

WI-411  
Melson Farm  
Hebron vicinity  
Private

c. 1830

Historically associated with the Melson family for over one-hundred years, this two-story, three-part farmhouse occupied a high knoll in the center of a large farm southeast of Hebron. The three-part farmhouse shares the high ground with a number of mature shade trees, one of which is a tremendous sycamore probably as old as the house.

Architectural details indicate the main block and wing were built in several stages, beginning around 1830. Around 1890 a Victorian renovation included the addition of a two-story, three-side bay pavilion on top of the kitchen wing, and turned post porches were introduced on the main entrance as well as the service end of the house. A number of outbuildings survive as well. North of the house is a three level frame potato house and a bi-level frame incubator house used for raising chickens.

While Daniel F. Melson purchased this farm in 1855, and his descendants held title to the property until 1972, the house was probably built during the ownership of John and Eleanor McDaniel, who acquired the 217-acre plantation in 1832 through his wife's mother and sister. John and Eleanor McDaniel continued to own the plantation, consisting of tracts known as "Come By Chance" and "High Suffolk," until Daniel F. Melson of Worcester County purchased the property in January 1855. Daniel and his wife Sarah remained on this farm until their deaths and are buried near the farmhouse behind the outbuilding known as an incubator house. At his death in 1882 Daniel F. Melson, by order of his will, left his farm to his five sons, while his wife,

Sarah, inherited twelve hundred dollars as well as "...one feather bed and bedstead and furniture for same of her choice, sewing machine, four flag bottomed chairs, one rocking chair formerly hers & one table." In another item Daniel left to wife, "...all the chickens and other fowls on the premises where I live at the time of my death, also sufficient provisions of meat, flour, and corn for her individual use for one year, but not to sell." Sarah Melson outlived her husband by ten years. She is buried in the family plot along with a son, Robert Newton Melson.

Thomas A. Melson purchased the divided interests in the farm from his siblings in 1884, and he resided on the property until his death in 1930. The farm passed to Bliss U. Nelson, who held tenure here for the following forty-two years.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Melson Farm

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-411

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):
  - Farm Complex
  - farmhouse
  - potato house
  - incubator house

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-411

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Melson Farm

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 7150 Sycamore 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Theodore A. and Shirley Toadvine

street & number 7150 Sycamore Lane telephone no.:

city, town Hebron state and zip code MD 21830

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 28, P. 146  
liber 767

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 222

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-411

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 Melson farm, designated with the address 7150 Sycamore Lane, is located at the end of a long dirt farm lane southeast of Hebron, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house, built atop a sandy knoll, faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Estimated to date around 1825-40, the two-story, three-part frame dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is uniformly clad with yellow vinyl siding. The various gable roofs are covered with green asphalt shingles. Joining the house on the sandy knoll is a collection of early twentieth century outbuildings that includes a three-level frame potato house, a bi-level frame incubator house, a gable roofed garage, and a single story gable roofed wagon house. A modern gambrel roofed barn has been recently built on the site. Located behind the incubator house is a family graveyard. Burials in this cemetery include Daniel F. Melson (12/8/1818-9/19/1882), Sarah E. Melson (2/27/1828-3/20/1892), and Robert Newton Melson (12/25/1850-2/19/1881) along with a unreadable child's grave marker who died at birth. There are several very old trees on the property. Standing directly in front of the house is a tremendous sycamore.

The west (main) facade of the three-part house is an asymmetrical elevation. The two-story, four-bay main block extends to the south with a single story gable roofed kitchen wing that dates around the same time or possibly prior to the construction of the main block. Around 1890-1900 a two-story, three-sided bay pavilion was built atop the kitchen wing and adjacent to the main house. The four-bay west facade is defined by an off-center entrance located in the third bay from the north corner. A Victorian cross-gabled, turned post porch shelters the front door, which is partially glazed and trimmed with turn of the twentieth century applied decoration. The door is topped by a two-light transom. To each side are two-over-two sash window openings. The second floor is lighted by four unevenly spaced two-over-two windows. A wider space between the second and third windows may indicate a shift in construction within the main block. The top of the wall is defined by a boxed cornice sheathed with vinyl as well.

The north gable end is dominated by a large stretcher bond brick stack of recent construction. The stack protrudes through an extended eave. Otherwise, the wall is a plain surface covered with vinyl siding.

The east (rear) wall of the main block is a four-bay elevation with a shed roofed porch extending across the first floor. The first and second floors are lighted by two-over-two sash windows. Rising through the gable end is an interior end brick stack.

(Continued)

# 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 checked="" 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.

Historically associated with the Melson family for over one-hundred years, this two-story, three-part farmhouse occupied a high knoll in the center of a large farm southeast of Hebron. The three-part farmhouse shares the high ground with a number of mature shade trees, one of which is a tremendous sycamore probably as old as the house.

Architectural details indicate the main block and wing were built in several stages, beginning around 1830. Around 1890 a Victorian renovation included the addition of a two-story, three-side bay pavilion on top of the kitchen wing, and turned post porches were introduced on the main entrance as well as the service end of the house. A number of outbuildings survive as well. North of the house is a three level frame potato house and a bi-level frame incubator house used for raising chickens.

While Daniel F. Melson purchased this farm in 1855,<sup>1</sup> and his descendants held title to the property until 1972,<sup>2</sup> the house was probably built during the ownership of John and Eleanor McDaniel, who acquired the 217-acre plantation in 1832 through his wife's mother and sister.<sup>3</sup> John and Eleanor McDaniel continued to own the plantation, consisting of tracts known as "Come By Chance" and "High Suffolk," until Daniel F. Melson of Worcester County purchased the property in January 1855. Daniel and his wife Sarah remained on this farm until their deaths and are buried near the farmhouse behind the outbuilding known as an incubator house. At his death in 1882 Daniel F. Melson, by order of his will, left his farm to his five sons, while his wife, Sarah, inherited twelve hundred dollars as well as "...one feather bed and bedstead and furniture for same of her choice, sewing machine, four flag bottomed chairs, one rocking chair formerly hers & one table." In another item Daniel left to wife, "...all the chickens and other fowls on the premises where I live at the time of my death, also sufficient provisions of meat, flour, and corn for her individual use for one year,

<sup>1</sup> Somerset County Land Record, LW 3/366, 1 January 1855.  
<sup>2</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, 767/222, 1 August 1972.  
<sup>3</sup> Somerset County Land Record, GH 6/584, 21 December 1832.



## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

Melson Farm, WI-411

Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

The south gable end of the main block is entirely covered by the single-story kitchen with its Victorian pavilion addition. The west side of the pavilion is a three-sided front pierced by single-pane sash windows and spindle decorated eave under the gable roof. The gable end is pierced by a diamond-shaped window. South of the Victorian bay is a shed roofed turned post porch that shelters the door opening into the kitchen wing. Attached to the south end of the kitchen is an enclosed shed addition pierced by a bank of six-over-six and two-over-two sash windows. Rising through the shed addition is an early nineteenth-century brick stack. A modern brick stack has been erected on the west side of the old stack. The gable end of the kitchen wing is flush and covered in vinyl.

Standing on the north side of the house are two outbuildings; a three-level frame potato house and a bi-level frame incubator house. The potato house, dating around 1920, is supported on a concrete foundation with an excavated cellar. The exterior is clad with plain weatherboards that are attached to a diagonal plank sheathing which is nailed to the frame. Three tiers of window openings are covered with board shutters. The medium pitched gable roof, defined by extended eaves and exposed rafter ends, is covered with asphalt shingles. Piercing the north gable end is a brick stove stack. Entrance to the building is provided by way of an exterior staircase that leads to a second level doorway.

North of the potato house is a bi-level frame incubator house supported on a concrete block foundation and sheathed with vertical board siding. The medium to low pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The south wall is marked by a gable roofed shelter that covers a wooden stair leading to a cellar door. The concrete block foundation is pierced by four-pane windows, and the upper floor is lighted by six-over-six sash windows. Fixed to the west gable end is an exterior stair that leads to the gable end entrance to the upper level. A single flue brick stove chimney is attached to the east gable end, which is pierced by a six-over-six sash window for the main room and a small two-over-two sash under the eave. A second single flue brick stack rises on the northwest corner of the building.

Located on the south side of the house are two single story gable roofed frame buildings. Standing closer to the house is a single-bay frame garage. A multi-bay frame wagon house stands south of the garage. Off the southwest corner of the house is a modern barn shaped building covered with a gambrel roof.

## 8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

Melson Farm, WI-411

Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

but not to sell.”<sup>4</sup> Sarah Melson outlived her husband by ten years. She his buried in the family plot along with a son, Robert Newton Melson.

Thomas A. Melson purchased the interests in the farm from his siblings in 1884, and he resided on the property until his death in 1930.<sup>5</sup> The farm passed to Bliss U. Nelson, who held tenure here for the following forty-two years.

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<sup>4</sup> Wicomico County Register of Wills, ELW 1/57, probated 12 December 1882.

<sup>5</sup> Wicomico County Register of Wills, MNN 1/205, probated 13 February 1892.

WI-411  
Melson Farm  
7150 Sycamore Lane  
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 28, Parcel 146

767/222

Bliss U. Melson

to

8/11972

Theodore A. and Shirley Toadvine  
140.08 acres ...the land herein described and conveyed being  
a part only of and the residue of several parcels or tracts of  
land known or formerly known as "Come By Chance," "High  
Suffolk," "Consolidation," "Little Bitt," and "Hard  
to Come At"

Will Book  
MNN 1/205

Last Will and Testament of Thomas A. Melson

to

Written  
10/19/1928  
Proved  
2/13/1930

Bliss U. Melson, subject to the dower interest of Ella A.  
Melson, who subsequently died on 9/2/1938

Article No. 3

SPT 6/421

Samuel F. Melson, Levin M. Melson, James L. Melson, Daniel  
W. Melson

to

6/17/1884

Thomas A. Melson  
162 acres

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Melson Farm  
7150 Sycamore Lane  
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

Will Book  
ELW 1/57

Last Will and Testament of Daniel F. Melson

to five sons,

Written  
8/3/1882  
Proved  
12/12/1882

Thomas A. Melson, Samuel F. Melson, Levin M. Melson,  
James L. Melson, and Daniel W. Melson

Item 4: I give and bequeath to my wife Sarah E. Melson, the sum of twelve hundred dollars, also one feather bed and bedstead and furniture for same of her choice, sewing machine, four flag bottomed chairs, one rocking chair formerly hers & one table, this bequest to be in lieu of her, my said wife's dower in my estate both real and personal...

Item 4: (sic) ...to my five sons "all the rest and residue of my estate..."

Item 5: I give to my wife, in addition to the legacy above named, all the chickens and other fowls on the premises where I live at the time of my death, also sufficient provisions of meat, flour, and corn for her individual use for one year, but not to sell.

Somerset County  
Land Record  
LW 3/366

John McDaniel  
Eleanor H. McDaniel

to

1/1/1855

Daniel F. Melson, of Worcester County  
\$3,200 "Come By Chance," "High Suffolk," 217 acres  
"Consolidation" which was purchased by John  
McDaniel of a certain John Byrd containing 30 acres

also two small pieces of land called "Little Bitt" and  
"Hard to Come At" 17 1/2 acres

...upon which where said John McDaniel formerly  
resided....

WI-411

Page 3

Melson Farm

Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

Chain of title continued

Somerset County

Land Record

GH 6/584

Juliann Johnson (daughter and heir of William Hearn, dec'd)

to

12/21/1832

John McDaniel

Eleanor McDaniel

Jane Handy, two daughters and heirs at law of Nelly Handy

"Come By Chance" "High Suffolk" 217 acres

whereon the said John McDaniel now resides...

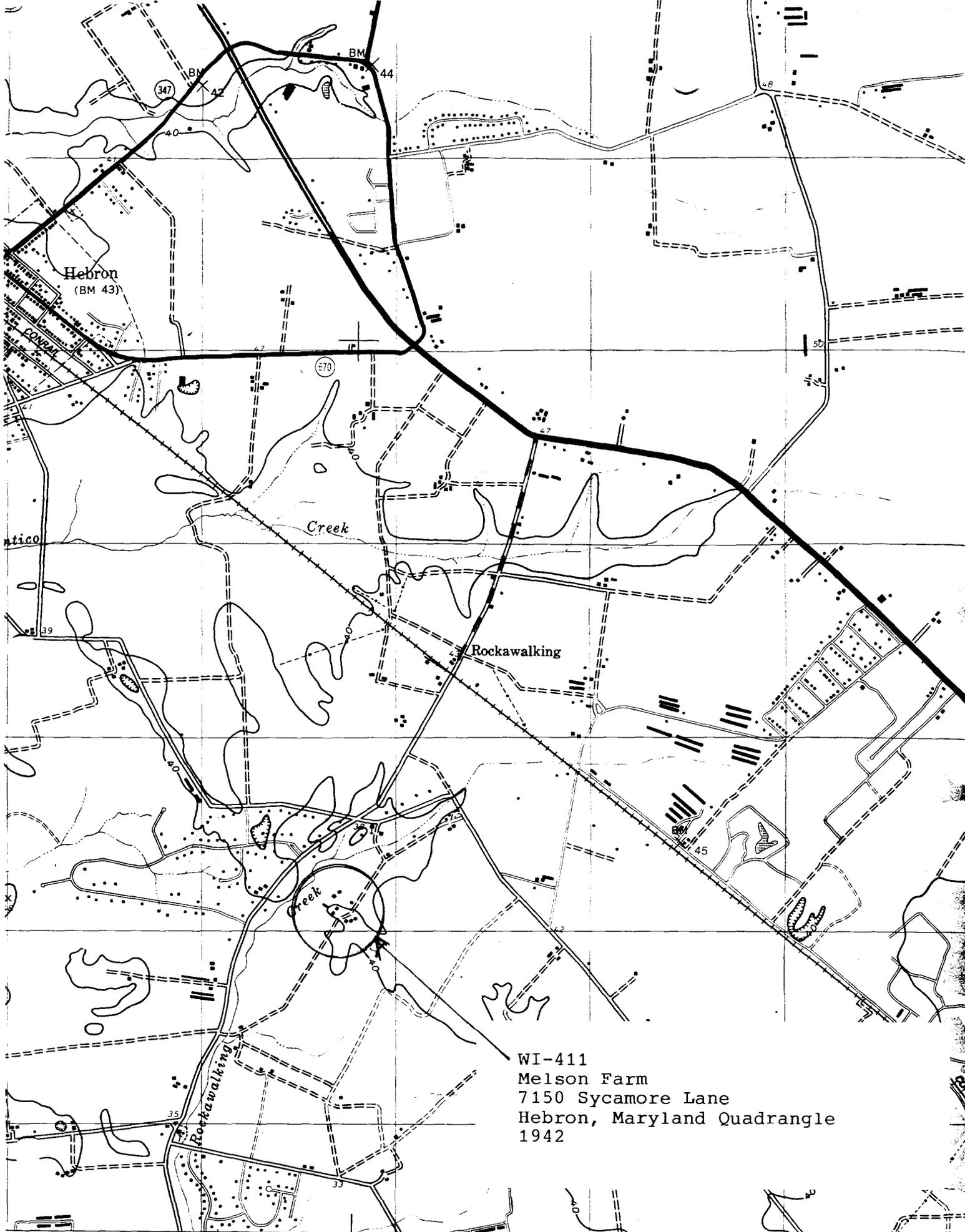
WI-411  
Melson Farm  
7150 Sycamore Lane

Lake, Griffin, and Stevenson Atlas  
1877



# SALISBURY

Dist. No 9



WI-411  
 Melson Farm  
 7150 Sycamore Lane  
 Hebron, Maryland Quadrangle  
 1942



WI-411

MELSON FARM

ROCKAWAY RD. NEW YORK

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

6/99. Pine Trees and other plants

W.I. / 100 1/2

1 OF 4



10-11

Messin Karm

Roccamarechio via Roccamarechio 10-11

10-11-11-11-11-11

6/99, Pann. Tonnati, Pirota, Roccamarechio

10-11-11-11-11-11-11-11

2-11-6



VI-411

MELSON Farm

RUCKANUCKIN VIO, ~~...~~  
last elevation

1/97, PAUL TOWN'S ~~...~~

NEA / NO. ~~...~~

3 of 6



W11-411

MELSON Ranch

ROCKAWALKIN VII, WINDMILL

SOUTH ELEVATION OF INCUBATOR HOUSE

6/99, PAUL TOWNS PHOTOGRAPHY

NEC/ARD, HUSTON TX

4 of 6



W-411

MELISSA LIND

POCAHONTAS COUNTY, VIRGINIA Co. Rd.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION OF POTATO HOUSE

6/99, PAID TOWNSHIP, VIRGINIA

NEED AND PROBABLY NOT

5 of 6



WI-411

Wetland View

Riverbank View, Wetlands, MD.

1999 - ELEVATION OF PAPER MAP

1/99, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

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