FHR-8-300 (11-78)

BA-2227

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic: The Wilderness

and/or common: The Wilderness

2. Location

street & number: 2 Thistle Road — n/a not for publication

city, town: Catonsville — X vicinity of — congressional district: Third

state: Maryland — code: 24 — county: Baltimore — code: 005

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name: Mr. and Mrs. Philip F. Fry

street & number: 2 Thistle Road

city, town: Catonsville — n/a vicinity of — state: Maryland 21228

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Baltimore County Courthouse

street & number:

city, town: Townson — state: Maryland 21204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title: Maryland Historical Trust Historical Sites Inventory — has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date: 1984 — ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town: Annapolis — state: Maryland 21401

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date n/a
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	0	Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: residential

The Wilderness is a large stone and frame house located in a wooded setting west of Catonsville in Baltimore County, Maryland. The current appearance of the house is the result of a major expansion and renovation campaign carried out in 1899-1900. The building combines Colonial Revival massing and decorative detailing with multiple roof and dormer shapes and a wrap around porch reminiscent of the Queen Anne style in a free composition typical of the eclectic spirit of the period. It is sited facing east on a small rise, and stands three stories tall, three bays wide by seven bays deep. The first story is constructed of stucco-covered stone, while the upper level is frame and clad in shingles. The third story is located within a tall mansard roof and lighted by various dormers. A small belvedere caps the roof. The interior retains all its turn-of-the-20th-century Classical and Colonial Revival detailing, including mantels, stair, baseboard and architrave trim. Also on the property are a stone springhouse/smokehouse, a summer kitchen, log tenant house, and a large frame barn.

For General Description, See Continuation Sheet No. 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Wilderness is a large (40'x72') mansard-roofed stone and frame house located on the west side of Thistle Road near Catonsville in Baltimore County, Maryland. It stands three stories high, three bays wide by seven bays deep; its Colonial Revival/Queen Anne appearance dates from a major renovation carried out in 1899.

The first story of the house is constructed of stone, covered with stucco; the upper levels are shingle-clad frame. The eastern section incorporates a c. 1800 2-story stone house which was expanded in 1877 and raised to three stories in 1899.

The east facade is three bays wide, with a transomed central entrance flanked by French windows. Three 4/1 windows are ranged across the second story, and a large pedimented dormer with paired 6/1 sash lights the mansard story. A broad flat-roofed one story porch spans this facade and wraps around to the south; it features a dentil cornice, paired chamfered posts and a Classical grille-like balustrade.

The north elevation is seven irregular bays wide, and contains a formal entrance in the third bay from the east; this consists of three granite steps rising to a door framed by a broad segmental-arched transom and sidelights with Colonial Revival tracery. West of this entrance a distance of two bays is a service entrance: a hooded doorway opens into a hall from which a stair rises to the servant's quarters on the third floor. The remaining bays of the first story hold 4/1 sash. On the second-floor level, a three-sided oriel projects above the main entrance; its three facets hold Queen Anne sash. Two small 4/1 windows light the stair above the servants' entrance. The remaining bays hold 4/1 sash and are aligned directly above their counterparts on the first story. Four hipped dormers light the mansard: from east to west, they include one with double 4-light casements and a corbeled chimney stack; a single dormer with a 4-light casement; one with triple 4/1 sash; and a single 6/1 dormer.

The central third of the south elevation features a full-height projecting gable, one bay wide and two deep. Fenestration is essentially regular on this elevation, with 4/1 sash in each of the seven bays of the first story and six bays of the second. The porch wraps around across the two eastern bays of this side. On the second story, a one-bay shed-roofed projection at the intersection of the main block and the gable wing accommodates a bathroom. The mansard is lighted by two hipped 6/1 dormers on the west and a double 4/1 dormer with corbeled chimney on the east; a hipped 6-pane dormer lights each slope of the gable. A small flat-roofed belvedere is visible atop the main block.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The rear (west) elevation is two bays wide. A steep flight of steps bridges a basement entrance and leads to the kitchen door, which has a stained-glass transom; a narrow 4/1 window lies to its immediate left. The remaining bays of the first and second stories have 4/1 sash; two hipped dormers, each with a small 6/1 window, light the mansard.

Just west of the house is a small gable-roofed stone combination springhouse and smokehouse. The recessed entrance to the spring room is covered by an extension of the roof slope with latticework infill. The small building has prominent quoins, and a scalloped bargeboard decorates the eaves.

Also on the property are a large late-19th century frame barn, a summer kitchen with cooking fireplace, and an altered and enlarged log tenant house. Two sheds and a garage do not contribute to the significance of the resource.

The north entrance, designed to be the main entrance in the 1899 renovation, opens through a small vestibule into a broad (8' by 20') stair hall. The stair is a triple-run plan, rising against the southwest corner of the hall; it features a square newel and turned balusters, and paneled step-ends; the area below the stair is also paneled.

To the east, the 15' by 30' space of the original c. 1800 house is divided by sliding doors into two parlors; the partition is marked by Classical pilasters supporting a lintel decorated with an acanthus motif. The acanthus motif also appears at the entrance to the north parlor from the hall. Both parlors have fireplaces with tiled surrounds framed by Colonial Revival mantels with overmantel mirrors.

A 16'x14' library is located off the stair hall to the south, and the western end of the house is taken up by a kitchen measuring 14' by 16' and a 16' by 28' dining room. The dining room fireplace is constructed of ornamental brick with egg-and-dart molding and fluted pilasters. The kitchen retains an early hutch and has vertical-board wainscoting and a plain fireplace. All the rooms have baseboard and door and window architrave trim of the 1899 period; interior doors throughout have five horizontal panels.

The second floor is divided into eight bedrooms. All retain the full complement of original decorative detailing; the two east rooms are heated by fireplaces with tiled surrounds and Colonial Revival mantels. The third floor has seven very plain rooms.

The interior is essentially unaltered; temporary partitions have been installed in the second- and third-floor hallways to reduce heating costs, without disturbing the original fabric.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1899–1900 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Wilderness is significant for its architecture, as an example of a large country house embodying the distinctive characteristics of turn-of-the-20th-century eclecticism in its combination of elements of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. The building expresses a Colonial Revival feeling in its rectangular massing and in its exterior and interior detailing, in combination with Queen Anne-inspired multiple roof forms. It is a notable landmark in its isolated, undeveloped setting in southwestern Baltimore County. The Wilderness derives additional significance from its association with Baltimore merchant and philanthropist Francis Cumberland Dugan II, (1830-1914) under whose ownership the house acquired its present appearance. Dugan established his hardware dealership in Baltimore in 1852; still active in business up to his death in 1914, he was then the oldest merchant in the city. He was one of the incorporators of St. Mary's Industrial School in 1866, and served on the board of directors of St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum and the Metropolitan Savings Bank. He remodeled The Wilderness in 1899 and maintained it as a summer residence.

For History and Supporting Documentation, see Continuation Sheet No. 3

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

The two-story stone house which is incorporated within The Wilderness was constructed c. 1800 by John Russell. In 1827, Russell sold the property comprising 100 acres to James Anderson Buchanan (Baltimore County Deeds, Liber 185, Folio 626). In 1829 Buchanan sold the property to his widowed mother-in-law, Isabella Nelson, who bequeathed it in 1875 to her granddaughter Harriet Buchanan Dugan.

The following biographical information on Francis Cumberland Dugan II is extracted verbatim from Carlton Coulter, "Geneology of the Coulter FAmily," manuscript on file at the Maryland Historical Society:

Francis Cumberland II, the eldest son of Frederick James Dugan and his wife Emily Chatard, was born at the family residence on Exchange Place in Baltimore on 29 July 1830. He never used his given name but was known as Cumberland.

He was educated in a parochial school and at Mt. St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland. In early youth, he entered business life and in 1852 began his career as a merchant dealing in hardware and machinist supplies. He entered partnership with his friend Courtney Jenkins and the firm of Dugan and Jenkins was established at 21 South Charles Street.

On 16 September 1856, he married Harriet Anderson Buchanan.

The Dugans first lived at 77 Liberty Street, between Lexington and Fayette.

Later they moved to Hamilton Street between Charles and Cathedral, living here until 1865, when they moved for a year to the Hollis Buchanan (not a relative) house on Bellona Avenue.

In 1875, Cumberland Dugan and his wife brought suit to attain possession of "The Wilderness" in Baltimore County, which Mrs. Dugan claimed under the will of her grandmother, Isabella Nelson.

The case made legal history in Maryland, as the decision did much to limit the application of the "Shelley Case" to the inheritance of land in the State. By a decision of the Court of Common Pleas, rendered in 1875, and confirmed two years later by the Maryland Court of Appeals, the property reverted to Mrs. Dugan. In 1899, the original house, which was then almost 100 years old, was partially pulled down, restored and enlarged. The restoration was completed in 1900.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

From 1852 to almost the day of his death, Cumberland Dugan was active in the business life of Baltimore. The firm of Dugan and Jenkins continued until 1857, when it was dissolved and Cumberland Dugan established the firm of Cumberland Dugan and Company Hardware Merchant.

Not only was Cumberland Dugan a prominent merchant of Baltimore, but at the time of his death, he was the oldest active businessman in the City, one of the most widely-known and one of the most popular. His friend W. W. Spence was slightly older, but had long since retired from business. At the age of 83, Cumberland Dugan daily walked from his house on Lanvale Street to his office on Howard and Barre Streets, a distance of over two miles.

He was eighty-four at the time of his death. Until his last illness, which began two weeks before his death, he took an active part in the affairs of his firm.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property, 17.57 acres, comprises the resource within its rural wooded setting. Boundaries utilize existing property lines, as shown on the attached map reproduced from Baltimore County Tax Map No. 100 (Parcel 459).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Coulter, Carlton. "Geneology of the Coulter Family" (ms., Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Maryland)

Interview with Charles Nelson Dugan, n.d.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 17.57 acres

Quadrangle name Ellicott City, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	367610	4346840
B	18	367010	4346540
C	18	367420	4346460
D	18	367260	4366010
E	18	367360	4346740
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

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

state	code	county	code
n/a			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip F. Fry

organization owner date May 1984; revised June 1985

street & number 2 Thistle Road telephone (301) 747-4005

city or town Catonsville state Maryland 21228

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 8-9-85

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS 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

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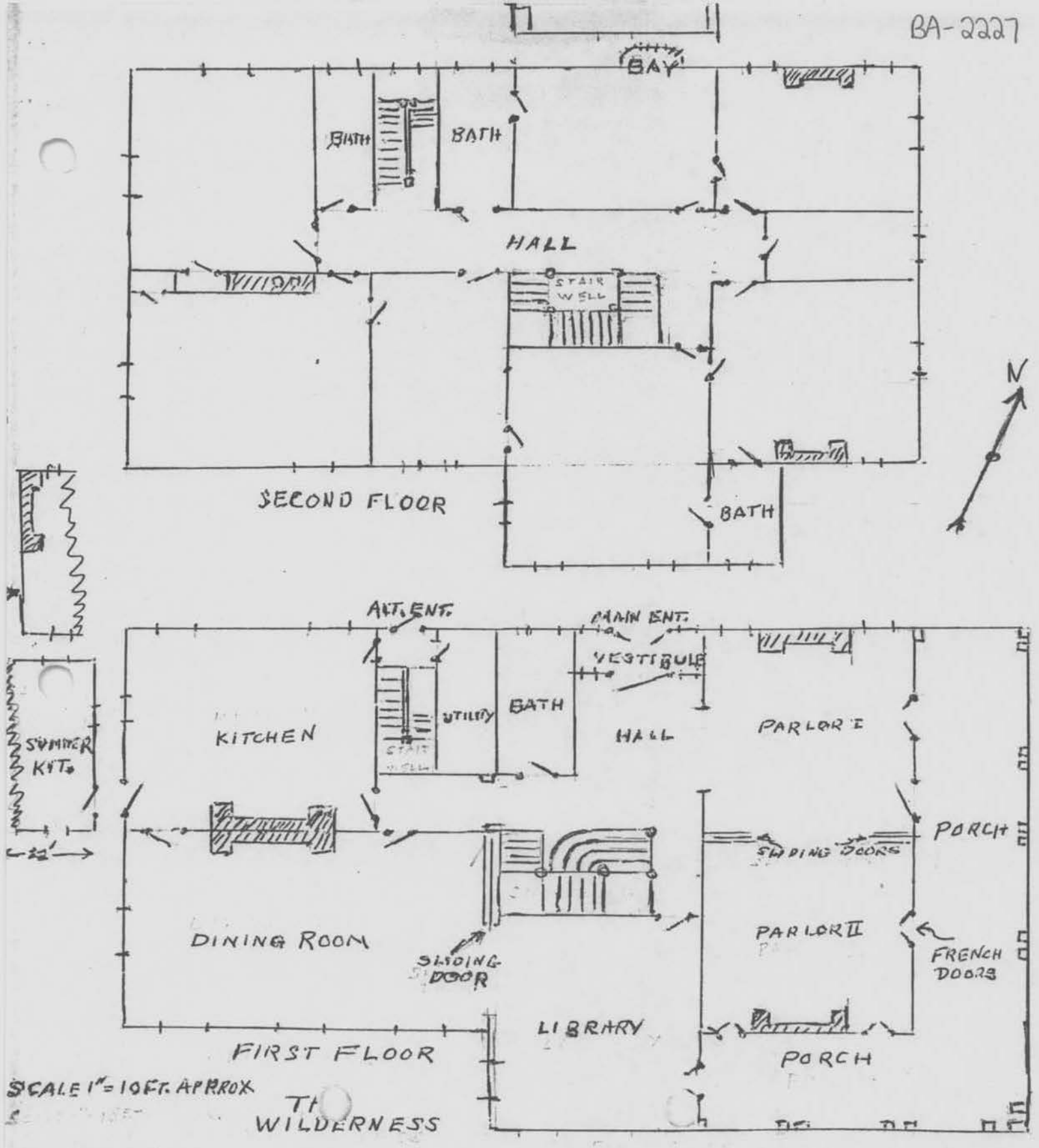

BAY
BATH
BATH
HALL
STAIR WELL
SECOND FLOOR
BATH
N
ALT. ENT.
MAIN ENT.
VESTIBULE
KITCHEN
UTILITY
BATH
HALL
PARLOR I
SUMMER KIT.
PORCH
SLIDING DOORS
DINING ROOM
SLIDING DOOR
PARLOR II
FRENCH DOORS
LIBRARY
FIRST FLOOR
PORCH
SCALE 1" = 10 FT. APPROX.
THE WILDERNESS

THE WILDERNESS BA 2227

Baltimore County Tax Map No. 100
1 INCH = 600 FT

P.453
P.680
P.476
P.9
THISTLE ROAD
WHITING
/306
.97A
+60
P.466
P.46
P.675
P.443
P.444
P.445
STATE OF MARYLAND
(DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES)
5982/920
59.69 A.
P.458
P.1083
P.1025
PHILLIP E. FRY ET AL
3124/473
17.57A
P.459
P.778
P.1024
P.1059
PHILEMON B. COULTER
1642/362
9.00A
P.1023
STATE OF MARYLAND
(DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES)
5981/63
77.64 A
P.457
HILLTOP RD
POWER LINE
NEW HAVEN BOARD AND CARTON COMPANY
3269/379
P.1145
P.792
P.461
P/O P.630
P.50
P/O MAP 94 - P.74

ED BY MENTS & TAXATION DIVISION	PROPERTY LINE SUB-DIVISION BOUNDARY CONTINUING OWNERSHIP - Z T.E. —Z— Z Z PARCEL NUMBER - P. 349 (ASSIGNED TO IDENTIFY AND INDEX OWNERSHIP. MUST BE PRECEEDED BY MAP NUMBER.) SCALE: 1" = 600'					
DATE 1, '80	LIBER 6212	BY RJC	LAST P. NO 1212	PHOTO 2DD-118	QUADRANGLE	

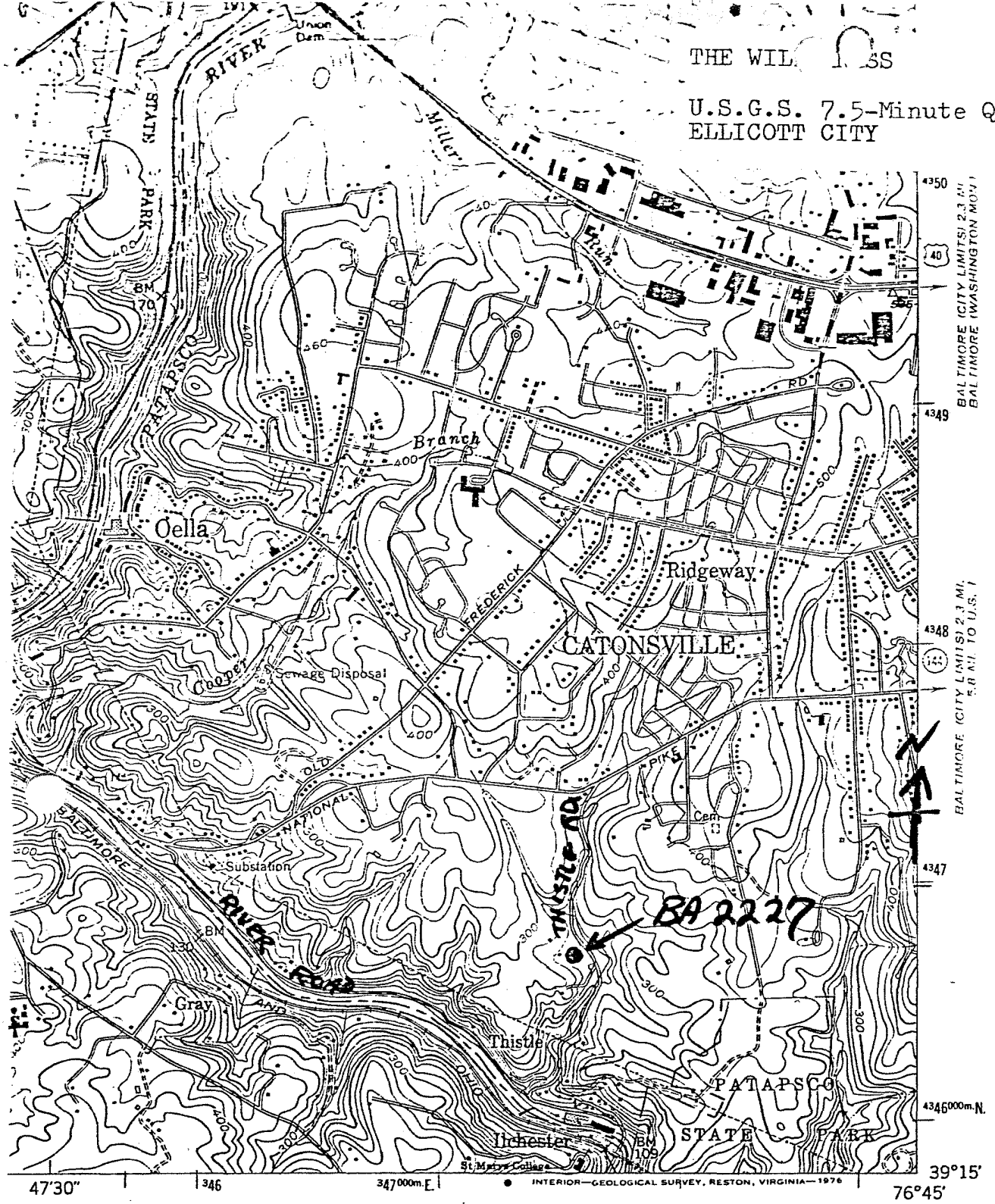
869

THE WIL[illegible]SS

BA 2227

U.S.G.S. 7.5-Minute Quad
ELLICOTT CITY

1974



MILE

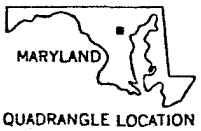
(RELAY)
5662 II NW

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty — Light-duty

Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt

Interstate Route — U. S. Route — State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ELLICOTT CITY, MD.

N3915—W7645/7.5

1953

PHOTOREVISED 1966 AND 1974

AMS 5662 IV SE—SERIES V833

BA-2227

THE WILDERNESS"

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

A: 18-347610-4346840

B: 18-347700-4346540

C: 18-347420-4346460

D: 18-347260-4346600

E: 18-347360-4346740

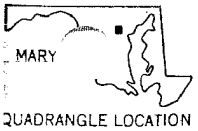
(RELAY) 5662 II NW

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty — Light-duty

Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt

Interstate Route — U. S. Route — State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ELLICOTT CITY, MD.

N3915—W7645/7.5

1953

PHOTOREVISED 1966 AND 1974

AMS 5662 IV SE—SERIES V833

BA-2227

1. The Wilderness (house)
2. Dist 1 Balto Co. Md.
   Thistle R. ¼ Mi. S. Fredrick.
3. unknown
4. December 1899
5. Maryland Hisrorical Trust, Annapolis Md.
6. Camera facing North West
7. 1 of 5

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