

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Gibbons Farm Survey Number: WO-462

Project: US 113 from MD 394 to Delaware State Line Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Gibbons Farm is located on the east side of US Route 113 (Worcester Highway) north of its intersection with MD 394 and north of Snow Hill in Worcester County, MD. The property, which includes 93.55 acres of cultivated farmland and consists of an early 20th-century dwelling and a single contributing outbuilding, is not eligible for individual listing on the National Register.

Erected ca. 1910, the dwelling is a large, 2-1/2-story frame building with an L-shaped plan and a cross gable roof. It is a representative example of a rural dwelling form displaying transitional Queen Anne and Colonial Revival-style form and detailing. The irregular massing, projecting bays and gables, wrap-around porch and fishscale shingles in the gable end are characteristic of the Queen Anne style, while the regular fenestration pattern and the paired and tri-partite window openings, and interior mantels reflect Colonial Revival-style tendencies. The house has been altered by the addition of new windows and siding and is currently vacant and in deteriorating condition. A small, rusticated concrete block chicken house/shed stands at the rear of the house, as does a non-contributing modular home. The Gibbons Farm lacks the architectural distinctiveness or integrity necessary to qualify it for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Although the Gibbons Farm chronicles agricultural trends in Worcester County in its transition from a potato farm in the 1920s to a peach and apple orchard in the 1930s to a poultry and dairy farm in the 1950s, the property is not significant to the history of agriculture in the county and is thus not eligible under Criterion A. The property is not known to have associations with any persons significant to our past and is thus not eligible under Criterion B.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files

Prepared by: Stuart Paul Dixon/Historian KCI Technologies, Inc. for SHA

Kimberly Prothro Williams March 13, 1996  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

Program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

Quentin Padgett  
Reviewer, NR program

March 27, 1996.  
Date

*Quin*

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/single dwelling;

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

WO-462 (KCI #1)  
Gibbons Farm  
Worcester County

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Eastern Shore

Chronological/Development Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance      A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Agriculture

Resource Type:

Category:                      Building

Historic Environment:      Rural

Historic Functions:         Farmstead, Nursery, Dwelling, Shed

Known Design Source:      None

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. W0-462

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

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

historic

and/or common Gibbons Farm

**2. Location**

street & number 5844 Worcester Highway \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" 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 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 Marion James & David Burton Gibbons

street & number 5844 Worcester Highway telephone no.:(410) 632-3304

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Courthouse liber

street & number 1 West Market Street folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

pository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

Survey No. W0-462

**Condition**

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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

See Continuation Sheet



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-462

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 93.55a

Quadrangle name Public Landing, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stuart Paul Dixon / Historian

organization KCI Technologies, Inc. date 31 July 1995

street & number 5001 Louise Drive, Suite 201 telephone (717) 691-1340

city or town Mechanicsburg, state PA 17055

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7630

**CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 2**

Located on the east side of US Route 113 (Worcester Highway) north of its intersection with MD 394 north of Snow Hill, in Worcester County, Maryland, the Gibbons Farm consists of an unoccupied farmhouse erected circa 1910, a shed currently used as a chicken house and a modern residence. A 93.55 acre tract of generally flat, cultivated farmland the surrounds the three structures set amidst a grass lawn.

The two-and-one-half story, frame farmhouse forms an overall ell plan. A hipped roof with a gable-roofed dormer tops the western portion of the ell facing Worcester Highway. A slightly less higher gable roof caps the rear portion of the ell plan. Asphalt shingles sheathe both roof types. The house stands upon a brick foundation. A brick chimney pile pierces the mid-section of the rear ell's roof. The gable-roofed dormer displays a pediment ornamented with wooden herringbone shingles and a palladian-type window. Similar decorative motifs adorn the ell's pedimented gable ends. Asbestos shingles cover the house's exterior wall surfaces while a hipped-roof veranda shades the west and north elevations. A one-story, shed roof addition appended to the east elevation contains a vestibule and a bathroom.

Two-over-two wooden sash compose the principal window type of the two-bay wide, two-bay deep house although paired one-over-ones light the west elevation. A single one-over-one penetrates the west elevation's second story above the first story's panel door with large upper light. Paired one-over-ones also occupy both stories of the north gable end.

The Gibbons farmhouse possesses a side hall, double pile floor plan. A kitchen occupies the rear, eastern portion of the hall. A rear stair passage with two quarter-turns provides access to the kitchen from a second story bedroom located in the southeast corner. Hearth embellishments copy styles popular during the early twentieth century and help to date the period of the house's construction. First story fireplace surrounds invoke Craftsman architectural motifs while second story surrounds replicate Colonial Revival patterns.

The Gibbons Farm property also contains a contributing, one-story chicken house/shed situated northeast of the dwelling. A gable roof covered with wooden shingles tops the small rectangular building constructed of rusticated concrete block. Six-over-six wooden sash occupy the west and east elevations while a door opening sans door provides entry through the south elevation.

WO-462 (KCI #1)  
Gibbons Farm  
Worcester County  
Page 7.2; Description

The current owner informed surveyors that lightning struck the house a few years earlier damaging a portion of the roof and a second brick chimney in addition to the electrical system. New rafters and roofing material were installed. The chimney stack was not completely rebuilt and does not currently penetrate the roof however. Original wood shingles are visible in the attic underlying the asphalt roofing. Other modifications to the original plan and fabric include the removal of a second floor bathroom located atop the one-story east addition.

A modern, non-contributing modular house stands south of the dwelling and chicken house.

The Gibbons Farm chronicles significant trends in the agricultural development of Worcester County during the early twentieth century. One of the current owners, Marion Gibbons, informed that a great uncle, Burton Gibbons, had the dwelling constructed as his residence in the early part of this century. Surviving architectural features such as the palladian-type window, decorative hearth surrounds, panel doors and large-paned sash, indicate the farmhouse was erected around 1910. The rusticated block shed, its original function unknown, was probably erected sometime after the dwelling. Potatoes formed the principal crop on the Gibbons Farm during the 1920s.

Burton Gibbons went bankrupt following the Great Depression of the 1930s and the house and its associated farmland were acquired by the Harrison brothers. Owners of orchards and nurseries throughout the county with headquarters in Berlin, the Harrisons planted peach and apple orchards in the former Gibbons farm. Tenant overseers probably occupied the Gibbons farmhouse during the Harrisons' tenure.

In 1952 Marion Gibbons' father purchased the 93 acre tract from the Harrisons, removed the orchards and began planting corn and raising poultry and dairy cattle. Several chicken houses and two dairy barns were added to the property during the 1950s. Neither the chicken houses nor the dairy barns survive. Marion Gibbons inherited the farm from his mother in the early 1990s. The Gibbons continue to cultivate corn and a variety of beans on the farm.

The Gibbons Farm has participated in several significant early twentieth century trends associated with the county's agricultural past. Worcester County led Maryland in the production of irish potatoes during the mid-1920s, the period of Burton Gibbons ownership. Although used primarily as feed, county farms harvested over 1.5 million bushels of corn per year during the same period. County orchards and nurseries also ranked second in the state for fruit production. Harrison Nurseries, whose large landholdings included the Gibbons Farm, were responsible for much of the county's annual fruit harvest (Touart 1994:165-67).

Possessing good integrity of location, design, setting and feeling, the Gibbons Farm is recommended for inclusion on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties under Criterion A, associations with broad patterns of history.

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Gibbons Farm  
Worcester County  
Page 9.1; Bibliography

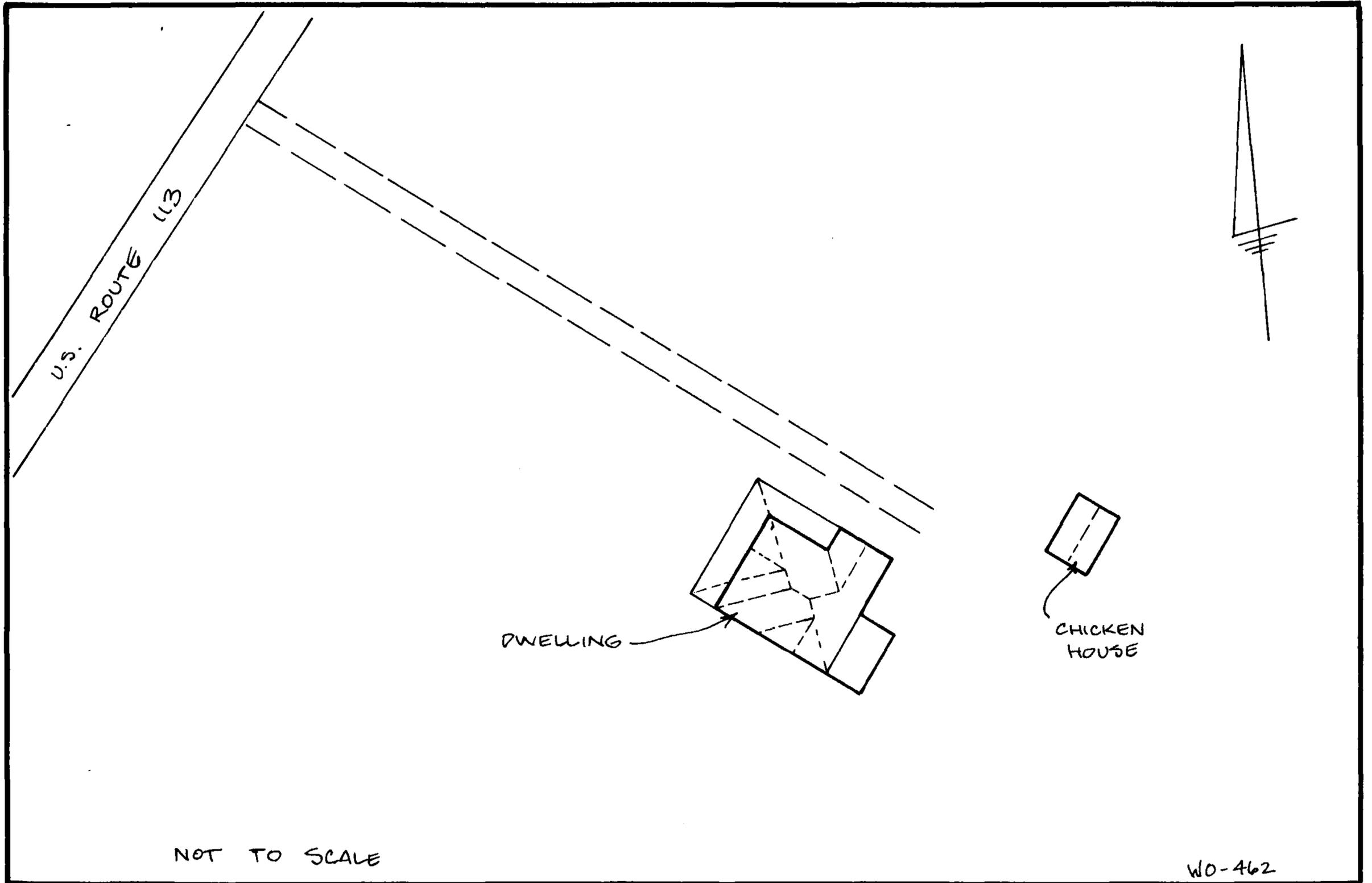
Touart, Paul Baker  
1994 *Along the Seaboard Side, The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland.* Worcester County Commissioners, Snow Hill, MD.

United States Geological Survey  
1942 *7.5' Series Quadrangle for Wesley, MD.* On file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

1967 *7.5' Series Quadrangle for Public Landing, MD.* Reston, VA.

Worcester County 250th Anniversary Committee  
1993 *Articles for Consideration: 250 Years of History, Worcester County, Maryland.*  
Board of Commissioners of Worcester County.

WO-462

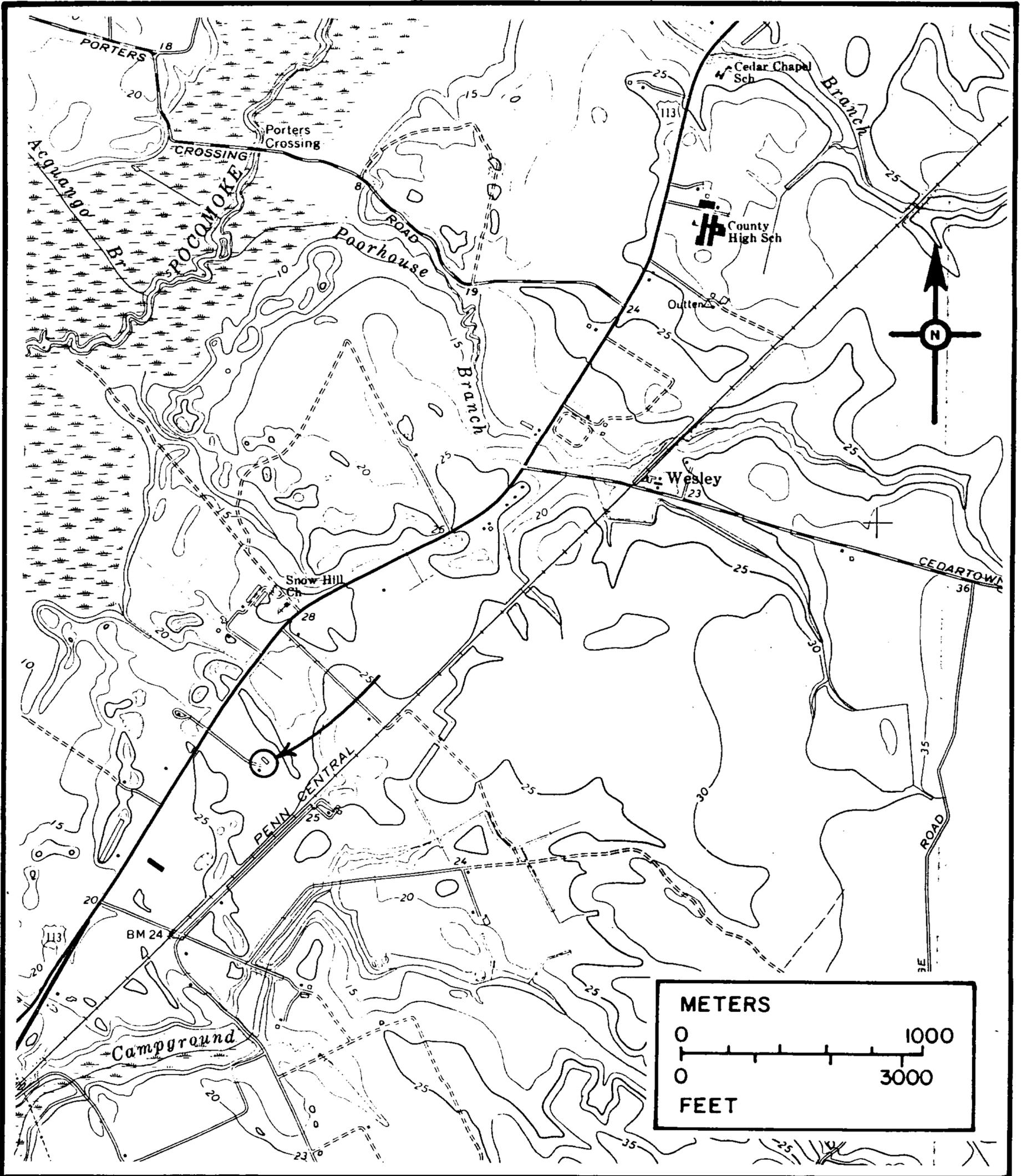


WO-462



**RESOURCE SKETCH MAP**  
 Gibbons Farm (KCI-1)  
 North of Snow Hill, Worcester County, MD  
 Public Landing, MD Quad Map

W0-462



**LOCATIONAL MAP**  
Section of the 7.5' Public Landing, MD Quad Map (USGS 1967)  
Showing the Gibbons Farm (KCI-1),  
North of Snow Hill, Worcester County, MD.

W0-462



0044-19

WO 462 (KC #1)

GIBBONS FARM

WORCESTER CO, MD

STUART DIXON

7/95

STATE HIGHWAY ADMIN

NORTH & WEST ELEVATIONS - DWELLING

1/2



0044-22

W0462 (KCI #1)

GIBBONS FARM

WORCESTER CO, MD

STUART DIXON

7/95

STATE HIGHWAY ADMIN.

WEST & SOUTH ELEVATIONS - SHED

2/2