

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes  no

Property Name: Woodbourne/Blunt House Inventory Number: M: 14-51

Address: 21000 Blunt Road Historic district:  yes  no

City: Germantown Zip Code: 20876 County: Montgomery

USGS Quadrangle(s): Gaithersburg

Property Owner: John W & M L Fendrick Tax Account ID Number: 01753315

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): P670 Tax Map Number: FV31

Project: Mid County Corridor Study, Montgomery County, Maryland Agency: Montgomery Co. Dept. of Public Works & T

Agency Prepared By: EAC / Archaeology

Preparer's Name: Suzanne Stasiulatis Date Prepared: 6/22/2013

Documentation is presented in: Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) # M: 14-51

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 property at 21000 Blunt Road, Germantown, MD (ZIP code 20876), the Woodbourne/Blunt Road House, encompasses approximately 23.89 and is surrounded by agricultural property and various outbuildings, some dating to the nineteenth century. The main building is a south-facing, three-section, two-and-a-half story, eight-bay, common bond brick and wood siding adapted Georgian farmhouse. The house is described as three-section, because of the periods and elements of construction are represented in three irregular components. The house currently appears to be one mass, but a more adequate explanation of the details of the house can be conveyed through the description of the distinct sections. A two-bay pre-1950 porch addition is present on the rear elevation. The dwelling has a moderate pitch, three-part, side gable roof. An interior ridge end chimney with corbelled cap and two chimney flues is located on the east elevation. An interior ridge chimney with corbelled cap is located between the middle and western sections. The south-facing façades of the two eastern sections are similar in shape and form, except for a lowered roof on the western section. The central section was originally a log house (circa 1805 to 1819), but it was clad with brick in 1845. The additions to the east and west were made in the same year (Montgomery County Historical Society 2013). Another is connected to the modern porch. Within the roof of the brick section of the house, there are two front gable dormers with windows. Five six-over-

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

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MHT Comments:

John Salzman  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]  
Reviewer, National Register Program

8/5/2013  
Date

8/23/13  
Date

six, double-hung sash windows with accompanying louvered shutters are located at the second story level. On the first story level, there are four six-over-six windows with accompanying louvered shutters spaced at the ends of the façade. A one-story, three-bay porch with a half-hipped roof and four evenly spaced columns is located at the center of the brick section. A wooden balustrade extends between the columns. A central door with a four light transom and lintel is located on the first section of the house. Several steps lead to the porch. The third, western section of the house is a two-story, two-bay, two-pile wood siding section with six-over-six, double-hung sash windows.

The east elevation has two four-paned windows on either side at attic level. The gable end is flush with the building.

The north-facing rear elevation has two wooden, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows located in two front gable dormers on the roof. At the second story level of both the western and central sections, there are five six-over-six, wood, double-hung sash windows with accompanying shutters. The first story level has four wooden, six-over-six sash windows with lintels, sills, and accompanying shutters – two are on each side of an entry porch. The entry porch has a first-floor, half-hipped roof with an edged front. Two simple columns are present. A door is lowered halfway below the first-floor level. A one-and-one-half story enclosed porch extends north on the western section and has a shed roof. Numerous screened-in windows are present at the one-and-one-half story level.

The west facing elevation has four six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. A porch addition is located in the rear of the section, and its shed roof extends from the bottom of the third section’s gable. A two-and-a-half story vertical vinyl siding Addition (pre-1950) is located west of the addition and connects to the porch. The Addition has a side gable roof with shed roof extension, a central interior ridge chimney, windows in the attic peak, and an elevated west elevation entryway into the extension.

A driveway from Blunt Road is located east of the east elevation and extends to the front and rear of the house. The property is an agricultural parcel. A four-story bank barn (19th century) and a deteriorated dairy house (circa 1800) are located west of the dwelling. The barn and the dairy likely facilitated farm animal operations on the property, including dairy farming. The foundation of an ice house (19th century) are located east of the dwelling. The ice house was likely utilized domestically. The foundation of an outhouse (unknown date) are located northwest of the dwelling. A reconstructed chicken coop (unknown date), which was torn down and then rebuilt, is located north of the dwelling. Several other outbuildings and structures of modern age are located on the property. Animal shelters (modern), a sheds (modern), and a covered greenhouse (modern) are all located in a fenced-in pasture. Old growth hardwoods and evergreen trees are located on the lawn, within and outside the fenced-in pasture, and along the road. Fencing extends along the road for the full length of the property.

PROPERTY HISTORY/HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Property

The dates of significance extend from circa 1805 through circa 1875. These include the occupation of the house by Harry (Henry) Woodward Dorsey until the death of William Williams Blunt and prominent local families using the parcel for agricultural purposes. The Woodbourne/Blunt House resource includes the present-day 23.89 acre parcel, the large barn and deteriorated dairy house. The present-day parcel was chosen because of modern construction and landscaping along other properties that were subdivided after William Williams’s death, although at one point the parcel was much larger. Non-historic resources include the animal shelters, modern outbuildings, and the greenhouse.

The log portion of the Woodbourne/Blunt Road House was built by Henry Woodward Dorsey, likely between 1805 and 1819 (Kelly 2001). It may have begun as a log house for a tenant farmer and was built on the landowner Richard Thomas’s large tract of

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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

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Reviewer, National Register Program

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land. Log houses were common until the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Gradually houses were clad in brick and often indicate the prosperity of the builders at that time. The parcel, known as "Thomas' Hog Pasture," was left to his sons – Richard Jr., Thomas, and William Thomas – in 1806. It was then sold to Gerard Brooke and subsequently transferred to Harry (Henry) Woodward Dorsey (Sherman 1976). Harry (Henry) Woodward Dorsey willed all of his property in Montgomery County to Harriet Dorsey Blunt, his daughter, with the stipulation that it would be transferred to her children, not to her husband (Montgomery County Circuit Court 2013).

Blunt Road was named for the Blunt family. The centerpiece of their lands, encompassing much of the area surrounding the road, was the Woodbourne House. The Blunt family called the house Woodbourne during their residency and the name persisted throughout time, but the origin of the name can only be speculated. On both the 1869 Martinet and Bond Map and the 1979 Hopkins Atlas, "W.W. Blunt" is identified at the location of the Woodbourne/Blunt House (McDaniel 1979; Hopkins 1879). William Williams was Harriet Woodward Dorsey's fifth child and the heir to Woodbourne at Harriet's death. The 1879 Hopkins Atlas displays "W.W. Blunt" in letters larger than those used for other property owners in the area. There also appears to be a large area surrounding the property owner's name, while other property owners' names in the area are packed together densely. This may confirm the large land holdings of the family.

Woodbourne is the earliest of several Blunt-owned houses (Kelly 2001). The house started as a log house, prior to the presence of Dorsey, and additions were added in subsequent years. A brick two-and-one-half story addition was added in 1845 east of the log house. Also in 1845, the log house was clad in a brick veneer, in order to match the addition. Later, a two-and-one-half story, frame addition was added to the west side of the log house (Soderberg 1988). Another addition, a rear porch, was added some time later. Today, the large three-section house shows this evolution of use through time.

The large parcel required several outbuildings to facilitate agricultural operations through the years. The deteriorated dairy house and a large barn are still present to the west of the residence. The large barn, located in an agricultural field, likely was used to facilitate operations involving animal and was likely linked in use to the adjacent dairy house. At one time, the dairy house housed a school room for the Blunt family children. School desks were used, and a private tutor taught the children in the floor above the dairy. The tutor lived in an "ell" addition, built onto the back of the house (Montgomery County Historical Society 2013). The distinctive large barn was uncommon to the area, and it aided farming operations on the estate. An ice house was located just east of the house. The ice house was placed close to the residence for household use. Several additional modern animal shelters, a greenhouse, and farm-related structures are present on the property today. The parcel has been subdivided, but it is still used for smaller-scale agricultural enterprises.

William Blunt, Harriet's son, who inherited the property after his mother's death, made full use of the agricultural plot as a farmer. The large Woodbourne estate was farmed throughout its history, but William was especially known for his fruitful operations. He was well respected in the area and acted as County Commissioner in 1863. He was also a member of the Montgomery County Agricultural Association and helped to organize the centennial celebration for Montgomery County (Sherman 1976). The property was owned by the Blunt family through 1977, when it was transferred to the Millhollands (Montgomery County Circuit Court 2013).

Dorsey and Blunt Families

The Dorsey family, of Irish and England origin, began its history in the United States with Edward Dorsey, who moved to Norfolk County, Virginia. He moved to Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, sometime later. The family enjoyed high prestige and wealth when Maryland was a colony. They are estimated to have owned between eighty and a hundred thousand acres of land, thirty thousand of which were in Anne Arundel County prior to the American Revolution ("Dorsey Family" 2013). Members of the

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
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MHT Comments:	
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services</b>	<b>Date</b>
_____	_____
<b>Reviewer, National Register Program</b>	<b>Date</b>

Dorsey family were known for their effective political power throughout Maryland. Harry (Henry) Woodward Dorsey came to the area sometime after this.

Harry (Henry) Woodward Dorsey was born on February 2, 1767 and died in 1840. His parents were Samuel Dorsey and Eleanor Dorsey, and he married Mary Maccubin on February 21, 1786. Together, they had three daughters. Their daughter Harriet was born in 1784. Harriet married Samuel Blunt on February 19, 1818. Harry (Henry) Woodward Dorsey married again on June 16, 1807. His wife was Rachel (Magruder) Cooke, who was previously married to Nathan Cooke (Montgomery County Historical Society 2013).

Samuel Blunt, Harriet Woodward Dorsey's husband, was born on December 28, 1789. With Harriet, he had five children: Mary Blunt, Achsah Elizabeth Blunt, Attwood Blunt, Harry Woodward Dorsey Blunt, and William Williams Blunt (Montgomery County Historical Society 2013). William Williams Blunt was the son who eventually inherited the property. The Blunt family remained prominent locally and within Montgomery County throughout the years.

Slaves worked the land on the Woodbourne Plantation throughout time. Members of the Prater family are noted as living on the Plantation during the Blunt residency. The Prathers later formed Prathertown, one of the oldest African American communities in Montgomery County. Prathertown was founded in 1883 by emancipated slaves (Atay and Mitchell 2005).

The Woodbourne Quilt

The Woodbourne Quilt is in the collections of the Montgomery County Historical Society. The renowned quilt was the product of a family tradition. Often associated with the Woodbourne/Blunt House, it was likely made in the house early in the 19th century. It was started by Susan Maria Dorsey and finished by Harriet Woodward Dorsey Blunt. Several quilt patterns stored with the quilt itself are dated 1852 and include the inscriptions "S.M. Dorsey" and "H.W. Blunt." The main pattern on the quilt is the Compass Rose (Mariner's Compass), but it also includes a variety of pictures, including a peacock, human figures, and a dog. The high-quality quilt has very fine details and stitching at 34-36 stitches per inch (Montgomery County Historical Society 2013).

Agricultural Context

In larger Montgomery County, early farm practices included tobacco farming and plantations, which often included slave labor. Wheat farming gradually became more popular. Migrants from Pennsylvania traveled south to the low density areas of Montgomery County, which had cheap land. The new residents diversified crops and livestock and used large, multi-purpose barns that held livestock, hay, and grain. Large bank barns were built into the hillsides, with lower stables located downhill. Farmers could drive wagons into the upper area to unload hay. These "Switzer Barns" derived their name from Swiss-German traditions. Homes were also often built into the hillsides; these often consisted of two-and-one-half-story structures with exposed basements. The Pennsylvanians were known for their linear town plans, and established numerous examples throughout Montgomery County (Kelly 2001). Often in Maryland, log homes, like the Woodbourne/Blunt House, were expanded and altered with new materials because of lack of readymade materials and to suit the needs of the household.

Germantown was mostly wilderness, while other portions of Montgomery County were farmed. This was, in part, due to the poor soils in the area. Land to buy became sparse, but a few individuals - George Buchanan, the Waters Brothers (Zachariah, William, and Basil), and Francis Clopper - acquired land from the mid-eighteenth-century into the early nineteenth century ("A History of Germantown to 1950" 2013). Farming in nineteenth century Montgomery County took place in two phases. Early in that century, tobacco and corn planting practices lowered the amount of available land with fertile soils. Individuals left their farms, and homes were abandoned. An agricultural revitalization occurred at mid-century (Montgomery County 1999). Reformers promoted crop

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Reviewer, National Register Program

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rotation and improved machinery, including threshing machines and moldboard plows. Fertilizer became easier to transport with transportation improvements, and chemical fertilizer began to replace expensive Peruvian guano (Kelly 2001). The Society of Friends (Quakers) in Sandy Springs introduced these ideas to Germantown, including crop rotation, deep plowing, and fertilization. By 1860, farming prospered in the county (Montgomery County 1999).

During the 1830s and 1840s, German immigrants, mostly from Pennsylvania, settled the Clopper Road and Neelsville/Darnestown Road areas (Soderberg 1988). Small farms appeared. Jacob Snyder, an orchard farmer, was the first of the Germans to come to the area at this time. Dominicus Stang owned a blacksmith shop. A number of other individuals of German origin settled the area, and it became known as Germantown. Arnold owned a general store. Grusendorf was a stonemason. Lowe, Rosenmier, Adler, Dorsey, and then Horace Waters owned a store (Germantown Historical Society 2013). Germantown Road connecting Neelsville and Darnestown was being constructed at this time and was completed in 1849. The German shopkeepers were well known in the larger area, while the farms surrounding the town were mostly settled by people of English descent (Soderberg 1988).

By 1880, Germantown had become influenced by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which was constructed (in part due to Francis Clopper's efforts) to the west. The town moved one mile west to profit from this new transportation corridor. The core of Germantown was located southwest of the evaluated property. The railroad served the community well by offering a means of getting produce to market (Soderberg 1988). The new location saw the start of Frank Hesson's carriage shop, John Gassaway's seed and fertilizer store, William Appleby's carpenter shop and undertaker enterprise, Thomas Henderson's general store, John Nicholl's harness shop, and Richard Harris's store (Germantown Historical Society 2013). The Bowman Brothers Mill (later Liberty Mill), a steam-powered mill, was constructed and offered an easy way for farmers in Germantown to process their wheat and corn (Soderberg 1988). At this time, a post office was established ("A History of Germantown to 1950" 2013).

In the early 20th century, the automobile age brought paved roads and a new bridge in central Germantown. Although Germantown still prospered as a farming village and railroad town, it was introduced to the larger area and what other communities had to offer (Soderberg 1988). Wheat growing subsided in the first quarter of the 20th century, and dairy farming expanded. Grain was farmed to support the cattle, but the emphasis had changed to dairy ("A History of Germantown to 1950" 2013). It was easier to ship dairy products farther and faster via improved methods of transportation, and, therefore, dairy farming thrived (Kelly 2001).

Integrity

The Woodbourne/Blunt House is distinctive architecturally as a log house and as a large farmhouse during the Blunt occupation. Despite some alterations in recent year, the house, as it was represented at the end of the period of significance, retains aspects of original integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Several outbuildings are present as well. Only minor alterations and additions are present on the main house and outbuildings. The northwest Addition's siding has been replaced with vinyl and exhibits new features such as wood stairs and secondary features. The integrity of location is intact in regard to the house and the barn. The parcel itself has been reduced and does not lend itself to an accurate picture of the rural estate during the period of significance. However, certain aspects of feeling and association exist, despite alterations to the original qualities of the parcel and surroundings. Overall, the setting of the property is largely intact, but landscape features have been altered.

EVAULATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodbourne/Blunt House was evaluated according to the criteria set out in "National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation" (Andrus & Shrimpton 1990). The Woodbourne/Blunt House was determined to be not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_  
Criteria: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D Considerations: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D \_\_\_E \_\_\_F \_\_\_G

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

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Reviewer, National Register Program

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Date

The Woodbourne/Blunt House is not eligible for listing under Criterion A, for association with an important event or trend. The Dorsey/Blunt estate was considered to fall under an agricultural context, but it fails to meet necessary benchmarks to support its significance as an agricultural property. A sizable number of large agricultural properties were located in the area at that time, and they all functioned similarly, with no defining extraordinary contribution from the Dorsey/Blunt estate. The property also was evaluated in relationship to the development of Germantown. Other property owners also held large portions of land at that time, and the transfer of property throughout time did not contribute to a systematic or organized planning endeavor.

The Woodbourne/Blunt House is not eligible under Criterion B, for association with significant persons. The property was evaluated in regard to the Dorsey family, a prominent family throughout Maryland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Harry (Henry) Dorsey did not make remarkable impacts on the presence or significant contributions of the Dorsey family. He is not noted as significant in a review of literature. The Blunt family was locally prominent, as was the Harry (Henry) Dorsey family, but none of the individual family members associated with the evaluated property meet this significance criterion.

The Woodbourne/Blunt House is eligible under Criterion C, for architectural significance. The farmhouse represents phases of construction throughout the period of significance. Despite a few minor alterations, a porch addition, and a reduction in the size of the farm property, the property meets eligibility criteria for its architectural importance. The property contains a distinctive example of an earlier log house that underwent substantial adaptation to become a Georgian style farmhouse in order to facilitate farm and family needs. The house was expanded in 1845, a time when Mid-Atlantic farmhouses were becoming more substantial as building materials became more easily accessible in rural areas. Houses from this period were often built in vernacular and modest, but distinct architectural styles like Georgian. This was a change from the modest log houses common until the early nineteenth century. While new farmhouses were constructed from the ground up, others, like the Woodbourne/Blunt House, were built around old log houses. Outbuildings are intact or the ruins of the buildings are still present on this property and exhibit original character defining features. The property effectively illustrates changing tastes, attitudes, and uses over a period of time.

The Woodbourne/Blunt House is not eligible under Criterion D, for information potential. Information regarding domestic practice could be obtained through archaeological investigation. However, this is not an outstanding property in regards to other significance criteria, and it exists as a property very similar to other farmhouses and properties in the area.

The Woodbourne/Blunt House is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, because it does not meet the applicable significance criteria necessary to make it eligible.

SOURCES

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Reviewer, National Register Program

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Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington Including the County of Montgomery, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1879.

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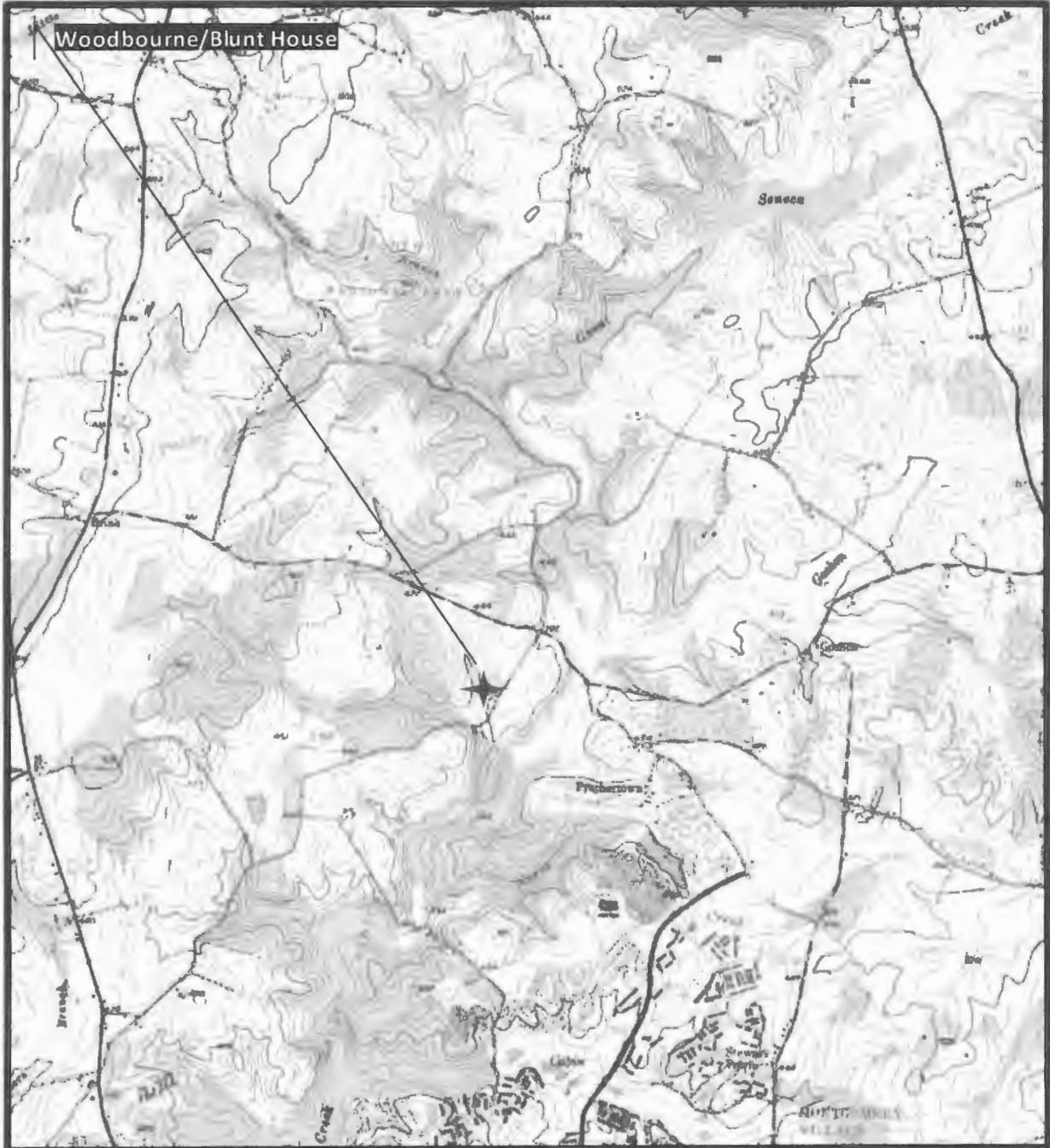
Woodbourne/Blunt House

Date: 5/17/13

M: 14-51

Location Map

Germantown, MD 20876



Gaithersburg, Maryland Quadrangle

7.5-Minute Series

0 1000 2000 4000



Feet



N





THE OLD BLUNT MANSION on Blunt Road, one of the historic homes still remaining in Montgomery County, is decked out in its spring finery of ivy, oak and dogwood. The center portion of the house, now faced in brick, is of log construction and was built sometime prior to 1845. The home and several hundred surrounding acres

have been in the possession of the Blunt family since Revolutionary War days. The Blunts were one of the most influential families in early Maryland and contributed significantly to the government and industry of Baltimore, Howard, Carroll and Montgomery Counties.

Montgomery County Historical Society. Woodbourne/Blunt House Files, 2013.

\*This newspaper clipping, with no known citation, was likely printed after 1960.

**Woodbourne/Blunt House**  
**M: 14-51**  
**Photo Log**  
Germantown, MD 20876

Date: 4/16/13  
Photographer: Suzanne Stasiulatis  
Camera: Nikon D80

Photo Number	Inventory Photograph Number	Direction Facing	Photo Location	Subject
1/3	M; 14-51_2013-05-16_01.tif	NW	Blunt Road	Woodbourne/Blunt House
2/3	M; 15-51_2013-05-16_02.tif	SW	Blunt Road	Woodbourne/Blunt House
3/3	M; 15-51_2013-05-16_03.tif	W	Blunt Road	Woodbourne/Blunt House Pasture

\*Photographs are printed on Hewlett Packard Premium Plus Photo Paper (glossy) with HP Vivera inks.



M: 14-51

Woodbourne/Blunt House

Montgomery County, MD

Suzanne Stasiulaks

5/16/13

MD SHPO

Facery north west from Blunt Road, viewing  
the Woodbourne/Blunt House

#13



M: 14-51

Woodbourne / Blunt House  
Montgomery County, MD

Suzanne Stasiulatis

5/16/13

MD SHPO

Facing southwest from Blunt Road, viewing  
the Woodbourne / Blunt House

2/3



M:14-51

Woodbourne / Blunt House

Montgomery County, MD

Suzanne Stasiulats

5/16/13

MD SHPO

Facing Waltham Blunt Road, viewing the  
Woodbourne / Blunt House pasture.

3/3

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name: Woodburn/Blunt House

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 14/51

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 7  
Coordinate K-11

4. Address: Blunt Road  
Germantown, Md.

5. Classification Summary

Category building  
Ownership private  
Public Acquisition N/A  
Status occupied  
Accessible no  
Present use private residence

Previous Survey Recording MNCPPC  
Title and Date: Historic Sites Inventory  
1976

Federal      State x County x Local     

6. Date: c. 1805

7. Original Owner: Richard Thomas?

8. Apparent Condition

a. good                      b. altered                      c. original site

9. Description: This unusual house grew from a two bay log house into its present eleven bay dimensions. Constructed of log, brick, and frame the house first expanded to the east and later to the west. There are two porches on the north elevation: one at the east end and a two story porch which links the house to its kitchen dependency. The house has six-over-six double-hung windows flanked by green wooden louvered shutters. The house has three gabled roofs; the extreme east and west roofs are covered by mossy wooden shingles; the center gable roof has asbestos shingles.

10. Significance: This large 19th century farmhouse is associated with the Dorsey and Blunt families. Richard Thomas owned a large tract of land near Goshen and may have built the first log section of this house for a tenant farmer. He left this land (known as "Thomas' Hog Pasture") to his sons Richard Jr. and William in 1806, who in turn sold it to Gerard Brooke, who eventually sold it to Harry W. Dorsey.

One of Harry's daughters, Harriet, married Samuel Blunt in 1818. Harry Dorsey left his lands in 1840 to Harriet and at her death to her children, specifying that Samuel Blunt was to have no part of the inheritance. Harriet's son William took over the Woodburn estate at the death of his mother. He was a prosperous farmer with a house to match his position. By this time the original log cabin had been added on to many times, the latest being a large brick section. William's influence extended beyond "Thomas' Hog Pasture" and into the County. He was a member of the Montgomery County Agricultural Association and a part of the committee organizing the centennial celebration for the County. In 1863 he was a County Commissioner.

William died around the turn of the century and his widow Elizabeth left the property to their children. Various Blunts owned at least a section of the estate until 1977 when the present owner purchased it.

11. Researcher and date researched: Donald M. Leavitt      July 1979

12. Compiler: Eileen McGuckian

13. Date Compiled: Sept. 1979

14. Designation Approval     

15. Acreage: 28.60 acres

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Woodburn/Blunt House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Blunt Road

CITY, TOWN Germantown VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8

STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery 20767

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 D. Sherman Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 520 E. 90th St.

CITY, TOWN New York VICINITY OF STATE, zip code New York 10029

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 4900  
Folio #: 4

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20850

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE 1976  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20855

# 7 DESCRIPTION

M. 11-51

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 unusual house grew from a two bay log house into its present eleven bay log, brick, and frame structure. The house originally faced south but is now approached from the north.

Built on fieldstone foundations the original two bay log structure was enlarged by the addition of an east brick two and a half story three bay wing and the original log section was covered by a brick veneer. On the north elevation it is possible to see where the brick veneer projects forward from the east three bays of the addition. A two story clapboard, three bay frame house was later added to the west of the house. The frame two story, three bay kitchen room has board and batten siding. It has access to the house through an enclosed porch on the north elevation of the frame west addition.

The north elevation has two porches: the east porch has a half-hipped roof supported by wooden posts. The west porch is a two story screened porch with a shed roof. It is enclosed by tongue and groove siding at the west end on the first level. There are three doors on the north elevation, one leading into the brick, one leading into the frame, and one leading into the kitchen dependency. All three are glass and wooden paneled doors. The south elevation has one porch located across the east (brick and log) section. This porch has a half hipped roof supported by chamfered posts. The south door has double wooden paneled doors surmounted by a four light transom.

There are six over six double hung windows flanked by green wooden louvered shutters. There are two gabled six over six double hung dormer windows on the north and south elevations. The gable roof above the brick (east) section has mossy wooden shingles; the gable roof above the clapboarded frame section (west) has asbestos shingles; the gable roof above the kitchen wing (west) has mossy wooden shingles. There are two interior chimneys, at the east gable ends of the brick and frame sections and there is one interior chimney above the kitchen wing.

The north (front) door opens into a central hallway that ends at the south door. East of the hall is the front parlor and west of the hall is the living room. West of the living room is the dining room. To the north of the dining room, at the northwest corner is a door way which leads into the enclosed porch. A door on the west wall of the porch leads into the kitchen.

The open string stairway in the central hall ascends from south to north. It has a simple square newel post, square balusters, and winder treads. The house has a combination of narrow and random width floors. The walls and ceilings are plaster over lath. A large hanging brass lamp with a frosted globe is suspended from the hall ceiling. The kitchen has built-in cabinets, tongue and groove wainscoting and a large iron wood burning stove. There are wooden paneled doors.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      c. 1805                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Richard Thomas (?)

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Woodburn/Blunt House is a large 19th century farm house which is associated with the Dorsey and Blunt families, two of the oldest in the County.

Richard Thomas owned a large tract of land outside of the town of Goshen. He lived in the Olney/Sandy Spring area, but may have built the first log section of this house for a tenant farmer. He is known to have been a builder. He left this tract of land, known by the appealing name of "Thomas' Hog Pasture", to his sons, Richard Jr. and William, in 1806.<sup>1</sup> They in turn sold it to Gerard Brooke,<sup>2</sup> who eventually sold the property to Harry Woodward Dorsey in two sections.<sup>3</sup> One of Harry's daughters, Harriet, married Samuel Blunt in 1818. Whether Samuel was ne'er-do-well or was the victim of a resentful father-in-law is not known; at any rate Harry did everything in his power to see that his estate and goods did not come into Samuel's hands. Any land transaction involving Harriet also bore a disclaimer to Samuel's right to the property. In his last will and testament Harry left all his lands in Montgomery County to Harriet and at her death to her children. He specifically stated that Samuel was to have no part of the land.<sup>4</sup>

Harriet's son William took over the Woodburn estate at the death of his mother. He was a prosperous farmer with a house to match his position. By this time the original log cabin had been added onto many times, the latest being a large brick section. William's influence extended beyond "Thomas' Hog Pasture" and into the County. He was a member of the Montgomery County Agricultural Association and a part of the committee organizing the centennial celebration for the County. In 1863 he was a County Commissioner.

William died around the turn of the century and his widow Elizabeth left the property to their children. Various Blunts owned at least a section of the estate until 1977 when the present owner purchased it.

**FOOTNOTES:**

1. Wills of Montgomery County, Md., E/340 (February 15, 1806).
2. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., N/279 (June 6, 1807).
3. Ibid., #/15 (October 15, 1814); T/126 (April 26, 1816).
4. Will Records, op. cit., W/450 (April 7, 1840).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

M: 14-51

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land and Will Records of Montgomery County, Md.  
U.S. Census Records.  
Scharf, Thomas J., History of Western Maryland. Vol. 1, Philadelphia:  
Lewis H. Everts, 1882.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 28.60 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located west side of Blunt Road, .3 miles from Brink

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	Donald M. Leavitt	Candy Reed
ORGANIZATION	Sugarloaf Regional Trails	Architectural Description
STREET & NUMBER	Box 87	July 1979
CITY OR TOWN	Dickerson	926-4510
		STATE
		Maryland 20753

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 Sun House, 21 State Circle~~  
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~  
~~(301) 277-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Sugarloaf  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510



M:14-51

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house was originally a two bay log house which has had a three bay brick addition on the east end, at which time the log end was bricked over. A two bay frame addition (sheathed with clapboards) on the west end, was subsequently added to connect the house with the board-and-batten sheathed kitchen. The present facade has a central doorway with double doors below a four light transom. The brickwork is Flemish bond, with wooden lintels over the 6/6 double hung sash windows. The three central bays are covered by a one story porch. On the west end, the chimney is external with gable end clapboarded. On the east end the chimney is flush gable.

In plan, the house has a central hall and flanking parlors. The staircase rises on the south side of the hall. The east room has a chairrail and fireplace with a columned surround supporting a shelf. The west room has a simpler fireplace. The second floor has a room over the east room and another over the west room slightly narrower than the room below. Across the facade there is a narrow room. From the west room an enclosed staircase rises to the attic. The west addition has two rooms above; the kitchen has two rooms above.

The attic has rafters with mortise, tenon and pegged rafters. There are two dormers that have been cut through the front facade.

There is a barn with a stone foundation and framed above. Next to it is a log two story building that was a dairy on the ground floor and a school room above. It is two bays with a gabled entrance to the dairy. The spring still flows through the spring house. There is a log tenant house with a stone chimney base and brick stack on the west end.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M.14-51

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Empty box for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Large empty box for Acreage Justification.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: MNCPPC

DATE: 24 Oct 74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:  
 National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated August 15, 1989

ACTION TAKEN

This amendment recommends 18 historic resources throughout Montgomery County for historic designation and protection under the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code. It also recommends that 4 other resources be found not to warrant historic designation and that they be removed from the Locational Atlas and from further protection under the Ordinance.

18 historic resources recommended for historic designation and protection:

- M: 10-52 Charles Browning Farm
- M: 10-57 Zeigler Log House
- M: 12-11 Frederick Hayes House
- M: 12-36 Oak Ridge/Eleven Brothers
- M: 14-51 Woodburn/Blunt House
- M: 16-1 Trundle Farm
- M: 16-12 Warren M.E. Church and Martinsburg Negro School
- M: 16/26 Nathan Dickerson Poole House/River View
- M: 23-41 Musgrove/Hobbs/Gaither House
- M: 23-47 Pleasant View
- M: 23-84/1 Ellicott Mine
- M: 25-8 Mt. Prospect
- M: 25-10/1 Travilah Town Hall
- M: 29/9 Dr. Willett House
- M: 29-19 Joseph Magruder House (Offutt House)
- M: 33-1 Drumeldra
- M: 34-10 Conley House/Green Ridge
- M: 36-3 Rock Creek Stables/Old Callahan Estate

4 resources to be removed from Locational Atlas.

- M: 25-19 Semmes Farm
- M: 37-1 Waterworks Site/Sligo Creek
- M: 37-2 Presidents' Tree
- M: 28-34 Mt. Pleasant II

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated April 25, 1989

ACTION TAKEN

This document contains the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission's recommendations on the designation of twenty-two (22) historic resources throughout Montgomery County. Twenty-one resources are recommended for historic designation and protection under the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code. One resource is not recommended for designation.

SITES RECOMMENDED

M: 10/52	Charles Browning Farm
M: 10/57	Zeigler Log House
M: 12/11	Frederick Hayes House
M: 12/36	Oak Ridge/Eleven Brothers
M: 14/51	Woodburn/Blunt House
M: 16/1	Trundle Farm
M: 16/12	Warren E.M. Church and associated bldgs.
M: 16/26	Nathan Dickerson Poole House/River View
M: 23/41	Musgrove/Hobbs/Gaither House
M: 23/47	Pleasant View
M: 23/84-1	Ellicott Mine
M: 25/8	Mount Prospect
M: 25/10-1	Travilah Town Hall
M: 28/34	Mount Pleasant II/Esther Scott House
M: 29/9	Dr. Willett House
M: 29/19	Joseph Magruder House
M: 33/1	Drumeldra
M: 34/10	Conley House
M: 36/03	Rock Creek Stables/Old Callahan Estate
M: 37/01	Waterworks Site/Sligo Creek
M: 37/02	The President's Tree

NOT RECOMMENDED

M: 25/19 Semmes Farm



M#14-51

NAME WOODBURN (BLUNT HOUSE)

LOCATION BLUNT Rd GOSHEN, Md.

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 10/24/74 M DWYER



M #14-51

NAME      WOODBURN (BLUNT HOUSE)  
LOCATION                      - LOG SCHOOLHOUSE ON FARM  
FACADE      E      BLUNT Rd GOSHEN, Md  
PHOTO TAKEN      10/24/74 MDWYER