Bloomfield
M:28-63
Montgomery County, Maryland

Bloomfield, located on Bentley Road in Sandy Spring, Maryland is a sizeable, five-acre remnant of a substantial 19th-century farm complex. The property includes a two-story, frame dwelling built in three distinct phases beginning circa 1806, a 19th-century brick smokehouse and log spring house, and a more recently constructed frame chicken house. Architecturally, Bloomfield survives as a prime example of the architectural evolution of domestic building in rural 19th-century Montgomery County.

Historically, Bloomfield is significant as one of several adjacent properties associated with the locally prominent Bentley family. The Bentleys, who owned and occupied Bloomfield from the early 19th century until 1914, were Quaker farmers, entrepreneurs and active and contributing members of the larger Sandy Spring community. During the Bentley's lengthy period of ownership, the house evolved from a small, room-behind-room structure, to the large, and idiosyncratic, three-part building that it is today. Bloomfield meets Criteria A and C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST Inventory No. M-28-63
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name of Property

historic name Bloomfield
common/other name Bloomingdale

2. Location

street & number 18000 Bentley Road Not for publication _____
city or town Sandy Spring vicinity X state Maryland code MD
county Montgomery code _____ zip code 20860

3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- X private
- ____ public-local
- ____ public-State
- ____ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- X building(s)
- ____ district
- ____ site
- ____ structure
- ____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	____	buildings
____	____	sites
____	____	structures
____	____	objects
3	____	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?
Yes____ Name of Listing_____ No___X_____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling; Smokehouse; Springhouse; Chickenhouse

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling; Chicken House

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
roof Standing Seam Metal
walls Wood: weatherboard
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

==========

8. Statement of Significance

==========

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

__X__ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

__X__ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ B removed from its original location.

____ C a birthplace or a grave.

____ D a cemetery.

____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

____ F a commemorative property.

____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

==========

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance pre-1806-1914

Significant Dates Pre-1806
circa 1838
circa 1870

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

==========
9. Major Bibliographical References
==========

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Annals of Sandy Spring, Vols. I-V, Sandy Spring, MD.: Privately printed.

Barrow, Healan and Kristine Stevens, *Olney: Echoes of the Past* (Westminster, MD.: Family Line Publications), 1993.

Boyd, T.H.S., *History of Montgomery County*, 1879.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, MD*, Silver Spring, MD., 1952, 1962.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. "Old Home in Sandy Spring Looks Back Over 150 Years," *The Record of Montgomery County*, December 7, 1950.

MacMaster, Richard K. And Ray Eldon Hiebert. *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1776-1976* (Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976).

Lehman, Florence. "Bloomfield-A House Important In Annals of Sandy Spring," *The County Courier*, November 1, 1978.

Malloy, Mary Gordon and Marian W. Jacobs, compilers. *Genealogical Abstracts, Montgomery County Sentinel, 1855-1899* (Rockville, MD: The Montgomery County Historical Society), 1986.

Maps and Drawings:

Hopkins, G.M., *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland*, 1879.

Martenet and Bond, *Map of Montgomery County*, 1865.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Bloomfield occupies Parcel 128 on Tax Map JT 32.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Parcel 128 is part of a larger tract of land which has been associated with Bloomfield since its construction before 1806.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kimberly Williams/Michele Naru, Architectural Historians
organization M-NCPPC date June 21, 1999
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301/563-3403
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910

12. Property Owner

name Richard Brand and Robin Ziek
street & number 1800 Bentley Road telephone
city or town Sandy Spring, MD state MD zip code 20860

Bloomfield, located on Bentley Road in Sandy Spring, Maryland is a sizeable, five-acre remnant of a substantial 19th-century farm complex. The property includes a two-story, frame dwelling house built in three distinct phases, a 19th century brick smokehouse and log springhouse, and a more recently constructed concrete block chicken house/workshop and a concrete block barn. Built and occupied by members of the locally prominent Bentley family, Bloomfield also survives as a prime example of the architectural evolution of domestic building in rural 19th-century Montgomery County, and provides insight into the residents of the house--area farmers and Quakers who were active and contributing members to the greater Sandy Spring community.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The house at Bloomfield is a large two-story frame structure, built in three distinct phases, and all covered with three independent gable roofs. As it stands today, the house is seven bays long, clad with weatherboard siding and lit by 6/6 wiindows and two front doors. The house is unified by a circa 1950 double-story Mount Vernon-style piazza and a projecting front gable on center of the three-part house. The various phases of construction, as well as a current architectural description are provided below:

Period I:

The original part of the house, built prior to 1806, is the center, two-story, two-bay section. It is covered with a gable roof and features a brick chimney (originally an end chimney, and now an interior chimney). This original section, which measures 18-½ x 26 feet, offered a room-behind-room floor plan with corner fireplaces. The second floor of the house was probably reached by a winder stair, tucked into either the front or rear room.[1] The roof of this original section has a common rafter roof with hewn members, pegged at the ridge, and notched into a rabbetted false beam plate. The roof was originally clad with wood shingles; historic wood shingles are still intact under the standing seam metal.

Period II:

During the second quarter of the 19th century (circa 1838, and by 1848), a two-bay, side-passage structure was added to the west end of the room-behind-room dwelling, converting it into a center-

[1] It is not clear exactly where these stairs would have been located. However, alterations in the floorboards on the west wall of both the front and rear rooms, suggest stairs may have been in either (or possibly, both) locations.

passage-plan house.[2] This addition doubled the length of the house, making it a 37' x 26' dwelling.[3] The side-passage addition offered a stair hall with a straight-flight stair against the east side wall and two rooms to the west. At this time, the exterior wall of the original house was plastered and doors were cut from the passage into the front and reear rooms of the original section. The roof over this section has common rafters, measuring 3.5" x 3", placed two-feet on-center and pegged at the ridge. The pitch of the roof is extremely low for its period, and the rafters are tenoned directly into a plate (they do not sit on a false plate), indicating that this roof may have been rebuilt at a later date.

Also by 1848, there was a two-story wing attached to the dwelling's east end. This wing, described in the 1848 fire insurance policy, was a two-story frame structure measuring 20 x 18 feet. This east end addition is a predecessor structure to the current east end wing of the house. It was replaced following a fire; a single charred rafter survives and is visible at the west end of this east section, under the roof of the present, east-end (library) wing.

A still extant meat house, located 40 feet northwest of the house, also stood by 1848. In addition, a barn, and a carriage and corn house (no longer standing) were located on the property at that time. Also, just west of the property line and possibly surviving from this period, is a building foundation.

Period III:

During the latter part of the third quarter of the 19th century, circa 1870, the east end wing was replaced by the present, two-story, three-bay (library) addition. The first addition was apparently made following a fire. Although connected on the first floor to the Period I house, this addition did not originally connect to the original building's second floor. Because its second floor rooms were not accessible from the original building, the addition included a stair leading to the upper level. This stair features a turned newel, typical of circa 1870. The roof over this addition has common rafters, measuring 4.5" x 3".

---

[2] The circa 1838 (but, by 1848) date given to this addition is based upon interior detailing. The 1848 end date is based upon archival documentation (fire insurance policy on property) that confirms the building's existence. Also, the turned newel that is transitional Federal/Greek Revival in style, is similar to the main newel found at Riverton M:23-90 (also pre-1848).

[3] These measurements match those given to describe the house in the 1848 fire insurance policy on the property (see Section 8 of this form).

It may also have been during this period that the projecting gable was added to the center section of the three-part house.

Period IV:

In 1885-1886, Bloomfield was improved by new windows, as described in the *Annals of Sandy Spring*: "the ancient, small panes of galss in the windows have been replaced by large lights, to the great benefit of the livers."[4] Some of the original 9/6 (or 6/9) windows were retained and re-used (one in rear dining room and one in second-story east bedroom).

By 1900, the front elevation of Bloomfield had a single-story shed-roof porch extending across the west end and center section of the dwelling, and a gable-entry porch leading into the east end wing. An historic photo of Bloomfield, dated circa 1900, shows the dwelling with this historic porch.

Period V:

During the mid-20th century, circa 1950, the one-story shed-roof porch and gable entry into east end was removed and a double-story piazza, which spanned all three front elevations, was added in its place. This Mount Vernon-inspired porch was built to unify all the three disparate parts. Also, circa 1950, a one-story dining-room alcove was added to the rear of the dwelling. Around 1960, other changes were made, including, most notably the addition of the concrete block chicken house and barn.

Exterior Description (present-day):

The south elevation of the house is seven bays long, and though unified by the Period V porch, is clearly divided into three distinct parts. The center portion (Period I) of the house has two 6/6 windows on the first story and two, smaller 6/6 windows on the second story.[5] Although this elevation would most likely have held a door leading into the original room-behind-room dwelling, no evidence for such a door is visible on either the exterior or interior wall surfaces.

The original end walls of this center portion are identified by vertical end boards in the horizontal weatherboarding on the exterior. A brick chimney, originally an end chimney, is now

[4] *Annals of Sandy Spring*, Vol. II, p. 73.

[5] The windows on this section are replacements, but the openings retain their original rounded wood window sills.

sandwiched between the center section of the house and its east end wing. A central gable (Period III) rises on center of the front slope of the roofline of this central block.

The west end wing of this elevation, corresponding with the Phase II period of construction, is also divided into two bays. Here, there is a side-passage door and a 6/6 window on the first story and two 6/6 windows on the second story. The side entry features a five-light transom and narrow sidelights typical of simple late Federal/Greek Revival-style trim.

The east end wing of the house (Period III) consists of three bays, including a side-passage entry with a transom and sidelights, and two, 6/6 windows. The door surround in this addition is similar to, and probably based upon that found in the east end. The windows, in contrast, are longer and offer larger panes of glass.

Spanning the entire facade is the Period V double-story, Mount Vernon-inspired front porch. Set upon a concrete foundation, the porch has four large square columns which support a flat roof.

The west end elevation (Period II) is clad with beaded weatherboard and is set upon a raised stone foundation. The first story has a single 6/6 window in the front bay of the elevation, and a pair of 6-light casements in the rear bay. The second story has two, 6/6 windows. A door at ground level leads into the cellar, located under the Period 1 and 2 sections of the house.

The east end elevation (Period III) is clad with wood weatherboards, with a rebuilt brick chimney located on center of the wall surface. The only openings on this end wall are two windows, located to either side of the chimney stack in the gable end at attic level.

The north (rear) elevation of the house is a seven-bay long wall surface clad with weatherboard walls and lit by windows of varying size and arrangement. A single-story, shed-roof, brick addition projects off of the first-story of the center block of the house. This addition, which provided for an alcove in the dining room, probably dates to the circa 1950 period of alterations. Of particular note along this wall are the two 9/6 sash located in the two, second-story, east end bays of the house. These windows were Period I windows which were re-used in the Period III phase of construction.

Interior:

The interior of the house clearly reflects its multi-phased

evolution. Originally constructed as a small, room-behind-room plan house with a full second story (Period 1), the house was enlarged to become a center-passage-plan house (Period II), and later, further added onto to include a connected, side-passage-plan dwelling (Period III).

The main entrance is located in the second bay from the east. This door leads directly into the Period II stair hall and passage. The passage features a straight-flight, open stringer stair with beaded wainscoting, a turned newel, square balusters and an almost fully rounded handrail. This stair, including its newel and handrail, recalls the stair at Riverton (23-90) which was constructed prior to 1848.

Laid with random-width wood floors, the passage opens on the left into a combined kitchen/dining room at the front of the hall and, at the rear of the hall behind the stair, into the kitchen. To the right, the passage opens into the front parlor and rear dining room of the Period 1 house.

The Period I front parlor and rear dining room open onto each other through a double-wide door opening. The rooms measure 12 feet deep and feature corner fireplaces. The mantel in the front room appears to be a replacement. It has side pilasters supporting a plain, wide frieze board and rounded mantel shelf. That in the dining room is more formal and federal in style, with a molded fireplace surround above which is a frieze with three fluted panels (on center and at ends). Above the frieze are dentils, and above the dentils, a molded and boldly projecting mantel shelf.

The north wall of the dining room features original Period 1 6/9 windows with molded casings and a Period V (?) arched alcove with built-in cabinets. Although this is a Period 4 addition, the arched opening appears to be a Period I piece, probably taken from between the front and rear rooms of the Period I house and reused in its current place. The built-in cabinets have glazed upper shelves and enclosed lower shelves.

The Period II kitchen and dining room have been fused into one large space by the removal of a wall between them and offer few original, intact features.

The Period III addition is reached either through the Period I front parlor or through an exterior door. Originally offering a side hall plan, this is now one large open space with 1960s mahogony wall paneling. A Period III straight-flight stair with a turned newel, and tapered round balusters rises against the west wall.

The second floor of the house has two rooms in the center section, a stair hall and one room on the west end of the house, and a stair hall and two rooms in the east end of the house. Two corner fireplaces are located in the Period I rooms. From the second floor rooms, a winder stair leads into the attic. These stairs originally continued to the attic with a finished handrail, but the handrail has been removed. The attic itself was originally two small rooms; it has been reconfigured with wide-board plank wall.

The attic reveals hand-split lathe in the ceiling of the center section, fastened with square-headed cut nails. The attic also provides access to areas where parts of the three separate roofs are exposed and visible.

Outbuildings:

Smokehouse: A brick smokehouse is located just northwest of the house. Constructed by 1848[6], this smokehouse is set upon a stone foundation and is covered with a gable roof, originally clad with wood shingles, now covered with tar paper. Three of its walls are brick, laid in four-course bond. The west side wall, originally brick, collapsed or was dismantled and was repaired with wood circa 1960. This rebuilt wall is clad with weatherboard siding, and lit by a group of three windows.

Springhouse: Located west of the house is a log springhouse. It is constructed of hewn logs with V-notching and is covered with a gable roof. The roof is frame with weatherboard end walls and is covered with asbestos (originally wood) shingles. The spring house also appears to date from the mid-19th century, though no description for it is included on the 1848 fire insurance policy on Bloomfield.

[6] The 1848 fire insurance policy on Bloomfield includes a description of the smokehouse (meathouse).

The five-acre tract of land known as Bloomfield located in Sandy Spring, Maryland is part of an important early 19th-century farm associated with the Bentley family--prominent residents of Sandy Spring and active members of the Quaker community. The property was acquired by Caleb Bentley through his wife's family in the early 19th-century and remained in Bentley family hands well into this century. The Bentley family, starting with Caleb Bentley, were all Quakers and active and contributing members of the larger Sandy Spring community. During the lengthy Bentley family ownership of the property, the house evolved from a small, room-behind-room house, to the large, and idiosyncratic, three-part structure that it is today. Bloomfield meets Criteria A and C of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

Historic Context:

The property on which Bloomfield was built was originally part of an extensive Montgomery County land grant called "Charles and Benjamin" granted to Charles Beall in 1718 and containing 2,280 acres of land. By the late 18th century, a 100-acre tract of the large land grant was owned by local Quaker Richard Thomas ("Marse Dicky") of Cherry Grove.[7] It is believed that Richard Thomas built the original part of Bloomfield, then known as Bloomingdale for an overseer of his large property. This would have been accomplished prior to his death in 1806.

Following his death in 1909, Richard Thomas, Sr.'s estate was divided between his heirs, including Henrietta (Thomas) Bentley. In addition to his wife's 101-acre inheritance, Caleb Bentley bought out the interest of his wife's brother and sister. Bentley also acquired some other adjacent land, originally owned by Richard Thomas, and originally intended as the site of a Friends Boarding school--an unfulfilled project. These transactions brought Caleb Bentley's total land holdings in the vicinity to 234-3/4 acres.

Caleb Bentley, a Quaker born in Pennsylvania, moved to Montgomery County in 1795, becoming one of the county's most influential and prominent residents. Originally a clock maker, Bentley eventually became a leading area farmer, and entrepreneur. Upon coming to Montgomery County, Bentley settled first in Brookeville, where he

[7] When Richard Thomas died in 1806, his will manumitted all of his slaves, which numbered 112. This act is considered the first wholesale freeing of slaves in Maryland. (Nesbitt and Miller, 80.)

lived in what is today known as the "Madison House,[8]" and where he became proprietor of the town's first store, and postmaster of that village. Bentley was part of the trio of men (Thomas Moore and Isaac Briggs were the other two) who, in 1809, established the now submerged factory town of Triadelphia, located on the Patuxent River.

In 1807, Bentley's wife, Sarah Brooke, died without issue. He then married Henrietta Thomas. The couple lived in Brookeville until at least 1813 when they offered refuge to President James Madison and First Lady Dolley Madison when the British burned Washington. It is not clear where the couple lived in the subsequent few years. Some accounts indicate that the Bentley's remained in Brookeville until 1819 when they moved to Georgetown, while the *Annals of Sandy Spring* state that Richard T. Bentley [Caleb and Henrietta Bentley's son] was born at Bloomfield in 1819 - ▒an event his father celebrated by planting the locust trees that have since grown so large in front of the old homestead.▒[9]

In 1819, the Bentleys did move to Georgetown, where they lived until 1838 and raised their only son, Richard T. Bentley, while renting out Bloomingdale. During this period, Bloomingdale was occupied by various people, including Caleb and Ann Moore Stabler, who lived there in the 1830s. Upon returning from Georgetown in 1838, Caleb Bentley and his wife moved back to Sandy Spring and into Bloomingdale. It was most likely at this point that Caleb Bentley enlarged the original room-behind-room house by the addition of a two-story, side-passage wing. This wing was clearly in place by 1848, as indicated by the fire insurance policy that was issued on Bloomfield that same year--the year the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County was established.[10] The fire insurance policy insures the dwelling, valued at $1,200 for $900. The policy describes it as, ▒a two-story wooden dwelling 37 by 26 feet. Piazza 37 feet long. At east end of the dwelling a wing attached 2 stories high 20 by 18 feet. A kitchen at the west end 27 by 9 feet. Shed roof. The dwelling contains 2 parlours and a dining room, and 6 chambers. Together with 2 chambers adjoining the kitchen. Lathed and plastered throughout.▒ This description perfectly describes the Period I and II sections of Bloomfield (see Section 7 of this form).

---

[8] The Madison House refers to the house in Brookeville which served as a place of refuge to President James Madison and his staff in 1813 when British troops burned the Capitol, White House and Navy Yard.

[9] *Annals of Sandy Spring*, II, p. 174.

[10] Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County, Policy #58, 1848.

In 1850, Caleb Bentley sold off a fifty-acre tract of the land to Benjamin Rush Roberts. Roberts, a druggist from Baltimore, was connected to the Bentley family through marriage.[11] On this forty acres, Roberts built a house which he called Sherwood, and now known as Cloverly (M:23-150).[12]

Caleb Bentley died in 1851. Following his death, the title for the property went to his son, Richard T. Bentley, who, tradition holds, changed the name from Bloomingdale to Bloomfield.[13] Richard T. Bentley was a well-known Sandy Spring farmer, postmaster of Sandy Spring, president of the Sandy Spring Savings Bank, and founding member and president from 1883-1889 of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County. He is also noted for his active role in the formation the Farmers' Club of Sandy Spring in 1844--the oldest agricultural society still active in Montgomery County. Richard T. Bentley lived on the property with his wife Edith Dawson Needles Bentley, whom he married in 1842. The couple were married in the Lombard Street Friends Meeting House of Baltimore and remained together for fifty years. They lived at Bloomfield their entire lives together, raising a family of eight children, and, according to local tradition, offered their house as a stop along the "Underground Railroad" during the years before the Civil War.[14] Richard Bentley died in 1889 at 71 and Edith Bentley died in 1894 at the age of 77.[15]

In 1866, Richard T. Bentley was assessed for 200 acres of land described as "Part of Bloomfield" and valued at $5,000.00. He was also assessed for two other tracts, Hibernia of 150 acres and

---

[11] Benjamin Rush Roberts was the brother-in-law of Richard T. Bentley, Caleb Bentley's son. Richard Bentley was married to Edith Dawson Needles, whose sister was married to Roberts.

[12] In 1888, after the death of Rush's widow, Richard T. Bentley re-acquired the forty-acre tract of land which his father had sold to Benjamin Rush Roberts.

[13] The name "Bloomfield" was already in use at the time the 1848 fire insurance policy was issued on the property, identified on the form as "Bloomfield."

[14] Roger B. Farquhar, "Old Home in Sandy Spring Looks Back Over 150 Years," *The Record of Montgomery County*, 1950.

[15] Edith D. Bentley's obituary reads; "Edith D. Bentley of Sandy Spring, widow of Richard T. Bentley, died Thursday of last week [Feb 16, 1894], at the home of her brother, Edward M. Needles, Philadelphia, in her 77th year. She was married more than 50 years ago and until recently lived at Sandy Spring..." *The Sentinel*, February 16, 1894.

Covenant of Peace of 56 acres, valued at $750 and $280, respectively, as well as for livestock, household furniture, and other personal property holdings. An 1870 increase to Richard Bentley's fire insurance policy on Bloomfield places the estimated cash value of the house alone (exclusive of land) at $5,000.00. The $5,000 value placed on the dwelling as part of this 1870 fire insurance increase compared with the $1,200 value placed on the dwelling as part of the original 1848 policy on Bloomfield, indicates that Richard T. Bentley significantly enlarged the house between 1848 and 1870. In 1885, the *Annals of Sandy Spring* report that "the ancient, small panes of glass in the windows [at Bloomfield] have been replaced by large lights, to the great benefit of the livers."[16]

In addition to Bloomfield, Richard T. Bentley owned several lots, improved with commercial/residential buildings, in Sandy Spring. These buildings, identified on the 1879 G.M. Hopkins, Atlas of Montgomery County, were also insured by Bentley with the Mutual Fire Insurance Company.[17]

In 1882, Richard Bentley's son, John C. Bentley married Cornelia Hallowell, a direct descendent of local educator and agricultural pioneer, Benjamin Hallowell. On his family's Bloomfield property, John C. Bentley built the adjacent house he named Oakleigh.[18] He later moved across the road to Cloverly. Like his father and grandfather before him, John Bentley was an active member of the Sandy Spring community. He succeeded his father as director of the Savings Institution of Sandy Spring, belonged to the Montgomery County Agricultural Society, was a member of the Montgomery Farmers' Club, and was elected to the House of Delegates in 1912.

Following Richard T. Bentley's death in 1889, John C. Bentley lived first at Oakleigh, and later at Cloverly. Edward Needles Bentley, another son of Richard T. Bentley, lived at Bloomfield. Edward Bentley married Harriet E. Chandler in 1880, and following his mother's death in 1894, purchased the Bloomfield property. In January 1896, Edward Bentley increased the fire insurance policy on Bloomfield by $300 "in consequence of general repairs made to same, and as small addition added in rear, 10 x 12 feet, 2 stories,

---

[16] *Annals of Sandy Spring*, Vol. II, 73.

[17] See Mutual Fire Insurance Company Policy #12720 (1884).

[18] In June 1882, Richard T. Bentley took out a fire insurance policy on Cloverly (not named on policy) valued at $2,700 and described as a *new* 2-1/2-story frame dwelling, 40 feet x 17 feet. (Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County, Policy 5980, June, 1882.)

covered with tin."[19] It is not clear what this refers to.

In 1909, Edward Bentley died, leaving the property to his wife, Harriet (Hallie) Bentley. In 1913, Hallie Bentley moved to Homewood with the Chandlee sisters, and rented Bloomfield out to Miriam Crosby and her brother.[20]

In 1914, Harriet Bentley sold the Bloomfield estate to James Hilles Robison (1878-1943), which he farmed for a few years before moving to the West. Before leaving Sandy Spring for the West, Robison had a successful plumbing business and was apparently known throughout Montgomery County. Following his death, the *Sandy Spring Annals*, V, describes Robison as `a man's man, a straight shooter...A hunter-lover of dogs and guns, fearless, tireless, an incessant reader and a perfect host."[21]

In 1924, Bloomfield, with about 30 acres was sold to Spencer J.H. Brown. On his property, at the corner of Bentley Road and Route 108, Brown built a service station. Brown was one of the founders of the Silver Spring Volunteer Fire Company, and president of the State Firemen's Association.[22] In 1945, Brown sold the house and some of the acreage to David A. Shober, while retaining a part of the property on which his gas station stood. During Shober's five-year ownership, he built the rear, dining-room addition, and added the double-story front porch.

In 1950, Shober sold the property to Perry Patterson, a Washington attorney. Patterson added the library paneling, repaired ceilings, added floor in the front, middle, second-floor bedroom, and built the chicken house and barn.

The property is currently owned by Richard Brand and Robin Ziek. Brand and Ziek, both architectural historians, are currently living in and restoring the historic house.

---

[19] Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County, Policy #26362, March 1895.

[20] *The Annals of Sandy Spring*, Vol. IV, 167.

[21] *The Annals of Sandy Spring, Vol.* V, 1929-1947, p. 236.

[22] Roger B. Farquhar, "Old Home in Sandy Spring Looks Back Over 150 Years," *The Record of Montgomery County*, December 7, 1950.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-28-63
Bloomfield
name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

==========

Chain of Title:

pre-1806	"Bloomingdale" built by Richard Thomas for an overseer of the 100-acre property.
1795	Caleb Bentley moves to Brookeville from Pennsylvania and settles in the Madison House.
March 8, 1804	Richard Thomas Sr. sells to the Trustees of the Sandy Spring Boarding School Co.; Thomas Moore, Caleb Bentley and William Stabler. $2,250. 125.75 acres. "Part of Addition to Charley Forest near the Sandy Spring Meeting House." (Deed Book L Folio 297)
1806	Richard Thomas dies.
May 1, 1809	John Thomas III of Georgetown to Samuel Thomas III, William Canby and wife Sarah (Thomas), Caleb Bentley and wife Henrietta (Thomas) and Elizabeth Thomas. "Another part of Addition to Charley's Forest" $700. **This was John Thomas III's 1/6 interest in 318 acres of Addition to Charley's Forest he inherited with his brothers and sisters from his father Samuel.** 109 acres. (Deed Book 0 Folio 273)
November 15, 1809	Samuel Thomas III, William Canby and wife Sarah (Thomas) to Caleb Bentley and wife Henrietta (Thomas). $984. 109 acres. (Deed Book O Folio 379)
September 26, 1809	Thomas Moore and Caleb Bentley, surviving Trustees of the Sandy Spring Boarding School to Joseph E. Bentley. $2,250. 125.75 acres. (Deed Book O Folio 376)

September 26, 1809	Joseph E. Bentley to Caleb Bentley. $2,250. 125.75 acres. (Deed Book o Folio 378)
1818	Caleb Bentley and second wife, Henrietta Thomas give birth to their son, Richard.
1842	Richard married Edith Dawson Needles.
1851	Caleb Bentley died. The title for the Bloomfield property is passed to Richard.
November 1, 1889	Richard Bentley died. (Sentinel, p 29)
February 16, 1894	Edith D. Bentley died. (Sentinel, p 29)
March 27, 1894	John C. Bentley to Edward N. Bentley (Deed Book 42 Folio 285)
Aprtil 16, 1894	Edward N. Bentley to John C. Bentley. 38 acres. (Deed Book 42 Folio 285)
September 6, 1896	Edward N. Bentley to John C. Bentley 6 acres.(Deed Book 55 Folio 161)
	Edward Bentley died. Estate was left to Harriet J.Bentley, wife.
March 31, 1914	Harriet J. Bentley, widow sold estate to J. Hillis Robison.(Deed Book 240 Folio 468)
November 5, 1924	Frank J. Downey, Trustee of J. Hillis Robison Insolvent conveyed the property to Spencer J.H. Brown. (Deed Book 362 Folio 436)
1945	***Spencer J.H. Brown to David A. Shober.***

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-28-63
Bloomfield
name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

October 5, 1950	David A. Shober conveyed the property to to Perry S.Patterson, retaining a part of the property for his Gas Station along MD108. (Deed Book 1444 Folio 550)
1973	Perry S. Patterson to Dr. and Mrs. Stanley R. Samms.
1995	Dr. and Mrs. Stanley R. Samms to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ziek.

BLOOMFIELD (M: 28-63)

Casual User Application

M-NCPPC

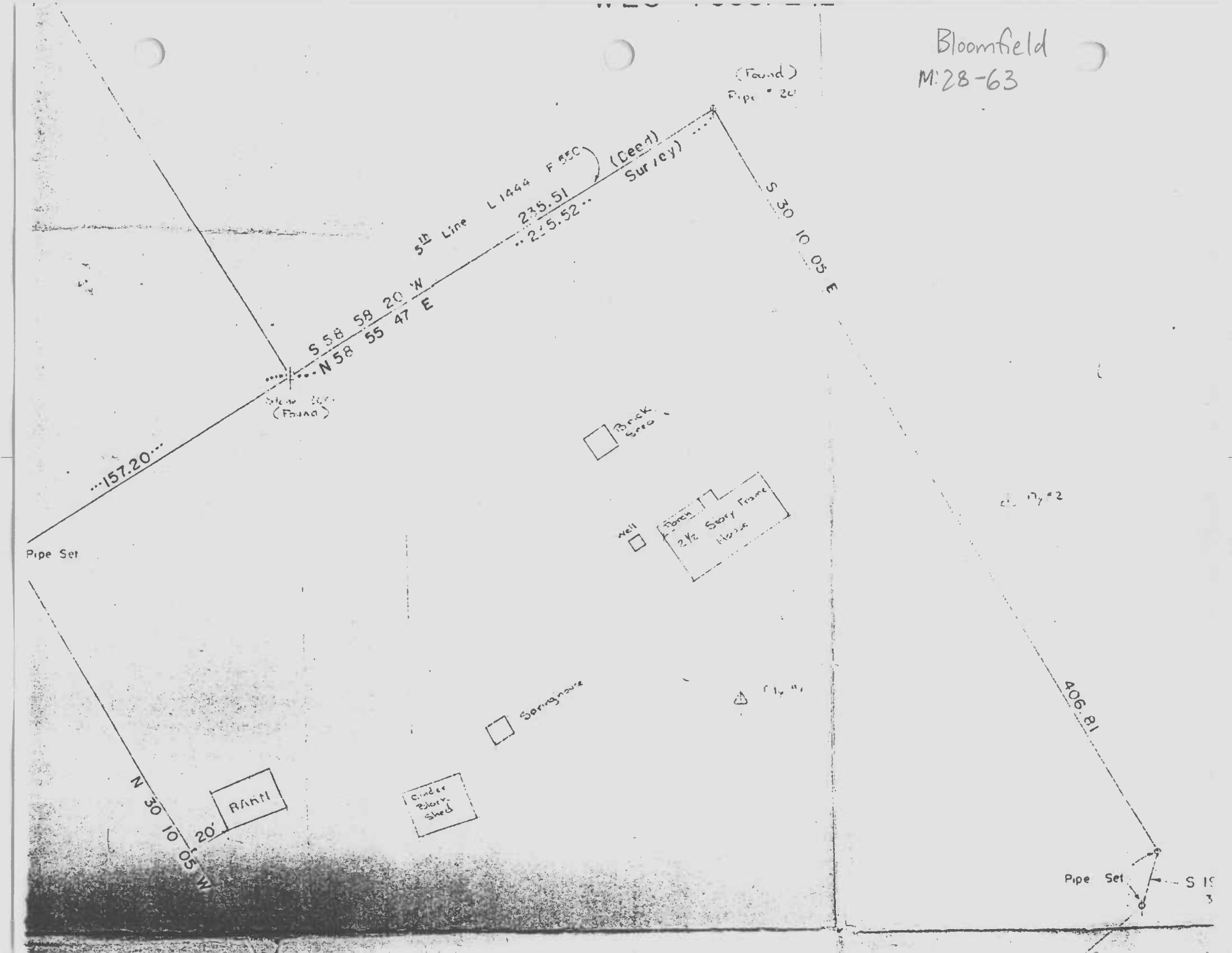
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

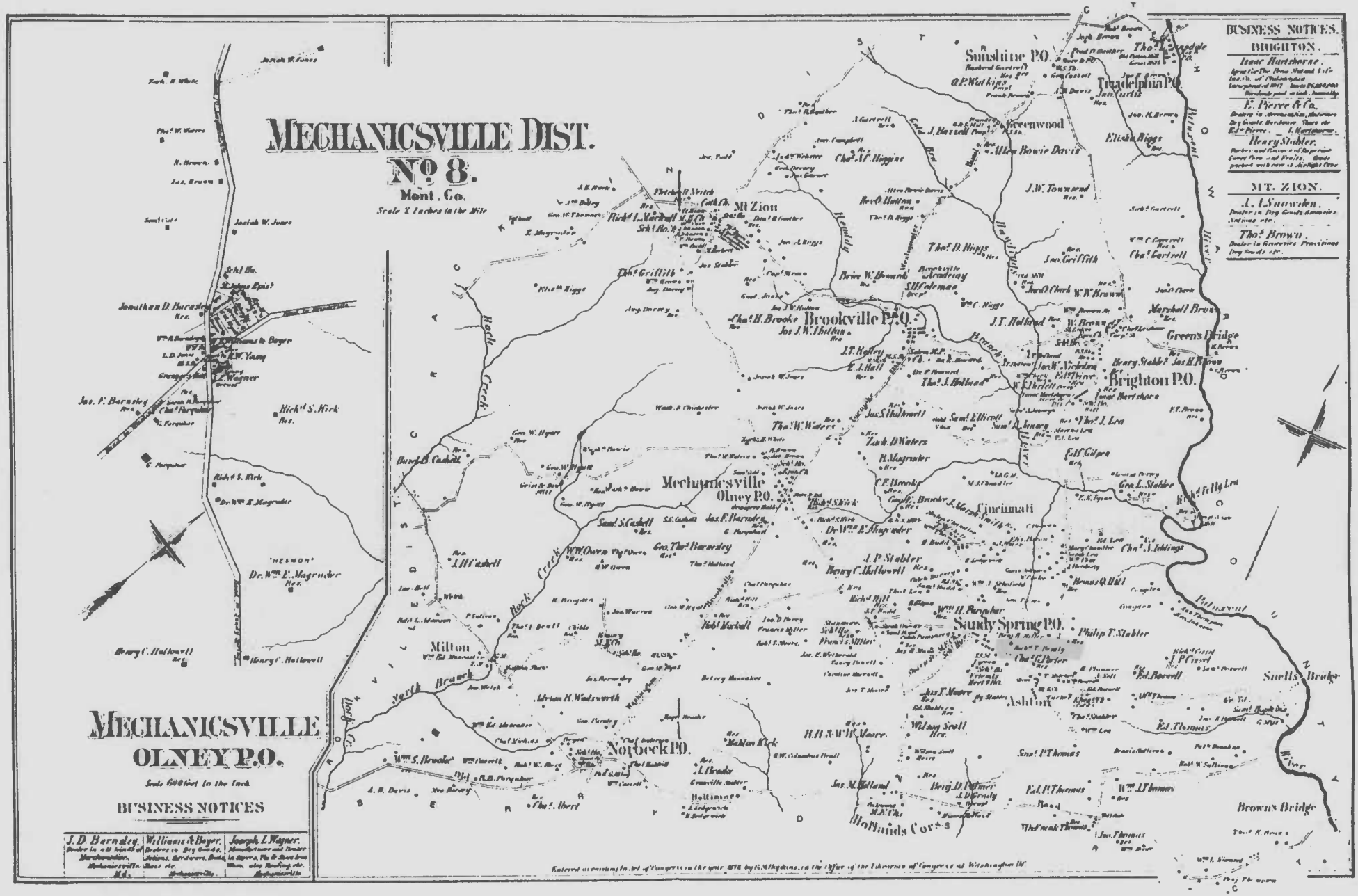
N

Scale 1' = 300'

Research & Technology Center

Bloomfield
M:28-63



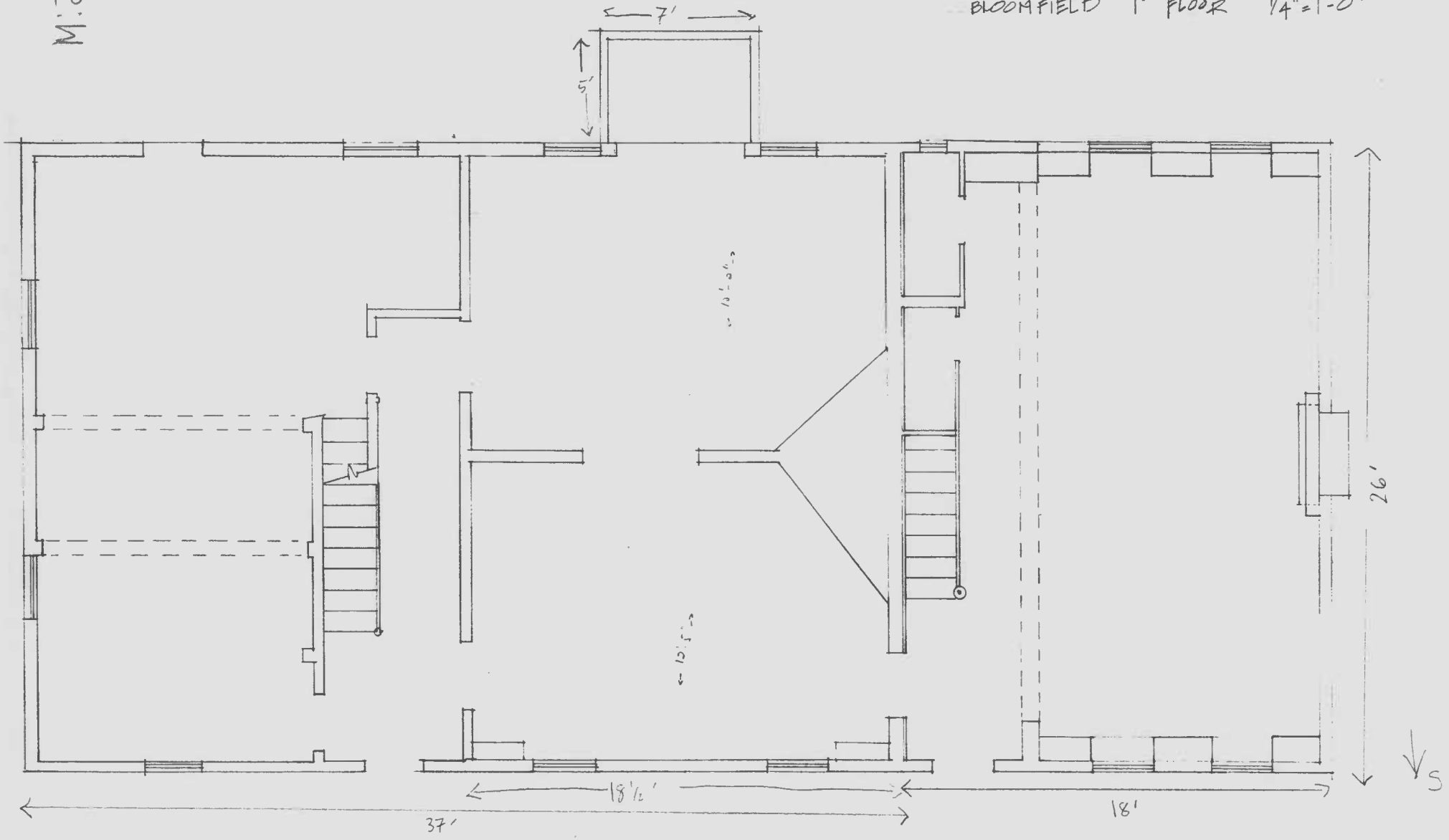


Hopkins, G.M., comp. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland, 1879. Reprint. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

M:28-63

M:28-63

BLOOMFIELD 1ST FLOOR 1/4"=1'-0"



Name: SANDY SPRING
Date: 7/13/99
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 08' 53.3" N 077° 01' 33.7" W
Caption: BLOOMFIELD M: 28-63
18000 Bentley Rd.

M:28-63

Copyright (C) 1997, Maptech, Inc.

28-63
BLOOMFIELD
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
MICHELE NARU
5-24-99
MARYLAND SHPO
SOUTH ELEVATION
1 OF 7

24 5'99

28-03
BLOOMFIELD
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
MICHELE NARU
5-24-99
MARYLAND SHPO
NORTH ELEVATION
2 OF 7

28-03
BLOOMFIELD
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
MICHELE NARU
5-24-09
MARYLAND SHPO
SOUTHEAST OBLIQUE
3 OF 7

24 5.99

28-63
BLOOMFIELD
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
MICHELE NARU
5-24-99
MARYLAND SHPO
NEWEL; EAST WING
4 OF 7

24 5'89

28-63
BLOOMFIELD
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
MICHELE NARU
5-24-99
MARYLAND SHPO
NEWEL; WEST WING
5 of 7

66.5.42

28-03
BLOOMFIELD
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
MICHELE NARU
5-24-99
MARYLAND SHPO
SMOKEHOUSE; LOCATED NW OF MAIN HOUSE.
6 OF 7

66.5 FT

28-03
BLOOMFIELD
MONTGOMERY CO., MD
MICHELE NARU
5-24-99
MARYLAND SHPO
SPRINGHOUSE; LOCATED WEST OF MAIN HOUSE
7 OF 7