



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
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This octagonal frame house is set in a fine grove of poplar trees on a knoll about 1 1/2 miles northwest of Darlington on the Conowingo Road, U. S. 1.

Two stories high, the eight-sided roof is topped by an octagonal "captain's walk," flanked by two brick chimneys. The house faces southeast, as shown on the sketch on continuation sheet number one, with one or two openings in each wall. A narrow one-story wing runs northwest, 3 bays by 1. There is a three-sided porch facing east, southeast, and south.

Entering from the southeast into a shallow hall, we find winding stairs on the left. Two doors in front of us lead into two parlors of equal size separable by sliding doors. Each has a fireplace back-to-back with one in each of two smaller rooms beyond, the old kitchen and the dining room, the kitchen fireplace is closed off by a new furnace flue. There are deep closets in each of these chimney walls, with one now made into a powder room.

The octagon fad, prevalent in the 1850's is found in barns, in one-room schools, and in four-story mansions; it was executed in many architectural styles from gingerbread Victorian to orientalesque mansions to the plainest little house; and it is found in all the contemporary building materials, even in an experimental poured concrete form in the 1850's.<sup>1</sup> Windfell is a simplified Federal style, a moulding tops the boxed eaves and is repeated on the porch above its octagonal pillars.

The six-panelled front door in a plain frame is topped by a four-light transom. Windows have six lights over six behind louvered shutters. Inside we find that doorways have no mouldings, doors have four panels, mantlespieces are of simple federal design downstairs while upstairs there are mantle shelves on brackets. The stairway has two turned banisters on each step under a walnut handrail.

Perhaps unique to this house are the exterior walls whose construction is of narrow planks laid horizontally, nailed from above as the work proceeded, forming an almost solid chinking in the walls if there is framing, or forming an almost solid wall if, as is thought, this is the method of construction.

<sup>1</sup>Carl Schmidt, The Octagon Fad (Scottsville, N.Y.: By the Author, 10 Rochester Street, 1958). pp. 1 - 12.

(see continuation sheet 2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Harford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

(Number all entries)

Wildfell or The Scott House

No. 7. Description Continued.

Treatment at the corners has never been reported since this method is visible only under the shutters of the false window to the left of the front door, a window that would have opened out from the side of the staircase, but is placed to complete the symmetrical appearance of the house.

As of March 7, 1976 per KGB's updated address listing of property owners, the new owners are:

Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Jourdan  
Darlington, Maryland phone 457-4269

Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Reeves  
Darlington, Maryland phone 457-4021

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kelly, 3rd  
Quaker Road  
Darlington, Maryland phone 257-5664

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century
- 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wildfell is one of the rare octagonal houses built in Maryland at the height of "the Octagon Fad"<sup>1</sup>. Tradition holds that the Joseph Jewett family contracted with an ex-Navy carpenter named William Hensel to bring ship's timbers from a de-commissioned ship in Baltimore that had served in the War of 1812. The Jewetts, a Baltimore family, used this as their summer place between March 1854 and June 1874, when they moved to Virginia.

Five generations of the Scott family have now lived in this house and farmed the fields since it was purchased in 1874. Wakeman Scott was known for raising successful trotting horses; his grandson Will Scott is an engineer.

<sup>1</sup>Carl Schmidt, The Octagon Fad (Scottsville, N. Y.: By the Author, 10 Rochester Street, 1958), p. 31.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

The Story of Harford County. #19 in a series of monographs unsigned, published by The First National Bank of Aberdeen. No date.

Schmidt, Carl F. The Octogan Fad. Scottsville, N. Y. By the Author. 10 Rocester Street. 1958.

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture since 1780. Cambridge Massachusetts. M.I.T. Press. 1969. pp. 83-86.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	39°	39'	05"	76° 13' 11"
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Jean S. Ewing DATE: April 1973

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland 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  
 Title: State Preservation Officer For Maryland  
 Date: May 29, 1973

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

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

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

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

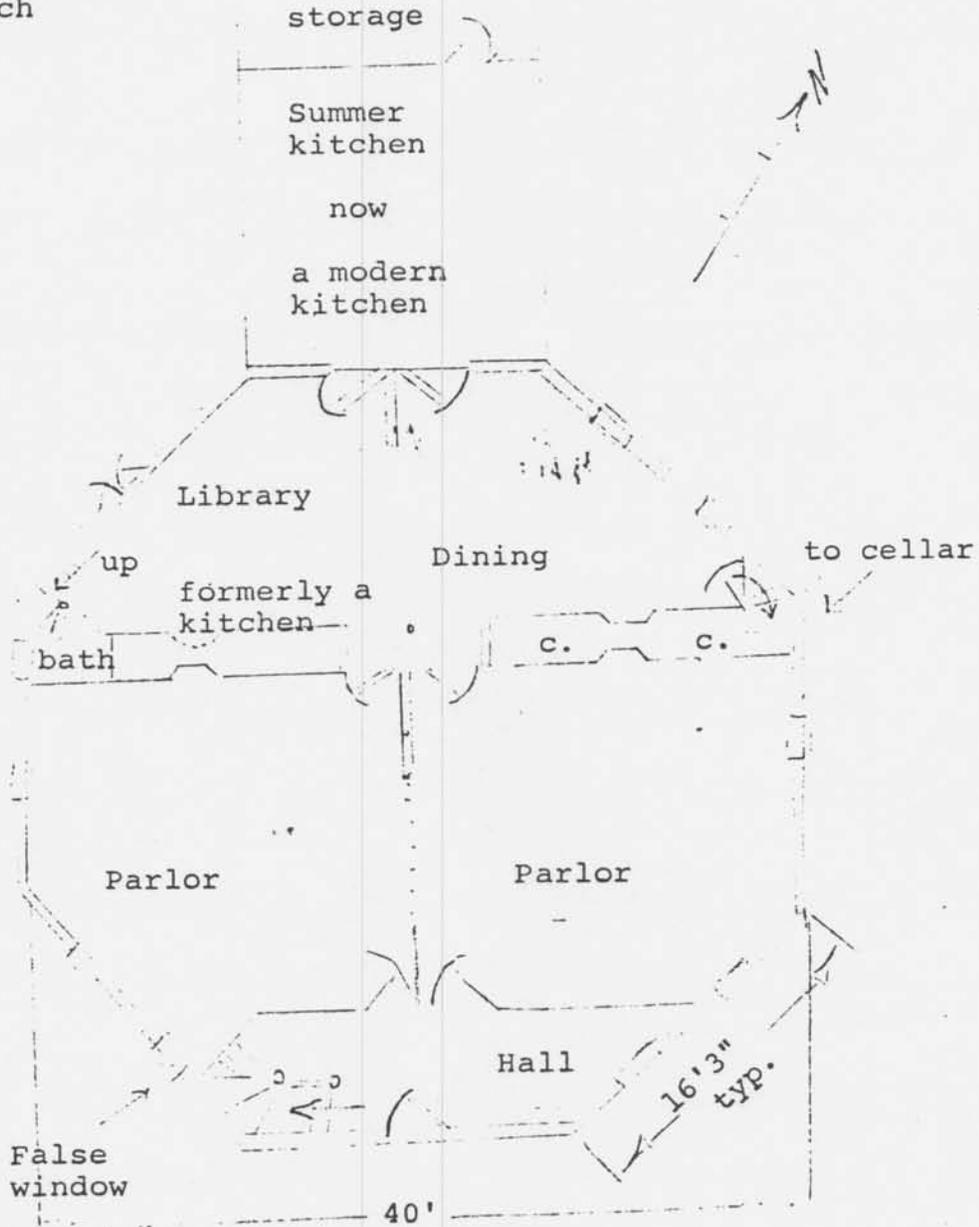
STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Harford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

HA-2

(Number all entries)

Wildfell or The Scott House

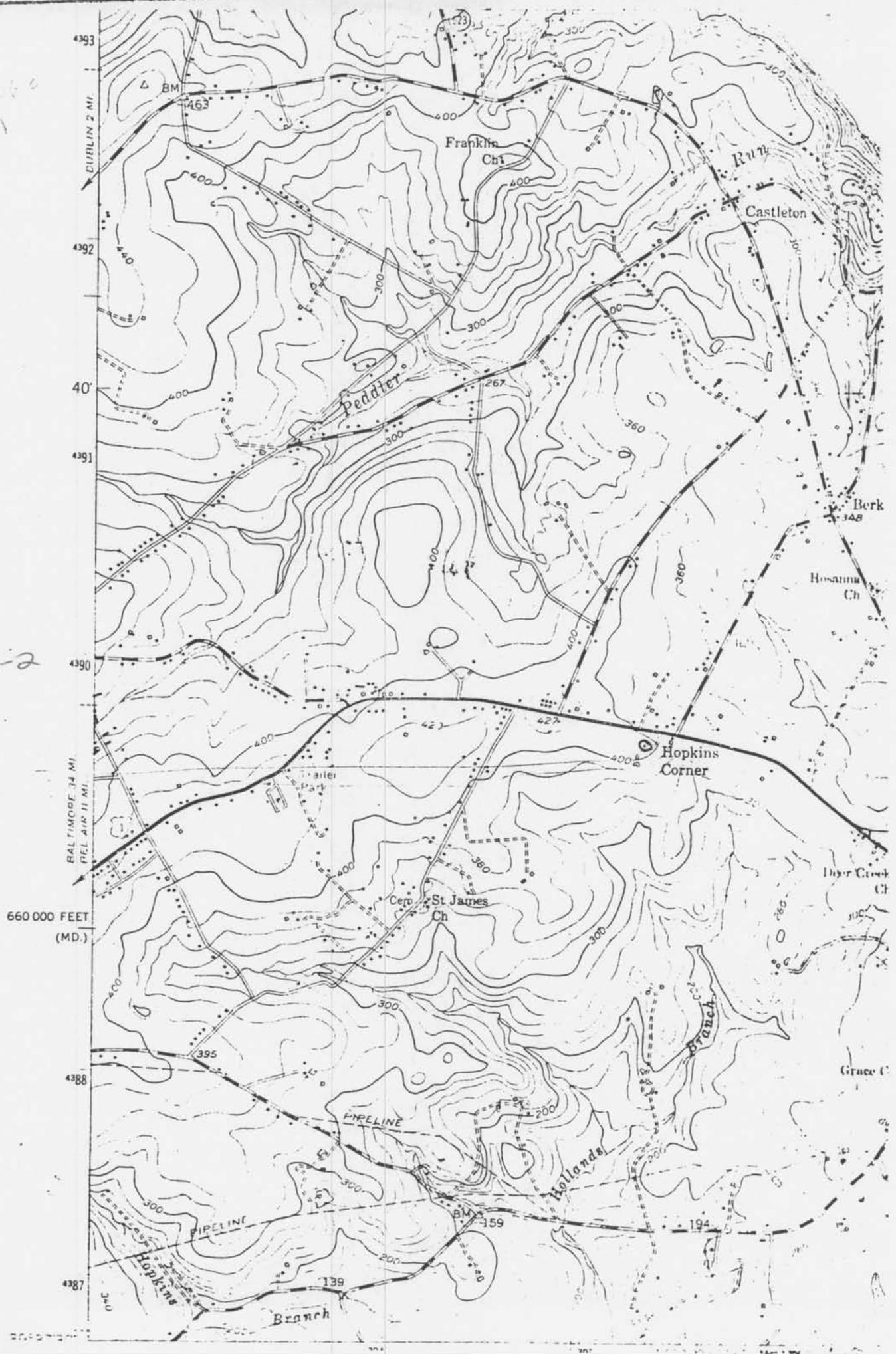
No. 7 Description.  
Sketch



CO 2 AM

HA-2

Wild fell





HA-2  
WILD FELL