INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Clarence I. and Joann Custer Farm Survey Number: G-IV-A-205

Project: US 219/Oakland Vicinity Improvement Project Agency: MSHA

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

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessdary and attach map)

The Clarence I. and Joann Custer Farm, with the core of its main dwelling built in the late nineteenth century, documents the agricultural landscape surrounding the county seat of Oakland in the late 1800s as well as throughout much of the twentieth century. Agriculture was the predominant economic activity outside of Oakland in the late nineteenth century, as farmland comprised about 50 percent of the county's land mass in 1880, and more than 60 percent by 1910. Farms of this period typically raised potatoes, orchard products, oats, corn, buckwheat, wheat, rye, and barley as well as cattle, sheep, swine, and horses. Even in the early and mid-twentieth century, as mechanization began to alter many farming practices, most of the area's residents were still employed in agriculture. Twentieth-century farms in the area focused on producing milk, potatoes, hay, corn, small grains, buckwheat, oats, garden vegetables, and maple sugar.

Research has not identified any associations with the lives of persons significant to the Oakland area's past or with events that have contributed significantly to broad patterns of the area's historical development. The architecture does not represent a particularly distinctive type, period, or method of construction, nor does it represent the work of a master, possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. This resource has not yet yielded and is not likely to yield significant information important in history or prehistory.

Document on the property/district is presented in: Historic Structures Inventory and Determination of Eligibility Report (KCI/MSHA 1997)

Prepared by: Gabrielle M. Lanier/KCI Technologies, Inc.

Carrie Alexander 7/17/98
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: X yes ___ no ___ not applicable

Reviewer, NR program Date

Clarence I. and Joann Custer Farm
G-IV-A-205
215 East Toten Street
Oakland Vicinity
Circa 1890
Private

This farm complex includes a house, a frame bank barn, a smokehouse, and an equipment shed. The farmhouse is one-and-one-half-story, five-by-two-bay, gable-roofed frame dwelling with a double gable roof, an interior masonry chimney, and fully enclosed hip-roofed front and rear porches. The house is built on an in filled stone foundation, clad in white aluminum siding, and topped with an asphalt-shingled gable roof. Windows are a mixture of single two-over-two and one-over-one, double-hung sash, horizontal sliding single-pane sash, and fixed six-light sash finished with aluminum surrounds. Most of the entrances contain paneled wood or wood and glass doors with aluminum surrounds. The house faces southeast and occupies an open, sloping, hilltop site about one half-mile south-southeast of Oakland.

The Clarence I. and Joann Custer Farm, with the core of its main dwelling built in the late nineteenth century, documents the agricultural landscape surrounding the county seat of Oakland in the late 1800s as well as throughout much of the twentieth century.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. G-IV-A-205

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Clarence I. and Joann Custer Farm

2. Location

street & number 215 East Totten Street ____ not for publication

city, town Oakland _X_ vicinity

county Garrett

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

name Clarence I. and Joann Custer

street & number 215 East Totten Street telephone (301) 334-4863

city, town Oakland state and zip code MD 21550

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Garrett County Courthouse tax map and parcel 78-13-87

city, town Oakland liber and folio N/A

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
_X_ 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	
4	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	0	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

0

7. Description

Inventory No. G-IV-A- 205

Condition

___ excellent ___ deteriorated
_X_ 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.

This farm complex includes a house, a frame bank barn, a smokehouse, and an equipment shed. The farmhouse is a one-and-one-half-story, five-by-two-bay, gable-roofed frame dwelling with a double gable roof and fully enclosed hip-roofed front and rear porches. The house faces southeast and occupies an open, hilltop site that slopes downward in front. The property is located about one-half mile south-southeast of Oakland.

The house is built on a roughly coursed and dressed rubble stone foundation exhibiting several areas of brick infill. The foundation encloses a full cellar. The mixed foundation materials suggest an early core. The walls are clad in white aluminum siding, and the building is topped with an asphalt-shingled gable roof finished with an aluminum eave. A single interior masonry chimney stack rises from the rear of the building.

Windows are a mixture of single two-over-two and one-over-one, double-hung sash, horizontal sliding single-pane sash, and fixed six-light sash finished with aluminum surrounds. Most window openings are ornamented with black shutters. The front entrance, which is located on the northeast elevation inside of the enclosed porch, contains a paneled wooden door with an overhead red glass transom above. Two side entrances pierce either side of the enclosed back porch; these openings also contain paneled wooden doors. All door openings are finished with aluminum surrounds.

A fully-enclosed hip-roofed porch with a central door and six evenly-spaced windows spans the front elevation. This porch is clad in white aluminum siding to match the rest of the house and is topped with an asphalt-shingled hipped roof. A set of open concrete steps rising up to a concrete stoop leads to the front entrance. The enclosed rear porch is similarly roofed and clad, but is pierced by only two windows and a door at each end. Open ladder steps lead to the southwest door, while a concrete stoop leads up to the door on the northeast elevation.

A large gable-roofed frame bank barn stands to the southwest. This building is constructed on a concrete foundation and clad and roofed in corrugated metal; the roof is finished with exposed rafter feet. An earthen and stone ramp or embankment on the north elevation leads to a pair of sliding metal doors. A second set of sliding metal doors pierces the western gable. A fenced barnyard extends southward past the barn. A small, one-half-story, shed-roofed frame smokehouse stands at the westernmost corner of the house. This building is clad in a mixture of corrugated metal and wooden drop siding and topped with a corrugated metal shed roof. Two vertical board wooden doors provide access to the interior. A one-story gable - roofed frame equipment shed stands near the northernmost corner of the house. This building rests on a concrete foundation; it is clad in wooden drop siding and topped with a corrugated metal roof. Several large sliding corrugated metal doors on the east elevation provide access to the interior.

The house stands on a partially wooded, gently sloping lot at the corner of Third and Totten Streets. A stand of evergreens screens the house from the roads at the easternmost corner of the property. A concrete sidewalk leads from Third Street up to the front entrance, and an open driveway runs along the eastern side of the house between the rear porch and the equipment shed. South of the bank barn, the property slopes gently downward. The house is presently occupied and in good condition, but the application of aluminum siding has compromised its integrity.

8. Significance

Inventory No. G-IV-A-205

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	_X_ exploration/ settlement	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning		__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Specific dates Circa 1890 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual).

The Clarence I. and Joann Custer Farm, with the core of its main dwelling built in the late nineteenth century, documents the agricultural landscape surrounding the county seat of Oakland in the late 1800s as well as throughout much of the twentieth century. Agriculture was the predominant economic activity outside of Oakland in the late nineteenth century, as farmland comprised about 50 percent of the county's land mass in 1880, and more than 60 percent by 1910. Farms of this period typically raised potatoes, orchard products, oats, corn, buckwheat, wheat, rye, and barley as well as cattle, sheep, swine, and horses. Even in the early and mid-twentieth century, as mechanization began to alter many farming practices, most of the area's residents were still employed in agriculture. Twentieth-century farms in the area focused on producing milk, potatoes, hay, corn, small grains, buckwheat, oats, garden vegetables, and maple sugar.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. G-IV-A-205

Name
Continuation Sheet
Number 8 Page 1

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:	Western Maryland
Chronological/Developmental Period(s):	Modern Period A.D. 1930- Present
Historic Period Theme(s):	Agriculture
Resource Type:	
Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):	Dwelling and Agricultural Buildings
Known Design Source:	None

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. G-IV-A-205

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 71.52 acres
Acreage surveyed 71.52 acres
Quadrangle name Oakland, MD - VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 83, Map 78, Grid 13

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Gabrielle M Lanier / Architectural Historian		
organization	KCI Technologies, Inc.	date	3-11-97
street & number	10 North Park Drive	telephone	410-316-7857
city or town	Hunt Valley	state and zip code	MD 21030-1888

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
410-514-7646

G-IV-A-205

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name
Continuation Sheet
Number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Garrett County Historical Society. v. d. Vertical Files. On file at the Garrett County Historical Society, Oakland, MD.

Lacoste, Kenneth C., Robert D. Wall, and Robert C. Sonderman. *An Archeological Study of the Western Maryland Coal Region: The Historic Resources.* Maryland Geological Survey. Report on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD. 1989.

Roberts, Charles S. *West End, Cumberland to Grafton, 1848-1991.* Barnard, Roberts & Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD. 1991.

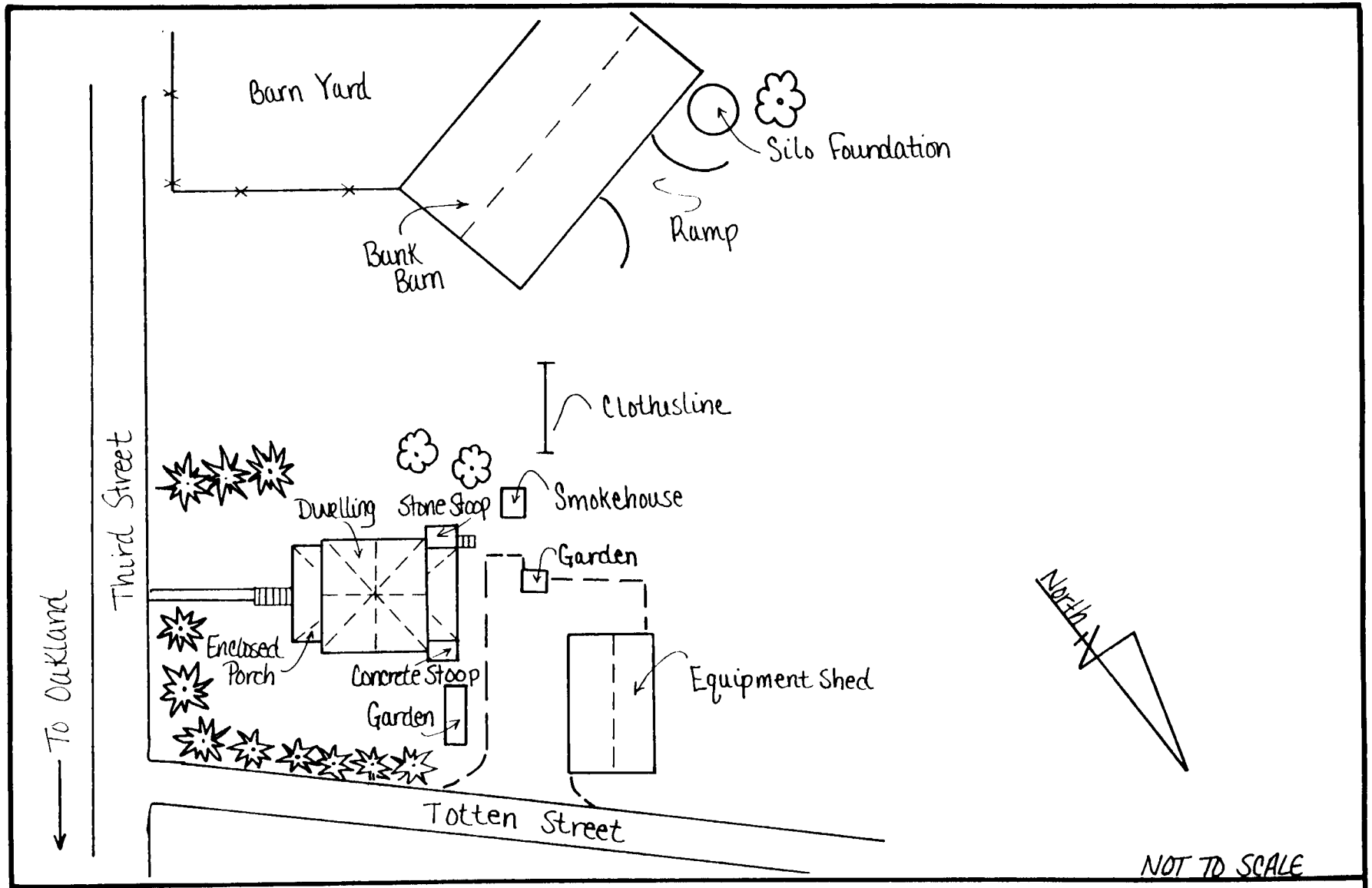
Schlosnagle, Stephen, and The Garrett County Bicentennial Committee. *Garrett County, A History of Maryland's Tableland.* McClain Printing Company, Parsons, West Virginia. Second Edition. 1989.

Ware, Donna M., and Mark R. Edwards. *Final Report of the Coal Region Historic Sites Survey, Volume I: Methodology and Management Plan.* Maryland Historical Trust. Report on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD. 1984.

Ware, Donna M., Orlando Ridout V and Geoffrey B. Henry. *Final Report of the Coal Region Historic Sites Survey, Volume II: Historical, Architectural, and Industrial Overviews.* Maryland Historical Trust. Report on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD. 1984.

Ware, Donna M., Orlando Ridout V, Geoffrey B. Henry and Mark R. Edwards. *Green Glades & Sooty Gob Piles.* Maryland Historical & Cultural Publications, Crownsville, MD. 1991.

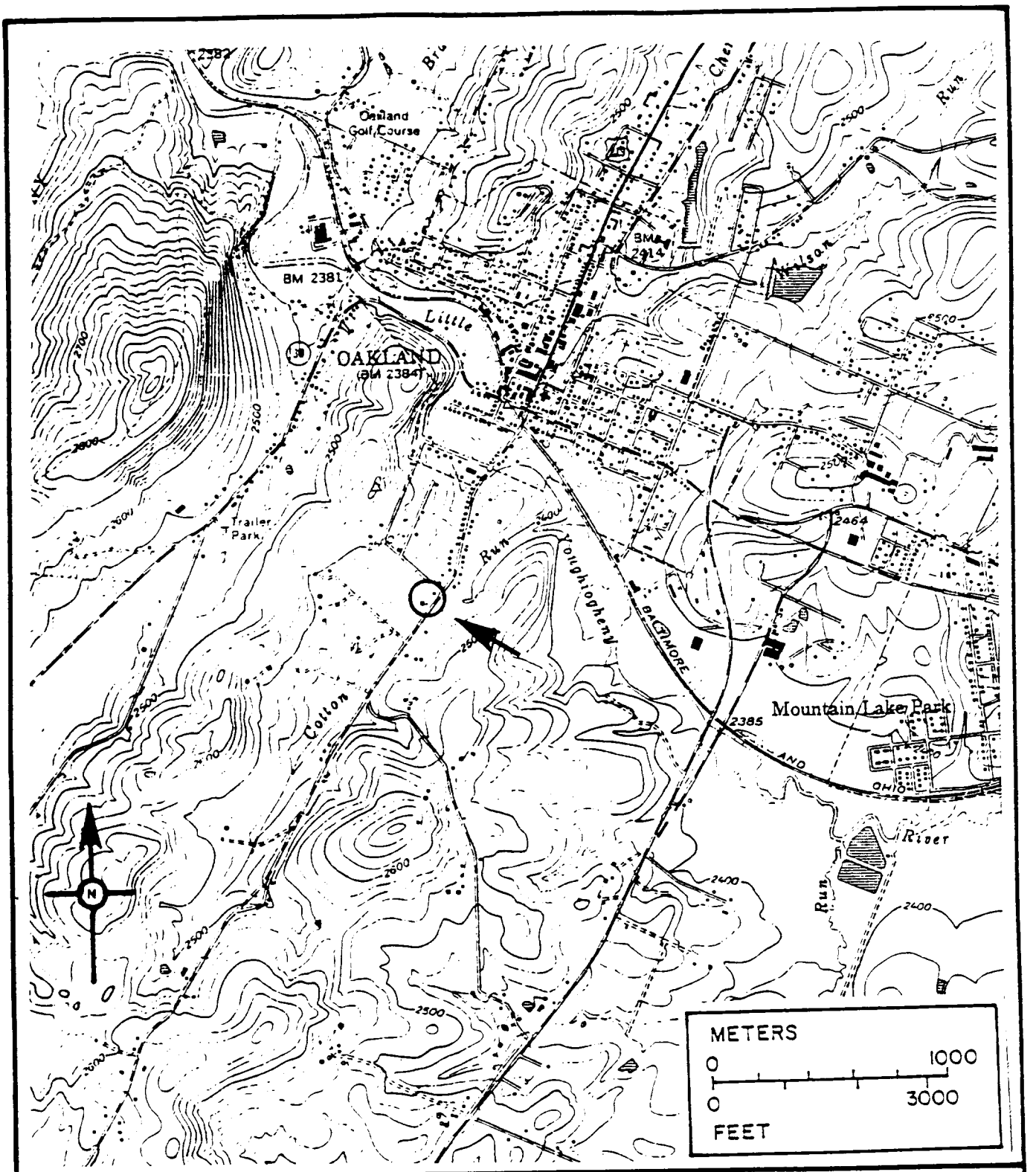
Weeks, Thekla Fundenberg. *Oakland Centennial History, 1849-1949.* The Sincell Printing Company, Oakland, MD. 1949.



KCI TECHNOLOGIES

Resource Sketch Map

G-IV-A-205
Clarence I. and Joann Custer Farm
Oakland Vicinity, Garrett County



Location Map

G-IV-A-205
Clarence I. and Joann Custer Farm
Oakland Vicinity, Garrett County
Oakland, MD-WVA Quadrangle Map (USGS 1974)

KCI TECHNOLOGIES

G-IV-A-205

GARRETT COUNTY, MD
STUART DIXON
1/14/97
MD SHPO
E ELEVATION LOOKING W

1 OF 7

G-IV-A-205

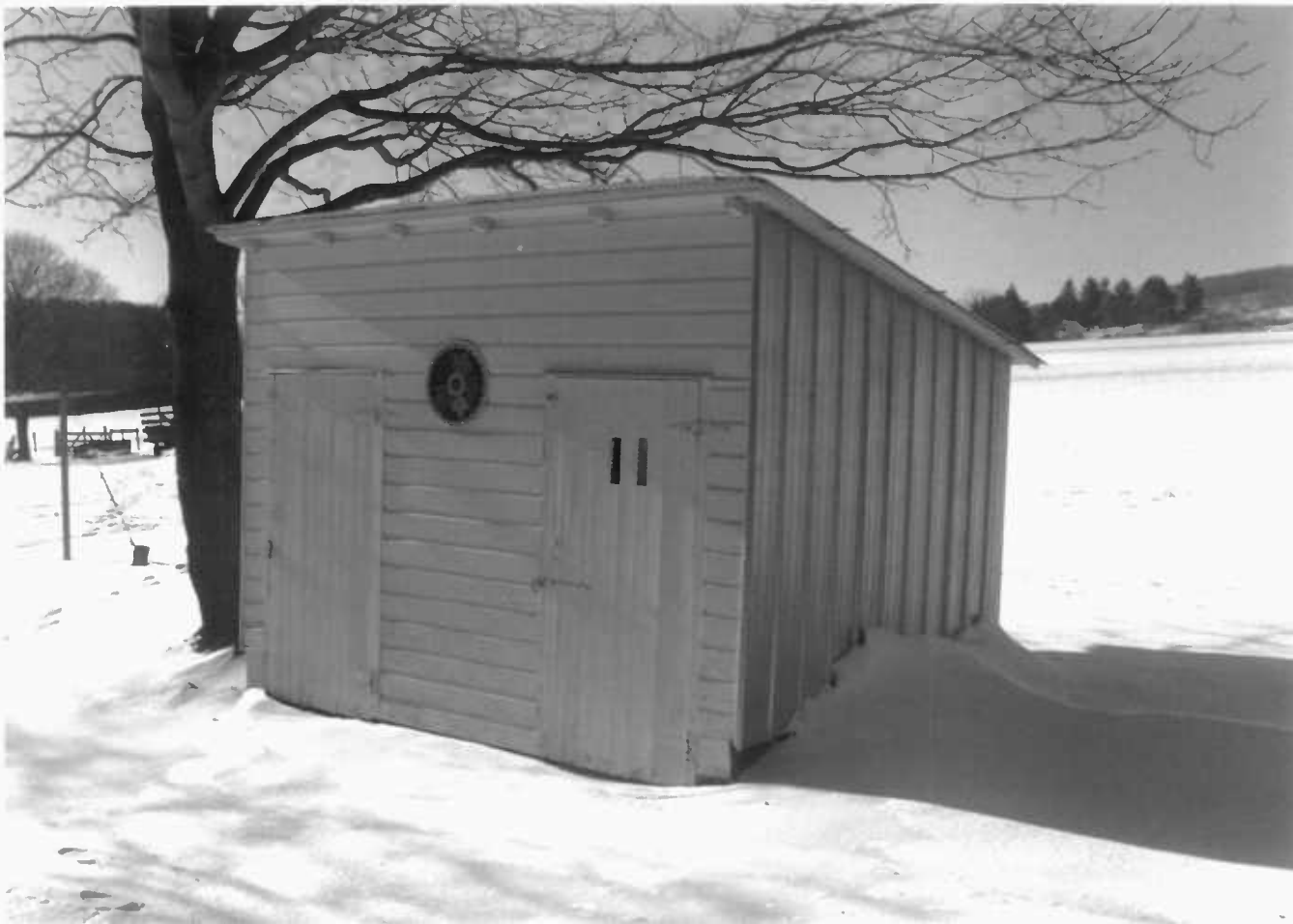
GARRETT COUNTY, MD
STUART DIXON
1/14/97
MD SHPO
W ELEVATION LOOKING E

2 of 7

G-IV-A-205

GARRETT COUNTY, MD
STUART DIXON
1/14/97
MD SHPO
NW ELEVATION LOOKING SE

3 of 7



G-IV-A-205

GARRETT COUNTY, MD
STUART DIXON
1/14/97
MD SHPO
E ELEVATION LOOKING W

4 OF 7

G-IV-A-205

GARRETT COUNTY, MD
STUART DIXON
11/4/97
MD SHPO
E ELEVATION LOOKING W

5 of 7

G-IV-A-205

GARRETT COUNTY, MD

STUART DIXON

1/14/97

MD SHPO

E ELEVATION LOOKING W

6 OF 7

G-IV-A-205

GARRETT COUNTY, MD
STUART DIXON
1/14/97
MD SHPO
SW ELEVATION LOOKING NE