

**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 Bishopton

and/or common Bishopton

2. Location

street & number Pinder Hill Road n/a not for publication

city, town Church Hill vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Queen Anne's code 035

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Robert and Lynn Brody

street & number Route 1, Box 34

city, town Church Hill n/a vicinity of state Maryland 21623

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Centreville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust/ St. Mary's City Commission Field Survey
Historic Sites Inventory / has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records MHT, 21 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401
St. Mary's City Commission, St. Mary's City, MD 20686

city, town see above state

7. Description

QA-18

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <u> </u> excellent | <u> </u> deteriorated | <u> </u> unaltered | <u> X </u> original site |
| <u> X </u> good | <u> </u> ruins | <u> X </u> altered | <u> </u> moved |
| <u> </u> fair | <u> </u> unexposed | | date <u> </u> n/a |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Number of Resources | | Number of previously listed |
| Contributing | Noncontributing | National Register properties |
| <u> 1 </u> | <u> 1 </u> buildings | included in this nomination: <u> 0 </u> |
| <u> 0 </u> | <u> 0 </u> sites | |
| <u> 0 </u> | <u> 5 </u> structures | Original and historic functions |
| <u> 0 </u> | <u> 0 </u> objects | and uses: agriculture, residential |
| <u> 1 </u> | <u> 6 </u> Total | |

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Bishopton is a c. 1730 brick dwelling, 1½ stories high, three bays wide, and one room deep with a hall-parlor plan, located near Church Hill in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. The house is sited on open high ground and faces east. The facades are laid in glazed header Flemish bond above a plain water table and English bond foundation; the upper gables feature glazed chevron patterns. The principal (east) facade has a central entrance, flanked by 6/6 windows in segmental-arched openings; three Federal-period 6/6 gable roof dormers are ranged across the second story. The south end of this facade has been extensively repaired. The west facade remains undisturbed, and has similar fenestration. The roof is covered with modern split shingles; the two 6/6 shed roof dormers on the west slope, and the cornice on both sides, are entirely rebuilt. A c. 1974 frame addition extends to the south, replacing a 19th century frame wing of similar proportions and size. The interior evidently remained unfinished throughout the 18th century and was not completed until the Federal period. A brick interior partition separates the south hall from the smaller parlor; the parlor has an unusually large fireplace with a heavy wood lintel, a panel of herringbone brickwork in the rear firewall, and small niches in the cheek walls. Both rooms have exposed beaded ceiling joists, and were evidently originally only finished in whitewash. A winder stair in the southwest corner of the hall rises to the second floor, which consists of three small chambers opening off a small passage which runs along the west wall. The partitions are constructed of vertical beaded boards; machine nails indicate that these were added in the early 19th century. The chamber above the parlor is heated by a small fireplace which is framed by a Federal mantel, next to a paneled closet door with foliated HL hinges. The attic retains evidence of riven clapboard flooring. Several 20th-century sheds and barns related to the property's current function as a horse farm are located to the north and west of the house.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

8. Significance

QA-18

| 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 |
|----------------|-------------------|
| c. 1730 | unknown |

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: C
 Applicable Exceptions: none
 Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Bishopton is an excellent example of a small brick hall-parlor dwelling probably constructed in the second quarter of the 18th century. The house is one of perhaps a dozen houses of similar form, size, and construction in the county. Notable features of the exterior include the glazed header Flemish bond brickwork and the glazed chevron pattern in the gable ends. The interior is significant for several reasons. The interior rooms were not originally plastered but were simply whitewashed. The beaded ceiling joists were also whitewashed and left exposed, and the second floor was unfinished except for whitewash. Evidence survives of a riven clapboard ceiling on the second floor; this is a technique occasionally described in documentary sources but rarely found in surviving buildings. It is probable that the roof was clapboard as well. Other interesting features include evidence of a brick paved floor under the first floor hall, a variety of early 19th century interior woodwork, and a handsome paneled closet door on the second floor with foliated HL hinges.

9. Major Bibliographical References

QA-18

N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 23.077 acres

Quadrangle name Church Hill, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

| | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| A | 1 8 | 4 1 6 0 6 0 | 4 3 3 4 8 8 0 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| B | 1 8 | 4 1 5 8 7 0 | 4 3 3 4 5 6 0 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|-----|-------------|---------------|
| C | 1 8 | 4 1 5 6 9 0 | 4 3 3 4 5 6 0 |
|---|-----|-------------|---------------|

| | | | |
|---|-----|-------------|---------------|
| D | 1 8 | 4 1 5 7 2 0 | 4 3 3 4 8 6 0 |
|---|-----|-------------|---------------|

| | | | |
|---|-----|-------------|---------------|
| E | 1 8 | 4 1 5 8 8 0 | 4 3 3 4 9 4 0 |
|---|-----|-------------|---------------|

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| F | | | |
|---|--|--|--|

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| G | | | |
|---|--|--|--|

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| H | | | |
|---|--|--|--|

Verbal boundary description and justification : See attached plat for boundary description.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, 23.077 acres, comprises the resource within its immediate setting. Boundaries are defined by Pinder Hill Road on the east, Brown's Branch on the south, and existing property lines on the west and north.

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 Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Survey Coordinator

organization Maryland Historical Trust date February 1985

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]* 8-9-85

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

| | |
|--|--|
| For HCRS use only | |
| I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register | |
| <i>[Signature]</i> | Entered in the National Register date <u>9/12/85</u> |
| Keeper of the National Register | |
| Attest: | date |
| Chief of Registration | |

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date entered

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Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Bishopton is located on the west side of Pinder Hill Road $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Johnny Powell Road and one mile north of Church Hill. The house is sited on open, high ground on the north side of Brown's Branch, a tributary of South East Branch.

The house is of brick construction, $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories high, three bays wide and one room deep with flush brick chimneys at either end of the steeply pitched gable roof. Believed to date to circa 1730, the house has undergone a number of changes and repairs. Sometime before 1963 the south end of the east facade and the south gable evidently collapsed and were rebuilt. The early bricks and the bonding pattern match the original work but the jointwork is all 20th century. The south chimney was not rebuilt except as a flue stack projecting through the roof. A frame wing on the south gable end was built circa 1974-1975 and replaced a 19th century frame addition. Other recent work includes construction of an enclosed bulkhead cellar entrance and renovation of the cornices on both facades and the dormer windows on the west facade.

The west facade remains largely undisturbed. The door is offset slightly to south of center, flanked by single 6/6 windows on each side. Two 6/6 shed roof dormers are ranged across the steeply pitched roof. The brickwork is laid in glazed header Flemish bond above a plain water table and an English bond foundation. The window openings have segmentally arched lintels one brick high. Glazed headers alternate with plain stretchers in the arches. The lintel above the door has been reworked. The window frames are not original and are tricked out with early 19th century trim. The roof is covered with modern split shingles and the dormers and cornice are entirely rebuilt.

The north gable is laid in glazed header Flemish bond on the first story and a variation of Flemish bond in the upper gable that forms glazed chevrons. The foundation is laid in English Bond; there is no water table. An opening has been blocked up to the left of the chimney on the first floor; two small windows flank the chimney in the upper gable. The blocked opening on the first floor appears to be original but may have been altered in the early 19th century. It presumably served as a door, but may have originally been a window, later enlarged to form an exterior door, and was finally blocked up. A small gable roof cellar entrance has been added to the right of the chimney in recent years.

The east facade is similar to the west facade except the south end of the wall has been extensively repaired. The center door is flanked by single 6/6 windows; three 6/6 gable roof dormer windows are ranged across the second story. These dormers are pilastered with cornice returns and blocks, typical of the Federal period. The roof is covered with modern split shingles; the cornice is rebuilt.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The south gable wall has been completely rebuilt. The original bonding pattern was reproduced including the glazed headers and glazed chevron. The only opening is a small window to the right of the chimney in the upper gable.

The frame addition on the south gable wall was constructed circa 1974-1975 and replaced an earlier 19th century frame wing of similar proportions and size.

The interior consists of a hall-parlor plan with the larger hall to the south. The interior evidently remained unfinished throughout the 18th century and was not completed until the Federal period.

The hall is relatively bare, with a wood floor, bare masonry walls and an exposed joist ceiling. The fireplace on the south gable wall was not rebuilt when that wall was reconstructed in recent years and the steep winder stair in the southwest corner of the hall is a 20th century replacement. A door to the left of the original fireplace location opens into the wing. A door in the center of the brick interior partition opens into the smaller parlor to the north. This room is one step higher than the hall. Evidently the existing floor of the hall is an insertion, perhaps dating to the Federal period. Evidence of an earlier herringbone brick paved floor survives in the crawl space under the existing floor. The fireplace in the parlor remains undisturbed. It is an unusually large opening with a heavy wood lintel, a panel of herringbone brickwork in the back firewall, and small niches in the cheek walls of the firebox. The large flue is split in two by an arched brick divider above the lintel, a feature noted in several other early houses in the county, including Silk Farm (QA-106). The interior plaster is gone in the parlor with the exception of a small patch surviving to the left of the chimney, and it is clear that the interior was originally only whitewashed, with the plaster added at a later date. The exposed ceiling joists are hand-planed and beaded and rest on heavy wood plates imbedded in the upper portion of the brick masonry walls. The heavy wood door frame between the parlor and the hall is also beaded and is trimmed with a Federal architrave with a broken-field fascia and ovolo backband.

The second floor consists of three small chambers and a small stair passage. The passage extends from the stair in the southwest corner along the west wall to open into a heated sleeping chamber above the first floor parlor. Two smaller chambers are located to the east of the passage. The southernmost of these two rooms was presumably heated by a fireplace before the south gable wall was rebuilt. The second floor partitions are constructed of vertical beaded boards that have been concealed in some areas with plaster applied to machine-sawn

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

lathing nailed with machine nails. These partitions are constructed with machine nails and were added in the early 19th century. In the north chamber, a small fireplace on the center of the north wall is framed by a handsome Federal mantel. Paneled pilasters flank the fireplace opening below sideblocks with incised six-point stars and a complex shelf embellished with a band of drilled and carved molding. Beaded vertical boards frame the mantel, chimney shaft and a small closet to the left. An early paneled door with foliated hinges survives but requires repair.

The roof is constructed of common rafters laid "flat" at a pitch of 52 degrees and joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints. The collar beams are half-dovetailed, half-lapped and pegged. Until recently the attic crawl space was floored with riven clapboards similar to the third story ceiling at Cloverfields (QA-2), a larger brick house near Wye Mills constructed circa 1730. The majority of these clapboards were removed when the attic was insulated in recent years.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The property known as Bishopton can be traced to circa 1730, when it was owned by William Bishop. The early brick house that stands on the property has traditionally been associated with William Bishop's ownership and is believed to date to circa 1730. Bishop sold the property, amounting to 250 acres, in 1732 to William Pinder.¹ In 1736 Pinder deeded the property to his son William.² The property remained in the Pinder family until the early 19th century. It is quite possible that the house was actually constructed by William Pinder, Sr. or his son circa 1732-1750. In 1773, a valuation of the property of William Pinder, minor child under the guardianship of William Deford, included the following description of the 250 acre tract known as Bishopton:

...we find thereon one brick house 40 feet by 20 much out of repair one round log kitchen 18 by 16 with a brick chimney in good repair one old tobacco house and three small houses not worth repairing 63 apple trees and on the same plantation about 1000 pannels of fence and not in good repair the guardian is not permitted to cut any timber but for the necessary repairs of the same. In consideration whereof we estimate the annual value of the aforesaid plantation to be twenty pounds current money of Maryland.³

The poor condition of the house is probably indicative of the unfinished interior and may also be due to the death of Pinder's father.

In the early 19th century, circa 1806-1807, the property passed out of the Pinder family. It was purchased by Allen Hollingsworth who sold it in 1814 to Henrietta James.⁴ In 1831 Henrietta James Carmon and her husband, William Carmon, sold Bishopton to William Meredith.⁵ The property remained in the Meredith family until 1890, and since that time has passed through nearly a dozen transactions.⁶ The early 19th century improvements to the house appear to date to the 30 years or so following the Pinder's sale of the property in 1806-1807.

Footnotes

¹Deeds RT A, folio 128. June 30, 1732.

²Wills WHN 1, folio 403. May 27, 1736

³Deeds RT K, folio 234. September 21, 1773.

⁴Wills RW 1, folio 317. November 9, 1814.

⁵Deeds TM 6, folio 89. August 31, 1831

⁶See chain of title researched by Michael O. Bourne circa 1972.

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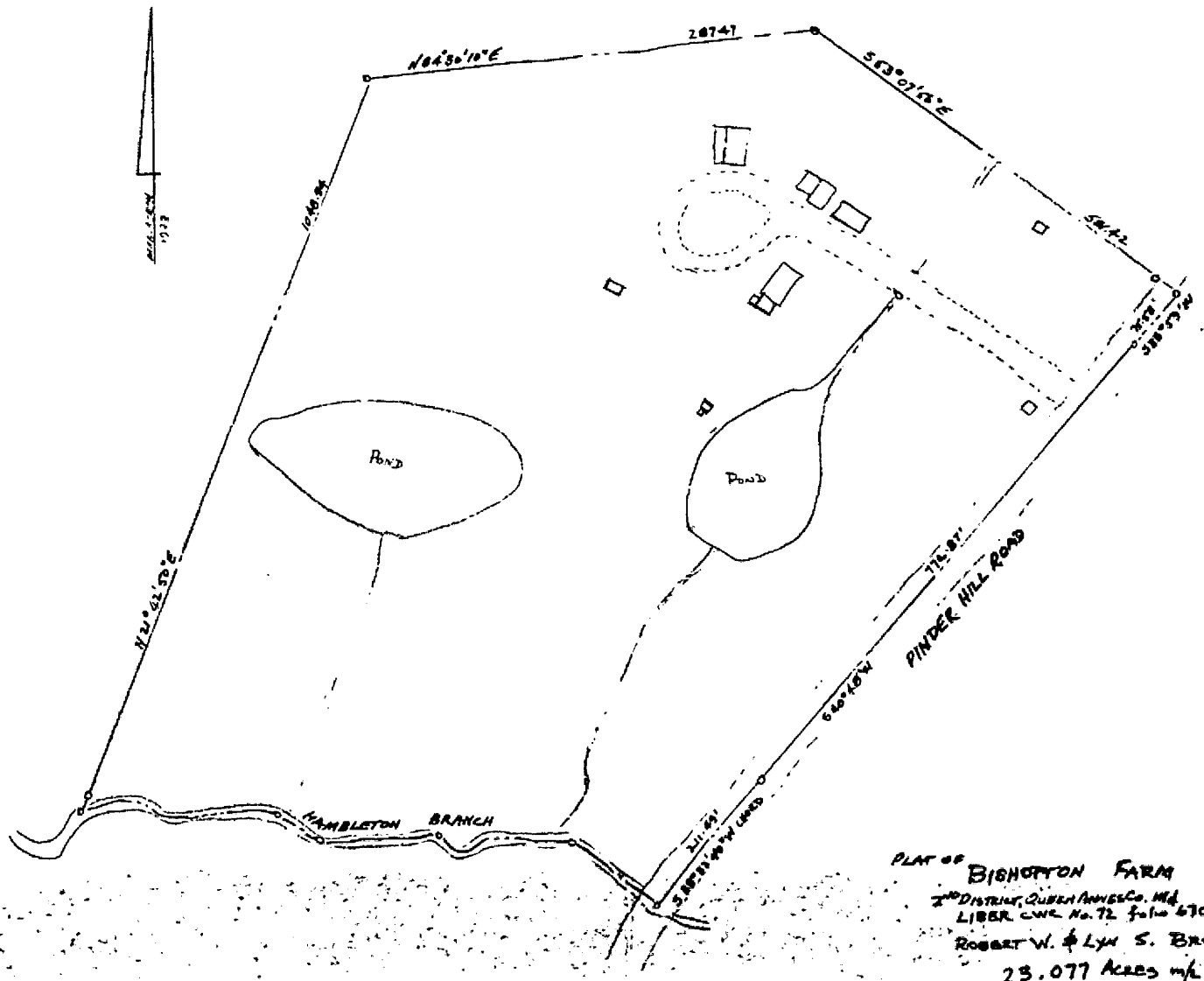
date entered

Continuation sheet Bishopton Queen Anne's County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 5

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Bishopton Title by Michael Bourne

- CWM 18/274. November 1, 1965.
Clarence W. Cannon to Eugene Kienzle.
- TSP 3/128. October 15, 1951.
James P. Brown to Clarence W. Cannon.
- WFW 4/139. August 17, 1913.
Madison Brown, trustee of James Meredith to James P. Brown.
- SS 4/299. February 11, 1908.
Edwin S. Valliant to James B. Meredith.
- JEG 2/559. January 6, 1902
Wm. Hurlock to Edwin S. Valliant.
- WD 4/506. August 25, 1890.
James W. Meredith to Wm. Hurlock.
- Wills STH 1/362. January 15, 1866.
Wm. Meredith to James W. Meredith.
- TM 6/89. August 31, 1831.
Wm. Carmon and Henrietta James Carmon to Wm. Meredith.
- Will RW 1.317 November 9, 1814.
Allen Hollingsworth to Henrietta James.
- various deeds, c. 1806-1807.
heirs of Wm. Pinder, Jr. to Allen Hollingsworth.
- Will WHN 1/403. May 27, 1736.
Wm. Pinder, Sr. to Wm. Pinder, Jr.
- RT A/128. June 30, 1732.
William Bishop to William Pinder.



PLAT OF
BISHOPSTON FARM
 2ND DISTRICT, QUEEN ANNES CO. MD.
 LIBER. CWR. No. 72 folio 670
 ROBERT W. & LYNN S. BRADY
 23.077 ACRES m/l
 improvements not to scale