

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

Gambrill House

AND/OR COMMON

Boscobel House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Monocacy National Battlefield--Md. Route 355

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Frederick, Maryland

STATE

CODE

24

COUNTY

Frederick

CODE

021

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input checked="" 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 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service/National Capital Region

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber#659

Folio#20

STREET & NUMBER

Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Assessment of Alternatives

GMP, Monocacy National Battlefield

DATE

May 1979

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

NPS, NCR

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

**7** DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>c. 1868</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gambrill Farm is on Brush Creek where it joins the Monocacy River and is within the National Register boundary of Monocacy National Battlefield. The Gambrill House, "Boscobel" is on a hillside overlooking Brush Creek and Maryland Route 355.

"Boscobel is a three-story brick mansion with mansard roof and central tower. Its high style Second Empire Victorian decoration makes it significant for its rural location. Yet its rear ell with two storied galleried rear porch within the ell is a typical feature of a western Maryland house type and is without ornament. The facade, two sides and central tower are richly ornamented.

The principal 5-bay facade faces northwest. Its central entrance bay projects as the lower part of a 4 1/2 story mansard-roofed rectangular tower. A one-story porch across the front has a broad projecting central bay-ornamental square columns with scroll brackets, a single-bracketed cornice, and a balustraded flat roof with urn-and-ball finials topping the corner posts. Paired entrance doors are in a round-arched opening. Front windows at the first floor come almost to the floor level.

The tower is ornamented at the second story level by a tall square-headed window under a heavy bracketed hood which is in turn sheltered by a projecting balcony supported by scrolled brackets at the third floor. The third floor tower opening is round-arched with a molded hood and an elaborate finial.

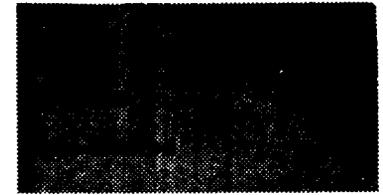
Centered in the 7-bay northeast facade is a slightly projecting pseudo tower with single-bay, one-story porch at the secondary entrance. A one-story projecting bay window with narrow bracketed cornice is in the far right bay and matches a similar window in the left bay of the southwest facade. First and second story windows on the major facades are square headed with ornamented segmental panels and molded hoods above. They have both interior and exterior shutters.

Cornices under the mansard roofs have heavy paired brackets and a pattern of V-shaped dentils. Mansard roofs have a horizontal band of fish scale slates. Dormers are round-arched with hood moldings and fleur-de-lys finial.

The common bond brick walls are painted buff; exterior woodwork is white except for the shutters which are black.

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The interior of the house is architecturally important. The entrance hall is richly ornamented with a carved newel post and a continuous Victorian balustrade from the first to the third floor. There are imported marble mantles with richly carved fruit ornament in the south downstairs parlour to the right of the entrance hall. To the left of the entrance is a library and large dining room. The downstairs ell contains kitchen and service area.

The house has four principal bedrooms on the second floor and four on the third, two on each side flanking the second and third story stair hallways, which are identical in commodious size as the entrance hall. The second floor doorways open on the roofs of the front and northwest facade porches. The rear ell forms a service wing with two additional bedrooms and servants stairway to the kitchen. At the first floor landing of the central stairway, a door opens out to the second floor gallery of the two story rear ell porch.

A full basement is part of the original construction.

Although adaptation to modern requirements involved the installation of several bathrooms and additional kitchen, most of the original interior spaces are uncompromised. There are five bedrooms on each of the upper two floors. Dormer windows on each side of the tower room provide broad views in each direction.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

F-7-58

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/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1868-1873

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James H. Gambrill

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

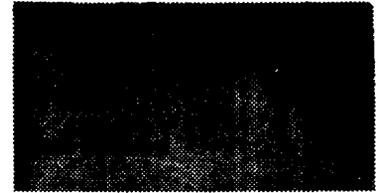
## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gambrill house, "Boscobel" is a richly ornamented but conservative interpretation of the Second Empire style. It is significant in that it represents a style of architecture that was rarely used in its "high style" form in rural Maryland. "Boscobel" is also significant for its association with James Gambrill for whom the house was erected. Gambrill as owner of both Araby Mill and the Frederick City Mill, was an important figure in Frederick County's industrial history. Under the criteria of significance for a National Register eligible property, "Boscobel" is eligible under Criterion "C" - embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and also under criterion "B" association with the lives of persons significant in our past.

"Boscobel" was built by James H. Gambrill as his principal residence between 1868 and 1873. The name Boscobel means "beautiful forest" in Italian. There was an earlier Gambrill house which according to tradition was burned during the Civil War. James H. Gambrill had purchased the Gambrill farm in 1856 from Colonel J. Pearson who established the Araby Mill on the site in 1830. Mr. Gambrill operated Araby Mill and enlarged it, becoming a prosperous Frederick County merchant and manufacturer. A native of Howard County, Maryland, Gambrill moved to Frederick County in 1849. In 1878, Gambrill enlarged his business by the purchase of the Frederick City Mill, thus increasing his production to forty-five thousand barrels of flour per annum. In his time, Mr. Gambrill was one of the most distinguished business men of Frederick County.<sup>1</sup> The property remained in Gambrill family ownership until December 6, 1897 when Minnie Leigh Mercer bought the property. Since that time, the property went through various ownerships until Earl Vivino sold the tract to the Federal Government in the early 1980s for inclusion into Monocacy National Battlefield. <sup>1</sup>T.J.C. Williams and Folger McKinsey, Historic of Frederick County Maryland (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1979) P.1056.

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National Park Service**

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Mr. Gambrill built "Boscobel: on a hill above the mill, and it remains a county showplace. The house is architecturally significant as an early intact example of Second Empire architecture, with distinctive tower, hooded windows, and mansard roof. It is a very high style expression for its rural location. The entrance hall and stairway and first floor rooms with marble mantles are extremely fine and significant. High ceilings, decorative plasterwork and a large walnut three story staircase add to the interior features.

The house is locally significant for its architectural style and locally significant for its association with James H. Gambrill.

Though it has been severely altered to the point of being no longer eligible for the National Register, the nearby Araby or Gambrill Mill served as a Federal hospital during the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864. The family of James H. Gambrill had gone to join the family of C. Keefer Thomas, to hide in the Thomas cellar during the Battle of Monocacy. James H. Gambrill stayed on at the Araby Mill during the battle. The mill was to the right and a little to the rear of the Federal line and somewhat out of the line of fire, though several Confederate shells fell in close proximity. In the first firing of the morning's battle, several men of the 87th Pennsylvania Regiment were severely wounded while the regiment lay in the yard in front of Gambrill's house and one or two were killed near Gambrill's mill.

Only portions of the stone walls of the Gambrill or Araby Mill remain. The alterations that were made some years ago to convert the mill into a residence drastically compromise the integrity of the design, materials, and workmanship that create the feeling and association with a 19th century mill (see enclosed letter of November 5, 1984 from the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer). Because of its compromised integrity, the Gambrill Mill is lacking in National Register eligibility and not included in this nomination.

Monocacy National Battlefield which contains the Gambrill Farm is already listed on the National Register. The purpose of this nomination is to delineate the National Register qualifications of "Boscobel," the Gambrill House, which having architectural and local historical significance on its own, lies outside of the historic scene period of the battle of Monocacy.

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National Park Service

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Major Bibliographical References

A. Books and Articles

- Coker, Brad The Battle of Monocacy, College of Liberal Arts, University of Baltimore: 1982
- Goldsborough, E. Y. Early's Great Raid, He Advance Through Maryland, Battle of Monocacy, Undated pamphlet: Frederick County Library, Frederick, Maryland
- Scharf, J. Thomas History of Western Maryland, Philadelphia Louis H. Everts, 1882
- William, T. J. C. History of Frederick County Maryland Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1979
- Worthington, Glenn H. The Battle of Monocacy, Frederick, Maryland The News-Post, 1927

B. Historic Site Inventories

- "Araby Mill" Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey Annapolis, Maryland, 1977
- "Boscobel" Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, Annapolis, Maryland, 1977
- "Gambrill Mill" List of Classified Structures, National Capital Region, NPS 1984
- "Gambrill House" List of Classified Structures, National Capital Region, NPS 1984
- "Monocacy Battlefield" National Register Nomination Form, National Register of Historic Places, NPS, 1973

C. National Park Service Studies

- Johnson, Ronald W. "Gambrill Mill Site Evaluation and Brief Special History Study" NPS, DSC, 1984

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

F-7-58

See continuation

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	200	29810	B			
	2,9,4	460	436,0				
	460		005				
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The Gambrill Farm tract of Monocacy National Battlefield Park is located about three miles southeast of Frederick, Maryland near the crossing of U.S. Route 355 over the Monocacy River at the confluence of Brush Creek and the Monocacy River. The farm is accessed by a secondary farm road which turns east off of U.S. Route 355 right at the junction of Araby Church Road. Immediately turning into the Gambrill farm, the Second Empire Victorian house "Boscobel" is viewed on a hillock to the right between the farm road and U.S. Route 355.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	Maryland	CODE	COUNTY	Frederick	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY		CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	Gary Scott, Regional Historian
ORGANIZATION	National Capital Region-NPS
STREET & NUMBER	1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
CITY OR TOWN	Washington
DATE	August 9, 1984
TELEPHONE	202-426-6660
STATE	D.C.

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_\_\_

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is \_\_\_\_\_ National \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE	DATE
<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
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	

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See continuation

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	200	59810	B			
	2,9,4	3,6,9	43,6,0,0,0,5				
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	Maryland	CODE	COUNTY	Frederick	CGDE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY		CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Gary Scott, Regional Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Capital Region-NPS

DATE

August 9, 1984

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

TELEPHONE

202-426-6660

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*[Signature]* 10-8-85

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

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

# BUCKEYSTOWN QUADRANGLE

MARYLA

7.5 MINUTE SE

A. Gambrill Mill

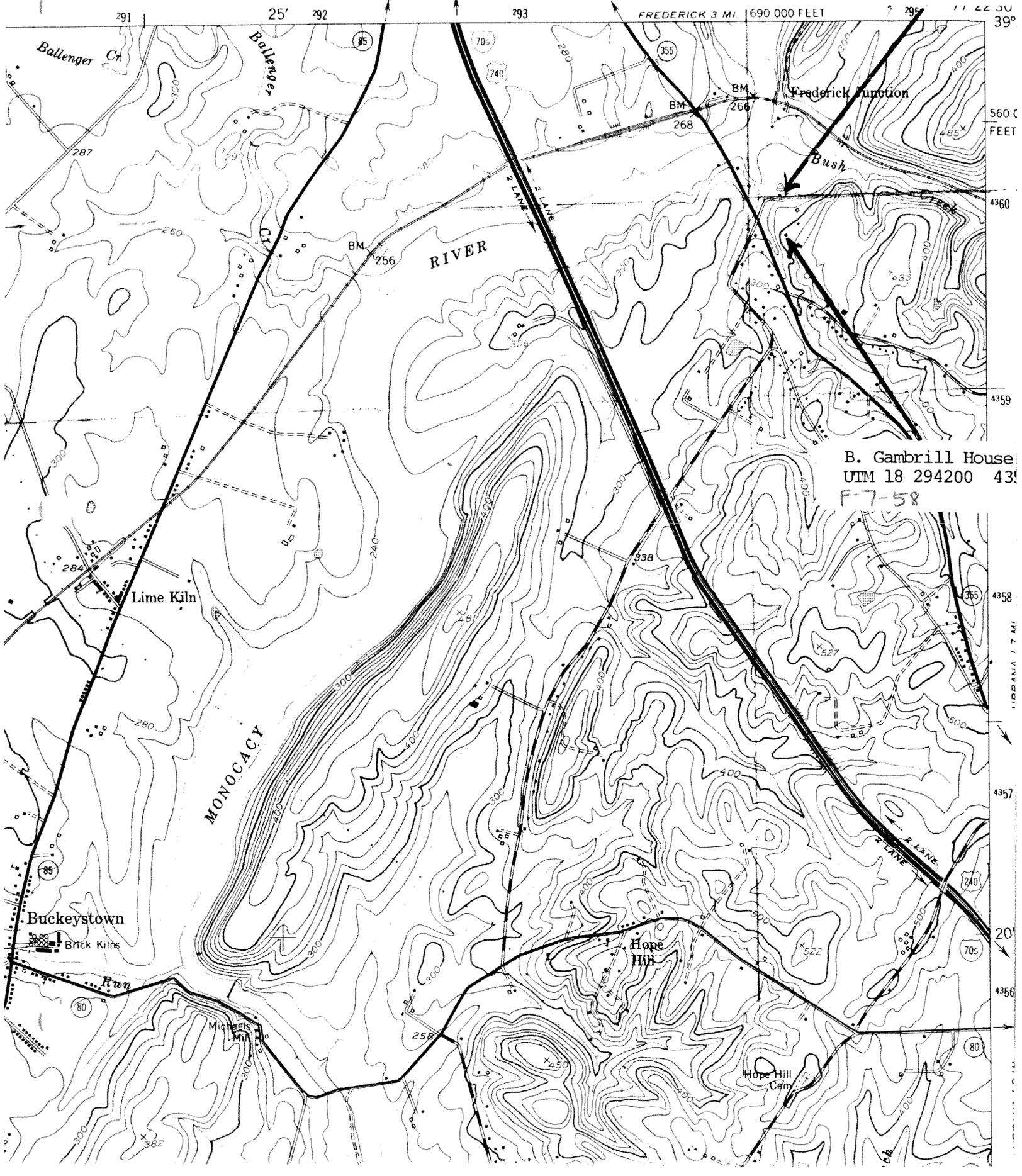
UTM 18 294160 436000

RMY  
S

FREDERICK 3 MI.

HAGERSTOWN 26 MI.  
FREDERICK (JUNC. U.S. 40) 3.5 MI.

FREDERICK 3 MI. | 690 000 FEET



B. Gambrill House

UTM 18 294200 436000

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INDIANA 17 MI.

20'

4356

80

64



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F-7-58



Bascoabel F-7-56  
W/S Rte 355 nr Araly  
North view













Boscobel F-7-58

N/S Rte 355 NR. ARABY

Interior, Marble Fireplace, South Room

First level

SE



This and the following pictures sent  
to the Trust by Mahmood Saniie of

SAAZEH Design Group

F-7-58

8055 Thirteenth Street, Suite 400

Silver Spring, MD 20910

(301) 588-7790

3/15/85



This and the following pictures sent  
to the Trust by

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SAAZE Design Group

8055 Thirteenth Street, Suite 400

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