



A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY  
OF BOSTWICK HOUSE  
BLADENSBURG, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY,  
MARYLAND

PREPARED FOR  
THE TOWN OF BLADENSBURG

PREPARED BY  
JOHN MILNER ASSOCIATES, INC.  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

DRAFT REPORT

DECEMBER 2007

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Prepared for  
The Town of Bladensburg

By  
Lynn D. Jones, RPA

**JOHN MILNER ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
5250 Cherokee Avenue, Suite 300  
Alexandria, VA 22312

Draft Report

December 2007

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The documentary research provides a background history of the Bostwick House with a focus on occupants, ownership, and site plan. This history of the house and grounds focusing on use of the property and changes in the property over time will aid the Town of Bladensburg in planning future archeological projects and interpreting the results.

John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA), staff member Lynn Jones met with the Town of Bladensburg project manager Imani Kazana to review existing research results. JMA's research was conducted at a number of libraries, in archival sources and on the internet. These sources included primary records at the Register of Wills office for Prince George's County, at the Prince George's County Courthouse in Upper Marlboro and at the Maryland Archives in Annapolis, Maryland. Research in secondary sources and maps was conducted at the Prince George's Historical Society at Marietta House in Glenn Dale, Maryland, and at the Hyattsville Library in Hyattsville. Maps were also collected from National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland, and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Multiple generations of three families have owned and occupied Bostwick House: the Lowndes family, the Stephen family, and the Kyner family. The house was owned for a short time by William Knight, and was rented by the Stiers and, later, by Col. Thomas Barclay. The occupants of Bostwick House included enslaved African Americans, and it is possible that indentured or convict servants also lived at Bostwick. Christopher Lowndes, who built the house in 1746, employed indentured and convict servants and he owned slaves. Some of these people may have lived and worked at Bostwick. Benjamin Stoddert, John Stephen and Nicholas Stephen all owned slaves during their ownership and occupancy of Bostwick. After the Civil War, Nicholas Stephen employed both black and white servants who lived at Bostwick.

The owners made a number of changes to the house, outbuildings, and driveways on the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These changes included adding buttresses to the south wall of the house, construction of a separate kitchen building, construction of a porch across the east (rear) elevation of the house and a vestibule projecting from the front (west) entrance of the house, and the addition of a terraced front yard. These changes may have affected archeological deposits near the house. Removal of several brick outbuildings and the remaining garden wall north of the kitchen wing and conversion of several outbuildings to other uses may have affected archeological deposits near those buildings in which slaves may have lived.

No early maps or plats were located that would show eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century driveways or changes made to them. The approaches to the house and to the outbuildings appear on maps dating 1878 and 1940. In 1878, one driveway led from Spring Street (now 48<sup>th</sup> Street) eastward to the front of the house, and one led from the street at the south edge of the property northward to the outbuildings. By 1940, both driveways extended from 48<sup>th</sup> Street, one to the front of the house and the other south and then east to the outbuildings.

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Town of Bladensburg contracted with John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA), to conduct documentary research concerning the Bostwick House at 3901 48<sup>th</sup> Street. Bladensburg purchased Bostwick in 1997 and is planning to restore and rehabilitate the house and make alterations to the grounds. Before ground-disturbing activities take place, the Town of Bladensburg needs a background history and land-use history of the house and grounds to aid in planning archeological projects and interpreting the property.

Lynn Jones conducted the research from early September 2007 until the middle of November 2007 and wrote the report. Joseph Balicki supervised the project. Sarah Ruch and Mary Paradise prepared the graphics; Casey Gonzalez formatted and produced the document, with the assistance of Marcia Gibbs.

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## 2.0 RESEARCH

### 2.1 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The documentary research was designed to provide basic background history of the property, focusing on the occupants, ownership, and site plan of the property. Occupants during the first 130 years included enslaved Africans or African-Americans, indentured servants, and convicts sent from England, as well as owners or renters of the property. The 8-acre property consisted of the three lots (46, 52, and 53) that Christopher Lowndes bought in the early eighteenth century and the adjacent land to the east that he bought later, on which the outbuildings are located.

Research addressed these questions:

Who owned the Bostwick property? How did it pass from one owner to another? How did the owners use the property? As a home and working farm, an investment property to rent, a place to which to retire?

Who worked at Bostwick? What were the names of the enslaved people? Did indentured or convict servants work there? Where did the enslaved people or other servants and workers live?

What changes had been made to the grounds over 250 years? What outbuildings existed and where were they located? Had the locations of outbuildings changed over time? Where were the driveways, walkways, pathways, entrances or exits located, and had they been changed?

### 2.2 RESEARCH METHODS

Before beginning the research, JMA staff member Lynn Jones met with Imani Kazana, project manager for the Town of Bladensburg, to determine what information and historic documents the town had already collected about Bostwick. Research was conducted in primary records at the Register of Wills office for Prince George's County and at the Prince George's County Courthouse in Upper Marlboro and at the Maryland Archives in Annapolis, Maryland. Research in secondary sources and maps was conducted at the Prince George's Historical Society at Marietta House in Glenn Dale, Maryland, and at the Hyattsville Library in Hyattsville. Maps were also collected from National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland, and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

### 3.0 RESULTS OF RESEARCH

Bostwick was built shortly after the Town of Bladensburg was established. It is the oldest surviving building in historic Bladensburg and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) since 1975 (Pearl 1998).

Three families have owned and occupied Bostwick: the Lowndes family, the Stephen family, and the Kyner family. The property was also occupied by renters at various times.

#### 3.1 THE LOWNDES FAMILY (1742-1816):

##### 3.1.1 CHRISTOPHER LOWNDES

Christopher Lowndes, born in England about 1713, came to the American Colonies in the late 1730s, as a factor (agent) for Henry and Edward Trafford, merchants, of Liverpool (Owen 1974). In 1738, he purchased a lot (Lot 22) on the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River from William Beall (Prince George's County Deed Book [PGDB] T:633), which he later conveyed to Henry and Edward Trafford of Liverpool (Johnston 1951; PGDB Y:293). This lot may have been where their business was located.

Lowndes settled in Bladensburg and became a successful merchant, establishing his own import/export business, Christopher Lowndes and Company, dealing in spices, building supplies, and dry goods in both Maryland and Liverpool, England (Owen 1974; Johnston 1951). Lowndes and Benjamin Tasker also imported slaves and sold them in Bladensburg and at the Severn River in Annapolis (*Maryland Gazette* 1752). Lowndes also had a shipyard to build ocean-going ships and built a ropewalk to manufacture rope for the rigging of ships. Much of the rope needed for ships built in Maryland during the Revolution came from Lowndes' ropewalk. In 1755, Lowndes placed an advertisement in the *Maryland Gazette* newspaper telling the various kinds of rope and lines that were manufactured at his ropewalk and offering to deliver orders free of charge (*Maryland Gazette* 1755). In 1761, Lowndes bought a tract of land in Prince George's County called Simon and Jane, containing 107 acres, for the use of his company, which included Lowndes, as well as John Hardman, William Whalley, and Edward Lowndes in England (Johnston 1951; PGDB RR:154).

When the Town of Bladensburg was established in 1742, Christopher Lowndes bought Lot 52 (Figure 1). In 1746, he completed Bostwick, a 2 ½-story brick house named for Bostock, his family home in England (Owen 1974). Lowndes soon bought adjoining Lots 46 and 53 (Pearl 1998). Descriptions of the house can be found in the NRHP nomination form and in the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) form (Lavoie 1990).

Lowndes also built houses for several of his children as well as a church and perhaps other public buildings in or around Bladensburg (Lavoie 1990). Lowndes built three houses in Bladensburg for his sons: the Parthenon, Blenheim, and Shady Side (Wright 1977:33).

Lowndes also owned farmland outside of Bladensburg; he may have had several farms in the area. An advertisement in the *Maryland Gazette* in September 1745 reports that two bay horses belonging to Christopher Lowndes were stolen or strayed out of his pasture near Bladensburg. Lowndes described the horses and said the men who took the horses also stole two guns and remnants of cloth from his store the previous night (Van Horn 1996:83; *Maryland Gazette* 1745).

In another advertisement in the *Maryland Gazette* dated 1760, Christopher Lowndes offers for sale a 480-acre tract of land known as “Good Luck” located five miles from Bladensburg. The land has excellent soil, timber, “a dwelling house, buildings proper for Negroes and two large tobacco barns” (Van Horn 1996:112).

Lowndes employed indentured servants, convict servants, and enslaved people on his properties and in his businesses. Between 1745 and 1755, he posted advertisements in the *Maryland Gazette* for 12 servants who had run away, some having stolen items from his store or other businesses.

**Table 1. Runaway Servants**

Servant Name	Age	Occupation	Date Escaped	Nationality	Reference
John Bateman		stone mason, bricklayer	Oct. 28, 1745	English	<i>Maryland Gazette</i> (Md. Gaz.) Nov. 8, 1745
Thomas Batler	30	possibly a plasterer	Sept.	Irish	Md. Gaz. Sept. 14, 1748
Michael Wallace	17	smith	Feb. 17, 1750	Irish	Md. Gaz. Feb. 19, 1750
Thomas Batler		carter, bricklayer or plasterer, sailor	Sept. 4, 1750	Irish	Md. Gaz. Sept. 12, 1750
George Eccleand	30	sailor or carpenter	July 26, 1752		Md. Gaz. July 30, 1752
John Frances		shoemaker	July 26, 1752		Md. Gaz. July 30, 1752
John Kettle	25		September	English	Md. Gaz. Oct. 26, 1752
Bartholemew Combs	30	bricklayer, stone mason	Aug. 23, 1753		Md. Gaz. Aug. 16, 1753
Francis Illett	21	farmer or miller	Aug. 23, 1753	English	Md. Gaz. Aug. 16, 1753
Peter Corbett	23	rope maker	Aug. 23, 1753	English	Md. Gaz. Aug. 16, 1753
James Samples			Oct. 13, 1755		Md. Gaz. Oct. 23, 1755
John Owen			Oct. 13, 1755		Md. Gaz. Oct. 23, 1755

Lowndes owned slaves who worked at his shipyard, his ropewalk, the store, and at Bostwick in Bladensburg, and at his farms on the outskirts of town. As early as 1739, Lowndes purchased two slaves, one named Dick and the other named Chloe, from James Freeman (PGDB Y:94). There was one advertisement in the *Gazette* for a runaway slave belonging to Lowndes. The man’s name was Joe and he had worked for Lowndes as a ship caulker and carpenter (*Maryland Gazette* Sept. 13, 1765). Lowndes’ wife, Elizabeth Tasker Lowndes, inherited slaves from her father’s estate, and these enslaved people may have been brought to Bladensburg to work at Bostwick or at Lowndes’ businesses. Two of them, Philip Sullivan and Arabella Payne, were manumitted after Elizabeth Lowndes’ death (PGDB JJ2:476). Two other enslaved persons, part of Christopher Lowndes’ estate, were manumitted by Benjamin Lowndes in 1791 (PGDB JJ 2:483). These were children named Dillon and Isaac.

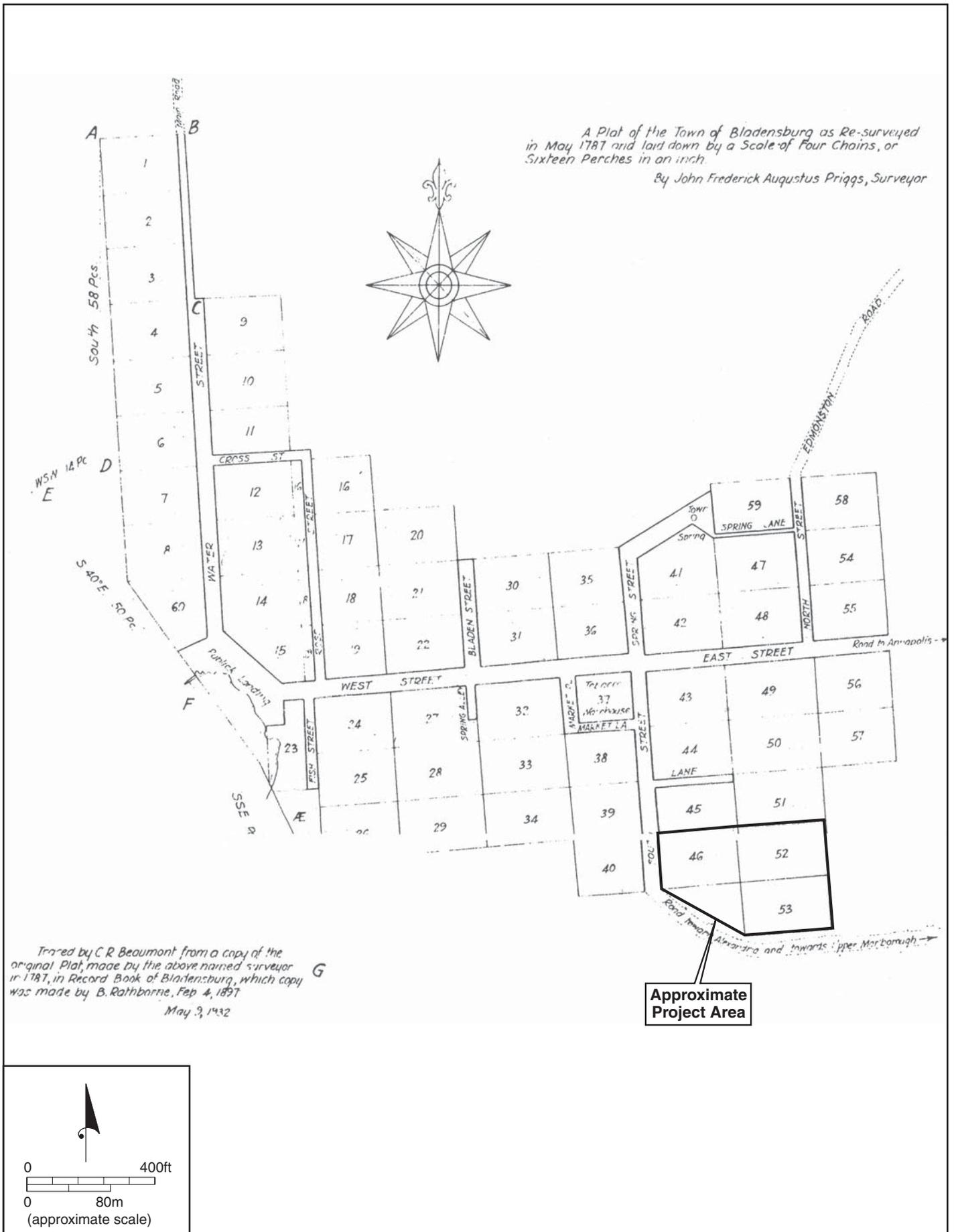


Figure 1. Plan of the Town of Bladensburg when it was established in 1742 (Beaumont 1932).



The Maryland census of 1776 listed Lowndes as owning 41 slaves (Carothers 2000). At Lowndes' death on January 8, 1785, in Bladensburg, 37 slaves were named in the inventory of his possessions (PGI ST:1) (Appendix I). It is not known how these slaves were distributed across Lowndes' holdings. Many of these people probably worked and lived on farms or at businesses owned by Lowndes.

Few slaves worked as domestic servants. From a group of 50 slaves, only five or six would be employed to work in the house (Vlach 1993:18). On one plantation, the owner had 10 slaves working in and around the house, but his wife complained that there were too many servants and half should be sent away (Vlach 1993:18). At Bostwick, a man named Isaac most likely worked in the house. He may have been a cook or the butler who served at the table. The inventory listed many kitchen and dining items, such as tea pots, coffee and tea cups, bowls, plates, tea tray, and iron pots, as being the contents of "Isaac's Cupboard."

Documentary records did not indicate where the enslaved people lived. In many instances, especially in towns or cities, slaves lived where they worked (Wade 1964:57). A common arrangement was that a separate kitchen, a storage building, or a stable was built one and one-half or two stories high with the work area on the first floor and living area above (Wade 1964:57). This may have been the case at Bostwick. Sometimes slaves were housed in the basement or ground floor of the owner's house. For instance, at the Carroll House in Annapolis, the kitchen and sewing room were located in the ground floor of the house. Archeological excavation revealed that these areas were also where slaves probably lived (Logan et al. 1992:137). There was no evidence of slave cabins on the Carroll property.

Although no contemporary plats or drawings were located that showed the placement of buildings, driveways or walkways during Lowndes' occupation of Bostwick, the 1798 tax assessment listed buildings in the town. Lots 52 and 53 contained a two-story brick house measuring 56 by 34 ft., a separate kitchen, a carriage house, a wash house, a hen house, a meat house and a milk house (both constructed of brick), and a store room on two acres of land (PGTA 1798). These were valued at \$2,500. Lot 46, shown as having no structures, was valued at \$50.

After Christopher Lowndes' death, his son Benjamin Lowndes inherited Bostwick, but Christopher's widow Elizabeth Tasker Lowndes lived there until her death in September 1789 (Pearl 1998). After Elizabeth's death, the Bostwick property was managed by their daughter Rebecca and son-in-law, Benjamin Stoddert (Pearl 1998).

### *3.1.2 REBECCA LOWNDES STODDERT AND BENJAMIN STODDERT*

Rebecca Lowndes married Benjamin Stoddert in 1781. Stoddert was a merchant in Georgetown who served as Secretary of the Board of War from 1779 to 1781. He was the first president of the Bank of Columbia and was associated with the Board of Trade where he came to the attention of John Adams who was president of the board (Holmes and Wiedenhoef nd.) When Adams was elected President, Stoddert was appointed the first Secretary of the Navy in 1798 (Holmes and Wiedenhoef nd; Pearl 1998).

Rebecca and Benjamin Stoddert had control of the Bostwick property from 1789 until 1799, when they purchased the property. Tax records before 1799 show the Bostwick property still in the possession of Christopher Lowndes' heirs (PGTA 1793, 1796). Bostwick was purchased by the

Stodderts in 1799 as a result of several convoluted court cases, but the deed apparently was not recorded (Pearl 1998; Pearl, pers. comm. 2007).

Benjamin Stoddert had already purchased land in Prince George's County by 1796 (PGTA 1796). One of the tracts was called Beall's Pleasure; some sources state that he built a brick mansion on it by 1795 (Day nd), however, tax records show no improvements to the property from 1793 to the 1820s.

Stoddert may have bought Bostwick as an investment, a summer house, or as a place in which to live after his retirement. In 1800 he divided and sold some of his land in Georgetown and near Rock Creek and donated some of his land to the new federal city, Washington, D.C. (Holmes and Wiedenhoeft nd). By 1803, he may have been living at Bostwick.

### **3.1.1.1 Rental to Stier**

Stoddert rented Bostwick House to Henri Stier and his wife, Marie Louise Peeters, from October 1800 to August 1802 (Callcott 1991:35). The Stier family had come to the United States in 1794 and rented houses in Philadelphia and Annapolis before moving to Bladensburg. In September 1800, Stier purchased 729 acres of land near Bladensburg on which to build a plantation (Riversdale) and rented Bostwick House from Stoddert to live in while his new house was under construction (Callcott 1991:25). Mr. and Mrs. Stier moved into Bostwick in October 1800 and then moved into their new house, Riversdale, in August 1802 (Callcott 1991:25). They lived at Riversdale until June 1803, when they returned to Belgium (Callcott 1991:39).

Stier's daughter Rosalie had married George Calvert in 1799 and lived on Calvert's plantation, Mt. Albion, on the Patuxent River (Callcott 1991:20-22). In a letter to her brother, who had returned to Belgium, she tells of visiting their parents in the house in Bladensburg (Bostwick) for Christmas 1801. She notes that the house is the cause for the numerous colds and sicknesses suffered by both parents because "neither the doors or the windows close properly and when it is cold we freeze" (Callcott 1991:31).

Mrs. Stier wrote that she was not sure they could move to the new house before summer, but she was anxious to leave the Bladensburg house as it was plagued by rats and she was always catching cold (Callcott 1991:32-33). She also tells of good news: a grandson was born in February 1802 at the Bladensburg house to their daughter Isabelle.

Rosalie Stier Calvert was acquainted with the sons of Christopher Lowndes. In an 1803 letter to her parents, who had returned to Belgium, she tells of social events and of people her parents had known when they lived in Bladensburg. She hosted a dinner at her house (Riversdale) that included among the guests Richard Lowndes. The following Tuesday she dined at Richard Lowndes' house along with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lowndes (Callcott 1991:54, 56). She mentions that she doesn't often see the Ben Lowndes family, who lived across the street from Bostwick when the Stiers had rented it (Callcott 1991:56).

### **3.1.1.2 Stoddert Occupation**

Benjamin Stoddert was listed in the 1790 Maryland census as living in Georgetown. The household then consisted of 3 white males 16 years and over, 1 white male under 16 years, one white female, 1 black male over 16 years, and 13 slaves (Maryland Census 1790). The 1796 tax records for Prince George's County show that Stoddert owned 1,043 acres of land near Bladensburg (PGTA 1796).

The Stoddert family was listed in the federal census for 1800 as still living in Georgetown; the family consisted of 3 males under 10 years of age, 1 male 10 to 16 years, 1 male aged 45 years or more, 3 females under 10 years, 1 female 10 to 16 years, 1 female 26 to 45 years of age, and 11 slaves (USBC 1800). Tax assessments for Prince George's County show that he owned Lots 46, 52 and 53 in Bladensburg, as well as land outside of town (PGTA 1800).

Benjamin Stoddert and several of his children may have lived at Bostwick after the Stiers had moved out in August 1802. However, Rebecca Stoddert died in February 1802 in Williamsburg and could not have lived in the house between 1800 and 1802. Benjamin Stoddert was listed in the 1810 census as living in Bladensburg; the household listed consisted of 2 white males aged 10 to 16, 1 white male aged 45 or older, 1 white female aged 10 to 16 years, 2 white females aged 16 to 26, and 17 slaves (USBC 1810). Real estate tax assessments for 1810 show that Stoddert owned the Bostwick property and had added greatly to the land he owned on the outskirts of town (PGTA 1810). Personal property included 10 slaves and other personal property valued at \$474 (PGTA 1810).

Stoddert made a number of changes to the house and grounds while he lived at Bostwick. He added the detached kitchen at the north end of the house and the large buttress on the exterior south wall of the house to support the chimney. Local tradition holds that the buttress also included chambers to be used as a jail for unruly slaves (Lavoie 1990).

In October 1810, Benjamin Stoddert's son Richard died in Bladensburg at the age of 18 years (*National Intelligencer* October 15, 1810). Benjamin Stoddert died, heavily in debt, at Bostwick on December 17, 1813 (Pearl 1998; *Maryland Gazette* Dec. 29, 1813). The inventory of his personal property taken after his death included Queensware dishes for dining and for tea, silver utensils and hollowware, furniture, bedsteads, looking glasses, and 11 enslaved persons (PGI MSA #C 1228-15) (Appendix I). The inventory was valued at \$5,332. His property in Bladensburg was sold to pay his debts.

### 3.1.1.3 Other Renters

During the period after Stoddert's death in December 1813 until Bostwick was sold in 1816, the house may have been rented. During the War of 1812, Col. Thomas Barclay, the British commissioner for the exchange of prisoners, lived at Bostwick (Ridgway 2003:57). In 1814, Rosalie Calvert made reference to Barclay when she wrote to her father in Belgium that she will send her letter through Colonel Barclay, a neighbor who occupied "the late Mr. Stoddert's house" (Callcott 1991:264-265). Barclay left hurriedly before the British troops arrived, but his assistant, George Barton, stayed at Bostwick to guard the files and serve refreshments to the British officers. The British troops did not loot Bostwick (Ridgway 2003:57).

## 3.2 WILLIAM KNIGHT (1816-1822)

In a letter, dated 1816, Rosalie Stier Calvert wrote "Mr. Stoddert's house has been bought by a man from Baltimore who is quite insignificant and whom we do not count among our neighbors" (Callcott 1991:290). This was probably William Knight, who purchased Bostwick in 1816 from Richard Lowndes (PGDB JRM 16:616). Lowndes must have purchased it from the Stoddert estate. It is unclear whether Knight lived at Bostwick or elsewhere. However, the tax records for Prince George's County list his personal property in Bladensburg as including one slave between 8 and 14 years of age, one slave between 14 and 45/36 years, plate (household articles covered with precious

metal such as gold or silver) valued at \$60, and other property valued at \$438; the total valuation was \$638 (PGTA 1819, 1821, 1823). He owned the three lots that comprise Bostwick and Ropewalk Pasture, which was 47½ acres on the edge of town. Knight may have died intestate or may have sold the property; the next property transaction regarding Bostwick was a sale between lawyers representing an estate and John Stephen in 1839 (PGDB AB 12:134).

### **3.3 THE STEPHEN FAMILY (1822-1881):**

#### *3.3.1 JOHN STEPHEN*

In 1822, John Stephen bought Bostwick House. He may have paid only part of the money for the purchase and not recorded the deed at that time. In 1839, Stephen paid the remaining money to the estate of Robert Oliver who had mentioned Stephen in his will as having bought the Bostwick property and Ropewalk Pasture (PGDB AB 12:134).

John Stephen, a lawyer and judge, had married Juliana Jennings Brice of Annapolis. They had eight children, all boys. Their son John died at Bostwick on December 17, 1828, at the age of 14 (*Maryland Gazette* Dec. 24, 1828).

The tax assessment for 1828 listed John Stephen as owning Lots 46, 52, and 53 in Bladensburg, Ropewalk Pasture containing 47½ acres, 36 ounces of plate, and 2 slaves (Wilcox 1985). The assessed value of the house and grounds in town was \$3,466.67. The 1840 census listed Stephen and his wife and four children between the ages of 20 to 30 years (USBC 1840).

Stephen made a number of changes to the main house after he bought the property and may have made changes to or replaced outbuildings. He built a porch across the east (rear) elevation of the house and a vestibule projecting from the front (west) entrance of the house, among other things. Some of these changes may have affected archeological deposits near the house.

John Stephen died in 1844, and the inventory of his personal property included several pieces of mahogany furniture, silver, a number of carpets, a Franklin stove, and slaves named Eliza and Moses. The most expensive item on the inventory was his law library valued at \$384 (PGI MSA #C 1228-28) (Appendix I). At John Stephen's death, Bostwick House passed to his son Nicholas Carroll Stephen.

#### *3.3.2 NICHOLAS CARROLL STEPHEN*

Nicholas Carroll Stephen, a lawyer and the proprietor of the Paint Branch gristmill, inherited Bostwick. Nicholas Stephen and his wife were listed in the 1850 census and the value of his real estate at that time was \$9,500 (Pearl 1998; USBC 1850). The slave census showed that he owned 17 enslaved people (USBC 1850).

Stephen and his family may have lived at Bostwick or may have lived at Gretta, a county estate that had belonged to his wife's father, Dr. Benjamin Day. A document in the Prince George's County Historical Society's collection states that Nicholas and his family lived at Gretta, and that his brother Edmund Brice Stephen lived at Bostwick (Genealogy of the Brice and Stephen Families nd). A map dated 1861 shows E. B. Stephen living in Bladensburg (Figure 2), but the square that represents his house seems to be northeast of where Bostwick would be located. Bostwick itself is not shown on this map. However, the 1860 census listed Carroll Stephen (Nicholas Carroll Stephen) as living next

to James Wilson and Francis Smith, a physician, whose names are shown on the 1861 map (Figure 2).

In 1860, (Nicholas) Carroll Stephen, his wife, and three children were listed in the census, as well as 33 enslaved people. Some of these people may have lived and worked at Bostwick, but many would have worked at his mill or on farms that Stephen owned. The 1860 slave census listed Stephen as having four slave houses, but it is unclear if these houses were located on a plantation outside of town or on the Bostwick property.

Stephen submitted an inventory of slaves after the Civil War to claim restitution. The inventory gives the names and health condition of each person (PGSS 1866) (Appendix I). In 1860, Stephen's real estate was valued at \$10,000 and personal property at \$2,000 (USBC 1860).

N. C. Stephen is shown as owner of the Bostwick property on a map of Bladensburg (Figure 3). The locations of the house and various outbuildings are shown, but there is no indication of slave houses on this map. The map shows two driveways leading into the property. One drive extends from Spring Street (now 48<sup>th</sup> Street) straight east to the front of the house. The other leads from an unnamed street (now Quincy Street) northward across the property to the west side of the outbuildings. The small triangular parcel at the southwest corner of the property was owned by Henry Shaffer, who also owned land across the street from Bostwick (Figure 3).

In 1870, the first census after slavery was abolished, the household consisted of Stephen, his wife, three children, and two Irish servants, Margaret Fitzgerald, aged 65; Jane McMulling, aged 30 years, and her 3-year-old son; and William Kelly, aged 23, a black man whose occupation was listed as farm laborer (USBC 1870). Mr. Kelly probably maintained the grounds, cared for horses, and acted as a vehicle driver.

Stephen's real estate was valued at \$20,000 and his personal property at \$2,000. In 1880 the household consisted of Nicholas Stephen, his wife Margaret, daughter Juliana, and son John, as well as Margaret Brooks, an Irish woman who worked as their cook (USBC 1880).

When Nicholas Stephen died in 1880 his inventory of personal possessions was valued at \$21,653.55 (PGI MSA #C 1228-34). It included a great deal of furniture, his law library, a few farm animals, a phaeton, a carriage, and cash in the bank (Appendix I).

### 3.3.3 JULIANA JENNINGS BRICE STEPHEN DIEUDONNE

Juliana J. B. Stephen, daughter of Nicholas Stephen, inherited Bostwick when her father died in 1880 (Figure 4) (PGDB WAJ 2:631). Her brother Benjamin D. Stephen administered their father's estate.

Juliana married Jules Dieudonne, an artist who had emigrated from Belgium in 1881 (USBC 1900). They and three of their children lived at Bostwick until the early twentieth century. While they lived at Bostwick, Jules painted murals on the paneled walls of the drawing room, "romantic landscapes typical of the period" (Owen 1974). During that period he also painted a landscape, oil on canvas, called "View of Bladensburg in Winter" (Maryland Art Source 2007). Jules exhibited paintings at the Washington Water Color Club and at the Society of Washington Artists. He was also a musician who played in several bands (McMahan 1995).

In 1898 the Dieudonnes mortgaged Bostwick (PGDB JB 2:675), but they defaulted on the mortgage, and the property had to be sold (Owens 1974; PGDB16:382). The sale of the property was advertised in the *Prince George's County Enquirer* on April 29, 1901. The advertisement mentioned "a brick dwelling containing 14 rooms, brick summer kitchen, brick wash house, brick hen house, commodious stable, carriage house, granary, feed house and cow shed. There is an abundance of fruit and ornamental trees." Photographs taken around this time show the front and rear of the house before the long porches were attached (Figures 5 and 6). Another photo shows the detached summer kitchen and another outbuilding (Figure 7).

### **3.4 THE KYNER FAMILY (1904-1997):**

#### *3.4.1 HETTIE AND JAMES H. KYNER*

Hettie Parker Kyner bought Bostwick in 1904 (PGDB 14:495). Two years later, James Kyner bought the small triangular parcel at the southwest corner of the Bostwick property and deeded it to Hettie (PGDB 30:381).

Hettie Kyner's name was Ruth Johanna Mehitable Parker and she was listed among the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). She married Major James Kyner, and they and lived with daughter Susanna at Bostwick in the early twentieth century. Their granddaughter lived there until 1997.

James Kyner had served as a private in the Union Army during the Civil War from October 1861 to June 1862. He was discharged for wounds on June 30, 1862, at Columbus, Ohio (Generations Network 1999). He had lost a leg at the battle of Shiloh. He attended college in Ohio and later moved to Nebraska, served in the legislature there, and worked on railroad building contracts. He made a fortune, lost it, and regained it before moving east with his second wife and small daughter in 1904 (Prince George's County Historical Society 1998).

After purchasing Bostwick, Kyner made a number of changes to the property. He built the upper terrace and retaining wall in front of the house and built a porch across the front of the house. These changes may have had an impact on archeological resources near the house. In addition, he demolished several brick outbuildings and removed the remaining garden wall north of the kitchen wing. He converted several other outbuildings to other uses. This may have had an impact on archeological deposits near those buildings, in which slaves may have lived.

In 1930, Hettie Kyner died and her will stipulated that all her real estate would go to her daughter. If her daughter died without issue, the real estate would be divided thus:

"The western section of the property known as Bostwick . . . including the house and well, with a line running direct north and bounded on the north by the Rogers property and south by the Landover Road, and my collection of books, furniture and antiques to the Daughters of the American Revolution to be kept and used by them . . . . The eastern section of said property containing the orchard, barns, and spring to go to the Animal Rescue League of Washington, D.C." (PGW Admin. #4677).

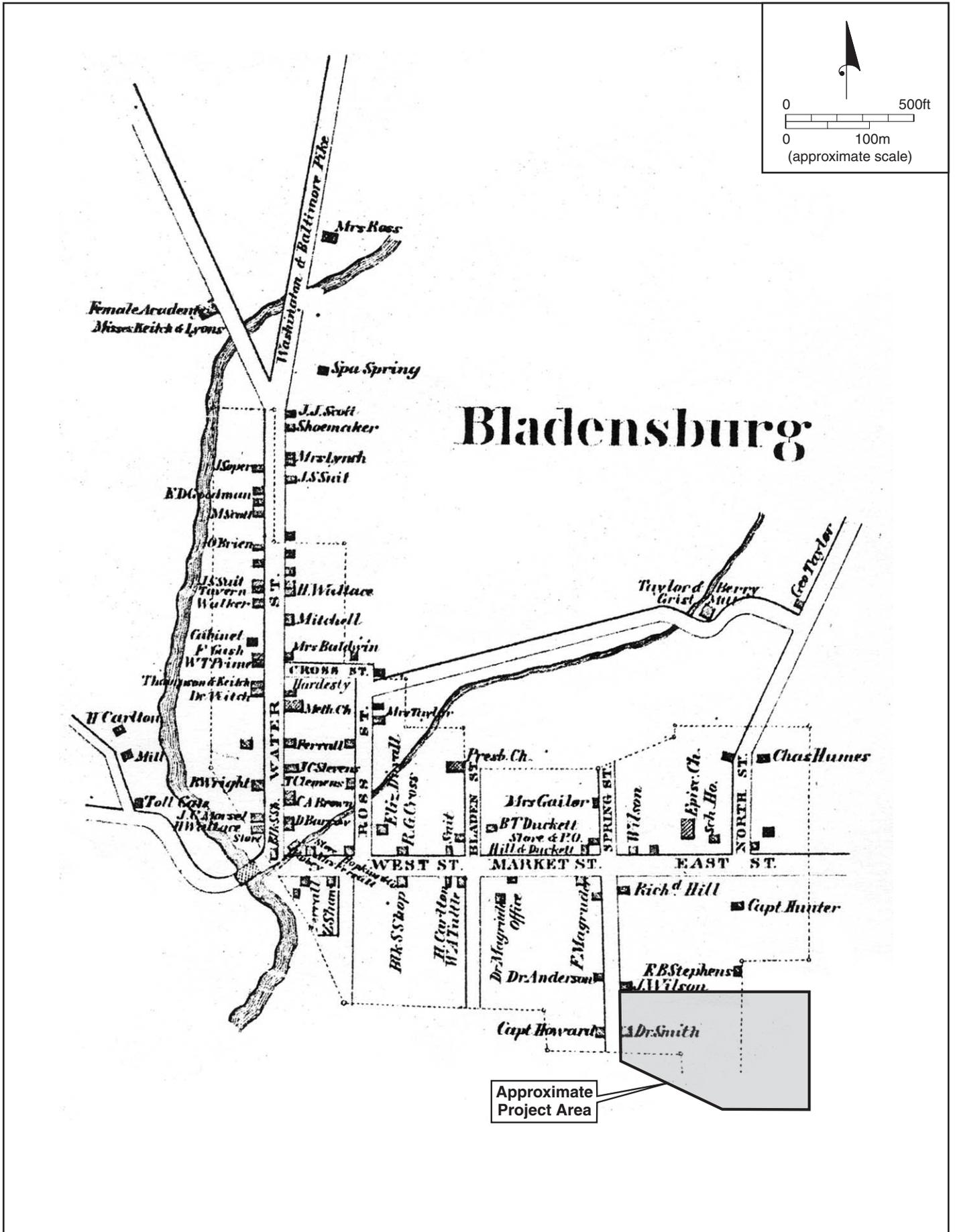


Figure 2. Map of Bladensburg showing the house of E. B. Stephen, brother of Nicholas Stephen (Martenet 1861).



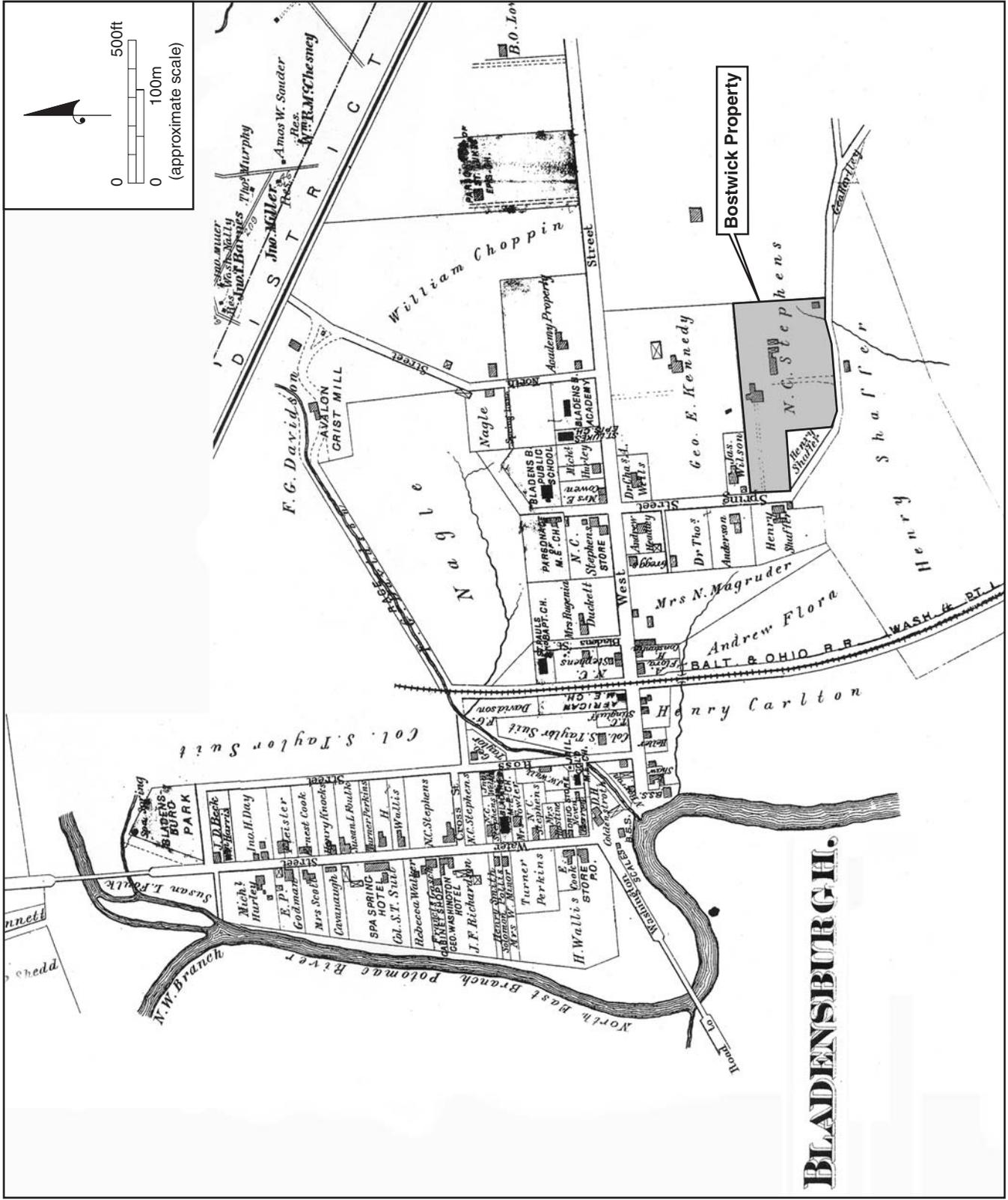


Figure 3. Map of Bladensburg showing the Bostwick property after N. C. Stephen had inherited it (Hopkins 1878).



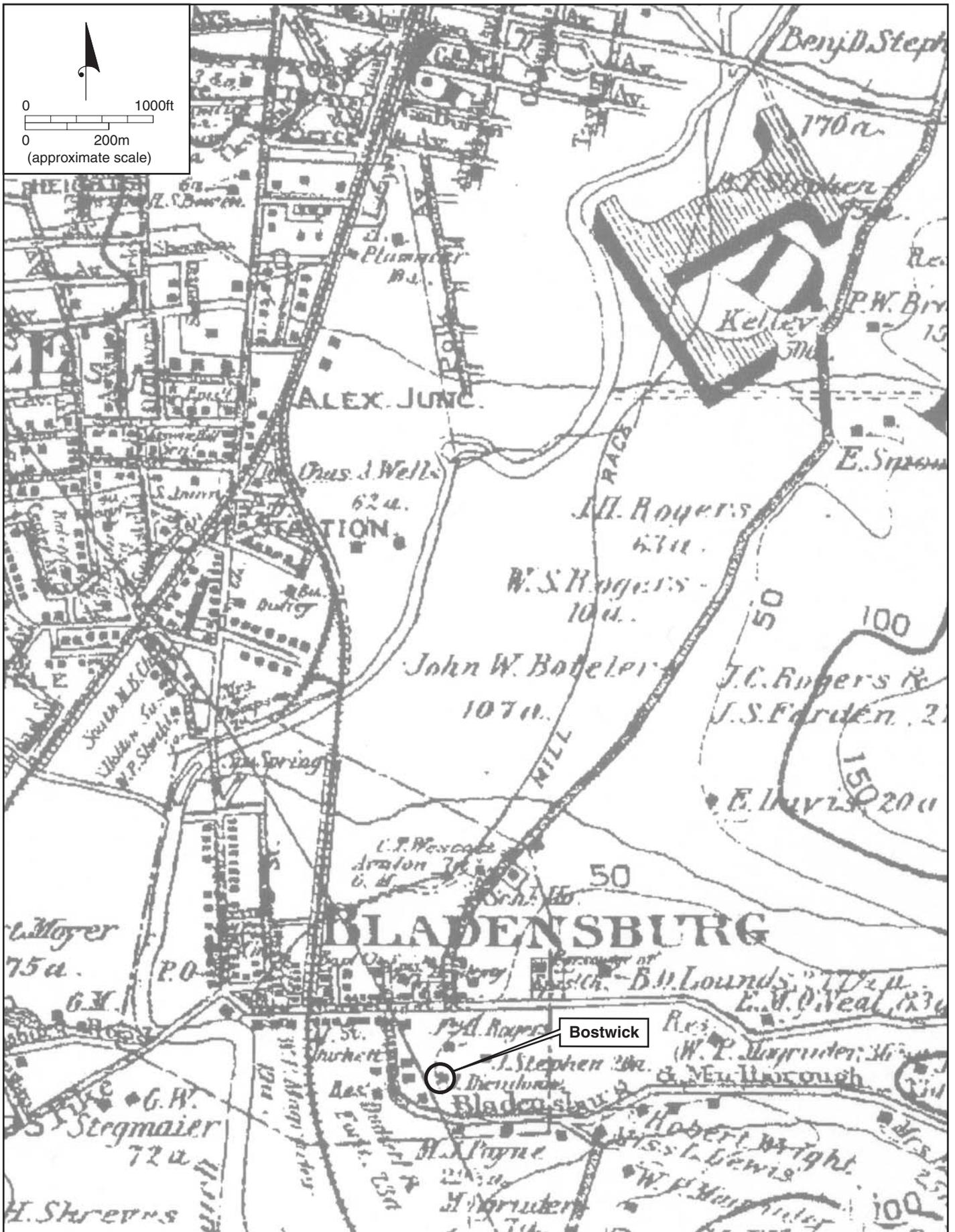


Figure 4. Map of Bladensburg showing J. Dieudonne as owner of Bostwick (Hopkins 1894).



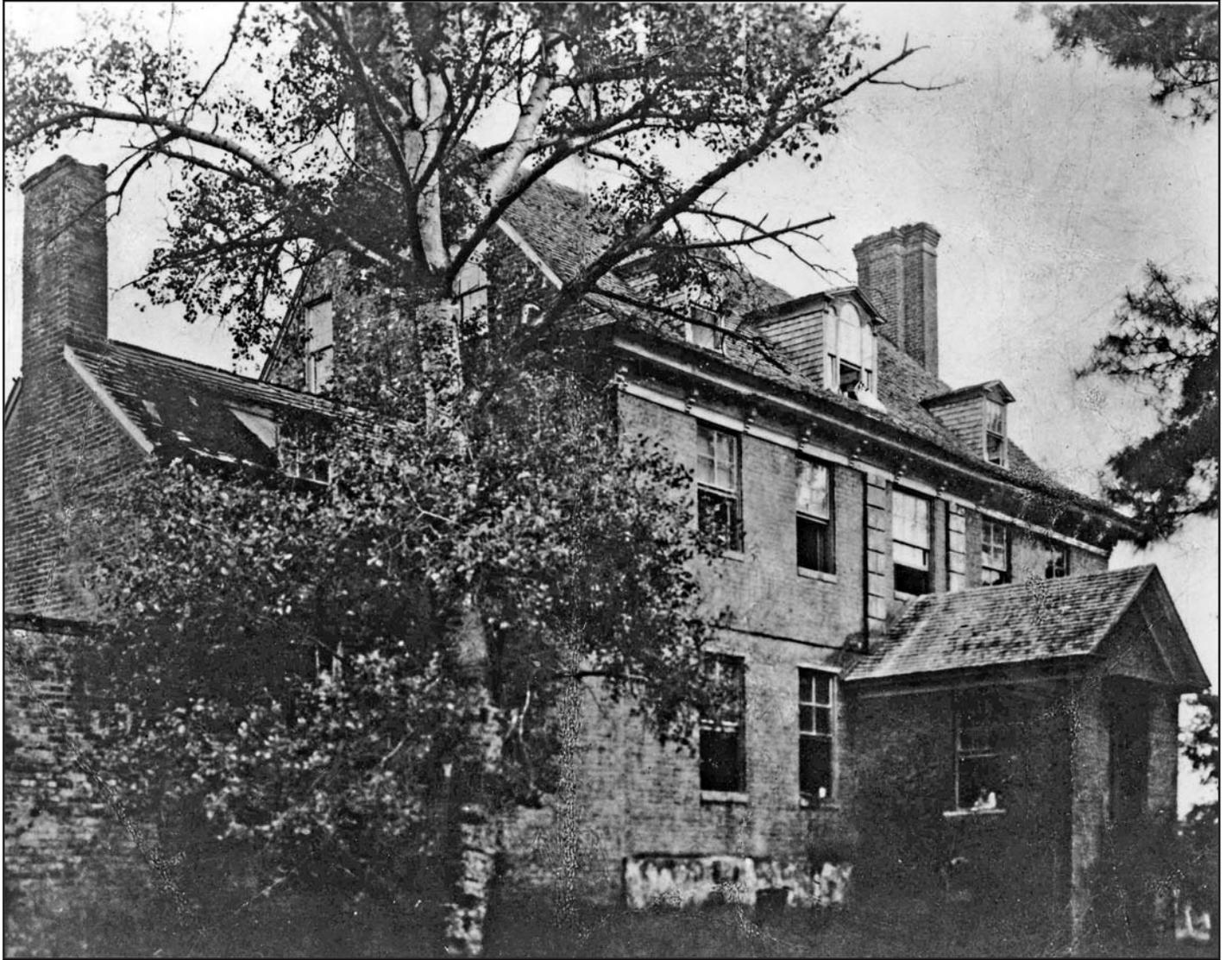


Figure 5. Photo of Bostwick House front façade (Prince George's County Historical Society nd).



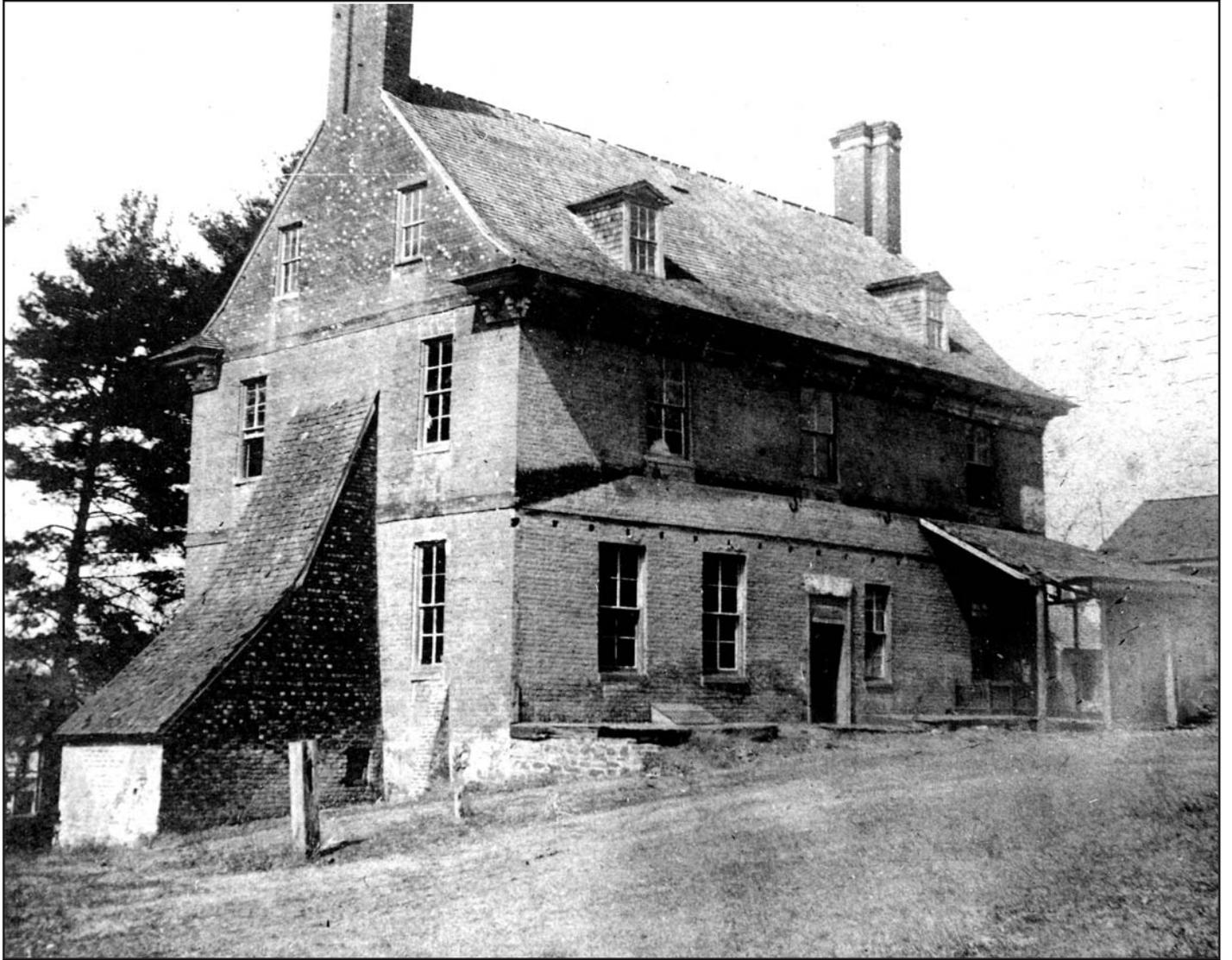


Figure 6. Photo of Bostwick House rear façade (Prince George's County Historical Society nd).



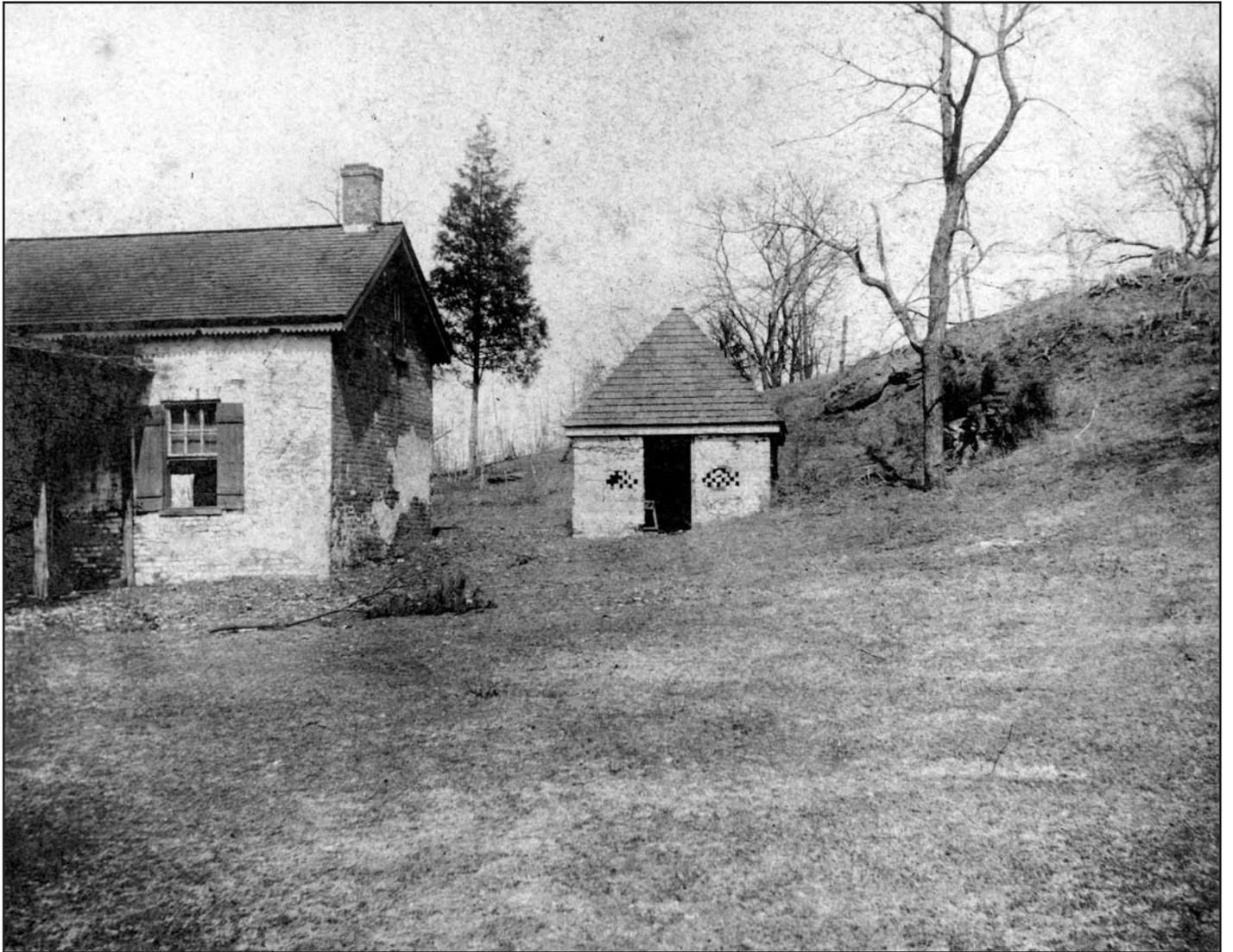


Figure 7. Photo of detached kitchen and outbuilding associated with Bostwick (Prince George's County Historical Society nd).



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James Kyner died intestate in 1936. His real estate was listed as 8 acres on River Road in the Village of Bladensburg valued at \$4,800 with house and outbuildings valued at \$6,700 (PGW Admin. #5788).

#### 3.4.2 *SUSANNA KYNER CHRISTOFANE*

James and Hettie Kyner's daughter, Susanna Kyner, inherited Bostwick in 1930 (Figure 8) (PGW Admin. #4677).

Figure 8 shows a different arrangement of outbuildings than those shown in Figure 3. The separate kitchen, perpendicular to the rear of the house, is not shown. The barn or coach house with the L-shaped extension and a separate building to the east, visible on the 1878 map (Figure 3), are not shown in Figure 8. In 1940, there are two long buildings placed in an east-west direction and two small outbuildings west of them. The small outbuilding in the far southeast corner of the property in 1878 does not appear on the 1940 map.

The driveways also have been changed by 1940 (Figure 8). Both driveways entered the property from 48<sup>th</sup> Street. They split, so that one went straight east to the front of the house. The other curved south, cut through the triangular lot at the southwest corner of the property, and then turned east and extended eastward to the cluster of outbuildings.

Bostwick remained Susanna's home after her marriage to Felix Christofane. After her death in 1993, their daughter H. Susanna Christofani Yatman inherited Bostwick (PGDB 6550:268) and lived there until she sold it to the Town Of Bladensburg in 1997 (PGDB 11782:658).

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## 4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The Bostwick property was owned by three families and passed from one generation to another for most of the house's history. It was owned for a short time by another individual and was rented at times. Christopher Lowndes built the house and used it as his family home. The Stodderts used it as an investment, renting to another family, and as a where Benjamin lived after he retired. The subsequent owners used it as a family home.

The early owners, from 1746 to 1865, used the labor of enslaved people to operate and maintain the house and the property surrounding it. These people lived on the property, probably in the basement or attic of the main house or in the lofts or second story of the outbuildings in which they worked.

At the end of the eighteenth century, the Bostwick property contained the house, a separate kitchen, a carriage house, a wash house, a hen house, a meat house and a milk house (both constructed of brick), and a store room. No plats or maps of the property showing the locations of these buildings were found. There was no mention of slave cabins in the documentary records. The enslaved people at Bostwick may have lived in the buildings in which they worked.

Benjamin Stoddert, John Stephen, and James Kyner all made a number of changes to the house and outbuildings. The changes included adding buttresses on the south wall of the house, construction of a separate kitchen building, construction of a porch across the east (rear) elevation of the house and a vestibule projecting from the front (west) entrance of the house, and addition of a terraced front yard. These changes may have affected archeological deposits near the house. Removal of several brick outbuildings and the remaining garden wall north of the kitchen wing and conversion of several outbuildings to other uses may have affected archeological deposits near those buildings in which slaves may have lived.

No early maps or plats were located that would show eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century driveways or changes made to them. The approaches to the house and to the outbuildings appear on maps dating 1878 and 1940. In 1878, one driveway led from Spring Street (now 48<sup>th</sup> Street) eastward to the front of the house and one led from the street at the south edge of the property northward to the outbuildings (Figure 3). By 1940, both driveways extended from 48<sup>th</sup> Street, one to the front of the house and the other south and then east to the outbuildings.

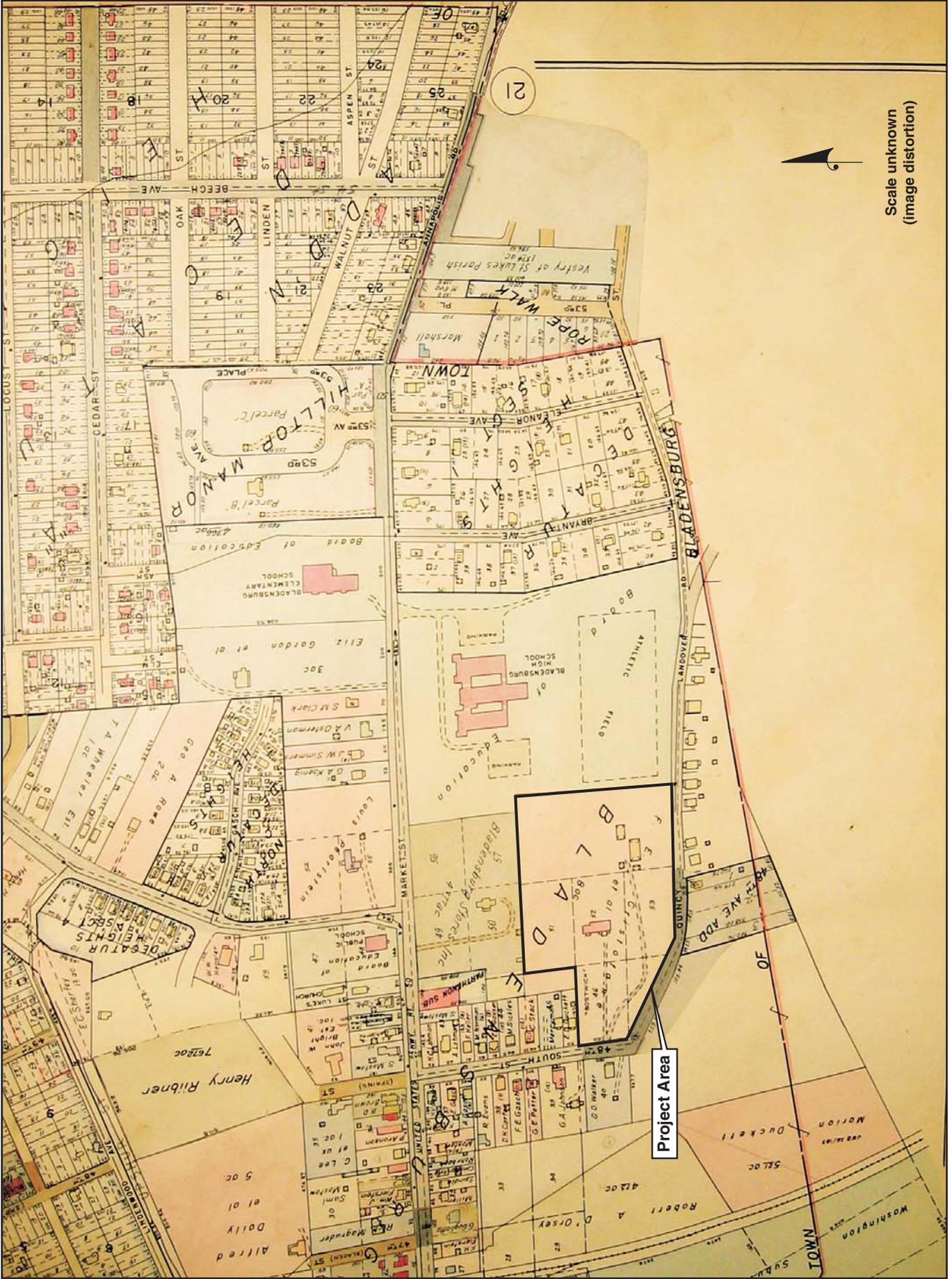


Figure 8. The Bostwick property shown during Susanna Christofane's ownership (Franklin 1940).



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## APPENDIX I

### Supporting Documents



## APPENDIX II

### Chain of Title



## APPENDIX III

### Qualifications of Investigators