NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name: Broom's Bloom

other names/site number: HA-1075

2. Location

street & number: 1616 South Fountain Green Road — N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town: Bel Air — ☒ vicinity

state: Maryland code: MD county: Harford code: 025 zip code: 21014

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☒ private	☒ building(s)	2	5 buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district	1	sites
☐ public-State	☐ site		structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure		objects
	☐ object	3	5 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER — Date: 10/28/91

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling	DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure	DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding	AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD
STUCCO & SHINGLE
roof SHINGLE
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Broom's Bloom is a two-story, frame and rubblestone, gable-roofed house, partially stuccoed and partially shingled, whose four distinct and discernable periods of growth, from c.1747 to c.1950, have resulted in an uneven fenestration pattern and an L-plan. The oldest section is largest and dominant; dating from the 1740s it is four bays by two, has a hall and parlor plan, and measures approximately thirty-six by twenty feet beneath a gable roof with the long facades facing north and south. Each room has exterior doors on both north and south facades; each room also has a gable-end, brick-lined stone fireplace with simple wooden mantle; each room is further enriched by original simple chairrails; the larger west room (hall) has an enclosed winder stair south of the chimney and the entire fireplace wall has original fielded panelling similar, in form and in execution, to panelling in another Harford County house firmly dated to the 1740s period. There is a two-story, c.1845 frame wing to the west which contains one room per floor and whose gable roof continues the roofline and slopes of the older section, but is slightly lower. That room's simple interior trim was destroyed in a 1990 fire. A one-story, shed-roofed porch was added to the south facade when the new room was built; its classically-influenced chamfered posts are though to be original. To the north of the 1740s parlor is a c.1850, two-story, stuccoed-rubblestone, simply-finished kitchen wing; there is an enclosed chimney in the north end of the kitchen; the large fireplace has no mantle, but has what is thought to be its original hardware (crane, etc.). The kitchen fills the northern two-thirds of this wing and the balance is given over to a stairhall with an open double-flight stair. Twentieth-century owners added a small, frame entrance/laundry room and a bathroom adjacent and west of the kitchen wing. Adjacent to the stream is a one-story, rubblestone, 18th-century springhouse. There is a small family cemetery, with graves dating to the mid 18th century, at the northeast corner of the property. Five modern farm buildings (a tractor shed, corn crib, etc.) are west of the house and do not contribute to the property's significance.

[X] See continuation sheet No. 1
For GENERAL DESCRIPTION

8. Statement of Significance HA-1075

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
ARCHITECTURE	c.1747-c.1850	c.1747
		c.1845
		c.1850

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Broom's Bloom, begun c.1747 by the locally prominent Webster family and continuously owned by direct descendants of the original builder and land patentee, is significant for its architecture. Added onto by succeeding generations of the Webster-Dallam family, the original portion of Broom's Bloom is still the largest and dominant section of the house and is a superior and exceptionally intact example of a vernacular building form popular in Harford County among the area's prosperous second- and third-generation planters and industrialists. A figurative handful--four--of such houses survive in the county; similar in scale, plan, and detail, these structures all date to the same decade (the 1740s) and comprise the oldest documented group of buildings in the county. The other members of this group have already been listed in the National Register and none surpasses Broom's Bloom in amount of surviving original material; further, none can match Broom's Bloom's history of single-family ownership and occupation. There have been three principal additions to the house; two of these (executed c.1845 and c.1850) possess their own historic importance and the third (c.1950) is small in scale, utilitarian in nature, and does not compromise the house's integrity. Also located on the nominated acreage, and adding to the resource's importance, are an 18th-century springhouse and what is the oldest known family cemetery (with graves dating back to 1759) in Harford County. The nineteenth century additions are reflective of the conservative nature of Harford County architecture. Existing houses were added to rather than extensively remodeled resulting in clear pictures of the growth history of the building. The cemetery contains the earliest known grave stones in the county.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 15
For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

9. Major Bibliographical References

[X] See continuation sheet No. 36

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [X] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # MD-13-BELA.V.3
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:
- [ ] State historic preservation office
- [X] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [X] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 120 acres

USGS Quad: Bel Air, Maryland

JTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	389400	4374740
B	18	390130	4374180
C	18	389330	4373740
D	18	389130	4374080

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area consists of parcel 103 on State Tax Assessment maps numbers 50 and 57 for Harford County.

[X] See continuation sheet No. 37

Boundary Justification

[X] See continuation sheet No. 38

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher Weeks, Preservation Planner
organization Department of Planning and Zoning date August 1991
street & number 220 S. Main Street telephone (301)838-6000
city or town Bel Air state Maryland zip code 21014

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Broom's Bloom is a two-story, frame and rubblestone farmhouse built about twenty feet west of Fountain Green Road and a small, south-flowing tributary of Bynum Run which pass through the property near its eastern border. The 120-acre property is located in the flat central section of Harford County, Maryland, about five miles southeast of the county seat, Bel Air. The house was begun shortly after Isaac Webster received a 265-acre patent in 1747; that acreage was divided in 1817 when John Adams Webster (born at Broom's Bloom and a grandson of Isaac) shaved off the patent's southernmost 120 acres to build his house, Mount Adams (National Register). Both Mount Adams and Broom's Bloom are, however, still owned by direct descendants of Isaac Webster; both are also working farms and their buildings, fields, and woods represent some of the last agricultural acreage in a landscape which is rapidly becoming suburban. Specimen white oak, catalpa, red maple, and locust trees shade the house on the northwest and south and a few ancient boxwood bushes (thought to have been taken from Webster's Forest, a tract patented by Isaac's father, John, who died in 1753) sprawl near the house's southeast corner. An array of modern (and noncontributing) farm buildings are clustered west of the house; a derelict but historically significant stone springhouse is approximately fifty feet east of the house, across Fountain Green Road (State Route 543) and adjacent a small tributary of Bynum Run called Webster's Branch.

The partially stuccoed and partially shingled house grew in four distinct and discernable stages from the 1740s to c.1940; this has resulted in a seemingly-random pattern of window and door placement and in a plan which is surprisingly compact despite its L shape.

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The oldest or c. 1747 section is a thirty-six by twenty foot, two-story frame unit whose gable roofline runs east-west and whose two unequal-sized rooms have a hall and parlor plan. Broom's Bloom's plan is similar to three other Harford County houses known to date from the 1740s period (Joshua's Meadows, Woodview, and the Griffith-Wright House, all National Register) and all suggest a two-story version of Henry Glassie's two-room, Mid-Atlantic "British Cabin" folk house.[1]

There is a fully-excavated, two-room cellar beneath this section. From the cellar, entered from the east, one can observe the two rooms' floor joists and tie beams which are executed unfashioned white oak (quercus alba) and Atlantic coast white cedar (chamalcyparis thyoides), both native trees commonly used in furniture-making in Maryland. The "whitewashed half-hewn trees [are used] as common joists that run north to south the [entire] ...width of the rooms; they are mortised into the oak ground sills....The peg in the squared beams of the east wall of room B [the hall] indicated a diagonal brace into a post of the north wall....Besides the double squared-off beams that divide the parlor from the hall, the only other finished support is the tie beam in room B that has notches cut out to receive the random width floor boards....These floor boards are original in the hall but have been replaced in room A [the parlor]. Room A does not have a tie beam, but all oak-tree joists."[2]

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

The hall is to the west and the parlor is to the east. Window and door placement was originally identical on both the north and south facades; that on the south facade is unchanged and reads, from west to east, window-door-door-window; a c. 1850 addition (see below) has caused the north facade's easternmost window to be walled over. There were three evenly-spaced windows on the second story of both north and south facades; the resulting tension between the four-bay ground stories and the three-bay second stories has been much discussed by historians, architects, and folklorists.[3] The second-story north window has been covered by the 1850s addition. All openings were and existing openings are in alignment, that is, the doors and windows in the north facade line up with their counterparts on the south. This clearly intentional alignment of windows and doors in a folk-style house may also be seen in Harford County at the hall-and-parlor Joshua's Meadows (National Register) a brick house which also dates to the 1740s; one difference between the two structures is that Joshua's Meadows has three bays on both stories and on both main facades, and thus avoids the above-mentioned tension between three and four bays seen at Broom's Bloom.

Samuel Webster, a son of the builder, Isaac, was a tanner[4] and owned Broom's Bloom from his father's death in 1759 until his own death in 1817. (See also Significance section.) "Samuel Webster, Tanner," is cited in the 1798 tax list as owning a "dwelling" of unspecified dimensions and material and "3 outhouses" with a total assessment for land and improvements of $934.[5] This seemingly low figure is consistent with other assessments of nearby properties (see Significance section.) In 1814

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"Samuel Webster, Tanner" was assessed for 275 acres "1 house of wood 32 x 20, 1 barn, wood, 4 old outhouses" and a total value of $2,200. Those thirty-two by twenty dimensions line up nicely with those of the old, frame section of the extant Broom's Bloom.

Window trim, sash, and moldings at Broom's Bloom seem to be early 19th-century replacements and possibly date to the first known (c. 1845) remodeling of the house, a remodeling by and for the property's then owner, Josephine Webster Dallam, one of Samuel Webster's grandchildren. Most doors appear to date from the 18th century and may be original to the house's first stage of construction; the north door in the hall and the south door in the parlor are identical in form with six panels while the six-panel door at the most formal entrance (on the hall's south facade) has "butt hinges...marked 'E. & T. CLARKE', an English hardware exporting firm."[6] The south door in the hall seems to date to the 19th century.

The gable ends of the original house are marked by stone and brick chimneys; that serving the parlor (to the east) is an outside end chimney while that serving the hall was built inside the end wall. Sometimes called an "inconsistency"[7] this is merely a result of the relative formality of the two rooms: the fireplace in the less formal parlor is simply flanked by windows while in the more formal hall the hearth was built in so it could be flanked by built-in cupboards and a closeted, winder staircase with a four-panel door. Both mantels are identical to each other (and to the one in the second-story west room) and are probably original to the 1740s.

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

Interior trim underscores the rooms' hierarchy: both rooms have simple 18th-century mantels and chairrail; neither room has a cornice but the hall boasts a full, fielded panel fireplace wall--"the most interesting detail of the interior....[and] by far the earliest thing in the house...[with] hand plane marks on several surfaces." Sometimes criticized for being "ill suited for the space"[8] the c. 1747 fielded panelling on Broom's Bloom's hall fireplace wall reflects the pre-classical ethos of early and mid Harford County. The few known surviving contemporary examples of Harford County joinery underscore this: the Griffith-Wright House (National Register) near Aberdeen was built c. 1745 by the prominent John Hall, who owned 4,000 acres of Bay frontage and served as sheriff of Baltimore County (Harford wasn't separated from Baltimore County until 1773) from 1719 to 1722 and again from 1734 to 1736. Hall's house is identical in plan and scale to Broom's Bloom (see Significance), down to (in the words of the National Register nomination) the "quirked" panelling on the Hall house's hall fireplace wall--"dramatically out-of-level and..apparently...built in that condition."[9] Similar transitional (semi-folk, semi-classical) woodwork may also be seen at the stair from the house sometimes called Fanny's Inheritance,[10] built by the Dallam family about 1750 about two miles south of the Griffith-Wright House and demolished when the Aberdeen Proving Ground came to Harford County in 1917; the stair was saved and is now in the American Wing of the Baltimore Museum of Art. A generation later Harford countians will evince more mastery of classicism and will execute less "quirked" and "ill-suited" panelling, most notably at another Hall house, the 1760s Sophia's Dairy (National Register).[11] Broom's Bloom was damaged by fire in February 1990; the panelling was saved and removed and is being replaced as the house is being restored.

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Dr. William Dallam and Josephine Webster were married in Broom's Bloom's parlor in 1843, purchased Broom's Bloom from the heirs of Samuel Webster in 1844, and made two additions: a two-story frame section to the west (c. 1845) and a new stone kitchen wing perpendicular to the old parlor in the 1850s. (Mrs. Dallam was born Josephine Webster, a daughter of John Adams Webster of Mount Adams and a great-granddaughter of Isaac Webster, Broom's Bloom's builder.)

The frame addition was built west of and onto the hall. It contains one room per floor beneath a gable roof; the roof generally continues the same pitch and profile as the original section's roof, but is approximately six inches lower. This roof, like the roof in the original section, is and probably always has been covered in shingles fashioned from the same variety of white cedar used in the house's framing and still visible in the cellar.

The ground story room in the c. 1845 addition was heated by a stove built into the existing chimney; much of the room's simple trim was destroyed in the 1990 fire but several window frames seem original and intact. (A new set of triple windows was added to the room's west facade in 1991; they were carefully fashioned, in scale and material, to be in keeping with existing fenestration.) The new room, joined to the hall by a door north of the fireplaces, has an original exterior door of its own on its south facade; there are also two windows (intact) in the room's south facade and one on the north; the second-story room has one window on all three exposed facades. As a result, window and door rhythm on the main or south facade reads, from west to

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

east, as follows on the ground floor: window-door-window-window-door-door-window while the four second-story windows are evenly spaced across the south facade.

It has been suggested that "to...compensate for this unbalanced facade a front porch was added"[12] when the new room was built. The motivation for the one-story porch, which spans the entire south facade, is unclear but structurally it does seem to be contemporaneous with the western addition. It retains its original, classically-influenced, regularly-spaced chamfered wooden posts; the posts, carefully placed at every nine feet, create a balance and symmetry for the porch but interestingly bear no relation to window and door placement on the ground story or to window placement on the second story. Something similar (but on a larger scale) may be seen at Mount Adams (National Register) built by John Adams Webster, a grandson of the builder of Broom's Bloom: John A. Webster began Mount Adams c. 1817 (giving it a ground-story rhythm of window-door-door-window that was identical to Broom's Bloom's) and added a two-bay room to the west c. 1850; he also added a two-story simplified Greek Revival porch across the entire facade that "does much to unify the otherwise rambling house in that it minimizes the irregular roofline and hides the unusual bay rhythm," as is discussed in Mount Adams's nomination to the National Register.

Broom's Bloom's idiosyncratic wall treatment also probably dates to the c. 1845 additions. The house, as noted, is frame. It may have been entirely stuccoed originally[13] and the entire ground floor of the original section and half of the second story are still stuccoed; the other half, however, is covered in beaded weatherboarding with a surface coating of cedar shingles. The entire new (c.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

1845) wing is sheathed in beaded weatherboards (which run continuously into those on the second story of the original section) to which cedar shingles were applied at an unknown but early date. (The wall coverings--stucco and shingles--clearly show in a c. 1890 photograph of the house and are identical to those present today [1991].) It has been suggested that the owners began to replace the stucco on the old house when the new wing was added but, for unknown reasons, didn't complete the job.[14] The entire north side of the house (the c. 1747 section and the c. 1845 wing) is covered in beaded weatherboards with a surface coat of cedar shingles.

The original 1740s kitchen is thought to have been in a free-standing dependency placed to the north of the parlor. By the mid 19th century this was proving unappealing and around 1850, according to family tradition, a new kitchen was built adjacent and attached to the old frame house. It was given stone and plastered walls of sufficient thickness (approximately one foot six inches) to keep "the sparks away from the framed house and the fireplace [in the new kitchen] was [and is] at the farthest north end of the house."[15] Entry was gained to the old parlor (by the 1850s the dining room) by the room's original door. The stone addition also contains, between the kitchen and the dining room, a stair hall with an open string stair to augment the old, c. 1747, winder stair in the original hall. (As was the case with the south porch, the Webster-Dallam family's decision to add a new, open stair at Broom's Bloom in 1850 was paralleled by John Adams Webster's decision to add a new, open stair at his adjacent property, Mount Adams; J.A. Webster, however, removed the original, winder stair when the open stair was installed, while the Dallams retained the old stair at Broom's Bloom. See Mount Adams nomination to the National Register.) The

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

kitchen was--and is--simply finished; it still retains its original mantleless fireplace and iron hardware (crane, etc.).

Post-World-War-II owners have added modern plumbing and electricity to Broom's Bloom; they have also added a small, shed-roofed, frame entrance/laundry room and bathroom west of but adjacent to the 1850 kitchen wing.

Since Broom's Bloom was begun c. 1747, its owners, always members of the Webster-Dallam family, have continuously farmed its acreage and have built a succession of outbuildings to meet their agrarian needs. Some of the buildings fell into disrepair and were replaced; some were replaced by more up-to-date structures (for example the c. 1850 replacement of the original kitchen); some were replaced as crops or trades shifted. Samuel Webster, a son of the builder, Isaac, was born in 1746 and owned Broom's Bloom from is father's death in 1759 until his own death in 1817; a tanner, his acreage was improved by "outbuildings" of no specific value (or description) in the 1798 tax list and by "1 barn, wood and 4 old outhouses" in the 1814 tax list. The only surviving outbuilding which contributes to the historic value of the resource is a small, rubblestone springhouse (presumably 18th-century and now in disuse and in need of some repair) located to the east, across Maryland Route 543, of the old section of the house; several modern farm buildings (a corn crib, tractor shed, and so on) have been built west of the house but neither add to nor diminish the resource's integrity and importance.

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

There is a small family cemetery in the woods at the northwest corner of the property. Probably the oldest family cemetery in Harford County, with stones dating back to the mid 18th century, it is now (1991) in the course of restoration. Among the cemetery's more notable monuments are those of Isaac Webster (Broom's Bloom's builder, who died in 1759), his son Samuel (died 1817), and his grandson John Adams Webster (died 1877).

1. Henry Glassie, Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968), pp. 48-49, 52-53.

2. Jane Webb Smith, "Broom's Bloom: Choices Unmade," unpublished typescript; copies in files of the Maryland Historical Trust in Annapolis and the Harford County Planning and Zoning Department, Bel Air.

3. See, for example, Smith, "Broom's Bloom," pp. 14-16, as well as the Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Survey Forms for Broom's Bloom (HA-1075) prepared by Jean Ewing c. 1970 and revised by Susan Deeney in 1977.

4. See the 1814 tax rolls as well as Harford County deeds HD K/111 and HD K/147 (dated 1788) which refer to Samuel Webster, Tanner.

5. Along with three slaves and 308 acres for a total assessment of $943.

6. Smith, "Broom's Bloom," p. 16.

7. Smith, "Broom's Bloom," p. 9.

8. Smith, "Broom's Bloom," pp. 16-17.

9. James T. Wollon, AIA, and Patricia Massey Reveley, Griffith-Wright House nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

10. Also known as Cranberry, to distinguish it from Cranberry Hall, which is the historically correct name of the house called the

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

Griffith-Wright House. Conversation between Josephine Webster Dallam II and Christopher Weeks, August 23, 1991.

11. See William Voss Elder, III, Period Rooms in the Baltimore Museum of Art, (Baltimore: Baltimore Museum of Art, 1990).

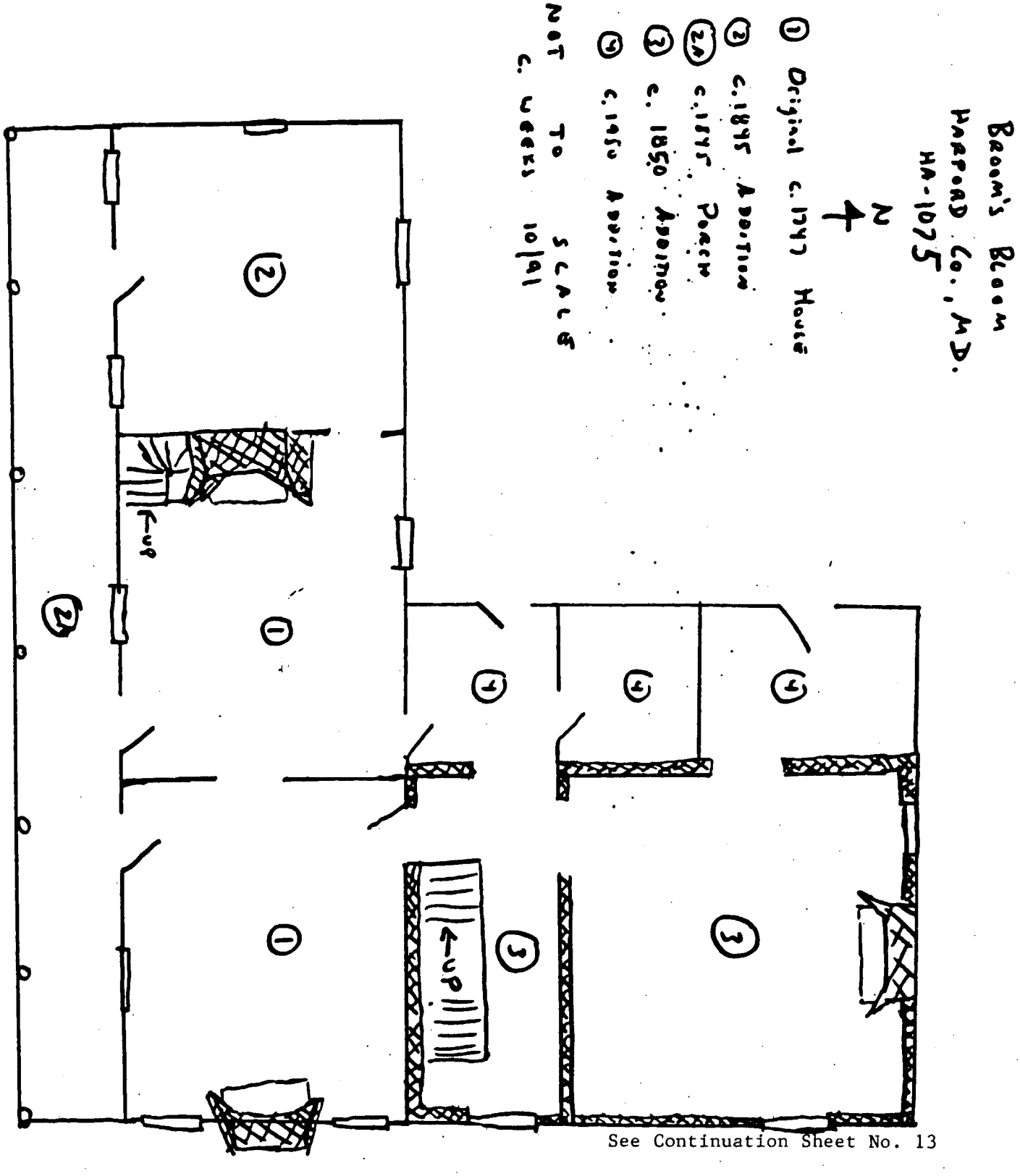
12. Smith, "Broom's Bloom," p. 15.

13. As is suggested in Smith, "Broom's Bloom," p. 11.

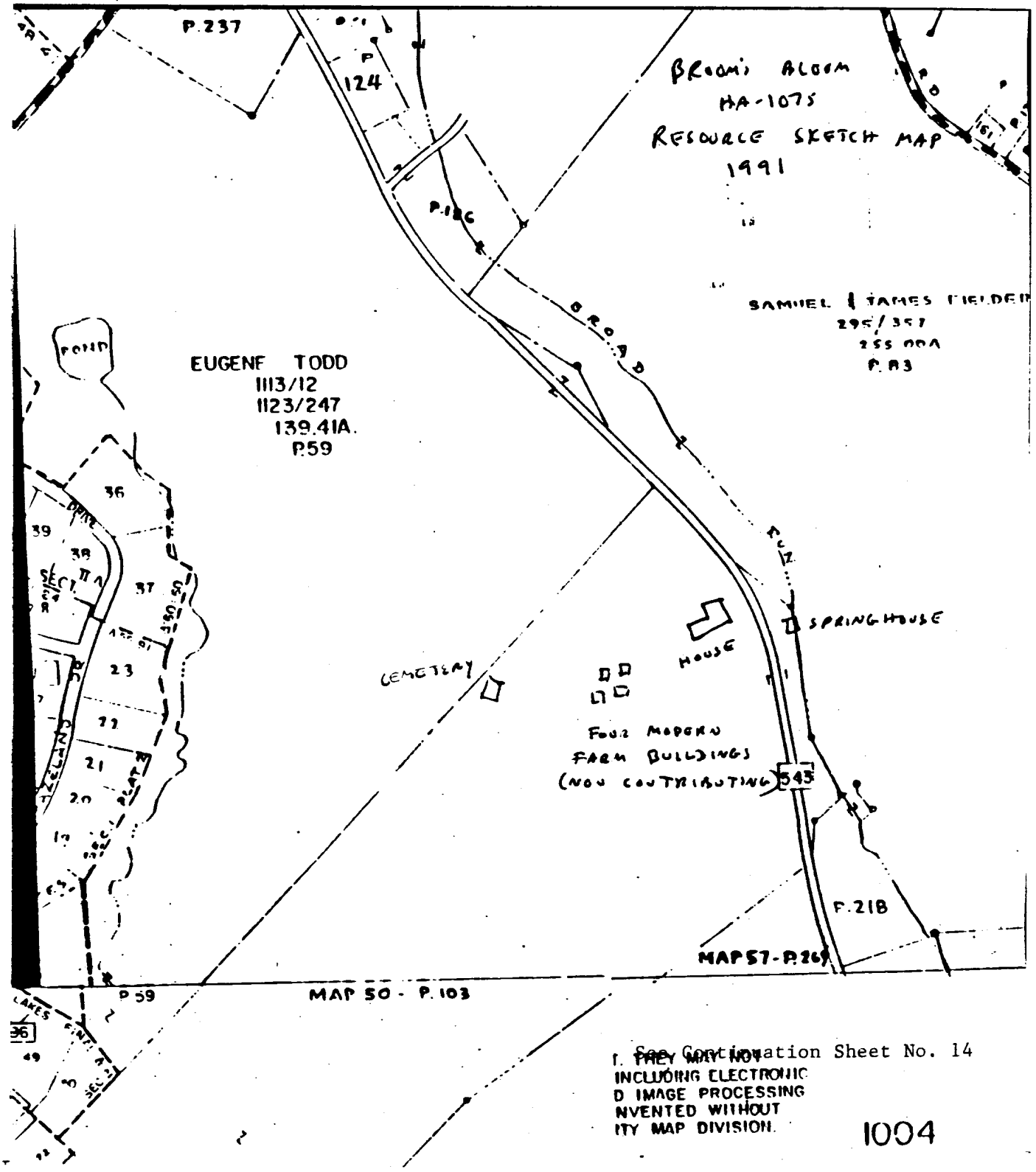
14. Why they stopped is unknown but many have offered unsatisfactory theories; Smith in her "Broom's Bloom" observes that "none of these conjectures will ever be compatible with the knowledge that the Websters could have afforded a few more feet of weatherboard so that at least one conflict would have been resolved," p. 15.

15. Smith, "Broom's Bloom," p. 17.

See Continuation Sheet No. 12



See Continuation Sheet No. 13



See Continuation Sheet No. 14

I. THEY MAY NOT
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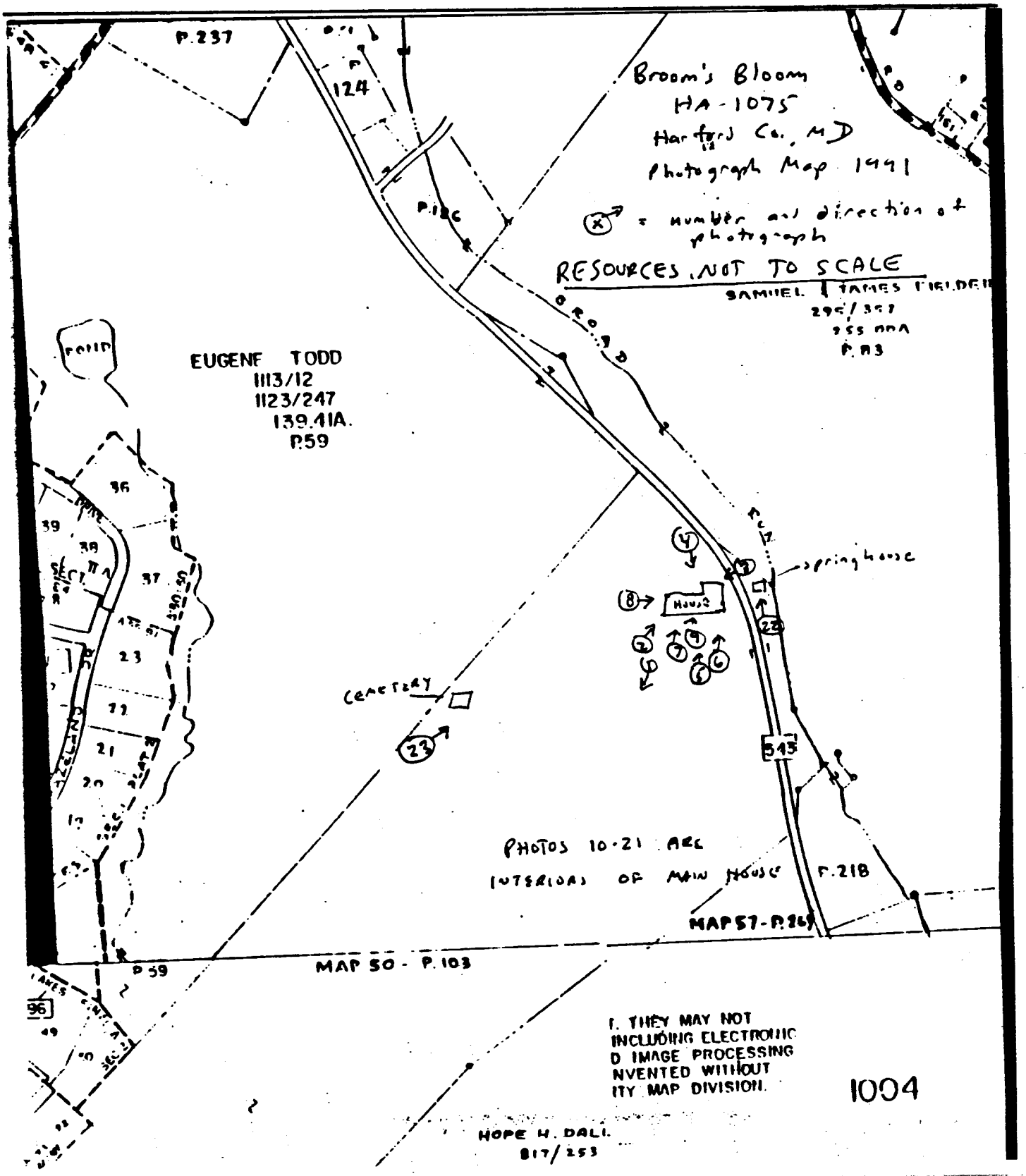

T. THEY MAY NOT
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HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Rural Agrarian Intensification, 1680-1815;

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1825-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning;

Agriculture

Resource Type: Architecture:
rural vernacular; standing structure

Agriculture:
small family farmstead

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: rural agricultural area

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): domestic; agriculture

Known Design Source: unknown

See Continuation Sheet No. 16

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Harford County, Maryland, sits at the head of the Chesapeake Bay, whose waters (with their broad, tidal tributaries) form the county's southern boundary. English colonists explored the area in the early 17th-century (John Smith is known to have sailed up the Susquehanna River--which forms Harford's eastern boundary--in 1608) and the lords Baltimore were granting patents for land in the county by 1658. The first two county seats (Old Baltimore, seat from 1669 until 1691) and Gunpowder (1691 to 1709) were located on two of these tidal estuaries (the Bush and Gunpowder rivers respectively) and for a half-century settlement in Harford would remain entirely clustered along the county's aqueous borders.

In fact historians have observed that "nothing of especial interest occurred"[1] in Harford's inland reaches at that time and that "much of the region inland was not known to white men until well after 1700."[2] This is true notwithstanding the fact that the Calvert family had granted substantial tracts of inland acreage throughout the 17th century; lands in the Bynum and James run valleys, which meander northerly from the headwaters of the Bush River and expand to fill the central reaches of the county from present day Bel Air to Churchville and Calvary, were freely distributed at this time, particularly in the 1680s, a decade that saw the granting of roughly 20 patents for

See Continuation Sheet No. 17

10,000 acres along Bynum and James run. Most of the central part of the Bynum Run Valley was filled with four contiguous patents: Sedgely (200 acres for James Phillips in 1683), Christopher's Camp (1,000 acres for Christopher Banes, 1684), Best Endeavor (1,000 acres for Thomas Lytfoot, 1686), and Broom's Bloom (1,000 acres for John Broome, 1685).

It is probably best to assume that the owners of these 1680s patents regarded the tracts as speculative ventures. While the acreages were granted, they remained, for a generation or two, terra incognita and there is not one iota of evidence to suggest that any of the tracts' 17th-century owners ever built anything on them or even hacked their ways through the forests to visit them. Indeed, the cavalier manner in which these patented lands were sold, subdivided, and sold again suggests how little their owners knew (or cared) about their holdings: John Broome (about whom nothing is known) apparently died and left Broom's Bloom to a daughter, Henrietta Broome Easterling, who in 1711 sold 500 acres of it to a London-based English merchant named Peregrine Brown; eight years later (when she was called Mrs. Thomas Howe) she sold the other 500 acres to one William Smith.[3] Surveys for these transactions, if they were made at all, contain only the vaguest sort of directions and dimensions and the acreages specified--1,000 and 500 and 500 exactly--do not suggest precision. The original patents themselves were imprecise and their overlapping boundaries would cause confusion for owners throughout the 18th century. (In the 1890s Harford County lawyer and amateur historian George W. Archer platted these Bynum Run patents, apparently with high hopes of getting a clearly delineated map; what he got was as clearly delineated as a plate of overcooked spaghetti.[4])

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All this changed towards the turn of the 18th century; the more accessible waterfront had been claimed and built on, leaving newly arrived colonists (or ambitious, younger sons of the Tidewater settlers) no choice but to look inland and the "land along water courses...gradually extending up into the forests"[5] began to be taken up, cleared, and farmed in the years around 1700.

One such settler was John Webster (1667-1753), founder of "one of the oldest and most honored of local families",[6] who had a tract called Webster's Forest surveyed in 1696 and patented in 1704.[7] Webster "belonged to the Bush River Friends Meeting, and was appointed a delegate to the Nottingham Monthly Meeting in 1730. Webster testified in 1740 when the commissioners appointed to resolve the boundary dispute between Maryland and Pennsylvania met in nearby Joppa";[8] according to one tradition, repeated when the house was listed in the National Register, it was John Webster who "probably"[9] began the stone house still called Webster's Forest, although no reputable source ventures a specific date for the house and, indeed, some family members believe that it was one of John Webster's sons, Samuel Webster I, who built the house.[10]

John Webster married Hannah Butterworth and the couple's five children include Samuel Webster I, Isaac Webster I, and Hannah Webster. Daughter Hannah would marry Jacob Giles, an important land-owner in Harford County (in 1733 he was a co-purchaser from Dr. Charles Carroll of Annapolis of the 5,340-acre Deer Creek tract Arabia Petrea) and one of Maryland's early industrialists (he co-founded Cumberland Forge on Deer Creek in 1749). On John Webster's

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death he left the Webster's Forest property to son Samuel (1710-1786, a tobacco inspector at Joppa whose marriage to Elizabeth Dallam in 1726 begins several generations of Dallam and Webster intermarriage); in item four of his will, on file in the Maryland Hall of Records, John left son Isaac "Sedgely which lies on the west side of B----[somewhat illegible; presumably Bynum] Run and all of Best Endeavor on the west side of said run." The small, divisionary branch of Bynum Run is called Webster's Branch.

Isaac Webster I (? - 1759) devoted his life to buying and selling real estate, to farming, and to the county's industrial development. It was he who was the co-purchaser (with his brother-in-law) of the 5,340 acres of Arabia Petrea; Webster and Giles bought several other tracts (Upton's Court, 200 acres, 1732; Neighborhood, 734 acres, 1735; Stone Hill, 352 acres, 1735; and Giles' and Webster's Discovery, 919 acres, 1735) many of which they subdivided and sold (100 acres in 1741, 69 in 1742, 30 in 1749, 247 in 1749, 50 in 1754, 261 in 1754, etc.). He also owned a house and lot in the thriving port community Charlestown in Cecil County. In 1746 Webster, with his brother-in-law Giles and with John Hall (whose house near Aberdeen will be discussed below) incorporated the Bush River Iron Works, "an important center near Bush [on present day Route 7]...[which] in addition to the iron furnace and shops...had extensive land holdings, including [a]...gristmill."[11]

Isaac Webster also tried to clarify the boundaries of the James Run/Bynum Run tracts. In 1747 Charles, Lord Baltimore, issued a patent to Webster for 265 acres they decided to call Webster's Inspections; Webster, the patent explains, "hath due him" these 265 acres partially "by virtue of a

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warrant" dating to 1745, partially for lands reassigned; the metes and bounds description is still vague.[12] Then in 1759 Frederick, Lord Baltimore, tried again to explain the history of Webster's Inspection, land "above the head of Bush River." The land had been granted by previous lords Baltimore, but had, for various reasons, "escheated"; Webster "discovered this said escheatment and hath caused the lands" to be resurveyed. The survey began "at a white oak ...near Binam's [sic] Run."[13] Through these and many other such deeds and patents, Webster eventually acquired secure ownership of most of the acreage in the Bynum Run Valley, all those acres and parts of all those tracts--Sedgely, Best Endeavor, Christopher's Camp, and 100 acres of Broom's Bloom[14]--that had been granted, almost willy-nilly, to long-forgotten patentees two and more generations earlier.

It was on this land, "near Binum's Run" that Isaac Webster would build the house now called Broom's Bloom. Subsequent legal documents (wills, tax lists, etc.) make it clear that the extant house and land are the property involved in the 1747 (and '59) patents. (This will be discussed in more detail below.) The location, moreover, makes perfect sense: it was in the heart of Webster Country (the houses Webster's Forest and Best Endeavor are nearby) and it was geographically about midway between his Bush River Iron Works and his Arabia Petrea fiefdom.

The extant house, moreover, is strikingly similar to the few other houses in Harford County which date from the 1740s: Joshua's Meadows (built by Thomas Bond and known to have been standing by 1747, National Register), Woodview (built by Benjamin Norris and dated to c. 1744, National Register), and what is called the Griffith-Wright House (built by John Hall after he inherited the

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Cranberry Hall tract in 1742, National Register). These houses (along with the sui generis Priest Neale's Mass House, c. 1743, National Register) are probably the oldest extant structures in Harford County. Two houses sometimes included in this group include Webster's Forest (whose chimerical date has been discussed) and The Glebe (part of the Harford Furnace National Register Historic District), sometimes dated to the 1720s but remodeled into its present appearance after the Revolution.

Broom's Bloom, Woodview, Joshua's Meadows, and the Griffith-Wright House were all built by second (or third) generation countians who achieved economic success in farming, milling, and land speculation. They all chose to build houses of a form folk historians have called a "British Cabin." [15] Such houses were built "of stone, frame, or log, with rectangular floor plans and gable-end chimneys." The "cabins," generally two full stories tall in Harford County, might be viewed as an early form of modular building: each of the rooms was essentially an independent unit (or module) equipped with its own outside door, its own fireplace for heat, and its own closeted winder stair; characteristically the fireplace would be centered between the stair and built-in cupboards. Some families, presumably less affluent ones, were content with one complete module (as Edward Norris was when he built Prospect [or Olney] c. 1758, National Register); others simply fused two or more modules together, always keeping each module essentially intact and independent: Joshua's Meadows, built of brick, is the most elaborate example of this, being formed by three such modules (two for the main house, one for a free-standing kitchen); Woodview, built of stone, is formed by two modules; Broom's Bloom and the Griffith-Wright House, built of frame, are variations on

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Woodview: they are two modules but only one module has a stair, which would seem to be a distinction without a difference. In addition, Broom's Bloom's builder was careful to align the house's windows and doors (see Description section), a seemingly small point but a point Henry Glassie felt worth mentioning when he discussed a "stone cabin, northwest of Frederick, Maryland," with "opposed...front and rear doors" that make it "a good New World example" of the type.[16]

The two rooms of these modular "British cabins" easily fit into the hall-and-parlor plans popular among Southern and Mid-Atlantic folk builders ("the most distinctive type--the hall and parlor house"[17]), particularly so at both the Griffith-Wright House and Broom's Bloom, where the more formal hall (slightly larger than the parlor) received the enclosed winder stair and was enriched with fielded panelling on the fireplace (and stair closet) wall. (The fireplace wall at Prospect was also panelled and the panelling is in place; Woodview had panelling but it has been removed. These houses also bear similarities to Glassie's "I House";[18] treatment of stairs is fundamental to 18th-century domestic architecture and all Glassie's I House examples have open, straight-run stairs that imply a very different approach to building from the enclosed winder stairs at Broom's Bloom, Joshua's Meadows, et al.)

Some historians have complained that the panelling at the Griffith-Wright House and Broom's Bloom strays from the correctness of classical design (the former was dismissed as "quirked" and "dramatically out of level"[19], the latter as "illsuited for the space"[20]) but given their probable 1740s date of construction, their "quirked" nature should be expected in this remote region of rural

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Maryland: indeed, pilasters and a well-proportioned cornice would strongly argue against such a date. (The earliest classically correct panelling still remaining in the county is at Sophia's Dairy, built in 1768.)

Unfortunately, Webster seems to have been rather casual in referring to his holdings; in his Last Will and Testament, signed in 1755 and probated in 1759, he left his widow, Margaret, "Sedgely, my now dwelling plantation" for life (along with "1/3 of all iron ore"); in a later clause, he left Margaret an adjacent "50 acres of Broom's Bloom for life"; after her death, "my now Dwelling Plantation, being part of a tract called Sedgely...with...part of Best Endeavor that lieth on the West Side of the Little Branch" and the adjacent "50 acres of Broom's Bloom" would go to son Samuel Webster II.[21] Webster's estate inventory suggests his comparative wealth: he was owed debts of L1,863.5.6 and his personal property was valued at L1,253.1.7 of which his eighteen slaves made up roughly L700 the rest being made up of a dozen each of horses and cattle, some sheep, 28 pigs, some harvested wheat, rye, and corn (all worth about L39). Nothing suggests his interests in the iron industry but there were "49 tan hides dry" worth L1.4.6 and "10 lb. soal [sic] leather" valued at 10 shillings. It is impossible to deduce the configuration of the house from the cited furniture; there were seventeen beds (including one with "curtains and iron rods and brass rings" worth L2.15 and two worth L4.16 each), a "walnut writing desk" worth L4, and other goods typical of affluent Marylanders in the mid-18th century. There was also "760 Gal. Cyder" (L12), "55 gal. whisky" (L7.5), "1/2 doz. wine in bottles" (18 shillings), "4 1/2 bottles Sack" (L1.2.6) and "1 doz. currant wine" (2 shillings).

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Isaac Webster's "dwelling plantation" is unquestionably what is now called Broom's Bloom but which, in Webster's time, seems to have been called Sedgely (with the 50 acres of Broom's Bloom thrown in). It is on the west side of both James Run and Webster's Branch of Bynum Run and Webster left his son John the "plantation whereon my father lived called Best Endeavor" which he described as being on the "east side of the little branch which runs between my dwelling plantation and the place where my father lived" (emphasis added). It seems all but certain that he is referring to the small tributary (Webster's Branch) of Bynum Run which flows southerly with the present Broom's Bloom on its west side (as Webster so described it) and with both Webster's Forest and Best Endeavor to its east. The ancient Webster family cemetery, which contains Isaac and Samuel Websters' graves, is on the Broom's Bloom tract; this certainly strengthens the contention that Broom's Bloom was Isaac and Samuel Webster's home farm.

Finally, in 1788 Samuel Webster executed two instruments which should completely confirm that the present Broom's Bloom is the house built by Isaac Webster. In one deed "Samuel Webster, Tanner" sold twenty-three acres to his cousin John Lee Webster, composed of "parts of Sedgely and Broom's Bloom" on "the east side of a branch running between the said Samuel Webster's dwelling plantation and that of the said John Lee Webster called Best Endeavor" and further states "which lands were given" to Samuel "by his father Isaac."[22] In other words, Samuel simply sold his cousin 23 acres that lay across (on the east side) the small branch that separates Broom's Bloom (on the west) from Best Endeavor and Webster's Forest (to the east); he was tidying things up.

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Similarly, on the same day "Samuel Webster, Tanner" mortgaged the "land on the west side of the branch [that flows] between Samuel Webster's dwelling plantation and" the farm of John Lee Webster, land which was "given to the said Samuel by his father Isaac Webster, deceased" being "part of Sedgely and Broom's Bloom" and "lying above the head of Bush River whereon the said Samuel Webster and his Father Isaac Webster lived"; the mortgage, lest there be any doubt, refers readers to Isaac Webster's Last Will and Testament.[23] The mortgage was finally released, after the Chancery Court in Annapolis intervened, in 1803, and the mortgagors executed a deed stating that Samuel had good title to the land "on the west side of the branch running between" Samuel's "dwelling plantation and John Lee Webster's"; the land had been given to Samuel by his father, Isaac, and was "lying above the head of the Bush River."[24]

Samuel Webster II was a tanner by occupation (perhaps those hides and "soal" leather in his father's inventory were his) and after inheriting Broom's Bloom from his father in 1759 seems to have lived there quietly the rest of his life (except for taking steps to firm up the boundaries and for venturing forth to buy "Lot 4 in Fell's Point" for L200 in 1781[25]). The 1783 tax assessment lists "Samuel Webster of Isaac" as owning parts of the following tracts in the Harford Upper Hundred: Sedgely, Broom's Bloom, and St. George's. To help understand subsequent historians' confusion over house and tract names, Samuel's brother Isaac II also lived in Harford Upper and owned parts of five tracts including Sedgely and Best Endeavor; examining the 1783 assessment reveals that what was called Broom's Bloom was split among the following individuals: John Calwell, John Ellis, David Glenn, Hugh Kirkpatrick, James McCandless, and Samuel Webster of Isaac; none of these

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men but Webster appears in any published (or otherwise known) county history and it's not known where there sections of Broom's Bloom (originally stated to cover 1,000 acres) were. In the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, "Samuel Webster (Tanner)" was assessed for 308 acres in the Harford Upper Hundred with "1 dwelling" and "3 outhouses" all worth $943. This figure might at first seem low, but it seems reasonable considering the assessments of some of Webster's known neighbors: John Reardon's just-completed frame house and 1/2-acre lot in Abingdon (the house still stands and is slightly larger than the Broom's Bloom that would have been standing as of 1798) were valued at $180 and Samuel Webster's cousin Richard Webster owned Best Endeavor, described in 1798 as "30 x 20 stone" with a stone kitchen, spring house, log meat house, corn house, stable and "5 outbuildings" and 360 acres of land; this more substantial dwelling (viewing stone as more substantial than frame) and more elaborate array of outbuildings (enumerated as opposed to Broom's Bloom's "3 outhouses") and slightly more acreage was valued at $1,532.50, as opposed to Samuel Webster's and Broom's Bloom's $943.

Regrettably no dimensions were given for Webster's house in 1798, but they were in the 1814 tax rolls when "Samuel Webster, Tanner" was assessed for "1 dwelling house, wood, 32 x 20" along with "1 barn, wood and 4 old outhouses" all on 275 acres and all worth $2,200. That land--275 acres--certainly suggests the 265 acres on the "small branch" Samuel (and his father) had taken such pains to secure through patents and dealings with Lord Baltimore just as the stated dimensions of the house in 1814--"32 x 20"--suggest the dimensions of the oldest section of Broom's Bloom, thirty-six by twenty, as measured in 1991.

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Samuel Webster died intestate in 1817. As was the case with his father his estate inventory (which enumerates his personal property and values it at the lowish figure of $1,227.50) does not list the rooms in Broom's Bloom. Farm equipment was of a general nature (but what was he doing with "Gold scales and weights"?); there were six slaves (with a total value of $910); a "walnut desk" was valued at $12--was it the desk mentioned in his father's inventory in 1759?

In addition to these somewhat meager assets, Samuel was owed $710.24 "money from John Adams Webster on note." John Adams Webster (born 1789) was one of the nine children born to Samuel and his wife (nee Margaret Adams) and the births all occurred (according to 19th-century and subsequent biographies, note particularly the drawing of the house in an 1899 issue of the New England Magazine[26]) at Broom's Bloom.[27] J.A. Webster was probably the most distinguished member of his generation of Websters; he served in the American forces during the War of 1812 and, according to the Baltimore Sun, "without...[his] alertness and prompt action at a critical stage in the battle, Fort McHenry and Baltimore itself might well have fallen to the British."[28]

In 1817, just weeks after their father's death, J.A. Webster and another son, Samuel Lee Webster, petitioned the Harford County court to divide "the land the said Samuel died seized including parts of Sedgely, Broom's Bloom and My Lord's Gift" so they could settle Samuel's estate. In December of 1817 Samuel Lee Webster, acting for his siblings, sold John Adams Webster 120 acres "part of a tract called Sedgely and My Lord's Gift...Samuel Webster died seized" on which J.A.

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Webster built the house called Mount Adams (National Register).[29] In 1819 the Harford County court decided it couldn't divide the remaining land and the surviving Webster children took it upon themselves to do so: for example in 1819 J. A. Webster sold his brother Samuel Lee Webster all his interest in any real estate he may have inherited from his their father[30] and in 1821 Samuel Lee Webster (who had by then evidently moved to Virginia) sold "all his interest in Lord's Gift, Sedgely, and Broom's Bloom which descended to him" at the death of his father Samuel to his sisters, Alice Anna, Margaret, Hannah, and Elizabeth Webster.[31]

It's not known what happened to Alice Anna and Margaret (presumably they died intestate with estates too small to bother opening) but in 1844 Hanna and Elizabeth sold "120 acres of Sedgely and Broom's Bloom bounded on the south by the land of Capt. John A. Webster" and "being a part of the real estate whereof the late Samuel Webster died seized and which then settled" on the maiden sisters to Dr. William Dallam II for $300; the sisters reserved a life estate in the house.[32]

In 1843 Dr. Dallam had married Josephine Webster in the hall at Broom's Bloom. Josephine Webster was a daughter of Capt. John Adams Webster and a granddaughter of Samuel Webster. Dallam, one of the leading physicians in 19th-century Harford County, was a scion of a family at least as venerable and distinguished as his wife's. The progenitor, Richard Dallam, was an English-born lawyer who arrived in Calvert County, Maryland in 1694; he sat in the provincial assembly in 1701 and in 1704 was chosen to serve as clerk to the assembly's Committee on Laws, for which

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he was paid "20 shillings...to buy a ring for his 'services in helping to preserve Public Records from the fire at the Stadt House'."[33]

Richard Dallam I married the famous (a dress of hers was displayed "at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893"[34]) colonial figure Betty Martin in 1702; the couple moved to Harford County and settled in the prosperous port town of Joppa and from them "are descended the well-known Dallam family of Maryland, members of which have been prominent in the affairs of the state for generations."[35] A daughter, Elizabeth, married Samuel Webster in 1726 (see above). A son, Richard II, was "one of the most prominent men in Harford during the Revolution;" he was "paymaster, with the title of general" during the war and also played crucial roles in the events that led to actual fighting, serving as delegate "to the Annapolis Convention of June 22, 1774, which protested against the tax on tea" and signing the Bush Declaration in March 1775, often called the first Declaration of Independence in America. That February "a special election" was held to chose "ten representatives from each hundred" to serve on "a new war committee"[36] and Richard Dallam was elected to represent Deer Creek Lower Hundred. Dallam, "one of the leading men of the county"[37] was also "one of the commissioners named in the dedimus for the formation of the new county [Harford was originally part of Baltimore County] in 1773-74."[38]

Richard Dallam II and his wife (nee Frances Wallace) had five sons, three of whom saw service in the Revolution, namely Richard III ("a Lieutenant...who was taxed as a bachelor in 1760 and died apparently without issue" in 1805[39]), Winston (who volunteered for the county militia and was

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made a first lieutenant in April 1776[40]), and John (who served in the Committee of Safety[41]). John Dallam moved from the Tidewater to the Deer Creek Valley; he was assessed for 272 acres in the Deer Creek Lower Hundred in 1798 (improved by a "16 x 40 1-story wood" house with a detached kitchen and barn all valued at $949.25) and married Mary Wilson, of the prominent North Harford milling family. (The Maryland Historical Trust holds a conservation easement on Wilson's Mill and its attendant Deer Creek Valley acreage.) John Dallam (died 1815) and Mary Wilson had three sons including William Dallam I (1785-1834); William married Sarah Webster in 1813 and one of their four sons was Broom's Bloom's Dr. William Dallam. Among the Dallams of Dr. William's generation was William H. Dallam (to distinguish him from his medical cousin) "a major in the Union army during the Civil War....[and] secretary and treasurer of the Harford Mutual Insurance Company..., state's attorney in his district, [and] clerk of the circuit court for Harford County....He was the father of Richard Dallam [VI], the present [1897] secretary of state for Maryland."[42]

In sum, of the Webster-Dallam family, the 1897 Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties notes that it is "unnecessary to dwell upon the characteristics of the...family, for they are well known to our readers. They possess many of the noble traits that brought success to their ancestors, who were brave pioneers, developing the country that is now adorned with fine farms and busy towns. We who reap the harvest their hands have sown should honor them and hold their names in grateful remembrance....We, who are the heirs of the past, gladly acknowledge our indebtedness to [those who]...labored for the welfare of generations yet to come."[43] The families have intermarried since the 1720s a fact that, when coupled with their habitual use of the names

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Richard, Samuel and Isaac, has caused confusion to nonfamily historians; as indeed has the family's relaxed attitude towards house names--the family owned tracts called Sedgely and Broom's Bloom; the frame house under discussion here was apparently called Sedgely originally, then interchangeably Sedgely and Broom's Bloom; since the mid 19th century Broom's Bloom has been the name of choice, possibly "because it sounds nicer."[44] When the house was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey in June 1936, the team avoided any complications and simply called the place The Dallams.

Most of the 18th-century Dallam houses were built near the county's Bayfront and were destroyed with the coming of the Aberdeen Proving Ground in 1917 (except for a staircase now in the Baltimore Museum of Art, see Description). For more than a century the Websters, who settled inland, owned acreage that covered roughly two square miles in the James and Bynum run valleys; on these acres they built two known grist mills (c. 1750 and 1767[45]), established churches (such as Calvary Methodist Church, built in 1821 near James Run largely through the efforts of Richard Webster, who donated land "and was instrumental in the organization of this church"[46]), and built three houses in the 18th century and one in the early 19th century: Broom's Bloom (c. 1747), Webster's Forest (the exact date of which is uncertain), Best Endeavor (possibly begun in the 1740s but remodeled into its present form c. 1785 and c. 1841), and Mount Adams (c. 1817 and c. 1850); the last three are all listed in the National Register.

Mrs. William Dallam's maiden aunts, Hanna and Elizabeth Webster, exercised their life estate in

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Broom's Bloom and, to accommodate them, Dr. and Mrs. Dallam built the two-room, two-story frame addition which extends the house to the west. Then in 1857 Dr. and Mrs. Dallam took out a $1,000 mortgage on the house and farm from Noah Webster of Best Endeavor; the "new" stone kitchen at Broom's Bloom is by family history dated to the 1850s and it seems likely that the Dallams used at least some of that mortgage money to build the kitchen.[47] Dr. Dallam willed Broom's Bloom to his son William Dallam in 1889 (Josephine Webster Dallam I had died in 1869); when he died in 1919 ownership vested in Elizabeth Pleasants Dallam, Margaret A. Dallam, Laura Archer Dallam, Harriet Webster Dallam, Josephine Webster Dallam II, and William Dallam IV; Josephine Webster Dallam II and her brother, William Dallam IV, acquired title to Broom's Bloom in 1950; he has died and Broom's Bloom is today (1991) owned by Josephine Webster Dallam II, the sixth generation in direct line since Broom's Bloom was built by Isaac Webster in the 1740s.

1. Walter W. Preston, History of Harford County, (Baltimore: Sun Book Office, 1901), p. 29.

2. C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage, (Bel Air, Maryland: privately printed, 1967), p. 28.

3. Provincial Court Record TP #4, page 69, and PL #5, page 34; material in the Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis.

4. Archer's map--in simplified form--may be seen in Wright, Harford, p. 29.

5. Preston, History, p. 29.

6. Portrait and Biographical Record of Harford and Cecil Counties, (New York: Chapman Publishing Company, 1897), p. 182.

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7. DD #5/213; PL #2/11; Hall of Records.

8. James T. Wollon, AIA, and Pamela James, Webster's Forest nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

9. Wollon and James, Webster's Forest.

10. Conversation between Josephine Webster Dallam and Christopher Weeks, August 23, 1991. In addition, James Wollon, AIA, who prepared information on Webster's Forest for the Historical Society of Harford County's 1982 house tour, sensibly hedged his bets by noting that it "is impossible to determine precisely the age" of Webster's Forest and observed that "no description" of Webster's house has been found; "it might," he wrote, "have been the oldest section of the house we see today."

11. Wright, Harford, pp. 145, 176.

12. Patent BT & BY #3/334.

13. Patent BC & GS #13/432.

14. Hall of Records, land index.

15. Glassie, Folk Culture, p. 53.

16. Glassie, Folk Culture, p. 53.

17. Glassie, Folk Culture, pp. 64-66.

18. Glassie, Folk Culture, pp. 66-69, esp. Fig. 20.

19. Wollon and Reveley, Griffith-Wright House.

20. Smith, "Broom's Bloom," p. 17.

21. Will book 30, p. 754; Maryland Hall of Records.

22. Harford County Deed HD K/111 dated August 23, 1788.

23. Deed HD K/147. The mortgage was to John Lee Webster and another Isaac Webster and was for L547.

24. Deed HD R/167.

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25. And which he quickly sold to his brother Isaac II for L200 and five shillings; mentioned in Harford County deed HD K/232.

26. Calvin Dill Wilson, Through An Old Southern County," in the New England Magazine, Vol. 20, 1899, pp. 161-176; the sketch of Broom's Bloom, labeled "Birthplace of Captain Webster," is on p. 168.

27. See, for example, Portrait and Biographical, p. 167; J.A. Webster obituary in the Baltimore Sun.

28. Harold Manakee, "Neglected Hero of Fort McHenry," in the Baltimore Sunday Sun Magazine, August 30, 1964.

29. Deed HD 1/174.

30. Deed HD 3/482.

31. Deed HD 5/440.

32. Deed HD 30/76.

33. David E. Dallam, The Dallam Family, (Philadelphia: George H. Buchanan COmpany, 1929), pp. 9-10.

34. Portrait and Biographical, p. 380.

35. Portrait and Biographical, p. 380.

36. Wright, Harford, p.358.

37.Preston, History, p.184.

38. Preston, History, pp. 199-200.

39. Dallam, Dallam, p.34.

40. Preston, History, p.122.

41. Dallam, Dallam, p.35.

42. Portrait and Biographical, p. 129.

43. Portrait and Biographical, p. 174.

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44. Josephine Webster Dallam conversation with Christopher Weeks, August 16, 1991.

45. John McGrain, "Molinography of Harford County," unpublished typescript in files of the Harford County Planning and Zoning Department, Bel Air.

46. Wright, Harford, p. 218; the church is still sometimes called "Webster's."

47. Mortgage ALJ 8/330; in 1871 the mortgage was assigned to Richard Webster; it was reassigned in 1885 and 1892 and finally vested in Elizabeth Pleasants Dallam in 1918 who released it in 1919.

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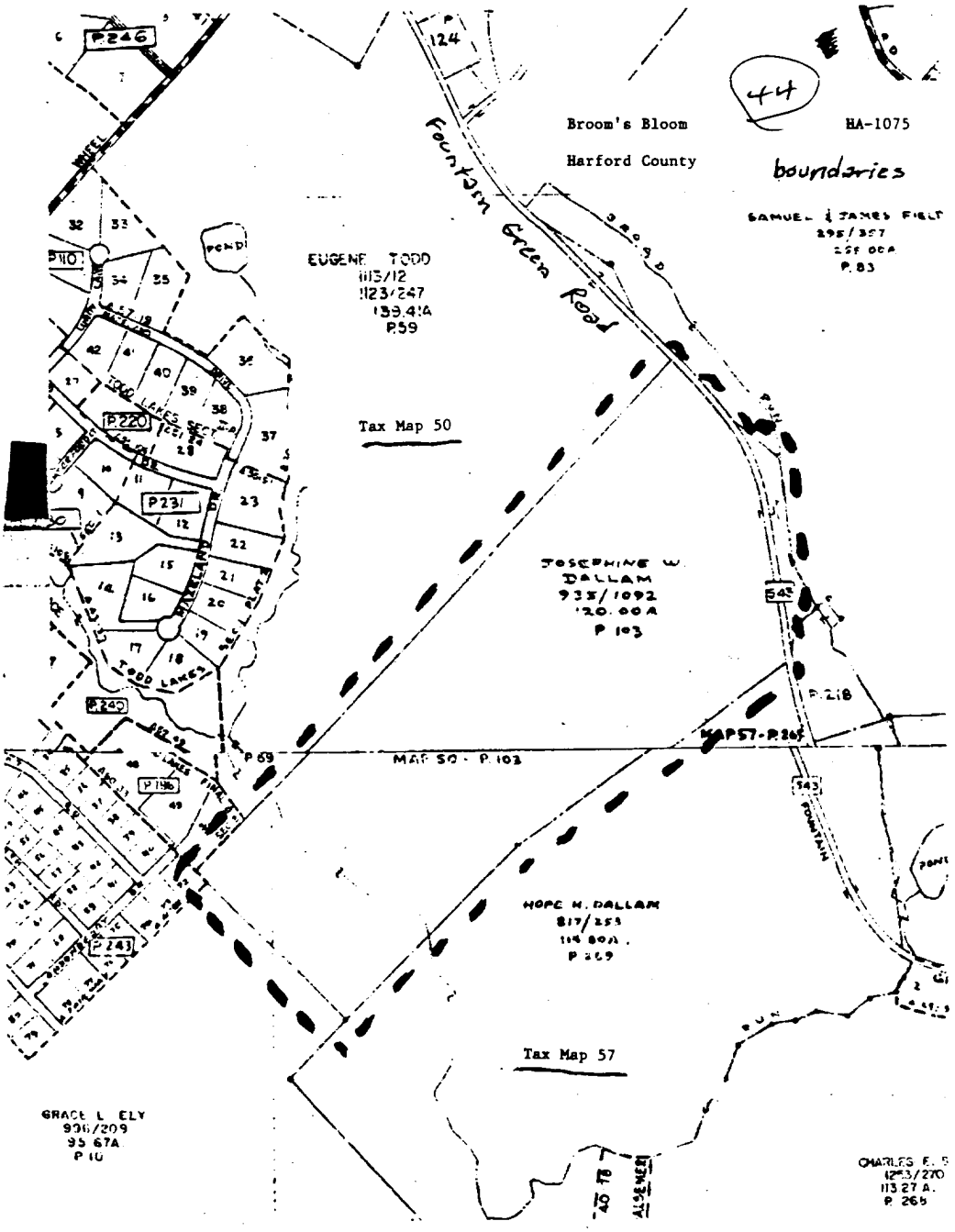
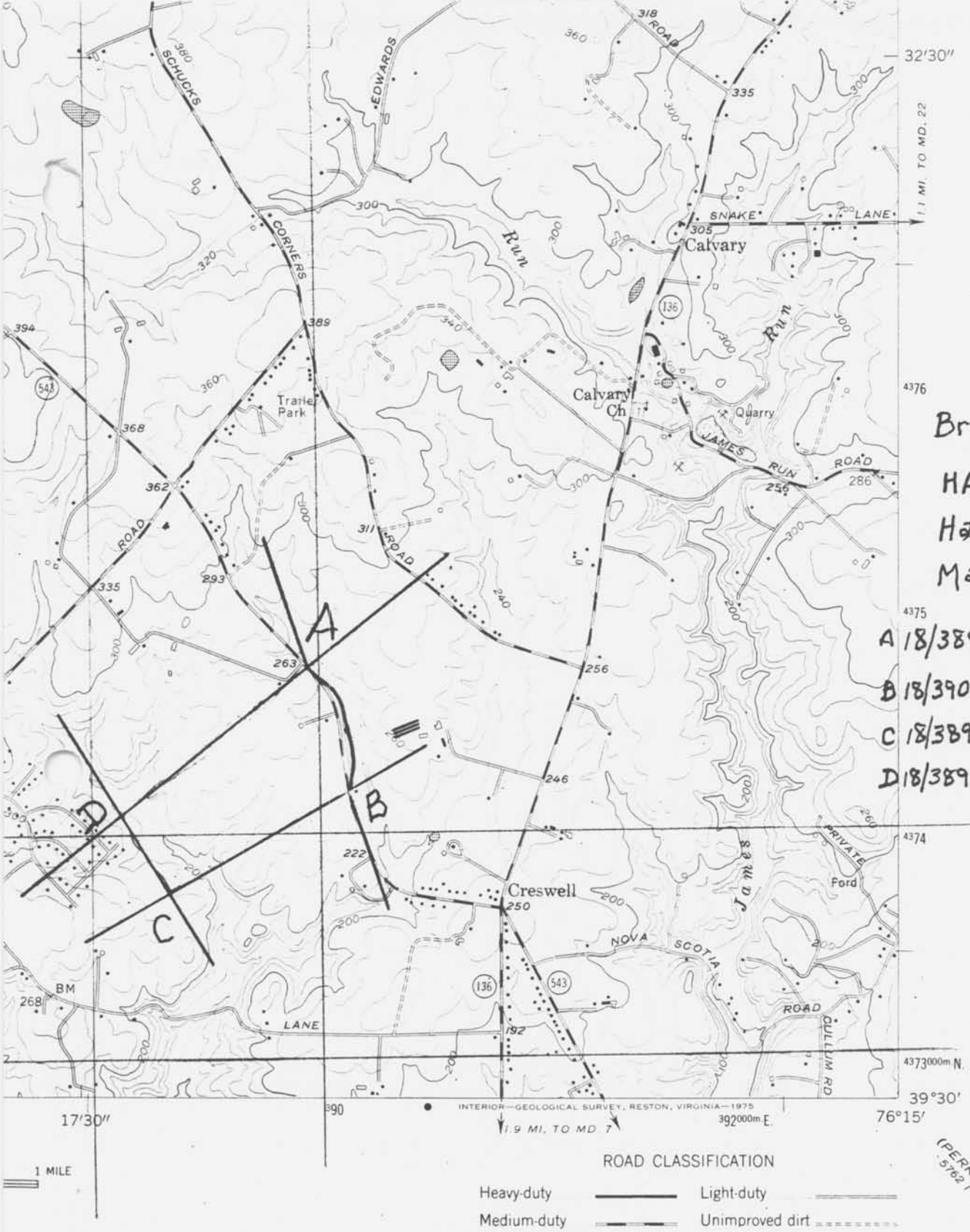


See Continuation Sheet No. 38

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property contains 120 acres. These extensive boundaries are necessary to include all historic structures and sites necessary to the integrity of the resource. (The cemetery is several hundred yards northwest of the springhouse.) Moreover, the boundaries are in and of themselves of historic value: as is discussed in the section of Historic Context, in 1747 Isaac Webster received a patent for 265 acres here; in 1788 his son Samuel sold 23 acres across Webster's Branch to a cousin and in 1817 Samuel's heirs divided the remaining 240 acres, selling half (120 acres) to Samuel's son John Adams Webster and retaining half (120 acres) for Broom's Bloom. Thus Broom's Bloom's acreage has remained, less those two family conveyances, unchanged and in Webster-Dallam ownership since it was patented.



Broom's Bloom
HA-1075
Harford Co
Maryland

A 18/389940/4374740
B 18/390130/4374180
C 18/389330/4373740
D 18/389130/4374080

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route — State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

BEL AIR, MD.

N3930—W7615/7.5

1956
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5763 III SE—SF S V833