

WI-597
Sewell H. Richardson House
Salisbury
Site

c. 1907

Slated for salvage and ultimate destruction in the spring of 2001, the Sewell H. Richardson house occupied a prominent location in a triangular wedge of land bordered by Nanticoke Road and Pemberton Drive on the west side of Salisbury. Built around 1907 for Sewell and Lizzie Richardson, the two-and-a-half story frame dwelling was designed with a combination of Victorian and Colonial Revival features common to the early twentieth century. The overall massing of the house follows an asymmetrical plan with its rough tee shape and projecting pavilions. Reflective of the Colonial Revival were the numerous neoclassically inspired porches that were attached to the north, south, and east sides. The east end porch wrapped around three sides of the main block, and the tapered square columns contrasted with the more typical round Tuscan columns used on the north and south sides porches. The interior featured a blend of Victorian and Colonial Revival elements with a turn of the twentieth century floor plan, a turned baluster staircase, and a neoclassical mantel in the dining room.

For much of its existence, the house was occupied by the Richardson family. Lizzie E. Richardson, wife of Sewell H. Richardson, acquired 4.85 acres, or Lot No. 17 of the George W. Parsons estate, in January 1907. The late Victorian and Colonial Revival features indicate the house was erected around the time of the 1907 transfer. Sewell and Lizzie Richardson held title to the house and acreage until 1916 when it was conveyed to William H. Richardson of Baltimore City for \$3,500, indicating the property was well improved at the time. In 1930 the triangular parcel passed to Vaughn M. Richardson, who assumed payments on the \$5,500 mortgage. Vaughn Richardson is well remembered in Salisbury as the founder of the Wicomico Hunt Club in 1928. The gambrel roofed barn dates from Vaughn Richardson's tenure on the property, which lasted until 1977. More recently the house and barn were owned by Charles C. Habliston. In May 2001 the buildings were sold at auction for salvage with pending redevelopment of the lot.

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-597

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The Sewell H. Richardson house, also known as the Vaughn M. Richardson house or the Habliston house, stands on a triangular shaped piece of ground bounded by Nanticoke Road and Pemberton Drive on the western edge of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house is joined on the lot by an early twentieth-century gambrel roofed frame barn and several garden ornaments including a cast iron lamp post and half of a grinding stone from a grist mill. The house faces an easterly direction with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis. At the time of survey the house was scheduled to be auctioned for its parts.

Built around 1907, the two-and-a-half story is supported by a continuous stretcher bond brick foundation with a partially excavated cellar. The exterior is clad with wood shingles, and the steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The front block follows a tee-shape with a two story kitchen wing to the rear.

The east (main) façade is a gable-front elevation with a side entrance and flanking single pane sash window retaining louvered shutters. The first floor is sheltered by a wraparound porch supported by tapered square columns. The second story is lighted by single-pane sash windows also hung with louvered shutters. The top of the gable front wall is finished with an enclosed pediment pierced by a Venetian style tripartite window fitted with diamond shaped panes.

The north side of the main block follows an asymmetrical design with a two-story, three-sided bay pavilion centered on the wall surface. Each floor of the pavilion is pierced by three single-pane sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. Piercing the enclosed pediment is a fifteen-over-one sash window. Piercing the roofline are single flue brick stack finished with corbelled caps.

The south side of the house is an asymmetrical elevation as well with a two-story, square-sided pavilion extending forward of the main block. The first and second stories on lighted by single-pane sash windows.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing that incorporates a pantry and kitchen spaces. The kitchen wing is a two-story, one-room plan structure with a two-story shed roofed pantry section extending off the north side. A neoclassical portico shelters the side entrance on the north side and a Tuscan columned porch is attached to the south side of the kitchen wing. An exterior entrance to the cellar is located on the west side of the kitchen wing.

The interior is fitted with a mixture of Victorian and Colonial Revival woodwork. The side hall is dominated by a quarter turn staircase finished with a parquet floor on the first landing and square newel posts are topped by urn shaped finials. The molded handrail is supported by turned balusters. A wide arched opening provides access to the front room or parlor, which features narrow oak flooring. Behind the parlor through another wide opening is a rectangular space that probably served as the dining room. A Colonial Revival mantel is fixed to a corner location on the inside wall. The adjacent pantry is fitted with a large built-in cupboard with a combination of paneled and glazed doors. The kitchen features built-in features as well with a bank of cabinets and a ironing board incorporated into the wall. A back staircase provides access to the second floor and cellar.

The second floor is less elaborate but contains its original early twentieth century woodwork. One of the most unusual features is the treatment of the north bedroom, which has an arch executed on plaster that frames a window and is flanked by built-in closets.

The gambrel roofed barn that stands behind the house was designed with a gable-front orientation. A center entrance provides access to a large open area which is flanked on the south by a row of horse stalls. The first and second floors of the barn are lighted by six-over-six sash windows, and a pyramidal roofed cupola is centered on the asphalt shingle roof. The other features of the property include brick paths, an early twentieth-century cast iron lamp post, and a small trellis on the south side of the house. Four brick posts support a wooden framework of decorated joists. Imbedded in the ground at the west end of the walk half of a grinding stone salvaged from a grist mill.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-597

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/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Slated for salvage and ultimate demolition in the spring of 2001, the Sewell H. Richardson house occupied a prominent location in a triangular wedge of land bordered by Nanticoke Road and Pemberton Drive on the west side of Salisbury. Built around 1907 for Sewell and Lizzie Richardson, the two-and-a-half story frame dwelling was built with a combination of Victorian and Colonial Revival features common to the early twentieth century. The overall massing of the house follows an asymmetrical plan with its rough tee shape and projecting pavilions. Reflective of the Colonial Revival were the numerous neoclassically inspired porches that were attached to the north, south, and east sides. The east end porch wrapped around three sides of the main block, and the tapered square columns contrasted with the more typical round Tuscan columns used on the north and south side porches. The interior featured a blend of Victorian and Colonial Revival elements with a turn of the century asymmetrical plan, a turned baluster staircase, and a neoclassical mantel in the dining room.

For much of its existence the house was occupied by the Richardson family. Lizzie E. Richardson, wife of Sewell H. Richardson, acquired 4.85 acres, or Lot No. 17 of the George W. Parsons estate in January 1907.¹ The late Victorian and Colonial Revival features indicate the house was erected around the time of the 1907 transfer. Sewell and Lizzie Richardson held title to the house and acreage until 1916 when it was conveyed to William H. Richardson of Baltimore City for \$3,500 indicating that the property was well improved.² In 1930 the property passed to Vaughn M. Richardson, who assumed payments on the \$5,500 mortgage.³ Vaughn Richardson is well remembered in Salisbury as the founder of the Wicomico Hunt Club in 1928.⁴ The gambrel roofed barn dates from Vaughn Richardson's tenure on the property, which lasted until 1977.⁵ More recently the property was owned by Charles C. Habliston.⁶ In May 2001 the house and barn were sold at auction for salvage with pending redevelopment.

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 53/174, 8 January 1907.

² Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 100/132, 26 July 1916.

³ Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 164/138, 19 June 1930.

⁴ Charles J. Truitt, *Historic Salisbury Updated, 1662-1982*, Salisbury, Maryland: Historical Books, Inc. 1982, p. 232.

⁵ Wicomico County Land Record, 654/356, 25 August 1977.

⁶ *Ibid.*

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-597

Name Sewell H. Richardson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Sewell H. Richardson House
Pemberton Drive and Nanticoke Road
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 37, Parcel 134
Account #9-012524

1068/69	Charles C. Habliston
	to
5/20/1986	Charlotte C. Habliston 2.85 acres
654/356	Vaughn M. Richardson Roberta S. Richardson
	to
8/25/1977	Charles C. Habliston
JWTS 644/129	Joseph Y. Gunby Dorothy B. Gunby
	to
1/23/1967	Vaughn M. Richardson Roberta S. Richardson 4.85 acres

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-597

Name Sewell H. Richardson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

644/127

Vaughn M. Richardson
Roberta S. Richardson

to

1/23/1967

Joseph Y. Gunby
4.85 acres

IDT 164/138

William H. Richardson

to

6/19/1930

Vaughn M. Richardson
Assumption of a mortgage of \$5,500

Mortgage
JCK 100/132

William H. Richardson

to

7/26/1916

Daisey M. Bell

JCK 102/311

George W. Bell, attorney

to

6/6/1916

William H. Richardson of Baltimore City
Conveyed for \$3,500

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Sewell H. Richardson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

EAT 53/174

James T. Truitt, trustee

to

1/8/1907

Lizzie E. Richardson
4.85 acres, part of the estate of George W. Parsons, Lot No. 17

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WI-597

Truitt, Charles J. *Historic Salisbury Updated, 1662-1982*, Salisbury, Maryland, 1982.
Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2.85 acres
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart		
organization	Private Consultant	date	5/23/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

38°22'30"

4246000m N

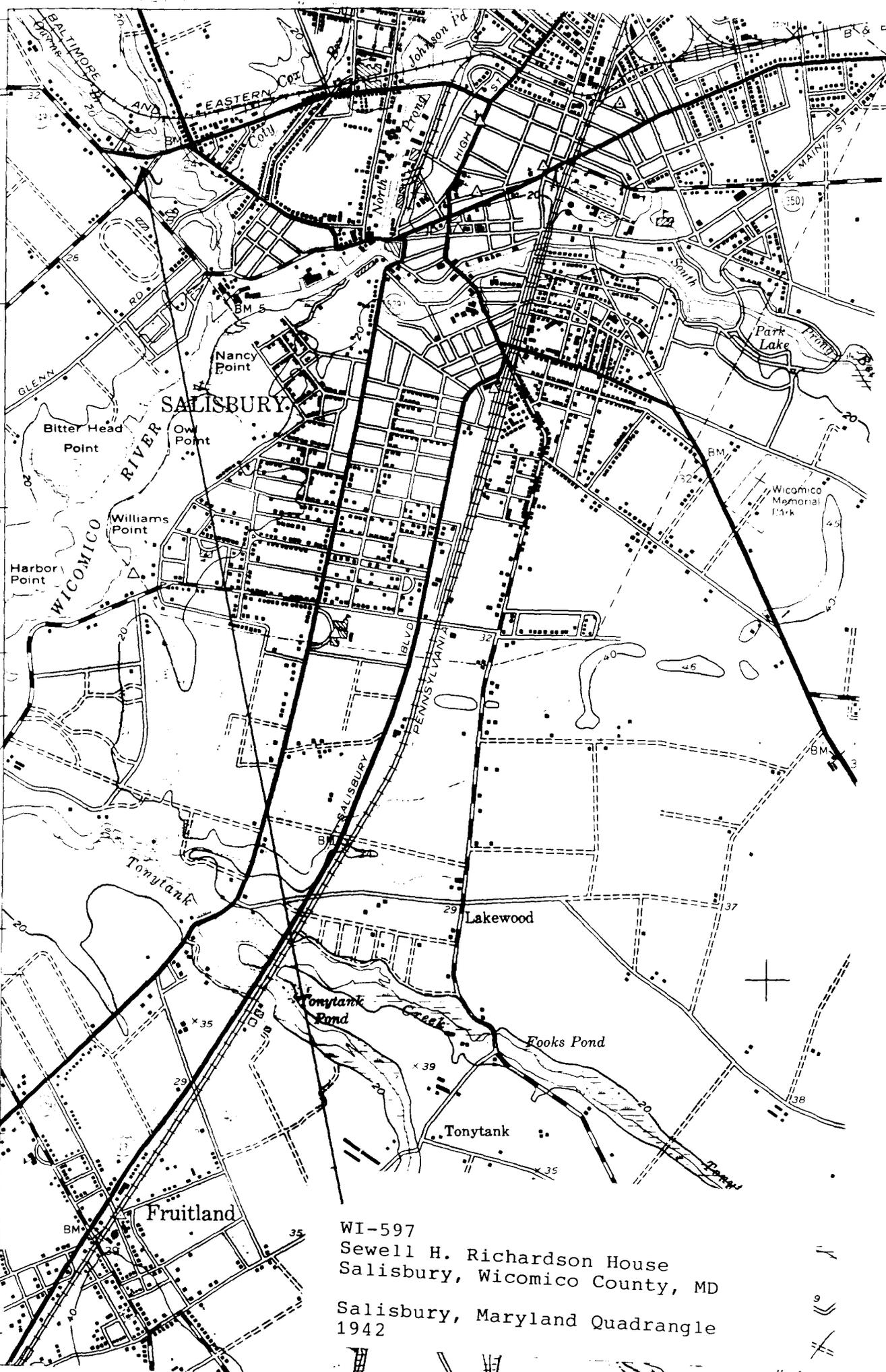
4245

4244

4243

PRINCESS ANNE 1 MI
ALLEN 4.5 MI

PRINCESS ANNE 9 MI
N 27 MI



WI-597
 Sewell H. Richardson House
 Salisbury, Wicomico County, MD
 Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
 1942



WI-597

SEWELL H. RICHARDSON HOUSE
SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.

WORTH ELEVATION

5/01, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER
N.C. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 13



W1-597

SEWELL H. RICHARDSON HOUSE
SALISBURY, WILMINGTON CO. MD.

NORTH GABLE END

5/01, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEE. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 13



WI-597

SEWELL - H. RICHARDSON HOUSE
SALISBURY, WILMOTTE CO., MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

5/01, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / WMD HISTORICAL TRUST

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W1-597

SEWELL H. RICHARDSON HOUSE
SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.
WEST PORCH

5/01, PAUL TOULLET, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEE. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

4 02 13



WI-597

SEWELL H. RICHARDSON HOUSE
SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.

DINING ROOM MANTEL

5/01, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEZ. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

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WI-597

SEWELL H. RICHARDSON HOUSE
SALISBURY, WILMOTHS CO., MD.
KITCHEN

5701, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEZ. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

6 0 + 13



WI-597

GENERAL H. RICHMOND IN HOUSE
SALISBURY, WICOMICO Co., MD.

PARTIAL

5701, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEED MD HISTORICAL TRUST

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WI-597

SEWELL H. RICHARDSON HOUSE
SALISBURY, WILMINGTON CO., N.D.
STAIRCASE

5/01, PAUL TOWNSEND PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / N.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

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WI-597

SEWELL H. RICHARDSON HOUSE

SALISBURY, WILMOT CO., MD.

SECOND FLOOR HALL RAILING

5/01, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEC./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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WI-597

SEWELL H. RICHARDSON HOUSE
SALISBURY, WICOMICO Co., MD.

EAST BEDROOM DETAIL

5/01, PAUL TOWNNT, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEC. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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WI-597

SEWELL H. RICHARDSON HOUSE
SALISBURY, WIRGINIA CO., MD.

LAMP POST

5/01, PAUL TOWNST. PHOTOGRAPHER
NEC./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

11 OF 13



WI-597

SEWELL H. RICHARDSON HOUSE
SALISBURY, WILMOTICO Co. MD

NORTH ELEV. OF BARN

5/01, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEL/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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WI-597

SEWELL Pt. RICHARDSON HOUSE
SALISBURY, WILMOT CO., MD.
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION OF BARN
5/01, PAUL THOMAS, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEZ. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

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