

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ball's Graveyard Community (Ruins)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Ball Road

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mutual

VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Calvert

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Arthur Maupin

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Edward Wayson

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: JLB 77

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CT-146

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CT-146

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"/> 400-1499 | <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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Wayne L. Nield, II

Winter 76-77

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey
Broomes Island, Maryland 20615

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

586-2050

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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

Ball's Graveyard Community

Except for the corridor cleared for power lines, the area known as Ball's Graveyard is thickly forested. This was not always so ~~however~~, for there are those alive today who remember when the land was cleared and when there was a village or neighborhood there, which was as one man said, "full of life!" Only ruins remain now, and even the graveyard from which the area derived its name is difficult to find because there are no markers and undergrowth is dense.

The Calvert County land records indicate that a large amount of land, which probably included the Balls Graveyard area, was owned by James E. Bourne in the 1840's. The settlement of his estate resulted in a sale in which John Parran was the purchaser. Parran was part of a court appointed commission along with James A. Bond, Young D. Hance, James T. Hall, and Nathaniel Dare. They were given the responsibility of settling the estate since Bourne's heirs were all minors. At the public sale, which took place on October 12, 1841, John Parran purchased Bourne's bay property called "The Gore" and part of a tract of land "lying on a branch leading to the waters of St. Leonards Creek." There is no way of knowing for certain if the land which includes Balls Graveyard was part of that second parcel; it is certainly in the same neighborhood. In an 1887 deed for a parcel of land in the Balls Graveyard community, John Parran is listed as an adjoining property owner (JS1/51).

At any rate by the 1870's, James A. Bond owned the land around Balls Graveyard and was selling it in small parcels to mostly Negro families. This is presumably the same James A. Bond, or possibly his son, who served on the commission which settled the estate of Joseph Bourne, and who had subsequent dealings with John Parran. Bond wrote a will in 1879 and item #4 says:

"I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Sarah E. C. Bond all debts which at the time of my death may be due me from Tom Parker, Amelia Spriggs, Thomas Thomas, William Quill, William Rawlings, and Samuel Jackson respectively, who have brought small tracts or parcels of land from me, and I hereby authorize and empower my said wife to give to each of them a deed of the land, thus purchased whenever they shall respectively pay for the same."

Subsequent deeds show that most of the names cited were among others who were residents of the Balls Graveyard community. (See bottom.)

Certain questions are as yet unanswered such as how and when Bond acquired the land and why he would be selling so many small parcels to blacks in the 1870's and 1880's. It is clear, however, that he did so and that the neighborhood had a recognized name. SS7/4 (February 26, 1885) is for 3 3/4 acres on "a tract of land known as Balls Graveyard." J.S.1/371 (August 14, 1888) is for ten acres of land "situated in a place sometimes called Bondsville and sometimes Barefoot or Balls Graveyard."

See Deed books: SS6/18
GWDS/429
JS1/51
JS1/371

This collection of names leads on to speculate about the age of the inhabited neighborhood. Undocumented oral history as told by both blacks and whites holds that there was a black community on this spot since well into the last Century and some believe that it may pre-date the Civil War. If this is so, then Bond's decision to sell to blacks in the 1870's and 1880's may not be any sudden social change but merely the result of blacks who were already on that spot finally being in a position to buy. Bond's will, written in 1879, and deeds bearing dates from the late 1880's and 1890's indicate that the parcels were paid for in installments over a period of years. That the area would be known as "Bondsville" in the 1880's suggests that the Bonds were involved there for some time and "ville" certainly suggests the presence of a community. It also remains true that it takes more than a short period of time for an area to acquire three different names.

Architectural evidence provided by existing ruins, however, added to the Late 19th Century deeds points towards a post-bellum community. This much, at least, is certain while the possibility of a pre-war slave or free-black community remains conjecture. Judging from the number of lots sold by James A. Bond in the Balls Graveyard area, there were as many as eight or nine families owning land there by the 1880's. Oral history suggests that sons and daughters built on their parents' land and so the number of families actually comprising the community may be greater than the number of deeds. The 1928 U.S.G.S. map indicates as many as a dozen structures in this vicinity, however, only six 19th Century and 20th Century building sites have been located along with the graveyard and they are identified on the accompanying map and described below.

Mr. McKinley Johnson is around fifty-seven years old, and he lives on Balls Graveyard Road where his family has lived for three generations. His family had friends who lived in the Balls Graveyard Community, and as a young man he dated one of the Jackson girls who lived in site D. It is with his help that some sites have been found and identified. See map.

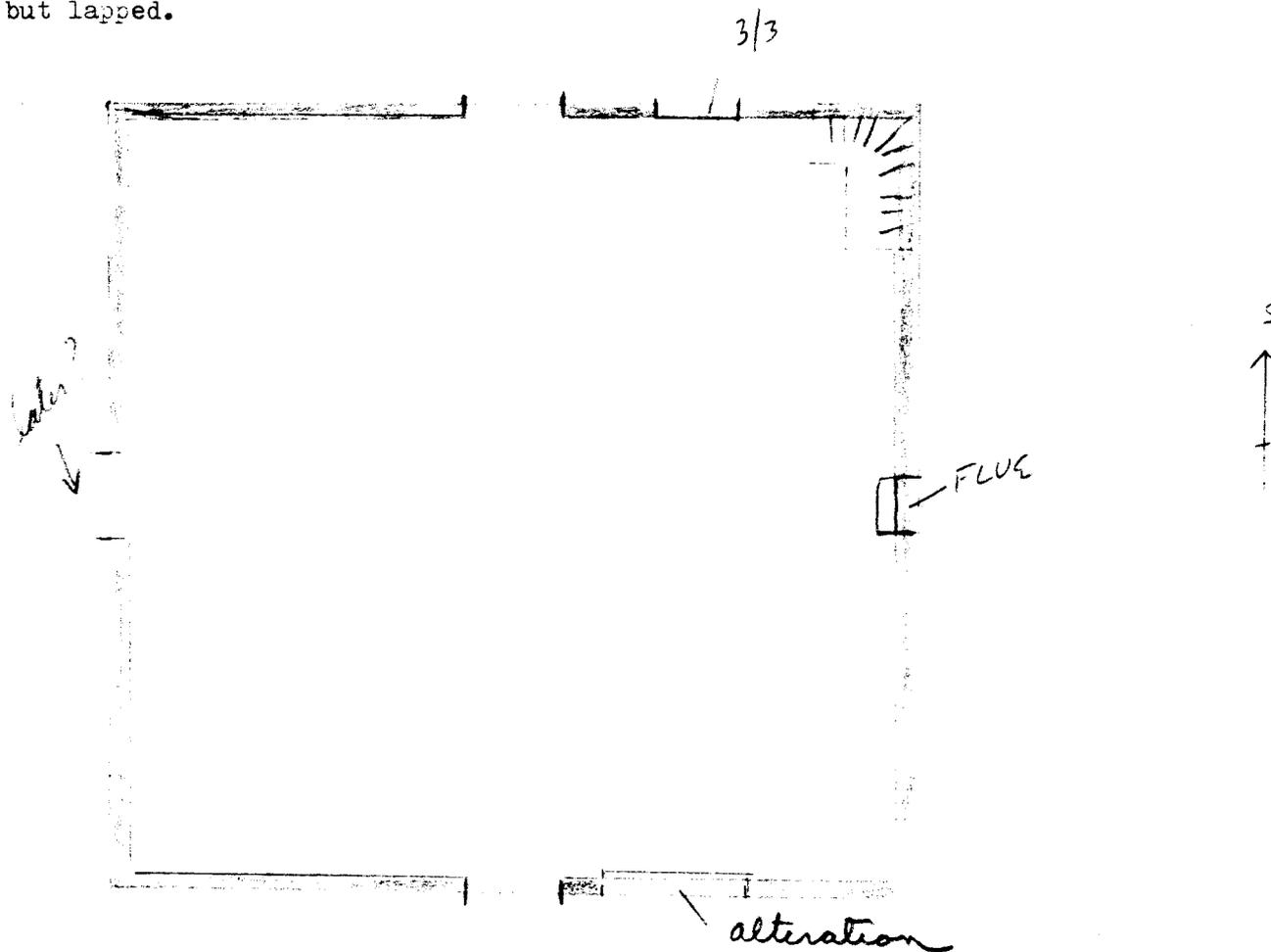
A. According to GWD 8/429, Lemuel Jackson, his wife Mary E., and their two children took title of eleven acres on September 12, 1890. Bond's will indicates the Jacksons to be one of those to contract for land prior to 1879. Mr. Johnson identifies this building as one of the Jackson homes. Theirs was one of the larger tracts sold by Bond.

This is a log house of one story. It is nearly seventeen feet square consisting of one room downstairs and a loft above. The roof is gable-end.

The walls are constructed of squared logs, V-notched on the ends, and laid with three inches to four inches spaces inbetween filled in with fieldstone chinking. The interior was covered with hair plaster, and the exterior has received different coverings including rough clapboards and asbestos shingles. The rafters are hewn; joists are split log.

Doors exist in the centers of the north, south, and east walls while the west wall accommodates the interior flue chimney and stairs (South-west corner). A large window (picture window) has been cut into the front (N) wall on the west side of the door. The glass is missing. A 3/3 window is on the west side of the door in the south wall. Small windows occupy the gable ends on the second floor.

Superficial examination did not find signs of a hearth, although the sill on the west end in the vicinity of the flu chimney is not continuous but lapped.



B. A modern frame structure located around five feet from the south side of Building A. It is a single room x . It is unclear at this time if structure was intended as a dependency to Building A or if it was a separate living quarters.

C. According to Mr. Johnson, this house was the last in the area to be vacated. Mrs. Henry Saunders, whose maiden name was Jackson, was in her eighties when she died.

Before then she had lived here alone for some years quite isolated, being the last inhabitant of the Balls Graveyard Community.

The house would appear to date from the twenties, although it is difficult to pin down. It is a frame building made of modern materials. The main portion is three bays wide, two deep, and is a single story high. It measures twenty-one feet by seventeen feet with smaller additions on the east side (kitchen) and south end.

D. According to Mr. Johnson, this was the "main" Jackson house, the one in which ^{LEMULE} ~~Leon~~ Jackson lived. Mr. Johnson attended many parties in this house during the 1930's. Lemule^a Jackson was contemporar^y ~~ies~~ ^{of} with Mr. Johnson's grandfather, Benson Johnson another prominent land owner on Balls Graveyard Road.

GWD 8/429 indicates that Mary E. Jackson and Lemuel Jackson took title to eleven acres west of Thomas Thomas in September of 1890. The 1879 will of James A. Bond, however, lists "Samuel Jackson" as one of those who was in the process of paying off on small tracts of land. "Samuel" and "Lemuel" appear to be one in the same man as the name is written differently in other deeds listing Jackson as an adjoining owner.

If the Jacksons built on their land any time soon after they began paying for it, then the log portion of the house could be reasonably dated at around the late 1870's.

This structure appears to have evolved into three sections with the log portion on the south end presumably being the oldest. All three sections are in ruins.

Section one appears to be one and a half stories constructed of V-notched logs with fieldstone chinking. Hair plaster finished the walls inside and clapboards appear to have been nailed on the outside. On the east side, the log walls have been exposed revealing the fact that there are three logs between the rafters of the first floor ceiling and the eaves of the gable-end roof. This would constitute a second set of "plates" for the half-story.

The plan provided for one room (15' x 16') downstairs and a loft above. There were opposite doors in the middle of the east and west sides and 3/3 windows on either side of the west door. There were no windows on the east side; there was a 6/6 window in the middle of the south wall. Stairs occupied the southwest corner. An interior flu chimney occupied the center of the north wall. Initial examination shows no signs of a hearth.

Although it has since pulled away, Section #2 was built with its south wall butting the north wall of Section #1. The west walls of the two sections, however, are not flush. This is an interesting arrangement considering that there is no interior access between the two sections.

Section #2 measures ~~around~~^{c.} 12 1/2' by 14 1/2' and is a full two stories in height. The plan is similar to #1 insofar as there is one room up and one room down. There are opposite doors on the east and west sides and small 4/4 windows on either side of the west door. Stairs fill the north-east corner.

Section #2 is a frame building constructed of modern materials. Both cut and wire nails are in section #2. The interior contained tongue-and-groove paneling. It was heated by space heaters; an exterior flue chimney has collapsed on the north end.

Section #3 is a one story addition on the east side of Section #2 and appears to have contained the kitchen. It may, in fact, have been built onto #2 at the same time of its construction.

E. Mr. Johnson remembers Thomas Thomas, known locally as "Thom Thom", and identified the remains of his house. Mr. Johnson visited there as a boy and remembers large dinners consisting of foods prepared on the farm. He also remembers the spring behind the house which was famous for its cold water, and how he once fetched a cup for "Old Thom Thom." "Thomas Thomas" is listed as a buyer of a small parcel in the 1879 will of James A. Bond. JS1/51 shows Thomas Thomas taking possession in June 1887. Bond sold Thomas ten acres "situated near the main branch of St. Leonards Creek, Calvert, bounded on the east by land sold to Catherine Quill, on the south by William Rawlings' lot, on the west by a lot sold to Lemuel Jackson, and on the north by land once belonging to the estate of Mr. John Farran."

The Thomas house has collapsed leaving only part of the north and west walls standing. It is the northwest corner of the house.

That portion suggests a two story structure made of a balloon frame constructed with circular sawn wood and wire nails. Clapboards covered the exterior, 3/4" tongue-and-groove vertical paneling finished the interior.

These materials do not suggest an 1870's structure, however, they may be the remains of an addition or a replacement structure. Investigation is incomplete as of this writing.

On additional reference, Thomas Thomas is a sad one provided by a tax sale in 1943. The following appeared in the Calvert Gazette in December of that year.

Order Of Publication

In the Matter of the Tax Sale of Land assessed in the name of Thomas Thomas, by Samuel C. Cox, Treasurer.
In the Circuit Court for Calvert County.
Petitions No. 976.

The object of these proceedings is to procure the ratification and confirmation of a tax sale made on the 21st day of December, 1943, by Samuel C. Cox, Treasurer of Calvert county and collector State and county taxes therein, of a certain tract or parcel of land situate in the First Election District of Calvert county, described as being all that tract of ground near Mutual, in Calvert county Maryland, containing 14 acres, more or less, adjoining the lands of Lamuel Jackson R. Briscoe and others, assessed in the name of Thomas Thomas.

The said Treasurer having made a report to this Court of said sale together with all proceedings had in relation thereto, and the same having been examined by the Court, and same appearing regular and the provision of the law in relation thereto having been complied with.

It is thereupon this 23rd day of August, 1945, by the Circuit Court for Calvert county, adjudged, ordered and decreed that notice be given by the insertion of this order in some newspaper published in Calvert county, once in each of at least four successive weeks before the 2nd day of October next, warning all persons interested in said property, to be and appear in this Court on or before the 18th day of October next, to show cause, if any they have, why the said sale should not be ratified and confirmed.

JOHN B. GRAY, JR.
Judge.

ALAN W. ROSS, Clerk.

True Copy. Test:
ALAN W. ROSS, Clerk.

F. Mr. Johnson identifies this site as Robert Toller's house. Approximately twenty yards west of the existing power lines, these are the ruins of a cabin made with hewn framing timbers covered inside and out with rough clapboards. A collapsed flu chimney suggests its means of heat. Aiding in that effort was wallpaper or insulation achieved by pasting newspapers all over the walls. This covering remains on the inside of the west wall (only the west and north walls remain standing) where one can see papers dating from 1936.

The building appears to have been a one story structure providing one room around 15' long and 10' deep. The presence of both cut and wire nails, the 1936 newspapers and circular sawn lumber suggest a modern structure which might be pre-1925, but is more likely later.

Approximately fifteen yards south of the building ruins is a trash site in which Early 20th Century jars were found and fragments of hand made pottery.

G. One of the most significant sites in the Balls Graveyard community, and perhaps the most difficult to identify is the graveyard itself. Older citizens of the general neighborhood described three different locations for the graveyard, all near the power line corridor. Oral history claims that Balls Graveyard was identified by a single, unmarked "large brown stone" marking what is presumably Balls grave. All sources agree about the stone, even if they do not agree on its location; however, no such stone has been located.

Mr. Charles Skinner recalls that the graveyard was covered with a growth of "green stuff" such as "people used to plant in graveyards." On the northeast corner of the intersection formed by the dirt lane leading to the main road and the power line corridor there is a patch of myrtle in the center of which is a depression in the ground suggesting a grave. Mr. Johnson remembers this as the site and says that the stone has been removed.

No one seems to know who Ball was or when he or she was buried.

Sources

Interviews with:

Johnson, McKinley--Balls Graveyard Road

Skinner, Charles and Robert--Broomes Island Road,
near Mutual.

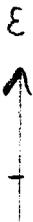
Calvert County Records

Deedbooks: SS5/370
SS5/376
SS7/337
SS6/18
SS7/4
JS1/51
JS1/371
GWD 8/429
JS3/104
TBT 2/57

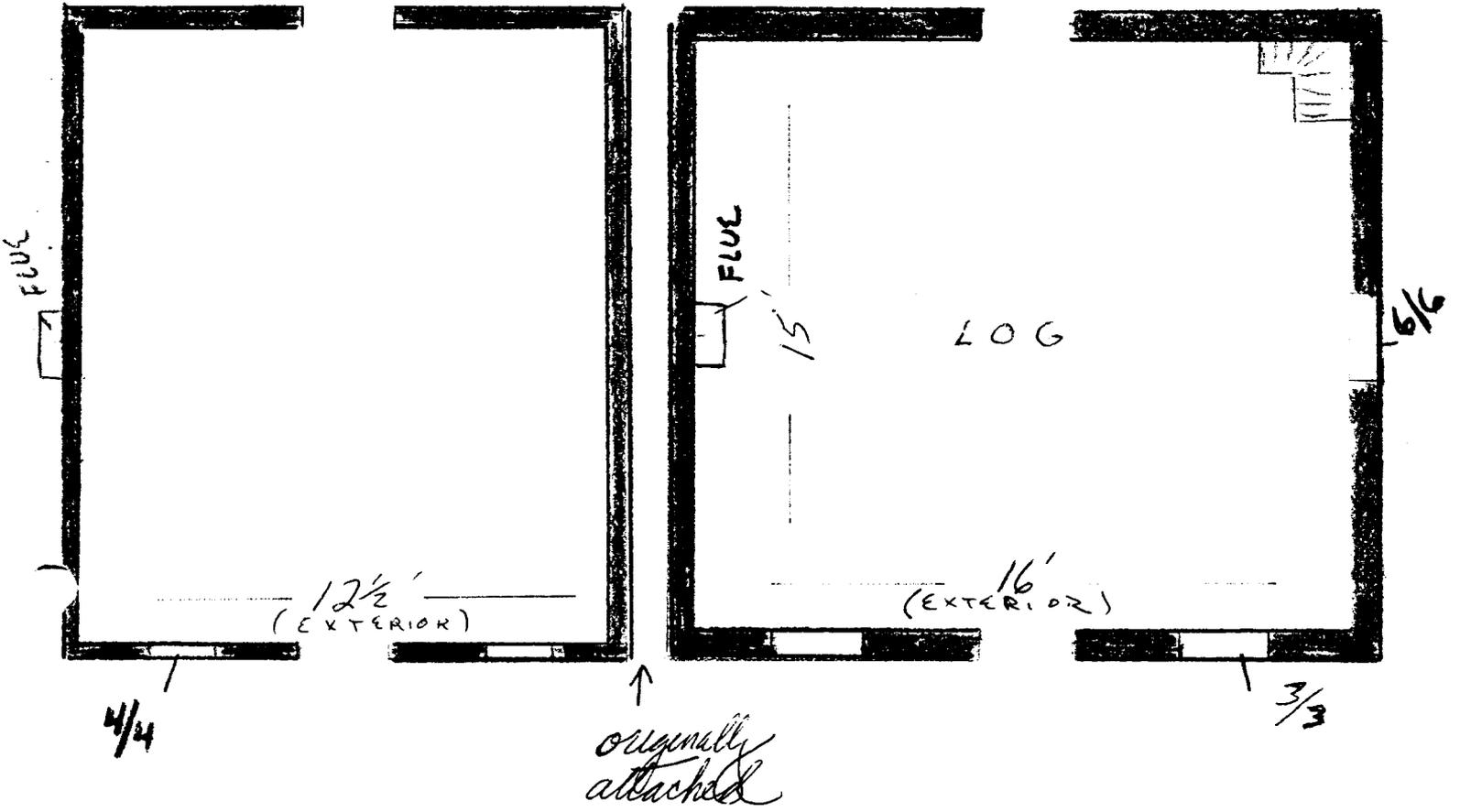
Wills: Supplemental Dockets #52
Supplemental Dockets #821

Petition #976

U. S. G. S. Map, 1928



KITCHEN
ADD.
(COLLAPSE D)



CT-146

VIRGIL R WILLIAMS
JLB101/541
~~75.00A~~ 150. A
P.110

EDWARD O WAYSON
JLB 83/448
13.11A
P.156

THEODORE H. DAVIS
JLB66/341
66.10A
P.136

STANWANT
BAJWA
JLB134/385
5.00A
P.201

JOHN A. PATTERSON
ARH 43/196
35.00A
P.124

A. W. R. MAUPHIN
JLB77/629
103.00A
P.141

BOBBY F.
MAKEY
JLB124/375
15.05A
P.226

LEMUEL
JACKSON
EST.
11.00A.
P.90

ROBERT KAINE
JLB162/236
144.42A.
P.23

JOHN H
BARNES
EST.
5.00A
P.91
P.231
P.40

EXTRACT

CT-146

VIRGIL R WILLIAMS
JLB 109/541
~~75.00A~~ 150. A
P.110

EDWARD O WAYSON
JLB 83/448
12.11A
P.156 E

THEODORE H. DAVIS
JLB 66/301
66.10A.
P.136

STANWANT
BAJWA
JLB 134/385
5.00A
P.201

JOHN A. PATTERSON
AAH 43/196
35.00A.
P.124

AR E R MAUPHIN
JLB 77/629
103.00A.
P.141

BOBBY F.
MAXEY
JLB 124/375
15.05A.
P.226

LEMUEL
JACKSON
EST.
11.00A.
P.90

ROBERT KATNE
JLB 162/236
144.42A.
P.23

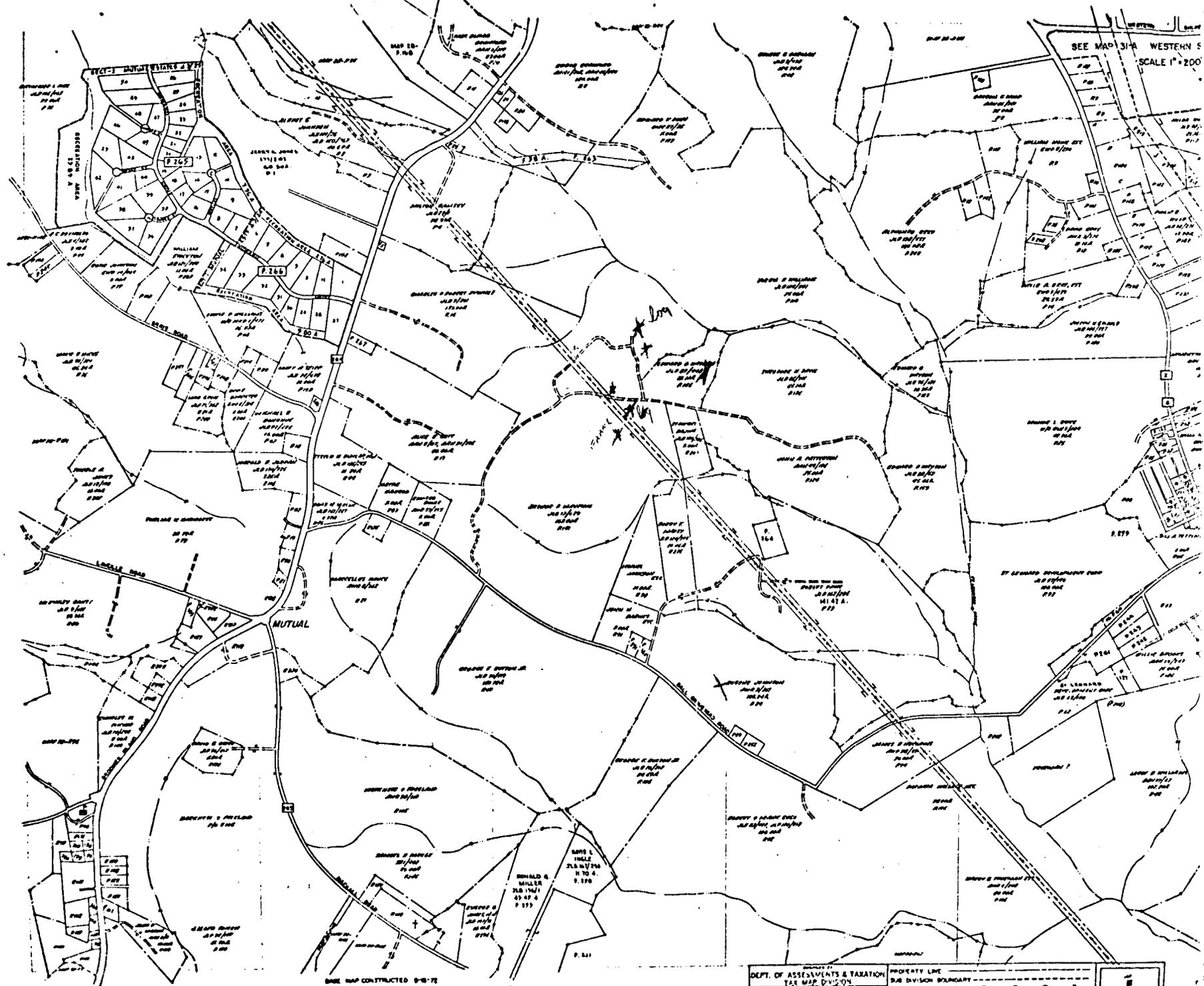
JOHN H.
BARNES
EST.
5.00A.
P.91

P. 231
P. 140

EXTRACT

CT-146

SEE MAP 314 WESTERN S
SCALE 1" = 200'



30

926

COPYRIGHT MAP DIVISION - 1967
MC. DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAX.

929

BASE MAP CONSTRUCTED 9-18-72
FILED 1963 6148
PLANNING NO. 12-10-72
MAP SHEET 10-1-72

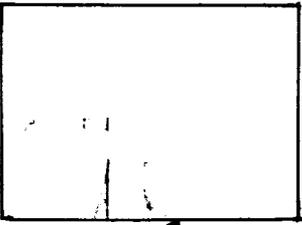
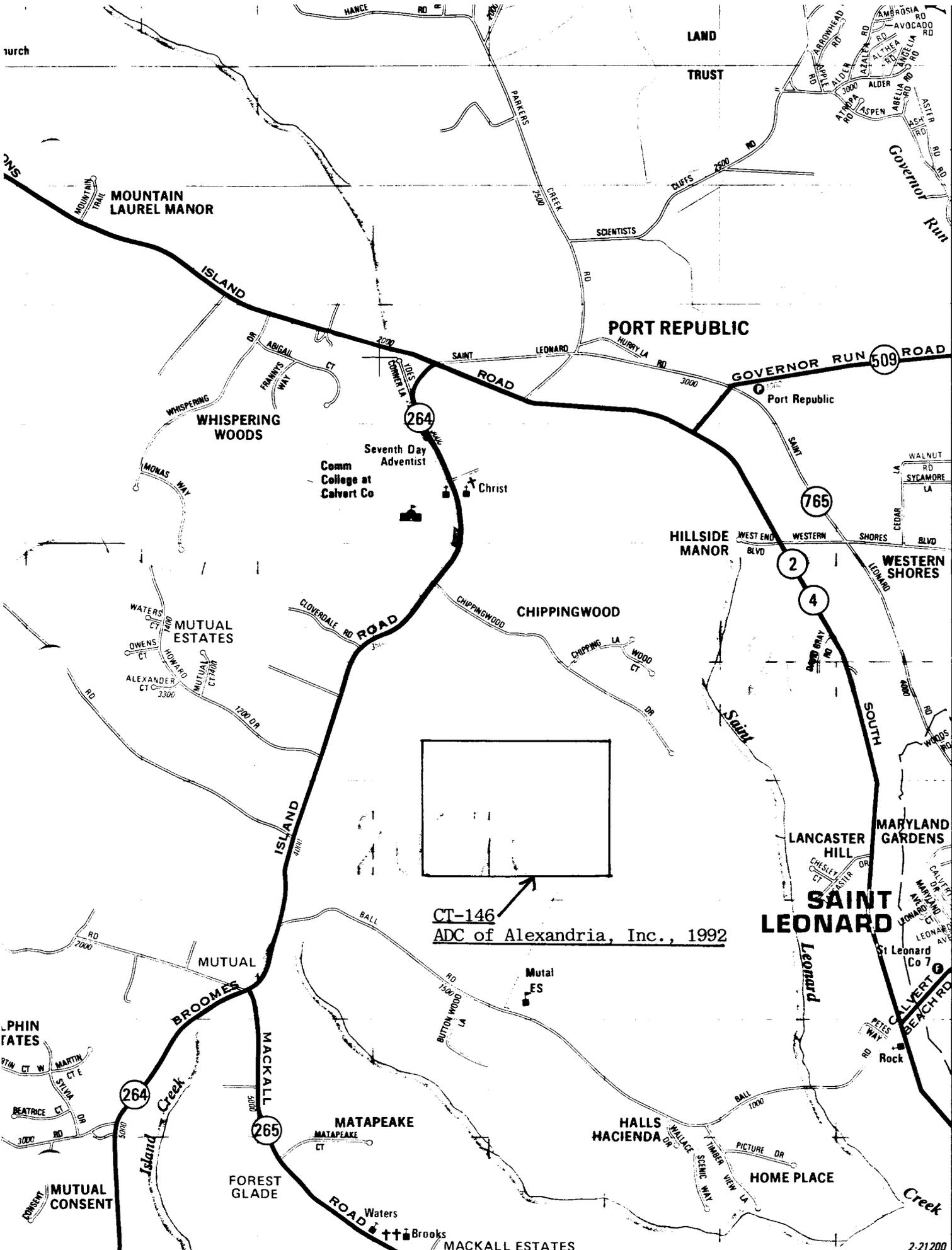
932

935

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION THE MAP DIVISION		PROPERTY LINE
CONTRIBUTING OWNER MAP		SUB DIVISION BOUNDARY
PARCEL NUMBER P 315		2 11 - 2
SCALE 1" = 600'		
DATE: JUNE 27 1967		

34

941



CT-146
 ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1992

MD GRID 230,000 FT
 MD GRID 240,000 FT
 Joins Map 13

Joins Map 15

930,000 FT 76°32'30"

© ADC OF ALEXANDRIA, INC.
 MD GRID 940,000 FT



CT-146

CLVT-146

Balls Graveyard Community Bricks

BLDG "D" JACKSON HOUSE (S. facade, front)

Wayne L. Nield, R
Historic Site Survey
Broome's Island, Maryland 20618
504-3919





CT-146

Balls Graveyard Community Ruins

20



CT-146
CLVT-146

Ballo Graveyard Community Ruins

Jackson House (N wall)
Bldg "D"

Wayne L. Nield, II
Historic Sites Survey
Broomes Island, Maryland 20615
586-2050

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Historic Sites Survey
Broomes Island, Maryland 20615
586-2050

