

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71A-2 Building Date: ca. 1910
Building Name: Smith House
Location: 9201 Laurel-Bowie Road, Bowie, Maryland
Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

The Smith house is a two-and-one-half-story L-shaped frame house with the principal facade facing west, and a porch tower set into the inside (west) corner of the ell. The main house consists of two sections: A (north), the ca. 28' east-west leg of the ell; and B (south), the ca. 40' north-south leg of the ell. Entrance is on the west in the first bay of B, and is sheltered by the two- and one-half story pyramidal-roofed porch tower. The tower has balustrades with flat jig-sawn balusters on both first and second stories. The west gable-end of A, which forms part of the principal facade, has double 1/1 windows on both first and second stories, surmounted by bargeboards with jig-sawn tracery filling the apex of the gable. The original German siding is covered with white asbestos shingle, and the original wood-shingle roof has been replaced with fish-scale patterned tin. There are two major additions attached to the rear (east) of the house.

Significance:

The Smith house is one of northern Prince George's County's few surviving houses of the early twentieth century which exhibit ornamental detail from the end of the Victorian period. The property, just outside (north) of the railroad-junction town of Bowie, was purchased in 1899 by Mary Smith; in the next decade, she and her husband, Albert Smith, himself a carpenter, hired Millard Schafer (a local housebuilder) to construct a house on the property, probably incorporating an earlier, small dwelling. The result was a handsome structure with prominent tower and jig-sawn detail, which became a landmark on the road toward Laurel. The Smith family remained in the house until 1928, when the property was sold to Marvin Bischoff, whose family remains there today.

Acreage: 3.6 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Smith House

and/or common Bischoff house

2. Location

street & number 9201 Laurel-Bowie Road (now Old Laurel Bowie Road) not for publication

city, town Bowie vicinity of congressional district 5

state MD. county P.G.

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" 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 Mr. & Mrs. John M. Bischoff

street & number 9201 Laurel-Bowie Road telephone no.:

city, town Bowie state and zip code MD 20715

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse liber 1451

street & number Main Street folio 242

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

pository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #71A-2

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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.

The Smith House is a two and one-half story L-shaped frame house, with the principal facade facing west, and a porch tower set into the inside (west) corner of the ell.

The main house consists of two sections: (A) to the north, the ca. 28' east-west leg of the ell, and (B) to the south, the ca. 40' north-south leg of the ell. Entrance is on the west in the first bay of Section B, and is sheltered by the two and one-half story pyramidal-roofed porch tower.

The west gable-end of Section A which forms part of the principal facade, has double l/l windows on both first and second stories, surmounted by bargeboards with jig-sawn tracery filling the apex of the gable. The south gable-end of Section B has the same treatment. The porch tower has balustrades with flat jig-sawn balusters on both first and second stories.

The house rests in foundations of local iron-bearing stone. The original siding was German siding, now covered with white asbestos shingle. The roof, originally wood shingles, is now of fish-scale patterned tin. There are two major additions attached to the rear (east) of the main house.

The interior of the main house consists of a central stairhall running east-west from the main entrance, one parlor to the south in Section B, and two adjoining parlors to the north in Section A. Brick chimneys with corbelled caps serve fireplaces in these rooms. The interior features door and window surrounds with bulls-eye corner block moldings.

A photograph in the possession of the present owner shows this house when it was first built. This photograph shows that the main porch originally extended (on the first story) all the way across the west front of Section B; it also clearly shows the original wood-shingled roof and German siding.

To the south of the house stands a small barn, now converted into a garage. It is possible that this garage stands on the site of an earlier sawmill.

8. Significance

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates ca. 1910 **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 is one of northern Prince George's County's very few surviving houses of the early twentieth century which exhibit ornamental detail from the end of the Victorian period. It is located just outside (north) of the town of Bowie on the road leading to Laurel.

The house stands on land (owned since 1882 by the Hale family) on which at the end of the nineteenth century there stood a sawmill.¹ In 1899 the 6-1/2 acre Hale property was purchased by Mary R. Smith; in the next decade she and her husband, Albert Smith hired Millard Schafer (a local house builder) to construct a house on the property, probably incorporating an earlier, small dwelling. The result was a handsome structure with prominent tower and jig-sawn detail, which became a landmark on the road north of Bowie. Albert Smith had served as a carpenter for the U.S. Government, and ca. 1908 (after the construction of St. James Episcopal Church in Bowie) he built the altar in the new church.²

The Smith family lived in the house until 1928, when the house and 3.6 acres, as well as another parcel west of the Laurel-Bowie Road, were sold to Marvin Bischoff.³ Bischoff's family remains there today.

¹ Prince George's County Deeds, WAJ#3:562, Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1888-1899.

² Prince George's County Deed, JB#7:337; Prince George's County Census 1900, 1910; interview with owner, June 1984; interview with members of St. James Church, June 1984.

³ Prince George's County Deed #325:124.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

PS 7/1/75
1-701175604

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON: Thomas House					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: 9200 Block - Rte. 197					
CITY OR TOWN: Bowie					
STATE Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Henry A. Thomas					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: None					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a 2-1/2 story, L-shaped structure with a perch tower along the inside legs of the "L." The gables have elaborately cut trim; the wide balusters of the porch are also pattern cut.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 16th Century
- 18th Century
- 20th Century
- 15th Century
- 17th Century
- 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	COUNTY:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 2/16/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature _____

Chain of Title

Smith House
P.G. #71A-2

1451:242
6 Dec 1951
Deed

Ruth Hutton to John M., Carol L. and Emma M. Bischoff, same land conveyed in #1446:366, 2 parcels: (a) 3 acres on west side of Laurel-Collington Road; and (b) 6.422 acres on east side of same road, which Marvin Bischoff acquired from Mary R. Smith (subject property).

1446:366
6 Dec 1951
Deed

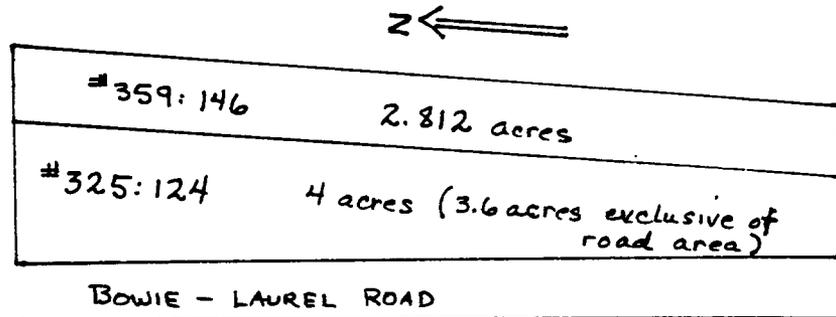
Emma M. Bischoff to Ruth Hutton, two parcels of land which Emma Bischoff acquired by #802:462.

802:462
5 Mar 1937
Deed

Marvin Bischoff to Emma M. Bischoff, two parcels of which second includes: (a) house, acquired by #325:124; and (b) stip of land adjoining, acquired by #359:146.

(359:146
23 Jun 1930
Deed)

Elbert and Albina Johnston to Marvin Bischoff, 2.812 acres adjoining land Bischoff acquired from Mary Smith by #325:124



325:124
5 Nov 1928
Deed

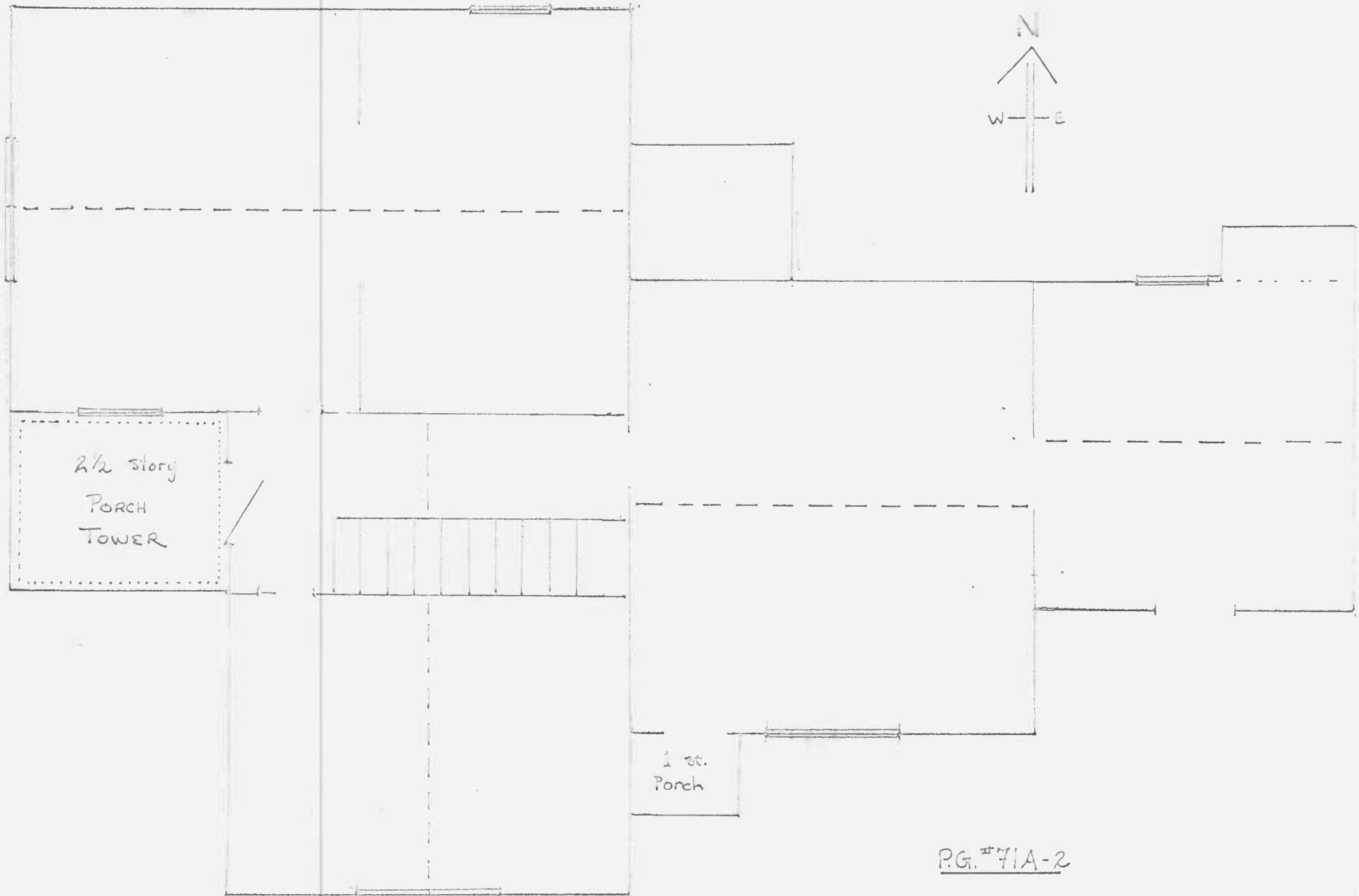
Mary R. Smith to Marvin Bischoff, two parcels of which one is ca. 3-1/2 acres residue from 6-1/2 acres which James Carrick conveyed to Susan Hale; which Mary Smith acquired by JB #7:337.

JB #7:337
18 Oct 1899
Deed

Pheroba Hale et al (heirs of Susan T. Hale) to Mary R. Smith, 6-1/2 acres on old county road, same which Susan T. Hale et al acquired by WAJ #3:562.

WAJ #3:562
4 Apr 1882
Deed

James M. Carrick to Susan T. Hale et al, 6-1/2 acres lying east of new county road from Bowie Station to Dr. DuVall's, part of land where Carrick now lives.



2 1/2 story
PORCH
TOWER

1 st.
Porch

P.G. #71A-2

SMITH HOUSE

----- RIDGE
1" = 6'
(it exactly to scale)

GP 7/84



LAUREL I

Smith House

PG. # 71A-2

71A-1

71A-2

71A-3

71A-4

71A-5

71A-6

71B-1

64-5

(LANHAM)

5 MI TO INTERSTATE

47 30" W 45

346

1/2 MI TO MD 450

1480000 F

76 45"

URE

VILLE AIRPORT

4120

4131000m N

100'

76 45"

BOWIE RACETRACK C + M

BM 83

4121

4120

4131000m N

100'

76 45"

BM 83

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71A 2
W

P.G.#71A-2

Smith house

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

June 1984

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



7/2/84
3
P.G. #71A-2

Smith house

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

June 1984

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME THOMAS HOUSE

LOCATION 9200 BLOCK Rt 197 BOWIE, Md

FACADE W

PHOTO TAKEN 2/16/73 M. DWYER

PG 71A-2