

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Buck-Nicholson House (preferred)
other Swanson Road Farmhouse

2. Location

street and number 16606 Swanson Road not for publication
city, town Upper Marlboro vicinity
county Prince George's

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

name Robert Schwenk
street and number 16606 Swanson Road telephone 202.512.2389
city, town Upper Marlboro state MD zip code 20774-9002

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 10964 folio 214
city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 85 tax parcel 2 tax ID number 03 3180486

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
district	public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1 <input type="checkbox"/> buildings
structure	both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense <input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic <input type="checkbox"/> social	1 <input type="checkbox"/> structures
object		<input type="checkbox"/> education <input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry <input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			2 <input type="checkbox"/>

7. Description

Inventory No. PG 79-3

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The Buck-Nicholson House, also known as the Swanson Road Farmhouse, is located at 16606 Swanson Road near Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay dwelling was built in 1912. Set on a lot approximately two miles to the west of the Patuxent River, the Buck-Nicholson House is situated to the east of a circular gravel drive. A wood fence runs the length of the gravel drive; near the house there is an electric fence. The fence continues northeast to the barn, where it terminates. Mature trees and shrubs are located throughout the lot, with a concentration of larger trees located to the northeast. A barn/chicken coop is located to the east of the dwelling. A wire fence forms a chicken run outside of the barn. An animal shelter is located to the southeast of the dwelling. A prefabricated shed is set off into the trees to the northeast of the dwelling. A small vegetable garden is located to the north of the dwelling. The garden is surrounded by a chain-link fence. Beyond the vegetable garden are the remains of a foundation, overgrown with vegetation.

DWELLING

The Buck-Nicholson House was constructed in 1912. The two-story, three-bay Colonial Revival-style dwelling is set on a rural, 1.08-acre lot. The foundation of the dwelling is constructed of poured concrete. The wood-frame structure is clad with vinyl siding. Three interior brick chimneys have corbelled caps. The dwelling has a cross-gabled roof with overhanging eaves and a vinyl box cornice. The roof is covered in standing-seam metal. Fenestration consists of 1/1 windows with ogee-molded surrounds flanked by non-operable vinyl shutters. A one-story, three-bay porch is located on the façade (west elevation). A two-story, one-bay ell is centrally located on the east (rear) elevation. Also, there is a two-story, two-bay addition to the eastern half of the north (side) elevation. This addition was built sometime after 1985, when the property was last surveyed.

The façade (west elevation) is balanced and symmetrical. One-bay wide wood stairs lead to a wood porch. A second wood stair is located on the north side of the porch. The porch is set on concrete piers with lattice work obscuring the foundation. The shed roof of the porch is supported by replacement, turned and chamfered posts. A set of engaged posts abuts the façade. The shed roof is covered in standing-seam metal. A single-leaf vinyl door with a light is flanked to either side by a 1/1 window with ogee-molded surround. Second-story fenestration consists of three 1/1 windows. The pediment has an octagonal 1-light fixed window.

The two-story, two-bay south (side) elevation is fenestrated by a 1-light casement basement window and a 1/1 window with ogee-molded surround centrally located on the first and second stories.

The two-story, one-bay east (rear) elevation features the ell. The south (side) elevation of the ell is fenestrated by a 1-light casement basement window and a 1/1 window with ogee-molded surround centrally located on the first and second stories. The east (rear) elevation of the ell is fenestrated by a 1/1 window with ogee-molded surround on the first story.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

Buck-Nicholson House Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The north (side) elevation of the main block is fenestrated by a 1-light casement basement window and a 1/1 window with ogee-molded surround centrally located on the first and second stories. An exterior chimney was also located on this elevation. The chimney stood to the west of the west window bay.

The two-story, two-bay addition to the northeast corner of the main block features poured concrete steps leading to a single-leaf paneled wood door with 9-lights on the north elevation. A concrete cellar entrance is located the west of the steps. Fenestration on the north elevation consists of a 1-light casement window integrated into the foundation, one 1/1 window with ogee-molded surround located in the east bay of the first story and two 1/1 windows with ogee-molded surrounds on the second-story. Based on photographic evidence, this addition was once a one-story, two-bay, half enclosed, half open porch with a shed roof.¹

The interior of the dwelling was not accessible at the time of the 2007 on-site survey.

BARN

A one-story, one-bay barn is located to the east of the dwelling. Based on its form and materials, it appears the barn was constructed c. 1950. The structure is clad in vertical wood siding. The main block of the barn has a shed roof that slopes to the west. A one-story, one-bay addition on the north end of the barn has a shed roof that slopes to the north. Based on its form and materials, the shed roof addition appears to have been built at the same time as the barn. This shed roof is lower than the main shed roof. Both roofs have overhanging eaves with exposed brackets and are covered in standing-seam metal.

The façade (east elevation) of the barn has an opening for animals at the south. Fenestration consists of a 1-light awning window. A strap-hinge Dutch door is located on the north (side) elevation of the barn. Fenestration consists of a 1-light awning window on the west (rear) elevation. The south (side) elevation has a strap-hinge wood plank opening.

The interior of the barn was not accessible at the time of the 2007 on-site survey.

ANIMAL SHELTER

The one-bay animal shelter is located to the southeast of the Buck-Nicholson House. Based on its form and materials, it appears the shelter was constructed c. 2000. The shelter has a shed roof, sloping to the west, covered in standing-seam metal. The roof is supported by four wood posts.

The interior of the animal shelter was not accessible at the time of the 2007 on-site survey.

¹ ¹ Marina King. "Buck-Nicholson House," (PG: 79-3) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, (1985), 7:1.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

Buck-Nicholson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

INTEGRITY

The Buck-Nicholson House retains a moderate level of integrity. Late twentieth-century additions on the north (side) elevation have not altered the form of the dwelling, as seen from Swanson Road. The recent addition of vinyl siding and the addition to the northeast corner has affected dwelling's integrity of materials design and workmanship. The construction of a large single-family home within sight of the dwelling to the north has diminished its integrity of setting, feeling, and association. Sited in rural Upper Marlboro, Maryland, the Buck-Nicholson House retains its integrity of location.

The barn maintains a high level of integrity. The barn continues to function as such, retaining its integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling. The barn retains its integrity of materials, workmanship, and design.

The animal shelter is a non-contributing resource due to its c. 2000 date of construction.

The Buck-Nicholson House and associated resources maintain a low level of integrity.

8. Significance

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ <input type="checkbox"/> recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ <input type="checkbox"/> settlement
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
		<input type="checkbox"/> law
		<input type="checkbox"/> literature
		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history
		<input type="checkbox"/> military
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> performing arts
		<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
		<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion
		<input type="checkbox"/> science
		<input type="checkbox"/> social history
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Local History</u>
Specific dates	1912	Architect/Builder Unknown
Construction dates	1912	
Evaluation for:		
<input type="checkbox"/> National Register		<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland Register
		<input type="checkbox"/> not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Buck-Nicholson House, also known as Swanson Road Farmhouse, was constructed in 1912 at 16606 Swanson Road in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The dwelling is an example of the many vernacular farmhouses built in Prince George's County at the turn of the nineteenth century. The dwelling has an I-house plan with ell, a pediment gable on side-gabled roof, and a full-width front porch. As a result of several alterations and the rear addition, the Buck-Nicholson House does not retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance as an early-twentieth-century I-house.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Buck-Nicholson House is located near Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Located in eastern Prince George's County, the town of Upper Marlboro was established when the General Assembly of the Province of Maryland passed the "Act for the Advancement of Trade and Erecting Ports and Towns" in 1706 and 1707 in order to establish commercial centers in Maryland.² The town was already a gathering place for merchants, who often spent their time at Robert Robertson's tavern, established in 1703.³ The community was first known as the Town of Marlborough, but was soon changed to Upper Marlborough, distinguishing it from (Lower) Marlborough in Calvert County. In the early twentieth century, the name was commonly shortened from Marlborough to Marlboro' then finally to Marlboro, as it is known today.

The Buck-Nicholson House is situated on a tract of land historically known as Spring Hill. The Spring Hill tract originally contained 1,574 acres and belonged to the Mordecai Plummer family for most of the nineteenth

² Marina King, "The Tobacco Industry in Prince George's County, 1680-1940," in *Historic Contexts in Prince George's County: Short Papers on Settlement Patterns, Transportation and Cultural History* (Upper Marlboro, MD: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1991), 69-71.

³ Susan G. Pearl, "Early Taverns in Prince George's County, 1703-1862," in *Historic Contexts in Prince George's County: Short Papers on Settlement Patterns, Transportation and Cultural History* (Upper Marlboro, MD: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1991), 61-64.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

Buck-Nicholson House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

century.⁴ The Spring Hill tract was located north of Upper Marlboro. The 1861 *Martenet Map of Prince George's County* indicates an M. Plummer living on the property.⁵ The 1878 *Hopkins Map of Prince George's County* also indicates a Mordecai S. Plummer, as well as a George Plummer living on Spring Hill.⁶

The Spring Hill tract was partitioned in 1873. Mordecai Plummer received Lot #2 of Spring Hill, near Upper Marlboro, containing 565-acres. Plummer and his wife Charlotte Plummer found themselves indebted to Margaret Maund in 1893. In consideration of the debt, the Plummers granted Maund part of the Spring Hill tract.⁷

Margaret E. Maund sold her interest in the property to Philo W. Stacey and Randal A. Bowen, both from Illinois, for \$4,000 in October of 1902.⁸ The property conveyed to Stacey and Bowen consisted of 346 acres. Philo W. Stacey served in the 141st Illinois Infantry during the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865). Stacey served for 100 days during 1864, achieving the rank of Corporal.⁹ At the time of the 1900 U.S. census, 54 year-old Randal A. Bowen was listed as a farmer in Lyndon, Illinois. He had a wife, Rosetta Bowen.¹⁰

Philo W. Stacey sold the 83.16-acre property in 1910 to Daniel Buck, Jr. It was during the ownership of Buck that the single-family dwelling at 16606 Swanson Road was constructed on the property. The 1920 U.S. census lists Buck, born approximately 1882, as a farmer operating his own farm.

Buck conveyed the property to Reveday N. Nicholson, Sr. in 1930.¹¹ At the time of the 1930 census, Nicholson, born approximately 1860, was listed as working in the livestock industry and living with his wife, Irene B. Nicholson, and five children – Reveday N., Melvin P., Roland D., Kenneth W., Alton C.¹² In March of 1957, Irene B. Nicholson, now a widow, conveyed a 1.08-acre parcel of Swanson farm to her son, Roland D. Nicholson and his wife Frances E. Nicholson.

⁴ Marina King. "Buck-Nicholson House," (PG: 79-3) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, (1985), 8:1.

⁵ Simon J. Martenet, "Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1861," Adapted from *Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland* (Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet C.E., 1861).

⁶ G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the County of Prince George Maryland* (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878).

⁷ William W. and Mary L. Plummer to Mordecai Plummer, George Plummer, John Bowling, and Jemima C. Bowling, Prince George's Land Records, HB 8:128.

⁸ Margaret E. Maund to Philo W. Stacey and Randal A. Bowen, Prince George's County Land Records, 9:445.

⁹ 1861-1865 U.S. Civil War Soldiers, Series M539, Roll 86, Philo Stacey.

¹⁰ 1900 U.S. Federal Census, Series, Lyndon, Whiteside, Illinois, Series T623, Roll 352, Page 7B, Rosetta Bowen.

¹¹ Daniel Buck, Jr. to Reveday N. Nicholson, Prince George's County Land Records, MSA 345:105.

¹² 1930 U.S. Federal Census, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's, Maryland, Roll 877, Page 3A, Reveday N. Nicholson, Sr.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

Buck-Nicholson House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Roland D. Nicholson passed away in 1992.¹³ The property was conveyed to Roland Nicholson, Jr. in April of 1993 by Frances E. Nicholson. Three years later, in August of 1996, the property was purchased by the present owners, Robert R. Schwenk and Patricia N. Abell.¹⁴ The property is currently a private residence. A small collection of farm animals occupy land southeast of the dwelling.

A survey conducted in 1985 notes that the dwelling was not in good condition. The German siding was falling off the house and the standing-seam metal roof was missing in places. A wood-frame, gable roof barn was situated south of the house, near Swanson Road. The dwelling has been altered since 1985, to include a two-story addition to the north (side) elevation. The barn, located in 1985 close to Swanson Road, is no longer extant. A small barn has been built to the east of the dwelling to provide shelter for goats and chickens.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

King, Marina. "Buck-Nicholson House" (PG: 79-3) Maryland Historic Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, 1985.

Prince George's County Land Records.

Social Security Death Index

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission: *Historic Sites and District Plans, Prince George's County, Maryland*, 1992. Upper Marlboro, MD.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.08
Acreage of historical setting 1.574

¹³ Social Security Death Index, 216-07-2040, Roland D. Nicholson.

¹⁴ Frances E. Nicholson to Robert R. Schwenk and Patricia N. Abell, Prince George's County Land Records, 10964:214.

Quadrangle name

Bristol

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Buck-Nicholson House is located on a 1.03-acre parcel. Swanson Road forms the southern boundary of the property. The property is bounded by Swanson Road to the south, a dirt drive to the west, and a stand of mature trees to the east. The northern boundary is formed by a line running east-west at the end of the dirt drive that forms the west boundary. The building associated with Parcel 2 as noted on Tax Map 85.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul Weishar, Architectural Historian		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	January 2008
street & number	1121 Fifth Street, NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2020
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

Buck-Nicholson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

CHAIN OF TITLE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LAND RECORDS

Deed of Partition HB 8:128 November 10, 1873	William W. Plummer and Mary L. Plummer to Mordecai Plummer, George Plummer, John Bowling, and Jemima C. Bowling.
Deed JWB 24:476 May 15, 1893	Mordecai Plummer and Charlotte Plummer to Margaret Maund.
Deed 9:445 October 13, 1902	Margaret E. Maund to Philo W. Stacey and Randal A. Bowen.
Deed 61:241 April 4, 1910	Philo W. Stacey to Daniel Buck, Jr.
Deed MSA 345:105 January 14, 1930	Daniel Buck, Jr. and Maud I. Buck to Reverday N. Nicholson.
Deed 345:11 July 14, 1930	George B. Merrick to Reverday N. Nicholson.
Deed WWW 2089:226 March 28, 1957	Irene B. Nicholson to Roland D. Nicholson and Frances E. Nicholson. A parcel containing 1.08-acres, a part of Swanson Road Farm.
Deed VJ 8717: 551 April 5, 1993	Frances E. Nicholson to Roland D. Nicholson, Jr., her full half-interest in the property 1,2, and 3 of the will of Roland D. Nicholson #39,505.
Deed VJ 10964:214 August 22, 1996	Roland D. Nicholson, Jr. to Robert R. Schwenk and Patricia N. Abell.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

Buck-Nicholson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2



Photo: Buck-Nicholson House, view of the façade (west elevation) looking east. (August 2007)

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

Buck-Nicholson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 3



Photo: Buck-Nicholson House, view of the southwest corner, looking northeast. (August 2007)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

Buck-Nicholson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 4



Photo: Buck-Nicholson House, view of the southeast corner, looking northwest. (August 2007)

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

Buck-Nicholson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 5



Photo: Buck-Nicholson House, view of the north elevation, looking south. (August 2007)

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

Buck-Nicholson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 6



Photo: Barn, view of the west elevation, looking east. (August 2007)

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

Buck-Nicholson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 7



Photo: Barn, view of the northeast corner, looking southwest. (August 2007)

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. PG: 79-003

Buck-Nicholson House
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 8



Photo: Animal shelter, view of the west elevation, looking east. (August 2007)

