

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Wilson Farmand/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Sheriff Road N/A not for publicationcity, town Landover X vicinity of congressional district state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u>X</u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u>X</u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u>X</u> other: None

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

name Maryland-National Park & Planning Commissionstreet & number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive telephone no.: (301) 952-3595city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code Maryland 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Court, Rm L-65 liber street & number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive folio city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/Adate federal state county local pository for survey records city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG 72-44

Condition		Check one	Check one	
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☒ original site	
☐ good	☐ ruins	☒ altered	☐ moved	date of move _____
☒ fair	☐ unexposed			

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

8. Significance

Survey No. PG 72-44

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☒ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1930-1950 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

Survey No. PG 72-44

10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle scale _____

Hour	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Temp	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Wind	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clouds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humidity	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Pressure	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
Visibility	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Waves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salinity	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
Density	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02
Depth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bottom	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Time	00:00	01:00	02:00	03:00	04:00	05:00	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

11. Form Prepared By

city or town Frederick **state** Maryland

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
410-7660

General Description

The Wilson Farm is an agricultural farm complex comprising 14 structures built during the early to mid-twentieth century. The complex includes four dwellings (Buildings 1, 3, 8, and 9); two garages (Buildings 2 and 4); a large dairy barn (Building 5); three additional barns (Buildings 11, 12, and 14); a chicken coop (Building 7); and three sheds (Buildings 6, 10, and 13). All buildings are vacant.

The Wilson Farm is located south of Sheriff Road in Landover, Maryland (Figure 1). A driveway leads to the property from Sheriff Road. The four dwellings are located off the main driveway; the barns and other outbuildings are located east and southwest of the dwellings (Figure 2). Open, rolling fields surround the farm complex.

Dwelling - Building 1

Building 1, constructed ca. 1930, is a two-story wood frame house terminating in a side gambrel roof (Figure 3). The three-bay by two-bay building is constructed on a concrete block foundation and faces west. The exterior walls of the building are clad with synthetic shingles. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. An exterior brick chimney is centered on the building's south elevation. Windows in the building are six-over-one light double-hung wood sash.

The front elevation is characterized by a full-width shed dormer and an open porch. The front three-bay porch extends the full-width of the west elevation. It terminates in a shed roof and is supported by simple turned wood posts. The primary entrance is centered along the front facade. A single rear entrance is sheltered by a similar two-bay shed roof porch. The building is in fair condition.

Garage - Building 2

Building 2 is a concrete block garage located directly east of Building 1. The building was constructed ca. 1950. The garage is a rectangular, one-story, two-bay structure oriented to the south. The building terminates in an asphalt-clad front gable roof. An open bay is located on the south elevation; no garage doors exist. A single wood door is located on the west elevation. An open shed roof porch supported by wood posts extends along the east side of the garage. The building is in fair condition.

Dwelling - Building 3

Building 3 is a Colonial Revival style, three-bay, two and one-half story dwelling constructed ca. 1930 (Figure 4). The wood frame building adopts a "four-square" form, defined by its square plan, symmetrical facade, and low-pitched hip roof. The dwelling stands on a poured concrete foundation and is oriented to the west. Synthetic shingles cover the original wood clapboard siding on the building's exterior walls.

The building terminates in a low-pitched hip roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The building incorporates two interior brick chimneys. A low hipped dormer is located on both the front and rear elevations. Paired four-light casements are located in each dormer.

A one-story, three-bay porch extends the full width of the front elevation. The porch terminates in an asphalt-clad hipped roof supported by square wood posts on concrete piers. The porch, originally open, is enclosed with screens. The primary entrance is centered on the front facade. The two-over-two light windows throughout the building are original to the structure and are aligned symmetrically.

An enclosed one-story porch is centered on the rear elevation. The porch terminates in a shed roof. A four-light wood panelled door provides entry into the rear of the dwelling. The building is in fair condition.

Garage - Building 4

Building 4, erected ca. 1950, closely resembles Building 2. The building is a two-bay, concrete block garage constructed on a concrete slab (Figure 5). The garage is located directly behind Building 3 and faces south. On the exterior, the concrete walls are sheathed in a smooth coat concrete stucco. The gable peaks are clad with wood clapboards. A single window opening is located on each side elevation. A fixed four-light wood sash remains on the west elevation; no sash remains in the east elevation opening.

The building is in fair condition. The stucco exterior walls are cracking and the roof and clapboards are deteriorating.

Dairy Barn - Building 5

The Dairy Barn, constructed ca. 1950, is the largest building in the Wilson Farm complex. It consists of two sections: the main barn and the creamery. The main barn is a rectangular, two and one-half story building that terminates in a gambrel roof (Figure 6). The creamery is a smaller, one-story building projecting from the south end of the barn's west elevation (Figure 7).

The main barn is oriented on a north-south axis. The walls of the barn are concrete block; the ends of the building are clad in standing seam metal siding. The roof is sheathed in composition roll roofing; four ventilators are located along the roof ridge. The two primary entrances to the barn are located on the north and south ends of the building. A wood sliding door is located at each opening. Windows on the barn are metal sash. Lintels are concrete and sills are red brick. The interior floor of the main barn is poured concrete. Feeding troughs extend along the walls.

Two small, two-story projections are located on the east and west elevations of the main barn. These gambrel roof projections link the first and second floors of the barn. They were used as a means for hay from the second floor of the barn to be delivered to the first floor feeding areas.

The creamery on the barn's west elevation occupies a rectangular footprint and terminates in a side gable roof. This three-bay by one-bay structure faces south and, like the main barn, is constructed of concrete block. A single door is located along the structure's south and east elevations. A broad overhanging eave on the south and east elevations shelters the doorways and forms a breezeway to the main barn. The roof of the creamery is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A single metal ventilator is centered on the roof ridge. Glazed tiles cover the interior walls of this structure. The building is in fair condition.

Concrete Block Shed - Building 6

Building 6 is a rectangular, one-story structure located southwest of the Dairy Barn and facing east (Figure 8). The building dates from ca. 1950. The two-bay by one-bay building is constructed of concrete block on a concrete slab and terminates in a side gable roof. Wood clapboards occupy the gable peaks. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles.

An interior brick chimney is located near the south end of the structure. A metal ventilator is centered on the roof ridge. The two entrances to the building are on the east elevation. One of the doors is missing. The door that remains is a 12-light wood door. The building contains a combination of metal sash and wood sash windows. The metal sash windows are four-light hoppers; the wood sash windows are four-light fixed sash. The building is in fair condition.

Chicken Coop - Building 7

Building 7 is a one-story, wood frame chicken coop that terminates in a shed roof (Figure 9). The structure was built ca. 1950 and faces south. The roof slopes to the rear (north) and is sheathed in standing seam metal. The walls of the structure are clad with vertical wood siding. Two rectangular cutouts on the south elevation are enclosed with chicken wire. A single door opening is located on the west elevation; no door remains. The building is in fair condition. The vertical wood is deteriorating.

Dwelling - Building 8

Building 8 is a one and one-half story, brick house that adopts a "Cape Cod" form (Figure 10). The dwelling faces east. The building was erected ca. 1950. The principal block of the building is a rectangular, three-bay by one-bay dwelling that terminates in a side gable roof. Two gable dormers are located along the front elevation; a full-width shed dormer is located on the rear elevation. The dormers are clad with synthetic shingles. The primary entrance to the dwelling is centered on the front facade. Glass block sidelights flank the doorway. A bay window is located on both the front and rear elevations of this principal block.

Two gable roof extensions project from the south end of the building's principal block. A secondary entrance is located on the southernmost projection.

The windows throughout the building are two-over-two light double-hung wood sash. A brick exterior chimney is located at both the north and south ends of the dwelling. The building is in fair to good condition.

Dwelling - Building 9

Building 9 is a one-story, wood frame house constructed in two phases, ca. 1930 and ca. 1950 (Figure 11). The earlier part of the house occupies a rectangular plan and is oriented on an east-west axis with a front gable roof. A single door entry is located on both the east and west elevations. Both doors are original to the dwelling. The door on the east elevation is a four-light panelled wood door; the door on the west elevation is a six-light panelled wood door. The windows in this earlier section are six-over-six light, double-hung wood sash. A poured concrete interior chimney is located at the west end of the dwelling.

The second part of the house is rectangular in plan, faces east, and terminates in a side gable roof. The rear elevation is flush with the west elevation of the earlier section. A single wood door with a diamond pane is located on the east elevation. Windows in this section of the building are six-over-one light, double-hung wood sash. An interior brick chimney is located at the south end of this section.

Synthetic shingles cover the original wood clapboards on the exterior walls of the dwelling. The roof of the earlier section is sheathed in corrugated metal; the roof of the later section is sheathed in standing seam metal. The dwelling is in fair condition.

Equipment Shed - Building 10

Building 10 is an L-shaped structure constructed in two phases, ca. 1930 and ca. 1950 (Figure 12). The first section is a five-bay open shed facing south. It is constructed of wood on a poured concrete foundation. The walls are clad with metal panels and terminate in a standing seam metal shed roof.

The second section also is five bays wide but faces east. This section is constructed of concrete block and terminates in a standing seam metal gable roof. This section is open with the exception of the southernmost bay, which is enclosed. Corrugated metal sliding doors provide entry into this bay. The only windows are located in the enclosed portion of this structure. These are eight-over-eight light wood sash. The barn is in fair condition.

Bank Barn - Building 11

Building 11 is a two-story timber frame barn constructed ca. 1930 (Figure 13). The barn is rectangular in plan and terminates in a side gable roof. It is built into the hillside and opens to the south. The building sits on a concrete block foundation. The walls are clad with vertical wood siding. The roof is sheathed in corrugated metal.

The building was designed with feeding areas at ground level and hay storage on the upper level. Two wide openings are located on the south elevation at ground level. Six-light fixed wood sash windows along the foundation walls provide light into the feeding areas of the barn. A fenced-in area is situated east of the barn.

The building is in poor condition. The metal roofing is corroded and much of the wood siding is missing, particularly along the east end of the barn.

Barn - Building 12

Building 12 is a one-story, wood frame barn constructed ca. 1930 (Figure 14). The building faces east. The barn occupies a rectangular plan and terminates in a gable-on-hip roof. The barn is clad with vertical wood siding and the roof is sheathed in corrugated metal. The barn sits on a concrete block foundation. Two wide openings with sliding wood doors are located on the east elevation. A smaller single wood door is centered between these wider openings. Secondary entrances are located on the north elevation; no doors remain.

The barn is in poor condition. The corrugated metal roofing is corroded and much of the wood siding is missing.

Shed - Building 13

Building 13 is a one-story, wood frame shed constructed ca. 1930 (Figure 15). The building is rectangular in plan and faces south. It is constructed on a concrete block foundation and terminates in a front gable roof. The walls of the shed are clad with horizontal wood siding. The building is in poor condition. Most of the wood siding is missing and the wood frame is deteriorating. The deteriorated condition of the structure made it difficult to identify the original locations and number of openings.

Barn - Building 14

Building 14 is a tall, one-story, wood frame barn located southwest of the main cluster of buildings in the Wilson Farm complex (Figure 16). The building occupies a rectangular plan and is oriented on an east-west axis. The barn terminates in a front gable roof. The structure is clad with vertical wood siding and sits on a poured concrete foundation. The roof is sheathed in standing seam metal. A wide opening is located on both the east and west ends of the building. No doors exist. The interior of the barn is open with no partitions.

The structure is in fair condition. The building's frame is intact and most of the vertical siding is in place.

Summary

The Wilson Farm is a 282-acre tract encompassing agricultural fields and a building complex. Four dwellings, two garages, a dairy barn, three additional barns, a chicken coop, and three sheds define the farm's building complex. Archival investigations suggest that the present farm complex was established in two phases, ca. 1930 and ca. 1950.

Approximately 80 acres of the Wilson Farm property were acquired by the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission in 1995. The farm complex is located on this 80-acre parcel. The land is to be used in the development of a recreational area. The land surrounding this 80-acre parcel is to be developed as the new stadium for the Washington Redskins. Structures standing within the Wilson Farm complex are scheduled for demolition.

The farm complex was evaluated for those qualities of significance and integrity identified in the *National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation* (36 CFR 60). Criteria A and C were selected as the most appropriate criteria for evaluation. Relevant historic contexts also were examined to properly judge the property's significance.

Although the farm complex was found to be associated with Prince George's County's agricultural development (Criterion A), the extant dairy complex is not associated with tobacco, the County's primary crop. The farm complex also was found to embody distinctive functional characteristics of a twentieth century dairy farm (Criterion C), however, the dairy farm is not considered a significant property type for Prince George's County. Field and archival investigations further revealed that Wilson Farm is not associated with the life of a significant person in the past (Criterion B), nor is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history (Criterion D).

Land Tenure History

Deed records confirm that the Wilson Farm property has been occupied continuously by the Wilson family since the mid- to late eighteenth century. William Wilson, the eighteenth century owner of the property, first was listed in Prince George's County land records in 1752. By 1798, structures on William Wilson's "Baltimore Manor" property included a one(?) -story frame dwelling with a rear shed addition; several log "outhouses" "of very little value;" and two frame tobacco barns. Maps were not available that showed the locations of these buildings. Wilson also owned 38 slaves, although it is likely that some of them were distributed among several other properties that Wilson owned in Prince George's County (Direct Federal Tax, Prince George's County 1798:16).

In 1817, William Wilson bequeathed most of the Baltimore tract, including "the dwelling in which I now live," to his son, Washington Wilson (Prince Georges County Wills, Book TT1:203-205). Washington Wilson, in turn, willed the tract to his minor son, James A. Wilson, in 1825; Washington's brother Joseph H. Wilson was appointed estate executor and guardian of his nephew (Wills, Book TT1:378). Joseph H. Wilson's subsequent disposition of the estate was the subject of a protracted chancery case, which originated from an 1823 mortgage lien on the property. A property deed, together with an 1839 plat of the property filed with depositions in the case, shows that Washington Wilson's nineteenth century holdings totaled 588 acres (Prince George's Deeds JBB-4:141).

After the death of his nephew, Joseph H. Wilson obtained title to the entire farm, where he lived with his wife and six children (Wilcox 1978:13). Census records for 1850 and bills of sale also confirm that Joseph Wilson was a slave-holder; he employed a resident overseer on his property (Wilcox 1978:13), and during the 1840s, he sold 15 slaves to satisfy a debt owed to Levi Sheriff (Prince George's Deeds JBB-1:413).

S.J. Martenet's 1861 Map of Prince George's County indicates that "W. Wilson" was the property owner during the Civil War period. This designation suggests that Joseph H. Wilson's second-oldest son, William, probably inherited the northern portion of the property. It is likely that the oldest son, James W.L. Wilson, who is listed in the 1850 census as a "planter," received the southern portion of the farm, closer to Central Avenue. The 1870 population census for the Bladensburg District lists William W. Wilson as a farmer, with wife Elizabeth, four children, and a farm laborer named Robert Decker (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1870).

G.M. Hopkins' 1879 Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington identifies two occupants in the immediate vicinity of the present Wilson Farm: Kent Wilson, and a "Miss M. A. V. Wilson," who occupied a separate house in the extreme northwestern portion of the original Wilson Farm. The latter name may refer to the "M. A. Virginia Wilson" who sold a portion of the property to Matilda Allen in 1915 (GDA, Inc. 1995:25).

Additional portions of the original Wilson tract may have been sold during the twentieth century. However, it is clear that the land comprising the present Wilson Farm was operated continuously by the Wilson family from the eighteenth century onward: first, as a tobacco farm; then as a traditional grain farm; and in the twentieth century, as a dairy farm.

The Wilson Farm buildings that occupy the project area do not appear on a map until the twentieth century. A 1906 map does not identify any standing structures on the present Wilson Farm property (USGS 1906). A 1925 map shows the present driveway configuration of the Wilson Farm and one dwelling (U.S. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils 1925). However, this one dwelling does not correspond to the locations of any of the existing buildings. Certain buildings in the current farm complex first appear in a 1938 Soil Conservation Service aerial photograph.

The development history of the property between 1944 and 1965 was derived from review of the 1944, 1957, and 1965 USGS 7.5' Lanham Quadrangles. The 1944 map is of limited value in assessing the development of the farm complex, since it apparently depicts only the three extant dwellings, and not the agricultural structures. By 1957, all extant buildings appear on the map (USGS 1957).

Historic Context - Prince George's County Agriculture

Agriculture was the economic base of Prince George's County economy from the seventeenth century through the first half of the twentieth century. Tobacco was the County's predominant crop.

Pre-1870

Historically unprecedented increases in scientific and technical knowledge during the mid-nineteenth century enabled farmers to increase crop production. Crop yields were improved through the introduction of animal fertilizers and lime, and through the adoption of mechanical

sowing and reaping machines. Prince George's County farmers were in an especially good position to take advantage of these improvements due to transportation improvements undertaken in the county during the same period.

Within the first decade of the nineteenth century, a turnpike was constructed that extended through Prince George's County, linking Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Another highly important transportation development for the County was the completion of the Baltimore-Washington segment of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1835 (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission 1992:52). These transportation improvements provided the farms of Prince George's County with faster, more reliable access to the urban markets of Washington and Baltimore.

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)

The Civil War brought drastic changes to the tobacco-based economy. Tobacco production is labor intensive. It requires approximately 200 hours of hand labor during the agricultural cycle. Labor intensive tasks include planting, cultivating, topping, cutting, hanging, stripping, and packing for market. Before the Civil War, slaves were the source of labor. The emancipation of slaves led to a severe labor shortage, which resulted in a significant increase in the cost of tobacco production (Scharf 1881:113). Although the practice of tenant farming evolved after the Civil War, tobacco production in the county never again reached antebellum levels. In 1870, Prince George's tobacco production reached only 3.5 million pounds, approximately one-quarter of the 1860 crop production level (Wesler et al. 1981:142). Impoverished landowners were forced to sell portions of their real and personal property in order to survive financially.

In marked contrast to the experience of other Western Shore counties such as St. Mary's, Charles, and Calvert, tobacco declined to the status of a specialty crop in Prince George's County after the Civil War. Between the Civil War and 1900, the number of farms in Prince George's County doubled, but their size decreased markedly (Virta et al. 1990:60). Although tobacco continued to be the leading crop in Prince George's County, individual farmers also practiced diversified agriculture (U.S. Bureau of Census 1870). Wheat, corn and other grains were the predominant commodities produced. "Truck" or "Truck-patch" farms and orchards also became common items that were marketed primarily in Washington, D.C. (Scharf 1881:124,141; Wesler et al. 1981:143.)

While the dairy industry was not as prevalent in Prince George's County as in other areas of Maryland, it was not entirely absent. From the 1890s until the 1920s, county farmers produced dairy products for nearby urban markets (Wesler et al. 1981:Table 43). Dairy production apparently was engaged in most widely in the close-in suburbs. Review of occupations listed in the 1900 census revealed that, within six enumeration districts, 14 county residents were identified as "dairymen," and six as "dairy workers." Nine of the 14 dairymen resided in the Spaulding Enumeration District, closest to the District of Columbia (United States Census Bureau 1900). Throughout Maryland, the dairy industry was stimulated by technological advances in refrigeration, and increasing interest in medicine and nutrition.

Prior to the Civil War, the only dairy product that could be transported over long distances safely was cheese (Campbell and Marshall 1975:28). To ensure freshness, dairy products had to be consumed shortly after production. Post Civil War developments in refrigeration, transportation, and medical knowledge resulted in a significant increase in dairy consumption beginning during the late 1880s.

It was not until after the Civil War that the refrigeration technologies developed just prior to the war became economical. Refrigeration plants began storing products for others and producing ice for sale to individual homes equipped with iceboxes. In 1867, the refrigerated box car was developed, enabling the long-distance transportation of perishable products. During the 1860s, 70s, and 80s, machines for the factory production of dairy products were developed, incorporating adaptations of refrigeration and other technologies. During the 1880s, machines were developed that economically produced transportation and storage items such as milk bottles (Pirtle 1926:87, 129, 150).

But a medical breakthrough chiefly was responsible for the significant increase in dairy consumption during this period. During the 1850s, 60s, and 70s, Louis Pasteur proved the existence of bacteria and their role in disease. Pasteur also discovered that bacteria bred best in unsanitary conditions. Though the general populace at first derided Pasteur's discoveries as fanciful, by the late 1870s Pasteur's germ theories were accepted as fact (Garland 1949:163-175).

Clean milk societies, dedicated to the promotion of sanitary conditions in the dairying process, began to arise during the 1880s. In 1891, the Dairy Division of the Department of Agriculture was organized to disseminate information about "modern" dairy practices, and the prevention of animal disease transmission. As the dairy industry evolved, this division gradually acquired experimental stations to conduct scientific studies concerning the properties of milk. The Dairy Division also gained regulatory power (Pirtle 1926:142-143).

It wasn't until 1892 that milk was proven to be a natural environment for bacteria (McNutt 1917:67). The French, upon the recommendation of Louis Pasteur, had been killing bacteria in wine by applying heat, since the 1860s. Some American doctors and farmers adopted the pasteurization process, and by 1895 pasteurization machinery was perfected. The American public accepted slowly the need to pasteurize milk. Also enabling expansion of the dairy industry was the perfection in 1895 of the first milking machine (Campbell and Marshall 1975:29).

The proponents of pasteurization fought to legally mandate dairy pasteurization. In New York, Mr. Nathan Strauss established centers that distributed pasteurized milk free of charge to undernourished children under five years of age. His efforts were credited with an almost 40 per cent drop in the mortality rate for these children between 1893 and 1906. In 1907, the United States Department of Health mandated milk pasteurization and established national pasteurization standards: milk was to be heated to 145° for 30 minutes, and then maintained in a refrigerated environment thereafter (Pirtle 1926:87, 91, 130).

Mandatory pasteurization of milk, which guaranteed quality, spurred an increase in the consumption of dairy products. During the same period it was recognized that while keeping milk cool retarded bacterial activity, constant refrigeration was not necessary until after bacteria had been killed by the pasteurization process. Processing plants specializing solely in the production of sanitary milk products arose, relieving the farmer of the regulatory burden imposed by the sanitary production laws. These dairy plants were able to invest in the machinery necessary to rapidly process large quantities of milk (Pirtle 1926:130-131).

Prince George's County's improved late nineteenth century transportation infrastructure not only enabled county farmers to adopt new agricultural patterns, it also encouraged population growth as workers in Federal agencies moved out to the suburbs. County population rose steadily from 1860 on, although population density figures suggest that the decade between 1920 and 1930 was the period of most intensive growth (Wesler et al. 1981:Table 39). Increased population also fostered the formation of both large communities such as Laurel and small hamlets such as

Brightseat P.O., with two stores and a blacksmith shop located at the intersection of the present-day Landover (Md Rte 202) and Sheriff Roads. Near the project area, there was a 2000-ac fairground and a Baltimore and Potomac Railroad station at Wilson's, approximately 2 mi west of the project area (Hopkins 1879).

Modern Period (1930-present)

The advent of the Great Depression in 1929 was reflected in Maryland farm production. While corn and wheat prices dropped, tobacco and truck crop prices rose slightly. Milk prices dropped only slightly. The price of agricultural goods was bolstered in 1934 by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) formed under the New Deal program. The AAA set production quotas, regulating the supply of agricultural products available to the market. As a result, wheat prices rose 43 per cent between 1934 and 1935; corn prices rose 59 per cent and milk prices rose 11 per cent over the same period (Walsh and Fox 1974:748). During the late 1930s, Frederick County farms prospered.

Changes to the agricultural character of Prince George's County began in earnest after World War II. The proliferation of the automobile encouraged the spread of suburbanization beyond the railroad lines, and highway construction altered land use by promoting strip development and subdividing nineteenth-century crossroads communities (State Roads Commission 1958:73). Increasing numbers of subdivisions, government installations, and major expressways within the Washington metropolitan area have changed the overall character of the County. By 1988, Prince George's County had become one of the most heavily populated jurisdictions in the state of Maryland, with a population almost as large as that of Baltimore City.

Historic Context - Architecture

The bank barn (Building 11) is bermed into a small rise, allowing access to the mow from the front (north) elevation. The basement level of the barn was used as a stable with access from the "rear" elevation. Farmers could distribute feed from the mow to the animals below.

The dairy barn and creamery reflect the increased importance of agricultural specialization, machinery, and sanitation in food production and processing during the twentieth century. Impermeable, permanent materials were used for construction of dairy barn and creameries for sanitation reasons. These materials were thought to be less conducive to bacterial growth and were easier to clean. Emphasis was placed upon minimizing the number of shelves and corners where dirt could collect. Thus, in the Wilson creamery, the interior walls were clad with glazed tiles. The different functions of the dairy barn and creamery determined their physical characteristics beyond these basic construction materials (Harvey and Hill 1936:115-128).

The dairy barn was used to house, feed, and milk the cows. Windows and doors were incorporated into all elevations to provide light and ventilation. Sunlight was thought to kill bacteria (Harvey and Hill 1936:108-115).

Sanitation also was a factor in the plan of dairy barns. A central aisle extended the length of the building. Stalls were located on each side of the aisle. A feed trough and access passage were located between the row of stalls and the exterior walls. Generally, the building floor sloped gently toward the central aisle, allowing cattle effluent to be cleaned from the stalls with high

pressure hoses. Within the central aisle, effluent could then be shoveled into carts and removed from the building (Harvey and Hill 1936:96-105).

Cow stalls were formed from rounded metal tubing. Feed troughs generally were concrete with smooth, rounded lips to prevent loose food from collecting in crevices. Partitions within the feed trough prevented sick animals from contaminating others. The barn interior was designed for maximum control of the environment and the cows within it (Harvey and Hill 1936:103-107).

A dairy farm generally housed two other functions besides facilities for the cows: milk storage and equipment washing. In the milk room, milk was weighed (milk was sold by weight, not by volume) and poured into a cooling tub. The milk remained in a cooling tub until delivered to the local dairy for processing. A drain was incorporated into the concrete floor of the milk house. It was recommended that the milk room floor and walls be hosed twice daily to prevent spilled milk from spoiling or attracting flies (Harvey and Hill:150-157).

Within the washing room, various utensils used in the milking process were cleaned. Galvanized iron washtubs were recommended, one with hot water for cleansing, and one with cold water for rinsing. Also recommended was a copper steam delivery system to ensure sterilization. After washing, the utensils were placed upon steel drying racks. Again, the emphasis placed upon the creamery design and construction materials was sterility. All elements of the building were designed to facilitate cleanliness within the milk production system (Harvey and Hill 1936:152, 156-157).

Though deterioration has altered the appearance of the Wilson dairy barn and creamery, it is apparent that these structures were constructed to adhere with the standards of sterility that were promoted during the 1920s and 1930s.

Analysis

To assess the historic significance of the Wilson Farm, the property was evaluated under the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60). Criteria A and C were selected as the most appropriate criteria for evaluation. Historic contexts relevant to these criteria also were identified and examined.

The Wilson Farm was evaluated under Criterion A for its association with Prince George's County's agricultural development. Examination of the County's agricultural context revealed that agriculture was an important theme in the development of Prince George's County, and tobacco was the County's predominant crop. Although dairy farming was present within the County during the twentieth century, it was not a major factor in the County's development. Therefore, the Wilson Farm dairy complex is not associated with an important pattern within the County's agricultural history.

The farm also was assessed under Criterion C as a resource that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction -- twentieth century dairy farm complexes. Other Prince George's County properties were examined as comparables. The two Prince George's County dairy farms identified in the Maryland Inventory were Duckett Farm barns (#73-11) and the Clearview Dairy (#74A-24). The Duckett Farm was located near Woodmoor, east of the Beltway. The complex featured a ca. 1910 frame farmhouse and several large frame barns. The Clearview Dairy farm consisted of six structures, including an L-shaped frame dwelling (ca. 1905); a carriage shed; a machine shop; a stucco barn; a block dairy barn; and a creamery.

Neither of these complexes were found to possess significance necessary for listing in the National or Maryland Register of Historic Places.

Examination of an architectural context for dairy farms revealed that the dwellings, barns, and other outbuildings within the Wilson Farm complex do embody the characteristics of a twentieth century dairy farm, however, the dairy farm is not considered a significant building type for Prince George's County. Furthermore, the buildings at Wilson Farm do not represent the work of a master, nor are they of high artistic value. Therefore, the farm complex does not meet Criteria C.

Field and archival investigations further revealed that Wilson Farm is not associated with the life of a significant person in the past (Criterion B), nor is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history (Criterion D).

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Geographic Organization:
Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):
Agriculture/Architecture

Resource Type:
Category: Buildings
Historic Environment: Rural
Historic Function and Use: Agriculture
Known Design Source: None

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1906 15' Patuxent Quadrangle

1944 Lanham Quadrangle

1957 Lanham Quadrangle

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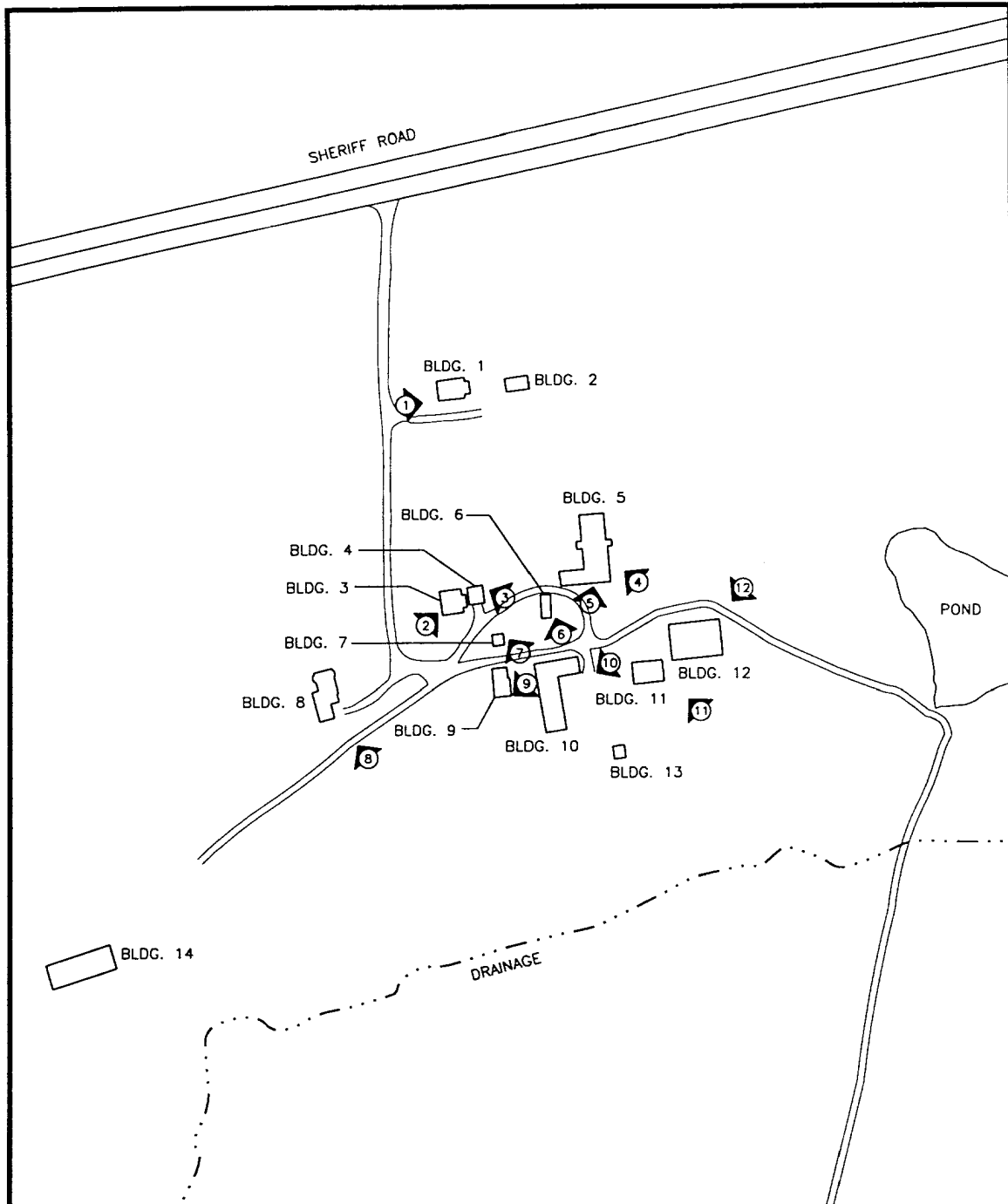
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Survey No. PG 72-44
Wilson Farm
Section 10.1

The 282 acres comprising the Wilson Farm tract represents the remains of an approximately 600-acre tract purchased by the Wilson family during the mid-eighteenth century. Title to the tract is held by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. A legal description of the tract boundaries is available at the Prince George's County Office of Assessments and Taxation at 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, in Liber 10131, folios 646, 655, and 639.



KEY:

BLDG 1. DWELLING
BLDG 2. GARAGE
BLDG 3. DWELLING
BLDG 4. GARAGE
BLDG 5. DAIRY BARN
BLDG 6. MILK HOUSE
BLDG 7. CHICKEN COOP
BLDG 8. DWELLING

BLDG 9. DWELLING
BLDG 10. EQUIPMENT SHED
BLDG 11. BARN
BLDG 12. BARN
BLDG 13. SHED
BLDG 14. BARN

① PHOTO NUMBER AND DIRECTION



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METERS

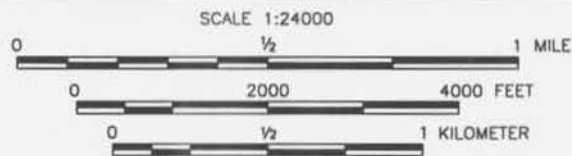
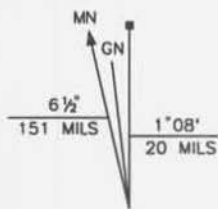
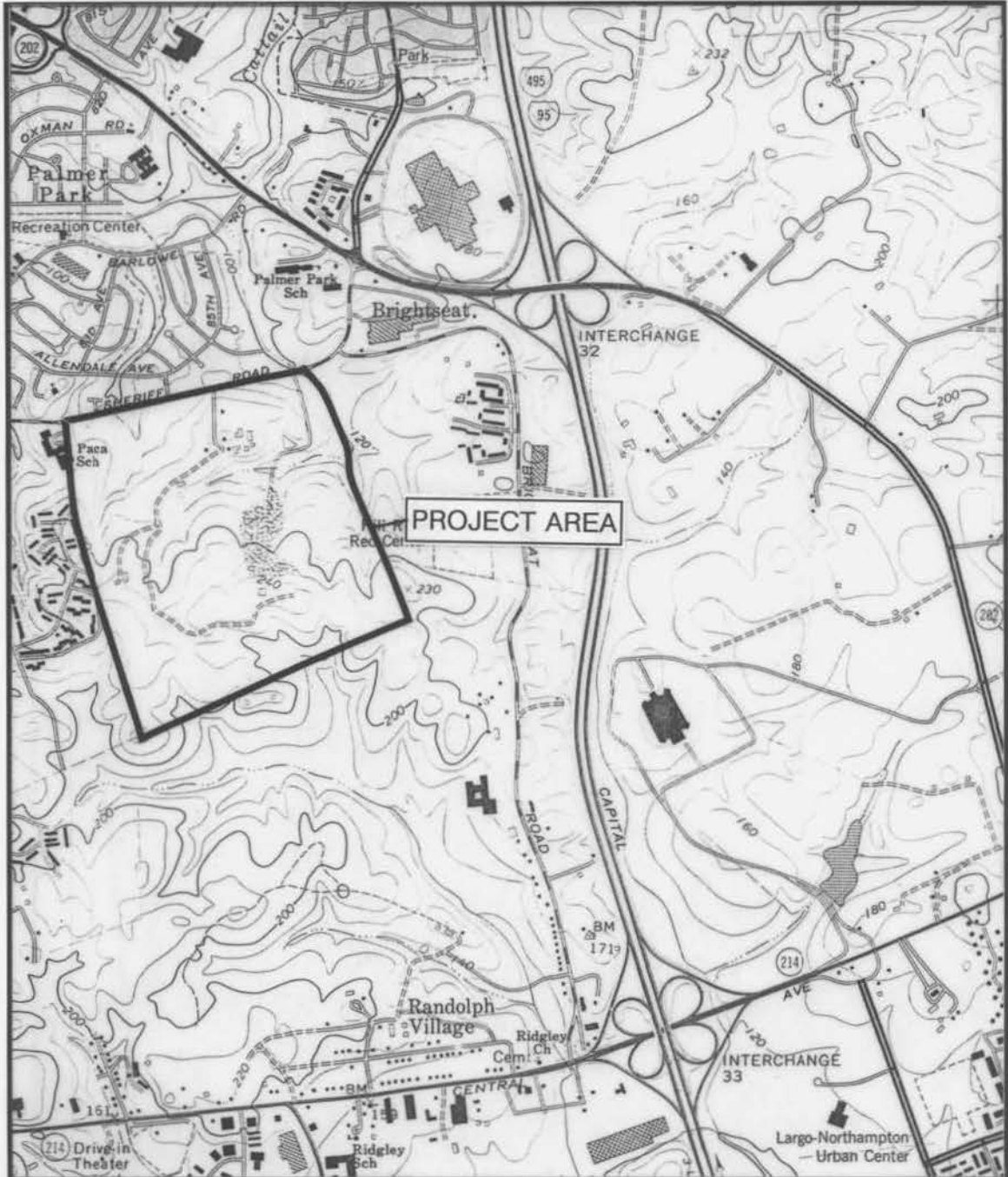
REDSKINS STADIUM
Architectural Resources

DATE: 3/5/96

PREPARED BY: GF



R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.
337 EAST THIRD STREET, FREDERICK, MD 21701



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MARYLAND
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1.	Building 1 with Building 2 in background, facing northeast
Photograph 2.	Building 3, facing northeast
Photograph 3.	Building 4, facing northwest
Photograph 4.	Building 5, facing northwest
Photograph 5.	Building 5 with view of creamery, facing northeast
Photograph 6.	Building 6, facing northwest
Photograph 7.	Building 7, facing northwest
Photograph 8.	Building 8, facing northwest
Photograph 9.	Building 9, facing southwest
Photograph 10.	Building 10, facing southwest
Photograph 11.	Building 11, facing northwest
Photograph 12.	Building 12, facing southwest
Photograph 13.	Building 13, facing southwest
Photograph 14.	Building 14, facing southwest



PG 72-44
Wilson Farm
Pr. Georges Co., MD
Eliza Burden
Feb. 1996
View NW, Bldg. 4
3 of 14

TOM CLARK (2115) 3 0181 N N N-2-02 2



PG 72-44
Wilson Farm
Pr. Georges Co., MD
Eliza Burdett
Feb. 1996
View NE, Bldg. 5
4 of 14

TOM CLARK 11.3513 3181 N H N-2-02 2



PG 72-44

Wilson Farm

Pr. Georges Co., MD

Eliza Burden

Feb. 1996

View NE, Bldgs. 1 and 2

1 of 14

DM CLARK 293513 3181 N N 14-2-01 2



PG 72-44

Wilson Farm

Pri. Georges Co., MD.

Eliza Burden

Feb. 1996

View northeast, Bldg 3

2 of 14

TOM CLARK 1257513 3181 N N N-2 NH 2



PG 72-44

Wilson Farm

Prince Georges County, MD

Eliza Burden

Feb. 1996

View northwest, Bldg. 8

8 of 14

TOM CLARK (281513 318) N H H-2 N H 2



PG 72-44

Wilson Farm

Pr. Georges Co., MD

Eliza Burden

Feb. 1996

View northwest, Bldg. 7

7 of 14

TOM CLARK 1201513 0181 N N H-2-02 2



TOM CLARK (061513 6181 N N N-2-02 2

PG 72-44

Wilson Farm

Pr. Georges Co., MD

Eliza Burden

Feb. 1996

View northeast, Dairy Barn & Creamery
(Bldg. 5)

5 of 14



PG 72-44

Wilson Farm

Pr. Georges Co., MD

Eliza Burden

Feb. 1996

View northwest, Bldg. 6

6 of 14



PG 72-44

Wilson Farm

Pt. Georges Co., MD

Eliza Burden

Feb. 1946

View Southwest, Bldg. 9

9 of 14

TOM CLARK 181513 0181 N N N-2-02 2



PG 72-44
Wilson Farm
Pr. Georges Co., MD

Eliza Burden

Feb. 1996

View Southwest, Bldg. 10

10 of 14

TOM CLARK 103353 3181 N N 14-2-02 2



PG 72-44

Wilson Farm

Pr. Georges Co., MD

Eliza Burden

Feb. 1996

View northwest, Bldg. 11

11 of 14



TOM CLARK 040513 0181 N N 14-2-02 2

PG 72 - 44

Wilson Farm

Pr. Georges Co., MD

Eliza Burden

Feb. 1996

View southwest, Bldg. 12

12 of 14



PG 72-44

Wilson Farm

Pr. Georges Co, MD

Eliza Burden

Feb. 1996

View Southwest, Bldg. 13

13 of 14

TOM CLARK (G:1513 6181 N N N-2-62 2



PG 72-44

Wilson Farm

Pt. Georges County, MD

Eliza Burder.

Feb. 1996

View southwest, Bldg. 14

14 of 14

TOM CLARK (26) 513 8181 N N N-2 N N 2