Roberts Garage Building
HA 1896

This circa 1915 two-story frame building is located on the west side of Main Street in the village of Cardiff, Maryland. A commercial enterprise, the structure houses two stores side-by-side on the first floor and apartments on the second story. The facade alterations of the first-story store fronts, the second-story "western" false front, and stucco finish preclude any deductions on the original appearance of the building. First referred to as "the garage building" in a deed from Robert L. Roberts to his son, Ernest, presumeably the Roberts' had this structure built. The slate roof indicates an early twentieth century building date on the main gabled structure.

As owners of the metal foundry in Cardiff, the Roberts were a prominent Welsh family in town. Identified on and listed among the commercial concerns of the 1888 Delta map, the early Roberts and Wilhelm metal foundry (later trading as R. Roberts and Son) had a distinct and important place in the inter-workings of the Town's slate industry, building cranes and operating machinery for the quarries.

Survey No. HA 1896

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Roberts Garage Building

2. Location

street & number 1632 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Cardiff ___ vicinity of congressional district 5th

state Maryland county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	✓ public	✓ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
✓ building(s)	✓ private	___ unoccupied	✓ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	✓ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	✓ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	✓ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	✓ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Gary E. Thompson

street & number same telephone no.: unlisted

city, town Cardiff state and zip code Maryland, 21024

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber CGH 1714

street & number 20 W. Courtland Pl. folio 447

city, town Bel Air state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HA 1896

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	✓ unaltered	✓ original site
✓ good	___ ruins	✓ altered	___ moved date of move _____
✓ fair	___ unexposed		

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

This two-story frame building is located on the west side of Main Street in the village of Cardiff, Maryland. A commercial enterprise, the structure houses two stores side-by-side on the first floor and apartments on the second story. The facade alterations of the first-story store fronts, the second-story "western" false front, and stucco finish preclude any deductions on the original appearance of the building. The central structure has a gable roof with an east/west ridge; the gable-front meets the sidewalk of Main Street. A posterior flat-roofed projection and two one-story, shed-roofed, wing-like extensions on either side of the main building greatly increase the building's size.

The first floor of the main, east facade consists of a modernized store-front with large, square glass panels, a low brick wall, inset entrances and a sheltering canopy. The width of the first-story is carried through to the second by the squared, western false front which ends at the gable returns of the original building. The five bays of the original main building are delineated by a 6/6 sash window in each, and the single window centered at the gable is filled with a large circulation fan. The western front and gable are all finished in stucco.

A flat-roofed extension of the same width and height of the main gable-roofed building projects from the rear. The two one-story shallow, shed-roof "wings" run the length of the main building and the posterior projection on both the north and south sides. These appear to be original to the structure because of the use of the region's slate as roofing material; the art of hand-splitting slate shingles, the mainstay industry of this region, diminished the following decade. The apartment landing which runs the length of the main building on the second story of the south side is sheilded from Main Street by the western front, the landing having been cut out of the shed roof of the south side projection.

8. Significance

Survey No. HA 1896

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
1500–1599	✓ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	✓ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
✓ 1800–1899	___ commerce	✓ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
✓ 1900–	___ communications	✓ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ 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.

This circa 1915 store building was first referred to as "the garage building" in a deed from Robert L. Roberts to his son, Ernest, when 1/3 of the interest in the business and properties was granted. Assumeably, the Roberts' had this structure built. The slate roof indicates an early twentieth century building date on the main gabled structure, side "wings", and back portion despite a camouflaging western false front. Both the interior and the exterior of the building have been altered in stages, accommodating stores and apartments along the way. The present building housed the school for a short time when the small schoolhouse on Chestnut Street burned and may have preceded the Heaps Ford Dealership which is just up the street. Prior to this structure, a feed mill originally owned by Walter Proctor was located to the rear of this lot. Lot lines around this site are confusing throughout the land records, changing on several occasions as the land use changed.

As the son of Richard Roberts, Robert L. Roberts succeeded his father as the owner and operator of the town's metal foundry and machine shop, which is located on land below and adjoining this Main Street lot. As owners of the foundry (first Roberts and Wilhelm, then R. Roberts and Son, and lastly trading under Richard Roberts and Robert Roberts), the Roberts were a prominent family in town. Robert L. Roberts has a distinct place in Cardiff's history as being responsible for the renaming of South Delta to Cardiff in 1900.[1] Now in its fifth generation of family ownership under Gary Thompson, present owner of this site, R. Roberts and Son continues to operate in metal fabrication.

Originally owned by Thomas Hawkins (farmer) in a patented land grant known as "Hawkins Chance", this land was part of the tract sold by the Hawkins family to Rowland Parry, a Welsh quarry owner who operated one of the first prominent commercial quarries in the area. It was Parry who exhibited Peach Bottom slate in the London Crystal Palace exposition in 1850, winning it international recognition as the world's finest slate. "Hawkins Chance" was divided and sold in pieces, passing mostly through the hands of Parry's relatives and countrymen in various forms. The parcel of 17 acres that created this lot was sold to the South Delta Land Company in 1896 through an Equity Case on behalf of Parry's great niece. As with this garage building, most of the structures at the north end of Cardiff were built around the turn of the century, after this subdivision took place.

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[1]As mentioned in conversation with Donald Robinson, April 14, 1995, and verified by Gloria R. Thompson.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA 1896

See attached sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .11 acres

Quadrangle name Delta **Quadrangle scale** 24000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 130 of tax map 5, as provided in accompanying map

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

state	none	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dianne Klair

organization Harford County Planning and Zoning **date** September 1995

street & number 220 S. Main Street **telephone** (410) 638-3103

city or town Bel Air **state** MD

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

PS-2746

ROBERTS GARAGE BUILDING
Title Search

CGH 1714/447	April 18, 1991	Granted: Gary E. and Judith E. Thompson Grantee: Gary E. Thompson Granted: town lot of 4725 sq feet with improvements
HDC 1092/360	May 3, 1979	Granted: David A. and Mary Ellen Arnold Grantee: Gary E. and Judith E. Thompson Granted: same
HDC 896/804	April 24, 1972	Granted: Chester A. and Colleen E. Arnold Grantee: David A. and Mary Ellen Arnold Granted: same
GRG 643/234	March 6, 1964	Granted: Helen A. Heaps (widow) et al Grantee: David A. and Mary Ellen Arnold et al. Granted: same
DGW 206/306	November 29, 1927	Granted: Nelson A. and Fannie W. Heaps Grantee: Marshall T. Heaps Granted: same
DGW 203/444	June 27, 1924	Grantor: Edward R. and Florence K. Sutton Grantee: Nelson A. Heaps Granted: same
DWG 186/435	April 3, 1924	Grantor: Robert L. and Ellen Roberts et al. Grantee: Edward R. Sutton Granted: same
DWG 186/262	February 5, 1924	Grantor: Robert l. and Ellen Roberts Grantee: Ernest W. Roberts Granted: 1/3 interest in business and properties to include the fourth property described, a garage building and lot (this property)
DGW 183/275	July 27, 1923	Grantor: Philip H. Close, Trustee Grantee: Robert L. Roberts Richard Roberts' business and properties granted to Robert L. Roberts in Equity Case DGW 120/350
JAR 164/53	February 25, 1919	Grantor: Henry A. Whitaker, Attorney (and mortgage holder of Robert E. M. Sands and wife) et al. Grantee: Richard Roberts and Robert L. Roberts Sold at public auction to William F. Hays for $1150.00 who immediately sold it to Richard Roberts and Robert L. Roberts, no reference to deed for William F. Hays.

JAR 142/223	August 15, 1913	Grantor: J. Thomas and Lidia H. Gailey et al. Grantee: Richard E. M. Sands Granted: town lot of 4725 sq feet for $1200.00 (implies improvements)
JAR 139/400	June 1, 1912	Grantor: The People's National Bank of Delta, PA Grantee: J. T. Gailey and Charles Gailey (brothers) Granted: "Mill property near Cardiff station on M&PRR" for $9000.00
WSF 115/353	August 12, 1905	Grantor: Walter W. Preston, assignee (in mortgage from James R. Ramsey) Grantee: The People's National Bank of Delta, PA Public sale for "mill and store property", for $5000.00
WSF 108/183	November 7, 1902	Grantor: Walter and Maggie Proctor Grantee: James R. Ramsey Granted: "Mill and store property" for $10, 500.00.
WSF 100/33	May 28, 1900	Grantor: John Marsteller Grantee: Walter Proctor Granted: town lot 25' (fronting Main St.) by 175' for $100.00
WSF 99/378	March 9, 1900	Grantor: South Delta Land Company Grantee: John Marsteller Granted: parcel of land fronting Main St. 202 1/4' for $800.00 (parcel becomes subdivided)
WSF 95/257	January 31, 1899	Grantor: South Delta Land Company Grantee: Walter Proctor
WSF 88/282	May 26, 1896	Grantor: Stevenson A. Williams (trustee, as appointed in Equity Case WSF 41/351 Elizabeth J. Parry v. Margaret Parry et al.) Grantee: South Delta Land Company (via James Poff, agent) Granted: a part of the lands described in equity case (less than 19 acres) to be subdivided into town building lots
Plat book DGW 2/64	1891	Survey plat of lots to be subdivided, South Delta Land Company

Will Records WS 10/440	September 12, 1888	John Parry, quarryman, bequeaths: To his daughter, Elizabeth, the house in which he resides and the 84' by 400' lot on which it stands. To his son, Richard Parry, all his remaining lands, approximately 17 acres To each of his children, Mary Williams, John, Richard, Jacob, and Elizabeth Parry 1/6 of his shares in the Welsh Slate Company of Harford County.
ALJ 28/407	May 14, 1873	Grantor: Hugh E. Hughes Grantee: John Parry Granted: 10 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for $1050.00
ALJ 28/407	May 14, 1873	Grantor: Humphrey R. and Jane H. Lloyd Grantee: John Parry Granted: 2 acres of "Hawkins Chance" with improvements, on west side of Main St. (same as ALJ 25/346) for $1200.00
ALJ 25/346	April 11, 1871	Grantor: Richard Hughes and wife Grantee: Jane H. Lloyd (daughter) Granted: 2 parcels of "Hawkins Chance", 1). 5 acres 105 perches and 2). 2 acres 1 perch (see ALJ 9/29)
ALJ 9/30	May 29, 1857	Grantor: Richard Hughes et al. Grantee: John and Ellin Parry Granted: 8 acres 35 perches of "Hawkins Chance" for $500.00
ALJ 9/29	May 29, 1857	Grantor: John Parry Grantee: Richard Hughes Granted: 2 parcels of "Hawkins Chance", 1). 5 acres 105 perches and 2). 2 acres 1 perch
HDG 36/424	July 27, 1850	Grantor: Ro(w)land and Anne Parry Grantee: John Parry and Richard Hughes Granted: 3 1/2 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for $350.00
HDG 36/215	February 5, 1850	Grantor: Rowland Perry Grantee: John Perry and Richard Hughes Granted: 12 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for $600.00
HDG 36/214 (indenture)	February 5, 1850	Grantor: Benjamin Williams Grantee: John Perry et al. Granted: 12 acres of "Hawkins Chance" for $200.00

HDG 36/212	January 22, 1850	Grantor: Archibald A. and Nancy Hawkins Grantee: Rowland Perry (Parry) Granted: part of "Hawkins Chance" for $850.00, acreage unknown
HDG 34/492	February 9, 1849	Grantor: Edward Proctor et al. Grantee: Archabald A. Hawkins Granted: "Hawkins Chance", being part of Thomas Hawkins landholdings; 74 acres 5 perches
HD 14/336	August 3, 1831	Grantor: Isaac Hawkins, heir to Thomas Hawkins Grantee: Thomas Proctor, heir to Edward Proctor Granted: The eighth part of land tracts "Hawkins Chance", " Williams Birthright", Mount Pleasant", and "Montgomerys Delight" . The four tracts contain 188 acres total. No mention of "eighth part" acreage.
Land Tract, Patented	After March 1774, when Harford est.	"Hawkins Chance", tract of 74 acres 5 perches granted to Thomas Hawkins. Located on the Maryland and Pennsylvania line at the north end of present day Cardiff. Divided, sold, and reworked often.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Land Records, Harford County Courthouse.

Delta Centenial, A souvenir book from the 1953 centenial celebration which was organized by the Delta-Cardiff Fire Company.

Conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn Thompson, May 2, 1995.

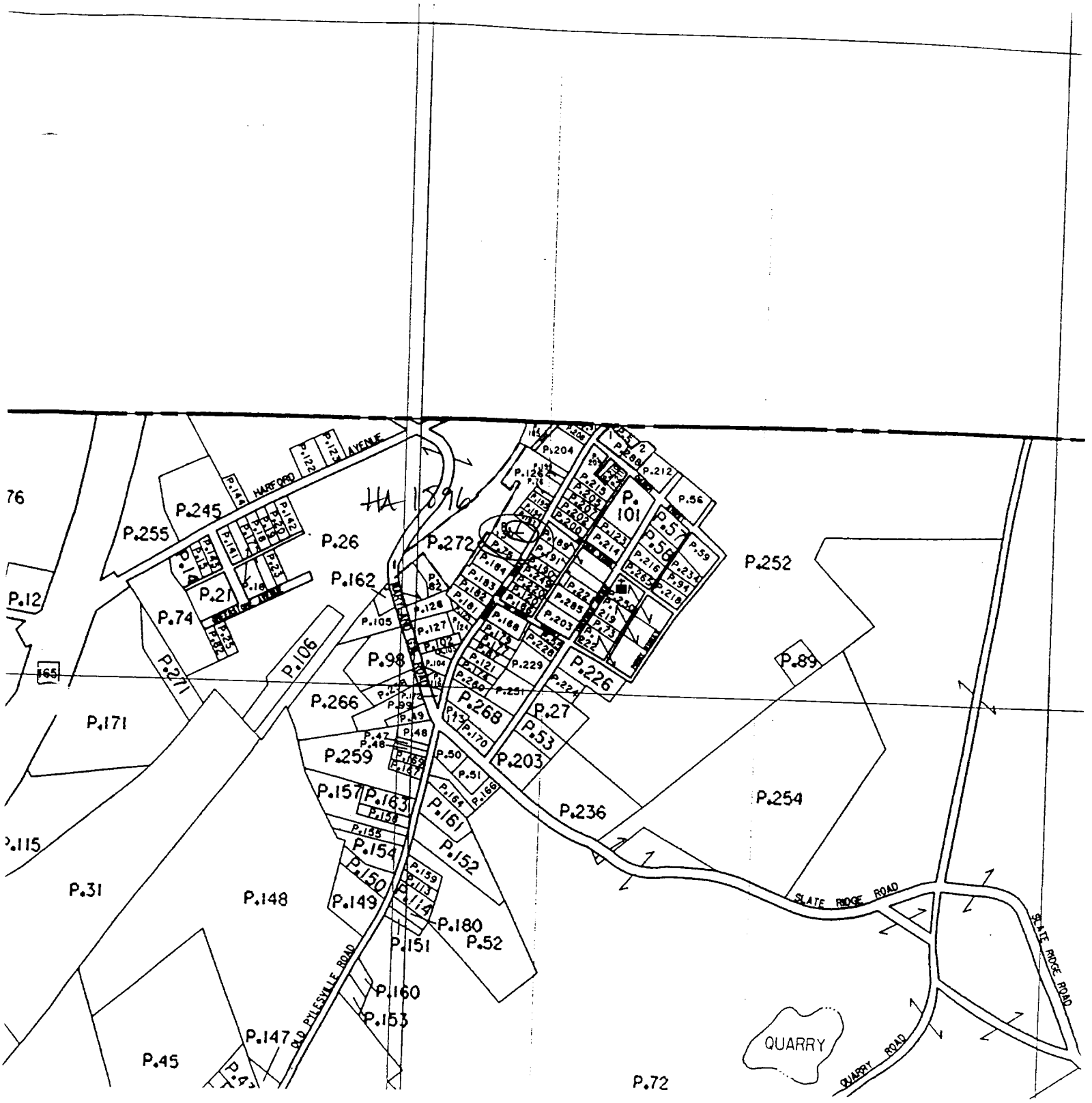
Conversation with Donald Robinson, April 14, 1995.

Conversation with Mrs. Darcy Lloyd, April 11, 1995.

Conversations with Mrs. Marion Scaborough, June 20, June 22, July 25, and August 1, 1995 regarding Parry family history.

Harford County Historical Society Archives.

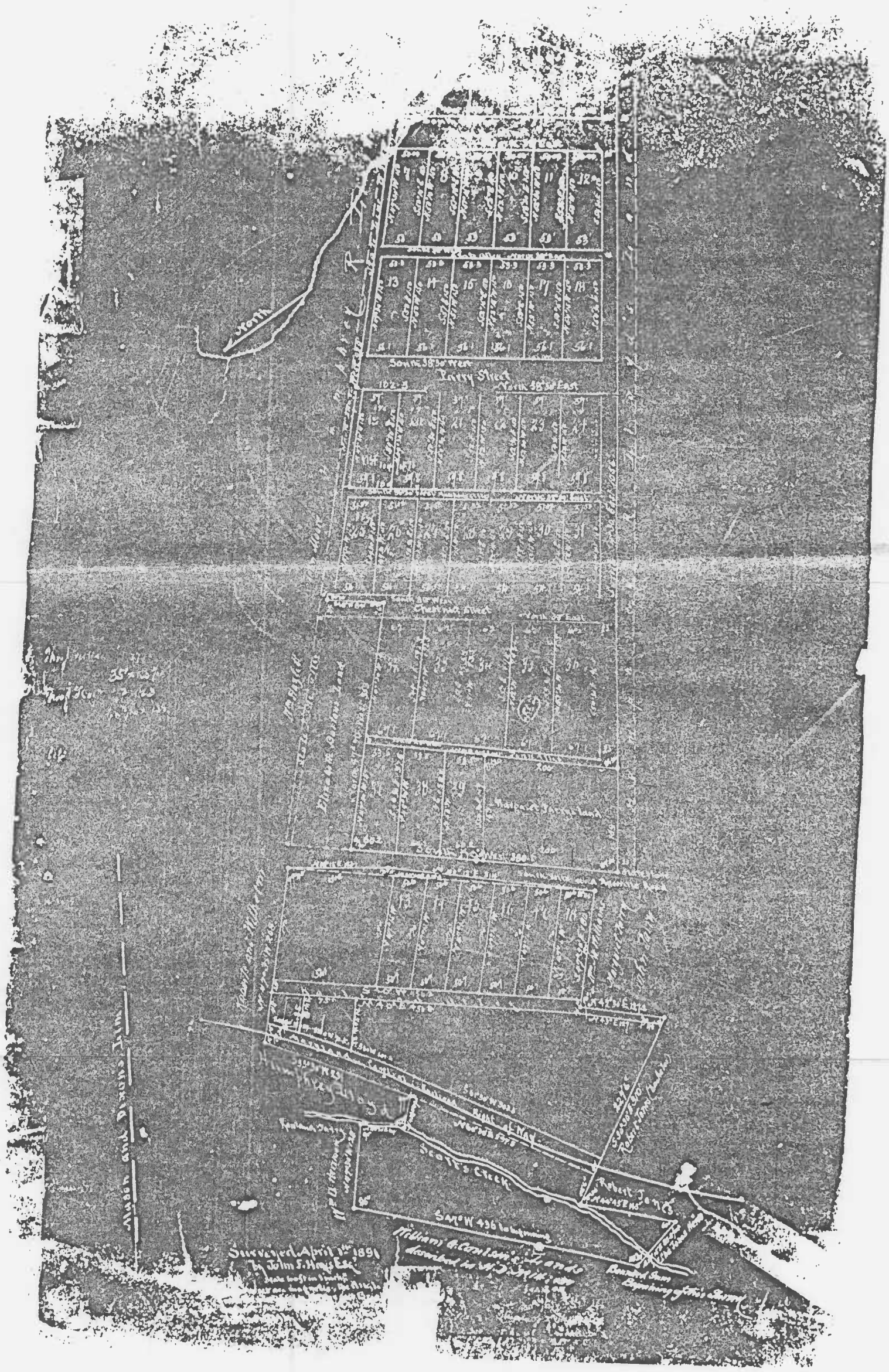
Various conversations with area residents for a contextual history of the inventory structures.



HA-1896

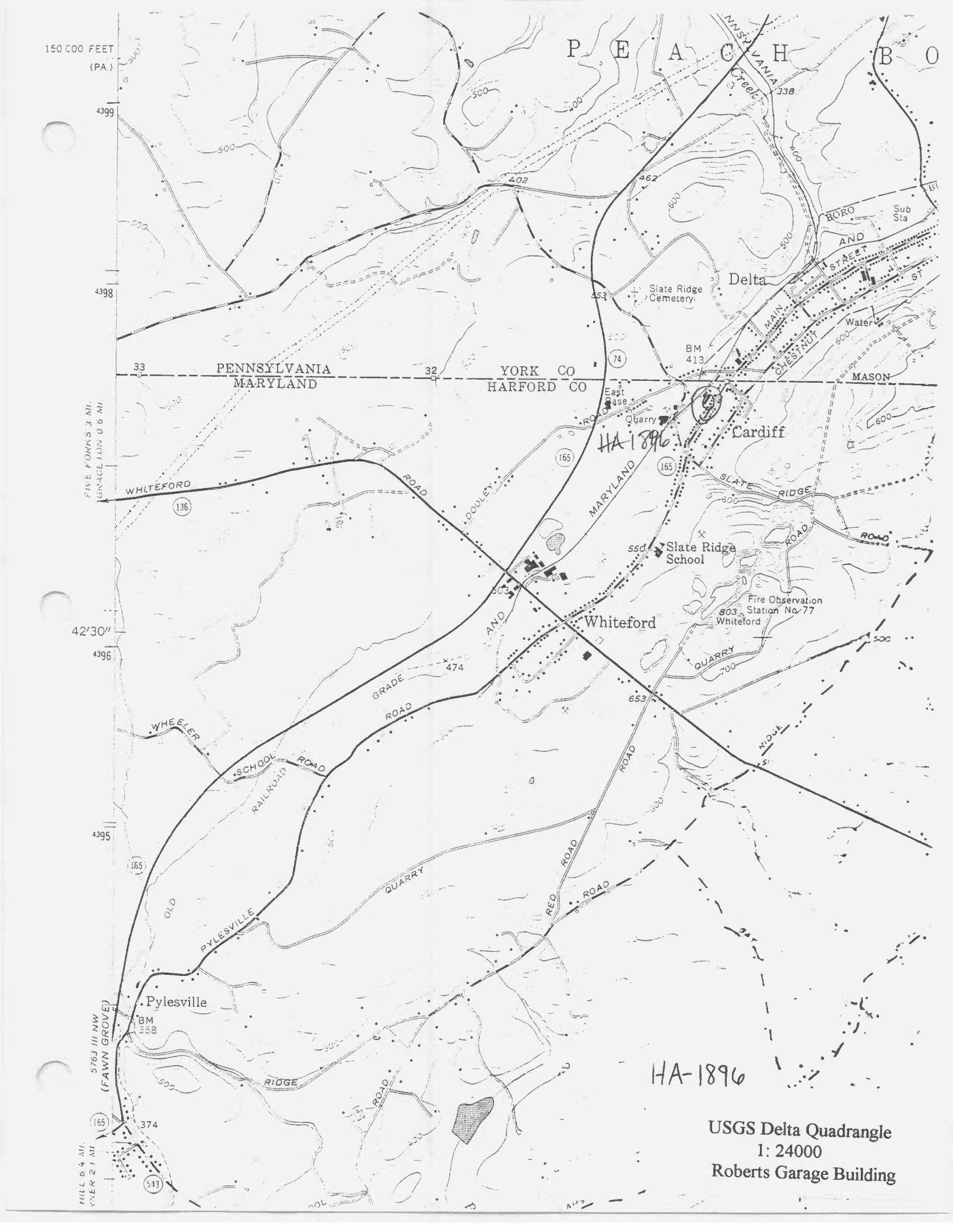
Roberts Garage Building
Parcel 130, Tax Map 5

PLAT of SOUTH DELTA LAND COMPANY!
1891



South Delta Land Company Plat
Roberts Garage Building

HA-1896



USGS Delta Quadrangle
1: 24000
Roberts Garage Building

DELTA-CARDIFF
Country Keepsakes
Crafts
836-0386
PENN MARY CHAPTER 72 OES

HA 1896
Roberts Garage Building
Harford County, Maryland
Dianne Hart
3/95
Chris Weeks, Harford County, Dept of Planning & Zoning
View Southwest from Main Street
1/2

DELTA-CARDIFF
POOLS Inc.
Country Keepsakes
Crafts
536-8586

[illegible]
Tolbert's Garage Foundation
Harford County, Maryland
Dianne Klein
3/95
Chris Weeks, Harford County Dept. of Planning & Zoning
View northwest from Main Street

P2