

c. 1905

BA 1609  
Mensana  
Green Spring Valley Road  
Stevenson, Md. 21153  
private

Mensana is a formal house of the American Colonial Revival style. Its commanding hilltop site is studded with mature trees and the shaping of the ground with falls and terraces recalls a notable tradition practiced at many American mansions of the Colonial period.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 1609  
x-882.410  
y-579.860

MAGI #0316091704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

MENSANA

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Green Spring Valley Road

Second

CITY, TOWN

Stevenson

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. Nelson H. Hendler

Telephone #: 653-2403

STREET & NUMBER

Green Spring Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

Stevenson

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21153

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courts Bldg.

Liber #: EHK, Jr. 5862

Folio #: 624

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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

MENSANA is a formal house of the American Colonial Revival style dating from the 1920s. Its commanding hilltop site is studded with mature trees and the shaping of the ground with falls and terraces recalls a notable tradition practiced at many American mansions of the Colonial period.

MENSANA is of brick, two and one-half storeys in height, five bays in length, a one and one-half storey service wing extending west from its west end. Pairs of flush end chimneys terminate each gable of the dwelling. The principal entrance facade is the north where the door is flanked by 4/4 windows arranged in a tripartite motif of pilasters supporting a shallow balcony screening a tall tripartite window in the second storey. Centered on the south facade, which overlooks the broad view of the valley, is a two-storey portico of the Tower-of-the-Winds order.

Typical windows are 6/6 with louvred blinds. One dormer is on either side of the south portico and three dormers are in the north roof, all with 6/6 windows. The modillioned cornice extends across and up the rakes of the south portico and a shield-shaped window is in the portico tympanum.

The principal or north entrance opens into a wide center hall; the intermediate landing of the principal stair is immediately above the door and the stair is open clear to the third floor. A large drawing room extends through the house east of the hall and a library is at the south front west of the hall. A longitudinal hall extends between the two westerly rooms leading to the dining room, the first room in the wing. Pantries and the kitchen are further west in the wing.

Interior detailing accurately recalls the finest American detailing of the very early nineteenth century: architrave trim at openings; paneled wainscotting and paneled walls; chair rails; plaster cornices. The moulded rail of the stair terminates in a scroll at the foot of the stair and three turned balusters per tread support it; carved scrolls ornament step ends. The limestone mantel of the drawing room may be an English piece dating from the eighteenth century: a deep architrave surround supports a frieze with delicate foliage carving, a cornice shelf above. In the library

the mantel is an architrave surround set deep within splayed jambs, themselves with a surround having pilasters supporting carved consoles in turn supporting a deep cornice shelf. In the dining room the exposed joists form coffers in the ceiling. A large bay window is at either end of the dining room. Paneled Tuscan pilasters at either side of the openings to the bays support a full entablature which extends around the entire room. The mantel is an architrave surround supporting six carved consoles in the frieze which, in turn, support a cornice shelf. The limestone lining is a Tudor arch. The paneled chimney breast is flanked by paneled Tuscan pilasters. All woodwork is natural oak.

A frame garage stands northeast of the dwelling, one and one-half storeys in height. Three automobile bays are in its west end and three bays at the east contain a door flanked by windows; three dormers are in the roof, the center one with a pair of 6/6 windows, the side ones with a single 6/6 window; and a louvred cupola is on the ridge. A chauffeur's quarters is incorporated into the garage.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b>			
<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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

MENSANA is styled after a formal mansion of the very early nineteenth century, its accurate details typical of the 1920s when trends toward accuracy led to the restorations of Williamsburg, Virginia. The hilltop setting with its shaped falls and terraces and its mature shade trees further recalls its prototypes.

Mensana is a private sanitarium located on the north side of Green Spring Valley Road. The 18 acre property on which it stands was once part of a large 650 acre estate called "Old Stoneton" developed by Samuel Stone in the 1800's. The old mansion by that name stood until 1905 when it was otrn down to make way for the present building.<sup>1</sup>

The property and house passed to Stone's nephew, Alexander Hamilton Stump in 1860.<sup>2</sup> Over the years the house and about 220 of the original acres remained in the family passing from Stump's widow to his son W. G. Harrison Stump.<sup>3</sup>

Subsequently the Old Stoneton mansion and 159 acres were sold to Edward F. Burke of Orange, New Jersey, by public sale on May 13, 1902.<sup>4</sup> He paid \$377 per acre and this coupled with the cost of the house and out buildings came to a total of \$22,230.69.<sup>5</sup>

Burke was a close personal friend of President Theodore Roosevelt and was an officer in the Rough Riders. A well-known horseman, Burke participated in the famous charge up San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War.<sup>6</sup>

According to a 1905 issue of the News American, Burke tore down Old Stoneton and built a large colonial revival house on an emminence overlooking the Valley which he called "Bally Dugan". The house was designed by James A. Darrack of New York and built by Israel Owings of Mount Washington.<sup>7</sup> It was 140 x 40 feet in size.

Burke died on March 2, 1908, leaving his estate to his wife Madelaine (Forrest) Burke.<sup>8</sup> She later married Henry S. Hooper and on March 14, 1921,<sup>9</sup> they sold the estate for reportedly \$100,000 to Richard and Catharine (Bond) Jackson who named the place "Venture".

The Jacksons bought two more parcels of the original Old Stoneton land. In 1924 they acquired 65.91 acres opposite them on the south side of Valley Road from Felix Agnus, selling 30 of these acres to Howard and Katharine (Finney) Baetjer II in 1959 and subsequently all of them. On May 5, 1948, they purchased 10 acres from Raymond S. Clark.<sup>10</sup>

Richard N. Jackson died on December 18th, 1962, and Venture passed to his wife. By the terms of her will, the property was put up for sale following her death in 1967. On October 11, 1968, Dr. Nicholas L. Ballich became the owner<sup>11</sup> and converted the large mansion house into a private medical guest house. He also acquired additional property to the north of the house increasing his holdings to more than 140 acres.<sup>12</sup>

Today the property is owned by Dr. Nelson H. Hendler who bought it on December 30, 1977. It is a place for the treatment of headache and chronic pain.<sup>13</sup>

The name "Mensana" means "sound mind".

Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes, The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978).

<sup>2</sup> Baltimore County Wills (BCW), Liber J.L.R. 2, fol. 108, Towson Court House, Towson, Maryland.

<sup>3</sup> Baltimore County Land Records (BCLR), Libers J.W.S. 169, fol. 134.

<sup>4</sup> B.C.L.R. Liber N. B. M. 264, fol. 34, Towson.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> "Green Spring Valley House Sold" (Towson) The News Era 19 Feb. 1921.

<sup>7</sup> Interview with Mr. J. William Middendorf, Jr., June 20, 1972; interview with Mr. Charles J. Moore, Jr., November 20, 1973; telephone conversation with Mrs. Herman Stump, August 29, 1974; "Green Spring Valley Homes - Picturesque Estate of Mr. Edward F. Burke", Baltimore American, May 21, 1905.

<sup>8</sup> BCW, Liber W.J.P. 18, fol. 372, Towson.

<sup>9</sup> BCLR, Liber W.P.C. 538, fol. 184, Towson. "Green Spring Valley Home Sold".

<sup>10</sup> BCLR Libers W.P.C. 601, fol. 58, N.B.M. 261, fol 557, W.J.R. 3480, fol. 536, O.T.G. 4794, fol. 30 and T.B.S. 1654, fol 412, Towson.

<sup>11</sup> BCLR, Liber O.T.G. 4930, fol 131, Towson; BCW, Liber J.D.L. 98, fol 327, Towson.

<sup>12</sup> Other deeds pertaining to land acquired by Dr. Ballich are: BCLR, Libers 1773, fol 68, 1825, fol. 48 and 1911, fol 230, Towson.

<sup>13</sup> Liber E.H.K., Jr. 5862, fol. 624. Towson.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore County Courts Bldg., Towson, Maryland  
 Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes. The Green Spring Valley:  
 Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. Baltimore: Maryland Historical  
 Society, 1978.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 18

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**


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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

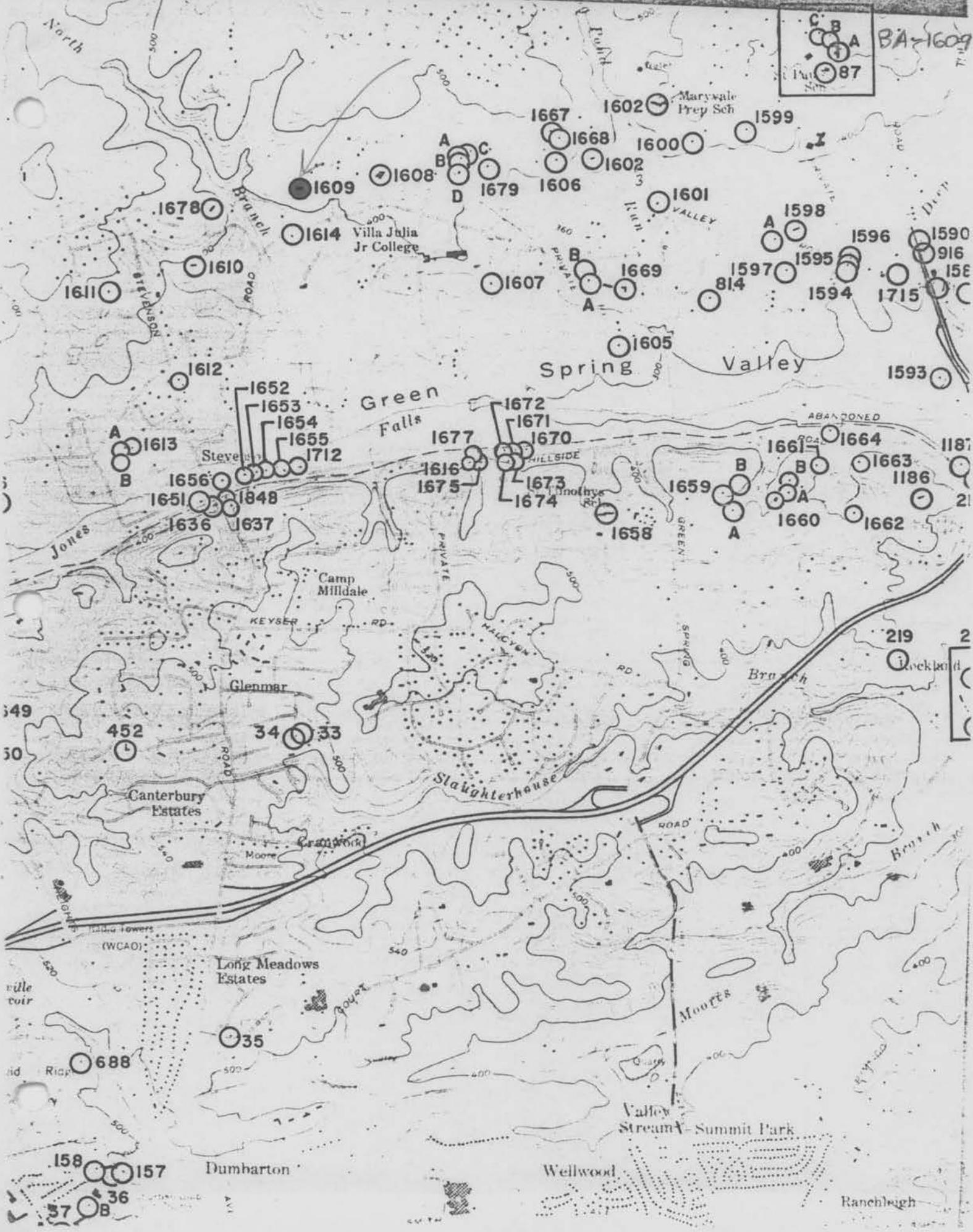
NAME / TITLE

<u>James T. Wollon, Jr., A.I.A., Dawn F. Thomas, Howard Baetjer,</u>	<u>Research</u>
ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Valleys Planning Council</u>	<u>3-12-80</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>212 Washington Avenue</u>	<u>828-7807</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Towson</u>	<u>Maryland</u>

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



BA-1609

87

349  
350

2  
1

158  
157  
37  
36  
38

Dumbarton

Wellwood

Valley Stream - Summit Park

Ranchleigh



BA 1609

Mensana

GSVHD

Grn. Spr. Vly.

JTW

8-30-79

Md. Hist. Tr.

from SE



BA 1609 3-*101* *3-31*

Garage

GSVHD

Gr. Spn. Vly.

JTW

8-30-79

Md. Hist. Tr.

from S