

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Norris-Stirling house
AND/OR COMMON
Mount Pleasant

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER SE side of Ring Factory Road, NE of its junction with
Hollingsworth Road, 4 miles SW of Bel Air
CITY, TOWN Bel Air
STATE Maryland
VICINITY OF First
CODE 024
COUNTY Harford
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
CODE 025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Campbell Lloyd Stirling
STREET & NUMBER 2211 North Charles Street
CITY, TOWN Baltimore, STATE Maryland
VICINITY OF 21218

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Bel Air, STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Norris-Stirling house, presently known as Mount Pleasant, is located approximately four miles southwest of Bel Air on the southeast side of Ring Factory Road, northeast of its junction with Hollingsworth Road. The house is comprised of an early nineteenth century stone section and two later frame additions. Outbuildings include a frame barn and corn-crib, a stone springhouse and a garage.

The original section of the house is three bays by one room deep. It is constructed of uncoursed fieldstone with a slate roof. Its front and rear elevations both consist of an entrance in the north bay with two nine-over-six windows in the south bays of the first floor. Over the plainly trimmed, recessed door is a four-light transom. Flanking the entrance, reveals carved with three panels echo the pattern of the six-paneled door. A reconstructed hood, contemporary in design to the house, protects the entrance. On the second floor, three six-over-six sash windows are aligned with the door and two first floor windows. All of these windows have narrow, white painted trim and green shutters with stationary louvers. The gabled dormer window was probably added after the first addition was constructed to admit light to the south attic room. Two casement windows, in the peak of the north elevation, illuminate the other small attic room and stairway. The windows in the house all have very wide sills due to the thickness of the walls, and many window panes retain the original glass.

The floor plan consists of a stair hall and one room on both the first and second stories. Much attention was given to the design and execution of the open string stair with halfpace landings. Opposite these two landings, the well is terminated in a quarter circle which lends simple elegance to the lines of the stair. The balusters, square at the bottom and round above, are delicately proportioned, as are brackets along the string course. The division of a second story rear window by a stair landing is functional as it illuminates two flights of the stair and retains the symmetry of the exterior elevation.

There is an interior end chimney of brick at the east end of the stone portion. The first floor wooden mantel is carved with plain pilasters, topped by a frieze with torus molding and a simple mantel shelf. The mantel on the second floor is also classically inspired but is more simple in its execution.

Six-paneled doors throughout the original section are identical to the one of the front entrance. They have brass box locks which were present when Mrs. Stirling's mother, Mrs. Louis Muller, purchased the house in 1936. One of the attic doors has a wooden box lock. The original walnut floors remain throughout this section.

The first addition may be entered from the older part by a door cut

See Continuation Sheet #1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Norris-Stirling house
Harford County,
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

through the south end of the chimney wall of the first and second stories. This section was in extreme disrepair when Mrs. Muller became the owner. As many of the walnut floorboards as possible were left on the first story. The replacements are well matched. The fireplace in the single first story room is wide and has an old iron crane in place at the back of the hearth. As the upstairs was beyond restoration, it was reconstructed to include a bath and two bedrooms. A winding stair which led to the second story was replaced by a straight stair located behind the same wall which hid the original stair. The door to the stair is hung on iron strap hinges as is the closet next to it. The second floor doorway was cut through a closet in which some of the wooden clothes pegs remain.

A double-tiered porch was added to the front of the first addition in 1936. The first floor of the porch is paved with slate slabs originally from the streets of Delta, Pennsylvania. The upstairs porch is screened. The front and back doors with panes on the first floor were also installed at that time.

A lean-to which forms the most southern section replaces a smaller, earlier addition. This 1936 addition contains a kitchen, 2 baths, master bedroom and kitchen porch. Both this addition and the earlier one have slate roofs.

The large bank barn is constructed of roughly sawn timber and covered by a gable roof with cedar shingles. The foundation is of stone. Nearby is a frame corncrib. A stone springhouse is located in the wooded area in front of the house. In addition to the springhouse, there is a spring in the original cellar. The frame, three-car garage was built in 1936 and conforms to the lines of the barn.

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Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET

Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

ENVIRONMENT OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Built on a high elevation in the rolling hills of Harford County, Mount Pleasant commands a view of spacious lawns and unspoiled woodlands. A number of the original trees and shrubs remain on the property, and others have been planted to enhance the landscape-box, magnolias, holly, azaleas, some evergreens, etc.

Whereas there are no formal gardens, there are thousands of spring bulbs and a wealth of native fern, myrtle, pachysandra, and dogwood. Violets carpet some areas in the spring, lilies-of-the-valley bloom in profusion and lilac waft their fragrance. Handsome stone walls of local fieldstone, restored or built by Mr. Stirling, are an unusual feature.

The large wooded areas abound in wild life, and are rich in laurel, wild azaleas, great masses of fern, wild flowers of many varieties. Any everywhere -- the music of birds.

Two streams water the property, and the half-mile wooded frontage along Ring Factory Road extends northerly to within about 400 feet of Winter's Run, a broad rock-bound creek in a picturesque valley. Truly a nature preserve.

The natural spring in the old stone springhouse is the source of an abundant supply of fine water, brought to the main house by an electric pump in the springhouse.

The large pastures are fenced for livestock.

ARCHEOLOGICAL NOTE: According to Mr. Stirling, an old resident of the neighborhood told him years ago that as a boy he remembered an Indian village nearby, and that he used to play with the Indian children. He said there were probably Indian mounds in our woods. Indian relics have been found there in the past.

Sept. 6, 1977

Amy A. Stirling
(Mrs. Campbell Lloyd Stirling)

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1803

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Situated in the midst of a wooded tract of about 50 acres, the Norris-Stirling house is an early 19th century farmhouse with a later 19th century addition and small 20th century addition.

The original section of the house is a small, stone structure typical in style of early 19th century stone architecture in Harford County. The quality of craftsmanship on the interior is unusually fine and well preserved for a house of this type in this area.

Outbuildings, including the stone springhouse, frame barn, and corn house, are evidence of the agricultural activity which supported at least three generations of the Norris family. The property consists of pasture, in addition to its wooded areas, enhancing the farm setting of the complex.

Aquilla Norris purchased this land, part of a tract known as Clegates Forest, from John Beale Bordley in 1784 (JLG F/132). The 73½ acres were conveyed by Aquilla to his son Rhesa in 1803 (HD U/423). The house is thought to have been built within several years of this date. In 1843 Rhesa and his wife Susannah deeded 26½ acres to their son Silas N., "in consideration of love and affection for their son" (HD 29/89). After the death of Silas, his trustee, Frank C. Norris, sold the property to Archibald H. Wann (WSF 95/145). The land passed to Benjamin F. Wann, and in 1936 he sold it to Amelia V. Muller, who listed Amelia Prescott Stirling and Campbell Lloyd Stirling as tenants in common (SWC 241/447). The house was restored by Baltimore architect, Laurence Ewald, shortly thereafter.

In 1976 Mr. and Mrs. Campbell Lloyd Stirling granted an easement on the house and surrounding acres to the Maryland Historical Trust. This document states that the property constitutes a "significant historical and cultural resource."

5 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HA-153

Land Records of Harford County.
Research provided by Mrs. Stirling, copy in the files of the Maryland Historical Trust.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 50 acres (approximately)

QUADRANGLE NAME Edgewood

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,8,3,2,6,0	4,3,7,2,2,8,0	B	1,8	3,8,3,6,0,0	4,3,7,1,9,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	3,8,2,8,9,0	4,3,7,1,5,6,0	D	1,8	3,8,2,6,8,0	4,3,7,1,5,8,0
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See enclosed plat map and boundary description.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cheryl Dees, Summer Intern

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

August 1977

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

3-15-79

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

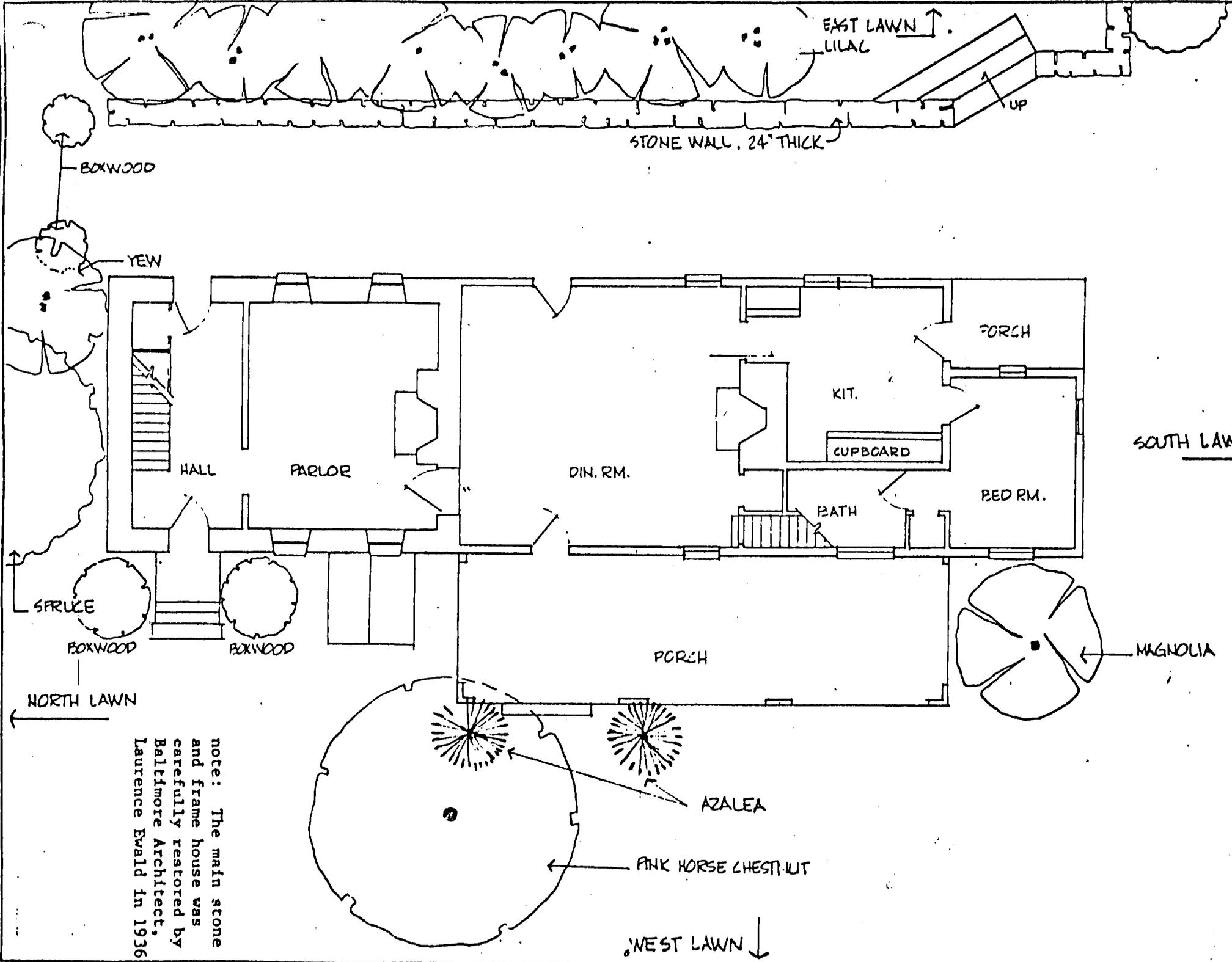
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



note: The main stone and frame house was carefully restored by Baltimore Architect, Laurence Ewald in 1936

MOUNT PLEASANT
 BEL. ADR (near)
 HARFORD COUNTY
 EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. B, page 18 of 39

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"
 PREPARED: 10/76
 MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST JTC



SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE WITH THE M.H.T.

MOUNT PLEASANT

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

This Deed of Easement applies to the lands and buildings of the grantor situated in the Third Election District of Harford County, Maryland. Said lands are more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a stone on the south side of Ring Factory Road, approximately 1007 feet southwest from where the entrance drive, into the property of the grantor, meets Ring Factory Road and following the center line of Ring Factory Road in a northeasterly direction the following courses:

1. North 40 degrees 37 minutes east, 780.0 feet coming over an iron pipe;
2. North 64 degrees 39 minutes east, 407.9 feet;
3. North 50 degrees 00 minutes east, 79.55 feet;
4. North 33 degrees 12 minutes east, 130.79 feet, crossing over the branch stream;
5. North 35 degrees 09 minutes east, 106.9 feet;
6. North 19 degrees 33 minutes east, 122.6 feet, again crossing over the branch stream;
7. North 51 degrees 39 minutes east, 176.11 feet;
8. North 60 degrees 41 minutes east, 246.9 feet;
9. North 44 degrees 59 minutes, east 90.29 feet;
10. North 14 degrees 18 minutes, east 57.05 feet;
11. North 63 degrees 20 minutes east, 255.55 feet;
12. North 50 degrees 0 minutes, east 175.8 feet;
13. North 65 degrees 51 minutes, east 111.95 feet;

Thence leaving the centerline of said Ring Factory Road in a southeasterly direction the following courses:

14. South 54 degrees 04 minutes 665.5 feet, to a stone;
15. South 37 degrees 28 minutes 500.0 feet, to a stone marking the eastern most corner of the herein described property;
16. Thence running south 67 degrees 20 minutes west, 2231.2 feet to a stone marked "NH";
17. Thence running north 77 degrees 30 minutes west, 458.8 feet to a stone and the place of beginning.

MOUNT PLEASANT - PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (continued)

The entire parcel containing 50 acres more or less and being made up of smaller parcels described in one or more of the following deeds, agreements and/or easements:

1. Benjamin F. Wann, Bertha R. Wann, his wife, Bessie E. Wann Archer, Theodore S. Archer, her husband and Evelyn Wann; To Amelia V. Muller, Amelia Prescott Stirling and Campbell Lloyd Stirling, dated July 10, 1936 and recorded in Liber 241 Folio 447 of Harford County, Maryland.
2. William C. Bayington to Amelia V. Muller, Amelia Prescott Stirling and Campbell Lloyd Stirling, dated July 10, 1936 and recorded in Liber 241, Folio 450 of Harford County, Maryland.
3. Sarah M. Davis and Walter F. Davis, her husband to John P. Bailey and Lillian C. Bailey, his wife, dated October 6, 1942 and recorded in Liber 275, Folio 152 of Harford County, Maryland.
4. John P. Bailey and Lillian C. Bailey, his wife, to Campbell L. Stirling, et. al., dated May 3, 1943 and recorded in Liber GCB 278, Folio 47 of Harford County, Maryland.
5. Erle P. Barlow and Ruth H. Barlow, his wife, to Amy A. Stirling, et. al., dated November 18, 1946 and recorded in Liber GCB 301, Folio 119 of Harford County, Maryland.
6. Campbell L. Stirling and Amy A. Stirling, his wife to Harford County, Maryland, dated November 7, 1974 and recorded in Liber 962, Folio 138 of Harford County, Maryland.