

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: 3714 Bladensburg Road Survey Number: PG68-90

Tax Parcel#: Block 4; Lot 21

Project: MD Alt 1 (Bladensburg Rd) Planning Study from D.C. Line to 40th Ave Agency: MDOT-SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The house at 3714 Bladensburg Road is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the dwelling and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of a Craftsman-style bungalow, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form
and MD Alt 1 (Bladensburg Rd) from D.C. Line to 40th Ave Planning Study Summary of Results

Prepared by: Traceries, 5420 Western Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815 January 1998

 3/25/98
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: Xyes no not applicable

 3/25/98
Reviewer, NR Program Date



CAPSULE SUMMARY
3714 Bladensburg Road
(PG 68-90)

Historically, 3714 Bladensburg Road was used both as a residence and a commercial store. Built between 1918 and 1930, this Craftsman-style Bungalow illustrates the early development of Cottage City. Most likely constructed by Augustus and Letitia Plummer or William I. Baeschlin, the building served as a dwelling with a commercial enterprise in its basement. This mixed use was not an unusual occurrence in Cottage City. Many of its residents used part of their homes to maintain a business.

The dwelling consists of a one-and-a-half-story, side-gable, central passage dwelling constructed of five-course American bond brick. A unique feature of the building is its uneven side gable roof that creates a higher eaves level at the rear than at the front. The building has a rectangular footprint and displays elements of Craftsman-style detailing. A one-story, three-bay, full-width front porch and large front gable dormer dominate the facade. Set on a rock-faced concrete block foundation, the dwelling features a corbeled cap interior brick chimney that extends above the rear slope of the roof.

An additional foundation-level story is exposed on the northeast elevation where a storefront entrance has been added.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG68-90

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____
common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 3714 Bladensburg Rd. not for publication _____
city or town Cottage City vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20722

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing		
<u>1</u>		<u>0</u>		buildings
<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		sites
<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		structures
<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		objects
<u>1</u>		<u>0</u>		Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
3714 Bladensburg Road
Prince George's County, MD

Inventory No. PG68-90
Page 2

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE Specialty Store

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: Specialty Store

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Solid: Concrete, Rock-Faced
roof Side Gable: Asphalt Shingle
walls Masonry: Brick, Five Course American
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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

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

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

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

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

3714 Bladensburg Road
Prince George's County, MD

Inventory No. PG68-90
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=====
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce

Period of Significance 1918-1948

Significant Dates 1918-1930

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Prince George's County Land Records, Recorder of Deeds, Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Nelson's Washington Suburban Directory of Maryland and Virginia Towns Adjacent to the District of Columbia, 1923. Justus C. Nelson, 1923.

Polk's Washington Suburban Directory of Maryland and Virginia Towns Adjacent to the District of Columbia, 1930-1931. R.L. Polk & Company, Publishers, 1930.

A History of the Town of Cottage City, Maryland. Compiled by Raleigh A. Donley, Jr. for the Bicentennial Committee, May 8, 1976.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 4320 Square feet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 3714 Bladensburg Road is designated as Lot 21 of Block 4 in Cottage City, Maryland as indicated on Map 50, Grid A4, Subdivision 2804.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property at 3714 Bladensburg Road has historically been associated with Lot 21 of Block 4 in Cottage City, Maryland since the building's construction between 1918-1930.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Kathryn A. Gettings, Architectural Historian
organization Traceries date Jan. 26, 1998
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====

12. Property Owner

=====

name Thomas E. and Patricia J. Bonacorda
street & number 3714 Bladensburg Road telephone _____
city or town Cottage City state MD zip code 20722

=====

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG68-90

Section 7 Page 1

3714 Bladensburg Rd.
name of property
Prince George's Co, MD
county and state

=====
Built between 1918 and 1930, the Bungalow at 3714 Bladensburg Road consists of a one-and-a-half-story, side-gable, central passage dwelling constructed of five-course American bond brick. A unique feature of the building is its uneven side gable roof that creates a higher eaves level at the rear than at the front. The building has a rectangular footprint and displays elements of Craftsman-style detailing. A one-story, three-bay, full-width front porch and large front gable dormer dominate the facade. Set on a rock-faced concrete block foundation, the dwelling features a corbeled cap interior brick chimney that extends above the rear slope of the roof. An additional foundation-level story is exposed on the northeast elevation where a storefront entrance has been added.

The building occupies a grassy site at the west corner of Bladensburg Road and 38th Avenue. Addressing Bladensburg Road to the southeast, a steep slope descends from the front of the house to street level. A low random rubble stone retaining wall borders the southeast and northeast edges of the property and a stone stairway provides access to the main entrance from the street. Due to the grading of the lot, the foundation level of the dwelling is exposed along its 38th Avenue or northeast elevation. A paved parking lot abuts the dwelling at the rear.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The main facade of 3714 Bladensburg Road is oriented to the southeast. Divided into three evenly spaced bays, the facade consists of a centered entrance flanked by single window openings. Replacement 1/1 metal sashes fill the two first story windows, while a single-leaf flush wood door occupies the entrance. A three-bay-wide porch that is incorporated under the main roofline extends across the full width of the facade. Supported on Craftsman-style supports consisting of brick piers surmounted by square wood posts, the porch features a matchstick balustrade and a brick pier foundation. The front slope of the roof is dominated by a large front gable dormer clad in vinyl siding. The dormer contains a group of three openings: a narrow doorway flanked by 1/1 replacement metal sash windows on either side. The doorway contains an extremely narrow single-leaf panel-and-light wood door.

At the northeast elevation along 38th Avenue, three living levels are exposed: the ground floor located within the exposed foundation and a story and a half above. The foundation story has been dramatically altered over the years for use as a commercial

Section 7 Page 2

3714 Bladensburg Rd.
name of property
Prince George's Co, MD
county and state

=====
storefront. Within the confines of the dwelling's original footprint two entrances appear. One, near the east corner of the dwelling, is recessed and flanked by fixed, single-light wood storefront windows. The door consists of a single-leaf panel-and-light wood door. The second entry is filled by a single flush wood door and is set further back near the rear of the house. Two window openings in the foundation level have been infilled with plywood. A single 8/8 sash window occupies the farthest northeast opening in the original foundation of the dwelling.

Also visible on the northeast elevation is a one-story, shed roof brick addition extending off the rear or northwest of the dwelling. The addition has a sloping roof shielded on the northeast and northwest by a stepped parapet wall. The storefront addition contains three single-light fixed metal windows and a single-leaf, full-glass replacement door along its northeast wall. Its northwest wall is pierced by paired 1/1 metal sash windows set on a rowlock sill. A metal frame shed addition extends off the southwest wall of the addition.

The first story of the northeast elevation is pierced by four window openings. Two of these remain in their original form containing replacement 1/1 metal sashes. Another of the original openings has been reduced in size and filled partially with glass block and partially with a replacement 1/1 metal sash window. Located in the side of the enclosed rear porch, the fourth window opening at this level contains a metal jalousie window. The upper half story of the dwelling is lighted by four windows, all filled with 1/1 replacement metal sashes. A pair of larger windows are centered on this story, with two flanking windows set on either side. Each of the original window openings is set on a rowlock sill.

The rear or northwest elevation consists of one and a half stories with a one-story shed-roof porch extending across three quarters of the rear elevation. A bulkhead entry secured by a double-leaf flush metal door provides access to the basement near the west corner of the house. A single-leaf panel-and-light wood door opens at the first story. Only one original window opening remains at the first story near the west corner of the building. This opening contains a replacement 1/1 metal sash window. An enclosed shed-roof porch extends across three-quarters of the rear elevation. It has been enclosed by stretcher bond brick and six metal jalousie windows. Above the porch a brick gable-roof wall dormer extends above the eaves. The dormer contains two 1/1 replacement metal sash windows set on rowlock sills.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG68-90

Section 7 Page 3

3714 Bladensburg Rd.
name of property
Prince George's Co., MD
county and state

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The southwest wall of the building retains all its original openings. The foundation level contains three windows; one containing its original twelve-light wood casement window. The remaining two have been altered. One opening has been infilled with plywood and the third contains a replacement one-light casement window. The first story is composed of four original window openings each containing replacement 1/1 metal sash. Set on rowlock sills, the two windows located nearest to the west corner of the building are paired. The upper half story contains four windows arranged identically to the opposite or northeast elevation. Paired 1/1 replacement metal sash windows are centered on the wall with window openings containing identical sashes flanking these. Again each of the windows is set on original rowlock sills.

OUTBUILDINGS:

There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG68-90

Section 8 Page 1

3714 Bladensburg Rd.
name of property
Prince George's Co., MD
county and state

=====
Historically, 3714 Bladensburg Road was used both as a residence and a commercial store. Built between 1918 and 1930, this Craftsman-style Bungalow illustrates the early development of Cottage City. Most likely constructed by Augustus and Letitia Plummer or William I. Baeschlin, the building served as a dwelling with a commercial enterprise in its basement. This mixed use was not an unusual occurrence in Cottage City. Many of its residents used part of their homes to maintain a business.

The property is located within the town of Cottage City, which was gradually developed between 1915 and 1930. The Highlands Company, incorporated in 1888, purchased approximately sixty-four acres of land lying between the B&O Railroad line and the Baltimore-Washington Turnpike; an area then known as "The Highlands."¹ In May 1906, the full sixty-four-acre tract was sold to three men, J. Harris Rogers, James C. Rogers, and Richard N. Ryon, who had the area platted under the name "Cottage City" in 1906.² Despite its accessibility to downtown Washington, DC via the Bladensburg Road electric streetcar line, several efforts to develop the area failed. It was not until 1915 that Charles M. Lightbown, who had begun buying up lots in the newly platted town in 1906, borrowed money to construct five modest frame "cottages" which he sold to working-class families.³ By 1925, the town of Cottage City had developed into a substantial suburb with access to the District of Columbia via Bladensburg Road and the B&O Railroad. Today, the town contains over 322 single- and dual-family dwellings and around thirty apartment units.

¹ Land Records of Prince George's County, Liber 34, Folio 317.

² Land Records of Prince George's County, Liber 34, Folio 317; and Liber 57, Folio 426. The 1906 plat of Cottage City was recorded in Liber B.D.S. 1, Folio 10.

³ *A History of the Town of Cottage City, Maryland*, p.31.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG68-90

Section 8 Page 2

3714 Bladensburg Rd.
name of property
Prince George's Co., MD
county and state

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The property at 3714 Bladensburg Road was sold to Augustus and Letitia Plummer in July of 1918. The Plummers only held the land for a short period of time. William I. Baeschlin of Washington, DC purchased the plot four years later in June of 1922. The house was most likely built during the tenure of these owners. The Baeschlin family retained ownership of the property until 1946, when Arthur and Blanche Young acquired the lot. The Youngs sold 3714 Bladensburg Road to its present owners, Thomas and Patricia Bonacorda. The Bonacordas presently own the properties occupying the northeast side of the 3700 block of Bladensburg Road.

According to a local directory listing from 1930 through 1931 and the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of 1939 and 1954, a commercial establishment was operated in the basement of 3714 Bladensburg Road. As early as 1930, the Cottage City Popcorn Shop occupied the basement of 96 Washington-Baltimore Boulevard, now 3714 Bladensburg Road.⁴ A store has continuously occupied the basement floor of this dwelling since that time. Commercial use of this space is noted on the 1939 and 1954 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. As further evidence of this occupation, the storefront windows still exist at the western corner of Bladensburg Road and 38th Avenue.

⁴ Polk's Washington Suburban Directory of Maryland and Virginia Towns Adjacent to the District of Columbia, 1930-1931, R.L. Polk & Company, Publishers, 1930.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG68-90

3714 Bladensburg Rd.
name of property
Prince George's Co., MD
county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/ Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and Community
Planning
Economic

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG68-90

3714 Bladensburg Rd.
name of property
Prince George's Co., MD
county and state

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Chain of Title:

- May 29, 1888: William A. Gordon to The Highlands Company of Prince George's County, MD
Company incorporated February 28, 1888
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber J.W.B. 11 Folio 173
- February 26, 1906: John Ridout to Oscar Lockett
Same description as below
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 29 Folio 327
- May 26, 1906: Oscar and Regina M. Lockett of Washington, DC to J. Harris Rogers, James C. Rogers and Richard N. Ryon
Land known as "The Highlands"; 64 acres lying between the B&O Railroad line and the old Baltimore-Washington Turnpike; all blocks numbered 1-12 in a subdivision of part of the tract formerly known as "Yarrow"
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 34 Folio 317
- July 1, 1918: J. Harris Rogers of Hyattsville to Augustus J. and Letitia M. Plummer
Lot 21; Block 4 Cottage City and
Lot 37; Block 5 Cottage City
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 134 Folio 147
- June 23, 1922: Augustus J. and Letitia M. Plummer to William I. Baeschlin of Washington, DC
Lot 21; Block 4 Cottage City
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 181 Folio 275
- January 18, 1937: William I. and Georgia C. Baeschlin to R. Henry Robinson
Lot 21; Block 4 Cottage City
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 453 Folio 463

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG68-90

3714 Bladensburg Rd.
name of property
Prince George's Co., MD
county and state

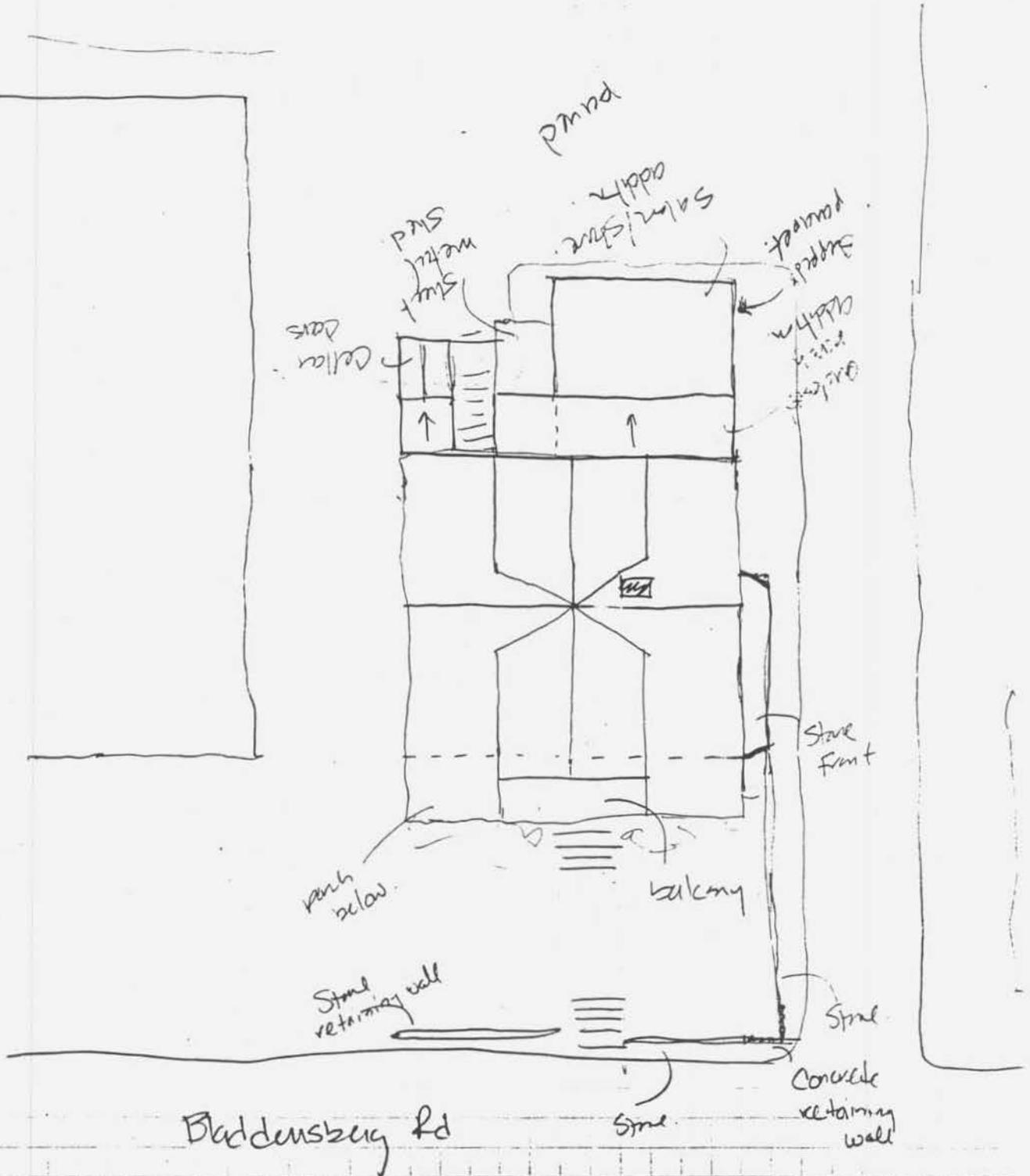
=====

- January 18, 1937: R. Henry Robinson to William I. and Georgia C. Baeschlin
Lot 21; Block 4 Cottage City
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 453 Folio 464
- August 30, 1946: William I. and Georgia C. Baeschlin to Arthur R. and Blanche B. Young
Lot 21; Block 4 Cottage City
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 846 Folio 469
- August 31, 1979: Arthur R. and Blanche B. Young to Thomas E. and Patricia J. Bonacorda
Lots 21, 22, 23; Block 4 Cottage City
\$220,000
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 5149 Folio 675

SKETCH MAP

3714 Bladensburg Rd.
Cottage City, MD
Prince George's County

PG 68-90



Bladensburg Rd

Shopping Area



WASHINGTON EAST, D.C.-MD.
38076-H8-TB-024

1985
PHOTOREVISED 1979
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
DMA 5001 IV NW-SERIES V833

Beaver Heights



PG: 68-90
3714 Bladensburg Rd.
Prince George's County, MD

Traceries

1/98

Maryland SHPO

House, SE Elevation

1 of 4



PG: 68-90

3714 Bladensburg Rd.

Prince George's County, MD

Traceries

1/98

Maryland SHPO

House, NE Elevation

2 of 4



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CRACKS

STAR MILLS

PG: 68-90
3714 Bladensburg Rd.
Prince George's County; MD
Traceries
1/98
Maryland SHPO
House, NW Elevation
3 of 4



PG: 68-90
3714 Bladensburg Rd
Prince George's County, MD
Tracenes

1/98
Maryland SHPO
House, SW Elevation
4 of 4