

# CH-99

## Equality

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 12-18-2012***

Property Address <u>9755 Crain Highway, Bel Alton vicinity, Charles County</u>
Owner Name/Address <u>Edward C. Bou, 1700 K. Street NW, Washington D.C. 20006-3817</u>
Year Built <u>circa 1795</u>

**Description:**

Equality was previously surveyed by J. Richard Rivoire for the Maryland Historical Trust at an unknown date. The form did not contain an extensive description or history of the property. Equality is located on the west side of Crain Highway (U.S. 301) in the Bel Alton vicinity of Charles County. The 44.48-hectare (109.9-acre) agricultural property includes a circa 1795 residence with a mid-twentieth century addition, a cemetery, and a variety of twentieth-century outbuildings. The outbuildings consist of a machine shed, a corncrib, two sheds and four tobacco barns. Two of the tobacco barns are modern.

The circa 1795 residence is 2½-stories tall and 3-bays wide. It rests on a brick foundation and is covered in wood weatherboard with beaded cornerboards. The side-gable roof is covered in standing-seam metal and has bargeboards on the gable ends and a molded cornice. An off-center brick chimney and a brick-encased stovepipe are located in the north gable end. The residence has 6/6 double-hung windows with plain surrounds. A porch wraps the east, south and west elevations. A 1-story, 3-bay, wood-frame addition with a side-gable roof extends from the north elevation.

The 1-story porch stretches across the front, or east elevation. The porch has a concrete-block foundation and a concrete floor. The shed roof has a hip at the southeast corner where the porch wraps to the south elevation. The roof is covered in standing-seam metal and is supported by square, wood posts. Within the porch, the main entry is located in the south bay. The entry has a paneled door and a 3-light transom. The knob and lock have been removed from the door. Two windows with louvered shutters are located north of the door. The second story has three unevenly-spaced windows with louvered shutters.

The porch also stretches across the first story of the south elevation. The south elevation has a window with louvered shutters in the center of the first story. Windows without shutters are centered at the second-story and attic levels.

The rear, or west elevation has a separate 1-story porch. This porch also has a concrete-block foundation and square, wood posts supporting a standing-seam metal, shed roof. However, the roof of this porch sits slightly higher than the roof of the porch on the east and south elevations. The west elevation has an entry in the south bay. Above the paneled door is a 3-light transom. Two windows are located north of the door. The three windows on the second story have been replaced with modern, 2-light sliding units. The addition has an entry with a modern door and hood in the center bay. Modern, 1/1 double-hung windows are located on each side of the entry.

On the north elevation, the addition has a 1/1 double-hung window. A 6/6 window occupies attic level of the main block.

A cemetery containing graves of the Stone and Robertson families is located southwest of the house. The cemetery is currently extremely overgrown.

Also located on the property are a variety of twentieth-century outbuildings. The outbuildings are all of wood-frame construction with vertical-board siding and standing-seam, gable roofs. Immediately south of the house, on the west side of a farm lane, are a 2-bay machine shed, a 2-bay shed which is now collapsed, and a 1-bay corncrib. Further south, at the end of the farm lane, is a cluster of three tobacco barns and a shed. Tobacco Barn 1, located east of the lane, is a 2-story, 1-bay barn that is still used for the storage of tobacco. Tobacco Barn 2, located to the south where the lane turns to the west, is 3-bays wide and severely deteriorated. West of Tobacco Barn 2 is a 1-bay collapsed shed. Tobacco Barn 3 is located further west. This modern building is 2-stories tall and 2-bays wide with a gambrel roof. Tobacco Barn 4 is located at the end of a lane leading north from the house. This 1-bay building is also modern.

Equality occupies a large parcel of open, agricultural land in a rural area south of La Plata. The land is cultivated with tobacco and corn. The buildings are connected by a system of unpaved lanes. A stream crosses the south end of the property.

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Year Built <u>circa 1795</u>

**Significance:**

Equality occupies one of many tracts of land acquired by Michael Jenifer Stone beginning in the 1780s. Lawyer and politician Michael Jenifer Stone was born to a prominent Charles County family in 1747. His political career began locally when he served on the Committee of Observation in 1775 and as a lieutenant in the Charles County militia in 1776. Stone was elected to the lower house of the Maryland General Assembly in 1780 and served until 1783. He was later part of the first United States Congress from 1789 to 1791. As a Congressman, Stone was involved in the effort to establish the new national capital at Washington, D.C. He was also concerned with the salary and benefits of government officials. After leaving Congress, Stone served as chief judge of the first judicial district of Maryland from 1791 to 1802. He died in 1812 and is buried at the cemetery at Equality (Wearmouth 1986, 18-20).

In 1834, the heirs of Michael Jenifer Stone, including William Briscoe Stone, Sara Ann Caroline, Elizabeth I. Stone, Eleanor Robertson and Michael Jenifer Stone, Jr., sold Equality to George J. L. Swann. The property at that time measured 172 hectares (425 acres). Eleanor Robertson bought the property back in 1841. In her will, filed in 1879, Robertson left the property to her nephew, Frederick Stone (see Idaho, CH-166). Frederick Stone held the property until his death in 1899. In his will, he provided a home at the Aged Women's Home of Baltimore City for Mrs. Henrietta A. Adams, the tenant at Equality.

In 1900, Jennie Stone, heir and executrix for Frederick Stone, sold the house at Equality with 60.7 hectares (150 acres) to Thomas R. and Lucy A. Gardiner. Lucy Gardiner sold the property to Andrew Carlton Gardiner in 1931. In 1952, Gardiner sold 73.65 hectares (181.99 acres) to the Equality Corporation of Faulkner, Maryland. The property was soon split into two parcels. An 8.03-hectare (19.85-acre) strip of agricultural land was owned by Phillip Davis of Forest Hills, New York from 1952 until 1970. A 51.45-hectare (127.13-acre) parcel, which included more agricultural land and the buildings, was owned by Edward J. Edelen from 1952 to 1959. George W. and Audrey C. Robertson acquired the large parcel in 1959 and the small parcel in 1970. Charles Francis Calao bought both parcels in 1972 and sold them to the current owner, Edward C. Bou in 1981. The combined land area has since been reduced to 44.48 hectares (109.9 acres).

The house at Equality reflects a vernacular interpretation of the Federal style, which became common in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. Details found on high-style Federal buildings, such as a fanlight over the door and dentilated cornice, are here replaced with simplified elements such as a 3-light transom and a molded cornice. Equality's large windows and narrow muntins are also characteristic of this time period. Large, substantial houses of this time frequently follow a full-Georgian plan, which features a center passage flanked by double-parlors. Equality features a variation of the full-Georgian plan known as a side-passage, or "two-thirds" plan. In passage plans, a stair passage separates the entrance from the parlor and family living areas. Plans utilizing passages were historically considered formal plans and were generally recognized as housing of the elite.

Equality was originally a large, eighteenth-century plantation. By the late-eighteenth century, the acquisition of huge estates and plantations had become the trademark of tobacco culture. This was due to the harmful effects of the plant on soil fertility. The crop produced its maximum yield when planted on newly cleared land. Intensive planting of tobacco on the same acreage quickly exhausted the soil, thus requiring additional cleared land for further plantings. After three years, plot yield was smaller and the crop took longer to mature (Wesler et al. 1981, 125). Within 25 years of the first cropping, tobacco land had to be left fallow and new land had to be cleared (Wallerstein 1980, 165). The prime tracts of arable land, then, were those with room for future relocation and expansion (Walsh 1977, 408). The most productive land was consolidated into large tracts early in the settlement history of the colony, and these tracts were maintained through the eighteenth century. Plantations were generally managed and cultivated by tenant farmers and slaves; the owner, a "gentleman farmer," frequently had a profession outside of agriculture. Throughout the early and mid-nineteenth century, tobacco cultivation remained the predominant economic and agricultural activity in Charles County.

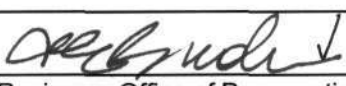
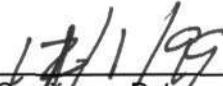
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Year Built <u>circa 1795</u>

**National Register Evaluation:**

Equality is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is eligible under Criterion A for its association with tobacco cultivation. Equality was part of a large, eighteenth-century tobacco plantation that gradually became smaller throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. As with many Charles County agricultural properties, tobacco has remained the primary crop. The property is eligible under Criterion B for its association with Michael Jenifer Stone, a locally significant lawyer and politician. The property is eligible under Criterion C as a surviving example of an eighteenth century frame dwelling. The house reflects a vernacular interpretation of the Federal style and includes features such as a molded cornice, paneled doors and large, 6/6 windows with narrow muntins. Although the porch, the north addition, and the windows on the rear second story have somewhat compromised the integrity of the building, its form and major features are all still readily visible. The property retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The cemetery at Equality does not meet Criteria Consideration D since the site does not contain graves of persons of transcendent importance, nor does it contain grave markers of distinctive design.

**Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:**

The National Register Boundaries for Equality correspond to those defined for Charles County Tax Map 64, Parcel 28. The property is bounded on the east by the southbound lanes of Crain Highway (U.S. 301), and on the north, west and south by adjacent tax parcels. The boundary encompasses 44.48 hectares (109.9 acres) and includes the house, cemetery, machine shed, corncrib, sheds, and Tobacco Barns 1 and 2 as contributing resources. Tobacco Barns 3 and 4 are non-contributing resources. The land within the boundary comprises the remainder of the agricultural land still associated with the property.

<b>MHT CONCURRENCE:</b>		
Eligibility	<input type="checkbox"/> recommended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not recommended
Criteria	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____ _____ _____		
		
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date	Reviewer, NR program Date

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Year Built circa 1795

**Bibliography:**

Land Records Office of Charles County, La Plata, MD.

Recorder of Wills of Charles County, La Plata, MD.

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1980. *The Modern World-System II. Mercantilism and the Consolidation of the European World Economy: 1600-1750.* New York: Academic Press, Inc.

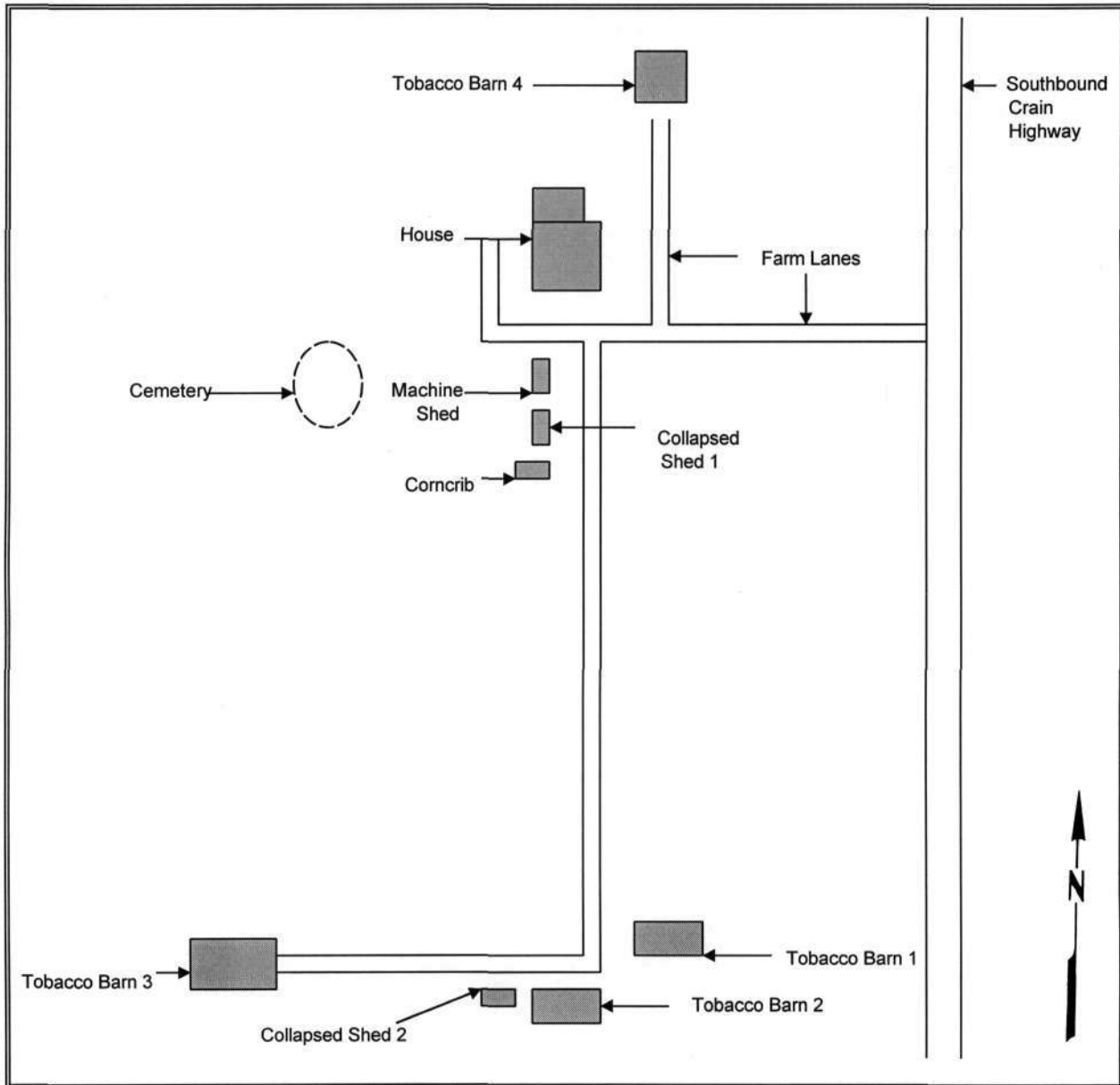
Walsh, Lorena S. 1977. *Charles County, Maryland, 1658-1705: A Study of Chesapeake Social and Political Structure.* Ann Arbor, MI: University Microfilm International.

Wearmouth, John M. 1986. *Charles County Helps Shape the Nation.* La Plata, MD: Charles County Board of Education.

Wesler, Kit W. et al. 1981. *The MDOT Archaeological Resources Survey. Volume 2: Western Shore.* Maryland Historical Trust Manuscript Series, No. 6.

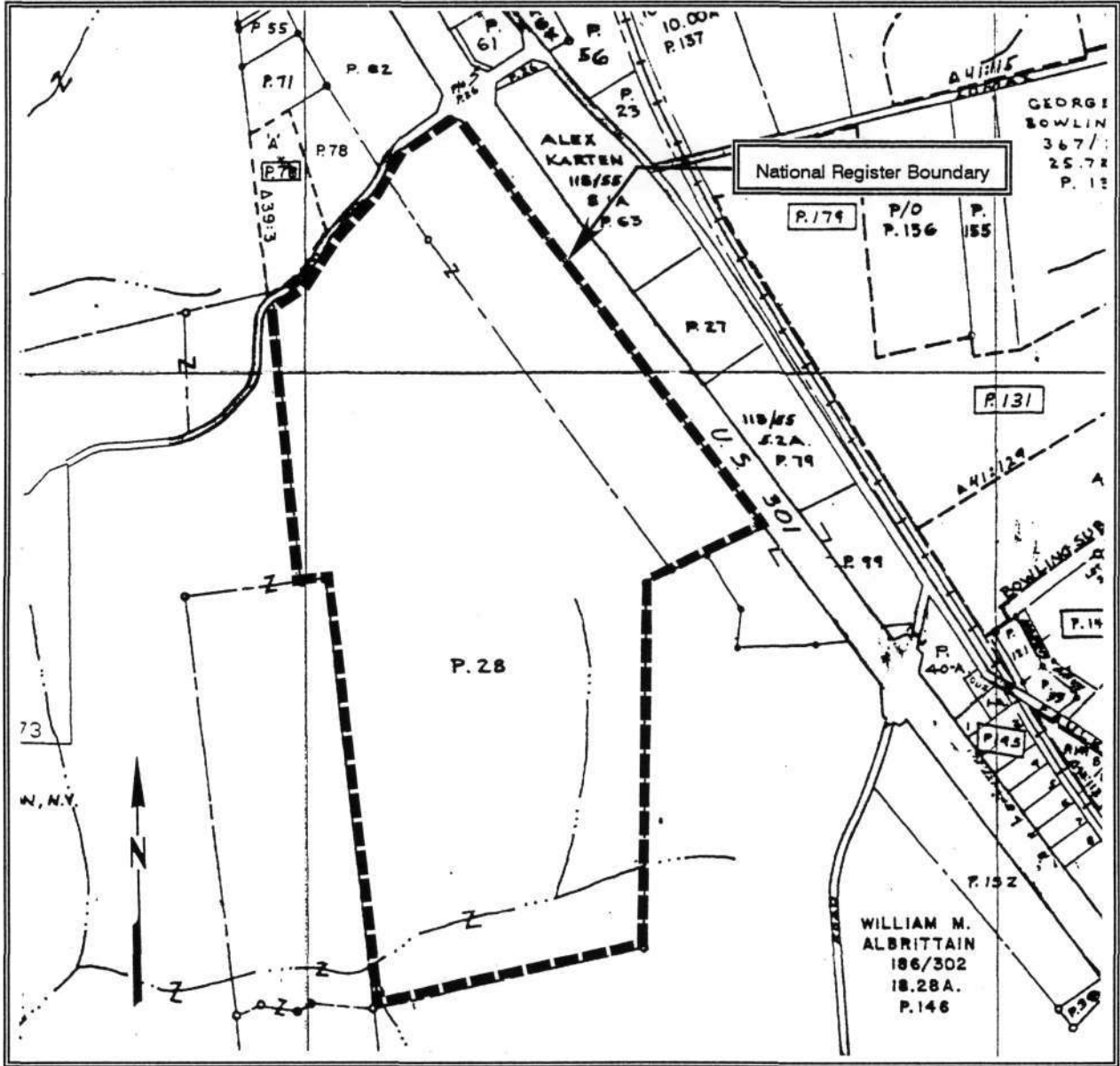
Property Address 9755 Crain Highway, Bel Alton vicinity, Charles County  
Owner Name/Address Edward C. Bou, 1700 K Street NW, Washington DC 20006-3817  
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Resource Sketch Map:



Property Address 9755 Crain Highway, Bel Alton vicinity, Charles County  
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National Register Boundary Map:



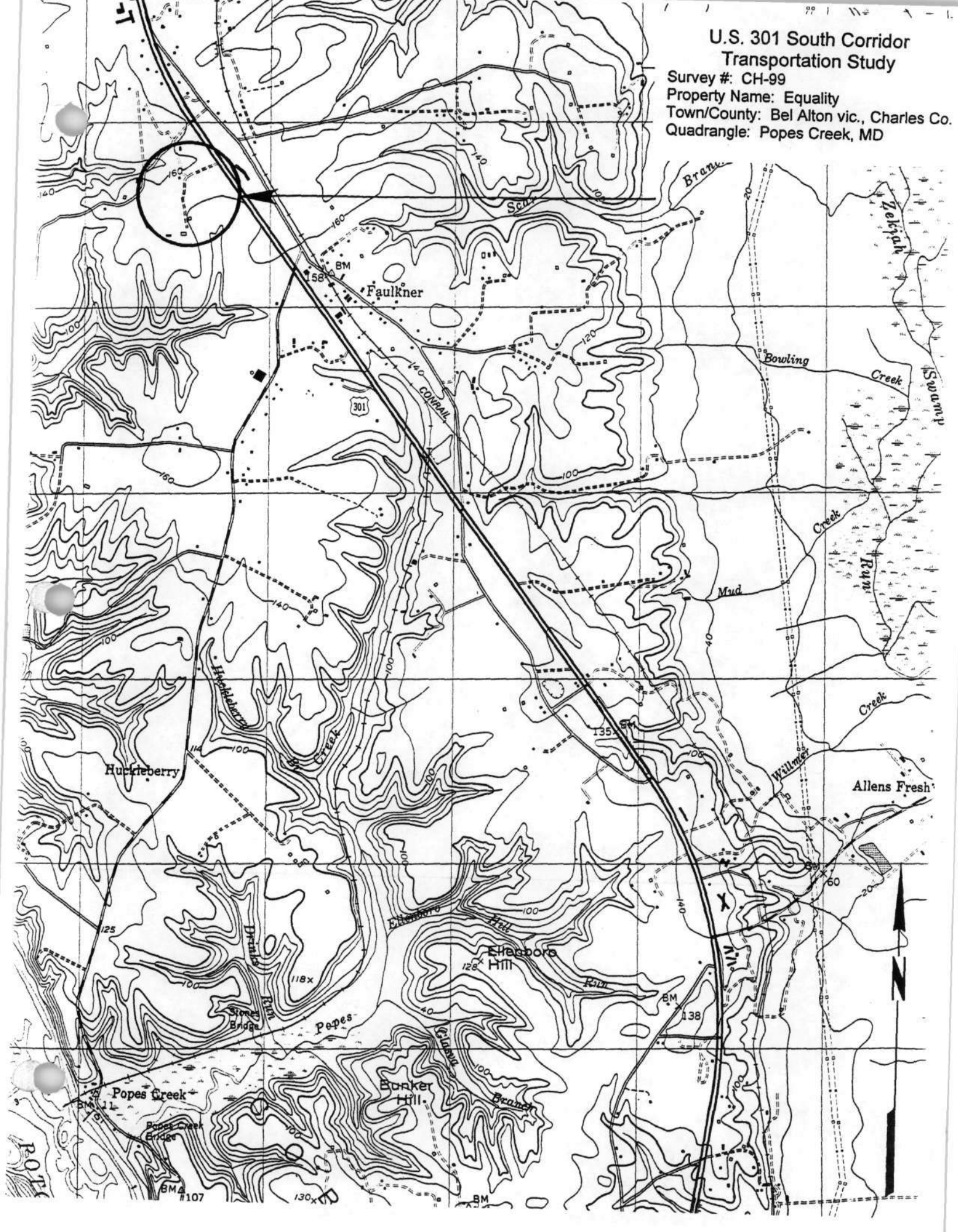
U.S. 301 South Corridor  
Transportation Study

Survey #: CH-99

Property Name: Equality

Town/County: Bel Alton vic., Charles Co.

Quadrangle: Popes Creek, MD





DCH-99

- 2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY
- 3) CHARLES Co, MD
- 4) JULIE DARSIE
- 5) I-99
- 6) MD SHPO
- 7) HOUSE & CEMETARY SITE - VIEW NE
- 8) 1 of 19



1) CH-99

2) Equality, 9755 Crain Highway

3) Charles Co, MD

4) JULIE DARSIE

5) I-99

6) MD SHPD

7) HOUSE, NE CORNER - View SW

8) 2 of 19

PROFESSIONAL  
PAPER & PAPER



1) CH-99

2) Equality, 9755 Crain Highway

3) Charles Co, MD

4) Julie Darsie

5) 1-99

6) MD SHPO

7) SE corner - View NW

8) 3 of 19



DCH-99

2) Equality, 9755 Crain Highway

3) Charles Co, MD

4) Julie Darsie

5) 1-99

6) MD SHPO

7) House, SW corner - View NE

8) 4 of 19



DCH-99

2) Equality, 9755 Crain Highway

3) Charles Co, MD

4) Julie Darsie

5) I-99

6) MD SHPO

7) NW Corner of house - view SE

8) S of I9



DCH-99

- 2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY
- 3) CHARLES CO, MO
- 4) JULIE, DARSIE
- 5) 1-99
- 6) MO SHPO
- 7) CEMETARY SITE - VIEW W
- 8) 6 of 19



DCH-99

2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY

3) CHARLES CO, MD

4) JULIE DARSIE

5) 1-99

6) MD SHPO

7) MACHINE SHED, VIEW NW

8) 7 of 19



1) CH-99

2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY

3) CHARLES Co, MD

4) JULIE DARSIE

5) I-99

6) MD SHPO

7) MACHINE SHED, VIEW SE

8) 8 of 19



DCH-99

2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY

3) CHARLES CO, MD

4) JULIE PARSIE

5) 1-99

6) MD SHPO

7) COLLAPSED SHED 1-VIEW SW

8) 9 of 19



1) CH-99

2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY

3) CHARLES CO, MD

4) JULIE DARSIE

5) I-99

6) MD SHPD

7) CORNCRIB - VIEW SW

8) 10 of 19



DCH-99

2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY

3) CHARLES Co, MD

4) JULIE DARSIE

5) 1-99

6) MD SHPD

7) TOBACCO BARN 1 - View SE

8) 11 of 19



- 1) CH-99
- 2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY
- 3) CHARLES Co, MD
- 4) JULIE DARSIE
- 5) 1-99
- 6) MD SHPO
- 7) TOBACCO BARN 1-VIEW NW
- 8) 12 of 19



- 1) CH-99
- 2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY
- 3) CHARLES Co, MD
- 4) JULIE DARSIE
- 5) I-99
- 6) MD SHPO
- 7) TOBACCO BARN 2 - VIEW SW
- 8) 13 of 19



- 1) CH-99
- 2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAW HIGHWAY
- 3) CHARLES Co, MD
- 4) JULIE DARSIE
- 5) I-99
- 6) MD SHPO
- 7) COLLAPSED SHED 2- VIEW SW
- 8) 14 of 19



- 1) CH-99
- 2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY
- 3) CHARLES Co, MD
- 4) JULIE DARSIE
- 5) I-99
- 6) MOSHPO
- 7) COLLAPSED SHED 2 & TOBACCO BARN 2 - VIEW NE
- 8) 15 of 19



- 1) CH-99
- 2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY
- 3) CHARLES Co, MD
- 4) JULIE DARSIE
- 5) 199
- 6) MD SHPO
- 7) TOBACCO BARN #3 - VIEWNE
- 8) 16 of 19



1) CH-99

2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY

3) CHARLES CO, MD

4) JULIE DARSIE

5) 1-99

6) MD SAPO

7) TOBACCO BARN 3-VIEW NE

8) 17 of 19



- 1) CH-99
- 2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY
- 3) CHARLES Co, MD
- 4) JULIE DARSIE
- 5) I-99
- 6) MD SHPO
- 7) TOBACCO BARN INTERIOR. VIEW NE
- 8) 18 of 19



1) CH-99

2) EQUALITY, 9755 CRAIN HIGHWAY

3) CHARLES Co, MD

4) JULIE DARSIE

5) I-99

6) MD SHPO

7) TOBACCO BARN 4 - VIEW NE

8) 19 of 19

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Exequality Equality

AND/OR HISTORIC:  

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Corner Mt. Airy Rd + St. RT# 301 - SW

CITY OR TOWN: Faulkner

STATE: Md. CODE:   COUNTY: Chas. CODE:  

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: Equality

STREET AND NUMBER:  

CITY OR TOWN: Faulkner STATE: Md. CODE:  

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Chas. Co.

STREET AND NUMBER:  

CITY OR TOWN: Laplat STATE: Md. CODE:  

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  

DATE OF SURVEY:   Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  

STREET AND NUMBER:  

CITY OR TOWN:   STATE:   CODE:  

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:    
COUNTY:    
ENTRY NUMBER:    
DATE:    
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

2 storey + attic  
 "A" roof = ridge running N to S.  
 Orig. 2 chimneys <sup>exterior</sup> in gable end -  
 NW chimney replaced by chimney  
 stack \* — both exterior.  
 3 bays front - door at SE end.  
 Front faces E  
 1 storey farm porch 1st level front.

NW chimney. . . . by a single flue  
 exterior stone chimney.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape		Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		_____	
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Burial place of Samuel Hanson  
 father of John Hanson - 1st. Pres. of  
 U.S. in Congress Assembled (Articles  
 of Confederation).

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for major bibliographical references.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: *Richard Rivort*

ORGANIZATION: *M.H.T.* DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: *Annap.* STATE: *Md.* CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS