United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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received
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 Bare Hills House

and or common

2. Location

street & number 6222 Falls Road ___ not for publication

city, town Baltimore _X_ vicinity of congressional district Second

state Maryland code 24 county Baltimore code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	_X_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	_X_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_X_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert D. Cooke (Marie F.)

street & number 6222 Falls Road

city, town Baltimore ___ vicinity of state Maryland 21209

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue

city, town Towson state Maryland 21204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes ___ no

date 1979 ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

BA-881

Condition		Check one	Check one
_X_ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bare Hills house, with its steep gables and board-and-batten siding, is an example of Gothic Revival style of architecture popular in the mid-19th centuryin America. Set on a stone foundation, it is a frame dwelling of two stories with a full basement and an attic topped by an eight sided cupola. The house is three rooms deep with asymetrically placed side wings. Shutters frame the first floor windows. All of the second story windows save the one over the main entrance on the north elevation are shutterless. The steep roof is covered with asbestos shingles. The house is situated on the highest part of the property about 100 feet west of Falls Road, one mile north of the city line.

The main feature of the east elevation which faces Falls Road is a two story bay window, the upper bay containing six large-pane, double hung sash windows sheltered by a jerkinhead roof. The first floor bay is shielded by a high ceilinged porch which wraps around three sides of the house. Graceful columns on octagonal bases support the porch roof. This first floor bay and all the windows opening to the porch are french doors providing access to the porch from four separate interior rooms.

The only portion of the Bare Hills house visible from Falls Road is the southeast portion of the house. This segment displays the two salient features of the Bares Hills house; the jerkinhead roofed, two story bay and the cupola. The cupola is an eight sided, four windowed structure with a pointed tin roof, the eaves of which are embellished with decorative brackets. To the east of the cupola on the roof is a double barrell

brackets and the same slender columns as the larger porch. There is a three pane transom over the fifteen pane glass door. Above the window which tops this porch and framed by a cross gable is a quatrefoil opening, a vent for the attic.

The cupola towers over the southwest segment of the house. Another small chimney tops the western most roof. There is a chimney of the same style on the southern most roof over the south entrance. A new three pane casement bay window has replaced a first floor kitchen window on the south elevation.

The west side of the house is the most altered elevation. This side of the house, which is not visible from any thoroughfare, was in poor condition when the house was bought by the current owners in 1977. At that time it was completely covered with wisteria vines which had caused insect infestation, rotting, and separation of boards and windows. The vines, which were undoubtedly planted to give the desired picturesque look to this rural cottage, were removed. A small porch, similar to the one over the south entrance but minus the decorative elements, covered the west entrance. The porch was rotting and in very poor condition. It was replaced by a porch which covers the first floor west elevation from the west entrance to the laundry room (formerly the pantry). An existing outside entrance to the basement was incorporated into the floor of the new porch.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The new laundry room is at the northwest corner of the house. This room was originally a porch, inaccessible from inside the house, and a pantry. The wall of the house was removed and placed on the outside of the porch to create an interior room. Since the existing boards and battens removed from under the porch were reused on the new outside wall, this room is constructed of the same material as the rest of the house. Only a few rotted battens had to be replaced. The pantry was the only part of the house that was structurally unsound. Being on the north side of the house and covered with wisteria vines, it almost never got sunlight and had rotted considerably. The pantry was disassembled, the foundation rebuilt, and the space incorporated into the new laundry room.

The main entrance is on the north elevation. A small porch with a gable roof and Gothic arched ceiling covers the wide front door and transom. Supporting the gable are the same slender columns on octagonal bases. Above the shuttered second story window is another quatrefoil opening venting the attic. A gabled dormer frames the window above the now enclosed porch to the west of the entrance.

The northeast segment of the house shows the jerkinhead roof over the two story bay, the double barrell vaulted chimney, the top of the cupola, the wrap around porch, and the main entrance. Another gabled dormer frames the second story window on the east elevation.

The main entrance hall which is on the north elevation has a 39" wide paneled door. Original hardware has been kept on all doors throughout the house. Original oak flooring has been refinished. Plaster ceiling moldings in the entrance hall, living room, and family room have been saved and repaired. There are three plaster ceiling medallions in these rooms as well. The fireplace mantelpiece in the family room is composed of stark planes of painted wood. The wood mantelpiece in the current dining room is slightly more decorative having a nine inch mantelshelf supported by curved brackets. The face of the mantelpiece is decorated with grouted lines. The door and window moldings throughout the house remain unaltered.

To the south and east of the main hall is the living room with its attractive six windowed bay. The fireplace in this room had been altered some time in the past and is without the original mantelpiece.

There are two stairways to the second floor of the Bare Hills house.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The main stairway in the entrance hall had winders which abutted the window next to the main door. In the interest of safety, the winders were removed and a landing constructed below the window. The rear stairway in the kitchen was removed and a spiral staircase substituted.

The master bedroom on the east side of the second floor is graced with the same shape bay as in the living room below except that the upstairs windows are double hung sash windows and not french doors. The room is symmetrical with the steep pitch of the roof causing angled north and south walls. The bedroom above the entrance hall and north of the master bedroom has been claimed as closet space and a master bath so that the symmetry of the master bedroom could be spared. The hallway which runs east-west is on the north side of the house and also has deeply angled walls due to the pitch of the roof. The middle bedroom has a built-in wardrobe. The south bedroom has a brick chimney which travels up through the room from the dining room fireplace below. Once again, these rooms contain angled walls.

The west bedroom has been made into a library. It also contains a built-in wardrobe. This is the room where the spiral staircase comes through. It travels up through the library to the attic and replaced the narrow attic stair. The attic space has been claimed for a television antenna, an air-handling unit, and ductwork so that the bedroom ceilings could remain as unaltered as possible. There is a ladder from the attic to the cupola, a small room six feet in diameter by six feet ten inches high with a trap door in the center of the floor. Easily large enough for two people to stand in, this space seems rather large to be simply an exterior architectural embellishment. The cupola appears to have had some use as an interior space as well.

The stairs to the basement of the Bare Hills house were moved from the kitchen to under the front hall stairs. The basement walls are all quarried stone, most of which is serpentine which was mined nearby. There is an ashpit below the living room fireplace. Two small windows are in the room beneath the hall; one is in the room below the current dining room, and one is in the room below the kitchen. This room also has an entrance to the outside through the back porch floor.

On the northwest corner of the property is a stable and attached shed. Inventories of the original occupants show several carriages, a sleigh, a horse, and chickens. Judging from the inventories and the

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

similar architectural style, this structure appears to have been built about the same time as the house. The stable is a large two story structure with a gable roof, the south elevation having two second story windows and a large double door opening below. The shed is attached to the east elevation of the stable which has one second story dormered window. The shed has a shallow second story loft. There is a fully enclosed room with a raised floor in the eastern most section of the shed. The north elevation faces Walnut Avenue, a short dead end street. There is only one opening on this elevation, a door to the loft on the second floor. Two two ground floor windows on the west elevation are boarded up. The stable and shed have not been restored and are deteriorating rapidly. They need a great deal of work to be saved.

A poured concrete, double door garage with a vehicle repair pit and a storage loft is situated south of the stable and due west of the house. No construction date is known but it appears to be on the 1918 tax ledger. An asphalt shingled privy sits next to the northwest corner of the garage.

The entire property save the Falls Road exposure is fenced. A chain link fence runs from Falls Road following Walnut Avenue to the shed. From the stable to the southwest corner and onto the southeast corner until it reaches Falls Road is a deteriorating wood picket fence. At one time the Bare Hills house was landscaped befitting a Picturesque Rural Gothic residence. A huge beech tree and a highly picturesque larch still adorn the east yard above Falls Road. Many large evergreens and maples surround the house. Huge azaleas and rhododendrons skirt the wrap around porch. The once destructive wisteria has been trained off of the house to form an arch over the driveway. The rear yard with stately cedar and arborvita mixed with flowering crab apple trees is attractive the year round. Although a few large trees and shrubs have been lost to recent hard winters, neglect and age, the Picturesque landscaping of the Bare Hills house is still highly evident.

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics government	X other (specify) local history
		___ invention		

Specific dates c.1857 **Builder Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

Bare Hills is a circa 1857 frame Gothic Revival influenced house that is significant as an excellent example of both the Gothic Revival style and mid-19th century domestic architecture in Maryland. It also is significant in local history as the residence of three prominent citizens of Baltimore County: Horatio Gates Jameson, a physician for whom the house was erected; Thomas Buchanan Steele, also a doctor; and John Wright, a member of the family which owned the Rockland Bleach and Dye Works located a short distance to the north on Falls Road.

HISTORY

Bare Hills was erected as the residence of Horatio Gates Jameson, Jr., a doctor, who purchased the property in August 1856. Jameson, who is said to be the first physician in the area to use a buggy for making his rounds, was a native of Baltimore and a graduate of Ohio Medical College.

In 1865 following Mrs. Jameson's death, the house was sold to Dr. Thomas Buchanan Steele who served as an assistant surgeon in the Navy during the Mexican War aboard the ships "Germantown", "Saratoga", and "Vesuvius", and accompanied the Perry expedition to "open" Japan in 1854. Steele sold the property in 1866 and it was sold again in 1867, this time to Vice Admiral David Dixon Porter, of Civil War fame. It is believed that Porter did not live at Bare Hills but purchased it for his mother who resided here with another son.

The house was purchased in 1875 by John Wright who was associated with the local firm of Rockland Bleach and Dye Works. Wright's widow continued to live in the house until 1901. The present owners, who restored the house, acquired Bare Hills in 1977.

Bare Hills utilizes several features which are characteristic of frame Gothic Revival houses: board-and-batten siding, complex roof forms, extensive porches, bracketed eaves, and a cupola. The house shows a striking resemblence in style and plan to "A Gate Lodge in the English Style" illustrated in A.J. Downing's 1850 The Architecture of Country Houses. Though smaller in size and proposed in masonry, the floor plan, positioning of doors, windows, and stairs, and the exterior design of the Downing house is similar to that of Bare Hills and may have been the inspiration for its design.

The house is illustrated in A Guide to Baltimore Architecture (p.199) as "a prime example of the 'stick' or 'rural Gothic' style popular in

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

America in the mid-19th century." It also has been featured in the "Home" section of the Baltimore News American (January 28, 1979) and the Baltimore Magazine (September 1978, p. 65).

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Land, Tax and Will Records, Towson, Maryland.

Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission Form.

Dorsey, John; Dilts, James D. A Guide to Baltimore Architecture. Tide Water Publishers, Cambridge, Maryland, 1973.

Todd, William J.M.D. Medical Fathers of Mt. Washington, Maryland. Maryland Journal, August 3, 1901.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.1 acres

Quadrangle name Cockeysville Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded on east by Falls Road for 330 feet; on the north by Walnut Avenue for 214.5 feet; thence, S 40° West for a distance of 214.5 feet; thence, N 40° East for a distance of 280.5 feet to the point of beginning.

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 Mrs. Marie F. Cooke

organization date January 28, 1980

street & number 6222 Falls Road telephone (301) 296-2027

city or town Baltimore state Maryland 21209

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

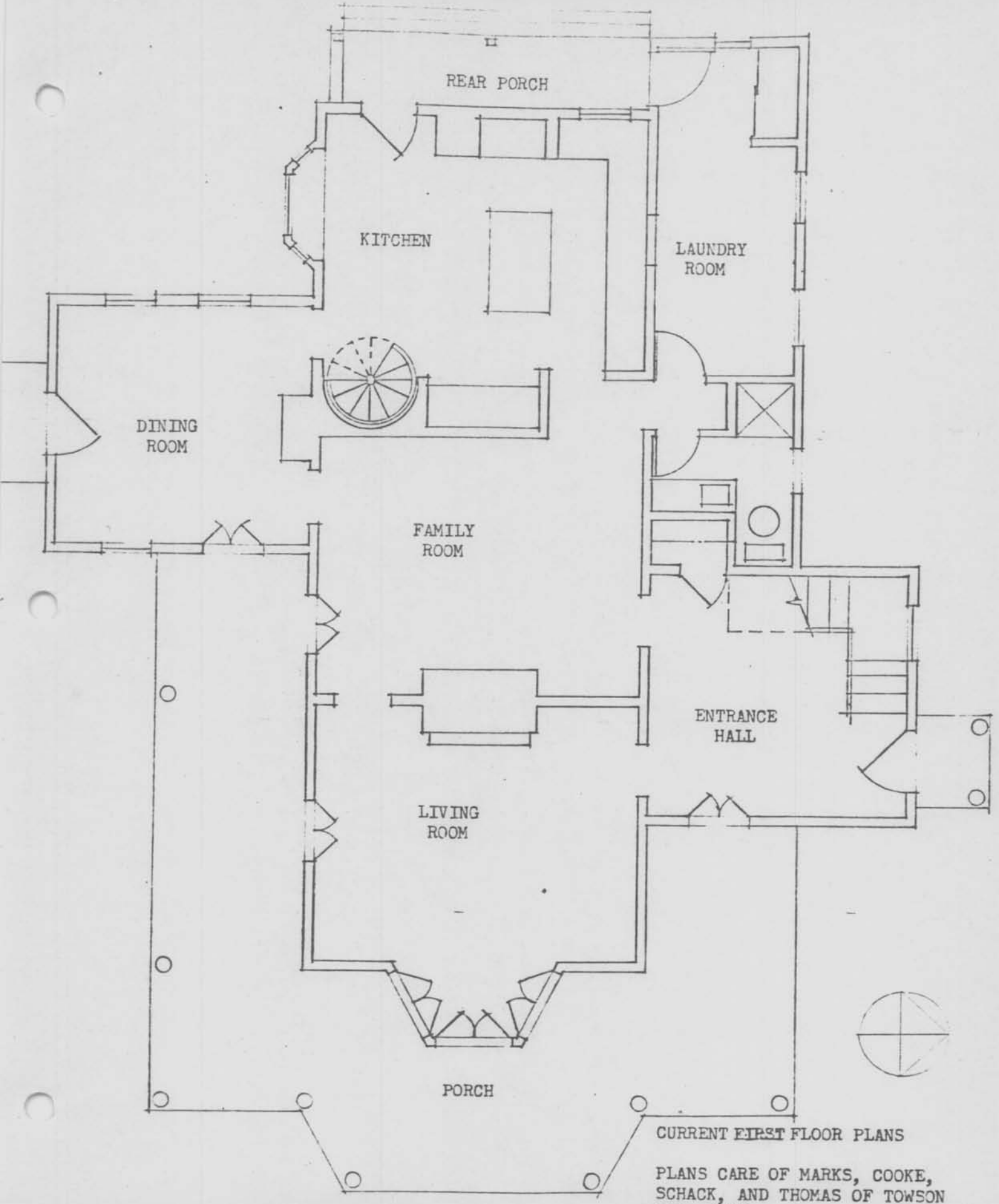
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

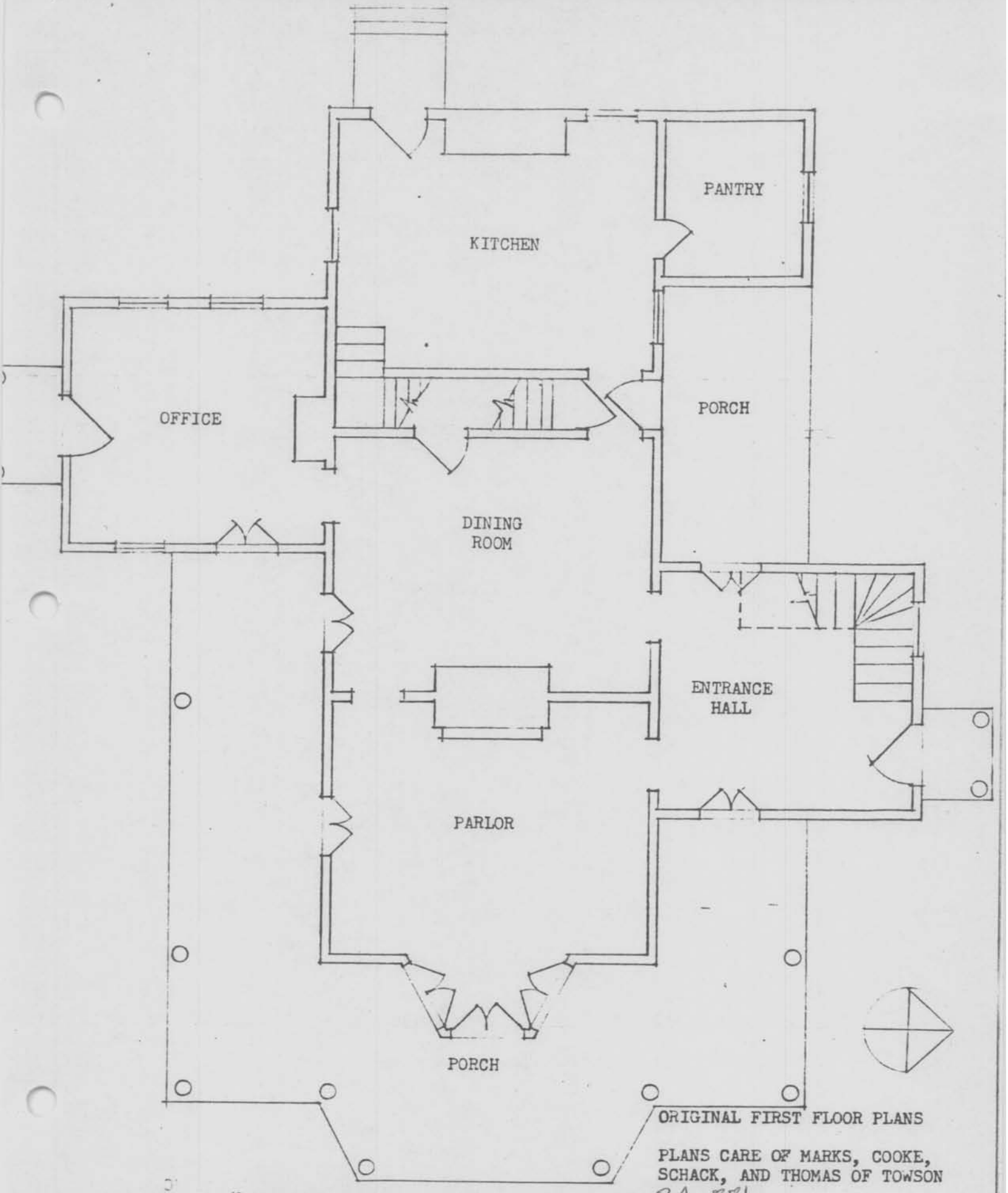
Chief of Registration



CURRENT FIRST FLOOR PLANS

PLANS CARE OF MARKS, COOKE, SCHACK, AND THOMAS OF TOWSON

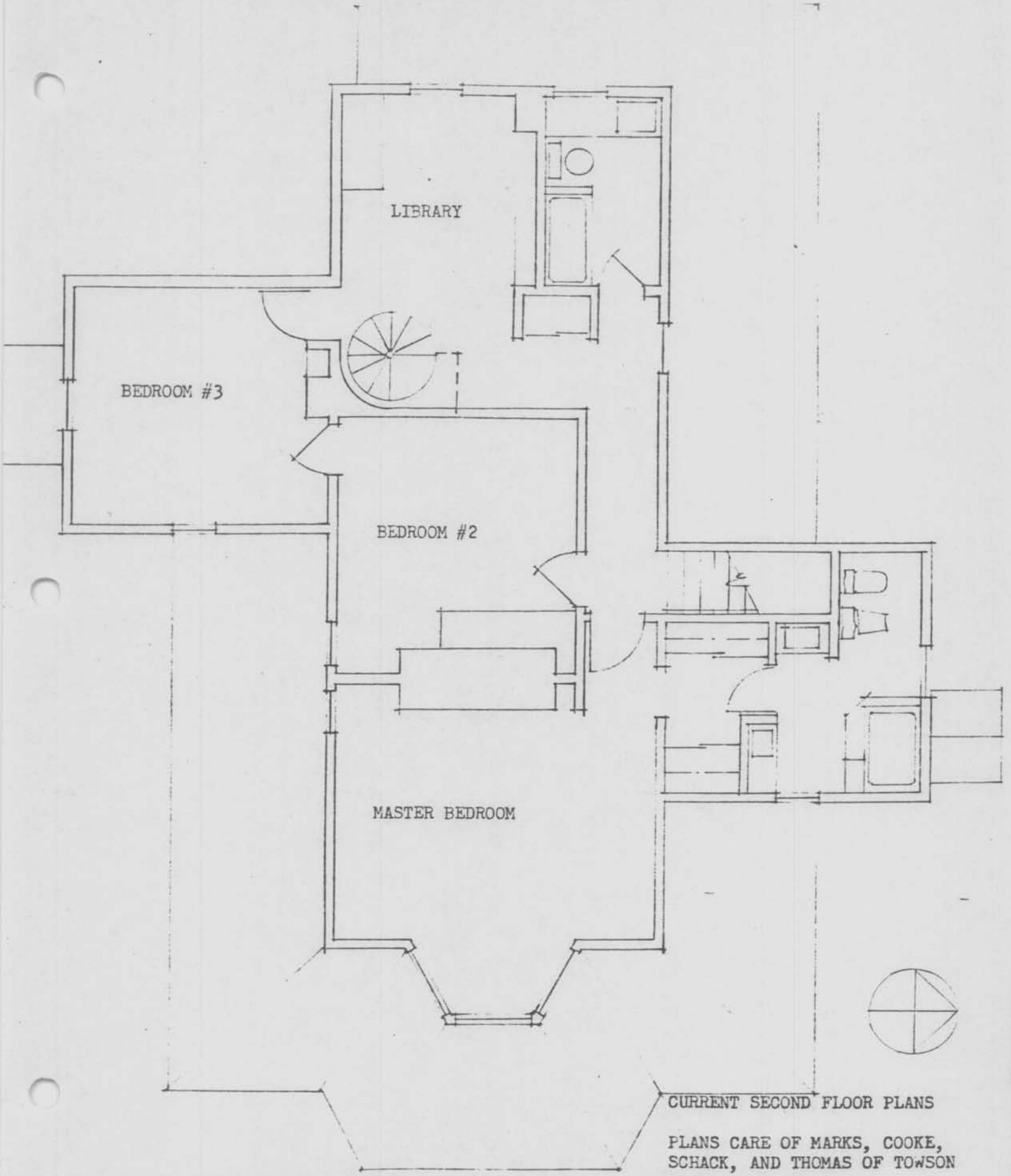
BA-881



ORIGINAL FIRST FLOOR PLANS

PLANS CARE OF MARKS, COOKE, SCHACK, AND THOMAS OF TOWSON

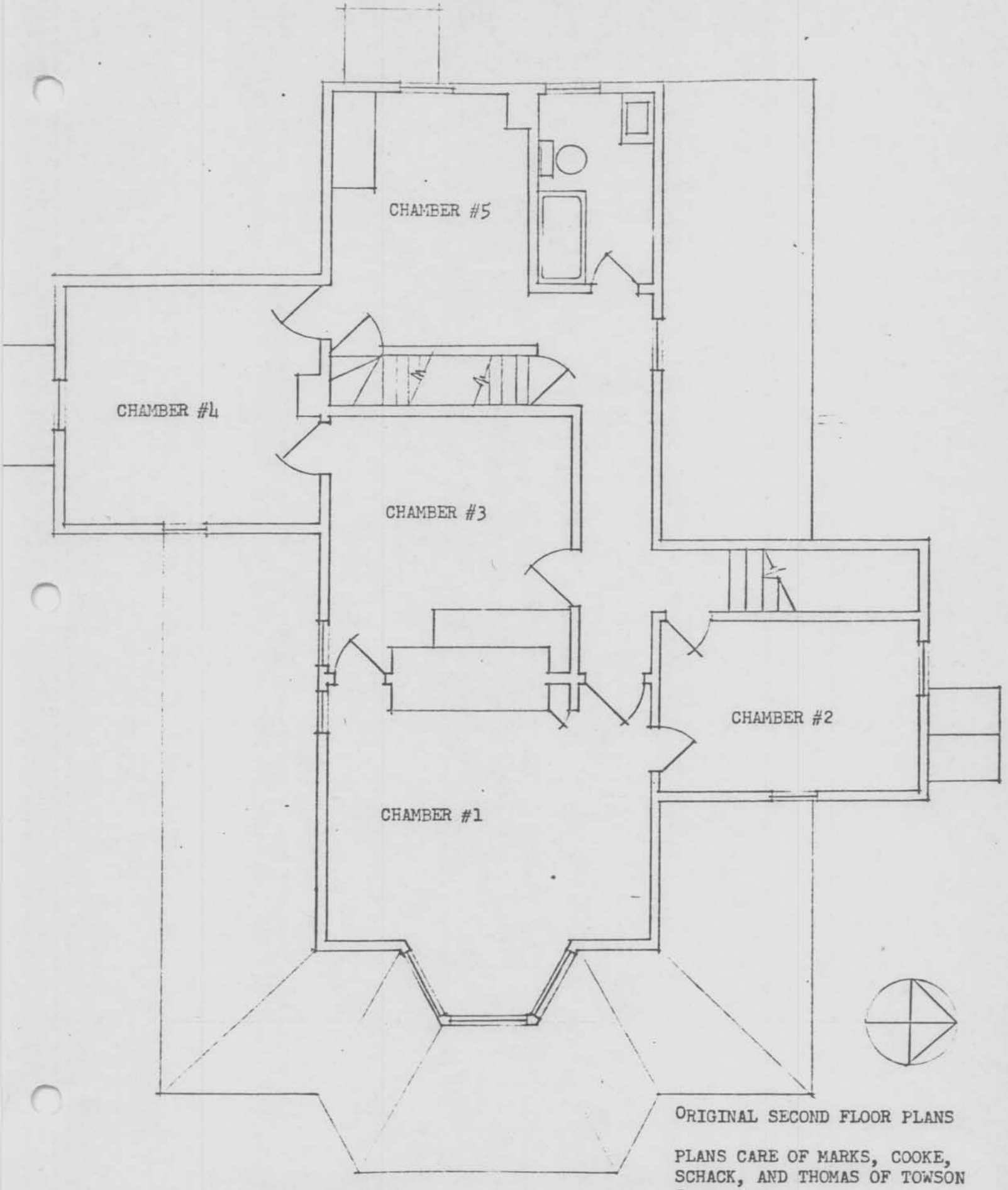
BA-881



CURRENT SECOND FLOOR PLANS

PLANS CARE OF MARKS, COOKE, SCHACK, AND THOMAS OF TOWSON

BA-881



ORIGINAL SECOND FLOOR PLANS

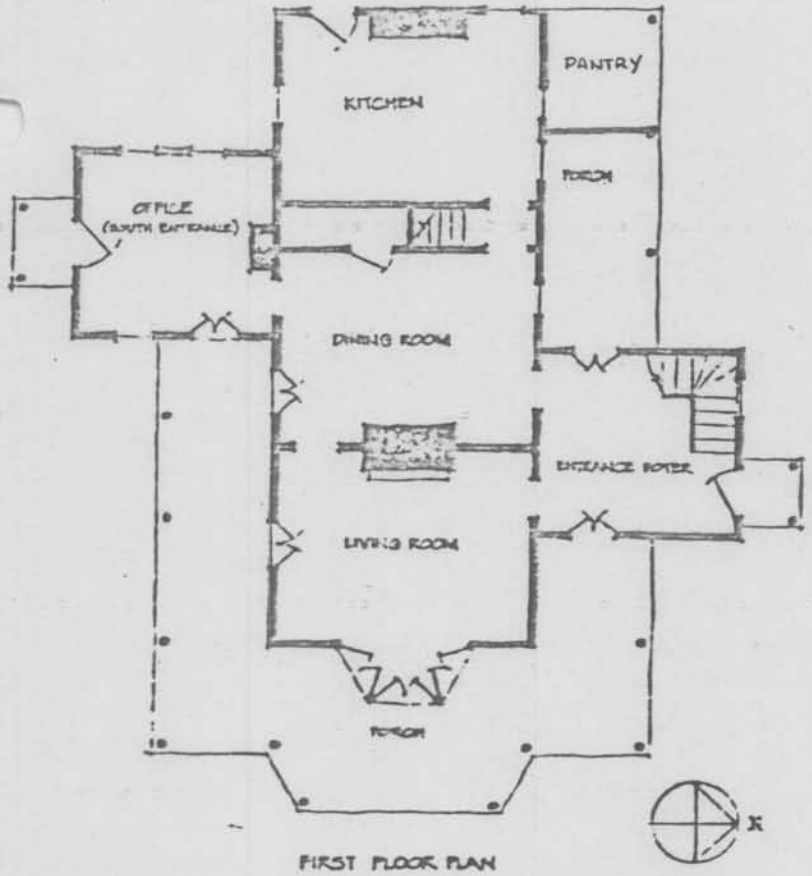
PLANS CARE OF MARKS, COOKE, SCHACK, AND THOMAS OF TOWSON

BA-881

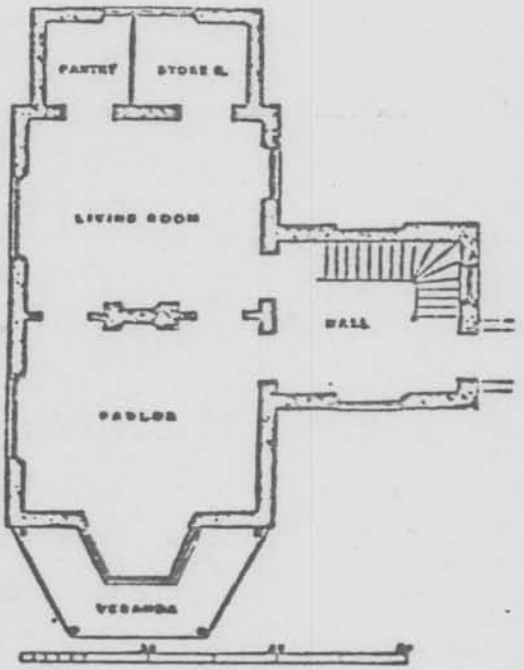
DESIGN V.

A GATE LODGE.

BARE HILLS HOUSE



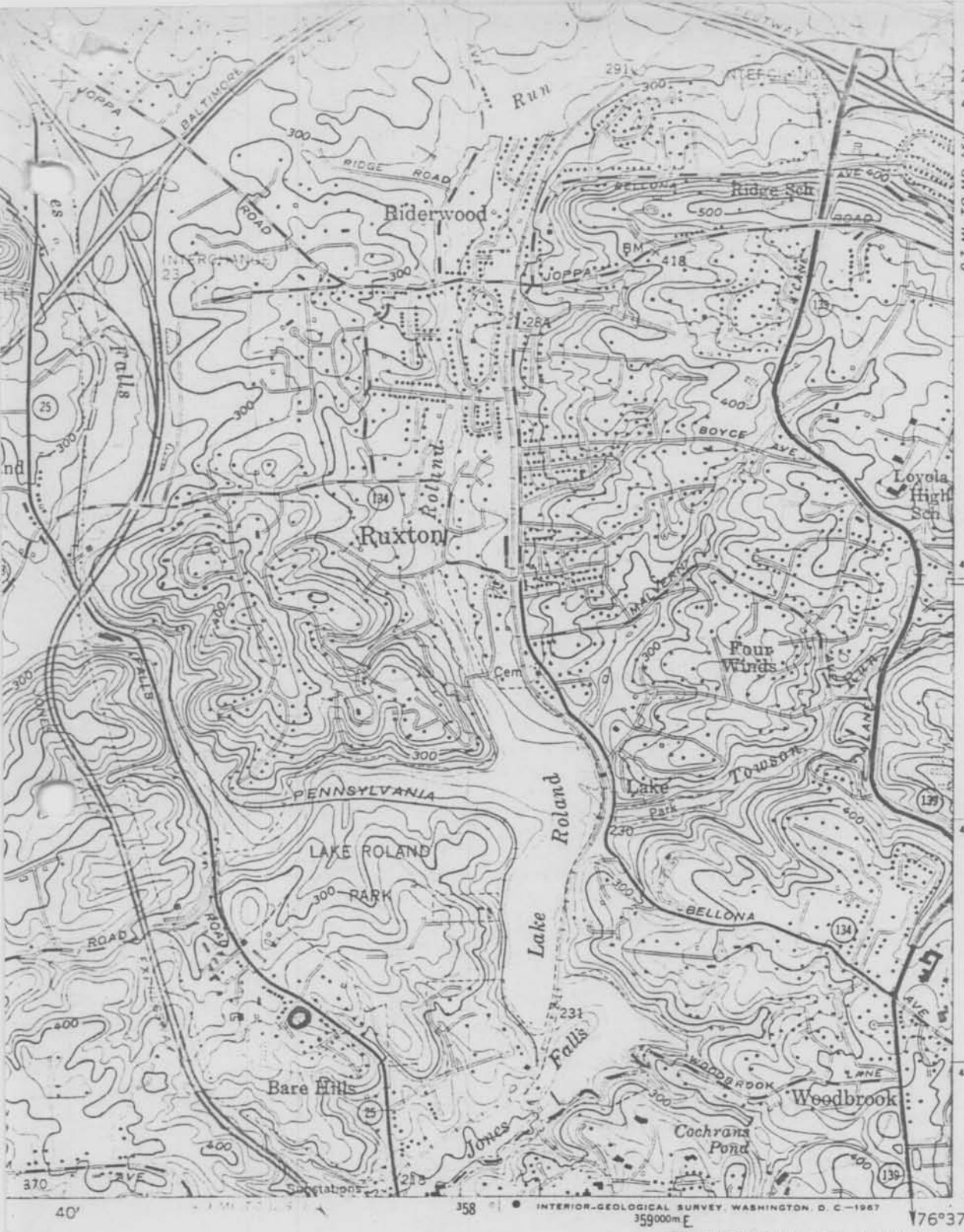
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



PRINCIPAL FLOOR
Fig 96.

DOWNING PLANS FROM PAGE 101 OF
THE ARCHITECTURE OF COUNTRY HOUSES.
WATKINS GLEN, N.Y., 1968.

BA-881



BA-881
Bare Hills House
Ba. Co.

1 MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty — Light-duty

Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt

Interstate Route — U. S. Route — State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

COCKEYSVILLE, MD.

NW/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE

N3922.5—W7637.5/7.5

1957

AMS 5662 I NW—SERIES V833

BARE HILLS HOUSE

BALTIMORE COUNTY

MARIE COOKE

DECEMBER, 1979

NORTH EAST

BA-821

9

3

BARE HILLS HOUSE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
MARIE COOKE
DECEMBER 1979
SOUTH ELEVATION

BA-881.

BARE HILLS HOUSE

BALTIMORE COUNTY

MARIE COOKE

DECEMBER 1979

SOUTH WEST

BA-281

4

BARE HILLS HOUSE

BALTIMORE COUNTY

MARIE COOKE

DECEMBER, 1979

NORTH WEST

BA-28(8

BARE HILLS HOUSE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
MARIE COOKE
DECEMBER 1979
EAST ELEVATION

BA-881

1

BARE HILLS HOUSE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
MARIE COOKE
DECEMBER, 1979
WEST ELEVATION

BA-881

7

BARE HILLS HOUSE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
MARIE COOKE
DECEMBER, 1979
NORTH EAST

BA-281

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BARE HILLS HOUSE

BA-881

Bare Hills House
Baltimore County, Maryland
December 1979
photo: Mrs. Marie Cooke
ng loc: Mrs. Marie Cooke
6222 Falls Road, Baltimore, Md. 21209
stable and shed, SE elevation

SE view

12

BARE HILLS HOUSE

BALTO COUNTY

MARIE COOKE

DECEMBER 1979

SOUTH ENTRANCE PORCH DETAIL

BA-381

5