MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no X

Property Name: Tenant House # 2 Inventory Number: WI-550

Address: Pratt Road City: Salisbury Zip Code: ___

County: Wicomico USGS Topographic Map: Eden Quadrangle

Owner: Quinton Johnson, PO Box 195, Hebron MD 21830

Tax Parcel Number: 286 Tax Map Number: 36 Tax Account ID Number: ___ 2302002914

Project: North Upper Ferry Rd Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration

Site visit by MHT Staff: ___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: Fiedel, Cheek and Culhane, 2000, Phase I Archeological and historic Architectural Inventory Survey, North Upper Ferry Road Project, Wicomico County, Maryland. John Milner Associates, Inc.

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

This abandoned early twentieth century tenant house is located along Pratt Road west of Hounds Bay Circle. The house is overgrown and in the advanced stages of ruin. The house stands side-by-side with a second tenant house on the north side of the road. Both are two-story, single-pile, side-gabled frame structures with interior chimneys. Tenant House #2 is two-bays-wide. The remaining windows are 6/6 wood sashes. The house rests on brick piers laid in a stretcher bond. The house was originally sided in wood clapboard, but was refaced in asbestos shingles. Large gable-roofed canopies shade the single-leaf doors openings. The interior was inspected. Most of the wallboard has been smashed and vandalized; most of the fixtures and all of the woodwork has been removed; however the remaining evidence suggests an early-twentieth-century construction date, possibly between 1910 and 1930. Problematically, the house does not appear on the 1942 USGS topographical quad of the area. Behind (north) of both tenant houses are two shed-roofed frame structures; one is clearly a double privy while the second, in ruins, may have been a chicken house. Tenant House #2 is a typically modest early twentieth century vernacular domestic structures.. It is not associated with important individuals or events in history, and is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Prepared by: Charles L. Hall/Kerri E. Culhane Date Prepared: 3/19/01

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ___ **Eligibility not recommended** X

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

Comments: ___

Andrew Lewis 06/05/01

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

6/7/01

Reviewer, NR program **Date**

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-550

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Tenant House #2

other

2. Location

street and number Pratt Road ___ not for publication

city, town Salisbury x vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name Quinton Johnson

street and number P.O. Box 195 telephone

city, town Hebron state MD zip code 21830

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Salisbury Courthouse tax map and parcel 36/24/286

city, town liber folio

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
__X__ Other: Maryland Historical Trust

6. Classification

Category
____district
__x__building(s)
____structure
____site
____object

Ownership
____public
__x__private
____both

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

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	1	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	2	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	3	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-550

Condition

___ excellent ___ deteriorated
___ good x__ ruins
___ fair ___ altered

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

This abandoned early twentieth century tenant house is located along Pratt Road west of Hounds Bay Circle. The house is overgrown and in the advanced stages of ruin. The house stands side-by-side with a second tenant house on the north side of the road. Both are two-story, single-pile, side-gabled frame structures with interior chimneys. Tenant house #1 (WI-549), to the west of Tenant House #2 (WI-550) is three-bays-wide, while Tenant House #2 is two-bays-wide. The remaining windows are 6/6 wood sashes. The houses rest on brick piers laid in a stretcher bond. The houses were originally sided in wood clapboard, but were refaced in asbestos shingles. Large gable-roofed canopies shade the single-leaf doors openings. The interiors were inspected. Most of the wallboard has been smashed and vandalized; most of the fixtures and all of the woodwork has been removed; however the remaining evidence suggests an early-twentieth-century construction date, possibly between 1910 and 1930. Problematically, neither house appears on the 1942 USGS topographical quad of the area. Behind (north) of the houses are two shed-roofed frame structures; one is clearly a double privy while the second, in ruins, may have been a chicken house. Both houses are typically modest early twentieth century vernacular domestic structures..

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-550

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	x agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
1800-1899	__ architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
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** unknown

Construction dates ca.1915-1925

Evaluation for:

__x__ National Register __x__ 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.)

Statement of Significance

Tenant House #2 is a typically modest early twentieth century vernacular domestic structure. It is not significant architecturally, nor does it retain architectural integrity. It is not known to have been associated with people or events significant to local, state, or national history, and in its current state of dilapidation, it is not adequately illustrative of tenant occupations of the Eastern Shore. Therefore, Tenant House #2 does not satisfy any of the National Register Criteria and therefore is not recommended for inclusion in the Maryland or National Registers.

Historic Context

Wicomico County was formed in 1867 from northern portions of Somerset and Worcester Counties. This region has been agricultural in character since its settlement in the seventeenth century. The late twentieth century, however, has been characterized by a loss of farmland and the growth of suburban development. As Salisbury, the county seat expands and the economy shifts from agriculture-based to commerce- and industry-based, the replacement of farm fields by housing units intensifies. New roads are built and old roads are enlarged or expanded to serve the changing and growing population, dramatically altering the character of the once-rural community.

The navigable Wicomico River has enabled settlement to occur along its banks since the seventeenth century. Tobacco, grain, and produce culture have been practiced successively on the land. As was typical of colonial settlement, major houses and plantations were built along the transportation routes, in this case the Wicomico River, while tenants and small-scale farmers occupied interior, less accessible and thus less valuable land. At some point in the mid-seventeenth century the Upper Ferry was inaugurated (Cooper 1991:251-253). The first Presbyterian meeting house was established near the ferry landing in 1706. In 1727, the county mandated the construction of a road to be maintained to the Upper Ferry, officially establishing the ferry landing as an access point for both transshipment of goods and for settlement (Slemons n.d.:3; Torrence 1979:359).

Around the turn of the eighteenth century, three hundred acres of land were held by Joseph Venables under the patent "What You Please" in the vicinity of the Upper Ferry, and including the Upper Ferry landing (Slemons n.d.:3). This land was passed to his son, Benjamin, after Venables' death in 1717. It is unclear from the land records whether Venables' land encompassed the land on which the tenant house stands, but it is likely. Irrespective of ownership, the land was certainly cultivated. Eighteenth-century tax documents from the Wicomico Hundred district of Somerset County describe earth-fast corn houses, storehouses, and log dwellings scattered throughout the Upper Ferry vicinity (Somerset Tax Roll 1798). Tax documents also indicate the types of substantial dwellings constructed in the area. Along the river at the Upper Ferry was a hip-roofed brick dwelling and numerous outbuildings belonging to William Anderson. The tax documents confirm that the major domestic structures and occupations were located along the river.

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were a transitional period in agriculture. The pre-emancipation slave economy enabled farmers to work large, labor-intensive tracts of land at a minimum cost. In the post-war era, advances in agriculture coincided

with advances in the transportation of fresh produce, and truck farming became prevalent on the Eastern Shore. The Eastern Shore Railroad served Salisbury starting in the 1860s, and soon fresh produce was expedited to markets along the eastern seaboard. The farms in the area appear to fit into the pattern of Eastern Shore agricultural transition from slave to tenant farming, share-cropping, and ultimately farm abandonment in the late-twentieth-century.

9. Bibliographical References (Continued)

Taylor-White, Rebecca. Personal communication. Mrs. Taylor-White is knowledgeable about local history and was interviewed at her home on 29 June.

Torrance, Clayton. 1979. *Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.* Regional Publishing, Baltimore, Maryland.

United States Bureau of the Census. 1850-1870. Enumeration of Somerset County, Maryland. On file at the Nabb Research Center, Salisbury State University, Salisbury, Maryland.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WI-550

Cooper, Richard. 1991.*Salisbury in Times Gone By.* Baltimore, Maryland: Regional Publishing.
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson . 1877. *Atlas of the Eastern Shore.* Copy on file in the Maryland Historical Trust Library and Archives, Crownsville, Maryland.
Slemons, Mrs. J. William. n.d. The Wicomico Presbyterian Church, Salisbury, Maryland, 1683-1959. Copy on file at the Nabb Research Center, Salisbury State University, Salisbury, Maryland.
Somerset County Tax Rolls. 1798. Wicomico Hundred, List of Lands, lots, buildings and wharves. Available on microfilm at the Nabb Research Center, Salisbury State University, Salisbury, Maryland.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property <1 acre
Acreage of historical setting unknown
Quadrangle name Eden 7.5' Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The tenant house sits abandoned along the north side of Pratt Road west of Hound's Bay Circle. Surveyed property corresponds to the current tax parcel, Map 36, grid 24, parcel 286.

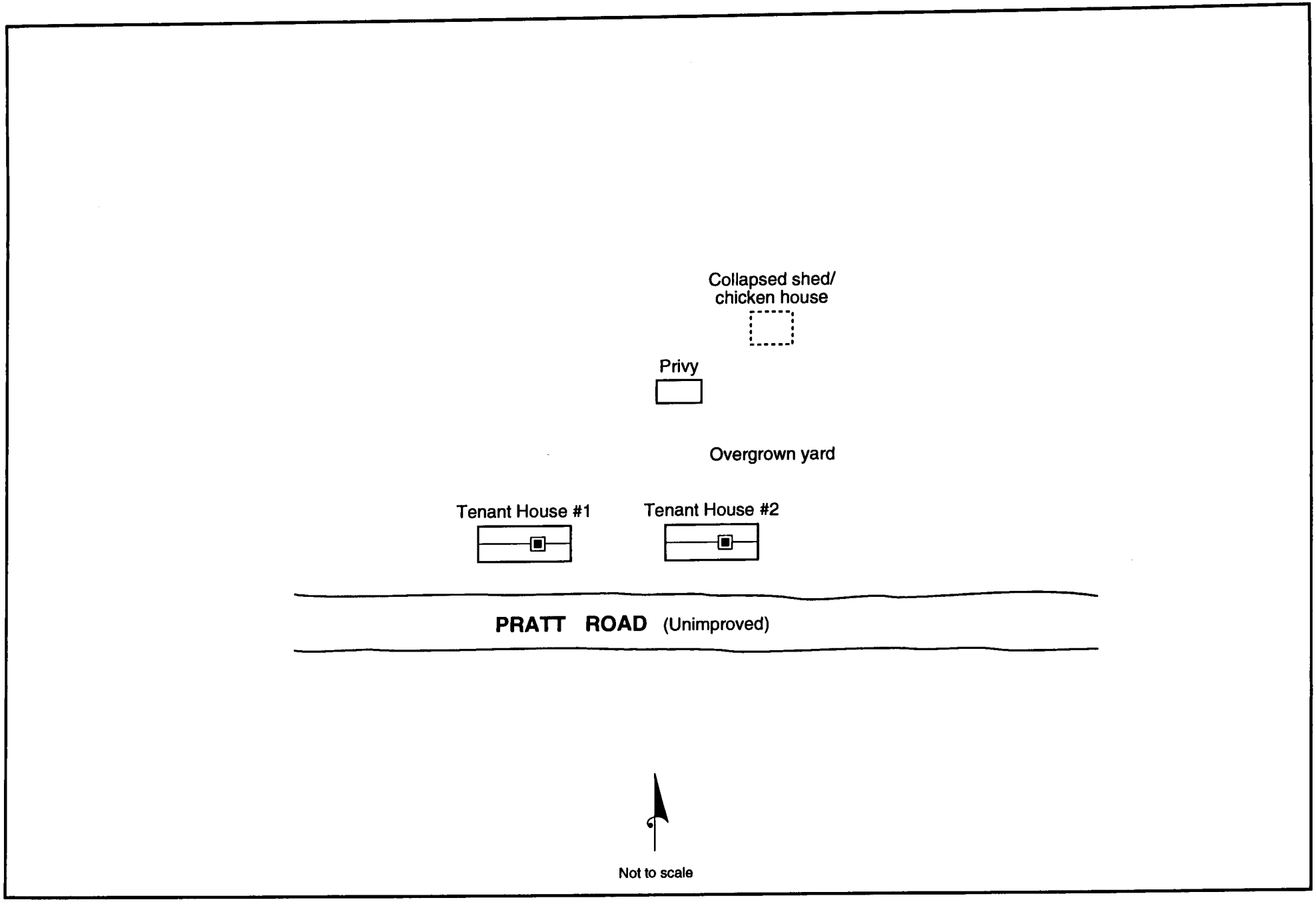
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kerri Culhane		
organization	John Milner Associates, Inc.	date	8/2000
street & number	5250 Cherokee Avenue, Suite 300	telephone	703/354-9737
city or town	Alexandria	state	VA

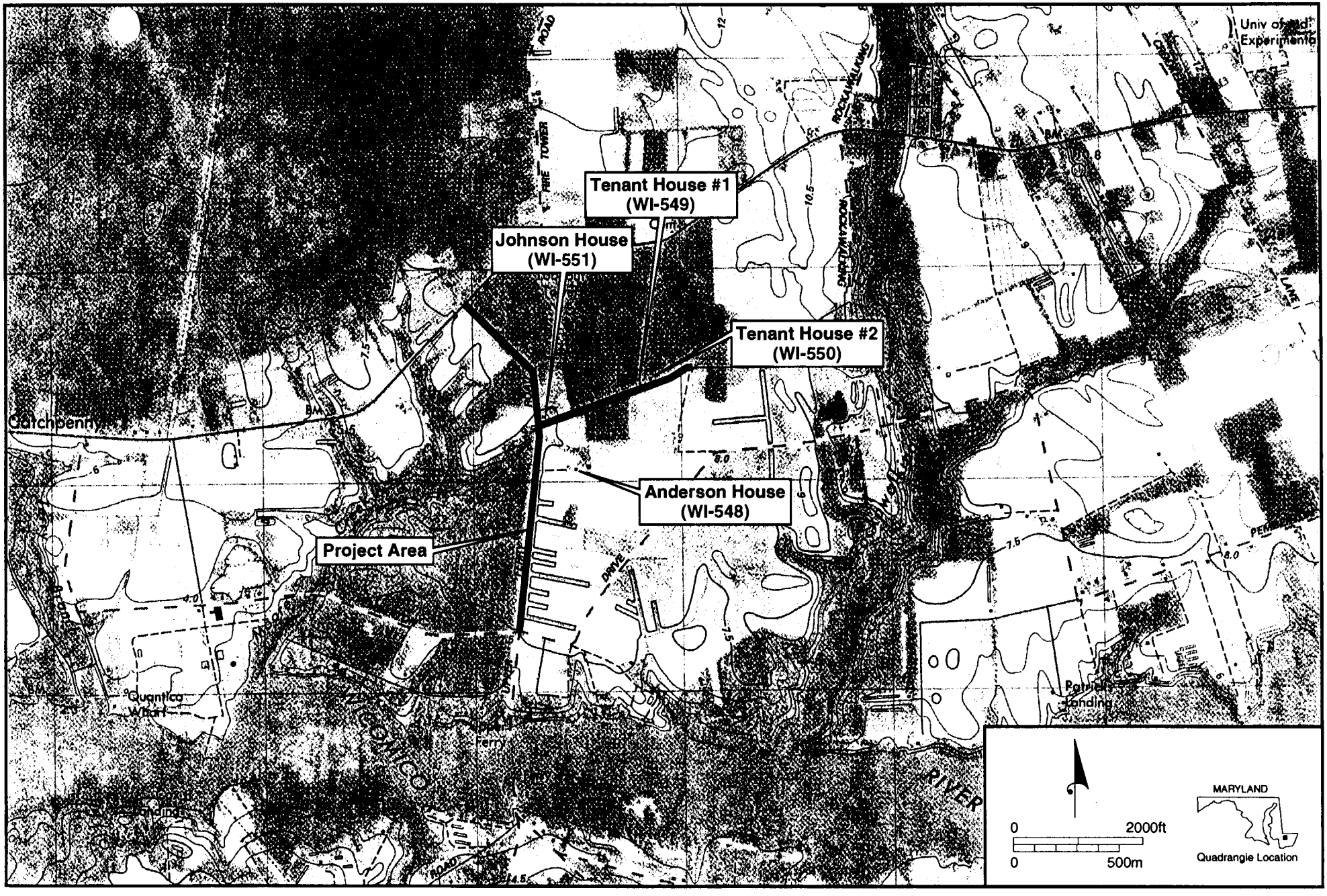
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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



Tenant Houses 1 and 2 (WI-549 and WI-550), site plan.



Location of project area on USGS 1983 *Eden, MD*, 7.5-minute quadrangle, showing standing structures assessed in architectural survey.

WI-550

tenant House #2, Pratt Rd.

Salisbury vic

Wicomico, MD

K. Cultrane

July 2000

MDSHPO

Roof - view to northwest.

WI-550

tenant house #2, Pratt Rd.

Salisbury vic.

Wicomico Co., MD

K. Culhane

July 2000

MDSHPO

Facade, view to north

WI-550

Tenant House #1, Pratt Rd.

Salisbury Vic.

Wicomico Co., MD

K. Culhane

July 2000

MDSHPO

Interior, east parlor view to entrance vestibule. view to southwest

WI-550

Tenant House #2, Pratt Rd

Salisbury vic.

Wicomico Co., MD

K Culhane

July 2000

MD SHPO

3/4 view to northeast

WI-550

Outhouse, Tenant House #2, Pratt Rd.

Salisbury VIC

Wicomico Co, MD

K. Culhane

July 2000

MDSHPO

view to northeast

WI-550

Outhouse, Tenant House #2, Pratt Rd.

Salisbury vic.

Wicomico Co, MD

K. Culhane

July 2000

MDSHPO

view to north.