

553 **RECEIVED** FEB 28 1990 1024-0018

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

DIVISION OF  
NATIONAL REGISTER PROGRAMS  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Market Master's House  
other names/site number Ship Ballast House PG:69-8

**2. Location**

street & number 4006 48th Street N/A  not for publication  
city, town Bladensburg N/A  vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20710

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>        </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 2/23/90  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. **Entered in the National Register**  
 See continuation sheet. [Signature] 3/29/90  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_  
 determined not eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 removed from the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Colonial

foundation stone

walls stone

roof wood

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Market Master's House is an 18th century vernacular stone dwelling with 20th century additions. It was constructed in the Village of Bladensburg circa 1765, when the village was an active tobacco shipping port. The original block is a two-by-one bay, gable-roof, 25-by-20 foot structure, one and a half stories in height, of randomly laid roughly shaped stone. It contains one room on the first story, a corner stair and one room on the second story, lighted by a gable roof dormer on the north and south roof slopes. A small two-story west kitchen addition and one-story south lean-to addition were added circa 1920. The additions and later renovations in 1956 were sensitively done, retaining 18th century material and the scale and character of the earlier part of the dwelling. The house is set at the rear of a long narrow lot, in the heavily urbanized town of Bladensburg, a suburb of Washington, D. C.

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Section number 7 Page 7.1GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The original block of the building is two-by-one bay and one and a half stories in height. The two-bay south facade has entrance in the first bay through a heavy wooden door of vertical boards with beveled edges, stained a dark brown. Two horizontal braces on the inner side of the door, above and below a central glazed panel, are held in place by large metal rivets. This door is a circa 1920 replacement of an old vertical board door. The entranceway has a rough hewn beam as a lintel. The adjoining six-over-six double hung wooden sash window has a wooden sill, and a board surround.

The wood shingled gable roof slopes down to first story level, and there is a heavy boxed cornice. A gable dormer is set behind the cornice line, above the main entrance. The six-over-six sash dormer window has a very narrow surround. There is flush beaded horizontal wood siding in the upper gable and laid diagonally on the sides of the dormer.

The one bay east gable end faces 48th Street, approximately 100 feet to the east. The first story has a centered double casement window beneath a rough-hewn board lintel which extends beyond the window and into the stone wall approximately eight inches on either side. This window opening is a circa 1920 alteration. There is a narrow four-over-four wooden double-hung sash window with a board surround centered on the second story. A tapered raking board runs along the cornice. The boxed cornice returns are flush with the wall surface.

The arrangement of openings on the two bay north facade is identical to the south facade. The first bay was altered in 1920 from a door to a fixed 12-light window with paneling below it, of vertical beaded flush wood siding. The door surround, still in place, is identical to that on the south facade, as is the adjoining window. The board window surround has an inner bead. There is a gable dormer behind the cornice line having the same placement as the dormer on the south facade.

The exterior walls of the house are approximately 16 inches thick, composed of a mixed population of quartz/mica schist. This stone has an overall grey color tone, is randomly laid and was quarried and roughly shaped. It is not local to Prince George's County.

The west facade has a massive corbelled brick interior chimney centered at the gable ridge. The facade is covered by the two story, two-by-one bay gable roof kitchen addition added circa 1920. The addition is

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slightly lower in height than the original block and measures 15-by-20 feet. Its construction is poured concrete covered with stucco. The addition is set back two feet from the north facade of the main block. The north facade of the addition has two six-over-six sash windows. A shed roof dormer with three casement windows is at the second story level. The roof of the addition and its dormer are wood shingled. The boxed cornice overhangs the first story by approximately one foot.

The one bay west gable end of the kitchen wing has a six-over-six window at first and second story level. The south side of the addition has entrance in the first bay, beneath the deep roof overhang. A shed roof dormer identical to that on the north facade is also set above this facade.

A one-story 9-by-14 foot lean-to, added circa 1920, projects from the south facade, between the main entrance and the kitchen entrance. Its walls are composed of poured concrete faced with stone identical to that of the main block. There is a double casement window in the south and east faces. The north end of the lean-to has an attached 8-by-5 foot frame storage closet, covered with horizontal beaded wood siding and having a door of vertical beaded boards on its west end, close to the kitchen entrance.

The interior of the Market Master's House contains one first story room in the original block, subdivided by an interior wall to form an alcove along the east side of the room, beneath the enclosed stair in the northeast corner. It is not known if this is an original room division. The original plan probably was one room. There is one bedroom on the second story. The circa 1920 south lean-to addition contains a dining room and the two story west addition contains a kitchen on the first story and a bedroom on the second story.

The south entrance opens directly into the larger room in the main block. The ceiling is low, approximately 7-1/2 feet in height. The large, deep fireplace on the west wall of the room was covered by a mantel of random fieldstone laid with concrete mortar, during the 1920 renovation of the house. The original hearth opening with a round-arch of brick headers is visible behind this mantel. The interior walls are plastered. The ceiling has exposed rough-hewn beams with plaster between them. The window in the north wall, which was altered from a door, is set above a wainscot panel. The flooring varies in width from seven to nine inches. The flooring and plaster date to circa 1920. The hewn beams are original material.

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The east side of the first story room contains a smaller alcove of approximately 14 x 6 feet. It is entered from the main room through a wide doorway with a surround of wide flat board with an inner bead. The room contains a built-in cupboard in the southeast corner and a closet with a door of vertical beaded boards and "HL" hinges in the northeast corner, beneath the stairway. The wood moldings, doors and hinges all date to the circa 1920's or the circa 1956 renovation. It is not known if this small east alcove is an original room division.

The enclosed stair is reached from the northeast corner of the main room. It rises along the north wall, turns a dogleg and rises along the east wall to the second story. A small bathroom, formerly a closet with a wooden grilled door, faces the top of the stairs. The door to the bedroom is an old, of vertical beaded boards with horizontal bracing on the inner side and 20th century "HL" hinges. The other vertical board doors through out the house appear to be of 20th century origin. The bedroom in the original main block on the second story has a narrow hearth in the west wall, encompassing the south two-thirds of the chimney breast projecting into the room. It has a round-arch opening which is plaster covered. The plain wooden mantel, probably dating to the 19th century, has a square opening with an inner bead, a wide, plain frieze and two brackets supporting the mantel shelf. The flooring on the second story is old, tongue-in-groove, 12 to 14 inches wide. A narrow entrance to the circa 1920's bedroom was pierced through the exterior wall of the main block in the southwest corner of the room.

The Market Master's House stands on a 9,650 square foot lot, with a 50 foot frontage on 48th Street by a 193 foot length. There is a row of circa 1930's bungalows south of the house. The north side looks out on the parking lot of a fast food restaurant which fronts on Maryland Route 450, Annapolis Road. The west end of the house fronts on a high embankment which supports the Kenilworth Avenue overpass over Route 450. Because the house stands on the back of its lot rather than fronting on the street, it is insulated from the neighboring dwellings and businesses by its long yard. A high board fence along the property line separates it from the restaurant.

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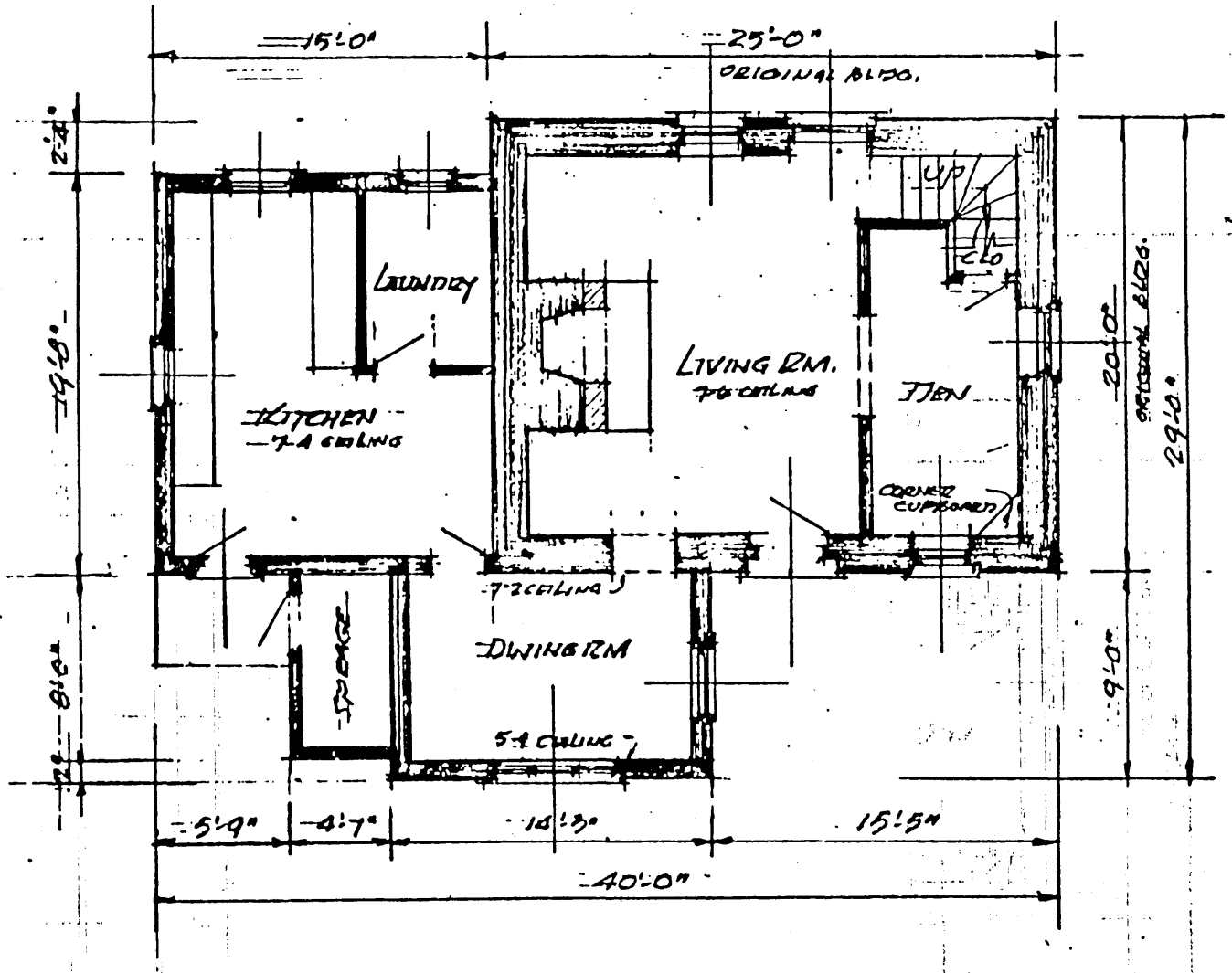
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first floor plan, 1989

drawn by James F. Maher, A.I.A.



See Continuation Sheet No. 7.5

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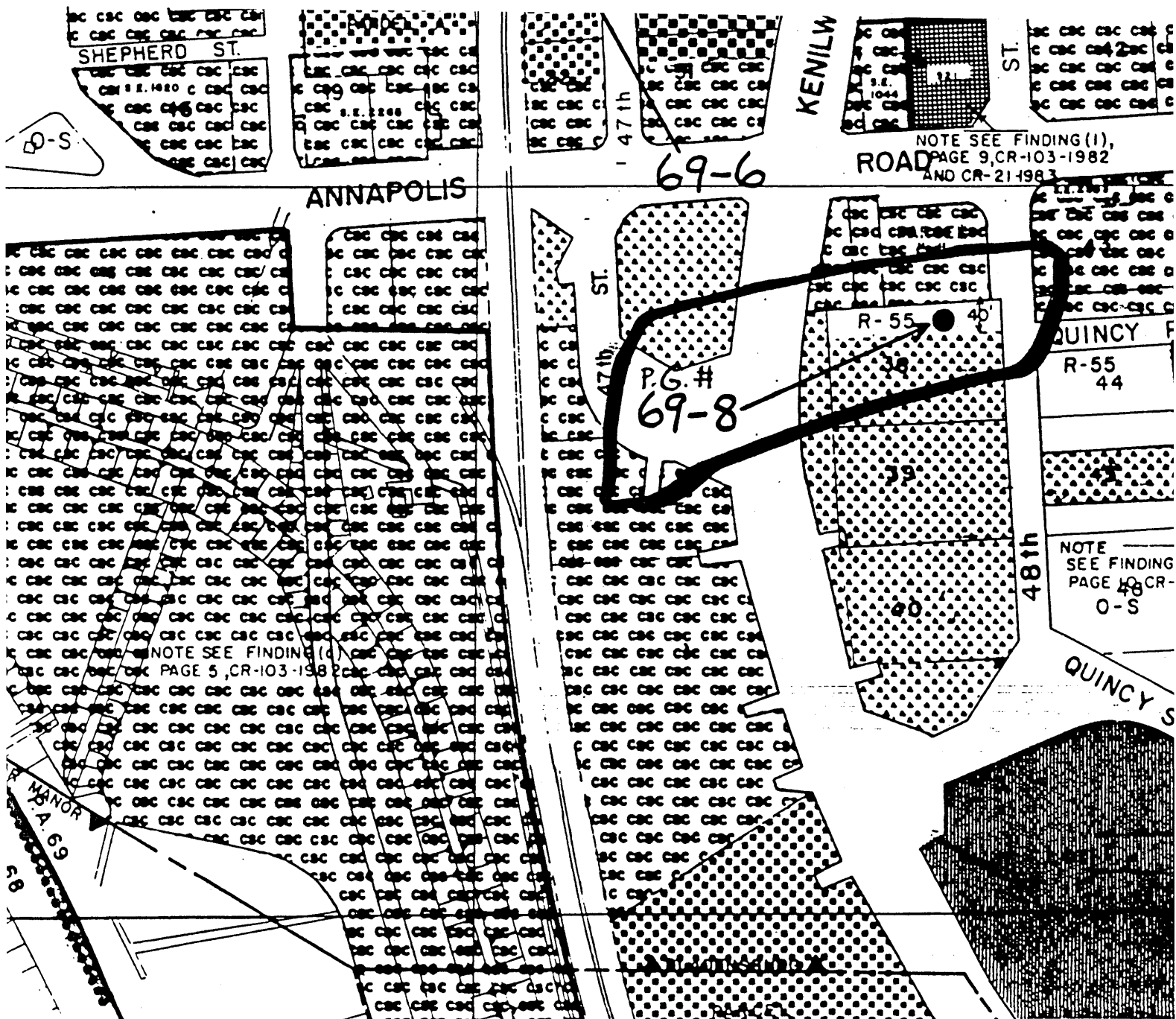
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location map, 1989







See notes, Section 8.

See continuation sheets No. 8.8, 8.9, 8.10

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

Specify repository: Prince George's County Historical Preservation Commission, c/o M-NCPPC  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property less than one acre  
USGS quad Washington East, D.C.-MD

UTM References

A 

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

C 

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B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet No. 10.1

Boundary Justification

The property includes only the city lot upon which the resource stands.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marina King, Architectural Historian  
 organization Historic Preservation Commission date June 1989  
 street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr., Room 4010 telephone (301) 952-4609  
 city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland zip code 20772

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period:

Rural Agrarian Intensification, A. D. 1680-1815

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/  
Community Planning

Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

OTHER/possible office use

Known Design Source: none

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.2

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The early pattern of European settlement in Prince George's County involved the establishment of tobacco plantations along the branches of the Patuxent and Potomac rivers, where planters were able to ship tobacco and obtain imported products from their own wharves. There was little need for commercial centers and few towns were established, despite succeeding Acts of the General Assembly from 1683 through 1706 mandating town settlement. As the native population increased after 1700, settlement moved inland and northward. Land exhausted by overcultivation was a further reason for population movement.<sup>1</sup> The formation of small towns such as Bladensburg was facilitated after 1747 by the establishment of a government tobacco inspection system. Maryland tobacco was gaining a reputation for poor quality and the price it commanded was dropping. By Act of the General Assembly public warehouses for the inspection and grading of tobacco were established at designated ports. All exported tobacco had to go through the inspection system, thus guaranteeing its quality.

Bladensburg is located just south of the fork of the Anacostia River's eastern branch. Established by Act of the General Assembly in 1742, the town was named after Thomas Bladen, governor of the colony from 1742-1747, or his father, William Bladen, who served the province in numerous capacities including as Attorney General in 1707.<sup>2</sup> In addition to Upper Marlboro the town became one of the two most important shipping and commercial villages in 18th century Prince George's County. By 1776 it was exporting more tobacco than any other Maryland port on the Western Shore.<sup>3</sup> Like the other 18th century towns in the County, including Upper Marlboro, Queen Anne, Nottingham and Piscataway, Bladensburg remained a village. During the revolution, at the height of its prosperity and influence, there were 35 householders in Bladensburg, including seven merchants, six tavern keepers, two doctors and four artisans.<sup>4</sup> It was a village with waterfront wharves, a shipyard and ropewalk, tannery, taverns and ordinaries, and stores run by Scots and British factors, where planters could exchange tobacco or cash for imported merchandise.<sup>5</sup>

Due to heavy sedimentation of the channel, the eastern branch of the Anacostia River in the vicinity of Bladensburg in recent years shows depths of 3 to 4 feet. During the 18th century it is estimated to have been 30 to 40 feet deep and four-fifths as wide,<sup>6</sup> easily accessible to ocean-going ships. In addition to its port, Bladensburg was located strategically at the intersection of six roads which served to interconnect the important towns and cities in the region.<sup>7</sup> It was at the junction of the road from Annapolis and Baltimore to Georgetown. It was just east of the nation's new capital city of Washington. The road to

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.3

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Alexandria and through Piscataway to Port Tobacco also passed through Bladensburg, as did a road to Upper Marlboro. A post route that included Bladensburg on the run between Annapolis, Georgetown and Frederick was established sometime after 1757. The second post office in the County was established at Bladensburg around 1769. Stagecoach travel between Baltimore and Alexandria was begun in 1783, passing through Bladensburg, benefiting the taverns and ordinaries that initially were established due to the town's ocean-going trade.<sup>8</sup>

Bladensburg was laid out on a tract called Charles and Rebecca. An area of 60 acres was divided into one acre lots, with two lots reserved for the proprietor, Elizabeth Calvert.<sup>9</sup> The lots were sold at public sale on March 5, 1743, with the stipulation that if they were not improved by a structure of at least 20 by 20 feet with a brick or stone chimney within 18 months of purchase, the lot would revert back to town ownership.<sup>10</sup> Construction began slowly, with a number of lots forfeited to the town government. All lots were improved by 1787.<sup>11</sup> A record book and plat of the town dating to 1787 survives, allowing detailed knowledge of the sales of lots.

Resource History

Lot 38, on which the Market Master's House is located, was purchased by Christopher Lowndes on September 23, 1760 and he built the stone 25 x 20 foot Market Master's House by 1765.<sup>12</sup> The lot had been sold and resold since 1742, but reverted to town ownership because it was never improved.

Christopher Lowndes (circa 1713-1785) was the fifth son of Richard Lowndes of Bostock, Cheshire, England. He had immigrated to Prince George's County by 1738. He was included in the list of petitioners requesting the General Assembly to lay out a town on the south side of the eastern branch at a place called "Garrison Landing" (later Bladensburg) in 1742. In 1748 Lowndes was the senior partner in a firm of commercial merchants bearing his name which had trade in both England and the Colonies, headquartered in Bladensburg.<sup>13</sup> Lowndes advertised in the Maryland Gazette from 1745-1785, such activities as the impending arrival of ship cargo, his rope-walk sales, the running of the lottery to raise money to enlarge the town wharf, his ship building yard, and the sale of diverse goods and wares.<sup>14</sup> Lowndes built Bostwick, his large, fine brick home in Bladensburg, in 1746 (P.G. #69-9, a County Historic Site listed on the National Register). He served as a Justice for the County from 1753-

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1775, and under the new State government, through his death in 1785. He also served as a Town Commissioner from 1745-85.<sup>15</sup>

Lowndes died intestate in Bladensburg on January 8, 1785. The ownership of Lot 38 fell to his son Benjamin Lowndes.<sup>16</sup> Benjamin Lowndes (1749-1806) was also a merchant, and was active in Bladensburg affairs. He was appointed trustee of the Bladensburg Academy, served as an election judge in the 5th District in 1800, and succeeded his father in the position of Bladensburg's Postmaster.<sup>17</sup> He died in 1806, leaving Lot 38 improved by a frame and a stone house, to his son Christopher Lowndes.<sup>18</sup>

At Christopher Lowndes's death in 1823, his share of his father's estate was purchased by William B. Jackson, a wealthy Bladensburg merchant who had married Elizabeth Lowndes, Christopher's sister. The property was transferred to another sister, Eleanor Lowndes Anderson, in 1851.<sup>19</sup> It passed out of the Lowndes family after over 100 years of ownership in 1883.

The 25 by 20 foot stone house has traditionally been called the Market Master's House. Adjoining it to the north and fronting on the public road through town is Lot 37, designated by the Town Commissioners as a public market place on June 5, 1746.<sup>20</sup> The house is located at what was the junction of Market Place and Market Lane, two narrow roads shown on the 1787 town plat skirting the west and south lines of Lot 37, the market lot. Bladensburg was designated as one of the locations for a County tobacco inspection warehouse by the Act of 1747. The County warehouse was not located on the market lot until 1784, when the town Commissioners deeded the east part of Lot 37 to Justices of the County.<sup>21</sup> The use of the Market Master's House as a headquarters for tobacco inspectors or an overseer of adjoining market activity is at this time not proven. The City of Alexandria, Virginia had in its City Code of 1800 a detailed description of the duties of the town-appointed Clerk of the Market, proving that such posts did exist in early American town government.<sup>22</sup> No such description of an appointed Market Master exists for the town of Bladensburg, however.

The factors that gave Bladensburg importance during the first 60 years of its life rapidly began to erode around 1800. The eastern branch was gradually silting in, making the local shipping and fishing industries less and less viable. Sale of tobacco was being centralized in Baltimore, the growing commercial center in the region, taking business away from the small port towns. The Washington branch of the Baltimore and Ohio

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Railroad, established in 1835, bypassed Bladensburg, locating on the opposite bank of the eastern branch.<sup>23</sup> This deprived the town of the business brought by stagecoach travelers and mail delivery. The shipment of tobacco from Bladensburg's wharf ceased in 1843.<sup>24</sup> The town market lot on which the County tobacco inspection warehouse stood was sold into private hands in 1853.<sup>25</sup> The town assumed the status of a backwater community through the early 20th century.

A traditional name for the Market Master's House has been the "Ship Ballast House." There is no positive proof at this time that the stone of which the structure is composed arrived in Bladensburg as ship ballast. The main block of the Market Master's House measures 25 by 20 feet. The exterior walls are approximately 16 inches thick, composed of a quartz/mica schist not local to Prince George's County. The closest available source of such stone is northern Montgomery County or the Baltimore vicinity.<sup>26</sup> It is not clear how the stone arrived in Bladensburg. There is a tradition that piles of stone littered the area around Bladensburg's public landing. Use of stone as ballast in ships carrying manufactured goods from England was common in the 18th century. In 1704 and again in 1735 the Maryland Assembly passed an act making it illegal to discharge ballast overboard at night or into harbors or creeks, as it clogged the waterways. Ballast was to be deposited above the mean high water line, which would include the shores of Bladensburg's port.<sup>27</sup>

A 1913 photograph of the house, taken by J. Harry Shannan (the "Rambler"), columnist for the old Washington Star, corresponds with the description of the building in the 1798 Federal direct tax. The 1913 photograph<sup>28</sup> indicates that the exterior stone surface had been covered with plaster or stucco. The three-bay south elevation had a central entrance flanked by two 6/6 double hung wooden sash windows. A gable dormer with diagonal wood siding and a 6/6 sash window is slightly off center on the south-facing roof slope. The east gable end has a narrow centered 4/4 sash window at second story level. The west gable end has an interior brick chimney with a corbelled cap at the roof ridge. Fenestration or door openings on the west or north elevations are not visible due to the angle of the photograph. On the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Lot 38, under the ownership of Benjamin Lowndes had a one-story stone dwelling of 24 by 20 feet with five windows, 3 feet 4 inches in height by 2 feet in width and one window of 3 feet 4 inches in height by 1 foot 4 inches in width. These measurements correspond to the size of the dormer windows and the original window openings on the building today.

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By 1920 the Market Master's House was in ruinous condition. It was purchased in that year by Raymond Evans, a journalist working as a script writer for the United States Department of Agriculture.<sup>29</sup> Over a period of three years Evans renovated and added onto the stone structure to create a residence. The building assumed its present appearance at that time. Alterations to the original structure by Evans included laying of new flooring on the first story, installation of new plaster, as well as plumbing and wiring. He left the hewn beams supporting the second story exposed and plastered in between them. He added the large fieldstone face to the brick-faced hearth in the first story room. A central opening in the east wall was pierced to put a window at first story level. The west window on the south facade was converted to a doorway entering a small dining room addition. The door on the north side of the building was closed to create a window. On the second story of the main block a small closet at the top of the stairs with a grilled door was converted into a bathroom. On the south side of the second story hearth a small doorway was pierced through the west wall to allow access to the new second story bedroom.

Evans added a 15' x 20' stucco-covered poured concrete and frame addition onto the west end of the building. The addition contained a kitchen on the first story and a bedroom lighted by dormers above. He added a low 14 x 9 foot lean-to onto the south side, which covers the southwest bay of the main block. This dining room addition is of concrete faced with the same type of stone which forms the body of the old structure. This stone Evans salvaged from the foundation of a ruined building located northeast of the house, near the old town spring.<sup>30</sup>

In the early 1950's the house was taken by the State Roads Commission to enable the construction of the Kenilworth Avenue (MD Route 201) overpass, which bisects Bladensburg Road (MD Route 450) within feet of the west end of the house. During the State Roads Commission's ownership the house stood vacant and vandalized. In 1956 the mayor of Bladensburg, Susanna Christofane, persuaded the Commission to allow the house to stand and acquired the property. The dwelling had to be renovated for a second time and today continues in Christofane's ownership, used as a rental property.

Resource Analysis

The Market Master's House, constructed circa 1765, stands today as the only surviving example of a small 18th century vernacular stone

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dwelling in the County. It is also unusual in that it was constructed as an in-town rather than a rural dwelling. As stated above, towns in 18th century Prince George's County were few and small. Structures constructed for a town environment are rare in the County. Including the Market Masters House, the County had 11 stone dwellings and five stone outbuildings in 1798, as recorded in the Federal Direct Tax Assessment. Six of these structures, 3 houses and 3 outbuildings were located in Bladensburg. Stone was not a common 18th century building material in the County. Its use was concentrated in the north where 15 out of the 16 stone buildings recorded on the 1798 Tax Assessment were located. In Bladensburg, there were approximately 44 dwellings in 1798; 35 were of frame, five of brick and 3 of stone, including the Market Masters House. Of the 16 stone buildings recorded in the County on the 1798 Tax Assessment, only 3 remain. Two of these, the Market Masters House and the Hilleary-Magruder House (P.G. #69-9) are located in Bladensburg. Unlike the Market Master's House, the Hilleary-Magruder House is constructed of local stone.

The period of significance for the Market Masters House is the 18th century. Its size was dictated by the minimum dwelling size requirement in Bladensburg's 18th century town ordinance. It was constructed by a wealthy merchant who already had a sizeable dwelling and was constructing this building primarily to retain ownership of the lot. The house is the only remaining example of a dwelling constructed to fulfill Bladensburg's minimize size code. It is constructed of stone which is not local to Prince George's County. There is a good possibility that the quarried and roughly shaped stone served as ballast on British vessels, bringing manufactured goods to Bladensburg to exchange for a cargo of tobacco. This associates the structure with Bladensburg's 18th century commercial history. There is little evidence of the use of this stone today in Bladensburg although it was formerly commonly seen used as foundation stone. The Market Master's House was constructed overlooking the lot designated as the town market in 1746. The County tobacco inspection warehouse was constructed on the market lot in 1784. It is possible the structure was associated with one or both of these agricultural and commercial functions, although this has not been proved at this time. The Market Master's House is one of four 18th century structures remaining in the town. The other three include Bostwick, 69-9, Christopher Lowndes's 2-1/2 story Georgian brick mansion constructed in 1746; the Hilleary-Magruder House, P.G. #69-7, a mid-18th century gambrel-roof, stucco-covered stone house built for William Hilleary; and the George Washington House, P.G. #69-2, a 2-1/2 story brick tavern and store built circa 1760. All are listed on the National Register. Bladensburg lost most of its significant 18th century buildings through fire or demolition since the 1930's, as it became an industrial suburb of the growing Washington, D.C.



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Although it has had two additions and interior renovations to make it a habitable dwelling, the Market Master's House retains significant 18th century material and character. Because of its stone construction, small size and plain vernacular style, it is unique in the County. The additions to the dwelling are both smaller than the original main block and follow it in roof slope and wall materials. The 18th century block still determines the scale and character of the overall structure. Visible exterior changes to the main block include the insertion of a first story window in the east gable end and the conversion of the north door to a window. The number and size of the windows described in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax corresponds to the windows in the 1913 photograph of the building and those on the main block today, save for the first story east window added by Evans. The north opening changed from a door to a window still can be read as a door opening because the size of opening was not altered nor was it infilled. Evans simply closed the lower half with a wooden panel and glazed the upper half with a 12-light fixed pane. The inset, height and width of the doorway is readily apparent.

On the interior, the stairway and ceiling beams are original material. The brick arch above the firebox opening of the hearth is visible behind the veneer of fieldstone added in the 1920 renovation. The flooring on the second story is original, or very old material. The bedroom door is an old board and batten door. The plain wooden mantel on the second story hearth is probably a 19th century addition to the dwelling.

Other than Bostwick, the Market Master's House is the only remaining structure in Bladensburg associated with the Lowndes family. The family was significant in Bladensburg's economic and political life for at least three generations. The Lowndes had a significant impact on Bladensburg's 18th century built environment, including Christopher Lowndes' residence, ropewalk, ship yard, salt house and store; and later family members' residences. Of these, only Bostwick and the Market Master's House remain.

Notes

<sup>1</sup> Allan Kulikoff, Tobacco and Slaves. The Development of Southern Cultures in the Chesapeake, 1680-1800, University of North Carolina Press, 1986, ppgs. 5,6,45-52.

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2 Sister Catherine Wright, Port O'Bladensburg, A Brief History of a 1742 Town, Copyright 1977, Sister Catherine Wright, a project of the Town of Bladensburg Bicentennial Committee, p. 27.

3 Alan Virta, Prince George's County, A Pictorial History, The Donning Company, Norfolk, Virginia, 1984, p. 40.

4 Kulikoff, p. 227 and 228.

5 Virta, p. 40; and Reverend John F. Biddle, Historical Geography of Bladensburg, A Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of the Catholic University of America... for the Degree of Master of Arts, Washington, D.C., 1954, pp. 13-15.

6 In the Anacostia Watershed, Vol. 1, #1, Summer 1988, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, Suite 300, 6110 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852-3903, pg. 7.

7 Map of the State of Maryland...and of the Federal Territory...by Dennis Griffith, June 20, 1794, available in The Hammond Harwood house Atlas of Historical Maps of Maryland, 1608-1908, by Papenfuse and Coale.

8 Louise Joyner Hienton, Prince George's Heritage, The Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1972, p. 140.

9 ibid. p. 137.

10 Record Book of Bladensburg, 1742-1789, including Bacon's Laws of Maryland, Chapter 13, 1742, An Act for Laying Out and Erecting a Town on the South side of the Eastern Branch... Available at Maryland State Archives.

11 Hienton, p. 138.

12 Record Book of Bladensburg.

13 Christopher Johnson, "The Lowndes Family", Maryland Historical Magazine, Volume 2, 1907.

14 Frederick Tilp, This Was Potomac River, 1978, pp. 78, 204, 205.

15 Johnson, op. cit, and Hienton, p. 139.

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- 16 Johnson, op. cit; and Prince George's County, Wills, TT:6.
- 17 Johnson, op. cit; and Hienton, pp. 140, 208.
- 18 Prince George's Wills, TT:6.
- 19 Prince George's County Wills, Administration Account Docket #1810, March 18, 1823; Deeds JBB 7:286, ATB 1:340.
- 20 Record Book of Bladensburg.
- 21 ibid.
- 22 James R. Caton, Legislative Chronicles of the City of Alexandria, Alexandria, Virginia: Newell-Cole Company, Inc. 1977, pp. 62-67.
- 23 Biddle, p. 39.
- 24 ibid., p. 27
- 25 Prince George's Land Records, ON 1:334, EWB 1:109.
- 26 H.G. Siegrist, Geologist, University of Maryland, Department of Geology, College Park. Information gained from site visit, March 20, 1989.
- 27 Arthur Pierce Middleton, Tobacco Coast, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984, originally publised by the Mariner's Museum, Newport News, Virginia, 1953, pg. 99.
- 28 Virta, p. 56.
- 29 Interview with Warren R. Evans, March 10, 1989.
- 30 Ibid.; and Raymond Evans, "Little Old Stone House," Better Homes and Gardens, February 1928, p. 13.

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Chain of Title  
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2263:353 17 Oct. 1958 Deed	Shaw H. and Helen Matthews to Felix E. and Susanna Cristofane. For \$10 grantors convey that property obtained from Raymond and Louise Evans, 26 June 1944, 757:81. Part of Lot 38 in Bladensburg. Frontage on South Street (48th St.) of 100 feet and depth of 138 feet. Excepting portion previously conveyed to Cristofane 2073:51.
2073:51 24 Dec. 1956 Deed	Shaw and Helen Matthews to Felix and Susanna Cristofane. For \$10 grantors convey a parcel 50 x 85 feet, a part of Lot 38. Described in deed from Marion Duckett to Raymond and Louise Evans, April 9, 1920, 153:114.
2073:54 31 Oct. 1956	State Roads Commission and on behalf of State of Maryland surrenders to Felix and Susanna Cristofane the use of and waives right to demolish house known as the old Market Master's House. Use to commence when grantees take legal title to property.
153:114 9 April 1920 Deed	Marion Duckett to Raymond and Louise Evans. For \$10 grantor conveys the north 50 feet by depth 238 feet, conveyed to Duckett, April 22, 1918, recorded 128:231. A part of Lot 38.
128:231 22 April 1918 Deed	Andrew D. Headley and Ella Headley of D.C. to Marion Duckett of Prince George's. For \$10 grantors convey a part of Lot 38 in Bladensburg. Frontage on South Street of 100 feet and depth of 238 feet.
4:470 12 Dec. 1901 Deed	Laura E. and Frank Gasch, and Andrew D. Headley of D.C. to Marion Duckett. For \$300 grantors convey Lot 38 in Bladensburg - same conveyed to Laura Gasch by Andrew Headley, Oct. 3, 1892, JWB 25:658.
JWB 25:658 3 Oct. 1892 Deed	Andrew and Emily Headley of New York. For \$10 grantors convey to Laura Gasch (daughter) part of Lot 38. Runs on South Street 35 feet, west 238 feet. Contains 8,330 square feet.
23:106 3 Oct. 1892 Deed	Andrew and Emily Headley of New York. For \$260 grantors convey to Marion Duckett the southern part of Lot 38. Contains 9,520 square feet.
JWB 2:541 17 Nov. 1883 Deed	Richard F. Morsell and George J. Seufferle, Trustee, by virtue of Deed of Trust of Thomas and Eleanor Anderson to William B. Jackson, recorded APB1:340. Default was made and property sold Sept. 18, 1883 to Andrew Headley for \$246. Lot 38, bounded by Market Lane, on the east by South Street, on the south by Lot 39 and on west by Lot 33, contains 1 acre.
ATB 1:340 26 June 1879 Deed	Thomas and Eleanor Anderson indebted to William B. Jackson of D.C. for \$750 - to secure debt grant to Richard Morsell and George J. Seufferle of D.C. as Trustee. Lots 38 and 39 in Bladensburg. Anderson to occupy premises and to take the rents until default be made.
JBB 7:286 26 May 1851 Deed	William Berry Jackson, Benjamin L. Jackson, William Bladen Jackson, Dorothea L. Jackson, Susan L. Jackson and Mary E. Jackson of D.C. and William and Elizabeth D. Palmer of Prince George's County to Thomas and Eleanor Anderson. For \$300 grantor convey Lot 38 with improvements.
TT 1:6 31 Jan. 1809 Will	Will of Benjamin Loundes. To son Christopher Loundes, Lot #38 in Bladensburg, with a frame and stone dwelling.

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source: Virta, Alan. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Virginia Beach, VA.: The Donning Company, 1984, p. 56.

This little stone house in Bladensburg was built by Christopher Lowndes in 1760. Located on the edge of the market square, near the tobacco warehouse, it probably served a commercial purpose during the colonial era; today it is known as the Market Master's House. Tradition says it was built of ship ballast, but it was more likely made of local stone. An addition was made early in this century, and it is now a residence. This photograph was taken about 1913 by J. Harry Shannon (the "Rambler"), columnist for the old *Washington Star*. Courtesy of the Columbia Historical Society

(now Historical Society  
of Washington, D. C.)



See Continuation Sheet No. 8.13

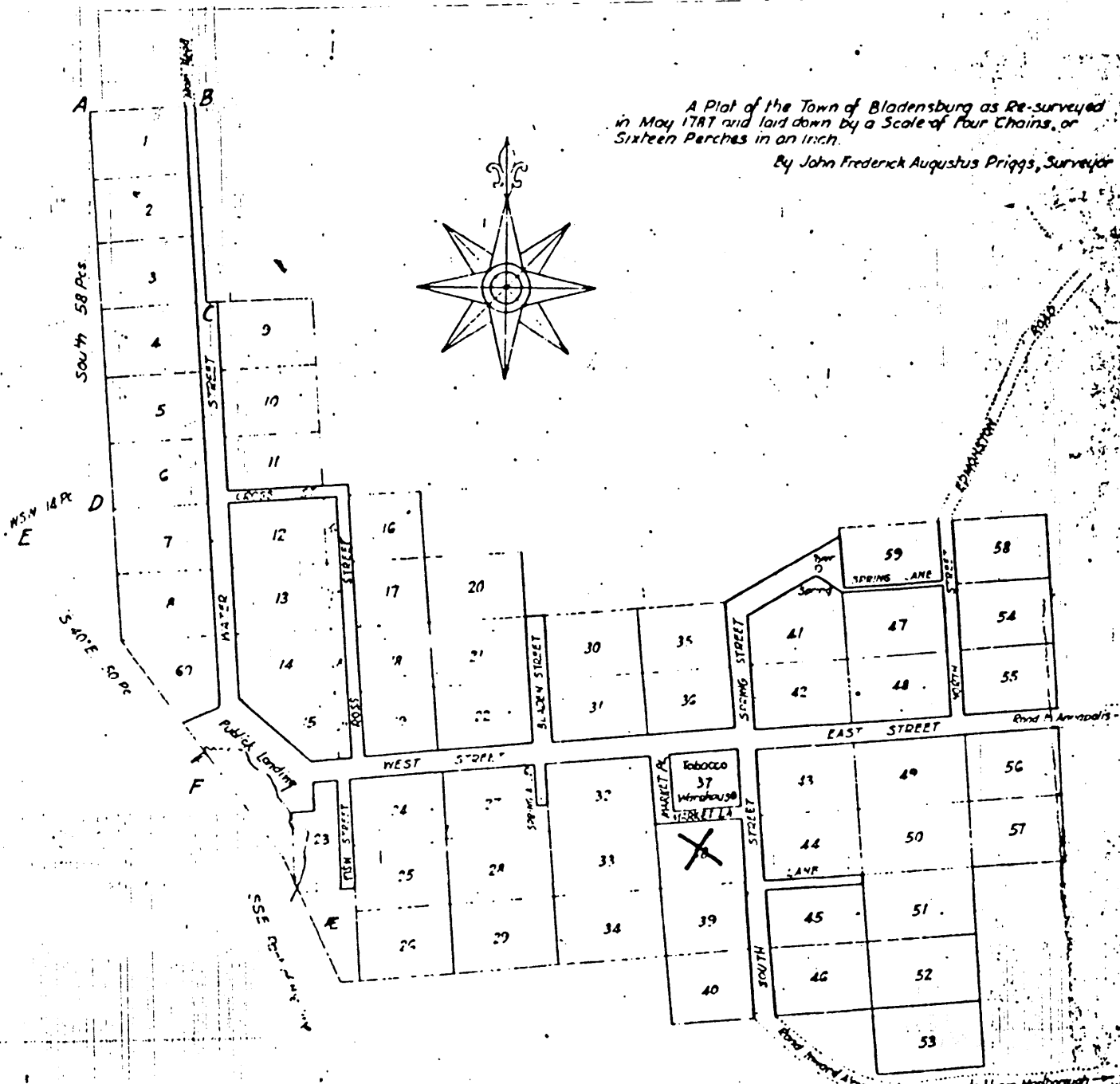
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Traced by C. R. Beaumont from a copy of the original Plat made by the above named surveyor in 1787, in Record Book of Bladensburg, which copy was made by B. Raimbore, Feb. 4, 1877  
May 3, 1952

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Verbal Boundary Description

Part of Lot 38, begins at a stone at northeast corner of part of Lot 38 conveyed to Marion Duckett by Laura E. Gasch, running north with South Street 100 feet to a gas pipe at the southwest corner of Lot 37 owned by Laura E. Gasch, continuing in a straight line west to a gas pipe on the east line of John Rohrback's lot, thence with the west line of Lot 38 to the northwest corner of the lot aforesaid conveyed to Duckett by Gasch, thence with the northern line of said lot to the beginning. Frontage 200 feet on South and depth of 138 feet, excepting the portion of Lot 38 that was conveyed to Felix E. and Susanna K. Christophane, December 24, 1956, 2073:51.

2073:51: Parcel 50 feet wide by 85 feet long, the west 85 feet of a Lot on the west side of South (48th) Street and being the North 50 feet front by depth thereof of the lot conveyed to Marion Duckett by Andrew D. Headley, part of Lot 38.