

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic CONNEMARA

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 10598 Beaver Dam Road  not for publication

city, town Cockeysville  vicinity of 2nd congressional district

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	<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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Genstar Stone Products Co., c/o Jack Gease

street & number Executive Plaza IV telephone no.: 628-4000

city, town Hunt Valley state and zip code Maryland 21031

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber 4480

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 330

city, town Towson state Maryland 21204

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MHT Inventory

date Listed September 1972  federal  state  county  local

repository for survey records 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

<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.

Connemara is an L-shaped stone house with stucco covering in a simplified Federal style suitable for a rural location. There are two stories in each of the three main segments. The west wing, which makes a common front with the main block, is relatively modern (not found in the 1918 tax ledger) and is 24' 6" by 17' 4". On the first floor, it provides an informal family room with a large fireplace.

The two older segments of the L-plan include an earlier limestone house 34 by 17 feet and a main block 41 feet wide by 20 feet deep, five bays wide, with a double paneled entrance doors flanked by sidelights and topped by a five-light rectangular transom. Where the stucco or "rough-cast" has fallen off on the main block, the building material is seen to be ashlar blocks, darker than the bright white Cockeysville marble used on the rear wing. The windows are topped with stone lintels and the sills are of smooth marble. The present roofless entrance porch is modern, of stone and concrete with white decorative urns at the corners.

The interior of the house is more interesting than the exterior, little of which can be seen behind its screen of pine trees. The main block has a center hall floor plan. The central stairway rises almost immediately beyond the front doors. The stair is fairly steep with elaborately turned ballusters and a polished bannister. The stairway makes a tight turn to reach the second story level and the ballusters follow in an elegant curve. (This stairway supposedly once had double stairs toward the bottom, somehow altered during the ownership of Dr. Dixon.)

The west parlor features a round-topped white or gray marble mantel, Victorian style, typical of city houses. It was reinstalled by Dr. Simonson in her tenure at Connemara but was found on the premises, not imported from Baltimore urban renewal districts. The east parlor lost its fireplace and mantel, possibly in the 1940s or before.

Unfortunately, such features as medallions and plaster cornices suffered removal during the long and varied use of this house.

Three bedrooms on the second level feature ancient but plain fireplaces with plain country-style mantels. The bedrooms are of garden-tour quality, fitted out with antique four-poster beds with heirloom bedclothes; much American Empire furniture is in evidence and the walls are decorated with portraits in massive frames.

On the grounds to the northeast is a barn in an advanced state of collapse. A small frame cottage to the northwest serves as a tenant house. The property also contains a slave cemetery.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. BA 640

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry (quarries)	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
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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.

### SUMMARY

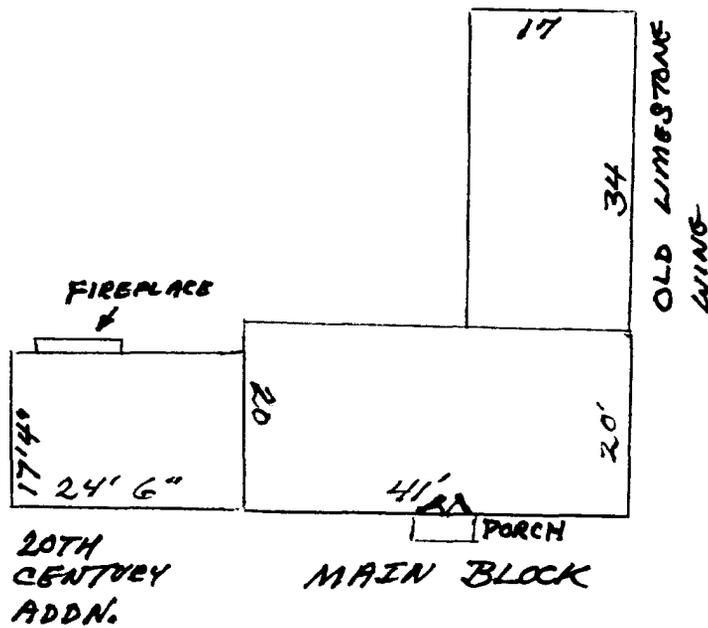
Connemara is the current name of a Federal style stone house built on the same property from which the material of Baltimore's Washington Monument was extracted. The builders of the main wing were of the plantation aristocracy of the early Republic. The older, primitive parts of the house were very likely 18th Century elements built by the first settlers on this tract. The house was originally a well-crafted structure with some formal interior decorations, including mouldings, mantels, medallions, and a double staircase; some of these features were neglected during the use of the structure as an ordinary farmhouse. These grounds have been associated with the quarrying of high-grade marble since about 1815; much of the marble was incorporated into the Capitol and other major Washington, D.C. public buildings.

The stone part of the house now called Connemara probably post-dates the 1798 tax list for Back River Upper Hundred. That list, in Entry No. 1166, shows that Charles Hale (sic) owned 119 acres, part of the tracts "The Forest" and of "Good Luck." The improvements consisted of "2 old log houses" worth \$20 taken together. In December 1805, Haile (as it should be spelled) had a resurvey performed on his property, having it patented under the name "Charles Meadow." (Liber JK No. T, folio 18). The new layout contained 284-1/4 acres. Haile had to pay the State Land Office a fee of 12 Shillings 6 Pence for existing improvements found upon the previously unowned grounds. In September 1811, Haile sold to James P. Boyd.

Boyd had since 1804 been the owner of the adjoining land on the west where there was a mill built in 1791, last known as Shipley's Mill and still intact as a residence. (MHT Site No. BA 976).

Boyd was possibly a city resident and an investor rather than a full-time farmer. In 1808, he married Ann McHenry, daughter of James McHenry, Secretary of War under Washington and Adams (Federal Gazette,





Feb. 5, 1808). The city directory of 1829 showed Boyd's dwelling on the south side of West Baltimore Street, west of Cove Street (now Fremont Avenue), no profession or business listed. In fact, Boyd had been certified as a "lunatic" in 1818. He died at his city residence on December 11, 1831 (American, Dec. 13, 1831).

Boyd's trustees advertised some of his extensive lands—he had 1,050 acres in the 1818 tax list—in the Baltimore American on July 2, 1821. This parcel was 253 acres, described as one mile from Colonel Joshua F. Cockey's tavern; the location could be Connemara, but when the trustees finally disposed of the Hale property, it was in a 301-acre package. The 1821 advertisement listed a house, but failed to state whether it was frame or masonry, one or two stories, old or new. The most important clue was a sentence reading:

... besides Limestone quarries, which are inexhaustible and of the best quality, there are quarries of excellent stone for building, such as used for the Washington Monument.

The property was described as adjoining Beaver Dam Mills in the advertisement, that mill being the same as Shipley's. Archibald Doughaday, "residing at the Beaver Dam Mill, adjoining the land" was ready to show purchasers around.

The number of structures standing during the ownership of James Boyd is uncertain. The 1818 Assessment Record showed that Boyd had \$200 worth of improvements on the entire 1,050 acres, all of it apparently accounted for by his gristmill (Tax Assessment Ledger, Old District 2, HR No. 8265-4-40-4). Yet, Archibald Doughaday lived at the mill property, one would expect in a separate house, according to the 1821 advertisement.

In 1823, Boyd's trustees sold 301 acres to Stephen Marsh for \$9,035.87-1/2 (Baltimore City Chancery Records TK 16:601). That year, the tax ledger of Old District 2 showed that Boyd had \$80 worth of improvements, a modest amount of construction, but probably a shelter of some sort (Assessor's Field Book, 1823, HR No. 8238-4-40-4). The testimony collected in 1832 following Marsh's death places his main home at this place; the advertisement published in connection with the suit clearly establishes the two-story stone house as Marsh's home. Stephen Marsh was, based on these clues, probably the builder of the largest part of the house now standing. He had taken title in September 1823 and could have started enlarging earlier structures that autumn or in the years following.

The mill property was purchased by Thomas Long and has always followed a distinct ownership from Connemara.

Stephen Marsh was a member of the Marsh family that had vast holdings of the survey called "Valley of Jehosaphat" at Meredith's Ford on the Dulaney Valley Road (a wading place now drowned by Loch Raven). Marsh executed a number of mortgages, having made only the down payment when buying the Boyd property. The mortgage claims had not been paid at the time of his death on August 25 at age 40 in 1829 (American, August 29, 1829). Marsh had shared in the breakup of the Valley of Jehosaphat tracts in 1826 and 1827, but his wife testified in 1832 that he had been speculating in corn and had even sacrificed the income that should have supported his step-daughter and sold his wife's personal maid to Woolfolk, the infamous operator of a "slave jail" in Baltimore. Even the income from leasing mineral rights to such quarrymen

as John Baker had not closed the financial gap (Chancery Record, TK 16:235-2245, HR #19,972-16-5-12-2).

The 1832 advertisement of Marsh's property is the best evidence about the property and undoubtedly described the house surviving in 1985:

TRUSTEE'S SALE. — By virtue of a decree of Baltimore County Court, sitting as a Court of Equity, the subscriber as trustee, will sell at public sale on the premises, on Saturday, the 26th day of May next, at 11 o'clock, A.M.

A VALUABLE ESTATE, situated, lying and being in Baltimore county, whereof Stephen Marsh, late of said county, deceased died seized, consisting of a part of several tracts, or parts of tracts, or parcels of land, called "Charles' Meadow, Parks' Reserve and Waterford," containing 301 acres and 30 square perches of land, of which about 100 acres are in wood, 100 acres are meadow, and the residue arable. These lands are situate about 13 miles from the city of Baltimore, in an excellent neighborhood, on a public road which passes over Beaver Dam Run, (and which stream passes through this estate,) and about one mile from the Baltimore and Yorktown Turnpike Road, (and nearly in the line of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road, and are of the finest quality of limestone land).

The improvements are a good TWO STORY STONE DWELLING, and a stone stable, and other houses; also a Log Dwelling, Barn, and Corn Houses, a Paled Garden, a Dairy and Meat House, and there are also several fine springs on the premises, a Lime Kiln and Quarry and a valuable Marble Quarry, which rented last year for five hundred dollars.

The terms of sale, as prescribed in the decree, are one-third in cash, on the day of sale .... The title is indisputable and the estate will be sold free from all incumbrances.

JOHN SCOTT, Trustee

April 23d 1832

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The creditors of STEPHEN MARSH, late of Baltimore county, deceased, are hereby notified . . . .

The trustees advertised in the Baltimore American, the York Republican, the Baltimore Gazette, and the Anti-Masonic Expositor. Their deed to Marsh called the present Beaver Dam Road "the road to Black Rock Mills." Some deeds seem to imply that Shipley's mill was also called Black Rock Mills, but that name is usually applied to the mill on Falls Road near Butler in the 5th Election District.

The trustee, John Scott, took until 1839 to deed the property to the highest bidder, William Bosley of John (Baltimore City Deeds, TK 294:379).

The property lines can be platted out from the Haile resurvey of 1805 and from the Haile-Boyd deed of 1811. In addition, a plat following many of these original lines appeared in the Chancery Record of 1832; many of the same lines can be found in a Towson deed filed in 1862. In a number of places, the property outline follows the adjoining lines of Thomas Cockey Deye's lands, bounding on Lots 5 and 7 of his estate at its greatest extent.

The stone house Connemara is located in one of the most characteristic angle-bends of the survey, a configuration still found on Tax Map 51 and, in fact, visible in aerial photos because the fence rows follow the original lines.

The 1850 county map by J. C. Sidney shows the house as William Bosley's, south of present Beaver Dam Road, which was nameless on that map. One old deed called that road "the Black Rock County Road, better known as the road leading from Texas on the Baltimore and Susquehanna to the Oregon Furnace" (Deeds HMF 9:531). Taylor's 1857 map also showed William Bosley.

In 1862, William Bosley of John (the original Bosley) sold the house and 140 acres to John Crowther. An accompanying plat shows that Crowther bought three parcels, one containing the present Beaver Dam swimming club, the second containing the house and 100 acres, and the third, a detached parcel of 40 acres, some distance to the south (Plat File 35:482, clerk's office). The quarry parcel was under an earlier 1851 lease to John B. Connolly (Baltimore City Deeds, AWB 464:129).

This house is shown as John Crowther's in the 1877 atlas plate of Election District No. 8. The same atlas contains a detail map of Cockeysville, also showing J. Crowther's house and the part leased to Beaver Dam Marble Works, at that time served by a rail spur from the Northern Central.

Following the death of William H. J. Bosley in 1876, the heirs petitioned the court for permission to sell 141 acres to neighbor John Crowther, which allowed Crowther to reassemble the lands that had been resurveyed for Charles Haile in 1805. The small house on the 141-acre tract was shown in a plat made in 1881 and is entirely distinct from Connemara. That small house was occupied by George Parks, who at first resisted being dispossessed by Crowther (Judicial Records, WMI 71:51, 527, 530).

In 1899, John Crowther sold all but 10 acres to the Marble Valley Farm Company (Deeds NBM 238:436). John Crowther, Jr. repurchased all that tract in 1906, some 262-1/3 acres. In 1911, John Crowther, Jr. and his wife sold their entire holdings to Sarah Jane Schmidt and Edward B. Schmidt (Deeds WPC 385:362). Tax ledgers of the period show the breakdowns of the houses, outbuildings, and fields:

1918 Tax Ledger, District 8, folio 512

Mrs. Sarah J. Schmidt

261 Acres on Beaver Dam Rd. 1 mi. n. of Cockeysville

185 Tillable @ \$50		\$5750
30 Pasture @ \$35		1050
100 Wooded @ \$15		1500
16 Barren @ \$5		80
Dwelling	(2) 40 x 20	\$2777
	(2) 34 x 16	
	(2) 14 x 32	

Bank Barn	43 x 40		\$516
Cow Stable	16 x 28		100
Horse "	30 x 20		150
Tenant House No. 1	(2) 16 x 30		676
" " No. 2	(2) 14 x 14		157
Wagon & Corn House	50 x 26		200
Hay Barrack			150
Hen House			25

Several more owners acquired the large undivided parcel:

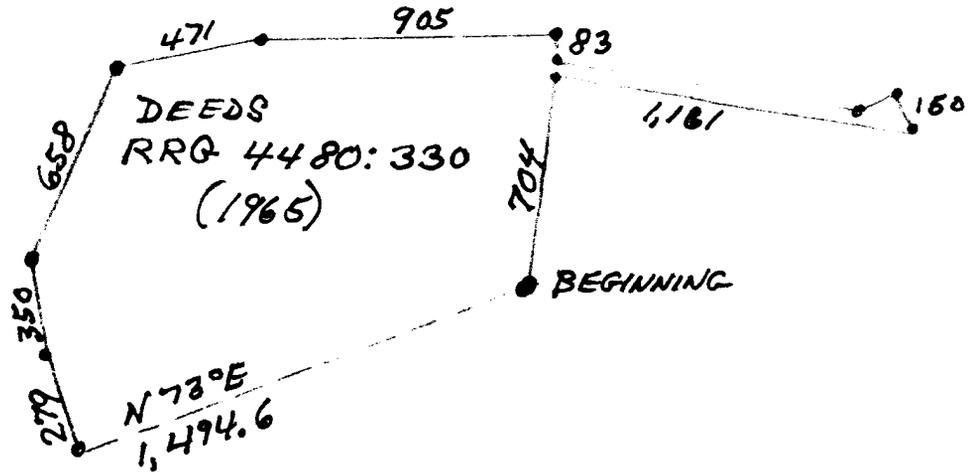
Charles Irwin Dunn & Emily O. Dunn	\$1919
Louis & Margaret Vogtman	1924
William C. Ensor	1928
Harry H. Durham	1936
Roland R. Mackenzie	1947.

However, in 1950, Roland R. Mackenzie sold the house and a 36.56-acre part of the original to Dr. Alfred Burton Dixon (Deeds TBS 1834:533). Dr. Dixon sold to a quarry corporation, Nottingham Farms, in 1965. That firm conveyed to its corporate relative, Harry T. Campbell, the same year. (Deeds 4480:330).

The quarry company, now known as Genstar Stone Products, following a series of mergers, has rented the house to Colonel Gordon Simonson and his wife, Dr. Maria Simonson, for about 35 years. The Simonsons have made repairs and decorative improvements at their own expense and have tried to restore some features ruined by past alterations. The house has been open for tours by church groups and school classes, especially at Christmas. The Simonsons have picked up a number of local stories, in particular the one about a young woman named Susannah Plowden. None of the owners of this house proves to be a Plowden, yet it is well known that country houses held extended families and tenants at various times. Dr. Simonson found two inscriptions:

- (1.) "I am a good boy—Lawrence—1839"
- (2.) "Jeremy and Rebecca—1849"

The first was found under eight layers of wallpaper, inscribed in sand and horsehair plaster, when it was new; the second inscription was scratched into a glass window light. Both dates would fall within the Bosley ownership.



PRESENT BOUNDARIES (IN FEET)

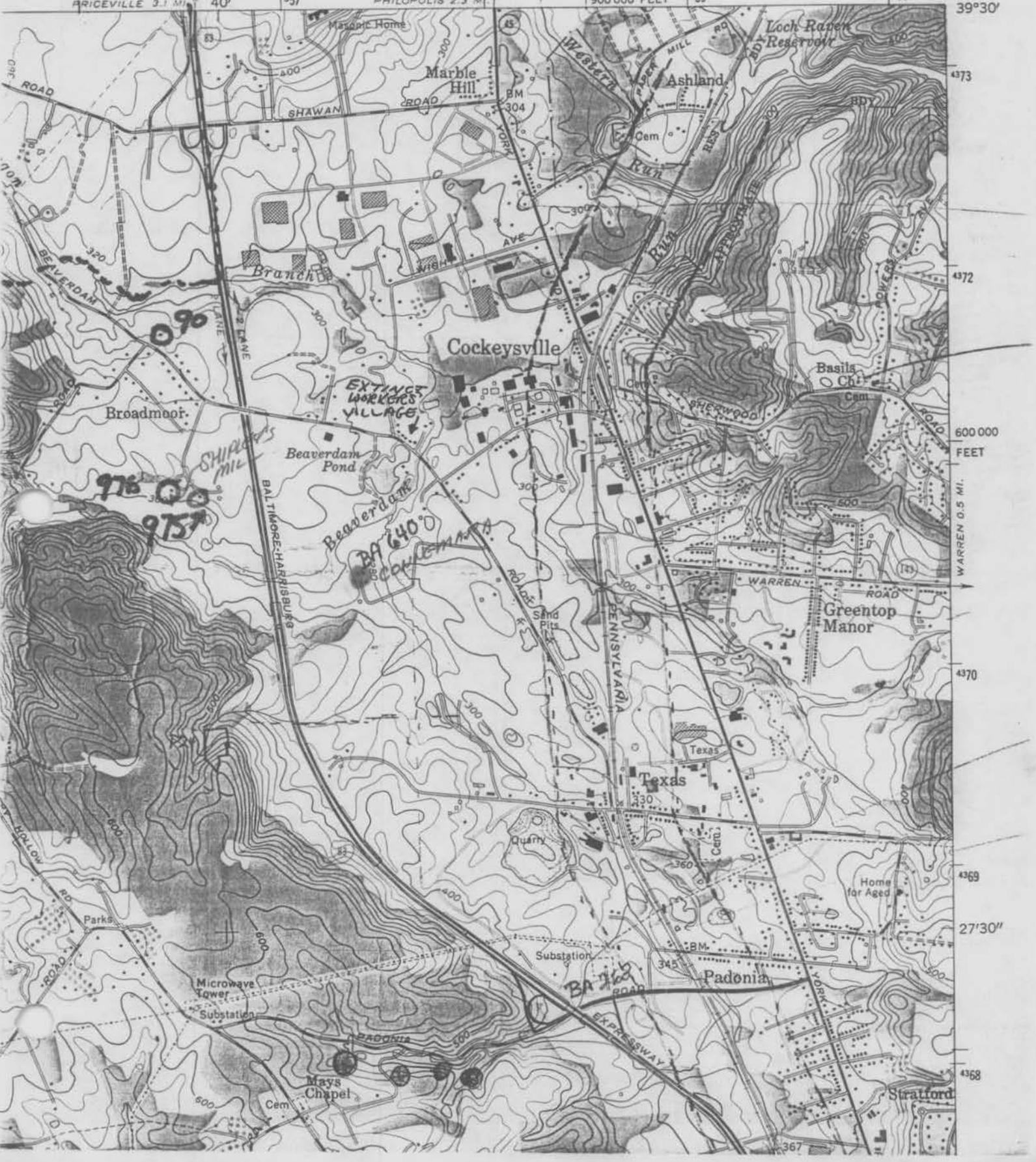


BA-640

COCKEYSVILLE QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND—BALTIMORE CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NW/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE

5663 11 SE  
(PHOENIX)

HEREFORD 7.4 MI. PRICEVILLE 3.1 MI. 40' 357  
HEREFORD 6.5 MI. PHILOPOLIS 2.3 MI. 900 000 FEET 359 60 76° 37' 30" 39° 30'



600 000  
FEET

WARREN 0.5 MI.

4370

4369

27' 30"

4368

367



CONNEMARA

BA 640

Baltimore County, Maryland

J. McGrain, August 1985

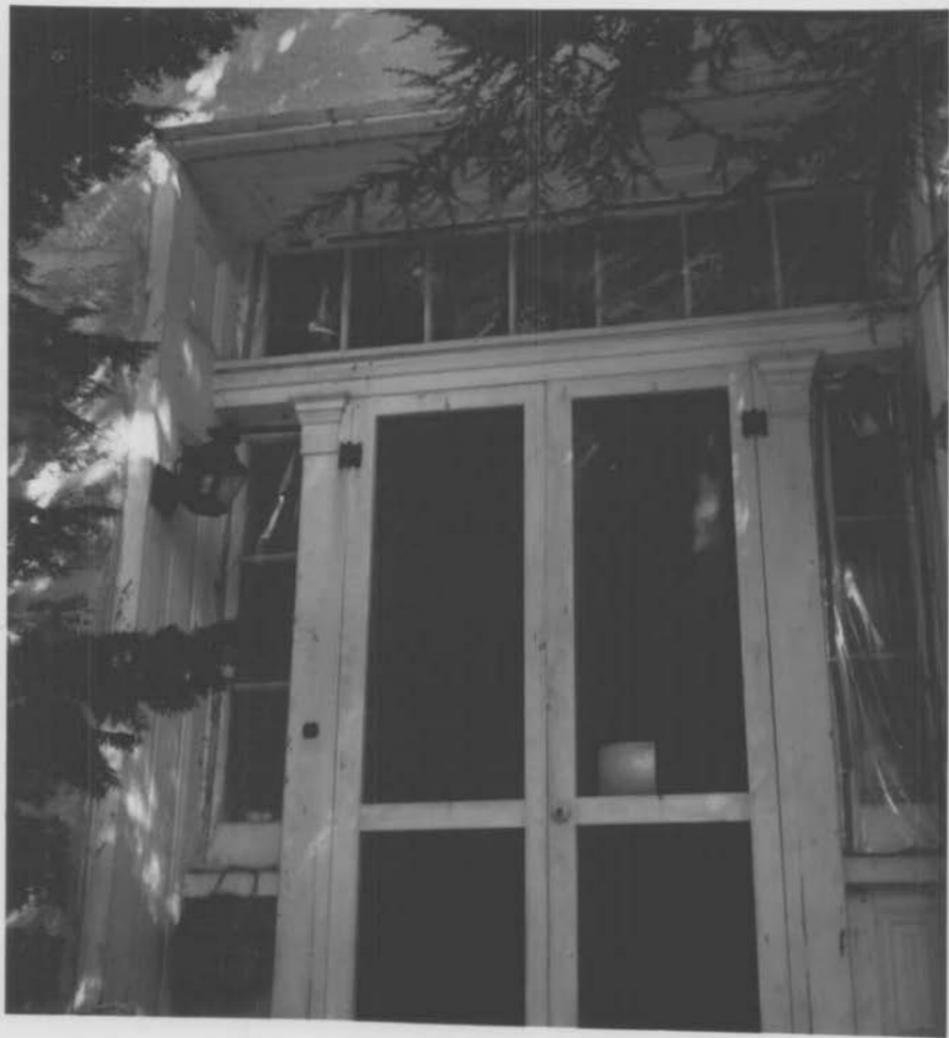
Main facade (south), obscured  
by trees



CONNEMARA BA 640  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, August 1985  
Main doors, south facade



CONNEMARA BA 640  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, August 1985  
Rear, primitive, wing



1911  
The entrance to the  
house at 1111 1/2  
St. Paul St. N. Wash. D. C.

CONNEMARA BA 640  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, August 1985  
Main door, transom and side-  
lights



CONNEMARA

BA 640

Baltimore County, Maryland

J. McGrain, August 1985

Fireplace, SW bedroom, or "ghost  
room"



CONNEMARA BA 640  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, August 1985  
Fireplace, SW Parlor, 1st story



CONNEMARA                      BA 640  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, August 1985  
Four-poster, SW bedroom or "ghost  
room"



CONNEMARA BA 640  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, August 1985  
Stair, descending to SW parlor



CONNEMARA BA 640  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, August 1985  
NE bedroom fireplace



CONNEMARA BA 640  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, August 1985  
SE bedroom fireplace