MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Dowell Residence Inventory Number: CT-1271

Address: 1253 E. Mt. Harmony Road, Owings, MD 20736, Calvert County

Owner: Herbert C. & Charlotte M. Dowell, 8446 Stevens Rd, Owings, MD 20736

Tax Parcel Number: 120 Tax Map Number: 7

Project MD 260: Bridge 4022 and Relocation of Mt. Harmony Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff: __ no X yes Name: Kelly Steele Date: 05/23/2000

Eligibility recommended __ Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria __A __B X C __D Considerations: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G X None

Is property located within a historic district? X no __ yes Name of District: _____

Is district listed?: X no __ yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

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

Description:
1253 E. Mt. Harmony Road is a simple side-gable residence with Craftsman style details. The original structure has undergone some changes including the addition of a room to the east and a screened porch along the south elevation, and the front porch has been screened. This 1940s, single-story structure consists of wood clapboard siding and a panel-faced concrete block foundation. The asphalt shingle roof has a moderate pitch, with a chimney near the center, at the peak. At the soffit, brackets and exposed rafters add some decorative detailing. As the structure sits on the lot, it faces north, surrounded by lawn. The adjacent grade drops at the east and south elevations, exposing the basement wall. A barn stands to the west of the residence.

The main, north, façade contains a 6/1 window on either side of a centered entryway. The entrance to the residence includes a centered door and an elevated, screened porch with a gable-front roof. A single story room addition extends from the east end of the north façade. This addition contains a single 1/1 modern window and a low pitched side-gable roof. The base of the addition does not meet the ground plane. Instead, the structure is supported by four

Prepared by: Kelly Steele Architectural Historian SHA

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Eligibility recommended __ **Eligibility not recommended** X
Criteria: __ A __ B __ C __ D **Consideration** __ A __ B __ C __ D __ E __ F __ G __ None
Comments: _____

_____ _____
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

_____ 8/28/00
Reviewer, NR Program **Date**

concrete block piers.

The east elevation has two 6/1 windows on the room addition and one window in the gable peak of the original house section. The west elevation exhibits a composition similar to the east side, with two 6/1 windows and another window in the gable peak. There are also two basement windows on this side. The south elevation has a modern screened porch that extends across the entire façade. This porch has a shed roof and is supported by concrete piers.

The barn stands to the west of the residence. It has a standing seam, metal gable roof. A large, sliding door on the north elevation provides access into the structure, and three 6/6 winodws run along the east elevation. The strucutre is two levels in height, with a rectangular footprint and a moderate pitch to the roof.

Significance:
Calvert County, established in 1654, is located in southern Maryland on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Within the county, settlement occurred along the north and south shores of the Patuxent River as early as 1639. Settlement spread quickly through the county, with most of the tillable land occupied by the end of the 17th century. With this dispersed settlement, the county contained few towns

A combination of favorable soil and topography, and good river transportation helped establish agricultural as the main economic factor. Tobacco became the chief crop and remained so until the late 20th century. This emphasis on agriculture promoted large land holdings without much town development. This pattern continued through the Revolutionary War, at which time the decline of the plantation system and the proliferation of small farms changed the county socially and supported the growth of small towns and crossroad villages.

The introduction of the railroad in 1868 also helped influence the development of the county. While railroads did not play a large role in Calvert County, the Washington & Chesapeake Railroad, started in 1891 to provide travel between Washington , DC and a planned resort at Chesapeake Beach, did spur the development of small communities and service centers around the railroad freight and flag stops. However, during the 1930s, substantial road improvements replaced the reliance on boats and trains for transportation. Such infrastructure improvements enabled the county to grow and develop in conjunction with the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area expansion. With these metropolitan areas extending into Calvert County, the economic reliance on tobacco declined, and metropolitan development, recreation and tourism started driving the economy of Calvert County.

The area around the Mt. Harmony Road/ MD 260 intersection was slow to develop, with the first road in the area appearing on an 1865 map (predecessor of Mt. Harmony Road). On an 1885 map, a "colored" church appears in the area. Then, between 1897 and 1899, the Washington & Chesapeake Beach Railway came through the area, and the Mt. Harmony railway station was located within the project area (despite the fact that the village of Mt. Harmony was about 1 mile west). However, the railway went bankrupt in 1935, and its tracks were taken up, and the bed abandoned. A large portion of MD 260 was subsequently built on the abandoned railroad alignment. Many of the residential and commercial structures in the project area were built during the 1940s, with some adjacent residences constructed in the 1980s.

National Register Evaluation:
While the building at 1253 E. Mt. Harmony Road, as a vernacular residence with an associated barn, is associated with the agricultural history and development of Calvert County. However, the loss of any farmland and other associated farm structures have diminished the farmstead and removed its ability to convey this aspect of it's history. The structure does not possess an association with significant events or trends, and is not eligible under Criterion A. The structure is not eligible under Criterion B either. Research did not identify any known association with significant persons Similarly, the structure is not eligible under Criterion C because it does not embody distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. While the structure does characterize a side-gable, vernacular plan residence with Craftsman features, modern additions and county development have

compromised the structure's design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. In addition to this loss of integrity, the structure is not a complete or elaborate example of the Craftsman style. While it does possess simple versions of some basic identifying features including exposed rafters and soffit brackets, it does not fully depict the style. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, so it is not eligible under Criterion D, and the seven criteria considerations do not apply. Thus, it is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, as defined by the criteria of eligibility in 36 CFR 60.

Inventory No. CT-1271

PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN
TATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

I. Geographic Region:

____	Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
X	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
X	Modern Period	A.D. 1930- Present
____	Unknown Prehistoric	
____	Unknown Historic	

IV. Historic Period Themes:

X Agriculture
X Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
____ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
____ Government/Law
____ Military
____ Religion
____ Social Educational/Cultural
____ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/single dwelling and Agriculture/agricultural outbuilding

Known Design Source: None

Survey No. CT-1271
Resource Name Dowell Residence
Town/County Owings/Calvert County
Quad Map North Beach

1. CT-1271
2. Dowell Residence
1253 E. Mt. Harmony Road, Owings MD 20736
3. Calvert County, MD
4. Heather Confer
5. Feb 2000
6.
7. Taken from Mt. Harmony Road facing South
Showing north facade
8. 1 of 2

1. JT-1271
2. Dowell Residence
1253 E. Mt. Harmony Road, Owings MD 20736
3. Calvert County MD
4. Heather Confer
5. Feb. 2000
6.
7. taken from Mt. Harmony Road facing south
Shows north elevation of barn
8. 2 of 2