NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received

date entered

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

## 1. Name

historic Brown, Jeremiah, House and Mill Site

and or common

## 2. Location

street & number 1416 Telegraph Road N/A not for publication

city, town Rising Sun X vicinity of Congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Cecil code 015

## 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ___ district | ___ public | X occupied | ___ agriculture | ___ museum |
| X building(s) | X private | ___ unoccupied | X commercial | ___ park |
| ___ structure | ___ both | ___ work in progress | ___ educational | X private residence |
| X site | **Public Acquisition** | **Accessible** | ___ entertainment | ___ religious |
| ___ object | ___ in process | X yes: restricted | ___ government | ___ scientific |
| | ___ being considered | ___ yes: unrestricted | ___ industrial | ___ transportation |
| | X not applicable | ___ no | ___ military | ___ other: |

## 4. Owner of Property

name Edward C. Plumstead

street & number 1416 Telegraph Road

city, town Rising Sun N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21911

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cecil County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Elkton state Maryland 21921

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1969, 1985 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

CE-202; CE-203

| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
|---|---|---|---|
| ___ excellent | ___ deteriorated | ___ unaltered | _X_ original site |
| _X_ good | _X_ ruins | _X_ altered | ___ moved date _____ |
| ___ fair | ___ unexposed | | |

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

Number of Resources

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1 | buildings |
| 4 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 6 | 1 | Total |

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: residential, agricultural, industrial

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Jeremiah Brown House and Mill Site are situated on the south side of MD 273 in a rural section of Cecil County, three miles east of Rising Sun. The Jeremiah Brown House is a two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed stone structure built in 1757. Several stones on the north facade are carved with the initials of local citizens and probable assistants of Jeremiah Brown, Sr. in the construction of his house, including that of the probable stone mason, Morris Reese. Some of the interior woodwork, particularly the staircase, dates from 1757. The rest of the woodwork dates from the Federal period when the fireplaces on the east wall were rebuilt. A two-story, two-bay frame west wing was built in 1904 with materials salvaged from the original 1702 log house built on this site. To the west of the house is a small nineteenth century bank barn. Approximately 1000 feet southeast of the house are the stone foundations of the 1734 Brown Water Corn and Gristmill. A reconstruction of the original mill has been built on top of these foundations. Portions of the original mill race remain. Due north of the mill are the foundations of an eighteenth century saw mill.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The Jeremiah Brown House and Mill Site are located on the south side of Md. Route 273 in a rural area of Cecil County three miles east of Rising Sun. The geography is characterized by gently rolling terrain comprised of cropland and pastureland drained by a branch of the North East Creek. On the approximately 30-acre property are the Jeremiah Brown House (CE-203) a bank barn, the original foundations and a reconstruction of the Brown Water Corn and Gristmill (CE-202), the foundations of a sawmill, foundations of a mill-worker's house, and portions of a mill race.

The Jeremiah Brown House consists of two distinct halves: a two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed stone house built in 1757 by Jeremiah Brown, Sr.; and a two-story, two-bay, gable-roofed frame house built in 1904 by John Clayton on the site of the original 1702 log wing. The house stands on a small rise and faces north towards Md. Route 273.

The older half is built of Pennsylvania limestone and local fieldstone with large squared stones used as quoins. Some attempt was made to lay the stones in fairly regular courses across the north facade, but they are laid randomly on the other three facades. Narrow projecting stones are used above the windows and doors on the first story. There are two semicircular arches at the cellar level on the north facade. These have been filled in with stone, one bearing the date 188___. The stonework on the east facade was considerably altered when the chimney flues were changed in the early nineteenth century. Part of the stonework has also been repointed.

Between the first and second story of the north facade are the supporting joist sockets of the original pent roof. Also visible is the outline of the original second story door. Holes for a balcony railing leading from this door can also be seen. The door was later replaced by the present window and the remaining space filled in. A round-headed niche which once held a datestone is located below the eaves of the north facade.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Several of the stones on the north facade are incised with the initials of local citizens and probable assistants of Jeremiah Brown, Sr. in the building of his house. A few also incorporate the date 1757. The names associated with each set of initials (where known) are as follows:

D. L. David Linch [a stonemason]
E. C. Edward Churchman
I. W. John White, Sr.
J. W. John White, Jr.
A. M. ?
T. H. Thomas Hughes [the builder of the Crossed Keys Tavern in Calvert.]
E. L. ?
M. R. Morris Reese, [the probable stone mason for the house who is recorded as being in Calvert between 1756 and 1795.]
J. B. Jeremiah Brown, Sr.

Only the left-hand window on the first story of the north facade has retained its original 12/12 sash. The right-hand window is a recent restoration and the second story windows were replaced at the turn of the century as were most of the other windows on the house. The pegged door frames on the north and south facades are original, although the paneled door jambs on the north facade are a recent restoration.

The interior has retained its original floor plan of a wide stair hall running back to front with two rooms off it on the east. This is one of the earliest surviving examples in Cecil County of a side-hall, double parlor floor plan, which usually is not found until much later in the eighteenth century. An additional north room is located on the second floor. The staircase, with its exceptional paneling, turned balusters and square newel post and cap, as well as the paneling above the door leading to the cellar, are original. Most of the other woodwork, including chair rail, window and door trim and fireplace mantels are later and are probably contemporaneous with the alteration of the original back-to-back corner fireplaces in favor of the present fireplaces located flush with the east wall. The date 1813 and the initials SP were scratched on the plaster to the right of the fireplace in the south room on the second floor and could indicate the date of these alterations. The mantels are typical of the Federal period and feature short reeded pilasters and a reeded center panel with a wide projecting ledge. Each fireplace (except in the front room on the first floor) is flanked by full-length closets with paneled doors. Some of the closets have been fitted with shelves.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The two-story, two bay, gable-roofed frame wing was built in 1904 on the site of the original frame house built in 1702 by James Brown, father of Jeremiah Brown, Sr. The alterations can be traced from the attic of the stone house. The present wing incorporates wooden members from this early house. Windows and doors are typical of the period and the wing is devoid of exterior decoration. The interior consists of one large room on the first floor and a bedroom and bathroom on the second floor.

A short distance to the west is a small bank barn built on stone foundations. The barn is covered with asbestos siding on the north and east facades, but has retained its vertical board siding on the other two facades. The barn has an open forebay on the south facade.

The stone foundations of the Brown Water Corn and Gristmill built in 1734 are located approximately 1000 feet southeast of and down the hill from the Jeremiah Brown House. Measuring approximately 28 feet by 40 feet, the foundations are oriented east-west with the mill race located to the east. The foundations are built mostly of local fieldstone but also incorporate French burr stones and some late nineteenth century blocks of Port Deposit granite. There is an interior fireplace located at the south west corner.

The original mill building above the foundations was replaced in 1892. This building in turn was destroyed by lightning fire in 1971. The present mill was built based on sketches of the original mill building prepared by the surveyor George Churchman when the property was resurveyed in 1785. The window arrangement on the front and west facades and the shape of the roofline are true to this drawing. Although this reconstruction was accomplished with care and is based upon early documentation, it is considered non-contributing because of its recent construction date.

Located halfway between the mill and Md. Route 273 are the two stone piers of a water-powered sawmill. Although its date of construction is uncertain, it too was shown on the 1785 Churchman survey. Smaller than the gristmill, the one-story saw mill house which once rested upon these piers measured approximately 12 feet by 30 feet. Early photographs and some machinery remain from this mill. The sawmill and gristmill are connected by a mill race, parts of which have been repaired and restored by the present owner.

Approximately half-way between the Jeremiah Brown House and the mill site are the brick and stone foundations of a mil-worker's house, mentioned in property deeds as early as 1785.

# 8. Significance

CE-202; CE-203

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

**Specific dates** Mill 1734 House 1757 **Builder Architect** Morris Reese (stonemason) Jeremiah Brown, Sr., et al

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Applicable Criteria: A, C
Applicable Exceptions: None
Significance Evaluated: Local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Jeremiah Brown House is architecturally significant as a firmly dated, unrestored survivor of the distinctive Pennsylvania Quaker building tradition brought to Maryland in the colonial period. The remains of pent roofs and a second-story door are two distinctive features of this tradition. The most unusual feature, however, is the set of local initials carved into the stone work of the 1757 half of the house; very few buildings in Cecil County offer as much insight into the building process. The house also contains a wealth of original woodwork as well as woodwork from the Federal period. Historically, the house is important as having been built by one of the original settlers of the Nottingham Lots laid out in 1701 by William Penn. Jeremiah Brown was also responsible for the important eighteenth century mills, foundations of which are still on the property. Together with the Jeremiah Brown House, they comprise a significant commercial complex from the colonial era.

**HISTORY AND SUPPORT**

Architecturally the Jeremiah Brown House is important for three reasons: it is an early, mostly unrestored survivor of the distinctive Pennsylvania Quaker building tradition brought to colonial Maryland by William Penn and his followers; the house has a firmly dated and well-documented building history; and it possesses a distinctive set of carved local initials in the stonework, offering unusual insights into the building process.

The house stands on Lot 14 of the Nottingham Lots laid out in 1701 by William Penn. This five-thousand acre tract, spanning parts of both present day Pennsylvania and Maryland, was laid out by Penn to attract settlers to territory disputed between himself and Lord Baltimore. The early settlers brought with them the building traditions they had known elsewhere in Pennsylvania and the stone half of the Jeremiah Brown House possesses a number of important characteristics of Pennsylvania Quaker architecture. Among these are the use of pent roofs, a second-story door, and extensive paneling.

Pent roofs are a distinctive feature of seventh century architecture in Pennsylvania and at one time were a common sight in this part of Cecil County. Nearly all have disappeared or have been removed due to deterioration or changing tastes. Where they are found elsewhere in the county, as at Great House near Chesapeake City and the Veazy-Ford house on Elk Neck, it can be assumed that the builder had ties to the Piedmont.

The placement of a door on the second-story of the main facade is a less common feature of Pennsylvania Quaker architecture. There are no standing unaltered examples of its use in Cecil County. The John Churchman House, near Calvert once had such a door (since restored), as did the now-demolished Miller-Sidwell House built in 1761. An important early example of this feature was also once present at Grumblethorpe, in Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a two-story stone house built in 1760. Its use continued into the early nineteenth century in Pennsylvania as at the Lampeter Inn, built in 1815 in Lampeter, and several brick houses in Smoketown, Pennsylvania. In all cases mentioned, the door led out to a small balcony. The two sockets in the stone work which held the balcony railings are still barely visible at the Jeremiah Brown House.

The Jeremiah Brown House and the nearby archaeological sites are important contributors to the architectural character of the Nottingham Lots, one of the most important collections of eighteenth century architecture in the county. It is one of eight early, definitely dated buildings in this area, thus providing important clues to the building history of the county.

See Continuation Sheet No 5

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

The carved initials of the stonework are seen at only one other house in the county (the nearby Mercer Brown House built in 1746) and illustrate the personal touches which craftsmen were allowed within the Quaker building tradition. Descendants of several of these individuals still reside in the area.

Historically, the house and the grist mill site are important for having been built by one of the original settlers brought to the Nottingham Lots by William Penn in 1701. Lot 14 was granted to James Brown (d. 1714) in 1701 and he and his son Jeremiah Brown (1687-1767) lived in the log house built a year later in 1702. The stone house was built in 1757 for Jeremiah Brown and his second wife May Winter Brown, who died in 1769. The log wing was thereafter used as a shop and store house for the mill until torn down and replaced by the present frame wing in 1904.

The gristmill foundations are important archaeological remains of one of the first commercial enterprises in this part of Cecil County. In 1734 Jeremiah Brown, miller, and William Coale, millwright, received a deed from Mercer Brown, Jr., for construction of a "Water Corn Mill and Gristmill" in "Joynt and Equall Partnership". Located on the colonial road to Newark, Delaware and near the Lancaster-to Baltimore turnpike, the mill thrived and probably encouraged Brown to construct his substantial stone house. The nearby sawmill also contributed to the busy commercial activities of this property in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The mills passed out of the Brown family around 1775, only to be bought back by Howard Brown in 1890. It passed through several subsequent families until its purchase by the family of the present owner in 1946.

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Gifford, G.E., Jr. — **Cecil County Maryland, 1608-11850, As Seen By Some Visitors,** (George Gifford Memorial Committee, Calvert School, Rising Sun, Md., 1974)

Johnston, George — **History of Cecil County Maryland** (Elkton, Md., 1881)

Henry, Helen — "Edward Plumstead's Love is Calvert, in Cecil County, where His Restorations are Making a Tiny Williamsburg in Maryland", **Baltimore Sun Magazine**, (July 29, 1973, pps. 12-17).

Touart, Paul — **Building Traditions of the Nottingham Lotts,** (Maryland Historical Trust, 1981)
**At the Head of the Bay**, (Maryland Historical Trust unpublished manuscript)

Cope, Gilbert — **Browns of Nottingham**, 1864 (privately printed pamphlet)

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION** - Jeremiah Brown House, Rising Sun, Maryland

The boundaries of the nominated property coincide with the legal metes and bounds and enclose the most significant buildings and archaeological sites contained on what was the original Jeremiah Brown property, also known as Lot 14 of the Nottingham Lots. The north boundary is defined by Md. Route 273, an original colonial road which separates the rest of the south lots from the row of north lots in the plan drawn up by William Penn in 1701. Boundaries are depicted on the attached sketch map, drawn to the scale 1"=660'.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References CE-202; CE-203

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 30 acres

Quadrangle name Bayview, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | 18 | 414200 | 4395240 |
| B | 18 | 414200 | 4395030 |
| C | 18 | 413630 | 4395040 |
| D | 18 | 413630 | 4395220 |
| E | | | |
| F | | | |
| G | | | |
| H | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geoffrey B. Henry

organization date 1986

street & number 1515 Rutledge Avenue telephone (804) 293-8006

city or town Charlottesville state Virginia

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 7-13-87

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For NPS use only

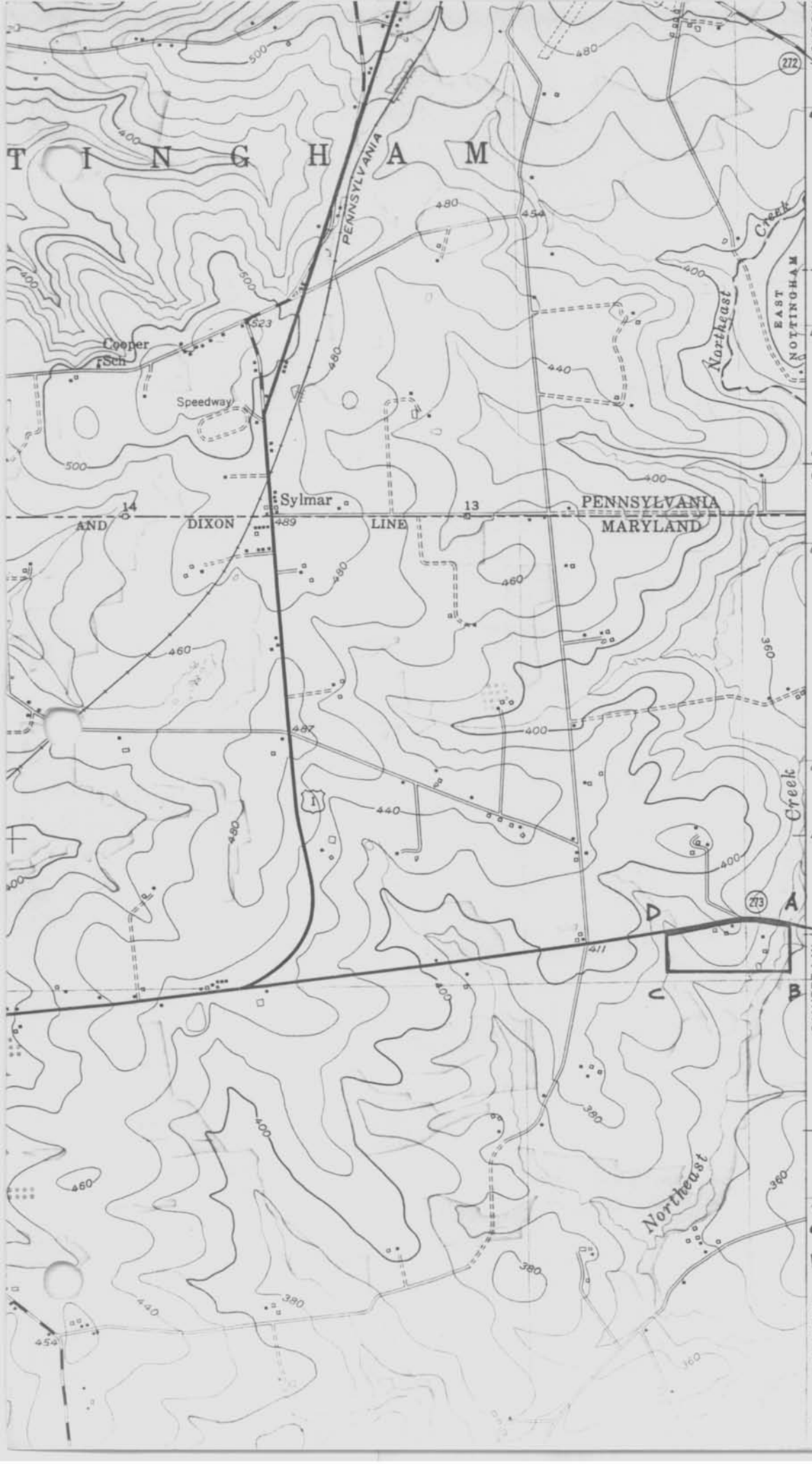
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration


CE-202
CE-203
T I N G H A M
PENNSYLVANIA
Cooper Sch
Speedway
Sylmar
14
13
AND
DIXON
LINE
PENNSYLVANIA
MARYLAND
Northeast
Creek
EAST NOTTINGHAM
690 000 FEET
(MD.)
42'30"
RISING SUN QUAD.
A
B
C
D
CALVERT 1 MI.
NEWARK, DEL. 15 MI.
(BAY VIEW)
5963 III NW
BROWN, JEREMIAH, HOUSE AND MILL SITE
CECIL COUNTY, MD
A: 18-414200-4395240
B: 18-414200-4395030
C: 18-413630-4395040
D: 18-413630-4395220

CE-202 Jeremiah Brown Mill
Rising Sun, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Negatives at MHT
Orig. foundations, east fac. 2/20

CE-202 Jeremiah Brown Mill
Rising Sun, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Negatives at MHT
Orig. foundations, north fac. 3/20

CE-202 Jeremiah Brown Mill
Rising Sun, Md.
Geoffrey Hnery 6/86
Negatives at MHT
North facade 5/20

CE-202 Jeremiah Brown Mill
Rising Sun, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Negatives at MHT
View of millrace, looking S 8/20

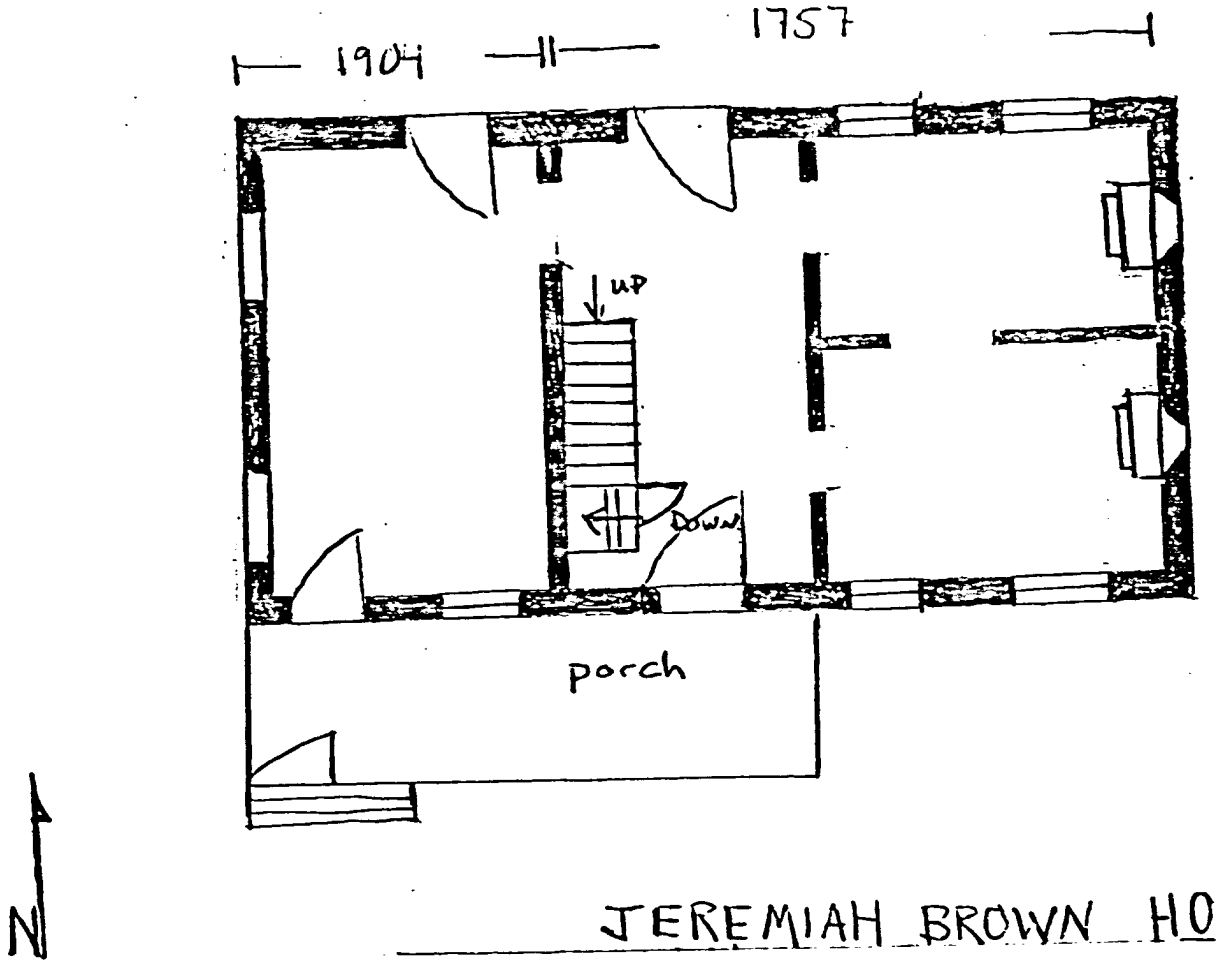
CE-202 Jeremiah Brown MIll
Rising Sun, Md.
Geoffrey Henry, 6/86
Negatives at MHT
Sawmill foundations 10/20

CE-202 Jeremiah Brown Mill
Rising Sun, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Negatives at MHT
Bankbarn, east facade 11/20

Brown's Grist Mill
Near Clavert, Md.
North Elevation
MOB/1968
NEG - MD. Hist. Trust

CR - 202

CE-203

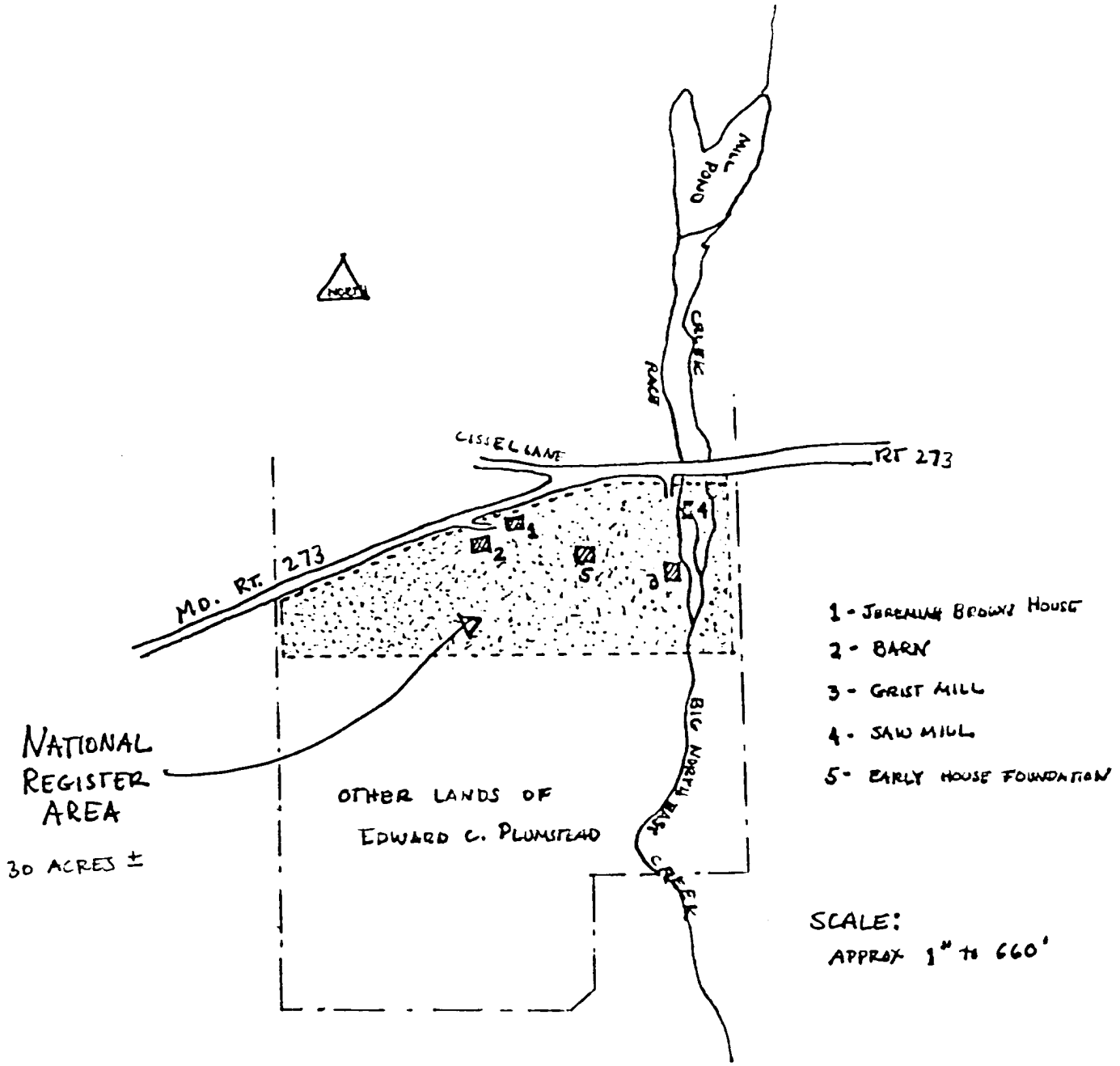



JEREMIAH BROWN HOUSE

CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Sketch plan--not to scale

CE-203




BROWN, JEREMIAH, HOUSE
AND MILL SITE
CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

CE-203

Jeremiah Brown House
Rising Sun, Cecil County, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Negatives at MHT
West facade, frame half 9/30

CE-203

Jeremiah Brown House
Rising Sun, Cecil County, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Neagtives at MHT
South facade 11/30

CE-203

Jeremiah Brown House
Rising Sun, Cecil County, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Negatives at MHT
Mantel, NE room, 1st floor 15/30

CE-203

Jeremiah Brown House
Rising Sun, Cecil County, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Negatives at MHT
Staircase, looking north 16/3

CE-203

Jeremiah Brown House
Rising Sun, Cecil County, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Negatives at MHT 21/30
Mantle detail. NE room

CE-203

Jeremiah Brown House
Rising Sun, Cecil County, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Negatives at MHT
East Wall, SE room, 2nd floor, 22/3

CE-203

Jeremiah Brown House
Rising Sun, Cecil County, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Negatives at MHT
Fireplace, NE room, 2nd floor 24/30

IB 1757

CE-203

Jeremiah Brown House
Rising Sun, Cecil County, Md.
Geoffrey Hnery 6/86
Negatives at MHT
"JB" datestone, N facade 25/30

CE-203

Jeremiah Brown House
Rising Sun, Cecil County, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Negatives at MHT
East gable 26/30

CE-203

Jeremiah Brown House
Rising Sun, Cecil County, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Negatives at MHT
SE corner 27/30

RE

CE-203

Jeremiah Brown House
Rising Sun, Cecil COunty, Md.
Geoffrey Henry 6/86
Negatives at MHT
Stone w/initial,N facade 29/30

CE- 263

JEREMIAH BROWN HOUSE

~~[illegible]~~ NORTHEAST ELEV.

NR CALVERT

~~[illegible]~~ 1976 GWL

NEG./MD. HIST TRUST

IB 1757

CE-203
Jeremiah Brown House
Datestone
North Elevation
Near Calvert, Cecil County
Photographer, Paul Touart, 1979
Neg/MHT

CE-203 Jeremiah Brown Tise. PJB3/95