

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #82B-20 Building Date: 1901

Building Name: Plater House

Location: 17409 Watershed Drive (Nottingham) Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

The Plater house is a large multi-section frame house located on high ground overlooking the Patuxent River at Nottingham. The main block is the southmost section; two-and-one-half stories high, and five-bays long, with gable roof. Entrance is in the central bay of the main east facade through a door with a three-pane transom. This entrance is sheltered by a one-bay, two-story columned pedimented portico. Balancing the portico on the west (rear) facade is a central cross-gable. Windows in the main block are generally 6/6 double hung sash, and have applied lintels with a narrow crown molding. Most windows have black louvered shutters. The building is framed with German siding, painted white; the roof is covered with asphalt shingle. At each of the north and south gable ends is an exterior corbelled brick chimney. At the south end is a one-story open breezeway/porch. The north chimney is fully enclosed by a two-story gable-roofed wing. Attached to the north gable end of the wing is a three-story one-bay square water tower with a hipped pyramidal roof.

Significance:

The Plater House is a multi-section frame house, built in 1901 on the site of an earlier Plater House which had been destroyed by fire. Nottingham was an important commercial center in eighteenth century Prince George's County. Today the quiet, idyllic community is only a faint reminder of the busy commercial center of two centuries ago. Judge Edward Plater purchased his large frame house in 1866; after his death in 1878, the house and property passed to his daughter. It was during Miss Plater's residence, in February 1901, that a fire destroyed the hotel and four other houses in Nottingham. Miss Plater's house was totally destroyed and within the year she constructed the present house on the same site. The new house had a large main block, with central hall and flanking parlors, a spacious kitchen wing, and a three-story water tower attached. The house overlooked several of the old warehouses at the water's edge, and was situated to take full advantage of its panoramic riverfront location. Miss Plater died in 1923, and the house has changed hands several times since then; in 1962 it was purchased by Captain Richardson who constructed the two-story columned portico on the east, and the breezeway/porch on the south. The house is a handsome and conspicuous landmark in a very historic setting.

Acreage: 5.51 acres

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Location: 17409 Watershed Drive (Nottingham) Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Plater house is a large multi-section frame house located on high ground overlooking the Patuxent River just south of and adjoining the village of Nottingham. It consists of a two-and-one-half story side-gabled main block with lower gable-roof kitchen wing extending to the north, and a pyramidal-roof water tower attached on the north. The main block is two-and-one-half stories high, and five-bays long, with gable roof. Entrance is in the central bay of the main east facade through a door with a three-pane transom. This entrance is sheltered by a one-bay, two-story pedimented portico supported by square panelled columns. The building is sheathed with German siding, painted white; at each gable end is an exterior corbelled brick chimney. The north chimney is fully enclosed by a two-story gable-roof kitchen wing; attached to the north gable end of the wing is a three-story one-bay square water tower with a hipped pyramidal roof. The property includes also two small dwellings, a garage and workshop, and a barn.

Significance

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Acreage: 5.51 acres

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Plater House

and/or common "Nottingham Manor"

2. Location

street & number 17409 Watershed Drive not for publicationcity, town Upper Marlboro vicinity of congressional district 4

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

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

name Loral and Nancy Barlow

street & number 7501 Epsilon Drive telephone no.:

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20855

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6248

street & number Main Street folio 343

city, town Upper Marlboro, state Maryland

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 Maryland

7. Description

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

The Plater house is a large multi-section frame house located on high ground overlooking the Patuxent River just south of and adjoining the village of Nottingham. It consists of a two-and-one-half story side-gabled main block with lower gable-roof kitchen wing extending to the north, and a pyramidal-roof water tower attached on the north. The main block is two-and-one-half stories high, and five-bays long, with gable roof. Entrance is in the central bay of the main east facade through a door with a three-pane transom. This entrance is sheltered by a one-bay, two-story pedimented portico supported by square panelled columns. Balancing the portico on the west (rear) facade is a central cross-gable with a small square window at loft level. There is a one-story enclosed porch across this west facade, and a small pedimented one-story porch shelters the double door. This enclosed porch spans the entire west facade of both main block and north wing; the eaves of its hip roof are punctuated by exposed rafter ends. Windows in the main block are generally 6/6 double hung sash, and have applied lintels with a narrow crown molding. Most windows have black louvered shutters. The boxed cornice is not returned at the gable ends.

The building is sheathed with German siding, painted white; the roof is covered with asphalt shingle. At each of the north and south gable ends is an exterior corbelled brick chimney. At the south end is a one-story open breezeway/porch which partially encloses the south chimney. The north chimney is fully enclosed by a two-story gable-roofed kitchen wing, three bays long; it has an interior chimney at its north gable end. Both the main block and the wing rest on brick foundations. There is no basement.

Attached to the north gable end of the wing is a three-story one-bay square water tower with a hipped pyramidal roof. This tower has an entrance in its east facade, through a door with a two-pane transom. The tower rests on a concrete foundation. Its overhanging eaves are punctuated by exposed rafter ends.

Interior of the house reflects several periods of construction. Originally the main block consisted of a central stairhall with one parlor with one parlor on each side; each parlor was warmed by a fireplace in its exterior wall. The south parlor has been renovated and extended in depth by the enclosing of the west porch. The wooden mantel has applied floral relief of the early twentieth century Colonial Revival style, and door and window surrounds are of multi-band molding with plain corner blocks. The north parlor retains its original exterior west wall as a partition between it and the additional west room; one of the windows in this wall has been converted into a door into this west space. Door and window surrounds in

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. P.G. #82B-20

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

this north parlor (and also in the central stairhall) are of multi-band molding with bullseye corner blocks. A door in the north wall leads into a secondary stairhall (in which the exterior north chimney is fully visible) and from thence into the kitchen. In the central stairhall, a two-run closed-string staircase rises along the north wall, turns 90° at a landing, and turns again to the second story. It has a turned globe-capped newel, and turned balusters.

There are several other buildings on the property. Immediately northwest of the house is a brick two-car garage, to which is attached (on the east) a concrete block work shop. To the south of the house is a one-story guest house, built in the 1930's. This small side-gabled bungalow is sided with plain horizontal board painted white, and has entrance in the central bay of its main east facade. A shed porch with plain railing shelters this east facade.

There is a second small residence next to the entrance to the property. Immediately east of the gate to the drive is a one-story side-gabled gate house, covered with German siding painted white.

Just inside the western boundary of the property is a twentieth century gable-roof tobacco barn. It is sided with vertical boards, and has entrance in its north gable end.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1901 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.

The Plater House is a multi-section frame house beautifully situated on the west bank of the Patuxent at Nottingham. It was built in 1901 on the site of an earlier Plater House which had been destroyed by fire.

Nottingham was an important commercial center in eighteenth century Prince George's County. Established with Upper Marlboro and Queen Anne by the Act of 1706, it was designated a tobacco inspection station in 1747. By the late eighteenth century, Nottingham was a bustling town of stores, warehouses and inns. In August of 1814, it was the site of the encampment of British troops as they marched on Washington. By the late nineteenth century, with the Patuxent River gradually losing its prominence as an artery of transportation, Nottingham began to decline. In 1901, a disastrous fire destroyed many of the old buildings, including the house of Judge Edward Plater.¹ Today there is only one nineteenth century building (#82B-17) among the small group of residences at the water's edge; the quiet, idyllic community is only a faint reminder of the busy commercial center of two centuries ago.

Judge Plater had purchased his large frame house from Thomas and Barbara Beall in 1866; after his death in 1878, the house and property passed to his daughter, Elizabeth R. Plater.² It was during Miss Plater's residence, in February 1901, that a fire destroyed the hotel and four other houses in Nottingham. Miss Plater's house was totally destroyed and within the year she constructed the present house on the same site.³ The new house had central hall and two flanking parlors, a kitchen wing, and a three-story water tower attached. The house overlooked several of the old warehouses (now gone) at the water's edge, and was situated to take full advantage of its panoramic riverfront location.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.B. #82B-20

Section 8 Page 2

Miss Plater died in 1923, and devised her property to her niece Caroline Plater Berry.⁴ It has changed hands several times since then. In 1929 it was purchased by Agnes Duvall, who built the guest house and the gate house. In 1962 it was purchased by Eri Horner Richardson who constructed the two-story columned portico on the east, and the breezeway/porch on the south. The house today has an almost modern appearance, but it is a handsome and conspicuous landmark in a very historic setting.

Notes

1 Archives of Maryland XXVI, 636; Prince George's County Court Records #HH:348; Prince George's Enquirer, 15 Feb. 1901.

2 Prince George's County Land Records FS #3:691, Will WAJ Jr. 1:691.

3 Prince George's Enquirer, 15 Feb. 1901; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1990-1903.

4 Prince George's County Will GPH #2:627.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #82B-20

cf. Chain of Title
cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 5.51 acres

Tax Map 149

parcel 15

Quadrangle name Lower Marlboro, Section B

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian, and Shirley Baltz

organization Historic Preservation Commission date August 1985 and May 1987

street & number c/o County Planning Division, M-NCPPC 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

Chain of Title

Plater House
P.G. #82B-20

#6248:343 27 Dec 1985 Deed	Eliot and Virginia Robertson to Loral and Nancy Barlow, same property in Nottingham described in #3976:265, 5.5098 acres.
#3976:265 13 Aug 1971 Deed	Eri and Phyllis Richardson to Elliott B. and Virginia McCann Robertson; 5.5098 acres in the 4th Election District; same grantors acquired by #2751:575.
#2751:575 17 Oct 1962 Deed	William T. and Mildred E. Smith to Eri and Phyllis Richardson; 5.5098 acres in Nottingham District
#787:131 18 Jun 1945 Deed	Talmadge S. and Alice G. Wilcher to William T. and Mildred E. Smith; 5.5098 acres (by recent survey) at Nottingham; same which grantors acquired by #711:485.
#711:485 1 Oct 1943 Deed	M. Agnes Duvall, unmarried, to Talmadge S. and Alice G. Wilcher; 3 parcels in the town of Nottingham, lot no. 1 being the same which grantor acquired by #342:47.
#342:47 1 Oct 1929 Deed	Caroline Penn Plater Berry to M. Agnes Duvall; a parcel in Nottingham, one lot known as the Elizabeth R. Plater Lot; being the property of which Elizabeth R. Plater died seized.
GPH #2:627 14 May 1923 Codicil to Will	Elizabeth R. Plater, who died 11 May 1923, devised her home and lot in Nottingham to Caroline Penn Plater Berry.
WAJ Jr #1:691 10 Feb 1891 Will	Mary Ann Plater, who died 11 May 1890, devised her house and lot in Nottingham to her daughter, Elizabeth R. Plater.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Plater House

and/or common "Nottingham Manor"

2. Location

street & number 17409 Watershed Drive ___ not for publicationcity, town Upper Marlboro Nottingham
___ vicinity of congressional district 4state 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Elliott and Virginia Robertson

street & number Box 3613 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 3976street & number Main Street folio 265city, town Upper Marlboro, state Maryland

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

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

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The building is framed with German siding, painted white; the roof is covered with asphalt shingle. At each of the north and south gable ends is an exterior corbelled brick chimney. At the south end is a one-story open breezeway/porch which partially encloses the south chimney. The north chimney is fully enclosed by a two-story gable-roofed wing, three bays long; it has an interior chimney at its north gable end. Both the main block and the wing rest on brick foundations.

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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
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<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
Specific dates	1901	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.

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#8. Continued

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2 Prince George's County Land Records FS #3:691, Will WAJ Jr. 1:691.

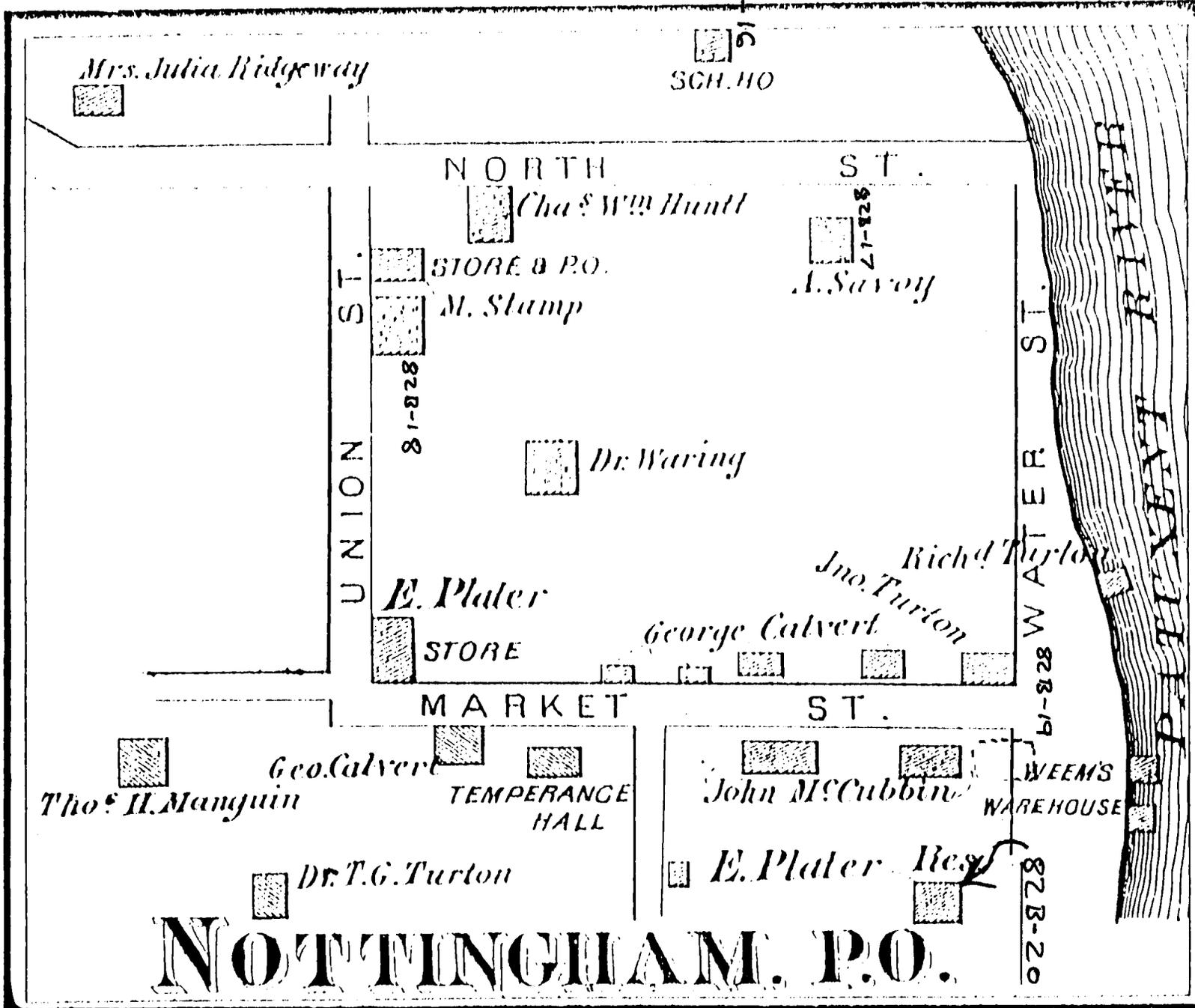
3 Prince George's Enquirer, 15 Feb. 1901; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1990-1903.

4 Prince George's County Will GPH #2:627.

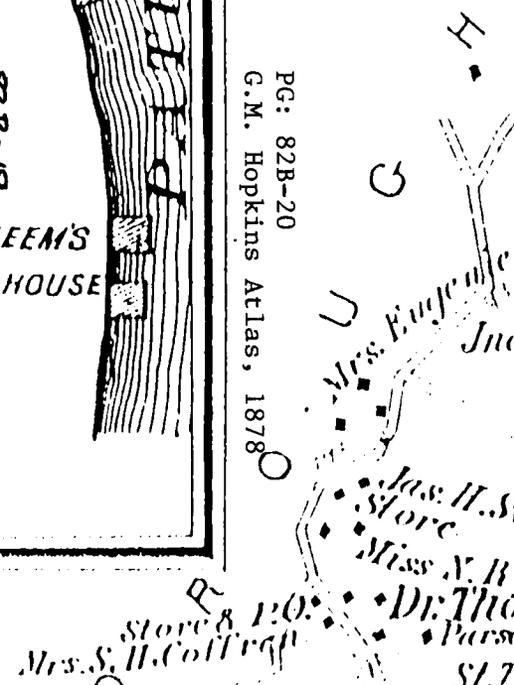
Chain of Title

Plater House
P.G. #82B-20

#3976:265 13 Aug 1971 Deed	Eri and Phyllis Richardson to Elliott B. and Virginia McCann Robertson; 5.5098 acres in the 4th Election District; same grantors acquired by #2751:575.
#2751:575 17 Oct 1962 Deed	William T. and Mildred E. Smith to Eri and Phyllis Richardson; 5.5098 acres in Nottingham District
#787:131 18 Jun 1945 Deed	Talmadge S. and Alice G. Wilcher to William T. and Mildred E. Smith; 5.5098 acres (by recent survey) at Nottingham; same which grantors acquired by #711:485.
#711:485 1 Oct 1943 Deed	M. Agnes Duvall, unmarried, to Talmadge S. and Alice G. Wilcher; 3 parcels in the town of Nottingham, lot no. 1 being the same which grantor acquired by #342:47.
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PG: 82B-20
G.M. Hopkins Atlas, 1878



M A

Driscoll
Cable Co.

Potuxent River
Woodfield's
Canning
Factory

WARE
HOUSE

Hard Cable
Ferry

Blackberry
&
Tomatoes

Waters
Ice
House

82B-20
Plate
House

Water St.
NOT usable
at High Tide

Podidge
Scott
House

Charlie
Hunt
House

very
old
Barn

Col. J. ...

Hotel
Foundation

Cook's
House

John
Smith
House

Humphrey
House

1000
Fellow's
Hall

Mrs. Dyson's
House

School
House

North St.

Blacksmith
Shop

Gardner
House

Goldstein's
Store
-
F&C

Barker
Shop

Plate
Store

Woods
Store

Capt.
Sidney
Fowler's
House

Union Street

Nottingham City - as remembered by
Gary Weems b. 1901 and Gary Wiseman
b. 1846, residents of same
Told to Mary Ann Tolaman and
Sandra Cross Sunday, Mar. 16, 1975.
Sketched by Gil Reed. Wrt - John Duval
David Cross
Date of this map - about 1905-1910.

Lucy
Wiseman's
House

Camp
Meeting
Grounds

Assembly
for
Brethren Ch.

Mary
Hunt

Capt.
McGurley

Nottingham Rd.

Tanyard Rd.

Nottingham, Prince George County, Maryland
S.C. ...

NOTTINGHAM

BERNARD D. DOWNING
4338/265
139.74 A
P. 7

82B-18

MAP 148-P. 7

82B-17

NOTTINGHAM

TANYARD RD.

O-S

GORDON D. DOWNING
4338/261
163.94 A
P. 59

M. 148 P. 10 II

GORDON D. DOWNING
4261/722
4.73 A
P. 21

P. 8 P. 9 P. 10

82B-19

ELIOTT B ROBERTSON
3976
5.51 A
P. 15

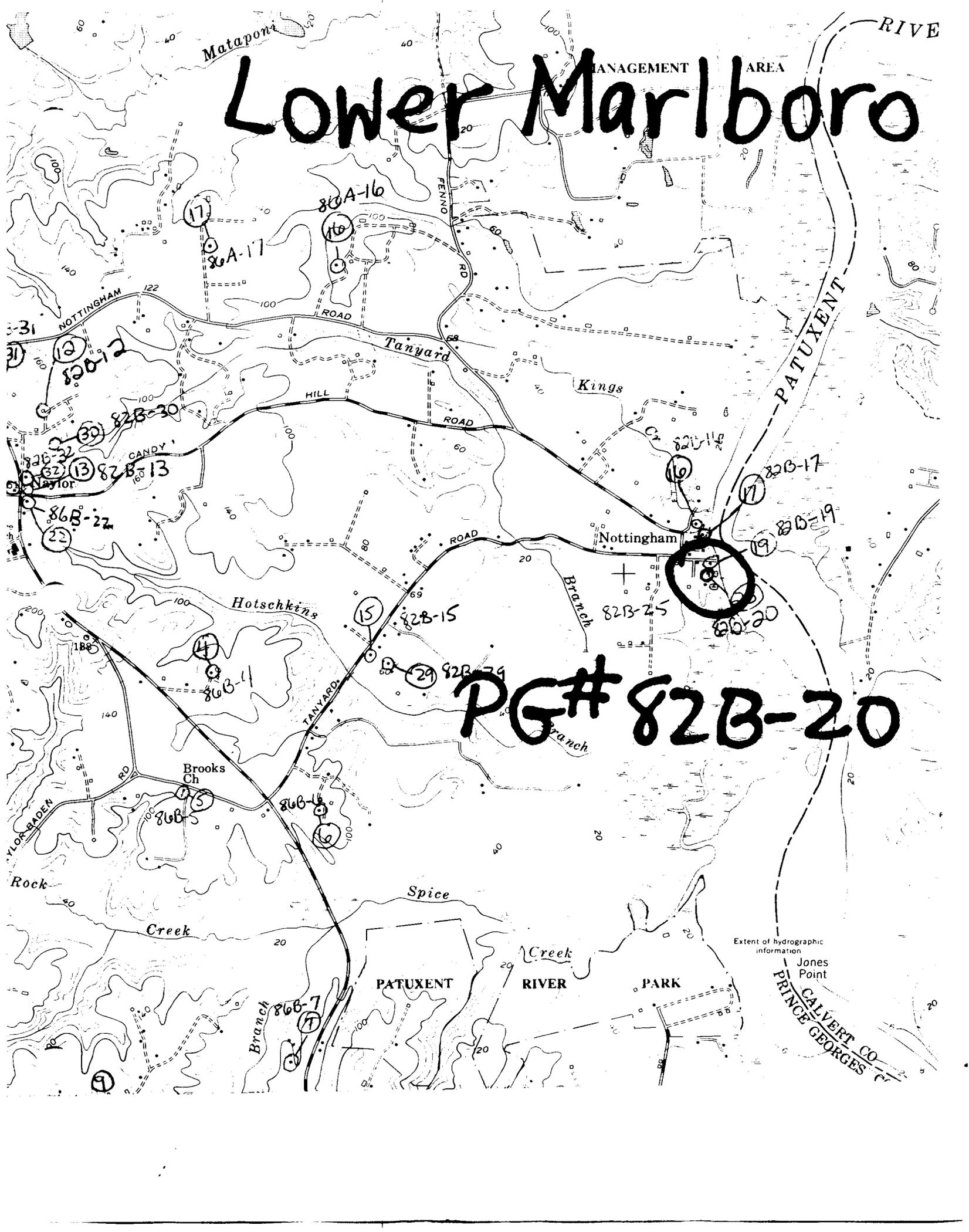
82B-20

MAP 148-P. 59

O-S

GORDON D. DOWNING
4338 / 261
160.00 A
P. 23

Lower Marlboro



PG# 82B-20

Extent of hydrographic information

Jones Point
CALVERT CO
PRINCE GEORGES CO



P.G.#82B-20

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



P.G. #82B-20

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



P.G.#82B-20

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



NAME E. PLATER HOUSE

#82B-20

LOCATION NOTTINGHAM, Md

FACADE W

PHOTO TAKEN 9/5/74 MDWYER



NAME POINT ~~WHERE BARNETT'S FLEET SETTLED, WAR OF 1812~~
LOCATION N OF KING'S CREEK NOTTINGHAM, Md PG: 82B-20
FACADE LOOKING N
PHOTO TAKEN 9/5/74 MDWYER



NAME OLD FERRY WHARF

16 82B-20

LOCATION NOTTINGHAM, MD.

FACADE LOOKING SE

PHOTO TAKEN 9/5/74 M. DWYER