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

Easement

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

PG: 70-20

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 MARIETTA

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 5626 Bell Station Road N/A [ ] not for publication

city, town Glenn Dale [X] vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20769

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[ ] private	[X] building(s)	2	0 buildings
[X] public-local	[ ] district		sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site	1	structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure		objects
	[ ] object	3	0 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 [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 6/13/94

State or Federal agency and bureau

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.

[ ] 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

PG 7C - 2C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

RECEIVED
AUG 8 93
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000729 Date Listed: 7/25/94

Marietta	Prince George's	MD
Property Name:	County:	State:

_____
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus 8/1/94
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

The property is nominated under Criterion C, but no Area of Significance has been selected; Architecture is added as an Area of Significance and the nomination form is officially amended.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls BRICK
roof SLATE
other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Marietta, a side-gabled brick Federal house, begun c.1812, has a traditional I-house plan. The main block is 2½ stories high, five bays by two, and entrance is through the central bay of the five-bay main south facade. Attached to the north of the main block at right angles is a two-story rear wing, built c.1832, and attached to the west gable end is an L.shaped wing added in 1968. The bricks of the main south facade are laid in Flemish bond, while the other elevations are laid in 5:1 American bond. The principal entrance in the main block has a semi-circular fanlight enframed by a round brick arch with molded wood keystone. Windows have stone sills and splayed flat-arch lintels with central keystones. The cornice is ornamented with alternately projecting bricks in dentil pattern above one course of brick corbelling; there is a flush chimney at each gable end. The interior of the main block has a central stairhall flanked by a single room on either side. The open-string staircase has a slim turned newel, plain rectangular balusters, bracketed stair-ends, and panelled spandrel. All rooms have wood mantels of the Federal style. Marietta stands on terraced, landscaped grounds with two contemporary outbuildings: a brick law office and a stone and brick root cellar/harness storage room.

[X] See continuation sheet No. 1
For GENERAL DESCRIPTION

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

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
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	1812-1844	1812
Architecture		1816
		1844

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Duvall, Gabriel

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Marietta is an important example in Prince George's County of a late Federal-style brick house. Moderate in size and restrained in its decorative elements, it differs from the grander mansions of the period (e.g., Bowieville and Mattaponi); it provides, however, a visible example of a traditional I-house form in the Federal style. Marietta was built for Gabriel Duvall, one of Prince George's County's most outstanding citizens. Born in 1752, Duvall pursued a career of public service which lasted for more than 60 years. After serving in several positions during the Revolutionary War, he served in the Maryland House of Delegates, the United States Congress, the Maryland Supreme Court, and as Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury under Thomas Jefferson. Soon after 1812, when he was appointed by President James Madison to the U.S. Supreme Court, Duvall began construction of Marietta. Over the next twenty years he developed the plantation, and constructed a substantial rear wing for added living space. He served on the Supreme Court until 1835; in January of that year, he retired to spend the rest of his life at Marietta, where he died in 1844. Marietta remained the residence of his heirs until 1902.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 13

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

9. Major Bibliographical References

[X] See continuation sheet No. 23

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-619
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:
- [X] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [X] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 23.6877 acres

USGS Quad: Lanham, MD

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	344340	4314620
B	18	344200	4313850
C	18	343840	4314410
D			

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

[X] See continuation sheet No. 24

Boundary Justification

[X] See continuation sheet No. 24

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1)Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian, & 2)Susan Wolfe, Facility Manager

organization M-NCPPC: 1)Historic Preservation, 2)History Division date June 1993

street & number 1)14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr., 2)5626 Bell Station Road telephone 1)(301)952-3521, 2)(301)464-5291

city or town 1)Upper Marlboro, 2)Glenn Dale state Maryland zip code 1)20772, 2)20769

★U.S.GPO.1988-0-223-918

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Marietta is a 2½-story brick house, of the traditional I-house form, with decorative detail in the Federal style. The main block was constructed between 1812 and 1816 for Gabriel Duvall, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Duvall added the rear (north) wing in the early 1830s. A modern L-shaped wing was added to the west gable end in 1968.

Exterior

The main block is five bays by two; the entrance, in the central bay of the five-bay principal south facade, is through a large door with six flush panels, set in a narrow molded surround which is painted white. Above the door is a molded wood cornice also painted white, and above that a six-section semi-circular fanlight which is enframed by a round brick arch with molded wood keystone. The threshold is stone.

The door is approached by a modern stone stoop with seven stone steps, bounded by an iron railing. This stoop replaces a pedimented gable-roof entry porch with wooden steps, painted white, which appears in an 1864 watercolor and in an 1896 photograph of the house. According to a letter written by one of Gabriel Duvall's granddaughters who lived at Marietta at mid-19th century, the porch had a brick foundation. An article in the Prince George's Enquirer, June 9, 1899, described the porch as a "sober colonial porch with its quaint side seats..." Just west of the door at shoulder level, incised in one of the brick stretchers is the legend, "IL 1816."

The bricks of the south facade of the main block are laid in Flemish bond; there is no water table, but below the flat arches of the cellar windows the brick is laid in 5:1 American bond. The west, east, and north facades of the main block are laid in 5:1 American bond. The gable roof of the main block is covered with new wood shingle. Beneath the slightly overhanging eaves on the south and north elevations, the cornice is ornamented with alternately projecting bricks in dentil pattern above one course of brick corbelling. In the gable ends, the raking cornices bend to

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

a horizontal kick at the eaves, forming a shallow parapet at the corners. At each gable end there is a flush chimney centered at the ridge. Two gable dormers pierce the south plane of the roof to light the attic level; each encloses a 6/6 window, and the pediment above the window has crown molding. There is only one dormer in the rear, centered in the north plane of the roof. The structure rests on a foundation of local iron-bearing sandstone, which encloses a full basement.

On the south facade, the 9/9 first story and 9/6 second story windows are double hung sash with narrow molded surrounds, stone sills, and splayed flat-arch stone lintels with central keystone. Windows on the north side of the main block have stone sills and flat-arch brick lintels. While the shutters have been removed, iron shutter-dogs survive at most of the windows of both the main block and the wing. The cellar level is lighted by three-pane single sash windows in the first, second, fourth, and fifth bays; they have flat brick arches.

The east gable end of the main block is unfenestrated on the first and second stories, but there are at loft level two small 4/4 windows with stone sills and flat brick arches. On the north (rear) elevation, windows are 9/9 and 9/6 as on the main south facade, but they lack the stone lintels. There are no windows on the west gable end, but there is a door in the southerly bay, possibly constructed as an entrance to a conservatory which was added by the 1850s. Much of the west gable end is enclosed by the 1968 west wing.

A two-story gable-roof wing extends to the north and forms a T. It is two bays long and has no openings in its north (rear) gable end. Windows in the east elevation of the wing are similar to those in the main block, i.e., 9/9 on the first story and 9/6 on the second, and with stone sills and splayed flat stone lintels. In the east elevation of the wing there is a small 1/1 window in the first bay of the first story, and a 9/9 window in the second bay. The second story has two 9/6 windows; all the windows have stone sills and splayed flat-arch stone lintels. On the west elevation there is one 9/9 window on the first story and a 9/6 on the second, with sills and lintels as on the east side. In the southmost bay of this west elevation of the wing, is a smaller 6/6

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

window at second story level; each is surmounted by a splayed flat arch of brick, and in both cases the openings have not been finished with closers. Although this would suggest that these openings are not original to the building, analysis done in 1989 indicates that the interior window frame (second story) is original. A 1946 photograph shows the first-story opening as a 6/6 window, matching the one which survives above it.

Above the water table, the walls of the wing are laid in Flemish bond on the east elevation, and in 5:1 American bond on north and west. The gable roof of the wing has a much shallower pitch than that of the main block; it is covered with the same new wood shingle, and has the same shallow parapet at the north gable end. A single flush chimney rises at the ridge of the north gable end. The cornice is embellished with a course of corbelled brick and dentil pattern as in the main block.

In 1968 a brick kitchen addition was removed from the west gable end of the main block, and a modern L-shape wing was built in its place. It is built of brick, with 1½ stories over a high basement. Its gable roof is covered with slate, and there is a brick-walled garden to the west and south. Built into the northwest corner (formed by the main block and the north wing), is a garage constructed in the 1940s and a sun-room constructed in the 1980s; above the garage and sunroom is a wooden deck. From this deck there is access to the north wing, and also to the center (kitchen) section of the modern wing by means of a sliding glass door.

Interior

Main block

The interior of the main block reflects the traditional I-house plan, with a central stairhall flanked by a single parlor on each side. Much of the original fabric of the house remains: back exterior doors, stair-rails and balusters. Original finishes remain under several layers of paint.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

First story

The principal south entrance leads into the stairhall; the two-run open-string staircase rises along the west wall of the stairhall to a landing, then turns 180 degrees to the second story. It has a slim turned newel (repeated at the landings), typical of the early nineteenth century; it has a mitred cap, plain rectangular balusters, elegantly bracketed stair-ends, and panelled spandrel. The staircase trim continues consistently to the third story. Beneath the stairway was the stair (now closed and converted to closet space) which originally gave access to the basement. (A new basement stairway was built in the north wing in the 1940s.)

The main south door has six panels, and is framed by fluted pilasters from which springs the round arch enframing the fanlight. Separating the door and the fanlight is a course of vertical fluting, and above the fan is a central molded keystone. The door is framed by panelled jambs and soffit.

Much of the original fabric of the house survives: baseboards, window and door surrounds, mantels, front and back exterior doors, stair railings, and balusters. Throughout the first story of the main block, the baseboards are high with crown molding, and just below the window sills are pedestal chair-rails. The chair-rail sills were originally decorated with carbon in an oil/varnish simulating marble, as were the baseboard fasciae in the first-story east and west parlors and in the second-story east lodging room. The remaining chair-rail surfaces were painted a yellowish grey to simulate stone. The chair-rail and baseboard fasciae in the hall were finished with burnt umber.

Surrounds of doors and windows are two-step: two plain fields separated by a narrow ogee molding, and bounded by a wider ogee backband and an inner bead. These surrounds were painted yellowish grey to simulate stone; several layers of paint cover these original finishes. All doors have six molded panels, and have panelled jambs and soffit. The doors in the main block, leading to the 1830s addition, were originally finished in red ochres in oil/varnish medium, and grained to simulate mahogany. There are no interior shutters.

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

At the foot of the stairs, a door opens into the west parlor, or dining room. The wood mantel, centered in the west wall, is of elegant Federal style; it has a vertically fluted frieze broken in the center by a rectangular panel of bolder fluting, and on the ends by convex oval shell ornaments. The firebox is framed by elegant convex fluted pilasters. On each side of the mantel is a door; these originally opened into flanking closets. The present door on the south side of the mantel opens into a walled garden; it is new, but has compatible framing. The door on the north side of the mantel has a later Victorian ogee molding; it appears to be a period door which may have been moved from another location. This door leads into the apartment in the modern west wing. The floor in the dining room is multi-grain pine that was discovered when twentieth-century oak flooring was removed. This flooring was also removed, remanufactured, and reinstalled.

The east parlor has woodwork similar to that in the dining room. The wood mantel in this room has fluted pilasters and oval shell pattern, but, unlike that in the dining room, the frieze has horizontal fluting and the central rectangular panel is ornamented with a sunburst pattern. Beneath the shelf is a course of gougework in a meander pattern. The alcoves flanking the chimney breast are filled with floor-to-ceiling book shelves. These spaces were originally closets, according to Gabriel Duvall's own 1834 inventory of the house. The floorboards in the east parlor are of random width, multi-grain pine, worn, and probably original.

Second story

The second story consists of a central stairhall that contains a small room in the central bay. This room was identified as a small bedroom in Duvall's 1834 inventory. In the twentieth century it was converted into a bathroom, which has recently been removed. The hall is flanked by two bed chambers. Each bedroom has a fine Federal style wood mantel though simpler in design than those in the parlor rooms. The mantle in the east chamber has a plain frieze in which is centered a rectangular fluted panel; beneath the shelf is a course of dentils and the firebox is framed by rectangular flat fluted pilasters. Surrounds of the windows and doors are similar to, but typically simpler than, those on the first story; they are one-step, i.e., a single unbroken field

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

bounded by ogee backband and inner bead. There is a pedestal chair-rail in each room. The narrow oak floor-boards installed in the twentieth century have been removed. Multi-grain pine found under the oak boards has been remanufactured and reinstalled in the west lodging room. Compatible old multi-grain pine flooring is being acquired for the east lodging room and to supplement original flooring the in the hall and little bedroom.

Basement

The brick bearing walls in the basement of the main block form the same pattern of rooms as on the first story. Beneath each of the east chimneys, centered in the east gable end wall, is a support arch typical of the period. In the corresponding space on the west, an additional flue originally served a large cooking fireplace at basement level. (This fireplace has been bricked in, and is partially hidden by furnace facilities.) There is also a basement space beneath the north wing, partitioned into a small southerly space and a larger northerly space.

Attic

The formal staircase in the main block continues to the third story, which contains three spaces, each smaller (by virtue of the roof slope) than the corresponding space below. At the top of the stairs, a narrow transverse hall/landing opens directly into a small storage room centered in the south front. The hall leads east and west into two equal small chambers, now used for storage.

North wing - first story

The interior of the north wing first story consists of a small, rear stairhall and a single parlor. There is a six-panel door with panelled jambs and soffits under the landing of the main staircase. This is the original north exterior door of the main block (from the period before 1830), and the original stone threshold survives in situ. This door leads into the north wing passage, in which is located the original staircase to the second story of the wing. There are now two steps into the rear stairhall, from which a stair descends to the cellar (added in the 20th century), and a rear stair rises along the south wall then

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

turns 90 degrees to rise along the east wall to the second story. These rear stairs have slim turned newels and rectangular balusters in the Federal style. (Some movement of the newels appears to have been made when the cellar stairs were installed, and new balusters were made to match those of the 1830s staircase to the second story.) To the west of the hall a former storage room, possibly a pantry, has been converted into a closet and half bath. The 6/6 window has been replaced with a narrow solid wooden door, with a three-pane transom that opens onto the modern wooden deck.

The rear parlor of the north wing has a fireplace centered in its north wall; it has a Greek Revival style wood mantel with plain frieze and panelled pilasters. Trim at the doors and windows is similar to that in the main block, but the windows have a molded sill with a bold Greek profile. Floorboards are of random width and probably original; baseboards are high with crown molding, and there is no chair-rail. The door to the north parlor room has an extraordinary finish under layers of paint: a special decorative graining finish employing a yellow lead pigment, with yellow edging and mahogany grained rails and stiles.

North wing - second story

From the intermediate landing of the formal staircase, a doorway leads up four steps into the second story of the wing. Each leaf of the double door has three molded panels, and its surround is two-step, compatible with the moldings of the first story, but of new material. The interior room of the second story addition has been divided into three spaces: an alcove, a closet, and a bathroom. The alcove has a period window that opens onto the back staircase immediately to the east, allowing borrowed light into the inner room. A door leading to a landing at the top of the stairs has been closed off. The wall between the hall and the bathroom appears to have reused original woodwork. Also, doors to cabinets in the alcove appear to be early and reused in the twentieth century, perhaps moved from another part of the house. The door and frame to the north room are original.

The large north chamber of the wing has baseboards and window frames that are similar to those in the chamber below, but unlike that space, does have a pedestal chair-rail. The mantel from this

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

room has been removed, and the fireplace has been closed.

Grounds and Outbuildings

The plantation house at Marietta stands on terraced, landscaped grounds with two early nineteenth-century outbuildings: a brick law office, and a stone and brick root cellar/harness storage building. The house stands on a high point of land, which slopes gently down to the north behind the house, and falls sharply to a lower lawn area in the south. A terrace bordered with large boxwood separates the immediate front lawn of the house from the lower south lawn. Rough stone steps, centered at the edge of the upper terrace, lead through an opening in a boxwood border from the dwelling house level down to the lower south lawn, which originally featured a circular driveway.

East of the stone steps, built into the slope, is a two-level brick and stone root cellar/harness storage house. It is constructed up to the gable pitch of local iron-bearing sandstone, and the mortar is embellished with galletting. The gables are constructed of brick. The building is, at present, unroofed.

Just east of this storage building, but standing on the upper level, is a small gable-roof brick building, which was built to serve as Judge Duvall's study or law office. It is 1½ stories high, one bay by two, and there are entrances in each of the two-bay north and south elevations. Each door has six molded panels, a narrow molded surround, and is surmounted by a splayed flat arch of brick. To the right of each door is a 6/6 double hung sash window. The north and west elevation walls of the office are laid in Flemish bond, and 5:1 American bond on the south and east. The foundation is of local ironbearing sandstone in which the mortar is embellished with galletting. The gable roof is covered with new wood shingles and a flush brick chimney rises at the ridge of the east gable end. The east gable end is unfenestrated; the loft level is lighted by a single 4/4 double hung sash window, centered high in the west gable end.

The interior of the law office consists of one room. There is a plain wood mantel at the fireplace in the east wall. In the

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

north corner of the east wall, a small boxed staircase rises to the loft level; between the stairs and the mantel, a short two-panel door which hangs on HL hinges opens into a small closet under the stairs. The west wall is completely taken up with built-in double-door bookcase cabinets. There are three cabinets, each one consisting of two six-panel doors over two two-panel doors. Around the room at the level of the window sills runs a plain pedestal chair-rail; baseboards are of plain board, and the floor boards are of random with pine and probably original.

The grounds around the dwelling house and the law office include several very large old oak, maple, and walnut trees. Two of the pecans outside the law office date to the 1870s. On the west lawn is a champion specimen of dawn redwood, as well as several very large walnut trees. On the grounds to the west of the redwood is a new stone memorial marking the 1987 re-interment of Gabriel Duvall (removed from the small family burial ground one-half mile to the north), as well as four monuments to other members of Justice Duvall's immediate family.

Current Work

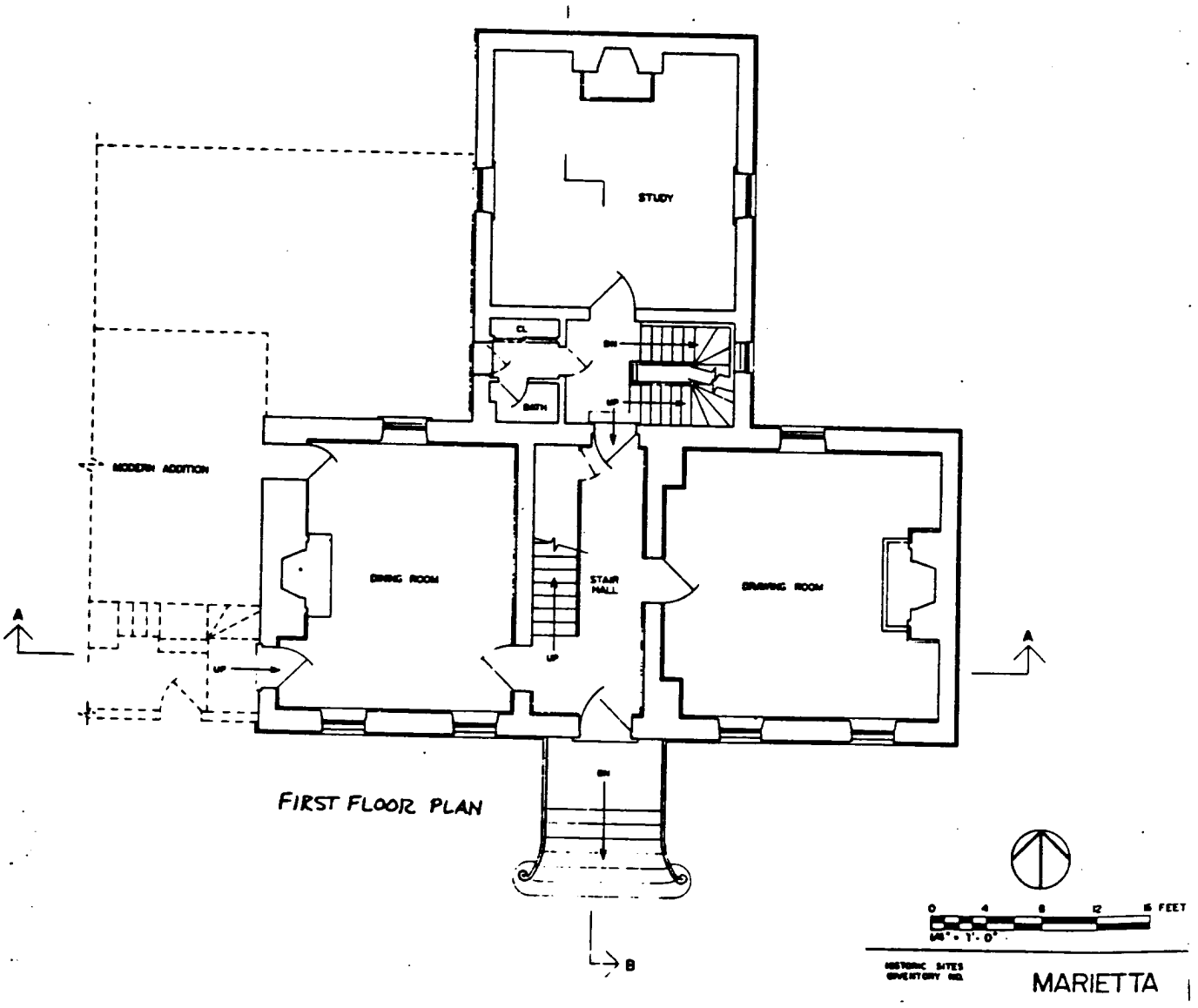
The current owners of Marietta, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, with funds from the County and the Maryland Historical Trust, began a three-phase restoration project for the house in October, 1992. The first phase involves stabilizing the structure by installing steel support beams under the floors of the first story, and joist supports under the floors of the second story. Two badly deteriorated support walls in the basement have been replaced, as well as deteriorated face bricks on remaining basement walls. The air conditioning vent system installed by the Scherers has been removed, and rooms returned to their original configuration. The bathroom in the little room on the second story of the main block has been removed, and the floor returned to its original appearance. Narrow oak flooring has been removed from the dining room, the entrance hall, the second-story hall, and two lodging chambers. Multi-grain pine flooring under the oak is believed to be the original floor boards, taken up when radiators and electrical wiring were added (possibly in the 1940s), and then put back randomly as subflooring. These pine boards have been remanufactured and reinstalled as much as possible. Matching

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

flooring from other sources will complete areas where floor-boards original to Marietta are not available. The floor-boards in the entrance hall were not taken up, but severely damaged sections will be replaced, and the entire floor sanded.

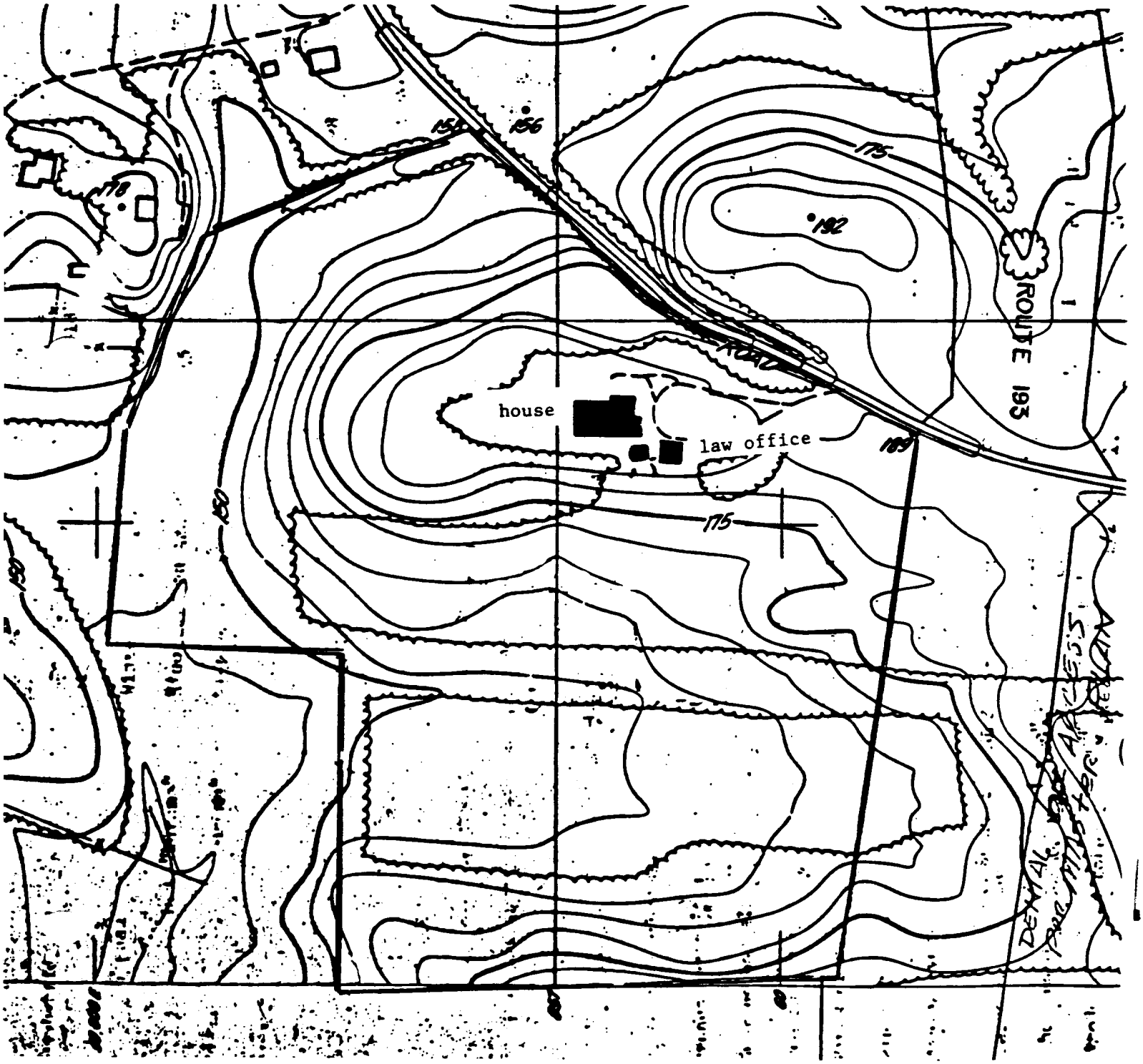
[On the exterior, earlier incompatible brick repairs will be replaced with compatible brick and mortar, and the badly deteriorating bricks (especially on the 1830s addition) will be replaced as necessary. This will complete Phase I of the restoration project.]

See Continuation Sheet No. 11



See Continuation Sheet No. 12

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP



HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Historic Period Themes:

Agriculture
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building(s)

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structures

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet No. 14

HISTORIC SETTING:

Marietta is located in the north central section of Prince George's County, in the area historically known as the Forest of Prince George's County. Settlement began in this area in the late seventeenth century, as planters moved inland from their earlier Patuxent River establishments, e.g., near Nottingham and Queen Anne. When Prince George's County was established out of Charles and Calvert Counties in 1696, much of the land in the area of present-day Marietta had not yet been surveyed and patented. But by early in the eighteenth century, several prominent landowning families were developing plantations in the area, e.g., tracts such as Darnall's Grove, Orphan's Gift, Holliday's Choice, and Beall's Gift were incorporated into large plantations of the Duvall, Duckett, Bowie, Beall, and Hilleary families.

Churches were also being constructed in the two parishes of the Church of England which existed in the County at the time of its establishment; by 1704, St. Paul's Parish had been divided so that its northern section became Queen Anne Parish. The mission chapel (the Forest Chapel, or "Henderson's" Chapel) which served the "remote inhabitants" of Queen Anne Parish stood at the edge of the 3800-acre Darnall's Grove tract; this chapel, which would play a large part in the Duvall family history, later came to be known as Holy Trinity Church.

When Prince George's County was established, it represented the frontier of the Maryland colony. During the eighteenth century, the population grew, plantations were developed, and the frontier became an extension of British civilization. River port towns, such as Queen Anne, Upper Marlborough, and Nottingham, thrived and were designated official inspection stations for that all-important product, tobacco. The wealth of the County, which was based on land, tobacco, and slave labor, increased; it supported the construction of architecturally outstanding plantation houses and large plantation complexes in the closing years of the eighteenth century.

As the population grew, so did the road system. One of the most important roads connected the port town of Bladensburg (on the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River) with the capital city of

See Continuation Sheet No. 15

Annapolis. This much used artery of transportation ran through the northern section of Darnall's Grove, near the Forest Chapel and the plantation of the Duvall family, and it was certainly the road used by Gabriel Duvall in the course of his frequent journeys to the colonial capital.

It was into this setting that Gabriel Duvall was born in 1752, at the plantation of his father, Benjamin Duvall, on the tract known as Darnall's Grove. This 150-acre plantation in the northwest corner of Darnall's Grove became the cornerstone of Gabriel Duvall's plantation, Marietta, which during the nineteenth century comprised over 650 acres.

Period of Significance

The period of significance for Marietta is from 1812 to 1844. It begins at the period of the construction of the house and the development of the plantation, through the years of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall's residence at Marietta, and ends with the death of the Justice in 1844.

Resource History

Marietta was built c.1813-1816 by Gabriel Duvall, then serving as one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. Duvall was born 6 December 1752 at Darnall's Grove, the plantation of his father Benjamin Duvall. One hundred fifty acres of Darnall's Grove (a 3800-acre tract patented in 1681 to Colonel Henry Darnall) had been acquired by Gabriel Duvall's grandfather in 1720; this was the plantation on which Gabriel Duvall was born, and it was conveyed to him by his father in 1785. During the early years of the Republic, Gabriel Duvall acquired several pieces of adjoining property, all of which eventually came to comprise the Marietta plantation.

In 1771, Gabriel Duvall went to Annapolis, and began a career of public service which would last for more than sixty years. He read law, and after serving as clerk of the General Court, and of the Council of Safety, was admitted to the bar and began in 1778

See Continuation Sheet No. 16

the practice of law. During the Revolutionary War, he served in several positions, including that of Commissioner for the Preservation and Sale of Confiscated British Properties. In 1783 he served as a member of the Governor's Council, and after the War, as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates.[1]

In 1787 Gabriel Duvall married Mary Bryce of Annapolis, and it was at approximately this time that he began the acquisition and consolidation of land in Prince George's County. Having just received from his father the 150-acre Darnall's Grove property of his childhood, Duvall acquired 500 acres of Holliday's Choice in 1787, 63 acres of Hill's Choice in 1788, and 145 acres of Orphan's Gift in 1792, all adjoining the Duvall plantation on the northwest. One son, Edmund Bryce Duvall, was born 25 January 1790, of Duvall's union with Mary Bryce; she died within two months of the child's birth, on 24 March 1790.[2]

In 1794, Gabriel Duvall was appointed to fill the vacant seat as Maryland's Representative in the Third Congress of the United States. The Congress convened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with Gabriel Duvall in attendance. During the session, he lodged at the boarding-house of Mrs. Mary Gibbon, making the acquaintance of her daughter, Jane; on 5 May 1795, Jane Gibbon became Gabriel Duvall's second wife. Re-elected to his seat in the Fourth Congress, Duvall served until March 1796, at which time he resigned to take up his

---

[1]M-NCPPC, Marietta Historic Structures Report, Shirley Baltz, 1986; Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, 1774-1989, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1989. See also Prince George's County Hall of Fame "Directory of Prince Georgians Honored;" Archives of Maryland LXIV, pp. 24,35,97,447; Journal of Gabriel Duvall, Gift Collection, Maryland State Archives, D680, page 43 (also on microfilm M414).

[2]M-NCPPC, op.cit.; Prince George's County Deeds HH:485, JJ#2:310, JRM#1:268,429,432; Journal of Gabriel Duvall, page 43; Federal Direct Tax, 1798.

See Continuation Sheet No. 17

appointment as Chief Justice of the General Court of Maryland.[3]

Gabriel Duvall supported Thomas Jefferson in his bid for the Presidency, and served as a Jefferson elector in both the 1796 and 1800 elections. In 1802, Duvall was appointed by President Jefferson to fill the position of Comptroller of the United States Treasury. At this time, Duvall and his wife took up residence in a rented house in the District of columbia. He was reappointed Comptroller by President James Madison after his election in 1808.[4]

In November of 1811, Madison appointed Duvall to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; he took his seat when the Court convened in February 1812, a seat which he held until his retirement in 1835. It was at about this time that Duvall began the construction of a fine new brick house on the large acreage which he had accumulated in Prince George's County adjoining the plantation where he had been born. The house was built in the form of the traditional I-house, i.e., side-gabled, with a central stairhall flanked by a single parlor on each side. The brick walls rested on a heavy foundation of local sandstone, and were laid in stylish Flemish bond. The exterior appearance of the house was moderately severe, but was highlighted by the fine keystone lintels over the windows. Interior trim, including the staircase, the door and window surrounds, and particularly the mantels, was fine and typical of the period. Although moderate in size, and restrained in decorative detail, Marietta was a very handsome building. In the early years of the nineteenth century, Duvall had referred to his Prince George's County landholdings merely as "the farm," but by 1816 he was consistently calling his new and developing plantation "Marietta."

After the British invasion and burning of Washington's public buildings in 1814, Duvall's rented house in the city was taken over by the United States State Department, and Marietta became the Duvalls' primary residence. The Marietta access lane led directly

---

[3]ibid.; Baltimore Telegraph, 15 May 1795; Journal of Gabriel Duvall, p. 43.

[4]M-NCPPC, op.cit.; Journal of Gabriel Duvall, pp. 43,44.

See Continuation Sheet No. 18

to the principal and ancient roadway from Annapolis to Bladensburg, and thence to the Capital, so travel between Court and plantation was relatively easy. Also, the Justice had a law office built on the grounds of Marietta, a short distance from the plantation house. This small gable-roof brick study contained copious bookshelves, a mantel, and a loft for storage; it was here the Justice retired to privacy for preparation of his cases.

Gabriel Duvall served on the Supreme Court for 23 years, an unusually long tenure. As a jurist, he tended to vote with the strong Chief Justice John Marshall, notably differing with him on the historic case of **The Trustees of Dartmouth College v. Woodward** in 1819. In a large number of cases, Duvall voted with Marshall to expand and define the power of the federal government or narrow a state's power over commerce; his vote was consistently on the side of the national government. Only in the **Dartmouth College** case did he desert the Chief Justice.[5]

Marietta was visited on at least one occasion by President James Madison; his visit was reported in a letter written by Sarah Gales Seaton in May 1816:

> "We have been on a jaunt to Annapolis . . . On our way we met Judge Duvall, who pressed us to dine at his house, about fifteen miles from Washington, on the roadside, where we spent a few hours most delightfully in the society of this venerable, patriarchal man and hospitable, loquacious, kind old lady, who displayed on her table every luxury in and out of season. The President and family had stayed a day and night just before, being much gratified in their visit. The evening we reached Annapolis there was a great ball in honor of

[5]Dilliard, Irving, "Gabriel Duvall," from The Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, 1789-1969, Their Lives and Major Opinions, Volume I, page 426.

See Continuation Sheet No. 19

the President . . ."[6]

This visit occurred very soon after the house was completed.

In 1831, Justice Duvall's son Edmund Bryce Duvall died, and in the following year, his young widow also, leaving three minor grandchildren (Marcus, Edmund Bryce II, and Gabriella Augusta) in the care of Justice Duvall, then in his eightieth year. It was at this time that the rear (north) wing was added to Marietta, increasing the living space in the house and giving it its T shape. In 1834, when the Justice's wife, Jane Duvall, died, the inventory of her personal belongings indicates that the rear wing had been finished.[7]

Even in his eighties, Gabriel Duvall continued to serve as Supreme Court Justice, but he suffered from an increasing deafness. Because he was sometimes unable to hear the proceedings of the Court, and even dozed during sessions, he gained a reputation for incompetence; his letters, however, reveal that he was fully aware of the political situation. Wishing to step down, but fearing the appointment of a liberal-minded successor, he held his post until he was assured that Roger Brooke Taney, a fellow Marylander, would be nominated to fill his seat. He resigned in January 1835, and retired to spend the rest of his life at Marietta.[8]

Gabriel Duvall died 6 March 1844 at Marietta, and the Supreme Court, after paying tribute to "his urbanity, his courtesy, his gentle manners, his firm integrity and independence, and his sound judgement," adjourned in his memory. He was interred in the family burial ground approximately one-half mile north of the Marietta

---

[6]William Winston Seaton of the "National Intelligencer." A Biographical Sketch: Boston, James R. Osgood and Company, 1871, page 133.

[7]Seaton, op.cit., Inventory, 1834, Papers of Gabriel Duvall, Library of Congress, MSS #2948; Journal of Gabriel Duvall, Maryland State Archives, pp. 59,69.

[8]M-NCPPC, op.cit.

See Continuation Sheet No. 20

plantation house.[9]

Justice Duvall's will divided the Marietta plantation, between 600 and 700 acres, between his two grandsons; Marcus inherited the northerly section of the land and the house in which his father had lived, while Edmund B. II (1828-1878) inherited the southerly section including the Marietta plantation house. After Edmund reached his majority and married, Marietta became the place where he raised his family. It was also the home of his son, Gabriel DuVal[10], before being sold in 1902 to William Duckett Bowie of nearby Fairview. During these years a two-story frame water tower was built onto the west gable end of the house; it appears in the 1936 photograph by John O. Brostrup in the collection of the Historic American Buildings Survey.[11] During the years of the Great Depression, Marietta was periodically occupied by tenant farmer families, and the house and outbuildings suffered serious deterioration. In 1941 the property was purchased by William and Mary-Eula Blair, and they began extensive restoration work on the house. In 1945, the stabilized building and grounds were sold to Paul and Margaret Scherer, who subsequently had the modern wing constructed on the west end of the house. The Scherers conveyed the house and 25 acres to The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1968, retaining a life tenancy in the house, a right which they voluntarily relinquished in 1978.[12]

---

[9]Prince George's County Will PC#1:247; M-NCPPC, op.cit.; National Intelligencer, 9 March 1844; Baltimore Sun, 12 March 1844.

[10]Prince George's County Will PC#1:247; Justice Duvall's son, Edmund Bryce I (1790-1831), adopted the spelling "DuVal" for his surname, and his sons and grandsons continued the practice.

[11]Prince George's County Will PC#1:247; Historic American Buildings Survey photograph by John O. Brostrup, 15 April 1936, Library of Congress.

[12]Prince George's County Deeds #605:326, #780:82, #3689:601; M-NCPPC, op.cit.

See Continuation Sheet No. 21

Marietta is now in good condition, and is in the process of careful restoration by The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The house and outbuildings stand in a 23.6877-acre setting of ancient trees, terraces, and lawns--an oasis of unusual serenity. The graves of several members of the Duvall family have been removed from the old burial ground and reinterred in the west lawn of Marietta; a resident caretaker lives in the modern wing, and the basement of that wing serves as the library of the Prince George's County Historical Society.

Resource Analysis

Marietta is an excellent example of a house of the Federal style, and the finest example of its type surviving in Prince George's County. Modest in size and restrained in its decorative elements, it differs from the grander mansions of a generation earlier and of its own period. The main block follows the traditional I-house plan, and is distinguished by its handsome keystone lintels and fine interior trim; the property is rendered unique by the existence on its grounds of the small law office dependency. Perhaps Marietta's greatest importance is the fact that it was built for Gabriel Duvall, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and one of Prince George's County's most outstanding citizens.

Marietta is unique among the late Federal style plantation houses of Prince George's County. Built on the traditional I-house plan, it resembles Harmony Hall, that fine Georgian plantation house of a half century earlier; unlike Harmony Hall, however, the main block of Marietta exhibits decorative elements of the mature Federal style and has a smaller footprint than that of Harmony Hall. Marietta is more modest in scale and ornamentation than His Lordship's Kindness and Montpelier; these grand Federal style mansions of the 1780s, complete with flanking hyphens and wings, feature particularly elegant interior detail. Marietta differs also from the outstanding late Federal style plantation houses of its own period, e.g., Bowieville and Mattaponi; its I-house plan is more modest in scale than the irregular and grand Georgian plans of those two elegant mansions, and its ornamentation is significantly more restrained. Marietta can be compared to only one other surviving dwelling of its period in the County, William's Plains.

See Continuation Sheet No. 22

But even Williams's Plains, begun around 1813 and finished in the 1840s, is considerably larger than Marietta; it has a Georgian floor plan, and its interior exhibits later Greek Revival style trim.

Marietta was clearly intended to serve as a country seat to which its owner, an important public figure, could retire in privacy. It was sufficiently elegant, in a restrained way, for entertaining other public figures, but was in no way pretentious. Before the British invasion of 1814, Duvall had probably intended to maintain his rental home in the city and eventually retire to Marietta. He could have had no expectation of enlarging his country seat for the purpose of raising his orphaned grandchildren.

Architecturally, Marietta is significant for its form and for its Federal style ornamentation, in particular its keystone lintels, and fine interior trim. The property is rendered unique by the existence on its grounds of the brick law office, an important element in the legal career of Justice Duvall. And Marietta is of outstanding importance because it was built for, and was the residence for thirty years of, one of Prince George's County's most distinguished citizens, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, 1774-1989: U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1989.

Dilliard, Irving, "Gabriel Duvall," from The Justices of the Supreme Court, 1789-1969, Their Lives and Major Opinions, Volume I: Chelsea House Publishers in Association with R.R. Bowker Company, New York, 1969.

Journal of Gabriel Duvall, Gift Collection (D680), Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Prince George's County, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

M-NCPPC, Marietta Historic Structures Report, prepared by Shirley Baltz and James T. Wollon, 1986.

Papers of Gabriel Duvall, Manuscripts Collection #2948, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Prince George's County Deeds, at Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland, and at Land Records, Prince George's County Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Starr, Harris E., Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XXI (Supplement One) 1944, pp.272-274.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

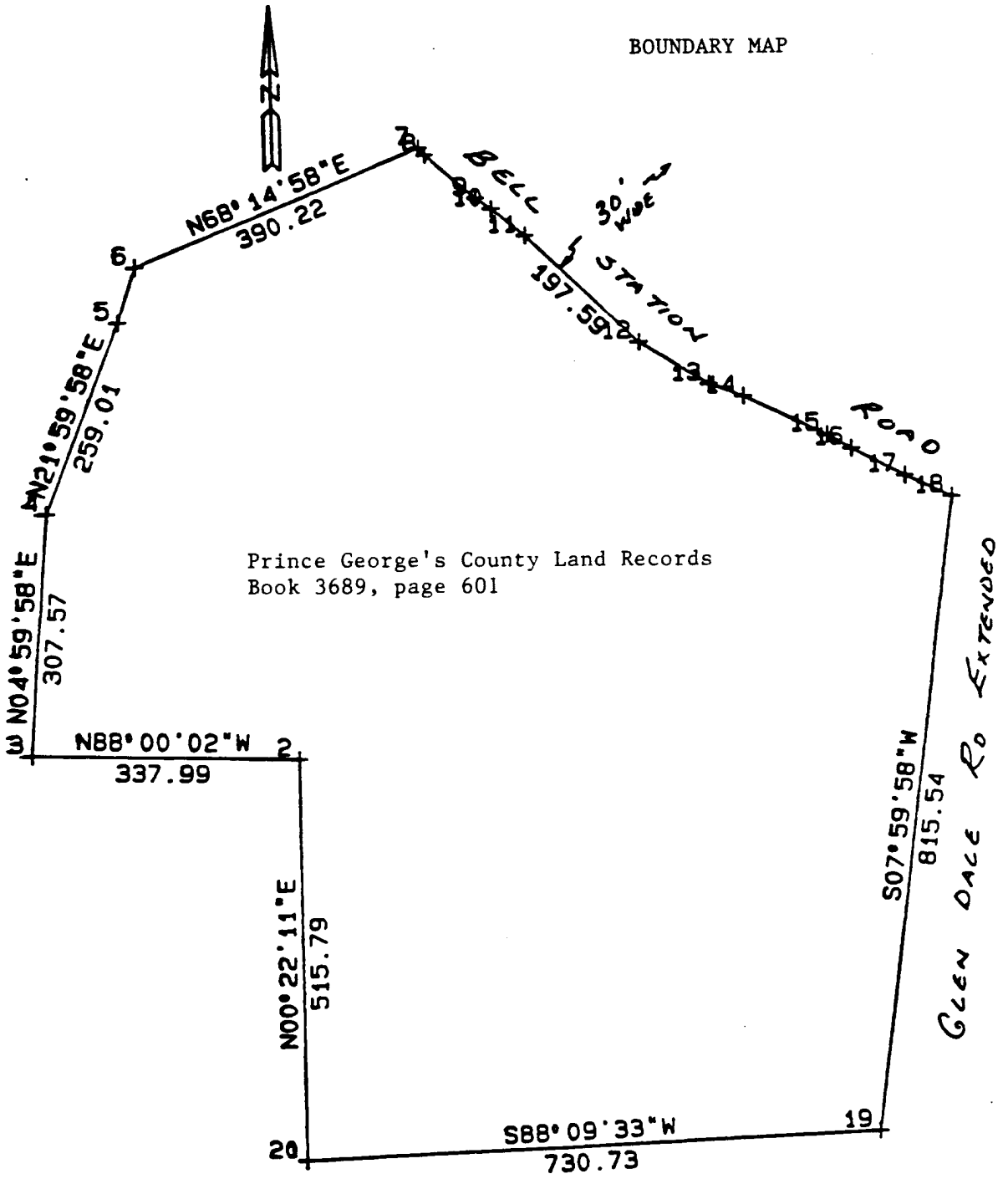
The boundary consists of the property defined in Prince George's County Land Records, Book 3689, page 601.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

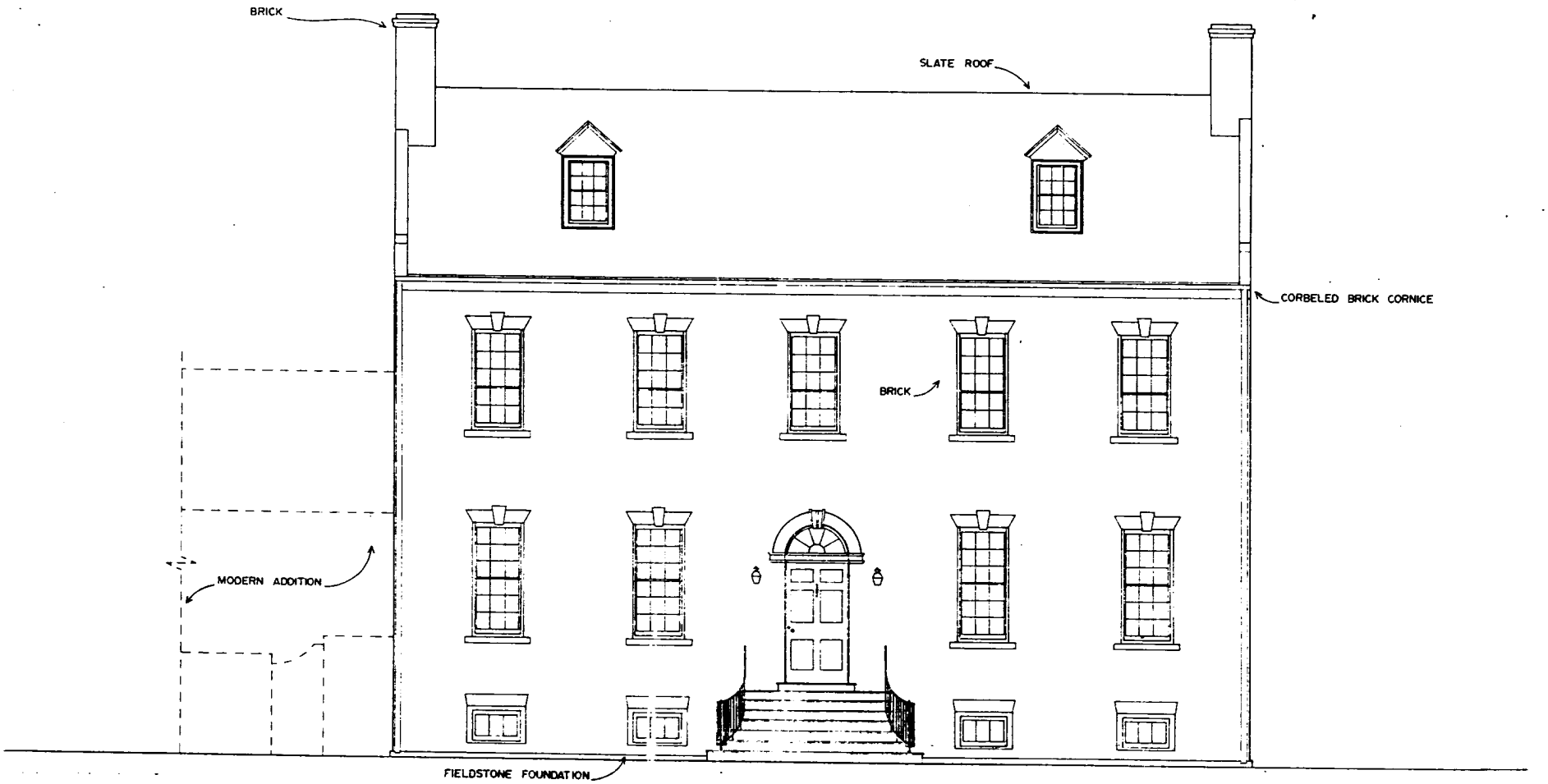
The nominated property includes the Marietta house, the law office and root cellar, as well as the area now devoted to the Duvall memorial burial ground. It includes the prominent knoll on which the house and surviving outbuildings stand, and the landscape plantings which frame the house and the terraces, as well as the lower south lawn. The nominated property includes all of the property presently associated with the surviving buildings of the Marietta plantation.

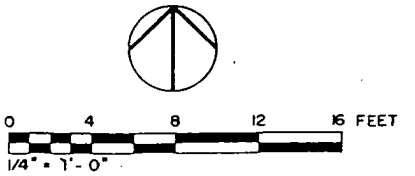
See Continuation Sheet No. 25

BOUNDARY MAP



Prince George's County Land Records
Book 3689, page 601





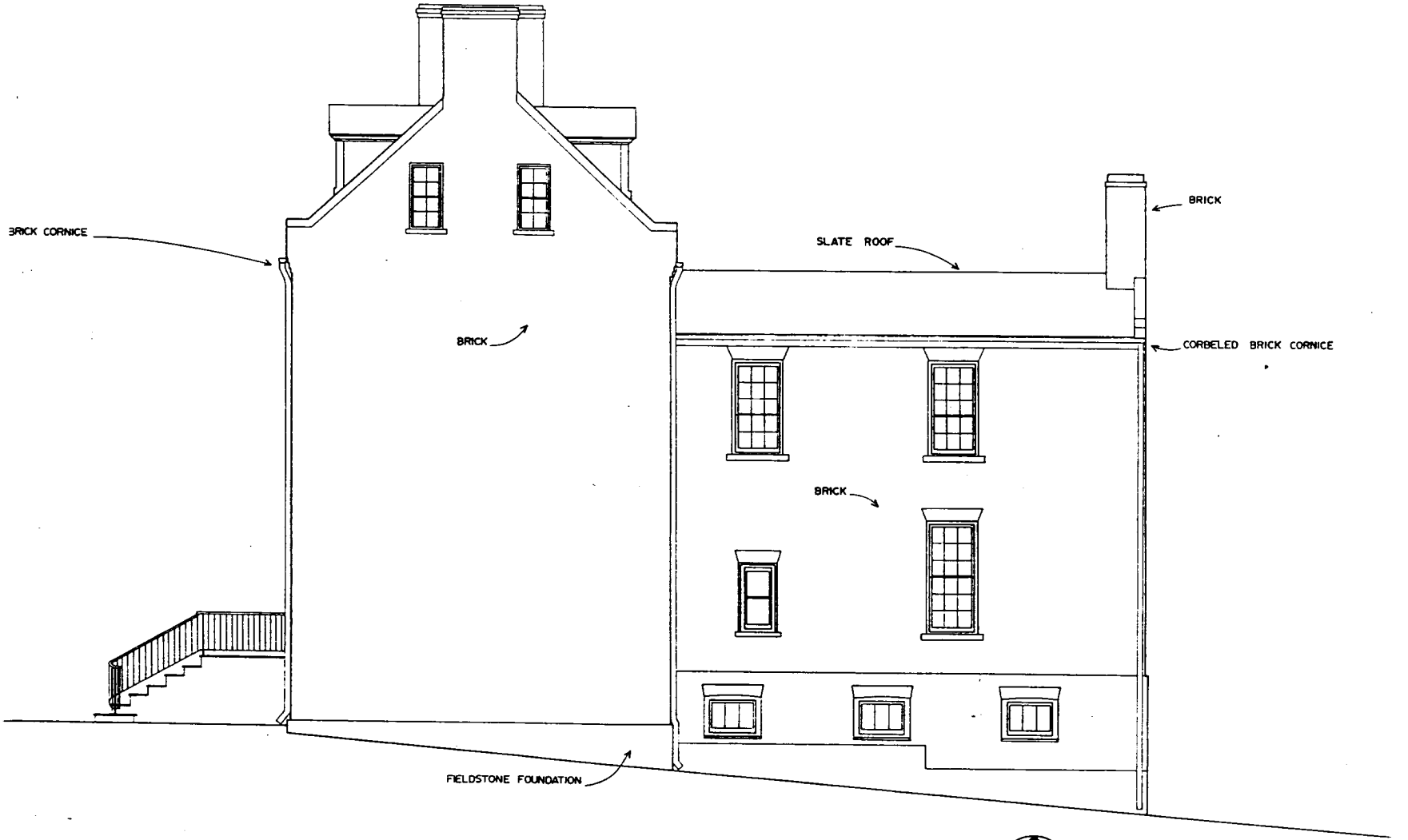
SOUTH ELEVATION

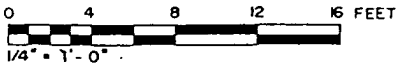
HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO.

P.G. 70-20

MARIETTA

GLENN DALE



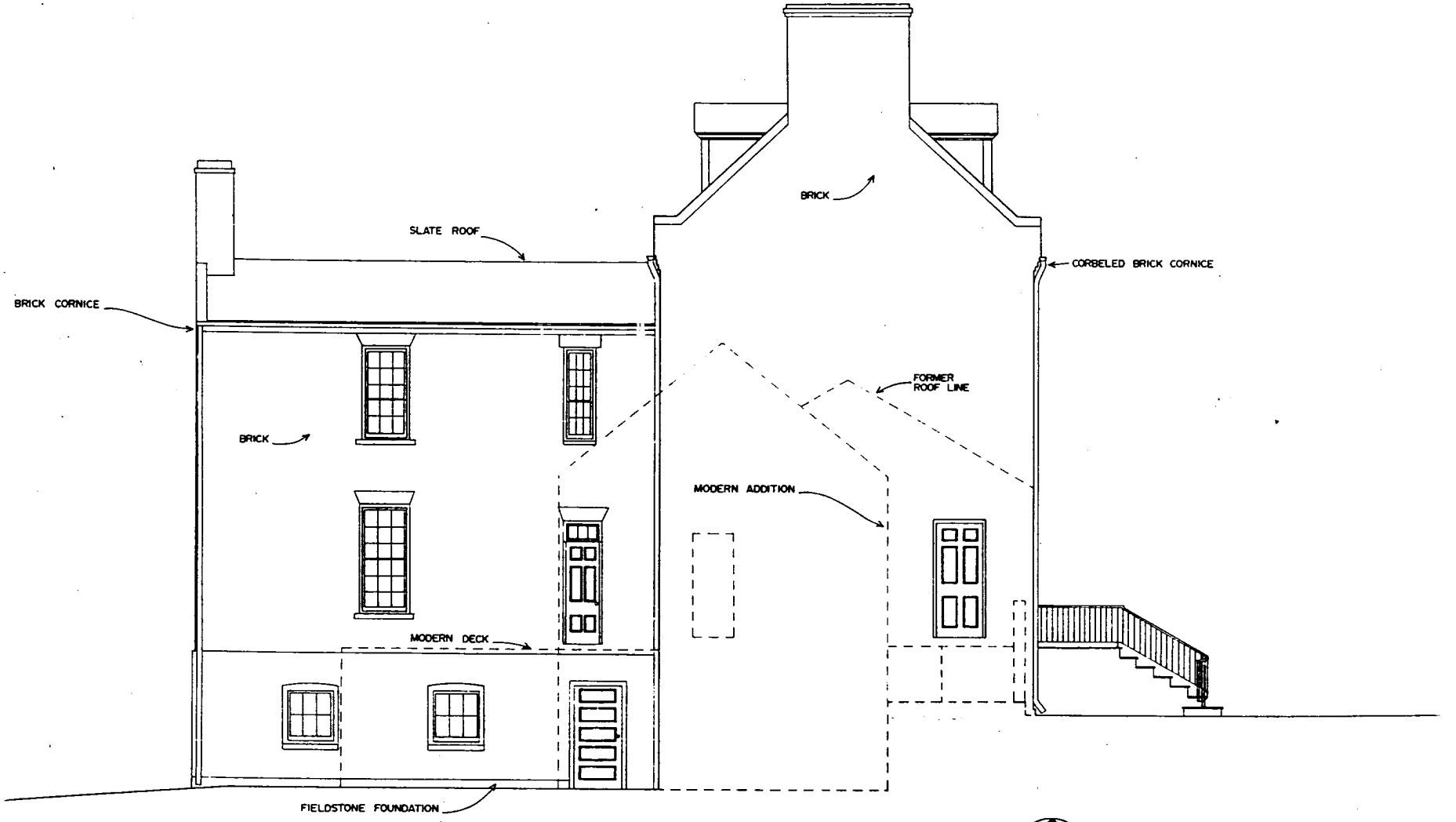


EAST ELEVATION

PG. 70-20

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO.

MARIETTA



WEST ELEVATION

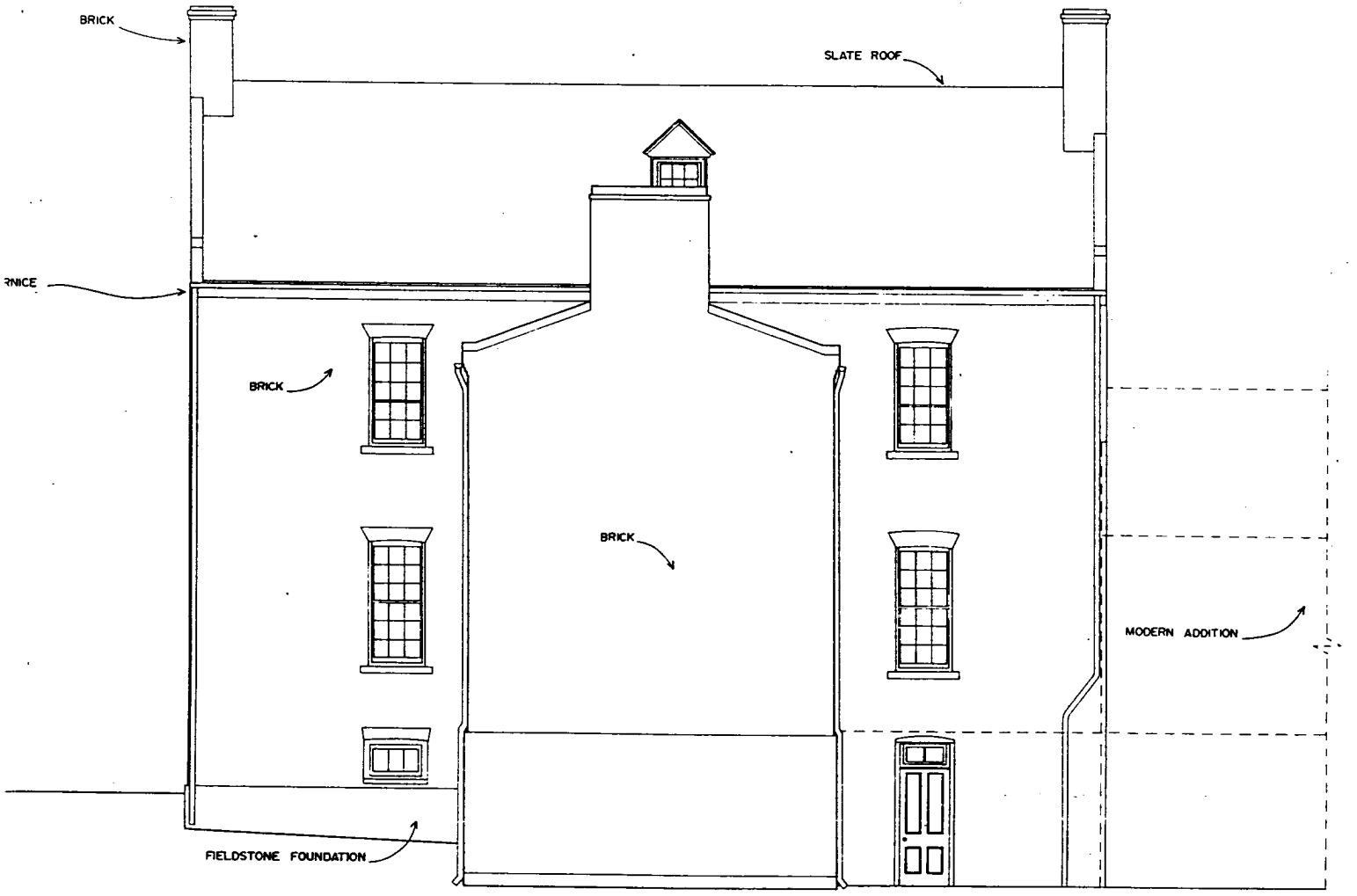
0 4 8 12 16 FEET
1/4" = 1'-0"

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO.

P.G. 70-20

MARIETTA

GLENN DALE



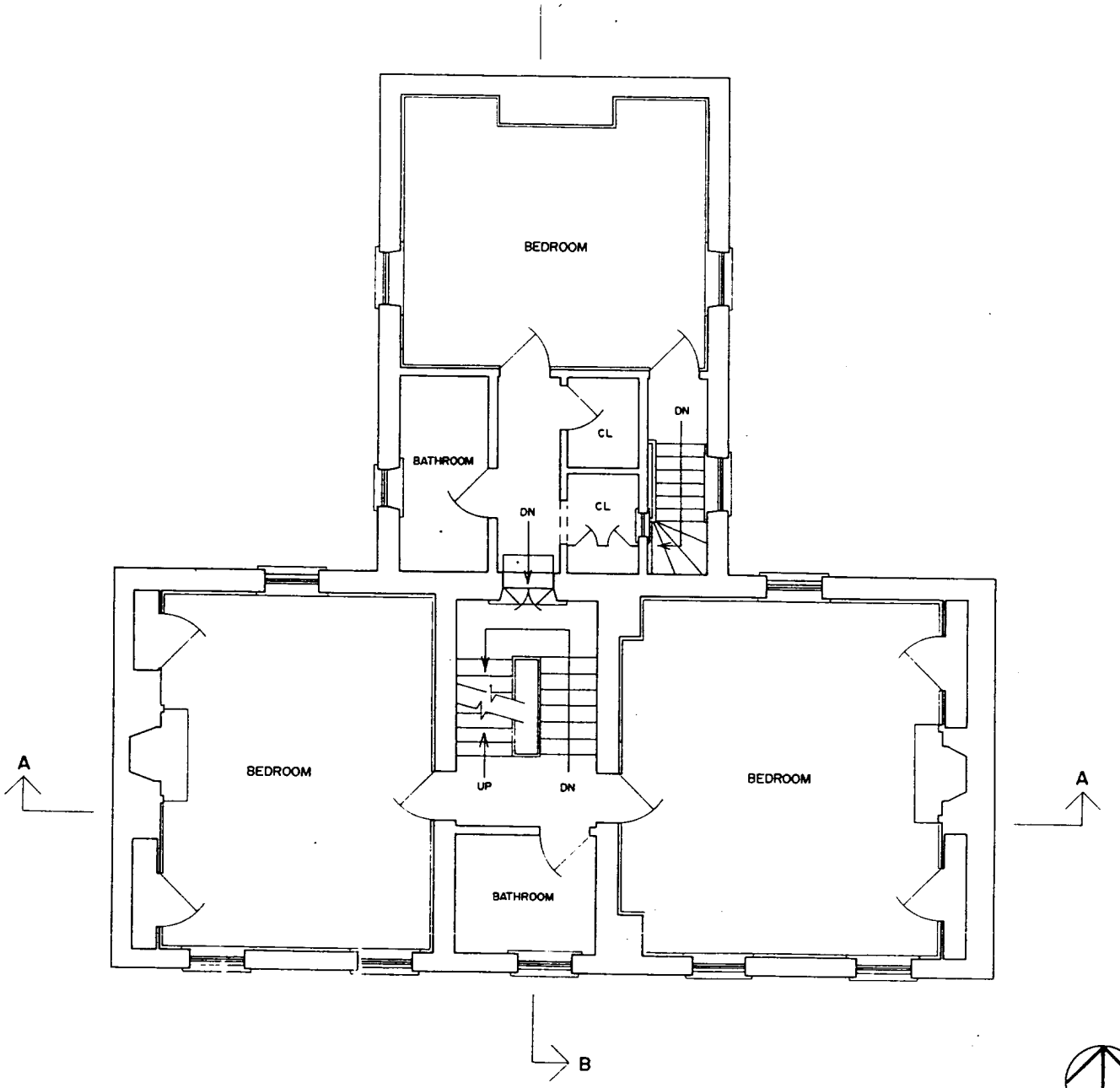
NORTH ELEVATION

0 4 8 12 16 FEET
1/4" = 1'-0"

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO.

PG 70-20

MARIETTA



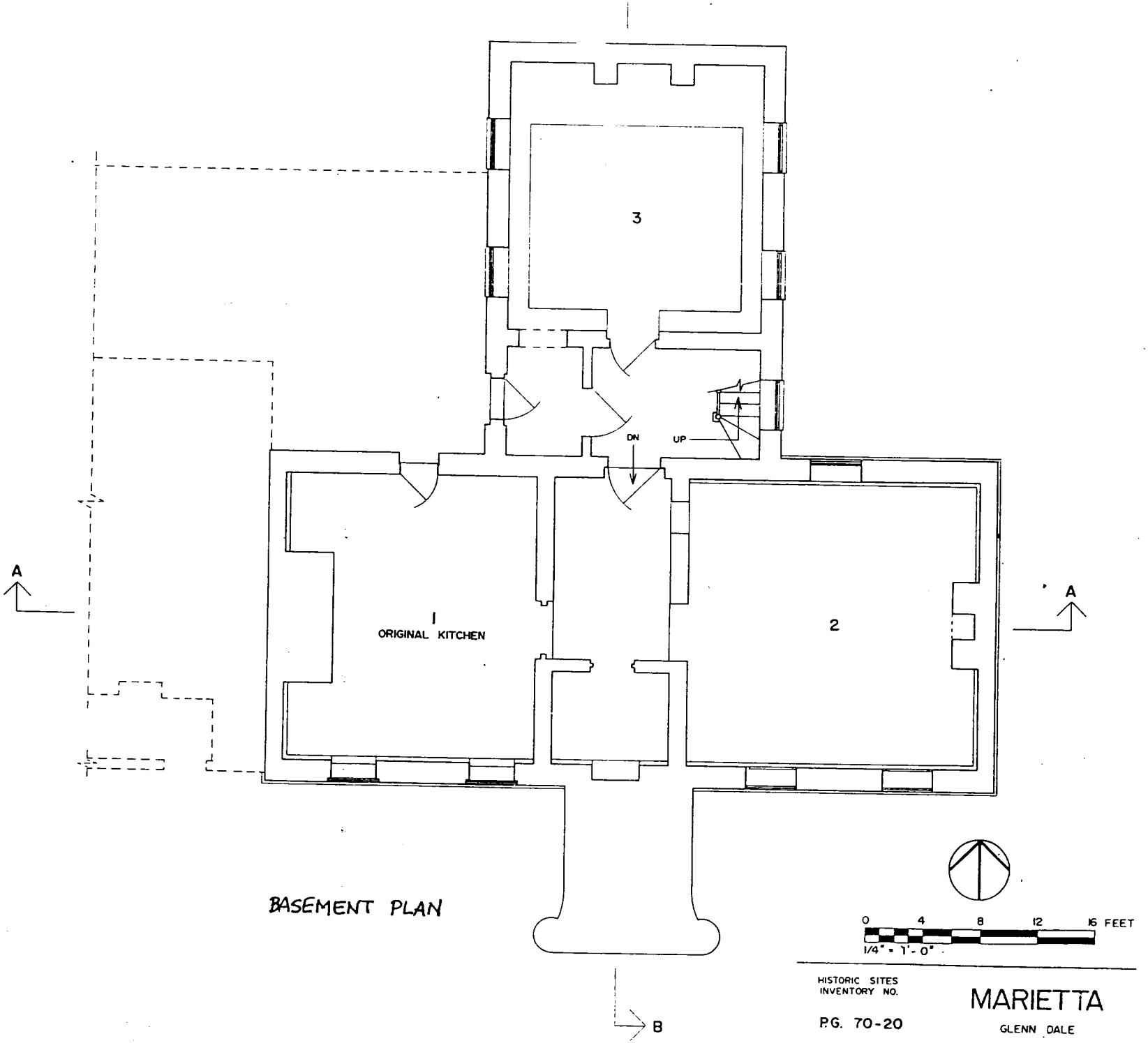
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

0 4 8 12 16 FEET
1/4" = 1'-0"

PG 70-20

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO.

MARIETTA



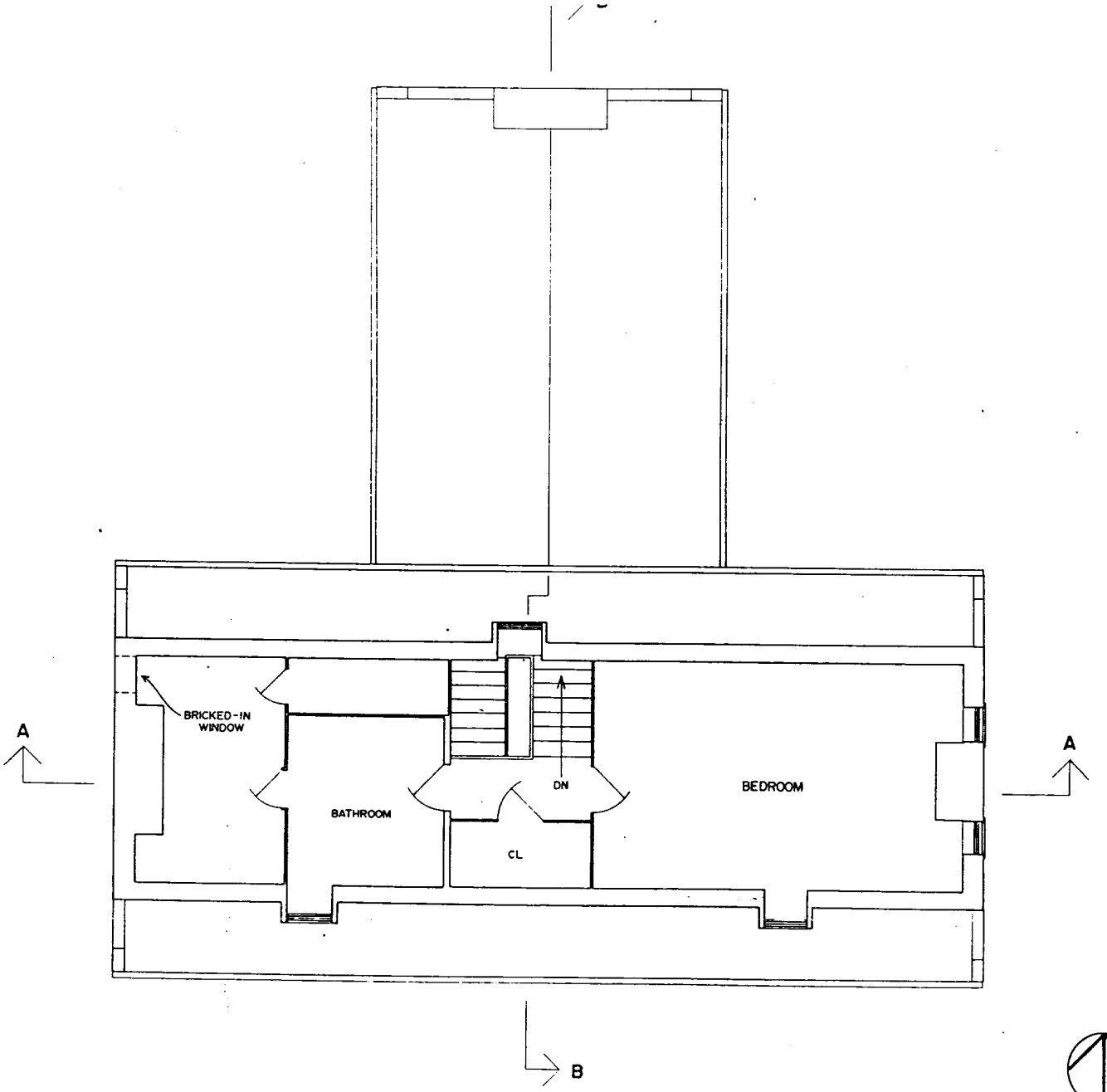
BASEMENT PLAN

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO.

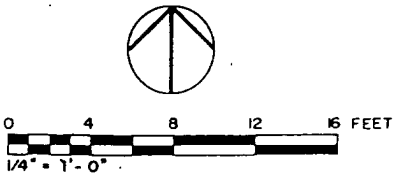
P.G. 70-20

MARIETTA

GLENN DALE



THIRD FLOOR PLAN



PG: 70-20

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO.

MARIETTA

SECTION A-A

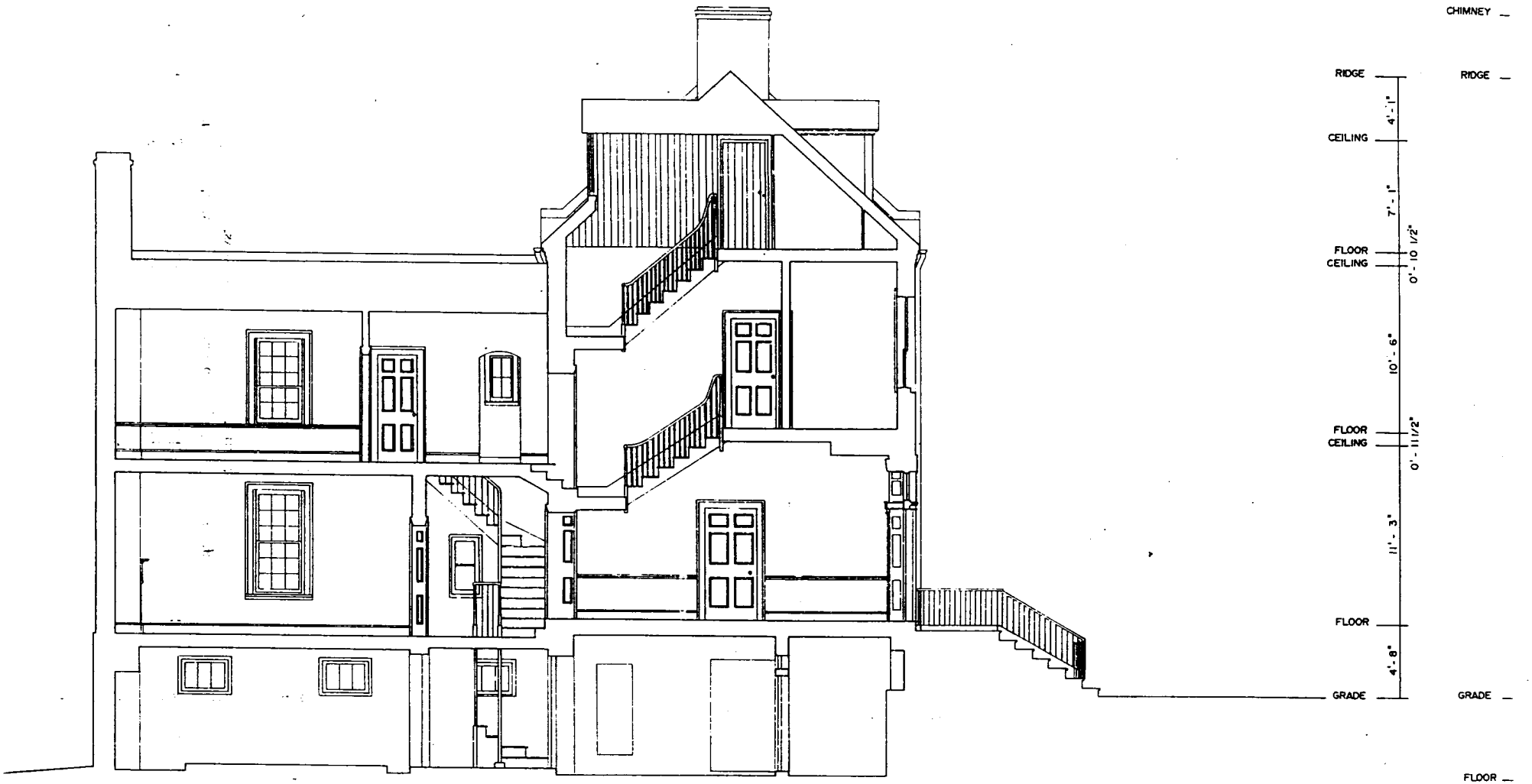
0 4 8 12 16 FEET
1/4" = 1'-0"

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO.

P.G. 70-20

MARIETTA

GLENN DALE



SECTION B-B

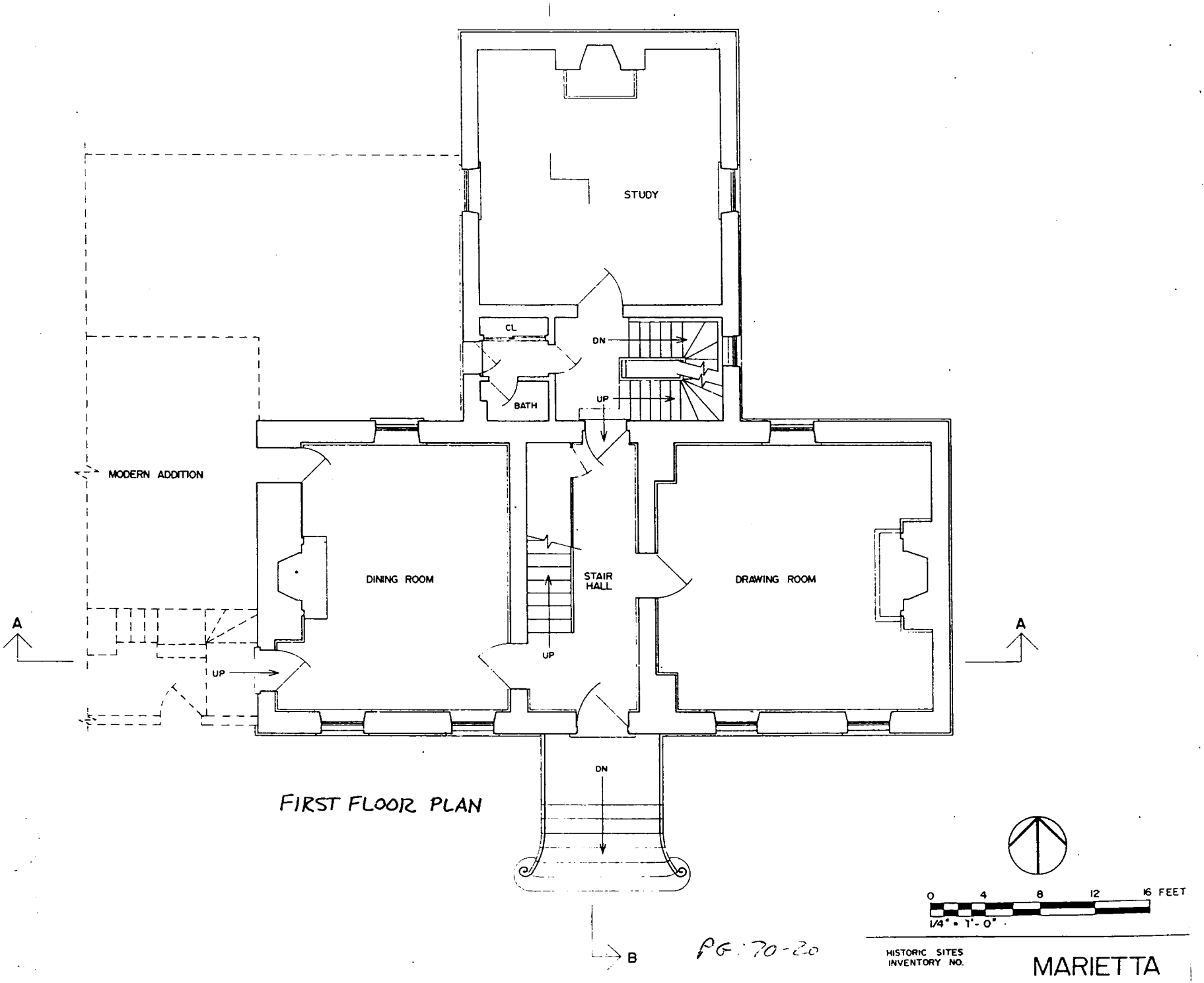
0 4 8 12 16 FEET
1/4" = 1'-0"

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO.

P.G. 70-20

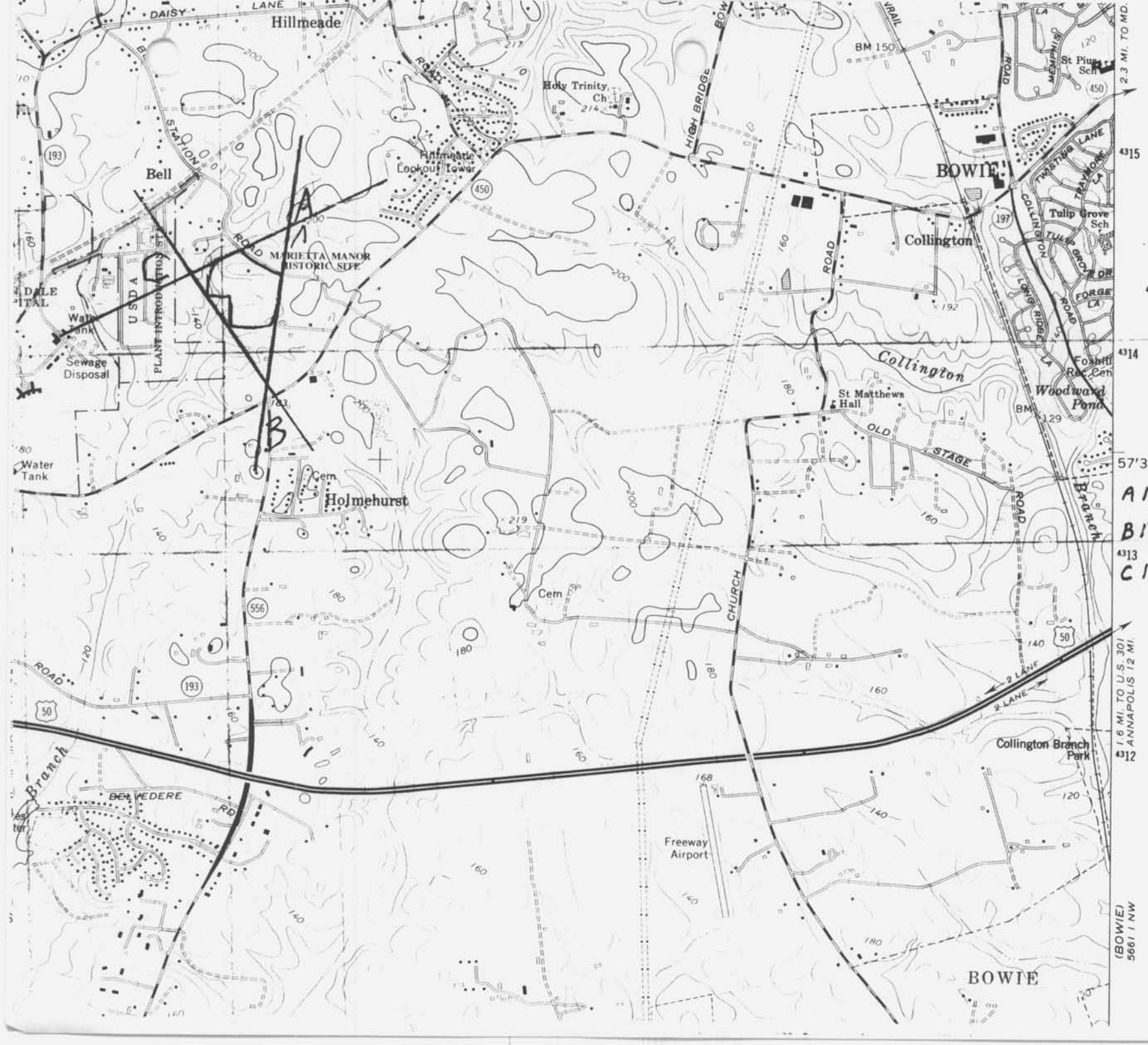
MARIETTA

GLENN DALE



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

PG: 70-20



Marietta

PG: 70-20

Prince George's Co.
Maryland

A 18·344340·4314620

B 18·344200·4313850

C 18·343840·4314410

Lanham

PG# 70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
South facade

1 of 22

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince George's Co, MD
Susan G. Pearl
Feb 1993
MDSHPO
Dwelling & law office
from south
2 of 22

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
South entrance
3 of 22

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
Inscribed brech near S. door
4 of 22
[IL 1816]

PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

South window detail

5 of 22

5

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co MD
Susan G Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
South facade from SW

6 of 22

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
Law office & dwelling from E

7 of 22

PG# 70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
North wing from E
8 of 22

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
View from NW

9 of 22

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
West wing from SW

10 of 22

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Susan G. Pearl
Prince Georges Co. MD
MD SHPO
February 1993
Law office with wreath from NW

11 of 22

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co MD
Susan G. Pearl
MD SHPO
Law office w/o wreath
from S

12 of 22

PG #70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
Root cellar from NW

13 of 22

PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

Root cellar foundation, NW corner

14 of 22

PG #70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
Stair, view up from SW

15 of 22

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
view N to landing between
2nd & 3rd stories

16 of 22

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
East parlor from NE

17 of 22

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
west parlor, view to W

18 of 22

PG # 70-30
Marietta
Prince Georges Co MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
east bedroom, 2nd story

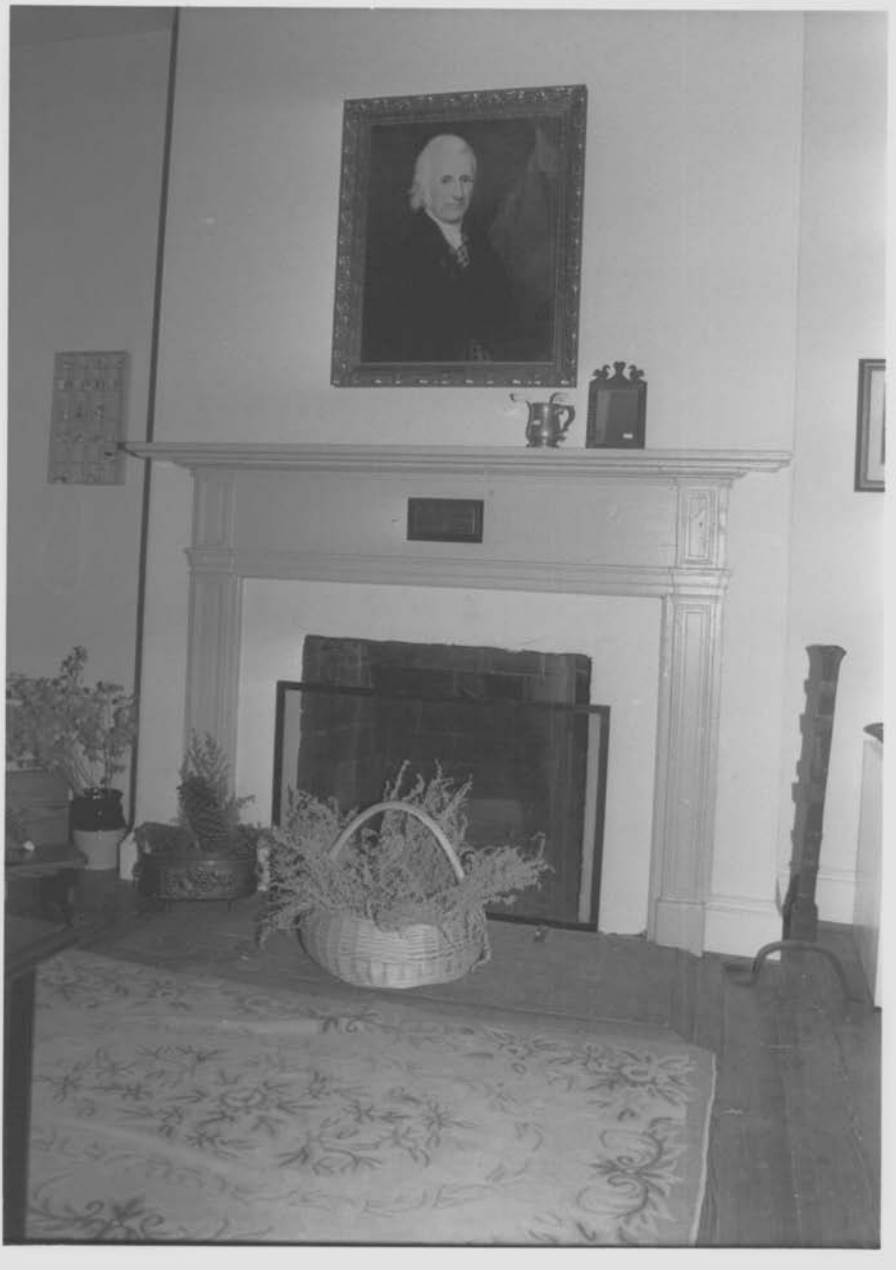
PG # 70-20
Marietta
Susan G. Pearl
Prince Georges Co. MD
MD SHPO
February 1993
west bedroom, view to NW

20 of 22

PG#70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
First story room in North Wing

21 of 22

PG# 70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1993
MD SHPO
East basement space, support arch



PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1988
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust. Annapolis MD
Mantel, north room
1 of 12

PG# 70-20
Marietta
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
Feb. 1988
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD
Mantel, west bedroom
2 of 12

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
Feb. 1988
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD
Law office, east wall
3 of 12

PG# 70-20
Marietta
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1988
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD
Law office, west wall
4 of 12

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince Georges Co, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1988
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD
Stair; view from east parlor
5 of 12

PG# 70-20
Marietta
Prince George's County MD
Susan G. Pearl
Feb. 1988
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD
Stair; view from SW
6 of 12

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
Feb. 1988
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD
Mantel, east parlor
7 of 12

(19)

PG. # 70-20
Marietta
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
Feb. 1988
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD
West entrance
8 of 12

PG # 70-20
Marietta
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
Feb. 1988
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD
West elevation
9 of 12

PG. #70-20
Marietta
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
Feb. 1988
Neg: Md. Hist Trust, Annapolis MD
west elevation, house
root cellar, law office
10 of 12

PG#70-20
Marietta
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
Feb. 1988
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD
east elevation
11 of 12

PG# 70-20
Marietta
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
Feb. 1988
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD
east elevation, law office
and dwelling
12 of 12