

QA-627
621 Arrington Road
Queenstown vicinity
Queen Anne's County

Constructed 1904
Private

The two-story, side-gable, frame house is situated in southeast Queen Anne's County on the south side of Arrington Road, approximately six-tenths of a mile east of its intersection with Carmichael Road. Facing north, the three-bay, single-pile house displays few decorative details. The east bay is likely an addition to an earlier, two-bay dwelling that was built in 1904. One historic (circa 1930) shed, one non-historic shed, and an asphalt-paved basketball half-court all stand west of the house.

The two-story, side-gable, frame house at 621 Arrington Road is located near the historic rural crossroads known as Bowser Chapel-Carmichael, an African-American community established after the Civil War (QA-578). Constructed in 1904, the house is an example of a late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century, modest dwelling built by a working-class African-American family.

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-627

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Summary

The two-story, side-gable, frame house is situated in southeast Queen Anne's County on the south side of Arrington Road, approximately six-tenths of a mile east of its intersection with Carmichael Road. Facing north, the three-bay, single-pile house displays few decorative details. The east bay is likely an addition to an earlier, two-bay dwelling that was built in 1904. One historic (circa 1930) shed, one non-historic shed, and an asphalt-paved basketball half-court all stand west of the house.

Description

Primary Resource

The two-story, side-gable, frame house is situated on the south side of Arrington Road, approximately six-tenths of a mile east of its intersection with Carmichael Road. Facing north towards Arrington Road and set back approximately 150 feet from the road, the house stands upon a 2.39-acre, grassy lot with scattered mature trees. Behind the house, the land slopes down to a mature forest to the south. A line of trees to the west separates the yard surrounding the house from an adjacent agricultural field. A gravel drive leads south from Arrington Road, wraps around the southeast corner of the house, and terminates near its southwest corner. A poured concrete walkway connects the driveway to the front door of the house.

Built in 1904, the two-story, side-gable, frame house encompasses a two-bay main block; a two-story, one-bay east addition; and a one-story, shed-roofed addition to the west. Vertically laid vinyl siding covers the foundation, and the walls are clad with vinyl weatherboards with vinyl cornerboards. The roofline features vinyl, boxed eaves, and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. An interior brick chimney with a corbelled cap rises through the roof ridge between the center and east bays; the chimney marks the division between the original two-bay dwelling and the one-bay addition to its east. A brick stoop with metal railing on its west side is located in front of the front door. A one-story, shed-roofed addition stretches across most of the house's west gable end.

In the first story, the north (front) elevation incorporates a door located off-center and a six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl window on each side of the door. The east window is located further from the door than the west window, reflecting its location within the one-bay east addition. The door opening holds a one-light-over-three-panel wood door with a metal storm door. The three second-story windows sit directly above the first-story openings. The two west windows are smaller than the east window and contain six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows with metal storm windows; the east window opening holds a six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl window. The door and window openings throughout the house display vinyl trim.

The east elevation incorporates a small, six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl window in the first story; a full-size, six-over-six, double-hung wood window with metal storm window in the second story; and an octagonal, louvered, vinyl vent in the gable. All of the openings in the east elevation are centered.

The south elevation displays the same asymmetrical arrangement as the north elevation, except that the door is located in the easternmost bay, within the one-bay east addition. The door is a four-light-over-three-panel wood door with a metal storm door. A half-story, shed-roofed storage shed is located just west of the door. The first-story windows are similar to their counterparts on the north elevation. The second-story windows in the original, two-bay section are six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows that are smaller than those on the first story. The window above the door in the east addition is a full-size, six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl sash window. All of the second-story windows feature metal storm windows as well.

The first story of the west elevation is mostly covered by the one-story shed-roofed addition. The only opening in this elevation is an octagonal, louvered, vinyl vent in the gable.

The shed-roofed addition features a small, four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash window in its north elevation and a similar, but larger, window placed off center in its south elevation. A basement-level window opening is also located in the south elevation.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-627

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1904

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Summary Statement of Significance

The two-story, side-gable, frame house at 621 Arrington Road is located near the historic rural crossroads known as Bowser Chapel-Carmichael (QA-578), an African-American community established after the Civil War. Constructed in 1904, the house is an example of a late-nineteenth- or early-twentieth-century, modest dwelling built by a working-class African-American family.

Historical Narrative

After the Civil War ended in 1865, Queen Anne's County underwent significant economic, social, and political change. Many of the county's African-American communities formed in the 1860s and 1870s as newly-free African-Americans bought land to build their own churches, schools, and homes. The small rural community of Bowser Chapel-Carmichael (QA-578) reflects this historical development. Located at the intersection of Carmichael and Arrington Roads and Johnson Lane, the Bowser Chapel-Carmichael community included a Methodist Church known as Bowser Chapel and a school for African-American children by the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

The Bowser Chapel-Carmichael community was settled by former slaves who, after the Civil War, purchased small lots from the Forman family, a local white family that owned considerable acreage in the Wye Neck area. In 1874, Marcia A. Forman, who had been appointed as the trustee in an 1868 land dispute case, sold one- to three-acre parcels on the public road that led to Wye Neck to James, Edward, and John Bowser, and Samuel Brice.¹ Other area property owners sold or rented small parcels of land to African-Americans who worked as laborers on local farms or worked nearby farms as tenants. By 1904, the community encompassed approximately two dozen buildings including the house located at the site of 621 Arrington Road.²

The current owner, Mary M. Murray, was born in the house in 1923.³ Her father, John Frank Wright was a farmer. In 1920, he, his wife Alice, and two sons rented a house. By 1930, the family increased to include two daughters, Virginia and Mary; he owned property, and was a truck farmer.⁴ In 1937, when the property at 621 Arrington Road was conveyed to John Wright, it was already known as the "John H. Wright Lot."⁵ According to the deed, the property had been sold two years earlier to pay taxes. It is possible that John Wright lost the property due to nonpayment of taxes, continued to rent the property, and was able to repurchase it in 1937. Wright may have been like many Americans during the Great Depression of the 1930s, who were unable to pay their taxes and lost their property. The historic, one-story, front-gable, frame shed dates to the early ownership of John Wright.

¹ Queen Anne's County Land Records, Liber WAGH 1, Folio 183 (29 August 1874). Queen Anne's County Land Records, Liber WAGH 1, Folio 186 (26 August 1874). Queen Anne's County Land Records, Liber WAGH 1, Folio 182 (29 August 1874).

² U.S. Geological Survey, St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle (15 Minute Series), 1904.

³ Mary W. Murray, conversation with author, Chester, Md., 28 August 2007.

⁴ 1920 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, Queenstown, District 5, Enumeration District No. 81, Sheet No. 4B. 1930 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 5, Enumeration District No. 18-10, Sheet No. 7B.

⁵ See attached chain of title for this and all subsequent deed references.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-627

- Murray, Mary W. Conversation with author. Chester, Md., 28 August 2007.
Queen Anne's County Land Records. Liber WAGH 1, Folio 182. 29 August 1874.
Queen Anne's County Land Records. Liber WAGH 1, Folio 183. 29 August 1874.
Queen Anne's County Land Records. Liber WAGH 1, Folio 186. 26 August 1874.
U.S. Geological Survey. St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle (15 Minute Series). 1904.
U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, 1920.
U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, 1930.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2.39 acres
Acreage of historical setting 2.39 acres
Quadrangle name Wye Mills Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000 (7.5 minute)

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property boundary is defined by the current parcel boundaries shown on tax map 59, grid 24, parcel 75 in Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Evelyn D. Causey, Ph.D., Senior Historian Gerald M. Maready, Jr., Architectural Historian		
organization	History Matters, LLC	date	November 16, 2007
street & number	1502 21 st Street, NW, 2 nd Floor	telephone	(202) 223-8845
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-627

Name: 621 Arrington Road
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

Secondary Resources (buildings, sites, structures, objects)

A circa 1930, one-story, front-gable, frame shed stands due east of the house on the east side of the driveway. The shed rests on brick piers and has a standing-seam metal roof with open eaves and exposed rafter tails. Bricktex siding covers the original wood, vertical board siding. A five-panel wood door centered in the west gable end opens onto a wood stoop with wood steps; the door has a metal case lock and porcelain door knob and appears to be an interior door that was re-used on the shed. The north and south elevations each display a six-light, wood, fixed window framed by untreated lumber. There are no openings in the east gable end.

A pre-fabricated, one-story shed is situated to the south of the historic shed and faces west. Built circa 1990, the shed has T-111 siding and a gambrel roof with asphalt shingles. A double door occupies the west elevation.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. QA-627

**Name: 621 Arrington Road
Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

In 1980, John and Alice Wright's four children inherited the house and lot. Later that year, Mary Murray acquired the property from her siblings. Mrs. Murray retains a life tenancy in the property now jointly owned with her children, Henry Leroy Murray and Virginia Arlene Brown.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-627

Name: 621 Arrington Road
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Chain of Title

15 February 1997

Confirmatory Deed

By and between Mary W. Murray, Henry Leroy Murray, and Virginia Arlene Brown

Liber SM 561, folio 205

Confirms Mary Murray's life tenancy of property; Mary Murray releases the power given to her in the prior instrument [Liber MWM 299, Folio 951] to sell or mortgage any part of the property.

2.39 acres

25 February 1988

Grantor: Mary W. Murray

Grantee: Mary W. Murray for her natural life, and upon her death to her children, Henry Leroy Murray and Virginia Arlene Brown

Liber MWM 299, folio 951

Mary has power to sell or mortgage any part of the property.

2.39 acres

17 October 1980

Grantor: Elwood T. Wright, Henry E. Wright & Virginia W. Brittingham

Grantee: Mary W. Murray

Liber MWM 168, folio 593

The three grantors and the grantee each own a one-third share of the property, as granted in the prior instrument. The grantees convey their shares to the grantee, giving her 100% ownership.

2.39 acres

14 August 1980

Deed of Distribution

Grantor: Mary W. Murray, personal representative of the estate of Mary A. Wright

Grantee: Mary W. Murray, Elwood T. Wright, Henry E. Wright & Virginia W. Brittingham

Liber MWM 168, folio 591

The grantees own the property in common.

2.39 acres

3 August 1965

Grantor: John Frank Wright

Grantee: Mary A. Wright

Will Records, Liber ECW 2, folio 254

"... devised to the said Mary A. Wright by her late husband, the said John Frank Wright, by their joint and mutual will dated November 1, 1962, admitted to probate on August 3, 1965..." from Queen Anne's County Land Records, Liber MWM 168, Folio 591 (14 August 1980).

20 December 1937

Grantor: J. William Keith, County Treasurer for Queen Anne's County, and John E. & Ida Mandrell (husband and wife), and John E. and Grace Roe Kinnamon (husband and wife)

Grantee: John Frank Wright

Liber WHC 6A, folio 73

"WHEREAS, at the public Tax Sales made on the 21st day of May, 1935, by Anna Q. Skinner, County Treasurer for Queen Anne's County... the real estate hereinafter described and conveyed was sold unto John E. Mandrell and John E. Kinnamon, they being there

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. QA-627

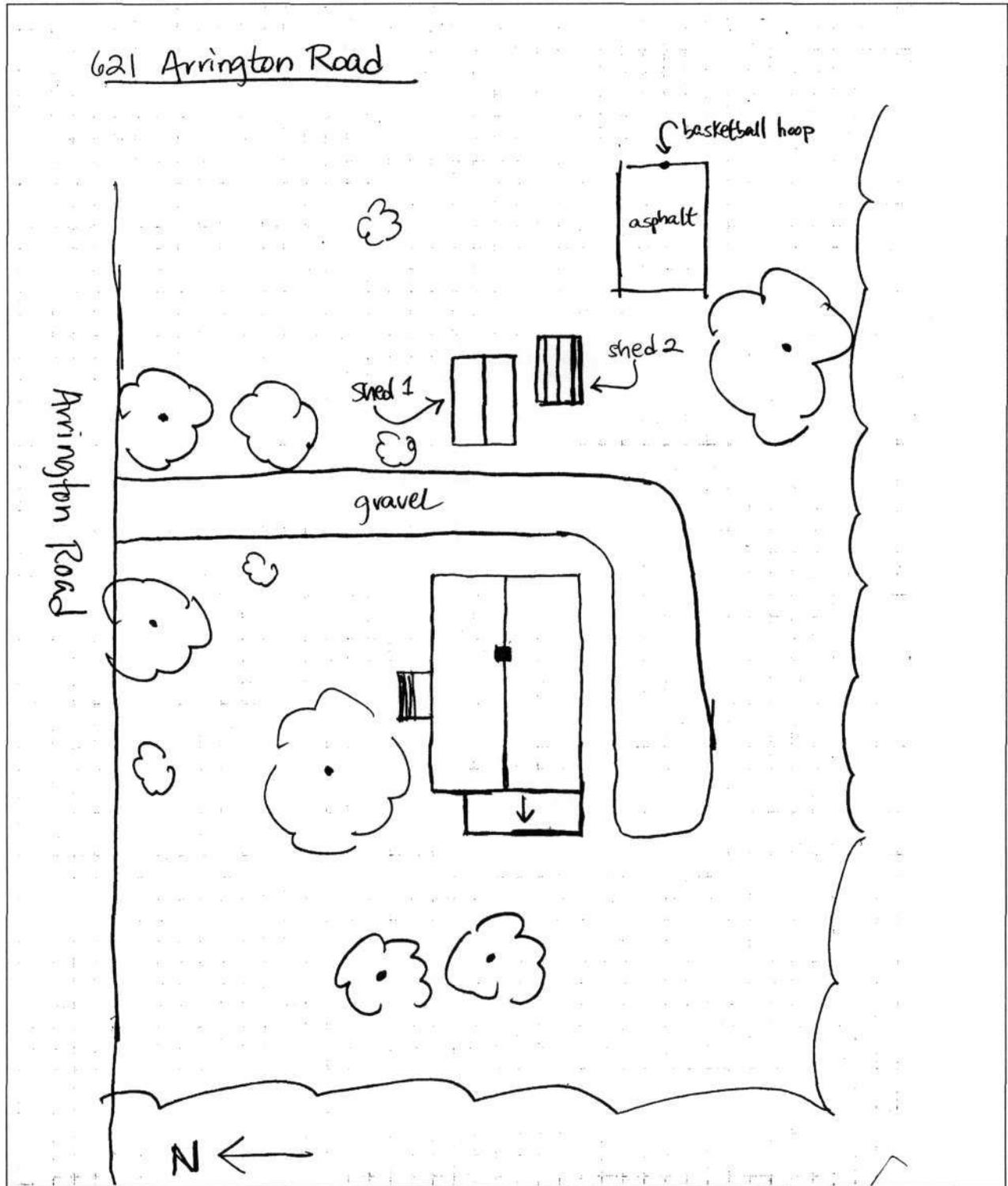
Name: 621 Arrington Road
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

and then the highest bidders . . . AND WHEREAS the said John E. Mandrell and John E. Kinnamon . . . have, in the meantime re-sold said property to one John Frank Wright of Queen Anne's County . . ."

". . . ALL that lot or parcel of land lying and being in the Fifth Election District of Queen Anne's County, Maryland, located on the Carmichael-Wye Mills Roads, adjoining the lands of or formerly of Thomas H. Callahan, consisting of a lot of land, and dwelling, and assessed to John H. Wright for taxes, and known as the 'John H. Wright Lot'."

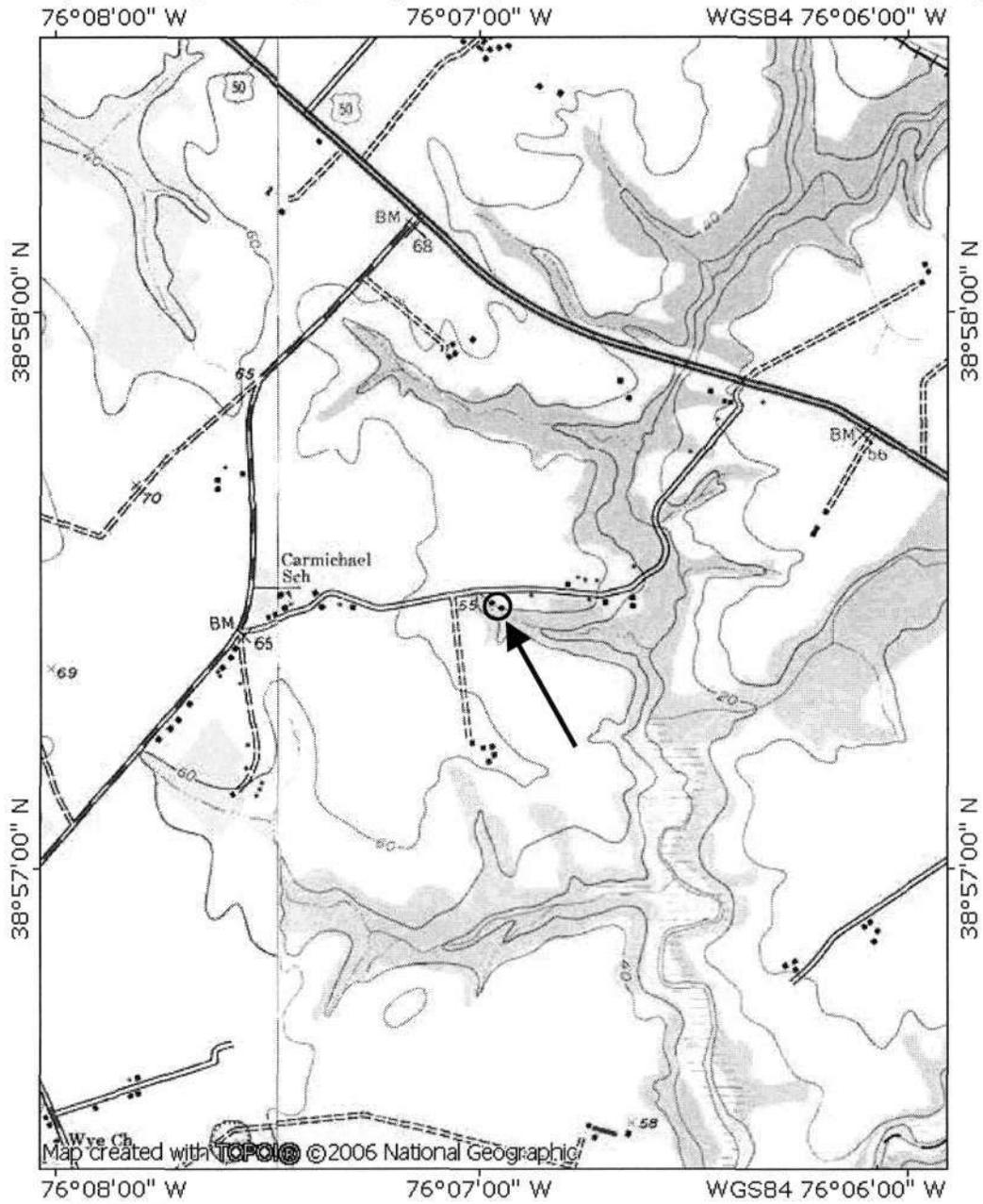
621 Arrington Road



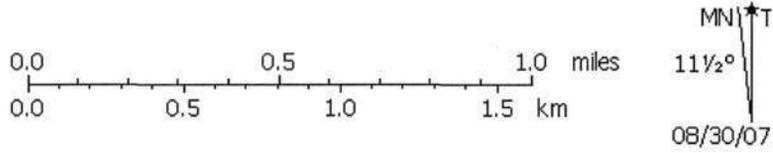
Site Plan
QA-627
621 Arrington Road
Queenstown vicinity
Queen Anne's County, Maryland

not to scale

USGS Wye Mills Quadrangle Map, Maryland, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)



QA-627
621 Arrington Road
Queenstown vicinity
Queen Anne's County





2743

QA-627

621 Arrington Road
Queenstown vicinity
Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

8/2007

MD SH PO

Facade, Looking S

1 of 6



QA-627

621 Arrington Road
Queenstown vicinity
Queen Anne's Co., MD

History Matters, LLC

8/2007

MD SH 70

West elevation

2 of 6



QA-627

621 Arrington Road

Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's Co., MD

History Matters, LLC

8/2007

MD SHPO

South elevation, looking NW

3 of 6



QA-627

621 Arrington Road

Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's Co., MD

History Matters, LLC

8/2007

MD SET PO

Shed 1, Looking NE

4 of 6



QA-627

621 Arrington Road
Queenstown vicinity
Queen Anne's Co., MD
History Matters, LLC
8/2007

MD SHPO

Shed 1 and House, Looking SW

5 of 6



QA-627

621 Arrington Road

Queenstown vicinity

Queen Anne's Co, MD

History Matters, LLC

8/2007

MD SHPO

shed 1 and shed 2, Looking NE

6 of 6