

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

5

1. NAME

COMMON  
"Bohemia Farm"

AND OR HISTORIC:  
"Bohemia" or "Milligan Hall"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
East side of US Route 213, 1 mile south of Bohemia River

CITY OR TOWN:  
Earleville

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Maryland	24	Cecil	015

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
W. Harrison Mechling

STREET AND NUMBER:  
"Bohemia Farm"

CITY OR TOWN: Earleville	STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Cecil County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Elkton	STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE: Maryland	CODE: 21401	DATE: 24
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Cecil  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:

[see continuation sheet]

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bohemia house is reputed to be the most fully developed Georgian-style house existing on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The elaborate decorative plasterwork of the Rococo style and the full "Chinese Chippendale" staircase are important to the evolution of the Georgian-style homes in Maryland.

"Bohemia Farm" is located on the east side of U. S. Route 213, one mile south of the Bohemia River. It is three miles north of Cecilton, Maryland.

The land facade (south) of "Bohemia Farm" is five bays long, with a central pavilion having a door, two steps above ground level, and a semicircular architrave over the second-story center window. Both the door and center window are flanked by narrow windows suggesting the Palladian manner. The second-story center window breaks into the pediment; and an oeil-de-boeuf window with four keystones and molded trim is located in the center of the pediment. The two wall areas flanking the central pavilion have two windows at each floor level. The facade is laid in all-header bond above a chamfered water table. A four-course belt extends across the facade, connected at the far ends to plain, brick, pilaster-like strips at each corner, extending from water table to cornice. The lintels of the first story and those in the central pavilion second story have flat arches with double, brick, superimposed keystones. The parts of the lintels flanking the unusual keystones have a light coat of scored, white stucco.

Two large brick chimneys pierce the roof where the hipped sides meet a central ridge. A simple, molded, box cornice extends across each side.

Bohemia's water facade (north) presents a different appearance, with the central pavilion wider, accomodating three center windows, leaving only one window to each side beside the pavilion. The walls are laid in Flemish bond with uniform pattern glazed-headers, and there are segmental arches above all the windows and the door, except the center window, at the second-story level, which is similar to the one on the south facade. The tiers of panes in each window on the north side are four "lights" wide, while a tier of each window on the south is three "lights" wide; consequently, a pronounced horizontal effect is achieved. Similar to other Georgian-style buildings, the windows on the second story are one tier of panes less in height than those on the ground floor.

On the east side of the house is a frame, nineteenth-century, gambrel-roof wing addition which was remodeled in the 1930's. On the west side are the remnants of a curved wall, possibly the passage to a former dependency. If the curved wall was

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Bohemia

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, continued

Historic American Buildings Survey

1969                      federal    x

Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C.                      code 11

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

original, in the style of Rosewell or Mt. Airy, both in Virginia, it is the only such plan to have come to light on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Bohemia is best known for its interior plan and trim. The floor plan consists of a rectangular stair hall with a large rectangular living room behind. In each corner of the building is a smaller room. Cliveden near Philadelphia has a similar floor plan.

The "Chinese Chippendale" staircase ascends in two flights to the second-story hall, the latter little more than a balcony, from which three chamber doors open. Each section of the staircase is a different variation of the Chinese-style theme. There are additional Chinese fret details on the step-ends and along the fascia of the balcony and staircase. It is supported from the wall and balcony only. An applied half-rail with pilasters matching the newel posts ascends on the interior staircase wall.

A classic, plaster cornice composed of a series of flutes and urns, with egg and dart molding above, decorates the first-story hall. Its ceiling is divided into panels by plaster bands. The second-story hall has plaster swags above each of the three chamber doors. A baroque cornice with cove molding, egg and dart molding, and modillions and rosettes, may be seen to its best advantage from the first-story hall. The Rococo plasterwork ceiling is also at its best from that vantage point. A "phoenix bird" holds the lantern in position in the central design.

The living room with its recessed-panel dado has a chimney-breast over the fireplace composed of a heavily decorated

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Bohemia

7. Description, continued

mantelpiece; a Baroque plaster panel and a classic cornice beneath which is a Doric frieze. The mantel is composed of Ionic pilasters beside garland-like fretwork, a series of fretwork in the frieze and a mantel shelf which supports a broken pediment with undulating fascia of alternating flutes. The overmantel panel is plain except for the single Baroque, bolection, plaster molding. The room cornice consists of a series of modillion-like blocks with gutae and rosettes between them and a "greek key" mold.

The southwest room also has decorative plasterwork. It is called "the music room" because of the musical instruments represented in plaster as the motif for the central panel of each wall. The mantel is similar to that of the living room, added to which are scrolled consoles at the base of the fireplace trim, similar to comparable trim at Whitehall, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. On the opposite side of the hall is the dining room in the southeast corner of the building. A plain-design paneled overmantel, window seats, and a built-in china cabinet adorn this room.

With the exception of the raised panel corner chimney-breast and window seats, the northwest room is very plain. Due to the size of the living room on the north side of the building, its two flanking rooms are small. The northeast room has a unique groined vault ceiling.

The room arrangement on the second story is almost identical to that on the first. With the exception of the hall, the rooms are finished in very plain design.

The largest Burr Oak tree existing in Maryland is located in the north yard at Bohemia. It measures 14' 11" in circumference at 4 1/2' above ground level, is 144' high, and has a 118' crown spread (1971).

An area of 130.2 acres is designated to the National Register as a protection for Bohemia. The north facade of the house overlooks the shore of the Little Bohemia Creek. The southern boundary of the area is laid beyond the southernmost curve of the lane into the house.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. mid-18th century

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bohemia is important historically as the "part time" home of its former owner, Louis McLane, a prominent political influence as a Cabinet member during the administration of President Andrew Jackson. McLane was the second president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company from 1837 to 1847, and president of the Morris Canal and Banking Company of New York.

On June 15, 1751, George Milligan, "merchant of Chestertown," purchased 240 acres of "MacGregory's Delight" from his father-in-law, John Baldwin, "Gentleman of Cecil County." Baldwin had purchased it from the MacGregory heirs in 1740. The dates 1743-1745 have been assigned to the construction of the house, but the interiors must not have been executed until the mid-1750's when the plaster ornamentation and Chinese motif became popular.

George Milligan was born in Scotland in 1720 and became a merchant. He was appointed Deputy Commissary and Sheriff of Cecil County in 1757. Upon his death in 1784, he left "my dwelling plantation, sometimes called 'Milligan Hall' " to his son Robert.

Robert Milligan was educated at Inns of Court and was a lawyer but little more is known of him. His son, George Milligan, inherited the plantation and held it until he fell into debt, at which time it was purchased by his sister Catherine and her husband, Louis McLane.

Louis McLane, born in 1786, was the most prominent owner of Bohemia. His place in American history derives from his tenure in Andrew Jackson's Cabinet. As Secretary of the Treasury from 1831 to 1833, and as Secretary of State from 1833 to 1834, McLane clashed with Jackson concerning the Second Bank of the United States. When Jackson had the government's deposits withdrawn from the Bank, McLane resigned. In 1837, he became the second president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, spending much of his time in that office trying to finance the westward construction of the railroad. While in London on such a mission in the mid-1840's,

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Bohemia

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

McLane acted as a negotiator for the United States in the dispute over the location of the western Canadian boundary. After his retirement from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company in 1847, McLane held no public office except for his tenure at the Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1850.

In 1860, the estate was divided and the house and the land adjoining it were purchased by William Knight, whose son of the same name was a member of the Maryland Senate in 1874 and a member of the House of Delegates in 1877.

## 9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

- Dictionary of American Biography. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933, XII, 113-115.
- Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland. Maryland Room, Vertical File.
- Forman, Henry Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland: the author, 1934.
- Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. Catalogue, Twelfth Annual Pilgrimage. Baltimore: Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, 1949.
- Pratt, Richard. A Treasury of Early American Homes. New York: McGraw Hill, 1949.
- Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards, 1888.
- Sellers, Charles C. Portraits and Miniatures by Charles Wilson Peale. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1952.
- Works Progress Administration. Maryland A Guide to the Old Line State. New York: Oxford Press, 1940.

Historical Dictionary of the American Congress 1774-1961.  
 Washington: Government Printing Office, 1961.

Cecil County Land Records. Cecil County Courthouse. Elkton,  
 Maryland.

Cecil County Probate Records. Cecil County Courthouse. Elkton,  
 Maryland.

[see continuation sheet]

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees		Minutes	Seconds
NW	39°	27'	15"	75°	51'	53"	
NE	39°	27'	15"	75°	51'	32"	
SE	39°	26'	46"	75°	51'	32"	
SW	39°	26'	46"	75°	51'	53"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **130.2 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES:

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Michael Bourne, Field Surveyor**

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **Aug. 15, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **2525 Riva Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland 21401** CODE: **24**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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

National  State  Local

Name: Orlando Ridout IV  
**Orlando Ridout IV**

Title: State Liaison Officer for Maryland  
**State Liaison Officer for Maryland**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CECILTON QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map (Maryland)  
scale: 1: 24,000  
1958

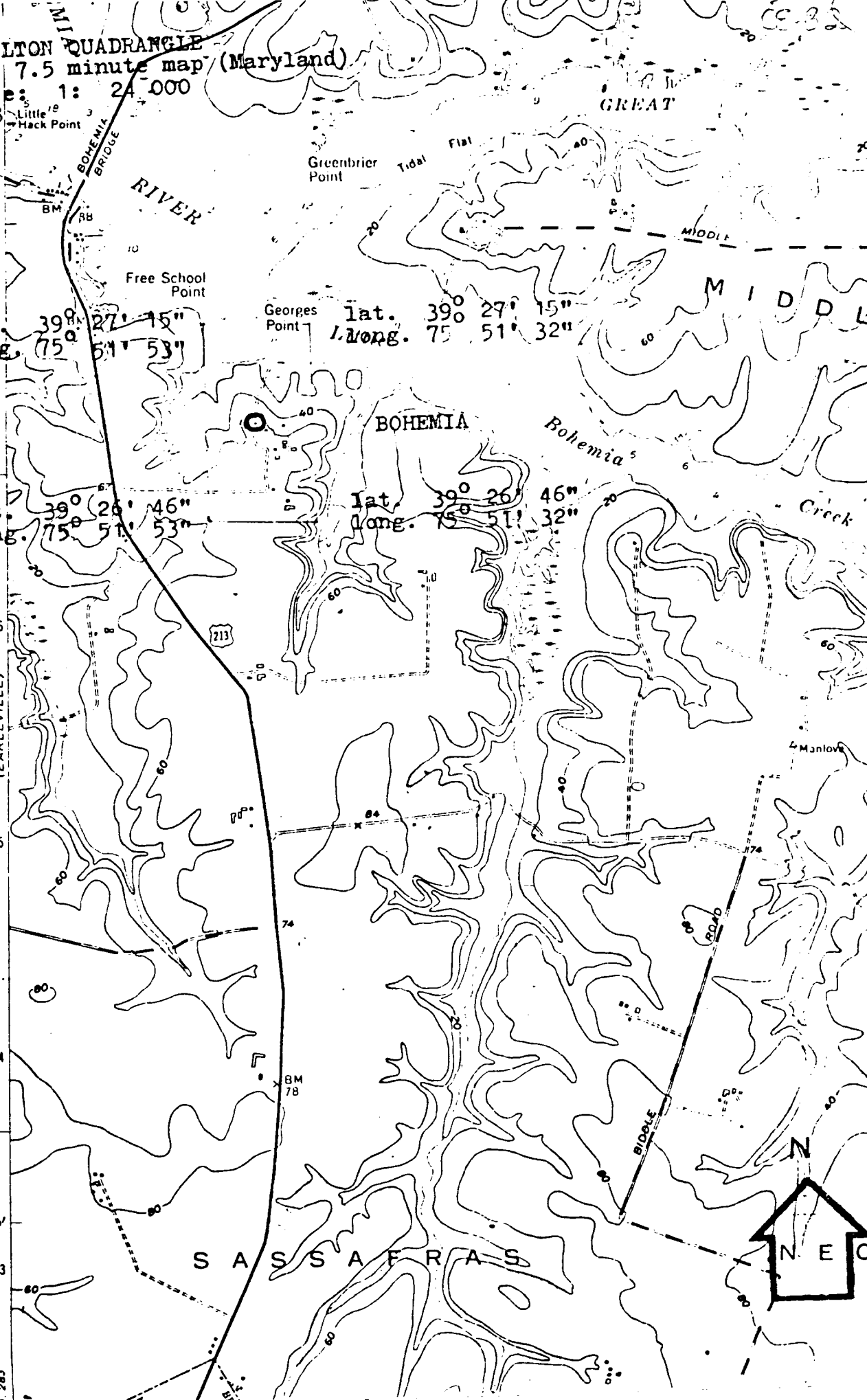
27°30'  
4368  
4367  
4366  
4365  
4364  
25'  
4363  
D. 283

lat.  $39^{\circ} 27' 15''$   
long.  $75^{\circ} 51' 53''$

lat.  $39^{\circ} 26' 46''$   
long.  $75^{\circ} 51' 53''$

Georges Point lat.  $39^{\circ} 27' 15''$   
long.  $75^{\circ} 51' 32''$

lat.  $39^{\circ} 26' 46''$   
long.  $75^{\circ} 51' 32''$







CE-32 Bohemia

4/23/70 MOB



#27

CE-32 Bohemia detail, land facade <sup>P/S</sup> 6/35