

CHAS-337
BRICK HOUSE
Private

circa 1800

A two-story brick structure, "Brick House" is of rather simple Federal styling, with corbeled eave cornices, flush end chimneys and a three bay facade. At one end of the house there is a one story frame wing that incorporates an early (probably original) and formerly detached kitchen. Although altered in recent years it retains its large, exterior end chimney.

One of the most intriguing features of "Brick House" is the contrasting combination of Federal-style exterior design and interior floor plan with very handsome eighteenth century style interior woodwork. The woodwork, including window and door facings, chairrails, paneled mantels, doors with raised molded panels, and a stair with square chamfered posts and a finely molded rail, is of a type one would expect to find in a better-than-average house of the second half of the eighteenth century. All of the woodwork is original and remarkably complete.

"Brick House" stands on property owned by the Society of Jesus since 1649 and was possibly built as a residence for priests or as a farm overseer's house. The main Jesuit residence, St. Thomas Manor at Chapel Point, (CH-6), faces over the fields of Blossom Point from the opposite side of the Port Tobacco River.

CH-337
Ballast House (Blossom Point Farmhouse)

Note: This structure was demolished in the mid 1990s, per a MAAR Associates report published in 1996.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CH-337

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY CASE #090315204

1 NAME

HISTORIC

BRICK HOUSE, Ballast House

AND/OR COMMON

Blossom Point Farm House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Extreme south end of Blossom Point at the junction of Nanjemoy Creek and the Potomac River, on the Blossom Point Proving Grounds

CITY, TOWN

Cedar Point Neck

VICINITY OF Hill Top

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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

Now Harry Diamond Laboratories, Blossom Point Test Facility, Federal Government (since 1980).

NAME

Society of Jesus,
c/o Rev. Father A. Panuska, s.j.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

5704 Roland Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

21210

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Provincial Archives

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Georgetown University

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at the southern tip of Blossom Point and facing out onto the junction of Nanjemoy Creek and the Port Tobacco and Potomac Rivers, "Brick House" is in imminent danger of being undermined by the swiftly encroaching west bank of the peninsula. As of this writing the bank, which drops no less than twenty feet down to the waters of Nanjemoy Creek, has eroded to the extent that it is now less than three feet from the northwest corner of the house. So severe is the problem that it is unlikely that the erosion can be successfully stabilized, and it is probable that the only chance for saving the house will be to either move or dismantle it. A building of better than average architectural merit, the house warrants any efforts that can be exerted to save it in whatever manner possible, even if only by removing its very attractive interior woodwork.

On the exterior the house is deceptively plain. Consisting of a two story, rectangular, main block with a one story frame kitchen wing, the house is of very basic Federal-style architecture. The principal, south facade is three bays wide with a transomed entrance door occupying the first bay in from the west end. On the north side of the house there is a door and window at the first floor and two windows above. On the west end there is a single window centered in the wall at both floor levels, and a single window (later enlarged) in the gable. The four windows and two doors of the first floor are headed by brick flat arches, while those of the second floor are of header brick. The exterior walls are of common bond brick with headers every six courses. There is no watertable. At the eaves the brick steps out three courses to form a corbelled cornice. The gable roof is presently sheathed with tin, replacing the earlier wood shingles. At the east end of the roof are two flush gable chimneys. One half of the first floor north side of the house is presently covered by a cement block, shed-roofed addition. A similar frame addition covers the first floor level of the south front. Both additions were made within the last twenty years.

The east kitchen wing is off-set from the front wall of the main block and is entirely of frame construction. Over the years it has had several unsympathetic renovations, but it is believed that sufficient original fabric remains to enable a restoration to its original plan and appearance. It is believed that this wing originally consisted of a detached kitchen, the most obvious evidence of this being a higher roofline of more recent vintage between the former kitchen and the main block. This "filler" addition has a single dormer on both sides of the roof. At the east end of the wing is a very attractive exterior chimney with long-stepped

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (continued on attached sheet)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" 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 c. 1800-1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A two-story brick structure, "Brick House" is of rather simple Federal styling, with corbeled eave cornices, flush end chimneys and a three bay facade. At one end of the house there is a one story frame wing that incorporates an early (probably original) and formerly detached kitchen. Although altered in recent years it retains its large, exterior end chimney.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

KFS Historic Preservation Group (1990) Architectural, Historical, and Archaeological Investigations at Blossom Point Farm, Blossom Point Testing Facility, Charles County, Maryland. MHT Library # CH 33.

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

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

January 1, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Continuation of #7 (Description)--BRICK HOUSE

Page 2

weatherings and an oven extension at one side. The south front of the wing is now covered by a partially enclosed shed-roofed porch that was added in this century. The exterior walls are sheathed with German siding and the roof with tin.

One of the most interesting aspects of the house is the combination of its rather plain Federal-style exterior and interior room configuration with what is basically very good eighteenth century style interior woodwork. On the first floor, which is divided into a side stair hall at the west end with two adjoining east rooms, the woodwork is of bold proportions and includes two-piece window and door surrounds, chairrails and molded baseboards. The doors have raised molded panels and the fireplaces are framed by mantels that have heavy shaped cornice shelves above a wide paneled frieze. To the right of the mantel in the northeast room is a narrow cupboard with paneled doors. The stair rises along the west wall and north end of the hall in two flights to the second floor. It has square chamfered posts, a handsomely shaped rail and square balusters. The woodwork of the second floor, including doors, mantels, window and door surrounds and chairrails, is a somewhat simpler version of that of the first floor and, like the latter, is remarkably complete. A narrow enclosed stair in the hall provides access to the attic. Originally unfinished, the attic was renovated 10 or 15 years ago when the house was utilized as offices for the military installation that now occupies the property. The kitchen wing has suffered extensive alterations and renovations. So extensive are these changes that it is almost impossible to determine its original interior appearance. (It should be noted that all of the windows of the main block have been boarded up and the electrical wiring disconnected, so that the lack of light greatly interferes with a complete examination of the structure. The same difficulty was encountered in the kitchen wing, its examination being further hampered by an extraordinary accumulation of trash.)

"Brick House" must at one time have had a very impressive situation, looking out over cultivated fields and with wide vistas of the Nanjemoy Creek and the Port Tobacco and Potomac Rivers. However, since the leasing of the property by the U.S. Government, the fields are now utilized as a testing range for explosives and the surrounding lands have assumed an air of barren waste. Immediately proximate to the house are several late nineteenth century barns and sheds, all in poor condition, as well as several recently built, government-related structures.

Ballast House

- Background and significance. The Ballast House is a two-story brick structure located at the Blossom Point Field Test Facility. Built c. 1790-1815, it is of simple design and construction, with brick masonry bearing walls and interior wood framing. The main block of the house is approximately square and has two flush chimneys on its southeast side. Its exterior is extremely plain except for several rows of corbelled brickwork beneath the eaves. There is a partially enclosed wood porch flanking the building's southwest side, and a relatively recent concrete block addition on the northeast, which is now boarded off from the remainder of the house and contains toilet facilities that are still in use by installation personnel. A wood frame kitchen wing is located on the southeast end of the house; this wing was apparently once detached and later joined to the house by a filler addition with a dormered roof. The wing is sheathed in clapboard siding and has a large free-standing chimney on its southeast end. It also has one enclosed and one open porch on the southwest side and a small screened porch on the northeast side. All roofs on the house are metal covered.

The interior of the main block is plain, with simple but consistent trim and woodwork that appears to be original. Interior alterations include lowered ceilings, the addition of a second floor bathroom and a wall to enclose the attic stairs, and conversion of the attic to a habitable room. The gable windows are said to have been enlarged. The kitchen wing has been extensively renovated and its fireplace bricked up.

The Ballast House was declared eligible for listing on the National Register in 1979, largely because of its interior woodwork, which was said to be of value in understanding the evolution of interior woodwork in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century houses of southern Maryland. Other items judged to be of significance were the kitchen, said to be unique to the local area since few kitchen dependencies from that period apparently still survive; the kitchen chimney, which appears to contain a brick oven, said to be unique to the period; and the building's long association with the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), its builders and the owners of its surrounding property from 1649 to 1980. The Ballast House is listed as property CH-337 on the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Sites, Charles County.

- Condition and potential adverse impacts. The Ballast House was converted to a field office by the Army in 1942, was boarded up in the 1960s, and has remained vacant since that time. An inspection of the building in January 1984 revealed that the building's 8" thick brick bearing walls are in generally good condition, although there is cracking above and below the middle second floor window on the northeast elevation and delamination of the outer brick layer near the ground line; mortar deterioration and two areas of bulging on both gable ends; and some masonry cracking above and below the first and second story windows on the northwest elevation. The wooden window sills are extremely deteriorated. There is significant mortar deterioration on the kitchen chimney. The kitchen porches are highly deteriorated and partially

collapsed, and the floors of the flanking southwest porch are deteriorated and in some places badly damaged. The interior face of the exterior brick walls, where exposed, is in some locations damp and suffering mortar deterioration. Above the ground floor line the interior wood framing appears intact, as does most of the plaster and wood trim; when probed with a moisture meter, these components had moisture readings below 20%, well within safe range.

The Ballast House is located on the edge of a steep embankment on the Potomac River. In recent years this embankment has eroded to the point that the house is in danger. A study by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1978 found that protection of the embankment would be extremely expensive, with alternative stabilization schemes ranging in cost from \$467,000 to \$1,045,000. Since that time, the Army has added some rock fill below the embankment as a stopgap measure. Current estimates of the length of time remaining before the embankment begins to undermine the house vary from one to ten years, depending on natural events associated with the river that are largely unpredictable.

In 1979, Harry Diamond Laboratories entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation that required the Army to:

- 1) Record the property to the standards of the Historic American Building Survey and conduct an archeological examination of the site.

- 2) Demolish the masonry block toilet facility attached to the house.
- 3) Examine the house's relocation site for cultural resources.
- 4) Relocate the house to the new site and further examine the old site for cultural resources.
- 5) Stabilize the house on its new site and submit a preservation plan for review by the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office.
- 6) Nominate the house to the National Register.
- 7) Survey the remainder of the Blossom Point facility for cultural resources and nominate any additional resources that are eligible for the National Register.

To date, Harry Diamond Laboratories has complied with the Memorandum of Agreement to the following extent:

- 1) The house has been recorded to the standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey (1979).
- 2) A new site for the house has been selected and plans and cost estimates prepared for its relocation and stabilization (1979).

- 3) A cultural resources survey has been completed for the Blossom Point facility (1979).
- 4) Funding from the Department of the Army for such a relocation was sought, but not received (1980).

Since 1980, no further action has been taken to comply with the remaining items in the Memorandum of Agreement.

- Preservation recommendations. The estimated cost of relocating and stabilizing (but not restoring) the Ballast House was \$138,000 in late 1979. The Department of the Army, in refusing to fund the project, stated in a letter to Harry Diamond Laboratories in June 1980 that:

- 1) The house is "not an outstanding example of Maryland architecture of the first quarter of the 19th century. Rather, it is a good example of vernacular building in the traditional form and style of the period and region. While the building is of some value because of its age, it has little value as an example of significant architecture....It is inappropriate to fund this project as a historic preservation project to the extent of \$138,000."
- 2) The estimated cost of \$138,000 did not include the cost of restoring the building, parts of which are highly deteriorated, and ~~that~~ there is no present or future known requirement for utilizing the building if it were to be restored.

- 3) Harry Diamond Laboratories should, in light of the above, renegotiate the Memorandum of Agreement to allow for the demolition of the Ballast House, while saving significant building materials for the Maryland Historic Trust or other eligible grantees, or for sale.

Since the Army's funding denial in 1980, Harry Diamond Laboratories has taken no action to renegotiate the 1979 Memorandum of Agreement, nor has it initiated any other measures to resolve the issue of the Ballast House. Clearly, immediate steps should be taken to meet with the Maryland Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to discuss the 1979 Memorandum of Agreement. From all available evidence, it is questionable whether the Ballast House is of sufficient architectural or historical merit to warrant the high cost of moving and stabilizing the structure, not to mention restoring it. Were the building in fact successfully moved to the planned relocation site, it still would be unusable without considerable restoration work and would still be located in a restricted area inaccessible to the public.

It is therefore recommended that Harry Diamond Laboratories seek to modify the Memorandum of Agreement in a manner which would provide that:

- 1) The Ballast House could be offered first to a public, and second to a private, party that would agree to remove the building from Army property (at a specified cost to government) and to undertake its

care. The offering should be adequately publicized in southern Maryland and in state and national preservation publications. Properly executed, the offering would be a fair test of public support for the building's preservation.

- 2) If support were not forthcoming within a reasonable period of time, the Army could be allowed to demolish the building. In this event, an expert in historic building interiors would be ^{FIRST} retained by the Army to evaluate the building's interior woodwork and determine if it should be salvaged. Although the Ballast House was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1979, detailed measured drawings of its woodwork were not prepared. If the woodwork were found to be of special significance, such measured drawings would then be completed and added to the existing HABS documentation.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Ballast House
Blossom Point
Charles County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-318

Documentation: 7 sheets (1979, including location map, site plans, plans,
elevations, sections)
5 exterior photos (1979)
5 interior photos (1979)
9 data pages (1980)

Walter Smalling, Jr., Photographer July 1979

MD-318-1 GENERAL VIEW OF HOUSE, FROM SOUTHEAST

MD-318-2 CLOSE-UP VIEW OF SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

MD-318-3 SOUTHWEST ELEVATION, FROM WATER LEVEL

MD-318-4 NORTH ELEVATION

MD-318-5 NORTHEAST ELEVATION

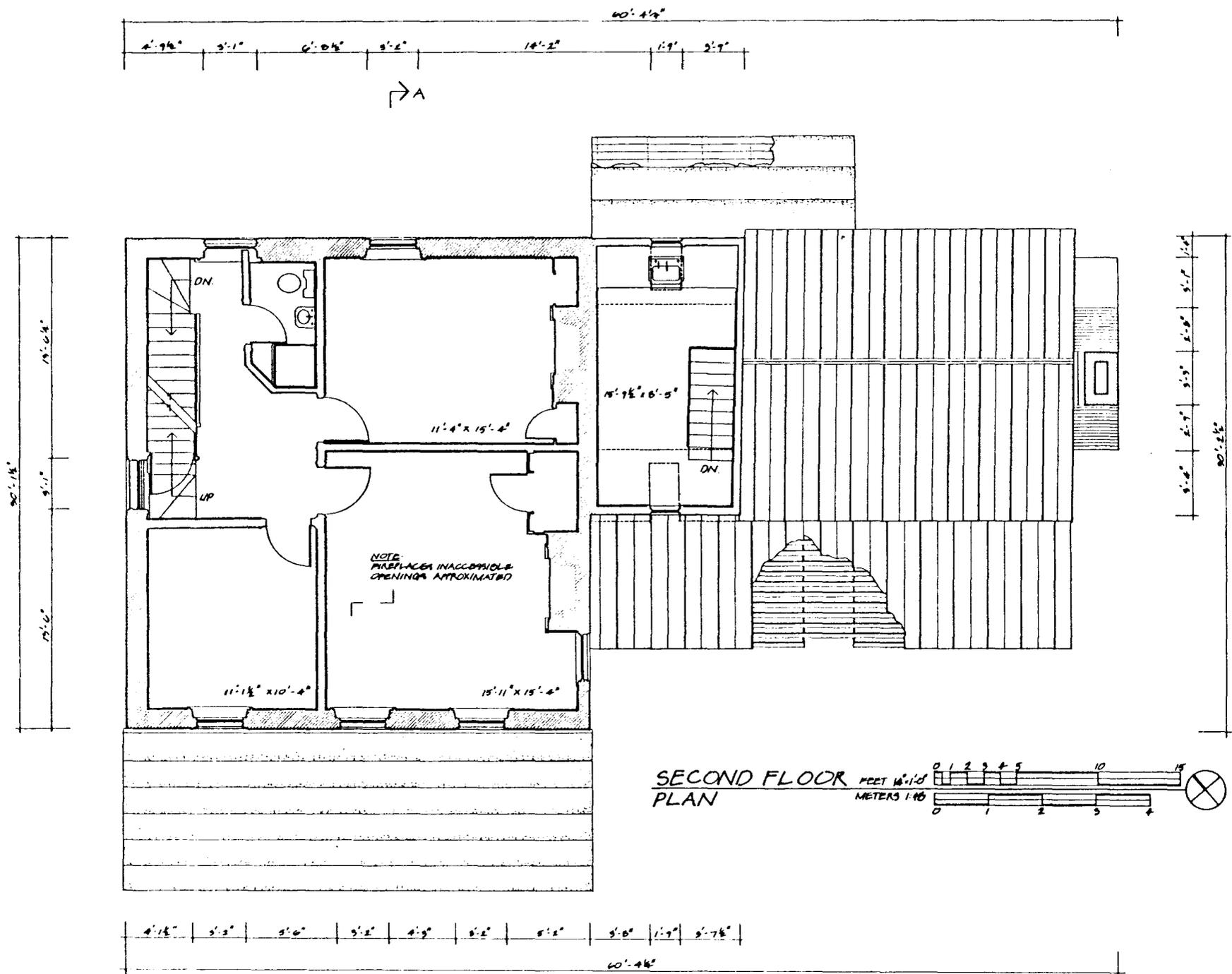
MD-318-6 VIEW OF STAIRWAY, NORTHWEST CORNER OF FIRST FLOOR STAIRHALL IN
MAIN HOUSE

MD-318-7 ORIGINAL FIREPLACE WITH A DECORATIVE MANTEL SHELF, SOUTH PARLOR,
FIRST FLOOR

MD-318-8 FIREPLACE AND ORIGINAL CUPBOARD, NORTH PARLOR, FIRST FLOOR

MD-318-9 FIREPLACE, SOUTH PARLOR, SECOND FLOOR

MD-318-10 DETAIL VIEW OF STAIRWAY, NORTHWEST CORNER OF FIRST FLOOR
STAIRHALL IN MAIN HOUSE



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

DRAWN BY JANET HOCHULI, DAVID T. MARSH JR., 1979

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
 OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BLOSSOM POINT

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
BALLAST HOUSE
 CHARLES COUNTY

MARYLAND

SURVEY NO.
 MD-318

HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 3 OF 7 SHEETS

LEGEND BY CONSULTANT
 SCALE NUMBER

CH 337

CH 337



**SOUTHWEST
ELEVATION**

MATERIAL NOTES:
 FOUNDATIONS BRICK
 WALLS BRICK, WOOD (WEATHERBOARDS AND NOVELTY SIDING)
 ROOF PIECED METAL, ASPHALT PAPER



DRAWN BY DAVID T. MARSH JR., 1977

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 UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BLOSSOM POINT

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE

BALLAST HOUSE
 CHARLES COUNTY

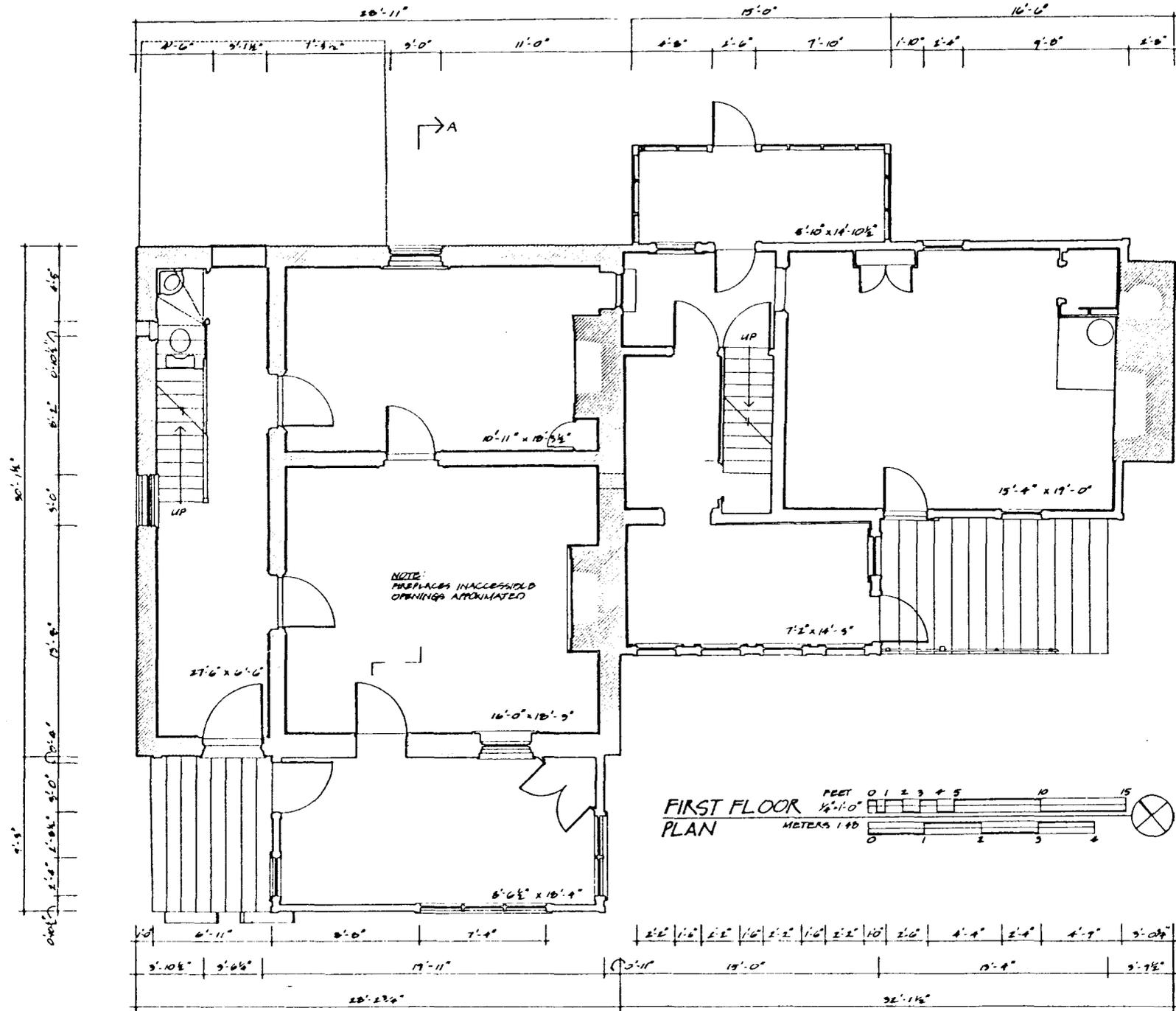
MARYLAND

SURVEY NO.

MD-31B

HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 4 OF 7 SHEETS

NUMBER OF COPIES
 UNLESS NOTED



DRAWN BY JANET HOC HULLI, DAVID T. MARSH JR., 1979

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BLOSSOM POINT

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
BALLAST HOUSE
 CHARLES COUNTY

MARYLAND

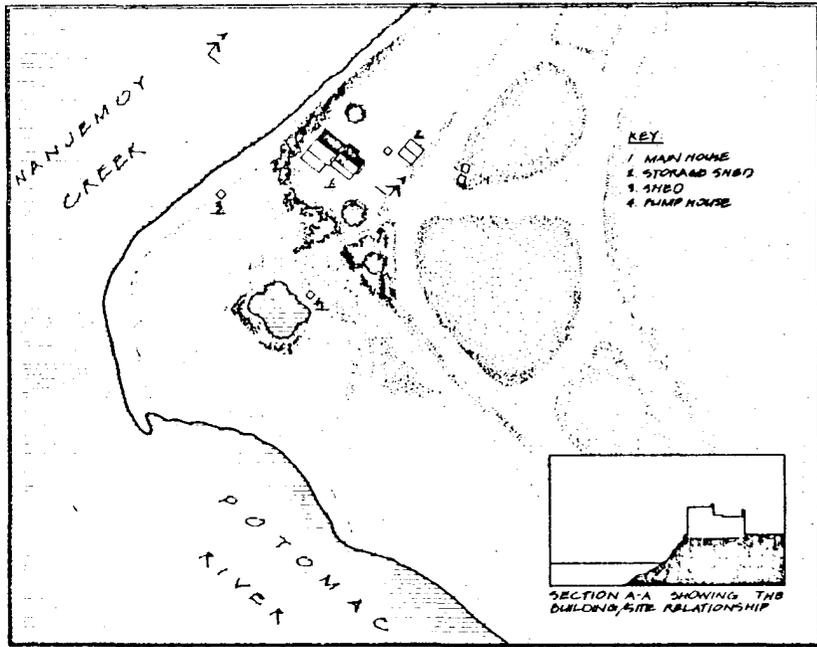
SURVEY NO
 MD-318

HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 2 OF 7 SHEETS

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
 COLLEGE PARK

CH 337

CH 337



SITE PLAN

FEET 1"=100'
METERS 1:1200

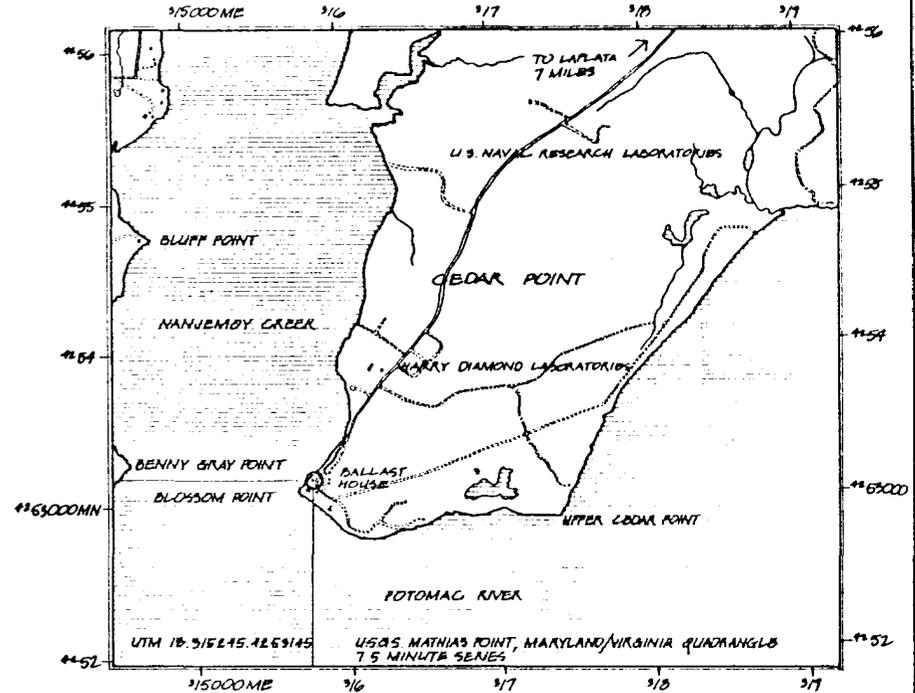


THE BALLAST HOUSE, KNOWN LOCALLY AS THE "BRICK HOUSE," WAS PROBABLY BUILT DURING THE EARLY 1800'S SITUATED WITHIN INCHES OF A THIRTY FOOT CLIFF THE HOUSE IS IN DANGER OF COLLAPSING INTO THE WATER BELOW THE CONSTANT THREAT IS DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF WIND AND WATER DAMAGE

IT IS POSSIBLE, BUT NOT PROBABLE, THAT THE HOUSE GOT ITS NAME BECAUSE THE BRICKS USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION WERE BROUGHT TO AMERICA ABOARD BRITISH SHIPS BUILT IN A LOCAL VERSION OF THE FEDERAL STYLE, THE HOUSE HAS FEW OUTSTANDING EXTERIOR FEATURES THE DECORATIVE BRICKWORK IS SIMPLE, LIMITED TO CORBELLED CORNICES ALONG THE FRONT AND REAR OF THE HOUSE THE INTERIOR, HOWEVER, EXHIBITS FINE EXAMPLES OF WOODWORK, RANGING FROM SIX-PANEL DOORS TO SIMPLE BASEBOARDS AND OTHER TRIM PROFILES OF THE MOLDINGS ARE TYPICAL OF VERY LATE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY MILLWORK, THIS EXPLAINING THE DIFFICULTY IN DATING THE BUILDING.

THE ORIGINAL KITCHEN, ONCE A SEPARATE STRUCTURE, WAS CONNECTED TO THE MAIN HOUSE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY ONE WALL OF THE ORIGINAL FABRIC IS STILL IDENTIFIABLE ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT FEATURE IS THE LARGE FIREPLACE CONTAINING A BREAD OVEN

THE HOUSE AND KITCHEN ARE BEING PRESERVED AND WILL SOON BE MOVED, INTACT, TO AN APPROPRIATE SITE APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE FROM WHERE THEY NOW STAND.



LOCATION MAP

FEET 1"=2000'
METERS 1:24,000



DOCUMENTATION OF THE BALLAST HOUSE WAS PREPARED BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY (HABS) IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, HARRY DIAMOND LABORATORIES, IN COMPLIANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 11573 AND PUBLIC LAW 93-291. THE PROJECT WAS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JOHN C. ROYPLIERS, CHIEF OF HABS, AND KENNETH L. ANDERSON, PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT. RECORDING TOOK PLACE DURING THE SUMMER OF 1971 BY THE HABS WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE STAFF JANET HOCHULL, PROJECT SUPERVISOR (THE COOPER UNION), STUDENT ARCHITECTS WILLIAM E. GRAHAM (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND), DAVID MARSH (HOWARD UNIVERSITY), LINDA PAQUETTE (AUBURN UNIVERSITY), AND DOUGLAS R. TAYLOR (AUBURN UNIVERSITY). DRAWINGS WERE COMPLETED IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE.

BALLAST HOUSE

DRAWN BY LINDA PAQUETTE, RUDY MASSENGILL, 1977

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
BALLAST HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY
MARYLAND

SURVEY NO.
MD-318

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 1 OF 7 SHEETS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
SERIALS



**SOUTHEAST
ELEVATION**

MATERIAL NOTES:
 FOUNDATIONS: BRICK
 WALLS: BRICK, WOOD (WEATHERBOARDS AND NOVELTY SIDING)
 ROOF: ASPHALT SHINGLES



DRAWN BY DAVID T. MARSH JR., 1977

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
 OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BLOSSOM POINT

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
BALLAST HOUSE
 CHARLES COUNTY

MARYLAND

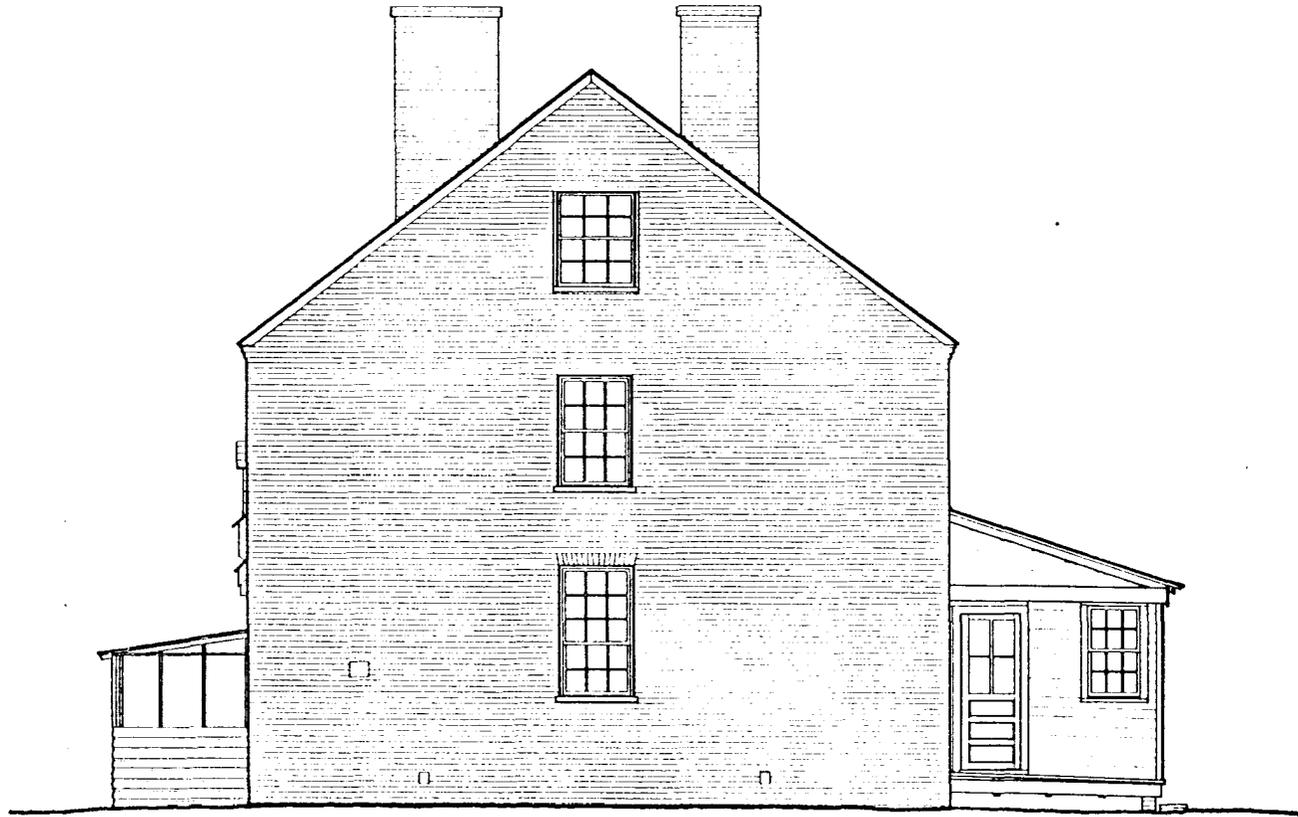
SURVEY NO.
 MD-31B

HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 6 OF 7 SHEETS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
 PHOTODUPLICATION SERVICE

CH 337

CH-337



**NORTHWEST
ELEVATION**

MATERIAL NOTES:
FOUNDATIONS: BRICK
WALLS: BRICK, WOOD (NOVELTY SIDING)



DRAWN BY LINDA PARQUETTE, DAVID T. MARSH JR., 1979

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
UNDER DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NAME AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
BALLAST HOUSE
CHARLES COUNTY MARYLAND

SURVEY NO.
MD-318

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 5 OF 7 SHEETS

LEGEND OF SYMBOLS
SHOWN ON SHEET



The Ballast House
Clossom Point
La Plata vicinity
Charles County
Maryland

MD-318-5
CH-337

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Walter Smalling, Photographer

Date July, 1979

North east elevation

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Walter Smalling, photographer July 1979



The Callost House
Clossom Peent
La Plata vicinity
Charles County
Maryland

MD-318-7
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Walter Smalling, Photographer

Date July, 1979

ORIGINAL

Fireplace, south parlor, FIRST FLOOR
WITH A DECORATIVE MANTEL SHELF

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Walter Smalling, photographer July 1979



Le Ballast House
Closson Point
La Plata security
Charles County
Maryland

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View of stairway, NORTHWEST
CORNER OF FIRST FLOOR
STAIRHALL IN MAIN HOUSE

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Walter Smalling, Photographer

Date July, 1979

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Walter Smalling, photographer
July 1979



The Ballast House
Blossom Point
La Plata vicinity
Charles County
Maryland

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FIREPLACE AND ORIGINAL
CUPBOARD,

First floor, north
porch

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Walter Smalling, Photographer

Date July, 1979

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Walter Smalling, photographer
July 1979



The Ballast House
Blossom Point
La Plata vicinity
Charles County
Maryland

MD-318-4

CH-337

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Walter Smalling, Photographer

Date July, 19 79

North elevation

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Walter Smalling, photographer July 1979



The Ballast House
Blossom Point
La Plata Community
Charles County
Maryland

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Walter Smalling, Photographer

Date July, 19 79

Close-up view of southeast elevation

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

*Walter Smalling, Photographer
July 1979*



The Ballast House
Dorson Bend
La Plata security
Charles County
Maryland

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Walter Smalling, Photographer

Date July, 19 79

GENERAL VIEW OF HOUSE,
FROM SOUTHEAST

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Walter Smalling, photographer July 1979



The Ballast House
Drosson Point
La Plata vicinity
Charles County
Maryland

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Southwest elevation, from
water level

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Walter Smalling, Photographer

Date July 8, 1979

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Walter Smalling, photographer
July 1979



The Ballast House
Blossom Point
La Plata vicinity
Charles County
Maryland

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Walter Smalling, Photographer

Date July 8, 19 79

Fireplace, south PARLOR
second floor

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Walter Smalling, photographer July 1979



The Ballast House
Blossom Point
La Plata vicinity
Charles County
Maryland

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Walter Smalling, Photographer

Date July, 19 79

Detail view of stairway, Northwest
corner of first floor stairhall
in Main House.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR