INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Merry Sherwood Tenant House Survey Number: WO-48

Project: US 113 from MD 394 to Delaware State Line Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: _X_ no ___ yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended _X_ Eligibility **not** recommended ____

Criteria: ___A ___B _X_C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Merry Sherwood Tenant House, located on the east side of US Route 113 south of Berlin in Worcester County, Maryland, is considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

According to the MHT form on the property, Merry Sherwood Tenant House was built around 1860 and is a rare survivor of a mid-19th-century plantation improvement, once common on the Worcester landscape. The house was erected on a site directly across from the main house, which remained part of the larger Merry Sherwood estate until 1954, and was occupied by either a plantation overseer or slaves, and later used as a tenant house.

The dwelling is a 1-1/2-story frame structure set upon a brick pier foundation and covered with a steeply pitched gable roof that extends forward to include an engaged front porch supported by chamfered posts. The house has a room-behind-room, two-cell plan with a kitchen incorporated in the rear shed room.

The Merry Sherwood Tenant House is a good and rare local example of a mid-19th-century servants/slaves quarters that once formed part of a larger plantation. The property is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C as a fine example of its type.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files

Prepared by: Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian, 2/9/93

Kimberly Prothro Williams — March 28, 1996
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services — Date

NR program concurrence: ✓ yes ___ no ___ not applicable

Orlando Ridout — Chief ORSR
Reviewer, NR program — Date

Survey No. WO-48

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

X	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
X	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 Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

	Agriculture
X	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

Known Design Source: _____

WO-48 c. 1860
Merry Sherwood Tenant House
Berlin vicinity
Private

The Merry Sherwood tenant house, dating to around 1860, is a rare survivor of a mid-nineteenth century plantation improvement, once common on the Worcester County landscape. The story-and-a-half house, erected for a plantation overseer or perhaps slaves, was later used as a tenant house. Built with a room-behind-room, two-cell plan, the house has a a steeply pitched gable roof that extends forward to include an engaged front porch supported by chamfered posts. The kitchen is incorporated in the rear shed room. Resting on brick piers, the two-room plan house includes second floor rooms lighted by gabled dormer windows on the west side of the roof.

Erected on a site directly in line with the main house, the tenant house property remained as part of the Merry Sherwood estate until 1954 when it was sold by Elizabeth K. Purnell to Reginald C., Ann E., and Joseph I. Greaser.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: MERRY SHERWOOD TENANT HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WO-48

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE

2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
AGRICULURAL/INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION
1815-1870

4) Resource Type(s): Plantation tenant or slave house

Survey No. WO-48

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 MERRY SHERWOOD TENANT HOUSE

2. Location

street & number East side of US Route 113 ___ not for publication

city, town Berlin ___x vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

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 Virginia Taylor

street & number Worcester Highway telephone no.:

city, town Berlin state and zip code MD 21811

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-48

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.

The Merry Sherwood tenant house is located on the east side of US Route 113 south of Berlin, Worcester County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half two-room plan dwelling faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1860, the story-and-a-half house is supported by a brick pier foundation, and it is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The asphalt shingle gable roof, marked by a pair of six-over-six sash dormers on the west slope, incorporates an engaged front porch. To the rear is a shed roofed kitchen.

The west (main) facade is a three-bay elevation with a center entrance and six-over-six sash windows to each side. The partially glazed front door is paneled below the lock rail. Chamfered posts support the porch roof.

The north and south sides of the house are marked by six-over-six sash windows. The gable ends to the house are flush, and the eaves are trimmed by plain bargeboards.

The interior was reworked during the early twentieth century. Rising in the northeast corner of the back room is the stair. Little mid nineteenth century woodwork survives in the house aside from a four-panel door on the second floor.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-48

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	X agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: X A ___B ___C ___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 Merry Sherwood tenant house, dating to around 1860, is a rare survivor of a mid-nineteenth century plantation improvement, once common on the Worcester County landscape. The story-and-a-half house, erected for a plantation overseer or perhaps slaves, was later used as a tenant house. Built with a room-behind-room, two-cell plan, the house has a a steeply pitched gable roof that extends forward to include an engaged front porch supported by chamfered posts. The kitchen is incorporated in the rear shed room. Resting on brick piers, the two-room plan house includes second floor rooms lighted by gabled dormer windows on the west side of the roof.

Erected on a site directly across from the main house, the tenant house property remained as part of the Merry Sherwood estate until 1954 when it was sold by Elizabeth K. Purnell to Reginald C., Ann E., and Joseph I. Greaser.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-48

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **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	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	**date**	2/9/93
street & number	P. O. Box 5	**telephone**	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	**state**	Maryland 21871

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

Addendum Sheet

WO-48
Merry Sherwood Tenant House
Worcester County
Page 8.2 - Significance

Preparer: Stuart Paul Dixon
Date Prepared: 10 February 1997

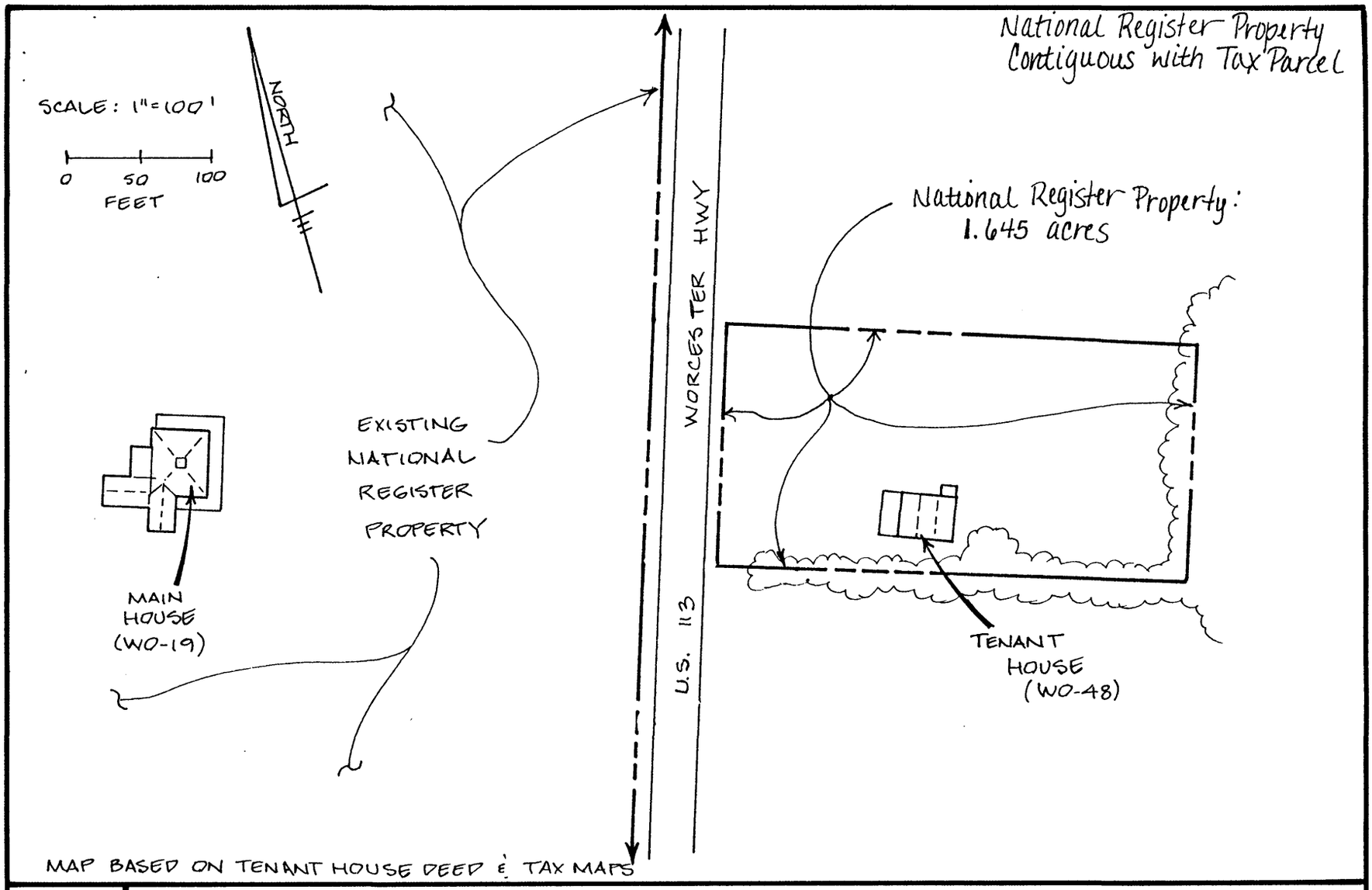
A rare surviving example of a pre-Civil War Era servants/slaves quarters originally associated with the National Register-listed Merry Sherwood plantation (WO-19), the Merry Sherwood Tenant House (WO-48) has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland State Highway Administration. Recommended National Register boundaries for the Merry Sherwood Tenant House include the entire current tax parcel of 1.645 acres as depicted on the appended site map. This boundary encompasses all land subdivided from the Merry Sherwood property and sold with the tenant house in 1955.

WO-48
MERRY SHERWOOD TENANT HOUSE
Berlin vicinity
Chain of title

WCL 1176/435	Joseph Ignatius Greaser
	to
5/16/1986	J. Ignatius Greaser Vy Melson Greaser
FWH 426/548	Joseph Ignatius Greaser
	to
1/28/1974	Joseph I. Greaser Lillie Katherine Hamblin Greaser 1.645 acres Surveyed 6/7/1954
FWH 198/404	Raymond D. Coates, et ux.
	to
9/21/1965	Reginald C. Greaser Joseph I. Greaser
EWR 83/597	William D. Smith
	to
8/5/1955	Reginald C. Greaser Ann E. Greaser 1.645 acres as surveyed by William D. Pitts on June 7, 1954
EWR 73/414	Elizabeth K. Purnell (Owner of Merry Sherwood)
	to
7/26/1954	Reginald C. Greaser Ann E. Greaser Joseph I. Greaser

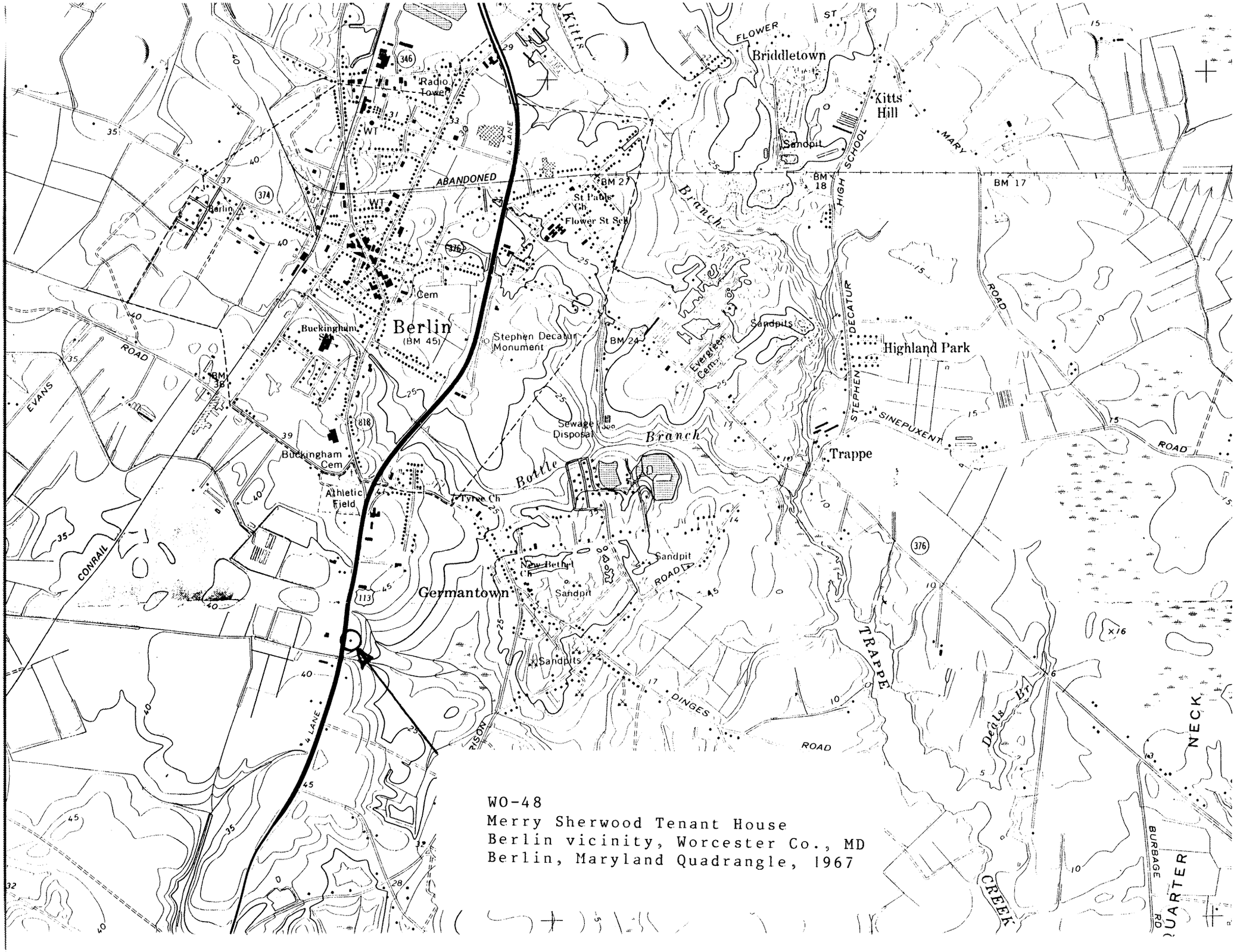
WO-48
MERRY SHERWOOD TENANT HOUSE
Berlin vicinity
Chain of title

LCB 19/273	Union Trust Company of Maryland
	to
1/22/1944	Harry S. Purnell Elizabeth K. Purnell The said Harry S. Purnell having died on 12/20/1946

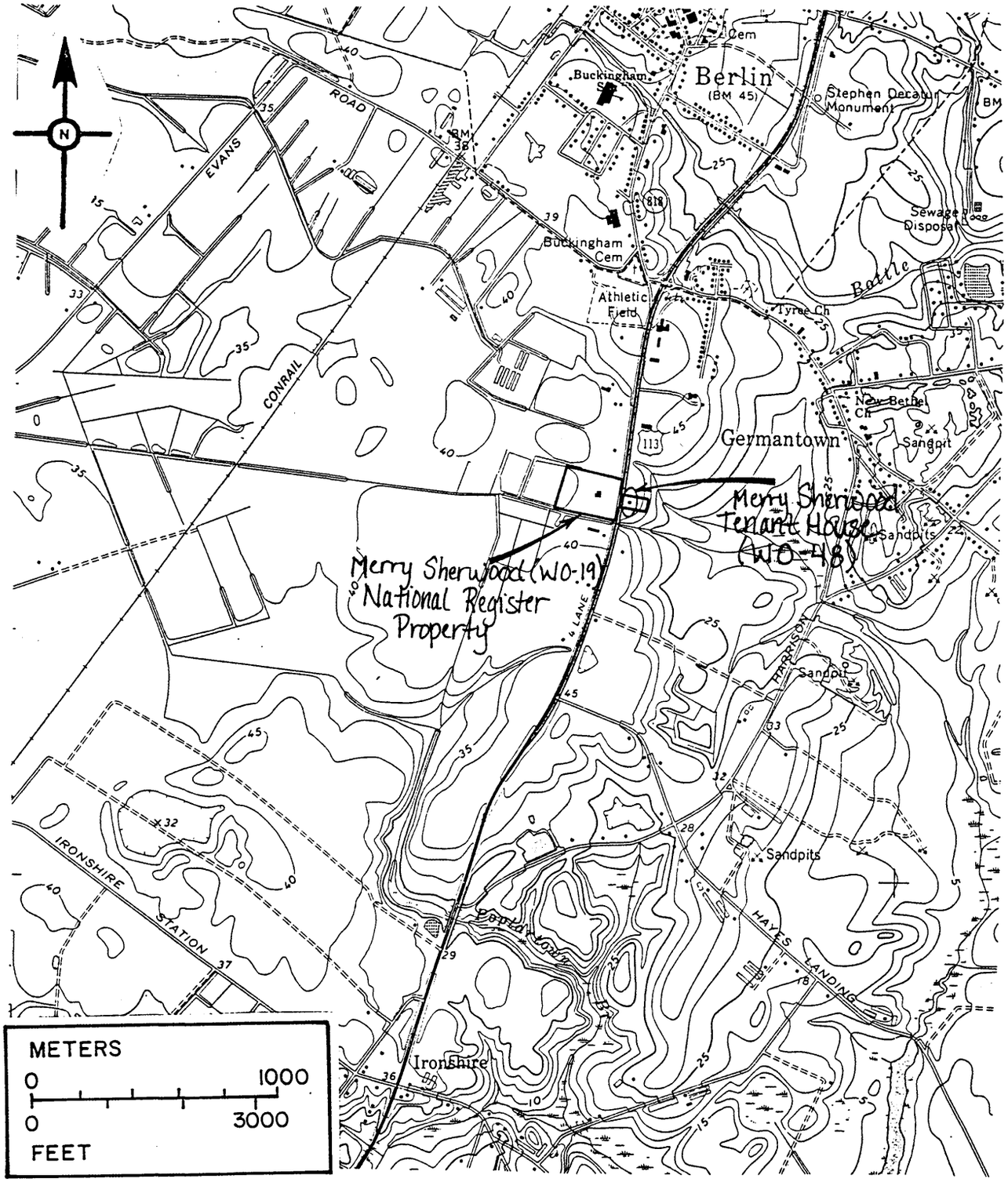


KCI TECHNOLOGIES

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
Merry Sherwood Tenant House (WO-48)
Berlin, Worcester County
Berlin, MD Quad Map



WO-48
Merry Sherwood Tenant House
Berlin vicinity, Worcester Co., MD
Berlin, Maryland Quadrangle, 1967



KCI TECHNOLOGIES

LOCATION MAP

Merry Sherwood Tenant House (WO-48)
Including the Merry Sherwood Property (WO-19)
Berlin, Worcester County
Berlin, MD Quad Map

4949-5

WO-48
Merry Sherwood Tenant House
Worcester Co, MD

Stuart Dixon
6/96
State Highway Admin.

West & South elevations
3/3

4949-4

WO-48
Merry Sherwood Tenant House
Worcester Co., MD

Stuart Dixon
6/96

State Highway Admin.

South & East elevations
2/3

4949-3

WO-48
Merry Sherwood Tenant House

Worcester Co, MD

Stuart Dixon
6/96

State Highway Admin.

North & West elevations

1/3