NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name

other names/site number The Ridge M:22-15
The Ridge

2. Location

street & number 19000 Muncaster Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Derwood ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Montgomery code 031 zip code 20855

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☒ private	☒ building(s)	2	1 buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district		sites
☐ public-State	☐ site		structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure		objects
	☐ object	2	1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official — Date 2-18-88

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

State or Federal agency and bureau Maryland Historical Trust

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet. — 4/15/88

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

M:22-15

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
single dwelling	single dwelling
secondary structure	secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Georgian
Federal
Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation: stone
walls: brick
log
roof: asphalt
other: stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Ridge is an eighteenth century, probably about 1755, brick one and a half story house measuring 36'x30'. Originally the house had a gable roof but now has a gambrel roof added in 1925. To the north stands a one and a half story gable roofed stone structure (possibly earlier than the house) which connected to the main house by a hyphen which appears to date from the mid twentieth century but to be constructed of old materials. (These materials may be the in situ framing of an earlier hyphen structure.) A twentieth century porch and room extend along the west or back side. On the interior, the main house has four rooms and a stair on the first floor. The decorative detailing in the main house reflects Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival influences illustrating growth and alterations. The trim in the upper level rooms under the gambrel is plain and dates from the alteration. Of particular note on the interior are the winding staircase with bold bolection; six panel doors with raised, fielded panels; and a closet in the present living room highly decorated with punch and gauge work; and early hardware on some doors. Also on the property is a eighteenth century two story log building and a present-day tool shed. Pasture land stretches to the east to the road with modern housing developments to the west and south.

[X] See continuation sheet for GENERAL DESCRIPTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The main block of The Ridge , which faces southeast, is a three bay by two bay, 1 1/2 story brick rectangle. It is an excellent example of 18th century brickwork in Montgomery County, one of only four identified in the County survey; of the four --The Ridge, Cherry Grove, Clifton, and Locust Grove, the last has undergone extensive reconstruction. It is built of locally-made red bricks (now painted white) laid in Flemish bond on all sides and sits on a 36' by 30' foundation of mortared fieldstones 22" high and 30" thick at ground level. On the front and both ends this foundation is capped with three courses of bricks, two plain courses topped with molded, double-curve brick laid in Flemish bond. A stone cellar is underneath the north half of the building.

On each end of this brick block are massive three-stage brick chimneys, both 12' wide and 32" deep at the base, one exterior and one interior. These are very similar to those at Dunblane , built c. 1715 for Zadock's father.

The roof of the brick section was originally a gable, but was changed in 1925 to a gambrel; Zadock's great-grandson, John Muncaster, maintained the original peak height but added short brick courses to expand the roof outward to form the gambrels. This provided second-story space for closets and bathrooms. Muncaster retained the six dormers.

All three sections of the house are painted white, and the rooves are covered with gray-green asphalt shingles.

The first floor of the three-bay front (SE) facade of the brick section contains a central entrance and two windows; all three openings are topped by vertical brick flat arches. Because of the location of the interior brick walls, the doorway is located 4' left of center. In the mid-19th century, the original door and surrounds (presumably wooden) were replaced by the present six panel wooden door, flanked by two four-light sidelights, and surmounted by a three-light transom with two smaller side panes (1). Above the doorway a patch recalls the small porch which was added about 1850 and removed a century later. A railed wooden stoop with three steps leads to the entrance. The 12/12 double-hung sash windows have spun bullseye glass panes and louvered wooden shutters. Beneath each window is a two-light cellar window with segmental arched lintel. Three 6/6 gable dormers project from the gambrel roof on this facade.

The SW side of the main block contains the massive chimney already described, with a 9/9 double hung sash window to the right of the chimney on the first story and one 6/6 window on either side of the chimney on the second story. The outline of the original gable roof, which cut close to the top outside corners of these windows, in the brickwork of the gambrel end. To the right of the downstairs window and inset into the bricks is a wrought-iron shutter dog.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.2

The first floor of the NW facade is covered by a 36' by 10' screened porch, added about 1900. Initially this wall contained a rear entrance similar to the front and on the same centerline, flanked by a 9/9 window on the right and a 12/12 on the left, the same as those on the SE and SW facades. At some early time a second doorway with flat-arched lintel was opened up directly to the left of the original door; this second door was re-bricked in between 1919 and 1928, leaving only a small six-light window at the top. On either side of the 9/9 window are wrought-iron shutter dogs inset into the brick work which are identical to the dog on the SW facade.

As on the front facade, three 6/6 gable dormers project from the roofline.

The NE facade has two 6/6 windows at the second floor level and two small louvered vents into the attic at the peak of the gable. The gable peak has been covered with artificial siding to protect the bricks from further deterioration.

The interior first floor plan and spatial arrangement of the brick section of "The Ridge" is intact. It is divided by brick walls covered with plaster into four rooms of unequal size, a rear hall, and stairway.

The entrance door opens directly into the parlor, or present-day living room. Door and window molding profiles in this room are the most refined at "The Ridge", the brick mold being scotia or concave, with the step separated by a very fine (1/8") rib. These moldings, 10" recessed wood-paneled window wells, 3 1/4" finely-ribbed chairrail on all walls, and the arched niche beside the fireplace all appear to date from about 1780-1800 (2.). The niche, or built-in closet, is highly decorative, with fluted molding, and a round-headed surround and fluted keystone. The eight-paneled door has a round head; inside are five shelves with plate slots and double-beaded edges.

The fireplace opening is 4' by 5'. The reproduction mantel replaced the early 19th century piece removed by John E. Muncaster, Jr. when he thought The Ridge would be razed; a large brick arched fireplace exists behind the present fire-brick facade. (3)

The window wells are 10" deep, and are paneled on side and top. Identical panels are in the doorway between the living and dining rooms.

The original wood flooring was covered in 1958 by new 5" stained pine boards, raising the level about 2". This amount was trimmed off the tops of the two original 6 panel doors, which were then raised on their H & L hinges and rehung in their original frames.

There are two sash windows in this room, one 9/9 and one 12/12.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.3

To the North of the living room is the dining room. Here, door and window surrounds are typical 18th century stepped architrave, in slightly smaller scale than the living room, and the brick mold is an ovolo or quarter round profile. The flooring (of 4 1/2" yellow pine, tongue-and-grove, and fastened with hand-made nails), base, chairrail, and six-panel doors with raised panels and strap hinges, also appear to be original (4). In the NW corner a 3'x3' fireplace opens from a 7' diagonal section of the interior chimney. Above this is a reproduction mantel, its predecessor having been salvaged by John E. Muncaster, Jr. in 1956. The interior of this fireplace is lined with rough fieldstone, and it has a small brick hearth. The underpinning for this hearth, in the cellar, is of thick oak boards and mortar. The one window in this room is 12/12 sash with deep window well.

On the NW quarter of the main block is the ladies' parlour/kitchen. From about 1880 to 1900 this room served as the bedroom of an elderly Magruder lady. About 1900 it became the main kitchen, replacing what is believed to have been the original kitchen (called by the family the "slaves' kitchen") in the fieldstone section (5). Between 1919 and 1928, the second NW exterior door was bricked in, leaving only a small six-light window at the top. On the NW there is one sash window 12/12. The NE window was opened up to form a door to the garden room outside. The interior surrounds and brick moldings of the windows and doors are typical 18th century and appear to be original. There are exposed beams in the ceiling and a 12" by 12" chestnut summer beam which runs the length of the house. The diagonal fireplace has been closed over. In 1958 the SW corner of the kitchen was walled in for a small powder room.

The small room now used as a library behind the stairhall and living room has a NE 9/9 sash window opening out to the porch. The six-paneled door, chairrail, window well and side panels, window and door surrounds (identical to those in kitchen and hallway) are all original. This room has the same 10' ceiling as the other first floor rooms. From 1860-1880 this room was used as an examining room by Dr. John W. Magruder, Jr.. On three sides are built-in cupboards and bookcases, of 1958 vintage.

The stair is a closed string winder with a straight flight above a 4'x 4' landing. It has simple square capped posts, turned balusters, and original pine railings and treads; its major parts are fastened by 1/2" wooden pegs and the treads with hand-made nails. There is a 5" cyma recta curved wooden molding running from the first to the second floors under the staircase; this has not been seen elsewhere in Montgomery County.

On the first floor the stairhall doors open into the living room, kitchen, and onto the screened porch. The ceiling and SW side of this hallway are fitted with elegant raised center wooden paneling. The SE door surrounds match the similar moldings under the staircase and the SE surrounds in the library and kitchen. All of this woodwork is of 18th century vintage. About 1925 the NE side of this hallway was also covered with wood paneling. The entrance to the porch is a 1957 replacement, as is the random-width pine flooring in this area.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.4

Untouched by the 1919-1928 renovation of the second story main block were the ballustraded, square, newel-posted, and topped with pine staircase, four of the interior doors (18th century) with H&L hinges, and the hand-planed random-width pine flooring. On the second floor, there are three bedrooms, one large and five small closets, and two bathrooms. Windows and doors are framed by 1 x 5" boards, and there are deep covered window wells under each dormer.

Above the second story is an attic partially floored with wide 1" oak boards fastened with blacksmith-made nails.

Throughout the main block the door locks range from primitive metal latches through a wooden box lock marked 4/6 (four shillings, six pence) to a pair of colonial antique brass box locks to cast iron locks of 1880-1900 vintage. All 18th century doors are hung on blacksmith-made H&L hinges.

All interior woodwork in the two principal rooms has coped joints. All other interior rooms are mitred, as are the exterior joints.

The fieldstone house is a good example of a simple domestic building of the early 18th century. Believed to predate the brick house, this small 2 bay by 1 bay, 1 1/2 story square structure probably was relegated as a kitchen with slave quarters above when Zadock Magruder constructed the main house. About 1900 the stone house was once again used as a dwelling. By 1957 it had fallen into such disrepair that it was used by a local farmer to store feed and hay; cattle wandered through the open doorway.

The fieldstone house measures 23' by 22', with 2' thick fieldstone walls, a gable roof, and a large stone and brick interior end chimney. Like the brick house, it faces southeast. The NE wall is a huge stone chimney, topped by brick above the roofline. On the SE (front) facade there is one window, enlarged in 1952 in height to accommodate a 32-light bay window on the first story. On the NW facade there is one small window and an enlarged entrance door with 12-light sidelights on either side. Set into the roof are gable-roofed 6/6 dormers, two on the SE side and one on the NW; these are visible in the earliest photographs of "The Ridge".

Physical evidence indicates that this section of The Ridge originally consisted of one large room with dirt floor, with a loft above. The NE wall is taken up with the huge two-flue stone chimney, which has two first-floor openings -- a 4 x 8' fireplace and a 4 x 4' bake oven, the total topped by a 10 x 10" square-cut beam. When the stone masonry was repointed in 1958, much of the original mortar with horse hair binder was retained. The ceiling has nine 4 x 8" rough-cut beams which run the width of the building; only one is a replacement. In the NE corner is a 2' deep alcove which once held the ladder to a sleeping loft above. On the SW side, an old oak-framed doorway leads into the breezeway to the brick section; this has an 18th century ovolo brick molding identical to those of the external door and window frames on the brick house and also to the interior surrounds in the dining room of that section.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.5

The SW wall of the fieldstone house now encloses modern appliances under a straight staircase leading to the second floor. The second floor contains a small hall, bedroom, and bathroom. The NE wall continues the stone chimney, which is 13' wide at the base, 5' at the top, and protrudes 2' into the room. The original trapdoor and ladder from below once accessed the 2nd floor at the right side of the chimney. Above are exposed roof trusses, mortised with separating rafters; all hand hewn, these are perhaps the oldest construction wood on the property.

After the larger brick dwelling was built on line to the south, and the fieldstone house became the cook's kitchen, the Magruders built a raised walkway between the two. At first this was a level stone walkway with a door into the main house and steps down an entrance into the stone house. It was fully enclosed about 1860-65, and limited second story sleeping quarters were provided for servants.

The walkway, or breezeway, 19 x 10 feet, rests on a separate foundation which is similar to that of the brick house; it consists of mortared random-size fieldstones to a height of 22" above the ground level, capped by two courses of brick laid in Flemish bond. Here, however, there is not a top course of molded brick as in the main block. Two rows of four 6 x 6" solid oak beams rise to a height of 7' above the foundation, each row capped by 19' 6 x 6" beams into which the vertical beams are mortised and fastened with 1" diameter wood pegs. The verticals are chamfered on their interior edges. Two horizontal 6 x 4" stringers anchor the structure, although there once was a third in the center.

A gable roof, made of 6" tongue-and-groove boards, surmounts this frame. At one end of the breezeway is the NE brick wall of the main house, with an original framed doorway and panelled wood door leading into the dining room. At the other end is the unpainted SW fieldstone wall, containing an early oak doorframe and a heavy pine replacement door; high on the peak of this wall, the initials "JWM" are carved into a stone, said to have been done by John Willson Magruder, Jr. during home leave in 1863 from the Civil War.

In the 1880's, when the main kitchen was still located in the stone house, this area was used as a storage pantry. With the move of the kitchen to the main house about 1900, the breezeway passed through a number of metamorphoses as additional living space. In its present incarnation it is a den with fiberboard clapboarding on the front side, six large single pane windows above, a fireplace, and chimney on the back wall flanked by large folding glass doors on either side, which lead into the garden room.

Two additions have been made to the basic perimeter of the 18th century construction. About 1900 or earlier a 36 x 10' screened porch on old concrete foundation was added to the rear of the main block which completely covers the NE wall on the first story. The other addition is a 19 x 15' "garden room" between the kitchen and the fieldstone house, built by the Muncasters between 1929 and 1956 and renovated by the Daltons about 1958.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.6

While it is not within the boundary of the property being nominated, there was a Magruder family cemetery associated with The Ridge. Reserved from sale in the 1919 advertisement, the sellers promised that "no future interments will occur therein". Family tradition locates the plot about 300' behind the house to the west, an area now included in the Granby subdivision. That same source placed a slave cemetery behind the house to the north and west, in the area of the cabins. Of some 30 to 40 interments, only a few were marked by formal stones. No headstones are visible in either area.

In keeping with a thousand-acre farmstead which employed more than 30 people, "The Ridge" once encompassed other outbuildings -- including a log meat house (which still stands in its original location), milk and spring houses, log quarters, stable, barn, grain storage buildings, frame tenant houses (one of which still stands across Muncaster Road), and The Ridge School, a log school house which served the Magruder and local children in the 19th century. The stone well, long closed over, was located 36' to the NW, between the fieldstone house and the log meat house behind.

The log cabin, 16 feet square, sits 15 feet to the north of and 90 feet behind the fieldstone house and is oriented in the same direction. In original location, and of pre-1860 vintage (6), it is the sole survivor of a number of similar utility buildings and slave dwellings which were located in and behind the line of the principal residence. The structure is 3 bay by 1 bay, 1 1/2 story, built of banks of seven 8" square hand-hewn oak logs joined at the corners by A-V notches; spaces between the logs are chinked with small fieldstones and brick rubble and daubed variously with local red clay and sand, soft lime and yellow sand mortar, and some gray commercial mortar. The cabin sits on a fieldstone foundation.

The front SE facade contains a 2 tread wooden doorstoop, a crude central wooden doorframe, an old batten door, and two flanking 6-light casement windows. The gable roof consists of 1" thick obdurated oak boards laid lengthwise on the trusses and has 12" exposed eaves on all sides. The roof and gables are covered with wood shingles. Each gable end contains a 6-light casement window.

The interior contains a tongue-and-groove board floor at ground level, seven 8 x 8" rough-hewn beams laid from front to back at head level. There is a rough board straight staircase in the SW corner leading to the upstairs loft which has a floor of 1" random-width rough-sawn oak planks laid loose across the beams. The upstairs ceiling is composed of exposed rough-cut 3 x 3" roof trusses and the oak roof boards.

This cabin at its first level has solid walls in back and on two sides, and no chimney. The overhead beams in some areas are considerably discolored and greasy and in damp weather smell strongly of smoked meat, establishing that at one time this was a meat storage building (but not a smokehouse). Attached to the rear NW side of this cabin is an open wooden pole shed of indeterminate age, roofed over with black roofing paper. This shed is not visible from the front of the cabin and protects the NW side from winter storms.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.7

A 1 bay x 1 bay frame one story barn and attached pole shed are located 150' NE of the stone house. They are of recent construction and since "The Ridge" is still a working farm, are used to store hay and feed and provide winter shelter for cattle. The barn is oriented in the same direction as the main brick house, is painted white, and has a gambrel roof with gray-green asphalt shingles.

The grounds of The Ridge , 6.83 acres, are arranged in a long rectangle with a distinctive rise in the back from whence came the name. The buildings sit on the back or NW third of the property on open lawn framed by tall evergreen trees in back and large maple, black walnut, locust and cherry trees on the sides. One 250 year-old native cherry tree is as old as the house itself and the largest of its type in Montgomery County. The main house is flanked by large American boxwood; the stone house by smaller bushes of the same type. There are some large weeping willows, maples, ashes, magnolia tulip trees, pink and white dogwood, lilac, crepe myrtle and upright yew bushes located in the residential area. The NE quarter of the property contains a fruit orchard of about 60 trees, a vegetable garden and a horse riding ring, or cattle holding pen, delineated by white wooden 4-rail fences.

The front SE four acres are fenced-in open pasture, framed by tree lines on the sides, with the small barn in the NW corner. The 2-rut graveled lane leading in some 700 feet from Muncaster Road is flanked on the left side by a 600 foot dense hedgerow containing 42 trees of varying sizes. The right side borders the 4 acre front pasture which is completely fenced with locust posts and 4' graduated Paige wire.

The property is located on Muncaster Road between Laytonsville and Olney; development in the vicinity has greatly accelerated with the opening of the Shady Grove Metro station 4 miles to the SW.

FOOTNOTES

1. The unaltered brick flat arch above, the difference in size of panes in transom and sidelights, and the interior woodwork all suggest this scenario.
2. Consultation by Baird Smith, A.I.A.; letter of Nov. 12, 1986.
3. Recollections of John E. Muncaster, Jr.
4. Baird Smith, op.cit.
5. John E. Muncaster, Jr., op.cit.
6. Douglass C. Reed, housewright and authority on American log houses, Preservation Associates, Sharpsburg, Maryland, personal observation in 1982.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

M:22-15

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
architecture	c. 1755-c. 1815	N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Ridge is a mid eighteenth century brick house with later changes which is significant for architectural reasons. Although greatly altered visually in 1925 with a roof change from gable to a gambrel, The Ridge retains major features of its early period. Of particular significance is the finely laid exterior brick walls and intact floor plan, decorative detailing, and winding staircase with bold bolection molding. Also of note is a Federal period punch-and-gauge-work decorated arched closet. The same decoration was used on the principal mantel which was removed a few years ago. Erected for and occupied by a family prominent in local and state affairs, Zadock Magruder and his descendants, until 1956, The Ridge exhibits a sophistication of construction and design that is more commonly associated with the eastern sections of the state and thus is an important cultural artifact of this Piedmont area which was very remote well into the nineteenth century. The Ridge is only one of four houses of this type and period extant in Montgomery County.

☒ See continuation sheet for HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

Historic/Prehistoric Theme(s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815

Resource type:

domestic architecture

John Magruder (1694-1750) was a grandson of Alexander Magruder, a Scotch immigrant who acquired thousands of acres along the Patuxent River in the mid-17th century, and a son of Samuel Magruder, who inherited land on the west side of the river in Prince George's County. John, who liked his father served in various capacities within the Colonial government, made his home at Dunblane, in Prince George's County, His large-scale tobacco farming and an interest in westward expansion let him to purchase large tracts in what was to become Frederick County. One of these tracts was The Ridge, 272 acres purchased in 1733 from Thomas Gittings of Baltimore.[1]

Upon John Magruder's death in 1750, his land was divided among his wife and five children. Son Zadock (age 20) received 350 acres of Turkey Thickett, 70 acres of The Ridges, 100 acres of Robert and Sarah, one negro man, and one negro boy.[2]

There may have been a structure here (perhaps the fieldstone section) when Zadock took possession of the property, for he moved from Dunblane to the Ridge in Frederick County soon after his father's death. Family tradition dates Zadock's brick dwelling around this time, for in 1754 he married the widow of a nearby resident.

It was natural for Zadock to construct a dwelling similar to his boyhood home. Dunblane, dating from c. 1715, provided the model in terms of style, size, and roofline, and its massive brick end chimneys were repeated at The Ridge.

In 1753 Zadock Magruder of Frederick County paid quit rents of 14 shillings on Turkey Thickett, 350 acres; 4 shillings on Robert and Sarah, 100 acres; and 3 shillings on The Ridge, 78½ acres. This continued from 1754 through 1773.[3]

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.2

In 1766 Zadock Magruder recorded a resurvey of 78 1/4 acres in what was then Frederick County called "The Ridges" originally granted to John Magruder in 1747, with an additional 31 3/4 acres of adjacent "vacant" land, to total 110 acres. (4)

When the news spread of the Boston Tea Party , 45 year old Zadock Magruder was one of the first men to protest that "the Town of Boston is now suffering in the Common Cause of America". At a meeting at Hungerford's Tavern on 11 June 1774, Magruder and a small number of inhabitants of the lower part of Frederick County went on record as favoring an end to all commerce with Great Britain as a method of obtaining American freedom. They adopted a resolution to this effect and elected a committee, including Zadock, to attend the First Maryland Convention meeting held at Annapolis on 22 June 1774. There, delegates were chosen to represent Maryland at the First Continental Congress to be held in September 1774 in Philadelphia. The delegates to this convention also adopted "The Articles of Association of the Freemen of Maryland", called "The Committee of Safety", and Col. Magruder was selected as one of their leaders. As Maryland's Proprietary government had virtually ceased in favor of these "Committees", Col. Zadock Magruder's leadership roles gave him no small part in developing the government of Maryland as we know it today.

In 1776, Frederick County was broken into three sections which were designated as counties. The Convention had authorized a committee to evaluate possible law suits in each county, a measure aimed in part at the factors for British tobacco firms. Col. Magruder was chosen as a member of this committee. The actual organization of the new county, to be called Montgomery , was set in motion by the appointment of seven commissioners, one of whom was Col. Zadock Magruder. He was authorized, along with the others, to purchase land for a courthouse and prison, not to exceed four acres. The place selected was successively known as Montgomery Courthouse, Williamsburgh, and finally Rockville.

At the direction of the Second Maryland Convention, the Maryland Militia had been formed. In the Lower District of Frederick County, soon to become Montgomery County, two battalions of militia elected their officers, the Upper Battalion choosing Col. Zadock Magruder. He also donated money for arms and ammunition, and furnished wool from sheep raised at The Ridge to make blankets and clothing for soldiers fighting with George Washington at Valley Forge. He was appointed to guard the prisoners of Gen. Nathaniel Greene and Col. Sim who were being sent up from North Carolina, and to convoy them to Frederick Town. In March, 1776, after receiving a letter from Col. Smith of Georgetown stating that he had a regiment without guns or blankets and men without clothes, Col. Magruder, once again, assisted in the purchase of blankets and clothing and found more arms and supplies for the use of the recruits. (5)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.3

The 1777 Assessment to build the new County's courthouse and prison indicates a large, wealthy household headed by Zadock Magruder.

The first tax assessment for Lower Newfoundland Hundred, in newly-established Montgomery County, shows Zadock Magruder owning "Turkey Thicket", 350 acres; "Ridges", 110 acres; "Dickerson's Lot", 22 1/2 acres; "Robert and Sarah", 100 acres; a brick house 36' by 30' (which corresponds to the house still standing), and an old log house and tobacco houses. (6)

Seven years later, Zadock Magruder was listed in the first U.S. Census as head of the household, with two additional males, seven females, and 26 slaves.

Twelve years prior to his death, Col. Zadock Magruder deeded 583 acres, including 111 acres of The Ridge , to his son, Zadock Jr. (7) The younger Magruder, a physician who helped found the "Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland", used The Ridge for both his home and his office. It is believed that the stone breezeway connecting the brick and stone sections was built during this period, as well as the Gibbons niche surrounds and mantel in the living room. Zadock, Jr. died intestate in 1809, predeceasing his father by two years. He left 10 heirs, one of whom was his son, John Willson Magruder, who lived on the property. From 1831 until 1848, John W. Magruder bought from the other nine heirs their 1/10 shares of the 583 acres called Turkey Thickett , "Robert and Sarah , Ridges , and Dickerson's Lot , finally making him sole owner. (8) During John, Sr.'s ownership, the front door was conformed to the style of that period, the breezeway roofed, and a number of log quarters constructed for the slaves.

John W. Magruder died intestate in 1849, after which the property devised to his widow and minor children. In 1861 John, Jr. mortgaged his interest to his brother, Zadock III, before entering the Civil War as a surgeon in the Union Army. (9) During the War, the slave-holding Magruders were raided by both Union and Confederate foragers, who took horses from the property.

After the War, John W. Magruder, Jr. returned to live at The Ridge with his mother, brother Zadock III, and other brothers and sisters, working as a medical doctor and receiving patients in what is today the small library. In 1866 the Magruders welcomed a new road through their property to connect Laytonsville and Rockville; (10) this would later be named for their descendants.

During the occupancies of John Jr. and Zadock III, the stone breezeway was enclosed, a covered front porch was added, and second story dormers were added to the stone house, breezeway, and main house. (11)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.4

John W. Magruder, Jr. died intestate in 1871. During the next 28 years, Zadock Magruder III tried to duplicate his father's feat of securing sole title to the property by obtaining releases from his brothers and sisters. This was complicated by the conflicting claims of numerous heirs. In 1899 Zadock III died intestate without completing his objective, and title remained with the heirs of John W. Magruder . For the next 20 years, The Ridge was occupied by elderly Magruder descendants, one being Hannah S. Magruder, wife of William E. Muncaster.

The Muncasters, like the Magruders, were early settlers in Montgomery County; the two families were listed in the 1790 Census as neighbors. William E. Muncaster (1839-1922), who married John Willson Magruder's daughter Hannah, was five times great grandson of Alexander Magruder on both maternal and paternal sides, hence his strong attachment to "The Ridge". His parents gave him 350- acre "Milton" farm (c. 5 miles downstream on Rock Creek from "The Ridge") in 1859, along with sufficient slaves to work it properly. In October 1867, Muncaster and his cousin, Hannah Smith Magruder, were married in the parlor of "The Ridge". Hannah was a four times great- granddaughter of Alexander Magruder.

William E. Muncaster spent most of his life in large-scale farming in Montgomery County, specializing in Jersey cattle and Berkshire hogs. He was active in the Montgomery County Agricultural Society for many years, serving as its President 1866-67 and having particular interest in the County Fair. He served as a director of the Saving Institution of Sandy Spring and of the Mutual Insurance Company of Sandy Spring, both farmer owned and managed institutions. (12)

Muncaster actively controlled "Milton" until he retired in 1895, passing his final years at "The Ridge".

John Edwin Muncaster (1869-1955), last Magruder Master of The Ridge , was born at Milton Farm in Montgomery County. Following tutoring in the log cabin school at The Ridge by a female Magruder relative in reading, writing, arithmetic, algebra, and Latin, he attended Rockville Academy and was awarded a B.A. Degree at Hampden Sydney College where he graduated in 1888 magna cum laude at the age of 18. A taste for scholarship and interest in letters endured throughout his lifetime. He enjoyed reading the Bible in the original Greek and taught himself to read German in 1917. He wrote an impressive number of historical sketches and many articles on farm management. In 1909 he founded the "American Clan Gregor Society", a national organization of MacGregor descendants based in Washington, D.C., which still exists today.

After graduation from college, John E. Muncaster contemplated a journalistic career, producing a small newspaper "The Anonymous News" (1893-95) which he printed in Rockville on a hand-operated press. However, in 1895, his close kinsman, Zadock Magruder III, then owner of "The Ridge", was in failing health, and despite John's intellectual bent, he

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.5

found himself irresistibly drawn into the responsibilities of joint operation with his father of the lands of Milton Farm and The Ridge , altogether some 762 acres. This constituted one of the largest single agricultural operations in Montgomery County at the time and required a maximum of managerial skill and ability to prosper.

In operating this large enterprise, which included saw and grist mills, John Muncaster introduced a number of advanced 20th Century agricultural techniques which were soon profitably initiated by his neighbors in the surrounding countryside. (13)

With the death of Zadock Magruder III in 1899, the Muncasters assumed complete control of farming at "The Ridge" and William E. Muncaster and his wife, Hannah S. Muncaster nee Magruder, moved over to The Ridge from Milton .

By 1919 there were so many heirs, claims, and sales of partial rights at "The Ridge" that the matter was brought to Circuit Court as a lawsuit of John E. Muncaster and others vs. Anna M. Muncaster and others (all heirs of John W. Magruder). The property was divided into three lots; lot #1 was separated out of the Court proceedings when clear title to it was established by one of the heirs. The Court decreed that Lots #2 and #3 be sold at auction, appointing Frank Higgins and John E. Muncaster as Trustees to handle the sale.

Lots #2 and #3 of the "John Magruder Home Farm" sold for $39,979.33 on September 3, 1919 to Thomas D. Singleton of New York, who was married to Maude S. Magruder, an heir of John Magruder. Lot #2 contained all of the improvements, listed as:

1. "A substantial old-fashioned Brick Dwelling House containing 10 rooms or more, and large cell r.
2. A large Stable to accommodate 10 or more horses, with loft and large Tool Shed attached.
3. A large Hay Barrack, detached from main buildings.
4. Wheat Granary of over 1,000 bushels capacity.
5. A Double Corn House, Old Bank Barn, Meat House, Chicken House, Carriage House, Dairy and Pump House, and other small buildings.
6. Two good Tenant Dwellings of 4 and 6 rooms respectively." (14)

One month later, the Singletons conveyed title to The Ridge to John E. Muncaster. (15)

When John E. Muncaster, Sr., acquired The Ridge in 1919, his son John E. Muncaster, Jr., was already operating the ancestral Milton Farm, 350 acres and took over, as well, management of his father's newly acquired property, The Ridge , 412 acres.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.6

Between 1921 and 1928 the two Muncasters upgraded The Ridge , which had fallen into disrepair during its occupancy by the five elderly Magruders and Muncasters in the preceding 23 years. They expanded the gable roof of the brick house to a gambrel, and renovated the 2nd floor space. The kitchen was shifted from the stone house to the northwest room of the brick house, and a back porch and covered carport were added. The breezeway was opened up to become a screened porch, and the second story dormer was removed. Indoor water, plumbing, and electricity made "The Ridge" more attractive, as did a coal furnace and steam radiators.

In 1929 the Muncasters sold Milton farm and moved into The Ridge as their permanent residence. John was 60 years old.

After his wife Alletta died in 1947, John Muncaster gradually became less active. His son John, Jr., resided nearby and took over the farming operation. John, Sr., died at The Ridge in 1955.

The following year, John Jr. sold 412.18 acres to Leonard Kapiloff, a local investor and developer. Kapiloff carved out the Granby Woods, Meads of Muncaster, and Rolling Knolls subdivisions, then sold the old brick house and 3.36 acres to Allan and Jacqueline Dalton. The Daltons bought an adjoining three acre front field from Kapiloff, making a total of 6.36 acres. (16)

The Daltons occupied The Ridge for 18 years, during which time they restored the interior of the stone house, also lengthening an existing window on the SE side to accommodate a bay window. They completely enclosed the breezeway, added the garden room, and removed all but one of the log cabins from the property. They also modernized the heating system and the bathrooms.

Following a brief ownership by Joseph and Marie Higdon, Dr. Neilson and Lane Debevoise purchased "The Ridge" in 1977. (17) They replaced the covered front porch with an open one, removed the rear carport, and black-topped a parking area. They installed pine flooring on top of the original in the living room and back hallway. They added siding to the NE side of the main house and painted both brick and stone sections white.

The present owners took title in 1981, and soon afterward added a 35x600 foot strip of hedgerow and tree line along the south property line. While the Conollys have made no major changes to The Ridge itself, they have restored the remaining log cabin and constructed a small barn and attached pole shed in the front field where an earlier one had existed.

The Ridge was recognized by the Potomack River Chapter, National Society of Colonial Dames, Seventeenth Century, in 1983, and by the Bottony Cross Chapter of the Maryland Society, NSDAR, in 1984; it was designated on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation in 1979.

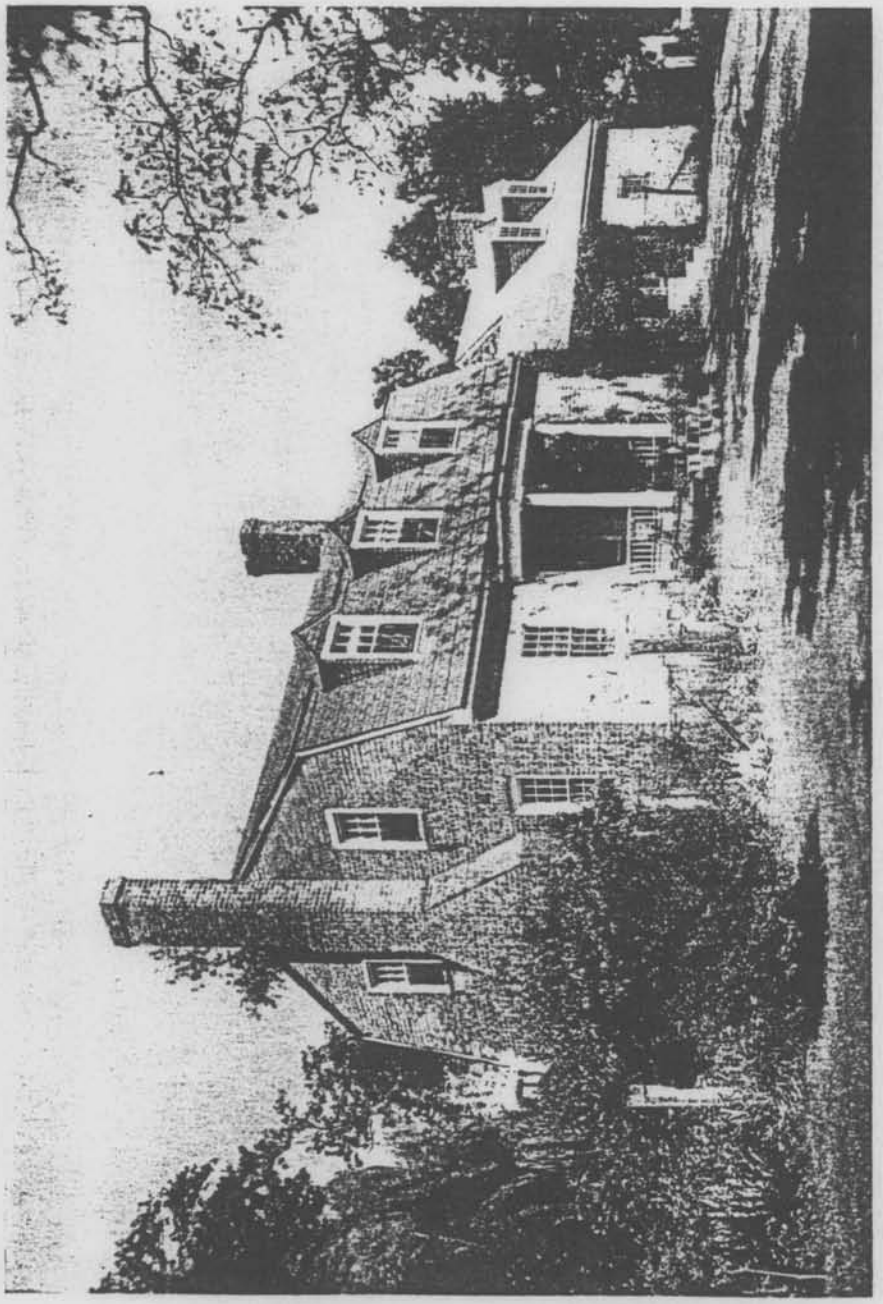
See Continuation Sheet No. 8.7

FOOTNOTES

1. Land Records of Prince George's County, EI-4/61
2. Will Records of Prince George's County, 27/353.
3. Tax Records of Frederick County.
4. Frederick County Patents, BC & GS-30/274.
5. Information on Zadock Magruder came from the following sources:
   A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, p.34, 270;
   Montgomery County: Two Centuries of Change, p. 28;
   Old Homes & History of Montgomery County, p. 18;
   Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis; Service Records, Brig. Gen. Johnston's Brigade, Maryland; Army Accounts for the State of Maryland,
   Vol. I, p. 66; State Papers #4574-46 and 6636-3-119;
   Archives of Maryland, Journal of the Maryland Conventions, p. 403.
6. Assessment Records of Montgomery County, 1783.
7. Land Records of Montgomery County, H 516 (1799).
8. Ibid. BS4/277; BS5/111, 555; BS6/133, 135, 354, and 374; BS7/342; STS3//294.
9. National Archives, Civil War Records, 925820-Cert.#813892; Land Records
   op.cit., JGH8/429 (1861).
10. Recollections of John E. Muncaster, Jr., March 1986.
11. Land Records, Op.Cit., EBP3/176
12. Proceedings of 13th Annual Gathering, Yearbook of American Clan Gregor Society, 1922, p. 35.
13. 1957 Yearbook of the American Clan Gregor Society, 1956, p. 11.
14. Montgomery County Circuit Court, Equity #3568, Vol. 28, p. 156; Judgment Record PBR 28/156; Montgomery County Sentinel, 8/8/1919.
15. Montgomery County Land Records, 288/251, 254.
16. Ibid. 2240/354 (1956); 2474/277 (1958); 2788/31 (1960).
17. Ibid., 4768/237 (1976); 4995/382 (1977).

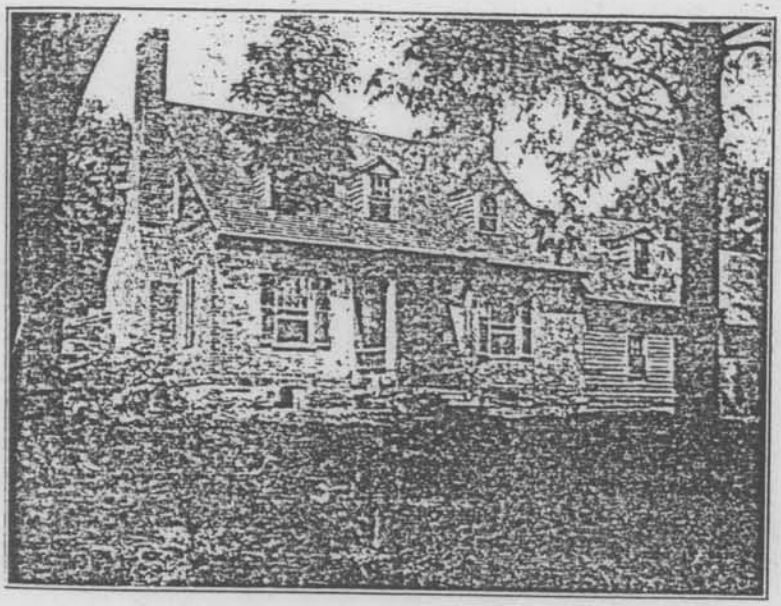
See Continuation Sheet No. 8.8

source: Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Historic Montgomery County, Maryland, Old Homes and History, 1952.



Historic Montgomery County, Maryland

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.9

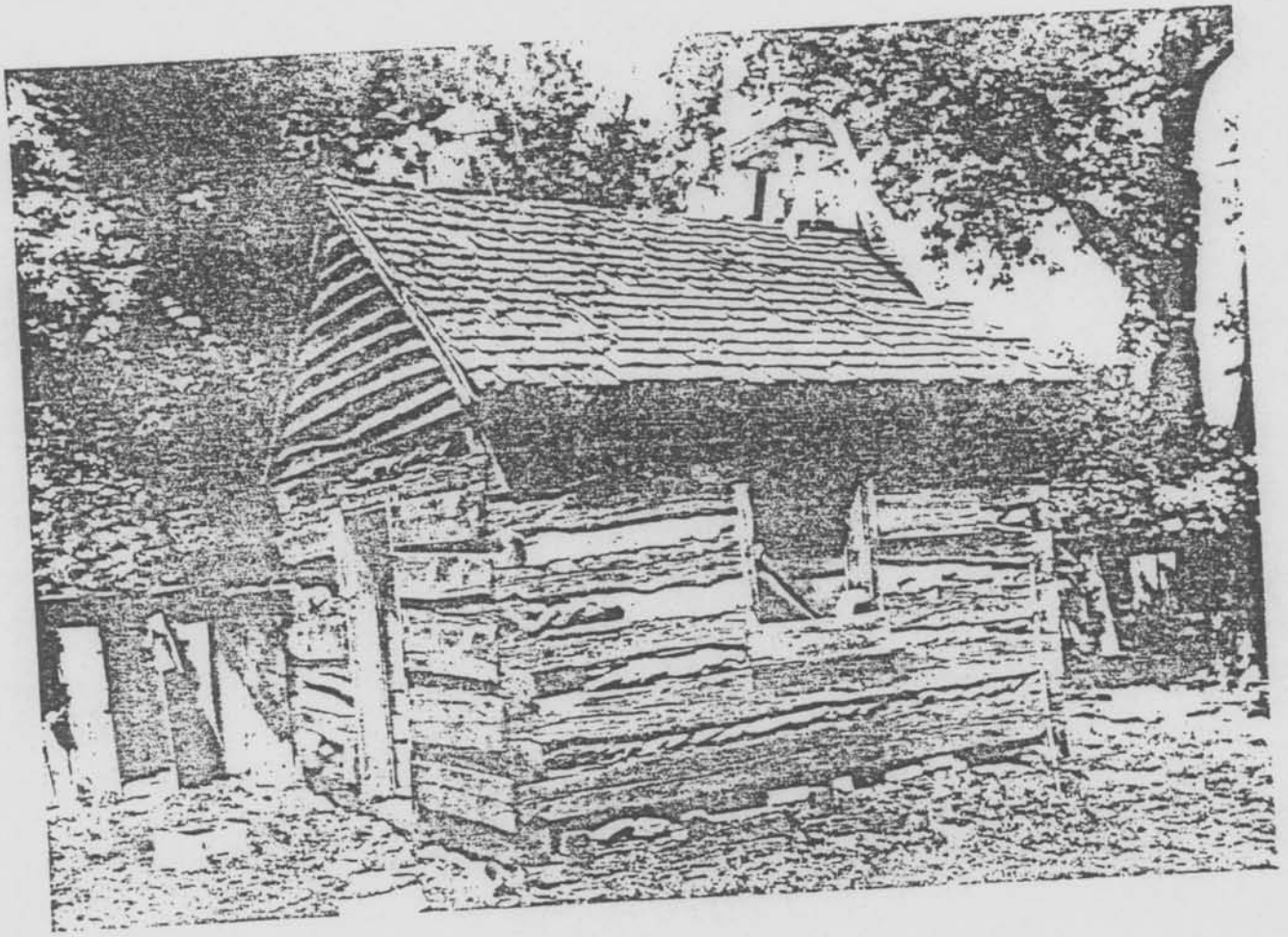


"The Ridge," Montgomery County, Maryland.

circa 1913

source: Proceedings of the Fifth Annual Gathering,
American Clan Gregor Society, 1913

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.10



The Ridge School, now demolished
circa 1956

source: Montgomery County Historical Society

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Land, Court, Will and Assessment Records of Montgomery, Prince George's, and Frederick Counties, Maryland.
2. U.S. Census Records.
3. Service Records, Army Accounts, etc.: Maryland Hall of Records.
4. Archives of Maryland, Journal of the Maryland Conventions, by William Hand Browne; Maryland Historical Society, 1892.
5. Year Book of the American Clan Gregor Society, 1909 through 1985; published annually by the American Clan Gregor Society, Richmond, Virginia; available at the NSDAR Library, Washington, D.C.
6. Montgomery County Sentinel newspaper.
7. Recollections of John E. Muncaster, Jr., 19 March 1986.
8. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, by Roger Brooke Farquhar; American History Research Associates, Brookeville, Md., 1981.
9. Across the Years in Prince George's County, by Effie Gwynn Bowie; Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, 1975.
10. A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, by R.K. MacMaster and R.E. Hiebert; Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, Md., 1976.
11. Sidelights on Maryland History, with Sketches of Early Maryland Families, by Hester Dorsey Richardson; Williams & Wilkins Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md. 1913.
12. History of Western Maryland, by J. Thomas Scharf; Regional Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1967, Vol. II.

9. Major Bibliographical References

M:22-15

See Continuation Sheet No. 9.1

[X] See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [X] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # MD-595
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 6.83 acres

USGS quad: Sandy Spring, MD

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	316950	4337300
B			
C			
D			

[X] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is delineated on Continuation Sheet No. 10.1

[X] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include only the parcel upon which The Ridge stands which is all that remains of a once much larger farm and is now surrounded by new housing developments.

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

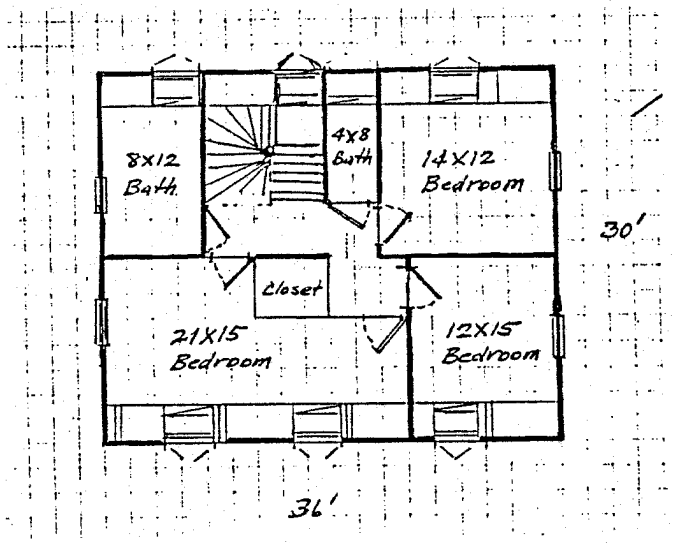
name/title Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Conolly and Eilene McGuckian

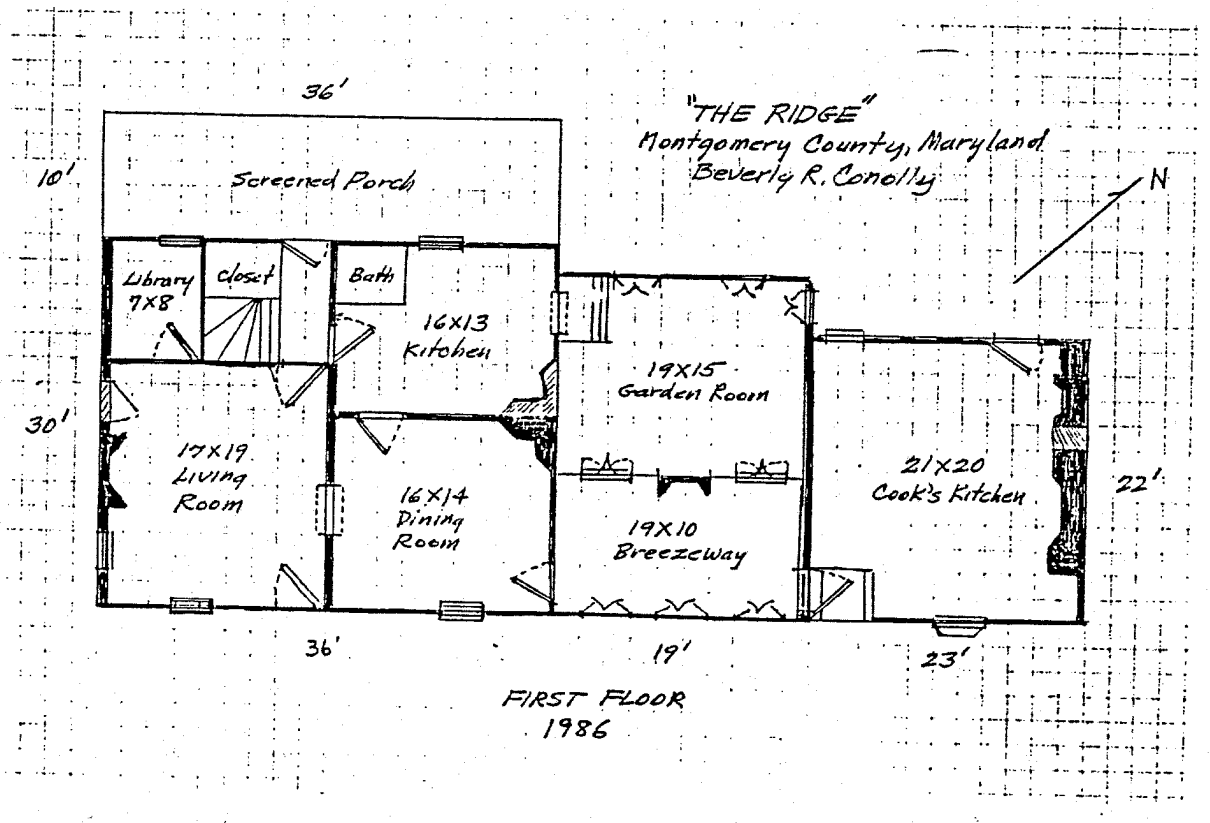
organization _____ date 15 September 1987

street & number 19000 Muncaster Road telephone 301-840-9794

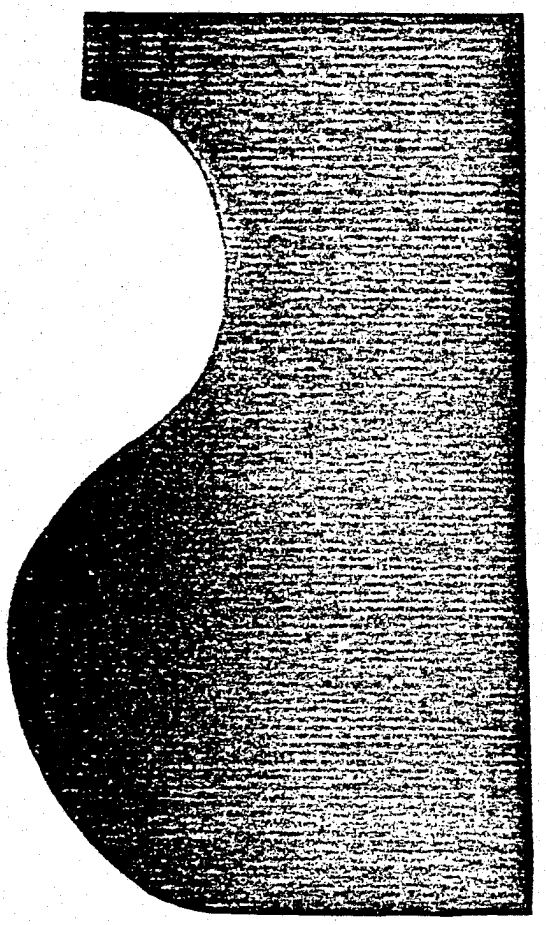
city or town Derwood state Maryland zip code 20855

floor plans





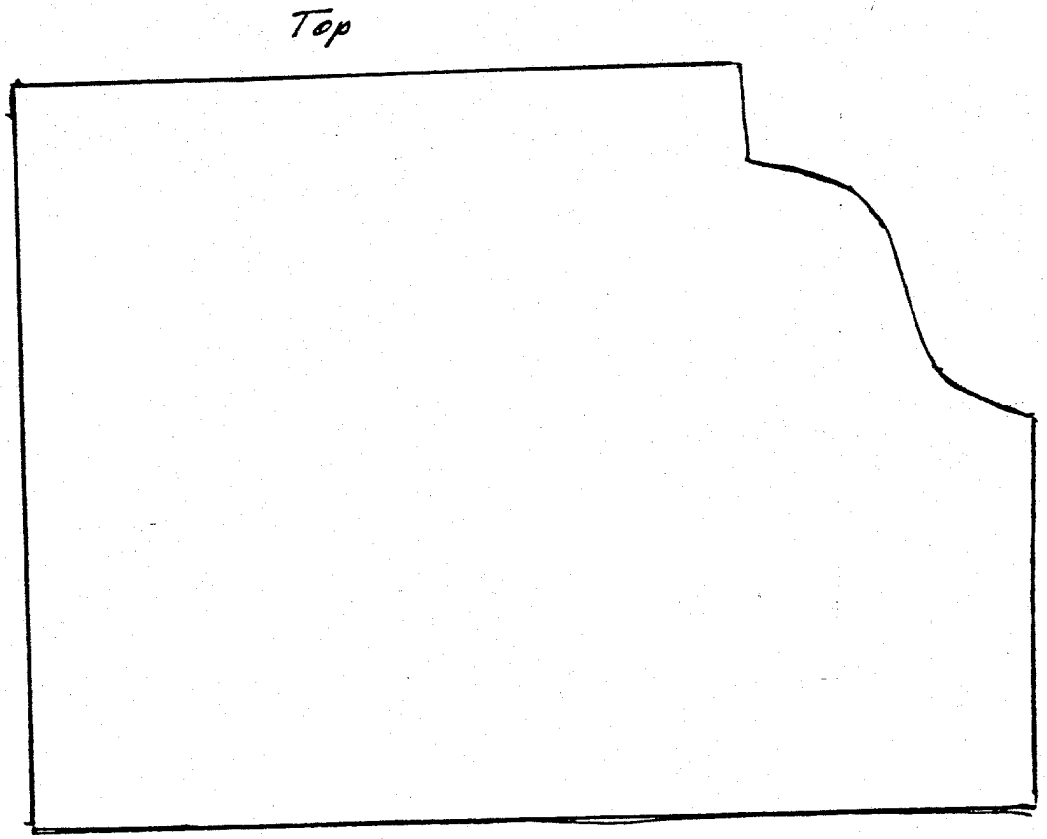
See Continuation Sheet No. 7.9



5" Cyma Recta Curved Wooden Molding
Under Staircase at "The Ridge"

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.10

profile of water table brick



NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

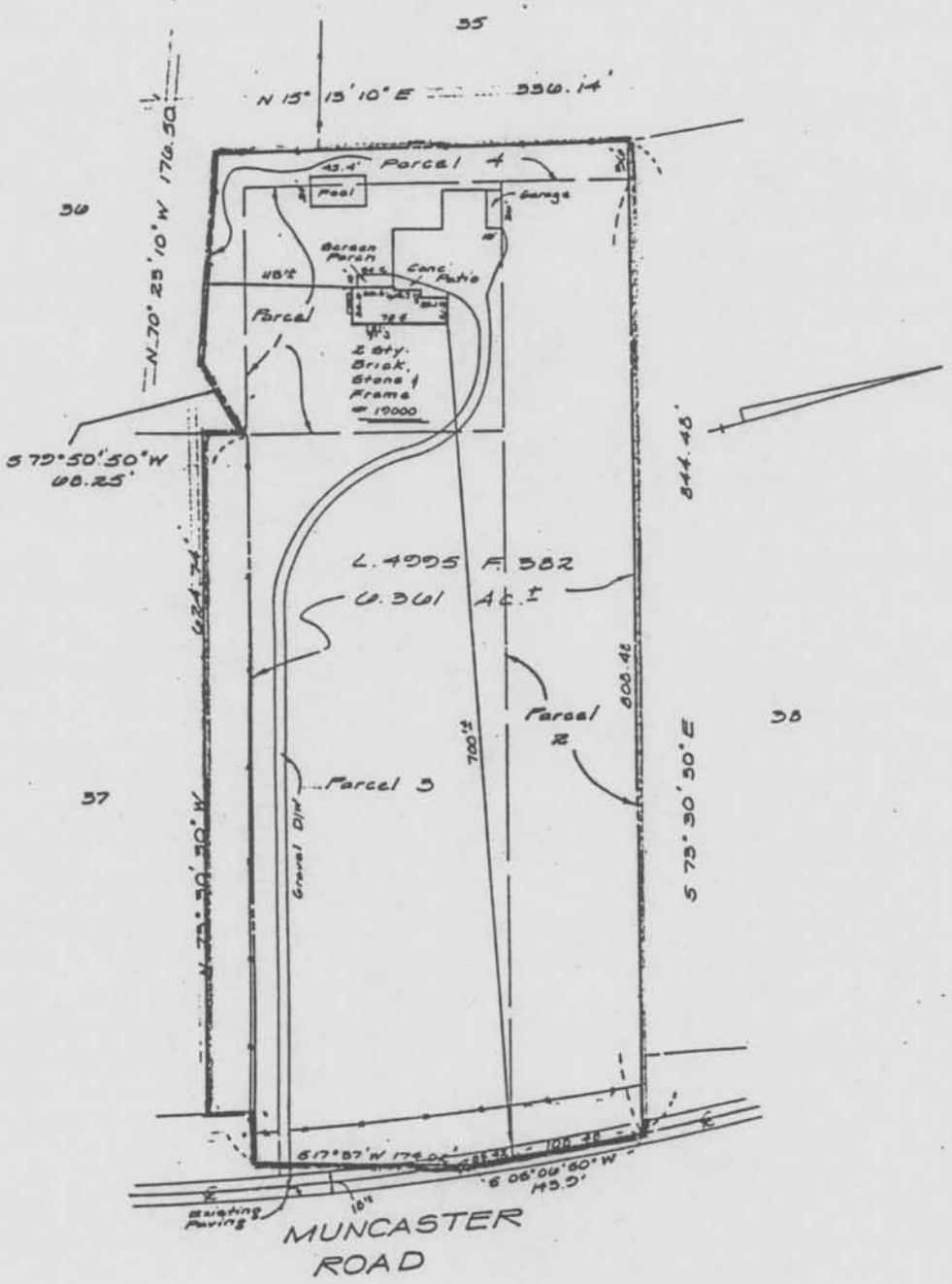
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

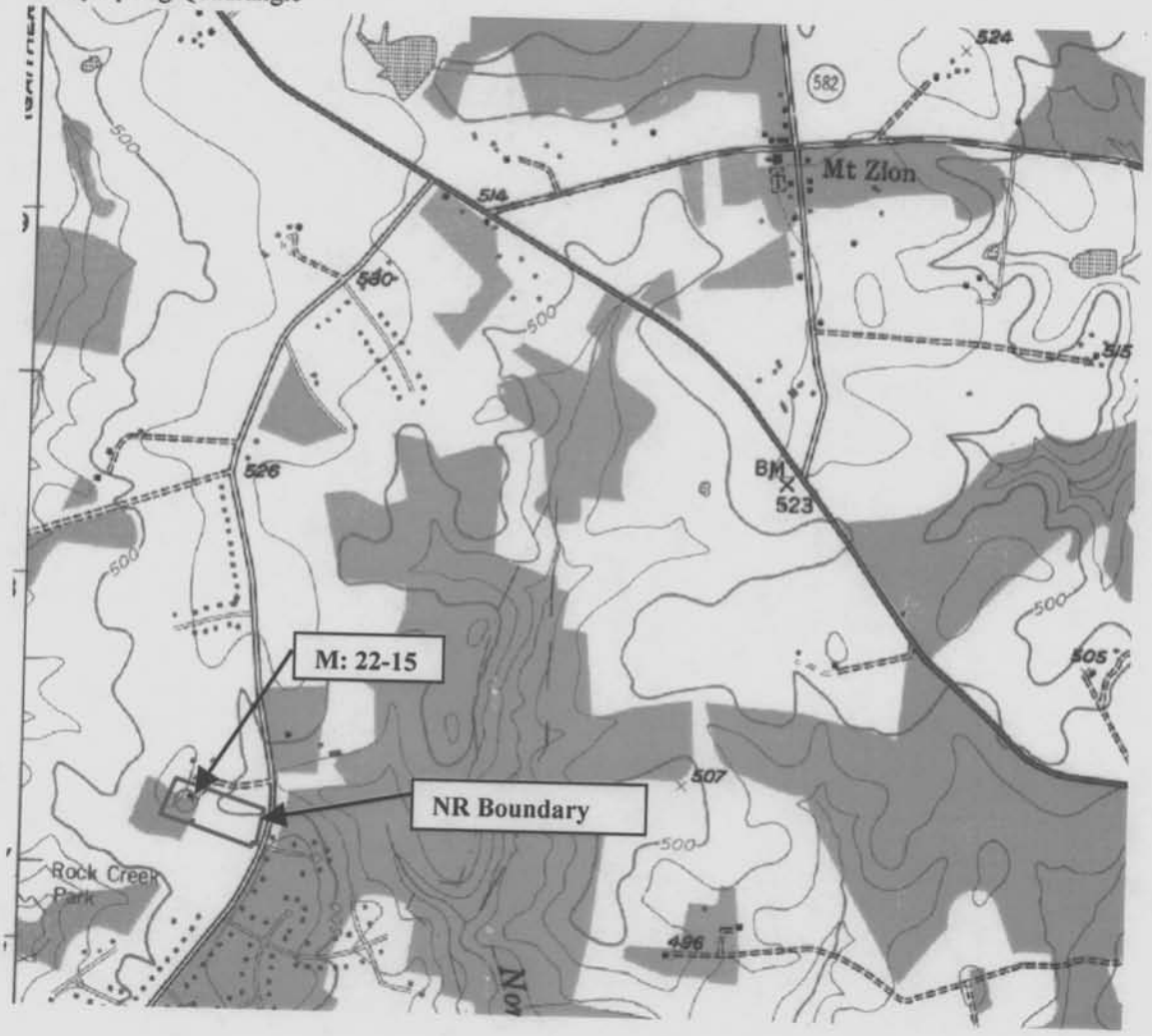
Section number 10 Page 1

The Ridge M:22-15
Montgomery County
Maryland

boundary description



M: 22-15
The Ridge
19000 Muncaster Road, Derwood
Sandy Spring Quadrangle



H:22-15

M:22-15
The Ridge
19000 Muncaster Road, Derwood

Jennifer K. Cosham
March 7, 2004
Digital color photo on file at MHT

The Ridge

East facade of house

M: 22-15

78540

No. West Facade

M: 22-15

The Ridge

781532

West facade
of cookhouse
MI: 22-15

The Ridge

181533

Looking straight down
stairwell

M: 22-15

"The Ridge

4051BL

Lo. Room -
Library and China closet
facing South west

"The Ridge
M: 22-15

181509

dining Room -
facing North,

M: 22-15

"The Ridge"

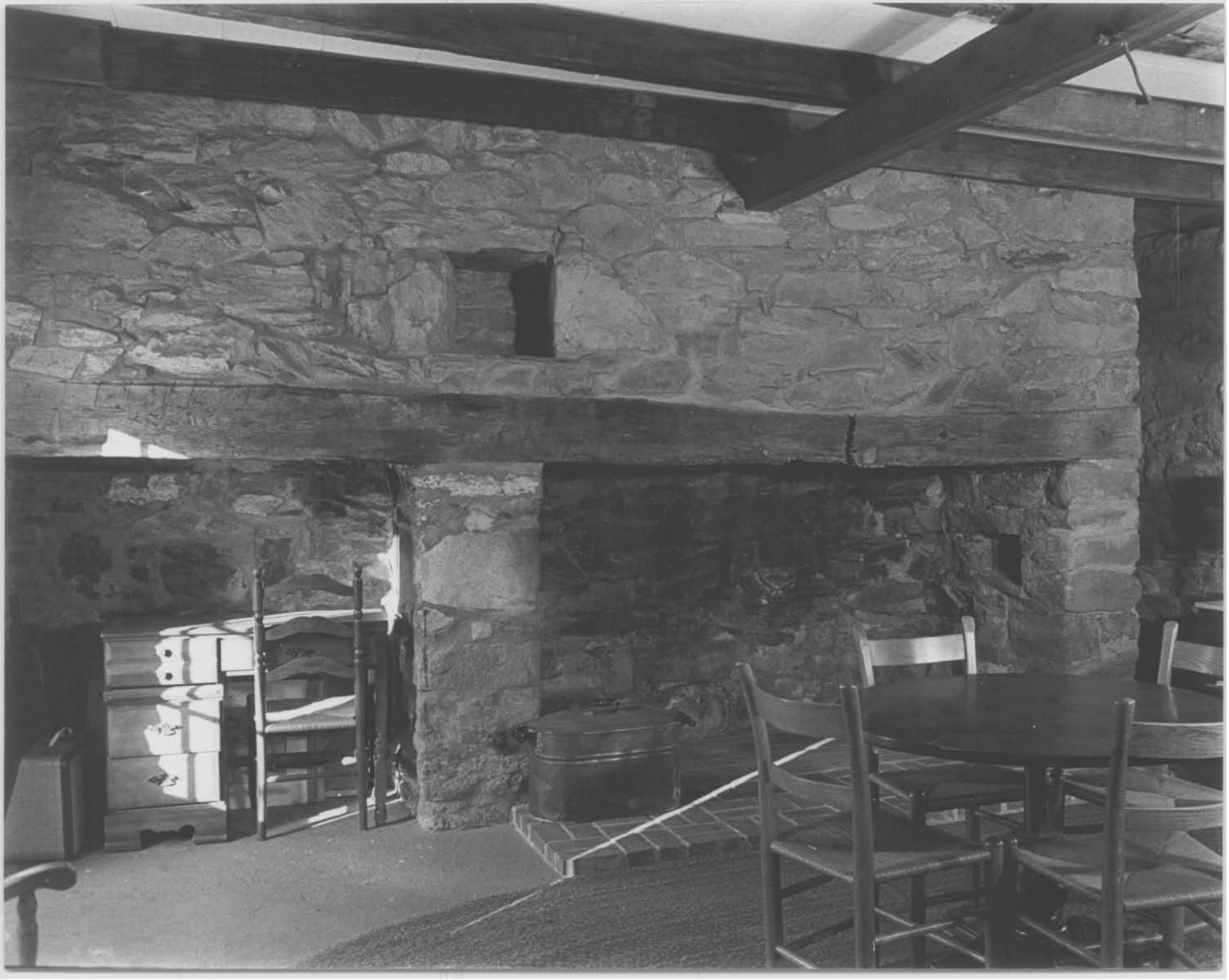
781570

Living Room –
Facing Southeast

"The Ridge"

Mi 22-15

781508



Fire place of Cookhouse
Facing North
M! 22-15

"The Ridge"

781608

"The Ridge"

Upstairs of Cookhouse
Facing North
M: 22-15

781602

East Facade
of log cabin
M! 22-15

"The Ridge"

781530

(East) front door of
Log Cabin

~The Ridge

M:

22-15

781531