

WI-398
John V. Humphreys Farm
Hebron vicinity
Private

c. 1840

The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling that stands in the midst of mature cedars on the John V. Humphreys farm dates to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Nine-over-six sash windows, boxed cornices, flush gable ends, and late Federal style woodwork clearly places construction of this center hall/single-pile dwelling around 1840. The parlor, the most elaborate room, is fitted with flush board wainscoting within a grid of beaded edge boards. Also original to the house is the two-panel Greek Revival parlor door and the late Federal style staircase. Attached to the back of the house is a single-story kitchen, which stood formerly west of the main block and attached by a colonnade.

The two-story frame dwelling was erected during the ownership of John V. Humphreys (1805-1849). His wife and six of their seven children, who are named in the distribution of his estate, were listed in the 1850 United States census with another family member, Josiah Humphreys (spelled Humphriss in the census), a 33-year old farmer. During the third quarter of the nineteenth century the farm was owned by Alpheus Humphreys, who acquired sixty acres along the road between Jesse Davis houses and Upper Ferry in 1875. The Rockawalkin vicinity farm has been passed down through the years and remains in Humphreys family hands.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: John V. Humphreys Farm

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-398

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. **Historic Period Theme(s):** Architecture
2. **Geographic Orientation:** Eastern Shore
3. **Chronological/Development Period(s):** Agricultural-Industrial Transition
1815-1870
4. **Resource Type(s):** Dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John V. Humphreys Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 26849 Crooked Oak Lane not for publication

city, town Hebron vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

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 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Edward Humphreys

street & number 26445 Nanticoke Road telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 36, P. 196
liber 1511

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 196

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-398

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date 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 John V. Humphreys farm is located at 26849 Crooked Oak Lane southeast of Hebron, Wicomico County, Maryland. The farm, comprising 124 acres, is a rectangular parcel bounded by Crooked Oak Lane on the north, Rockawalkin Creek on the east, Firetower Road on the west, and a farm lane to the south. The two-story, three-bay frame farmhouse, surrounded by mature trees, is centered on the acreage at the end of a shell lane. The house faces north with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Estimated to date around 1840, the two-story, center hall/single-pile frame house is supported by a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched gable roof, finished with flush gable ends, is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a single-story kitchen that formerly stood west of the main block and connected to the house by a colonnade.

The north (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center door and flanking nine-over-one sash windows. The front door is a replacement. The second floor is lighted by three six-over-six sash windows. Finishing the base of the roof is a boxed cornice.

The east gable end is defined by nine-over-six sash windows on the first floor and six-over-six sash windows on the second. The windows flank an interior end brick stack.

An exterior brick chimney, dating around 1940, rises on the west gable end, which is pierced by six-over-six sash windows.

The rear wall of the main block is partially covered by the single-story kitchen wing. The kitchen is extended on its east side by a shed roofed addition, which contains a rear entrance. A brick stove chimney rises through the gable end.

The interior has been modified over the years, but a significant amount of second quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork remains intact. The center hall retains its original staircase, which has square cross-sectioned newel posts and narrow stick balusters that support a circular profile handrail.

East of the hall is a parlor, which is entered through a two-panel Greek Revival door. Approximately square, the parlor is trimmed with flush board wainscoting framed by a grid of beaded edge boards capped by a molded chair rail. The firebox is framed by a molded surround dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

On the west side of the hall is the living room, which is entered through a board-and-batten door. The firebox in this room is topped by a bracketed mantel shelf salvaged from another house. The carved Federal style frieze blocks were reused at the base of the hearth adjacent to the baseboard. Sheet paneling covers the walls.

The second floor retains wide pine flooring and some original woodwork. An enclosed winder stair rises to the attic. The west bedroom door is hung on wrought-iron strap hinges.

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling that stands in the midst of mature cedars on the John V. Humphreys farm dates to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Nine-over-six sash windows, boxed cornices, flush gable ends, and late Federal style woodwork clearly places construction of this center hall/single-pile dwelling around 1840. The parlor, the most elaborate room, is fitted with flush board wainscoting within a grid of beaded edge boards. Also original to the house is the two-panel Greek Revival parlor door and the late Federal style staircase. Attached to the back of the house is a single-story kitchen, which stood formerly west of the main block and attached by a colonnade.

The two-story frame dwelling was erected during the ownership of John V. Humphreys (1805-1849). His wife and six of their seven children, who are named in the distribution of his estate,¹ were listed in the 1850 United States census with another family member, Josiah Humphreys (spelled Humphriss), a 33-year old farmer.² During the third quarter of the nineteenth century the farm was owned by Alpheus Humphreys, who acquired sixty acres along the road between Jesse Davis houses and Upper Ferry in 1875.³ The Rockawalkin vicinity farm has been passed down through the years and remains in Humphreys family hands.

¹ Somerset County Administration Account, SWJ 2/245

² Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Somerset County Population Schedule as transcribed and published by Ruth T. Dryden.

³ Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 2/26, 29 April 1875.

WI-398
John V. Humphreys Farm
26849 Crooked Oak Lane
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 36, Parcel 196

1511/731 Sylvia A. Davis

to

10/5/1996 Joyce Davis Bradford
124 acres

MSB 1501/238 Sylvia A. Davis, Personal Representative of Estate of
Franklin E. Humphreys

to

6/28/1996 Sylvia A. Davis
(the said Franklin E. Humphreys having departed this life
8/19/1995)

JWTS 781/158 Edward A. Humphreys

to

10/13/1972 Franklin H. Humphreys
2 parcels

JWTS 539/417 Alice Augusta Humphreys, Franklin E. Humphreys, Irma H.
Wilson, Nellie Humphreys, Louella B. Humphreys, Katherine
H. Clark, Anne H. Esham, and Raymond Esham; and Louise
H. Abbey and William H. Abbey of Baltimore City

to

4/28/1962 Edward H. Humphreys

WI-398

Page 2

John V. Humphreys Farm
26849 Crooked Oak Lane
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

JWTS 500/359

Alice Augusta Humphreys, May Humphreys, Dorothy D. Humphreys, Franklin E. Humphreys, Ivy R. Humphreys, Nellie B. Humphreys, widow, City of Baltimore, William Jackson Humphreys, Atlantic City, New Jersey

to

1/11/1960

Edward H. Humphreys

JCK 12/17/1917

L. Atwood Bennett, trustee

to

12/17/1917

Lillie B. Humphreys, Sewell W. Humphreys, Robert J. Humphreys, Alpheus Humphreys, Edmund Humphreys, May Humphreys, Lucy W. Humphreys, Alice Augusta Humphreys

Whereas By a Decree of Circuit Court, 10/9/1917, Lillie B. Humphreys et al. were complainants and Luella B. Humphreys et al. were defendants

60 acres and being the same land which Alpheus Humphreys died seized....

SPT 2/26

Josephus Humphreys
Sarah A. Humphreys

to

4/29/1875

Alpheus Humphreys
\$500 "part of the John V. Humphreys farm" 60 acres....
bounded by the road leading from Jesse Davis' house
towards the Upper Ferry

WI-398

Page 3

John V. Humphreys Farm
26849 Crooked Oak Lane
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

United States Census
1850

Margaret Humphriss, 47 (d. 1871)
Robert G. Humphriss, 14
Retta Humphriss, 9
Thomas H. Humphriss, 7
Fountain B. Humphriss, 3
Virginia Humphriss, 1
Josiah Humphriss, 33, farmer

Somerset County
Administration Account
SWJ 2/245

Administration Account for John V. Humphreys

Inventory filed October 16, 1849

Distribution to Margaret Humphreys, wife
daughter, Martha A. Johnson
son, Azariah J. Humphreys
son, Robert G. Humphreys
daughter, Retta E. Humphreys
son, Thomas W. Humphreys
son, Fountain B. Humphreys
daughter, Virginia E. N. Humphreys

Somerset County Marriage

John V. Humphreys (d. September 1849, married
Margaret Humphreys on August 10, 1829)

Somerset County
Administration Account
JP9/72

Administration of Elijah Humphreys

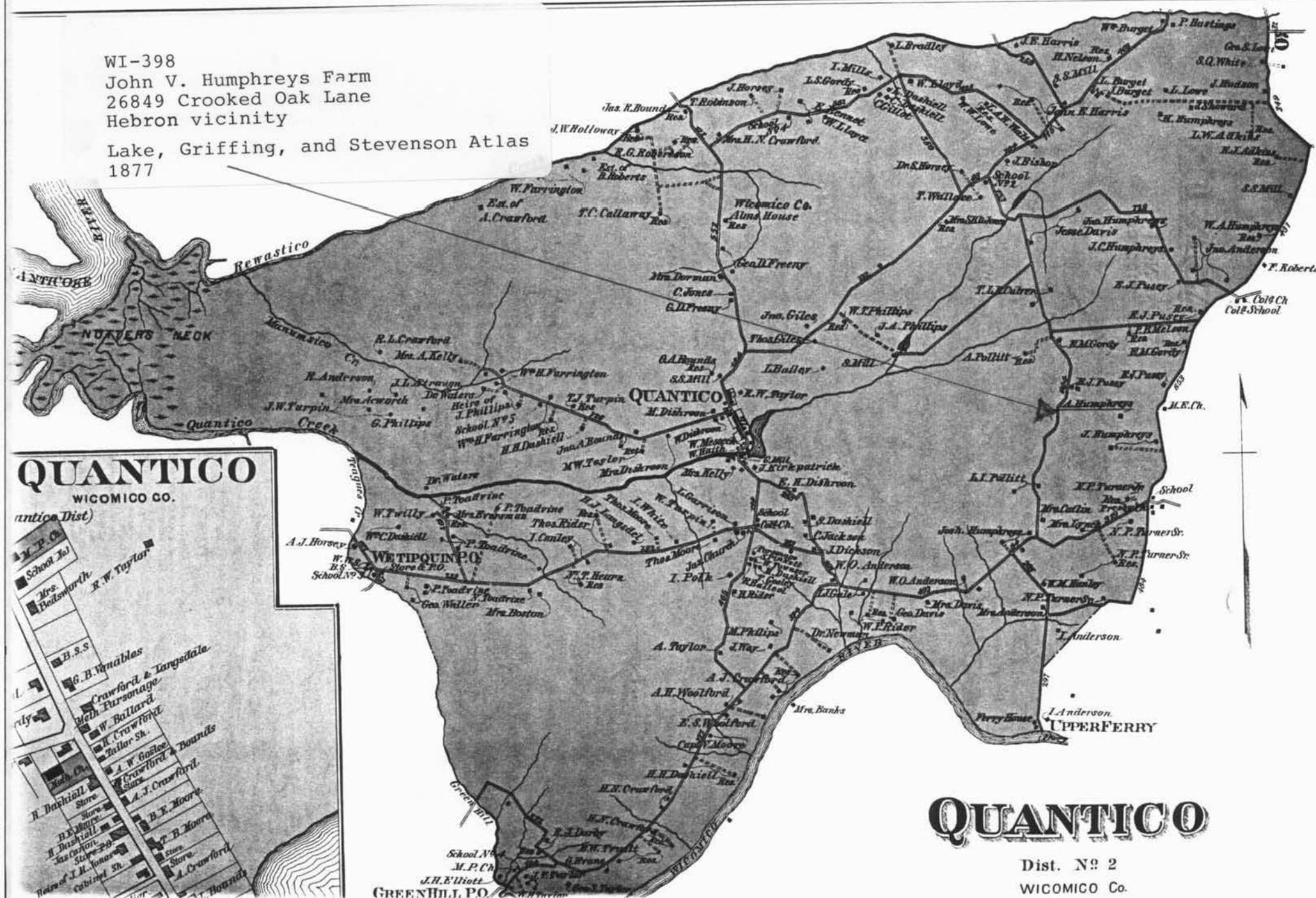
Joshua and John V. Humphreys, Executors

12/8/1829

WI-398

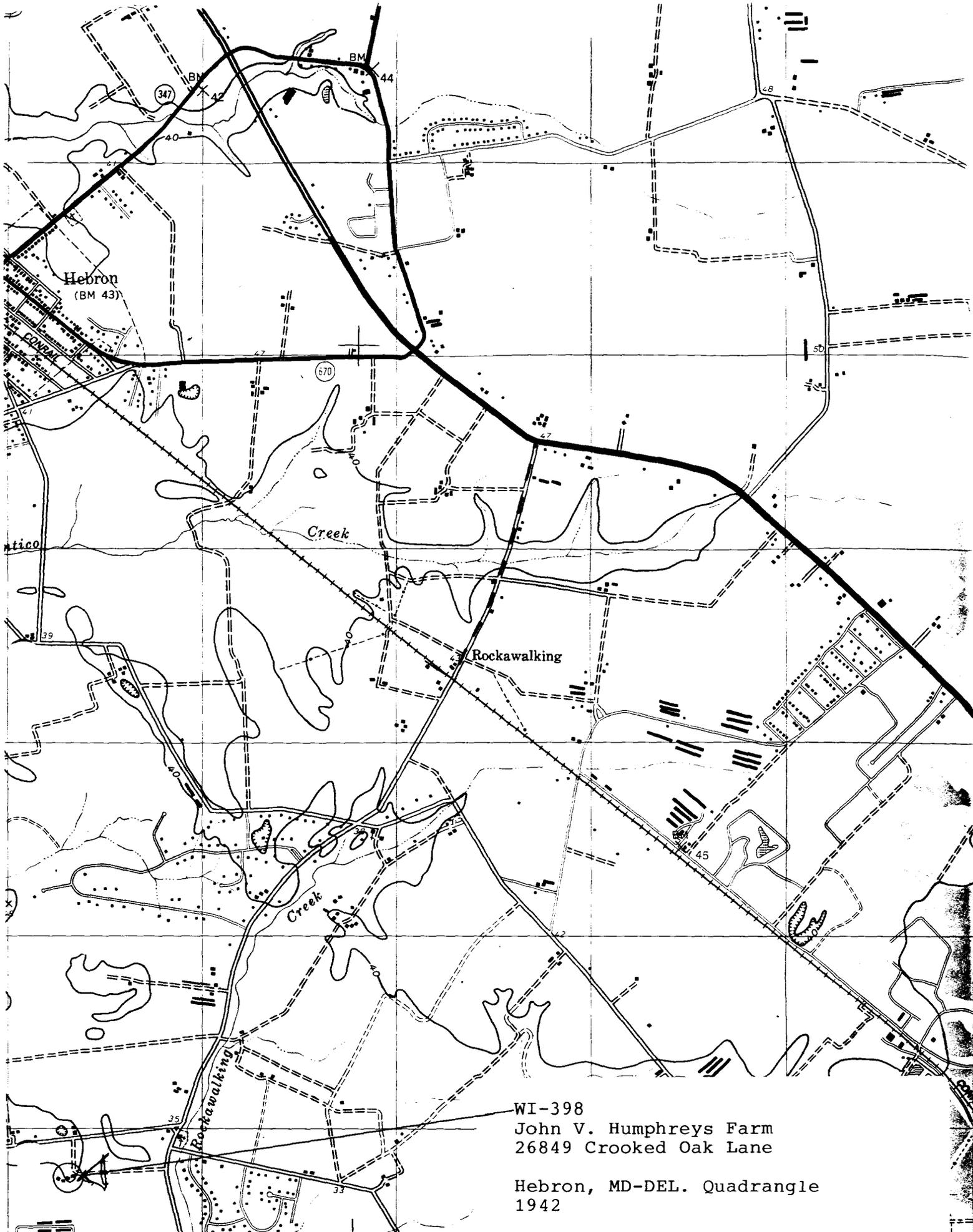
John V. Humphreys Farm
26849 Crooked Oak Lane
Hebron vicinity

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877



QUANTICO

Dist. No 2
WICOMICO Co.



WI-398
 John V. Humphreys Farm
 26849 Crooked Oak Lane
 Hebron, MD-DEL. Quadrangle
 1942



MI-298

John V. Humphreys, Inc.

Rockawayville, N.Y.

Northwest Division

6/99 Pine Street Philadelphia

NEC / MD Insurance Trust

1 of 2



W1-379

John V. Henderson's Paper

Rocky Mountain region, Colorado, 1880-1881

Mount Elbert

6/19/80 Paper - about 1000 feet

at the top of the mountain

2 of 2