BA-381

Rainbow Hill

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 05-17-2012

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-0381
Rainbow Hill
10729 Park Heights Avenue
Owings Mills, Baltimore County
1915-1917
Private

The property known as Rainbow Hill is located at 10729 Park Heights Avenue in Owings Mills, Baltimore County. The primary dwelling on the 150-acre site was constructed between 1915 and 1917 in the Beaux-Arts Classicism. African-American architect Julian Abele of the firm of Horace Trumbauer in Philadelphia is believed to have served as the chief draftsman working on the design of the grand mansion. The property was a wedding gift for Henrietta Louise Cromwell from her mother, Eva Roberts Stotesbury. Since its construction, the imposing dwelling has served as the home of General Douglas MacArthur, British horror film actor Lionel Atwill, and Henry Rosenberg, president of Crown Central Petroleum. Rainbow Hill, which is a contributing resource in the Green Spring Valley National Register Historic District, ceased to be a residential property in 1960, when it was purchased and rehabilitated by the Baptist Home of Maryland, Inc. The building was enlarged in circa 1969 by the construction of a wing addition and altered on the interior to accommodate the needs of the medical facility.

The main block of the Beaux-Arts-style building is rectangular in form, augmented by two three-sided canted bays that project from the façade and rear elevation. As originally constructed, a two-story servant's wing was connected to the main block on the northwest side (giving the building an L-shaped form). This wing was extended to the south by the construction of a two-story wing addition in circa 1969, giving the building its present T-shaped plan. A one-story sun porch, original to the design of the house, projects from the east side elevation of the main block. A one-story solarium was added to the western end of the south elevation of the main block in circa 1969. The two-story dwelling is set on a random rubble foundation of stone that is veneered with granite on the exterior. The wood frame structure is clad with smooth white stucco that gives the impression of permanence and stability generally associated with masonry. Symmetrically fenestrated, the main block of the building measures eight bays wide with two projecting canted bays and is three bays deep. The hipped roof is clad with standing seam metal and finished with an ornate entablature consisting of overhanging eaves, plain frieze, molded cornice, and wood modillions. A narrow stringcourse that doubles as the sill for the second story openings in the canted bays encircles the building. Eight brick chimneys pierce the roof, seven in the main block and one in the servant's wing. The chimneys are parged with paneled shafts and corbelled caps. Small semi-circular arched dormers holding metal ventilators pierce the roof on all elevations.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0381

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Rainbow Hill
other	

2. Location

street and number	10729 Park Heights Avenue	__	not for publication
city, town	Owings Mills	__	vicinity
county	Baltimore County		

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

name	Baptist Home of Maryland, Inc.				
street and number	10729 Park Heights Avenue			telephone	410/484-3324
city, town	Owings Mills	state	MD	zip code	21117-3012

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse	tax map and parcel	59/270		
city, town	Towson	liber	4250	folio	278

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

__X__ 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
__ __district
__X__building(s)
__ __structure
__ __site
__ __object

Ownership
__ __public
__X__private
_____both

Current Function
_____agriculture
__ __commerce/trade
__ __defense
_____domestic
__ __education
_____funerary
_____government
_____health care
__ __industry
_____landscape
_____recreation/culture
_____religion
_____social
__ __transportation
__ __work in progress
__ __unknown
__x__vacant/not in use
__ __other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	2	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
2

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0381

Condition

___ excellent ___ deteriorated
X_ good ___ ruins
___ fair ___ altered

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

The primary dwelling at Rainbow Hill, which is located at 10729 Park Heights Avenue in Owings Mills, was constructed between 1915 and 1917 to the architectural designs produced by the firm of Horace Trumbauer, presumably with Julian Abele serving as chief draftsman. The main block of the Beaux-Arts-style building is rectangular in form, augmented by two three-sided canted bays that project from the façade and rear elevation. As originally constructed, a two-story servant's wing was connected to the main block on the northwest side (giving the building an L-shaped form). This wing was extended to the south by the construction of a two-story wing addition in circa 1969, giving the building its present T-shaped plan. A one-story sun porch, original to the design of the house, projects from the east side elevation of the main block. A one-story solarium was added to the western end of the south elevation of the main block in circa 1969. The two-story dwelling is set on a random rubble foundation of stone that is veneered with granite on the exterior. The wood frame structure is clad with smooth white stucco that gives the impression of permanence and stability generally associated with masonry. Symmetrically fenestrated, the main block of the building measures eight bays wide with two projecting canted bays and is three bays deep. The hipped roof is clad with standing seam metal and finished with an ornate entablature consisting of overhanging eaves, plain frieze, molded cornice, and wood modillions. A narrow stringcourse that doubles as the sill for the second story openings in the canted bays encircles the building. Eight brick chimneys pierce the roof, seven in the main block and one in the servant's wing. The chimneys are parged with paneled shafts and corbelled caps. Small semi-circular arched dormers holding metal ventilators pierce the roof on all elevations.

The picturesque setting includes nineteen acres of rolling hills set within the National Register Historic District of Green Spring Valley, which is surrounded by late 20th century suburban developments. A paved drive extends from the main road to the façade of the house, where it forms a circular drive. Large mature trees, including a Ming tree given to the MacArthurs by Japanese Emperor Hirohito in the 1920s, dot the landscape. Paved walkways and secondary drives branch from the driveway to the two nonhistoric tenant houses (circa 1970) to the north and the historic tenant house (circa 1900) to the southwest. A paved parking lot is located to the north of the main dwelling. A terrace wraps around the house on the east and south elevations. The terrace is edged by white granite balusters, rough coursed stone walls with smooth concrete coping, concrete steps, and stone walkways.

Exterior Description

The façade of the building, which faces north, is symmetrically fenestrated with a central entry and expansive window openings. Two-story canted bays that have pyramidal roofs flank the central five bays of the main block. An additional three bays extend from the western end of the façade, beyond the projecting bay. Beaux-Arts-style granite surrounds that include Ionic columns and an ornate pediment elaborately frame the central entry. This pediment is composed of a wide plain frieze, returns, and a pedimented front gable. In place of a transom, a molded inset panel of wood is located over the replacement door. The single-leaf door has two

square recessed panels and is edged on the east side by a one-light sidelight. The replacement door and the existence of one sidelight suggest the entry once held double-leaf doors or a wider single-leaf door.

On the first story, two sets of 12/12 windows with splayed flat arches and keystones, which are parged, flank the entry. Symmetrically placed above the first story openings are elongated window openings. These second story openings hold double-leaf casement windows, each with twelve-lights. Above the casement windows are eight-light fixed transom lights divided by a molded mullion. Inset molded wood surrounds, splayed arches with keystones, and short metal balconies with a diamond and swag pattern ornament all of these window openings.

The flanking two-story projecting bays are canted with three sides, all pierced by openings. The central opening of each projecting bay has a semi-circular arch holding double-leaf French entry door of ten-lights. The transom over the doors on the easternmost canted bay has been infilled with a wooden panel that is pierced by an air conditioning unit. The extant fixed transom over the doors of the westernmost canted bay has eight-lights divided by a molded mullion. Over the original transom, and now the air conditioning unit of the easternmost bay, is a multi-light fanlight. The opening is recessed within the plane of the wall with a stepped surround of stucco that is finished at the top of the arch with granite inserts. The sides of the stepped surround read as Tuscan pilasters. A balustrade of white granite secures the opening at the base. This central entry is flanked by double-leaf openings holding replacement two-light casement windows of vinyl set over white granite balustrades. Eight-light fixed transoms divided by molded mullions mark the top of the openings. The three second story openings are double-leaf eight-light casement windows with eight-light fixed transoms divided by molded mullions. The transoms of the central openings on the second story have been removed, replaced with wood panels pierced by air conditioning units. The narrow stuccoed stringcourse reads as a sill for the openings. All of the openings in the canted bays, save the central openings on the first story, are finished with splayed flat arches and keystones that have been stuccoed.

The westernmost three bays of the main block on the façade have large 12/12 windows on the first story and double-leaf casement windows, each with eight-lights, on the second story. Above the casement windows are eight-light fixed transom lights divided by a molded mullion. Inset molded wood surrounds and splayed arches with keystones ornament all of these window openings.

The east side elevation of the main block is obscured on the first story by the contemporaneous sun porch. Constructed of wood frame clad in stucco, the one-story sun porch has a flat standing seam roof and stone foundation with granite cladding. The north and south elevations of the sun porch have central openings with a semi-circular arch holding double-leaf French entry doors with ten-lights. The transoms over the doors have eight-lights divided by molded mullions. Over the transoms are multi-light fanlights. The openings are recessed within the plane of the wall with a stepped surround of stucco that is finished at the top of the arch with recessed triangular panels. The sides of the stepped surrounds read as Tuscan pilasters. Flanking the openings

are narrow entries holding single-leaf ten-light doors topped by four-light fixed transoms. Over the openings are stuccoed rectangular panels. The east elevation of the sun porch is pierced by three semi-circular openings with double-leaf French entry doors of ten-lights each, eight-light transoms divided by molded mullions, and multi-light fanlights. The rounded wall panel is also pierced by narrow entries holding single-leaf ten-light doors topped by four-light fixed transoms. Over the openings are stuccoed rectangular panels. These secondary entries are set between the larger semi-circular arched openings. A metal balustrade surrounds the roof of the sun porch with the metal framing for awnings extending from the main block of the building.

The second story of the main block, on the east elevation, is pierced by three openings that are difficult to view from the ground level. A double-leaf opening, holding a ten-light casement window with a wooden panel and air conditioning unit in place of the transom, is located in the northernmost bay. The center bay holds a single-leaf opening, although the window or door was not visible at the time of the survey from ground level. The southernmost bay has a double-leaf entry opening with French doors of ten-lights. A metal fire escape covered by a canvas roof leads from the second-story entry to the ground level.

The south elevation of the main block is virtually identical to the façade in fenestration, detailing, and symmetry. A granite surround with a stepped architrave, denticulated cornice, and projecting lintel with an ogee mold frames the central entry. Scroll brackets visually support this flat lintel. The opening hold French doors of ten-lights each with an eight-light fixed transom divided by a molded mullion. Flanking the entry are two sets of 12/12 windows with splayed flat arches and keystones, which are parged. Symmetrically placed above the first-story openings are elongated window openings. These second-story openings hold double-leaf casement windows, each with twelve-lights. Above the casement windows are eight-light fixed transom lights divided by a molded mullion. Inset molded wood surrounds, splayed arches and keystones, and short metal balconies with a diamond and swag pattern ornament all of these second-story window openings. Several of the fixed transoms on the first and second stories have been removed, and the openings filled with wood panels holding air conditioning units. Additionally, the circa 1969 construction of the solarium has obscured the westernmost window opening on the first story, east of the projecting bay. This opening now serves has a double-leaf entry into the solarium.

As seen on the façade, three-sided canted bays that rise two-stories in height flank the five center bays of the main block. The circa 1969 solarium obscures the first story of the westernmost projecting bay, although the openings are intact as originally constructed. The central openings of the projecting bays, on the first story, have semi-circular arches holding double-leaf French entry doors of ten-lights. The fixed transoms over the doors have eight-lights divided by molded mullions. Over the transoms are multi-light fanlights. The openings are recessed within the plane of the walls with a stepped surround of stucco that is finished at the top of the arch with granite inserts. The sides of the stepped surrounds read as Tuscan pilasters. The central entries are flanked by double-leaf openings holding replacement two-light casement windows of vinyl. Eight-light fixed transoms divided by molded mullions mark the top of the openings.

The three second story openings are double-leaf eight-light casement windows with eight-light fixed transoms divided by molded mullions. The transoms of the central openings on the second story have been removed and replaced with wood panels pierced by air conditioning units. The narrow stuccoed stringcourse reads as a sill for the openings. All of the openings in the canted bays, save the central openings on the first story, are finished with splayed flat arches and keystones that have been stuccoed. Several of the fixed transoms on the second story have been removed, and the openings filled with wood panels holding air conditioning units.

The second story of the main block, to the west of the westernmost projecting bay, is pierced by five openings. Alternating window openings hold double-leaf casement windows of eight-lights with an eight-light transom divided by molded mullions. The two double-leaf entry openings have ten-light French doors and eight-light transoms with mullions. The openings are finished with splayed flat arches and keystones that have been stuccoed. A metal shaft that serves as a ventilator for the kitchen projects from the roof of the main block at the center of the westernmost end and travels down the wall. Based on the form and design of the westernmost bays of the main block on the south elevation, it appears that a two-story porch existed on this portion of the building, with access from both stories. The existence of a porch would have projected the plane of the wall to be flush with that to the east of the projecting bay on the main block.

The solarium was constructed on the southwestern end of the main block in circa 1969 to serve the needs of the medical facility. Constructed of metal frame clad in stucco, the solarium stands one story in height at the western end of the terrace. It has a shallow mansard roof of standing seam metal with overhanging eaves and molded cornice. The east elevation has fixed 35-light metal windows flanked by eight-light casement windows pierce the walls of the solarium. A multi-light transom divided by molded mullions tops the opening. The south elevation has similar fenestration with a 35-light metal window flanked by eight-light casement windows and topped by multi-light transoms. The central bay of the solarium holds the double-leaf entry door, with consists of a wood frame and fifteen-lights.

About 1969, a two-story wing addition for use as housing and a medical facility was constructed on the southern end of the servant's wing. Set on a raised foundation with a full-height basement, the modern addition is constructed of metal frame clad in stucco to blend with the original main block. A concrete block watertable encircles the structure. The rectangular addition is covered by a shallow hipped roof of standing seam metal and has overhanging eaves. Small semi-circular vents of metal pierce the roof. The symmetrical fenestration, although not equally spaced, consists of small, rectangular window openings with lug lintels of concrete (there are not lintels on the upper story openings). The window openings, which are elongated on the first story of the west elevation, hold 8/8 metal sash with concrete sills. The narrower south elevation of the addition is marked on the first and second stories with a wide window opening. This opening consists of three metal windows – eight-light casements flanking an eight-light fixed with six-lights below and above. The wing addition is connected to the servant's wing and the main block of the building by a two-story hyphen, which is covered by

a gabled roof of standing seam metal. A projecting wood frame vestibule that had a half-hipped roof marks this hyphen. The vestibule has a double-leaf entry door with panels and lights. Similar fixed panels and lights flank it. This same fenestration appears on the sides of the vestibule.

The original servant's wing, located on the northwest corner of the main block, stands two stories in height and has detailing similar to the main block. The rectangular wing has a coursed ashlar foundation and a multi-hipped roof of standing seam metal, overhanging eaves, and molded cornice. The stucco-clad wing measures three bays wide and seven bays deep with a projecting front bay on the north end. The five center bays of the elevation are marked on the first story by slightly recessed semi-circular arches. The west elevation of the wing has a central entry set within the recessed arch. The opening holds a replacement door of metal and glass and is flanked by standard-sized openings holding 6/6 windows with concrete sills. The southernmost of the arched bays has a secondary entry opening rather than window. This entry has a replacement door of metal and glass. The southernmost and the northernmost bays of the elevation hold 6/6 windows with splayed flat arches, keystones, and projecting concrete sills that have been stuccoed. A three-bay-wide metal porch, supported by metal rods, shelters the three southernmost bays of the first story. This porch has a shed roof of metal that projects from the plane of the wall just below the second story window sills. The second story of the west elevation has seven symmetrically placed, and equally spaced, standard-sized openings. Each opening holds a 6/6 window with concrete sill. The molded wood entablature encircling the wing serves as a continuous lintel. The projecting front bay on the north end of the servant's wing is pierced on the west side by a single 6/6 window with splayed flat arched, keystones, and projecting concrete sills that have been stuccoed.

The north elevation of the servant's wing has two 6/6 windows with splayed flat arches and concrete sills. The second story has a central entry opening with a single-leaf door with panels and glass. The entry, reached by a metal fire escape, is flanked by 6/6 windows. The tops of the second story openings terminate at the frieze of the wing's entablature. A single semi-circular ventilating dormer projects from the roof. The foundation of the wing is clad with granite on the north elevation.

The east elevation of the wing is marked on the first story by three 6/6 windows with splayed flat arches and concrete sills. The openings are widely spaced. The second story has six 6/6 windows, also with splayed flat arches and concrete sills. Semi-circular ventilating dormers pierce the roof. The foundation of the wing is clad with granite on the east elevation.

Interior Description

The interior of the house at Rainbow Hill reflects the property's change in use from a single-family dwelling to a residential medical facility. Alterations date from the 1960s-1970s. Despite this, however, the interior of the building is largely intact as originally constructed. The primary entry into the house is from the center of the

north elevation, via a flush wood replacement door with sidelight. The entry opens onto the expansive center hall, which runs the depth of the structure. Two sets of paired Tuscan columns of wood that have been painted to appear as marble divide the space into an entry vestibule and living room. Two full-height columns display fluted shafts and marble bases and capitals. The columns support the paneled soffit of the ceiling's elaborate crown molding. The hollow-newel stair, complete with interim landing over the dwelling's main entry opening on the north wall, is constructed of wood frame. It is finished with circular-end starting steps, open stringer panels, and a molded wall stringer. The decorative molded metal rail is supported by sets of three square balusters flanking floral grilles. The rail has half-cylinder crooks, quarter-circle turns, and easements. The ceiling over the stair is finished with crown molding. It includes a picture molding, plain frieze, dentil molding, and ovolo-molded cornice. A pendant light with metal floral motifs, glass shade, and four branched fixtures hangs from the ceiling.

The floors of the hall are finished with a black-and-white marble checkerboard field. The pattern is edged by white marble with narrow strips of black marble trim. The floors are edged with marble baseboards that rise 5-1/2-inches with an ogee cap. The walls of the hall, and those running up the stair to the second floor, are plaster with square and rectangular panels created by the application of wood trim. The trimmed panels ornament the dado and the field of the wall around the ogee-molded four-inch-wide chair rail. Tuscan pilasters with fluted shafts mark the corners of the room and the wide opening supported by the Tuscan columns. The ornate ceiling in the living space of the hall, rectangular in plan, is plaster with flat in section. It has a paneled face with plaster molding and elaborate crown molding. The crown molding consists of a picture molding, wide frieze, molded modillions, and ogee-molded cornice. The edges of the ceiling are trimmed with ovum molding and beading. This ornamentation frames the quatrefoil-shaped field of the ceiling, which is stepped at the edges. The delicate branched chandelier of metal with crystal chains hangs from the center of the ceiling, framed by a plaster floral medallion.

A narrow surround with base blocks, convex pilaster casings, and wide entablature with an ogee-molded cornice frames the main entry into the central hall from the north elevation. The primary interior entry openings of the hall are framed with narrow surrounds with base blocks, back banded pilaster casings, and ornate entablatures. The entablatures sit over two recessed panels that mark the top of the opening. A rectangular panel flanked by flat scrolled brackets visually supports the projecting cornice of the entablature. The openings leading to the exterior of the building, particularly along the south wall of the hall, have narrow casings, base blocks, and are largely obscured by curtains. The hall is further ornamented with projecting chimney breasts located at the east and west ends of the room. The tall elegant marble mantels have engaged Ionic columns with fluted shafts, marble surrounds, and paneled frieze with reliefs. Double-leaf paneled doors, flanking the chimney breasts, separate the hall from the flanking parlor and ballroom.

To the east of the stair is an office that originally was used as a ladies lounge or parlor. The small space has built-in bookcases, plaster walls with molded paneling, molded baseboards, and recessed paneled skirting the

window openings. An elegant marble mantel has pilaster supports, marble surrounds, and paneled frieze with bracketed shelf and modillions.

The ballroom, located on the east side of the main block, occupies the full depth of the structure, stretching from the projecting canted bay on the north elevation to the identically finished bay on the south elevation. The space is reached from the hall by two sets of double-leaf paneled doors that flank the hall's chimney. Minor alterations have occurred in the former ballroom. This includes the enclosing of the projecting canted bays with drywall. The small spaces are further divided by an interior wall to create two rooms – one of which is a bathroom.

The floor of the ballroom is composed of individually laid parquet set in a herringbone pattern. A five-inch wood baseboard with an ogee-molded cap edges it. The plaster walls are finished with a narrow molded chair rail. The field of the walls is ornamented similar to those in the hall, with square and rectangular panels created by the application of wood trim. The high ornate entablature encircling the room is plaster. It includes an ogee-molded picture molding; frieze ornamented with round rosettes, metopes, and anthemion; dentil molding; recessed panels with vertical beading and triangular rosettes; and an ogee-molded cornice. The elaborate entry and window surrounds compliment the entablature with molded base blocks, narrow square-edged Tuscan pilaster casings, and heavy projecting lintel caps with an ogee-molded cornice and paneled frieze. The semi-circular arched openings in the projecting canted bays at the north and south ends of the ballroom are further embellished with round rosettes. Further, between these openings and the flat arched windows are Tuscan pilasters that terminate in the entablature's frieze. Chandeliers with branched fixtures and crystal prisms and chains hang from the north and south ends of the ceiling.

The projecting chimney breast on the east wall, flanked by wood-and-glass doors leading to the sun porch, is finished with a mantel that is petite in scale against the ballroom's grand height and size. The marble mantel has fluted Ionic pilasters visually supporting the corner blocks, which has ornate round rosettes. The frieze of the mantel has reeding and a center panel relief topped by dentil molding. The projecting shelf has an ogee profile. The overmantel is composed of molded trim applied to the chimney breast, creating a crossetted square panel.

The plaster ceiling in the center of the ballroom has a running ornament that frames the filler on each side. Recessed rectangular panels mark the filler, which is further embellished on the north and south ends with recessed round rosettes accented by anthemions. The four corners of the ceiling's field are marked by lunettes. A narrow beaded molding encircles the field, which is completed by the center medallion. This delicate medallion has festoons, stylized anthemion, bellflowers, and a central round rosette of linenfold. The ornate plaster ceilings in the projecting canted bays have a running ornament that frames the filler on each side. The filler has recessed rectangular panels divided by bellflowers. The fields of the ceilings are finished with round rosettes, beading, and anthemions that create a medallion.

The sun porch presently has carpeted floors with a square-edged baseboard. The walls are finished with rectangular mirrors framed with molded trim. Above these are semi-circular and round decorative panels that have floral motifs, some of which are painted and some plaster. The tall entry and window openings are framed with narrow molded casings with diminutive cornerblocks. The projecting chimney breast on the west wall of the sun porch has a limestone mantel. A flush surround with back banding frames the bricked opening. The plain frieze sits under the ogee-molded bed molding and ogee-molded shelf. A recessed cornice edges the tall ceilings with bowtell molding. A metal branched lighting fixture eight lights hangs from the center of the ceiling.

The dining room, located to the west of the central hall, extends southward from the nearly central chimney breast and included the southern projecting canted bay. A passage to the north of the dining room runs from the central hall to servant's wing. This passage opens onto the northernmost projecting canted bay that has been altered to provide bathroom facilities. An elevator is located to the east of the canted bay, west of the main stair. The floor of the passage is vinyl tile.

The dining room has a carpeted floor that is edged with seven-inch baseboards of wood with a chamfered cap. The five-inch-wide chair rails have a Greek key motif, and the fields of the walls are embellished with molded trim to created rectangular and square panels. Painted murals ornament the largest of the paneled fields. The projecting chimney breast, flanked by entry openings leading to the north passage, has a marble mantel. It has paired, engaged Ionic columns and molded architrave, frieze with round and elliptical rosettes, dentil molding, and an ornately molded shelf with stepped bed molding. The entry and door openings are framed with molded base blocks, concave pilaster casings, crossetting, and projecting lintels supported by scrolled brackets with fluting. Despite the addition of the solarium on the south side of the building, the exterior entry doors on in the dining are extant, retaining the granite balustrades. The entablature consists of a molded picture molding, narrow stepped frieze, ogee bed molding, scrolled modillions on the soffit and a wide ogee-molded cornice. The plaster ceiling is devoid of applied ornament, but supports an elaborate chandelier with branched fixtures, crystal prisms, pendalogues, and chains.

The kitchen occupies two rooms in the western end of the main block. The modernized kitchen has vinyl tile floors, four-and-a-half-inch tile baseboards, plaster walls, and a barrel vaulted ceiling. The solarium is accessible from the southernmost kitchen room, via double-leaf doors. The modern space has tiled flooring, six-inch-high tiled baseboards, stuccoed walls, and an acoustical tiled drop ceiling.

The contemporaneous servant's wing has a rectangular plan that is identical on the first and second floors. Each floor has a central passage flanked by square rooms that served as bedrooms – originally eighth per floor. The modernized space, consisting of four rooms per floor, also includes a number of bathroom facilities and closets. The floor is vinyl tile, while the walls have seven-inch molded baseboards and molded casings, as well as

square-edged metal casings. The straight-flight stair to the upper story has a quarter-turn landing. It is finished with a circular starting step, rubber nosing on the treads, square stringer brackets, and a molded rail with a voluted newel on a turned base.

The modern 1969 medical wing addition to the south of the servant's wing has a rectangular form with a center passage flanked by rooms on each floor. Enclosed by double-leaf doors at the north end, the wing addition has vinyl-tiled floors, wallboard interior dividers, and a dropped acoustical ceiling. Narrow square-edged metal casings surround the window and entry openings. The metal dog-leg stair and the elevator are at the northern end of the wing addition.

The second floor of the primary dwelling at Rainbow Hill consists of numerous bedrooms, some of which have been divided by wallboard to create smaller living spaces. The floor is covered with carpeting, the walls are ornamented with molded trim to create rectangular and square panels, and the ceilings are edged by ornate entablatures with picture molding, friezes, and cornices. The mantels are simpler in design compared to those on the first story, yet highly ornamental. Detailing on the marble mantels includes tiled facing, festoons and swags, rosettes, torches, urns, ornate panels, and molded shelves. The ceiling in the hall, which runs east to west, is vaulted and further detailed with semi-circular arched niches.

The attic of the main block is accessible via a straight-flight wood stair at the center of the second floor. The space has three-inch wood flooring, circular-sawn beams, some vertical board walls, cedar closets, and a ladder to the roof. Ghosting in the flooring documents the changes in the stair and the relocation of the newel.

Outbuildings

The historic tenant house dating from the turn of the 20th century is Dutch Colonial Revival in style. The building, standing one-and-a-half stories in height, is located to the southwest of the primary mansion. The wood frame building is clad in square-butt wood shingles and set on a random rubble stone foundation. The cross gambrel roof is clad in asphalt shingles with no overhanging eaves. The wrap-around porch on the north and east elevations is supported by a rough-cut stone pier foundation that has been infilled with concrete blocks. The half-hipped roof of the porch, which is set within the main gambrel roof on the east elevation, has Tuscan columns, square balusters, and a molded cornice with overhanging eaves. The western end of the porch on the north side has been enclosed to provide additional living space. An interior end brick chimney rises from the north elevation, which an exterior end chimney (rebuilt) is on the west elevation. The central entry on the east elevation holds a single-leaf wood door with six panels and a one-light transom that has been boarded-up with plywood. Flanking the entry are 6/6 windows with square-edged wood surrounds and sills. Two 6/6 windows with square-edged surrounds and wood sills illuminate the upper story of the east elevation, within the gabled end.

Two nonhistoric tenant houses, dating from the mid- to late 1960s, are located to the north of the primary mansion. The one-story dwellings are ranch houses, with brick facing and aluminum siding. They have gabled roofs, multi-paned metal windows with rowlock sills, and brick chimneys. The rectangular structures also house the garages, which are entered by roll-up doors.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0381

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

Specific dates	1915-1917; circa 1969	**Architect/Builder**	Horace Trumbauer and Julian Abele
Construction dates	1915-1917; circa 1969		

Evaluation for:

__ ___ National Register _____Maryland Register __X__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 Rainbow Hill is located at 10729 Park Heights Avenue in Owings Mills, Baltimore County. The primary dwelling on the 150-acre site was constructed between 1915 and 1917 in the Beaux-Arts Classicism. African-American architect Julian Abele of the firm of Horace Trumbauer in Philadelphia is believed to have served as the chief draftsman working on the design of the grand mansion. The property was a wedding gift for Henrietta Louise Cromwell from her mother, Eva Roberts Stotesbury. Since its construction, the imposing dwelling has served as the home of General Douglas MacArthur, British horror film actor Lionel Atwill, and Henry Rosenberg, president of Crown Central Petroleum. Rainbow Hill, which is a contributing resource in the Green Spring Valley National Register Historic District, ceased to be a residential property in 1960, when it was purchased and rehabilitated by the Baptist Home of Maryland, Inc. The building was enlarged in circa 1969 by the construction of a wing addition and altered on the interior to accommodate the needs of the medical facility.

History of Rainbow Hill

Edward and Eva Roberts Stotesbury purchased the Baltimore County property known today as Rainbow Hill in the 1910s. Residing in Philadelphia, Edward Stotesbury was a prominent lawyer who was head of the brokerage firm of Drexel and Company. Eva Stotesbury, while overseeing the construction of her own mansion north of Chestnut Hill in Philadelphia, directed the design and construction of the Baltimore County dwelling. The architectural firm of Horace Trumbauer of Philadelphia was engaged to design the primary dwelling and its associated ten-car garage (the garage is no longer extant). Based on the stylistic detailing of the improvements, chief designer Julian Abele is credited with having produced the Beaux-Arts-inspired mansion. This imposing mansion was believed to have been inspired by Powerscourt House, a massive stone castle in Ireland dating in part back to the 12th century and largely reflecting additions and alterations from the 18th century. Trumbauer, who had no formal education, learned the architectural profession as an apprentice draftsman. When he began his own firm, Trumbauer hired such exceptionally qualified personnel as Julien Abele. Abele, the first African American student to graduate from the architectural school at the University of Pennsylvania (1902), attended the acclaimed *Ecole Des Beaux-Arts* in Paris before joining Trumbauer's firm in 1906. By 1909, Abele had been promoted to chief designer and draftsman, overseeing the designs of grand buildings in Philadelphia, Newport, and New York City for society's wealthiest, including Eva Stotesbury.

The Baltimore County property was to be a wedding gift for Stotesbury's daughter, Henrietta Louise Cromwell, in honor of her 1911 marriage to Walter B. Brooks, Jr., a Baltimore socialite and contractor. Construction of the dwelling began in 1915 and was completed in 1917 for an estimated cost of $1 million dollars. Eva R. Stotesbury was charged $77,446 in 1918 for the new two-story dwelling, which measured 36 feet by 127 feet with a wing measuring 12 feet by 24 feet. The assessment also included the two-story, ten-car garage and two servant's cottages. The wood frame cottages appear to predate the construction of the primary dwelling, marking the existence of the Avalon Hotel, which existed on the property until the early 1900s.

Local press in the late 1910s touted the grand design of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brooks, Jr. of Baltimore, describing the interior as including a reception hall, drawing room, sun porch, ball room, breakfast room and formal dining room. The grand stair led to nine bedrooms and six bathrooms, in addition to the ten bedrooms and three baths in the west wing that housed the servants.

In 1919, the Brooks' marriage ended in divorce. A prominent socialite of the roaring twenties, Louise Cromwell Brooks met Brigadier General Douglas MacArthur at a party held at West Point, where the World War I hero was serving as superintendent. The couple was married in Palm Beach on Valentine's Day in 1922.

Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964) was an American hero, who is most recognized for his command of the Allied troops in the Pacific during World War II. A graduate of West Point Military Academy, MacArthur reached the rank of general during World War I. Between 1917 and 1919, MacArthur was variously chief of staff, brigade commander, and divisional commander of the 42nd Infantry Division (Rainbow Division) during combat operations in France and in the Rhine occupation that followed. He was promoted to brigadier general in 1918. Soon after his marriage, MacArthur was sent to serve in the Philippines. General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, a former suitor of Louise Brooks, seems to have sent MacArthur to the hot and far away post as a form of revenge. About three years later, MacArthur had been promoted to major general and returned to a post at Fort Meade in Baltimore. Between 1935 and 1941, General MacArthur served as the Philippines military advisor and field marshal. MacArthur retired from the U.S. Army in December 1937, only to be recalled to active duty in July 1941. As supreme commander of the Southwest Pacific, MacArthur led a combined American and Australian force in gradually retaking the islands seized by Japan during World War II (1939-1945). He accepted the surrender of Japan in 1945. During the Allied occupation of Japan, he demilitarized the former enemy power and implemented a comprehensive policy of social, economic, and political reforms with the goal of liberalizing that nation. When Communist North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950, MacArthur drove the invaders out of South Korea and pursued them to the Chinese border. Communist China initiated a new conflict by sending troops into Korea. MacArthur wanted to expand the limited war into a general war against China. When he publicly criticized the policy of his civilian and military superiors, President Harry S. Truman relieved him of his command in 1951. General Douglas MacArthur died in Washington, D.C. in 1964 and was buried in Norfolk, Virginia.

During MacArthur's tenure at Fort Meade, he resided with his wife Louise at the estate on Park Heights Avenue in Owings Mills. In the 1920s, Japanese Emperor Hirohito presented the general with two Ming trees, which were planted on the property (one tree is extant). In honor of the 42nd Infantry Division that MacArthur commanded during World War I, the Baltimore County property was named "Rainbow Hill." The division was the premier National Guard division fighting on the Western Front during the First World War. The need for troops in France as quickly as possible brought together units from twenty-six states and the District of Columbia. The joining of these many units prompted MacArthur to comment that "the 42nd Division stretches like a rainbow from one end of American to the other," and the statement caused the sobriquet "Rainbow Division."

Like her first union, Louise Cromwell Brooks' marriage to Douglas MacArthur did not last long. The couple was separated and divorced in 1929 after only seven years of marriage. Soon thereafter, in 1930, Louise Cromwell married British-born Lionel Atwill (1885-1946). The acclaimed actor was well known for his roles in such horror films as *The Hounds of the Baskervilles*, *Son of Frankenstein*, and *Mystery of the Wax Museum*. The couple resided at Rainbow Hill until 1940, selling it to Henry A. Rosenberg, who was president of Crown Central Petroleum. In 1960, the property was again offered for sale, with the potential buyers hoping to establish a county club on the 43-acre estate. Rather, the Baptist Home of Maryland, Inc. purchased Rainbow Hill and rehabilitated the primary dwelling to serve as a medical care facility.

The Baptist Home was founded in 1915 by William B. McCormick of the McCormick Spice Company. The mission of the organization was to help widows of Baptist ministers and other impoverished women. The first "home" was located at 2301 North Charles Street in Baltimore City. In 1924, the organization moved to expanded facilities at 1615 Park Avenue. Then, in January 1960, the group purchased the large house and about forty-five acres of land from Mrs. Henry A. Rosenberg. The Baptist Home rehabilitated the interior of Rainbow Hill, dividing the larger bedrooms into smaller living quarters for residents. Furthermore, in 1959, a two-story wing addition was constructed on the southwest corner of the main block. This addition, balanced by the two-story servant's wing to the northwest, gave the building its present T-shaped plan.

The Baptist Home, faced with financial difficulties, sold twenty-two acres of the property in December 2000. The mounting debts were not sufficiently paid, and the property was ceased by the bank. The last of the resident patients moved from Rainbow Hill in March 2001. The property is currently for sale.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0381

Baltimore County, Office of Planning, Vertical File "Rainbow Hill (BA-0381)."

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	19.67 Acres		
Acreage of historical setting	150 Acres		
Quadrangle name	Cockeysville	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since the building's construction between 1915 and 1917, the former dwelling at 10729 Park Heights Avenue has been associated the property known as Rainbow Hill as noted on Tax Map 59, Grid 20, Parcel 270 and recorded in Deed Record Liber 4250, folio 278.

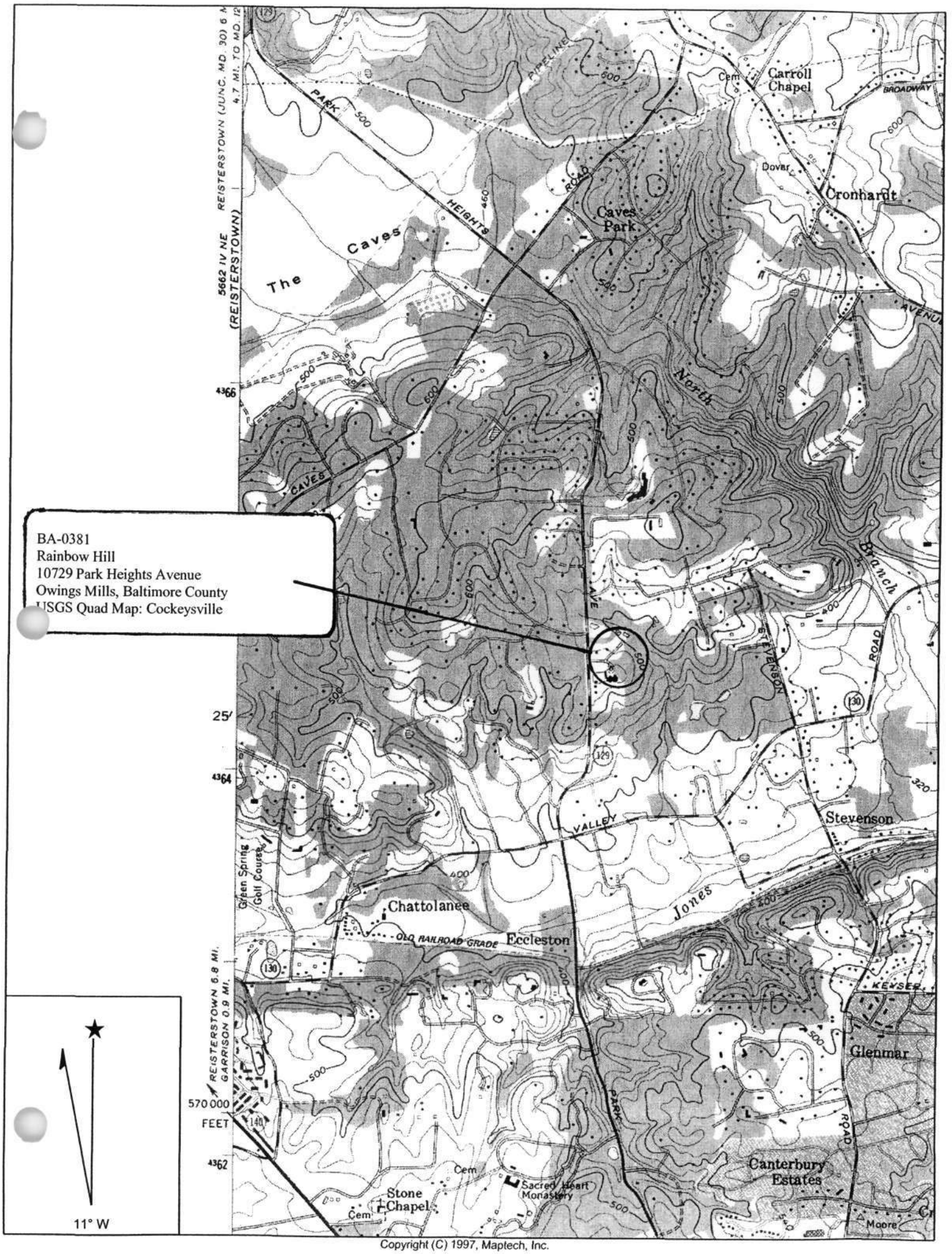
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Laura Trieschmann, Architectural Historians		
organization	E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.	date	April 10, 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



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BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10929 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
LOOKING SOUTH
North elevation, view looking South
1 OF 18

BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
LOOKING EAST
2 OF 18

BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
LOOKING NORTH
3 OF 18

BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
LOOKING NORTHWEST
4 OF 18

BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
NO SHPO
LOOKING SOUTHWEST
5 OF 18

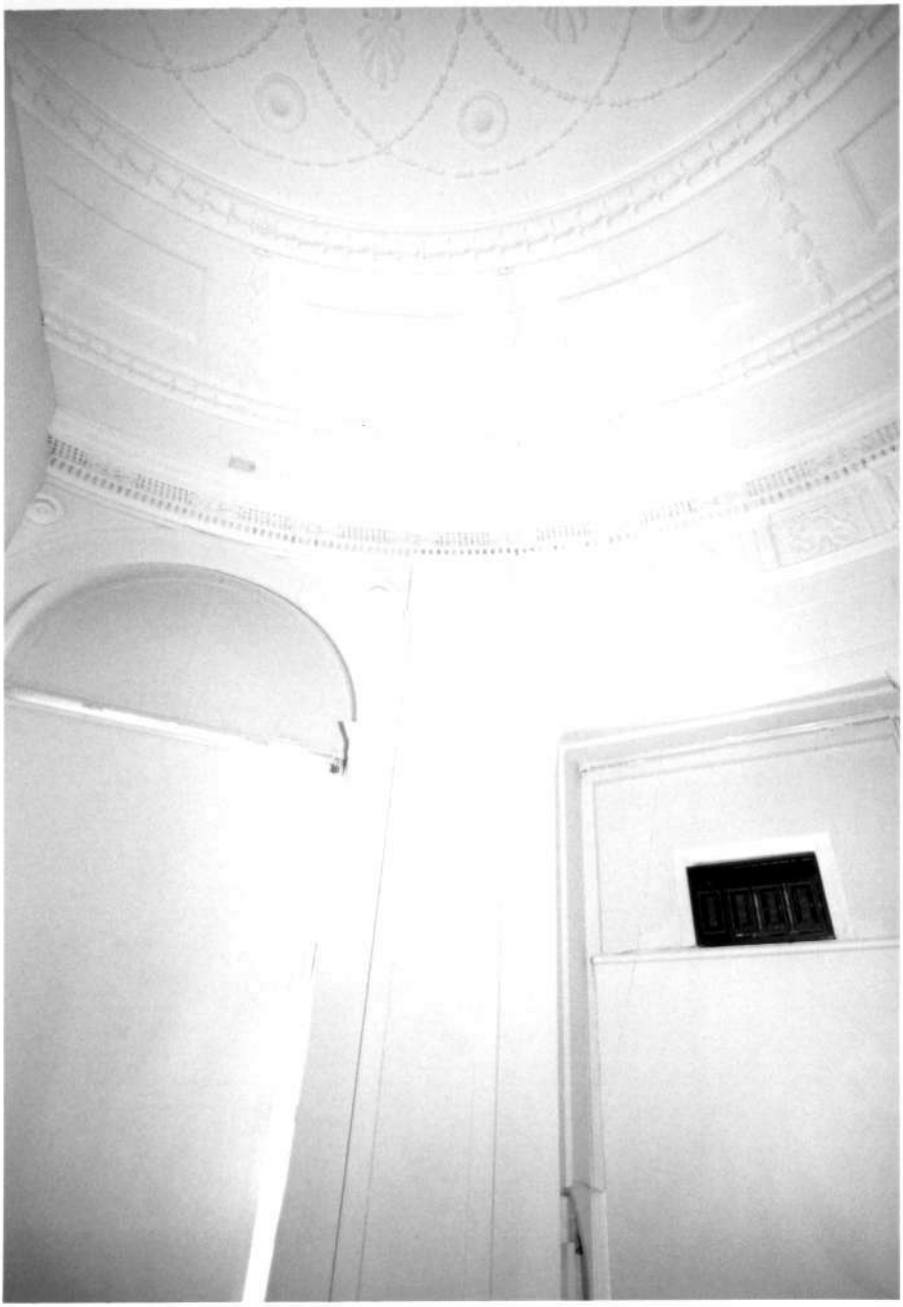
BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
Ballroom, view looking Northeast
6 OF 18

BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
Entry hall, central stair, view looking Northeast
8 OF 18

BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
Entry Hall, view looking North
7 OF 18

BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
Entry Hall, view looking southwest
9 OF 18

BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS, AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
Ballroom, view looking Northwest
10 OF 18



BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
Ballroom, south end ceiling
11 OF 18

EXIT

BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
Dining Room, view looking East
12 OF 18

EXIT

BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
Sunporch, view looking Northwest
13 OF 18

BA-381

RAINBOW HILL

10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL

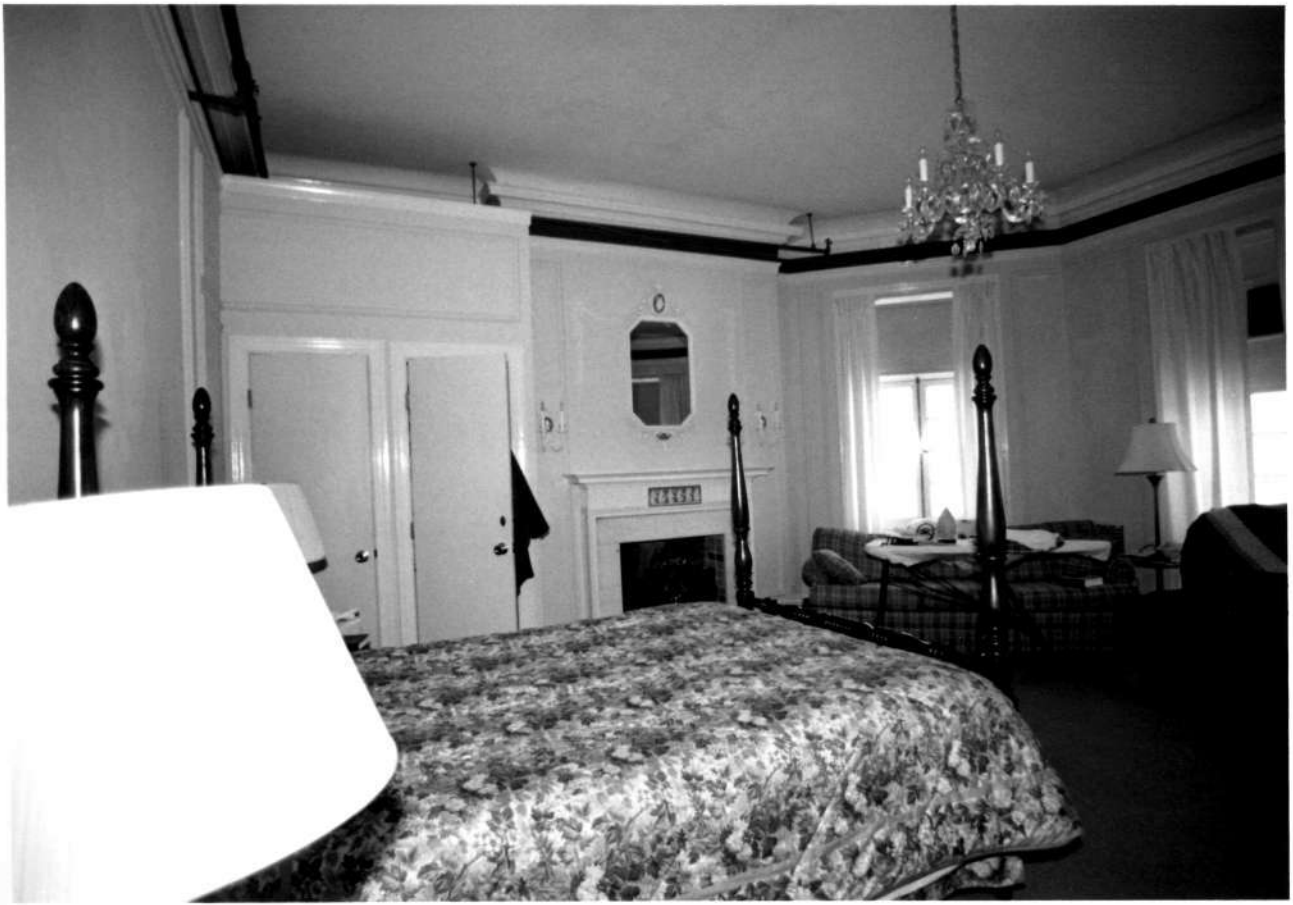
TRACERIES

3/01

MD SHPO

Second Floor Stair Landing, view looking Southwest

14 OF 18



BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
Second Floor Bedroom, west end, view looking Northwest
15 OF 18

BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10929 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
Second Floor Bedroom, East end, view looking Northeast
16 OF 18

BA-381
RAINBOW HILL
10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
Second Floor Bedroom, East end, view looking Southeast
17 OF 18

BA-381
RAINBOW HILL,
10729 PARK HEIGHTS AVE, OWINGS MILL
TRACERIES
3/01
MD SHPO
TENANT HOUSE, LOOKING WEST
18 OF 18

BA 381
Rainbow Hill
10729 Park Heights Avenue
Owings Mills, Md. 21117
private

Rainbow Hill is an early twentieth century house carefully designed to recall an elegant house of the late eighteenth century England. General Douglas MacArthur lived there and named the house Rainbow Hill in honor of the Rainbow Division he had led during World War I. Lionel Atwill, the actor lived at Rainbow Hill. Henry Rosenberg, president of Crown Central Petroleum, owned the house in the 1940's.

BA 381
x-876.660
y-577.420
MAGI # 0303811704

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: RAINBOW HILL

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 10729 Park Heights Avenue

CITY, TOWN: Owings Mills — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

COUNTY: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland

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	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO	__MILITARY	X OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Baptist Home of Maryland

Telephone #: 484-3324

STREET & NUMBER: 10729 Park Heights Avenue

CITY, TOWN: Owings Mills — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Md. 21117

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Baltimore County Courts Building

Liber #: 3758
Folio #: 29

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

BA-381

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
GOOD	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

RAINBOW HILL is a large formal mansion completed in 1917, its style recalling that of the late eighteenth century English Georgian. The principal entrance is centered in the north facade and the south overlooks a broad view of the valley. Two storeys in height, exterior walls are finished in smooth white stucco with white marble entrance surrounds, window sills and jack arches. The center block is five bays in length and short wings project north and south at each end, terminated by semi-octagonal bays extending the full two storeys in height. A modillioned cornice surrounds the entire mansion and a low-pitched copper roof rises above it. A large sun porch extends across the east end, its east wall slightly bowed. A two storey stuccoed service wing is perpendicular to the mansion's axis at the west end, recently extended to the south to enlarge the mansion's capacity in its present function -- a home for the elderly.

The central entrances north and south have marble surrounds, the northerly with a pediment, the southerly with a flat cornice. 12/12 windows are in the first storey of the central block, north facade, while tall casements are in the second, opening to small wrought-iron balconies at each window. All windows of the south facade are casements. The central windows of the semi-octagonal bays have arched heads trimmed with marble. All other openings have rusticated jack arches. French doors all around the sun porch have alternating square and semi-circular transoms.

The north entrance opens beneath the principal stair and a great hall extends across the south front, five bays in length. The stair hall is screened from the great hall by a Tuscan colonade consisting of fluted wooden columns painted in imitation of green marble. The columns support an order which extends around the hall. The stair rail is of ornamental wrought-iron. Floors are paved with black-and-white marble tiles and a fireplace with a highly ornamental green and white marble mantel is at either end of the great hall.

A dining room extends across the east end the full depth of the house and each end is terminated with semi-octagonal bays. It has been subdivided into several small rooms without damaging original architectural features including the highly carved mantel

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

of white marble and gold onyx. The sun porch is east of the dining room and its large fireplace has a carved limestone architrave surround supporting a plain frieze and cornice shelf.

The principal drawing room is at the west end of the great hall and its south end opens into the semi-octagonal bay there. The mantel on its north wall is of carved white and gray marble. A smaller library is to its north, opening into that semi-octagonal bay, its carved mantel of white and gold onyx.

The second storey is simpler but the hall and principal rooms retain all their original ornamentation. The master bedroom was above the drawing room and it has been subdivided into smaller rooms. A suite of rooms is across the south front and several more small rooms are above the dining room.

Two small frame cottages stand at the west edge of the south lawn, probably guest cottages from the Avalon Hotel which once occupied this site. They date from the first decade of the twentieth century. Both are nearly identical, one and one-half storeys in height, a porch extending across the east front, a high gambrel roof rising above house and porch, a steep gable centered in the roof rising nearly to the ridge. The cottages are two bays in length: a door in the north bay, a 6/6 window in the south. A pair of 6/6 windows is in the gable above.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-381

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
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

RAINBOW HILL is an early twentieth century house carefully designed to recall an elegant house of late eighteenth century England. Two cottages remain from the earlier hotel which occupied the site.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Rainbow Hill

Rainbow Hill sits appropriately on a hill high above the Green Spring Valley, immediately adjacent to Park Heights Avenue. Known today as the Baptist Home of Maryland, Incorporated, it serves as a retirement and nursing home for the elderly. But at various times in its history, this huge mansion was also home to several distinquished and well-known figures.

The house stands on the site of the old Avalon Inn, a popular resort hotel during the early twentieth century. The three-story structure was destroyed by fire in 1912. 1/ Thereafter the property was sold by the inn's owner and proprietress Sarah F. Wright to Eva Roberts Stotesbury of Philadelphia.2/

Mrs. Stotesbury's daughter, Louise Cromwell, had married Walter B. Brooks, Jr., a Valley resident, and Rainbow Hill was built for them on the hotel land in 1917 at a cost of $1,000,000. The white stucco marble house measured 77 x 75 feet and contained a reception hall, dining room, drawing room, breakfast room, nine bedrooms, and six baths. Quarters for servants included ten rooms and three baths. A short distance away was a ten-car garage, with four servants' rooms on the second floor.3/

Mrs. Brooks remarried several times; her second husband was Major General Douglas MacArthur, who named the house Rainbow Hill in honor of the Rainbow Division he had led during World War I; her third husband was Lionel Atwill, the actor, and it was during their marriage that the house was sold in 1940 to Henry and Ruth (Blaustein) Rosenberg.4/

Mr. Rosenberg was the president of the Crown Central Petroleum Company. After his death, his widow sold the house and estate of some 90 acres to the Rainbow Hill Corporation. Since 1964 it has been owned by the Baptist Home of Maryland, Incorporated, who renovated the thirty-three room mansion to meet the needs of their elderly residents.5/

Rainbow Hill
Footnotes

1/"Avalon Inn is Destroyed by Morning Fire," Baltimore American, 3 October 1912.

2/Baltimore County Land Records (BCLR), Liber W. P. C. no. 406, fol. 326, Towson Court House, Towson, Maryland.

3/"Hospital Planned for Valley Estate," Sun, 29 April 1924; "Some Palatial Homes in Baltimore Environs," Sun, 10 April, 1932; "'Rainbow Hill' Sold by Atwills," Sun, 4 August 1940; Seymour Kopf, "Man About Town," Baltimore American, 30 and 31 March 1971; BCLR, Liber C. W. B.,Jr. no. 1117, fol. 546, Towson.

4/"Baptists Purchase Rainbow Hill," Sun, 9 January 1964; "Rainbow Hill, Former MacArthur Home, To Be Aged Baptist Residence," Sun, 19 May 1967; BCLR, Liber W. J. R., no. 3758, fol. 29, Towson.

Bibliography

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

BA-381

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes; The Green Spring Valley, Its History and Heritage, (Baltimore, Maryland Historical Society , 1978)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James T. Wollon, Jr., A.I.A./ Dawn F. Thomas, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION DATE 2-10-80

Valleys Planning Council

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE 828-7808

212 Washington Avenue

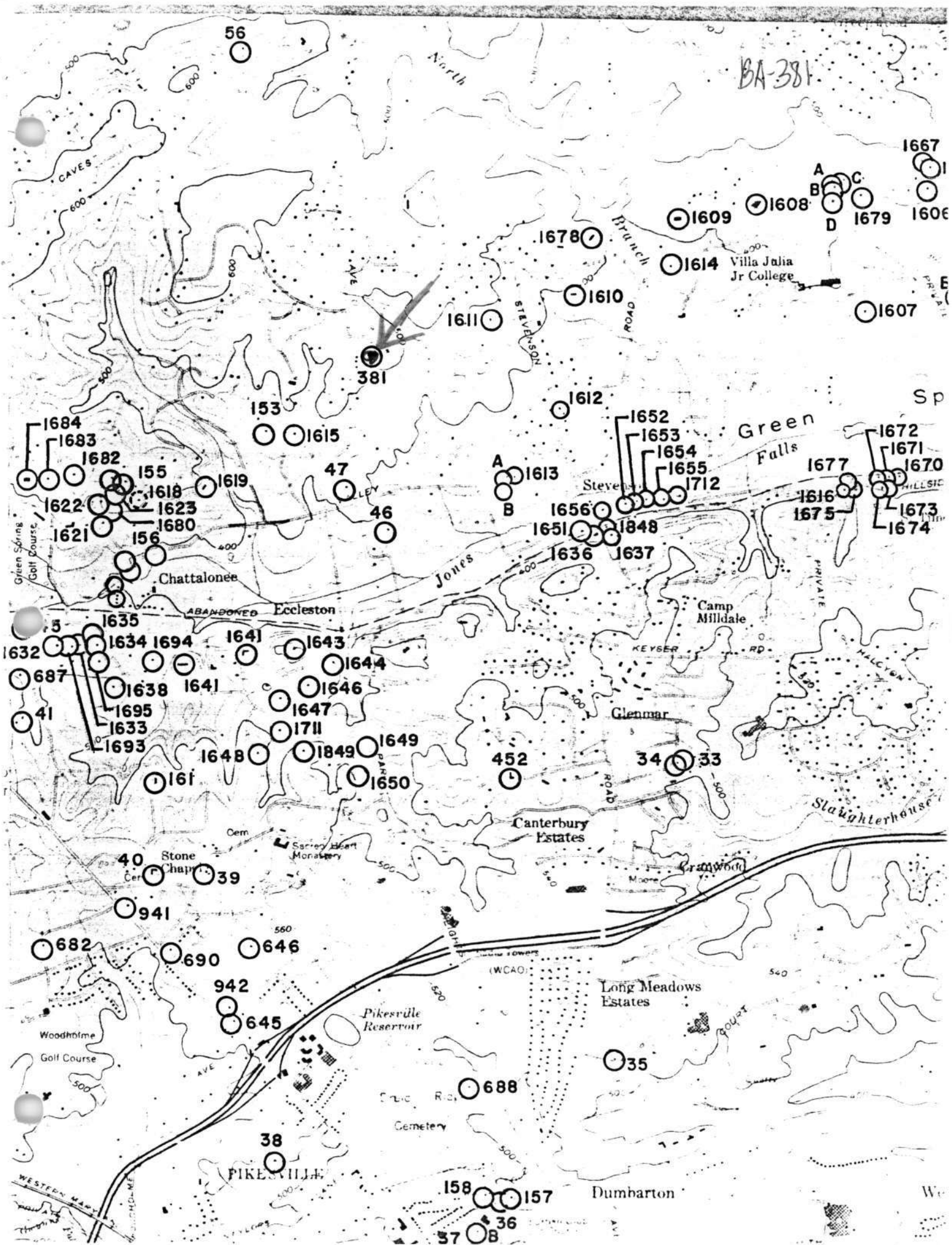
CITY OR TOWN STATE Maryland 21204

Towson

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-381
North
Branch
CAVES
Villa Julia
Jr College
STEVENSON
ROAD
Green
Falls
Steven
Jones
Chattalonee
ABANDONED
Eccleston
Camp
Milldale
KEYSER
RD
HALCYON
Glenmar
Canterbury
Estates
Slaughterhouse
Stone
Chapel
Sacred Heart
Monastery
Cemetery
Cramwood
Moore
Long Meadows
Estates
Pikesville
Reservoir
Woodholme
Golf Course
Green Spring
Golf Course
PIKESVILLE
Dumbarton
WESTERN MAR
(WCAO)
381
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40
39
941
682
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942
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37
8

BA 381-A
Rainbow Hill
Cottage
Pa.Hghts.Ave.
JTW
8/30/79
Md. Hist. Tr.
from N.E.

BA 381
Rainbow Hill
GSVHD
Par.Hghts.Ave.
JTW
1/20/79
Md. Hist. Tr.
from north