MAGI # 0400460504 MHT B-46

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
Maryland	
COUNTY:	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Cylburn House and Park Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC: Cylburne

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 4915 Green Spring Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
[X] District [ ] Building [ ] Site [ ] Structure [ ] Object	[X] Public [ ] Private [ ] Both	Public Acquisition: [ ] In Process [ ] Being Considered	[X] Occupied [ ] Unoccupied [ ] Preservation work in progress	Yes: [X] Restricted [ ] Unrestricted [ ] No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

[X] Agricultural	[X] Government	[X] Park	[ ] Transportation	[ ] Comments
[ ] Commercial	[ ] Industrial	[ ] Private Residence	[ ] Other *(Specify)*	
[X] Educational	[ ] Military	[ ] Religious		
[ ] Entertainment	[X] Museum	[X] Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: (Contact: Baltimore City Dept. of Recreation & Parks) Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

STREET AND NUMBER: 2600 Madison Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Baltimore	Maryland	24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Baltimore City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 610, Fayette and Holiday Streets

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Baltimore	Maryland	24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 [ ] Federal [X] State [ ] County [ ] Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Annapolis	Maryland	24

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Baltimore City
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☒ Unaltered		☐ Moved	☒ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE (for use)

The Cylburn House and Park Historic District is located in northwest Baltimore City on the east side of Green Spring Avenue and adjacent to the west side of the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks.

The architect of Cylburn House, George A. Frederick, designed the structure in Renaissance Revival-style and constructed the mansion of dressed gneiss stone, quarried in the Bare Hills area of Baltimore County.

The building is two-and-one-half stories with a three-and-one-half story tower on the principle (south) facade. A one-story, open veranda extends around the south and west sides of the house. On the west there is a "porte-cochère," formerly a carriage entrance. Cylburn House has a hip-on-hip roof with a kick, or "bell-cast," at the eaves. Narrow, elongated, paned dormers in the lower hip have curved roofs. A bracketed, exterior cornice with dentils surrounds the house. The second story window lintels are rectangular while the first floor window lintels are curved and the window as a unit extends to the veranda floor. The veranda cornice is plain with dentils only. The porch roof is supported by square columns with scrolled fretwork brackets at the juncture of the cornice and each pier.

The tower projects above the south wall and roof. A three-window semicircular "bay window" on the second floor projects from the south tower-wall and supports a third-floor balcony. Two floor-length, narrow window-doors open onto the third-floor balcony. Each of the pair has semicircular stone trim. The tower cornice, above the third floor window-doors, is bracketed and above this is a four-sided Mansard tower roof with a round-head dormer, one in the east and one in the west roof face of the tower.

A two-story stone wing extends from the north side of the building.

Although no longer a private residence several interior details in Cylburn House remain: in the vestibule the floor and side walls are covered with mosaics, and the wreath design in the floor is partially repeated in the leaded glass over the door; in the first floor hallway are hung tapestries believed to be of Belgian origin; four rooms on this floor have marble fireplaces, each of a different design. The grand stairway is finished in black walnut and the parquet floors are of maple, oak and black walnut. The drawing room (1971) on the first floor was copied from the residence of a French Minister of Finance at Rouen, France. The dining room (1971) contains the escutcheons of the Tyson and Johns Families. (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1863-1888

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [x] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [x] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [x] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cylburn House and Park have great significance to the citizens of Baltimore as park land, as an area for the study of horticulture and as a small museum of natural history. It represents an educational alternative use for a large nineteenth-century house and its extensive grounds in any city. It typifies status as constructed for a late nineteenth-century owner of exceptional wealth, and the success resulting from engaging a good architect.

The house is significant as an example of a post-Civil War "mansion" many of which have already been demolished. Its designer, George A. Frederick (1842-1924), was one of the most important late nineteenth-century architects working in Baltimore. Frederick began his practice in Baltimore at the age of twenty. He received the commission for the Cylburn House in 1863; two years later he began work on another even more ambitious project: the Baltimore City Hall. The Renaissance-Revival style of this civic structure, the City Hall, reflects contemporary buildings in other places such as Alfred B. Mullett's State, War and Navy Building in Washington, D. C., and John MacArthur Jr.'s Philadelphia City Hall. Frederick's City Hall, considered by some architectural historians to be more successful than MacArthur's, predates the Philadelphia structure by a decade. Frederick's handling of the City Hall makes him worthy of further investigation by architectural historians which study eventually may increase the architectural value of Cylburn House.

In the fields of science and education the park in the historic district at Cylburn with its numerous gardens, nature trails and the museum in the house as well as the active program of the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks provide an opportunity for the study of botany in an urban area. The one-hundred to two-hundred-a-day visitation illustrates that these resources are used by the community.

The builder of Cylburn was Jesse Tyson, a mining magnate

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust, 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401; Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust.

Abbott, Collamer M., "Isaac Tyson Jr., Pioneer Mining Engineer and Metallurgist," Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol. LX (March 1965), 15-25.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	39° 21' 33.5"	76° 21' 08.0		° ' "	° ' "
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	39° 20' 52.5"	76° 38' 52.0			
SW	39° 21' 02.5"	76° 39' 35.0			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 165 acres

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: Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust

DATE: Dec.27, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Orlando Ridout IV

Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date December 28, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Cylburn House and Park Historic District

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

1965 Local

Room 402, Baltimore City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland Code: 24

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

The 165 acre park consists of lawns, woods, eleven nature trails and individual gardens and all of them are important to the educational and horticultural use which is being made of Cylburn House and Park for the citizens, children and visitors at this time (1971).

The only garden known to have been planted by the original private owner has been restored with the help of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland.

A rock garden, an herb garden, a shrub garden, an evergreen garden and an azalea garden were laid out by the assigned Cylburn horticulturist. There are several greenhouses on the property.

One of the most important horticultural areas is the educational garden. The plants grown here range from corn to peanuts and include okra. The purpose of the area is to show these plants to "inner city" children. The park guide shows, among others, an average of one to two hundred children daily through this garden and gives guided walks through the nature trails and tours through the museum in the House.

The Cylburn House ground floor rooms are used for meetings. There is a horticultural reference library in the house. A bird room is maintained by the Maryland Ornithological Society. The third floor natural history museum exhibits are used for nature study and maintained by the Cylburn Wildlife Preserve and Garden Center, which organization also maintains the house. The Division of Horticulture of the Bureau of Parks of Baltimore has offices in Cylburn House.

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Cylburn House and Park Historic District

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

and President of the Baltimore Chrome Works. Tyson had inherited a controlling interest in the company from his father Isaac Tyson, Jr., who pioneered the development of chrome processing. In the 1860's Tyson began amassing small tracts of land along the Jones Falls stream for a country house which he envisioned as the "finest house in Maryland." The impressive stone structure was furnished with pieces of furniture custom made for him in Florence, Italy. The furniture in the drawing room (1971) won a prize at a Paris exhibition.

A bachelor until his sixties, Tyson married Edyth Johns, a debutant, and a descendant of the seventeenth-century Johns family that settled in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Edyth Tyson and her husband made several trips to Europe in order to complete the furnishings for Cylburn House. While the Tysons lived there the house was a model of the conspicuous "Guilded Age."

#9. REFERENCES continued

Baltimore City Land Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Baltimore City Probate Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Baltimore County Probate Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Luckett, Margie H. (ed.), Maryland Women. 3 vols. Baltimore: Margie H. Luckett, 1931.

Mulvenny, Mrs. T. Frederick, President, Cylburn Wildflower Preserve and Garden Center. Interview, November 11, 1971.

The National Cyclopedia of American Biography . . . . New York: James T. White, 1899, IX, 344.

The Sun (Baltimore), November 29, 1906.

Young, Charles A., Jr., Superintendent of Parks, Bureau of Parks, City of Baltimore. National Register form. Sept. 1, 1970. Files of the Maryland Historical Trust.

MHT B-46

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Cylburn House and Park Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC: Cylburne

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
4915 Green Spring Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map; Baltimore West Quadrangle

SCALE: 1: 24,000

DATE: photorevised 1966

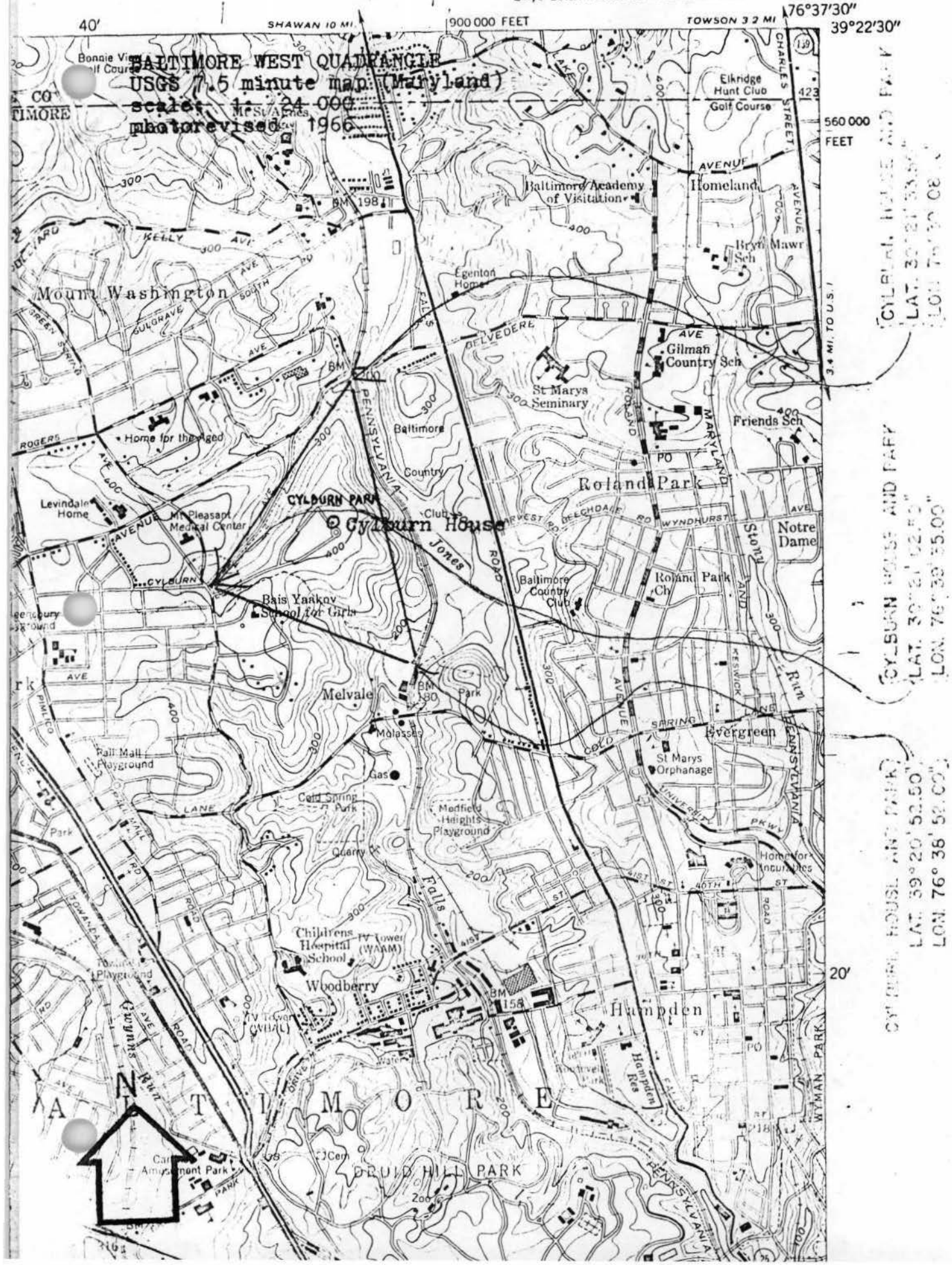
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

BALTIMORE WEST QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE

B-46



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

MHT B-46

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Cylburn House and Park Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC: Cylburne

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 4915 Green Spring Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Henry Dunton

DATE OF PHOTO: August 19, 1962

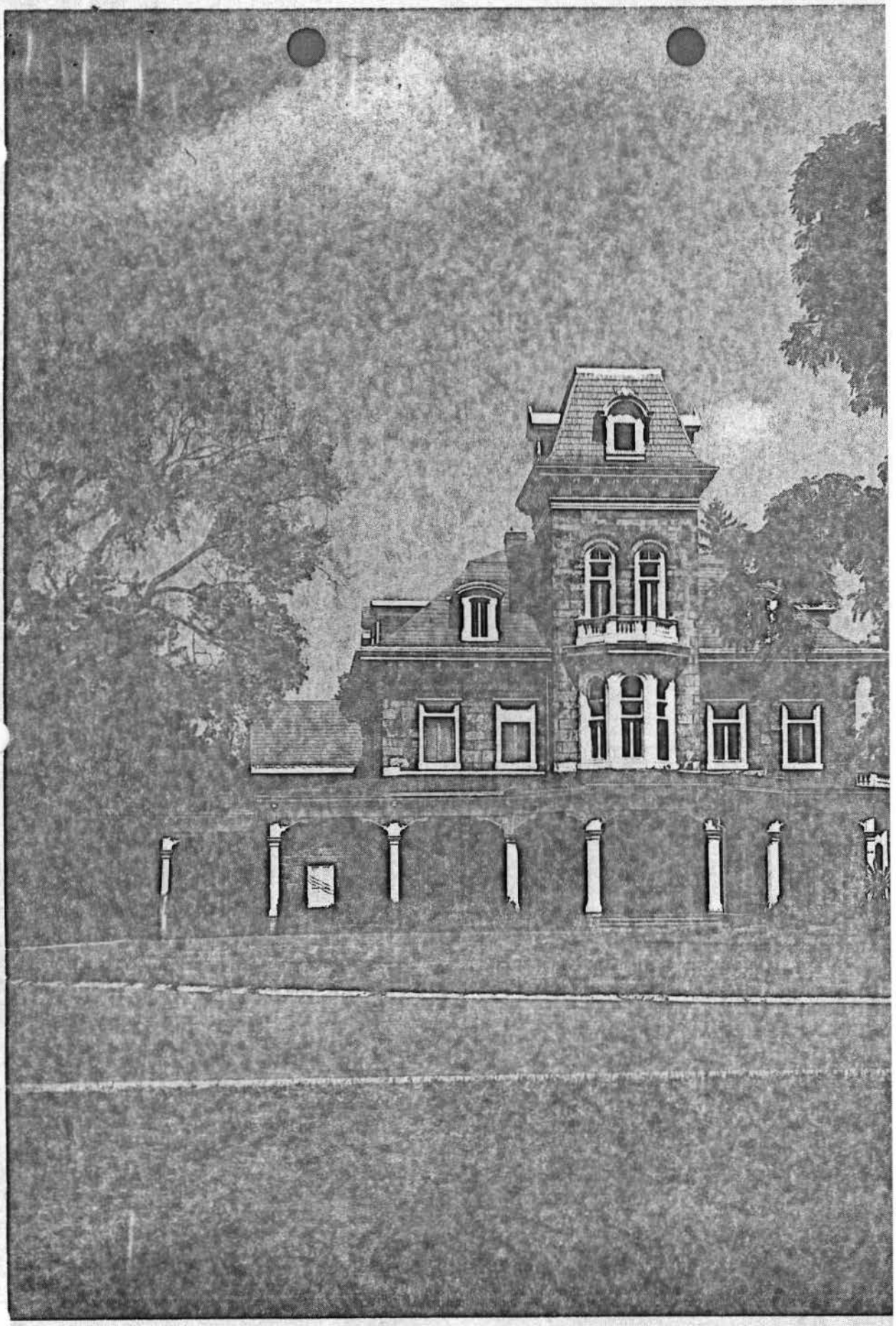
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Office of the Baltimore Zoo, Druid Hill Park, 2400 Madison Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland

4. IDENTIFICATION

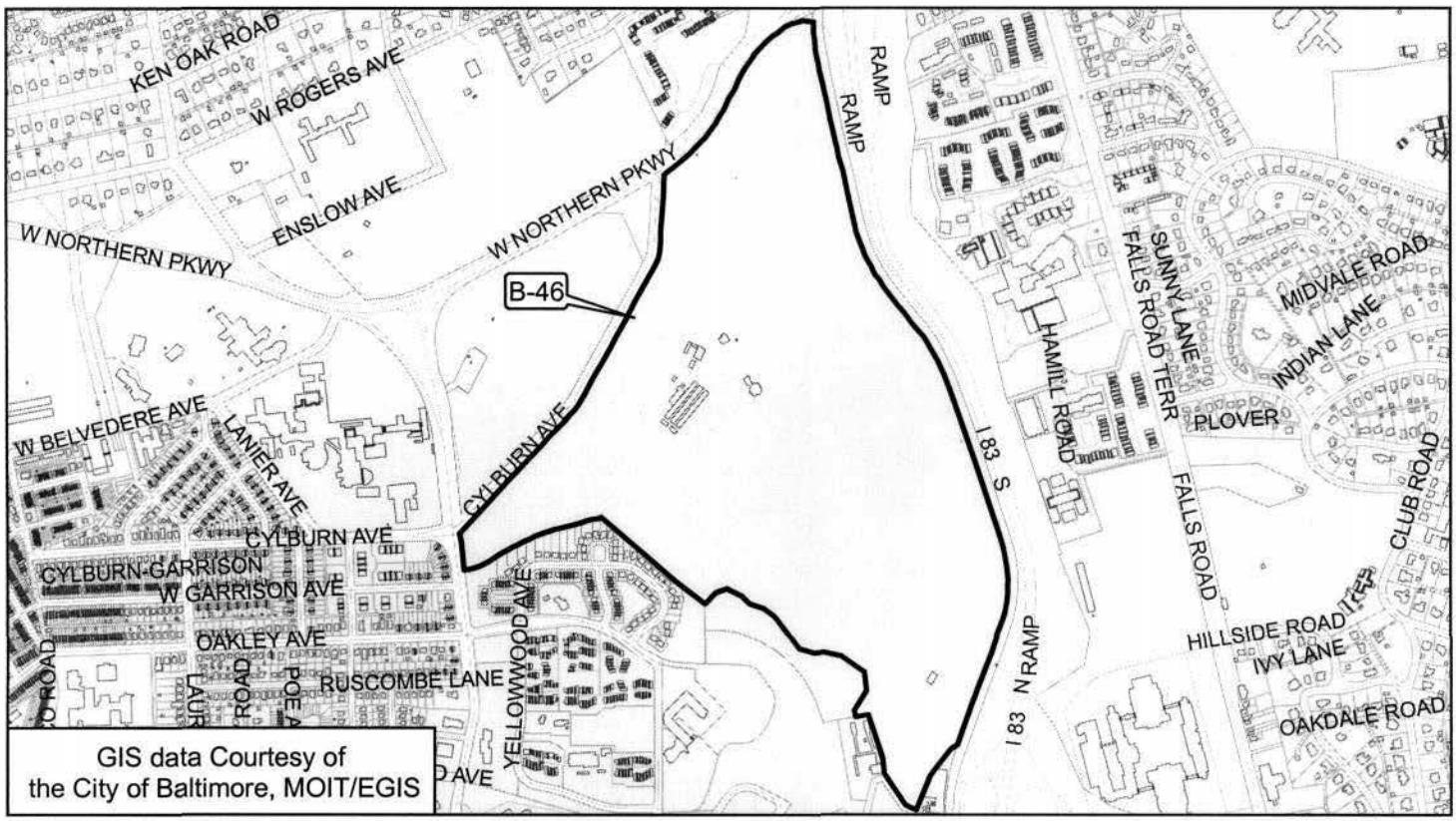
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

South facade of Cylburn House

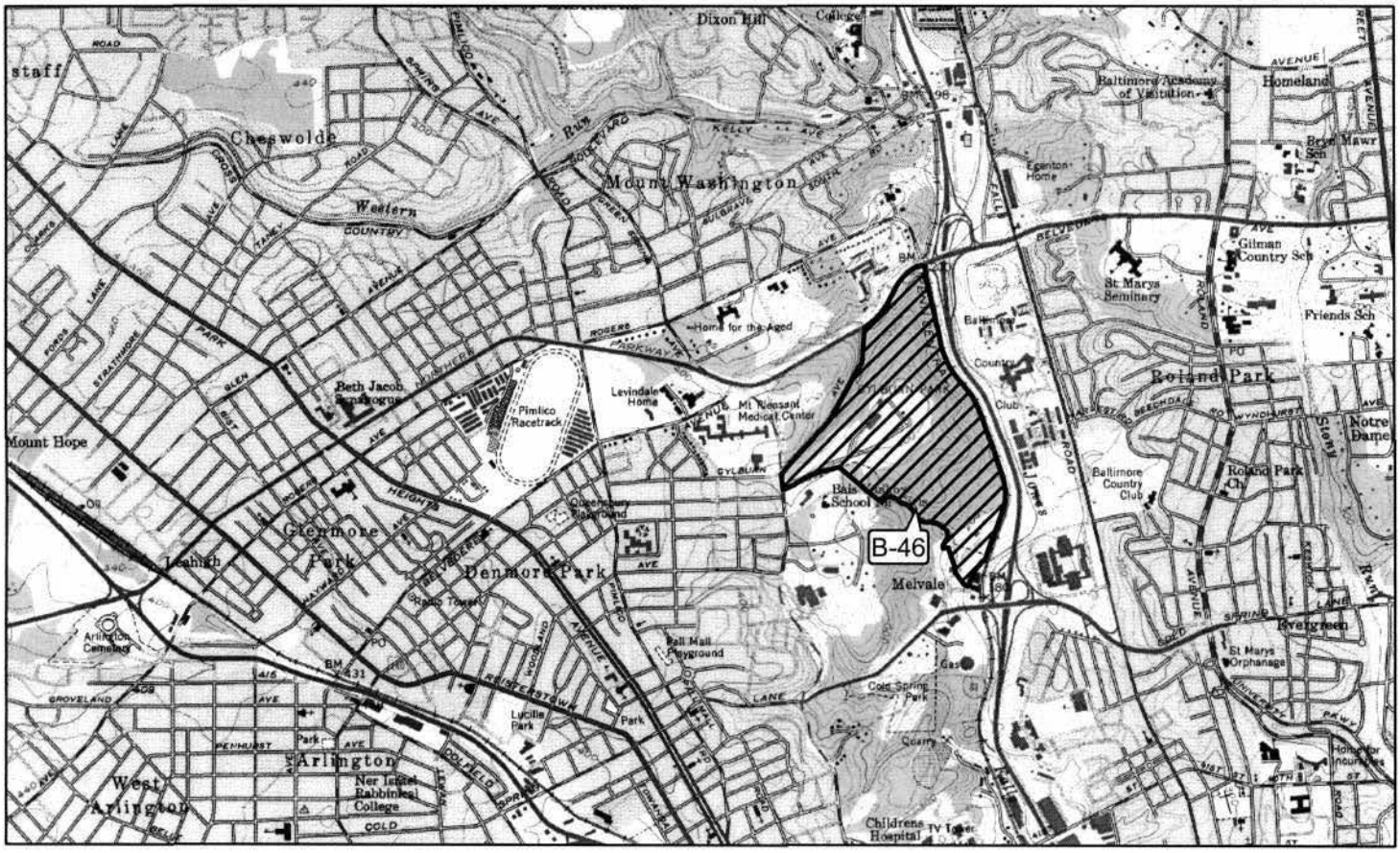
B-46



B-46
Cylburn House and Park
4915 Greenspring Avenue
Block 4756A Lot 001
Baltimore City
Baltimore County
Baltimore West Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS



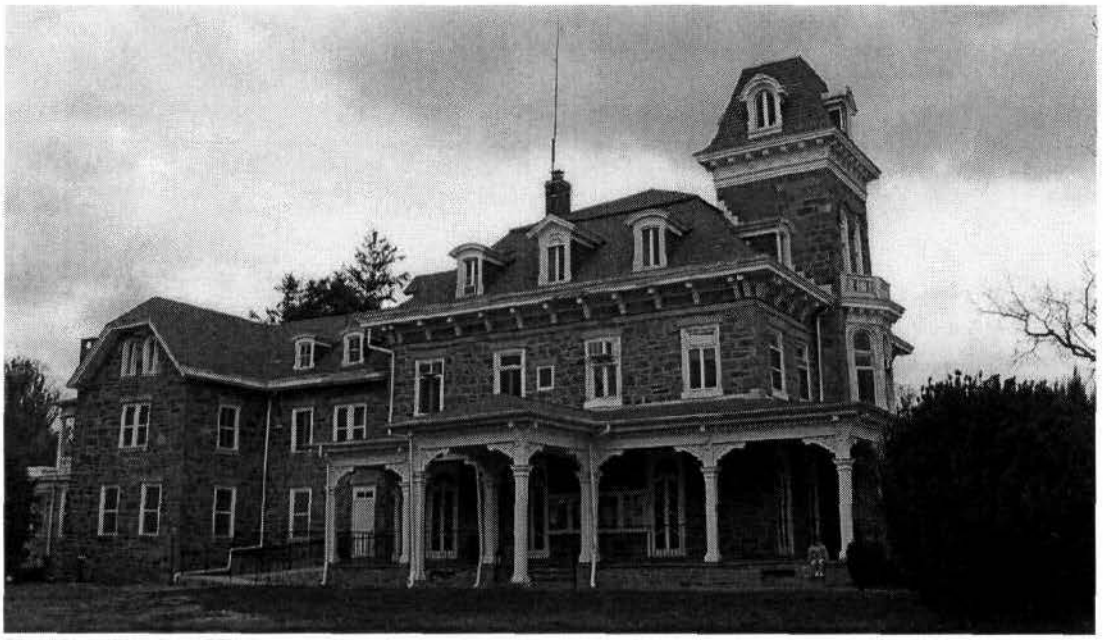
B-46

B-46
Cylburn
4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore
Jennifer K. Cosham, 25 March 2006

South elevation

West elevation

B-46
Cylburn
4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore
Jennifer K. Cosham, 25 March 2006



Southwest elevation

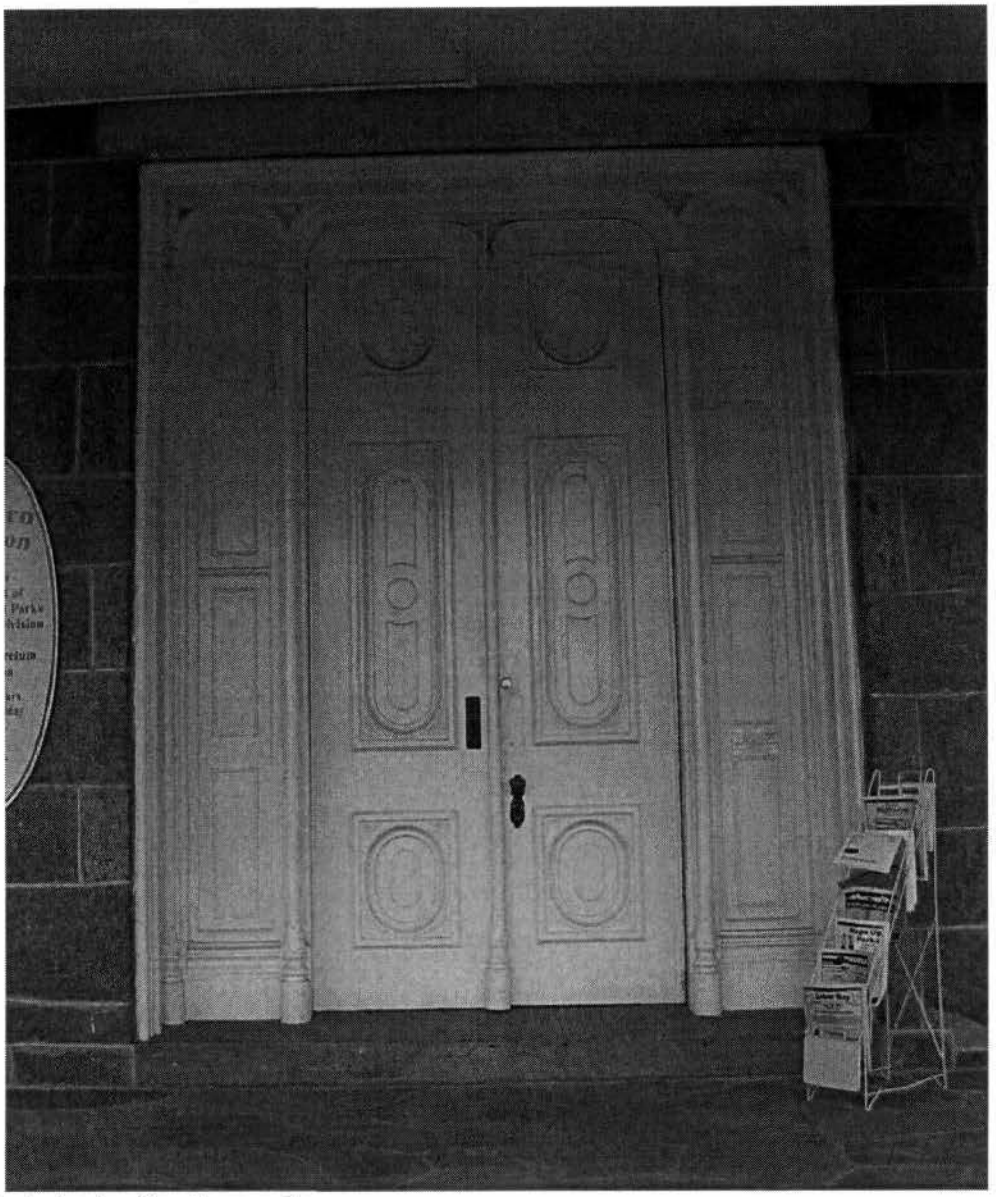
Southwest elevation

B-46
Cylburn
4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore
Jennifer K. Cosham, 25 March 2006

West elevation

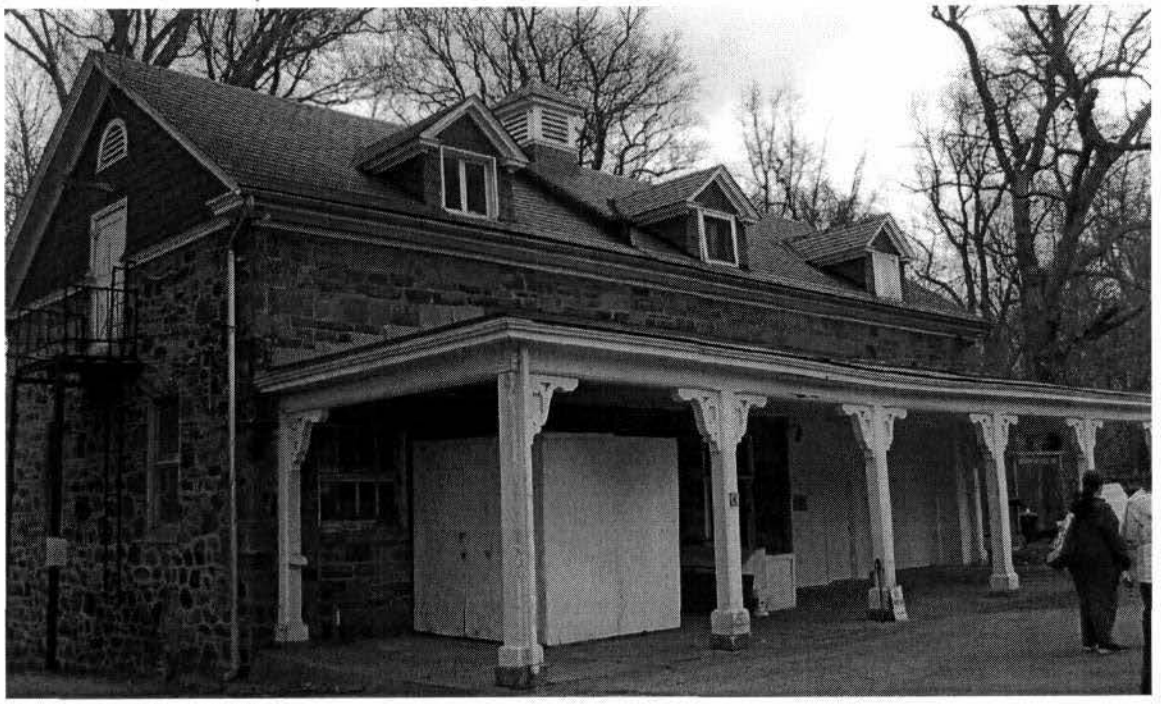
South elevation

B-46
Cylburn
4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore
Jennifer K. Cosham, 25 March 2006



South (principal) entrance door

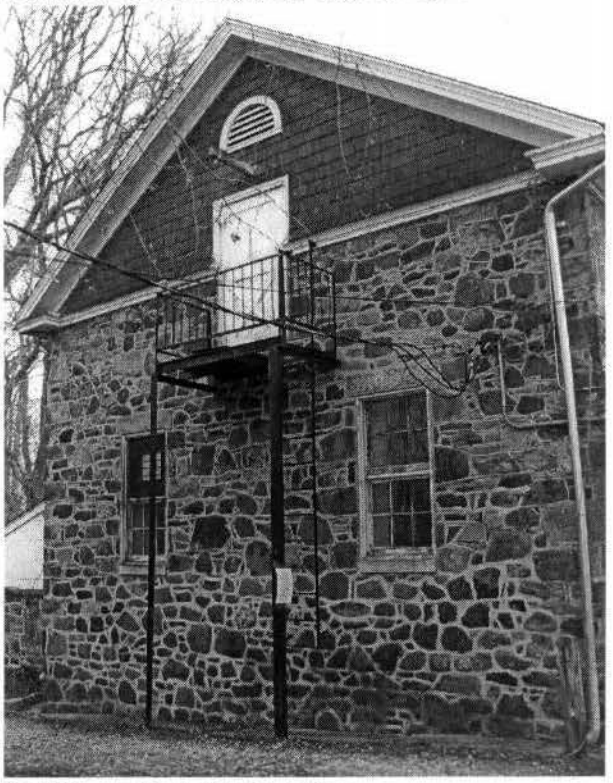
B-46
Cylburn
4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore
Jennifer K. Cosham, 25 March 2006



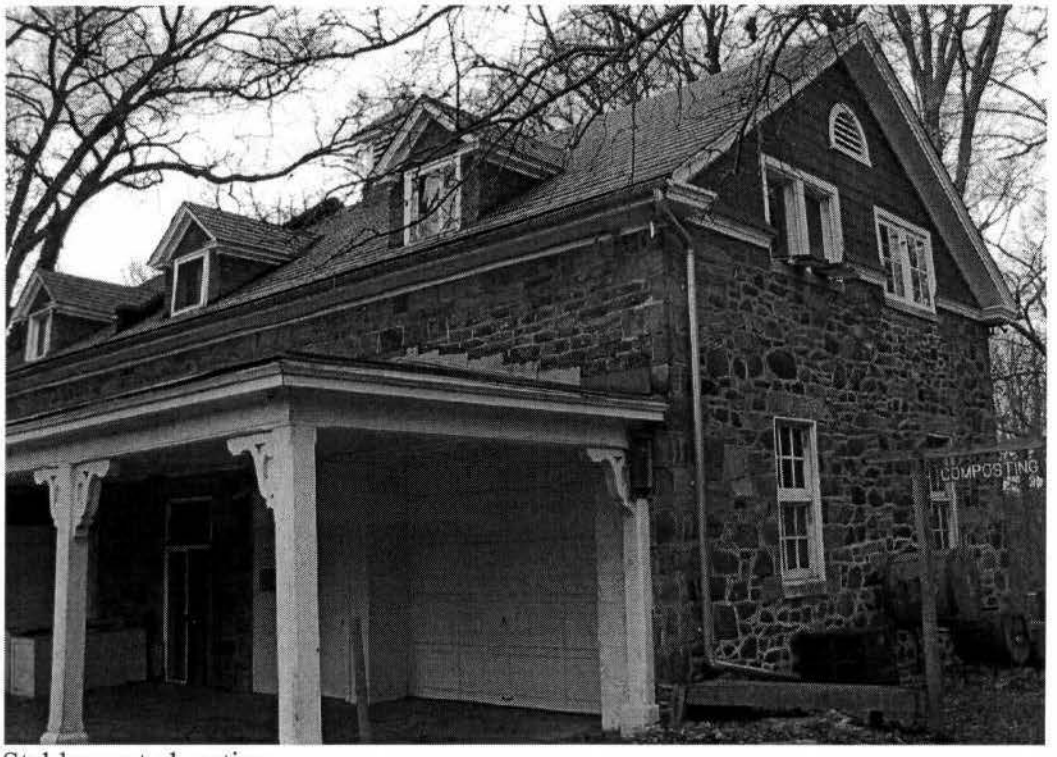
Stable, south elevation

Stable, west elevation

B-46
Cylburn
4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore
Jennifer K. Cosham, 25 March 2006



Stable, southwest elevation



Stable, east elevation