

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #79-3 Building Date: 1912  
Building Name: Buck-Nicholson House (Swanson Road Farmhouse)  
Location: 16606 Swanson Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772  
Private/Residence/Unoccupied/Poor/Inaccessible

Description

The Buck-Nicholson House is situated north of Swanson Road, approached by a unpaved lane. It is a two-story, T-shaped gable roofed structure on a high cement foundation, with German siding, a boxed cornice, wide overhanging eaves, and a standing seam metal roof. The main block has a three-bay west (front) facade with a central entrance with a four-panel door and a transom, flanked by two 2/2 windows. There are three 2/2 windows on the second story. The windows have wooden sills, lintels, and surrounds. A centered cross gable breaks the cornice line. Two interior corbelled brick chimneys flank the cross gable at the roof ridge. Across the west facade is a three-bay, one-story shed-roof entrance porch set on cement piers, and resting on turned and chamfered posts. A set of engaged posts mark the intersection of the porch and the west facade. The north and south gable ends of the main block are one-bay, composed of a centered 2/2 window on the first and second floors. The east (rear) facade is dominated by the two-story, 1 x 1 bay gable-roofed wing set perpendicular to the main block. The yard is somewhat overgrown, and the house appears not to be lived in. Three large maple trees are situated on the front (west) lawn. There is a frame, gable roof barn south of the house, near Swanson Road.

Significance:

The Buck-Nicholson House was probably built by Daniel Buck, Jr. in 1912. Buck was one of four sons of Daniel and Susan Buck, who moved to the Upper Marlboro area from Pennsylvania shortly before 1890. Harry Buck, a son of the same family, was a merchant in Upper Marlboro and resided in the Wardrup-Buck House in Upper Marlboro from 1907 until the house was bought by M-NCPPC in 1974. The Swanson Road Farmhouse is situated on a tract called Spring Hill, originally of 1,574 acres and belonging to the Mordecai Plummer family for most of the 19th century. The Plummer house on the property burned before 1900. The farmhouse is typical of vernacular farmhouses built in the County in the late 19th century. The characteristics it shares with farmhouses built in this period include a "T" shaped plan, central cross gable and austerity in further architectural detail. It is accented by turned porch posts, wood lintels and sills on the west (front) windows, and engaged posts where the porch roof meets the facade wall.

Acreage: 1.5 acres

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Buck-Nicholson House

and/or common Swanson Road Farmhouse

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 16606 Swanson Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro, \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Marlboro, county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

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

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

name Roland D. Nicholson

street &amp; number P. O. Box 61 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 5578

street &amp; number Main Street folio 597

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD.

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan for Prince George's County, Maryland

date 1981 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state  county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records M-NCPPC, History Division

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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.

The Buck-Nicholson House is situated north of Swanson Road, approached by an unpaved lane. It is a two-story, T-shaped gable-roofed structure on a high cement foundation. The house has German siding, a boxed cornice with wide overhanging eaves, and a standing seam metal roof.

The main block has a three-bay west (front) facade with a central entrance with a four-panel door and a transom, flanked by two 2/2 windows. There are three 2/2 windows on the second story. The windows have wooden sills and lintels, and wide wood surrounds. A centered cross gable with a four-light square window breaks the cornice line. Two interior corbelled brick chimneys flank the cross gable at the roof ridge. Across the west facade is a three-bay, one-story shed-roof entrance porch set on cement piers. It has a boxed cornice and overhanging eaves, and rests on turned and chamfered posts. A set of engaged posts mark the intersection of the porch and the west facade.

The north and south gable ends of the main block are one-bay, composed of a centered 2/2 window on the first and second floors. The lintels are emphasized by a strip of metal covering. The north gable end has a bulk-head cellar entrance in the foundation and a narrow, exterior cement block chimney west of the facade center line.

The east (rear) facade is dominated by the two-story, one bay by one bay wing perpendicular to the main block. The east facade of the main block is unfenestrated. The wing has a gable roof with the same roof, cornice and wall treatment as the main block. It has an unfenestrated east gable end, with an interior corbelled brick chimney at the roof ridge. The north and south facades of the wing are one-bay, composed of centered 1/2 windows on the first and second floors. The north facade of the wing has an entrance shaded by a two-bay, one-story shed-roof porch, one bay of which has been enclosed.

There are no outbuildings close to the house. The yard is somewhat overgrown, and the house appears not to be lived in. Three large maple trees are situated on the front (west) lawn. There is a frame, gable roof barn south of the house, near Swanson Road. It has a corrugated metal roof covering and rests on a cement foundation. It had board and batten siding, but most of the battens have been removed.

# 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1912 **Builder/Architect** Daniel Buck, Jr.

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.

The Buck-Nicholson House was probably built by Daniel Buck, Jr. in 1912.<sup>1</sup> Daniel Buck, Jr. was one of four sons of Daniel and Susan Buck, who moved to the Upper Marlboro area from Pennsylvania shortly before the turn of the century. Harry Buck, a son of the same family, was a merchant in Upper Marlboro and resided in the Wardrup-Buck House in Upper Marlboro from 1907 until the house was bought by M-NCPPC in 1974.

The Swanson Road Farmhouse is situated upon a tract of land called Spring Hill, originally containing 1,574 acres and belonging to the Mordecai Plummer family for most of the nineteenth century. The Plummer house on the property was destroyed by fire during the nineteenth century.<sup>2</sup>

The farmhouse is typical of vernacular farmhouses built in Prince George's County in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The characteristics it shares with farmhouses built in this period include its "T" shaped plan, central cross gable and austerity in further architectural detail. This building is accented by turned porch posts, wood lintels and sills on the west (front) windows, and engaged posts where the porch roof meets the facade wall.

Notes

<sup>1</sup> Tax Assessments of Prince George's County, 1912-1915, District No. 3. Maryland Hall of Records, Accession #233.

<sup>2</sup> Across the Years in Prince George's County, Effie Gwynn Bowie, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, 1975.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #79-3

See #8, Footnotes

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.08 acres

Tax Map 85E-2 p 52

Quadrangle name Bristol A

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

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 Marina King, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission

date July 1985

street & number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive

telephone 301-952-3521

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Swanson Road Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Swanson Road, east of Rte. 301

CITY, TOWN

(north of) Upper Marl. — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Prince George's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES RESTRICTED
- YES UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Harry Buck, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a late-19th Century, "T"-shaped, two-story frame house. It sits on a wooded knoll, east of Rte. 301. The main part faces north, and has several stove chimneys centered in the roof-ridge. The leg of the "T" is formed by a two-story wing, that extends south. There are a number of older, tenant-type houses and farm buildings, going east on this road from here.

**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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Appears to have been one of the Plummer or Bowling farms in the late-19th Century. Although there are a number of older farms here (typical of the County's late-19th/early-20th Century farms) there were only two large plantations near here-prior to the Civil War. One was "Mt. Pleasant" and the other was this, the Plummer tract.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_\_\_

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

10/3/74

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Chain of Title

Swanson Road Farm  
P.G. #79-3

5578:597  
10 Sept 1982  
Deed

Mildred V. Nicholson representative for estate of Melvin P. Nicholson, Adm., #30,422, party of the first part, and Richard L. Nicholson and Constance P. Keegan, party of the second part, and Mildred V. Nicholson on the third part. First party conveys to third party, with permission to heirs of Melvin P. Nicholson here party of the second part, all that parcel described in deed 345:11 excepting:

- a. 1.08 acres conveyed to Roland Nicholson, 2089:226, and three other exceptions.

2089:226  
28 Mar 1957  
Deed

Irene B. Nicholson, widow, to Roland D. Nicholson and Frances E. Nicholson (wife). For \$10.00 the grantor conveys to the grantee a parcel containing 1.08 acres, a part of Swanson Road Farm.

345:11  
14 July 1930  
Deed

George B. Merrick, unmarried to Reverdy N. Nicholson and Irene B. Nicholson, for \$10.00 grantor conveys the same parcel obtained from grantee this July 14, 1930.

1. Being a part of Lot #2, in the tract known as Spring Hill, containing 83 acres. The same parcel conveyed by Philo W. Stacey to Daniel Buck, Jr., by deed dated 4th of April, 1910, 61:241.

345:105  
14 Jan 1930  
Deed

Daniel Buck, Jr. and Maud I. Buck, wife, to Reverdy N. Nicholson, in consideration of \$10.00, grantor conveys that parcel Daniel Buck, Jr. obtained from Arthur Wells and Philo W. Stacey dated 4th April 1910, 17th of June 1912, and 31th of May 1917, 61:241, 63:589, and 124:320.

61:241  
4 April 1910  
Deed

Philo W. Stacey of Illinois to Daniel Buck, Jr., in consideration of \$1,039.40, grantor conveys that parcel obtained from Margaret E. Maund by deed dated 13th October 1902, 9:445 and described as a part of Lot 2, in a tract known as Spring Hill, a part of J. A. Well's property, containing 83.16 acres.

- 2 -

9:445  
13 Oct 1902  
Deed

Margaret E. Maund of Baltimore to Philo W. Stacey of Illinois and Randal A. Bowen of Illinois, for \$4,000, grantor conveys that parcel obtained from John G. King, attorney and trustee, 17th June 1902, 8:590 and described in the mortgage of Mordecai Plummer and Charlotte Plummer to Margaret E. Maund, 15 May, 1893, J.W.B. 24:476, Lot #2 of Spring Hill tract, 464 acres. Excepting that portion conveyed by Mordecai Plummer to Henry W. Clagett in deed H.B. 9:282, containing 118 acres. This conveyance contained 346 acres.

JWB 24:476  
15 May 1893  
Mortgage

Mordecai and Charlotte Plummer are indebted to Margaret Maund in the sum of \$3,500. In consideration of the debt, the Plummers grant to Margaret Maund a part of a tract called Spring Hill, this being that portion of Spring Hill conveyed to Mordecai Plummer by heirs of Mordecai S. Plummer by deed of partition H.B. 8:128, less 118 acres conveyed to Henry W. Clagett, H.B. 9:282. Until default be made, Mordecai Plummer will pay the taxes and insure the improvements thereon for at least \$1,000.

H.B. 8:128  
10 Nov. 1873  
Deed of  
Partition

William W. Plummer and Mary L. Plummer for 1 part; Mordecai Plummer, another part; George Plummer for another part and John Bowling and Jemima C. Bowling for another part - all are children and heirs of Mordecai S. Plummer, deceased. Property divided as follows: William W. Plummer gets Poplar Ridge, Lot #1 - in Queen Anne District, containing 529 acres; Mordecai Plummer gets Lot #2 of Spring Hill, near Upper Marlboro, containing 565 acres. George Plummer gets Lot #3 of Spring Hill, containing 556 acres. Jemima Plummer gets Lot #1 of Spring Hill - containing 453 acres, plus a portion of Lot #2 of Poplar Ridge, of 241 acres.

FRANK P. SCRIVENER, JR.  
2088-566  
T.06A.  
P.39

EDWIN H. SUMMERS, JR.  
5712/702  
6.40A.  
P.8

EDWIN H. SUMMERS  
2088/569  
7.13A  
P.40

M. PARKER  
7/155  
4.1A  
41

O-S

BOWLING HEIGHTS

4685

ROLAND D. NICHOLSON  
5578/597  
79.42A.  
P.52

O-S

P.03

P/O 2

PG. 77-3

SWANSON ROAD  
SPUR  
STURD  
PROP  
'A'  
968  
P/O P52

PVT ROAD

5208/160  
2.16A.  
P.9

1.09A  
P.55

P/O P52

P.12

SYLVAN WOODS

108081

E: 879,569 5598  
S: 371,998 9982

SWANSON ROAD

SWANSON ROAD

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
3791/613  
101.78A.  
P.11

O-S

E: 880,932 5943  
S: 370,786 8463

BLAIR R. RARGER  
5634/103  
20.29A  
P.56

HEIGHTS



P.G. #79-3

Buck-Nicholson House

Prince George's County, MD.

Marina King

June 1985

Southwest elevation

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



P.G. #79-3

Buck-Nicholson House

Prince George's County, MD.

Marina King

June 1985

Northeast elevation

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



NAME #79-3 SWANSON Rd - FARM

LOCATION SWANSON Rd E of Rt 301 UPPER MARLBORO, MD

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 10/3/74 MDWYER



P.G. #79-3

Buck-Nicholson House

Prince George's County, MD.

Marina King

June 1985

North elevation

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



P.G. #79-3

Buck-Nicholson House

Prince George's County, MD.

Marina King

June 1985

South elevation

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