

T-53

2100532104

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Talbot
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Myrtle Grove

AND/OR HISTORIC:

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
north bank of Goldsborough Creek, Goldsborough Neck Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Easton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
First

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Talbot CODE: 041

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. and Mrs. John Donoho

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Myrtle Grove, Box 754

CITY OR TOWN:  
Easton

STATE: Maryland CODE: 21

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Talbot County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Easton

STATE: Maryland CODE: 21

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Maryland  
Talbot  
STATE  
COUNTY  
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the north bank of Goldsborough Creek, south of Goldsborough Neck Road and northwest of Easton is Myrtle Grove. Facing southwest this dwelling consists of a frame section dating from the first half of the eighteenth century, a 1790 brick section, and a 1927 frame wing. The oldest section, in the center, is five bays wide and one and one half stories tall. Sitting on a brick foundation laid in English bond the house is covered with beaded clapboard; wood shingles cover the steep gable roof. In the central bay is the entrance with its wide, ten-panel door. Framing the door is a simple molded architrave with a five light transom. Each of the other bays contain a nine over nine sash window with thick muntins. Each window has three-panel shutters. In the roof above are three dormers, one above the entrance and the other between the two windows on each side. All have four over four sash windows. On the northwest end is a large brick exterior chimney now enclosed by the new wing. A tall inside end chimney on the southeast rises above the roof of the brick wing.

The northeast side is identical to the southwest facade except for a porch, supported by six square posts, which covers the entire first story.

In 1790 a large brick wing, four bays wide by three deep, was built on the southeast end of the original house. In addition to the raised basement it has two stories plus an attic under the low-pitched gable roof. The house is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond and has a molded brick water table on the southwest and northeast facades. A modillion cornice surrounds the house and also continues along the barge on both ends. On the southwest facade the entrance is in the third bay from the southeast end. The beautiful doorway is framed by fluted pilasters with full entablature. A triangular pediment with both modillions and dentils surmounts the delicate fan light above the wide, six panel door. At present, the doorway also has green louvered shutters and the porch has a wood railing. There are two windows to the right and one to the left of the door. The second story also has three windows, one above the door and above each of the two right windows. All the windows have nine over nine sash and shutters, three panel on the first story and louvered on the second. Above each window is a rubbed and gauged brick lintel. Below the right windows are louvered windows in the cellar.

The southeast end has windows near the corners on both stories and a third window in the center of the second story. There are only two windows on the first story. Two inside end chimneys rise between the center and outer bays.

Centered in both the southeast and northwest gables are large oval windows with very delicate curved muntins. Above the gable cornice is a one-course belt.

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1790 (brick wing)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Myrtle Grove is unusual in that it is still owned by the same family that had it built over 200 years ago. Nicholas Goldsborough, the progenitor of this Maryland family, came to the Chesapeake with his wife Margaret Howes in 1669-1670. They settled on Kent Island where their three children, Nicholas, Robert, and Judith, were to join them. Mr. Goldsborough soon died, however, and his wife remarried.

The Goldsboroughs' son Robert came to Maryland in 1678 at the age of eighteen. He and his brother Nicholas both settled in Talbot County, the latter near Oxford and the former on an estate called Ashby situated on the St. Michaels (or Miles) River. Robert Goldsborough studied law and was accepted to practice in Maryland in 1687. He held a number of public posts throughout his life, the first major one being that of a Maryland Councillor at Law which he held from 1696 to 1699. From 1698 until 1705 he was Justice of the Peace in Talbot County, from 1704 until 1708 he was a member of the General Assembly, from 1705 until 1707 he was an Associate Justice of the Provincial Court, and from 1719 until 1740 he was Chief Justice of the Court. He married Elizabeth Greenberry of Anne Arundel County in 1697. They had twelve children, seven of whom lived to adulthood.

Robert Goldsborough II, oldest son of Robert and Elizabeth Goldsborough, was the first occupant of Myrtle Grove. Built circa 1734, it stands on a part of Ashby, his father's estate. One source states that this small frame house was given to Robert II by his father as a wedding gift, but this is questionable as he did not marry until 1739. His first wife, Sarah Nicols, died within a week of the birth of his son Robert in 1740. He was married again in 1742 to Mrs. Mary Ann Turbutt Robins and they had three more children. It was Robert Goldsborough II, a lawyer and a judge

<sup>1</sup>Scarborough, Katherine, Homes of the Cavaliers (Cambridge, Maryland: Tidewater Publications, 1969), p. 314.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dandridge, Anne S. and Henry, Robert B. "Robert Goldsborough of Ashby and His Six Sons." Maryland Historical Magazine.  
 Scarborough, Katherine. Homes of the Cavaliers. Cambridge, Maryland. Tidewater Publishers, 1969.  
 Talbot County Tax Assessment Books, Easton, 1896-1940. Hall of Records, Annapolis.  
 Talbot County Wills. Hall of Records, Annapolis.  
 Tilghman, Oswald. A History of Talbot County.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38°	48'	16"	76°	07'	18"
NE	38°	48'	34"	76°	06'	49"
SE	38°	48'	25"	76°	06'	44"
SW	38°	48'	05"	76°	07'	09"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 40 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Anne E. Hill and Pamela James, Summer Interns

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: October 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 21

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Orlando Ridout, IV

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date: October 26, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Talbot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Myrtle Grove

No. 7. Description continued.

The northwest end has no windows other than the one in the gable. Under the porch roof of the original section is a door into the brick wing. Near the northeast corner is a cellar entrance, also with a lintel of rubbed and gauged brick. This batten door retains its original iron strap hinges. The wood box lock has iron trim.

The northeast side is three bays wide and lacks a window between the entrance and the northwest corner. Otherwise the fenestration is identical to that on the opposite side. A graceful, curving iron railing decorates the steps. The fan light over the door is "blind" with the plaster from the stairway landing visible through the glass.

The 1927 wing is one and one half stories and is also of beaded clapboard. It is two bays wide with a six over six light window in each bay and dormers above the windows. This wing is a successful addition to the older sections.

The original house has an ell-shaped central hall with one room on each side. The interior of the large panelled exterior doors and diagonal boards with rows of nails forming a grid pattern and also large strap hinges. The hall has the original floor and a bolection molding chair rail. In the ell of the hall is a closed string stairway with windows. It has square balusters and a square newel. The door under the stairs retains its original H-I hinges.

Northwest of the hall is the dining room. Above the arched brick fireplace are three horizontal panels on the projecting chimney breast. Flanking the opening are two tiers of vertical panels with a bolection chair rail between the tiers. The room has a simple cornice and a bolection chair rail. Originally the dining room was divided into two rooms. Remnants of the brick supporting-arches of corner fireplaces are visible in the cellar.

Across the hall from the dining room is the sitting room, of which the northeast wall and the fireplace wall are entirely panelled. The rectangular opening of the fireplace has been reduced in size. The panelling forms an arch over the opening, above which are two large square panels and a rectangular one. Flanking the chimney breast are two arched closets with panelled double doors retaining the original H-I hinges. Surrounding the room is a simple cornice and bolection chair rail.

The ell of the hall connects with the hall in the brick wing. Extending the full depth of the house, the floor planks in this hall are one piece.

(see continuation sheet #2)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Talbot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Myrtle Grove

No. 7. Description continued.

At the northeast end is a beautiful three-run, open-string stairway. The scrolled rail is supported by delicate square balusters. Beneath the end of the ramped half-rail is a fluted pilaster. The soffit of the stairs continues the scroll of the step ends. An elaborate plaster frieze and a molded chair rail encircle the room.

Southeast of the hall are two adjoining parlours. Gray marble surrounds the rectangular opening of the fireplace in the north room. There is a band of dentil molding beneath the fireplace cornice. To the right is a closet with panelled double doors and molded architrave trim. This room has a very elaborate plaster frieze with acanthus leaves at the ceiling line below which is a band of ovals with urns and flowers. The windows have panelled interior shutters which fold into the jambs.

The south parlor is the most elaborate. It has a plaster frieze of rinceaux and cornucopias. The fireplace in the projecting chimney breast has fluted pilasters, end blocks, and center tablet and has dentil molding under the mantel shelf. This room also has panelled interior window shutters that fold into the jambs.

The north bedroom on the second floor has a simple mantel with reeded end blocks and a simple panelled wainscot.

Both the original house and brick wing have full cellars. Under the original house is a stone foundation beneath the brick. Large hew are supported by tree-trunk posts. In the cellar beneath the brick wing is a useable fireplace.

The attic above the brick wing has an interesting roof construction. The trusses conform with the designs established in the design books of the late eighteenth century and are not typical of Maryland vernacular architecture.

Myrtle Grove also has several original outbuildings including a brick dairy dating from 1805 and a brick and frame smokehouse.

Of special interest is the small law office several yards north of the house. This clapboard building, built in 1790, has on the east side, a center door of beaded boards flanked by two nine over nine sash windows. Above the door is a dormer with three over six sash window. The west side also has a center door with a window in the north bay only. Also on this side is a three over six light dormer window above the door. The north end has no windows. At the base of the inside end chimney the brick is exposed and is laid in common bond, five rows of stretchers to one of headers. The south end has only two windows and these are tiny two over four sash in the

(see continuation sheet #3)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #5

STATE	
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COUNTY	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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(Number all entries)

Myrtle Grove

No. 7. Description continued.

gable.

Inside the office is a fully panelled fireplace wall with a rectangular opening, which has been reduced in size. Flanking it are two closets and above it two panels also enclose closets. At the far left, steps lead to an enclosed stairway and the loft above. Shelves containing the old law books cover the opposite wall. The grounds are beautifully kept and contain some very nice boxwood.

No. 8. Significance continued.

as his father was, who was a member of the Court of Justices of Talbot County at the time of the Stamp Act Crisis. He was present when the Court met and announced that it would "detect, abhor, and hold in the utmost contempt all and every person who shall meanly accept of any employment or office relating to the Stamp Act...."<sup>2</sup> Goldsborough died several years later in 1777, leaving Myrtle Grove to his wife with the provision that it should pass on to his son Robert after his death.

In 1798, Robert Goldsborough III has a brick addition built onto the earlier frame portion of Myrtle Grove. It was also during this year that Charles Willson Peale painted a portrait of the Goldsborough family, a copy of which presently hangs in the hall of Myrtle Grove. In his diary, Peale writes that he stayed at Ashby while executing this work as Judge Goldsborough's house was not yet finished. It is from this reference that the exact date of construction for the brick portion of the house is known. Robert Goldsborough III died nine years later in 1798, leaving a will similar to that of his father by which his wife was to hold Myrtle Grove until her death when title would be transferred to his son, Robert Henry Goldsborough.

Born in 1779 at Myrtle Grove, Robert Henry Goldsborough was the son of Robert Goldsborough III and his wife, Mary Emerson Trippe. He received his bachelor's degree from St. John's College in Annapolis in 1796. He did not become a lawyer as had the three Robert Goldsboroughs before him, but rather farmed his land although still running for political office. He was elected to the House of Delegates in 1804, but lost several other elections

<sup>2</sup>Scarborough, Homes of the Cavaliers, p. 317.

(see continuation sheet #4)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #4

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STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Talbot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

(Number all entries)

Myrtle Grove

No. 8. Significance continued.

during the first decade of the nineteenth century. He raised a troop of cavalry in 1807 of which he was captain and with which he fought at St. Michaels in 1813. Also in 1813, he was appointed by Governor Levin Winder to take General Philip Reid's seat as U. S. Senator. He held this post until 1819. In 1825, he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates and in 1826 was a member of the Board of Public Works for the Eastern Shore. The State Legislature elected him to fill the unexpired term of Ezekial F. Chambers in the U. S. Senate in 1835. He had not served long in this capacity when he died in 1836.

The chain of title for Myrtle Grove is unclear after the death of Robert Henry Goldsborough as he apparently did not leave a will. The house did, however, remain within his family as there is a "W. Goldsborough" marked as owner on an 1858 map of Talbot County and the "Heirs of R. H. Goldsborough" are shown as owners in an 1877 atlas of Talbot and Dorchester Counties.<sup>5</sup> Charles Goldsborough, the last owner bearing the family name, died circa 1928. According to the Talbot County Tax Assessment of 1928 for the First District (Easton), the next owner was Robert Goldsborough Henry, the father of Mrs. John S. Donoho who with her husband is the present owner of Myrtle Grove.

Myrtle Grove is an excellent example of the successful combination of early and late eighteenth century styles. It contains some beautiful panelling and plaster work, and a beautiful, delicate, stairway. It also retains a great deal of the original hardware. The sophistication of the house reflects the position of its owners.

<sup>5</sup>Dilworth, William H., Map of Talbot County, Maryland, with Farm Limits (R. Smith, Engraver and Printer, N.Y., N.Y., 1858); and Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson, An Illustrated Atlas of Talbot and Dorchester Counties, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1877); copies in the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

No. 7. Description continued.

Addenda to # 7

Line 3: dating from 1734,  
Line 7: beaded shiplap  
Line 13: All have six over six sash

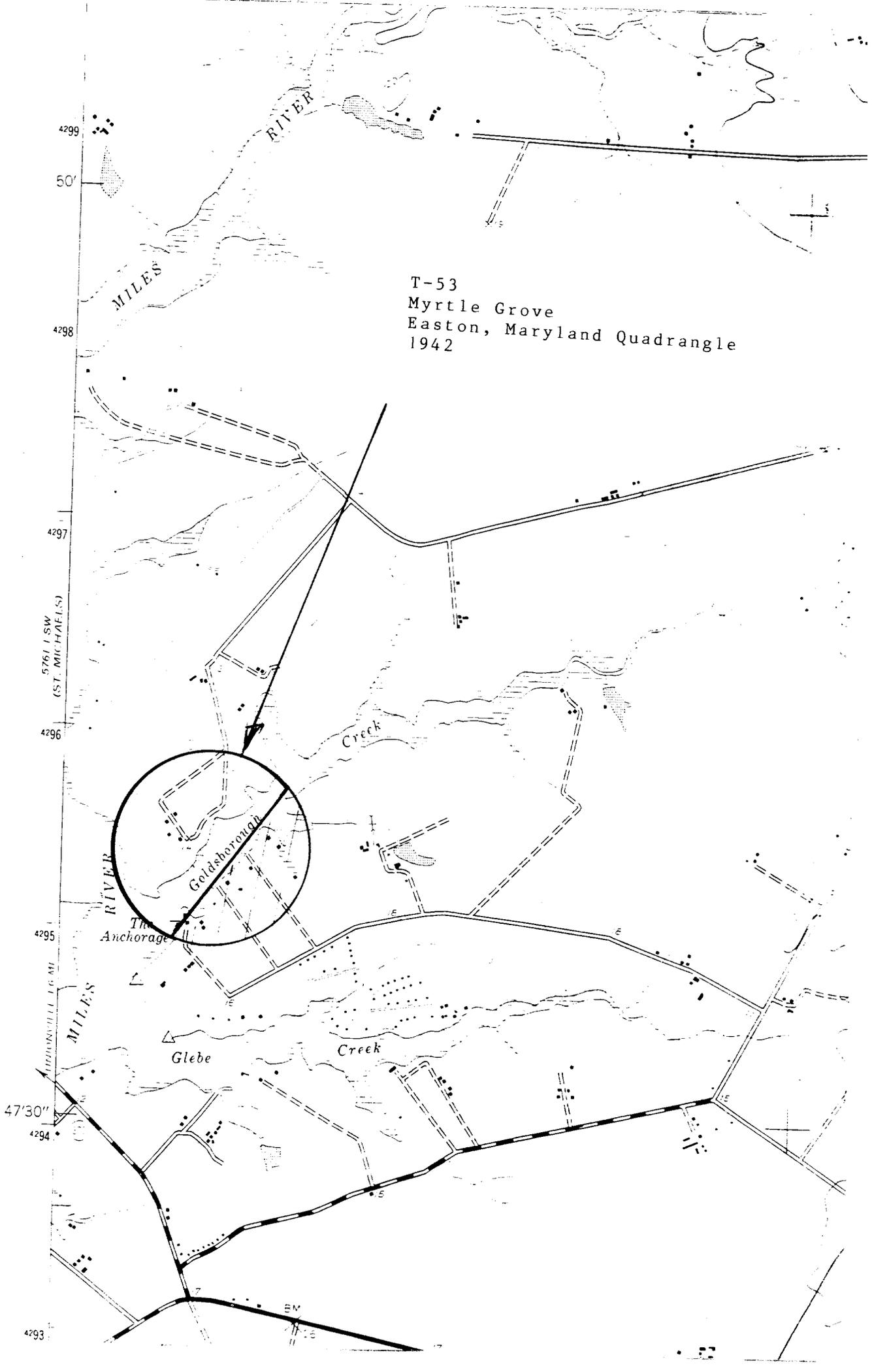
The original floorplan of the 1734 portion of the house had not only the two rooms with corner fireplaces mentioned on Continuation Sheet # 1, but the stair was located on the opposite wall, ascending from the north side and to the second floor against the paneled wall of the sitting room.

When the 1790 wing was constructed access between the two portions was through the sitting room closet. This arrangement however, was not conducive to privacy and subsequently the original stair was removed and rebuilt against the north wall, with a passage between it and the sitting room wall to the 1790 portion.

In the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, Myrtle Grove had, in place of the present kitchen, a "covered way" 18' x 18' and a "wood kitchen" 18' x 18' with a brick chimney. In addition to these changes in the dwelling the plantation also had extensive out-buildings including: overseers house wood 36' x 18'; 3 Quarters wood; 2 offices, one of which remains; wood smoke house 14' x 14'; lumber house 15' x 15'; brick ice house; foul house 18' x 14'; stable and carriage house 40' x 20' with shedded end and side.

Upon approaching Myrtle Grove from the northeast, the traveler passes through a park like setting, across a small stream to an allie of old cedars which are laid out with the older portion of the dwelling as the focal point. Many of the cedars have disappeared but the form is discernable and unusual in Talbot County. Myrtle Grove also boasts a box garden south of the house.

T-53  
Myrtle Grove  
Easton, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942





12 x 1.70

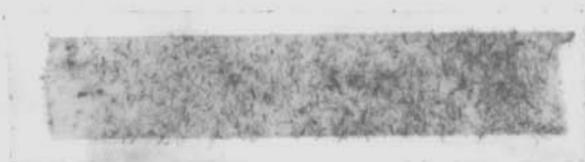
75%

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Myrtle Grove

S-W facade

T-53



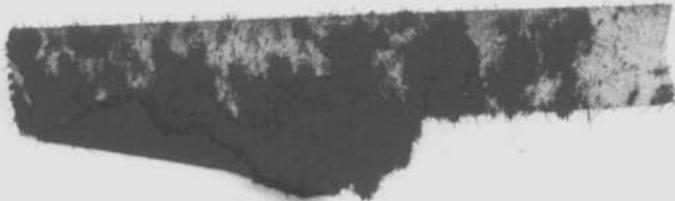
M. Bourne

MICHAEL BOURNE

Aug. 1976



Myrtle Grove - T-53



Michael O. Bouine

3/1968

neg - MHT

606-28



Myrtle Grove

53

Myrtle Grove  
Anthony O. James  
7/1973 Neg-MHT  
Ice house

ice house



Myrtle Grove T-53  
Anthony O. James 7/1973 neg-MHT  
Law Office

Law Office ~~reference~~ ~~copy~~

Anthony O. James July 1973



Myrtle Grove

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Myrtle Grove  
law office interior

T-53

Anthony O. James Neg. MHT

7/74

law office interior

AO James July 1974



Myrtle Grove T-53

Myrtle Grove  
South Room old wing  
Anthony O. James  
7/1973

T-53

Neg-MHT

South room, old wing

A. O. James July 1973



Myrtle Grove

~~T-53~~

T-53

Myrtle Grove  
Dining Room  
Anthony O. James  
7/1973

Neg MHT

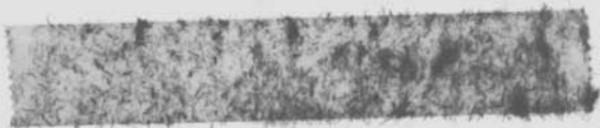
dining room

20-Jan

1973



Goldsborough Law Office - Myrtle Grove - T-53



Michael O. Bourne

3/1968

Neg - MHT

606-929





*M. Bourne*

MICHAEL BOURNE

*Aug. 1976*



Myrtle Grouse - dairy

T-53



MICHAEL BOURNE

Aug 1976





MICHAEL BOURNE

Aug 1976



Myrtle Grove

North pole (1990)

T-53



MICHAEL BOURNE Aug, 1976



Myrtle Grove - 1790 stairwell

T-53



*M. Bourne*

MICHAEL BOURNE

*Aug 1976*