Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 86A-021

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	E.W. Magruder's House Site (preferred)
other	Eversfield-Magruder House Site

2. Location

street and number	11610 Molly Berry Road	__	not for publication
city, town	Croom	X	vicinity
county	Prince George's		

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

name	Mary E. Garner				
street and number	11609 Molly Berry Road			telephone	
city, town	Upper Marlboro	state	MD	zip code	20772

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Prince George's County Courthouse			liber	1988	folio	397
city, town	Upper Marlboro	tax map	137	tax parcel	38	tax ID number	0255729

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
__X__ Other: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department

6. Classification

Category
_____district
_____building(s)
_____structure
__X__site
_____object

Ownership
_____public
__X__private
_____both

Current Function
_____agriculture
_____commerce/trade
_____defense
_____domestic
_____education
_____funerary
_____government
_____health care
_____industry
_____landscape
_____recreation/culture
_____religion
_____social
_____transportation
_____work in progress
_____unknown
__X__vacant/not in use
_____other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	__1__	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
__0__	__1__	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
__1__

7. Description

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Condition

___ excellent ___ deteriorated
___ good X 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 E.W. Magruder House Site is a rural, 11.8389-acre parcel located on the south side of Molly Berry Road. The majority of the parcel is located east of Molly Berry Road and as a result is accessed via two small strips of land that flank parcels 116 and 117. A tributary of the Mattaponi River runs along the southeast border of the property, obscured by mature forest. This property is presently used for agricultural purposes, together with the adjoining property at 11609 Molly Berry Road. Based on recent ADC and USGS maps, the Magruder House is believed to have been razed sometime between 1985 and 1993.

SITE

The site of the house is located within a swath of mature trees and overgrown vegetation surrounded by agricultural fields. There is no discernable, above-ground evidence of the E.W. Magruder House. At the time of the 1974 on-site survey, this building was described as a two-story, three-bay, wood-frame dwelling. The central entrance was flanked by 2/2, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Two interior brick chimneys pierced the roof. A one-story ell was located off of the west elevation with an end chimney.[1]

INTEGRITY

The E.W. Magruder House Site does not retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance as an example of a nineteenth-century rural dwelling in Prince George's County. The site has lost its integrity of materials, design, workmanship, setting, location, association, and feeling. However, because it is located within a stand of mature trees within agricultural fields, may possess archeological potential.

[1] Christopher Owens, "E.W. Magruder House," (PG: 86A-21), Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1974), 7:1.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
X 1800-1899	__ architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
__ 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce		__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ ethnic heritage	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/ settlement	__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	X other: Local History

Specific dates pre 1867 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates pre 1867

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register _____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 E.W. Magruder House site documents the agrarian nature and economic activities of Prince George's County from the mid-nineteenth century to the end of the twentieth century. Although the house is no longer extant, the property continues to be used for agricultural purposes, a purpose begun under the ownership of Fielder Bowie, who is believed to have constructed the wood-frame house sometime prior to 1867. Edward W. Magruder purchased the property, which totaled 207 acres plus the dwelling, in March 1873. A prominent landowner and slaveholder, Magruder defaulted on the mortgage he had obtained from Charles J. Bonaparte of the city of Baltimore. Bonaparte, who served as Secretary of the Navy and the 46th Attorney General of the United States under President Theodore Roosevelt, purchased the property at a public auction in 1890. After the turn of the twentieth century, Bonaparte subdivided the tract, which was known as Moscow, and sold the two parts to Thomas and James Garner. Owned by several other families in the early to mid-twentieth century, the property returned to the Garner family in 1965. The Magruder House is believed to have been razed sometime between 1985 and 1993, yet it is highly likely the site has archeological potential.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The site of the E.W. Magruder House is in the village of Croom, which is located in rural southeastern Prince George's County. Croom was named for a tract of land called "Croome," located northwest of the village. The land was patented by the Clagett family in 1671. The village of Croom began to develop in the mid-nineteenth century as a rural village centered around St. Thomas Church (c. 1745), several residences, and John Coffren's general store (c. 1853). By 1857, a post office was established in Croom in Coffren's store.[2]

Because of its location between the port of Nottingham and the county seat of Upper Marlboro, Croom Road became an important thoroughfare in Prince George's County.[3] Croom Road acted as a significant north-south

[2] Susan G. Pearl, *Prince George's County African-American Heritage Survey, 1996* (Upper Marlboro, MD: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1996), 100.

[3] Marina King, "John W. Coffren House and Store," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (January 1986), 8:5.

route supposedly established by Native Americans.[4] By 1745, the road was officially recognized, and in 1794, appeared on Dennis Griffith's map of Maryland.[5] By the 1860s, Croom had expanded to include the residences and shops of a miller, a carpenter, a mechanic, and a blacksmith. By this time, a new parsonage and a schoolhouse were erected to serve the small community. The 1861 Martenet map documents these buildings clustered in the small village.[6] The 1878 Hopkins map shows very little change in the village.[7] The majority of extant buildings in Croom date from the late nineteenth century through the 1930s, with limited infill from the mid- to late twentieth century. Most of the buildings are single-family dwellings, although agricultural buildings, a church and rectory, and several commercial buildings exist.

The Edward W. Magruder House is believed to have been constructed in the mid-nineteenth century. The Martenet's Map of 1861 documents "F. Bowie" residing in a dwelling at approximately the same spot as the Magruder House.[8] Fielder Bowie owned the property in the mid-nineteenth century and thus is possibly responsible for the construction of the wood-frame house. The 1860 United States Census Records document that Bowie, born in 1792, lived in the Nottingham area, of District 4 in Prince George's County. His noted profession was planter, with 40 slaves in 1850. The value of his real estate, as noted in the census of 1860, was $17,000, with $25,000 of personal property. The Annual Tax Lists assessed Bowie, not for his real estate, but his income, horse and carriage, at $1,917.55 in 1863. The tax assessment was reduced to $1,029 one year later.[9] Bowie died about 1866 and his widow, Rebecca Mackall, obtained dower rights to the property. In the winter of 1867, title to the property was under dispute and Rebecca Bowie was forced to give up the property, which included two tracts of land (96.5 and 110.75 acres) known as Lot 2.[10]

Edward W. Magruder purchased the property, which totaled 207 acres plus dwelling, in March 1873. A prominent landowner, Magruder is noted in the 1860 slave holder's census as owning 13 slaves. The Hopkins Map documents that "E.W. Magruder" was living on the property in 1878.[11] In 1885, Magruder received a

[4] King, "Croom," 8:1.
[5] King, "Croom," 8:1.
[6] 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).
[7] G.M. Hopkins, "Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the County of Prince George Maryland" (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878).
[8] 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).
[9] Unites States IRS Assessments, District 5, Annual Lists 1863-1864, (M771/Roll 18).
[10] Richard B.B. Chew and Caleb C. Magruder, Sr., Trustees, to Edward W. Magruder, Prince George's County Land Records, (14 March 1873), Liber WWW 3454:261; See Equity Case 515: Samuel B. Fowler, et al versus Rebecca Bowie and C.C. Magruder, Administrators.
[11] G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the County of Prince George Maryland* (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878).

mortgage for the property from Charles J. Bonaparte of the city of Baltimore for "$2,700 in gold coin."[12] However, by May 1890, Magruder had defaulted on the mortgage and the property including the dwelling where he lived was sold at public auction to Charles J. Bonaparte for $2,000. Bonaparte, born in Baltimore in 1851, received his law degree from Harvard University and during the administration of President Theodore Roosevelt served as Secretary of the Navy and the 46th Attorney General of the United States. A distant relative of Napoleon Bonaparte, he was largely responsible for forming the Bureau of Investigation (BOI) under the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887 in 1908. The BOI became the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in 1935. Although Bonaparte owned the property where the Edward W. Magruder House was located, it does not appear he ever resided in Prince George's County but continued to live at his home, Mount Vista Estates, in Baltimore.

In 1901, Charles J. and Ellen C. Bonaparte, who had no children, subdivided the property in Prince George's County. James F. Garner purchased 107 acres, while the remaining 100 acres were conveyed to Thomas A. Garner. According to the deed of sale, James Garner had obtained the property from Bonaparte in May 1897 and sale finalized in 1901. It included "…all that parcel of land in the fourth election district of said Prince George's County generally known as "Moscow" being the farm upon which the said grantee [Garner] now resides containing two hundred and seven acres of land more or less…" except that conveyed to Thomas A. Garner.[13] The 1900 United States Census documents that Garner, a farmer born in 1847, lived on the property with his wife, Missouri H. Garner, and their three children. Upon his death in April 1910, the property was devised equally among his wife and children. The deeds records suggest that Missouri Garner continued to reside in the dwelling until 1911, when she transferred title to Mary E. Garner and J. Harry Garner (her children).

In 1912, the Garners sold 60 acres of the property, including the Edward Magruder House, to R. Kearney Crane and Mary E. Crane. It is not known if the couple resided in the dwelling during the tenure, which ended in 1918 when they sold the property to William I. Brooks for $3,400. Born in May 1888, Brooks was an African-American, who is listed on his World War I registration card as a farmer living in Croom, Maryland. Not found in the United States Census Records, Brooks indicated on the registration card that he was married with three children. Brooks and his wife, Elsie, defaulted on the mortgage and the property was once again sold at public auction. It was purchased by William H. Gibbons for $2,600 in December 1933. The day after the sale, the property was conveyed to William H. Roney and his wife, Hattie E. Roney.

The Roneys owned and occupied the property for a number of years, using it as agricultural lands. Hattie E. Roney, who became a widow in 1945, sold the property in 1965 to Thomas James Garner, Jr. and Mary E. Garner. This property has remained in the Garner family since that time, with the now vacant lot once improved

[12] Charles J. Bonaparte to Edward W. Magruder, Prince George's County Land Records, (26 December 1885), Liber JWB 6:5.
[13] Charles J. and Ellen C. Bonaparte of Baltimore County to James F. Garner, Prince George's County Land Records, (1 October 1901), Liber 5:258 (Also see Charles J. and Ellen C. Bonaparte of Baltimore County to Thomas A. Garner, Prince George's County Land Records, 28 October 1901, Liber 5:299)

by the Edward Magruder House owned solely by Mary E. Garner since 1994. Maps suggest the house was razed sometime between 1985 and 1993.[14]

[14] ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1993 and USGS map, Brandywine Quad, 1956- 1985.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Hopkins, G.M. *Prince George's County, from Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington.* Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878.

Martenet, Simon J. *Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland.* Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1861.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department, *Historic Sites and Districts Plan*, 1992.

Owens, Christopher. "E.W. Magruder House" (PG: 86A-21) Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet: Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places, National Parks Service, 1974.

Prince George's County Land Records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	11.83		
Acreage of historical setting	207		
Quadrangle name	Upper Marlboro	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The site of the Edward Magruder House has been associated with Parcel 38 as noted on Tax Map 137 since the property was subdivided in the late twentieth century. The house was constructed in the mid-nineteenth century on this property, which was historically known as Moscow. The property is located to the east of Molly Berry Road and south of Croom Road. The village of Croom is located to the north/northeast. The site of the house is located within a mature swath of trees and vegetation, to the southeast of the house at fronting on Molly Berry Road on Parcel 118 (Map 137).

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul Weishar, Architectural Historian		
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc.	date	January 2009
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 21032-2023
410-514-7600

CHAIN OF TITLE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LAND RECORDS

Equity Case 515 January 12, 1867	Property of Fielder Bowie, deceased Samuel B. Fowler, et al versus Rebecca Bowie and C.C. Magruder, Administrators Two tracts 96.5 and 110.75 acres known as Lot 2
Deed: HB 7/146 March 14, 1873	Richard B.B. Chew and Caleb C. Magruder, Sr., Trustees, to Edward W. Magruder 207 acres
Deed: JWB 14:457 May 1, 1890	William Reynolds, Trustee and Attorney for Edward W. Magruder, to Charles J. Bonaparte, who purchased the property at public auction because of the defaulted mortgage (JWB 6/5) Equity Case 1799
Deed 5/258 October 1, 1901 (October 28, 1901 5/299)	Charles J. and Ellen C. Bonaparte of Baltimore County to James F. Garner 207 acres of which 100 acres were conveyed to Thomas A. Garner
Will WAM 1/140 April 15, 1910	James F. Garner to Thomas A. Garner and Martha N. Garner Undivided interest in 107 acres of part of Moscow
Deed: 60/510 December 23, 1910	Thomas A. and Belle Garner and Martha N. Garner to Missouri H. Garner, Mary E. Garner, and J. Harry Garner Undivided interest in 107 acres of part of Moscow
Deed: 70/127 January 19, 1911	Missouri H. Garner, widow, to Mary E. Garner and J. Harry Garner
Deed: 83/164 June 28, 1912	Mary E. Garner and J. Harry Garner to R. Kearney Crane and Mary E. Crane 60 acres, part of tract of land called Moscow
Deed: 130/193 April 25, 1918	R. Kearney Crane and Mary E. Crane to William I. Brooks 60 acres, part of tract of land called Moscow
Deed: 402/249 December 7, 1933	Alan Bowie, Assignee for mortgage of William I. and Elsie Brooks, to William H. Gibbons (Liber 131, Folio 435/Equity 8978)

Deed: 397/485 December 8, 1933:	William H. Gibbons and Mary C. Gibbons to William H. Roney and Hattie E. Roney
Deed: WWW 1988/397 April 3, 1965	Hattie E. Roney, widow, to Thomas James Garner, Jr. and Mary E. Garner



Photo: E. W. Magruder House Site, view of site, looking west. (October 2008)