1. Name  Gittings HaHa

2. Planning Area/Site Number  23/73
3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 10 A-11

4. Address  21030 New Hampshire Avenue, Brookeville

5. Classification Summary
   Category: building
   Ownership: private
   Public Acquisition: NA
   Status: occupied
   Accessible: no
   Present use: private residence
   Previous Survey Recording: M-NCPPC
   (Title and date: Inventory of Historical Sites - 1976)

6. Date: late 18th c.
7. Original Owner: Obed Leeke?

8. Apparent Condition
   a. good
   b. altered
   c. original site

9. Description: This ten bay, two and a half story frame house was one of the early land grant properties in Montgomery County. There are two three bay white clapboarded sections, facing east, and flanked to the north, south and west by modern brick additions. There are three east doors. There are six-over-six double hung windows flanked by black wooden louvered shutters. The house has a gable roof with black asbestos shingles. Included on the grounds is a cemetery.

10. Significance: Gittings HaHa is representative of early County farm dwellings incorporated into several later additions. It bears the distinction of having been the "home farm" for over 1½ centuries of the Leeke and Brown families of Brighton. The 517 acre land grant "Gittings HaHa" was given to Thomas Spriggs and Richard Simmons in 1724. A dwelling is listed in the 1783 Assessment, which may be the nucleus of the house. By 1793, Obed Leeke owned part of the grant, and after his death c. 1820, his son Henry acquired his brother's rights, then sold the land to his nephew, William Brown in 1830. Thus began a century of Brown ownership: William farmed the land with his family and slaves, as later did his son William Washington Brown and his wife Marian. Finally, their son, Charles, sold the "Home Farm" in 1933, reserving rights to the old family cemetery. The land has been gradually partitioned. The present owners have lived there since 1961.

21. Date researched and researcher: July 1978-Roberta Hahn
   Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock
13. Date Compiled: 2/79
14. Designation Approval
15. Acreage: 7.126 acres
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
M: 23/73.
MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
HISTORIC Gittings HaHa

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER 21030 New Hampshire Avenue
CITY, TOWN Brookeville V VICINITY OF Brighton
STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
- _DISTRICT _PUBLIC
- _BUILDING(S) _PRIVATE
- _STRUCTURE _PUBLIC
- _SITE _ACQUISITION
- _OBJECT _IN PROCESS

OWNERSHIP
- _PRIVATE
- _PUBLIC
- _BOTH

STATUS
- _OCCUPIED
- _UNOCCUPIED
- _WORK IN PROGRESS
- _ACCESSIBLE
- _YES: RESTRICTED
- _YES: UNRESTRICTED
- _NO

PRESENT USE
- _AGRICULTURE
- _COMMERCIAL
- _MUSEUM
- _COMMERCIAL
- _EDUCATIONAL
- _PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- _ENTERTAINMENT
- _RELIGIOUS
- _GOVERNMENT
- _SCIENTIFIC
- _INDUSTRIAL
- _TRANSPORTATION
- _MILITARY
- _OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Leo and Gloria Hofman Telephone #: 924-3646
STREET & NUMBER 21030 New Hampshire Avenue
CITY, TOWN Brookeville V VICINITY OF Brighton
STATE, zip code Montgomery, County Courthouse Maryland 20729

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Rockville
STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites
DATE 1976
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office
CITY, TOWN Rockville
STATE Maryland 20855
This two and a half story frame house was one of the early land grant properties in Montgomery County. Built on stone foundations it is a full ten bays across on the east (front) elevation. The house is composed of two, three bay white clapboarded sections, flanked to the north, south, and west by modern brick additions.

A small pedimented porch shields the south door on the east (front) elevation. This has a gable roof which is supported by two chamfered wooden posts. A wooden fence extends north two bays to the second door on the east elevation. A brick walk connects the two doorways. A third door is located at the north end of the east elevation in the brick addition. Finally, a wooden exterior stairway leads to a second story door at the extreme north end of the east elevation. This is an open string, single run stairway with a simple handrail. The two south doors are wooden paneled and hang on strap hinges; the southern most door is surmounted by a four-light transom. The two modern doors in the north brick addition are both wooden paneled.

There are six over six light double-hung windows in the original frame sections and the brick addition as well. These are flanked by black louvered wooden shutters. The house has a gable roof which is covered by asbestos tiles. There are two brick interior chimneys at the north and south ends of the original frame house. A pyramidal bell cot sits on the roof ridge at the north wing.

Entering the house through the south (front) door one comes upon a central east-west hallway. An open string, one run staircase ascends from east to west along the south interior wall. This has a simple rounded hand rail and square balusters. Flanking this hallway to the north is the dining room and to the south is the living room. At the west end of the hall is a pine-paneled breakfast room. North of the dining room is the 1940s brick addition which now contains the kitchen and service rooms. South of the living room is a recent brick addition which houses a study.

There are random width wooden floor boards in the frame section, and narrow wooden floor boards covered by wall to wall carpeting and tiling in the brick additions. Walls and ceilings are plaster over lath; in some cases the walls have been papered. The central hall has wide vertical pine paneling. There are simple narrow molded door frames and six paneled wooden doors throughout the house. In the frame section many doors have early brass door knobs and iron box locks.

The Ha-Ha which was designed to keep livestock from coming up to the house has been reinforced by white-painted cinder blocks. Northwest of the house at a considerable distance is the cemetery. This is a rectangular plot of land set in a cherry orchard on a low hillside. The cemetery is enclosed by a low fieldstone wall which was erected in 1943. A small wooden gate admits the visitor to the lot. There are approximately 13-15 simple headstones bearing the names of Brown, Leeke, and several Revolutionary War soldiers.

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)
"Gittings HaHa" -- Description

Northwest of the house and closer than the cemetery, are three, connected, one story, one room, log, smoke houses. These have V-notched corners and are chinked with poured concrete. The south and north houses have pyramidal roofs and the center house has a shallow gable roof. All are covered by wooden shakes. Attached to the north smokehouse on the north side is a frame shed with a shed roof covered by wooden shakes. To the east of the smokehouses, and northwest of the house is a two part, four room log structure, the grainary. This has two gable roofs (the south section is lower than the north) which is covered by seam metal roofing. Northwest of the house there are approximately 15 garages for cars built in the mid-1940s. Built at the same time as the garages in the 1940s is the fieldstone bomb shelter built into a low hillside southwest of the house along the Ha-Ha.

The land surrounding the house and outbuildings has been beautifully landscaped with lawns, fields, flower and vegetable gardens and a large pond. There is an enormous maple tree northeast of the house which may be two hundred years old.

Brown Cemetery

Sgt. Henry Leeke - 1 Md. - Mil. - Rev. War
Ann Brown - 1770 - Aug. 15, 1883
James Brown - 1761 - 1823
Small Stone, probably child, Z. B.
6 illegible stones; one died 1875
Sarah M. Brown (wife of Marshall) - Aug. 30, 1835
Bla ? - daughter of M. S. Brown died Jan. 2, 1863 (2 yrs. old)
July 8, 1910
"Our Mother" Marie Belt - Aug. 1, 1802 - 2/28/1857

from Linda Layman
January 1968
Ill SIGNIFICANCE  

PERIOD ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION CONSERVATION EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY) 

SPECIFIC DATES probably late 18th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT Local History

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gittings HaHa is a representative of an early Montgomery County farm dwelling which has been incorporated into several later additions. It bears the distinction of having been the "home farm" for over 1½ centuries, of the Leeke and Brown families of Brighton.

The 517 acre land grant known as "Gittings HaHa" was given to Thomas Spriggs and Richard Simmons in 1724. A dwelling is listed on "Gittings HaHa" in the 1783 Assessment, which may have been the nucleus of the subject building. By the 1793 Assessment, the following owned parts of "Gittings HaHa": George Elliott and George Chandlee (18 acres), Richard Green (224 acres), Stephen Holland (117 acres), and Obed Leeks (103 acres).

While the acreage shifted to different owners in varying amounts, Obed Leeke by 1820 owned the 156½ acres on which he lived. He died soon afterward, and in 1822 his son Henry Leeke purchased from his brother Jesse for $300 "all of Jesse Leeke's rights, title claim and interest in all land of father Obed Leeke with improvements and appurtenances".3 (Henry Leeke is buried in the Brown family cemetery behind the main house with the simple marker "Sergt. Henry Leeke, 1 Md. Mil. Rev. War").

In 1830 William Brown purchased from Henry Leeke (his uncle) and the Obed Leeke estate for $675 "all the several undivided shares of land of Obed Leeke with all and singular the improvements".4 Thus began a century of Brown ownership of "Gittings HaHa"; William owned 163 acres, valued at $4.92 per acre.5 William's father James, who owned real property and slaves nearby, died August 22, 1823, and was the first to be buried in the family cemetery; his mother Ann (Leeke) died 8 years later.

By 1840 William Brown's household contained 2 sons, 4 daughters, 1 free colored female, 3 colored male slaves. In 1850, the following resided at "Gittings HaHa": William Brown, 54 years, Male, Farmer, Real Estate owned - $6,500; Marshall Brown, 20 years, Male, Farmer; William W. Brown, 15 years, Male Farmer; Mary Leeke, 45 years, Female; Harriet Brown, 50 years, Female; Elizabeth A. Burditt, 28 years, Female; Sarah Dorsey, 32 years, Female Black; Wm. H. Dorsey, 3 years, Male, Black; Daniel Budd, 17 yrs. Male, Black, Laborer; Ezra Ridgely, 18 yrs. Male, White, Laborer; John Howard, 10 yrs. Male, Black; all born in Maryland.

By 1860 Marshall Brown constructed his own dwelling across the road, but when he and his wife died (he in 1912, she in 1910), they were buried in the family plot behind Gittings HaHa. William Brown retired in his 70s, and lived with son William Washington Brown on the family property of 235 acres;6 William died in 1887 and was buried in the cemetery.

William Washington Brown and his wife Frances Marian Townsend Brown lived on the farm with their sons James, Charles, and Arthur. Marian ran the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (See Attachment Sheet B)
"Gittings HaHa"

Farm after William Washington's death, and when she died in 1922, the brothers agreed that Charles should have the "Home Farm", with James and Arthur farming adjoining lands.

Charles and his wife sold "The Home Farm", with 135 acres, out of the family to Joseph and Irma Gibbons in 1933, with provision that "Ingress and Egress to family burying ground, west of present residence, is hereby reserved by grantors". Through the next years, the land was sold to a number of owners, and it was gradually partitioned (including 15 acres to George Awkward, a longtime farm worker). The present owners purchased the dwelling and 7.126 acres in 1961.

FOOTNOTES:

3. Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, W/185.
4. Ibid, BS2/1+1+6
7. U.S. Census Records, 1860, 1870.
9. Ibid., 560/282.
9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
Montgomery County Tax Assessment Records.
U.S. Census Records.
Scharf, J.T., History of Western Maryland, (L.H. Everts, Philadelphia, 1882).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.126 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE          Roberta Hahn  Candy Reed
ORGANIZATION          Sugarloaf Regional Trails
STREET & NUMBER       Box 87
CITY OR TOWN          Dickerson

DATE July 1978
TELEPHONE 926-4510
STATE Maryland 20753

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
36 Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1433

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
Box 87, Stronghold
Dickerson, Md. 20753
(301) 926-4510
**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**

**INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY**

1. **NAME**
   - HISTORIC
   - AND/OR COMMON
   - Gittings Ha-Ha

2. **LOCATION**
   - STREET & NUMBER
     - 21030 New Hampshire Ave. extended
   - CITY, TOWN
     - Brookeville
   - STATE
     - Maryland
   - VICINITY OF
     - Maryland
   - VICINITY OF
     - Montgomery
   - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
     -

3. **CLASSIFICATION**
   - CATEGORY
     - DISTRICT
     - BUILDING(S)
     - STRUCTURE
     - SITE
     - OBJECT
   - OWNERSHIP
     - PUBLIC
     - PRIVATE
     - BOTH
   - PUBLIC ACQUISITION
     - IN PROCESS
     - BEING CONSIDERED
   - STATUS
     - OCCUPIED
     - UNOCCUPIED
     - WORK IN PROGRESS
     - ACCESSIBLE
     - YES: RESTRICTED
     - YES: UNRESTRICTED
     - NO
   - PRESENT USE
     - AGRICULTURE
     - COMMERCIAL
     - PARK
     - EDUCATIONAL
     - PRIVATE RESIDENCE
     - ENTERTAINMENT
     - RELIGIOUS
     - GOVERNMENT
     - SCIENTIFIC
     - INDUSTRIAL
     - TRANSPORTATION
     - OTHER

4. **OWNER OF PROPERTY**
   - NAME
     - Leo C. Hoffman
   - STREET & NUMBER
     - 21030 New Hampshire Ave. extended
   - CITY, TOWN
     - Brookeville
   - VICINITY OF
     - Maryland
   - STATE, zip code
     - Maryland

5. **LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**
   - COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
     - Montgomery County Courthouse
   - STREET & NUMBER
   - CITY, TOWN
     - Rockville
   - STATE
     - Maryland

6. **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
   - TITLE
   - DATE
   - _FEDERAL_ _STATE_ _COUNTY_ _LOCAL_
   - DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
   - CITY, TOWN
     -
According to the owners, the house was built in 1753. The present structure is a series of extensions and wings. The main house consists of two parts that have been joined under one roof to give it the appearance of a unified, five-bay house. Actually, the east section is a three-bay, Federal style, frame building, with a transom-light door in the west end bay. There is a pedimented portico over this entrance. The siding is random-width clapboard, and the windows are 6/6 on the upper level, and 9/6 below. There is an external brick chimney on the east end wall. Joined to this section is a narrow, three-bay part of equal height with a central door and window sash like that of the east section. The fireplace-type chimney here is internal, however. Joining this part on the west is a lower, two-story brick section, that is set back towards the rear of the house. There are other, newer additions to the east and rear. There are a number of unique outbuildings about the property. These include matched log structures, with newer conical hip roofs covered with shingles. There is also a potato or root cellar dug in the bank, and a turn-of-the-century hay barn.
### PERIOD
- Prehistoric
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
- Archeology: Prehistoric
- Archeology: Historic
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- Exploration/SETTLEMENT
- Industry
- Invention
- Law
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Philosophy
- Politics/Government
- Religion
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Conservation
- Landscape Architecture
- Other Specified

### SPECIFIC DATES

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house belonged to the Brown family for years. They were among the earliest settlers in this region.

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

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

RETURN TO:  Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438
The purpose of this Amendment is to designate the following sites on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation thereby extending to them the protection of the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code.

M: 23/9 Elton
M: 23/29 Fair Hill II
M: 23/31 Pleasant Fields/Sundown Hills
M: 23/58 Gustavus Jones Farm
M: 23/63 Longwood
M: 23/66 Bordley's Choice (Merrywood)
M: 23/71 Far View
M: 23/73 Gittings Ha Ha
M: 23/79 Roslyn Bank Barn
M: 23/84 Brooke Meadow
M: 23/89 Walnut Hill
M: 23/98-4 St. John's Episcopal Church
M: 23/106 Oakdale-Emory United Methodist Church
M: 23/112 Sycamores
M: 23/113-1 Mount Pleasant Church
M: 23/119 Holland Store & House
TO: Richard Ferrara, Director  
    Department of Housing and Community Development  
John L. Menke, Director  
    Department of Environmental Protection  
J. Rodney Little, Director  
    State Historic Preservation Office  
Philip Cantelon, Chairperson  
    Historic Preservation Commission  
FROM: Melissa C. Banach, Coordinator  
    Community Planning North  
SUBJECT: Preliminary Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Northern and Eastern Montgomery County Resources

I am pleased to transmit to you this Preliminary Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Northern and Eastern Montgomery County Resources.

This document contains the recommendations of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission on approximately 80 historic sites located in the Olney, Sandy Spring, Aspen Hill, and Burtonsville areas of the County.

The Montgomery County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on this Preliminary Draft Amendment on Monday, April 21, 1986, at 7:30 P.M., in the Auditorium of the Montgomery Regional Office at 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Should you have any questions concerning this specific Preliminary Draft Amendment, please do not hesitate to contact Marty Reinhart at 495-4565.

MCB:MR:dws  
Attachment
PRELIMINARY DRAFT

AMENDMENT TO THE APPROVED AND ADOPTED MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

NORTHERN AND EASTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES

Including sites located in the Olney, Sandy Spring, Aspen Hill, Norbeck and Burtonsville Areas

March 1986

An amendment to the 1980 Olney Master Plan, 1980 Sandy Spring/Ashton Special Study Plan, 1970 Aspen Hill Master Plan, and the 1981 Eastern Montgomery County Master Plan; being also an amendment to the General Plan for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District and to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County, Maryland.

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760 Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3090
APPENDIX A

SITES NOT RECOMMENDED FOR REGULATION UNDER THE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 24A OF THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CODE

The following sites have been reviewed by the Montgomery
County Historic Preservation Commission and were found not to
merit designation of the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.
If not included in the Master Plan, these resources may be
removed from the LocationalAtlas and Index of Historic Sites in
Montgomery County. If removed from the LocationalAtlas, the
sites will no longer be governed by the Moratorium on Alteration
and Demolition, Section 24A-10 of the County's Historic Preserva-
tion Ordinance. The sites will, however, remain on the Maryland
Historical Trust's Inventory.

The following sites were found by the Preservation Commiss-
ion to be too greatly altered from the period of their architec-
tural or historical significance or not to meet Ordinance
criteria for designation.

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<th>Site</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>18600 Brooke Rd., Ashton</td>
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<td>13/32</td>
<td>Brinklow Store &amp; Post Office</td>
<td>18930 New Hampshire Ave. Brinklow</td>
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<td>15/40</td>
<td>Rawlings Mill House</td>
<td>1820 Tucker Lane, Ashton</td>
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<td>15/44</td>
<td>Pat Cuff House</td>
<td>1515 Ednor Rd., Ednor</td>
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<td>15/48</td>
<td>Chimney Ruins</td>
<td>Oak Hill Rd.-North of Rt. 198, Spencerville</td>
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<td>15/51</td>
<td>Drayton</td>
<td>16000 Oak Hill Road, Silver Spring</td>
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<td>Murphy Ford Log House</td>
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<td>Harriet Lea House</td>
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<td>Dennis Thomas House</td>
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<td>William Belt House</td>
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<td>Fletcher Veitch Farmhouse</td>
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<td>23/74</td>
<td>Log Tenant House</td>
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<tr>
<td>23/88</td>
<td>George Stabler Farmhouse</td>
<td>101 Haviland Mill Road, Brinklow</td>
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Attachment Sheet C
Gittings HaHa

View of side and part of gardens from the southeast. New wing c. 1939, is at left, main house at right.

Gittings HaHa in the distance left, and part of its grounds, and the Antique House Property in the distance right.

Brown family cemetery behind Gittings HaHa

Gittings HaHa showing rear with third story added under the roof. View from west southwest.
View of side from northwest showing c. 1939 wing with main house in the background.

Gittings HaHa from the northeast looking at the front. Wings c. 1939 are to left and right of older middle section.
NAME: Gittings HA HA (BROWN HOUSE)
LOCATION: 21030 N. H. AVE. BROOKEVILLE, MD
FACADE: N
PHOTO TAKEN: 8/14/75 MOWYER