Property Address 2301 Crain Highway Southwest, Upper Marlboro vicinity, Prince George's County
Owner Name/Address V.O.B. Limited Partnership, 6801 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 400, Riverdale, Maryland 20737
Year Built 1913

Description:

Beechwood was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in 1987. The house is currently unaltered from its condition described in the form. The property retains its original acreage and two visible outbuildings. Not mentioned in the previous form is a 2-story, side-gable barn located near the intersection of Crain Highway (US 301) and Leeland Road. The barn has a metal roof and is covered with vertical wood boards. The structure is no longer used and suffering from deterioration. The land is no longer used for agricultural purposes and has become overgrown. In addition, several of the old plantings, including boxwood and hollies, have been removed from the perimeter of the house.

National Register Evaluation:

Beechwood is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as an excellent example of the Neo-Classical style. Character-defining features include the two-story portico with Tuscan-style columns, symmetrical fenestration and Colonial Revival interior detail including classical mantels and a large stair hall. In addition, Beechwood has excellent site integrity, as it retains all of its original acreage including a shed and one barn.

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. 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. Based upon the date of construction of the original house on the property, circa 1810, and the property type, there is a likelihood that an archaeological component could exist on the property. However, as no archaeological investigation has been conducted, the eligibility of the property under Criterion D cannot be assessed at this time.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The National Register boundaries of Beechwood follow the current property lines of its tax parcel (Tax Map 85, Lot/Block #P16). This 64.7 hectare (159.92 acre) parcel is bounded on the north, south and west by adjacent parcels and on the east by Crain Highway (U.S. 301). The boundary includes the main house, a shed, a barn and the long driveway to the house, all of which are contributing elements of the property. According to deed research, the property was originally part of a 60.7 hectare (150-acre) parcel which was willed to Clotilda Hilleary by George Hilleary in 1865.

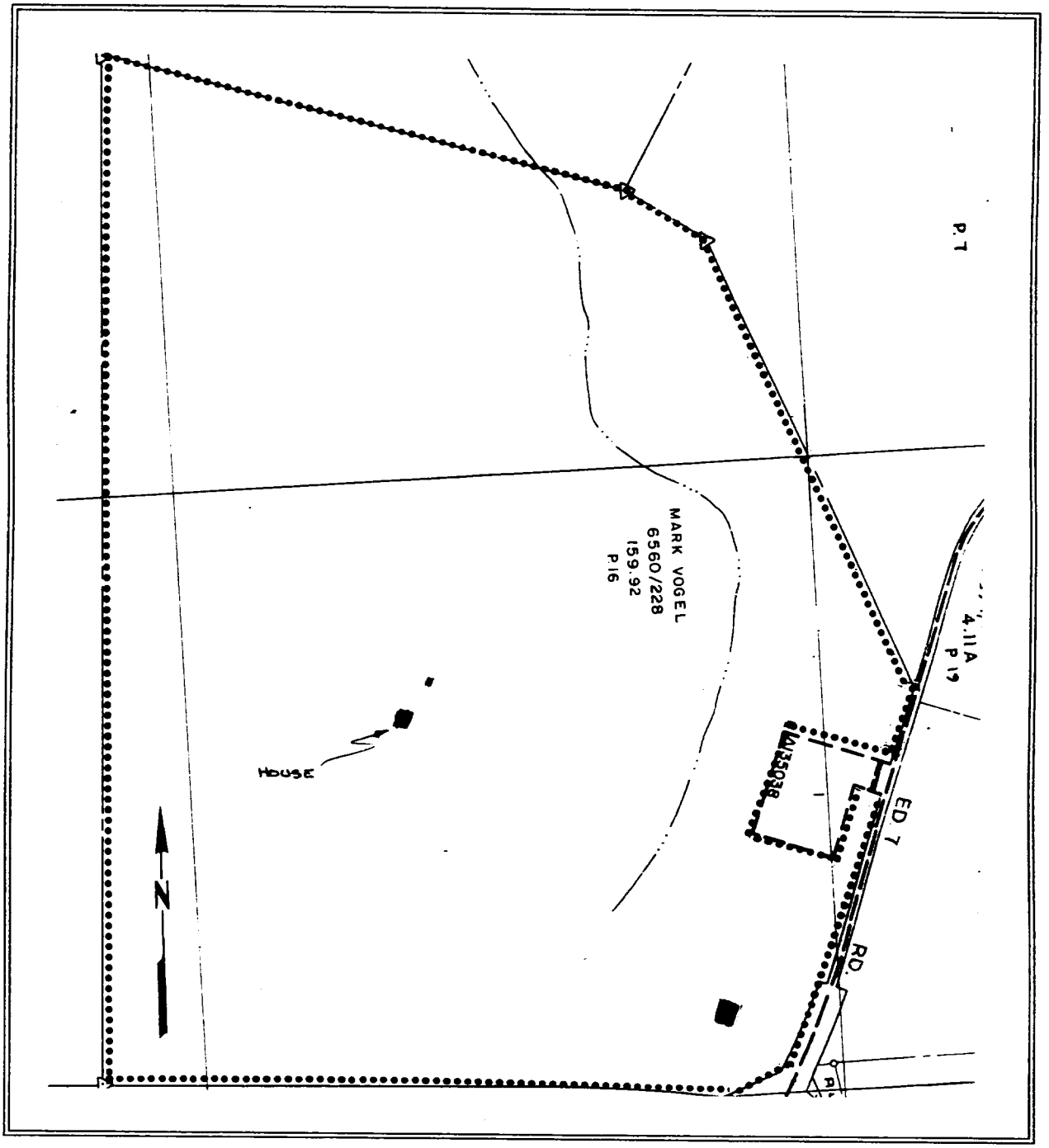
MHT CONCURRENCE:
Eligibility __X__ recommended ____ not recommended
Criteria ___A ___B __X__C ___D Considerations___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None
Comments:

Suzanne Pickens 07/21/1997 7/21/97
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date Reviewer, NR program Date

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
September 1996

Property Address 2301 Crain Highway Southwest, Upper Marlboro vicinity, Prince George's County
Owner Name/Address V.O.B. Limited Partnership, 6801 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 400, Riverdale, Maryland 20737
Year Built 1913

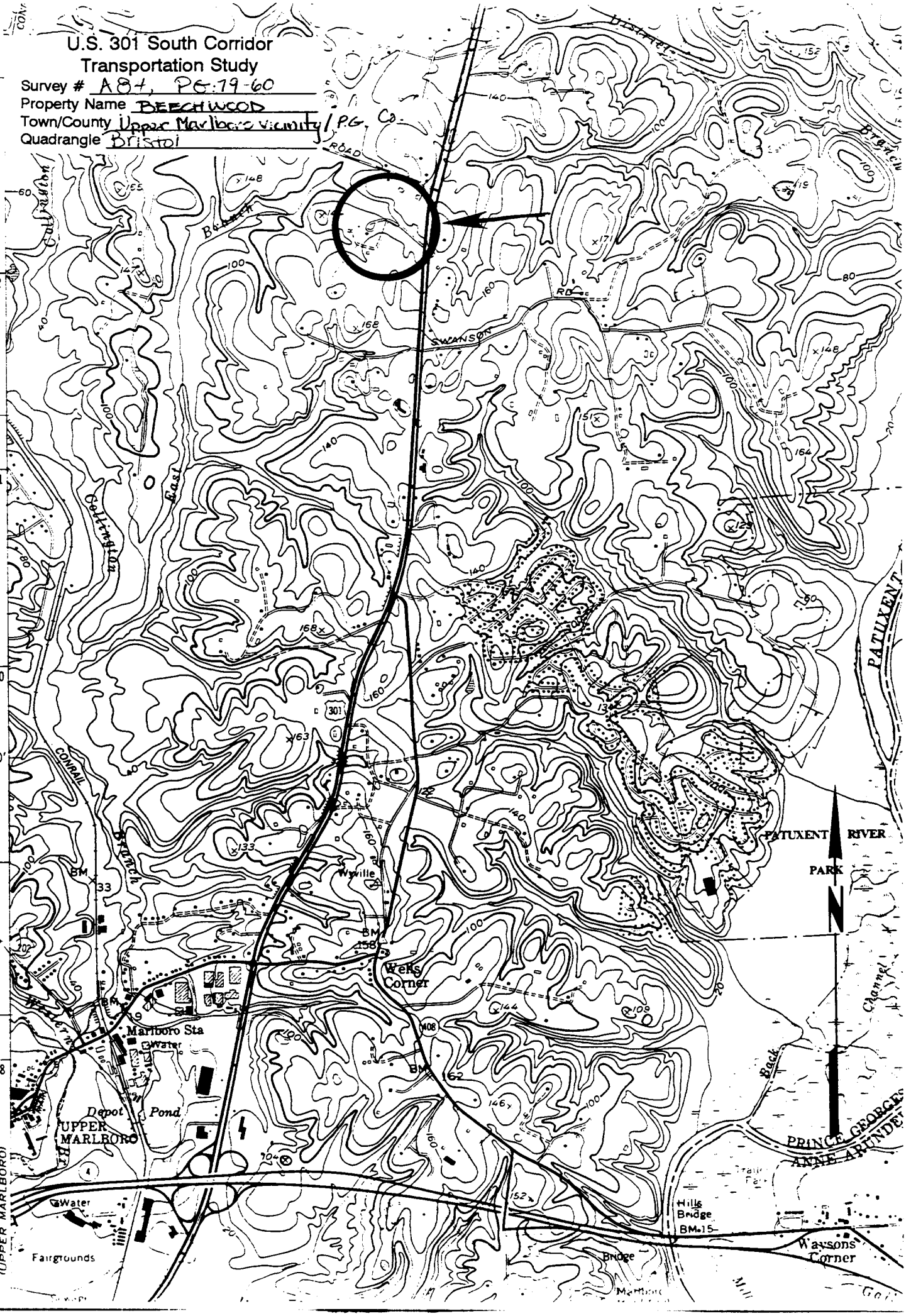
Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
September 1996

U.S. 301 South Corridor
Transportation Study

Survey # A84, PG:79-60
Property Name BEECHWOOD
Town/County Upper Marlboro vicinity / P.G. Co.
Quadrangle Bristol



PG:79-60

PG: 79-60

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #79-60 Building Date: 1913

Building Name: Beechwood

Location: 2301 Crain Highway SW, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Private/Residential/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

Beechwood is a two-story two-part frame hip-roof dwelling of the Neo-Classical style. It consists of a nearly square main block with two story portico, and an attached rear kitchen wing. The main block is three bays by three bays, with entrance in the third bay of the principal north facade. The door has a three-pane transom, two-pane sidelights and a plain board surround. Across this north facade is a two-story portico supported by tall wood Tuscan-style columns. The siding is plain horizontal board painted white. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, with plain board surrounds and black louvered shutters. The cornice is boxed, with crown molding. Extending to the south, flush with the east facade of the main block, is a lower two-story hip-roof kitchen wing. Interior of the main block consists of four spaces with the stairhall in the northwest space. The two-run, open-string staircase has a square panelled newel with applied wreath decoration, turned balusters and bracketed stairends. The parlor mantels are of wood, in the colonial Revival style.

Significance:

Beechwood is an outstanding example of the early twentieth century Neo-Classical style, and was the home of one of Prince George's County's most important genealogists. The original house at Beechwood was built at the beginning of the nineteenth century by George Hilleary on a tract known as Moore's Plains. It passed in 1815 to Hilleary's son, and in the second half of the nineteenth century was the home of Clotilda and Benjamin Bowie. In March 1913, a fire consumed the entire dwelling at Beechwood. Shortly thereafter, the Bowies had the present house built on the same site. The new house was a fine example of substantial Neo-Classical architecture: a large hip-roof roughly square dwelling with a monumental Tuscan portico across its principal facade, and Colonial Revival interior detail in its mantels and staircase. When Clotilda Bowie died in 1928, she left Beechwood to her "niece and adopted daughter", Effie Gwynn Bowie, who spent the rest of her life at Beechwood. In 1947 she published Across the Years in Prince George's County, which has become the standard reference on Prince George's County genealogy. Beechwood remained in the family until 1987. It is an outstanding example of Neo-Classical domestic architecture.

Acreage: 154.9 acres

Survey No. P.G.#79-60

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Beechwood

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2301 Crain Highway, S. W. (U.S. Route 301) ___ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro ___ 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	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Leeland Road Ltd. Partnership

street & number Watergate #460, 600 New Hampshire Ave. N. W. telephone no.:

city, town Washington, D. C. state and zip code 20037

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6560

street & number Main Street folio 228

city, town Upper Marlboro, 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. P.G.#79-60

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.

Beechwood is a two-story two-part frame hip-roof dwelling of the Neo-Classical style. It consists of a nearly square main block with two story portico, and an attached rear kitchen wing. Built in 1913, it stands in rolling farm land north of Upper Marlboro, and is distinguished by its monumental portico and its fine Neo-Classical detail.

The main block is three bays by three bays, with entrance in the third bay of the principal north facade. The door has a three-pane transom, two-pane sidelights and a plain board surround. Across this north facade is a two-story portico supported by tall wood Tuscan-style columns. They support a full entablature with double frieze and crown molding; the porch has a brick floor, and is approached by brick steps and a walk framed by yews.

The siding is plain horizontal board painted white. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, with plain board surrounds and black louvered shutters. The cornice is boxed, with crown molding. The hip roof is covered with gray asbestos shingle. There are two tall corbelled brick chimneys in the main block: one rises in the east, and one in the west plane of the roof. The brick foundation encloses a full basement.

There are several additions to the main block of the house. Extending to the west is the third (southmost) bay of the west facade is a one-story semi-octagonal bay; this addition rests on a (new) brick foundation and is lighted by two 9/9 windows. In a corresponding position on the east facade (in the first and second bays) there is a one-story flat-roof porch, supported by Tuscan columns and screen-enclosed. This porch, which is accessible from the parlor by French doors, is surmounted by a flat parapetted deck. A small rear porch, also supported by Tuscan columns, has been built into the southwest corner of the main block and wing; it is screen-enclosed, and rests on a high (new) brick foundation.

Extending to the south, flush with the east facade of the main block, is a lower two-story kitchen wing; it is one bay by two bays, has a hip roof, and is accessible by a small one-story shed-roof enclosed porch at the southeast. There is a corbelled brick chimney in the south plane of the kitchen roof.

Interior of the main block consists of four nearly equal spaces. The main entrance leads into the stairhall in the northwest space. The two-run, open-string staircase rises along the west wall of the stairhall, then turns 90° along the south wall to the second story. It has a square panelled newel with applied wreath decoration, turned balusters and bracketed stairends. Double doors (which retract into the east wall of the stairhall) lead into the front parlors in the northeast space. The mantel in the south wall of this parlor and the mantel in the adjoining

southeast parlor are identical: wood mantels in the Colonial Revival style with a central molded keystone. Door and windows surrounds are of multi-band molding with bullseye corner blocks. The mantels in the upstairs bedrooms have colonettes with applied wreath decoration. Other interior features include high molded baseboards and molded wood cornices.

Directly west of the house is a small shed roof shed, possibly a chicken coop. It is sided with wide vertical boards, and has a metal roof.

The house stands at the end of an unpaved drive which forms a circle north of the portico. Plantings immediately north of the house include boxwood, hollies, large maples and beeches.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#79-60

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	
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
_X_ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	_X_ other (specify)	
		___ invention		genealogy	

Specific dates 1913 **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.

Beechwood is a substantial frame farmhouse, built in 1913 on the site of an early nineteenth century dwelling destroyed by fire. It is an outstanding example of the early twentieth century Neo-Classical style; and was the home of one of Prince George's County's most important genealogists.

The original house at Beechwood was built at the beginning of the nineteenth century by George Hilleary on a tract known as Moore's Plains. It was a two-and-one-half story gable-roof frame dwelling of the side-stair-hall and double parlor plan, with a cellar-level kitchen and an attached lower wing at the side. Beechwood passed in 1815 to Hilleary's son, George Washington Hilleary, who in 1855 married Harriet Clotilda Gwynn; G.W. Hilleary died in 1863, and Beechwood remained his widow's home for another half century until it burned in March 1913.[1] The widow Hilleary married Benjamin H.C. Bowie in 1871. There were no children of either marriage, but the Bowies were in large part responsible for the upbringing of Mrs. Bowie's god-daughter and niece, Effie Gwynn (born 1869), who spent much of her childhood at Beechwood, and in 1894 married Richmond I. Bowie, younger brother of Benjamin H.C. Bowie.[2]

In March 1913, a fire which began in the smoke house consumed the entire dwelling at Beechwood. Shortly thereafter, Benjamin and Clotilda Bowie had the present house built on the same site.[3] The new house was a fine example of substantial Neo-Classical architecture: a large hip-roof roughly square dwelling with a monumental Tuscan portico across its principal facade, a kitchen wing to the rear, and Colonial Revival interior detail in its mantels and staircase.

Benjamin H.C. Bowie died in 1916, and his brother, Richmond I. Bowie, in 1923.. After that time, Effie Gwynn Bowie returned to Beechwood as a companion to her aged aunt. When Clotilda Bowie died in 1928, she left Beechwood to her "niece and adopted daughter".[4]

Effie Gwynn Bowie spent the rest of her life at Beechwood, much of this time being devoted to her historical and genealogical research. In 1947 she published Across the Years in Prince George's County, which has become the standard reference on Prince George's County genealogy.

In the later years of Effie Gwynn Bowie's life, her son, attorney A. Gwynn Bowie, and his family made their home at Beechwood. When Mrs. Bowie died in 1950, her will devised Beechwood to him "because he has for many years, and at my wish, made his home with me, and by his presence and in various ways has made it possible for me to live there. He has furthermore recently spent thousands of dollars in necessary repairs and definite improvements of the home, which I would not have allowed him to do without the assurance that in so doing he was preserving a home for himself, and his family --- as well as for me." She added her wish that Beechwood might "retain, as far as possible, the old atmosphere."[5] A. Gwynn Bowie died within seven years of his mother; his daughter continued to reside at Beechwood into the 1980's. The house has recently (February 1987) been sold to a development company which is beginning plans for a residential community.[6]

Beechwood is an outstanding example of early twentieth century Neo-Classical architecture, with fine Colonial Revival interior detail. It is closely associated with Effie Gwynn Bowie, whose genealogical research and writing have had a profound effect on the documentation of County history. As a twentieth century replacement of an earlier dwelling, it is an example of the continuity of County families and represents the economic, social and historical heritage of rural Prince George's County.

Notes

1 Bowie, Effie Gwynn, Across the Years in Prince George's County, 1947, pp. 1-14, illustration of nineteenth century house facing page 9; Prince George's County Equity #427.

2 Bowie, Effie Gwynn, Op.Cit.

3 ibid

4 ibid; Prince George's County Will WTD#1:546.

5 Prince George's County Will GSO #2:246

6 Prince George's County Estate file A12037; Prince George's County Deed #6560:228.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#79-60

cf. Notes, Item #8

cf. Chain of Title

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 154.9 acres

Tax Map 85, Parcel 35

Quadrangle name Bristol, Section A

Quadrangle scale

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 Historic Preservation Commission c/o M-NCPPC date July 1987

street & number #4010 C.A.B. 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.

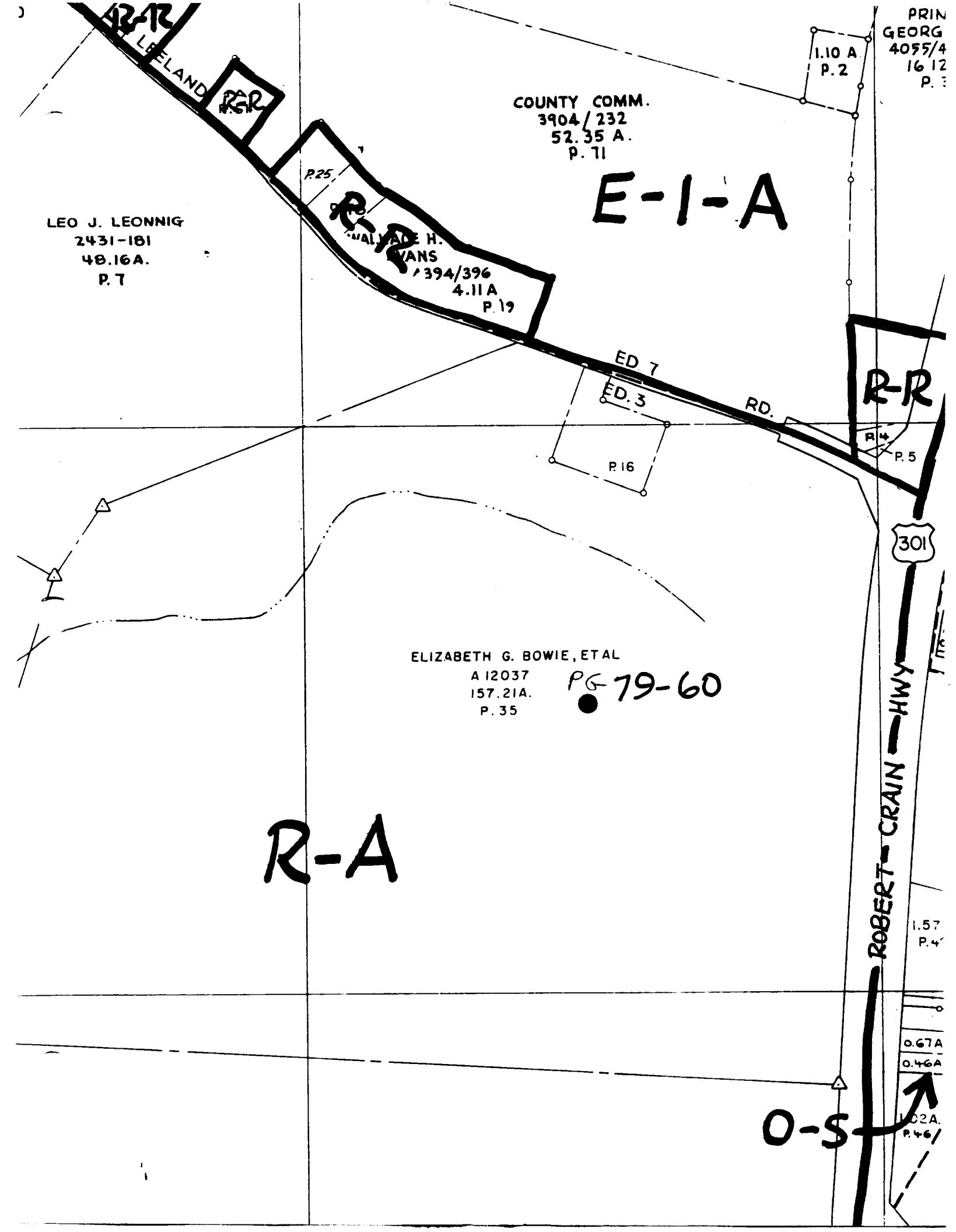
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

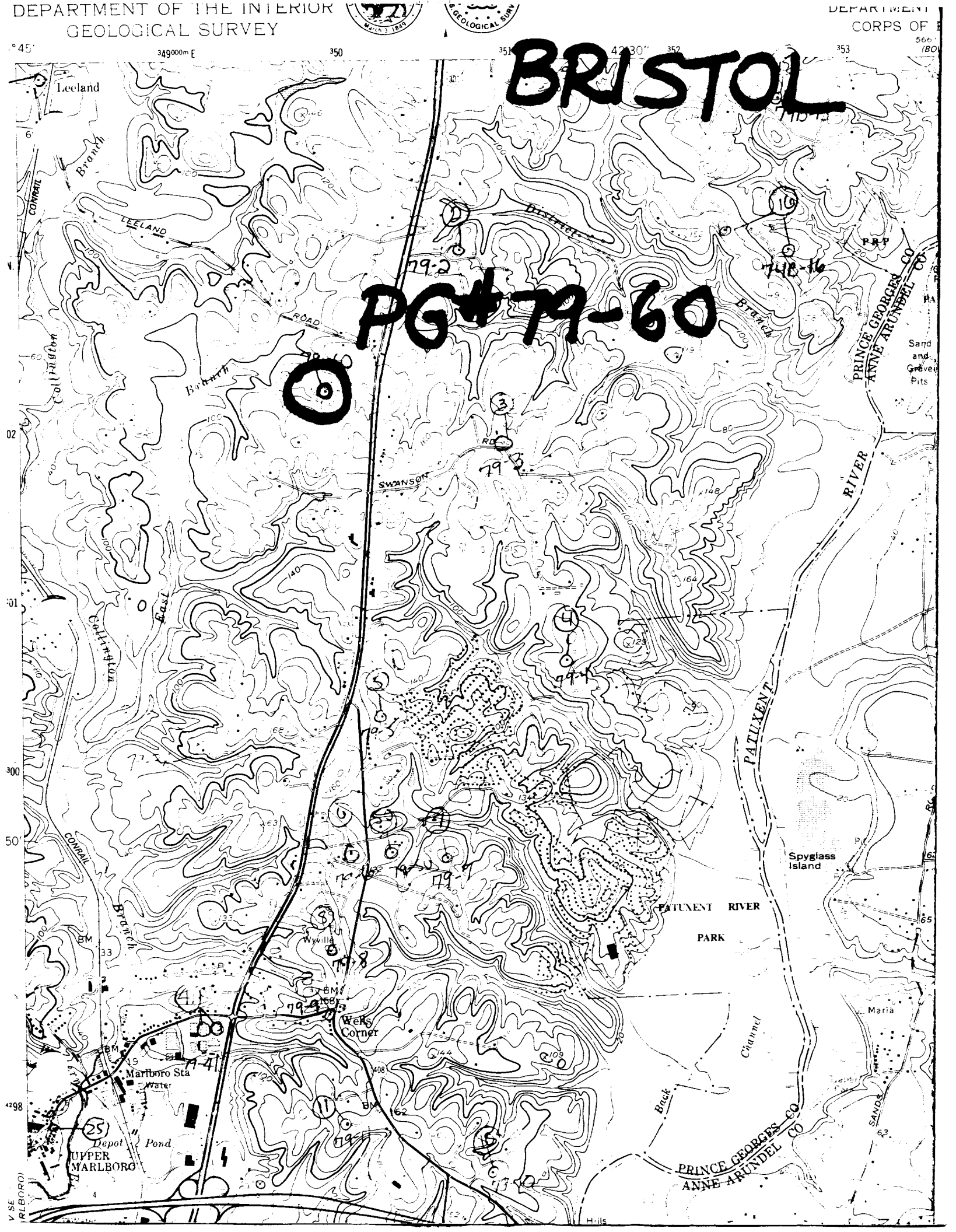
PS-2746

Chain of Title

Beechwood
P.G. #79-60

6550:228 17 Feb 1987 Deed	A. Gwynn Bowie, Jr. (representative of Elizabeth G. Bowie McWilliams, deceased), Elizabeth G. Bowie, and Roselynne Bowie Broussard to Leeland Road Limited Partnership, 154.9 acres on Crain Highway, Route 301.
A 12037 1957 Estate File	Andrew Gwynn Bowie, deceased intestate 27 March 1957, leaving widow Elizabeth G., son A. Gwynn Bowie, Jr., daughters Elizabeth G. and Roselynne Bowie; owned 157.75 acre farm in Marlboro District.
GSO #2:246 15 Aug 1950 Will	Testator, Effie Gwynn Bowie; devises to her son, Andrew Gwynn Bowie, Beechwood, "that [he and his wife] may continue to enjoy the home in which both have contributed to my happiness and comfort."
WTD #1:546 25 Jan 1928 Will	Testator, H. Clotilda Bowie; legacies to nieces and nephews, etc. "residue of real and personal estate to Effie Gwynn Bowie, my niece and adopted daughter."
#102:49 7 Dec 1914 Deed	Benjamin H.C. Bowie to H. Clotilda Bowie, all his interest in the George W. Hilleary estate conveyed to grantor and grantee by ATB #1:463.
ATB #1:463 13 Sept 1879 Deed	Stephen and Celestia Belt to Benjamin H.C. and H. Clotilda Bowie as joint tenants, all their interest in the real estate in which the grantees now reside, being the dower interest in the real estate of George W. Hilleary, which was laid off to H. Clotilda Bowie, formerly Hilleary, in the division of the real estate (Equity #427) of George W. Hilleary, containing 150 acres with the dwelling.
#427 1865 Equity	Division of real estate of George W. Hilleary, deceased intestate 1863: 150-acre dower lot including dwelling allotted to widow H. Clotilda Hilleary. (Lots 1,2 and 3 to representatives of deceased sisters and brother of George W. Hilleary).


R-R
LEELAND
R-R
P.25
R-R
COUNTY COMM.
3904/232
52.35 A.
P. 71
E-1-A
1.10 A
P. 2
PRIN
GEORG
4055/4
16 12
P.
LEO J. LEONNIG
2431-181
48.16A.
P. 7
394/396
4.11A
P. 19
ED. 7
RD.
ED. 3
P. 16
R-R
P. 4
P. 5
301
ELIZABETH G. BOWIE, ET AL
A 12037
157.21A.
P. 35
PG 79-60
R-A
ROBERT CRAIN HWY
1.57
P. 4
0.67A
0.46A
O-S
1.02A.
P. 46


DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DEPARTMENT
CORPS OF
BRISTOL
PG 79-60
Leeland
Branch
CONRAIL
LEELAND
District
ROAD
Collington
Branch
PRINCE GEORGES CO
ANNE ARUNDEL CO
Sand and Gravel Pits
SWANSON
RIVER
East
Collington
PATUXENT
CONRAIL
Branch
Spyglass Island
PATUXENT RIVER
PARK
Wyville
Weks Corner
Marlboro Sta
Water
Depot
Pond
UPPER MARLBORO
Maria
Channel
Back
SANDS
PRINCE GEORGES CO
ANNE ARUNDEL CO
Hills

P.G. #79-60
Beechwood
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
June 1987
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.

P.G. #79-60
Beechwood
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
June 1987
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.

P.G. #79-60
Beechwood
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
June 1987
South detail
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.

P.G. #79-60
Beechwood
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
June 1987
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.

P.G. #79-60
Beechwood
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
June 1987
Mantel, northeast parlor
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.

P.G. #79-60
Beechwood
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
June 1987
Stairhall
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.