

AA-946

mid-19th through mid-20th century

Homeport Farm

Edgewater

Private

Homeport Farm, known historically as Salem, is an architecturally significant collection of domestic, agricultural, service structures. The complex consists of three dwellings, three tobacco barns, two garages, and several sheds, and shows the change and evolution of both domestic and agricultural architecture in central Anne Arundel County.

This farm has been owned by a series of locally prominent families, accomplished in fields that include politics, medicine, and the military.

AA-946  
Homeport Farm  
Edgewater

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870)  
Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type:

Category Type: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Church

Known Design Source: John Wesley Kelbaugh

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. AA-946

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Salem

and/or common Homeport Farm

## 2. Location

street & number 2605 Solomons Island Road  not for publication

city, town Edgewater  vicinity of congressional district

state Marylandd county Anne Arundel

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Homeport Farm Limited Partnership c/o Derek H. Davis

street & number P.O. Box 6615 telephone no.:

city, town Annapolis state and zip code: MD 21401

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber 3390

street & number Church Circle folio 806

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

ository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. AA-946

<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 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.

Homeport Farm is situated on the east side of Solomons Island Road (Rt.2), at the end of a long tree-lined, gravel drive. This 80 acre complex features three dwellings, three barns, two garages, and several sheds. Gently sloping cultivated fields flank either side of the private access road. The principal dwelling is located approximately 1/8th-mile down the private land, and both fields and drive continue behind the house. This serpentine lane branches several times to provide access to the tenant houses and barns, and finally terminates near Church Creek, in front of a 1930s vintage house historically associated with Homeport Farm and the family of the present owners.

The main house features a mid-to-late 19th century core with early 20th century additions. Based upon stylistic evidence and oral history, the two tenant houses, one barn, and two garages date to the 1930s. According to family tradition, the larger of the two tenant dwellings is a Sears, Roebuck, and Company catalogue house.

The principal dwelling house faces west and is principally a two-and-a-half story, gable-roofed, frame building, with two, one-and-a-half story dependencies telescoping from the dwelling's north end. Foundation material varies from section to section, and includes ironstone, brick, and concrete block. Floor joists over both the ironstone and brick sections are constructed of log, though joist spacing differs in the two sections. At least four episodes of construction are visible, extending on either side, and in the same axial plane as the older center core. As a result, the house is primarily rectangular in shape, with a small, two-story rear ell projecting from east facade. All walls are sheathed with wooden shingles, so the best way to discern the various periods of construction is to observe breaks in the roofline and porch. The front facade is dominated by a two-story, engaged porch, and unlike the one below, the second-story porch terminates prior to reaching the south-end wall. It is supported by plain, square posts, and on the second level features a balustrade with square balusters.

Fenestration throughout the house consists primarily of six-over-six double hung sash windows, with smaller openings in the ell and, two-over-two windows in the south gable end. The front door appears to be mid-19th century, but other entrances are 1930s vintage.

The interior floor plan is complicated and reflective of the multiple phases of construction. The present configuration features direct communication between rooms, as well as a core section where access is from a central hall. An extensive remodeling campaign was carried out in the 1930s on the older, center-hall section when the house was extended and the formerly free-standing kitchen joined to the main body of the house. For clarity, in reading interior descriptions, a periodized floor plan is attached.

The hall passage features a right-side, open-string, dog-legged staircase. The dark, massive, turned newel post and accompanying balusters are typical of mid-19th century pattern book designs. The stringboard is enhanced with jig-sawn scroll work. An understair closet is present and opens directly into the main axis of the hall. The three interior doors that enter into the hall are tall with four raised panels and unadorned surrounds, and are typical of Greek Revival designs.

The room directly north, and most of the south-side room are contemporaneous with the hall and are the portions with log floor joists resting on a brick foundation. The south room was extended in the 1930s to create one large space. All trim in the south room dates from the expansion. While the best remaining concentration of 19th century trim is in the front room adjacent the north side of the hall, this is identical to that found in the hall. An interesting feature of this room is the presence of an exterior door that exits onto the front porch. This arrangement is more typical of late Victorian houses, particularly the Queen Anne style. Its presence in this more conservative plan dwelling, that is one with (see continuation sheet)

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

Center hall, is notable and more common in late 19th/early 20th century floor plans, such as Queen Anne-style houses. This door is identical to the others found in the older parts of the house, and appears to be an original consideration.

Another room, located on the northeast side of the hall is finished with 1930s-era accents, as is the room that connects the kitchen, located at the far north end of the house, to the north end of the house to the 19th century core. According to family tradition, this connector was constructed in the 1930s, but architectural evidence suggests that the foundation is significantly older, and may predate the previously described 19th century section. This portion measures roughly 16' x 16' and rests on an ironstone foundation. As previously mentioned, the joists, like those in the center-hall section, are log, however, they are set at comparatively closer intervals. These factors suggest a different building episode, and one that significantly pre-dates the 1930s room it supports. Further evidence of this being an earlier structure is found in the kitchen basement, where a badly deteriorated base for an exterior chimney projects from the south wall, into the basement of the kitchen. The walls of the kitchen's foundation are built around the chimney base and prove that the kitchen's foundation post-dates that of the log joist section.

As with the adjacent section, the kitchen displays 1930s construction above a partially older foundation. According to tradition, this was formerly a detached kitchen. The original kitchen burned and the present one erected on the surviving ironstone, and partially rebuilt foundation. The largest surviving section of the original foundation is located on the north wall.

In summary, the Homeport Farm house primarily conveys the feeling of an early 20th century house, but upon closer inspection it is easy to discern the 19th century origins of this complex dwelling.

Number of other buildings are associated with Homeport Farm, including a two bay garage, located behind the house. Its walls are covered with wooden shingles, and the gable roof features exposed rafter ends. Vehicular access is via two pairs of doors located in one gable end. These are wooden with six lights in the upper half.

A tenant house, garage, and gambrel-roof barn are located approximately 1/8th mile north of the main house. All are in good condition. The house is a bungalow, built in the craftsman style. It is a one-and-a-half story, gable-front frame building. The roof displays exposed rafter ends and side shed-roof dormers, and an engaged front porch. A small, single-bay garage is located on the west side of the house and appears contemporary to it. Reportedly, the house was purchased from Sears, Roebuck, and Company, though this claim was not verified. The twentieth century gambrel-roof barn has been remodeled and is used as a musical workshop.

The second tenant house is a small, one-and-a-half story, two-bay, side-gable building. The roof features exposed rafter ends and is pierced by a small stove chimney. The dwelling rests on a low concrete block foundation. Simple wooden steps give access to the house's left-side entry.

Two tobacco barns are located south of the tenant houses, and are erected on concrete foundations. They appear to be roughly the same age. The smaller barn displays an original shed-roof projection on its west side wall.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. AA-946

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 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/
<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: and/or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D			
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.

Homeport Farm is significant for its varied collection of domestic and agricultural buildings, which represent changes in farming practice and building methods in Anne Arundel County from the mid-19th century through the mid-20th century. Importance is further derived from the farm's association with a number of wealthy and prominent families, including those of Carroll, Welch, and Duvall.

In 1839, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a very wealthy individual with extensive land holdings, sold 98 acres of land to Robert Welch. This parcel, now known as Salem, is the present-day site of Homeport Farm. According to McIntire, the Welch family was important on a state and local level with members active in medicine, and Maryland and county politics (1). In 1841, Robert sold Salem to his son, Dr. Albert Welch, for \$2,500. It is not known if Dr. Welch actively cultivated the farm or if he rented the fields to tenant farmers. In 1835 newspaper advertisements state that he operated his medical practice "on the farm lately purchased of Mr. Charles Carroll." An active medical practice may have precluded active participation in farming.

During the mid-to-late 19th century, the farm primarily produced tobacco, the chief cash crop of the area. However, agricultural census and tax data indicate the farm's per-acre value decreased through out that period. This devaluation is coincident with crop diversification; during the 1860-80 period; tobacco production steadily decreased while production of cereal crops increased (3)(4).

In 1867, in "reconfirmation of a deed from Albert A. Welch to Edward G. Welch, which land Edward has agreed to sell to George M. Duvall..." the aforementioned George Duvall acquires the farm for \$2,400. As with the farm's previous owners, George M. Duvall came from a distinguished background. Born before 1818, he was a 6th-generation descendent of Maureen Duvall, an indentured Huguenot who arrived in Maryland in 1659. Maureen Duvall rose to the status of merchant-planter, and at his death in 1694, owned 2,856 acres (5). His decendent, George was quite active in county affairs, and served as a County Commissioner and as president of the board of trustees of the county's almshouse (6).

Again, it is doubtful that Duvall lived at Salem, and the price paid by Duvall, \$2,400, indicates the property was not significantly improved during the Welch family's tenure. George M. Duvall's name appears on the 1860 Federal agricultural census. Curiously, a line is drawn through the entry and no production amounts or values are recorded. Does Duvall purchase Salem to expand family's area holdings, and rent it to a tenant farmer, thus explaining his name's absence from (see continuation sheet)

**8.1 Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.**

On the agricultural census record? By 1875, Duvall is living in the City of Annapolis, in a large brick house he acquired for \$5,000 (7). Even prior to the purchase of the Annapolis dwelling, it is unlikely that a man of Mr. Duvall's position would have lived on such a relatively unimproved, remote farm.

It is clear however, that Duvall did make improvements during his ownership, and it is quite possible that the oldest portions of the main dwelling house dates from his ownership. A building campaign is suggested by the \$1,600 increase in sale price (\$2,400 vs. \$4,000) between Duvall's purchase and its sale to Katie E. Leitch Fowler in 1886. 1886 is the first year Salem was found in the County Commissioner's Assessment. In that year improvements on the 98-acre parcel are assessed at \$700. No additional buildings are added to the assessment until 1904, at which time two dwellings are reported, and assigned values of \$600 and \$200. A previously unreported barn is valued at \$150, while an outbuilding is assessed at \$105. No other buildings are recorded through 1910, the last year of the County Commissioner's Assessment records (8).

Katie Fowler (b. 1823 d.1896) was the wife of Joseph O. Fowler (b. 1841 d. 1928), an Anne Arundel County Sheriff, who was also associated with the Department of the Register of Wills. Katie Fowler's 1894 will indicates her family lived at the farm, but rented out at least portions of the farmland. According to the terms of her will, after death the farm was divided between three of her four children. Her husband was given life-time rights to the house, and the receipt of all rental incomes (9).

In 1936, Naval Commander Leslie Davis and his wife Eleanor acquire the property and name it Homeport. About this time the house is expanded, extensively remodeled, and a formerly free-standing kitchen connected to the main house. Commander Davis is also responsible for the construction of most of farm's secondary structures. Family tradition reports the two tenant houses was purchased from Sears, Roebuck, & Co. It does show a strong resemblance to known Sears models, specifically, The Crafton and the Hampton, but the Sears affiliation remains unverified. The gambrel-roofed barn was also built during this period of expansion.

At the end of the 1930s, the Commander moves to a newly constructed house adjacent Church Creek. This architect-designed, French Chateau-style house sits on land historically associated with Homeport and is said to be the design of a respected Baltimore architect. Descendants know the architect only as "Uncle Hugo", unfortunately, a review of Baltimore City directories failed to provide good leads as to whom the architect may be. While this house is associated with the growth and evolution of Homeport Farm, it now sits on its own parcel and is no longer legally associated with it.

Homeport Farm remains in the ownership of the Davis family, though plans are underway for subdivision and development. The farm is actively cultivated and primarily produces com. The family has never personally engaged in farming, electing instead to continue the established practice of tenant farming.

Homeport Farm is architecturally significant. Its buildings show the change and evolution of both domestic and agricultural architecture. The heavy, hewn sills, and rough log joists in the main dwelling have antecedents in colonial architecture and are features that began to wane by the mid-19th century. The tobacco barns are typical of early 20th century structures of this type, while the later gambrel-roofed barn offers a comparative study of a barn designed for non-tobacco oriented form of agriculture. If it is true that the tenant house is a Sears design, the complex's importance is further enhanced by the presence of this example of mass produced/mass marketed domestic architecture. Finally, throughout Homeport Farm's history, its owners have been persons prominent in fields including politics, medicine, and military. The farm's importance is not diminished by the fact that the notable owner(s) did not necessarily reside at the farm, instead opting to rent the property to tenant farmers, who provided their landlords with the labor and income that allowed them to pursue endeavors outside of farming.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-946

- (1) Robert and Harry McIntire, Annapolis, Maryland Families, Gateway Press, Baltimore, Maryland.
- (2) Federal Schedule of Agricultural Production, Anne Arundel County, District 2, 1850, Maryland Hall of Records.
- (3) Anne Arundel County Commissioner's Assessment, 1876-1894, Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis.
- (4) Schedule of Agricultural Production, District 2, 1860-80.
- (5) Donna Ware, The Historic Properties of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel Co, MD, 1990.
- (6) Land Records of Anne Arundel County, SH 2 / 27, Maryland Hall of Records
- (7) Ibid, SH 27 / 589; WSG 25 / 442. (8) County Commissioner's Assessment, 1900-1910.
- (9) Wills of Anne Arundel County, WFP 1 / 58. (10) Interview with Dee Davis, 1/7/97.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 79.78 acresQuadrangle name South RiverQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References Do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

79.78 acres is the legally associated parcel of Homeport Farm and contains the dwelling, outbuildings, and cultivated fields.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title Sherri M. Marshorganization Anne Arundel County Historical Sites Survey date March 1997street & number 2664 Riva Road / P.O. 6675 telephone (410) 222-7441city or town Annapolis state Maryland

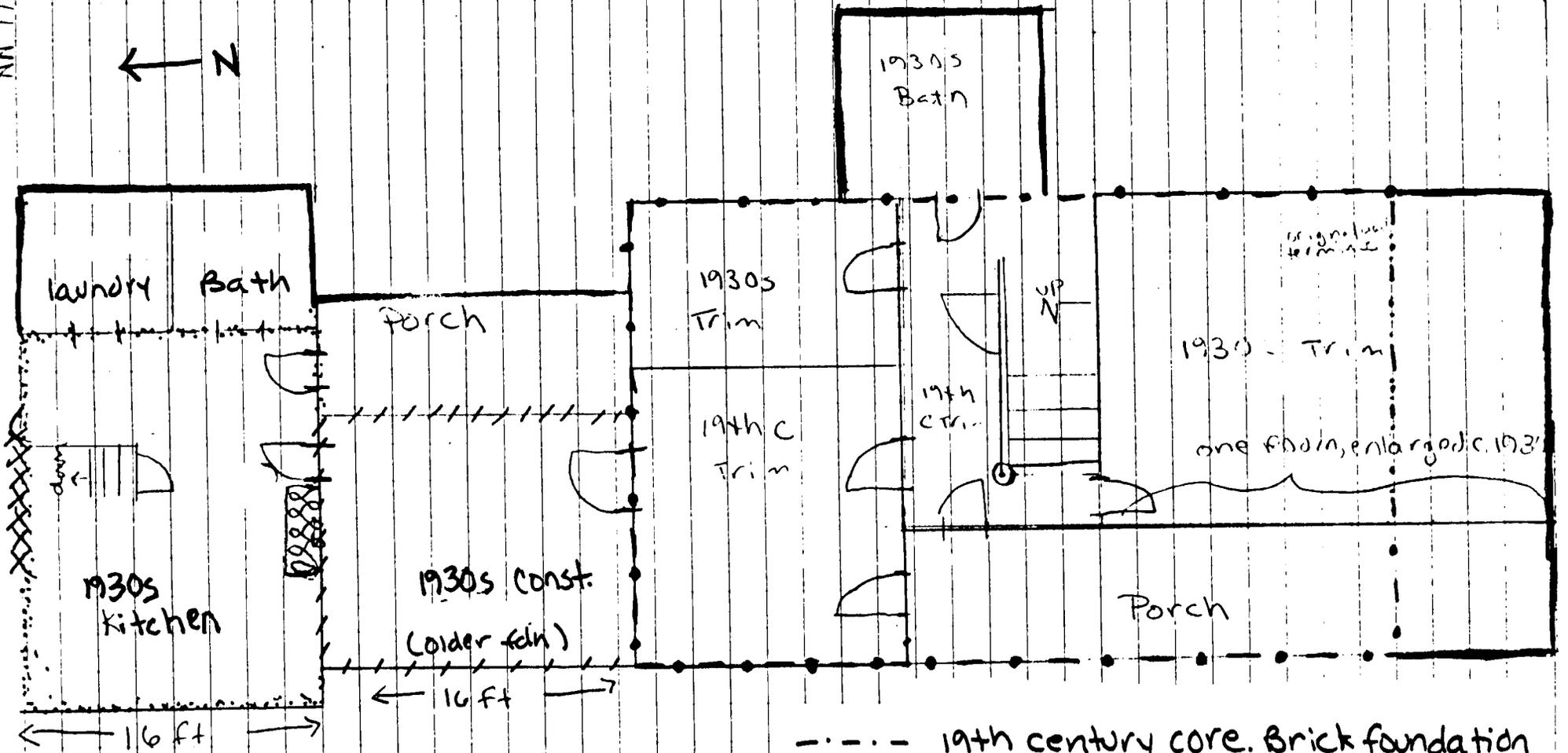
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

# Homeport Farm

AA-996



Interior dimensions estimated  
 Based on exterior measurements  
 Scale Roughly 1/8" = 1'  
 1st floor plan  
 1/7/97  
 Sherrill ARCH

- 19th century core. Brick foundation + log joists
- ||||| possible period 1 Ironstone foundation. 1930s construction on older Logjoists
- 88888 Chimney Base
- ..... 1930s construction on older foundation
- XXXXX Ironstone wall (Basement only)
- 1930s construction

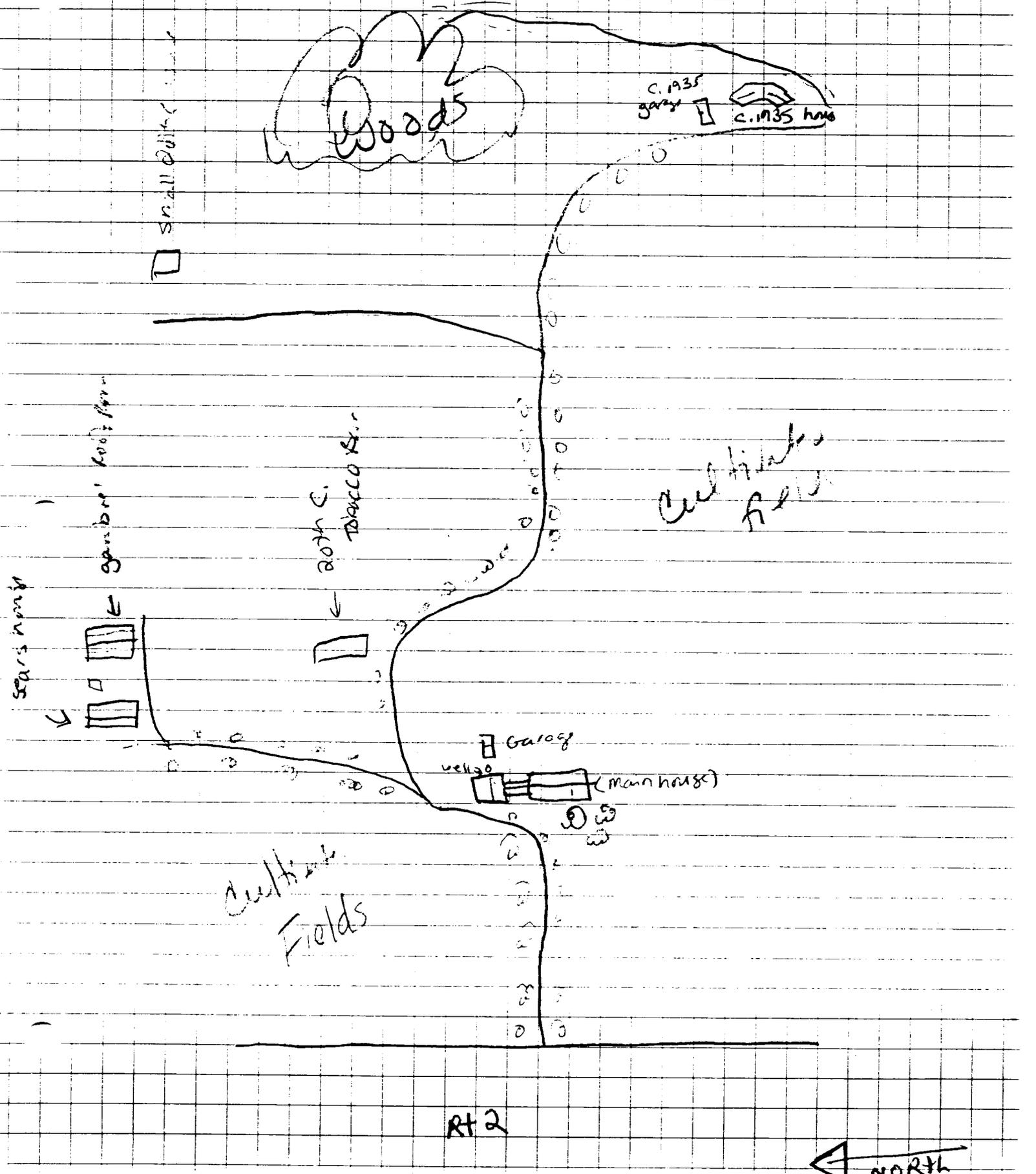
HOMEKRET Farm Site Plan

1/7/97

NOT TO SCALE

AA-946

Water



RT 2

← NORTH

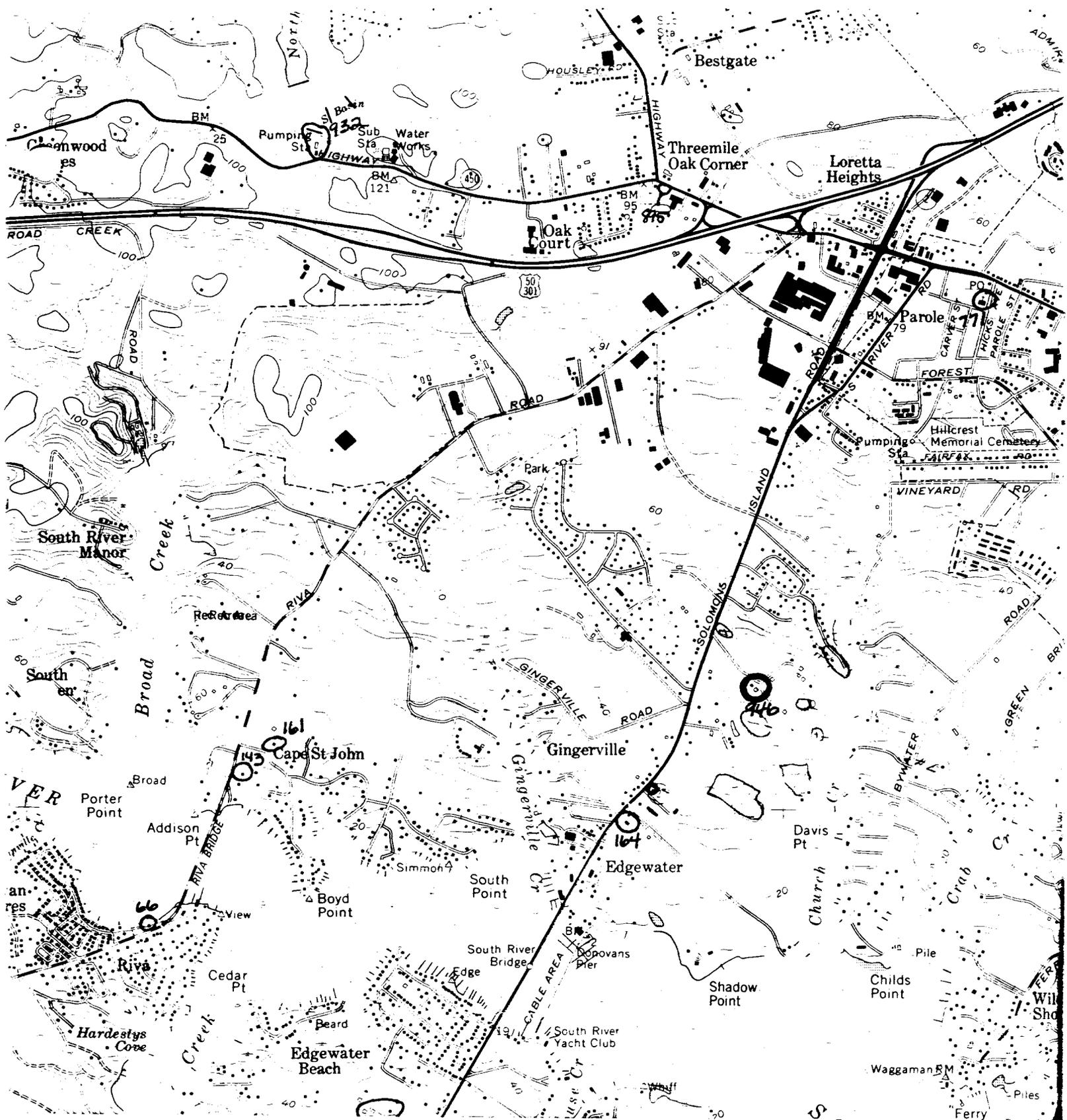
# THIRD DISTRICT

## ANNE ARUNDEL CO.

Scale 1 1/2 Inches to a Mile.



AA-946



**SOUTH RIVER**  
 USGS 7.5 minute series  
 Scale: 1:24,000  
 1957, photo revised 1978

**Site Number: AA-946**  
**Site Name: Homeport Farm**  
**Location: 2605 Solomons Island Road,**  
**Edgewater**



AA-946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

Sherri M. Marsh, Photographer

January 1997

Negative at Maryland SHPO

Environmental shot; camera facing east

Photo 1 of 17



AA-946

HomePort Farm

Anne Arundel co, Maryland

Sherri M. Marsh, photographer

January 1997

Negative at Maryland SHPO

West facade

Photo 2 of 17



AA-946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel CO, Maryland

Sherril M. Marsh, Photographer

January 1997

Negative at Maryland SHPO

South facade

Photo 3 of 17



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Homeport FARM

Anne Arundel CO, MARYLAND

Sherril M. Marsh, photographer

January 1997

Neg. at Maryland SHPO

NE Perspective

photo 4 of 17



AA-946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel co., Maryland

Sherr. M. Marsh, photographer

January 1997

Negative at Maryland SHPO

east facade

Photo 5 of 17



AA-946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

Sherr. M. Marsh, Photographer

January 1997

Negative at Maryland SHPO

Interior view, camera facing SE

Photo 6 of 17



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Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel Co, Maryland

Sherr. M. Marsh, photographer

January 1997

Neg. at Maryland SHPO

Interior, camera facing S.

Photo 7 of 17



AA-946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

Sherr. M. Marsh, Photographer

January 1997

Negative at Maryland SHPO

Stair, camera facing east

Photo 8 of 17



AA-946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

Sherril M. Marsh, Photographer

JANUARY, 1997

Neg. at Maryland SHPO

Garage, NW perspective

Photo 9 of 17



AA-946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel CO. MD

Sherril Marsh, Photographer

January 1997

Neg. at MD SHPO

tobacco Barns

Photo 10 of 17



AA-946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel co, Maryland

Sherr. M. Marsh, photographer

January 1997

Negative at Maryland SHPO

tobacco barns, camera facing North

Photo 11 of 17



AA - 946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel CO., Maryland

Sherr. M. Marsh, Photographer

January, 1997

Neg. at Maryland SHPO

Sears + Roebuck (?) Tenant House + outbuildings,  
camera facing N

Photo 12 of 17



AA-946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel co., Maryland

Sherril M. Marsh, photographer

January 1997

Negative at Maryland SHPO

(Sears + Roebuck ?) tenant house, camera  
facing west

photo 13 of 17



AA-946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

Sherril M. Marsh, photographer

January, 1997

Negative at Maryland SHPO

Sears + Roebuck (?) Tenant House, south  
elevation

photo 14 of 17



AA-946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

Sherr. M. Marsh, Photographer

January 1997

Negative at Maryland SHPO

Tenant House, camera facing north

Photo 15 of 17



AA-946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel CO, Maryland

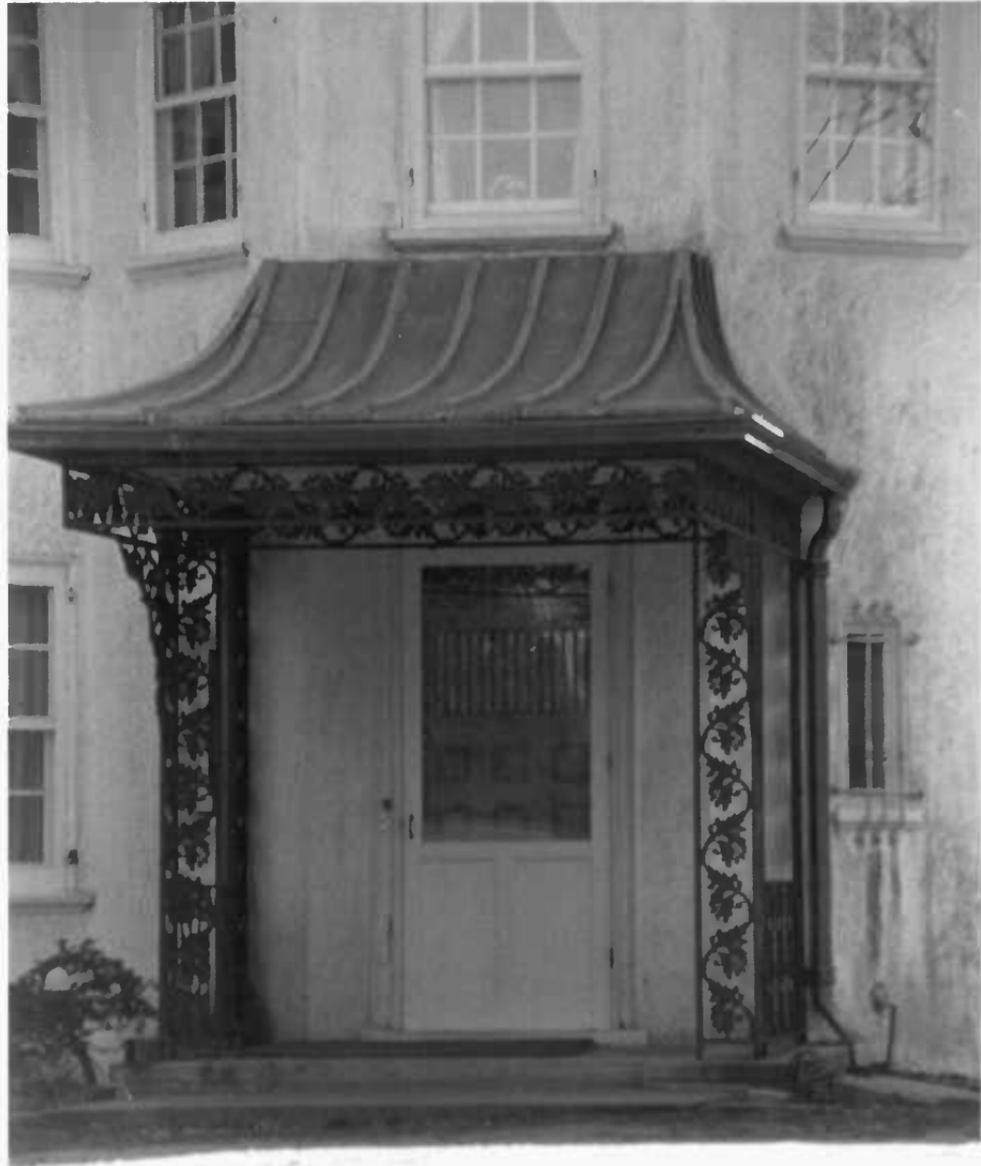
Sherril M. Marsh, Photographer

January, 1997

Negative at Maryland SHPO

Davis House at Homeport Farm, camera facing East

Photo 16 of 17



AA-946

Homeport Farm

Anne Arundel Co., Maryland

Sherril M. Marsh, Photographer

January 1997

Negative at Maryland SHPO

Davis House at Homeport Farm; door detail

Photo 17 of 17