

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

NR Eligible: yes  no

Property Name: Johnson House Inventory Number: WI-55I

Address: 5915 North Upper Ferry Road City: Salisbury Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

County: Wicomico USGS Topographic Map: Eden Quadrangle

Owner: Rebecca L. Johnson [Taylor-White], 5915 North Upper Ferry Road, Salisbury MD

Tax Parcel Number: 229 Tax Map Number: 36 Tax Account ID Number: 2302002930

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? Xno \_\_\_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)

The ca. 1910 Johnson House was built by the Johnson Family of Salisbury as a summer retreat. It is a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay-wide frame side-gabled bungalow with a shed dormer. The house sits atop brick piers; it is sided in cedar shakes and roofed in asphalt shingles. A three-bay, flared shed-roofed porch extends across the main house. Small battered posts support the flaring eave. Tripartite windows consist of a central 9/1 hung sash flanked by narrower 6/1 sashes. A solid, raised panel single-leaf door is slightly offset from the center of the façade. An addition on the east side of the house is similarly a one-and-one-half-story, side gabled frame structure with shed dormers across both the front and rear elevations. The addition sits atop a solid concrete foundation and is sided in wide, beaded clapboard. The windows in the addition are 8/8 and 6/6 hung sashes.

North of the house is a shed-roofed frame privy, probably a contemporary of the house; a long, gable-roofed, frame stable dating to the mid-twentieth-century; and a modern pole shed. The large yard is bordered by Pratt Road to the south; North Upper Ferry Road to the west; and large fields to the north and east. Mature hardwoods and hollies shade the house. The house.

The Johnson House is an interesting example of an early twentieth-century bungalow, but it is a common type. It lacks the uniqueness or integrity required for inclusion in the National Register. It is not known to be associated with people or events important in history. Therefore, the Johnson House is not recommended for inclusion in the National Register.

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

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended ___	Eligibility <b>not</b> recommended <u>X</u>
Criteria: ___A___B___C___D	Considerations: ___A___B___C___D___E___F___G___None
Comments: _____	
<u>Andrew Lewis</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>06/05/01</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR program	<u>6/5/01</u> Date

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-551

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Johnson House

other

## 2. Location

street and number 5915 North Upper Ferry Road

not for publication

city, town Salisbury

vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name Rebecca L. Johnson [Taylor-White]

street and number 5915 North Upper Ferry Road

telephone 410-742-2154

city, town Salisbury

state MD

zip code

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Salisbury Court House

tax map and parcel

city, town Salisbury

liber 1122 folio 568

## 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: Maryland Historical Trust

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				<input type="checkbox"/> 0	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. WI-551

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

The Johnson House, dating to the first quarter of the twentieth century, stands on the east side of North Upper Ferry Road, north of Pratt Road. North Upper Ferry Road is a narrow two-lane road that leads south from Nanticoke Road, a major secondary road, to the Upper Ferry Landing, one of a limited number of river crossings along the Wicomico. Pratt Road is a narrow unsurfaced road for approximately a quarter of a mile from its intersection with North Upper Ferry Road to the point at which modern suburban development occurs and asphalt paving commences. The character of the landscape in the vicinity of North Upper Ferry and Pratt Roads has been rapidly changing over the past two decades. The land was historically a combination of forest and agricultural fields from its patenting in the eighteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century. Loblolly pine and second growth (or later generation) forest and agriculture remain the primary land uses centered around the North Upper Ferry/Pratt Road intersection, however the margins of this agricultural nucleus have been rapidly developed in a suburban residential pattern.

The ca. 1910 structure has three associated outbuildings: a stable, a necessary, and a modern pole shed. The house was built by the Johnson Family of Salisbury as a summer retreat (Taylor-White 2000, personal communication). The Johnson house is a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay-wide frame side-gabled bungalow with a shed dormer. The house sits atop brick piers; it is sided in cedar shakes and roofed in asphalt shingles. A three-bay, flared shed-roofed porch extends across the main house. Small battered posts support the flaring eave. Tripartite windows consist of a central 9/1 hung sash flanked by narrower 6/1 sashes. A solid, raised panel single-leaf door is slightly offset from the center of the façade. An addition on the east side of the house is similarly a one-and-one-half-story, side gabled frame structure with shed dormers across both the front and rear elevations. The addition sits atop a solid concrete foundation and is sided in wide, beaded clapboard. The windows in the addition are 8/8 and 6/6 hung sashes.

North of the house is a shed-roofed frame privy, probably a contemporary of the house; a long, gable-roofed, frame stable dating to the mid-twentieth-century; and a modern pole shed. The large yard is bordered by Pratt Road to the south; North Upper Ferry Road to the west; and large fields to the north and east. Mature hardwoods and hollies shade the house. The house is an interesting example of an early twentieth-century bungalow, but it is a common type. d

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-551

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

<b>Specific dates</b>	n/a	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	ca. 1910		

Evaluation for:

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.)

Statement of Significance

The Johnson House is a modest earl- twentieth-century bungalow built by the Johnson Family of Salisbury as a summer retreat (Taylor-White 2000, personal communication). It is a good example of an early twentieth-century bungalow, but it is a common type. Architecturally, it is lacking in the uniqueness or integrity required for inclusion in the National Register. It is not known to be associated with people or events significant in local, state, or national history. Therefore, the Johnson House is not recommended for inclusion in the National Register.

Historical Background

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 entire area, 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.

Until the mid-nineteenth century, the property ownership in the area is unclear. By the eighteenth century, the Anderson name is associated with the area through tax rolls and the ownership of the mill at Rockawalkin Creek; however, the chain of title to the land is

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Anderson House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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not complete (Somerset County Tax Rolls 1798; Taylor-White 2000, personal communication). The first map depicting structures in the vicinity was the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson *Atlas of the Eastern Shore*, published in 1877 (Figure 1877). Isaac Anderson, Naaman P. Turner, "Mrs." Anderson and W.M. Hanley are all identified on the map as owning or occupying houses in the area.

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.

The character of the landscape in the vicinity of North Upper Ferry and Pratt Roads has been rapidly changing over the past two decades. The land was historically a combination of forest and agricultural fields from its patenting in the eighteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century. Loblolly pine and second growth (or later generation) forest and agriculture remain the primary land uses centered around the North Upper Ferry/Pratt Road intersection, however the margins of this agricultural nucleus have been rapidly developed in a suburban residential pattern.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. WI-551

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.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property approx. 10 acres in immediate area

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name Eden 7.5'

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Northeast of the intersection of Pratt Road and North Upper Ferry Road. This house stands on piece of a larger 116 acre parcel that spans the intersection.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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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

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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

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-551

Anderson House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

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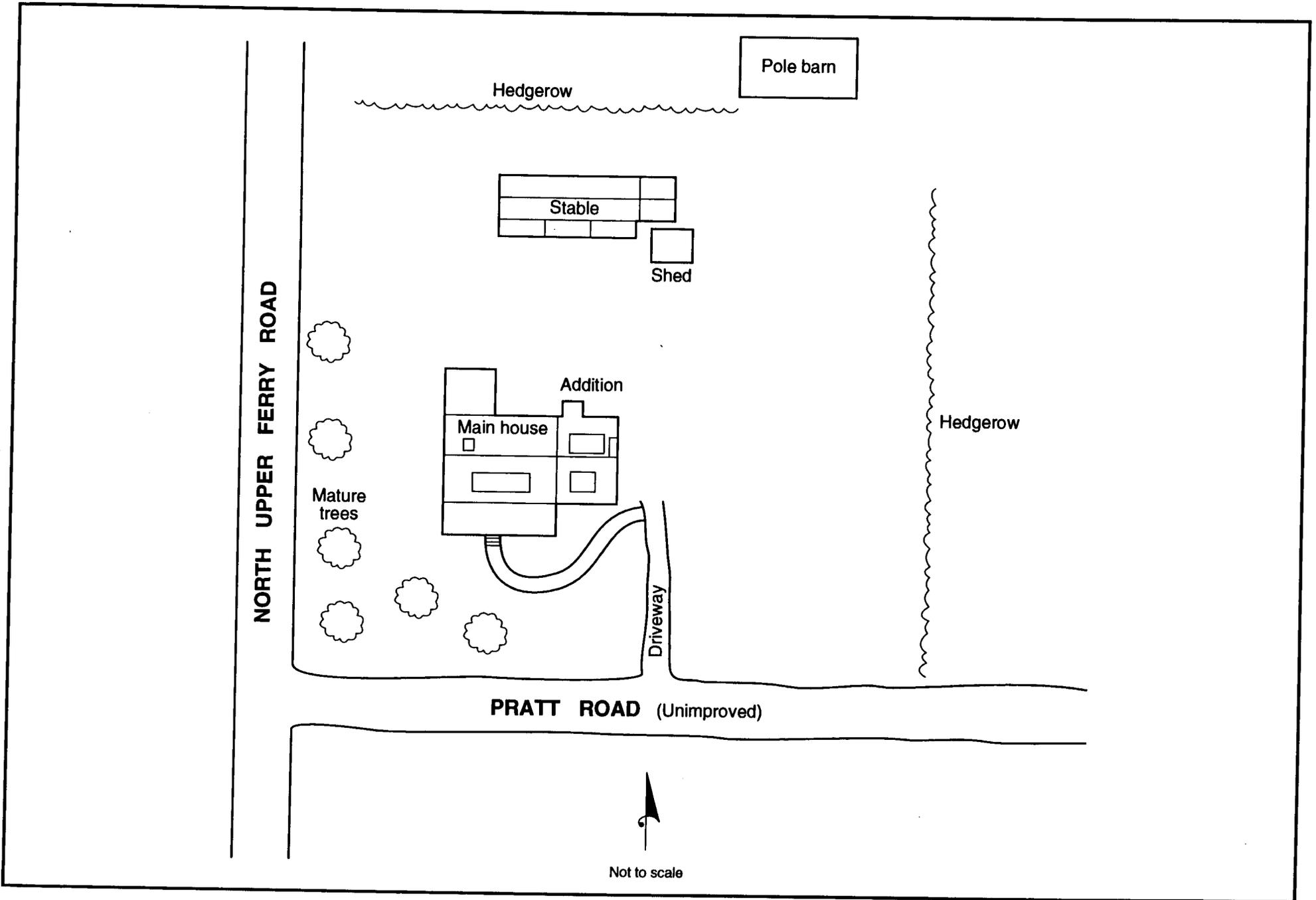
Somerset County Tax Rolls. 1798. Wicomico Hundred, List of Lands, lots, buildings and wharves. Available on microfilm at the Nabb Research Center, Salisbury State University, Salisbury, Maryland.

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

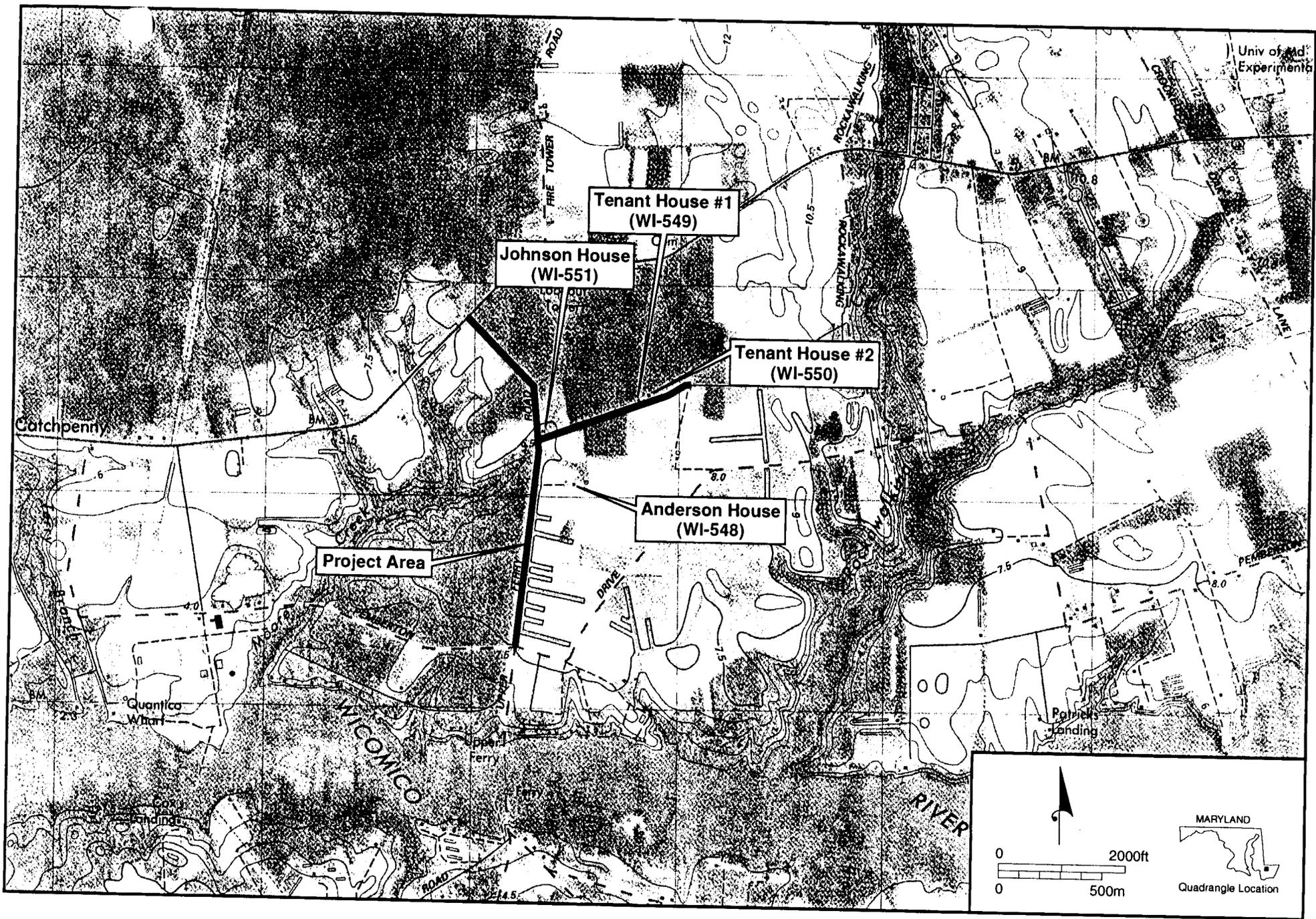
Torrance, Clayton. 1979. *Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Regional Publishing, Baltimore, Maryland.

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.

United States Geological Survey. 1942. Eden 7.5' Topographical Quad. On file in the MHT Library and Archives, Crownsville, MD.



Johnson House (WI-551), site plan.



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



WI-551

Johnson House, Pratt and North Upper Ferry Roads

Salsburg vic.

Wicomico County, MD

K. Culhane

July 2000

MDSHPO

PROTECH7000 3021  
293 8711 N N N-1 02 2(040)

3/4 view to northeast

1/12



WI-551

Johnson House, Pratt and North Upper Ferry Rd.

Salisbury vic.

Wicomico Co., MD

K. Culhane

July 2000

MD SHPO

PROTECH700< 3022  
293 0711 N N N-1 17 2(040)

view to north-northwest

2/12



wi-551

Johnson House, Pratt and North Upper Ferry Rd.  
Salisbury Wc.

Wicomico Co., MD

K. Culhane

July 2000

MD SHPO

PROTECH7000 2013  
293 0711 N N N-1 29 2 (040)

View to northeast

3/12



WI-551

Johnson House, Pratt and North Upper Ferry Rd.

Salisbury VIC.

Wicomico Co., MD

K. Cuthane

July 2000

mostpo

PROTECH7000 2020  
293 0711 N N N-1.07 2(040)

view to southeast

4/12



WI-551

Johnson House, Pratt and North Upper Ferry Rd

Salisbury vic.

Wicomico Co., MD

K. Culhane

July 2000

PROTECH700< 2019  
293 0711 H N N-1 28 2(040)

MD SAPO

view to southwest

5/12



WI-551

Outbuilding, Johnson Home

Salisbury vic.

Wicomico Co, MD

K. Culhane

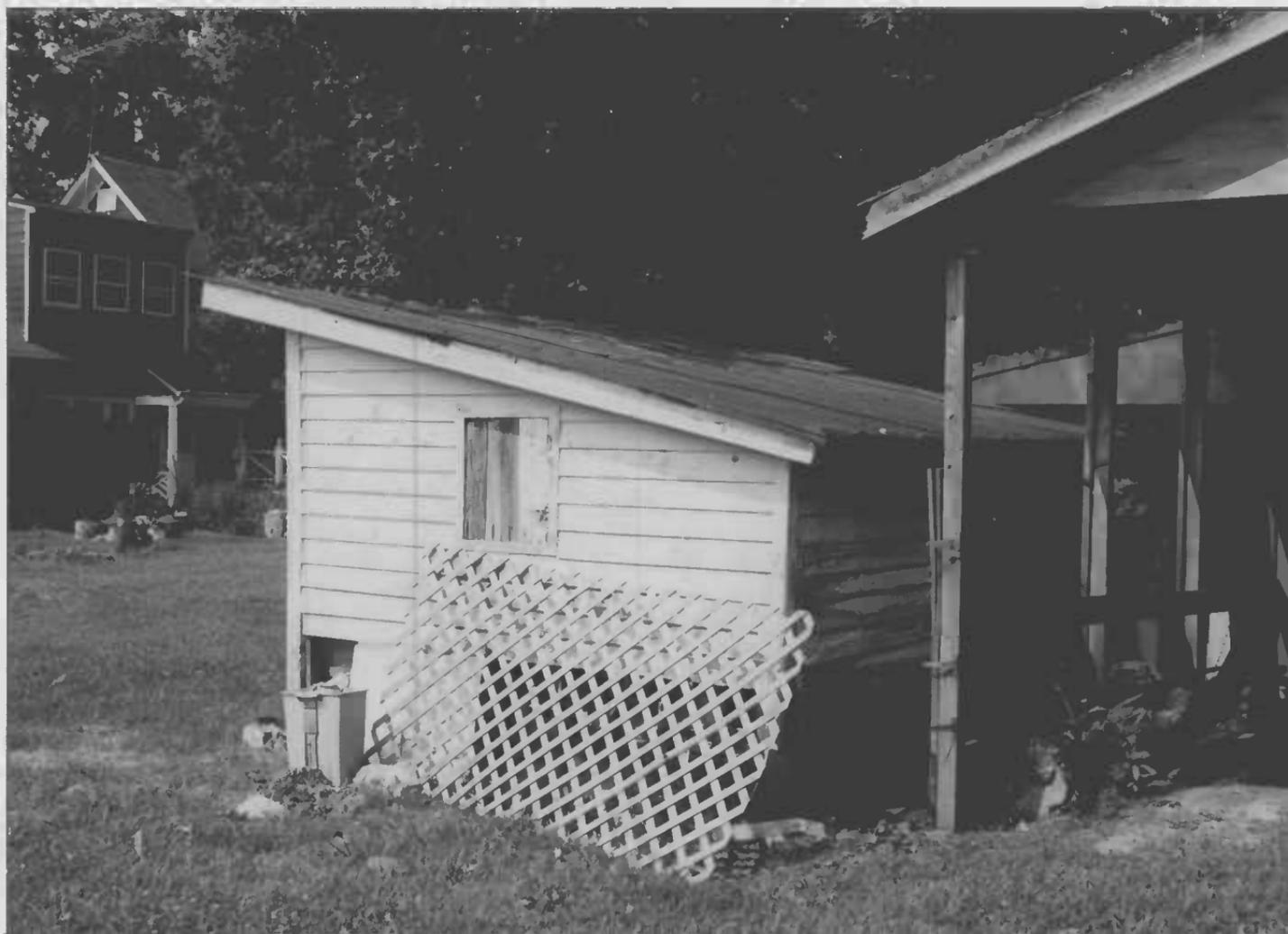
July 2000

PROTECH7000 3018  
293 8711 N N N-1 20 2 (040)

MD SHPO

New to north

6/12



WI-551

Outbuilding, Johnson House

Salisbury vic.

Wicomico Co., MD

K. Culhane

July 2000

MD SAPO

PROTECH700K 0017  
293 0711 N N N-3 56 2(040)

view to southwest

7/12



WF-551

Outbuilding, Johnson House

Salisbury vic.

Wicomico Co., MD.

K. Culhane

July 2000

PROTECH700< 016  
293 0711 N N N N 09 2(040)

MDSHP0

view to southwest

8/12



WI-551

outbuilding, Johnson Home  
Salisbury VIC.

Wicomico Co., MD

K. Culhane

July 2000

PROTECH700K 2014  
293 0711 N N N-1 17 2(040)

MDSAPU

view to east

9/12



WI-551

Pole shed, Johnson House  
Sausbury VIC.

Wicomico Co., MD

K. Culhane

July 2000

PROTECH700K 0015  
295 0711 N N N-3 17 2(040)

MDSTPO

view to north

10/12



WI-951

Johnson House

Salisbury N.C.

Wicomico Co, MD

K. Cullane

July 2000

MD SHPO

PROTECH7004 2003  
292 0711 N N N 1 12 2 (040)

Long view to northwest across field. Three  
outbuildings visible:

11/12



WI-551

Johnson House

Salisbury vic.

Wicomico Co., MD

K. Culhane

July 2000

PROTECH700K 5012  
293 0711 N N N-4 56 2 (040)

MDSHPO

Intersection of North Upper Ferry Road with  
Pratt Rd (right side of photo). View to north/  
northeast

12/12