NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oakland Mills Blacksmith House & Shop

other names HO-430, Felicity

2. Location

street & number 5471 Old Columbia Pike ☐ not for publication

city or town Columbia ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Howard code 027 zip code 21045

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 10-6-11

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 certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	0	Total

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

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/specialty store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD/Weatherboard
roof ASPHALT
other

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

Oakland Mills Blacksmith House & Shop (HO-430)
Name of Property

Howard County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 Acres

Savage MD USGS quadrangle map

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	340490	4342743
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short
Organization Howard County, Maryland, Dept. of Planning & Zoning date 4 October 2010
street & number 3430 Courthouse Drive telephone 410-313-4335
city or town Ellicott City state Maryland zip code 21043

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

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

name Robert F. & Mary Anna Collins
street & number 5471 Old Columbia Pike telephone 410-997-1999
city or town Columbia state Maryland zip code 21045

Paperwork Reduction 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.

8. Statement of Significance

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 pattern of our history.
- ☐ B Property 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)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or 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.

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

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Industry

Period of Significance

ca. 1820-1950

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on files (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:
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Description Summary:

The Oakland Mills Blacksmith House and Shop complex is located at 5471 Old Columbia Pike, southeast of the intersection of Route 29 and Route 175 in Columbia, in east-central Howard County, Maryland. The complex, also known as Felicity, consists of a one-and-one-half story frame house, a one-story frame blacksmith shop, a one-story frame smokehouse, and the ruins of a rubble stone spring house. The buildings are set close to the road on the east side of Old Columbia Pike, on a low flat site with a stream that runs east and south of the buildings. The house is a four-bay by one-bay structure with German siding, rubble stone foundation, and gable roof with a northeast–southwest ridge. At the south end of the man block are a one-story shed-roofed wing and a one-story shed-roofed ell. The blacksmith shop is located about 100 feet southwest of the house. It was built in two stages, each with a single room, and has board-and-batten siding, a corrugated metal gable roof and a low rubble stone foundation. The smokehouse, located about 10 feet south of the house, has German siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The spring house ruin is located about 125 feet southeast of the house, with the spring head located in a recess at the base of the northeast gable end.

General Description:

House, exterior

The house is a one-and-one-half story, four-bay by one-bay frame structure with a rubble stone foundation and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northeast–southwest ridge. The house is covered with German siding. The ground slopes down to the southwest, and there is a wing on the southwest that is one-bay by three-bays. The wing has no foundation visible, has German siding, and has a shed roof with asphalt shingles and a slope down to the southwest. There is a one-story, one-bay by one-bay ell on the southeast, at the southwest end of the main block. It has German siding and a shed roof with asphalt shingles that slopes down to the southeast.

On the main block the northwest elevation foundation has no seam in the stonework and contains traces of whitewash. The north-center bay has a window with a rotted frame and sash and the west bay has a six-over-six double-hung sash in a beaded-interior-edge frame. On the first story the north bay has a six-over-six double-hung sash in a beaded-interior-edge frame, and there are blinds with mortised-and-tenoned-and-pinned joints. This window is typical for the house. There is a seam in some of the German siding between the north and north-center bays. The north-center bay has a typical six-over-six sash. The siding below the windowsill is patched, indicating that this was once a door. The west-center bay has a six-panel door that has sunken fields and quirked Greek ogee panel moulds. It is set in a beaded-interior-edge frame. There is a rebuilt wood porch set on two granite posts, each post being of one piece of stone and containing

drill holes. The west bay has a typical six-over-six sash. There is a seam in the siding between the west-center and west bays, at the top of the wall. The siding continues across the southwest wing. The house has a wood box cornice with an ogee-and-cavetto bed mould, and there is no seam in it. There is an interior brick chimney at the northeast end, set northwest of the ridge, and a dormer window between the two center bays that contains a six-over-six sash. The dormer is gabled and has what appears to be V-grooved horizontal siding on the front, and the siding is angled on the cheek walls of the dormer. There is an interior brick chimney on the southwest gable end.

On the northeast elevation of the main block the first story has a six-over-six sash in a modern frame, with fake shutters. The second story has a typical six-over-six sash, but no blinds. There are plain rake-boards that appear to be new. On the southeast elevation the south bay is covered by the ell. The south-center bay has a door with nine lights over two panels that have sunken fields and no panel moulds. The door has a beaded-interior-edge frame with a larger bead than what is found on the windows. The east-center bay has a typical six-over-six sash and blinds. The blinds have shutter dogs that are round on the bottom half and flattened on the top half, and they are attached to plates that are screwed to the siding. The east bay has a door that matches the south-center bay, but the muntins are thicker and the frame matches those on the windows. There is a three-bay porch across the main block, set on five stone piers. It has five 4 by 4 wood posts, dimensional lumber in the roof, and a shed roof that slopes down to the southeast.

On the southeast ell, the northeast elevation has a beaded-edge vertical-board door with a Norfolk latch, and it is set in a frame that has a narrow bead on the inner edge. The southeast elevation of the ell has a stone wall that runs out beyond the southeast wall about 10 feet and steps down as it extends to the southeast. The foundation of the ell has a modern door with nine lights over two lying panels set to the south. To the east is a new six-over-six double-hung sash in a beaded-interior-edge frame, and with new blinds. This elevation has German siding and is covered by a shed-roofed open porch on the southeast. The first story of the ell has a typical six-over-six sash with no blinds, but there are hinges at the window. There is a wood box cornice. There is a short brick chimney near the east corner with about four courses of brick above the roof.

The southwest wing on the southeast elevation has an exterior rubble stone fireplace stack in the foundation that has shoulders on the northeast and southwest sides and a brick chimney. The fireplace is set to the east on this wall and the northeast side has a flat iron bar that passes through the wall and has a hole in it with a vertical iron wedge driven through the hole up against the stone wall to prevent the bar from pulling out. The bar is set approximately 40½ inches above basement floor level and is set back from the interior face of the fireplace approximately 14 to 15 inches. On the first story, south of the chimney, is a typical six-over-six sash with no

blinds, but with hinges for them. On the southwest elevation the basement has a door in the center with four lights over two panels that have sunken double fields and ogee panel moulds. It is set in a typical frame. There is a typical six-over-six sash with blinds to each side of the door, and the sash dates from the twentieth century. Above the door in the center is a shed-roofed porch with asphalt shingles and German siding on the ends above the eave. The porch is supported by two 4 by 4 posts. There is a corner board in the center of the wall and the German siding on either side of this corner board does not align. There is also a seam in the wood box cornice. This evidence suggests that the wing was built in two stages. The first story end bays have typical six-over-six sash with blinds, and there is no opening in the center bay. On the northwest elevation the foundation has German siding and a typical six-over-six sash with blinds. The first story also has German siding and a typical six-over-six sash with blinds, but it does not align with the window in the foundation. The southwest gable end of the main block has two six-light casement windows.

House interior, basement

The basement has two rooms in the main block, one room in the southeast ell and one room in the southwest wing. The main block southwest room has a herringbone brick floor, exposed stone walls, and plaster on riven lath on a stud wall on the northeast. There is a fireplace centered on the southwest wall, with stone jambs that are slightly splayed, and a segmentally-arched brick lintel that has two rowlock courses. There is a new crane hung in an old iron eye. There is a small closed-off opening in the back wall that is segmentally-arched and has brick on the sides; the mortar of this opening appears to be old and the opening appears to have been for a bake oven. There is an old mantel shelf that has been added above the fireplace, and it is screwed to the wall. To the southeast side of the fireplace is an old cupboard that is also added. A doorway has been cut through to the southwest ell on the northwest side of the fireplace. The window on the northwest elevation has a new wood sash. The ceiling contains old plaster. There is a doorway on the southeast elevation with an old frame that has a beaded interior edge, and the door is missing. On the northeast wall is a straight-run stair with an old stringer that has a bead on the bottom edge and old plaster on the underside of the carriage. To the northwest of the stairs is a door that has beaded-edge vertical boards and old architrave on the new frame that has a cavetto backband and a beaded interior edge. The doorway appears to be in an original location, but has been renovated. Plaster on the east jamb aligns with the plaster ghosts on the backband. The door has new hinges and a Suffolk latch that is either not original or has been moved on the door. The northeast basement room in the main block is under only part of the northeast room of the main block above, with a crawl space under the rest of the northeast room and the northeast addition. The southwest wall has riven lath with cut nails that have regular heads, on both sides of the wall. The first-story joists are sash-sawn, run northwest-southeast, are 3 to 3¼ inches by 6½ inches, and are spaced 22½ to 26 inches on centers. The flooring above is sash-sawn, is slightly gauged and undercut, varies from 5¼ to 7½ inches wide, and runs

northeast-southwest. The joists have numerous wrought nails and several rows of double-struck nails in them from which to hang things. There are remnants of parging on the wall and the cellar floor is now concrete.

In the southeast addition the northwest wall has a hewn sill that is exposed and sits just above the door lintel. There are sash-sawn studs that are 2¾ to 3 inches wide and are mortised tenoned and pinned to the sill. They are numbered from west to north with no number, "I," "II," and "III" on both the sill and the stud. There is stone nogging that has been white washed between the studs. The joists from the floor above are exposed and are hewn on top and bottom, with lath nails on the bottom, and run northeast-southwest. The northwest joist is nailed to the sides of the studs with cut nails. The joists are 4½ to 6 inches in diameter and are spaced 23 to 26½ inches on centers. The flooring above is random-width, varies between 5½ and 10¾ inches, is sash-sawn, and runs northwest-southeast. This room has a modern kitchen with linoleum on the floor and a new board wall on the southwest. There is a new window and door on the southeast. The southwest wall has a beaded-edge vertical-board door hung on new hinges. This door was originally hinged on the opposite side and it is not possible to tell if this door is original to the opening; it has a new Suffolk latch.

The southwest addition originally was two rooms, but the partition wall was taken out at an unknown time. The flooring is 3 inches wide, is painted, and runs northwest-southeast; there is a break in it where the partition wall was. On the southeast elevation is a fireplace with a brick hearth, straight stone jambs, and a large stone lintel. The fireplace wall is now exposed stone. There are iron eyes in the northeast jamb for a crane. There is a new cupboard that is built-in on the northeast wall between the door and the fireplace. The rest of the northeast wall and the northwest and southwest walls have new bead-board half wainscot that probably dates to the 1950's, though it could be earlier. On the southwest elevation the south window architrave is pulvinated in the center with two beads to each side, and is head-cut. It has a new wood sash. The center bay has a door with architrave that has a small quirk on both the inner and outer edges. The west bay window matches that of the south bay, and the northwest elevation window also matches the south bay. There is an enclosed stair in the west corner with vertical-board siding and a door on the northeast side that has a cast iron Suffolk latch and butt hinges with pins. There is one step below the door. This doorway appears to be from the same period as the architrave, the late nineteenth century. The stairs ascend to the southwest and there is a closet below the stairs. The northeast elevation has a door at the north end with beaded-interior-edge architrave and a beaded-edge vertical-board door with a Norfolk latch and new hinges. There is a ghost on the ceiling of a wall that ran from the southwest wall, just south of the west bay window, to the northeast, then turned to the northwest and ran to just west of the center of the window on the northwest wall.

House interior, first story

The first story has a hall-parlor plan with the two rooms divided by a central enclosed stairway, with one room in the northeast addition, one room in the southeast addition, and two rooms in the southwest wing. The southwest room in the main block contains the front door which opens into this room at the north end. There is random-width pine flooring that runs northeast-southwest, is tongue-and-grooved, and varies between 7 and 8½ inches wide. It is face-nailed with what appears to be cut "L" heads. The baseboard has a bead on the top. The chair rail has a cavetto beneath the shelf and a bead on the bottom edge, and it all appears to be new except for a short piece of original chair rail just west of the mantel. This original chair rail has a bead under the shelf and a bead on the bottom edge. The architrave has a quirked Greek ogee-and-bead backband and a beaded interior edge. The northwest door has six panels with sunken fields and quirked Greek ovolo panel moulds. It is mortised and tenoned and pinned, is hung on new hinges, and has a cast iron rim lock with a brass knob. The northwest window has new sash. The southwest elevation has a fireplace in the center with a brick hearth, a parged surround, and splayed brick jambs. There is a wood mantel with architrave on each side and backband that is carried across the bottom edge of the frieze. This matches the windows and doors in this room. The bed mould has a large bead above a Greek ogee and bead. The edge of the mantel shelf has a moulding that matches the chair rail. The mantel is attached to the wall with wrought "L" hooks, one on either side of the frieze. To the west of the fireplace is a beaded-edge vertical-board door that originally was a closet, but has now been opened up to give access to the southwest wing. The door appears to be hand-planed but has heavy paint. It is hung on cast iron butt hinges with three knuckles and has an iron plate latch with a brass knob; this latch is not original to the door. The door has typical architrave for this room, and the architrave is mortised and tenoned and pinned at the top. To the south of the fireplace are two beaded-edge vertical-board doors that are hand-planed. They also have typical architrave that is mortised and tenoned and pinned at the top. The stile in the center between the two doors has back-to-back backbands that are a single piece. Both doors have plain cast iron butt hinges with three knuckles. The west door has a wrought plate cabinet lock that appears to be original, while the south door is missing its lock. Both doors have new slide bolts. The south closet has one shelf inside of it, with two other shelves that have been cut out, and the west closet of this pair has three shelves that have been cut out.

The northeast elevation of the southwest room has an enclosed straight run of stairs with a plastered wall. The stairs ascends to the southeast. The northwest end of the stairway has a beaded-edge vertical-board door with two steps below the door. The door has a Norfolk latch and plain cast iron butt hinges with three knuckles. At the southeast end the stair landing projects into this room below the ceiling, and is finished with a torus and cavetto at the top and a bead at the bottom. Below the landing on the northeast wall is an original doorway with typical architrave, but the door is missing. This doorway leads to a landing at the top of the cellar stairs

and a passage in the northeast half of the main block. Below the landing on the southeast elevation is the rear door, which has nine lights over two panels with sunken fields and no panel moulds. This doorway has typical architrave, but the field has been replaced. The southeast wall, to the south, has a window opening that has been converted to a doorway and it has typical architrave that is pieced at the bottom. The rabbets for the stops have been filled in. There is one short step up to the southeast addition. The doorway has a beaded-edge vertical-board door that is hand-planed, has a Norfolk latch, and is hung on plain cast iron butt hinges with three knuckles. There is a straight run of stairs to the basement, with no door at the top of the stairway. On the northeast side of the stairway is another doorway with typical architrave, and this doorway is set into a stud wall and the architrave is not mortised and tenoned and pinned. This door is also missing. The southwest wall enclosing the stairway is thin, with plaster on both sides that is flush with the backband, and must be a board wall covered with later plaster.

The northeast room of the main block now has a passage along the southeast wall with a room and a large closet to the northwest. The doorways to these two rooms are modern, but the wall is earlier. There is a chair rail on the southeast wall that is original and has a cavetto below the shelf and a bead on the bottom edge. The window has typical architrave. The southeast window is original and has ovolo muntins and 8-inch by 10-inch lights. The sash are mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners and on both vertical muntins. There is no parting bead, and there are the remains of the spring latch. There is a doorway at the northeast end that has a beaded-edge vertical-board door that is hand-planed and is hung on cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles that appear to be plain. The door has a square plate latch with a brass knob. The architrave for this doorway has a small ogee on the backband and a beaded interior edge. The northwest window, which is in the larger room to the northwest of the passage, has a twentieth-century six-over-six sash and plain mitered trim with a beaded interior edge. This larger room is a modern bathroom, and there are three new closets to the northeast of it. The southeast closet is accessed from the passage, the center closet is accessed from the bathroom, and the northwest closet is accessed from the northeast addition. The door to the bathroom is hand-planed beaded-edge vertical boards with new hinges and a cast iron rim lock that is not original to the door.

The northeast addition room has random-width pine flooring that runs northeast-southwest and varies between 6¾ and 14¾ inches wide. There is baseboard heat in this room, new chair rail, and a new board wall on the southwest. There is a stove chimney on the northeast. The northwest window has a twentieth-century sash and an architrave with a small ogee backband and a beaded interior edge. The northeast window matches the northwest. The southeast elevation has a door with nine lights over two panels, and it has modern reproduction architrave. The northwest door architrave matches that of the two windows. The southwest wall, to the west, has the doorway that leads to a closet. The joists in this room are exposed and have plaster burns. They run northwest-southeast, are 2¾ to 3 inches wide, and are sash-sawn. The depth of

the joists cannot be determined. Near the south end is a header with a later joist to the northwest that has been replaced. It appears to be a header for a stairwell, but is not since the header does not have plaster burns; instead, it seems to be a repair of a deteriorated end of a joist.

The room in the southeast addition is a short step up from the main block. The flooring runs northwest-southeast and appears to be oak, and is possibly random-width, but little of it is visible. The baseboard on the northwest has a bead on top, while the rest of the baseboard is covered. The door on the northwest elevation has architrave with an ovolo-and-cavetto backband and a beaded interior edge; this architrave is old. The northeast door is made of beaded-edge vertical boards hung on butt hinges with three knuckles. It has a latch and an old slide bolt. The architrave matches the northwest door, though the backband could be a new replacement. The southwest door also has beaded-edge vertical boards, with new hinges and a Norfolk latch. The architrave matches that of the northwest door but appears to be new. There is a stove chimney on the northeast elevation, near the east corner. The southeast window has a sash that is mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners, and some of the muntins are pinned, with 8-inch by 10-inch lights, ovolo muntins, and no parting beads. The ceiling is drywall with wood beams below that are circular-sawn and must be fake, added beams.

The southwest wing is two rooms. The southeast section of this wing has 3-inch pine flooring that runs northwest-southeast, plain baseboard, and a plaster ceiling that slopes down to the southeast and southwest. The floor here is several inches higher than in the southeast addition. The southeast window has a mortised-and-tenoned-and-pinned sash, both at the corners and where the muntins join the rails. It has 8-inch by 10-inch lights and ovolo muntins. The architrave has an ogee backband and a large bead on the inner edge. All of this material appears to be original and early. The southwest window has one new sash and one sash that matches the southeast window. The opening has been altered. The architrave is similar to the southeast window but does not have the same ogee on the backband, and looks to be added. It also has a small bead on the inner edge that looks more like a quirk with most of the bead cut off. The door on the northwest elevation has four panels with sunken fields and ogee panel moulds. There is a plain rim lock with brass and mineral knobs (one each), butt hinges with three knuckles and pins, and the door is not mortised and tenoned and pinned. The architrave has a new backband that matches the southeast addition and has a quirk on the inner edge. There appear to be wire nails at the top of the architrave that are intended to imitate pegs.

The northwest room in the southwest wing has 4-inch to 7¼-inch pine flooring that runs northwest-southeast. The baseboard has a bead on the top. There is peg rail on all four walls, with beads at the top and bottom of the rail; there were never any wood pegs in it. The ceiling is flat to the northeast and slopes down to the southwest. The southeast door architrave has a small quirk on the inner and outer edges and never had a backband. The southwest window has the

same architrave as the southeast door, and has a new wood sash. The northwest window architrave has an ogee on the backband and nothing on the inner edge; it also has a new wood sash. The northeast door has a narrow frame with a bead on the inner edge, and there was never a door hung in this location; there is a small closet above the door head. There is a stair in the west corner that has horizontal rails that are now covered up with vertical boards. The floor in this room slopes down to the southwest, and it appears that the wall has dropped in that location.

House interior, attic

The attic of the house is finished and has a center passage with one room to each side in the main block, and one room in the northeast addition. The passage has a landing at the southeast end, and the stairs ascend to the northwest along the southwest wall. There are two steps up from the landing. The stair balustrade is random-width, hand-planed, beaded-edged vertical boards that vary between 8¾ and 14 inches wide. These boards appear to be a continuation of the stair enclosure on the first story. They are topped by a ¾-round handrail that is ovoid in profile. The baseboard has a bead on the top edge. The floors are random-width pine that run northeast-southwest and vary between 6½ and 10¾ inches. The walls, rafters, and collar beams are lathed and plastered with riven lath, and this appears to be an original treatment. The architrave has quirked Greek ogee and bead backband and a small bead on the inner edge. The doors are hand-planed beaded-edge vertical boards hung on cast iron butt hinges with three knuckles. One door has a Norfolk latch while the other has no surviving latch. The southwest chamber has flooring, baseboard, and walls that match the attic passage. The architrave is missing its backband. There is a chimney on the southwest that is boxed out and is covered with what appears to be masonite. To each side of the chimney is a window. The south window has a 6-light casement hung on cast iron butt hinges with three knuckles, and the sash has ovolo muntins and 8-inch by 10-inch lights. It is set in a plain frame. The west window matches the south window, but has typical architrave with the backband and has a pivoting wood latch.

The northeast chamber in the main block has typical flooring, baseboard, walls, and architrave. The door on the southwest is set to the west to be clear of the stairway. The top west corner of the door is clipped to clear the rafters. The backband on the west side is cut at an angle and the clipped corner never had a backband, indicating that the ceiling was flush with the rafters and that the dormer adjacent to this doorway, on the northwest elevation, was added. The dormer sash has ovolo muntins, 8-inch by 10-inch lights, no parting beads, and is not mortised and tenoned and pinned. The walls and ceiling of the dormer are either drywall or masonite. The southwest wall of the chamber has peg rail that is plain and narrow and has no pegs, but has nails and nail holes. The northwest wall has chair rail with an ovolo moulding under the shelf and a bead at the bottom edge. There is a doorway that originally was a window with typical architrave that has been pieced at the bottom when the window was converted to a door. The jambs and soffit have two rabbets for the inner and outer stops, and these run down to the level

of the chair rail. The north backband has been replaced. There is peg rail to either side of the doorway that matches that on the southwest wall. There is a hatch in the ceiling that gives access to the attic space above the collar beams. The rafters are sash-sawn and are 3 inches by 3 inches at the ridge; they appear to taper. There is an open-faced bridle and peg at the ridge, and sawn Roman numerals. The northeast end has the remains of siding on it, with the addition beyond it that captured some of the siding. This siding is sash-sawn weather boards with a half-lap at the bottom, they are painted white, and one is at least 10½–inches wide. The studs are nailed, and one of them appears to be a double-struck nail, while the others have heads that are deformed. There is a rake-board still in place and it is fastened with cut nails, but it is not possible to see the heads. The collar beams are half-lapped and nailed, and the nail heads seem like they are double-struck. There is shingle lath with cut and wire nails passing through it, and plywood on top of it.

The northeast addition attic chamber has random-width pine flooring that runs northeast-southwest and varies between 4¾ and 6 inches. The baseboard has a bead on the top and the walls are finished with sawn lath and plaster. The doorway on the southwest has hinge mortises for a shutter that was hung on the northwest jamb only, when this was a window, and has hinge mortises for the door. The architrave has a small ogee backband and a beaded interior edge added on top of the window frame. There is peg rail to either side of the doorway and it has a bead on the top and bottom edges but never had pegs, just nails or hooks. There is a window on the northeast with a sash that matches the dormer window and an architrave that matches the door in this chamber. The peg rail on the northeast elevation matches that of the southwest elevation. To the north of the window is a parged chimney. The northeast addition rafters are sash-sawn and are lapped at the ridge and nailed with cut nails. The collar beams are narrow boards that are lapped to the sides of the rafters and nailed. The rafters support board shingle lath with cut nails in them.

Smokehouse

There is a smokehouse located about 10 feet south of the house. It is a one-story, one-bay by one-bay frame structure with German siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a north-south ridge. The north elevation has a vertical-board door with a heavy iron hasp and a re-used Suffolk latch handle. There are no other openings. The door is hung on interior tapered strap hinges with tear drop ends and it has a center batten that is 19½ inches wide. The studs are sash-sawn and are 2½ inches by 4¼ inches. The corner posts are the same size as the studs. There is wide, flush, horizontal board sheathing or siding nailed to the studs and now covered on the exterior by the later German siding. The front and rear girts are mortised and tenoned and pegged into the corner posts, and the plates are set 6 inches higher than the front and rear girts. The girts are 2½ inches by 6½ inches. The rafters are the same size as the studs and there are half-lapped collar beams that are nailed to the rafters. There is a purlin under the center of the

collar beams. There are nails in the sides of the rafters, collars, and purlin on which to hang meat, and there is much soot in the interior of this building. The rafters have an open-faced bridle and peg at the ridge. There are sash-sawn joists that run north-south and are set on the front and rear girts. They have no nails in them and little soot accumulation, and could be added later, though they do have the fuzzy deterioration commonly found in smoke houses.

Blacksmith Shop, exterior

The blacksmith shop is located about 100 feet southwest of the house, along the road. It is built in two stages, with each stage containing a single room. Both sections of the shop are one story. The north section is two-bays by two-bays, and the south section is three-bays by one-bay. The building is set on a low rubble stone foundation and is framed with board-and-batten siding. It has a gable roof with corrugated metal, with a north-south ridge. The north section has a higher ridge and a slightly steeper pitch than the south section. There is an open shed-roofed porch on the west side, but the south half of the porch has completely collapsed.

On the west elevation the porch is constructed of re-used hewn timber. The posts were set on quarried granite blocks that have an iron pin set into the top of them. The north section west elevation has two six-over-six double-hung sash set in plain narrow frames. There is a wood box cornice. The south half has large vertical-board double doors in the center that are hung on tapered strap hinges that have lima bean cusps. The south door has a smaller door inset in it, with straps that are tapered on both sides. There is an iron hasp for both the small door and the large doors. The north bay has a pair of vertical-board shutters with tapered strap hinges that have round ends. One of the hinges has a pintel, two have straps on both sides, and one hinge has an oval pad rather than a pintel. The south bay matches the north bay and has a similar mix of hinges. There is a wood box cornice with a seam where the south half meets the north half.

On the south elevation there is a window opening in the center that has a 6-light sash over a missing lower sash. To the east of the window is a vertical-board door hung on tapered strap hinges with round ends and pintels. There is an opening in the gable end. On the east elevation the south half has a door opening in the center with a six-over-six double-hung sash to each side. There are the remains of a wood box cornice, but there is significant rot in this area. There is a brick chimney in the center of the north bay, with roofing missing from around the chimney, exposing the sheathing. The north section has two six-over-six double-hung sash. The east wall is set back about 3 feet from the plane of the south-half east wall. This section has a wood box cornice. The north elevation of the south section, east of the north half, has a vertical-board door. The north elevation of the north half has two pair of garage doors, each with six lights over three panels. They are hung on machine-made strap hinges. Two of these doors were originally hinged on their opposite side, suggesting that they may have been moved here at an unknown date and reused. The gable end has a six-over-six double-hung sash.

Blacksmith Shop, interior

The south end of the blacksmith shop has a dirt floor and a hewn heavy-timber frame with hewn down braces. The northwest elevation center bay has large board-and-batten double wagon doors, with a slide bolt at the top of the door that passes into the header. The north door bolt is large and old while the south door bolt has been replaced. The south door has a smaller door for people. The door header is mortised and tenoned to the posts, and these posts flanking the doorway have rings stapled to them. The west bay has a large window opening with an eighteen-light sash at the bottom and board infill at the top of the opening that replaces another eighteen-light sash. The sash has ogee muntins and 10-inch by 12-inch lights; it is mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners. There are exterior shutters on this opening made of vertical boards with beads, and battens. The frame on the west side consists of only a 1-inch board set on top of the down brace and nailed to the end of a cut-off horizontal member. The north bay window opening matches the west bay but has no sash. It has exterior shutters with beaded-edge boards.

On the northwest elevation, at the north end, are several wooden tool holders that are nailed to the framing. Just north of the north window is a piece of wood that is 1 inch square, with the ends narrowed down to nail through it, and there are sixteen holes drilled through the piece from top to bottom. Below this is another wooden piece that is 1 inch wide by 1½ inches deep, and it has seven holes drilled part way into it. Nailed to the inner face of a horizontal siding nailer is a wood strip that is ½ inch thick by 1¼ inches tall and is nailed to three small blocks of wood to create two slots that are about ¾ of an inch wide by 12 inches long, to set tools into. The joists above are hewn and run southeast-northwest, and are lapped over the plates and pegged down to them.

The northeast elevation has exposed horizontal board siding that is 1 inch thick, sash-sawn, and has a 9½-inch to 14½-inch weather. This southwest face of the siding is the exterior side, and it is fastened with cut nails. There is a doorway in the center of this wall, with a 2-inch diameter hole on each side of it; the holes are centered 31½-inches above the door sill, and the west hole has a broken-off peg in it. The door here is made of narrow vertical boards and is not original to this location; it is pieced on top and on the lock side and the lock is missing. Above the doorway on each side is a nut and bolt. The east end of this elevation has a board-and-batten door that leads to the exterior; the south half of the blacksmith shop is wider than the north half, with the northwest wall all in one plane. The southwest elevation has a vertical-board door in the center and a six-over-six sash next to it. These are both added, but appear to be fairly early and are constructed with cut nails. The sash is not mortised and tenoned and pinned, but has ovolo muntins, 8-inch by 10-inch lights, and triangular glazing points.

The southeast elevation center bay has the remains of the wide window opening with half of a header, and a rotted sill. The jambs are sash-sawn with some cut nails and some wire nails, and several stops survive. The window opening is potentially original, but is much deteriorated. The east and south bays each have an added six-over-six sash with sash-sawn framing and cut nails; these appear to be an early addition. The sash have beveled muntins that are narrow but deep, are mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners, and have 10-inch by 14-inch lights.

In the west corner of this room is the stone base of a forge. The top of the base is 2 feet 6 inches above the current dirt floor, with an opening on the southeast face for the tuyere and a hole in the center of the top of the forge. There is a clean-out on the northeast face. Most of the stone is rubble, but the top northeast stone is a large piece of quarried granite ashlar, with a large ashlar stone below it acting as a lintel for the clean out. There is a hole in the flooring above, in line with the tuyere hole but slightly southwest of it, for the forge chimney that does not survive. In the south corner of this room is another hole in the floor above, about the same size as that in the west corner, which suggests a forge was located here. There is no other evidence for this forge. In the east corner of this room is a complete surviving forge. It has a clean-out on the northwest face that has an iron lintel set several inches below the top stone. There is an iron rod in the clean out that connects to the duck's nest to adjust the air flow. The duck's nest is an iron funnel in the center of the forge that is open at the bottom where the ash falls down and can be raked out. In the center of the top of the forge, above this iron funnel, is a rectangular iron pan with three holes in the bottom of it that are ¾ of an inch by 3 inches. This funnel is to hold the coal. It is set next to the chimney. The chimney is of brick and the bricks are corbelled out toward the duck's nest, and are open on that side to catch the smoke. There is an iron plate added to the chimney above the opening to catch more smoke, and there is an iron lintel at the top of the opening. On the northeast face of the stone base of the forge is an opening for the tuyere, and it has an iron pipe in it made of sheet iron rolled into a tube. This tube runs from the outer face into the debris inside, and is now bent. The ceiling and roof above the chimney are rotted. To the northwest of this forge is a log that is set into the ground, to serve as the base for an anvil. There is the remains of an 18-light sash that is not mortised and tenoned and pinned, set up against the southwest wall. It has ovolo muntins and 10-inch by 12-inch lights.

The north end room has brick flooring on the east half, while the west-half brick has been taken up; the brick is laid on dirt. The wood sills are set just above grade on a rubble stone foundation, with a center tenon connecting them at the corners. The south wall has sash-sawn weather boards with whitewash at the top and at the west end. There were horizontal boards nailed on the inside of the studs, and all of the nails are wire nails. On the inner side of the siding are painted the initials "J.G., JW, RW." There is a doorway in the center made of tongue-and-grooved vertical boards and hung on "T" hinges; the door originally had butt hinges. The doorway is definitely added. Above it is a horizontal timber bolted across the two studs that

frame-in the doorway. The studs are original to the wall, not added when the door was put in. This wall has six hewn studs that are approximately 4 inches by 4½ inches. They are mortised and tenoned at the top and appear to all be toe-nailed at the bottom; the heads are rusted, but seem to be flat. Some of the nail heads are round and some of them square, and they could be added wire nails with some cut nails. The poor condition of the nails makes it difficult for an assessment. Several nails in a down brace appear to be wrought. Both corner posts have down braces that are mortised and tenoned and pegged at the post and at the sill. The end girt laps over the east and west plates, as do the joists, and all of them are notched on the bottom.

The west wall southwest corner post has a down brace that is short, in order to clear the next post to the north of it. The northwest corner post is new, and the building has been shortened on the north end. There are two posts in the center of the wall, with one stud between the southwest and south-center posts; this stud is crippled. Between the two center posts there are two added studs that are circular-sawn. This space between the two center posts must have originally been a large doorway. The space now has a six-over-six double hung sash with 8-inch by 10-inch lights and ovolo muntins. The north-center post has a down brace on the north, and had an up brace on the east. There was a sill running to the east at the location of this post, as well. Between the north-center and northwest corner posts are two original studs with a six- over-six double hung sash between them; this sash is like the other sash on this wall. The girt over the top of the north-center post has, from west to east on the bottom face, a mortise with peg for an up brace and five mortises for studs. At the east end the north bottom corner is beveled to make head room clearance for a stair that was formerly located here.

On the east wall, the southeast corner post has a down brace. To the north is a crippled stud, then a post that is larger than the stud but smaller than the other posts. Between this post and the crippled stud is a six-over-six double hung sash that has been added. The sill is fastened with wire nails, and the sash matches those on the west. To the north is another crippled stud, and then comes the north-center post. The sill beneath this post has a mortise and tenon for a cross-sill that ran to the west. In the center of the post is a down brace that runs to the south, and there is a mortise and tenon and peg on the west for a down brace that has been cut out. There is an abandoned mortise with a peg hole on the north face of this post, but there is no evidence of where this brace ended, and it may have been cut by mistake and not used. Just above these down-brace joints is a notch on the north face and the northwest corner, either for a door header or for a stair landing support. There are two nails in the notch, and the heads are deformed, but they could be double struck nails. The southwest corner of the post, above the notch, is beveled, and there is a small pintel at the bottom of the bevel and a square hole for a second pintel near the top of the post. The plate is notched on its bottom inner corner, just above this bevel. There was a short door hung here, with the notch intended to help the corner of the door clear the plate when it was opened. The down brace on the south side of the post has the ghost of several risers

and treads on it. This stair must have ascended to the north, where the short door was hung, with a stair landing to the north side of the post, behind the short door. To the north of the post in the east wall is an added six-over-six double hung sash that matches the other sash in this room. The north post for this window is smaller than the north-center post but larger than the other studs, and it is mortised and tenoned and pinned at the top. This post was never crippled by a brace, and it has no braces. The south face of this post has a notch that is in line with the notch on the north face of the north-center post that supported the stair landing. On the bottom face of the plate, located between these two posts, is an abandoned mortise for a stud, and it is not clear if this mortise was ever used. The northeast corner post is new. The center girt north edge has a notch at the top with a broken-off piece of wood still in it, with a matching notch on the joist to the north of it; this must have been a stair header. The stair must have turned at the landing and ascended to the west. The joist to the north also has a vertical notch with a piece of wood nailed into it, and this is located about 2 feet west of the east wall; this may have been a post to support the stair landing. Near the southeast corner is a hole in the ceiling with a twentieth-century ladder leading up to it. The eastern-most floor board for the upper level has a peg through it into the plate below, and a hole for a second peg. The north wall has been completely rebuilt in the twentieth century with two pairs of garage doors. The upper level rafters appear to be sash-sawn, except for the south rafter couple, which are pole rafters. The rafters are mitered at the ridge. The siding on the south elevation gable end matches the siding at the first-story level.

Spring House

The spring house is located about 125 feet southeast of the house. It is a rubble stone ruin with a gable end on the northeast that has a window frame in it. The interior or southwest face of the northeast gable wall has a recess at the base where the spring head is. The northwest wall has an opening at the north end that is wide and appears that it never had a door in it. There is a stone step on the exterior side, and it appears that there are other steps beneath debris that lead down to the lower level of the spring house. The east corner of the lower level has a corner fireplace with a stone lintel. There is an iron bar across the flue that parallels the lintel and is set behind and above it. The corner fireplace flue turns to a square flue in the corner of the rubble stone wall, and the interior of the flue is hard. The exterior of the chimney is rubble stone, but the interior is parged brick. There is a partition wall that runs northwest-southeast of rubble stone, and it is set northeast of center. There is a doorway in the center of this partition wall. The southwest end of the spring house was probably enclosed on all four sides, while the northeast end apparently was only closed on three sides. There is too little remaining at the southwest end to determine what openings the walls may have had, and the floor is now buried in deep debris.

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Oakland Mills Blacksmith House and Shop complex, also known as Felicity, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a rare surviving group of buildings that have served as the dwelling and workplace of a series of blacksmiths from ca. 1820 to 1950. The shop building, whose features include one intact forge and part of a second, has an extremely high level of integrity and is an unusually good example from its time and period. The house retains a high level of integrity from the earliest period and contains architectural evidence reflecting several periods of expansion in the nineteenth century. The surviving associated outbuildings, the smokehouse and spring house ruin, contribute to the significance of the complex. The period of significance begins ca. 1820, the presumed date of construction of the house and blacksmith shop, and ends in 1950, when William F. Whipps, Jr. ceased operating the blacksmith shop.

Resource History and Historic Context:

The Oakland Mills Blacksmith House and Shop was originally part of the large estate of Charles Sterrett Ridgely known as "Oakland" (HO-32). Deborah Sterrett agreed to sell 533 acres, with the major improvements, to her son James Sterrett and 567 acres to her other son, Charles Sterrett Ridgely (he added the name Ridgely in order to inherit property from his uncle, Charles Ridgely, of "Hampton Mansion"), sometime before writing her will in 1812. In 1813 she executed contracts to this effect. This agreement was apparently sufficient for Charles to begin planning and building his substantial country estate. Ridgely hired Abraham Lerew (died 1817), a Baltimore carpenter about whom little is known, to design his house in 1810, and construction was completed the following year. Charles Sterrett Ridgely apparently developed the "Oakland Mills" in conjunction with his brother, James Sterrett, on land that Charles owned. The mill does not show up in the 1798 tax and an advertisement for an adjacent property in 1815 notes "a new mill to be built by Major Charles S. Ridgely." The mill was standing by 1819 when, for unknown reasons, Charles Sterrett Ridgely mortgaged his share in the mill. The mortgage describes the property: "whereon are erected the mills called and known by the name of The Oakland Mills." The mortgage was for one year, but was renewable for five years, and Ridgely continued to renew it. In the 1821 renewal the property is described as having the mill and several lots, one containing a stone dwelling for a cooper, one with a cooper's shop, and another "on which are erected a smiths shop and a dwelling house for the accommodation of a blacksmith." Ridgely may have mortgaged the mill in order to raise money for the construction of these other buildings. Christine Daniels has noted that "some artisans who provided widely needed goods and services grouped around dispersed service sites that attracted a large clientele, including mills . . . ." Ridgely was obviously aware of this pattern and took advantage of the

demand on his mill by constructing other rural industries adjacent to it, and either he leased these to mechanics, worked on shares with them, or hired them to run the shops. The nature of these arrangements and who filled the positions is not known at this time.[1]

James Sterrett never received a deed for his share of the property, but turned it over to a trustee along with the rest of his estate in 1819. Charles Sterrett Ridgely could not pay the promissory notes that the bank held from him, and he finally deeded the mill property to the City Bank of Baltimore in 1822. By 1824 the president of the bank, John B. Morris, advertised "Oakland Mills" on the Columbia Turnpike for rent. It was described as "that very valuable merchant and saw mill, with the store and dwelling house, cooper's house and shop, blacksmith's house and shop, and about 16 acres arable land – the stand is reputed to be an excellent one for a country store." Given its location on a turnpike, business should have been good. The bank sold the mill property to Robert Oliver of Baltimore in 1825 for $9,228, and the blacksmith and cooper shops and dwellings were still part of the property. No doubt he continued to either lease the shops or hire mechanics to staff them. Robert Oliver (1757-1834) was born in Ireland and came to Baltimore in 1783, where he went into foreign trade in partnership first with Hugh Thompson and, after his death, with his own brothers. Oliver began to withdraw from trade as early as 1807 and increasingly made his money through loans and securities. By the 1820s he was one of the richest men in Baltimore, purportedly worth $1.5 million. Around the same time that he bought the mill, he also purchased the "Oakland" estate, thus rejoining the two, and he sold both properties to his son Thomas for $10.00 in 1827.[2]

Thomas Oliver, then, oversaw the management of the mill and attendant shops. In 1838 Thomas Oliver offered both the farm and the mill property for sale, either as one large estate, if someone wanted it, or in pieces. The sales advertisement noted: "Lot No. 7 will be the blacksmith's dwelling house and blacksmith's shop, with about 10 ¼ acres of land attached thereto, fronting on the Turnpike road. The dwelling is a two story frame about 32 feet by 15 ½, and the shop is

[1] Maryland State Chancery Court Papers, case 2043, Richard and Polly Gittings, et al, v. Charles Ridgely, et al. Maryland State Archives, S 512-3-2111. Michael Trostel, "A Report for the Adaptive Uses of Oakland," typescript, 1985. Kenneth M. Short, "Oakland Manor" (HO-32), Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, 2007. *Baltimore American*, 4 May 1815, noted in John McGrain, "Molinography in Maryland," typescript, Maryland Historical Society, p. 73. Anne Arundel County Land Records, WSG 6-614 and WSG 8-398. Christine Daniels, "'WANTED: A Blacksmith who Understands Plantation Work:' Artisans in Maryland, 1700-1810." *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd ser. 50, no. 4 (October 1993), pp. 749, 755-58.

[2] The mill was also noted in the records of this case as early as 20 July 1820. Chancery Records B122:517, MSA, noted in McGrain, "Molinography," p. 73. Anne Arundel County Land Records, WSG 8-404. *Baltimore American* 31 July 1824, p. 1, col. 4, noted in McGrain, Molinography, p. 74. Anne Arundel County Land Records, WSG 11-483. Stuart Weems Bruchey, *Robert Oliver, Merchant of Baltimore, 1783-1819*. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1956), pp. 19-20. Anne Arundel County Land Records, WSG 12-378.

about 24 feet by 20." The original section of the existing house is the same size as that mentioned in the ad, while the surviving portion of the oldest section of the existing shop (which has clearly been reduced in length) is about 18 ½ feet long by 20 feet wide. The sales ad also noted: "Lot No. 8 will be the wheelwright's shop, with about 15 acres and 11 perches of land attached thereto, adjoining the home places on the east side, and fronting on the Turnpike road." The farm sold in 1838, to George R. Gaither of Baltimore, but the blacksmith shop did not sell until 1844. It was purchased by William Whipps for $1,860 and contained over 14 acres. The mill had burned shortly before the 1838 sale of the property, but was eventually rebuilt. The sale of the other buildings may have been delayed while potential purchasers awaited the return of the mill and the business it would bring.[3]

William Whipps was already living in the Oakland Mills area, and was a trustee of the local school in 1841, making it possible that he was renting the shop from Oliver by this time. According to the 1850 census of manufactures Whipps had a blacksmith shop worth $500 that contained two fires that were hand-operated, and he had two employees making "tyres, h[orse]shoes, ploughshares" worth $800 a year. Most of his work seems to have been repetitive and not particularly challenging, but this was increasingly the case for most mechanics in the nineteenth century, especially with the rise of cities like Baltimore where specialists tended to congregate. The added portion of the existing shop contains one complete hearth and the base of a second, with a hole cut in the ceiling that suggests possibly a third once stood here. It is possible that this addition was made after 1850, but it could be that this addition is the one described with two fires, and the third hole in the ceiling was for some other use. The 1860 census data adds little to our understanding. Whipps still had two employees, and his yearly product was the ironwork on three wagons, worth $240, the ironwork on two carts, worth $74, and other work worth $1,000. Listed just prior to Whipps was wheelwright William Harman, who was probably responsible for the wagons and carts that Whipps was supplying with iron. Whipps was 52, was married, and still living with him were four children, apparently his widowed mother, and four employees and servants. Given that he was about 36 when he purchased the house and shop and already had numerous children and employees, he probably enlarged the house shortly after acquiring it. The north addition finishes are consistent with a mid-19th century period of construction.[4]

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[3] *Baltimore American*, 21 September 1838, p. 3, col. 7. Howard District, Anne Arundel County Land Records, 5-100.

[4] *Baltimore Sun*, 31 May 1841, p. 3, col. 2. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Manufactures, Howard District, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1850. Daniels, "WANTED: A Blacksmith," pp. 759-61. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Population Schedule and Census of Manufactures, District 6, Howard County, Maryland, 1860.

The 1860 Martenet Map of Howard County shows the settlement of Oakland Mills on the east side of the Columbia Turnpike, with the schoolhouse at the north end and, moving south, a building owned by W. Whipps, W. Harman's wheelwright shop, W. Whipps blacksmith shop, another building owned by W. Whipps, and one owned by G. R. Gaither. Others have assumed that the blacksmith shop was moved, since it is not in the proper order, but the physical evidence indicates that the building was built up against the earlier frame structure and appears to have always been in this location. It is possible that Harman was renting a building from Whipps, either the one adjacent to the blacksmith shop or one that no longer survives, and it is also possible that the ordering of the names on the map is inaccurate. William Whipps died in the early 1860s and his real estate was offered for sale in 1866. This advertisement indicates not only how extensive his holdings were (and thus how successful his business had been), but how difficult it is to make any firm conclusions based on the map. The land was offered as four lots, one of 40 acres with no buildings listed, one of ¾ of an acre "improved by a good stone house, having five rooms, stable, hen-house, meat-house, &c," and one of ½ acre "improved by a double frame dwelling having six rooms, kitchen, hen-house, &c." The fourth lot was 12 ½ acres, "improved by two dwellings, blacksmith and wheelwright shops, two barns, hen-house, stone dairy, and a good apple and peach orchard." It was this lot that must have held the buildings that survive, though it is possible that the frame dwelling house on the third lot is the surviving dwelling. This is also the first mention of the springhouse, and it is likely the ruins of that building which survive to the rear of the present lot. This building was very unusual for having a corner fireplace in the lower level, outside of the room with the troughs, in an area that was open at one end and had the springhead next to it. This fireplace was clearly not for heat, and was perhaps intended to heat water, either for washing or butchering, or for making apple butter or other comestibles. A plat of the Oakland estate dated May 1861 includes all of the buildings in the settlement around the mill with greater accuracy (it is drawn at a larger scale) but does not identify the owner or function of the buildings. It shows two buildings to the north of the small stream that presently runs near the southeast corner of the blacksmith shop, and what appear to be nine others to the south of the stream. The first two are presumably the shop and house that survive.[5]

Fourteen and a half acres with the blacksmith shop and other buildings was purchased for $6,000 by Oscar D. Thompson, who is identified in the 1870 census as a merchant miller and must have been operating the Oakland Mill. Living near him was Robert S. Baker [sic], a 32-year-old

[5] Simon J. Martenet, *Martenet's Map of Howard County, Maryland* (Baltimore, 1860). See Kathryn A. Gettings, "Felicity II" (HO-430), Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, 1997. *Baltimore Sun*, 3 December 1866, p. 3, col. 7. William Dawson, Jr., surveyor, A. Hoen, lithographer, "Oakland Estate Belonging to Philip Tabb" (Baltimore, 1861), in Joetta Cramm, *Howard County: A Pictorial History*, rev. ed. (Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company, 2004), p. 82.

blacksmith who may have been leasing the old Whipps shop from Thompson. This is confirmed by the 1877 Atlas, which shows the school house at the north end of the settlement, then two buildings belonging to Robert T. Baker, who held 12 acres, and a note next to Baker's name of a blacksmith shop. Baker did not own the property, Thompson still did, but Baker had control of it. There are a number of other buildings shown, most of them not given an owner or function, with a total of five north of the stream. A large bank barn survived to the north of the existing house, on a separate parcel, in the 1960s and can be seen in the distance in a photograph, dated January 1959, in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Collins. This building was apparently part of the blacksmith's property and likely one of the buildings shown to the north of the stream in this map. There was a second blacksmith shop in Oakland at this time, and both reportedly had plenty of work, but in 1878 the wheelwright, Mr. Gerwig, moved to Pennsylvania leaving Oakland without a wheelwright. This was apparently not the first time the settlement had been without one. At the same time Thompson was being foreclosed upon, and in October 1878 the mortgagee offered the 14 ½ acres for sale, including "a wheelwright and blacksmith shop, comfortable frame dwelling and a tenant house, substantial barn and stable, and all necessary outbuildings." These were "now in possession of Robert T. Baker." The property was purchased by Samuel F. Whipps, a local farmer and almost certainly one of William's sons, for $2,560. Samuel also reportedly operated a general store at Oakland Mills. Living close to Samuel was his oldest son, William F. Whipps, who was listed in the 1880 census as a 24-year-old blacksmith. Samuel must have purchased his father's property to set his son up in business. He sold the property, now reduced to 13 ½ acres, to William in 1893 for $1,500.[6]

The mill burned again, in 1897, and this time it was not rebuilt. The wheelwright shop was closed in 1915, no doubt in part a victim of the switch to automobiles. In addition to blacksmithing, William F. Whipps was known "as one of the most successful professional cock-fighters in the world" and raised and conditioned fighting cocks for many in Maryland and Virginia. William F. Whipps died in 1930 and his son, William, Jr., continued to operate the blacksmith shop until 1950. Horseshoeing seems to have been a major source of work in this period, though horses were gradually being replaced by tractors for agricultural work. The blacksmith shop remained in the Whipps family until 1954, when it was sold to Paul and Laura Wildman. They renovated the house and ran an antiques shop out of one basement room, and are probably responsible for adopting the name "Felicity" for the house. They sold the property to the current owners in 1961. The house and shop have been threatened by the construction and expansion of Route 29 from at least the early 1960s, and the community has continually rallied around this property to protect it; it is once again threatened by roadwork. The blacksmith shop

[6] U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 6, Howard County, Maryland, 1870. G. M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Howard County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, 1878). *Ellicott City Times*, 15 June 1878, p. 3, col. 7. *Ellicott City Times*, 5 October 1878, p. 3, col. 7. *Ellicott City Times*, 9 November 1878, p. 3, col. 5. U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 6, Howard County, Maryland, 1880.

was extensively studied and documented by Colonial Williamsburg during their preparations for reconstructing the Anderson blacksmith shop, and Ed Chappell described it at that time as "unparalleled by anything we have seen elsewhere on the East Coast."[7]

[7] *Baltimore Sun*, 17 April 1897. I am indebted to John McGrain for bringing this to my attention. Typescript transcriptions, n.d., in the possession of Mr. Robert Collins. Sherbourne Everett, "Things are Different around Here Now," n.d. Clipping in the possession of Mr. Robert Collins. Howard County Genealogical Society, comp., *Howard County Maryland Records*, vol. 7, p. 78. Edward Chappell, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, to Frank Collins, 26 May 1987.

Major Bibliographical References:

See footnotes

Verbal Boundary Description:

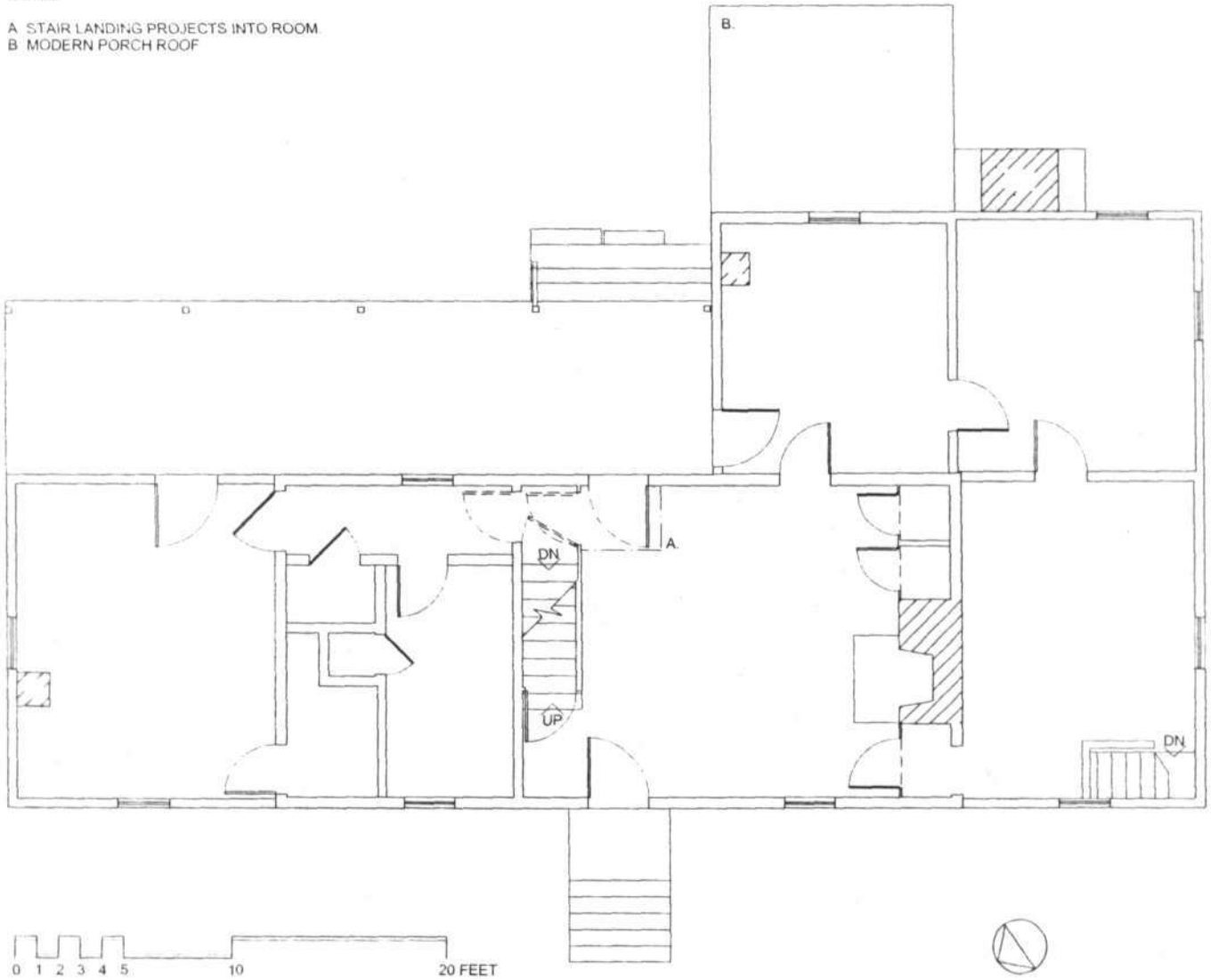
The boundaries consist of the property lines for tax map 30, parcel 199, recorded among the Land Records of Howard County, Maryland in Liber 377, Folio 260.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries comprise all of the historic buildings along the old turnpike road and the significant ruins of the springhouse to the back of the lot.

NOTES

A. STAIR LANDING PROJECTS INTO ROOM.
B. MODERN PORCH ROOF



HO-430 OAKLAND MILLS BLACKSMITH HOUSE 5471 OLD COLUMBIA ROAD

FIRST FLOOR PLAN -- MEASURED BY KEN SHORT AND FRANK COLLINS -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- JUNE 2010

NOTES

A. BRICK FLOOR, PARTIALLY REMOVED.

B. OPENING IN ATTIC FLOOR WITH 20TH C. LADDER STAIR (NOT SHOWN).

C. ORIGINAL PARTITION WALL (SILL, STUDS, & BRACES REMOVED) RECREATED BASED ON MORTISES ON SILLS, POSTS, AND ATTIC JOIST.

D. BUILDING SHORTENED AND WALL CONSTRUCTED IN 20TH C. WITH GARAGE DOORS.

E. HEADER FOR STAIR LANDING REMOVED WHEN WINDOW INSERTED.

F. ORIGINAL DOORWAY INFILLED.

G. DOORWAY CUT THROUGH LATER.

H. STUMP SET IN GROUND FOR ANVIL.

I. OPENING FOR CHIMNEY STACK IN ATTIC FLOOR.

J. OPENING CUT INTO ATTIC FLOOR.

K. WINDOWS ADDED IN 20TH C.

L. PROBABLE LOCATION OF ORIGINAL INTERIOR DOORWAY (POST HAS UPBRACE INSTEAD OF DOWNBRACE).

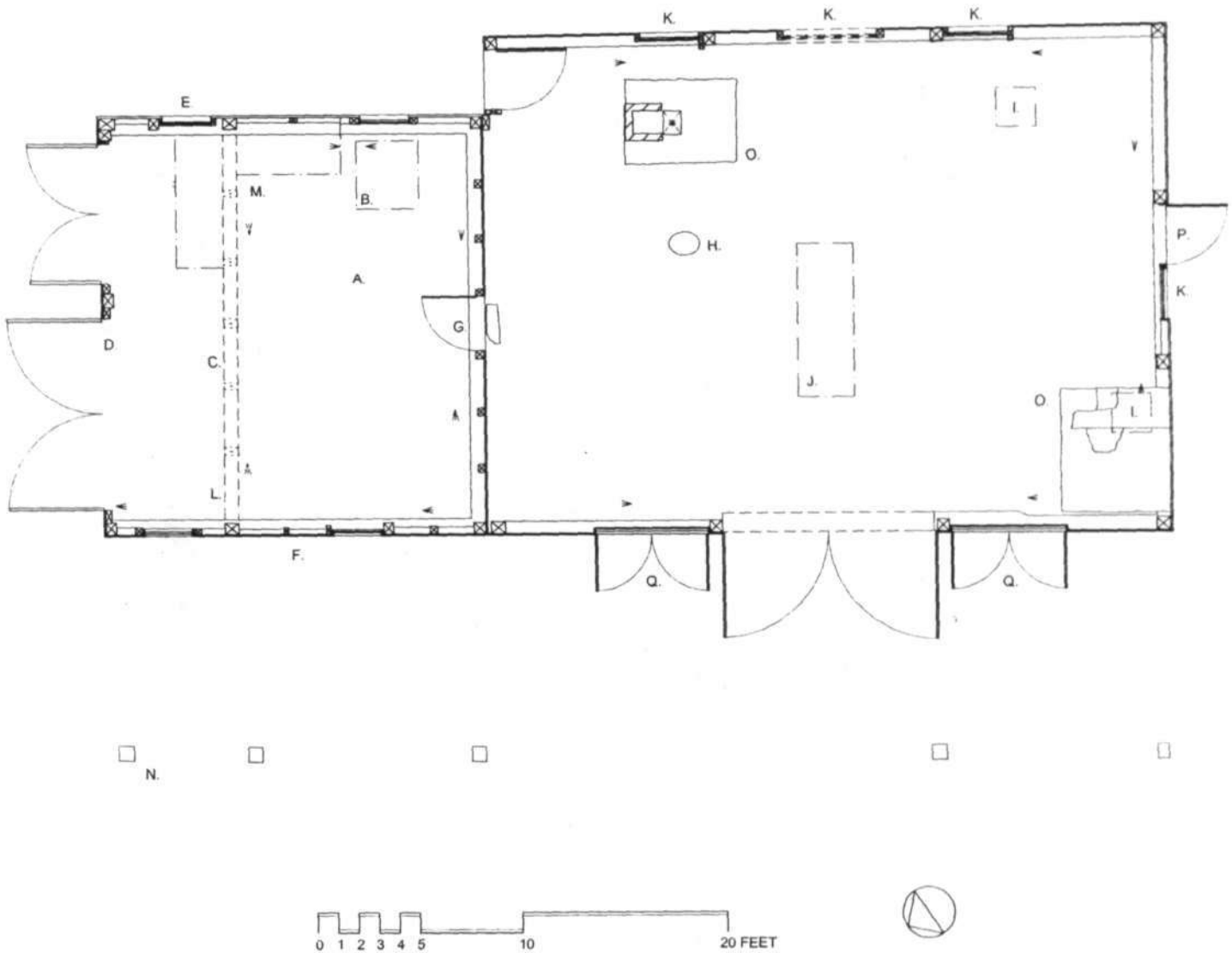
M. BRACE ON EAST HAS GHOST OF SEVERAL RISERS AND TREADS, WITH A PINTLE AND HOLE FOR A SECOND PINTLE IN THE POST, AND A NOTCH IN THE PLATE FOR THE CORNER OF A SHORT DOOR TO CLEAR THE PLATE. THE DOOR STOOD WHERE THE LOWER FLIGHT OF THE STAIRS MET THE LANDING TO THE NORTH.

N. PORCH COLLAPSEDJANUARY 2010. GRANITE PIERS SHOWN.

O. FORGE.

P. DOORWAY ADDED IN 20TH C.

Q. WINDOWS ORIGINAL TO ADDITION. SOUTH OPENING CONTAINS ORIGINAL 18-LIGHT SASH AT BOTTOM WITH BOARDS ADDED AT TOP. NORTH SASH HAS BOARDS ADDED AT TOP. SASH IS MISSING. THERE IS AN 18-LIGHT SASH STORED IN THE BUILDING, OF SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT CONFIGURATION THAN THE SOUTH WINDOW SASH. BOTH OPENINGS RETAIN ORIGINAL/EARLY SHUTTERS.



HO-430 OAKLAND MILLS BLACKSMITH SHOP 5471 OLD COLUMBIA ROAD

FLOOR PLAN -- MEASURED BY KEN SHORT, THOMAS REINHART & MARCIA MILLER -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- MAY 2010

5662 IV SW
(SYKESVILLE)

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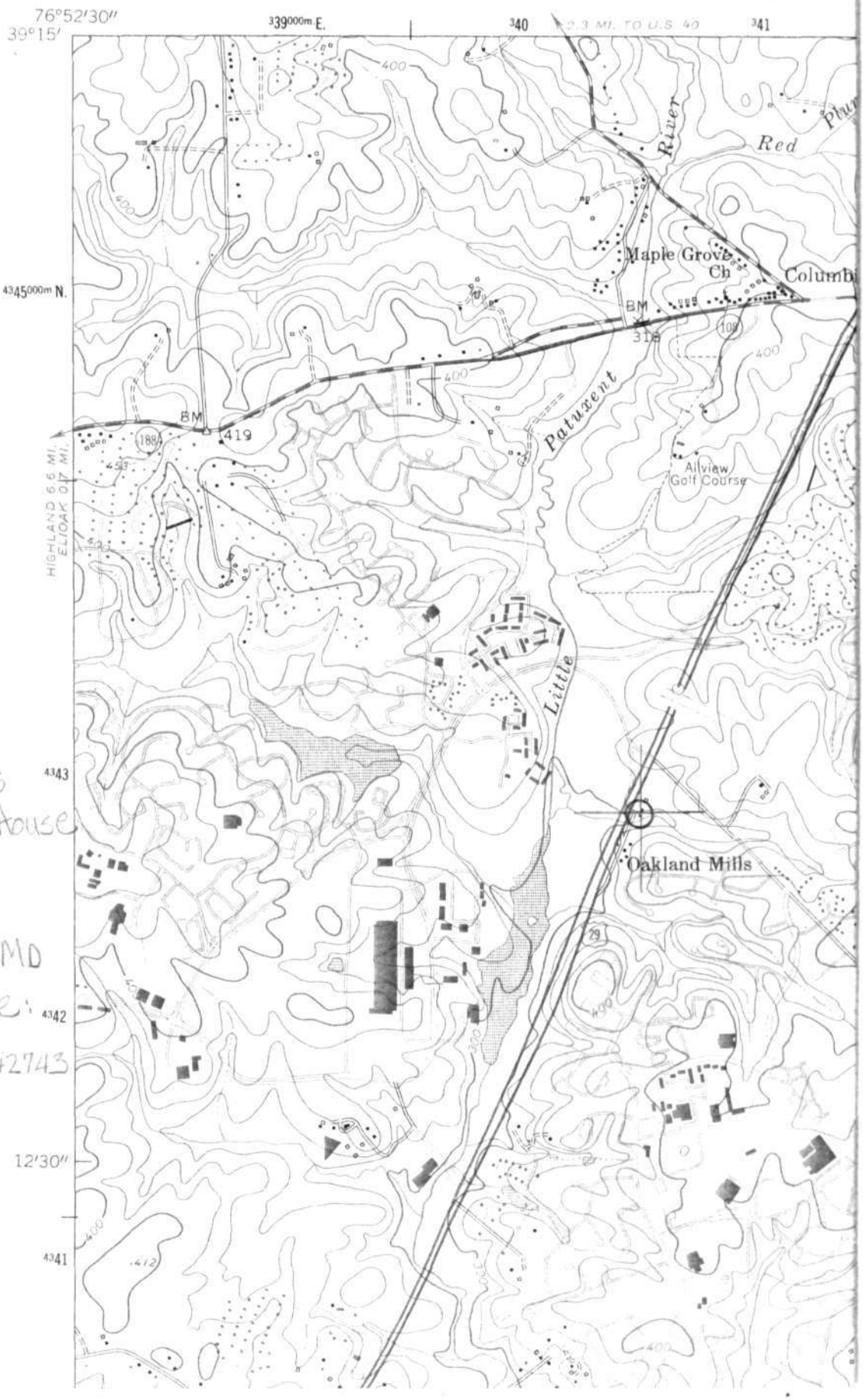
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



HO430
Oakland Mills
Blacksmith House
and Shop
Columbia,
Howard Co. MD
UTM Reference:
8/340490/4342743