

HO-18

"Walnut Grove"

5192 Sheppard Lane

Private

Description:

"Walnut Grove" is a 2 ½-story, five-bay by two-bay rubble stone structure with the stone brought to course, and it has quoins. It has a gable roof with asphalt shingles with a north-south ridge. There are interior brick chimneys on both gable ends. The east elevation has center paired doors with three panels each. On the west elevation the basement is exposed, with the ground having been excavated for about 12 feet out from the wall. There are rubble stone retaining walls on the west, south, and north sides of this excavation, and rubble stone walls in the center that support a sun porch on the first story in the center bay. The first story has a center-passage, double-pile plan. There is a dogleg stair on the north wall that ascends to the west. There is a stone outbuilding located about 12 feet west of the house pit that was probably originally an ice house. A farm lane runs along the south side of the house and west of the outbuildings, continuing to the north where it peters out in a field just short of the cemetery.

Significance:

Construction of the stone house at "Walnut Grove" has traditionally been dated to c. 1785. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax, however, notes that Philemon Dorsey, owner of "Walnut Grove," had 945 acres containing "1 brick dwelling house 44 by 28, two stories, not finished." In 1790 Anne Dorsey had petitioned the State Court of Chancery to have her son, Philemon, declared a lunatic, and Gassaway Watkins, Philemon Dorsey's brother-in-law and neighbor, was made trustee of Philemon's estate. "Walnut Grove" was sold in 1803, at which time it was occupied by Gassaway Watkins, and he was the highest bidder for the farm. Watkins remarried, a third time, to Eleanor Bowie Clagett in 1803. This could have eventually been the impetus to build a new house; the house seems to have been built by Gassaway Watkins between c. 1803 and c. 1830, and most likely in the 1810s. Col. Gassaway Watkins died in 1840 and his son, John, inherited the farm. He owned and farmed it until 1887.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-18

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic "Walnut Grove"
other

2. Location

street and number 5192 Sheppard Lane _ not for publication
city, town Clarksville X vicinity
county Howard

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

name Karin Van Dyke
street and number PO Box 152 telephone
city, town Stevensville state MD zip code 21153-0152

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 10914 folio 33
city, town Ellicott City tax map 28 tax parcel 74 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	3	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	1	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	0	0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	0	0 objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	4	1 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				4	

7. Description

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Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

Summary:

"Walnut Grove" is a 2 1/2-story, five-bay by two-bay rubble stone structure with the stone brought to course, and it has quoins. It has a gable roof with asphalt shingles with a north-south ridge. There are interior brick chimneys on both gable ends. The east elevation has center paired doors with three panels each. On the west elevation the basement is exposed, with the ground having been excavated for about 12 feet out from the wall. There are rubble stone retaining walls on the west, south, and north sides of this excavation, and rubble stone walls in the center that support a sun porch on the first story in the center bay. The first story has a center-passage, double-pile plan. There is a dogleg stair on the north wall that ascends to the west. There is a stone outbuilding located about 12 feet west of the house pit that was probably originally an ice house. A farm lane runs along the south side of the house and west of the outbuildings, continuing to the north where it peters out in a field just short of the cemetery.

Description:

"Walnut Grove" is located at 5192 Sheppard Lane, east of Clarksville, in southwestern Howard County, Maryland. The house faces east toward the road and is set well back from the road at the end of a tree-lined drive.

House, exterior

"Walnut Grove" is a 2 1/2-story, five-bay by two-bay rubble stone structure with the stone brought to course, and it has quoins. The stonework has been re-pointed with a raised "V." It has a gable roof with asphalt shingles with a north-south ridge. There are interior brick chimneys on both gable ends, the chimneys being paired on the south end, with a parapet between them, and a single chimney on the north; each chimney has three flues.

The east elevation has center paired doors with three panels each that are sunken and flat, and have no panel moulds. The doors are mortised and tenoned and pinned, are pine with a natural finish, and have new brass hardware. The jambs have three panels each and they match the doors and align with the panels on the doors. There is one panel on each side of the transom and two panels on the soffit, and they also match. The four-light transom is new. There is a plain stone sill. The doorway now has a new Colonial Revival door surround with fluted pilasters and a pediment. The door frame originally stopped short of the end wall, and this has now been in-filled when the existing surround was installed. There is a stone porch with three stone steps in front, and it has stone cheek walls. On each side of the porch, the foundation has a short window with a new one-light sash and a new frame; these openings have thin stone lintels. The first story has two new six-over-six sash in new frames on each side of the doorway, with a stone sill that has a wash and a stone lintel on each opening. The second story has five six-over-six sash that match the first story. There is a wood box cornice with a bead bed mould. There are three gabled dormers that have aluminum on the cheek walls. The center dormer is wider with two six-over-six sash while the end dormers have a single six-over-six sash; all of the sash are new.

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On the south elevation, the basement has a one-light new sash with a new frame, in the center, and this opening has a large stone lintel. The first story has a new six-over-six sash near the west corner, with typical details, and no opening in the east bay. The second story has no openings, while the gable end has a typical six-over-six sash in the center. There are plain rake boards that appear to be new, and the west one may be tapered. The chimneys on this end have flat caps.

On the west elevation the basement is exposed, with the ground having been excavated for about 12 feet out from the wall. There are rubble stone retaining walls on the west, south, and north sides of this excavation, and rubble stone walls in the center that support a sun porch on the first story in the center bay. The south half of the basement wall has double doors in the center that have ten lights each, and they are new and are set in a new frame. This opening has a concrete sill and a large stone lintel, and there is a new 12-light fixed sash on each side of this doorway. The sash have new frames and large stone lintels. The wall has a beveled water table below the windowsills. The north half of the basement wall has a 15-light door in a new frame, and this opening has a narrow stone lintel and appears to be cut through. The water table on this part of the wall is about one-third of the way down from the top of the door and is not in line with the water table on the south half, being much higher. It appears that the north half of the basement was excavated at a later date.

The first story of the west elevation has a typical six-over-six sash on both the north and south halves. The north bay has a patch below the sill that suggests that this was once a doorway later converted to a window. On the second story, the south half has two typical six-over-six sash, while the north half has a single six-over-six sash in the center. There is a wood box cornice that has a complex bed mould that appears to be two ogees. Before this cornice could be examined closely, it was covered with aluminum. There are three dormers that match those on the east elevation. The southern half of the west retaining wall has an iron lintel with stone infill into what was a wide, low doorway or access hatch to something to the west.

A sun porch has been added to the center of the first story. The south elevation of this sun porch, on the basement, has a new six-over-six sash with a narrow stone lintel, set to the west, and a 15-light door with a small three-light transom and no lintel, set to the east. The first story has a 20-light fixed sash in the center with a four-over-four sash to each side, all of the sash being new; they are set on a low stone wall. There is a wood box cornice with an ogee bed mould, and a new balustrade around all three sides of the sun porch. The porch has a flat roof. The west elevation of the sun porch, on the first story, has a new 15-light door in the center with a small three-light transom, and a new six-over-six sash to each side. On the north elevation, the basement has a 15-light door to the east, and the stone here is recessed. The wall appears to be rebuilt or added from slightly above grade up. The first story of the sun porch

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matches the south elevation of the porch. The main block of the house, on the second story center bay, has French doors and a three-light transom.

On the north elevation there are no openings in the foundation. The first story has a narrow new four-over-four sash with a stone lintel and a stone sill that has a wash. The window is set west of center. The second story has two four-over-four sash that match the first story, and the gable end has a new four-light casement in the center; the stone sill for this opening projects beyond the face of the wall. There are tapered rake boards that have a beaded bottom edge.

House, interior

The first story has a center-passage, double-pile plan. The passage has 4 to 6-inch tongue-and-groove pine flooring that runs east-west and has carpet tack holes for strip carpeting that no longer survives. The baseboard has a quirked ogee-and-bevel on top and the chair rail is pulvinated and has five reeds. The architrave has a broken field with a beaded interior edge and plain corner blocks. This architrave is set over top of earlier architrave that has a bead at the interior edge. The architrave on the rear, or west, doorway has a quirked ogee-and-bead backband and a beaded interior edge. There is a wood cornice with an ogee above a cavetto, and with a bead at the bottom. The south wall has plaster on frame, and the north wall has plaster on masonry; this wall appears to be furred out and dry-walled. The front, or east, door has paired doors with three panels on each, and they are sunken and flat and have no panel moulds. The doors are mortised and tenoned and pinned, and now have a natural finish. There are brass rim locks that are not original to the door, new brass butt hinges, and the transom above it is also new. Most of the other doors are now off their hinges. The south door has plain jambs, while the north doorway jambs have three panels each, with sunken fields, and a single matching panel on the soffit. The rails and stiles are mortised and tenoned and pinned. The panel moulds appear to be an ovolo and cavetto, but they are heavily covered with paint. The west, or rear, door jambs are also mortised and tenoned and pinned, with three panels on each and one on the soffit; the panels have sunken fields and no panel moulds.

There is a dogleg stair on the north wall that ascends to the west. The stringer has two rabbets on it, with a projecting bead at the bottom. The newel post is turned, and is a slender Doric column with capital at the top. The base of the newel has numerous wood plugs in it. There is a $\frac{3}{4}$ -round handrail that is not original to the stairway, and the newel post has a cut-off tenon in the mortise, still pinned in place. The existing handrail is shorter than the original. It is not clear if the newel post is original. The balusters are square, and there are patches in the stair treads that indicate that the balusters have been replaced. The stairway is now open to the basement, with the same handrail and balusters and newel post as the stair up to the second story; the newel post also has chamfered top corners, and is attached to the floor with brackets fastened with Phillips head screws. There are a series of nail holes along the stair

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inside of the carpet tack holes, which are probably where studs for an enclosing wall were toe-nailed to the floor. There is a patch in the floor board where the landing is, but it is not clear what this was for. However, it appears that the stairs to the basement were walled in, and probably had a door. The north elevation west door jambs match the east door on this wall.

The southeast room flooring matches that in the passage, and runs north-south. The baseboard and architrave also match that in the passage. The chair rail must be added, and has a wide fascia board with a bead on the top and bottom edges, with an applied torus moulding in the center that has an ogee above and below it. The cornice is run plaster with an ovolo at the top, a cove, and an ovolo and bead at the bottom. The door to this room has six panels, with the frieze panels in the center. The panels are sunken and flat, and have quirked ogee-and-bevel panel moulds. The door is hung on new brass butt hinges and has a brass mortise lock with a deadbolt that is labeled "? JOHNSON BAL^T." The doorknobs are new. The door is mortised and tenoned and pinned and now has a natural finish. There is a fireplace located on the south wall, with a brick hearth, firebrick firebox floor and splayed, parged jambs. It has a new marble surround. There is a wood mantel with half columns and plain impost. It has a paneled frieze with one sunken, flat panel that has a quirked bead and fillet panel mould. The bed mould has three fillets below a small bead, and a lancet-profile moulding above the bead. There is a Greek ovolo on the bottom edge of the mantelshelf, and the mantel is mortised and tenoned and pinned. The west wall has a wide opening with three sets of nail holes in the flooring that are 18 to 19 inches apart and indicate the ghost of a wall; there was apparently no opening between this room and the southwest room, originally.

The southwest room flooring, baseboard, chair rail, architrave, cornice, and mantel match that of the southeast room. The fireplace on the south elevation has a new hearth. The surround is covered, but it otherwise matches that of the southeast room. The windows are new and have splayed plain wood jambs, just as in the southeast room. The door also matches that to the southeast room, and the lock is labeled "F. JOHNSON BAL^T."

The northeast room has new flooring, and the baseboard, architrave, and chair rail match that in the passage. The windows match those in the two south rooms, and below all of them is a trim board with a sunken field and a bead on the top and bottom. A cornice has been added to this room, and has an ogee with dentils below it. There is a fireplace on the north elevation, and the quarry tile hearth has been removed. The firebox floor is firebrick, and the splayed jambs are parged. The marble surround has now been covered. There is a wood mantel with four paneled pilaster strips that are sunken and flat and have bead moulds; the frieze is the same, while the impost are plain. The bed mould has a Greek ovolo above a quirked Greek ovolo and bead. Flanking each side of the fireplace is a built-in cupboard with architrave that has a quirked ogee with a small cavetto to the inner side of it, on the backband, and a beaded interior edge.

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The cupboards each have a pair of glazed doors at the top, with each door having eight rectangular lights with a fan light effect at the top employing round-arched muntins with a square-headed door. There are two doors at the bottom of each cupboard and they have one sunken flat panel with ovolo panel moulds on each door. There are new butt hinges. Both of the cupboards date to the 20th century, and the east cupboard is rebuilt, with the shelves moved, but the rail between the top and bottom pairs of doors is old, suggesting that a cabinet was here at an earlier period. The doorway on the west elevation only has new trim, and there is no evidence that a doorway was located here originally.

The northwest room is a modern kitchen, with all four walls having been studded out, and there is new flooring that matches that in the northeast room. The north window has modern architrave that has been partially covered, and the west window architrave has been completely covered.

The sun porch has all new windows set on low rubble stone walls, has boxed ceiling beams, and has an added cornice.

The second story has the same plan as the first story, with the east end of the passage being closed off. The stair landing in the passage has a hollow wall on the south side of the landing where there was apparently a door. There are paired doors on the west that lead to the top of the sun porch, and there are two steps up to the sill of the doorway. Each door has three lights over one panel, and the panels have sunken fields and quirked ogee-and-fillet panel moulds, while the lights have ovolo muntins. The doors have brass butt hinges with finials, and there is a three-light transom. The stairway turns to the east from the landing, with three steps up to the passage. The railings and balusters have all been replaced, while the newel posts match the bottom newel and are probably original. The newel post at the top on the three steps has two blocks for hand rails, with a short turned column between the blocks. The baseboard has an ogee and bevel. The newel post at the base of the attic stairs is square and chamfered, and doesn't quite fit the cut in the tread, suggesting that it has been added. The railings are screwed to the newel posts, with the screws then covered by wood plugs. The flooring is random-width pine that runs north-south, is 4 ¼ to 5 ¼ inches wide, and is face-nailed. The flooring retains carpet tack holes. There is no door on the east end into the small room at the east end of the passage, and there is no evidence to tell that a doorway was here and was later closed off. The stair details continue on the attic stairway. There are doorways on the north and south walls, set to the east, and they have only new trim with corner blocks. The north door has three panels on each jamb and one on the soffit, with flush fields and small ogee panel moulds; this appears to be new material, like the trim. There are carpet tack holes in the doorway opening, indicating that the doorway was in this location.

The south chamber is now all one room, and there are carpet tack holes in the center that suggest that a partition wall was here. There is also a patch in the flooring in the center, which may indicate a doorway in the center of this partition wall. The flooring is random-width pine that varies between four

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and six inches, is face-nailed, and runs north-south. There is all new trim with corner blocks and new wood ogee cornice, and the baseboards have a quirked ogee-and-bevel. The north end of the chamber has been closed off with a wall to create a sauna at the west end, a closet in the center, and an enlarged bathroom at the east end that extends into the east end of the passage. The windows have splayed wood jambs that are probably new, and have new sash. The south elevation is a flush wall with a doorway at the east end into a closet. The door and trim are all new, but there are carpet tack holes here that suggest the closet is original, but redone. To the west on the closet is a fireplace with a new raised brick hearth, new brick surround, fire brick on the firebox floor, and old splayed brick jambs. There is a wood mantel with pilaster strips that have two rabbets, and the mantel has a plain frieze and plain impost blocks. The bed mould has an ogee and bevel and appears to be added. The flush wall to the west of this fireplace may cover a second fireplace that has been closed off. At the west end of the south wall is another door with a closet, and it matches the closet at the east end.

The northeast chamber details are identical to the south chamber. There is a fireplace on the north elevation that has a new raised brick hearth and new brick surround, with old splayed brick jambs. There is a wood mantel that is identical to that in the south chamber. The west elevation has a doorway to the northwest chamber, and this room is a modern bathroom with a tile floor. The trim in this room matches the other chambers, and there is new T1-11 on the walls below new chair rail. The north wall is built out as if it had a fireplace that has now been closed off. The north window jambs have only a slight splay to them. There is a wall on the south side of this chamber that creates what appears to be a closet, but it was not accessible.

The attic plan matches the second story. The passage has 2 ½-inch pine flooring that runs east-west, and the stair details match the rest of the stairway below. The landing at the west end has random-width pine flooring to the east and 2 ½-inch pine flooring at the west end of it. The dormer that is located here was clearly added. There are two steps up from the landing, and the newel post at the bottom or west end of these two steps is also chamfered and appears to be a replacement. There is all new trim and doors in the attic, with a single room on the north and south sides that is finished with plaster and has flooring that matches the passage. All of the visible details on the dormer windows are new. The rafters are sawn, have an open-faced bridle and peg at the ridge, and support board sheathing.

The basement has carpet, and drywall on some of the walls and ceiling, with some exposed stone. The south wall has a fireplace set to the west that is rubble stone with straight jambs and has a large stone lintel. There is a quarry tile hearth and there are two iron eyes on the east jamb to hold a crane that is now missing. To the east on this wall is a solid stone buttress for a chimney. The joists are exposed in the northeast corner of the basement and are round on the bottom and hewn on the sides. The joists are mostly covered by duct work. The floor has been excavated in this location and has a brick foundation and a concrete floor now. On the west elevation, beneath the sun porch addition, the center bay of the

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basement has a door with a circular-sawn wood lintel and a new boxed frame. This doorway appears to have been cut through at a later date.

Stone outbuilding

There is a stone outbuilding located about 12 feet west of the house pit, at the south end of it. It is a one-story, one-bay by one-bay square rubble stone structure with a hip roof that has asphalt shingles and a small ventilator box at the peak of the roof. There is a wood box cornice that has been covered with aluminum. The east elevation has a door with four panels that have sunken fields and ogee panel moulds. The north and south elevations each have a metal louvered vent and there is no opening on the west elevation. The interior has a concrete floor set four steps down from the door sill height. The door and windows have splayed plastered jambs. The ceiling has plaster on sawn lath, some of which is wire-nailed but some of which appears to have cut nails. The windows have four-light sash on the interior, and they are casements with new face-mounted butt hinges. The sash are also new. There is a low parged brick wall on the south side, but this does not form a trough. This building was probably originally an ice house.

Shed

There is a shed located about 50 feet northwest of the house. It is a one-story, one-bay by one-bay structure with a rubble stone foundation, German siding, and a gable roof with an east-west ridge and asphalt shingles. The east elevation has a door with narrow vertical boards, hung on butterfly hinges, and it has new trim. There are no openings on the south, west, or north elevations, and the interior was not accessible. There is a bell in front of this building, set on a steel post to the north of the door. About 10 feet southwest of the shed is a depression and some stones from a foundation of a building that was 10 to 12 feet square. There is a new small barn on the property to the west of the house, but no other structures.

Cemetery

A farm lane runs along the south side of the house and west of the outbuildings, continuing to the north where it peters out in a field just short of the cemetery. This cemetery is heavily overgrown. Amongst the tombstones are those for Colonel Gassaway Watkins, which was made by "A. Gaddess, Balt." Near it is the stone for Elenora B. Watkins, made by "Gaddess, Balto." The cemetery is located about 500 feet north of the house. Much of the farmland is in the process of being subdivided for new housing.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates N/A Architect/Builder N/A

Construction dates c. 1803-30

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

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

Summary:

Construction of the stone house at "Walnut Grove" has traditionally been dated to c. 1785. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax, however, notes that Philemon Dorsey, owner of "Walnut Grove," had 945 acres containing "1 brick dwelling house 44 by 28, two stories, not finished." In 1790 Anne Dorsey had petitioned the State Court of Chancery to have her son, Philemon, declared a lunatic, and Gassaway Watkins, Philemon Dorsey's brother-in-law and neighbor, was made trustee of Philemon's estate. "Walnut Grove" was sold in 1803, at which time it was occupied by Gassaway Watkins, and he was the highest bidder for the farm. Watkins remarried, a third time, to Eleanor Bowie Clagett in 1803. This could have eventually been the impetus to build a new house; the house seems to have been built by Gassaway Watkins between c. 1803 and c. 1830, and most likely in the 1810s. Col. Gassaway Watkins died in 1840 and his son, John, inherited the farm. He owned and farmed it until 1887.

Significance:

Construction of the stone house at "Walnut Grove" has traditionally been dated to c. 1785 and ascribed to Revolutionary War hero Col. Gassaway Watkins, though no evidence has been presented for these assertions other than that Watkins lived here when he died. J. D. Warfield recorded the local lore on the property, without giving a date for the house. He noted that Watkins "married Ruth Dorsey, daughter of Captain John Dorsey, of 'Brown's Chance.' He continued at 'Richland' until the death of Captain Dorsey, when he bought his heirs interest in the homestead and removed there. . . . Colonel Watkins built the present commodious [house] of stone and, from the spreading walnut tree immediately at its door, named it 'Walnut Grove.'" Warfield's history is generally true, though vague and incomplete. Gassaway Watkins was born near Annapolis in 1752 and by his own account entered Col Smallwood's regiment in January 1776. He served at least through the battle of Cowpens in 1781, and after the war went to live at "Richland" (HO-907, NR), just north of "Walnut Grove." Warfield notes that Watkins' married his first wife, Sarah Jones, soon after the war, and she died within one year. Colonel John Dorsey (Warfield calls him Captain), died in 1779, so Watkins must have married Ruth Dorsey after her father's death, sometime in the 1780s. Col. John Dorsey's will confirms this, noting that she was single, and leaves part of his estate, on "Browns Chance and Dorseys Friendship," to his widow, Anne, for life.

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This was likely where the Colonel was living. The land that would become "Walnut Grove," 221 acres of "Altogether," 152 acres of "Browns Chance and Dorseys Friendship," and 27 acres of "Toddy," went to Dorsey's oldest son, Philemon. In 1790 Anne Dorsey petitioned the State Court of Chancery to have her son, Philemon, declared a lunatic. The inquisition determined that Philemon Dorsey could not take care of himself, had been that way for 12 years, and could not determine how he got that way, "unless by the visitation of God." Gassaway Watkins, now Philemon Dorsey's brother-in-law and neighbor, was made trustee of Philemon's estate. In 1798 Watkins petitioned the court to sell some of Philemon's real estate because the rest of his property did not provide enough for his maintenance. Watkins noted that he had already purchased widow Anne Dorsey's dower right (a one-third interest) in the 152 acres of "Browns Chance and Dorseys Friendship," and he was willing to include this in the sale as long as he received one-third of the sale price.¹

The 1798 Federal Direct Tax gives one a picture of what was on these properties. The previous research on "Richland" has already suggested that Gassaway Watkins was living in West River and Herring Creek Hundred, in Anne Arundel County, and not out in present-day Howard County. Philemon Dorsey had 945 acres in Upper Fork and Bear Ground Hundred, containing "1 brick dwelling house 44 by 28, two stories, not finished; 1 log kitchen 20 by 16; 1 log quarter 28 by 16; 1 log [meat?] house 24 by 20; 1 log stable 28 by 20; 1 small stone house 12 by 12." The tax assessor was none other than Gassaway Watkins, so he surely would have known the property well and was not likely to have erred when noting that the house was brick. Probably because of a conflict of interest, Richard Ridgely was made trustee of Philemon Dorsey's real estate and was given approval by the court to sell the 152-acre tract, described as part of "Altogether" (which was inaccurate, since the other, 221-acre property, which was apparently sold earlier, was actually on that tract) and the 27-acre wood lot called "Toddy." The sale did not occur until 1803, but unfortunately, the sale ad does not list buildings. It simply notes that the farm was "the late residence of John Dorsey, son of Michael, and at this time [is] occupied by Gassaway Watkins." It was also noted that the land had plenty of limestone. Some of Philemon Dorsey's personal property was sold at the same time, and Watkins continued to serve as the trustee for these sales. Watkins was the highest bidder for the farm, at \$17.25 an acre, or \$2,622. The deed was not executed until 1817, six months after Philemon Dorsey died, though there is no reason that Watkins could not have moved onto the farm and started building as early as 1803. Watkins second wife, Ruth, died at an unknown time, and he remarried, a third time, to Eleanor Bowie Clagett in 1803. This could have been

¹ Cleora Barnes Thompson, *Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties*, Maryland Historical Trust, c. 1976. J. D. Warfield, *Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland* (Baltimore: Kohn & Pollock, 1905), pp. 412-15. Celia M. Holland, *Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland* (Author, 1987), pp. 358-60. { Harry Wright Newman, *Anne Arundel Gentry*, v. 2 (Lewes, DE: Colonial Roots, 1971), pp. 27-29. State of Maryland Chancery #1517, Maryland State Archives S512-2-1591.

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Name
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the impetus to build a new house, though what happened to the earlier brick house, which was almost the same size as the existing stone structure (28 by 44 vs. 30 by 53), is not known.²

Col. Gassaway Watkins died in 1840 and was buried in the family cemetery at "Walnut Grove." The inventory of his estate gives a glimpse into life at "Walnut Grove" at that time. Watkins owned 21 slaves, from 9 months old to 70 years old, but the listing is not grouped by families, so it is of little use to tell us much about black life. Watkins also owned a considerable amount of livestock, including six horses (one old and another blind) and four colts, a boar, nine sows, seven pigs, five large barrows, 16 second-sized shoats, two bulls, eight cows, four heifers, four steers, four calves, a yoke of oxen, and 70 sheep. The crops he was growing included wheat, oats, corn, clover (for hay), potatoes, sugar beets, and rutabagas. Not surprisingly, he had bee hives, though the number is not given, and the garden is mentioned, but not anything that was in it. In addition to the typical farm implements for the period, Watkins had a "blacksmith's bellows, anvil & tools" valued at \$20, high enough to suggest he had a full blacksmith shop, and possibly one of his slaves was skilled at this craft. There was also "1 lot quarrying tools" worth \$10, plus three mason's hammers, suggesting that the abundant limestone mentioned in the 1803 sales ad was being quarried and probably burned in a lime kiln. Where the quarry and kiln might have been is not known. There were carpenters tools and wheelwright tools, but at \$2 each, they were probably just for simple repairs, and not part of a practicing trade. The house furnishings were not itemized by room, so not a lot can be made of it. There were two old stoves, though it is not clear whether they were still being used for heating any of the rooms or for cooking, and at least two fireplaces had andirons. Several rooms had window curtains, though most were of little value, and several rooms had carpets on the floor. Perhaps most interesting was the seven yards of homemade cloth, though a loom was not found in the inventory. Watkins may have purchased this from a local weaver to make clothing for his slaves, but by 1840 textile mills were producing much of the cloth being used in this country.³

In his will Watkins ordered that nothing be done with his property for five years, giving his family time to live there and come of age. He left his "quarter place," which was "Richland," to his wife for life, and then it was to be sold. She was also to get "one room in my present dwelling house" for life. All other real estate was to go to their second son, John, since the other children had already received their shares, and all of them would divide the personal property. John was also required to pay his siblings \$800 in exchange for his inheritance. In 1843 John S. Watkins was assessed for five horses, two cattle, a yoke of oxen, and three sheep. The 1850 agricultural census suggests that John Watkins was

² Federal Direct Tax, 1798, Maryland State Archives, <http://aomol.net/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000729/html/>. *Annapolis Maryland Gazette*, 10 March 1803, p. 4, col. 1.

³ Gassaway Watkins Estate, Inventory WG 1-20, Register of Wills, Howard District, Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, Maryland State Archives.

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Inventory No. HO-18

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

following much the same strategy as his father on the farm. He had six horses, one milch cow, two oxen, one other cow, nine sheep and 22 hogs, and his crops were the same: wheat, corn, potatoes, and hay. Wool was a natural byproduct of his livestock, but by 1860 he had disposed of his sheep and now had seven milch cows. Butter seems to have been a more important product for the farm, since he had produced 350 lbs. versus 50 a decade earlier. Watkins was still using oxen as his draft animals through 1870, but by 1880 seems to have switched over to using only horses; not only did he have no oxen, but he had increased his horses from five in 1860 to 10 in 1870 and 13 in 1880. Watkins also seems to have begun to switch away from butter. In 1870 he had 10 milch cows and produced 300 lbs., but by 1880 was down to 3 milch cows and only 100 lbs. In 1870 the emphasis seems to have been on meat production; Watkins had 16 other cattle that were probably beef steers, and 23 hogs. In 1880 he still had 17 hogs, but only three other cattle, and now had 30 chickens. His farm operation seems to have shifted away from meat to eggs, though there was still some emphasis on meat. These changes may be related to the growth of Baltimore and changing demand there.⁴

John Watkins mortgaged "Walnut Grove" in 1883 and was shortly foreclosed upon. He was clearly near the end of his working life, and probably could not keep up with the demands of the farm. It was sold at auction in 1887, and was described at that time as having been heavily limed, since there was "abundant limestone on the premises." The only mention of buildings was simply the "large and comfortable stone dwelling and necessary outbuildings." The farm was purchased by J. Thomas Clark for \$7,900, or \$40 an acre. By 1895 Clark was being foreclosed upon, leading to another public auction. The sale ad for this auction calls it "the farm known as 'Walnut Grove,' which is the first document to give it this name. The ad also simply noted that "it has upon it valuable limestone quarries ... and the improvements consist of a handsome stone dwelling of ample dimensions and necessary outbuildings." "Walnut Grove" was bought by Gov. Edwin Warfield, who was a grandson of Col. Gassaway Watkins, and was the attorney handling the sale of the farm. He held onto it until 1919, though he did not live there. It was sold to his daughter Carrie W. Harris. In 1932 Harris defaulted on the mortgage and the farm was sold to Walnut Grove Corp., a company owned by T. Stockton Matthews. The deed for the farm included livestock and machinery, such as "twenty ewes; six Chester white sows; 1 Chester white hog; fifteen shoats, white; 2 gray horses, about ten years old; 1 black mare with two white hind feet; 1 black mare; 1 bay mare; 10 cows; 1 bull; 1 new International tractor; ... 1 tractor plow, John Deere; ... 1 McCormick mower; ... 2 riding cultivators, Deere and International; ... 1 McCormick Deering binder; 1 International manure spreader...." Clearly, the Harris family had switched to mechanized farming, but the horses suggest that they still used animals for some tasks on the farm, and Matthews must have intended to follow the pattern they had set. Matthews was a Baltimore banker, and this seems to have been a

⁴ Gassaway Watkins Estate, Will WG1-9, Register of Wills, Howard District, Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, Maryland State Archives. Howard County Commissioners, Transfer Book, 1841-51, (1843) pp. 21-22, Maryland State Archives. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Census, District 5, Howard County, Maryland, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-18

Name

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Number 8 Page 4

common pattern in Howard County, where farms were purchased and run by businessmen and lawyers located in Baltimore or Washington, D. C. in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries. The 1887 ad described it as "a most desirable property for a gentleman seeking a country residence," and this seems to have become its role by the time the governor purchased it. A 1940 photograph shows the house much as it appears today. After Matthews' death "Walnut Grove" was purchased by another Baltimore businessman, W. Sears Hebb, in 1959. His son sold it in 1983 to Frank J. DeFrancis, who owned several racetracks and was prominent in the Maryland horse-racing industry. The house remains in the family, though much of the land is in the process of being developed.⁵

The house itself was built in one period, but has had numerous renovations since then. Most of the original window and door architrave appears to have been stripped of its backband and covered by new trim in the 1980s or '90s. One backband survives on the rear doorway, and it has a quirked ogee and bead that probably dates to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The mantels, all of which have been taken off and re-installed (they could be replaced, though there is no documentation regarding this) when the fireboxes were rebuilt, have some Greek moulding profiles, and one has a lancet-profile moulding, all of which would be more common after 1820, though not unheard of in the 1810s. The use of paired rabbets on some of the mantel pilasters and the stair stringer is also more common after 1820. The newel posts are virtually identical to those in the McLaughlin-Campbell-Lauman Building (HO-98), which dates to 1831, though this profile might be found any time in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The run plaster cornices of the two south rooms are also consistent with the first quarter of the nineteenth century, but could date as late as the 1840s. Despite the fact that these two rooms were identical, there was no communication between them, originally; the doorway here was cut through at an unknown date. Double parlors with folding or sliding doors, or occasionally just a wide opening, between them began to be popular in the early nineteenth century and by the 1830s were very common in houses large enough to accommodate them. There are several locks in the house manufactured by Franklin Johnson, in Baltimore. He was in business in the 1840s.

The house, then, seems to have been built by Gassaway Watkins between c. 1803 and c. 1830, and most likely in the 1810s. What happened to the earlier brick house is not known. It would seem that John Watkins made some improvements to the house shortly after inheriting it, and some of the doors appear to have been replaced along with the locks. John Watkins may also have been responsible for the plaster cornices at the same time. The northeast room originally had a built-in cupboard to the east side of the fireplace, but this was removed and replaced with identical cupboards on each side of the fireplace, probably in the early 20th century. The dormers and sun porch were probably added at the same time,

⁵ *Baltimore Sun*, 7 November 1887, Supplement, p. 1, col. 3. *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 9 March 1895, p. 2, col. 5. Warfield, *Founders*, p. 416. Holland, *Old Homes and Families*, p. 360. Howard County Land Records, BM. Jr. 144-473. "A Renaissance Noted in Old Howard County," *Baltimore Sun*, 9 June 1940, Sec. 1, p. 3, cols. 1-4.

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Name
Continuation Sheet

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and the stonework re-pointed with an unfortunate raised "V" profile. The second story plan has been greatly altered, and unsympathetic changes made, mostly during the 1980s or '90s renovations. The front cornice had been replaced at an unknown date, but there was an original cornice on the rear elevation that was covered by aluminum in September 2009, when "Walnut Grove" was used as a decorator's show-house. The Colonial Revival front door surround seems to date to the most recent renovation, and this might be the time that the wall and doorway beneath the stairs, leading to the basement, was removed. Both of these were unfortunate alterations, though the door surround could be easily removed and probably did not do harm to any original building fabric. The so-called slave pit is an unusual feature, regardless of when it was built, or for what exact purpose, and must have been intended, whenever it was built, to give access to the basement kitchen and must have provided a work yard off of the kitchen that would have been mostly hidden from view from the house and grounds.

The stone outbuilding behind the house was probably an icehouse. There were several other buildings near the house that were noted in earlier surveys, but not examined, and they have since disappeared. A number of other outbuildings, reportedly post-dating World War II, were demolished before they could be recorded. A Phase I archaeological survey of Walnut Grove did not find any significant artifacts related to the Gassaway Watkins or Col. John Dorsey periods of occupation, though it did not explore the area immediately around the house.⁶

⁶ Hornum, Michael B., et al. "Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Proposed Development of the Walnut Grove Property, Howard County, Maryland." Frederick, MD: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., for Heritage Realty & Land Development, June 2006.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-18

● See footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 37.32 A
Acreage of historical setting 152 A
Quadrangle name Clarksville Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the property lines for tax map 28, parcel 74, which includes all of the historic resources on the site.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	December 2009
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	Maryland

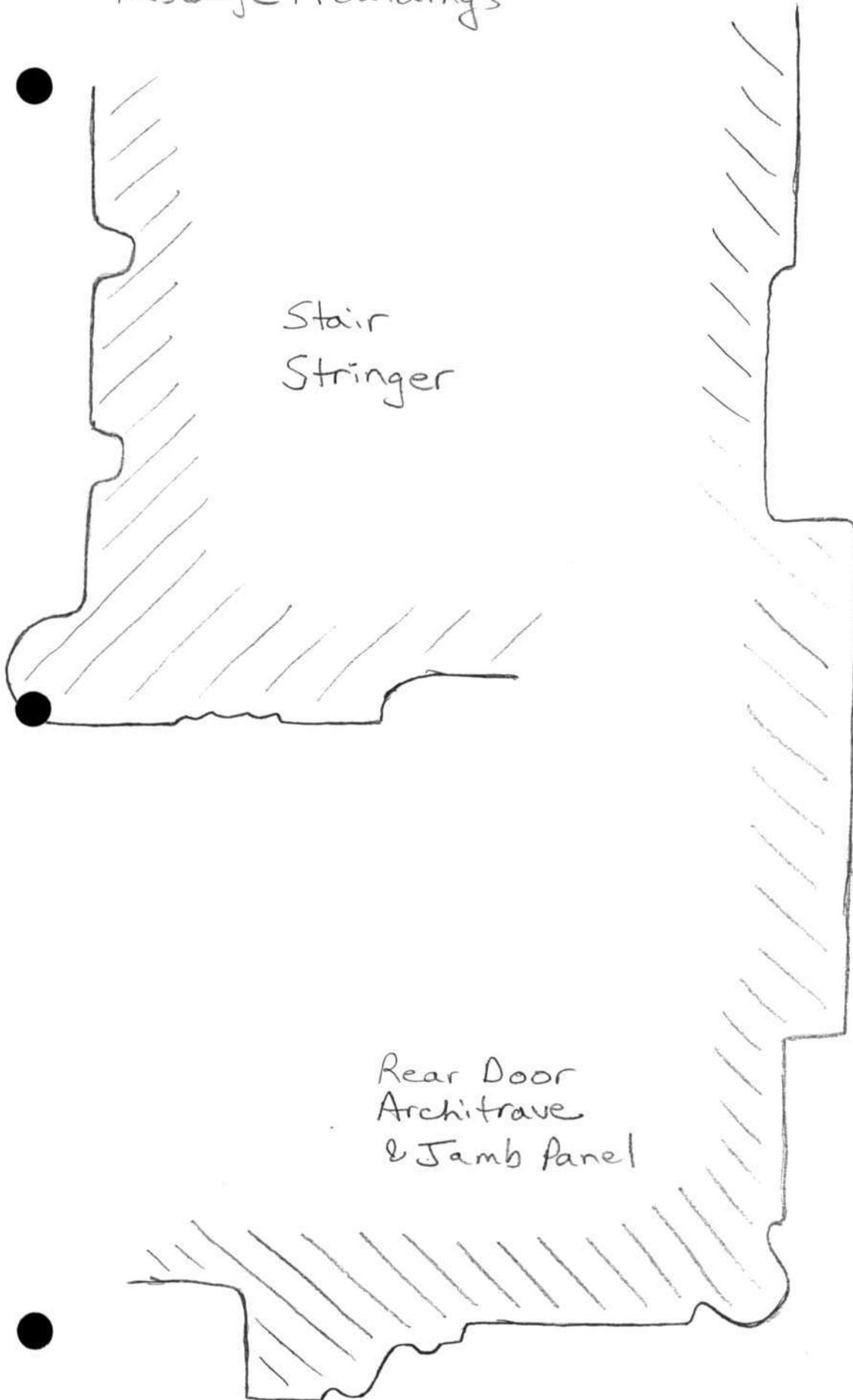
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

1/6 Walnut Grove HO-18
Passage Mouldings

KMS
4 Sept. '09

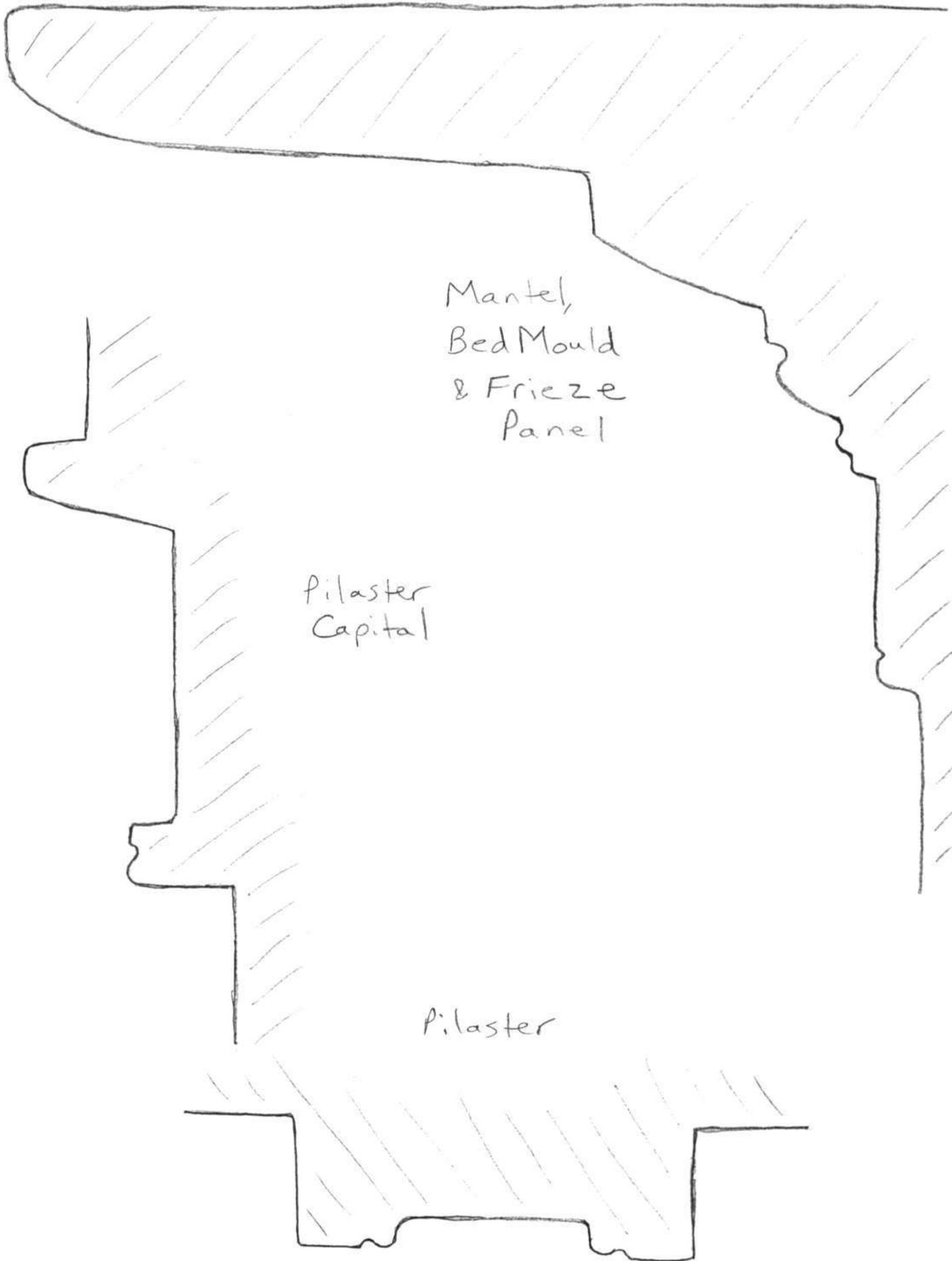


Stair
Stringer

Rear Door
Architrave
& Jamb Panel

2/6 Walnut Grove 140-18
NE Room Mantel

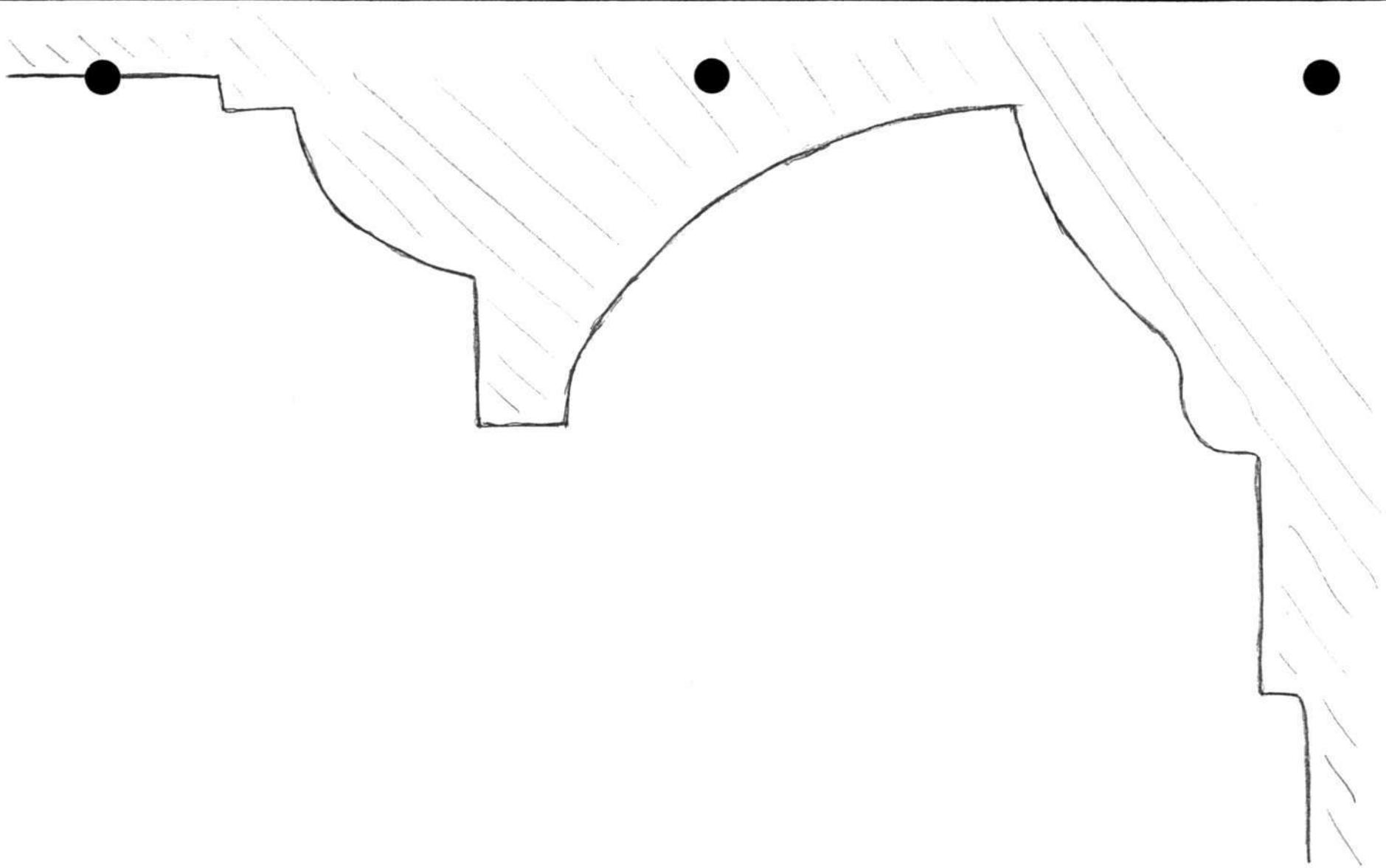
KMS
4 Sept. '09



3/6 Walnut Grove HO-18
SE Room Mantel

KMS
4 Sept. '09



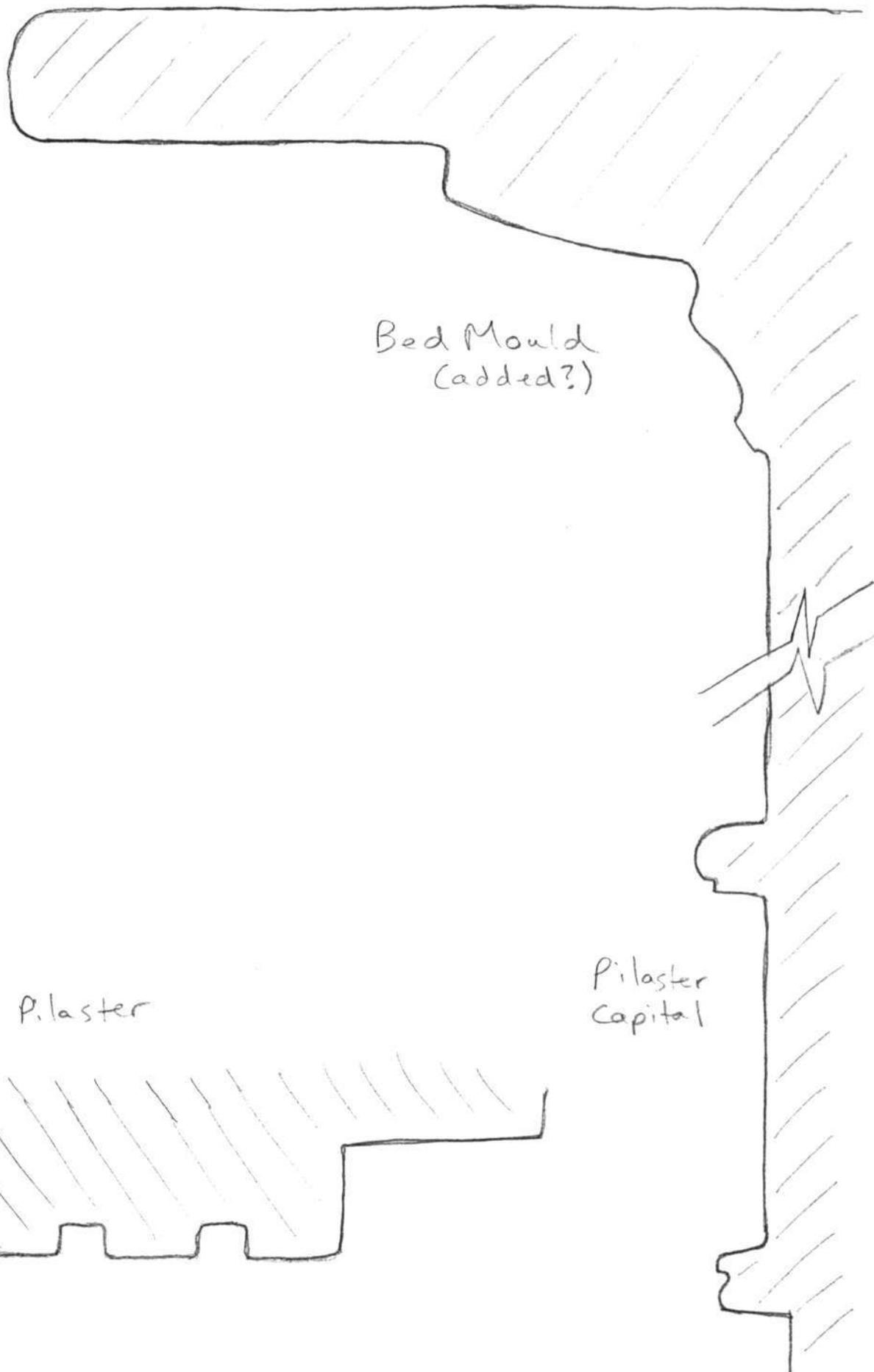


4/6 Walnut Grove HO-18
SE Room Cornice

KMS
4 Sept. '09

5/6 Walnut Grove HO-18
NE Chamber Mantel

KMS
4 Sept. '09



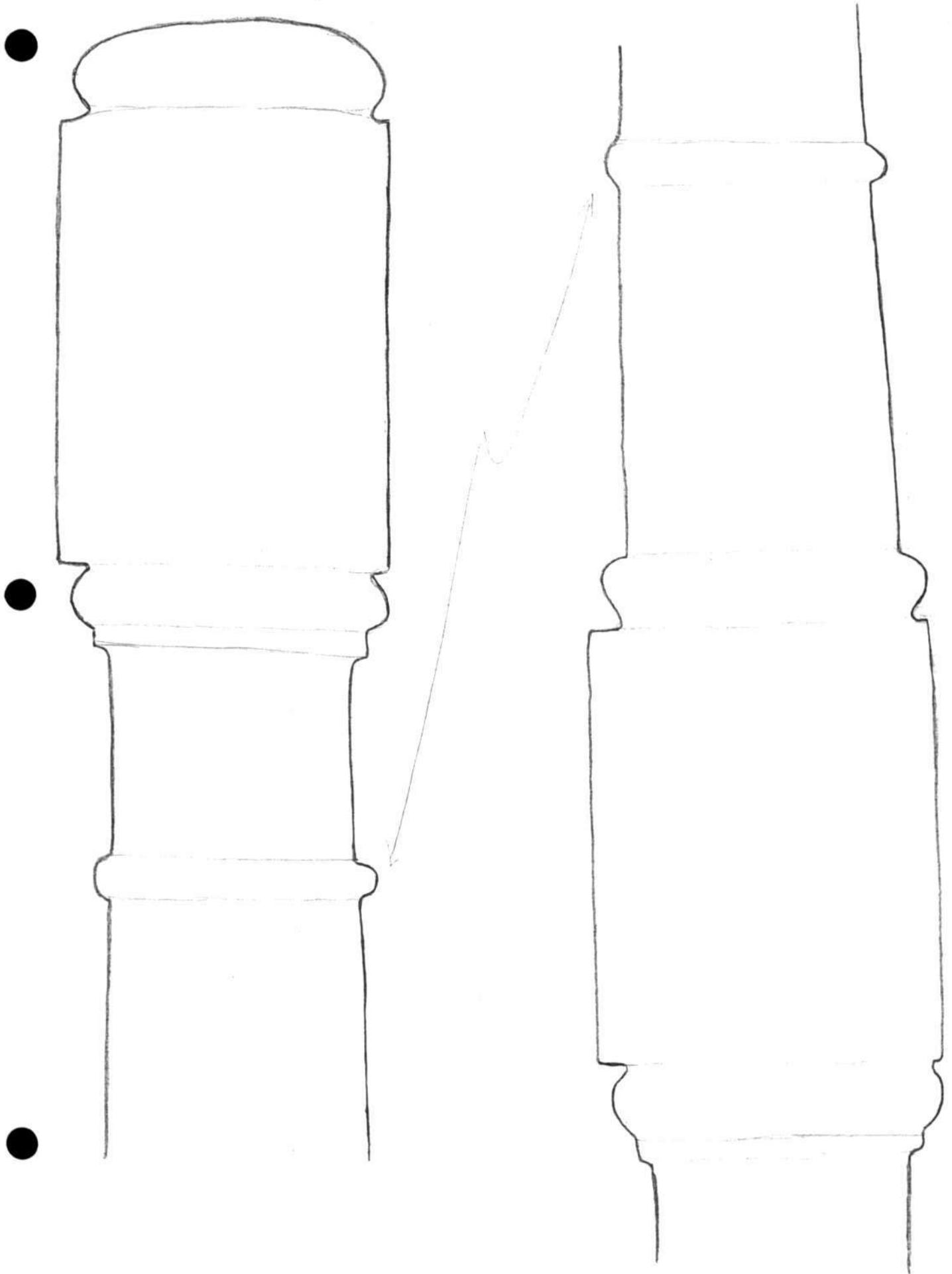
Bed Mould
(added?)

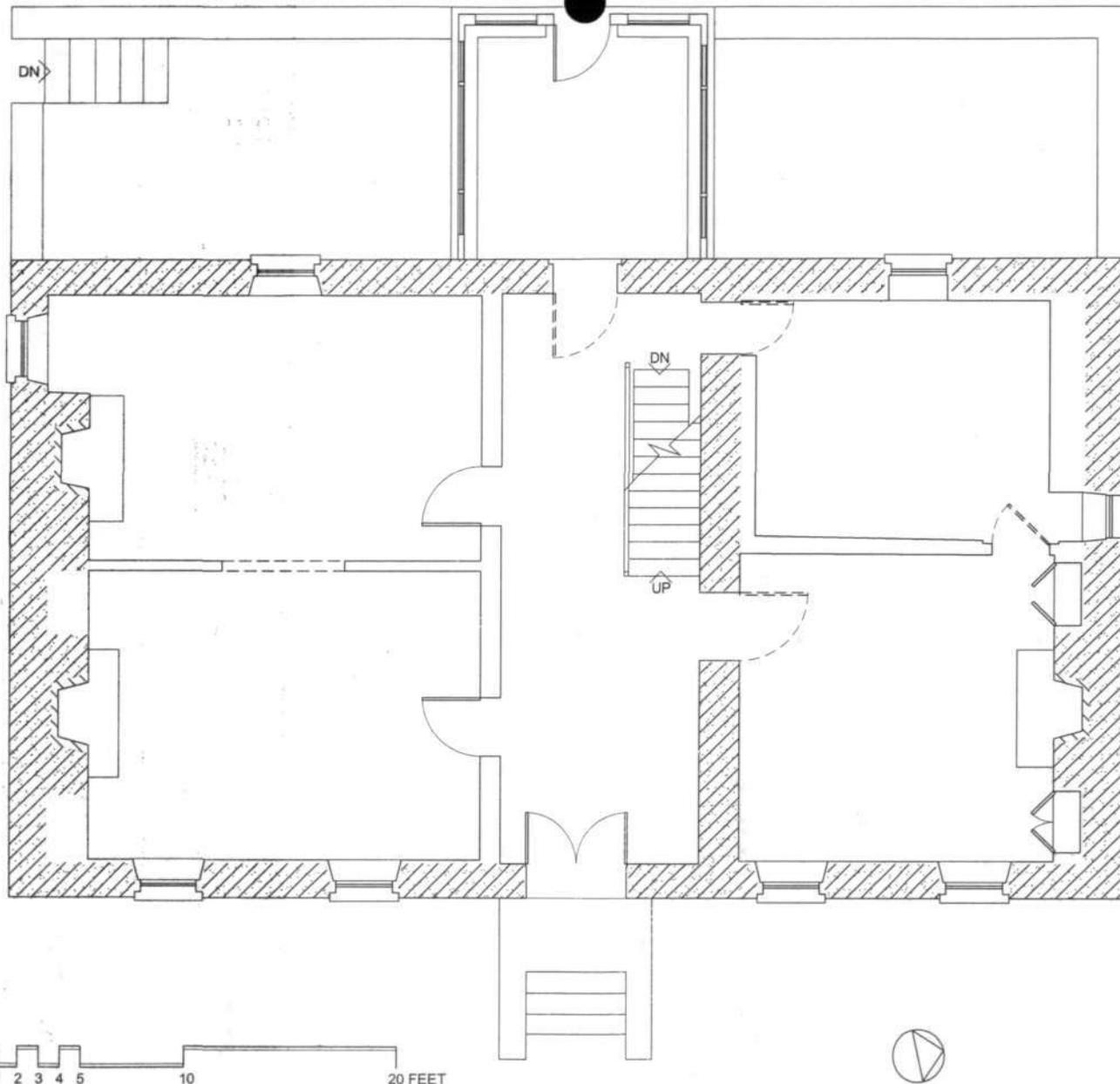
Pilaster

Pilaster
Capital

6/6 Walnut Grove HO-18
Second Story Newel Post

KMS
15 Sept. '09





HO-18 WALNUT GROVE 5192 SHEPPARD LANE

FIRST FLOOR PLAN -- MEASURED BY KEN SHORT & THOMAS REINHART -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- SEPTEMBER 2009

8
 "Walnut Grove"
 5192 Sheppard Lane

Ho-18

CHAIN OF TITLE

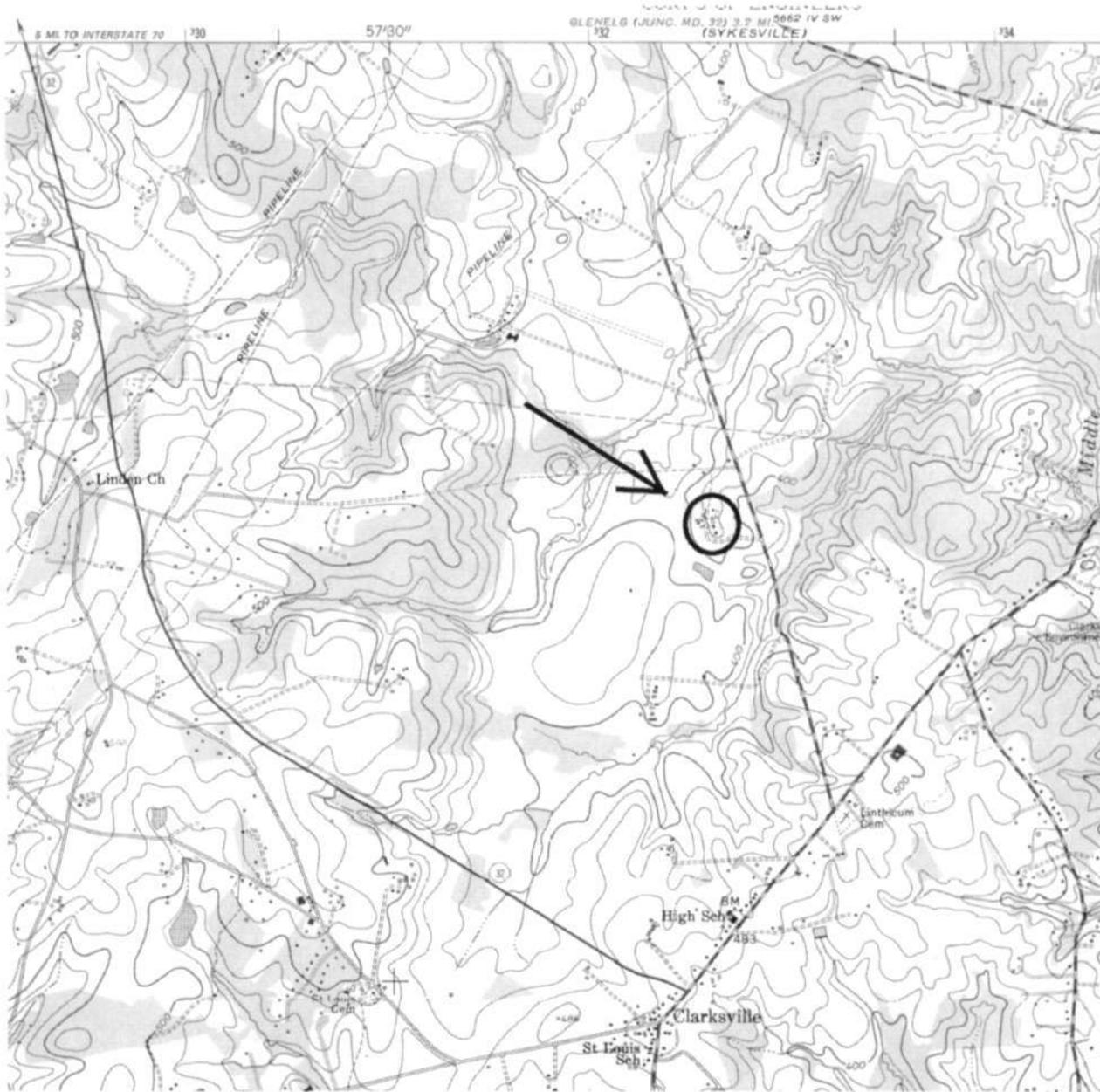
GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Walnut Grove Holding, LLC/MD	Karin Marie van Dyke/?	6/28/07	MDR 10914-33	Confirma- tory Deed - Fee Simple	\$0	?	Subdivision of Walnut Grove created. Confirms what each party owns. Buildable parcel A, Non-buildable Parcels B-I, K & L, Bulk parcel J – plats MDR 19220, 19227 & 20 ft ingress on pres. parcel H
Karin Marie van Dyke/?	Walnut Grove Holding LLC/MD	12/23/05	MDR 9737-237	Deed – Fee Simple	\$0	?	"Except the existing residence of the party of the first part and the preservation parcel on which it is situate."
Frank J. DeFrancis Revocable Trust & Joseph A. DeFrancis, Trustee/?	Karin Marie Van Dyke/?	6/13/96	MDR 7161-86	Deed – Fee Simple	\$0	?	See plat 4259 – Chapel Chase easement for access to Linden Church Road
Joseph DeFrancis, Alec P. Courtelis, personal representatives of estate of Frank J. DeFrancis	Joseph A. DeFrancis, Alec P. Courtelis, trustees of Frank J. DeFrancis Revocable Trust	7/9/93	MDR 2927-487	Quit-Claim Deed – Fee Simple	\$0	205.1882 A.	F. J. DeFrancis d. 8/18/1989 Walnut Grove Farm, 5192 Sheppard Lane
William S. Hebb, II Personal Representative of Lorraine D. Hebb/ Howard	Frank J. DeFrancis/?	6/28/1983	CMP 1170-176	Deed – Fee Simple	\$1,000,000	205.1882 A.	William S. Hebb d. 5/22/1973 Lorraine D. Hebb d. 12/23/1980
Union Trust Co. MD William A. Graham, Execs. Of T. Stockton Matthews	William Sears Hebb & wife Lorraine Dorsey/ Howard	1/12/1959	RHM 326-283	Deed – Fee Simple	\$100,000	256.227 A.	TSM Will RLP 11-308
Walnut Grove Corp./ MD	T. Stockton Matthews/?	3/23/1953	MWB 242-303	Deed – Fee Simple	\$5.00	1. 177-7 A. 21 ½ -4+ A. 2. 62-1-16 ARP 7 ¼ A	
Joseph L. Donovan, Atty./ Howard Charles W. & Mary A. Ray, Roger B. Farquhar, Jr. & Emily/ Sandy Springs, Montgomery County	Walnut Grove Corp.	11/10/1932	BM, Jr. 144-473	Deed – Fee Simple	\$9,056.50	1. 177-7 A. 21 ½ -4+ A. 2. 62-1-16 ARP 7 ¼ A	Public Sale 9/3/1932 Equity 3295- default on mortgage Carrie W. Harris & husband to Eureka Maryland Assurance Corp. 1931 HSK141-193 Ray bought and sold to Farquhar who sold to

H 8
 "Walnut Grove"
 5192 Sheppard Lane

40-18

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
							Walnut Grove
Edwin & Emma N. Warfield (H/W)/Howard	Carrie W. Harris	11/3/1919	HBN 111-173	Deed - Fee Simple	\$27,000	270A +/-	
Joshua N. Warfield & wife Lucie W./Howard	Edwin Warfield/?	12/4/1895	ACR 65-21	Deed - Fee Simple	\$6,825	W. 177 A. X. 21 1/2 A. = 197 1/2 A.	W. P/O Browns Chance & Dorsey's Friendship - now Walnut Grove X. P/O Alltogether
William P. Parlett & wife Annie/Howard William H. Gorman, guardian	Edwin Warfield/?	2/15/1896	ACR 65-189	Deed - Fee Simple	\$2,088	A. 62-1-16 ARP B. 7 1/4 A.	A. P/O Hayland Farm B. P/O Whitewine & Claret
J. Thomas Clark, William H. Gorman, Trustees	William D. Parlett	1/22/1895	JHO 62-552				
Edwin Warfield, Atty./?	Joshua N. Warfield/?	11/26/1895	64-113	Deed - Fee Simple	\$6,825	177 A. & 21 1/2 A. = 197 1/2 A.	Public sale 3/30/1895 mort. J. Thomas Clark to Mary J. Nicodemus 1/9/1888 LJW 52- 636 - Walnut Grove
William Clark, J. Thomas Clark, admins. Of will of William Clark/Howard	J. Thomas Clark/?	1/7/1888	52-633	Deed - ?	\$40/A. \$7,900	177 A. 20 1/2 A	Power of sale from John S, Watkins to William Clark LJW 49-380, 6/27/1885 public auction 11/9/1887 Equity - Clark v. Watkins - Family graveyard ≈ 1/8 A.
Gassaway Watkins	John S. Watkins	Written 3/23/1840 Probated 7/21/1840	Wills WG 1-9	Bequest			
Richard Ridgely, trustee for Philemon Dorsey, lunatic/Anne Arundel Co.	Col. Gassaway Watkins/ Anne Arundel Co.	1/23/1817	WSG 5-166	Deed Indenture	\$17.25/A \$242.21 + \$6.45 interest	152 A.	Public Sale decree 9/21/1799 by chancellor of MD Browns Chance & Dorsey's Friendship



HO-18
"Walnut Grove"
5192 Sheppard Lane
Clarksville quad

HO-18
"Walnut Grove"
5192 Sheppard Lane
Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera
HP Premium Plus paper
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-0018_2009-09-04_01
House, east elevation

HO-0018_2009-09-04_09
Icehouse, south & east elevations

HO-0018_2009-09-04_02
House, south & west elevations

HO-0018_2009-09-04_10
Shed, south & east elevations

HO-0018_2009-09-04_03
House, west & north elevations

HO-0018_2009-09-04_04
House, passage, view northwest

HO-0018_2009-09-04_05
House, southeast room, view southwest

HO-0018_2009-09-04_06
House, southeast room, mantel detail

HO-0018_2009-09-04_07
House, northeast room, view northeast

HO-0018_2009-09-04_08
House, northeast room, mantel detail



H0-18

Walnut Grove

5192 Sheppard Lane

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Sept. 4, 2009

MD SHPO

House, East Elevation

1/10



H0-18

Walnut Grove

5192 Sheppard Lane

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Sept. 4, 2009

MD SHPO

House, South $\frac{1}{2}$, West Elevations

2/10



HO-18

Walnut Grove

5192 Sheppard Lane

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Sept. 4, 2009

MD SHPO

House, west & North Elevations

3/10



H0-18

Walnut Grove
5192 Sheppard Lane
Howard County, MD
Ken Short

Sept. 4, 2009

MD SHPO

House, passage, view northwest

4/10



H0-18

Walnut Grove

5192 Sheppard's Lane

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Sept. 4, 2009

MD SAFO

House, Southeast room, view Southwest

5/10



H0-18
Walnut Grove
5192 Sheppard's Lane
Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Sept. 4, 2009

MD SHPO

House, Southeast room, mantel detail

6/10



HO-18

Walnut Grove

5192 Sheppard Lane

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Sept. 4, 2009

MD SHPO

House, northeast room, view northeast

7/10



H0-18

Walnut Grove

592 Sheppard Lane

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Sept. 4, 2009

MD SHPS

House, northeast room, mantel clock

3/10



HO-18

Walnut Grove

5192 Sheppard Lane

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Sept. 4, 2009

MD SHPO

Icehouse, south & east elevations

9/10



H0-18

Walnut Grove

592 Sheppard Lane

Howard County MD

Ken Short

Sept. 4, 2009

MD SHPO

Shed, South ? East elevations

10/10

HO-18
WALNUT GROVE
Clarksville
Private

Circa 1785

Walnut Grove is a two and a half story five bay wide, two bay deep gabled roof stone structure which features exceptionally fine quoining and unusual projecting mortar work. Its central rectangular east and west entrances are surmounted by transoms and connected by a central hallway.

The building's north and south walls hold double chimneys which are partially connected, an unusual feature since they more frequently are connected in such a way as to appear as one massive chimney with separate flues indistinguishable.

The roof treatment of the three dormer windows is similar to Howard Lodge with its central dormer holding a double window surmounted by a single closed pediment and flanked by single window gabled roof dormers, whose windows hold six-over-six lites, also surmounted by single closed pediments. Dependencies lie west and north of the house with a square tent roofed stone well house connected to slave pits which lie on either side of the west porch entrance.

The land on which Walnut Grove stands was a grant of 574 acres which Thomas Browne, "the Patuxent Ranger" received because of his friendship with Captain John Dorsey. He called it "Brown's Chance and Captain Dorsey's Friendship" later selling it to him and relocating in the Woodstock area.

Walnut Grove was built circa 1785 by Coloney Gassaway Watkins who served in the Revolution from 1776-1783, acquiring the property through his marriage to Ruth Dorsey of Brown's Chance.

An unusually fine old home located on Howard County's richest farm land, Walnut Grove is exceptionally well maintained by its present owner Mrs. W. Sears Hebb.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME						
COMMON: Walnut Grove						
AND/OR HISTORIC:						
2. LOCATION						
STREET AND NUMBER: 5192 Sheppard Lane						
CITY OR TOWN: Clarksville, Maryland 21029						
STATE			COUNTY: Howard			
3. CLASSIFICATION						
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY						
OWNER'S NAME: Mr. & Mrs. W. Sears Hebb (Telephone: 531-5404)						
STREET AND NUMBER: 5192 Sheppard Lane						
CITY OR TOWN: Clarksville			STATE: Maryland			
			21029			
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION						
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records						
STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Courthouse						
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City			STATE: Maryland			
			21043			
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Tax map 28; Blk 14						
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS						
TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory State 1976						
DATE OF SURVEY: 1976 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local						
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust						
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 Statehouse Circle						
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis,			STATE: Maryland			
			21401			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <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 style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncltered </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>From Route 29, go west 6 miles on 108 until you reach Sheppard Lane on your north side. Take your second left and go up the road which leads to a large stone house, Walnut Grove, surrounded by barns and farmhouses.</p> <p>Walnut Grove is a 2½ story stone house constructed of ashlar stone with exceptionally fine quoining and projecting mortar work. It is five bays wide and two bays deep with central rectangular door and transom facing east.</p> <p>Fenestration is rectangular, double hung with six-over-six lights. All the windows are decorated with flat stone lintels and projecting stone sills.</p> <p>Double brick (laid in running bond brick) chimneys are located on the south and north walls. Three gabled dormer windows are inset into the gabled roof. The north and south dormers hold rectangular windows with six-over-six lights surmounted by a closed pediment while the central bay dormer holds double rectangular windows with six-over-six lites surmounted by a single closed pediment. A simple cornice runs along the gabled roof.</p> <p>A flat roofed porch with first floor wooden railing and matching second floor ballustrade covers the west entrance. Four doric columns rest on stone piles which support the porch roof and ballustrade. The west elevation is similar in all respects to the east elevation with the exception of 1.) the porch and 2) only one first floor window on either side of the central rectangular doorway. A central second floor french door with 5 - 5 lites and 3-lite transom leads on to the second floor porch.</p> <p>A flagstone walkway approaches from the south with a stone wall which is lined with boxwood.</p> <p>A basement entrance is located on the south bay of the west elevation and under the south side of the porch. Casement windows with 4 - 4 lites lie on each side of the basement door.</p> <p>Free standing wrought iron lanterns line the driveway up to the house.</p> <p>A square tent-roofed stone spring house lies west of the house with two tenant frame farmhouses and several white frame outbuildings north-west of it.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Walnut Grove is outstanding historically and architecturally. It is situated on prime agricultural land, Howard County's limestone valley which runs from Glenelg and stops at Walnut Grove with a PH level of 7, not too acidic nor too alkaline.

From 1929-1959 Walnut Grove was left vacant and during that time the floor sank and steel beams had to be put into the house to level them.

A kitchen has been added to the house, taking a portion of the original large dining room on its east side. (In the 1700's the basement was used for preparing food. A five foot fireplace remains). Two very deep pits are located behind the house which were connected to the spring house and were used by slaves. The walls of the house are three and a half feet thick. A central hall holds a major staircase which goes all the way up to the third floor. The interior features original crown molding throughout the house.

A grave yard with 100-125 pound stones lies on the property.

In 1785 Colonel Gassaway Watkins of the Clarksville area a revolutionary war hero, built Walnut Grove for his wife, Ruth Dorsey, daughter of Captain John Dorsey of Brown's Chance.

Celia Holland relates the following brief history of the land which is noteworthy: The land itself, which then totalled some 600 acres, is of interest. On July 3, 1702, Thomas Browne, with Captain John, he called Brown's Chance and Captain Dorsey's Friendship, on which he built a "habitation." Nineteen days later, on July 22, 1702 Charles Carroll the Settler patented the original 7,000 acres of Doohoregan, later spelled Doughoregan.

the Patuxent Ranger", received a grant of 574 acres which, because of his friendship

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holland, Celia. Landmarks of Howard County, Maryland. University Park 1975.
 Interview with Mr. W. Sears Hebb, Jr., son of the owner of Walnut Grove at Walnut Grove, November - 1976.

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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:
 Tax Map 28, Blk 14 p. 74
 326-283
 256.227 Acres

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist		
ORGANIZATION Howard County Office of Planning and Zoning	DATE	
STREET AND NUMBER: 3450 Court House Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City	STATE Maryland	21043

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature _____

HO-18
Walnut Grove
Clarksville, Maryland

(Field Report for Site Visit, June 30, 1984 - Orlando Ridout V,
William J. Pencek, Jr., J. Rodney Little)

Description

Walnut Grove Farm is located on the west side of Shepherd's Lane approximately 1½ miles due north of Clarksville in Howard County, Maryland. The early house and associated buildings are located on high ground with the house oriented on a north-south axis and the principal facade facing east to the road.

The early dwelling house known as Walnut Grove is a large 2½ story stone house measuring five bays wide and two rooms deep. A single flush brick chimney is centered on the north gable and paired flush brick chimneys joined by a brick parapet wall are centered on the south end of the pitched gable roof.

The front facade faces east to Shepherd's Lane. It is a symmetrical five-bay facade with central entrance flanked by two 6/6 windows on each side; five 6/6 windows are ranged across the second story. The entrance consists of double paneled doors below a four-light transom and is framed with paneled soffit and jambs. The three-panel doors and jamb panels have square-section panel profiles typical of the early 19th century. A modern reproduction pilastered door surround has been added in recent years. Small three-light cellar windows are located below each of the four first story windows, flanking the stone steps to the entrance. Two 6/6 pitched roof dormer windows flank a larger central dormer with paired 6/6 sash. These dormers are modern with Federal period detail but may replace early or original dormers.

The stonework on the front facade is laid in relatively random fashion using roughly worked limestone. The corners are accented with larger, more carefully worked rectangular stones creating a quoining effect, and large dressed stones serve as lintels and sills. The sills are particularly refined, with carefully dressed and beveled surfaces to improve the run-off water. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles; the eave is boxed and trimmed with a beaded frieze board below the soffit.

The south gable wall is pierced only by three openings: one 6/6 window in the west bay of the first story, one 6/6 window in the center of the third story, and a single three-light cellar window in the center of the foundation. The stonework on this gable facade is comparable in detail and quality to the front facade. Remnants of early white-wash are visible on the lower portion of the wall, suggesting the foundation may once have been whitewashed.

On the north gable wall, there is a single, narrow 4/4 window offset to right of center on the first story, a pair of 4/4 windows to the east and west on the second story, and a single four-light window in the center of the third story. The stonework matches the front facade; the flush brick chimney is laid in common bond.

On the rear facade, a single door is located in the center bay of the first story, flanked by single 6/6 windows; the north window shows evidence of being converted from a door. On the second, a single door is flanked by one 6/6 window to the north and two 6/6 windows to the south. A two story twentieth century porch is centered on this facade, presumably replacing an earlier, larger porch. The cellar wall is fully exposed on this facade, with doors and windows opening into a pair of small courtyards flanking the rear porch. These walled yards are traditionally referred to as "slave pits", but the source of this term is not known.

The interior of the house is laid out in a full Georgian plan with an unusually wide center stair passage. The stair rises against the north wall of the passage to an intermediate landing against the west wall, then turns 180 degrees and continues to the second story. It is an open-string stair with handsome slender turned newel posts, square balusters, and a simple rounded rail. The carriage piece is rabbeted but otherwise plain. An identical balustrade below the first floor stair serves an open, straight-run stair to the cellar.

There are two large rectangular rooms to the south of the passage, each heated by a fireplace centered on the south gable wall. These two fireplaces are fitted with large, handsome mantel pieces typical of the Greek Revival period (circa 1830-50s). Half-columns flank the fireplace opening and support plain sideblocks, a paneled frieze and a complex molded shelf that breaks forward above the sideblocks. Greek ogee moldings are predominant in combination with series of fillets. Beaded architrave trim with ogee/astragal backband is used throughout the first story, including a large door opening joining the two south parlors. A bolection mold chair rail appears to be a recent feature; the molded baseboard appears to be recent but is typical of the latter half of the nineteenth century. Six-panel doors with mid-nineteenth century panel molds have been refitted with reproduction eighteenth century brass hardware.

To the north of the passage there is one large formal room with fireplace to the northeast, with a smaller kitchen and bath to the northwest. The larger room is heated by a fireplace centered on the north gable wall. This fireplace is fitted with a pilastered Greek Revival mantel and is flanked by built-in cupboards fitted with handsome glass doors. The same Greek Revival architrave trim survives in this room; the chair rail and cornice appear to be modern. The flooring in this room is also narrow replacement flooring, in contrast to the early, wide flooring found in the passage and south parlors.

The northwest room has been renovated on several occasions. The chimney stack survives, but the fireplace has been blocked.

The second floor plan has been modified to a limited extent, but presumably consisted originally of a standard Georgian plan with an unheated chamber at the front or east end of the stair passage. The two rooms to the north of the passage have been altered to form a large master bedroom and closets. Early details on this floor include the paneled soffit and jambs of the openings in the north wall of the passage, three pilastered Greek Revival mantels and all of the original flooring.

The open-string stair continues up to the third story with no change in detail other than the use of two handsomely chamfered newel posts.

The third story has been finished off to form a single large room on either side of the stair passage, which is also partitioned at the east end to form a bath.

The cellar is divided into three rooms at the present: one large room below the first floor passage and south parlors, and two smaller rooms to the north. A large cooking fireplace is located in the west chimney on the south wall; the other chimney bases do not include fireplaces. Hewn ceiling joists remain visible in the north rooms.

Other Structures: At least four other buildings associated with the main house survive on the immediate grounds. These include a gambrel roof tenant house that is said to be of log construction, a small frame house at the edge of the lawn, a meat house and a stone ice house/dairy.

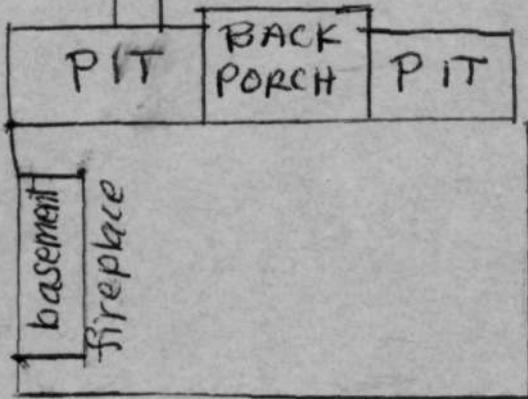
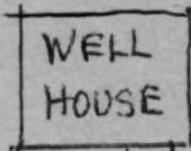
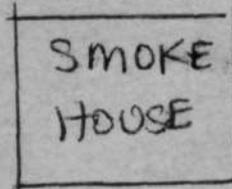
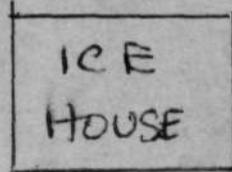
A small family cemetery located to the north of the house is carefully maintained. The tombstones include Colonel Gassaway Watkins (died 1840), Eleanora B. Watkins (third wife of Colonel Watkins; died 1871), John S. Watkins (died 1893), Eliza Linthicum (died 1899), and Harriet Crapster (died 1830).

Walnut Grove
continued

When surveyed, Doughoregan extended "from the Patuxent by a blind path to Thomas Browne's plantation and to four Indian cabins and thence to some oaks." Despite his fame as the original "ranger" in this area, Thomas Browne did not remain on this early grant but sold the land to Captain Dorsey before relocating at Woodstock where he settled. His "habitation" is thought to have been the small two room structure which still stands on the edge of the lawn at Walnut Grove.

For these reasons Walnut Grove should be considered for inclusion into The National Register of Landmarks and any future local landmark legislation.

WALNUT GROVE - PLAN



DBT.
SITE JR.
87/111
14.76A.
P. 67

⑥
P. 134

F. E.
PHILLIPS
479/118
5.00A.
P. 138

P. 71

BALTO GAS & ELECT CO 236/1

P. 29-25

P. 14

P. 29-40

WM. S. HEBB
326/283
256.23A.
P. 74

P. 29-39

WALNUT GROVE TAX MAP 28

R. FRANK
WARFIELD
414/381

HO-18



DIST. 5 HO-18
WALNUT GROVE
CB THOMPSON



HO 18

9290

Walnut Grove

JSE 4/72



40 18

9290

SE April 72

Walnut Grove quest house



H0 18

9290

Walnut Grove out house

JSE Apr '72