

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only  
received NOV 19 1980  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Rockdale (preferred)  
and/or common The Robinson/Stirling Place

2. Location

street & number 1724 Carrs Mill Road N/A not for publication  
city, town Fallston  vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district First  
state Maryland code 24 county Harford code 025

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 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"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. F. Prescott Ward (Carol W.)  
street & number 1724 Carrs Mill Road  
city, town Fallston \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland 21047

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse  
street & number 40 South Main Street  
city, town Bel Air state Maryland 21014

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Maryland Historic Trust  
Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1980  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust  
city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

HA-1229

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## DESCRIPTION SUMMARY ON CONTINUATION SHEET #6

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Rockdale is a farm developed from the late 18th century through the early 20th century. The dwelling is surrounded by several outbuildings, trees and other plantings, and the remains of formal gardens and garden structures developed in the early 20th century.

The dwelling is in three parts with its principal facade to the south overlooking a small valley and the property's entrance. The east room of the east wing is the earliest section dating from the 18th century. The largest or main portion of the dwelling dates from ca. 1815-1830. The north wing, a bay centered in the south facade of the second story, and a small conservatory added to the south side of the east wing, date from the very early 20th century.

The main house is five bays in length, two and one-half stories in height, of stone construction, stuccoed and scored. A brick chimney rises flush with each end gable. The principal entrance centered in the south front is a six paneled door with glazed transom. Typical windows are 6/6 with narrow beaded frames and louvred blinds. Three dormers are in the southerly slope of the roof, each with 6/6 windows. A one-story porch extends across the south front, its fluted wooden columns of the Greek Doric order. Originally three bays in width, it was extended the full length of the house early in the 20th century. The bay window, added early in the 20th century to the central bay of the second story, has a 6/6 window in its south side with 4/4 windows in the flanking sides.

The west end of the main house is void of openings except at the attic level where a 2/2 window is on either side of the chimney. The main house was built forward of the earlier east wing and an original door opens through the east wall to the south porch of the east wing.

The north facade is similar to the south but its central bay is covered by the north wing, an early 20th century addition of frame construction stuccoed over wood lath over weatherboarding. Two stories in height with a gabled roof, it has a two-story bay window projecting from its east side and a small porch sheltering the entrance in the north end.

The east wing is three bays in length, two stories in height, of stone construction stuccoed and scored in imitation of ashlar. A brick chimney rises flush with its east gable. Its entrance is approximately centered in the south front and windows are 6/6 with narrow frames and louvred blinds. A one-story shed-roofed porch extends across the south front. Immediately west of the door is a vertical joint corresponding to the west side of the stone wall which divides the wing into two rooms, indicating the limits of the original section of this dwelling, measuring approximately 17 by 19 feet externally. Brick infill is noted at the original window openings behind the deteriorating stucco reducing the openings to compensate for their later narrow frames, probably installed when the main house was built.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 19 1980

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Rockdale  
Harford County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

In plan the main house contains a wide center hall with a single large room on either side. At the north end of the center hall the staircase rises open, with an intermediate landing in each story, to the third story. Virtually all original detailing remains including the staircase with its round rail, rectangular balusters and colonette newels, six-paneled doors, paneled window jambs; corner-block trim, chair railing, baseboard and mantels of the Greek Doric order. An early 20th century alteration in the second story associated with the addition of the south bay window slightly reduced the size of the two principal chambers to create a large central south chamber.

Details of the second story are similar to but simpler than their counterparts below and third story details are simple. The deep cellar is unfinished.

In the east room of the east wing is a large fireplace fitted with a crane. An oven is deeply recessed in the masonry in the south corner of the fireplace. A winding stairway ascends to the second story in the northwest corner of this room its door having fully-raised panels, its enclosing board partition attached with hand-wrought nails.

An unfinished cellar is beneath the east room, accessible from the exterior. The west room of the east wing probably is contemporary with the main house, originally serving as a butler's pantry, and a second enclosed and winding stairway ascends in its northeast corner. Built-in cupboards fill its southeast corner. Interior details and finishes in the second story are simple, dating from the 19th century.

A single room is in each story of the north wing and interior finishes and details are quite simple.

**OUTBUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

Numerous outbuildings and other supporting structures remain, all in deteriorating condition. The largest of them is the barn, due north of the dwelling. The stone walls of the ground story are above grade at the south side and they contain several doors and windows to the stalls within. The tall upper story is of braced-frame construction, its major elements hewn. Access to the upper story is on grade at the north side. The entire upper story has collapsed. The barn is probably contemporary with the main house, possibly somewhat later but not earlier.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 19 1980  
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Rockdale  
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

South of the barn, between it and the dwelling, is a corn house consisting of a corn crib on either side of an open drive. Vertical straight-sawn sheathing covers exterior walls and spaced oak slatting encloses the inner walls of the crib. The structural frame is of hewn timber joined with mortise-and-tenon. Log joists span the driveway to form a second floor. The corn house is probably contemporary with the barn.

East of the corn house is a very large brick ice pit with a one-story frame structure over it, its exterior walls sheathed in board-and-batten. Adjacent on the east is a dairy shed, its first floor several feet in grade, its entrance in its north side. Within the dairy room is a door to the ice pit. Interior walls and the ceiling of the dairy room were plastered. The ice house and dairy shed probably date from the late 19th century.

Northeast of the east wing is a one-story stuccoed stone and brick smokehouse its gabled roof parallel to those of the nearby dwelling. The small box cornice has a beaded fascia. An outer and inner door are in the doorway opening of the south wall, the inner one being an original door from the main house. The rafters are joined at the ridge with a pinned half-lap joint. This structure is probably contemporary with the main house.

Extensive terraced gardens once extended south and southeast of the dwelling with stone walls at some changes in levels. Most of the plant materials have disappeared, and the walls, associated steps and terminal posts are in a state of disrepair. At the east end of the east garden is a summer house having massive stone piers supporting a pyramidal roof. Centered to the south of the dwelling, on a lower level of the garden, was a cast-iron fountain set in a circular base edged with a rubble stone wall. A stone grotto is located near the frame gazebo. Nearby is a frame-hexagonal-shaped summer house, its six-sided conical roof supported by Doric columns with arched spandrels and a turned balustrade. The garden development dates from the early 20th century.

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the Rockdale nomination is a circle with a radius of 300 feet drawn from the extreme southeast corner of the house. The boundary was drawn to include the minimum area necessary to provide a setting for the house and outbuildings to incorporate the landscaped areas

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 19 1980  
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Rockdale  
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

---

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

as opposed to the surrounding wooded areas which are in fairly natural state, and utilize the natural and visual barrier formed by these surrounding wooded sections. A circular configuration best accomplishes these goals and creates an easily defined and logical boundary.

# 8. Significance

HA-1229

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1887-1935

Builder/Architect

unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: B and C

## SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Rockdale in the Fallston vicinity of Harford County derives from two sources. First as the residence of William E. Robinson (1860-1935), an entrepreneur in the canning industry, Rockdale is associated with the life of a person who figures prominently in an industry that was a major factor in Harford County's economy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. From 1880 through the beginning of World War I, canning of fruits and vegetables was the third most important industry in Maryland (Walsh and Fox, p. 403). Harford was one of the counties which lead the State in the industry and Robinson is believed to have had the largest of such operations in the county. Second, Rockdale is significant for the Neoclassical influenced interior decorative detailing. Although the house was enlarged and remodeled to meet the changing tastes and life styles of the various owners, the interior of the main portion of the structure, erected circa 1815-1830, still retains a high percentage of its original woodwork and is one of a few houses of this period in this section of Harford County which still have much of the original interior decorative detailing. With its symmetrical moldings with corner blocks and paneled reveals, and mantelpieces, Rockdale is probably the best of these houses and as such could be used as a text for a broader understanding of the architectural development of Harford County.

## HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Rockdale was purchased by Robinson in 1887. He added to the house in size and decoration, i.e., the bay window projecting from the second floor of the facade and the facade porch, and developed extensive gardens of which remnants still remain. The house stands today essentially as it was in Robinson's last years and gives a clear view of his lifestyle. Although Robinson was highly successful in business and acquired a great fortune, he preferred a provincial way of life apparently never making an attempt to extensively remodel Rockdale into an architectural showplace or to replace it with a structure in one of the various revival styles that were fashionable in the early decades of this century. He also preferred the bucolic setting of Rockdale to a house in Bel Air where his office was located or moving to a city such as Baltimore where he would have had a close social relationship with other wealthy business people.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 19 1980

DATE ENTERED.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Rockdale  
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Robinson was born, raised, and educated near Bel Air, the seat of Harford County. By his early twenties he was working in the canning industry and at age thirty he incorporated the William E. Robinson Can Company. At the height of his business, Robinson had operations in Pennsylvania and Virginia as well as various Maryland counties. He failed in an attempt to enter state politics when he lost a bid for the State Senate in 1921.

It is not known for whom Rockdale was erected, either the earliest section or the circa 1815-1830 portion, or much more than that it was a farmhouse until Robinson acquired it.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

HA-1229

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 19 1980

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Rockdale  
Harford County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

5

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford County Land Records, Courthouse, Bel Air, Maryland.

Wollon, James Thomas, Jr. AIA, Architectural description prepared for owner and on file with owner and at Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

Bristow, Mary R. Research on file at Maryland Historical Trust (Survey File HA-1229).

Walsh, Richard and William Lloyd Fox. Maryland: A History 1632-1974. Baltimore, Md: Maryland Historical Society, 1974.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 6 1980  
DATE ENTERED.

Rockdale  
Harford County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 & 10 PAGE 6

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated area is delineated by a broken line on the attached drawn to a scale of 1"=200' and consists of a circle with a radius of 300 feet drawn from the extreme southeast corner of the house.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Rockdale is a farm developed from the late 18th century through the early 20th century. The dwelling is surrounded by several outbuildings, trees and other plantings, and the remains of formal gardens and garden structures developed in the early 20th century. The dwelling is in three parts with its principal facade to the south overlooking a small valley and the property's entrance. The east room of the east wing is the earliest section dating from the 18th century. The largest or main portion of the dwelling dates from ca. 1815-1830. The north wing, a bay centered in the south facade of the second story, and a small conservatory added to the south side of the east wing, date from the very early 20th century.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

HA-1229

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

ADDRESS NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 6.49 acres  
Quadrangle name Jarrettsville Quadrangle  
UMT References

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

A	<u>18</u>	<u>37911410</u>	<u>4371671010</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	
C	<u>18</u>	<u>3793000</u>	<u>4376880</u>
E			
G			

B	<u>18</u>	<u>3791510</u>	<u>43768810</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	
D	<u>18</u>	<u>3793000</u>	<u>4376700</u>
F			
H			

## Verbal boundary description and justification

For verbal boundary description see CONTINUATION SHEET #6

For justification, see CONTINUATION SHEET #2

## List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. and Mrs. F. Prescott Ward and James T. Wollon, Jr., AIA

organization

date April 1980

street & number 1724 Carrs Mill Road

telephone (301) 877-3151

city or town Fallston

state Maryland 21047

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

11-5-80

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

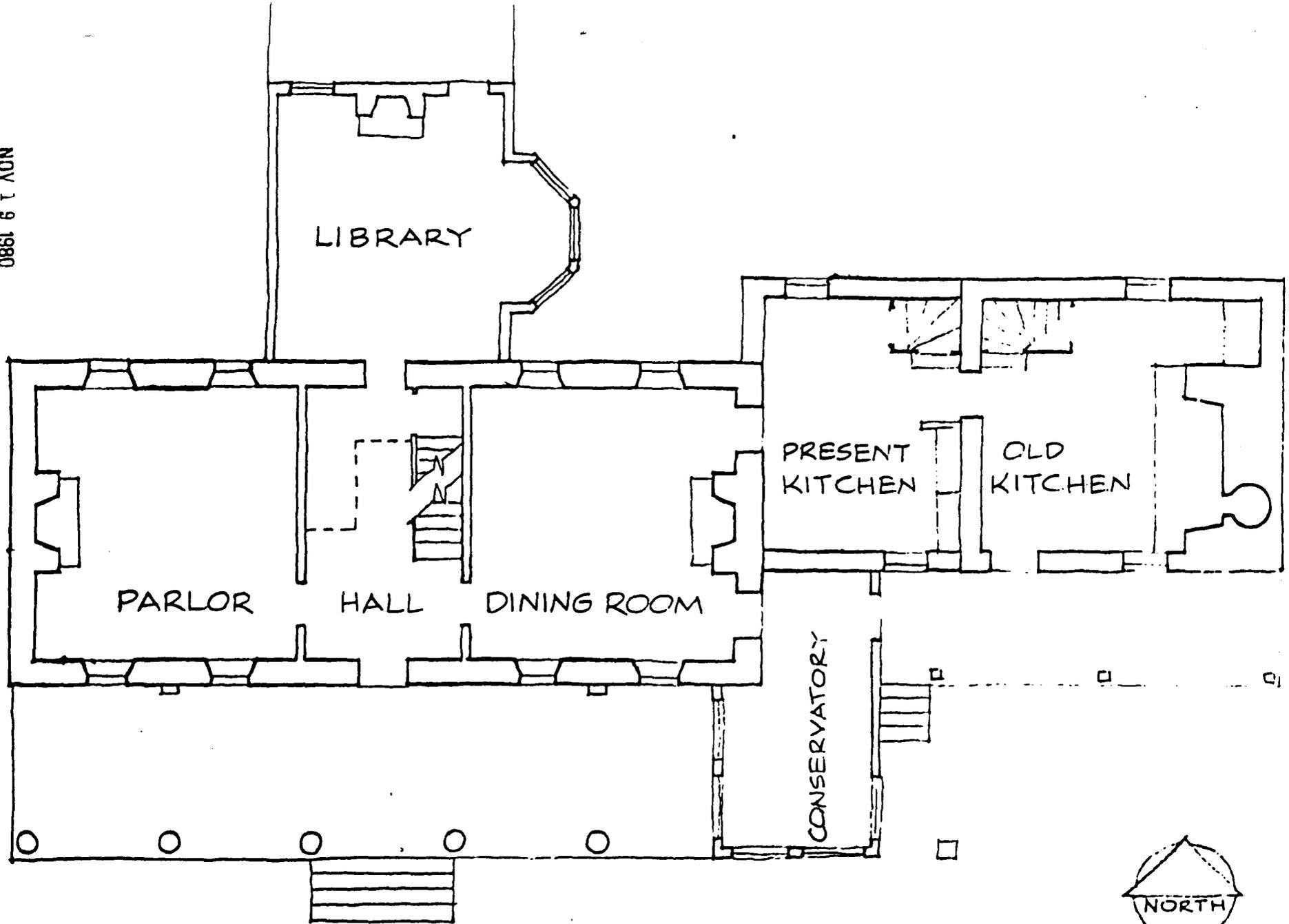
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NOV 19 1980



ROCKDALE  
FALLSTON, HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

FIRST FLOOR PLAN NOT TO SCALE  
SKETCH BY JAMES T. WOLLON, JR., ARCHITECT  
29 JANUARY 1980

AA-1229

rockdale

Harford County

Maryland

boundary map 1980

scale 1"=200'

SECTION FOUR

CYDONIA RD

N10°50'09"E 353.6'  
N10°50'09"E 148.00'

N38°35'09"E 71.66'  
S70°23'18"E 35.48'

S72°25'30"E 211.82'

SECTION FIVE  
N18°45'35"E 572.00'  
S71°14'25"E 75.00'

ABELIA

N71°14'25"W 140.00'

N18°45'35"E 571.142

S71°14'25"W 140.00'

N18°45'35"E 571.142

N71°14'25"W 75.00'

drive way to house winds thru this area

N72°40'29"E 458.08'

This Area NOT INCLUDED

N76°47'01"W 589.74'

S24°18'43"E 136.56'  
S16°05'59"W 191.26'

S26°50'15"W 101.55'

S70°42'15"W 211.25'

AM B STIRLING  
PLAT 34-6B

S85°27'09"W 82.77'

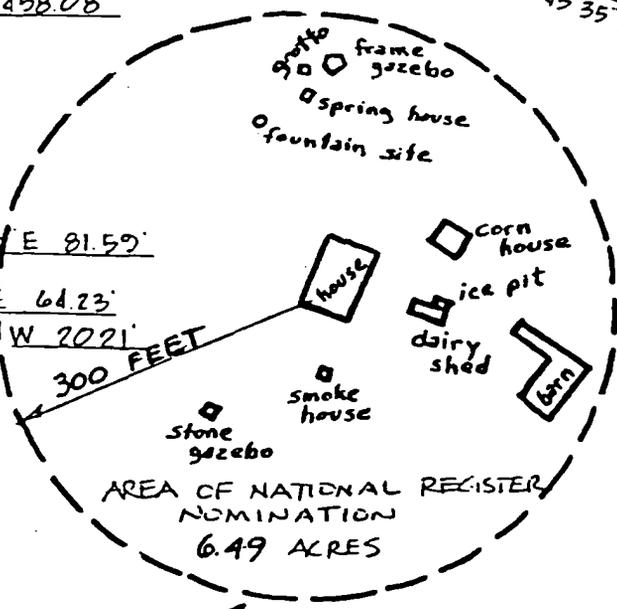
N74°44'21"W 53.76'

S46°03'55"W 101.09'

S62°21'26"W 197.62'

CARRS MILL

S59°41'04"W 249.37'



boundary



SUSQUEHANNA TRANSMISSION

HA-1229

1980



## SUMMARY

HA-1229

ROCKDALE  
Fallston, MD 21047

Rockdale is a farm developed from the late 18th century through the early twentieth century by prosperous--but not extravagant--Harford Countians. A good sampling of the outbuildings required to support life on the farm are extant, as well as the remains of the formal gardens and garden structures dating from the early 20th century.

The dwelling is in three parts with its principal facade to the south overlooking a small valley and the entrance to the property. The east room of the east wing is the earliest section dating from the 18th century. The largest or main portion of the dwelling--with virtually all of its original Greek Revival details--dates from ca. 1815-1830. The north wing, a bay centered in the south facade of the second story, and a small conservatory added to the south side of the east wing date from the early 20th century.

The most notable owner of the property and responsible for the early 20th century improvements to the house was William E. Robinson, mogul of the canning industry, described by one biographer as "gentleman farmer, can manufacturer, canner, broker, commission merchant, banker, country squire, traveler, family man, local 'tharacter," and a social and church leader."

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

ROCKDALE

AND/OR COMMON

THE ROBINSON/STIRLING PLACE

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1724 Carrs Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

Fallston

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

**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 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

F. Prescott Ward and Carol W. Ward, his wife

Telephone #: (301) 877-3151

STREET & NUMBER

1724 Carrs Mill Road,

Maryland 21047

CITY, TOWN

Fallston

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: HA CO 1053

Folio #: 298M

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

Maryland 21014

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Maryland Historic Sites Inventory #HA-1229 (see Incl 1)

DATE

22 February 1980

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

**7 DESCRIPTION**

NA-1229

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

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

ROCKDALE is a farm developed from the late eighteenth century through the early twentieth century by prosperous but not extravagant people. The dwelling is surrounded by several of the many outbuildings which were required to support rural life, mature specimen trees and other plantings, and the remains of formal gardens and garden structures developed in the very early twentieth century.

The dwelling is in three parts with its principal facade to the south overlooking a small valley and the property's entrance. The east room of the east wing is the earliest section dating from the eighteenth century. The largest or main portion of the dwelling dates from ca. 1815-1830. The north wing, a bay window centered in the south facade of the second story, and a small conservatory added to the south side of the east wing date from the very early twentieth century.

The main house is five bays in length, two and one-half stories in height, of stone construction, stuccoed and scored in imitation of ashlar. A brick chimney rises flush with each end gable. The principal entrance centered in the south front is a six paneled door with glazed transom. Typical windows are 6/6 with narrow beaded frames and louvred blinds. Three dormers are in the southerly slope of the roof, each with 6/6 windows. A one-story porch extends across the south front, its fluted wooden columns of the Greek Doric order. Originally three bays in width, it was extended the full length of the house early in the twentieth century. The bay window, added early in the twentieth century to the central bay of the second story, has a 6/6 window on its south side with 4/4 windows in the flanking sides.

The west end of the main house is void of openings except at the attic level where a 2/2 window is on either side of the chimney. The main house was built forward of the earlier east wing and an original door opens through the east wall to the south porch of the east wing.

The north facade is similar to the south but its central bay is covered by the north wing, an early twentieth century addition of frame construction, stuccoed over wood lath over weatherboarding. Two stories in height with a gabled roof, it has a two-story bay window projecting from its east side and a small porch sheltering the entrance in the north end.

The east wing is three bays in length, two stories in height, of stone construction stuccoed and scored in imitation of ashlar. A brick chimney rises flush with its east gable. Its entrance is approximately centered in the south front and windows are 6/6 with narrow frames and louvred blinds. A one-story shed-roofed porch extends across the south front. Immediately west of the door is a vertical joint corresponding to the west side of the stone wall which divides the wing into two rooms, indicating the limits of the original section of this dwelling, measuring approximately 17 by 19 feet externally. Brick infill is noted at the original window openings behind the deteriorating stucco reducing the openings to compensate for their later narrow frames, probably installed when the main house was built.

In plan the main house contains a wide center hall with a single large room on either side. At the north end of the center hall the staircase rises open, with an intermediate landing in each story, to the third story. Virtually all original

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY** (continued on separate sheet)

ROCKDALE  
1724 Carrs Mill Road  
Harford County  
Fallston, MD 21047  
MD Hist. Sites Inv. #HA-1229

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

detailing remains unaltered including the staircase with its round rail, rectangular balusters and colonette newels, six-paneled doors, paneled window jambs, corner-block trim, chair railing, baseboard and mantels of the Greek Doric order. An early twentieth century alteration in the second story associated with the addition of the south bay window slightly reduced the size of the two principal chambers to create a large central south chamber.

Details of the second story are similar to but simpler than their counterparts below and third story details are utterly simple. The deep cellar is wholly unfinished.

In the east room of the east wing is a very large fireplace fitted with a crane. An oven is deeply recessed in the masonry in the south corner of the fireplace. A winding stairway ascends to the second story in the northwest corner of this room, its door having fully-raised panels, its enclosing board partition attached with hand-wrought nails.

An unfinished cellar is beneath the east room, accessible from the exterior. The west room of the east wing probably is contemporary with the main house, originally serving as a butler's pantry, and a second enclosed and winding stairway ascends in its northeast corner. Built-in cupboards fill its southeast corner. Interior details and finishes in the second story are utterly simple, dating from the nineteenth century.

A single room is in each story of the north wing and interior finishes and details are quite simple.

"A" The barn is north of the dwelling. The stone walls of the ground story are above grade at the south side. The tall upper loft story of hewn braced-frame construction extends beyond the lower story on the south side to shelter the several doors and windows to the stalls within. The upper story is accessible on grade at the north. The barn is contemporary with the main house, ca. 1815-1830, and its upper structure is in a collapsed state.

"B" Between the barn and the dwelling is a hewn braced-frame corn house consisting of a corn crib on either side of an open drive; it, too, is probably contemporary with the main section of the dwelling.

"C" East of the corn house is a very large brick ice pit with a one-story frame structure over it; adjacent on the east is a dairy shed, its first floor depressed several feet in grade. An entrance from this depressed workroom opens directly into the ice pit, an interesting and unusual arrangement for convenience. (continued on separate sheet)

ROCKDALE  
1724 Carrs Mill Road  
Harford County  
Fallston, MD 21047  
MD Hist. Sites Inv. #HA-1229

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

"D" Northeast of the east wing is a stuccoed stone and brick smoke house, undoubtedly contemporary with the main section of the dwelling.

Extensive terraced gardens, developed very early in the twentieth century, once extended south and southeast of the dwelling with stone walls at some changes in levels, stone steps and stone fence and gate posts. Most of the smaller plant materials have disappeared. Southwest of the dwelling, within the landscaped area, is a stone spring house. A fountain was centered on the dwelling. A frame hexagonal summer house is near the spring house and a square one with massive stone corners is east of the dwelling.

"E"  
"F"

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> REHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES                      Unknown                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Unknown

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Rockdale's original section was built in the eighteenth century. The remainder of the dwelling, built about 1815-1830, is elegantly but conservatively detailed. Several farm buildings remain, including an unusually large ice pit with an adjacent depressed dairy room. The extensive formal gardens are quite unusual in this area. One of the owners, W. E. Robinson, was a mogul of industry in the region in the early 1900's, having made a considerable fortune in the canning industry and other businesses.

The original section remains from an eighteenth century occupation of the site; this structure may have been the complete dwelling or the kitchen of a larger dwelling. This oldest section was retained in use when the present dwelling was built ca. 1815-1830; a house of traditional form, elegantly but conservatively detailed, an impressive house of the period, the residence of a prosperous farmer. The farm buildings are large and many remain. Large bank barns are typical for the region; their technological obsolescence is making them rare and unfortunately this example has collapsed. Corn houses with cribs on one or both sides of a driveway are also typical nineteenth century structures of the region and again their technological obsolescence is making them rare. The ice pit is unusually large and the adjacent location of a depressed connected dairy room is unusual, an ingenious solution in an era predating refrigeration. The extensive formal gardens romantically recalled the extensive gardens of wealthy Europeans, a state to which wealthy Americans aspired. Refer to Inclosure 2 for a detailed architectural description and discussion of significance.

Since the Civil War, long-term preservation of foodstuffs has been a vital industry in Maryland. The state led the nation in production of canned goods in the 1880's and 1890's, a fact due mostly to activity in Harford County. Blessed with every necessary component for successful operations, growers, packers, and brokers put Harford on the map. The county is still on the map but gone are the 120 or so companies engaged in the business. Today only four exist. Reasons for the decline include: movement of population centers; changing transportation and marketing techniques; growth of agri-business; loss of prime agricultural lands to Aberdeen Proving Ground; cost of labor, materials, and evermore stern governmental regulations; diminishing economic importance of the county outside of Maryland; and the county's trend away from its rural past and toward a service-oriented, bedroom annex for a sprawling urban region.

But in its glory days, canning was the number one business in Harford County. WILLIAM E. ROBINSON (1860-1935), son of a farmer and former owner of Rockdale, was in the right place at the right time. He soared to the top of the Eastern business establishment as a gentleman farmer, can manufacturer, canner, broker, commission merchant, banker, country squire, traveler, family man, local 'character', and a social and church leader. Robinson and his kind, men of their times, made fortunes not only to personal advantage, but to healthy expansion of business and industry as the United States roared into a more complex era (Inclosure 3 has biographical data on W. E. Robinson, and Inclosure 4 has details of his relationship to the canning industry in Harford County).

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Architectural References: Site visit to Rockdale by James T. Wollon, Jr., on 29 January 1980. Mr. Wollon's architectural credentials, expertise, and reputation in restoration of regional historic sites are widely known and acknowledged.

Historical References: Refer to Inclosure 5.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.49 acres

As discussed in the next section (Verbal Boundary Description), the proposed boundary for the nominated property is a circle. This method was selected because: it is simple but precise; structures and ground within the area circumscribed accurately reflect the significant historic features and aura of the site (including the dwelling, outbuildings, formal gardens, and view); and the circle thus drawn avoids insignificant features, a power line right-of-way, and property boundaries.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The proposed boundary for Rockdale, in nominating the site for the National Register of Historic Places, is a circle with a radius of 300 feet drawn from the extreme southeast corner of the dwelling (east wing). For additional information refer to the attached survey plat (Inclosure 6) and copy of a USGS map (Inclosure 7).

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

STATE Not applicable COUNTY

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

Refer to Inclosure 8

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

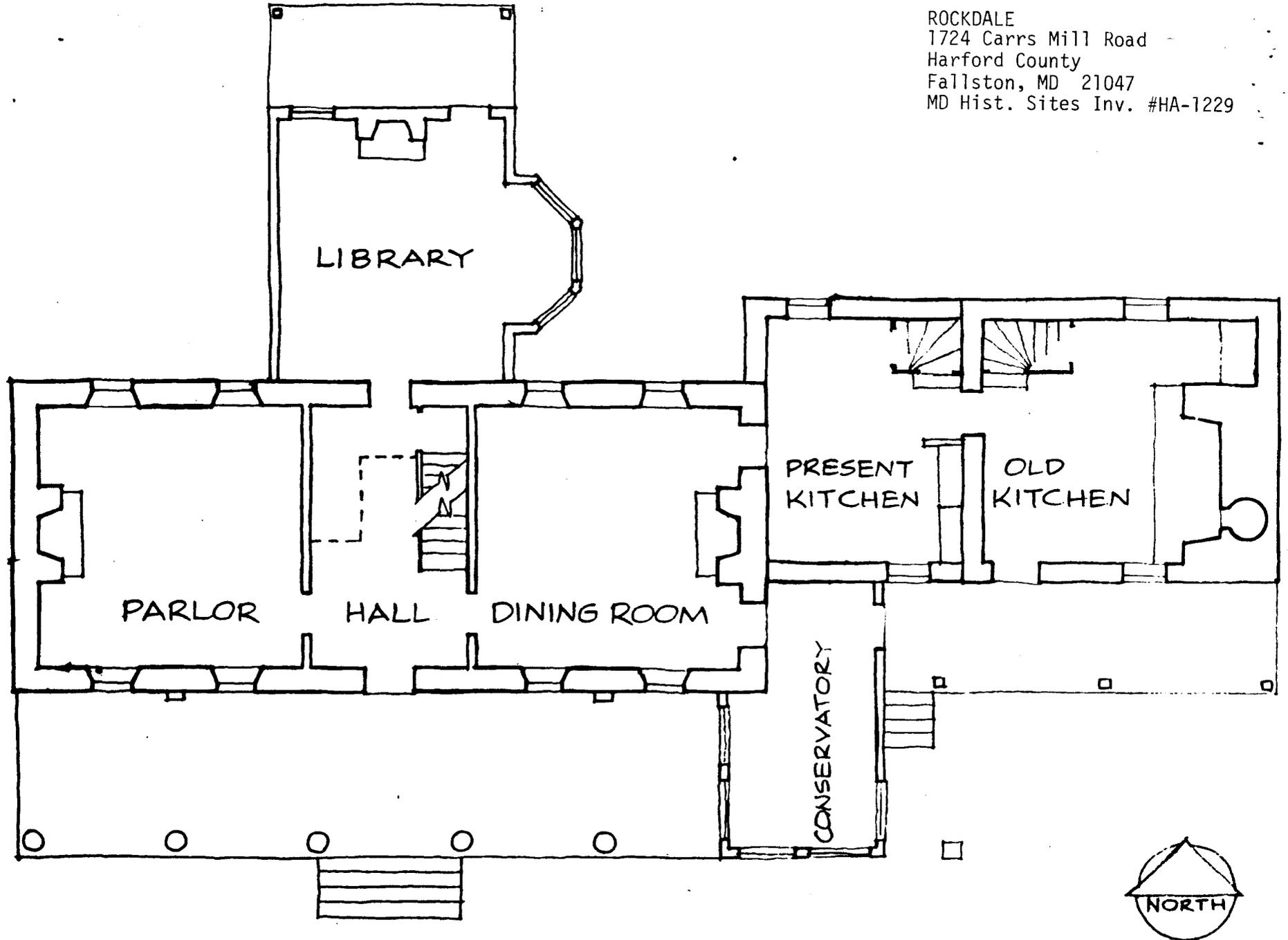
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

Incl. 11

ROCKDALE  
1724 Carrs Mill Road  
Harford County  
Fallston, MD 21047  
MD Hist. Sites Inv. #HA-1229



**ROCKDALE**  
FALLSTON, HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

**FIRST FLOOR PLAN** NOT TO SCALE  
SKETCH BY JAMES T. WOLLON, JR., ARCHITECT  
29 JANUARY 1980





Rockdale HA-1229  
Fallston, MD 21047  
Susan M. Deeney  
February, 1978  
Southeast



Rockdale HA-1229  
Fallston, MD 21047  
Susan M. Deeney  
February, 1978  
North



Rockdale HA-1229  
Fallston, MD 21047  
Susan M. Deeney  
February, 1978  
Northwest



Rockdale            HA-1229  
Fallston, MD 21047  
Susan M. Deeney  
February, 1978  
Gazebo



Rockdale  
Fallston, MD 21047  
Natalie Shivers  
South

HA-1229

2/80



Rockdale  
Fallston, MD 21047  
Natalie Shivers  
North

HA-1229

2/80