

HA-3

Medical Hall Historic District (The Outquarter)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 02-18-2004

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Harford
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME
COMMON: Medical Hall Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC: "The Outquarter"

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: East end of Medical Hall Road about 1.1 mile east of Thomas Run Road
CITY OR TOWN: near Churchville
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Harford CODE: 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: Miss Ann I. Hall
STREET AND NUMBER: Medical Hall Road
CITY OR TOWN: Bel Air RFD
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clerk of the Circuit Court
STREET AND NUMBER: Harford County Courthouse 40 S. Main Street
CITY OR TOWN: Bel Air
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register
DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis
STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Harford
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> (Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered </div> <div> (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>Medical Hall is located northeast of Bel Air, Maryland on the east side of Md. Route 154 one mile north of Schucks Corner. The property consists of a Federal style dwelling, six out-buildings, and at least three archaeological sites.</p> <p>The house, Medical Hall (HA-3) was constructed of stuccoed stone between 1825 and 1840, in a retardataire interpretation of the Georgian-Federal period vernacular. Typically the structure is five bays long, two bays wide, and two and one half stories high. The windows have shutters and six over six sashes. Three dormers, one at each end bay with the third in the center, project from the "A" roof. A chimney is located in each gable end. The structure stands above a lighted basement. The principal (west) facade has a centrally placed door with sidelights and a rectangular transom subdivided in a radiating pattern usually associated with elliptical fan lights.</p> <p>The interior follows the norm with a central hall opening on to two rooms on either side. The woodwork consists of block trim and wide mouldings. The hall now contains four panels French griselle scenic wall paper depicting scenes of the French Revolution. The two south parlors contain paneling which predates Medical Hall. It came from Belvidere, an early Harford County house located in what is now Aberdeen Proving Grounds and destroyed in 1942.</p> <p>Immediately south of Medical Hall is a stone springhouse (HA-843) which 20th century owners have converted into a pump-house.</p> <p>East of Medical Hall is a stone cottage (HA-982) believed to be a 19th century tenant house. The three bay structure is two stories high. The first floor windows have six over six lights while there on the second floor are three over three. The gable end second floor window in contrast has six over six sashes. All windows and doors have rectangular lintels of stone or brick. The "A" roof has deep eaves and a central chimney, a modern replacement of a central flue for stoves.</p> <p>Three structures are located south of Medical Hall: a smoke-house (HA-252), spring house (HA-254), and a dwelling (HA-253). The substantial character of their fabric and the 18th century style appearance lend currency to the belief these structures consisted of the nucleus of the original farm complex. The spring house was constructed of stone and sits low to the ground under its "A" roof. The smoke house is similarly a stone building but is a full story and a half. A square window is located in the gable end with a door on the adjoining side. The dwelling is an interesting three part, "L"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(See Continuation Sheet)</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☐ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☒ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☒ Military☐ Music☒ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)Medical historyJudiciary history

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The importance of the Medical Hall complex centers around its historical association with John Archer (1741-1810), the first man to receive a degree in medicine in America. Archer was first in the first class to receive degrees in medicine from the Philadelphia College, the earliest chartered medical school.¹ Prior to that time he had been one of an estimated 3500 practitioners without a degree.

Archer treated countless patients from his office (HA-844), taught medicine to fifty students, and initiated inoculation for whooping cough. He devoted much of his time to the needs of the poor. Archer founded the Harford County Medical Society and was a charter member of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland.

Archer's public service extended to a direct participation in the American Revolution.

As a member of the HA Co. Committee of Safety he signed the Bush Resolution (1774) and the Bush Declaration (1775), two documents which supported independence. He represented Harford County in the convention which wrote the states first constitution. Archer served as captain in the county militia. In 1782 he was judge of the orphans court. He terminated his political career with two terms in Congress (1801-1805).

John Archer had inherited his HA Co. home from his father, Thomas Archer who had come to Maryland to supervise a British iron foundry on nearby Deer Creek.

¹William B. Postell, "Medical Education in Medical Schools in Colonial America," International Record of Medicine, (June 1958), 367, and Francis J. Packard, History of Medicine in the United States, Vol. III, (New York) 1931, 1210-1213.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Harford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

#7 Medical Hall Historic District

Description

shaped vernacular structure. The base of the "L" is a two story stone structure two bays wide and two bays long. The windows have six over six sashes and flat arched lintels.

A one and one half story stone structure adjoins one gable end at a right angle forming the "L". This section has a more steeply pitched A roof than its neighbor and a much larger chimney stack emerging from the gable end. A shed roof porch begins at the center of the one and one half story stone section and extends across the third frame section. It shares the same roof as well as the shed porch with the one and one half story stone section.

In addition to the 19th and possibly late 18th century structures, Medical Hall contains thest important archaeological sites. Of primary significance is the site of Dr. John Archer's office and medical school (HA-844). An 1860 landscape painting of the house has substantiated the assertion that ruins south of Medical Hall are the office. The dimensions of the ruins match those given for Dr. Archer's office in an 1814 federal tax assessment for Harford County.

To the north of Medical Hall on a rise of ground is the probable site of Dr. Archer's first house (HA-981) which he abandoned in 1777 because of reoccurring nightmares. Immediately adjacent to the present Medical Hall is the site of Archer's second house.

#8 Significance

Five of John Archer's six sons followed their father into medicine. The sixth, Stevenson Archer, became a lawyer. In 1817 James Madison appointed him judge of the Mississippi Territory. He returned to Maryland and continued his political career as a Congressman, judge of the circuit court, and Chief Justice of Maryland (1844-1848) The association of Stevenson Archer with Medical Hall gives the structure historic significance.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Archer, John Jr., M.D. "John Archer, M.B." Paper presented to The John Archer Society. University of Pennsylvania. 20 May 1966.
2. Cordell, Eugene, M.D., "Transactions of The Harford County Medical Society", Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin August-September, 1902.
3. (See Continuation Sheet #2)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds
NW	39 ° 34 ' 39 "	76 ° 16 ' 35 "				
NE	39 ° 34 ' 41 "	76 ° 16 ' 10 "				
SE	39 ° 34 ' 09 "	76 ° 16 ' 02 "				
SW	39 ° 34 ' 07 "	76 ° 16 ' 32 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 208 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Jean S. Ewing

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

June 5, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:

2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Orlando Ridout, IV

Title

State Liaison Officer
for Maryland

Date June 21, 1973

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

NA-3

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Harford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Medical Hall Historic District

#9 Major Bibliographical References

3. "John Archer M.B." Medical Affairs (University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine) Vol I no. 3 (Written 1960)
4. "M D Remembers: Dr. John Archer" MD The Medical News Magazine July 1969
5. Packard, Francis P., M.D. History of Medicine in The United States Vol. II New York: Paul Hoeber, Inc. 1931.
6. Postell, William B. "Medical Education in Medical Schools in Colonial America," International Record of Medicine, June 1958.
7. Preston, Walter W. History of Harford County. Baltimore: Press of The Sun Book Office, 1901.
8. Shriver, J. Alixis "John Archer of Medical Hall" The Sun (Baltimore) 23 March 1930.
9. U.S. Direct Assessment Tax. 1814. Third District. (original Document) Harford County Collection Maryland Historical Society Baltimore.
10. Wright, C. Milton. Our Harford Heritage. By the Author, 1967.

HA-3
Medical Hall
Churchville vicinity
Harford County
Addendum: French Wallpaper

In December 1995, two French grisaille wallpaper sections remain in the stairhall of Medical Hall in Churchville, Harford County. The wallpaper illustrates scenes from the French Revolution.

The wallpaper originally ran along both sides of the stairhall, with two sections flanking the dining room door and two sections flanking the parlor door. The remaining sections are on the north wall, east and west of the dining room doorway. The section east of the dining room door measures approximately 3'-3" wide and 4'-8" high. The section west of the door measures approximately 3'-7" wide and 4'-9" high. The sections are mounted approximately 2' above the floor. Each section is made up of panels approximately 20" wide and 14" high. Ghosting indicates the panels overlap from 1-1/2" to 2". The numbers 4 and 3 are visible on two of the lower panels of the east section. According to Nancy Davis, curator of the Maryland Historical Society, the wallpaper is block printed.

Both sections of paper depict the storming of the Tuileries Palace in 1792. Mobs of people on foot and on horseback surge across the panels, waving weapons and flags, the action broken by clouds of smoke. The scenes are rich in detail. The buildings fill the background, with aerial perspective and overlapping utilized to render depth.

Approximately 30% of the west section of paper has flaked off. There is some scoring of the paper around the figures in the foreground. Approximately 40% of the east section is missing, with some pencil graffiti in the lower left corner.

At this writing, the owner desires the removal of the wallpaper during the current renovation of the house. The Maryland Historical Society will attempt to recover the paper with assistance from the Medical Chirurgical Institute.

(Nancy Kurtz, 12/28/95)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Harford TOWN STREET NO.		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY HA - 3	
ORIGINAL OWNER John Archer ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER M's Anne I. & Dorothy R. PRESENT USE Dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick NO. OF STORIES 2-1/2		2. NAME MEDICAL HALL DATE OR PERIOD c.1800 STYLE Late Georgian ARCHITECT BUILDER John Archer	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC NO			
<p>"Medical Hall" is a late Georgian residence built of brick and covered with stucco, with the exception of the chimneys above the roof line. It is 2-1/2 stories on a high foundation, is five bays wide and two rooms deep. The center main door is trimmed in early 19th century woodwork, with a rectangular fanlight and sidelights. There is a front porch covering the entrance, with benches on each side and a long flight of steps to the ground. The windows throughout have six over six sash and louvered shutters. The three dormers on the front facade have sash with a segmental arch. The roof is slate. The rear of the building has three windows and two doors on the first floor, and two windows on the second floor and on the attic story. There is a flat-roof porch over part of the rear. The house has a simple box cornice with small molding.</p> <p>A Harford County Historical Society marker reads:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">" Medical Hall two miles north of this point</p> <p>Birthplace and home of Dr. John Archer 1741-1810. First graduate of Medicine in America. Signer of Bush Declaration March 22, 1775. Member of Congress 1802. One of the founders of the Medical and Chirurgical faculty of Maryland. Father of five physicians."</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">GOOD</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael O. Bourne Maryland Historical Trust DATE OF RECORD March 11, 1968	

BEL AIR QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND—HARFORD CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE/4 BEL AIR 15' QUADRANGLE

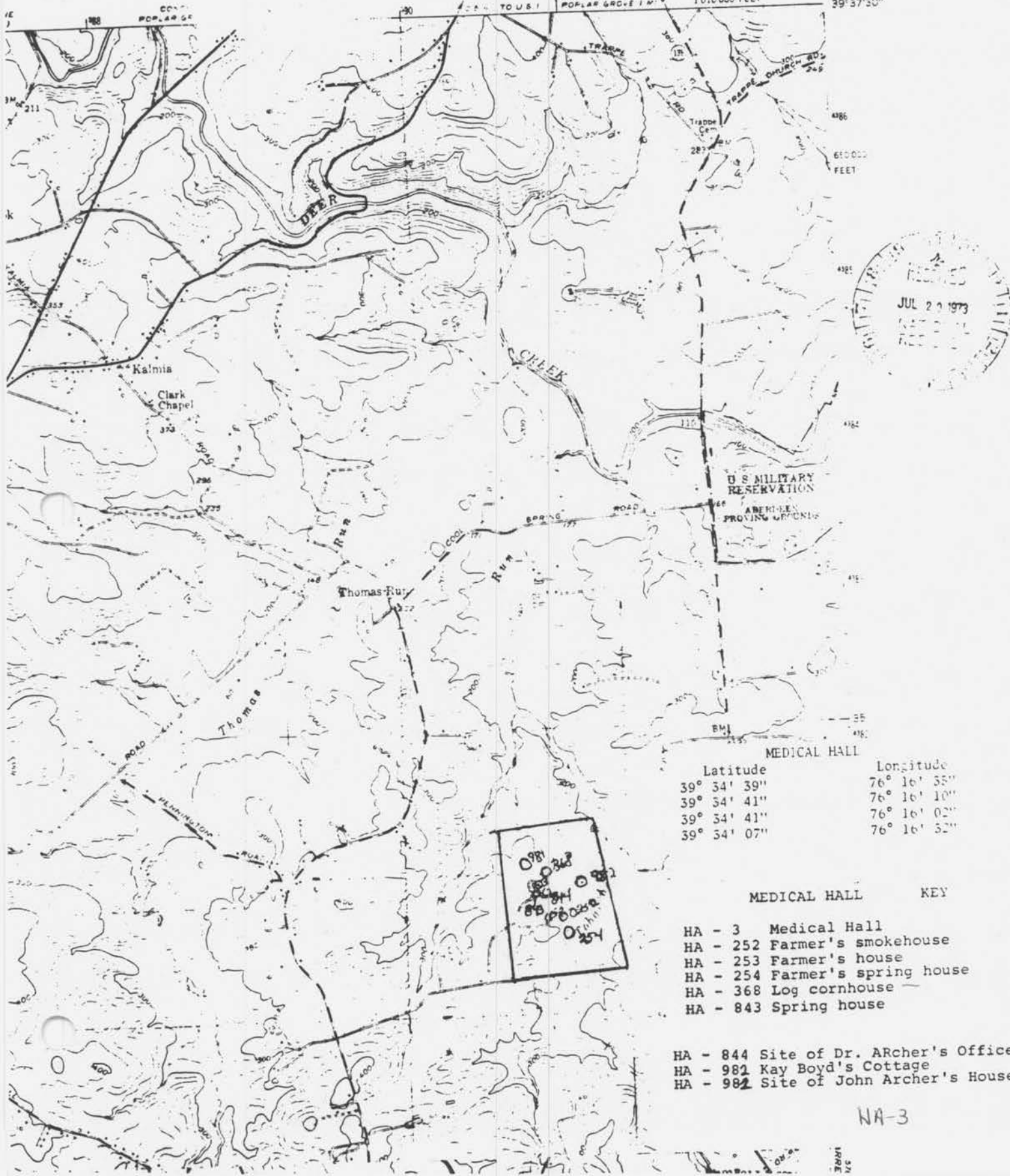
WHITEFOOT & M.
POPLAR GROVE IN.

10:0000 FEET

76°15'

39°37'30"

3763 H NW
(CONOWING DAM)



U.S. MILITARY
RESERVATION
ABERDEEN
PROVING GROUNDS

MEDICAL HALL

Latitude
39° 34' 39"
39° 34' 41"
39° 34' 41"
39° 34' 07"

Longitude
76° 16' 35"
76° 16' 10"
76° 16' 02"
76° 16' 52"

MEDICAL HALL

KEY

- HA - 3 Medical Hall
- HA - 252 Farmer's smokehouse
- HA - 253 Farmer's house
- HA - 254 Farmer's spring house
- HA - 368 Log cornhouse
- HA - 843 Spring house

- HA - 844 Site of Dr. Archer's Office
- HA - 982 Kay Boyd's Cottage
- HA - 982 Site of John Archer's House

NA-3

BEL AIR QUAD



This is to designate the area
enclosed as an historic district
for Medical Hall
Districts District Nov 25 1972
J. W. Davis, Officer

MEDICAL HALL HISTORIC DISTRICT

(NK 12/9/72)



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RV

Medical Hall, H-3



HA-3

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NOTES

NOTES



HA-3

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HA-3

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VELOX

XO

XO



Medical Hall

Wall paper French
Revolution
note picture of Tuilleries



Pickering Studio
Annapolis, Md.