

FOR SECTION ONLY	BA-264
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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
Perry Hall
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER End of Perry Hall Road, one mile northwest
of U. S. Route 1

CITY, TOWN Perry Hall

STATE Maryland

VICINITY OF Second

CODE 24

COUNTY Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CODE 005

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Thomas W. and Marjorie Joy Mele

STREET & NUMBER Perry Hall Road

CITY, TOWN Perry Hall

VICINITY OF

STATE Maryland

21128

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue, Room 406

CITY, TOWN Towson

STATE Maryland

21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DESCRIPTION

BA-264

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	
<input 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

Perry Hall is located in the center of a subdivision at the end of Perry Hall Road, one mile northwest of U. S. Route 1 north of Perry Hall in Baltimore County, Maryland. In its present form it is a three-bay, two-story with dormers brick house with a two-story, three-bay wing. This structure is the surviving part of a large house begun in 1773 by Corbin Lee.

The Original House

The main block of the house excluding the portico which was probably added later, was almost a duplication of Berkeley Plantation, the birth place of Benjamin Harrison in Charles City County, Virginia, which Corbin Lee, a native Virginia, may have seen. Both manor houses were superbly symmetrical, with a central door flanked by two pairs of windows, five windows on the second story, and three pedimented dormers above. The earlier house (Berkeley was completed in 1726) has a simple belt course and austere window trim on its facade.¹ Early painting of Perry Hall show this same stringcourse and quietly dignified detail. Portions of the original exterior brick wall, laid in Flemish bond, are visible from the attic of the raised wing of Perry Hall. The main outside walls still remaining measure 12" to 18" thick with footings deeper than five feet. The roof was originally red tile. The house originally had a three-bay, one-story wing at each end.

The house originally had a central hall plan with two rooms on either side. There were doors at either end of the hall and the stairs were located in one of the rooms. This transverse hall uncluttered by stairs was a popular plan after 1760, probably based on the works of Palladio and others.²

The floor plan at Perry Hall is similar to that of Hampton, Baltimore County. The main portion of Perry Hall was only slightly smaller than Hampton, being 65' X 45' and Hampton 71' x 47'. The staircase in each is simple in design and located to the side of the great hall rather than in it as in Berkeley and the Wythe House. According to Baltimore County tax assessments for 1798 at the Maryland Historical Society, Perry Hall and six outbuildings were assessed at \$9,000, while Hampton and three "inferior" houses were valued at \$12,000.

The four-column entrance porch was similar to the small Roman porticos of Belle Grove (circa 1795) and Old Sweet Springs (1830s) in West Virginia.³ These, like Perry Hall, are raised porches with broad stairs and pedimented roofs, but with the addition of railings. Similar porches are found on several eighteenth century houses in Maryland: e.g., Stone Hall in Baltimore County and Kingston Hall and Almodington in Somerset County.⁴ Two of the most famous early American houses with four-column porches are Monticello and Mulberry Plantation. These single story, tabernacle-like porticos with two to four free-standing columns in front and often two rear engaged columns were an attempt at academic splendor.⁵ The portico at Perry Hall added distinction and formality to the original brick main block.

Fanlights over the door, like the one still in place over Perry Hall's original main entrance, grace the doors of several Maryland 18th century houses; e.g., Combsberry (18th century) in Talbot County and Thomas House (circa 1795) in Queen Anne's County.⁶ Later Federal Doors increased the width of the arched fanlight.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Perry Hall
Baltimore County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

A fire in 1824 destroyed the east wing and part of the main house. The house was rebuilt but only little over half the main section and the west wing were salvaged. The house now terminates with the original central great hall. Some additional rooms were supplied by the construction of a second story on the surviving west wing. The Palladian window is now gone from this wing as are some of the fanlights over the doors of the ballroom. The fanlights and some of the porch pillars are believed to have been vandalized in the 1930s when the house was unoccupied.⁷ The one remaining fanlight is now placed over the main door.

The Present House

The main block of the present house consists of the central hall and two west rooms of the original house. It is a stuccoed brick structure on a raised basement. The south facade has the main entrance in the east bay with a three-part window above it. There are two 12/12 sash windows in the other two bays of each floor. There are pedimented dormers above the east and west bays. The entrance has double doors with a fanlight flanked by two narrow 6/4 sash windows.

The east end has three windows in both the second story and the attic and two French doors on the first floor. The latter open onto a wide pillared veranda that extends from the front entrance around the east end and across the entire north facade. The chimney at the roof peak at this end is a false one installed to balance the original chimney at the other end.

The north facade has an entrance in the east bay with a simple three-part window above and a 12/12 sash window in the two other bays on each floor. There is a pedimented dormer above both the east and west bays.

The west end has an interior end chimney and a window on either side of the flue at attic level. The rear of this facade is covered by the wing.

Rubble from the fire was used to repair the building, and when the stucco was recently removed from portions of the building for repairs, the conglomeration of broken bricks and stone used to reconstruct the walls was revealed.⁸ It was probably after the fire that the house was stuccoed, partly to conceal irregular repairs and partly to conform to the early 19th century fashion.⁹ Stuccoing added weatherproofness, increased warmth and gave the desired appearance of stone construction.¹⁰

The present wing consists of the original west wing, on its raised basement with a second story added after the fire. There are three 6/6 sash windows on both the first and second stories of the south facade. The north facade has three 6/6 windows on the second story and a doorway flanked by two 6/6 windows on the first story. The west end has an interior end chimney with nine-light casement windows in the gable and one window on the first floor.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Perry Hall
Baltimore County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

On one wall of the kitchen in the basement of the wing is a huge fireplace with crain in place. Wide steps lead down to the stone cellar under the main house, which is divided into rooms by brick partitions. The lime plaster coating, called a counterseal, was probably applied after the fire to the cellar ceiling to insulate against moisture.¹¹

The present interior wood trim in the main areas of the house was probably applied after the fire since it is of a post-1815 style.¹² It is similar to woodwork in the original part of Winterthur Museum in Delaware built in 1839 and is typical Empire block-corner style not seen in earlier American Interiors.¹³ It remains in good condition.

The interior doors are wide paneled ones, and the chandeliers are old, but not original to the house.¹⁴

A heavily carved Adamesque mantel has a pair of slender colonettes, a central urn design, and a grouping of classical figures on each side. There is no overmantel. Some of the mantels in other rooms appear Victorian. A black marble mantel is located in the former formal dining room.

Some of the plaster ceiling decorations made by John Rawlins, who also created decorations for George Washington's banquet hall in Mount Vernon, still remain. Original window glass; the wine cellar beneath the basement; and and large locks bearing the maker's name, Carpenter, and dating from the 1820s are some of the other surviving original features.

Remodeling and restoration undertaken in the 1950s and 1960s by the Gordon L. Smiths, the Benjamin H. Kaestners, and the Thomas Meles have included the installation of a modern kitchen, the lowering of the ceiling in the room used as an informal living room, and a general refurbishing of floors, walls, and wallpaper. A colonnaded porte-cochere was added to the existing wing in the 1950s, forming a compatible shelter for vehicles or outdoor entertaining.¹⁵

Perry Hall and Hampton, as they existed at the end of the 18th century, represented way of life of landed gentry accustomed to gracious living. These two Georgian mansions spacious in size, symmetrical in design, and ornamented with cupolas, manifested the form elegance and dignity suitable to the means and modes of their owners. Perry Hall, as one visitor wrote after a visit, "was the largest dwelling house I had ever seen, and all the arrangements within and without were tasteful and elegant; yet simplicity and utility seemed to be stamped upon the whole."¹⁶

Louise K. Lantz
Goucher College
December 1976

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Perry Hall
Baltimore County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

- ¹Thomas Tileston Waterman, The Mansions of Virginia (New York, 1945), pp. 164-165.
- ²Fiske Kimball, Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic (New York, 1950), pp. 76-78.
- ³John Poppeliers, S. Allen Chambers, and Nancy B. Schwartz, "What Style Is It?" Historic Preservation, (July-September, 1976) : 36.
- ⁴Henry Chandlee Forman, Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland (Easton, 1954) pp. 110, 152-153.
- ⁵Kimball, Domestic Architecture, pp. 69, 97-99, 187.
- ⁶Forman, Early Manors, pp. 194-201.
- ⁷"Perry Hall Mansion, A Gracious Monument to Maryland's Past," Belair Road Booster, July 12, 1962, p. 12.
- ⁸Mrs. Thomas W. Mele, interview with Louise K. Lantz, 1976.
- ⁹Hampton House, built 1783-1790, was built of local stone and stuccoed.
- ¹⁰Kimball, Domestic Architecture, pp. 68, 153.
- ¹¹Smith interview.
- ¹²Hilton Brown, associate professor of visual arts, Goucher College, authority on architectural interiors, agrees with this conclusion.
- ¹³John A. H. Sweeney, Winterthur Illustrated (1963), p. 106.
- ¹⁴Smith interview
- ¹⁵Smith interview
- ¹⁶"Honored names in Methodism," Baltimore American, October 8, 1900.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1773, 1826

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Perry Hall is a massive remnant of a remarkably large house begun in 1773 and damaged by fire circa 1826. The original house was a show place in its time, and the surviving two-thirds is representative of the scale and quality of the original and retains much original woodwork. The exterior reflects the taste of the 1820s, when the house was repaired after the fire.

The appearance of original house is preserved in three large paintings made about 1803 by Francis Guy. The present house was recorded in the 1930s by the WPA Historic American Buildings Survey; these photographs demonstrate that the character of the house has not been changed by subsequent restoration work.

Harry Dorsey Gough, first occupant of the house, was a well-known figure in Baltimore County. Prominent because of his great wealth, he also played an important role in the early history of Methodism in the state. He built the wings on the house one of which contained a chapel. He also had finish work done on the house, including interior plaster decoration, some of which still survives.

Harry Dorsey Gough Carroll and his wife were the next owners of the house. It was under their ownership that the fire occurred, and the repairs and new appearance made at that time were their work. Carroll named the property Perry Hall.

HISTORY

The land survey on which the house stands, called The Adventure, was laid out for George Lingan of Calvert County in 1684. In the mid-18th century, the tract was acquired by Corbin Lee, an ironmaster of the Nottingham Company, which had its forge 2½ miles away. Lee died in December of 1773, without finishing the large house that was the centerpiece of a developing plantation. He had probably never moved into the house, and classified ads in the Maryland Gazette of 1760 mention his residence as Nottingham Forge.¹

Lee left a widow but no children. He left no will. His kinsmen from Prince George County undertook the settlement of the estate and in 1774 sold the property to Archibald Buchanan, who was apparently only interested in it for resale.² Buchanan advertised the Lee estate in Baltimore's first newspaper in April and June of 1774:

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Perry Hall
Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Baltimore-Town, April 16, 1974

To be sold by the subscriber, a valuable tract of land called the Adventure, formerly belonging to Corbin Lee, Esq., containing 1000 acres, lying on the Great Falls of Gunpowder, about 13 miles from Baltimore-Town, 6 miles from Joppa, 2 and a half from the Nottingham Forges, and within 4 and 5 miles of several Market Mills; the improvements consist of an elegant brick house, 65 by 45, two story high, four rooms on a floor floor, with a large passage, the cellar dry and good, the inside work of the house not yet finished, a large stone kitchen, 40 by 30, two story high, finished, a store house, 35 by 22, two story high, a framed house two story, 25 by 22, piazza well finished, a garden of 3 acres, with a pleasant summer house, a large frame barn with brick stables underneath, and sundry other eminent outhouses, there is about 350 acres of land cleared and under good fence, about 70 acres in wheat, the tract is pleasantly situated in a healthy country, and the whole commands an entire prospect of the country and bay, and from its vicinity to the Iron-Works the wood, of which there is a large quantity, will find ready sale. . . it is contiguous to an extensive range of 10 or 12 miles circuit of uncultivated land, held by the Iron-Works, from whence any number of cattle may be raised. The main branch of the river gunpowder runs through the tract forming a very fine mill-seat; the valuable improvements on the land, with the goodness of the soil renders it a convenient seat, either for a Gentleman, Miller, or Farmer. . . . 3

The large house soon found a buyer in the person of Harry Dorsey Gough, who had no difficulty paying for it.⁴ Gough (the name rhymes with "cough") was a native of Anne Arundel County and related to prominent families there; his maternal uncle was Caleb Dorsey, ironmaster of Elkridge Furnace. In a cash-poor society, Harry Dorsey Gough had the extraordinary luck at age 21 to become executor and residuary legatee of an English relative, the woolen-draper of Bristol, Isaac Burgess. Gough came into £70,000 and he wrote to his agents in England to liquidate the estate in 1774 after he had agreed to purchase the Corbin Lee plantation.⁵

Gough promptly settled on the tract and named it Perry Hall for the country seat of one of his Gough relatives in Staffordshire. His name was linked with Perry Hall in the report of a horse race that took place in the autumn of 1774, when his steed Garrick took a 30-pound purse at the meet at Baltimore. The plat of Perry Hall drawn in December of that year shows the house as an ordinary rectangle, its wings not yet added; total acreage was 1,129.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Perry Hall
Baltimore County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Gough took no part in the early part of the Revolution because of his religious beliefs. He was listed as a non-juror in 1779 when an oath of fidelity was required of all citizens.⁶ American Methodists were for a time regarded by patriotic bodies of Tory sympathizers rather than persons who wished to avoid worldly distractions, and a number of non-jurors were considered for prosecution by the Grand Jury. As in the case of many other Methodists, no witnesses appeared against Gough and nor further proceedings ensued. By 1781 Gough was in sufficient good graces of local government for the State Council to order the Treasurer to pay him 383 pounds.⁷

A few months after Yorktown, Gough petitioned for permission to go to New York to dispatch an agent to look after some 8,000 pounds owing to him in England. Gough made the following statement which is at variance with the rumor that he was an active Tory:

Your petitioner would therefore hope, that as he is attached as well by Principle as Habit to America and would wish to have all his Property in it, that no objection would be made to the present Application. . . .⁸

Additional construction took place at Perry Hall about 1784 because, as Mrs. Bevan writes, the Rev. Thomas Coke recorded staying in a noble room in the elegant mansion house Gough had just built, and also recorded that Gough had gone to Europe to buy furniture for it. Mrs. Bevan interprets this project as the building of the balancing wings. One of the end buildings was a marble bath in Roman style.

In 1785 one of Gough's recent workmen was employed by George Washington to install molded plaster work in the banquet hall at Mount Vernon. In 1789 one of the other craftsmen advertised in the papers:

KENNEDY, Joseph, stucco-workman, plasterer, and plain painter from Dublin, has settled in Baltimore, and carries on his profession. He has a letter from H.D. Gough at Perry Hall, recommending him.⁹

The two outer wings were in place by the time Francis Guy did his three paintings circa 1803. One shows a meadow in front of the house, while another view, obviously later, shows the results of landscaping, planting, and fencing.

H. D. Gough was an important personage: a wealthy merchant, well connected with great planting and ironmaking families, so famous that maps of 1800 or so show the present Bel Air Road--not then a through road to Harford County--as Perry Hall Road or Harry Dorsey Gough's Road. Gough was also an important figure in two movements of his time: Methodism and agricultural improvement.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #6.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Perry Hall
Baltimore County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 6

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Gough's wife, Prudence Carnan, was converted to Methodism by the preaching of Francis Asbury in 1773, and her husband made the move a few years later. Perry Hall came to be a center of Methodist activity and remained so for thirty years. Most of the great circuit riders stopped at Perry Hall. Francis Asbury recorded his first stop there in 1776.¹⁰ In September of 1780, Asbury recorded: "Saturday 20. Rode to Mr. Gough's; this is a good house to do business at."¹¹ At the time of the famous Christmas Conference of 1784, a number of Methodist preachers met at Perry Hall and rode from there to Lovely Lane Meeting House in Baltimore Town; the party included Thomas Coke, Richard Whatcoat, Thomas Vasey, and William Black.¹² Both Mr. and Mrs. Gough are depicted in the front row in the engraving that shows Asbury's ordination as superintendent at that conference.

One wing of Perry Hall was a private chapel, and its bell was rung for morning and evening prayer, attended by the owners and their slaves. Bishop Asbury recorded in 1801, "I came on to Perry Hall. Here were things to attest my attention--out of sixty or seventy servants, many shouting and praising God."¹³

Mr. Gough's chapel bell was apparently an unexpected improvement in its day; a Sunpapers story written in 1905 recorded the tradition:

When Gough erected his chapel, he built a steeple and in it he put a bell, that being the first Methodist place of worship in the United States that had one. At that time, it was considered an innovation and as indicating a leaning toward Papacy, and much indignation was excited.¹⁴

Mrs. Bevans writes that Methodism changed Gough's life considerably: he manumitted some of his slaves, gave up fencing, cards, strong drink, and horse racing, and turned to formal gardening and agricultural experimentation and improvements. He became the first president of the Society for the Encouragement and Improvement of Agriculture in Maryland in 1786. He was one of the first in Maryland to import blooded livestock such as English cattle and work horses. He held an auction of some of the products of his breeding program as early as 1788. In the succeeding years, Gough had Persian broad-tailed sheep, Cape of Good Hope sheep, and York-Perry Hall rated a visit from the English agriculturalist, Richard Parkinson, who at that time was farming near Baltimore at what is now called Orangeville. Parkinson recorded his visit in his travel book and commented that Gough laid too much stress on the size of cattle.¹⁵

The 1798 tax list for this particular hundred has been lost, but the index pages survive and contain a summary evaluation, showing the house and its nearest outbuildings on the home two acres with a value of \$9,000, a figure 3½ times that of the very impressive Stemmer Mansion located in the same hundred.

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Perry Hall
Baltimore County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 7

(SIGNIFICANCE, CONTINUED)

Gough died in Baltimore City in 1808 and his funeral was conducted by Bishop Asbury and attended by 2,000 persons. Gough had been expelled from the church, but was reconverted in 1800 and his last years were passed in Methodist activism. As Asbury recorded, "that he did depart from God is well known; but it is equally certain that he was visibly restored."¹⁶

Mrs. Gough inherited a life interest in the estate, and it was to pass to her daughter, Mrs. James Carroll of Mount Clare, in trust for her second son, Harry Dorsey Gough Carroll. Carroll, born at Mount Clare, came to Perry Hall in 1822 with his wife Eliza Ridgely Carroll, following the death of his aunt. During the early Carroll tenure, Perry Hall suffered a disastrous fire, and two bays of the main block and one of the wings were lost. The exact date of the fire has not been found, but an account of November, 1826 shows H.D.G. Carroll making enormous purchases of plank, lath, nails, window glass, and paint for the dwelling. It is quite evident that the owners had to retrench. Even after losing two-fifths of the house, Perry Hall remains an impressive and spacious dwelling.

Carroll owned a grist mill on the Great Gunpowder Falls downstream of present Belair Road (U.S. 1) near Broad Run, and it was listed by Charles Varle in his 1833 tour book.¹⁷ Carroll sold the mill to Thomas Wilson in 1848.¹⁸

In 1847 Carroll had the property resurveyed and repatented in the State Land Office under the name "Perry Hall." The number of acres was established as 1,344.¹⁹ In 1852 Carroll sold out to a Philadelphian, William M. Meredith, and thereafter for some 35 years, persons with Philadelphia connections held the house.²⁰ In 1866 Meredith sold a half-interest to Eli Slifer, and in 1873 he died. The 1876 tax ledger charged Eli Slifer and William Meredith's heirs with 883 acres.²¹

The 1877 atlas by G.M. Hopkins shows Slifer and the heirs of Meredith as owners; it also shows Slifer's water-powered sawmill on the fringe of the property, south bank of Great Gunpowder Falls, west of Belair Road. In 1970 an octogenerian resident, Edward Schroeder, recalled that as a boy, he had seen the sawmill, which was in a deteriorated state; it manufactured, in addition to lumber, chair rounds, axe handles, baseball bats and, he believed, potato mashers.²²

In 1888, Gertrude G. Biddle and other Philadelphia heirs of William Meredith sold the house to a Baltimore County resident, William Dunty, who had been listed in the earlier atlas patron list as a farmer, born in the State in 1842.²³ Dunty also operated the turnpike hotel in Fork and was appointed postmaster at that village in 1888.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #8.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Perry Hall
Baltimore County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 8

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

At the time of the 1896 tax list, the property was charged to William Dunty, Jr., who was charged with an "old mansion" worth \$700 and a steam engine and sawmill worth \$300.²⁴ The steam engine was also mentioned in the 1911 tax list and Paul W. Lacey, the adjoining property owner, recalls that the sawmill, one of several, was located in the present Perry Hall Manor subdivision, used to cut over the extensive woods on the property.²⁵ The local papers reported that a log rolled over and broke Jacob Robertson's leg at Dunty's Sawmill in 1894.²⁶

In the autumn of 1900, Mr. Dunty played host to six omnibusses full of Methodists, 200 persons in all, led by the Rev. John B. Goucher. The pilgrimage began at the end of the "electric car line" and switched to the omnibusses, which were pulled by "teams furnished by Mr. George W. Della." Mr. Dunty took the visitors through the house and also showed them the "slave jail" on the premises, a windowless stone building with overhead hooks, supposedly for hanging up people. The group included Dr. John M. Buckley, editor of the Christian Advocate, and also Bishop Charles B. Golloway, who spoke at Camp Chapel, their next stop, and mentioned Mr. Gough's controversial bell?²⁷

The old slave jail was some distance from the mansion, on the present Paul W. Lacey farm and lasted until 1913 per Matilda C. Lacey's 1970 local history.²⁸ J. Alexis Shriver informed Mrs. Bevans that the Gough bathhouse, which last saw service as an office, was demolished in 1916.²⁹ Another Methodist tour occurred in 1921 when automobiles became common.³⁰

The house was assessed at \$1,200 in the 1911 tax ledger. In 1915, Dunty sold to George F. Bucholtz. A year later, Bucholtz sold to Sarah Agnes Watson Coursey, who conveyed to a trust company in 1918. The 1918 tax ledger charged Mrs. Coursey with 100 acres of tillable land, 104 acres of woods, and the following structures:

House	40x44	28x40	-	\$5,000.	
Barn	38x50		\$969.		
Chicken House	16x50	10x40	288.	1,257.	
House #2	16x25		300.		
Other Buildings			50.	350.	(31)

In 1919, Harry A. Shackelford bought the property, held it five years, and sold to Joseph W. Plummer, who retained the house and 203 acres until 1948. During all this time, Perry Hall was no longer the center of great estate, but the dwelling of an ordinary farm.

Successive owners in this century were:

George Roy and Ella K. Bryson	1948
John B. and Mary Von W. Gontrum	1950
Gordon L. and Katherine Eva Smith	1950
Benjamin H. Kaestner and wife	1953

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #9.

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Perry Hall
Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 9

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Perry Hall changed hands twice the year the Bevan study was published, and presumably it had belonged to the Brysons when the data was being collected. The author forthrightly described the house as it was:

Perry Hall is not a proud house today. Steps and columns are missing from the long piazza (modern) which runs the length of the north side of the house and across the east end. Here and there where stucco has fallen, brick walls are exposed. These walls are unmistakably the original walls of the house which Harry Dorsey Gough purchased in 1774.³²

Shortly after the article was published, a city real estate firm offered the house for sale with a 5-acre lot and the asking price was \$15,000. Outside dimensions were given as 72 by 42 feet.³³ Two years later, the house was again on the market, the asking price being \$34,000. "as is" and \$38,000. if the program of improvement and modernization were carried to completion.³⁴ A photo of the house taken by Harry Patton of Towson circa 1953 showed the place much improved from dingy views taken in the thirties and forties.³⁵

In 1966, now surrounded by 3.911 acres, the house was acquired by Thomas W. Mele and wife, who launched a year of repair work before they moved in. Restoration architect was John Sprinkle and decoration was supervised by Albert Cousins of H.L. Chambers Company, Baltimore. By the summer of 1969, the restoration was so far advanced that the restoration was so far advanced that the house was the featured home of the week in the Sunday Sun Magazine. Later work included installation of a new porch in 1976 after winter damage and silicon compound was applied before replacing the outer covering.

¹T. J. Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County (Philadelphia, 1881), p. 816. There is no deed to Lee indexed, although he is shown as owner of The Adventure and other tracts in the debt book of 1755-71.

²B.C. Deeds, AL No. L, f. 113, Hall of Records, Annapolis.

³Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser, June 11, 1774, p. 1.

⁴B.C. Deeds, AL No. L, f. 123, Hall of Records.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #10.

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Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 10

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

⁵Edith Rossiter Bevan, "Perry Hall: Country Seat of the Gough and Carroll Families," Maryland Historical Magazine, 45 (March, 1950): 35-36.

⁶B.C. Court Minutes, 1772-1781, p. 313. Also, Archives of Maryland, 45:616.

⁷Edwin Schell, Those Incredible Methodists (Baltimore, 1972), pp. 44, 45, 49. Also, Archives of Maryland, 48:75.

⁸Archives of Maryland, 47:584.

⁹Maryland Journal, October 6, 1789.

¹⁰The Journals and Letters of Francis Asbury, Elmer T. Clark, Editor (London, 1958), 1:180.

¹¹Journals, 1:347.

¹²Journals, 1:423 or 473.

¹³Journals, 2:302.

¹⁴"Perry Hall, A Historic Old Mansion in the Vicinity of Baltimore, Sun, July 30, 1905.

¹⁵Richard Parkinson, A Tour in America, 1798-1800 (London, 1805).

¹⁶Journals, 2:569.

¹⁷Charles Varle, A Complete Picture of Baltimore (Baltimore, 1833), p. 102.

¹⁸B. City Deeds, AWB 391:260.

¹⁹Patents, Liber GGB 5:552, Hall of Records.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #11.

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Perry Hall
Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 11

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

- ²⁰B.C. Deeds, HMF 2: 181, Towson.
- ²¹Assessment Books, 11th District, 1876, f. 143, Records Management Office, Towson.
- ²²Edward Schroeder to Matilda C. Lacey, Perry Hall, Maryland, 1970, interview in connection with neighborhood book.
- ²³B.C. Deeds, JWS 168:156
- ²⁴Assessment Book, 11th District, 1896, unpagged, Records Management Office, Towson.
- ²⁵Paul W. Lacey, Perry Hall, to J.W. McGrain, September 28, 1978.
- ²⁶Baltimore County Union, Towson, December 22, 1894, p. 3. col. 3.
- ²⁷"At a Methodist Shrine," Sun, October 10, 1900.
- ²⁸Matilda C. Lacey, Perry Hall: So Called Since 1775 (Perry Hall, 1970), p. 30.
- ²⁹Bevan, "Perry Hall," 45:37.
- ³⁰"Something of Perry Hall, Where Methodist Heroes Met in Days Long Gone." Sun, October 30, 1921, p.2.
- ³¹Tax Ledger, 11th District, 1918, f. 463, Towson Courthouse.
- ³²Bevan, "Perry Hall," 45:45.
- ³³"For Sale, Perry Hall Mansion," advertising sheet by George Jenkins Agency, Baltimore, General Clipping File, MHS.
- ³⁴Martin L. Sutch To Senator George L. Radcliffe, September 9, 1952, General Clipping File, MHS.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #12.

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Perry Hall
Baltimore County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 12

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

- 35 Mrs. Van Noyes Verplank, "Perry Hall," Maryland Gardener, 8 (May , 1954):3.
- 36 Joann Harris, "Perry Hall: Sister Mansion of Hampton House," Sun Magazine, July 20, 1969, pp. 23-25.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

BA-264

SEE FOOTNOTES TO DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.91 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME White Marsh Quad

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 374 410 4365 160

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N 83°45'W, 438.20 feet; S 00°34'E, 296.19 feet; SW, by curve to left on 100-foot radius to distance of 115.75 feet; S 66°53'E, 182 feet; N 72°23'E, 218 feet; N 00°34'W, 345.0 feet.

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 John W. McGrain, Executive Secretary; Louise K. Lantz, Student, Goucher College

ORGANIZATION Landmarks Preservation Commission, Office of Planning & Zonine (Baltimore County)

DATE October 1978

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue, Room 406

TELEPHONE (301)494-3495

CITY OR TOWN Towson

STATE Maryland 21204

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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



2-11-80

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

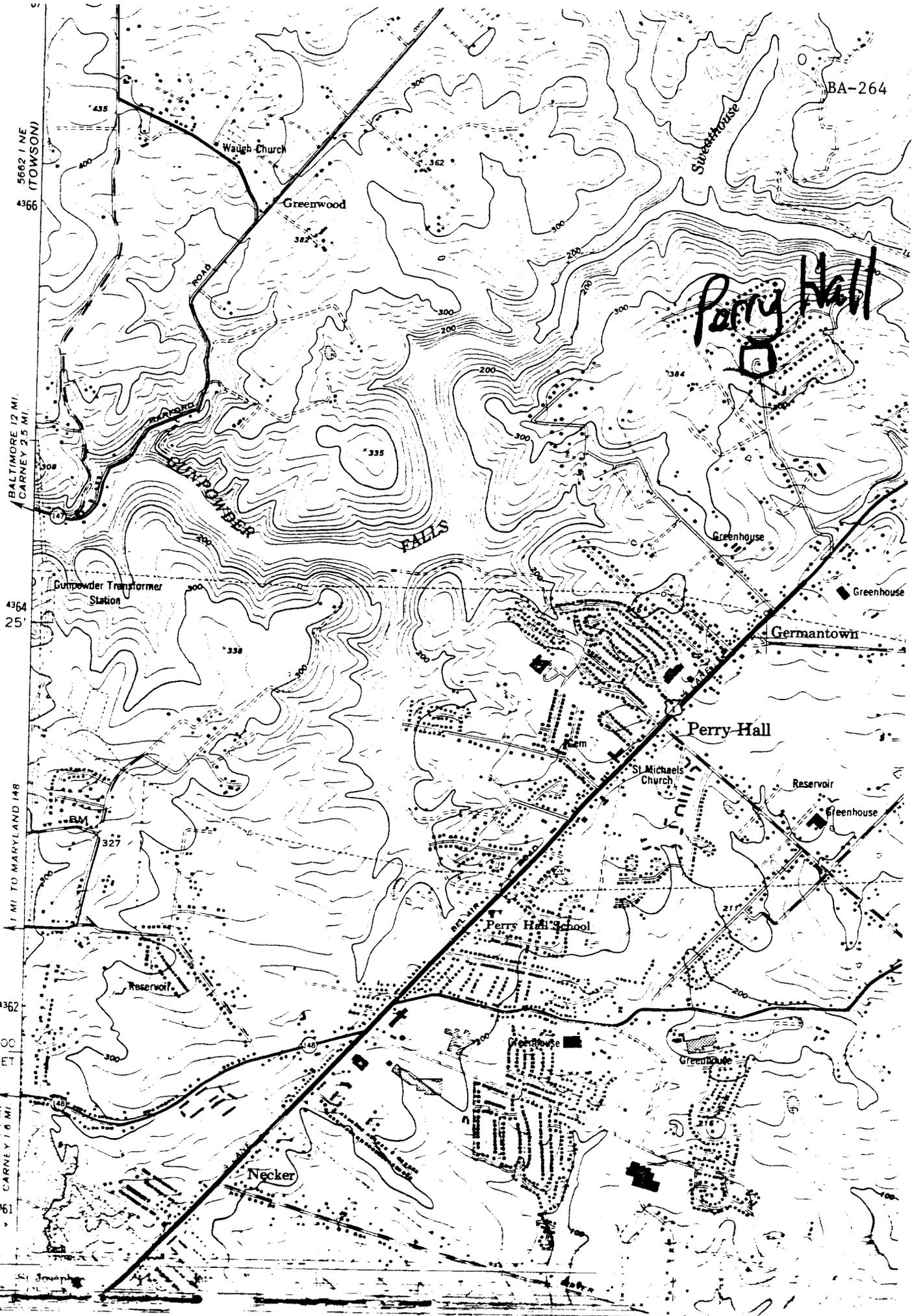
DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

White Marsh Road



TAX MAP 63, Parcel 188
Thomas W. Mele property
Perry Hall, Baltimore County, Maryland
BA-264

STATE OF MARYLAND
4119/135
74.34
P. 327

STATE OF MARYLAND
22-97
4530/211
P. 432

STATE OF
MD. (F.P.)
4530/211
P. 432 A
P. 433

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPT. OF FORESTS
& PARKS
3192/17
40.00 A
P. 8

STATE OF MD
(F.P.)
4531/181
66.4 A
P. 433

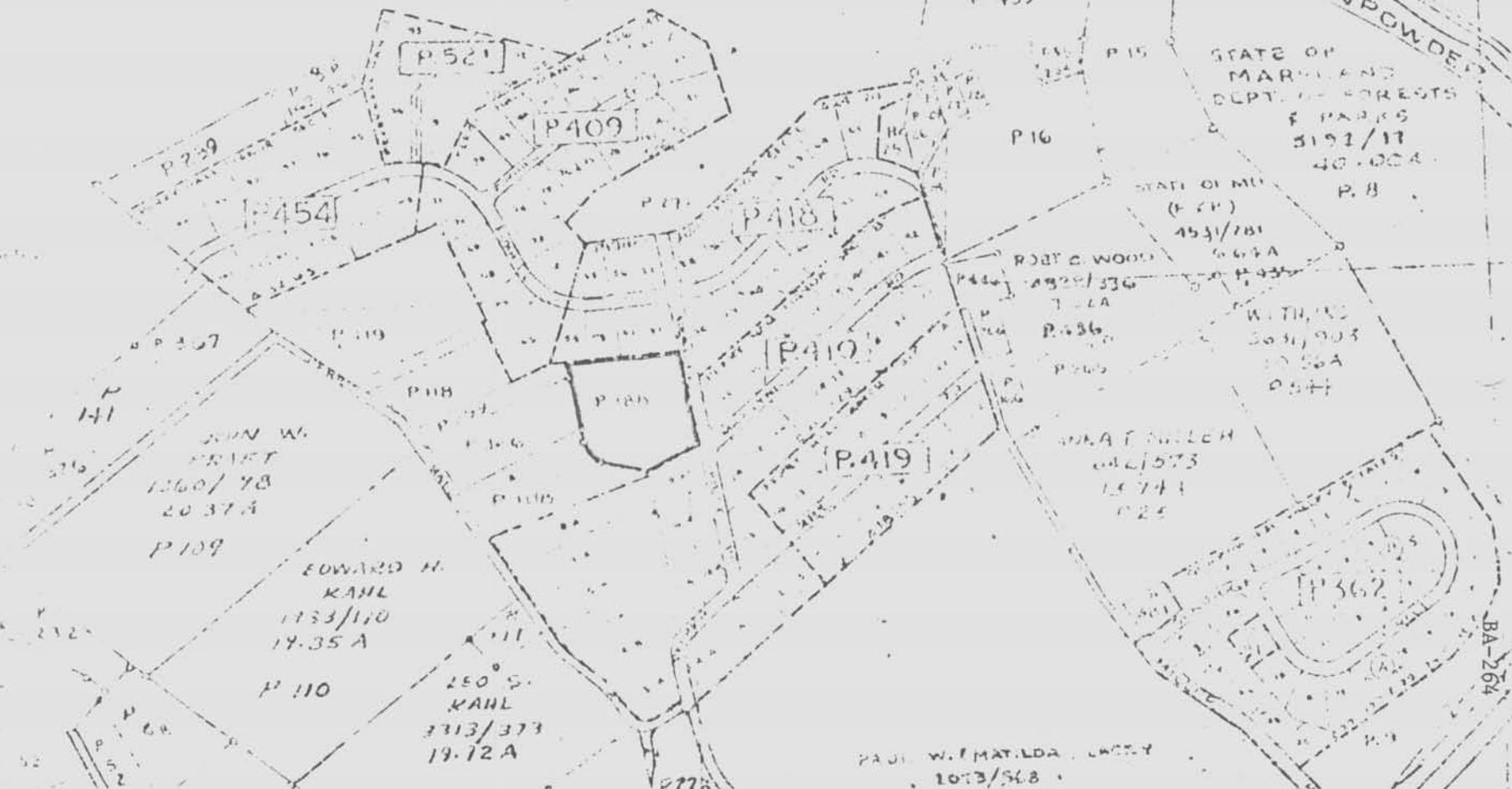
ROBT D WOOD
4820/336
7.24 A
P. 436
P. 435

WALTER
3031/903
10.56 A
P. 441

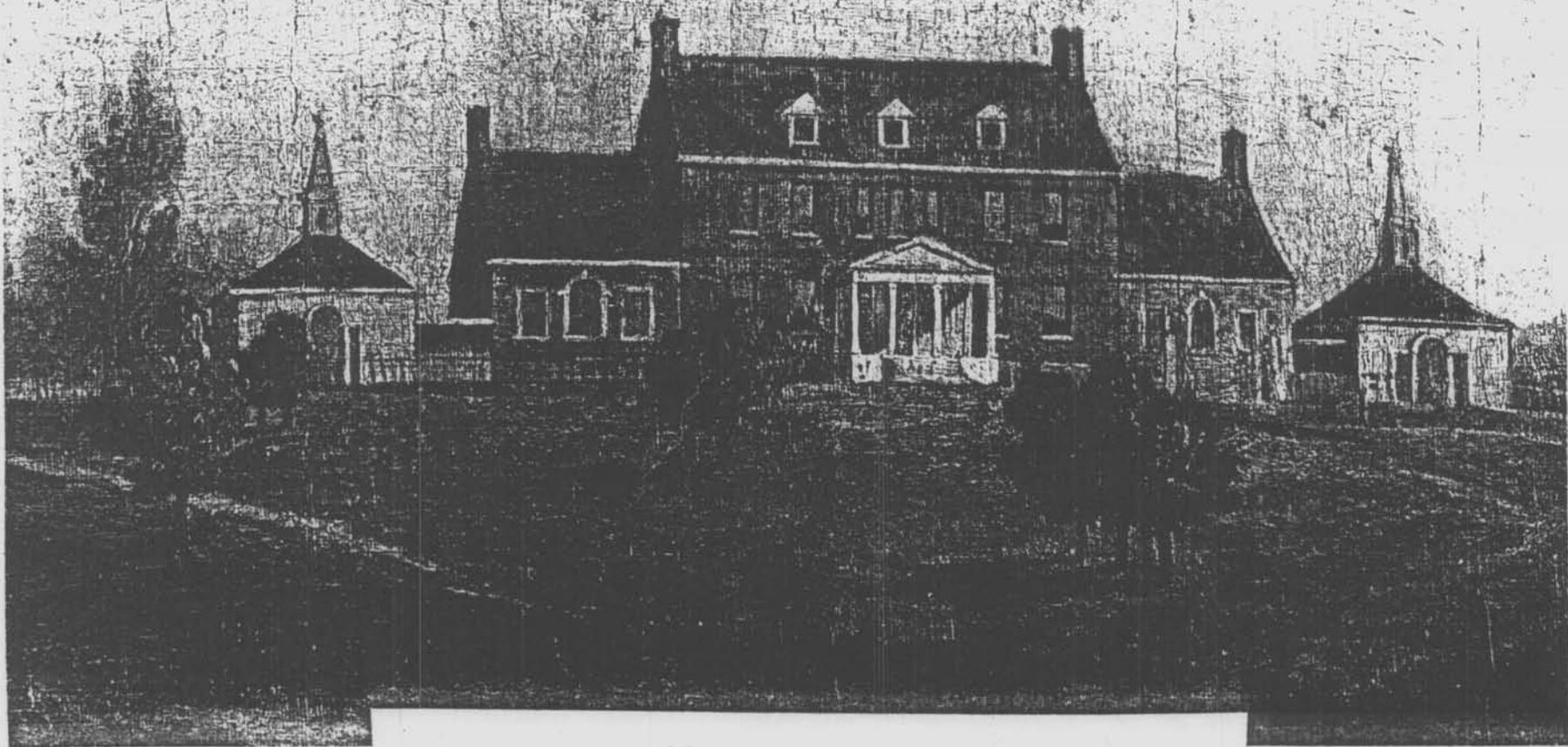
WALTER
0421/573
15.74 A
P. 442

P. 362

PAUL W. MATILDA, CLERK
1073/568



BA-264



Close-up of mansion from painting "Perry Hall" by
Francis Guy 1897-1898

XI-441-264 PERRY HALL

BA-264

10/78 copy of 8x10 B&W detail of Francis Gray's painting "Perry Hall"

SEAN COLLINSON COPY

Francis Gray