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NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. Theme: Architecture

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Anne Arundel
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES)

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: London Town Publik House

AND/OR HISTORIC: London Town Publik House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: End of London Town Road on South Bank of South River

CITY OR TOWN: Vicinity of Annapolis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th

STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

COUNTY: Anne Arundel — CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building	☒ Public	Public Acquisition:	☐ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☐ Private	☒ In Process	☐ Unoccupied	☐ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Considered	☐ Preservation work in progress	☒ Unrestricted
				☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: County of Anne Arundel; administered by London Town Publik House Commission, Mr. Y. Kirkpatrick Howat, Chairman

STREET AND NUMBER: Contee Farms

CITY OR TOWN: Edgewater

STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Anne Arundel County Court House--Clerk of Circuit Court

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 71

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland 21404 — CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (8 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936, 1937 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress/ Annex

STREET AND NUMBER: Division of Prints and Photographs

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C. — CODE: ~~11~~

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Anne Arundel
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

London Town Publik House is a full two-story structure over elevated basement, seven-bays wide and three bays deep, with brick walls laid in Flemish bond. The inn is covered by a hipped roof cut off near the top to form a deck and the deck is sheltered by a slightly elevated gable roof which is terminated at either end by a massive interior chimney. A finely enriched cornice marks the roof line on all four sides. There is a molded brick water table and a belt course at the second floor level. The south (front) facade, facing the abandoned ferry approach road, is dominated by a three-bay wide projecting central pavilion, which is surmounted by a pediment with a small lunette in its center. Windows in the south elevation are topped by flat brick arches and those in the rear and end elevations, by segmental brick arches. First floor windows have nine over nine light sash and second-story windows have nine over six sash. The main entrance, in the south facade, is approached by a flight of brick and stone steps. The north or rear facade lacks the projecting pavilion of the front and is also fenestrated differently, having four widely spaced windows instead of the six windows across on the south side.

During its use as an alms house (1828-1966), the building was repaired and a few minor wood partition walls inserted, but no structural changes were made. The house has a cross hall plan with a broad central Living hall, the width of the central pavilion, extending through the structure from front to rear. At midpoint the main hall is intersected at right angles by narrower side halls that lead to the entrance in each end. Four equal-sized rooms, each with its own fireplace, are located in the four corners of the inn. The north (rear) half of the main hall also has a fireplace and forms a very large room. The south (front) half of the main hall serves as the entrance hall and contains the stairway, which is located against the west cross wall. The main (south) entrance door, with 10 panels, has original H and L hinges. The cross walls are brick and the openings leading from the main hall to the lateral halls are framed with round brick arches. The end doors have six panels, H and L hinges, and small rectangular transoms above them. Interior walls are plastered and the fireplaces have simple wooden mantels. The windows are deep set and most of them retain their original glass. The doors and most hardware are also original. Original cloak and hat boards--some with their wooden pegs--are still in place in the main hall, and an original hearthstone remains in the northwest room. Two rooms have small original cupboards and the tavern also has its original flooring, revealed when a modern tile covering was removed. Also found was the original fireplace of the warming kitchen behind a later smaller opening. Blocks of wood were placed into the brick suggesting that the overmantle was originally intended to be paneled. Common rooms were located in the basement where the fieldstone foundation can be seen. All of the timbers are original, but the brick on the basement floor is new, the old having been removed to install heating and plumbing. In the restoration the 19th century one-story wooden porches on the east and west ends were removed and steps put in their place, designed from descriptions by an architect specializing in such restorations. Infra-red photographs have been taken and it is hoped these will aid in a mapping of the original town by revealing old roadbeds and building foundations.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Anne Arundel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (Continued) (1) London Town Publik House

BOUNDARY

Although the county of Anne Arundel has acquired 10.24 acres of land around the Publik House it does little to secure a protective environment for the house. The area is moderately populated and houses are built right to the far edge of the deep culvert formed by the old ferry approach road. For this reason the boundary is being drawn to include only the land immediately surrounding the Publik House but including additional land on the far side of the old ferry dock to keep this important feature within the landmark. Beginning at the southeast corner of the landmark, the boundary lies along the far side of the upper ridge of the old ferry docks at the southern property line of the adjoining property beginning at the river bank and extending to a point in line with the approach road at the place where it curves to pass before the house, then from this point following along the far edge of the approach road to the place where it widens for a turn-around then east in a line from this point to the riverbank(this line falls within a declivity to the north of the house), then south along the river-bank to the point of beginning, as shown on the sketch map in red.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☒ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☐ 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1745-50

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

London Town Publik House, erected around 1745-50 is an outstanding example of a large, seven-bay wide, brick inn of excellent Georgian design. With its original simple interiors unaltered and much of the original glass and hardware intact, the inn maintains its integrity as an unusually complete example of colonial architecture at its functional best.

London Town Public House, located on the south bank of the South River, about 4 miles from Annapolis, was constructed around 1745-50 as a large inn to serve a major north-south turnpike and its ferry crossing at South River. All land travellers passed by way of London Town Ferry to and from Philadelphia and Annapolis, Williamsburg or Mount Vernon. The overgrown remains of the deeply sunken ferry approach road are still visible a few yards south of the inn. Sites of original houses can be discerned from infra-red photographs of the area. Located on the original land grant to Colonel William Burgess, the town of London Town was composed of about 101 lots of which the Publik House was lot number 74, bounded by Fish and Scott Streets. Today it is the only building of the town which remains intact. The structure and ten acres of land were acquired by Anne Arundel County in 1828 and the building was utilized until 1966 as an Alms or County Poor House. The house is now being reconditioned for use as a county museum.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Letter, Mrs. Marshall H. Nelker, Chairman, London Town Publik House Commission, to Roy E. Appleman, Acting Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, August 11, 1967, property files, Historic Sites Survey, NPS, Washington, D.C.

Carey, Laurel S., "This is London Town, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, U.S.A.," (unpublished report completed for Mrs. Marshall H. Nelker), 1967, unpaged.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY		OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	UTM		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
			Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW				
NE			18.366510.4311210	
SE				
SW				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmarks Review Project: original form prepared by Charles Snell.

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service — DATE: 7/30/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street NW

CITY OR TOWN: Washington — STATE: D.C. — CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Name _____

Title _____

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

Landmark Design ... May 19, 1975 date

Boundary Certified: Cornelius Heine 6-19-75

Chief Hist. & Arch Surveys date

Boundary Approved: [illegible] 6/19/75

Director, OAHP date

GPO 931-894

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form No. 10-301
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Anne Arundel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: London Town Publik House

AND/OR HISTORIC: London Town Publik House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: End of London Town Road on South Bank of South River

CITY OR TOWN: vicinity of Annapolis

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland		Anne Arundel	003

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series, South River Quadrangle

SCALE: 1:24000

DATE: 1957, photorevised 1970

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

INT: 155-72

10-3oia

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
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Anne Arundel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NAME

COMMON: London Town Publik House

AND/OR HISTORIC: London Town Publik House

LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: End of London Town Road on bank of South River.

CITY OR TOWN: vicinity of Annapolis

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Anne Arundel	003

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Patricia Heintzelman

DATE OF PHOTO: July 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Sites Survey, NPS

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of original cupboard southeast room.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1973-729-152/1446 III-1

10-301a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Patricia Heintzelman

DATE OF PHOTO: July 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Sites Survey, NPS

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View down center hall toward the west.

Form No. 10-301a
(7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Patricia Heintzelman

DATE OF PHOTO: July 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Sites Survey, NPS

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of West and South facades from the west. South was the ferry approach.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446 III-1

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446

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STREET AND NUMBER: End of London Town Road
CITY OR TOWN: vicinity of Annapolis
STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24 | COUNTY: Anne Arundel | CODE: 00
3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Patricia Heintzelman
DATE OF PHOTO: July 1974
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Sites Survey
4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
View of river front of London Town Publik House--the east side.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER | DATE
Anne Arundel

Form No. 10-301
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Anne Arundel	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

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2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: End of London Town Road

CITY OR TOWN: vicinity of Annapolis

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland		Anne Arundel	003

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: Sketch map done by Patricia Heintzelman drawn on site.

SCALE: no scale.

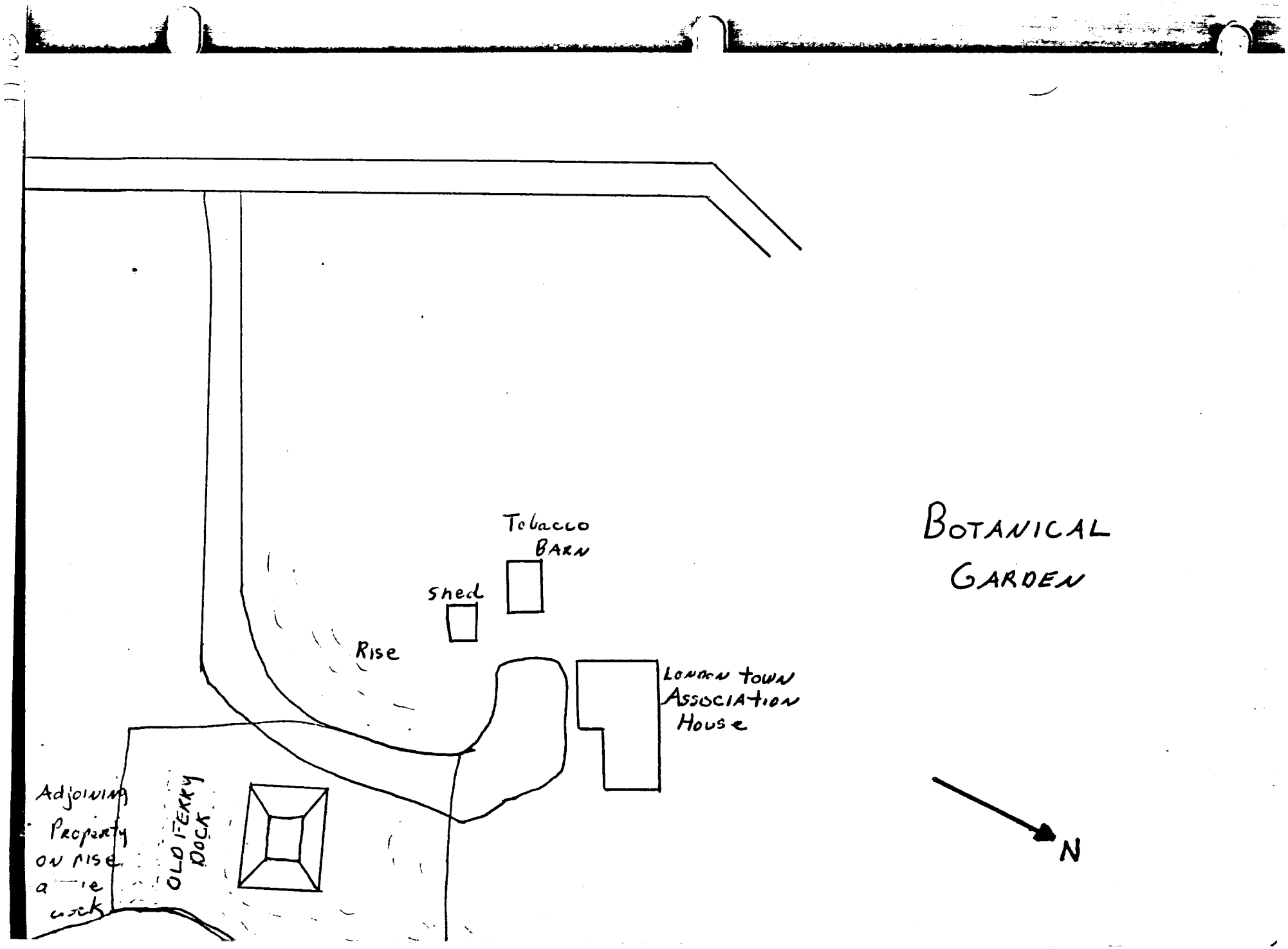
DATE: 1974

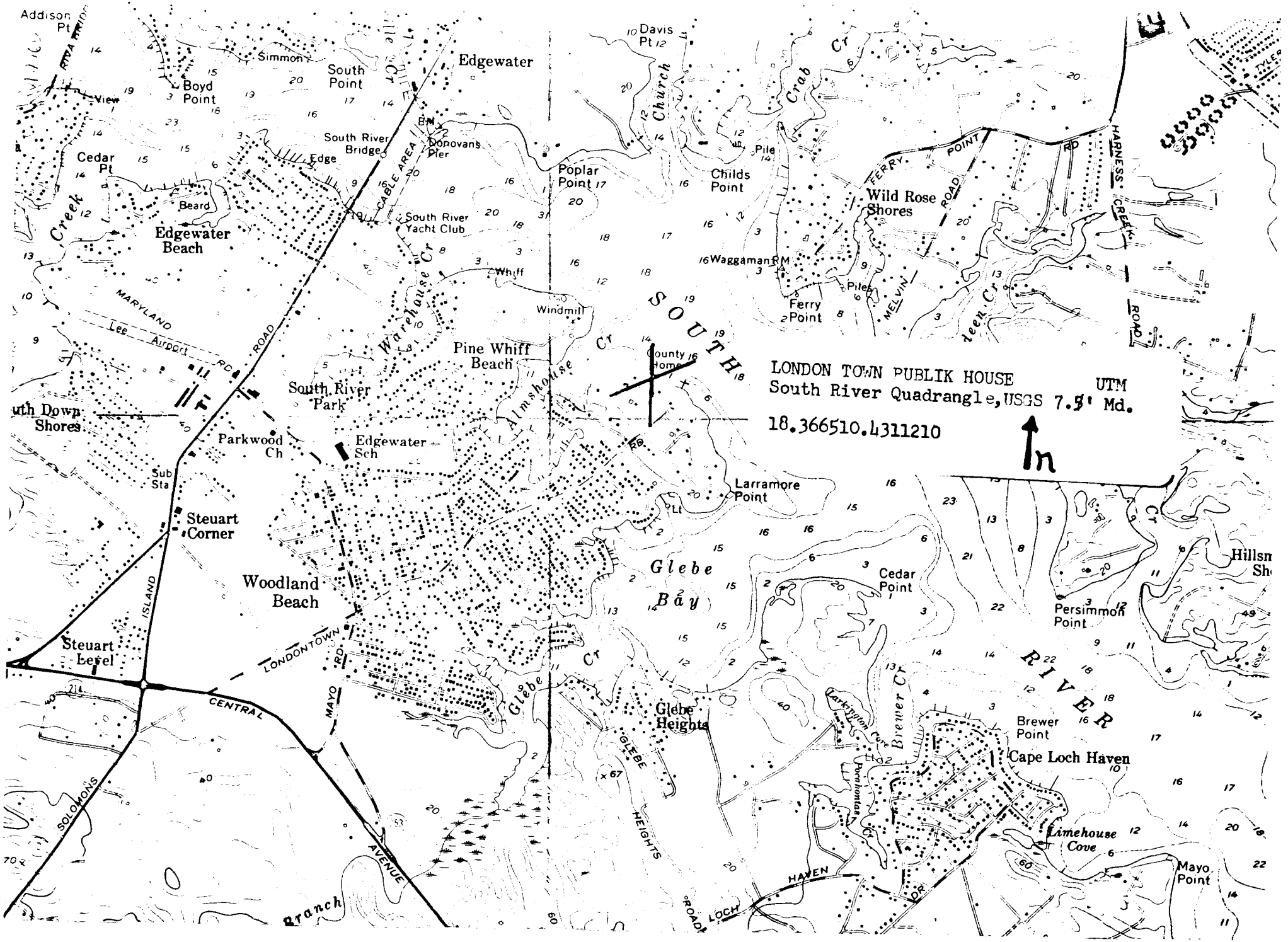
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

INT: 155-72


Tobacco Barn
shed
Rise
London Town Association House
Adjoining Property on rise
OLD FERRY DOCK
BOTANICAL GARDEN
N


LONDON TOWN PUBLIK HOUSE
South River Quadrangle, USGS 7.5' Md.
UTM
18.366510.4311210
n
Addison Pt
Boyd Point
Simmon
South Point
Edgewater
Davis Pt
Church
Crab Cr
Cedar Pt
Beard
Edgewater Beach
Creek
South River Bridge
Donovans Pier
CABLE AREA
South River Yacht Club
Poplar Point
Childs Point
Pile
Wild Rose Shores
FERRY POINT RD
HARNESS CREEK ROAD
Waggaman RM
Ferry Point
MELVIN
Whiff
Windmill
Warehouse Cr
MARYLAND
Lee Airport RD
ROAD
Pine Whiff Beach
Almshouse Cr
County Home
SOUTH
South River Park
Parkwood Ch
Edgewater Sch
Sub Sta
Steuart Corner
Larramore Point
Glebe Bay
Cedar Point
Persimmon Point
Woodland Beach
ISLAND
Steuart Level
LONDONTOWN
MAYO RD
CENTRAL
Glebe Cr
Glebe Heights
GLEBE HEIGHTS ROAD
Brewer Cr
Brewer Point
Cape Loch Haven
RIVER
Limehouse Cove
Mayo Point
SOLOMONS
AVENUE
LOCH HAVEN DR
Branch

LONDON TOWN PUBLIK HOUSE AA-[redacted] 165

SOUTH ELEVATION FRANCES E. ENGLE 1959

LONDONTOWN PUBLICK HOUSE • AA-165

OR 2/68