

Capsule Summary
SM-499
F. O. Bowles Store
Hollywood
Private

1903

The F. O. Bowles Store is significant as a typical example of the local general store that traditionally served St. Mary's countians for much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These stores served both as the center of local trade and as a place of social gathering. The Bowles Store is a well-preserved example of this building type.

Joseph E. "Bud" Evans purchased 1 1/4 acres of Mary E. G. Magee's farm in 1903 for fifteen dollars. In that same year he built the structure that later became known as the F. O. Bowles Store. Evans sold the improved property, consisting of the center section of the store, in 1906 to Blanche G. McKay. During the McKay ownership, the north wing was constructed for use as a dwelling. W. W. Bowles, the proprietor of a store on Sotterly Wharf, purchased the store house and lot from Magee in 1910. Between 1910 and 1944 the store was transfered five times, though frequently between members of the Bowles family.

In 1944, Francis Oswald Bowles purchased the store which he continued to operate until his death in 1981. The F. O. Bowles Store stocked groceries and general merchandise. For many years the store owner lived in the dwelling attached to the north end of the store. A bar, attached to the east end of the store, was operated here until the 1940s. Following the store's closure in the 1980s, its interior fittings were sold by the owner to an antique dealer in Lusby, Maryland. The store building is currently being used for storage.

SM-499, F. O. Bowles Store
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial-Urban Dominance, 1870 - 1930.

Historic Period Theme: Commerce

Resource Type

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Store

Known Design Source: none

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common F.O.Bowles Store

2. Location

street & number Sotterley Gate Road not for publicationcity, town Hollywood vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

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

name Ann Bowles

street & number Rt. 3 Box 697 telephone no.: 301-373-2862

city, town Hollwy Hollywood state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber CBG 16

street & number folio 55

city, town Leonardtown state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The F.O.Bowles Store is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Sotterly Gate Road and Forest Landing Road. One outbuilding is located on the property. The store faces south with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1903, the F.O.Bowles Store is a one-story, frame structure supported by a concrete pier foundation. The exterior is sheathed with weatherboard siding attached with cut nails and the roof is covered with corrugated metal.

The south (main) elevation is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows and a central, vertical panel entrance door. The windows have narrow surrounds with an interior bead. A hipped-roof porch supported by chamfered posts extends across the first floor of this elevation. The porch has a seamed metal roof and a cement pad floor. The roof ridgeline of this section of the store is pierced by an interior brick chimney. To the east of these three bays is a secondary entrance door and a six-over-six sash window with narrow surrounds and an interior bead. A one-story addition extends to the east. The addition is supported by a concrete foundation and is pierced by a vertical panel door. The door is sheltered by a small shed-roof portico.

The east elevation of the one-story addition is pierced by one six-over-six sash window with narrow surrounds and an interior bead. The eave of the main block is pierced by a six-over-six sash window.

The north elevation of the store is blind. A one-and-a-half story gable-end wing extends from the main block of the store to the north.

The west elevation of the store's north wing is pierced by one six-over-six sash window and a vertical panel entrance door. Both the door and window have narrow surrounds with an interior bead. The roofline of this wing is broken by a cross gable. The west elevation of the main block is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows. One of these is now boarded over. A six-over-six sash window also lights the eave of the main block.

The interior of the store is currently used for storage and was not seen.

The one outbuilding located on the property is a small shed-roof structure sheathed with vertical panels and roofed with metal.

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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1903 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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 F. O. Bowles Store is significant as a typical example of the local general store that traditionally served St. Mary's countians for much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These stores served both as the center of local trade and as a place of social gathering. The Bowles Store is a well-preserved example of this building type.

Joseph E. "Bud" Evans purchased 1 1/4 acres of Mary E. G. Magee's farm in 1903 for fifteen dollars. In that same year he built the structure that later became known as the F. O. Bowles Store. Evans sold the improved property in 1906 to Blanche G. McKay. W. W. Bowles, the proprietor of a store on Sotterly Wharf, purchased the store house and lot from Magee in 1910. Between 1910 and 1944 the store was transfered five times, though frequently between members of the Bowles family.

A deed of 1922 notes that the store is located on a parcel at "Uniontown." This area on Sotterley Gate Road was known as Uniontown during the early twentieth century. There are two explanations for the source of the name. Mrs. Bowles said that a group of Union soldiers had supposedly camped nearby during the Civil War and the area was named for them. The other explanation gives credit to Bud Evans for naming the area with the intent that it would be a place for the union of all the different people in the community.

In 1944, Francis Oswald Bowles purchased the store which he continued to operate until his death in 1981. The F. O. Bowles Store stocked groceries and general merchandise. For many years the store owner lived in the dwelling attached to the north end of the store. A bar, attached to the east end of the store, was operated here until the 1940s. Following the store's closure in the 1980s, its interior fittings were sold by the owner to an antique dealer in Lusby, Maryland. The store building is currently being used for storage.

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St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Francis Oswald Bowles and Ann Noema Bowles
FROM: W. Wallace Bowles, widower.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 16, folio 55.
DATE: March 17, 1944.
NOTES: Transfer of that lot upon which is located the store house now occupied by W. Wallace Bowles.

TO: W. Wallace Bowles and Ellen J. Bowles
FROM: William I. Bowles
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 8, folio 314.
DATE: August 14, 1933.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 1/4 acres.

TO: William I. Bowles
FROM: W. Wallace Bowles
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 8, folio 314.
DATE: August 14, 1933.
NOTES: Transfer of that lot at Uniontown upon which is located the store house now occupied by W. Wallace Bowles.

TO: W. Wallace Bowles
FROM: Philip C. Readmond and Emma W. Readmond
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 3, folio 68.
DATE: March 12, 1925.
NOTES: Transfer of all that lot being at Uniontown upon which is located the storehouse now occupied by the said Philip C. Readmond being 1 1/4 acres.

TO: Philip C. Readmond
FROM: W. Wallace Bowles and Ellen J. Bowles
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 1, folio 110.
DATE: August 1, 1922.
NOTES: Transfer of a parcel at Uniontown upon which is located the storehouse recently occupied by W. W. Bowles in his mercantile business. Price: \$2500

TO: Philip C. Readmond
FROM: W. Wallace Bowles and Ellen J. Bowles
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 20, 500.
DATE: May 4, 1922.
NOTES: (Bond of Conveyance) Transfer of "the tract upon which his storehouse is

SM-499, F. O. Bowles Store
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

now located...at the forks of the public road running to Sotterly and Forrest Landing and running with the Sotterly road 240 yards northeast course to a stob, thence across to the Forrest Landing road to a stob 165 yards southwest course thence with the road to the beginning being 1 1/4 acres, also the fixtures and appliances used by him in his mercantile business in his store on the property above mentioned such as showcases, scales, weights, measures, lamps, kerosene and gasoline oil tanks, etc., his iron safe only excepted. Price: \$2500

TO: W. Wallace Bowles
FROM: Blanche G. McKay and William O. McKay
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 8, folio 380.
DATE: April 27, 1910.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 1/4 acres. Price: \$1000.

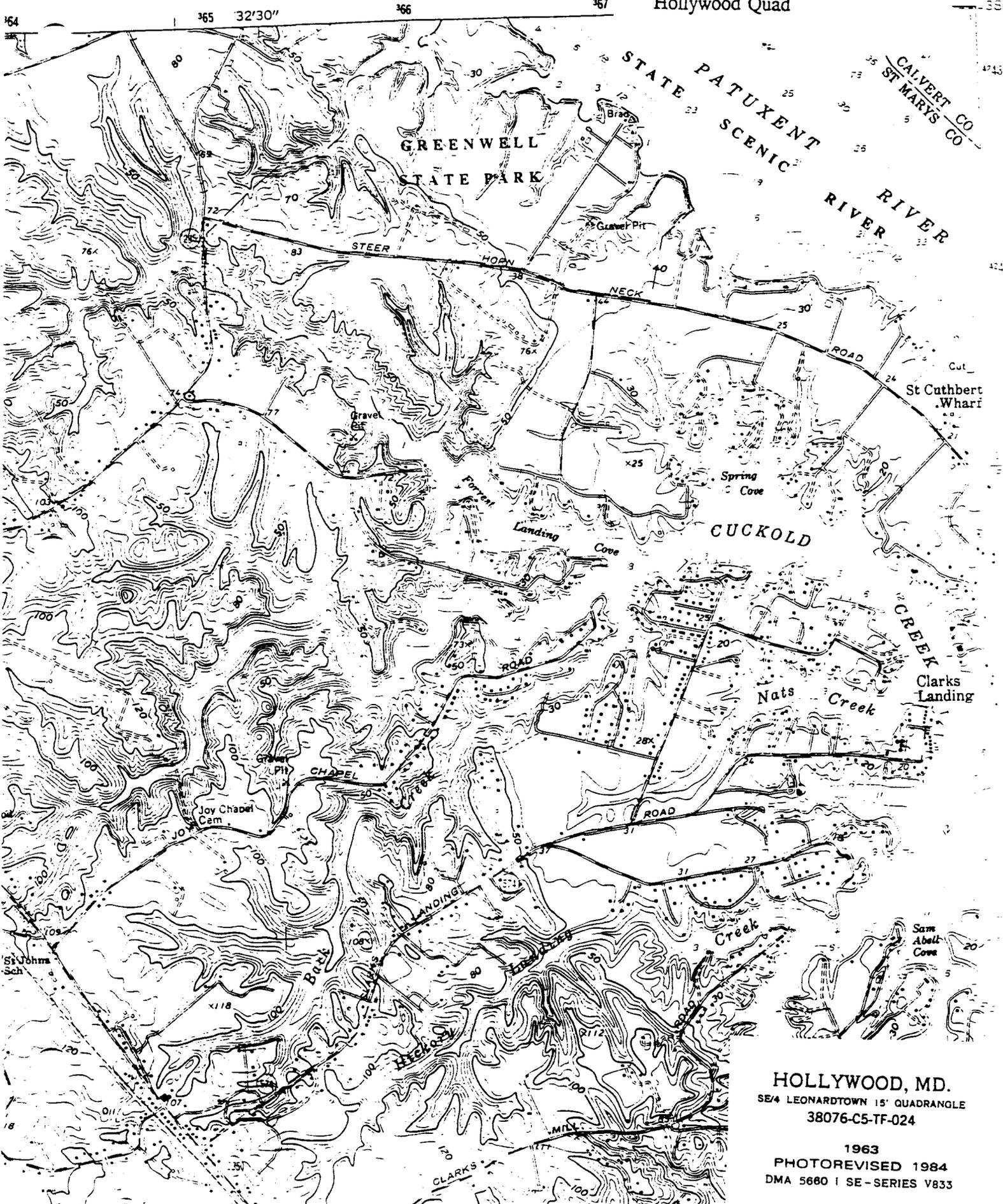
TO: Blanche G. McKay
FROM: Joseph E. Evans and Ann Evans
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 6, folio 283.
DATE: December 15, 1906.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 1/4 acres. Price: \$500.

TO: Joseph E. Evans
FROM: Mary E. G. Magee
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 3, folio 196.
DATE: May 18, 1903.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 1/4 acres being a part of the farm which Mary E. G. Magee obtained by deed from B. Harris Camalier and a part of a land which Charles R. Brower died possessed. Price: \$15.

SM-499 Bowles Store
Hollywood
Hollywood Quad

(C)

76°30'
35



HOLLYWOOD, MD.
SE/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
38076-C5-TF-024

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 5680 I SE-SERIES V833





