

9502659

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

Property/District Name: Erma & Norwood Davis House Survey Number: WO-471

Project: Road Widening-US 113 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 Erma and Norwood Davis House is located on the west side of Friendship road, two miles north of Berlin in Worcester County, MD. The property, which contains a frame dwelling, a frame garage, and a concrete block shed is not considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The two-story gable fronted dwelling was built in the second decade of this century, according to deed transactions and local history. The house is of frame construction, clad with wood shingles and covered with a gable roof with a brick end chimney. The front end gable is decorated by diamond-shaped and scalloped wood shingles. This dwelling form, sometimes referred to as the "Homestead" style according to the MHT form, was a popular house form, due to the fact that it could be constructed quickly and inexpensively.

The Erma and Norwood Davis House is a representative example of an early 20th-century rural vernacular dwelling, but lacks the distinction necessary to qualify it for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The property is not known to have associations with persons or events significant to our past and thus does not qualify under Criteria A or B.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files; MHT form  
( W O 471 )

Prepared by: MHT Form, Margaret Bishop, Architectural Historian, KCI Technologies, Inc., July 1995

Kimberly Prothro Williams January 2, 1997  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable  
Peter G. Kurtz 1/6/97  
Reviewer, NR program Date

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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-family dwelling

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

WO-471  
Erma and Norwood Davis House  
Worcester County

Historic Context

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance (A.D. 1870 - 1930)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Functions: Single-family dwelling

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 Erma &amp; Norwood Davis House

**2. Location**
street & number 10545 Friendship Road  not for publicationcity, town Berlin  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 Erma R. &amp; Norwood E. Davis c/o Norwood E. Davis

street &amp; number 205 Williams Street telephone no.:

city, town Berlin state and zip code MD 21811

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street &amp; number West Market Street folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WO-471

**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

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WO-471

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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**      Unknown      **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.

See Continuation Sheet



WO-471

Erma and Norwood Davis House

Worcester County

Page 7.1 - Description

#### CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Erma and Norwood Davis House stands on the west side of Friendship Road nearly two miles north of Berlin. The property, which is situated approximately 250 feet southwest of US 113, contains a frame dwelling, a frame garage, and a concrete block shed.

The two-story, gable-front frame dwelling, clad in brown shingles over weatherboard, sits on a brick foundation. An asphalt shingle gable roof with a box cornice, crown molding, and frieze board, covers the building. A brick chimney rises through the center of the ridge. Diamond-shaped and scalloped wood shingles decorate the pedimented gable on the north, or main, elevation. A shed-roof, one-story, screen-enclosed porch covers the first story of the north, or main, elevation. A one-story, gable-roof wing is appended to the south elevation; a smaller gable-roof addition is attached to the southeast corner of this wing. An interior brick chimney is located at the south end of the wing. Windows throughout the dwelling consist of two-over-two double-hung wood sash with molded wood surrounds.

The north, or main, elevation contains three bays on both the first and second stories. The three-bay screen-enclosed porch, with a shed roof supported by square wood posts, rests on brick piers. The screen bays are divided into four-over-one "windows" and a door provides access at the northeast corner. The porch covers a panel door and two two-over-two windows. The second story contains three windows. A pair of two-over-two windows lights the decorative shingle-pedimented gable of this elevation.

The east elevation contains three bays on each floor of the main block. A Queen Anne stair window with colored glass is located at the northeast corner; the remaining windows consist of two-over-two sash. The east elevation of the wing includes a door and two windows in the principal wing and a door in the addition.

The south elevation of the main block contains one window in the southeast corner of the second story and a window in the gable. The small addition contains a single window, while the wing includes a single window in the first story and a small two-over-two casement window in the gable.

The west elevation of the wing contains a pair of two-over-two windows. The main block includes three bays in both stories; the window in the central bay of the first story is smaller than the remaining windows in this elevation.

Two outbuildings stand south of the dwelling. The one-story frame barn, clad with asphalt shingles and resting on concrete piers, has an asphalt shingle gable roof and contains sliding doors on the first story and a small door in the loft. A six-light window lights the south gable end. Southwest of the dwelling stands a concrete block shed with a corrugated tin roof.

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Erma and Norwood Davis House

Worcester County

Page 8.1 - Significance

The Erma and Norwood Davis House is a good example of an early-twentieth-century gable-front dwelling sometimes known as "Homestead" style. This style employed popular floor plans, such as the Davis' rectangular plan with one-story wing, and mass-produced building materials that enabled residences to be constructed quickly and inexpensively. The Davis House was part of a village known as Jones, which developed at a crossroads between Berlin and Showell during the turn of the century. Few of the community's buildings from that era survive.

Although a building identified as "P. L. Pennewell" appears near the current site of the Davis House on 1877 atlas maps of both the East Berlin and West Berlin districts of Worcester County, the current owner of the house, Norwood Davis, informed surveyors in July of 1996 that the building was constructed during the early twentieth century. Mr. Davis recounted that the Pennewell House that appears on the 1877 atlas maps stood closer to the intersection of US 113 and Friendship Road, became dilapidated and derelict, and was demolished during the 1950s. Mr. Davis has denied requests to inspect the interior of the dwelling to confirm that the current building does not relate to the Pennewell building.

Deed transactions indicate that Charles E. Fisher acquired three contiguous parcels that compose the lot upon which the Davis House now stands between 1909 and 1913. The three parcels contained 1.61 acres, 2.28 acres, and roughly 1 acre. Although none of the transactions describe buildings on the three parcels, Fisher paid \$1250 for the 1.61 acre lot in 1909 (ODC 5-262) but only \$75 for the one acre parcel bought the same year (ODC 5-223), and only \$76 for the 2.28 acre lot in 1913 (ODC 13-537). The discrepancy in price between the 1.61 acre lot and the other two parcels probably indicates that a building or buildings stood on the higher priced property in 1909. Fisher purchased the 1.61 acre lot from Isaac Burbage that year. Burbage acquired the tract five years earlier from Peter Pennewell's widow for \$96.62 (FHP 21-414). Deeds further reveal that a dwelling stood on the property by 1920 when Fisher sold the three parcels to William E. Fisher while reserving a life estate in the dwelling house. Peter Davis acquired the Pennewell House in 1920 and appended it to the Fisher/Davis parcels (WCL 1086-264).

The Davis House retains sufficient integrity of design, location, materials, setting, and workmanship to be recommended for inclusion in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties under Criterion C, as a representative example of an early-twentieth-century rural dwelling.

WO-471

Erma and Norwood Davis House

Worcester County

Page 9.1; Bibliography

Graham, John L., ed.

1976 *The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland.*  
Peninsula Press, Salisbury, MD.

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

1943 *7.5' Series Quadrangle for Berlin, MD.* On file at Maryland Historical Trust,  
Crownsville, MD.

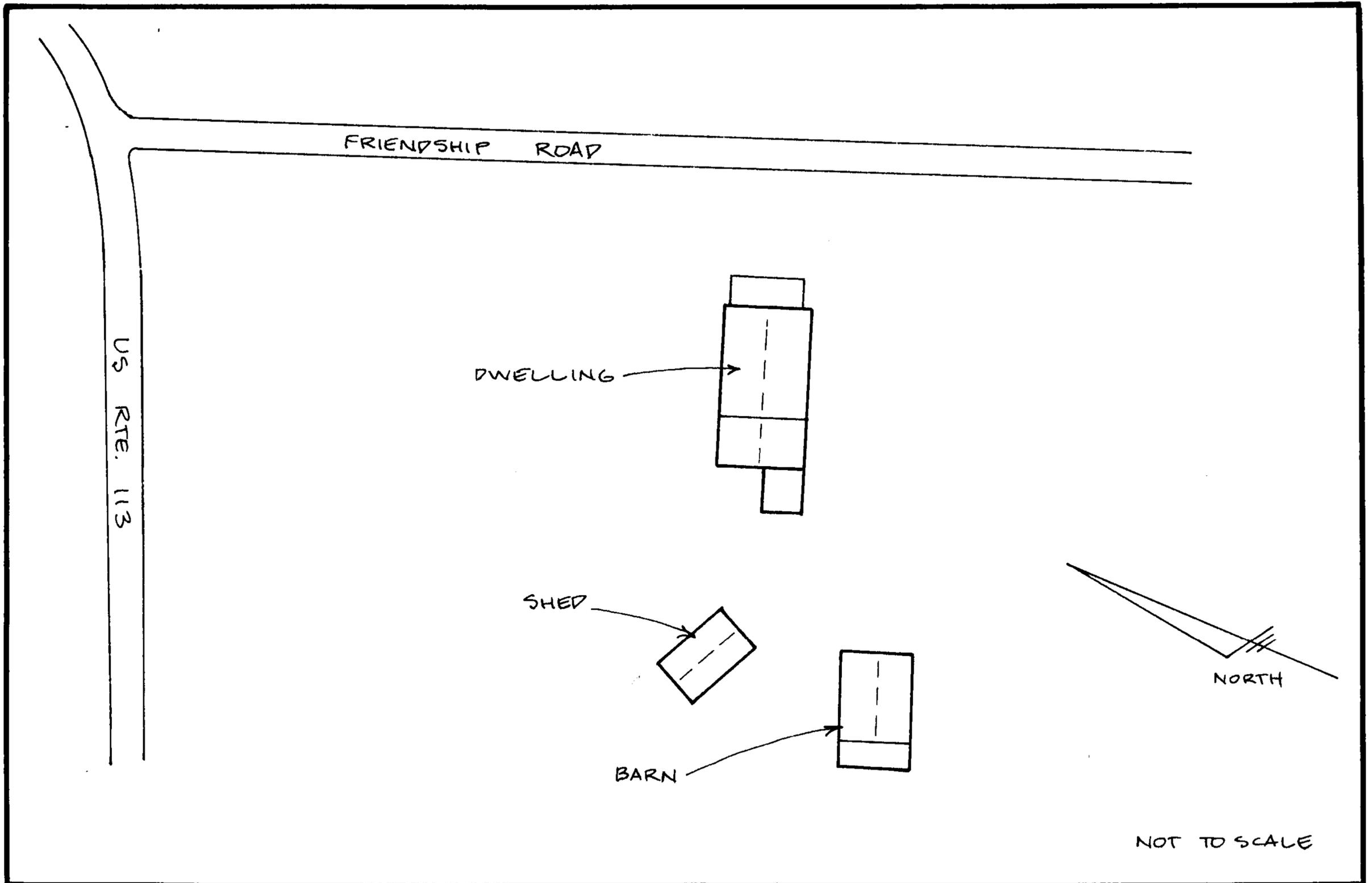
1967 *7.5' Series Quadrangle for Berlin, MD.* Photorevised 1981. Reston, VA.

Worcester County Clerk of Court

Deed transactions. Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, MD.

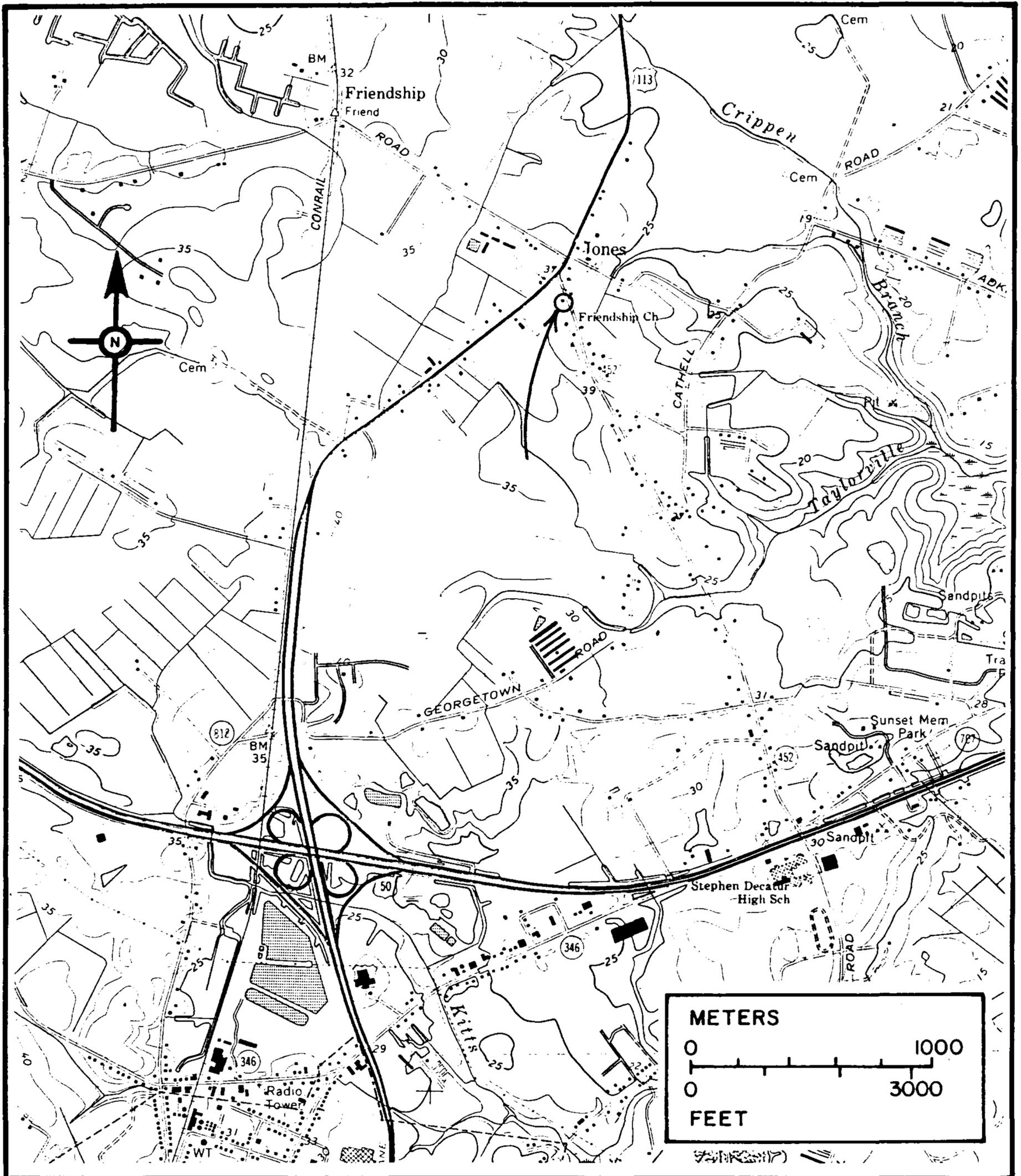
Worcester County 250th Anniversary Committee

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



**RESOURCE SKETCH MAP**  
Erma and Norwood Davis House (KCI-11)  
North of Berlin, Worcester County, MD  
Berlin, MD Quad Map

W0-471



**LOCATIONAL MAP**

Section of the 7.5' Berlin, MD Quad Map (USGS 1967)  
 Showing the Erma and Norwood Davis House (KCI-11),  
 North of Berlin, Worcester County, MD.



W0-471



0046-14

WO 471 (KCI #11)

ERMA & NORWOOD DAVIS HOUSE

WORCESTER CO, MD

STUART DIXON

7/95

STATE HIGHWAY ADMIN

NORTH & WEST ELEVATIONS

1/2



0046-17

WO 471 (KCI #11)

ERMA & NORWOOD DAVIS HOUSE

WORCESTER CO, MD

STUART DIXON

7/95

STATE HIGHWAY ADMIN

SOUTH & EAST ELEVATIONS

2/2