

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: 4330 Maple Dam Road Inventory Number: D-741
Address: 4330 Maple Dam Road Historic district: ___ yes no
City: Cambridge Zip Code: 21613 County: Dorchester
USGS Quadrangle(s): Blackwater River
Property Owner: Allen and Brenda Nelson Tax Account ID Number: 004102
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 30 Tax Map Number: 62
Project: Proposed Tower Site: Bucktown, Dorchester County, Maryland Agency: Maryland Dept. of Budget and Management
Agency Prepared By: A.D. Marble & Company
Preparer's Name: Stacey Streett and Stephanie Foell Date Prepared: 6/24/2005
Documentation is presented in: Proposed Tower Site: Bucktown, Dorchester County, Maryland
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ___ Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ___ yes Listed: ___ yes
Site visit by MHT Staff ___ yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description:

The one-and-one-half-story, vernacular residence at 4330 Maple Dam Road (D-741) is located on a parcel of land on the west side of the road. The residence faces east. It was constructed in 1930. The building is three bays wide by three rooms deep. The façade is dominated by a full-width porch topped with an extended roof and a central, cross-gabled dormer which projects from the attic story on the façade of the roof. Turned spindle posts and balustrade support the porch overhang. The main entrance is located at the center of the façade.

Vinyl siding clads the residence. Fenestration consists of single and paired, replacement, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. A pair of windows pierces the dormer. Shutters flank all windows on the building.

The west elevation has been modified by a modern addition. A one-story, shed-roof porch enclosure is adjacent to the north end of the west elevation. A one-story-by-one-bay-wide, shed-roof enclosure is located on the south elevation, around the base of the exterior chimney. A side entrance is located on this projection.

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Eligibility recommended ___	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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MHT Comments:	
<u>Andrew Lanni</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>7/11/05</u> Date
<u>B. Canty</u> Reviewer, National Register Program	<u>7/11/05</u> Date

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A low-pitched gable roof tops the building. However, it is more steeply pitched on the east slope than on the west slope due to the modern alteration on the west elevation. Asphalt shingles cover the roof, which has a wide eave overhang. Gable returns accentuate the cornice on the cross gable. An interior, brick chimney stack rises from the ridge of the roof and an exterior, cinder-block chimney is located on the south elevation; a chimney pot pierces the top of the chimney stack. A television antenna is located adjacent to the exterior chimney.

Ornamental foundation plantings surround the residence. A variety of mature, deciduous trees shade the property parcel. A gravel driveway is parallel to the south elevation of the residence. Mature coniferous and deciduous trees border the driveway. A two-bay, gable-front garage is located at the end of the driveway. Several agricultural outbuildings are located on the property parcel. A gable-front, frame shed is located northwest of the residence, and a metal, pole barn is adjacent to the shed. Agricultural fields surround the property parcel. An equestrian field is located south of the driveway.

Significance

General Project Area Description

Bucktown, Maryland, is located in Dorchester County, approximately ten miles south of Cambridge. Bucktown is primarily an agricultural area that is adjacent to the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The terrain is relatively flat with the large majority of land used for agricultural purposes. The project area directly abuts the Little Blackwater River on the west, and much of the terrain is marshland in this area. The project area has a low level of elevation, approximately 5 feet above sea level at the area where the proposed tower will be built.

Primary crops grown in Bucktown include corn and soybeans. Large industrial poultry houses of recent dates of construction are also present on several farms. Portions of the project area adjacent to the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge have a substantial tree canopy flanking the roadways.

History of Bucktown

Bucktown was formed from the land holdings of Bartholomew Ennalls. A native of York County, Virginia, Ennalls owned thousands of acres of land in southern Maryland in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Virtually no scholarly information exists on the establishment or development of Bucktown. It is largely ignored in scholarly histories of Dorchester County, and few primary or secondary resources relating to the town are available. A detailed review of maps of Dorchester County indicates that the name Bucktown first appears on maps in the late eighteenth century.

It is described as "five miles from a railroad station. A fertile farming country surrounds it. . . . about forty people in ten or twelve dwellings measure the size of the quiet town where the ring of the hammer on the blacksmith's anvil is no more heard. No town growth."

Tobacco was the primary crop cultivated in the area. It was exported to England for sale, and provided a certain degree of wealth to many of the tobacco plantation owners. After the onset of the Revolutionary War, when trade with England was suspended, corn, wheat, and rye plantings replaced tobacco as the most prominent agricultural crops. Livestock were also raised in larger numbers. The crops and animals were used for both home consumption and to supply the army. These crops remained the primary products planted until after the Civil War. After that time, grain crops became less common.

Bucktown is perhaps best known for its association with Harriet Tubman, a slave who was a critical figure in the Underground

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_____	_____
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date

Railroad. Because Tubman was born into slavery, very little precise information about her early life is available. Consequently, much misinformation about Tubman has been disseminated throughout time. Reliable sources indicate that she was born circa 1820, possibly in or near Bucktown.

She spent her earliest years at the Brodess plantation, which was located just outside of Bucktown. Later, she moved with her owner to other locations within a ten-mile radius of Bucktown. Local tradition states that Tubman may have received a severe head wound that afflicted her for the rest of her life at the Bucktown Store in the 1830s. However, the present Bucktown store was not constructed until circa 1870, according to Dorchester County tax records, so the extant store could not have been the site of the encounter. Her family worshipped at Bazel's Chapel. The original building associated with Tubman's family burned and the present chapel was constructed circa 1911.

Tubman gained her freedom in 1849, when she escaped to Philadelphia. She eventually settled in Auburn, New York, where she established a home for elderly former slaves. Three buildings in Auburn with associations to Tubman have been designated National Historic Landmarks by the Secretary of the Interior. These include her own residence, the Harriet Tubman House, and the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged. The church where she worshipped in Auburn, Thompson AME Zion Church is also designated.

Built Resources within Bucktown

Relatively few built resources are present within the Bucktown vicinity. This is due to the prevalence of large swaths of agricultural land in cultivation. The majority of buildings in Bucktown are residences. Almost all of the buildings more than 50 years of age are farmhouses from the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. Most of the residences retain their basic forms, which include I-houses and smaller cottages. Many of the residences have side or rear additions. Most have been re-sided in either aluminum siding or asbestos shingles. Replacement windows and enclosed porches are other common alterations. The conditions of the residences range from excellent to poor, with several near collapse.

Few historic agricultural buildings associated with the farmhouses remain (although several of the properties were inaccessible and only farmhouses were visible from the right-of-way). New agricultural buildings consist primarily of large-scale poultry houses sheathed in metal.

An abundance of houses dating from the late 1950s through the present are found in Bucktown. Most are modest, single-story houses with minimal architectural detail. These newer houses are located on small plots of land in linear patterns, unlike the houses of earlier eras, which were located on large plots of farmland.

Several modest frame chapels are located in the vicinity of Bucktown. They are associated with African-American congregations in the area.

The Bucktown Store is the sole resource associated with commerce in the area. As with other general stores in small towns, it likely served the town with basic supplies. However, Bucktown's proximity to Cambridge allowed for a reasonable commute into the larger city for commercial goods.

The historic and cultural landscape within Bucktown conveys the historic agricultural use of the land. Although historic crops in Dorchester County included tobacco and grains and not the currently omnipresent soybeans, the land has remained cleared and used for agricultural purposes. Other components of the landscape are used as part of the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge and appear to be in their pristine natural condition. Substantial sections of the region, most notably in the area surrounding the wildlife refuge, are covered with thick stands of tall trees.

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Reviewer, National Register Program	Date

Determination of Eligibility

The property was evaluated for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. According to the National Register:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

The residence at 4330 Maple Dam is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not associated with any events that are important in the past. Therefore, it is not eligible under Criterion A. It is not associated with any people important in the nation's past and is not eligible under Criterion B. The property was constructed after Harriet Tubman left Bucktown, and it is not related to her productive life in any way. The residence is a typical example of a vernacular residence in Maryland. The projecting dormer extension on the façade is commonly seen on vernacular examples of early-twentieth century architecture on the Eastern Shore. The residence is not eligible under Criterion C. The property was not evaluated under Criterion D. The building's integrity of design and materials has been severely compromised by the alteration to the west elevation, installation of incompatible replacement windows and doors, and the application of vinyl siding. The integrity of the setting of the property has been compromised by the construction of a massive, metal, pole barn and a modern two-bay garage.

Bibliography

Clinton, Catherine. Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom. New York: Little, Brown, 2004.

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McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, 1985.

Lanier, Gabrielle M., and Bernard L. Herman. Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

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Weeks, Christopher, ed. *Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank: An Architectural History of Dorchester County, Maryland.* Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press and the Maryland Historical Trust, 1984.

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Residence at 4330 Maple Dam Road (D-741)
Proposed Tower
Bucktown, Dorchester County, Maryland
Blackwater River USGS Quadrangle

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1

Miles

Twin Ponds



D-741

4330 Maple Dam Road, Bucktown, MD

Dorchester County, MD

S. Streett

4/2005

MD STRPD

Northeast elevation

1/3



D-741

4330 Maple Dam Rd., Bucktown, MD

Dorchester County, MD

S. Streett

4/2005

MD STPD

View of southeast elevation and outbuildings

2/3

ART-2611 <No. 27 >0660
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D - 741

4330 Maple Dam Rd., Bucktown, MD

Dorchester County, MD

S. Streett

4/2005

MD SHPO

Facade

3/3

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