Capsule Summary
SM-499
F. O. Bowles Store
Hollywood
Private

1903

The F. O. Bowles Store is significant as a typical example of the local general store that traditionally served St. Mary's countians for much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These stores served both as the center of local trade and as a place of social gathering. The Bowles Store is a well-preserved example of this building type.

Joseph E. "Bud" Evans purchased 1 1/4 acres of Mary E. G. Magee's farm in 1903 for fifteen dollars. In that same year he built the structure that later became known as the F. O. Bowles Store. Evans sold the improved property, consisting of the center section of the store, in 1906 to Blanche G. McKay. During the McKay ownership, the north wing was constructed for use as a dwelling. W. W. Bowles, the proprietor of a store on Sotterly Wharf, purchased the store house and lot from Magee in 1910. Between 1910 and 1944 the store was transfered five times, though frequently between members of the Bowles family.

In 1944, Francis Oswald Bowles purchased the store which he continued to operate until his death in 1981. The F. O. Bowles Store stocked groceries and general merchandise. For many years the store owner lived in the dwelling attached to the north end of the store. A bar, attached to the east end of the store, was operated here until the 1940s. Following the store's closure in the 1980s, its interior fittings were sold by the owner to an antique dealer in Lusby, Maryland. The store building is currently being used for storage.

SM-499, F. O. Bowles Store
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Industrial-Urban Dominance, 1870 - 1930.
Historic Period Theme:	Commerce

Resource Type

Category:	Structure
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Store
Known Design Source:	none

Survey No. SM-499

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common F.O.Bowles Store

2. Location

street & number Sotterley Gate Road ___ not for publication

city, town Hollywood ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

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

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

name Ann Bowles

street & number Rt. 3 Box 697 telephone no.: 301-373-2862

city, town Hollwy Hollywood state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber CBG 16

street & number folio 55

city, town Leonardtown state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-499

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
X fair	___ unexposed		

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

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The F.O.Bowles Store is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Sotterly Gate Road and Forest Landing Road. One outbuilding is located on the property. The store faces south with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1903, the F.O.Bowles Store is a one-story, frame structure supported by a concrete pier foundation. The exterior is sheathed with weatherboard siding attached with cut nails and the roof is covered with corrugated metal.

The south (main) elevation is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows and a central, vertical panel entrance door. The windows have narrow surrounds with an interior bead. A hipped-roof porch supported by chamfered posts extends across the first floor of this elevation. The porch has a seamed metal roof and a cement pad floor. The roof ridgeline of this section of the store is pierced by an interior brick chimney. To the east of these three bays is a secondary entrance door and a six-over-six sash window with narrow surrounds and an interior bead. A one-story addition extends to the east. The addition is supported by a concrete foundation and is pierced by a vertical panel door. The door is sheltered by a small shed-roof portico.

The east elevation of the one-story addition is pierced by one six-over-six sash window with narrow surrounds and an interior bead. The eave of the main block is pierced by a six-over-six sash window.

The north elevation of the store is blind. A one-and-a-half story gable-end wing extends from the main block of the store to the north.

The west elevation of the store's north wing is pierced by one six-over-six sash window and a vertical panel entrance door. Both the door and window have narrow surrounds with an interior bead. The roofline of this wing is broken by a cross gable. The west elevation of the main block is pierced by two six-over-six sash windows. One of these is now boarded over. A six-over-six sash window also lights the eave of the main block.

The interior of the store is currently used for storage and was not seen.

The one outbuilding located on the property is a small shed-roof structure sheathed with vertical panels and roofed with metal.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-499

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

Specific dates 1903 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B XC __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state X local

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

The F. O. Bowles Store is significant as a typical example of the local general store that traditionally served St. Mary's countians for much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These stores served both as the center of local trade and as a place of social gathering. The Bowles Store is a well-preserved example of this building type.

Joseph E. "Bud" Evans purchased 1 1/4 acres of Mary E. G. Magee's farm in 1903 for fifteen dollars. In that same year he built the structure that later became known as the F. O. Bowles Store. Evans sold the improved property in 1906 to Blanche G. McKay. W. W. Bowles, the proprietor of a store on Sotterly Wharf, purchased the store house and lot from Magee in 1910. Between 1910 and 1944 the store was transfered five times, though frequently between members of the Bowles family.

A deed of 1922 notes that the store is located on a parcel at "Uniontown." This area on Sotterley Gate Road was known as Uniontown during the early twentieth century. There are two explanations for the source of the name. Mrs. Bowles said that a group of Union soldiers had supposedly camped nearby during the Civil War and the area was named for them. The other explanation gives credit to Bud Evans for naming the area with the intent that it would be a place for the union of all the different people in the community.

In 1944, Francis Oswald Bowles purchased the store which he continued to operate until his death in 1981. The F. O. Bowles Store stocked groceries and general merchandise. For many years the store owner lived in the dwelling attached to the north end of the store. A bar, attached to the east end of the store, was operated here until the 1940s. Following the store's closure in the 1980s, its interior fittings were sold by the owner to an antique dealer in Lusby, Maryland. The store building is currently being used for storage.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-499

Ann Noema Bowles. Telephone Interview, May 1995.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.25 acres

Quadrangle name Hollywood **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 Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County DPZ **date** April 1995

street & number **telephone** 301-475-4662

city or town Leonardtown **state** MD

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

SM-499, F. O. Bowles Store
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Francis Oswald Bowles and Ann Noema Bowles
FROM: W. Wallace Bowles, widower.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 16, folio 55.
DATE: March 17, 1944.
NOTES: Transfer of that lot upon which is located the store house now occupied by W. Wallace Bowles.

TO: W. Wallace Bowles and Ellen J. Bowles
FROM: William I. Bowles
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 8, folio 314.
DATE: August 14, 1933.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 1/4 acres.

TO: William I. Bowles
FROM: W. Wallace Bowles
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 8, folio 314.
DATE: August 14, 1933.
NOTES: Transfer of that lot at Uniontown upon which is located the store house now occupied by W. Wallace Bowles.

TO: W. Wallace Bowles
FROM: Philip C. Readmond and Emma W. Readmond
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 3, folio 68.
DATE: March 12, 1925.
NOTES: Transfer of all that lot being at Uniontown upon which is located the storehouse now occupied by the said Philip C. Readmond being 1 1/4 acres.

TO: Philip C. Readmond
FROM: W. Wallace Bowles and Ellen J. Bowles
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 1, folio 110.
DATE: August 1, 1922.
NOTES: Transfer of a parcel at Uniontown upon which is located the storehouse recently occupied by W. W. Bowles in his mercantile business. Price: $2500

TO: Philip C. Readmond
FROM: W. Wallace Bowles and Ellen J. Bowles
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 20, 500.
DATE: May 4, 1922.
NOTES: (Bond of Conveyance) Transfer of "the tract upon which his storehouse is

now located...at the forks of the public road running to Sotterly and Forrest Landing and running with the Sotterly road 240 yards northeast course to a stob, thence across to the Forrest Landing road to a stob 165 yards southwest course thence with the road to the beginning being 1 1/4 acres, also the fixtures and appliances used by him in his mercantile business in his store on the property above mentioned such as showcases, scales, weioghts, measures, lamps, kerosene and gasoline oil tanks, etc., his iron safe only excepted. Price: $2500

TO: W. Wallace Bowles
FROM: Blanche G. McKay and William O. McKay
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 8, folio 380.
DATE: April 27, 1910.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 1/4 acres. Price: $1000.

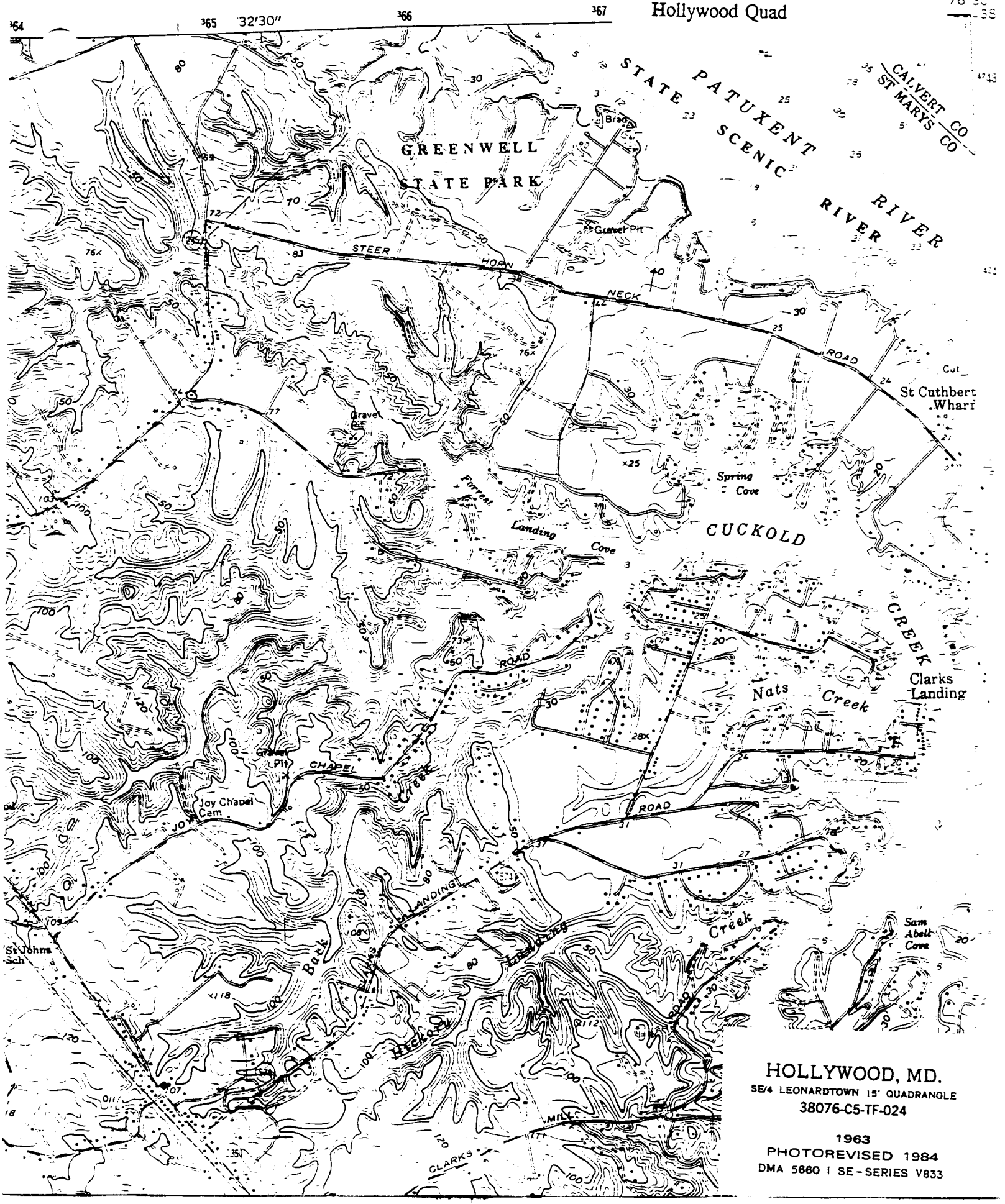
TO: Blanche G. McKay
FROM: Joseph E. Evans and Ann Evans
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 6, folio 283.
DATE: December 15, 1906.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 1/4 acres. Price: $500.

TO: Joseph E. Evans
FROM: Mary E. G. Magee
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber EBA 3, folio 196.
DATE: May 18, 1903.
NOTES: Transfer of 1 1/4 acres being a part of the farm which Mary E. G. Magee obtained by deed from B. Harris Camalier and a part of a land which Charles R. Brower died possessed. Price: $15.

HOLLYWOOD QUADRANGLE

SM-499 Bowles Store
Hollywood
Hollywood Quad

(C)



HOLLYWOOD, MD.
SE/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE
38076-C5-TF-024

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 5660 I SE-SERIES V833

F.O.
BOWLES