

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Nelson Farm House and Barns Survey Number: PG-75A-20

Project: I-95 at Ritchie-Marlboro Road Agency: SHA

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

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based upon the MHT form, the Nelson House and Barns is not eligible to the National Register. The Nelson House and Barn property is located at 1528 Ritchie-Marlboro Road in Upper Marlboro, MD. The farm was the site of a thriving thoroughbred stud farm from 1945 through the 1960s and includes a 1943 farmhouse, two large stables and a garage.

The farmhouse is a large 2-1/2-story brick dwelling designed in a Colonial Revival style. It is square in plan and covered with a wide gable roof. The south (main) facade is located in the south gable end and is characterized by a double-story screened-in portico formed by massive brick piers.

Although the property survives as the site of a thoroughbred stud farm, the farm is not particularly noteworthy in Prince George's County horsebreeding, as it was built late in the history of thoroughbred breeding, operated for only a short period, and was not prominent in the industry. The property is thus not eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A. The farmhouse is representative of a mid-20th-century Colonial Revival style-dwelling and lacks the distinctiveness of type, period or construction method necessary to qualify it for listing in the National Register under Criterion C. The property is not known to have been associated with any person significant to our past and therefore does not meet Criterion B.

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

Prepared by: Marvin Brown, Griener, Inc. for SHA

Elizabeth Hannold and Kim Williams February 12, 1996
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable
Orlando Roberts 2-13-96
Reviewer, NR program Date

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling
Subsistence/Agriculture/Stables

Known Design Source: _____

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

1. Name - Unchanged

2. Location - Unchanged

3. Classification - Change as follows:

Under Present Use, add "commercial"

4. Owner of Property - Change as follows:

Name - The Interchange Corporation

5. Location of Legal Description - Change as follows:

Liber - 6515

Folio - 455

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys - Unchanged

7. Description - Change as follows:

In all important respects the descriptions on the original survey form of the house, garage, and two horse barns are accurate. Some minor changes and corrections, largely due to changing conditions since the property was recorded in 1987, are noted below. Also additional descriptions are added of other minor buildings on the property that were not recorded on the original form.

Main House:

Aluminum now covers the pediment, friezeboards, cornice returns, and those exterior surrounds not protected by the screened-in porches. The exterior west side chimney is located between the first and second, rather than the second and third, bays as mistakenly indicated on the form. Some of the interior oak door surrounds are now painted rather than varnished. Other than these changes, the house has not been altered since 1987.

It should be stressed that the house is an extremely plain and functional, if large, example of the Colonial Revival style. Its decorative finish is minimal and not notable.

Garage:

An original or early stair climbs the west side elevation of the garage, providing access to its second-story apartment. A total of six dormers pierce the roof, three at the south front elevation and an additional three at the rear elevation. All are now clad in aluminum. Other than the addition of the aluminum, the garage has not been altered since 1987. The garage appears to have been built at the same time as the house, in 1943.

Board-and-Batten Horse Barn:

The horse barn just to the west of the house and garage is topped by a seam- rather than corrugated-metal roof. It extends entirely over the barn's upper level and over the sheds at the south and north sides. Two ventilators pierce the roof. The east front elevation is marked by a dirt ramp edged by concrete walls that leads to a glass- and wood-paneled door similar to but larger than the doors of the garage. Board-and-batten siding sheathes the front, rear, and north side elevations of the barn. Glass casement windows with screens extend across the south side elevation shed. The interior could only be viewed through windows. It is largely filled with shelves holding aluminum siding, gutters, and other home improvement materials of CSC Contractors, which leases the barn, garage, and house, in the basement of which it maintains its offices. The building is plainly articulated, built with its function, rather than architectural expression, in mind. The barn was probably constructed around the same time as the house. It appears on an early postcard of the farm included in the file for the property (PG 75A-20) located at the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission offices in Upper Marlboro. Current research neither supports nor refutes the claims that the farm's horse barns exemplified the most up-to-date facilities available to run a horse breeding operation in the mid-twentieth century (King 1987). Large buildings clearly built more with function than appearance in mind, they were in all likelihood not behind the times in their mechanical functions.

Concrete-Block Horse Barn:

The property's second large horse barn is located to the northwest of the main house. It is a plain, concrete-block, rectangular building topped by a seam-metal gambrel-front roof. Its east front elevation is entered through a large glass- and wood-paneled door matching that of the other barn and the garage. The straightforward concrete-block construction of the barn is even more plainly finished, and less architecturally notable, than that of the board-and-batten horse barn. A shed hyphen at the west elevation connects the barn with a smaller, frame, board-and-batten sided outbuilding topped by a corrugated-metal roof. The barn is now leased to an operation that repairs bulldozers and access could not be obtained to the interior. The barn was probably constructed around the same time as the house. It appears on the early postcard of the farm. Current research neither supports nor refutes the claims that the farm's horse barns exemplified the most up-to-date facilities available to run a horse breeding operation in the mid-twentieth century (King 1987). Large buildings clearly built more with function than appearance in mind, they were in all likelihood not behind the times in their mechanical functions.

Frame Barn:

Near the far northern end of the property stands a frame gable-front barn that could only be viewed from a long distance. It appears to look like many other barns scattered across the landscape of this part of Prince George's County. Because it was not viewed up close, it could not be dated. It is, however, pictured on the early postcard of the farm.

Tenant House:

Just to the northeast of the main house is a small, rectangular, one-story tenant house. A functional concrete-block structure in poor condition, it is topped by a seam-metal roof. Its age is not known, but it appears on the early postcard of the farm.

Sheds:

To the east of the main house, near the property line, are four deteriorated frame storage sheds crowned by almost flat shed roofs. They are almost certainly less than 50 years old, for they do not appear on the early postcard of the property.

Site:

The property associated with the former Nelson Horse Farm consisted of about 200 acres in 1951, shortly before the Nelsons sold their thoroughbred holdings. In 1984 it was pared down to 113 acres when it left the family. In 1986, following another sale, that section of the farm containing the house and outbuildings was further pared down to the property's present 88 acres. The property continues to be undeveloped, even though it has been held by a development company since 1984, and a few horses still graze in its southwest pasture. However, it is no longer an active farm and has lost all but traces of the many fences and roads, pictured on the early postcard, that divided it into a number of discrete pastures. The tiny buildings scattered among these pastures that once held feed for the horses, visible on the early postcard, do not appear to have survived.

8. Significance - Changed

The statement of significance included on the form should be replaced, or read in association, with the following:

Summary of Significance and Evaluation of Eligibility

The former Nelson Farm, which was established in 1943, does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any of its Criteria. While thoroughbred breeding is a useful historic context for Prince George's County, the farm made no broad contribution to this area of significance. It was erected very late in the history of thoroughbred breeding in the county; horses were bred there for only a short period of time; it did not produce markedly successful horses; and many other properties in the county had a more significant connection with the context. The farm is therefore not eligible under Criterion A. The farm is also not eligible under Criterion C. Its main house and horse barns do not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and do not possess high artistic values. The house's plain straightforward rendering of the Colonial Revival style is similar to that of many other contemporary houses located throughout the county, and its severe finish is a far less notable representative of the style than that of most of its contemporaries. The horse barns are finished in an almost completely functional stripped-down style that is also not architecturally notable. The resource's components further lack individual distinction and fail to represent a significant entity. None are architecturally notable, the horse barns no longer hold horses, and the farm no longer operates. The former farm is also not believed to be eligible for Register listing under Criterion B, for it is not known to have been associated with the lives of significant individuals. The Nelsons, who bred horses there with limited success for less than ten years, were just two among many horse breeders in the county.

History

The property of the former Nelson Farm was, in the late nineteenth century, part of Albert B. Berry's Sunny Side Farm. In 1925 it was sold without significant improvements or buildings to J. Jackson Suit. It was apparently still largely undeveloped, at least architecturally, when acquired in 1941 and 1942 by Charles E. and Virginia Madge Nelson. In 1943 Mrs. Nelson's father, Mr. Madison, who was a brick mason, erected the house for them.

It is a large dwelling, about 50-feet square, with solid 16-inch-thick masonry walls and tapered brick portico piers (King 1987).

The house's double-pile center-hall plan has vernacular roots in the county. The original use of the rooms at the first floor, however, did not mirror vernacular uses. The northeast room holds a kitchen and the southeast room, located adjacent to a small space holding a large safe, may have originally served as an office. The full basement once held an apartment for the full-time farm assistant, Mr. Thomas, and other business-related rooms (King 1987). It now houses the offices of CSC Contractors.

The functional nature of some of the rooms of the house, as well as the survival of the two large horse barns with built-in features such as grain storage and feed chutes reflect the property's former use as a modern stud farm business from the mid-1940s into the 1950s and perhaps 1960s. By February, 1951, the farm had reportedly expanded to 200 acres and held a herd of 25 mares and two stakes-winning stallions, Alaking and Sir Francis (King 1987). In October, 1951, however, the Nelson's announced that they were going to disperse their entire thoroughbred holdings by public auction at the farm before the end of the year (*The Maryland Horse* 1951:8).

The property remained in the hands of Mrs. Nelson, who survived Mr. Nelson, until 1984, when she sold its 113 acres to the Hampton Beltway Corporation (King 1987). In December, 1986, the Hampton Park Corporation sold 88 acres of the former farm, containing the buildings described above, to The Interchange Corporation (Prince George's County Deed Book 6515, Page 455). The main house is now leased and used partly as a dwelling and partly as offices. The concrete-block horse barn is separately leased and now houses a bulldozer repair business.

Historic Context:

There is a long history of horse breeding in Prince George's County dating from late in the eighteenth century into the 1960s (Berger 1995b; Belair Stables file). Of the approximately 260 historic sites designated under the county's historic preservation ordinance, at least 14 were partially supported by the horse industry, according to information provided by the county Historic Preservation Commission (Berger 1995). The 14 specified by the Commission are Weston (PG 82A-00-7), Bowling Heights (PG 79-63-5), Bellefields (PG 82A-26), the Hamilton House (PG 74B-7), the Joshua Turner House (PG 82A-17), Harmony Hall (80-24-11), Oaklands (62-3), the P.A. Bowen Farmstead (PG 87B-36-20), the Dr. William H. Gibbons House (PG 86A-27-6), His Lordship's Kindness (PG 81A-1), Belair Stables (PG 71B-5), the Belair Mansion (PG 71B-4), the Wilson-Rawlings Farmstead (87A-19), and the Bowie-Johnson House (PG 79-001). These do not constitute a comprehensive list and many other properties in the county were associated with horse breeding and boarding (Berger 1995b).

These properties represent the extended history of horse breeding in Prince George's County. Weston, an early-nineteenth-century house with an earlier wing, continues to be active in horse breeding. It is the most prominent active breeding operation in the county in terms of producing winners. His Lordship's Kindness, a late-eighteenth-century plantation seat, also remains part of a large operating horse farm. The Belair Stables and the Belair Mansion have a particularly rich connection with successful thoroughbred breeding in Maryland during its eighteenth-century beginnings and during the early and mid-twentieth centuries as well. Provincial Governor Samuel Ogle imported the stallion Spark and the mare Queen Mab to his Belair estate in the 1740s. Benjamin Tasker, Jr., Ogle's brother-in-law and a subsequent occupant of Belair, owned the famous Selima and her foal, Selim. These horses played a significant role in the establishment of thoroughbred breeding in the country; their blood flows in the veins of many contemporary American thoroughbreds. Belair was acquired in 1898 by James Woodward. Prior to his death in 1910, he began construction of the stone and brick Belair Stables, which his

nephew and heir, William Woodward, Sr., completed in 1920. William Woodward, Sr., fielded two Triple Crown champions, Gallant Fox in 1930 and Omaha in 1935. William Woodward, Jr., Belair's last private owner, continued the stables' success, fielding Nashua, the 1955 Horse of the Year.

Charles and Virginia Nelson entered the horse breeding business during its final period of efflorescence in Maryland. In the 1920s there were less than 20 breeding farms in the state. By 1958 there were about 250 such operations. The farms had proliferated as a result of an action of the state legislature, which had set aside one percent of all bets as bonuses for Maryland-bred winners of races (Kelly 1994). The Nelsons may have entered the business, along with many other of their contemporaries, in an attempt to collect part of this substantial sum of money. Their relative lack of success in producing winners may have hastened their departure from the field. During their less than ten years of horse breeding they produced no noted champions and had no identified impact on the industry.

Architectural Context:

The Colonial Revival style, including subsets such as the Georgian Revival style, was very popular in Prince George's County in the early and mid-twentieth century. In the community of University Park, and elsewhere in the county, its common design elements included straightforward massing, gable roofs, symmetrical facades, and modest detailing. Decorative trim was usually simply molded wood with classically inspired detail, often focused on the principal entry. More elaborate houses included Neoclassical decorative elements, such as entablatures, friezes, and denticulated cornices. Slate roofs and brick-veneered walls were common. Communities such as University Park, which was developed primarily between 1920 and 1945, include many representatives of the style, most with detailing as fine or finer than that of the main house at the former Nelson Farm (Berger 1995a and 1995b).

The Colonial Revival style was also common during the period at rural houses. Four locally designated historic houses identified by the Historic Preservation Commission are early residences with significant, later, Colonial Revival-style alterations. They are Brookefield at Naylor (PG 86A-00-18), a mid-nineteenth-century house rebuilt and brick veneered in 1968; Brookwood (PG 86A-004), a mid-nineteenth-century plantation house brick veneered in 1953; Montpelier of Moore's Plains (PG 79-2), a mid-nineteenth-century house rebuilt in the 1940s; and Edelen House (PG 84-23-6), an 1830s house enlarged and renovated in 1930. All four houses were found to be significant under the local ordinance, in spite of their Colonial Revival-style alteration, because of their earlier intact interiors, settings, and historic associations. The two with alterations most contemporary to the main house at the former Nelson Farm are Montpelier and Edelen. Both are more refined examples of the style, particularly Montpelier, which has a full-height portico supported by Ionic columns at its front elevation, and a secondary full-height portico edged by square columns at its rear. Both are noted as being good period examples of the Colonial Revival style. The Nelson Farm main house is more severely finished than these two houses and does not represent the style as well as they do.

The Minear House or Suitland House--not locally designated as a historic property, but nonetheless a significant part of the county's early-twentieth-century architectural history--also better represents the Colonial Revival style in Prince George's County. A two-and-a-half-story dwelling with flanking wings erected in Suitland in 1937, its symmetry and carefully rendered details well express the Colonial Revival style as rendered in suburban Maryland in the early and mid-twentieth century. The house is richly finished with stone-veneered and beaded-board cladding, stone quoins, and slate shingles. Its handsome exterior finish is marked by stone-arch and keystone-framed windows, pedimented dormers, and a central entry framed with sidelights and transom enriched by delicate Adamesque tracery (Cannan and Moran 1991). In contrast, the Nelson House is starkly finished, with the decorative distinctiveness of the Colonial Revival style only hinted at by its severe columns and shallow pedimented entry.

9. Major Bibliographical References - Add the following:

Berger, Howard

1995a Draft National Register of Historic Places Nomination of University Park Historic District. On file at the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

1995b Personal communication with Mr. Berger, architectural historian with the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, June 14, 1995.

Cannan, Deborah, and Michelle Moran

1991 "Minear House" Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form. On file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Kelly, Joseph B.

1994 "At the Track: Thoroughbred Racing in Maryland, 1870-1973." In *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Spring, 1994, pp. 63-87.

King, Marina

1987 Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form for the Nelson Farm (PG 75A-20). On file at the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

The Maryland Horse, vol. 16, no. 10, October, 1951.

Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission

1993 *Illustrated Inventory of Historic Sites: Prince George's County, Maryland*. Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, July, 1993.

Prince George's County Deed Books, located in Prince George's County Administrative Building, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission files, located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Prince George's County Tax Maps, located in Prince George's County Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

10. Geographical Data - Changed:

Acreage of Nominated Property - 88

11. Form Prepared By - Note that Addendum to form was prepared by:

Name/Title - Marvin A. Brown, Senior Architectural Historian

Organization - Greiner, Inc.

Street & Number - 4630 Paragon Park Road

City - Raleigh

State and Zip Code - North Carolina, 27604-3174

Date - June 15, 1995

Telephone - 919-876-2760

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #75A-20 Building Date: 1943

Building Name: Nelson Farm House and Barns

Location: 1528 Ritchie-Marlboro Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Nelson Farm is a square two and one-half story brick dwelling measuring approximately 50-by-50 feet. The south (main) facade is sheltered by a two story screened portico supported by massive brick columns, incorporated under the gable roof of the main block. The house is set north of Ritchie-Marlboro Road on a 113 acre farm, reached by a long gravel drive. The three bay south facade has central entrance through a door with four-pane sidelights and surmounted by a triangular pediment. Windows are 8/8 double-hung sash with brick header sills and narrow board surrounds. The house is of red brick, laid in common bond, 16 inches thick. The roof is slate shingle. The facade is surmounted by a triangular pediment, formed by the south gable end of the roof which overhangs and provides a roof for the portico. The interior of the farmhouse has a central stair hall flanked by two rooms on the east and two on the west. All the interior woodwork is varnished oak. The open string stair has three round, tapering balusters to a step, slender turned posts at the corners of the stair, and decorative jigsaw brackets. The kitchen and the bathrooms are walled with vitrolite. There are original lighting and plumbing fixtures throughout the house. The bathroom between the two east rooms contains a large black metal safe with the inscription, "York Safe and Lock Company." Two large horse barns are west of the house. The closer, larger barn is set on a high poured cement foundation. The east and west gable ends are of frame. It contains 30 horse stalls on the first floor. The second floor, made to carry heavy farm machinery, is reached by a dirt ramp that enters a large central door in the west gable end.

Significance

The Nelson Farm house is a large fine example of a mid-twentieth century colonial Revival brick dwelling, built for a country estate. The house, grounds and two large stables are significant as the site of a thriving thoroughbred stud farm from 1945 through the 1960's. Horse racing and breeding have traditionally been an important industry in Prince George's County. The house and stables exemplify the most up-to-date facilities available in the mid-20th century to run such a business.

Acreage: 113 acres

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Nelson Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1528 Ritchie - Marlboro Road not for publicationcity, town _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 5state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

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

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

name Hampton Beltway Corporationstreet & number 1528 Ritchie - Marlboro Road telephone no.: 350-7070city, town _____ state and zip code MD 20785

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5855street & number Main Street folio 31city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/Adate _____ federal state county local depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, Room 4010, CABcity, town Upper Marlboro state MD

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Nelson Farm is a square two and one-half story brick dwelling measuring approximately 50-by-50 feet. The south (main) facade is sheltered by a two story screened portico supported by massive brick columns, incorporated under the gable roof of the main block. The house is set north of Ritchie-Marlboro Road on a ~~105~~ acre farm, and is reached by a Tongravel drive. 113

The three bay south (main) facade has central entrance through a door with four-pane sidelights and surmounted by a triangular pediment. Windows are 8/8 double-hung sash with brick header sills and narrow board surrounds. The south facade is sheltered by the screened two story portico which is supported on four massive tapering rectangular yellow-brick piers, two stories in height. The facade is surmounted by a triangular pediment, formed by the south gable end of the roof of the main block which overhangs and provides a roof for the portico. A triple window is centered at loft level. The pediment is enclosed by a dentiled frieze, and covered with horizontal lapped wood siding.

The Nelson Farm house is of red brick, laid in common bond. There is no differentiation of material at foundation level, although the interior of the basement is of cement block. The exterior walls of the building are 16 inches thick. The gable roof is covered with slate shingles. There is a wide wooden frieze and overhanging boxed cornice with returns in the north gable end. All door sills are of granite.

The three bay east facade has 8/8 sash windows of varied size and irregularly spaced. An exterior brick chimney with weathering at the first story level, rises between the first and second bay.

The three-bay north gable end has two small 8/8 sash windows at loft level. A one story screened porch with a shallow hipped roof crosses the facade. The northeast bay of the porch is enclosed with brick but has a band of multi-pane louvered windows, continuing the open, porch-like appearance. This enclosed area is a breakfast room. The porch has a frieze similar to that on the main block, and is roofed with slate.

The three-bay west facade has an exterior chimney rising between the second and third bay, in the same placement as that on the east facade. A centered one story two-bay hipped roof brick wing has louvered windows and the same frieze and roof treatment as the main block.

The interior of the farmhouse has a central stair hall flanked by two rooms on the east and two on the west. All the interior woodwork is varnished oak, including the flooring, the six panel doors, door and window surrounds, stair balustrade and newel post. The open string stair rises along the west wall of the hallway to the second floor. There are three round, tapering balusters to a step, and slender turned posts at the corners of the stair. The stair ends have decorative jigsaw brackets.

The kitchen and the bathrooms are walled with vitrolite, a colorful glass tile. There are original lighting and plumbing fixtures throughout the house. The bathroom between the two east rooms contains a large black metal safe with double doors and the inscription, "York Safe and Lock Company." A breakfast room projects from the main block on the northeast and a study on the west.

The second floor bedrooms are placed above the rooms below, flanking the central hallway. Window sills throughout the house are of marble terrazzo. The stair to the attic is behind a door in one of the bedrooms. The attic is a large finished room that covers the entire top of the house. It is lighted by the triple window in the south gable and two small 8/8 sash windows in the north gable end.

A three car, two story three-by-two-bay gable roof brick garage is just west of the house. It has three multi-pane, multi-panel wooden garage doors across the south facade. Three gable dormers are set in the slate roof above the south facade. These dormers light an apartment on the second story. A wide frieze across the facade, with dentils below the overhanging eaves, repeats the motif used on the south (main) facade of the house.

Two large horse barns are set on the property, one west of the house and the other far to the northwest. The closer, larger barn has a corrugated metal gambrel roof that reaches the first story. It is set on a highpoured cement foundation. The east and west gable ends are of frame. It contains 30 horse stalls on the first floor. The second floor, made to carry heavy farm machinery, is reached by a dirt ramp that enters a large central door in the west gable end. A large corn crib at the west end of the second floor contained feed for the horses. Wooden chutes from the second to the first floor allowed grain to be poured into feeding troughs from the second floor.

8. Significance

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/			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation			
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)			

Specific dates: 1943 Builder/Architect Mr. Madison

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 Nelson Farm house is a large fine example of a mid-twentieth century colonial Revival brick dwelling, built for a country estate. The house, grounds and two large stables are significant as the site of a thriving thoroughbred stud farm from 1945 through the 1960's. Horse racing and breeding have traditionally been an important industry in Prince George's County. The house and stables exemplify the most up-to-date facilities available in the mid-20th century to run such a business.

The Nelson Farm property, consisting of 113 acres, had been a part of the Albert B. Berry farm, called Sunny Side, in the late 19th century; and had been sold, without significant buildings or improvements to J. Jackson Suit in 1925.¹ Charles E. and Virginia Madge Nelson bought the property in 1941 and 1942, and their brick dwelling was built soon afterwards.² The house is exceptional for its large size - it is approximately 50 feet square; and for its solid masonry construction. The brick walls are 16 inches thick and the two-story front portico is supported on massive piers of brick. The house was built by Virginia Nelson's father, Mr. Madison, who was a brick mason.³

The house has a central stairhall with four flanking parlors, a traditional dwelling plan in Prince George's County. The plan is modernized by the large size of the rooms; the use of modern materials such as terrazzo window sills, vitrolite tiles in the kitchen and bathrooms and stainless steel light fixtures. Also, the northeast room on the first floor is a kitchen rather than a parlor. The southeast room may have served as an office, as a large safe is located in a small central room off the parlor. The full basement had an apartment for the full-time farm assistant, Mr. Thomas, as well as other functional, business related rooms.

The functional nature of some of the rooms of the house, as well as the survival of the two large stables with built-in features such as grain storage, feed chutes and cow milking machines, document the property's use

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#75A-20

Section 8 Page 2

as a modern stud farm business of the 1940's and 50's. The farm briefly expanded to 200 acres in the early 1950's, with a herd of 25 mares and two stallions, stakes winner "Alaking" and "Sir Francis."⁴

Notes

- 1 Land Records of Prince George's County , Will, JBP1:700 and Deed, 233:173.
- 2 Land Records, 656:242.
- 3 Interview with present property owner, Marco DeCesaris, May 1987.
- 4 The Maryland Horse, Vol. 16, No. 2, February 1951.

Chain of Title

Nelson Farm
P.G. #75A-20

5855:31
1 March 1984
Deed
L. Lawrence de Nicola - representative of Maurice S. Brady, dec'd. May 22, 1978, to Hampton Beltway Corp. for \$10 grantor conveys tract in 13th Election District. Paid \$263,810. Same conveyed in 5405:105.

5874:695
11 Apr 1984
Deed
Virginia Madge Nelson, survivor of Charles E. Nelson, to Hampton Park Corp. For \$1,134,628: Parcel 1: 113.37 acres excepting 56.6 acres see 656:242. Parcel 2: 56.6 acres. Conveyed by Lee F. Suit to Charles E. Nelson, May 17, 1941 597:45 53.68 acres.

656:242
14 July 1942
Deed
Roy J. Suit and Margaret C. Suit to Charles E. and Virginia Madge Nelson. For \$10 grantors convey tract in Kent District - 113.37 acres, excepting that part conveyed by Lee F. Suit to Charles E. Nelson and wife, March 17, 1941, 56.680 acres. See 603:45.

603:45
21 Dec. 1940
Deed
Lee F. and Christine E. Suit to Roy J. and Margaret C. Suit. For \$10 grantor convey tract of 113.37 acres, saving and excepting 56.68 acres conveyed from Roy J. to Lee F. Suit and recorded heretofore. Together with improvements.

603:20
28 Dec 1940
Deed
Roy J. and Margaret C. Suit to Lee F. Suit. For \$10 grantors convey 56.68 acres, part of property obtained under will of Joseph J. Suit, WTD 1:503, called the Jackson Suit Farm.

597:45
17 May 1941
Deed
Lee F. Suit and Christine E. Suit to Charles E. Nelson and Virginia M. Nelson. For \$10 grantors convey a parcel of 56.68 acres.

233:173
9 Mar 1925
Deed
Rebecca E. Keithley, for \$8500, has sold that estate in Kent District of 113.37 acres to Joseph Jackson Suit. Same in Equity 6268.

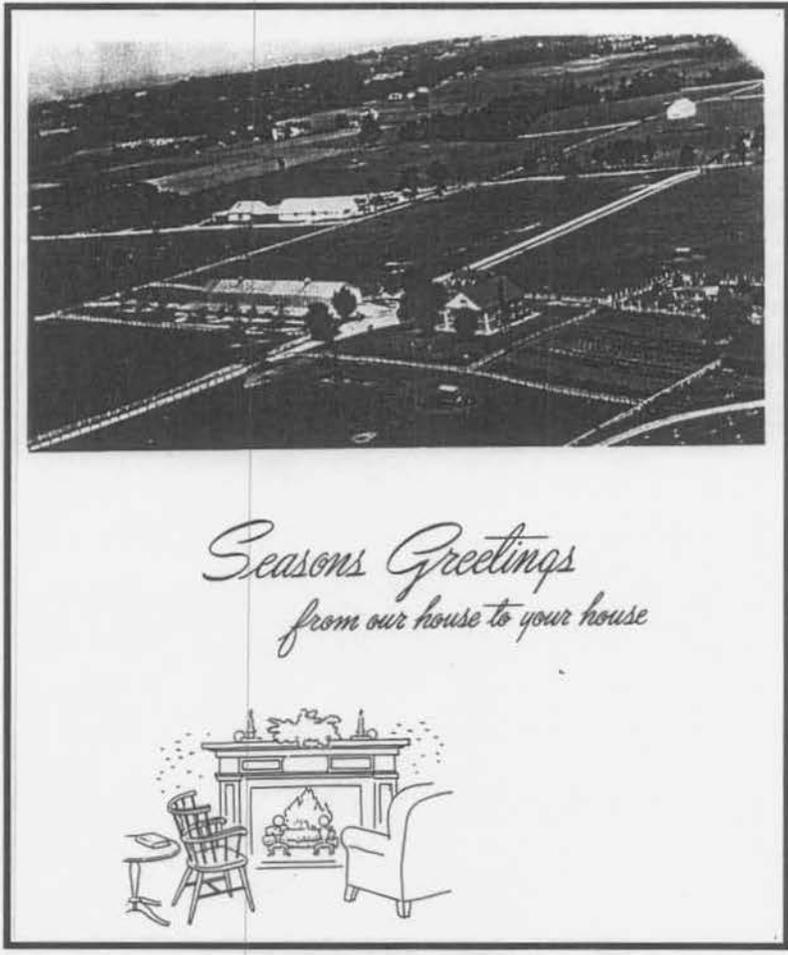
Equity 6268
S.D.H. 10:195
Rebecca E. Keithley vs. Elizabeth P. Brashears petition: by deed of trust dated February 8, 1911, recorded 69:147, Brashears conveyed to Keithley a tract in Kent District, devised to Brashears by Ellen Ann Lowe, dec'd., by her will, JBP 1:400. Tract contains 113.37 acres, unimproved.

69:147
8 Feb 1911
Deed

Elizabeth P. Brashears, for \$5 grants to daughter Rebecca E. Keithley parcel in Kent District, inherited from mother, Ellen Anne Lowe. To be held in trust by grantee.

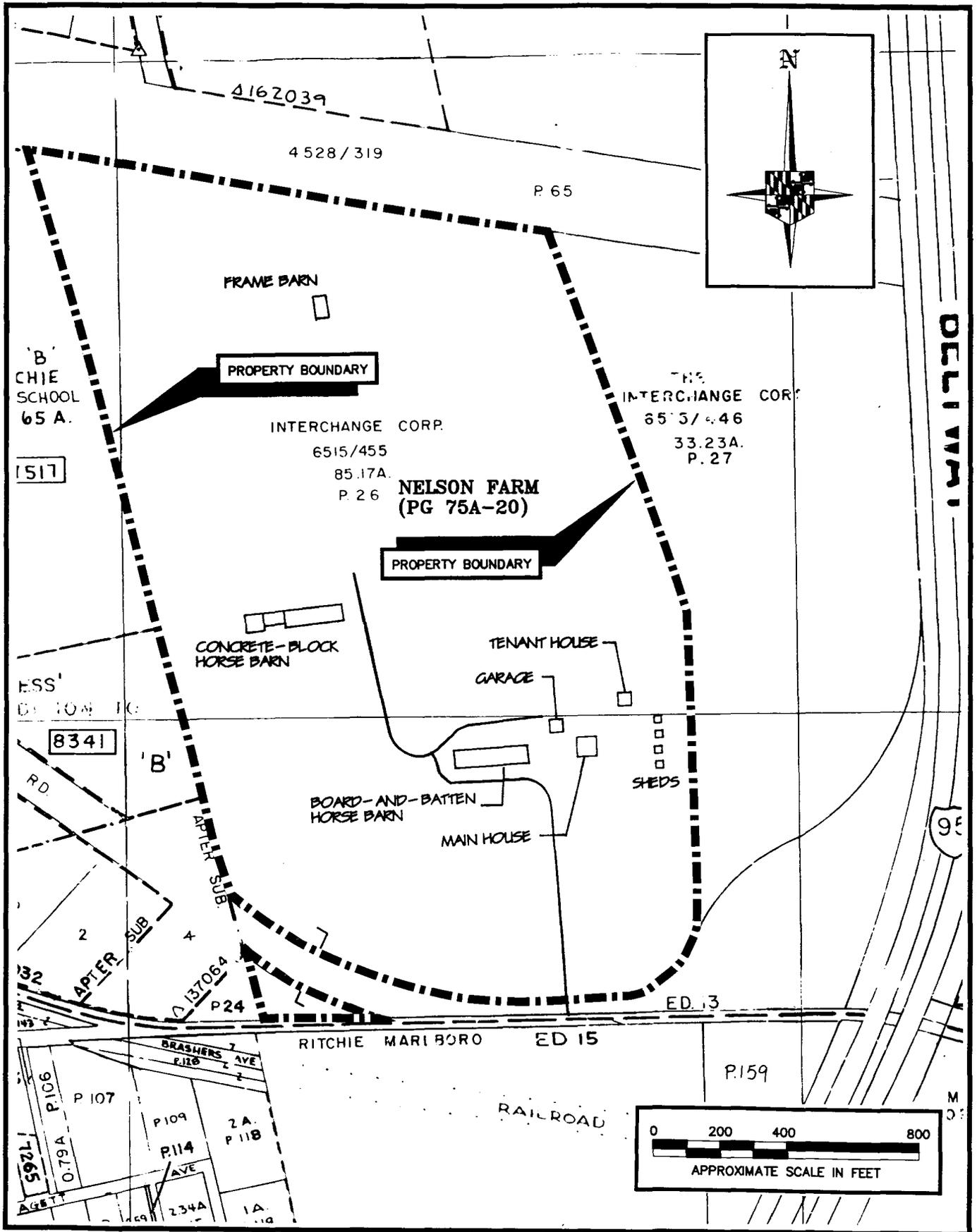
JBP1:700
Will

Will of Ellen Ann Lowe to son-in-law Seth Brashears, farm in Kent District, called Sunny Side - part of estate of Albert B. Berry, dec'd.



Seasons Greetings
from our house to your house

Historic Postcard of Nelson Farm House and Barns



Nelson Farm House and Barns Sketch Map

Photographs

The following photographs supplement those taken by King in 1987:

Main house - E side and N rear elevations
1 of 10

Main house - N rear and W side elevations
2 of 10

Garage - W side and N rear elevations
3 of 10

Tenant house - S front and W side elevations
4 of 10

Sheds, facing southeast
5 of 10

Board-and-batten horse barn - S side and E front elevations
6 of 10

Concrete-block horse barn - E front and S side elevations
7 of 10

Concrete-block horse barn - S side elevation, frame hyphen at left
8 of 10

Concrete-block horse barn- S side elevation of frame hyphen and extension
9 of 10

Frame barn, facing north
10 of 10

The attached historic postcard is on file at the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission offices, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.



PG 75A-20

Nelson Farm House AND BARN

Montgomery County MD

Marvin A Brown

6-14-95

Greiner, Inc., 1030 Paragon Park Road, Raleigh, NC 27614

Main house - E side and N rear elevations

1 of 10



PG 75A-20

Nelson Farmhouse and Barns
Montgomery County, MD

Marvin A. Brown

6-14-75

Greiner Inc., 4630 Paragon Park Road, Raleigh, NC. 27604

Main house - Near and W side elevations

2 of 10



PG 75A-20

Nelson Farm House and Barn
Montgomery County, MD

Marvin A. Brown

6-18-93

Sweeney, Inc, 4630 Paragon Park Road, Raleigh, NC 27604

Garage - W side and N rear elevations

3 of 10



PG 75A-20

Nelson Farm House and Barns
Montgomery County, MD

Marvin A. Brown

6-14-95

Greiner, Inc., 4630 Paragon Park Road, Raleigh, NC 27604

Tenant house - S front and W side elevations

4 of 10



PG 75A 10

Nelson Farm House and Barns
Montgomery County, MD
Marvin A. Brown

6-14-95

Greiner, Inc., 4630 Paragon Park Road, Raleigh, NC 27604

Sheds, facing Southeast

5 of 10



PG 75A-20

Nelson Farm House and Barns

Montgomery County, MD

Marvin A. Brown

6-12-95

Greiner, Inc., 4620 Paragon Park Road, Raleigh, NC 27604

Board-and-batten hinge barn - S side and E front elevations

6 of 10



PG 15A-20

Nelson Farm House and Barns
Montgomery County, MD

Marvin A Brown
6-14-95

Greiner, Inc., 1635 Paragon Park Road, Raleigh, NC 27604

Concrete-block horse barn. E front and S side elevations

7 of 10



PG 75A-20

Nelson Farm Horse and Barns

Montgomery County, MD

Marvin E. Brown

6-18-95

Greiner, Inc., 4620 Paragon Park Road, Raleigh, NC 27604

Concrete-block horse barn - S side elevation, frame hyphen at left

8 of 10



PG 75A-20

Nelson Farm House and Barns

Montgomery County, MD

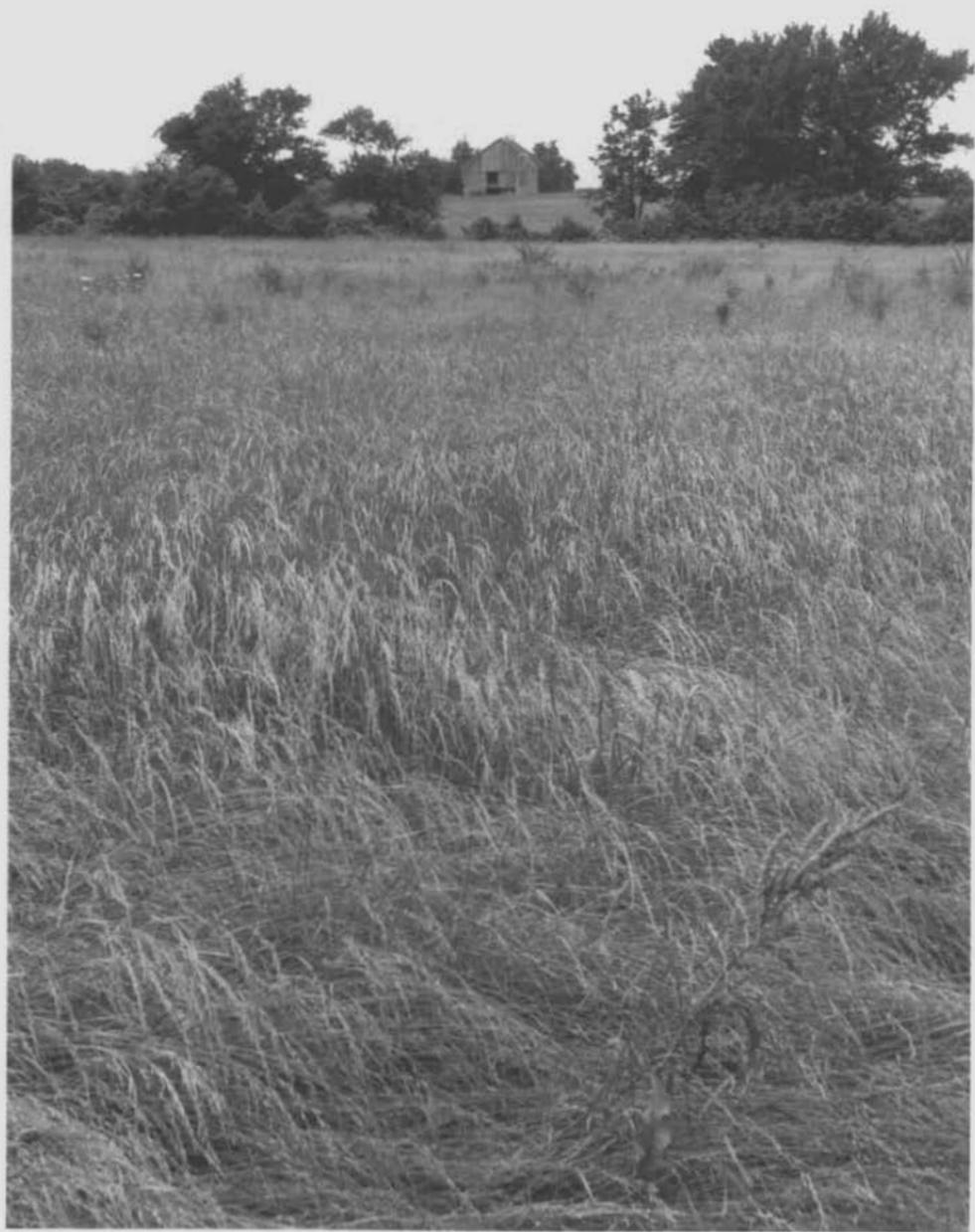
Marvin A. Braun

6-14-95

Greiner, Inc., 2630 Beaver Park Road, Raleigh, CT 0604

Concrete-block horse barn: S side elevation of frame hyphen and extension

9 of 10



FG 154-20

Nelson Farm House and Barns
Montgomery County, MD.

Martin A. Brown

6-14-95

Greiner, Inc., 4630 Paragon Park Road, Raleigh, NC 27604

Frame barn, facing north

10 of 10



P.G. #75A-20
Nelson Farm
Prince George's County
Marina King
May 1987
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #75A-20
Nelson Farm
Prince George's County
Marina King
May 1987
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #75A-20

Nelson Farm

Prince George's County

Marina King

May 1987

West elevation

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



Nelson Farm

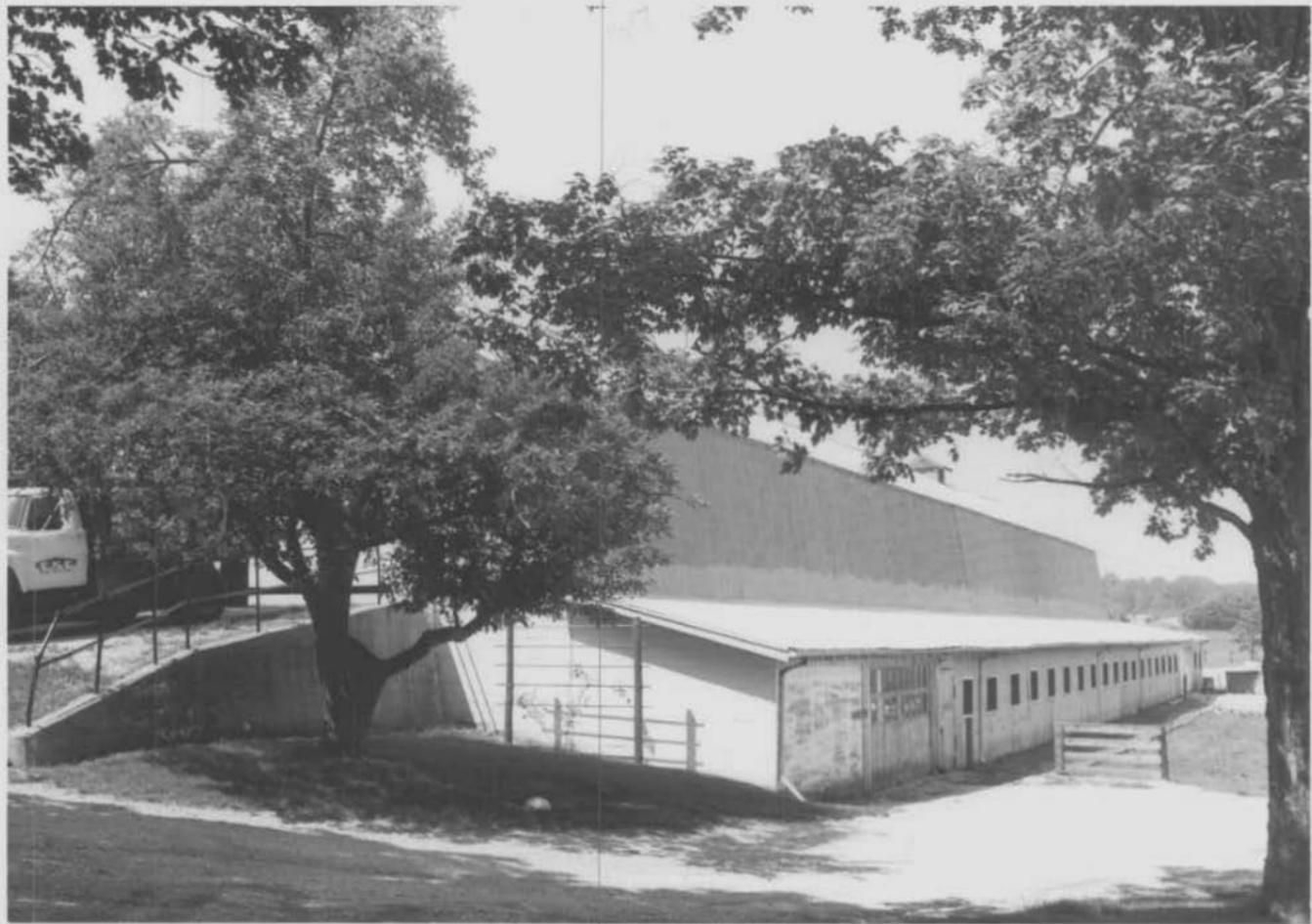
S

P.G. #75A-20
Nelson Farm
Prince George's County
Marina King
May 1987
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



Garage

P.G. #75A-20
Nelson Farm
Prince George's County
Marina King
May 1987
Garage, south
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



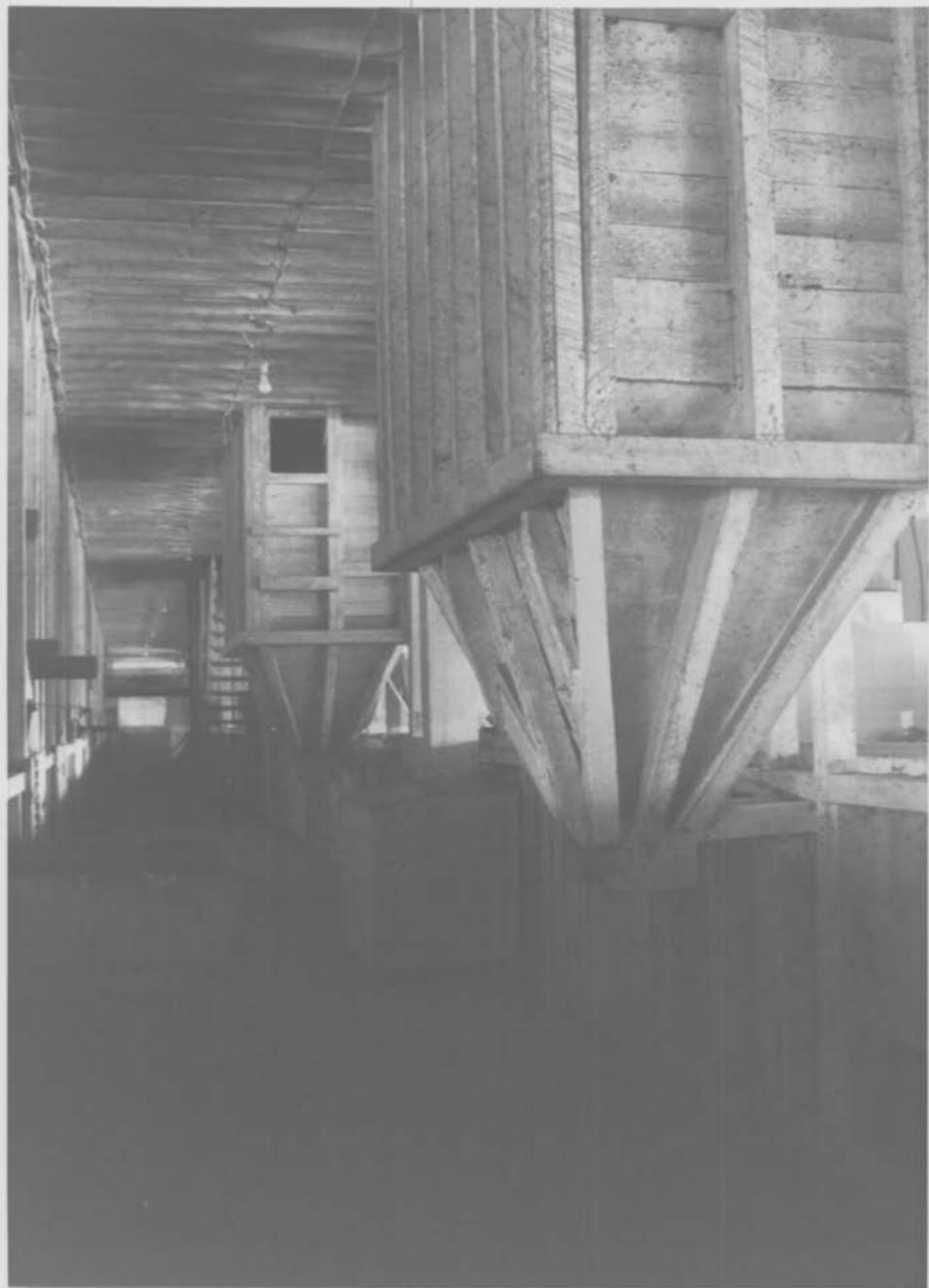
stable

P.G. #75A-20
Nelson Farm
Prince George's County
Marina King
May 1987
Stable, northeast
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



Stalls -

P.G. #75A-20
Nelson Farm
Prince George's County
Marina King
May 1987
Stable, interior, stalls
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #75A-20

Nelson Farm

Prince George's County

Marina King

May 1987

Stable, feed chutes

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