PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey # PG#74B-19 Building Date ca. 1866

Building Name Maple Wood

Location 17308 Queen Anne Bridge Road, Bowie (Queen Anne), Maryland

Private/Residence-Office/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

Maple Wood is a mid nineteenth century frame farmhouse which stands on a high point of land overlooking the Mill Branch as it flows into the Patuxent River. The house is of the traditional I-house plan, with a rear kitchen wing which forms an ell. The main block of the house is side-gabled, five bays by one, and two and one half stories high. Entrance is in the central bay of the principal east facade, sheltered by a three-bay hip-roof porch, one story high, with chamfered posts. Above the entrance the lines of the gable roof are varied by a central crossgable with returned molded cornice and a 2/2 round-arch window. Other windows are 2/2 double hung sash, the siding is plain board painted white, and all trim is painted blue. There is a rear kitchen wing at right ngles to the main block; it is two stories high with gable roof. The house stands in a complex of early twentieth century farm buildings, and the entire complex is currently devoted to use as a wildlife sanctuary.

Significance:

Maple Wood is a good example of the traditional I-house form, one of the most popular vernacular house styles ofnineteenth century Prince George's County. It stands on a high point of land in a farm setting which reflects the function and setting it has had for well over one hundred years. The house was built just after the Civil War by Joseph Walker, on land deeded to him by his father-in-law, Samuel Peach of neighboring Ash Grove. Although the house is typical of middle-class farm dwellings of this period, not very many of the type survive. Together with its complex of early twentieth-century farm buildings, Maple Wood is representative of Prince George's County farm establishments after the Civil War; it retains a complex of functional farm buildings in an agricultural area which still reflects its historical function and setting.

Acreage: 84.64 acres

Survey No. P.G.74B-19

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Federal Spring Plantation

and/or common Maple Wood (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 17308 Queen Anne Bridge Road ___ not for publication

city, town Bowie ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

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

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

name Armida & Umberto Di Sabatino

street & number 12740 Springfield Court telephone no.:

city, town Dunkirk , MD state and zip code 20754

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4302

street & number 17435 Main Street folio 208

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#74B-19

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X 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.

Maple Wood is a mid nineteenth century frame farmhouse which stands on a high point of land overlooking the Mill Branch as it flows into the Patuxent. The house is of the traditional I-house plan, with a rear kitchen wing which forms an ell. It stands in a complex of early twentieth century farm buildings, and the entire complex is currently devoted to use as a wildlife sanctuary.

The main block of the house is side-gabled, five bays by one, and two and one half stories high. Entrance is in the central bay of the principal east facade through a four-panelled door with round-arched molded panels. The door has a four-light transom, three-light sidelights over molded wainscot panels, and a narrow molded surround. The entrance is sheltered by a three-bay hip-roof porch, one story high, with chamfered posts and plain slat balustrade. Above the entrance a central crossgable varies the lines of the gable roof; the crossgable has a returned molded cornice and a 2/2 round-arch window.

Windows are 2/2 double hung sash, with narrow molded surrounds painted blue. The only surviving shutters are in the south gable end; they are louvered wood, painted dark green. Siding is plain board painted white, and all trim is painted blue. The gable roof is covered with standing-seam metal, and the cornice is boxed with crown molding, and returned at the gable ends. The loft level is lighted at each gable end by a small 4/2 double hung sash window. Two corbelled brick chimneys rise from the ridge, flanking the central stairhall. The main block rests on a brick foundation; there is no basement.

Interior of the main block is of the traditional I-house plan. The principal east entrance leads into a central stairhall; the open-string stair rises along the south wall, turns 90 degrees, and rises three more steps, then turns 90 degrees again and rises to the second story. There is a turned newel with mitred cap, and turned balusters, and the spandrel is panelled with narrow vertical wainscoting.

Only the south parlor mantel survives, although an identical mantel once adorned the fireplace in the north parlor. The surviving wood mantel in the south parlor has multi-band pilasters framing the firebox, and molded shelf brackets flanking the panelled frieze. There is considerable variety in the moldings of door and window surrounds, suggesting that the north and south parlors were finished, or at least trimmed, at slightly different periods. The north parlor has single-step moldings, with ogee backband and inner

bead, and plain square corner blocks; beneath the window sills is a fairly plain board with multi-band molding. The south parlor has two-step moldings, with plain squared backband and inner bead, and no corner blocks; beneath the window sills is a similar two-step molding. All of the spaces have high baseboards with ogee crown molding, and wide floor boards.

Above the two principal spaces are two bedrooms now used as office spaces; trim is similar to that in the south parlor, but slightly narrower.

Above the second-story spaces is an attic accessible by a small enclosed single-run stair above the main staircase. The attic consists of an open space divided only by the two parged brick chimneys which flank the stairhall. Visible in the attic are some hewn rafters and reused beams. Structural details indicate that the central crossgable on the east facade is original to this attic.

Extending to the west at right angles is a gable-roof kitchen wing, two bays by one, and two stories high; it is inset from the south gable end. Siding, roof and cornice details are the same as the main block. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash with narrow molded surrounds; shutters survive only on the south elevation. An interior brick chimney rises from the ridge near the west gable end, and there is an exterior stove chimney, of concrete block, between first and second bays on the north elevation. Entrance to the kitchen wing is from the rear by a door in the west gable end, now sheltered by a one-story shed-roof enclosure. The wing rests on a brick foundation which encloses a partial cellar, accessible from the west; visible in this small cellar space are hand-hewn sill beams, suggesting that this section may rest on an earlier foundation.

There is a shed-roof, one-story porch, now enclosed, across the west elevation, filling the corner formed by the main block and the wing. The door which originally opened from the main stairhall onto this porch has been closed; an entrance has been opened allowing access from the porch into the kitchen wing.

The house is accessible by a long unpaved lane which leads north from Queen Anne Road, and then turns westward to form a circle in front of the house. Framing the entrance inside the circle are two large hollies, and a short distance to the southeast, a large old cryptomeria. Two trailers stand on the immediate grounds: one immediately south of the house and parallel to the kitchen wing, the other at right angles a short distance west of the wing. Immediately west of the second trailer is a gable-roof outbuilding built into a slope; this renovated outbuilding may incorporate an old smoke house, as evidenced by the old board lining the interior walls.

Another outbuilding, a shed-roof storage shed with board-and-batten siding painted white, stands immediately north of the house.

A large barn and stable stand together approximately 500 feet north of the house, positioned at right angles to one another. The twentieth-century tobacco barn has vertical board siding with vertical board ventilators, its long axis running east-west. There are two wide openings in its south elevation. Its gable roof is covered with corrugated metal. The interior spaces are now devoted to use as animal pens.

Similar use is made of the stable which stands at right angles east of the barn. It has vertical board siding and is open on the east side. Its roof, of uneven pitch, is covered with standing seam metal.

At the foot of the hill, south of the house, stand two more barns. They are located on land which was once part of Maple Wood, but is now a discrete parcel. The visible hand-hewn components suggest that these were the earliest agricultural buildings on the property.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #74B-19

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	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	X other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates ca. 1866 **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.

Maple Wood is a good example of the traditional I-house form, one of the most popular vernacular house styles of nineteenth century Prince George's County. It stands on a high point of land in a farm setting which reflects the function and setting it has had for well over one hundred years. The house was built just after the Civil War by Joseph Walker, on land deeded to him by his father-in-law, Samuel Peach of neighboring Ash Grove. Although the house is typical of middle-class farm dwellings of this period, not very many of the type survive. Together with its complex of early twentieth-century farm buildings, Maple Wood is representative of Prince George's County farm establishments after the Civil War.

The house at Maple Wood was built at the end of the Civil War on a farm property known as Federal Spring. This land was at that time owned by Samuel Peach of nearby Ash Grove (no longer standing). In 1856, Peach's daughter, Mary Ellen, married Joseph Walker; they left Prince George's County, and, during the course of the war, raised a family of five children. They returned to Prince George's County, and in 1866, Samuel Peach deeded to Joseph Walker, in trust for Mary Ellen Peach Walker and her children, the 167-acre Federal Spring plantation, on which they had begun to build their house.[1] Mary Ellen Walker died at the end of 1866, but Joseph Walker continued to live at the new farmhouse (which he named Maple Wood), raising his three surviving children with the help of a housekeeper and servant.[2]

Joseph Walker died in 1899, and his estate was administered by his daughter, Agnes, with the help of her uncle, Dr. John Peach of Forest Place (#74B-3) and her aunt, Nannie Peach Hyatt of another nearby farm (#74B-18). The Maple Wood farm passed to Agnes Walker, who remained there for a few years, and then sold it in

1909 to Carl Heuer, a farmer who had immigrated from Germany in 1882. Agnes Walker then went to live with her aunt, Nannie Peach Hyatt.[3] Heuer lived at Maple Wood with his family and farmed the land for ten years, then sold it to Joseph Heine, but held the mortgage on the property. It was during the Heine family ownership that many of the farm buildings were constructed.[4] Joseph Heine died in November 1922, before the farm improvements were complete and before he had completed payments to Heuer; the mortgage was foreclosed, and S. Marvin Peach, attorney and son of Dr. John Peach of Forest Place, was appointed to sell the property. A public sale was announced for 19 December 1922; it was described as the homeplace of the late Joseph A. Heine, Federal Spring Plantation, 167 1/4 acres, lying on the north side of the road from Mitchellville to Queen Anne. Improvements were described as including a comfortable dwelling house of 7 or 8 rooms, chicken houses and other usual outbuildings, a tobacco barn, stable, cornhouse, and a small tenant house, all in good order. The property was described as a fine tobacco and grain farm with ample woodland. The farm was sold at public sale to the highest bidder, the First National Bank of Southern Maryland, after which it passed through a series of short-term owners.

In 1950 when the property was the home farm of the Smith family, they had it surveyed and divided into three discrete parcels. The dwelling and principal farm buildings were located on the northmost 85-acre parcel, which was allotted to Lloyd and Lottie Smith. In 1966 this parcel was purchased by the present owner; for the last five years, the house and immediate farm buildings have been used as the headquarters of the Chesapeake Wildlife Sanctuary.[6] The house serves as office space, while the tobacco barn, stable, and areas adjoining have been converted to serve as wildlife pens. The surrounding farmland is partially cultivated, with a long view to the east toward Mill Branch Road and the Patuxent River.

The house at Maple Wood is a good example of the traditional I- house, a modest vernacular house form which was popular in rural nineteenth-century Prince George's County. In the period after the Civil War, the I-house form replaced the Greek Revival side-hall-and-double-parlor form as the most frequent house form in rural areas, until the advent of the more elaborate late Victorian Queen Anne style. The house built in 1869 at Forest Place by Dr. John Peach, Mary Ellen Peach Walker's brother, was similar to the house at Maple Wood; within a few years, however, Dr. Peach added a wing and reoriented his house (#74B-3), thus rendering it a more complex structure than the house at Maple Wood. The James Hamilton House (#74B-7), the McLeod-Forrester House (#61-11), Navajo (#78-22), and Highlands (#71A-33), are I-houses which bear some similarity to

Maple Wood, although they were built in the 1870's and 1880's and have finer decorative detail. Highlands was destroyed in 1989, and Forest Place will probably not be salvaged. Many of the other Prince George's County dwellings of this period and type have already been lost.

Maple Wood is a good example of this type of popular nineteenth-century house form; it retains a complex of functional farm buildings in an agricultural area which still reflects its historical function and setting.

. . . . .

Notes

1. Prince George's County Deed FS#4:360; Prince George's County Tax assessments, E.D.#7; Prince George's County Marriage Licenses.

2. Stones and Bones, Tombstone Inscriptions in Prince George's County, Prince George's County Genealogical Society, 1984; Federal Census for Prince George's County, E.D.#7, 1870.

3. Administration file #1728; Prince George's County Deed #44:271; Federal Census for Prince George's County, E.D. #7, 1910.

4. Prince George's County Deed #148:87; Mortgage #145:445; Administration File #3438.

5. Administration file #3438; Prince George's County Will GPH#2:529; Equity case #5870; Prince George's County Deed #189:377.

6. Prince George's County Deeds #1238:317,321, and plat attached; #3372:263.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#74B-19

See Chain of Title

See notes, item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 84.64 a

Tax Map 64 parcel 2

Quadrangle name Bowie

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

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

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 Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian

organization Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission **date** February 1990

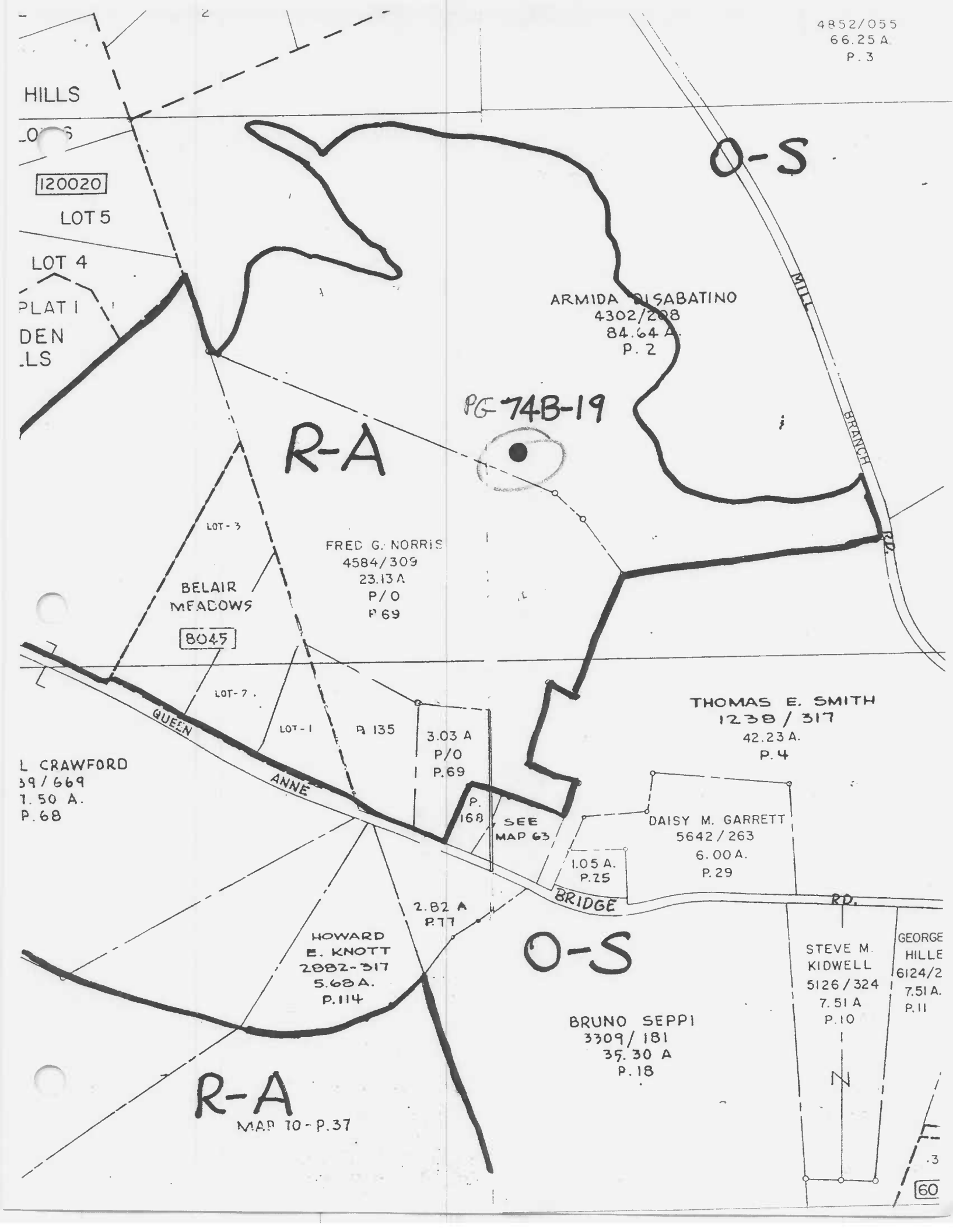
street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive C.A.B. Fourth Floor **telephone** 952-3521

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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HILLS
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PLAT I
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ARMIDA DISABATINO
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84.64 A.
P. 2
MILL BRANCH RD.
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R-A
LOT-3
FRED G. NORRIS
4584/309
23.13 A
P/O
P 69
BELAIR
MEADOWS
8045
LOT-7
LOT-1
P. 135
3.03 A
P/O
P.69
QUEEN ANNE
THOMAS E. SMITH
1238/317
42.23 A.
P. 4
L CRAWFORD
39/669
1.50 A.
P. 68
P.
168
SEE
MAP 63
DAISY M. GARRETT
5642/263
6.00 A.
P. 29
1.05 A.
P.25
BRIDGE RD.
2.82 A
P.77
HOWARD
E. KNOTT
2882-317
5.68 A.
P.114
O-S
STEVE M.
KIDWELL
5126/324
7.51 A
P.10
GEORGE
HILLE
6124/2
7.51 A.
P.11
BRUNO SEPPI
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35.30 A
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MAP 10-P.37
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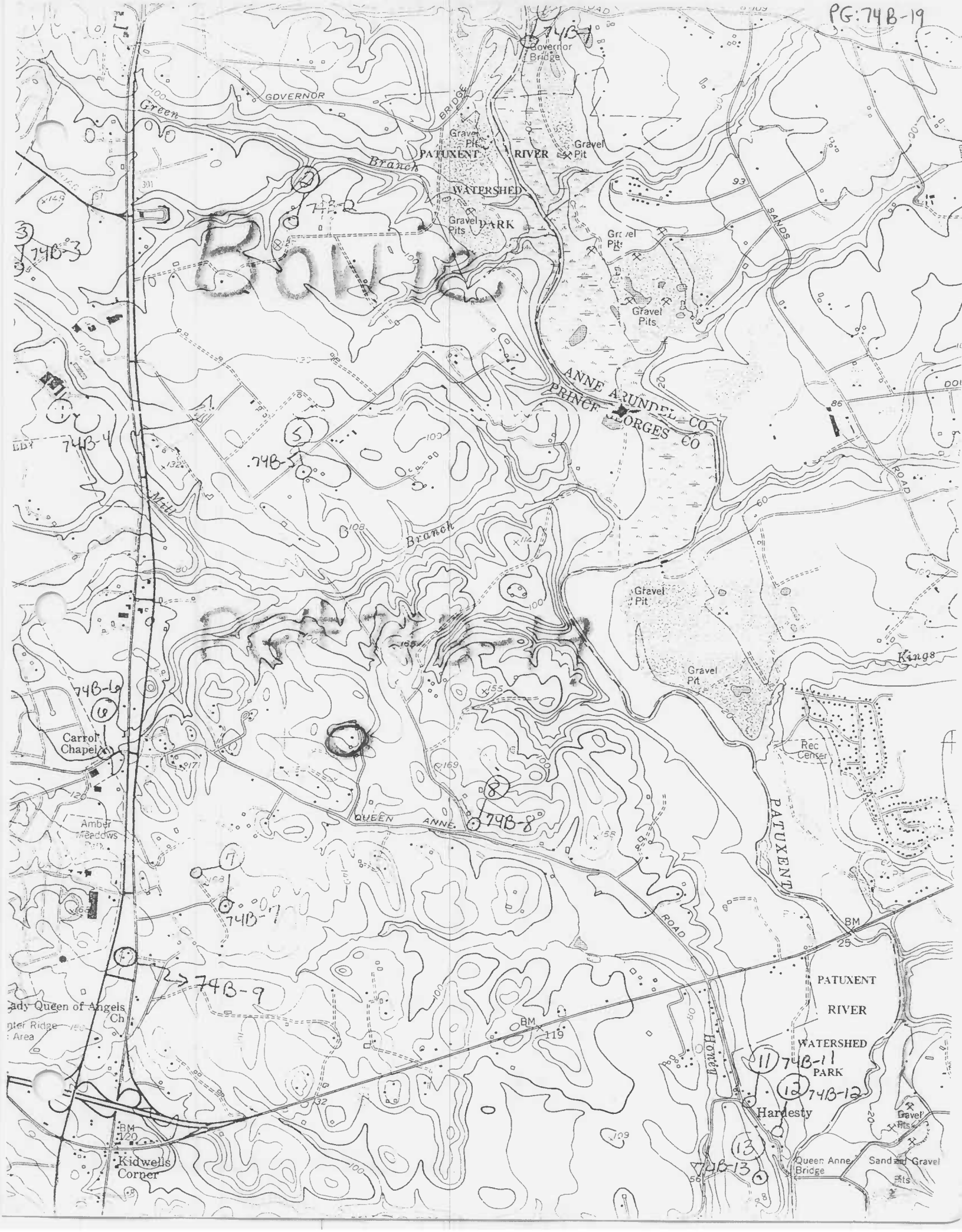
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74B-1
Governor Bridge
GOVERNOR
BRIDGE
Green
Branch
Gravel Pit
PATUXENT
RIVER
Gravel Pit
WATERSHED
PARK
Gravel Pits
74B-2
74B-3
Bowie
Gravel Pits
SANDS
ANNE ARUNDEL CO
PRINCE GEORGES CO
74B-4
74B-5
Mill
Branch
Gravel Pit
Gravel Pit
Kings
74B-6
Carrol Chapel
Rec Center
Amber Meadows Park
QUEEN ANNE
74B-8
PATUXENT
74B-7
ROAD
BM 25
74B-9
Cady Queen of Angels Ch
PATUXENT
RIVER
WATERSHED
PARK
BM 119
Honey
74B-11
74B-12
Hardesty
Gravel Pits
BM 120
Kidwells Corner
74B-13
Queen Anne Bridge
Sand and Gravel Pits

86-74B-17

Maple Wood
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
November 1989
Northeast Elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis

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Pb # 74B-19

Maple Wood
Prince George's Co, MD
November 1989
Susan G. Pearl

Stack, view from northeast
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis

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PG #74B-19

Maple Wood
Prince George's Co., Md
Susan R. Pearl
November 1989
Northwest 3/4 elevation
Hist. Md Hist. Trust, Annapolis

3-7-10

Pl. # 74B-19

Maplewood
Prince George's Co., Md.
Susan L. Pearl
November 1989
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg. Md. Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.

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NAILS

PG #748-19

Maple Wood
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan E. Pearl
November 1989
Model, and photos
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis

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PG #74B-19

Maple Wood
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
November 1967
Molding, south parlor
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis

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Pg # 74B-19

Maple Wood
Prince George's Co. Md
Susan G. Pearl

November 1989

View north to barn
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis

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Pg #746-19

Maple Wood
Prince George's Co., Md.
Susan G. Pearl
November 1974

Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Inst. Trust, Annapolis

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PG #74B-19

Maple Wood
Prince George's Co, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
November 1971

East elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis

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WELCOME

Pg # 746-19

Maple Wood
Prince George's Co., MD
Susan G. Pearl
November 1969
Rear, east entrance
Negs: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis

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