

CRS No. K-7629

Address: 264 Bowers Beach Road

Name: Dwelling, 264 Bowers Beach Road

Tax Parcel: 8-00-12216-01-1600-000;

8-00-12216-01-1500-000;

8-00-12216-01-1700-000

Date of Construction/Major Alteration: ca. 1958/ca. 1980

Time Period: 1940-1960±, Suburbanization and Early Ex-urbanization

Geographic Zone: Upper Peninsula

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Engineering, and Decorative Arts (Residential Architecture) and Settlement Patterns and Demographic Changes (Community Development)

Description

This property is located on the southeast side of Bowers Beach Road in South Murderkill Hundred, Kent County, Delaware, south of the unincorporated community of Little Heaven. The property consists of an altered *circa*-1958 Minimal Ranch dwelling, a *circa*-1965 garage, and two modern sheds. The two-story dwelling sits back from Bowers Beach Road and faces northwest, parallel to the roadway. Originally, the dwelling was a one-story, stucco-clad dwelling, capped by a side-gable roof, with a central gabled entrance porch and a one-room hyphen extending from the east elevation. This original form is identical to the original forms of three other dwellings located to the north and west along Bowers Beach Road (i.e., 192 Bowers Beach Road [K-7628], 239 Bowers Beach Road [K-7623], and 249 Bowers Beach Road [K-7622]). Ca. 1980, a second-story addition was constructed on top of the dwelling, giving the dwelling its present-day two-story appearance. The original core of the dwelling is lit by one-over-one light, double-hung sash, wood windows, some of which are flanked by plain wood shutters. The second-story addition is lit by one-over-one light, double-hung sash, vinyl windows. Other modifications to the dwelling include the enclosure of the entrance porch with glass, the construction of a shed-roofed enclosed sun porch along the western half of the façade, and the construction of a sun porch on the south elevation. A chain-link fence encloses the rear yard and prohibits access to the garage and two modern sheds situated to the rear of the dwelling.

The two-car, gable-front garage faces east and is clad in aluminum siding. Located south of the dwelling, the garage is lit by one-over-one light, double-hung sash windows in the north, west, and south elevations. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. A *circa*-1970 gable front shed is located south of the garage and is clad in vertical wood siding. The shed faces north toward the dwelling and measures three bays wide. A flush wood door centrally located in the north elevation is flanked by six-light wood windows.

A modern, prefabricated shed is located near the southeastern corner of the property, but was not accessible during the current survey. Mature trees are located between the north elevation (facade) of the dwelling and Bowers Beach Road. A ditch that may have served as an old alignment of the roadway is located on the south side of Bowers Beach Road. An asphalt driveway is located along the east side of the dwelling and provides access to the outbuildings. A strip of *circa*-1970 residential dwellings on small lots is located to the east of the dwelling, while mid-twentieth-century dwellings, interspersed with more recent construction, are located to the west. The buildings are primarily located on a 0.67-acre tax parcel flanked to the east and west by narrow 0.13-acre and 0.27-acre parcels.

Historical Narrative

According to the current owner, the dwelling was constructed ca. 1958 by the Roberts family, which also owns three properties on the north side of Bowers Beach Road. It is unclear if the dwelling is extant on a 1954 aerial photograph of the area, but the dwelling is in place by 1961 (Delaware Datamil website).

National Register Evaluation

The property at 264 Bowers Beach Road was evaluated as a Minimal Ranch dwelling as identified in the *Historic Context for the DuPont Highway, U.S. Route 113, Kent and Sussex Counties, Delaware* (John Milner Associates, Inc. 2005). Minimal Ranch dwellings are common mid-twentieth-century building types in the U.S. 113 APE. As noted in the context, the Minimal Ranch dwelling would not be considered individually eligible for listing in the National Register unless it was an elaborate, architect-designed dwelling that retained all exterior details, including its fenestration and sash patterns, and lacked additions. The dwelling contains significant alterations to its original *circa*-1958 appearance, including the application of replacement wall materials, replacement windows, and the construction of the second-story addition. Although located along the southeast side of Bowers Beach Road amidst other residential strip development, the property has no potential to yield information on residential development practices; therefore, the property is not eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A. Based on the background research conducted for this project, the property does not appear to be associated with an individual of historic importance; therefore, the property is not eligible under Criterion B. With its second story addition, as well as the sun porch addition on the north and south elevations, the dwelling is a highly altered example of a common mid-twentieth-century form and is not a notable example of the architecture of its time. The dwelling lacks integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and felling, and therefore is not eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C. The property does not appear to possess the potential to yield information on building practices or methods of construction; therefore, the property does not appear to be eligible for listing under Criterion D. Due to lack of significance, the property at 264 Bowers Beach Road is not eligible for listing in the National Register.

The property is one of approximately 16 properties located amidst former farmland that was subdivided for residential construction during the late 1940s to mid-1950s, and again in the 1970s. The majority of the residences along Bowers Beach Road, east of U.S. 113, were constructed ca. 1950 to present, with earlier examples that were moved to the small rectangular lots from other locations. These dates reflect a wide range of construction patterns, and therefore the development is not an early example of the common twentieth-century trend of subdividing lands located close to major highways. For this reason, the strip development is not eligible under Criterion A. The strip development does not appear to be associated with persons of critical importance to the historic development of the area; therefore, the property is not eligible for listing under Criterion B. The strip development contains dwellings that were constructed during a variety of time periods and include a wide range of forms. The development lacks a cohesive identity; therefore, the grouping could not be considered eligible under Criterion C as a distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. The development does not appear to possess the potential to yield information on twentieth-century land development practices; therefore, the development does not appear to be eligible for listing under Criterion D.

CRS No. K-7629



K-7629. Photograph 1: Overview of 264 Bowers Beach Road, looking southwest. This highly altered dwelling was constructed ca. 1958.



K-7629. Photograph 2: Dwelling, north elevation, looking south. The second-story addition was constructed ca. 1980. Also note the enclosed entry and side porches.

CRS No. K-7629



K-7629. Photograph 3: Dwelling, north and west elevations, looking southeast. Note the second-story addition, which has compromised the dwelling's integrity of design and feeling.



K-7629. Photograph 4: Dwelling, east elevation, looking southwest. Note the original hyphen, which is similar in form to those at the 239 and 249 Bowers Beach Road dwellings.

CRS No. K-7629



K-7629. Photograph 5: Modern garage and dwelling, east elevations, looking southwest. The southern half of the property was not accessible due to the enclosed fence.



K-7629. Photograph 6: Modern shed, west elevation, looking east. This shed dates to ca. 1970.

CRS No. K-7629



K-7629. Photograph 7: Modern shed, north elevation, looking south. This modern shed was erected ca. 1980 and was not accessible during the current survey.



DELAWARE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
15 THE GREEN, DOVER, DE 19901

CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION FORM

CRS # K-7629
SPO Map 12-13-19
Hundred South Murderkill
Quad Frederica
Other 8-00-12216-01-1600-000

1. HISTORIC NAME/FUNCTION: Dwelling, 264 Bowers Beach Road
2. ADDRESS/LOCATION: 264 Bowers Beach Road
3. TOWN/NEAREST TOWN: Little Heaven vicinity?
4. MAIN TYPE OF RESOURCE: building structure site object
landscape district
5. MAIN FUNCTION OF PROPERTY: Residential
6. PROJECT TITLE/ REASON FOR SURVEY (if applicable):
SR1, Little Heaven Grade Separated Intersection Improvements

7. ADDITIONAL FORMS USED:

#:	Form:	List property types:
1	CRS 2 Main Building Form	Dwelling
0	CRS 3 Secondary Building Form	N/A
0	CRS 4 Archaeological Site Form	N/A
0	CRS 5 Structure (Building-Like) Form	N/A
0	CRS 6 Structure (Land Feature) Form	N/A
0	CRS 7 Object Form	N/A
0	CRS 8 Landscape Elements Form	N/A
1	CRS 9 Map Form	N/A
0	CRS 14 Potential District Form	N/A

8. SURVEYOR INFORMATION:

Surveyor name: Catherine M. Dluzak/Architectural Historian

Principal Investigator name: Barbara Frederick/Sr. Architectural Historian

Principal Investigator signature: *B. Frederick*

Organization: A.D. Marble & Company Date: 09/24/2008

9. OTHER NOTES OR OBSERVATIONS:

CRS# K-7629

This property also includes Kent County Tax Parcels 8-00-12216-01-1500-000 and 8-00-12216-01-1700-000. Located on the property is a dwelling constructed ca. 1958, a *circa*-1965 garage, and two modern sheds. According to the property owner, the dwelling was constructed by the Roberts family who have owned several dwellings on the north side of the road since 1948.

The property is flanked to the west by a *circa*-1920 dwelling and to the east by a series of one-story, *circa*-1970 dwellings.

10. STATE HISTORIC CONTEXT FRAMEWORK (check all appropriate boxes; refer to state management plan(s)):

a) Time period(s)

- Pre-European Contact
- Paleo-Indian
- Archaic
- Woodland I
- Woodland II

- 1600-1750∇ Contact Period (Native American)
- 1630-1730∇ Exploration and Frontier Settlement
- 1730-1770∇ Intensified and Durable Occupation
- 1770-1830∇ Early Industrialization
- 1830-1880∇ Industrialization and Early Urbanization
- 1880-1940∇ Urbanization and Early Suburbanization
- 1940-1960∇ Suburbanization and Early Ex-urbanization

b) Geographical zone

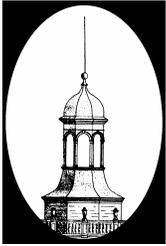
- Piedmont
- Upper Peninsula
- Lower Peninsula/Cypress Swamp
- Coastal
- Urban (City of Wilmington)

c) Historic period theme(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and Communication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Settlement Patterns and Demographic Changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trapping/Hunting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture, Engineering and Decorative Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mining/Quarrying | <input type="checkbox"/> Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing/Oystering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retailing/Wholesaling | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupational Organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Major Families, Individuals and Events |

USE BLACK INK ONLY

CRS-1



CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY
MAIN BUILDING FORM

CRS # K-7629

1. ADDRESS/LOCATION: 264 Bowers Beach Road

2. FUNCTION(S): Historic Dwelling current Dwelling

3. YEAR BUILT: 1958 CIRCA?: ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

4. STYLE OR FLOOR PLAN: Minimal Ranch

5. INTEGRITY: Original site moved

if moved, from where

N/A

other location's CRS #

N/A

year

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

list major alterations and additions with years (if known)

year

a. Second story addition

ca. 1980

b. N/A

N/A

6. CURRENT CONDITION: excellent good fair poor

7. DESCRIPTION: (Describe the resource as completely as possible. Use N/A for not applicable; leave no blanks.)

a. Overall shape: Rectilinear Stories: Two (2)
Additions: Vinyl-clad, 3-bay-wide by 2-bay-deep, side-gable, second-story addition

B Structural system (if known): Frame

c. Foundation: materials: Rusticated concrete block
basement: full partial not visible no basement

d. Exterior walls (original if visible & any subsequent coverings): Stucco, vinyl siding (2nd story addition and gables), wood siding (rear porch)

e. Roof: shape: Side gable with shed roof porches on north and south elevations
materials: Asphalt shingles; corrugated fiberglass on shed roof porch (north elevation)
cornice: Boxed with vinyl
dormers: N/A
chimney: location(s): North elevation, exterior, vinyl clad; metal ventilation pipe on east elevation

8. DESCRIPTION OF ELEVATIONS:

a. Facade: Direction: North
1) Bays Four (4)
2) Windows 7
Fenestration Irregular
type (2) 1/1 double-hung wood with aluminum storms; (1) Chicago-style wood; (2) 1/1 double-hung sash vinyl; (2) hexagonal wood
Trim Wood and vinyl
shutters Wood inoperable on first story; inoperable, aluminum, louvered on second story

Facade (cont'd)

- 3) **Door(s)** 1
 location Center
 Type Paneled wood with fanlight
 Trim Wood

- 4) **Porch(es)** Two-thirds-width enclosed porch extends from the west elevation of the gabled, central, glass-enclosed porch; central porch accessed by a glass door and lit with sliding sash windows; enclosed porch is lit by 3 sliding glass patio doors;

b. Side: Direction: East

- 1) **Bays** Four (4)
 2) **Windows** 6
 Fenestration Irregular
 type (1) 1/1 double-hung wood sash; (1) 2-light awning; (1) 2-light casement; (3) 1/1 double-hung sash vinyl
 Trim Wood and metal
 shutters Wood inoperable (1st story); louvered inoperable vinyl (2nd story)
 3) **Door(s)** 0
 location N/A
 type N/A
 Trim N/A
 4) **Porch(es)** N/A

c. Side: Direction: West

- 1) **Bays** Four (4)
 2) **Windows** 5
 Fenestration Irregular
 type (2) 1/1 double-hung wood sash with storms; (3) 1/1 double-hung sash vinyl
 Trim Wood and vinyl
 shutters Wood inoperable (1st story); louvered vinyl (2nd story)
 3) **Door(s)** 0
 location N/A
 type N/A
 Trim N/A
 4) **Porch(es)** N/A

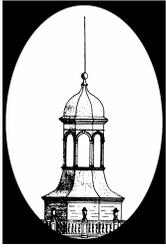
d. Rear: Direction: South

- 1) **Bays** Not accessible
 2) **Windows** Not accessible
 Fenestration Not accessible
 type Not accessible
 Trim Not accessible
 Shutters Not accessible
 3) **Door(s)** Not accessible
 location Not accessible
 type Not accessible
 Trim Not accessible
 4) **Porch(es)** Enclosed rear porch (partially visible) lit by 1/1 windows, patio doors, and metal storm doors; also a modern wood deck provides access to a rear entry that is sheltered by a pergola roof.

9. **INTERIOR:** Not accessible.

10. **LANDSCAPING:** Numerous mature trees and plantings.

11. **OTHER COMMENTS:** Rear yard is enclosed within a chain link fence and was not accessible during current survey.



CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY
MAP FORM

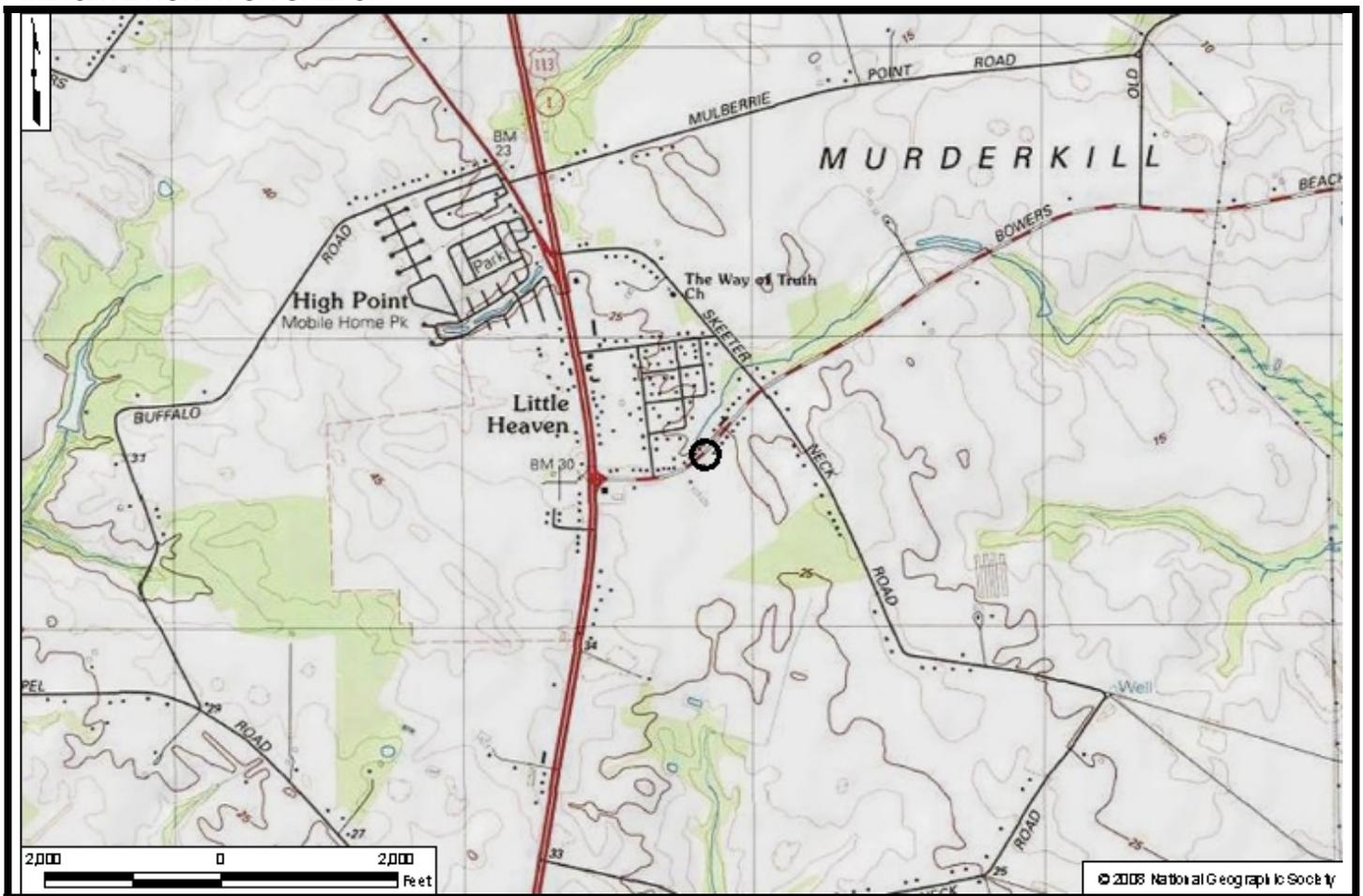
CRS # K-7629

1. ADDRESS/LOCATION: 264 Bowers Beach Road
2. NOT FOR PUBLICATION reason: _____
3. LOCATION MAP:

Indicate position of resource in relation to geographical landmarks such as streams and crossroads.

(attach section of USGS quad map with location marked or draw location map)

INDICATE NORTH ON SKETCH



INDICATE NORTH ON PLAN

