

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Marble Head
other names "Copartnership" CAR-19

2. Location

street & number 24435 Marblehead Road not for publication
city or town Ridgely vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Caroline code 011 zip code 21660

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).


Signature of certifying official/Title

11-14-02
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title

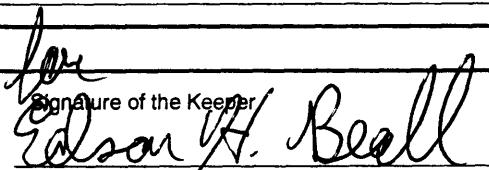
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 Determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other (explain): _____


Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

12/27/02

Marble Head
Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district			sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site			structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure			objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object			Total
		1	1	

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof METAL/Tin

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Description Summary:

Marble Head is located at 24435 Marblehead Road northeast of Ridgely, Caroline County, Maryland. The two-story, three-part stuccoed brick house is located on a seven-acre parcel that borders Marblehead Road, and the house is situated on a slight knoll with the principal elevation oriented to face northeast. The roof of the main block has northwest/southeast orientation. Evidently built in stages between 1803 and 1820, the two-story, three-bay, center hall, single-pile main block is extended to the rear (southwest) with a single-story hyphen that joins a two-story,

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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)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1803-20

Significant Dates

c. 1803

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
Organization Private Consultant date 6/10/01
street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094
city or town Westover state Maryland zip code 21871

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Andrew P. Fielding
street & number 309 South 22nd Street telephone 215-771-7087
city or town Philadelphia state Pennsylvania zip code 19103

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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two-room plan service wing. All three sections were conceived in a single unit but probably executed over a period of five to ten years. Assembled entirely of brick, the three-sectioned dwelling is coated with a layer of stucco scored with an ashlar strike to imitate stone. The only outbuilding to survive on the nominated lot is a deteriorated, twentieth-century frame privy.

General Description:

Supported on a raised cellar of common bond, the two-story, three-bay main block has a symmetrical northeast (main) elevation with a center, round arched entrance and flanking window openings. The round arched entrance is enhanced with early nineteenth-century finishes that include fluted pilasters, raised-panel reveals and soffit, and a pointed arch muntin design which fills the half-round transom. The four-panel front door dates from the late nineteenth century. The adjacent window openings were reworked during the late nineteenth century with two-over-two sash, which have been removed. Plywood board shutters have been installed over the window openings. The smaller second story window openings have been covered over as well. Two additional window openings light the cellar. The late nineteenth-century exterior stucco has an ashlar strike in an effort to imitate stone. Above the window openings the stucco was struck with a jack arch design. Where the stucco has flaked or worn off the Flemish bond of the main block is clearly evident and the mortar joint is struck, confirming that the stucco dates from a later period than initial construction. Trimming the base of the roof is a boxed cornice dating from the late nineteenth century. A hip roofed Victorian porch has been removed from the front of the house.

The northwest gable end is defined by a pairs of boarded over window openings on each floor which flank the interior end chimney stack. Small window openings light the attic. The late nineteenth-century eave is extended with an enclosed soffit and returns at the base of the roof. The southeast gable end is similarly treated, however a single window opening defines the first and second stories.

The southwest (rear) wall of the main block is partially covered with the single-story hyphen. A rear hall door has been infilled with concrete blocks. The first and second stories are defined by the same boarded over window openings, however an original window frame survives in the center bay.

The hyphen is a two-bay, one-room plan brick structure covered in scored stucco. The southeast side is pierced by a window opening and a double door opening. The double doors were introduced during the late nineteenth century. The northwest side has a closed door opening in concrete block as well as a boarded over two-over-two sash window. The base of the medium pitched gable roof is trimmed with a plain boxed cornice. Rising through the south end of the hyphen against the two-story service wing is a single flue brick stack introduced during the late nineteenth century. The stack, like the rest of the house, is covered with scored stucco.

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The two-story, four-bay, two-room plan service wing is largely covered in scored stucco, and two large chimney stacks rise through the gable roof. The northwest and southeast sides are defined by door and window openings, all of which are either covered with board shutters or blocked up. A shed roofed porch on the southeast side has been removed, however, a concrete slab porch floor remains in place. The southwest gable end of the service wing is a plain stuccoed brick wall surface other than the single window opening that pierces the gable end.

The first floor interior retains a high percentage of its original woodwork. The center hall is dominated by a half-turn stair with landings. A turned newel post and a series of narrow rectangular balusters support a molded handrail. The stringer is embellished with a delicate scroll decoration, and the area under the stringer is finished in a large triangular raised panel. A raised four-panel door opens into a stair closet. The staircase is also distinguished by a half-rail imbedded in the adjacent plaster wall. Turned pendants hang from the bottom of each second floor newel post. The center passage is also trimmed with crossetted door surrounds, and early nineteenth-century chair rail and baseboard moldings. The interior finish of the front entrance has a molded keyblock within its arched, early nineteenth-century molded surround.

The adjacent parlor to the west features an original early nineteenth Federal mantel, as well as intact Federal chair rail and baseboard moldings. Fluted pilasters rise to a five-part frieze enhanced with three fluted blocks. Fixed atop the frieze is a delicately carved dentil row of molding under a stepped mantel shelf that follows a broken line coincidental with the projecting blocks. A later board shelf has been attached to the top of the mantel shelf. The hall retains its original plaster and flooring as well as a crossetted surround that frames the passage door opening. The Federal moldings were removed from each of the four window openings when the windows were replaced during the late nineteenth century.

The dining room, located on the east side of the hall, retains a Federal mantel featuring a molded firebox surround which support a three-part frieze with fluted end blocks. The broken profile mantel shelf is enhanced with a series of stepped moldings and a dentil bed molding. Left of the fireplace is a niche that formerly contained a built-in cupboard which has been removed and stored for safe keeping.

The second floor of the main block retains most of its early nineteenth-century woodwork. The Federal staircase has an unusual curved section of railing at the second floor level. The turned newel posts and rectangular balusters support the molded handrail, which continues to the third floor.

The second floor is partitioned into three chambers. The parlor chamber is fitted with a Federal mantel of shorter proportions compared to the first floor mantels. The pilasters are fluted, and the frieze has two fluted end blocks under a molded and broken shelf enriched with a dentiled bed molding. The room is also trimmed with original baseboard and chair rail moldings, and the parlor chamber door is enhanced with a raised-panel reveal and an early nineteenth-century molded surround.

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There is a small chamber located in the north end of the second floor hall, and a raised six-panel door is framed by an early nineteenth-century surround. Another raised six-panel door opens into the dining room chamber, which has a less elaborate mantel treatment compared to the parlor chamber. An early nineteenth-century molded surround frames the firebox, and the surround has been augmented with a later board shelf. The room is also trimmed with original baseboard and chair rail moldings.

The third floor is finished with plaster walls and a vertical, beaded board partition that divides the space in two. The turned newel posts and rectangular balusters continue to support a molded handrail. The beaded board partition is pierced by a center door opening fitted with a raised six-panel door. The west room has a small fireplace framed by an early nineteenth-century surround. Although the attic is fully finished, missing sections of plaster reveal riven lath fastened with wrought lathing nails. Evident as well is the common rafter roof system.

The cellar under the main block is a two room interior with a herringbone brick floor. Located at the east end of the cellar is a small fireplace, whereas an arched niche defines the west end stack. It is evident in the first floor framing that a cellar stair existed previously under the main staircase but was later removed. The current access is through a bulkhead door located inside the single story hyphen.

The rear service wing includes a single story hyphen and a two-story, two-room plan kitchen and slave quarter. The interior of the hyphen was reworked around 1875 with the installation of a stove flue, two-over-two sash windows, a new floor, Victorian baseboard as well as a double door opening that pierces the east side wall. A single width door opening on the west wall is infilled with concrete blocks. The room was plastered a new during the late nineteenth century. Evident under the later layer of plaster are the bent over lathing nails which secured the previous lath. The roof system consists of hand hewn rafter pairs that meet at the peak with a butt joint. The inside surfaces of the adjacent brick walls do not have struck mortar joints.

The two-story service wing has a two-room plan with a kitchen in the south end and an informal dining room adjacent. Several bold ovolو or cavetto backband surrounds frame the principal door openings and suggest that the rear service wing was erected before the main block and hyphen. The kitchen retains the original cooking fireplace fitted with an iron crane. An adjacent winder staircase, located in the southwest corner was rebuilt during the late nineteenth century. In the southeast corner is a built-in late nineteenth-century cupboard. The room has exposed joists covered in layers of whitewash. Located above the kitchen is a plastered slave chamber served by a rudimentary fireplace. The walls have a bright blue color over a red ochre color. This room originally had an exposed joist ceiling that was plastered over during the late nineteenth century. Remnants of whitewash are evident on exposed sections of joists.

Adjacent to the kitchen is an informal dining room fitted with a smaller fireplace that has lost its decorative surround. Fitted in the southwest corner is a winder staircase entered through a raised-four panel door. Smaller flat panel doors directly adjacent open into small closets. The

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winder staircase leads to a private chamber above that is fitted with raised-panel woodwork across the fireplace wall. A raised panel door opens into a small closet and a raised four-panel door provides access to a winder staircase that leads to an unfinished attic. The room is also fitted with original early nineteenth-century baseboard and chair rail moldings.

The only outbuilding on the nominated property is a small privy covered with a corrugated tin sheathing that stands in the backyard.

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Summary Statement of Significance:

The property known as Marble Head derives its significance from its intact architectural form and nearly complete interior finishes dating to the early nineteenth century. Conceived in a three-part plan with a stepped service wing, Marble Head is associated with a pattern of building well known in Caroline County and found throughout the Eastern Shores of Maryland and Virginia, in neighboring Delaware, as well as farther beyond in the larger mid Atlantic cultural region. In Caroline County, Marble Head stands out as one of the most intact examples of this stepped house form.

The stepped rear wing was erected in a two-part scheme with a single-story hyphen connecting a two-story, two-room plan kitchen. The service wing survives with a working fireplace and slave chamber above. The stepped service wing allowed for a connected, rather than detached kitchen, thereby resulting in a more convenient and efficient operation of the household. At the same time the disassociation of second floor spaces between the main block and rear wing provided for segregated sleeping chambers for the plantation family and their domestic servants. Fitted with a working fireplace, the cellar in the main house was used for storage and slave occupancy as well.

The two-story, center hall brick house was built on a superior level with finely crafted architectural features evident in the round arched entrance, center hall staircase, and adjacent parlor and dining room. While less elaborately executed, the second and third floor finishes demonstrate the hierarchy of architectural treatments found in mid Atlantic gentry dwellings. The rear service wing contains well preserved interiors also, especially within the kitchen and second floor slave chamber.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Planter John Boon, Sr. (? -1840) financed the construction of Marble Head in stages following his acquisition of several adjacent parcels beginning in 1803.¹ The distinct Federal character of the interior woodwork, coupled with the assortment of fully wrought and partially wrought and cut nail types indicates the house was erected during the technological transition in nail manufacture indicative of the first decades of the nineteenth century. John Boon held extensive tracts in northern Caroline County during the early nineteenth century. His dwelling plantation, consisting of tracts, "Copartnership," "Dead Ridge," "Boons Fancy," and "Boons Venture," was resurveyed as "Marble Head" in 1812.² One of the lines cited in the metes and bounds of "Copartnership" references the northwest corner of "John Boon's dwelling house."

¹ Caroline County Land Records, H/208, 1803, from John Smyth Blunt to John Boon.

² Caroline County Certificate of Survey, #249, "Marble Head," surveyed 3 June 1912 for John Boon.

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In addition to his prominence as a wealthy planter, John Boon, Sr. served in local as well as state political positions. From 1812 to 1836 John Boon served as a judge of the Caroline County Orphans Court. John Boon served long terms in the state legislature representing Caroline County. He was elected four times to the Maryland House of Delegates beginning in 1807, and was seated as an independent in the State Senate in 1838.³ However, his time in Annapolis was not without local controversy. During the decades leading up to the Civil War, John Boon tried to act in a nonpartisan way when the Maryland political climate was severely divided. The time following the 1838 legislative session was later recalled and printed in the *Denton Journal*,⁴

Then started the relentless persecution and fierce denunciation of Boon which followed him to the grave.

The State rang immediately for his resignation...Returning at the close of the session to his home, he was met at Easton Point, upon disembarking from the boat which had brought him from Annapolis, by a whooping, derisive body of constituents, who burned his effigy before his face, with a fusillade of pistol-shots. He was forced take refuge in a hotel and complete his journey to Marble Head in secret.⁵

Despite the attacks on his political stances, John Boon remained in the Maryland Senate until his death on February 5, 1840.⁶ At the time of probate, his "Goods and Chattels" were valued at the sizable sum of \$5728.68.⁷ A major part of the assessment were eleven slaves with a total value of \$2360. The crops associated with Marble Head at the time included 1,584 bushels of corn sent to market and valued at \$696.96; a crop of corn in the "home farm" field worth \$200; a crop of corn on the "farm over the Road" assessed at \$100; in addition to crops of wheat, rye, and oats. There was a sizable herd of cows and many hogs, sows, and shoats. Boon had "71 sheep" as well as a large group of horses and mules. The livestock on the plantation was valued at over \$1000. From the inventory, it is clear the Marble Head dwelling was well appointed. He had carpet listed for the "parlor, passage & dining room" along with "old carpet up stairs, step carpet & rods." The house was furnished with expensive mahogany, cherry and walnut furniture as well as framed paintings and a small library.

Following John Boon's death the property was conveyed to the children of John Boon, Jr., who had died the same year. Helen Augusta Boon and John Wirt Boon acquired the Marble Head plantation from their aunts and uncles for \$2500 in 1842.⁸ At the time the plantation comprised 490

³ J. O. K. Walsh and Barbara Jarjoura, "Historic Marble Head," advertisement pamphlet, 2001. n.p.

⁴ *Denton Journal*, "Hon. John Boon, of Marblehead," 26 November 1904.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Irma Sweitzer Harper, *Newspapers of Maryland's Eastern Shore, 1835-1850*, Item 249.

⁷ Caroline County Inventory, Inventory of John Boon, 3 July 1840, Maryland State Archives.

⁸ Caroline County Land Record, V/320, 19 March 1842, Caroline County Courthouse.

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acres. In 1859, after Helen A. Boon's marriage to Henry C. Comegys, John Wirt Boon purchased her interests in the plantation for \$2,000.⁹ On the same day, John Wirt Boon conveyed the entire "mansion farm" to a relative, William Boon Massey, for \$5,000.¹⁰

William Boon Massey owned a large number of farms in Caroline County during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. It was during his ownership that the roof was reworked with the extended eaves, and the exterior was covered with the scored exterior stucco. It was during this time as well that the former Victorian porch was introduced to the front elevation. Other than reworking the hyphen room, few modifications were made to the principal rooms.

William Boon Massey, one of the two wealthiest men in Caroline County in 1860, maintained ownership of his large land holdings, including Marble Head, until his death on February 13, 1879. According to the papers filed in the Caroline County Circuit Court, William B. Massey died seized with seven parcels land, and since some of his named heirs were minors, the court was petitioned to fairly value and sell the various tracts. Because a satisfactory price for Marble Head was not obtained, it was withdrawn from sale.¹¹ Marble Head was not sold by the estate trustees until 1905 when it was conveyed to Albert G. and Irwin T. Saulsbury.¹²

Albert and Irwin Saulsbury were incorporated under Saulsbury Brothers Inc., a company which farmed over 4,500 acres in Caroline County. The farm was held by the Saulsbury family until December 1987.¹³ During the Saulsbury family ownership the house was largely occupied by tenants and allowed to slowly deteriorate. When the most recent owner purchased the farm in April 2000 his stated intentions were to demolish the house so that the irrigation pivot could turn a full 360 degrees. In a bold effort to avert destruction of the house, the Caroline County Historical Society intervened in a plan to market the property on a national level in a plan to find a sensitive new owner.

⁹ Caroline County Land Record, 29/329, 27 December 1859.

¹⁰ Caroline County Land Record, 29/329, 27 December 1859.

¹¹ Caroline County Chancery Records, No. 334, William Massey and Annie M., James Massey and Josephine, his wife verses John W. Scott and Annie, et al., Chancery Record, 10/520, Bill of Complaint and Exhibits filed 3 February 1882.

¹² Caroline County Land Record, 70/191, 8 June 1905.

¹³ Caroline County Land Record, 232/211, 30 December 1987.

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9. Major Bibliographical References:

Caroline County Chancery Records, various volumes, Caroline County Courthouse.

Caroline County Land Records, various volumes, Caroline County Courthouse

Caroline County Probate Records, various volumes, Caroline County Courthouse.

Denton Journal, 26 November 1904.

Christopher Weeks, ed. *Inventory of Historic Sites in Caroline County*, Maryland Historical Trust, 1980.

J.O.K. Walsh and Barbara Jarjoura, "Historic Marble Head," advertisement pamphlet, 2001.
Research files of Patricia C. Guida, Real Property Research, Denton, Maryland.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning an iron rod set in the ground 50 feet east of an irrigation pivot, thence in a northeasterly direction 37 degrees 57 minutes east 1110.50' to a concrete monument set on the westerly side of Sparks Road near its intersection with Marblehead Road, thence by and with the curve of the Sparks and Marblehead roads south 27 degrees 34 minutes 03 seconds east 261.43' to a second concrete monument set along the westerly side of Marblehead Road, thence in a southwesterly direction 65 degrees 15 minutes 44 seconds west for 1079.02' to the place of beginning as laid out as "Lot 5" containing approximately 7 (seven) acres.

Boundary Justification:

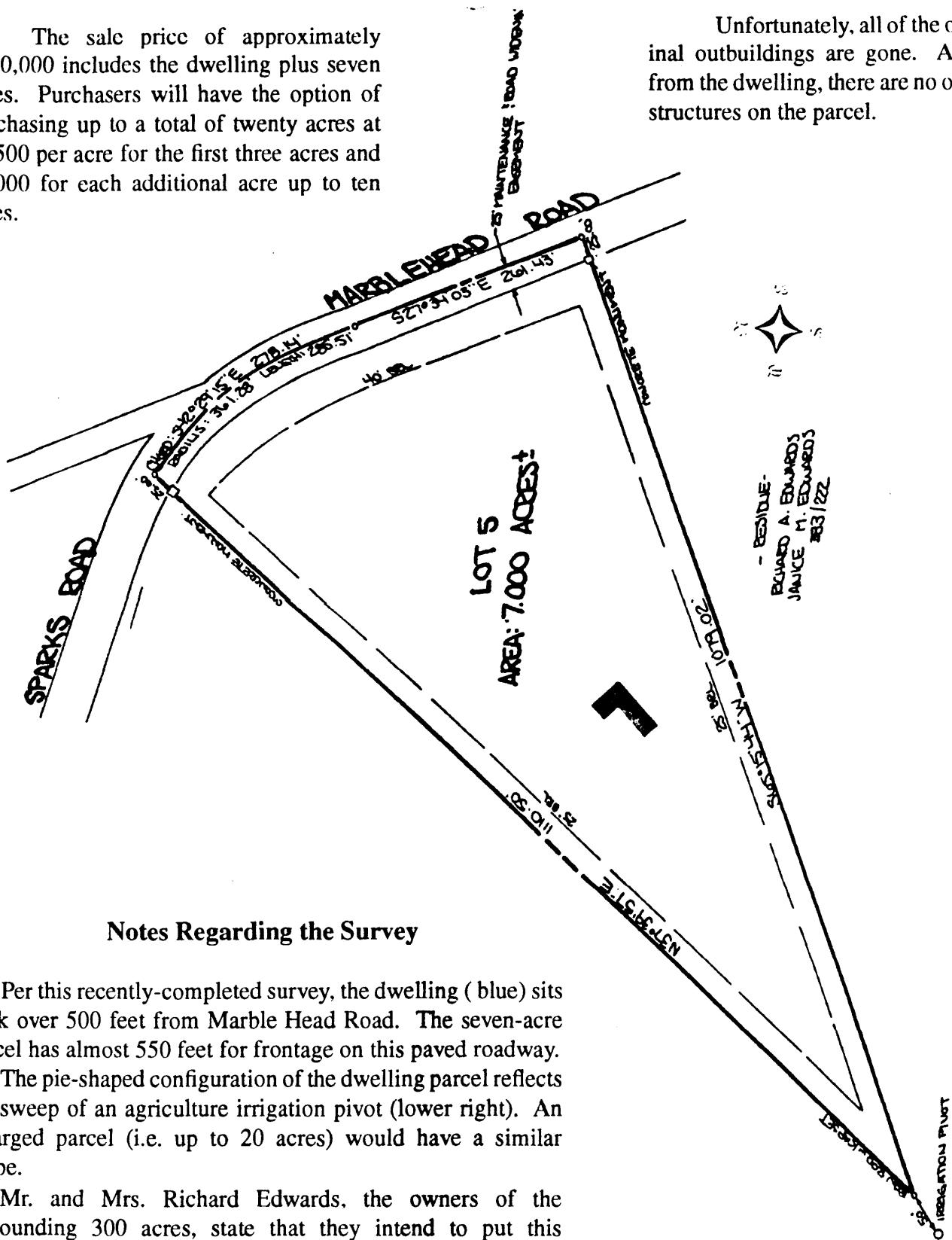
The metes and bounds of the 7 acres that join the house in nomination were drawn in a plan to separate a parcel of land with the house in order to market the property and save the house from demolition. The triangular shaped parcel is oriented to the swing of an irrigation pivot located southwest of the house.

The Parcel to be Sold

The sale price of approximately \$160,000 includes the dwelling plus seven acres. Purchasers will have the option of purchasing up to a total of twenty acres at \$7,500 per acre for the first three acres and \$5,000 for each additional acre up to ten acres.

Improvements

Unfortunately, all of the original outbuildings are gone. Apart from the dwelling, there are no other structures on the parcel.

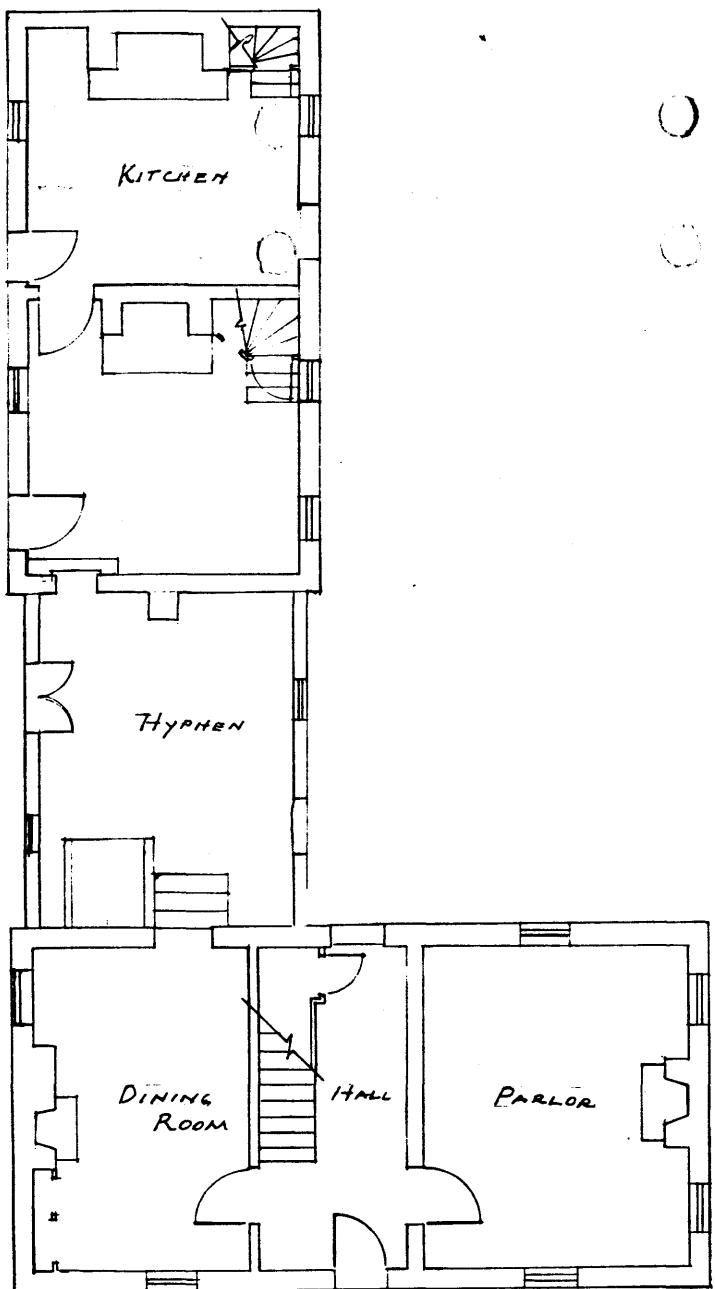


Notes Regarding the Survey

Per this recently-completed survey, the dwelling (blue) sits back over 500 feet from Marble Head Road. The seven-acre parcel has almost 550 feet for frontage on this paved roadway.

The pie-shaped configuration of the dwelling parcel reflects the sweep of an agriculture irrigation pivot (lower right). An enlarged parcel (i.e. up to 20 acres) would have a similar shape.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Edwards, the owners of the surrounding 300 acres, state that they intend to put this acreage into the Maryland Agriculture Preservation Easement Program. Entry into this program would permanently preserve the surrounding property for agriculture. Hence, the need to purchase additional acreage may be minimized.



20'1"

38'

MARBLE HEAD, CAR-19
RIDGELEY VICINITY, CAROLINE CO. $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'0''$
P TOLLART

