FHR-8-300 (11-78)

BA-2184

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered 50

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

1. Name

historic: Plinlimmon

and/or common: Plinlimmon Farm (preferred)

2. Location

street & number: 9401 Lyons Mill Road — N/A not for publication

city, town: Owings Mills — X vicinity of — congressional district: Second

state: Maryland — code 24 — county: Baltimore County — code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	X 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
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name: 1. Susan C. Ballard
2. Wilson T. Ballard, Jr.

street & number: 1. 9401 Lyons Mill Road
2. 15637 York Road

city, town: 1. Owings Mills
2. Sparks — ___ vicinity of — state: 1. Maryland 21117
2. Maryland 21152

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Baltimore 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 Inventory — has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date: December 1982 — ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town: Annapolis — state: Maryland 21401

7. Description

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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

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Plinlimmon is an early 19th century farmhouse of log construction clad in novelty siding. The house is six irregularly-spaced bays wide by one room deep, 2½ stories high with a gable roof. The irregularity of the building's fenestration, and the series of alterations apparent on the exterior, reflect the building's vernacular character and its continuous adaptation to the changing tastes of its residents. The west facade was originally the back of the house, but became the principal facade as a result of alterations around the turn of the twentieth century, when the present formal Colonial Revival entrance and broad porch were added. The original east entrance was replaced with a sun room ca.1920-1930. Three gabled dormers with scalloped bargeboards are ranged across each slope of the roof; these were added in the latter half of the 19th century. The house has three chimneys: a stone exterior stack at either end, and a brick interior chimney next to the southernmost bay. The interior retains nearly all its original decorative detailing intact, including paneled doors and staircase, architrave and chair rail moldings, and fireplace surrounds. The trim is restrained in character, in keeping with the vernacular nature of the house. On the first floor, a formal parlor opens off the north side of the entrance hall, and the dining room lies south of the hall; the kitchen is located beyond the dining room, to the south. The plan of the second floor was revised in the course of a 1941 renovation. Several outbuildings cluster around the house. On the southeast is a ca. 1850 stone building with a gable roof, an interior chimney, and a 1941 frame wing. Adjacent to this building are a frame two-bay garage (ca. 1920s-1930s) and a small rectangular smokehouse with a gable roof (ca.1850). To the southwest of the house are a large mid-19th century cornhouse with a gable roof with an early 20th century two-story frame feed wing, and an early 20th century frame barn with a gable roof. Two rectangular 20th century frame chicken coops (pre-1941) complete the outbuilding complex.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Plinlimmon Farm is located on the south side of Lyons Mill Road approximately one mile west of McDonogh School, and 2½ miles southwest of Owings Mills in Baltimore County, Maryland. Owings Mills is located on Reisterstown Road (U.S. Route 140) and is approximately fifteen miles northwest of Baltimore City.

Plinlimmon Farm is one of Owings Mills' oldest farmsteads. Its one hundred acres are owned by two members of the same family and are still farmed. The farm complex includes the ca. 1800 farm house, Plinlimmon, and several types of outbuildings listed above.

Plinlimmon is a six-bay, two and one-half story log house, covered with novelty siding (the siding at the south end is larger and resembles shiplap siding). The house is long and narrow (the house is one room deep), measuring approximately 60 feet in length and 18 feet deep. It has a gable roof; the main axis of the house is north-south. There are three gabled dormer windows

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

on either side. The house has three chimneys: a large stone exterior end chimney on each of the north and south gables and a brick interior chimney adjacent to the southern-most bay of the house. The house rests on a stone foundation, most visible at the south end where land slopes away from the house.

The bays are irregular, as is the alignment of the doors and windows within the bays. This is most apparent on the west facade, which was the original back of the house and now is the front facade of the house that the visitor sees as he drives up the driveway. The west facade overlooks a large well-landscaped lawn and the large farm buildings to the southwest. The east side is the most private side of the house and is also the side the visitor is most likely to use to enter the house.

Window placement on the east and west facades is similar; there are nine-over-six sash windows on the first floor in four of the six bays on both facades. The second-story windows are six-over-six sash windows with two exceptions. Each facade has a kitchen door in the south end bay and a formal entrance door in the third bay from the north end. There are no doors at the north and south ends. The north gable is pierced only at the attic level where there are two small attic windows with four lights. The south gable has two windows on the first story and one window on the second story. The attic level has two small windows, each with six lights. All windows have louvered shutters on the first and second stories of the house. The three gabled dormers have carved wooden scalloping. The dormers probably date from the mid-19th century.

The west facade has the most irregular placement of bays. The windows on the first floor are not directly aligned with the second story windows. In the third bay (from the north) the hall entrance door on the first floor is not aligned below the small six-light window which lights the staircase landing. In the southern-most bay the first floor kitchen door is out of line with the second story window.

The west facade is united by a one-story, seven bay ca. 1890s-1900s porch in the colonial revival style. Also of the same period and style is the formal entrance door, in the third bay from the north end. It has finely leaded side lights and a cornice with dentils, but no transom. Decorative elements of the west facade are minimal, as typified by the plain box cornice. The decorative elements are focused on the formal entrance door and the dormer windows.

The east facade is more symmetrical. The major difference between the two facades is the treatment of the two entrances. The kitchen door in the south bay is concealed behind a latticed porch with a gable roof (ca.1940s).

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The original entrance door, in the third bay from the north end, was removed and replaced sometime in the 1920-1930s by a one-room addition which opens onto the main hall. This "sun room" replaced a smaller porch with a pedimented gable roof, depicted in an 1839 drawing of Plinlimmon's east facade in the posession of the owners. The porch measures almost 14 feet across and is nine feet six inches deep. Its east facade has a pair of French doors, flanked on each side by a large window with sixteen lights. On the north and south sides of the porch there are two bays of identical sixteen-light windows.

The north gable end of the house is the plainest. It is divided by the exterior end stone chimney. The chimney has had extensive renovation during the 20th century.

The south gable end of the house is more complex. The end is the traditional service wing of the house. It was here that a one and one-half story log wing with a gable roof (depicted in the 1839 drawing) was located. Physical evidence of the addition's gable roof is still apparent in the southeast bay, on the east side of the large exterior chimney at the second story level. Earlier stages in Plinlimmon's development are indicated by the variety of the siding on the end wall (already mentioned), especially in the first story and part of the second in the southeast bay. The chimney on this south end is slightly larger than the north end chimney and is made of uncoursed fieldstone. (The restored north end chimney has coursed stonework.) There is an exterior fireplace opening on the first story which has been blocked in. The two windows on the first floor, one on either side of the chimney, were added during the early 1940s in order to give more light to the kitchen. During the process, carpenters had a difficult time cutting through the log framing. The south end roofline is flush with the end wall and has no scrollwork, unlike the north gable, which has a overhang with Victorian-period scrollwork.

Interior Description

The floor plan of Plinlimmon reflects its essentially vernacular character; it does not have a formal balanced floor plan. On the first floor, there are the four original rooms in the main axis of the house plus a fifth room added onto the east facade in the 1920-1930s which replaced the earlier porch. This room is used as an informal sitting room. The four original rooms, starting from the south end of the house, are: the kitchen (approx. 17 feet deep and 12 feet wide), the dining room (approx. 17 feet deep and ten feet wide), and the living room (approx. 17 feet deep and 19 feet wide). The four rooms are connected by doors that are in line with each other, close to the east side of the house.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Although the original floor is uncomplicated, it is apparent that the builder was aiming for an atmosphere of formality. The entrance hall is large, and the two formal rooms of the house are placed on either side of the hall. The service area of the house was discreetly placed at the extreme south end of the house.

The hall sets the tone for the house. Although simple, it has attractive original features. There is a paneled staircase along the south wall. The staircase is an open-string stair with simple step end brackets along the outer string. The balusters and hand rail are cylindrical in shape. The newel is also original and nicely proportioned. The small landing is lighted by a six-light window. Behind the staircase near the west door there is a staircase closet with a finely paneled door. (It is the only closet for the downstairs.) The door has six panels in the three tiers of raised and molded panels. The wall trim of the hall is plain; the walls are plastered, and there are no chair rails or cornices. The baseboard is a simple molded one. The doorways to the living room and dining room are original, and have a simple architrave trim.

The proportions of the dining room are regular. The east and west walls have paired windows which are aligned. The south wall has three basic units, the kitchen door (close to the east wall corner), a large chimney breast with the fireplace in the center, and between the chimney breast and the west wall a built-in china cabinet (ca. 1920s-1930s). The kitchen door is an original door which was rehinged and converted to a swinging door in the 1940s. In the process, the side with the more formal raised and molded panels was placed on the kitchen side and the less formal plain recessed panels on the dining room side. The door is six-paneled with three tiers of panels. The architrave trim is the same as the architrave trim in the hall. On the east side of the chimney breast there is a two-tiered paneled cupboard door. The fireplace has a rectangular opening flanked by fluted pilasters. There is a simple paneled frieze and a mantel shelf with bedmolding. The wall treatment is the same as that of the hall.

The kitchen is long and narrow in shape. Each of the east and west walls contains a door. These doors are not directly opposite each other. However, the two doors are identical: they are divided into two sections,, with six-lights in the upper section and two panels on the lower sections. It is not known when either door was added or if they were original. The molding around these doors is slightly different from the molding of the kitchen door to the dining room. On the south end wall there is no sign that the exterior end chimney was ever used for a kitchen fireplace. In 1941, there was a large coal stove connected to the north wall (adjacent to the interior chimney, which

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

opens onto the dining room). The flooring is 20th century linoleum. There are no closets in the room. In 1941, there was a trap door in the ceiling area close to the east wall between the dining room door on the north wall and the east wall kitchen door - raising the possibility that there was once a service stair there.

The living room in the north end is the largest room. Both the west and east walls have a pair of none-over-nine sash windows. However, the paired windows on the west wall are not aligned with those on the east wall (unlike the dining room windows, which are). Centered on the north wall is the fireplace. It has a rectangular opening which is framed by a pair of molded wooden ribs which extend from small paneled bases to terminate in square brackets in the bedmolding of the mantel shelf. The rectangular frieze is undecorated.

The living room decorative treatment is more elaborate than the rest of the downstairs. Although there is no cornice, there is a chair rail and the architrave trim on the door to the hall is more elaborate than that of the hall and dining room. The living room has no built-in shelving and no cabinets. The flooring is original wide random-width flooring. It is the only room downstairs with the old random-width flooring. Upstairs and in the attic, the flooring is wide random-width.

Upstairs, the rooms are more varied in size and shape. There is the stair hall at the top of the main entrance hall. The stairs are on the north wall; on the south wall there is a boxed-in attic staircase which has a six-panel door in three tiers. The hall has a chair rail but no cornice. The second-floor plan is largely the result of a remodeling carried out in 1941. To the north of the hall there used to be two rooms; both were the depth of the house. In 1941 the room closest to the hall was divided into three parts: a study on the west side, a closet area in the center, and a bathroom on the east side. The north end room has retained its original shape. At the east end of the upstairs hall is a small corridor which runs from the hall north to south along the house's east facade. There are two bedrooms on the west side of this corridor, a bedroom which faces west and a bedroom in the southwest corner of the house. A bathroom (installed in 1941) takes up the southeast corner of the house, at the end of the north-south corridor. Before the remodeling, this bathroom was part of the south end bedroom.

The north end bedroom is the formal bedroom. It has a handsome fireplace centered along its north wall. The fireplace has a rectangular opening flanked by plain wooden pilasters. The rectangular frieze has an undecorated raised panel in the center. The mantel shelf has elaborate bedmolding and flares out at the shelf ends. The room has a chair rail but no cornice.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The only other fireplace on the second story is a much smaller one in the south end bedroom; it has plain pilasters and a mantel shelf, but no frieze. The remaining bedroom has vertical tongue and grove boarding on its south wall (the common wall between the two bedrooms). On this wall there are two built-in closets, one pre-1941, the other 1941 vintage.

The attic of the house is one room deep and takes up the entire length of the house. It is divided into four rooms; its walls and ceilings are plastered. The north end room is almost 14 feet long and is covered with old wallpaper. (It is the only attic room with wallpaper.) Laths removed from the attic roof around the interior chimney are hand-split.

The house has a basement which is reached by only one entrance, a 20th century bulkhead door on the east facade near the kitchen door bay. The interior stone foundation walls are laid up without mortar. The floor is dirt and the basement runs from the south end of the dining room to the northern end of the house. The height of the basement from the floor to ceiling is six feet five inches.

Outbuildings Description

Clustered around Plinlimmon are several outbuildings in two groups. Closest to the house is the southeast grouping. This includes three buildings roughly aligned north-south: a medium-sized stone building with a frame wing, a two-bay garage, and a small stone smoke house. Further south of these three buildings, south of the driveway is a fourth building, a frame chicken coop.

The stone building (ca. 1850) with the frame wing is currently used as a tenant house. In 1941, when the current owner bought the property, the stone building was used as a meat and milk house. The frame wing was added onto the building in 1941 to convert the building into living quarters. The stone section (approx. 21 feet long and 16 feet deep) has a gable roof with an interior chimney near the southwest end. The ridge line runs north-south. The south gable has only a small vent window under the gable. The west facade has two bays: a basement door set low in the ground and a six-over-six sash window. This basement area was used for milk storage and has a brick floor. The north gable end has a centered entrance reached by a stoop of three steps. Centered above the door is a small louvered vent window. The entrance has two sets of doors, the outer pair of louvered shutter doors and an inner pair of French doors. The frame addition on the east wall has a shed roof, and measures 12 feet by 16 feet. On the north side the addition has one bay with a six-over-six sash window. On the east facade there are two bays, a door with a porch and a window.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #6

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The ca. 1920s-1930s two-bay frame garage has a gable roof. The west gable end is open and faces onto the end of the driveway. To the south of the garage is the ca.1850 stone smoke house, which measures approximately 12 feet in length and eight feet in depth. It has a gable roof; the gable ends face west and east, like the garage. The entrance door, in the south wall, is the only opening to the building.

The chicken coop (the fourth building of the grouping) measures approximately 26 feet in length and ten feet in depth. It is frame (the siding is German siding) and has a shed roof. The chicken coop faces south. This chicken coop, as well as another to the west were on the property when the present owner bought the farm in 1941.

The southwest group includes three buildings: a mid-19th century frame cornhouse with a drive-through center section and a two-story early 20th century frame wing; an early 20th century frame barn; and an early 20th century frame chicken coop. The cornhouse and barn are easily visible from the house.

The frame cornhouse has a gable roof; the gable ends face north-south. The pair of corncribs and the center drive-through section measure approximately 25 feet in width and 35 feet deep. The roof is pegged. The two-story frame wing has vertical frame boarding and is approximately 32 feet long and 13½ feet deep. It contains the grain grinder and was used as a feed room. Approximately twenty feet from this wing is the two-story frame barn. It has frame vertical boarding and a gable roof. The gables are on the east and west ends. The building is about 47 feet long and 25 feet deep. Both the north and south sides have large roller doors centered on the walls. Set into each of the roller doors is a single regular sized door. The roller door on the south side is flanked by Dutch doors.

The large chicken coop southeast of the cornhouse is approximately 40 feet long and 14 feet deep and it faces east. It has German siding and a shed roof like the chicken coop in the southeast group.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The farmhouse and some of the outbuildings are contained in a five acre parcel (317 ft. by 700 ft.) described in a Baltimore County Deed (Liber 5266, Folio 698). To this five acres parcel was added two rectangular 100 ft by 700 ft. sections, one to the east and one to the west in order that all outbuildings would be included in the nomination. These two rectangular sections are part of approximately 46 acres owned by Wilson T. Ballard, Jr. (See Deed above for confirmation). (See Plinlimmon site plan).

8. Significance

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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
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates before 1839 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criterion: C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Plinlimmon draws significance from its architecture, as an example of the type of residence constructed in the early 19th century and maintained to the present by prosperous middle-class farmers in rural north-central Maryland. The exterior of the house retains its essential vernacular character; its form, massing, and irregular fenestration are unchanged from that depicted in a drawing dated 1839 in the possession of the owners. These characteristics are readily apparent despite a series of exterior alterations, which reflect the changing tastes of successive owners of the property during 150 years of continual use as the seat of a working farm. The interior of the house retains most of its original decorative detailing intact, including paneling, door and window trim, and fireplace surrounds. Plinlimmon Farm derives additional significance from its continual operation as a farm despite increasing trends to suburbanization of its surroundings; a full complement of outbuildings, some dating to the mid-19th century, remain on the property to support its historic function.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Plinlimmon Farm is located on a 1744 land tract of 100 acres called "Caroline Forest" patented by Colonel William Hammond. The boundaries of today's farm approximate the original 18th century boundaries.

During the 18th century, the size of this tract grew. The property's third owner, Captain Alexander Wells added two adjacent land tracts (by land patents in 1758 and 1772). He played an active role in the Owings Mills area, serving as the captain of the Soldiers Delight Battalion during the 1760s and the Revolutionary War. He also had ties with the influential Owings family; in 1753 he married an Owings at the nearby St. Thomas Church. In 1784, Wells sold the property to Josias Pennington, a Baltimore County millwright. Pennington paid 1,000 pounds for the property (then a little over 200 acres). In 1797, Pennington sold the property to John Pindell (1754-1879) of Baltimore County.

With Pindell's ownership, the first concrete evidence of buildings and use of the property emerges. John Pindell was listed in the 1798 Tax Assessment as the owner and occupant of Caroline Forrest (sic) and adjacent tract, totaling 209 acres. Buildings listed on Caroline Forest were a one story hewn log

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #7

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

dwelling (30 ft. by 18 ft) and a one story log kitchen (20 ft. by 16 ft.). He was also assessed for a two-story log barn, two log stables and a log poultry house. Pindell appears to have been prosperous, for he also was listed as the owner of nine slaves. Between 1796 and1801, Pindell added three more tracts to the property. When the property was sold, the acreage totaled approximately 243 acres.

Some time before Pindell's death in 1817, the farm was turned over to Dr. John Owen. The 1820 deed confirming the sale between Dr. Owen and Pindell's heirs mentions that the farm had already been partly paid for before Pindell's death. In 1818, the Baltimore County Tax Assessment listed John Owen as the owner of the property. Owens appears to have been a man of means; he was assessed for 11 slaves and several farm animals as well as a "carriage of pleasure". The improvements (usually indicating the buildings on a property) were valued at 125 dollars. This was a high valuation - the average improvement for the 1818 assessment in that district was twenty-five to fifty dollars.

It seems highly likely that either John Owen or John Pindell expanded the one-story log house listed in the 1798 tax assessment or built a new larger building. Both John Pindell and John Owen are excellent examples of prosperous middle class farmers - the type who would have built a substantial vernacular farmhouse as their residence.

Plinlimmon's history becomes clearer with the Owen ownership. There are quite a few remaining family records, one of the most important of which is an 1839 ink wash sketch of the east facade of Plinlimmon. The Owen family was of Welsh descent. Family records tell that the family named the property after a Welsh mountain, Plynlimmon. The earliest use of the name is traced back to an 1822 newspaper article which noted the death of John Owen's father, Richard, at Plinlimmon. Family records and other primary sources reveal that Dr. John Owen (1775-1824) graduated from St. John's College in Annapolis where his father, Richard Owen, was teacher of mathematics and writing as well as a bookseller. Apparently Richard was a prosperous individual; his inventory lists him as the owner of 11 slaves. Dr. Owen studied medicine in America and Great Britain, and by 1804 was established in Baltimore City. During the antifederalist riots in 1812, Owen was serving as the surgeon for the 5th Regiment State Militia. In 1822, he was a member of the Baltimore City Council, and was chairman of its Committee on Health. John Owen's inventory confirms that he was prosperous and well educated (he died in 1824). He had 45 Latin books and several medical books and encyclopedias. He had a large assortment of livestock and several farm implements, as well as a holding of bank stock.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #8

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Since Dr. Owen was a bachelor, the house and farm were taken over by his younger brother, Richard H. Owen, (1777-1858), also a bachelor. Richard had close ties with Baltimore City and the Owings Mills area. He was the librarian for the Baltimore Library Company from 1813-1843. The library, founded in 1796, was the first and only library in Baltimore for several years. It was a private corporation headed by prominent Baltimore cultural figures. Richard was an extremely active member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church approximately three mile from Plinlimmon. The church history devotes a section to him, noting that Richard was an active member of the church for 45 years at the time of his death in 1858. Richard had served on the church vestry as early as 1834 and as a warden from 1838-1852. The history states that "Mr. Owen lived at Plinhimmon (sic.) about a mile west of where McDonogh School is now located. He was a bachelor and his two sisters lived with him." One sister, Mrs. Maynard, had two sons, both of whom were later owners of Plinlimmon. The older son, James Maynard, later became a prosperous Baltimore County doctor. He bought the farm its livestock and implements from his uncle Richard H. Owen in 1854. The second son, Richard F. Maynard (1815-1897), bought the farm from his brother James in 1858. The 1860 Census records him as living at Plinlimmon with his wife and child. Richard Maynard was an active businessman. He operated a seed and farm implement company in Baltimore City and was a prominent Owings Mills farmer. He was one of the founders of the local farmers' club. He also continued the family's active involvement with St. Thomas Church as a member of the church vestry from 1861 (he took over his brother James' position on the vestry when James died in 1861) to 1897.

At his death in 1861, James Maynard left his nearby Grey Rock estate to his brother Richard. The Grey Rock estate had been the old Howard estate, it was the birthplace of John Eager Howard, the famous Revolutionary War hero and Maryland governor. Richard Maynard moved from Plinlimmon to Grey Rock and rented Plinlimmon.

In 1864, Plinlimmon was sold out of the Maynard family when Richard Maynard sold the property to a widow, Dorothy Bremker, a Prussian emigre from Pennsylvania for $20,000. She lived at Plinlimmon with her married daughter, her daughter's husband, and their seven children. In 1876, Dorothy Bremker was assessed for 236 acres of land called Plinlimmon. The assessment states that the property was improved by a "large log weather boarded dwelling" assessed at $1500 (a high assessment for the period for the district), a stone barn ($500), a cornhouse ($100) and a wagon house ($100). Among household furniture assessed was a piano worth $200. She was also assessed for livestock and farming implements. In 1882, Mrs. Bremker's heirs sold the property, and for almost ten years it was a rental farm property.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #9

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

In 1891, Christopher F. Miller, who with his two bachelor sons operated a dairy business on the outskirts of Baltimore City during the 1890s, purchased Plinlimmon Farm for $9,000. In 1896, when the father sold Plinlimmon to his two bachelor sons, Baltimore County assessed the brother's farm for a total of 246 acres. Ninety acres lay on the south side of Lyons Mill Road (the original Caroline Forest tract section) and 156 acres lay on the north side of the road. The 90 acres were improved by a frame house (Plinlimmon), a stable, corn house and other small buildings. In 1916 and 1923 the house was assessed for $1,000. In 1923, the Miller brothers and their unmarried sister sold the ninety acres to two local Owings Mills farmers named Morans and their widowed sister. The Morans farmed (wheat, corn, and hay) and operated the large apple orchard east of the house which had been planted by the Miller brothers. In 1941, the Morans and their sister sold the farm to the present owners, the Wilson T. Ballard family.

Agricultural Significance

Plinlimmon has state and local significance as an architecturally significant vernacular farmhouse which once was common in several areas of Maryland, especially in northern Maryland. Its long, narrow one-room deep form and its plain exterior with irregular bays place it firmly in the vernacular tradition. Furthermore, Plinlimmon's log house construction reflects the strong northern Maryland tradition of log construction farmhouses.

Plinlimmon's architectural worth is heightened by the fine quality of its still-intact interior wood trim, which reflects the higher standards of the more prosperous, sophisticated owner.

Although the exact date of construction is incertain, historical and architectural evaluations tend to date the house in the early 1800s. Laths removed from the house's roof confirm this evaluation. The laths were extremely irregular and were cut by hand, not machine. Close study of the 1839 drawing of Plinlimmon's east facade gives important evidence that the building's shape, exterior wall covering and treatment, window placement, and chimney location are fundamentally intact today. It confirms that Plinlimmon's several alterations have not concealed the building's original character or site orientation.

The setting of the farm and the farm's outbuildings add to the value of the property. Although the original early 19th century outbuildings are probably no longer in existence, the outbuildings that cluster around the house today represent several types of outbuildings found on a 19th century farm. Three

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #10

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

of the outbuildings are particularly characteristic: the stone building formerly used as a meat and milk storage building, the small stone smokehouse, and the large corn house with pegged roof framing.

Taken as a whole, all of the buildings of Plinlimmon farm are important elements of a working farmstead. The fact that all of the buildings are in sound condition makes Plinlimmon's consideration for the National Register even more favorable. Plinlimmon is an important representative of a 19th century vernacular farmstead.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1798 Federal Tax Assessment for Soldiers Delight Hundred.
Baltimore County Tax Assessment for the sixth district, 1818.
Baltimore County Tax Assessment for the second district: 1876, 1896, 1916, and 1923.
Baltimore County Deeds, Liber L.G. #E Folio 420 (Col. W. Hammond Certificate for 100 acres of Caroline Forest, 1744.
Liber BB #I Folio 187 (Sarah Hammond, widow of Col. W. Hammond to Alexander Lawson, 1754).
Liber B #H Folio 28 (Alexander Lawson to Alexander Wells, 1759).
Liber W.G. #V Folio 346 (Alexander Wells to Josais Pennington, 1784).
Liber W.G. 53 Folio 272 (Josais Pennington to John Pindell, 1797).
Liber W.G. 158 Folio 458 (W. W. Keyser and wife to John Owen, 1820).
Liber H.M.F. 10 Folio 436 (Richard H. Owen to James Maynard, 1854).
Liber. G.H.C. Folio 126 (James Maynard to Richard F. Maynard, 1859).
Liber J.H.L. 42 Folio 159 (Richard F. Maynard to Dorothy Bremker, 1864).
Liber W.M.I. 132 Folio 264 (Frederick W. Bremker et al to Daniel Schwartz, 1882).
Liber 186 Folio 436 (John Henry Schnepfe to Christopher F. Miller, 1891).
Liber L.M.B. 220 Folio 138 (Christopher F. Miller to Elijah F. Miller and W. Miller, 1896).
Liber W.P.C. 572 Folio 76 (Elijah F. Miller et al to Peter Moran et al, 1923).
Liber 1163 Folio 277 (Peter Moran et al to Wilson T. Ballard and wife, 1941).

Baltimore County Inventories
Inventory of Richard Owen, 1824. (Baltimore County Inventory Book 35, 1824 and 1825).
Inventory of John Owen, 1825. (Baltimore County Inventory Book 35, 1824 and 1825).

Federal Census
1860 Census of Maryland (second district).
1870 Census of Maryland (second district).

Baltimore County Equity Court Case
Liber J.W.S. 120 Folio 171 (Thomas Clendinen, assignee vs. Daniel Schwartz, 1888).

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #11

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

Anti-Federalist Papers, 1813 (Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Md.).

Baltimore American, March 1, 1822. (Notice of Richard Owen's death-Dielman-Hayward File at Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Md.).

Minutes of the Board of Visitors and Governors, St. John's College, 1786-1826. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.)

Polk's Baltimore City Directory: (Maryland Historical Society).

1839 black ink wash drawing of Plinlimmon's east facade owned and in the possession of Mrs. Susan C. Ballard, 9401 Lyons Mill Road, Owings Mills, Md. 21117.

Genealogy of the Owings family in Duane H. Owings' folder at Maryland Genealogical Society at Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Md.

Owen-Owens-Owings and Allied Families Manuscript Collection of Ferdinand B. Focke at the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Md. (1932).

Interview with Carl A. Von Gunton, June 13, 1982. (phone number 876-1518).

Quinan, J. R. Medical Annals of Baltimore from 1608-1880. Baltimore: ,1884.

Allen, Rev. Ethan. The Garrison Church, Sketches of the History of St. Thomas' Parish, Garrison Forest, Baltimore County, Maryland. Edited by Hobart Smith. New York: James Pott & Co., 1898.

Thomas, Dawn F. The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage. Vol. 1 Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978.

Article on the Baltimore Library Company, Maryland Historical Magazine, 14 (1919), p. 16.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated property were selected to encompass the house and its outbuildings in their immediate setting, and to retain the historic approach from Lyons Mill Road.

BA-2184

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS #8 and #9

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8 acres

Quadrangle name Reisterstown, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	345120	4361820
B	18	345120	4361620
C	18	344920	4361620
D	18	344920	4361820
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

FOR VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #6
FOR BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #11

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine S. Simkins

organization

date

street & number 1531 Sparks Road

telephone 301-472-4860

city or town Sparks

state Maryland 21152

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 3-18-83

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For HCRS use only

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

date

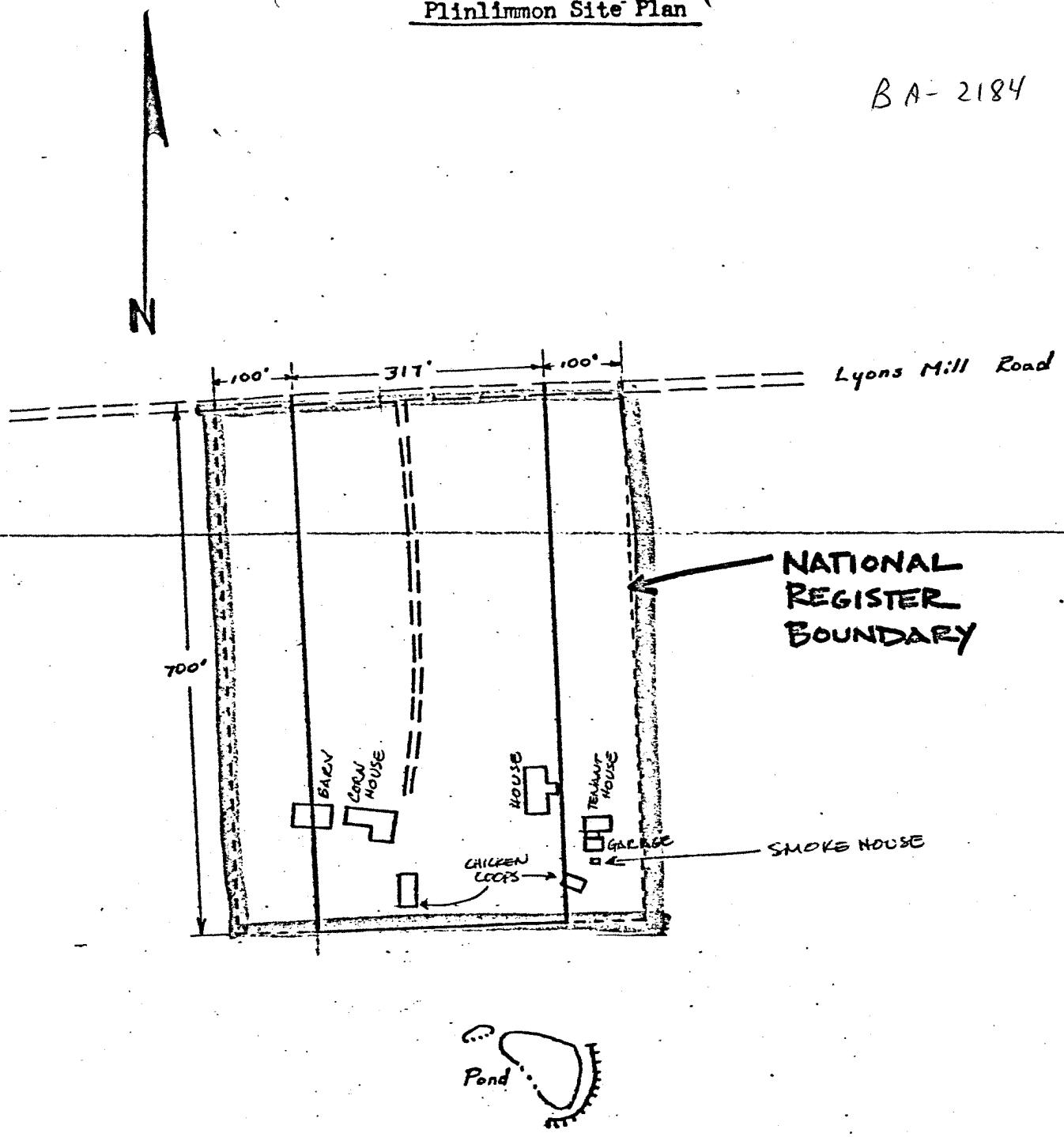
Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Plinlimmon Site Plan

BA-2184

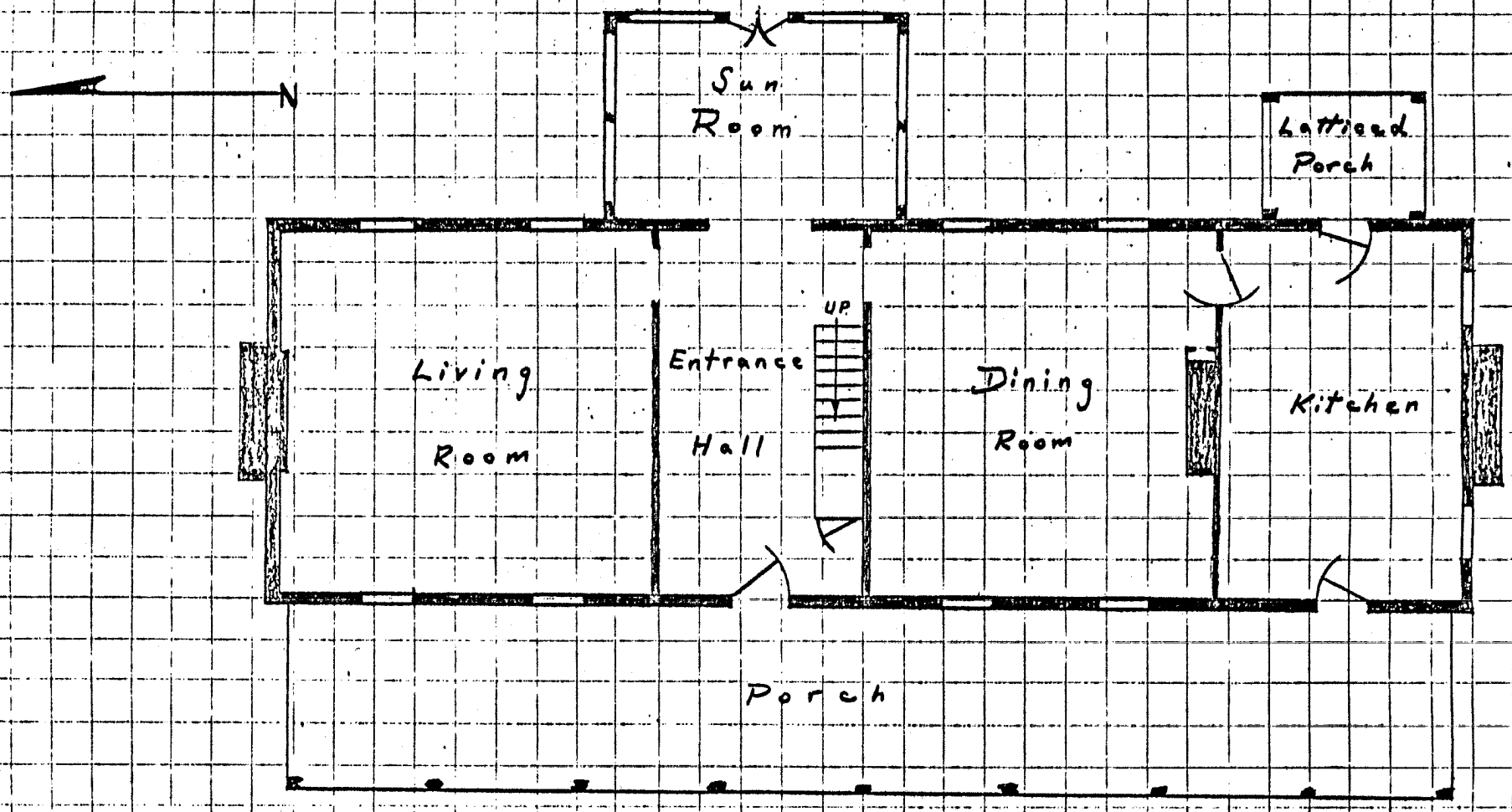


jes
11/29/82

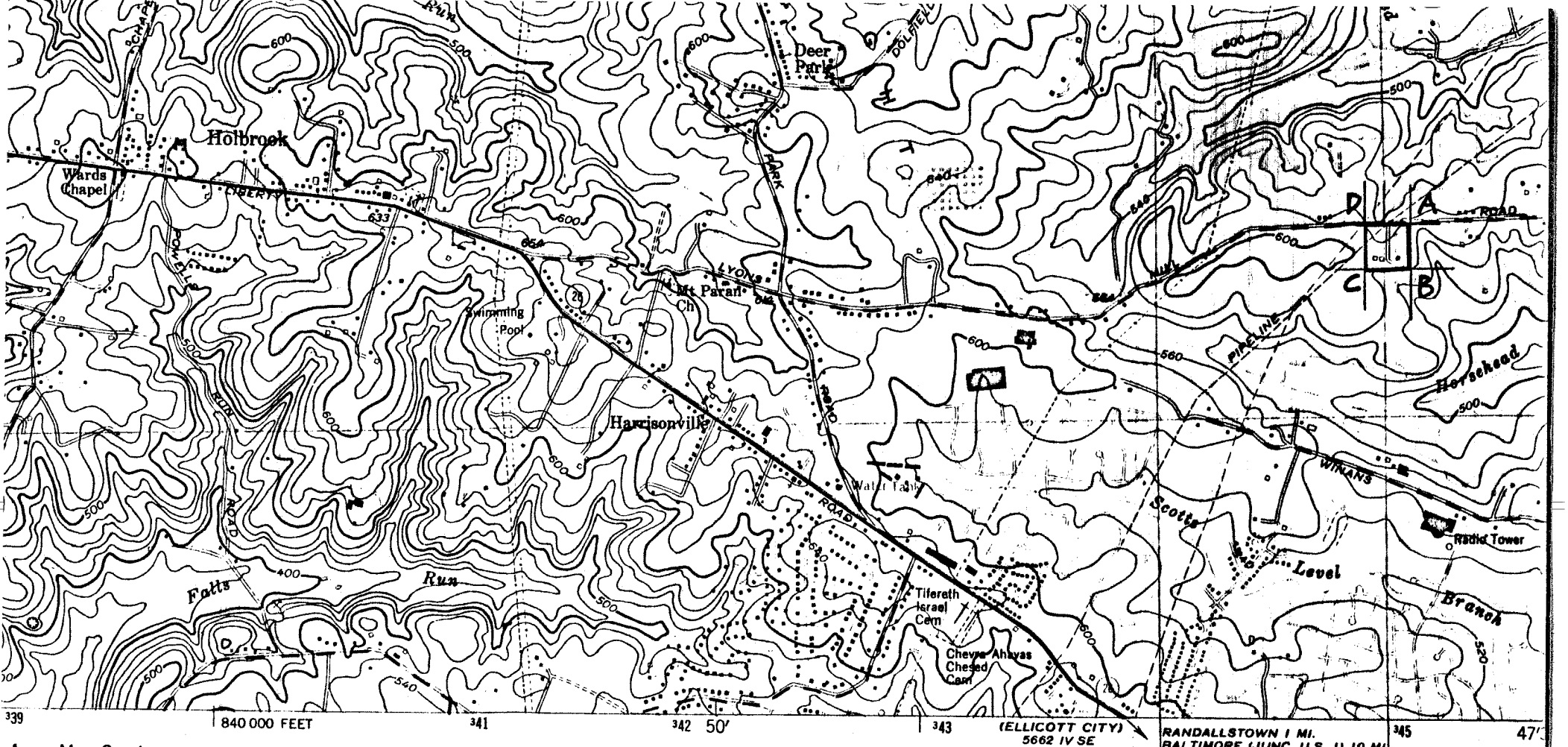
Plinlimmon, Baltimore County

1st Floor Plan

BA-2184



J.E.S.



Army Map Service
blished by the Geological Survey
and USC&GS

aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric
photographs taken 1943. Field check 1944
y the Geological Survey 1953

ion. 1927 North American datum
based on Maryland coordinate system

tions are shown in brown

versal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
in blue

in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
hs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not field checked

ates extention of urb areas

MN
GN
8°
142 MILS
1°09'
20 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

1 ½ 0 1 MILE

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 .5 0 1 KILOMETER

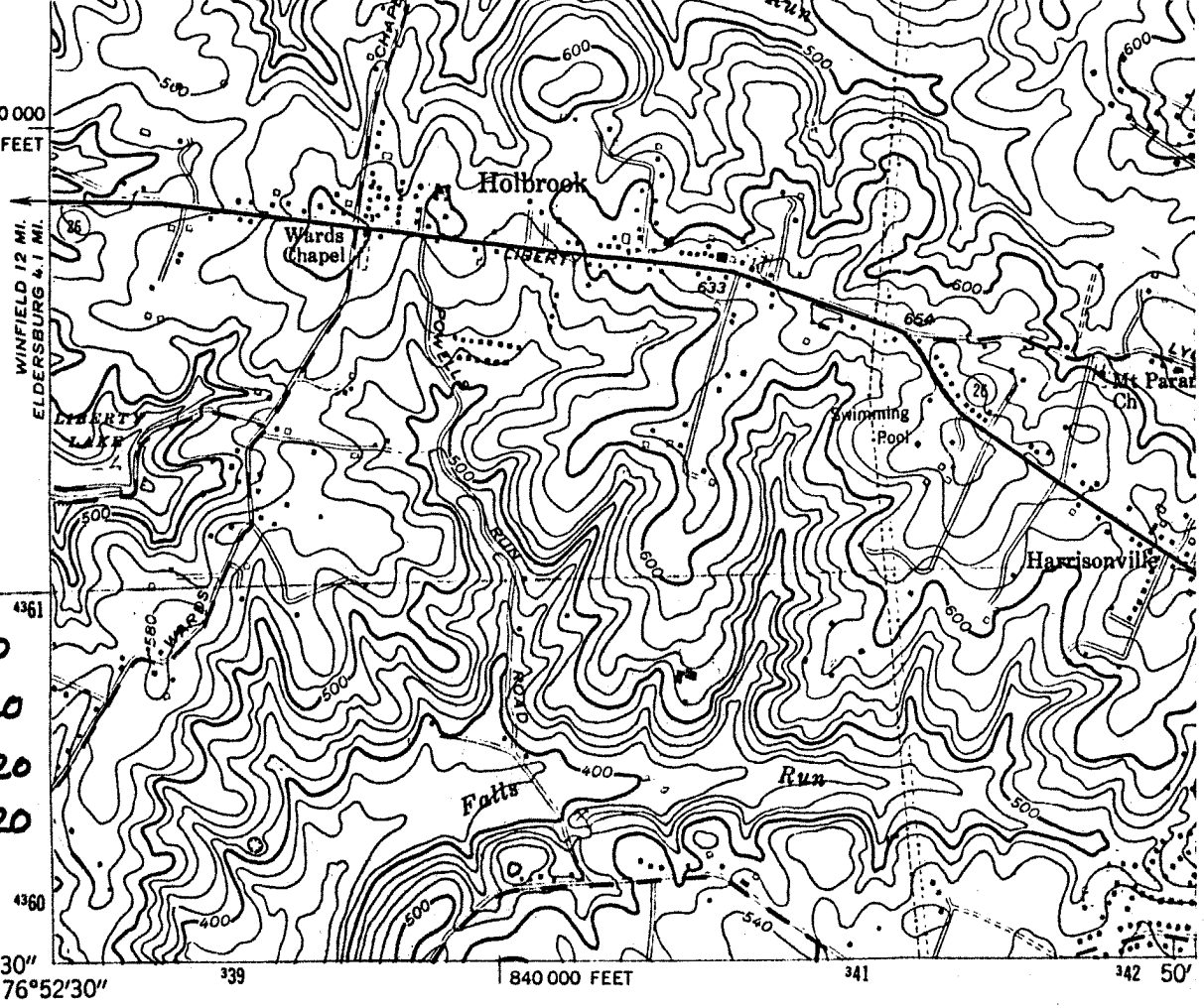
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

BA-2184

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

BA-2184
PLINLIMMON
FARM
BALTIMORE
COUNTY, MD.

A:18-345120-4361820
B:18-345120-4361620
C:18-344920-4361620
D:18-344920-4361820



(SYKESVILLE) 5662 IV SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field check 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953

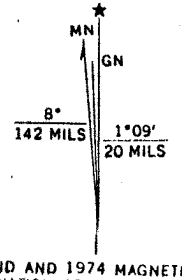
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extention of urb



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

BA-2184

BA-2184

1. Plintimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. Kate Simkins
4. March 18, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. west elevation of house
7. 1/21

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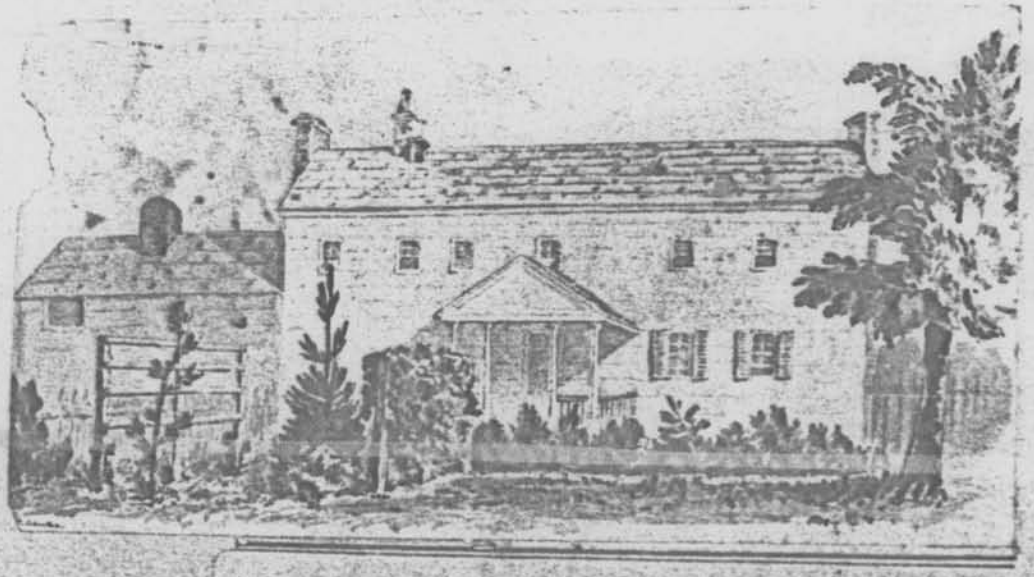
1. Plintimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. Kate Simkins
4. March 18, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. west elevation of house (entrance door)
7. 2/21

BA-2184

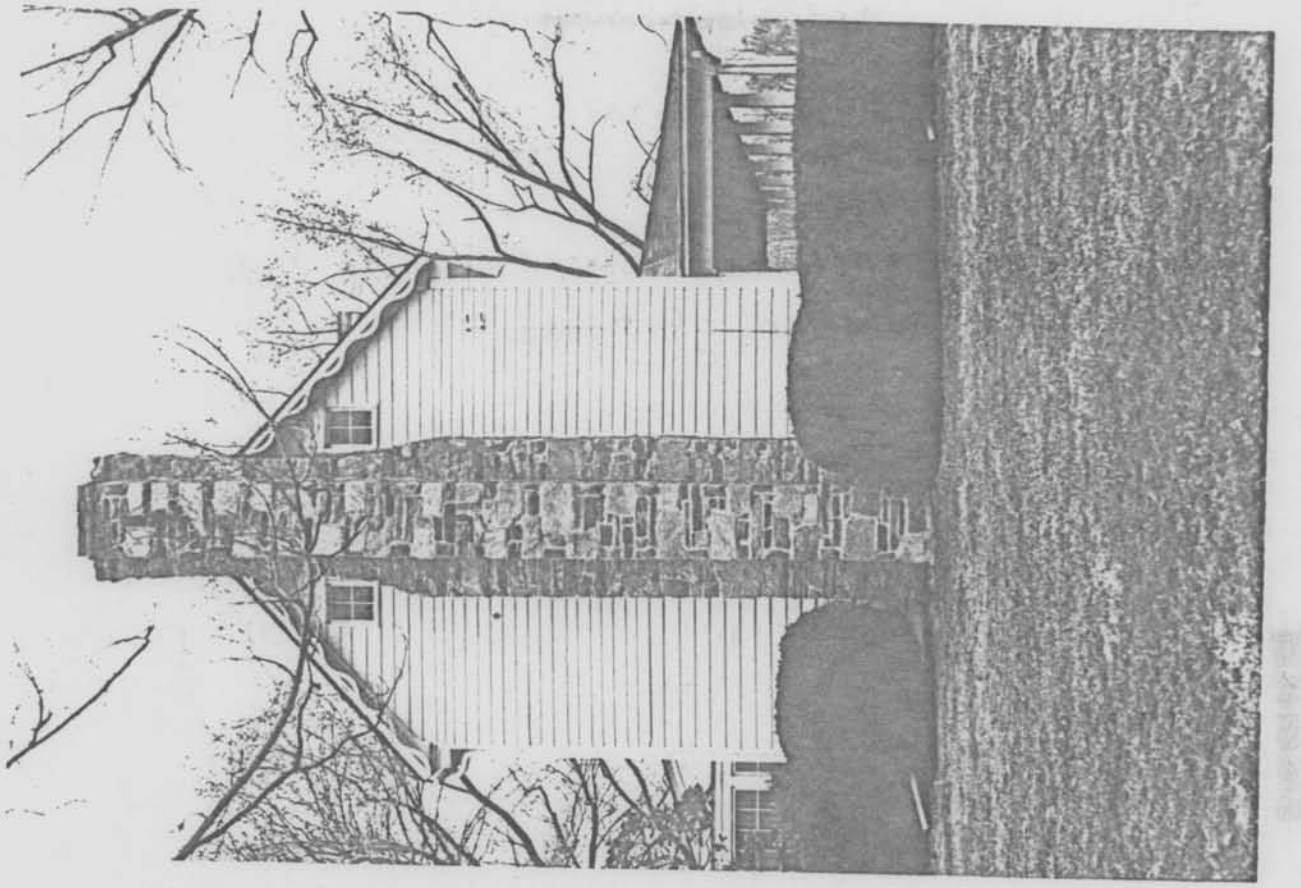


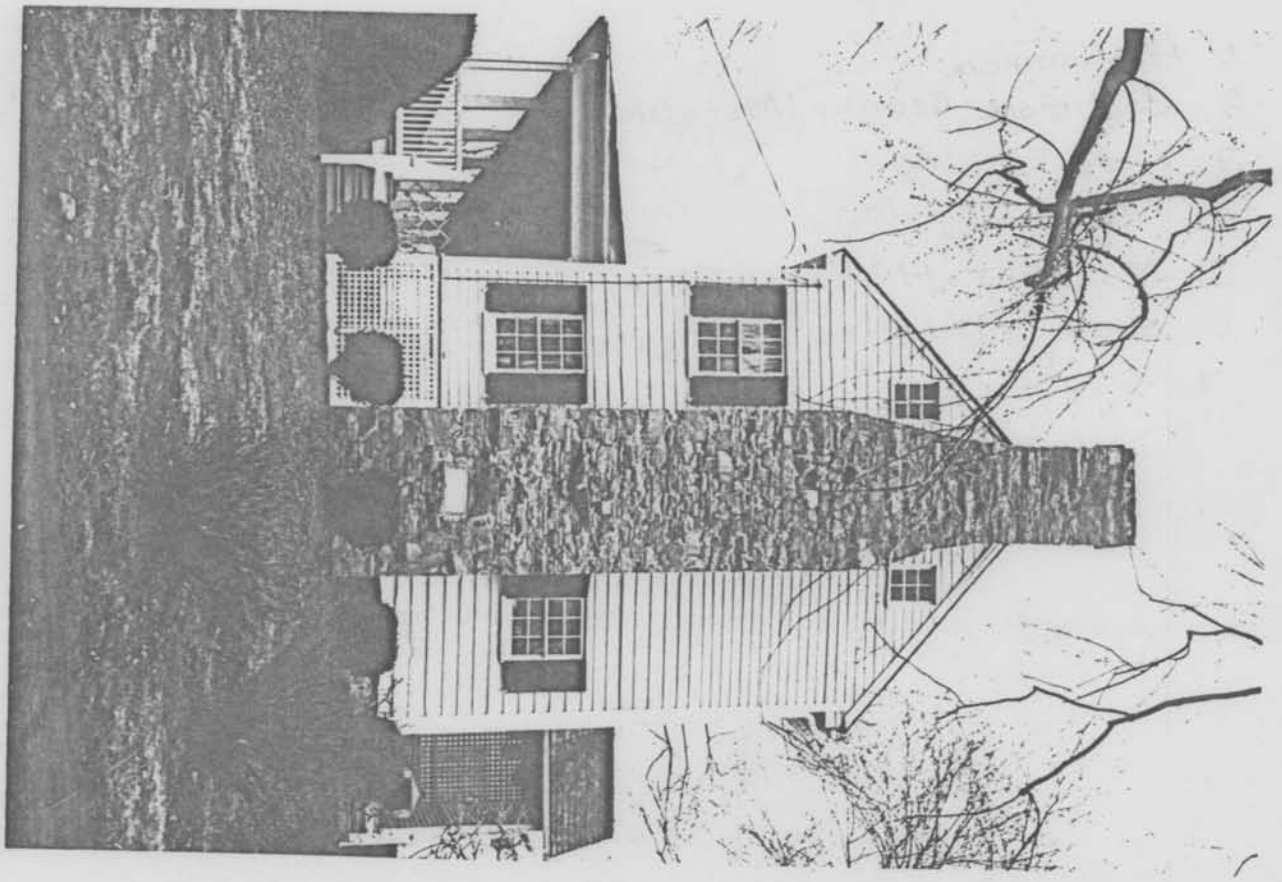
BA-2184

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. Kate Simkins
4. March 18, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. east elevation of house
7. 3/21

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. John Simkins
4. October 23, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. east elevation of house (1839 drawing)
7. 4/21

BA-2184



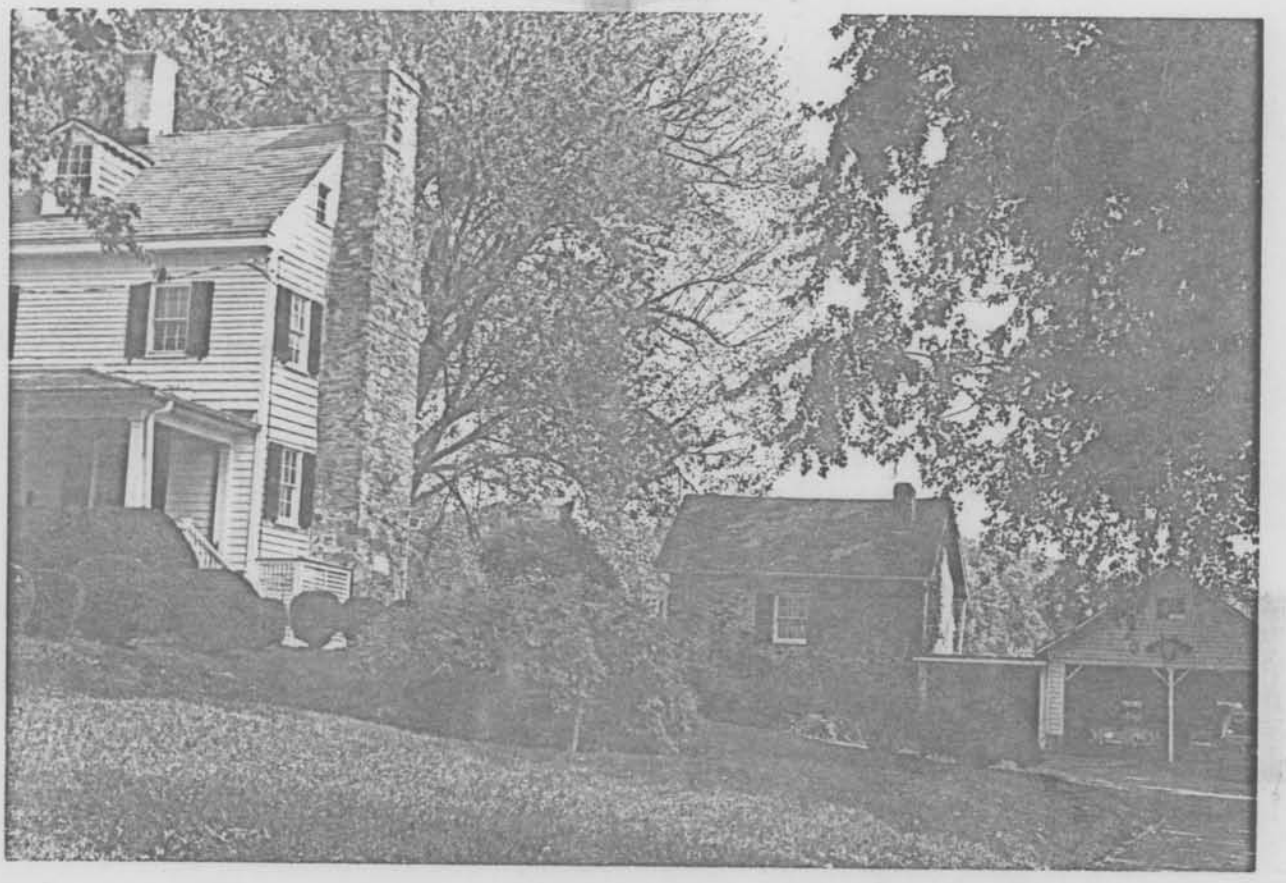


BA-2184

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. Rate Simkins
4. March 18, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. north elevation of house
7. 5/21

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. Rate Simkins
4. March 18, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust,
6. south elevation of house
7. 6/21

BA-2184



BA-2184

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. John Simkins
4. October 23, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. West and South elevations of house and west elevation of tenant house and garage
7. 7/21

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1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. John Simkins
4. October 23, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. West elevation of tenant house, garage and smokehouse
7. 8/21

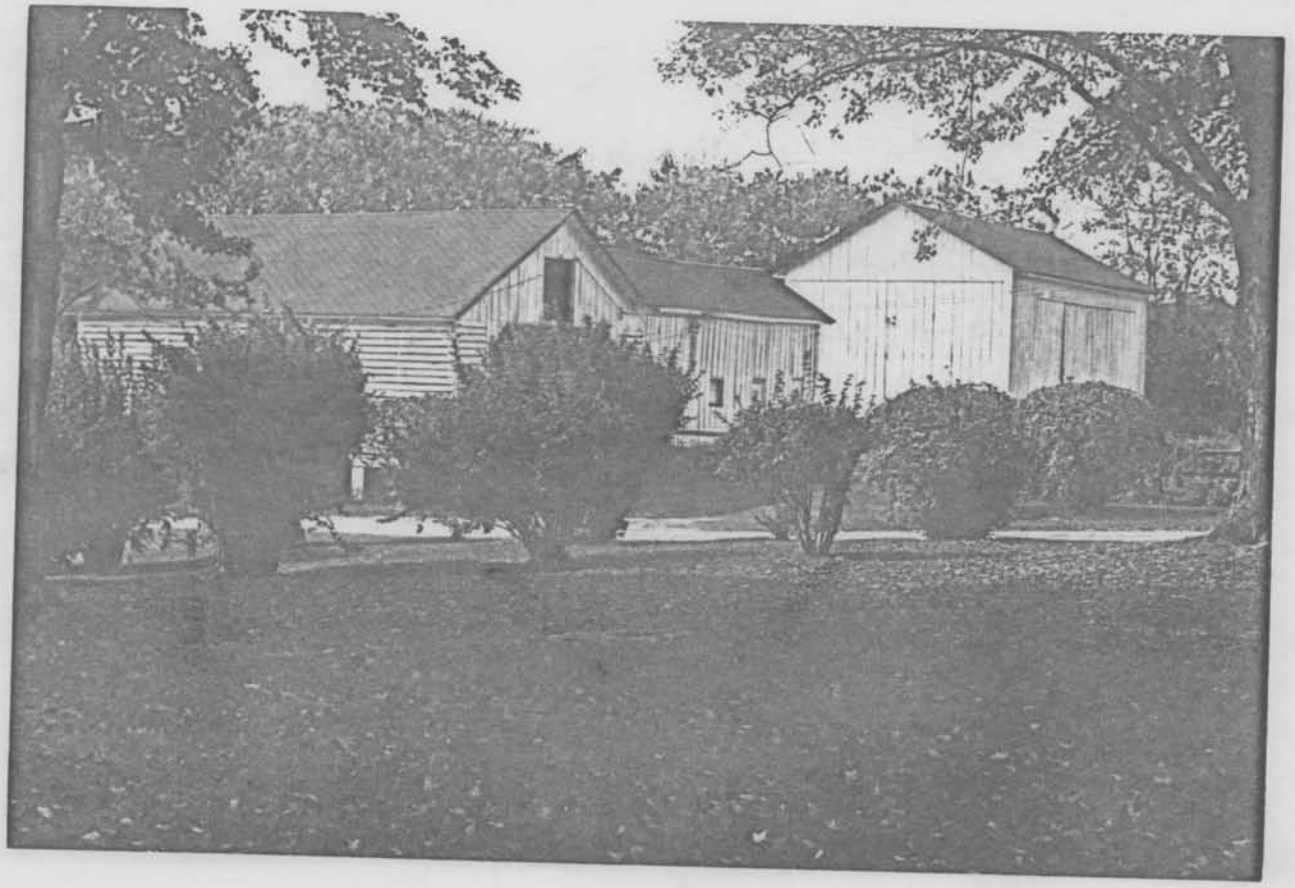
BA-2184

BA-2184

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. Kate Simkins
4. March 18, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. South and east elevations of smokehouse, garage and south elevation of tenant house
7. 9/21

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. John Simkins
4. October 9, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. north and west elevations of tenant house
7. 10/21

BA-2184

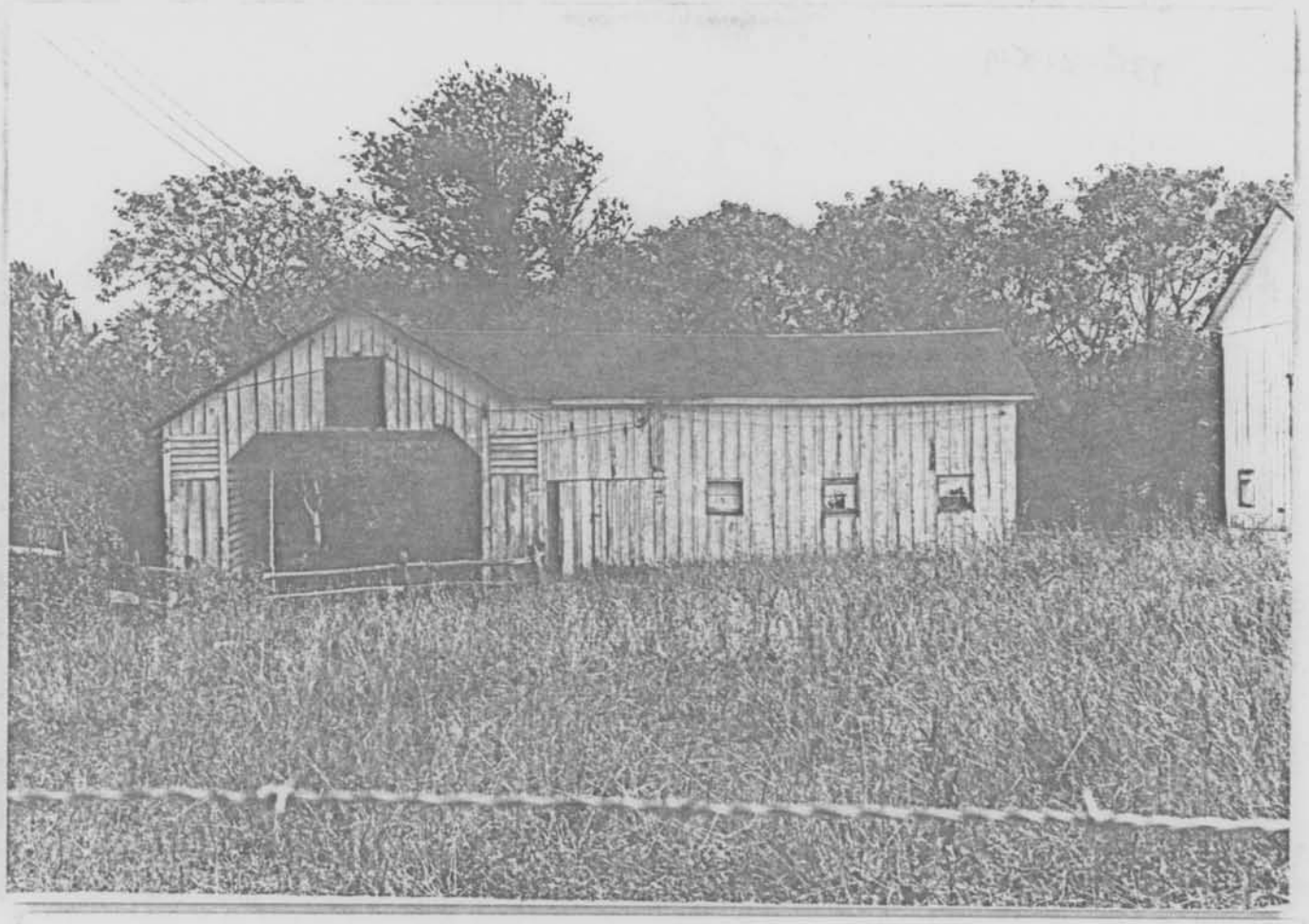


BA-2184

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. Kate Simkins
4. March 18, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. north elevation of tenant house
7. 11/21

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. John Simkins
4. October 9, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. north and east elevations of cornhouse and barn
7. 12/21

BA-2184

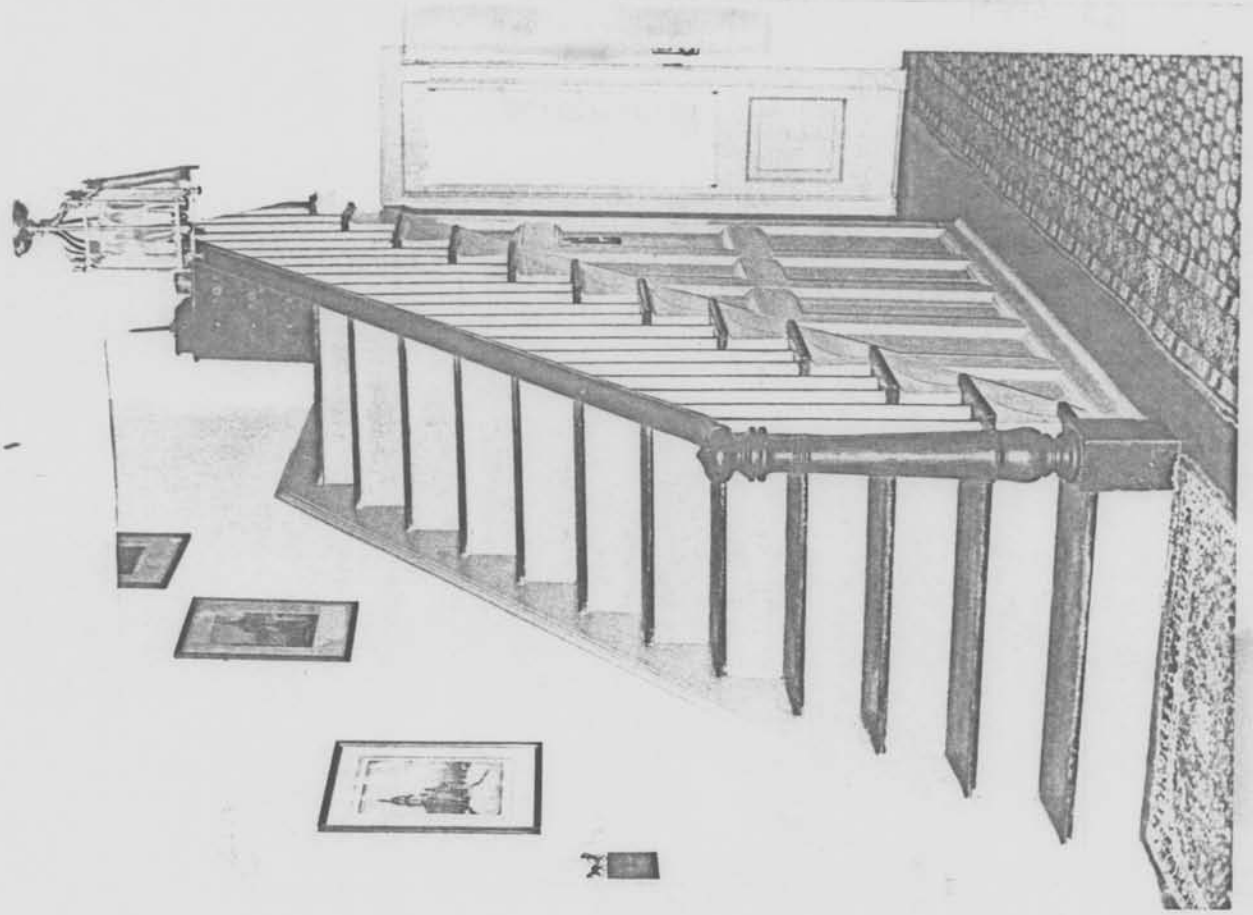


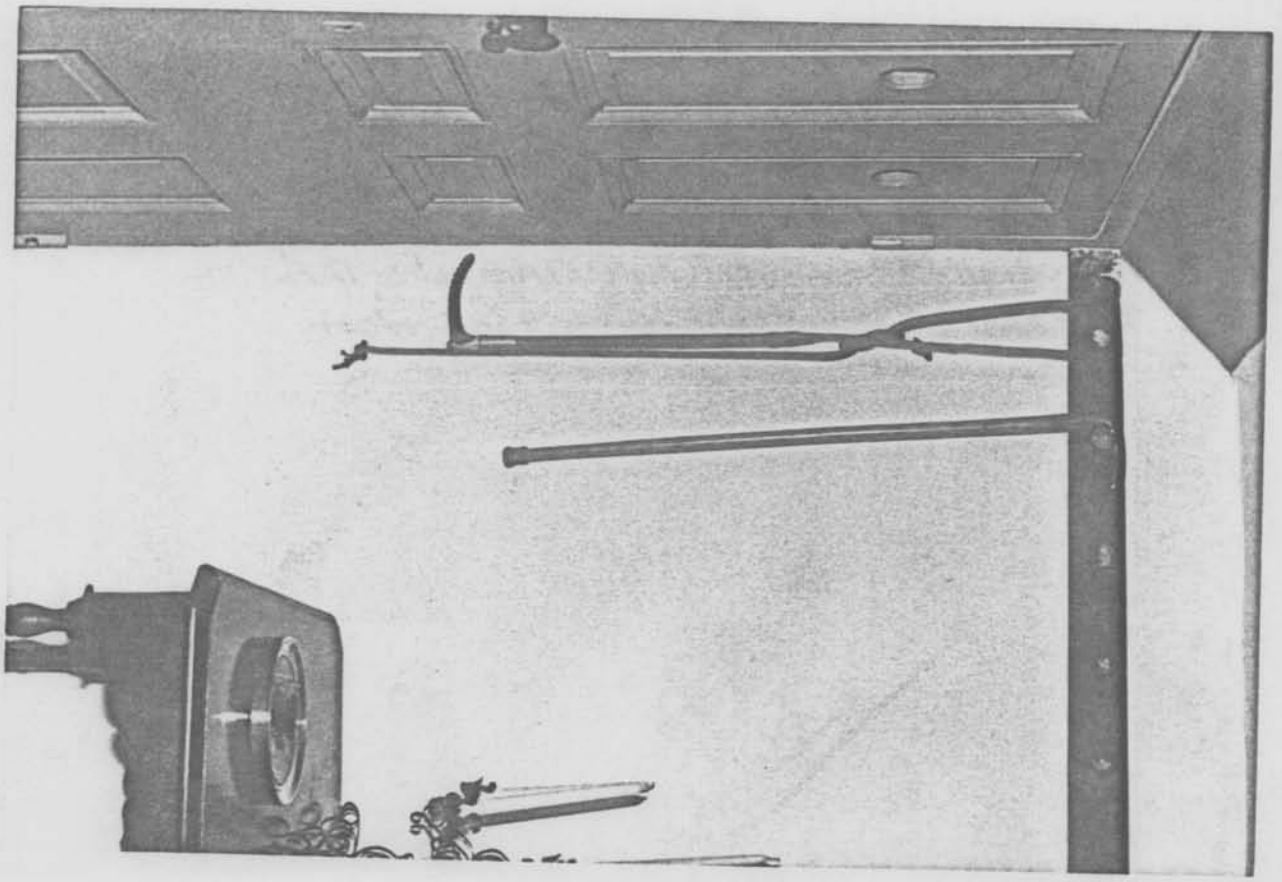
BA-2184

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. Kate Simkins
4. June 7, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. North elevation of cornhouse
7. 13/21

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. Kate Simkins
4. June 7, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. North and east elevations of barn
7. 14/21

BA-2184





BA-2184

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. John Simkins
4. October 23, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Entrance Hall
7. 15/21

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1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. John Simkins
4. October 23, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Entrance Hall staircase closet door
7. 16/21

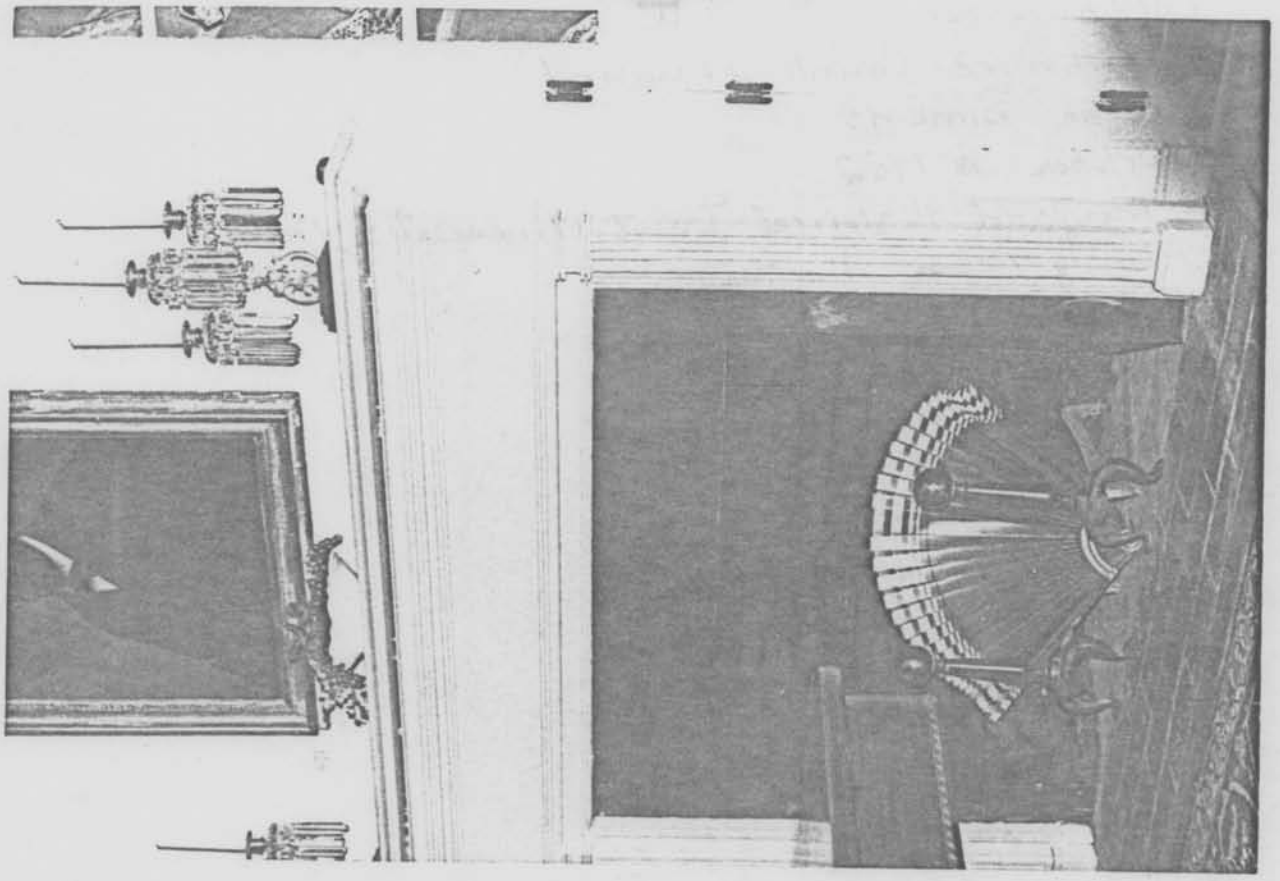
BA-2184

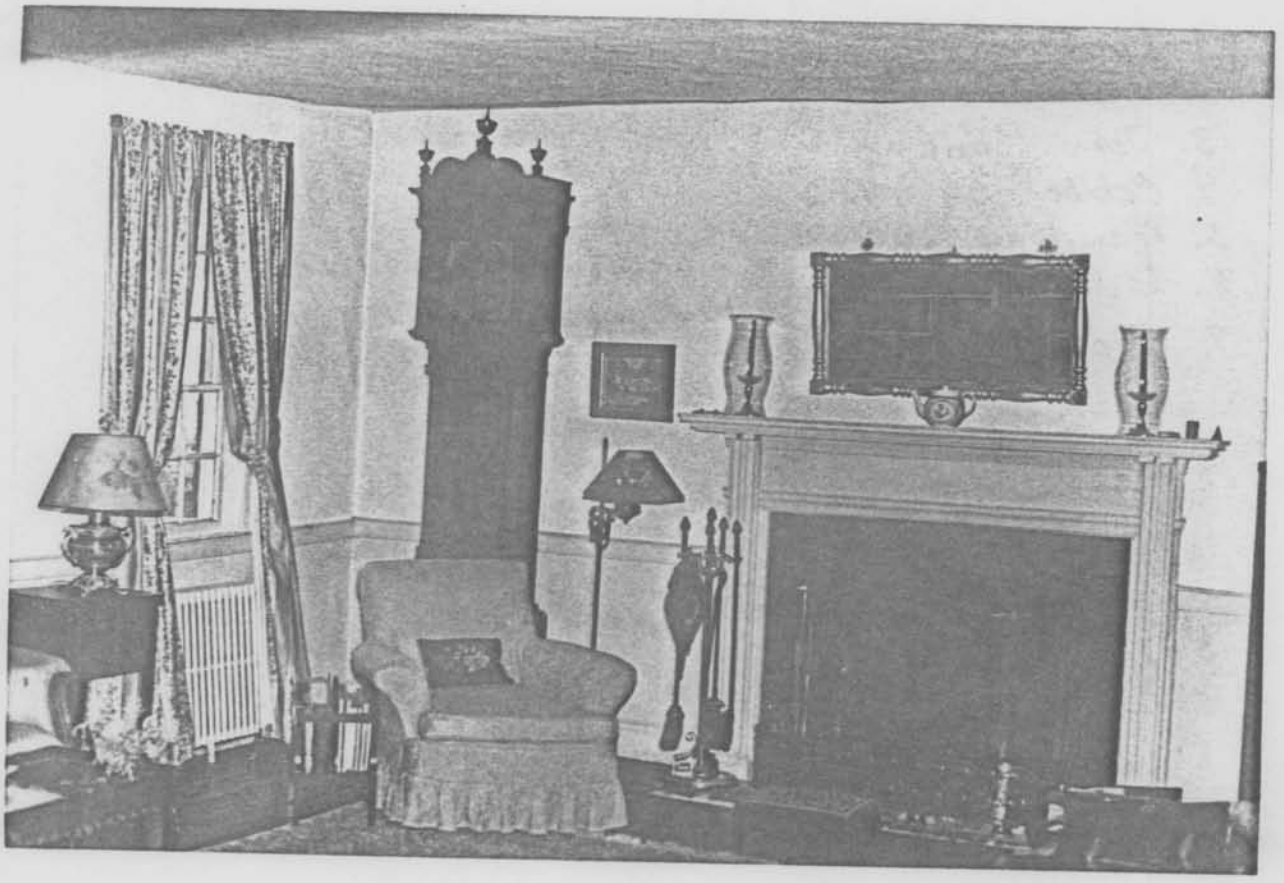
BA-2184

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. John Simkins
4. October 23, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Dining Room South wall (door to kitchen)
7. 17/21

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. John Simkins
4. October 23, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md
6. Dining Room South wall (mantel and china cupboard)
7. 18/21

BA-2184



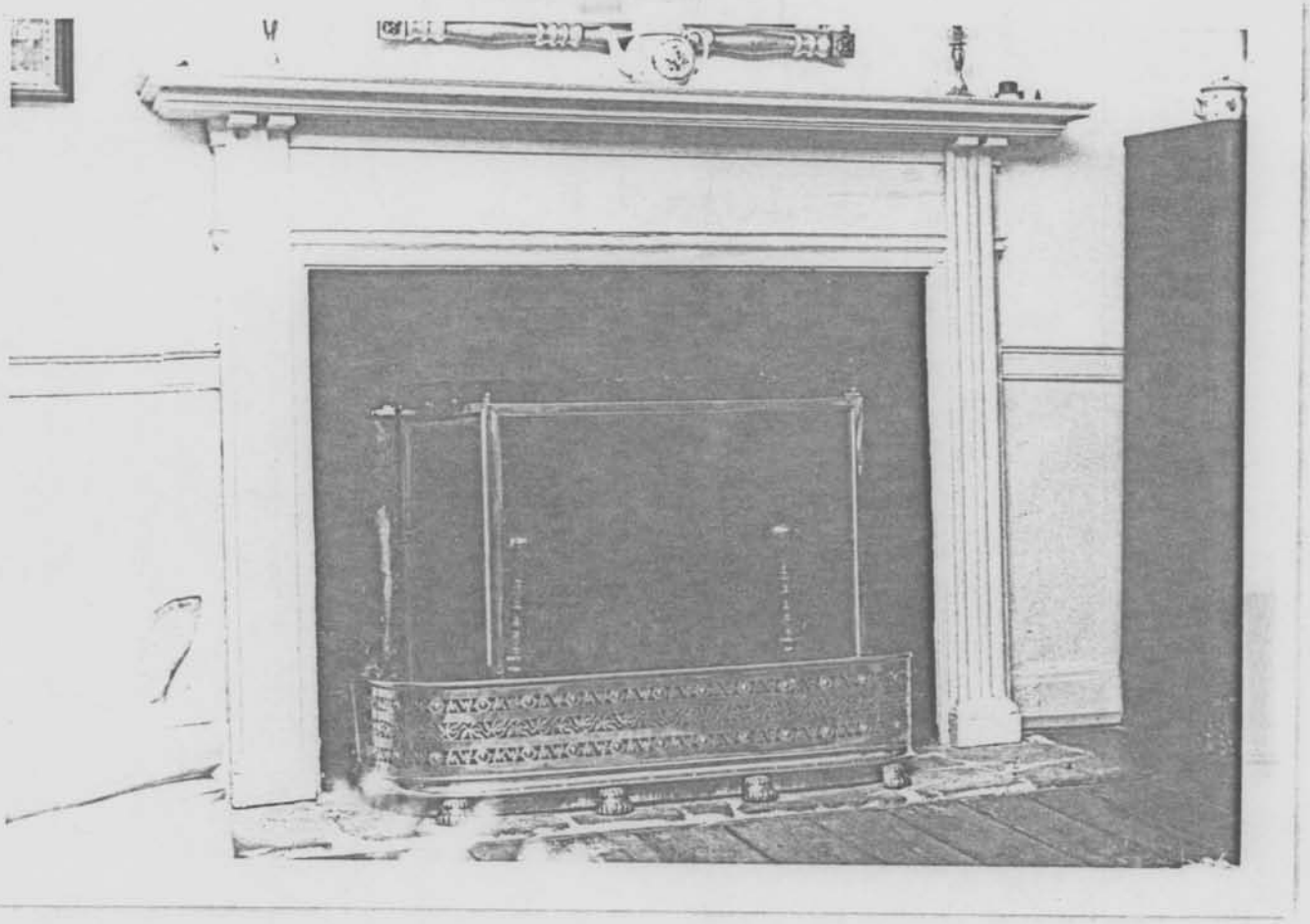


BA-2184

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. John Simkins
4. October 23, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust. Annapolis, Md.
6. Dining Room mantel
7. 19/21

1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. John Simkins
4. October 23, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis Md.
6. Living Room, north and west walls
7. 20/21

BA-2184



1. Plinlimmon
2. Baltimore County, Maryland
3. John Simkins
4. October 23, 1982
5. Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md.
6. Living Room mantel
7. 21/21