

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #78-13 Building Date: early 19th c.

Building Name: Blythewood

Location: 4210 Mellwood Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence-Agricultural/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

Blythewood is a multi-section farmhouse which is the principal feature in a large farm complex. It is located atop a hill on the east side of Mellwood Road overlooking the dairy and tobacco barns in the valley to the south and west. The house itself consists of a main block with two major additions. The main block is a two-and-one-half-story shallow-pitch gable-roofed frame building, five bays by two bays, with entrance in the central bay of the five-bay west facade, through a door with four-pane transom and four-pane sidelights. The west facade is sheltered by a massive two-story shed-roofed portico. There are two interior brick chimneys at the ridge. Siding is German, painted white. Interior plan consists of a central stair-hall with two parlors on each side. To the north is a one-story wing, four bays long, with a shed roof which is pitched steeply toward the rear. The eaves of its roof, on north and west, are decorated with scalloped bargeboards. At the south gable end of the main block is another one-story wing, which consists of an enclosed sun porch; it has a curved hip roof and its openings are double louvered doors with louvered fans above, making its facade a series of arches. Directly north of the main house is a complex of outbuildings; a one-story storage building, a shed constructed of hand-hewn members, and a board-and-batten ground-level ice house. In the valley to the south is a complex of red-roofed dairy buildings.

Significance

Blythewood is an excellent example of a complete farm establishment. The focal point is a large multi-section dwelling which stands on a hill overlooking the rest of the farm. The main block was begun, probably by William Ferguson Berry, in the early nineteenth century, on parts of tracts known as Free School and Lucky Discovery. It was a large frame house with Georgian plan, four rooms on each story. After Berry's death in 1873, the farm passed to his son, Elisha E. Berry, who renamed it Blythewood, and who undertook major improvements in the last years of the nineteenth century. It was probably at this time that the shed-roof kitchen wing with its Victorian trim was constructed, to replace the former separate kitchen. Early in the twentieth century, the neo-classical portico was constructed across the main facade. In 1923, when Elisha E. Berry's son sold Blythewood, it was a complete farm establishment with main dwellings and many barns and outbuildings. In 1941, it was sold to Alfred H. Smith, who resides there today. Blythewood is one of the most beautiful farms in Prince George's County. Although the house has been altered, it represents the homestead of four generations of an important Prince George's County family. In the main house and the outbuildings are represented architectural styles from late Georgian and utilitarian/vernacular, through Victorian to neo classical, and it is a major landmark in the historic and still rural Mellwood area.

Acreage: 156 acres

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Blythewood

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 4210 Mellwood Road  not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro Mellwood vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Alfred H. Smith

street &amp; number 4210 Mellwood Road telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro, state and zip code MD. 20772

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 619

street &amp; number Main Street folio 167

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Blythewood is a multi-section farmhouse which is the principal feature in a large farm complex. It is located atop a hill on the east side of Mellwood Road overlooking the dairy and tobacco barns in the valley to the south and west. One approaches the house from Mellwood Road by a long lane through an avenue of trees. The house itself consists of a main block with two major additions on the north and one on the south.

The main block is a two-and-one-half-story shallow-pitch gable-roofed frame building, five bays by two bays, with entrance in the third (central) bay of the (main) west facade. Entrance is through a door with four-pane transom and four-pane sidelights; the entrance is sheltered by a glass enclosure. The entire west facade is sheltered by a massive two-story shed-roofed portico; six tall chamfered posts support a plain frieze. There are two interior brick chimneys at the ridge near the north and south gable ends. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, and have green louvered shutters. Their plain board surrounds have crown moldings. Siding is German, painted white (except the south gable end which is covered with plain wide board siding); the roof is of standing seam metal and the building rests on a brick foundation. Interior plan consists of a central stairhall with two parlors on each side.

To the north is a high one-story wing, four bays long, with a shed roof which is pitched steeply toward the rear (east). Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds and green louvered shutters. The eaves of its roof, on north and west, are decorated with scalloped bargeboards. There is one large chimney near the center of the red standing seam metal roof. The siding is of plain board, and the wing rests on a brick foundation.

Behind this shed roof wing is a one-story gable-roofed addition which extends to the east, its ridge perpendicular to that of the main block. It is one-bay by one-bay, with German siding and a red standing seam metal roof.

At the south gable end of the main block is another one-story wing, which consists of an enclosed sun porch. Latin in style, it has a curved hip roof covered with red standing seam metal; three bays by five bays, its openings are double louvered doors, with louvered fans above, making its facade a series of arches.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** early 19th c. **Builder/Architect**

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

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

Blythewood is an excellent example of a complete farm establishment. The focal point of this complex is a large multi-section dwelling which stands on a hill overlooking the rest of the farm in Mellwood, one of the most beautiful and historic areas of the county.

The main block of this house was begun, probably by William Ferguson Berry, in the early nineteenth century, on parts of tracts known as Free School and Lucky Discovery.<sup>1</sup> The Berry family had resided in an eighteenth century frame house at Berry's Grove, north of Marlboro. After his marriage in the 1830's, William T. Berry established himself at the subject farm in Mellwood, in a large frame house with Georgian plan, four rooms on each story. At the time of his death in 1873, William Berry's inventory indicated furnishings in all these rooms, as well as a fish house, meat house and separate kitchen.<sup>2</sup>

The farm passed to Berry's son, Elisha E. Berry, who renamed it Blythewood, and who undertook major improvements in the last years of the nineteenth century. It was probably at this time that the shed-roof kitchen wing with its Victorian trim was constructed, to replace the former separate kitchen (destroyed, presumably, by fire). Early in the twentieth century, the neo-classical portico was constructed across the main facade. By this time, Blythewood was a complete farm establishment.<sup>3</sup>

In 1923, Elisha E. Berry's son (of the same name) sold the 160-acre Blythewood farm to Henry Leonard. At that time the farm was described as including the "Master's house", ice house, chicken house, wood house, pig pens, horse stable, cow stable, two wagon sheds, two tenant houses, two tobacco barns, a tobacco shed, fields and orchards. In 1941, Leonard sold the farm to Alfred H. Smith, who resides there today.<sup>4</sup>

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Cf. Notes, Item #8  
P. G. Co. Tax Assessments, Federal Direct Tax  
Census for P. G. County, 1850-1900, 1828 Road Survey.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 156 acres Tax Map 90, parcel 167

Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro, Sec. E Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone Easting Northing

C

E

G

B

Zone Easting Northing

D

F

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission date September 1985

street & number c/o County Planning Division, M-NCPPC  
14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## #7 Continued

Directly north of the main house is a complex of outbuildings. The largest is a one-story storage building (tenant house?), with shingle siding, and gable roof covered with wooden shake. It is eight bays long, rests on a brick foundation and has a central cupola at the ridge. Directly north of it is a small shed-roofed shed constructed with hand-hewn members; it has hand-split board siding and a corrugated metal roof. Other outbuildings include a ground-level ice house, built into the slope on the east. It has board-and-batten siding, a wooden shake roof, and the apex of its gable roof is decorated with a wooden pendant.

In the valley to the south is a complex of red-roofed dairy buildings: several barns, a silo and several cribs and sheds. In the field just north of the entrance lane is a tobacco barn.

## #8 Continued

Blythewood is today one of the most beautiful farms in Prince George's County. Although the house has been altered in several phases, it represents the homestead of four generations of an important Prince George's County family. In the main house and the outbuildings are represented architectural styles from late Georgian and utilitarian/vernacular, through Victorian to neo-classical, and it is a major landmark in the historic and still rural Mellwood area.

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1820's - 1850.
- 2 Ibid 1850 - 1871; Martenet map of Prince George's County, 1861; Estate file #963.
- 3 G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Prince George's County, 1878; Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1888 - 1920.
- 4 Prince George's County Land Records #195:84; #206:215; #621:74.

PH 578-13

1702755304

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INST. INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Blythewood				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: Melwood Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's	
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" 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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input 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: A. H. Smith				
STREET AND NUMBER: Melwood Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland	
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites in the Bi-County Region				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: M-NCPPC				
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring			STATE: Maryland	

**7. DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story, frame building with a five bay main (west) facade. The central entrance has sidelights and a transom light. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash; the surrounds have a roll moulding. A two story porch with square posts and a shed roof has been added across the front. The roof is a low-pitched gable. Large, square chimneys rise between the first and second bays from either end.

On the south end there is a porch addition with arched openings with louvered fanlights. On the north end the kitchen has been connected to the house by an addition; the facade is now four bays with 6/6 double hung sash windows and scalloped bargeboards. This wing has a small central chimney for a stove flue.

North of the house is an icehouse with board-and-batten gable ends. There is also a lean-to roofed wood shed sheathed with ship lapping siding. The "necessary" is behind the wood shed; it has board and batten sheathing.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE			
<b>PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
<b>SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)</b>			
<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</b>			
<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 type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input 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			_____
<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

[Empty space for Major Bibliographical References]

**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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

[Empty space for Acreage Justification]

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 10 Oct 74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

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

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

R-A

LEE F. SUIT  
597/43  
152.19 A  
P. 42

● PG: 78-13

ALFRED H. SMITH  
619-167  
156 A.  
P. 167

MAP 90 - P. 167

ALFRED H. SMITH  
619-161  
T. 81 A.  
P. 16

R-A

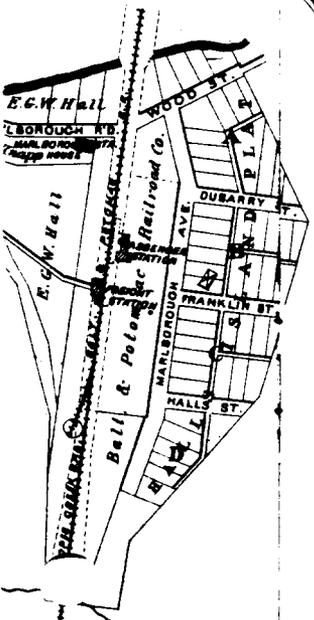
MELWOOD

RONE

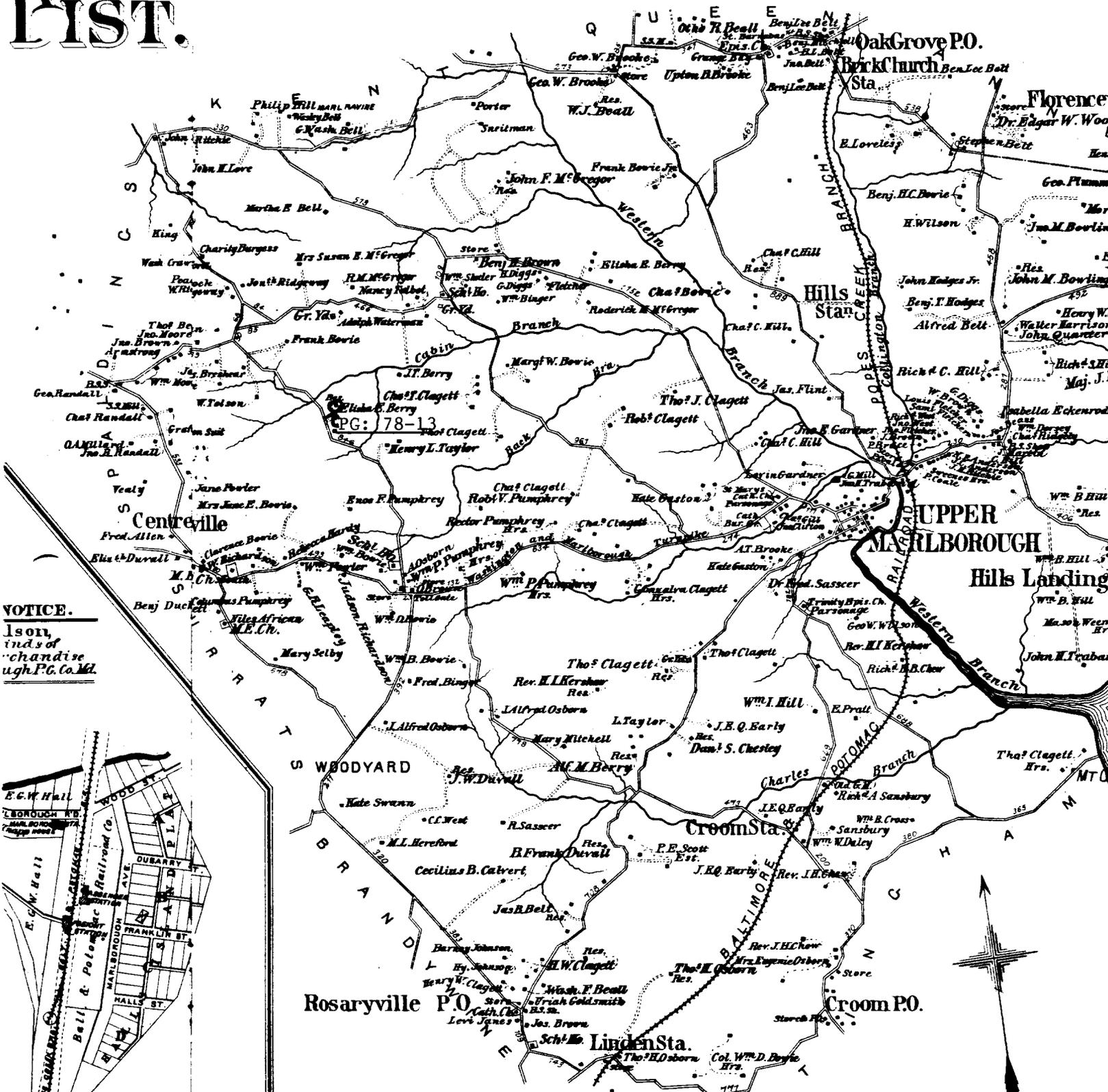
RD.

# LIST.

**NOTICE.**  
 Ison,  
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 ough P.G. Co. Md.

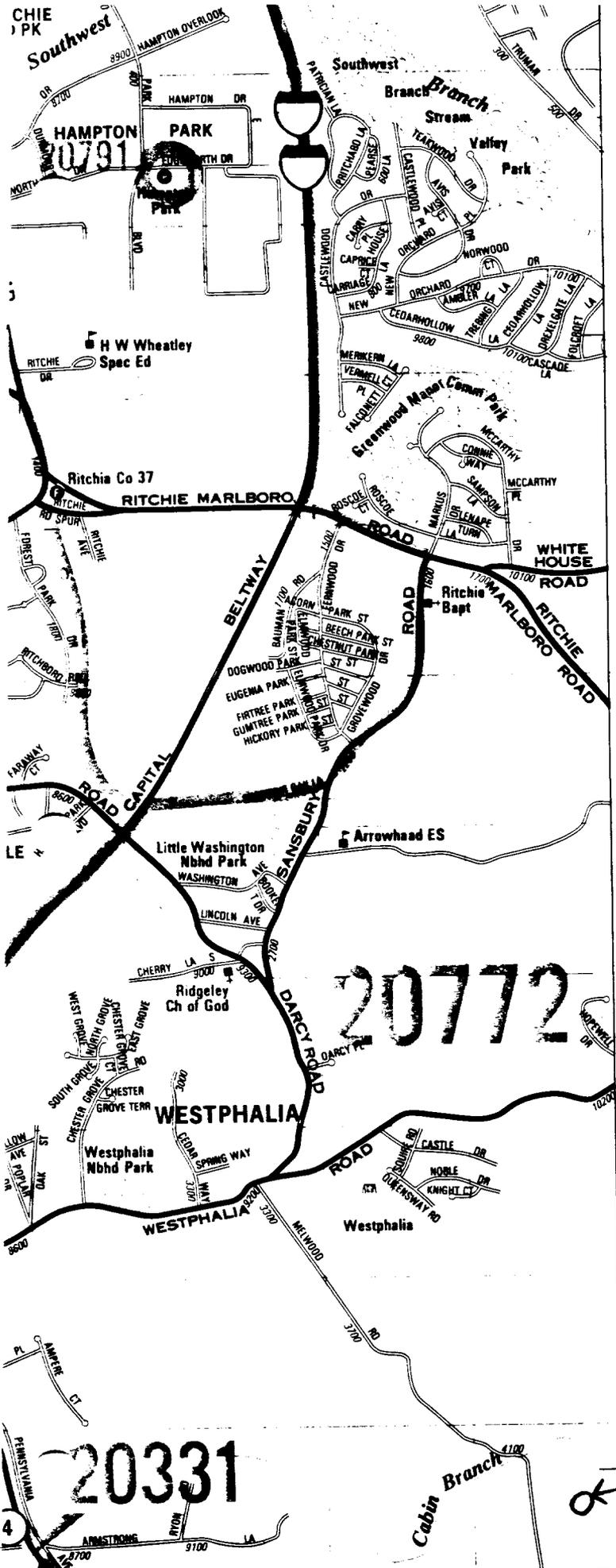


at Washington.

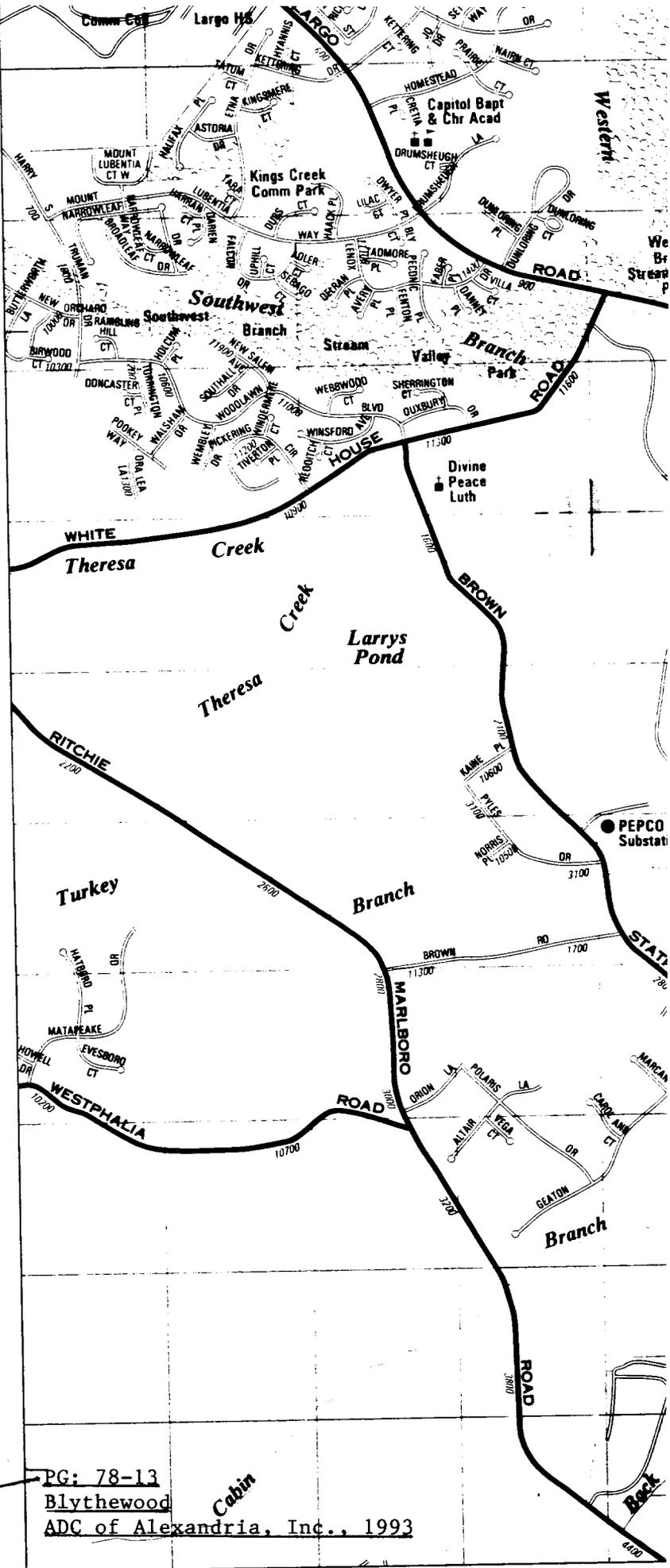


NOTE - Figures on Roads are distances  
 in Rods from junction.

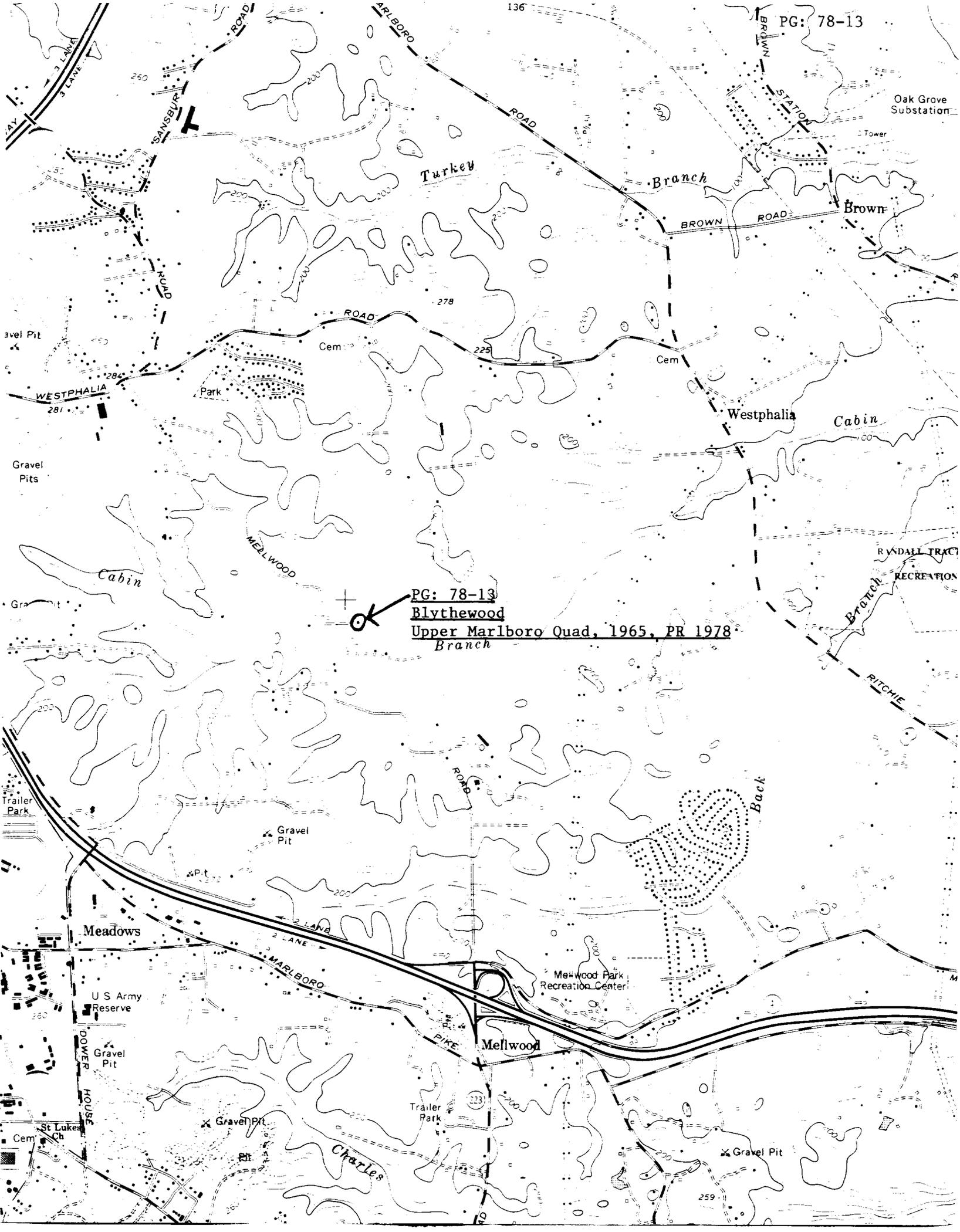




4100  
Cabin Branch



PG: 78-13  
Blythewood  
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1993



PG: 78-13  
 Blythewood  
 Upper Marlboro Quad, 1965, PR 1978  
 Branch



P.G.#78-13

Blythewood

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #78-13

Blythewood  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
April 1985  
Southwest 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #78-13

Blythewood

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

East elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #78-13

Blythewood  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
April 1985  
Northwest 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #78-13

Blythewood  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
April 1985  
Icehouse, west elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #78-13

Blythewood  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
April 1985  
South elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #78-13

Blythewood  
Prince George's County, MD.  
Susan G. Pearl  
April 1985  
Outbuildings, from southwest  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME BLYTHE WOOD

PG. 78-13

LOCATION MELLWOOD Rd, UPPER MARLBORO, Md.

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 10/10/74 M DWYER



NAME BLYTHEWOOD

PG: 78-13

LOCATION MELLWOOD RD MELLWOOD, P.G. Co. Md

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 10/10/74 MDWYER



NAME CABIN BRANCH VALLEY - MOORE ROAD PG '78-13

LOCATION W OF MELLWOOD Rd MELLWOOD, PG Co, Md

FACADE LOOKING N FROM MOORE Rd

PHOTO TAKEN 10/10/74 MDWYER



NAME BLYTHE WOOD - TENANT HOUSE

PG: 78-13

LOCATION MELLWOOD Rd MELLWOOD, P.G. Co. Md

FACADE LOOKING SE

PHOTO TAKEN 10/10/74 MDWYER