

Property Address 15111 Crain Highway, Brandywine vicinity, Prince George's County
Owner Name/Address Charles and Betty Plyer, 1205 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida 24205
Year Built circa 1850

Description:

The William T. Robinson House was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in August 1985. Since the time of the previous survey there have been no changes to the house or outbuildings.

National Register Evaluation:

The William T. Robinson House, constructed circa 1850, was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in August 1985. The property is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a representative example of a mid-nineteenth century vernacular farm complex. The house retains good integrity of form and materials, and the alterations date to an historic period. The property's setting is screened from the surrounding area by heavy woods, and the property retains its historical associations. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. Finally, based upon the date of construction and the property type, there is a likelihood that an archaeological component could exist on the property. However, as no archaeological investigation has been conducted, the eligibility of the property under Criterion D cannot be assessed at this time.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The National Register boundaries of the William T. Robinson House follow the current property lines of 15111 Crain Highway (Prince George's County Tax Map 154, Parcel 23). This 27.78 hectare (68.64 acre) parcel is bounded on the north, south, and west by adjacent tax parcels and on the east by Crain Highway and adjacent tax parcels. The boundary includes the house and the contributing meathouse, garage, corn crib, granary and tobacco barn. The parcel is part of the land historically associated with the property.

MHT CONCURRENCE:

Eligibility recommended not recommended
Criteria A B C D Considerations A B C D E F G None
Comments: _____

Suzanne Pickens 07/21/1997
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

B. Kuntze 7/21/97
Reviewer, NR program Date

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
September 1996

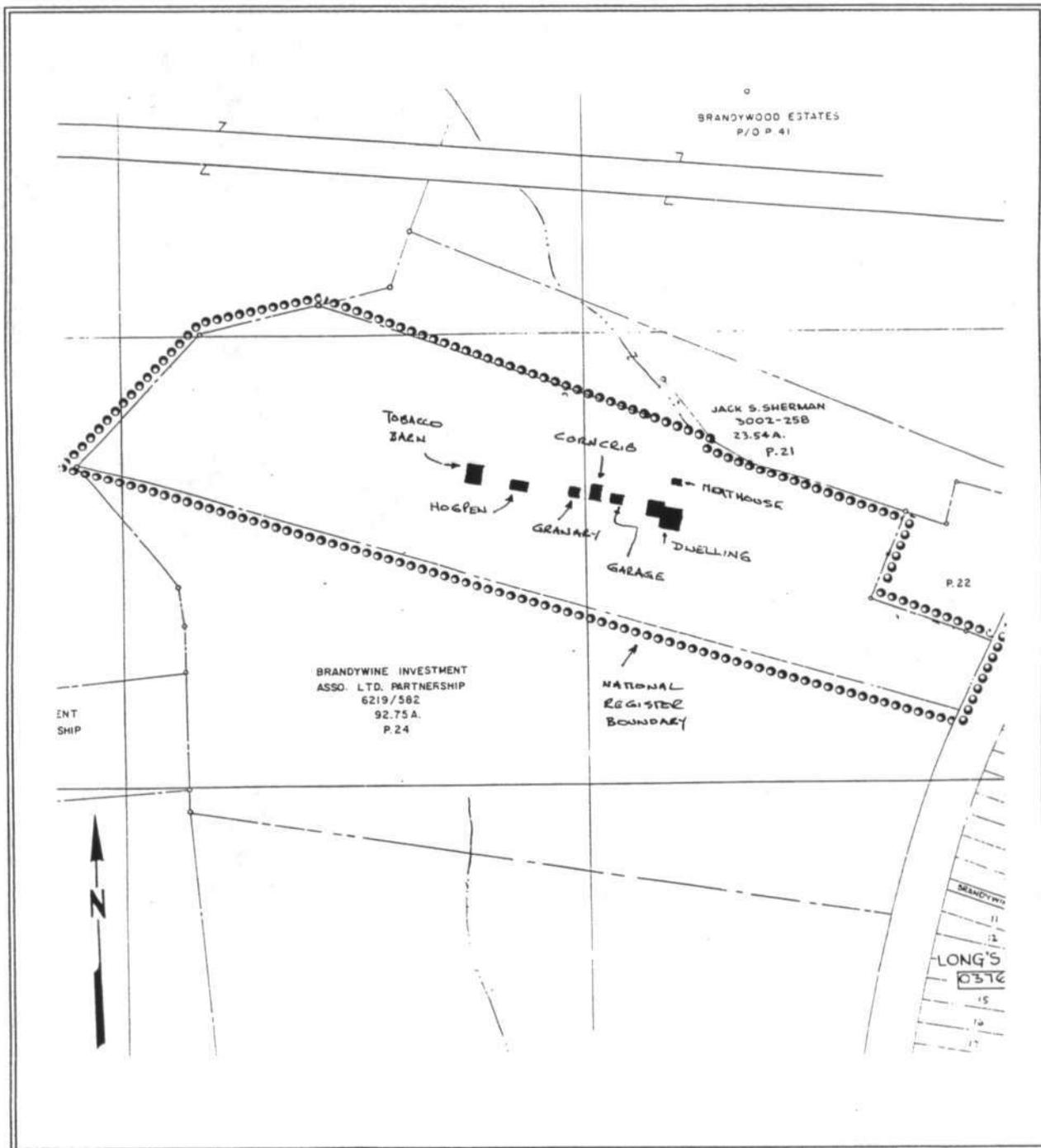
Spero

Property Address 15111 Crain Highway, Brandywine vicinity, Prince George's County

Owner Name/Address Charles and Betty Plyer, 1205 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida 24205

Year Built circa 1850

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



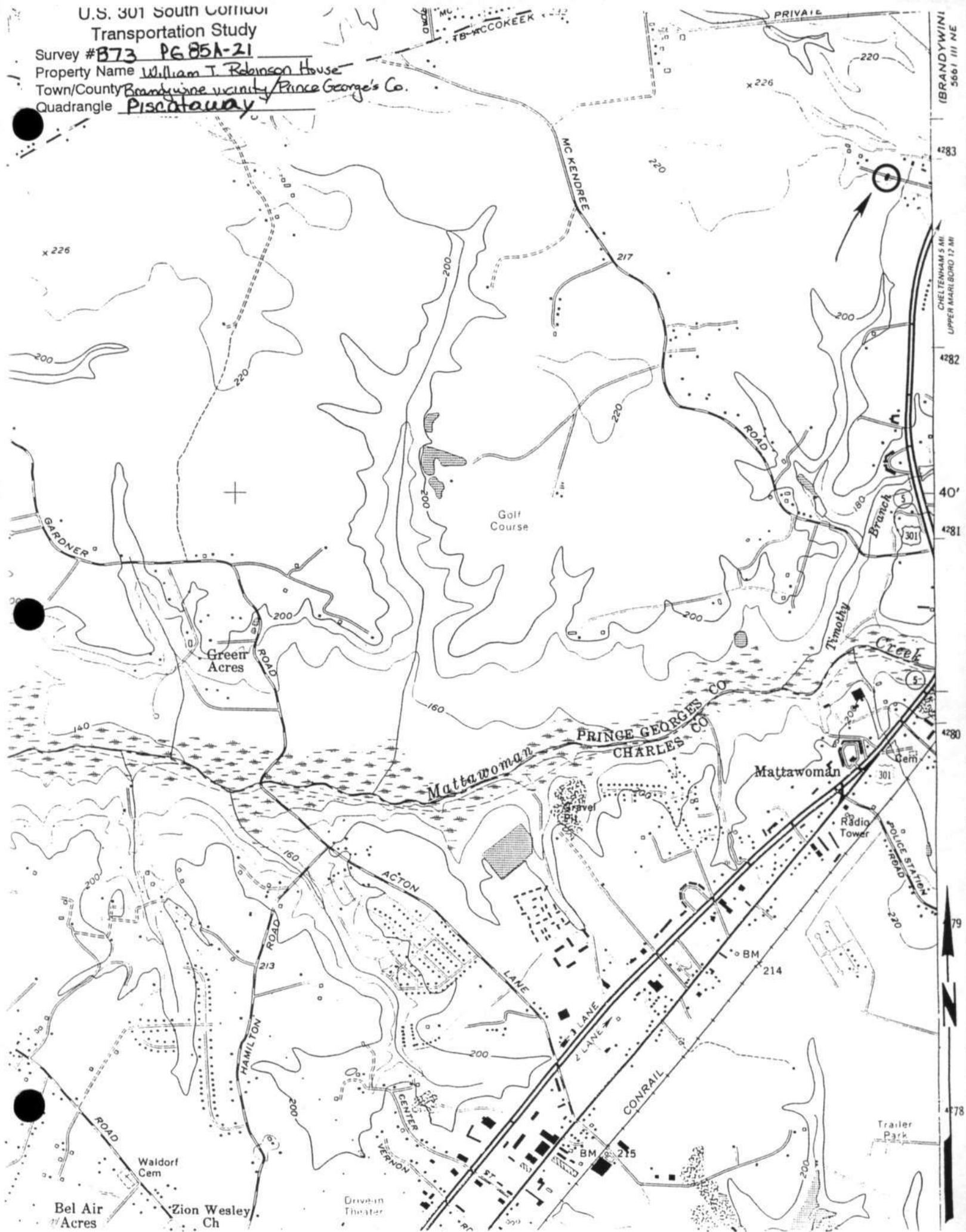
U.S. 301 South Corridor
Transportation Study

Survey # B73 PG 85A-21

Property Name William T. Robinson House

Town/County Brandywine vicinity Prince Georges Co.

Quadrangle Piscataway



Bel Air
Acres

Zion Wesley
Ch

Drive-in
Theater

(BRANDYWINE)
5661 III NE
4283
4282
40'
4281
4280
4279
4278



- 1 PG: 85A-21
- 2 William T Robinson House. Prince Georges
County, MD
- 3 Bryan McKay, 9/96
- 4 P.A.L Spero & Company, 40 W Chesapeake
Ave, # 412 Baltimore, MD 21204
- 5 15111 Crain Highway. South elevation
of house North view
- 6 1 of 5



- 1 85 A-21
- 2 William T Robinson House Prince Georges
County, MD
- 3 Bryan McKay, 9/96
- 4 P.A.C Spero and Company 40 West
Chesapeake Ave #412, Baltimore, MD
21204
- 5 15111 Crain Highway South and East
elevation of House North west View
- 6 2 of 5



- 1 PG; 85A-2)
- 2 William T Robinson House Prince Georges County,
MD
- 3 Ryan McKay, 9/98
- 4 P.A.C. Spero & Company, 40 W Chesapeake
Ave, #412, Baltimore, MD 21204
- 5 15111 Crain Highway North and West
elevations of House South ~~east~~ view
- 6 3 of 5



1. PB185A-21

2. William T. Robinson House
Prince Georges County, MD

3 Ryan McKay, 9/96

4 P.A.C. Spero & Company, 40. W. Chesapeake
Ave, Ste 412, Towson MD 21284

5 15111 Crain Highway Merth house
North view

6
6 4 of 5



1. 1685A-21

2. William T. Robinson House

Prince Georges County, MD

3 Ryan McKay, 9/96

4 P.A.C. Sperry & company, 40 w. Chesapeake
Ave. Ste 412, Towson md 21204

5 IS111 :Crain Highway Barns
Northwest View

6

6 5 of 5

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #85A-21 Building Date: ca. 1850
Building Name: William T. Robinson House
Location: 15111 Crain Highway, Brandywine, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The William T. Robinson house is a three-part frame gable-roofed house; the main block is the eastmost, a two-and-one-half-story nearly square structure with entrance in the third bay of the three-bay south facade. The door is surmounted by a four-pane transom. Across the south and east facades is a one-story shed-roof porch with turned bracketed posts, a railing of turned balusters, and a frieze of turned spindles. At the west gable end are two freestanding brick chimneys, now enclosed by a later two-bay wing. This two-story wing has a nearly flat roofline; its south facade, recessed in relation to the main block, is sheltered by a continuation of the main porch. A smaller two-story kitchen wing extends one bay further to the west; it has a chimney at its west gable end. The porch continues across its south facade, then turns and wraps around the west gable end as far as the chimney. All sections of the house are covered with (white) aluminum siding, and the roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle. All windows are 6/6 double-hung-sash and have dark green louvered shutters. Immediately north of the house is an old meat house constructed of hand-hewn logs with dovetail joints. The roof is of wooden shake and the gable ends are sided with wide hand-split boards.

Significance

The William T. Robinson House is a good example of a mid-nineteenth century plantation house which has expanded by telescoping; it has remained the home of three generations of the same family since its construction over 130 years ago. The main block of the house was constructed for William T. Robinson shortly before his marriage in 1854, on land north of his father's plantation Pheasant Thicket. It followed the then popular side-stairhall-and-double-parlor plan, with two massive freestanding chimney stacks to warm the two west parlors. It is believed that a small kitchen was then constructed a short distance to the west, and soon afterwards connected to the main block by a one-story flat-roofed passage. Towards the end of the century, Aquila T. Robinson raised the connecting passage to a full two stories, and constructed the handsome Victorian porch. Two hundred acres including the home place passed to his son Guy H. Robinson, whose family maintains it still. The original wooden siding has recently been covered with aluminum siding, and some of the details have been removed. The only surviving outbuilding is the meat-house. The house, however, retains most of its original lines, and is a good example of a mid-nineteenth century plantation house.

Acreage: 71.9 acres

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common William T. Robinson House

2. Location

street & number 15111 Crain Highway (U.S. 301/ MD 5) not for publicationcity, town Brandywine 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"/> 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	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 Genevieve P. Robinson, c/o Jay Robinson

street & number 111 Marine Terrace telephone no.:

city, town Silver Spring, state and zip code MD. 20904

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5835

street & number Main Street folio 95

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 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale, state MD. 20737

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. 85A-21

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 William T. Robinson house is a three-part frame gable-roofed house, which stands at the end of a farm lane ca. 1/2 mile west of Route 301 at Brandywine. The main block is the eastmost, a two-and-one-half-story nearly square structure with entrance in the third bay of the three-bay south facade. The door is surmounted by a four-pane transom. Across the south and east facades is a one-story shed-roof porch with turned bracketed posts, a railing of turned balusters, and a frieze of turned spindles; the porch rests on concrete piers. At the west gable end are two freestanding brick chimneys, now enclosed by a later west wing. This two-story wing has a lower, nearly flat roofline; it is two bays wide, with entrance in the second bay of the south facade. The south facade, recessed in relation to the main block, is sheltered by a continuation of the main porch. Like the main block, this wing rests on brick foundations.

A smaller two-story kitchen wing extends one bay further to the west; there is an exterior brick chimney at the ridge at its west gable end. The porch continues across its south facade, then turns and wraps around the west gable end as far as the chimney. This kitchen wing rests on a concrete block foundation.

All sections of the house are covered with (white) aluminum siding, and the roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle. The plain boxed cornices are not returned. All windows are 6/6 double-hung-sash and have dark green louvered shutters.

Immediately north of the house is an old meat house construct of hand-hewn logs with dovetail joints. Interstices have recently been chinked with concrete mortar. The boxed cornices are returned at the north and south gable ends, and above them, the gable ends are sided with wide hand split boards. The roof is of wooden shake, and entrance is in the south 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1850 **Builder/Architect** William T. Robinson

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 William T. Robinson House is a good example of a mid-nineteenth century plantation house which has expanded by telescoping. It is a handsome well-maintained building, situated in open farmland near the Charles County line, and it has remained the home of three generations of the same family since its construction over 130 years ago.

The main block of the house was constructed for William T. Robinson shortly before his marriage in 1854, on land north of his father's plantation Pheasant Thicket.¹ It followed the then popular side-stairhall-and-double-parlor plan, with two massive freestanding chimney stacks to warm the two west parlors. It is believed that a small kitchen was then constructed a short distance to the west, and soon afterwards connected to the main block by a one-story flat-roofed passage.² After the deaths of William T. and Jane Robinson in 1892, the property passed to their son Aquila T. Robinson, who combined the several farm parcels into a large 1,000-acre farm which he called "The Plains".³ In the next few years he made substantial improvements on the property; it is probably at this time that the connecting passage was raised to a full two stories, and that the handsome Victorian porch was constructed, unifying the three sections of the house. Aquila T. Robinson died in 1924, and his widow in 1930, and the farm was divided among their six heirs. Two hundred acres including the home place passed to their son Guy H. Robinson, whose family maintains it still.⁵

The original wooden siding has recently been covered with aluminum siding, and some of the details such as cornice brackets, etc. have been removed. The only surviving outbuilding is the meathouse, which is certainly as old as the main block. The house, however, retains most of its mid-nineteenth century lines, and is a good example of a mid-nineteenth century plantation house.

#8. Continued

Notes

- 1 Pheasant Thicket, home of William's father, Zadock Robinson, was an early vernacular frame dwelling, which was destroyed by fire ca. 1978.
- 2 Conversation with Jay Robinson, March 1984, re: family photographs.
- 3 Prince George's County Will JBP #1:39; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1880's-1890's.
- 4 Conversation with Jay Robinson, March 1984; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1892-97.
- 5 Prince George's County Estate File #3596, #4596; cf. chain of title.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #85A-21 Building Date: 1850's

Building Name: William T. Robinson House

Location: 15111 Crain Highway, Brandywine, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The William T. Robinson House is a three-part frame gable-roofed house; the main block is the eastmost, a two-and-one-half-story nearly square structure with entrance in the third bay of the three-bay south facade. The door is surmounted by a four-pane transom. Across the south and east facades is a one-story shed-roof porch with turned bracketed posts, a railing of turned balusters, and a frieze of turned spindles. At the west gable end are two free-standing brick chimneys, now enclosed by a later two-bay wing; the south facade of this two-story wing is sheltered by a continuation of the main porch. A smaller two-story kitchen wing extends one bay further to the west; it has a chimney at its west gable end. The porch continues across its south facade, then turns and wraps around the west gable end as far as the chimney. All sections of the house are covered with (white) aluminum siding, and the roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle. The interior was renovated in the 1930's. Immediately north of the house is an old meathouse constructed of hand-hewn logs with dovetail joints; the gable ends are sided with wide hand-split boards.

Significance

The William T. Robinson House is an example of a mid-nineteenth century plantation house which was expanded by telescoping; it has remained the home of three generations of the same family since its construction over 130 years ago. The main block of the house was constructed for William T. Robinson shortly after his marriage in 1854, on land north of his father's plantation, Pheasant Thicket. It followed the then popular side-stairhall-and-double-parlor plan, with two freestanding chimney stacks. It is believed that a small kitchen was constructed a short distance to the west, and soon afterwards connected to the main block by a one-story flat-roofed passage. Towards the end of the century, Aquila T. Robinson raised the connecting passage to a full two stories, and constructed the handsome Victorian porch. Two hundred acres including the home place passed to his son Guy H. Robinson, whose family maintains it still. The interior was renovated in the 1930's, and later the house was sheathed with aluminum siding, eliminating architectural details. Although altered, the house reflects a popular mid-nineteenth century style.

Acreage: 71.94 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Plains

and/or common William T. Robinson House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 15111 Crain Highway not for publicationcity, town Brandywine vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland 20613 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input 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 Genevieve P. Robinson, c/o Jay Robinson

street & number 111 Marine Terrace telephone no.:

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code Md. 20904

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5835

street & number Main Street folio 95

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 Historic Preservation Commission, c/o MNCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#85A-21

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

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

The William T. Robinson house is a three-part frame gable-roof house; it stands at the end of a farm lane ca. 1/2 mile west of Route 301 at Brandywine on very level ground, bordered on the south, east and west by cultivated fields. The main block is the eastmost, a two-and-one-half-story nearly square structure with entrance in the third bay of the three-bay south facade. The four-panel door is surmounted by a four-pane transom. Across the south and east facades is a one-story shed-roof porch with turned bracketed posts, a railing of turned balusters, and a frieze of turned spindles; the porch rests on concrete piers. At the west gable end are two freestanding brick chimneys, now enclosed by a later west wing. This two-story wing has a lower, shallow-pitch roofline; it is two bays wide, with entrance in the second bay of the south facade. The south facade, recessed in relation to the main block, is sheltered by a continuation of the main porch. Like the main block, this wing rests on brick foundations.

A smaller two-story kitchen wing extends one bay farther to the west; there is an exterior brick chimney at the ridge at its west gable end. The porch continues across its south facade, then turns and wraps around the west gable end as far as the chimney. The brick foundation of the kitchen wing has been reinforced with concrete block.

All sections of the house are covered with grained white aluminum siding, and the roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle. The plain boxed cornices are not returned. All windows are 6/6 double-hung-sash and have dark green louvered shutters.

The south door in the main block leads into a narrow stairhall. The open-string stair rises along the east wall of the stairhall. It has a heavy turned newel, plain rectangular balusters, bracketed stairends and panelled spandrel. The stair turns 90° at the landing, and turns again to the second story. Details of the staircase continue to the third story. Under the landing, a door, identical to the (south) principal entry door, leads out to the north yard; it has no transom.

Two doors lead west from the stairhall into the adjoining parlors. Two large panelled doors divided the two parlors, and folded back into the south (front) parlor; they were removed in this century. Door and window surrounds are plain board with inner bead, and an (added) cyra reversa backband. The windows have bold multi-band moldings below the sills.

The original mantels in the adjoining parlors were replaced in the 1930's with the present corbelled brick surrounds. Bedrooms above the parlors have plain board mantels with wide pilasters. The original wide floorboards are intact in the third story and most of the second story. They have been replaced (1930's) with narrow floorboards in the first story.

The west wing consists of two sections; the westmost kitchen section has been converted into a study, and the central connecting section now serves as a kitchen. There is a bedroom over each space. The second story of the central section has been expanded by two small rooms on the south, resting partially on the south porch roof. There is cellar space beneath both parts of the west wing, accessible by a narrow stairway in the east wall of the (westmost) kitchen section.

Family tradition indicates that this westmost kitchen section was originally freestanding, and was later connected to the main block by the small connecting passage. If this is true, the connection was done early, for both sections rest on hand-hewn sill beams, joined at the corners by mortise and tenon. Whole logs support the floor in the kitchen section. There is no cellar under the main block, only a very shallow crawl space in which no details could be observed.

Immediately north of the house is an old meathouse constructed of hand-hewn logs with dovetail joints. Interstices have recently been chinked with concrete mortar. The boxed cornices are returned at the north and south gable ends, and above them, the gable ends are sided with wide hand-split boards. The gable roof is covered with wooden shingles, and entrance is in the south gable end.

West of the house, standing in a line, are three front-gabled out-buildings: a garage, a corn crib and a converted granary. The garage and granary are partially sheathed with white aluminum siding. Further to the west stand the ruins of a small hogpen, and a tobacco barn (in which is stored a tobacco prise, in good condition).

Two small slave houses reportedly stood (until the 1940's) circa 250 feet and circa 500 feet to the east of the dwelling.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1850's **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 William T. Robinson House is an example of a mid-nineteenth century plantation house which has expanded by telescoping. It is typical of the popular side-stairhall-and-double-parlor plan dwelling, and stands on open farmland near the Charles County line; it has remained the home of three generations of the same family since its construction over 130 years ago.

The main block of the house was constructed for William T. Robinson shortly after his marriage in 1854, on land just north of his father's plantation house, Pheasant Thicket.¹ It followed the then popular side-stairhall-and-double-parlor plan, with two freestanding brick chimney stacks to warm the two west parlors. It is believed that a small kitchen was constructed a short distance to the west, and soon afterwards connected to the main block by a one-story flat-roofed passage.² These two sections form the west wing. After the deaths of William T. and Jane Robinson in 1892, the property passed to their son, Aquila T. Robinson, who combined the several farm parcels into a large 1000-acre farm which he called "The Plains".³ He continued to live with his wife and children in the subject house, turning his grandfather's older dwelling, Pheasant Thicket, over to tenants. In the next few years, Aquila Robinson made substantial improvements on the property; it is probably at this time that the connecting passage was raised to a full two stories, and that the handsome Victorian porch was constructed, unifying the three sections of the house. Aquila Robinson cultivated tobacco and grain on the land, and established a saw mill and lumber company which he operated together with his brother-in-law.⁴ He died in 1924, and his widow in 1930; the farm was divided among their six children. Two hundred acres including the home place passed to their son Guy H. Robinson, whose family maintains it still.⁵

Guy Robinson undertook substantial repairs and renovations to the house in the middle 1930's. The first story floors were replaced with narrow floorboards, and the original mantels were removed from the parlors and replaced by corbelled, brick fireplace enframements. Plumbing was installed in the house, and bathrooms were created on the first and second stories of the central hyphen. Later, shortly after World War II, the entire dwelling was sheathed with grained aluminum siding, eliminating such details as cornice brackets.

This type of house was very popular in mid-nineteenth century Prince George's County, and several other examples survive in closer to original condition. The Cottage (#78-18) and Oakland (79-34) are of the same plan, but larger in scale, and have been expanded in somewhat the same way as the Robinson House; unlike the Robinson House, they have interior chimneys, and retain almost all of their original exterior and interior detail. Woodstock (82A-13) and Bellevue (84-20) have exterior chimneys which are partly enclosed by a lower kitchen wing; both retain more original features than the Robinson House, and both are listed on the National Register. Buena Vista (70-17) is built on the same plan, smaller in scale, although its stairhall is wider than that of the Robinson House; it has interior chimneys, a twentieth century kitchen wing, and retains all of its original interior features. In contrast with the above-cited similar contemporary dwellings, the Robinson House has lost some of its interior detail, and has been sided with aluminum.

The most interesting of the Robinson outbuildings is the meathouse which is certainly as old as the main block of the dwelling. The dwelling house itself has been substantially altered, but is a very handsome building which reflects a popular mid-nineteenth century style, and is highlighted by a porch of fine late Victorian detail.

Notes

- 1 Pheasant Thicket, home of William's father, Zadock Robinson, was an early vernacular frame dwelling, which was destroyed by fire ca. 1978.
- 2 Conversation with Jay Robinson, March 1984 and October 1987, re family photographs.
- 3 Prince George's County Will JBP #1:39; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1880's-1890's.
- 4 Conversation with Jay Robinson, March 1984 and October 1987; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1892-97.
- 5 Prince George's County Estate File #3596, #4596; cf. chain of title.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #85A-21

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 71.94 acres
Quadrangle name Piscataway, Section F

Tax Map #154, parcel 23

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

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/Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission

date August 1985 and October 1987

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

telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro,

state Maryland 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

William T. Robinson House
P.G. #85A-21

- #5835:95
15 Dec. 1982
Inter-family
transaction
Genevieve Robinson to Jay Robinson et ux, Betty Lu R. Plyer et vir, and G. Harold Robinson et ux, each 1/3 share in 69.6 acres part of Lot #2 of A.T. Robinson farm, with life estate to grantor.
- #3923:746
10 March 1971
Deed
Thelma Talman to Guy H. and Genevieve Robinson; 78 acres, part of Lot #2 of A.T. Robinson farm (excepting 3 small parcels); same which grantor acquired on even date.
- #3923:742
10 March 1971
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Guy H. and Genevieve Robinson to Thelma Talman; 78 acres of A.T. Robinson farm which grantors acquired by #419:265.
- #419:265
29 Oct. 1934
Deed
First National Bank of Southern Maryland to Guy and Genevieve Robinson et al, 78 acres, part of Lot #2, of A.T. Robinson farm (Bank having acquired interest in property by #390:412, Sallie P. Robinson having died).
- #390:412
24 Oct. 1932
Deed
Aquila T. Robinson et ux to First National Bank of Southern Maryland, all their interest in 203 acres conveyed to Sallie T. Robinson by her children in #261:64.
- #4596
1930
Estate File
Sallie P. Robinson, widow of Aquila T. Robinson, died intestate 15 January 1930, leaving as her heirs Guy H. Robinson and five others; and 203 acres in Brandywine District, to be divided equally among heirs.
- #261:64
17 Aug. 1925
Deed
Guy and Genevieve Robinson, and sisters and brothers, all heirs of Aquila T. Robinson, Sr., to Sallie P. Robinson, widow of Aquila T. Robinson, Sr., Lot #2, 203 acres, part of the real estate of which A.T. Robinson died possessed.
- #3596
1924
Estate File
Aquila T. Robinson died intestate 17 January 1924, leaving widow Sallie P. Robinson and six children.
- JBP #1:39
17 Feb. 1892
Will
Testator, Jane E. Robinson, wife of William T. Robinson; all estate to son Aquila T. Robinson.

- 2 -

JWB #4:202
24 Jan. 1885
Mortgage

William T. Robinson to his wife Jane E. Robinson, 835 acres of land (including Fords Delight enlarged, Chance, Thomas and Sarah, and Pheasant Thicket) in order to secure his debt to her of \$10,000.

FS #2:483
20 Feb. 1865
Deed

Mary Jane Robinson Robey et vir to William T. Robinson for \$28,000 all their interest in real estate of Zadock Robinson in Prince George's County, 420-1/2 acres.

#672
1864/65
Equity

Mary Jane and Townley Robey vs. William T. Robinson; re: division of estate of Zadock Robinson, deceased father of Mary Jane and William T. One-third of land to widow Eliza Robinson, then Mary Jane and William agree on division of remainder, and will execute deeds.

#442
1864
Equity

William T. Robinson vs. Mary Jane and Townley Robey re: division of estate of Zadock Robinson; who died August 1864, intestate, possessed of Ford's Delight Enlarged, Woolfe Pit Neck and Sandy Bottom, more than 300 acres, leaving widow Eliza, and children William T. and Mary Jane. Widow to receive dower; residue to be divided equally between children.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1704425604
PG # 35A-21

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
AND/OR HISTORIC: William T. Robinson House					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: Rte. 301					
CITY OR TOWN: Brandywine					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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 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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Guy H. Robinson					
STREET AND NUMBER: Rte. 301					
CITY OR TOWN: Brandywine			STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: None					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: None					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

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 structure with a three bay, main (south) facade. At the west end are double, two story chimneys with free standing stacks. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash. Across the facade and east end is a one story porch with turned posts and brackets. The present siding is aluminum.

A lower two story wing extends to the west. It has a low A-roof; at the west end is a one story chimney with a free standing stack. The facade is three bays with a central doorway.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Empty box 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:

Acreege Justification:

Large empty box for Acreege Justification.

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 25 Jul 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

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P.G. #85A-21

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transaction
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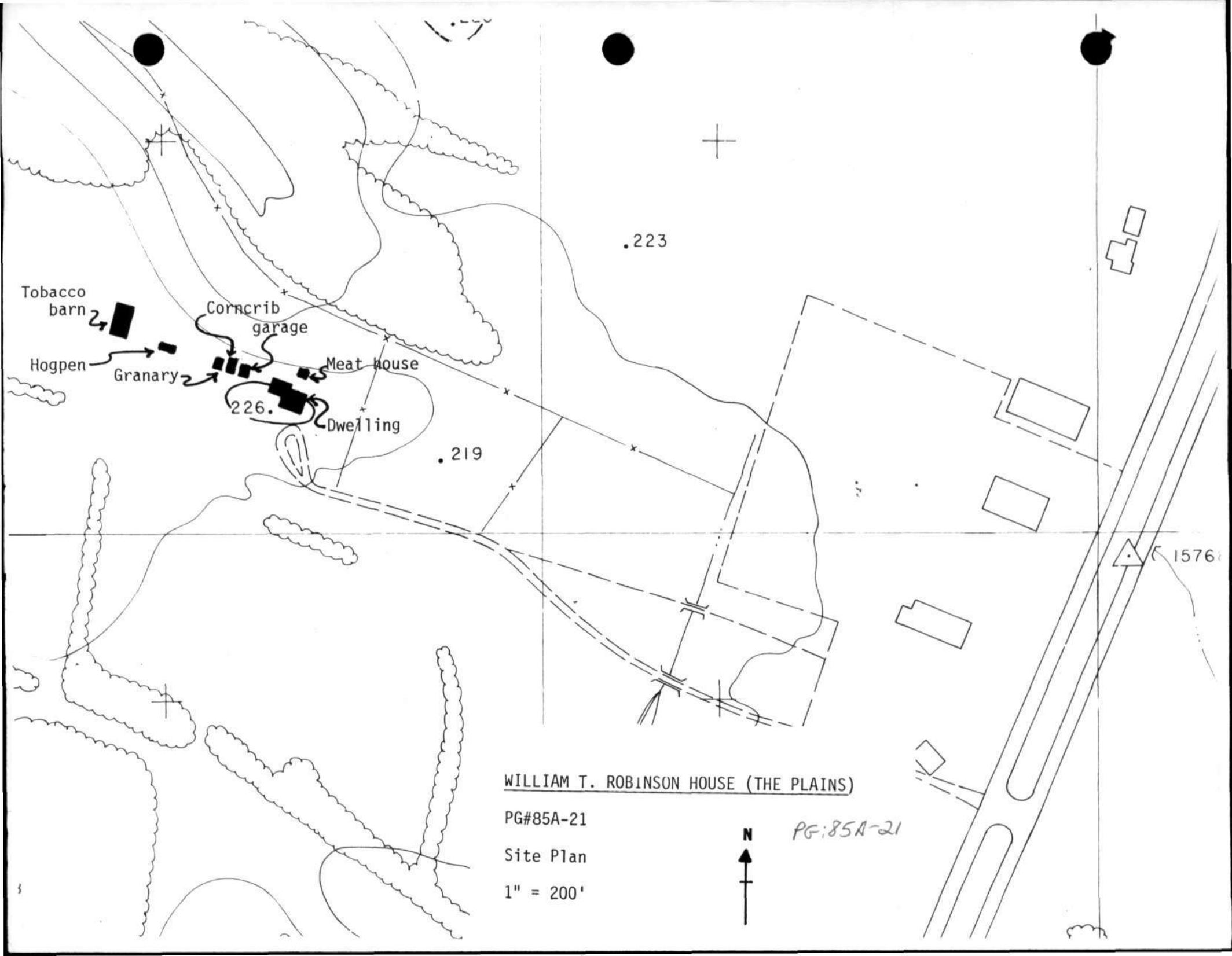
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Tobacco barn
Hogpen
Granary
Corncrib
garage
Meat house
Dwelling
226.

.223

.219

1576

WILLIAM T. ROBINSON HOUSE (THE PLAINS)

PG#85A-21

Site Plan

1" = 200'



PG:85A-21

BRANDYWOOD ESTATES
P/O P. 41

R-A

JACK S. SHERMAN
3002-258
23.54 A.
P. 21

PG 85A-21

GUY H. ROBINSON
3923/746
71.94 A.
P. 23

P. 22
2.75 A
P. 59
CLAYTON
TILGHMAN, ETAL
392/350 2.60 A.
P. 60
C-M

MATTAWOMAN ASSOC.
4896/459
92.76 A.
P. 24

M-A-C

BRANDYWINE RD

LONG'S SUB

0376

15

M
M/E

- 1
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BRANDYWOOD ESTATES
P/O P. 41

R-A

JACK S. SHERMAN
3002-258
23.54 A.
P. 21

PG 85A-21

GUY H. ROBINSON
3923/746
71.94 A.
P. 23

P. 22
2.7 A
1.59
C-M
CLAYTON
TILGHMAN, ETAL
39' / 350 2.60 A.
P. 60

MATTAWOMAN ASSOC.
4896/459
92.76 A.
P. 24

M-A-C

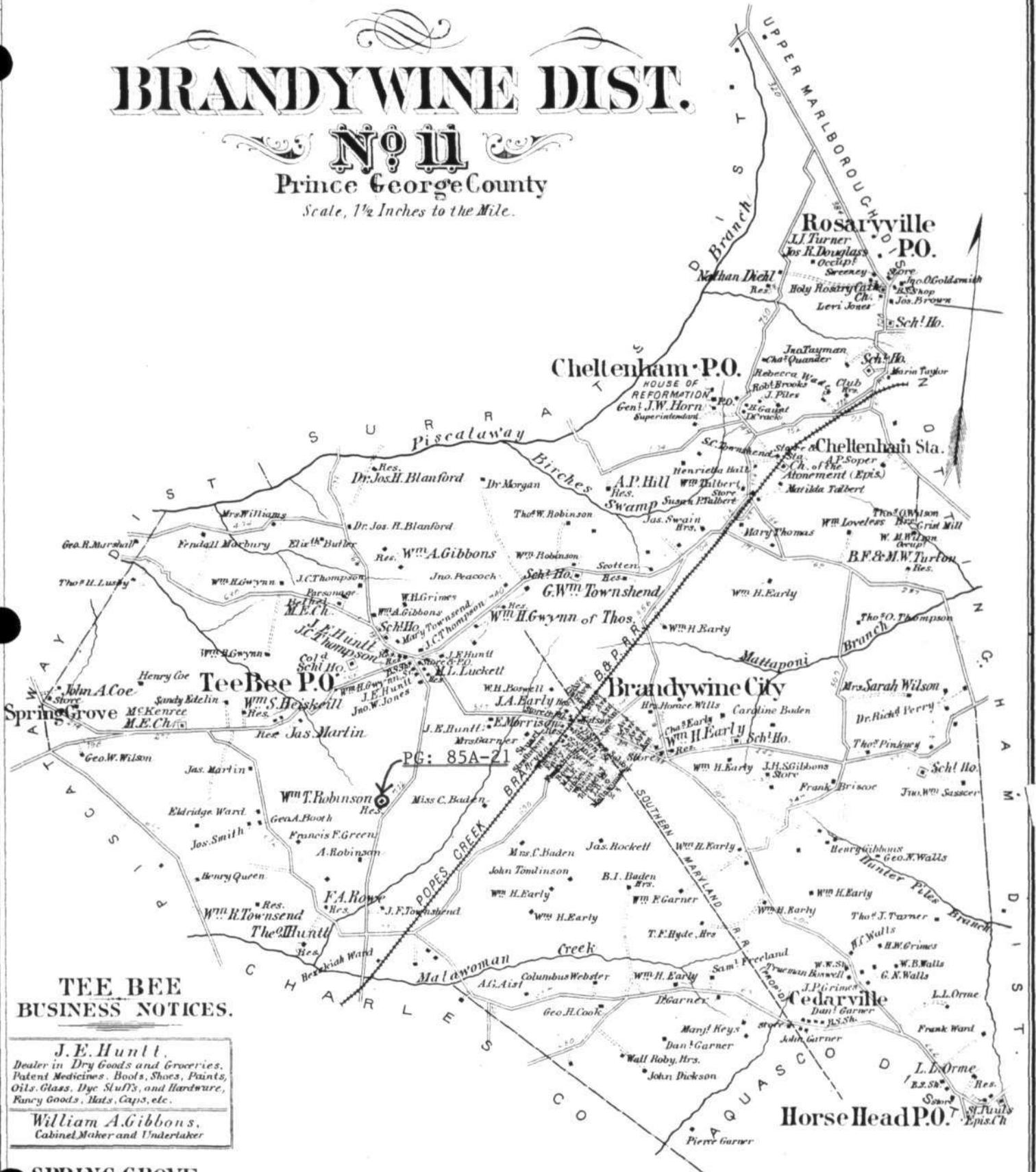
BRANDYWINE
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LONG'S SUE
0376
15

BRANDYWINE DIST.

NO. 11

Prince George County

Scale, 1/2 Inches to the Mile.



TEE BEE BUSINESS NOTICES.

J.E. Huntt,
Dealer in Dry Goods and Groceries,
Patent Medicines, Boots, Shoes, Paints,
Oils, Glass, Dye Stuffs, and Hardware,
Fancy Goods, Hats, Caps, etc.

William A. Gibbons,
Cabinet Maker and Undertaker

SPRING GROVE

John A. Coe,
Dealer in Dry Good, Groceries and
General Country Produce.

Note: The figures on the Roads shows the distance in Rods from junction to junction thereof.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878 by G.M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington DC.

PG: 85A-21
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1993

301
5

20613

US MILITARY RE

BRANDYWINE COMM

Robin Dale CC

BRANDYWINE IND PK

Timothy

CEDARVILLE

Mattawoman

Mattawoman Creek

PRINCE GEORGES CHARLES

COUNTY

Joins Map 38

301
5
925

205

Maryland State

Pinefield Comm Park

PINEFIELD

Pinefield ES Site

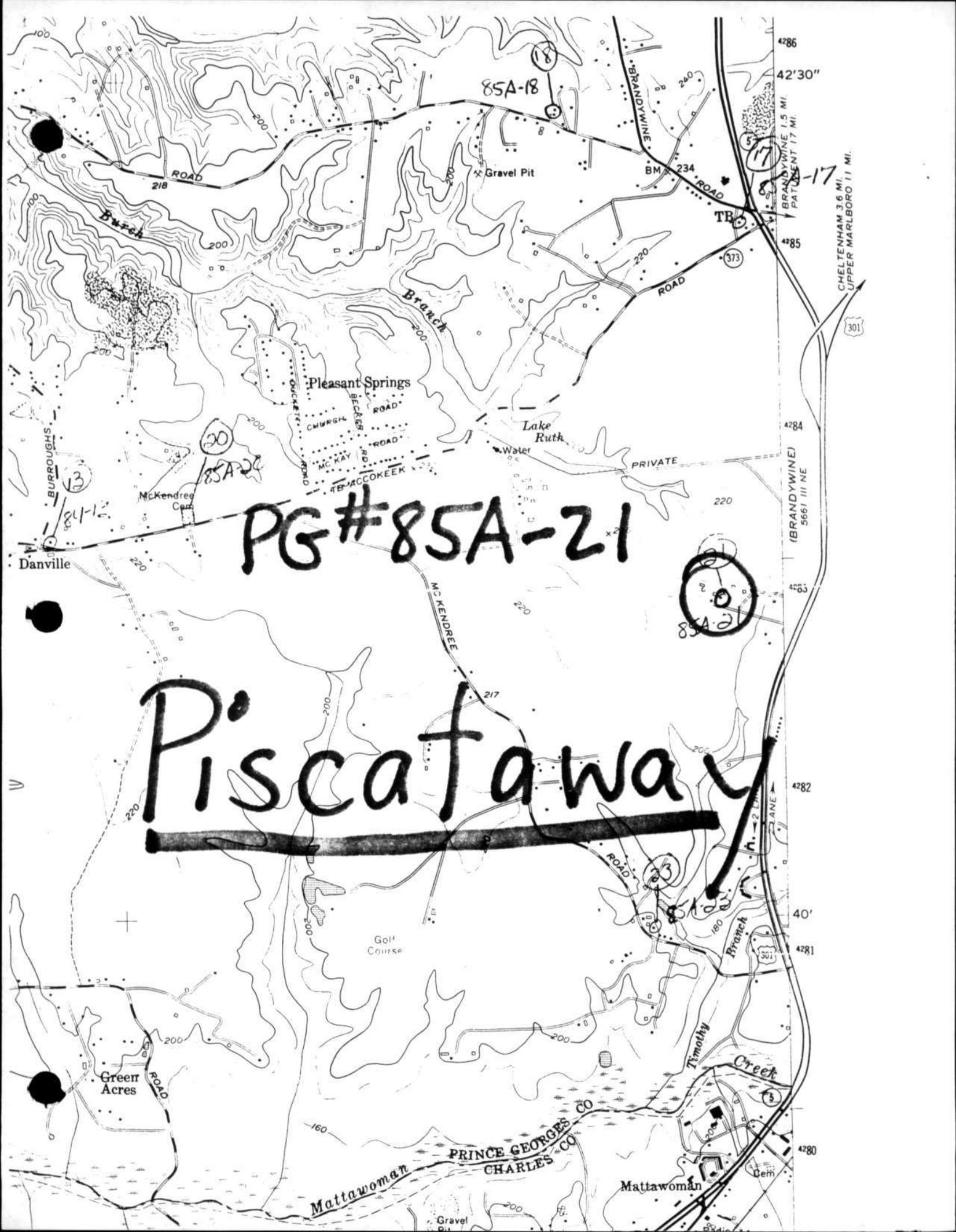
Trinity Bapt

WALDORF NORTH IND PK

WALDORF SOUTH IND PK

WALDORF NORTH IND PK

20601



PG#85A-21

Piscataway

85A-18

17

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85A-20

85A-21

23

13
84-12

Danville

Green Acres

Mattawoman

PRINCE GEORGES CO
CHARLES CO

Mattawoman

Cem

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4286

42'30"

BRANDYWINE 1.5 MI.
PATENT 17 MI.

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(BRANDYWINE)
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CHARLES CO

Mattawoman

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Mattawoman

Cem

3



P.G.#85A-21

William Robinson House

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

May 1985

Southeast 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #85A-21

William Robinson House
Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

May 1985

East elevation

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



P.G. #85A-21

William Robinson House
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
Smokehouse east elevation (detail)
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #85A-21

William Robinson House
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
Smokehouse, south elevation (detail)
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #85A-21

William Robinson House
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
Smokehouse, southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G.#85A-21

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



NAME WILLIAM ROBINSON HSE # 85A-21

LOCATION Rt 301 T.B. Md

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 7/25/74 MDWYER