

The following  
National Register of  
Historic Places form  
was prepared for  
inventory  
documentation  
purposes only;  
the property has not  
been nominated to the  
National Register.

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Plumb Point Historic District, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD

other names/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: Plumb Point Loop Road  
not for publication N/A

city or town: Aberdeen vicinity X

state: Maryland code: MD county: Harford code: 025  
zip code: 21010

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the  
National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for  
additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification  
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I, hereby certify that this property is:  
\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

=====  
5. Classification  
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- \_\_\_\_ private
- \_\_\_\_ public-local
- \_\_\_\_ public-State
- X public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- \_\_\_\_ building(s)
- X district
- \_\_\_\_ site
- \_\_\_\_ structure
- \_\_\_\_ object

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Number of Resources within Property	
Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>87</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
	— sites
<u>6</u>	— structures
	— objects
<u>93</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Defense	Sub: Military facility
Domestic	Institutional housing
Social	Clubhouse
Health Care	Hospital

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Defense	Sub: Military facility
Domestic	Institutional housing
Social	Clubhouse

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)  
Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation:	Concrete
roof:	Slate
walls:	Granite
other:	Wood shingle, wood clapboard, brick, concrete block.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture  
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance: 1919 - 1942

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Quartermaster Corps

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # MD - 47

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Library of Congress

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property: 174.1 acres  
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	404160	4371480	3	18	404420 4369940
2	18	404680	4370540	4	18	404080 4369820
				5	18	403400 4369810

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)  
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title: Eliza H. Edwards/Architectural Historian  
organization: R. Christopher Goodwin & Assoc., Inc.  
date: November 1993  
street & number: 337 East Third Street  
telephone: 301-694-0428  
city or town: Frederick state: Maryland zip code: 21701

=====  
Additional Documentation  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

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Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.  
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_  
telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code

=====  
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Plumb Point is the main residential area of Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), a U.S. Army installation located near the northern end of the Chesapeake Bay, approximately 30 miles northeast of Baltimore, Maryland. Located on a waterfront parcel along the northeastern edge of the installation, the Plumb Point Historic District comprises 94 buildings and structures. The district is made up primarily of housing, interspersed with a limited number of community support buildings. Ninety-three of the ninety-four buildings were considered to be contributing. The configuration of the district is defined by the central golf course, around which all the structures are located, and the extensive shoreline that forms the northeastern and northwestern edges of the district.

Most of the development in the Plumb Point Historic District is associated with two distinct construction campaigns undertaken during the inter-war years. The first immediately followed World War I and comprised a total of 14 residential buildings. The second building campaign occurred in the 1930s, when a program implemented by the Quartermaster Corps called for the construction of permanent housing, hospitals, and support facilities using

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standardized plans. This second building campaign resulted in the construction of an additional 74 buildings and structures.

The Plumb Point area achieves a sense of architectural unity through its integrated plan, architectural design, and building materials. The waterfront location, curvilinear roads, open spaces and mature vegetation lend a sense of interest and orderliness to Plumb Point's plan. Most buildings are designed in the Georgian Colonial Revival style and are constructed of locally-quarried Port Deposit granite. With few exceptions, the buildings at Plumb Point are in good condition and retain a high degree of integrity. Plumb Point represents a cohesive example of Army planning and permanent standardized construction that occurred throughout the country during the 1930s.

**Community Plan**

Together with the architecture, the site plan of Plumb Point is a highly important component of the Plumb Point Historic District. Incorporated into the physical plan of Plumb Point were a number of progressive planning concepts, illustrating the U.S.

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Army's increasing interest in the application of contemporary planning principles to military installations.

The natural terrain and topography were defining elements in the development plan for Plumb Point. Throughout Plumb Point, residences were sympathetically situated along the shoreline according to the site's physical determinants. Clustering the houses along the shore in this manner allowed for the golf course to remain open, uninterrupted by the construction of houses or other buildings.

Today, the Plumb Point golf course still serves as the nucleus of the plan, around which all the buildings of the community are arranged. With the golf course occupying the entire core of the district, a sense of rural spaciousness is achieved. This large open space not only contributes to the openness of the site, but gives the community an easily accessible recreational area, and provides every residence along its borders with an advantageous prospect of the golf course.

A diverse selection of plant materials also were used to achieve variety and interest in the site. Plumb Point incorporates

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a wide variety of trees, both deciduous and evergreen, that directly contributes to the suburban character of the site. Trees identified within the Plumb Point district include Pin oaks, beeches, silver maples, chestnuts, holly trees and dogwoods.

**Residential Buildings**

As in the case of all U.S. Army installations, house size and location at Plumb Point were stratified according to rank. Single family officer housing was built in the northern portions of the district, abutting the golf course and extending along the water's edge. Non-commissioned officer housing was erected towards the southern end of the golf course, in closer proximity to the service areas of the installation. The majority of the housing at Plumb Point dates from the 1930s.

The dominant building type in the Plumb Point Historic District is single family housing, which accounts for approximately 53% of all buildings and structures within the district. Eight of the single family dwellings at Plumb Point were built in 1919; 40 were constructed between 1934 and 1935. Two of Plumb Point's

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single family houses, **Quarters One** (Building 1) and **Hopkins House** (Building 84), were built before Aberdeen Proving Ground was established in 1917.

**Quarters One**, the residence of APG's Commanding Officer, dates from the eighteenth century, and was acquired by the U.S. Army as part of the original land for APG. Since that time, the original brick farmhouse has undergone major alterations, leaving little evidence of the original dwelling. In 1935, most of the original farmhouse was demolished and the building was redesigned in the Colonial Revival style, in keeping with the designs of the other officer housing then being constructed.

Quarters One stands today as a two-story structure with two telescoping wings that project from the east side of the dwelling. The two largest blocks of the residence are clad in Port Deposit Granite, the smallest section (the only remainder of the eighteenth century structure) is sheathed in stucco. The foundation is stone and the roof is finished with shingled slate. The northeast facade of the main block of the dwelling is characterized by its three-bay symmetrical plan, pedimented center doorway, wrap-around cornice,

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shuttered windows, and semicircular gable window. The southwest elevation is formalized by a full-facade, two-story colonnaded portico and elliptical gable window. This facade distinguishes this residence from the other dwellings in Plumb Point without detracting from the cohesive character of the overall community.

**Hopkins House** also existed within the boundaries of Aberdeen Proving Ground prior to the U.S. Army's acquisition of the property in 1917, but not in its current location. In 1918, this dwelling was moved from its original site on the Main Front to its present location next to the post headquarters (Building 310). Hopkins House is a two and one-half story, wood frame dwelling in the Queen Anne style. The residence is clad in wood clapboards and has a hipped roof with a dominant front-facing gable. Decorative details include a Palladian window in the front gable, two-story polygonal bays projecting from the north and south facades, and a one-story, wrap-around porch along the front of the dwelling. Together, the Hopkins House and the duplexes to the north, built in 1919, are known as "Hopkins Row."

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Housing that survives from 1919 includes the architecturally cohesive enclave of eight single family dwellings (**Buildings 2-5, 20-23**) built at the northern tip of Plumb Point. Built at the same time and in similar style is the cluster of six duplexes (**Buildings 70-71 and 80-83**) constructed at the eastern edge of the Plumb Point District. The broad overhanging eaves, exposed rafter ends and sleeping porches of these 1919 dwellings are characteristic of the Craftsman style that influenced in American architecture during the first two decades of the twentieth century.

The single family dwellings (Buildings 2-5 and 20-23) at the northern tip of Plumb Point are based on the same plan but differ in orientation. Buildings 20-23 are oriented with their lateral sides toward the water; Buildings 2-5 are turned with their long sides facing the road. Each structure is a wood-frame, wood-shingled, two-story residence with a T-shaped ground plan, low-pitched intersecting hipped roof, and enclosed porches. The enclosed porches originally were designed as one-story wings; second-story bedroom additions subsequently were added to each of these porches.

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The duplexes comprising Hopkins Row share many of the same architectural characteristics with the single family quarters but are more linear and symmetrical in plan. Each duplex is a wood-frame building comprised of a two-story central block with slightly lower two-story side wings. Like the 1919 officers' housing, the duplexes originally were constructed with flat-roofed one-story side wings; second-stories were added to these wings in 1934. Despite modifications, the 1919 buildings retain their architectural integrity. A signature on the drawings of the Hopkins Row duplexes shows that Philip Hubert Frohman (1887-1972), the well-known architect of Washington, D.C.'s National Cathedral, was involved in the design of these earliest Plumb Point residences. Frohman serviced in the U.S. Army between 1917 and 1919 when these buildings were designed.

The second phase of construction during the inter-war period resulted in the construction of the remainder of Plumb Point's contributing buildings and also shaped the comprehensive plan for the community. Between 1930 and 1939, 41 residential and seven non-residential buildings were constructed. The plan adopted for

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this expanded housing area integrated the existing topography and houses were sited according to the natural configuration of the shoreline. Each single family residence is located along the curvilinear Plumb Point Loop Road.

The housing built at Plumb Point during the 1930s defines the architectural character of the Plumb Point district through its use of cohesive design and integrated materials. The architectural designs for these homes were derived from the standardized Colonial Revival plans developed by the Quartermaster Corps and implemented at numerous army installations across the country. These plans were adapted to APG through the use of Port Deposit granite, a local material, as a building veneer. The unification of the various residential buildings was achieved through the consistent use of Port Deposit Granite.

Three distinct standardized housing plans were utilized in the construction of Plumb Point's 1930s single family dwellings. The largest of these is a two and one-half story, five-bay symmetrical dwelling with a gable roof, double chimneys, central entrance, and an attached single-bay garage. At Plumb Point, 15 buildings

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(Buildings 7, 9, 10, 25, 31-35, 40-44, and 50) are based on this plan. Architectural monotony was avoided through the use of a variety of interchangeable architectural and decorative elements that included one- or two-story side wings, dormer windows, door surrounds, and flagstone patios. Examples of houses based on this plan are located along the northwestern edge of the golf course and southeast of the Officers' Club. Most of the officer housing is situated on waterfront locations, emphasizing further the geographic stratification of the homes within Plumb Point.

(Buildings 52, 53, 54, and 56-58) represent the second-largest plan implemented at Plumb Point: a one and one-half story Dutch Colonial Revival dwelling, also faced in Port Deposit granite. The main block of the structure is three bays, with a slightly lower one and one-half story side wing. These residences are characterized by a flared eave over a full-facade screened porch, three gabled dormers, a single gable-end chimney, and a rear center gable. Each house has a detached, single-bay, gable-roofed garage. The six Plumb Point dwellings based on this plan, are located along the eastern edge of the golf course, south of the Officers' Club.

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Plumb Point's smallest house plan, (**Buildings 100-107, 110-119**), was constructed for non-commissioned officers (NCOs). This plan is a three-bay, one and one-half story, gable-roofed cottage with a projecting rear ell. The houses of this type are all located in the southwestern portion of Plumb Point. Buildings 100-103 and 110-119 are arranged along Plumb Point Loop Road and oriented toward the golf course. Buildings 100-103 are oriented toward Swan Creek. The use of Port Deposit granite as the facing material unifies these 18 homes with the other officer housing built within Plumb Point. Detached three- and four-bay shared garages are located to the rear of these NCO residences. Alterations to these residences in the 1970s included the addition of a bathroom as well as a rear three-bay shed roof dormer clad in white clapboard.

Garages were another important component of the 1930s building campaign. Due to the increasing prevalence of the automobile, 24 detached garages were constructed on Plumb Point between 1934 and 1939. In addition, 15 of the 1930s dwellings were built with an attached one-car garage. The garages constructed for the 1919

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housing are wood frame, clad in wood shingles with asphalt-shingled hipped roofs. The detached garages built with the 1930s housing are of concrete block with a painted stucco exterior and slate gabled roof.

The largest building within the Plumb Point district is **Building 305**, a barracks for enlisted personnel that was erected at the southern edge of the golf course in 1934. This two and one-half story, U-shaped structure was based on a Georgian Revival style standardized plan and constructed of hollow clay tile with a Port Deposit granite veneer. The barracks' north facade measures 141 ft; the two rear wings extend south 99 ft. The entrance on the building's north facade has a two-story portico with a simple pediment supported by six smooth stone columns. A two-story porch gallery, with a balcony, wraps around the rear of the structure. In 1953, one wing of the barracks was converted to an infirmary and the remainder of the building became administrative offices. Other alterations to the structure include the addition of exterior staircases and the replacement of windows.

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**Non-Residential Buildings**

The non-residential buildings within the district are also an integral part of the community plan. Included among these buildings are the fire station, a guard house, an Officers' Club, and a hospital.

The **fire station** and **guard house** are located at the southern end of the district, west of the barracks. The fire station (Building 300) was built in 1934 according to a Quartermaster-standardized plan in the Colonial Revival style. The building was originally constructed as a two-story, symmetrical, T-shaped structure faced in Port Deposit granite. The front facade featured a central, pedimented gable roof with a lunette window and four large portals to accommodate fire engines. Since its original construction, the building has been modified to increase the number and expand the size of vehicle entrances. The size of the two easternmost portals was expanded and a single-story concrete block section was added to the east of the original structure, which increased the number of vehicle entrances to five.

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The guard house (Building 150), like the fire station, was based on a standardized plan and clad in Port Deposit granite. The guard house, a single-story octagonal structure with hooded doorways on both the north and south sides of the building, has retained its original plan since its construction in 1942.

The Officers' Club (Building 30), an expansive stone structure at the northeast end of the Plumb Point golf course, occupies a prominent location on a rise that overlooks Chesapeake Bay. The building is comprised of three separate buildings: a two-and-one-half story central section, and flanking one-and-one-half story outbuildings connected to the central block by open, roofed walkways. The club was built in 1936 according to Quartermaster-standardized plans. Since its original construction, the building has undergone several alterations that include the extension of the main dining room through the addition of a large brick block to the rear (northeast) of the structure. Large windows along the back of this addition provide an unobstructed view of the Chesapeake Bay from the dining room. Despite modifications to the club building,

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the principal facade retains much of its original appearance and architectural integrity.

The first building constructed at Plumb Point during the 1930's expansion was **Building 45**. Building 45 was built in 1932 as the hospital and now serves as the Bachelor Officer's Quarters (BOQ). The hospital differs from the majority of Plumb Point's other 1930s structures in building materials. Instead of a Port Deposit granite veneer, the hospital was built of red brick with limestone details. The two and one-half story, T-shaped building is finished with a slate hipped roof. Located on the western edge of the Plumb Point Loop Road, the structure is oriented to the east facing the golf course. In 1958 the hospital was renovated into the BOQ. The integrity of the structure's exterior was retained through the alterations.

Only one building identified within the district boundaries is a non-contributing element to the district. This building, a small, single-story modular shed, is located on Plumb Point Loop Road southeast of the BOQ (Building 45). This building serves as a golf shed and was constructed in the fall of 1992. While the

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building is non-contributing, it does not detract from the overall character of the Plumb Point district.

The following is a list of resources contained in the Plumb Point Historic District.

Bldg. No.	Historic Use	Date	Contributing/ Non-Contributing
001	Quarters 1	pre-1935	Contributing
001G	Garage	1935	Contributing
002	Family Housing-Colonel	1919	Contributing
002G/003G	Garage	1934	Contributing
003	Family Housing-Colonel	1919	Contributing
004	Family Housing-Colonel	1919	Contributing
004G/005G	Garage	1934	Contributing
005	Family Housing-Colonel	1919	Contributing
006	Distrib. Transformer	1935	Contributing
007	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
009	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
010	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
019	Distrib. Transformer	1935	Contributing
020	Family Housing-Colonel	1919	Contributing
020G	Garage	1934	Contributing
021	Family Housing-Colonel	1919	Contributing
021G	Garage	1934	Contributing
022	Family Housing-Colonel	1919	Contributing
022G	Garage	1934	Contributing
023	Family Housing-Colonel	1919	Contributing
023G	Garage	1934	Contributing
025	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
030	Officers Club	1936	Contributing
031	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
032	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing

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033	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
034	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
035	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
039	Family Housing-Colonel	1919	Contributing
040	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
041	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
042	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
043	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
044	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
045	Bachelor Officer Quarters	1932	Contributing
046	Distrib. Transformer	1935	Contributing
050	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
052	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
052G/051	Garage and	1935	Contributing
	Distrib. Transformer		Contributing
053	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
053G	Garage	1935	Contributing
054	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
054G	Garage	1935	Contributing
056	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
056G	Garage	1939	Contributing
057	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
057G	Garage	1935	Contributing
058	Family Housing-Colonel	1935	Contributing
058G/059	Garage and	1935	Contributing
	Distrib. Transformer	1935	Contributing
070	Family Housing-		
	Lt. Colonel-Major	1919	Contributing
070G	Garage	1935	Contributing
071	Family Housing-		
	Lt. Colonel-Major	1919	Contributing
071G	Garage	1935	Contributing
080	Family Housing-		
	Lt. Colonel-Major	1919	Contributing
081	Family Housing-		
	Lt. Colonel-Major	1919	Contributing
081G	Garage	1935	Contributing
082	Family Housing-		

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	Lt. Colonel-Major	1919	Contributing
082G	Garage	1935	Contributing
083	Family Housing-		
	Lt. Colonel-Major	1919	Contributing
083G	Garage	1935	Contributing
084	Hopkins Housing	pre-1918	Contributing
084G	Garage	1935	Contributing
098	Foot Bridge	1935	Contributing
099	Elevated Water Tower	1934	Contributing
100	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
101	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
101G	Garage	1938	Contributing
102	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
103	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
104	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
104G	Garage	1935	Contributing
105	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
106	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
107	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
107G	Garage	1935	Contributing
108	Distrib. Transformer	1935	Contributing
110	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
111	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
112	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
112G	Garage	1938	Contributing
113	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
114	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
115	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
116	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
116G	Garage	1938	Contributing
117	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
118	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
119	Family Housing-NCO	1934	Contributing
119G	Garage	1938	Contributing
150	Guard House	1942	Contributing

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300	Fire Station	1934	Contributing
305	Barracks	1934	Contributing
N/A	Golf Shed	1992	N-C

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Plumb Point is the main residential area of Aberdeen Proving Ground and is a significant, architecturally cohesive historic district composed of Colonial Revival style dwellings, barracks, an officers' club, a fire station, a hospital and a guard house. The overall plan and architectural design of Plumb Point embodies the characteristics of the U.S. Army's permanent construction program that was enacted in 1926 and continued into the 1930s (Criterion C). The majority of the buildings at Plumb Point were constructed using Quartermaster Corps-standardized plans.

Since the plan for Plumb Point was first implemented in the 1930s, neither the architecture nor the landscape has undergone major alteration. Plumb Point is a locally significant example of the Army's nation-wide planning and permanent construction efforts during the period between World War I and World War II.

**Permanent Construction at Plumb Point, 1919 - 1942**

Two construction campaigns were undertaken at Plumb Point during the inter-war years. The first immediately followed World War I and included projects planned during the war years. This

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building campaign in 1919 resulted in the construction of eight detached dwellings (Buildings 2-5, 20-23) and six duplexes (Buildings 70-71 and 80-83). These 14 buildings are rare examples of dwellings constructed during a period of minimal military construction activity.

The second phase of development at Plumb Point occurred during the 1930s and resulted in the physical transformation of the area. Prior to this construction campaign, the 1919 officer housing was located at the northern tip of the point. The lower half of what is now the golf course was a large, open field occupied by tents and a variety of other temporary structures. The area showed little resemblance to the Plumb Point housing area of today.

The development effort initiated at Plumb Point in 1932 was the result of the enactment of a nationwide Army construction program in 1926. The permanent construction program was initiated to address the poor living conditions, particularly for enlisted and NCO personnel, reported at military installations throughout the United States. These conditions were due to the deteriorating wooden mobilization buildings in service from World War I.

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Widespread reports of poor living conditions prompted a congressional investigation.

As a result of the publicity, Public Law No. 45 was enacted in March 1926. The Law authorized the Secretary of War to dispose of 43 military reservations, or portions thereof, and to deposit the money received from those sales into a "Military Post Construction Fund." The program was designed to finance the housing and hospital needs of the Army. The cost of the program was estimated initially at \$110 million over a ten-year period. In 1927, the first \$7 million was made available and targeted for barracks and hospital construction. This appropriation of funds accounts for the construction of Plumb Point's hospital before other residential development at Plumb Point. Additional funds later were made available through the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 and through the Work Relief and Public Works Appropriation Act of 1938.

The permanent construction program had a widespread impact on Army and Air Corps installations. Many of the installations retained after World War I, such as Aberdeen Proving Ground, were improved with permanent facilities. In addition, older

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installations were expanded. The installations where permanent construction occurred between 1927 and 1940 include: Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Devens, Massachusetts; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Lewis, Washington; Fort Meade, Maryland; Fort McClellan, Alabama; Barksdale AFB, Louisiana; Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C.; Chanute AFB, Illinois; March AFB, California; Maxwell AFB, Alabama; Pope AFB, North Carolina; Randolph AFB, Texas; Scott AFB, Illinois; Selfridge AFB, Michigan; and, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

The tasks of designing and constructing permanent housing and support facilities fell to the Quartermaster Corps. Major General B. Frank Cheatham headed the Construction Service. His architectural staff included Lt. Colonel Francis B. Wheaton, formerly associated with the architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White; Luther M. Leisenring, formerly an associate of prominent architect Cass Gilbert; and 1st Lt. Howard B. Nurse, a graduate of Mechanics Institute who had practiced in Rochester, New York. In addition, Cheatham consulted with civilian engineers, landscape architects, and urban planners. One of the most noted consultants

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was George B. Ford, a respected urban planner, who reviewed all of the proposed installation plans. The aim of the project was to produce Army installations that were functional, aesthetically attractive, cost effective, and appropriate for the different climactic conditions and architectural styles of the country.

As a result of this planning effort, the Construction Division developed a set of standardized architectural plans for housing, administration, health care, community support, and functional support buildings. To reflect the architectural tradition of the region where the buildings were constructed, the basic structures were built with different materials and appropriate ornamentation. Two architectural styles were prevalent: the Georgian Colonial Revival style and the Spanish Mission Revival styles. The Georgian Colonial Revival style was used from Virginia north to Maine and in the Pacific Northwest. The Spanish Mission Revival style was used from North Carolina south and west across Texas and Oklahoma to California. The Spanish Mission Revival style also was used at Fort Missoula, Montana. In Louisiana and Alabama, the

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Quartermaster Corps adapted buildings to the French Provincial style.

At Plumb Point, the nation-wide Army program produced a well planned installation that embodied the architectural and planning principles of the permanent construction program. The main cantonment area was centered around a golf course. Officer housing extended along the northern portion of the golf course; non-commissioned officer housing was located along the southern part of the golf course. Barracks and community support buildings, also located south of the golf course, completed the ensemble of the main cantonment area. In terms of architectural design, all Plumb Point buildings constructed during the 1930s were designed in the Georgian Colonial Revival style according to standardized plans. With the implementation of these plans, Plumb Point was dramatically transformed from a community of tents and temporary buildings to a well-manicured neighborhood of permanent army residences.

Although Plumb Point was constructed according to standardized plans, the architectural designs used at Plumb Point were modified

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to employ a local material, Port Deposit granite, as the primary building material. With the exception of the 1919 wood-frame residences, the officer and non-commissioned officer housing, as well as the barracks are faced with this local stone.

**Implementation of Modern Planning Principles in the Military**

Plumb Point's development plan is also a significant component of the Plumb Point Historic District. Plumb Point illustrates the Army's attempts to apply the state-of-the-art planning concepts in comprehensive planning and controlled development for the plans for military installations. The community plan is an integral part of the district, significantly contributing to its overall appeal, its cohesiveness, and its integrity.

The landscape profession first became a permanent function of the U.S. Army's Quartermaster General in 1931 when the Planning Branch was established under the direction of two landscape architects and two architects. With the inception of this office, the U.S. Army began to take a more technical approach to the establishment and planning of new posts as well as to the

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modernization of existing ones. The plan adopted for Plumb Point exemplifies the efforts made by the U.S. Army during the 1930s to develop plans that were both practical and interesting. Principles of city planning were used to organize the complex spatial requirements of modern military activities and to provide a "healthful" suburban environment for residents.

First Lieutenant Howard B. Nurse helped to shape this new approach to installation planning. In a 1928 issue of The Quartermaster Review, Nurse presented his planning philosophy by comparing the planning of Army posts to the new field of city planning. "The planning and developing must take such form as will secure the healthful conditions, promote the scientific training of troops, and also furnish the means of social intercourse." To achieve these ends, Nurse recommended a comprehensive plan that would consider the five principles of (1) unity; (2) consonance in design; (3) natural beauty; (4) balance, usually along an axis; and (5) radiation, whereby parts of a community radiate from the center and return. He found parallels for these principles in examples of natural design, and even compared the military community to a

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living organism. Nurse advocated using topography in the design and layout of the streets and avoiding straight lines, especially in residential areas. Although he conceded that many older posts had a charming appearance that increased with time, he believed that the future of installation planning depended upon a systematic application of the principles derived from city planning. While many of these planning concepts were not new, the inter-war period marked the first time that the military consciously applied these ideas to installation planning.

An examination of Plumb Point shows that these contemporary planning principles were, in fact, implemented in Plumb Point's 1930s site plan. The rigid symmetry of traditional military installations gave way to more free-form, topographically sympathetic arrangements in the 1930s. Plumb Point also illustrates the Army's attempts to design comprehensive plans that had unity of both design and purpose.

Unity within the Plumb Point plan was achieved through the placement of buildings on the periphery of the golf course. The golf course remains open and uninterrupted by houses or other

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buildings and evokes an overall sense of rural spaciousness. This large open space not only contributes to the openness of the site, but provides the community with an easily accessible recreational area, and affords every residence along its borders with an advantageous prospect of the golf course.

Natural terrain and topography were used as defining elements within the plan for Plumb Point. The plan utilized natural buffers, such as the Chesapeake Bay and Swan Creek along the northeast and northwest edges of the community, and the marsh lands and densely wooded areas to the east and southeast of the golf course. The result has kept the community contained and shielded from the more industrial and institutional areas of the installation.

Plant materials, also an important ingredient of the Plumb Point plan, were used to ensure variety and interest in the site. Just as interchangeable standardized details were used to avoid incessant repetition in the architectural plans of houses, clever landscaping was implemented to alleviate the monotony of standardized housing. The diversity of trees and other plantings

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contribute to the suburban character of the site. Plantings also were used in the plan as buffers. A row of evergreens along the southern edge of the golf course effectively screens the officers' housing area of Plumb Point from the vehicular traffic of Longs Corner Road.

In addition to the physical plan and the planting of the community, specific design elements were utilized within the Plumb Point plan to help unify this area as a distinct residential community. The consistent use of flagstone walkways leading from Plumb Point Loop Road to the front doors of the individual dwellings was one unifying strategy implemented. The decorative electrical street lamps placed along the curvilinear roads throughout the community also give definition to Plumb Point. These same lamps were installed at Hopkins Row, thereby perceptibly linking this more removed cluster of duplex housing with the officer housing situated directly along the edges of the golf course. The wooden footbridge that spans the marshy area east of the golf course plays a contributing role in the integrity of the development plan. The bridge provides a physical link between the

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single unit officer housing along the golf course and the duplexes further to the east.

One of the most subtle, yet distinctive, characteristics of the Plumb Point plan is the concealed wiring. Carefully hidden utility wires distinguish the residential area of Plumb Point from the more industrial areas of the Aberdeen installation and also help Plumb Point to retain its rural qualities.

**Summary**

Although construction at APG accelerated considerably during World War II and has continued at a modified pace in the ensuing years, Plumb Point has undergone few alterations. The comprehensive plan for Plumb Point that was devised in the 1930s is still in place. The landscaping has matured and buildings have undergone limited alterations, but as a whole, Plumb Point still retains the cohesive and distinctive character of both its architecture and its landscape. The Plumb Point Historic District possesses local significance, effectively illustrating the design

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characteristics associated with the U.S. Army's nation-wide  
permanent construction program enacted in 1926 (Criterion C).

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**Boundary Description**

Plumb Point: Starting with a point on the west corner of Building 150, the boundary proceeds northward to the east side of Building 120 to a point on the west side of Building 119-G. Excluding Building 120 from the district, the boundary then continues northward, following the water's edge to the northernmost point of Plumb Point. The boundary then turns to the southeast and follows the water's edge until it reaches a point to the south side of Building 35. From this point the boundary turns southwest following a straight path to a point on the southeast side of Building 58-G. The boundary then proceeds in a straight line southeast to a point to the south of Hopkins Road. The boundary follows along the south side of Hopkins Road, on the eastern side of all buildings located along this road, to the northwest corner of Building 392. From this point, the boundary proceeds north around the northeast side of Building 310 and then west to the northeast edge of Building 310's parking lot. From this point, the boundary follows in a straight line to the southwest to a point on the northeast corner of Building 316. From there the boundary

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proceeds in a line westward until its junction with Colleran Road just to the south of Building 300 (fire station), where it heads to the northwest until it meets the original starting point on the west side of Building 150.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the Plumb Point Historic District outlines the original residential district within the Aberdeen Proving Ground, as it was planned and constructed during the period 1919 to 1942. The buildings included in the district illustrate the two phases of construction in this area: the first in 1919 and the second between 1934 and 1935. The first phase consisted of 14 units of officer housing built on the northern tip of Plumb Point. The second phase included the construction of an additional 41 residential structures and seven non-residential buildings. Also included in this second phase was the implementation of a comprehensive physical plan. The Plumb Point district forms a cohesive representative example of Army planning and permanent construction, which occurred between World War I and World War II.

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

1. Plumb Point Historic District, Aberdeen Proving Ground
2. Harford County, Maryland
3. Reed Macmillan
5. STEAP-SH-ER  
Environmental Management Division  
Building 5650  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010

**PHOTO #**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | 1. Building 1<br>4. 11/1992<br>6. View facing east       |
| 2 | 1. Building 1<br>4. 11/1992<br>6. View facing southwest  |
| 3 | 1. Building 84<br>4. 11/1992<br>6. View facing east      |
| 4 | 1. Building 22<br>4. 11/1992<br>6. View facing northeast |
| 5 | 1. Building 80<br>4. 11/1992<br>6. View facing east      |

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PHOTO #

- 6            1. Building 34  
             4. 11/1992  
             6. View facing east
  
- 7            1. Building 54  
             4. 11/1992  
             6. View facing southeast
  
- 8            1. Building 116  
             4. 11/1992  
             6. View facing west
  
- 9            1. Building 305  
             4. 11/1992  
             6. View facing south
  
- 10           1. Building 305  
             4. 11/1992  
             6. View facing north
  
- 11           1. Building 300  
             4. 11/1992  
             6. View facing south

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**PHOTO #**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 12 | 1. Building 300<br>4. 11/1992<br>6. View facing north                         |
| 13 | 1. Building 150<br>4. 11/1992<br>6. View facing northwest                     |
| 14 | 1. Building 30<br>4. 11/1992<br>6. View facing northeast                      |
| 15 | 1. Building 45<br>4. 11/1992<br>6. View facing west                           |
| 16 | 1. Building 45<br>4. 11/1992<br>6. View facing east                           |
| 17 | 1. Aerial Photograph of Plumb Point<br>4. c. 1930<br>6. View facing northeast |

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**PHOTO #**

- 18            1. Aerial photograph of Plumb Point  
              4. c. 1936-7  
              6. View facing south-southeast
  
- 19            1. Plumb Point landscaping  
              4. 10/1993  
              6. View facing southwest
  
- 20            1. Footbridge (Structure #98)  
              4. 10/1993  
              6. View facing north

John

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Officers' Club Survey Number: HA-

Property Address: Plum Point Loop Aberdeen Proving Ground

Project: Handicapped accessibility Agency: Army

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name LLB/JEF Date 10 July 92

District Name: Plumb Point Historic District Survey Number: consensus  
Plum Point Loop HA-1854  
DOE

Listed  Eligible \_\_\_\_\_ Comment

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

The resource  contributes/\_\_\_\_\_ does not contribute to the historic significance of this historic district in:

Location  Design  Setting  Materials

Workmanship  Feeling  Association

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

The Officers' Club is the focal point of Plum Point Loop, a residential ring of officers' housing built in the 1930s. The Club building is situated at the end of large circular green on the south and the Chesapeake Bay to the north. The building as well as the military housing are very detailed examples of Georgian Revival architecture. The Officers' Club consists of several pavilions, the main two 1/2 story dressed stone block is characterized by a nine bay facade, large wooden portico, pedimented dormers, 6/6 windows and double interior chimneys. Two story stone wings flank the main block. The building extends further with frame arcades connecting to the final set of stone wings. Plum Point Loop is the heart of the residential and social community of military officers of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Documentation on the property is presented in: APG COMPLIANCE FILE

Prepared by: MHT STAFF

L. BOWLIN Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date 9-24-92 / 10-6-92

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable  
[Signature] Reviewer, NR program Date 11-15-92

Survey No. HA

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): military/ social officers' club

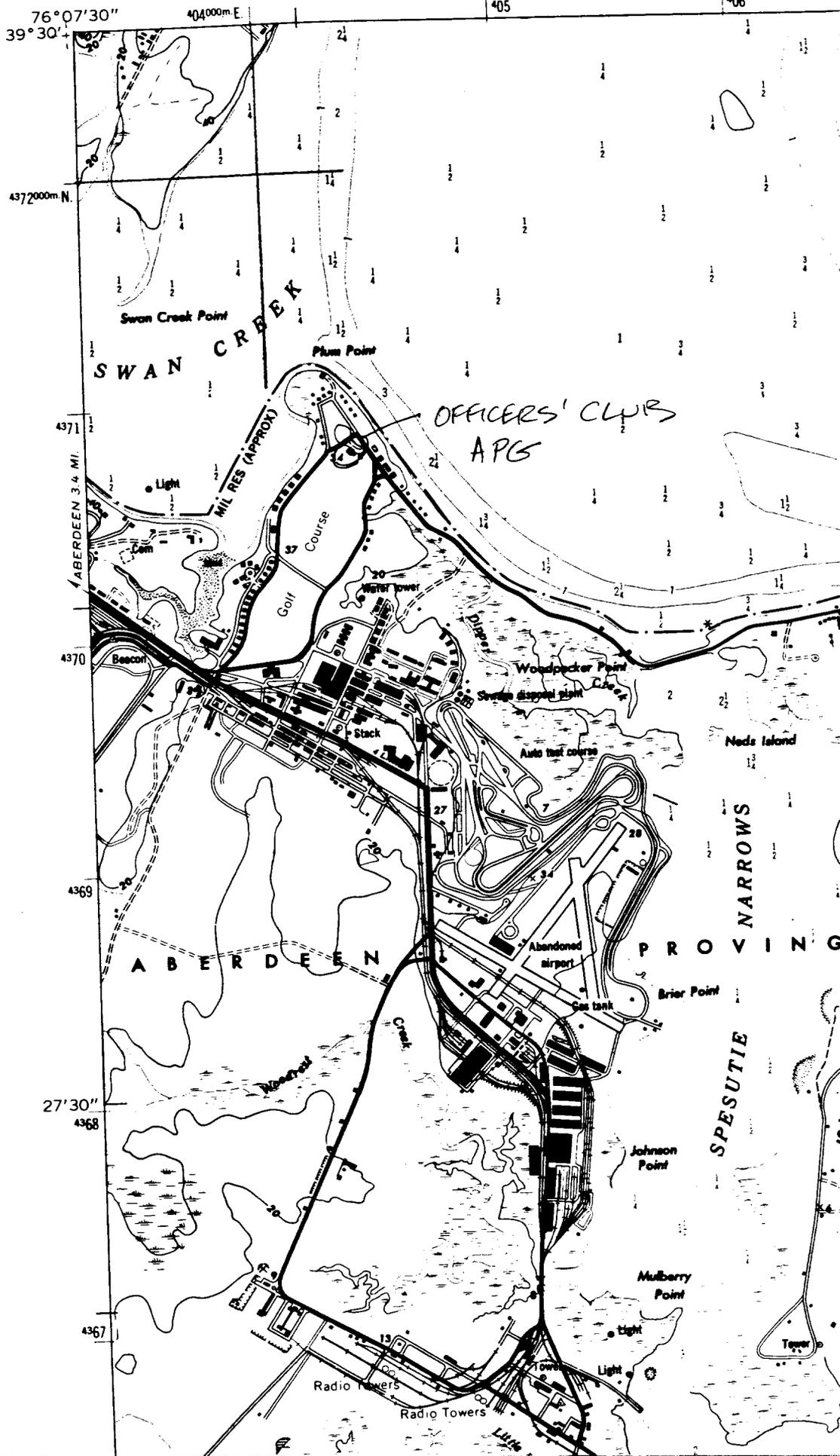
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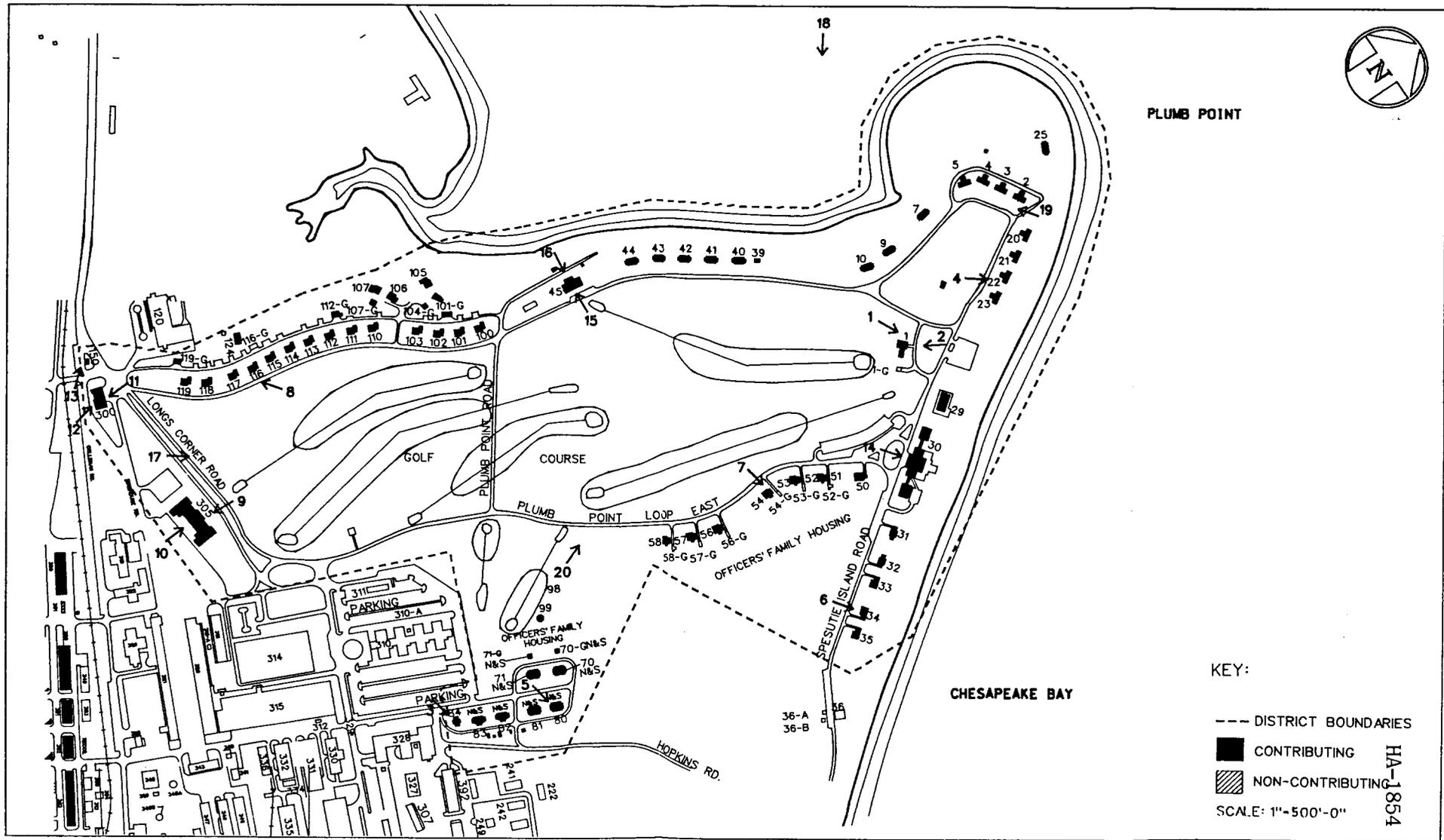
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SPESTIE  
QUAD

HA-354

5763 11 SW  
(ABERDEEN)





PLUMB POINT

KEY:  
 --- DISTRICT BOUNDARIES  
 ■ CONTRIBUTING  
 ▨ NON-CONTRIBUTING  
 SCALE: 1"=500'-0"

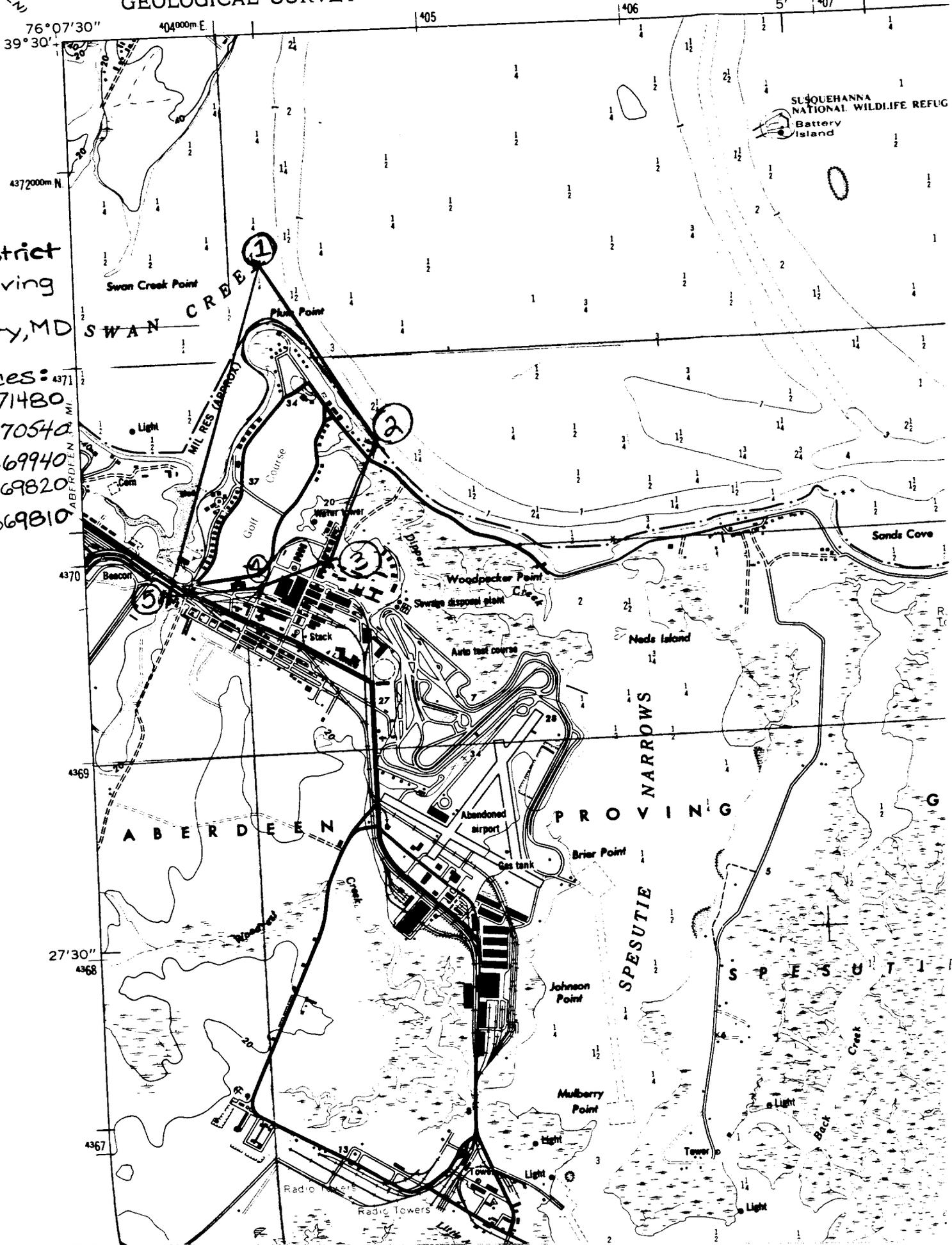
HA-1854

Plumb Point Historic District  
 Aberdeen Proving Ground  
 Harford County, Maryland

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

HA-1854

5783 1/2 SW  
(ABERDEEN)



Point  
District  
in Proving  
nd  
d County, MD

- References:
- 4371
  - 460/4371480
  - 4680/4370540
  - 4420/4369940
  - 4080/4369820
  - 4400/4369810

ABERDEEN

4370

4369

27'30"  
4368

4367

SUSQUEHANNA  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUG  
Battery  
Island

Swan Creek Point

SWAN CREEK

Plant Point

MIL RES LABORATORY

Golf Course

Water tower

Dipsey

Woodpecker Point

Sewage disposal plant

Auto test course

SPESUTIE NARROWS

SPESUTIE

ABERDEEN PROVING G

Brier Point

Johnson Point

Mulberry Point

Radio towers

Radio towers

Tower

Light

Light

Light

Back Creek

Sands Cove

Sands Cove

Swan Creek Point

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Hopkins House (Bldg. 84) Plumb Point Hist Dist.

HA-1854

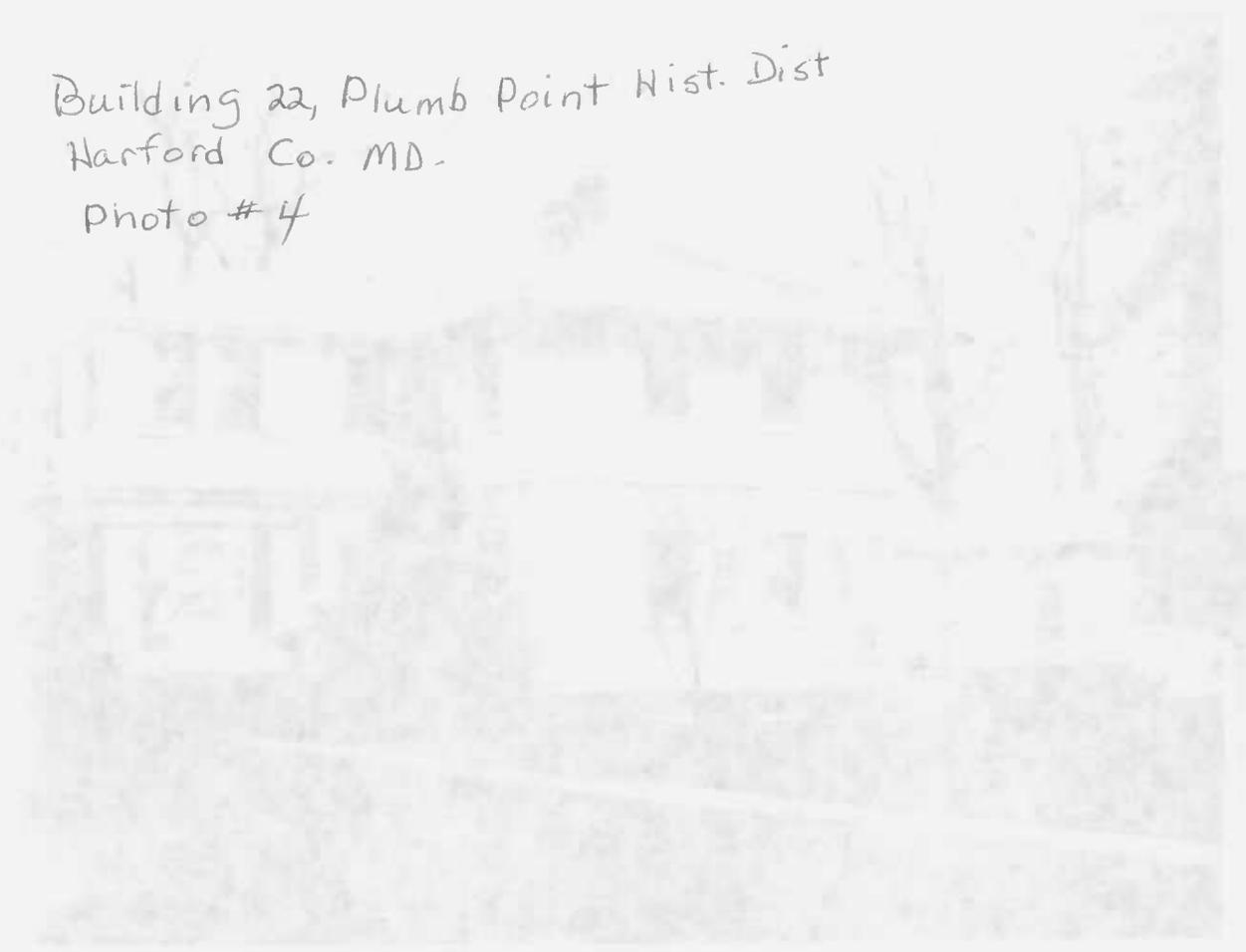
Harford County, MD

Photo # 3



Building 22, Plumb Point Hist. Dist  
Harford Co. MD.

Photo # 4



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Building 80  
Dumb Point Historic Dist.  
Harford County, MD

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Photo #5



Building 34  
Dumb Point Hist Dist.  
Harford County, MD.

Photo #6



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7

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Building 54  
Plumb Point - Historic District  
Harford Co., MD

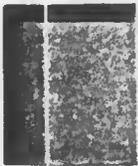
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Photo #7



Building 116  
Plumb Point Historic District  
Harford Co., MD

Photo #8



HA-1854



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**LIGHT IMPRESSIONS**  
Rochester, NY



Barracks (Bldg 305)

HA-1854

Plumb-Point Hist. Dist.

Harford Co., MD

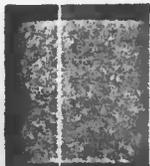


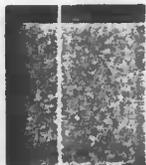
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Barracks - Bldg. 305

Plumb Point Hist. Dist.

Harford Co., MD

Photo #10



11854

HA-1854



1

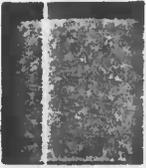
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Fire station (Bldg. 300)  
Plumb Point Hist. Dist.  
Harford Co., MD

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Photo #11



Fire Station (Bldg. 300)  
Plumb Point Hist. Dist.  
Harford Co., MD

Photo #12



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Guard House (Bldg. 150)  
Plumb Point Hist. Dist.  
Harford County, MD.

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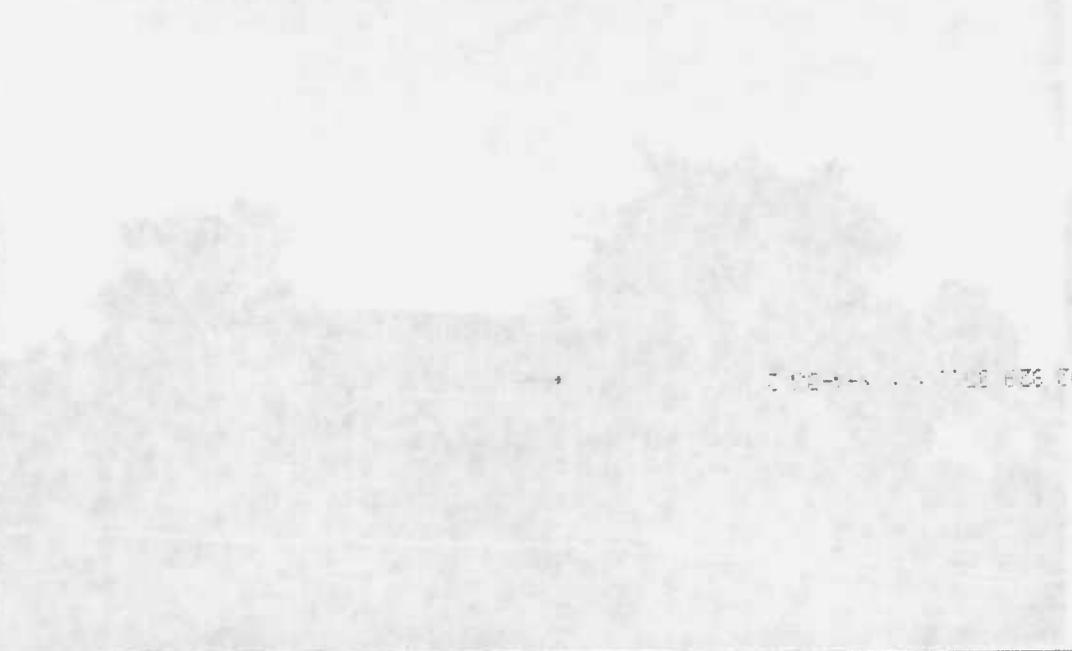
Photo # 13

09 828 0001 1 1-0-21 2



Officers Club (Bldg. 30)  
Plumb Point Hist. Dist.  
Harford County, MD

Photos #14



09 828 0001 1 1-0-21 2

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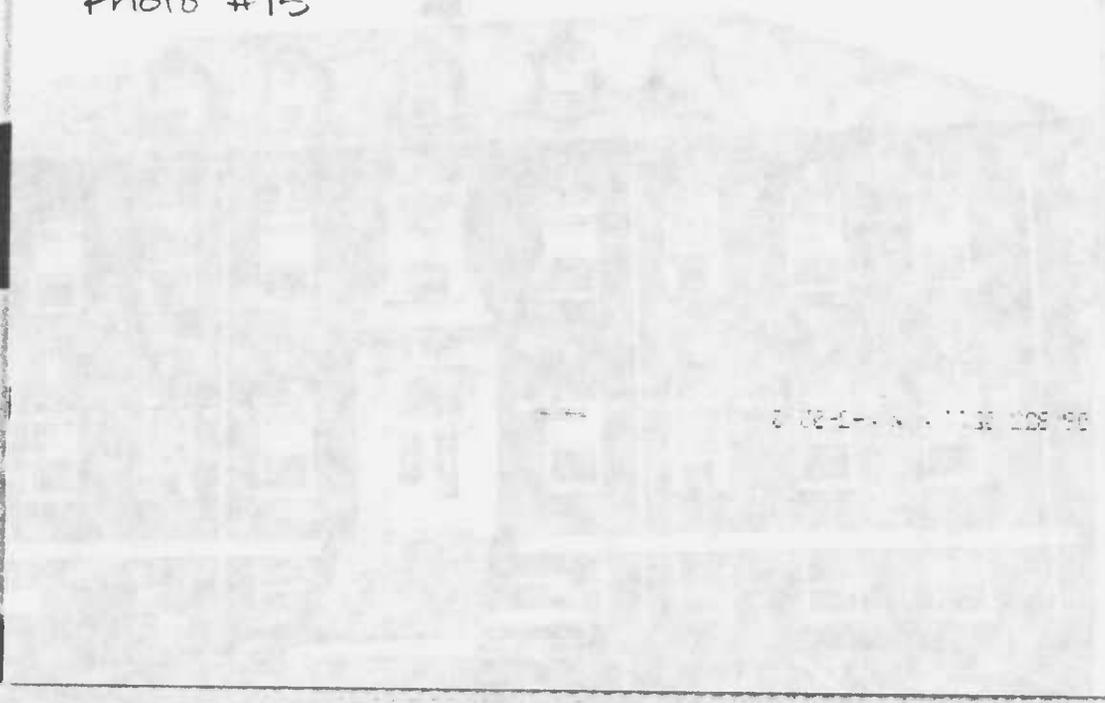
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 Rochester, NY



BOQ (Former Hospital) - Bldg. 45  
Plumb Point Hist. District  
Harford Co., MD.

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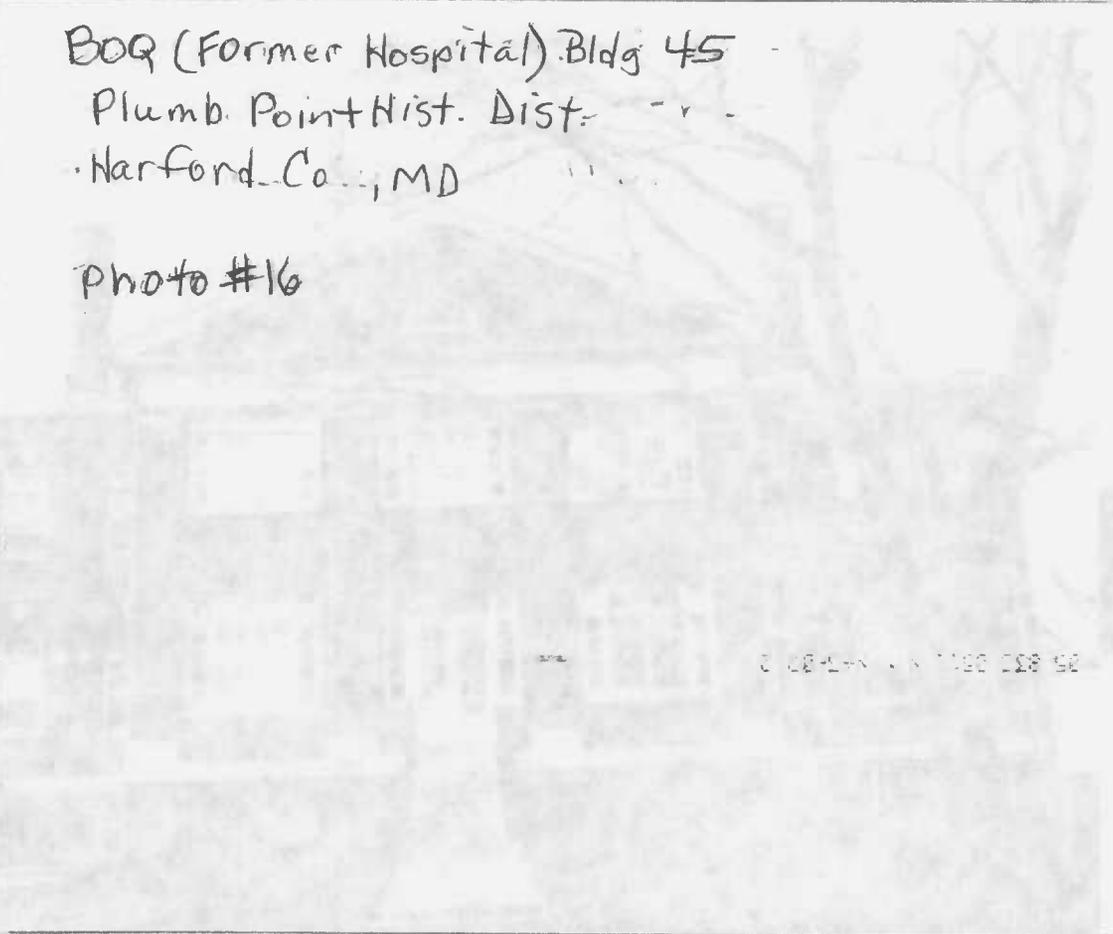
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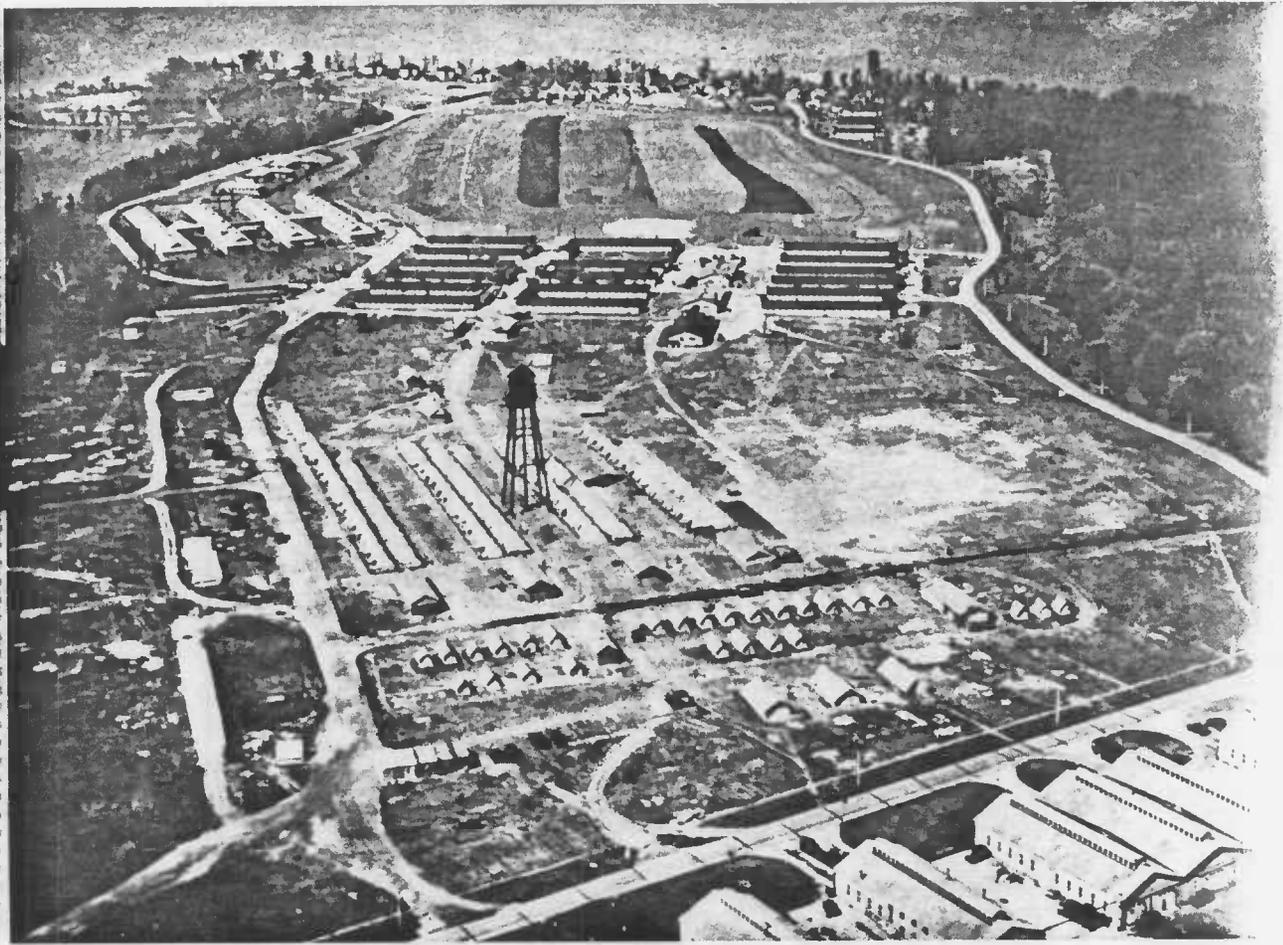
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BOQ (Former Hospital) Bldg 45  
Plumb Point Hist. Dist.  
Harford Co., MD

photo #16

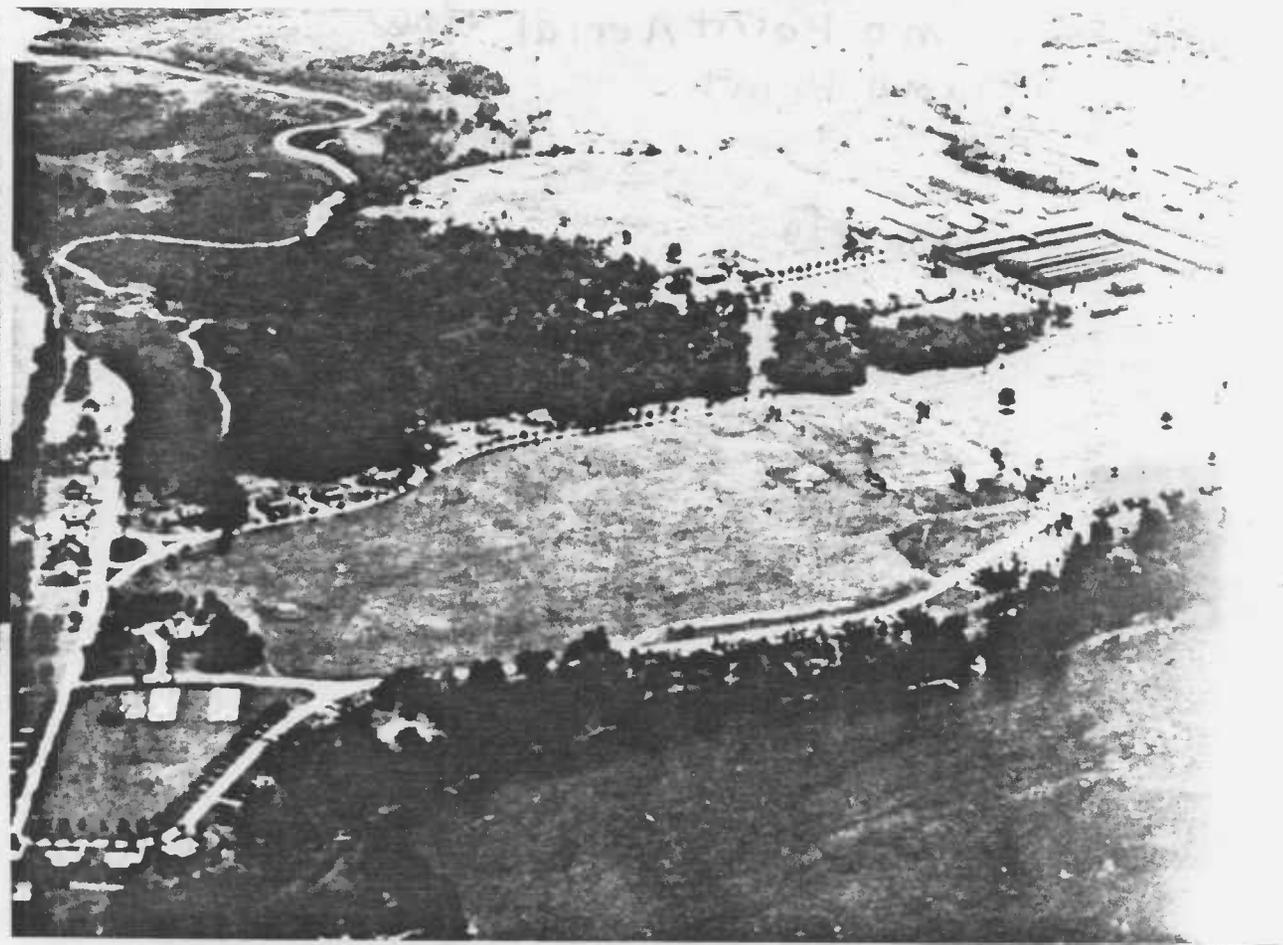


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Historic Photo

Aerial view.

Plumb Point Historic District  
Harford County, MD

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Photo #17

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Historic Photo  
Plumb Point Aerial View  
Plumb Point Historic District  
Harford County, MD

Photo #18

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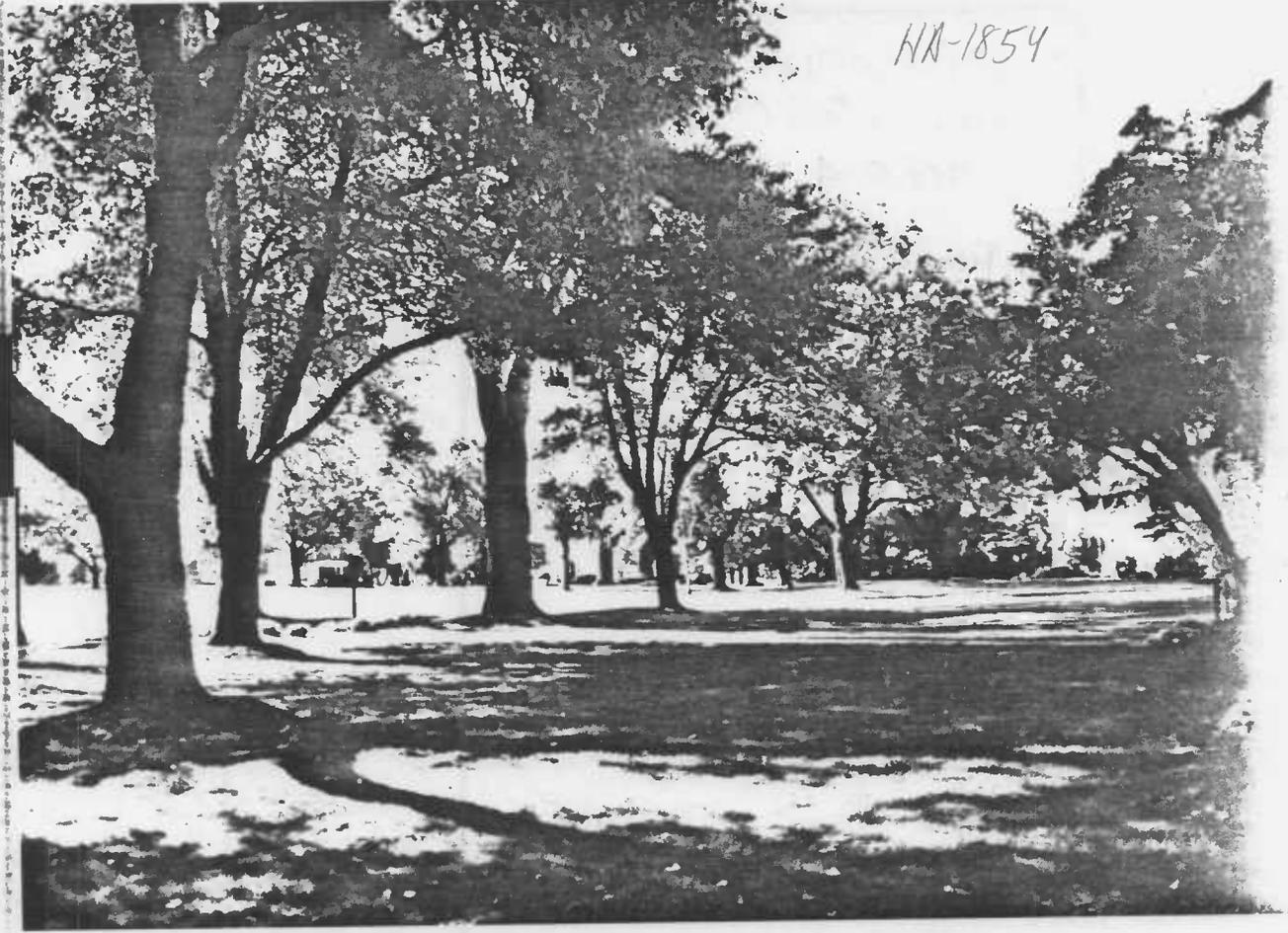
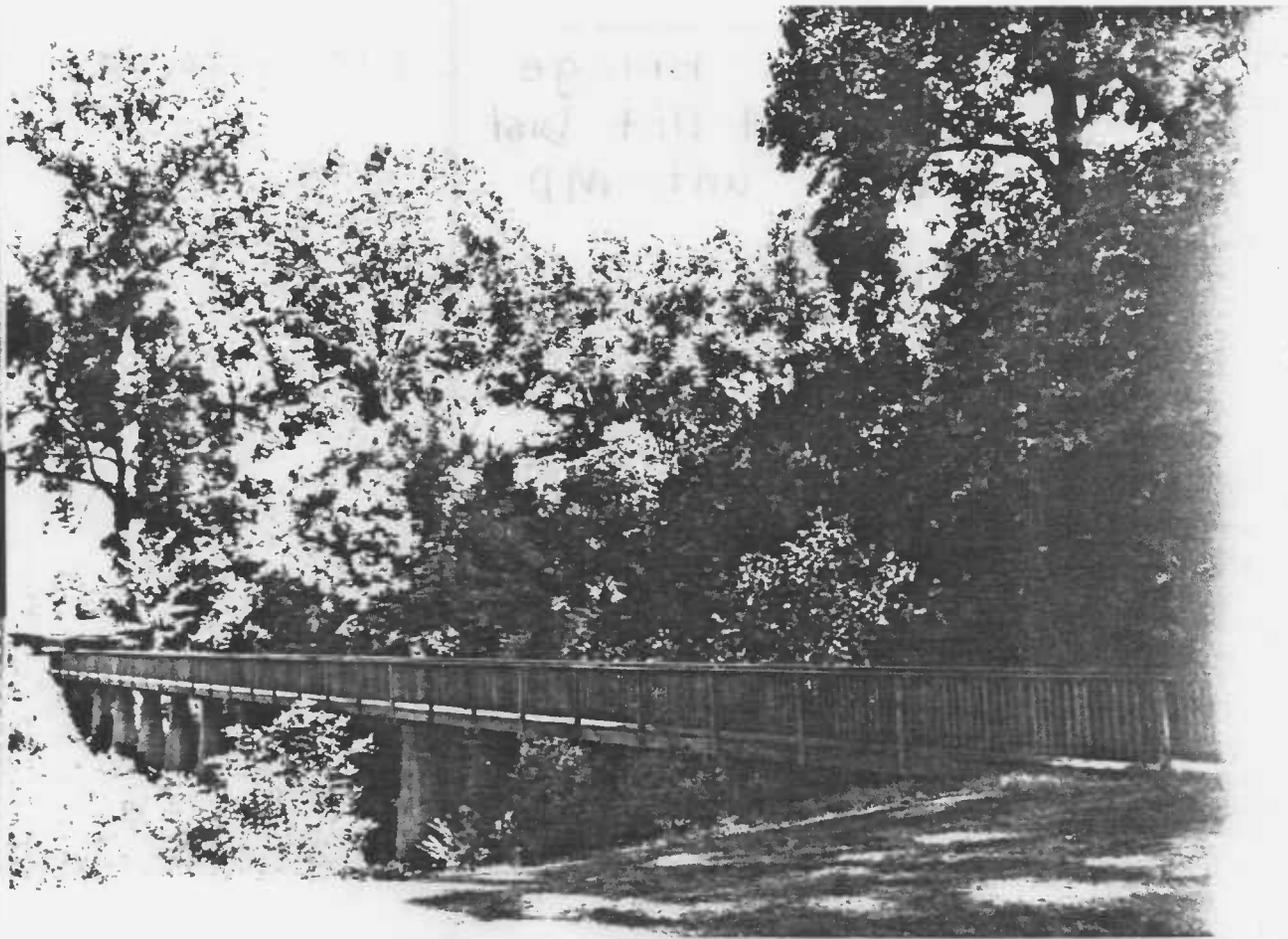


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Landscape view  
Plumb Point Hist. District  
Harford County, MD.

HA-1854

photo #19

2 20-11-11 10:00 008 00

Wooden Footbridge (Structure # 48)  
Plumb Point Hist. Dist.  
Harford County, MD.

Photo # 20

2 20-11-11 10:00 008 00