

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

BA-1152

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Cool Spring

and or common Hill House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 19301 York Road N/A not for publication

city, town Parkton X vicinity of Second Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Baltimore code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<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 type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John C. and Dolores J. Wright

street & number 19301 York Road

city, town Parkton N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21120

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue

city, town Towson state Maryland 21204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

BA-1152

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" 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	date <u>          N/A          </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of previously listed  
National Register properties  
included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions  
and uses: residential

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Hill House is a large brick mansard-roofed dwelling constructed c. 1879 near the village of Parkton in northern Baltimore County, Maryland. The house faces west on a rise overlooking the former Baltimore and York Town Turnpike; it stands 2½ stories high, five bays wide by four bays deep, with a two-story, two-bay kitchen wing extending from the rear. The central entrance features a four-paneled door flanked by round-arched sidelights and surmounted by a rectangular transom. A flat-roofed porch spans the three central bays of the facade, with chamfered posts, scrolled brackets, and a bracketed cornice. Windows throughout the house are tall 4/4 sash with prominent white-painted wooden lintels; the first-floor windows are of floor-to-ceiling height. An unusual rectangular "conservatory" bay juts out at an angle from the southwest corner; a three-sided bay covers the eastern half of the south elevation. The building cornice is treated with a broad architrave and a deep overhang with scrolled brackets decorated with turned pendants; the porch and both bays have matching cornices. The mansard is clad in blue and red slate laid in a geometric pattern; three round-headed dormers with 2/2 sash light the west facade (the central dormer holds a double window). Two similar dormers appear on the north and south elevations, and three on the east, all with single 2/2 sash. The gable-roofed kitchen wing is centered on the east side; it has a one-story shed-roofed open porch across its south elevation, and an enclosed two-tier gallery on the north. The interior of Hill House is organized in a center-hall plan. Broad arched openings give access to the north and south parlors; the south parlor retains its set of paneled bi-folded double doors. At the east end of the entrance hall, the stair rises in four curving flights to the attic; it features an octagonal oak newel, two turned balusters per tread, and scrolled step ends. The north parlor has an elaborate marble mantel; a simpler mantel appears in the (southeast) dining room. The four fireplaces on the second floor are trimmed with plain wooden surrounds; the attic was unheated. Paneled doors, baseboard, and architrave trim survives throughout the house. A frame shed is located behind the house.

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National Park Service

BA-1152

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Hill House  
Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Hill House is a large brick Second Empire dwelling of two stories plus mansard level, built on a prominent rise overlooking the former Baltimore and York Town Turnpike. The main facade is five bays wide with three bays of dormers at the mansard level.

There is a three-bay wide front porch about two steps above grade. The porch roof is flat, supported by four square wooden posts and two recessed posts. The posts are decorated with scroll brackets. The flat porch roof has a broad architrave and heavily bracketed cornice. The deck is without railings.

The windows opening on the porch are floor-to-ceiling types with large, double-hung sashes in 4-over-4 layout. The door is centrally located, reflecting a center-hall plan. The single door is solid and four-paneled, flanked by round arched sidelights and topped by a three-part rectangular transom. The surrounding glass has been treated with a Victorian frosting technique that produces a geometric pattern.

A shallow brick bay juts out from the southwest corner of the facade. This bay is apparently intended to be a miniature conservatory. The widest portion contains tall, twin, double-hung sash windows with 4-over-4 lights. Each side wall is fitted with one sash window. The entire bay is topped by an architrave and bracketed cornice.

The mansard level is lighted by double-hung sash windows set in shallow pedimented dormers. The central dormer contains a pair of sash windows, the end dormers contain only one sash window. All the lights are set in 2-over-2 format.

The overall house layout is T-shaped, with the main block practically a square. On each side, the main block is four bays deep with two dormers at the mansard level. On the first floor, the north side of the main block has three windows, and a side door in the easternmost bay without any porch roofing or shelter. Four windows occupy the second-floor bays.

The south side of the main block is more irregular. There are four sash windows at second-story level. At first-story level, there is a blank bay that compensates for space occupied by the corner conservatory, a tall 4-over-4 sash window in the second bay from the west, and a one-story three-sided projecting bay. This bay, which lights the dining room, has a pair of large, double-hung sash windows in the south wall, single windows in the two slanting side walls. The entire projection is topped with an architrave and bracketed cornice.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Hill House  
Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The rear kitchen wing, the stem of the T, is one room deep, two bays wide, gable-roofed, two stories high. This rear extension provides a one-story shed-roofed, side porch along the south of the house and a double-decked shed-roofed gallery on the north side. The south side porch is railed with plain boards. The gallery is enclosed. The windows in the rear wing are smaller than those in the main block, being 2-over-2 in format.

The rear of the main block is not entirely obscured by the rear wing, and on the southeast corner, one bay of the large Victorian sash windows continues the motif of the front and side design. The mansard also continues around the rear of the house and contains three dormers similar to those used in front.

Roofing material on the mansard surface is red and dark blue slate set in a geometric pattern.

The foundation is random fieldstone. The basement contains some sturdy hand-hewn, half-round joists supported by rough-hewn posts. A frame shed is located behind the house.

Interior

The interior of Hill House is conservative in its detailing. It retains broad architrave molding typical of the period. An unusual feature of the south parlor is the curved wall leading into the shallow "conservatory" bay at the southwest corner of the room. This parlor never contained an overhead lamp or light. The antique fireplace in this room had been blocked up in the past. Some papers, including a child's handwriting exercises inscribed on railroad stationery of the 1870s was found behind the parlor mantel along with a blackened postcard and a tintype photograph. This fireplace backs up to a twin fireplace that serves the dining room.

A set of double bi-fold paneled doors closes the wide, round-topped archway that leads from the center hall to the south parlor; similar doors originally existed in the north parlor as well.

The north parlor features a grey, polished marble fireplace mantel of Victorian design.

The center hallway contains a stairway that curves around without the use of a landing. The turned ballusters are painted white, the handrail and octagonal newel post are oak, stained dark brown. Scrollwork decorates the step ends.

# 8. Significance

BA-1152

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		

<b>Specific dates</b>	c. 1879	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	unknown
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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Applicable Criteria: A, C  
 Applicable Exceptions: none  
 Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Hill House is significant for its architecture. It presents a rural interpretation of the Second Empire style, embodying the distinctive characteristics of this style including the mansard roof clad in polychrome slate, bracketed cornice, square proportions, and symmetrical fenestration with floor-to-ceiling windows on the first floor. The building survives in an excellent state of preservation, with the vast majority of its interior and exterior decorative detailing intact. Constructed about 1879 for a local physician, Hill House is associated with the early "suburbanization" of northern Baltimore County made possible by the extension of commuter rail service from Baltimore city.

BA-1152

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Hill House

Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 3

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Local tradition holds that Hill House was one of a set of three erected by the same unknown contractor. The other two examples were "the Hall House," demolished in the 1950s while constructing Interstate Route I-83, and "Hunningdon," at 16129 York Road in Sparks (BA-535), which still stands and is first found in the 1876 tax ledger.<sup>1</sup>

This land had belonged to George Little until his death in 1878. The 1877 atlas showed his residence on the south side of Stablersville Road. Little owned \$1,500 worth of unspecified improvements in the 1876 tax ledger.<sup>2</sup> His inventory, among other items, made mention of:

Lot of Brick in the Kiln \$150.<sup>3</sup>

Little's farm was split up by Court-appointed commissioners, and his daughter, A. Maggie Rankin was allotted 54 acres of the estate, the portion of it fronting some 297 feet on the York Road, (then Baltimore and York Town Turnpike), where Hill House is found today.<sup>4</sup>

Mrs. Rankin was the wife of Dr. Moses E. Rankin, a physician, shown in the 1877 atlas as living on the opposite side of the turnpike. The atlas patron list shows that Dr. Rankin settled (or was born) in this County in 1852; he owned no real estate as shown in that tabulation or in the 1876 tax ledger.<sup>5</sup>

A. Maggie Rankin and the doctor mortgaged the 54-acre parcel on the York Road which they had acquired in settling the family estate. It would seem logical to conclude that the \$1,100 of borrowed money was for construction of the large house. The loan was taken out on August 12, 1879.<sup>6</sup> About a year later, Mrs. Rankin made out her will, leaving to her husband, "my farm whereon I now dwell by the name of "Cool Spring" lying in Baltimore County 65½ acres."<sup>7</sup> By October of 1880, Mrs. Rankin died; the testamentary accounts throw no light on her financial dealings.<sup>8</sup>

In 1890, Dr. Rankin, by then a resident of the city of Philadelphia, sold 15 acres on the York Road to James W. Ayres for \$3,100, and two years later Ayres mortgaged the place for \$2,000.<sup>9</sup> Both prices certainly reflect the inclusion of a valuable house on the property. In 1894, Ayres sold the property to Reuben H. Gourley, who assumed the mortgage.<sup>10</sup> The 1896 Tax Ledger proves that Gourley owned a brick house three-quarters of a mile north of Parkton on 15½ acres, a structure worth \$1,800.<sup>11</sup> The 1898 Bromley atlas seems to show all the major houses north of Parkton in the wrong hands.<sup>12</sup> In fact, R. H. Gourley was shown on the west side of the road instead of the east, as had been the case in 1877 with Hopkins' atlas, which was clearly the basis of the Bromley atlas.

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet Hill House  
Baltimore County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 4

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

In October 1896, Reuben H. Gourley sold the 15 acres to William Wise for \$700 plus assumption of the mortgage.<sup>13</sup> Wise, a paper manufacturer at nearby White Hall, reassembled the other two parcels that had belonged to Mrs. Rankin and in 1902 sold a total of 64 acres to Arthur Hendrix.<sup>14</sup>

Hendrix paid \$3,500, which was approximately what the same farm sold for when he lost control in 1907. In the public auction of Hendrix's property, the house is clearly described for the first time:

Improved by a Three-Story Brick House  
Containing fifteen rooms, a good barn  
and other outbuildings. The property  
is situated in a good neighborhood  
convenient to N.C.R.R. being about 3/4  
mile from Parkton Station and Post  
Office.<sup>15</sup>

After 1907, the history of the house is easily traced. Calvin Webster Hendrix bought the 15-room mansion at auction and in 1909 sold to William C. Orem, who promptly conveyed to Chase Orem & Company.<sup>16</sup> The house was again advertised in 1911 when the corporation sued William C. Orem for default, and following another public sale, it passed to Marian Little (or Martha Marian Little) who was a member of the same family that had owned the ground before.<sup>17</sup>

Tax entries of 1911 and 1915 valued the house at \$2,000 and, in 1918, the dimensions were given as:

Dwelling	16 x 20	2 stories	
	32 x 36	2½ stories	\$2600. <sup>18</sup>

Marian Little was then owner and continued until her death in 1951. Miss Little's sister, Emma Little Jones inherited the place and various family members held it until 1972 when Richard L. and Pamela Sharp bought it, followed in 1973 by Paul J. Lambden, Diane M.D. Lambden, Robert and Jane L. D'Ambrogi, who sold to the present owners in 1978.<sup>19</sup>

Footnotes:

1. Ms. Emily Stiffler, Parkton, MD, to author, March 15, 1981.
2. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, 1876, District 7, n.p.
3. B.C. Inventories, JBM 4:457.
4. B.C. Judicial Records, JB 57:293, 324, 325.

BA-1152

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Continuation sheet Hill House Item number 8 Page 5  
Baltimore County, Maryland

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Footnotes (continued)

5. G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1877).  
Patron List, District 7.
6. B.C. Mortgages, JBM 84:385.
7. B.C. Wills, JBM 6:168. Other records mention "Cold Springs."
8. B.C. Inventories, WHK 17:51.
9. B.C. Deeds, JWS 181:144, and B.C. Mortgages, LMB 161:586.
10. B.C. Deeds, LMB 204:277, and Mortgages LMB 180:51.
11. B.C. Tax List, District 7, 1896, Entry #27-42.
12. G. W. and Walter B. Bromley, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland  
(Philadelphia, 1898), Page 31.
13. B.C. Deeds, LMB 220:197.
14. B.C. Deeds, NBM 258:364.
15. B.C. Judicial Records, WPC 213:316.
16. B.C. Deeds, WPC 324:86, and WPC 342:142, 139.
17. B.C. Judicial Records, WPC 251:177. B.C. Deeds, WPC 436:381.
18. B.C. Tax Ledgers, District 7, 1911, f. 463, f. 612; and 1918, f. 631.
19. B.C. Deeds GLB 2791:266, 269, 271. Also, Deeds EHK JR. 5302:248, and  
EHK JR. 5346:580, and EHK JR. 5865:460.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Hill House

Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland Item number 10

Page 6

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date entered

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description: Boundaries are depicted on the enclosed property plan, drawn to the scale of 1 inch = 200 feet.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, 6.20 acres, comprises the resource within its immediate setting. Boundaries utilize existing property lines. Non-contributing open and wooded spaces surround the property on the north, east, and south; the western boundary is formed by the right-of-way line of Maryland Route 45 (York Road), the former Baltimore and York Town Turnpike. Interstate 83 and a major interchange lie immediately northwest of the nominated property.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

BA-1152

See footnotes, Continuation Sheets 4 and 5.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 6.20 acres

Quadrangle name New Freedom, MD-PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>358320</u>	<u>4390440</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>18</u>	<u>358300</u>	<u>4390300</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>18</u>	<u>358100</u>	<u>4390320</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	<u>18</u>	<u>358120</u>	<u>4390480</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

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

state	N/A	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrain

organization Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning date April 1981; revised August 1985

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue telephone (301) 494-3495

city or town Towson state Maryland 21204

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *J. McGrain* 1-27-86

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date   

For NPS use only

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

date   

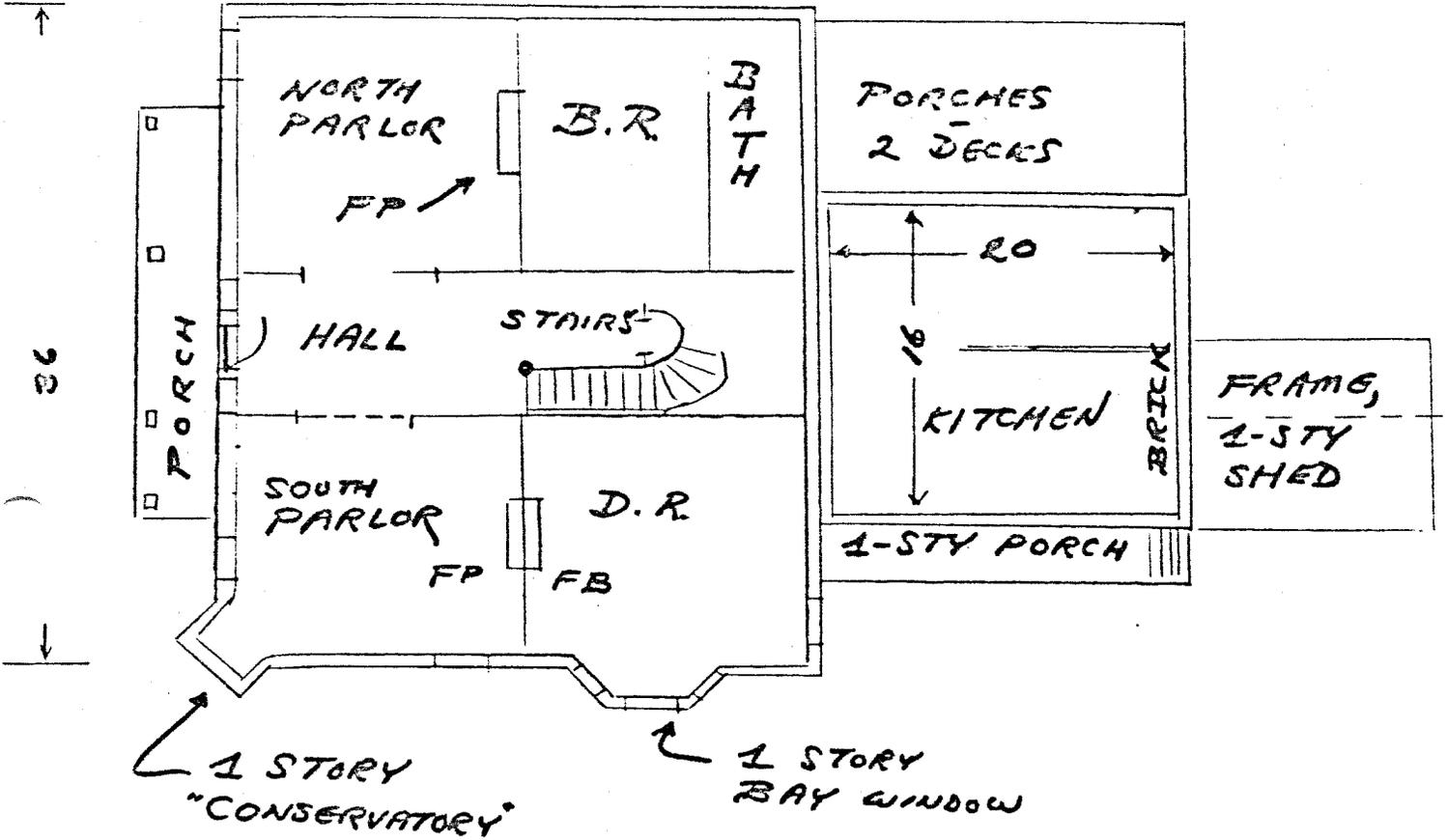
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date   

Chief of Registration

32



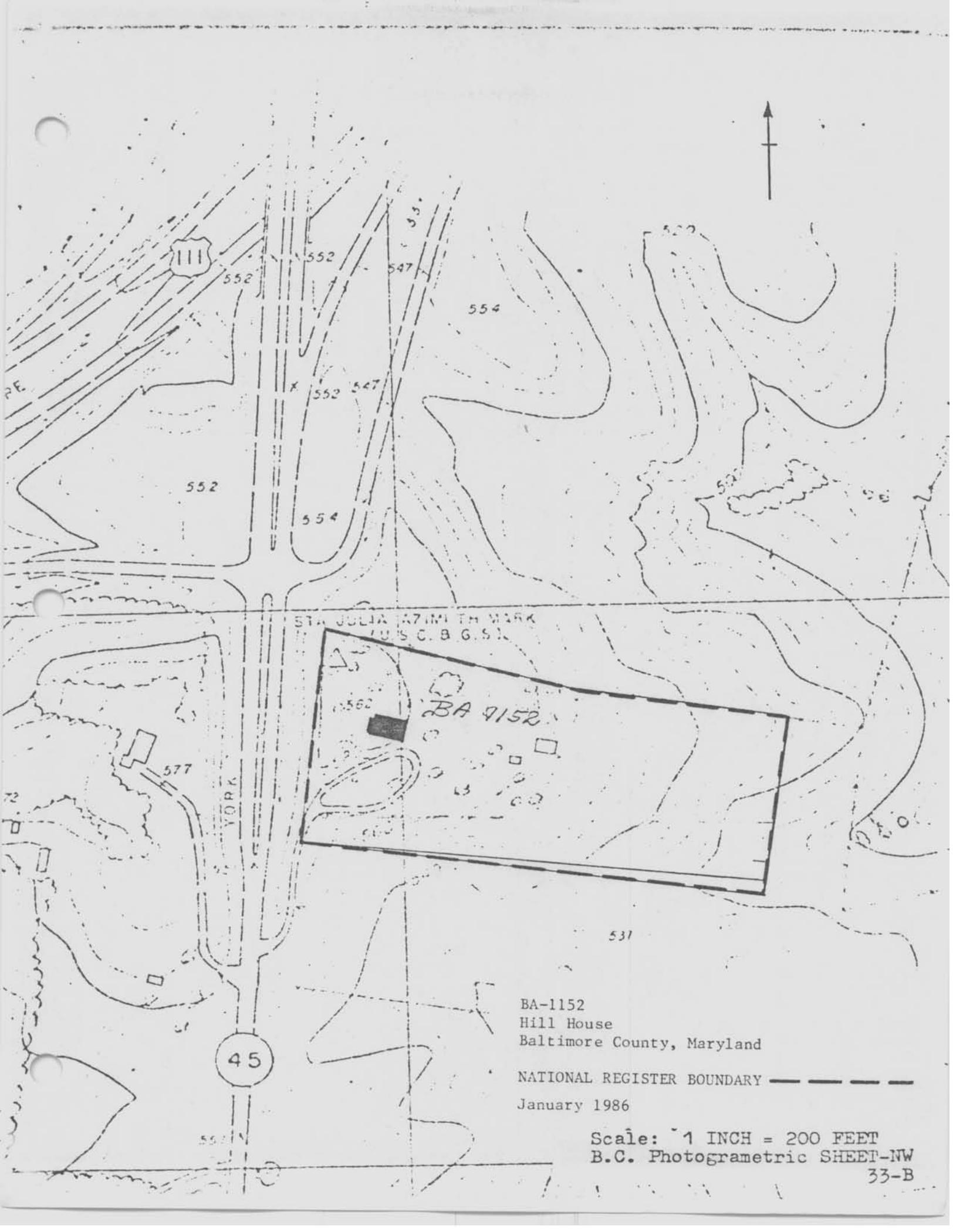
BA-1152  
 Hill House  
 Baltimore County, Maryland

Sketch floor plan  
 (not to scale)



Hill House BA 1152  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain Feb. 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
West and south facades from SW  
Photo 2 of 8

Hill House BA 1152  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain Feb. 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
West facade from west  
Photo 1 of 8



STA JULIA AZIMUTH MARK  
U.S.C. B.G.S.

BA 9152

BA-1152  
Hill House  
Baltimore County, Maryland

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY 

January 1986

Scale: 1 INCH = 200 FEET  
B.C. Photogrametric SHEET-NW

33-B

45

577

YORK

111

552

552

547

554

552

547

554

531

556



BA-1152  
 HILL HOUSE  
 BALTIMORE  
 COUNTY, MD

120 000 FEET  
 (PA.)

- A: 18-358320-4390440
- B: 18-358300-4390300
- C: 18-358100-4390320
- D: 18-358120-4390480

4391  
 4390  
 4389

4388  
 N  
 1.7 MI.  
 2.5 MI.  
 3



Hill House BA 1152  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain Feb. 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
West and north facades from NW  
Photo ~~6 of 15~~

1 of 7



Hill House  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain Feb. 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
South parlor, folding doors  
Photo ~~9 of 15~~

BA 1152

2 of 7



Hill House BA 1152  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain Feb. 1981  
Neg located at MHT  
Conservatory bay from SW  
Photo ~~4 of 45~~

3 of 7



Hill House

BA 1152

Baltimore County, Maryland

J. McGrain

Feb. 1981

Neg. located at MHT

Three-sided dining room bay from  
Southwest

Photo ~~5 of 15~~

4 of 7



Hill House

BA 1152

Baltimore County, Maryland

J. McGrain

Feb. 1981

Neg. located at MHT

South parlor mouldings in corner

Photo ~~8 of 15~~

5 of 7



Hill House

BA 1152

Baltimore County, Maryland

J. McGrain Feb. 1981

Neg. located at MHT

Dining room, interior of 3-sided bay

Photo ~~44 of 45~~

6 of 7



Hill House BA 1152  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain Feb. 1981  
Neg. located at MHT  
North parlor, fireplace & mirror

Photo 14 of 15

7 of 7