

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

Inventory No. WO-500

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination (continued):

The east facade is notable for its infilled, one-story porch exhibiting a half-hip roof, modern one-over-one windows, modern fixed shutters, a center canopy with simple board braces, and a front door featuring one light over two horizontal panels. A small, shed-roofed addition is attached to the west (rear) side of the house; it features a door similar to that used in the east facade. The windows throughout the dwelling contain both single and paired one-over-one double-hung sash, many with flanking fixed shutters. A brick chimney protrudes from the north slope of the roof near the ridge.

One outbuilding, a shed, is located west of the dwelling. The front-gabled building features vertical board and asbestos shingle siding and has a standing-seam metal roof. A gravel drive provides access to and from Doe Drive, and the property features a number of mature trees and ornamental shrubs.

Alterations to the resource include the aluminum siding and formstone, the infilled front porch, the modern windows and shutters, and possibly the rear addition.

The Vanessa Inez Morris and Gregory Davis Purnell House is a representative example of the front-gabled bungalow type. Its presence signifies the historic introduction of early-twentieth-century architectural types into an agricultural area developed during the nineteenth century, and it illustrates the continued development of Worcester County and the local area into the twentieth century.

The dwelling was constructed in ca. 1950, according to deed and tax assessment records. In 1996, Vanessa Inez Morris Purnell and Gregory Davis Purnell became the sole owners of the property and dwelling (WCCC Deed Book RHO 2258:122). Vanessa Purnell received the property containing the dwelling from Harry D. and Annie Morris in 1994 (WCCC Deed Book RHO 2053:334). Harry and Annie Morris purchased the property in 1949 (WCCC Deed Book CWN 24:552). It is unclear whether Harry and Annie Morris or the property's previous owners constructed the dwelling. The 1949 deed references a 1948 survey of the property. It is not clear from the records whether the dwelling was present at the time of the survey. A survey could have been conducted in anticipation of a dwelling being constructed, or it could have been undertaken with the dwelling in place in order to have a legal plat available for the 1949 deed transfer. Tax records place the date of construction at 1950 (WCTA 1998). Because the actual date of construction is uncertain, an assumed date of ca. 1950 has been chosen—with the understanding that the structure may already be or may soon be 50 years old.

Using the periods from the Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data, this would place the resource in the Modern Period (A.D. 1930–Present). The current legal tax parcel containing the house and outbuilding encompasses 2.1 acres.

Major Bibliographical References:

Worcester County Clerk of Court (WCCC)

1887–1996 Property records on file at the Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, Maryland.

Worcester County Tax Assessor (WCTA)

1998 Tax assessment records on file at the Worcester County Tax Assessor's Office, Snow Hill, Maryland.

**PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

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:

- 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)

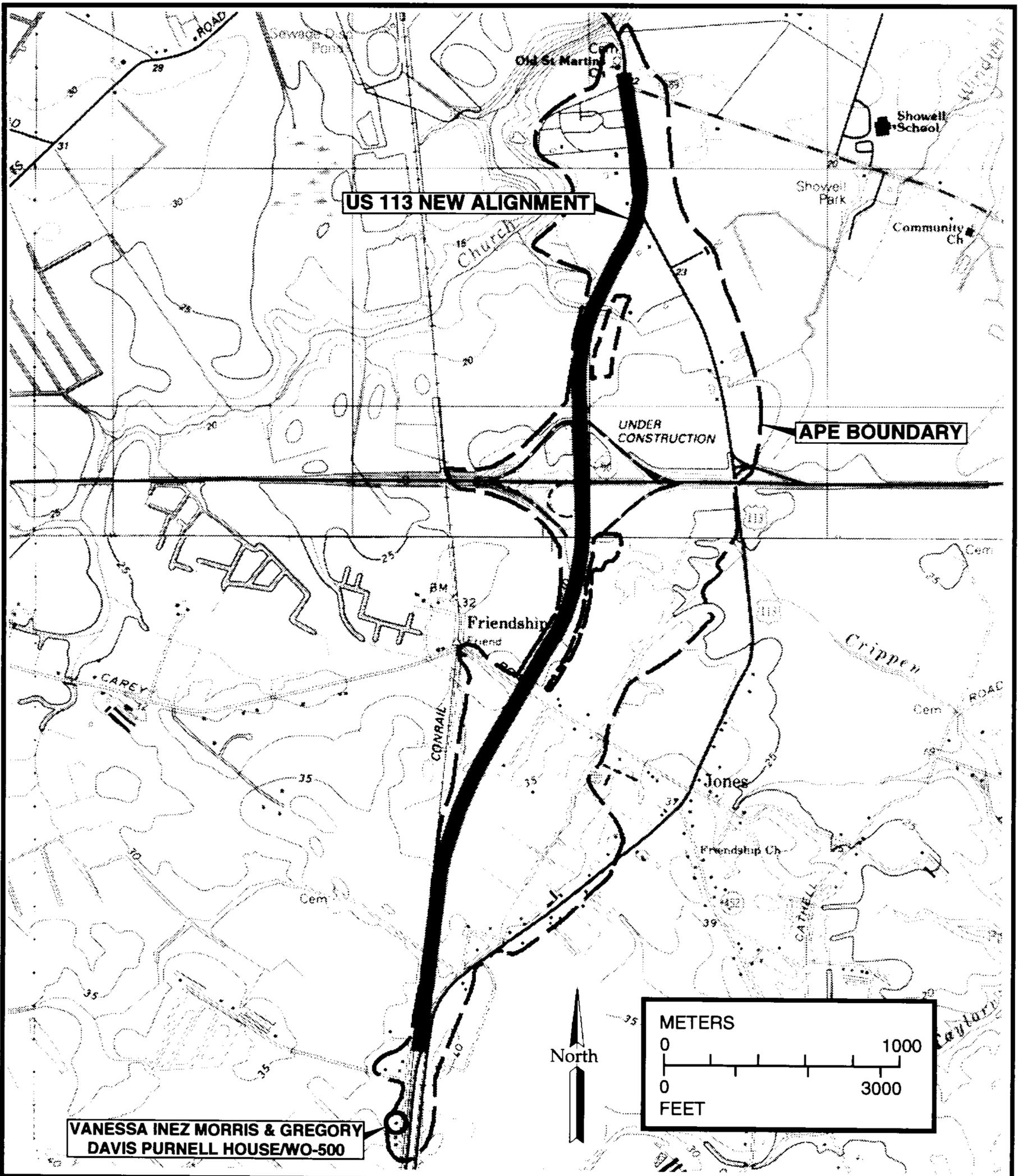
III. Historic Period Themes:

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

IV. Resource Type:

Category: Building
 Historic Environment: Rural
 Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling

 Known Design Source: _____



**VANESSA INEZ MORRIS & GREGORY
DAVIS PURNELL HOUSE/WO-500**

LOCATIONAL MAP

Section of the 7.5' Selbyville, Del.-MD/Berlin, MD Quad Map (USGS 1992/1967-1981)
 Showing the Vanessa Inez Morris & Gregory Davis Purnell House/WO-500
 Worcester County, MD.



WO-500

Vanessa Inez Morris & Gregory Davis Parrell House
Worcester County MD (common)

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Mark Chancellor - photographer
Sep. '98

May and SHPO - negative
East & North Elevations

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