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1. Name of Property

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historic name Oxon Cove Farm, Godding Croft, Mount Welby
other names/site number Oxon Hill Children's Farm/ P.G. 76A-13

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2. Location

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street & number Government Farm Road not for publication
city or town Oxon Hill vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Prince George's code 033
zip code 20745

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification

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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 Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	buildings
		sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
		objects
<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>unknown</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>animal facility</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>storage</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>storage</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>animal facility</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>storage</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	Sub: <u>museum</u>
Cat: <u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	Sub: <u>storage</u>
Cat: <u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	Sub: <u>animal facility</u>

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY, Other: rural vernacular

LATE VICTORIAN, Italianate

OTHER: functional rural vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, CONCRETE

roof METAL, ASPHALT

walls WOOD: vertical board, BRICK

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Refer to attached continuation sheets.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH/MEDICINE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance ca. 1800 -1850

ca. 1891 - 1943

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Refer to attached continuation sheets.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Refer to attached continuation sheets.

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

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Maryland Historical Trust

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10. Geographical Data

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Acres of Property 11.3

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	18	<u>324480</u>	<u>4296500</u>	3	<u>18</u>	<u>324410</u>	<u>4296870</u>
2	18	<u>324500</u>	<u>4296900</u>	4	<u>18</u>	<u>324530</u>	<u>4296480</u>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Refer to attached continuation sheets.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected, on a continuation sheet.)

Refer to attached continuation sheets.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Kathryn Kuranda/Hugh McAloon/Michelle Moran

organization R. Christopher Goodwin & Assoc., Inc. date September 1994

street & number 337 E. 3rd St. telephone (301) 694-0428

city or town Frederick state MD zip code 21701

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 4 Page

Oxon Cove Farm
Prince George's County
Maryland

In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria.



State Historic Preservation Officer

6-18-96
Date

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Oxon Cove Farm (Godding Croft)
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Oxon Cove Farm is an agricultural complex, encompassing 14 buildings and two structures, which occupies a rural site in Prince George's County, Maryland, approximately ten miles south of Washington, D.C. in the vicinity of Oxon Hill, Maryland.

The district currently is part of a living farm museum operated by the National Park Service. The resources encompassed in the historic district are associated with the property's sequential development as a plantation, an institutional agricultural complex, and a farm museum, during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The area surrounding the historic district is utilized for pasture, cultivation, and passive recreation. The following historic resources are included within the boundary of the district: a brick masonry house; hexagonal wooden-frame outbuilding; brick root cellar; wooden-frame hog house; wooden-frame horse and pony barn; wooden-frame chicken house; steel-frame implement shed; wooden-frame visitor barn; steel-frame windmill; wooden-frame hay barn; wooden-frame feed building; brick masonry stable; wooden-frame tool shed; wooden-frame "sorghum sirup" shed; and wooden-frame dairy barn, and tile silo.

The Oxon Cove Farm historic district is located on the crest of a ridge overlooking the east bank of the Potomac River, north of U.S. Interstate 95. The complex is oriented to the south and commands a view of the river valley, including views of the municipal jurisdictions of Alexandria and Arlington, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

The agricultural complex is spatially divided into two areas, defined by the farmstead and farmyard. The dwelling and domestic area dominates the complex from the crest of the ridge; the majority of outbuildings lie in a swale east of the dwelling and define the farmyard. Access to the district is by way of a straight gravel drive that extends approximately 0.2 mi. past the dairy barn and the "sorghum sirip" shed to the main complex of outbuildings. This complex consists of the visitor barn, windmill, hay barn, feed building, tool shed, stable, implement shed, and chicken house. The drive continues beyond this area to the farm dwelling, approximately 370 ft. to the west. Northwest of the outbuilding core are the horse and pony barn, hog house, and root cellar. Turn-of-the-century farm implements and machines are scattered throughout the park grounds. The buildings that comprise the historic district date from the early nineteenth to the

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late twentieth centuries. The district includes eight contributing and eight non-contributing elements.

The following building and structure descriptions are keyed to the accompanying district map. This map also identifies land-use areas. The contributing elements in the district are:

Dwelling (ca. 1807) [A]. The Oxon Cove Park farm dwelling, known historically as Mount Welby, currently is utilized as office and resident apartment space by National Park Service staff. Mount Welby is a rectangular plan, two-story, three-bay, brick masonry building sheltered by a shed roof. The building's primary elevation is oriented to the south. A brick foundation supports the structure. Two building periods are reflected in the structure's fabric: the dwelling's early nineteenth century construction and a late nineteenth century renovation. This later building renovation established the dwelling's simplified, Italianate architectural style. Mount Welby's brick walls are painted white. One-story, hip-roofed porches are situated on the north and south elevations.

The brick pattern within the principal (south) elevation wall exhibits two stages of construction; from the foundation to the second floor window lintels, the brick is coursed in Flemish bond. Above the second floor window lintels the brick is coursed in 3:1 common bond. Two six-over-nine-light, wooden, double-hung sash window units and a central entry define the building's fenestration in the primary elevation. Wooden louvered blinds flank the windows, and wooden lintels and sills are incorporated within the window units. Primary entry is gained through a recessed doorway. The walls of the recession incorporate three plain-board panels. A six-panel door occupies the entry; in 1988 the door had recently been installed.¹ A recessed two-light transom is situated above the entryway.

Three window bays occupy the second floor level. The windows are six-over-six-light, wooden, double-hung sash units that incorporate crown molded lintels and wooden sills. Hinges are extant on the

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window frames, but no blind or shutter units remain. Above the second floor windows, the brick wall exhibits a convex bulge, which dissipates at the building's corbeled brick cornice. The cornice is supported by projecting tiers of stepped brick corbels. All of the tiers project from solely the primary elevation. Were the tiers to be numbered, the "odd" tiers project further from the primary elevation than the "even" tiers.

A one-story porch, sheltered by a hipped roof, spans the primary elevation. Standing-seam metal sheathes the hipped roof. The porch roof exhibits a molded cornice and plain frieze, and is supported by rectangular, chamfered posts incorporating scrolled brackets. A balustrade incorporating rectangular balusters connects the posts. The porch floor is composed of narrow tongue-in-groove boards and rests on a wooden sill. Brick piers support the porch sill. The porch is accessed via a five-tread stair. The brick pattern within the west elevation also reflects two phases of construction. Flemish bond coursing characterizes the brick pattern to the lintels of the first floor windows. Above the first floor windows, the wall continues with 3:1 common bond coursing. A single, three-light, wooden-sash hopper window unit in the foundation provides illumination to the basement. Window units define the two-bay fenestration of the west elevation. Each unit at the first and second story level is a four-over-four-light, wooden, double-hung sash unit. The window bays are situated between a pair of interior brick chimneys incorporated in the wall fabric. Corbeled crowns define the chimneys.

The north (rear) elevation of Mount Welby repeats the three-bay architectural vocabulary of the primary elevation, although the design of this elevation exhibits some deviations from that of the primary elevation. The brick of this elevation is coursed solely in 3:1 common bond. The northward slope of the Mount Welby site partially exposes the building's basement level at this elevation. Three pairs of eight-light, wooden-sash, casement windows are incorporated in the wall of the basement level. The first floor fenestration pattern is defined by a central entry and two windows.

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As with the south elevation, the windows are six-over-nine-light, wooden, double-hung sash units exhibiting unoccupied hinges. Wooden lintels and sills are incorporated in the window units. The central entry is recessed, and it incorporates a thinly beaded panel surround and a four-panel door. A square, four-light transom surmounts the north elevation doorway. Three window bays occupy the second floor level. The windows are six-over-six-light, wooden, double-hung sash units that incorporate crown molded lintels and wooden sills. Hinges are extant on the window frames, but no blind or shutter units remain. A course of projecting brick headers defines the building's cornice.

A one-story porch, sheltered by a hipped roof, also extends from the north elevation. Standing-seam metal sheathes the hipped roof. The porch roof exhibits a molded cornice and plain frieze, supported by rectangular chamfered posts that incorporate scrolled brackets. A balustrade, incorporating rectangular balusters, connects the posts. The porch floor is composed of narrow tongue-in-groove boards and rests on a wooden sill. Brick piers support the porch sill. The porch is accessed via an eight-tread stair.

The bricks within the east elevation wall are coursed in 3:1 common bond. Unlike the walls of the south, west, and north elevations, the east elevation incorporates a watertable course between the basement and first floor levels. Two brick interior chimneys exhibiting corbeled crowns are incorporated in the east elevation wall. Two bays are located between the chimneys. At the first floor level, the southern bay exhibits a six-over-nine-light, wooden, double-hung sash window unit that incorporates a wooden lintel and sill, and hinges; no blinds or shutters remain. The north bay is defined by an exterior entry to the building's basement. The below-grade entry is accessed via a brick-lined stairwell, and it is sheltered by a wooden-frame entry vestibule. A hipped roof shelters the vestibule structure. The vestibule's walls are clad in beaded vertical boards, and the roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal. The vestibule incorporates a pair of screen doors that exhibit chamfered stiles. The basement doorway

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is occupied by a pair of wooden, three-panel doors, exhibiting two glazed panels each. A single, arched header course defines the doorway's lintel, and a stone slab defines the sill.

Two window bays occupy the second floor level of the east elevation. The windows are six-over-six-light, wooden, double-hung sash units incorporating wooden lintels and sills. Hinges are in evidence within the window frames, but no blinds or shutters are extant.

Mount Welby adopts a modified Georgian plan. The plan is defined by a central passage with flanking chambers. Coats of paint sheath the passage's floor. Midway towards the north end of the building a stairway ascends the east wall of the passage, utilizing a landing at the north wall to turn 180° before continuing up to the building's second floor. The space beneath the stairway is enclosed with vertical boards, and incorporates a door towards the north end. The doorway provides access to a wooden stairway that descends into the basement. West of the central passage are two rooms that currently are utilized as office space. Each room incorporates a hearth in the west wall. The space to the east of the central passage is occupied by a single room. This room incorporates linoleum floor tiles, feathered fiber-panel wall cladding, a drop ceiling, and fluorescent light fixtures. The ghost of a former wall is discernable beneath the modern floor sheathing, revealing that the building plan east of the central passage once mirrored the plan of the building as it survives west of the passage.

Hexagonal Outbuilding (ca. 1900) [B]. Approximately 200 feet southeast of Mount Welby is an hexagonal outbuilding. Archival investigations did not identify the original use of this building. The outbuilding exhibits a one-story, one-bay, wooden-frame design sheltered by a six-sided pyramidal roof. A brick foundation parged with Portland cement supports the building's walls, which are clad with vertical boards and beaded battens. The roof is sheathed with standing-seam metal and crowned by a finial. Entry is gained

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through the east (primary) elevation. A plain, vertical-board door occupies the building's entryway. Six-light, metal-sash casement window units are incorporated in the northwest and southwest elevations. The building's floor is composed of plywood, and exhibits a three-inch-high baseboard. Plaster coats the ceiling and interior walls of the building. A small square hatch, centered in the ceiling, provides access to the building's unfinished attic.

Root Cellar (ca. 1830) [C]. A rectangular-plan, one-story, one-bay, brick masonry construction root cellar sheltered by a gable roof is bermed into the hillside northeast of the Mount Welby house. The root cellar is located immediately south of a gravel road that approaches the farm from the Potomac floodplain to the west. Portland cement parging on the exposed north elevation foundation of the building forms a faux watertable. The building's 5:1 common bond course brick walls terminate in a gable roof sheathed with standing-seam metal. Exterior wall, brick ventilation columns are located on the north and south elevations. Single-light, wooden-sash hopper windows flank the ventilator column in the south elevation. The windows incorporate two-course, arched lintels. Entry to the structure is gained through the east gable-end elevation. Situated below grade, the entry is accessed via a five-tread brick stair that is sheltered by brick retaining walls. The entry door is constructed of plain vertical boards. A three-course, arched lintel is incorporated in the entryway.

Horse and Pony Barn (ca. 1890) [E]. Northeast of the Root Cellar is a horse and pony barn. The horse and pony barn is a rectangular-plan, one-and-one-half story, one-bay, wooden-frame building sheltered by a gable roof. A poured concrete sill supports walls clad with vertical boards and battens. The building walls terminate in a gable roof sheathed with standing-seam metal. A circular metal vent rises from the roof ridge near the west gable end of the building. Entry is gained through an open doorway in the east gable-end elevation. Open window ports incorporating vertical board shutters are located in all elevations of the building; there are three each in the north and south elevations,

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and one in the west elevation. A rectangular entry in the east gable-end provides access to the building's half-story; no passageway leads from the building's interior to the upper floor. The building's interior is open and utilizes an earthen floor.

Hay Barn (ca. 1940) [J]. East of the windmill is a hay barn. It is a rectangular-plan, one-story, one-bay, wooden-frame structure sheltered by a gable roof. The building's wooden sill is supported by brick piers along the north elevation, and rests upon the ground along the south elevation. Board-and-batten clad walls rise from the sill to terminate in a gable roof sheathed with corrugated metal. Central entries, equipped with vertical board sliding-track doors, are located in the north and south eave elevations. A central earthen-floored passage divides the building. Storage platforms floored with wooden planks flank the passage to the east and west. Wooden-frame, wire-mesh clad fences divide the platforms from the central passage. No window bays are incorporated in the building. Turn-of-the-century hand-held farm implements and horse yokes hang from hooks set into the barn's framing system.

Feed Building (ca. 1890) [K]. North of the hay barn is a feed building. It is a rectangular-plan, one-and-one-half story, four-bay building of wooden-frame construction that is sheltered by a gable roof. Concrete piers support the building's wooden sill. The exterior walls of the building reflect the differing utilization of interior space. The eastern third of the building exhibits walls clad with board and battens; spaced vertical boards comprise the walls of the western two-thirds of the structure. The walls rise from the sill to terminate at a gable roof sheathed with corrugated metal. Entries are located in the south (eave) elevation. Vertical board doors with plain surrounds are incorporated in the entries. The west entry provides access to space utilized as a corncrib and as storage for horse equipment. The floor of this section is composed of tongue-in-groove boards. A wooden stair between the corncrib and storage areas ascends into the building's half-story, which also is utilized as storage. The east entry is flanked by fifteen-light, metal sash casement

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windows. A plywood floor supports wooden feed bins, which ring the interior walls of the building.

Brick Stable (ca. 1830) [L]. A brick stable provides the focus for the farm's main outbuilding cluster. Located west of the feed building, it is a rectangular-plan, two-story, three-bay, brick masonry building sheltered by a gable roof. The building's brick walls are constructed in 3:1 common bond coursing; pierced diamond-patterned ventilation holes are located in the gable pediments. Both gable ends exhibit random glazed headers. The building's walls terminate in a gable roof sheathed with corrugated metal. Original fenestration openings are defined by brick jack-arch lintels. Primary entry is gained through the south elevation, and incorporates a vertical, board-and-batten sliding-track door that post-dates the building's original construction. Brick-infilled single entries are located on either side of the current primary entry. Two open window bays incorporating vertical board shutters have been added to the primary elevation, west of the primary entry. The second story fenestration is defined by an open loft entry flanked by window openings, all surmounted by brick jack-arched lintels.

A single doorway utilizing a vertical board door is situated in the west gable-end elevation. A brick jack-arched lintel surmounts the doorway. One opening survives in the north elevation; this consists of a centered window opening at the second story level. Five former window openings, currently infilled with brick, are located within the first floor level. The east elevation incorporates five original window openings, symmetrically spaced within the first story level. These openings incorporate brick jack-arch lintels, beaded wooden frames, and vertical board shutters. The floor of the brick stable incorporates a poured concrete pad. Equine stalls within the building are of wooden-frame and horizontal board construction. One stall is located in the southwest corner of the building, three are situated along the north wall, and one is located in the southeast corner of the building. A wide passage runs between the primary entry and the

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entry in the west gable-end elevation; this passage separates the southwest stable from the other four contiguous stables. The ghosts of former stall partitions are visible on the interior walls of the building. The ghost of a stairway ascends to the east on the north wall interior. The second story is no longer accessible from the building's interior.

Silo (ca. 1940) [P]. The east-most structures at the Oxon Cove Farm complex are a dairy barn, built ca. 1980, and silo. Abutting the north elevation of the barn is a three-story silo constructed of glazed ceramic tile. A conical roof sheathed with standing-seam metal shelters the structure. Two exterior wall chutes constructed of glazed ceramic tile, which face southwest and northwest, extend the height of the silo, which terminates in shed roof dormers sheathed with pressed metal.

The following buildings and structures are non-contributing elements to the Oxon Cove Farm historic district:

Hog House (ca. 1973) [D]. A hog house is located east of the root cellar on the south side of the gravel drive. The Hog House is a rectangular-plan, one-story, four-bay, wooden-frame building sheltered by a gable roof. A concrete sill supports the building's wooden frame, which incorporates plywood and applied batten wall cladding. The walls terminate in a gable roof sheathed with asphalt roll. Four bays in the north eave elevation provide access between the hog house's four pens and the hog yard. Primary human entries are located in the east and west gable ends of the building. All entries in the structure incorporate plain vertical board doors. The gable end entries define the ends of a passage that is contiguous with the north wall. Four hog pens are situated south of the passage. The pens incorporate tongue-in-groove boards as flooring, and utilize a combination of horizontal boards and wire mesh fencing as wall surfaces.

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Chicken House (ca. 1991) [F]. A chicken house is located southeast of the hog house. It is a rectangular plan, one-story, two-bay, wooden-frame building sheltered by a shed roof. A chicken yard enclosed with a wooden-frame, chicken-wire clad fence, is located east of the chicken house. A concrete sill supports the building's walls, which are clad in vertical boards and battens. Building walls terminate in a shed roof sheathed with standing-seam metal. Entry is gained through the east elevation; the entry incorporates a plain vertical board door. Single-light, wooden sash casement window units are utilized in the building; one is located in the south elevation, two are in the west elevation, and one is in the east elevation. The window units also incorporate fixed metal-mesh screens. The building's interior is open. A roost and nesting-supports rest on the building's straw-covered floor surface.

Implement Shed (ca. 1970) [G]. An implement shed is located east of the chicken house. It is a rectangular plan, one-story, open, steel frame structure sheltered by a shallow-pitched gable roof. Erosion of the structure's dirt floor at the north elevation reveals that the structure is supported by a concrete pier foundation. The building frame is constructed of steel I-beams sheathed with vertical boards, which create the illusion that the building possesses a wooden frame. Horizontal boards have been attached to the I-beam sheathing to create a fence around the building. The structure's I-beams support a shallow-pitched gable roof sheathed with standing-seam metal. Four farm machines dating from the turn of the century are housed within the building.

Visitor Barn (ca. 1980) [H]. A visitor shelter is located southwest of the implement shed. It is a rectangular, one-story, one-bay, wood frame structure sheltered by a gable roof. A poured concrete foundation supports the structure's concrete block sill. Board-and-batten walls rise from the concrete block sill, and terminate at a gable roof sheathed with standing-seam metal. Four circular metal vents rise from the roof's ridge line. A one-story, shed-roofed, full-facade porch extends from the east (primary) gable-end elevation. The porch roof is sheathed with standing-seam

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metal and is supported by square wooden posts that rest on concrete piers. Large open windows are located in the north and south elevations. Wood awning shutters are incorporated at the window openings. Vertical board doors in the west end of the north and south elevations provide secondary access. The shelter's interior is open, except for a vertical-board walled storage shed in the northeast corner of the structure.

Windmill (ca. 1970) [I]. Northeast of the visitor barn is a windmill. This structure is composed of four metal stanchions that incorporate metal cross braces. The stanchions rest on a poured concrete platform, and support the metal windmilling machinery that powers a pump at ground level.

Tool Shed (ca. 1970) [M]. A tool shed is located north of the brick stable. It is a rectangular plan, one-story, eight-bay, wooden-frame building sheltered by a shed roof. Unworked posts set into the earth support a shed roof sheathed with pressed metal. The five western bays of the building comprise a single unit that is walled on its west, north, and east elevations with vertical board-and-battens. Modern farm machinery is stored within these bays. The two bays east of this area are enclosed by vertical board-and-batten walls on all elevations, and are used as storage. Since 1989, a shed roof and vertical board-and-batten walls have been erected to incorporate a maintenance office into the shed structure. The newly-created bay is utilized as storage space. The maintenance office, like the rest of the tool shed, utilizes a shed roof sheathed with corrugated metal and vertical board-and-batten walls; however, it rests on a poured concrete pad foundation. A six-light fixed metal sash window in the south elevation of the office area provides natural illumination, while a plain vertical-board door occupies the entry, which also is located in the south elevation.

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"Sorghum Sirup" Shed (ca. 1980) [O]. Located east of the main outbuilding complex, on the north side of the modern farm complex access road, is a "sorghum sirip" shed. This structure is a rectangular plan, one-story, wooden-frame building that lacks wall cladding. A gable roof sheathed with corrugated metal shelters the structure. Sheltered within the structure is a brick hearth approximately six ft. long, and an associated chimney stack; both mortared with Portland cement.

Dairy Barn (ca. 1980) [P]. The barn is a rectangular plan, one-and-one-half story, one-bay, wooden-frame structure clad with vertical board-and-batten walls. The walls terminate at a gable roof sheathed with standing-seam metal. Five circular metal vents rise from the gable ridge. The primary entry is located within the east eave elevation. The entryway utilizes a vertical board door. Similar entries are located in the south and west elevations. A full elevation-width shelter extends from the east elevation and shelters the primary entryway. The shelter is a wooden-frame construction that is sheltered by a standing-seam metal shed roof. Square posts support the shed roof. The north and south elevations of the shelter are clad with vertical board-and-batten siding, while the east elevation is open.

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Summary Statement

The Oxon Cove Farm historic district is a 16-element agricultural complex encompassing 14 buildings, two structures, and associated landscape features. The eight contributing elements constitute a recognizable agricultural complex that is significant for its association with mental health care. Buildings included within the district are associated with two time periods and two principal themes. The time periods are ca. 1800-1850, and 1891-1943. The historic themes important to the district include agriculture and mental health care.

Oxon Cove Farm historic district was among the first agricultural complexes to be used as a therapeutic treatment center for the mentally ill. This innovative approach marked a change in patient therapy for the mentally ill, from warehousing of patients to treatment within an active work atmosphere. Under the ownership of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Oxon Cove Farm, then known as Godding Croft, provided innovative treatments for the mentally ill within an active agricultural context.

Historic Context

Family Farmstead, 1797-1891

In 1797, Nicholas Lingan purchased a 269.75-acre parcel, including a portion of Oxon Hill Manor and a tract known as Force.² This 269.75-acre parcel included the central portion of present-day Oxon Cove Park, including the land containing the Oxon Hill Farm complex. Lingan was a member of the gentry who resided in the District of Columbia. He held extensive landholdings throughout the District, as well as in neighboring Prince George's County. Little is known about the operation of the Oxon Cove property during Lingan's ownership. Assessment records from the early nineteenth century indicate that Lingan had constructed some buildings on the land; tax records from 1800 note that Lingan paid \$500.00 on improvements to his 269-acre property, designated as "part of Oxon Hill Manor." It is likely that this assessment reflects the construction of the dwelling that currently stands on the Oxon Cove park property (Mount Welby 76A-13), as documentary evidence dating from 1815 explicitly discusses a brick dwelling at the property, and no other improvements were made to the property between 1800 and 1815.³

DeButts Family Residence and Farm. In 1811, Dr. Samuel DeButts

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purchased 250 acres of land, including the 11-acre tract that contains the historic district.⁴ DeButts, a native of Sligo, Ireland, emigrated to England, where he met and married Mary Anne Welby in 1785. By 1794, at the urging of Samuel's brother John, a resident of St. Mary's County, Maryland, they emigrated to America. Before settling along the Potomac River, the DeButts family attempted to establish themselves in the urban center of Baltimore, but the doctor experienced some difficulty in establishing his practice. They then briefly joined John DeButts in St. Mary's County before purchasing the approximately 250-acre estate. The family named the property Mount Welby, in honor of Mary DeButts's family.⁵ DeButts may have acquired the property for its proximity to Washington, D.C., where he could practice medicine more successfully.

The precise date of the DeButts' property acquisition is speculative. Although DeButts did not receive title to the tract until 1811, as noted above, a Doct. Samuel DeButts was listed in the 1804 tax assessment records for Piscataway Hundred as owning 257.25 acres of "pr. of Oxon Hill Manor." The previous owner of the tract no longer was listed on the tax lists by that year. DeButts may have acquired the property by 1804, or he may have been leasing the property from Nicholas Lingan, the former owner, in exchange for payment of all taxes on the land. The land was formally deeded from Lingan to DeButts in 1811.

An analysis of Prince George's County tax records revealed that the improvements assessment of \$500.00 made in 1800 during the Lingan ownership of the property, did not increase between 1800 and 1815, the year documentary evidence first explicitly mentions a brick dwelling at the current Oxon Cove property, suggesting that the \$500.00 valuation of 1800 represented the brick main dwelling that still stands (in altered condition) on the property. Evaluation of the building fabric of the Brick Stable at present-day Oxon Hill Farm has led to an assessment that the Brick Stable also dates from this period. Personal property assessment records further reveal that, by 1806, DeButts owned more than 10 slaves.⁶ This number of slaves indicates that Samuel DeButts was a man of some means, as the Prince George's County median number of slaves per slaveowner in 1800 was six.⁷ DeButts probably oversaw the cultivation of a diversified farm, albeit one that focused primarily on wheat.

Despite their middle class status, the DeButts family faced

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hardship in their adopted country. During the War of 1812, the sympathies of the DeButts family apparently rested with their native country. In a letter from Mary DeButts to her siblings in England, she commented, "I should not be surprised if Government persists in their determinations to quarrel with England that we should experience all the horrors of civil discord."⁸ Mary's letters indicate that the family lacked access to their remaining accounts in England, forcing them to borrow money at high interest rates to meet daily expenses. Despite the prospects of an excellent crop, the threat of an extended war prompted further financial worry for the DeButts family. On July 4, 1812, Mary wrote:

We are just now in the midst of our Harvest, & have every prospect of plentiful crops, but if the war continues we shall have no market for our grain, 'tis terrible times for the Farmer but the poor Merchants will be all ruined; money never was so scarce, there is scarce a dollar to be had.⁹

The ill health of Dr. DeButts and the threat of the oncoming "sickly season" posed additional problems for the family.

The close of the War of 1812 brought some relief to the DeButts family. During the war, the DeButts farm had been perilously close to the scene of battle. As Mary DeButts related to her brother in March 1815:

The termination of the war has cheered Hearts of thousands but its bitter consequences will long be severely felt. I cannot express to you the distress it has occasioned, at the Battle of Bladensburg we heard every fire (that place being not more than 5 or 6 miles from us). Our House was shook repeatedly by the firing upon forts & Bridges, & illuminated by the fires in our Capital.¹⁰

According to DeButts, Admiral Sir George Cockburn's British fleet "lay directly before our House." Indeed, the siting of Mount Welby would have afforded its residents a clear view of the City of Alexandria, located directly across the Potomac River, as it capitulated British Naval forces. At one point during the war, the DeButts family had left Mount Welby to visit their sick daughter in Loudoun County; upon their

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return home, they "found three Rockets on our Hill evidently pointed at our House but fortunately did not reach it."¹¹

Though the war had come perilously close to harming the De Butts family, they emerged from the conflict unscathed. However, "a most dreadful Epidemic" swept through the region during the winter of 1815, killing slaves, tenants, and, on March 20, Dr. Samuel DeButts.¹² Mary DeButts inherited the estate after her husband's death, and continued to reside at Mount Welby with her son Richard and his family.¹³ Upon her death in 1826, the estate passed to her son, John Henry, who previously had managed the estate during his parents' visits to friends and family.¹⁴ His two children, Richard E. DeButts and Mary Welby DeButts Carter, inherited the property after his death in 1832. By that time, Richard and Mary were living in Fauquier County, Virginia. They maintained ownership of the property until 1843, when they sold most of Mount Welby to Isaac George of Fairfax County, Virginia. They reserved the enclosed family graveyard for themselves and their heirs.¹⁵

The Mount Welby parcel passed through a series of owners between 1843, when the DeButts heirs sold it to Isaac George, and 1891, when the U.S. Government purchased it. The historic record suggests that the purchasers bought the property as an investment, and that the land either was worked by tenant farmers or was allowed to lie fallow. While some owners, such as Joseph Bowling and George Mattingly, paid off their mortgages on the property, others such as Joseph Ryerson and Oliver Gilbert defaulted on their loans, and were forced to sell their land at public auction.

Little is known of the tenants who worked the land at Mount Welby. Although a Federal agricultural census was established by 1850, distinctions between tenants and owners seldom were made. While the 1880 agricultural census did differentiate between the two groups, information on the Mount Welby tract cannot be obtained, because the names of its tenants have not been identified. Few tenant arrangements were documented by leases; most were informal oral agreements.

Nevertheless, agricultural censuses from 1850 to 1880 provide general information on agricultural trends in the area. In the Spaldings District, in which Mount Welby and Oxon Hill Manor were located, emphasis was placed on market gardening. This new emphasis resulted from the proximity of this area to the increased market in

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Washington, D.C.; from the improved transportation routes to the city; and from the unsuitability of the soils for growing wheat. Orchard production in the region increased between 1850 and 1860.¹⁶

Farms in the Oxon Hill District, which was separated from the Spaldings District in 1874, decreased in size after the Civil War. The 1880 agricultural census, the first to distinguish between owner/farmers and tenant/farmers, identified 29.7 per cent of Oxon Hill District farmers as tenants. The overwhelming majority of them were cash tenants who paid their rent in currency, rather than sharecroppers who received use of the land in return for a portion of their produce. By 1880, farms in the Oxon Hill District produced wheat, rye, corn, oats, Irish potatoes, hay, sweet potatoes, and butter.¹⁷

While land use of the Oxon Cove property during the latter half of the nineteenth century remains ambiguous, ownership of the property has been documented. In 1853, Isaac George sold approximately 234 acres of the Mount Welby property to Joseph H. Bowling.¹⁸ Ten years later, Bowling sold the tract to George Mattingly for \$8,000.¹⁹ Mattingly apparently had been paying taxes on the property prior to his acquisition of the deed, as the Survey of Military Defenses in the Vicinity of Washington D.C. map (1862) depicts "G. Mattingly" as the owner of the Mount Welby house and property.

Joseph W. Ryerson contracted a loan and purchased Mount Welby at the substantial cost of \$16,000 in 1864.²⁰ Whether the 1864 price collected for the property reflects improvements made during Mattingly's ownership, or the price charged Mattingly in 1863 reflects a discount given to Mattingly in return for the taxes he paid during previous years, is unclear. Ryerson was unable to maintain payments on the property and defaulted on this loan. In 1867, George Mattingly regained ownership of the property via public auction for the sum of \$12,870.²¹

Mattingly found new owners for Mount Welby in 1873, when Oliver and Emma Gilbert purchased the 234-acre property for \$18,000.²² Gilbert defaulted on his loan three years later, and sold the property to Moses Kelly at a public auction for a mere \$5,300.²³ Perhaps seeking a quick return on their investment, Moses and Mary Kelly sold the same property to P. Edwin Dye on April 1, 1876, for \$6,000.²⁴ Dye probably rented the property to tenants during his 14-year ownership, although land use during this period remains unclear.

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By 1890, Dye no longer could maintain payments on the Mount Welby property. Arthur Clements purchased the land at public auction for \$5,625.²⁵ In 1891, Clements sold Mount Welby to Samuel and Johanna Bieber for \$6,250.²⁶ The Biebers had owned the property for less than a year when they agreed to sell the property to the United States for \$6,500 on November 21, 1891.²⁷

Three extant structures on the property date from this pre-government ownership period; they include the Mount Welby dwelling house, the brick stable building, and the brick root cellar. Portions of the historic dwelling known as Mount Welby probably were constructed at the beginning of the nineteenth century, possibly by Nicholas Lingan or Dr. Samuel DeButts. However, architectural analysis of the fabric, floor plan, and present stylistic details of this structure suggests that the original early nineteenth century structure was damaged, possibly by fire, and repaired later in the nineteenth century. The late nineteenth and twentieth century alterations to the Mount Welby dwelling have altered its original characteristics to such a degree that the building no longer reflects the full architectural vocabulary of buildings constructed during the early nineteenth century. Exterior brick walls exhibit an irregular combination of Flemish bond, more commonly associated with the eighteenth century, and 3:1 course common bond, commonly associated with late eighteenth-early nineteenth century construction. Stylistically, the addition of corbeled brick roof brackets, the shed roof, and stylistic detail incorporated in the primary and secondary porches, associates Mount Welby more closely with the Italianate architectural style common to the late nineteenth century. The building originally possessed a four-unit plan. This plan was altered through the removal of a wall that divided the east chambers of the structure; the ghost of that wall is evident beneath the flooring material now covering the unified space.

The walls of the brick stable also are constructed in 3:1 common bond coursing. Pierced diamond patterns and glazed header bricks are included in the building's gable ends. Barns and stables built in Tidewater Maryland during the nineteenth century generally were characterized by the use of wooden-frame construction. The construction vocabulary reflected in the brick stable is associated more commonly with south-central Pennsylvania and the Piedmont regions of Maryland and

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Virginia rather than with the Coastal Plain. The brick stable retains its overall architectural integrity, despite alterations incorporated during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These alterations included the infilling of windows and doors, the removal and addition of stall partitions, and the addition of a poured concrete floor. The most significant change to the design of the structure was the enlargement of the central bay entry. No evidence of the original configuration of the central bay survives. Record of the removal and addition of interior stall partitions is found on the building's interior wall surface, where the ghosts of the former partitions remain.

The root cellar is constructed of brick coursed in 5:1 common bond, a brick pattern common in American buildings constructed during the mid-nineteenth century. The brick root cellar has a brick-lined below-grade entry. The exterior of the foundation walls has been parged with Portland cement, applied at an unknown period. Root cellars are support structures frequently associated with nineteenth century farmsteads. The design of these structures varies in elaboration from simple earthen dug-outs to architecturally sophisticated masonry buildings. In general, construction techniques and materials utilized in these secondary buildings reflect those of the associated main complex. The root cellar at Oxon Cove Park retains its overall architectural integrity.

These three buildings are associated with the early development of the Oxon Cove Park property as a working farm. The buildings form an architecturally unified, distinguishable entity within the Park. The stable and the root cellar retain their integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, and association. The main dwelling, while initially constructed during the early nineteenth century, was substantially rebuilt later in that century. As a result of these changes, the main dwelling is more closely related to its period of substantial renovation than to its period of original construction.

Institutional Use, 1891-1967

Hospital Farm Development and Operation

St. Elizabeths Hospital and the Decentralization Movement. By 1891, the year in which the United States purchased the two tracts of land that now compose Oxon Cove Park, for the Government Hospital for

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the Insane (then known only informally as St. Elizabeths), mental institutions had experienced almost 40 years of expansion and development. St. Elizabeths Hospital, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1992, was established in 1852 as part of the mid-nineteenth century reform movement led by Dorothea Lynde Dix to provide "humane and enlightened" care for the mentally ill. Central to the philosophy of care was the concept that a peaceful, pastoral setting removed from harmful urban influences would promote healing.²⁸ St. Elizabeths, located in a rural setting on a ridge overlooking the Potomac and Anacostia rivers in southeastern Washington, D.C., approximately five miles north of present-day Oxon Cove Park, appeared to possess those characteristics of proper setting.

The hospital was established as, and remains, the only national Public Health Service Hospital solely concerned with the recovery of the mentally ill. Those eligible to receive treatment at St. Elizabeths included District of Columbia residents, Federal government beneficiaries, and those charged or convicted in criminal proceedings in Federal or district courts who required psychiatric diagnosis or treatment.²⁹

St. Elizabeths Hospital quickly emerged in the forefront of the mental health care field, providing the best, most enlightened treatment for its patients. Before the hospital was established, the body of information concerning causes and potential cures for mental illness had been limited. Doctors believed mental illness was a permanent condition that required patients to be sequestered under custodial care. Most hospitals housed patients in large, centralized single buildings. However, prevailing concepts of treatment had shifted somewhat among enlightened mental health practitioners by the mid-nineteenth century. These workers no longer viewed mental illness as a permanent condition, and they no longer considered mere custodial care sufficient to manage mental patients.

Nevertheless, in the absence of modern drugs and medications, effective treatment still relied primarily on the provision of a "healthful and beneficent" environment. St. Elizabeths Hospital became one of the first institutions to place patients in congenial surroundings where they could learn "proper behavior" from normal

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attendants. However, the hospital still was highly centralized, and all patients resided under one roof.³⁰

By the 1870s, increased numbers of mental patients at centralized mental hospitals, including St. Elizabeths, became a significant problem. Moreover, construction costs for new large-scale buildings of the traditional style had escalated to such an extent that few Federal, state, or local government agencies wished to embark on the major building programs that would be required to relieve overcrowding. These needs prompted a search for expansion of hospital facilities at lower cost.³¹ While concern over escalating costs rose, humanitarian considerations also dictated new methods of treating the mentally ill. Patients complained about the monotony of life in the wards; quieter patients and their families feared close proximity to violent and disorderly patients; and everyone resented overcrowding. Furthermore, people associated with mental health treatment found traditional hospitals too institutional to help patients recover.

Thus, both economic and humanitarian factors influenced a shift in mental health care towards decentralization, and a more homelike environment for patients. St. Elizabeths Hospital emerged during the late nineteenth century as an early practitioner of the new "cottage plan," which encouraged the construction of smaller, detached buildings that stood independently from the main hospital structure. Not only did smaller dormitories eliminate some of the impersonal qualities of institutionalized care, but such a plan also allowed patients greater mobility and encouraged patients' ability to engage in some useful task such as gardening and farming.³²

William W. Godding, appointed superintendent of St. Elizabeths Hospital in 1877, was a strong proponent of decentralization. He encouraged the creation of a homelike environment for his patients, advocating that "the best road to quiet content if not to cure lies through the regular occupation of the mind and body with some work not too hard of comprehension, nor too taxing to the strength in its performance."³³ His theories helped to alter the system under which patients at St. Elizabeths were confined.

In 1878, Godding oversaw the construction of Atkins Hall, a small, two-story residential building on the grounds of the hospital that provided shelter for 50 of the quieter patients considered capable of

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working on the hospital grounds. The structure, free of barred windows and bolted doors, provided patients with a modicum of autonomy, and it served as an initial step in providing less confining care for at least a handful of qualified patients.³⁴

Encouraged by the success of Atkins Hall and inspired by Richard Dewey's more expansive decentralized plan at Kankakee Hospital in Illinois, Godding worked to improve conditions at St. Elizabeths further. In an 1885 article published in Alienist and Neurologist, Godding expressed his approval of the cottage plan because it provided more private, intimate accommodations for patients, as well as greater liberties and employment.³⁵ Godding's belief in the benefits of work as being ". . . the most efficient instrumentality in the treatment and management of the insane" led to an extension of the decentralization process.³⁶

In 1891, St. Elizabeths Hospital acquired a 350-acre tract of land approximately five miles south of the main institution, in the Oxon Hill District of Prince George's County. Godding incorporated this new property, called Godding Croft, into his plan for moving some capable patients from the main grounds of the hospital to a quiet agricultural setting. He believed that patients removed from the confining hospital grounds could benefit from the fresh air and outdoor work available at this new "farm colony." Godding intended the new farm to evolve into a larger community comprised of the "harmless insane."³⁷

Although St. Elizabeths Hospital had maintained some farmland prior to the acquisition of the two Oxon Cove parcels in 1891, it lacked adequate space for the scale of patient housing envisioned by Godding. In addition, the hospital's increasing demand for fresh food required supplementary acreage to enable the hospital to employ modern agricultural methods. Godding Croft was designed to allow for the expansion of agricultural facilities at the hospital; it later became the main building complex utilized by present-day Oxon Cove Park.

In his 1892 Annual Report of the Government Hospital for the Insane, Godding expressed his eagerness to create this new therapeutic agricultural work environment. Although the report discussed such practical concerns as the "considerable delay in perfecting the title" to the Mount Welby property, and the requirement of enclosing the property for secure hospital use, the general tone of the report

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reflected Godding's enthusiasm in pursuing plans for his innovative
treatment. As envisioned in the report, Godding intended to prepare:
suitable accommodations for a pioneer colony of laboring men,
carefully selected from the quiet class of inmates, to whom a
home where they can sit under their own vine and fig tree
enjoying the fruit of their labors will be something hitherto
unknown to their hospital life.

Godding stressed the benefits of his new therapeutic approach for the
"quiet" mental health patients, and he eloquently expressed his belief
that labor would provide comfort not found in the traditional hospital.
He explained his novel approach as:
a somewhat new departure in the direction of humane care and
enlightened treatment, that can hardly fail to promote the
comfort of those whose hands are thus occupied while their
thoughts may find therein diversion for the cobwebs of their
brains.

He wrote of his hope that the farm would inspire other similar
communities, ones that would allow the "harmless insane" to live outside
the hospital environment and to enjoy a freer life.³⁸

Use of Hospital Farms. Although the therapeutic aspects of the
farm received the most serious consideration, Godding, as
superintendent, also appreciated the economic benefits derived from the
adequate food production from hospital-run farms. As early as 1888,
Godding had asked James Klee, superintendent of the poultry yard at St.
Elizabeths Hospital, to seek new methods of increasing the productivity
and profitability of the hospital's poultry. In a series of memoranda
to James Green, manager of agricultural affairs, Klee opined that the
hospital lacked every necessary ingredient for a lucrative poultry
operation. He advised the hospital to tear down the existing facility
and to begin anew at a better location.³⁹ Although Klee's memo was not
the primary motivating factor in the purchase of the Mount Welby and
Oxon Hill properties, it persuasively outlined the inadequacies of the
prevailing arrangement. Building a new hen house at Godding Croft,
complete with a staff of patients to handle the operations, would solve

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the poultry problem and improve profitability.

Appreciation for the economic advantages of patient labor reflected contemporary trends in mental health care. During the late 1800s, hospital needs became the springboard for establishing work programs, where patients were assigned to tasks in maintenance, the laundry, farming, or gardening. As early as 1881, patients at the Willard Asylum in New York harvested produce, mended clothing, and laid railroad track. The therapeutic philosophy behind this system reflected a strong belief that occupation diverted the patient from her or his mental state.⁴⁰

Although doctors provided such rationale for patient work programs, patient labor received strong support in large measure due to its economic benefits, since it supplemented insufficient hospital staffs. At the same time, the work purportedly made patients "more manageable." At St. Elizabeths Hospital, fruits and vegetables harvested on the farms by patients could be canned and prepared by patients for future meals for patients. The economy of such a system was not lost on hospital management.⁴¹ Godding's description of the Oxon Cove property in the 1891 Annual Report even highlighted the land's agricultural potential:

It is a field whereon to plant colonies and to make homes. Here we can raise our young stock; here readily can grow all the corn necessary for our feed meal, all the Irish and sweet potatoes that we require, with melons and fruits sufficient for our whole household, who in their turn might be expected to supply most of the labor needed, so making of these acres their fields and their world.⁴²

Indeed, much of the available historic documentation pertaining to Godding Croft reflects the agricultural, rather than the therapeutic, advantages of the hospital farm.

With the addition of Godding Croft, the hospital maintained three separate farming areas. The three hospital farms operated interdependently to fulfill the expressed two-fold purpose of providing a "healthful and instructive occupation for the patients," and supplying the hospital with fresh food.⁴³ Farm managers frequently treated the triad as a single system, albeit one with removed areas. Stevens Farm, located approximately one-half mile south of the hospital, contained the garden. Patients at Stevens Farm hoed, cultivated, and gathered

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vegetables, while others helped feed and care for swine housed at the farm's piggery. Shepherd Farm, sometimes called the Home Farm due to its location on the hospital grounds, initially contained the dairy; some crops also were grown at this location. Patients worked in the fields, repaired and built fences, cut weeds, spread manure, and cared for horses, calves, and cows. Other tasks involved milking, assisting with the care of sick animals, and maintaining time reports.⁴⁴ Patients selected for work at Godding Croft had less severe mental conditions and were allowed greater freedom than those who remained on the central campus of St. Elizabeths. They labored in the fields, helped care for livestock, assisted with kitchen duties and housecleaning, and worked in the poultry plant.⁴⁵

Patients assigned to farm labor worked in groups of five to twelve men under the charge of an attendant. Generally, they worked about two to three hours each morning and about the same amount of time each afternoon. Godding Croft contained two small cottages, in addition to the manor house, for patients who resided on the premises.⁴⁶ Historic photographs depict the hospital farm during the early years of its establishment. Mount Welby, with its commanding view of the Potomac River, remained the focal point of the farm complex. The view from the veranda once inspired Godding to expound, "one secures an excellent view of the river, reflecting the surrounding landscape in its mirror-like surface as it winds its way to the Chesapeake."⁴⁷ One ca. 1893 photograph shows at least one frame agricultural building north of the dwelling, not far from a small orchard. The house itself appeared to have been renovated recently, since it incorporated ornamental finishes on the rear porch.

In 1895, the hospital's Annual Report provided a map of Goddingcroft [sic] as its frontispiece; the map depicts most of the acreage encompassed by the farm during that period. The map shows that cultivated fields were confined primarily to the highest reaches of the property, the area currently occupied by the Oxon Hill Farm complex. A proposed road from Marlboro to Alexandria was planned to cross near the southern boundary of the property, while the main farm road circled past the farm buildings and residential structures, through the fields, down to Oxon Bay (Cove).

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The residential structures depicted on the map housed patients at Godding Croft through at least the 1920s. Inventories dating from that decade listed 20 single iron bedsteads and one double wooden bed at the farm.⁴⁸ However, by 1942, at least some patients were being transported to and from Godding Croft on a daily basis. The farm manager complained that such commuting reduced the patients' work day, leaving little time for chores. A U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart of the Potomac illustrates the distance between the hospital farm at Oxon Cove and St. Elizabeths Hospital, then labeled the U.S. Hospital for the Insane. The map depicts the long trek of approximately five miles along an indirect route to the pastures and fields of the farm. In his 1942 farm report, the farm manager urged the construction of temporary quarters that would house 50 or 60 patients to "greatly increase the labor efficiency of that unit and save considerable wear and tear on our farm trucks." The requested construction program, which suggested a greater emphasis on patient labor rather than on patient therapy, never was implemented.⁴⁹

The St. Elizabeths Hospital farm reports primarily chronicle the agricultural concerns of Godding Croft. They provide a technical account of property use during the twentieth century, and document the changing role of Godding Croft. As the hospital's other farms lost ground to patient housing and property sale, Godding Croft assumed additional agricultural responsibilities.

Godding Croft originally provided feed and pasture for much of the hospital's stock, although small herds of cattle and pigs were maintained at the other farms. Godding Croft produced most of the silage, timothy, and alfalfa required by cows and horses maintained at the farm; by the early 1930s, the farm provided feed for all of the stock it housed.⁵⁰ In addition to a stable of nine horses, Godding Croft accommodated calves and piglets from the hospital's other farms. Six-month-old calves were taken to Godding Croft, where they remained until they gave birth to their own first calves, at which time they were removed to the dairy at Shepherd Farm.⁵¹ In a similar arrangement, Godding Croft acquired young piglets from the piggery at Stevens Farm; these young pigs remained at Godding Croft's ample pastures until they were four to five months old and less susceptible to roundworm.⁵²

In addition to producing feed for the hospital's livestock, Godding

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Croft furnished food for the patient population. The farm contained an orchard, and maintained bees to pollinate the fruit trees and supply the dining room with honey. By the mid-1930s, Godding Croft also supplied sweet potatoes, carrots, beets, turnips, and some summer vegetables.⁵³

Godding Croft also served as the location for the hospital poultry operations. Farm managers experimented with various breeds in an attempt to increase egg and dressed fowl production. During one 20-year period, the farm switched from White Leghorn laying hens, to Plymouth Barred Rocks, to New Hampshire Reds. In 1935, farm manager D.A. Brodie identified the inadequate laying house as a key factor in poor egg and chicken production. The laying house, which was built around the contour of a hill that acted as a dam for run-off water, attracted rats, lice, and poultry diseases such as tuberculosis and white diarrhea.⁵⁴ The farm temporarily suspended poultry operations in 1939 to clear the premises of disease and parasites. After operations resumed, the resulting healthy flock increased production significantly.⁵⁵ By 1948-49, a flock of 5,579 birds provided 31,397 dozen eggs and more than 10,000 pounds of meat for the hospital.⁵⁶

As the farm reports demonstrate, much of Godding Croft was comprised of pasture and cultivated fields, with only a secondary emphasis on livestock production. Therefore, the initial number of farm buildings was minimal. As of June 30, 1937, the St. Elizabeths Hospital agricultural building inventory identified only a horse barn (\$17,822.18), a tank and water system (\$7,075.50), a house (\$6,298.34), a cow barn (\$2,500.00), poultry houses (\$2,000.00), and a hay rack (\$180.00) at Godding Croft. However, Godding Croft remained the largest of the hospital farms with 390.12 acres of land, 200 of which were under cultivation.⁵⁷

Oddly, the 1937 inventory identified no buildings as patient cottages. However, other reports acknowledge the presence of patient workers at the former Mount Welby estate. In the 1938-39 annual report, Farm Superintendent D.A. Brodie requested that a new kitchen and dining room arrangement be established at Godding Croft, because he regarded the delivery of food service to patients and employees as crude and unsanitary. Brodie maintained that:

Although the present situation is one of longstanding, and harks back to a more primitive period, where generations of

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men and women have cooked and dined and thought nothing of it because there was nothing better to be had, nevertheless, our present standards for maintaining health and comfort would seem to warrant the installation of modern conveniences.

Although Brodie did not specify his concerns with the situation, he intimated that conditions should be changed if Godding Croft were "to be continued as a hospital farm."⁵⁸ Although other records note the installation of electric lights on the farm by 1930,⁵⁹ Brodie's concern suggests that the farm was not maintained at the same level of comfort as the hospital's main campus.

With the patient population dramatically increasing, St. Elizabeths hospital continued to appropriate land from its farms for additional patient housing. This loss of land necessitated more intensive farming practices, as farm managers attempted to keep pace with the demand for vegetables.⁶⁰ In 1941, the main garden was moved from Stevens Farm to Godding Croft. The increase in garden acreage demanded a corresponding decline in the amount of hay and other forage that could be grown at Godding Croft; the farm no longer was self-sustaining, and hay was acquired from outside sources to supplement farm supplies. By 1945, a major part of the bottom land had been converted for vegetable garden use.⁶¹ With the abandonment of farm activities at the home farm in 1948, all gardening activities were conducted at Godding Croft.⁶²

In 1945, farm management decided to move the piggery to Godding Croft, where a proper location was selected "in the wooded section north of the ravine"; the site formerly contained a hay barn that had been demolished by fire on December 17, 1944. The pig complex required the construction of new roads to lead to the site of the hog shelter and feeding platform. A farrowing house and 36 pens to shelter the pigs were built by the following year. The new feeding platform contained troughs and a paved concrete enclosure for injecting garbage. In addition, a furnace and tank for cooking garbage was built.⁶³

Staff reductions during the late 1940s left only a skeleton force to care for the farm. The 1946 farm report also noted that "the effect of a five day week will be keenly felt in this department and an additional twenty patients should be assigned here to facilitate the work." Management further identified the need to request overtime of

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some paid employees to care for both the farm animals and the patients.⁶⁴ In 1949, the number of Godding Croft employees was reduced to 15.⁶⁵

Five structures at Oxon Cove are associated with construction activity undertaken at Godding Croft during this historic context period. These include the horse and pony barn, feed building, and the hexagonal outbuilding, all constructed at the turn of the century; and the hay barn and silo, constructed during the mid-twentieth century. Photographic research reveals that the horse and pony barn and the feed building retain their original location and design; cartographic research reveals that the silo and hay barn also retain integrity of location.

None of the five buildings incorporates discernable structural alterations or replacements; the interior walls of the hexagonal outbuilding are plastered, obscuring the building's structural system. The horse and pony barn, feed building, and hay barn are constructed primarily of circular-sawn wooden structural members. Circular saw machinery was developed during the mid-nineteenth century. The use of circular sawn wood in the construction of rural buildings became common ca. 1870, when improved transportation methods and reductions in the cost of production made the purchase of machine circular-sawn wood more economical than using manual sawing methods. The silo is constructed of glazed tiles, a building material that was used to construct utilitarian structures between ca. 1925-1975. All five buildings associated with the agricultural operations conducted at Godding Croft retain integrity of materials and workmanship.

When originally constructed, Godding Croft was surrounded by open fields; the site currently is characterized by pasture lands, agricultural fields, woodlands, and areas for passive recreation. The enlargement of the tract's wooded area serves to enhance, rather than to detract from, the site's integrity of setting. The area surrounding Godding Croft has been developed intensively during the late twentieth century. The landscape of southern Prince George's County has changed from a region characterized by agrarian landscapes to one reflecting an urban setting. The trees that border the fields of Godding Croft effectively screen all of the development undertaken immediately adjacent to the farm, and preserve the rural atmosphere that

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characterized the area when Godding Croft was established.

Structures located in the core complex at Oxon Cove Park constructed before 1943 possess those qualities of significance identified in National Register Criteria A and C that are necessary for listing as a historic district. Buildings constructed at Oxon Cove during the period of National Park ownership (1967-present), including a visitor barn, hog house, windmill, chicken house, implement shed, tool shed, "sorghum sirup" shed, and dairy barn, are less than 50 years of age. Buildings less than 50 years of age are not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places unless they possess exceptional qualities of significance. None of the buildings constructed during the National Park Service period of ownership possesses the exceptional qualities of significance necessary for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Refer to attached USGS map, Alexandria, Virginia 7.5' Quadrangle. Photorevised 1983.

Boundary Justification

The nominated Oxon Cove Farm property is an 11.3-acre tract that includes the historic farmstead, historic farmyard, and immediate surrounding landscape. The district is bounded to the east by an access road, to the north and west by fence and tree lines, and to the south by a historic road trace. This boundary represents the definable historic core of the farm at Oxon Cove Park.

Limited areas of farm land associated with the present operations at Oxon Cove Park are included within the boundaries of this nomination. Farmland at Oxon Cove park is situated in two distinct locales; upland territory where livestock is maintained, and the Potomac River floodplain where crops are raised. Historic views of Godding Croft reveal that the upland terrain was used as cropland during its period of significance. Currently this area is characterized by forest; farm fields are located within the immediate vicinity of the main Oxon Cove Park building complex. The farm fields of the upland territory reflect the land use patterns of the property during its period of significance and are included within the boundary of Oxon Cove Farm. Forested portions of the upland territory do not reflect historic land use patterns and are excluded from the National Register district.

Though the Potomac River floodplain of Oxon Cove Park is still utilized as cropland, this area has undergone extensive topographical alteration. During the early 1960s, the mouth of Oxon Cove was narrowed to facilitate construction of Interstate 295 along the eastern Potomac shore. The cove, and Potomac floodplain surrounding it, were further impacted during the early 1970s when a landfill was operated on the site. The landfill began operation in October 1969. Through this project, Park Service officials desired to cover scattered trash pits located within the floodplain and convert the swampy territory into usable park land, a marina and golf course. Though the marina and golf course were not constructed, landfilling activity did raise grade level approximately six feet and altered the banks of both Oxon Cove and Oxon Creek. The floodplain land has been altered to such an extent that a denizen of Mount Welby or Godding Croft would be unlikely to recognize

the area without the Mount Welby dwelling as a point of reference. For this reason, the cropland at Oxon Cove Park was excluded from the Oxon Cove Farm (Goddling Croft) historic district.

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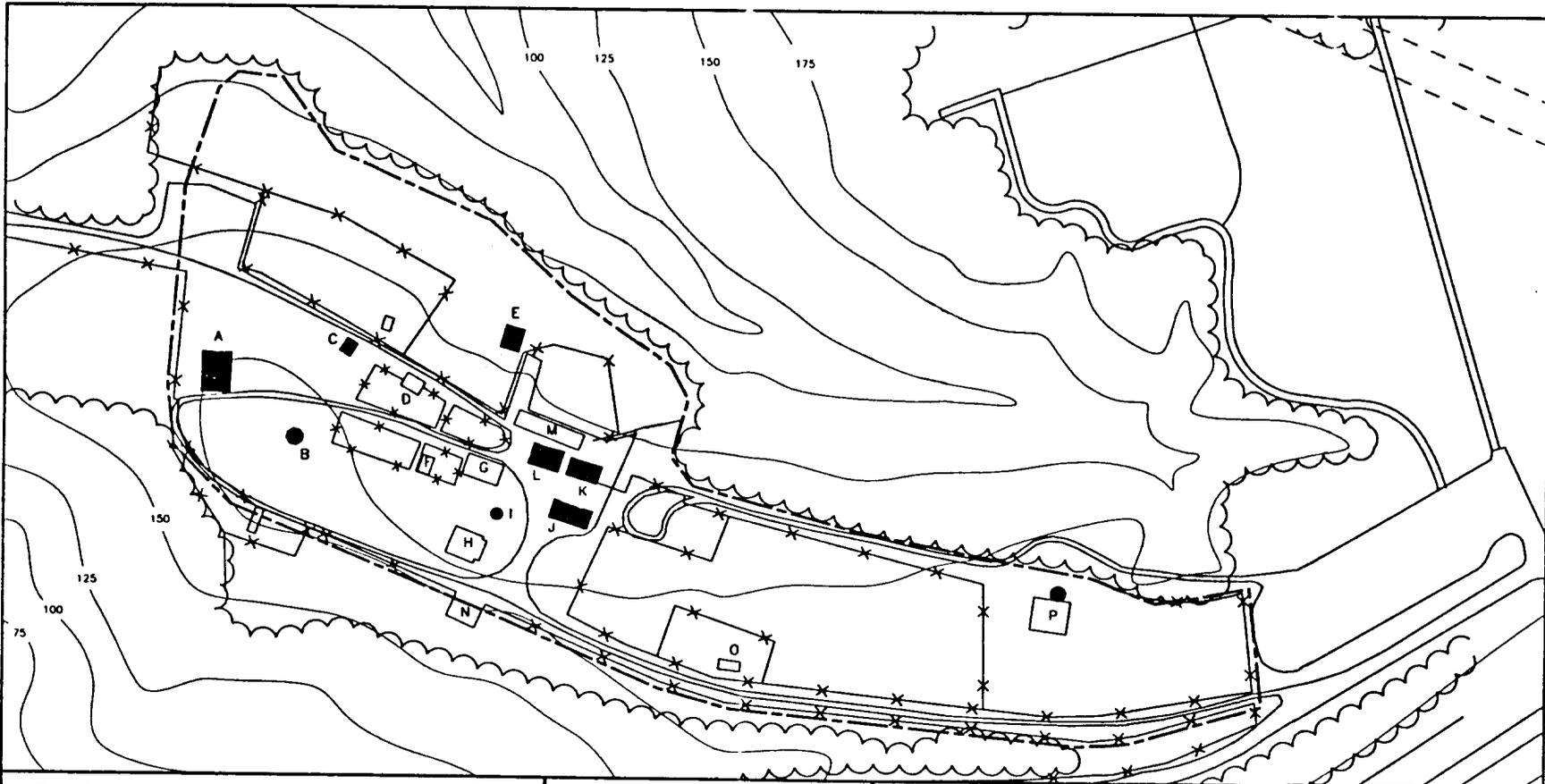
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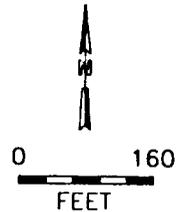


BUILDING KEY

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. DWELLING (ca. 1811) | I. WINDMILL |
| B. HEXAGONAL OUTBUILDING | J. HAY BARN |
| C. ROOT CELLAR | K. FEED BUILDING |
| D. HOG HOUSE | L. BRICK STABLE |
| E. HORSE AND PONY BARN | M. TOOL SHED |
| F. CHICKEN HOUSE | N. RESTROOMS (ca. 1988) |
| G. IMPLEMENT SHED | O. SORGHUM SIRUP SHED |
| H. VISITOR BARN | P. DAIRY BARN AND SILO |

FEATURE KEY

- HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- x-x- FENCELINE
- ~ TREELINE
- BUILDING CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
- BUILDING NOT CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION



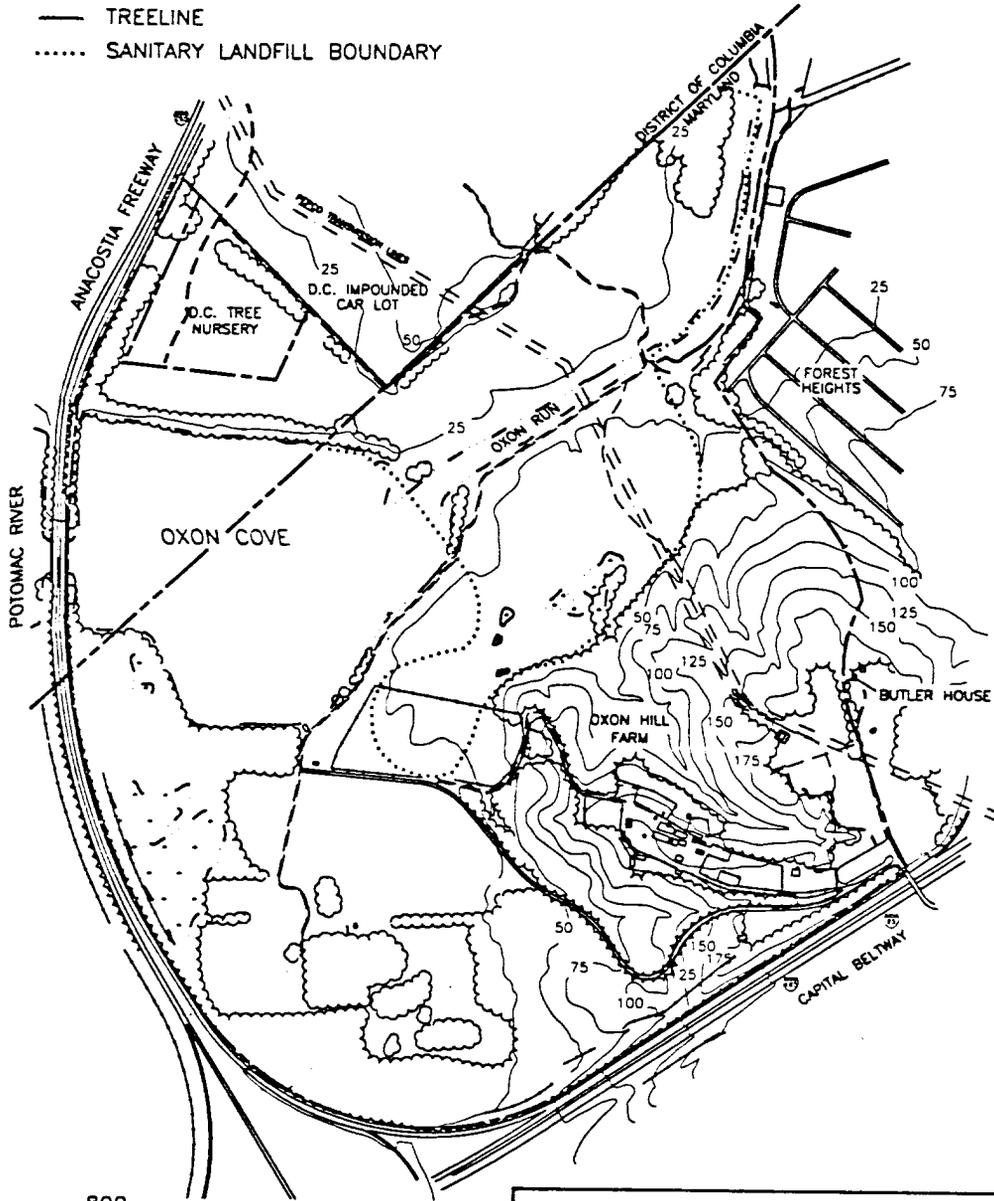
OXON COVE FARM

DATE: JULY, 1993 | PAGE 2 of 2

R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.
 337 East Third Street
 Frederick, Maryland 21701
 Drawn By: Bethany M. Usher

PG: 76A-13

- BUILDING CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
- BUILDING NOT CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
- OXON COVE PARK BOUNDARY
- FENCELINE
- TREELINE
- SANITARY LANDFILL BOUNDARY

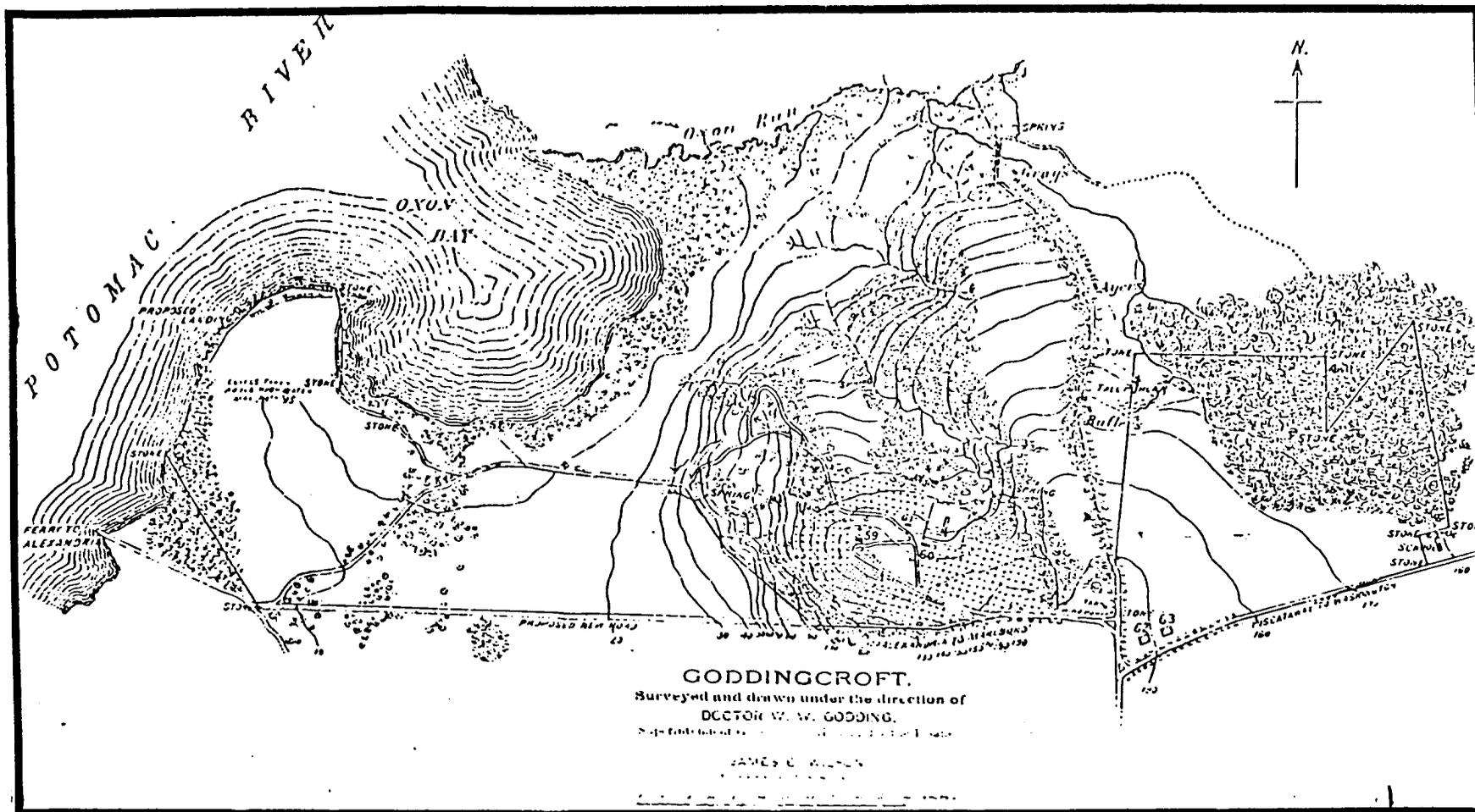


0 800
FEET

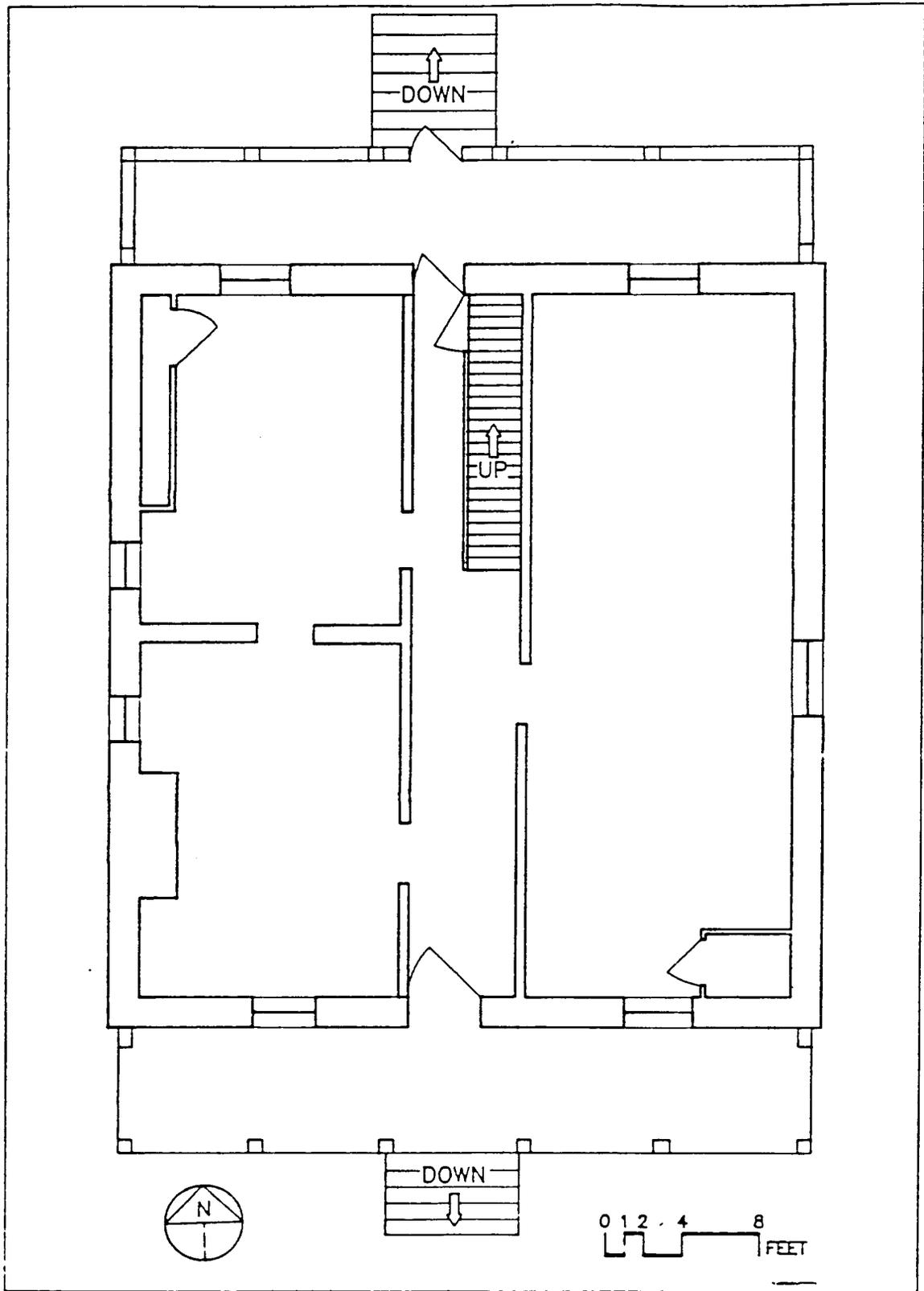
NOTE: CONTOUR INTERVAL
IS 25 FEET.

OXON COVE FARM	
DATE: JULY, 1993	PAGE 1 OF 2
R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. 337 East Third Street Frederick, Maryland 21701 Drawn By: Bethany M. Usher	

PG:76A-13

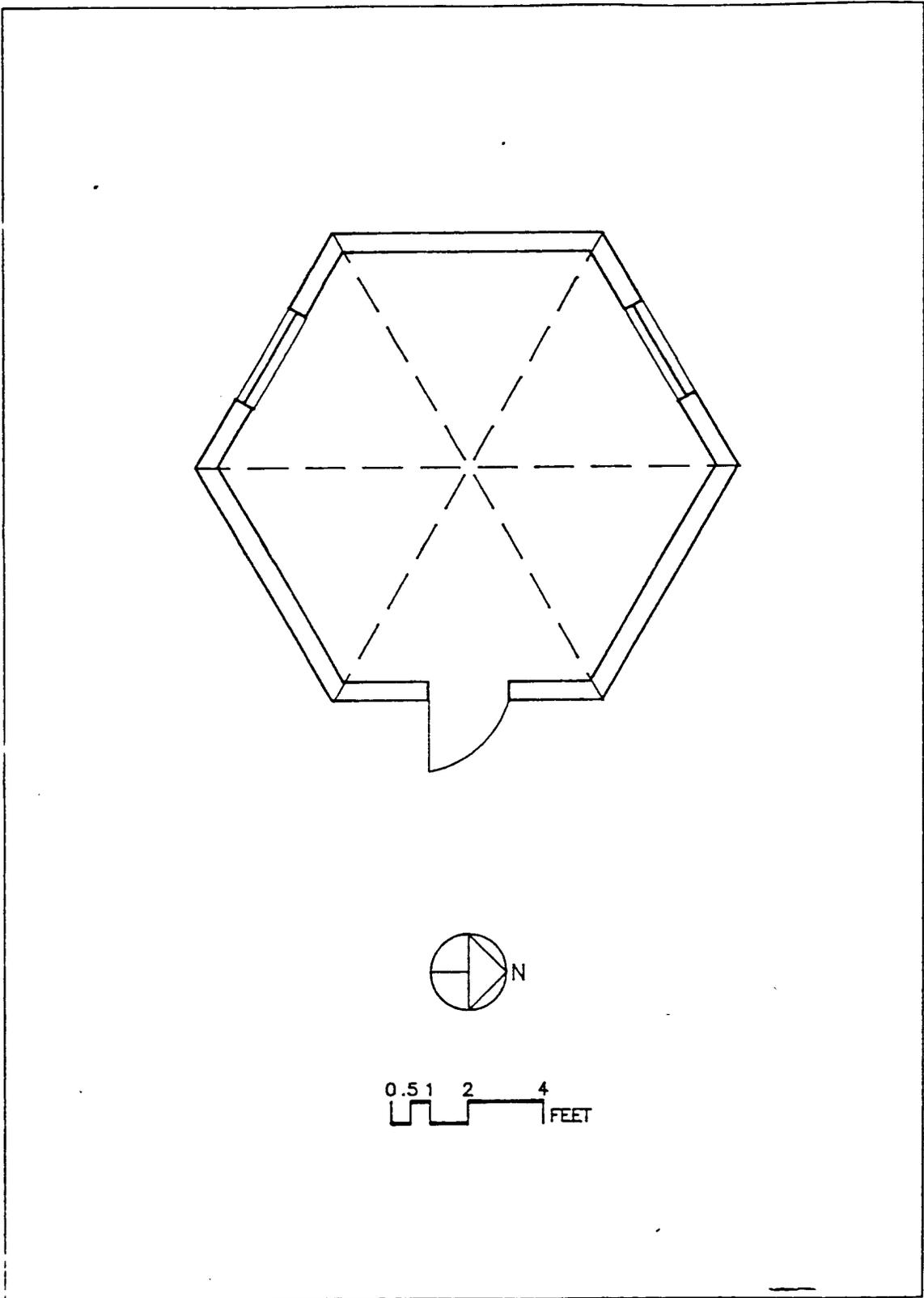


Oxon Cove Farm ca. 1895, excerpted from the *Report of the Board of Visitors -- Government Hospital for the Insane, Washington, D.C.*



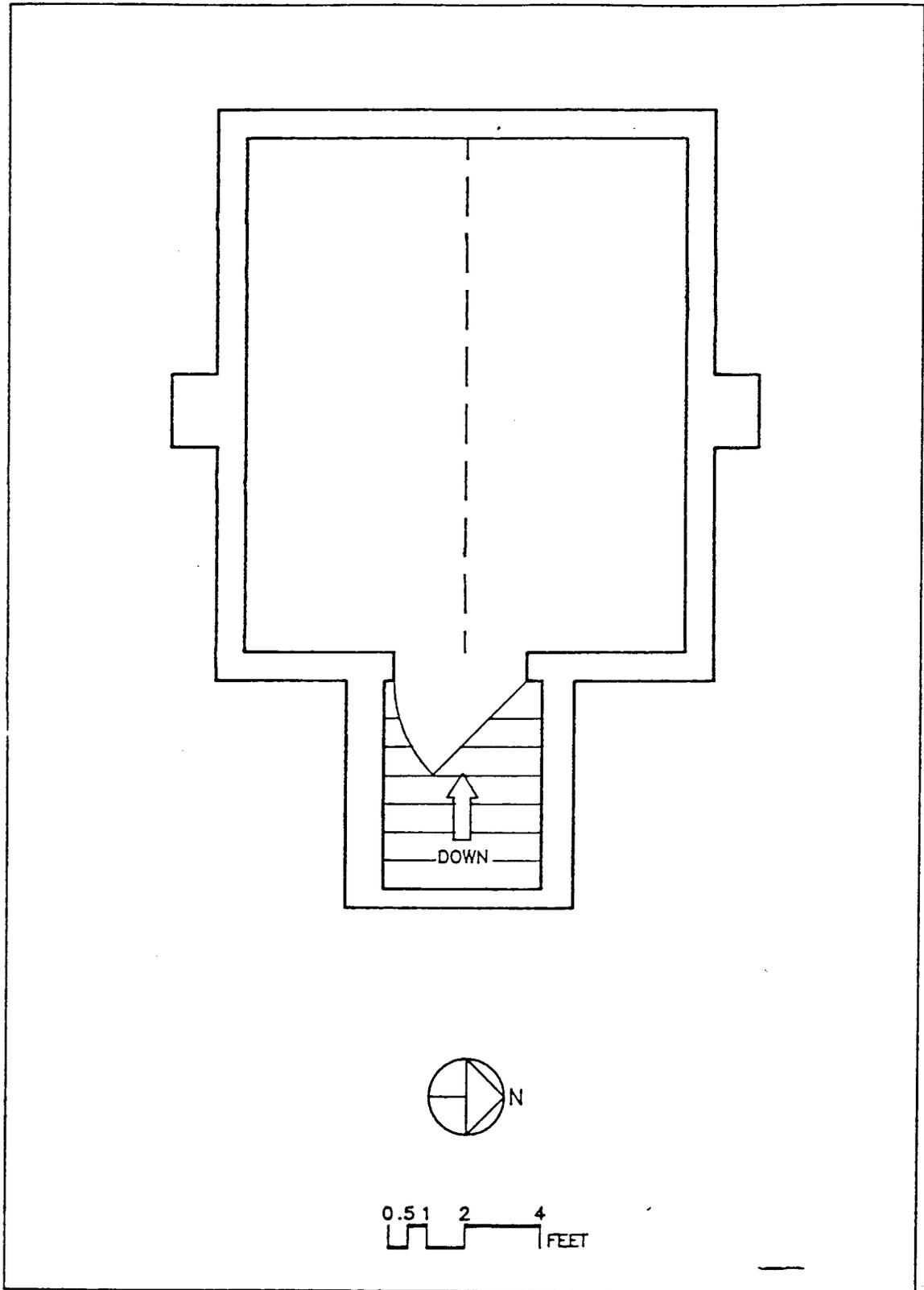
OXON COVE FARM - DWELLING PLAN

PG: 76A-13



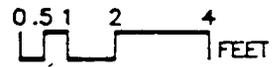
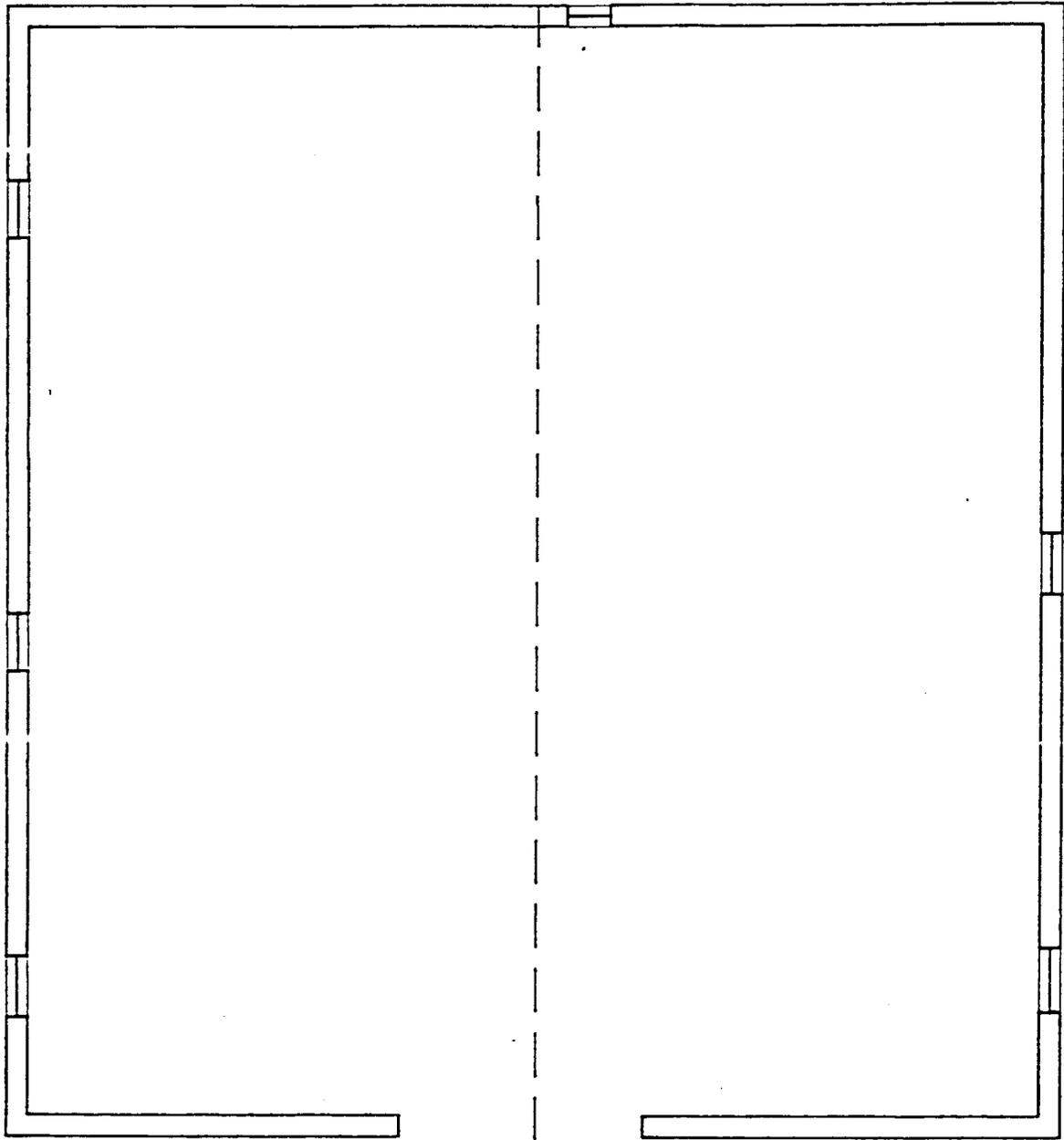
OXON COVE FARM - HEXAGONAL OUTBUILDING PLAN

PG:76A-13



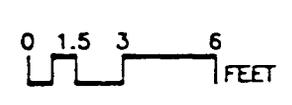
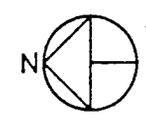
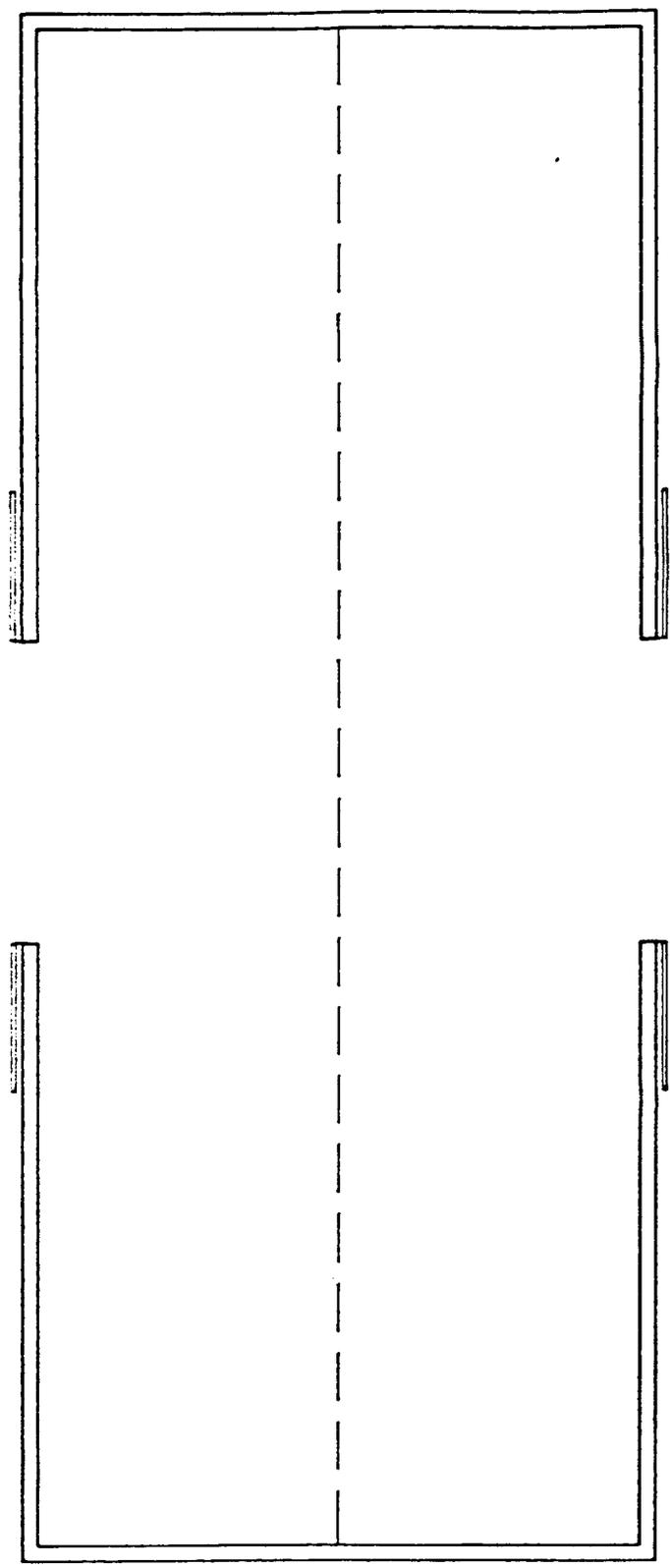
OXON COVE FARM - ROOT CELLAR PLAN

PG: 76A-13



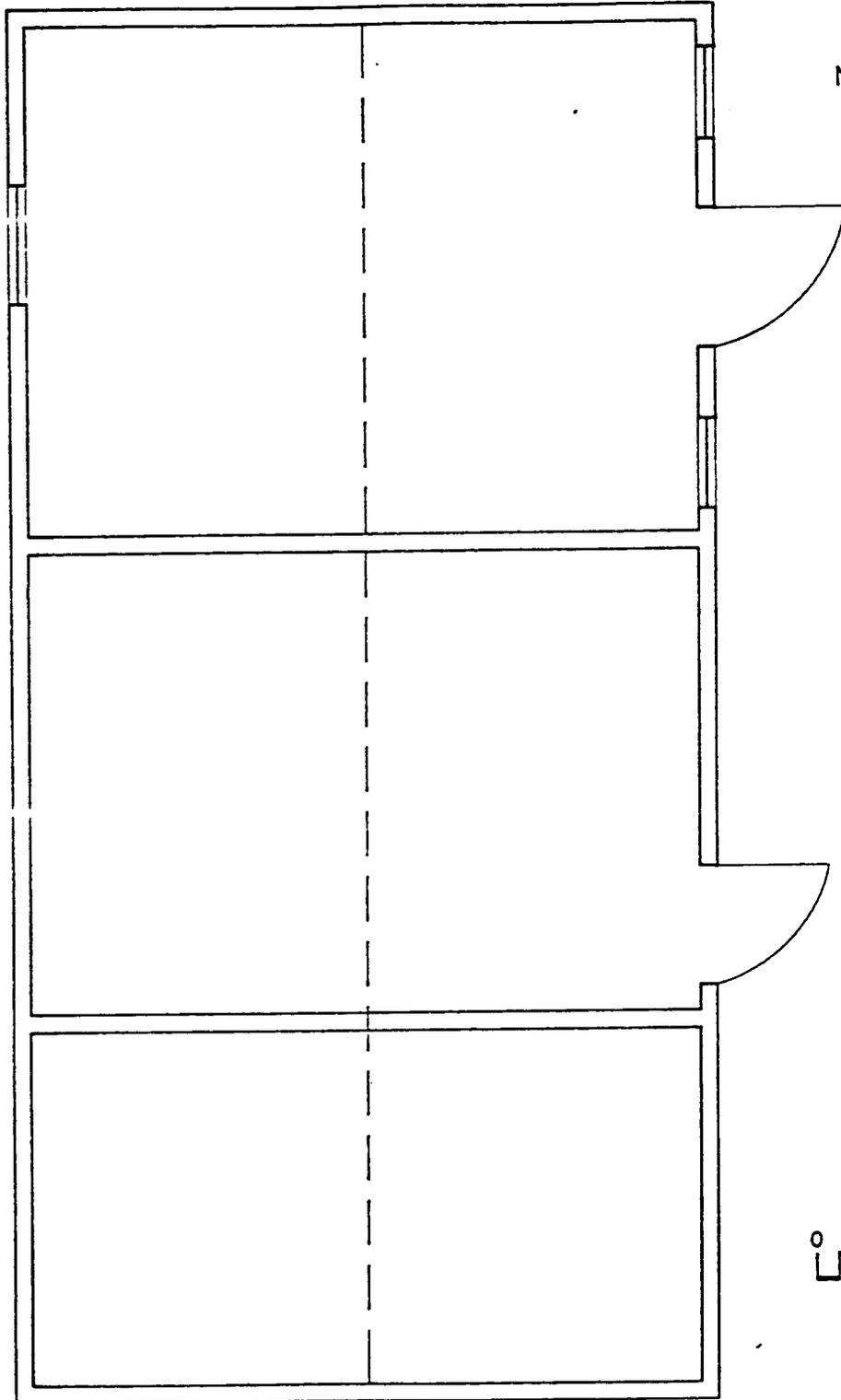
OXON COVE FARM – HORSE AND PONY BARN PLAN

PG-76A-13

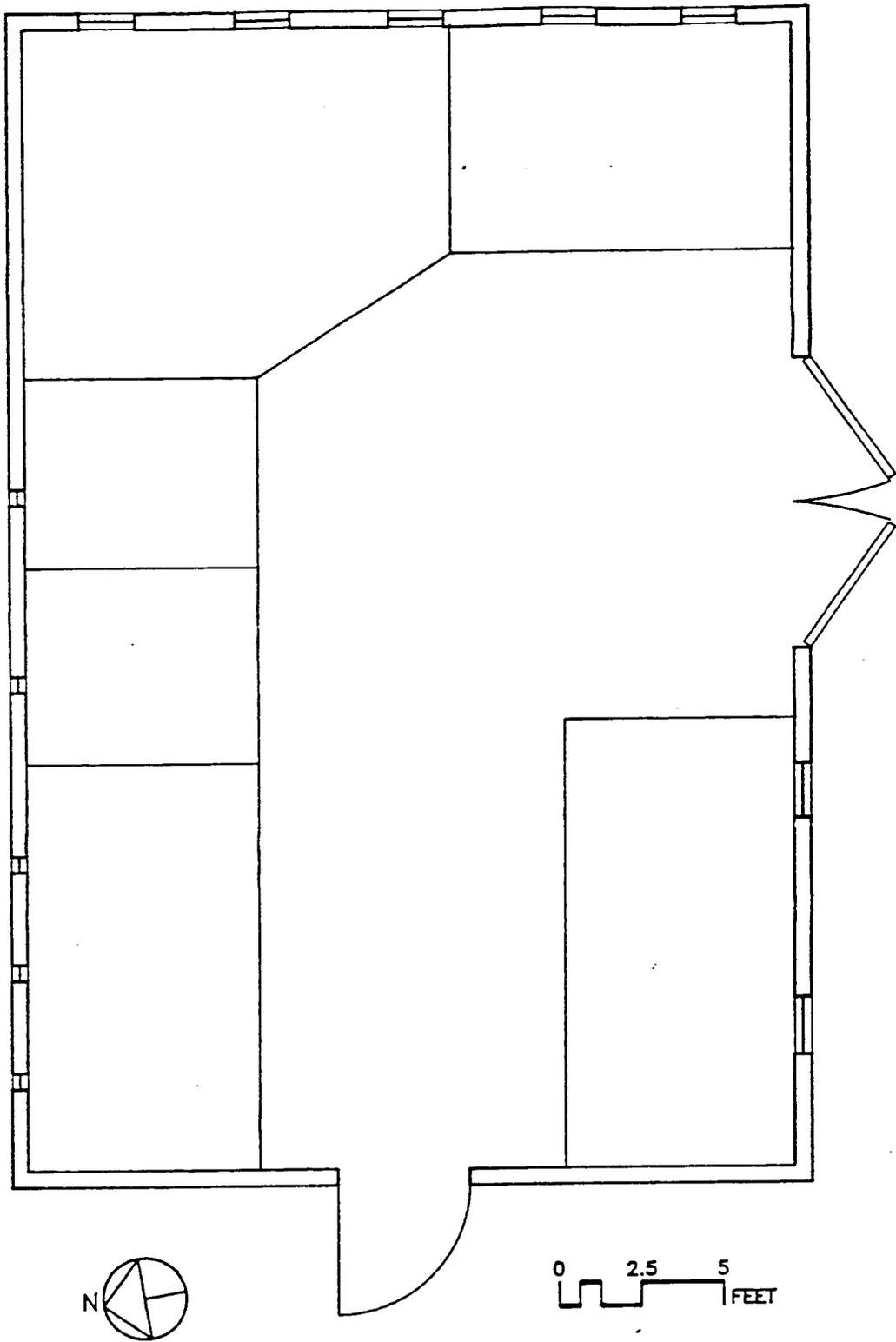


OXON COVE FARM - HAY BARN PLAN

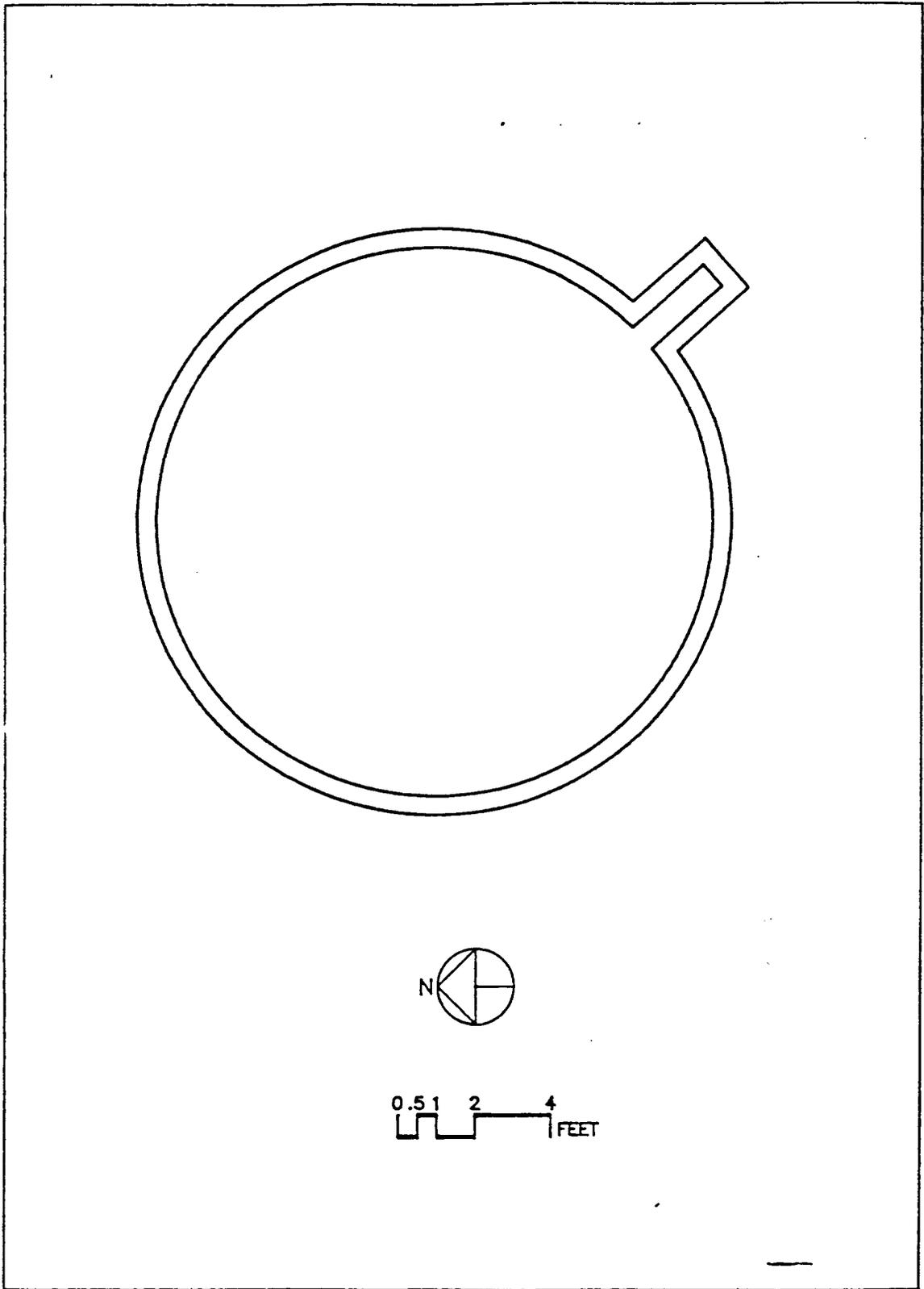
PG: 76A-13



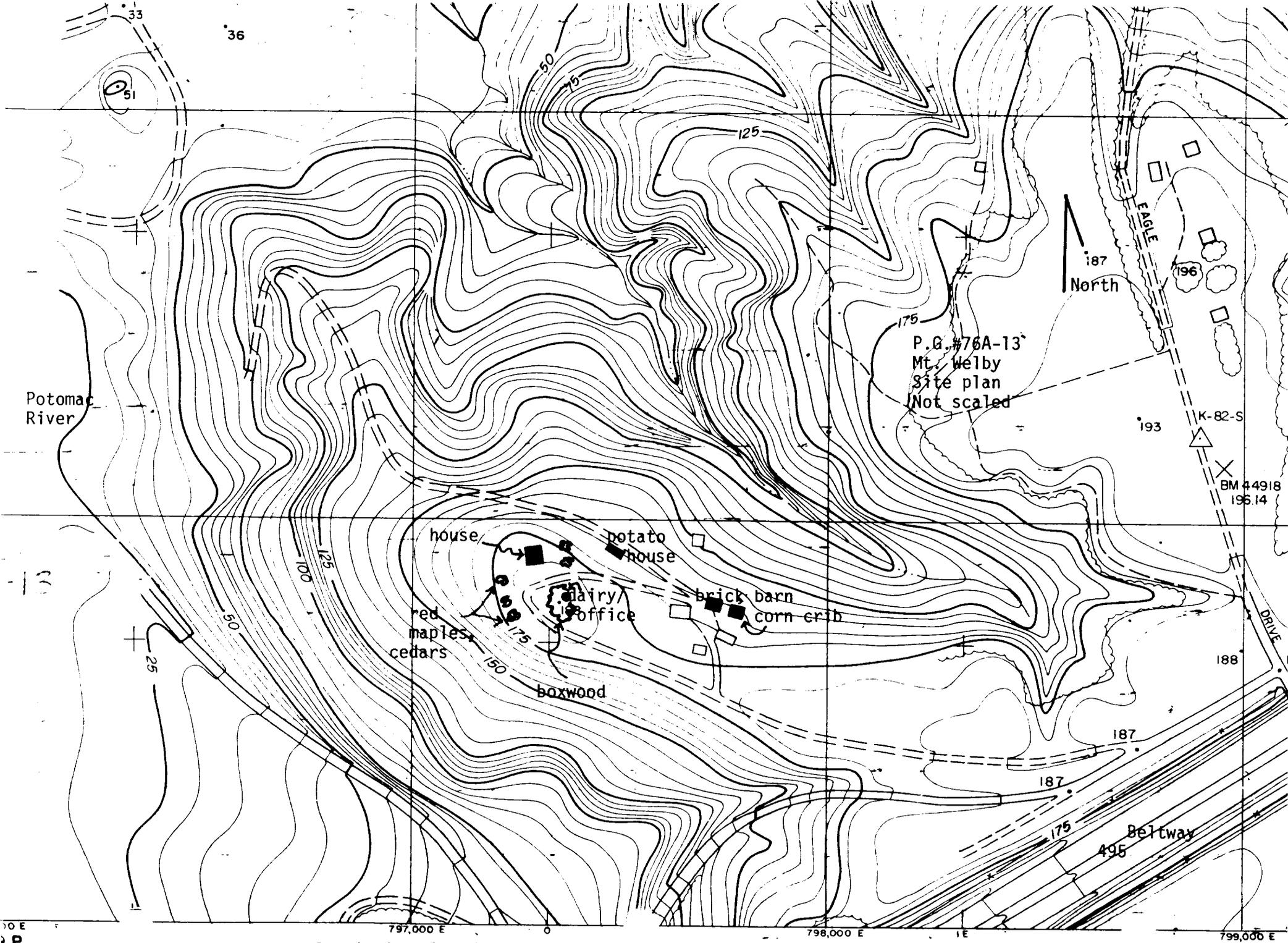
OXON COVE FARM - FEED BUILDING PLAN



OXON COVE FARM - BRICK STABLE PLAN



OXON COVE FARM - SILO PLAN



Potomac River

North

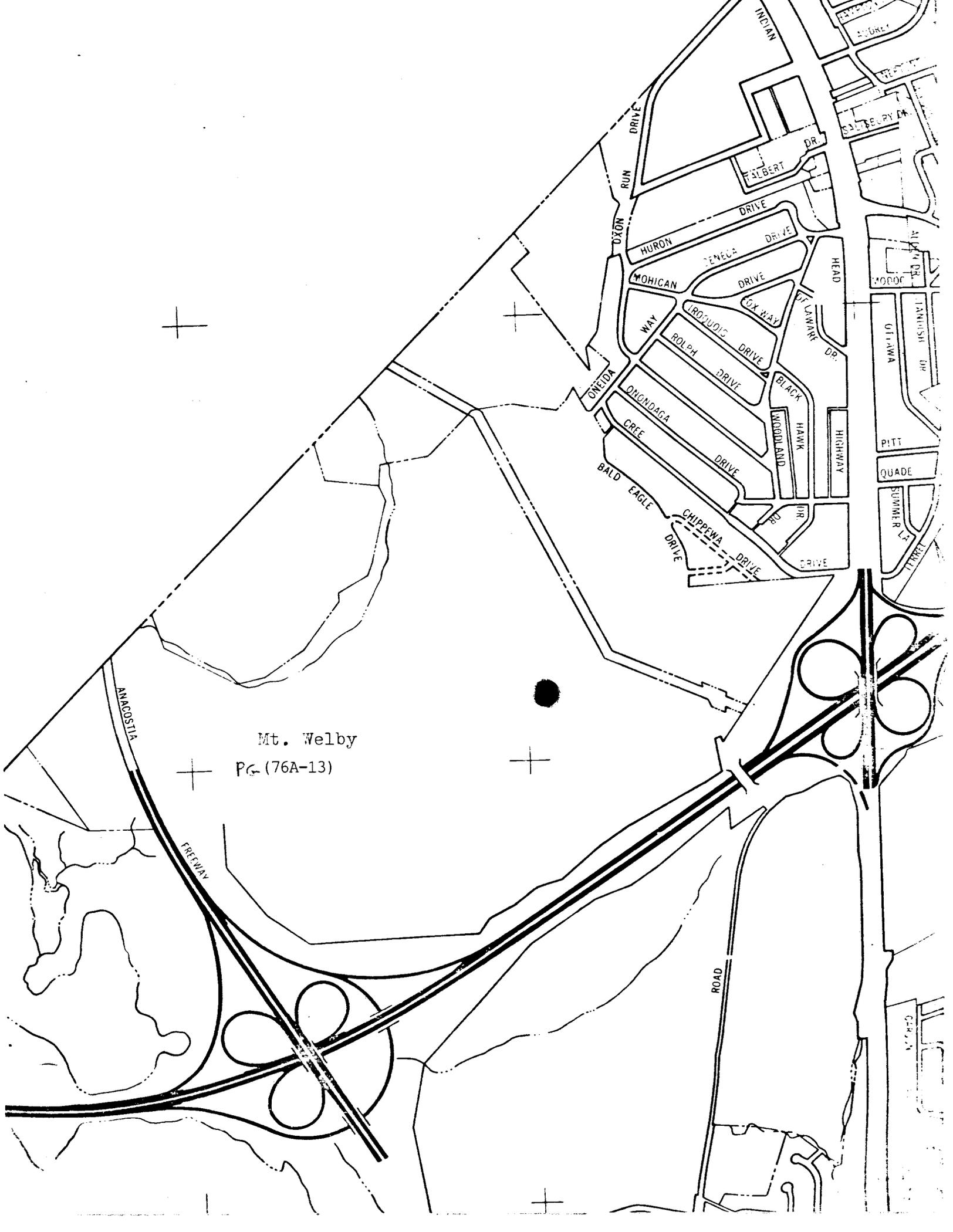
P.G. #76A-13
Mt. Welby
Site plan
(Not scaled)

BM 44918
196.14

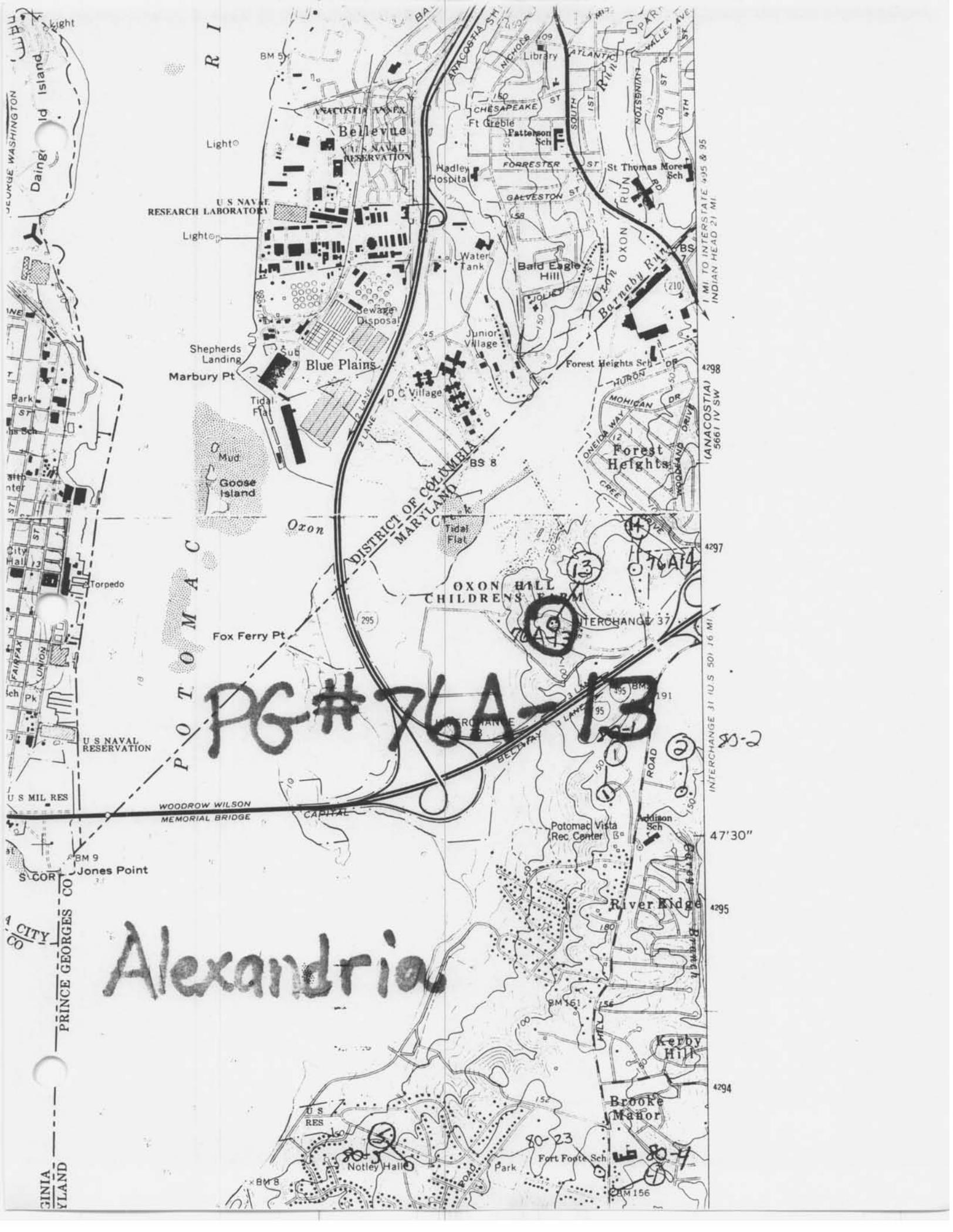
house
potato house
dairy/office
brick barn
corn crib
red maples cedars
boxwood

Belway
495

797,000 E 798,000 E 799,000 E



Mt. Welby
PG (76A-13)



R I

U S NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

Bellevue

U S NAVAL RESERVATION

Blue Plains

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MARYLAND

OXON HILL CHILDRENS FARM

Alexandria

POTOMAC

1 MI TO INTERSTATE 495 & 95 INDIAN HEAD 21 MI

INTERCHANGE 31 U.S. 501 16 MI

47'30"

4295

4294

4293

4292

4291

4290

4289

PG# 76A-13

80-2

CAPITAL

WOODROW WILSON MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Jones Point

PRINCE GEORGES CO

CITY CO

GINNIA WYLAND

U S MIL RES

U S NAVAL RESERVATION

Torpedo

Marbury Pt

Shepherds Landing

Sewage Disposal

Water Tank

Hadley Hospital

Ft Greble

Library

St Thomas More Sch

Patterson Sch

Chesapeake

ANACOSTIA SH

WALLEY AVE

4TH ST

30 ST

NOISEBURY RUN

OXON HILL

BURNBY RD

BS 8

Forest Heights Sch

HURON DR

Forest Heights

WOODLAND DRIVE

ONEIDA WAY

BS 8

Tidal Flat

D.C. Village

Junior Village

Bald Eagle Hill

GAEVESTON ST

FORRESTER ST

St Thomas More Sch

ATLANTIC

SOUTH

1ST ST

NICHOLS

Library

09

BA

BM 5

Light

Light

Dainger Island

Light

U S NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

Light

Marbury Pt

Shepherds Landing

Sewage Disposal

Water Tank

Hadley Hospital

Ft Greble

Library

St Thomas More Sch

Patterson Sch

Chesapeake

ANACOSTIA SH

WALLEY AVE

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NOISEBURY RUN

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Tidal Flat

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ATLANTIC

SOUTH

1ST ST

NICHOLS

Library

09

BA

BM 5

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Shepherds Landing

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09

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SOUTH

1ST ST

NICHOLS

Library

09

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BM 5

Light

Light

Dainger Island

Light

U S NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

Light

Marbury Pt

Shepherds Landing

Sewage Disposal

Water Tank

Hadley Hospital

Ft Greble

Library

St Thomas More Sch

Patterson Sch

Chesapeake

ANACOSTIA SH

WALLEY AVE

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OXON HILL

BURNBY RD

BS 8

Forest Heights Sch

HURON DR

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WOODLAND DRIVE

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Junior Village

Bald Eagle Hill

GAEVESTON ST

FORRESTER ST

St Thomas More Sch

ATLANTIC

SOUTH

1ST ST

NICHOLS

Library

09

BA

BM 5

Light

Light

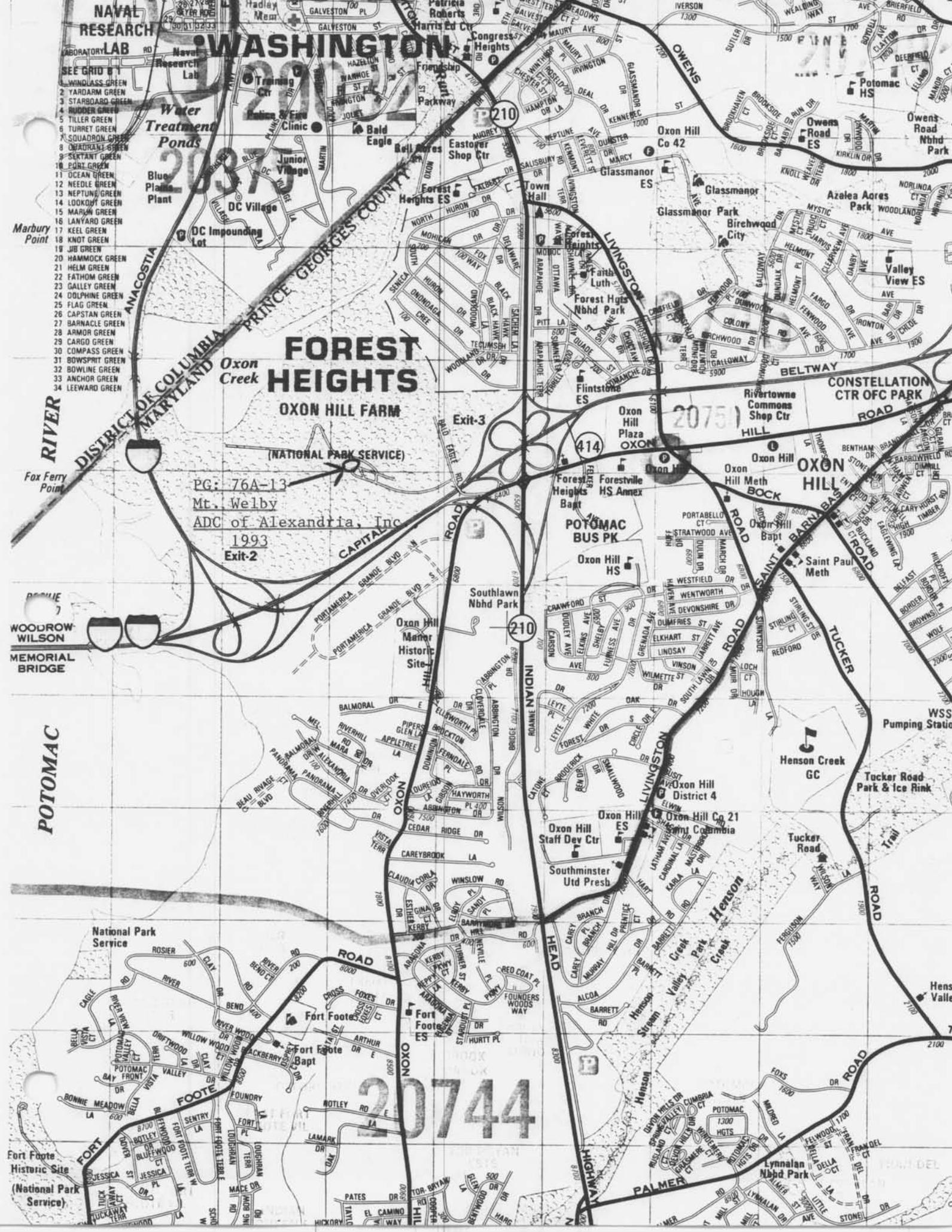
Dainger Island

Light

U S NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

Light

Marbury Pt



- NAVAL RESEARCH LAB
- LABORATORY LAB
- Research Lab
- SEE GRID 1
- 1 LINDLASS GREEN
 - 2 YARDARM GREEN
 - 3 STARBOARD GREEN
 - 4 HULL GREEN
 - 5 TILLER GREEN
 - 6 TURRET GREEN
 - 7 SQUADRON GREEN
 - 8 CHANDLER GREEN
 - 9 SKYTAKE GREEN
 - 10 PORT GREEN
 - 11 OCEAN GREEN
 - 12 NEEDLE GREEN
 - 13 NEPTUNE GREEN
 - 14 LOOKOUT GREEN
 - 15 MARLIN GREEN
 - 16 LANYARD GREEN
 - 17 KEEL GREEN
 - 18 KNOT GREEN
 - 19 JIB GREEN
 - 20 HAMMOCK GREEN
 - 21 HELM GREEN
 - 22 FATHOM GREEN
 - 23 GALLEY GREEN
 - 24 DOLPHINE GREEN
 - 25 FLAG GREEN
 - 26 CAPSTAN GREEN
 - 27 BARNACLE GREEN
 - 28 ARMOR GREEN
 - 29 CARGO GREEN
 - 30 COMPASS GREEN
 - 31 BOWSPRIT GREEN
 - 32 BOWLINE GREEN
 - 33 ANCHOR GREEN
 - 34 LEeward GREEN

PG: 76A-13
 Mt. Welby
 ADC of Alexandria, Inc
 1993
 Exit-2

WOODROW WILSON
 MEMORIAL BRIDGE

POTOMAC

National Park Service

Fort Foote Historic Site
 (National Park Service)

FOREST HEIGHTS
 OXON HILL FARM
 (NATIONAL PARK SERVICE)

20751

20744



PG: 76A-13
 Mt. Welby
 Alexandria Quad, 1965

GT
 P3



P.G.# 76 A-13

Mt. Welby
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
March 1988

5
Neg: MD Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G.# 76A-B

Mt. Welby
Prince George's County, MD

Marina King

March 1988

S porch detail

Neg: MD Historical
Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. # 76A-13

Mt Welby
Prince George's County, MD

Marina King

March 1928

W

Neg: MD Historical Trust

Annapolis, MD



P.G. #76A-13

Mt. Welby
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
March 1988

N
Neg: MD Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G.# 76A-13

Mt Welby

Prince George's County, MD

Marina King

March 1988

Dairy, E

Neg: MD Historical

Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.# 76 A-13

Mt. Welby
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
March 1988

E

Neg: MD Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G. # 76 A-13

Mt. Welby
Prince Georges County, MD
Marina King

March 1988

Farmyard, looking E
Neg: MD Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G.# 76A-13

Mt. Welby
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
March 1988
Stable, SE
Neg: MD Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G. # 76A-13

Mt. Welby

Prince George's County, MD

Marina King

March 1988

Potato House or Root Cellar, NE

Neg: MD Historical Trust

Annapolis, MD



P.G. #76A-13

Mt. Welby

Prince George's County, MD

Marina King

March 1988

N entrance

Neg: MD Historical Trust

Annapolis, MD



P.G.# 76A-13

Mt. Welby
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
March 1988

Hall, looking N
Neg: MD Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



P.G. # 76A-13

Mt. Welby

Prince George's County, MD

Marina King

March 1988

Stair detail

Neg: MD Historical Trust

Annapolis, MD



P.G. # 76A-13

Mt. Welby
Prince George's County, MD

Marina King

March 1988

mantel, SW parlor

Neg: MD Historical Trust

Annapolis, MD



P.G.# 76 A-B

Mt. Welby

Prince George's County, MD

Marina King

March 1988

SW part

Neq: MD Historical Trust

Annapolis, MD



P.G. #76A-B

Mt. Welby
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King

March 1988

iron store, basement

Neg: MD Historical
Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.# 76A-13

Mt. Welby
Prince George's County, MD

Marina King
March 1988

S entrance

Near: MD Historical Trust
Annapolis, MD



NAME WELBY MANOR | OXON HILL CHILDREN'S FARM

LOCATION Oxon HILL Rd + Rt 495 OXON HILL, Md.

FACADE SE

PG: 76A-13

PHOTO TAKEN 2/23/73 M DWYER



NAME WELBY MANOR / OXON HILL CHILDREN'S FARM — BARN
LOCATION OXON HILL Rd + Rt 495 OXON HILL, Md PG:76A-13
FACADE S
PHOTO TAKEN 2/23/73 MDWYER



NAME WELBY + MANOR | OXON HILL CHILDREN'S FARM - TOBACCO PRIZE
LOCATION OXON HILL Rd + Rt 495 OXON HILL, Md
FACADE SE
PHOTO TAKEN 2/23/73 MDWVER

pg: 76A-13