

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hobson's Choice

and/or common Hobson's Choice

2. Location

street & number 2921 Florence Road, n/a not for publication

city, town Woodbine vic. n/a vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland code 24 county Howard code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Edwin W. Gramkow (Mary Louise)

street & number 2921 Florence Road

city, town Woodbine n/a vicinity of state Maryland 21797

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Ellicott City state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>n/a</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing	Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: <u>0</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites	
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> structures	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects	Original and historic functions and uses: residential
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Total	

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Hobson's Choice is second quarter nineteenth century five bay, two and a half story brick rectangular house with a low pitched dormerless gable roof and a low two story frame back wing which was built in recent years. The principal windows have double-hung wooden sashes with narrow frames and six-over-six lights, brick flat arches, and louvered shutters. The brick is laid in Flemish bond on the front and common bond on the sides. A corbeled brick cornice runs along the front and back walls. The interior of the brick section has a center hall with flanking rooms on each floor. The Federal wood work is symmetrical with corner blocks. The balustrade has a simple round newel, square balusters, and cut decoration on the step-ends. The front door has eight panels. Also on the property are a wooden out building and the stone foundation walls of a barn.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

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date entered

Hobson's Choice
Continuation sheet Howard County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Hobson's Choice is a second quarter nineteenth century brick house that stands in a bucolic setting surrounded by farm fields in northwestern Howard County. The terrain slopes gently downward from in back of the house. The property is reached by a long drive from Florence Road. The house is not visible from the public way. Landscaping is simple consisting primarily of a circular drive in front of the house and a wide expanse of lawn with trees scattered about surrounded by fields.

The house is two and a half stories high with a wood shingled gable roof. It is built of brick and rectangular in shape with a recent vintage frame two story wing projecting from the back. Brick internal end chimneys project from the gable ends. The front wall bricks are laid in Flemish bond and the gable-end and back walls in common bond. The building stands on a stone foundation.

The facade is symmetrical with five bays and a central doorway. The gable end walls have square four-light attic windows. The east wall is blank on the first and second floors. The west wall has one window on each floor. The new frame addition which is lower in height than the brick section projects from the westerly section of the back. The principal windows of the brick section are double-hung with six-over-six wooden sashes, brick flat arches, and louvered shutters. The main entrance has an eight panel door with a rectangular transom.

The interior plan consists of a center hall with one room on either side on both floors and fireplaces in the end wall of each room. The stair case rises along the west wall. The woodwork is Greek Revival in influence. The windows and doors are framed by symmetrical trim with flat Greek Revival ogee molding and corner blocks. The six panel doors also have flat Greek Revival ogee trim. The balustrade has a plain round newel, rectangular balusters, a round hand rail, and cut decoration on the step ends. The mantels, with trim similar to the door and window trim, also display flat Greek ogees.

To the northwest of the house is a one story frame outbuilding. The stone foundations of a barn are located to the northwest. These buildings do not contribute to the architectural significance of the house.

8. Significance

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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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1830 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: C
Applicable Exceptions: none
Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Hobson's Choice is significant for its architecture, embodying the distinctive characteristics of second quarter nineteenth century domestic architecture in rural central Maryland. Among these distinctive characteristics which survive intact at Hobson's Choice are a simple rectangular configuration with a center hall plan consisting of one room on both sides, a symmetrical facade, and transitional Federal/Greek Revival influenced decorative detailing. The interior woodwork with the flat Greek ogee trim is particularly typical. Although several houses of this type still stand, few have the high degree of integrity of design, materials, setting and workmanship, particularly in Howard County, as found at Hobson's Choice.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet No. 2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 23

Quadrangle name Woodbine, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8
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3	1	9	5	6	0
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4	3	5	2	9	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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3	1	9	7	8	0
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4	3	5	2	6	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	8
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3	1	9	6	0	0
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4	3	5	2	4	7	0
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D

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3	1	9	4	6	0
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4	3	5	2	6	2	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 2 for Boundary Justification.

The Boundaries are delineated on the attached map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ronald L. Andrews, National Register Administrator

organization Maryland Historical Trust date 1984

street & number 21 State Circle telephone (301) 269-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]* 8-8-84

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered in the National Register	date <u>9-13-84</u>
<u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest: Chief of Registration	date

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Continuation sheet Hobson's Choice Item number 8, 9, and 10 Page 2
Howard County, Maryland

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Hobson's Choice, a name that is derived from land patents, was built about 1830 for James A. Meredith who farmed the land. Meredith acquired title to the property after the death of his father in 1828 and retained possession of it until his death in 1889. By tradition, the house is said to have been built for his father Thomas soon after purchasing the land in 1808. The basic construction and stylistic features, however, are characteristic of the 1830 period.

The Meredith family retained ownership of the land, totally about 260 acres, until 1892 when it was purchased by George Hardy. Ownership changed several times until purchase by the present owners in 1970.

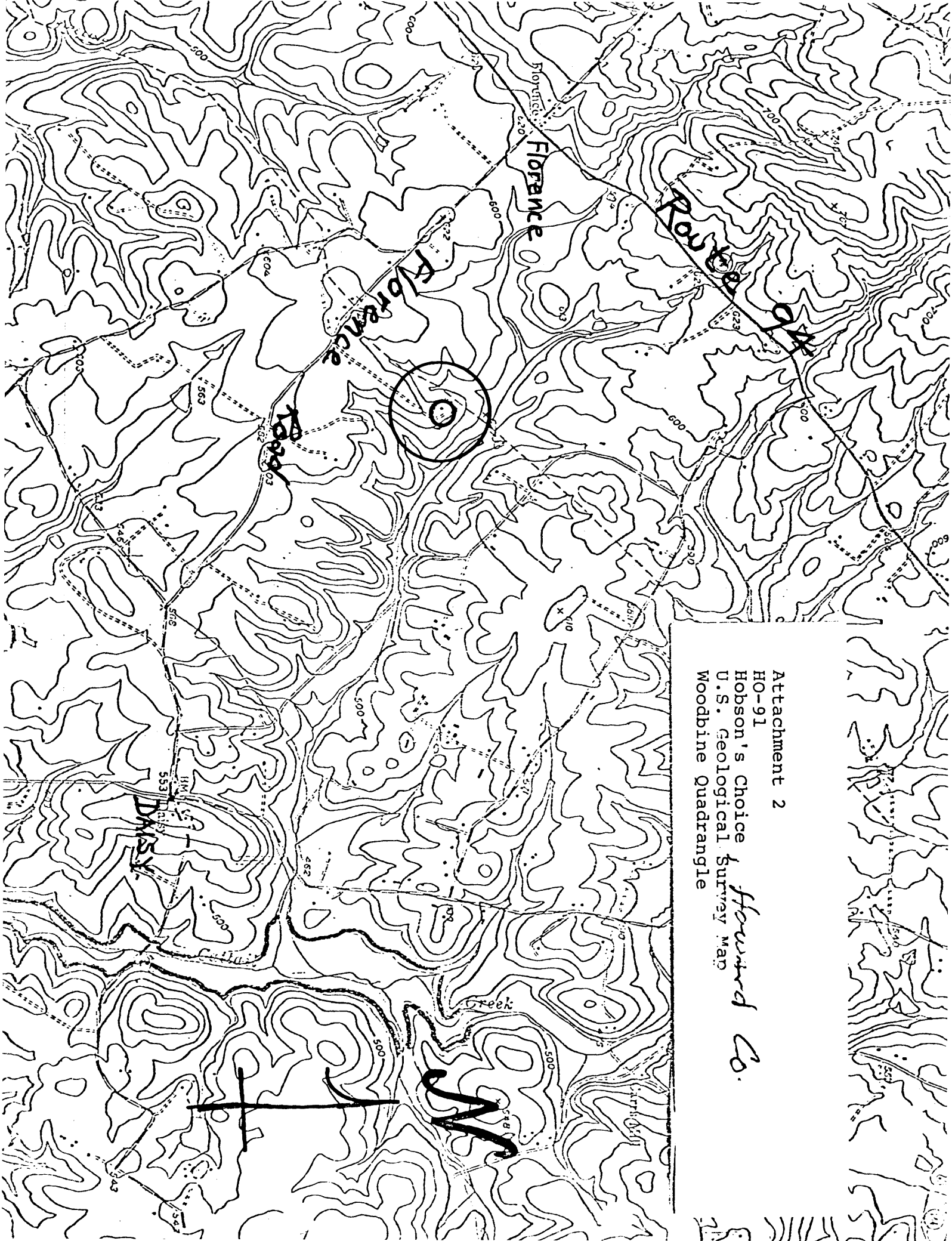
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howard County Land and Will Records, Ellicott City, MD.

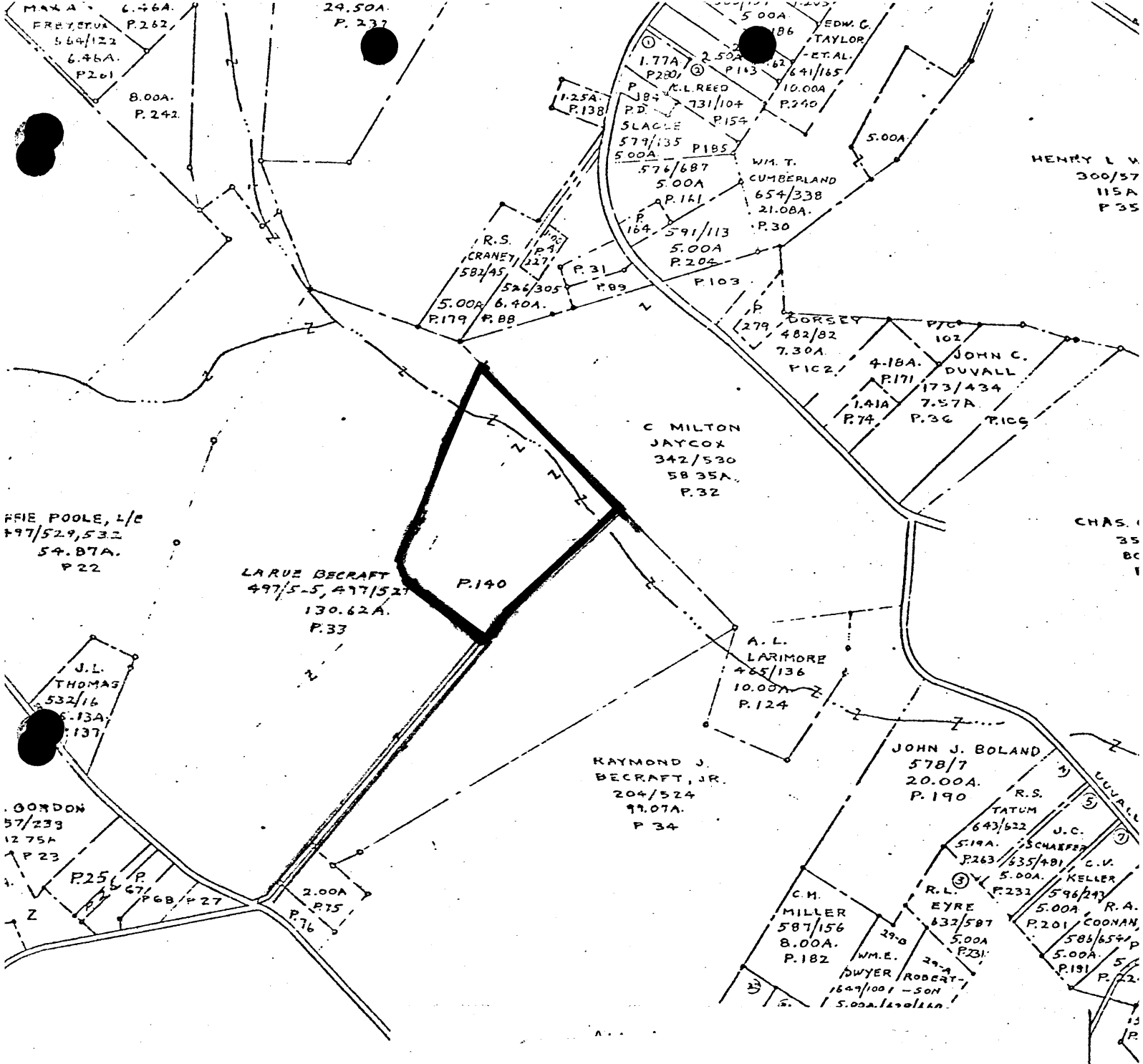
Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory, Annapolis, MD:
Howard County (HO-91); Cleora Thompson, surveyor.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Hobson's Choice stands in a rural setting which is reflective of the historic role as the center of a large farm. The terrain surrounding the house is relatively flat to the south, east, and north and slopes gently downward to the west. The property is approached by an undulating drive from Florence Road. The house, which is not visible from the public way, is visible from a high point part of the way back the drive. From this high point the view opens with the house almost centered in the rural setting. The boundaries are drawn to protect this setting.



Attachment 2
HO-91
Hobson's Choice & Survey map
U.S. Geological Survey map
Woodbine Quadrangle
Howard Co.



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 Hobson's Choice
 Tax Map 13

