

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For NCRS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Pleasant Hills

and or common

2. Location

street & number 7001 Croom Station Road not for publication

city, town Upper Marlboro vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Maryland code 24 county Prince George's code 033

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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<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 Joint Tenants--Mrs. Wm. Sasscer Hill and
Lynda Sasscer Hill (Filippelli)

street & number 7001 Croom Station Road

city, town Upper Marlboro vicinity of state Maryland 20870

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20870

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

FG:826-2

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

Pleasant Hills is located near the southeast corner of the intersection of U.S. 301 and Croom Station Road, on part of the land tract patented in 1671 as Four Hills. It is a large brick two part house, situated on a hill which provides a view of the fields to the north, south, east and west. The grounds are terraced on the north and east sides and several very old American and English boxes remain. The two story high house has a gable roof with the major axis of both sections running east-west. The brick walls are laid in American bond.

The east or main part of the Neo-Classical influenced house is three bays wide with the main entrance in the first bay. This entrance is a single six square over two rectangular panel door flanked on each side by five rectangular sidelights supported by wood muntins and rectangular paneled molding. These are further flanked by pilasters supporting a architrave. Beneath the door is a stone step. The east part of the house is fronted by a circa 1900 one story porch three bays wide and supported by six doric pillars. Two interior chimneys are located near the ridge at the west gable end. The north and south slopes of the gable roof each have two dormers. Each dormer has a six-over-six light window with an elliptically arched upper sash. Windows are flanked by fluted pilasters supporting plain molded entablature. Throughout the entire house the first floor has nine-over-six light windows while the second floor has six-over-six light windows.

On the exposed section of the west wall of the east part of the house is an outline or "ghost" of a gable visible on the brick surface which ties in with the family legend that there was a previous structure on the site which burnt to the ground. The brick courses do not match at the juncture of the wing and the main house suggesting the two sections were built at different times.

The west part of the house is four bays wide and two stories high. There is one centered interior chimney at the west end-wall and another at the ridge between the second and third bays. The first and second bays of the wing are set back from the front line of the east part of the house by 17 feet, 8 inches. The third and fourth bays are also recessed but by 37 inches less than the first and second bays. There is a door set in the first bay of the wing section with a four light transom. The first and second bays sit beneath a roof with its major axis running east-west. The third and fourth bays sit beneath a roof with its major axis running north-south.

The west end wall is a solid wall with no bays. This is the kitchen end. The south or rear side of the house is seven bays wide with doors set in bays two, four, and seven. The doors in bays two and four each have four light transoms. A one story porch runs across the first four bays.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Pleasant Hills
Prince George's County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The east wall contains only one bay with a trap door entrance to the basement at ground level. The west or wing section of the house does not have a basement.

The large wood front door opens into the wide entrance hall of the house. A staircase is to the east and two simulated wood grain doors leading to the adjoining parlors are to the west. A tall window immediately precedes the foot of the staircase and another large paneled wood door leads to the outside of the south end of the hall. The basement is accessed through a door beneath the staircase. The walls and ceilings are plaster. The floors are pine. Baseboard with reverse ogee cap molding continues to the upper floors and throughout the first floor of the main house. The paneled wood stair encasement supports the steps, each of which rides a greek wave.

The first west door opens into the north parlor of the house. A large fireplace with a carved wood neoclassical mantel is on its west wall. Two tall nine over six windows are on the north wall. Two massive paneled wood doors are on the south wall. These are simulated-wood grain and lead to the adjoining south parlor. Picture molding circles the room as well as baseboard molding which continues from the entrance hall. Modified neoclassical molding outlines the doors and windows as in the entrance hall. Vertical bead molding outlines the fireplace from floor to ceiling.

The two massive doors open into an identical south parlor also accessible through the second west door of the entrance hall. A door on the west wall of this parlor leads two steps down into the dining room and wing section of the house.

The dining room has a fireplace with a carved wood neoclassical mantel on the west wall between the door to the kitchen and a door to a staircase leading to the second floor. A nine over six window and a paneled wood door with transom light are on both the north and south walls.

The kitchen with a large cooking fireplace on its west wall, has a nine over six window and a paneled wood door with transom light on its south wall. This door opens to the back porch. Two nine over six windows are on the north wall. Wainscoting circles the room and a stair encasement is visible on the east wall of the kitchen.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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Pleasant Hills
Prince George's County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

A narrow wood paneled stair case with well-worn steps leads from the dining room to a north landing on the second floor. A six-over-six window looks over the north front lawn. A bathroom is west of the landing. A small bedroom is to the south and a third room is east of the landing. A small bedroom is to the south and a third room is east of the landing. The bedroom has a fireplace with a plain wooden mantel on its west wall and two six-over-six windows on the south wall. The room east of the landing has two six-over-six windows on both the south and north walls. A fireplace with a carved wood neoclassical mantel is on the west wall. What may be an original closet is adjacent to the fireplace on the west wall. Box molding covers a cross beam which runs the west length of the ceiling. Bead molding outlines the fireplace from baseboard to ceiling as found on the first floor. Three steps on the east wall lead up to a bedroom and back into the main house.

The bedroom has two six-over-six windows on the south wall, a fireplace with a carved wood neoclassical mantel on the west wall and a door centered in the north wall that connects with an identical north bedroom. A door on the east wall opens to the second floor landing of the main staircase.

This landing is large with a six-over-six window on the east wall providing a view of the east garden. The north and south bedrooms are west of the landing with a bathroom to the north. Stairs leading to the third floor are to the south.

A south dormer window overlooks the last flight of stairs to the third floor. This window, along with a transitional six-over-six window between the second and third flights of stairs, provides a flood of light in the stairwell. One can see the first floor from the third floor by peering over the continuous mahogany bannister which leads from the first to the third floor landing.

Remains of a terraced garden are east of the house, a chicken coop and smokehouse are south, two tenant houses, a grainery and a corn crib are west of the house and a terraced front yard is to the north.

A planned garden is evidenced by three terraces, which extend approximately 150 feet east of the house and 250 feet north and south

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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Pleasant Hills
Prince George's County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

of the house, and large old English and American boxes. Some rosebushes and a profusion of jonquils remain among the overgrowth of trees. Graves of Mr. and Mrs. William Sasscer and Mr. and Mrs. Zadock Sasscer are located at the south end of the garden.

The chicken coop, built probably about 1900, has a four sided hipped roof, a north and south door and a window on the east and west.

The smokehouse, believed to be constructed in the mid 19th century, is a square frame building with a gable roof and is perhaps the oldest of the outbuildings as evidenced by the irregular-width chamfered siding and old brick supports across which the hewn foundation timbers rest.

The grainery, probably late 19th century in date, is a large rectangular building with a gable roof. Its interior is partitioned. The floor rests on uncut timbers which run the length of the building. A pair of hinged doors is located in the center of the east and west side of the grainery.

The two tenant houses are two and a half story frame structures with gable roofs and interior chimneys. These houses, both constructed in the late 19th century were devoid of decorative detailing.

The stable is a circa 1954 stuccoed masonry structure, one and a half stories, and is non-contributing to the character of the property.

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION

This acreage is the minimum acreage necessary to maintain appropriate setting for the house and to shelter it from future development of the bordering properties which once were a part of this property.

8. Significance

PG: 82A-2

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 type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates Circa 1810 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE
 Pleasant Hills is architecturally and historically significant as it is a fine example of an affluent planter's house of the early 19th century as well as the residence of the Sasscers and Hills families which played an active role in the economic and professional development of Prince George's County for five generations. Built of brick with the Neo-Classical decorative detailing, the house was erected about 1810 for William I. Sasscer whose descendants still own the property.

HISTORY

One of the earliest mentions of the property where Pleasant Hills stands is a 1784 deed, where William Beanes deeded the land, then called Four Hills, to Colmore Beanes. In 1807, when William Sasscer bought part of the tract, Four Hills, from Colmore Beanes, no specific mention was made of a house. However, in his 1820 will, William called this place his "dwelling plantation", when he gave it to his son, Zadock. By comparing the contents of an 1821 inventory with that of his son's, dated 1859, it appears that during that 38 year interval the size of the house nearly doubled.

Under William's and later Zadock's direction the plantation prospered as evidenced by the increase in slaves between the 1821 and 1859 inventories. By 1859 the number of slaves had increased from 22 to 34 and the inventory listed a total of eight tobacco houses. In addition to his inheritance of the "dwelling plantation", Zadock acquired many adjoining acres. Zadock was the owner of a nearby gristmill and participated in many civic and church activities. His descendants include many persons who have continued to prominently serve Prince George's County. William Henry Sasscer Hill, Sr., Zadock's grandson, served as the cashier for the First National Bank of Southern Maryland. William's five daughters were active in the town and often referred to as "pillars" of the Episcopal Church community. A less direct, but more sidely known descendant of William and Zadock Sasscer was U.S. Congressman Ghiselin Lansdale Sasscer.

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Pleasant Hills
Prince George's County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 4

(MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES)

Prince George's County Land and Will Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Bowie, Effie Gwynn, Across the Years in Prince George's County, Richmond, Virginia: n.p., 1947, pp.144, 454, 455.

Prince George's County Census Records.

Prince George's County Maps and Atlases.

9. Major Bibliographical References

PG: 82A-2

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 10 acres

Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Pleasant Hills is located near the southeast corner of the intersection of U.S. Route 301 and Croom Station Road in Upper Marlbor, P.G. County, Maryland. Boundaries are shown on attached Prince Georges County Tax Map No. P.349.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries Drawn to scale of 1"=400'

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynda Sasscer Hill (Filippelli)

organization Pleasant Hills

date March 1980
(301) 293-3422 (office)

street & number 7001 Croom Station Road

telephone (301) 627-1870 (home)

city or town Upper Marlboro

state Maryland 20870

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

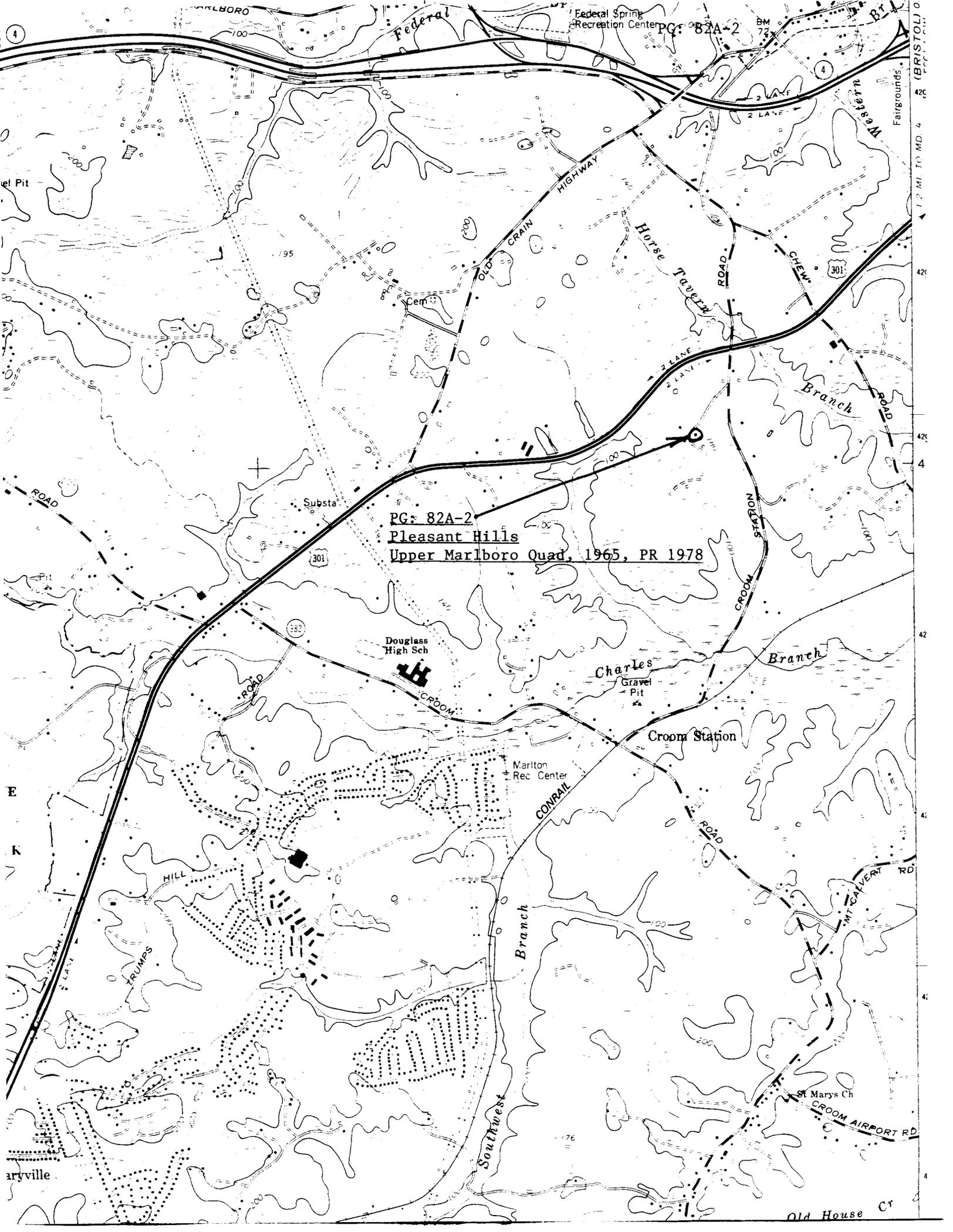
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



PG: 82A-2
Pleasant Hills
Upper Marlboro Quad, 1965, PR 1978

Federal Spring
Recreation Center PG: 82A-2

Douglass
High Sch

Charles
Gravel
Pit

Croom Station

Marlton
Rec Center

St Marys Ch

Old House Cr

1.2 MI TO MD 4
42
42
42
42
42

E
K

aryville



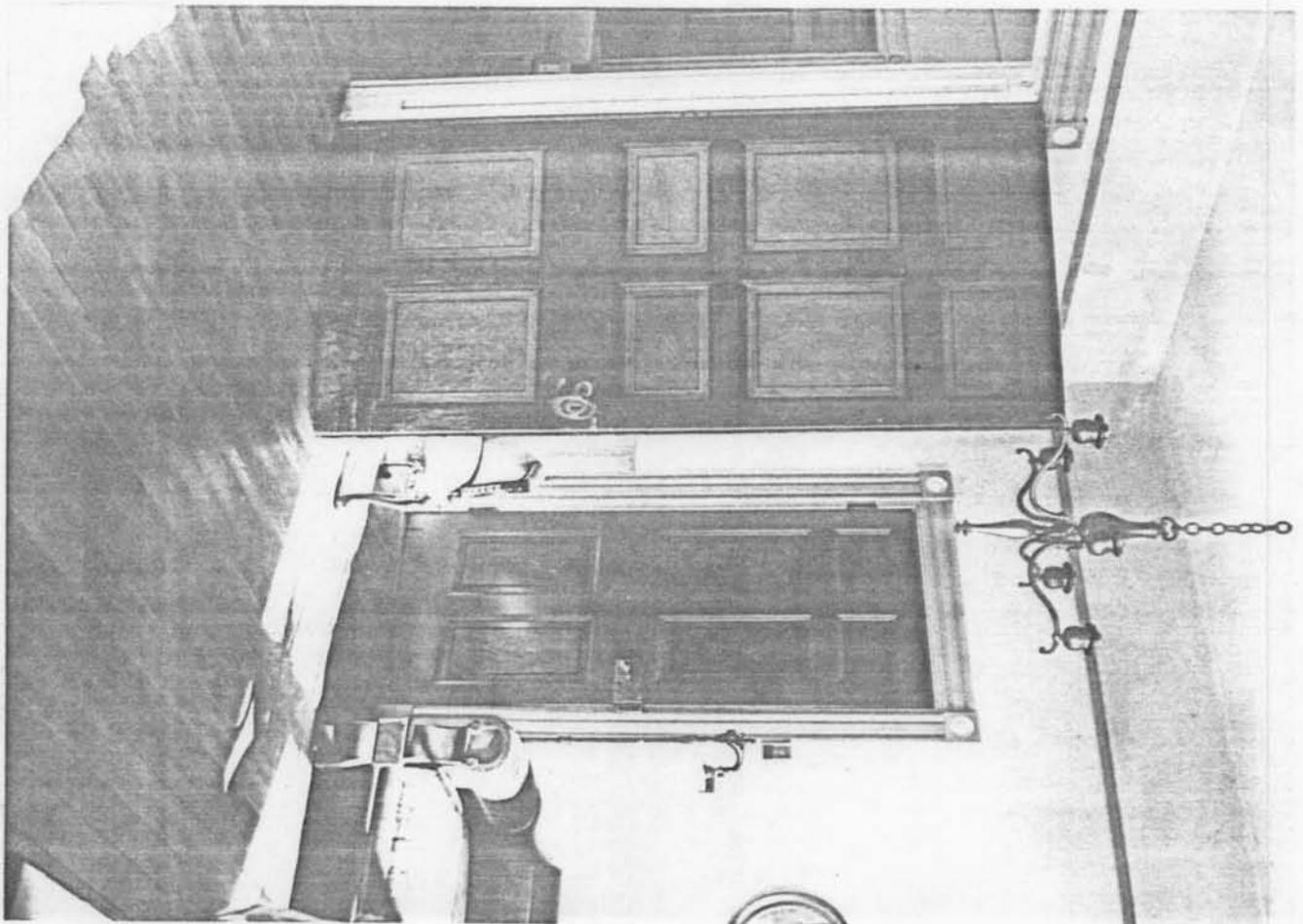
NOTE - Figures on Roads are distances in Rods from junction to junction.



PG: 82A-2

PLEASANT HILLS
 7001 Croom Station Rd
 Upper Marlboro
 Prince Georges Co.

upper Marlboro Quad





NAME PLEASANT HILLS
LOCATION CROOM STA. Rd + Rt. 301 UPPER MARLBORO, Md PG: 82A-2
FACADE N
PHOTO TAKEN 9/19/74 M. DWYER



NAME PLEASANT HILLS

LOCATION RTE. 301 + CROOM STATION RD, UPPER MARLBORO, MD.

FACADE S (REAR)

PHOTO TAKEN 9/19/72

M. DWYER



1. Pleasant Hills. 2. 7001 Croom Station Rd., Upper Marlboro, Prince Georges County, Maryland. 3. Photographer unknown. 4. Date of photograph believed to be late 1890s. 5. No known negative. 6. View of north facade of house without porch. From left to right: Marie B. Hill, Amelia Hollyday Hill, Margaret J. Hill, Carrie Chew, Fredericka D. Hill, "Pat" (Amelia) Hollyday, May S. Hill, Mrs. William I. Hill (Henrietta Sasscer), Carrie Hill Marshal.

PG 82A-2