

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

21

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Bloomfield

and/or common Old Bloomfield

2. Location

street & number Bloomfield Road _____ not for publication

city, town Easton vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Talbot code 041

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name James Dixon Bartlett

street & number Bloomfield Road

city, town Easton _____ vicinity of state Maryland 21601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse

street & number Bloomfield Road

city, town Easton _____ state Maryland 21601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Maryland Historical Trust
Survey _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis _____ state Maryland 21401

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Old Bloomfield is located on the west side of Dixon Creek, a branch of the Tred Avon River due west of Easton, Maryland.

The house at Old Bloomfield is a large and sprawling structure constructed in three major sections. The earliest part consists of a story-and-a-half brick section with a steeply pitched roof that is cantilevered out at the rear to form an overhang along the northwest facade. This section appears to date to the early 18th century. In the second quarter of the 19th century a 1½ story frame addition was made to the southwest gable, and in the late 19th century a two story frame wing was constructed on the southwest end of this earlier addition.

The early brick section is three bays long, with a single room on each floor. A flush brick chimney rises on the center of the northeast gable, serving a fireplace on each floor. The original brickwork has been stuccoed, but exposed patches on the rear facade and the southwest gable reveal Flemish bond above a plain water table and an English bond foundation. The front facade, facing southeast, is composed of an entrance door with four-light transom in the left bay and two 6/6 windows to the left. Two 19th century 6/6 pitched roof dormers are symmetrically placed on the second floor. The eave is finished with a box cornice and crown mold. On the northeast gable, a small 4-light window is located to the left of the chimney on the first floor, and a larger 4/1 window is in a similar position in the second floor. Evidently the first floor window is a 20th century insertion based on early photographs in the possession of the owner. Beaded and tapered rakeboards survive on the gable eaves. The chimney has a corbeled cap with a two-course band that probably was finished with plaster necking at one time.

On the rear facade, the roof overhangs approximately four feet and the gable soffits are finished with beaded weatherboards. The fenestration on the rear facade is not symmetrical, with a door in the right bay, two 6/6 windows to the left, and a small four-light opening at the north end of the facade. This latter opening is of uncertain purpose. It is screwed in place, and lights a horizontal shaft that opens into a large rectangular void in the gable chimney.

The interior of this section has been partially renovated, first when the frame wing was added, and then a second time in the 20th century. The northeast gable wall is dominated by a large fireplace, with an enclosed winder stair to the right. The fireplace and stair are unchanged, but the area above and to the left of the fireplace opening has been covered with modern vertical pine paneling. The stair framing and beaded batten doors are 18th century and presumed original; the lower section of the stair has been fitted with a simple railing that matches the main stair in the circa 1840 addition. The exterior doors and interior trim also recess in the right interior jamb of the fireplace. This recess is approximately 10 inches wide and 16 inches deep, and is virtually identical to similar features found at Marrowbone and Bishopton, two early 18th century houses in Kent and Queen Anne's counties.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

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Old Bloomfield
Talbot County
Maryland

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The second floor consists of a single room, heated by a small fireplace on the northeast gable. No significant early trim has survived in this room. The roof is accessible through a small trap door near the chimney. The riven common rafters are laid flat, at an average pitch of 49 to 50 degrees. They are secured at the ridge by a pegged mortise and tenon joint. Riven collar beams are mortised into the rafters, and serve as the ceiling joists. Other features of interest include an original diagonal constructive brace nailed to the interior face of the rafters with wrought nails, and original riven shingle nailers.

In the second quarter of the 19th century, probably circa 1840, a major addition was made to the southwest gable of the earlier house. This addition has brick gable walls and frame facades, with a single large chimney on the rear facade. It is narrower than the original house, and is set flush with the front facade. A square brick "tower" on the southwest elevation of the southwest gable appears to be contemporary with the rest of the addition (see plan). This addition is six bays long, and consists of center stair hall flanked by an unheated parlor on the northeast side of the hall and a large parlor to the southwest heated by a large flush chimney on the rear wall.

On the front facade, there are two 6/6 windows to the right of a paneled entrance door and three 6/6 windows to the left. Three 6/6 pitched roof dormers are ranged across the second floor. The siding is plain horizontal weatherboarding, an exceptional cornice with beaded fascia, Greek ellipse crown mold and complex bed mold is carried across the facade. A one story open porch covers the north 4 bays of this part of the house and the south bay of the early section. The south gable is laid in random common bond. A single four-light window centered in the upper gable is the only opening. The brick "tower" covers the southwest half of this end of the building. A single 4/4 window is centered on the southwest gable on each floor. The cornice of this section is corbeled brick, while the gable eaves are finished with beaded and tapered rakeboards. The rear facade is partially covered by a later addition, leaving three 6/6 windows exposed. The center of these windows has been blocked off and covered in recent years.

A two story frame addition was constructed on the southwest end of the rear facade in the late 19th or early 20th century.

The interior of the circa 1840 addition is relatively plain with a single room on either side of the stair hall on the first floor and the second floor partitioned to form a modern bath, nursery, and bedrooms.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Old Bloomfield
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Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

Several notable farmbuildings have survived. A small frame diary dating to the late 19th century is located to the rear of the house. A row of farmbuildings along the northeast side of the driveway includes a heavy timber frame crib 10 feet by 22 feet and a barn 47 feet wide and 30 feet deep. Both buildings are constructed of circular sawn timber, and probably date to the third quarter of the 19th century, but are similar in form and construction to much earlier buildings. A handsome pale fence enclosed the yard to the northeast and northwest of the house.

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the property being nominated are the present bounds of the farm and have not changed significantly for nearly a century. The boundaries are being used primarily for two reasons: 1) the tract of land has been occupied and farmed continuously by the Bartlett family since the late 17th century, and 2) the acreage maintains an agrarian and bucolic setting that has characterized Old Bloomfield for decades and typifies farm settings in Talbot County at the close of the 19th century.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

Old Bloomfield in Talbot County draws significance previously from two sources. First, as a farmstead that has remained in the same family as a working farm continuously since the 17th century, Old Bloomfield can yield information important in the history of a county that over the past two decades is rapidly changing from agrarian to suburban in lifestyle. Second, Old Bloomfield is significant for the architectural merit of the house which was built in two sections. The earliest portion is an exceptional example of an early 18th century vernacular house which includes a number of unusual features such as a cantilevered rear roof, a curious small window and air shaft on the rear facade and small arched recesses in the cheek walls of the first floor fireplace. The frame addition, dating to circa 1840, is unusual in both form and plan having a six bay facade with a center hall that is unusually small serving more as a lobby-entrance than a passageway and having tight winder stairs at the rear with no rear door as is generally found in houses of this period.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Other important features of the original 18th century section are the floor plan and roof. The single room floor plan is notable as one of the few surviving examples of a plan type that was relatively common in the Tidewater area in the 17th and 18th centuries but rarely survives without major alterations. The roof is a superb example of early framing, using light riven oak rafters and collars, reinforced with an original diagonal brace and original riven shingle nailers. Niches similar to those found at Old Bloomfield are noted on several other early 18th century Eastern Shore houses, including Bishopton in Queen Anne's County and Marrowbone in Kent County.

The unusual six bay facade of the circa 1840 addition is reflected in the variation of the center hall plan widely found in the Tidewater area. In addition to the small hallway, the flanking rooms are unequal in size. The northeast room was evidently unheated, while the larger southwest room is served by a flush chimney on the rear facade. This arrangement is in contrast to the gable end chimney's generally associated with this house form. The brick gable walls and frame facade walls of this addition are also a relatively unusual feature which survives in scattered examples throughout the Tidewater area. Other notable details include the exterior cornice and the chamfered hexagonal stair newels.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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3

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Several 19th century outbuildings have survived, as well as a handsome pale fence (possibly 19th century). Of particular note are the heavy timber frame crib and the large barn on the northeast side of the farmyard.

The land upon which Old Bloomfield stands was acquired by Thomas Bartlett, a blacksmith by trade, in the 1690s. Bartlett, a Quaker, arrived from England in present-day Talbot County in 1692 and acquired a 920 acre tract soon thereafter. The present 74.5 acre property is the only section of the original acreage still retained by Thomas' descendant.

It is not known exactly for whom the original section of the house at Old Bloomfield was erected nor exactly for whom it was enlarged. The original portion was probably erected for either Thomas or his son Thomas. Thomas senior died in 1711.

The circa 1840 addition was probably made for John Bartlett who acquired title about 1839.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory: Talbot County (T-175).
 Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.
 Talbot County Land and Will Records, Courthouse, Easton, Maryland.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 74.50 acres

Quadrangle name Easton Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8	4	0	3	0	2	0	4	2	9	1	6	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	8	4	0	3	1	5	0	4	2	9	0	9	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	8	4	0	2	8	8	0	4	2	9	0	8	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	8	4	0	2	5	6	0	4	2	9	0	9	9	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	8	4	0	2	5	5	0	4	2	9	1	3	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

1	8	4	0	2	6	8	0	4	2	9	1	7	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries for the nomination are shown on the attached section of Talbot County Assessment Tax Map #33.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Orlando Ridout V, Architectural Historian & Cynthia Ludlow, Research Historian

organization Talbot County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust

date July, 1980

street & number c/o Mrs. R. Flanigan Shannahan 15 N. Harrison Street

telephone (301) 822-3061

city or town Easton

state Maryland 21601

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



10-25-80

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For HCRS use only

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

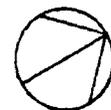
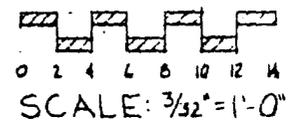
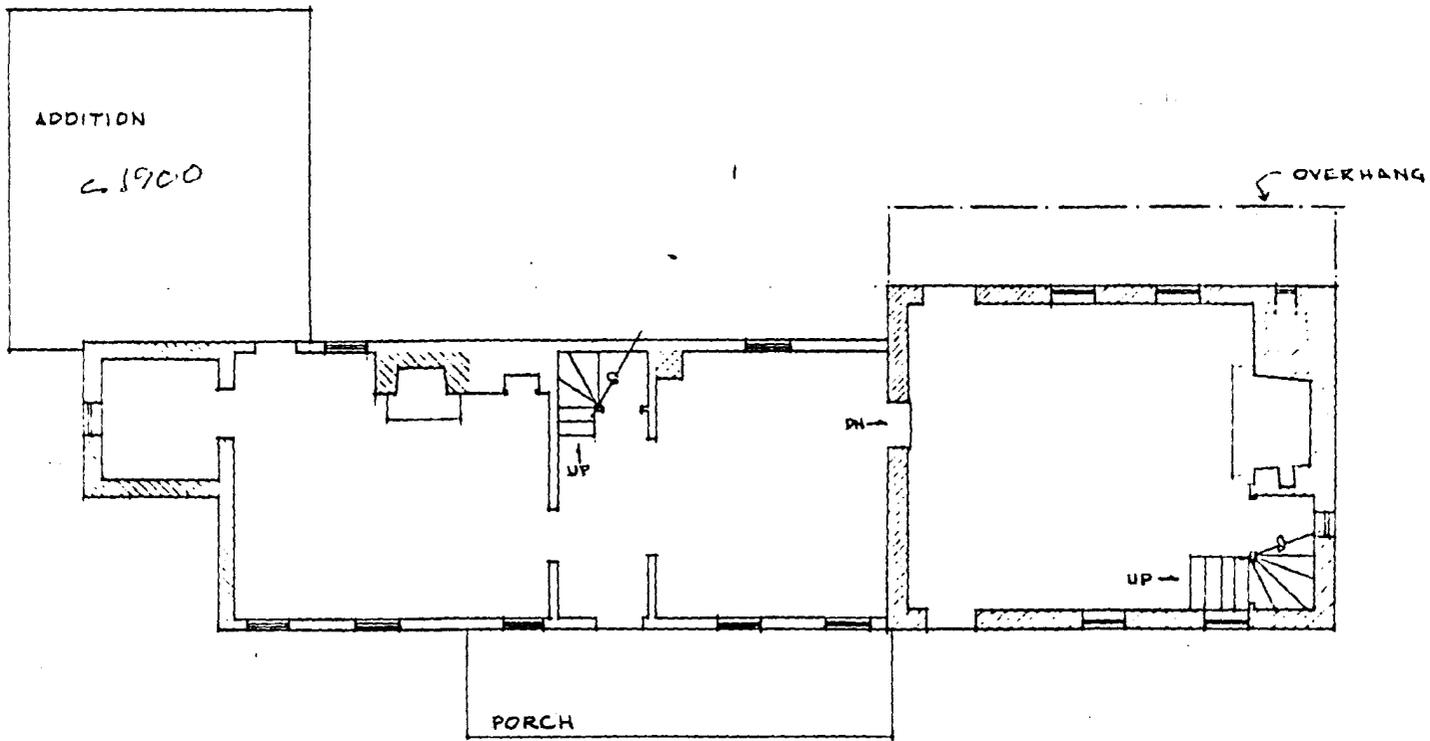
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

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OLD BLOOMFIELD
EASTON, MARYLAND

FEB 23, 1980

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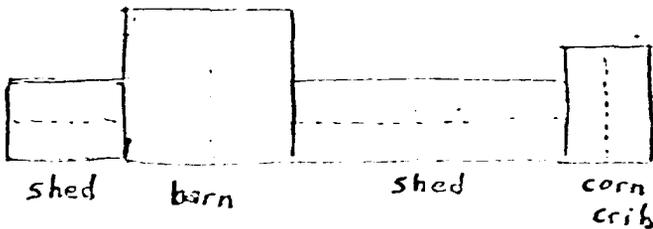
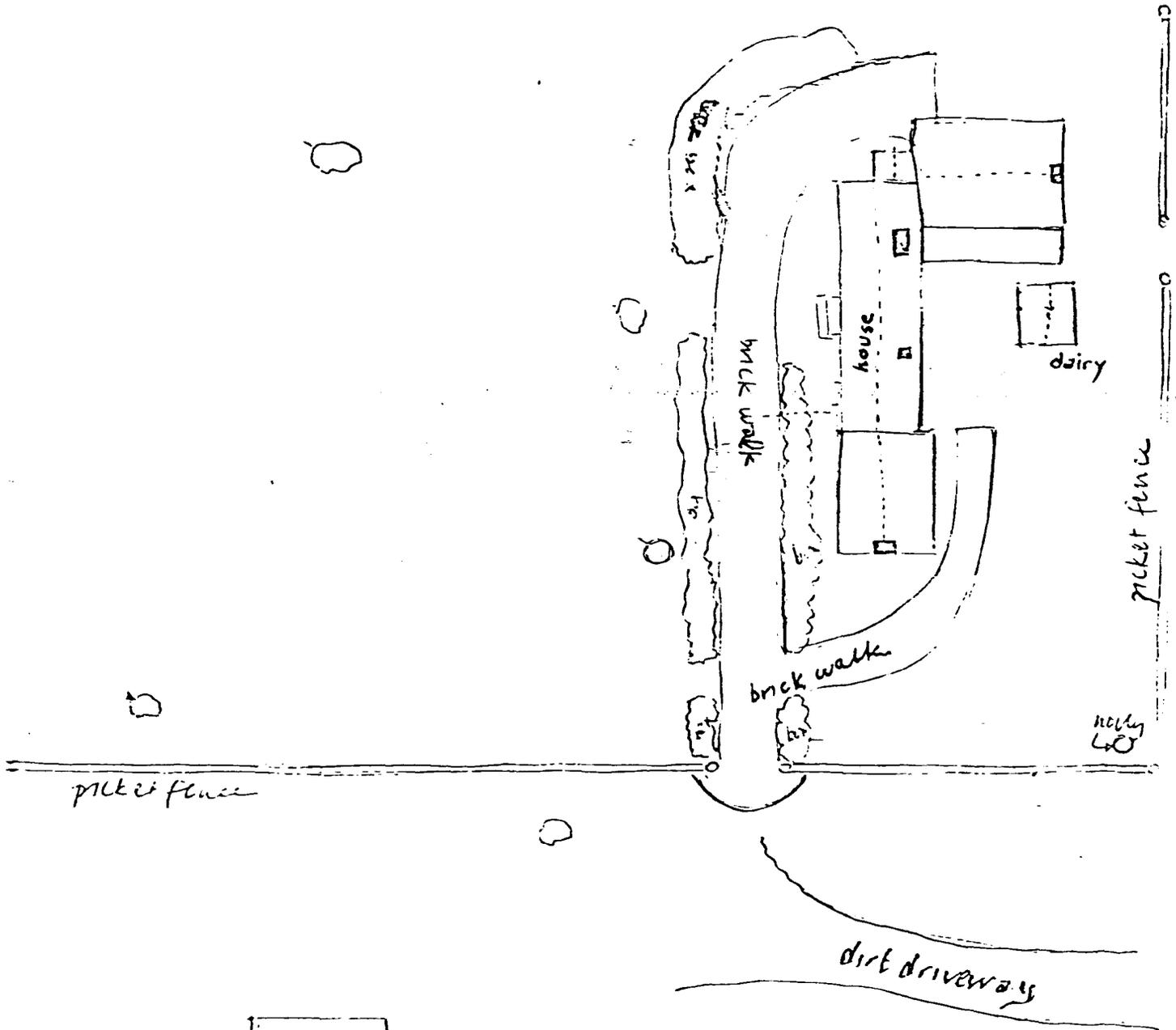
Old Bloomfield

Talbot County

Maryland

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SITE PLAN, OLD BLOOMFIELD



31' long, 11' to 12' (incl. to wall)

Old Bloomfield

Talbot County

Maryland

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boundary map
1980

source: Talbot County Tax
Map Number 33

*Old Bloomfield
James P. Bartlett Survey
Talbot County Survey*

NORMAN F. PARK &
JOHN J. KENNY
467 / 412
30.77 A.
P. 42

Tr.
2571
P.

P. 10

P. 123

boundary

Old Bloomfield

P. 100

Parcel # 21

CATHERINE T.
BARTLETT
7/60
20.00A
P. 26

MORRIS E.
SUMNER, ETAL
430 / 234
12.71 A.
P. 23

FRANK M.
HARDY
501 / 328
26.55 A.
P. 27

SHIPSHEAD
CREEK

DIXON
CREEK

SKY
JR
3
A

P. 52

P. 64

P. 133

P. 124

P. 130

P. 125

P. 132

P. 136



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P. 39

P. 35

P. 122

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SAPPINGTON
425/157
28 A.
48

P. 14

Journal

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71d Bloom Field
Talbot County

18/403 220
4291 620

18/403 150
4290 920

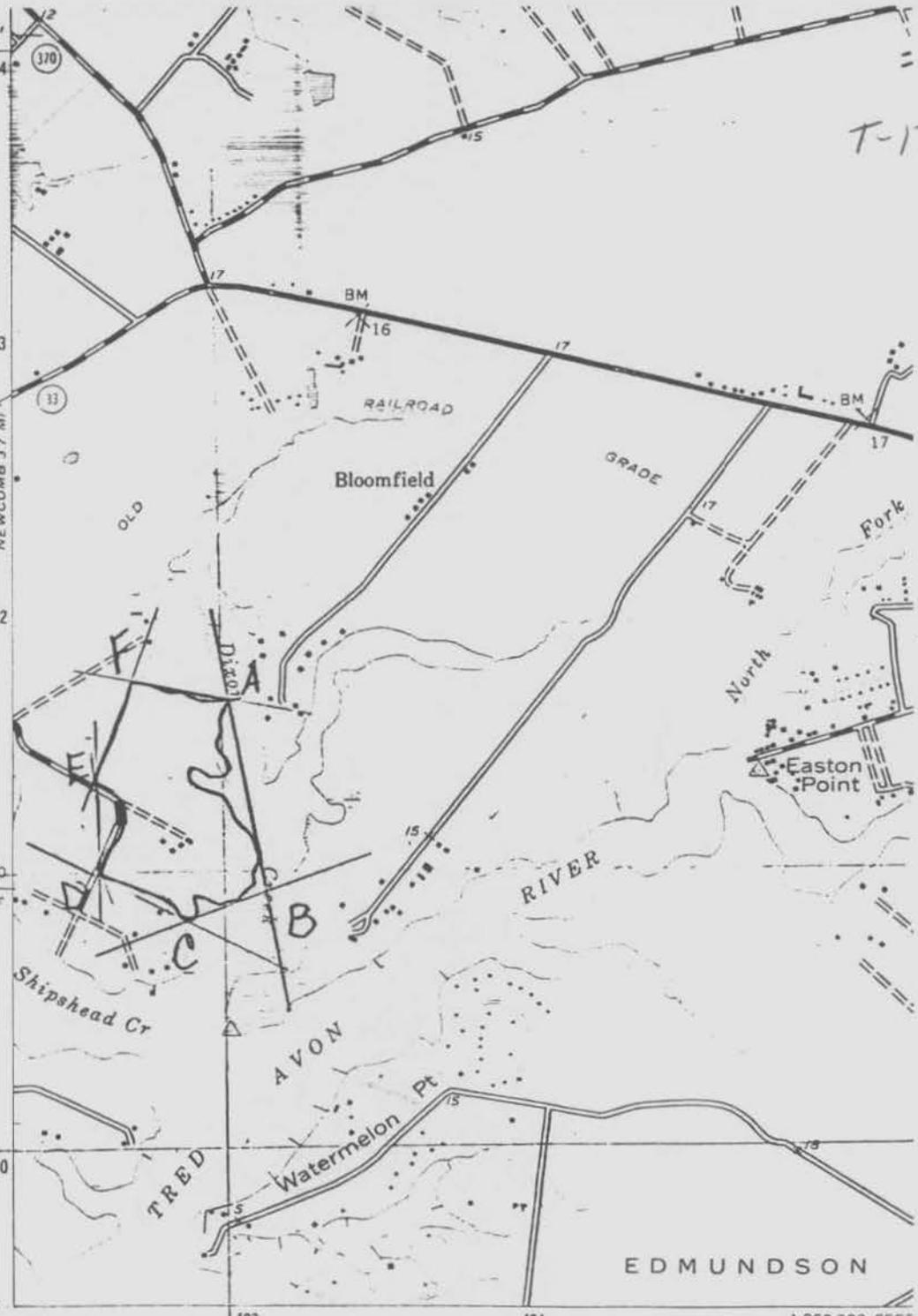
18/402 820
4290 820

18/402 560
4290 990

18/402 550
4291 340

14/402 680
4291 200

OXFORD
5761 11 NW



Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS

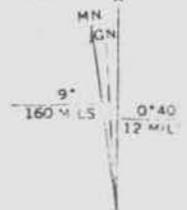
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
and by planetable surveys 1942. Aerial photographs taken 1942

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple, compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1974. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

EASTON
QUAD



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAP
DELIMITATION AT CENTER