

Property Address 2301 Crain Highway Southwest, Upper Marlboro vicinity, Prince George's County
Owner Name/Address V.O.B. Limited Partnership, 6801 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 400, Riverdale, Maryland 20737
Year Built 1913

Description:

Beechwood was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in 1987. The house is currently unaltered from its condition described in the form. The property retains its original acreage and two visible outbuildings. Not mentioned in the previous form is a 2-story, side-gable barn located near the intersection of Crain Highway (US 301) and Leeland Road. The barn has a metal roof and is covered with vertical wood boards. The structure is no longer used and suffering from deterioration. The land is no longer used for agricultural purposes and has become overgrown. In addition, several of the old plantings, including boxwood and hollies, have been removed from the perimeter of the house.

National Register Evaluation:

Beechwood is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as an excellent example of the Neo-Classical style. Character-defining features include the two-story portico with Tuscan-style columns, symmetrical fenestration and Colonial Revival interior detail including classical mantels and a large stair hall. In addition, Beechwood has excellent site integrity, as it retains all of its original acreage including a shed and one barn.

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. Based upon the date of construction of the original house on the property, circa 1810, 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.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The National Register boundaries of Beechwood follow the current property lines of its tax parcel (Tax Map 85, Lot/Block #P16). This 64.7 hectare (159.92 acre) parcel is bounded on the north, south and west by adjacent parcels and on the east by Crain Highway (U.S. 301). The boundary includes the main house, a shed, a barn and the long driveway to the house, all of which are contributing elements of the property. According to deed research, the property was originally part of a 60.7 hectare (150-acre) parcel which was willed to Clotilda Hilleary by George Hilleary in 1865.

MHT CONCURRENCE:

Eligibility recommended not recommended
Criteria A B C D Considerations A B C D E F G None
Comments: _____

Suzanne Pickens 07/21/1997

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

Pickens 7/21/97
Reviewer, NR program

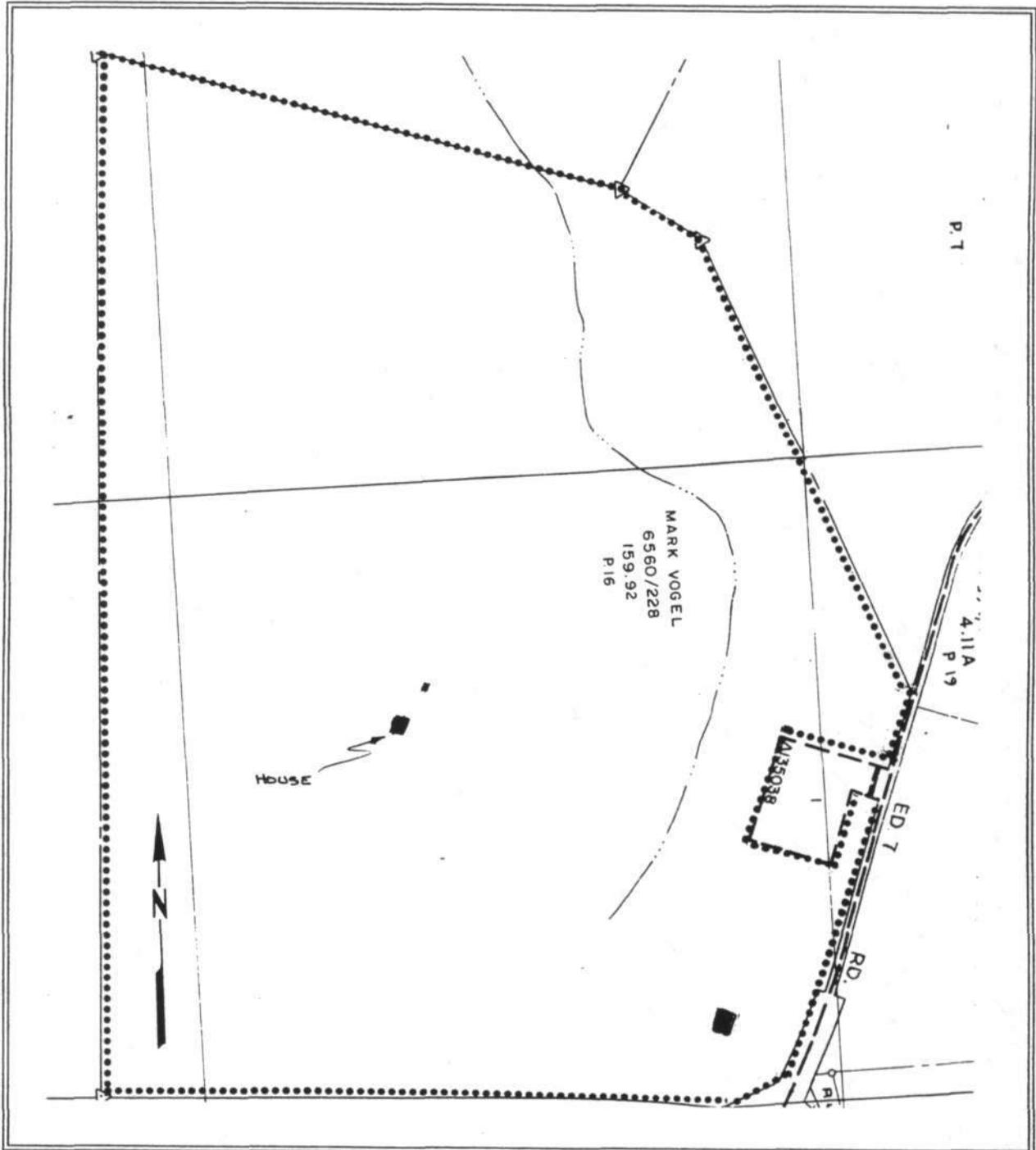
Date

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
September 1996

Spero

Property Address 2301 Crain Highway Southwest, Upper Marlboro vicinity, Prince George's County
Owner Name/Address V.O.B. Limited Partnership, 6801 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 400, Riverdale, Maryland 20737
Year Built 1913

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



U.S. 301 South Corridor
Transportation Study

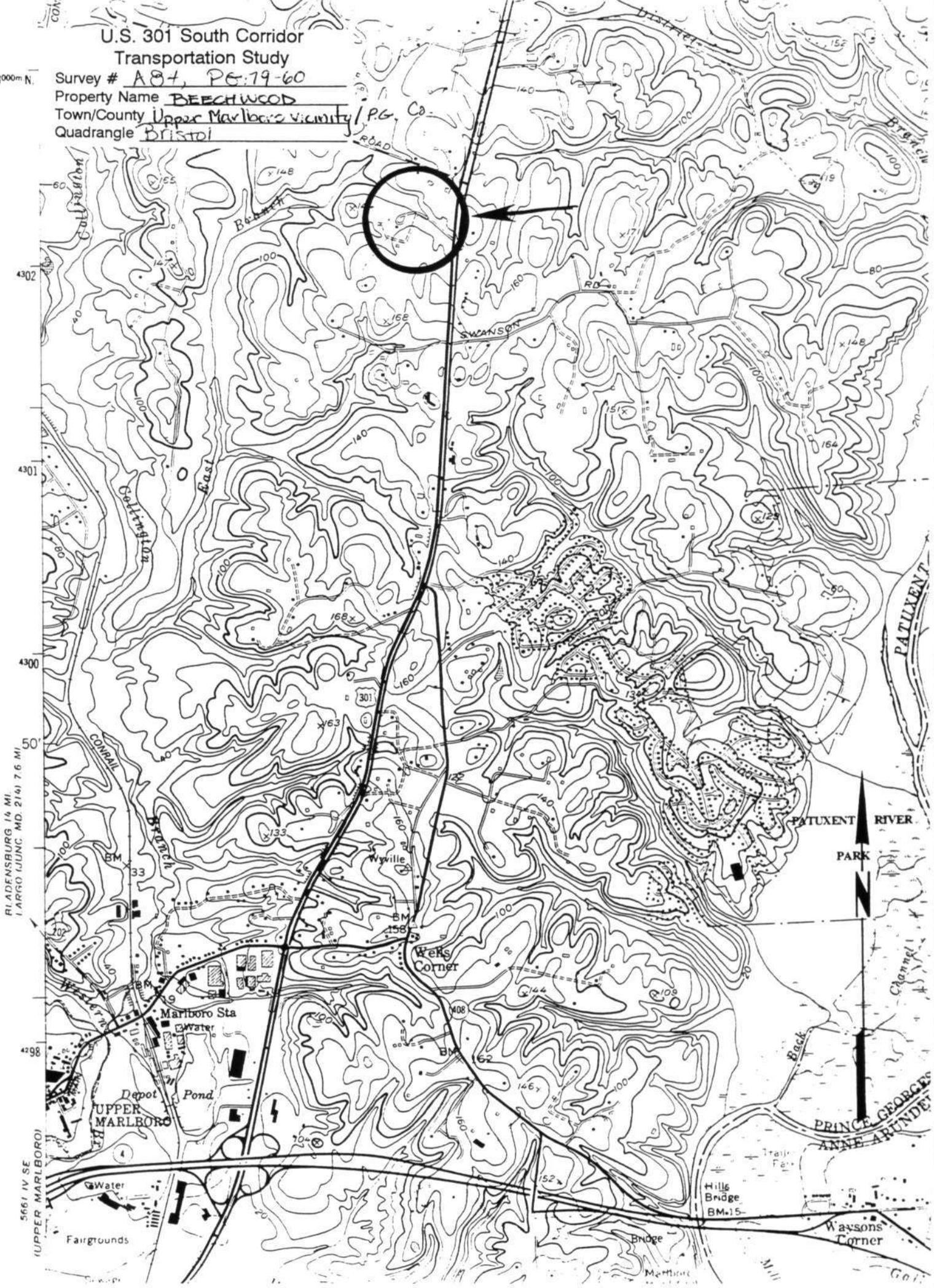
4303000m N.

Survey # A84, PG-19-60

Property Name BEECHWOOD

Town/County Upper Marlboro vicinity / PG, Co.

Quadrangle Bristol



RIADENSBURG 1/4 MI.
LARGO (UNCL. MD. 214) 7.6 MI.

566 / IV SE
UPPER MARLBORO

UPPER MARLBORO

Fairgrounds

Marlboro Sta

Depot

Pond

Wells Corner

PATUXENT RIVER

PARK

PRINCE GEORGES
ANNE ARUNDEL

Hills Bridge

BM.15

Waysons Corner

Bridge

Marlboro

Mill

Golf



1. PG: 79-60
2. BEECHWOOD, PRINCE GEORGE'S CO, MD
3. TIM TAMBURRINO, 9/96
4. P.A.C. Spero & Co
40W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412
BALTIMORE, MD 21204
5. 2301 Grain Highway North elevation of house
South view
6. 1 of 6



1. PG: 79.60
2. BEECHWOOD, PRINCE GEORGE'S CO MD
3. TIM TAMBURRINO, 9/96
4. P.A.C. Spero & Co
40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412
BALTIMORE, MD 21204
5. 2301 Crain Highway West elevation of House
6. 2 of 6 Southeast View



1. PG: 79-60
2. BEECHWOOD, PRINCE GEORGES CO, MD
3. TIM TAMBURRINO 9/96
4. P.A.C. Spero & Co
40 W. Chesapeake Ave Suite 412
BALTIMORE, MD 21204
5. 2301 Crain Highway South (Bear) elevation
6. 30 of 6 North View



1. PG # 79-60
2. Beechwood, PRINCE GEORGE'S CO, MD
3. TIM TAMBURINO, 9/96.
4. P.A.C. Sperry + CO, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave,
#412, Balto, md 21204
5. 2301 Crain Highway East elevation of
6. 4 of 6 house South west View



1. PG #79-60

2. Beachwood, PRINCE GEORGE'S CO, MD

3. TIM TAMBURRINO 9/96

4. P.A.C. Special Co. 4500 The-Of-Cove Ave, #410
Balto, md 21204

5. 2301 Grain Highway North elevation of
6. 5 of 6 Barn South view



1. PG #79-60

2. Beechwood, PRINCE GEORGES CO, MD

3. TIM TAMBURRINO, 9/96

4. P.A.G. Spero + CO, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave,
#412, Balto, md 21204

5. 2301 Crain Highway Shed,

6. 6086 North view

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #79-60 Building Date: 1913

Building Name: Beechwood

Location: 2301 Crain Highway SW, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Private/Residential/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

Beechwood is a two-story two-part frame hip-roof dwelling of the Neo-Classical style. It consists of a nearly square main block with two story portico, and an attached rear kitchen wing. The main block is three bays by three bays, with entrance in the third bay of the principal north facade. The door has a three-pane transom, two-pane sidelights and a plain board surround. Across this north facade is a two-story portico supported by tall wood Tuscan-style columns. The siding is plain horizontal board painted white. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, with plain board surrounds and black louvered shutters. The cornice is boxed, with crown molding. Extending to the south, flush with the east facade of the main block, is a lower two-story hip-roof kitchen wing. Interior of the main block consists of four spaces with the stairhall in the northwest space. The two-run, open-string staircase has a square panelled newel with applied wreath decoration, turned balusters and bracketed staireds. The parlor mantels are of wood, in the colonial Revival style.

Significance:

Beechwood is an outstanding example of the early twentieth century Neo-Classical style, and was the home of one of Prince George's County's most important genealogists. The original house at Beechwood was built at the beginning of the nineteenth century by George Hilleary on a tract known as Moore's Plains. It passed in 1815 to Hilleary's son, and in the second half of the nineteenth century was the home of Clotilda and Benjamin Bowie. In March 1913, a fire consumed the entire dwelling at Beechwood. Shortly thereafter, the Bowies had the present house built on the same site. The new house was a fine example of substantial Neo-Classical architecture: a large hip-roof roughly square dwelling with a monumental Tuscan portico across its principal facade, and Colonial Revival interior detail in its mantels and staircase. When Clotilda Bowie died in 1928, she left Beechwood to her "niece and adopted daughter", Effie Gwynn Bowie, who spent the rest of her life at Beechwood. In 1947 she published Across the Years in Prince George's County, which has become the standard reference on Prince George's County genealogy. Beechwood remained in the family until 1987. It is an outstanding example of Neo-Classical domestic architecture.

Acreage: 154.9 acres

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Beechwood

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2301 Crain Highway, S. W. (U.S. Route 301) not for publicationcity, town Upper Marlboro vicinity of congressional district 5

state 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 type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <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 type="checkbox"/> other: |

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

name Leeland Road Ltd. Partnership

street & number Watergate #460, 600 New Hampshire Ave. N. W. telephone no.:

city, town Washington, D. C. state and zip code 20037

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6560

street & number Main Street folio 228

city, town Upper Marlboro, state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#79-60

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date of move _____

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

Beechwood is a two-story two-part frame hip-roof dwelling of the Neo-Classical style. It consists of a nearly square main block with two story portico, and an attached rear kitchen wing. Built in 1913, it stands in rolling farm land north of Upper Marlboro, and is distinguished by its monumental portico and its fine Neo-Classical detail.

The main block is three bays by three bays, with entrance in the third bay of the principal north facade. The door has a three-pane transom, two-pane sidelights and a plain board surround. Across this north facade is a two-story portico supported by tall wood Tuscan-style columns. They support a full entablature with double frieze and crown molding; the porch has a brick floor, and is approached by brick steps and a walk framed by yews.

The siding is plain horizontal board painted white. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, with plain board surrounds and black louvered shutters. The cornice is boxed, with crown molding. The hip roof is covered with gray asbestos shingle. There are two tall corbelled brick chimneys in the main block: one rises in the east, and one in the west plane of the roof. The brick foundation encloses a full basement.

There are several additions to the main block of the house. Extending to the west is the third (southmost) bay of the west facade is a one-story semi-octagonal bay; this addition rests on a (new) brick foundation and is lighted by two 9/9 windows. In a corresponding position on the east facade (in the first and second bays) there is a one-story flat-roof porch, supported by Tuscan columns and screen-enclosed. This porch, which is accessible from the parlor by French doors, is surmounted by a flat parapetted deck. A small rear porch, also supported by Tuscan columns, has been built into the southwest corner of the main block and wing; it is screen-enclosed, and rests on a high (new) brick foundation.

Extending to the south, flush with the east facade of the main block, is a lower two-story kitchen wing; it is one bay by two bays, has a hip roof, and is accessible by a small one-story shed-roof enclosed porch at the southeast. There is a corbelled brick chimney in the south plane of the kitchen roof.

Interior of the main block consists of four nearly equal spaces. The main entrance leads into the stairhall in the northwest space. The two-run, open-string staircase rises along the west wall of the stairhall, then turns 90° along the south wall to the second story. It has a square panelled newel with applied wreath decoration, turned balusters and bracketed stairends. Double doors (which retract into the east wall of the stairhall) lead into the front parlors in the northeast space. The mantel in the south wall of this parlor and the mantel in the adjoining

southeast parlor are identical: wood mantels in the Colonial Revival style with a central molded keystone. Door and windows surrounds are of multi-band molding with bullseye corner blocks. The mantels in the upstairs bedrooms have colonettes with applied wreath decoration. Other interior features include high molded baseboards and molded wood cornices.

Directly west of the house is a small shed roof shed, possibly a chicken coop. It is sided with wide vertical boards, and has a metal roof.

The house stands at the end of an unpaved drive which forms a circle north of the portico. Plantings immediately north of the house include boxwood, hollies, large maples and beeches.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#79-60

| 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) genealogy |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates 1913 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.

Beechwood is a substantial frame farmhouse, built in 1913 on the site of an early nineteenth century dwelling destroyed by fire. It is an outstanding example of the early twentieth century Neo-Classical style; and was the home of one of Prince George's County's most important genealogists.

The original house at Beechwood was built at the beginning of the nineteenth century by George Hilleary on a tract known as Moore's Plains. It was a two-and-one-half story gable-roof frame dwelling of the side-stair-hall and double parlor plan, with a cellar-level kitchen and an attached lower wing at the side. Beechwood passed in 1815 to Hilleary's son, George Washington Hilleary, who in 1855 married Harriet Clotilda Gwynn; G.W. Hilleary died in 1863, and Beechwood remained his widow's home for another half century until it burned in March 1913.¹ The widow Hilleary married Benjamin H.C. Bowie in 1871. There were no children of either marriage, but the Bowies were in large part responsible for the upbringing of Mrs. Bowie's god-daughter and niece, Effie Gwynn (born 1869), who spent much of her childhood at Beechwood, and in 1894 married Richmond I. Bowie, younger brother of Benjamin H.C. Bowie.²

In March 1913, a fire which began in the smoke house consumed the entire dwelling at Beechwood. Shortly thereafter, Benjamin and Clotilda Bowie had the present house built on the same site.³ The new house was a fine example of substantial Neo-Classical architecture: a large hip-roof roughly square dwelling with a monumental Tuscan portico across its principal facade, a kitchen wing to the rear, and Colonial Revival interior detail in its mantels and staircase.

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

Survey No. P.G.#79-60

Section 8 Page 2

Benjamin H.C. Bowie died in 1916, and his brother, Richmond I. Bowie, in 1923.. After that time, Effie Gwynn Bowie returned to Beechwood as a companion to her aged aunt. When Clotilda Bowie died in 1928, she left Beechwood to her "niece and adopted daughter".⁴

Effie Gwynn Bowie spent the rest of her life at Beechwood, much of this time being devoted to her historical and genealogical research. In 1947 she published Across the Years in Prince George's County, which has become the standard reference on Prince George's County genealogy.

In the later years of Effie Gwynn Bowie's life, her son, attorney A. Gwynn Bowie, and his family made their home at Beechwood. When Mrs. Bowie died in 1950, her will devised Beechwood to him "because he has for many years, and at my wish, made his home with me, and by his presence and in various ways has made it possible for me to live there. He has furthermore recently spent thousands of dollars in necessary repairs and definite improvements of the home, which I would not have allowed him to do without the assurance that in so doing he was preserving a home for himself, and his family --- as well as for me." She added her wish that Beechwood might "retain, as far as possible, the old atmosphere."⁵ A. Gwynn Bowie died within seven years of his mother; his daughter continued to reside at Beechwood into the 1980's. The house has recently (February 1987) been sold to a development company which is beginning plans for a residential community.⁶

Beechwood is an outstanding example of early twentieth century Neo-Classical architecture, with fine Colonial Revival interior detail. It is closely associated with Effie Gwynn Bowie, whose genealogical research and writing have had a profound effect on the documentation of County history. As a twentieth century replacement of an earlier dwelling, it is an example of the continuity of County families and represents the economic, social and historical heritage of rural Prince George's County.

Notes

1 Bowie, Effie Gwynn, Across the Years in Prince George's County, 1947, pp. 1-14, illustration of nineteenth century house facing page 9; Prince George's County Equity #427.

2 Bowie, Effie Gwynn, Op.Cit.

3 ibid

4 ibid; Prince George's County Will WTD#1:546.

5 Prince George's County Will GSO #2:246

6 Prince George's County Estate file A12037; Prince George's County Deed #6560:228.

Chain of Title

Beechwood
P.G. #79-60

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 6550:228 17 Feb 1987 Deed | A. Gwynn Bowie, Jr. (representative of Elizabeth G. Bowie McWilliams, deceased), Elizabeth G. Bowie, and Roselynn Bowie Broussard to Leeland Road Limited Partnership, 154.9 acres on Crain Highway, Route 301. |
| A 12037 1957 Estate File | Andrew Gwynn Bowie, deceased intestate 27 March 1957, leaving widow Elizabeth G., son A. Gwynn Bowie, Jr., daughters Elizabeth G. and Roselynn Bowie; owned 157.75 acre farm in Marlboro District. |
| GSO #2:246 15 Aug 1950 Will | Testator, Effie Gwynn Bowie; devises to her son, Andrew Gwynn Bowie, <u>Beechwood</u> , "that [he and his wife] may continue to enjoy the home in which both have contributed to my happiness and comfort." |
| WTD #1:546 25 Jan 1928 Will | Testator, H. Clotilda Bowie; legacies to nieces and nephews, etc. "residue of real and personal estate to Effie Gwynn Bowie, my niece and adopted daughter." |
| #102:49 7 Dec 1914 Deed | Benjamin H.C. Bowie to H. Clotilda Bowie, all his interest in the George W. Hilleary estate conveyed to grantor and grantee by ATB #1:463. |
| ATB #1:463 13 Sept 1879 Deed | Stephen and Celestia Belt to Benjamin H.C. and H. Clotilda Bowie as joint tenants, all their interest in the real estate in which the grantees now reside, being the dower interest in the real estate of George W. Hilleary, which was laid off to H. Clotilda Bowie, formerly Hilleary, in the division of the real estate (Equity #427) of George W. Hilleary, containing 150 acres with the dwelling. |
| #427 1865 Equity | Division of real estate of George W. Hilleary, deceased intestate 1863: 150-acre dower lot including dwelling allotted to widow H. Clotilda Hilleary. (Lots 1,2 and 3 to representatives of deceased sisters and brother of George W. Hilleary). |

COUNTY COMM.
3904 / 232
52.35 A.
P. 71

E-1-A

LEO J. LEONNIG
2431-181
48.16A.
P. 7

R-25
WALDE H. EVANS
1394/396
4.11A
P. 19

ED. 7
ED. 3
RD.
P. 16

R-R
P. 4
P. 5

ELIZABETH G. BOWIE, ETAL
A 12037
157.21A.
P. 35

PG-79-60

R-A

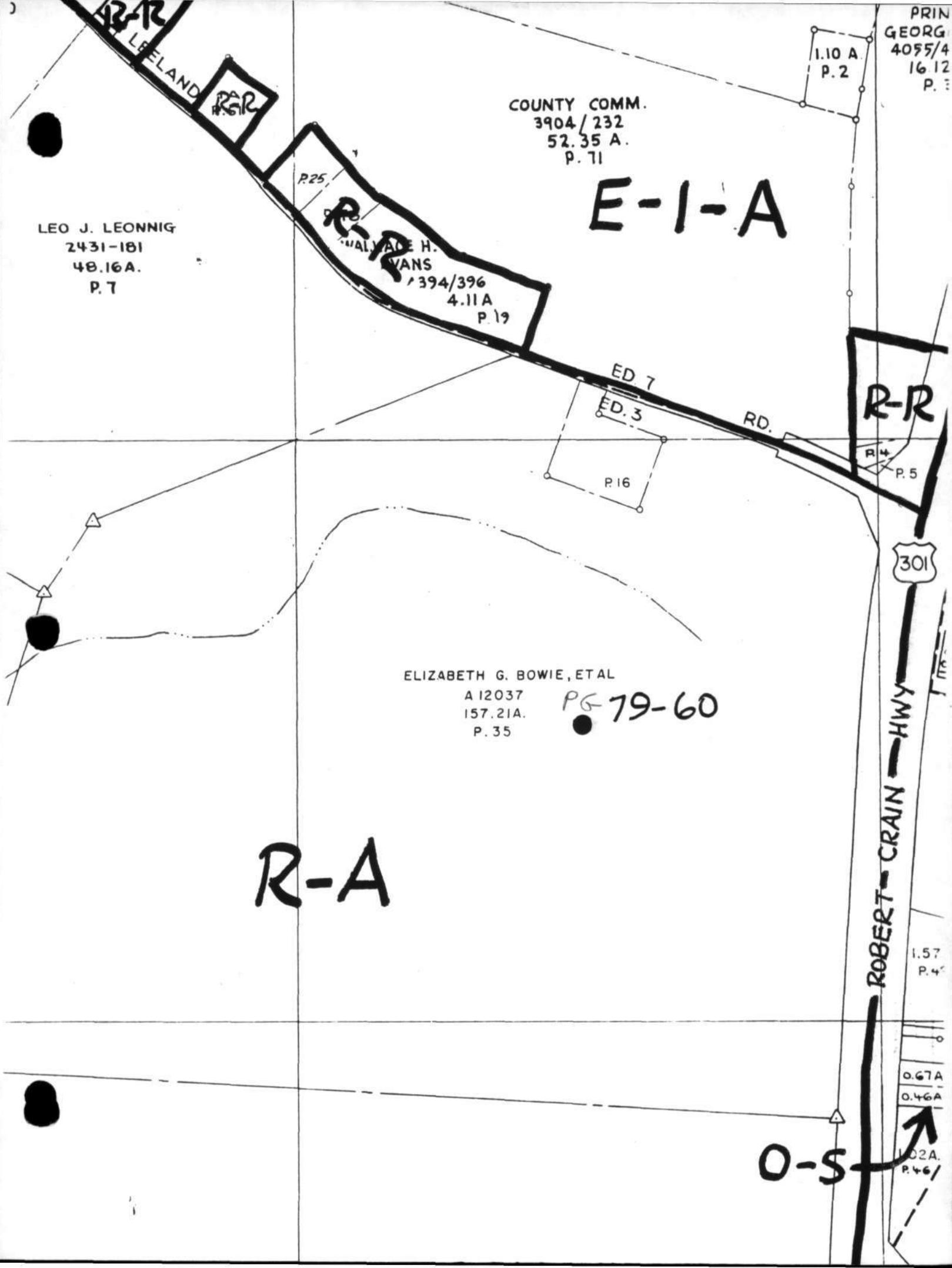
301
ROBERT CRAIN HWY

1.57
P. 4

0.67A
0.46A

O-S

1.02A
P. 46





P.G. #79-60

Beechwood

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

June 1987

East elevation

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



P.G. #79-60

Beechwood

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

June 1987

Southeast 3/4 elevation

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



P.G. #79-60

Beechwood

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

June 1987

South detail

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



P.G. #79-60

Beechwood

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

June 1987

North elevation

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



P.G. #79-60

Beechwood

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

June 1987

Mantel, northeast parlor

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



P.G. #79-60

Beechwood

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

June 1987

Stairhall

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