WO-301
Thomas P. Selby House
Snow Hill
Private

c. 1815, c. 1860

Standing on a high ridge of land in the center of Snow Hill is the Thomas P. Selby house, commonly known as the Stark house. Despite the even five-bay facade of this two-story dwelling, the symmetrical fenestration belies the fact that the house was built in two distinct stages, beginning around 1810 with a two-bay one-room plan frame house. The period woodwork of this section, now used as a dining room, clearly dates to the early nineteenth century, while the western half of the dwelling comprised a substantial mid nineteenth century addition. The two-story rear wing dates from this later period as well.

The history of the early one-room plan section of the house is inexact, but the dwelling is known to have been the residence of Euphemia Bennett during the early nineteenth century. How long she occupied the house is uncertain for interest in the house and lot were sold during the late 1830s to Elizabeth Bundick by Euphemia Bennett's heirs, Levin and Nancy Sturgis and John Taylor. Elizabeth Bundick maintained occupancy through the late 1840s when her heirs, Robert Twiford, et al. transferred the title to James R. Bell in 1848. James R. Bell is listed in the 1850 U. S. Census for Worcester County as a 35-year old shoemaker with his wife, Mariah, and their three children. In April 1859, five years after Bell's death in 1854, a settlement in Worcester County court empowered Ephraim K. Wilson, trustee, to sell part of lot 77, "where the said James R. Bell resided at the time of his death." The major additions to the house do not appear to have made until the post-bellum period after James H. Selby purchased the house and lot in 1872 for $600. Even though

James Selby lived only four more years, the property remained in Selby family hands under the care of James's son, Thomas P. Selby. The major alterations are estimated to have completed by James or his son, Thomas. Selby family interest in the Federal Street house was not relinquished until 1946.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: THOMAS P. SELBY HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WO-301

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2) Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
Agrarian/Industrial Transition
1815-1870

4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Survey No. WO-301

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic THOMAS P. SELBY HOUSE

and/or common STARK HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 105 West Federal Street ___ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	x occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
x building(s)	x private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	x 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	___ other:

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

name Mr. and Mrs. William E. Stark

street & number 105 West Federal Street telephone no.:

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber 122

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 499

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-301

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

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

The Thomas P. Selby house, known for the past thirty years as the Stark house, stands at 105 West Federal Street in the center of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, five-bay frame dwelling faces northwest with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built in two principal stages the eastern two bays of the front block comprise an early nineteenth century one-room plan frame house that was enlarged around 1860 by the western three bays turning the house into a center hall, single-pile dwelling. The house is supported on a raised brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The medium pitched roof, finished with extended eaves, is covered with a layer of asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story service wing.

The northwest (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The four-panel front door is framed by three-light sidelights and a four-light transom. The front door as well as the immediate windows to each side are sheltered by a shed roof, chamfered post porch. Lighting the second floor are five evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows. The house is trimmed on its outside corners with plan pilasters that rise to a plain fascia under the eave.

The gable ends are treated similarly with interior end stacks finished with corbelled caps. Small attic windows flank the chimney. The back or south side of the main house is largely covered by the two-story kitchen wing which is extended by a two-story porch on the west side.

The interior of the main house includes a combination of early and mid nineteenth century finishes. Featured in the east front room is large share of Federal style woodwork with a molded hearth surround that frames an segmental arched firebox. Built-in closets are fitted in the niches to each side of the hearth, and a section of dentiled cornice survives along the ceiling. A cavetto-backband surround frames the entrance into the rear wing. The balance of the first floor woodwork dates from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. A Civil War era stair is located in the center hall, and four-panel doors permit access between rooms. Plain post-and-lintel mantels frame the other first floor fireplaces. The second floor was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-301

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	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: __A __B x 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.

Standing on a high ridge of land in the center of Snow Hill is the Thomas P. Selby house, commonly known as the Stark house. Despite the even five-bay facade of this two-story dwelling, the symmetrical fenestration belies the fact that the house was built in two distinct stages, beginning around 1810 with a two-bay one-room plan frame house. The period woodwork of this section, now used as a dining room, clearly dates to the early nineteenth century, while the western half of the dwelling comprised a substantial mid nineteenth century addition. The two-story rear wing dates from this later period as well.

The history of the early one-room plan section of the house is inexact, but the dwelling is known to have been the residence of Euphemia Bennett during the early nineteenth century. How long she occupied the house is uncertain for interest in the house and lot were sold during the late 1830s to Elizabeth Bundick by Euphemia Bennett's heirs, Levin and Nancy Sturgis and John Taylor.(see GMH 1/418 and GMH 2/464) Elizabeth Bundick maintained occupancy through the late 1840s when her heirs, Robert Twiford, et al. transferred title to James R. Bell in 1848.(EDM 2/161) James R. Bell is listed in the 1850 U. S. Census for Worcester County as a 35-year old shoemaker with his wife, Mariah, and their three children. In April 1859, five years after Bell's death in 1854, a settlement in Worcester County court empowered Ephraim K. Wilson, trustee, to sell part of lot 77, "where the said James R. Bell resided at the time of his death."(WET 1/443) The major additions to the house do not appear to have made until the post-bellum period after James H. Selby purchased the house and lot in 1872 for $600.(ITM 2/204) Even though James Selby lived only four more years, the property remained in Selby family hands under the care of James's son, Thomas P. Selby. The major alterations are estimated to have completed by James or his son, Thomas. Selby family interest in the Federal Street house was not relinquished until 1946.(CWN 6/450)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-301

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/Worcester Co. date 3/1/90

street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover state MD 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

PS-2746

WO-301
THOMAS P. SELBY HOUSE
105 West Federal Street
Snow Hill, Maryland
Chain of title

122/499	Clarence W. Strickland Nannie J. Strickland
	to
5/29/1959	William E. Stark and Emily Stark
CWN 6/450	Thomas P. Selby Emma B. Selby
	to
1/19/1946	Clarence W. Strickland Nannie J. Strickland
TDP 12/254	Will of James H. Selby
	to
5/11/1876	Thomas P. Selby 2nd item
ITM 2/204	Frederick W. Muller Margaret A. Muller
	to
6/7/1872	James H. Selby $600 all that house and lot of ground part of Lot 77
ITM 1/297	Irving T. Matthews Sarah H. Matthews
	to
1/5/1871	Margaret A. Muller

GHR 3/207 — William E. Timmons
Harriet Timmons

to

2/25/1868 — Irving T. Matthews
$450.00 Part of Lot 77

WET 3/233 — Walter P. Snow
Anne W. Snow

to

7/31/1862 — William E. Timmons
$450.00 Part of Lot 77

WET 1/443 — Ephraim K. Wilson, trustee

to

4/9/1859 — Walter P. Snow
$330.00 Decree of Circuit Court by Honorable Thomas A. Spence 7/22/1858 in the case of Rebecca A. Drummond vs. Richard A. Bell, Part of Lot 77, "where the said James R. Bell resided at the time of his death..."

EDM 2/161 — Robert Twiford, et al.

to

11/10/1848 — James R. Bell
"all that house and lot situate lying and being in the town of Snow Hill...where Elizabeth Bundick late of said County and State resided at the time of her death..."

GMH 7/458 Sewell Taylor, New Orleans

to

8/24/1844 Lewis P. Rogers, George L. Rogers, Harriet A. Twiford, Edward O. Twiford, Robert Twiford, William B. Twiford, John Twiford, William A. Twiford, Obed B. Twiford

Whereas the said Sewell Taylor together with his brothers Augustine, Edward, and John Taylor and also a certain Nancy Sturgis wife of Levin Sturgis upon the death of their relative a certain Euphemia Bennett, became the heirs and entitled to certain real estate being a houe and lot in the Town of Snow Hill.... and whereas a certain Eliz. Bundick, late of said County, deceased, purchased from Levin Sturgis, and Nancy, Sewell Taylor, Augustine Taylor and Edward and John Taylor have by two deeds of conveyance duly recorded among the records of Worcester County in 1838 and 1839

GMH 1/418 Levin Sturgis and Nancy his wife, and Augustine Taylor

to

8/4/1838 Elizabeth Bundick
$109.37½

GMH 2/464 John Taylor

to

8/9/1839 Elizabeth Bundick
$21.87½ another interest in said lot.

AP/755 James Powell

to

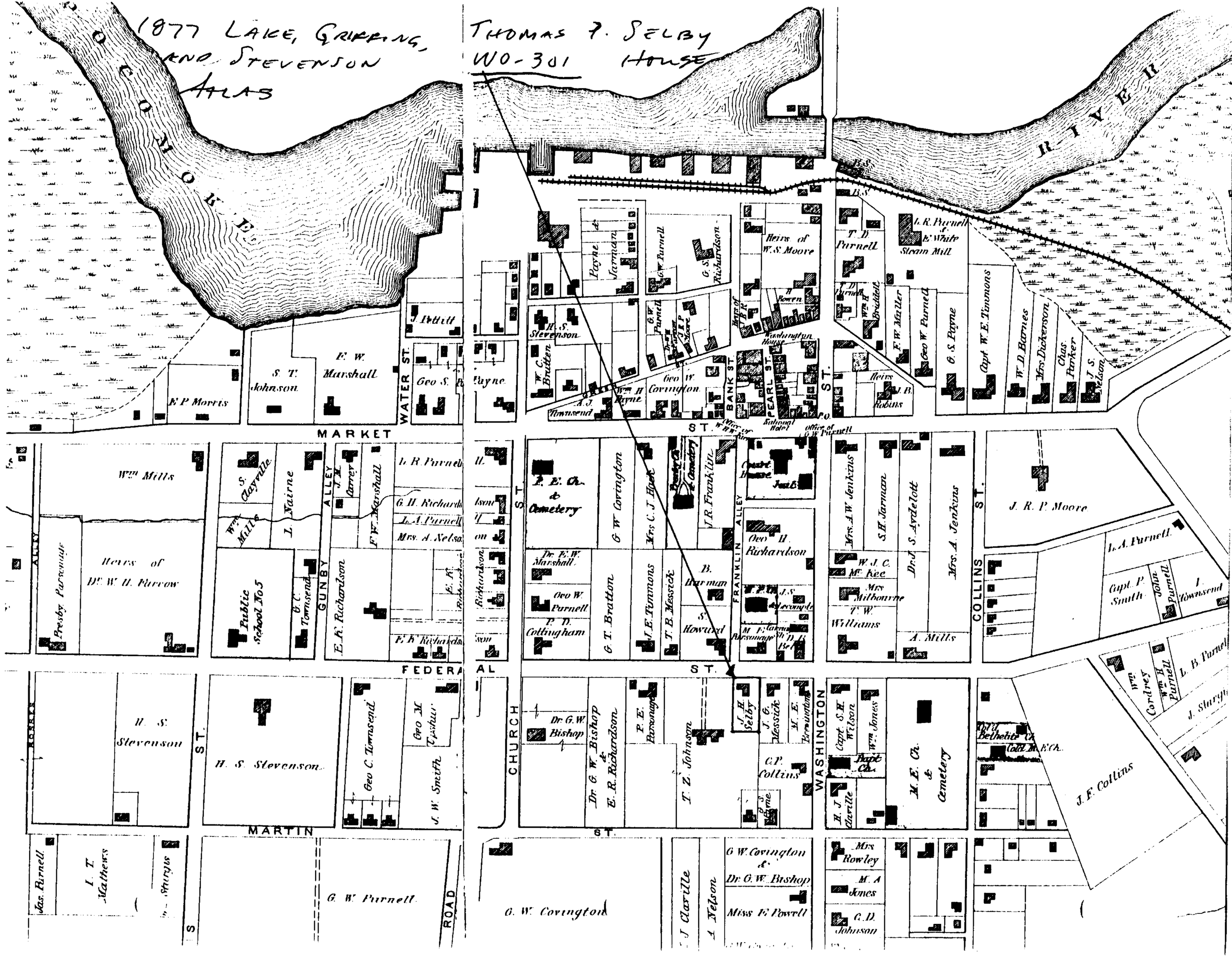
5/6/1824 Euphame (sic) Bennett

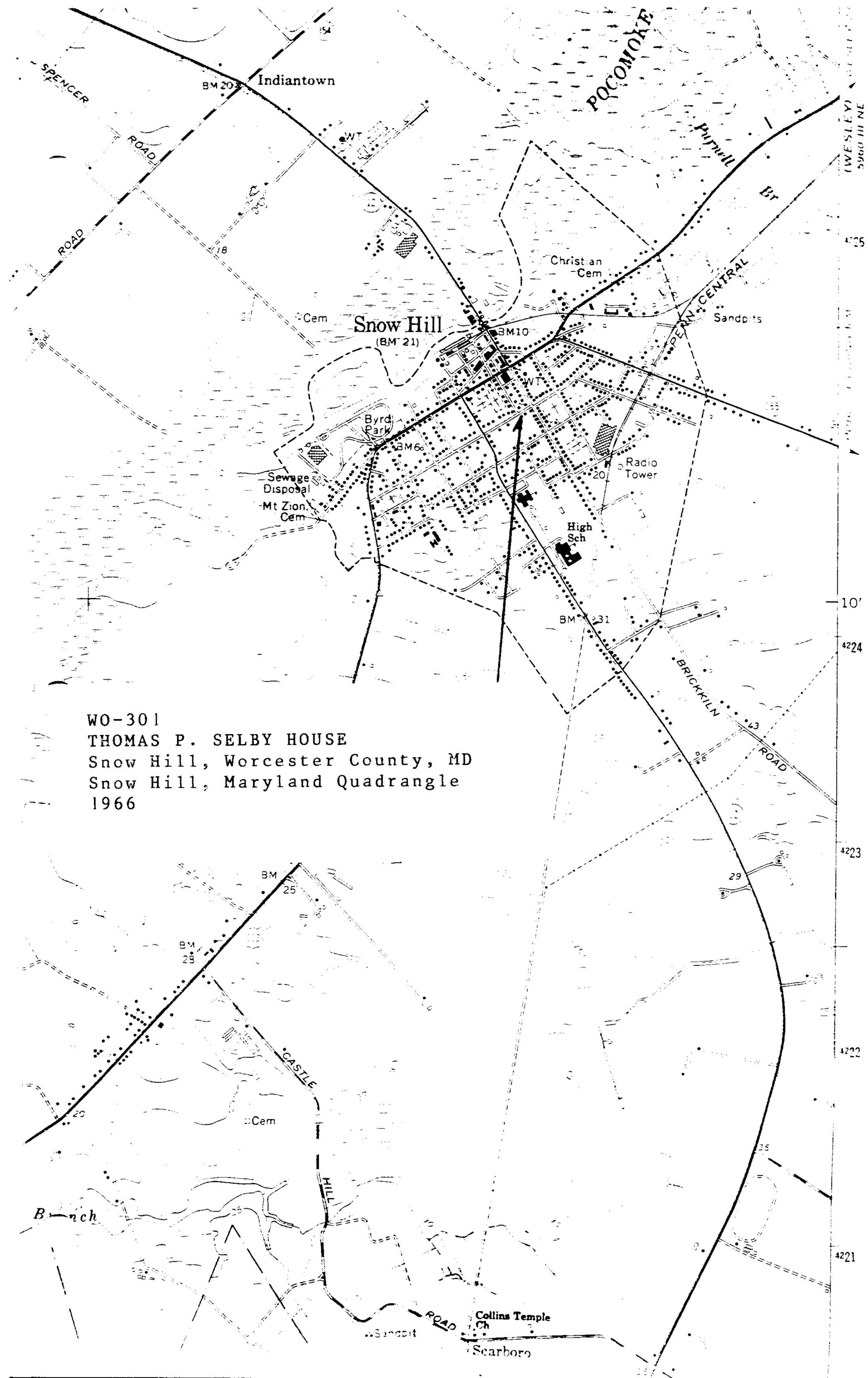
$175.00 "all that part of the lot of ground situate in the Town of Snowhill which was purchased at a Sheriff's sale of the property of Ephraim K. Wilson and for which the said James Powell has the deed of Cord Hazzard Esq. 2/3/1824 which includes the house, yard, and garden now enclosed...

1877 LAKE, GRIFFING, AND STEVENSON ATLAS

THOMAS F. SELBY HOUSE

WO-301





WO-301
THOMAS P. SELBY HOUSE
Snow Hill, Worcester County, MD
Snow Hill, Maryland Quadrangle
1966