NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gunn, Samuel, House

other names Dr. John S. Martin House; Phillips House ; WO-100

2. Location

street & number 200 West Market Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Snow Hill ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Worcester code 047 zip code 21863

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☑ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 11-15-02

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Wood
roof Wood
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Description Summary:

The Samuel Gunn House, more recently identified as the Phillips House, stands on the northwest corner of Market and Church Streets in the center of Snow Hill, Maryland. Constructed ca. 1780, the house is one of the oldest and perhaps the best preserved of the eighteenth century town dwellings in Worcester County. This two story, side hall/double pile frame house retains intact rooms of superior late Georgian style finishes. Aside from modifications made during a Victorian (ca. 1880) "improvement" (addition of two porches and first and second floor window sashes), and the loss of the original kitchen in the early part of the twentieth century, the building is principally unaltered from its eighteenth century origins.

The house faces south with the main gable roof oriented on an east/west axis. The building consists of a main block (1780) with two existing additions (1825 and 1910). The main block is approximately 25 feet wide by 29 feet deep, while the 1825 addition is 15.5 feet wide by 16 feet deep and the 1910 addition is 12 feet wide by 18 feet deep. The house was constructed with a full basement under the main block and is sheathed with beaded weatherboards of longleaf yellow pine. Over 75% of the original weatherboards remain intact. The interior is about 90% intact with all of the heart pine flooring, paneled overmantels, paneled wainscoting, doors, door hinges and some locks surviving from the time of construction. In addition, most of the interior hand split lath and plaster walls on the first and second floors remain intact.

General Description:

Exterior features:

The Samuel Gunn House is supported by a raised Flemish bond brick foundation, and the house is sheathed in beaded weatherboards. Attached to the west gable end is a two-story early nineteenth century wing constructed about 1825. This wing is currently used as a kitchen, but was originally constructed as a hyphen between the main block and the eighteenth century kitchen (no longer standing). Attached to the north side of the house is a two-story ell, constructed around 1910, which was extensively reworked in the 1980s. Each section is covered by a wood (cedar) shingle roof.

The south (principal) façade of the 1780 main block is an asymmetrical three-bay elevation with a side entrance and flanking twelve-over-twelve sash windows, and twelve-over-eight sash windows on the second floor. The boxed cornice is trimmed with a dentiled bed molding. The majority of the beaded weatherboards are replacements, having been installed during the initial

restoration of the house in the early 1970s when the Victorian era porch and associated weatherboards were removed.

The east gable end of the main block retains most of the original beaded weatherboards. This end is pierced by two restored twelve-over-twelve sash windows on the first floor, and two eight-over-twelve sash windows on the second floor. The attic is illuminated by two original six-over-six sash windows. All window frames and sills on the east gable end are original to the house. The flush gable end is trimmed by a molded bargeboard.

The west gable end is partially covered (nine feet) by the 1825 kitchen wing (hyphen). The exterior wall surface that is not covered by the wing is pierced by the same twelve-over-twelve sash window on the first floor and a twelve-over-eight sash window on the second floor. Lighting the attic is an original six-over-six sash window along with a smaller window on the north side of the interior end brick chimney that is finished with a corbelled cap.

This two-story kitchen wing is one bay wide by one room deep and was constructed about 1825 as a hyphen connecting the free standing eighteenth century kitchen (no longer standing) to the main block. The 1895 Sanborn insurance map clearly shows both the kitchen and the hyphen. In addition, the present owner has an early photograph (ca. 1905) that shows the original kitchen in the location as per the Sanborn map. Piercing the south wall is a side entrance with a board-and-batten door topped by a four light transom. The second floor is marked by an original twelve-over-eight sash window. Most noteworthy is the exterior drilled cornice that imitates a classical swag motif. Similar drilled decoration in Worcester and Somerset counties usually dates to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The other exterior features of the kitchen wing (hyphen) follow along the same lines.

Part (one third) of the back (north side) of the main block is covered by a two story wing that was initially erected about 1910, and then remodeled during the 1980s as a modern garden room overlooking the boxwood garden. An exterior brick chimney stack was erected on the north gable end of the wing during the 1980s renovation. The remaining two thirds of this side of the main block is in excellent original condition. All but two of the weatherboards on this side are original, as are the windows, boxed cornice, and dentiled bed molding. This side of the house was protected for many years by a two story open porch, added during the middle of the nineteenth century, and which contributed to the excellent state of preservation.

The foundation walls are laid in Flemish bond and basement is lighted by six windows with six bars. Two of the six bars are metal, most likely for security reasons.

Interior features:

The interior of the main block follows a side hall/double-pile plan with a generous stair hall flanked to the left by two rooms with corner hearths. Most of the eighteenth century woodwork (paneling, doors, hardware, flooring, and plaster walls) remains intact.

The side passage is visually divided into a front and back hall by a decorative, molded segmental arch, with a bold cavetto backband molding interrupted by a plain keystone arch. Rising in the front part of the hall is the original turned baluster stair, anchored at the base with a boldly turned newel post topped with a molded cap. Enhancing the cap is a row of Wall-of-Troy bed molding under the molded cap. The turned balusters support a molded handrail, constructed of heart pine. Delicately carved scrolled trim highlights the stringer, and bold raised panels enclose the triangular area beneath the stair. Access to the closet space under the stair is provided through a raised six-panel door with original wooden box lock. The upper part of the stair is fitted with raised paneling as well. In addition to the decorated stair, the hall is trimmed with raised-panel wainscoting, a bold cornice and baseboard molding. At the north end of the hall an original (formerly exterior) nine-panel door remains on its long strap hinges and retains a diagonal board backing and is topped with a five light transom with very early glass. The other interior raised six-panel doors have wood graining, are framed by cavetto backband surrounds and open into adjacent rooms.

The southwest room (front room or parlor) features a fine display of Georgian carpentry, with a complex paneled overmantel containing twenty panels of eight different sizes and shapes. Few houses have such a wide array of panel shapes juxtaposed in a symmetrical pattern. The paneled wainscoting of the parlor is also unusual in that it has a combination of both vertical and horizontal panels. Trimming the perimeter of the parlor ceiling is a decorative carved cornice.

The northwest room (back parlor) is also fitted with a corner hearth and a ten-panel overmantel. Raised-panel wainscoting stretches around the room. Piercing the west wall and leading to the nineteenth century kitchen wing (hyphen) is the original six-panel door with diagonal board backing. This door originally opened to the courtyard between the main block and the original kitchen dwelling prior to the construction of the kitchen wing (hyphen) in 1825.

The second floor is divided into three rooms with an additional closet room at the north end of the hall. The six-panel doors into each room are grained and are framed by cavetto backband surrounds of slightly narrower proportions than the first floor. The main bedrooms feature corner hearths with molded surrounds, chair rail and cornice. A four light closet is found in the south bedroom left of the hearth. The west window in the north bedroom has been replaced by a door that now allows for access to the second floor of the kitchen wing (hyphen). In the

southeast corner of the second floor the third room, finished with a chair rail and baseboard, contains the door to the enclosed attic. Careful paint removal of the attic door has revealed original wood graining, and a wrought iron thumb latch also survives. At the head of the stair a square newel post supports a beaded edge handrail. The partition, which divides the attic, is pierced by an opening filled with a board-and-batten door. The door is hung on HL hinges, and a wrought iron thumb latch survives as well. The adjacent knee walls survive with small beaded board doors. The attic room has been reworked with modern materials.

The nineteenth century kitchen wing (hyphen) has been generally reworked with modern conveniences for a kitchen. Fixed in the southwest corner is an open stair that leads to the second floor bathroom and laundry.

The interior of the north end wing (ca. 1910) has also been reworked in modern materials that include a marble floor and hearth. The second floor of this wing is now a modern master bathroom with closets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1780-1825

Significant Dates

c. 1780
1825

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (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
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

_____

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Samuel Gunn house is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C, as an example of a Georgian town house with high style and remarkable integrity. The quality and complexity of the joinery in the two parlors and the side passage is without comparison in Worcester County. The degree of originality is also highly unusual for a property of this age, having survived with over 90% of the interior woodwork, most of the lath and plaster walls, all of the flooring and a majority of the exterior weatherboards for the ca. 1780 main block.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Inexact deeds and inadequate tax lists for the late eighteenth century contribute to a rather clouded history of this property. Current research suggests that Samuel Gunn (1740-1790), a Snow Hill merchant, erected this dwelling around 1780 before his death in 1790. Standing on "Lot 15" as designated on the 1793 Snow Hill plat, this corner property would have been an advantageous location for a merchant to erect his house due to the proximity of the market square across the street.

The Samuel Gunn house is the oldest known surviving dwelling in the historic town of Snow Hill, Maryland. The seat of Worcester County, Snow Hill was established as a royal port of entry in 1642. The town has a remarkable collection of fine properties from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with Georgian, Federal, Victorian, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and neoclassical styles, among others, being represented.

Snow Hill suffered a disastrous fire in 1834, which destroyed the entire business district, the courthouse complex, and the dwellings in the northeast section of town along Market and Green Streets. Dr. John S. Martin, the owner of the Samuel Gunn House at that time, related: "Our village is in ashes. It took fire from a carpenter's shop in the center of town. The whole central portion is burnt, every house of every description. All the stores except Jenkins's and John Dennis's – both the taverns. [He lists the owners of the houses that were lost to the fire]... the court house is in ashes ... I am exhausted almost to faintness. What can be done. – many of our citizens are homeless, penniless, without food and clothes. I have lost nothing. The saving of J. Dennis' store and I.P. Smith's stables was the means of saving all the south-western part of the town – The wind was about west north-west, and blew a fresh breeze." (quoted in Touart 1994:77).

Major Bibliographical References:

Paul Baker Touart. Along the Seaboard Side: The Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland. Snow Hill, MD: Worcester County, 1994

Gunn, Samuel, House WO-100
Name of Property

Worcester County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References Snow Hill, MD quad
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	465300	4225160
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title COL Edward Percy Phillips Jr., USA (Ret)
Organization _____ date 24 September 2001
street & number 6626 Skyline Court telephone (703) 768-4612
city or town Alexandria state Virginia zip code 22307

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Colonel Edward Percy Phillips Jr., USA(Ret)
street & number 6626 Skyline Court telephone (703) 768-4612
city or town Alexandria state Virginia zip code 22307

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

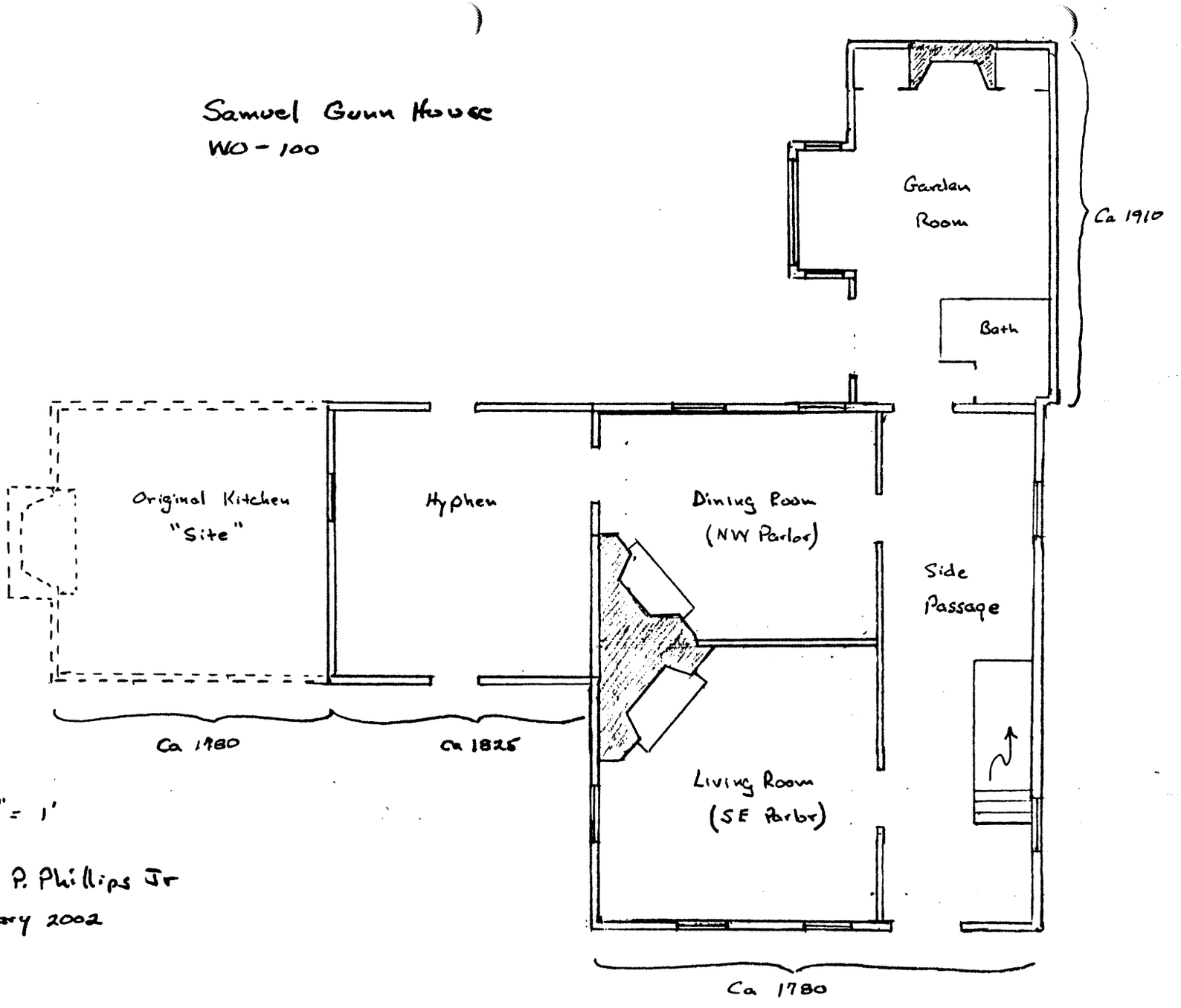
Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the lot, measuring 68.04 by 150 feet, are described in the deed recorded among the land records of Worcester County in Liber RHO 2565, folio 335.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property comprises the single town lot with which the resource is historically associated.

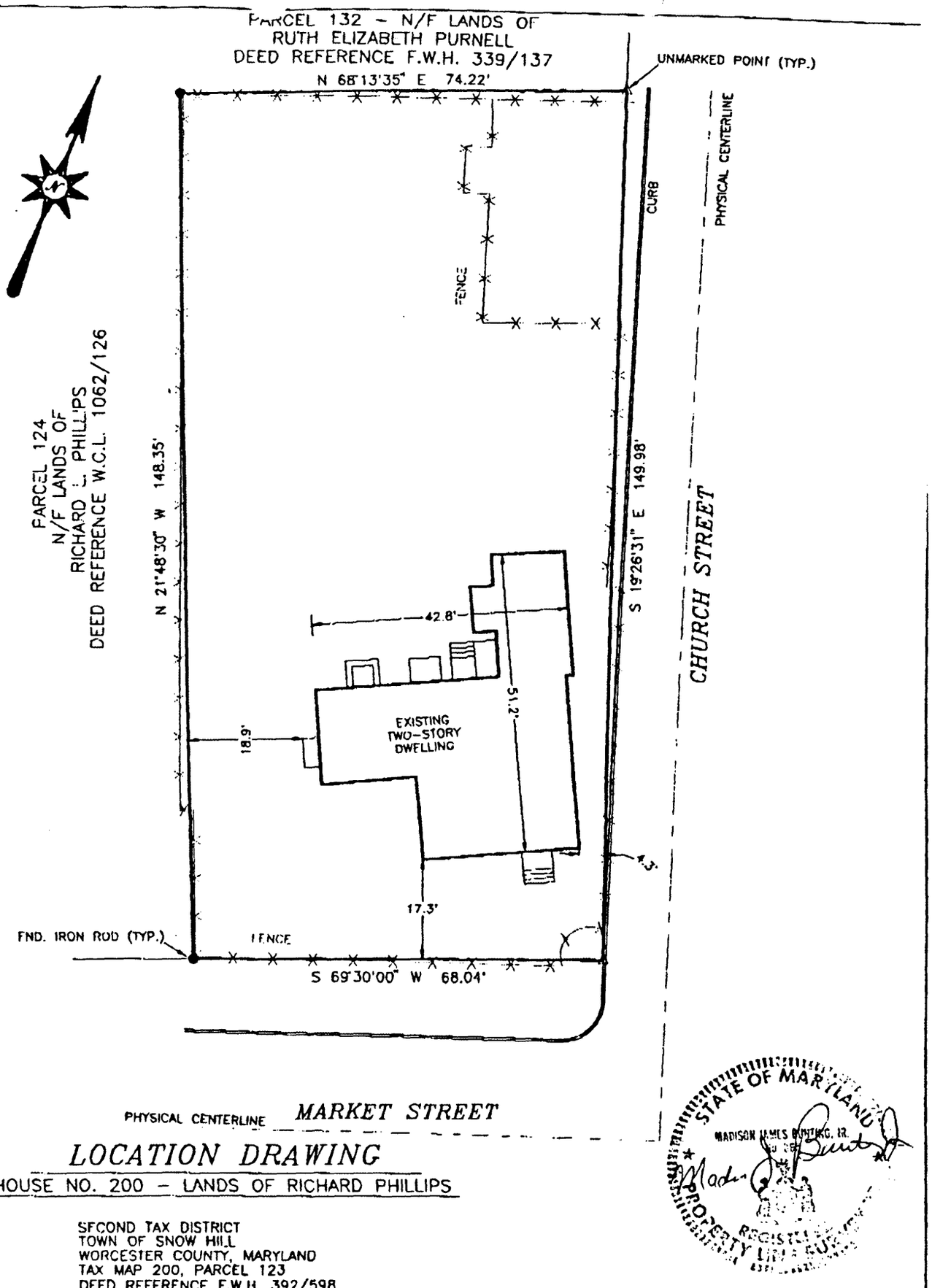
Samuel Gunn House
WO - 100



Scale 1/8" = 1'

Edward P. Phillips Jr
10 January 2002

Samuel Gunn House WO 100



LOCATION DRAWING

HOUSE NO. 200 - LANDS OF RICHARD PHILLIPS

SECOND TAX DISTRICT
TOWN OF SNOW HILL
WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
TAX MAP 200, PARCEL 123
DEED REFERENCE F.W.H. 392/598
LOT AREA = 10,606 SQ. FT±
CURRENTLY ZONED: R-2
ZONING SETBACKS: FRONT = 25'
SIDES = 8' MINIMUM - 20' TOTAL, REAR = 30'
FLOOD ZONE C PER FEMA MAP 240086 0001 B

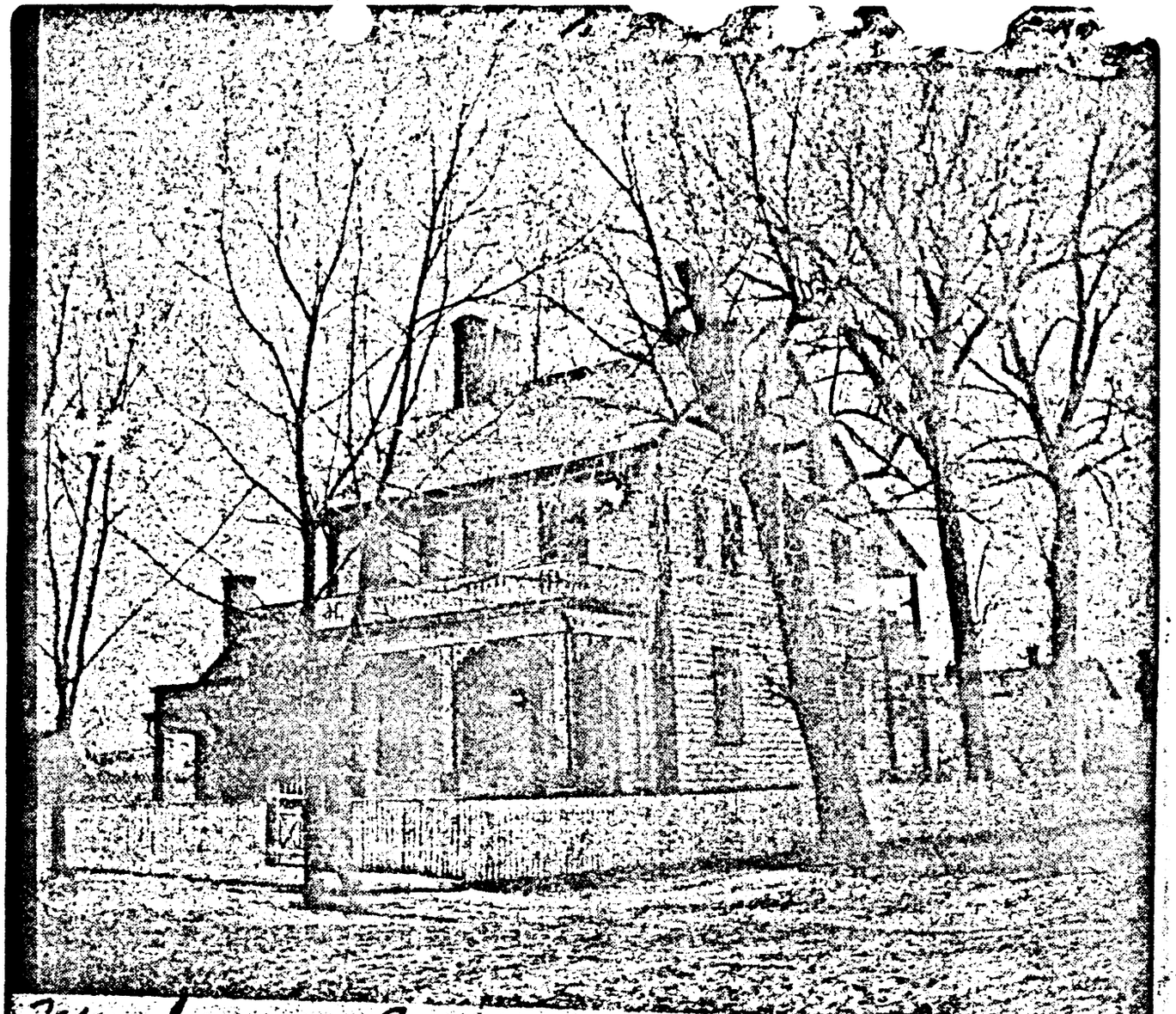
NOTE:
THIS PLAT IS OF BENEFIT TO A CONSUMER ONLY INSOFAR

STATE OF MARYLAND
MADISON JAMES BUNTING, JR.
PROPERTY LINE SURVEYOR
REGISTERED

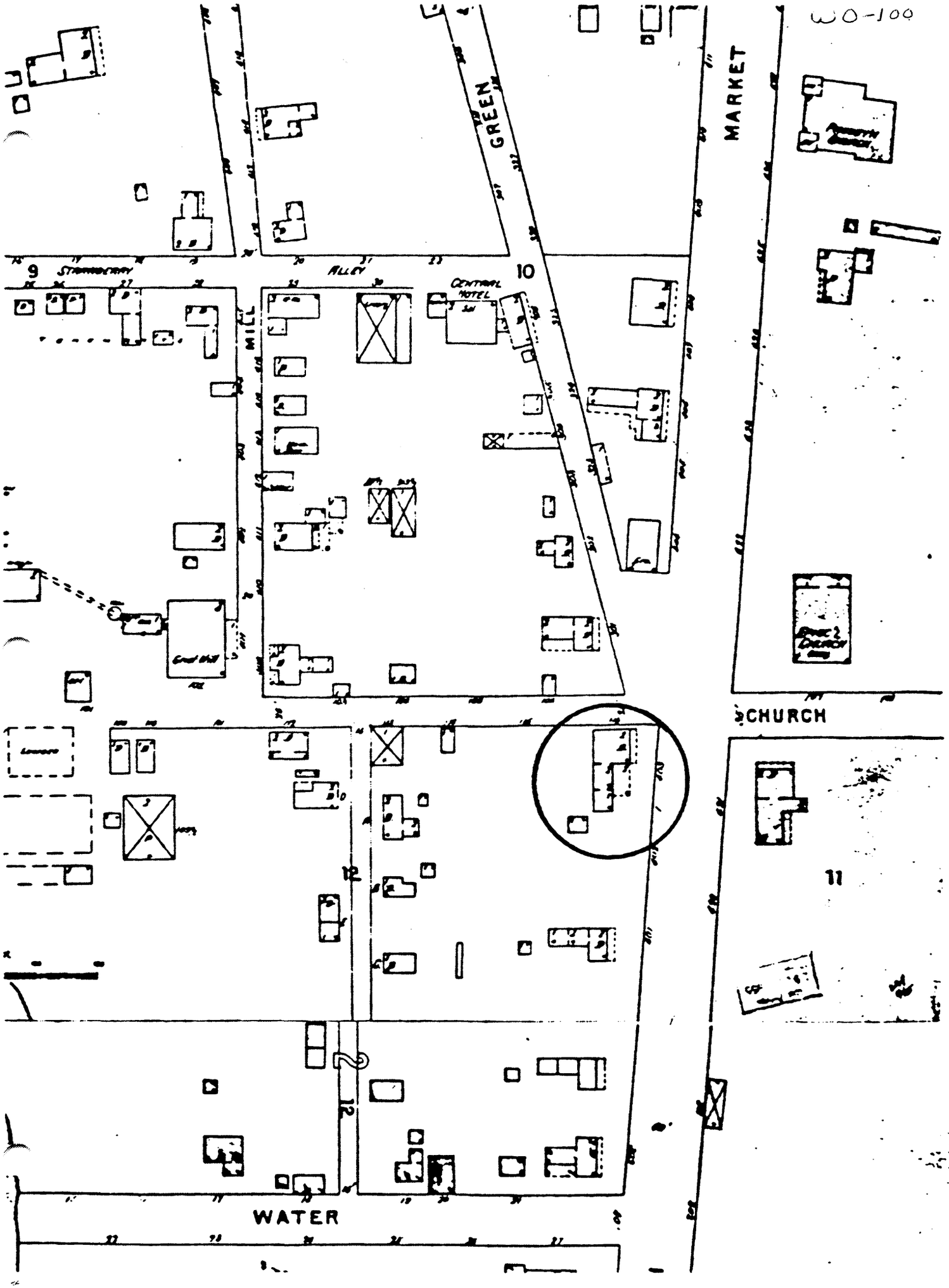
THE LOT DESCRIPTION AS SHOWN HEREON IS AS SHOWN ON PLAT RECORDED IN LIBER 1053, FOLIO 300 OF THE WORCESTER COUNTY LAND RECORDS.

MADISON J. BUNTING, JR.
SURVEYOR, INC.

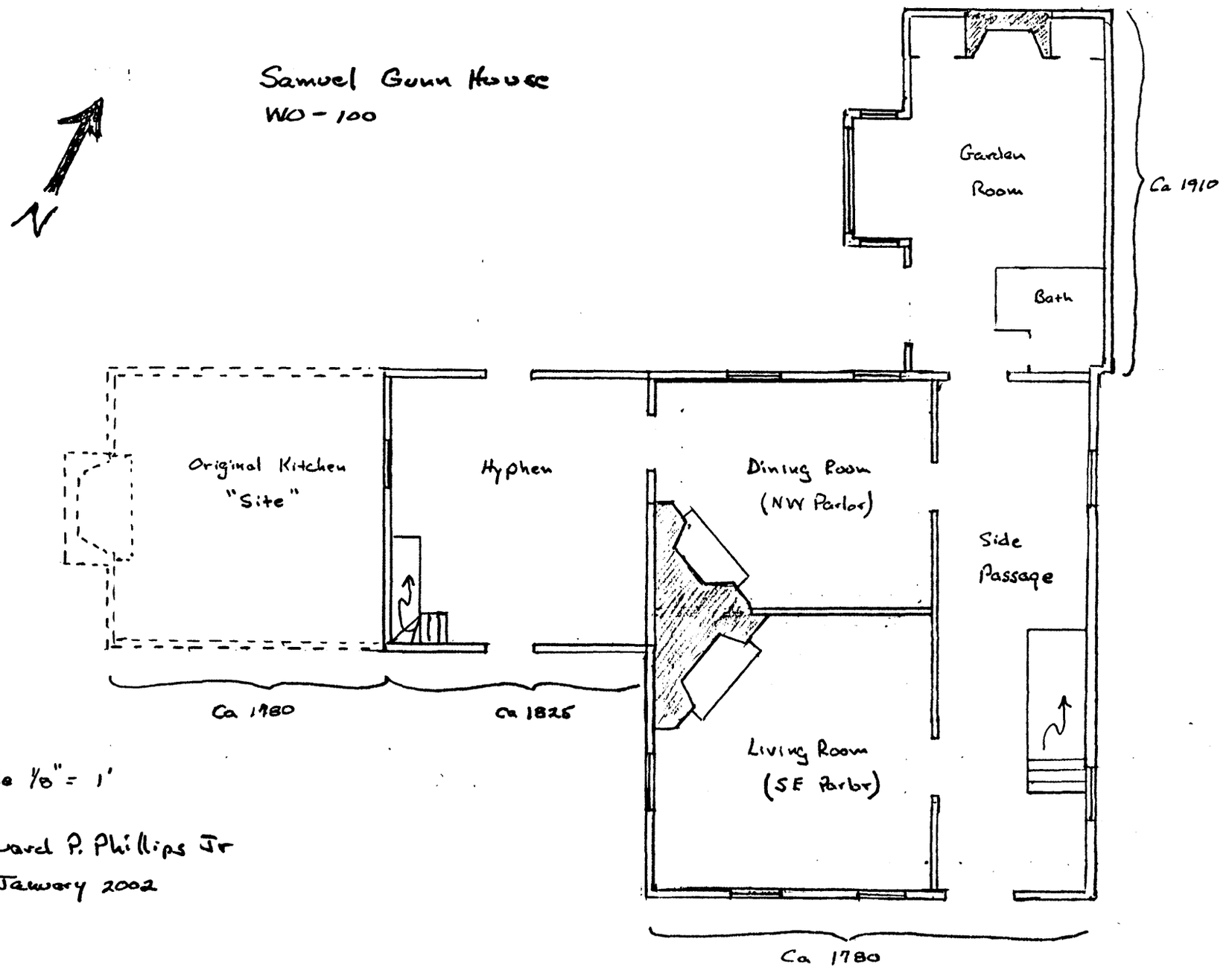
WO-100



My dear Ernestine - I was very glad to receive the post-card of your Court house - The next time I print any pictures I'll try to remember to make you one of the Snow Hill Court house. How are you? I hope you aren't suffering with your ear - When I was a child I endured agonies with ear-ache, so I'm prepared to sympathize with you

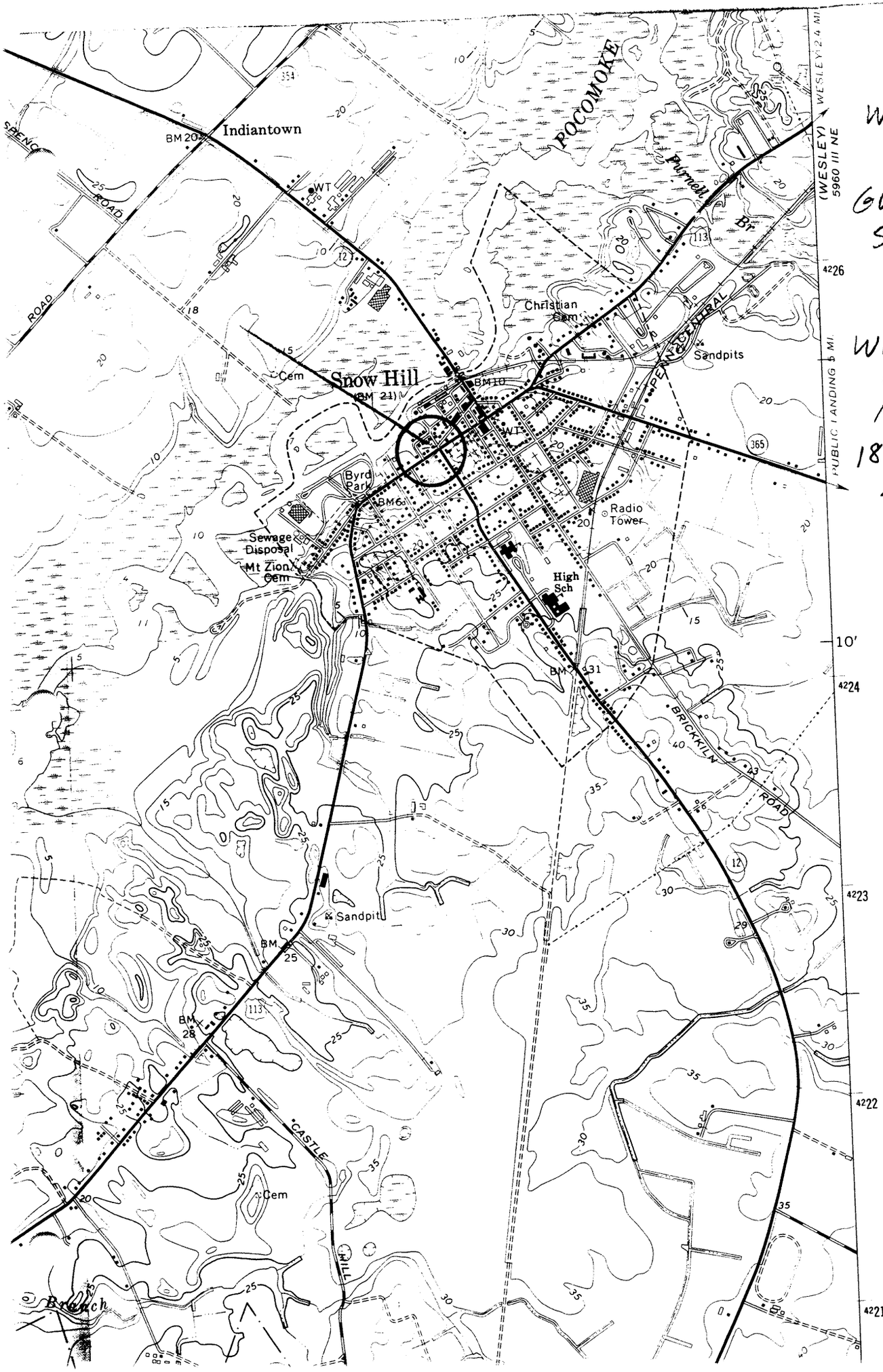

WO-109
GREEN
MARKET
9
STRAWBERRY
ALLEY
10
CENTRAL HOTEL
MILL
CHURCH
11
12
WATER

Samuel Gunn House
WO - 100



Scale 1/8" = 1'

Edward P. Phillips Jr
10 January 2002



WO-100

GUNN, SAMUEL, HOUSE

WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

18-465300-4225160

1. MD 100
2. Samuel Gunn House
3. Worcester, Maryland
4. Ed Phillips
5. 1 Jan 2002
6 SHPO
7 South Elevation taken from Market Street
8 1 of 2~~5~~

WO 100

Samuel Gunn House

Worcester County Maryland

Ed Phillips

1 Jan 2002

SHPO

West Elevation from Boxwood Garden

2 of 24

< > 5.53 58-02 NNN+07QU 9708

12

WO 100

Samuel Gunn House

Worcester County Maryland

Ed Phillips

1 Jan 2002

SHPO

East Elevation taken from All Hallows Episcopal Church

3 of 25

< > 5.53 58-01 NNN+0ZAU 9707

WO 100

Samuel Gunn House

Worcester County, Maryland

Ed Phillips

1 Jan 2002

SHPO

East / North East Elevation taken from All Hallows Episcopal Church

4 of 25

WO 100
Samuel Gunn House
Worcester County, Maryland
Ed Phillips
1 Jan 2002 < > 5.53 58-01 NNN-02001 9707
SHPO
Market Street (SE) Facade of Hyphen (1875)
5 of 25

WO 100

Samuel Gunn House

Worcester County Maryland

Ed Phillips

1 Jan 2002

SHPO

Detail of drilled cornice of Hyphen (1825

6 of 25

< > 5.53 50-02 NNN+14AU 9707

WO 100
Samuel Gunn House
Worcester County Maryland
Ed Phillips
1 Jan 2002
SHPO
Detail of South Corner of Main Block (1780)
Showing Weatherboards, boxed cornice, trim, Rival Board & Window
7 of 25

WO 100
Samuel Gunn House
Worcester County, Maryland
Ed Phillips
1 Jan 2002
SHPO
Detail of Window, + Cornice on SE facade of the Main Block
8 of 25

200

WO 100

Samuel Gunn House

Worcester County Maryland

Ed Phillips

1 Jan 2002

SHPO

Main Door on SE facade of Main Block
taken from Market Street

9 of 24

< > 5.53 58-02 NNN+[illegible] 9787

WO 100

Samuel Gunn House

Worcester County Maryland

Ed Phillips

1 Jan 2002

SHPO

Detail of Basement Window, SE facade, Main Block

10 of 24

< 5.53 58-02 NNN+03AU 9788

WO 100

Samuel Gunn House

Worcester County, Maryland

Ed Phillips

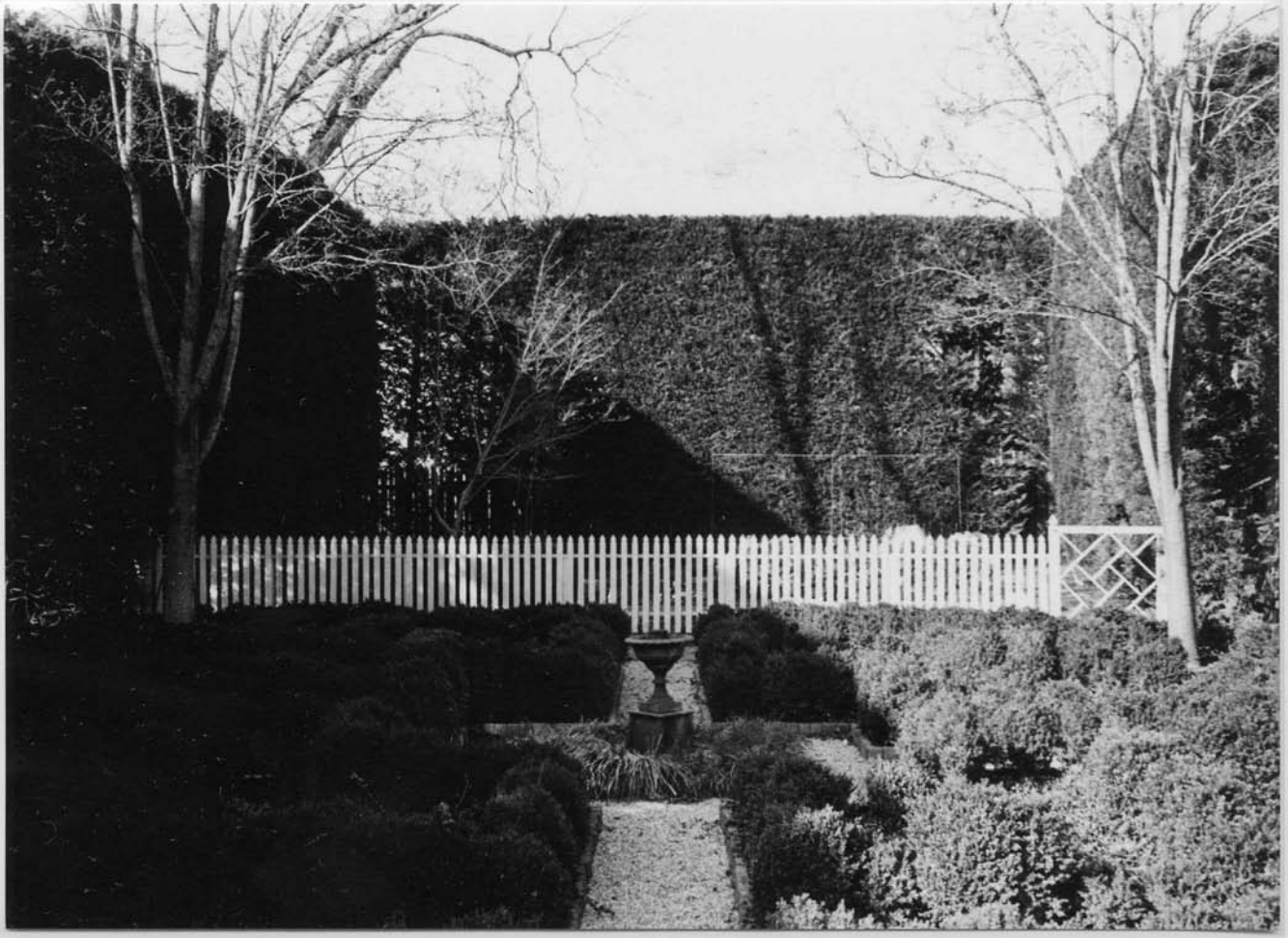
1 Jan 2002

SHPO

Detail of window sill & trim, NW facade, Main Block.

11 of 25

< > 5.53 58-03 NNN+03AU 9708



WO 100

Samuel Cottman House

Worcester County Maryland

Ed Phillips

1 Jan 2002

SHPO

Boxwood Garden taken from 2nd Floor window of Hyphen

12 of 24

WO 100

Samuel Gunn House

Worcester County Maryland

Ed Phillips

1 Jan 2002

SHPO

All Hallows Episcopal Church taken from the front yard of the Samuel Gunn House

13 of 25

< > 5.53 58-03 NNN+05AU 9708

WO 100
Samuel Gunn House
Worcester County, Maryland
Ed Phillips
January 1, 2002
SHPO
View of Front (SE) Parlor Fireplace & paneled overmantel
14 of 24

< >58-03 NNN+05AU 0151

WO 100
Samuel Quinn House
Worcester County, Maryland
Ed Phillips
January 1, 2002 >58-02 NNN+02AU 0151
SHPO
Wainscoting located in the Front (SE) Parlor
15 of 24

WO 100

Samuel Gunn House

Worcester County, Maryland

Ed Phillips

January 1, 2002

SHPO

Detail of carved cornice and part of the overmantel [illegible] (SE) parlor

16 of 24

< >58-03 NNN+01AU 0151

020 100
Samuel Gunn House
Worcester County, Maryland
Ed Phillips
January 1, 2002
SHPO
View of back (NW) parlor fireplace paneled overmantel
11 of 24

WO 100

Samuel Gunn House

Worcester County, Maryland

[redacted] Phillips

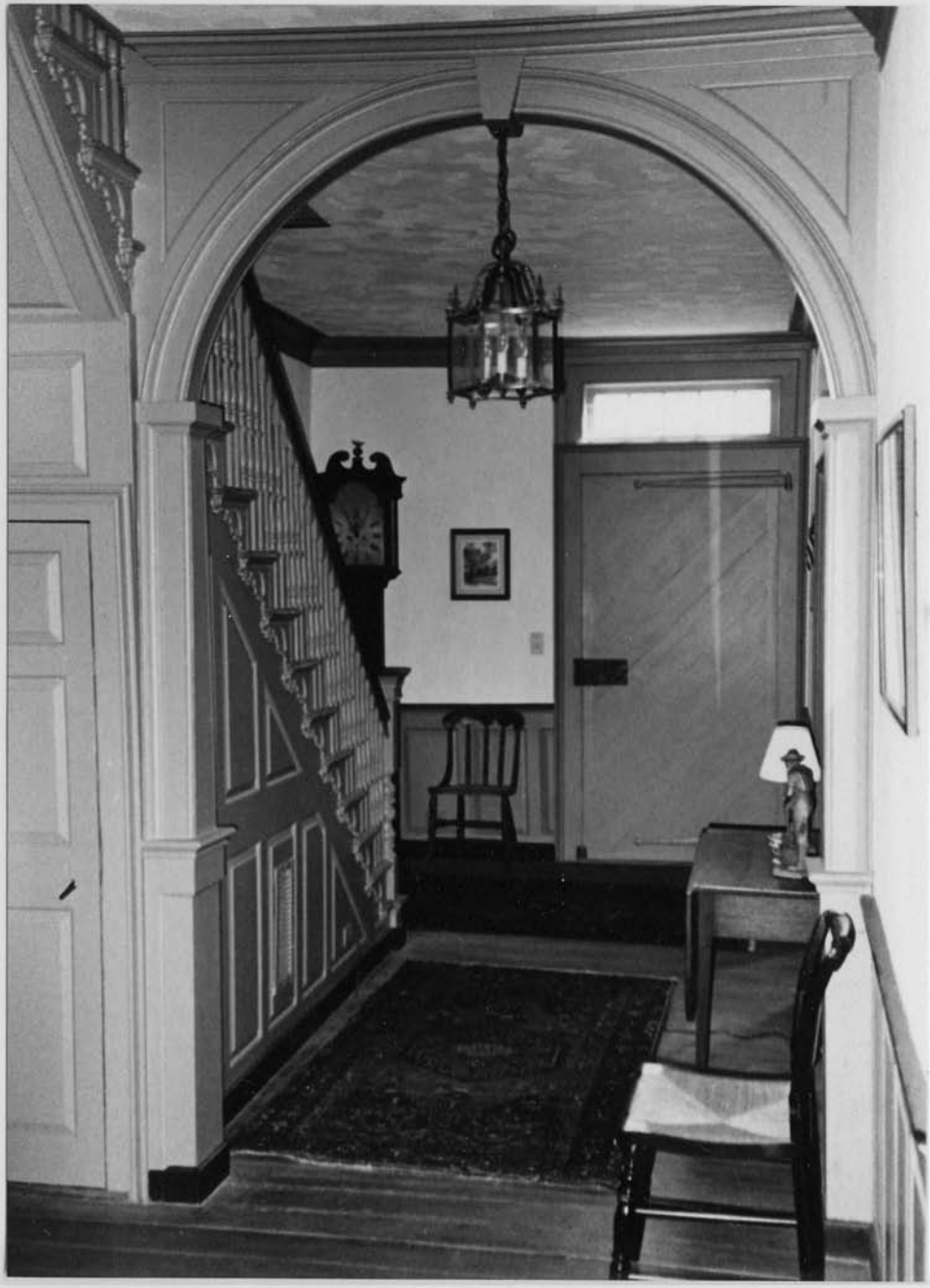
January 1, 2002

SHPO

View of original exterior door leading to hyphen from back parlor

18 of 24

1512 NWO+10PW NN 04-08-< >



WO 100
Samuel Gunn House
Worcester County, Maryland
Ed Phillips
January 1, 2002
SHPO
View of Side Passage, the segmental arch, looking toward the front door (Market St Entrance)
19 of 24

WO 100
Samuel Bunn House
Worcester County, Maryland
Ed Phillips
January 1, 2002
SHPO
View of side passage looking toward the back of the house and the 1910 addition - The door is original

20 of 24

WO 100

Samuel Gunn House

Worcester County, Maryland

Ed Phillips

January 1, 2002

SHPO

View of door + paneling under stair

21 of 24

< >58-03 NNN+09AU 0151

WO 100

Samuel Gunn House

Worcester County, Maryland

Ed Phillips

January 1, 2002

SHPO

Detail of stairs & east end of side passage.
Shows newel post with "wall of Troy" molding
under the molded cap

22 of 24

WO 100
Samuel Gunn House
Worcester County, Maryland
Ed Phillips
January 1, 2002
SHPO
Detail of original turned baluster stair, scrolled trim & molded hand rail.
23 of 24

WO KO

Samuel Gunn House

Worcester County, Maryland

Ed Phillips

January 1, 2002

SHPO

View of second floor stair hall looking east toward Market St

24 of 24