B-2 submitted by Susan Pearl June 1988

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

This property, Green Branch Community Park Expansion, WSSC Tract, Prince George's County (POS #3809-16549, MD20010221-0137) consists of 254.02 acres located in Bowie, Maryland. It is the former site of the W.W.W. Bowie House (PG74B-2). The W.W.W. Bowie House burned to the ground in the spring of 1987 and was determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1987. It has since been removed from the Inventory of the Prince George's County Historic Sites and District Plan.

Seven abandoned farm buildings have been documented on the property. All of the structures are mid-twentieth century farm buildings. They are as follows:

Structure 1 is an early to mid twentieth century tobacco barn. It is located in the center of an agricultural field and is overgrown with trees. The barn is 100 by 40 feet and rests on a cinder block foundation. The interior supports rest on poured concrete piers. All lumber is circular sawn and is fastened with wire nails. There is a collapsed cinder block stripping shed attached to the south elevation of the barn.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
<u>Patricia M. Buck</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>7/17/01</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR program	<u>7/17/01</u> Date

*[Handwritten mark]*

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

PG: 74B-2

Structure 2 is a mid twentieth century tobacco barn. It is overgrown by trees and is located in a wooded area. It is 60 by 40 feet and rests on a cinder block foundation. The interior supports rest on poured concrete piers. All lumber is circular sawn and is fastened with wire nails.

Structure 3 appears to be a corn house that has been altered and repaired several times. It is 32 by 24 feet. There is a ten foot wide opening in each gable end. The interior foundation of the north half of the structure is two feet tall and is constructed of limonite (ironstone). The rest of the structure rests on concrete piers and cinder block. There is some hand worked lumber, however, the majority of the lumber is circular sawn. The roof is collapsed and the structure is very unstable.

Structure 4 is a mid-twentieth century tobacco barn that appears to have been built in three sections. It is 140 by 40 feet. The barn rests on both poured concrete and cinder block foundations. The interior supports rest on poured concrete piers, cinder blocks, and blocks of limonite. There is a 30 by 20 foot collapsed stripping house attached to the east side of the barn.

Structure 5 is a mid twentieth century tenant house. It is a 40 by 20 foot frame structure resting on poured concrete piers. All lumber is circular sawn and fastened with wire nails. The structure may have been a duplex, however, the interior walls have been demolished.

Structure 6 is mid twentieth century open garage or equipment shed. The three walls are cinderblock. All lumber is circular sawn and fastened with wire nails.

Structure 7 is a mid twentieth century tobacco barn. It is 100 by 36 feet. The barn rests on a cinder block foundation. The interior support posts rest on poured concrete piers. All lumber is circular sawn and is fastened with wire nails.

Prepared by: Donald K. Creveling

Date Prepared: 6/15/01

Property Address <u>3705 Crain Highway Northeast, Bowie vicinity, Prince George's County</u>
Owner Name/Address <u>Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission</u>
Year Built <u>circa 1840</u>

**Description:**

The Walter William Weems Bowie House was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission in 1981 and 1988. According to the 1988 form the house was completely destroyed by fire in 1987. The property remains vacant.

**National Register Evaluation:**

The site of the William Walter Weems Bowie House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as the structure is no longer extant and the site of the structure does not retain sufficient integrity to represent an important architectural trend or distinctive characteristics of a type or method of construction. Based upon the date of construction and the property type, there is a likelihood that an archaeological component could exist on the property. However, as no archaeological investigation has been conducted, the eligibility of the property under Criterion D cannot be assessed at this time.

MHT CONCURRENCE:			
Eligibility	<u>  </u> recommended	<u>X</u> not recommended	
Criteria	<u>  </u> A <u>  </u> B <u>X</u> C <u>  </u> D	Considerations	<u>  </u> A <u>  </u> B <u>  </u> C <u>  </u> D <u>  </u> E <u>  </u> F <u>  </u> G <u>  </u> None
Comments:	<u>REMOVED</u>		
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>10/18/99</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>10/21/99</u>
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date	Reviewer, NR program	Date

Property Address <u>3705 Crain Highway Northeast, Bowie vicinity, Prince George's County</u>
Owner Name/Address <u>Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission</u>
Year Built <u>circa 1840</u>

**Description:**

The Walter William Weems Bowie House was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission in 1981 and 1988. According to the 1988 form the house was completely destroyed by fire in 1987. The property remains vacant.

**National Register Evaluation:**

The site of the William Walter Weems Bowie House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as the structure is no longer extant and the site of the structure does not retain sufficient integrity to represent an important architectural trend or distinctive characteristics of a type or method of construction. Based upon the date of construction and the property type, there is a likelihood that an archaeological component could exist on the property. However, as no archaeological investigation has been conducted, the eligibility of the property under Criterion D cannot be assessed at this time.

MHT CONCURRENCE:													
Eligibility	<input type="checkbox"/> recommended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not recommended											
Criteria	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> G	<input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments:													
Suzanne Pickens				07/21/1997		<i>B. Kuntze</i>				2/21/97			
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services				Date		Reviewer, NR program				Date			

*gms*

U.S. 301 South Corridor  
Transportation Study

4913 Survey # PG-74B-2  
Property Name Walter William Weems Bowie House  
Town/County Bowie vicinity, Prince Georges Co.  
Quadrangle BOWIE

WASHINGTON DC (B&O)  
6 MI TO INTERSTATE 95

5661 IV NE  
(LANHAM)

4910

4909

55'

5.1 MI TO INTERSTATE 95  
1 MILE S. OF ROUTE 734B

4907



SCHOONMAKER TODD E. & MICHELE M.

M - NGPPC

STATE OF MD

GREEN BRANCH

GEORGE'S STADIUM

W.S.S.C.  
254.02 AC.

PG: 74B-2

#4

#5

#1

PG: 74B-2

#2 & 3

#7

MAENNER

MAENNER B. LEO & HATTIE A. TRUSTEE

5.9 AC.



PG: 74B2  
Structure 1 Tobacco Barn  
May 2001 DK. Creveling



PG: 74B-2  
Structure 1 Tobacco Barn  
Mag 2001 DK Crevelius



PG: 74B-2

Structure 2 Tobacco Barn

May 2001 D.K. Creveling



PG: 7413 2

Structure 3 Corn house

May 2001 D.K. Creveling



PG: 74B 2

Structure 3 Cornhouse

May 2001 DK Creveling



PG: 74B-2

Structure 3 Corn house

May 2001 DIC Creveling



PG: 74B-2

Structure 4 Tobacco Barn

May 2001 DIC Creveling



PG: 74B-2

Structure 4 Tobacco Barn

May 2001 DK Creveling



PG: 74B-2

Structure 5 Tenant House

May 2001 DK Creveling



PG: 74B-2

Structure 6 Garage / Shed

May 2001 DK Creveling



PG: 74B-2

Structure 7 Tobacco Barn

May 2001

DK Creveling

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #74B-2 Building Date: ca. 1840

Building Name: Walter William Weems House

Location: 3705 NE Crain Highway, Mitchellville, Maryland

Public/ /Ruins/Inaccessible

Description

The Walter William Weems Bowie House was a three-part building: a main block joined to a kitchen wing by a low connecting section. The main block was side gabled, two-and-one-half stories high and frame, three bays by four bays. Entrance was in the first bay of the main south facade. The entire south facade was sheltered by a two-story veranda. There were two interior brick chimneys at the east gable end, and the foundation was of local iron-bearing stone. The floor plan was typical of local mid-nineteenth century plantation houses: side stairhall and double-parlors. The northmost section of the house was a small two-story single-room space, probably originally a free-standing kitchen building; it was built of stone, and covered with stucco. It was connected to the main block by a low two-story frame hyphen. The house stood in a knoll, surrounded by large and ancient trees, including some exotic specimens; it burned to the ground in the spring of 1987.

Significance

The Walter William Weems Bowie House was a good example of a mid-nineteenth century frame plantation house. Built by a very prominent Prince Georgian, it was in the late 1970's the site of a sludge entrenchment operation, and was destroyed by fire in the spring of 1987. The house was built in the late 1830's by Walter William Weems Bowie on a tract known as Eglington; it incorporated a stone kitchen which may have predated the dwelling. Bowie, known locally as "3W" Bowie, was active in the Democratic Party, a progressive agriculturalist, and a leader in the planning and construction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad through Prince George's County. In 1836, Bowie married Adeline Snowden of Montpelier, and it was at approximately this time that he began construction of the subject house. "3W" Bowie remained at Eglington through the vicissitudes of the Civil War, but lost the property in 1871 through foreclosure of his mortgage. After Bowie's loss, the property passed through a series of owners, including General John H. Horn, and the Phelps family. In 1980 the 316-acre property was purchased by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and thirty acres east of the house were subsequently devoted to sludge entrenchment. In the spring of 1987, a serious fire started in the Bowie house. All that remains of the house today is a pile of rubble, including heavy hand-hewn beams and large chunks of local iron-bearing stone which composed the house foundation.

Acreage: 316.18 acres

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic W.W.W. Bowie House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 3705 N.E. Crain Highway (U.S. Route 301)  not for publication

city, town Mitchellville Governor's Bridge  vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name WSSC

street & number 4017 Hamilton Street telephone no.:

city, town Hyattsville state and zip code MD 20781

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5296

street & number Main Street folio 39

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission c/o M-NCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Walter William Weems Bowie House was a two-and-one-half story gable-roof house of the mid-nineteenth century. It was a three-part building: a main block joined to a kitchen wing by a low connecting section. The main block was side gabled, two-and-one-half stories high and frame, three bays by four bays. Entrance was in the first bay of the main south facade. The entire south facade was sheltered by a two-story veranda, with a plain railing balustrade at second level. The porch was supported by square panelled posts on the first story, and slim Tuscan columns on the second. There were two interior brick chimneys at the east gable end, and the foundation was of local iron-bearing stone. The floor plan was typical of local mid-nineteenth century plantation houses: side stairhall and double-parlors, each parlor warmed by a fireplace in its exterior gable wall.

The northmost section of the house was a small (circa 17 by 13 feet) two-story single-room space, probably originally a free-standing kitchen building. Its roof ridge was at right angles to that of the main block. This small kitchen section was built of stone, and covered with stucco.

The kitchen section was connected to the main block by a low two-story frame hyphen, two bays in length, and flush with the east gable end of the main block. A small shed-roof porch sheltered its east elevation.

The house stood in a knoll, surrounded by large and ancient trees, including some exotic specimens. It was originally approached by a farm lane which ran south and then west from Governors Bridge Road, and later by a private road (now closed) east from U. S. Route #301. The house burned to the ground in the spring of 1987.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#74B-2

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

**Specific dates** ca 1840 **Builder/Architect**

---

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

The Walter William Weems Bowie House was a good example of a mid-nineteenth century frame plantation house. Built by a very prominent Prince Georgian, it was in the late 1970's the site of a sludge entrenchment operation, and was destroyed by fire in the spring of 1987.

The house was built in the late 1830's by Walter William Weems Bowie on a tract known as Eglinton. Bowie's new dwelling incorporated a stone kitchen which may have predated the dwelling: a 17 by 13 foot stone kitchen was listed in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax on the tract Eglinton, then owned by Lucy Crabb.<sup>1</sup> Bowie, known locally as "3W" Bowie, was the son of Walter Bowie of Locust Grove (Collington). Born in 1814, Bowie began his education under Rector Stephen Tyng of the Forest Chapel (Holy Trinity, PG #71A-9), then studied law under his neighbor, U. S. Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall of Marietta (PG #70-20), and went on to become a prominent attorney.<sup>2</sup> He was active in the Democratic Party, and was several times an (unsuccessful) candidate for General Assembly and Congressional seats.<sup>3</sup> He was a progressive agriculturalist, active in local school and construction projects, and was a leader in the planning and construction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad through Prince George's County.<sup>4</sup>

In 1836, Bowie married Adeline Snowden of Montpelier, and it was at approximately this time that he began construction of the subject house. Although he inherited Locust Grove at the time of his father's death in 1839, "3W" Bowie remained at Eglinton, and Locust Grove became the home of his younger brother. "3W" Bowie remained at Eglinton through the vicissitudes of the Civil War, but lost the property in 1871 through foreclosure of his mortgage. At that time the property was described as "lying on the public road from Governors Bridge to Upper Marlboro, being 8 miles from Millersville on the Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad, and 1-1/2 miles from the proposed station on the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad. Improved by an attractive dwelling house, beautifully located on a natural terrace, and surrounded by native and exotic evergreens and deciduous trees of every variety. Outbuildings are extensive and comfortable...."<sup>5</sup>

After Bowie's loss, the property passed through a series of owners, including General John H. Horn, and the Phelps family. In 1980 the 316-acre property was purchased by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and thirty acres east of the house were subsequently devoted to sludge entrenchment.<sup>6</sup> Chain link fences were erected surrounding and protecting the house and entrenchment site, and the access lane from Route 301 was closed off. A new access road was constructed, entering from Governors Bridge Road (northeast of the house), and leading to the entrenchment site. The house itself was occupied by tenants at the time of the WSSC purchase, but was unoccupied after that time.

In the spring of 1987, a serious fire started in the Bowie house. Access to the property was difficult for the fire department, and by the time the fire engines reached the house, it was beyond salvage.<sup>7</sup> All that remains of the house today is a pile of rubble, including heavy hand-hewn beams and large chunks of local iron-bearing stone which composed the house foundation.

The house of "3W" Bowie was designated an Historic Site at the time of the adoption of the Historic Sites and Districts Plan. Because of the prominence of "3W" Bowie, and because his house exemplified the social, agricultural and historical heritage of the County, it was an important historical resource in Prince George's County.

Notes:

1 Federal Direct Tax, Patuxent Hundred, 1798.

2 Bowie, E. G., Across the Years in Prince George's County, 1975, pg. 771 ff.

3 Bowie, op. cit., Planters' Advocate, 1851-61, passim.

4 Bowie, E. G. op. cit., Planters' Advocate, 1851-61, passim; Van Horn, R. L. Out of the Past, 1976, pg. 321 ff.

5 Prince George's County Equity #595.

6 Cf. Chain of Title.

7 Interview, July 1987, with Rich Diemer of Maryland Environmental Services, the agency which manages the property for the WSSC; site visit with Mr. Diemer on 21 July 1987.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#74B-2

cf. chain of title

cf. Notes, Item 8

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 316.18 acres

Tax Map 56, parcel 6

Quadrangle name Bowie, Section EQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

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 Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historianorganization P.G. Historic Preservation Commission date June 1988street & number c/o M-NCPPC telephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlboro state MD

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

CHAIN OF TITLE  
W.W.W. BOWIE HOUSE  
P.G. #74B-2

5084:154  
6 Apr 1979  
Deed

Henry C. Ellis & C. Calvert Lancaster, guardians of Helene G. Phelps to J.W. Rogers, Joseph M. Joyce et al, partners in Crown Grant Joint Venture; 4 parcels, including parcel #2, 230.7 acres which John and Helene Phelps acquired from Title Guarantee & Trust Co.

499:417  
11 April 1938  
Deed

Title Guarantee & Trust Co to John Phelps et ux (Helene), 298 acres Eglington

499:416  
11 Apr 1938  
Deed

John and Helene Phelps to Title Guarantee and Trust Co., 298 acres Eglington

19:392  
17 May 1904  
Deed

Ida L. Turner, widow to John Phelps, 298 acres Eglington

13:97  
15 Apr 1903  
Deed

John Phelps, attorney, and Martha E. Horn to Ida L. Turner; default in mortgage from Strathman to Horn, public sale by Attorney Phelps, M.E. Horn highest bidder, so now Phelps (att'y) and Horn (highest bidder) sell all rights of M.E. Horn and William and Catherine Strathman in 294 acres of Eglington to Turner.

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1 Mar 1899  
Mtg

William and Catherine Strathman to Martha E. Horn, 294 acres of Eglington

JB#4:476  
1 Mar 1899  
Deed

Martha E. Horn to William and Catharine Strathman for \$5000, 294 acres of Eglington

JWB#41:413  
19 Aug 1897  
Deed

John W. Horn to wife Martha E. Horn (for natural love and \$5) 294 acres of Eglington

HB#5:84  
1 Sept 1871  
Deed

Bentley C. Bibb et ux to John W. Horn  
294 acres Eglington (\$10,000)

HB#5:83  
30 Aug 1871  
Deed

John Glenn, trustee to Bentley C. Bibb, 294 acres Eglington where W.W.W. Bowie now resides, which he mortgaged to Bibb, and which he acquired from Benjamin Gantt; by virtue of equity case, Plummer vs W.W.W. Bowie, #595 (original papers lost)

Chain of title PG  
W.W.W. Bowie house, 74B-2  
continued

HB#4:120  
23 Nov 1870  
Mtg

W.W.W. Bowie to Bentley C. Bibb, 293  
acres Eglinton, 2nd mortgage

HB#2:267  
23 Mar 1869  
Mtg

W.W.W. Bowie to Bentley C. Bibb, 293 acres  
Eglinton, to secure payment of Bowie's \$2500  
debt to Bibb; land on which Bowie lives

AB#11:345  
10 Jan 1838  
Deed

Thomas Pratt et ux to W.W.W. Bowie 390  
acres of several tracts including Eglinton  
acquired by Lucy Crabb from J. Watkins

AB#11:342  
10 Oct 1837  
Deed

Benjamin Gantt et ux to W.W.W. Bowie,  
all their interest in same land (390 acres of  
several tracts)

AB#2  
183?  
Judg't

Purchased by Thomas G. Pratt at sheriff's  
sale, Edward Belt, sheriff, by case vs. Ben-  
jamin Gantt

AB#1  
12 July 1828  
Judg't

Purchased by Benjamin Gantt at sheriff's sale,  
case vs Mary S. Gantt

TT#1:44  
8 Jan 1811  
Will

Testator, Lucy Crabb; to Mary Sprigg Gantt, all  
her right and title to the plantation where she  
now dwells . . .

JRM#13:683  
25 Nov 1809  
Deed

Lucy Crabb to Mary Sprigg Gantt, 312 acres  
and 2 roods of Eglinton, the appurtenances  
to be used by Lucy Crabb during her lifetime

JRM#13:680  
25 Nov 1809  
Deed

John B. Watkins, trustee, to Lucy Crabb;  
on 14 Mar 1795, Lucy Crabb bought out of the  
estate of William Hall of Benjamin, 312 acres  
2 roods of Eglinton; Thomas Duckett was trustee;  
Duckett died before executing conveyance,  
so now Watkins is appointed trustee to convey  
above land to Lucy Crabb.



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland, ~~20870~~  
20772

July 21, 1987

RECEIVED

JUL 23 1987

MARYLAND HISTORICAL  
TRUST

Mr. J. Whitson Rogers, President  
Arundel Enterprises, Inc.  
602 South Hanover Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thank you for your letter of June 28 regarding the W.W.W. Bowie House, a designated Prince George's County Historic Site.

Unfortunately, the house was burned to the ground by vandals this past spring, in spite of tall fences and locked gates that were erected by the WSSC. My staff had to make an appointment with the WSSC to visit the property because the original road access has been closed.

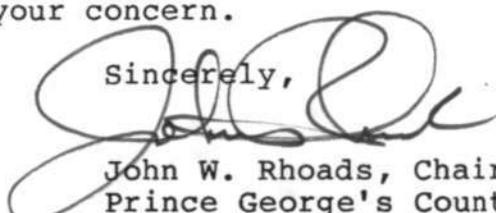
You are correct that the house had been unkept and unattended by the WSSC, and it apparently suffered from vandalism a number of times, in spite of the fencing.

I am distressed that the WSSC did not keep a tenant in the house and have written to the Chairman to convey my concern. It is regrettable that a public agency did not take greater responsibility to maintain one of the County's designated historic sites.

I am also asking the County Historic Preservation Commission to require a report from all public agencies on the status and condition of historic properties that they own. We hope that the results of the report will identify any properties that are not being looked after, so that losses such as this one will not occur again.

Thank you for your concern.

Sincerely,



John W. Rhoads, Chairman  
Prince George's County  
Planning Board

cc: ✓ The Honorable Parris N. Glendening  
J. Rodney Little, Director  
Maryland Historical Trust  
Joyce W. McDonald, Chairman, Historic  
Preservation Commission  
Robert P. Will, Chairman  
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # 74B-2 Date c.1840  
Building Name W.W.W. Bowie House  
Location 3807 Crain Highway, Mitchellville, Md.  
Open to Public  yes  no

The "3W Bowie" house is a two-and-one-half story frame house with gable roof. The three bay main (south) facade has an entrance in the first bay; across this facade is a two story porch with balustrade on the second level, and bracketed posts on the first. At the east gable end are two interior chimneys. A wing extends north from the main house connecting it to a 17' by 13' stucco-covered kitchen wing whose gable is at right angles to that of the main house; there is a flush chimney at its north gable end. This smaller structure may be the stone kitchen reported (as 12' by 16') on Eglinton in the 1798 federal tax assessment.

This large attractive farm house was the home of Walter William Weems Bowie, prominent public servant, attorney and agriculturist of the latter nineteenth century; it stands on a tract of land called Eglinton. There had been a house on Eglinton in 1798, when the tract was owned by Lucy Crabb, but only the stone kitchen may be incorporated in the present house. "3W Bowie" acquired the tract in 1837, and the house was built sometime after this. Although Bowie inherited his family home near Collington after his father's death in 1839, he remained at Eglinton through the vicissitudes of the Civil War, and lost it in 1871 through mortgage foreclosure. Bowie had studied under his near neighbor Justice Gabriel Duvall and became a prominent attorney he was several times an (unsuccessful) Democratic candidate for General Assembly and Congressional seats. He was an important agriculturist and active in the construction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad.

The house is significant because of Bowie's prominence; it is currently endangered by the planned entrenchment of sludge on the 173 acres adjoining it.

Priv/Unocc/Good

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

W.W.W. Bowie House (Eglington)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

3807 Crain Highway

CITY, TOWN

Mitchellville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

P.G.

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER awaits

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Grown Grant Joint Venture

sale; on property to be used for sludge entrenchment

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

P.G. County Courthouse

Liber #: 5084

Folio #: 154

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Sites, P.G. County

DATE

1974

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Calvert Mansion, 4811 Riverdale Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Riverdale

STATE

Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The "3W Bowie" house is a two-and-one-half story frame house with gable roof. The three bay main (south) facade has an entrance in the first bay; across this facade is a two-story porch with balustrade on the second level, and bracketed posts on the first. At the east gable end are two interior chimneys. A wing extends north from the main house connecting it to a 17' by 13' stucco-covered kitchen wing whose gable is at right angles to that of the main house; there is a flush chimney at its north gable end. This smaller structure may be the stone kitchen reported (as 12' by 16') on Eglinton in the 1798 federal tax assessment.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PG:74B-2

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				local history

SPECIFIC DATES late 18th c., mid 19th BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This large attractive farm house was the home of Walter William Weems Bowie, prominent public servant, attorney and agriculturist of the latter nineteenth century; it stands on a tract of land called Eglington. There had been a house on Eglington in 1798, when the tract was owned by Lucy Crabb, but only the stone <sup>kitchen</sup> may be incorporated in the present house.<sup>1</sup> "3W Bowie" acquired the tract in 1837,<sup>2</sup> and the house was built sometime after this. Although Bowie inherited his family home (on Darnall's Grove near Collington) after his father's death in 1839, he remained at Eglington through the Civil War, and lost Eglington in 1871 through mortgage foreclosure.<sup>3</sup>

Bowie had studied under his near neighbor Justice Gabriel Duvall and became a prominent attorney; he was several times an (unsuccessful) Democratic candidate for General Assembly and Congressional seats. He was an important agriculturist and active in the construction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad.

The house is significant because of Bowie's prominence; because it was surrounded during Bowie's residence with a remarkable collection of native and exotic trees. It is currently endangered by the planned entrenchment of sludge on the 173 acres adjoining it.

1. 1798 Federal Direct Tax, Prince George's County
2. P.G.C. Deeds AB#11:342
3. P.G.C. Equity #595

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

P.G.C. Deeds JRM#13:680; JRM#13:683; AB#11:342,345; HB#2:267;  
HB#4:120; HB#5:83,84  
P.G.C. Equity #595  
1798 Federal Direct Tax, P.F. County

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Susan G. Pearl/Ruth Lockard

ORGANIZATION

P.G. Historical & Cultural Trust

DATE

May 1990

STREET & NUMBER

Calvert Mansion, 4811 Riverdale Road

TELEPHONE

779-2011

CITY OR TOWN

Riverdale, Md.

STATE

20840

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The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

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P.G. #74B-2

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6 Apr 1979  
Deed

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Title Guarantee & Trust Co to John Phelps et ux (Helene), 298 acres Eglington

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Ida L. Turner, widow to John Phelps, 298 acres Eglington

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Mtg

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Martha E. Horn to William and Catherine Strathman for \$5000, 294 acres of Eglington

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Deed

John W. Horn to wife Martha E. Horn (for natural love and \$5) 294 acres of Eglington

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1 Sept 1871  
Deed

Bentley C. Bibb et ux to John W. Horn  
294 acres Eglington (\$10,000)

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John Glenn, trustee to Bentley C. Bibb, 294 acres Eglington where W.W.W. Bowie now resides, which he mortgaged to Bibb, and which he acquired from Benjamin Gantt; by virtue of equity case, Plummer vs W.W.W. Bowie, #595 (original papers lost)

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HB#2:267 23 Mar 1869 Mtg	W.W.W. Bowie to Bentley C. Bibb, 293 acres Eglington, to secure payment of Bowie's \$2500 debt to Bibb; land on which Bowie lives
AB#11:345 10 Jan 1838 Deed	Thomas Pratt et ux to W.W.W. Bowie 390 acres of several tracts including Eglington acquired by Lucy Crabb from J. Watkins
AB#11:342 10 Oct 1837 Deed	Benjamin Gantt et ux to W.W.W. Bowie, all their interest in same land (390 acres of several tracts)
AB#2 183? Judg't	Purchased by Thomas G. Pratt at sheriff's sale, Edward Belt, sheriff, by case vs. Ben- jamin Gantt
AB#1 12 July 1828 Judg't	Purchased by Benjamin Gantt at sheriff's sale, case vs Mary S. Gantt
TT#1:44 8 Jan 1811 Will	Testator, Lucy Crabb; to Mary Sprigg Gantt, all her right and title to the plantation where she now dwells . . .
JRM#13:683 25 Nov 1809 Deed	Lucy Crabb to Mary Sprigg Gantt, 312 acres and 2 roods of Eglington, the appurtenances to be used by Lucy Crabb during her lifetime
JRM#13:680 25 Nov 1809 Deed	John B. Watkins, trustee, to Lucy Crabb; on 14 Mar 1795, Lucy Crabb bought out of the estate of William Hall of Benjamin, 312 acres 2 roods of Eglington; Thomas Duckett was trus- tee; Duckett died before executing conveyance, so now Watkins is appointed trustee to convey above land to Lucy Crabb.

PG # 74B-2  
1701935304

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
W.W.W. BOWIE HOUSE				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
3807 Crain Highway				
CITY OR TOWN:				
Mitchellville				
STATE:			COUNTY:	
Maryland			Prince George's	
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME:				
Phelps, Mrs. John				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
3807 Crain Highway				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Mitchellville			Maryland	
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:				
Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Upper Marlboro			Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	

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
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story, Federal house with a three bay facade. The doorway in the west bay has a narrow transom light. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash. Across the facade is a two story porch with square, bracketed posts. At the east end there are two internal chimneys. The sheathing is clapboard.

On the north is a two story wing that may be older than the main house. It has a central doorway and flanking windows with 6/6 double hung sash. On the north end is a flush gable chimney. The present stucco hides the original materials.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century
- 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Historic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Art</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communications</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Invention</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Literature</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Military</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Music</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Political</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Theater</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|--|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

[Empty space for statement of significance]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. 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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian		DATE 7 Oct 74
ORGANIZATION MNCPPC		
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 \_\_\_\_\_

R-A

GOVERNOR BRIDGE ROAD

PRINCE

Green

O-S

Branch

R-A

O-S

W.W.W. BOWIE HOUSE  
PG (74B-2)

CONDITIONAL  
MUSEE OF 08 975  
AMDT 1, 2  
D BASIC PLAN  
ED AS PART OF THIS  
AP REF CR-08-1975  
CDZ AMDT-2

R-U

R-R

R-A

R-S

CRAIN

MILL

75' C.L.

75' C.L.

Mill

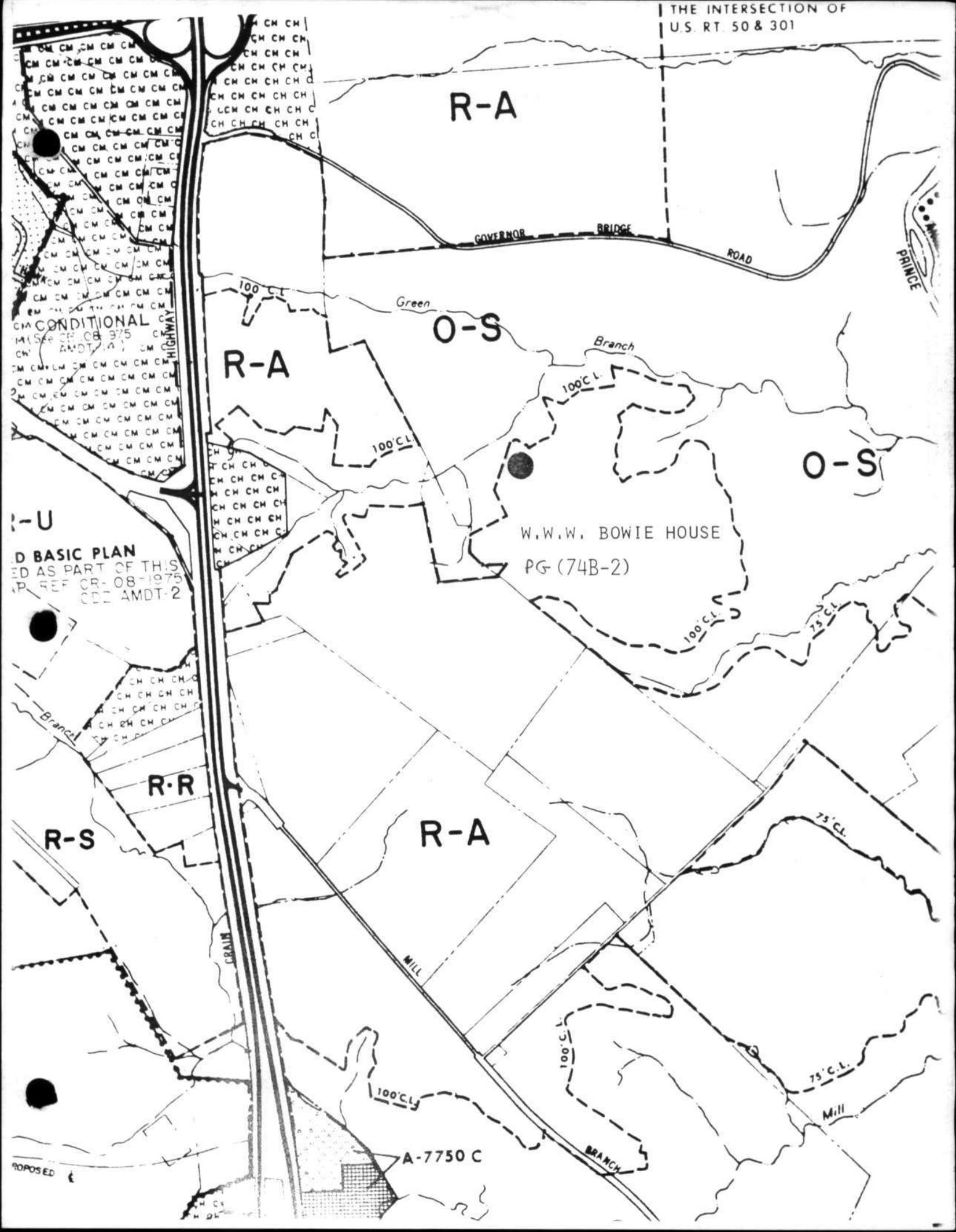
100' C.L.

100' C.L.

BRANCH

A-7750 C

PROPOSED



31132 A.  
P. 7

JAMES E. MCMURTREY, III  
5972/612  
10.00A.  
P.72

Governor  
BRIDGE

R-A

RD.

09 CRAIN LTD. PARTNERSHIP  
5784/718  
60.06A.  
P.9

R-A

O-S

718  
1A.

C-H

O-S

P.56-6

PG-74B-2

MAP 56 P.6

AME E. CONTI  
4116/380  
10.00A.  
P.57

JAMES K. ROBINSON  
3211/358  
65.25A  
P.21

R-A

SHERMAN

SHERMAN  
4/817  
5.99 A  
P. 28

O-S

# BOWIE

U S MILITARY RESERV  
AIR FOCE TRANSMITTER

PATUXENT  
RIVER  
WATERSHED PARK

71B-16

HIGHWAY

JOHN HANSON

P.G.#  
74B-2

W.W.W. Bowie  
House

71B-6

74B-3

74B-7

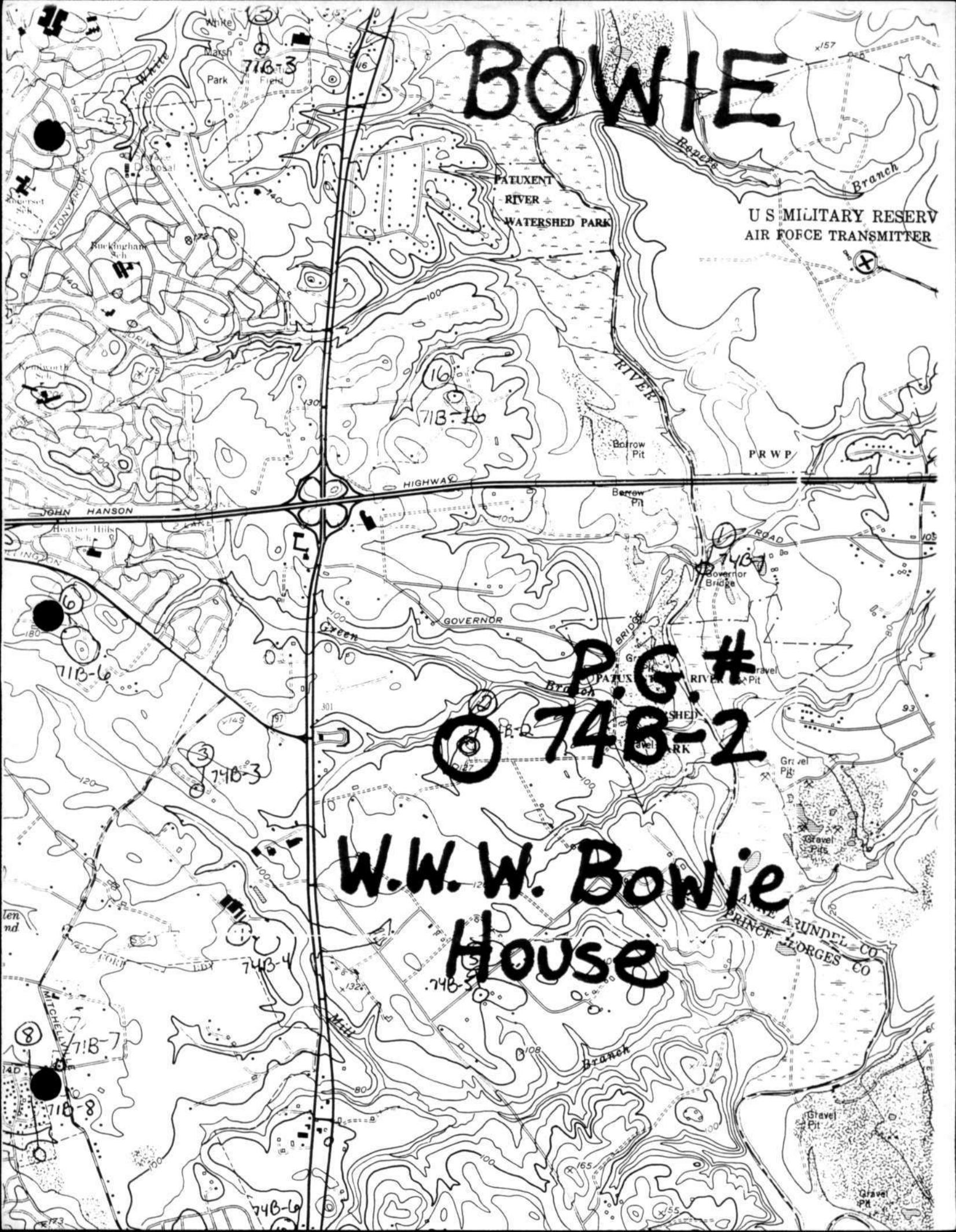
74B-4

74B-5

71B-7

71B-8

74B-6





NAME W. W. W. BOWIE HOUSE? (PHELPS)

PG: 74 B-2

LOCATION E OF Rt 301 BOWIE, Md

FACADE E

PHOTO TAKEN 10/7/74 MOWYER



NAME W.W.W. BOWIE HOUSE? (PHELPS) PG:74B-2

LOCATION E. of Rt. 301 BOWIE, Md (GOVERNOR'S BRIDGE AREA)

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 10/7/74 M DWYER