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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic: Boarman's Manor; Bryan Town

and or common: Bryantown Historic District (preferred)

2. Location

street & number: Maryland Route 5 and County Route 232 — n/a not for publication

city, town: Bryantown — n/a vicinity of — First Congressional District

state: Maryland code 24 county: Charles code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
X district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name: See Continuation Sheet No. 1

street & number:

city, town: ___ vicinity of — state:

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse

street & number: Main Street

city, town: La Plata — state: Maryland 20646

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory — has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1984 — ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town: Annapolis — state: Maryland 21401

OWNERS OF PROPERTIES:

Patrick M. Bowling
P. O. Box 116
Bryantown, Maryland 20617

Ms. Christie Selph
Bryantown, Maryland 20617

Charles W. Decker
Bryantown, Maryland 20617

Mrs. Eleanor M. Carrico
Bryantown, Maryland 20617

George W. Gibson
P. O. Box 33
Bryantown, Maryland 20617

A. Herbert Nehrling
612 Berwick Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19803

Mrs. Rosalie B. Edelen
Bryantown, Maryland 20617

Harry J. Smith
P. O. Box 112
Waldorf, Maryland 20614

John T. Mudd
Bryantown, Maryland 20617

Mrs. Geraldine Lawton
P. O. Box 38
Bryantown, Maryland 20617

Richard Bell
P. O. Box 3
Bryantown, Maryland 20617

Grant Lee Thomas
P. O. Box 22
Bryantown, Maryland 20617

Alan B. Edelen
P. O. Box 246-B
Bryantown, Maryland 20617

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date n/a
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources Contributing	Noncontributing	
11	2	buildings
6	0	sites
2	3	structures
0	0	objects
19	5	Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: commercial, military, residential

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Bryantown Historic District consists of nineteen contributing buildings, structures, and sites and five non-contributing buildings and structures. The nucleus of the district is a group of four nineteenth century buildings flanking Old Route 5 west of the former crossroads. Included among these are two circa 1820 structures of major interest, the Bryantown Tavern and Brick House Lot, both of which stand on the adjoining lots on the north side of the road. The Tavern is a two-story, four-bay brick building of plain Federal styling that has end chimneys, a two-story front porch and an early twentieth century two part frame wing. Painted white since at least the mid-nineteenth century, it was initially built as a hostelry but early in this century was converted to a private residence. Brick House Lot, a two-story, five-bay, Federal-style dwelling has gable parapets, sawtooth patterned corbelled cornices and a single flush gable chimney at each end of the roof. Facing these buildings from the opposite side of the road are two frame houses, both built within the circa 1840-1860 period. Each is of two stories and has a brick exterior chimney at one end. Both are of simple architectural styling but one, the Lawton House, was significantly enlarged early in this century by a two-story addition that gave it its existing ell-shaped plan. The two most physically prominent structures in Bryantown, Evergreen and the Smith House, were both built near the turn of this century. Built in 1874, Evergreen is a fine example of Victorian Italianate-influenced architecture and possesses many interesting features, including decoratively embellished cantilevered hoods over several second floor windows. The Smith House is a large, two-story, two-part frame structure built in 1913. In overall plan it shares some architectural similarities with Evergreen, though in a somewhat more restrained manner. Contributing structures dating from the closing years in Bryantown's viability as a mercantile center early in this century include the John T. Mudd House and the Carrico House, both of which are two-story, three-bay dwellings architecturally typical of a rural community in this region. There are also two, two-story, gambrel-roofed tobacco barns located near the northwest corner of the village that preserve the community's ties to the agricultural region it once served. Non-contributing structures include several frame and block outbuildings, the Gibson House, and the Decker House. While relatively unobtrusive and screened by trees, these houses have no architectural or historical relation with

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY (continued)

other buildings in the town. Of the archeological sites the most important include those of the frame, mid-nineteenth century storehouses of "Boarman and Mudd" and "William N. Bean & Co." that were located at the southwest and southeast corners of the crossroads respectively. At the northeast corner of the same junction, on the property now occupied by the Decker House, stood a smithy, workshop, a stable and an icehouse. On the east side of Route 232, just south of the crossroads, are the sites of several significant early buildings, including at least one house and a store dating from 1783, the nineteenth century "Burch's Storehouse," and the site of the George D. Mudd House, presumed to have been built in the early nineteenth century.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Bryantown is located at the junction of what is now called Old Route 5 and county Route 232, approximately 1-3/4 miles northwest of the town of Hughesville. Bryantown's former crossroads configuration was altered somewhat when the old Waldorf-Hughesville Road was designated Maryland Route 5 and realigned to by-pass the village on the north side in the late-1930s, and when that part of Old Route 5 to the east of the original intersection was subsequently removed.

The nucleus of the community is a group of four nineteenth century buildings flanking Old Route 5 west of the former crossroads. Included among these are two circa 1820 structures of major interest, the Bryantown Tavern and Brick House Lot, both of which stand on adjoining lots on the north side of the road. The Tavern is a two-story, four-bay brick building of plain Federal styling that has end chimneys, a two-story front porch and an early-twentieth century two-part frame wing. Painted white since at least the mid-nineteenth century, it was initially built as a hostelry but early in this century was converted to a private residence Brick House Lot, a two-story, five-bay, Federal-style dwelling has gable parapets, sawtooth patterned corbelled cornices and a single flush gable chimney at each end of the roof. Facing these buildings from the opposite side of the road are two frame houses, both built within the circa 1840-1860 period. Each is of two storys and has a brick exterior chimney at one end. Both are of simple architectural styling but one, the Lawton House, was significantly enlarged early in this century by a two-story addition that gave it its existing ell-shaped plan.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The two most physically prominent structures in Bryantown, Evergreen and the Smith House, were both built near the turn of this century. Built in 1874, Evergreen is a fine example of Victorian Carpenter-Gothic architecture and possesses many interesting features, including decoratively embellished cantilevered hoods over several second floor windows. The Smith House is a large, two-story, two-part frame structure built in 1913. In overall plan it shares some architectural similarities with Evergreen, though in a somewhat more restrained manner.

Contributing structures dating from the closing years of Bryantown's viability as a mercantile center early in this century include the John T. Mudd House and the Carrico House, both of which are two-story three-bay dwellings architecturally typical of a rural community in this region. There are also two, two-story, gambrel-roofed tobacco barns located near the northwest corner of the village that preserve the community's ties to the agricultural region it once served. Non-contributing structures include three frame and block outbuildings, the Gibson House, and the Decker House. While relatively unobtrusive and screened by trees, these houses have no architectural or historical relationship with other buildings in the town.

Of the archeological sites the most important include those of the frame, mid-nineteenth century storehouses of "Boarman and Mudd" and "William N. Bean & Co." that were located at the southwest and southeast corners of the crossroads respectively. At the northeast corner of the same junction, on the property now occupied by the Decker House, stood a smithy, workshop, a stable and an icehouse. On the east side of Route 232, just south of the crossroads, are the sites of several significant early buildings, including at least one house and a store dating from 1783, the nineteenth century "Burch's Storehouse," and the site of the George D. Mudd House. The Mudd House, presumed to have been built in the early nineteenth century, is said to have also incorporated parts of an eighteenth century brick tavern.

Bryantown's origin as a crossroads settlement is clearly evident in the number and placement of its buildings. While the undeveloped sites of several former commercial structures have created vacant spaces between those buildings flanking Route 232 south of the old intersection, an obvious sense of physical cohesiveness and historical continuity has been retained. Reflective of the rural character and agriculturally-based history of the village and surrounding area is the cultivated farmland that extends into the community on the west side.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

This open space has always been an integral part of Bryantown since its first years of development and has continued in the ownership of the same family for over three hundred years.

Following is a listing of those buildings and sites that exist within the village. The number of each described building or site is keyed to the attached sketch map.

Site 1. The Bryantown Tavern, also known as the Bryantown Hotel, is a two-story brick structure, painted white, with porches front and back and a two-part frame wing at the west end.

The south, principal elevation is four bays in width at both floor levels. The main entrance door and transom, framed by a pseudo-Georgian architrave with crossettes, keystone and modillioned cornice added as part of a post-1965 renovation, occupies the second bay from the east end. To its left are two windows and a door, the latter located directly over the main first floor entrance. The lower half of the second floor door, which formerly gave access to a porch gallery, is fronted by a Chinese Chippendale-style grille added circa 1965. Extending the full width of this elevation is a two-story open porch with square posts that is a circa 1965 alteration of its earlier galleried design.

On the north side of the building the fenestration repeats that of the south front, with an additional small window located between the first floor entrance door and the window to its right. The four second floor windows are slightly irregular in their positions, the first window from the west end being about four inches higher than the two middle windows and the east end window about eight inches lower. It is apparent that the window closest to the east end was originally positioned to correspond with the two middle windows, but that the opening was lengthened to provide for a door that gave access to a later frame wing. When the wing was removed the door was replaced by a new window installed at the same height as the door. Three of the second floor windows frame sash of six-over-six panes and the rest sash of two-over-two panes. All of the window openings, like those of the front, have splayed flat arches.

Extending the full width of the north elevation is an early-twentieth century, one-story, shed-roofed porch with blocked and turned posts and a seamed metal roof. A single flush gable chimney stands at each end of the slate covered roof of the main block. The east chimney is centered to the roof ridge but the west chimney is off-centered, its south side wall set flush to the ridge. Although the eave cornice of the front elevation is almost entirely covered by the porch roof, it is fully exposed on the north side and is of an unornamented corbelled design.

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

At the west end of the building stands a two-part frame addition that appears to have begun as a one bay, two-story structure with its front wall flush to the south wall of the main block. It was subsequently enlarged on its north side by a shallow, two-story, shed-roofed extension and then by one story shed-roofed additions to the north and west. The roofs of all three parts of the wing are covered with composition shingles and the walls are sheathed with German siding. All of the windows frame sash of six-over-six panes.

A late-nineteenth century photograph of the Tavern shows it at that time to have had a two-story galleried porch with a balustrade of jigsaw patterned boards at the second floor level on the south front, a one story wing at the west end that had a door and a small window in its south wall and, extending to the north from the rear of the main block, what appears to have been a one story, "L" or T-shaped frame addition. In a later photograph taken from a different angle in about 1915 the west wing had been replaced (or altered) by a two-story frame addition in the same location and the two-story front porch had balustrades at both floor levels.

SITE 2. Brick House Lot is a well-proportioned and detailed two-story, five-bay, center hall house of basic Federal architecture. The principal elevation faces south and has a centered entrance door with transom flanked by four evenly spaced windows, all with splayed flat arches. At the second floor level are five windows, each aligned with the opening below. All of the window sash of this elevation has been altered from earlier six-over-six pane units to sash of six-over-six panes. The fenestration and door placement of the front elevation is repeated on the opposite side of the house, but a portion of the first floor wall area toward the east end is covered by a small frame kitchen addition built early in this century. At the east end of the house there are two windows at both floor levels and two windows in the gable.

Combining Flemish and common bond brick construction, the surfaces of which have been painted for a number of years, the house has a one-step watertable close to the ground level and a decorative, sawtooth patterned corbelled cornice front and back. At each end of the house the gable walls rise above the roof line to form parapets flanking a centered flush gable chimney at each end of the roof and terminationg in corbelled blocks at the eaves level.

Although Brick House Lot is said to date circa 1812, its architecture in combination with the property history suggests a probable construction date between about 1820 and 1830.

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Site 3. Decker Property
According to descendents of the Turner family who owned this land in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, this triangular shaped lot was the site of a blacksmith shop built and operated by Cy Duckett, a former slave, in the 1850s. Part of the property belonging to Brick House Lot across the road until the mid-1900s, this was the site of a smithy, shopbuilding, a stable and an icehouse according to a deed recorded in 1913. The existing one story brick house, which has an elongated rear roof on the east side and a partially exposed basement on the west front, was built circa 1952 by Dr. Harry Coburn, and does not contribute to the significance of the district.

Site 4. William N. Bean & Co. Store (Archeological Site).
The overall architectural design of this former building as shown in a circa 1915 photograph of the Bryantown crossroads suggests that it was built circa 1850. A rectangular, two-story frame structure constructed on an east-west axis, it had a centered first floor door flanked by two windows and a full-width, shed-roofed porch with four posts at the west end. The roof of the building had bracketed overhanging eaves, at least two windows at the second floor level of the west end, and an off-centered brick stove chimney at the east end of the roof.

An 1829 deed involving this site indicates that an earlier store building stood in this same location. It is likely that the store of 1915 was built by William N. Bean prior to his death in 1868 when he bequeathed his "Store and lot in Bryantown" to a granddaughter. The building was demolished circa 1930.

Site 5. Evergreen, built in 1874 by Henry Alexander Turner (1849-1909), is one of the two most visually prominent later buildings in Bryantown. Sited on the crest of a hill, the house is fronted by a steeply graded lawn planted with a circle of boxwoods once framed by an approach drive. An imposing, two-story, T-shaped frame structure, Evergreen is a fine example of Victorian Italinate-influenced architecture. The principal elevation faces west and is three bays in width and features a centered, two-story, gable-roofed, projecting pavillion. A double-leafed entrance door with transom and sidelights is located in the middle bay and is flanked by two floor-to-ceiling windows of four-over six pane sash. Flanking the pavillion at the second floor level are two windows of four-over-six pane sash. Flanking the pavillion at the second floor level are two windows of four-over-four pane sash. Centered on the pavillion is a double unit window surmounted by a cantilevered hood with a pierced and scalloped apron. Directly above the hood is a small arched window. Flanking the pediment of the pavillion, which has overhanging eaves with delicately patterned pierced drops, are two pedimented dormers, each with pointed arched windows and pierced cornice decorations and consoles. Extending the width of this elevation is a one story porch, the pedimented central portion of which projects forward and is supported by two sets of three square posts. All of the porch posts have scrolled and

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

pierced brackets. At both ends of the main block are one story bay windows, each with a decorative roof balustrade. Single second floor windows centered in each end elevation are surmounted by ornamental cantilevered hoods and there is an arched window in each gable. A grouping of three, corbelled brick chimneys pierce the roof at the junction of the main roof and that of the pavillion. Two are set at a right angle to the main roof ridge while the third projects from the rear slope and is set parallel to the ridge.

Extending out from the rear of the house is a centered, two-part, two-story wing. The roof of the east end half of the wing is positioned parallel to that of the main block while the roof of the middle section is set at a right angle to them. Both sides of the middle portion of the wing are two bays wide at the first floor level, each having one door and one window, and there are two second floor windows spaced close together and framed by cross-gables. On the south side this portion of the wing is covered by a one story porch. The east end half of the wing, which originally functioned as a kitchen-service area, is two bays wide at both floor levels at the north end and, on the east side, has a centered door and two windows at the first floor and one double and one triple unit window above.

In the course of a recent renovation of the exterior a deteriorated rakeboard that was removed was found to be inscribed "Geo. B. W. Barr / Jan. 8, 1874." Presumably Barr was either the contractor/builder or one of the carpenters involved in the original construction of the house.

A daughter of the original owner of Evergreen, now deceased, once stated that the existing house was built on or near the site of an older "colonial" home formerly occupied by William N. Bean.

Site 6. William N. Bean's Blacksmith Shop Archeological Site.
The only known reference to this site appears in an 1856 deed when it was used as a boundary point for the Mudd property immediately adjacent on the south side.

Site 7. The Gibson House in an architecturally interesting one story frame building that in plan suggests a composition of two rectangular structures joined together by a lower, recessed hyphen. Each of the two end sections is two bays in width on the west front. The north end block has one single and one triple unit window on this elevation. The south end block, the south half of which projects forward by about two feet, has one window centered in each wall area. The entrance door, framed by sidelights, is centered in the recessed west wall of the hyphen and is fronted by a deep, shed-roofed porch approached by wide brick steps. Constructed in the mid-twentieth century, this house does not contribute to the significance of the district.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Site 8. George D. Mudd House Archeological Site.
This is the site of the "homestead" referred to in the 1899 will of Dr. George D. Mudd and which is said to have incorporated part of an earlier building traditionally believed to have been the original eighteenth century Bryan Town Tavern. It is more likely, however, that the earlier structure was in fact the dwelling house of James Boarman mentioned in the 1805 deed to the nine acre Bryantown Lot when Boarman sold the property to Dr. Jesse Jameson and possibly one of the buildings assessed in the name of Thomas James Boarman in 1783. A house is known to have been standing on this site in 1856 when John D. Bowling and Robert L. Burch conveyed the then two acre lot to Dr. Mudd. The Mudd house was torn down in the mid-1900's.

Site 9. Burch Store and Archeological Site.
Standing on this site as early as 1850 was a store operated by Robert L. Burch and co-owned by him with John D. Bowling. Descriptions of the store in 1868 as "in a dilapidated condition and rapidly depreciating in value" suggest that the building had been standing for some time. It is conceivable that this store building, as well as the Mudd house (Site 8) and the Burch house (Site 10) constituted the "two dwellings and a store" listed in the tax assessments of 1783. The store was still standing in 1897 but in 1899 had been torn down and a "hall" built on the same site. The "hall" itself had been demolished by 1940.

Site 10. Burch House Archeological Site.
Like the Burch Storehouse (Site 9) the Burch House was standing as early as 1850 and quite possibly dated to the eighteenth century. By 1868 the house was described as "dilapidated" and is believed to have been torn down by circa 1900 when it was subsequently replaced by the Carrico House (Site 11).

Site 11. Believed to have been built between 1900 and 1916 near the site of the Burch House (Site 10), the Carrico House is a two-story, ell-shaped structure, three-bays wide on the west front. There is a centered entrance door framed by a transom and sidelights, a centered cross-gable on the front slope of the roof, and a one story porch with block and turned posts that extends across the front and part of the two-bay south end. All of the windows frame sash of two-over-two panes and have louvered exterior blinds. The roof is pierced by two corbelled stove chimneys, is covered with asphalt shingles, and the exterior walls are sheathed with composition siding.

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Site 12. Smith House.

The Smith House, which shares some architectural similarities with Evergreen (Site #5), is one of Bryantown's most physically prominent buildings. Located at the south end of the village, it is surrounded by shade trees and flanked on the west, north and south sides by wide expanses of open fields. Its setting, physical size and architectural styling combine to make it a distinctive focal point for the southern half of the town.

A commodious, two-story frame structure, the house faces northeast toward the village. The principal facade has a centered, double-leafed entrance door framed by a transom and sidelights that is flanked by two, three sided bay windows, each with three windows of two-over-two sash. The second floor level, which features a projecting pavilion, is five bays in width, with a double-unit window centered in the pavilion flanked by four single unit windows, all framing sash of two-over-two panes. Extending the full width of this elevation is a balustraded one story porch with round tapered posts. Fronting the second floor pavilion is a balustraded platform extending over and beyond the porch roof to create a porte-cochere effect. The roof of the pavilion projects onto the front roof of the house in a pedimented form and has boxed overhanging eaves framing a narrow arched window. Flanking this are two dormers, one at each end of the roof and aligned with the end second floor windows. Both dormers have boxed overhanging eaves and jigsaw patterned consoles framing windows of two-over-two pane sash.

The porch of the front elevation continues around the southeast end of the house, terminating at the front wall of an off-set, two-story rear wing, part of which extends across half of the southeast end of the main block. The roof of the part of the wing covering the end of the main block follows the same ridge line as the latter, but for the remainder of its length runs at a right angle to it. The wing is five bays in length at both floor levels of the southeast elevation. The gable of the forward portion of the roof and a shallower cross-gable toward the southwest end both frame small lunette windows, while in the gable of the main block there is a two-over-two pane arched window. The northwest end of the main block has two windows at both floor levels and a fifth window in the gable. Extending the width of the rear elevation, between the northwest end of the main block and the northwest wall of the rear wing, is a two-story galleried porch. Although the exterior of the house lacks any applied ornamentation, an early photograph shows it to have once had small pierced and scrolled brackets in the pidiment of the front pavilion. Unoccupied for several years, the house was recently renovated by the present owners.

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The Smith House was built circa 1913 by Benjamin Marcellus Edelen, Jr. (1871-1941) on property inherited by his wife, Mary Boarman. The house is said to have been constructed on the site of an earlier Boarman home demolished the same year. Surviving photographs of the previous house show it to have been a one story brick structure, three bays wide at the first floor front and with a full-width front porch and a steeply pitched dormered roof. Like other brick houses in Bryantown it too was painted. The obvious early-Federal design of the house, which was of an end hall plan, suggests that it was probably built between about 1790 and 1820. Certain architectural features incorporated into the existing house and said to have been salvaged from the earlier building, notably a marble mantel and a small stair, are clearly of mid-nineteenth century origin.

Site 13. John T. Mudd House

A two-story, T-shaped frame structure, The John T. Mudd house was built about the turn of this century by James Darg. The three bay wide main block faces east directly onto Route 232 and has a one story, shed-roofed porch extending the width of the first floor level and a raised cross-gable centered on the front slope of the roof. The front entrance door occupies the first bay from the south end and the windows, two at the first floor and three above, all frame sash of two-over-two panes. Extending out from the rear of the house is a two-story, two-part frame wing, the roof of which is at a right angle to that of the main block. On the north side the wall of each of the three sections of the house is set back from the next adjoining wall starting from the east end. There are no openings in the north end of the main block, while the middle section of the wing has one window of two-over-two pane sash at each level and the third section two first and two second floor windows. On the south side of the house the first floor level of the rear wing is covered by a later shed-roofed addition of recent construction that possibly replaced or represents the alteration of a former porch. Immediately in back of the house are two early-twentieth century sheds.

Site 14. Boarman and Mudd Store Archeological Site.

Believed to have been built prior to 1855, this store was jointly owned and operated by members of the Boarman and Mudd families between the late-nineteenth century and the 1930s. A circa 1915 photograph taken of the crossroads from the west end of the village shows only a portion of the building, which stood close to the southwest corner of the junction. Like the William N. Bean & Co. store across the road (Site #4) this structure was built on an east-west axis, with its principal facade at the east end and facing onto what is now Route 232. It was a two-story, rectangular, frame building, two bays wide at both floor levels on the north side. The last operating store in Bryantown, The Boarman and Mudd Store was torn down circa 1940.

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Site 15. Lawton House.

The Lawton House is a two-story, ell-shaped frame structure with a brick exterior chimney with stepped weatherings at the east end. The principal facade faces north and is four bays wide at both floor levels. The transomed entrance door occupies the second bay from the east end and is fronted by a gable-roofed porch with square posts and arched ceiling that is a modern addition. Each of the three remaining bays contain double-unit windows, each unit of two-over-two panes. At the second floor level are four single unit windows of two-over-two pane sash, each aligned with the opening below. Across the back of the house, between the east end and the east wall of the rear wing, is a two-story, shed-roofed porch with a second floor gallery.

The number and extent of alterations that have occurred in the last fifty years has successfully camouflaged most of the evidence that would document the original appearance of the building. It is likely that it began as a three-bay center hall dwelling with exterior chimneys at each end. The former west end chimney was probably removed early in this century when the house was enlarged by a two-story addition at that end. The rear porch is believed to pre-date the west addition but in its present two-story form is not original to the house.

Site 16. Richard Bell House

Situated on the south side of Old Route 5 across the street from the Bryantown Tavern, this is one of the four oldest houses remaining in Bryantown. Facing north, the main block is of frame construction, two stories in height and three bays in width at both floor levels. The front entrance door occupies the middle first floor bay of this elevation and the windows, all fitted with louvered exterior blinds, frame sash of two-over-two panes. At the east end of the main block stands a brick exterior chimney with stepped weatherings at the first floor level and a tall narrow stack. At the opposite end stands a one story, two-bay frame wing of probable nineteenth century construction. The exterior walls of both parts of the house are sheathed with composition siding and the roof with corrugated tin. It is possible that the main block might originally have been of one story height and that it was raised to two stories in the late nineteenth century.

Sites 17 and 18. Tobacco Barns

These two barns, both built early in this century, are of two-story height and have high, Dutch-style gambrel roofs. The exteriors are sheathed with vertical planked boards and the roofs with corrugated metal. Barn #17 is built following a southwest-northeast axis while Barn #18 follows an east-west axis. In the 1920s Barn #17 was the site of Moreland's Garage. Barn #18, which has tall double doors at both ends and sides and pointed arched vents in the gables, has remained part of the Bryantown Tavern property.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1780–c. 1900 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, B, and C
Applicable Exceptions: none
Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Bryantown, with its origins dating to the eighteenth century, is significant as one of Charles County's four earliest principal settlements. Its growth as a prosperous trade and mercantile center by the mid-nineteenth century is closely intertwined with many of the most important individuals, families and events that shaped the social, economic and cultural history of this area. As one of the oldest communities in a rural agricultural region where few physically cohesive settlements ever developed, Bryantown is unique in that it is one of the few towns that existed in lower southern Maryland during the 1780 to 1900 period that today retains more than two or three early structures. Two of Bryantown's most prominent buildings, Brick House Lot and Evergreen, are both significant architectural landmarks, Brick House Lot for its formal Federal design and Evergreen as the finest example of Victorian Carpenter Gothic architecture in Charles County. Another important landmark is the early nineteenth century Bryantown Tavern, which is the oldest surviving commercial structure in this county, and one of the few extant early buildings of its type in southern Maryland. In 1865 Bryantown played a minor role in an event of national consequence, the assassination of President Lincoln, when John Wilkes Booth, having broken his leg in his jump from the President's box, stopped at the nearby home of Dr. Samuel Mudd for treatment before resuming his escape south to Virginia. Mudd, whom Booth had reportedly met when he visited Bryantown over a year earlier claiming to be interested in purchasing a horse, was convicted and imprisoned for his alledged involvement in Booth's escape through Charles County, but was later pardoned by President Andrew Johnson in 1869. Two other county residents accused of aiding Booth, Samuel Cox and Thomas Jones, were arrested and incarcerated at the "old brick tavern at Bryantown" before being taken to Washington where they were eventually released for lack of evidence. In the aftermath of the assassination thousands of Federal troops were garrisoned throughout the area and Bryantown was designated a military station where county residents, "notorious for their hostility to the government," were required to take an unconditional oath of allegiance.

For History and Supporting Documentation, see Continuation Sheet No. 12

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The land on which Bryantown is situated is comprised of part of Boarman's Manor, a 3,333 acre proprietary manorial grant awarded to Major William Boarman in 1676.[1] Almost immediately following receipt of this grant, one of seventeen Boarman was given, he began selling off tracts of various sizes and by the late-eighteenth century the original Boarman's Manor had been subdivided into at least eighteen smaller parcels ranging from six to six hundred acres. Other portions of the 3,333 acres were resurveyed and incorporated into neighboring patent tracts including Boarman's Rest, Clare, Turner's Forest, Turner's Addition, Hard Shift, Calvert's Rest and Assington. Some parts of the original manor lands in this immediate vicinity continue in the ownership of descendents of Major Boarman to this day.

Bryan Town, as it was known until the latter part of the nineteenth century when the name was shortened to one word, logically developed at the intersection of what was and has remained two major routes of inland transportation: the road linking the port town and county seat of Port Tobacco to the southwest with Benedict-Leonardtown (now Benedict) on the Patuxent River to the east, and the villages of New Port (now Newport) to the south with Nottingham and Marlboro in Prince Georges County to the north. The earliest known published map illustrations of Bryantown as a recognized settlement appear in the late-1700's and by 1794 it was given particular definition in state maps as one of Charles County's four principal towns.

Tracing the history of Bryantown's growth from the late-eighteenth century through the nineteenth century is complicated by the fact that however prosperous the village might have been, much of the developed property that made up the town remained in the same families for generations and that it was never formally surveyed

See Continuation Sheet No. 13

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

or incorporated. Most all of the stores, taverns and other businesses that are known to have existed at various times were owned and built by a small number of interrelated families, many of whom were of Boarman or Edelen descent, on sites that were parts of much larger tracts. Few references to buildings or individual lots of two acres or less appear in deeds until the late-nineteenth century. In the 1798 direct tax lists for the Bryantown area there are no lots recorded of less than the standard two acres used for assessment purposes. The tax lists for Port Tobacco,on the other hand, record a number of lots of less than one acre and their "in-town" locations are appropriately noted.

One of the earliest references to Bryantown appears in documents concerning Daniel Jenifer, brother of Daniel of St.,Thomas Jenifer, a signer of the U. S. Constitution, which refer to articles left at "McPherson's and Boarman's store at Bryan Town" in 1778.[2] Another is found in the 1783 tax assessments for District 3, Charles County, where Thomas James Boarman, Jr. is listed as the owner of 600 acres of Boarman's Manor, "Bryan Town Included." Improvements to the property standing at the time, which with the land was assessed at 900 pounds sterling, included Boarman's dwelling house and related ancillary structures, and "2 dwelling houses & a store" at Bryantown.[3] This store is presumably the same one referred to in the Jenifer account of 1778 which other manuscripts suggest was operated by Alexander McPherson, Sr. and Thomas J. Boarman, Jr. Subsequent deeds indicate that the location of these buildings was on the east side of present day Route 232, across from the property owned today by John T. Mudd.

See Continuation Sheet No. 14

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

The manner in which the village received its name is traditionally said to have derived from the name of the proprietor of a store and/or tavern that once existed in the vicinity. In addition to Boarman's 600 acres, "Bryan Town Included," the 1783 assessments list 65 acres, consisting of 15 acres of St. James and 50 acres of mercantile establishments, a tavern, a hotel, the offices and shops of various professionals and tradespeople, two mills and a number of private residences.

Bryantown's development as a small but nevertheless important community supplying various goods and services essential to the neighboring farms and plantations became more pronounced by the second decade of the nineteenth century. In 1820 the town was formally designated a postal station and by 1835 it had grown to include some seventeen buildings, with several stores, a tavern and a jail.[8] Evidence of this heightened prosperity is found in records of a court case of the period involving the estate of Tobias Boarman. Boarman, who died in 1833, owned 160 acres of Boarman's Manor adjacent to Bryantown. Accounts returned in the settlement of his estate list debts the deceased owed to such Bryantown businesses as "William N. Bean & Co." for blacksmith work (mostly for farm implement repairs and hardware), to "James Morton & Co." (later known as "Morton & Hughes" and then as "Morton & Posey"), Samuel Childs and Edward Turner, all merchants, to Dr. Walter F. Boarman for dentistry, to Dr. William Queen for general medicine, and to "Johns & Williams" for pharmaceuticals.[9]

See Continuation Sheet No. 15

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Another account involving a Bryantown business appears in a court case in which a town resident, Zachariah Dent, was sued followin his petition for bankruptcy in 1844. Dent owned various small tracts of land in and adjacent to Bryantown, on one of which stood a combination tavern and store. The subject of a number of earlier court cases involving charges brought against him by neighbors and relatives alike, Dent claimed to have sold all of his real and personal property to his daughter, Priscilla Dent Richards. At the time guardian of three orphaned nephews, children of his sister Catherine Swann, he shortly afterward entered a plea for insolvency. His three nephews, all minors, were given over to the court appointed guardianship of Bryantown attorney John Hughes who then entered a formal bill of complaint against Dent on their behalf. Testimony presented by several Bryantown residents is largely concerned with Dent's previous financial solvency as well as that of his daughter, the alledged purchaser of his property, and to prove whether or not the sale actually transpired. (It was eventually determined that it had not and Dent's real estate was subsequently sold at public auction.)

According to the documents presented, Priscilla Dent had married a George T. Richards in 1840. Richards, born in Charles County but raised elsewhere, had himself filed for bankruptcy in Prince Georges County in 1836. On the marriage of George Richards to Priscilla Dent, Zachariah Dent turned over to his son-in-law proprietorship of the tavern and store in Bryantown. An insight into the economic liabilities of operating a tavern in Bryantown during this period is provided by the comments of those village

See Continuation Sheet No. 16

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

residents whose testimony was presented. According to one, "George Richards was involved in the mercantile business and keeping tavern.....and as for tavern keeping I think there never was much profit to it at Bryan Town." Another stated that "....tavern keeping at Bryan Town was never profitable...others had attempted it without much success," and still another that "...the profits of a tavern are limited at best in Bryan Town (but) it being an electioneering year (1843) they were probably better than usual."[10]

Much of the prosperity Bryantown achieved by the middle of the nineteenth century, (taverns aside), was largely the result of the personal endeavors of a small handful of relatively successful individuals: Dr. Jesse Jameson, Alexander McPherson, brothers James, Edward and Aquilla Turner and their associate Jesse Cooke, and Dr. Walter F. Boarman.

Dr. Jameson, who was practicing medicine in Bryantown as early as 1795, in 1798 was leasing a property from James Boarman according to the direct tax lists of that year, but by 1820 owned considerable acreage in and adjacent to the village, including the houses and store owned by Thomas James Boarman in 1783.[11] Jameson died intestate in 1822 and his property was subsequently offered for public sale.[12] Surveys of Jameson's real estate document his ownership of a 55 acre tract purchased from James Boarman in 1805 that encompassed most of the property within the village as it exists today, including lands north and south of Old Route 5 west of its intersection of Route 232, and 9 acres referred to as the "Bryan Town Lot" on which stood the houses and store of 1783.[13] It is apparent from these records that in 1808 when the survey was made the only buildings that stood in the town were located on these 9 acres.

See Continuation Sheet No. 17

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

A contemporary of Dr. Jameson was Alexander McPherson, Sr., much of whose property lay north and east of the crossroads, including most of the farm now known as Evergreen. In the 1783 assessment McPherson is listed as the owner of 402 acres of Boarman's Manor, improved by "a good dwelling house and outbuildings." By 1800 he had acquired additional contiguous lands, and by 1808 he had named his dwelling plantation Cedar Grove.[14] At his death circa 1819 much of his property was sold at public auction. One of the tracts disposed of in this manner was 12 acres of land northwest of the crossroads consisting in part of McPherson's Cedar Grove and a part of the 55 acre tract Dr. Jameson had purchased from James Boarman in 1805. The 12 acres was purchased at the sale by Jesse Cooke and is the same land on which the Bryantown Tavern and Brick House Lot were subsequently built. Jesse Cooke, Bryantown's first postmaster, the first proprietor of the Bryantown Tavern and for several years Sheriff of Charles County, sold the 12 acres to associates James, Edward and Aquilla Turner in 1827.[15] Several parts of McPherson's property, including the present Evergreen tract and a contiguous store lot, came in to the possession of McPherson's son, Alexander McPherson, Jr., who in 1844 assumed proprietorship of the tavern and store owned by Zachariah Dent and previously operated by George T. Richards.[16]

By the mid-nineteenth century much of the land comprising the village south of old Route 5 was owned by Dr. Walter F. Boarman. By the time of his death in 1854 Dr. Boarman's estate encompassed 600 acres of land in and around Bryantown, including a significant amount of acreage previously owned by Jesse Jameson and Zachariah Dent as well as ancestral Boarman's Manor and Boarman's Rest property inherited from his family. Like Dr. Jameson, Walter

See Continuation Sheet No. 18

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Boarman died intestate, forcing his widow and eight children to file a petition for a court directed division of his estate. In the subsequent Commissioner's Return it was determined that the property was not suitable for an equitable division and distribution among the heirs. The property was then surveyed and divided into a number of separate parcels. Lot Number One, incorporating 288½ acres on the east and west sides of present day Route 232 south of the crossroads, included "one tavern and lot in Bryan Town and one house and ditto in same." In the final sale of Boarman's estate the tavern, house and attached lots which comprised that part of Lot One on the west side of the road were sold separately to Dr. Edward V. Edelen. The balance of Lot One, initially assigned as the widow's dower, was later purchased by Dr. Boarman's son, Dr. William I. Boarman,and combined with Lot Two which he had also bought. The tavern, house and lots sold to Dr. Edelen, who on the survey plats is shown as owning property on the north side of the road west of the Bryantown Tavern site, is the same previously owned by Zachariah Dent and purchased by Dr. Boarman in the public sale of Dent's land in 1847.[17]

As Bryantown entered the second half of the nineteenth century it had all the appearance of a thriving mercantile, trade and social center for the surrounding area, boasting several stores, a hotel, an impressive number of doctors, lawyers and other professionals, a grist mill and a saw mill, a smithy and a wheelright, as well as a number of private homes. But however promising things might have appeared the future was an uncertain one. A border state, Maryland was eventually forced into joining the Union, but the lower Maryland counties nevertheless remained staunchly pro-Southern throughout the

See Continuation Sheet No. 19

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Civil War. Charles County, a major link in the Confederate Underground Railroad and well known for its flagrant rebellious activities, by its attitude and location wan an obvious threat to the security of the Federal capital and thus found itself in the unpleasant position of occupied territory, with Federal troops bivouaced throughout the area.

It was during the Civil War period that Bryantown played a minor role in a tragic historical event of national significance, the assassination of President Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth. Booth, who had broken his leg in his jump to the stage of Ford's Theatre from the President's box, in the course of his escape from Washington stopped at the home of Dr. Samuel Mudd just outside Bryantown. Booth, it has been said, had met Dr. Mudd more than a year earlier when he (Booth) visited Bryantown purporting to be interested in purchasing a horse. Mudd, who in his trial claimed not to have recognized Booth, repaired Booth's leg believing, as he had been told, that he had broken it in a fall from his horse. Later, when Dr. Mudd left the house to attend to business in Bryantown, Booth and his accomplice, David Herold, fled further south into Charles County, eventually hiding on the farm of a known Confederate sympathizer, Col. Samuel Cox. Later, aided by another countian of widely known Confederate sympathies, Thomas A. Jones, they made it across the Potomac River to Virginia where Booth was subsequently captured and killed. When the role played by Mudd, Cox and Jones was revealed all three were arrested. Mudd was taken directly to Washington and Cox and Jones to the "old brick tavern at Bryantown" where they were briefly imprisoned, Cox for several days and Jones for about a week. Both Cox and Jones were released for insufficient evidence, while Dr. Mudd, possibly the least guilty of the three, was imprisoned until his pardon by President Andrew Johnson in 1869.[18]

See Continuation Sheet No. 20

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Within several weeks of Lincoln's assassination several thousand Federal troops were moved into Charles County to augment those already bivouaced there. On May 1st, 1865 a circular issued from Military Headquarters in Port Tobacco stated that a "considerable portion of the inhabitants of this region (are) notorious for their hostility to the government, many of them engaged in blockade running, supplying the enemy with goods and in some cases munitions of war, affording assylum for the worst criminals, and more recently, giving the murderer of the President uninterrupted passage.." In order that "this infamy should be blotted out" it was decreed that all persons wishing to engage in any occupation, trade or profession would be required to take an unconditional oath of allegiance, Bryantown being one of the designated military stations where the oath was to be administered.[19]

In 1868, following passage of the Fifteenth Ammendment, numerous changes occured in the political system of the county, including the division of the county into nine election districts with what was once much of Bryan Town Hundred becoming Bryantown Election District Eight. The redistricting was necessary to compensate for the voting rights given to the Negroes, who with passage of the Ammendment became a voting majority, creating a dramatic shift in the political balance.[20] It was also during the decade following the War that a splinter faction of the Democratic party, the Independent Democrats, joined with the Republican party in a split-fusion ticket in 1873. A major leader of the Independent Democrats was Bryantown physician Dr. George D. Mudd, who ran in the 1873

See Continueation Sheet No. 21

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

election for State Senate. Dr. Mudd's prominence in local politics was later assumed by his nephew, Sydney E. Mudd, a Bryantown property owner who served in the Maryland House of Delegates and the U. S. House of Representatives. Another Bryantown resident who rose to local political heights as a Democratic party leader early in this century was Dr. Louis Carlyle Carrico.[21] Dr. Carrico's home, Evergreen, is now owned by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Rudolf Carrico, who more recently has successfully served four terms as County Commissioner.

Throughout the late-nineteenth century Bryantown continued providing various services to the surrounding community, but not to the degree it had previously enjoyed, its importance increasingly diminished by shifting patterns of population growth, the increasing competition of new and more prosperous villages and towns, improved roads and other forms of communication and transportation, and the introduction of a passenger and freight railroad that completely bypassed Bryantown some miles to the west.

By 1914 there were still as many as fifteen structures standing in the town, including several of the mid-nineteenth century store buildings, the smithy and a stable. Although some new homes were built in the 1870-1920 period, including the impressive Evergreen and Smith house, most of them were constructed on the sites of earlier buildings. By the middle of the century Bryantown's economic viability was practically non-existant, with only one store continuing operation, and that was finally relocated to a more profitable site outside the town when Maryland Route 5 was realigned and improved. By the 1970's several of the older homes had been torn down as had all of the earlier store buildings and shops and Bryantown assumed a quiet, residential identity far removed from its once busy and prosperous history.

See Continuation Sheet No. 22

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Notes

1. Klapthor, Margaret Brown, History of Charles County, Maryland. (La Plata, Maryland; 1958.) P. 31.
2. Brown, Jack D., et al, Charles County Maryland, A History. (Charles County Bicentennial Committee; 1976.) P. 68.
3. 1783 Tax Assessments, District 3, Charles County. Hall of Records, Annapolis.
4. Deeds: Liber O#3, folio 177. Office of the Clerk of the Court, La Plata, Maryland. (Hereafter all deeds recorded in Charles County will be referenced by liber and folio numbers only.)
5. L. G#3, f. 43.
6. L. X#2, f. 95.
7. Wills. Liber AK#11, folio 194, Register of Wills Office, La Plata.
8. Brown, p. 68.
9. Chancery Records, Box #6165. Hall of Records, Annapolis.
10. Chancery, #11314, Annapolis.
11. Court Proceedings, 1824-1826, folios 73-86. La Plata.
12. ibid.
13. ibid. See also: L. IB#6, f. 468.
14. 1783 Tax Assessments, District 3, Charles County. Annapolis. See also: Court Proceedings, 1824-1826, folio 79.
15. IB#17, f. 248. See also: Brown, p. 67, and Court Proceedings, Vols. 1829 and 1830, La Plata.
16. Chancery, #11314, Annapolis, and RHM#1, f. 473.
17. Land Commission Records, Liber WM#2, f. 300-312, La Plata.
18. Klapthor, pp. 131-133. See also: "Bryantown" - Vertical Historic House File, Southern Maryland Room, Charles County Community College, La Plata.
19. Klapthor, p. 134.
20. ibid, p. 137.
21. ibid, p. 143.

The following individual property histories are presented separately and are keyed by site number to the attached plot plan.

See Continuation Sheet No. 23

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

SITE #1: BRYANTOWN TAVERN.

Believed to stand on property owned by Thomas J. Boarman in 1783, but quite possibly part of another adjacent tract, the site of the Bryantown Tavern is known to have been included in the 55 acres purchased from James Boarman by Dr. Jesse Jameson in 1805.[1] That portion of the 55 acres lying on the north side of the old Port Tobacco - Benedict Road (old Route 5) west of the crossroads was later owned by Alexander McPherson and was part of the 12 acres sold to Jesse Cooke for $720.00 at the sale of McPherson's estate in 1819.[2]

It is unlikely that all or part of the existing structure was built prior to 1819, and Jesse Cooke is often credited in articles on Bryantown history and Turner family papers as builder and first proprietor of the Tavern. Recorded documents relating to Jesse Cooke's ownership of the property suggest that he bought the 12 acres on behalf of or in partnership with James, Edward and Aquilla Turner. (Jesse Cooke was Edward Turner's brother-in-law.) It is quite possible that Cooke built the existing tavern, although probably not the adjacent Brick House Lot which is said to have been constructed by Edward Turner, and served as the first proprietor of what was most likely a combination hostelry and private residence. Cooke, who later served as Bryantown's first postmaster and later (1829-30) as county Sheriff, sold the 12 acres to the three Turners in 1827. It is interesting to note that neither the original purchase or sale of the 12 acres is recorded in Cooke's name in the county land records. The only documentation of these transfers appears when Nicholas Stonestreet, Trustee for the sale of the

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

McPherson estate in 1819, acted as grantor in deeding the acreage to the Turners in 1827. The wording of this deed suggests that Cooke had agreed to sell or had sold the land to the Turners before 1827, but because he had not been given prior legal ownership by Stonestreet had to petition the county court before a legally correct transaction could be consummated. It is also interesting that in the 1827 deed the same purchase price of $720.00 was given, which by itself suggests that the Turners were involved in the initial purchase, and that any construction that occured between 1819 and 1827 was financed by the Turners.[3]

At the turn of this century the property encompassing the Tavern was owned jointly by Benjamin M. Edelen and the heirs of Dr. Edward V. Edelen (d. 1888), but the means by which the two Edelens acquired the property has not been documented.[4] In 1918, following a settlement between the heirs of both men, the Hotel Property, as it was then called, was sold by Walter J. Mitchell, Trustee, to Francis O. Boarman.[5] In 1920 the Tavern and lot was conveyed by Francis Boarman to George I. Gardiner.[6] In 1965 the property, consisting of two small contiguous lots, was purchased by John T. Mudd and subsequently acquired by the present owner, Patrick Bowling.

Notes:

1. Court Proceedings, 1824-1826, f. 73-86. See also: L. IB#6, f. 468.
2. L. IB#17, f. 248.
3. ibid.
4. Equity Case #1457. See also: WMA#14, f. 248.
5. L. #32, f. 540, 543.
6. L. #37, f. 297.
7. L. #177, f. 287.

See Continuation Sheet No.25

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

SITE #2: BRICK HOUSE LOT

Like the adjacent Bryantown Tavern, this property, now less than ½-acre, was purchased by Jesse Cooke at the 1819 sale of the McPherson estate and was probably once part of the 402 acres owned by Alexander McPherson in 1783. The site was later included in the sale of the 12 acres purchased by Cooke in 1819 and sold by him, through Nicholas Stonestreet, Trustee, to James, Edward and Aquilla Turner in 1829.[1] According to Turner descendents the existing house was built circa 1812 by Edward Turner, a merchant and brother-in-law of Jesse Cooke.[2] However, it is clear that if the house was built prior to 1819 then it was by Alexander McPherson and not Jesse Cooke or Edward Turner. Although the architecture of the existing house employs Federal elements of design popular in this region in the early nineteenth century, it is possible that it was not constructed until after the 1827 Cooke/Stonestreet-Turner sale. There is, however, a suggestion in the 1827 deed that Cooke might have acted as agent for the Turner's when he purchased the property in 1819, and that an unrecorded transfer from Cooke to the Turners had occured prior to 1827. (See also: Site #1, Bryantown Tavern.)

Assuming that informal records of the Turner family are correct, Edward Turner, who for a time also owned a tavern and store in Newport, lived at Brick House Lot until his death in 1854.[2] While the means by which he acquired the interests of Aquilla and James Turner are unknown, in his will Edward left a life estate in his

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

real and personal estate to his widow, Margaret Cooke Turner, with the provision that at her death one-half would pass to Elizabeth P. Turner, daughter of John Henley Bean.[3] Margaret Cooke Turner died in 1860, bequeathing her real estate and personalty to her neice Mary S. (Bean) Jameson, wife of Dr. Samuel Jameson, then on her death to Mary (Bean) Jameson's daughter, Margaret Amelia Jameson.[4] The property subsequently passed to M. Amelia Jameson, who in 1871 married Henry Alexander Turner.[5]

By 1910 both M. Amelia and Henry Alexander Turner had died and in that year Brick House Lot and 6 acres, together with two other parcels of 103 and 13 acres called Cedar Grove, were sold by their son and heir, Edward Turner, to Estelle S. Turner.[6] Three years later Estelle Turner sold Brick House Lot, "bounded on the north by the picket fence now enclosing the garden," together with a triangular shaped lot on the opposite side of the county road, to Bernice Trotter.[7] In 1921 Bernice Trotter sold the same to M. Edith Mudd, et al, and in 1929 the same two parcels were purchased by Louis Steffens.[8] The heirs of Louis Steffens retained ownership until 1954 when Brick House Lot, surveyed at .48 acres and without the lot across the road, was sold to Clarence Pike.[9] In 1956 it was conveyed to Harold Skone and in 1972 was acquired from the Skones by Kenneth Bowman.[10] The present owner purchased the property in 1974.[11]

See Continuation Sheet No. 27

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Notes:

1. Deeds: IB#17, folio 248.
2. "Bryantown" - Vertical Historic House File, Southern Maryland Room, Charles County Community College, La Plata. (Transcript of excerpts from the diary of Miss Helen M. Turner.) See also: Langley, Margaret Bean, The Bean Family of Maryland, (Private. 1984.) Pp. 69, 71, 72.
3. Wills: JS#17, folio 123.
4. ibid. f. 271.
5. Langley. Pp. 69, 71.
6. Deeds: HCC#21, folio 219.
7. HCC#26, f. 64.
8. L.#38, f. 132; #17, f. 395.
9. L.#111, f. 435.
10. L.#123, f. 465; #252, f. 505.
11. L.#330, f. 75; #964, f. 142.

See Continuation Sheet No. 28

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

SITE #3: DECKER PROPERTY.

According to one source this is the site of a smithy built and operated by Cy Duckett, a former slave, in 1854 and later owned by William Noble Bean who built and operated an adjacent store across the road.[1]

It appears that in the late-nineteenth century this property was part of the "Brick House Lot or Edward Turner Lot" inherited by Margaret Amelia (Jameson) Turner. In 1913 it is given specific mention in a deed in which Estelle Turner sold to Bernice Trotter, Brick House Lot and an adjacent "triangular plot bounded on the west and south by the county road and state road and on the northeast by a line drawn from the first road to a pump on the south side of the state road and on which is now located a stable and a shop building and an icehouse."[2] The same land was subsequently sold in 1921 by Bernice Trotter as part of the Brick House Lot land to M. Edith Mudd, et al., and by the Mudds to Louis Steffens in 1929.[3] In 1951 it was sold separate of Brick House Lot by Steffen's widow to Dr. Harry Coburn and in 1969 was purchased as 1.05 acres by John Burroughs.[4] It was acquired by the present owner in 1972.[5]

Notes:

1. "Bryantown"-Vertical Historic Houses File, Southern Maryland Room, Charles County Community College, La Plata. (Transcript of excerpts from the diary of Miss Helen M. Turner, 1877-1965.)
2. Deeds: HCC#26, folio 64.
3. Liber 38, folio 132; L. 50, f. 419.
4. L. 98, f. 58; L. 200, f. 602.
5. L. 263, f. 222 (See also: 217, f. 678.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 29

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

SITE #4: WILLIAM N. BEAN & CO. STORE

Now part of the Carrico property Evergreen, the site of William N. Bean's store, still listed by separate reference in the most recently recorded deeds, is a 3/4-acre parcel owned in 1829 by Joseph A. Gardiner and conveyed that year to William N. Bean.[1] It is apparent from its designation in the Gardiner-Bean deed as a "store lot" that a building existed on the site at the time, preceeding the two-story frame structure of mid-nineteenth century architecture built by Bean.

On the death of William Noble Bean in 1867 his store and lot was inherited by his granddaughter, Margaret Amelia Jameson, later the wife of Henry Alexander Turner.[2] In 1908, following the death of M. Amelia and H. A. Turner, the property was sold by William M. Digges, et al, Assignees, to Dr. Louis C. Carrico as one of three parcels making up the existing Evergreen tract.[3] In 1947 the heirs of Dr. Carrico transferred ownership in the same property to Dr. Carrico's son, Rudolf, whose widow is the current owner.[4]

Notes:

1. Deeds: FDM#19, folio 605.
2. Wills: JS#17, folio 407.
3. Deeds: FDM#19, folio 605.
4. Liber 85, f. 82.

See Continuation Sheet No. 30

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

SITE #5: EVERGREEN.
SITE #6: WILLIAM N. BEAN'S BLACKSMITH SHOP.

Like the one hundred acres that constitutes the principal portion of the farm known today as Evergreen, the site of the existing house is believed to have been part of the 402 acres of Boarman's Manor assessed in the name of Alexander McPherson in 1783, and later part of his farm known as Cedar Grove.[1]

In 1873, Mason L. McPherson sold to Henry Alexander and Margaret Amelia (Jameson) Turner "two acres west of a line south of the Bryantown-Hugheswille Road (now old Route 5) between that and George D. Mudd's Lot."[2] It was on this two acre lot that the Turner's built the existing Victorian Carpenter-Gothic house now known as Evergreen and which appears to have included, at the southwest corner, the Blacksmith Shop owned by William N. Bean.

In 1906, the year before Amelia (Jameson) Turner's death, the house and two acres were assigned with other contiguous properties to J. Benjamin Mattingley of Howard County as security.[4] Mattingly in turn assigned the notes to the Eastern Shore Trust Company.[5] In 1908, following the death of H. A. Turner, Sr., the two acre lot, together with 100 acres of Cedar Grove and the 3/4-acre store lot, were assigned by Eastern Shore Trust to William M. Digges and John F. Mudd who as assignees sold the same to Dr. Louis C. Carrico in 1908.[6] The property passed to Dr. Carrico's son, Rudolf, and is now owned by Rudolf Carrico's widow, Eleanor Carrico.[7]

See Continuation Sheet No. 31

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Notes:

1. See: GENERAL HISTORY, #8, Statement of Significance.
2. Deeds: Liber GAH#3, folio 191.
3. GAH#4, f. 110.
4. FDM#17, f. 395.
5. FDM#19, f. 605.
6. ibid.
7. L. 85, f. 82.

SITE #5: EVERGREEN FARM.

Evergreen, a 102 and 3/4 acre working farm is believed to have been part of the 402 acre dwelling plantation assessed to Alexander McPherson, Sr. in 1783.[1] Then referred to as Part of Boarman's Manor, by 1808 it was known as Cedar Grove, a name it continued to carry until it was recently changed to The Cedars and then to Evergreen.[2] An absence of recorded documents relating to the 1817 dispersal of Alexander McPherson's estate complicates the documentation of ownerships of the property throughout much of the nineteenth century. Prior to 1884 the 100 acres that makes up that major portion of the farm was owned by Sarah McPherson and on her death was conveyed to Mason L. McPherson by Philando Bowen, a Trustee of her estate.[3]

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

In 1884, Mason L. McPherson sold "one hundred acres on the south side of the road leading from Bryantown to Hughesville (now Old Route 5) known as Cedar Grove," to Henry Alexander and M. Amelia (Jameson) Turner.[4] This is the same 100 acres that is included as the third parcel in the property conveyed by William M. Digges, et al, Assignees, to Dr. Louis Carrico in 1908 following the deaths of H. A. and M. A. Turner and owned today by Dr. Carrico's daughter-in-law, Eleanor Carrico.

Notes:

1. See GENERAL HISTORY, #8, Statement of Significance.
2. ibid.
3. Deeds: BGS#7, folio 132.
4. ibid.
5. FDM#17, f. 395; FDM#19, f. 605; L. 85, f. 82.

See Continuation Sheet No. 33

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

SITES #7, 8, 9, 10 and 11:

Originally part of the Bryantown lands bought by Dr. Jesse Jameson from James Boarman in 1805 and 1808, this is the site of several important structures, including the probable site of the Bryantown houses and store assessed in the name of Thomas James Boarman in 1783.

In 1848 John D. Bowling and Robert L. Burch, for $800.00, purchased six acres "known as Boarman's Manor and generally designated Bryan Town Lot" from Richard and Elizabeth Bowling.[1] In 1850 Bowling and Burch, as a result of a disagreement with Walter F. Boarman regarding the property line between them, entered into a recorded agreement with Boarman to have the line established by arbitration with Aquilla Turner and Joseph Turner acting as referees. Although no formal survey was made, it is nevertheless clear that the line in question was the south boundary of Bowling and Burch's six acres and the north line of Boarman's property that after his (Boarman's) death in 1854 was designated as part of Lot # 1, the widow's dower.[2]

In 1856 John D. Bowling and Robert L. Burch sold to George D. Mudd, for $874.00, "a lot of land generally assignated as the Bryan Town Lot being part of Boarman's Manor containing two acres, beginning at the road and running parallel to and fifteen feet from the north gable end of the said Burch's store house" between Burch's store and "William N. Bean's Black Smith Shop."[3] This same land was deeded to F. DeSales Mudd by George D. Mudd in 1898,

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

described as "the house and lot in Bryantown conveyed to George D. Mudd by Robert L. Burch, being the same property occupied by George D. Mudd and now occupied by James DeBarb Walback, tenant."[4] In the will of George D. Mudd, probated in 1899, the same transfer is recounted by his reference to a Deed of Trust to his son, F. DeSales Mudd, in the "old homestead property in Bryantown now in occupation of James DeBarb Walbach."[5] This property passed through a number of ownerships in the same family to the present day, although a later survey revealed the acreage to be 1.98 acres and by 1975 it had been subdivided into two parcels.[6]

The four acre balance of the original six acre tract became involved in an equity case following the death of Robert L. Burch in 1864. Burch evidently did not leave an estate sufficient enough for his widow and children to maintain their interests in the store and house jointly owned with John Bowling. As a result the property was put up for public auction in 1870. The property was offered twice without being bid on and on the third attempt Bowling, the surviving partner, purchased the property at the value assigned to the share held by Burch's heirs.[7] In 1896 the property was again the subject of a court case, Contee vs. Bowling, in Prince Georges County. Marian Duckett and others were appointed trustees and authorized to sell the Bowling land and improvements and in 1897 transferred ownership to Sydney E. Mudd, describing the property conveyed as the "Bryantown Lot containing four acres and improved by a storehouse and a dwelling house."[8] In 1899 Sydney Mudd sold the four acres to Bernice Trotter "with the exception of a lot upon which a hall is now built and a store

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

formerly stood bounded by the public road running by the property formerly belonging to Dr. George D. Mudd and the fence enclosing the lot upon which the grantee now resides."[9] In 1956 the property was purchased by Rudolf and Eleanor Carrico and it is now included as part of the Carrico farm, Evergreen.

Notes:

1. Deeds: Liber IB#24, folio 472.
2. L. RHM#1, f. 379.
3. L. JS#1, f. 350.
4. L. JST#9, f. 655.
5. Wills: L. CHP#19, f. 138.
6. Deeds: Liber #75, f. 62; #115/140,142; #415/254; 489/33; #855/229.
7. Equity Case #414, Land Records Office, LaPlata.
8. Deeds: BGS#9, f. 628..
9. ibid., f. 650.

SITE #12: SMITH HOUSE.

Believed to be part of the 600 acre tract with "Bryan Town Included" assessed in the name of Thomas James Boarman in 1783, the Smith property was later owned by Dr. Jesse Jameson and was part of the 55 acres that with the 9 acre "Bryan Town Lot" was acquired by him in 1805 from James Boarman and surveyed in 1808.[1] It was subsequently purchased by Dr. Walter F. Boarman in the sale of Jameson's real estate in 1833 and combined with other Bryantown lands acquired by him at the sales of the estates of Tobias Boarman, Zachariah Dent and others.[2] Following Dr. Boarman's death this property, initially part of Lot I, was incorporated into Lot II in the surveyed division of his real estate holdings and purchased at the 1855 sale by one of his sons, Dr. William I. Boarman. Dr. William Boarman also subsequently purchased Lot I of the same division that had been assigned as the widow's dower.[3]

See Continuation Sheet No. 36

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

William I. Boarman died in 1897 leaving an estate of 437½ acres in and surrounding the village and comprised of Lots I and II of his late father's estate.[4] In 1906 his widow, Henrietta, and other of his heirs transferred title to the 437½ acres to Mary Boarman Edelen, one of the daughters of Dr. William Boarman and wife of Benjamin M. Edelen, Jr.[5] It was Benjamin M. Edelen who in 1915 tore down the old Boarman house and built the existing house on the same site. In 1953 the property came into the possession of Benjamin M. Edelen, III, whose widow sold the existing house and 17.288 acres to the present owners in 1980.[6]

Notes:

1. Court Proceedings, 1824-1826 (August Term, 1824), folio 73. La Plata.
2. Land Commission Records, WM#2, folio 300. See also: Deeds: IB#24, f. 160; IB#20, f. 257; RHM#1, f. 473.
3. L.C.R.: WM#2/300; Deeds: Liber 105, f. 615.
4. Deeds: FDM#17, f. 654.
5. ibid.
6. Deeds: Liber 105, f. 615; 745/218.

See Continuation Sheet No. 37

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

SITE #13: JOHN T. MUDD HOUSE.

Originally part of the 600 acre tract assessed in 1783 to Thomas James Boarman, this property was later part of the 55 acre tract acquired by Dr. Jesse Jameson between 1805 and 1808.[1] In the 1833 sale of Jameson's real estate this land was acquired by Dr. Walter F. Boarman and continued in the ownership of his heirs until its sale as a 2-acre parcel in 1879 by his son, William I. Boarman, to Melvina Turner.[2] In 1889 the 2 acres were sold by Melvina Turner to John J. Darg.[3] Darg is believed to have built the original portion of the existing house between 1889 and 1892 when he deeded the property to his wife, Jennie E. Darg. On her death in 1931 the two acres reverted to her husband and two years later Darg transferred ownership to his children.[4] In 1939 the land was acquired by Bert Halterman who lost the house and 2 acres in a foreclosure sale in 1940.[5] In 1946 the property, 1-7/10ths acres, was combined with another adjacent 1/4 acre parcel previously owned successively by Edward J. Edelen, Thomas Edgar Boarman (1919), R. Harry Moreland (1926), and George I. Gardiner (1931), and sold to Joseph L. Gardiner.[6] In 1977 the two parcels, with an additional smaller lot earlier owned by George I. Gardiner Sr., was sold by Helena S. Gardiner, widow, to the present owner, John T. Mudd.[7]

Notes:

1. See GENERAL HISTORY, #8, Statement of Significance.
2. Deeds: Liber BGS#4, folio 146.
3. JS#2, f. 496.
4. JST#4, f. 496; L.#57, f. 285.
5. L.#70, f. 619; L.#72, f. 485.
6. L.#83, f. 124, 564; L.#54, f. 124.
7. L#531, f. 35; L.#232, f. 280; L#90, f. 467.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

SITES #14 and 15: BOARMAN AND MUDD STORE; LAWTON HOUSE.

This property, encompassing an existing mid-nineteenth century house and the site of a former store, was apparently part of the real estate holdings of Zachariah Dent that included the combined tavern and store owned by him to which numerous references are made in the 1844 suit of John T. Hughes, et al, vs. Zachariah Dent.[1] According to the 1808 survey of Dr. Jesse Jameson's 55 acres previously discussed it was not part of the property purchased by Jameson from James Boarman in 1805, and instead was very likely owned at that time by Alexander McPherson and possibly one of those parcels sold following McPherson's death in 1817. In 1847 the property was purchased by Dr. Walter F. Boarman at the sale of the Zachariah Dent lands and following his death was that part of Lot I purchased by William I. Boarman and Dr. Edward V. Edelen in 1855.[2]

In the late-nineteenth century the store at the east end of the property close to the southwest corner of the crossroads was owned jointly by William I. Boarman and George D. Mudd, the latter at his death bequeathing to his widow, Catherine, his 3/4 interest in the "Bryantown storehouse and dwelling commonly called the Boarman property."[3] The property was referred to in a later deed (1933) as the "lot belonging to Thomas Boarman and George D. Mudd.[4]

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

In 1933, Elizabeth A. Boarman, widow of Thomas Boarman, son of William I. Boarman, bequeathed to her daughter, Mariam Boarman Summer "the store and residence in Bryan Town."[5] In 1946 Miriam B. Summer transferred ownership to Joseph L. Gardiner.[6] Gardiner deeded the same property, then described as .55 acre, to Rufus Waple in 1958.[7] The following year Waple conveyed his interest in the same property to Bruce E. Lawton whose widow is the present owner.[8]

Notes: 1. Chancery, #11314, Hall of Records, Annapolis. 2. Land Commission Records, WM#2, folio 300. 3. Wills: CHP#19, f.138. 4. Deeds: WMA#57, f.285. 5. Wills: GAW#21, f. 283. 6. Deeds: Liber 84, f. 11. 7. L. 137, f. 35. 8. L. 141, f. 111.

SITE #16: RICHARD BELL HOUSE.

Although early transfers of lands encompassing this site do not make an earlier chain of ownership clear, it is evident that it was part of the real estate holdings of Dr. Walter F. Boarman purchased by his son, William, at the sale of Dr. Boarman's estate in 1855.[1]

In 1875 William I. Boarman and wife sold to Dr. Edward V. Edelen, for $600.00, "a house and lot situated in Bryantown containing two roods and thirty perches" located on the south side of the public road.[2] A relatively prosperous physician and land speculator, Edelen retained ownership of the property until his death in 1888 at which time it passed to his only son, C. Grantley Edelen as principal beneficiary.[3] In 1948

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

the widow and other heirs of Edward J. Edelen sold to Richard Bell .24 acre bounded on the west by the land of Grant Lee Thomas and on the east by the property of Joseph L. Gardiner and described as the "same same land "obtained by Edward J. Edelen from (his father) C. Grantley Edelen."[4] The adjoining Thomas property of 17/100's of an acre was purchased from Edward J. Edelen in 1936.[5]

Notes:

1. Land Commission Records, L. WM#2, folio 300. LaPlata.
2. Deeds: L. BGS#2, f. 95.
3. Wills: L. #18, f. 336.
4. Deeds: L. #87, f. 595.
5. L. #62, f. 250.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Footnotes under Section 8.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 39 acres

Quadrangle name Hughesville, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	339560	4268750	B	18	339490	4268390
C	18	339200	4268300	D	18	339010	4268470
E	18	339280	4268900	F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 41

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Richard Rivoire

organization Preservation Consultant date July 1984

street & number P. O. Box 132 telephone (301) 932-1000

city or town La Plata state Maryland 20646

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 [signature] 2-11-85

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

The boundaries are shown on the Site Plan: Historic District Boundaries are based on Map #35 of the tax maps prepared by the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, (1967; revised April, 1983), on file at the office of the Charles County Planning Commission, La Plata, Maryland.

Boundary Description: Beginning at A, the northwest corner of the Patrick Bowling property (L632, f. 204), then with a straight line south-west to B, the westernmost boundary point of the Smith property (L. 745, f. 218), then south-southeast following the Smith line to C, another boundary point of the Smith property, then with a straight line north-northeast to D, the northeast corner of the Edelen property (L.329, f. 6), then with a straight line north to E, the east-southeast corner of the Decker property (L. 263, f. 222), then with a straight line west-northwest in the line of the State right-of-way on the south-southwest side of Maryland Route 5 to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries of the Bryantown National Register Historic District as shown encompass the most significant of the known eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth century buildings and archeological sites that relate to Bryantown's development over the cource of its two hundred year history. Included are open, cultivated farm lands on the west side that have remained an integral part of the village landscape since its original settlement. Additional farmland outside the boundaries does not contribute to the significance of the district.

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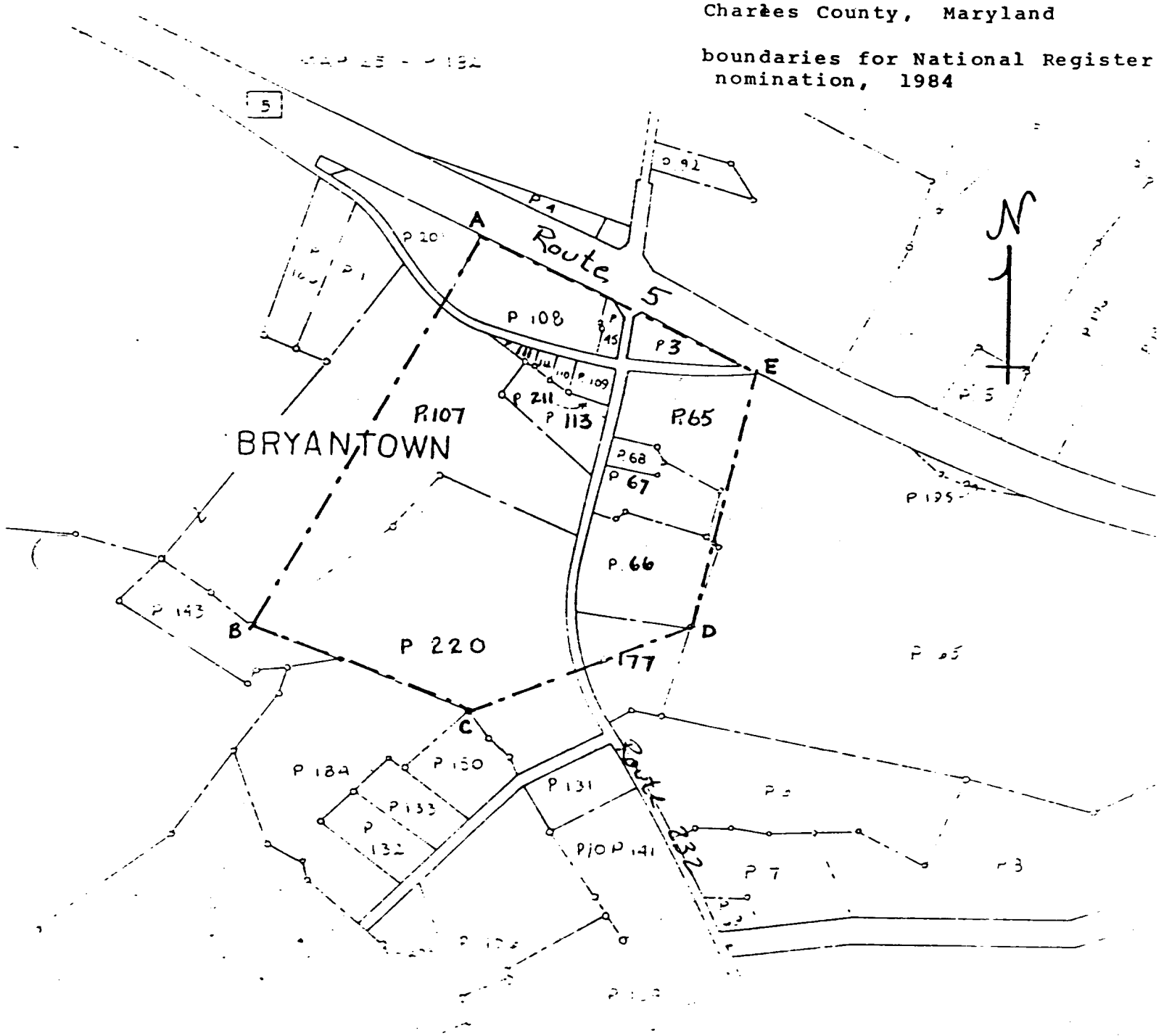
BRYANTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Charles County, Maryland

boundaries for National Register nomination, 1984



NR BOUNDARIES: - — - — - — -

SCALE: 1" - 600'

MAP #35, Charles County Tax Map
Maryland Department of Assessments & Taxation,
1967. (Revised, April, 1983)
Charles County Planning Commission,
La Plata, Maryland.

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BRYANTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

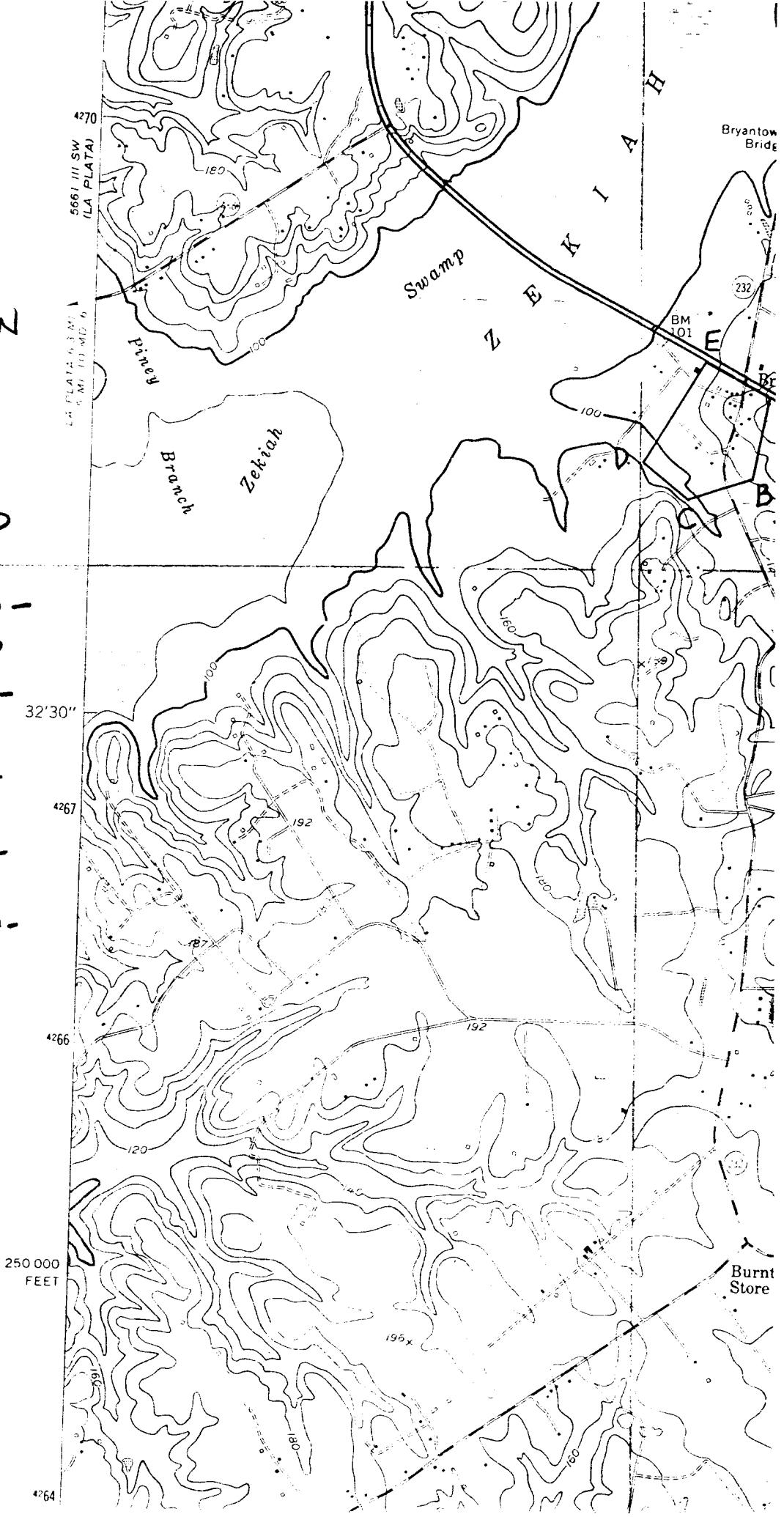
A: 18-339560-4268750

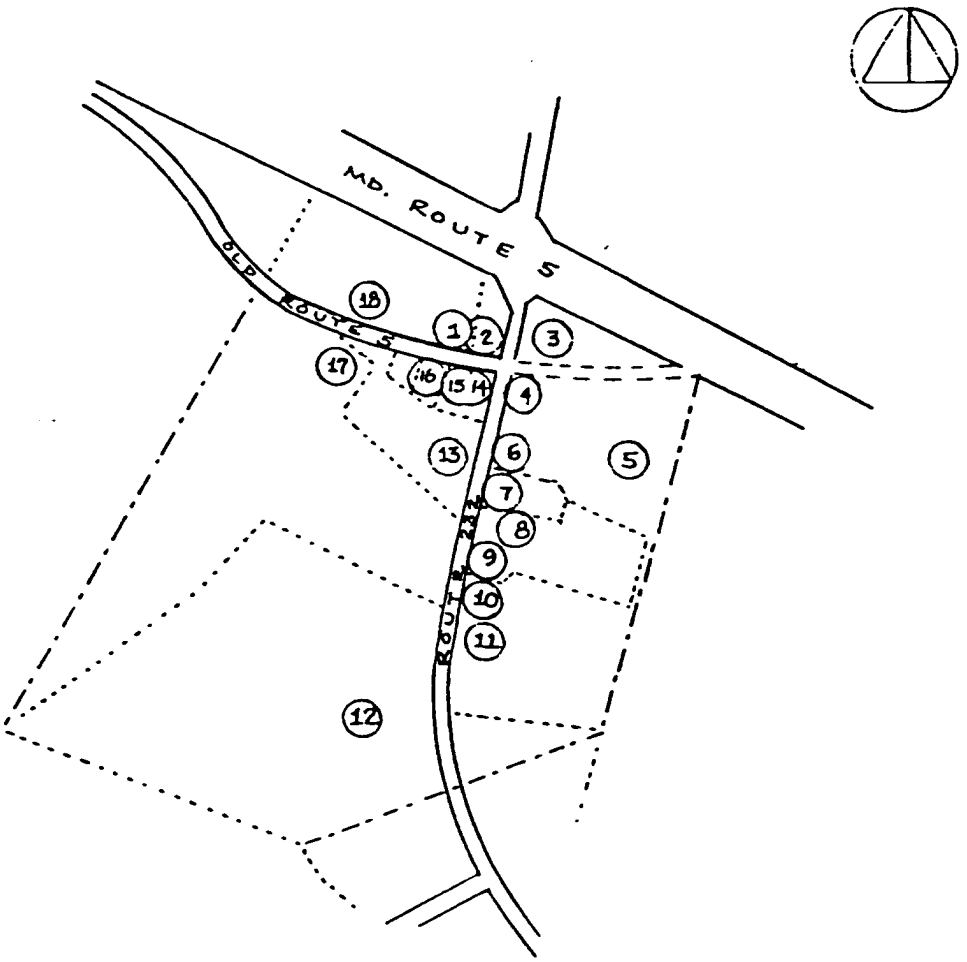
B: 18-339490-4268390

C: 18-339200-4268300

D: 18-339010-4268470

E: 18-339280-4268900





KEY:

Existing Property Lines: ----------

Historic District Boundaries: — · — · — · —

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BRYANTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Charles County, Maryland

sketch map (1984)
for nomination to the National
Register of Historic Places

Scale: 1" = 600'