

**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; Agriculture

 Known Design Source: _____

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

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

Inventory No. WO-513

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination (continued):

The east facade features an enclosed gable with a Palladian window, a modern door with an oval light and flanking single-light side lights, and modern one-over-one double-hung window sash. Similar sash appear in singles and in pairs on all sides of the building. The wrap-around porch is a modern addition, as can be seen from the new lumber used for the deck and roof framing and from the new brick used for the foundation piers. The porch may have replaced an earlier, historic porch; however, no documentation was discovered to support this possibility. The north side of the dwelling exhibits a small gabled roof dormer and an enclosed room within the porch. The south side of the building is noted by a two-story gabled bay. That part of the dwelling to the rear of the bay and to the rear of the first-story enclosed room is all new construction, based on the newness of the materials and the way in which the former rear cornice is obscured by the new work. All soffits have been covered with vinyl. A brick chimney with a corbeled top protrudes from the south roof slope near the ridge.

A dirt drive provides access to and from US 113, and there are several mature trees on the property. The property contains three outbuildings, located to the north and west of the dwelling: a small historic shed, a modern garage, and a historic building that may have functioned as a tenant house. The gabled shed is of frame construction with weatherboard siding and a corrugated metal roof. It is in poor to fair condition and is likely of early-twentieth-century origin. The modern side-gabled garage is a two-bay structure with space above the parking area. It is clad in the same vinyl siding as the dwelling and exhibits similar windows.

The third outbuilding is a one-and-one-half-story frame structure with a front-gabled roof and both clapboard and drop siding. The composition asphalt shingle roof has collapsed in the middle, but the central concrete block chimney continues to stand. Windows contain two-over-two double-hung sash; some are flanked by simple board shutters. Doors include a single-leaf wood door at the east end with four lights over two horizontal panels, and a plywood door at the second level of the west end that is accessible via an exterior frame staircase. Off the north side of the building is a one-story shed addition with an asphalt roll roof. The structure appears to be of early-twentieth-century origin owing to its nailed construction and the apparent age of its materials. Due to the collapsed roof, it was not possible to examine the interior of the building. It appears that it could have functioned as a dwelling and, thus, it is assumed that it may have been a tenant house. If this is not the case, then it was likely an agricultural outbuilding of some unknown use.

Alterations to the dwelling include the new siding, the new house foundation, the new windows and doors, the wrap-around porch addition, the large two-story rear addition, and the covered soffits. Alterations to the two historic outbuildings include the deterioration that has been allowed to proceed unchecked.

The Rachel A. Gault House, although extensively altered, survives as a late-nineteenth-century form that was extremely popular in the United States during the last few decades of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century (McAlester 1984:266). Its presence coincides with the development of Worcester County and the immediate locale in the middle to late nineteenth century, when the economy of the region was expanding due to demand for produce and products from the large cities of the Northeast and because of advances in agriculture and other sectors brought on by the coming of the railroads (Touart 1994:118). Although altered over the years, the building's original vernacular Queen Anne form can still be seen.

The dwelling was constructed in ca. 1877, according to historic maps, census data, and evidence supplied by the Morris-Holland-Gault Cemetery (WO-509), located northwest of the property. The 1877 atlas of Worcester County identifies Mrs. R. A. Gault at the location of the current dwelling (Lake, Griffing & Stevenson 1877). The 1880 population census identifies Rachel Gault as a farmer and head of the household (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1880). This information is accurate because her father, William Gault, died in 1864, as noted on his marker in the cemetery. Thus, Rachel's name would have been in the 1880 census records as head of the household—she was the eldest child—and her name would have been identified on the 1877 atlas as the owner of the property. Deed records from the early twentieth century identify the property as the "Gault Farm" and mention the names of Rachel and her sister, Sarah (WCCC Deed Book ODC 19:114). While the dwelling could have been built by William Gault, a date of construction of 1864 or earlier would appear to be too early for the type of structure that survives at present. It is more probable that Rachel Gault built the dwelling in ca. 1877. See Continuation Sheet #2.

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CONTINUATION SHEET #2

Inventory No. WO-513

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination (continued):

Using the periods from the Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data, this would place the resource in the Industrial/Urban Dominance period (A.D. 1870–1930). The current legal tax parcel containing the house and outbuildings encompasses 10.5 acres.

Major Bibliographical References:

Lake, Griffing & Stevenson

1877 *Atlas of Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Counties, Maryland*. Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, Philadelphia.

McAlester, Virginia Lee

1984 *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

Touart, Paul Baker

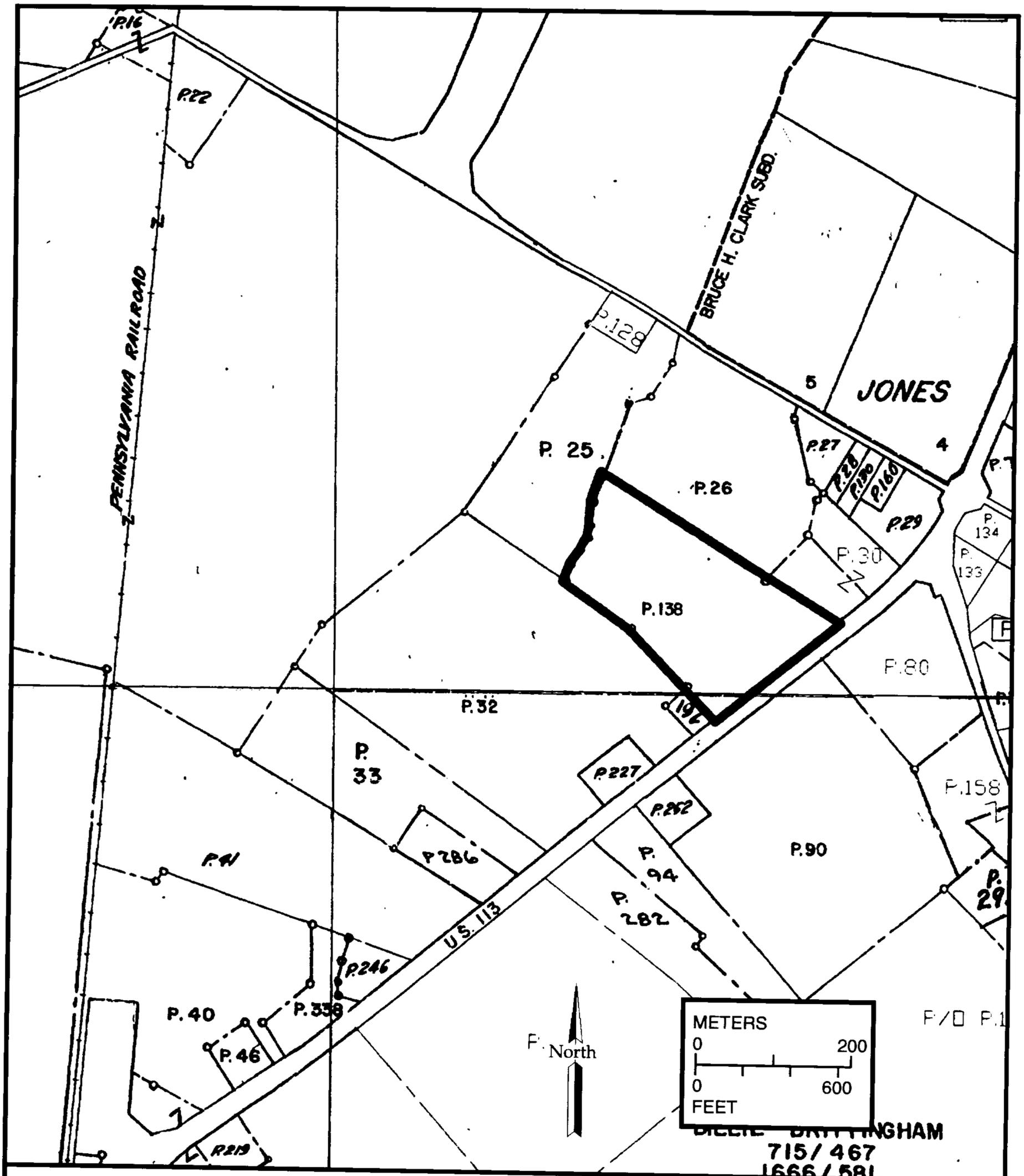
1994 *Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland*. Worcester County Commissioners, Snow Hill, Maryland.

United States Bureau of the Census

1880 Manuscript Returns of the Tenth Census of the United States, Population Schedule. Microfilm on file, Snow Hill Public Library, Snow Hill, Maryland.

Worcester County Clerk of Court (WCCC)

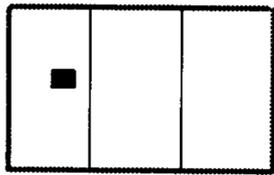
1887–1996 Property records on file at the Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, Maryland.



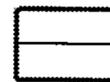
TAX MAP

Section of Map No. 20, Parcel No. 138, Worcester County, Md.
 Containing the Rachel A. Gault House/WO-513
 Berlin (vic.), Worcester County, MD.

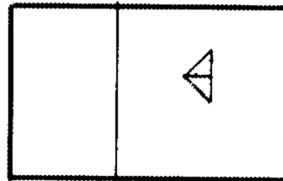
POSSIBLE TENANT HOUSE
OR OUTBUILDING



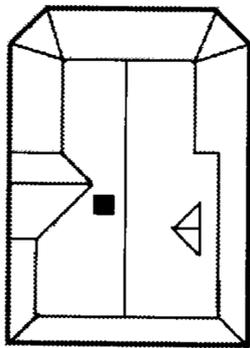
SHED



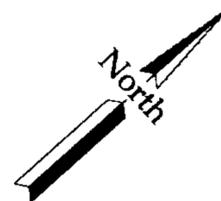
GARAGE



HOUSE

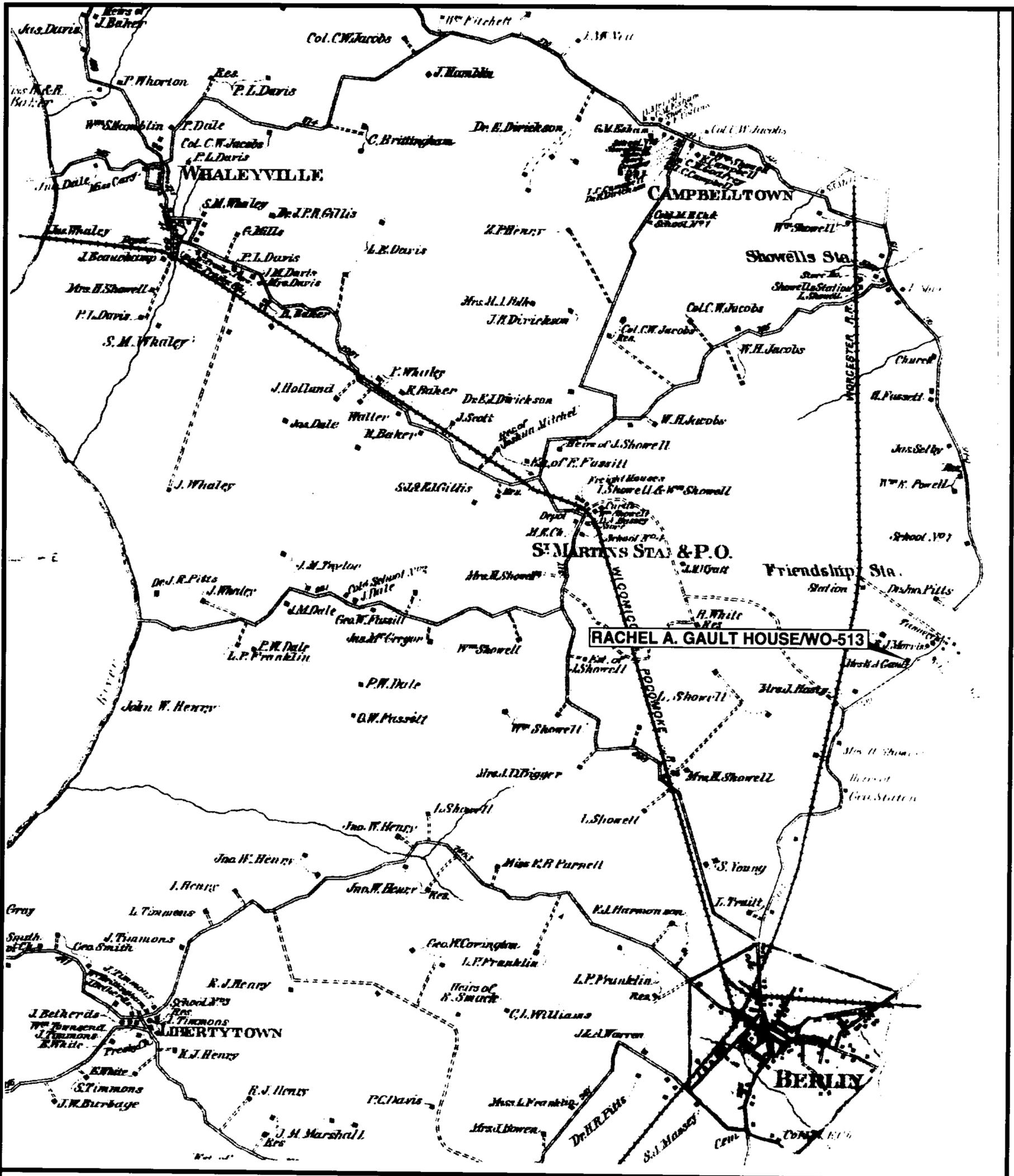


U.S. 113

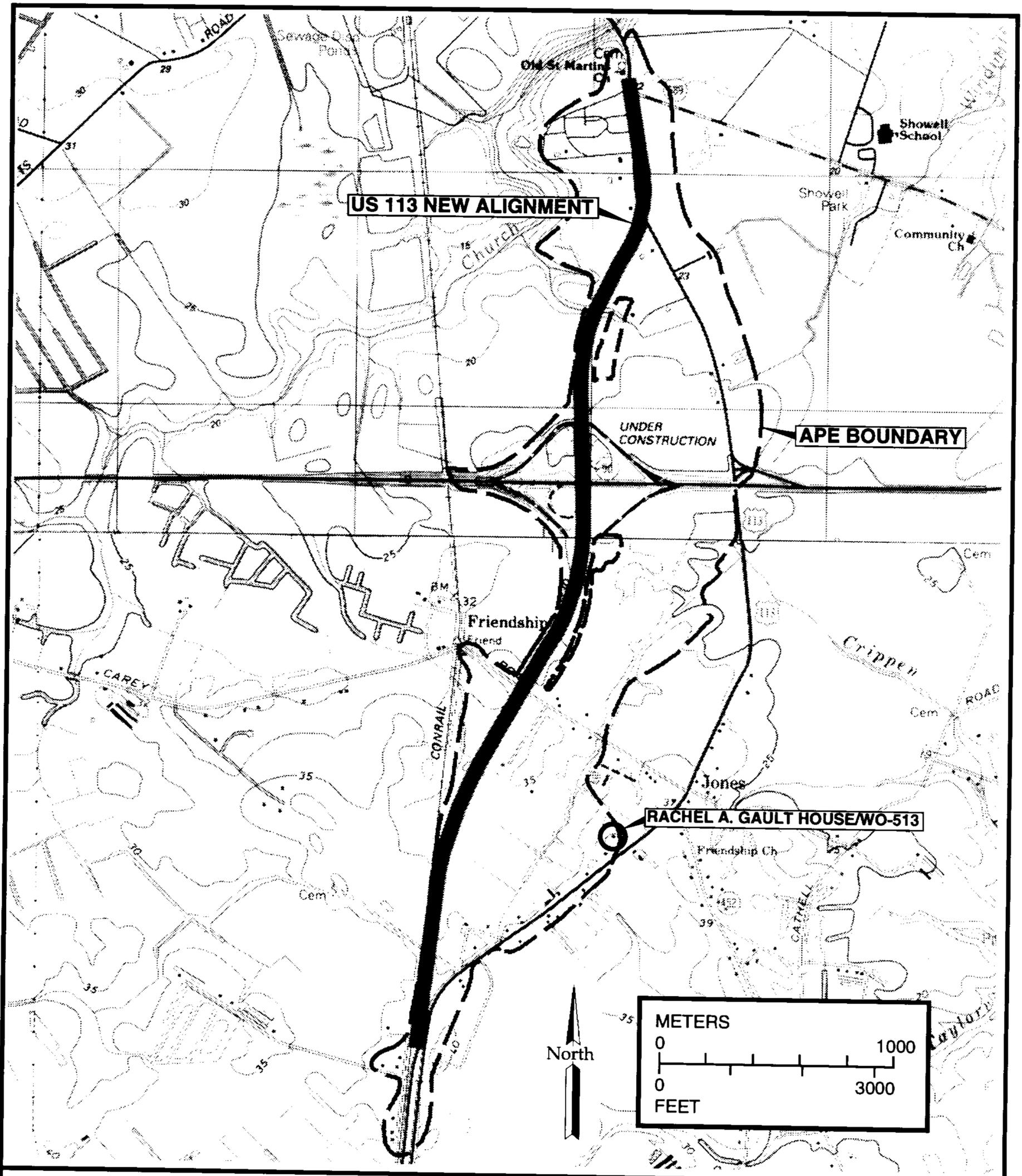


Not to scale

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
Rachel A. Gault House/WO-513
Berlin Vicinity
Worcester County, MD



Section of a Map of West Berlin District, from the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, Showing the Rachel A. Gault House/WO-513, Berlin Vicinity, Worcester County, MD



LOCATIONAL MAP

Section of the 7.5' Selbyville, Del.-MD/Berlin, MD Quad Map (USGS 1992/1967-1981)

Showing the Rachel A. Gault House/WO-513

Worcester County, MD.



WO-513

Richard J. Smith House (Historic)

Worcester County, MD

000 01-2/2-71 /1-N /12 82 < >

Mark Chancellors - photographs

Sept. 1998

Maryland SHPO - negative

Dwelling, Garage, + Shed, view Northwest

1 of 6



WO-513

Rachel A. Gault House (historic)

Warrenton County, MD

000 92-9/2-71 /1-N /1ZE 82 < >

Walt Whittlesby - photographer

Sept. 1998

Maryland SHPO - negative

Dwelling, Possible Tenant Home, Garage + Shed
view S. + W.

Zob6



W0-013

Rachel A. Gault Home (historic)
Warrenton County, MA

000 02-3/1-71 /1-71 /128 82 < >

Mark Chancellor - photographer
Sept. 1998

Marlyn 1 2490 - negative
Dwelling, West + South Elevations

3 of 6



WO-513

Rachel A. Gault House (historic)

Worcester County, MD

000 9 - 3/2-1 / 1-N / 126 82 < >

Mark Chancellor - photographs

Sept. 1998

Maryland SHPO - negative

Dwelling, North + West elevations

4 of 6



WO-513

Rachel A Gault House (historic)

Worcester County, MD

000 0 +3/T-1 /T-N /1201 82 < >

Mark Chancellor - photographer

Sept. 1998

Maryland SHPO - negative

Possible Leonard House, view West

5 of 6



NO-513

101017. Bault House (historic)
Worcester County, MD

000 > -3/T-/T /T-N /T/TI 82 < >

Mark Chancellor - photographer
Sept. 1993

Maryland SHPO - negative
possible tenant house, view northeast

6 of 6