

WI-331
Brattan-Taylor Truitt House
Mardela Springs
Private

c. 1840-50

Standing on the northwest corner of Main and Branch streets is a two-story, three-bay frame house that is estimated to be one of a group of second quarter of the nineteenth century dwellings that remain in Mardela Springs. The center hall/single-pile frame house extends to the rear with a two-story, two-room plan service wing. Characteristic of antebellum houses is the eight-panel front door, the flush gable ends, and the Greek Revival woodwork that remains inside. Also common to the mid nineteenth century is the exterior, common bond brick chimney that has corbeled shoulders and a corbeled cap. A gable roofed smokehouse stands behind the house and it retains a few pieces of beaded weatherboards on the north wall. On the west side of the house is a gable roofed well house that is enclosed with weatherboards on the north and west sides and lattice on the other two walls.

The tripartite name attached to his house recognizes the three families largely associated with its ownership. Identified as part of "Ill Neighborhood," the lot was in a larger parcel conveyed from Joshua Brattan to Anthony Brattan on March 3, 1838. The Greek Revival profiles of the woodwork in the hall and parlor--including widely fluted surrounds and plain corner blocks as well as a post and lintel parlor mantel--point to a construction date around that time. Joseph Brattan held title to the same land between 1840 and 1852 and he may have financed construction of the house. The next principal owner of this Main Street property was Thomas B. Taylor, who operated the

store next door for several decades. This house, as well as the dwelling immediately west, are designated on the 1877 Barren Creek Springs map under the ownership of T. B. Taylor. At the time Taylor's estate settlement in 1902 this house was advertised with the balance of his land holdings. A short description of this property was included in the *Salisbury Advertiser*, and it stated the following as part two dozen parcels being offered for sale:

A house and lot in Mardela Springs where W. H. Beach lives fronting on Main Street of said town, and improved by a two story front building 34 x 18 with porches on front, two story back building, 30 x 18, with side porches, four rooms and hallway between, 5 rooms above, all in good condition; outbuildings, smoke house wood house, barn and stable

Clearly Thomas B. Taylor rented this house, and it was sold shortly afterwards to Stephen A. Calloway. Ten years later, in July 1913, the house and lot were sold to Margaret E. Truitt, in whose family the property remains to this day.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Brattan-Taylor-Truitt House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-331

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition
1815-1870

4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-331

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Brattan-Taylor-Truitt House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 201 Main Street not for publication

city, town Mardela Springs vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Charles and Barbara Emery

street & number 201 Main Street telephone no.:

city, town Mardela Springs state and zip code MD 21837

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 200, p. 235
liber 1211

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 454

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-331

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 Brattan-Taylor-Truitt house stands at 201 Main Street in Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces south with the roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1840, the two-story, center hall plan frame dwelling is supported by a low brick pier foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Extending to the rear is a two-story, two-room plan service wing. A combination smokehouse/wood house is located on the north side of the house, and a pump house stands to the west. The house is historically associated with the Brattan-Taylor store (WI-136), located immediately to the east.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking six-over-one sash windows. An eight-panel front door is distinguished by narrow Greek panel moldings, and the door is topped by a six-pane transom. Sheltering the front door as well as the adjacent windows is a flat-roofed porch supported by chamfered posts. The roof is accented with widely spaced brackets. The second floor is lighted by three six-over-one sash windows. Trimming the base of the roof is a boxed cornice.

The west gable end is dominated by an exterior brick chimney laid in eleven-course common bond with corbeled shoulders. Six-over-one sash windows light the first and second floors and small four-pane windows pierce the gable end. The edge of the roof is finished with a molded bargeboard. The east end features a rebuilt exterior brick chimney.

The north (rear) wall of the main block is partially covered by a two-story service wing. A shed roofed porch extends from the east side, and a small gable roofed pantry is attached to the west side. The first and second floors feature six-over-six sash windows. An interior brick chimney rises through the middle of the service wing. Like the main block the rear gable end is finished with a molded bargeboard.

The interior of the main block follows a center hall, single-pile plan. A turned baluster stair dating from the late nineteenth century features boldly turned newel posts and a series of turned balusters that support a molded handrail. The eight-panel front door is framed by a fluted surround with corner blocks. A four-panel door framed by a fluted surround and plain blocks opens into the parlor on the west side of the hall. The parlor is a plainly finished room with a mid nineteenth century mantel framing the fireplace. Plain pilasters and a plain frieze board support a thick board shelf.

The room on the east side of the hall features a neo-Federal mantel fixed against the end wall.

The service wing contains the dining room and kitchen. Under renovation at the time of survey, the dining room was originally fitted with a Greek Revival mantel that had been stored in the smokehouse. After several layers of wallpaper were removed the former position of the mantel was evident in the remaining plaster. The mantel will be returned to its original position.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-331

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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates **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.

Standing on the northwest corner of Main and Branch streets is a two-story, three-bay frame house that is estimated to be one of a group of second quarter of the nineteenth century dwellings that remain in Mardela Springs. The center hall/single-pile plain house extends to the rear with a two-story, two-room plan service wing. Characteristic of antebellum houses is the eight-panel front door, the flush gable ends, and the Greek Revival woodwork that remains inside. Also common to the mid nineteenth century is the exterior, common bond brick chimney that had corbeled shoulders and a corbeled cap. A gable roofed smokehouse stands behind the house and it retains a few pieces of beaded weatherboards on the north wall. On the west side of the house is a gable-roofed well house that is enclosed with weatherboards on the north and west sides and lattice on the other two walls.

Due to the second quarter of the nineteenth century date and the well preserved condition of the house, it deserves listing in *Category A*, which identifies buildings that must be preserved due to their architectural and/or historical significance.

The tripartite name attached to this house recognizes the three families largely associated with its ownership. Identified as part of "Ill Neighborhood," the lot was in a larger parcel conveyed from Joshua Brattan to Anthony Brattan on March 3, 1838.¹ The Greek Revival profiles of the woodwork in the hall--including widely fluted surrounds and plain corner blocks as well as post and lintel mantels--points to a construction date around that time. Joseph Brattan held title to the same land between 1840 and 1852 and may have financed construction of the house.² The next principal owner of this Main Street property was Thomas B. Taylor, who operated the store next door. This house, as well as the dwelling directly west, are designated on the 1877 Barren Creek Springs map under the ownership of T. B. Taylor. At the time of his estate settlement in 1902 this house was advertised with the balance of Taylor's land holdings. A short description of this property was included in the *Salisbury Advertiser*, and it stated

¹ Somerset County Land Record, GH 9/376-77

² Somerset County Land Records, LH 425-36, 13 November 1840.

7.1 DESCRIPTION (Continued)
Taylor-Truitt House, WI-331
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland

The kitchen features an enclosed rear staircase behind a narrow beaded board partition and door with a small closet located below. A short handrail has a chamfered newel post and rectangular balusters. The room is finished with a beaded board wainscoting. Shallow profile four-panel doors open into the adjacent spaces.

The second floor of the main block is defined by a center hall with bedrooms to each side. An enclosed staircase featuring a two-panel door is fixed in the southeast corner of the hall. Four-panel doors open into the adjacent bedrooms. The west bedroom features a plain post and lintel Greek Revival mantel.

The attic is unfinished and had a common rafter roof system with a mortise-and-tenon joint at the peak of each rafter pair. Mature cut nails were used in the framing of the gable ends.

Standing behind the house is a gable roofed smokehouse with an attached shed-roofed wood house. Supported on a brick pier foundation, the exterior is sheathed largely with plain weatherboard siding. A single beaded weatherboard survives on the north side of the smokehouse under the rear cornice. The gable roof is sheathed with wood shingles, and boxed cornice stretch across the front and back. The gable ends are finished with a plain bargeboard. Piercing the south wall is a board door. The interior is blackened from years of smoking meat. Attached to the west gable end is a shed roofed wood house.

The well house stands on the west side of the house. The gable roofed structure has two sides, the east and south, enclosed with diagonal lattice, while the north and west walls are sheathed with plain weatherboards. A six-over-six sash window pierces the north wall.

WI-331
Brattan-Taylor-Truitt House
201 Main Street
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 200, Parcel 235

1211/454 Charles C. Emery

to

3/10/1990 Charles C. Emery
Sharyne B. Emery

being a part of the lands of which Margaret E. Truitt died
intestate, which upon her death descended unto Mattie A.
Truitt, Margaret T. Bennett, Florence E. Emery, and Joseph
L. Truitt, Jr. by reference to Estate No. 5412 in the Orphan's
Court of Wicomico County

JWTS 720/299 Joseph C. Truitt, Jr.
Anna J. Truitt

to

9/14/1970 Mattie A. Truitt
Margaret T. Bennett
Florence T. Emery

First: 98 square perches of land binding upon Main Street
at Branch Street

WI-331
Brattan-Taylor-Truitt House
201 Main Street
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

EAT 88/498

Stephen A. Calloway

to

7/10/1913

Margaret E. Truitt

Items First, Second, and Sixth \$4,000.00

First: All that house and lot in the village of Mardela Springs where I. Watson Wilson resided on the north side of and fronting on Main Street of said town and on Branch Street on the east containing 98 square perches

37/211

Jay Williams, Trustee as herein set forth, and William M. Cooper, and Elizabeth D. Cooper, his wife, and Irving N. Cooper and Nettie Cooper his wife

to

4/9/1903

Stephen A. Calloway

Whereas by a decree of the Circuit Court of Wicomico County filed 12/31/1901 in the case of William R. Elzey against Jay Williams, executor of Thomas B. Taylor, Being No. 1380 in Chancery

Estate Advertisement in Salisbury newspaper, 2/26/1902

“A house and lot in Mardela Springs where W. H. Beach lives fronting on Main Street of said town, and improved by a two story front building 34 x 18 with porches on front, two story back building, 30 x 18, with side porches, four rooms and hallway between, 5 rooms above, all in good condition; outbuildings, smoke house, wood house, barn and stable”

WI-331

Page 2

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Brattan-Taylor-Truitt House

Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland

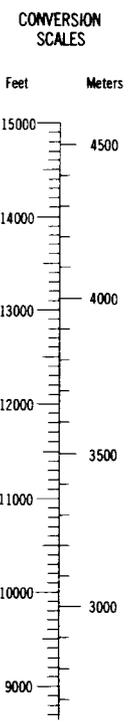
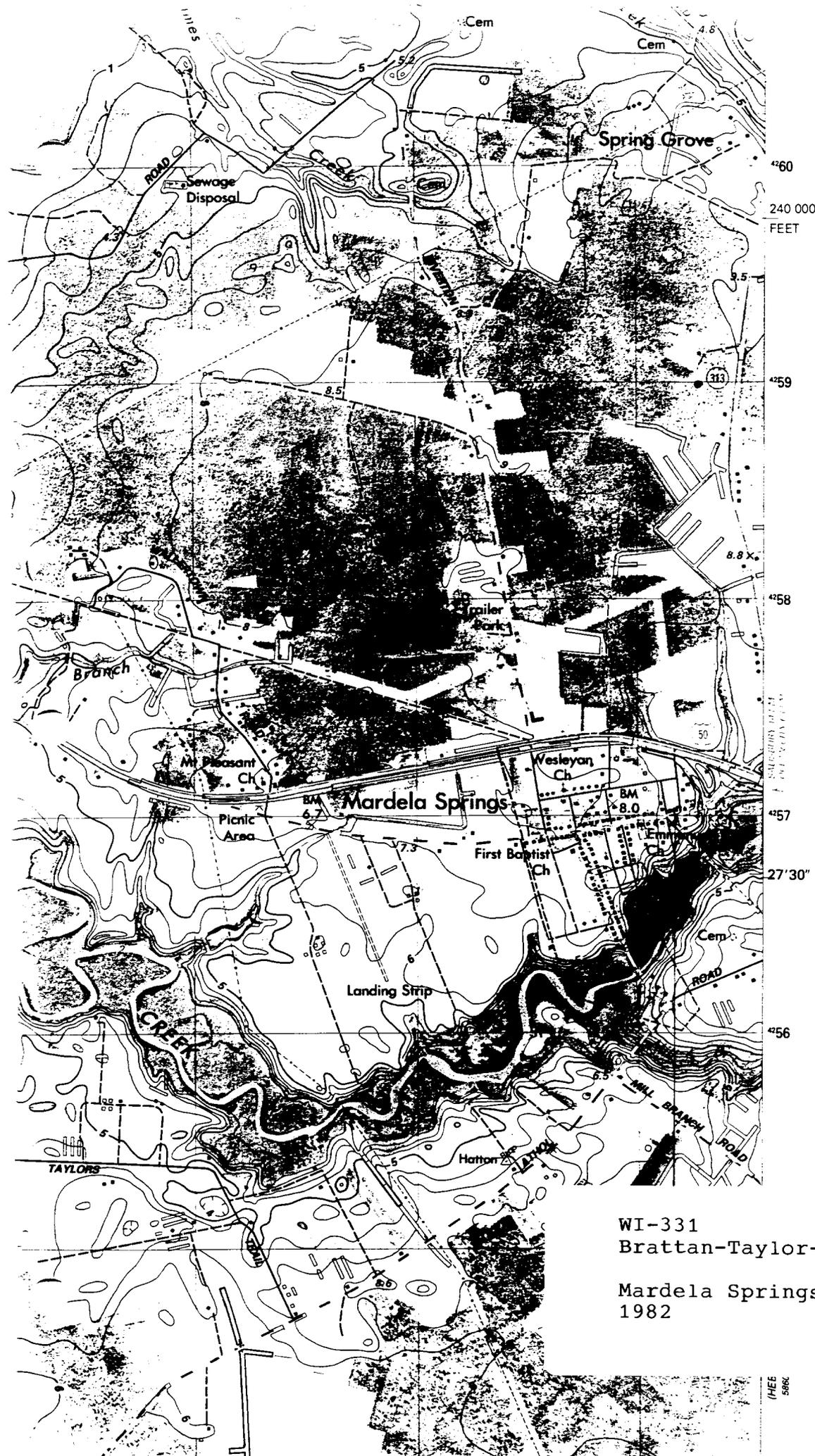
the following as part two dozen parcels being offered for sale:

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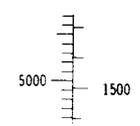
Clearly Thomas B. Taylor rented this house, and it was sold shortly afterwards to Stephen A. Calloway.⁴ Ten years later, in July 1913, the house and lot were sold to Margaret E. Truitt, in whose family the property remains to this day.

³ Wicomico County Chancery, No. 1380, 31 December 1901.

⁴ Wicomico County Land Record, 37/211, 9 April 1903.



WI-331
 Brattan-Taylor-Truitt House
 Mardela Springs, MD Quadrangle
 1982





WI-331

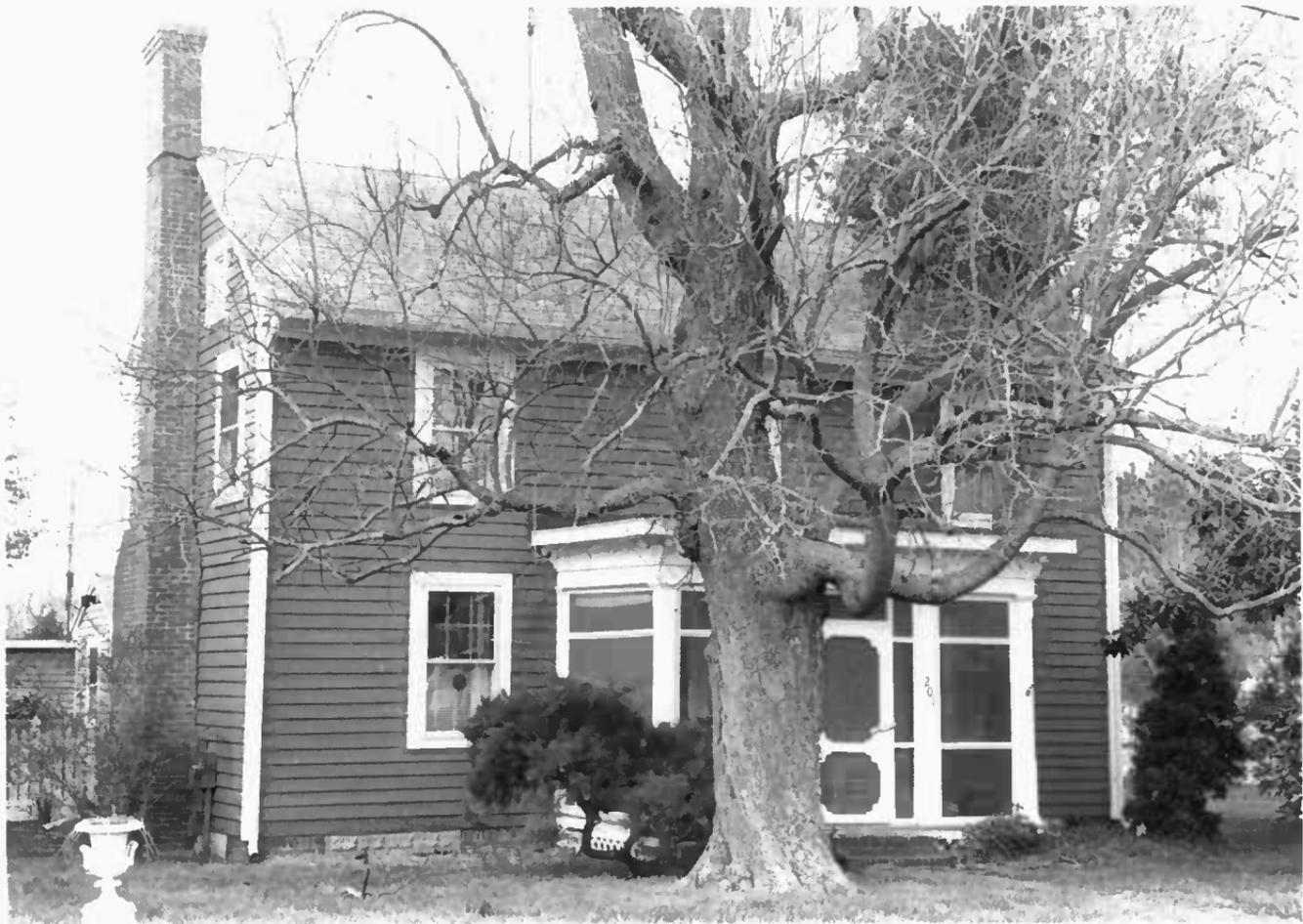
MARDEN SPRINGS, Winnebago County, Wis.

SOUTH ELEVATION

4/97, PAUL TOUANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

RELATIVE / MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 3



WI-331

BRADY - Taylor - Taylor

MARION SPRINGS, WISCONSIN Co., WIS.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

4/97, PAUL TOWNE, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MARION - HISTORICAL TRAIL

2 OF 3



WV 331

BRIAN TAYLOR Trust
MARIETTA SPANOS, Wicomico Co., MD.

4/97, PAUL TOWNSEND, Pictograph

NEGATIVE, MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION OF SMOKELHOUSE/
WOOD HOUSE

3 of 3