

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #87A-18 Building Date: 19th c., 1915  
Building Name: Black Swamp Farm  
Location: 16815 Milltown Landing Road

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good-Fair/Inaccessible

Description

Black Swamp farm is a complex of farm buildings set far back and to the south of Milltown Landing Road. The oldest barn, north of the present complex, was destroyed in recent years. The house is a two-and-one-half-story front-gable frame house, with principal entrance in the third bay of the four-bay north gable end. Across this north gable end is a one-story porch with Tuscan columns. The central bay of the three-bay west facade consists of a projecting cross-gable, cantilevered at second and third story. The cornices of the house are boxed with crown molding, and are returned at the gable ends. The siding is plain board painted white. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash, with plain board surrounds painted dark green. The roof is of asphalt shingle. The oldest building remaining in the complex is a gable-roofed stable southwest of the house. Its sills are made of large hand-hewn timbers, but its superstructure is of circular-sawn vertical boards. The roof is of wooden shake, and has a cupola centered at the ridge. There is another large tobacco barn, probably twentieth century, but incorporating some older materials, at the top of a hill to the northwest.

Significance

Black Swamp farm represents a plantation complex which dates back to the early nineteenth century, when several tracts were farmed by the Rawlings, Turner and Cage families. By the second half of the nineteenth century, 235 acres had been consolidated by James J. Rawlings; his farm was known as Cold Brook. Like many other Prince George's County planters, Rawlings must have fallen into financial difficulties in the 1870's; his farm was sold by the county Sheriff to his wife, Martha Wilson Rawlings, and it passed after her death to their sons. For the first third of this century, this farm on the Black Swamp Creek was the home of L. Marbury Rawlings. In 1915, possibly after his parents' home was destroyed by fire, the present dwelling house was built. The new dwelling stood in a complex of old farm buildings; the oldest barn stood some 300 yards to the north of the house, and an old but rebuilt stable stood southwest of the house. The farm remained in the Rawlings family until 1970. Today only a few timbers can be seen from the oldest barn. The 1915 house is a modest reminder of the earlier plantation dwelling, surrounded as it is with functional farm buildings, the most notable of which is the interesting and picturesque rebuilt stable.

Acreage: 126.96 acres

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Black Swamp Farm

and/or common

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 16815 Milltown Landing Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Aquasco \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Emanuel Orlick

street &amp; number 16815 Milltown Landing Road telephone no.:

city, town Aquasco, state and zip code MD. 20613

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5400

street &amp; number Main Street folio 927

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state  county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

# 7. Description

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

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Black Swamp farm is a complex of farm buildings set far back and to the south of Milltown Landing Road, accessible by a long unpaved lane. The oldest barn, north of the present complex, was destroyed in recent years, and only a few timbers can be seen today.

The house is a two-and-one-half-story front-gable frame house, with principal entrance in the third bay of the four-bay north gable end. Across this north gable end is a one-story porch with Tuscan columns. The central bay of the three-bay west facade consists of a projecting cross-gable (tower) cantilevered at second and third story. The cornices of the house are boxed with crown molding, and are returned at the gable ends. The siding is plain board painted white. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash, with plain board surrounds painted dark green. The roof is of asphalt shingle and there is a stove chimney at the rear in the west plane of the roof.

The oldest building remaining in the complex is a gable roofed stable southwest of the house. Its sills are made of large hand-hewn timbers, but its superstructure is of circular-sawn vertical boards. The roof is of wooden shake, and there is a cupola centered at the ridge.

Southeast of the house is a twentieth century tobacco barn. There is another large tobacco barn, probably twentieth century, but incorporating some older materials, at the top of a hill to the northwest.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 19th c., 1915 **Builder/Architect**

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Black Swamp farm represents a plantation complex which dates back to the early nineteenth century, when the tracts Cold Brook, Trenant and Cox Hays were farmed by the Rawlings, Turner and Cage families.<sup>1</sup> By the second half of the nineteenth century, 235 acres had been consolidated by James J. Rawlings; in the post-Civil War period, his farm was known as Cold Brook.<sup>2</sup> Like many other Prince George's County planters, Rawlings must have fallen into financial difficulties in the 1870's, for a writ of fieri facias (confiscation of property in order to satisfy a judgment against him) was issued against him in 1878. His farm was sold by the county Sheriff to Rawlings' wife, Martha Wilson Rawlings,<sup>3</sup> and it passed after her death to their sons, J. Howe, James William and L. Marbury Rawlings. For the first third of this century, this farm on the Black Swamp Creek was the home of L. Marbury Rawlings. In 1915, possibly after his parents' home was destroyed by fire, the present dwelling house was built.<sup>4</sup> The new dwelling stood in a complex of old farm buildings; the oldest barn stood some 300 yards to the north of the house, and an old but rebuilt stable stood a short distance southwest of the house. Several other barns were built during this century; the farm remained in the Rawlings family until 1970.

Today only a few timbers can be seen from the oldest barn, which was destroyed in recent years. The 1915 house is a modest reminder of the earlier plantation dwelling, surrounded as it is with functional farm buildings, the most notable of which is the interesting and picturesque rebuilt stable.

Notes

<sup>1</sup> Prince George's County Tax Assessments; Prince George's County Deeds JBB #5:420.

<sup>2</sup> Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1880's.

<sup>3</sup> Prince George's County Deed HB #14:319.

<sup>4</sup> Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1912-1920; Prince George's County Deed #164:179; Will WTD #3:302.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #87A-18

Cf. Chain of Title  
Cf. Notes, Item #8

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 126.96 acres Tax Map 174, p. 34

Quadrangle name Lower Marlboro, MD. Section G Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission date September 1985

street & number c/o County Planning Div., M-NCPPC telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Black Swamp Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South of Milltown Landing Road

CITY, TOWN

Aguasco

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Prince George's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES RESTRICTED
- YES UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Eugene E. Pitrof

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

14708 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The house does not appear to be particularly old-probably having been built ca. 1900. However, the outbuildings are especially notable. These include several hewn-framed sheds, cribs, etc., with wooden shingle roofs, and a "wing-shaped" tobacco barn with a steep, center section with shed-roof "wings" flaring out from the eaves on both sides. The gable end has old rough weatherboards and a louvered vent, and a small doorway below this.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The outbuildings are some of the best seen in this area of Southern Prince George's County-particularly the tobacco barn.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

AREA BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

6/11/74

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

Chain of Title

Black Swamp Farm  
P.G. #87A-18

- #5400:927  
30 April 1981  
Deed  
Eugene E. Pitrof to Emanuel and Agnes W. Orlick; 126.96 acres in Aquasco District; same which grantor acquired by #3802:593.
- #3802:593  
5 Feb. 1970  
Deed  
Robert Hugh and Thelma H. Rawlings to Eugene E. Pitrof, 126.96 acres in Aquasco District; same property described in #164:179.
- #3754:627  
23 Aug. 1969  
Deed  
Lewis (or Louis) Howe Rawlings, to Robert Hugh Rawlings; 126.96 acres in Aquasco District; all the grantor's interest, being the residue of the land conveyed in #164:179.
- #1217:85  
March 1950  
Deed  
James Wilson and Grace E. Rawlings to Robert Hugh Rawlings; 144 acres in Aquasco District; same property described in #164:179 and #401:467 and devised in WTD #3:302, the life interest of James William Rawlings, now deceased, having been vested in his children, one of whom is a grantor of this deed.
- #976:361  
8 Aug. 1946  
Deed  
Robert Hugh and Thelma H. Rawlings to James Wilson and Grace E. Rawlings, unmarried (a one-half undivided interest); the grantor's rights in a tract in the 8th Election District as described in #164:179.
- #401:467  
25 Nov. 1933  
Deed  
George I. and Maria T. Gardiner to James William Rawlings, James Wilson Rawlings, Louis Howe Rawlings and Robert Hugh Rawlings; parcel in 8th Election District, same as described in #164:179; this deed conveyed property to James William Rawlings for his natural life with remainder to James Wilson, Louis Howe and Robert Hugh Rawlings, heirs of L. Marbury Rawlings, deceased; same which Martha E. Rawlings acquired by HB #14:319 and same which grantors acquired by deed immediately prior hereto.
- #401:467  
25 Nov. 1933  
Deed  
James William Rawlings, widower, to George I. Gardiner; all the grantor's interest in a tract in the 8th Election District; same which grantor acquired as tenant in common with L. Marbury Rawlings by #164:179.

- 2 -

WTD #3:302  
23 May 1933  
Will

Estate of L. Marbury Rawlings who died 1 May 1933; to his nephew James Wilson, Lewis Howe and Robert Hugh Rawlings, the deceased devised one-half of a farm in Aquasco; same which was conveyed to the deceased and James William Rawlings, as tenants in common, in the division of the estate of their mother, Martha E. Rawlings.

#164:179  
17 May 1921  
Deed

J. Howe and Emma G. Rawlings to James William and L. Marbury Rawlings as tenants in common; 145 acres in Aquasco; all parties to deed were heirs of Martha E. Rawlings, deceased, and had decided among themselves on a division of her real estate; same property which deceased acquired by HB #14:319.

HB #14:319  
24 Jan. 1879  
Deed

James Wilson, sheriff, (by writ of fieri facias) to Martha E. Rawlings, wife of James H. Rawlings; 235 acres including 164 acres, parts of Cold Brook, Tenant, et al, where "James H. Rawlings now resides", part of the real estate of the late John T. Rawlings.

MILLTOWN LANDING ROAD

CROON RD.

BENJAMIN F. RICHARDS  
772/257, 837/18 1169/349  
29.00A  
P. 16

5162 / 203  
2.70A  
P. 47

O-S

87A-19

BENJAMIN E. RICHARDS  
1759 / 344  
17.04A.  
P. 17

CHARLES W. ELLIS  
3126 / 135  
105.00A.  
P. 18

EMANUEL ORLICK  
5400 / 927  
126.96A.  
P. 34

87A-18

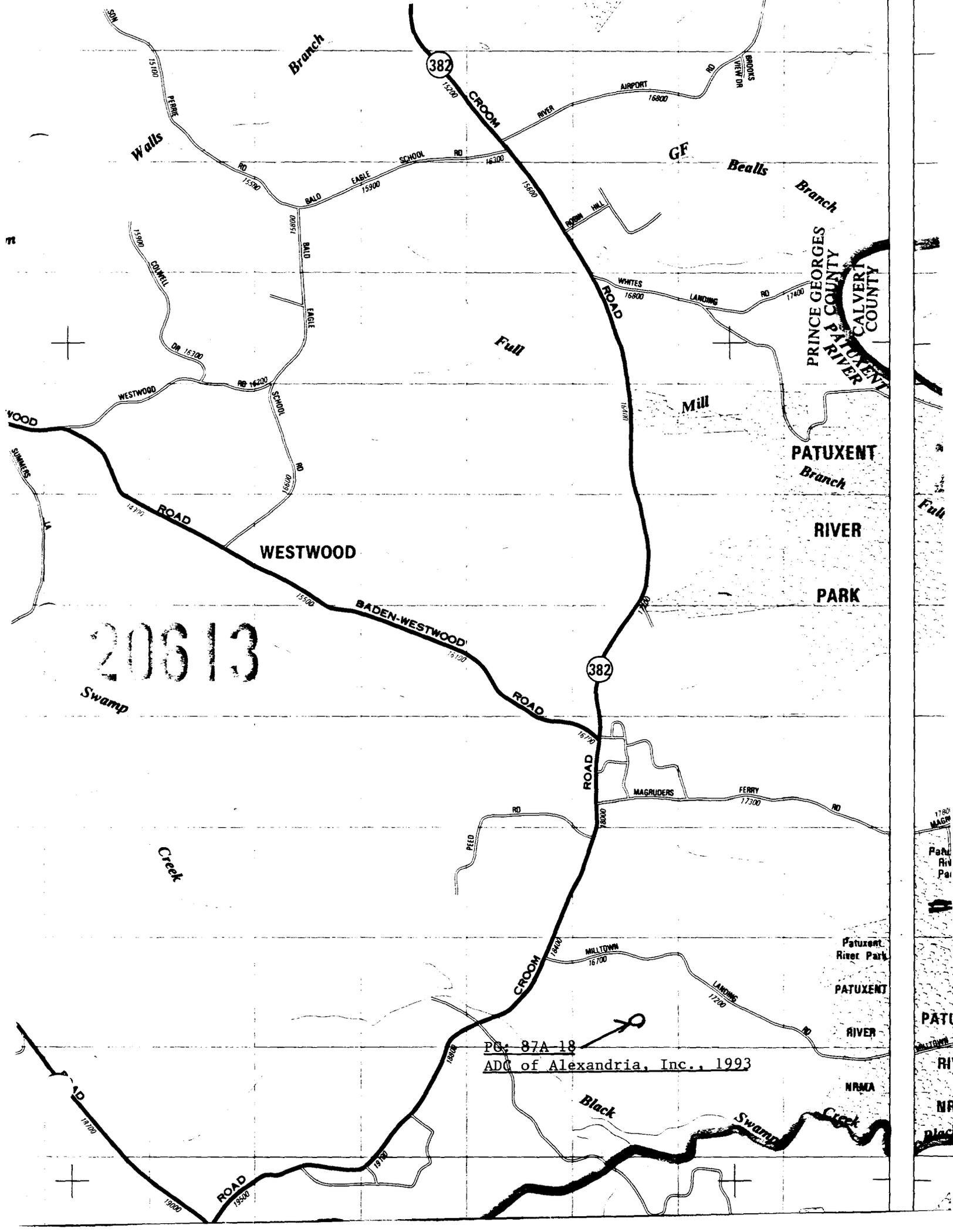
M.175 - P.7

O-S

O-S

BLACK SWAMP CR.

Pg: 87A-18



20613

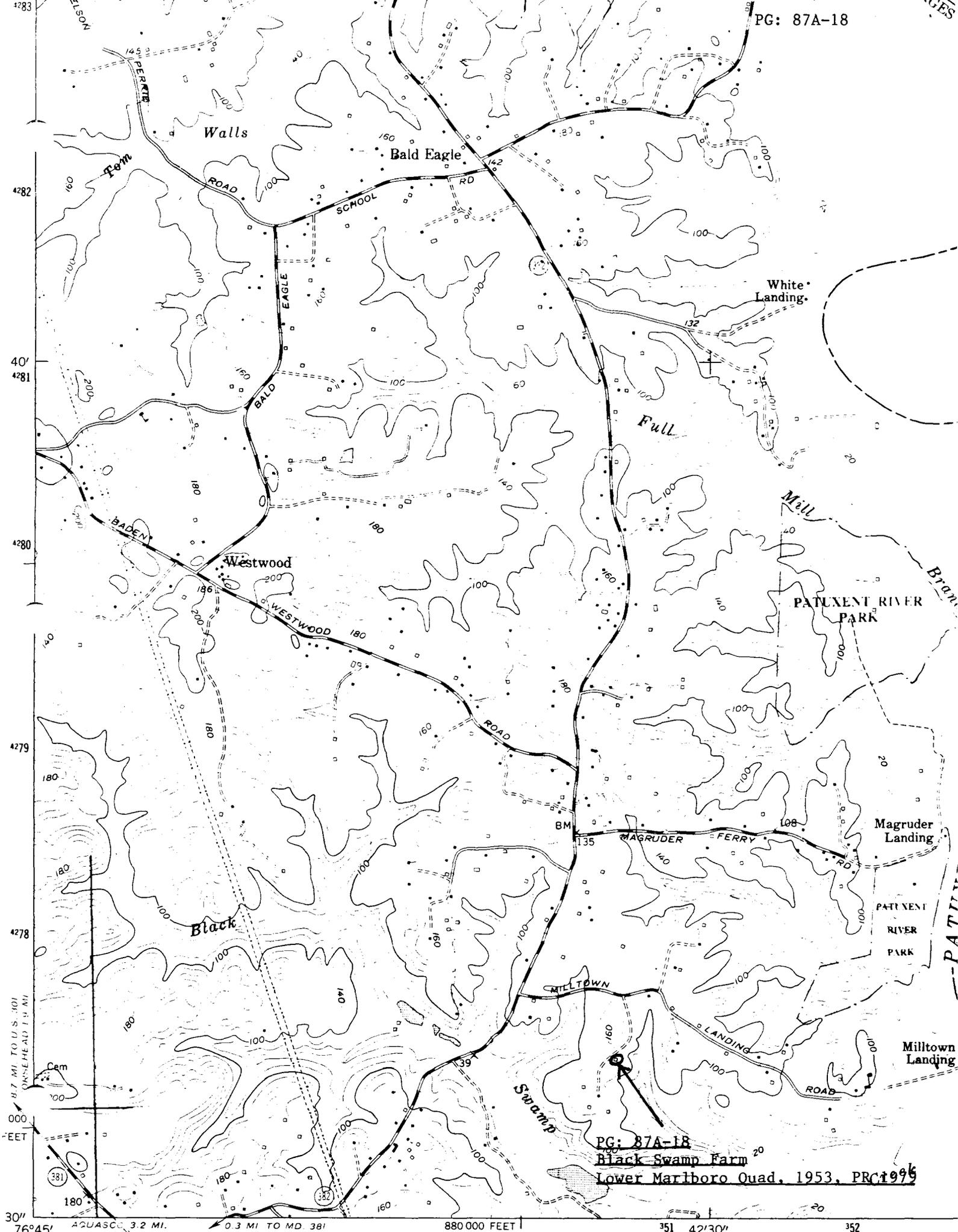
PG: 87A-18  
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1993

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY  
CALVERT COUNTY  
PATUXENT RIVER

PATUXENT  
RIVER  
PARK

Patuxent  
River Park  
PATUXENT  
RIVER

NRMA  
Black  
Swamp  
Creek



PG: 87A-18  
 Black Swamp Farm  
 Lower Marlboro Quad, 1953, PR1096



P.G. #87A-18

Stable at Black Swamp Farm

Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

Northwest elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME BLACK SWAMP FARM - TOBACCO BARN (PITROF PROP.)

LOCATION S. OF MILLTOWN LANDING RD., AQUASCO, MD.

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 6/11/74

PG: 87A-18

M. RIDGER



NAME BLACK SWAMP FARM (PITROF PROP.) 20th CEN. HOUSE

LOCATION S. OF MILTOWN LANDING RD., AQUASCO, MD.

FACADE N

PG: 87A-18

PHOTO TAKEN 6/11/74

M. RUCYER