

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: Blandair Inventory Number: HO-33

Address: 6651 Rt. 175 City: Columbia Zip Code: 21044

County: Howard USGS Topographic Map: Savage

Owner: Howard County Maryland Is the property being evaluated a district?  yes

Tax Parcel Number: 3 Tax Map Number: 36 Tax Account ID Number: 140 64 25 151

Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: Howard County Dept. of Recreation and Parks

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name: Thomas Reinhart Date: January 4, 2003

Is the property located within a historic district?  yes  no

<i>If the property is within a district</i>		District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district <input type="checkbox"/> yes	Eligible district <input type="checkbox"/> yes	District Name: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Non-contributing but eligible in another context <input type="checkbox"/>		

<i>If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)</i>	
Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	

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

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Blandair is a 300-acre farm with about 20 historic resources in varying conditions. The property has a five-bay two-story brick dwelling house, built c. 1858, with an original two-story wing. Outbuildings are arranged in two groupings, a domestic group near the dwelling house and an agricultural group. A smokehouse and slave quarter (both 1850's) and a partially collapsed garage (c. 1937) comprise the domestic group. The quarter is notable. It is a double-pen, sawn plank structure on a raised stone foundation. The first story has two rooms that communicate around a central double fireplace. The second story has two rooms accessed by separate stairs. The agricultural group is a conglomeration of buildings ranging in date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, including: a granary, (c. 1844) a springhouse-dairy (c. 1850), two tenant houses (1850's), a barn (c. 1930), a hog house (signed 1939), a hay barn (1942), and several tractor and equipment sheds (all c. 1950). The historic landscape has been largely overgrown, but two unimproved lanes of early 19<sup>th</sup>-century date have survived. There is documentary evidence of earlier farm structures (c. 1798) and the location of at least one archaeological site is known.

The property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, C and D. Blandair is the last undeveloped agricultural parcel in Columbia, and retains a significant collection of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century outbuildings. The dwelling house is an outstanding example of antebellum plantation architecture, a type that would be made obsolete by emancipation of

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
<u>B. Kuntz</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>2/4/04</u> Date
Reviewer, NR Program	Date

*intend* ✓

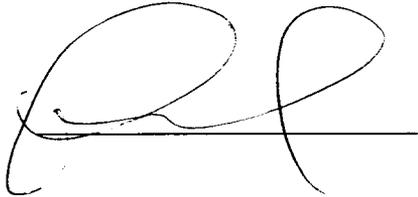
**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

HO-33

the slaves. The interiors finishes of the house are well preserved, and its materials and design mark a transition from traditional handcrafts to more industrialized building trades. The slave cabin is an almost pristine example of the type having interior whitewash and second-floor board partition wall. The outbuildings chronicle significant trends in local and national agriculture from grain production in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, to dairying in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the implementation of farm machinery and organic fertilizers. This physical history of agriculture can be extended back through the known archaeological resources on the property.

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Date Prepared:

2/4/23

H0-33  
BLANDAIR  
Private  
Columbia

circa 18 Century

Blandair is a five bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) gabled roof structure with twin chimneys centered into the roof line lying on each side of the central hall which connects identical north and south rectangular, double paneled entrances surmounted by five lite transoms.

An exceptionally fine corbeled brick cornice decorated with a row of header brick dentils is rather unique. A smaller kitchen east wing lies on the east wall of the main house. The interior of the house features random width Georgia pine floors, outstanding marble mantle pieces, and an exceptionally fine staircase which runs all the way to the attic with mahogany bannister and oak spindles.

Associated with John C. Weems who later became a member of congress and Mr. Theodoric Bland, Chancellor of Maryland Blandair is presently owned by Mrs. Henry Smith.

400335204

HO-33  
District 6

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>						
COMMON: Blandair						
AND/OR HISTORIC:						
<b>2. LOCATION</b>						
STREET AND NUMBER: MD Route 175, Little Patuxent Parkway						
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia						
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Howard			
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>						
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments		
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____		
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>						
OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Henry E. Smith						
STREET AND NUMBER: Blandair Route 175						
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia			STATE: Maryland	21044		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>						
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records						
STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Courthouse						
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City			STATE: Maryland	21043		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): See Tax Map 36						
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b> 156/256 p. 3						
TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory						
DATE OF SURVEY: 1977 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local						
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust						
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle						
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis			STATE: Maryland	21401		

**DESCRIPTION**

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

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Blandair is composed of an east and west brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) wing, the west wing of which is grander in scale, is five bays wide, two bays deep, two and a half stories high with gabled roof (running east-west) holding two central brick chimneys with corbeled edges. A central hall connects the central north and south rectangular double paneled entrance doors which are surmounted by five lite transoms and flanked by two square columns decorated with a single concave flute between which are held two vertical side lites. This entire door is separated from the five lite transom by a projecting wooden lintel. The north and south entrance doors are identical with the exception of the flat roofed portico over the north door which is held by two square posts and crowned by a cornice, above which is a bannister connected by an east and west post and pilaster. A central second floor french door opens on to this small balcony. Basement windows lie under the two east and two west bays of the north and south elevations.

The east wing holds four first and second floor windows on the north wall and a north bay rectangular entrance on the south wall. A rectangular gabled roof nine lite casement dormer window is placed in the center of the roof of the south elevation of the east wing, and decorated with a broken pediment. A square brick chimney lies west of the dormer. A central brick chimney is inset into the east wing flanked by third story six lite casement windows.

The west wing holds a north and south entrance approached by five wooden stairs and flanked by two north and south first floor windows respectively with five north and south second floor windows lying above. Its east and west walls hold two third floor windows in the A line of the gabled roof.

Rectangular double-hung fenestration is vertically alligned and proportionally scaled, with six-over-six lites, decorated with flat arched stretcher brick lintels, projecting stone sills and black shutters. Exceptions are the four jib windows located on the second floor of the south facade which originally opened up to a second floor porch which no longer exists and are presently protected by a black wooden railing on the exterior of the house. The middle second floor window on the south elevation of the west wing holds four-over-four lites.

The building is characterized by exceptionally fine brick decoration. A brick water table runs along the entire perimeter of both wings, as well as a brick belt course shortly below the roof line which is terminated at the roof line by a cornice composed of two rows of corbeled bricks decorated with a row of header brick dentils. This unusual cornice which decorates both the east and west wing is quite unique and noteworthy architectually.

Box wood gardens lie outh-east of the house which is surrounded by a grove of mature trees and shrubbery.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Dependencies lie east of the property. A one story gabled roof (running north-south) simple log house was once used for a smoke house. A stone and frame barn lies south of it, both of which are very close to the east wall of the east wing.

North east of these two buildings lies a gabled roof (running north-south) one and a half story high log house with a central square brick chimney once used as a slave quarters. Its west wall holds two rectangular wooden entrances. The north and south elevations hold a single double-hung rectangular first floor window with six-over-six lites and a four lite second floor square casement window.

Further north-east and a distance from the house lie barns and two old houses with modern additions; 1) a stone house with recent frame addition and 2) a frame building with concrete block addition added some twenty-five years ago. Part of the frame structure was torn down when the addition was put on. The sizes of the lumber were random and put together with wooden pegs. A granary stands here too put together with logs.

The property has been surrounded by the new town of Columbia and divided by the new route 175. The house and land have been designated as a Critical Area of State Concern suitable for preservation. It is hoped this will prevent any further encroachment to the property.

The interior features original random width Georgia pine floors, open bible and cross paneled doors and notable marble mantles which feature curvilinear patterns. These mantles were supposedly a wedding gift.

An outstanding staircase runs all the way to the attic and features a black walnut knewel post, oak spindles and mahogany bannister.

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Celia Holland, local Howard County Historian, Blandair is located on a tract of land once a part of "Talbot's Resolution Manor" which was surveyed in 1714 by John and Elizabeth Talbot and comprised 1087 acres.

It was later acquired by Nicholas Gassaway, who in his will of 1757 bequeathed to "his three sons, Benjamin, Richard and Robert Gassaway, all my tract called "Talbot's Resolution Manor". Witnesses of this will were John Dorsey (of John) and Caleb Dorsey (of John). These witnesses locate the testator near the old Brick Church.

During the late 1700's Blandair was acquired by John C. Weems and known as LaGrange. He was a 1794 graduate of St. John's College in Annapolis who later became a member of Congress. It was he who sold the property to Theodorick Bland in 1828.

Theodorick Bland had been authorized to survey a canal route connecting Baltimore City with the Susquehanna River. Later he became Chancellor for Maryland and also served as Consul to Brazil by his wife, Sarah Glen, widow of Major Jacob Davies of Baltimore. In 1835 Sarah Battaile Fitzhugh Bland, his daughter married Commodore Isaac Mayo, who distinguished himself in the Mexican War. In 1846 Theodorick Bland, Chancellor of Maryland died in his 70th year. The lovely marble fireplaces throughout the house were supposedly a wedding gift, perhaps to the Chancellor's daughter, Sarah.

Architecturally Blandair has some unusual and rather unique brick decoration for a Howard County mansion. A double decorative brick course forms a closing for the A on each side of the gabled roof which runs east-west. A corbeled brick cornice lies along the eaves of the roof on the north and south elevation decorated by a row of header brick dentils. Otherwise the entire house is laid in English garden wall brick bond as compared to Howard Lodge's entire use of Flemish brick bond.

Blandair is surrounded by many of its original dependencies and sits on a hill commanding a view of the surrounding town of Columbia. This area of some 300 acres has been split in half by Route 175 which passes through the middle of the property. It is the owner's earnest desire that this land be set aside for agricultural use and not development which is the present zoning recommendation. The area has been recommended for inclusion to the State Critical Areas Program and should be considered for inclusion into

SEE INST. ACTIONS

the National Register and any future local landmark legislation.

Local groups and individuals interested in farm preservation should also consider Blandair for inclusion into their program as a further aid in its preservation.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Holland, Celia. Landmarks of Howard County, Maryland. University Park, 1975.

Stein, Charles. Origin and History of Howard County, Maryland. Baltimore, 1973.

Warfield, J.D. Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland. Baltimore, 1972.

Interview with Mrs. Henry Smith at Blandair, February 16, 1977.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF ADMINATED PROPERTY:

**Acreage Justification:**

Please See Tax Map 36 p. 3  
156/256 299.457 acres

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Cleora B. Thompson, Archivist		
ORGANIZATION Comprehensive Planning Section	DATE	
STREET AND NUMBER: 3450 Courthouse Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City	STATE Maryland	21043

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:  
National  State  Local

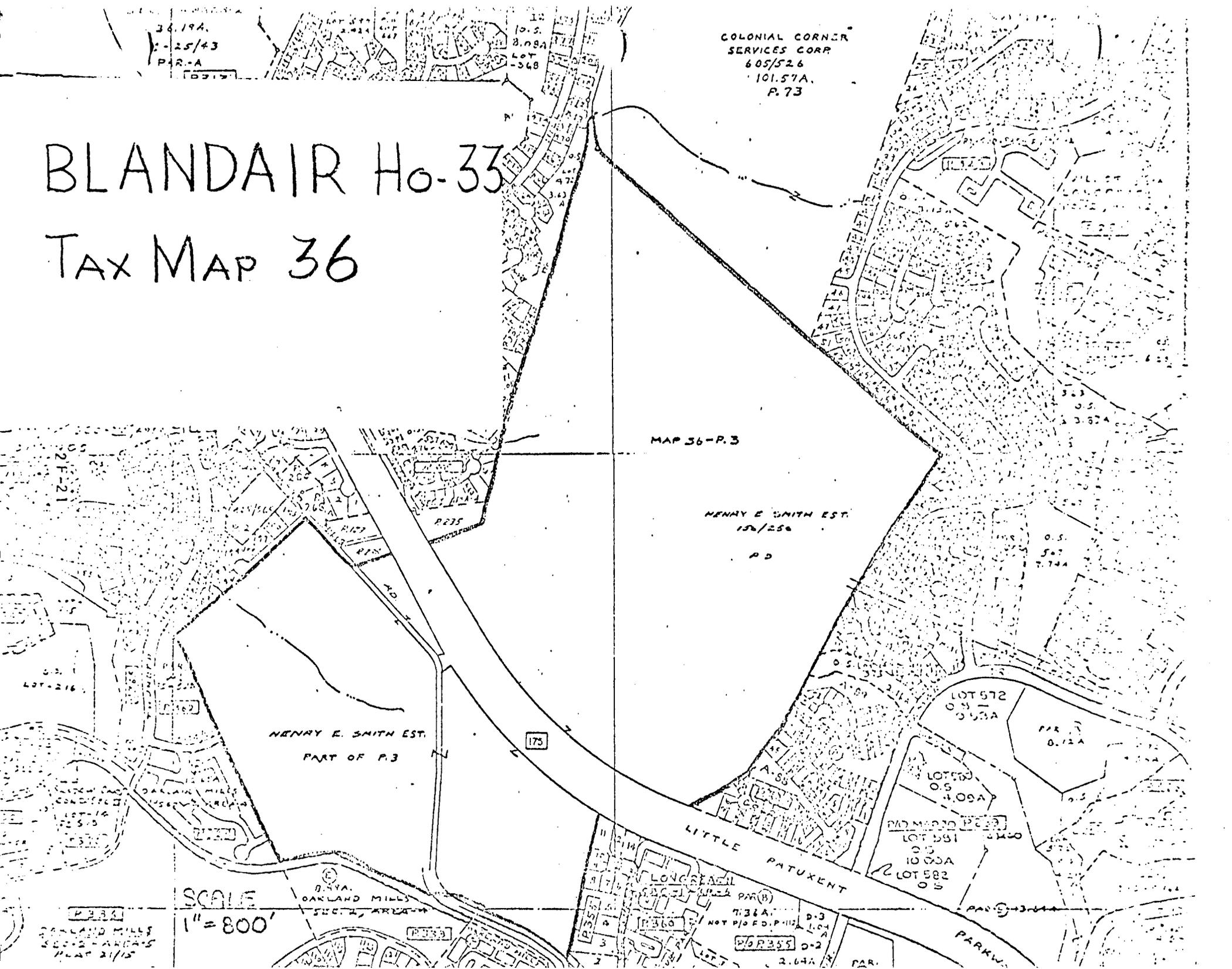
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

36.19A.  
2-25/43  
PAR-A  
10917

COLONIAL CORNER  
SERVICES CORP  
605/526  
101.57A.  
P.73

# BLANDAIR Ho-33

## TAX MAP 36



MAP 36-P.3

HENRY E. SMITH EST.  
126/256

HENRY E. SMITH EST.  
PART OF P.3

SCALE  
1" = 800'

OAKLAND MILLS  
SEC. 2, AREA

LITTLE PATUXENT

LONGLEAF

LOT 572  
0.5  
0.52A

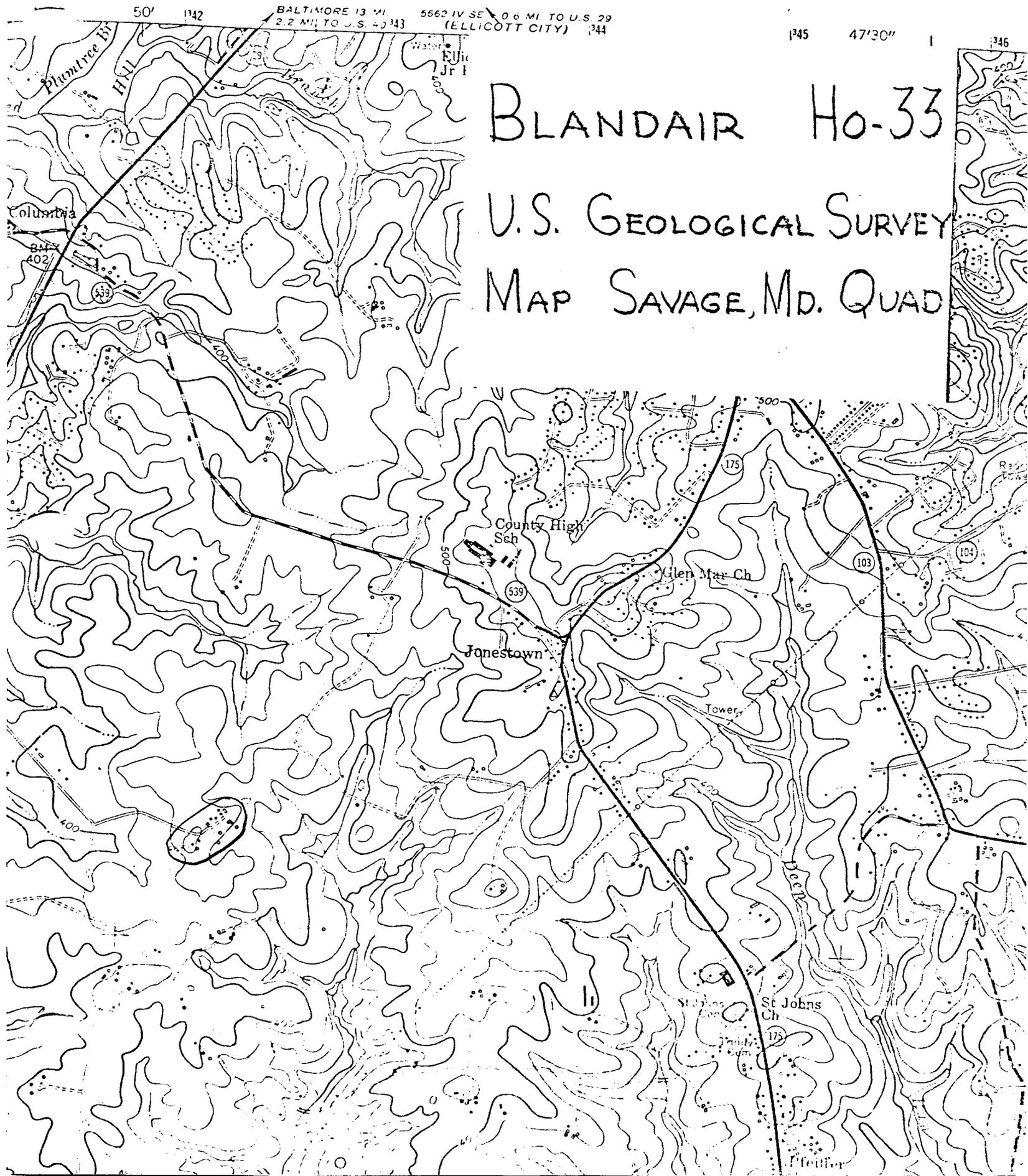
LOT 581  
0.5  
10.00A

LOT 582  
0.5

OAKLAND MILLS  
SEC. 2 - AREAS  
PLAT 21/15

PAR(B)  
NOT PLOD. P. 115  
D.3  
L.04  
A  
D.0355 0-2  
2.64A

# MAP OF FLOOD-PRONE AREAS



BLANDAIR Ho-33

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MAP SAVAGE, MD. QUAD



HO-33

BLAND AIR

(NORTH) FEB. 1977

ELORA FRANK THOMPSON  
PLANNING CONSULTANT  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY