UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Prospect Hall (Hill)

AND/OR COMMON: Prospect Hall School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Route 4, Butterfly Lane — __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Frederick — X VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth

STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24 — COUNTY: Frederick — CODE: 021

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	X EDUCATIONAL	__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 (also see Continuation Sheet #1).

NAME: Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore, c/o Father Echle, St. John's Church, 116 E. 2nd Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701

STREET & NUMBER: 320 Cathedral Street

CITY, TOWN: Baltimore — __ VICINITY OF — STATE: Maryland 21201

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Frederick County County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Frederick — STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE:

DATE: __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

CITY, TOWN: — STATE:

(OWNER OF PROPERTY, continued)

LESSEE OF PROSPECT HALL: Mr. Caleb Ewing
Chairman, Board of Directors
Dr. Cynthia John
Principal
Prospect Hall School
Route 4, Butterfly Lane
Frederick, Maryland 21701

7 DESCRIPTION

F-3-61

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

Prospect Hall is located on the north side of Butterfly Lane, just southwest of Frederick in Frederick County, Maryland. It is situated on a hill top and faces south. Once a privately owned mansion, Prospect Hall has since the 1950's been a college preparatory school for boys and girls. The house has a 2½-story, seven-bay brick central block with added dependencies attached at each end. Extending from the front of the house is an imposing 2½-story pedimented portico supported by concrete-coated, round, brick columns with Roman Ionic capitals.

The high foundations which appear to have had a molded watertable are coated with concrete. Above them, the brick walls display all header bonding at the front or south elevation and Flemish bond at the north elevation which, although it is the back of the house, is also a principal facade. The west end wall is also laid in Flemish bond building has been painted white. High flat arches of brick are present above the windows. A brick belt course extends along the south and north walls between the first and second stories. Both end elevations of the house have a projecting area running vertically the height of the wall. This portion of the wall juts about one foot from the principal surfaces of the end walls.

Windows in the main section have nine-over-nine light sash held by narrow molded frames. At the front elevation pairs of louvered shutters remain. They do not, however, appear to be original. At the attic level, windows have six-over-six pane sash. Half windows with new casements are located in the foundations to light the cellar.

The front and rear entrances are elaborate, including a broad eliptical fanlight above the doors and flanking sidelights. The fanlights have curved and ray muntins. Curved and straight muntins are combined on the sidelights. Double doors each are hung with wrought strap hinges. Large cast box locks are used. While the front entrance is framed by the large portico, the rear entrance has a smaller one-bay, shed-roofed porch. Neither porch is original and both would appear to date from the turn of the century period.

The house has inside end brick chimneys, although the chimney walls do project slightly from the end of the building. The roof is sheathed with slate, but evidence in the attic indicates that an earlier wood shingle roof existed at one time.

The eaves trim on the house is elaborate and consists of a series of modillions on the frieze above which is a course of dentils. Decorative carvings and moldings trim the cornice. The eaves woodwork is consistent on the house, the added west wing, and the turn of the century period portico.

The west wing is a two-story structure with roof ridge perpendicular to that of the main house. With its gable ends facing north and south, this addition has an all header front with Flemish bond at the other elevations. Windows have six-over-six or four-over-four light sash. A decorative corbeled brick arch trims the front wall above the windows. The gables have deep molded returns. The eaves woodwork already has been described. To this circa 1900 addition is added a modern 1½-story brick extension on the rear of the building.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

(DESCRIPTION,continued)

The east wing of the building was added about 1957. It is of modern brick construction and replaces a one-story porch which extended across the entire east end wall. The porch was topped with a balustrade which has been reproduced along the top of the flat-roofed addition.

INTERIOR

The interior of Prospect Hall is divided into four rooms, all reached by a large central hallway. The formal entrance hall runs the width of the house and includes about one third of the interior space at the main story level. At each end of the hall is a formal entrance with eliptical fanlight and decorated sidelights. Centrally placed in the ceiling is a large, round, molded medallion. Similar moldings form a cornice around the room. Door architraves have symmetrical molding with decorated corner blocks. The corner blocks are made up of four sections of straight molding mitered into a square. This type of trim is used throughout the main section of the house, although slight variations in manufacture indicate different periods of work. The large hall now serves as a library for Prospect Hall School. Other rooms at the first story have been adapted as classrooms.

The southwest room at the first story level was presumably a dining room. Embellishing the ceiling is an ornate medallion encrusted with repeated patterns of fruits and vegetables, including ears of corn, apples, and grapes.

The northwest room houses a three-run staircase in the northwest corner. The stair appears to be original and has a rounded handrail with a small, delicate newel post and plain, square balusters. Echoing the handrail is a half rail applied to the wall. Ends of the stair risers are decorated with repeated scroll patterns. The side of the stair case and an entrance to the cellar are enclosed with raised panel woodwork. Symmetrical trim decorates the end of the staircase at the landings.

The two rooms at the east end of the house presumably were formal parlors. They have been adapted to use as classrooms. None of the fireplaces once in the main first fllor rooms remains. Other woodwork--baseboards, doors, architraves, and chairrails--are in place.

The second floor of the house, now used principally for offices, has a long hallway running nearly the length of the house. j Woodwork used to trim the second floor is similar to that already described. Stylistic elements remain consistent, while slight variations of workmanship suggest different periods of construction. There is evidence at the second story level that some partitions were changed or added. One fireplace in the south wall is an addition of the turn of the century. Fireplaces at the second story have mantelpieces which suggest the Greek Revival influence of the middle third of the 19th century.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET # 3

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The attic of the house was finished, apparently during the latter part of the 19th century. One batten door has the name Wm. Denegre written on it and no paint or other finish. Denegre owned Prospect Hall between 1867 and 1887 and may have been responsible for much of the later 19th century work in the house. The roofing system used at Prospect Hall is original and is unusual among roof framing types in houses in central and western Maryland. It consists of a king post truss system with pairs of major supporting rafters holding purlins. Large members have mortised and tenoned joints. Resting on the collar beams which form the ceiling support for the finished attic are pieces of weathered wooden shingle, which preceded the present slate as a roofing material. The roof framing system of the portico which joins the main roof is quite different from it. Its rafters are of uniform size with circular saw marks and common nails securing the joints. There is evidence that the south slope of the roof was completely sheathed with shingles from its peak to the eaves prior to the addition of the portico, which now covers a section of the lower part of the roof. Apparently, then, an earlier porch did not cover any of the roof.

Several nails with wrought heads were observed in the attic floor.

The grounds around Prospect Hall are spacious and landscaped with tall, old deciduous trees. A driveway which circles in front of the house enters through stone gate posts. A mounting block remains in place at the center of the span of columns in front of the portico.

The house appears to be in good condition. It stands on part of a tract of land called "Dickson's Struggle". The property contains approximately 30 acres, of which about eight with the house are leased to the school for its use. This nomination includes only the main building, Prospect Hall house, and its immediately surrounding grounds. No other buildings associated with the Prospect Hall mansion remain. New structures include a gymnasium and service buildings for the school.

Attached is a detailed description of Prospect Hall and its support buildings made by D. J. Mackey, agent of the Mutual Insurance Company of Frederick County, dated December 30, 1851. The property was being insured by its owner, Lewis Kemp.

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION - The acreage included with the nomination constitutes the entrance drive and south lawn which creates the historic landscaped setting of the hou Property owned by the school on which rent buildings exists to the east, north and we is excluded since it does not relate to the significance of the property.

[8] SIGNIFICANCE

F-3-61

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	X AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	X MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Prospect Hall lies in its architecture and its association with several locally and regionally prominent families. The house is atypical for its period and location of grand proportions with the all header bond facade rarely seen in Maryland outside of Annapolis, it was an elegant, showy mansion at the time of its construction, reflecting the prominence of the families who owned it. Although altered somewhat at two later periods, the house retains many interesting original features and is a well known landmark in the Frederick area.

The house would seem to have been built during the early 19th century with subsequent refinement and alterations. Three major periods of construction are represented in Prospect Hall, the initial construction probably between 1800 and 1815, a middle completion or renovation of the 1830-1860 era, and a final phase of additions during the 1890-1910 period. It is important to note that in each period of construction an effort was made to duplicate the work of the original builder. This means that most of the work in the house follows a consistent theme. It has a mix of 18th and 19th century techniques making its architectural history difficult to pinpoint.

The large brick house set on a hill top has the proportions and appearance of a mansion. Therefore, a first impression of the house sets it apart from the majority of late 18th and early 19th century vernacular structures which remain in Frederick County.

Significant exterior features include the symmetrical proportions of the house, the use of all header bond at the front elevation, and the rear or north elevation of Flemish bond almost of equal prominence to the front wall.

The use of all header bond is most prominently associated with construction in mid-18th century Annapolis, where all header facades were used on several prestigious dwellings. Like the more frequently seen Flemish bond, it was considered decorative and more costly and was reserved for principal facades. The use of decorative brickwork on more than one elevation is unusual among the country houses in western Maryland and when found is often associated with 18th and early 19th century construction.

The west wing, the portico, and the cornice moldings would appear to date from the last major phase of work of circa 1900. They show typical construction of the period, particularly in the style of cornice molding and the Roman Ionic columns on the portico. However, the wing employs all header bond at its front elevation and Flemish bond at the side and rear wall with a type of brick similar to that used in the main house. Clearly an effort was made to follow the pattern set by the original building.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

The interior of the house displays a grand manner unusual among dwellings of the period in western Maryland. The central hallway is large and open with high ceilings. Accounts are written of magnificent all night balls which took place in the hall of Prospect Hall. Most of the interior woodwork at the first floor can be attributed to the 1800-1815 period with much at the second story being of the mid-19th century. Later additions besides the wing include the finishing of the attic and the fruit laden medallion in the dining room, which is a typical turn of the century decorative motif.

Probably the most important document extant that helps to explain Prospect Hall's architectural history is an insurance survey (attached to this form) made for Mr. Lewis Kemp, owner of the property, on December 30, 1851. In this record the property is refered to as "Prospect Hill". According to the survey the house was covered with cyprus shingles, and the basement included a kitchen and three rooms for servants. East of the central hall at the first story were two parlors with folding doors. These rooms were painted green. The second story contained seven rooms, a passage, and "lobby". In 1851 the garret is distinctly recorded as unfinished. The front portico was 24 feet by 10 feet supported by four square columns. The survey also notes the presence of a stone and brick overseers house, a "waggon" shed, a corn house, and a frame barn. None of these structures stands today.

The roof framing at Prospect Hall is unusual among dwellings of this region. It uses a king post truss system with major supporting rafters and purlins. Those few houses in western Maryland and southern Pennsylvania with purlin systems date from the 18th or very early 19th centuries, although this practice was used much later for barns.

The history of ownership of Prospect Hall shows a series of wealthy and prominent people. However, the actual builder of Prospect Hall is unknown because much of the property changed hands during the 1800-1815 period during which initial construction probably occurred.

On December 8, 1797, George Schnertzell sold Colonel John McPherson 85 acres of land. In various transactions between 1811 and 1826, George Baltzell, executor for George Schnertzell, also sold tracts to McPherson. The largest of the seven purchases was made February 27, 1811 (WR39/657) and included parts of the grants "Dicson's Struggle", "Liberty", "The Three Partners", and "The Resurvey on Choice", containing 163½ acres. Eventually McPherson's property contained 475 acres. Prospect Hall remained in the McPherson family until 1844, when William S. McPherson, being in feeble health and deeply in debt, turned the property over to one of his creditors, James Dixon Roman (H.S. 22/115).

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5.

(SIGNIFICANCE, Continued)

In March of 1845, James Dixon Roman, trustee for William S. McPherson, sold Prospect Hall to Jacob Baltzell for $25,109.41. By 1851 Jacob Baltzell had died, and his executor, Philip Baltzell, sold the property on December 20 to Lewis Kemp. The late Lewis Kemp's executor sold it on March 24, 1856 to William P. Maulsby (E.S. 6/329) for $6,350. This transaction contained only 50 acres. On April 9, 1864, Prospect Hall was purchased by George R. Dennis from William P. Maulsby (J.W.L.C. 1/510 for $14,000. Two and a half years later on October 15, 1866, Dennis sold the 50-acre tract to John S. Carlisle for $20,000 (J.W.L.C. 4/408). On August 31 of 1867, Carlisle sold Prospect Hall to James M. Wilcox of Philadelphia. This deed included the 50-acre Prospect Hall tract plus other lands.

James M. Wilcox and wife conveyed the property to Maria Clarise Eustis of Washington, D. C. for $31,250 (WIP 9/65). Isabella Nash purchased Prospect Hall on March 18, 1898, selling it to Oliver Wrenn on September 7, 1910 (WMB 792/474). On June 28, 1920 it was purchased by Frederick W. Harnswell who in turn sold it to Joseph H. Himes July 15, 1927 (333/34, 362/324). The present owners purchased Prospect Hall from Joseph Himes in 1957.

The sequence of ownership could suggest that Prospect Hall was built by the McPherson family. Certainly the McPherson family held the property during much of its history. The McPhersons were a Scots-Irish family that immigrated to Adams County, Pennsylvania during the first half of the 18th century. Colonel John McPherson, the first member of his family to own Prospect Hall, was an officer in the American Revolution. He owned sizable quantities of property in Frederick County. The McPherson family was influential in the early 19th century iron industry, owning both Catoctin Furnace in Frederick County and Antietam Iron Works in Washington County. William S. McPherson, M.D., son of Colonel McPherson, owned the property after his father. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Frederick Savings Bank, was a director of the B & O Railroad, and a director of the Central National Bank of Frederick. In 1836 William McPherson had the property resurveyed to form "Prospect Hill". During the latter part of McPherson ownership, Prospect Hall was rented to a Jonathan Woodbridge who ran a boarding school there.

Colonel William P. Maulsby, who owned Prospect Hall during the Civil War period, was a commanding officer of the First Regiment, Potomac Home Brigade. According to memoirs of Colonel Maulsby's daughter, Prospect Hall was visited by Stephen Douglass, Democratic candidate for President. In 1862 Confederate troops camped at Prospect Hall. In 1863 General Joseph Hooker was relieved of his command by General George G. Meade near Prospect Hall.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #6.

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

Colonel George R. Dennis was a Union officer in the Civil War, a director of the B & O Railroad, and involved in local banking and agricultural interests. Dennis was married to a daughter of Colonel John McPherson.

In 20th century history, Joseph Himes, who owned Propsect Hall between 1927 and 1957, was a Congressman from Ohio. During this period numerous notable people visited the property, including President Harry Truman in 1946 and various Congressmen, senators, and dignitaries.

Today Prospect Hall is serving a useful role as an educational institution. Although owned by the Catholic Church, it is open to students of all faiths.

It should be mentioned that the land on which Prospect Hall stands is part of a large tract which was owned by the Dulany family during the third quarter of the 18th century. The Dulanys were involved with the American Revolution as patriots and Torys and had numerous connections with George Washington.

F-3-61

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Effland, Anne B. " A Historical Study of Prospect Hall and Its Owners." December 21, 1978
Frederick County Land Records.
Frederick County Probate Records
Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Phila: Louis H. Everts, 1882.
Williams, T.J.CR and McKinsey, Folger. History of Frederick County. Hagerstown, Md.: L. R. Titsworth & Co.: 1910.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres (approximately)

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	289850	4364280
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of Prospect Hall extend along the stone wall approximately 105' to the nort west of the drive and 140' to the northeast of the drive. The east and west boundaries ar straight lines extending approximately 420' north to a point beyond the rear (north) steps of the house. The northern boundary is a straight line connecting the east and west boundaries.

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: Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

DATE: December, 1978

ORGANIZATION: Preservation Associates, Inc.

TELEPHONE: 301-432-5466

STREET & NUMBER: P. O. Box 202, 109 W. Main Street

STATE: Maryland 21782

CITY OR TOWN: Sharpsburg

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 [signature] DATE 1-16-80

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 892-4

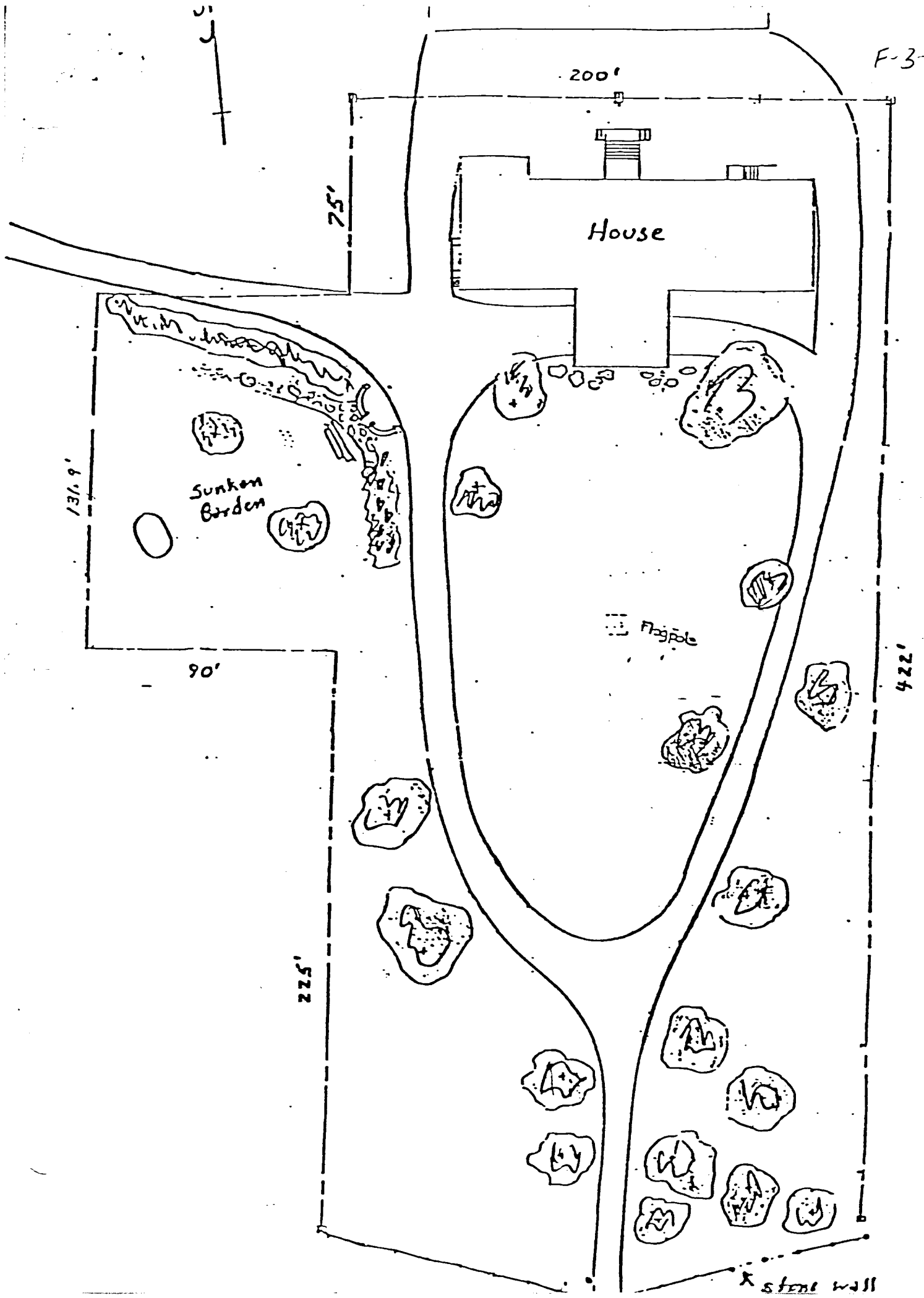
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

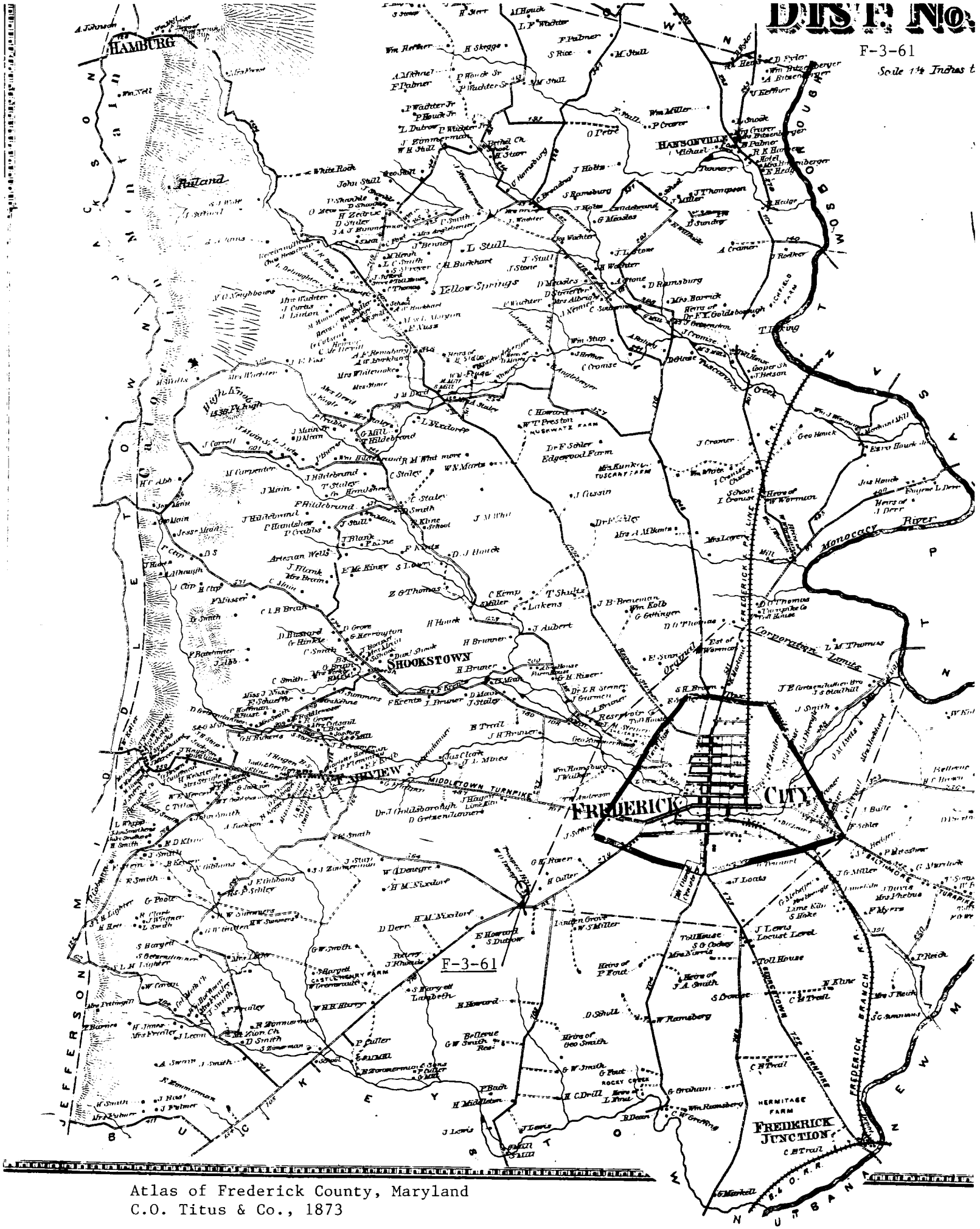
The boundaries of the Prospect Hall nomination are as indicated by a broken line on the attached map labeled "Prospect Hall/Frederick Co., Maryland/1980."

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION

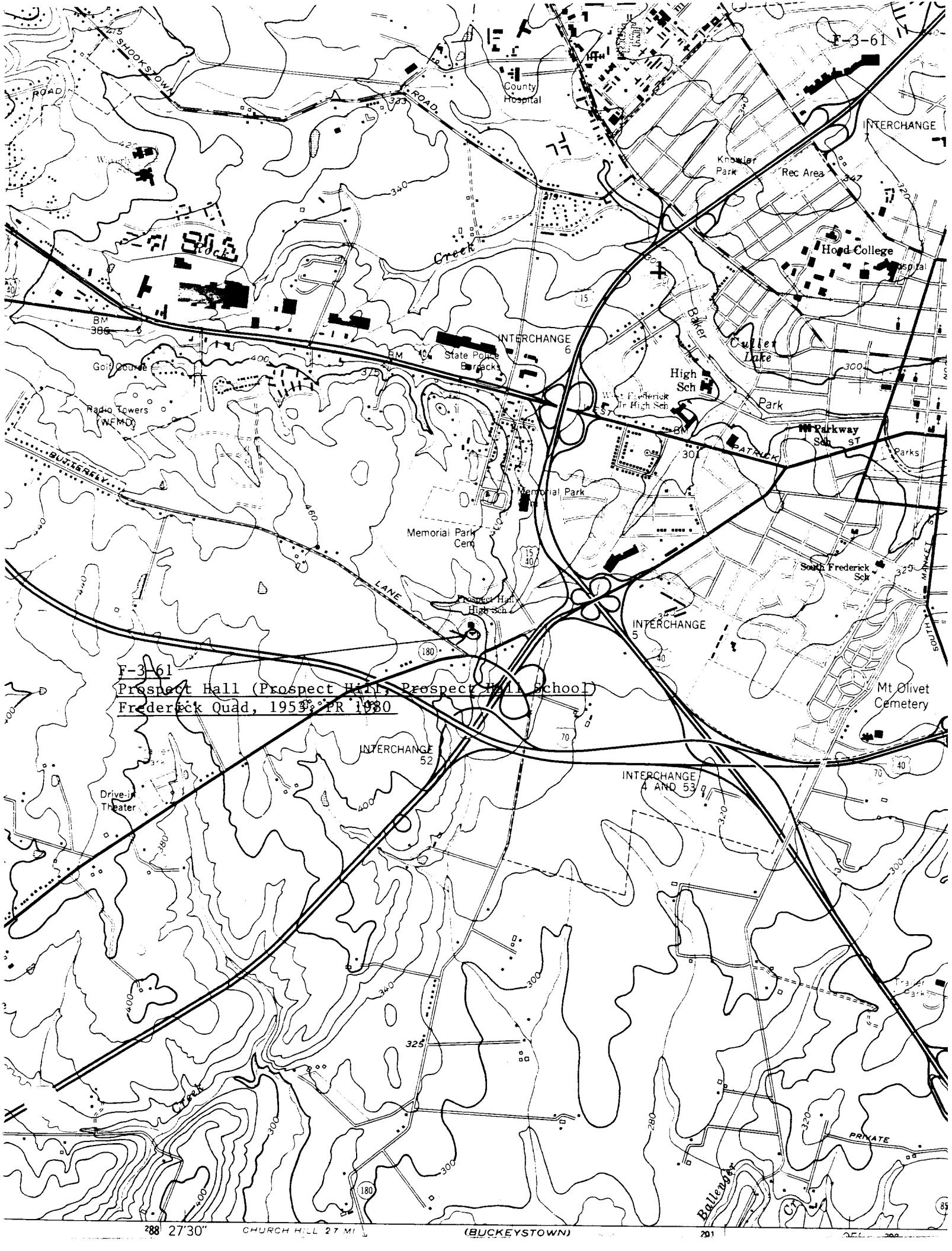
The approximate 2.25 acres of land included in these boundaries constitutes the entrance drive, south lawn, and early 20th century sunken garden which create the historic landscaped setting of Prospect Hall. The boundaries exclude the surrounding new buildings which do not relate to the significance of the property.

F-3-61


200'
75'
House
Sunken Garden
131.9'
Flagpole
90'
422'
225'
stone wall



Atlas of Frederick County, Maryland
C.O. Titus & Co., 1873



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Prospect Hall (Prospect Hill, Prospect Hall School)
Frederick Quad, 1953, PR 1980

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F-46 Prospect Hall

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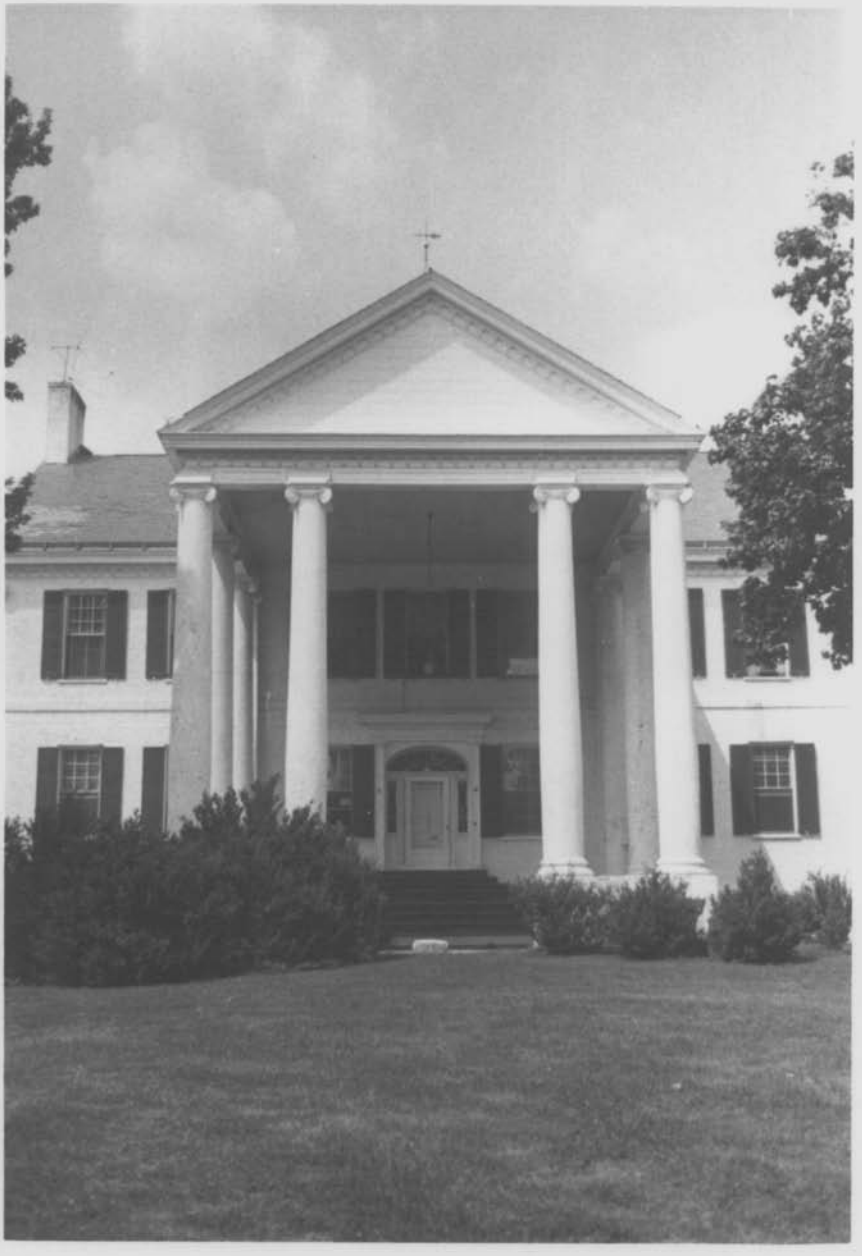
F.46 Prospect Hall



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F 46 Prospect Hall

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F.46 Prospect Hall

GEORGE GORDON MEADE

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F.46 Prospect Hall

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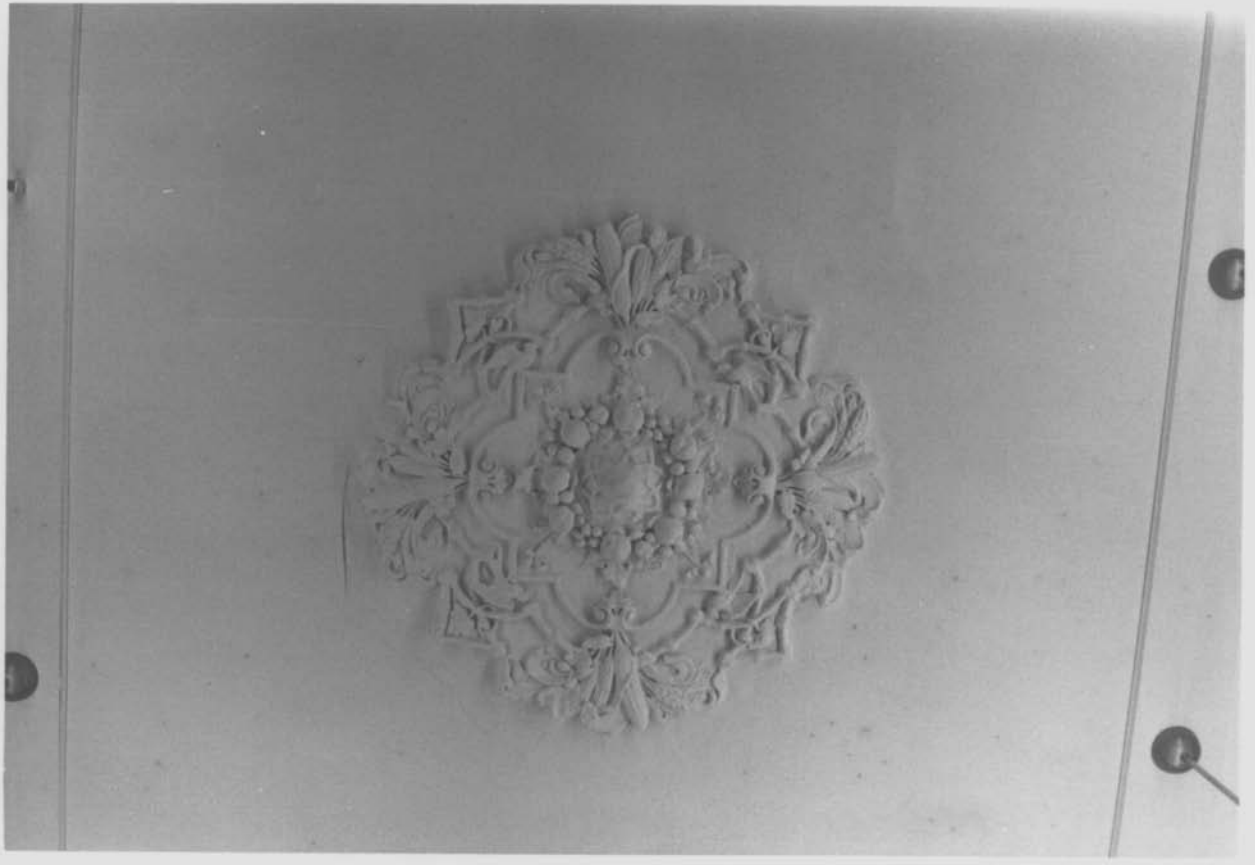
F. 46 Prospect Hall



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E. Ale Prospect Hall