NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Ho-5

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 Roberts Inn

other names HO-5

2. Location

street & number 14610 Frederick Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Cooksville ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Howard code 027 zip code 21723-9414

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 6-21-06

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	
4	2	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
6	2	Total

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

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
COMMERCE/Restaurant
AGRICULTURE/Animal facility
AGRICULTURE/Storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/Animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls STONE/ STUCCO
ALUMINUM
roof ASPHALT
other

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

Description Summary:

Roberts Inn is located at 14610 Frederick Road, near the intersection of Maryland Route 97 in Cooksville, in western Howard County, Maryland. The complex consists of a c. 1808 stuccoed stone house with a reconstructed log ell, and several 19th-early 20th century agricultural outbuildings including a frame bank barn, a frame ground barn, a tile dairy, and a frame silo. The complex sits on gently rolling terrain that ascends to the west, with the house set close to the north side of the road. The house is a 2 ½-story, three-bay by one-bay stuccoed stone structure with a gable roof that has an east/west ridge and asphalt shingles. There is a wing on the west that is recessed about 10 feet. It is two stories tall, and three bays wide by one bay deep, with stuccoed stone walls on the north and south, a frame or log wall with aluminum siding on the west, and a gable roof with an east/west ridge and asphalt shingles.

General Description:

The south elevation of the main block has a door in the west bay of the first story that has six panels with sunken fields and ogee and bead panel moulds. There is a vertical bead in the center of the center stile. There are three matching panels on each doorjamb, one on each transom jamb, and one on the soffit. The three-light transom has been moved to the outer plane of the door opening. The transom bar has a quirked Greek ovolo at the top, a cavetto, a fillet, and a projecting fillet at the bottom. The frame is mitered and has a bull nose, and the sill appears to be granite. There is a large granite stoop in front of the door, and a flagstone porch with an iron railing now surrounds it. There are two granite steps that appear to be original and have been moved out in front of the new flagstone porch. The center and east bays have a six-over-six sash with a bull nose frame, a wood sill with wash, and mortises for shutter hinges. The second story has three smaller six-over-six sash that otherwise match the first story. There is a wood box cornice with a bed mould that appears to have a large bead above three fillets, with a broken field below. There are two gabled dormers with segmentally-arched six-over-six sash, and an interior brick chimney on the east gable end. The west elevation of the main block has a six-panel door that matches the south elevation on the first story, near the southwest corner. The door frame has a large bead. The second story has no opening. The gable end has aluminum siding with a four-light sash.

The south elevation of the wing has a six-panel door with slightly sunk fields and ovolo panel moulds in the center bay of the first story. Each jamb has three matching panels, with two panels on the soffit. There is a four-light transom and the transom bar has a series of tripled reeds across it. The frame has a large bead and the granite sill has a wash. The door is flanked to each side by a tall two-over-two sash with a wide frame that has a small bead on the inner edge. There is a wood sill, and mortises for shutter hinges. There is a large granite stoop in front of this door, with a three-bay flagstone porch surrounding it. The second story has three smaller two-over-two sash that are otherwise the same as the first story. There is a wood box cornice with a bed mould that has an ovolo above a cavetto, and a bead at the bottom. The east end of this cornice butts up against the main block wall, while the west end is about 14 inches to 16 inches short of the wall. There is a vertical crack

about 8 inches in from the southwest corner that marks where the wing ended. The west wall is frame and was clearly added onto the end of the wing. The cornice was built out to extend beyond the wall but the bed mould was not extended. There is an interior brick chimney on the west gable end.

The west elevation of the wing has aluminum siding over top of German siding. There is a two-over-two sash in the center of the first story and a six-over-six sash just south of center on the second story. The gable end has a six-over-six sash in the center. According to the owners, there must be a fireplace beneath this siding, as a plumb bob dropped down the chimney flue bangs against the interior of the siding. The north elevation of the wing is partially covered by a one-story, "V"-notch corner log structure that was added by the current owners on an existing stone foundation. The log wing has a gable roof with a north/south ridge. The first story of the stone wing has a small six-light sash just west of the log wing, and a six-over-six sash centered between the first and second stories in the west bay. The center bay of the second story has a typical six-over-six sash. There is a wood box cornice and an interior brick chimney in the northeast corner of the wing. The east elevation of the wing has an addition on the first story and a six-over-six sash in the north bay of the second story. The north elevation of the main block has a partially exposed basement with a vertical-board door in the center bay. The east bay opening has horizontal round iron bars that were added. The west bay is covered by an addition. The first story has two typical six-over-six sash like the south elevation, and the west bay here is covered. The second story has two typical two-over-two sash and the west bay has a two-over-two sash between the first and second stories. The wood box cornice has a large bead bed mould with a fascia below it. The east elevation has a small opening with horizontal round iron bars in the south bay and a similar opening with horizontal square iron bars in the north bay. The first and second stories do not have any openings. The gable end has one small window opening in the center and the rake boards are covered with aluminum.

The east cellar has a concrete floor and a hewn summer beam that runs east/west. The sash-sawn joists run north/south and lap each other on top of the summer beam. Several are burned and have new timber scabbed to both sides. The joists beneath the passage run east/west and are mortised and tenoned and pegged to the stair header and trimmers. The stair trimmer on the east is doubled up, being two joists that are pegged together. The trimmer at the west end is also a doubled-up joist. The stair header is sawn on one side and adzed on the other. The joists are 2 ½ inches to 3 inches wide by 7 ½ inches deep and are spaced 16 inches to 20 inches on centers. They are set on an approximately 2-inch-thick board set into the stone wall. The north elevation has a horizontal board door with a flush iron plate lock and tapered strap hinges with round cusps. There is a three-light sash to the east. The east elevation has a four-light sash set between the stone buttresses for the fireplaces above. The north buttress has a brick jack arch and may have been a fireplace. It is now bricked-in for a modern furnace. The hearth trimmers have through tenons with pegs in the headers. The header and trimmers are the same size as the joists. There is a ledger board on the header that supports one end of hearth boards. The other end of the boards rests on the stone buttress, and these boards support the hearth above. There is a one-light sash south of the south buttress.

The west cellar has a concrete floor and a wide opening in the stone wall between the east and west cellars, giving access to the west cellar. There is a hewn summer beam that runs east/west. The joists are hewn on the bottom and some are hewn on the sides, though most are sash sawn on the sides. They run north/south and are mortised and tenoned into the summer beam with what appears to be a tusk tenon. There are no visible pegs. The joists are 3 inches to 3-½ inches wide by 6-½ inches to 7 inches deep, and are spaced 23 inches to 26 inches on centers. The joists are set into pockets in the wall. The flooring above is sash-sawn, random-width, and is gauged. The summer beam is set in a pocket in the east wall above a window opening with a wood lintel. There is a diagonal stone buttress in the northeast corner, with a diagonal header, to support the fireplace above. The joists appear to have a center tenon into this header, and no pegs are visible. There is a window opening on the north elevation, just west of this fireplace buttress. The west wall has about an 8-inch jog in it, with the north half of the wall set back, and it appears the north half butts up against the south half. The south end of the west wall butts up against the south wall. There are small stones at the south end of the west wall and it appears that the west wall was built-up against the earlier south wall. The stairs in the northwest passage are built over a crawl space to the west of the west foundation wall. The first story is about 6 feet wider than the cellar, making this crawl space about 6 feet wide. This would place the foundation wall approximately below the east edge of the fireplace hearth above.

The first-story floor plan has a center passage double-pile plan that was built in two stages, with the west end preceding the passage and east end. The passage flooring is 3 ¼-inch pine that runs north/south. The baseboard has three fillets on the top. The architrave is symmetrical, with three reeds in the center, a recess with a bead on the inner edge, and square corner blocks that have a sunk, flat center and a bead mould. The architrave was once grained. This architrave is on the south, southeast, and southwest doors. The front, or south, door has a bead in the center of the center stile. It has three cast-iron butt hinges with five knuckles and fast joints, and they appear to be plain. The lock is original to the door and is a large iron plate rim lock with no label. The door has through tenons that are wedged, and it also was once grained. The southwest door is also hung on three cast-iron butt hinges and has the same rim lock. There is a ghost of a wall that was added once just north of the southwest and southeast doors. A dog leg stair ascends on the east wall to a landing at the north then turns and ascends along the west wall. It has an open stringer with sawn brackets in a wave motif. Below the stringer is a plaster wall with trim around the edge that has raised beads on both sides of a sunken field. The inner bead is large while the outer one is small. There are rectangular balusters that are grained and a turned, tapered newel that appears to be walnut. There is a ¾-round ramped hand rail that is also probably walnut. The northwest door architrave has a double bead. The wide jambs have flush, flat panels with bead moulds, with one panel on each jamb and the soffit. There is one step up into the southwest room. The door here is now cut in half, with new hinges, and the lock is missing. It is otherwise typical of the interior passage doors, and the reverse side has a sunk, flat panel with no panel mould. The rear door has been replaced with a wood door that has four panels below four lights in a fan light pattern. It has butt hinges with ball finials and a cast-iron rim lock. The architrave has a double bead. The northeast door also has double bead architrave. The door is typical, but is oriented with the flat sides facing out into the passage and the fielded panels facing into the room when the door is closed, as if it generally was closed and used as a service door. The door is low because it is

below the stair landing. It is hung on cast-iron butt hinges with three knuckles and fast joints, and the iron plate rim lock with brass knob is a replacement. There is a door under the stairs that leads to the cellar. It is typical, and has one cast-iron butt hinge with three knuckles and fast joint and a five-knuckle butt hinge with a pin. There is a reproduction square plate latch, but the door may have originally had a Suffolk latch. The southeast door is a typical six-panel door with new hinges and a Carpenter lock, which is labeled "TILDESLEY," that replaces the original lock.

The northeast and southeast rooms create a double parlor that has virtually identical mirror-image spaces. The floor is 4 ¼-inch pine that runs north/south. The baseboard and architrave are identical to the passage. The south windows are recessed, with one large panel below the sill that matches the panels on the doors. The jambs are splayed, with one panel below the sill, one above it, and one on the soffit. These panels also match the doors. The sash have 11-inch by 16-inch lights, are mortised and tenoned and pegged both in the rails and stiles and in the muntins, and the muntins have a lancet profile. The sash are hung on cords and have parting beads. One of the sash have been replaced. The east jamb of the west window has had some of the paint stripped and beneath it are written names and dates including, "REBECCA A. B[ARRE]TT JUNE 1830[3?], REBECCA L. D[AVID] O?? 1837, ANN F?? TH[C?]K OCT. 10, ?? 37, ??" The ceiling has riven lath. Centered on the east elevation is a fireplace with a brick hearth, splayed brick jambs, a parged surround, and a wood mantel that is mortised and tenoned and pegged. It has pilasters with a symmetrical moulding that has three lancets in the center, flanked by a broken field. There is one large panel in the frieze that extends above the pilasters and matches the door panels. The bed mould has three fillets at the top, a quirked bead, a conge' and two fillets at the bottom. The bottom edge of the mantel shelf has a Greek ovolo. There is a large opening on the north wall between the two rooms, and it has been widened. The side trim on the south side is re-used, while the top trim on the north and south has a plain center, with a bead on each side. The side trim on the north side is plain, as are the north corner blocks. Each jamb has three cast-iron butt hinges with five knuckles and fast joints. There is no patching in the floor, suggesting that the floor boards are later replacements. The flooring is raised above the level of the brick hearth, which also suggests that it is replaced. The northeast room also has a fireplace centered on the east wall, and it and the mantel are identical to that in the southeast room. On the north side of the fireplace the wall is flush with the front face of the fireplace, not recessed, and this wall sounds hollow. The north window architrave is carried down to the floor but the windows are not recessed, instead having plaster beneath the sills. The sash is otherwise the same as the south sash. On both the north and south walls, between the windows, is an inverted "T" in wood set flush with the plaster. The northeast passage door has double-bead architrave.

The southwest room flooring is 2 ¼-inch pine that runs north/south. The baseboard has a large bead on top, and there is ghost of chair rail on the south and east walls. The east door architrave has a double bead. The door here has a patch around it suggesting that this was originally a window before the door was cut through. There is no ghost of the chair rail on the door trim, suggesting that it was removed when the door was created. The south window architrave is mitered, with two rabbets in it. They have splayed jambs of plain boards, and a wide center muntin on the sash. The sash is hung on cords and has parting beads. The south door architrave

has an ogee back band that is not quirked, and has a beaded interior edge. The hinges and Carpenter lock are replacements. There is a four-light transom. The walls have plaster on stone, with a robins-egg blue finish and some skim coating over the original finish coat. Centered on the west wall is a fireplace with a rebuilt brick hearth, slightly splayed, parged jambs, exposed stone on the back of the firebox, and a semi-circular brick arch at the front. The wood mantel has been raised off the ground by the owners so that it does not cover the arch. The mantel has symmetrical pilaster strips that have a bead in the center flanked by quirked ogees, with ovolos on the outer edges. There are scroll brackets over each pilaster below the bed mould. The frieze has a broken field with a quarter-round spool moulding at the break. The bed mould has an ogee and fillet and the mantel shelf has a moulded edge. South of the fireplace is a closet. The wall here is set back from the plane of the fireplace. The door has six panels with flush fields and ovolo panel moulds. The panels are hand-planed and the door is mortised and tenoned and pegged. Beneath the present white paint is graining, and beneath that a red paint. The architrave matches that of the south door. The door has butt hinges with three knuckles and loose joints, and a cast-iron rim lock labeled "D. M.& CO., NEW HAVEN" and has a wood knob on the outside and a moulded porcelain knob on the interior. There was once a lock on the interior side of the door. The panels on the interior are sunk and flat, with no panel moulds. The back side of this opening has no trim. Both sides of the closet in this location have vertical beaded-edge boards, with pieces of back band and nails where other pieces are now missing, fastened horizontally to support shelves. The nails appear to be cut, with "L" heads, and this appears to have always been a closet. The wall north of the fireplace is set at an angle, and has a door like that to the closet, but the two center panels are now glazed. This door has the same architrave as the closet, but it is now set as a swinging door. There is a large opening on the north elevation, with pocket doors. The architrave is symmetrical and has a pair of ogees. There are bull's eye corner blocks, and this trim appears to have been nailed over top of earlier trim. The doors have six panels each, with the frieze panels set in the center, and the panels are sunk and flat, with cavetto and bead panel moulds. There are foliate bronze strike plates.

The northwest room flooring is 4 ¼-inch-wide pine that runs north/south. There is beaded-edge, vertical-board half-wainscot and the boards are 5 ¼ inches wide. They originally had a natural finish. The architrave on the south wall pocket doors matches the opposite side of these doors. The other doors have an ogee and bevel back band and a small bead on the inner edge. The west door is gone, but the hinges have three knuckles and loose joints. The north door is also gone, but the hinges match the west door. The jambs have three panels each, with two panels on the soffit, and the panels match the closet door in the southwest room. The door frame is set inside the opening and covers part of the panels on each jamb. There is a stone sill. The east door has one light over two lying panels, and is a swinging door. There is a corner fireplace in the northeast corner, with a rebuilt brick hearth, splayed, parged jambs, a parged surround, and a stone back to the firebox. There is a wood mantel with paneled pilasters that are sunk and flat and have an applied bead in the center and a quirked Greek ogee panel mould. The impost blocks match the pilasters and the frieze is plain. The bed mould has two beads above three fillets. The mantel shelf edge has a moulded bevel and bead. Above the east door is a patch that suggests it was originally a window.

West of this room, in the northwest corner of the wing, is a stair passage with linoleum on the floor and half-wainscot on the walls that matches that in the northwest room. The north wall has beaded-edge, vertical boards with three reeds in the center of each board on the whole wall and on the window jambs and soffit. The six-light casement has head-cut trim. The east door architrave has a back band that matches the closet door while the rest matches the northwest room door architrave. The architrave on the angled south door matches the closet door in the southwest room. The west window architrave matches the east door. The wood jambs appear to have chatter marks. The two-over-two sash matches those in the southwest room. The ceiling has riven lath. There is a dogleg stair that ascends on the west to a landing at the north end. It has an open stringer that is plain and is hand-planed, with a bead on the bottom edge. The balusters are rectangular and the square newels are chamfered and have lambs tongue stops. The handrail is moulded and is mortised and tenoned and pegged to the newels. The west wall appears to be hollow. Beneath the stringer are beaded-edge, vertical boards and a four-panel door that matches the closet door and has the same architrave. It is hung on new "T" hinges, and has a dead bolt. There is no evidence that the door ever had a lock.

On the north side of the northwest room is a modern addition made of re-used "V"-notch logs. It is built on the stone foundation of an earlier wing and encapsulates a stone fireplace that had survived, as well. The fireplace has straight jambs and the chimney was rebuilt. The north wall of the wing is stuccoed on the kitchen addition side, with the ghost of a gabled porch roof over the doorway. According to the owners, the east and west foundation walls of the kitchen addition ran right up to the house, and there was no foundation wall running east/west near the house. On the east side of this log addition is a new sun porch with flagstone, and an addition on the east side of the northwest room and the north side of the passage connects the addition and the sun porch. This latter addition has horizontal, beaded-edge board siding.

The second-story passage has a typical two-over-two sash on the landing that has a double-bead architrave. This double bead is also used on the sill and continues along the wall like chair rail. There is no clear evidence of it on the east and west walls. The baseboard appears to be marbleized below the existing paint on the steps, and it has three fillets. The stringer on the stairs to the attic has a combed finish, but this finish is not on the brackets. The passage floor is random-width pine that is 6 inches to 7 inches wide and runs east/west. The baseboard is plain and the architrave has a double bead. The doors have six panels with sunken fields and ogee and ovolo panel moulds. The cast-iron butt hinges have three knuckles and appear to have fast joints. There are iron-plate rim locks with brass knobs. The south door frieze rail has had the white paint stripped to reveal the black number "6" painted on the reddish-brown paint of the door. Likewise, the southeast door has the number "7" and the northeast door the number "8." The stairway continues to the attic. At the south end of the passage is a small room that is now a modern bathroom with a claw foot tub, a pedestal sink, and a reproduction lavatory with an oak tank. There is new beaded-edge, narrow-board half-wainscot. The window architrave on the south has a double bead. The sash is missing, with only a storm window here.

The northeast chamber floor, baseboard, and architrave are the same as the second-story passage. The north elevation has two-over-two sash. There is a fireplace centered on the east elevation. It has a brick hearth,

splayed-brick jambs, and a parged surround. The wood mantel has architrave with a double-bead back band and a beaded-interior edge. There is a plain frieze and plain impost blocks, a bed mould with a bead above three fillets and a cavetto at the bottom, and a Greek ovolo run on the edge of the mantelshelf.

The southeast chamber floor, baseboard, and architrave also match the second-story passage. The six-over-six sash have ovolo muntins and friction sash locks. The fireplace and mantel on the east elevation is identical to that in the northeast chamber. The door has a Carpenter lock that is not original to it, and butt hinges with three knuckles. There are carpet tack holes at the threshold across the door. The center chamber was originally two rooms, as there is a clear patch for a partition wall that ran east/west in the center of the room. The flooring is 2 ¼-inch pine that runs north/south and has a patch in it where the wall was. The baseboard has a bead on the top edge. There is one step up from this chamber to the east passage. The east door has double-bead architrave and a Carpenter lock labeled "TILDISLEY." The door has six panels that are sunk and flat and have no panel moulds on the room side, and have sunk fields with ogee and ovolo panel moulds on the passage side. There is no room number painted on the frieze rail. The door is hung on cast-iron butt hinges with three knuckles. The door has been flipped and was originally hung on the north jamb. The south windows have architrave with an ogee back band and a beaded interior edge. There are two panels on the soffit and on each jamb, and they have flush fields and ogee panel moulds. The rails and stiles are mortised and tenoned and pegged, as are the two-over-two sash. They have no parting beads or check rail, and have friction sash latches. They also have inset frames with beaded edges. There is chair rail on the south elevation that has a bead and cavetto beneath the shelf and a bead on the bottom edge. There is ghost of chair rail on the other walls. In the southeast corner is a new built-in closet. The east window is set to the north of the ghost of the partition, and has the same architrave as the south windows in this room. It has a six-over-six sash with mortised and tenoned and pegged rails and stiles and narrow, deep ovolo muntins. It has 10-inch by 12-inch lights and a friction pad sash latch. The north window is identical to the east window. There is a corner fireplace in the northeast that has a brick hearth, splayed, parged stone jambs, a parged surround, and a wood mantel that matches that in the southwest room. The west door, to the north, has architrave that matches the window and six panels that are sunk and flat and have no panel moulds on the room side. The lock has been replaced, and the hinges are butts with five knuckles and loose joints. The west door, to the south, matches the other west door but has a large iron plate rim lock with a brass knob. There is no maker's name. The lock has a dead bolt that is keyed and a slide bolt operated from the bottom of the lock as a night latch. The strike plate for the lock is now a Carpenter-pattern plate. The door has cast-iron butt hinges with five knuckles and loose joints.

The west passage has 2 ¼-inch pine flooring that runs north/south and has the same baseboard and door architrave as the center chamber. The south door has six panels with slightly sunk fields that are hand-planed, and ovolo panel moulds. The door has the number "4" painted on the frieze rail, and has replacement cast-iron butt hinges and a replacement mortise lock. The east door, to the south, matches the south door but has the number "6." The east door, to the north, also matches these, but with the number "7." This passage had chair rail but it has been removed and patched. Part of the chimney projects into this passage in the southwest corner, and it also had chair rail on it. On the west elevation is a window with a reused six-over-six sash in a later

opening that has head-cut trim and a plain soffit and jambs. There is a patch on the ceiling where the summer beam is, and it aligns with the patch in the center chamber, but there is no evidence there was ever a wall in this location. The stairway continues to the attic with the same details, including the chamfers and lambs-tongue stops on the newel posts both above and below the hand rails. There is a window on the landing at the north elevation that matches the windows in the center chamber and has an old six-over-six sash. The southwest chamber has typical door and window architrave like the passage, and the window jambs match those in the center chamber. There is a chimney in the northwest corner of the room. The baseboard matches the passage. This room is now a modern bathroom with a white sink and tub that date to the circa 1920s to 1930s. There is a cupboard built in on the south side of the chimney, next to the bathtub, that also dates from this period.

The east attic has been completely refinished recently. The west attic is closed off from the stairs with an original beaded-edge, vertical-board wall and door that is unpainted. The door has a wrought Suffolk latch and replacement hinges with ball finials. The attic has random-width pine flooring that runs east/west, and most of the boards range from 12 inches to 17 inches wide. The rafters are hewn and are 4 inches to 4 ½ inches-wide and tapered from about 4 inches at the foot to about 3 inches at the ridge. They have an open-faced bridle and peg at the ridge and hewn collar beams that have half-dovetailed half-laps that are nailed. The nail heads are probably double-struck nails. The west wall is frame and has a stud toe-nailed to a rafter with a wrought nail. There is flush-board siding. Much of the wall is hidden in insulation and cannot be closely examined. The east wall is stone, with a small window set into an in-filled window opening. There is a false plate, and the rafters have bird's-mouth cuts on the feet to engage the false plate. The rafters support sawn shingle lath. The reverse side of the door is painted green.

A bank barn is located about 125 feet northwest of the house, and is banked on the west with a forebay that faces east. It has a rubble stone lower story with CMUs that have a brick veneer on the east elevation below the forebay wall, beaded-edge-and-center vertical boards on the upper story, and a gable roof with a north/south ridge and "V"-seam metal. The ridge has lightning rods. On the east elevation the lower story has a wide opening, two two-light steel sash, another wide opening, two more two-light steel sash, and a new cross-buck Dutch door in the north bay. The upper story doors are now closed off with siding. The south elevation has two six-over-six sash on the lower story and a vent in the gable peak of the upper story. The west elevation has two pair of wagon doors that match the siding and are hung on rollers on the upper story. The north elevation matches the south elevation. The lower story of the north elevation has a shed added with re-used materials. There were horse stalls here when the property was purchased by the current owners. On the west elevation, north of the ramp, is an octagonal frame silo with wood shingle siding and no roof. To the south of this ramp is a round terra cotta tile silo with no roof. The lower story of the barn has two circular-sawn summer beams that run north/south and have beveled half-lap scarf joints with beveled haunches. There is a bolster and post beneath each scarf, so it is not possible to tell if they are pegged. There are three posts beneath the scarf joints and several other posts that may be added. The joists are circular-sawn on top and bottom, run east/west, and lap at each summer beam. Nothing is left of the original stalls in the lower story. The upper story has two center threshing floors with a hay mow to each end. There is an enclosed stairway to the lower story at the west

end of the south mow, and a granary or tack room in the northeast corner. The barn has a circular-sawn, heavy timber, mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged braced frame with four posts, a single dropped girt, and great struts supporting the purlins. The rafters are about 2 by 5s and appear to be half-lapped and nailed. There are trusses added to some rafter pairs above the purlins. They are nailed to the sides of the rafters, and it is not clear whether they are original or added. There are two rafter couples between each truss.

The barnyard is enclosed with a stone wall on the east. The south end of the barnyard has a terra cotta tile dairy with a concrete foundation, and a hip roof with asphalt shingles. It is a one-story, one-bay square structure with a beaded-edge-and-center vertical-board door on the west elevation and a six-over-six sash on the north, south, and east elevations. The north end of the barnyard is closed off with a small ground barn. It is a two-story, five-bay by three-bay frame structure with board-and-batten siding and a gable roof with "V"-seam metal and an east/west ridge. The south elevation of the lower story has a Dutch door to the west, a small four-over-one sash, another Dutch door, a nine-light sash, and a Dutch door to the east. The upper story center bay has a vertical-board door with battens and is hung on butterfly hinges. The east elevation has three four-light sash on the first story and a nine-light sash in the south bay of the second story. There is a boarded-up diamond-shaped opening in the gable end. The north elevation has a vertical-board door on butterfly hinges centered in both the first and second stories. There is also a large, beaded-edge-and-center vertical-board door on rollers in the west bay of the first story. The west wall has been opened up for access into the shed on the north side of the bank barn. The lower story of the ground barn has girts that run north/south between the two-story posts. The joists are hewn on top and bottom and run east/west. They are set on top of the girts. The center of each girt has a one-story post tenoned into it below it. The floor plan has a center aisle that runs north/south, with pens on each side and a tool room in the northeast corner. The barn frame is hewn heavy timber that is mortised and tenoned and pegged and is braced at the top. It has a dropped girt that supports Queen posts that are braced. The Queen posts are set between the outer posts and the inner posts. The plates have half-lapped scarf joints that appear to have four face pegs. The rafters are hewn, are about 3 inches by 5 inches, are mitered at the ridge, and support shingle lath.

Also on the property is a frame storage building behind the log ell that recreates the old smokehouse, and a stone springhouse that is being reconstructed about 150 feet northeast of the house.

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.

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

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

c. 1808-1954

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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:

Roberts Inn is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the development of transportation in the Central Maryland region during the nineteenth century. The construction of the house coincided with the extension of the National Pike through the Cooksville area. Documentary and architectural evidence supports its use as a turnpike tavern from an early date. Tradition holds that Lafayette breakfasted at Roberts Inn during his 1824 tour of America. Roberts Inn derives additional significance under Criterion C as an example of a type of property that functioned as a turnpike tavern during the early nineteenth century, and which was subsequently converted to domestic and agricultural use as economic conditions changed later in the period. The property continued to evolve into the early 20th century, as additional outbuildings were constructed reflecting improvements in agricultural operations, and it continues to function as a dairy farm. The period of significance, c. 1808-1954, begins with the presumed construction date of the tavern and extends to a date fifty years prior to the preparation of this documentation.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Roberts Inn sits on part of the 235-acre tract known as "Repentance," patented by Joseph Hobbs in 1765. Hobbs sold 25 acres near the location of the inn to Thomas Cook, a joiner, in 1790 for £44.11.10. At the same time, Cook bought another 25-acre tract called "The Fish Pond," located on the south side of the west falls of the Patapsco, for £3,500.0.0. The significant difference in price suggests that Cook would have moved to the latter to live, as it must have had substantial improvements. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax particular list has him living on a tract called "Dependence," but the general list notes that he had 191 acres, 166 acres of "Repentance" and 25 acres of "Fish Pond." Most likely, the particular list is in error, the names "Dependence" and "Repentance" being so similar. Cook's house was apparently the Red House Tavern on the old Frederick Road (see below). In 1802 Cook added the 45 acres of "Repentance" on which the inn now sits; he purchased the land from Noah Hobbs for £203.0.8. Thomas Cook must have died between 1802 and 1817, because his sons and heirs were selling his land at the latter date, though there are no records at the Anne Arundel County Register of Wills to confirm this. Cook's son, also named Thomas, purchased the 45-acre tract from his brothers, William and John Cook, for $2,000. Thomas Cook II bought additional land in the neighborhood up to 1824, eventually owning about 227 acres. In 1833 he sold his land to Thomas Beale Dorsey Merriweather for $6,000, though historian J. D. Warfield states that Cook and Merriweather exchanged their farms. Merriweather added another 132-½ acre tract the following year, which cost him only $1,000.00.[1]

In his book *The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland*, published in 1905, J. D. Warfield stated: "At Mr. Joshua Robert's tavern, at Cooksville, General LaFayette sat down to breakfast with some of his admirers—General Thomas Hood, Mr. Joshua Hood, Daniel Warfield and others." The building that Warfield referred to has come to be known as Roberts Inn. Thomas Cook II, who lived across the street, is said to have provided extra chairs (as will be seen below, this seems unlikely) and these chairs, which Warfield makes note

of, are now in the collection of the Historical Society of Howard County. Warfield grew up in the area and probably was told the story by the descendants of Thomas Cook II, who still owned the chairs in 1905. Unfortunately, there are no other records that can confirm this story, and indeed, nothing can confirm that this building was an inn, though the numbers painted on the chamber doors, and its proximity to the Frederick Turnpike, suggest the likelihood that it was. These numbers are painted in black in a nineteenth-century script, over a Spanish brown color applied to the entire door, and were later completely painted over with white paint. Their existence was noted in a newspaper article from 1959, presumably before the doors were painted white.[2]

Lafayette's travels were chronicled by the Baltimore press and in the diary of Col. LaVasseur, who accompanied him, but none of these sources are sufficiently detailed to note all of the stops made on the tour. On 29 December 1824 Lafayette left Baltimore around 8:00 AM for Frederick. The town of Lisbon, just a few miles west of Cooksville, had erected a triumphal arch, and Lafayette stopped there and was escorted to the dwelling of Capt. John W. Ringrose, where he was received and treated to food and drink. Citizens of Frederick met Lafayette at the Monocacy Bridge at about 3:00 PM and escorted him into Frederick. Given the timing, it seems unlikely that he had breakfast in Cooksville, though he could have stopped briefly for some refreshment there, as he did in Lisbon.[3]

Joshua Roberts never owned the property that has come to be known as his inn, though it is possible he rented it, and he is not listed in either the 1820 or 1830 census for Anne Arundel County. Nor does he appear in the Anne Arundel County Tax List for 1827 to 1831. Instead, it appears that there was no Joshua Roberts in Anne Arundel County, but that this was an error in either the memory of Warfield's source for the story, or by Warfield himself, and that the operator of the inn was actually Zachariah Roberts. Zachariah Roberts was in Anne Arundel County by 1820, and judging from the census was living in the vicinity of Cooksville, as his near neighbors were Thomas Cook and Noah Hobbs. Roberts was apparently over 45, his wife was between the ages of 26 and 45, and they had three children in the household, two young women ages 16 to 26 and one boy under the age of ten. There were also two slaves, a male and a female, both between the ages of 14 and 26. One was working in agriculture and one in commerce.[4]

Court records for the April Term, 1825, note: "Zachariah Roberts being admitted by the court to keep an ordinary in Anne Arundel County until October Term 1825." Roberts is not listed in the 1824 or the October Term, 1825 records as being licensed to run an ordinary, though he may not have applied every time he was supposed to. Zachariah Roberts is listed in the 1827-1831 tax list, and in the 1830 census Zachariah Roberts is listed right after Thomas Cook, who at that time lived across the street from the Roberts Inn building. Roberts was also living near Augustus Riggs and Talbott G. Shipley, who also lived in the area. Besides Roberts and his wife, there were four white males and four white females, four slaves and three free blacks living and working on the property.[5]

Zachariah Roberts died in 1831, and his inventory confirms that he was operating a tavern, though it cannot provide the location of that building within Anne Arundel County. The large number of beds listed at the

beginning of the inventory before any other furniture, 23, is a distinct clue, and three of them were "over bar room." Right after the beds were listed Windsor chairs, 18 of them painted brown, 18 painted green, and six painted yellow, plus 18 slip bottom chairs. Again, this was a quantity much greater than any well-to-do farmer had (or needed) in his house, and there were other seating pieces, too. The large number calls into question the need for more chairs when Lafayette stopped. Nor would any house have the "5 walnut tables in Long room" that Roberts had. This room must have been used for both eating and drinking. There were other tables, too, including a pine table that may also have been in the long room, since it was listed right after the walnut ones, and a pair of mahogany dining tables. Likewise, the quantity of liquor was much greater than typically found in a farmhouse, including several barrels containing 52 gallons of old whiskey, a barrel with 26 gallons of common whiskey, another barrel with 12 gallons of gin, a barrel of French brandy, three gallons of port in jugs, one gallon of Madeira in a demijohn, 1 ½ gallons of Lisbon wine, four gallons of "Jamaica spirits" (probably rum), a demijohn and jug with domestic wine, eight bottles of porter (and 60 empty bottles), four bottles of "shampaine wine," not to mention 30 empty whiskey and cider barrels, but remarkably, no cider. As far as vices were concerned, there was also 500 "segars."[6]

Though the inventory is not itemized room-by-room, some rooms are listed, and rooms are designated for some of the enumerated objects. The long room already mentioned had a carpet in addition to the five tables. There was a "shed room" with two beds, and two beds "over shed D° [room]." There was a stove in the "dining room" and a bed "over dining room." There was an "old front D° [room]" that contained one bed. The "front parlour" and "back D° [parlour]" each had a carpet, and the latter also had a hearth rug. The "passage" also had a carpet, and a lamp. The "bar room" had a stove, and there was "trumpry in bar," plus the three beds already noted in the room above the bar. The "upper garrett" also held trumpery. The "new garrett" held five beds. The kitchen cupboard implies the obvious existence of that room, and the cooking stove, among numerous other items, was undoubtedly located there. There was also a cellar mentioned (with more trumpery), a smokehouse, and a corn house. Hay was stored in a loft (of which building is not specified), but most of it was in stacks.[7]

Since the evidence suggests that the current Roberts Inn building was Zachariah Roberts' tavern, it is worth comparing the rooms listed in his inventory with the existing building. This can only be done loosely, because the existing kitchen is rebuilt on an old foundation and could have originally been divided into more than one room, and because there was a portion of the old tavern to the west of the existing building that has been missing for close to 100 years (it does not show in a photograph taken c. 1900); a footprint of that section cannot even be discerned in the ground at this time. Nor can one be sure that every room in the tavern was mentioned in the inventory. However, a comparison suggests a close correlation between the rooms in the inventory and the Roberts Inn structure. The existing kitchen was likely the kitchen in 1831, too, with the cook stove set in the stone fireplace. The front and back parlours and the passage, in the eastern addition, have changed little from that time. The center doorway between the two parlours has been widened and the floor in these two rooms replaced, probably as a result of a small fire in the basement. The center section, between the east addition, the missing kitchen, and the missing original west building, went through some alterations in the late nineteenth century with the replacement of a mantel in the south room and opening up the partition wall

between this and the north room with double pocket doors to create another double parlour in the house. The north room was likely a dining room, given its proximity to the kitchen. The south room could have been the bar room, or the so-called long room.

The surviving window and door mouldings and stairway in the center section are consistent with a date of c. 1800-1820, while the mantelpiece on the corner fireplace in the northwest room is more typical of c. 1820-1850, with its use of Greek and lancet-profile mouldings. All of the mouldings and mantels in the east section are consistent with a date of c. 1820-1850. This suggests the possibility that the northwest mantel was added at a later date, though the fireplace seems to have been original to the room, based on the construction in the basement. The missing original section, which must have been constructed first and was of frame or log, probably held a bar at one time, and may still have, or the bar could have been moved into the center section, making the old section the long room. No evidence could be found to suggest where the bar was located. The shed room was either part of this original section, or was attached to it. The new garret was presumably over the double parlour chambers, as that was the most recent addition. This garret has been refinished recently for living space, so it is not possible to examine it for details of whether it was finished for guests, or left unfinished and used as sleeping space for servants.

Other than the numbers painted on the chamber doors, there are no features that explicitly proclaim that this was an inn, but early taverns, when they were specialty-built rather than simply converted dwellings, were nonetheless traditionally domestic in appearance in the early nineteenth century, and other than the sign outside and the bar inside, would be difficult to distinguish from the average farmhouse of the region. The eastern addition is a standard side-passage, double pile plan commonly used in Maryland dwellings beginning in the mid-eighteenth century and continuing through the late-nineteenth century. The center section (now the west half of the building) is a little more unusual, in that it has a side passage on the west, located to the back of the double pile plan, with the exterior entrance to this section of the building directly into the center of the front room. A large chimney on the west end of this front room blocks the rear passage from the front of the building, precluding there from ever having been a passage the full length of this section. Understanding the reasoning for this arrangement is hampered by the loss of the original western section of the tavern. Both the front and back rooms of this section originally had a window on the east end, and they were both converted to doorways after the east addition was constructed.[8]

In addition to the tavern, or perhaps as a necessary adjunct to it, Roberts was also running a farm, though it probably had to feed more than just his small family and hired help, since it would have provided much of the food served at the inn. Zachariah and Mary Roberts had one daughter, Sarah, who was married (to Perry G. Mercier) and who had a daughter of her own. It would appear that the Merciers were not living at the tavern, since the 1830 census does not show any girls there under the age of 15, and Amanda Melvina Mercier was not yet 16 in 1831. The census also noted four slaves (one of whom was under the age of ten) and three free blacks on the property, but the inventory does not record any slaves. Instead, they were apparently treated like indentured servants, and the time they had yet to serve was noted: Ephraim, two years and four months, Eliza

and her child, 11 years, and Mariah, five months. All three adults were between the ages of 24 and 36, according to the census. Without any sons, Roberts clearly needed labor on his farm. To meet this need, it would seem that he purchased the slaves and set a time period upon them during which they would work off the money that he had paid for them. If so, this was a rather unique arrangement, though the subject of abolitionists (or anti-slavery advocates) and the use of slave labor with term limits seems to be little studied.[9]

Roberts' farm does not seem to have been a typical family farm, however. His livestock consisted of two horses, six cows and two heifers, 18 hogs, and nine shoats. Missing from the inventory, however, were most of the typical farming implements, including ploughs, harrows, wagons, a wheat fan, etc. The only thing mentioned was one old cultivator. It is possible that Roberts had his fields in grass and was not planting any corn, wheat, or rye since he would need the hay for stabling his guests' livestock and feeding the cows he raised to provide milk, butter, and occasionally, beef. The pigs, which would have been the major source of meat at the tavern, could have been fed the skim milk left over after butter production, and could have foraged in the orchards and woodland for mast. Extra fields could have been leased to a tenant on shares, which would have provided some grain for Roberts. Small fruits and vegetables would have been grown in a kitchen garden, and would have only required small hand tools such as hoes, which Roberts did own. No average farmer owned only two horses, as this would not provide enough draft power for all the jobs necessary on a farm. Most had four or more. However, by only growing grass, and thus with no ploughs or harrows to pull, Roberts had less need for draft animals.[10]

In discussing the history of Cooksville, Warfield also states: "Upon the completion of the National Pike leading from Baltimore to Frederick, then continuing on to the West, villages sprung up at almost every cross-road. During the advance movements of our early pioneers of the West, long processions of primitive trains of covered wagons were to be seen almost daily on that road. The wayside tavern was then a necessity." The location of Roberts Inn on the Frederick Turnpike, with its connection to the National Road, and lying just west of the Washington Turnpike, was an ideal one for a tavern, among other businesses. Just how soon they would have been drawn to this location is a question that is not easily answered, since the establishment of early roads is not well documented. Martha Ellicott Tyson wrote in 1865: "The road from Frederick to Baltimore passed over the Patapsco, three miles above Ellicott's Mills, and was first used as an outlet for the flaxseed and domestic produce of Frederick county as early as 1760." This was apparently not the existing Frederick Road on which Roberts Inn sits, but the Old Frederick Road. Tyson also noted that the Ellicotts built a road from their mills to Baltimore and another from their mills to Doughoregan Manor some time after 1774. They extended the road to Carroll's Manor on the Monocacy, in Frederick County, with farmers along the route paying part of the expense. The Red House Tavern, nearly a mile north of Cooksville, served as a local inn on this early road, and is supposed to be the birthplace of Thomas Cook. It is believed to be the 1-½ story stone dwelling, of 30 by 22 feet, listed in the 1798 tax for Thomas Cook.[11]

In 1787 the Maryland State Legislature authorized Baltimore County to operate several turnpike roads from Baltimore because the existing roads to the west were in deplorable condition. One of these was the road to

Frederick, though the county only had control of it to the Anne Arundel County (present-day Howard County) line. The Ellicotts assembled a petition "to examine and straighten the present road from Baltimore to Frederick-Town, by Ellicott's upper mills" in 1792, and a law was passed that year to that effect. The new road is shown on Dennis Griffith's *Map of the State of Maryland*, of 1794, but the surveys of the western shore that were taken to make this map were apparently made in 1792, so the road shown may reflect good intentions more than reality. The 1797 D. F. Sotzmann map, *Maryland und Delaware*, is apparently based on the Griffith map, so it, too, may not reflect the actual situation of the road.[12]

Even this portion of the turnpike in Baltimore County was apparently not completed, so in 1805 the Baltimore and Fredericktown Turnpike Company, a private company incorporated by the legislature, was created to complete and operate the turnpike. This insured that the road would be constructed beyond Baltimore County. Joseph Scott reported in 1807: "The great western turnpike which leads from Baltimore, by Ellicott's Lower Mills, Fredericktown . . . has been begun, and twenty miles of it completed from the City of Baltimore. It is expected that during the ensuing summer, it will be finished as far as Fredericktown, which is forty-five miles on the turnpike." According to Albert Gallatin's report on internal improvements, 37 of the 62 miles of the Baltimore and Frederick Turnpike had either been completed or were under construction by 1807, and the road probably reached Cooksville by 1808, though the area was not yet known by that name. It therefore seems likely that Roberts Inn did not exist before 1808, with additions probably made in rather quick succession in the 1810s and 1820s. Nor is the date of the creation of the Washington Turnpike known, though it is not likely that it dates before 1800, since the location of the city was not decided upon until 1790 and the government did not move there until 1800. Neither the Griffith map nor the Sotzmann map shows the turnpike to Westminster (Route 97), which seems to be illustrated first on Fielding Lucas' *A Map of the State of Maryland*, published in 1841.[13]

Thomas Searight published a history of the National Road in 1894 that included the stretch of turnpike from Baltimore to Boonsboro, and noted some of the taverns along the road. One was located at Pine Orchard, almost 14 miles from Baltimore, another one four miles west of Pine Orchard, run by Levi Chambers, and a tavern four miles west of Chambers', conducted by John Whalen up to 1842. This would place Whalen's tavern about 22 miles from Baltimore. The 1860 map of Howard County has a John Whalen about 20 ½ miles from Baltimore, with a blacksmith shop, wheelwright shop, and store in the immediate vicinity. Whalen does not have an inn at this time, but the amount of activity in the area suggests a good location where a tavern might have been. Searight then notes: "One Warfield kept a tavern a short distance west of Whalen's as early as 1835, and had a good wagon custom. Old wagoners had a rough distich on this section of the road, running something like this:

> Old Wheeler's sunfish,
> Bob Fowler's roast goose,
> Warfield's ham,
> Ain't that jam!"

Roberts Inn is just short of the 23-mile marker, and could possibly be Warfield's Tavern. Since Roberts died in 1831, Warfield may have taken over the inn shortly afterward.[14]

The existence of the turnpike was clearly the reason why the tavern was built, and the connection of the turnpike with the National Road was equally significant to the road and the inn. Joseph Wood has noted that the National Road was part of Albert Gallatin's initiative to link the east and west, thereby creating a national economy and a political union, and the taverns along the route were part of the fabric of this economic and political connection. Thus, understanding the National Road and the turnpikes helps to place the inn in context. The taverns catered to wagons hauling goods along the turnpike, to stagecoaches carrying passengers, and to individuals traveling the road, as well as to local inhabitants in need of refreshment. The stagecoach driver was considered the premier job, and was only held by white men, while both blacks and whites served as wagoners. Searight notes: "Wagoners, white and black, stopped over night at the same taverns, but never sat down together at the same table. A separate table was invariably provided for the colored wagoners, a custom in thorough accord with the public sentiment of the time. . . ."[15]

Taverns were regulated and required to provide food, drink, and shelter, as well as provender for any livestock belonging to the guests. For wagoners, Searight noted:

> The teams of the old wagoners consisting, as a rule, of six horses, were very rarely stabled, but rested over night on the wagon yards of the old taverns, no matter how inclement the weather. Blankets were used to protect them in the winter season. Feed troughs were suspended at the rear end of the wagon bed, and carried along in this manner, day after day all the year round. In the evening, when the day's journey was ended, the troughs were taken down and fastened on the tongues of the wagon to which the horses were tied, three on a side, with their heads to the trough. Wagoners carried their beds, rolled up, in the fore part of the wagon, and spread then out in a semi-circle on the bar room floor in front of the big bar room fire upon going to rest.

The turnpikes peaked in the period 1825-1830, and began to decline after this period because of competition from the railroads, which could haul goods faster and cheaper than the wagons. The function of turnpikes then changed to become local feeder roads connecting the countryside to the railroads. This was especially true of the Frederick Turnpike because the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad paralleled the turnpike, only a couple of miles away from it, and was completed to Point of Rocks, in Frederick County, in 1832, Harper's Ferry in 1836, and Cumberland in 1848. As the use of the roads declined and changed, the need for taverns along the turnpikes also declined, and this probably explains why Roberts Inn closed. The length of its operation is not known.[16]

Thomas Beale Dorsey Merriweather died in 1836 and willed all of his land on the south side of the turnpike, and 120 acres on the north side, to his widow, Maria. The remainder of the land on the north side was left to his son, Reuben. Merriweather added: "it is my wish that my son Reuben H. Merriweather should live with his

mother and pay his board and furnish his own clothing out of the profits arising from said lands that I have bequeathed to him and that he should live with his mother until he shall arrive to the full age of twenty one years . . . ." Reuben also inherited some farm tools, livestock, and several slaves, but most of the tools, livestock, and slaves were left to Maria. At this point, the already confused history of the property took an even more complicated turn. Reuben and his mother and sisters sold part of the property in 1844 to Dr. Augustus Riggs for $6,500.00, and he, in turn, sold part of the property that he purchased to Gerard Morgan later that year for $4,000.00. Dr. Riggs married Thomas Beale Dorsey Merriweather's oldest daughter, Sarah, and after her death married one of Morgan's daughters. Warfield states that Dr. Riggs retained the part of the land that held Merriweather's house, and that this house was burned and replaced. Dr. Riggs definitely lived on the south side of the turnpike, and the implication is that Merriweather, and Cook before him, also lived there, and not in the Roberts Inn building. This, in turn, suggests that the Roberts Inn building was a rental property in the first half of the nineteenth century. Reuben Merriweather's mother died shortly after selling to Dr. Riggs, and Reuben and his sisters then sold additional property to Samuel Fenby in 1847 for $2,500.00. Gerard Morgan then died before paying the full purchase price for his portion of the Merriweather estate, but his heirs paid the outstanding debt.[17]

An 1850 advertisement may shed additional light on the property, though it is not unequivocal. This advertisement does not mention the owners of the property, only the court-appointed trustee authorized to sell it, but it does seem to describe the property, noting that it was "adjoining and partly in the village of Cooksville," and was "on the Frederick Turnpike, immediately at the junction of the Westminster Road." The parcel consisted of 231 ¾ acres of land, and the sale advertisement noted: "The land is mostly cleared; a large portion of it is in good meadow; it had good orchards, wood and timber enough for the uses of the place; it produces mill wheat, corn and tobacco; it is well watered and has on it a good and commodious dwelling house, two or three tenements, a good stone tavern, barns, stables, and the usual outhouses." The dwelling was probably the Cook-Merriweather house on the south side of the turnpike. No record of the court case could be found, but it would appear that the High Court of Chancery eventually had to take control of the property in order to settle it. The sale was postponed, perhaps because a settlement was eventually worked out. To straighten things out, all of the parties executed a deed and the widow and children of Gerard Morgan finally gained title to the property with the Inn in 1854, then the children transferred it solely into their mother, Rosannah's, name. The tax records throughout this period offer no help in understanding or explaining the property and its uses.[18]

The 1850 census shows that both Dr. Riggs and Rosannah Morgan were living near each other in the Howard District of Anne Arundel County, as was a hotelkeeper named William Cushen. An 1850 Sheriff's sale was supposed to take place "at William Cushing's Tavern, near Cooksville . . . ," which suggests that it was always in the same location, and never in the Roberts Inn building in Cooksville. Cushen shows up on the 1860 Martenet *Map of Howard County* about one mile west of Cooksville, at a property known as "Justifiable" that he purchased in 1844 and ran as a hotel for a long period of time. The existence of this hotel so close to Roberts Inn may indicate that the latter had ceased to function as a hostelry. Gerard Morgan was a minister, and his son, DeWitt (1830-1894), and most of his other children were born in Virginia. Presumably he came to Maryland to

take charge of a church here. DeWitt attended Dickinson College and studied medicine at the University of Maryland. He married Sarah Hurst, the eldest daughter of John Hurst, the founder of Hurst, Purnell & Co. in Baltimore, in 1865 and he practiced medicine for only a few years before working in the lumber business and serving as the principal of a private school on Light Street in Baltimore. Dr. Morgan lived in Baltimore, and there is no indication that the inn was still being used as an inn (the 1860 Martenet *Map of Howard County* identifies this property as his and does not call it a hotel), so he probably used the Roberts Inn property as a summer retreat. Dr. Morgan sold Roberts Inn in 1864 to Walter Dorsey. It included 204 ½ acres.[19]

Walter Dorsey grew up at nearby Hoods Mill, and purchased the inn for a farm. {Shaw} At his death in 1892 he owned twenty horses and two colts, at a time when most farmers owned four to six horses. His cattle consisted of seven cows and four heifers, which were rather typical numbers, but also four bulls, when most farmers had one or none. This suggests that part of his farm operation was involved with commercial breeding. Unlike when it was a tavern, the property was now actively farmed, with 118 acres in wheat and 32 acres in rye, besides hay in the meadow, and corn and clover seed stored on the property that had probably been raised there. Dorsey also owned a full complement of farm machinery, such as ploughs, harrows, seed drills, mowers, horse rakes, and wagons. The latter included both narrow tread wagons and broad tread wagons. Most inventories do not specify the type of wagon, perhaps because most farmers only needed one type. That Dorsey had both may be attributed to his location on a turnpike, and to one strategy he might have used to raise income in slack periods. Narrow rims were designed more for farm use, and the first wagons on the early turnpikes had these common narrow rim wheels, but they cut deeply into the road. Very soon broad wheels, known as broad tread wagons, became common among wagoners because they did less damage to the road surface, and tolls for broad tread wagons were set lower than those for narrow tread wagons. Searight explained further:

> There were two classes of wagoners, the 'regular' and the 'sharpshooter.' The regular was on the road constantly with his team and wagon, and had no other pursuit than hauling goods and merchandise on the road. The sharpshooters were for the most part farmers, who put their farm teams on the road in seasons when freights were high, and took them off when prices of hauling declined; and there was jealousy between the two classes. The regular drove his team about fifteen miles a day on the average, while the sharpshooter could cover twenty miles and more.

Dorsey may have had both types of wagons because he acted as a sharpshooter and reduced the tolls he had to pay by using broad tread wagons on the turnpike. Given that the railroads had made shipping by wagon a local practice, and given the large quantity of horses owned by Dorsey, as well as both types of wagons, it seems likely that he, or his hired help, acted as sharpshooters at times. Dorsey also apparently owned the store that was located at the corner, just east of the old Roberts Inn where he lived.[20]

The inventory of Dorsey's estate listed five rooms, only one of them given a name ("sitting room"), and no furnishings were differentiated, so it is of no value in understanding the building at that time. Dorsey left to his widow, Julia, ". . . all that part of my home farm, which lies on the eastward side of a line of post fence

(including said fence) running by side of the race course, from the Baltimore and Frederick Turnpike to the old Baltimore road, which will embrace all the land conveyed to me by the Miss Sheets, and part of that conveyed to me by the Morgan family, with all the buildings and improvements thereon . . . ." Julia also received all the furniture in their house, plus $1500.00, and the remainder of the estate was divided among their five children. Julia kept the farm and ran it, or had someone else run it for her, as Warfield described it as a "well-developed" farm.[21]

After Julia's death in 1908 the farm was sold to divide the estate among the children and grandchildren. Robert and Mary Mercer purchased it, but sold it in 1915 to Leonidas McCracken. A judgment against McCracken apparently induced him to sell the farm to his sons, Benjamin and Edgar, who were later foreclosed upon. The sale of the property gives a fair description of the farm at that time, which was about 150 acres. "This farm is known as the McCracken farm and is located along the Frederick Pike at Cooksville. This is a fine dairy farm. Improvements consist of a large stone house, tenant house, modern dairy barn with two silos. Tile dairy, and other necessary outbuildings." This documents that the tile dairy on the property was standing by this time, added no doubt to fulfill the sanitation requirements placed on dairy farmers in the early twentieth century by progressive era reformers. By extension, the tile silo was probably standing as one of the two silos on the farm, and the extremely rare octagonal shingled wood silo undoubtedly predates it. The farm sold for $9,990.00.[22]

Augustus Riggs III, grandson of the doctor, purchased the farm, though he continued to live across the street in his father and grandfather's house (his father was also a doctor). He did some restoration, and was probably responsible for the iron fencing and granite gateposts, which were probably salvaged from a property in Baltimore. An early 20th century photograph of the house shows a picket fence in the front. Eventually, after a divorce, Riggs III moved to the Roberts Inn building. A photograph of the rear of the building taken c. 1975 for the historic sites inventory shows that the rear kitchen wing was gone, and there was a small gabled porch roof over the door. In his declining years Riggs III added a bathroom at the base of the center staircase, blocking off the front door. The current owners removed this after they purchased the property in 1977. Though reduced to 18.556 acres, especially when the Route 70/Route 97 interchange was constructed over a large portion of the property to the north of the buildings, it continues to function as a farm, specializing in Charolais cattle.[23]

Endnotes

[1] Anne Arundel County Land Records NH 5-204; NH 5-202. Federal Direct Tax, 1798, Maryland State Archives. John Dorsey patented "Dependence" in 1755; it was not located in western Howard County. Anne Arundel County Land Records, NH 11-458, WSG 5-384, WSG 18-380. J. D. Warfield, *The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland* (Baltimore: Kohn & Pollack, 1905), p. 443. Anne Arundel County Land Records WSG 19-220.

[2] Warfield, *The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland*, p. 469. Mrs. Clifford F. Shaw, "The Old Roberts Inn is now Home of Augustus Riggs III," *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 28 January 1959, p. 7.

[3] J. Bennett Nolan, *Lafayette in America: Day by Day* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1934), p. 266. *Baltimore American*, 30 December 1824, p. 2, col. 2. *Niles' Weekly Register*, v. 3, no. 18, 1 January 1825, p. 273. *Baltimore American*, 5 January 1825, p. 2, col. 6. *Baltimore American*, 7 January 1825, p. 2, col. 3. Auguste Levasseur *Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825: or, Journal of a voyage to the United States*, trans., John D. Godman (Philadelphia: Carey and Lea, 1829), v. 2, p. 22.

[4] U. S. Bureau of the Census, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Fifth District, 1820, Maryland State Archives. Anne Arundel County Board of County Commissioners, Tax List, 1827-1831, Maryland State Archives, MF, CR 34,732-5. I am indebted to George Horvath for providing his transcript of this record. The background of Zachariah Roberts could not be determined. The earliest record found to date concerning Zachariah Roberts is his marriage to Mary Ogbern in Frederick County in 1802, according to an index at the MSA, but this could be in error. A recent publication of Frederick County marriage licenses records that a Zachariah Roberts married Ann Lotty Reid in 1802, and that Mary Ogbern married a Zachariah Robertson in 1786. The only other marriage license found for a Zachariah Roberts was in Baltimore in 1806, and the bride was Anne Brown. Since Zachariah Roberts the tavern-keeper had a wife in 1831 named Mary, it would seem that none of these could be him. Margaret E. Myers, comp., *Marriage Licenses of Frederick County, 1778-1810*, 2nd ed. (Silver Spring, MD: Family Line Publications, 1986). Robert Barnes, comp. *Maryland Marriages, 1801-1820* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993).

[5] Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, Judgments, WSG 27-10, April Term, 1825, Maryland State Archives. There is no Joshua Roberts listed in this period in the ordinary licenses. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Sixth District, 1830, Maryland State Archives.

[6] Zachariah Roberts Estate, Inventory TTS 2-137, Anne Arundel County Register of Wills.

[7] Zachariah Roberts Inventory, TTS 2-137.

[8] For taverns in general, see Donna-Belle Garvin and James L. Garvin, *On the Road North of Boston: New Hampshire Taverns and Turnpikes, 1700-1900* (Concord: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1988); Kym S. Rice, *Early American Taverns: For the Entertainment of Friends and Strangers* (Chicago, 1983); David W. Conroy, *In Public Houses: Drink and the Revolution of Authority in Colonial Massachusetts* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995); Peter Thompson, *Rum Punch and Revolution: Taverngoing and Public Life in Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia* (Philadelphia, 1999); and Sharon V. Salinger, *Taverns and Drinking in Early America* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002). On specific buildings, see Orlando Ridout IV, "The Indian Queen," *Winterthur Portfolio* 5 (1969): 189-204, and Sharon Williamson Buford, "The Griffith Tavern/Inn at Silver Lake Farm," *Vernacular Architecture Newsletter* 96 (summer 2003): 11-16.

[9] Zachariah Roberts Estate, Will TTS 1-122, Anne Arundel County Register of Wills. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Fifth District, 1830, Maryland State Archives.

[10] Zachariah Roberts Inventory, TTS 2-137.

[11] Warfield, *The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland*, p. 469. Martha Ellicott Tyson, *A Brief Account of the Settlement of Ellicott's Mills* (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1865), pp. 24, 12-14. I am indebted to Joetta Cramm for bringing this to my attention. Warfield's information on these roads is clearly taken from Tyson, though it is not footnoted. Warfield noted: "beyond that [Doughoregan Manor], to reach the Upper Manor of Carrollton, near Frederick, the planters along the route willingly helped them." Warfield, *The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland*, p. 497. Celia Holland, *Old Homes and Families* (Privately printed, 1987), pp. 282-84.

[12] William Hollifield, *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County* (Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978), pp. 2-3, 16-23. Maryland Journal and the Baltimore Advertiser, 30 August 1792. Laws of Maryland, Chapter 35, 1792, noted in the Tracey records, Historical Society of Carroll County. I am indebted to George Horvath for sharing his research on the roads of the region with me. Edward C. Papenfuse and Joseph M. Coale III, *The Maryland State Archives Atlas of Historical Maps of Maryland, 1608-1908* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003), pp. 72-78, 104. For the turnpikes, see also Joseph A. Durrenberger, *Turnpikes: A Study of the Toll Road Movement in the Middle Atlantic States and Maryland* (PhD. diss., Columbia University, 1931. Reprint, Cos Cob, CT: John Edwards, 1968). Charles T. LeViness, *A History of Road Building in Maryland* (Baltimore: State Roads Commission of Maryland, 1958).

[13] Hollifield, *Difficulties Made Easy*, pp. 2-3, 16-23. Joseph Scott, *A Geographical Description of the States of Maryland and Delaware* (Philadelphia: Kimber, Conrad & Co., 1807), p. 49. Durrenberger, *Turnpikes*, pp. 66-68. Joseph Scott (p. 77) notes the village of Poplar Spring, which is west of present-day Lisbon, and Rowan's crossroads, the location of which is unknown. However, it was 29 miles from Washington, D.C., the distance Cooksville lies north of that city. Kenneth R. Bowling, *Creating the Federal City, 1774-1800: Potomac Fever* (Washington, D.C.: The American Institute of Architects Press, 1988). Daniel D. Reiff, *Washington Architecture, 1791-1861: Problems in Development* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, 1971), pp. 1-17.

[14] Thomas B. Searight, *The Old Pike: A History of the National Road* (Uniontown, PA: Author, 1894), pp. 193-94.

[15] Joseph S. Wood, "The Idea of a National Road," in Karl Raitz, ed., *The National Road* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp 93, 102. Searight, *The Old Pike*, p. 109.

[16] Searight, *The Old Pike*, pp. 109-110. Durrenberger, *Turnpikes*, p. 70. James D. Dilts, *The Great Road: The Building of the Baltimore & Ohio, The Nation's First Railroad, 1828-1853* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1993.

[17] Anne Arundel County Register of Wills, Thomas Beale Dorsey Merriweather Estate, Will TTS 1-266. Shaw, "The Old Roberts Inn," p. 7. Holland, *Old Homes and Families*, p. 187. Warfield, *The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland*, pp. 447, 469, 494.

[18] *Ellicott City [Maryland] Howard Gazette and General Advertiser*, 28 September 1850, p. 3, col. 4, noted in Holland, *Old Homes and Families*, p. 187. *Ellicott City [Maryland] Howard Gazette and General Advertiser*, 19 October 1850, p. 3, col. 3. Anne Arundel County Land Records, WHW 14-441; WHW 14-449; WHW 19-12. Three years later Rosannah Morgan sold this property to her son, Dr. DeWitt Clinton Morgan.

[19] *Ellicott City [Maryland] Howard Gazette and General Advertiser*, 19 October 1850, typescript copy, "Cooksville" VF, Historical Society of Howard County. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Fifth District, 1850, Maryland State Archives. Simon J. Martenet *Map of Howard County, Maryland*, (Baltimore, 1860). Cleora Barnes Thompson, "Justifiable," HO-264, Maryland Historic Sites Inventory, n.d. *Baltimore Sun*, 13 May 1865, Dielhman-Hayward File, Maryland Historical Society. *Baltimore Sun*, 24 August 1894, p. 8, col. 6. *Baltimore American*, 24 August 1894, p. 8, col. 4. Howard County Land Records, WWW 23-134.

[20] Walter Dorsey Estate, Inventory IS 8-133, Howard County Register of Wills. Searight, *The Old Pike*, pp. 110, 118-19. Holland, *Old Homes and Families*, p. 187.

[21] Walter Dorsey Estate, Will JS 3-161, Howard County Register of Wills. Warfield, *The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland*, p. 487.

[22] Julia A. Dorsey Estate, Will WHM 4-431, Howard County Register of Wills. *Ellicott City (Maryland) Times*, 16 November 1933, p. 7, col. 2; 14 December 1933, p. 4, col. 4.

[23] Copy of photograph in the possession of Doris and Robert Bell. Interview with Doris Bell, May 2004.

Major Bibliographical References:

See Endnotes, Section 8

Roberts Inn (HO-5)
Name of Property

Howard County, Maryland HO-5
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18.56 acres Woodbine, MD USGS Quad

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				3			
2				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 Kenneth M. Short
Organization date October 2004
street & number 610 Regester Avenue telephone 410-377-4953
city or town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21212-1915

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 Robert & Doris Bell
street & number 14610 Frederick Road telephone 410-442-2005
city or town Cooksville state Maryland zip code 21723-9414

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.

UTM References:

Woodbine, MD USGS quad

A: 18-325922-4354806
B: 18-325937-4354280
C: 18-325739-4354399

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is described among the land records of Howard County, Maryland in Liber 816, Folio 189, and shown as Parcel 136 on Howard County Tax Map Number 8.

Boundary Justification:

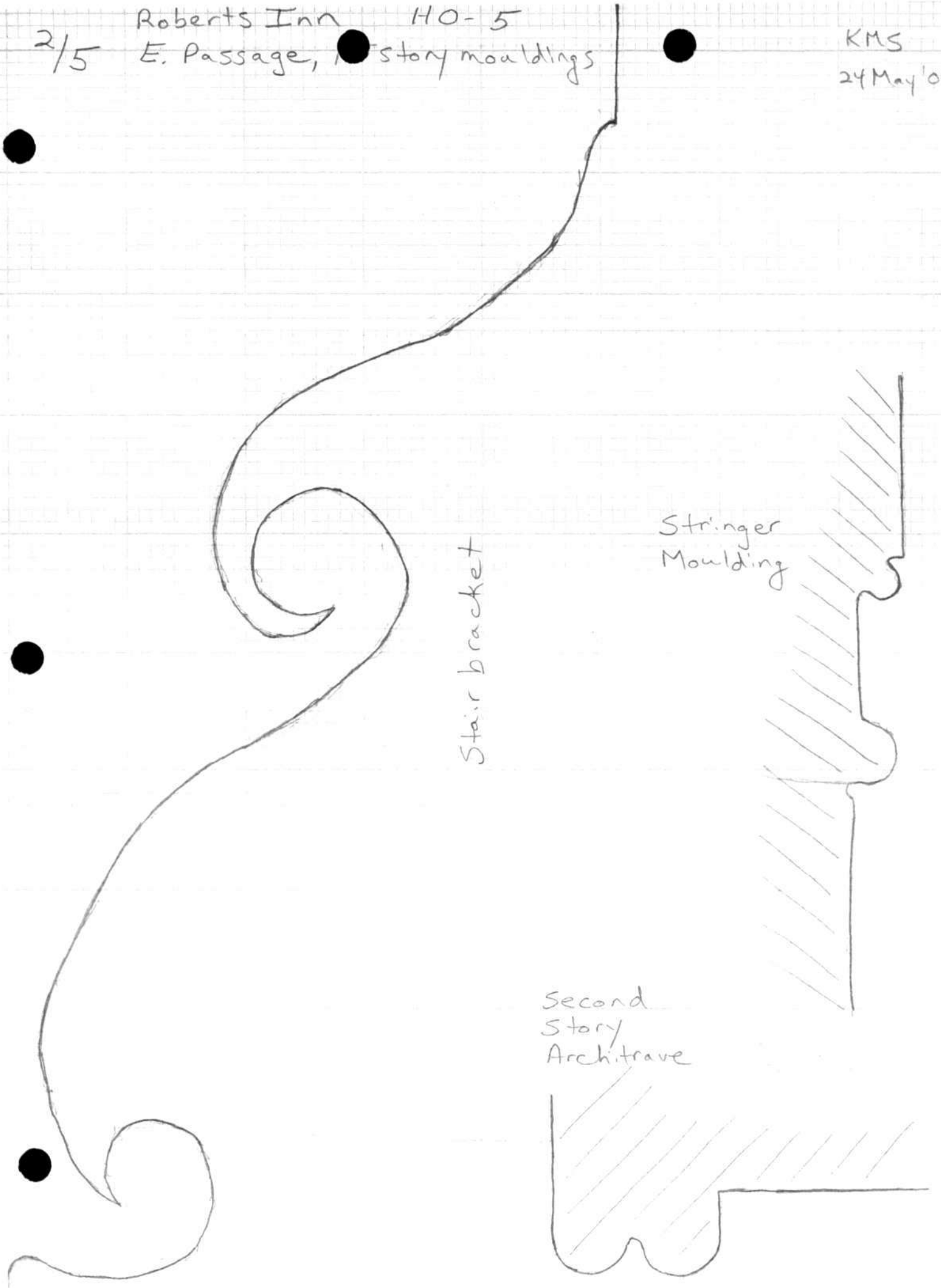
The nominated property, 18.56 acres, represents the remnant of the property historically associated with the resource.

Roberts Inn HO-5

2/5 E. Passage, 1st story mouldings

KMS

24 May '04



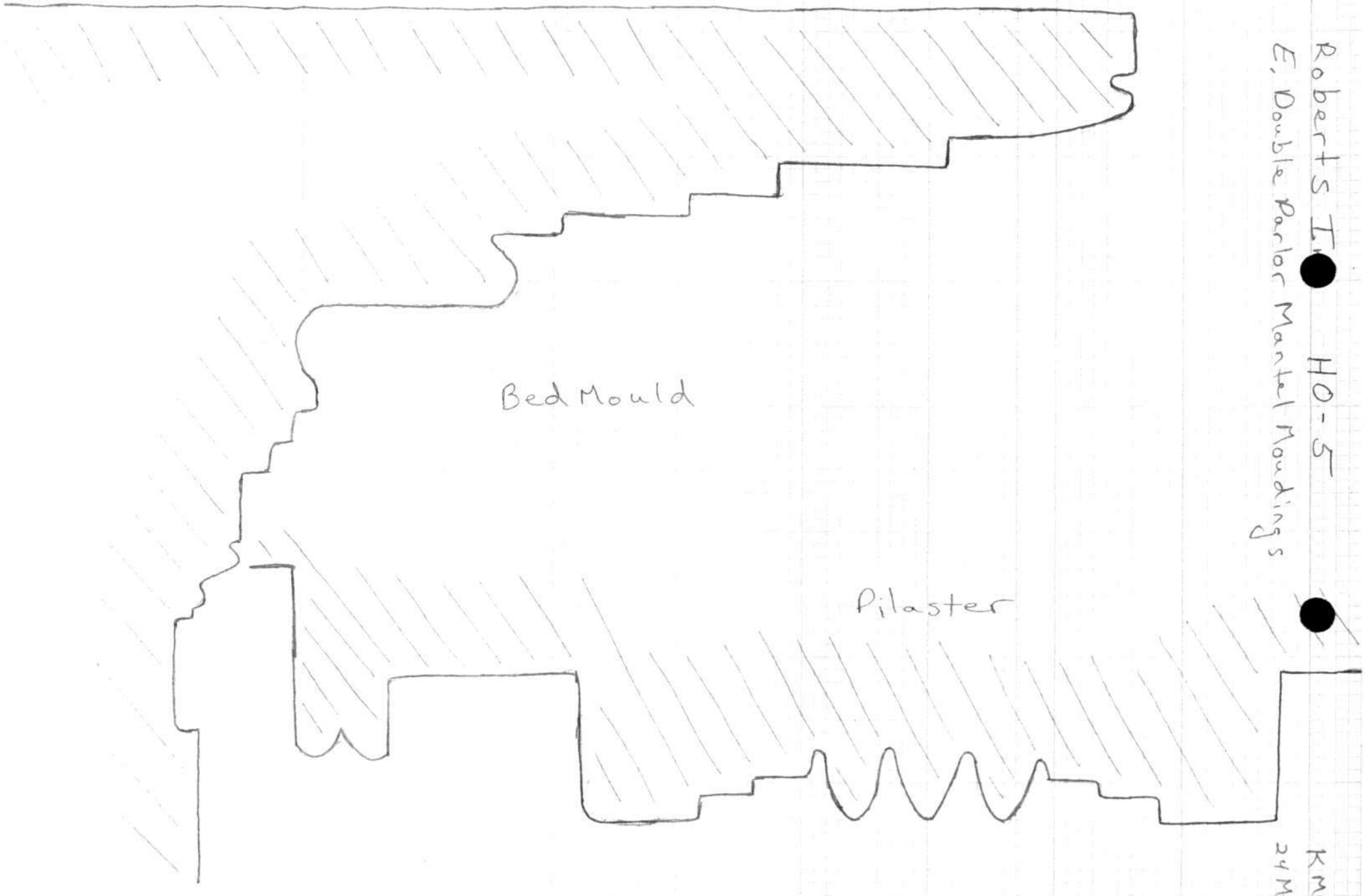
1/5 Roberts I HO-5 KMS

E. Passage, 1st story mouldings 24 May '04

3/5

Roberts I. HO-5

E. Double Parlor Mantel Mouldings



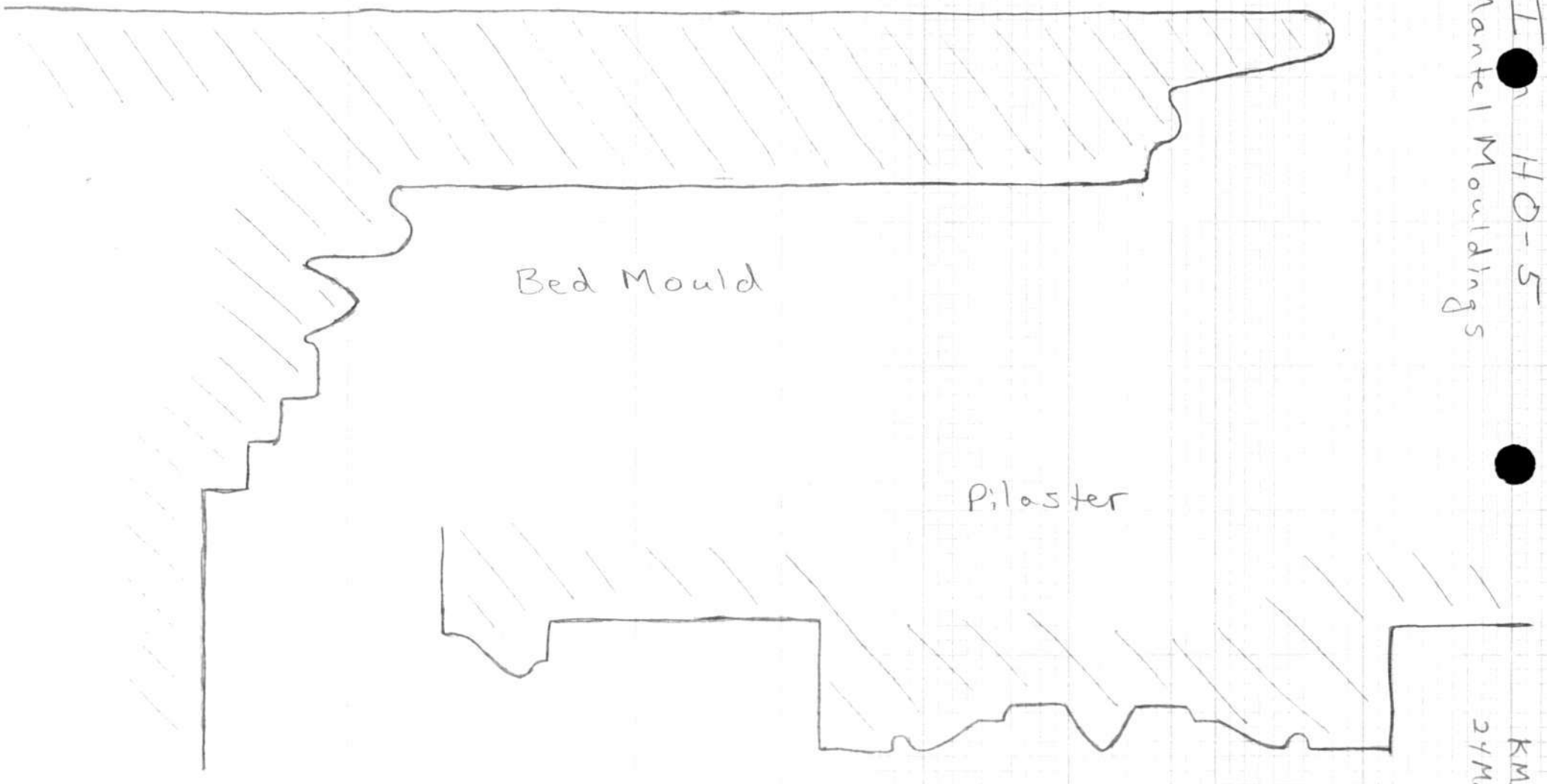
KMS

24 May '6

4/5

Roberts I HO-5

NW Rm. Mantel Mouldings

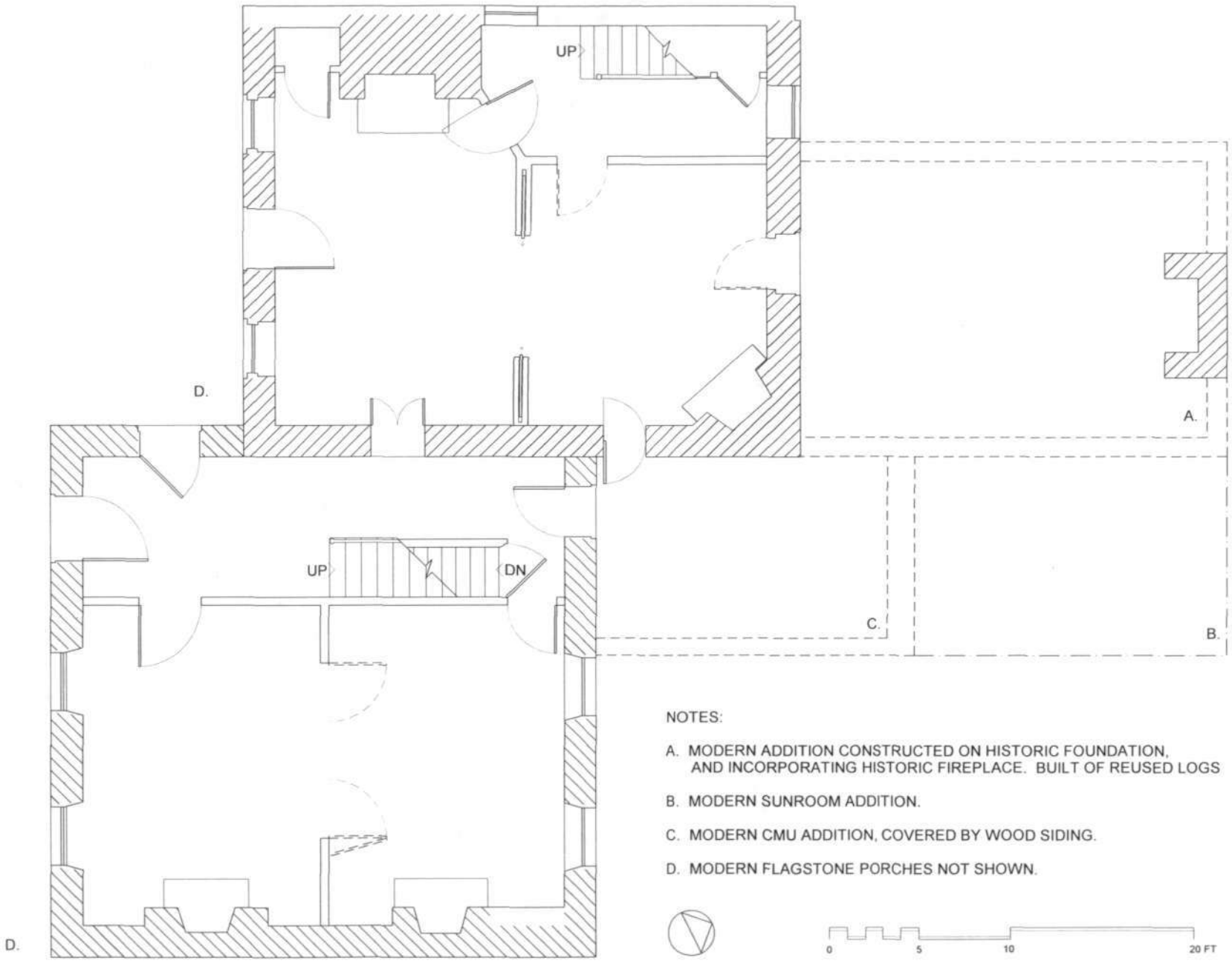


KMS

24 May 10

5/5 Roberts I HO-5 KMS

NW Passage Mouldings 24 May '0



NOTES:

A. MODERN ADDITION CONSTRUCTED ON HISTORIC FOUNDATION, AND INCORPORATING HISTORIC FIREPLACE. BUILT OF REUSED LOGS

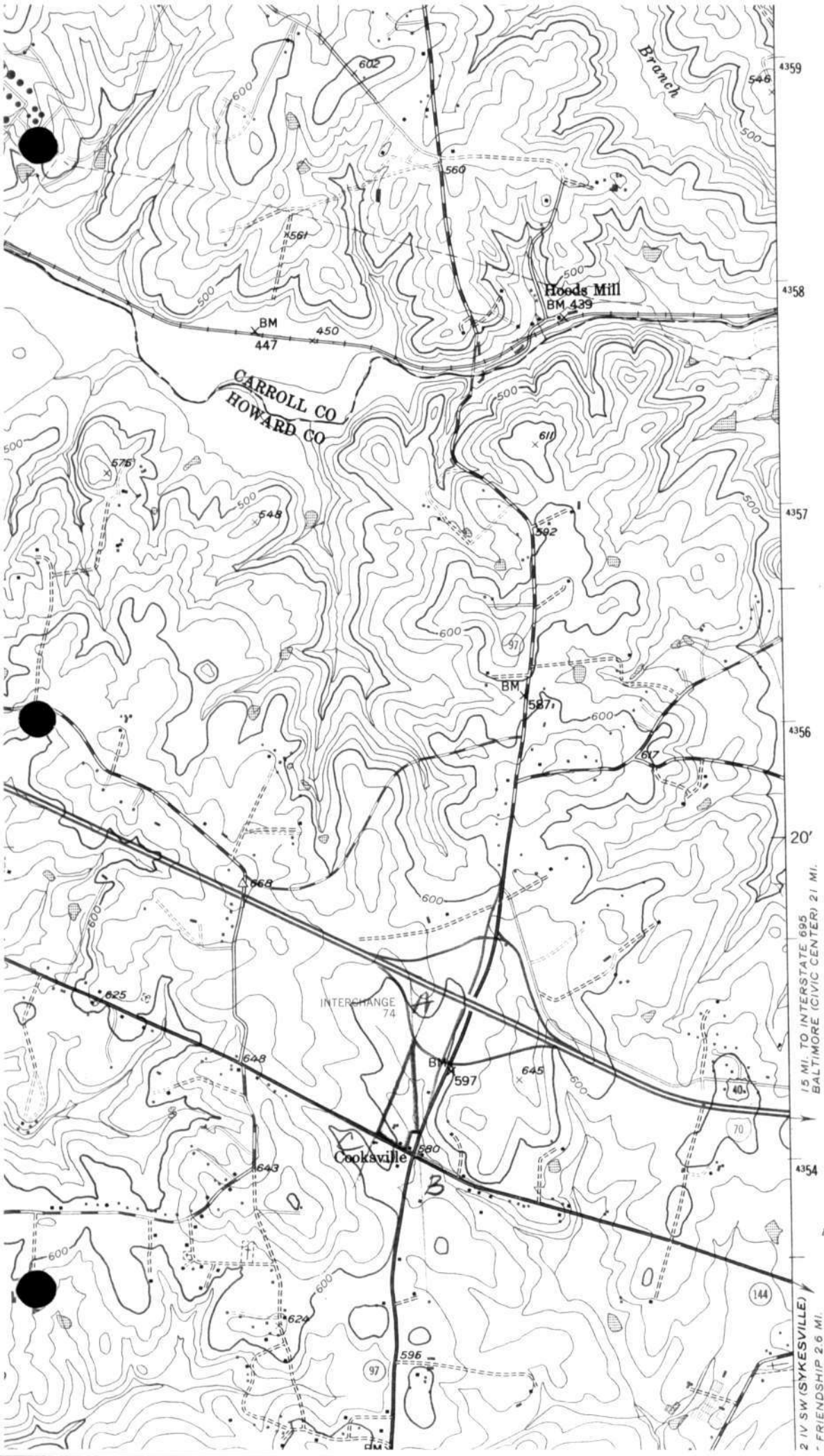
B. MODERN SUNROOM ADDITION.

C. MODERN CMU ADDITION, COVERED BY WOOD SIDING.

D. MODERN FLAGSTONE PORCHES NOT SHOWN.

HO-5 ROBERT'S INN 14610 FREDERICK ROAD

FIRST FLOOR PLAN - MEASURED BY KEN SHORT AND LAURA DORSEY - DRAWN BY KEN SHORT - JUNE 2004



HO-5
ROBERTS INN
HOWARD
COUNTY, MD

A: 18-325922-
4354806
B: 18-325937-
4354280
C: 18-325739-
4354399