



MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling/Residence

Known Design Source: Unknown

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. **WI 184**

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

AMENDED FORM

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

historic John Edmund Parsons House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number R.F.D. 2 (Jersey Road), Box 7765  not for publication

city, town Salisbury  vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district \_\_\_\_\_

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>vacant</u>

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

name Shirley Quarles

street & number R.F.D. 2 (Jersey Road) Box 7765 telephone no.: 301-546-6958

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courthouse liber 1365

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ folio 219

city, town Salisbury 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. WI 184

**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.

SEE ATTACHED 7.2

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI 184

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

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<b>Specific dates</b>	ca. 1908	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	John Edmund Parsons
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check: Applicable Criteria: N/A A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception: N/A A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
Level of Significance: N/A national  state  local

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

SEE ATTACHED 8.2

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI 184

Personal Communication with Franklin Parsons  
Original inventory form by James Gibb, Archeologist

# 10. Geographical Data

acreage of <sup>inventoried</sup> ~~nominated~~ property — less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Delmar

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Existing tax parcel

## 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 Rita Suffness, Architectural Historian (Amended form)  
James Gibb, Archeological Consultant

organization Maryland State Highway Admin. date February 25, 1994

street & number 707 N. Calvert St. telephone 410 333 1183

city or town Baltimore state MD 21202

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  
514-7100

WI 184

John Edmund Parsons House  
Wicomico County, Maryland

Description

Continuation Sheet 7.2

This property is located in a rural area on the outskirts of Salisbury, the county seat of Wicomico County. It is an area undergoing suburbanization; there is a new subdivision just south of the property. It is reached by means of a long dirt road which extends east from Jersey Road, accessing the Parsons House on the south and a largely wooded property on the north, purchased by the Parsons' descendants in ca. 1950.

The property, originally a modestly scaled farm in the early twentieth century, has been reduced to less than 1 acre, due to the division of the land among heirs, starting in 1925 with the death of John Edmund Parsons. Subsequent sales deeded most of the remaining land outside of family ownership altogether with the exception of the small plot on which the dwelling is located. There are no other buildings extant on the property. The ruins of a small barn are located west of the dwelling.

The dwelling, which John Edmund Parsons built ca. 1908 according to his grandson, Franklin Parsons, is a simple rectangular, two-story frame I-house, a form ubiquitous in the Eastern United States. A very modest structure, in greatly deteriorated condition, it has a two room plan, with three bays in each of the long sides and one bay in the gable ends.

The fenestration is regular, with two-over-two sash windows and unmolded architraves. Small square, two-over-two attic windows are located in the gable ends. The building is clad with a variety of materials: tan, brick-patterned composite siding covering original weatherboards to the eaves, with asbestos shingles in the two gable ends above that second level. The structure is supported by concrete block piers at the four corners. Metal skirting pressed in a rusticated block pattern sheaths the crawl space between the piers. The gable roof parallels the east-west orientation of the principal elevation.

As originally constructed, the north side was the principal elevation, with a center door accessing a small foyer, with diagonally placed doors accessing the kitchen on the east and the living room on the west. A single range of narrow steps accesses the second floor in the center. The two outside bays on the rear (south) elevation are the locations of four panelled doors with porcelain/brass door knobs. There is a full-width, shed roofed, one-story porch sheltering these original secondary entrances.

The kitchen, with fixtures removed and with no intact walls, has a simple stack for a stove in the west wall. The living room has a simple mantle and surround on the east wall, which was also exclusively used for stoves. The two brick chimneys extend above

Continuation Sheet 7.3

the roof line on either side of the center hall, and are corbelled near the top of the chimney cap.

The building was modernized ca. 1950 with the addition of electricity, and again ca. 1980 with indoor plumbing. A pump, located in a squat, concrete block shed, is attached to the north wall. It was added at the same time as the small, frame, gable roofed bathroom addition which is centered on the north wall. It is clad with asbestos weatherboard plus aluminum siding.

This bathroom addition required the re-orientation of the entrance to the south through the dual doorways sheltered by the full-width porch.

The owners report that they intend to demolish the structure soon.

WI 184  
John Edmund Parsons House  
Wicomico County, Maryland

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

**Geographic Organization:** Eastern Shore

**Chronological/Developmental Period (s):** Industrial/Urban  
Dominance, 1870-1930 A.D.

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):** Architecture

**Resource Type:**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s) and Use (s):** Domestic/Single  
Dwelling/Residence

**Known Design Source (write none if unknown):** None

WI 184

John Edmund Parsons House  
Wicomico County, Maryland

Statement of Significance  
Continuation Sheet 8.2

The surviving fabric and plan of the John Edmund Parsons House are typical of rural farmsteads built throughout Maryland's Tidewater region in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. This type of simple rectangular I-house, in fact, is heavily represented in the built environment throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Eastern regions. The small family farm, like the Parsons property, represented an important component of the local agricultural economy.

Nonetheless, the farmstead has lost considerable integrity. Only the dwelling survives intact, but is unoccupied. The owners report they will raze it soon. In addition, this extremely dilapidated frame structure, built by John Edmund Parsons in 1908, has no particular significance either for its architectural style or form or for any historical associations of the owner with Wicomico or Salisbury, Maryland history.

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-184

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

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

historic Stephen H. Parsons House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Jersey Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town SAUSBURY \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county WICOMICO

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>None</u>

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

name Shirley Quarles

street & number RFD 2, Box 7765 telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD ~~21801~~ 21801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  loc

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-184

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Stephen H. Parsons House is on a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ac. east of Jerrey Road. It is owned by Shirley Quarles, daughter of Frank Parsons, and currently is unoccupied. The dwelling is a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  story, simple gable end, balloon frame structure built on a three-by-one bay plan with paired interior chimneys. The chimney tops are corbelled out two or three courses. The structure rests atop rusticated concrete block piers, some of which are hidden behind a lumber and pressed tin 'skirt.' A full length porch along the south façade was extensively rebuilt in recent years, as evidenced by the pressure treated wood used in its shed-like roof. A concrete block bathroom ell was added to what was the principal (*i.e.*, north) façade ca. 1975.

The dwelling was sheathed in composite siding (imitation brick) and asbestos shingles ca. 1940 (Frank Parsons, 1993, pers. comm.), covering the original weatherboard siding. The original principal entrance is obscured by the bathroom ell. A pair of entrances with four-panelled doors and porcelain and brass door knobs are located on the south façade. Windows are  $2/2$  double hung sashes with plain board moldings. There are two on each of the gable ends, five on the north façade—symmetrically placed around what would have been the principal entrance—and two on the second floor of the south façade. Small, square,  $2/2$  fixed sash attic windows occupy each of the gables. The plain board window and corner moldings are the only applied decorative treatments. Additional decoration is provided with the rusticated concrete block piers and the projecting rafters which have been scroll cut to form simple ogee curves and rounded ends. Eave soffits are of tongue and groove board.

The dwelling is in fair condition on the exterior, although Mr. Parsons describes the condition of the interior as poor. The family is considering demolition of the dwelling. Overall appearance of the dwelling is poor due to the siding and the concrete block bathroom ell added to the principal façade.

Associated outbuildings include at least three framed outbuildings. All are ruins. Principal members of the outbuildings are milled lumber, and wire nails appear to have been used throughout. At least one of the buildings was wired for electricity.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-184

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

Specific dates ca. 1908 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.



Frank Parsons believes the dwelling was built in 1907 or 1908, as family lore has it that his sister, Elsie Mae Parsons, was a baby when the house was built. Ms. Parsons will be 87 in May of 1994 (Frank Parsons, 1993, pers. comm.). Stephen H. Parsons, Frank Parsons's uncle, may have built the house (Frank Parsons, 1993, pers. comm).

The Parsons house is typical of late 19th/early 20th century farm houses in Maryland. Much of its rural setting has been preserved. Modifications to the building's siding, and the construction of a concrete block ell on the principal façade, greatly detract from the historical character and aesthetic value of this building. Modifications have resulted in a complete reorientation of the dwelling and, presumably, of its floor plan; the back of the house now serving as its front.

The building and associated outbuildings currently are unoccupied and slated for demolition by the owner.

The farmstead does not meet criteria 36CFR60.4.a-d, nor those of Article 83B of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Title 5, Subtitle 6, Section 5-615 a-d. The site is ineligible for National Register and Maryland Register status, and proposed wetlands construction will have no direct impact on the Parsons house and associated outbuildings.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-184

None

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.75 ac.

Quadrangle name Delmar

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A              
 Zone Easting Northing

B              
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification House is situated on the end of a private drive extending east of Jersey Road. It is on the south side of the drive abutting land recently acquired by the Maryland State Highway Administration.

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 JAMES G. GIBB, Archaeological Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 03 February 1994

street & number P.O. Box 378 telephone (410) 257-9377

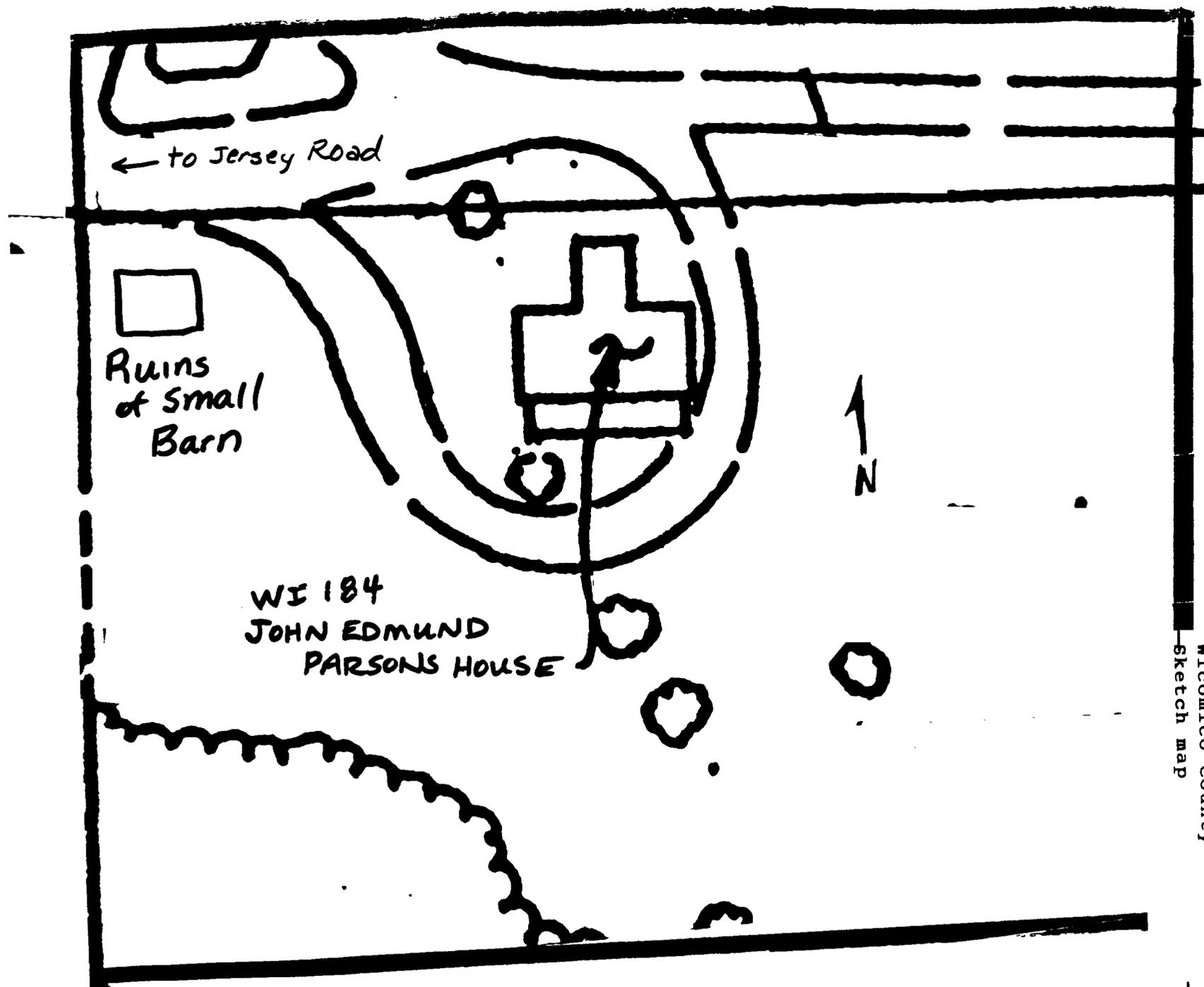
city or town North Beach state MD 20714

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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



← to Jersey Road

Ruins  
of Small  
Barn

WI 184  
JOHN EDMUND  
PARSONS HOUSE

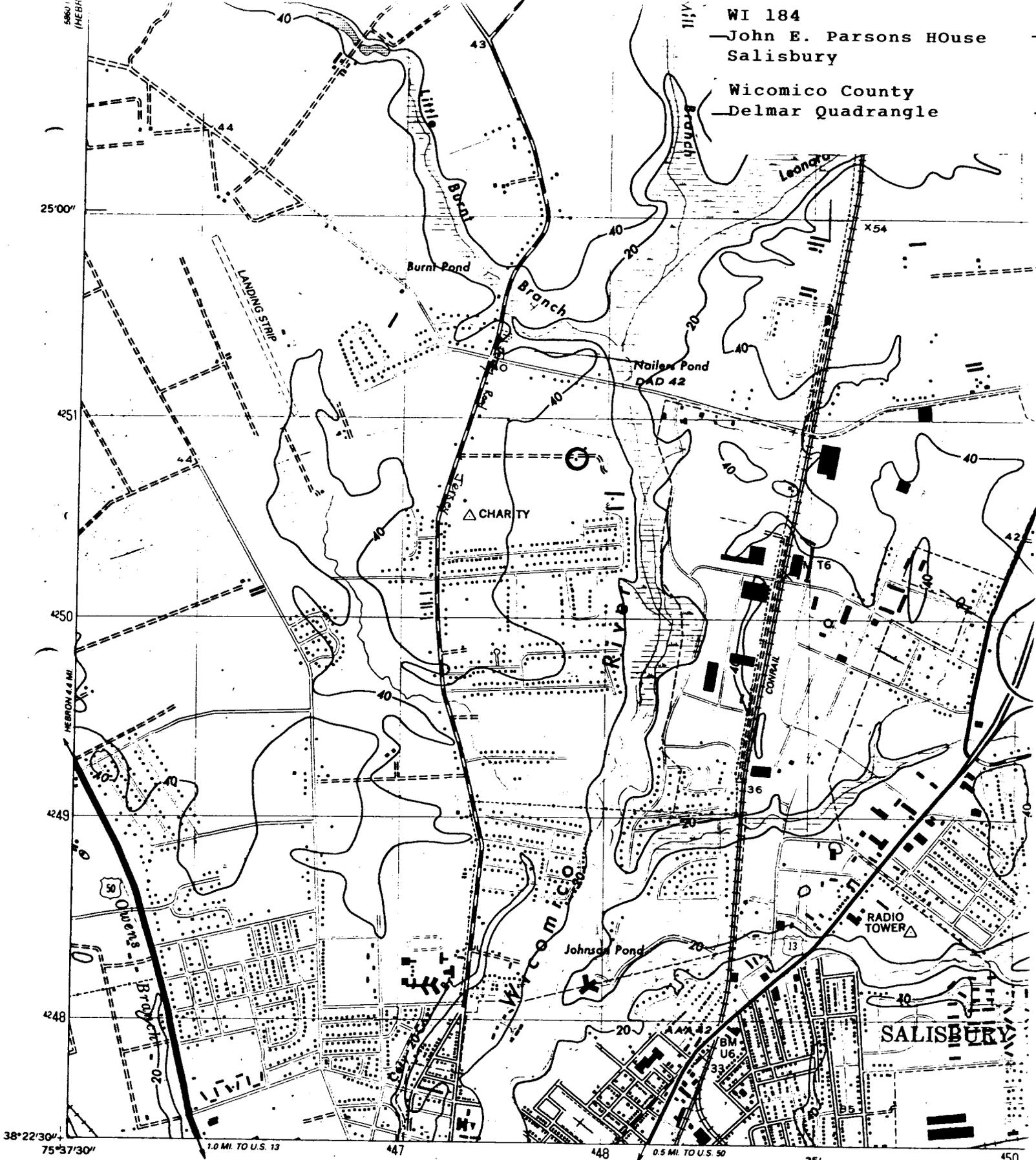
↑  
N

WI 184  
John E. Parsons House  
Salisbury  
Wicomico County  
Sketch map

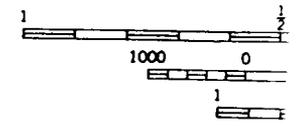
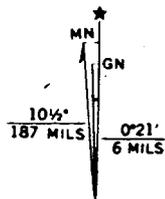
WI 184

—John E. Parsons HOUSE  
Salisbury

Wicomico County  
—Delmar Quadrangle



Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Published for civil use by the Geological Survey  
 Control by NOS/NOAA  
 Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
 photographs taken 1942. Topography by planetable surveys 1942  
 Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Maryland  
 coordinate system and Delaware coordinate system. 1000-meter  
 Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18. 1927 North American





W.C. 184

Thine Personal  
Wilmington, MD

Rita Buffum 1844

Negat no state Highway  
Administration

W.C. 184

184



WIFE

John E. Parsons, 400  
W. 100th St., 112

Robt. S. Jeff. 319 W

New York State Police  
Albany

W. E. C. 112

2/9



W 104

John E. Parsons  
Winnipeg, Man.

W. E. Higgins  
Ways at W. P. State Hwy  
Adm.

East of W. P. State Hwy

3/21



100.150

5th of 10 - 100

100.150

Adm. Services 100

negot. mistake. heavy  
admission

50.000

4/9



w3 184

John & Laura Home

Wisconsin City and

2nd Suff. 7/94

Ways at MD. SRA

2nd SRA elevation

SRA



W3 184

John E. Parsons House

Bellevue Superior 2/94

Winnipeg 6/94

Regent m D S + A

Corner

6/a



WI 184

John C. P... ..

W... ..

Blue Saffron 3/44

negotiation is 50A

West Elevator

7/6



10.184

Joint Commission  
Washington DC

John S. Gifford 2/1/00

Regent MD SHA

Addition to N. side,  
w/ elevation

219



W 120

John & Parsons Home

Wisconsin. Ch. 2nd

Plate Supplement 1/5/11

Wgs at 1110 St. 2

East Elevation

9/9



1924

John E. Purser, Attorney  
Sunderland

Windsor small town

John E. Purser 3194

Med. State Hwy

Windsor, N.H.

1924