MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Best House Inventory Number: WI-544

Address: 32068 Twilleys Bridge Road City: Salisbury Zip Code: 21804

County: Wicomico USGS Topographic Map: Salisbury, MD

Owner: Lauren Best

Tax Parcel Number: 168 Tax Map Number: 49 Tax Account ID Number: 2305076293

Project: Improvements, Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport, Wicomico County, MD Agency: Federal Aviation Administration

Site visit by MHT Staff: x no ___yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility recommended ____ Eligibility **not** recommended x

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

Is the property located within a historic district? x no ___yes Name of district: _____

Is district listed? ___no ___yes Determined eligible? ___no ___yes District Inventory Number: _____

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Bamann et al. (2000) Phase I Cultural Resources Survey, Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport. Coastal Carolina Research.

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The I-House was one of the most popular house forms built during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. I-Houses range from the most basic vernacular form to variations that feature a number of stylistic elements. An example of the I-House in the project area has minimal stylistic elements. The circa 1920 Best House (WI-544) is a two-story, three-bay frame building with asbestos siding. The side-gable house with a center cross gable features a metal roof, two interior brick chimneys, and closed gables with pent roofs. The house rests on a concrete foundation. Most of the windows are one-over-one, but a few are nine-over-one sash windows. The front porch is overgrown. Its round posts support a hipped roof with a central cross gable echoing the cross gable of the main roof. A balustrade runs between the posts. There is a two-story rear ell with one-story and two-story shed ells. Originally a farm, the land surrounding the house has been sold to the Wicomico Regional Airport and seven associated outbuildings have deteriorated. These buildings include two recent frame horse stables, a large frame and corrugated metal-sided, side-gable barn, and two frame and corrugated metal-sided front-gable barns. There is also a frame, front-gable garage with weatherboard siding and a standing seam metal roof. There is a deteriorated frame shed with vertical wood siding at the back of the property whose rear wall is a metal fence that runs the length of the rear of the property. Although the house and outbuildings are in poor condition, someone appears to live in the rear ell of the house.

This Best House complex does not appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. Though the house and associated outbuildings represent a working farm that was built during a period when agriculture was a very significant part of the county's economy, the complex no longer retains those characteristics that would define it as an agricultural establishment. Several other nearby late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century complexes survive as functioning

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ___ **Eligibility not recommended** X

Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D **Considerations:** ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Comments:

[signature] 1/31/2001
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

[signature] 2/7/01
Reviewer, NR program **Date**

farms while the fields around the Best House lie fallow and there are no longer any farming activities on the property. The complex's main building—the house—has been significantly modified by a large ell, replacement windows, and asbestos siding. It does not appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The complex also appears ineligible for the National Register under Criteria B or D since there is no known association with important individuals and there appears to be little potential to yield important information.

Prepared by: Coastal Carolina Research, Inc. Date Prepared: 1/8/01

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Best House (WI-544)
32068 Twilleys Bridge Road
Salisbury, MD 21804
ca. 1920
Access: private

Description

The circa 1920 Best House (WI-544) is a two-story, three-bay frame building with asbestos siding. The side-gable house with a center cross gable features a metal roof, two interior brick chimneys, and closed gables with pent roofs. The house rests on a concrete foundation. Most of the windows are one-over-one, but a few are nine-over-one sash windows. The front porch is overgrown. Its round posts support a hipped roof with a central cross gable echoing the cross gable of the main roof. A balustrade runs between the posts. There is a two-story rear ell with one-story and two-story shed ells. There are seven deteriorated outbuildings on the property. These buildings include two recent frame horse stables, a large frame and corrugated metal-sided, side-gable barn, and two frame and corrugated metal-sided front-gable barns. There is also a frame, front-gable garage with weatherboard siding and a standing seam metal roof. There is a deteriorated frame shed with vertical wood siding at the back of the property whose rear wall is a metal fence that runs the length of the rear of the property. Although the house and outbuildings are in poor condition, someone appears to live in the rear ell of the house.

Significance Statement

This Best House complex does not appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. Though the house and associated outbuildings

represent a working farm that was built during a period when agriculture was a very significant part of the county's economy, the complex no longer retains those characteristics that would define it as an agricultural establishment. Several other nearby late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century complexes survive as functioning farms while the fields around the Best House lie fallow and there are no longer any farming activities on the property. The complex's main building—the house—has been significantly modified by a large ell, replacement windows, and asbestos siding. It does not appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The complex also appears ineligible for the National Register under Criteria B or D since there is no known association with important individuals and there appears to be little potential to yield important information.

History of the Resource in Its Context

Originally a farm, the land surrounding the house has been sold to the Wicomico Regional Airport and the seven associated outbuildings have deteriorated. The fields around the Best House lie fallow and there are no longer any farming activities on the property.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-544

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	
other	Best House

2. Location

street and number	32068 Twilleys Bridge Road	__	not for publication
city, town	Salisbury	__	vicinity
county	Wicomico		

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

name	Lauren Best				
street and number	32068 Twilleys Bridge Road			telephone	
city, town	Salisbury	state	MD	zip code	21804

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Wicomico County Courthouse	tax map and parcel			
city, town	Salisbury	liber	1481	folio	433

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

_____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
____district
__X__building(s)
____structure
____site
____object

Ownership
____public
__X__private
____both

Current Function
____agriculture
____commerce/trade
____defense
__X__domestic
____education
____funerary
____government
____health care
____industry
____landscape
____recreation/culture
____religion
____social
____transportation
____work in progress
____unknown
____vacant/not in use
____other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	7	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	7	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

_____

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-544

Condition

___ excellent _X_ deteriorated
___ good ___ ruins
___ fair ___ altered

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

The I-House was one of the most popular house forms built during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. I-Houses range from the most basic vernacular form to variations that feature a number of stylistic elements. An example of the I-House in the project area has minimal stylistic elements. The circa 1920 Best House (WI-544) is a two-story, three-bay frame building with asbestos siding. The side-gable house with a center cross gable features a metal roof, two interior brick chimneys, and closed gables with pent roofs. The house rests on a concrete foundation. Most of the windows are one-over-one, but a few are nine-over-one sash windows. The front porch is overgrown. Its round posts support a hipped roof with a central cross gable echoing the cross gable of the main roof. A balustrade runs between the posts. There is a two-story rear ell with one-story and two-story shed ells. Originally a farm, the land surrounding the house has been sold to the Wicomico Regional Airport and seven associated outbuildings have deteriorated. These buildings include two recent frame horse stables, a large frame and corrugated metal-sided, side-gable barn, and two frame and corrugated metal-sided front-gable barns. There is also a frame, front-gable garage with weatherboard siding and a standing seam metal roof. There is a deteriorated frame shed with vertical wood siding at the back of the property whose rear wall is a metal fence that runs the length of the rear of the property. Although the house and outbuildings are in poor condition, someone appears to live in the rear ell of the house.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-544

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
__ 1800-1899	X architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/govemment
X 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce	__ ethnic heritage	__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ exploration/ settlement	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning		__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Specific dates **Architect/Builder**

Construction dates circa 1920

Evaluation for:

__x__ National Register _____Maryland Register _____not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

This Best House complex does not appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. Though the house and associated outbuildings represent a working farm that was built during a period when agriculture was a very significant part of the county's economy, the complex no longer retains those characteristics that would define it as an agricultural establishment. Several other nearby late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century complexes survive as functioning farms while the fields around the Best House lie fallow and there are no longer any farming activities on the property. The complex's main building—the house—has been significantly modified by a large ell, replacement windows, and asbestos siding. It does not appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The complex also appears ineligible for the National Register under Criteria B or D since there is no known association with important individuals and there appears to be little potential to yield important information.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WI-544

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	1366 acres (548 ha)		
Acreage of historical setting	26.58 acres		
Quadrangle name	Salisbury	Quadrangle scale:	7.5 Minute

Verbal boundary description and justification

The current boundary (Tax Parcel 168/Tax Map 49) for this property appears to be the historical boundary, as far as the complex of buildings (residential and outbuildings) is concerned. Additional land around the complex was once part of the farm, but this was sold to the Salsibury-Ocean City Airport.

11. Form Prepared by

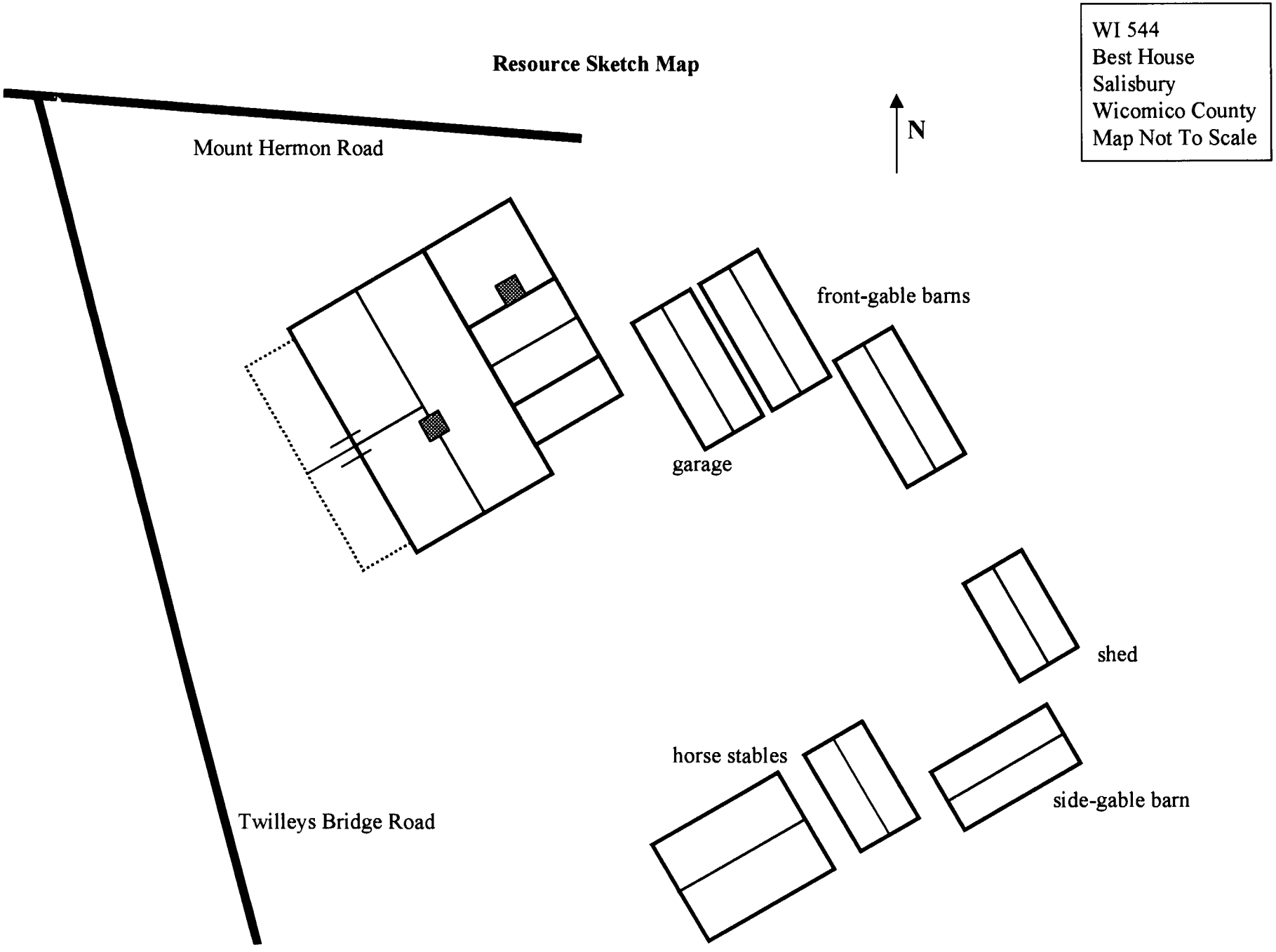
name/title	Jody Jones and N. Carolyn McCollum		
organization	Coastal Carolina Research, Inc.	date	8/14/00
street & number	532 Grove Avenue	telephone	(804) 957-9616
city or town	Petersburg	state	VA

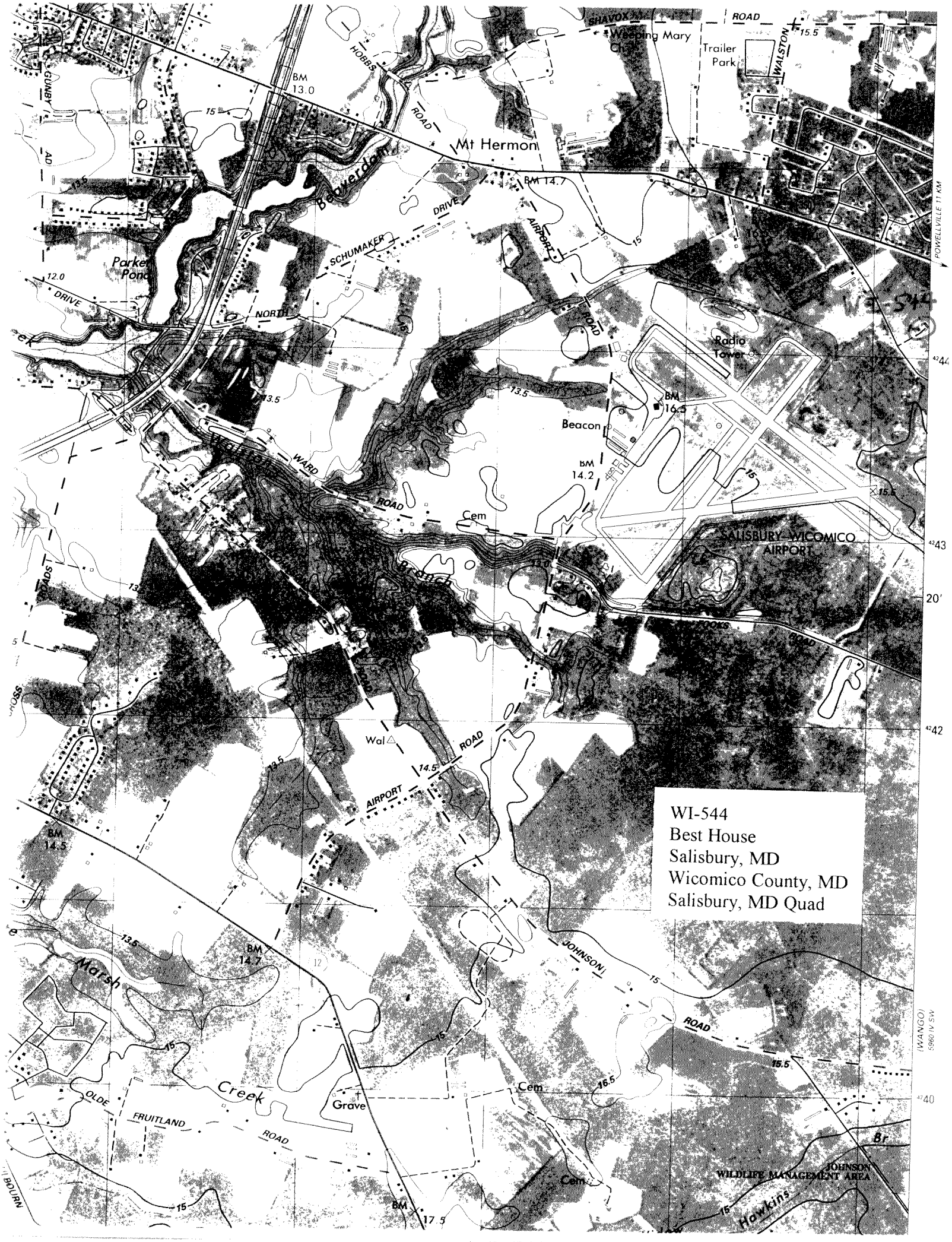
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Resource Sketch Map




WI-544
Best House
Salisbury, MD
Wicomico County, MD
Salisbury, MD Quad
SHAVOX ROAD
Weeping Mary Ch
Trailer Park
WALSTON
HOBBS ROAD
BM 13.0
Mt Hermon
BM 14.7
Beaverdam
DRIVE
SCHUMAKER
AIRPORT
Parker Pond
DRIVE
NORTH
ROAD
Radio Tower
BM 16.5
Beacon
BM 14.2
WARD ROAD
Cem
SALISBURY-WICOMICO AIRPORT
Branch
FOOKS ROAD
Wal
ROAD
AIRPORT
BM 14.5
BM 14.7
Marsh
Creek
OLDE FRUITLAND ROAD
Grave
Cem
JOHNSON ROAD
JOHNSON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
Hawkins
BM 17.5
POWELLVILLE 11 KM
(WANGO) 5960 IV SW
20'

WI-544

Best House

Wicomico County, Maryland

Photographer: J. Jones

Date of photograph: January 5, 2000

Location of negative: MD SHPO

Front view

1/1