

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

BA-1152

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Cool Spring

and or common Hill House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 19301 York Road N/A not for publication

city, town Parkton X vicinity of Second Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Baltimore code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John C. and Dolores J. Wright

street & number 19301 York Road

city, town Parkton N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21120

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue

city, town Towson state Maryland 21204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1981 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

BA-1152

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources		
Contributing	Noncontributing	Number of previously listed
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings	National Register properties
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites	included in this nomination: <u>0</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects	Original and historic functions
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total	and uses: residential

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Hill House is a large brick mansard-roofed dwelling constructed c. 1879 near the village of Parkton in northern Baltimore County, Maryland. The house faces west on a rise overlooking the former Baltimore and York Town Turnpike; it stands 2½ stories high, five bays wide by four bays deep, with a two-story, two-bay kitchen wing extending from the rear. The central entrance features a four-paneled door flanked by round-arched sidelights and surmounted by a rectangular transom. A flat-roofed porch spans the three central bays of the facade, with chamfered posts, scrolled brackets, and a bracketed cornice. Windows throughout the house are tall 4/4 sash with prominent white-painted wooden lintels; the first-floor windows are of floor-to-ceiling height. An unusual rectangular "conservatory" bay juts out at an angle from the southwest corner; a three-sided bay covers the eastern half of the south elevation. The building cornice is treated with a broad architrave and a deep overhang with scrolled brackets decorated with turned pendants; the porch and both bays have matching cornices. The mansard is clad in blue and red slate laid in a geometric pattern; three round-headed dormers with 2/2 sash light the west facade (the central dormer holds a double window). Two similar dormers appear on the north and south elevations, and three on the east, all with single 2/2 sash. The gable-roofed kitchen wing is centered on the east side; it has a one-story shed-roofed open porch across its south elevation, and an enclosed two-tier gallery on the north. The interior of Hill House is organized in a center-hall plan. Broad arched openings give access to the north and south parlors; the south parlor retains its set of paneled bi-folded double doors. At the east end of the entrance hall, the stair rises in four curving flights to the attic; it features an octagonal oak newel, two turned balusters per tread, and scrolled step ends. The north parlor has an elaborate marble mantel; a simpler mantel appears in the (southeast) dining room. The four fireplaces on the second floor are trimmed with plain wooden surrounds; the attic was unheated. Paneled doors, baseboard, and architrave trim survives throughout the house. A frame shed is located behind the house.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

BA-1152

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Hill House
Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Hill House is a large brick Second Empire dwelling of two stories plus mansard level, built on a prominent rise overlooking the former Baltimore and York Town Turnpike. The main facade is five bays wide with three bays of dormers at the mansard level.

There is a three-bay wide front porch about two steps above grade. The porch roof is flat, supported by four square wooden posts and two recessed posts. The posts are decorated with scroll brackets. The flat porch roof has a broad architrave and heavily bracketed cornice. The deck is without railings.

The windows opening on the porch are floor-to-ceiling types with large, double-hung sashes in 4-over-4 layout. The door is centrally located, reflecting a center-hall plan. The single door is solid and four-paneled, flanked by round arched sidelights and topped by a three-part rectangular transom. The surrounding glass has been treated with a Victorian frosting technique that produces a geometric pattern.

A shallow brick bay juts out from the southwest corner of the facade. This bay is apparently intended to be a miniature conservatory. The widest portion contains tall, twin, double-hung sash windows with 4-over-4 lights. Each side wall is fitted with one sash window. The entire bay is topped by an architrave and bracketed cornice.

The mansard level is lighted by double-hung sash windows set in shallow pedimented dormers. The central dormer contains a pair of sash windows, the end dormers contain only one sash window. All the lights are set in 2-over-2 format.

The overall house layout is T-shaped, with the main block practically a square. On each side, the main block is four bays deep with two dormers at the mansard level. On the first floor, the north side of the main block has three windows, and a side door in the easternmost bay without any porch roofing or shelter. Four windows occupy the second-floor bays.

The south side of the main block is more irregular. There are four sash windows at second-story level. At first-story level, there is a blank bay that compensates for space occupied by the corner conservatory, a tall 4-over-4 sash window in the second bay from the west, and a one-story three-sided projecting bay. This bay, which lights the dining room, has a pair of large, double-hung sash windows in the south wall, single windows in the two slanting side walls. The entire projection is topped with an architrave and bracketed cornice.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

BA-1152

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Hill House
Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The rear kitchen wing, the stem of the T, is one room deep, two bays wide, gable-roofed, two stories high. This rear extension provides a one-story shed-roofed, side porch along the south of the house and a double-decked shed-roofed gallery on the north side. The south side porch is railed with plain boards. The gallery is enclosed. The windows in the rear wing are smaller than those in the main block, being 2-over-2 in format.

The rear of the main block is not entirely obscured by the rear wing, and on the southeast corner, one bay of the large Victorian sash windows continues the motif of the front and side design. The mansard also continues around the rear of the house and contains three dormers similar to those used in front.

Roofing material on the mansard surface is red and dark blue slate set in a geometric pattern.

The foundation is random fieldstone. The basement contains some sturdy hand-hewn, half-round joists supported by rough-hewn posts. A frame shed is located behind the house.

Interior

The interior of Hill House is conservative in its detailing. It retains broad architrave molding typical of the period. An unusual feature of the south parlor is the curved wall leading into the shallow "conservatory" bay at the southwest corner of the room. This parlor never contained an overhead lamp or light. The antique fireplace in this room had been blocked up in the past. Some papers, including a child's handwriting exercises inscribed on railroad stationery of the 1870s was found behind the parlor mantel along with a blackened postcard and a tintype photograph. This fireplace backs up to a twin fireplace that serves the dining room.

A set of double bi-fold paneled doors closes the wide, round-topped archway that leads from the center hall to the south parlor; similar doors originally existed in the north parlor as well.

The north parlor features a grey, polished marble fireplace mantel of Victorian design.

The center hallway contains a stairway that curves around without the use of a landing. The turned ballusters are painted white, the handrail and octagonal newel post are oak, stained dark brown. Scrollwork decorates the step ends.

8. Significance

BA-1152

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	c. 1879	Builder/Architect	unknown
-----------------------	---------	--------------------------	---------

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, C
 Applicable Exceptions: none
 Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Hill House is significant for its architecture. It presents a rural interpretation of the Second Empire style, embodying the distinctive characteristics of this style including the mansard roof clad in polychrome slate, bracketed cornice, square proportions, and symmetrical fenestration with floor-to-ceiling windows on the first floor. The building survives in an excellent state of preservation, with the vast majority of its interior and exterior decorative detailing intact. Constructed about 1879 for a local physician, Hill House is associated with the early "suburbanization" of northern Baltimore County made possible by the extension of commuter rail service from Baltimore city.

BA-1152

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Hill House

Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 3

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Local tradition holds that Hill House was one of a set of three erected by the same unknown contractor. The other two examples were "the Hall House," demolished in the 1950s while constructing Interstate Route I-83, and "Hunningdon," at 16129 York Road in Sparks (BA-535), which still stands and is first found in the 1876 tax ledger.¹

This land had belonged to George Little until his death in 1878. The 1877 atlas showed his residence on the south side of Stablersville Road. Little owned \$1,500 worth of unspecified improvements in the 1876 tax ledger.² His inventory, among other items, made mention of:

Lot of Brick in the Kiln \$150.³

Little's farm was split up by Court-appointed commissioners, and his daughter, A. Maggie Rankin was allotted 54 acres of the estate, the portion of it fronting some 297 feet on the York Road, (then Baltimore and York Town Turnpike), where Hill House is found today.⁴

Mrs. Rankin was the wife of Dr. Moses E. Rankin, a physician, shown in the 1877 atlas as living on the opposite side of the turnpike. The atlas patron list shows that Dr. Rankin settled (or was born) in this County in 1852; he owned no real estate as shown in that tabulation or in the 1876 tax ledger.⁵

A. Maggie Rankin and the doctor mortgaged the 54-acre parcel on the York Road which they had acquired in settling the family estate. It would seem logical to conclude that the \$1,100 of borrowed money was for construction of the large house. The loan was taken out on August 12, 1879.⁶ About a year later, Mrs. Rankin made out her will, leaving to her husband, "my farm whereon I now dwell by the name of "Cool Spring" lying in Baltimore County 65¼ acres."⁷ By October of 1880, Mrs. Rankin died; the testamentary accounts throw no light on her financial dealings.⁸

In 1890, Dr. Rankin, by then a resident of the city of Philadelphia, sold 15 acres on the York Road to James W. Ayres for \$3,100, and two years later Ayres mortgaged the place for \$2,000.⁹ Both prices certainly reflect the inclusion of a valuable house on the property. In 1894, Ayres sold the property to Reuben H. Gourley, who assumed the mortgage.¹⁰ The 1896 Tax Ledger proves that Gourley owned a brick house three-quarters of a mile north of Parkton on 15¼ acres, a structure worth \$1,800.¹¹ The 1898 Bromley atlas seems to show all the major houses north of Parkton in the wrong hands.¹² In fact, R. H. Gourley was shown on the west side of the road instead of the east, as had been the case in 1877 with Hopkins' atlas, which was clearly the basis of the Bromley atlas.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Hill House
Baltimore County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 4

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

In October 1896, Reuben H. Gourley sold the 15 acres to William Wise for \$700 plus assumption of the mortgage.¹³ Wise, a paper manufacturer at nearby White Hall, reassembled the other two parcels that had belonged to Mrs. Rankin and in 1902 sold a total of 64 acres to Arthur Hendrix.¹⁴

Hendrix paid \$3,500, which was approximately what the same farm sold for when he lost control in 1907. In the public auction of Hendrix's property, the house is clearly described for the first time:

Improved by a Three-Story Brick House
Containing fifteen rooms, a good barn
and other outbuildings. The property
is situated in a good neighborhood
convenient to N.C.R.R. being about 3/4
mile from Parkton Station and Post
Office.¹⁵

After 1907, the history of the house is easily traced. Calvin Webster Hendrix bought the 15-room mansion at auction and in 1909 sold to William C. Orem, who promptly conveyed to Chase Orem & Company.¹⁶ The house was again advertised in 1911 when the corporation sued William C. Orem for default, and following another public sale, it passed to Marian Little (or Martha Marian Little) who was a member of the same family that had owned the ground before.¹⁷

Tax entries of 1911 and 1915 valued the house at \$2,000 and, in 1918, the dimensions were given as:

Dwelling	16 x 20	2 stories	
	32 x 36	2½ stories	\$2600. ¹⁸

Marian Little was then owner and continued until her death in 1951. Miss Little's sister, Emma Little Jones inherited the place and various family members held it until 1972 when Richard L. and Pamela Sharp bought it, followed in 1973 by Paul J. Lambden, Diane M.D. Lambden, Robert and Jane L. D'Ambrogi, who sold to the present owners in 1978.¹⁹

Footnotes:

1. Ms. Emily Stiffler, Parkton, MD, to author, March 15, 1981.
2. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, 1876, District 7, n.p.
3. B.C. Inventories, JBM 4:457.
4. B.C. Judicial Records, JB 57:293, 324, 325.

BA-1152

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Hill House Item number 8 Page 5
Baltimore County, Maryland

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Footnotes (continued)

5. G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1877).
Patron List, District 7.
6. B.C. Mortgages, JBM 84:385.
7. B.C. Wills, JBM 6:168. Other records mention "Cold Springs."
8. B.C. Inventories, WHK 17:51.
9. B.C. Deeds, JWS 181:144, and B.C. Mortgages, LMB 161:586.
10. B.C. Deeds, LMB 204:277, and Mortgages LMB 180:51.
11. B.C. Tax List, District 7, 1896, Entry #27-42.
12. G. W. and Walter B. Bromley, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland
(Philadelphia, 1898), Page 31.
13. B.C. Deeds, LMB 220:197.
14. B.C. Deeds, NBM 258:364.
15. B.C. Judicial Records, WPC 213:316.
16. B.C. Deeds, WPC 324:86, and WPC 342:142, 139.
17. B.C. Judicial Records, WPC 251:177. B.C. Deeds, WPC 436:381.
18. B.C. Tax Ledgers, District 7, 1911, f. 463, f. 612; and 1918, f. 631.
19. B.C. Deeds GLB 2791:266, 269, 271. Also, Deeds EHK JR. 5302:248, and
EHK JR. 5346:580, and EHK JR. 5865:460.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Hill House

Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number 10 Page 6

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description: Boundaries are depicted on the enclosed property plan, drawn to the scale of 1 inch = 200 feet.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, 6.20 acres, comprises the resource within its immediate setting. Boundaries utilize existing property lines. Non-contributing open and wooded spaces surround the property on the north, east, and south; the western boundary is formed by the right-of-way line of Maryland Route 45 (York Road), the former Baltimore and York Town Turnpike. Interstate 83 and a major interchange lie immediately northwest of the nominated property.

9. Major Bibliographical References

BA-1152

See footnotes, Continuation Sheets 4 and 5.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 6.20 acres

Quadrangle name New Freedom, MD-PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	5	8	3	2	0	4	3	9	0	4	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	8	3	5	8	3	0	0	4	3	9	0	3	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	8	3	5	8	1	0	0	4	3	9	0	3	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	8	3	5	8	1	2	0	4	3	9	0	4	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrain

organization Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning date April 1981; revised August 1985

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue telephone (301) 494-3495

city or town Towson state Maryland 21204

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *J. McGrain* 1-27-86

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

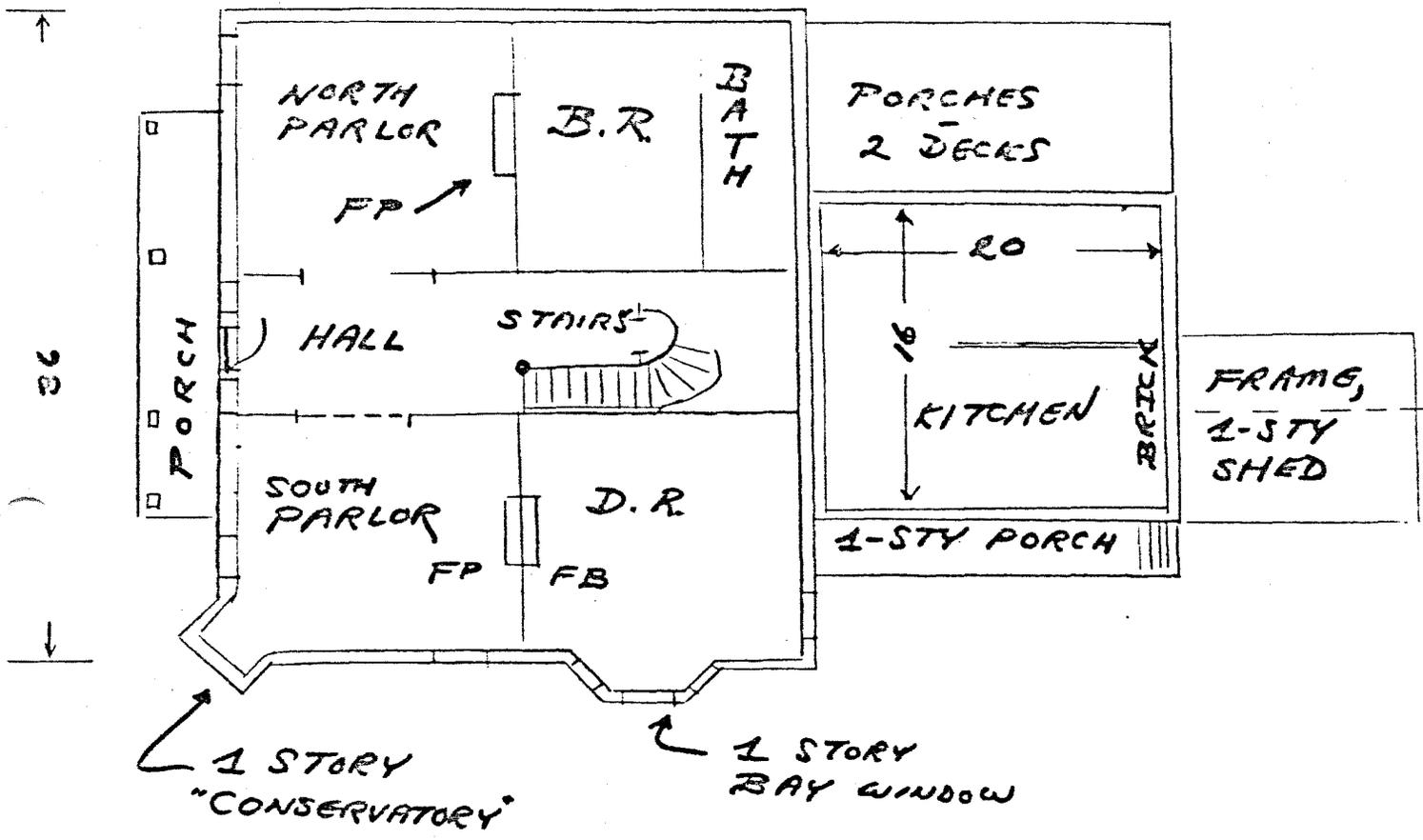
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



32



BA-1152
Hill House
Baltimore County, Maryland

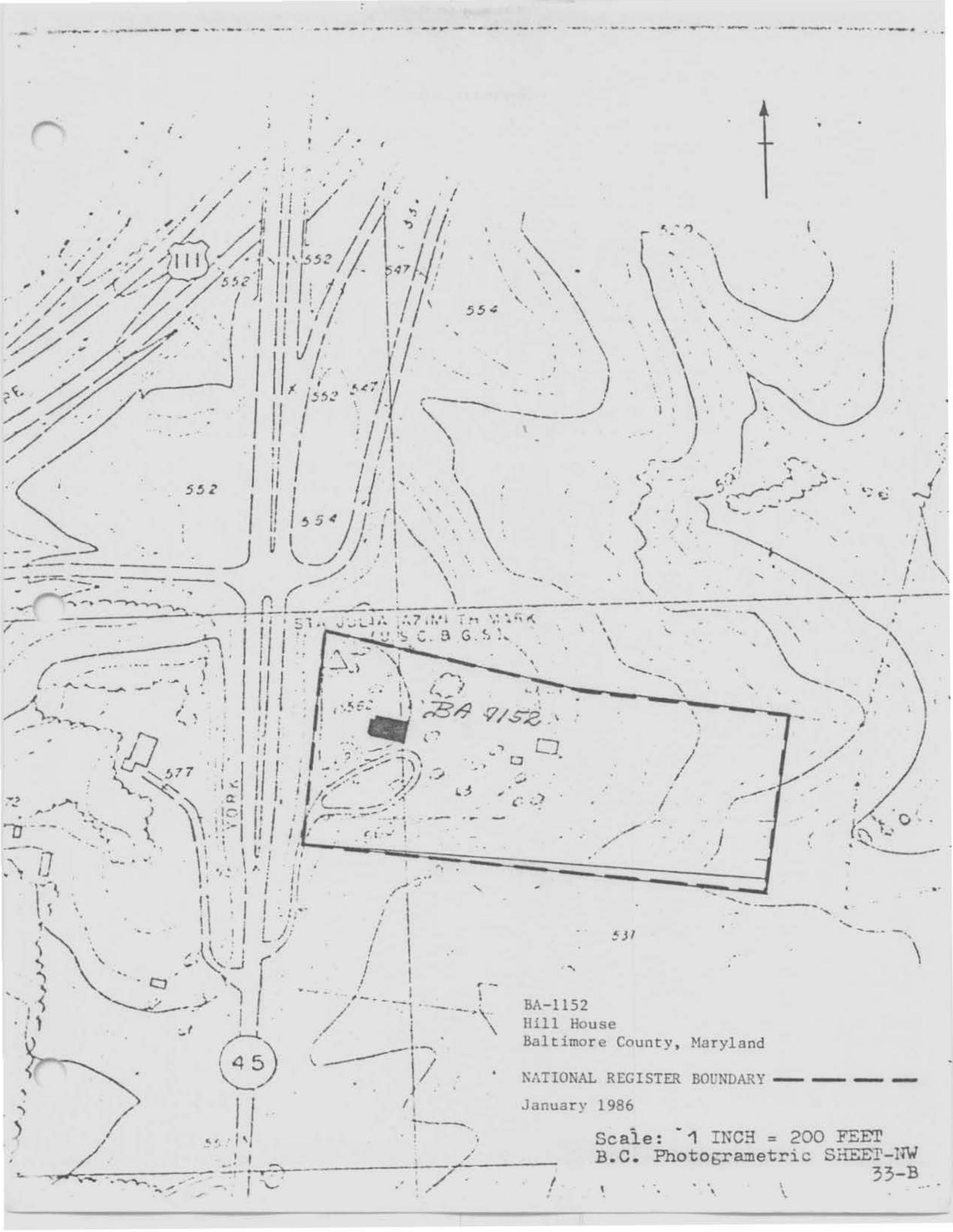
Sketch floor plan

(not to scale)



Hill House BA 1152
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Feb. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
West and south facades from SW
Photo 2 of 8

Hill House BA 1152
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Feb. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
West facade from west
Photo 1 of 8



BA-1152
Hill House
Baltimore County, Maryland

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY

January 1986

Scale: 1 INCH = 200 FEET
B.C. Photogrammetric SHEET-NW
33-B



BA-1152
HILL HOUSE
BALTIMORE
COUNTY, MD

120 000 FEET
(P.A.)

- A: 18-358320-4390440
- B: 18-358300-4390300
- C: 18-358100-4390320
- D: 18-358120-4390480

4393
4392
40'
4391
4390
4389

4388
N
4 1/2" TO 1" = 1 MI

CAPSULE

BA 1152
HILL HOUSE
PARKTON
PRIVATE

c. 1879

Hill House is an imposing, Second Empire, mansard-roofed, brick country dwelling that is associated with some of the later generations of the Calder family, the first settlers in the vicinity of Parkton. The house is mainly significant for its external aspects, and is not directly related to any important events or persons of much more than local distinction. It is a formal and imposing house for an ordinary farm neighborhood and adds to Parkton's character as a country town where twenty or so large suburban houses once belonged to persons who commuted to Baltimore City by rail on the Parkton Local. Hill House is Parkton's most formal surviving house, well designed, generously proportioned, well located on a slope, making a smart and crisp appearance with its bright brick, white lintels, white porch columns, and its patterned roofing material. Various wills and mortgages tend to bracket the construction date between 1879 and 1890, with 1879 the most logical date. The bricks were most likely fired on the premises about 1878 because George Little's inventory, taken after his death, showed a "Lot of brick in the kiln" among his possessions. The house was probably built or completed about 1879 by Little's daughter, the wife of Dr. Moses E. Rankin. Dr. Rankin was shown as a resident on this road by the 1877 atlas, although he was not a real estate owner at the time. The grounds of Hill House were mortgaged in 1879 by Dr. and Mrs. Rankin, which suggests the building of a house or payment to its contractor.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MAGI 0311525604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC HILL HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

19,301 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Parkton

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John C. and Dolores J. Wright

Telephone #: 329-2106

STREET & NUMBER

19,301 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Parkton

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

Liber #: EHK JR. 5865

Folio #: 460

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

HILL HOUSE

BA-1152

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hill House is a large brick Second Empire dwelling of two stories plus Mansard level, built on a prominent rise overlooking the former Baltimore and York Town Turnpike. The main facade is a maximum of five bays wide—only at the second-story level, with three bays at porch level and three bays of dormers at the Mansard level.

There is a three-bay wide front porch about two steps above grade. The porch roof is flat, supported by four square wooden posts and two recessed posts. The posts are decorated with scroll brackets. The flat porch roof has a broad architrave and heavily bracketed cornice. The deck is without railings.

The windows opening on the porch are floor-to-ceiling types with large, double-hung sashes in 4-over-4 layout. The door is centrally located to fit a center-hall plan. The single-door opening on the porch is solid and four-paneled, flanked by round-topped sidelights and topped by a three-part rectangular transom. The surrounding glass has been treated with a Victorian frosting technique that produces a geometric pattern.

The only unbalanced feature of the main facade is a shallow brick bay that juts out from the southwest corner. This bay is apparently intended to be a miniature conservatory. The widest portion contains tall, twin, double-hung

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued)

sash windows with 4-over-4 lights. Each side wall is fitted with one sash window. The entire bay is topped by an architrave and bracketed cornice.

The mansard level is lighted by double-hung sash windows set in shallow pedimented dormers. The central dormer contains a pair of sash windows, the end dormers contain only one-sash windows. All the lights are set in 2-over-2 format.

The overall house layout is T-shaped, with the main block practically a square. On its side, the main block is four bays deep in the brick portion, two dormers deep at the Mansard level. The north side of the main block (left side of the design) is the plainer design with seven windows and a side door without any porch roofing or shelter.

The south side of the main block is more irregular. There are four sash windows at second-story level. At first-story level, there is (1) a blank bay that compensates for space occupied by the corner conservatory, (2) a regular sash window in the second bay from the road, and (3) a one-story bay with windows set in three of its surfaces. This bay, which lights the dining room, has a pair of large, double-hung sash windows in the south wall, single windows in the two slanting side walls. The entire protrusion is topped with an architrave and bracketed cornice.

The rear wing, the stem of the T, is small, two bays deep, gable-roofed, two stories high. This rear extension provides a one-story shed-roofed side porch along the south of the house and double-decker, shed-roofed porches on the north side. The

south side porch is railed with plain boards. The double-decker porches are enclosed with fly-screen panels. The windows in the rear wing are smaller than those in the main block, being 2-over-2 in format.

The rear of the main block is not entirely obscured by the rear wing, and on the southeast corner, one bay of the large Victorian sash windows continues the motif of the front and side design. The mansarding also continues around the rear of the house and contains three more dormers similar to those used in front.

Roofing material on the Mansard surface is red and dark blue slate set in a geometric pattern.

The foundation is random fieldstone. The basement contains some sturdy hand-hewn, half-round joists supported by sturdy rough-hewn posts.

This house presents a bright and cheerful appearance, with clean red brick, large expanses of window glass, dark louvered shutters, and white painted wooden lintels above all the window frames. The elaborate entablature in white painted woodwork also adds to the crisp and clean outward aspect of this house.

INTERIOR

The interior of Hill House is remarkably plain with almost no plaster moulding, no medallions, little paneling, and plain woodwork. The most noticeable feature of the south parlor is the curved wall leading into the shallow "conservatory" bay at the southwest corner of the room. This parlor never contained an overhead lamp or light. The antique fireplace in this room had been blocked up in the past. Some papers, including a child's

handwriting exercises inscribed on railroad stationery of the 1870s was found behind the parlor mantel along with a blackened postcard and a tintype photograph. This fireplace backs up to a twin fireplace that serves the dining room.

A set of four folding paneled doors is located in the wide, round-topped archway that leads from the south parlor to the center hall.

The north parlor has one feature, a small grey, polished marble fireplace mantel of Victorian design, now decorated with a large mirror in gilt Florentine frame.

The center hallway contains a stairway that curves around without the use of a landing. The ballusters are painted white, the sturdy bannister and newel posts are oak, painted or stained dark brown.

The dining room fireplace (on the south of the house) was undergoing reconstruction in early 1981. The chandelier in the room had once been a gas lamp—which would have required a home gas generator system (not mentioned in 1911 or 1918 tax records).

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES Before 1879

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

Hill House is an imposing, Second Empire, mansard-roofed, brick country dwelling that is associated with some of the later generations of the Calder family, the first settlers in the vicinity of Parkton. The house is mainly significant for its external aspects, and is not directly related to any important events or persons of much more than local distinction. It is a formal and imposing house for an ordinary farm neighborhood and adds to Parkton's character as a country town where twenty or so large suburban houses once belonged to persons who commuted to Baltimore City by rail on the Parkton Local. Hill House is Parkton's most formal surviving house, well designed, generously proportioned, well located on a slope, making a smart and crisp appearance with its bright brick, white lintels, white porch columns, and its patterned roofing material. Various wills and mortgages tend to bracket the construction date between 1879 and 1890, with 1879 the most logical date. The bricks were most likely fired on the premises about 1878.

*

Hill House has little or no formal history. In spite of its Mansard Roof, which suggests a specific date span ending about 1885, the house cannot be found on the 1850, 1857, or 1863 countywide maps. If it is represented at all by the 1877 atlas, it is shown on the wrong side of the turnpike in the atlas plate of Election District 7. (1)

Local tradition holds that this house was one of a set of three erected by the same nameless contractor. The other two examples were "the Hall House," demolished in the 1950s while constructing Interstate Route I-83, and "Hunningdon," at No. 16,129 York Road in Sparks (BA 535), which still stands and is first found in the 1876 tax ledger. (2) Parkton's octogenarians and photo collectors can shed no light on the exact construction date of Hill House.

This land had belonged to George Little until his death in 1878. The 1877 atlas showed his residence on the south side of Stablersville Road. Little owned \$1,500 worth of unspecified improvements in the 1876 tax ledger. (3) His inventory, among other items, made mention of:

Lot of Brick in the Kiln \$150. (4)

Little's farm was split up by Court-appointed commissioners, and his daughter, A. Maggie Rankin was allotted 54 acres of the estate, the portion of it fronting on the York Road (some 297 feet), where Hill House is found today. (5)

Mrs. Rankin was the wife of Dr. Moses E. Rankin, a physi-

an, shown in the 1877 atlas as living on the opposite side of the turnpike, as mentioned before. The atlas patron list shows that Dr. Rankin settled (or was born) in this County in 1852; he owned no real estate as shown in that tabulation or in the 1876 tax ledger. (6)

A. Maggie Rankin and the doctor mortgaged the 54-acre parcel on the York Road which they had acquired in settling the family estate. It would seem logical to conclude that the \$1,100 of borrowed money was for construction of the large house. The loan was taken out on August 12, 1879. (7) About a year later, Mrs. Rankin made out her will, leaving to her husband, "my farm whereon I now dwell by the name of "Cool Spring" lying in Baltimore County 65½ acres." (8) By October of 1880, Mrs. Rankin had died; the testamentary accounts throw no light on her financial dealings. (9)

In 1890, Dr. Rankin, by then a resident of the city of Philadelphia, sold 15 acres on the York Road to James W. Ayres for \$3,100, and two years later Ayres mortgaged the place for \$2,000. (10) Both prices certainly reflect the inclusion of a valuable house on the property. In 1894, Ayres sold the property to Reuben H. Gourley, who assumed the mortgage. (11) The 1896 Tax Ledger proves that Gourley owned a brick house three-quarters of a mile north of Parkton on 15½ acres, a structure worth \$1,800. (12) The 1898 Bromley atlas seems to show all the major houses north of Parkton in the wrong hands. (13) In fact, R. H. Gourley was shown on the west side of the road in-

stead of the east, as had been the case in 1877 with Hopkins' atlas, which was clearly the basis of the Bromley atlas.

In October 1896, Reuben H. Gourley sold the 15 acres to William Wise for \$700 plus assumption of the mortgage. (14) Wise, a paper manufacturer at nearby White Hall, reassembled the other two parcels that had belonged to Mrs. Rankin and in 1902 sold a total of 64 acres to Arthur Hendrix. (15)

Hendrix paid \$3,500, which was approximately what the same farm sold for when he lost control in 1907. In the public auction of Hendrix's property, the house is clearly described for the first time:

Improved by a Three-Story Brick House
Containing fifteen rooms, a good barn
and other outbuildings. The property
is situated in a good neighborhood
convenient to N.C.R.R. being about 3/4
mile from Parkton Station and Post
Office. (16)

After 1907, the history of the house is easily traced. Calvin Webster Hendrix bought the 15-room mansion at auction and in 1909 sold to William C. Orem, who promptly conveyed to Chase Orem & Company. (17) The house was again advertised in 1911 when the corporation sued William C. Orem for default, and following another public sale, it passed to Marian Little (or Martha Marian Little) who was a member of the same family that had owned the ground before. (18)

Tax entries of 1911 and 1915 valued the house at \$2,000 and, in 1918, the dimensions were given as:

Dwelling	16 x 20	2 stories	
	32 x 36	2½ stories	\$2600. (19)

Marian Little was then owner and continued until her death in 1951. Miss Little's sister, Emma Little Jones inherited the place and various family members held it until 1972 when Richard L. and Pamela Sharp bought it, followed in 1973 by Paul J. Lambden, Diane M. D. Lambden, Robert and Jane L. D'Ambrogi, who sold to the present owners in 1978. (20)

The Wrights had hoped to open a French restaurant but found that zoning restrictions had become too burdensome to convert any other country houses into Milton Inns, as had been the case in the rezoning era of the 1940s. The house is now their residence and much refurbished.

NOTES

1. G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1877). Seventh District Plate.
2. Ms. Emily Stiffler, Parkton, Md., to author, March 15, 1981.
3. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, 1876, District 7, n.p.
4. B.C. Inventories, JBM 4:457.
5. B.C. Judicial Records, JB 57:293, 324, 325.
6. G. M. Hopkins, Atlas, Patron List, District 7.
7. B.C. Mortgages, JBM 84:385.
8. B.C. Wills, JBM 6:168. Other records mention "Cold Springs."
9. B.C. Inventories, WHK 17:51.
10. B.C. Deeds, JWS 181:144, and B.C. Mortgages, LMB 161:586.
11. B.C. Deeds, LMB 204:277, and Mortgages LMB 180:51.
12. B.C. Tax List, District 7, 1896, Entry #27-42.

NOTES contd.

13. G. W. and Walter B. Bromley, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1898), Page 31.
14. B.C. Deeds, LMB 220:197.
15. B.C. Deeds, NBM 258:364.
16. B.C. Judicial Records, WPC 213:316.
17. B.C. Deeds, WPC 324:86, and WPC 342:142, 139.
18. B.C. Judicial Records, WPC 251:177. B.C. Deeds, WPC 436:381.
19. B.C. Tax Ledgers, District 7, 1911, f. 463, f. 612; and 1918, f. 631.
20. B.C. Deeds GLB 2791:266, 269, 271. Also, Deeds EHK JR. 5302:248, and EHK JR. 5346:580, and EHK JR. 5865:460.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HILL HOUSE

Baltimore County Deeds, Judicial Records, Tax Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.20

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

S75°	19'	00'	E	380.95	ft
S71	49	00	E	105.00	
S80	21	00	E	383.21	
S10	08	00	W	291.60	
N79	52	00	W	853.30	
N03	53	40	E	95.25	ft along Md. Route 45
N09	21	00	E	283.63	ft to BEGINNING (Map 12, Parcel P151)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning

DATE

April 14, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

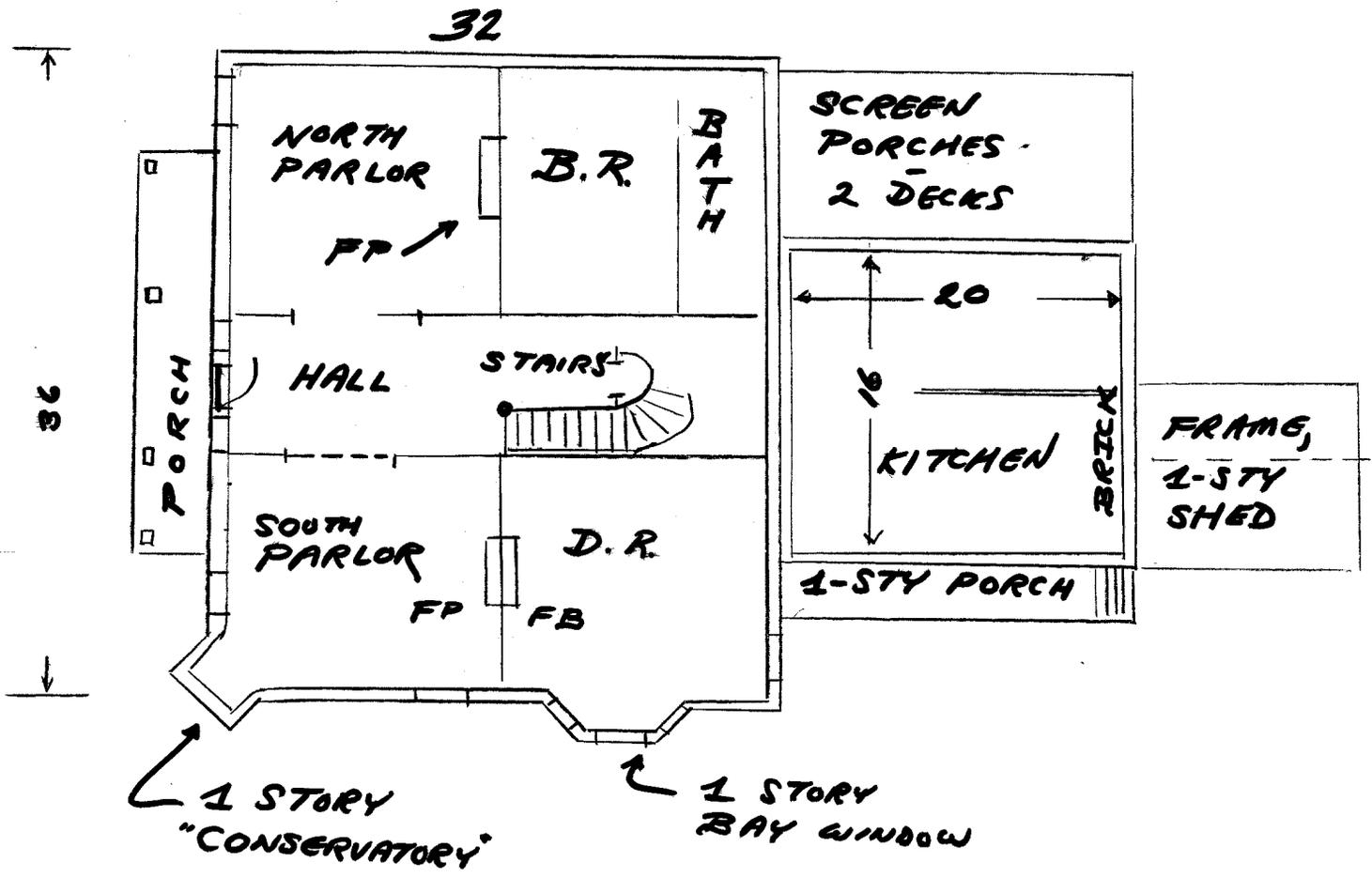
STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



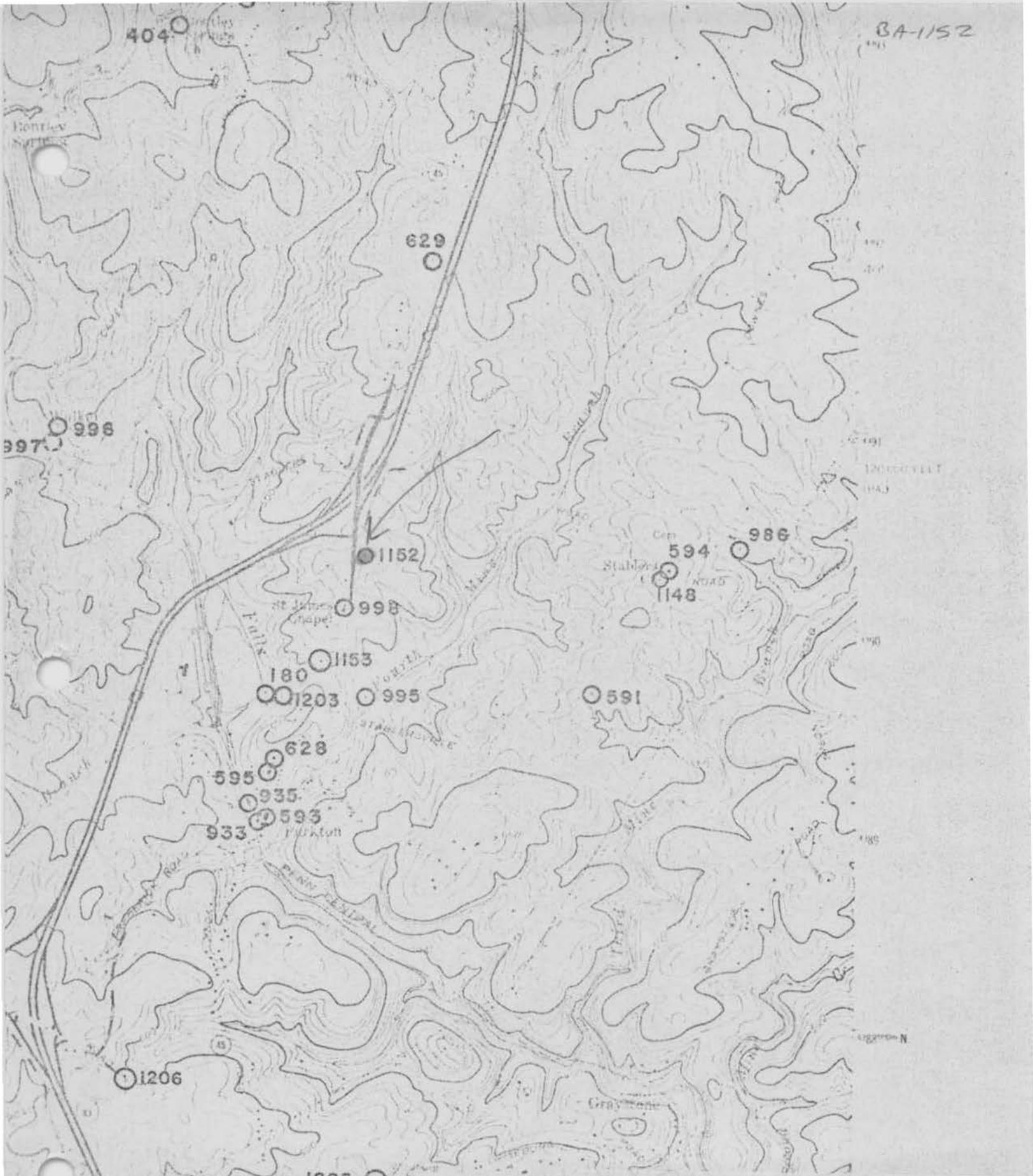
HILL HOUSE
FLOOR PLAN

BA 1152



HILL HOUSE BA 1152
Property Plan
Scale: 1 INCH = 200 FEET
B.C. Photogrametric SHEET-NW
33-B

BA-1152



HILL HOUSE BA 1152
 Portion of U.S.G.S. 7.5-Minute
 Quad, NEW FREEDOM, Maryland-Pa.



Hill House BA 1152
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Feb. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
West and north facades from NW
Photo ~~6 of 45~~

1 of 7



Hill House
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Feb. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
South parlor, folding doors
Photo ~~9~~ of ~~15~~

BA 1152

2 of 7



Hill House BA 1152
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Feb. 1981
Neg located at MHT
Conservatory bay from SW
Photo ~~4 of 45~~

3 of 7



Hill House

BA 1152

Baltimore County, Maryland

J. McGrain

Feb. 1981

Neg. located at MHT

Three-sided dining room bay from
Southwest

Photo ~~5 of 15~~

4 of 7



Hill House BA 1152
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Feb. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
South parlor mouldings in corner
Photo ~~8 of 15~~

5 of 7



Hill House

BA 1152

Baltimore County, Maryland

J. McGrain Feb. 1981

Neg. located at MHT

Dining room, interior of 3-sided bay

Photo ~~44 of 45~~

6 of 7



Hill House BA 1152
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Feb. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
North parlor, fireplace & mirror

Photo 14 of 15

7 of 7