SM-20
BARD'S FIELD
Ridge
Private
Pratt Road

circa 1800

This small frame house, 1 1/2 stories in height and with a floor plan consisting of four first floor rooms and short centered rear hall, was built on the Calvert's Rest property circa 1800. At the west end of the structure stand two exterior chimneys without pent. Of interest is an original porch extending the lenght of the south facade. Restoration of the house is under way.

Bard's Field was probably built by Thomas Loker on land inherited from his father (see SM-19, Calvert's Rest). His wife, Rebecca Mackall Loker, and several of their children are buried in the small graveyard behind the house. The stones date from 1821 to 1853.

(This property has been included on the National Register of Historic Places, U.S. Department of the Interior.)

Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

SM- 20

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Bard's Field (or Bardsfield) on Trinity Manor

AND/OR COMMON: BARD'S FIELD

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: One-half mile south of Curleys Road
1.2 miles west of Md. Rte. 5 — __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Ridge — X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

COUNTY: St. Mary's — CODE: 037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	X WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	X OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Mr. and Mrs. James I. Pratt

STREET & NUMBER: Curleys Road

CITY, TOWN: Ridge — X VICINITY OF

STATE: Maryland 20680

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: St. Mary's County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Leonardtown

STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE:

DATE: __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

CITY, TOWN:

STATE:

SM-20

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	X DETERIORATED	XX UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
_GOOD	_RUINS	_ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bard's Field is located one-half mile south of Curleys Road, 1.2 miles west of Maryland Route 5 in Ridge, St. Mary's County, Maryland. Built in the early 19th century, it is a 1 1/2-story frame house on a brick foundation with double exterior end chimneys, a typical though late example of its type in Southern Maryland.

The south (front) facade consists of three bays with a door flanked by two windows. The window sash are presently 6/9, though they are known to have been 9/6 previously. There are three cellar window openings with square holes for bars in the foundation, one under the north window and one on either side of the south window. The door has a twelve-light sash above a two-panel section cut from a six-panel door.[1] The steps up to the door have disappeared. Wide, beaded clapboards still cover this facade above the brick foundation which is laid in common bond. The porch on this side is original to the house. The four posts supporting its roof have been recently replaced; the porch joists are tongued into the wall of the house and are unevenly spaced. The joist ends of the house extend beyond the wall under the porch roof.

The north (or rear) facade is also three bays with a central door. The sash in these windows are 9/9, too large for the openings, resulting in an overlap of several inches. Also missing its steps, the door on this side is a vertical board one with a partially covered nine-light opening in the top. The basement window openings on this side retain their square bars and window frames. Wide, beaded clapboards cover this side also and the frames of the door and windows have the same simple molded trim of the openings on the south facade. A porch added to this elevation during the 19th century was recently removed. Beneath its roof were preserved some of the original, round-ended, wooden shingles. These were taken off and saved when a new shingle roof was put on several years ago. The joist ends on this facade have been boxed in to form a simple cornice.

The gable ends of the house are in poor repair. Once clapboard-sheathed also, they are now partially covered with a combination of unpainted boards and imitation brick siding. The wall construction is exposed in places, revealing corner posts, studs, corner braces, and brick nogging.

The east end has two chimney stacks with a doorway between at the first floor level. This door has six panes over two panels with steps leading up to it and opens into the southeast room. In the foundation to the right of the north chimney is a cellar entrance with a vertical board door. There is a large fireplace in the basement,

[1]The sash is actually the door from the cupboard by the fireplace in the northwest room. It was placed in the door in the 20th century to provide more light to the interior.

see continuation sheet #1

Description, continued

which was presumably the location of the kitchen.[2] There are two casement windows, originally with eight lights, on the outside of the chimney stacks on the second floor of this elevation. A six-pane casement window is situated in the attic between the chimney stacks. None of these have their original sash.

The west end has a double end chimney with a one-story pent. There were originally three casement windows placed identically to those in the east end. The attic opening remains (without original sash), but the second floor windows have been enlarged and now contain double-hung sash (these are temporary replacements that do not fit the openings).

The brickwork of the chimneys at both ends is finely executed. Laid up in Flemish bond with random glazed headers, there are queen closers at all corners of the chimneys. The sides of the stacks are stepped on the outside between the first and second floor levels. All four stacks have been rebuilt in all-stretcher bond above the step, with corbeled caps. This brickwork is not in good condition, however; the caps have largely crumbled away and the entire stack of the northeast chimney has fallen.

The first floor plan of Bard's Field consists of two large rooms in the front (south), and two smaller rooms in the rear (north) on either side of a central stair hall. The door on the south opens into the largest (southwest) room, the one on the north into the hall, and the one on the east into the southeast room. There are fireplaces in every room but the hall with simple mantels consisting of molded trim framing the openings, undecorated friezes, and plain cornices (except for the mantel in the southwest room which has a dentilled cornice.). Chair rail remains in each of the first floor rooms and molded trim surrounds the door and window openings. The doors are flat, with six panels. A cupboard to the right of the fireplace in the southwest room has shelves above and is paneled below (see footnote #1). There is a cupboard in the northeast room, not in its original location though of the same period as the house, with a dentilled cornice and two double-paneled doors with small strap hinges. The open-string stair in the hall has simple brackets and Victorian handrail, balusters, and newel post

[2]The use of the cellar as a kitchen is suggested by the two doors in the east end and the presence of two cellar windows (rather than one as elsewhere) in the east bay of the south facade, as well as by the presence of a large fireplace beneath the southwest chimney flue.

Description, continued

The second floor plan also has four rooms, but of different sizes than those of the first floor. Some changes were made here when this was used as an apartment some years ago. The doorways to the northwest and southeast rooms have been enlarged and now have plain molding. The doorway to the northeast room retains architrave trim similar to that downstairs. There are no fireplaces on the second floor. An enclosed stair leads to the attic in the northwest corner of the southwest room.

About fifty feet north of the house is a small line of graves, including those of Rebecca Loker (died 1824, aged 61), Pamela Loker (died 1823, aged 27), William Howe Loker (1801-1853), Eliza Ann Loker (wife of Wm. Loker, died 1847, aged 43), Luclynda Loker (died 1833, aged 25), and those of several infants.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bard's Field exemplifies by both its floor plan and its exterior appearance one of the common, 18th-century, Southern Maryland house types. Built circa 1800, it is atypical only in the lateness of its construction date. The house is also noteworthy for the solidarity and skillful work of its construction and the fact that the porch across its facade is an original feature.

Bard's Field is located on part of Trinity Manor, one of several manors in St. Mary's patented to Governor Leonard Calvert in the 17th century. Between 1754 and 1771 William Loker purchased part of the Manor from his wife's brother and mother, James Smith, Jr. and Mary Smith. At his death in 1771 Loker left this land to his wife, Elizabeth Parrott Smith Loker, and his son Thomas.[1]

In the Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798 for St. Mary's County, Thomas Loker is listed as the possessor of 200 acres and a house worth fifty dollars. His mother, married again and now Elizabeth Richardson, is assessed for 98 acres and a brick dwelling "out of repair" on the Potomac valued at $250. This latter building is Calvert's Rest; Bard's Field does not appear on this tax record.[2]

Thomas Loker died in 1804, leaving two sons, five daughters, and his wife, Rebecca Mackall. His will, written in 1799, left slaves to his daughters and the land if their brothers should die. However, he made provision that if any caused the death of another that her share might be greater or that if any married a Roman Catholic, she would be cut off with only a shilling as inheritance. To his sons he left his land: to William Howe, "all the Lands that I have a right unto whereon my mother now dwelleth as divided between her and myself," and to Thomas, Jr., "all the Land whereon I now dwell unto the division line aforesaid."[3]

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[1]Patent 1/121; St. Mary's County Will TA 1/630; Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

[2]Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798 for St. Mary's County, Hall of Records, Annapolis.

[3]St. Mary's County Will JJ 3/57, Hall of Records, Annapolis.

Significance, continued

It has been thought that the reference in Thomas, Jr.'s bequest to the "Land whereon I now dwell" is also a reference to Bard's Field. If so, the house must have been built between the time of tax assessment in 1798 and April 1799 when the will was written. There is no mention of an additional house in the 1803 codicil to the will. It is also possible that Bard's Field was built by Thomas, Jr. after he acquired the property. The house is architecturally dated to the first decade of the 19th century by its styling in combination with the presence of early cut nails in their original positions.

Thomas Loker, Jr. died in 1877 and left his estate to his (second) wife and after her death to his seven children and two grandchildren. Tax records of 1884 list taxes due from Loker's heirs on 225 acres of Bard's Field in Trinity Manor assessed at $2,668 and improvements worth $400. After several transactions George W. Pratt acquired the property, including the house, in 1909. The members of the Pratt family who presently own Bard's Field have begun work on the restoration of the building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SM-20

Title search on Bard's Field, St. Mary's County, Maryland by the St. Mary's City Commission, St. Mary's City, Maryland.

Land and Probate Records of St. Mary's County, Maryland.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY nine acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	378680	4217380
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

pmj

NAME / TITLE

Pamela James, Assistant Historian

ORGANIZATION — DATE

Maryland Historical Trust — January 1976

STREET & NUMBER — TELEPHONE

Shaw House, 21 State Circle — (301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN — STATE

Annapolis — Maryland 21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer, Maryland DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 888-445

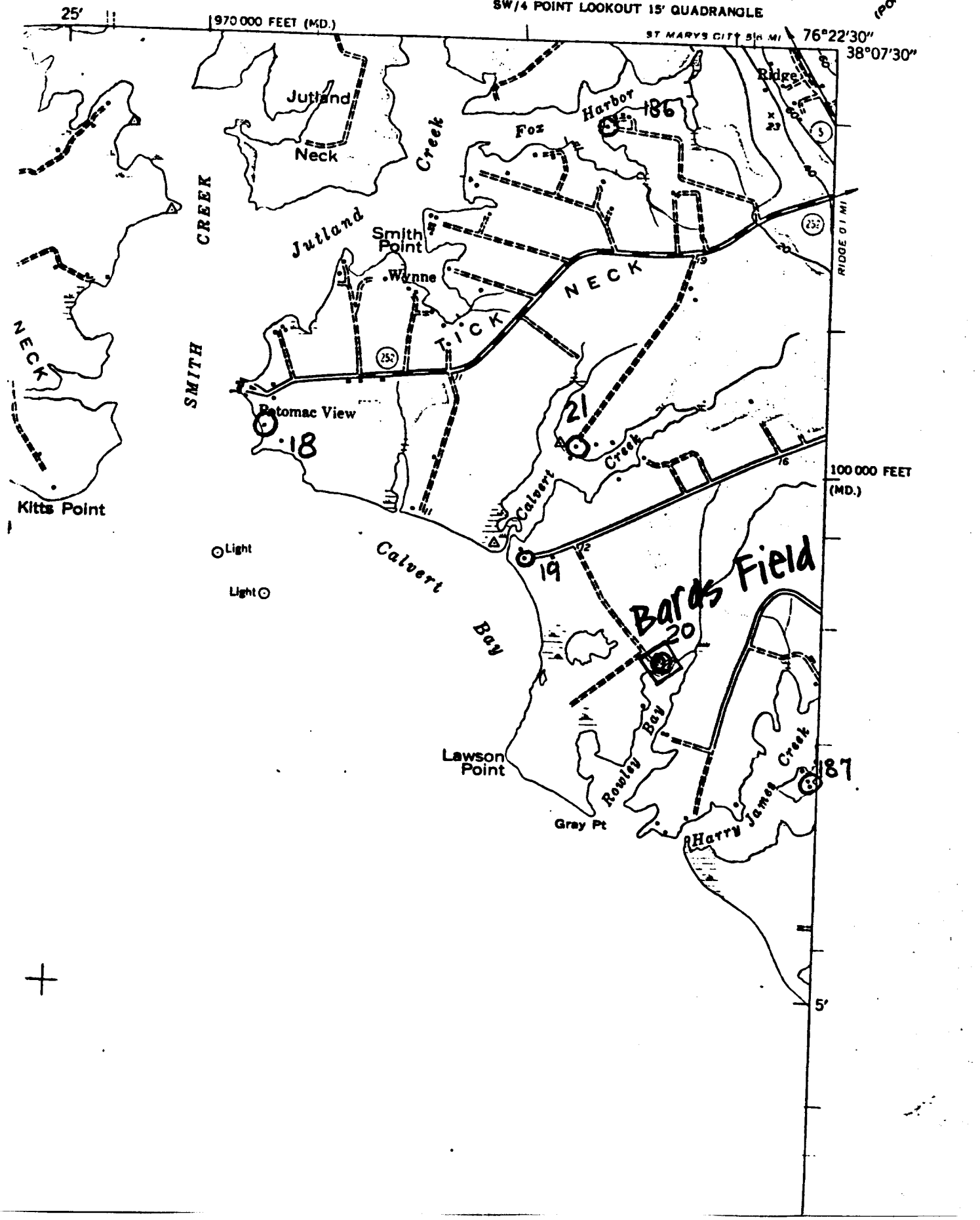
SM-20

ST. GEORGE ISLAND QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND–VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SW/4 POINT LOOKOUT 15' QUADRANGLE



BARD'S FIELD SM- 20
Location Map

1900202304

St. Mary -20

Baad's Field

1/76

St. Mary -20

Bard's Field

1/76

Band's Field SM-20
MOB 9/71

St. MARY - 20

BARD's Field

1/76

9[illegible] 3

Band's Field

Sm-20

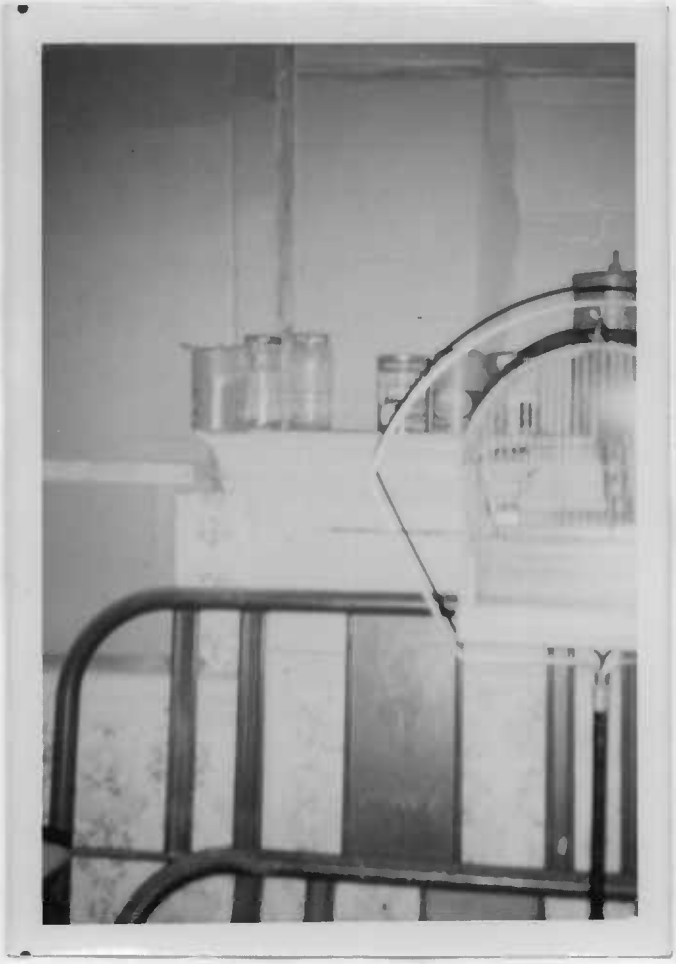
HABS photo

SM-20
Bard's Field
St. Mary's County, Md
Kirk Ranzetta
Md SHPO
Nov/99
W+S elevations
1 of 2

SM-20
Bard's Field
St. Mary's County, Md
Kirk Ranzetta
Md SHPO
Nov/99
Cemetery - looking SE
2 of 2

Bard's Field
SM-20

Bard's Field
SM 20



Bard's Field SM 20

60%

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