

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: Old Field Inn Inventory Number: CT-746

Address: 485 Main Street Historic district: yes no

City: Prince Frederick Zip Code: 20678 County: Calvert

USGS Quadrangle(s): Prince Frederick

Property Owner: Prince Frederick Assoc LLC Tax Account ID Number: 005298

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 831 Tax Map Number: 24

Project: MD 231 at MD 765A Community Enhancement and Safety Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration

Agency Prepared By: Parsons Brinckerhoff

Preparer's Name: G. Blanchard K. Britt Date Prepared: 5/1/2014

Documentation is presented in: Maryland Historic Sites Inventory Form for CT-746

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes no Listed: yes no

Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description

The Old Field Inn is located at 485 Main Street; it was built in 1891. It is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay house that rests on a stone and concrete foundation. It is clad in clapboard and has a hip roof. The largely symmetrical building is oriented on a northeast-southwest axis and contains two additions located on its northwest and southwest elevations. Its northeast-facing facade faces Main Street, but it is set back from the road and reached by a short driveway. The building is best qualified as having massing associated with Victorian-era forms with classically inspired design influences.

Its northeast, three-bay facade contains the building's main entrance. The building's central bay projects from the facade and is topped with a front-gable roof. A single-story porch extends the length of the facade. It rests on a brick foundation and is topped with a hip roof supported by Doric columns. The porch is screened. The main entry is a wood door topped by a four-light transom located in the central bay. Two two-over-two, double-hung, wood-framed windows flank the entry door. Above the porch, two-over-two, double-hung, wood-framed windows are located in each of the second story's three bays. Above the center bay's second-story window is a wood-framed, multi-light, fixed Palladian window in the building's attic space; the Palladian window is not original to the house. Louvered wood shutters flank all two-over-two windows across the facade. All windows are ornamented

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with modestly molded sills and lintels. A concrete ramp with metal railing leads to the front porch.

The building's northwest (side) elevation is comprised of two bays with a small, one-story, concrete-block foundation, hip-roof addition projecting from the building's west corner. An oriel window is located in the first story's northernmost bay and contains two-over-two, double-hung, wood-framed windows flanked by louvered wood shutters. The first story's southernmost bay contains a small covered porch with a two-over-two, double-hung window. Above, the second story windows are identical to those found on the facade and utilize a two-over-two, double-hung, wood-framed window composition with modest sills and lintels. These windows are flanked by louvered wood shutters. The small, first-story porch roof is supported by a single post with spindlework found at the post-roof juncture. From the porch, a solid wood door provides access into the projecting addition.

Three bays comprise the building's southwest elevation that includes a large addition on its southern end projecting to the southwest. The elevation's second story contains two two-over-two, double-hung, wood-framed windows with modestly molded lintels and sills flanked by wood louvered shutters in the northernmost and southernmost bays. A similarly configured paired window comprises the middle bay. Above, a gable dormer with twelve-light, wood-framed, paired casement windows provides light into the attic space.

The building's southeast (side) elevation is comprised of essentially two bays. The first story's westernmost bay contains two square, one-over-one, double-hung, wood-framed windows with modest lintels and sills. The windows are flank by louvered wood shutters. A small, hip-roof room constructed on a stone foundation projects from the first-story's easternmost bay. The room contains a single one-over-one, double-hung, wood-framed window with modest sill and lintel and louvered wood shutters. Above, the westernmost bay's second story contains a multi-light, wood-framed, wood door topped by a hip roof overhang. A wood staircase abutting the elevation leads from the ground to this second-story door. The easternmost bay's second story contains a single two-over-two, double-hung, wood-framed window with familiar wood surround and louvered wood shutters. A second gable dormer window is found on the elevation's attic space. It is identical to the dormer seen on the southwest elevation. A small gable-roofed storage room abuts the westernmost bay's first story.

The one-story, northwest-projecting addition contains windows stylistically similar to those found on the facade. Individual windows are located on the addition's northeast and northwest elevations, while a paired window of similar style is located on the addition's southwest elevation adjacent to a fixed, single-light, square window with modestly molded wood surround. The addition also extends across the length of the southwest elevation, abutting a second projecting addition and slightly projects from the southwest elevation's first story. The addition includes an asphalt shingle-clad hip roof.

The projecting southwest addition contains no openings on its northwest elevation. A single door on its southwest elevation provides access to the building's interior. On its southeast elevation, the addition contains two one-over-one, double-hung, wood-framed windows with the familiar lintel and sills seen on all windows. The windows are flanked by louvered wood shutters. The addition is topped with an asphalt shingle-clad gable roof.

The building has a hip roof covered in asphalt shingles. Southeast of the facade's central bay is a brick chimney set into the building's interior. The northwest elevation contains an additional interior chimney that is identical to its counterpart visible from the facade. Both chimneys exhibit Victorian-era design tenets as opposed to more austere classicism influences.

The building is set back from Main Street and appears in the center of a wide parking lot surrounded by new construction. Few mature trees survive around the building while new plantings are widespread.

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Historic Context

Established in 1654, Calvert County is bordered by the Chesapeake Bay to the east and the Patuxent River to the west and south. Today, the county encompasses 413 square miles of land. "A History of Calvert County" states that the county extended north and northwest of its present boundaries when established, including present-day Prince George's County in its entirety. In 1658, the Prince George's County region was separated from Calvert County.

Calvert County's early settlers recognized the region's suitability for growing tobacco and tobacco cultivation emerged as the county's driving economic force in the late seventeenth century. In turn, this impacted many aspects of life in Calvert County, including its social structure and physical development. Slaves worked on tobacco plantations and the crop became so integral to life in the county that residents used the plant's leaves for currency. Residential and agrarian growth initially occurred along the county's shorelines and riverbanks, and transportation centers for shipping tobacco via the region's waterways developed instead of roads. With little need for a central market, towns did not rapidly develop and growth within the county's central region. Poor roads, along with the county's location on the Calvert Peninsula, left Calvert County isolated for many years.

According to "The County Courthouses and Records of Maryland," the original county seat was likely itinerant, but a legislative report from March 23, 1697/98 first mentions a Calvert County courthouse. Calvert County established this first courthouse at Calvertown, located on the county's western side at Battle Creek, but many residents found this location inconvenient. After repeated complaints about the location and the courthouse's declining condition, the Assembly relocated the county seat. In 1722, an act establishing the county seat on a centrally located tract of unsettled land passed. This land, known as William's Old Field, was renamed Prince Fredericktown and later Prince Frederick for King George I's eldest son. (Within this historic context, the town will be referred to as Prince Frederick, its present name.) The Assembly did not appropriate sufficient funding to build the courthouse and jail until 1725, Prince Frederick's official year of establishment.

Early settlement patterns occurred along the water. However, prior to Prince Frederick's 1725 establishment, several Calvert County residents built homes in the central region and landowners established lots in this central region. William Kidd and John Critchard completed the first Prince Frederick courthouse and nearby jail in 1732. From this site, Prince Frederick's Main Street (present-day MD 765A) and downtown evolved. After Kidd and Critchard completed the courthouse and jail, local landowners laid out plots of land for homes in Prince Frederick during the 1730s. Small wooden buildings were constructed around the courthouse over time. These buildings in town primarily housed various merchants and law offices. Due to tobacco's dominance and the region's plantation-based economy, Prince Frederick's early residents and those living in the county seat's vicinity lived on large tracts of farmland. Residents came to town to shop for supplies, socialize, or attend court.

According to "The County Courthouse and Records of Maryland," Prince Frederick's first courthouse burned during a fire in 1748. Calvert County built a second courthouse, a brick building likely the same size as the first, on the site that year. Census data indicates that 3,788 Caucasian residents lived in Calvert County in 1800, but information for Prince Frederick's total population is not available. British forces burned Prince Frederick's second courthouse, along with several homes in the town, during the War of 1812. Anticipating the British forces' arrival, officials and residents removed the county records prior to the fire. Thus, Calvert County's records dating to the Colonial era were saved. Maryland's General Assembly did not authorize funding to repair and rebuild Prince Frederick's courthouse until 1816 and Calvert County completed the town's third courthouse in 1819. During the period after the attack on Prince Frederick, a new law office opened in town.

Referenced in the newspaper article "From Humble Origins: The Birth of Prince Frederick and Calvert County," an 1824 survey maps shows Prince Frederick's location at the intersection of two roads. The map only identifies the courthouse and two buildings opposite it on Main Street (MD 765A) in the town's center. These two roads, like those throughout Calvert County, were unpaved.

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Prince Frederick did not benefit from hard surface roads until the early twentieth century. Prior to 1830, the town's first post office was constructed. An 1835 newspaper advertisement also mentions a large building's existence, operating as a tavern, and likely Prince Frederick's first hotel.

Though census data pertaining to Prince Frederick is not available for the 1840s, an 1840 Calvert County map indicates that 2,895 Caucasians, 1,474 free African Americans, and 4,170 slaves (9,229 residents total) lived in the county at that time. According to this data, between 1800 and 1840, the number of Caucasian citizens living in Calvert County declined. However, Prince Frederick's population was large enough for residents to justify building a church in town. Many residents disliked traveling south to Port Republic to attend church. On March 1, 1841, residents organized Prince Frederick's first congregation, St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Dr. James Duke oversaw construction the following year and builders completed the one-and-one-half story brick building in late 1842. St. Paul's Episcopal Church (CT-818) remains in its original location on present-day Church Street.

Prince Frederick experienced marginal growth during the following decades. An 1850 account specifically mentions the town's courthouse, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, an inn, lawyer's office, post office, and several homes. During the 1860s, the Civil War and slavery's end briefly interrupted Prince Frederick's economy and social order. Several plantations throughout the county were ceased to operate, but many freed slaves were employed as farm hands or tenant farmers after the war. Ultimately, the Civil War did not affect tobacco's standing as southern Maryland's primary cash crop and life in Prince Frederick and Calvert County returned to normal after the war. Farmers also continued growing wheat, another major cash crop, and orchards were common throughout the county.

Simultaneously, discussion and planning began in 1861 to develop a railroad connecting Baltimore with the harbor at Drum Point in southeastern Calvert County. The proposed Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad (CT-1295) would pass directly through Prince Frederick's town center. According to "Documentation of The Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad," the railroad's presence would have dramatically affected Prince Frederick's social and economic fabric in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, a region long isolated by poor roads and bodies of water. An 1866 USGS map illustrates moderate growth since 1850; the map notes ten buildings in Prince Frederick's town center, including the courthouse.

In 1868, the Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad received its charter. Before the railroad's construction began, the majority of Prince Frederick burned during a devastating, accidental fire in 1882. An incident account and record, noting buildings destroyed, reveals Prince Frederick's moderate development since 1866. According to "Minutes and Proceedings of the Orphans' Court of Calvert County, Maryland," Prince Frederick's "Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage, Courthouse, Shoe shop, Journal Office, a large store, property of J. W. Shemwell & Bro., a large and fine hotel, property of D.R. Magruder, a dwelling house occupied by Silas R. King, and the law offices of Joseph A. Wilson, John P. Briscoe, C.S. Parran, and John B. Gray" were destroyed during the fire. In total, fourteen of the town's eighteen buildings burned, along with deeds, wills, and court records. Sommerville Sollers, the county clerk, saved some documents. Two extant buildings, the St. Paul's Episcopal Church and a Dowell family home (CT-739), survived the fire. Calvert County established a temporary courthouse in St. Paul's unoccupied rectory. Several months later on June 27, 1882, the church's rectory burned in a fire, likely caused by foul play, and records burned. According to "A History of Calvert County, Maryland," Prince Frederick and Calvert County documents dated prior to 1882 do not exist.

Calvert County built Prince Frederick's fourth courthouse on the same site; the March 1882 fire did not damage the previous courthouse's brick frame. During rebuilding, the Hotel Calvert was also constructed on Main Street (MD 765A), opposite and east of the courthouse. The hotel replaced the Brentford House, Prince Frederick's inn before the fire. In 1891, after years of legal battles and funding issues, the railroad company abandoned the Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad project. Though laborers prepared 25 miles of railroad bed by 1891, tracks were never laid. Due to the great fire and the railroad project's stoppage, Prince Frederick never experienced rapid growth or expansion during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

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The 1986 newspaper article, "Shades of Old Prince Frederick," explains that local residents founded a Prince Frederick Development Company in 1894, "for the creation and maintenance of reading and lecture rooms in Prince Frederick." The same year, the company constructed a two-story Town Hall building on the lot located directly southeast of the courthouse. The first known photograph from the period after Prince Frederick burned, taken southwest of the small town, shows the Town Hall, young trees and shrubs, and narrow dirt roads lined by split-rail fences. Clapboard-clad one and two-story buildings surround the courthouse, the largest and only brick building. Typical of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century rural communities, there were a variety of I-house and gable-ell buildings. A turn-of-the-century account confirms that lawyers' offices, a local newspaper office, and a cobbler's shop occupied small buildings in Prince Frederick.

Calvert County's population rose from 9,229 in 1840 to 10,223 in 1900. Despite this marginal population growth, a 1901 map identifies several buildings along the road leading southwestward toward the Patuxent River (MD 231) from the town's center. The map also notes several buildings, likely residences, further south on Main Street (MD 765A) Prince Frederick expanded, albeit slowly, during the early twentieth century. The 1907 Maryland Geological Survey's Calvert County Survey indicates that Solomons was the county's largest town, not Prince Frederick; however, because it was the county seat, Prince Frederick continued to hold a prominent place within the county. Photographs from 1908 show that a one-story, gable-front building in Prince Frederick housed the county's first bank. A one-story, gable-front building also housed the town's school. In 1910, the town's name was officially changed from Prince Fredericktown to Prince Frederick. The county's population reached 10,325 in 1910.

During the 1910s, the Maryland State Roads Commission (SRC) sought to improve road conditions statewide, attempting to utilize modern methods and materials to improve transportation. Prior to 1911, the SRC began preparing the existing dirt road connecting Owings in Calvert County with Prince Frederick. Originally named MD 2 after the SRC improved it, the road between Owings and Prince Frederick was a portion of the 84-mile-long road that extended between Baltimore and Solomons Island in southern Calvert County. MD 2 passed through Prince Frederick as the town's Main Street, today MD 765A. Covered in gravel, the SRC completed MD 2 in 1915 and it was Prince Frederick's first hard-surface road and state road.

Built between 1914 and 1916, Calvert County constructed a new courthouse on Main Street on the same lot. This building's lawn is the site of the town's previous courthouses, but the 1916 building was set back from the street with a chain-link fence encompassing the grounds. The two-story brick courthouse featured Neoclassical-style elements, including a prominent gable pediment supported by two-story columns. A photograph collection from 1917 offers additional information about the town's appearance from this time. Businesses and offices concentrated around the courthouse tended to flank Main Street directly, whereas the residences are set back from the street, having lots enclosed by picket or split-rail fences. A picket fence also enclosed the Hotel Calvert's lot.

One of Prince Frederick's most prominent citizens, the widely respected Louis Goldstein, was born in Calvert County in 1913. His father owned the Prince Frederick Department Store, later renamed Goldstein's Department Store, and he worked there as a boy, developing an affinity for dealing with both people and numbers. The younger Goldstein entered politics immediately after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and completing law school, serving first in Maryland's General Assembly, and later as the state comptroller from 1959 until his death in 1998.

Prince Frederick gradually became more modernized during the 1920s and 30s, but Calvert County experienced little change in population. In 1920, the county's population was 9,744 and in 1930, the county's population declined to 9,528. During the 1920s, officials established the town's first volunteer fire department and high school. The two-story building constructed for the high school also housed Prince Frederick's elementary school in one of its rooms. Prince Frederick's high school later absorbed two other area high schools, becoming Calvert County High School. Due to segregation, African American students attended the

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Colored Industrial School, a Rosenwald school completed in 1921 and enlarged in 1924; the building is extant and is located on Armory Road.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and city directories do not exist for Prince Frederick and the lack of courthouse records presents challenges to research. However, many local residents have provided important oral histories, recounting their memories of growing up in Prince Frederick. Local resident Arthur Wilson Dowell gave his personal account of the town in his book, "Growing Up in Prince Frederick During the 1920's & 30's." Dowell's book includes a sketch map showing a concentration of businesses surrounding the courthouse on Main Street (MD 765A). These businesses include various shops, lawyers' offices, doctors' offices, motor companies, the Calvert Journal newspaper office, a fire station, butcher, restaurant, library, bank, and hotels. Homes were primarily located north of the courthouse and business district, as well as further south on Main Street.

After the Eastern Shore Public Service Company ran a line from the Eastern Shore during the 1930s, the company introduced electricity to Prince Frederick for the first time. In 1939, the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative began offering electricity service on a larger scale throughout Calvert County. According to the 1974 Baltimore Sun article "Prince Frederick Inevitably Will Be 'A Different Place,'" the town's population barely exceeded 300 during the 1930s and 40s. Local author and newspaperman Hulbert Footner said, "Calvert is the least populated, the least improved, the least opulent, and is generally termed the least progressive county in Maryland, but I like it," regarding the county in 1942. However, World War II ushered in major changes for Prince Frederick and Calvert County. Between 1941 and 1945, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps established several training and testing bases at Solomons Island in southern Calvert County, introducing an influx of people to the region and new jobs for local residents. Between 1940 and 1950, the county's population increased from 10,484 to 12,100, but Calvert County's farming industry also began to decline the late 1940s and 1950s, following a nationwide trend of increased white-collar and industrial jobs in the post-war economy.

In 1951, the SRC completed a bypass, diverting traffic around the center of Prince Frederick from Main Street (MD 765A). During the 1960s, the bypass and extant portions of MD 2 were transitioned into the MD 2-4 dual highway, introducing change and development to the town and county; commercial strip malls soon populated the area around downtown Prince Frederick. The four-lane highway carried traffic from Washington, DC, through Prince Frederick, to southern Calvert County. In the mid-1970s, Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant was established approximately sixteen miles south of Prince Frederick. Downtown Prince Frederick's appearance also changed quite a bit during the same time period when the present-day Calvert County Services Building was constructed in 1974. Since then, other historic buildings on Main Street have been demolished; in most cases, new construction or parking lots now occupy these spaces. Other historic residential buildings have been altered, many for commercial uses.

Old Field History

Judge John Parran Briscoe built Old Field, named for Williams' Old Field, the plat upon which the town of Prince Frederick was built. Briscoe purchased the land in 1889 and the house was completed in 1891, after he failed to submit the winning bid on the nearby house Linden (CT-811), a prominent historic home in Prince Frederick that is currently the headquarters of the Calvert County Historical Society. Old Field was a notable house of its time, larger than most, and displaying classical architectural motifs. Briscoe, a prominent judge in the Maryland Circuit Court and Court of Appeals, and his family lived in the house until 1925. A 1923 photograph of the house shows the building, especially the façade, appearing much as it does today; notably, porch columns and chimneys remain intact. The house was then vacant for two years, before Dr. Everard Briscoe, nephew of Judge Briscoe, and his wife Harriet Elizabeth (Betty) Worthington Briscoe purchased it in 1927. Dr. Briscoe saw patients in his house, using space for an office, waiting room, and examining room. Although Dr. Briscoe passed away in 1944, Mrs. Briscoe, an avid preservationist continued living in the house until 1981. The Wolchick family purchased the house and opened a restaurant, the Old Field Inn, in the building in 1984, living in the upper floors. Changes to the building required for this transformation included

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moving the main interior stairway and the changes to the back porch to accommodate the new kitchen. However, many character-defining features and original materials remain in place. Although under new ownership, Old Field continues to serve as a restaurant. Old Field previously stood alone on a small hill and had elaborate landscaping around the front entrance; a 1962 photograph shows lush, mature trees flanking the home. The landscaping has been removed, but the present circular paved driveway is in the same footprint as an earlier unpaved drive. A small rectangular window in the front-facing gable was replaced with a Palladian window by the 1960s. The single-story rear addition is an unobtrusive alteration. Surrounding Old Field, numerous commercial, residential, and office spaces known as Old Field Commons opened in 2004, substantially altering the setting. Photographs on file at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) show the property in 2003, prior to the surrounding construction; the house retains integrity although the setting does not.

In correspondence from the MHT to the Maryland State Highway Administration dated December 14, 1995, MHT states that it considers Old Field Inn to be individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. With the exception of its setting, the property has not changed measurably since 1995. However, a corn crib noted in 2003 documentation is no longer extant. The Calvert County Historic District Commission has also designated Old Field Inn as a historic district, attesting to its local significance.

Significance Evaluation

The Old Field Inn was evaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A, B, and C using guidelines set forth in the NRHP Bulletin "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

The building is not eligible under Criterion A. Research has not shown the building to be associated with events or trends important in history. Therefore, the property is not eligible under Criterion A.

The building is not eligible under Criterion B. Research has not shown the building to be associated with people important in history. Although the Briscoes were a locally prominent family, research did not indicate that their work resulted in historically important impacts. Therefore, the property is not eligible under Criterion B.

The building is eligible under Criterion C. The Old Field Inn is one of the most prominent residences in Prince Frederick, and has become even more notable because many similarly important residences have been demolished or altered to the extent that they are no longer recognizable as historic buildings. The Old Field Inn is an interesting vernacular interpretation of classically influenced design elements and façade symmetry applied to a building that exhibits more complex forms common to Victorian-era architecture; the overall effect is unique blend that captures the popularity of the two architectural design approaches. Therefore, the building is eligible under Criterion C.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D for this assessment.

Therefore, the Old Field Inn is eligible for listing in the NRHP. It retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It does not retain integrity of setting because of recent changes that have occurred as new buildings have been constructed in directly surrounding areas.

Boundary Description

The historic property boundary for the Old Field Inn includes the previously defined area directly surrounding the building. This boundary was established when the building was surveyed for the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties in 1986 and 2003.

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The boundary is within map 24, parcel 831.

Boundary Justification

The Old Field Inn historic property boundary includes the eligible building and the area within five feet of the building. The surrounding landscape does not retain integrity and is not included in the historic property boundary. This area includes parking lots and access roads to adjacent new construction. The area surveyed for this evaluation included approximately 6 acres, with only the building and area directly adjacent determined to be eligible because the property does not retain integrity of setting.

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Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

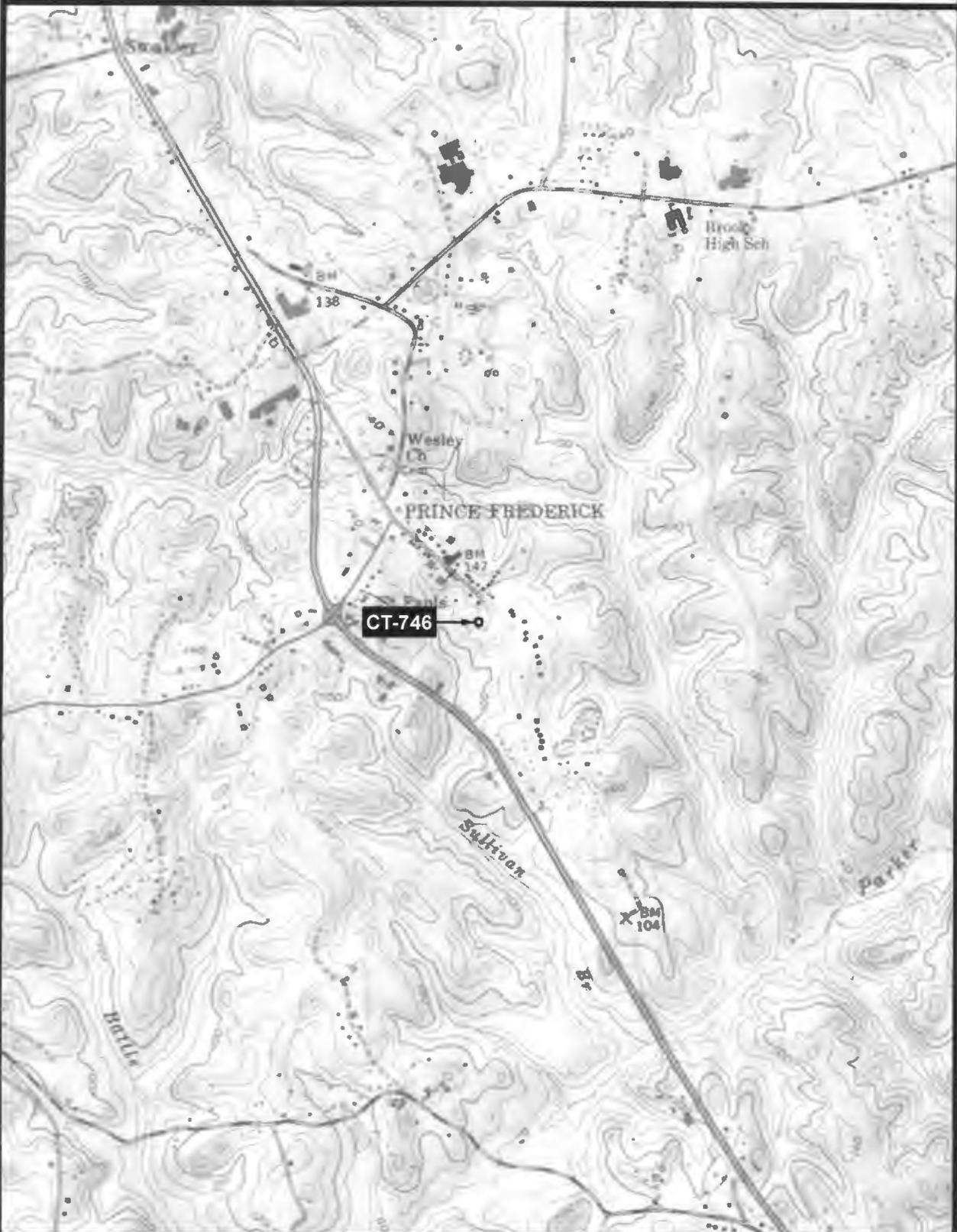
MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

Reviewer, National Register Program Date

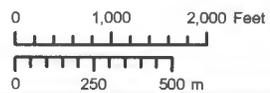
CT-746
Old Field Inn (Old Field, Briscoe House)

485 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Calvert County, MD



 Historic Property Boundary

USGS 7.5 Minute Series 1:24000 Topographic Quadrangle: Prince Frederick (1993)



Map prepared: Mar 2014



CT-746
Old Field Inn (Old Field, Briscoe House)

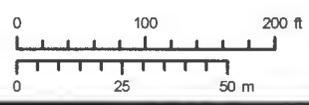
485 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Calvert County, MD

Parcel ID: 24-831
/WSP-Firenet



- Historic Property Boundary
- Parcel
- Parcels Annotated with Map-Parcel-Block-Lot-Section (Calvert County GIS)

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Maryland FIPS 1900



Map prepared: Mar 2014

Photo Log

CT-746, Old Field Inn (Old Field, Briscoe House)

All printed photographs were created using HP 100 Gray Photo Cartridge and HP Premium Plus Photo Paper, Soft Gloss.

CT-0746_2014-02-12_01

Facade, view to the southwest

CT-0746_2014-02-12_02

Facade and side elevation, view to the south

CT-0746_2014-02-12_03

Side and rear elevations, view to the north



CT-746

Old Field Inn (Old Field, Briscoe House)

Calvert County, MD

S. Foell

2/2014

MD SHPO

Facade, view to the southwest

1/3



CT-746

Old Field Inn (Old Field, Briscoe House)

Calvert County, MD

S. Focll

2/2014

MD SHPO

Facade and side elevation, view to the
South

2/3



CT-746

Old Field Inn (Old Field, Briscoe House)

Calvert County, MD

S. Faell

2/2014

MD SHPO

Side and rear elevations, view to the north

313

CAPSULE SUMMARY

CT-746

Old Field

485 Main Street

Prince Frederick, Calvert County

c1889

Private

Built for John Parran Briscoe between 1889 and 1891, Old Field is an intact example of a Queen Anne-style residence in Calvert County. John Parran Briscoe, a Calvert County native, was elected to the office of State's Attorney, a position he held until 1890 when he accepted an appointment to the Maryland Court of Appeals and Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial District. At the age of thirty-six, Judge Briscoe was the youngest man to serve on the Court of Appeals. In 1927, Old Field was acquired by Judge Briscoe's nephew, Dr. Everard Duke Briscoe, also a Calvert County native. Dr. Briscoe operated a walk-in medical clinic at Old Field from the late 1920s until his death in 1944. His widow, Harriett Elizabeth Worthington Briscoe, a noted local horticulturalist, historian and preservationist, lived at Old Field until her death in 1981.

The late-19th-century, wood-frame dwelling is two-and-a-half stories in height, executed in the Queen Anne style with a large one-story modern kitchen addition on the rear. The main block of the dwelling has a stone-masonry foundation, while the front porch has a stretcher-bond brick foundation. The house is clad in lapped weatherboard and capped by a hipped roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. It has wide, overhanging eaves and a wood soffit with molded cornice. Windows throughout the buildings are 2/2 wood-sash windows with unmolded, unmitered wood surrounds, a projecting sill and lintel, and are flanked by louvered wood shutters. The three-bay facade is defined by a one-story, half-hipped roof porch on Tuscan columns and a projecting center gable with a tripartite window at the attic story. The house has three interior chimneys with corbeled caps. In addition to the historic dwelling there is a one-story, wood-frame corn crib dating to the second quarter of the 20th century. It is located west of the house in an overgrown section of the rear yard.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-746

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Field
 other Briscoe House; Old Field Inn; Old Fields

2. Location

street and number 485 Main Street not for publication
 city, town Prince Frederick vicinity
 county Calvert

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Prince Frederick Assoc. LLC
 street and number 28095 Three Notch Road, Suite 1A telephone (301) 884-8133
 city, town Mechanicsville state MD zip code 20659-3373

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 24:38
 city, town Pr. Frederick liber KPS1851 folio 572

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	2	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	2	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-746

Condition

—	excellent	—	deteriorated
.X.	good	—	ruins
—	fair	—	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Old Field is located on the west side of Main Street, south of the intersection with Duke Street, in the Calvert County seat of Prince Frederick. The late-nineteenth-century, wood-frame dwelling is two-and-a-half stories in height and executed in the Queen Anne style with a large one-story modern kitchen addition on the rear. In addition to the historic dwelling there is a one-story wood-frame corn crib dating to the second quarter of the twentieth century. It is located west of the house in an overgrown section of the rear yard. The house is currently operated as a restaurant with dining on the first floor and an apartment on the second floor.

SETTING. The property known as Old Field is a Calvert County Historic District. The 6.6-acre tract is steeply sloping with the historic dwelling sitting back from the road and oriented northeast. The front, or northeast, portion of the tract is lightly wooded with patches of open grassy lawn while the rear, or southwest, portion of the tract is heavily wooded. The historic house occupies an area of high ground at the center of the tract, with the land behind it sloping steeply into a ravine. The house is approached by a winding paved drive, which leads from Main Street and circles in front of the house. The driveway continues past the north side of the house to the back where it opens into a larger parking area for several cars. A large parking lot is located north of the dwelling. Two retaining walls constructed of finished, square-cut logs reinforce the steep slope of the land on the south side of the parking lot. Evidence of historic landscaping in the yards south and east of the dwelling is evident, although plantings are overgrown. Mature shrubs line the foundation of the house.

PRIMARY RESOURCE EXTERIOR. Old Field is a two-and-a-half-story, wood-frame dwelling executed in the Queen Anne style with a large one-story kitchen addition on the rear. The main block of the dwelling has a stone-masonry foundation and the front porch a stretcher-bond brick foundation. The house is clad in lapped weatherboard and capped by a hipped roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. It has wide, overhanging eaves, a wood soffit with a molded cornice. An unornamented frieze board runs the perimeter of the original portion of the house. Windows throughout the buildings are largely 2/2 wood-sash windows with unmolded, unmitered wood surrounds, a projecting sill and lintel, and flanked by louvered wood shutters. Wood cornerboards are present. The house has three asymmetrically-located interior rectangular chimneys with corbeled caps. Plugged holes, used to blow-in insulation, pierce the siding on the northwest and southwest elevations on the second story.

The facade of the historic house faces Main Street and the paved driveway. It is three bays in width with a central projecting gable. A one-story, three-bay, single-pile, full-width porch supported on Tuscan wood columns with a half-hipped roof extends across the elevation. Groups of three columns set off the central bay of the porch, which projects like the central gable behind it. The porch is screened with wire mesh within a wooden frame. The interior of the porch is finished with flush hardwood strip flooring and slightly-convex wood strips sheathing the ceiling. The ceiling boards are laid in an ornamental vaulted pattern with molded ribs hiding the seams. The porch provides access to the symmetrical central entry. The wide wood door has two lights over two raised panels, and features a modern leaded-glass transom and modern leaded-glass sidelights over a raised panel on each side. The wood trim surrounding the entry is unmolded and unmitered like the window surrounds. The entry is flanked on each side by a tall window framed by louvered wood shutters. The windows are 2/2 wood-sash over jib doors. The second story of the facade features three evenly-spaced 2/2 wood-sash windows. The central gable features projecting eaves, a tripartite, round-arched window and a molded cornice. An off-center chimney extends above the roof on the south side of the central gable. This chimney has a corbeled set-back as well as a corbeled cap.

The southeast elevation of the historic dwelling reflects various alterations to the fenestration. The first story has two small 1/1 windows accommodating the women's restroom within. Beneath these windows is a small, one-story attached shed clad in German siding and displaying exposed cut rafter ends and wood cornerboards. The eastern bay is occupied by the one-story, half-hipped-roof dining room extension, which has one large 2/2 wood-sash window in the southeast elevation and no additional fenestration. The second story of the southeast elevation of the main block has a secondary entry with a single fifteen-light wood door accessed by a modern wood stair and sheltered by hood on wood posts. On the east side of the entry is a 2/2 wood-sash window. The attic story features a front-gabled dormer with two twelve-light wood casement windows, a molded wood surround and a heavily molded

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-746

Name Old Field
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

cornice. To west of the dormer is a brick chimney with a corbeled cap.

The rear, or southwest, elevation of the house is dominated by the one-story, L-shaped, gable-roof kitchen addition that completely obscures the first story of the original house. The kitchen addition is clad in vinyl with an asphalt-shingle roof. It has two 1/1 vinyl-sash windows in the southeast elevation, has a single modern door and a louvered vent at the gable end of the southwest elevation, and no fenestration on the northwest elevation. It has a projecting gable and eaves with a vinyl soffit. The addition extends north across the back of the house to include a shed-roof hyphen between the kitchen and the original doctor's office extension. The hyphen has a small fixed-sash window with modern stained translucent, opalescent glass. The second story of the rear elevation is three bays in width with central paired 2/2 wood-sash windows flanked by a single 2/2 wood-sash window on each side. A front-gabled dormer like that of the southeast elevation is present.

The northwest elevation of the house features a three-faceted bay window in the east bay of the first story with 4/4 wood-sash windows in each facet. The bay window has a molded cornice and a blank wood frieze board. The one-story extension originally used as a doctor's office is located at the west corner of the elevation and is linked to the rear kitchen addition through the aforementioned hyphen. The doctor's office was accessed through a secondary entry in the northeast elevation, which now features a modern door. The entry is sheltered by a single-bay porch on a turned wood column with scroll-sawn wood brackets. Additionally, the extension has a 2/2 wood-sash window in the northeast elevation, the northwest elevation, and paired 2/2 wood-sash windows on the rear addition. Between the bay window and the doctor's extension is a single 2/2 wood-sash window. The second story of the northwest elevation has two evenly-spaced 2/2 wood-sash windows. A large brick chimney with a corbeled setback and cap is centered on this elevation.

PRIMARY RESOURCE INTERIOR. The original plan of Old Field has been altered since the building was converted into a restaurant in 1984. As constructed, the building had a center stair hall flanked by two rooms on each side. The doctor's office was attached to the west corner of the house and was accessed through the northwest room. Since the building has been converted into a restaurant, the rear kitchen has been added and bathrooms built in the location of the original kitchen (the southwest room). The rear wall of the northwest room has been opened up to accommodate a bar. The stair case, as well, was moved from the north wall of the stair hall to the south wall and enlarged. The second floor has been radically altered to serve as an apartment and retains very little of the original configuration or finishings.

The most intact rooms in the dwelling are the stair hall, dining room and parlor on the first floor. These rooms retain much of their original finishings. Floors are hardwood strip, the walls are plaster with a dappled finish, and the ceilings are plaster with a smooth finish. Both the walls and the ceilings are painted. Window and door architraves are wood and have a square-edged backband, a convex center band set off by three grooves on each side, and a beaded interior band. The window aprons are derived from this basic molding with the addition of a bevel and ogee directly underneath a rounded sill. Doors have roundel corner blocks. The baseboard has a bevel and ogee molding. There is no crown molding. In all three major rooms on the first floor are marbled slate mantelpieces with high-Victorian-era ornamentation.

The stair is open and has two flights. A long flight runs along the southeast wall to a mid-level landing, and then a short flight climbs along the southwest wall to a partially closed landing on the second floor. The balustrade features a robust, square wood newel post with molded roundels on each face over carved fluting and capped by a sphere. The turned, tapered balusters have a round plinth. The stringer is ornamented with vertical flat panels with framing molding. The three original entries to the flanking rooms each have two-light glazed transoms, and a plaster medallion is present on the ceiling. The entry to the bar has been enlarged and modern leaded-glass sidelights installed to match those of the front entry.

The parlor is accessed from the stair hall through large double-doors, each with eight raised panels framed by ovolo molding. The doors retain their original molded metal hinges. The parlor features a polygonal bay accessed through a wide arch supported on

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Name Old Field

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Number 7 Page 2

carved corbels, a molded picture rail, and a plaster medallion on the ceiling exhibiting a foliate pattern. The mantelpiece is marbled slate painted black with red flecks and cream-colored inset marbled slate panels. The mantelpiece has incised ornamentation, robust columns that support the shelf and a mirrored overmantel. A six raised-panel wood door with moldings similar to the parlor door leads to the dining room from the stair hall. The door retains the original hinges as well as the original knobs and escutcheons. The wood floor in the dining room is a replacement. The room features a built in cupboard adjacent to the fireplace, and built-in corner cupboards in the bay extension with their original doors but modern leaded-glass to match that used elsewhere in the house. The mantelpiece is also marbled slate but the ornamentation is simpler reflecting the more intimate function of the room. A molded wood plate rail is present.

SECONDARY RESOURCE. A one-story, wood-frame corn crib dating to the second quarter of the 20th century and in poor condition is located west of the house in an overgrown section of the rear yard. The corn crib has a concrete-block pier foundation, is clad in flush vertical wood boards nailed with wire-cut nails, and has a front-gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The door is located on the northeast elevation and is hinged with triangular metal hinges and a metal rim lock. The southwest portion of the corn crib is open just above the foundation for ventilation. Other notable elements include wire mesh lining the interior of the building, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends and a wood box cornice.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-746

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1889; 1927 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates c1889; c1927

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE. Built for John Parran Briscoe between 1889 and 1891, Old Field is an intact example of a Queen Anne-style residence in Calvert County. John Parran Briscoe, a Calvert County native, was elected to the office of State's Attorney, a position he held until 1890 when he accepted an appointment by Maryland Governor Elihu Emory Jackson to the Maryland Court of Appeals and Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial District. At the age of thirty-six, Briscoe, who became known as Judge Briscoe, was the youngest man to serve on the Court of Appeals. In 1927, the property was acquired by Judge Briscoe's nephew, Dr. Everard Duke Briscoe, also a Calvert County native. Dr. Briscoe established a walk-in medical clinic at Old Field that operated from the late 1920s until his untimely death in 1944. His widow, Harriett Elizabeth (Betty) Worthington Briscoe, a noted local horticulturalist, historian and preservationist, lived at Old Field until her death in 1981.

HISTORY. Old Field was originally constructed between 1889 and 1891 by John Parran Briscoe. Briscoe was born in Calvert County on August 24, 1853 to James Thompson Briscoe (b. 1829) and Annie Marie Parran Briscoe. (1) His father, James Thompson Briscoe, was a successful lawyer, politician and farmer who served as Maryland Secretary of State during the Governorship of William T. Hamilton from 1880 to 1884. (2) John Parran Briscoe attended Charlotte Hall School in St. Mary's County and St. John's College in Annapolis. As a young man, Briscoe was described as "a bright, manly boy, full of fun, vitality, and pluck." He initially practiced law in Baltimore and then relocated to Prince Frederick and practiced in southern Maryland. Briscoe married Kate McPherson Bowen (1859-1939), the daughter of Philander Adams Bowen and Rachel Ann Etheldra Morton Bowen, on November 26, 1879. (3) Briscoe was elected to the office of State's Attorney, a position he held until 1890 when he accepted an appointment by Maryland Governor Elihu Emory Jackson to the Maryland Court of Appeals and Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial District. Briscoe, who became known as Judge Briscoe, was at the age of thirty-six the youngest man to serve on the Court of Appeals. John and Kate Briscoe had seven children, four boys and three girls, all of whom they raised in the house: John Parran Briscoe, Jr. (1880), Annie Etheldra Briscoe (Pye) (1882-1969), Katharine McPherson Briscoe (1883-1934), Lucy Lee Briscoe (Knox) (1886-1946), William Norwood Briscoe (1887-1953), Lawrence Morton Briscoe (b. 1889), and Philander Bowen Briscoe (b. 1892). (4)

By the late 1880s, the Briscoe's family had grown significantly, and John and Kate Briscoe sought a new house to accommodate them. A man of importance with a burgeoning career, Briscoe sought an imposing house in or near the town of Prince Frederick. In 1888 the mid-19th-century home of Henry Williams came up for auction. (5) Williams was an attorney and a statesman, serving in the House of Delegates during the Civil War and as State Senator from 1871-1874. (6) The property, known as Linden (CT-811), subsequently passed to Daniel Randall Magruder, who had also served in the House of Delegates and as Chief Justice of the Seventh Circuit Court until 1880. (7) It is no surprise that Briscoe submitted a bid for Linden in 1888, but was outbid by John B. Gray, Sr., a fellow lawyer, State's Attorney and President of the Maryland Bar Association in 1918. (8)

Instead, in 1889 the Briscoes acquired a 101-acre parcel at the south end of Prince Frederick once a portion of a much larger tract

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CT-746

Name Old Field

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

called Williams Old Field(s), on which the Calvert County Courthouse was constructed. (9) The Briscoes commissioned the construction of a new two-and-a-half-story dwelling to be executed in the fashionable Queen Anne style. The house, dubbed Old Field after the historic Williams tract, was completed in 1891 and was sited on the location of an existing log barn. (10) Hand-hewn logs from the barn were said to have been salvaged and reused in the construction of Old Field. (11) As originally constructed, Old Field was a center hall-plan dwelling with a central stair hall flanked on both sides by two rooms. The hall was wider at the southwest end to accommodate the stair, which was originally was located along the northwest and southwest walls. The Colonial Revival-style porch, similar to that at Linden, appears to be original and is illustrative of the early phase of style in Calvert County. Accounts of John Parran Briscoe's occupation of the house indicate that he had a library where he worked "late into the night on his opinions." The library was likely in the northwest chamber of the first floor, the current location of the restaurant bar and lounge. (12)

John Parran Briscoe served on the Maryland Court of Appeals from 1891 to 1924. During that time, he resided at Old Field with his wife and seven children. The house was the backdrop to Briscoe's distinguished legal career and functioned as an ideal location for the entertainment of family, friends and colleagues. Longtime friend of John Parran Briscoe, J. Allison Wilmer of Charles County, later recalled the "hospitable entertainment at his [Briscoe's] home near Prince Frederick presided over by his loyal, devoted, and lovely wife." In 1917 Briscoe was elected President of the Maryland Bar Association and President of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology. He also served for a time as the editor and publisher of the Calvert Journal. Following Briscoe's death in 1925, Old Field stood vacant for two years until it and 6.6 acres were sold in 1927 to Briscoe's nephew, Everard Briscoe, for \$11,500. (13)

A native of Calvert County, Everard Duke Briscoe (1896-1944) was an established surgeon at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore when he acquired Old Field in Prince Frederick. Everard Briscoe was the son of Dr. Phillip Briscoe (b. 1855), John Parran Briscoe's younger brother. (14) His wife of four years was Harriett Elizabeth (Betty) Worthington Briscoe (1901-1981) of Hagerstown, Maryland. (15) According to Betty Briscoe, she and her husband relocated to Prince Frederick after receiving petitions from Calvert County residents, "both white and black," professing their need of a skilled surgeon and general physician and urging Briscoe to "walk in the footsteps of his father, the late Dr. Phillip Briscoe." (16) Dr. Briscoe was one of the first doctors in the county to establish a walk-in clinic with regular office hours. (17) To facilitate this, Briscoe built a one-room addition to the west corner of the house to serve as his examining room, and the library was converted into a waiting room. The addition had a separate exterior entrance from the rest of the house that provided access into the examining room and the waiting room. By the early 1970s, the west addition had been extended along the rear elevation of the house to provide a reception space opening onto the waiting room (now the restaurant bar) and a screened porch at the south corner accommodated in a one-story, single-pile, full-width projection. (18)

Everard Briscoe lived at Old Field with his wife and three children for 17 years until his unexpected death from a heart attack in 1944. (19) His widow, Betty Briscoe, continued to live at Old Field until her death in 1981. An accomplished woman in her own right, Betty Briscoe remained an active citizen in Calvert County throughout her life. Trained as a teacher at Maryland State Teacher's College, now Towson University, Briscoe was an avid horticulturalist and organized both the Calvert County Garden Club in 1936 and Prince Frederick Garden Club. (20) Photographs from Betty Briscoe's occupancy of Old Field show the parlor bay window full of various plants, particularly African violets, for which Briscoe had a particular fondness. (21) Briscoe taught in local schools after the death of her husband, and held a regular position from 1958 to 1968. She was also a preservationist, local historian and between 1954 and 1981 the author of the periodic column in the Calvert Independent "Know Your County," which spotlighted various historic structures in the county. She served as the chairman of the Maryland House and Garden Tour's Calvert County Pilgrimage and was active in the Maryland Historical Trust. Briscoe's preservationist sentiments led her to lament the trend of modern development in one of her columns and wonder "will 'Old Field' continue on another century (as it is so well built) or will it be another development as we see today being built." (22) Briscoe was a charter member of the Calvert County Historical Society, established in 1953, and a founder of the Calvert County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. During her occupancy, Old Field was filled with Worthington family heirlooms and "always open to guests who are treated with a formal

Maryland Historical Trust

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Inventory No CT-746

Name Old Field

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

welcoming reminiscent of another age." (23) Betty Briscoe died in 1981.

The Old Field property was acquired by the Wolchick family in 1981. The historic house was renovated as a restaurant on the first floor with living quarters above. (24) As part of the renovations, the principal stair was relocated from the northwest to the southwest wall of the hall, the original library/waiting room partition was removed and the room enlarged, and a one-story kitchen addition was constructed onto the rear. The second floor was converted into a modern apartment. Minor alterations to the house include the replacement of the dining room floor and the replacement of the original built-in cupboard glazing and central entry sidelight and transom glazing with modern leaded-glass. The renovated property opened as The Old Field Inn on Election Day in 1984. (25) Under new ownership since May 2003, the property continues to operate as a restaurant under the proprietorship of Brendan and Ashley Cahill.

ENDNOTES

- (1) Annie Etheldra Briscoe Pye, "Judge John Parran Briscoe," Calvert Journal, date unknown. This article is contained within the Old Field vertical file at the Calvert County Historical Society in Prince Frederick, MD. Unless otherwise indicated, biographical information on John Parran Briscoe is derived from this article. All birth and death dates included within this article come from the various bibliographic sources, the United States Federal Census, and photographs on display in the Old Field Inn. Note that in many cases the dates given in the various sources differ by as many as four years. In general, death dates are more accurate than birth dates.
- (2) United States Federal Census, 1870. J. T. Briscoe is shown as having \$20,000 in real estate and \$2,500 in personal property, placing him in the upper-middle class.
- (3) Pye states that Kate McPherson Bowen was the daughter of "Philander Adams Bowen and his wife, Rachel Ann Etheldra (Morton) Bowen, of 'Woodley,' the beautiful and famous estate on Woodley Road, Washington D.C." Pye is referring to Woodley, a Federal-style dwelling on Cathedral Avenue in Woodley Park built by Philip Barton Key in 1803 and now the location of the Maret School in northwest Washington, D.C. Woodley has been home to United States Presidents, Secretaries of War, and General George Patton. Pye indicates that the Bowens lived in Woodley prior to the Civil War. Pye also indicates that Rachel Ann Etheldra Morton Bowen was the daughter of William Morton of Holland Point on the Patuxent River in Calvert County, and that the Morton family was also associated with Stoakley on the south side of Hunting Creek in Calvert County.
- (4) United States Federal Census, 1900, 1910.
- (5) Christy S. Comer, "A History of Old Field Inn, Prince Frederick, Maryland," unpublished paper submitted to the faculty at Mary Washington College, July 29, 1988.
- (6) "Linden," website of the Calvert County Historical Society on the World Wide Web at <http://www.calverthistory.org/> on December 16, 2003.
- (7) "Linden."
- (8) Comer.
- (9) Comer; and Liber JS 2, Folio 92, Land Records of Calvert County, Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CT-746

Name Old Field

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

-
- (10) Comer; and Betty Briscoe, "Know Your County: Time Makes Changes," Calvert Independent, date unknown.
- (11) Briscoe. Massive hand-hewn sills and floor joists are visible in the basement of Old Field. The presence of mortises in non-functional locations in these structural members supports the theory of reuse.
- (12) Since the conversion of Old Field to a restaurant in 1984, the stair has since been widened and moved to the opposite wall. The original partition wall of the library has been removed and the room enlarged to accommodate the lounge.
- (13) Comer; and Liber AAH 19, Folio 116, Land Records of Calvert County, Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD. Several sources indicate that Briscoe moved his family to Baltimore in 1925 prior to his death which may explain why the house was vacant for two years. A photographic portrait of Briscoe in his judiciary robes is found in Henry Fletcher Powell, Tercentenary History of Maryland, vol. 4 (Baltimore: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1925) p. 369.
- (14) Briscoe.
- (15) "Betty Worthington Briscoe: A Victorian Lady in 1975," Calvert Independent, 8 October 1975, 1-2.
- (16) Briscoe.
- (17) "Betty Worthington Briscoe: A Victorian Lady in 1975."
- (18) Documentary photograph, c1970. Old Field vertical file at the Calvert County Historical Society, Prince, Frederick, MD. Other documentary photographs show a one-and-a-half-story wood-frame building on the property that appears to be a garage. The building was located directly behind and slightly down the hill from the house.
- (19) "Betty Worthington Briscoe: A Victorian Lady in 1975." A letter from Annette Wilfong, niece of Dr. I.N. King, included in the Old Field vertical file at the Calvert County Historical Society states that Dr. King was the attending physician at Everard Briscoe's death from a drug overdose.
- (20) "The History of Old Field," anonymous house history in the Old Field vertical file of the Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.
- (21) Biographical information on Betty Briscoe is derived from the following sources: Robert G. Breen, "Victorian Atmosphere Retained," Baltimore Sun, 19 July 1956; "Betty Worthington Briscoe: A Victorian Lady in 1975;" "The History of Old Field;" and Comer.
- (22) Briscoe.
- (23) "Betty Worthington Briscoe: A Victorian Lady in 1975."
- (24) Liber ABE 280, Folio 636, Land Records of Calvert County, Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD.
- (25) Comer.

CHAIN OF TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CT-746

Name Old Field
Continuation Sheet
Number 8 Page 4

May 16, 2003
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber KPS 1851, Folio 572
The Old Field Inn, Inc. to Prince Frederick Assoc., LLC
6.6 acres

June 7, 1984
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber ABE 319, Folio 159
Eileen O'Donnell Wolchick et al to The Old Field Inn, Inc.
6.6 acres

December 3, 1981
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber ABE 280, Folio 636
Everard D. Briscoe and Elizabeth B. Bacot to Eileen O'Donnell Wolchick et al
6.6 acres

November 9, 1973
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JLB 164, Folio 116
Elizabeth W. Briscoe to Elizabeth W. Briscoe et al
6.6 acres

December 15, 1927
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber AAH 19, Folio 116
Kate M. Briscoe to Everard Briscoe
6.6 acres

April 30, 1889
Land Records of Calvert County
Liber JS 2, Folio 92
J. Briscoe Bunting to Kate M. Briscoe
101 acres

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-746

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 6.60

Acreage of historical setting 101

Quadrangle name Prince Frederick

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic house is located at 485 Main Street in Prince Frederick, Calvert County, Maryland. It has been associated with Tax Map 24, Parcel 38 since its construction in the late 19th century. The current deed to the property is found in the land records of Calvert County in the Calvert County Courthouse in Prince Frederick: Liber KPS 1851, Liber 572.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carrie E. Albee, Architectural Historian

organization EHT Traceries, Inc.

date 11/19/2003

street and number 1121 5th Street NW

telephone (202) 393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-746

Name Old Field

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

"Betty Worthington Briscoe: A Victorian Lady in 1975." Calvert Independent. October 8, 1975.

Breen, Robert G. "Victorian Atmosphere Retained." Baltimore Sun. July 19, 1956.

Briscoe, Betty. "Know Your County: Time Makes Changes." Calvert Independent. Date unknown.

Comer, Christy S. "A History of Old Field Inn, Prince Frederick, Maryland," unpublished paper submitted to the faculty at Mary Washington College. July 29, 1988.

Land Records of Calvert County. Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD.

"Linden." Website of the Calvert County Historical Society. On the World Wide Web at <http://www.calverthistory.org/>. December 16, 2003.

Miscellaneous documents. Calvert County Historical Society, Prince Frederick, MD.

Powell, Henry Fletcher. Tercentenary History of Maryland, vol. 4. Baltimore: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1925.

Pye, Annie Etheldra Briscoe. "Judge John Parran Briscoe." Calvert Journal, date unknown.

United States Federal Census, 1870, 1900, 1910.

RESEARCH SKETCH MAP

CT-746 OLD FIELD

485 MAIN STREET

PRINCE FREDERICK, CALVERT COUNTY

NOVEMBER 19, 2003

oaxigrowth

4cup

clap

obb

CORN CRIB

oaxigrowth

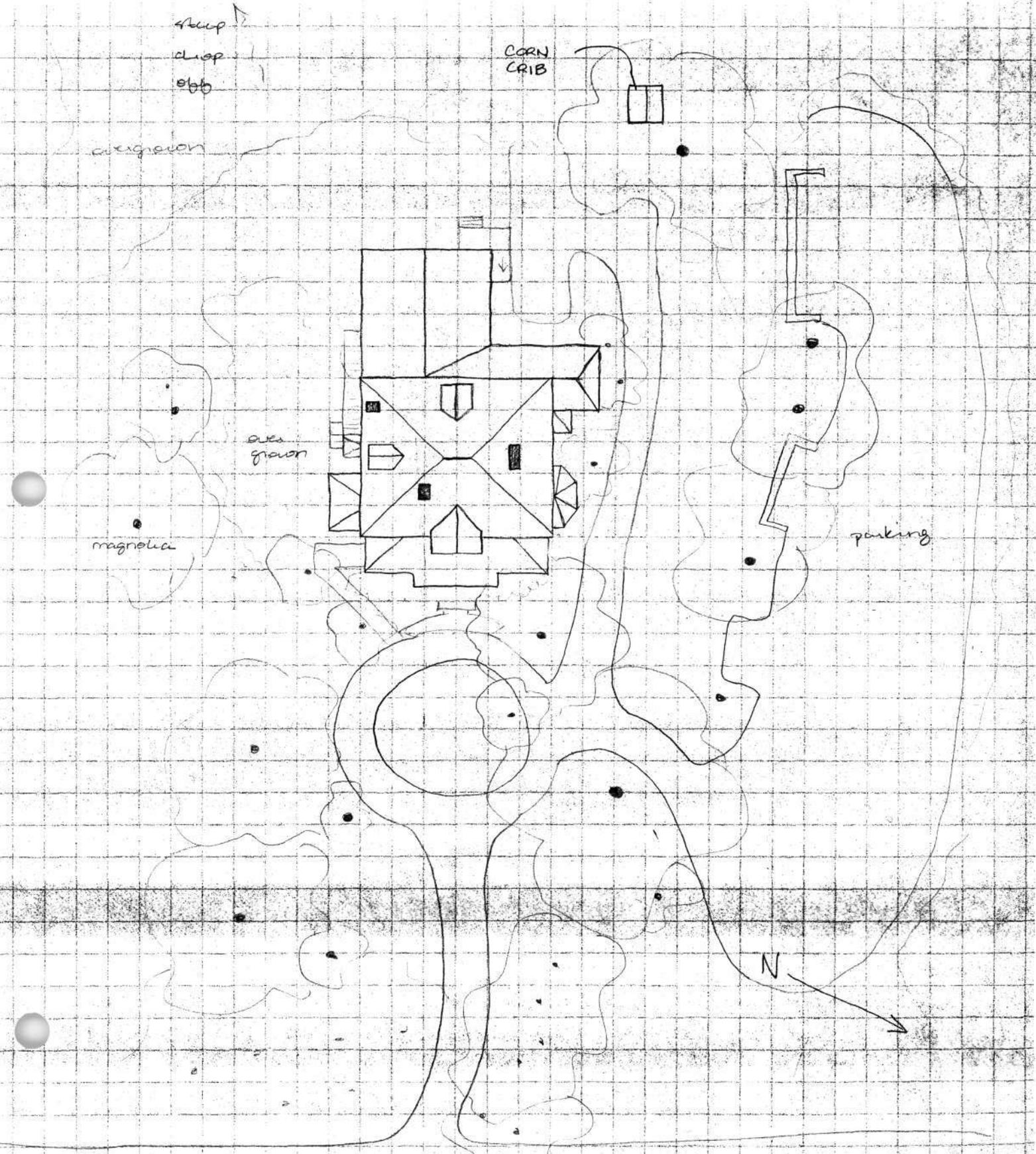
oaxigrowth

magnolia

parking

N

MAIN STREET



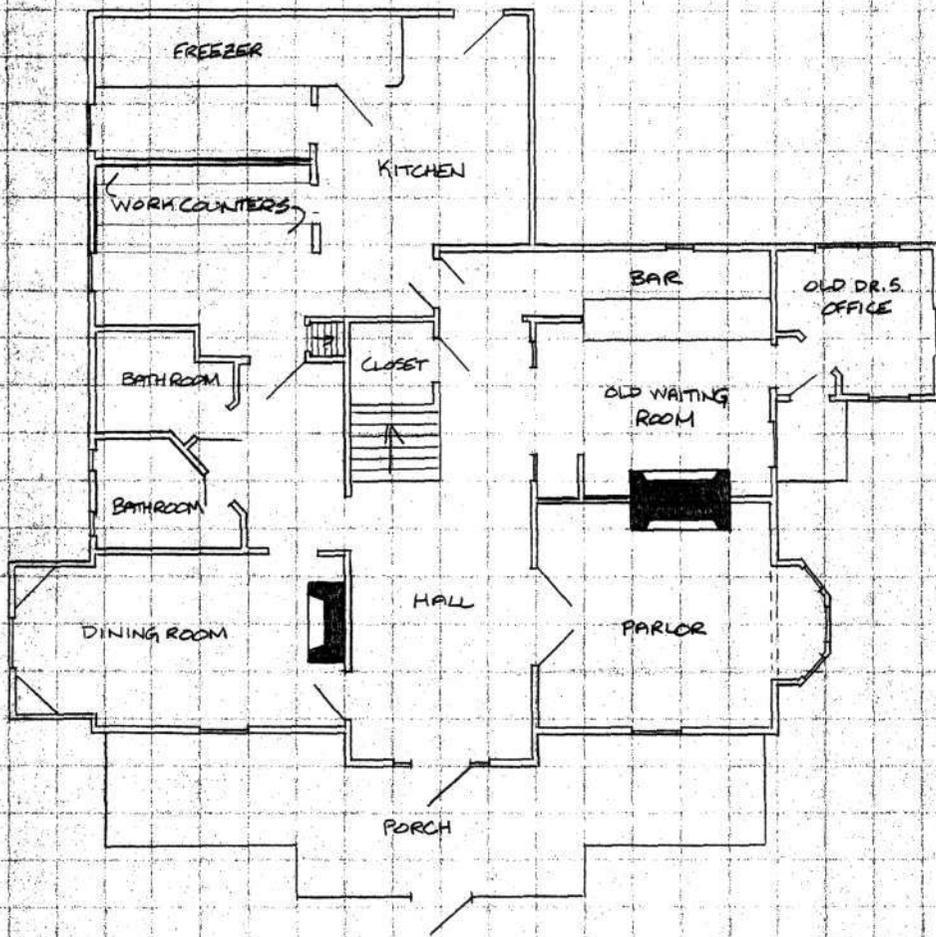
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

CT-746 OLD FIELD

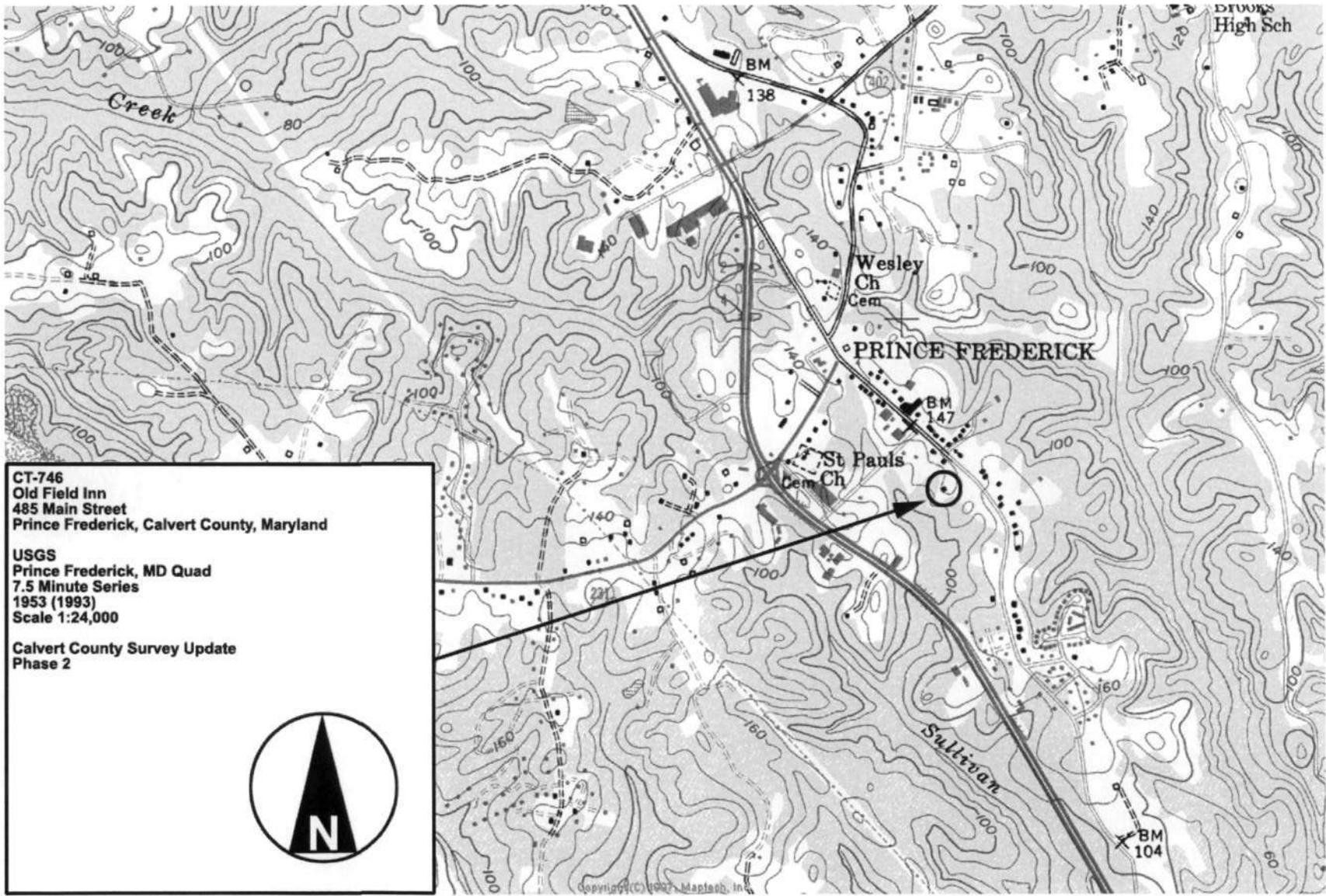
485 MAIN STREET

PRINCE FREDERICK, CALVERT COUNTY

NOVEMBER 19, 2003



CT-746



CT-746
Old Field Inn
485 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Calvert County, Maryland

USGS
Prince Frederick, MD Quad
7.5 Minute Series
1953 (1993)
Scale 1:24,000

Calvert County Survey Update
Phase 2





CT-746

Old field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

November 2003

MD SHPO

Northeast Elevation

1 of 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street
Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

November 2003

MD SHPO

Northeast Elevation

2 of 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

November 2003

MD SHPO

Southeast Elevation

3 of 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

November 2003

MD SHPO

Southwest Elevation

4 of 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

November 2003

MP SHPS

Northwest elevation

5 of 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

November 2003

MD SHPO

View South

6 of 14



CT-746

Old field, 485 Main street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

November 2003

MD SHPO

View Northwest, Porch

7 of 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

November 2003

MD SHPO

View Southwest, Hall

8 of 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

November 2003

MD SHPO

View Northeast, Hall

9 of 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Traceries

November 2003

MD SHPO

View Southeast, Dining Room

10 of 14



CT-746
Oldfield, 485 Main Street
Calvert County, MD
EHT Tracerics
November 2003
MD SHPO
View Northwest, Parlor
11 of 14



CT-744

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

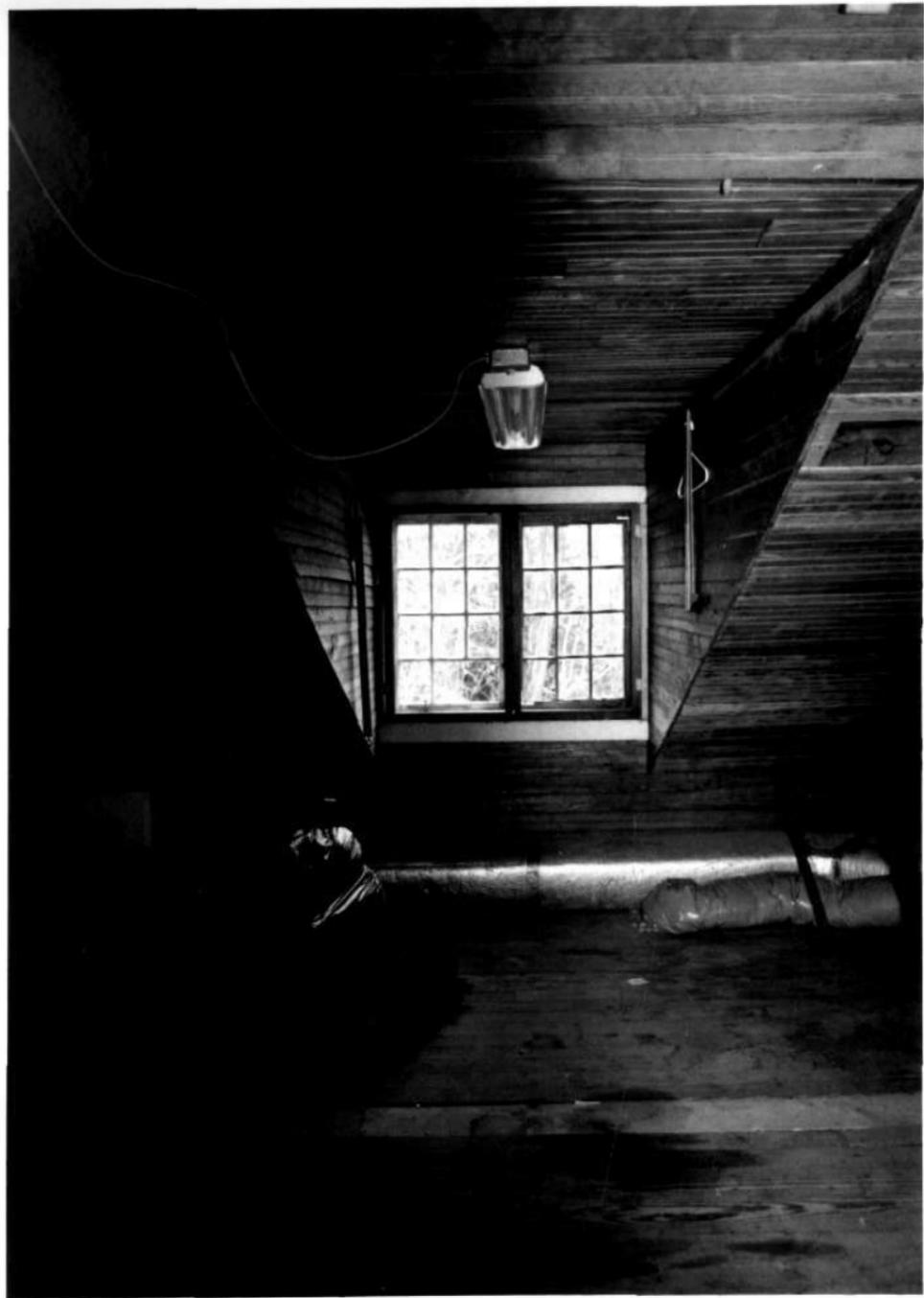
EHT Tracerics

November 2003

MD SHPO

Attic, view Northeast

12 of 14



CT-7416

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

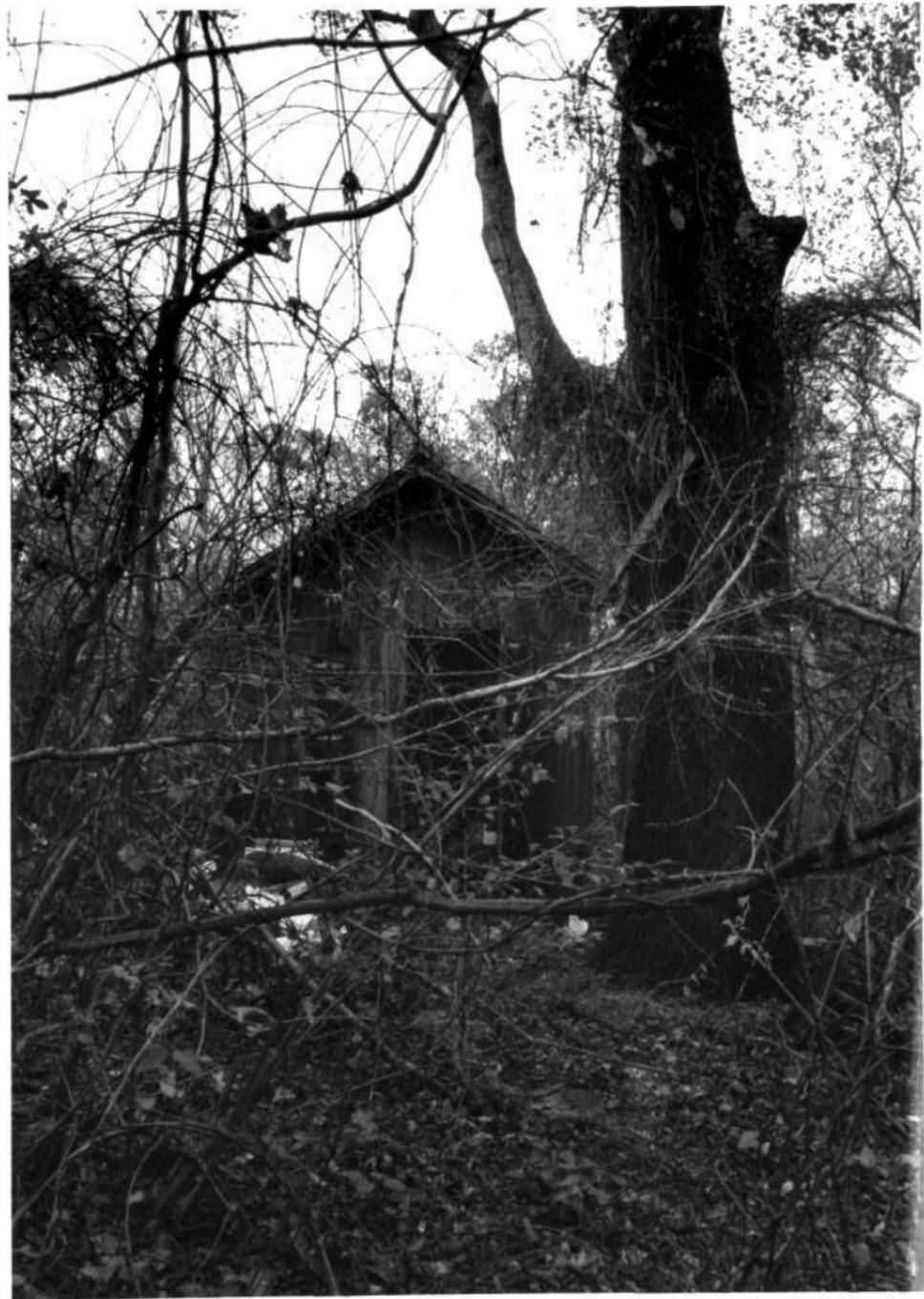
EHT Traceries

November 2003

MD SHPO

Athc. view Southeast

13 of 14



CT-746

Old Field, 485 Main Street

Calvert County, MD

EHT Tracerics

November 2003

MD SNAO

view southwest, corn crib

14 of 14

CT-746
OLD FIELD
(Late 19th Century)
Prince Frederick
Private

This two-story frame house faces east. The hip-roofed structure includes a three-story gabled entrance tower on its three-bay facade. A small palian window lights the tower's third story. A porch supported by tapered columns crosses the facade.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Briscoe House, Old Fieldand/or common Old Field Inn

2. Location

street & number (Maryland Route 765) Main Street not for publicationcity, town Prince Frederick vicinity of congressional districtstate Maryland county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Old Feild Inn, Inc.street & number SR Box 203 telephone no.:city, town Prince Frederick state and zip code Maryland 20678

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liberstreet & number Main Street (MD 765) foliocity, town Prince Frederick state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-746

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This house is set back onto a wooded lawn off Maryland Route 765. It faces east. Set on a stone foundation, it is a two-story double-pile framed and weatherboarded house with a steep hipped roof and a central-passage plan. The three-bay facade has an advanced central bay set under a front-facing gable. The brick chimneys are set along the partition walls of the house. The original windows have four-over-four double-hung sash. The facade is sheltered by a one-story screened-in porch with a hipped roof. The advanced central bay of the porch is supported by Doric columns. There is a one-story polygonal bay on the north end wall. A one-story, single-bay square-plan flat-roofed wing has been added to the south end wall. Several one-story ells and sheds have also been built onto the rear of the house. There are no surviving original outbuildings.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-746

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

According to local tradition, this house was built by a man who had originally intended to buy and remodel Linden, but the Gray family acquired that house first. This house was indeed built at about the time that Linden was remodeled.

Directed historical research would more firmly establish the historical significance of this site.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Prince Frederick, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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B

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C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille Wells

organization MHT/Calvert Dept. of Planning & Zoning date 9/30/86

street & number Courthouse Annex, Main St. telephone (301) 535-2348

city or town Prince Frederick state Maryland 20678

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CT-746
MAGI

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Old Field

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 765

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

— VICINITY OF —

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Elizabeth W. Briscoe

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

SAME

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF —

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County

Liber #: 164

Folio #: 116

STREET & NUMBER

Route 765

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

MD

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CF-746

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two-story frame house faces east. The hip-roofed structure includes a three-story gabled entrance tower on its three-bay facade. A small palladian window lights the tower's third story. A porch supported by tapered columns crosses the facade.

Two over two windows flanked by louvered shutters light the house. A brick chimney heats the south end.

Asphalt shingles cover the roof, and weatherboards cover the walls.

This well-preserved house is set in beautiful grounds shaded by mature trees.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

CT-746

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES late 19th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is one of the finest dwellings in Prince Frederick. It was long the home of local historian and pioneer preservationist Betty Briscoe.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Merry Stinson

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

May, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Box 107

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Dunkirk

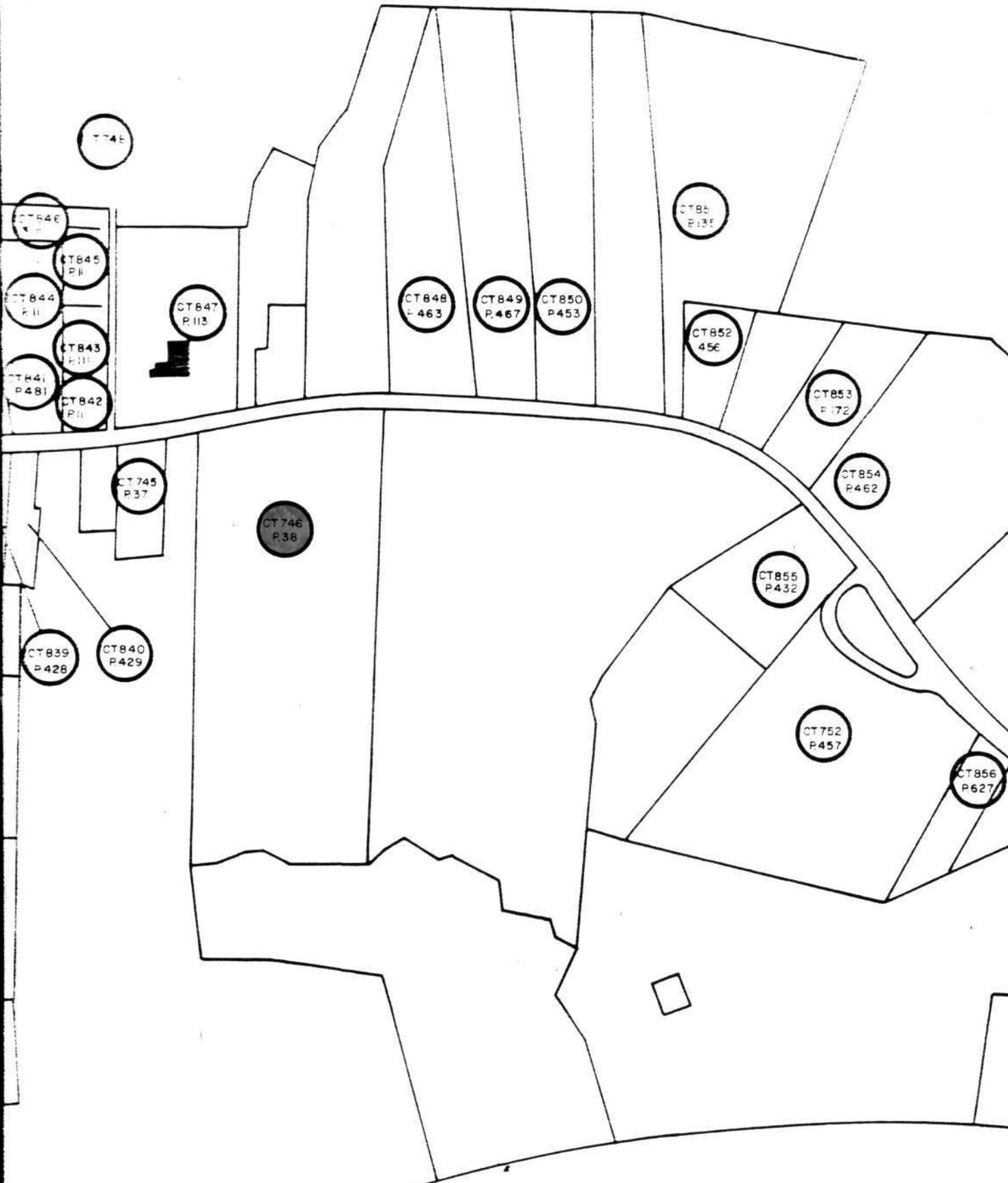
STATE

MD

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438



Solomons Island Rd. South

PRINCE FREDERICK
CALVERT COUNTY MAP #24
ENLARGEMENT 3 of 3

CT-746



Ct-746 Old Field Inn
Highway 765
Prince Frederick

Camille Wells 9/86
view from the east