

Capsule Summary  
SM-125  
Blair's Purchase  
Bushwood Vicinity  
Private  
(Page 1)

c. 1831 and earlier

Situated on a ridge overlooking the Wicomico and Potomac Rivers near Bushwood, Maryland, Blair's Purchase is a farm complex that includes a two story, three bay main dwelling, a one room, horizontal log slave quarter, as well as a stable that features reused rafters from the main house. Constructed soon after William Blair purchased a 317 acre tract from William Plowden, then owner of nearby "Bushwood" (SM-110) in 1831, the main dwelling was a one-and-a-half story, braced frame dwelling that may have utilized a pre-existing Flemish bond chimney and an English bond foundation. Just to the southeast of the main house, it appears that Blair also erected a "double quarter"--two single cell dwellings that shared a central brick chimney--for his slaves and house servants. In the 1920s, the main house underwent extensive exterior renovations giving it the appearance of the boxy "four-square" house type popular in the early twentieth century. Overall, this complex of buildings significantly chronicles over 160 years of architectural change on a property continually owned by descendants of William Blair. It is likewise important because it documents the condition and nature of slavery in the 1830s in St. Mary's County.

The dwelling that Blair built in 1831 was, on the exterior, exceptionally fashionable, but on the interior socially anachronistic. The floor plan and main elevation of the original dwelling was oriented towards the land rather than the river. This important shift signalled a significant reorientation of buildings beginning in the early-nineteenth century in St. Mary's County. Like the rebuilding of Cross Manor (SM-3) which occurred twenty years later in the 1850s, Blair chose to situate his house facing the road thereby directing visitors into the two front rooms that were also the two most ornate spaces in his house--the "parlor" and the "dining room." By having a direct exterior access into his parlor, however, Blair went against what was domestic convention at that time. By the early-nineteenth century, house plans typically featured a hall or passage that would have served as an intermediary space between the dining room and parlor. Instead, Blair chose to

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follow a much more conservative open plan that has many similarities to the original plan at Riverview (SM-120) which was built in 1730. The decorative hierarchy of the house focused attention on the front two rooms as they were heated by large fireplaces that featured elaborate mantles similar in style to those found in contemporary houses such as Bloomfield (SM-205), Fenwick Free (SM-17), as well as De La Brooke Manor (SM-94). Immediately behind these rooms was a small passage, with an undecorated winder stair, flanked on either side by chambers whose partition walls were constructed of vertical beaded boards. These walls also feature rails with inserted pegs for hanging clothing--all features that rarely survive. A probate inventory performed after William Blair's death in 1872 provides a vivid picture of how these spaces functioned.

Along with building the main house, William Blair also probably constructed the double log quarter that currently lies just to the southeast of his home place. This horizontal log structure only features one cell of the two original cells that shared a central brick fireplace. The logs were joined at the corners with half-dovetail notches. Interestingly, the interior features four vertical posts--one at each corner--that further solidify or buttress the notching. These vertical posts are alternately pegged into the two sides and lie directly on a plank floor--although the floor might be a later covering over an original a dirt floor. A vertical line of peg holes located on either side of the chimney on the quarter's exterior suggest that the walls were further strengthened. This rare form of log construction can be found on a range of buildings in the county including tobacco houses, corn cribs, as well as slave quarters such as those located at Old Patuxent Farm (SM-527), Sotterley (SM-7), as well as the Bond Property Tobacco Barn (SM-245). Cary Carson noted that similar construction methods were used in Cecil County as well as the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

SM-125, Blair's Purchase  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture Cultural

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Residence
Known Design Source:	None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-125

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Blair's Purchase

and/or common

### 2. Location

0.1 m from the intersection of Bushwood Wharf Rd. & Maddox Rd., NE side of Bushwood Wharf Rd.  hot for publicationcity, town Bushwood  vicinity of congressional district 7

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM-38, G-3, P-2

### 3. Classification

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

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

name Bernard I. Johnson

street &amp; number Bushwood Rd. Box B-1 telephone no.: 301-769-3307

city, town Bushwood state and zip code Md 20618

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 71

street &amp; number folio 313

city, town Leonardtown state Md

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Blair's Purchase

date January 1970  federal  state  county  local

repository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state Md

# 7. Description

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

Contributing Resource Count: 5

Blair's Purchase is a farmstead located just south of the intersection of Bushwood and Maddox Road in Bushwood, Maryland. The dwelling and outbuildings lie perpendicular to a straight access road that extends 0.2 miles southwest from its intersection with Bushwood Road. The farmstead lies in the middle of a 230 acre farm surrounded by cultivated fields that are intermittently filled with tobacco as well as corn, wheat, barley, lespedeza, clover, timothy, rye, rye grass, and/or soybean. Situated along a ridge overlooking the confluence of the Wicomico and Potomac Rivers, the main dwelling is oriented on a southwest/northeast axis with its southwest side overlooking the rivers. In the houselot immediately around the dwelling are a series of landscape features and outbuildings. The most prominent and formal plantings are large crepe myrtles and boxwoods situated on the northeast side of the main dwelling. Contributing outbuildings immediately around the house include a log slave quarter/kitchen, meathouse, double privy, as well as a stable. Other outbuildings include two tobacco barns, one tobacco barn/cow barn, a stripping shed, granary, turkey/pheasant house, cooler, well house, one brooder house, two connected hen houses, two attached garages, and an earthfast hog pen.

The main dwelling at Blair's Purchase is a two-and-a-half story, three bay, frame four-square with two exterior end brick chimneys, and a c. 1960s, two story kitchen wing. While the exterior suggests an early-twentieth century construction date, the main dwelling actually features three distinct building campaigns that began in the late-eighteenth century. The first period of the house, dating to the last quarter of the eighteenth century, can best be seen in the dirt floored basement. While much of the base for the foundation is laid in relatively plumb courses of large stones and leveling courses of smaller stone, the upper sections exhibit English bond brickwork. Near the southern-most corner of the foundation, the English bond clearly terminates at a corner with queen closers. The presence of the English bond and queen closers certainly suggests that parts of this foundation may date from an earlier dwelling for the structure above it contains transitional Federal and Greek Revival architectural elements and construction details roughly corresponding in date to a change in ownership of the property in 1831. The present appearance of the house, however, is largely the result of an early-twentieth century modification that gave the dwelling an almost cube like appearance of a "four square" house type common during that time period.

The main section of the dwelling is largely sheathed with clapboard attached to the wood frame with wire nails. The overhanging box cornice features a soffit enclosed with beaded matchstick. The hipped roof is covered with raised seam metal. The two story kitchen wing features a foundation of cinder blocks. The walls are covered with "German" or drop siding and the roof is covered with raised seam metal.

The first floor of the main dwelling's primary or northeast elevation is pierced by three symmetrically placed bays; a four panel door, that features raised panels with inverted crossets as well as a three light transom, flanked on either side by a four-over-four, double-hung sash window. All of these bays are shaded by a porch supported by a foundation of brick piers and lined with a series of Tuscan columns. The second floor is pierced by three, two-over-two windows. The roof is pierced by a hipped dormer. The dormer features a set of paired two-over-two windows that light the attic space. The first floor of the wing consists of a projecting shed addition. This shed is pierced by four, two-over-two windows and a centrally located modern

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** \_\_\_\_\_ **Builder/Architect** \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Situated on a ridge overlooking the Wicomico and Potomac Rivers near Bushwood, Maryland, Blair's Purchase is a farm complex that includes a two story, three bay main dwelling, a one room, horizontal log slave quarter, as well as a stable that features reused rafters from the main house. Constructed soon after William Blair purchased a 317 acre tract from William Plowden, then owner of nearby "Bushwood" (SM-110) in 1831, the main dwelling was a one-and-a-half story, braced frame dwelling that may have utilized a pre-existing Flemish bond chimney and an English bond foundation. Just to the southeast of the main house, it appears that Blair also erected a "double quarter"--two single cell dwellings that shared a central brick chimney--for his slaves and house servants. In the 1920s, the main house underwent extensive exterior renovations giving it the appearance of the boxy "four-square" house type popular in the early twentieth century. Overall, this complex of buildings significantly chronicles over 160 years of architectural change on a property continually owned by descendants of William Blair. It is likewise important because it documents the condition and nature of slavery in the 1830s in St. Mary's County.

On September 13, 1831, William Blair purchased 317 acres for \$3,963.12. Originally called part of "Rich Neck" or "Maiden Bower," Blair commemorated his acquisition by re-naming the property "Blair's Purchase." In 1832 Blair married Mary Elizabeth Ellis c. 1832 at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church near Bushwood. It was in 1831 or 1832 that Blair erected the present main dwelling. In 1853, however, Blair remarried Susan Gibson. Over the course of the two marriages, Blair had one son and three daughters. His son, William, Jr., died at the age of 20 in 1862, but his remaining three daughters, Jane A., Lauretta, and Susan all married. William H. Blair died on April 11, 1872 at his "Sussex" farm. The April 18 issue of the St. Mary's Beacon noted that "Like his friend Col. Key, he was devoted to agricultural pursuits, and was among the most energetic and successful of our old-time planters." The property accordingly passed to Blair's wife Susan who lived at the farm until 1883 when she died. According to the March 22, 1883 issue of the Beacon, she died at her son-in-law's (Thomas Shoemaker who was married to Lauretta) residence in Washington, DC and her remains were brought by the steamer "Arrowsmith" to "Blair's Purchase" and interred at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Their daughter Susan inherited the property that same year. In 1882, the Beacon reported that Susan had married Ignatius Enders Mattingly at the "Cathedral" in Baltimore and that the couple spent their honeymoon "touring northern cities" that included Niagara Falls. In 1927 Susan died leaving the farm to her daughter Lillian Mattingly who had married Joseph Julius Johnson. In 1978 the property passed to the present owner and son of Lillian and Joseph, Bernard I. Johnson--thus completing over 167 years of continual ownership by the descendants of William Blair.



SM-125, Blair's Purchase  
St. Mary's County  
7.1 Description

door. The second floor is pierced by two, two-over-two windows.

The northwest elevation of the main block is dominated by an exterior end brick chimney laid in the Flemish bond. The chimney features a single step base and just above the second floor, the stack detaches from the body of the building. To the north of the stack, there is a six-over-six window on the first floor and a two-over-two window on the second floor. To the south of the stack, there are two six-over-six windows on the first floor and a two-over-two window on the second floor.

The southwest or riverside elevation of the main block is pierced on the first floor by a centrally located five panel door flanked on either side by a six-over-six window. These bays are shaded by a porch supported by brick piers and decorated with round Tuscan columns. It was immediately on top of the porch that an addition was made in the 1960s. The wall of the house was extended out over the porch. This addition was sheathed with German siding but reused the windows. It is pierced by three, two-over-two windows. The attic is lit by a hipped dormer that features a paired set of two-over-two windows. The kitchen wing is pierced on the first floor by a folding four panel door and a two-over-two window. These bays are shaded by a shed roof open porch that is paved on the interior with brick. This porch also features a bulkhead entry to the basement.

The southeast elevation of the main dwelling is pierced on the second floor by a two-over-two window and a modern three light window, while the addition over the southwest porch is pierced by a modern two-over-two window. The brick chimney that extends between the wing and main block is constructed in a five or seven-to-one common bond, unlike the bond found on the northwest elevation chimney. The main body of the kitchen wing is pierced on the first and second floors by a two-over-two window. The shed addition to the north is pierced by a modern two-over-two window.

The interior of the dwelling is organized along a deliberate decorative hierarchy. The front or northeast side of the dwelling consists of two rooms (in effect creating a hall/parlor plan). These two rooms exhibit the most elaborate decoration. The larger room or parlor is embellished with an ornate mantle that consists of flat, fluted engaged columns, a frieze that consists of pineapples located just above fluted columns and a centrally located motif of a woman and child, and a series of moldings that flare out to an attenuated shelf. The smaller of the front rooms or dining room features a mantle that is decorated with simple reeded columns, a reeded frieze, and an attenuated shelf. All of the window and door openings in these rooms feature molded trim. The rear or southwest section of the house consists of a small stair hall flanked on either side by unheated chambers. The stair hall permits access, via an open winder stair to the second floor as well as to the southern-most chamber. The stair itself features a plain square newel and banisters and a modestly molded rail. The west chamber is considerably less decorated than the front two rooms as the walls are sided with vertical beaded boards that feature wooden horizontal rails with dowels for the hanging of clothing. The east chamber to the east of the stair hall is primarily entered via the dining room. Like the west chamber its walls are lined with vertical beaded boards with similar rails for the hanging of clothing. A small door that connects this chamber to the winder stair was punched through the wall in the 1960s to permit better domestic service. The second floor of the main block features five bedrooms and two bathrooms, the bathrooms having been extended over the porch. Two of the bedrooms exhibit elaborate mantles. The most significant mantle is located in the southern most corner room. It features plain flat columns topped by a frieze composed of a large cavetto that sweeps up to the plain shelf. The kitchen

SM-125, Blair's Purchase  
St. Mary's County  
7.2 Description

wing consists of one room with an enclosed winder stair to the "maid's" room. The second floor features a single bedroom.

The slave quarter/kitchen is a one story, one room, log building with an exterior end brick chimney. Constructed in the 1830s, the log building features a low brick and stone foundation and the walls are sheathed with vertical planks. The cornice is largely exposed and raised seam metal covers the roof. A garage addition, which replaced the other half of this double log quarter, is attached to the southeast side of the quarter/kitchen.

The southwest elevation of the building is pierced by a single door that features a six-light fixed sash. The southeast elevation is now largely enclosed by the garage addition, but is still visible from the interior. The walls here are constructed of logs, joined at the corners with half-dovetail notches, that are 4" thick and feature faces that are 10" wide. The interstices between the logs are filled with course mortar. On either side of the chimney on the log walls are a series of holes presumably for a vertical, hole set barked log that would have been pegged into the walls to buttress them. The chimney is laid in a common bond and has been extensively modified. It remains clear however that it was once a shared stack. It measures approximately 7" feet wide by 4" feet deep. The gable end of the building above the log section is constructed of pit sawn and hewn studs that are covered with riven clapboard attached to the frame with mature cut nails—suggesting that the quarters did not necessarily have a party wall. The northeast elevation is pierced by a single door with a fixed six light window. The northwest elevation does not feature any openings.

The interior of the dwelling features exposed log walls and overhead joists. The joists are covered with black soot from constant use of the large hearth. A small enclosed chamber is located in the northern-most corner of the building. Its walls are constructed of circular sawn planks and vertical battens and is entered via a single door. Just south of the door to the chamber is a small hole through the attic floor for a small ladder-like entry. The interior sides of the joists have been hewn out and the exterior sides of the joists feature portions of the ladder that were bolted and nailed to the joists. The roof framing has been left exposed in the attic revealing a common rafter roof consisting of hewn rafter pairs joined with common ties that are half-lapped. The rafters are joined at the peak with nailed half-lap joints. Probably the most significant construction detail of the entire buildings are the vertical posts that occur at all four corners of the building. These vertical barked logs are alternately pegged into each of the two walls to brace the corners. While the vertical logs do not extend into the ground, the bottoms may have been cut out when the present plank floor was installed. This construction detail is similar to that found at the Sotterley Field Hand's Quarter (SM-7), the Samuel Spalding Barn (SM-170), the Bond Farm Tobacco House (SM-245A), the now demolished quarter at Riverview (SM-120), and the corn crib and tobacco house at Old Patuxent Farm (SM-527).

Just to the north of the slave quarter/kitchen and to the east of the main house is a mid-nineteenth century, mortise-and-tenon, braced frame meathouse constructed of hewn and sawn timbers. The exterior is covered with modern horizontal clapboard siding attached to the frame with wire nails. The roof is covered with raised-seam metal. On the interior, the frame is entirely exposed and blackened with soot. The common rafters are half-lapped and nailed at the peak.

At the southwest corner of the houselot is a frame double privy constructed in the first quarter of the twentieth century. The shed roof building is clad with vertical boards joined to the

SM-125, Blair's Purchase  
St. Mary's County  
7.3 Description

circular sawn frame with wire nails. The door to the interior is located on the north side of the structure. The interior contains two round holes cut through a wood bench. Collection receptacles (metal pots) are located immediately below the holes and could be removed from the rear of the structure. It does not appear to have been an open pit privy.

Just to the south of the privy is a frame stable with a square plan and gable roof. The building rests on a brick pier foundation and is entirely sheathed with raised seam metal. The interior of the building is entered via a door on the north side. Constructed in the first quarter of the twentieth century, the stable is constructed of scabbed and borrowed building materials that exhibit a number of different tooling marks. The studs, sills, joists, plates, and rafters reveal an erratic combination of circular sawn, hewn, and pit sawn timbers were used in its construction. The rafters are particularly important for they were probably reused after the main house's roof was extensively modified from a gable to hipped roof in the early-twentieth century. The rafters feature robbed half-lapped and dovetailed mortises where the common ties once joined the rafter pairs as well as plaster and nail marks below the ties--indicating that the second story of the original house was finished with plaster and lathe. The rafters are joined at the peak with a pegged half-lapped joint.

SM-125, Blair's Purchase  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

The dwelling that Blair built in 1831 was, on the exterior, exceptionally fashionable, but on the interior socially anachronistic. The floor plan and main elevation of the original dwelling was oriented towards the land rather than the river. This important shift signalled a significant reorientation of buildings beginning in the early-nineteenth century in St. Mary's County. Like the rebuilding of Cross Manor (SM-3) which occurred twenty years later in the 1850s, Blair chose to situate his house facing the road thereby directing visitors into the two front rooms that were also the two most ornate spaces in his house--the "parlor" and the "dining room." By having a direct exterior access into his parlor, however, Blair went against what was domestic convention at that time. By the early-nineteenth century, house plans typically featured a hall or passage that would have served as an intermediary space between the dining room and parlor. Instead, Blair chose to follow a much more conservative open plan that has many similarities to the original plan at Riverview (SM-120) which was built in 1730. The decorative hierarchy of the house focused attention on the front two rooms as they were heated by large fireplaces that featured elaborate mantles similar in style to those found in contemporary houses such as Bloomfield (SM-205), Fenwick Free (SM-17), as well as De La Brooke Manor (SM-94). Immediately behind these rooms was a small passage, with an undecorated winder stair, flanked on either side by chambers whose partition walls were constructed of vertical beaded boards. These walls also feature rails with inserted pegs for hanging clothing--all features that rarely survive. A probate inventory performed after William Blair's death in 1872 provides a vivid picture of how these spaces functioned. In the room-by-room assessment, the parlor's social function was easily recognized through the presence of furniture such as a dozen "cane bottom chairs," a "rocking chair," a "settee," two "pictures," two "spittoons," a "Lot of books," as well as three sets of "Green Curtains" among other things. The dining room had the most items in the house as it had a wide array of eating utensils, more formal wares, as well as a table and bedstead. Because of the passage's small size it only featured one item--an "oil cloth." Four other rooms were enumerated. Three were presumably bed chambers while the other was used for domestic functions such as ironing or food storage. Only one of these rooms was apparently heated for Room # 3 had the lone set of andirons.

While the inventory provides insight into how the individual spaces of the main house functioned, several changes made to the dwelling in the early-twentieth century reveal how the Johnson family desired a more modern exterior appearance. Their modifications included raising the roof to incorporate a full second story, building a hipped roof, and erecting colonial revival porches on both the river and land elevations. These changes gave the house a boxy appearance similar in style to houses called "four squares" constructed in the 1920s. Extant examples of this house type include the McNey House (SM-536) and the Hutchins House (SM-558) which are both located in Leonardtown. The rafters from the original house were probably used to frame the roof of a nearby stable.

Along with building the main house, William Blair also probably constructed the double log quarter that currently lies just to the southeast of his home place. This horizontal log structure only features one cell of the two original cells that shared a central brick fireplace. The logs were joined at the corners with half-dovetail notches. Interestingly, the interior features four vertical posts--one at each corner--that further solidify or buttress the notching. These vertical posts are alternately pegged into the two sides and lie directly on a plank floor--although the floor might be a later covering over an original dirt floor. A vertical line of peg holes located on either side of the chimney on the exterior of the quarter suggest that the walls were further strengthened. This rare form of log construction can be found on a range of buildings in the county including tobacco houses, corn cribs, as well as slave quarters such as those located at Old Patuxent Farm (SM-527),

SM-125, Blair's Purchase  
St. Mary's County  
8.3 Significance

Sotterley (SM-7), as well as the Bond Property Tobacco Barn (SM-245). While Cary Carson noted that similar construction methods were used in Cecil County as well as the Eastern Shore of Maryland, these buildings suggest the maintenance of earthfast construction methods for dwellings even into the nineteenth century.

In his study of African-American culture in Southern Maryland, George McDaniel interviewed Clem Dyson, a tenant, born at the Blair's Purchase quarter. Dyson, born in the 1890s, remembered that a nearly identical building was located on the other side of the chimney but was torn down because it had become dangerously deteriorated. Prior to Clem Dyson's recollections, the building was probably used to house William Blair's slaves prior to the Civil War. The 1850 slave census listed Blair as owning 10 slaves. Even after the Civil War African-Americans contributed to the productivity and daily life of the farm. Bernard Johnson, in an application for the Maryland State Century Farm, noted that several tenants lived on the property until relatively recently. They included John Ellice, 1850, Jarriot Dyson, 1870, Isaac Dyson, 1890, Frank Simpson, 1919, Henry Armstrong, 1927, Benedict Herbert, 1954, Ernest Armstrong, 1981, and James Gordon. Mr. Johnson writes further that his family more or less "adopted" John Francis Barnes when he was 10 years old and had the young man live at Blair's Purchase until he married. He affectionately remembers that Mr. Barnes took care of the cattle and farm as well as look after the children occasionally.

SM-125, Blair's Purchase  
St. Mary's County  
8.4 Significance

Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber MRB 71, Folio 313

Grantee: Bernard I. Johnson

Grantor: Bernard I. Johnson, personal representative of J. Julius Johnson

Date: June 3, 1980

Notes: The deed notes the transfer of 239 acres called "Part of Rich Neck," "Maiden Bower," "Blair's Purchase," "Susan Blair Farm," and "Part of Bushwood Manor." J. Julius Johnson died on October 24, 1978. His last will (November 23, 1958) bequeathed the farm to Bernard I. and J. Leonard Johnson. J. Leonard Johnson, however, died on November 5, 1962 leaving Bernard the sole owner (see Estate No. 2911).

Reference: Liber CBG 17, Folio 269

Grantee: J. Julius and Lillian M. Johnson

Grantor: Mary R. Fowler

Date: July 20, 1945

Notes: This deed transfers 215 acres of "that portion of the farm of the late Susan Blair Mattingly called "The Upper Farm, the Home Farm, or Blair's Purchase."

Reference: Liber CBG 17, Folio 268

Grantee: Mary R. Fowler

Grantor: J. Julius Johnson and Lillian M. Johnson

Date: July 20, 1945

Notes: After William Blair died on April 5, 1872, his daughter Susan Blair inherited the property. She eventually married Ignatius Enders Mattingly. Her daughter Lillian Mattingly married Joseph Julius Johnson and they received the farm when Susan Blair died in January of 1927.

Reference: Liber JH 9, Folio 138

Grantee: William Blair

Grantor: William H. Plowden

Date: September 13, 1831

Notes: The property, called "Part of Rich Neck" or "Maiden Bower" as well as Blair's Purchase contained 317 acres. It was purchased by Blair for \$ 3,963.12. There is also an inventory for William Blair in St. Mary's County Register of Wills, Inventories, JTMR 3, 239.

SM-125  
BLAIR'S PURCHASE  
Bushwood  
Private

early 19th century

The initial stage of this house consisted of a  
1 1/2-story frame structure built on stone foundation walls  
which enclose a full cellar. At a later time, the roof  
was raised to a full second floor height and a kitchen  
addition built at one end.

Originally the property was part of the St. Clement's  
Manor grant to Dr. Thomas Gerrard. In the early 19th  
century it was acquired by members of the Blair family and  
became part of the Bushwood Manor tract.

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1901255304

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: St. Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Blair's Purchase

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Historically: Part of St. Clements Manor / Rich Neck, Maiden Bower; Part of Bushwood Manor, Susan Blair Farm

Later, also known as: Part of

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
---  
215 acres located on the SW side of (State Road 238) It is adjacent to the county road known as the Bushwood road, and on the SE side thereof. This road extends between State 238 and State 239 contacting the latter at Bushwood Wharf, 12 miles NW of Leonardtown via 238, 242, 234 & 5

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bushwood

STATE: Maryland CODE: COUNTY: St. Mary's CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:  
Joseph Julius Johnson

STREET AND NUMBER:  
---

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bushwood

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
20618

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Liber J.H. No. 9, Folio 138 / Tax District 7 - Account # 451300

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1954 - J. Julius Johnson

(Same as in 2 above) Chain of title: 1945 - J. Julius Johnson & Lillian

CITY OR TOWN:  
M. Johnson (late 1927, L.M. Johnson) STATE: Md. CODE:

1927 - Lillian M. Johnson & Marie M. Bailey, 1872 - Susan Blair

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 215 Mattingly

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

1831 - William H. Blair

- William H. Plowden

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None known

DATE OF SURVEY:  
Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Leonardtown

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Estimate date of house construction 1764

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The property was originally a part of St. Clements Manor which consisted of about 18,000 to 20,000 acres granted to Dr. Thomas Gerard soon after the settling of Maryland in 1634. By inheritance, the property eventually was owned by William H. Plowden the owner of Bushwood Manor which is adjacent to Blair's Purchase. This occurred April 8, 1831. On September 13, 1831 the then 317 acres known as Blair's Purchase was bought by William Blair; the property has remained with William Blair's lineage since that time. William Blair's granddaughters divided the property so that the present Blair's Purchase consists of 215 acres.

The house is put together with wooden pegs; the cellar walls are of large stones. There is a separate building behind the main house which was originally a slave house and later served as the kitchen until a kitchen was added to the main house.

*of Blair's Purchase*  
About 90 acres are under cultivation; approximately 100 acres are wooded and serve as wildlife refuge.

Data from:  
Chronicles of St. Mary's, Vol 12, No. 5, May, 1964  
Vol. 12, No. 12, December, 1964  
Deed, St. Mary's County Land Records Liber C.B.G., No. 17, Folio 268, July 20, 1945

Persons of ownership:  
1831 William Blair  
1872 Susan Blair (Mattingly)  
Ignatius E. Mattingly - Member of Maryland House of Delegates  
- Engrossing <sup>clerk</sup> of the Maryland Senate  
- President of the Board of School Commissioners of St. Mary's Co. at time of his death Jan. 29, 1897.  
1927 Lillian Mattingly Johnson - President, St. Mary's Co. School Bd.  
- Home Demonstration Agent  
1945 Joseph Julius Johnson - County Agricultural Agent - 25 years until retirement, 1958

Data from:  
Personal knowledge  
St. Mary's Beacon - February, 1897

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

N. R. FIELD SHEET

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

*Refer to Item 8*  
*St. Mary's Beacon February 1897*  
*Liber J. H. No. 9, folio 138*

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA** *ROCK POINT QUAD*

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
*Bernard Ignatius Johnson (only heir of owners)*

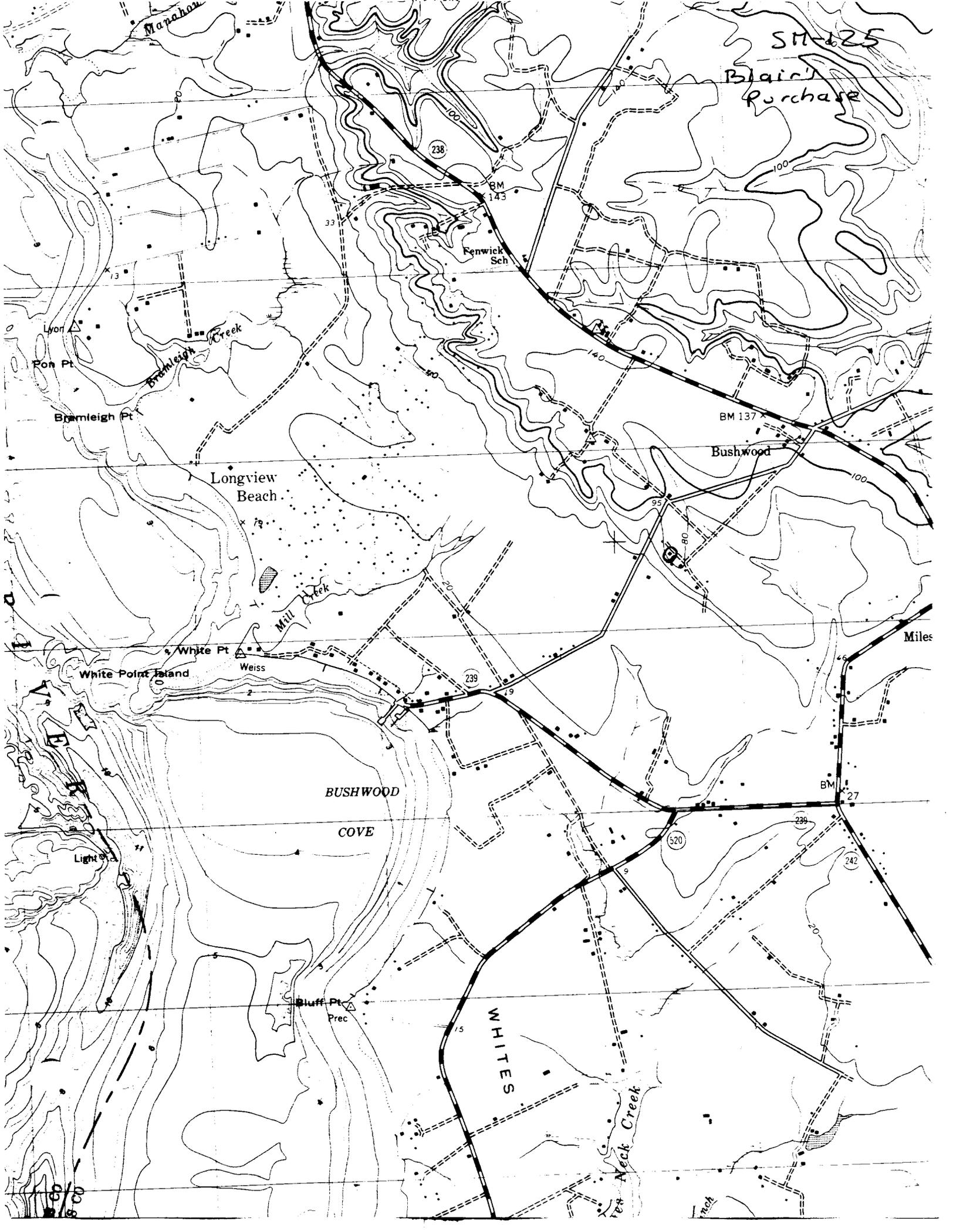
ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_ DATE  
*January 10, 1970*

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

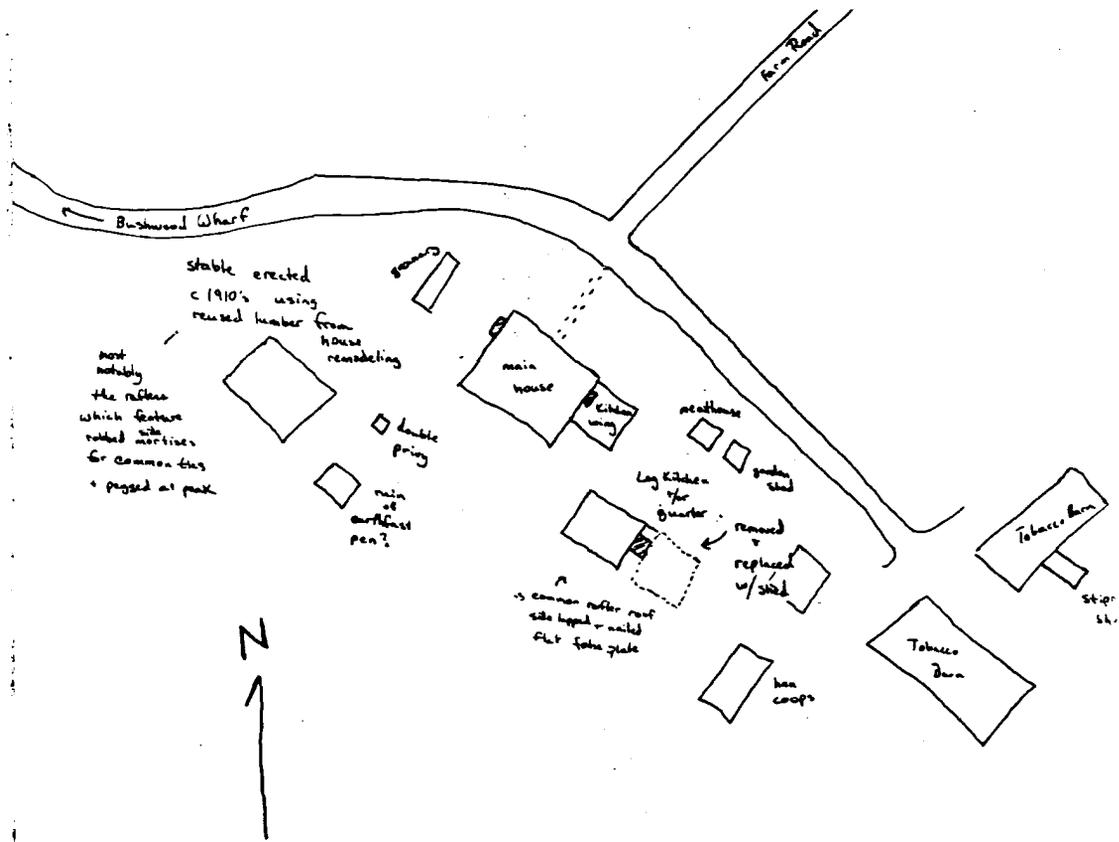
CITY OR TOWN: *Bushwood* STATE *Maryland* CODE *20618*

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____  <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____  <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>

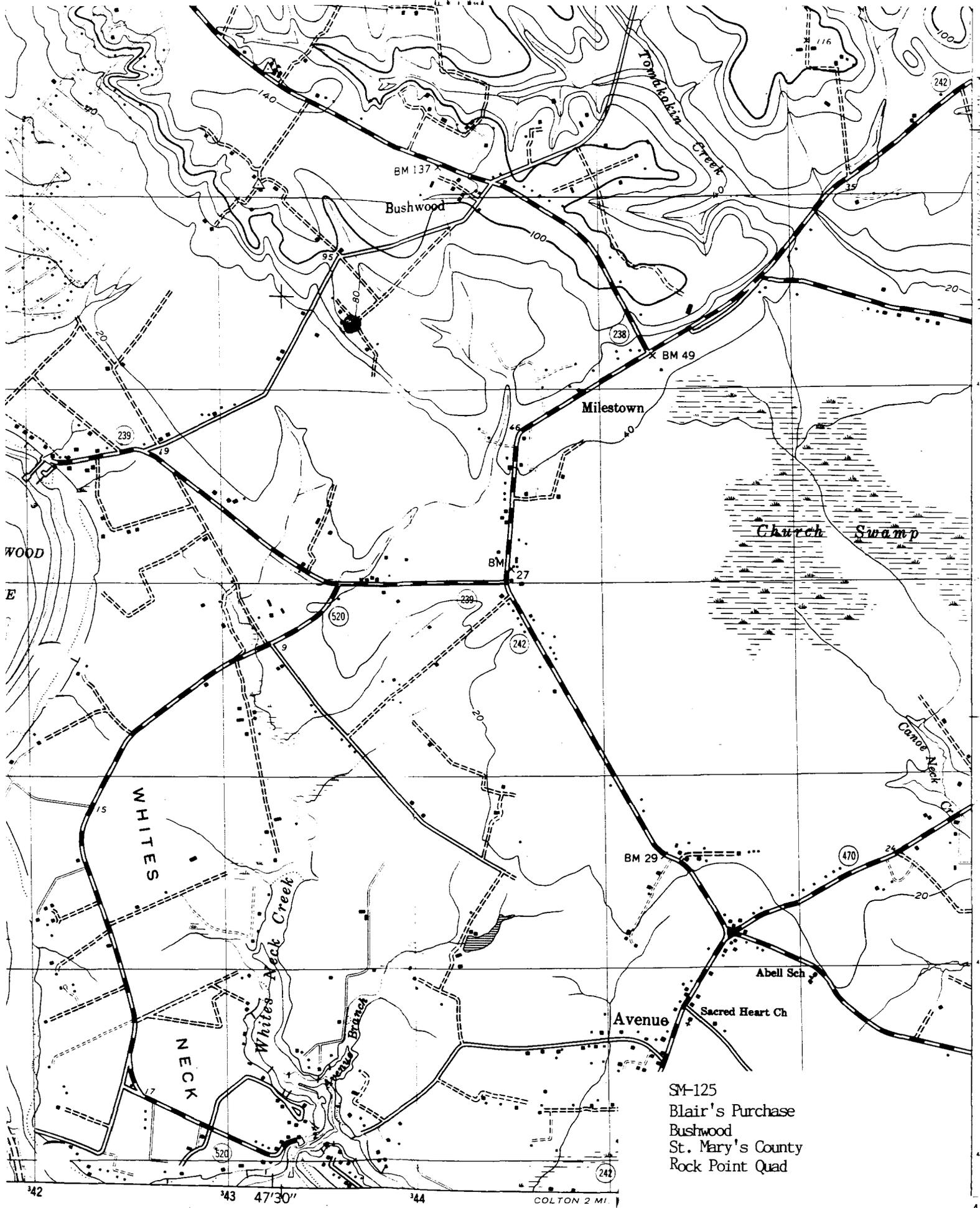
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



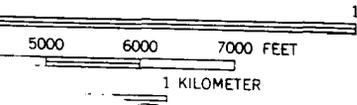
SM-125, Blair's Purchase  
St. Mary's County  
8.5 Significance



Site plan for Blair's Purchase, Bushwood vicinity, Maryland. Drawn by Kirk E. Ranzetta.



SM-125  
 Blair's Purchase  
 Bushwood  
 St. Mary's County  
 Rock Point Quad



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
 Medium-duty Light-duty

COLTON 2 MI.



211-125

Blair's Purchase

St. Mary's County

Kirk Pinnette

Dec/97

KJ SHPO

2x W elevations - environments

1 of 7



SM-125

Blair's Purchase

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Dec/97

Md SHPO

S+E elevations -

2 of 7



SN-125

Blair's Purchase

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Dec/97

MD SHPO

N elevation

3 of 7



SM-125

Blair's Purchase

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Dec/97

Md SHPO

interior - mantel - looking E

4 of 7



SM-125

Blair's Purchase

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranetta

Dec/97

Md SHPO

View from slave quarter towards main house - looking N

5 of 7



SM-125A

Blair's Purchase

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Dec/97

MD SHPO

Interior close quarters - looking S

6 of 7



SM-125

Blair's Purchase

St Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

Dec/97

hd SHPO

Next house + tool shed - looking N

7 of 7