

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Ms. Lyons House (site)

2. Location

street & number 3321/3317 St. John's Lane (Now on Ambra Court) not for publicationcity, town Ellicott City vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland 21043 county Howard

3. Classification

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

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

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 176/164

street & number folio 331/20

city, town Ellicott state 21043

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HO-588

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

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

DESCRIPTION

The Lyons House is a stone house constructed in two sections with a frame rear wing dating to a third period. The original house is two stories high, three bays wide and one room deep, with a pitched gable roof.

The principal facade faces west toward the road. The front door is located in the left or north bay with two large windows to the south; three windows are symmetrically placed on the second story. The second story openings retain early 8/8 sash; the first floor sash has been replaced with large 6/6 sash. Heavy pegged wood frames survive, trimmed with ovolo backband. The six-panel entrance door is typical of the late Federal period, with modestly raised panels and late Federal panel molds; there is a four-light transom above the door.

The stonework is of fieldstone, with modestly dressed corner quoining and raised v-section jointing. The cornice has been partially reworked with modern materials, but the bed mold survives. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles; a brick chimney is centered on the south end of the original section.

The north gable wall, facing the driveway, is somewhat unusual in that a secondary entrance door is centered on the first story, allowing access into the stair passage. This opening is fitted with a modern door, but the interior trim matches the original woodwork.

The rear facade is also somewhat unusual in that there is no rear entrance, only two large windows (with replaced 6/6 sash) on the first story and two 8/8 windows on the second story. The stonework on the rear facade is not as carefully executed as on the front and north gable walls. The south gable end is concealed by the Period II addition.

The original house appears to date to the latter part of the Federal period, probably circa 1815-30, based on the overall form, the interior woodwork and the use of riven plaster lath and early machine nails. The house was later enlarged to the south with the construction of a two story, two bay stone section that matches in general size, height and construction materials, but with fewer and smaller openings and lower floor levels. While there has been some discussion that this section might be earlier, the location of the seam between the two sections make that unlikely, and in general character and detail this section appears to date to the mid-19th century or later, with additional interior changes at a still later date.

The front facade of this section includes a modest door in the south bay and a small 6/6 window in the north bay of the first story, and two 6/6 windows on the second story.

See Continuation Sheet No. 1

8. Significance

Survey No. HO-588

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Lyons House is an early 19th century stone house with a mid-19th century stone wing and later rear addition. The main house incorporates a side passage, single parlor plan with at least one important variant. Instead of the usual through passage with front and rear door, the rear door is omitted in favor of a second entrance in the gable wall, facing the driveway. The second floor plan also appears to have been modified, originally consisting of a stair passage and two chambers — a larger heated room in front and a smaller unheated room to the rear.

The house is finished with Federal period details including chair rails, baseboard, architrave trim, two period mantels and a number of six-panel doors. The enclosed stair at the rear of the stair passage is rather unusual for a house of this level of size and finish.

In addition to the main house and wing, there are several significant outbuildings on the property, including a one story stone meat house, a log building said to be a quarter, and two frame buildings are adapted for use as a garage.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HO-588

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Ellicott City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Orlando Ridout V, Chief, Office of Survey and Registration

organization Maryland Historical Trust date May 20, 1987

street & number 21 State Circle telephone (301) 974-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

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

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

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

The south gable is pierced by two 6/6 windows on the first story and a pair of four-light casements on the second story.

The rear facade is concealed by a two story frame addition with a shed roof that appears to date to the late 19th century. The first story fenestration consisted of a central door (still in use) flanked by 6/6 windows (now blocked).

The interior of the main house consists of a side stair passage across the north gable end with a single parlor to the south. The passage is somewhat narrower than usual, and the stair at the rear of the passage is enclosed with vertical, beaded boards. The interior partition is plastered but is very thin suggesting it may have been a beaded board partition that was later plastered. Original Federal period architrave trim, chair rails and baseboard survives throughout the first and second stories of the original house, as well as two handsome Federal mantels and numerous fully raised six-panel Federal doors. Of particular interest are the mantels and a variety of hardware, including one handwrought iron thumb latch, an early wood-cased lock, several hand wrought slide bolts and a variety of mid-19th century door locks.

The second story now consists of a stair passage and a single heated chamber, but a blocked door and evidence of a removed partition suggest that the chamber was once divided into a larger front chamber with a fireplace and a smaller unheated rear chamber, each with doors opening into the passage.

The attic is floored and plastered, with riven lath and early machine nails evident in the knee walls. Later alterations were made in the late 19th or early 20th century.

The interior of the early addition consists of a single room on the first story at grade level, several steps below the floor level of the main house. This section has been extensively altered on several occasions, and the only significant visible feature is a decorative marble mantle of circa 1870s fitted with a Latrobe type stove manufactured by the S. B. Sexton Stove Manufacturing Company of Baltimore (the "Windsor" model).

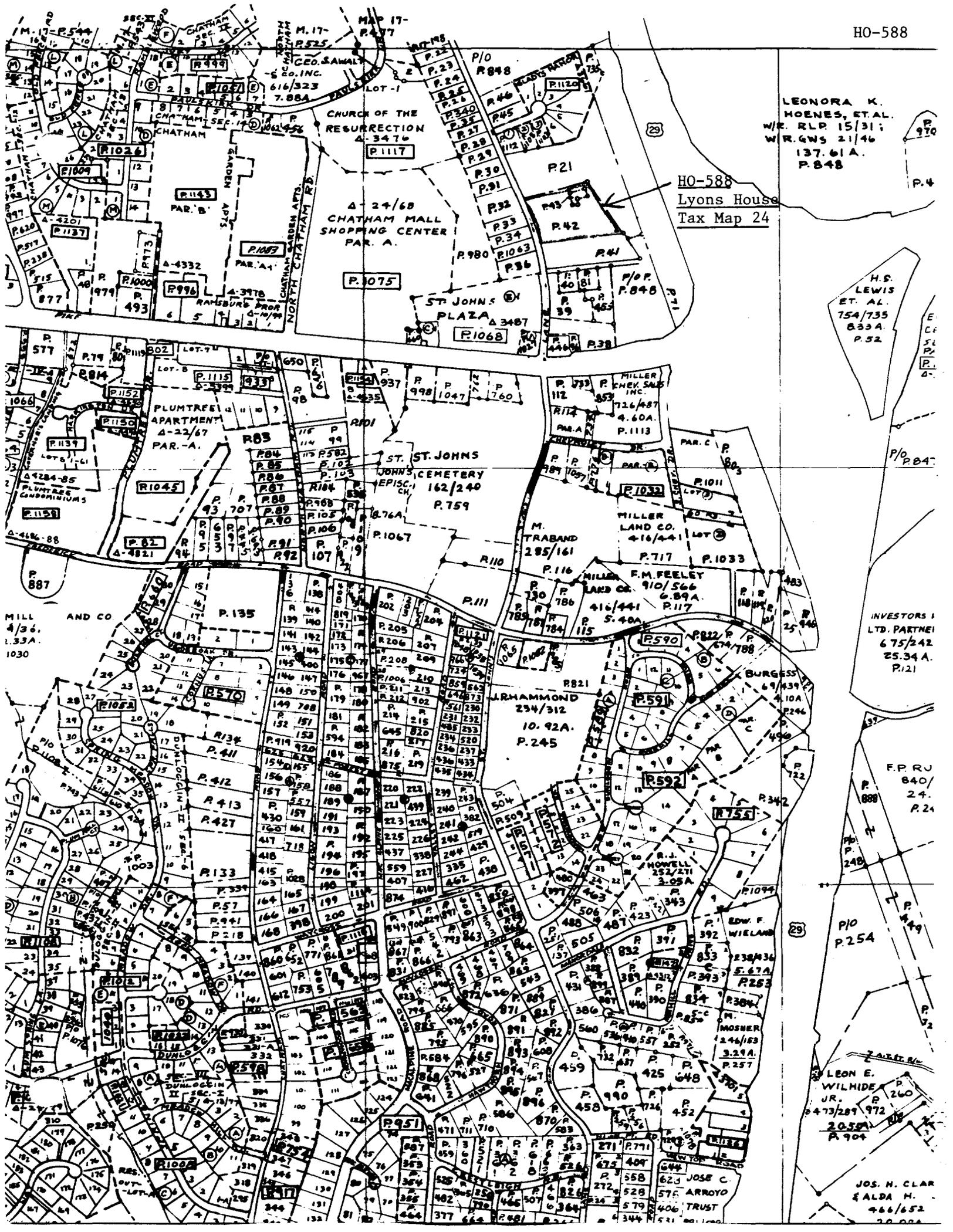
The second story of this section as well as the entire rear lean-to has been altered in plan and renovated on several occasions.

There is a full cellar under the main house, with an arched chimney base, whitewashed walls and ceiling, which consists of undressed log joists and the underside of the first story flooring.

There are two early outbuildings on the site. A large one story stone meat house is located to the rear of the second section of the house, and a one story log building lies to the northeast of the house. It is not clear what function it originally served and although it bears some resemblance to a slave quarter, it seems more likely that it was a

kitchen and wash house. It is somewhat unusual in that it had an asymmetrical two-room plan with a log cross wall and relatively low walls with no evidence of a ground floor or ceiling joists.

The garage adjacent to the log building consists of the frame of a 19th century carriage house with a rebuilt roof and modern asbestos siding covering what is probably original vertical board siding.



LEONORA K. HOENES, ET AL.
 W.R. R.P. 15/31;
 W.R.G.WS 21/46
 137.61 A.
 P.848

HO-588
 Lyons House
 Tax Map 24

H.S. LEWIS ET AL.
 754/735
 833A.
 P.52

INVESTORS I LTD. PARTNEI
 675/242
 25.34 A.
 P.121

F.P.R.U. 840/24.
 P.24

P.10 P.254

LEON E. WILMIDE JR. P.260
 6473/289 972
 20.58 A.
 P.904

JOS. H. CLAR & ALDA H.
 466/652
 20.00 A.



Joins Map 11

39°17'30"

530,000 FT

MD GRID 520,000 FT

39°15'00"

HO-588

- SEE GRID F9
1. COURT AVE
 2. SARAHS LA
 3. COURT PL
 4. STRAWBERRY LA
 5. TIBER ALLEY
 6. MARYLAND AVE
 7. SAINT PAUL ST
 8. SAINT PAUL PL

OR ENLARGEMENT SEE PAGE 22

THE BLUFFS AT ELICOTT MILLS

987

103

21943

2002

ELICOTT CITY

WHEATFIELD

HO-588

Rockland

Good Shepherd Cem

Bethany Ch

Sucker

HO-588
Lyons House
Ellicott City Quad, 1953, PR 1966 & 1972

St. Johns Ch

PIKE

ELLICOTT
(BM 233)

Armory

103

