

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG#71B-2-31 Building Date: 1930s

Building Name: Bowie Post Office

Location: 13030 9th Street, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Post Office/Occupied/Good/Accessible

Description:

The Bowie Post Office is a one-story flat-roof building constructed of concrete block, three bays by five, stuccoed and whitewashed on the long side elevations, and faced with a brick veneer on the south main facade. The principal facade has a stepped parapet and the bricks are keyed into the blocks of the long side elevations in a quoin pattern. Entrance is into the central bay of the three-bay south facade through a door framed by pilasters and pediment. The two windows which flank the entrance are large, single-pane post office windows, with deep single-pane transoms and straight rowlock lintels above. Above the central entrance is a decorative rectangular plaque with stucco surface and rowlock border. Bands of rowlock above the two flanking windows suggest that there may also have been a stuccoed plaque above each of them. Windows on the long side elevations are 8/8 double hung sash. Originally only three bays deep, the building has been extended in depth, with two more bays on the long side elevations.

Significance:

The Bowie Post Office is a noticeable landmark in the old town of Huntington/Bowie. The town of Huntington (Bowie) was established in 1870 at the junction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line south into Washington. A post office was established in the new town as early as 187, and by the late 1880s it was located in the Luers' store which fronted on the Popes Creek railroad tracks. After this building was destroyed in the fire of 1895, the post office reopened in the rebuilt Luers general store. The Luers family store-and-post-office continued to operate well into the present century. The present post office building was constructed in the 1930s; it is a contributing feature in the old community, and reflects the heyday of this railroad junction community in the 1930s.

Acreage: 5000 square feet

Bowie Post Office

PG#71B-2-31

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Modern Period - 1930 to present

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Community Planning

Social/Cultural

Government

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Post Office

Design Source: unknown

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. PG#71B-2-31

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bowie Post Office

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 13030 9th Street not for publication

city, town Bowie vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's County

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 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 checked="" 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 Joseph Kirkpatrick

street & number 7164E Furnace Branch Road telephone no.:

city, town Glen Burnie state and zip code MD 21060

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 8066

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 1

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#71B-2-31

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 Bowie Post Office is a one-story flat-roof building of concrete block and brick which has served for more than 50 years as the Bowie Post Office. It stands on one of the original lots fronting on one of the main streets of this railroad town.

The building is constructed of concrete block, three bays by five, stuccoed and whitewashed on the long side elevations, and faced with a brick veneer on the south main facade. This principal facade has a stepped parapet and the bricks are keyed into the blocks of the long side elevations in a quoin pattern. Entrance is into the central bay of the three-bay south facade through a door framed by pilasters and pediment. The entrance is approached by modern concrete steps rising from the west; this modern flight replaces the original steps which came straight up from the south. The two windows which flank the entrance are large, single-pane post office windows, with deep single-pane transoms and straight rowlock lintels above.

Above the central entrance is a decorative rectangular plaque with stucco surface and rowlock border. Bands of rowlock above the two flanking windows suggest that there may originally have been a stuccoed plaque above each of them also.

Windows on the long side elevations are 8/8 double hung sash. The building was originally only three bays deep, but it has been extended in depth, with the addition of two more windows on the long side elevations. On the east side wall are two exterior chimneys.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1930s **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 Bowie Post Office is a noticeable landmark in the old town of Huntington/Bowie. It reflects the heyday of this railroad junction community in the 1930s.

The town of Huntington (Bowie) grew up around the junction of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line south into Washington. Construction of the line began in 1868, and in the following year Ben H. Plumb, a land speculator and developer, purchased 250 acres of farmland through which the railroad was being constructed. At the point where a spur line to Washington, D.C., joined with the B & PRR, Plumb surveyed and platted a town of approximately one square mile, with numbered streets running east and west, and tree-named avenues running north and south, forming a grid over the diagonal railroad line.¹ In 1870, he published a Prospectus of Huntington, which described the new town, and offered for sale building lots, each of 2,500 square feet. Two carpenters, brought for the purpose, began building dwellings on lots already purchased. Several stores were constructed, lots were reserved for school and churches, two parks were laid out, and the railroad company began construction of depot, round house and machine shops.² The Depot itself was from the beginning known as Bowie Station, after members of the family who had backed the construction of the railroad line; the town, originally named Huntington, soon came to be known as Bowie as well.

¹ Plat of Huntington City, J.C. Lang, 1870, Library of Congress.
² Prospectus of Huntington, 1870, Library of Congress.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Notes, Item 8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5000 sq ft

Quadrangle name Laurel

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian		
organization	Prince George's County	date	March 1993
street & number	14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive	telephone	301-952-3521
city or town	Upper Marlboro	state	Maryland 20772

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 21032-2023
301-740-5140

As might be expected, the railroad was the biggest employer in the new community. By 1880, the population included conductors, engineers, baggage master and brakeman, as well as all the other professionals essential to a small town: postmaster, merchants, carpenters, school teacher, telegraph operator, hotel keeper, shoemakers, butcher, hostler and barber.³

A post office was established in the new town as early as 1878 and the first postmaster was Henry Hadlow. Hadlow operated the post office in his dwelling, approximately one block west of its present location. By the late 1880s, members of the Luers family had begun to serve as postmasters; the post office was by then located in Bernard Luers' store which fronted on the Popes Creek railroad tracks. After this building was destroyed in the fire of 1895, the post office reopened in the rebuilt Luers general store. The Luers family store-and-post-office continued to operate well into the present century.⁴ The present post office building was constructed in the 1930s.

The post office building was apparently never owned by the United States government, but privately owned and leased to the Post Office Department on a long-term basis.⁵ After the annexation of the Belair-at-Bowie subdivisions and the consequent increase in size of the City of Bowie, a new and central Bowie post office was built to serve the larger population. The old Bowie Post Office, however, continues to serve the population around the old railroad junction, and is a contributing feature in the old community.

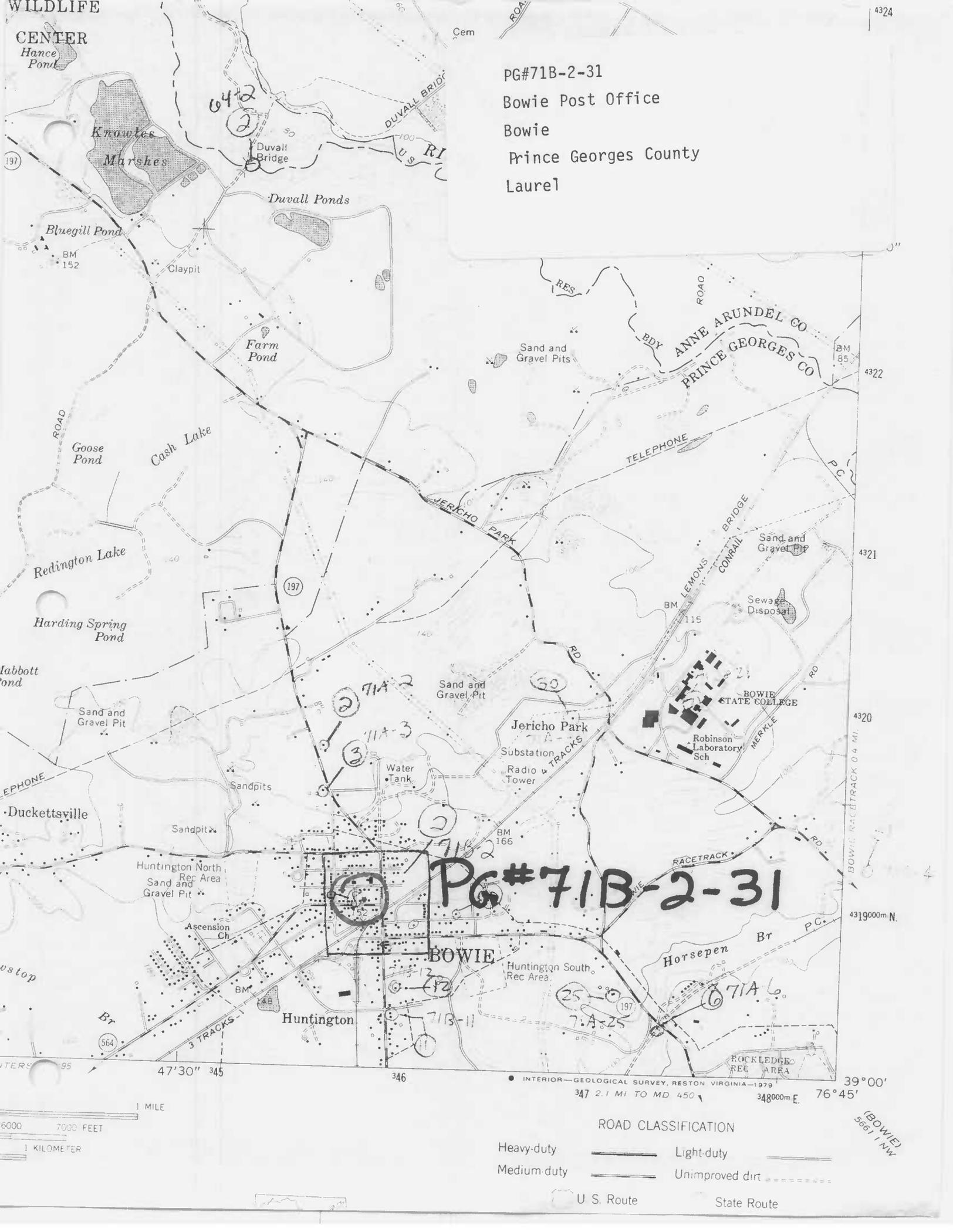
³ Federal Census for Prince George's County, 14th Enumeration District, 1880.

⁴ Gazetteers 1878-1896; G. M. Hopkins, "Atlas of Prince George County". 1878; Prince George's Enquirer, 19 April 1895.

⁵ Prince George's County Deeds, #8066:1, #5820:963.

WILDLIFE CENTER
Hance Pond

PG#71B-2-31
Bowie Post Office
Bowie
Prince Georges County
Laurel



6412
2

71A-2

71A-3

PG#71B-2-31

71A-6

71B-11

71A-25



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
U. S. Route State Route

(BOWIE)
5661 NW



STOP

PG # 71B-2-31

Bank Post Office
Princi & Sons Co. MD
Susan L. Pears

December 1992

MD SHPO

South Yonkers

1 of 2



PG # 71B-2-31

Bowie Post Office
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan H. Pearl

December 1992

MD SHPO

Sent package from SW

2 of 2