

CT-1253  
3905 Bay Avenue  
North Beach, Calvert County  
Private

Constructed in the mid-to-late 1920s, the dwelling at 3905 5th Street, known as "Provoley," is a modest gable-front dwelling. With its narrow, deep proportions that are well suited to the town's small building lots, this house is a good example of a common North Beach building type. This 1 1/2 story, gable-front dwelling has a low-pitch roof with exposed rafter ends, walls sheathed in German siding, and rests on a concrete block foundation. An engaged screen porch wraps around the east side of the house. The dwelling is in good condition and retains most of its historic materials, though two oak trees flanking the front step are undermining the foundation.

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

**North Beach, Calvert County Survey**  
**Survey Numbers CT-1215 through CT-1253**  
**(excepting CT-1217, -1238, -1238, -1240, -1250 and-1251 )**

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Developmental Period(s):** 1870-1930; 1930-Present

**Historic Period Theme(s):** 2) Architecture, Landscape and Community Planning

7) Social/Education/Cultural

**Resource Type:**

**Category:** building

**Historic Environment:** urban

**Historic Function(s) and Use(s):** dwelling

**Known Design Source:** none

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. CT-1253

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Provoley

and/or common 3905 5th Street

## 2. Location

street & number 3905 5th Street  not for publicationcity, town North Beach  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Calvert

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mona V. Merrill

street &amp; number 25 Goldstein Road telephone no.:

city, town Prince Frederick state and zip code: Maryland 20678

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber ABE 370

street &amp; number 310 Main Street folio 864

city, town state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Evaluated in *Architectural Survey and Historic District Evaluation: North Beach, Maryland*date June, 1998  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No.

CT-1253

**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.

3905 5<sup>th</sup> Street is located on a narrow lot on the north side of the road, and is closely situated between two neighboring dwellings. It sits back from the street approximately 15'. A large deciduous tree is located on either side of the poured concrete sidewalk that leads up to the house. The tree's root system is now undermining the building's foundation. This is a one-and-a-half story, gable-front, frame dwelling, with walls sheathed in German siding and resting on a low concrete block foundation. The building's open eaves are embellished with exposed rafter ends. The full-engaged screen porch wraps around on the dwellings east side. Lower walls of the porch appear to be rebuilt with plywood. A small metal awning protects the centrally-located front entrance. The upper portion of the gable contains a four-light casement window. Fenestration throughout the remainder of the house is 2/2 type windows. Sidewalls each contain three equally-spaced window openings.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1253

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"/> 00-1499	<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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) (recreation)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect						
Check: Applicable Criteria: and/or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D			
Applicable Exception:	<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
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local				

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This building is significant for its association with the architectural development of the early-20th century summer colony and resort community of North Beach, Maryland. Please refer to the continuation sheet for an historical sketch of the town.

This modest, gable-front dwelling is a good example of a common North Beach vernacular building type. Its narrow and deep proportions are well suited to the town's small building lots. The employment of German siding, exposed rafter ends and large porches are common North Beach construction features.

In 1919 this lot was unimproved. It, as well as most of the block, was owned by Holly Herald. The current structure is believed to have been built in the mid-to late 1920s. It appears on the 1930s Sanborn map and is identified as Provoley.

## Section 8: History and Significance

North Beach is a fair to good example of an early 20th century summer resort colony and is a Maryland example of a national trend in community development initiated by the Industrial Revolution. Communities such as North Beach were a result of the growing middle class, mobility and consumerism resulting from the industrial economy that dominated the period. Dozens of beach resorts developed around the Chesapeake Bay in the years between the end of the Civil War and the Great Depression. Some, such as Gibson Island, catered to a rich, white, gentile clientele, while Highland Beach is an example of an African-American summer colony. North Beach was in the middle of the social spectrum. While deed restrictions excluded blacks, Jews were well represented in early North Beach. Excepting this major exclusion, by the standards of the day, North Beach was a heterogeneous middle-class summer community.

North Beach was platted in 1900 (revised in 1908) and incorporated in 1910. The town was developed by a group of principally Washington-based businessmen with ties to railroad, labor and banking. Conceived as a summer residential community and resort, the town was laid out according to a standard grid. In addition to houses, the town featured a variety of tourist and recreation-oriented businesses including theaters, restaurants, dance halls, bingo parlors, amusement arcades, and night clubs--including several gay clubs.

Most surviving historic buildings were constructed in the 1920s and 1930s, and include a good collection of early-20th century vernacular buildings. Represented building types include bungalows, shotguns, American Four Square and gable-front cottages. Most commercial buildings are either destroyed or extremely altered. Many of the town's historic structures were altered in the years immediately following World War II. In the post-war years North Beach completed a transformation begun in the 1930s, from a resort and summer colony to a permanent suburban community.





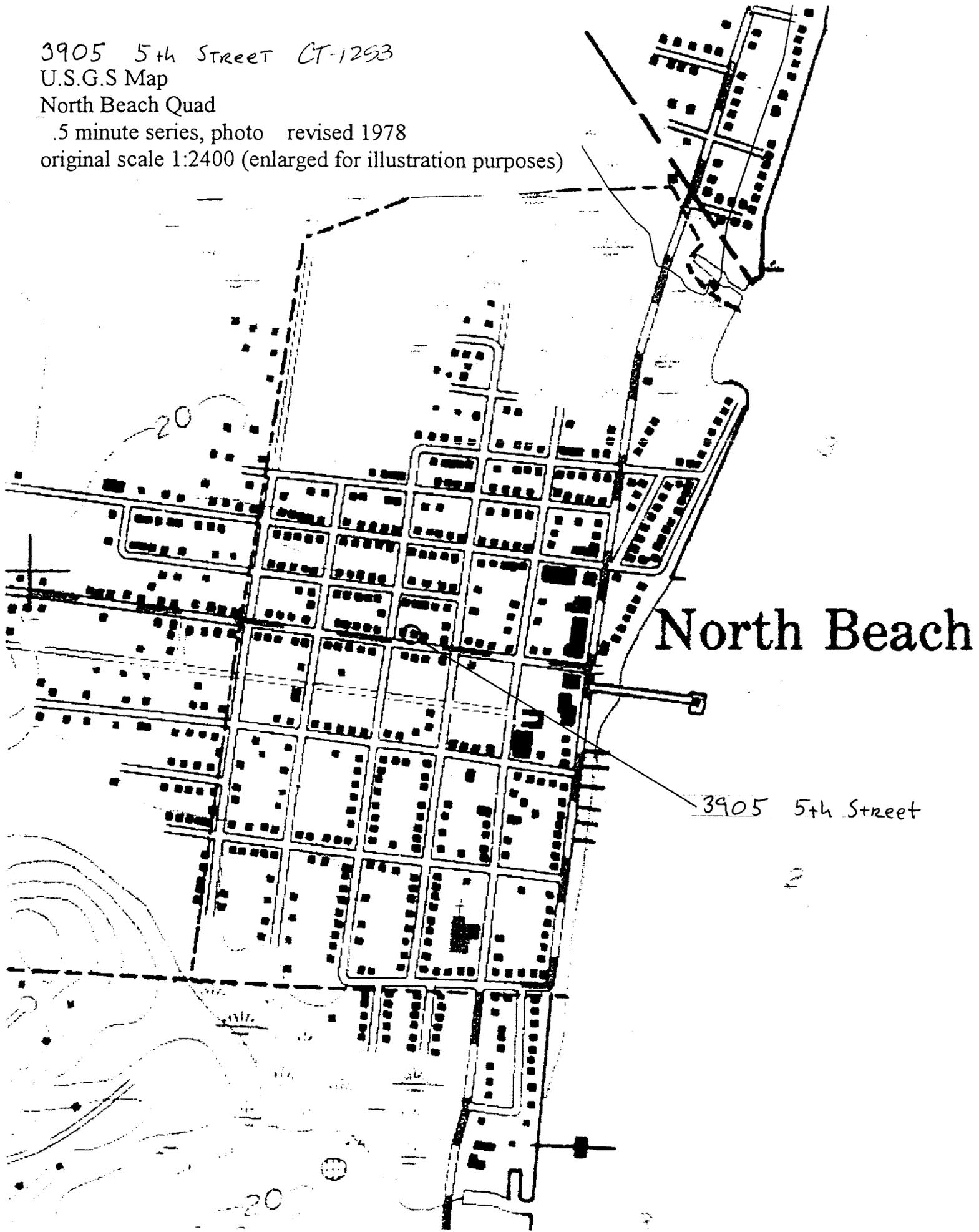
3905 5th Street CT-1293

U.S.G.S Map

North Beach Quad

.5 minute series, photo revised 1978

original scale 1:2400 (enlarged for illustration purposes)



North Beach

3905 5th Street



CT- 1253

3905 5th St, North Beach

CALVERT COUNTY

SHERRI MARSH, Photographer

5/10/98

South elevation

1/1