

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Bengies Community Center
Eastern Avenue and Bowley's Quarter Road
BA-2823

The Bengies Community Center is located at the southeast corner of Eastern Avenue and Bowley's Quarters Road. Based on deed research, the property now occupied by the Bengies Community Center was purchased from Annie Harris in 1929 by the Board of Education. The Board proceeded to erect a school building on the site. Based on the appearance of the school, however, the building seems to date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The form of the building is very similar in appearance to the eastern end of the Old Chase School (BA-1852), renovated by the Board of Education in the 1890s, and the old Cowenton School, built 1915. Lending credence to the possibility that the school may have been moved to this location and placed on a concrete block foundation is the fact that Eastern Avenue was relocated and does not exactly follow its original route.

Colonial Revival in design, the one-story, wood frame building is set on a solid, rockfaced concrete block foundation. The walls have been clad in vinyl siding, obscuring the original siding, and the side gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A small gable roof entry vestibule projects from the facade, and a brick chimney, previously exterior end, rises at the southwest end of the gable roof. Originally constructed as a school, it followed typical schoolhouse design of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. One-story, wood-frame, shed roof additions have been erected at the southwest and southeast elevations. The southwest addition has been stuccoed, and the southeast addition, like the main building, has been clad in vinyl siding.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. BA-2823

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____

common/other name Bengies Community Center

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number Eastern Avenue and Bowleys Quarters Road

not for publication city or town Baltimore vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Baltimore code 005

zip code 21220

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes Name of Listing _____

No

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Community Center
Eastern Avenue and Bowleys Quarters Road
Baltimore County, Maryland

Inventory No. BA-2823
Page 2

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: Community Center

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Solid: Rockfaced Concrete Block
roof Gable: Asphalt Shingles
walls Wood Frame: Vinyl Siding
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Community Center
Eastern Avenue and Bowleys Quarters Road
Baltimore County, Maryland

Inventory No. BA-2823
Page 4

=====
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Education

Period of Significance 1929-present

Significant Dates 1929

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Baltimore County Land Records, Recorder of Deeds, Baltimore County, Towson, Maryland.

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property .359 Acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property associated with the Bengies Community Center is designated as Parcel 170 as indicated on Tax Map 91, Grid 4.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property associated with Bengies Community Center has historically been associated with Parcel 170 since the construction of the building in 1929.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Andrea Bakewell Lowery, Architectural Historian
organization Traceries date August 18, 1997
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====
12. Property Owner
=====

name Baltimore County, Maryland
street & number Court House, Comm. Bldg. telephone _____
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21204
=====

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-2823

Section 7 Page 1

Community Center
name of property
Baltimore County, MD
county and state

=====

The Bengies Community Center, 11601 Eastern Avenue, is located at the southeast corner of Bowleys Quarters Road and Eastern Avenue. A playground is located to the south and east of the building, and borders are defined by trees at the west and a chain-link fence at the east. Colonial Revival in design, the one-story, wood frame building is set on a solid, rockfaced concrete block foundation. The walls have been clad in vinyl siding, obscuring the original siding, and the side gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A small gable roof entry vestibule projects from the facade, and a brick chimney, previously exterior end, rises at the southwest end of the gable roof. Originally constructed as a school, it followed typical schoolhouse design of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. One-story, wood-frame, shed roof additions have been erected at the southwest and southeast elevations. The southwest addition has been stuccoed, and the southeast addition, like the main building, has been clad in vinyl siding.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The northwest elevation, the facade of the building, is symmetrical with a smaller shed roof addition at the west end of the elevation. A gable roof entrance vestibule marks the center of the original portion of the building. On the projecting northwest elevation of the vestibule is a replacement doorway. This opening originally accommodated a pair of doors; the opening has been in-filled with a single-leaf, flush metal door with lights, and filling the rest of the opening is a metal and glass sidelight. Each side wall of the entry vestibule is marked with a 2-light, fixed, metal window. To either side of the entry vestibule the first story of the northwest elevation is articulated with a group of five 1/1, metal windows. A single-leaf panel-and-light, metal door is located in the northwest elevation of the addition.

The original southwest elevation of the building has been obscured by the one-story, wood frame, shed roof addition. The southwest elevation of the addition is blind.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-2823

Section 7 Page 2

Community Center
name of property
Baltimore County, MD
county and state

=====

The original rear wall of the building, the southeast elevation, has been obscured with a one-story, wood frame addition. A flight of concrete steps leads to the centrally placed doorway at this elevation. As at the facade, this opening originally accommodated a pair of doors; this opening has been in-filled with a single-leaf, flush metal door with lights, and filling the rest of the opening is a metal and glass sidelight. To the west of the doorway are three pairs of 1/1 metal windows, and to the east are two pairs of smaller 1/1 metal windows.

At the northeast elevation, a single window opening, now boarded up pierces the parged foundation wall of the addition. The gable end wall of the original building is blind at this elevation, but the wall of the addition contains two 1/1 metal windows.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-2823

Section 8 Page 1

Community Center
name of property
Baltimore, Maryland
county and state

=====
The Bengies Community Center is located at the southeast corner of Eastern Avenue and Bowleys Quarters Road. Based on deed research, the property now occupied by the Bengies Community Center was purchased from Annie Harris in 1929 by the Board of Education. The Board proceeded to erect a school building on the site. Based on the appearance of the school, however, the building seems to date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The form of the building is very similar in appearance to the eastern end of the Old Chase School (BA-1852), renovated by the Board of Education in the 1890s, and the old Cowenton School, built 1915. Lending credence to the possibility that the school may have been moved to this location and placed on a concrete block foundation is the fact that Eastern Avenue was relocated and does not exactly follow its original route.

As documented by maps, this intersection was historically the site of a schoolhouse. As early as 1857, there was a school known as the White House School near this intersection. By 1877, a school house for white students was located at the western corner of the intersection of Bowleys Quarters Road and Carroll Island Road, approximately half a mile south of Eastern Avenue along Bowleys Quarters Road. A school for African American students was located on the south side of Eastern Avenue half a mile east of Bowleys Quarters Road. In 1898, while the white schoolhouse remained in the same location, the African American school had moved across the street. The 1915 Bromley Atlas of Baltimore County shows these two buildings in the same location.

The school, now Bengies Community Center, was dedicated to African American students. As the two schools noted on the Bromley Atlas fail to appear on maps later than 1915, this school may have been constructed to replace the African American school to the east.

The Board of Education sold the property to Baltimore County in 1972. Since that time, it has served the Bengies-Chase community as a community center.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-2823

Section 8 Page 2

Community Center
name of property
Baltimore, Maryland
county and state

=====
National Register Evaluation:

The Bengies Community Center at 11601 Eastern Avenue is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Despite the fact that the building once served as a school, preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of the turn-of-the-20th-century school form, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility recommended _____	Not Recommended <u>X</u>
Comments: _____ _____ _____	
Review, OPS: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/19/97</u>
Reviewer, NR Program: _____	Date: _____

[Handwritten signature]

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-2823

Community Center
name of property
Baltimore County, MD
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and Community
Planning
Social/Educational/Cultural

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): EDUCATION/School

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-2823

Community Center
name of property
Baltimore County, MD
county and state

=====
Chain of Title:

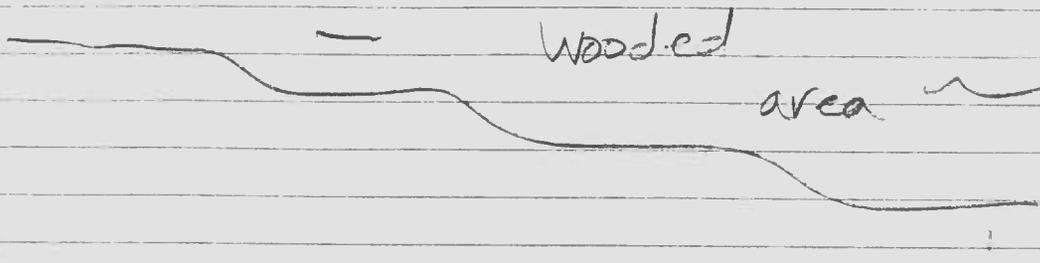
- February 19, 1913: Mary L. Townsend to Virginia E. Harris (died
October 11, 1925, left property to Annie E.
Harris)
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber WPC 405 Folio 593
- August 16, 1929: Annie C. Harris, widow to Board of Eduation of
Baltimore County
2 acres
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber LMCLM 831 Folio 320
- January 7, 1972: Board of Education of Baltimore County to
Baltimore County, MD
Property sold according to Article 77, Section
4(a) of Annotated Code of Maryland
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 5256 Folio 242

SKETCH MAP

BA-2823

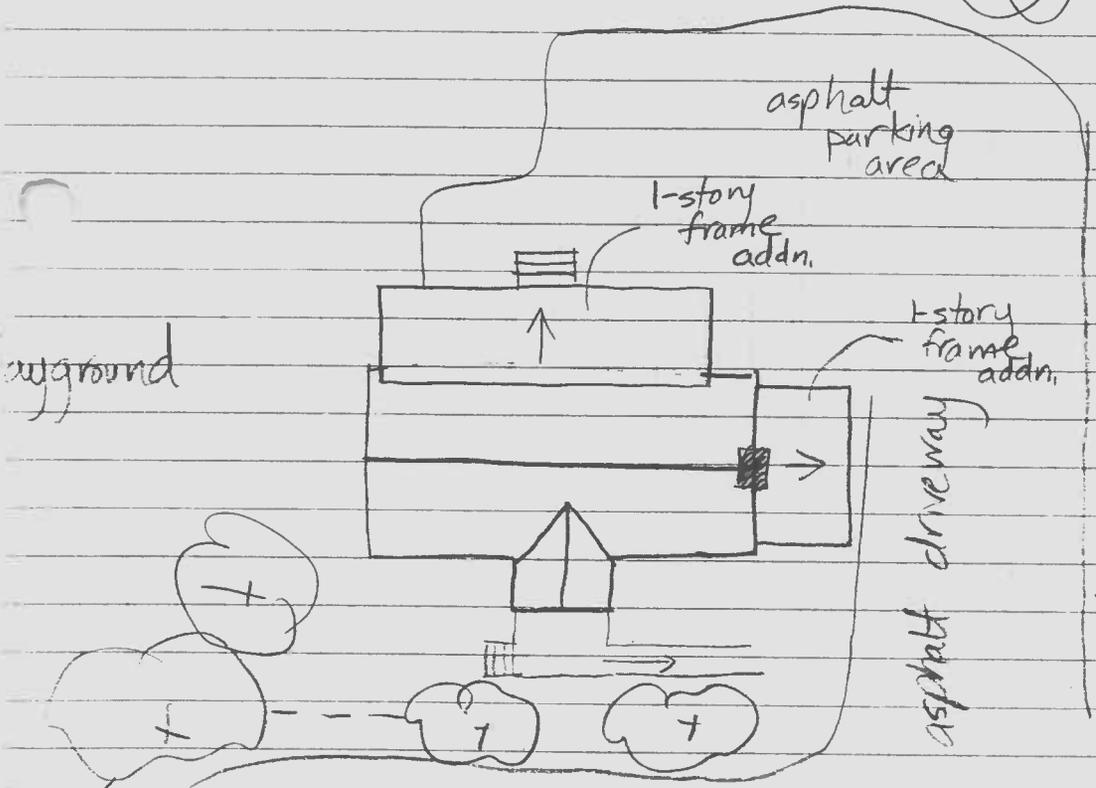
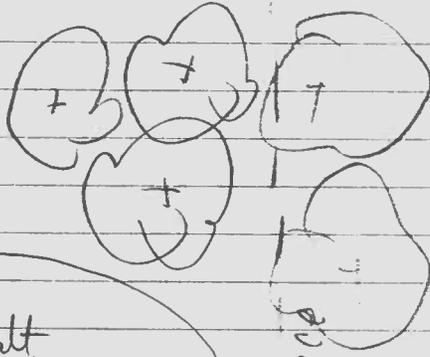
N
↙

11601 Eastern Ave.
Baltimore, MD Baltimore County
Bengies Community Building



Wooded area

Playground



yardground

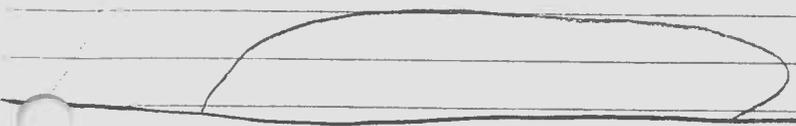
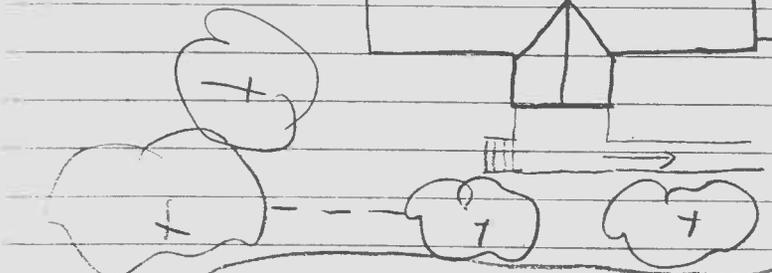
asphalt parking area

1-story frame addn.

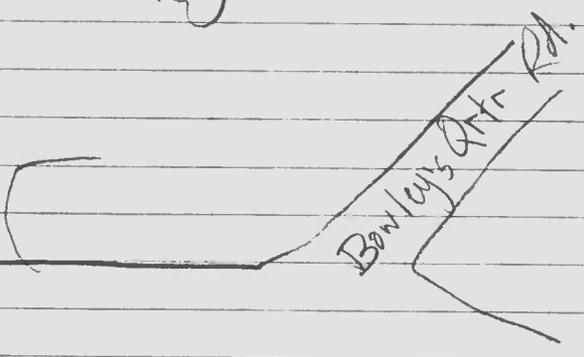
1-story frame addn.

asphalt driveway

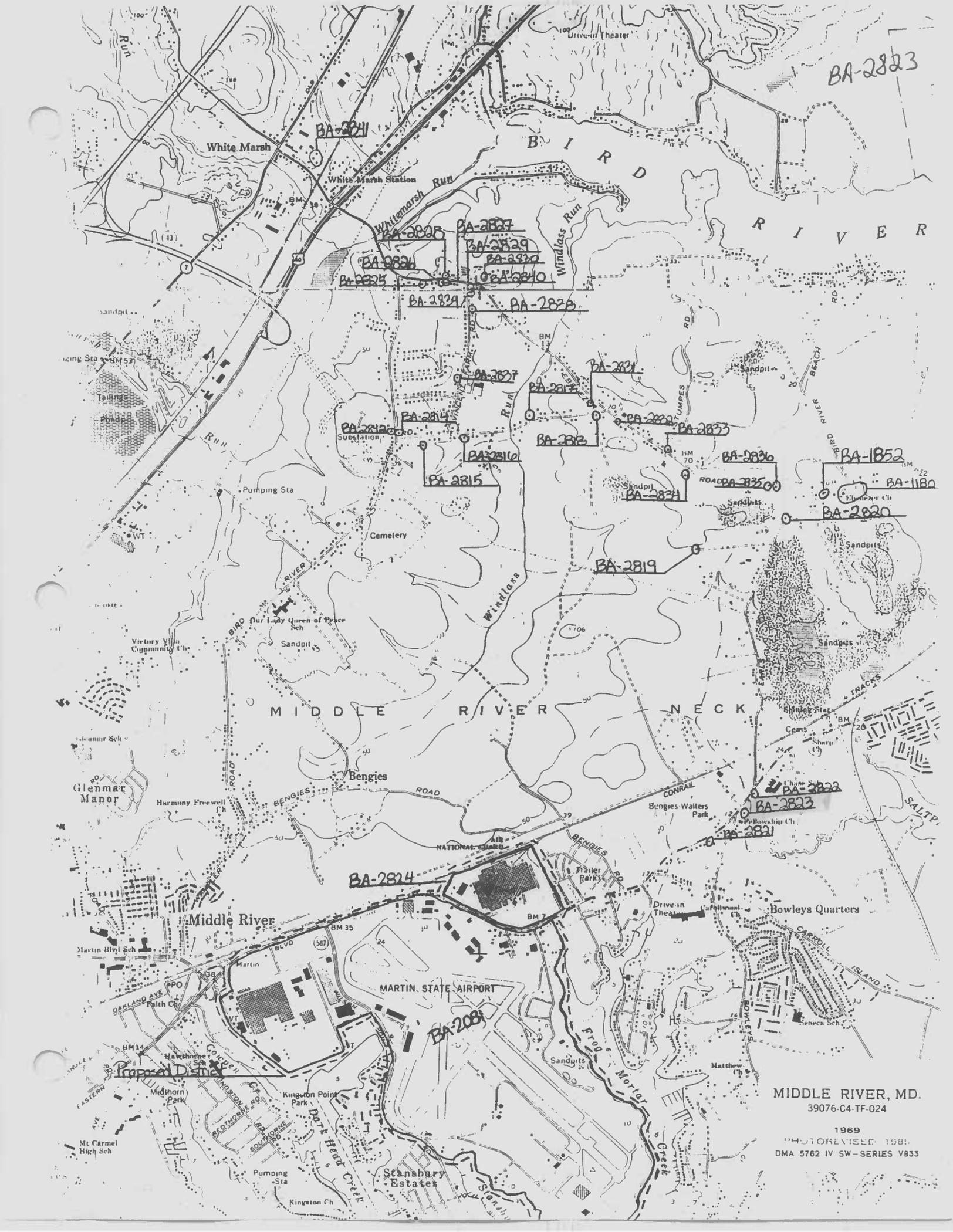
Chainlink fence



Eastern Blvd.



Bowleys Qtr Rd.



BA-2823

BA-2824

BA-2825

BA-2826

BA-2827

BA-2828

BA-2829

BA-2830

BA-2831

BA-2832

BA-2833

BA-2834

BA-2835

BA-2836

BA-2837

BA-2838

BA-2839

BA-2840

BA-2841

BA-2842

BA-2843

BA-2844

BA-2845

BA-2846

BA-2847

BA-2848

BA-2849

BA-2850

BA-2851

BA-2852

BA-2853

BA-2854

BA-2855

BA-2856

BA-2857

BA-2858

BA-2859

BA-2860

BA-2861

BA-2862

BA-2863

BA-2864

BA-2865

BA-2866

BA-2867

BA-2868

BA-1852

BA-1180

BA-2820

BA-2819

BA-2836

BA-2837

BA-2838

BA-2839

BA-2840

BA-2841

BA-2842

BA-2843

BA-2844

BA-2845

BA-2846

BA-2847

BA-2848

BA-2849

BA-2850

BA-2851

BA-2852

BA-2853

BA-2854

BA-2855

BA-2856

BA-2857

BA-2858

BA-2859

BA-2860

BA-2861

BA-2862

BA-2863

BA-2864

BA-2865

BA-2866

BA-2867

MIDDLE RIVER, MD.
39076-C4-TF-024

1969
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 5762 IV SW-SERIES V833



BA-2823

BENGIES COMMUNITY CENTER
BALTIMORE, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH CORNER

1 OF 4



BA-2823

BENGIES COMMUNITY CENTER
BALTIMORE, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

SW ELEVATION

2 OF 4



BA-2823

BENGIES COMMUNITY CENTER

BALTIMORE, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

SE ELEVATION

3 OF 4



BA-2823
BENGIES COMMUNITY CENTER
BALTIMORE, MD
TRACERIES

JULY 1997
MARYLAND SHPO
NE ELEVATION
40F4