

Brinkwood
CH-213
Bryantown vic.
Private

1889

Brinkwood, established in 1889 is an excellent example of a late 19th century farmstead in Charles County. The most prominent feature on the site is an elaborate Victorian dwelling approached by a long cedar-lined drive. The house is 2 ½ stories high and two rooms in depth. The facade is distinguished by a pair of octagonal Queen Anne inspired towers and a wide wrap around porch detailed with scollisawn woodwork. Behind the main dwelling is a smokehouse with a pyramidal roof. To the east the land slopes downward where a grouping of outbuildings including a stable, corncrib, equipment shed and grinding house, are arranged along a wide lane. Overall the buildings retain a high degree of architectural integrity and are surrounded by a well preserved rural landscape. The dwelling in particular, is not only in excellent condition but retains much of its original materials and design including wood siding, windows and interior plan.

Brinkwood, built for C. Grantley Edelen, is significant as an outstanding example of a 19th century farmstead in Charles County. The dwelling, which holds an impressive degree of architectural integrity, is a unique example of high style Queen Anne details affixed to a traditional center passage house form. Adding to its significance, Brinkwood is surrounded by substantial farmland and several well preserved and maintained outbuildings that well reflect the historic landscape of the late 19th century.

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-213

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

Brinkwood, established in 1889, is an excellent example of a late 19th century farmstead in Charles County. The most prominent feature on the site is an elaborate Victorian dwelling approached by a long cedar-lined drive. The house is 2 1/2 stories high and two rooms in depth. The façade is distinguished by a pair of octagonal Queen Anne inspired towers and a wide wrap around porch detailed with scollsawn woodwork. Behind the main dwelling is a smokehouse with a pyramidal roof. To the east the land slopes downward where a grouping of outbuildings including a stable, corncrib, equipment shed and grinding house are arranged along a wide lane. Overall the buildings retain a high degree of architectural integrity and are surrounded by a well preserved rural landscape. The dwelling in particular, is not only in excellent condition but retains much of its original materials and design including wood siding, windows and interior plan.

German or beveled wood siding covers the wood frame which rests on a continuous brick foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and broken by a pair of symmetrical interior brick chimneys. An ornate wraparound porch resting on turned wooden posts and a concrete block foundation caps the first floor. The turned wooden posts are accented with machine scrollsawn brackets and the porch railings include cutwork detailing. An arched window appears in the façade's decorative gable and is repeated under the gable on the east and west walls.

The basic double-pile center passage plan of the dwelling is modified by the presence of a two story, single pile kitchen ell that extends from the southeast corner. Significant additions and alterations include the enclosure of the east porch and the addition of Craftsmen style windows, the enclosure of a portion of the rear porch and a change in the second story façade's fenestration.

The façade is three bays wide with the two end bays containing the octagonal towers that flank the center bay. Windows in these bays are three part consisting of narrow rectangular 1/1 wood sash windows on the sides with a larger 2/2 wood sash double hung window in the center. Fish scale shingles adorn the tower wall above the second story. Both towers are capped with a pinnacle as is the decorative gable which includes an additional flourish of scrollsawn woodwork and a finial at the gable apex. Visually, this finial points to an arched 4-light window with corresponding shutters in the decorative gable.

The original door on the first floor has been replaced yet the door surround appears to be original featuring a transom and sidelights above paneled woodwork. Above this is a 1/1 light modern window in the place of an earlier door opening. A two light transom is visible above the current window and two wood panels fill in the space below. Two long, probably original shutters flank either side.

The west elevation main block includes an arched four light shuttered attic story window centered in the gable wall. Below this in the second story is a single centered 2/2 light wood sash double-hung window. On the first floor, under the porch roof are three symmetrically placed windows of the same composition. The wrap-around porch extends the full length of this elevation.

The western elevation kitchen wing is two bays in width with two original 2/2 light wood sash windows on the second story. On the first floor the fenestration has been

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modified to allow more light in the kitchen within. Currently a paired window stands at the southernmost bay. The opposite bay is obscured by the shed roof extending from the rear of the dwelling.

The rear elevation includes three 2/2 light original windows on the second floor, of which two are clustered at the west end. On the first floor the wrap-around porch extends the length of the rear elevation but has been enclosed at the eastern end. First floor windows include two original 2/2 light windows clustered on the west end and a later window found in the enclosed porch wall. The gable end of the kitchen wing is also visible from this elevation and includes a second story 2/2 light original window. The first floor is obscured by at least two one story additions to the rear of the service wing.

The east elevation main block includes an arched 4-light shuttered window in the attic story above a centered original 2/2 light window on the second floor. On the first floor, the porch has been enclosed to create a sunroom. Currently the enclosed porch wall includes a row of seven Craftsmen style 6/1 light windows.

The service wing east elevation is divided into three visible additions. The first is the main kitchen wing consisting of a two story frame structure. On the second story an original 2/2 light window is situated near the south wall above a 1/1 light replacement window. To the right of this is evidence of a former door now covered with wood siding. This evidence is confirmed by an inspection of the interior. The two one story additions include a doorway and a 2/2 light window.

INTERIOR

The interior floorplan follows a traditional center passage double pile plan with two rooms flanking either side of the center hall. The formal parlor is situated in the northwest corner of the dwelling followed by the study to the rear. Across the hall is the second parlor, which is slightly less ornate, in front of the dining room. Some of the original exterior wall has been removed in the second parlor to provide access to the 1930's -40's sunroom. The porch/sunroom extends into a hallway located in the kitchen wing where there are found several pantries and closets. To the rear of the kitchen wing is the modern kitchen.

The main stair is found on the west side of the hall. The second floor includes several bedrooms and a small room above the entranceway which was once a second story porch, but has been converted into a bath. The second story kitchen wing includes a nursery with a separate unadorned narrow staircase. This staircase was originally accessible from the first floor hall in the kitchen wing and by an outside doorway, now covered, on the east wall.

OUTBUILDINGS

(I) SMOKEHOUSE

A pyramidal smokehouse stand directly behind the house.

To the east of the house lot stands a grouping of outbuildings arranged in a lane that runs west to east. Those closest to the house appear to be the earliest including a corncrib and stable or horse barn.

(B) CORNCRIB

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The corncrib appears to now be resting on a concrete block foundation and has a metal roof. The front gable structure has the typical spaced vertical slats that allow air circulation throughout the structure and a raised wooden floor to keep the contents dry. A narrow door is located on the façade and the front half of the structure is covered with board and batten siding.

(C) STABLE

The stable appears to rest on a continuous brick foundation. It is a front gable structure with three single, symmetrically placed barn doors on the facade. Board and batten siding covers the frame while the roof is sheathed in metal.

(D) EQUIPMENT SHED

Beyond the horse barn is a 5-bay machinery shed dating from the 1940's. It includes vertical board siding and a sheet metal roof.

(H) GRINDING HOUSE

Across the lane is what is referred to by the owners as a grinding house, which was used in the mid-twentieth century to grind grain. In the center stood a heavy piece of belt driven grinding machinery. The belt was extended into the lane when in use. This structure, while currently clad in metal sheeting contains a heavy timber frame, indicating an earlier construction date than the exterior might otherwise suggest. Currently it has a poured concrete floor.

(E) TOBACCO BARN

Behind the lane is a large gambrel roof tobacco barn probably constructed during the 1940's. It has a continuous concrete block foundation with block piers supporting interior posts.

A farm road extends behind the property into open fields beyond the house. At least two tobacco barns stood in these fields, both of which have collapsed. These barns are identified on earlier USGS maps.

(F) TENANT HOUSE

A two story, four room, single pile frame tenant house stands in a now wooded area to the west of the main house. The simple building is covered in weatherboard siding and has a metal roof. A single chimney pierces the center of the roof. The main door is centrally placed and enters onto the largest room in the house. To the west is a smaller room, probably the kitchen that contains a rear door on the south wall and a corner stair in the northwest corner. The frame is exposed in sections and reveals a combination of lighter studs and heavier corner posts and downbraces. The building was later used to house tobacco as evidenced by the presence of rough poles hung just below the ceiling.

According to the owners, this was occupied by the Jenifer family. Windows and doors are missing but the door frame contains remnants of early blue paint. This building is currently owned by the Bonifant family and is associated with tax map 35, parcel 105.

(G) TENANT HOUSE

A second tenant house stands on the opposite end of the farm on the corner of Oliver Shop Road and Edelen Road. This two-story, double-pile building was constructing

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during the middle of the twentieth century and is currently abandoned. It has three asymmetrical bays filled with 6/6 light windows. A shed porch is placed on the façade. Several outbuildings are located behind the house and two huge trees sit opposite one another at the northwest and southwest corners of the dwelling. This building is owned by the Edelen heirs and is associated with tax map 35 parcel 103.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	other:
Specific dates	1889	Architect	Unknown	
Construction dates	1889	Builder	Unknown	

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

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

Brinkwood is significant as an outstanding example of a 19th century farmstead in Charles County. The dwelling, which holds an impressive degree of architectural integrity, is a unique example of high style Queen Anne details affixed to a traditional center passage house form. Adding to its significance, Brinkwood is surrounded by substantial farmland and several well preserved and maintained outbuildings that well reflect the historic landscape of the late 19th century.

Brinkwood was built for C. Grantley Edelen, the son of Dr. Edward Valentine Edelen who was a relatively prosperous physician and land speculator. Dr Edelen is believed resided at Hall's Lot (CH-136) on the opposite side of Zekiah Swamp. The Edelen family had extensive landholdings in the Bryantown area. The ancestral home of Sunnyside (CH-214) is located just west of Brinkwood.

Of particular note are the Edelen family landholdings in the village of Bryantown, a prosperous crossroads village throughout the late eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Much of the property and structures were held by members of the Boarman and Edelen families. Dr. Edward V. Edelen owned the Bryantown Tavern and the Brick House Lot (CH-364 #1 & #2) which he willed to his only son C. Grantley Edelen. Although now, little is known about the Edelen family, we do know that they were prominent in the county and directly involved in the political and economic aspects of Charles County Society. Future research on various members of this family may enhance the significance of the site.

Following the Civil War, Charles County suffered the same fate as most of the southern states. The basis of the economy, slave labor, was gone. Land ceased to be cultivated, credit collapsed and many planters fell deep into debt. The turmoil of the Reconstruction era, after the Civil War continued in Charles County well into the twentieth century.

Despite the collapse of the slave-based tobacco economy Charles County and most of the surrounding counties retained their dependence on tobacco cultivation. While some diversification did occur, the reliance on agriculture, mainly tobacco, remained throughout the nineteenth century.

After the Civil War the slave-labor system was largely replaced by share-cropping or tenancy. This system tended to fostered the growth in the numbers of small planters,

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Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

and generally precluded agricultural diversity. Additionally, the lack of capital made it difficult for farmers to branch out into other agricultural and commercial pursuits.

Finally, adding to the economic stagnation following the war, was the unpredictability of tobacco prices. Through the latter part of the nineteenth century, tobacco values remained depressed, insuring that the small tenant farmers and share-croppers struggled. Tobacco production fell precipitously following the Civil War. In 1870, Charles County's crop fell in volume to less than half of what it was ten years earlier. However, production rebounded by 1880. Still, on average, prices remained low, and farmers struggled to maintain their farms. (1)

Because of these economic difficulties, population growth in the county stagnated between 1860 and 1920. The general economic decline, and later, stagnation that followed the Civil War is evident in the census figures between 1860 and 1890. During this period the population of Charles County remained nearly stagnant. By 1890, the number of county residents was nearly 1,400 less than in 1860. There was little industry or profitable agriculture drawing new residents to the county during the post-Civil War era. In addition, many young Charles County residents moved away as they reached maturity.

Despite the reliance on tobacco cultivation some agricultural diversification took place during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. An agricultural depression during the early years of the twentieth century prompted some farmers to begin the cultivation of tomatoes and other canning crops. In conjunction with this agricultural diversification, a small canning industry took hold in the county. The first cannery in Charles County was opened in La Plata in 1883, and by 1920 there were twenty-nine manufacturing facilities in the county. Modernization of agricultural equipment also effected the output of county farmers. The introduction of the automobile and steam and combustion equipment in the early-twentieth century allowed farmers to produce more tobacco using fewer farm hands, and transport it to markets economically. Improved fertilizers shipped from plants in Baltimore enhanced the county's soils, increasing their yield.

Considering this evidence, Brinkwood is clearly an exceptional farm for its time. Built during an era when Charles County was still recovering from the economic devastation of the Civil War, Brinkwood is associated with the small percentage of landowners/merchants who survived, and in fact prospered in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

ENDNOTES

(1) Extensive statistical information, including census data is provided in D.H. Steffens National Register Nomination for Widow's Pleasure CH-373.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 260
Acreage of historical setting 20
Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Brinkwood is historically associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 35, Parcel 228, 103 and 105 The dwelling and most of the outbuildings are located on Map 35, Parcel 228.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Dept.	date	12/22/2000
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-581
city or town	LaPlata	state MD	zipcode 20646

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
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-213

Section 8 Page 1

Brinkwood
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Chain of title:

1920 Will of C. Grantley Edelin to sole hier at law, son Eward J. Edelen.
Referenced Liber 317 Folio 239

1946 Edward J. Edelen died intestate leaving wife Alma G. Edelen as
sole hier.
Referenced Liber 317 Folio 239

November 8, 1972 Will of Alma G. Edelin. Brinkwood to be divided among heirs.
Edward J. Edelen, M.D. and Mary Rose Williams named
executers.
GCW 30 Folio 447

House Lot

December 4, 1973 Edward J. Edelen, M.D. and Mary Rose Williams, personal
representative of Alma G. Edelen estate to hiers
Liber 317 Folio 239

September 30, 1983 Mary Rose Edelin Williams Councill, Margaret Edelin Hopkins,
Cecile Edelen Swann, Doris Edelen, Richard H. Edelen, Kathryn
Edelen Bonifant and the hiers and devisees of Edward J.
Edelen...to George F. Bonifant II and Kathryn Edelen Bonifant his
wife. 57.522 ac. "Lands of Alma G. Edelen Heirs"as per plat
thereof dated May 16, 1983 D.H. Steffens..
Liber 940 Folio 190

Land

December 4, 1973 Edward J. Edelen, M.D. and Mary Rose Williams for Alma G.
Edelen estate to Edward J. Edelen, Richard H. Edelen, Doris
Edelen, Kathryn Bonifant, Cecile Swann, mary Rose Williams and
Margaret Ann Hopkins and their hiers. Brinkwood containing 204
a.
Liber 317 Folio 239

July 6, 1983 Mary K. Edelen and Bart Edelen for estate of Edward J. Edelin.
Part interest to W. Keech Edelen, Mary Susan Jaeger, D. Bart
Edelen anf R. Noel Edelen. 204 acres of land "Brinkwood".
Liber 940 Folio 188

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-213

Section 9 Page 1

Brinkwood
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

D.H. Steffens Company, George C. Dyson and Peggy Shaumburg. *Widow's Pleasure CH-373*.
National Register Nomination, 1988.

Klaphor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.
LaPlata, MD. Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 11/2000

North arrow:



Name: BRINKWOOD

Address: 13215 EDELIN ROAD

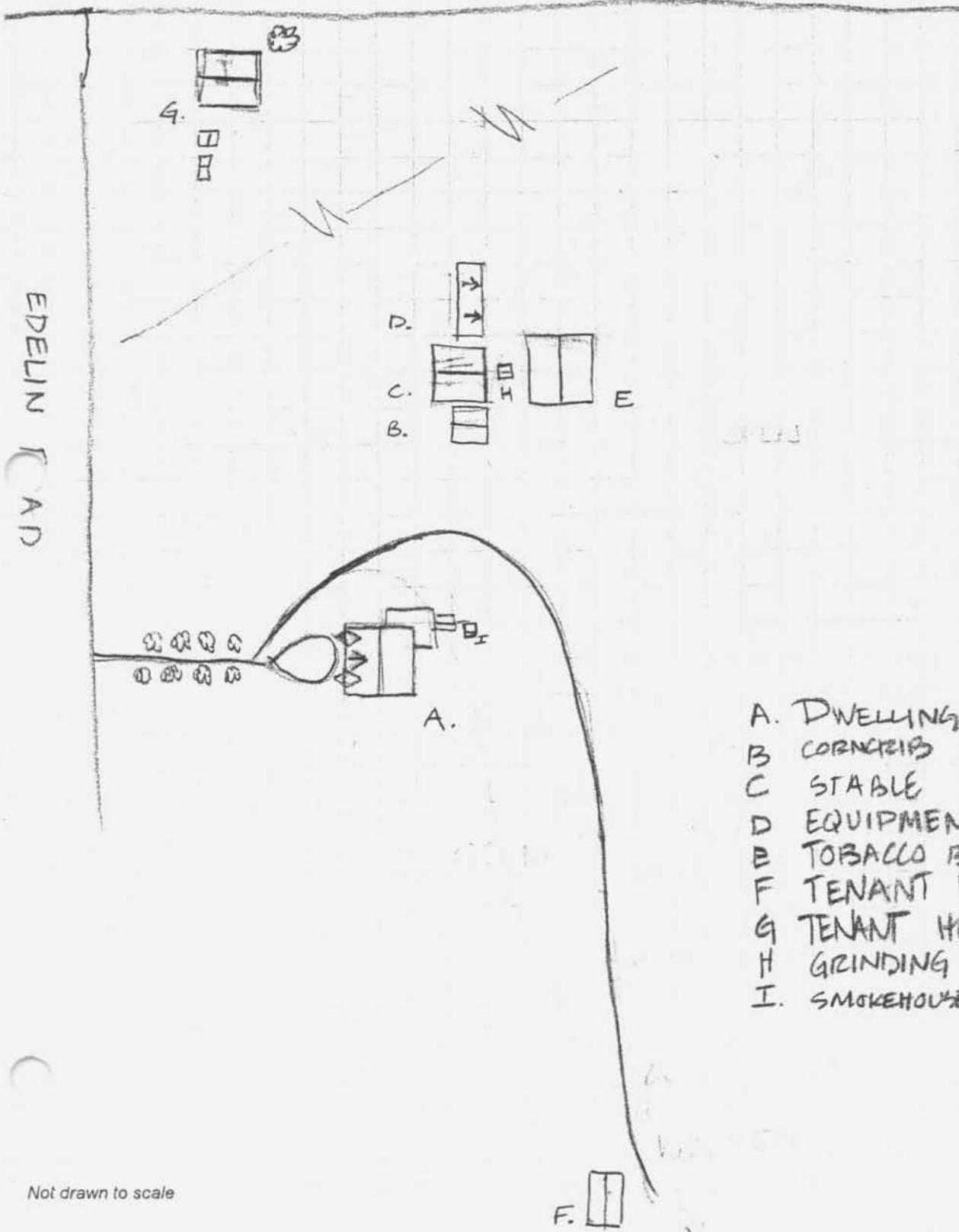
CH - 213

Charles County, Maryland

BRYANTOWN Vicinity

TO BRYANTOWN
←

RT. 232 OLIVER STOP ROAD



- A. DWELLING (E SMOKEHOUSE)
- B CORNCRIBS
- C STABLE
- D EQUIPMENT SHED
- E TOBACCO BARN
- F TENANT HOUSE c. 1900
- G TENANT HOUSE c. 1940
- H GRINDING HOUSE
- I. SMOKEHOUSE

Not drawn to scale

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 11/2000

North arrow:



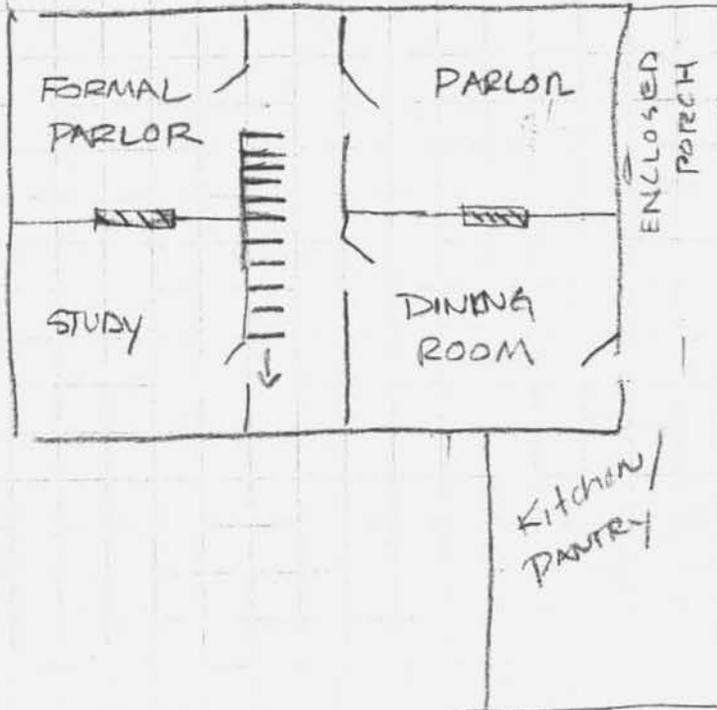
Name: BRINK WOOD

Address: 13215 EDELIN ROAD

CH - 213

Charles County, Maryland

BEYANTOWN Vicinity



RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 11/2000

North arrow:



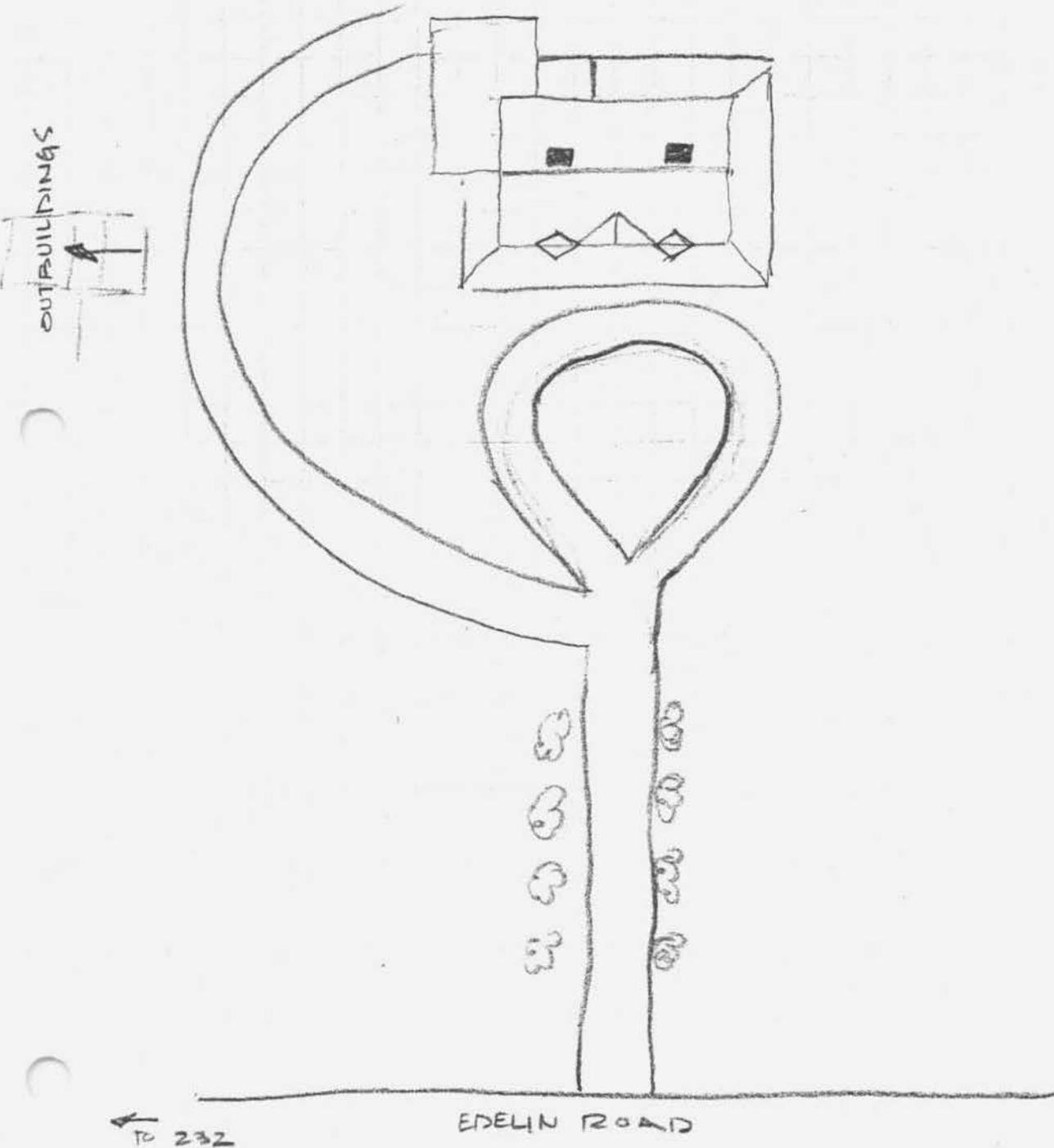
Name: BRINKWOOD

Address: 13215 EDELIN ROAD

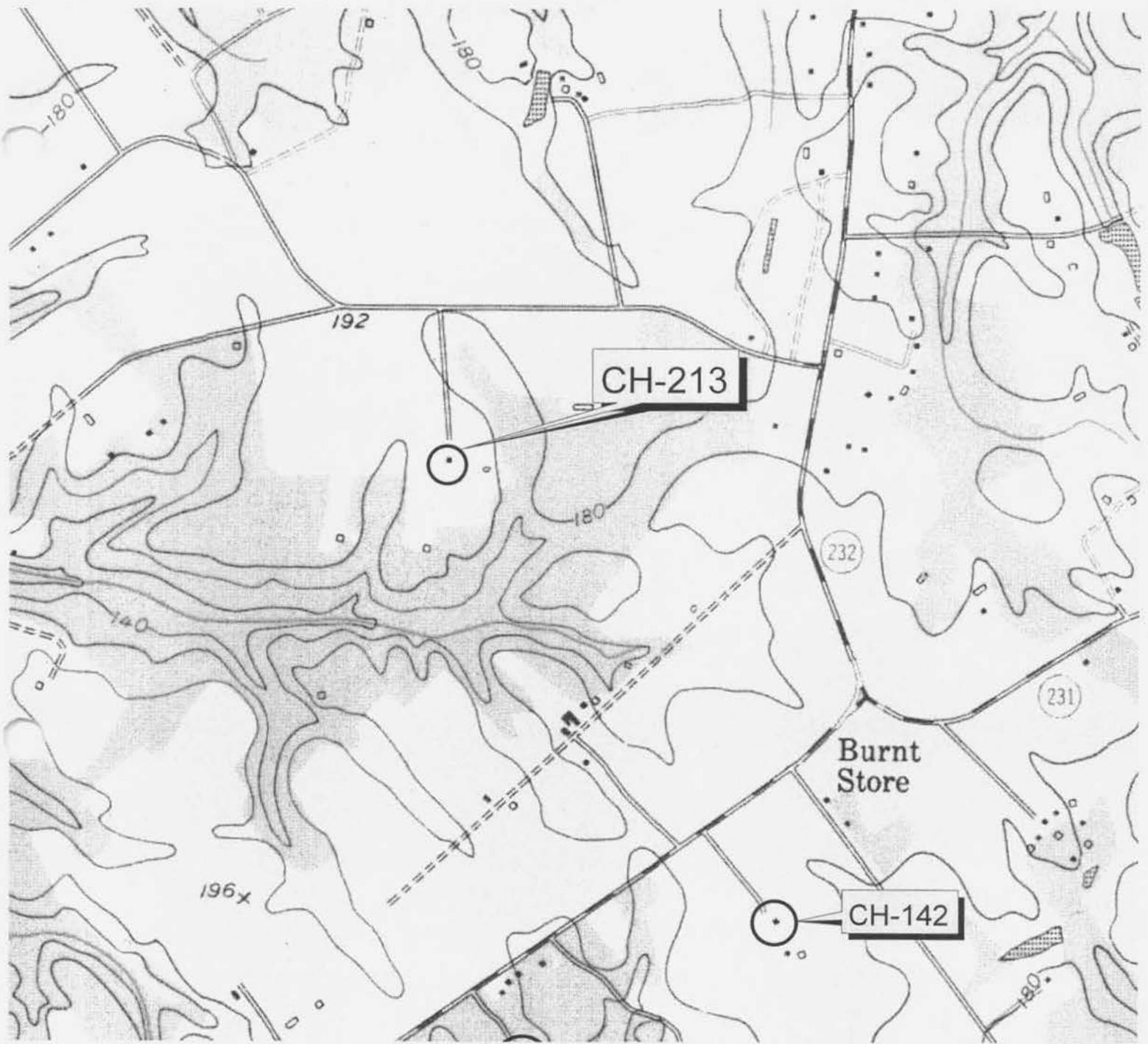
CH - 213

Charles County, Maryland

BRYANTOWN Vicinity



Not drawn to scale



CH-213
Brinkwood
Charles County, MD
Bryantown vic.





CH-213
BRINKWOOD
CHARLES Co. MD
11/2000
C. CURRY
MD STATE
LOOKING NORTH
1 OF 18



CH - 213
BRINKWOOD
CHARLES Co. MD
11/2000
C. CURRY
MD SHPD
EAST ELEVATION
2 OF 18



CH-213

BRINKWOOD

CHARLES CO, MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

LOOKING NORTHEAST 30F 18



CH-213

BRINKWOOD

CHARLES CO, MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

LOOKING WEST 4 OF 18



CH-213
BRINKWOOD
CHARLES CO, MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

EAST WALL DETAIL 5 OF 18



CH-213
BRINKWOOD
CHARLES CO, MD

11/2000
C. CURREY
MD SHPO

CENTER HALL 6 OF 18



CH - 213

BRINKWOOD

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

MANTLE, FORMAL PARLOR 7 of 18



CH-213

BRINKWOOD

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/2000

C. CURRY

MD SHPO

EAST PARLOR, LOOKING WEST 8 OF 18



CH-213 BRINKWOOD
CHARLES CO, MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

DINING ROOM, LOOKING EAST

9 OF 18



CH-213

BRINKWOOD

CHARLES CO, MD

11/2000 C CURREY

MD SHPO

STUDY, LOOKING WEST

10 OF 18



CH-213
BRINKWOOD
CHARLES CO, MD
11/2000

C. CURREY
MD SHPO

GRINDING HOUSE, LOOKING SOUTH
11 of 10



CH-213

BRINKWOOD

CHARLES CO. MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MD SHPO
LANE ? OUTBUILDING, LOOKING EAST 12 OF 18



CH-213

BRINKWOOD

CHARLES CO, MD

11/2000

C. CURRY

MD SHPO

TOBACCO BARN, LOOKING SE

13 OF 18



CH-213

BRINKWOOD

CHARLES Co, MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MD SK110

TENANT HOUSE, LOOKING SW

14 OF 18



CH-213

BRINKWOOD
CHARLES Co, MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

TENANT HOUSE, LOOKING SOUTH

15 OF 18



CH-213
BRINKWOOD
CHARLES CO. MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

TENANT HOUSE INTERIOR, SE CORNER 1ST FLOOR

16 OF 18



CH-213
BRINKWOOD
CHARLES O. MD

11/2000

C. CURRY

MD SHPO

TENANT HOUSE, LOOKING EAST

17 of 18



CH-213

BRINKWOOD

CHARLES CO. MD

11/2000

C. CURREY

MD SHPD

TENANT HOUSE OUTBUILDING, LOOKING N

18 OF 18

CH-213
Brinkwood
Bryantown
Private

late 19th century

This interesting Victorian house is one of several in the immediate area of Bryantown. Its most distinguishing features are two-story projecting towers flanking the main entrance. A rear kitchen wing gives this house an L-shape. The house is original throughout.

The house is gable-roofed, with a central gable, and with round arched windows in all three gables. The two towers are polygonal, are covered with imbricated shingles above the 2nd floor windows, and have pyramidal roofs topped with finials. The central gable also has such a finial. Sash on the first two stories are 2/2. There is a partially-screened wraparound porch with turned posts and sawnwork brackets.



~~P. 81~~ CH 213 Pg. 85 63%

CH-213

BRINKWOOD

