

Property Address <u>3711 Crain Highway, Mitchellville vicinity, Prince George's County</u>
Owner Name/Address <u>Kenyon Oil Company Inc., 221 Quinebaug Rd., North Grosvenordale CT 06255</u>
Year Built <u>circa 1930, circa 1955, gas station demolished 1998</u>

**Description:**

The Homoco station on U.S. 301 was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1993. The service station is no longer extant. However, an outbuilding not noted on the previous form is located on the site. The 1-story, 1-bay outbuilding stands east of the former service station. The outbuilding is covered in vertical board and has a metal, front-gable roof. Double doors are located on the west gable end.

**Significance:**

The exact function of the outbuilding is unknown. However, a local resident has suggested that the building was used as an automobile repair shop following the opening of Crain Highway in 1927. This would correspond to trends in service station architecture during the mid-twentieth century. Gas stations and garages of the 1920s frequently consisted only of a simple, vernacular building with a few gasoline pumps (Witzel 1992, 34-35). These small businesses were usually owned by a family or an individual. During the 1930s and 1940s, these buildings were frequently replaced by the modern "signature" buildings of specific oil companies (Ibid., 85-94). The Robert S. Crain Highway, now U.S. 301, was constructed on a new alignment beginning in 1922 (State Roads Commission 1959, 73). The highway was widened during the mid-1950s (Ibid., 174). The outbuilding on the Homoco station property probably was constructed following the original opening of Crain Highway. The former service station probably was constructed in response to the widening of the road.

**National Register Evaluation:**

The site of the Homoco station is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. While the property was associated with the development of Crain Highway, it does not retain sufficient integrity to adequately convey that connection. Due to the demolition of the circa 1955 service station and the removal of the gasoline pumps, the evolution of the property over time is no longer visible. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. The property is not eligible under Criterion C because the circa 1955 service station is no longer extant and because the outbuilding is not an outstanding example of its type. The outbuilding has no distinguishing features and does not exemplify a particular type or method of construction.

<b>MHT CONCURRENCE:</b>			
Eligibility	<input type="checkbox"/> recommended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not recommended	
Criteria	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations	<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 <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments:			
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services		Date	Reviewer, NR program
			<u>B. Kuntz</u> 4/14/00
			Date

Property Address <u>3711 Crain Highway, Mitchellville vicinity, Prince George's County</u>
Owner Name/Address <u>Kenyon Oil Company Inc., 221 Quinebaug Rd., North Grosvenordale CT 06225</u>
Year Built <u>circa 1930, circa 1955, gas station demolished 1998</u>

**Bibliography:**

State Roads Commission of Maryland. 1959. *History of Road Building in Maryland*. Baltimore: Maurice Leeser Co.

Witzel, Michael. 1992. *The American Gas Station*. Osceola, WI: Motorbooks International.

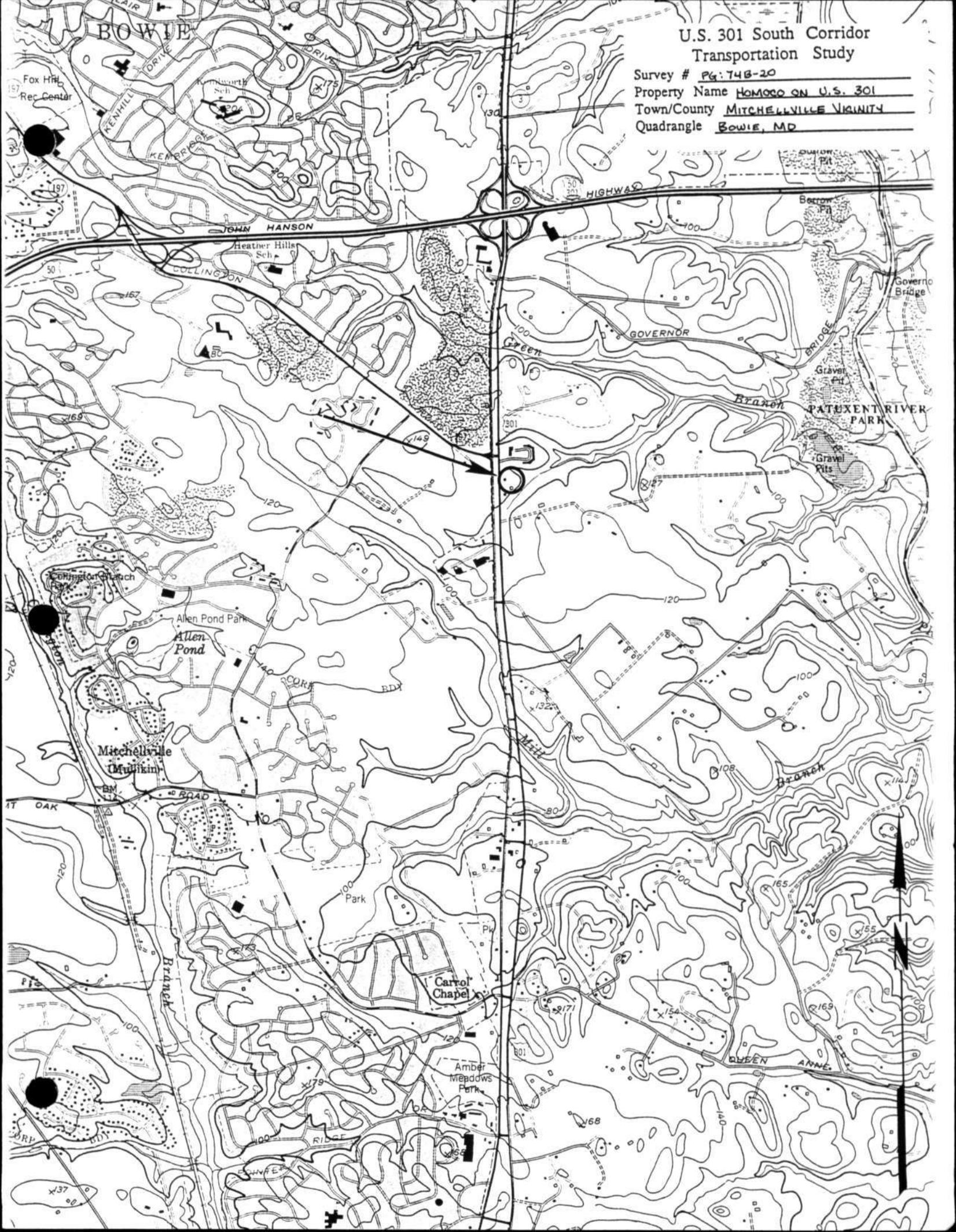
U.S. 301 South Corridor  
Transportation Study

Survey # PG: 74B-20

Property Name HOMOCO ON U.S. 301

Town/County MITCHELLVILLE VIRGINIA

Quadrangle BOWIE, MD





xtra  
DIESEL  
P.O. Box 1000  
1000  
1000  
1000

PG: 74B-20

HOMOCO ON US. 301

PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD

T. TAMBURINO

11-98

MD SHPO

SITE OF STATION BUILDING, VIEW N

1/2



PG: 74B-20

HOMOCO ON U.S. 301

PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD

T. TAMBURINO

11-98

MD SHPO

BARN, VIEW E

2/2

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: 74B-20 Building Date: c.1953

Building Name: Homoco on US 301

Location: 3711 Northeast Crain Highway, Mitchellville, Maryland

Private/Gas Station/Occupied/Good/Accessible

Description Summary

The Homoco station on US 301 is a small, one-story, three-by-four bay concrete block, stucco-covered gas station with a rectangular plan. The building is sited at a slight angle on its wedge-shaped property to more directly face north-bound traffic on US 301. The building's shallow shed roof slopes to the rear (north) and is concealed by a simple horizontal parapet that encircles three of its elevations. The building is undecorated except for a short projecting masonry tower above the entry on the main (south) facade and a curved wall and show window at the building's southwest corner (close to US 301). Freestanding gasoline pumps are located south of the building.

Significance Summary

The Homoco station on US 301 (Parcel 18, Tax Map 55) in Mitchellville is a good example of modest postwar roadside architecture. The building was purpose-built as an auto service and filling station on US 301, a major north-south route from Baltimore to southern Maryland that runs through the eastern edge of Prince George's County. The simple modernistic style of the station illustrates the utilitarian and unadorned architecture common to postwar roadside architecture. Throughout the period, roadside establishments simplified their approach to architecture and relied more on volume, shape and signage, rather than architectural complexity, to attract their potential customers -- high speed motorists. The Homoco station of US 301 was probably built in the mid 1950s, after Carter and Catherine Hall sold a 2.68 acre parcel through an agent to Stephen and Bernice Gambrill in October 1952. The Gambrills sold the property to the Home Oil Realty Company in 1966. Since 1986, the property has been owned by Homes Oil Company II.

Acreage: 86,828 sq.ft.

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. PG # 74B-20

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Homoco on US 301

**2. Location**

street & number 3711 Northeast Crain Highway (U.S. Route 301)  not for publication

city, town Mitchellville  vicinity of  congressional district 5th

state Maryland  county Prince George's

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Homes Oil Company II

street & number 10000 VA Manor Road ; Suite 320 telephone no.:

city, town Beltsville state and zip code Maryland 20705

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6949

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 696

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title N/A

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. PG#74B-20

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Homoco station on US 301 is a small, one-story, three-by-four bay concrete block, stucco-covered gas station with a rectangular plan. The building is sited at a slight angle on its wedge-shaped property to more directly face north-bound traffic on US 301. The building's shallow shed roof slopes to the rear (north) and is concealed by a simple horizontal parapet that encircles three of its elevations. The building is undecorated except for a short projecting masonry tower above the entry on the main (south) facade and a curved wall and show window at the building's southwest corner (close to US 301).

The main facade of the building contains a large show that wraps around the west elevation. The window is composed of large vertical plate glass panes. The facade also contains a single-door entry, and two auto service bays that have been partially enclosed. The building has been painted white. Two small backlight signs are attached to the main facade; the larger of the two is attached to the projecting tower and identifies the building as a Homes Oil station. Much of the property surrounding the building is covered with asphalt paving. The freestanding gasoline pumps are located south of the building.

# 8. Significance

Survey No PG#74B-20

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1953

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 Homoco station on US 301 (Parcel 18, Tax Map 55) in Mitchellville is a good example of modest postwar roadside architecture. The building was purpose-built as an auto service and filling station on US 301, a major north-south route from Baltimore to southern Maryland that runs through the eastern edge of Prince George's County.<sup>1</sup> The simple modernistic style of the station illustrates the utilitarian and unadorned architecture common to postwar roadside architecture. Throughout the period, roadside establishments simplified their approach to architecture and relied more on volume, shape and signage, rather than architectural complexity, to attract their potential customers -- high speed motorists.<sup>2</sup>

The Homoco station of US 301 was probably built in the mid 1950s, after Carter and Catherine Hall sold a 2.68 acre parcel through an agent to Stephen and Bernice Gambrill in October 1952. The Gambrills sold the property to the Home Oil Realty Company in 1966. Since 1986 the property has been owned by Homes Oil Company II. (see Chain of Title).

<sup>1</sup>The road known today as US 301 was originally developed from 1922 to 1927 as Robert Crain Highway to link Baltimore City with the counties of southern Maryland. The portion of US 301 on which the Homoco station is located was dualized in the 1960s to accommodate greatly increased traffic.

<sup>2</sup>For a detailed discussion of postwar roadside architecture specifically focused an auto-related design, see Vierya, Daniel I. Fill'er Up-- Architectural History of America's Gas Stations, New York: Collier/Macmillan Publishing Co., 1979.



PG # 74B-20

Homoco on US 301  
3711 NE Crain Highway  
Mitchellville, Maryland

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Modern Period - AD 1930 -- Present

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Transportation

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Functions and Uses: Gas Station

Design Source: unknown

CHAIN OF TITLE

PG# 74B-20

Homoco on US 301

3711 Northeast Crain Highway  
Mitchellville, Maryland

6949:696  
28 November 1986  
Deed

Homes Oil Realty Company to Homes Oil Company II. Grantors conveys 1.99 acre tract known as Parcel 18 (Tax Map# 55). Same obtained from Stephen M. and Bernice A. Gambrill, 10 January 1966, 3267:187.

3267:187  
10 January 1966  
Deed

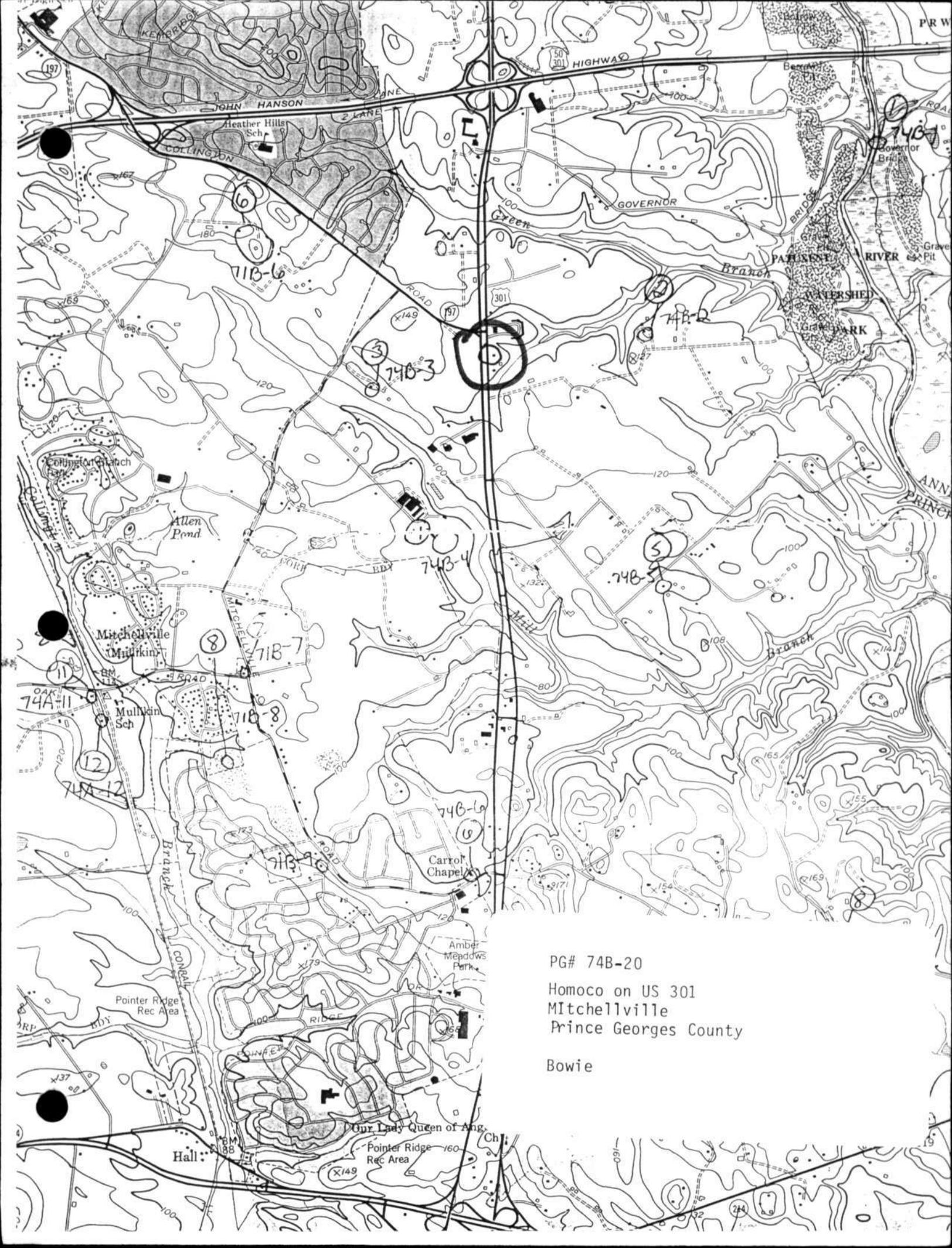
Stephen M. and Bernice A. Gambrill to Home Oil Realty Company. Grantors convey 1.99 acre tract known as Parcel 18. Same obtained from United Sales Corporation of Upper Marlboro, 8 October 1952, 1544:498.

1544:498  
8 October 1952  
Deed

United Sales Corporation of Upper Marlboro to Stephen M. and Bernice A. Gambrill. Grantor conveys 2.70 acre tract.

1544:496  
7 October 1952  
Deed

Carter F. and Catherine E. Hall to United Sales Corporation of Upper Marlboro. Grantors convey 2.68 acre tract. To clear title, this deed is made.



PG# 74B-20  
Homoco on US 301  
Mitchellville  
Prince Georges County  
  
Bowie



PG#74B-20

Homaco on US 301, Mitchellville  
Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

March 1993

From W

MD SHPD

1 OF 2



PG# 74B-20

Homocid on US 301, Mitchellville

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

March 1993

From w/ (detail)

MD SHPO

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