

**CAPSULE SUMMARY****BA-~~250~~ BA-250****Roslyn****7640 Bradshaw Road****Upper Falls, Baltimore County****Ca. 1827****Private**

The property known as Roslyn is located at 7640 Bradshaw Road in the Eleventh District, between the towns of Upper Falls and Kingsville in Baltimore County, Maryland. Constructed circa 1827, the house originally belonged to Dr. David Sterrett Gittings, a prominent physician in the county. Gittings received the land through his marriage to Juliana West, the daughter of Colonel John Beale Howard. The property remained in the Gittings family until 1949, when it was sold to the Hammond family. Roslyn is detailed in the Federal style of architecture and stands as an example of a rural domestic building.

Sited at the top of a low, sloping hill that sets back from Bradshaw Road, Roslyn is a two-and-a-half story Federal style house of stone masonry construction parged in concrete with a side gable roof. The three-bay wide, single-pile house has been enlarged by the circa 1900 construction of a two-and-a-half story wood frame, vinyl-sided ell addition on the east elevation. The ell, which rests on a coursed rubble stone foundation, has a front gable roof with intersecting side gables and a one-story shed-roofed addition on the south elevation. All roofs are clad in asphalt shingles. Two interior end rebuilt stretcher bond brick chimneys rise through the gable ends of the original portion of the building. One-story screened porches are located on the façade and the west elevation of the ell. In addition, there is a one-half story greenhouse addition, accessible by the basement of the dwelling, on the west elevation of the main block of the house. To the northeast of the house is a structure that serves as a storage area. Roslyn's setting is rural and secluded, with only a few late 20th century dwellings in the immediate vicinity. The property is accessible by a gravel driveway that extends east from Bradshaw Road.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1250

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Roslyn (preferred); Roslin

other

### 2. Location

street and number 7640 Bradshaw Road \_\_ not for publication

city, town Upper Falls \_\_ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Thomas W. and Kathryn L. Hewitt

street and number 7640 Bradshaw Road telephone (410) 592-2077

city, town Upper Falls state MD zip code 21156

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 6477 folio 709

city, town Towson tax map 64 tax parcel 16 tax ID number 1900007234

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	1
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b> 1

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-4250

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

Sited at the top of a low, sloping hill that sets back from Bradshaw Road, Roslyn is a two-and-a-half story circa 1827 Federal style house of stone masonry construction parged in concrete with a side gable roof. The three-bay wide, single-pile house has been enlarged by the circa 1900 construction of a two-and-a-half story wood frame, vinyl-sided ell addition on the east elevation. The ell, which rests on a coursed rubble stone foundation, has a front gable roof with intersecting side gables and a one-story shed-roofed addition on the south elevation. All roofs are clad in asphalt shingles. Two interior end rebuilt stretcher bond brick chimneys rise through the gable ends of the original portion of the building. One-story screened porches are located on the façade and the west elevation of the ell. In addition, there is a one-half story greenhouse addition, accessible by the basement of the dwelling, on the west elevation of the main block of the house. To the northeast of the house is a structure that serves as a storage area. Roslyn's setting is rural and secluded, with only a few late 20<sup>th</sup> century dwellings in the immediate vicinity. The property is accessible by a gravel driveway that extends east from Bradshaw Road.

### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The façade, or south elevation, of the original main block of the house is three bays wide with a side entrance. Two 6/6 windows and one single-leaf door pierce the first story. The one-story screened porches obstructed the view of the first story openings, particularly that of the door pattern. The full-width early 20<sup>th</sup> century porch features narrow Tuscan columns supporting a hipped roof. The second story of the façade is pierced by three 6/6 windows with wood sills. Rising from the roof are three gabled dormers filled with 6/6 sash. The dormers, which feature molded cornice returns, are clad in asphalt shingles on the sides, while the front of each is clad in flush wood siding. The south elevation of the circa 1900 addition is pierced at the basement level by one sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door and two 6/6 windows with rowlock sills. A bilaterally symmetrical tripartite window composed of a central 24-light fixed window flanked by two narrow 6/6 windows dominates the first story of the addition. Beside this window is an additional 6/6 window. The second story of the addition is pierced by two 6/6 windows. One 6/6 window pierces the pedimented gable peak of the attic story. All windows on the south elevation feature wood surrounds.

The east elevation, composed entirely of the ell addition, features an irregular pattern of fenestration. The first story is pierced by three 6/6 windows on the south end and two 4/4 windows on the north end. Between these two sets of windows, there is one wide window opening filled with three one-light vinyl sash casement windows. Above the central casement is one semi-circular one-light fixed vinyl sash fanlight. Three 6/6 windows and two 4/4 windows pierce the second story of the elevation. There is one 6/6 window in the gable peak of the attic story. All windows feature vinyl surrounds and sills.

The north elevation of the ell is pierced only at the attic story by two four-light fixed windows with vinyl surrounds and sills. Two 6/6 windows pierce the first story of the main block, while there are three 6/6 windows at the second story. A low, shed-roofed 6/6 dormer window on the main block rises from the east end of the roof.

The west elevation of the ell is pierced at the first story by one sash-and-paneled single-leaf door with a three-light transom and two 4/6 windows. Three 4/4 windows pierce the second story of the ell. The west elevation of the main block is pierced at the basement level by one door opening that was not visible at the time of the survey. Two four-light fixed windows pierce the attic story of the main block.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. BAA-0250

Name Roslyn, 7640 Bradshaw Road, Upper Falls, Baltimore County  
**Continuation Sheet**

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INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior was not accessible at the time of the survey.

OUTBUILDING

The circa 1980 storage area to the northeast of the house comprises three walls. The tall structure has no roof and features a wood frame clad on the all three sides in plywood. The south elevation of the structure is further clad in sheet asphalt.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1250

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Specific dates** 1827 ca., 1949 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1827 ca.

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The property known as Roslyn is located at 7640 Bradshaw Road in the Eleventh District, between the towns of Upper Falls and Kingsville in Baltimore County, Maryland. Constructed circa 1827, the Federal-style house originally belonged to Dr. David Sterrett Gittings, a prominent physician in the county. Gittings received the land through his marriage to Juliana West, the daughter of Colonel John Beale Howard. The property remained in the Gittings family until 1949, when it was sold to the Hammond family. Roslyn is detailed in the Federal style of architecture and stands as an example of a rural domestic building.

## HISTORIC CONTEXT

According to deed research, David Sterett Gittings and his wife, Juliana West (1798-1847) were willed property by her father, Colonel John Beale Howard. Although this will was not located, the transfer of property was confirmed by a deed of conveyance dated September 10, 1827.<sup>1</sup> David Sterett Gittings, son of Richard and Polly Sterett Gittings, was born on August 17, 1797 in Baltimore. He attended Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and then the Maryland University of Medicine. Following his graduation from medical school, he spent two years working in the hospitals in Edinburgh, Scotland and London, England. In 1820, Gittings returned to Baltimore County, where he began his medical practice and in 1823, married Juliana West Howard.<sup>2</sup>

Deeds indicate that a trust was placed on the property, allowing David Gittings to live at Roslyn for the duration of his life, following the death of his wife. However, upon his death, the property was to be conveyed to the offspring of his union with Juliana. David and Juliana Gittings had seven children, one of whom died in infancy. Juliana West Howard Gittings died in 1847 and was the first of his three wives. Following her death, he married Arabella Young (d. 1861) in 1848 and then Laura King in 1868. According to a contemporary account of his life, "As a physician, Dr. Gittings has held high rank from the very beginning of his medical career. Gifted with an intellect of no ordinary character and trained in the best medical schools of this country and Europe, he entered upon his practice with a thorough preparation that is

<sup>1</sup> A circa 1827 date of construction was given to the house based on this deed of conveyance. Although the house may have been constructed prior to this date, no documentation was identified confirming such. Baltimore County vertical files indicate a circa 1823 date of construction, but no evidence was found supporting this date.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas J. Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*, (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA), p. 917.

# Maryland Historical Trust

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Name Roslyn, 7640 Bradshaw Road, Upper Falls, Baltimore County  
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only too rare even at the present day, and took his place at once among the foremost practitioners of the county.”<sup>3</sup> In addition to serving as a doctor for the community, Dr. Gittings was a well-respected member of society, supporting local charities and acting as a trustee for the No. 2 School in the Eleventh District in 1881.<sup>4</sup>

The property was named Roslin as early as 1856 and is located in the Eleventh District near the towns of Upper Falls and Kingsville.<sup>5</sup> The Eleventh District is known for its fertile soil, fruit and vegetable production, and waterpower that is abundant along Little Gunpowder Falls. In 1888, the village of Upper Falls had a population of 100 people, while that of Kingsville was slightly larger at 150.

Dr. Gittings died in 1887, at which time, the trust that was established deeded the property to his children from his first marriage. Maps continued to mark the property as belonging to him -- the 1915 Bromley Atlas denotes that the house was occupied by D. S. Gittings. This label could, however, refer to a relative of Dr. Gittings. Roslyn remained in the Gittings family until 1949, when it was sold to the Hammonds. During the 1950s, it underwent a series of ownership transfers before being sold in 1964 to the Gibsons. The Gibsons owned Roslyn until 1983, when the current owners, the Hewitts, purchased it.

Constructed of stone, Roslyn was designed in the Federal style of architecture that was popular from the 1780s until the 1820s. The Federal style of architecture followed the Colonial era, and signified the new role that the country had taken following the Revolutionary War. Although influenced by British architecture, particularly the Adamesque style, the Federal style of architecture was the signature style of the wealthy American mercantile class. “Chaste, conservative, and gracefully elegant, the style first appeared primarily in important coastal cities, but eventually was adapted everywhere in simpler, vernacular forms.”<sup>6</sup> Reflective of these vernacular interpretations, particularly as seen in masonry examples, are the side gable roof, the centered entry capped by a transom with tracery, and the symmetrically placed window openings with flat lintels and double-hung sash windows.

### CHAIN OF TITLE

Date Unknown:	John Beale Howard willed to Juliana West and David S. Gittings Will Records of Baltimore County
September 10, 1827:	John Beale Howard to David S. Gittings and Juliana West Gittings Deed of Conveyance Land Records of Baltimore County

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<sup>3</sup> Scharf, p. 917.

<sup>4</sup> Scharf, p. 916.

<sup>5</sup> It is unknown when the spelling of the property changed from Roslin to Roslyn.

<sup>6</sup> Rachel Carly, *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*, (New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994), p. 91.

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- May 27, 1856: Dr. David S. Gittings and Arabella Gittings to Arthur W. Machen  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 15 Folio 518
- November 24, 1887: Arthur W. Machen, Trustee to Mary S. Bryarly and David S. Gittings, Louisa Cox, Charlotte E. Lindsay, John Beale Howard Gittings, David Sterett Gittings, Leila Gittings, Anna S. Gittings, Louisa Gittings, Mary S. Gittings, and Victoria E. Gittings  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber JWS 163 Folio 258
- April 30, 1913: Charlotte E. Lindsey, widow, D. Sterett Gittings, Leila Gittings, Anna S. Gittings, Mary Sterett Gittings, Victoria Elisabeth Gittings, Louisa Gittings and William Brogden, Emma Gittings, widow, J. Claxton and Katharine C. Gittings to Elizabeth M. B. Marye  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 409 Folio 426
- October 29, 1949: Mary Sterett Gittings and Victoria E. Gittings, sisters, Charlotte Lindsey Ware, John Claxton and Mary R. Gittings, Peter P. Blanchard, Jr., Elizabeth B. and Samuel N. Kirkland, Charlotte P. and Howard S. Johnson, and the Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Baltimore, Trustee under the will of D. Sterett Gittings to Ella M. Brandt, widow, and Frank R. and Madeline H. Hammond  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber JBS 1804 Folio 29
- October 19, 1951: Frank R. and Madeline H. Hammond and Ella M. Brandt, widow to Harold B. and Adele H. Webster  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber GLB 2032 Folio 306
- June 8, 1955: Harold B. and Adele H. Webster to E. Paul Mason  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber GLB 2926 Folio 404
- June 27, 1955: E. Paul Mason, Jr. to Harold B. Webster  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber GLB 2929 Folio 407
- September 27, 1957: Harold B. and Dorothea F. Webster to J. Stanley and Dorothy L. Lenox  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber GLB 3243 Folio 184

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Name Roslyn, 7640 Bradshaw Road, Upper Falls, Baltimore County  
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January 30, 1964: J. Stanley and Dorothy L. Lenox to Jack T. and Joretta A. Gibson  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber RRG 4260 Folio 111

January 14, 1983: Jack T. and Joretta A. Gibson to Thomas William and Kathryn L. Hewitt  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 6477 Folio 709

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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*Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*, Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Land and Will Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.  
Bromley's Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland, 1915.

Scharf, Thomas J. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 2.11 Acres  
Acreage of historical setting 2.4 Acres  
Quadrangle name White Marsh

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property, known as Roslyn, is located at 7640 Bradshaw Road in Upper Falls, Maryland as noted on Tax Map 64, Parcel 16 and in the Deeds of Record Liber 6477 Folio 709, archived in Towson, Maryland. The building has been associated with the site since its construction circa 1827.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

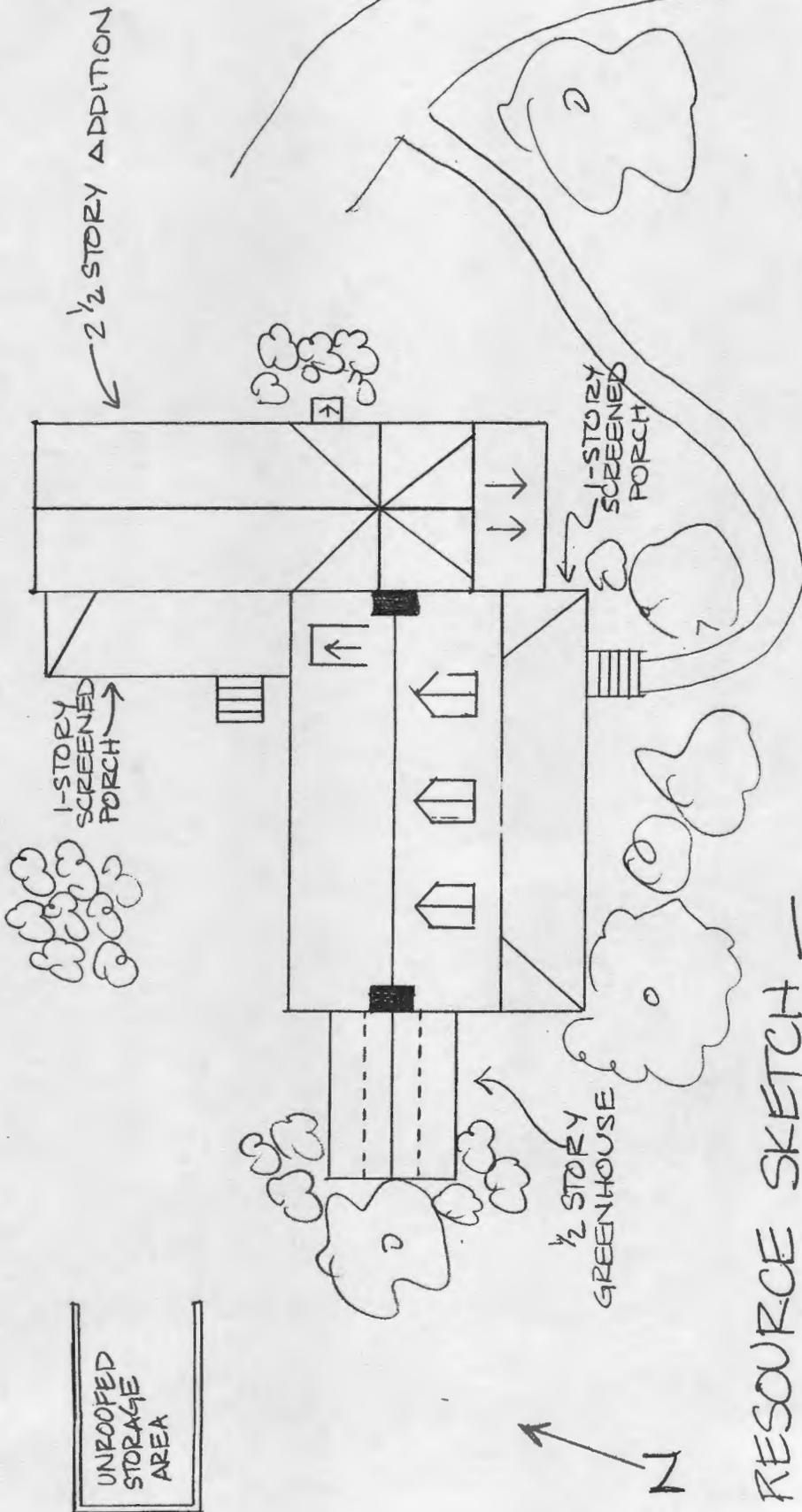
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name/title	R. Weidlich, A. McDonald, and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Inc.	date	January 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



— RESOURCE SKETCH —  
MAP

BA-0250  
 ROSLYN  
 7640 BRADSHAW ROAD  
 UPPER FALLS  
 BALTIMORE COUNTY

(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)

USGS Quad: White Marsh  
Scale: 1:24,000



BA-0362  
BELLME  
7528 BRADSHAW ROAD  
KINGSVILLE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0250  
ROSLYN  
7640 BRADSHAW ROAD  
UPPER FALLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

INTERCHANGE 9 (ABERDEEN) 12 MI (367)

(EDGEWOOD)  
5782 IV NE

JOPPA 1.3 MI.  
ABINGDON 5.9 MI.

MC COMAS 4 MI.  
BELCAMP 8 MI.

BA 252  
10627 JONES ROAD

BA 359  
10613 JONES ROAD

BA 251  
10631 JONES ROAD



4363



BA-0250

ROSLYN

7640 BRADSHAW ROAD, UPPER FALLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

1/2000

MD SHPO

MAIN HOUSE, SOUTH ELEVATION,  
CAMERA FACING NORTH

1 of 4



BA-0250

ROSLYN

7640 BRADSHAW ROAD, UPPER FALLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

10/2000

MD SHPO

MAIN HOUSE, EAST ELEVATION,  
CAMERA FACING WEST

2 of 4



BA-0250

ROSLYN

7640 BRADSHAW ROAD, UPPER FALLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

10/2000

MD SHPO

MAIN HOUSE, NORTH ELEVATION OF  
MAIN BLOCK AND WEST ELEVATION  
OF ELL, CAMERA FACING, SOUTHEAST

3 of 4



BA-0250

ROSLYN

7640 BRADSHAW ROAD, UPPER FALLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

10/2000

MD SHPO

MAIN HOUSE, WEST ELEVATION,  
CAMERA FACING EAST

4 of 4

BP- 250

ROSLYN - 1823 - North side of (No. 7640) Bradshaw Road, Upper Falls. Stone house, built on the Sherwood Forest tract. Main block is stuccoed; also a clapboard addition. Gable roofing; with dormers; one end-chimney; full-width

DISTRICT 11 - continued -

porch obscures the Federal design. It was the home of Dr. David Sterrett Gittings who studied medicine at Edinburgh in 1818; house remained in that family more than a century. Renovated per report of 1968.

