

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes  X  
no

Property Name: Root Cellar, Spring Grove Inventory Number: BA-2332  
Address: Spring Grove Hospital City: Catonsville Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: Baltimore County USGS Topographic Map: Baltimore West  
Owner: DHMH Is the property being evaluated a district?  no  yes  
Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
Site visit by MHT staff:  no  yes Name: L. Bowlin, 1985 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property is located within a historic district?  yes  no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: BA-2319  
NR-listed district  yes Eligible district  yes Name of District: Spring Grove Hospital Center  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource  yes  no Non-contributing but eligible in another context  yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible  yes  no

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

#BA 157 (Bowlin, 1986); Project Review & Compliance Files; Spring Grove Architectural Survey Notebook

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Spring Grove Hospital Center, Catonsville, Baltimore County was initially determined eligible for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties in 1986. Trust policy is that any property eligible for the MRHP is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Spring Grove is eligible under Criterion A, events, as the first state-sponsored facility for the mentally ill. The hospital had its origins in 1797 where the indigent sick and insane were cared for in Baltimore. By 1872 the hospital had outgrown its site and the state chose a new 200-acresite in Catonsville. The District is also eligible under Criterion C, as an architectural example. The hospital center does not have a specific layout, but rather its growth and development are demonstrated through the construction of buildings in response to new needs and developments in the care of the mentally ill. The 1985 survey included 25 buildings built between 1872 and 1944. All are eligible contributing resources to the historic district.

[from Spring Grove Hospital Center DOE]

As a result of the recently completed survey, 25 buildings have been determined to be historically and architecturally significant to the development of public mental health care in Maryland at Spring Grove Hospital Center.

This property, BA-2332, Root Cellar, was included on the list of significant properties. (See Bowlin, 1985)

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended  X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

BA-2332

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Root Cellar, Spring Grove

Page 2

---

Prepared by: L. Bowlin, 1985 (MHT)

Date Prepared: \_\_\_\_\_

BA-2332

1930

Root Cellar

Public

Spring Grove Hospital Center

Catonsville

The Root Cellar displays two main walls, while the main body of the structure remains underground. The stone facade is embedded into the earth, decorated by the construction date of the cellar: 1930. The end wall rises above the ground for approximately six and a half feet and provides ventilation for the cellar.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Root Cellar

and/or common

### 2. Location

street &amp; number

 not for publication

city, town Catonsville

 vicinity of

congressional district

3

state Maryland

county Baltimore

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Hospital

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

street &amp; number 201 West Preston Street

telephone no.: 301-225-6816

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code

Maryland 21201

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse

liber

street &amp; number

folio

city, town Towson

state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

e

date

 federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

# 7. Description

Survey No.

BA-2332

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed in 1930, the root cellar has only two faces that stand above ground. The principal facade faces east and provides access to the root cellar. This eastern facade is one story, constructed of stone, and decorated by a stepped parapet. On the eastern face of the parapet, the date of 1930 has been attached to commemorate the construction of the structure. The wall openings have been altered and what remains is a single pane window, a modern metal door, and a short, wide, wooden door. Though altered, this wooden door appears to be original. Because the facade is embedded into the earth, rubblestone retaining walls connect to each side of the stone facade.

The main body of the structure is underground. Beside the east facade, the most noticeable feature is an end wall, directly parallel to the east facade. This western wall protrudes from the ground approximately six-and-a-half feet. Constructed of stone, the thin, rectangular wall has a band of metal screens and then is capped by a stone slab. The design of the wall indicates its function as an air shaft. This wall, as well, commemorates the date of construction by having the year of 1930 attached to the wall. Proper ventilation is also achieved by individual air shafts which form two parallel lines between the eastern facade and the western end wall. The ventilation shafts measure approximately eight inches above ground and are made of metal. While the eastern facade is embedded into the earth, the interior of the root cellar runs in a westerly direction underground with the air shafts forming the connection between above and below ground by providing proper ventilation.

Steel beams with stone bases supply the root cellar with interior support. The interior space is currently used for vehicle storage. Two offices, one of particle board and one of cinder block, mark some of the alterations to the structure. The unfinished walls and cement floors remain as the original purpose dictated.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. BA-2332

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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: 1930 Builder/Architect: Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Root Cellar served an important function in the farm operation of the hospital. The farm productivity increased in the first quarter of the twentieth century because the tillable acreage had been increased. Larger crop yields cramped existing vegetable storage spaces. As many structures built on the Spring Grove Campus during the 1930's, the Root Cellar provided larger facilities for the expanding hospital.

The main facade of the Root Cellar displays the year of 1930 as the construction date. While construction began in that year, the structure was not complete until additional funds had been received from Maryland's General Construction Loan of 1929. The funds were appropriated in the fall of 1931.

Since the eradication of the farm program in the 1960's, the Root Cellar is no longer needed for the storage of vegetables. Due to its large underground space, the Root Cellar has been utilized as storage space for machines required for landscape maintenance. This function has not required much alteration and allows the ventilation system to remain intact.





BA-2332

ROOT CELLAR

SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER

CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND

EAST WALL

DON JEWELL, 4/86

NEGATIVES AT MHT



BA - 2332

ROOT CELLAR

SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER

CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND

WEST WALL

DON JEWELL, 4/86

NEGATIVES AT MHT