

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

Property/District Name: Merry Sherwood Tenant House Survey Number: WO-48

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)

Merry Sherwood Tenant House, located on the east side of US Route 113 south of Berlin in Worcester County, Maryland, is considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

According to the MHT form on the property, Merry Sherwood Tenant House was built around 1860 and is a rare survivor of a mid-19th-century plantation improvement, once common on the Worcester landscape. The house was erected on a site directly across from the main house, which remained part of the larger Merry Sherwood estate until 1954, and was occupied by either a plantation overseer or slaves, and later used as a tenant house.

The dwelling is a 1-1/2-story frame structure set upon a brick pier foundation and covered with a steeply pitched gable roof that extends forward to include an engaged front porch supported by chamfered posts. The house has a room-behind-room, two-cell plan with a kitchen incorporated in the rear shed room.

The Merry Sherwood Tenant House is a good and rare local example of a mid-19th-century servants/slaves quarters that once formed part of a larger plantation. The property is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C as a fine example of its type.

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

Prepared by: Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian, 2/9/93

Kimberly Prothro Williams March 28, 1996
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

Alando Redair Chief ORSR
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 Dwelling

Known Design Source: _____

WO-48
Merry Sherwood Tenant House
Berlin vicinity
Private

c. 1860

The Merry Sherwood tenant house, dating to around 1860, is a rare survivor of a mid-nineteenth century plantation improvement, once common on the Worcester County landscape. The story-and-a-half house, erected for a plantation overseer or perhaps slaves, was later used as a tenant house. Built with a room-behind-room, two-cell plan, the house has a steeply pitched gable roof that extends forward to include an engaged front porch supported by chamfered posts. The kitchen is incorporated in the rear shed room. Resting on brick piers, the two-room plan house includes second floor rooms lighted by gabled dormer windows on the west side of the roof.

Erected on a site directly in line with the main house, the tenant house property remained as part of the Merry Sherwood estate until 1954 when it was sold by Elizabeth K. Purnell to Reginald C., Ann E., and Joseph I. Greaser.

HISTORIC CONTENT INFORMATION

Resource Name: MERRY SHERWOOD TENANT HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WO-48

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
AGRICULURAL/INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION
1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s): Plantation tenant or slave house

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WO-48

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common MERRY SHERWOOD TENANT HOUSE

2. Location

street & number East side of US Route 113 not for publication

city, 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Storage

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

name Virginia Taylor

street & number Worcester Highway telephone no.:

city, town Berlin state and zip code MD 21811

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-48

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" 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 Merry Sherwood tenant house is located on the east side of US Route 113 south of Berlin, Worcester County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half two-room plan dwelling faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1860, the story-and-a-half house is supported by a brick pier foundation, and it is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The asphalt shingle gable roof, marked by a pair of six-over-six sash dormers on the west slope, incorporates an engaged front porch. To the rear is a shed roofed kitchen.

The west (main) facade is a three-bay elevation with a center entrance and six-over-six sash windows to each side. The partially glazed front door is paneled below the lock rail. Chamfered posts support the porch roof.

The north and south sides of the house are marked by six-over-six sash windows. The gable ends to the house are flush, and the eaves are trimmed by plain bargeboards.

The interior was reworked during the early twentieth century. Rising in the northeast corner of the back room is the stair. Little mid nineteenth century woodwork survives in the house aside from a four-panel door on the second floor.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-48

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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

Builder/Architect

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.

The Merry Sherwood tenant house, dating to around 1860, is a rare survivor of a mid-nineteenth century plantation improvement, once common on the Worcester County landscape. The story-and-a-half house, erected for a plantation overseer or perhaps slaves, was later used as a tenant house. Built with a room-behind-room, two-cell plan, the house has a steeply pitched gable roof that extends forward to include an engaged front porch supported by chamfered posts. The kitchen is incorporated in the rear shed room. Resting on brick piers, the two-room plan house includes second floor rooms lighted by gabled dormer windows on the west side of the roof.

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Addendum Sheet

**WO-48
Merry Sherwood Tenant House
Worcester County
Page 8.2 - Significance**

**Preparer: Stuart Paul Dixon
Date Prepared: 10 February 1997**

A rare surviving example of a pre-Civil War Era servants/slaves quarters originally associated with the National Register-listed Merry Sherwood plantation (WO-19), the Merry Sherwood Tenant House (WO-48) has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland State Highway Administration. Recommended National Register boundaries for the Merry Sherwood Tenant House include the entire current tax parcel of 1.645 acres as depicted on the appended site map. This boundary encompasses all land subdivided from the Merry Sherwood property and sold with the tenant house in 1955.

WO-48
MERRY SHERWOOD TENANT HOUSE
Berlin vicinity
Chain of title

WCL 1176/435 Joseph Ignatius Greaser

to

5/16/1986 J. Ignatius Greaser
Vy Melson Greaser

FWH 426/548 Joseph Ignatius Greaser

to

1/28/1974 Joseph I. Greaser
Lillie Katherine Hamblin Greaser
1.645 acres Surveyed 6/7/1954

FWH 198/404 Raymond D. Coates, et ux.

to

9/21/1965 Reginald C. Greaser
Joseph I. Greaser

EWB 83/597 William D. Smith

to

8/5/1955 Reginald C. Greaser
Ann E. Greaser
1.645 acres as surveyed by William D. Pitts
on June 7, 1954

EWB 73/414 Elizabeth K. Purnell (Owner of Merry Sherwood)

to

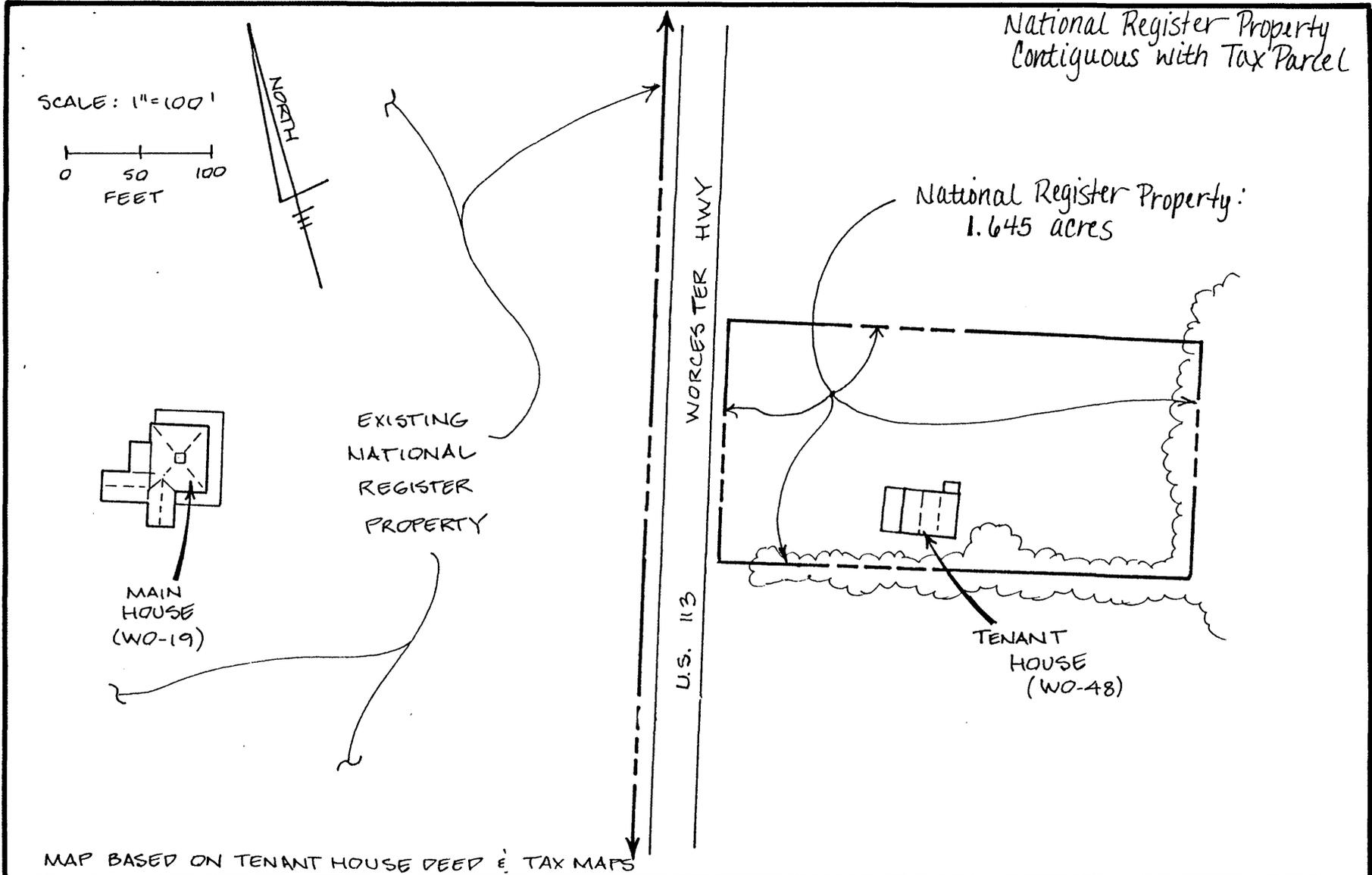
7/26/1954 Reginald C. Greaser
Ann E. Greaser
Joseph I. Greaser

WO-48
MERRY SHERWOOD TENANT HOUSE
Berlin vicinity
Chain of title

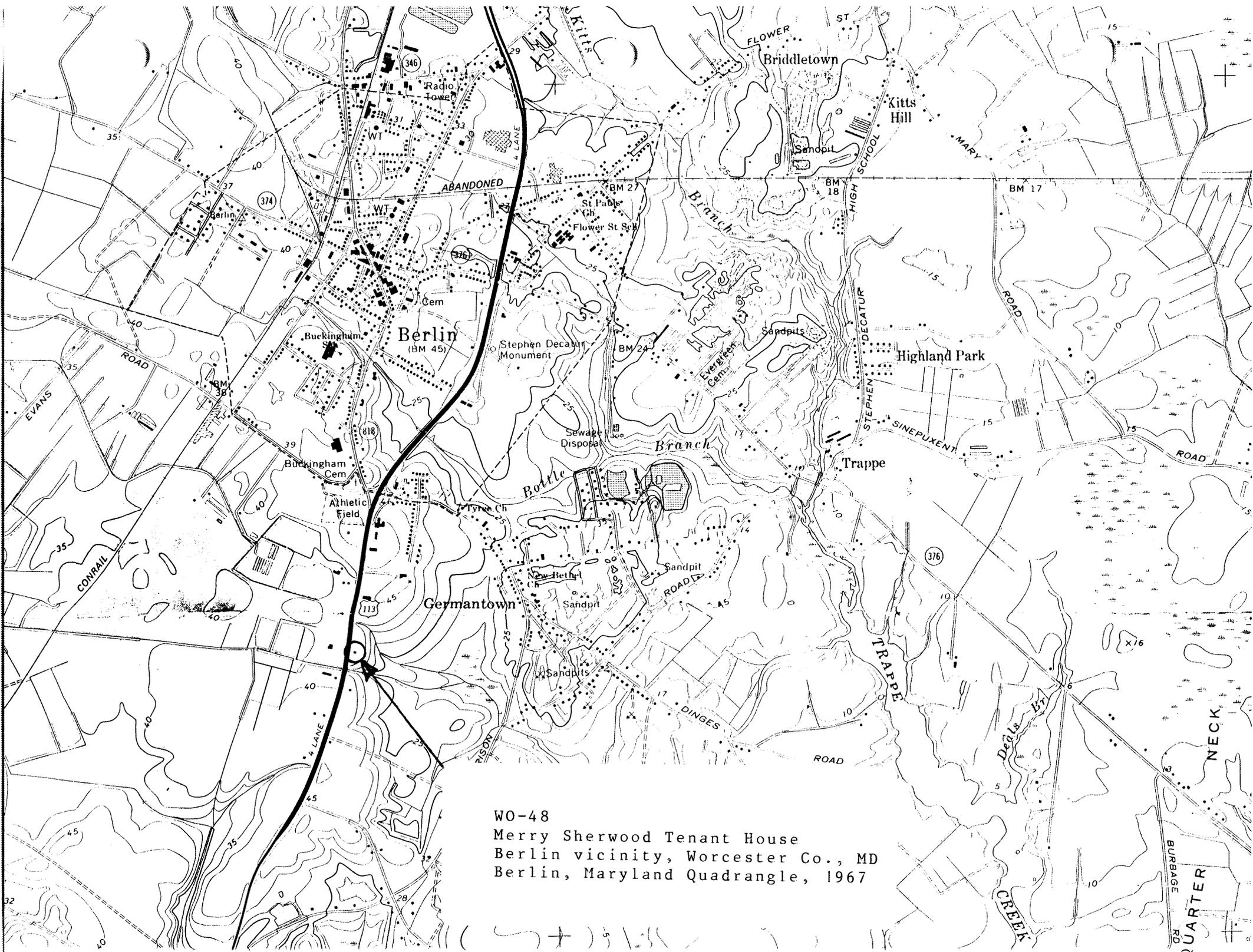
LCB Union Trust Company of Maryland
19/273

to

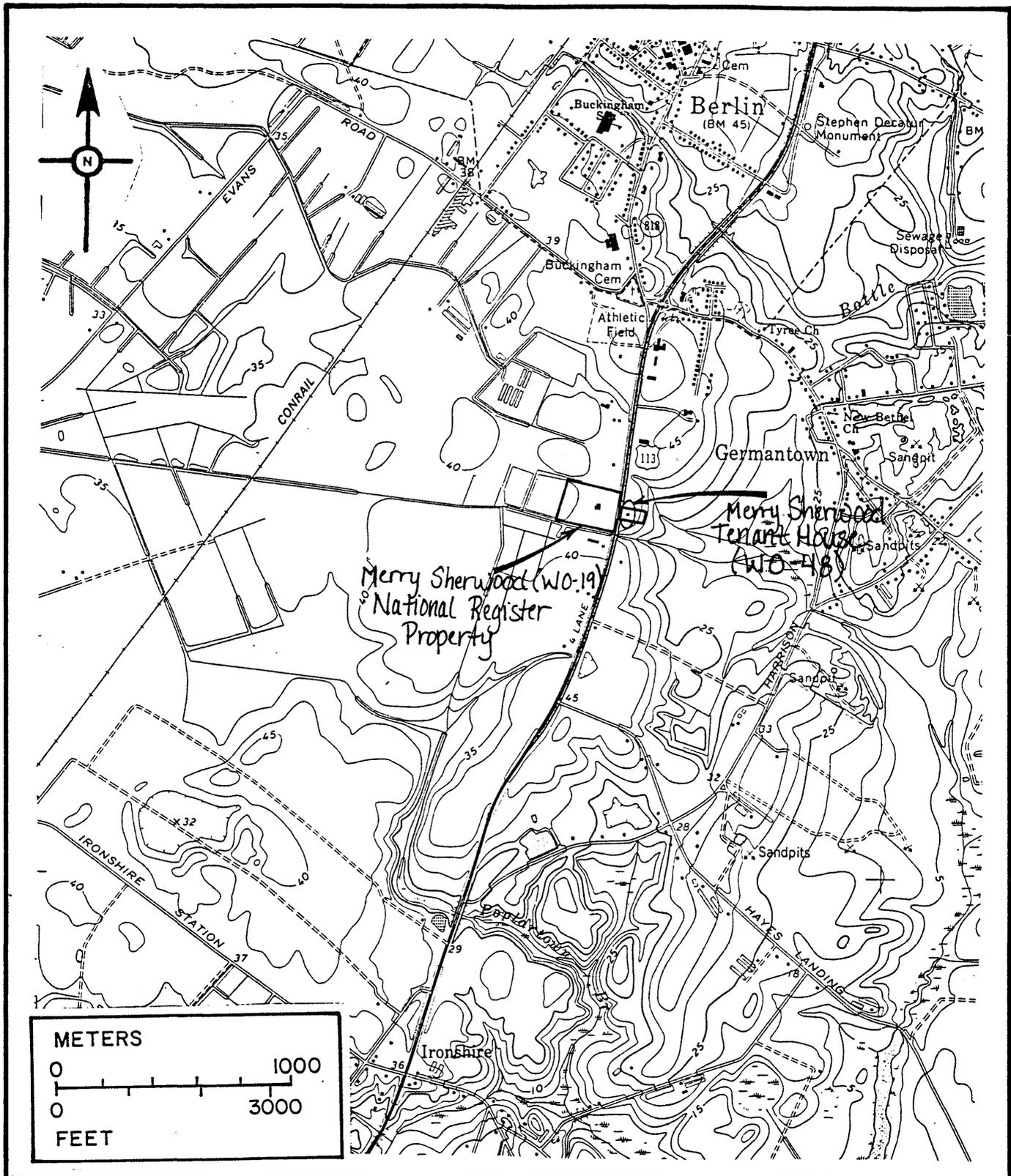
1/22/1944 Harry S. Purnell
 Elizabeth K. Purnell
 The said Harry S. Purnell having died on 12/20/1946



RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
 Merry Sherwood Tenant House (WO-48)
 Berlin, Worcester County
 Berlin, MD Quad Map



W0-48
Merry Sherwood Tenant House
Berlin vicinity, Worcester Co., MD
Berlin, Maryland Quadrangle, 1967



LOCATION MAP
 Merry Sherwood Tenant House (WO-48)
 Including the Merry Sherwood Property (WO-19)
 Berlin, Worcester County
 Berlin, MD Quad Map



4949-5

WO-48

Merry Sherwood Tenant House
Worcester Co, MD

Stuart Dixon

6/96

State Highway Admin.

West & South elevations

3/3



4949-4

WO-48

Merry Sherwood Tenant House
Worcester Co., MD

Stuart Dixon

6/96

State Highway Admin.

South & East elevations

2/3



4949-3

WO-48

Merry Sherwood Tenant House

Worcester Co, MD

Stuart Dixon

6/96

State Highway Admin.

North & West elevations

1/3