

Easement

F-4-29

Beachley House; "The White House"
Middletown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1800-1862

The Beachley House or "The White House" is a two-story stone dwelling built as a tavern on the National Road (now U.S. 40A) about 1800-1810. Its exterior walls were once covered with white stucco, hence its nickname earned during its tavern use. The house has a five-bay north elevation with two entrances, one into the center hall which has battened doors at each end, and one into the former tavern room, which has a pass-through opening to a rear room and an original mantel. The central staircase rises in full width to the attic, which was floored for use as dormitory sleeping space by travelers. The small rear wing of the house has a battered south wall, a method of countering the thrust of the stone structure away from the elevated roadway. Only a small late 19th century frame chicken house survives as an outbuilding, although a nearby stone foundation indicates other structures once existed near the house. The Beachley House is significant for its architecture, showing the stonemasonry skill of the early 19th century and the distinctive features of a roadside tavern in the interior plan and features. The building also exemplifies the predominance of National Road taverns over those previously built on earlier routes such as Fox's Tavern (F-4-28). The Beachley House was in the direct line of the Union Army's advance toward Turner's Gap during the Battle of South Mountain on September 14, 1862 and served as a hospital after the conflict.

F-4-29
Beachley House
Middletown
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Military
Transportation

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/chicken coop

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

M54, P3 *Easement*
MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. F-4-29

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Beachley House; "The White House"

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1811 Old National Pike not for publication

city, town Middletown vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Central Maryland Heritage League Inc.

street & number P.O. Box 721 telephone no.:

city, town Middletown state and zip code Md. 21769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1736

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 1128

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Paul Brinkman Survey of Frederick County #F-1037

date C. 1968 federal state county local

depository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-29

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 2

The Beachley House or "The White House" is a two-story stone dwelling with a 1-1/2-story stone rear wing built about 1800-1810 as a tavern on the National Road about three miles west of Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland. The house and a late 19th century frame chicken house are located on the south side of the present Old National Pike (U.S. 40A) at the intersection of Fox Gap Road. The name "White House" apparently originated with the early white stucco exterior of the house, which is no longer present. The house has a five-bay north elevation with a one-story porch added probably during the last quarter of the 19th century or the first 20 years of the 20th century.

The plan of the house features a center hall with double pile rooms on each side. The north facade has two entrances, one into the center hall and one into the east front parlor, which was the principal public room of the tavern. The center hall door has a paneled exterior and battens on the interior with strap hinges. The window frames are simple, with no ornamentation and the sash is 1/1, probable replacements of the original sash. The porch has a concrete deck and Tuscan columns, which are typical features of early 20th century Colonial Revival porches in Frederick County. Interior end chimneys on the east and west elevations rise above the gable roof covered with composition material. The east and west gable ends have two bays each. The rear wing extends from the southwest corner and the stone exterior on the west elevation is different in color and pointing from the front section, suggesting a different, possibly later, construction date. The wing is smaller than those on similar houses in the vicinity, having only a single room with a rebuilt brick interior chimney on the south gable end. The exterior wall on the south elevation of the wing is battered to counteract the pressure from the northern part of the house, which is built on the higher edge of the roadbed with the ground sloping down to the south.

The interior of the house has plaster walls and molded chair rails and baseboards in the main floor rooms. In the east tavern room is a pass-through opening from the rear room, which is the present kitchen. The mantelpiece is a simple design with panels, a vernacular Georgian style. A built-in cupboard is located between the chimney breast and the interior wall between the rooms. The floors are wide boards. In the west parlor, a partition wall was added possibly in the mid-19th century to create a separate room at the rear. This room was further altered in the mid-20th century by the addition of a bathroom. The south end of the hall has a second battened door to a small, rebuilt wood porch in the angle between the main section and the wing. The room on the main floor of the wing has a single mantel shelf and the fireplace opening has been closed off. The second floor of the main section was partitioned in the late 19th and early 20th century, but probably originally had a single room across the front part of the house as a dormitory for travelers. The staircase to the attic is closed off from the upper hall by a vertical board door, but is the full width of the stairs on the lower floors, indicating that the attic was also used for dormitory space. The attic is fully floored. These features are also present in Fox's Tavern (F-4-28), a nearby tavern.

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-29

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1809-1862 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Beachley House or "The White House" is significant in architecture for the largely unaltered stonemasonry of its construction, although the stucco covering which led to its identifying colloquial name during its use as a tavern in the early to mid-19th century is now missing. The features of its design which classify it as a tavern, the pass-through opening in the east parlor, the wide staircase to the floored attic, and the battened doors to the center hall, are also intact. The building was erected possibly in the period 1800-1810, when the National Road was being built through Frederick County. The Charles Varle map of 1808, which shows major National Road and other stops, does not show the tavern, but does identify Fox's Tavern (Ringer's Tavern), F-4-28, on the old Sharpsburg Road which preceded the National Road. Henry Beachley, the probable builder of the tavern, may have been in the process of construction at the time of the mapping. The National Road eventually superceded the old Sharpsburg Road in traffic volume, leading to the continuing use of the Beachley tavern long after Fox's Tavern had been converted to private residential use. The Beachley House is also significant in Civil War military history, being in the direct line of advance of McClellan's Union forces toward South Mountain on September 14, 1862. A Union Army gun battery was located diagonally across the National Pike at the continuation of Fox Gap Road (no longer open) and Gibbon's "Iron Brigade" advanced along both sides of the Pike toward Turner's Gap, bracketing the Beachley House. Although complete historical information on the role of the house during the battle is still being researched, it is known to have been a hospital after the conflict, as were most existing houses in the vicinity. The Beachley House is located within the proposed National Historic Landmark boundary of the South Mountain Battlefields (F-4-17).

The period in which the Beachley House was used as a tavern is not yet clear, but probably continued until at least the 1870's. Daniel Beachley's will attempted to provide conditions for his widow's maintenance in the house in passing the property to his son John W. Beachley. John accepted the property in 1875 minus the maintenance conditions; it is possible that the house ceased operation as a tavern by that time. In 1909, when it was sold to Leslie T. Alexander as part of a larger parcel including land on the north side of the Pike, the house was specifically described as "the White House and Lot", indicating that the stucco exterior was probably still in place at that time.

(Continued on separate sheet)

7.1 Description (Continued)

of about 1780, and, to a certain extent, in Motter's Tavern (F-4-29³⁰), of about the same period on the Old National Pike east of Middletown.

Chicken house and evidence of other outbuildings: The frame chicken house, probably built during the last quarter of the 19th century, is located east of the house near a non-contributing concrete block garage. It is a roughly rectangular building with vertical board siding and a corrugated metal gable roof. The interior plan features a roosting shelf built over a nesting area with access through a vertical board door on the west elevation. Outside the nesting space on the east side of the structure is a ridged concrete ramp. The design is similar to those in agricultural building catalogs published in the late 19th century. Other outbuildings associated with the house probably existed through the 19th century, but the chicken house is the only surviving structure. A few feet northeast of the chicken house is the stone foundation of an unidentified outbuilding, roughly the same size in plan as the chicken house.

8.1 Significance (Continued)

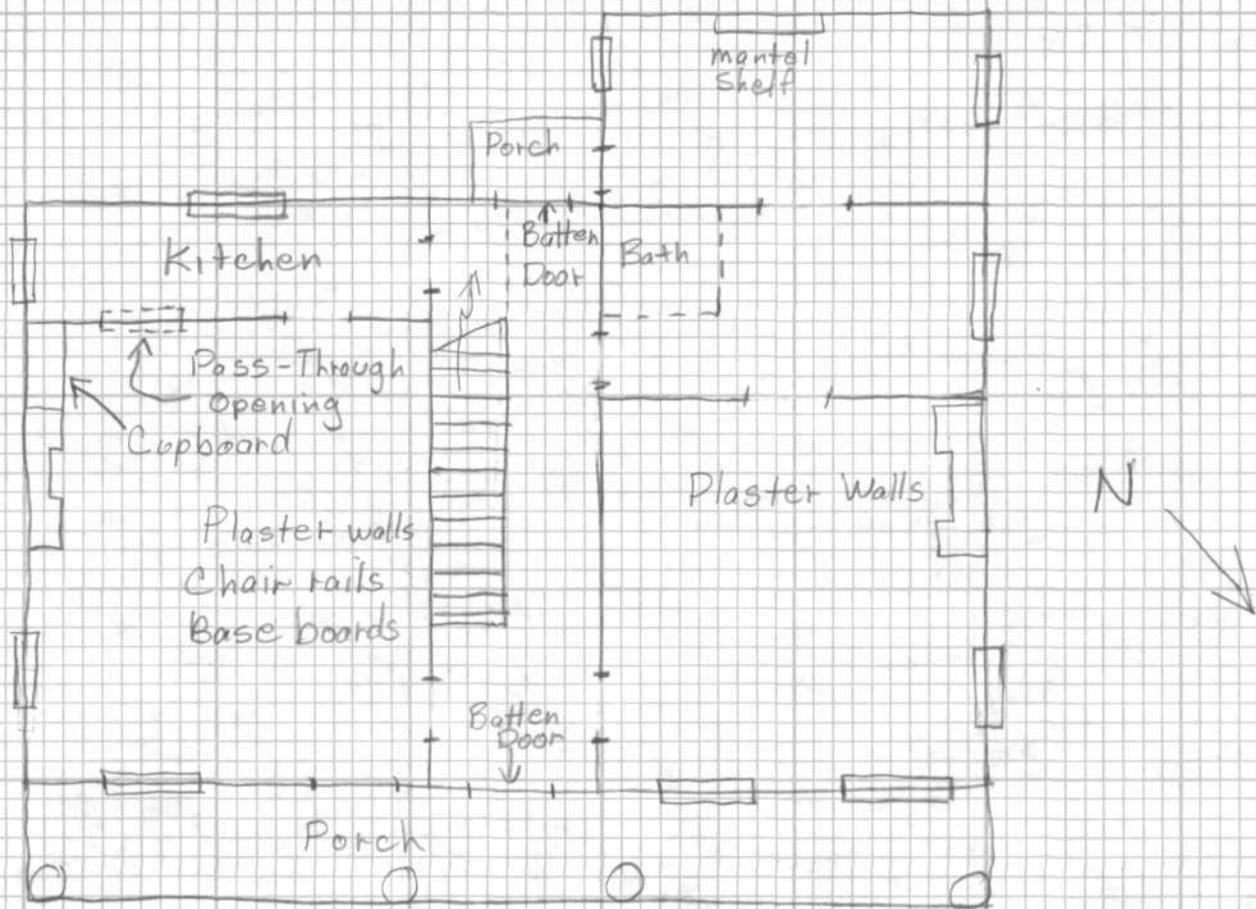
The Beachley House was purchased by the Central Maryland Heritage League, Inc. in October 1991. The League is a non-profit organization which seeks to preserve, conserve, and manage natural habitat, including, but not limited to, historic structures. Its plans are to acquire a parcel of undeveloped land in the South Mountain battlefield vicinity to preserve its natural state from development and to provide an interpretive center in the Beachley House. Further research on the property is being carried out by the League's historian, Steve Stotlemeyer, with the intention of preparing a National Register nomination.

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Titus, C.O., Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County, 1910.
Reprinted Baltimore Regional Publishing Co., 1979, p. 857.

LIBER/FO. NO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
479/119 11 Mar 49	Ridenour, Glenn L. & Ruth L. Ridenour	Harlan L. & Lola May Haupt	23A.		
324/336 30 Mar 48	Harlan L. & Lola May Haupt	Leslie J. Alexander & Edna A. Alexander	23A.	#1900	
287/159 31 Mar 09	Leslie J. Alexander	John W. Beachley & Marietta S. Beachley	"Resurvey on The Gap" "... theme to include the buildings of what is known (sic) as the 'White House and Lot'..." 43A.	#1490	
FG 6/571 12 Jun 1875	John W. Beachley	Martin H. Beachley, Hannah Beachley, Ann R. Beachley (Martin's wife) Ezra & Emma Beachley Wm. & Ann Kepler, Jonas E.	216A. "Resurvey on The Gap" "Flanham" (without conditions imposed by D. Beachley (wid)) Beachley & Indiana Beachley (wid), et al	\$6,695.62 1/2	
Will Record SG 1/478 1874?	John W. Beachley	Daniel Beachley	"... subject to conditions: maintenance & support of Hannah Beachley..." (John W. declined to accept real estate with conditions)		



F-4-29
 Beachley House
 Frederick County

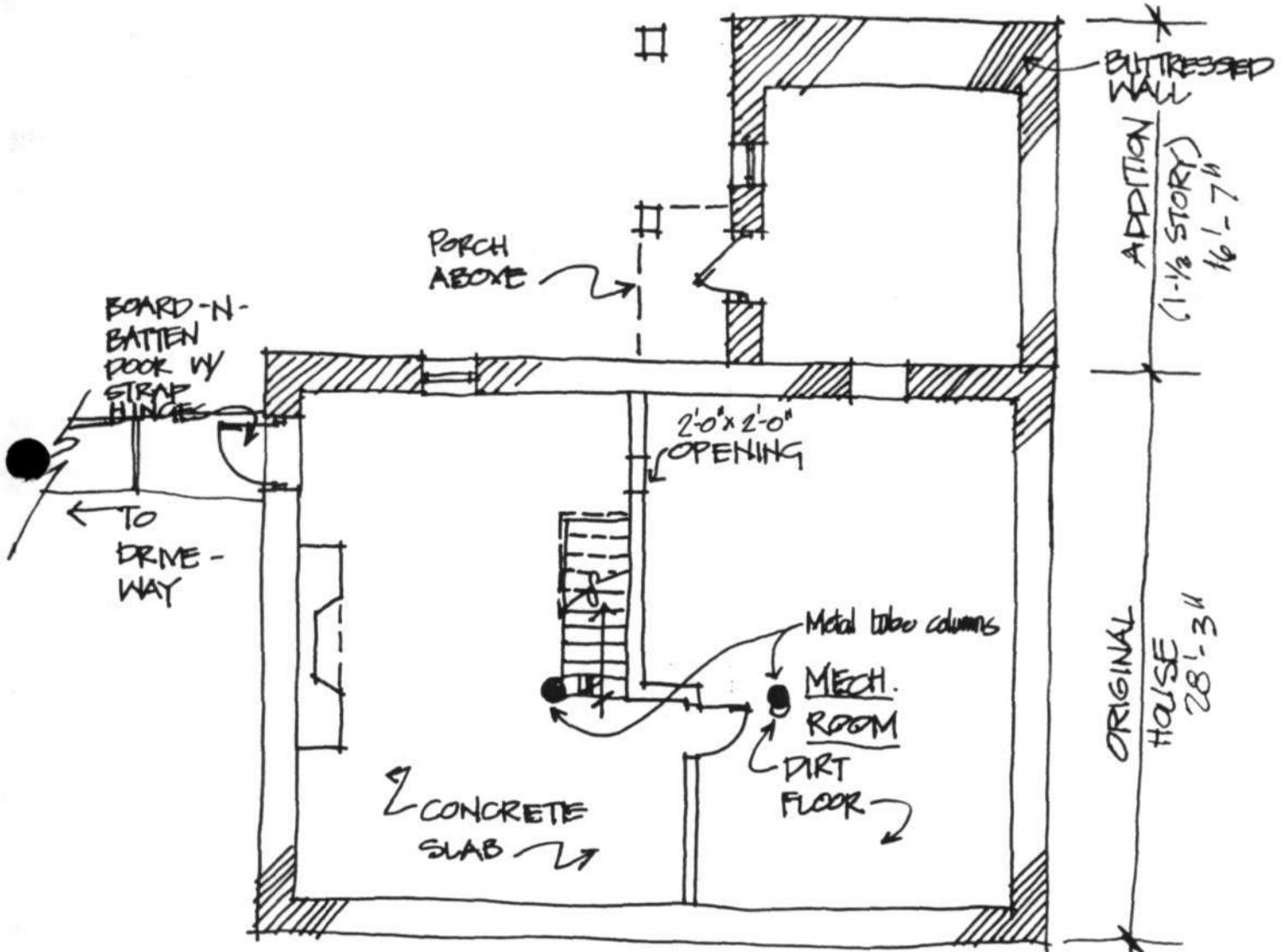
Janet Davis
 February 21, 1992
 Not to Scale

F-4-29

THE BEACHLEY HOUSE
RECORD DRAWINGS
Julia Hedgeland

a.k.a "The White House"
10/96

ca. 1800-1811



BASEMENT

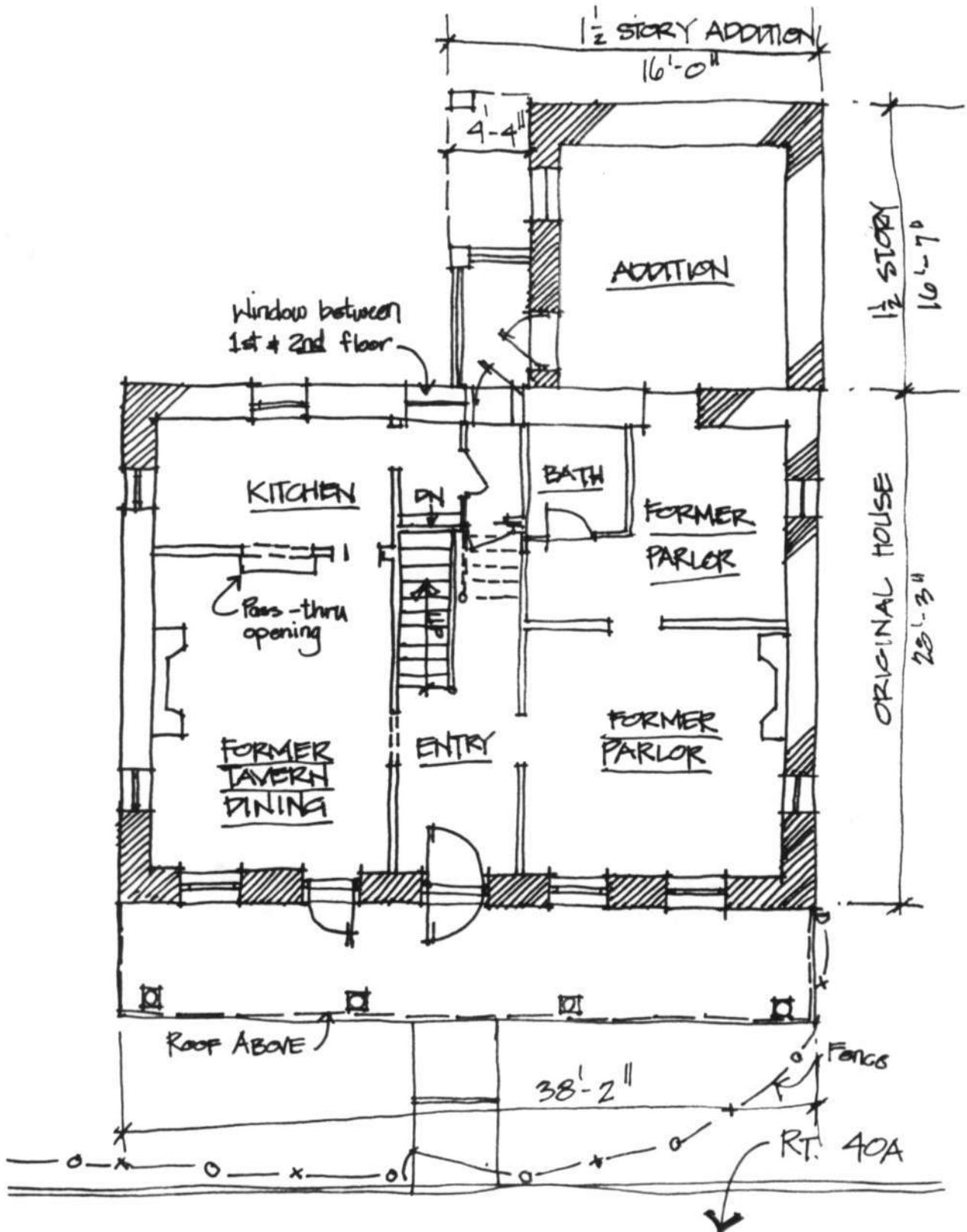
SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$

F-4-29

THE BEACHLEY HOUSE
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Julia Hedgeland

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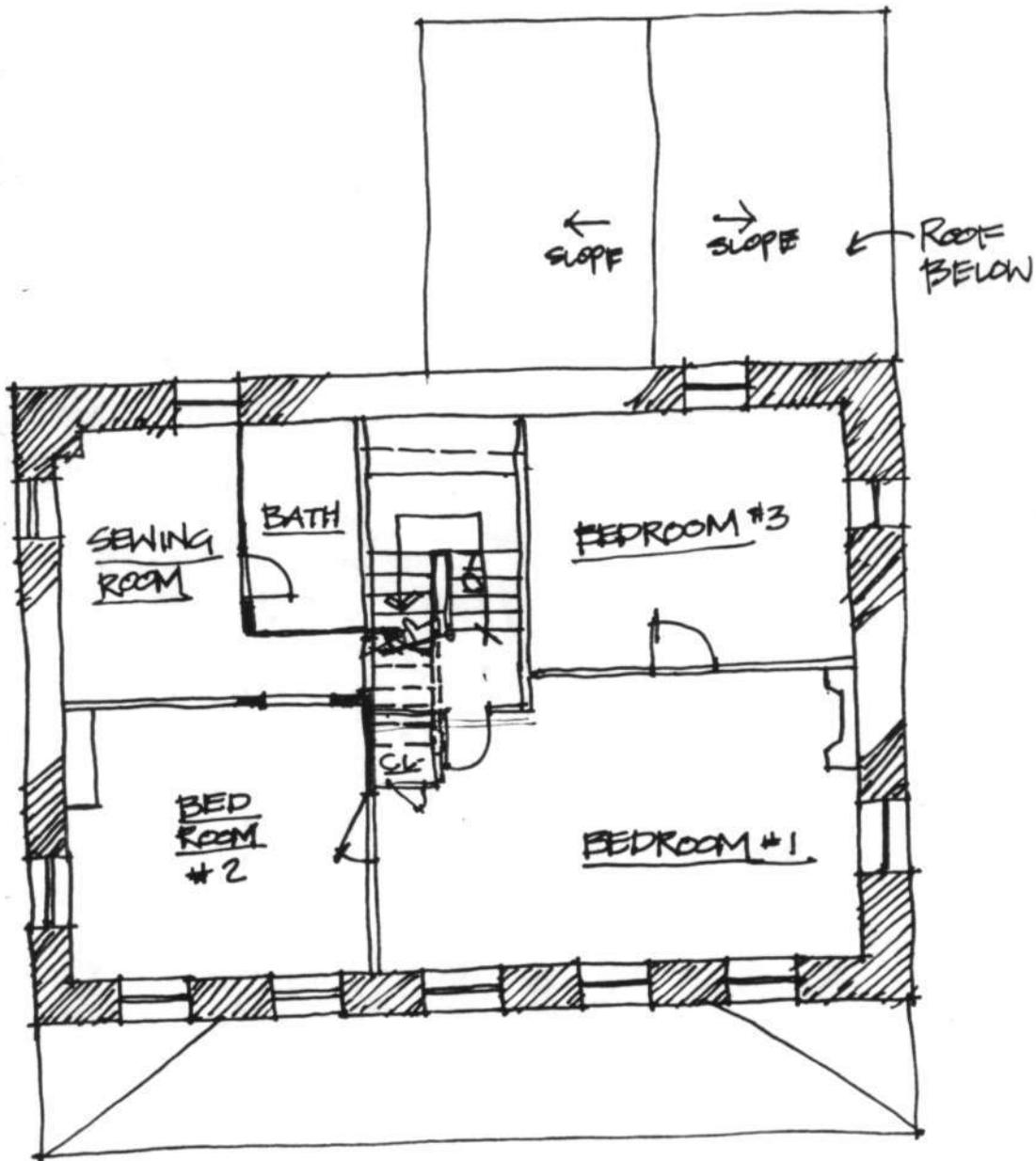
FIRST FLOOR · SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

F-4-29

THE BEACHLEY HOUSE
RECORD DRAWINGS
Julia Hedgeland

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ca. 1800-1811



SECOND FLOOR

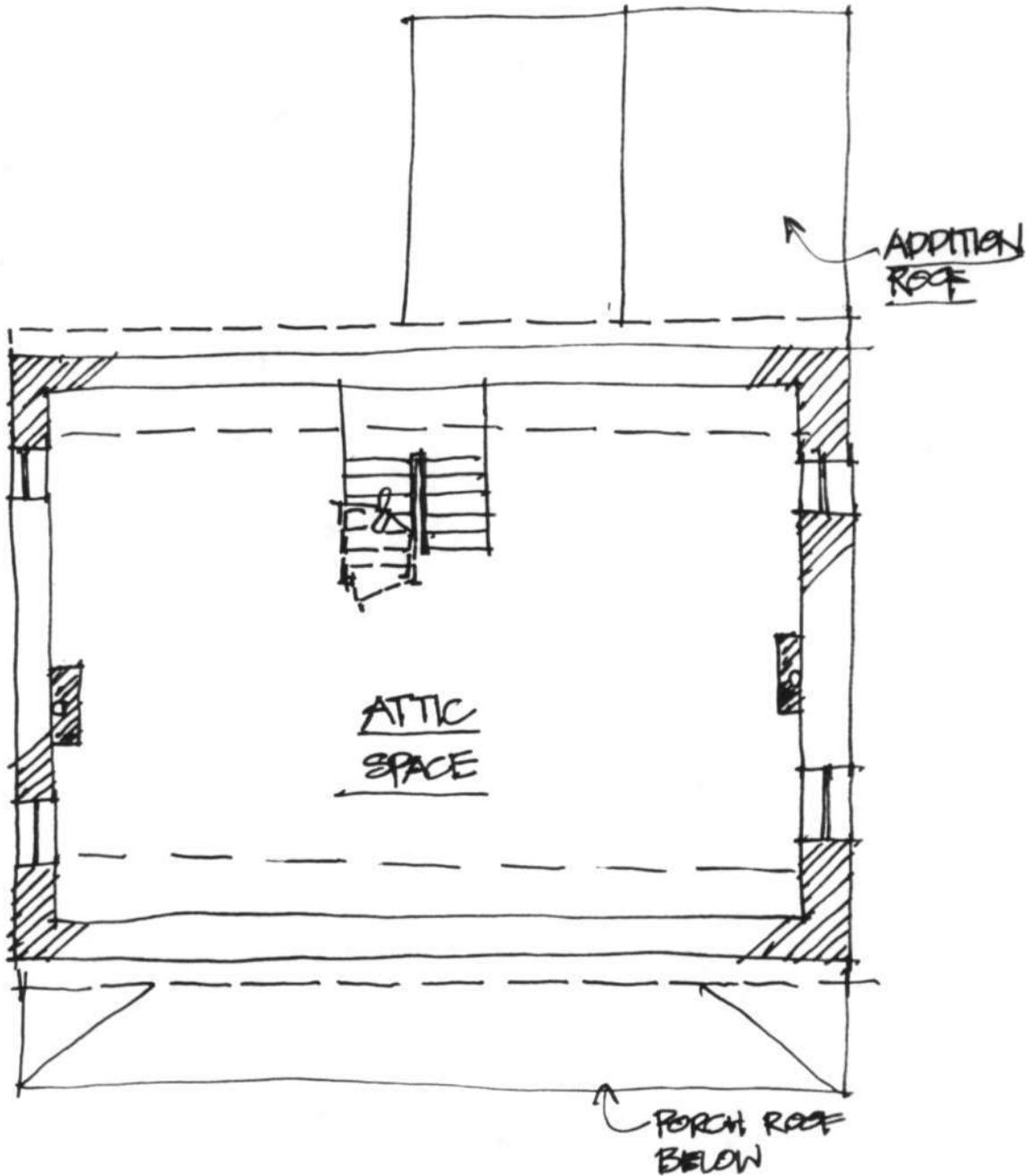
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

F-4-29

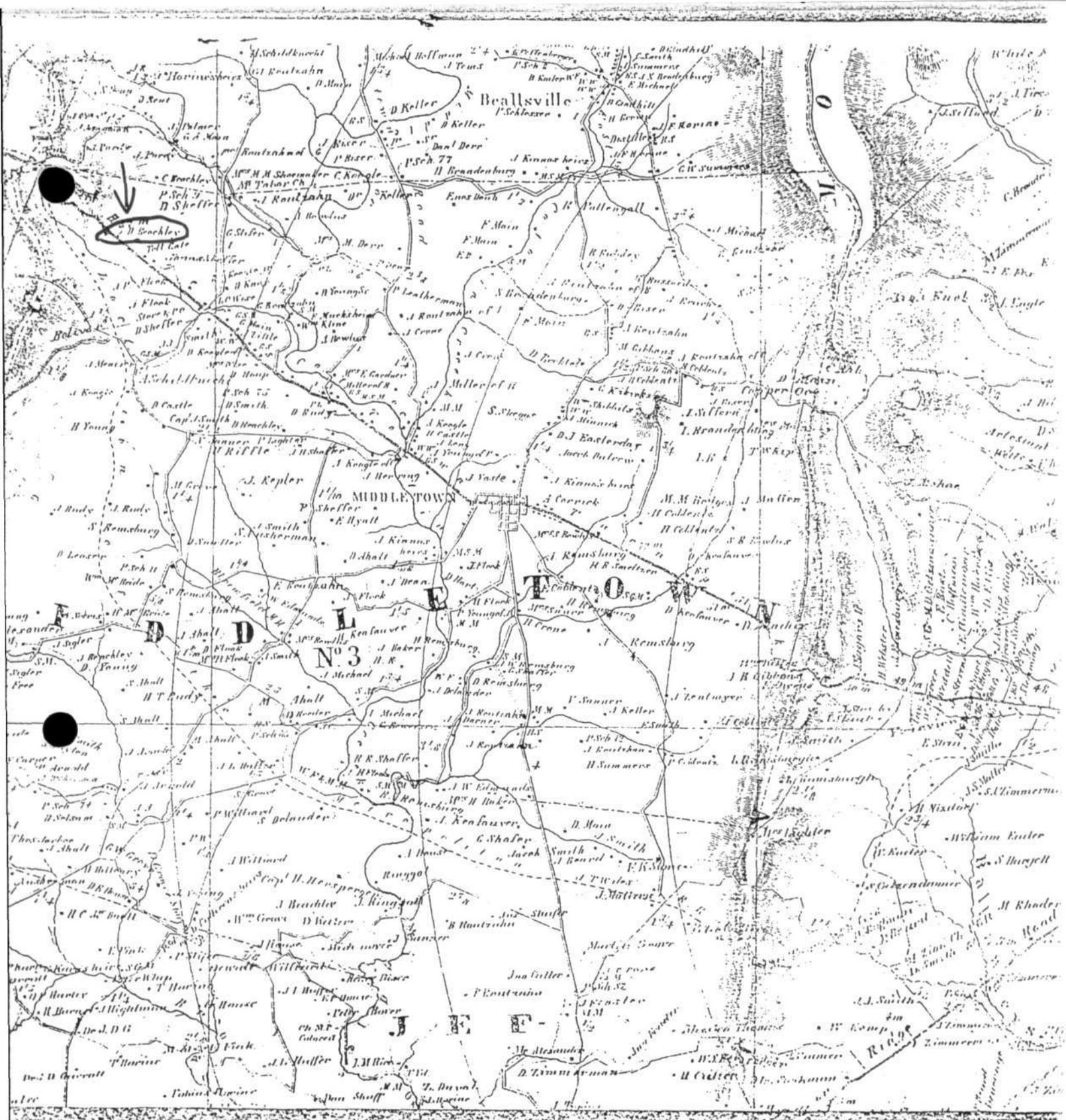
THE BEACHLEY HOUSE
RECORD DRAWINGS
Julia Hedgeland

a.k.a "The White House"
10/96

ca. 1800-1811



ATTIC SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$



F-4-29
 Beachley House
 Frederick County
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
 County 1858.

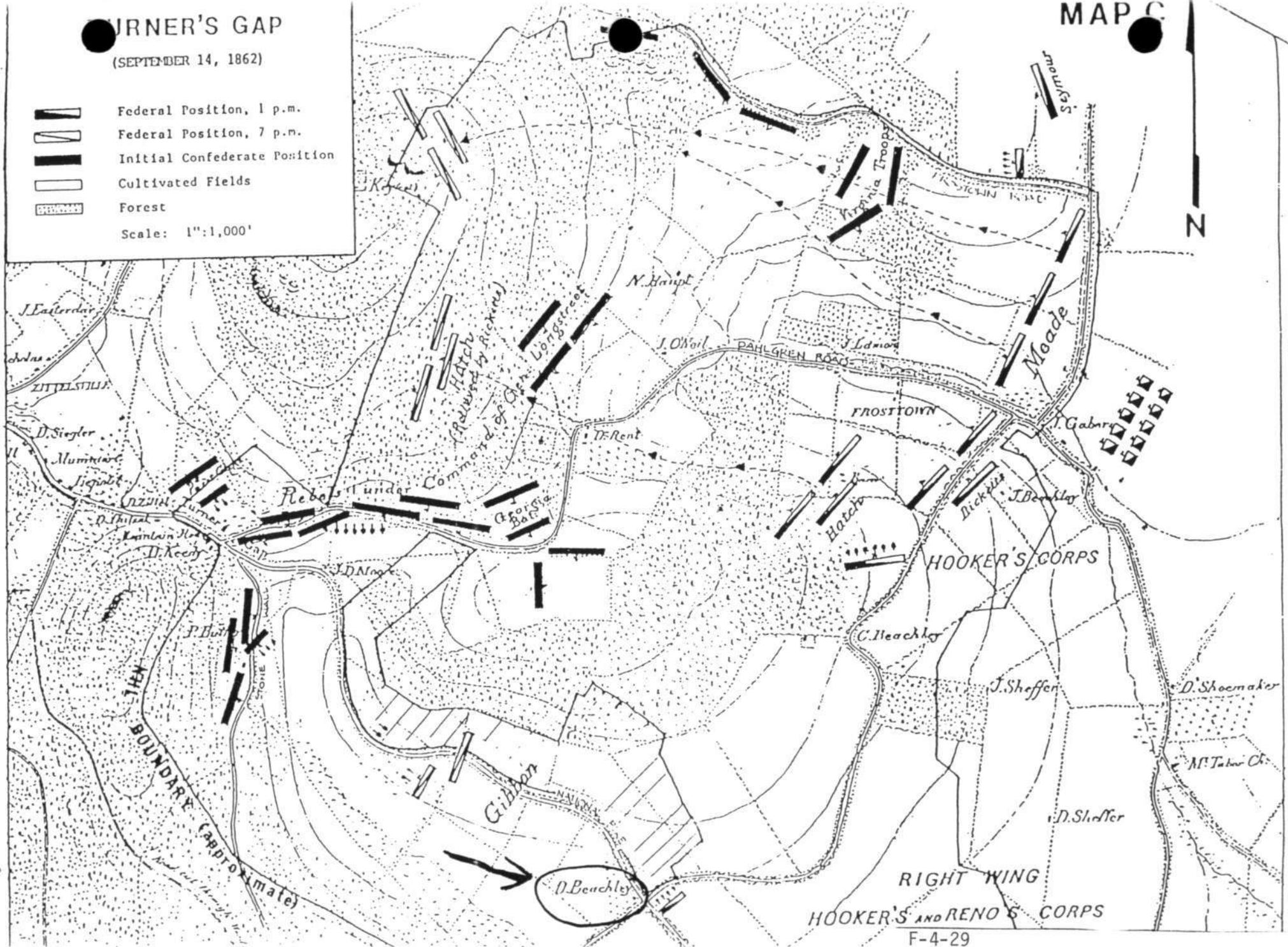
TURNER'S GAP

(SEPTEMBER 14, 1862)

MAP C

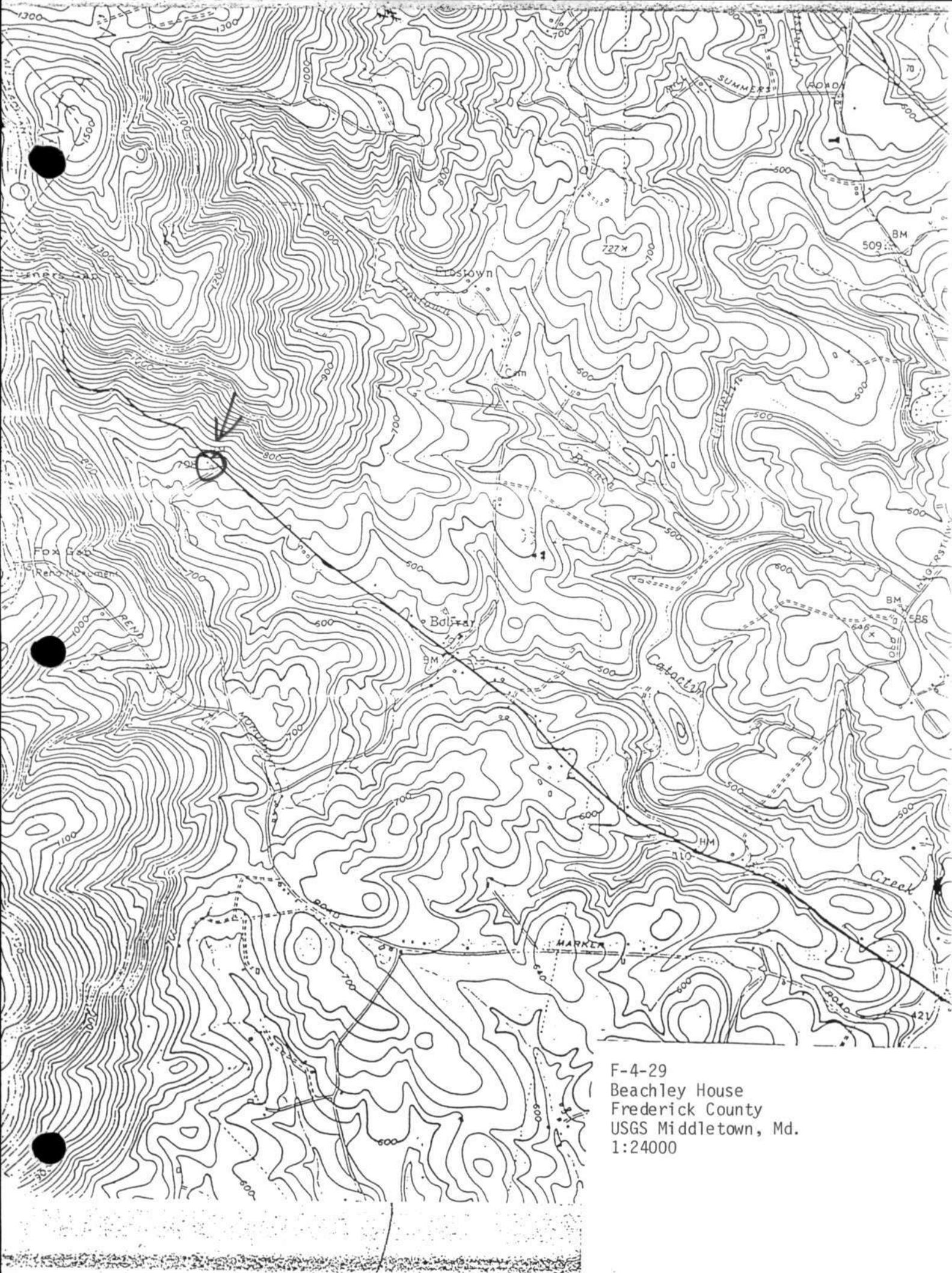
-  Federal Position, 1 p.m.
-  Federal Position, 7 p.m.
-  Initial Confederate Position
-  Cultivated Fields
-  Forest

Scale: 1"=1,000'



F-4-29

F-4-29
 Beachley House
 Frederick County
 Battle of South Mountain Turner's Gap
 from Nat. Reg. nom. South Mountain



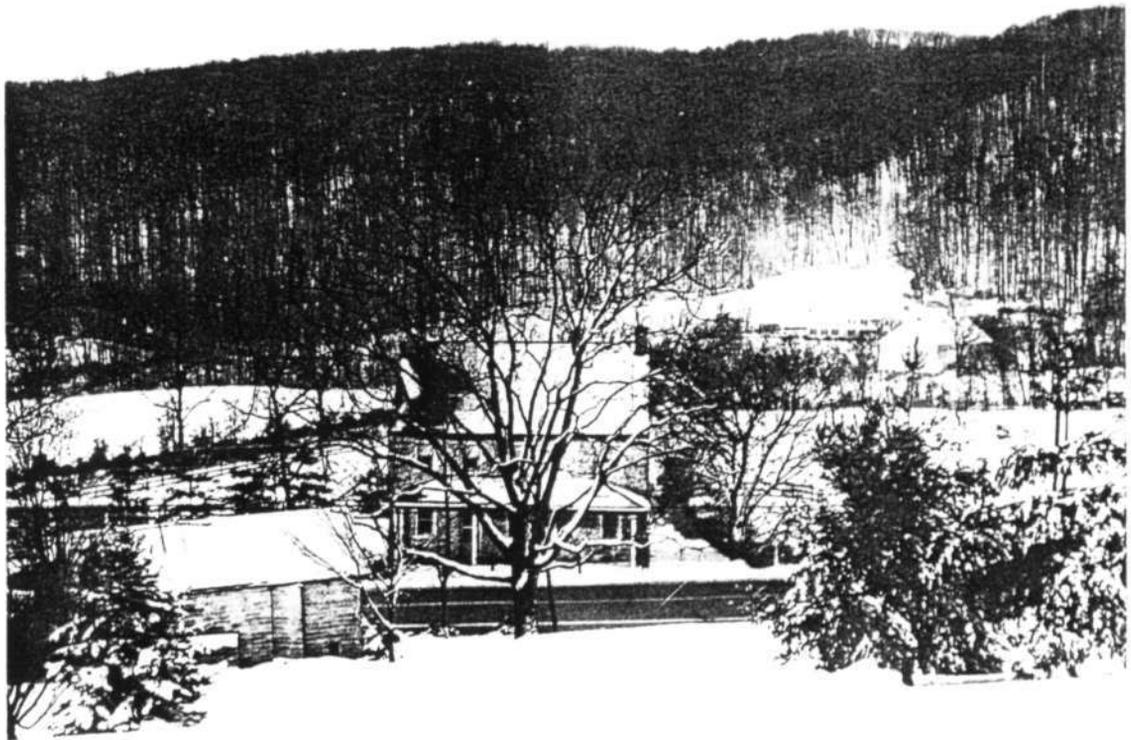
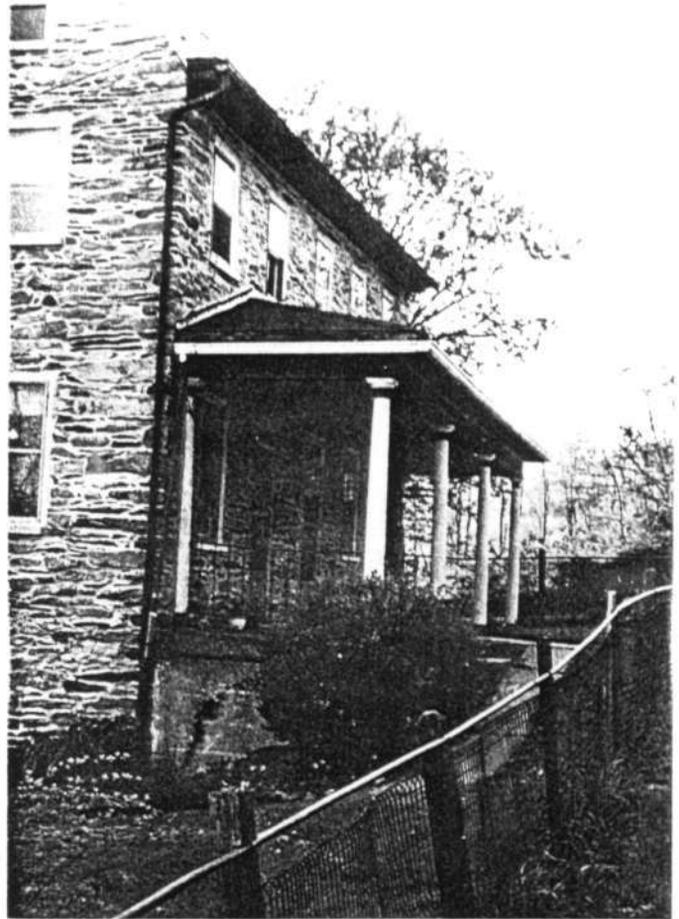
F-4-29
Beachley House
Frederick County
USGS Middletown, Md.
1:24000

F-4-29

The Beachley House

a.k.a "The White House" ca. 1800-1811

"FRONT
PORCH
ADDITION"



"FRONT
ELEVATION"

F-4-29

The Beach
a.k.a "The Old Mill" ca. 1800-1811



"EAST ELEVATION"

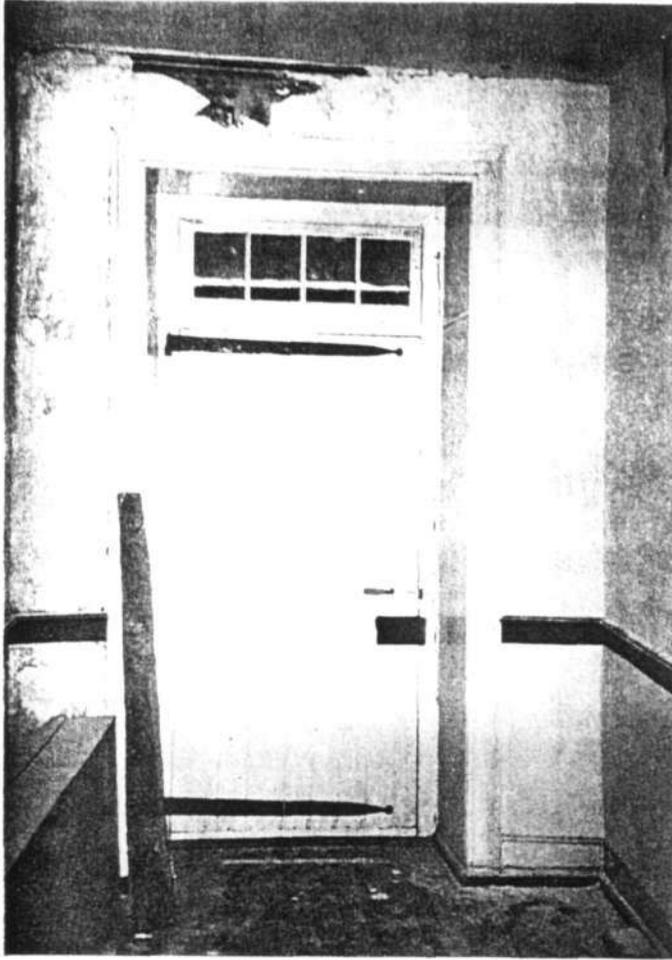


"REAR ELEVATION"

F-4-29

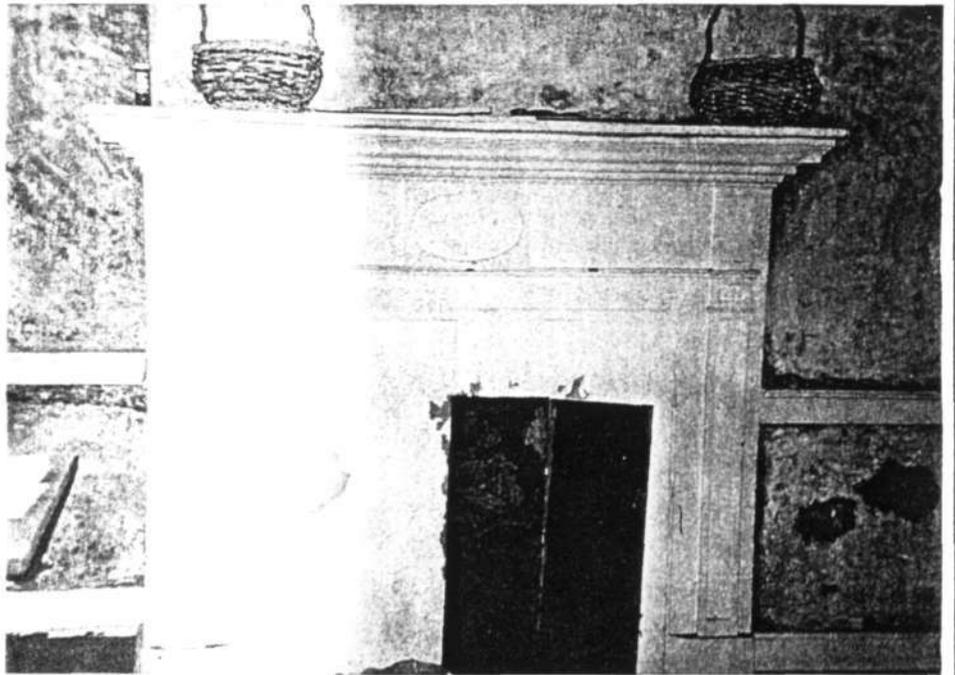
The Beachley House

a.k.a. "The White House" ca. 1800-1811



"CENTER
FRONT
DOOR"
from
Hall

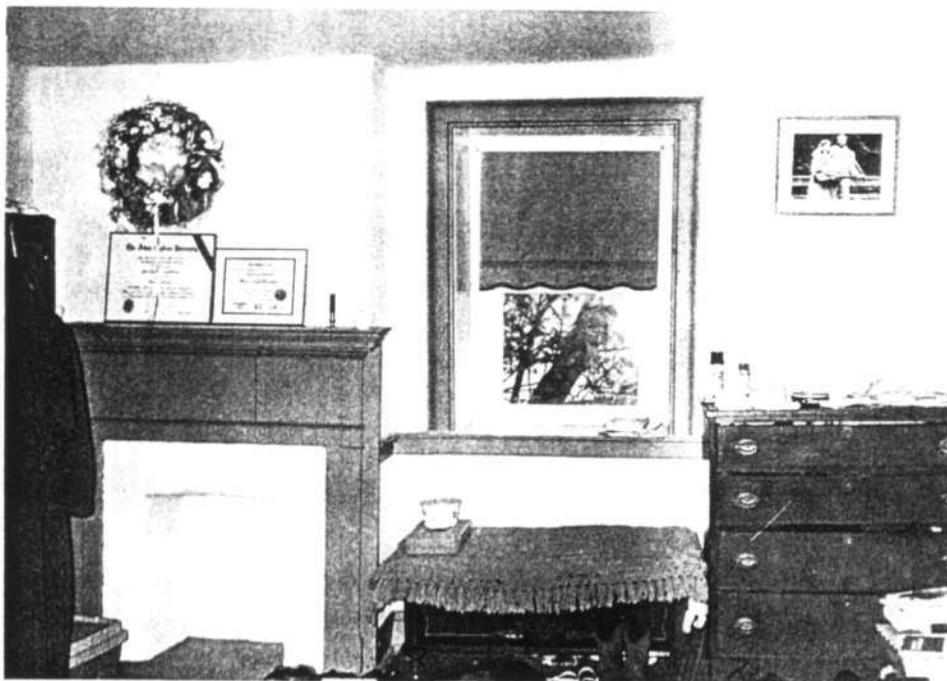
"TAVERN
FIREPLACE"



F-4-29

The Beachley House
a.k.a "The White House" ca. 1800-1811

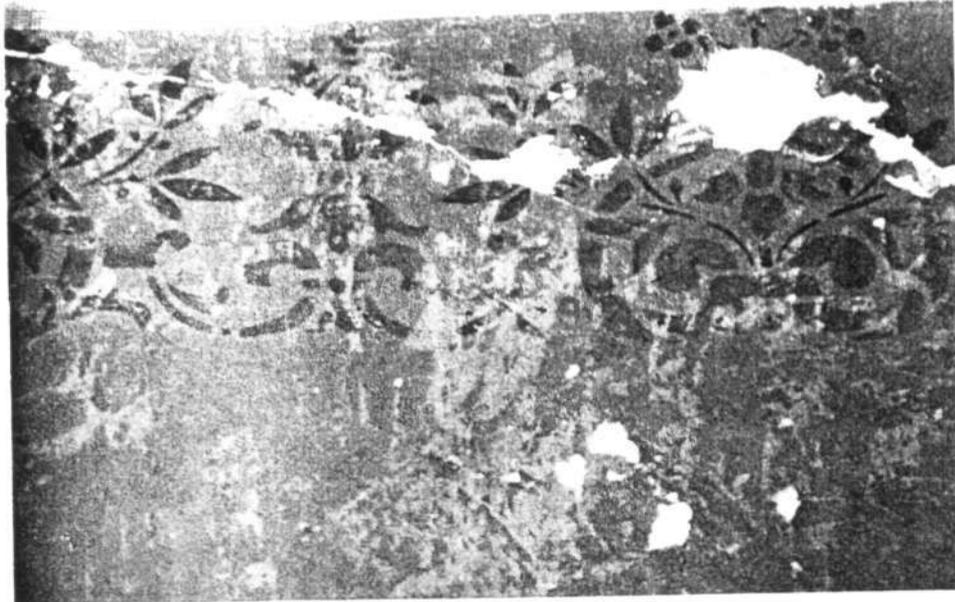
"CENTER
STAIR" to
2nd floor



2ND
FLOOR
BEDROOM
FIREPLACE

F-4-29

The Beachley House
a.k.a "The White House" ca. 1800-1811



"STENCIL IN 1st FLOOR SIDE PARLOR"



"TAVERN PASS-THRU"



F-4-29

Beechley House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

North elevation

1/4



F-4-29

Beachley House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1992

Neo. loc.: Md. SHPC, Greensville, MD

East elevation of rear wing

2/4



F-4-29

Beachley House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. State, Brownsville, Md.

South elevation

3/4



F-4-29

Beachley House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1992

Neg. loc. in Fid. S400 Greenville, Md

East parlor

4/4



F-4-29

The White House

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B Wallace

10 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view SW from US40 Alt (National Pike)

NE elevation of house

1/2



F-4-29
The White House
Frederick Co., Maryland
Edith B. Wallace
10 November 1997
Maryland SHPO
view NW from Fox Gap Rd.
SE elevation of house
2/2