

G-IV-B-083

Mar-Jo Lodge  
Deer Park  
Private

c.1937

The Mar-Jo Lodge is a one-story, gable-roofed dwelling built of unhewn chestnut logs on a native stone foundation. The house is screened from the road by woods and rhododendrons. At the front of the house, lawns roll gently down to the edge of Deep Creek Lake. The house was the vacation spot in September 1946 of Dr. Albert Einstein.

Dr. Frank Wilson, a Cumberland physician constructed the house in the mid-1920's as a summer retreat and named it for his two daughters, Marjorie and Josephine. Outstanding features of the house include its log construction, the cantilevered living room staircase, half-log cupboard doors, and rustic setting.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Mar-Jo Lodge

AND/OR COMMON

Mar-Jo Lodge

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Off Turkey Neck Road, .3 mile on private drive, W side

CITY, TOWN  
Deer Park

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE  
Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS                                       | PRESENT USE  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED          | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS    | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                            | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input 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"/> NO       | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER                           |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Paul R. Roderick

Telephone #: (301) 359-0451

STREET & NUMBER  
227 Wood Street

CITY, TOWN  
Westernport

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21562

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #: 371  
Folio #: 716

STREET & NUMBER  
Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
None

DATE

FEDERAL     STATE     COUNTY     LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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|   |                                       |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>CONDITION</b>                              |                                       | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                              | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD                 | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED              | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR                 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Mar-Jo Lodge is located on a private drive off Turkey Neck Road, on Turkey Neck near the southern end of Deep Creek Lake. The house is screened from the road by woods and rhododendrons. At the front of the house, lawns roll gently down to the edge of the lake.

The house is a one-story, gable-roofed dwelling built of unhewn chestnut logs on a native stone foundation. The facade points NW. The land slopes down from SE to NW, creating a full basement story under the facade.

The building's core is a four-bay-long by one-bay-deep rectangle. One-bay square perpendicular sections extend from the north end of the facade and the south end of the rear. The southern ell is covered by a gable roof. A screened porch adjoining the north ell covers the remainder of the facade. The ell and the central section of the porch share a shed roof, while the west end of the porch is covered with a gable roof.

All windows have two sliding panes. The lodge has three entrances: one at the northeast end of the rear, one just northeast of center on the facade, and a set of double doors opening onto the porch from the SW elevation of the north ell. A door in the center of the porch's gable end opens to a flight of wooden steps running down to the lawn. The house has a single interior stone fireplace chimney located centrally between the two northeastern bays.

The porch is supported by stone pillars. The area under the west end of the porch was enclosed at a later date to form a store room. This log construction is compatible with the original building. A door occupies the westernmost of the three remaining cellar bays on the northwest wall under the porch. In the central and easternmost bays of this elevation are double casement windows. Each casement contains nine lights. On the store room, a double door fills the southwest elevation and a single door is placed on the northeast elevation.

The log walls are V-notched at the corners. The log ends extend approximately a foot beyond the corner and have been trimmed at various angles for a consciously rustic effect. The logs have been painted black and the cement daubing is white. Four logs continue around the porch to enclose it to a c.3' height. Log posts rising above this balustrade retain stubs of branches. An exposed log "W" - shaped roof truss supports the porch gable.

The window frames have been painted yellow. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The central portion of the house contains the living room. Northeast of the living room in the east corner of the house is the kitchen. The

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

| 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING             | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |  |
| <input 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 c. 1937

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Bowers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mar-Jo Lodge achieves significance in two ways: historically as the site of the 1946 western Maryland vacation of Dr. Albert Einstein, and architecturally as an excellent example of log vacation architecture of the 1920's. Dr. Einstein vacationed here for two weeks in September 1946 at the invitation of Dr. Frank Wilson, a Cumberland physician and friend of the physicist. Wilson constructed the house in the mid-1920's as a summer retreat and named it for his two daughters, Marjorie and Josephine. Outstanding features of the house include its log construction the cantilevered living room stair case, half-log cupboard doors, and rustic setting.

History and Support

In September of 1946, Dr. Albert Einstein accepted the invitation of Dr. Frank Wilson to vacation in his lodge on Deep Creek Lake. Einstein and Wilson knew each other, according to the lodge's present owner, because Dr. Wilson owned a large supply of radium, a radioactive mineral used in research. At this time, Einstein had recently completed employment with the Department of the Navy as Consultant for Research on Explosives, and was president and chairman of trustees of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, an organization formed to help "guide the public into the nuclear age."<sup>1</sup> There is no reason to believe that this was any more than a simple respite from Einstein's administrative and scientific duties. The then-caretaker of Mar-Jo Lodge, Blair Thompson, reported a very simple routine of meals, newspapers, letters, and visitors for the two-week period.<sup>2</sup>

Little is known of Dr. Wilson except that he was a prominent Cumberland physician who bought the property along Deep Creek Lake in 1937 and hired a man named Bowers to construct the house. The house exhibits extreme care in its construction and craftsmanly attention to detail, especially in the staircase and cabinets. Wilson died of cancer sometime afterward and left the lodge to relatives, who sold it in 1953. The Rodericks have owned the lodge since 1976.

1

Ronald W. Clark, Einstein, The Life and Times (New York: World, 1971) 590.

2

Albert Einstein at Deep Creek Lake, "Luke Mill Report, Summer 1979, rpt. The Glades Star, V. 5, #10, pp. 357-359.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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See Footnotes on #8

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

Ann Burns, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

September 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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

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Mar-Jo Lodge  
(Con't #7 - Description)

dining room occupies the northern ell, northwest of the kitchen southwest of the living room in the southern ell is the master bedroom, and northwest of the master bedroom are a bath and a smaller bedroom.

The livingroom exhibits a massive stone fireplace on the NE wall. Of special interest is the staircase of cantilevered, riserless plank treads, which runs up the SW wall of the room to two doors leading to a second floor loft. Under the staircase is a doorway leading to the bedrooms at the SW end of the house. The handrail is wood looped with thick rope.

The kitchen exhibits hand-made cupboards of unhewn half-logs, placed with the rounded sides outward. A trap door staircase originally led down to a storage room in the basement, but this has been covered as a safety measure. A pass-through to the dining room on the northwest wall of the kitchen measures approximately three feet long by two feet wide.

The dining room also has hand-made half-log cabinets. The pass-through has a small counter and double doors on the dining room side.

The first floor bedrooms have low ceilings of wormy chestnut boards and log walls. The loft has two doors on the landing, placed close together. The loft is one large room whose ceiling follows the roof line. The roof has sapling joists.

The basement area is divided into a large central section and a smaller combination bar/storage area at the northeast end. The large room has a stone floor and the panelling and ceiling are of wormy chestnut. A stone fireplace on the northeast wall is positioned underneath the fireplace on the upper floor. Northwest of the fireplace is a bar counter, while on the southeast side of the fireplace is a door to the bar/storage area. The storage area has half-log cabinets, and the trap door from the kitchen led down to this room. All doors throughout the house are wormy chestnut.

An outstanding feature of this house is its rustic setting. The driveway to the house is flanked by two stone pillars. On the northeast pillar is a metal plaque with the name "Mar-Jo Lodge" on it in raised letters. Beyond, the driveway makes a small loop with a small parking area on the northeast side of the house. A large well is positioned several yards from the southeast elevation and just off the east corner is a small storage shed which was originally an outhouse. A sunken, stone-floored terrace fills the ell on the southeast elevation. Much foliage, including pines and large rhododendrons, screen the house from its neighbors and give the house an atmosphere of privacy.

Chain of Title

G-IV-B-083  
Mar-Jo Lodge

371/716 From: Robert E., Thomas C., & William P. Marsh  
11-3-76 To: Paul R. Roderick  
Deed Consideration: \$10.00 and "other good and valuable consideration"

1. A parcel adjoining lots. 37, 38, 39, & 40 in Turkey Neck Estates; 5, 068, 74 square feet
2. Lots 37, 38, 39, & 40 in Turkey Neck Estates; 29, 559 square feet
3. Lots 30, 31, & 32 & west half of Lots 33, 68, 69, & 70 in block C-1 of Turkey Neck Estates 1.22 a.

341/234 From: Perfection Photo Co., Inc.  
7-18-73 To: Robert E. Marsh et. al.  
Deed Consideration: \$22,500.00

2 parcels -

1. Lots 37, 38, 39, 40 in Lot C in Turkey Neck Estates conveyed to Perfection Photo from Lincoln Coachline Inc. L/F: 227/557 & 243/7, dated 4-30-60
2. Lots 30, 31, 32 & west half of 33, 68, 69, 70 in Turkey Neck Estates conveyed to P. Photo from Lincoln Coachline L/F: 227/557, dated 4-30-60

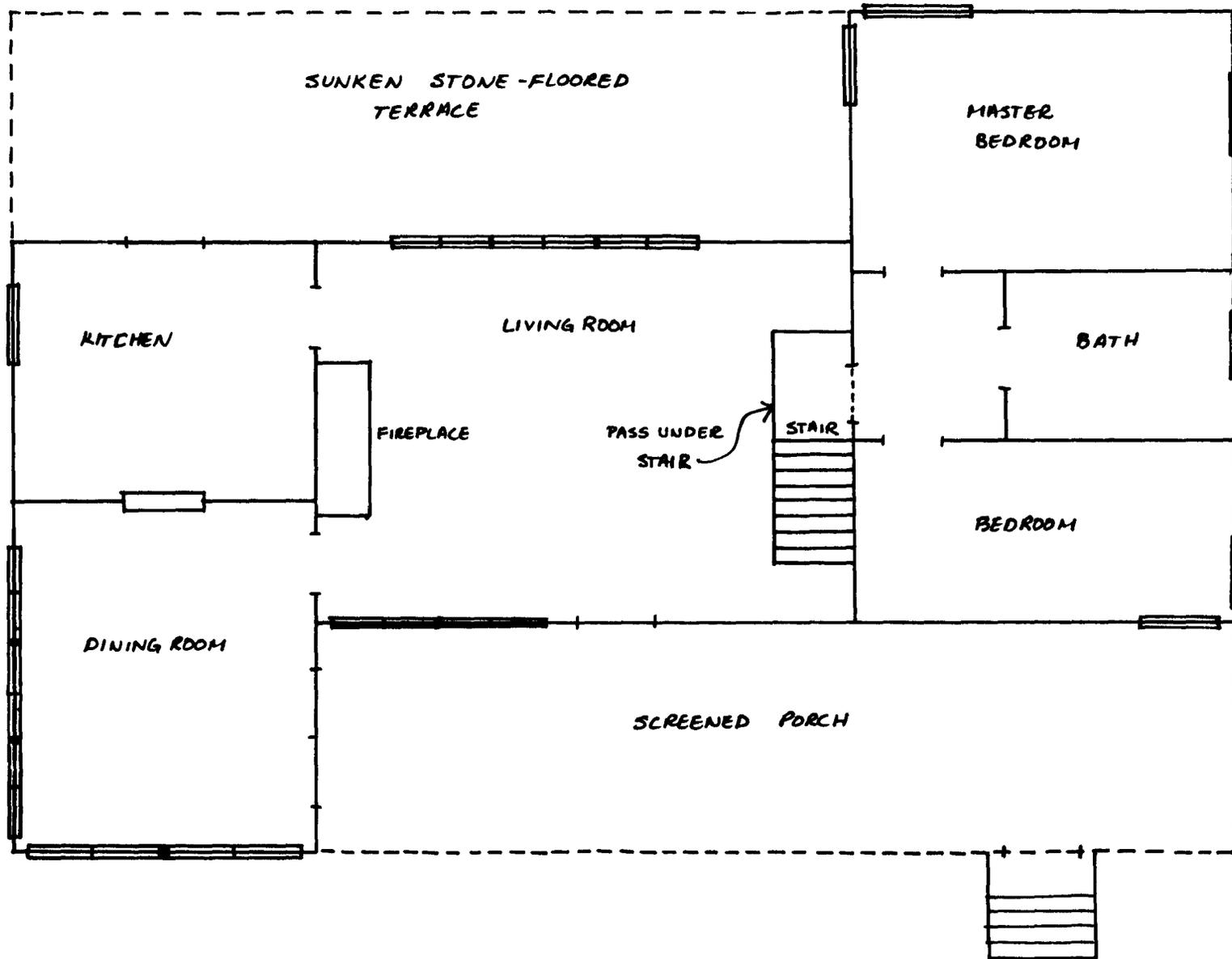
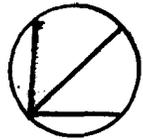
227/557 From: Lincoln Coachline Inc.  
4-30-60 To: Perfection Photo Co., Inc.  
Deed Consideration \$10.00 and "other good and valuable consideration"

all the forgoing tracts

205/496 From: Eldon G. and Dorothy Studebaker  
7-29-57 To: Lincoln Coachline  
Deed Consideration: \$10.00

all the forgoing ttacts

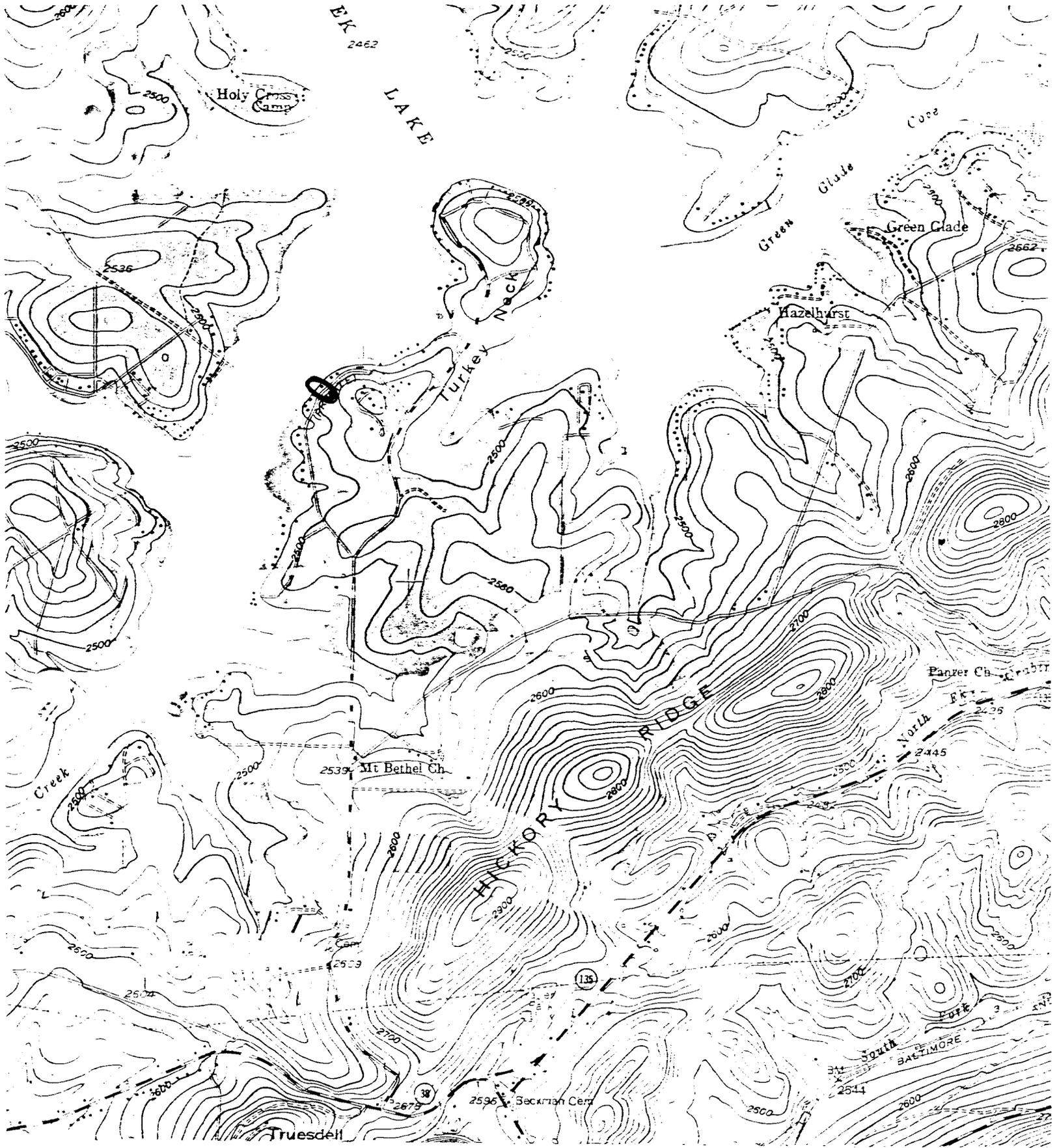




G-IV-B-083  
SKETCH PLAN, 1ST FLOOR  
NOT TO SCALE

MAR-JO LODGE  
OFF TURKEY NECK RD  
GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

ANN R.F. BURNS  
SURVEY DATE 8-25-81  
PLAN DATE 10-28-81



Deer Park, MD  
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series  
 Scale - 1:24,000  
 1948; photorevised 1974

Site #: G-IV-B-083  
 Mar-Jo Lodge  
 Off Turkey Neck Rd.  
 .3 mile on private drive,  
 W side.



G-IV-B-083

Mar-Jo Lodge

Garrett Co., MD

Ann Burns 8/25/81

NE & NW elevs.

FIGURE 169



G-IV-B-083

Mar-Jo Lodge

Garrett Co., MD

Ann Burns 8/25/81

SE elev; NE elev.