

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

209

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1. Name of Property

historical name Oxon Cove Park

other names/site number Mount Welby, Godding Croft, Oxon Hill Farm, Oxon Hill Children's Farm/P.G. 76A-13/ Fed. Reservation NACE 404M

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2. Location

street & number Government Farm Road not for publication
city or town Oxon Hill vicinity _____
state Maryland code MD county Prince George's code 033
zip code 20745

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally x statewide _____ locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Signature of certifying official

6-30-03

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Maryland Historical Trust

State or Federal agency and bureau

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6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>animal facility</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>storage</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>agricultural field</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>agricultural outbuilding</u>
<u>HEALTH CARE</u>	<u>hospital</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	Sub: <u>animal facility</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>storage</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>agricultural field</u>
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>	<u>park</u>
<u>RECREATION & CULTURE</u>	<u>museum</u>
<u>RECREATION & CULTURE</u>	<u>outdoor recreation</u>

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY, Other; rural vernacular
LATE VICTORIAN, Italianate
OTHER: functional rural vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, CONCRETE
roof METAL, ASPHALT
walls WOOD: vertical board, BRICK

other _____

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

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8. Statement of Significance
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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 patterns of our history.
- B Property is 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

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

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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)

HEALTH/MEDICINE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance 1797-1890
1891-1967

Significant Dates 1797
1891
1967

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Land Records, National Capital Region, NPS; Maryland Historical Trust

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 288.992 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>18</u>	<u>126550</u>	<u>3980500</u>	3	<u>18</u>	<u>126900</u>	<u>3994000</u>
2	<u>18</u>	<u>126700</u>	<u>3989000</u>	4	<u>18</u>	<u>126600</u>	<u>3996500</u>
	<u>x</u>	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.)

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Kay Fanning et.al. (National Park Service, National Capital Region), 1999-2002; Kathryn Kuranda/Hugh McAloon (Goodwin & Assoc.), 1993

organization & date National Park Service, 1999-2002; Goodwin & Assoc. 1993

street & number NPS, National Capital Region, 1100 Ohio Dr., S.W.

telephone (202) 523-5115

city or town Washington state DC zip code 20242

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Additional Documentation
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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)

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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Paperwork Reduction Act 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 2050

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7. Description

Summary Description

Oxon Cove Park, a property of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service, is a national park of about 485 acres occupying a rural site in Prince George's County, Maryland, immediately south of Washington, D.C., in the vicinity of Oxon Hill, Maryland (figures 1 & 2). It includes a living farm museum called Oxon Hill Farm within its boundaries; Oxon Hill Farm is also operated by the National Park Service. This form nominates 289 acres of Oxon Cove Park to the National Register as a rural historic landscape district (figures 3 & 54); the boundaries encompass resources associated with the property's sequential development over the past two centuries as a farm, an institutional agricultural complex, and a farm museum.¹ The rest of the park is used for pasture, cultivation, and passive recreation.

Detailed Description

Oxon Cove Park is located on a hilltop overlooking the east bank of the Potomac River, just north of U.S. Interstate 95/495. U.S. 295 crosses the western end of the site. The main farm complex is oriented to the south and commands a view of the river valley, including views of the municipal jurisdictions of Alexandria, Virginia, Arlington, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Alexandria, the Potomac River, and Oxon Cove – a prominent inlet in the river's Maryland shore – are still visible from the farm complex on the upland hilltop, as they were historically (figure 5). U.S. 295 is visible where it crosses the mouth of the cove. The slopes surrounding the farm complex, which face south, west, and north, have grown up in successional vegetation. These slopes were open ground in 1863 and in the middle St. Elizabeths period (1937), though trees filled the ravines at that later date. The slope descending along North Road also allows good views of the cove, the river, and Alexandria.

The boundary for the Oxon Cove Park historic district has been drawn to include land that was part of the St. Elizabeths farm property in about 1900, leaving out the portion that lies on the other side of U.S. 95/495 and U.S. 295.² The overall spatial organization of Oxon Hill Farm for the St. Elizabeths period as defined by roads and fields is remarkably intact. Important elements of the spatial organization may date to the beginning of the earlier Mount Welby period, but documentation in the form of maps for those years (1800-1850) is slim.

Much of the circulation within the proposed boundary existed at the beginning of the St. Elizabeths ownership (figure 6). The property is bordered and crossed by two roads dating from at least the late 18th century that historically carried public traffic and were also used for farm circulation (figure 7). The crossing road – east to west – carried traffic between Alexandria and Annapolis. The bordering road – north to south – was a route leading north from Piscataway, Maryland to Washington, D.C. and Bladensburg, Maryland. Though no longer in public use, both roads continue to be used by vehicles on the property or are visible as traces.

Existing fields and open spaces reflect patterns of land use during the St. Elizabeths period and earlier. In the most intact areas, the pattern of field and farm lane retains most aspects of its historic character. In the most extreme

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case, where fields have become a landfill, the fields are gone but there is a continuation of the historic pattern of open space defined by edges that remain in their historic locations.

The following descriptions of buildings, structures, roads, fields, and woods are keyed to the accompanying district maps; identifying numbers and letters appear as the last item within parentheses following the name. Since the historic names of most landscape features are not known, simple descriptive names have been assigned by the author.

Contributing features include:

Farmstead (Contributing Site; c. 1800 and later; 1) For the purposes of this nomination, the landscape which comprises this area, which contains the Mount Welby dwelling and most of the contributing structures, has been designated a contributing landscape site and given the name "the farmstead." (figure 4) It includes the hill known as Mount Welby, which slopes to the north, west, and south. This open area retains its historic character. Judging by maps and views, the only major change is that the slopes of the hill are now wooded where formerly they were open. However, there apparently have been few changes to the farmyard itself and to the relations between structures and the surrounding landscape. The farmstead is defined on the east by the edge of the field containing the dairy barn and silo, on the north by the edge of the North Woods and Field Road, on the west by Field Road and Fox Ferry Road (running at the foot of the hill), and on the south by Fox Ferry Road; for a short distance at the southernmost part, the boundary of the farmstead corresponds to the boundary of the entire rural historic district – the historic St. Elizabeths property – rather than Fox Ferry Road, which dips farther south, outside of the historic district.

The dwelling and surrounding domestic area dominate the complex from the hilltop; the majority of outbuildings lie in a swale east of the dwelling and constitute the farmyard. A straight gravel drive leads from a visitors parking lot into the farmstead area, extending approximately .2 miles past the dairy barn and the "sorghum sirup" shed to the main complex of outbuildings. This complex consists of the visitor barn, windmill, hay barn, feed building, tool shed, stable, implement shed, chicken house, and restrooms. Northwest of the outbuilding core stand the horse and pony barn, the hog house, and the root cellar. Turn-of-the-20th-century farm implements and machines are scattered throughout the park grounds, while other buildings lie in more remote areas. Most buildings date from the early 19th to the late 20th centuries. The drive continues beyond this area to the farm dwelling, approximately 370 feet to the west.

The land surrounding the house and farm buildings is divided into small enclosures by numerous fences made of a variety of materials, including wood plank, split rails, wire, etc. Fences also surround many of the outlying fields. Within the farmstead site are several benches of differing styles and over a dozen trash cans. Neither the fences nor these objects have been included within the count of contributing and non-contributing features.

Dwelling (c. 1800; Contributing Building; A) The Oxon Cove Park farm dwelling, known historically as "Mount Welby," is currently used as office space by National Park Service staff. Mount Welby is a rectangular, two-story, three-bay brick masonry building with a brick foundation and a shed roof. The building's primary elevation faces

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south. Two building periods are represented in the structure's fabric: the initial construction in the early 19th century and a renovation in the late 19th century. This later renovation established the dwelling's simplified Italianate architectural style. The brick walls are painted white. There are two hip-roofed porches, spanning both the north and south elevations.

The brick pattern within the south façade wall reflects two stages of construction (figure 9). From the foundation to the second floor window lintels, the brick is coursed in Flemish bond. Above the second-floor window lintels, the brick is coursed in 3:1 common bond. Two six-over-nine-light, wooden, double-hung sash window units and a central entry define the fenestration of the façade. Wood-louvered blinds flank the windows, which have wood lintels and sills. The recessed walls of the main entrance doorway have three plain board panels. The six-panel door was installed sometime in the late 1980s.³ Above the doorway is a recessed two-light transom.

Three window bays occupy the second-floor level. The windows are six-over-six-light, wood, double-hung sash units with crown-molded lintels and wooden sills. There are hinges extant on the window frames, but no blind or shutter units remain. The brick wall bulges out above the second-floor windows, but returns to the perpendicular at the building's corbeled brick cornice. The cornice is supported by projecting tiers of stepped-brick corbels. All of the tiers project from the primary elevation. Were the tiers to be numbered, it would be seen that the "odd" tiers project further from the elevation than the "even" tiers (figure 11).

A one-story porch, covered by a hipped roof sheathed in standing-seam metal, spans the façade. This roof has a molded cornice and plain frieze, and is supported by rectangular, chamfered pillars with scrolled brackets. A balustrade with rectangular balusters connects the pillars. The porch floor is composed of narrow tongue-in-groove boards and rests on a wooden sill supported on brick piers. A five-tread stair leads to the porch. (In 1999, this porch was replaced in kind; see below, p. 4.)

The brick pattern of the west elevation also shows two construction phases. Flemish bond coursing characterizes the brick wall to the lintels of the first-floor windows. Above these windows, the wall continues in a 3:1 common-bond coursing. A single three-light, wood-sash hopper window unit in the foundation provides light to the basement. Window units define the two-bay fenestration of the west elevation. Each unit of the first- and second-story level is a four-over-four-light, wood, double-hung sash. The window bays are situated between a pair of interior brick chimneys incorporated within the fabric of the wall. The chimneys have corbeled crowns.

The north or rear elevation of Mount Welby has the three-bay architectural vocabulary of the façade, though its design shows some deviation from that of the primary elevation (figure 10). Its brick is coursed solely in 3:1 common bond. The northward slope of the Mount Welby site partially exposes the building's basement level, in which are three pairs of eight-light wood-sash casement windows. On the first floor is a central entry and two windows. As with the south elevation, the windows are six-over-nine-light, wood, double-hung sash units with hinges but no shutters. The windows have wooden lintels and sills. The recessed entry has a thinly-beaded panel surround and a four-panel door with a square four-light transom above (figure 12). Three window bays occupy the second-floor level. The windows are six-over-six-light, wood, double-hung sash units with crown-molded lintels and wooden sills.

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Hinges remain on the frames but there are no blinds or shutters. The cornice is made of a course of projecting brick headers.

A one-story porch with a hipped standing-seam metal roof extends from the north elevation. It has a molded cornice and plain frieze, and is supported by rectangular chamfered pillars with scrolled brackets. A balustrade composed of rectangular balusters connects the pillars. The porch floor is composed of narrow tongue-in-groove boards and rests on a wooden sill supported by brick piers. An eight-tread stair leads to the porch. (In 1999, this porch also was replaced in kind; see below, p. 4.)

The brickwork of the east elevation is coursed in 3:1 common bond. The east elevation is the only wall having a watertable course between the basement and the first floor. Two brick interior chimneys with corbeled crowns are incorporated within the wall of the east elevation, and there are two bays between the chimneys. At the first-floor level, the southern bay has a six-over-nine-light, wood, double-hung sash window with a wooden lintel and sill, and extant hinges with no blinds or shutters remaining. The north bay has an exterior entrance to the basement. The below-grade stairwell is sheltered by a wood-frame entry vestibule with a hipped roof. The walls of the vestibule are clad in beaded vertical boards, and the roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. The vestibule has a pair of screen doors with chamfered stiles. The basement doorway has a pair of wooden three-panel doors which each have two glazed panels. The lintel has a single-arched header course and the sill is a stone slab.

Two window bays occupy the second-floor level of the east elevation. The window units are six-over-six-light, wood, double-hung sash with wood lintels and sills. There are hinges within the window frames but no blinds or shutters.

Mount Welby has a modified Georgian plan defined by a central passage with flanking chambers (figure 13). The floor of the passage has been painted. Midway towards the north end of the building, a stairway ascends the east wall of the passage, rising to a landing at the north wall where it turns 180 degrees before continuing to the second floor. The space beneath the stairway is enclosed with vertical boards and has a door near the north end. West of the central passage are two rooms that are currently used as offices. Each room has a hearth in the west wall. East of the central passage is a single room with a linoleum-tile floor, feathered fiber-panel wall cladding, a drop ceiling, and fluorescent light fixtures. The ghost of a former wall is discernable beneath the modern floor sheathing, revealing that the building plan east of the central passage once mirrored the plan of the building as it survives west of the passage.

In 1999, both the north and south porches of Mount Welby were replaced in kind.⁴ All material, except for the brackets, was replaced. Several new additions were made to the re-created structures: banisters were added along the steps, based on historic photos. A handicap ramp was added on the west joining onto the south porch. In addition, the first floor windows of the north elevation have been removed, and replaced with temporary vinyl windows; in-kind replacement windows have been ordered.

Hexagonal Outbuilding (c. 1900; Contributing Building; B) Approximately 200 feet southeast of Mount Welby is a hexagonal outbuilding (figures 14 & 15). Archival investigations have not identified its original use. The one-story, one-bay, wood-frame outbuilding has a six-sided pyramidal roof. The structure stands on a brick foundation parged

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with Portland cement. The walls are clad with vertical boards and beaded battens. The roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal and crowned by a finial. Entry is through the east (primary) elevation. The plain entrance door is made of vertical boards. There are six-light metal-sash casement windows in the northwest and southwest elevations. The floor is composed of plywood with a three-inch-high baseboard. The ceiling and interior walls are coated with plaster. Centered in the ceiling is a small square hatch, which provides access to the unfinished attic.

Boxwood Planting (Contributing Site; c. mid/late-19th century; 13) Extending north and south on either side of the hexagonal outbuilding and enclosed within a white picket fence are plantings of very old boxwood shrubs (see figure 15). These have thick, knotted trunks, and some are exceptionally tall, approximately 20 feet. Their age makes the shrubs a valuable resource.

Root Cellar (c. 1800; Contributing Building; C) A rectangular (approximately 13 feet by 20 feet), one-story, one-bay brick root cellar is set into the hillside northeast of the Mount Welby house (figures 16 & 17). The south-facing gable-front root cellar is located immediately south of a gravel road (North Road) that leads to the farm from the Potomac floodplain to the west. Portland cement parging on the exposed north elevation foundation of the building forms a false watertable. The building has 5:1 common bond brick walls and a gable roof sheathed with standing-seam terne metal. Brick ventilation columns are located on the exterior of the north and south elevations. Single-light wooden sash hopper windows flank the ventilator column in the south elevation. The windows have two-course brick arched lintels. On the east gable-end elevation, a five-step brick stair leads between brick retaining walls to the below-grade entrance. The door is constructed of plain vertical boards, and the opening has a segmental arched lintel formed of three rows of brick voussoirs.

Horse and Pony Barn (c. 1890; Contributing Building; E) Northeast of the Root Cellar is a horse and pony barn, a rectangular, one-and-one-half story, one-bay, wood-frame building with a gable roof (figures 18-20). A poured concrete sill supports walls clad with vertical board and batten. The pitched roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal and a circular metal vent rises from the roof ridge near the west gable end. Entrance is through an open doorway in the east gable-end elevation. Some elevations have open window ports with vertical board shutters; there are three each in the north and south elevations, and one in the east and west elevations. A rectangular entrance in the east end leads to the building's half-story; no passage leads from the building's interior to the upper floor. The interior is open and has an earthen floor.

Hay Barn (c. 1940; Contributing Building; J) The hay barn is a long, rectangular, one-story, one-bay, wood-frame structure with a gable roof (figures 21-23). Its wooden sill is supported by brick piers along the north elevation, while along the south elevation it rests directly on the ground. The walls are clad with vertical board-and-batten and the roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. Central entries, equipped with vertical-board sliding-track doors, are located in the north and south eave elevations. A central dirt-floored passage divides the building. Storage platforms floored with

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wood planks flank the passage to the east and west. Wood-frame fences clad with wire mesh divide the platforms from the central passage. The building has no windows. Turn-of-the-20th-century handheld farm implements and horse yokes hang from hooks set into the barn's framing system.

Feed Building (c. 1890; Contributing Building; K) North of the hay barn is a feed building. It is a rectangular one-and-one-half story four-bay building of wood frame construction with a gable roof (figures 24-26). The wood sill rests on concrete piers. The exterior walls reflect the different uses of the interior space: the walls of the eastern third of the building are clad with vertical board-and-batten, while the walls of the western two-thirds are covered with spaced vertical boards. The roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. Two entry doors are located in the south (eave) elevation. The doors are of vertical boards and have plain surrounds. The west entry leads to a space used as a corn crib and for storing horse equipment. The floor of this section is made of tongue-in-groove boards. A wooden stair between the corn crib and storage areas leads to the building's half-story, which is also used for storage. The east entry is flanked by two fifteen-light metal-sash casement windows. The floor is plywood. Wood feed bins line the interior walls.

Brick Stable (c. 1800; Contributing Building; L) A brick stable is the focus of the main cluster of outbuildings (figures 27-32). Located west of the feed building, the stable is a rectangular, two-story, three-bay brick building with a gable roof. The brick walls are constructed in 3:1 common bond coursing; the gables have pierced ventilation holes arranged in a diamond pattern. Both gable ends have random glazed brick headers. The roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. Original fenestration openings have brick jack-arch lintels. The main entrance in the south elevation has a vertical board-and-batten sliding track door that post-dates the building's original construction. Single entries infilled with brick are located on either side of the current primary entrance. Two open window bays with vertical board shutters have been added to the primary elevation west of the main entrance. The fenestration of the second story is an open loft entry flanked by window openings, all surmounted by brick jack-arched lintels. Besides its use as a barn, there is tentative evidence that the building also served as living quarters for enslaved individuals.

A single doorway with a brick jack-arched lintel and a vertical-board door is situated in the west gable-end elevation. There is one remaining opening in the north elevation, a centered window at the second-story level. At the first-floor level are five window openings, now filled with brick. The east elevation has five original window openings symmetrically spaced within the first-floor level. These openings have brick jack-arch lintels, beaded wooden frames, and vertical board shutters. The stable floor is a poured concrete pad. Horse stalls are of wood-frame and horizontal board construction. There is one stall in the southwest corner, three along the north wall, and one in the southeast corner. A wide passage runs between the primary entrance and the entrance in the west gable-end elevation, separating the southwest stall from the other four contiguous stalls. The ghosts of former stall partitions are visible on the interior walls of the building. The ghost of a stairway ascends to the east on the north interior wall. The second story is no longer accessible from the interior of the stable.

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Silo (c. 1940; Contributing Structure; P) Abutting the north elevation of the modern (c. 1980) dairy barn is a three-story silo constructed of glazed ceramic tile (figures 33-35). Its conical roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. Two exterior wall chutes made of glazed ceramic tile face southwest and northwest, and terminate in shed-roofed dormers sheathed with pressed metal. The wall chutes extend the height of the silo.

"Running" Shed (Contributing Building; c. 1900; 12) At the bottom of the Mount Welby hill, southwest of the house, is a long one-story wooden shed, open towards the east and closed at the sides and rear (figure 36). This structure dates from the St. Elizabeths period. The walls are covered with vertical board and batten. Most of the structure is painted red; some gray boards may indicate repairs. Mr. Brooks, longtime maintenance employee at Oxon Cove Park, says it is called the "running shed," and is used for storing farm equipment.

Pump House (early 20th century; Contributing Structure; 2) Located in the bottom of the ravine north of the Mount Welby house, this small structure was long interpreted as a "spring house," but actually housed a water-pump system to provide water to farm facilities while the property was being operated by St. Elizabeths Hospital (figure 37). The pump house is a rectangular common-bond brick building measuring approximately eight feet by ten feet and topped with a side-gable roof covered with replacement composition shingles. A new hollow-core metal door has recently been installed to replace the historic wooden one. There is a single 6-light sash window on the façade.

Water tank (early 20th century; Contributing Structure; 23) Set into the hillside above the ravine northeast of the Mount Welby house is a large concrete water tank, part of the water system installed for the operation of the farm by the hospital (figure 38). The 10,000+ gallon tank is constructed of reinforced concrete. It measures approximately 22 feet by 28 feet and is about 20-feet deep. It has a flat, reinforced concrete slab roof with two sealed hatches. The words "Foot-1905-Willet" are carved into the hatches, but the date is evidently a fake, as Foot and Willet worked on the farm in later years. The tank dates from the early 20th century. One corner of the unused tank is broken open, and there are cracks and small holes in other visible segments of the structure.

Spring (date indeterminate; Contributing Structure; 3) One-third of a mile north-northeast of the main farm group is a brick-walled spring (figure 39). The walls may be constructed of the same brick used in the construction of the root cellar, and may therefore date from around the same period (though closer examination suggests they might be more recent). On the hillside above the spring is a lined brick beehive vault, which traps the water and feeds it to the spring through an iron pipe. According to one of the park rangers, the spring appears on 19th-century maps.⁵

Hog Pen Incinerator Remains (c. 1947; Contributing Site; 4) This structure was used to cook D.C. garbage as food for hogs raised in the St. Elizabeths Hospital farming operations; its ruins are near those of two surviving hog pens from the period. All three structures stand in the North Woods. The incinerator is composed of a concrete enclosure, with walls rising about 1 foot and two large openings on the shorter north and south ends (figure 40). An integral concrete

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feeding trough is built into the lower part of the inside wall. The incinerator, which is attached to the south side of the enclosure, has a rectangular concrete base measuring five feet by ten feet (figure 41). The structure is open in the center; the brick walls, thickly covered with an irregular coat of concrete, are canted in at the inside top, and rise about three-and-a-half to four feet high. A tall brick flue, approximately 15-feet high, stands at the west end. Three rails (apparently reused train tracks) span the center opening.

Hog Shed Foundation 1, North (1946; Contributing Site; 5) Dating to the days when the farm was operated by St. Elizabeths hospital, this structure, evidently the foundation and lower walls of a hog pen, is of light reinforced concrete construction. The battered walls stand approximately four-feet high (figure 42). The foundation has three solid walls and one open wall, and is divided by two piers into three bays. No remains of the superstructure walls or roof are intact.

Hog Shed Foundation 2, South (1946; Contributing Site; 6) This structure is identical to structure #6, and is located next to it (figure 43).

Fox Ferry Road (c. late 18th century; Contributing Structure; 7) Fox Ferry Road (figure 44) formerly led to the Fox Ferry landing on the east bank of the Potomac River. It is described on the 1895 Goddingcroft map (figure 6) as the road connecting Alexandria and (Upper) Marlboro, Maryland. It is probably the same road seen on the 1794 Griffith map (figure 7) that appears to be the main route between Alexandria and Annapolis. The Griffith map is not detailed enough to show whether the road followed the same route through the property visible on maps from 1862 to the present day.

The road seems to have formed the boundary between the Mount Welby property and the Thomas Berry property to the south. Both tracts were formerly part of the John Addison estate, and the pre-existing road may have been a natural point of division between the later properties. Fox Ferry Road did not follow a direct course to the ferry landing, but an irregular, angled course, which may have been formed in response to existing fields.

Fox Ferry Road originated at the old Oxon Hill Road (now Bald Eagle Road), a road that ran from Piscataway, Maryland to Washington, D.C., and continued on to Bladensburg, Maryland. Whether the juncture of these two roads – the location of the original entrance to the property – is in the same place today that it was historically is uncertain. It is possible that the original intersection was a short distance to the south. Historically, a drive leading to the Mount Welby house and farm buildings branched off from Fox Ferry Road very near Oxon Hill Road, as it does today.

In 1891, St. Elizabeths Hospital purchased all of the Mount Welby property and a small portion of Thomas Berry's land for a hospital farm, which it named Godding Croft. By 1920, the section of the road to the ferry that ran from the Oxon Hill Road entrance to the floodplain fields appears to have been abandoned and replaced by another road south of it. The section of the ferry road bordering the floodplain fields continued in use and was reached by a road that descended the slope north of the Mount Welby house (North Road), seen on the 1895 Goddingcroft map.

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When U.S. 95/495 and U.S. 295 were built in the 1960s, they cut off access to the ferry point. U.S. 95/495 appears to have altered the property's entrance on Oxon Hill Road – in fact, it obliterated a section of Oxon Hill Road, which by then had been long abandoned. Possibly in response to this, the National Park Service re-established the section of the ferry road that had been abandoned by St. Elizabeths around 1920, though in one place the new alignment was shifted some distance from the original course. The road was surfaced with asphalt at this time. A dashed line on the accompanying site map marks where the original road diverges from the 1960 road (figure 3).

Fox Ferry Road is the primary route through South Field. Other vehicular lanes originate from it, dividing the area into separate fields. Many of these lanes have been in use for more than a century, as indicated by the earliest maps.

In summary, Fox Ferry Road is a vestige of a road that may be more than two centuries old. For about three-quarters of its length, it lies on or close to an alignment that can be dated at least to 1862. Though connection to the ferry landing was severed by the construction of U.S. 95/495 and U.S. 295, that section of the road can be read on aerial photographs by differences in vegetation and is probably traceable on the ground as well. (The old Ferry Point falls outside the historic district boundary.)

The historic names of the following landscape features are not known; therefore, simple descriptive names have been assigned.

North Road (c. 1890s or earlier; Contributing Structure; 8) North Road forms the northern edge of the Mount Welby farm building complex, descending the slope of the hill to merge with Fox Ferry Road along the northern edge of South Field (figure 45). It is first visible on the Goddingcroft map of 1895 but is very likely older, since it is a direct route from the house to the floodplain. Today it is a dirt road bordered by fences, beyond which extend young woodlands. The slopes west of the house were less forested in a c. 1959 aerial photograph than today and appear to be treeless in the 1863 Bache map. This area is steep for farm fields and may have been grazed in the earlier periods. The edges of the road are dotted with numerous red cedars, which probably seeded along fencelines when the slopes were more bare. Good views of the cove, river, and Alexandria can be seen from various locations along North Road.

South Field (c. 1890s; Contributing Site; 9) The major group of fields, both historically and today, are those to the south of the cove, which are still being farmed (see figure 44). Described collectively as South Field, these fields have Fox Ferry Road as their northern boundary. Farm lanes coming off of Fox Ferry Road subdivide this area. Though South Field is used today to grow grain, hay, sorghum, and White House replacement plants, rather than the vegetables grown during the St. Elizabeths period, and though some of the field edges have yielded to encroaching trees, overall the fields and farm lanes remain in place and retain their historic character. The boundary of the proposed rural historic district runs east to west across South Field, cutting it roughly in two. This boundary is probably not reflected in current land use. Land immediately south of the historic boundary was acquired by the government in 1961, purchased from the estate of a William Sellner (figures 46 & 47). Search of the NCR Land

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Records failed to reveal the history of the southernmost land, but it was never part of the Mount Welby or St. Elizabeths properties. A nursery where replacement trees and shrubs for the White House grounds are grown occupies a section of South Field outside of the historic boundary.

Oxon Hill Road Field (c. 1863; Contributing Site; 10) The edges of Oxon Hill Road Field, an upland field area dating to at least 1863, are defined by Old Oxon Hill Road to the east and the top edges of the slopes to the north and west (figure 48). Most of the historic field area is still open and readable, though there has been some tree encroachment at the northern end. A large, mature willow oak with an exceptionally massive trunk occupies a prominent location in the southern part of the field. A farm lane that divides the field into north and south sections dates at least to the later St. Elizabeths period, when part of this field was an apple orchard. Four orchard trees still remain. A road along the west side of the field was developed in the 1940s as part of the St. Elizabeths hog raising operations. Community gardens occupied a section of this field area in recent years, providing another instance of continuity of use.

The eastern boundary of the field, and of the park itself, is Old Oxon Hill Road (now Bald Eagle Road, formerly also called the Washington-Piscataway Road). In the 19th century, this road was a major route to Washington. East of the road is the Butler House, the 19th-century home of a free black man. Old Oxon Hill Road today is a dirt road, passable by car for only a few hundred yards north of the entrance to the Oxon Hill Farm (as far as the Butler house). After this point the road is covered by vegetation, though the road trace can still be made out and followed on foot as it continues down the slope to the floodplain. At least as late as 1959, the road appears to have still been used as a route to the floodplain fields east of the cove. A lane coming off of Old Oxon Hill Road led to the Old Oxon Hill Road Field. A major segment of that lane is still visible today where it bisects the field into north and south halves.

North Woods (c. 1890s; Contributing Site; 11) The North Woods is an extensive deciduous woodland which covers a series of steep, narrow ravines north of the farm complex, adjoining the North Field and the Old Oxon Cove Road Field (figure 49). It contains many tall, mature oaks, beeches, and tulip poplars. This woodland appears on the c. 1895 Goddingcroft map and in an aerial view from 1937. Several structures are located within these woods: the hog pens and hog feed incinerator, the pump house, and at least two wooden footbridges, which are Non-Contributing. The North Woods acts as a buffer between the farmstead and surrounding development.

Remnant Orchard (c. 1850-1900; Contributing Site; 15) There are two remnant orchards at Oxon Cove Park. In the Oxon Hill Road Field stand four apple trees dating to the period of the St. Elizabeths ownership. Three trees are approximately 50 years old and the fourth is about 80 years old. These trees are in a considerable state of decline and will be dead within a couple of years. It is not recommended that these trees be considered a contributing site nor that they be counted as a non-contributing site.

Two much older apple trees can be found immediately west of the Mount Welby farmhouse. One tree is approximately 100 years old and may date from the beginning of the St. Elizabeths period. It has been hit by lightning

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and has suffered considerable die back. The tree is representative of the early 20th century, when fruit trees were first pruned into an open bowl style with short trunks. The other tree is at least 120 years old and dates from the time when the Oxon Cove Park site was the working family farm known as Mount Welby (figure 53). This older tree, of the McIntosh variety, has lost some vigor but still bears a green canopy. Its large size and its shape represent the appearance of fruit trees during the greater part of the 19th century, when fruit trees were not pruned and were allowed to develop a natural shape and tall trunk. Both tree forms are now archaic in modern orchards, and very few fruit trees of this age exist in the country. National parks are one of the only remaining refuges for these remnants of historic agricultural landscapes. The older tree might, in fact, be the largest and oldest variety apple tree remaining in the National Park System. (Variety apple trees differ from the seedling fruit trees typical of the 18th century, which are wild types and have a more vigorous growth habit than grafted varieties.)⁶

The following buildings, structures, and fields are non-contributing elements of the Oxon Cove Farm historic district:

Hog House (c. 1973; Non-Contributing Building; D) A hog house is located east of the root cellar on the south side of the gravel drive. The hog house is a rectangular, one-story, four-bay wood frame building with a gable roof. The wood frame rests on a concrete sill. The walls are clad with plywood and applied battens and the roof is covered with asphalt roll. Four bays in the north eave elevation provide access between the hog house's four pens and the hog yard. The main entrances for people are located in the east and west gable ends. All entries have plain vertical board doors. The gable-end entries are located at either end of a passage that is contiguous with the north wall. Four hog pens are situated south of the passage. The pens have tongue-in-groove board floors. A combination of horizontal boards and wire-mesh fencing covers the walls. This structure is now being used for exhibit space.

Chicken House (c. 1991; Non-Contributing Building; F) The chicken house is a rectangular, one-story, two-bay, wood-frame building with a standing-seam metal shed roof. A chicken yard enclosed by a wood-frame chicken-wire fence is located east of the chicken house. The building stands on a concrete sill. The walls are clad in vertical board-and-batten. Entry is through a plain vertical-board door in the east elevation. The building has single-light, wood-sash casement windows with fixed metal screens; there is one window in the south elevation, two in the west elevation, and one in the east elevation. The open interior has a floor covered with straw. Inside is a roost and nesting supports.

Implement Shed (late 20th century; Non-Contributing Building; G) This structure is now being used for exhibit space. The one-story, one-by-two-bay shed structure is covered with wooden vertical board-and-batten. It has a low-pitched gable roof sheathed with corrugated metal. The roof has a deep overhang on all sides. The entrance is in the gable end.

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Visitor Barn (c. 1980; Non-Contributing Building; H) The visitor shelter is a rectangular, one-story, one-bay, wood-frame structure with board-and-batten walls, a standing-seam metal gable roof, a poured concrete foundation, and a concrete block sill. Four cylindrical metal vents rise from the roof ridge. A one-story, shed-roofed porch runs across the entire east or primary elevation. Its square wood posts rest on concrete piers and support a standing-seam metal roof. The north and south elevations have large, open windows with wood awning shutters. Vertical-board doors in the west end of the north and south elevations provide secondary access. The interior is open except for a vertical-board walled storage shed in the northeast corner.

Windmill (c. 1970; Non-Contributing Structure; I) Northeast of the visitor barn is a windmill, composed of four metal stanchions with metal cross-braces. The stanchions rest on a poured concrete platform and support the metal windmill machinery that powers a pump at ground level.

Tool Shed (c. 1970; Non-Contributing Building; M) The tool shed is a rectangular, one-story, eight-bay wood-frame building with a shed roof. The roof is sheathed with pressed metal and supported by unworked posts set into the earth. The five western bays of the building form a single unit that is walled on its west, north, and east elevations with vertical board-and-batten. Modern farm machinery is stored within these bays. The two bays east of this area, used for storage, are enclosed by vertical board-and-batten walls on all elevations. Sometime after 1989, a maintenance office was built within the shed structure. The newly created bay is used as storage space. The maintenance office has vertical board-and-batten walls and a shed roof sheathed with corrugated metal, and rests on a poured concrete pad foundation. A six-light, fixed, metal-sash window in the south elevation of the office area provides natural illumination. The main entry in the south elevation has a plain vertical-board door.

Restrooms (late 20th century; Non-Contributing Structure; N) The comfort station stands near the main cluster of farm buildings and was constructed to resemble them. The gabled structure is sheathed in wood vertical board-and-batten and has a metal roof. The entrance is in the long north-facing eave elevation.

"Sorghum Sirup" Shed (c. 1980; Non-Contributing Structure; O) A "sorghum sirup" shed is located east of the main outbuilding complex, on the north side of the modern access road leading to the farm complex. The rectangular, one-story, wood-frame building lacks walls but is sheltered by a gable roof sheathed with corrugated metal. Within the structure is a brick hearth, approximately six feet long, and a chimney stack. Both are mortared with Portland cement.

Dairy Barn (c. 1980; Non-Contributing Building; P) The barn is a rectangular, one-and-one-half story, one-bay, wood-frame structure with vertical board-and-batten walls and a standing-seam metal gable roof (figures 34 & 35). Five cylindrical metal vents rise from the roof ridge. The main entrance, in the east eave elevation, has a vertical board door. There are similar entries in the south and west elevations. A wood-frame shelter with a standing-seam metal shed roof supported on square posts extends the full width of the east elevation. This shelter provides protection

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for the primary entry. The east side of the shelter is open, while the north and south sides are clad with vertical board and batten siding.

Pepco Ventilation Building (1970s or 1980s; Non-Contributing Building; R) Located a half-mile north of the Mount Welby House, this structure housed ventilating equipment intended to remove explosive gases emanating from a large landfill constructed on the property. The now-abandoned structure is rectangular in plan and measures approximately 40 feet by 60 feet. The concrete block structure has a side-gable composition roof with a large sheet-metal cyclone on one side. This structure is not associated with any of the historic themes related to the farm.

Maintenance Dwelling and Outbuildings (c. mid-20th century; Non-Contributing Buildings; 17-19) An access road (which runs south of and parallel to the drive between the parking lot and Mount Welby) leads to a small maintenance area with three small structures. A one-story, three-bay, side-gable house has a one-bay porch. Nearby stand a shed and a garage.

Wooden Footbridges (c. mid/late- 20th century; Non-Contributing Buildings; 20-21) Two modern wooden footbridges span a small stream in the North Woods.

Middle Field and North Field (Non-Contributing Sites; 15 & 16) Before landfill operations, the land surrounding the cove was fringed with a scrub or forested wetland. A swath of floodplain fields – Middle Field and North Field – extended in a linear pattern north of Fox Ferry Road and east of the cove. These fields occupied the flatter ground between the fringe of wetland and the toe of the slope. Sometime after 1960, the land surrounding the cove, including this swath of fields and the wetland fringe, was used for landfilling operations. The landfill has now been capped and these areas are grassed over. Middle Field has been disked and smoothed and is now used to pasture horses. The larger section, North Field, was never smoothed and has a “lumpier” terrain. It has been seeded with grass, and natural re-vegetation has added variety. As a result of the landfill, the topography in both these areas has been raised six to ten feet. Today, Middle and North Fields remain open spaces, continuing the historic pattern in which the openness of the fields contrasted with the wooded slope to the east (figure 50). The edge of the capped landfill falls along the edge of the former floodplain at the foot of the slope (figure 51). The slopes are still forested as they were historically, especially east of North Field. Though it is no longer a wetland, trees have reclaimed a border along the cove. Middle Field, where horses are pastured, continues to have a historic agricultural use.

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Endnotes for Section 7, Description

¹ This nomination was originally prepared in 1993 by Kathryn Kuranda and Hugh McAloon for Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., and was included in their Historic Resources Study on the property. After review by the National Register of Historic Places, it was determined that much of the historic landscape apparently remained intact, and deserved inclusion within the bounds of the proposed historic district. In January 1999, Richard Quin, an architectural historian with the National Capital Region, surveyed structures at Oxon Cove Park for the List of Classified Structures. He recommended certain additions to the original draft of the National Register form, as well as a larger historic district (see Richard Quin, Memo to Gary Scott, 28 January 1999, Re: Oxon Hill Farm LCS/National Register reconciliation, Oxon Cove Park files, National Capital Region).

Following Quin's recommendation, Judith Earley, Historical Landscape Architect for NCR, Cultural Landscape Program, conducted a more thorough investigation of the park's landscape history, using historical aerial photographs and maps to explore this issue of enlarging the recommended boundaries. Earley completed her research in November 1999 (see Earley, memo to Gary Scott, 15 November 1999, Oxon Cove Park files, NCR). Finally, Kay Fanning, an architectural historian working for the NCR under a cooperative agreement with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, incorporated the research and recommendations of both Quin and Earley in a revised nomination, completed in July 2002. Important contributions were also made by National Capital Parks-East Historian, Dr. Frank Faragasso, who identified the national significance by recognizing Goddingcroft's role in the larger psychiatric reforms of the day and its uniqueness as an experimental treatment.

It should be noted that the map in the Goodwin team's "Historic Resources Study" – figure 15, "Computer generated overlay of current assessments and taxation data on base map of Oxon Cove Park" – is not correct in its depiction of the southern boundary of Parcel B, "Parcel Acquired by U.S.A. from John C. and Emma B. Heald, July 31, 1891, J.W.B. 21:55," at least insofar as this map implies that all of the Heald property became the St. Elizabeths farm property that was then transferred to the National Park Service in 1958. The southernmost portion of Parcel B at some point was owned by William T. Sellner, whose estate sold it to the NPS in 1962. Whether Sellner acquired this land from the Healds or from St. Elizabeths, or whether this parcel was never owned by either the Healds or St. Elizabeths, is not known. The chain-of-title for the lands south of Parcel B – the Sellner property – and north of U.S. 95/495 is not known, and because this land is outside of the proposed historic rural district, further research is not deemed necessary.

² The information on the proposed boundary for Oxon Cove Park Historic District, originally presented in the draft nomination by Goodwin & Associates, has been modified by Kay Fanning in accordance with the recommendations of Patrick Andrus, National Register of Historic Places; Gary Scott, Regional Historian, National Capital Region, NPS; Richard Quin, Architectural Historian, NCR, NPS; and Judith Earley, Historic Landscape Architect, Cultural

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Landscape Program, NCR, NPS. Most of the specific information on land use and vegetation comes from Earley, personal conversations and Memo to Gary Scott, 15 November 1999

³ Marina King, "National Register Nomination Form for Mount Welby (PG 76A-13)," Maryland Historical Trust.

⁴ This information was supplied by Frank Faragasso, historian for National Capital Parks – East, 19 October 2000.

⁵ Park ranger Christopher VonFrieling, conversation with NPS historian Richard Quin, 1999.

⁶ This information is taken from a report dated 30 August 2001, prepared by Susan Dolan, Historical Landscape Architect with the Pacific West Region, following a site visit with NCR and Washington Office (WASO) staff to Oxon Cove Park on 23 August 2001. Dolan is working on a system-wide study of orchards in the National Park System sponsored by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation and the National Center for Cultural Resources (WASO). Dolan's report includes management recommendations for the two oldest trees near the Mount Welby farmhouse, and some additional information on the younger orchard in Oxon Hill Road Field.

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8. Significance

Statement of Significance

The proposed Oxon Cove Park rural historic landscape district is an agricultural complex which includes the living farm known as Oxon Farm Park (sometimes called Oxon Hill Children's Farm). Buildings, structures, and sites included within the district are associated with two time periods and two principal themes. The periods of significance are 1797-1890, when the property was a farm, known for most of this period as Mount Welby; and 1891-1967, when the property was a farm associated with St. Elizabeths Hospital. The historic themes important to the district are agriculture and mental health care.

The district is eligible under two criteria, A and C. Criterion A requires that a property be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Criterion C requires that a property embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. Oxon Cove Park rural historic district is eligible under Criterion A because of its association with mental health care. Oxon Cove Farm historic district was among the first agricultural complexes to be used as a therapeutic treatment center for the mentally ill. This innovative approach marked a change in patient therapy for the mentally ill, from the warehousing of patients to providing treatment within an active work atmosphere. Under the ownership of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Oxon Cove Farm – then known as “Godding Croft” – provided innovative treatments for the mentally ill within an active agricultural context. The rural location itself was believed to be of therapeutic value. The district is eligible under Criterion C because the landscape and built features which comprise the district still clearly evoke the site's agrarian past. Its contributing elements constitute a recognizable agricultural complex.

Agricultural Use, 1797-1891

In 1797, Nicholas Lingan purchased a 269.75-acre property, comprised of a portion of Oxon Hill Manor and a tract known as “Force.”¹ This 269.75-acre parcel included the central portion of present-day Oxon Cove Park, including the Oxon Hill Farm complex. Lingan was a member of the gentry who resided in the District of Columbia. He owned extensive landholdings throughout the District, as well as in neighboring Prince George's County. Little is known about the operation of the Oxon Cove property during Lingan's ownership. Assessment records from the early 19th century indicate that Lingan had constructed some buildings on the land; tax records from 1800 note that Lingan paid \$500 on improvements to his 269-acre property, designated as “part of Oxon Hill Manor.” It is likely that this assessment reflects the construction of the house, Mount Welby, that currently stands on the Oxon Cove Park property, as documentary evidence explicitly discusses a brick dwelling at the property in 1815, and no other improvements were made to the property between 1800 and 1815.²

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Mount Welby: The DeButts Family Residence and Farm In 1811, Dr. Samuel DeButts purchased 250 acres of the Lingan property.³ DeButts, a native of Sligo, Ireland, emigrated to England, where he met and married Mary Anne Welby in 1785. By 1794, at the urging of Samuel's brother John, a resident of St. Mary's County, Maryland, the DeButts emigrated to America. They first settled in Baltimore, but the doctor experienced difficulty in establishing his practice there. They then briefly joined John DeButts in St. Mary's County before purchasing the approximately 250-acre estate on the Potomac. The family named the property "Mount Welby" in honor of Mary DeButts's family.⁴ Samuel DeButts may have chosen the property for its proximity to Washington, D.C., where he could perhaps practice medicine more successfully than in Baltimore.

The precise date of DeButts's acquisition of the property is open to speculation. Though DeButts did not receive title to the tract until 1811, as noted above, a "Doct. Samuel DeButts" was listed in the 1804 tax assessment records for Piscataway Hundred as owning 257.25 acres of "pr. of Oxon Hill Manor." The previous owner of the tract was no longer listed on the tax rolls by that year. DeButts may have acquired the property by 1804 or he may have been leasing the property from Nicholas Lingan, the former owner, in exchange for payment of all taxes on the land. The land was formally deeded from Lingan to DeButts in 1811.

An analysis of Prince George's County tax records revealed that the improvements assessment of \$500 made in 1800, during the Lingan ownership of the property, did not increase between 1800 and 1815, the year documentary evidence first explicitly mentions a brick dwelling at the current Oxon Cove property. This suggests that the \$500 valuation of 1800 represented the brick main dwelling that still stands (in altered condition) on the property. Evaluation of the building fabric of the brick stable at present-day Oxon Hill Farm has led to an assessment that the stable dates from the 1830s. Personal property assessment records further reveal that, by 1806, DeButts owned more than 10 slaves.⁵ The number of slaves indicates that Samuel DeButts was a man of some means, as in 1800 the median number of slaves per owner in Prince George's County was six.⁶ DeButts probably oversaw the cultivation of a diversified farm, albeit one that focused primarily on wheat.

Despite their middle-class status, the DeButts family faced hardship in their adopted country. Mary Ann Welby DeButts found herself with divided loyalties during the British invasion of Washington, D.C., during the War of 1812. Samuel DeButts was Irish Protestant and his views on the subject are not known. Mary DeButts expressed her conflict in a letter to her brother in England, writing: "I should not be surprised if Government persists in their determinations to quarrel with England that we should experience all the horrors of civil discord."⁷ Mary's letters indicate that the family lacked access to their remaining accounts in England, forcing them to borrow money at high

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interest rates to meet daily expenses. Despite the prospects of an excellent crop, the threat of an extended war prompted further financial worry for the DeButts family. On July 4, 1812, Mary wrote:

*We are just now in the midst of our Harvest, & have every prospect of plentiful crops, but if the war continues we shall have no market for our grain, 'tis terrible times for the Farmer but the poor Merchants will all be ruined; money never was so scarce, there is scarce a dollar to be had.*⁸

The ill health of Dr. DeButts and the threat of the oncoming "sickly season" posed additional problems for the family.

The close of the War of 1812 brought some relief to the DeButts family. During the war, the DeButts farm had been perilously close to the scene of battle. As Mary DeButts related to her brother in March 1815:

*The termination of the war has cheered Hearts of thousands but its bitter consequences will long be severely felt. I cannot express to you the distress it has occasioned, at the Battle of Bladensburg we heard every fire (that place being not more than 4 or 6 miles from us). Our House was shook repeatedly by the firing upon forts & Bridges, & illuminated by the fires in our Capital.*⁹

According to DeButts, Admiral Cockburn's British fleet "lay directly before our House." Indeed, the siting of Mount Welby would have afforded its residents a clear view of the city of Alexandria, located directly across the Potomac River, as it capitulated to British troops. At one point during the war, the DeButts family had left Mount Welby to visit their sick daughter in Loudon County, Virginia; upon their return home, they "found three rockets on our Hill evidently pointed at our House but fortunately did not reach it."¹⁰

Though the war had come perilously close to harming the DeButts family, they emerged from the conflict unscathed. However, "a most dreadful Epidemic" swept through the region during the winter of 1815, killing slaves, tenants, and, on March 20, Dr. Samuel DeButts.¹¹ Mary DeButts inherited the estate and continued to reside at Mount Welby with her son Richard and his family.¹² Upon her death in 1826, the estate passed to her son, John Henry, who had previously managed the estate during his parents' visits to friends and family.¹³ John Henry's two children, Richard E. DeButts and Mary Welby DeButts Carter, inherited the property after his death in 1832. Both Richard and Mary were living in Fauquier County, Virginia. They maintained ownership of the property until 1843, when they sold most of Mount Welby to Isaac George of Fairfax County, Virginia. They reserved the enclosed family graveyard for themselves and their heirs.¹⁴ (The location of the graveyard is not presently known.)

The Mount Welby parcel passed through a series of owners between 1843, when the DeButts heirs sold it, and 1891, when it was purchased by the U.S. Government. The historic record suggests that the purchasers bought the property as an investment, and that the land either was worked by tenant farmers or was allowed to lie fallow. While some owners, such as Joseph Bowling and George Mattingly, paid off their mortgages on the property, others, such as Joseph Ryerson and Oliver Gilbert, defaulted on their loans and were forced to sell the land at public auction.

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Little is known of the tenants who worked the land at Mount Welby. Though a federal agricultural census was established by 1850, distinctions between tenants and owners were seldom made. While the 1880 agricultural census did differentiate between the two groups, information on Mount Welby cannot be obtained because the names of its tenants have not been identified. Few tenant arrangements were documented by leases; most were informal oral agreements.

Nevertheless, agricultural censuses from 1850 to 1880 provide general information on agricultural trends in the area. In the Spaldings District, in which Mount Welby and Oxon Hill Manor were located, emphasis was placed on market gardening. This new emphasis resulted from the proximity of this area to the increased market in Washington, D.C.; from improved transportation routes to the city; and from the unsuitability of the soils for growing wheat. Orchard production in the region increased between 1850 and 1860.¹⁵

Farms in the Oxon Hill District, which was separated from the Spaldings District in 1874, decreased in size after the Civil War. The 1880 agricultural census, the first to distinguish between owner/farmers and tenant/farmers, identified 29.7 percent of farmers in the district as tenants. The overwhelming majority of them were cash tenants who paid their rent in currency, rather than sharecroppers who received use of the land in return for a portion of their produce. By 1880, farms in the Oxon Hill District produced wheat, rye, corn, oats, Irish potatoes, hay, sweet potatoes, and butter.¹⁶

While land use of the Oxon Cove property during the latter half of the 19th century remains ambiguous, ownership of the property has been documented. In 1853, Isaac George sold approximately 234 acres of the Mount Welby property to Joseph H. Bowling.¹⁷ Ten years later, Bowling sold the tract to George Mattingly for \$8,000.¹⁸ Mattingly apparently had been paying taxes on the property prior to his acquisition of the deed, as the *Survey of Military Defenses in the Vicinity of Washington, D.C.* map (1862) depicts "G. Mattingly" as the owner of the Mount Welby house and property.

In 1864, Joseph W. Ryerson took out a loan and purchased Mount Welby at the substantial cost of \$16,000.¹⁹ It is unclear whether the 1864 price reflects improvements made during Mattingly's ownership, or whether the price charged Mattingly in 1863 reflects a discount given to Mattingly in return for the taxes he had paid during previous years. Ryerson was unable to maintain payments on the property and defaulted on his loan. In 1867, George Mattingly regained ownership of the property via public auction for the sum of \$12,870.²⁰

Mattingly found new owners for Mount Welby in 1873, when Oliver and Emma Gilbert purchased the 234-acre property for \$18,000.²¹ Gilbert defaulted on his loan three years later, and sold the property to Moses Kelly at public auction for only \$5300.²² Perhaps seeking a quick return on their investment, Moses and Mary Kelly sold the same property to P. Edwin Dye on April 1, 1876, for \$6000.²³ Dye probably rented the property to tenants during his 14-year ownership, though land use during this period remains unclear.

By 1890, Dye could no longer maintain payments on the Mount Welby property, and Arthur Clements purchased the land at public auction for \$5625.²⁴ In 1891, Clements sold Mount Welby to Samuel and Johanna Bieber for \$6250.²⁵ The Biebers had owned the property for less than a year when they agreed to sell it to the United States for \$6500 on November 21, 1891.²⁶

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Today, much of the landscape reflects the historic rural character of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Major roads which cut through the property and define some of its borders follow historic routes. In general, the landscape retains the historic relation of open field or pasture to woodland. Some fields remain in agricultural cultivation, reflecting continuity of use. Three or perhaps four extant structures on the property date from this first period of significance: the Mount Welby house, the brick stable, and the brick root cellar. The brick walls of the enclosed spring may also date from this era. Two apple trees remain from an historic orchard located west of the farmhouse. The older tree, approximately 120 years in age, may be the largest and oldest variety apple tree remaining in the National Park System. This tree represents the appearance of fruit trees during much of the 19th century, when such trees were not pruned but were, instead, allowed to develop a natural shape and tall trunk. The other apple tree in this orchard is about 100 years old, dating from the early years of the St. Elizabeths occupation of the farm, and represents the early 20th century, when fruit trees were first pruned into an open bowl shape with a short trunk. (See Description for further information.)

Portions of the historic dwelling known as Mount Welby were probably constructed at the beginning of the 19th century, possibly by Nicholas Lingan or Dr. Samuel DeButts. However, architectural analysis of the building fabric, floor plan, and stylistic details suggests that the original early 19th-century building was damaged, possibly by fire, and repaired later in the 19th century. The late 19th- and 20th-century alterations to the Mount Welby dwelling have altered its original characteristics to such a degree that the building no longer reflects the full architectural vocabulary of buildings constructed during the early 19th century. Exterior brick walls exhibit an irregular combination of Flemish bond, more commonly associated with the 18th century, and 3:1 course common bond, associated with late 18th/early 19th-century construction. The addition of corbeled brick roof brackets, the shed roof, and stylistic details to the primary and secondary porches associates Mount Welby more closely with the Italianate architectural style of the late 19th century. The building originally had a four-unit plan, which was altered by the removal of a wall that divided the east chambers of the structure; the ghost of that wall is evident beneath the flooring material now covering the unified space.

The walls of the brick stable also are constructed in 3:1 common bond coursing. Its gable ends have pierced diamond patterns and glazed header bricks. Barns and stables built in Tidewater Maryland during the 19th century generally were characterized by the use of wood-frame construction. The construction vocabulary of the brick stable is more commonly associated with south-central Pennsylvania and the Piedmont regions of Maryland and Virginia than with the Tidewater area of the Coastal Plain. Despite alterations incorporated during the late 19th and 20th centuries, the brick stable retains its overall architectural integrity. Alterations include the filling in of windows and doors, the removal and addition of stall partitions, and the addition of a poured concrete floor. The most significant change was the enlargement of the central entrance. No evidence of the original configuration of the central bay survives. Record of the removal and addition of interior stall partitions is found on the building's interior wall surfaces, where the ghosts of the former partitions remain.

The root cellar is constructed of brick coursed in 5:1 common bond, a brick pattern common in American buildings constructed during the mid-19th century. The brick root cellar has a brick-lined below-grade entrance. The

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exterior of the foundation walls has been parged with Portland cement, applied at an unknown period. Root cellars are support structures frequently associated with 19th-century farmsteads. The design of these structures varies in elaboration from simple earthen dugouts to architecturally sophisticated masonry buildings. In general, construction techniques and materials used in these secondary buildings reflect those of the associated main complex. The root cellar at Oxon Cove Park retains its overall architectural integrity.

These three buildings are associated with the early development of the Oxon Cove Park property as a working farm and form an architecturally unified, distinguishable entity within the park. The stable and the root cellar retain their integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, and association. The main dwelling, while initially constructed during the early 19th century, was substantially rebuilt later in that century. As a result of these changes, the main house is more closely related to its period of substantial renovation than to its period of original construction.

Institutional Use, 1891-1967

Hospital Farm Development and Operation

St. Elizabeths Hospital and the Decentralization Movement. By 1891, the year in which the United States purchased two of the tracts that now comprise Oxon Cove Park for the Government Hospital for the Insane (then known only informally as St. Elizabeths), mental institutions had experienced almost 40 years of expansion and development. ("St. Elizabeths" is the historic spelling of the name.) St. Elizabeths Hospital, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, was established in 1852 as part of the mid-19th-century reform movement led by Dorothea Lynde Dix to provide "humane and enlightened" care for the mentally ill. Central to the philosophy of care was the concept that a peaceful, pastoral setting, removed from harmful urban influences, would promote healing.²⁷ St. Elizabeths, located in a rural setting on a ridge overlooking the Potomac and Anacostia rivers in southeastern Washington, D.C., appeared to possess these characteristics of proper setting.

The hospital was established as the only national Public Health Service Hospital solely concerned with the recovery of the mentally ill. (It retains this status today.) Those eligible to receive treatment at St. Elizabeths included District of Columbia residents, federal government beneficiaries, and persons charged or convicted in criminal proceedings in federal or district courts who required psychiatric diagnosis or treatment.²⁸

St. Elizabeths Hospital quickly moved to the forefront of the mental health care field, providing the best, most enlightened treatment for its patients. Before the hospital was established, the body of information concerning causes and potential cures for mental illness had been limited. Doctors believed mental illness was a permanent condition requiring that patients be sequestered under custodial care. Most hospitals housed patients in large, centralized single buildings. However, by the mid-19th century, prevailing concepts of treatment had shifted somewhat among enlightened mental health practitioners, who no longer viewed mental illness as a permanent condition, and no longer considered mere custodial care sufficient to manage mental patients.

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Nevertheless, in the absence of modern medications and psychotherapy, effective treatment still relied primarily on the provision of a “healthful and beneficent” environment. St. Elizabeths Hospital became one of the first institutions to place patients in congenial surroundings where they could learn “proper behavior” from normal attendants. However, the hospital was still highly centralized, and all patients resided under one roof.²⁹

By the 1870s, the increased numbers of mental patients at centralized mental hospitals, including St. Elizabeths, had become a significant problem. Moreover, construction costs for new large-scale buildings of the traditional type had escalated to such an extent that few federal, state, or local government agencies wished to embark on the major building programs required to relieve overcrowding. These needs prompted a search for a means of expanding hospital facilities at lower costs.³⁰ While concern over escalating costs rose, humanitarian considerations also dictated new methods of treating the mentally ill. Patients complained about the monotony of life in the wards; people associated with mental health treatment found traditional hospitals too institutional to help patients recover. Thus, both economic and humanitarian factors influenced a shift in mental health care towards decentralization and providing a more homelike environment for patients. St. Elizabeths Hospital emerged during the late 19th century as an early practitioner of the new “cottage plan,” which encouraged the construction of smaller, detached buildings standing independently from the main hospital structure. Not only did smaller dormitories eliminate some of the impersonal qualities of institutionalized care, but they also allowed patients greater mobility and enabled them to engage in useful tasks, such as gardening and farming.³¹

William W. Godding, appointed superintendent of St. Elizabeths Hospital in 1877, was a strong proponent of decentralization. He encouraged the creation of a homelike environment for his patients, saying that “the best road to quiet content if not to cure lies through the regular occupation of the mind and body with some work not too hard of comprehension, nor too taxing to the strength in its performance.”³² His theories helped to alter the system under which patients at St. Elizabeths were confined.

In 1878, Godding oversaw the construction of Atkins Hall, a small, two-story residential building on the grounds of the hospital that provided shelter for 40 of the quieter patients, who were capable of working on the hospital grounds. The structure, free of barred windows and bolted doors, provided the patients with a modicum of autonomy, and it served as an initial step in providing less confining care for at least a handful of qualified patients.³³

Encouraged by the success of Atkins Hall, and inspired by Richard Dewey’s more expansive decentralized plan at Kankakee Hospital in Illinois, Godding worked to improve conditions at St. Elizabeths further. In an 1885 article published in *Alienist and Neurologist*, Godding expressed his approval of the cottage plan, since it provided more private, intimate accommodations for patients, as well as greater liberties and employment.³⁴ Godding’s belief in the benefits of work as being “the most efficient instrumentality in the treatment and management of the insane” led to an extension of the decentralization process.³⁵

In 1891, St. Elizabeths Hospital acquired a c. 350-acre tract of land approximately five miles south of the main institution, in the Oxon Hill District of Prince George’s County. Godding incorporated this new property, called “Godding Croft,” into his plan for moving some capable patients from the main grounds of the hospital to a quiet agricultural setting. He believed that patients removed from the confining hospital grounds could benefit from the

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fresh air and outdoor work available at this new "farm colony." Godding intended the new farm to evolve into a larger community comprised of the "harmless insane."³⁶

Though St. Elizabeths Hospital had maintained some farmland prior to the acquisition of the two Oxon Cove parcels in 1891, it lacked space adequate for the scale of patient housing envisioned by Godding. In addition, the hospital's increased demand for fresh food required supplementary acreage to enable the hospital to employ modern agricultural methods. Godding Croft was designed to allow for the expansion of agricultural facilities at the hospital; it is now the main building complex used by Oxon Cove Park.

In his 1892 *Annual Report of the Government Hospital for the Insane*, Godding expressed his eagerness to create this new therapeutic agricultural work environment. Though the report discussed such practical concerns as the "considerable delay in perfecting the title" to the Mount Welby property, and the requirement of enclosing the property for secure hospital use, the general tone of the report reflected Godding's enthusiasm in pursuing his plans for innovative treatment. As envisioned in the report, Godding intended to prepare

suitable accommodations for a pioneer colony of laboring men, carefully selected from the quiet class of inmates, to whom a home where they can sit under their own vine and fig tree enjoying the fruit of their labors will be something hitherto unknown to their hospital life.

Godding stressed the benefits of his new therapeutic approach for "quiet" mental health patients, and he eloquently expressed his belief that labor would provide them comfort not found in the traditional hospital. He explained his novel approach as

a somewhat new departure in the direction of humane care and enlightened treatment, that can hardly fail to promote the comfort of those whose hands are thus occupied while their thoughts may find therein diversion for the cobwebs of their brains.

He wrote of his hope that the farm would inspire other, similar communities that would allow the "harmless insane" to live outside the hospital environment and enjoy a freer life.³⁷

Use of Hospital Farms. Though the therapeutic aspects of the farm received the most serious consideration, Godding, as superintendent, also appreciated the economic benefits derived from the farm's adequate food production. As early as 1888, Godding had asked James Klee, superintendent of the poultry yard at St. Elizabeths Hospital, to seek new methods of increasing the productivity and profitability of the hospital's poultry operations. In a series of memoranda to the manager of agricultural affairs, Klee opined that the hospital lacked every necessary ingredient for lucrative poultry operations. He advised the hospital to tear down the existing facility and begin anew at a better location.³⁸ Though Klee's memo was not the primary motivating factor in the purchase of the Oxon Hill property, it persuasively

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outlined the inadequacies of the current arrangement. Building a new hen house at Godding Croft, complete with a staff of patients to handle the operations, would solve the poultry problem and improve profitability.

Appreciation for the economic advantages of patient labor reflected contemporary trends in mental health care. During the late 1800s, hospital needs became the springboard for establishing work programs in which patients were assigned to tasks in the laundry, or in maintenance, farming, and gardening. As early as 1881, patients at the Willard Asylum in New York harvested produce, mended clothing, and laid railroad track. The therapeutic philosophy behind this system reflected a strong belief that occupation diverted the patient from her or his mental state.³⁹

Though doctors provided such a rationale for patient work programs, patient labor received strong support in large measure due to its economic benefits, since it supplemented insufficient hospital staffs. At the same time, the work purportedly made patients "more manageable." At St. Elizabeths Hospital, fruits and vegetables harvested on the farms by patients could be canned and prepared by patients to provide future meals for patients. The economy of such a system was not lost on hospital management.⁴⁰ Godding's description of the Oxon Cove property in the 1891 *Annual Report* even highlighted the land's agricultural potential:

It is a field whereon to plant colonies and to make homes. Here we can raise our young stock; here readily can grow all the corn necessary for our feed meal, all the Irish and sweet potatoes that we require, with melons and fruits sufficient for our whole household, who in their turn might be expected to supply most of the labor needed, so making of these acres their fields and their world.⁴¹

Indeed, much of the available historic documentation pertaining to Godding Croft reflects the agricultural, rather than the therapeutic, advantages of the hospital farm.

With the addition of Godding Croft, the hospital maintained three separate farming areas. The three hospital farms operated interdependently to fulfill the expressed two-fold purpose of providing a "healthful and instructive occupation for the patients" and supplying the hospital with fresh food.⁴² Farm managers frequently treated the triad as a single system, albeit one with removed areas. Shepherd Farm, sometimes called the Home Farm because of its location on the hospital grounds, initially had the dairy; some crops were also grown here. Patients worked in the fields, repaired and built fences, cut weeds, spread manure, and cared for horses, calves, and cows. Other tasks included milking, assisting with the care of sick animals, and maintaining time reports.⁴³ Stevens Farm, located approximately one-half mile south of the hospital, contained the garden. Patients at Stevens Farm hoed, cultivated, and gathered vegetables, and helped feed and care for swine housed at the farm's piggery. Patients selected for work at the more remote Godding Croft had less severe mental conditions and were allowed greater freedom than those who remained on the central campus of St. Elizabeths. They labored in the fields, helped care for livestock, assisted with kitchen duties and housecleaning, and worked in the poultry plant.⁴⁴

Patients assigned to farm labor worked in groups of five to twelve men under the charge of an attendant. Generally, they worked about two to three hours each morning and about the same amount of time each afternoon. In addition to the house, Godding Croft had two small cottages for patients who resided on the premises.⁴⁵ Historic

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photographs depict the hospital farm during the early years of its establishment. The house Mount Welby, with its commanding view of the Potomac River, remained the focal point of the farm complex. The view from the veranda once inspired Godding to write: "one secures an excellent view of the river, reflecting the surrounding landscape in its mirror-like surface as it winds its way to the Chesapeake."⁴⁶ One c. 1893 photograph shows at least one frame agricultural building standing north of the dwelling, not far from a small orchard (figure 52). The house itself appears to have been recently renovated, since it incorporates ornamental finishes on the rear porch.

In 1895, the hospital's *Annual Report* provided a map of Goddingcroft [*sic*] as its frontispiece; the map depicts most of the acreage encompassed by the farm during that period (figure 7). Though the map shows that cultivated fields were confined primarily to the highest reaches of the property – the area currently occupied by the Oxon Hill Farm complex – hospital agricultural operations soon encompassed the flat floodplains adjacent to the river. A proposed road from Marlboro, Maryland, to Alexandria, Virginia, was planned to cross near the southern boundary of the property, while the main farm road circled past the farm buildings and residential structures, through the fields, down to Oxon Cove.

The residential structures depicted on the map housed patients at Godding Croft through at least the 1920s. Inventories dating from that decade listed 20 single iron bedsteads and one double wooden bed at the farm.⁴⁷ However, by 1942, at least some patients were being transported to and from Godding Croft on a daily basis. The farm manager complained that such commuting reduced the patients' work day, leaving little time for chores. A U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart of the Potomac illustrates the distance between the hospital farm at Oxon Cove and St. Elizabeths Hospital (then labeled the U.S. Hospital for the Insane), a trek of approximately five miles along an indirect route. In his 1942 farm report, the farm manager urged the construction of temporary quarters that would house 50 or 60 patients to "greatly increase the labor efficiency of that unit and save considerable wear and tear on our farm trucks." The requested construction program, which suggested a greater emphasis on patient labor rather than on patient therapy, was never implemented.⁴⁸

The St. Elizabeths Hospital farm reports primarily chronicle the agricultural concerns of Godding Croft. They provide a technical account of property use during the 20th century, and document the changing role of Godding Croft. As the other hospital farms lost ground to patient housing and property sale, Godding Croft assumed additional agricultural responsibilities.

Godding Croft originally provided feed and pasture for much of the hospital's stock, though small herds of cattle and pigs were maintained at the other farms. Godding Croft produced most of the silage, timothy, and alfalfa required by cows and horses maintained at the farm; by the early 1930s, the farm provided feed for all of the stock it housed.⁴⁹ In addition to a stable of nine horses, Godding Croft accommodated calves and piglets from the hospital's other farms. Six-month-old calves were taken to Godding Croft, where they remained until they gave birth to their own first calves, when they were removed to the dairy at Shepherd Farm.⁵⁰ In a similar arrangement, Godding Croft acquired young piglets from the piggery at Steven's Farm; these young pigs remained in Godding Croft's ample pastures until they were four to five months old and less susceptible to roundworm.⁵¹

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In addition to producing feed for the hospital's livestock, Godding Croft furnished food for the patient population. The farm had an orchard, and maintained bees to pollinate the fruit trees and supply the dining room with honey. By the mid-1930s, Godding Croft also supplied sweet potatoes, carrots, beets, turnips, and some summer vegetables.⁵²

Godding Croft served as the home for the hospital poultry operations. Farm managers experimented with various breeds in an attempt to increase egg and dressed-fowl production. During one 20-year period, the farm switched from White Leghorn laying hens to Plymouth Barred Rocks to New Hampshire Reds. In 1935, farm manager D.A. Brodie identified the inadequate laying house as a key factor in poor egg and chicken production. The laying house, which was built around the contour of a hill that acted as a dam for run-off water, attracted rats and lice, and fostered poultry diseases such as tuberculosis and white diarrhea.⁵³ In 1939, the farm temporarily suspended poultry operations to clear the premises of disease and parasites. After operations resumed, the resulting healthy flock increased production significantly.⁵⁴ By 1948-49, a flock of 5579 birds provided 31,397 dozen eggs and more than 10,000 pounds of meat for the hospital.⁵⁵

As the farm reports indicate, much of Godding Croft was comprised of pasture and cultivated fields, with only a secondary emphasis on livestock production. Therefore, the initial number of farm buildings was minimal. As of June 30, 1937, the St. Elizabeths Hospital agricultural building inventory identified only a horse barn (\$17,822.18), a tank and water system (\$7075), a house (\$6298.34), a cow barn (\$2500), poultry houses (\$2000), and a hay rack (\$180) at Godding Croft. However, Godding Croft remained the largest of the three hospital farms, with 390.12 acres of land, 200 of which were under cultivation.⁵⁶

Oddly, the 1937 inventory identified no buildings as patient cottages. However, other reports at least acknowledge the presence of patient workers at the former Mount Welby estate. In the 1938-39 annual report, Brodie requested that a new kitchen and dining room arrangement be established at Godding Croft, because he regarded the delivery of food service to patients and employees as crude and unsanitary. Brodie wrote:

Although the present situation is one of long standing, and harks back to a more primitive period, where generations of men and women have cooked and dined and thought nothing of it because there was nothing better to be had, nevertheless, our present standards for maintaining health and comfort would seem to warrant the installation of modern conveniences.

While Brodie did not specify his concerns with the situation, he intimated that conditions should be changed if Godding Croft were "to be continued as a hospital farm."⁵⁷ Though other records note the installation of electric lights on the farm by 1930, Brodie's concern suggests that the farm was not maintained at the same level of comfort as the hospital's main campus.⁵⁸

With the patient population dramatically increased, St. Elizabeths Hospital continued to appropriate land from its farms for additional patient housing. This loss of land necessitated more intensive farming practices, as farm managers attempted to keep pace with the demand for vegetables.⁵⁹ In 1941, the main garden was moved from

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Stevens Farm to Godding Croft. The increase in garden acreage demanded a corresponding decline in the amount of hay and other forage that could be grown at Godding Croft; the farm was no longer self-sustaining, and hay was acquired from outside sources to supplement farm supplies. By 1945, a major part of the bottom land had been converted for vegetable garden use.⁶⁰ With the abandonment of farm activities at the home farm in 1948, all gardening activities were conducted at Godding Croft.⁶¹

In 1945, farm management decided to move the piggery to Godding Croft, where a proper location was selected "in the wooded section north of the ravine"; the site formerly contained a hay barn that had been demolished by fire on December 17, 1944. The pig complex required the construction of new roads leading to the site of the hog shelter and feeding platform. A farrowing house and 36 pens to shelter the pigs were built by the following year. The new feeding platform contained troughs and a paved concrete enclosure for injecting garbage. In addition, a furnace and tank for cooking garbage was built.⁶²

Staff reductions in the late 1940s left only a skeleton work force to care for the farm. The 1946 farm report also noted that "the effect of a five day week will be keenly felt in this department and an additional twenty patients should be assigned here to facilitate the work." Management further identified the need to request overtime of some paid employees to care for both the farm animals and the patients.⁶³ In 1949, the number of Godding Croft employees was reduced to 15.⁶⁴

Ten structures and six landscape features at Oxon Cove are associated with construction activity undertaken at Godding Croft during this historic context period. These include the horse and pony barn, feed building, and hexagonal outbuilding, all constructed at the turn of the century; the pump house and the water tank of the early 20th century; the hay barn and silo, constructed during the mid-20th century; and the two hog pens and the hog feed incinerator. Landscape sites dating from the Godding Croft period or earlier include the Oxon Hill farmstead, the Fox Ferry Road, the North Road, the North Woods, the South Field, and the Oxon Hill Road Field. Photographic research reveals that the horse and pony barn and the feed building retain their original location and design; cartographic research reveals that the silo and hay barn also retain integrity of location.

None of the seven buildings incorporate discernable structural alterations or replacements. The interior walls of the hexagonal outbuilding are plastered, obscuring the building's structural system. The horse and pony barn, feed building, and hay barn are constructed primarily of circular-sawn wooden structural members. Circular saw machinery was developed during the mid-19th century. The use of circular-sawn wood in the construction of rural buildings became common about 1870, when improved transportation methods and reductions in the cost of production made the purchase of machine circular-sawn wood more economical than manually-sawn lumber. The silo is constructed of glazed tiles, a material used to build utilitarian structures between about 1925 and 1975. All seven buildings associated with the agricultural operations conducted at Godding Croft retain integrity of materials and workmanship.

Structures located in the core complex at Oxon Cove Park constructed before 1967 possess those qualities of significance identified in National Register Criteria A and C that are necessary for listing as a historic district. Buildings constructed at Oxon Cove during the period of National Park Service ownership, including a visitor barn,

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hog house, windmill, chicken house, implement shed, tool shed, sorghum sirup shed, and dairy barn, are less than 50 years of age. Buildings less than 50 years old are not typically eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places unless they possess exceptional qualities of significance. None of the buildings constructed during the National Park Service period of ownership possess the exceptional qualities necessary for inclusion in the National Register.

Oxon Cove Park, National Park Service, 1967-present

In the early and middle decades of the 20th century, the National Park Service acquired numerous properties along the Maryland shore of the Potomac, from the District south to Fort Washington. These were purchased under the Capper-Cramton Act, which allowed the federal government to acquire lands for parks and parkways in the Washington, D.C. area. The National Park Service secured lands under the Capper-Cramton Act to allow for the future development of a southern, Maryland stretch of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. In 1967, the NPS arranged with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) to use Godding Croft as a children's animal farm. HEW later formally transferred the St. Elizabeths farm property to the National Park Service. (Further information on this farm in the context of the "Living Farm" movement is provided in the Oxon Cove Park Historic Resource Study; see below). The NPS also acquired adjoining parcels to the south, west, and north.⁶⁵

By the late 20th century, the area surrounding historic Godding Croft had become intensively developed. The landscape of southern Prince George's County changed from a region characterized by agrarian landscapes to one that is now largely urban and suburban. The growth of woodland around Oxon Cove Park serves to enhance, rather than detract from, the site's integrity of setting. The trees that border the fields of Oxon Cove Park effectively screen all of the development undertaken immediately adjacent to the farm, and preserve the rural atmosphere that characterized the area when Godding Croft was established.

The importance of the park's rural character – the maintenance of which is central to its mission – has been noted over the years in several articles and NPS reports. Many of these were cited in the Historic Resource Study (HRS) on Oxon Cove Park prepared for the National Park Service in October 1993 by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. Plans for Oxon Farm Park prepared in 1969 envisioned the "development of [a] farm environment" and the creation of a "total farm experience."⁶⁶ The plan noted that the majority of visitors come from city and suburbs, "so planners encouraged the park to stress the quality of rural space."⁶⁷ An article in the *Sunday Star* of August 24, 1969, "emphasized the distinction between the pastoral setting of Oxon Cove, and the surrounding suburban office buildings, factories, and subdivisions."⁶⁸ A 1988 plan prepared by National Capital Parks – East, "Illustrative Plan for Oxon Cove," noted that "plans for the farm sought to highlight the farm's strength as an agrarian bastion against the surrounding urban sprawl."⁶⁹ The HRS states, in conclusion, that "Oxon Cove Park depicts more than 300 years of changing settlement and development patterns in Prince Georges County."⁷⁰

In 1968, a cooperative agreement was signed between the District of Columbia and the National Park Service arranging for the development of a demonstration landfill in Oxon Cove Park on fields along the south and east sides of Oxon Cove.⁷¹ The fill raised Middle Field and North Field from six to ten feet above their historic levels and

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changed their contours. Plans to produce methane gas from the landfill resulted in the construction of a large ventilation building by Pepco, but there seems to have been little activity. Community protests succeeded in stopping landfill operations, and the landfill areas were covered and re-vegetated. Natural revegetation has also occurred on these fields. While their elevations and topography have changed as a result of the landfill operations, the fields essentially retain their historic relation of open space to woodland. This form does not designate these two fields as individual historic sites contributing to the rural historic landscape, but they nonetheless serve to perpetuate the historic rural, agrarian character of the property and so have been included within the bounds of the district.

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Endnotes for Section 8, Significance

¹ Prince George's County Land Records, Liber JRM 6:86, Walter Dulany Addison to Nicholas Lingan, 1797, Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

² Prince George's County Assessment Records, Piscataway and Hynson Hundreds, 1800, Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

³ Prince George's County Land Records, Liber JRM 14:355, Nicholas Lingan to Samuel DeButts, 1811, Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

⁴ Richard J. Lundgren, "Mount Welby and the DeButts Family," unpublished manuscript provided by the author, n.d.

⁵ Prince George's County Assessment Records, Piscataway and Hynson Hundreds, 1800-1815, Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

⁶ Garrow and Wheaton, *Archaeological Site Mitigation*, p. 125.

⁷ Mary Welby DeButts to Richard Earle Welby, April 2, 1812; Richard J. Lundgren Family Papers, Dover, Massachusetts.

⁸ Mary Welby DeButts to Richard Earle Welby, July 4, 1812; Richard J. Lundgren Family Papers, Dover, Massachusetts.

⁹ Mary Welby DeButts to Richard Earle Welby, March 1815; Richard J. Lundgren Family Papers, Dover, Massachusetts.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Prince George's County Wills, Liber TT1:109, Dr. Samuel DeButts, March 20, 1815; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

¹³ Prince George's County Wills, Liber TT1:441, Mary DeButts, 1826; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

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¹⁴ Prince George's County Land Records, Liber JBB :284, Richard H. Carter, Mary Welby Carter, and Richard E. DeButts to Isaac George, 1843; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records. National Capital Parks-East historian, Dr. Frank Faragasso, says the location of the graveyard is not known.

¹⁵ Garrow and Wheaton, *Archaeological Site Mitigation*, p. 94.

¹⁶ United States Agricultural Census, 1880; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

¹⁷ Prince George's County Land Records, Liber ON1:510, Isaac George to George Mattingly, 1863; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

¹⁸ Prince George's County Land Records, Liber HB1:575, Joseph H. Bowling to George Mattingly, 1863; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

¹⁹ Prince George's County Land Records, Liber FS2:458, George Mattingly to Joseph W. Ryerson, 1864; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

²⁰ Prince George's County Land Records, Liber HB1:577, Joseph W. Ryerson to George Mattingly, 1867; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

²¹ Prince George's County Land Records, Liber HB8:251, George Mattingly to Oliver and Emma Gilbert, 1873; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

²² Prince George's County Land Records, Liber HB8:253, Oliver Gilbert to Moses Kelly, 1876; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

²³ Prince George's County Land Records, Liber HB11:216, Moses and Mary Kelly to P. Edwin Dye, 1876; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

²⁴ Prince George's County Land Records, Liber HWB18:8, P. Edwin Dye to Arthur Clements, 1890; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

²⁵ Prince George's County Land Records, Liber JWB 18:84, Arthur Clements to Samuel and Johanna Bieber, 1891; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records.

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²⁶ Prince George's County Land Records, Liber JWB 20:150, Samuel and Johanna Bieber to United States Government, 1891; Maryland State Archives Hall of Records. Also NARA RG 418, Deeds, Entry 30, Records Relating to the Purchase of Oxon Hill Manor.

²⁷ U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), Division of Architecture, "Saint Elizabeths Hospital, National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form" (1979), typescript, District of Columbia Historic Preservation Division, Section 7, p. .3.

²⁸ Ibid, Section 7, p. 6.

²⁹ Frank Rives Millikan, "Wards of the Nation: The Making of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, 1842-1920" (Ph.D. Dissertation, George Washington University, 1990): pp. 125-130.

³⁰ Ibid., p. 125.

³¹ Ibid., p. 127.

³² Report of Dr. William W. Godding, 1880, as quoted by Winfred Overholser in Centennial Papers, St. Elizabeths Hospital 1855-1955.

³³ Millikan, "Wards of the Nation," pp. 130-131.

³⁴ William W. Godding, "A Vindication of History," *Alienist and Neurologist* 6 (January 1885): 82, as quoted by Millikan, "Wards of the Nation," p. 129.

³⁵ William W. Godding in 1886 *Annual Report*, as quoted by Millikan, "Wards of the Nation," p. 145; Millikan, p. 134.

³⁶ Millikan, "Wards of the Nation," p. 134.

³⁷ William W. Godding, *Government Hospital for the Insane Annual Report* 1892, typescript, p. 16; Oxon Cove Park Files, National Capital Parks-East, Anacostia.

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³⁸ Memo from James L. Klee to James L. Green, January 25, 1888; NARA RG 418, Entry 28, Records Relating to Hospital Maintenance and Construction, 1879-98.

³⁹ Jane Klemer, "The History of Industrial/Work Therapy," typescript, n.d., p. 10; Oxon Cove Park Files, National Capital Parks-East, Anacostia.

⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 11.

⁴¹ *Government Hospital for the Insane Annual Report 1891*, typescript; Oxon Cove Park Files, National Capital Parks-East, Anacostia.

⁴² Responsibilities and Duties of the Farm Department, 1929; NARA RG 418, Entry 20, Annual Reports of Subordinate Units.

⁴³ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1929; NARA RG 418, Entry 20, Annual Reports of Subordinate Units.

⁴⁴ Responsibilities and Duties of the Farm Department, 1929.

⁴⁵ *Government Hospital for the Insane Annual Report*, 1892.

⁴⁶ Winfred Overholser, "Godding Croft," *Saint Elizabeths Reporter* 1 (October 1861): 4.

⁴⁷ Inventories from Godding Croft, Miscellaneous Papers, Saint Elizabeths Hospital Museum.

⁴⁸ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1942-43; NARA RG 418, Entry 20, Annual Reports of Subordinate Units.

⁴⁹ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, March 1930, NARA RG 418, Entry 21, Semiannual Reports of Subordinate Units; NARA RG 418, St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Reports, 1930, Entry 20, Annual Reports of Subordinate Units.

⁵⁰ Responsibilities and Duties of the Farm Department, 1929.

⁵¹ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1929, NARA RG 418, Entry 20, Annual Reports of Subordinate Units.

⁵² St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1929, 1935-36, NARA RG 418, Entry 20, Annual Reports of Subordinate Units.

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- ⁵³ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1928-1939, NARA RG 418, Entry 20, Annual Reports of Subordinate Units.
- ⁵⁴ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1936, NARA RG 418, Entry 20, Annual Reports of Subordinate Units.
- ⁵⁵ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1939-40, NARA RG 418, Entry 20, Annual Reports of Subordinate Units.
- ⁵⁶ St. Elizabeths Hospital Inventory, June 30, 1937, Box 19, Inventory of Land, NARA RG 418, Entry 7, Administrative Files.
- ⁵⁷ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1938-1939, NARA RG 418, Entry 20, Annual Reports of Subordinate Units.
- ⁵⁸ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, March 1930, NARA RG 418, Entry 21, Semiannual Reports of Subordinate Units.
- ⁵⁹ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1935-1936, NARA RG 418, Entry 20, Annual Reports of Subordinate Units.
- ⁶⁰ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1945-1946, NARA RG 418, Entry 20, Annual Reports of Subordinate Units.
- ⁶¹ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1948-1949, NARA RG 418, Entry 20, Annual Reports of Subordinate Units.
- ⁶² Construction Department Report, March 1946, NARA RG 418, Entry 21, Semiannual Reports of Subordinate Units.
- ⁶³ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1946, NARA RG 418, Entry 21, Semiannual Reports of Subordinate Units; St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1945-1946.
- ⁶⁴ St. Elizabeths Hospital Farms Report, 1948-1949.
- ⁶⁵ See Land Records, Land Resources Program Center, National Capital Region.
- ⁶⁶ "Historical Resource Study – Oxon Cove Park," p. 41, quoting the park's Office of the Division of Planning and Interpretive Services.
- ⁶⁷ "HRS – Oxon Cove Park," pp. 41-41 (perhaps a reference to the park's 1969 plan).

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⁶⁸ Cited in "HRS – Oxon Cove Park," p. 43, note 116, M.M. Flatley, "A Place in the Country – Overlooks City," *Sunday Star*, 24 August 1969, seen in a photocopy from the Living History Farm File, Office of Library, Archives and Graphics at Harpers Ferry Center, NPS.

⁶⁹ "HRS – Oxon Cove Park," p. 43, notes 128 & 129, quoting National Capital Parks-East, "Illustrative Plan for Oxon Cove," Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, October 1988.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 79. This, in spite of the fact that the original draft National Register nomination, produced as part of the HRS and included with that document, designated only the 11 acres immediately surrounding the main Oxon Farm building complex as the historic district. Numerous statements in the HRS seem to contraindicate this decision.

⁷¹ "HRS – Oxon Cove Park," pp. 48-49.

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9. Bibliography

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UTM References, continued

	Zone	Easting	Northing
5.	18	325693	4297677
6.	18	325963	4297248
7.	18	326032	4296617
8.	18	325672	4296557
9.	18	324578	4296566
10.	18	324411	4297055

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Oxon Cove rural historic district are distinct on the east, north, and west. On the east, the district boundary is defined by the Old Oxon Hill Road (which, however, lies just outside the park and therefore outside district boundaries). On the north, the district is bounded by the shore of Oxon Cove. U.S. 295 defines the western boundary. The southern boundary bisects the South Field. The acreage within these boundaries is 288.992. The National Park Service acquired the land immediately south of this boundary from the estate of William T. Sellner in 1961. Lands south of the Sellner property and west of U.S. 95/495 and U.S. 295 lie outside of district boundaries but within the park boundaries, though it is not known when they were acquired.

The UTM references have been drawn to create a slightly larger polygon around the historic district.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Oxon Cove Park rural historic district is contiguous with the historic St. Elizabeths Hospital Farm (Goddincroft) property, as acquired by the U.S. government in the 1890s and transferred from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to the National Park Service in the 1960s. The historic St. Elizabeths Hospital Farm included all of the early 19th-century farm property known as Mount Welby.

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Maps, plans, and historic photos are grouped together first, separate from most of the contemporary photos; therefore, the illustrations are not necessarily in strict chronological order.

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 1994
Location of original: n/a
Description of view: USGS topographic quadrangle map, 7.5' 1:24 000,
"Alexandria, VA-DC-MD"
Figure number: 1

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 1998
Location of original: *Thomas Guide, Metropolitan Washington, D.C.*
Description of view: general site map
Figure number: 2

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR files
Description of view: Site map of entire rural historic district
Figure number: 3

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Oxon Cove Park
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Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning (based on map from Goodwin draft nomination)
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR file
Description of view: Detailed site map of farmstead
Figure number: 4

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-1 #1A
Description of view: View of Alexandria from house, looking west
Figure number: 5

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 1895
Location of original: *Report of the Board of Visitors – Government Hospital for the Insane, Washington, D.C.*
(fig. 10 in Goodwin & Associates, "Historic Resource Study – Oxon Cove Park, Oxon
Cove, Maryland," 1993)
Description of view: Map of Goddingcroft
Figure number: 6

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Oxon Cove Park
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Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 1794
Location of original: Dennis Griffith, map of Maryland, from *Atlas of Historical Maps of Maryland, 1608-1908* (fig. 3 in Goodwin, HRS)
Description of view: region of Oxon Cove
Figure number: 7

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-2 #23
Description of view: View of farmstead – farm outbuildings, looking east
Figure number: 8

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: January 2001
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-3 #3
Description of view: Mount Welby, south elevation
Figure number: 9

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Oxon Cove Park
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Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: January 2001
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-3 #2
Description of view: Mount Welby, north elevation (east elevation at left)
Figure number: 10

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Mount Welby, south elevation, detail of corbeled brackets
Figure number: 11

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Mount Welby, south elevation, entry
Figure number: 12

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Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 1993
Location of original: Goodwin, HRS
Description of view: Plan of Mount Welby
Figure number: 13

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 1993
Location of original: Goodwin, HRS
Description of view: Plan of hexagonal outbuilding
Figure number: 14

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-1 #3A
Description of view: Hexagonal outbuilding, east elevation
Figure number: 15

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Oxon Cove Park
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Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 1993
Location of original: Goodwin, HRS
Description of view: Root cellar, plan
Figure number: 16

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Richard Quin
Date: January 1999
Location of original: Roll NACE-12, #1
Description of view: Root cellar, elevation, view from northeast
Figure number: 17

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 1993
Location of original: Goodwin, HRS
Description of view: Horse and pony barn, plan
Figure number: 18

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Oxon Cove Park
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Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Horse and pony barn, elevation, view from southwest
Figure number: 19

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Horse and pony barn, elevation, view from southeast
Figure number: 20

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 1993
Location of original: Goodwin, HRS
Description of view: Hay barn, plan
Figure number: 22

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Oxon Cove Park
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Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Hay barn, elevation, view from northeast
Figure number: 23

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 1993
Location of original: Goodwin, HRS
Description of view: Feed building, plan
Figure number: 24

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Feed building, elevation, view from southeast
Figure number: 25

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Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Feed building, elevation, view from southwest
Figure number: 26

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 1993
Location of original: Goodwin, HRS
Description of view: Brick stable, plan
Figure number: 27

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Brick stable, south elevation
Figure number: 28

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: Illustrations Page 49

Oxon Cove Park
name of property
Prince George's County, Maryland
county and state

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Brick stable, south elevation, entrance detail
Figure number: 29

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Brick stable, south elevation, detail of facade
Figure number: 30

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Brick stable, side elevation, detail of brickwork in gable
Figure number: 31

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section: Illustrations Page 50

Oxon Cove Park
name of property
Prince George's County, Maryland
county and state

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Brick stable, elevation (north?), detail of brickwork and windows
Figure number: 32

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 1993
Location of original: Goodwin, HRS
Description of view: Silo, plan
Figure number: 33

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Dairy and silo, elevation, view from southwest
Figure number: 34

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section: Illustrations Page 51

Oxon Cove Park
name of property
Prince George's County, Maryland
county and state

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Hugh McAloon
Date: 1992
Location of original: unknown
Description of view: Dairy and Silo, elevation, view from southeast
Figure number: 35

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-2 #17
Description of view: "Running" shed, view of side and rear elevations from north
Figure number: 36

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Richard Quin
Date: 1999
Location of original: NCR, LCS files
Description of view: Pump house, view from south
Figure number: 37

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section: Illustrations Page 52

Oxon Cove Park
name of property
Prince George's County, Maryland
county and state

Name of property:	Oxon Cove Park
County and state:	Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer:	Kay Fanning
Date:	January 2001
Location of original:	NCR Photofile OCP-3 #1
Description of view:	Water tank, view from west
Figure number:	38
Name of property:	Oxon Cove Park
County and state:	Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer:	Richard Quin
Date:	1999
Location of original:	NCR LCS files
Description of view:	Brick-walled spring, view from southwest
Figure number:	39
Name of property:	Oxon Cove Park
County and state:	Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer:	Richard Quin
Date:	January 1999
Location of original:	NCR LCS files
Description of view:	Hog pen incinerator remains, view from north
Figure number:	40

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Section: Illustrations Page 53

Oxon Cove Park
name of property
Prince George's County, Maryland
county and state

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-1 #9A
Description of view: Hog pen incinerator remains, view of incinerator
from south
Figure number: 41

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-1 #14A
Description of view: Hog shed foundation 1 (north) to left, view from west;
foundation 2 (south) at right
Figure number: 42

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-1 #16A
Description of view: Hog shed foundation 2 (south), remains,
view from west
Figure number: 43

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National Park Service

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Section: Illustrations Page 54

Oxon Cove Park
name of property
Prince George's County, Maryland
county and state

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-2 #8
Description of view: Fox Ferry Road, view looking east towards Mount Welby;
South Field at right
Figure number: 44

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-2 #14
Description of view: North Road, view looking north
Figure number: 45

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 24 September 1958
Location of original: NCR Land Records 331, NCP 117.4-90
Description of view: "St. Elizabeths Hospital Farm," Prince George's County Maryland and Washington,
D.C., George Washington Memorial Parkway, Sec. 4
Figure number: 46

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section: Illustrations Page 55

Oxon Cove Park
name of property
Prince George's County, Maryland
county and state

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: n/a
Date: 15 August 1961
Location of original: NCR Land Records 575, Drawing No. NCP 117.4-111
Description of view: Survey of the Residue of the Property of William T. Sellner, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Parks, Prepared for the National Capital Planning Commission
Figure number: 47

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-2 #2
Description of view: Old Oxon Hill Road Field, view from south
Figure number: 48

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-1 #19A
Description of view: North Woods, view from north, showing old apple trees in Old Oxon Hill Road Field on right
Figure number: 49

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section: Illustrations Page 56

Oxon Cove Park
name of property
Prince George's County, Maryland
county and state

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-2 #11
Description of view: Middle field, view from west of field's northern edge, near Oxon Cove
Figure number: 50

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Kay Fanning
Date: October 2000
Location of original: NCR Photofile OCP-2 #12
Description of view: Middle field, view from east
Figure number: 51

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: unknown (photocopy)
Date: c. 1893
Location of original: NARA #418-G-133
Description of view: view of Mount Welby
Figure number: 52

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section: Illustrations Page 57

Oxon Cove Park
name of property
Prince George's County, Maryland
county and state

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: Jim Rosenstock
Date: August 2001
Location of original: digital photo, NCR Cultural Landscape Program Photofile "Oxon Cove/Orchards/
National Register Nomination photo"
Description of view: Apple tree, c. 120 years old, in remnant orchard west of Mount Welby farmhouse
Figure number: 53

Name of property: Oxon Cove Park
County and state: Prince George's County, Maryland
Photographer: map produced by NPS GIS coordinator Tammy Stidham
Date: August 2002
Location of original:
Description of view: map showing boundary of proposed rural historic district
Figure number: 54

Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

Contributing

- A. Mount Welby
- B. hexagonal outbuilding
- C. root cellar
- E. horse and pony barn
- J. hay barn
- K. feed building
- L. stable
- P. silo
- 1. Oxon Cove farmstead
- 2. pump house
- 3. brick-walled spring
- 4. & 5. foundation remains of two hog pens
- 6. foundation remains of hog feed incinerator
- 7. Fox Ferry Road
- 8. North Road
- 9. South Field (northern half)
- 10. Oxon Hill Road Field
- 11. North Woods
- 12. running shed
- 13. boxwood planting
- 14. concrete water tank
- 15. remnant of 19th-century orchard

Non-Contributing

- D. hog house
- F. chicken house
- G. implement shed
- H. visitor barn
- I. windmill
- M. tool shed
- N. restrooms
- O. "sorghum sirup" shed
- P. dairy barn
- R. Pepco ventilation building (though not shown on Goodwin map)
- 15. Middle Field
- 16. North Field
- 17. house in Maintenance Area
- 18. & 19. two garages/sheds in Maintenance Area
- 20. & 21. two wooden footbridges

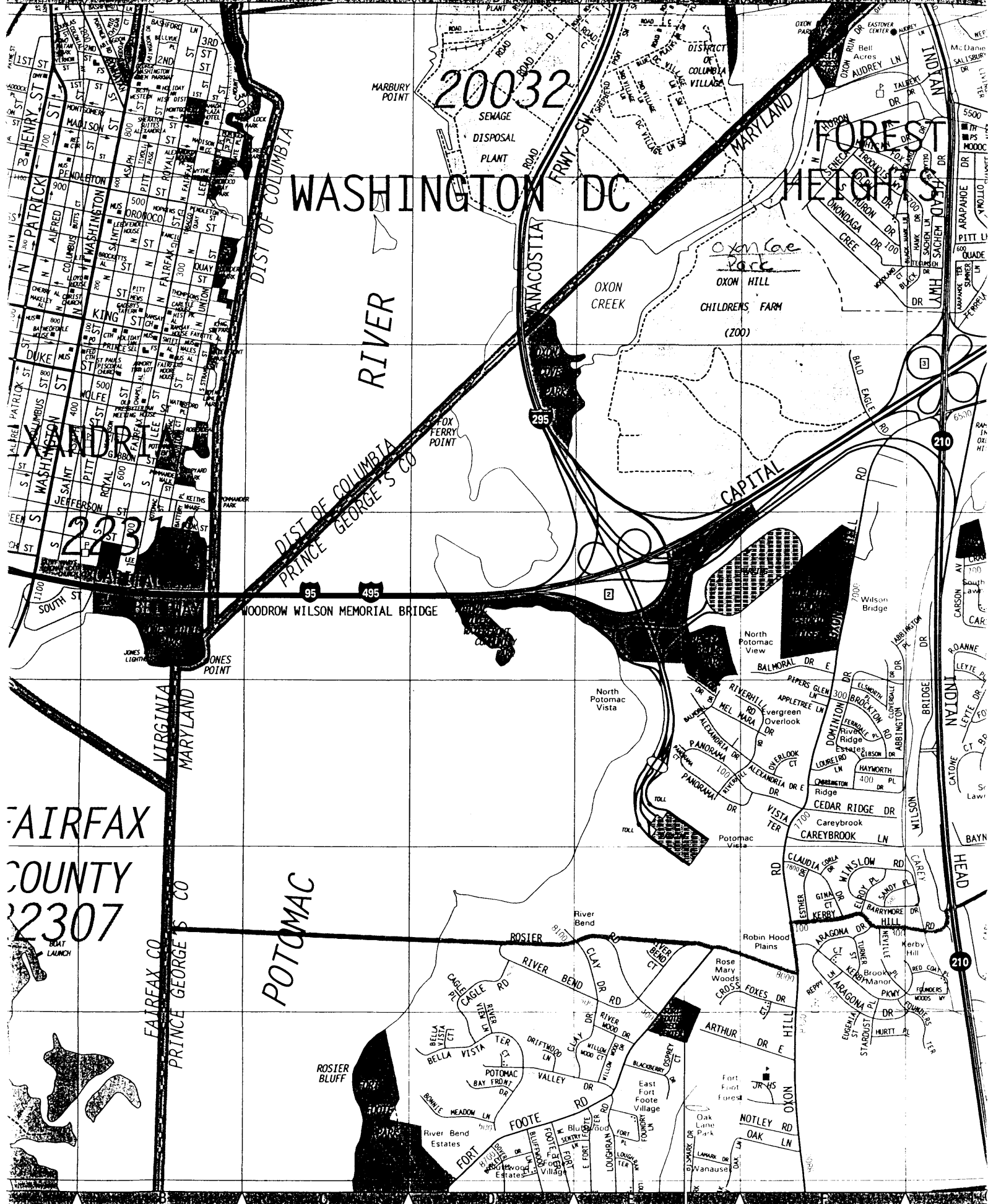


Fig. 2

- BUILDING CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
- BUILDING NOT CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
- OXON COVE PARK BOUNDARY
- - - FENCELINE
- - - TREELINE
- SANITARY LANDFILL BOUNDARY

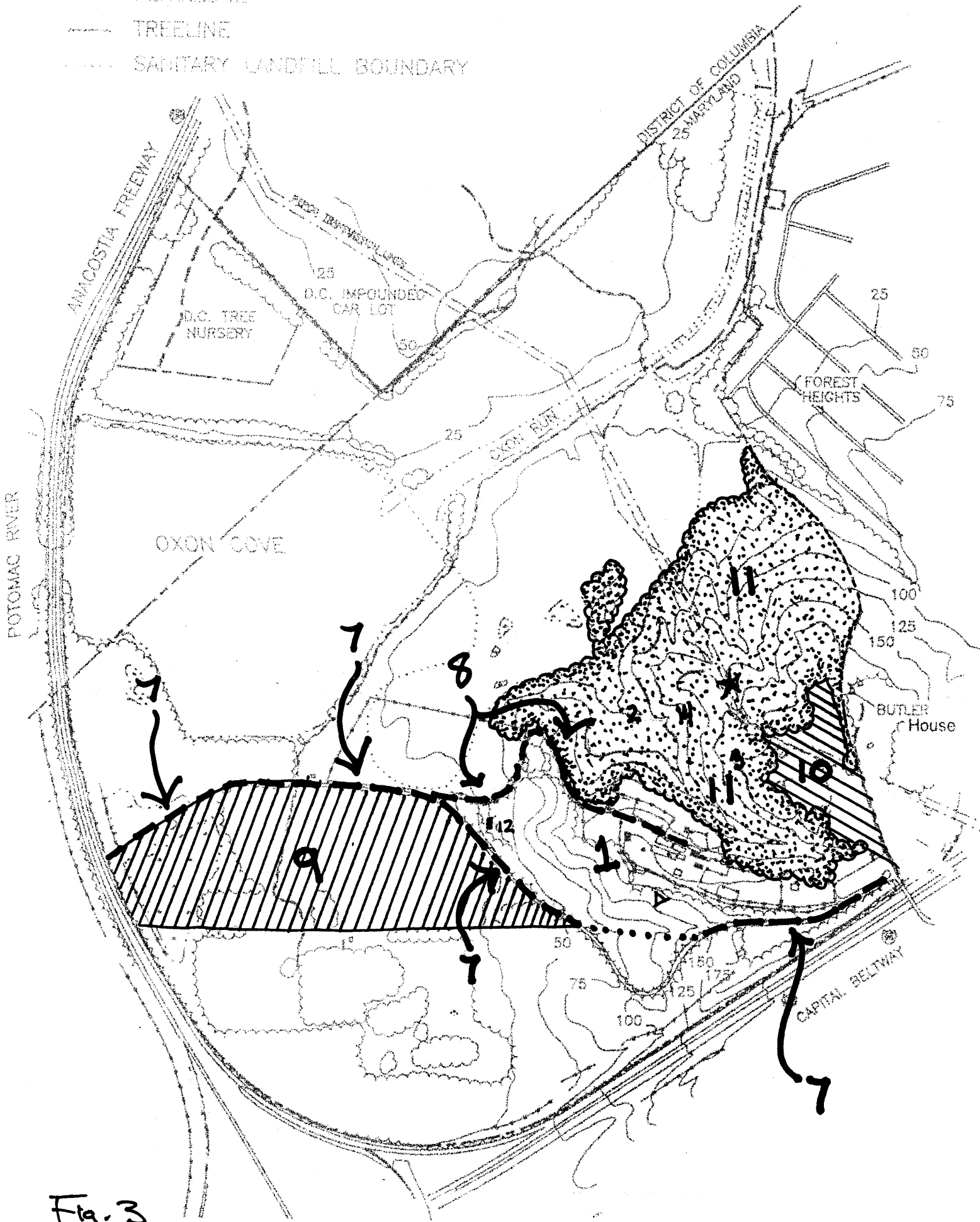
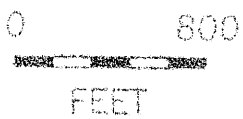


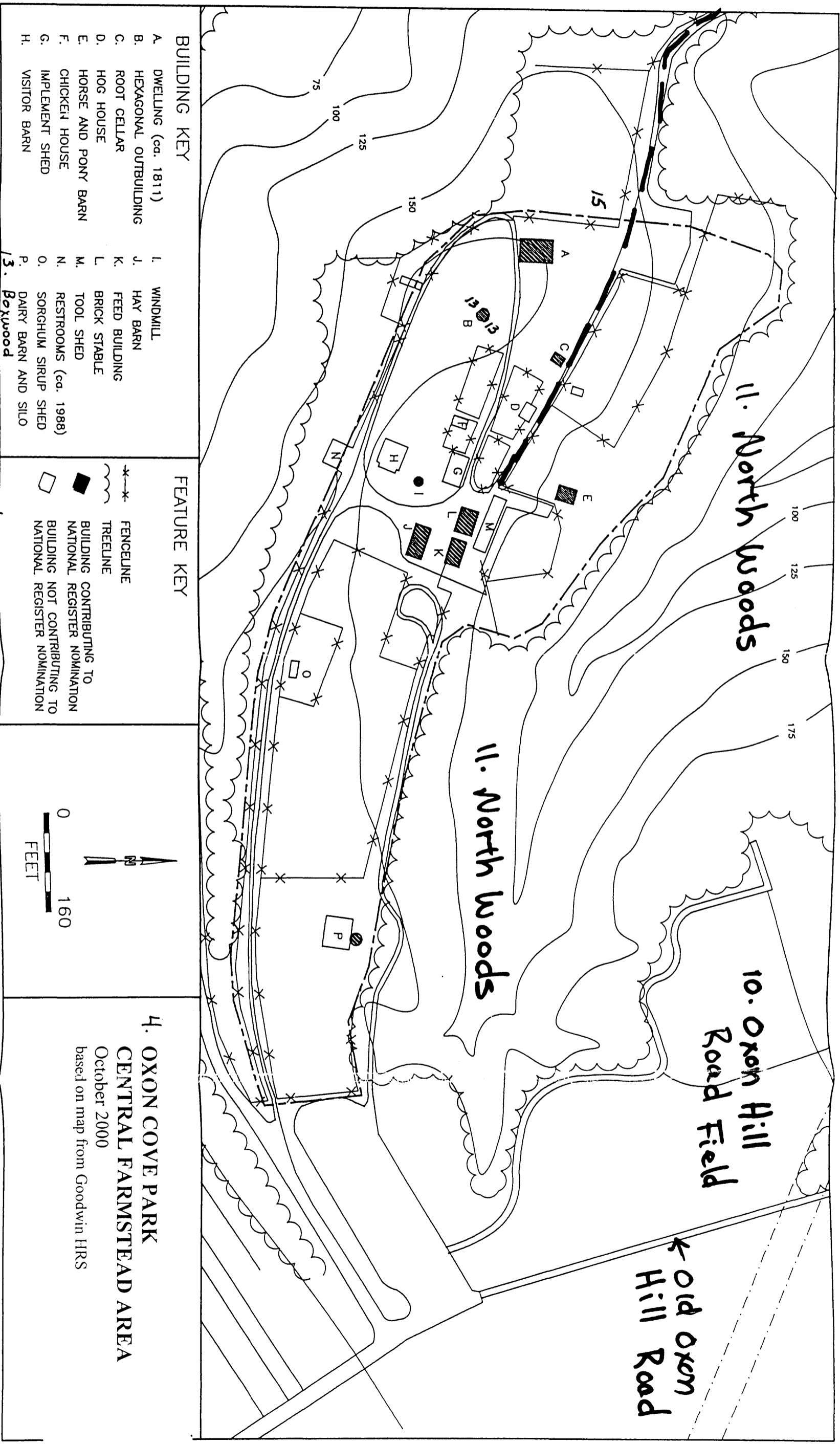
Fig. 3

Site map of Entire Rural Historic District
 Oxon Cove Park
 Contributing Landscape
 Features



★ - 4, 5, 6

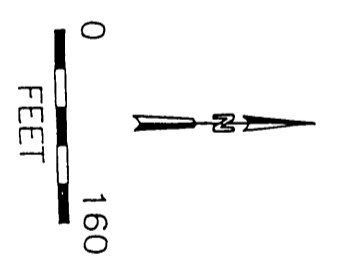
△ - 18, 19, 20



- BUILDING KEY**
- A. DWELLING (ca. 1811)
 - B. HEXAGONAL OUTBUILDING
 - C. ROOT CELLAR
 - D. HOG HOUSE
 - E. HORSE AND PONY BARN
 - F. CHICKEN HOUSE
 - G. IMPLEMENT SHED
 - H. VISITOR BARN

- I. WINDMILL
- J. HAY BARN
- K. FEED BUILDING
- L. BRICK STABLE
- M. TOOL SHED
- N. RESTROOMS (ca. 1988)
- O. SORGHUM SIRUP SHED
- P. DAIRY BARN AND SILO

- FEATURE KEY**
- x--- FENCELINE
 - ~ TREELINE
 - BUILDING CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
 - BUILDING NOT CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION



**4. OXON COVE PARK
CENTRAL FARMSTEAD AREA**
October 2000
based on map from Goodwin HRS

15. 19th-century vineyard orchard

Fig. 4

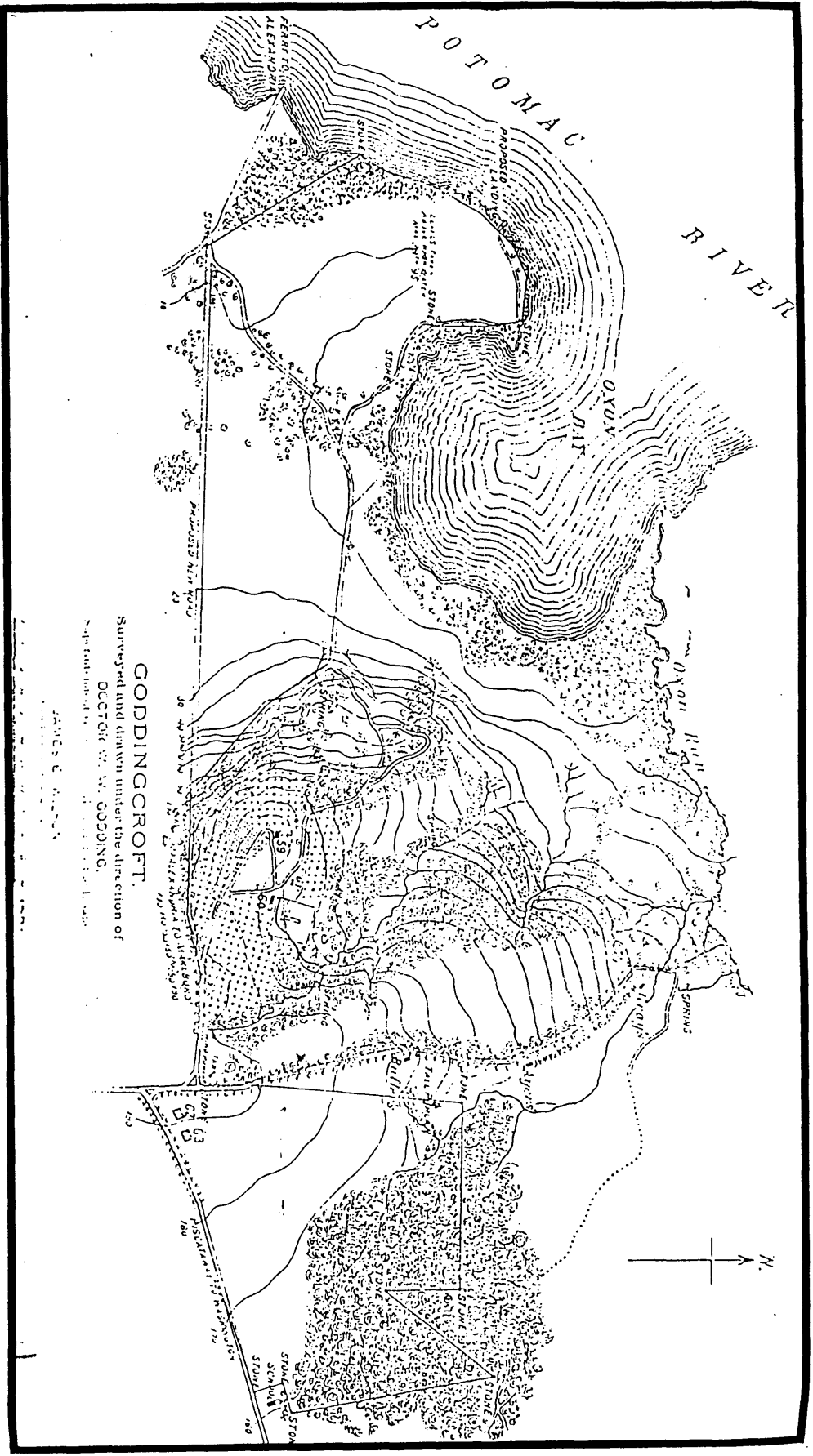
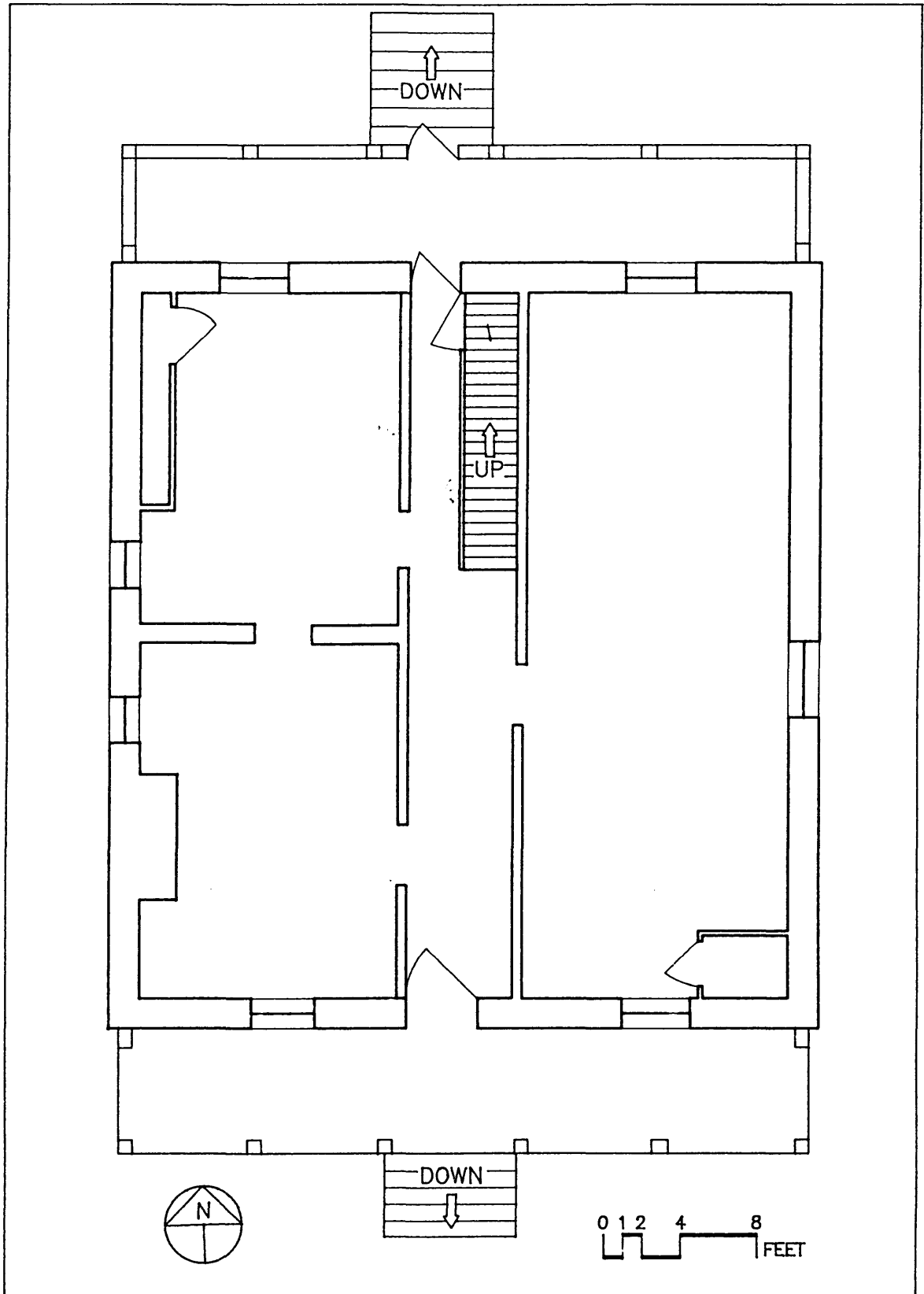


Figure 10. Topographic map of Godding Croft, excerpted from the Report of the Board of Visitors -- Government Hospital for the Insane, Washington, D.C. (1895), showing a portion of the project area during the St. Elizabeths Hospital period of ownership

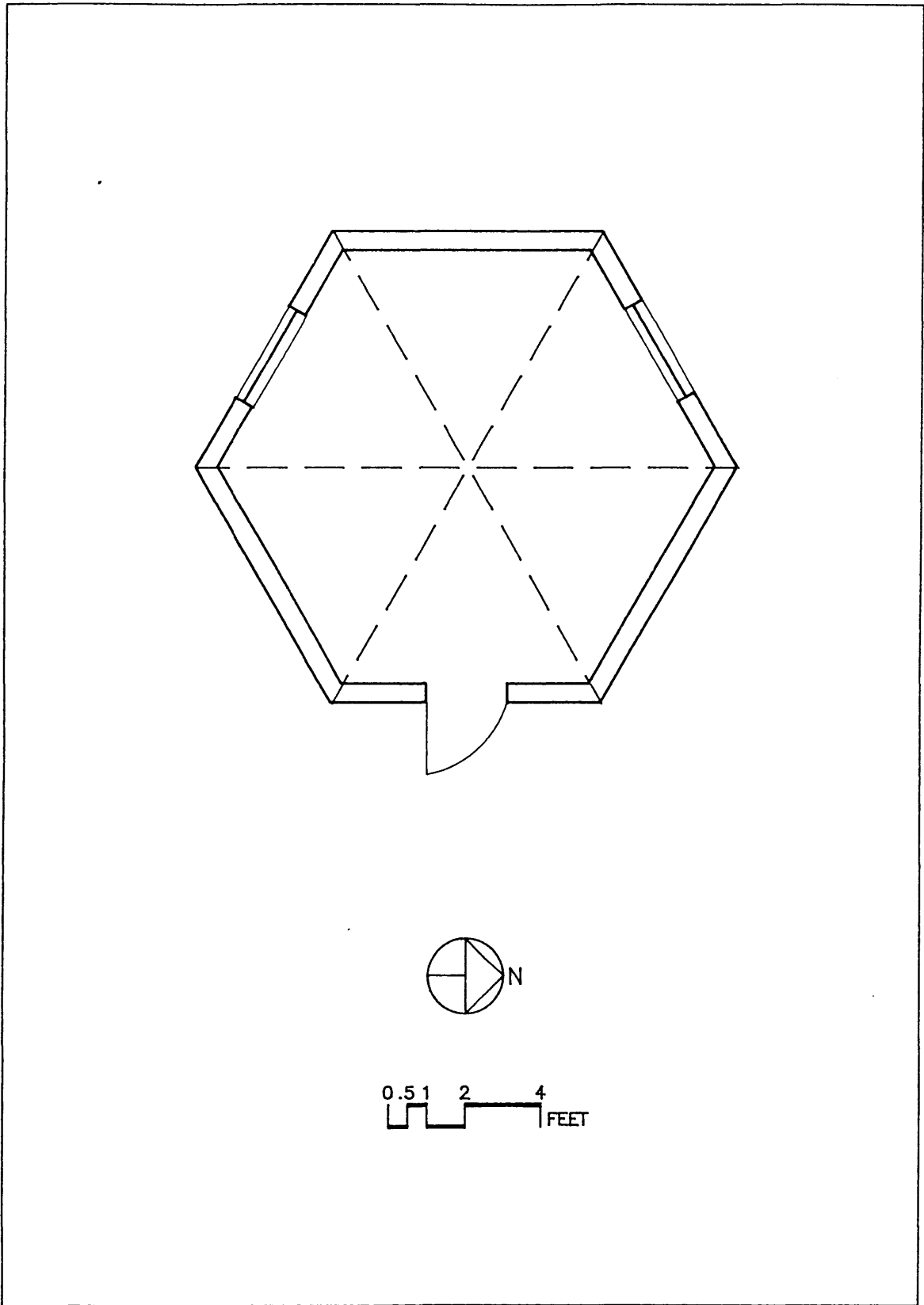
Fig. 6



Figure 3- Excerpt from Griffith's Map of Maryland (1794), showing the approximate location of the project area on Oxon Creek

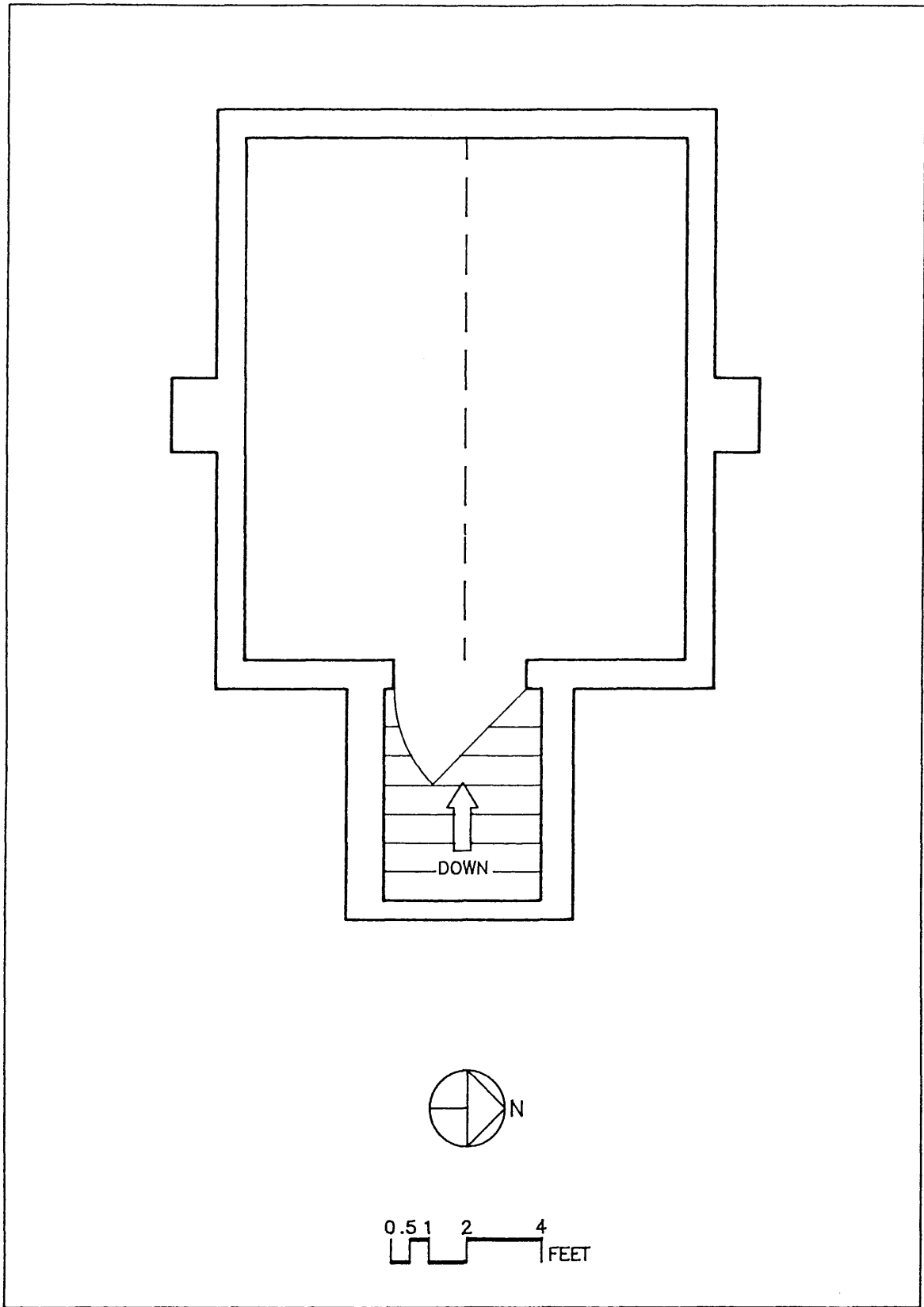


OXON COVE FARM - DWELLING PLAN



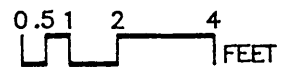
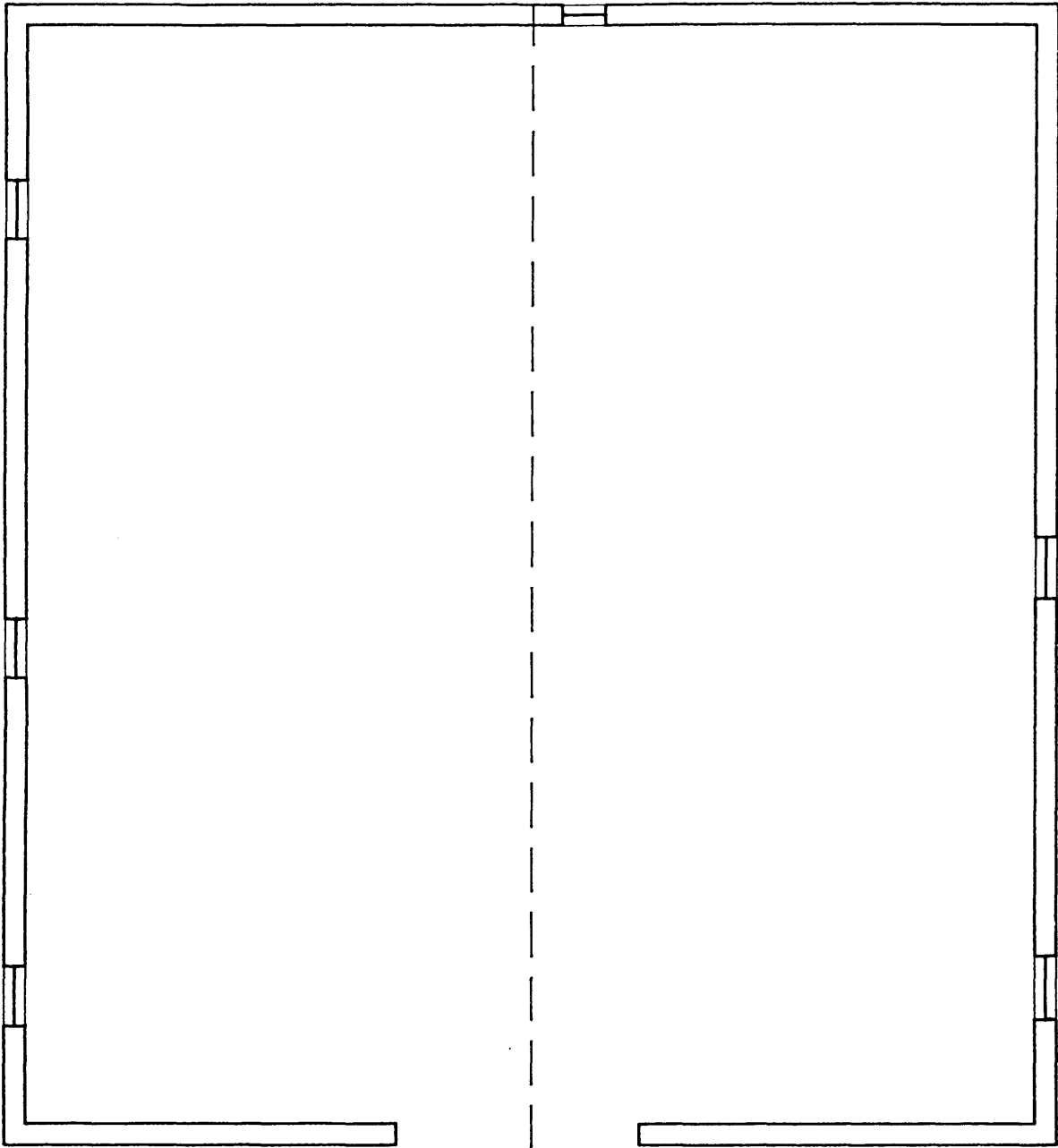
OXON COVE FARM - HEXAGONAL OUTBUILDING PLAN

Fig. 14



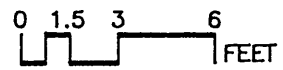
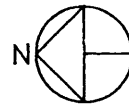
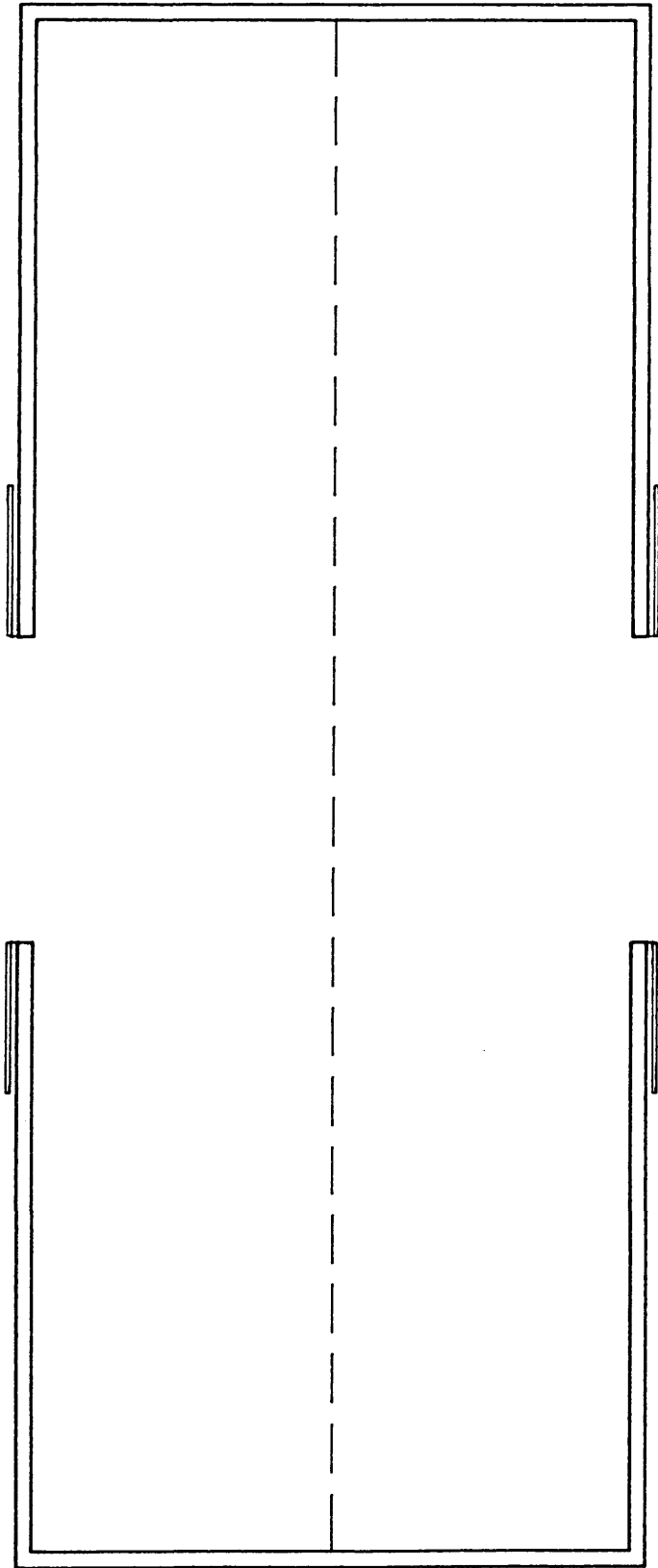
OXON COVE FARM - ROOT CELLAR PLAN

Fig. 16



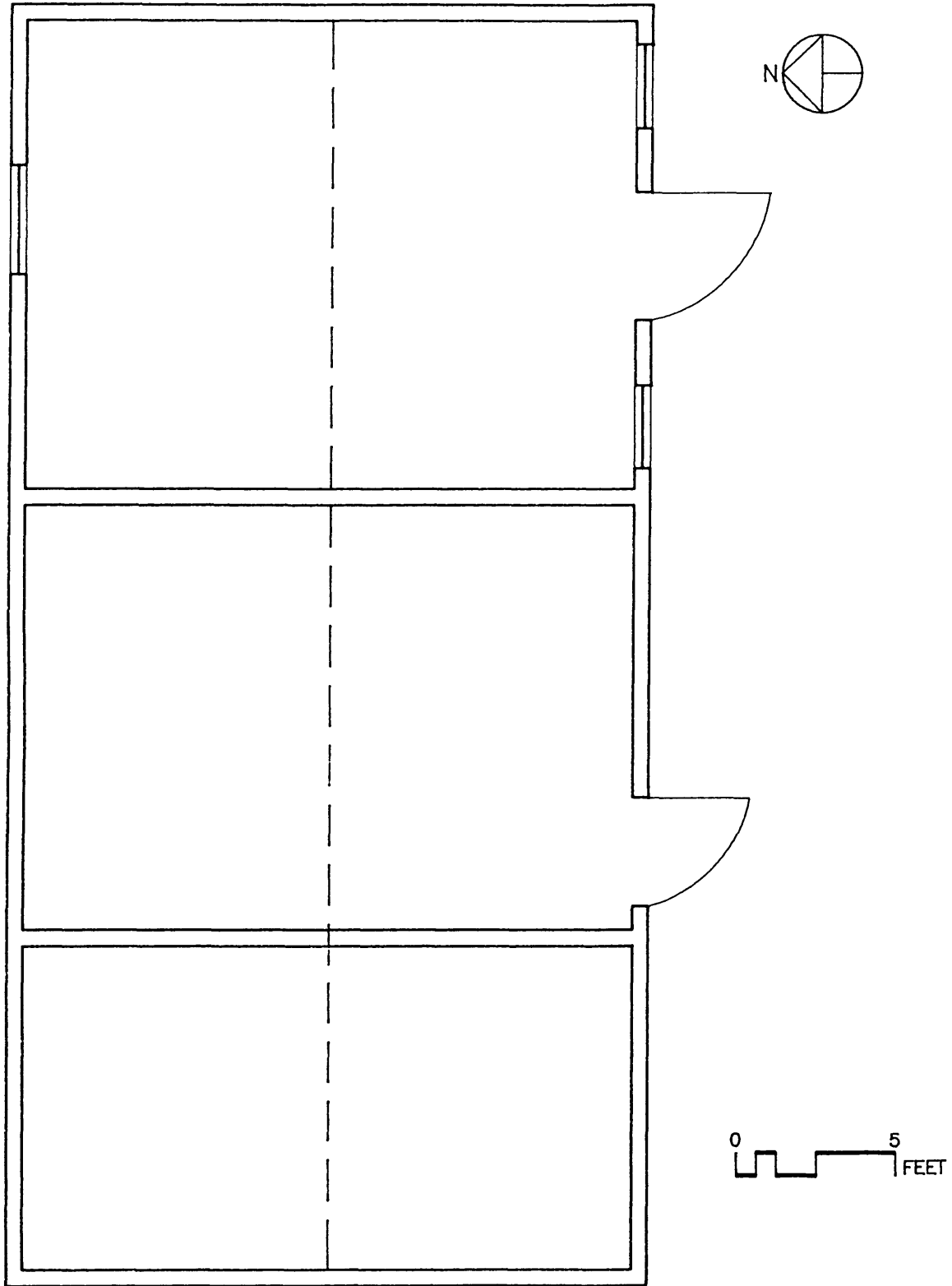
OXON COVE FARM - HORSE AND PONY BARN PLAN

Fig. 18

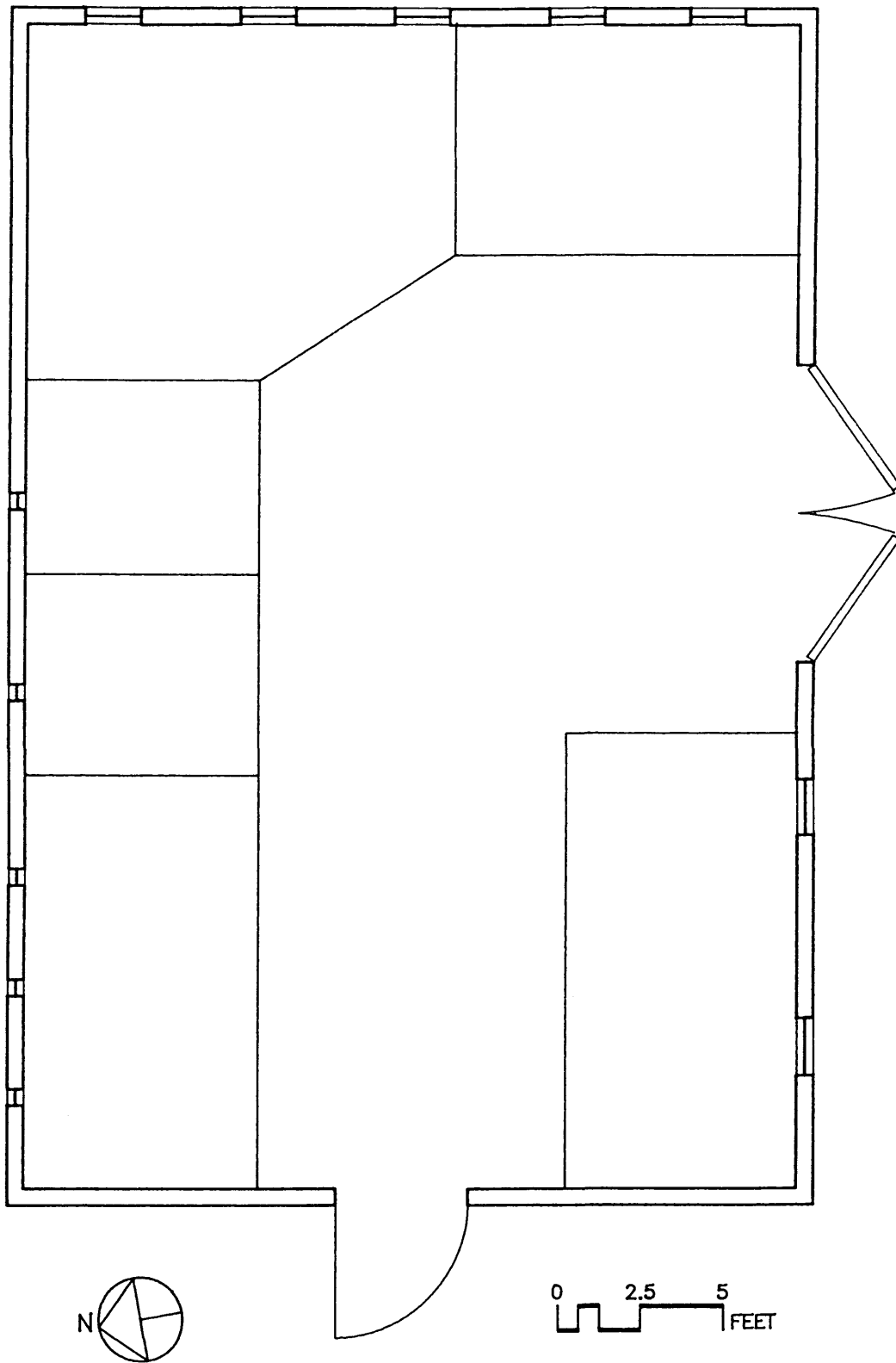


OXON COVE FARM - HAY BARN PLAN

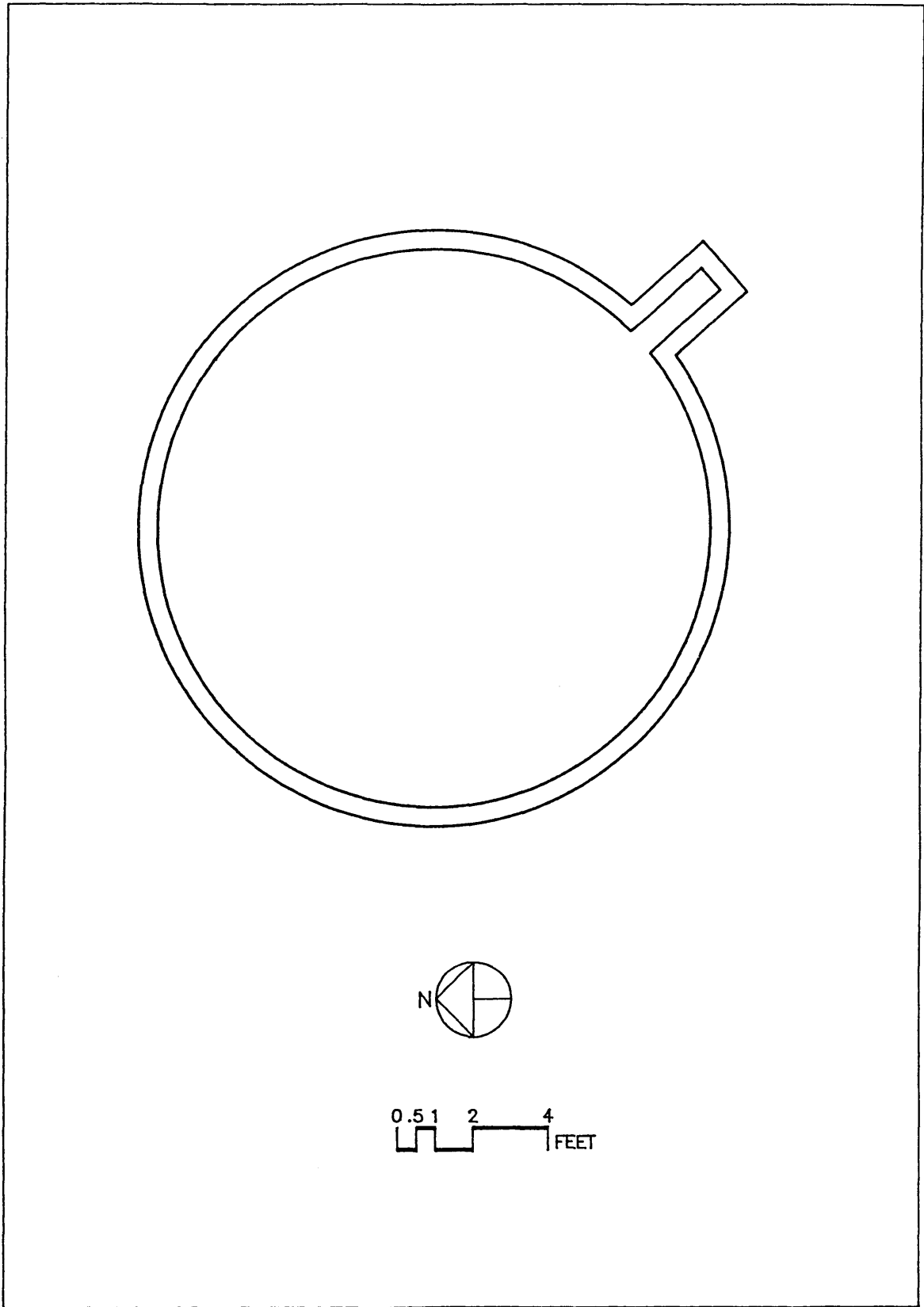
Fig. 22



OXON COVE FARM – FEED BUILDING PLAN



OXON COVE FARM - BRICK STABLE PLAN



OXON COVE FARM - SILO PLAN

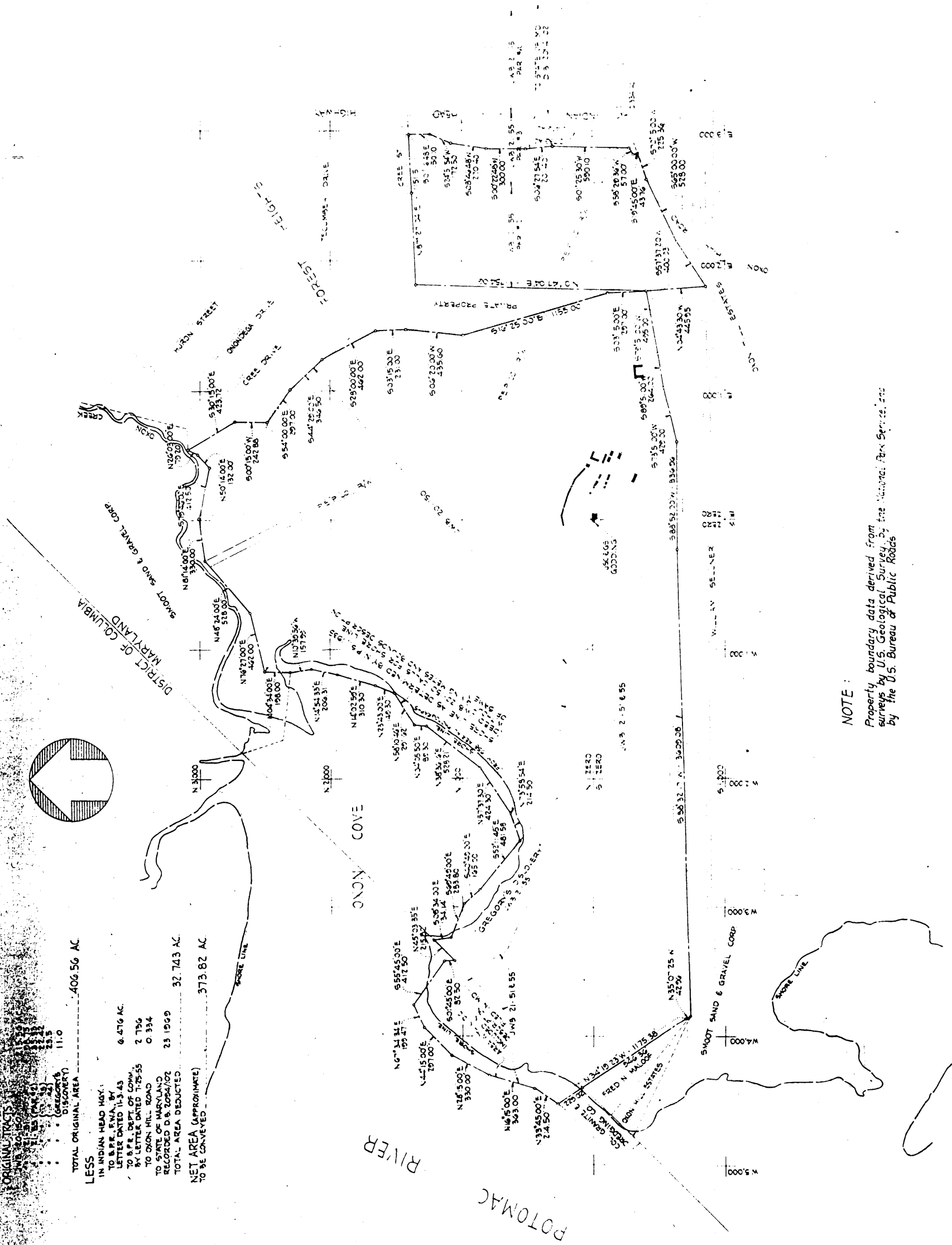
LR 331

Fig. 46

DATE	11-24-11	BY	Johnston	NO.	8-58
DATE		BY	Johnston	NO.	8-58
DATE		BY	Johnston	NO.	8-58

ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL FARM
 PRINCE GEORGES CO. MD. & WASHINGTON, D.C.
 GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY, SEC. ON 2

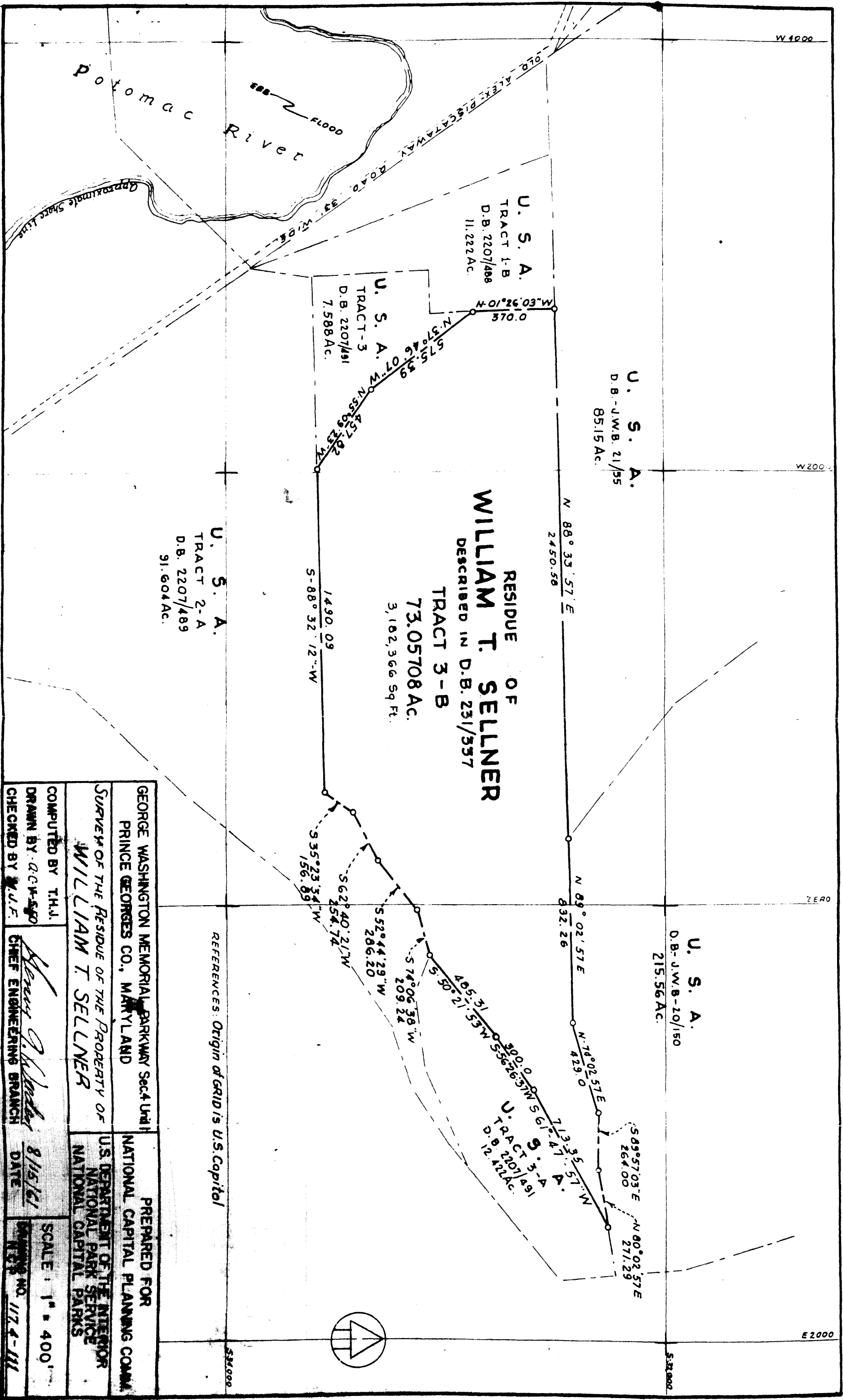
1174-9c



TOTAL ORIGINAL AREA 406.56 AC
 LESS
 IN INDIAN HEAD HAY
 TO & P.E. ENVA. BY
 LETTER DATED 11.3.43 0.476 AC
 TO A.P.E. DEPT. OF COM. BY
 LETTER DATED 7.25.55 2.736
 TO ONON HILL ROAD 0.334
 TO STATE OF MARYLAND
 RECORDED D.B. TORAN/22
 23.1969
 TOTAL AREA DEDUCTED 27.743 AC
 NET AREA (APPROXIMATE)
 TO BE CONVEYED 373.82 AC

NOTE:
 Property boundary data derived from
 surveys by U.S. Geological Survey, by the National Park Service, and
 by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads

REFERENCE:
 N.C.P. & P.C. DRAWING # 105 32-300
 N.C.P. DRAWING # 117-4-85
 PERCO # 40159554
 B.P.R. # 450M-1H-F(1)-4
 #AOV-WM8-2 & #AOV-1H-F(1)-6



**RESIDUE OF
WILLIAM T. SELLNER**
DESCRIBED IN D.B. 231/337

TRACT 3-B
73.05708 AC.
3,182,366 Sq. Ft.

U. S. A.
TRACT 2-A
D.B. 2207/489
91.604 Ac.

U. S. A.
TRACT-3
D.B. 2207/491
7.588 Ac.

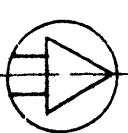
U. S. A.
TRACT 1-B
D.B. 2207/488
11.222 Ac.

U. S. A.
D.B.-J.W.B. 21/55
85.15 Ac.

U. S. A.
D.B.-J.W.B-20/150
215.56 Ac.

U. S. A.
TRACT 3-A
D.B. 2207/491
12.422 Ac.

REFERENCES: Origin of GRID is U.S. Capitol



GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY Sec 4 UNIT PRINCE GEORGES CO., MARYLAND	PREPARED FOR NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMM.
SURVEY OF THE RESIDUE OF THE PROPERTY OF WILLIAM T. SELLNER	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS
COMPUTED BY T.H.J.	SCALE: 1" = 400'
DRAWN BY A.G.W.-SGO	DATE 8/15/61
CHECKED BY W.J.F.	DRAWING NO. 1174-III
N.C.P. COMM. 105-32-600	

LR 575

Fig. 47



Figure 9.

Photograph of Godding Croft (ca. 1893), depicting Mount Welby.
Photo courtesy of the National Archives, No. 418-G-133

Fig. ~~52~~ 52



Fig. 53

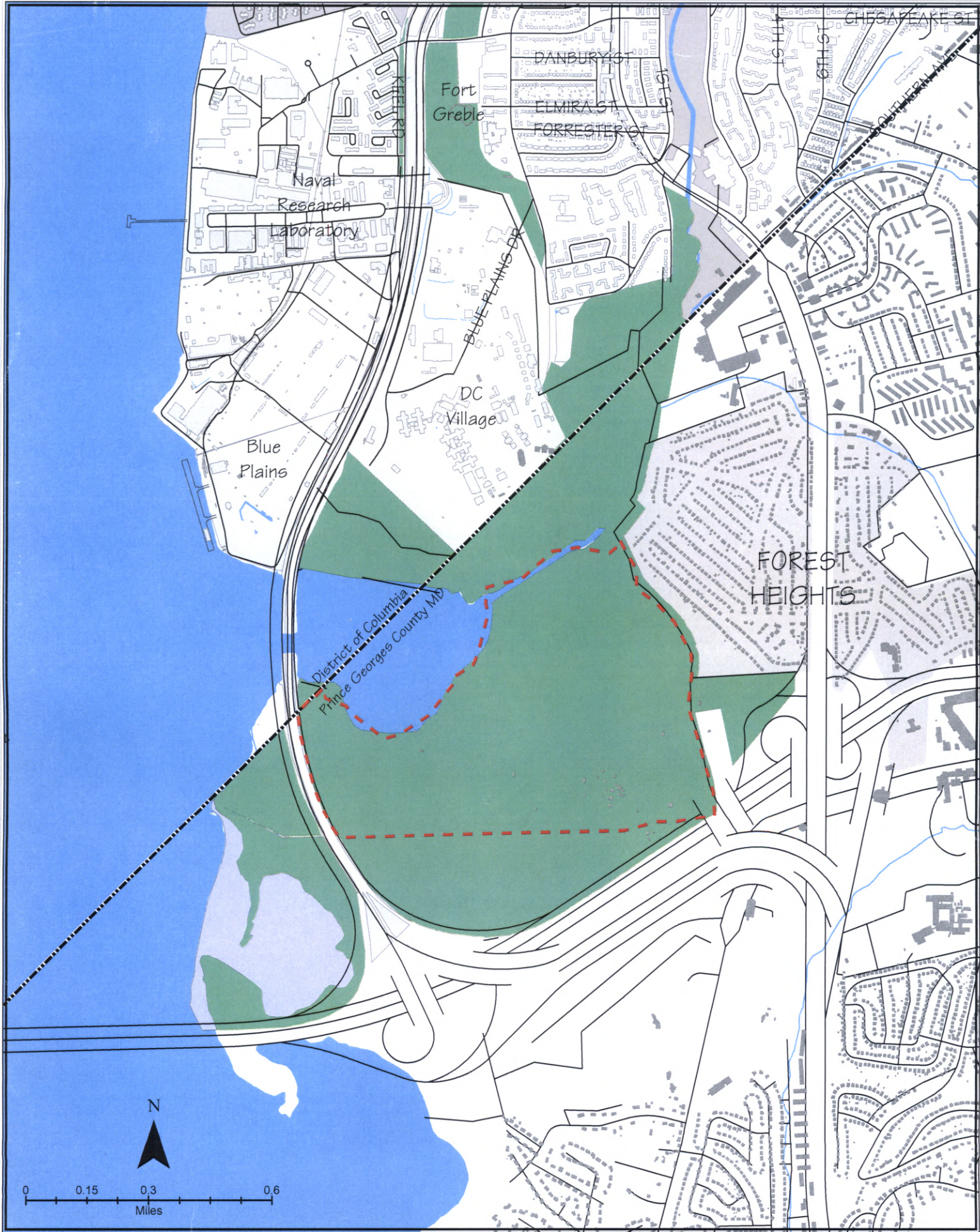


Fig. 54. Oxon Cove Park, boundaries of proposed rural historic district.