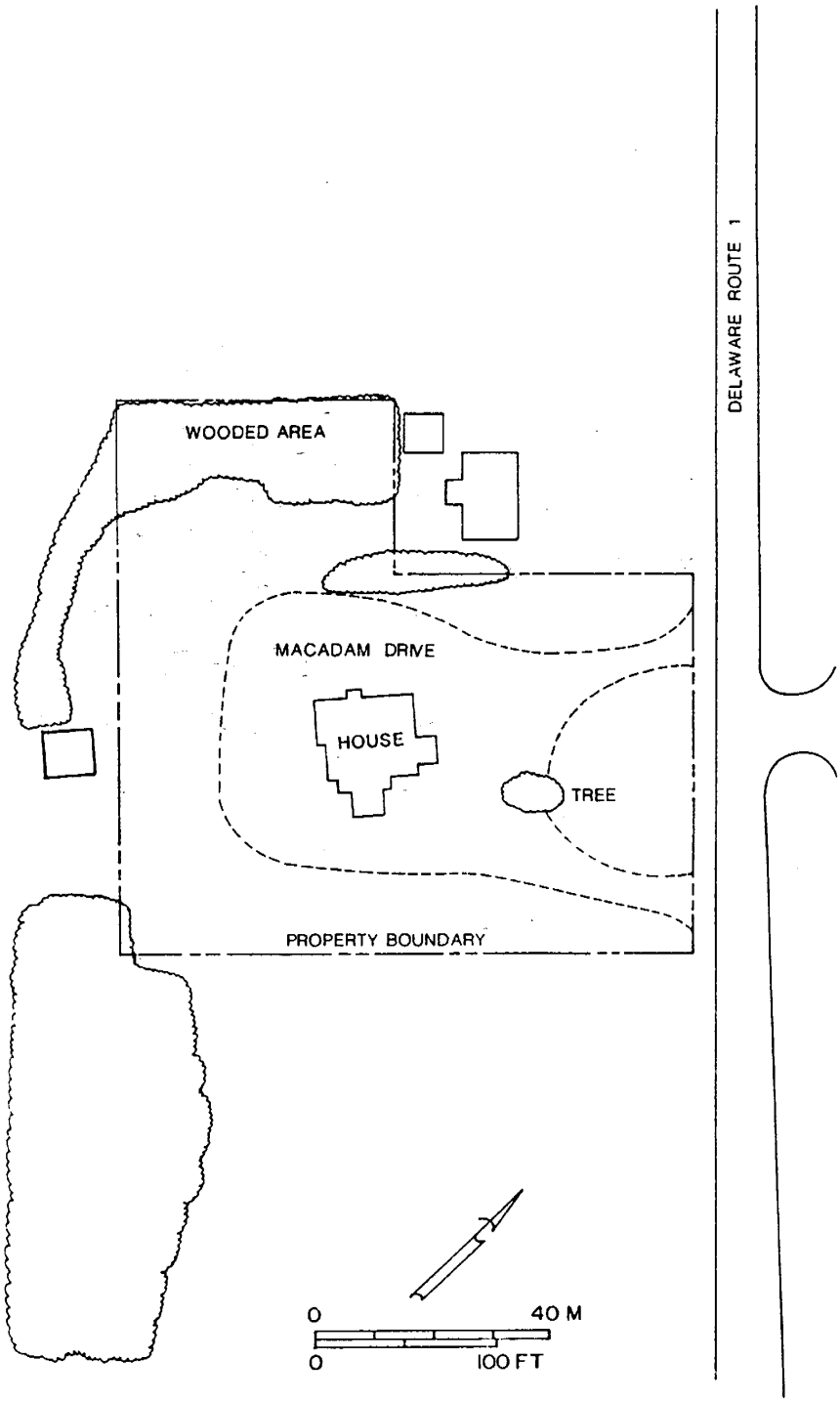


THOMPSON FAMILY HOUSE, SITE PLAN

Figure 40

Plate 49. Thompson Family House (3-34-12-93), From the Northeast.

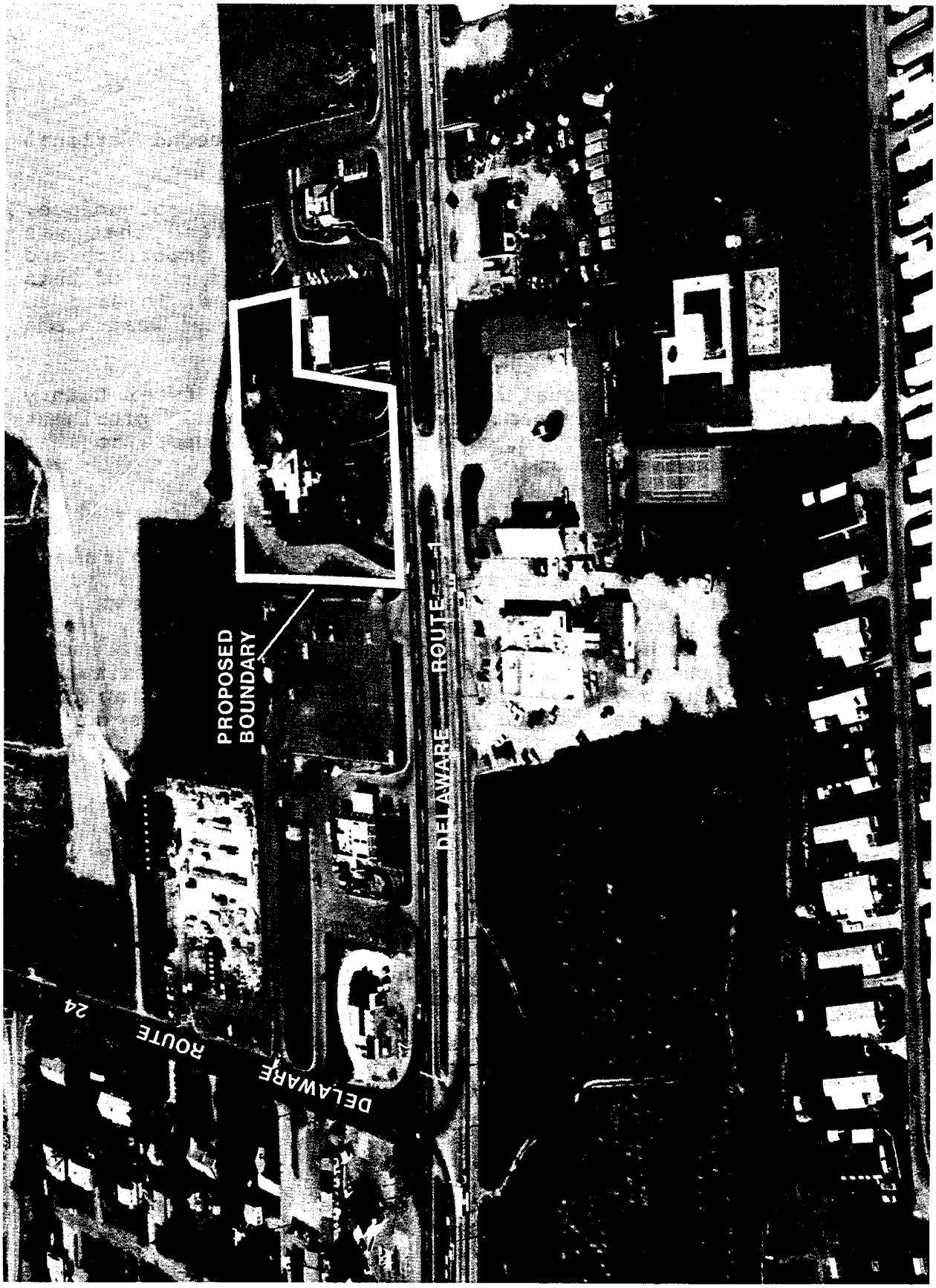


Plate 50. Aerial View of the Thompson Family House.

557:439). In 1984 she sold the property to The Second National Building and Loan, Inc. for $375,000.

This large brick foursquare is an unusual, although not unique, house in lower Sussex County. It stands on land that was originally part of the Dodd farm, one of the most important and prosperous farms in the area. Mrs. Thompson, as a member of this very prominent family in Lewes and Rehoboth Hundred, is said to have erected this house to make a statement about her wealth and position in the local society (Marshall 1988).

As an example of an unusual house type in lower Sussex County (Criterion C) and for its associations with a locally prominent family (Criterion B), the Thompson Family House appears to meet the Criteria for Evaluation.

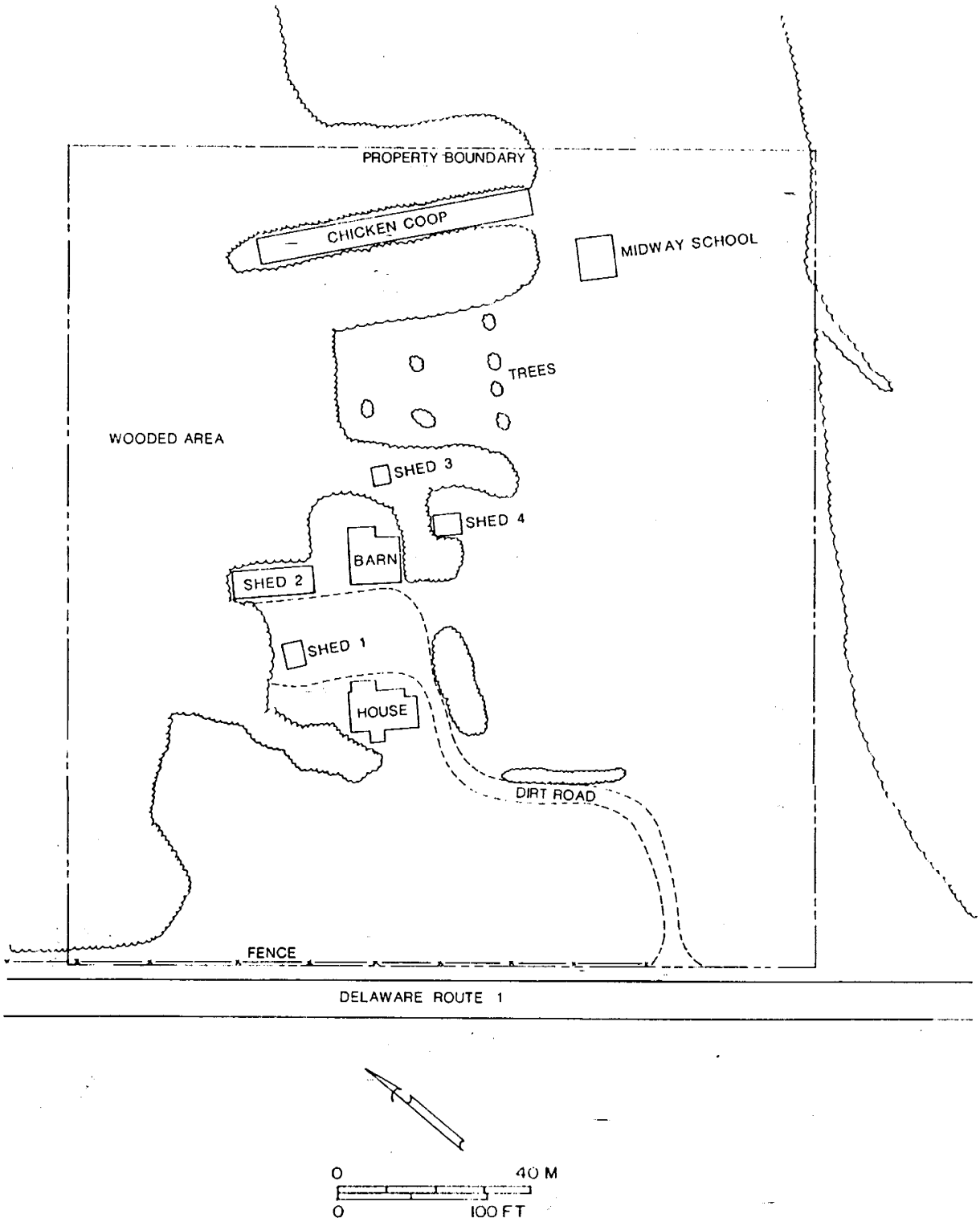
Recommendation: Eligible for the National Register.

Boundary: The recommended boundary for the Thompson Family House corresponds with the present property line and is of sufficient extent to maintain the existing level of architectural integrity. An early twentieth century shed, located approximately 120 feet southwest of the house, and a mid-twentieth century house and garage, located approximately 100-150 feet northwest of the house, have not been included within the recommended boundary because these buildings do not relate to the architectural and social significance of the Thompson Family House.

Holland Family Farmstead late 19th-early 20th c.
Route 1 (tax map #3-34-13-3.1)
Figures 35,41; Plates 51-56
CRS #S-1058

Description: The Holland Family Farmstead is located northeast of Route 1, near its intersection with Route 270A. Eight buildings stand on this property: a house, a barn, four sheds, a chicken coop, and the Midway School.

The house is a two and a half story wood framed rectangular block, with two additions: a one story hip roofed screened porch on the southeastern elevation, and a one story addition on the northwestern elevation and the northern half of the northeastern elevation. Wood shingles cover the exterior walls above the brick foundation, and composite shingles cover the overhanging gabled roof with exposed rafter ends. An exterior corbeled brick chimney is centered at the southeastern elevation, flanked by two 6/1 sash windows on the second story and two small four light casement windows on the attic level. A second corbeled brick chimney rises from the ridge near the northwestern end. Facing Route 1, the southwestern elevation forms a facade, with an axial paneled entrance door flanked by



HOLLAND FAMILY FARMSTEAD, SITE PLAN

Figure 41

Plate 51. Holland Family Farmstead (3-34-13-3.1), Site, From the Southwest.

Plate 52. Holland Family Farmstead (3-34-13-3.1), House, From the South.

Plate 53. Holland Family Farmstead (3-34-13-3.1), Barn, From the Southwest.

Plate 54. Holland Family Farmstead (3-34-13-3.1), Chicken Coop, From the Southeast.

Plate 55. Holland Family Farmstead (3-34-13-3.1), Midway School, From the West.

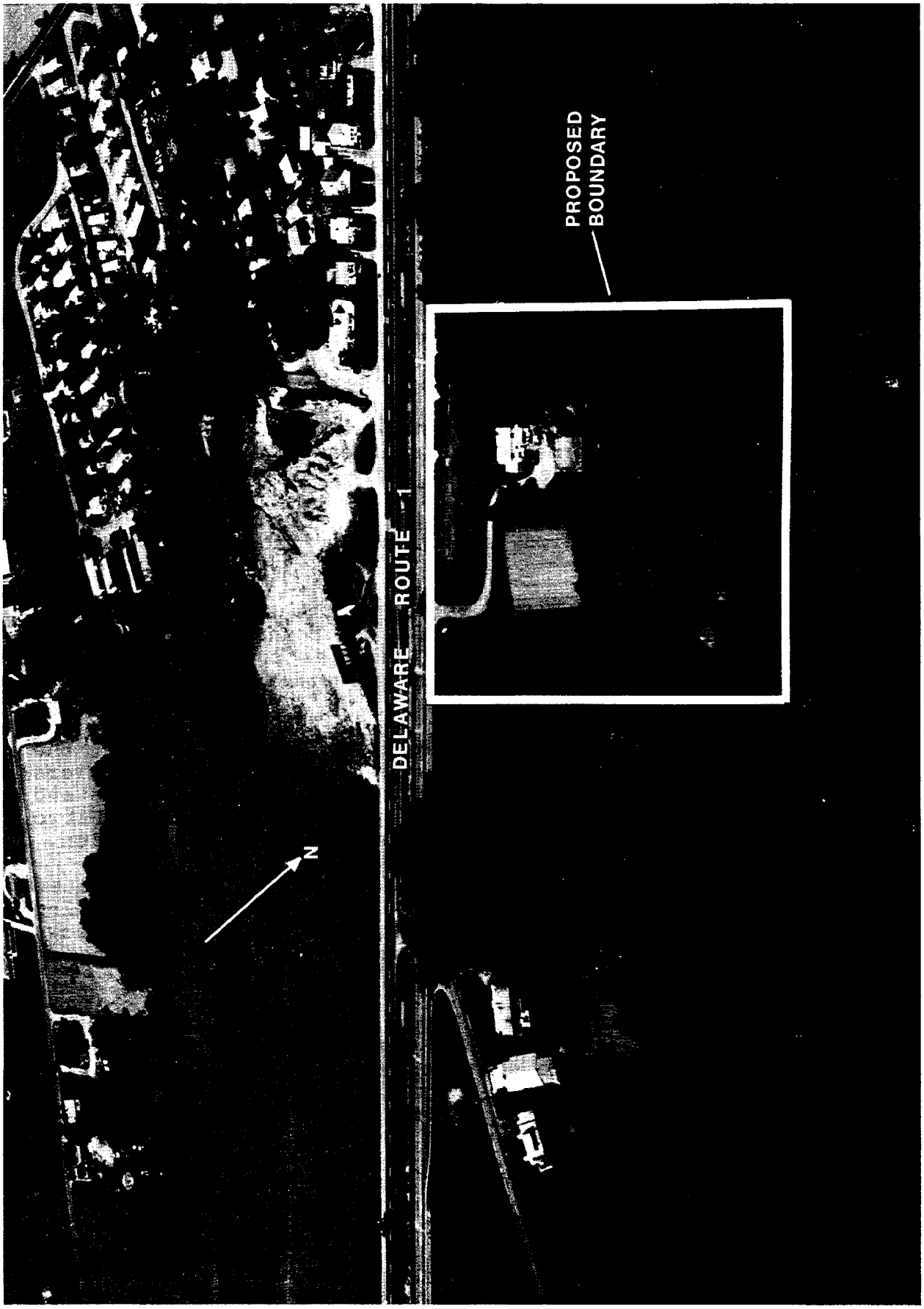


Plate 56. Aerial View of the Holland Family Farmstead.

four light sidelights sheltered by a one bay porch with wood posts supporting a gabled roof. Two 6/1 sash windows are located on either side of the entrance. On the second story of the facade are three 6/1 sash windows. All the window openings are trimmed with molded surrounds and ornamental wood louvered shutters.

The barn is a two story gable roofed rectangular wood framed block, sited directly to the rear of the dwelling. Composite shingles cover the roof, and vertical boards cover the exterior walls. A wood framed screened enclosure for the animals has been added to the northeastern or rear elevation. On the southwestern elevation, facing the dwelling, a vertical board door is located near the center, and a sliding vertical board door near the western corner. The southeastern gable end has a vertical board door centered in the gable end at the loft level, and double leafed barn doors at the first story level. Two window openings are located at the western end of the southeastern gable elevation, and a small window opening in the peak of the gable.

Shed 1 located near the house, to the northwest, is a one story wood framed rectangular gable roofed structure with vertical boards covering the walls and cedar shingles covering the roof. A door is located on the southwestern elevation. Concrete block piers form the foundation.

Shed 2, a one story gable roofed block, is situated west of the barn. This wood framed building stands on concrete block piers and has an ell plan. Vertical flush boards cover the walls and corrugated metal covers the roof. Twelve windows and two vertical board doors are located in the southwestern elevation.

Shed 3, a one story rectangular wood framed block located directly to the rear of the barn, is covered with clapboarding and has a shed roof covered with corrugated metal. No windows are evident. A door on the southwestern elevation and one on the northwestern elevation are covered with chicken wire.

Shed 4, a one story wood framed block located east of the barn, is covered with vertical boards and has a shed roof covered with corrugated metal. On the southwestern elevation a vertical board door occupies a position to the south of a paired window covered with chicken wire. Another vertical board door is located on the northwest elevation.

The chicken coop stands at the rear of the property, northeast of the dwelling. A one story rectangular wood framed block set on concrete block piers and covered with vertical boards, the coop has a shed roof covered with tar paper. The southwestern elevation or facade has six door openings and many window openings; there are no windows on the side elevations.

Sited to the northeast of the house is the former Midway School, moved to this location and now resting on concrete block piers. The one story wood framed schoolhouse has fishscale shingles covering the southwestern gable end, in which a vertical board entrance door is centered. The other elevations are covered with clapboarding, and the gable roof is covered with cedar shingles. Three 6/6 sash windows are arranged symmetrically on the side elevations, set in plain surrounds and trimmed with paneled shutters.

Evaluation of the Holland Family Farmstead: The Holland Family Farmstead appears to date from the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. The 19.98 acres of land comprising this farmstead were originally part of a 380 acre farm deeded to Peter Holland in 1842 (Deed Book 51:123). The farm remained in the Holland family through the nineteenth century. Margaret E. Joseph, daughter of John Holland, purchased half interest in the property from Thomas C. Holland in 1908 for a dollar (Deed Book 171:28). She received the other half interest from her father's estate after his death. In 1932, 1934, and 1949 Margaret and Harland Joseph sold three small tracts of land out of this large parcel to Ernest E. Megee: 8.4 acres, nine acres, and 2.58 acres respectively. The extensive alterations to the house probably date from Megee's period of ownership. Megee has hired tenant farmers to work the land for a number of years.

This farm dates from the 1880-1940 period when agriculture formed the core of Sussex County economy (Herman and Siders 1986:92). In addition, it dates to the period when the broiler industry produced one of the most important agricultural products of the county. Most of the outbuildings associated with this farm remain in good condition. These include a large chicken coop, indicating the farm's participation in the broiler industry. The property also includes the Midway Schoolhouse, a building not related to the farmstead, but nonetheless important in local history. Megee purchased this school and had it moved to his farm from its original location in Midway with the intention of selling or donating it to one of the local historical organizations.

The Holland Family Farmstead appears to meet the Criteria for Evaluation as a representative example of a typical farm dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Its development follows the trends identified for the history of agriculture in Sussex County (Criterion A). Like much of the historic architecture located near the resort areas of lower Delaware, it is threatened by continual changes brought on by tourist-related industries.

Recommendation: Eligible for the National Register.

Boundary: The recommended boundary for the Holland Family Farmstead includes all of the farmstead components and is of sufficient extent to maintain the present level of integrity of setting and feeling associated with the property.

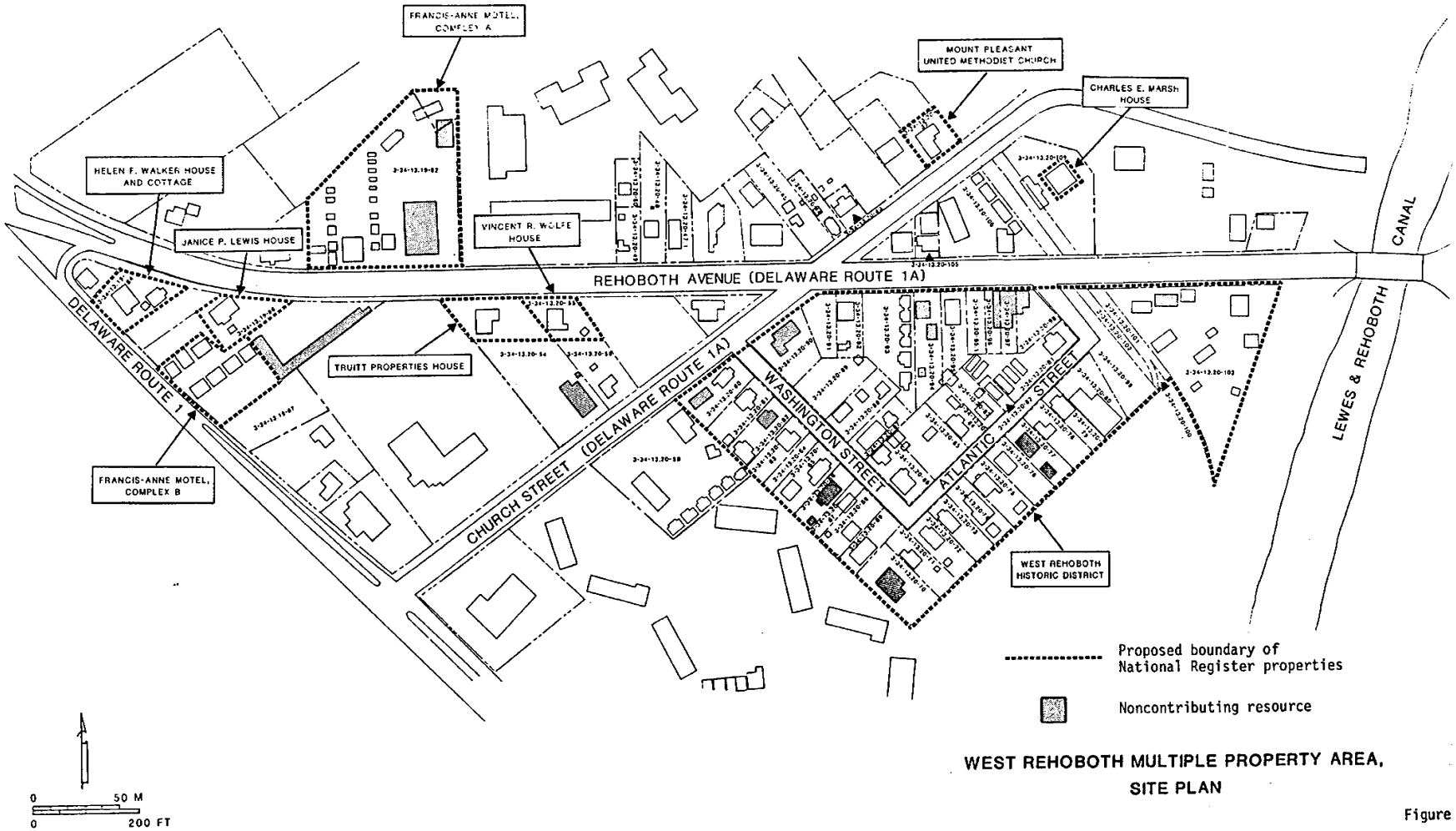
West Rehoboth Multiple Property Area

The West Rehoboth Multiple Property Area includes properties along both sides of Route 1A between Route 1 and the Delaware & Rehoboth Canal (Figure 42; Plates 57-59). Among these properties are eight buildings or complexes and one district which possess a high level of integrity and exemplify the historical development of the area.

Frances-Anne Motel, Complex A c. 1920-1950
Rehoboth Avenue (tax map 3-34-13.19-82)
Figure 42; Plates 60-70
CRS #S-8017

Description: Twenty-two buildings stand on this parcel, including seventeen cottage units, two houses a cabinet shop, a commercial building, and a shed. Five of the buildings stand in a row with facades oriented to the northwestern side of Rehoboth Avenue. A large two and a half story house is centered in the row. Bordering Rehoboth Avenue to the southwest of large house are the office and a cottage. Bordering Rehoboth Avenue to the northeast of the large house are another cottage and the commercial building. Flanking the large house are the ends of a circular drive leading to the rear of the property, along which fourteen of the cottages are sited in two parallel rows facing northeast and southwest. To the northeast of the commercial building another driveway leads to the rear of the property, giving access to the cabinet shop, the shed and rear cottage.

The large house is a two and a half story rectangular block with an overhanging gable roof with exposed rafter ends. The gable ended southeastern elevation faces Rehoboth Avenue and forms a three bay facade. Above the concrete foundation the exterior walls and roof slopes are covered with composite shingles, including the hip roofed one story enclose porch on the facade and the shed roofed one story addition at the rear. An axial sash entrance door is centered between paired 1/1 sash windows on the facade of the enclosed porch. On the second story of the main block facade are paired 1/1 sash windows flanking two small single 1/1 sash windows in the central bay. Two paired 1/1 sash windows are centered in the peak of the gable on the attic story. On both the side elevations, the first story contains a paired 1/1 sash window on the enclosed porch and a one light casement window on the rear addition. The northeastern elevation contains three paired 1/1 sash windows on the first



WEST REHOBOTH MULTIPLE PROPERTY AREA, SITE PLAN

Figure 42

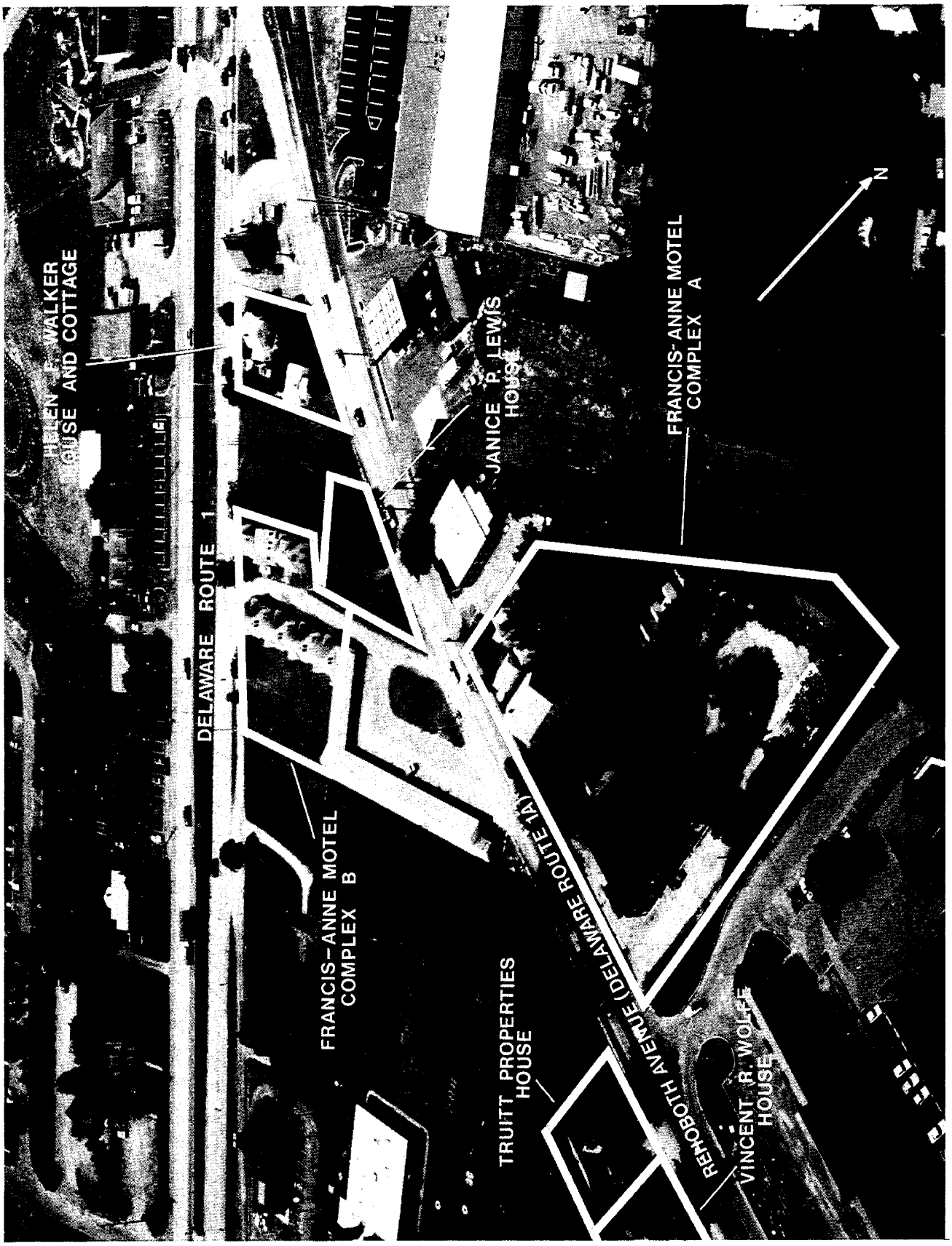


Plate 57. Aerial View of the West Rehoboth Area, West End.

Plate 58. Aerial View of the West Rehoboth Area, Central Section.