

STRAWBERRY HILL  
Moved to Piscataway Bay, P.G. County  
CH-127

0901275 204

In 1967 Strawberry Hill was moved from its original site on the Marshall Hall Road through the efforts of its present owners, descendents of the builder. Except for the years 1943-1965 the house has remained in the possession of the Clagett and Bryan families, all descendents of Richard Clagett (d. 1799), who, it is believed, built the house circa 1781. The property is now the site of Strawberry Hills Estates, a <sup>modern</sup> ~~modern~~ income development.

The house was of brick-nogged frame construction, two-stories in height beneath a high, steeply pitched roof. As each end of the house stood double chimneys, one with a connecting one-story pent closet.

The principal facade faced south and was three bays in width. The entrance, positioned slightly west of the center line, had paneled double doors, hung on H-L hinges, and a four pane overlight. Two flanking windows, one to each side of the door, framed six over six sash. Across the second floor level were four short and irregularly spaced windows. The roof was unbroken on either slope although the attic was commodious enough to serve as an additional living area. On the rear elevation the door placement and fenestration was repeated, the only difference being that there were three windows across the second floor level rather than four. One-story farm porches were built across both front and rear elevations in the late nineteenth century and again circa 1930.

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At both ends of the house stood double chimneys. The east chimneys were connected at the base by a solid wall enclosing a small closet, a characteristic feature of Southern Maryland chimney design. Like Mt. Pleasant near Nanjemoy each pair of chimneys consisted of one large chimney stack toward the front with a smaller, one flue stack to the rear, both with flat tapered weatherings and corbelled caps. The chimneys at the opposite end of the house had, in place of a pent, a door opening from the house into a partially enclosed passage leading to a semi-detached frame kitchen. This small, one-room and loft dependency had on its west end a large brick chimney on a fieldstone base.

The first floor room configuration consisted of a center hall flanked by two rooms on each side. A narrow stair with winders and a particularly fine balustrade with turned posts and balusters stood off the hall in the northeast corner. The same room configuration was repeated on the second floor. Throughout the house the walls and ceilings were plastered and the floors planked with red-cedar boards. On the first floor the walls had chairrails and wood mantelpieces framing each of the four fireplaces. All moldings, except in the case of the stair, were of a simple profile.

The attic, although never finished on the interior, measured a full sixteen feet from the planked floor to the ridge. It was lighted by a single small window in each gable.

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Interesting outbuildings included a combination smokehouse and storage shed, a grainery, a hipped roofed barn, several quarters, a carriage house and several barns, all dating c. 1780 - c. 1820. All have now been demolished except the grainery which was moved with the house and now serves as a small guest house on the new site.

About fifteen feet southeast of the site of the east chimney is a small overgrown private cemetery that contains the graves of about ten members of the Clagett family, the oldest grave being that of Richard Clagett.

When this modest but interesting house was moved many of its more important elements were destroyed, including the main stair. The basic plan remains and the chimneys, at least the ones with pent, rebuilt with a fair degree of accuracy. However, so many alterations were made that it has lost much of its earlier integrity.

JRR:sh

11 April 1975

MAGI # 0901276327

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC STRAWBERRY HILL (SITE); Part of Market Overton

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Strawberry Hills Estates subdivision, east side of Md. Rte. 227, approx. 1 1/2 miles north of Bryan's Road

CITY, TOWN Bryan's Road  VICINITY OF Marshall Hall CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

STATE Maryland COUNTY Charles

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple & American Bldrs. & Dev. Corp. Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 1131 University Boulevard West, Suite 215

CITY, TOWN Silver Springs, VICINITY OF STATE Maryland zip code 20902

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 189  
Folio #: 600

STREET & NUMBER Charles Street

CITY, TOWN La Plata STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

- ORIGINAL SITE
  - MOVED
- DATE 1965

CH-127

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE ATTACHED

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

#7: Description:

A two-story frame house with exterior end chimneys, Strawberry Hill stood at the north end of a mile-long private road entered from the east side of the Marshall Hall Road (Md. Rte. 227) about one and one-half miles north of the intersection of Maryland Routes 227 and 210 at Bryan's Road. In 1965 the house and several companion buildings were partially dismantled, moved and reconstructed on a new site at the head of Piscataway Bay near Accokeek, Prince Georges County, Maryland. The original house site was recently leveled and developed as part of the residential subdivision known as Strawberry Hills Estates. Few if any features relating to the earlier complex of house and domestic dependencies remain.

Of simple architectural styling, Strawberry Hill was essentially a standard regional house type characteristic of the latter half of the eighteenth century, although few similar examples survive. Measuring approximately 42 by 30 feet, the house stood on an elevated plain. The Potomac River, about two miles to the north, could be seen from the second floor. The principal facade faced south and displayed an irregular placement of windows and door. Positioned to the left of center, the door had a detached double transome above and was flanked by two narrow windows. Across the second floor level were four short windows framing six-over-three pane sash. In 1965 the house had a one story porch with square posts and a brick floor that extended the full width of this elevation. Built in 1940, this porch replaced an earlier one with a wood floor and square, paneled posts. The north side of the house had a centered door flanked by two windows, and three windows directly above. A nineteenth century porch that extended the width of this elevation was raised to two stories in the mid-1950's. At each end of the house stood two exterior chimneys with tiled weatherings and free-standing stacks, with the two east end chimneys connected at the first floor level by a shed-roofed pent. The chimneys of the west end framed a former breezeway that connected the main house to a detached kitchen. In the late 1920's the breezeway was torn down and replaced by a small frame addition housing a modern kitchen.

The first and second floor room configuration consisted of a centered through hall flanked by four rooms. The stair, housed in an alcove at the north end of the hall, rose in a series of winders to the second floor along the east wall. Although most of the woodwork in the house had been replaced in the nineteenth century, the stair retained its molded rail, square posts and block and turned balusters, all of which were of typical eighteenth century styling. At the south end of the hall, at the second floor level, was a ladder-type stair that provided access to a commodious but unfinished attic.

The eighteenth century kitchen, which stood about twenty feet west of the house, had a door and small window on the south side, a second door that opened into the kitchen from the former breezeway at the east end, and a large exterior chimney of brick and fieldstone construction at the west end.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1785 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Richard Clagett

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE ATTACHED

#8: Statement of Significance:

A relatively plain farmhouse of regionally characteristic architecture, Strawberry Hill was built circa 1785 by Richard Clagett. Its more interesting features included the irregular fenestration of its front elevation, a high and steeply pitched gable roof, and two exterior chimneys at each end. Of the four chimneys those at the east end were connected at the first floor level by a shed-roofed pent, while those on the opposite side initially framed a breezeway that joined the house to a semi-detached kitchen. The room configuration consisted of a center through hall flanked by four rooms, an arrangement repeated on both floor levels. Most of the interior woodwork was replaced by trim of simple styling in the early and mid-nineteenth century, but the main stair, housed in an alcove at the north end of the hall, had molded rails and posts and block and turned balusters of an attractive design characteristic of the mid and late-eighteenth century.

Owned by descendants of the builder until 1944, Strawberry Hill is best known locally as having been the home of Alexander Marbury Bryan for whom Bryan's Road was named. In 1965 the house and several outbuildings were acquired by descendants of Richard Clagett and moved to a new location near Accokeek, Prince Georges County, Maryland, and reconstructed.

Strawberry Hill is believed to have been built by Richard Clagett (1736-1799) shortly after he acquired the property from William Tyler in 1782.<sup>1</sup> The 275 acres purchased by Clagett (later proved to be 376 acres due to an error in the 1782 survey) was part of a larger tract called Market Overton. From Richard Clagett the property passed in ownership to his son, Thomas Dorsey Clagett.<sup>2</sup> Heavily mortgaged, the farm was put up for public auction in 1853, but was reclaimed by William Harrison Clagett, a son of Thomas D. Clagett.<sup>3</sup> In 1891, Strawberry Hill, as it was then called, was sold by the heirs of William Clagett to Alexander Marbury Bryan.<sup>4</sup> Bryan, a well-known farmer and active member of the Republican party, had married Ella Hanson Clagett, a daughter of William Harrison and Elizabeth C. M. B. (Hanson) Clagett. In 1929 the heirs of Alexander M. Bryan sold Strawberry Hill to Ella Clagett Bryan, youngest daughter and one of fourteen children of A. M. Bryan, and wife of Lieut. John B. Hupp, Jr.<sup>5</sup> In 1944 the property was sold out of the Bryan-Clagett family, ending five generations of ownership.<sup>6</sup> It passed through several subsequent ownerships until 1967 when it was purchased by American Builders and Development Company, developers of the "Strawberry Hills Estates" subdivision.<sup>7</sup>

Prior to the removal of the house in 1965 and the subdivision of the land, Strawberry Hill was an important part of the history of the Bryan's Road-Marshall Hall area. The Clagetts, in whose name the property remained from 1782 until 1891, although not themselves wealthy, both married into and were descended from many of the most prominent families in the region. A particularly close relationship

existed between the Marshalls and Clagetts as a result of several generations of inter-marriages. The Bryans, a well-educated family long active in the agricultural and political affairs of the county, were also prominent in the history of this section of the county. Descendents of both families continue to live in this locale.

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Footnotes

1. Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, La Plata. Liber V#3, folio 557.
2. Liber L#3, folio 612.
3. Liber IB#25, folio 332; Liber RHM#1, folio 555.
4. Liber JST#4, folio 514.
5. Liber Liber WMA#51, folio 473.
6. Liber TBM#80, folio 24.
7. Liber 189, folio 600. (For ownerships between 1944 and 1967 see: Liber TBM#82, folio 203; TBM#82, folio 457; Liber TBM#83, folio 136; Liber PCM#128, folio 145.)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CH-127

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

Acres of land \_\_\_\_\_

### 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

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

July, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

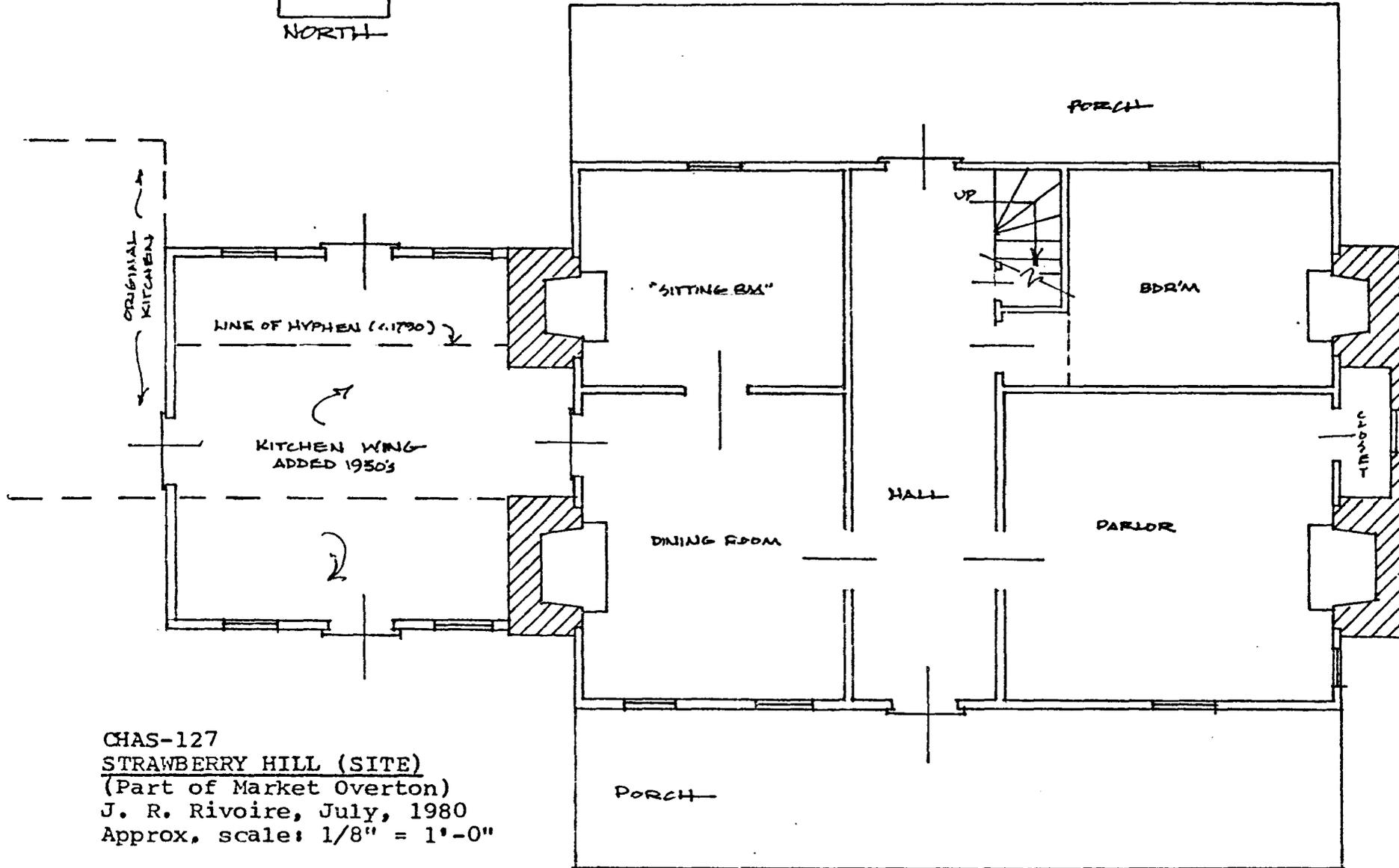
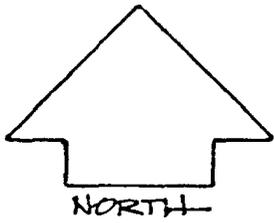
STATE

Maryland

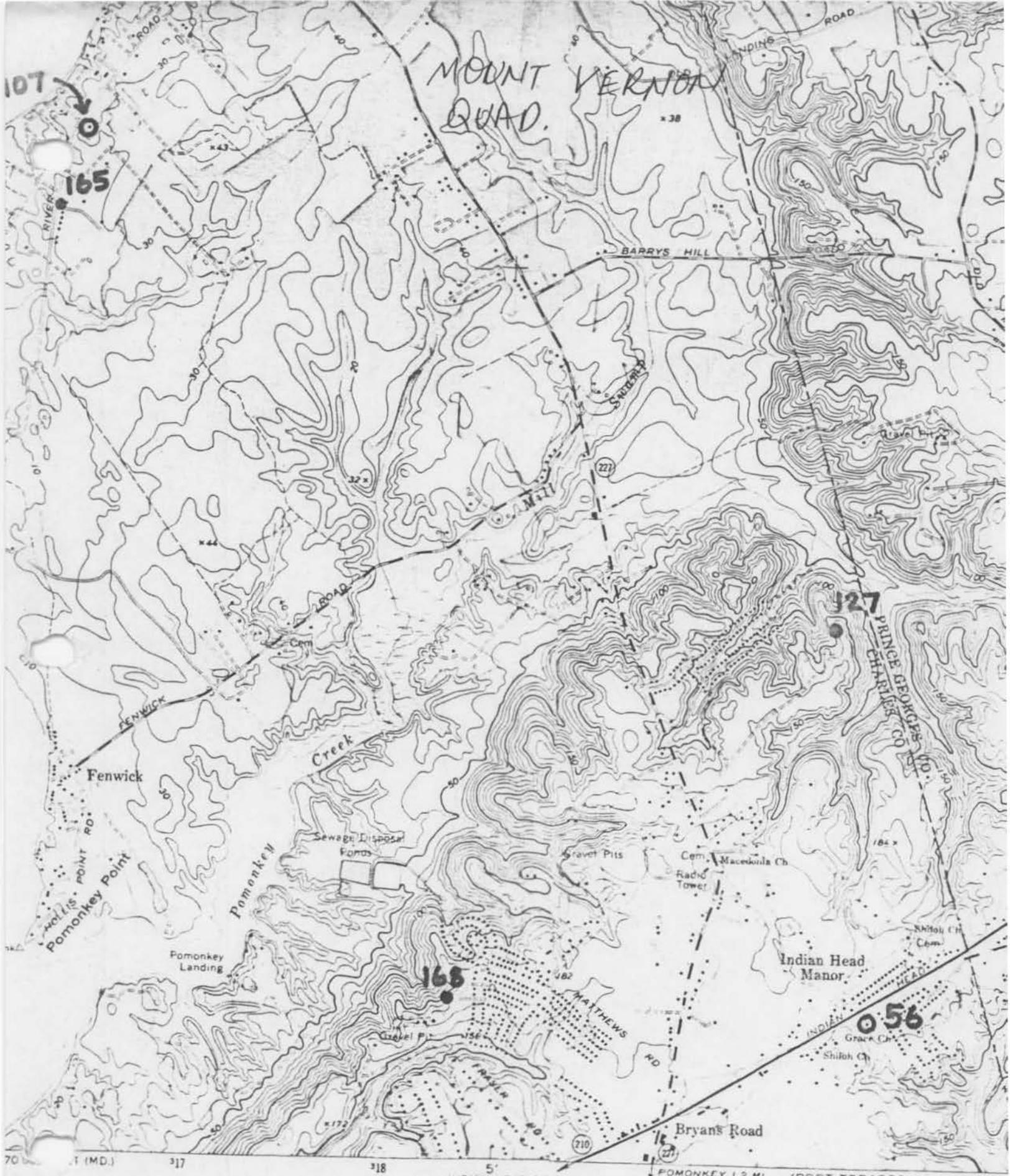
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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



CHAS-127  
STRAWBERRY HILL (SITE)  
(Part of Market Overton)  
J. R. Rivoire, July, 1980  
Approx. scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"



MOUNT VERNON  
QUAD.

CH-127

Geological Survey  
 Revised by the Geological Survey  
 1964 Field checked 1965  
 Scale 1:24,000  
 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000  
 1 2 3 4 5  
 124 MILS 1:17