same angle of vision as a house. This would make the slant range to the ground 8,500 ft. It can be shown that an object thought to be 30 ft. in diameter (assuming an average base is 30 ft. long) at 8,500 ft. range would also have been a 65 ft. diameter balloon only 1,700 ft. from the observer or at about 4,800 ft. altitude. Allowing for errors in estimation of the angle, this coincides very closely to the altitude of the balloon at 0954. The positions of the balloon in respect to the ground was approximately off the end of Runway 230.

The pilot stated that the object appeared to be on a heading of 225°. The reciprocal of the heading of the TB6, and the speed of the object was about 200 knots. The balloon would appear to be traveling on a reciprocal heading and appear to be traveling at a higher rate of speed than the TB6 if the pilot had assumed the balloon to be a large object close to him ground.

In examining the turn as sketched by the pilot (see overlay), it is believed that the radius of turn is too great. He stated that the air speed was kept at 160 knots and he estimates he pulled two to three G's, this would give a radius of turn of about 1,500 ft. instead of the nearly 6,000 ft. radius shown on the overlay. It will also be noted that in positions 0, 1, 2, and 3 on the overlay, the heading of the object is relatively constant, being of about 10 o'clock from the aircraft heading. A balloon seen from an aircraft making a 360° left turn around the balloon would have a constant bearing of about 10 o'clock, however, errors in the sketch of the ground tracks could account for this discrepancy.

After the position of the aircraft gives me point 2 on the overlay, it is more difficult to show that the object could have been the balloon. If point 4 (of aircraft) is shifted to near point 1 (aircraft) it is possible that the pilot started another 360° turn around the balloon (see overlay).

The major discrepancies in the theory that the object was a balloon are that the pilot was very sure that at one time during the attempt to intercept the balloon he was north or northwest of the airfield and pointed down at the object. In addition, shortly before the object disappeared, the line of sight of the object began to swing toward the nose of the aircraft. If this were true and the object was a balloon, the pilot should have been able to come close enough to the object to identify it as a balloon.

It should be noted that the pilot admits that the sketch could be in error. During the reinterrogation, it was brought out by the Operation's Officer at Whiteside AFB, who conducted the original interrogation, that the first sketch the pilot drew was about half the size (i.e. all radii one half) as the sketch shown which was included in the message. This is partial confirmation that using the calculations for the radius of turn. The pilot was positive that the disposed was closed to the object and that he was pulling about two to three G's. As stated before,_____ would give a radius of turn of about 1,500 ft. instead of the 6,000 ft. shown on the overlay. A 6,000 ft. radius turn is not considered likely during any interception tactics in an aircraft as slow as a TB6. Changing the radius of the 360° turn to 1,500 ft. would "shrink" the complete sketch to one-fourth the original size (see overlay).