

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

PG: 70-20

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name MARIETTA  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 5626 Bell Station Road N/A  not for publication  
city, town Glenn Dale  vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20769

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property  
 private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

Category of Property  
 building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property	
Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<u>0</u> objects
	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 6/13/94

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

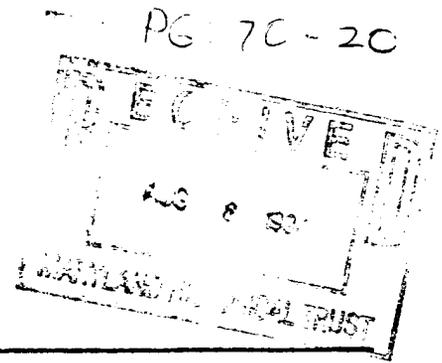
Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 94000729 Date Listed: 7/25/94

Marietta Prince George's MD  
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus  
Signature of the Keeper

8/1/94  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

The property is nominated under Criterion C, but no Area of Significance has been selected; Architecture is added as an Area of Significance and the nomination form is officially amended.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof SLATE

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:**

Marietta, a side-gabled brick Federal house, begun c.1812, has a traditional I-house plan. The main block is 2½ stories high, five bays by two, and entrance is through the central bay of the five-bay main south facade. Attached to the north of the main block at right angles is a two-story rear wing, built c.1832, and attached to the west gable end is an L-shaped wing added in 1968. The bricks of the main south facade are laid in Flemish bond, while the other elevations are laid in 5:1 American bond. The principal entrance in the main block has a semi-circular fanlight enframed by a round brick arch with molded wood keystone. Windows have stone sills and splayed flat-arch lintels with central keystones. The cornice is ornamented with alternately projecting bricks in dentil pattern above one course of brick corbelling; there is a flush chimney at each gable end. The interior of the main block has a central stairhall flanked by a single room on either side. The open-string staircase has a slim turned newel, plain rectangular balusters, bracketed stair-ends, and panelled spandrel. All rooms have wood mantels of the Federal style. Marietta stands on terraced, landscaped grounds with two contemporary outbuildings: a brick law office and a stone and brick root cellar/harness storage room.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Architecture

Period of Significance

1812-1844

Significant Dates

1812

1816

1844

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Duvall, Gabriel

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:**

Marietta is an important example in Prince George's County of a late Federal-style brick house. Moderate in size and restrained in its decorative elements, it differs from the grander mansions of the period (e.g., Bowieville and Mattaponi); it provides, however, a visible example of a traditional I-house form in the Federal style. Marietta was built for Gabriel Duvall, one of Prince George's County's most outstanding citizens. Born in 1752, Duvall pursued a career of public service which lasted for more than 60 years. After serving in several positions during the Revolutionary War, he served in the Maryland House of Delegates, the United States Congress, the Maryland Supreme Court, and as Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury under Thomas Jefferson. Soon after 1812, when he was appointed by President James Madison to the U.S. Supreme Court, Duvall began construction of Marietta. Over the next twenty years he developed the plantation, and constructed a substantial rear wing for added living space. He served on the Supreme Court until 1835; in January of that year, he retired to spend the rest of his life at Marietta, where he died in 1844. Marietta remained the residence of his heirs until 1902.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # MD-619
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet No. 23

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Area of property 23.6877 acres  
USGS Quad: Lanham, MD

UTM References

A 

1	8
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3	4	4	3	4	0
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4	3	1	4	6	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	8
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3	4	3	8	4	0
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4	3	1	4	4	1	0
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B 

1	8
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3	4	4	2	0	0
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4	3	1	3	8	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet No. 24

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet No. 24

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1) Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian, & 2) Susan Wolfe, Facility Manager  
 organization M-NCPHC: 1) Historic Preservation, 2) History Division date June 1993  
 street & number 1) 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr., 2) 5626 Bell Station Road telephone 1) (301) 952-3521, 2) (301) 464-5291  
 city or town 1) Upper Marlboro, 2) Glenn Dale state Maryland zip code 1) 20772, 2) 20769

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Marietta is a 2½-story brick house, of the traditional I-house form, with decorative detail in the Federal style. The main block was constructed between 1812 and 1816 for Gabriel Duvall, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Duvall added the rear (north) wing in the early 1830s. A modern L-shaped wing was added to the west gable end in 1968.

**Exterior**

The main block is five bays by two; the entrance, in the central bay of the five-bay principal south facade, is through a large door with six flush panels, set in a narrow molded surround which is painted white. Above the door is a molded wood cornice also painted white, and above that a six-section semi-circular fanlight which is enframed by a round brick arch with molded wood keystone. The threshold is stone.

The door is approached by a modern stone stoop with seven stone steps, bounded by an iron railing. This stoop replaces a pedimented gable-roof entry porch with wooden steps, painted white, which appears in an 1864 watercolor and in an 1896 photograph of the house. According to a letter written by one of Gabriel Duvall's granddaughters who lived at Marietta at mid-19th century, the porch had a brick foundation. An article in the Prince George's Enquirer, June 9, 1899, described the porch as a "sober colonial porch with its quaint side seats..." Just west of the door at shoulder level, incised in one of the brick stretchers is the legend, "IL 1816."

The bricks of the south facade of the main block are laid in Flemish bond; there is no water table, but below the flat arches of the cellar windows the brick is laid in 5:1 American bond. The west, east, and north facades of the main block are laid in 5:1 American bond. The gable roof of the main block is covered with new wood shingle. Beneath the slightly overhanging eaves on the south and north elevations, the cornice is ornamented with alternately projecting bricks in dentil pattern above one course of brick corbelling. In the gable ends, the raking cornices bend to

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a horizontal kick at the eaves, forming a shallow parapet at the corners. At each gable end there is a flush chimney centered at the ridge. Two gable dormers pierce the south plane of the roof to light the attic level; each encloses a 6/6 window, and the pediment above the window has crown molding. There is only one dormer in the rear, centered in the north plane of the roof. The structure rests on a foundation of local iron-bearing sandstone, which encloses a full basement.

On the south facade, the 9/9 first story and 9/6 second story windows are double hung sash with narrow molded surrounds, stone sills, and splayed flat-arch stone lintels with central keystone. Windows on the north side of the main block have stone sills and flat-arch brick lintels. While the shutters have been removed, iron shutter-dogs survive at most of the windows of both the main block and the wing. The cellar level is lighted by three-pane single sash windows in the first, second, fourth, and fifth bays; they have flat brick arches.

The east gable end of the main block is unfenestrated on the first and second stories, but there are at loft level two small 4/4 windows with stone sills and flat brick arches. On the north (rear) elevation, windows are 9/9 and 9/6 as on the main south facade, but they lack the stone lintels. There are no windows on the west gable end, but there is a door in the southerly bay, possibly constructed as an entrance to a conservatory which was added by the 1850s. Much of the west gable end is enclosed by the 1968 west wing.

A two-story gable-roof wing extends to the north and forms a T. It is two bays long and has no openings in its north (rear) gable end. Windows in the east elevation of the wing are similar to those in the main block, i.e., 9/9 on the first story and 9/6 on the second, and with stone sills and splayed flat stone lintels. In the east elevation of the wing there is a small 1/1 window in the first bay of the first story, and a 9/9 window in the second bay. The second story has two 9/6 windows; all the windows have stone sills and splayed flat-arch stone lintels. On the west elevation there is one 9/9 window on the first story and a 9/6 on the second, with sills and lintels as on the east side. In the southmost bay of this west elevation of the wing, is a smaller 6/6

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window at second story level; each is surmounted by a splayed flat arch of brick, and in both cases the openings have not been finished with closers. Although this would suggest that these openings are not original to the building, analysis done in 1989 indicates that the interior window frame (second story) is original. A 1946 photograph shows the first-story opening as a 6/6 window, matching the one which survives above it.

Above the water table, the walls of the wing are laid in Flemish bond on the east elevation, and in 5:1 American bond on north and west. The gable roof of the wing has a much shallower pitch than that of the main block; it is covered with the same new wood shingle, and has the same shallow parapet at the north gable end. A single flush chimney rises at the ridge of the north gable end. The cornice is embellished with a course of corbelled brick and dentil pattern as in the main block.

In 1968 a brick kitchen addition was removed from the west gable end of the main block, and a modern L-shape wing was built in its place. It is built of brick, with 1½ stories over a high basement. Its gable roof is covered with slate, and there is a brick-walled garden to the west and south. Built into the northwest corner (formed by the main block and the north wing), is a garage constructed in the 1940s and a sun-room constructed in the 1980s; above the garage and sunroom is a wooden deck. From this deck there is access to the north wing, and also to the center (kitchen) section of the modern wing by means of a sliding glass door.

**Interior**

Main block

The interior of the main block reflects the traditional I-house plan, with a central stairhall flanked by a single parlor on each side. Much of the original fabric of the house remains: back exterior doors, stair-rails and balusters. Original finishes remain under several layers of paint.

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First story

The principal south entrance leads into the stairhall; the two-run open-string staircase rises along the west wall of the stairhall to a landing, then turns 180 degrees to the second story. It has a slim turned newel (repeated at the landings), typical of the early nineteenth century; it has a mitred cap, plain rectangular balusters, elegantly bracketed stair-ends, and panelled spandrel. The staircase trim continues consistently to the third story. Beneath the stairway was the stair (now closed and converted to closet space) which originally gave access to the basement. (A new basement stairway was built in the north wing in the 1940s.)

The main south door has six panels, and is framed by fluted pilasters from which springs the round arch enframing the fanlight. Separating the door and the fanlight is a course of vertical fluting, and above the fan is a central molded keystone. The door is framed by panelled jambs and soffit.

Much of the original fabric of the house survives: baseboards, window and door surrounds, mantels, front and back exterior doors, stair railings, and balusters. Throughout the first story of the main block, the baseboards are high with crown molding, and just below the window sills are pedestal chair-rails. The chair-rail sills were originally decorated with carbon in an oil/varnish simulating marble, as were the baseboard fasciae in the first-story east and west parlors and in the second-story east lodging room. The remaining chair-rail surfaces were painted a yellowish grey to simulate stone. The chair-rail and baseboard fasciae in the hall were finished with burnt umber.

Surrounds of doors and windows are two-step: two plain fields separated by a narrow ogee molding, and bounded by a wider ogee backband and an inner bead. These surrounds were painted yellowish grey to simulate stone; several layers of paint cover these original finishes. All doors have six molded panels, and have panelled jambs and soffit. The doors in the main block, leading to the 1830s addition, were originally finished in red ochres in oil/varnish medium, and grained to simulate mahogany. There are no interior shutters.

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At the foot of the stairs, a door opens into the west parlor, or dining room. The wood mantel, centered in the west wall, is of elegant Federal style; it has a vertically fluted frieze broken in the center by a rectangular panel of bolder fluting, and on the ends by convex oval shell ornaments. The firebox is framed by elegant convex fluted pilasters. On each side of the mantel is a door; these originally opened into flanking closets. The present door on the south side of the mantel opens into a walled garden; it is new, but has compatible framing. The door on the north side of the mantel has a later Victorian ogee molding; it appears to be a period door which may have been moved from another location. This door leads into the apartment in the modern west wing. The floor in the dining room is multi-grain pine that was discovered when twentieth-century oak flooring was removed. This flooring was also removed, remanufactured, and reinstalled.

The east parlor has woodwork similar to that in the dining room. The wood mantel in this room has fluted pilasters and oval shell pattern, but, unlike that in the dining room, the frieze has horizontal fluting and the central rectangular panel is ornamented with a sunburst pattern. Beneath the shelf is a course of gougework in a meander pattern. The alcoves flanking the chimney breast are filled with floor-to-ceiling book shelves. These spaces were originally closets, according to Gabriel Duvall's own 1834 inventory of the house. The floorboards in the east parlor are of random width, multi-grain pine, worn, and probably original.

Second story

The second story consists of a central stairhall that contains a small room in the central bay. This room was identified as a small bedroom in Duvall's 1834 inventory. In the twentieth century it was converted into a bathroom, which has recently been removed. The hall is flanked by two bed chambers. Each bedroom has a fine Federal style wood mantel though simpler in design than those in the parlor rooms. The mantle in the east chamber has a plain frieze in which is centered a rectangular fluted panel; beneath the shelf is a course of dentils and the firebox is framed by rectangular flat fluted pilasters. Surrounds of the windows and doors are similar to, but typically simpler than, those on the first story; they are one-step, i.e., a single unbroken field

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bounded by ogee backband and inner bead. There is a pedestal chair-rail in each room. The narrow oak floor-boards installed in the twentieth century have been removed. Multi-grain pine found under the oak boards has been remanufactured and reinstalled in the west lodging room. Compatible old multi-grain pine flooring is being acquired for the east lodging room and to supplement original flooring the in the hall and little bedroom.

Basement

The brick bearing walls in the basement of the main block form the same pattern of rooms as on the first story. Beneath each of the east chimneys, centered in the east gable end wall, is a support arch typical of the period. In the corresponding space on the west, an additional flue originally served a large cooking fireplace at basement level. (This fireplace has been bricked in, and is partially hidden by furnace facilities.) There is also a basement space beneath the north wing, partitioned into a small southerly space and a larger northerly space.

Attic

The formal staircase in the main block continues to the third story, which contains three spaces, each smaller (by virtue of the roof slope) than the corresponding space below. At the top of the stairs, a narrow transverse hall/landing opens directly into a small storage room centered in the south front. The hall leads east and west into two equal small chambers, now used for storage.

North wing - first story

The interior of the north wing first story consists of a small, rear stairhall and a single parlor. There is a six-panel door with panelled jambs and soffits under the landing of the main staircase. This is the original north exterior door of the main block (from the period before 1830), and the original stone threshold survives in situ. This door leads into the north wing passage, in which is located the original staircase to the second story of the wing. There are now two steps into the rear stairhall, from which a stair descends to the cellar (added in the 20th century), and a rear stair rises along the south wall then

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turns 90 degrees to rise along the east wall to the second story. These rear stairs have slim turned newels and rectangular balusters in the Federal style. (Some movement of the newels appears to have been made when the cellar stairs were installed, and new balusters were made to match those of the 1830s staircase to the second story.) To the west of the hall a former storage room, possibly a pantry, has been converted into a closet and half bath. The 6/6 window has been replaced with a narrow solid wooden door, with a three-pane transom that opens onto the modern wooden deck.

The rear parlor of the north wing has a fireplace centered in its north wall; it has a Greek Revival style wood mantel with plain frieze and panelled pilasters. Trim at the doors and windows is similar to that in the main block, but the windows have a molded sill with a bold Greek profile. Floorboards are of random width and probably original; baseboards are high with crown molding, and there is no chair-rail. The door to the north parlor room has an extraordinary finish under layers of paint: a special decorative graining finish employing a yellow lead pigment, with yellow edging and mahogany grained rails and stiles.

North wing - second story

From the intermediate landing of the formal staircase, a doorway leads up four steps into the second story of the wing. Each leaf of the double door has three molded panels, and its surround is two-step, compatible with the moldings of the first story, but of new material. The interior room of the second story addition has been divided into three spaces: an alcove, a closet, and a bathroom. The alcove has a period window that opens onto the back staircase immediately to the east, allowing borrowed light into the inner room. A door leading to a landing at the top of the stairs has been closed off. The wall between the hall and the bathroom appears to have reused original woodwork. Also, doors to cabinets in the alcove appear to be early and reused in the twentieth century, perhaps moved from another part of the house. The door and frame to the north room are original.

The large north chamber of the wing has baseboards and window frames that are similar to those in the chamber below, but unlike that space, does have a pedestal chair-rail. The mantel from this

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room has been removed, and the fireplace has been closed.

**Grounds and Outbuildings**

The plantation house at Marietta stands on terraced, landscaped grounds with two early nineteenth-century outbuildings: a brick law office, and a stone and brick root cellar/harness storage building. The house stands on a high point of land, which slopes gently down to the north behind the house, and falls sharply to a lower lawn area in the south. A terrace bordered with large boxwood separates the immediate front lawn of the house from the lower south lawn. Rough stone steps, centered at the edge of the upper terrace, lead through an opening in a boxwood border from the dwelling house level down to the lower south lawn, which originally featured a circular driveway.

East of the stone steps, built into the slope, is a two-level brick and stone root cellar/harness storage house. It is constructed up to the gable pitch of local iron-bearing sandstone, and the mortar is embellished with galletting. The gables are constructed of brick. The building is, at present, unroofed.

Just east of this storage building, but standing on the upper level, is a small gable-roof brick building, which was built to serve as Judge Duvall's study or law office. It is 1½ stories high, one bay by two, and there are entrances in each of the two-bay north and south elevations. Each door has six molded panels, a narrow molded surround, and is surmounted by a splayed flat arch of brick. To the right of each door is a 6/6 double hung sash window. The north and west elevation walls of the office are laid in Flemish bond, and 5:1 American bond on the south and east. The foundation is of local ironbearing sandstone in which the mortar is embellished with galletting. The gable roof is covered with new wood shingles and a flush brick chimney rises at the ridge of the east gable end. The east gable end is unfenestrated; the loft level is lighted by a single 4/4 double hung sash window, centered high in the west gable end.

The interior of the law office consists of one room. There is a plain wood mantel at the fireplace in the east wall. In the

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north corner of the east wall, a small boxed staircase rises to the loft level; between the stairs and the mantel, a short two-panel door which hangs on HL hinges opens into a small closet under the stairs. The west wall is completely taken up with built-in double-door bookcase cabinets. There are three cabinets, each one consisting of two six-panel doors over two two-panel doors. Around the room at the level of the window sills runs a plain pedestal chair-rail; baseboards are of plain board, and the floor boards are of random with pine and probably original.

The grounds around the dwelling house and the law office include several very large old oak, maple, and walnut trees. Two of the pecans outside the law office date to the 1870s. On the west lawn is a champion specimen of dawn redwood, as well as several very large walnut trees. On the grounds to the west of the redwood is a new stone memorial marking the 1987 re-interment of Gabriel Duvall (removed from the small family burial ground one-half mile to the north), as well as four monuments to other members of Justice Duvall's immediate family.

Current Work

The current owners of Marietta, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, with funds from the County and the Maryland Historical Trust, began a three-phase restoration project for the house in October, 1992. The first phase involves stabilizing the structure by installing steel support beams under the floors of the first story, and joist supports under the floors of the second story. Two badly deteriorated support walls in the basement have been replaced, as well as deteriorated face bricks on remaining basement walls. The air conditioning vent system installed by the Scherers has been removed, and rooms returned to their original configuration. The bathroom in the little room on the second story of the main block has been removed, and the floor returned to its original appearance. Narrow oak flooring has been removed from the dining room, the entrance hall, the second-story hall, and two lodging chambers. Multi-grain pine flooring under the oak is believed to be the original floor boards, taken up when radiators and electrical wiring were added (possibly in the 1940s), and then put back randomly as subflooring. These pine boards have been remanufactured and reinstalled as much as possible. Matching

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flooring from other sources will complete areas where floor-boards original to Marietta are not available. The floor-boards in the entrance hall were not taken up, but severely damaged sections will be replaced, and the entire floor sanded.

[On the exterior, earlier incompatible brick repairs will be replaced with compatible brick and mortar, and the badly deteriorating bricks (especially on the 1830s addition) will be replaced as necessary. This will complete Phase I of the restoration project.]

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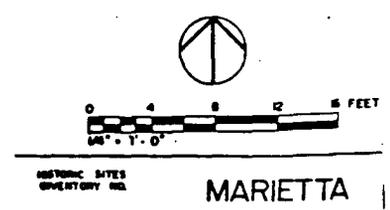
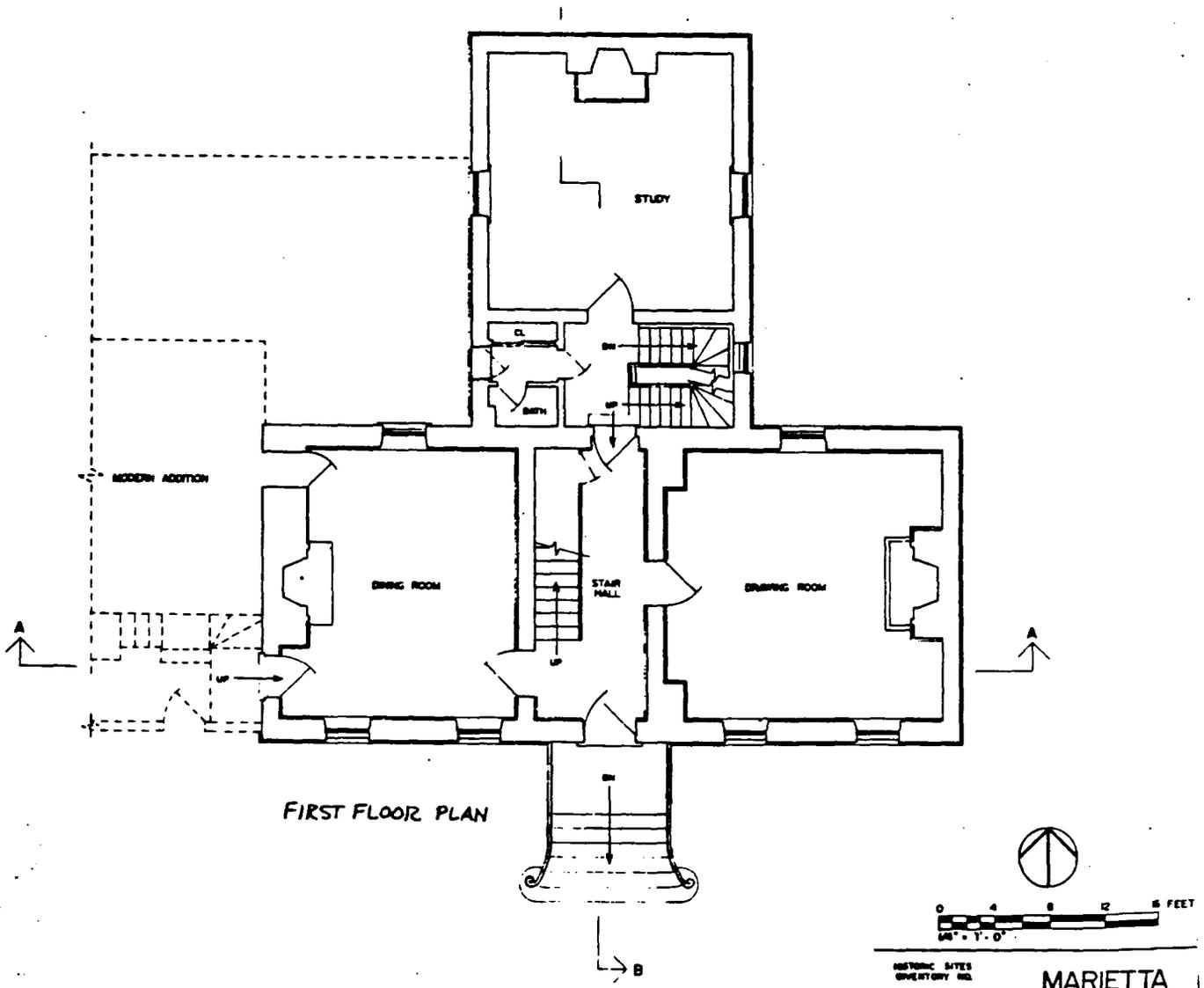
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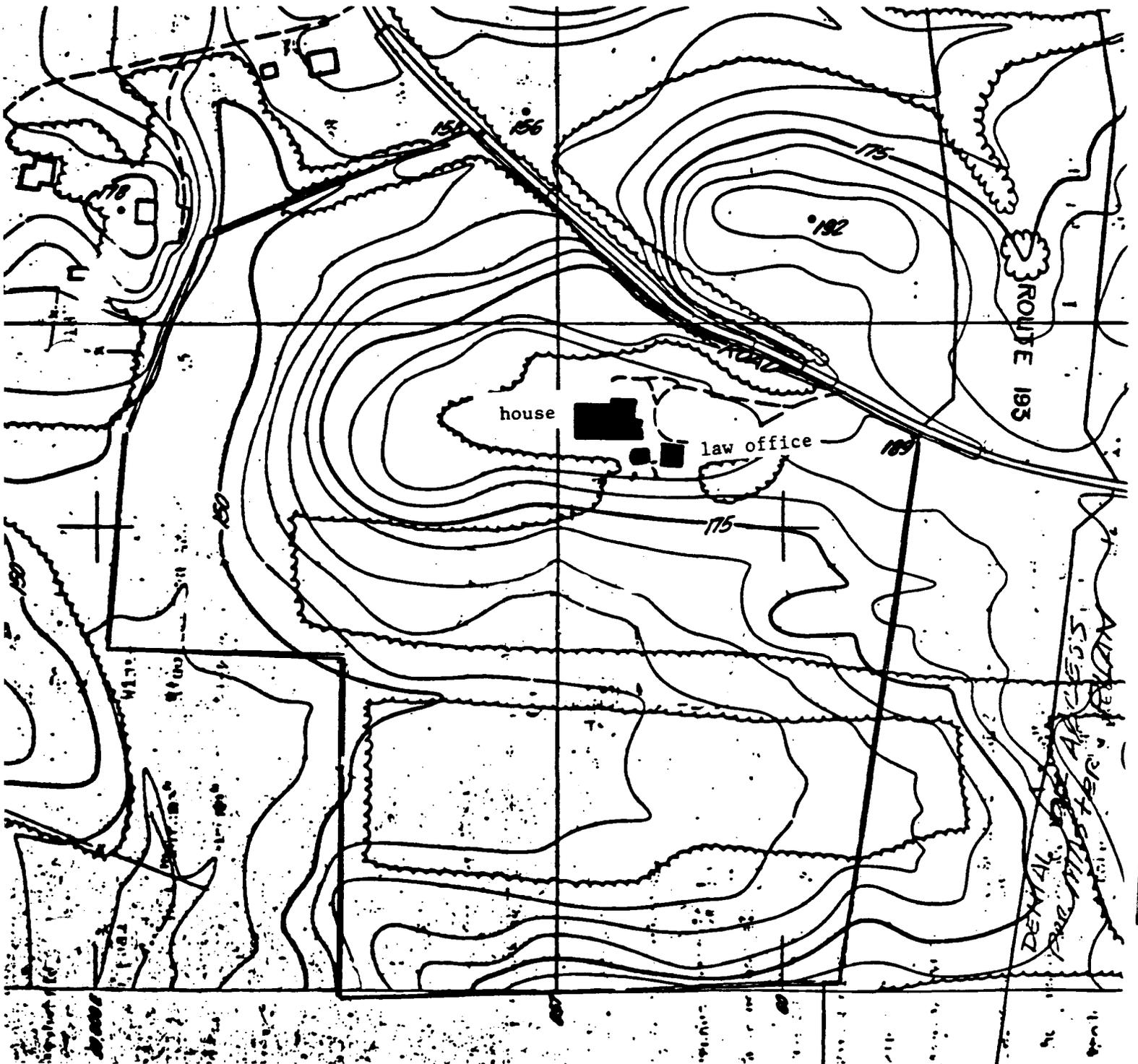
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Marietta  
Prince George's County  
Maryland

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RESOURCE SKETCH MAP



United States Department of the Interior  
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Historic Period Themes:

Agriculture  
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building(s)

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structures

Known Design Source: None

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Section number 8 Page 14HISTORIC SETTING:

Marietta is located in the north central section of Prince George's County, in the area historically known as the Forest of Prince George's County. Settlement began in this area in the late seventeenth century, as planters moved inland from their earlier Patuxent River establishments, e.g., near Nottingham and Queen Anne. When Prince George's County was established out of Charles and Calvert Counties in 1696, much of the land in the area of present-day Marietta had not yet been surveyed and patented. But by early in the eighteenth century, several prominent landowning families were developing plantations in the area, e.g., tracts such as Darnall's Grove, Orphan's Gift, Holliday's Choice, and Beall's Gift were incorporated into large plantations of the Duvall, Duckett, Bowie, Beall, and Hilleary families.

Churches were also being constructed in the two parishes of the Church of England which existed in the County at the time of its establishment; by 1704, St. Paul's Parish had been divided so that its northern section became Queen Anne Parish. The mission chapel (the Forest Chapel, or "Henderson's" Chapel) which served the "remote inhabitants" of Queen Anne Parish stood at the edge of the 3800-acre Darnall's Grove tract; this chapel, which would play a large part in the Duvall family history, later came to be known as Holy Trinity Church.

When Prince George's County was established, it represented the frontier of the Maryland colony. During the eighteenth century, the population grew, plantations were developed, and the frontier became an extension of British civilization. River port towns, such as Queen Anne, Upper Marlborough, and Nottingham, thrived and were designated official inspection stations for that all-important product, tobacco. The wealth of the County, which was based on land, tobacco, and slave labor, increased; it supported the construction of architecturally outstanding plantation houses and large plantation complexes in the closing years of the eighteenth century.

As the population grew, so did the road system. One of the most important roads connected the port town of Bladensburg (on the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River) with the capital city of

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Annapolis. This much used artery of transportation ran through the northern section of Darnall's Grove, near the Forest Chapel and the plantation of the Duvall family, and it was certainly the road used by Gabriel Duvall in the course of his frequent journeys to the colonial capital.

It was into this setting that Gabriel Duvall was born in 1752, at the plantation of his father, Benjamin Duvall, on the tract known as Darnall's Grove. This 150-acre plantation in the northwest corner of Darnall's Grove became the cornerstone of Gabriel Duvall's plantation, Marietta, which during the nineteenth century comprised over 650 acres.

**Period of Significance**

The period of significance for Marietta is from 1812 to 1844. It begins at the period of the construction of the house and the development of the plantation, through the years of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall's residence at Marietta, and ends with the death of the Justice in 1844.

**Resource History**

Marietta was built c.1813-1816 by Gabriel Duvall, then serving as one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. Duvall was born 6 December 1752 at Darnall's Grove, the plantation of his father Benjamin Duvall. One hundred fifty acres of Darnall's Grove (a 3800-acre tract patented in 1681 to Colonel Henry Darnall) had been acquired by Gabriel Duvall's grandfather in 1720; this was the plantation on which Gabriel Duvall was born, and it was conveyed to him by his father in 1785. During the early years of the Republic, Gabriel Duvall acquired several pieces of adjoining property, all of which eventually came to comprise the Marietta plantation.

In 1771, Gabriel Duvall went to Annapolis, and began a career of public service which would last for more than sixty years. He read law, and after serving as clerk of the General Court, and of the Council of Safety, was admitted to the bar and began in 1778

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the practice of law. During the Revolutionary War, he served in several positions, including that of Commissioner for the Preservation and Sale of Confiscated British Properties. In 1783 he served as a member of the Governor's Council, and after the War, as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates.<sup>1</sup>

In 1787 Gabriel Duvall married Mary Bryce of Annapolis, and it was at approximately this time that he began the acquisition and consolidation of land in Prince George's County. Having just received from his father the 150-acre Darnall's Grove property of his childhood, Duvall acquired 500 acres of Holliday's Choice in 1787, 63 acres of Hill's Choice in 1788, and 145 acres of Orphan's Gift in 1792, all adjoining the Duvall plantation on the northwest. One son, Edmund Bryce Duvall, was born 25 January 1790, of Duvall's union with Mary Bryce; she died within two months of the child's birth, on 24 March 1790.<sup>2</sup>

In 1794, Gabriel Duvall was appointed to fill the vacant seat as Maryland's Representative in the Third Congress of the United States. The Congress convened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with Gabriel Duvall in attendance. During the session, he lodged at the boarding-house of Mrs. Mary Gibbon, making the acquaintance of her daughter, Jane; on 5 May 1795, Jane Gibbon became Gabriel Duvall's second wife. Re-elected to his seat in the Fourth Congress, Duvall served until March 1796, at which time he resigned to take up his

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<sup>1</sup>M-NCPPC, Marietta Historic Structures Report, Shirley Baltz, 1986; Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, 1774-1989, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1989. See also Prince George's County Hall of Fame "Directory of Prince Georgians Honored;" Archives of Maryland LXIV, pp. 24,35,97,447; Journal of Gabriel Duvall, Gift Collection, Maryland State Archives, D680, page 43 (also on microfilm M414).

<sup>2</sup>M-NCPPC, op.cit.; Prince George's County Deeds HH:485, JJ#2:310, JRM#1:268,429,432; Journal of Gabriel Duvall, page 43; Federal Direct Tax, 1798.

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appointment as Chief Justice of the General Court of Maryland.<sup>3</sup>

Gabriel Duvall supported Thomas Jefferson in his bid for the Presidency, and served as a Jefferson elector in both the 1796 and 1800 elections. In 1802, Duvall was appointed by President Jefferson to fill the position of Comptroller of the United States Treasury. At this time, Duvall and his wife took up residence in a rented house in the District of Columbia. He was reappointed Comptroller by President James Madison after his election in 1808.<sup>4</sup>

In November of 1811, Madison appointed Duvall to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; he took his seat when the Court convened in February 1812, a seat which he held until his retirement in 1835. It was at about this time that Duvall began the construction of a fine new brick house on the large acreage which he had accumulated in Prince George's County adjoining the plantation where he had been born. The house was built in the form of the traditional I-house, i.e., side-gabled, with a central stairhall flanked by a single parlor on each side. The brick walls rested on a heavy foundation of local sandstone, and were laid in stylish Flemish bond. The exterior appearance of the house was moderately severe, but was highlighted by the fine keystone lintels over the windows. Interior trim, including the staircase, the door and window surrounds, and particularly the mantels, was fine and typical of the period. Although moderate in size, and restrained in decorative detail, Marietta was a very handsome building. In the early years of the nineteenth century, Duvall had referred to his Prince George's County landholdings merely as "the farm," but by 1816 he was consistently calling his new and developing plantation "Marietta."

After the British invasion and burning of Washington's public buildings in 1814, Duvall's rented house in the city was taken over by the United States State Department, and Marietta became the Duvalls' primary residence. The Marietta access lane led directly

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<sup>3</sup>ibid.; Baltimore Telegraph, 15 May 1795; Journal of Gabriel Duvall, p. 43.

<sup>4</sup>M-NCPPC, op.cit.; Journal of Gabriel Duvall, pp. 43,44.

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to the principal and ancient roadway from Annapolis to Bladensburg, and thence to the Capital, so travel between Court and plantation was relatively easy. Also, the Justice had a law office built on the grounds of Marietta, a short distance from the plantation house. This small gable-roof brick study contained copious bookshelves, a mantel, and a loft for storage; it was here the Justice retired to privacy for preparation of his cases.

Gabriel Duvall served on the Supreme Court for 23 years, an unusually long tenure. As a jurist, he tended to vote with the strong Chief Justice John Marshall, notably differing with him on the historic case of **The Trustees of Dartmouth College v. Woodward** in 1819. In a large number of cases, Duvall voted with Marshall to expand and define the power of the federal government or narrow a state's power over commerce; his vote was consistently on the side of the national government. Only in the **Dartmouth College** case did he desert the Chief Justice.<sup>5</sup>

Marietta was visited on at least one occasion by President James Madison; his visit was reported in a letter written by Sarah Gales Seaton in May 1816:

"We have been on a jaunt to Annapolis . . . On our way we met Judge Duvall, who pressed us to dine at his house, about fifteen miles from Washington, on the roadside, where we spent a few hours most delightfully in the society of this venerable, patriarchal man and hospitable, loquacious, kind old lady, who displayed on her table every luxury in and out of season. The President and family had stayed a day and night just before, being much gratified in their visit. The evening we reached Annapolis there was a great ball in honor of

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<sup>5</sup>Dilliard, Irving, "Gabriel Duvall," from The Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, 1789-1969, Their Lives and Major Opinions, Volume I, page 426.

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the President . . ."<sup>6</sup>

This visit occurred very soon after the house was completed.

In 1831, Justice Duvall's son Edmund Bryce Duvall died, and in the following year, his young widow also, leaving three minor grandchildren (Marcus, Edmund Bryce II, and Gabriella Augusta) in the care of Justice Duvall, then in his eightieth year. It was at this time that the rear (north) wing was added to Marietta, increasing the living space in the house and giving it its T shape. In 1834, when the Justice's wife, Jane Duvall, died, the inventory of her personal belongings indicates that the rear wing had been finished.<sup>7</sup>

Even in his eighties, Gabriel Duvall continued to serve as Supreme Court Justice, but he suffered from an increasing deafness. Because he was sometimes unable to hear the proceedings of the Court, and even dozed during sessions, he gained a reputation for incompetence; his letters, however, reveal that he was fully aware of the political situation. Wishing to step down, but fearing the appointment of a liberal-minded successor, he held his post until he was assured that Roger Brooke Taney, a fellow Marylander, would be nominated to fill his seat. He resigned in January 1835, and retired to spend the rest of his life at Marietta.<sup>8</sup>

Gabriel Duvall died 6 March 1844 at Marietta, and the Supreme Court, after paying tribute to "his urbanity, his courtesy, his gentle manners, his firm integrity and independence, and his sound judgement," adjourned in his memory. He was interred in the family burial ground approximately one-half mile north of the Marietta

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<sup>6</sup>William Winston Seaton of the "National Intelligencer." A Biographical Sketch: Boston, James R. Osgood and Company, 1871, page 133.

<sup>7</sup>Seaton, op.cit., Inventory, 1834, Papers of Gabriel Duvall, Library of Congress, MSS #2948; Journal of Gabriel Duvall, Maryland State Archives, pp. 59,69.

<sup>8</sup>M-NCPPC, op.cit.

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plantation house.<sup>9</sup>

Justice Duvall's will divided the Marietta plantation, between 600 and 700 acres, between his two grandsons; Marcus inherited the northerly section of the land and the house in which his father had lived, while Edmund B. II (1828-1878) inherited the southerly section including the Marietta plantation house. After Edmund reached his majority and married, Marietta became the place where he raised his family. It was also the home of his son, Gabriel DuVal<sup>10</sup>, before being sold in 1902 to William Duckett Bowie of nearby Fairview. During these years a two-story frame water tower was built onto the west gable end of the house; it appears in the 1936 photograph by John O. Brostrup in the collection of the Historic American Buildings Survey.<sup>11</sup> During the years of the Great Depression, Marietta was periodically occupied by tenant farmer families, and the house and outbuildings suffered serious deterioration. In 1941 the property was purchased by William and Mary-Eula Blair, and they began extensive restoration work on the house. In 1945, the stabilized building and grounds were sold to Paul and Margaret Scherer, who subsequently had the modern wing constructed on the west end of the house. The Scherers conveyed the house and 25 acres to The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1968, retaining a life tenancy in the house, a right which they voluntarily relinquished in 1978.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>Prince George's County Will PC#1:247; M-NCPPC, op.cit.; National Intelligencer, 9 March 1844; Baltimore Sun, 12 March 1844.

<sup>10</sup>Prince George's County Will PC#1:247; Justice Duvall's son, Edmund Bryce I (1790-1831), adopted the spelling "DuVal" for his surname, and his sons and grandsons continued the practice.

<sup>11</sup>Prince George's County Will PC#1:247; Historic American Buildings Survey photograph by John O. Brostrup, 15 April 1936, Library of Congress.

<sup>12</sup>Prince George's County Deeds #605:326, #780:82, #3689:601; M-NCPPC, op.cit.

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Marietta is now in good condition, and is in the process of careful restoration by The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The house and outbuildings stand in a 23.6877-acre setting of ancient trees, terraces, and lawns--an oasis of unusual serenity. The graves of several members of the Duvall family have been removed from the old burial ground and reinterred in the west lawn of Marietta; a resident caretaker lives in the modern wing, and the basement of that wing serves as the library of the Prince George's County Historical Society.

Resource Analysis

Marietta is an excellent example of a house of the Federal style, and the finest example of its type surviving in Prince George's County. Modest in size and restrained in its decorative elements, it differs from the grander mansions of a generation earlier and of its own period. The main block follows the traditional I-house plan, and is distinguished by its handsome keystone lintels and fine interior trim; the property is rendered unique by the existence on its grounds of the small law office dependency. Perhaps Marietta's greatest importance is the fact that it was built for Gabriel Duvall, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and one of Prince George's County's most outstanding citizens.

Marietta is unique among the late Federal style plantation houses of Prince George's County. Built on the traditional I-house plan, it resembles Harmony Hall, that fine Georgian plantation house of a half century earlier; unlike Harmony Hall, however, the main block of Marietta exhibits decorative elements of the mature Federal style and has a smaller footprint than that of Harmony Hall. Marietta is more modest in scale and ornamentation than His Lordship's Kindness and Montpelier; these grand Federal style mansions of the 1780s, complete with flanking hyphens and wings, feature particularly elegant interior detail. Marietta differs also from the outstanding late Federal style plantation houses of its own period, e.g., Bowieville and Mattaponi; its I-house plan is more modest in scale than the irregular and grand Georgian plans of those two elegant mansions, and its ornamentation is significantly more restrained. Marietta can be compared to only one other surviving dwelling of its period in the County, William's Plains.

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But even Williams's Plains, begun around 1813 and finished in the 1840s, is considerably larger than Marietta; it has a Georgian floor plan, and its interior exhibits later Greek Revival style trim.

Marietta was clearly intended to serve as a country seat to which its owner, an important public figure, could retire in privacy. It was sufficiently elegant, in a restrained way, for entertaining other public figures, but was in no way pretentious. Before the British invasion of 1814, Duvall had probably intended to maintain his rental home in the city and eventually retire to Marietta. He could have had no expectation of enlarging his country seat for the purpose of raising his orphaned grandchildren.

Architecturally, Marietta is significant for its form and for its Federal style ornamentation, in particular its keystone lintels, and fine interior trim. The property is rendered unique by the existence on its grounds of the brick law office, an important element in the legal career of Justice Duvall. And Marietta is of outstanding importance because it was built for, and was the residence for thirty years of, one of Prince George's County's most distinguished citizens, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall.

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary consists of the property defined in Prince George's County Land Records, Book 3689, page 601.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property includes the Marietta house, the law office and root cellar, as well as the area now devoted to the Duvall memorial burial ground. It includes the prominent knoll on which the house and surviving outbuildings stand, and the landscape plantings which frame the house and the terraces, as well as the lower south lawn. The nominated property includes all of the property presently associated with the surviving buildings of the Marietta plantation.

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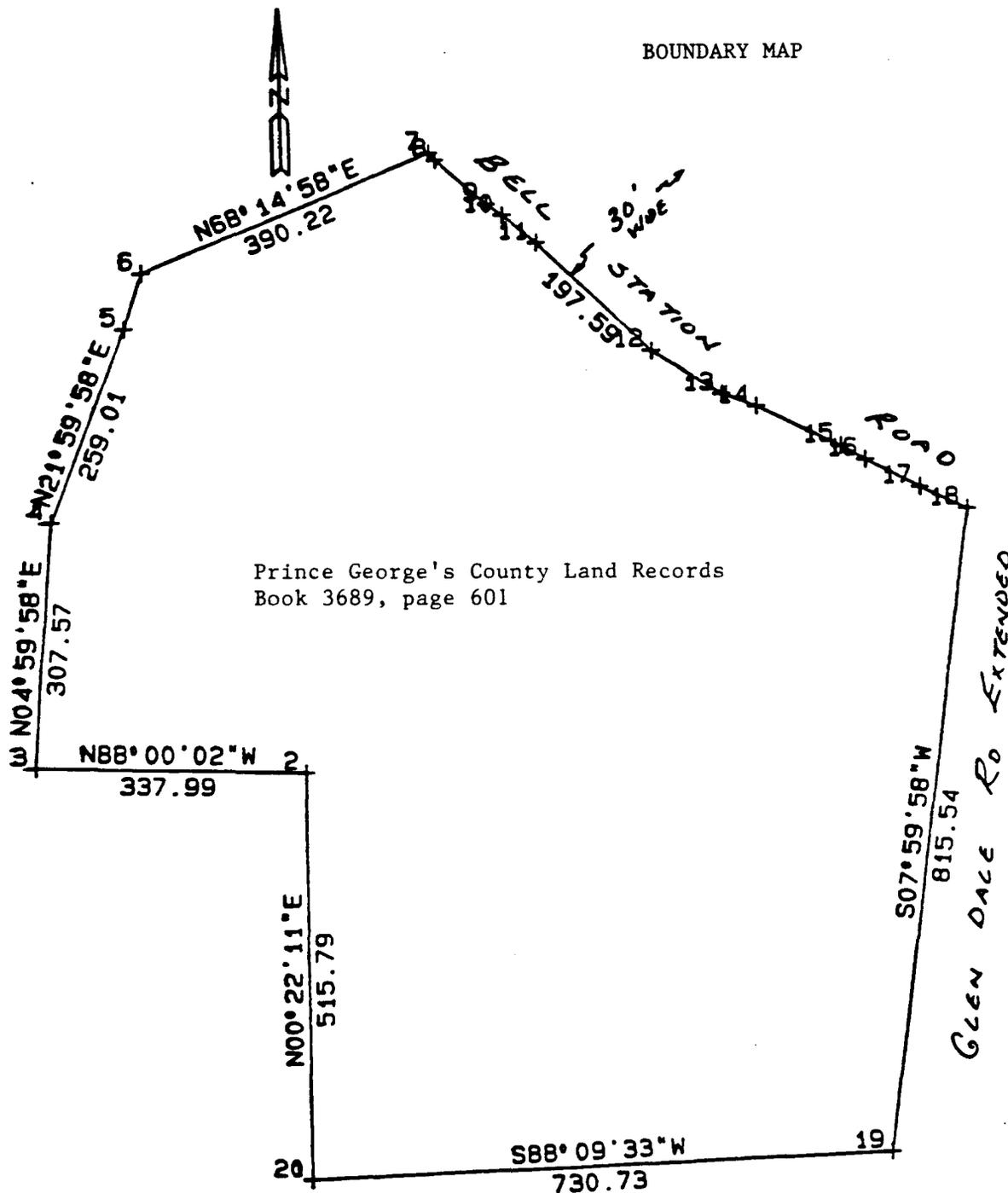
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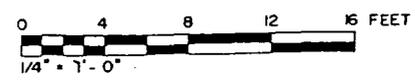
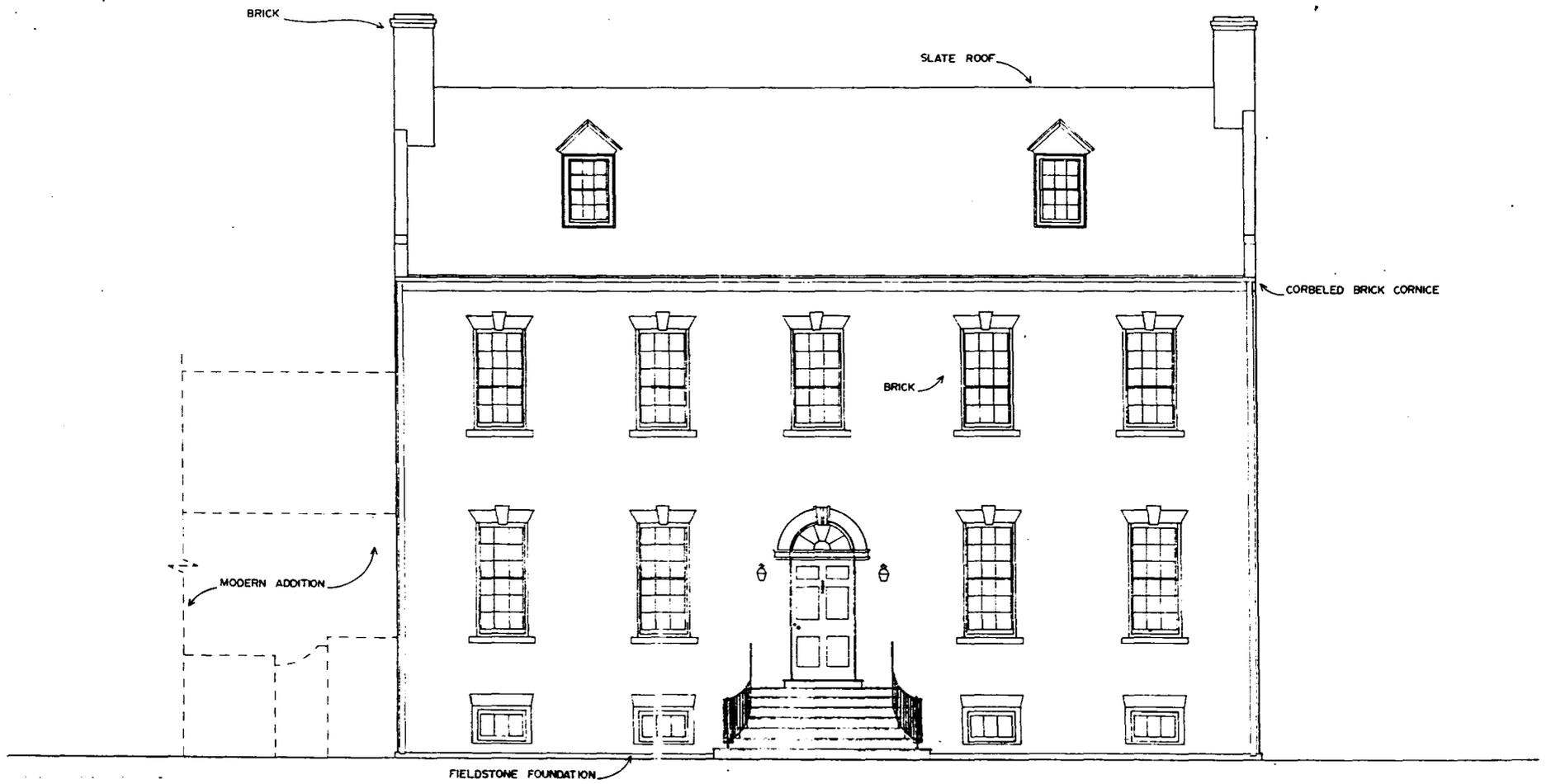
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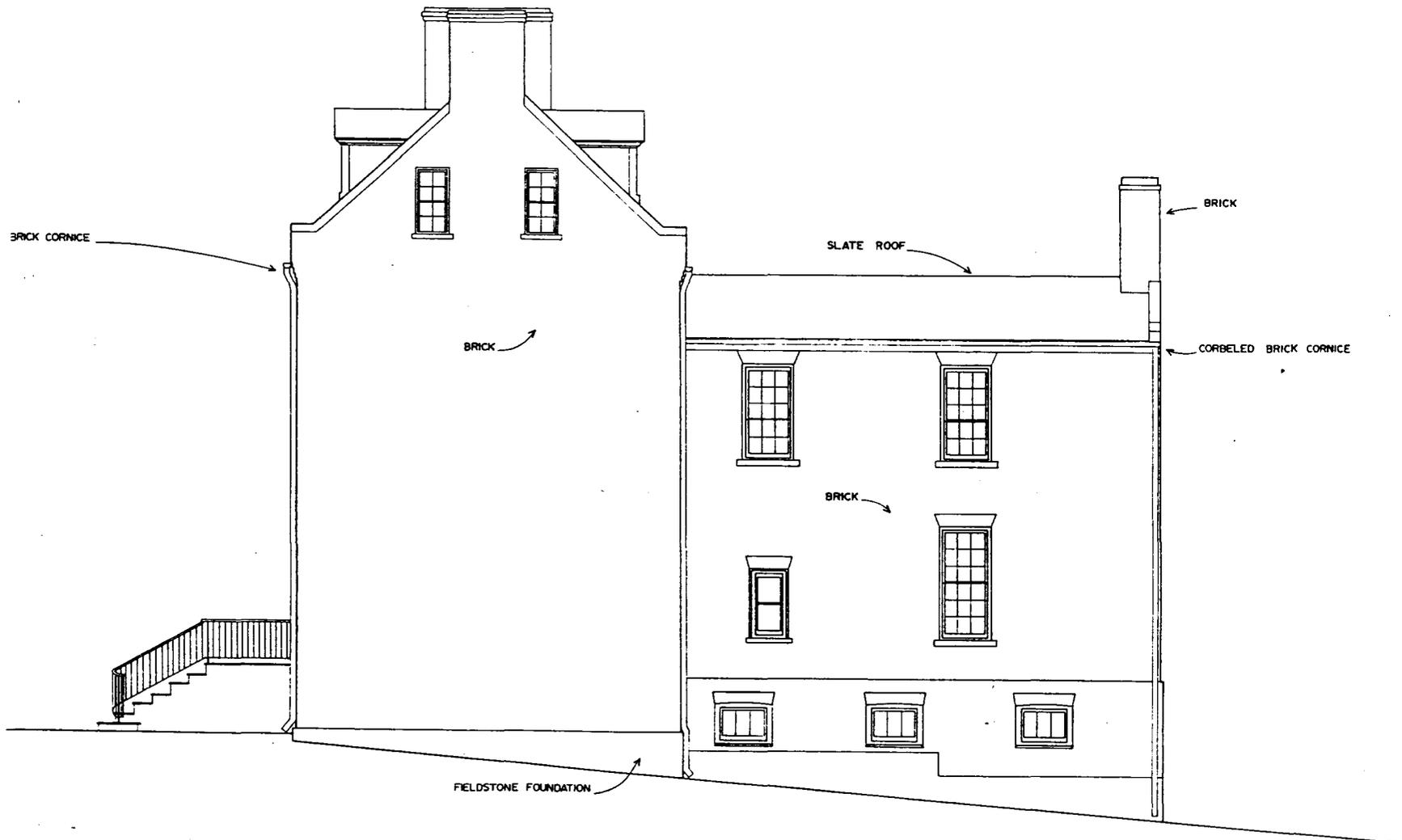
SOUTH ELEVATION

HISTORIC SITES  
INVENTORY NO.

MARIETTA

PG. 70-20

GLENN DALE



BRICK CORNICE

BRICK

SLATE ROOF

CORBELED BRICK CORNICE

BRICK

BRICK

FIELDSTONE FOUNDATION

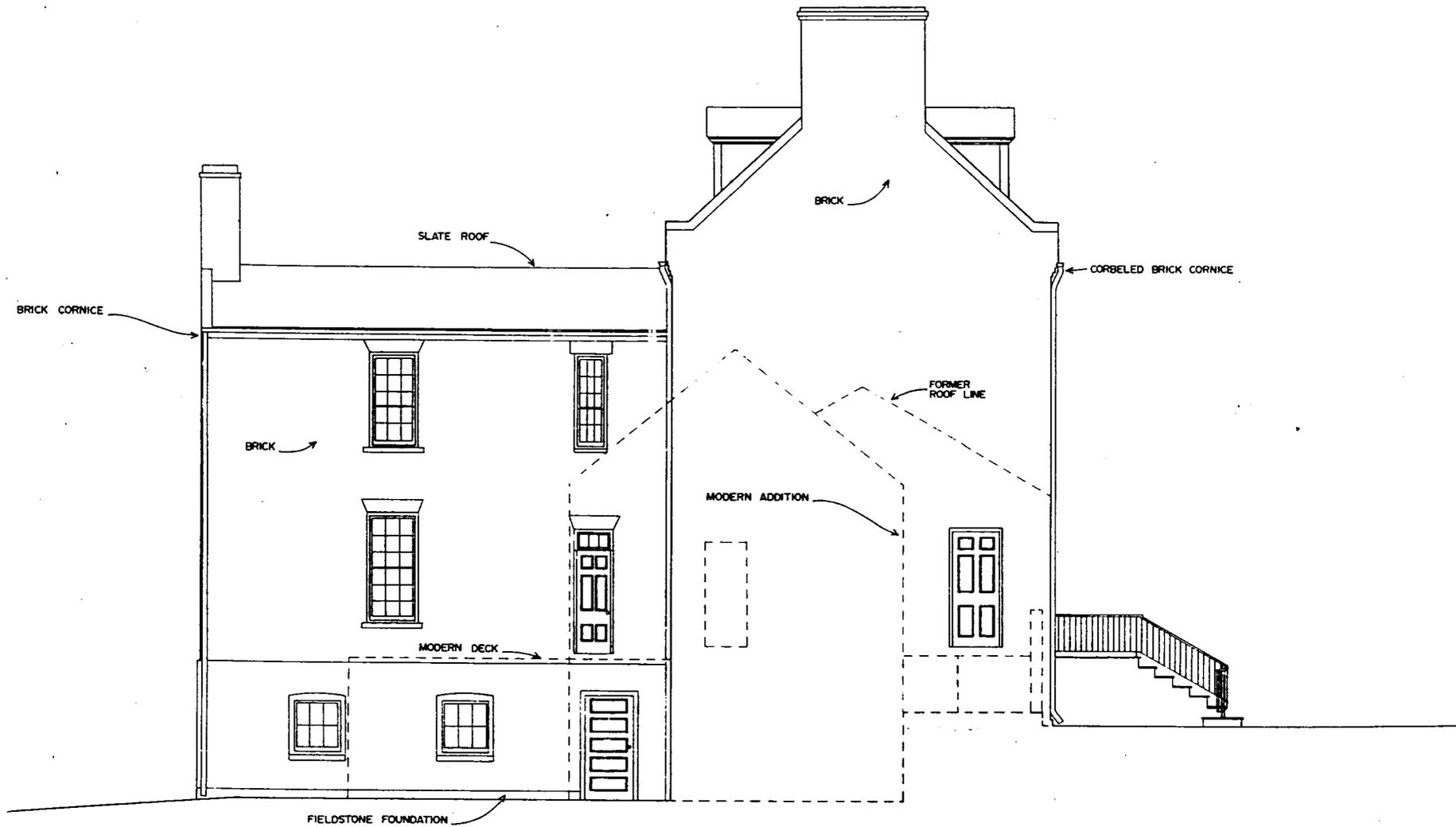


EAST ELEVATION

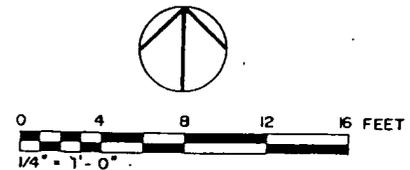
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HISTORIC SITES  
INVENTORY NO.

MARIETTA



WEST ELEVATION

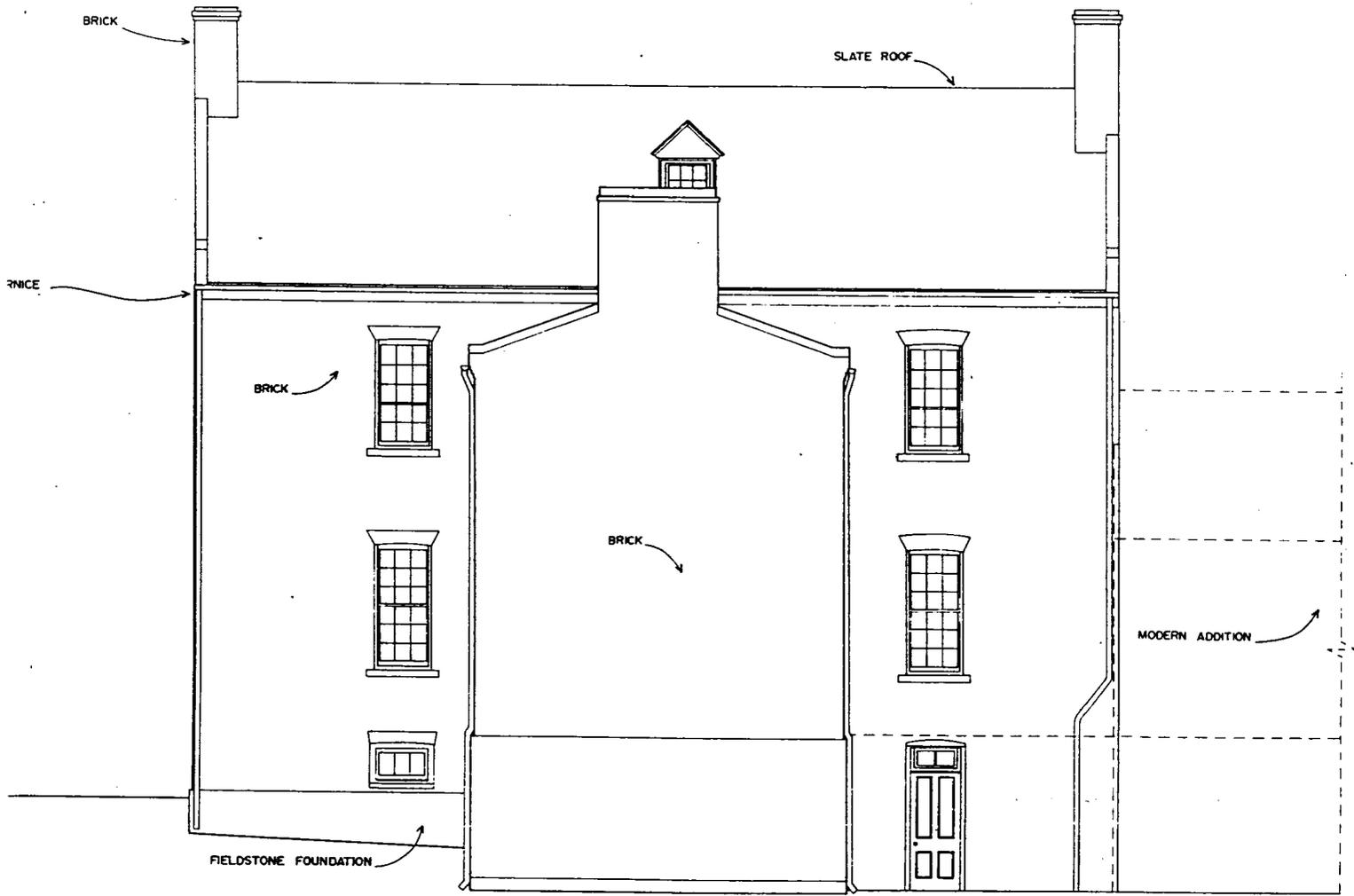


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P.G. 70-20

MARIETTA

GLENN DALE

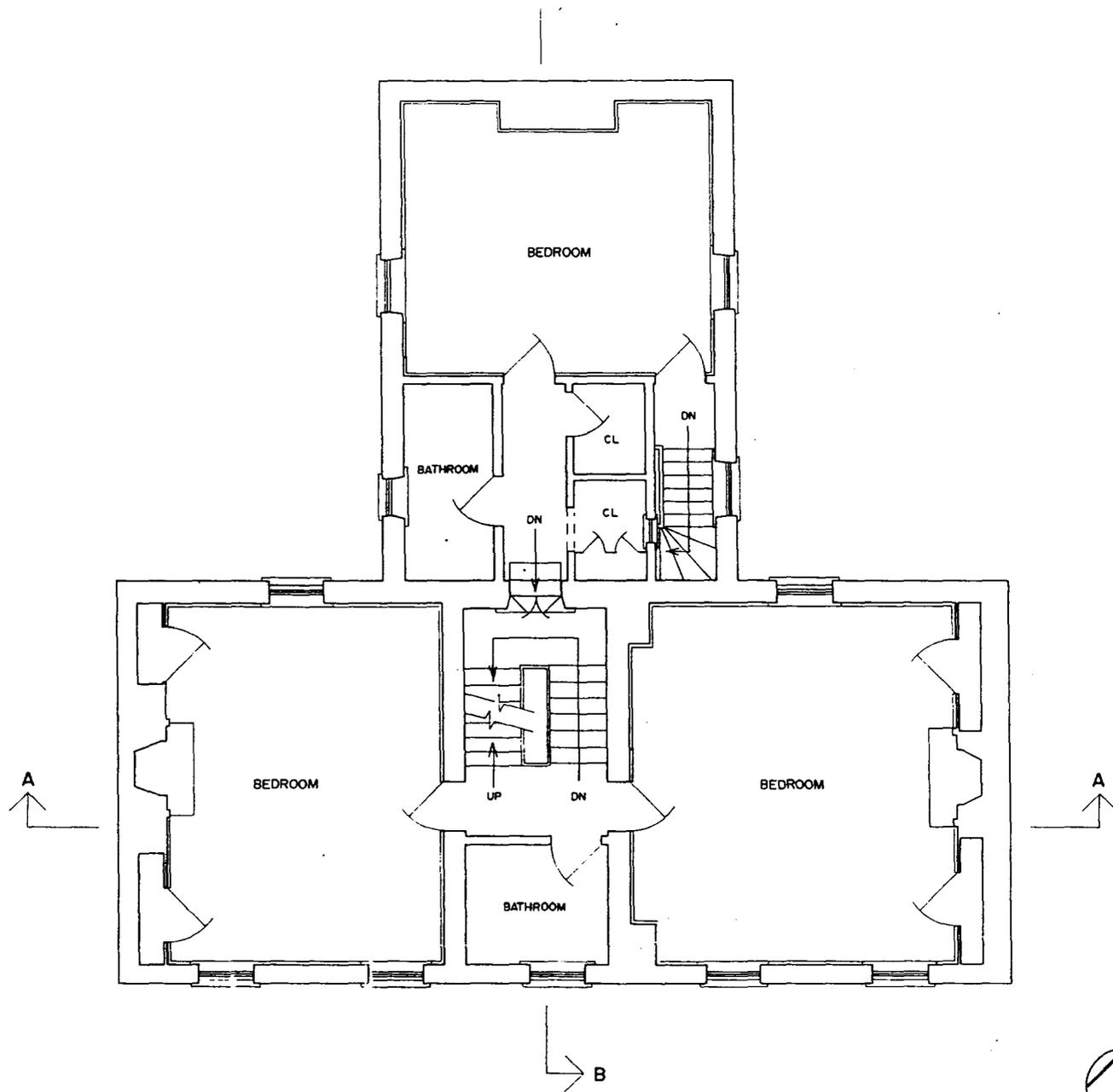


NORTH ELEVATION



HISTORIC SITES  
INVENTORY NO.  
PG 70-20

MARIETTA  
CLEM. DALE



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

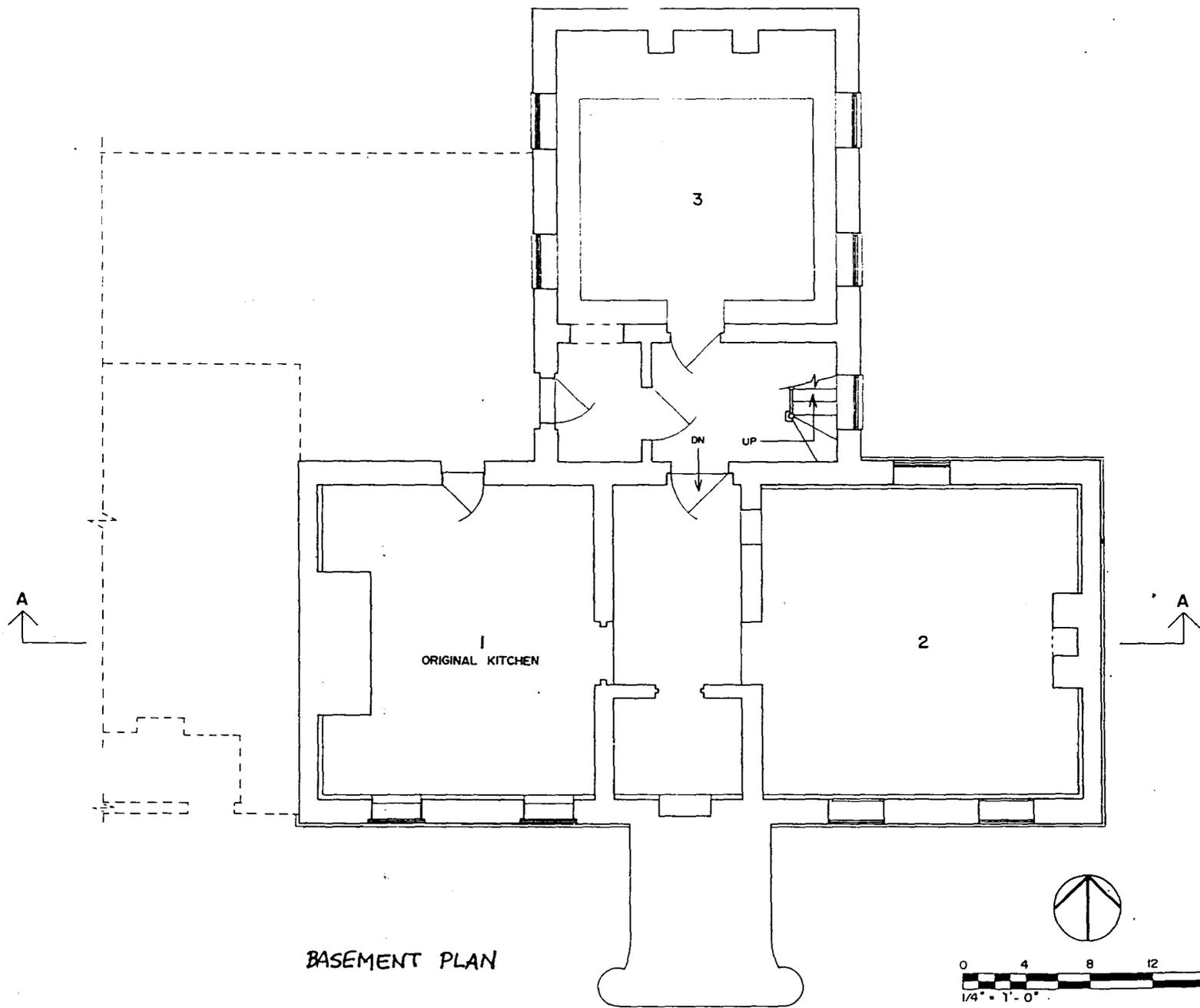
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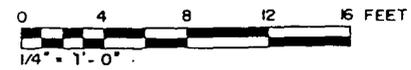
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MARIETTA

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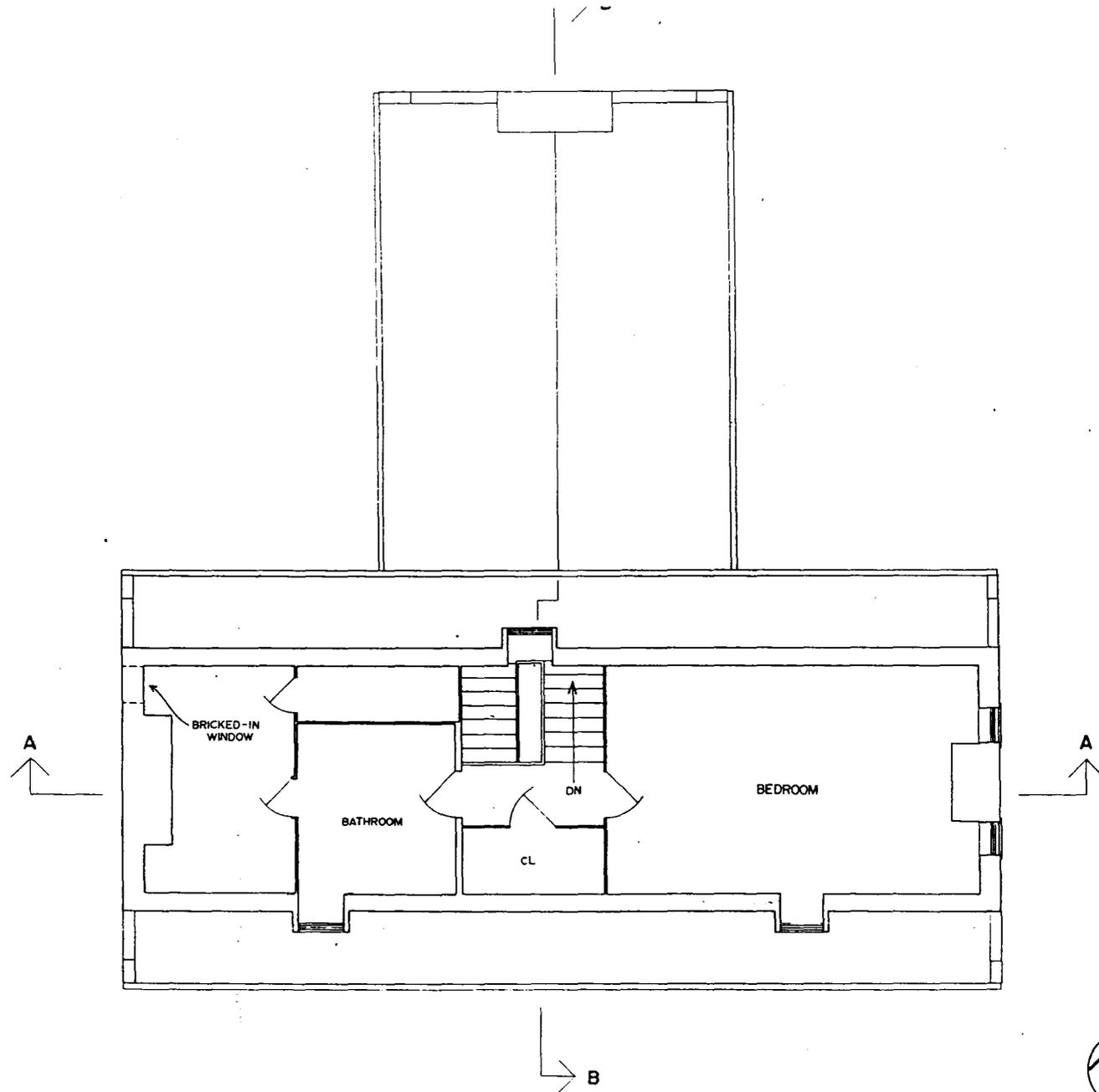
BASEMENT PLAN



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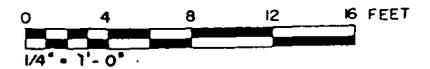
MARIETTA  
GLENN DALE





THIRD FLOOR PLAN

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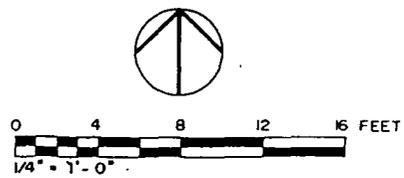


HISTORIC SITES  
INVENTORY NO.

MARIETTA



SECTION A-A

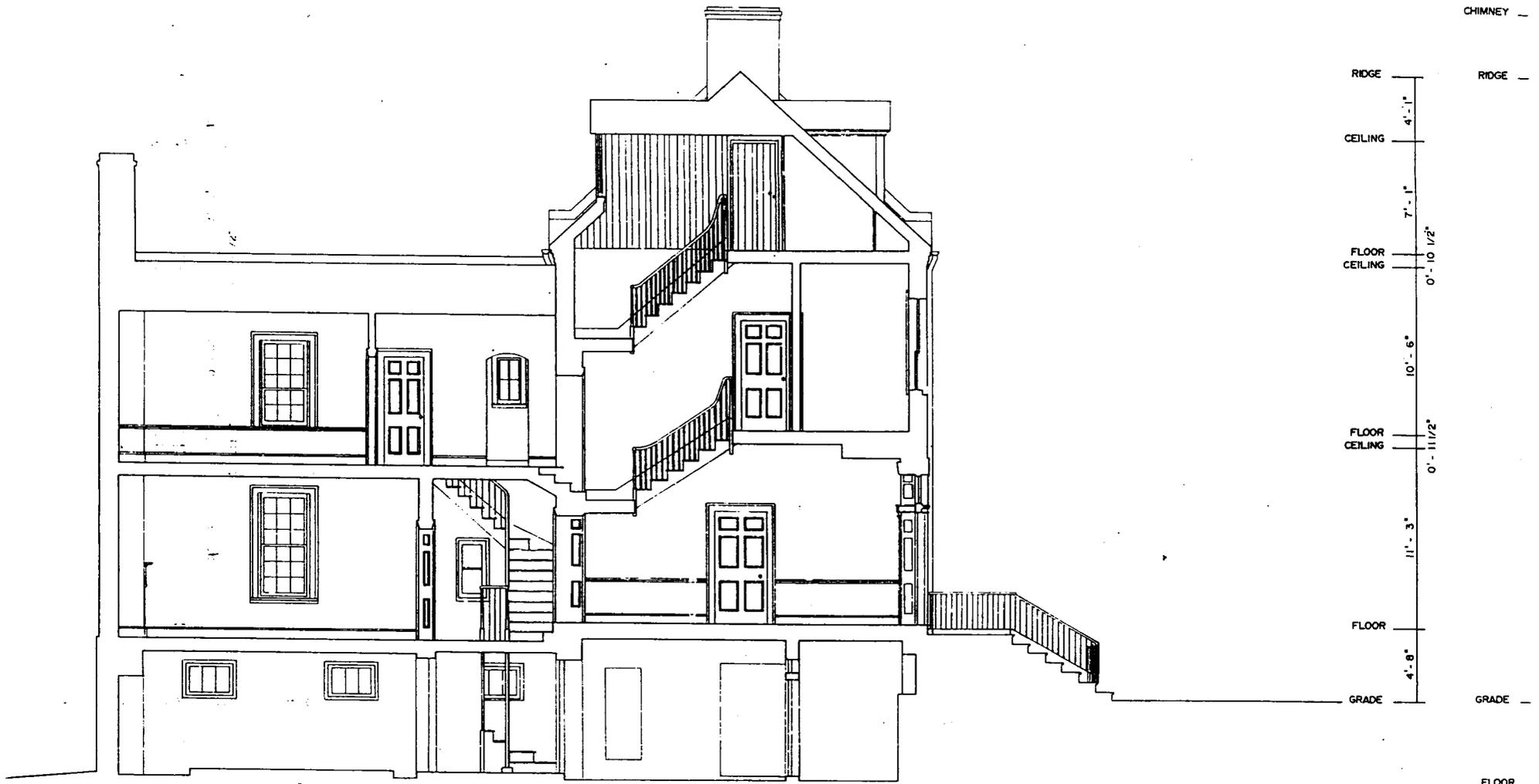


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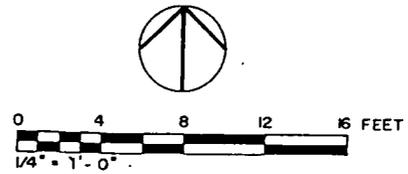
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MARIETTA

GLENN DALE



SECTION B-B

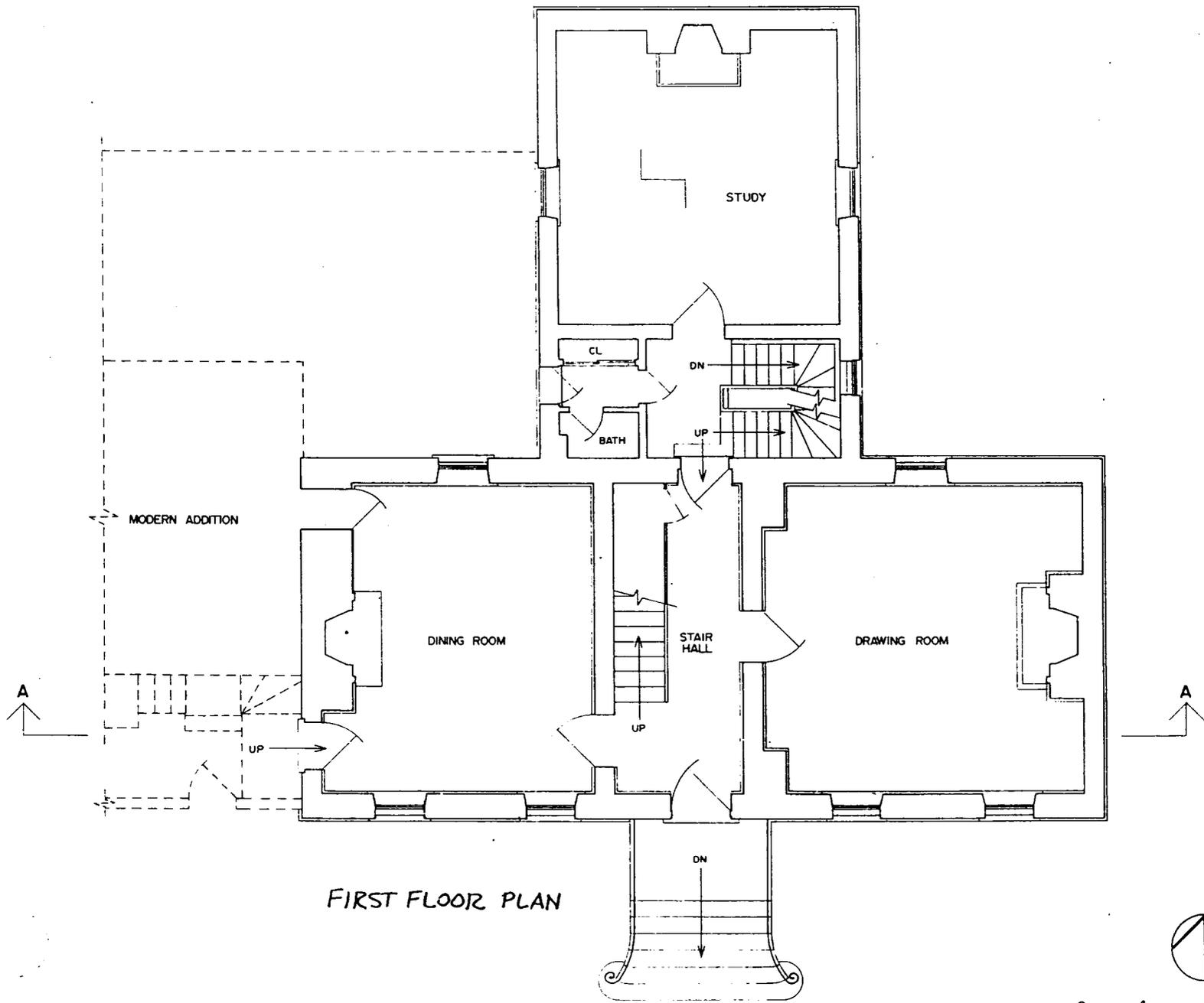


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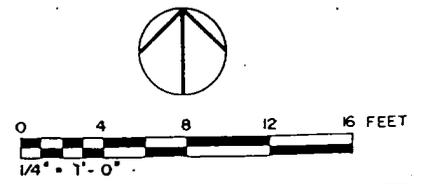
MARIETTA

GLENN DALE



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

PG: 70-20



HISTORIC SITES  
INVENTORY NO.

MARIETTA



Marietta  
 PG: 70-20  
 Prince George's Co  
 Maryland

57'30"  
 A 18-344340-4314620  
 B 18-344200-4313850  
 C 18-343840-4314410

1.6 MI. TO U.S. 301  
 ANNAPOLIS 12 MI.  
 4312

Langham

(BOWIE)  
 5661 NW



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

South facade

1 of 22



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince George's Co, MD

Susan G. Pearl

Feb 1993

MDSHPO

Dwelling & law office

from south

2 of 22



PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince George's Co. MD

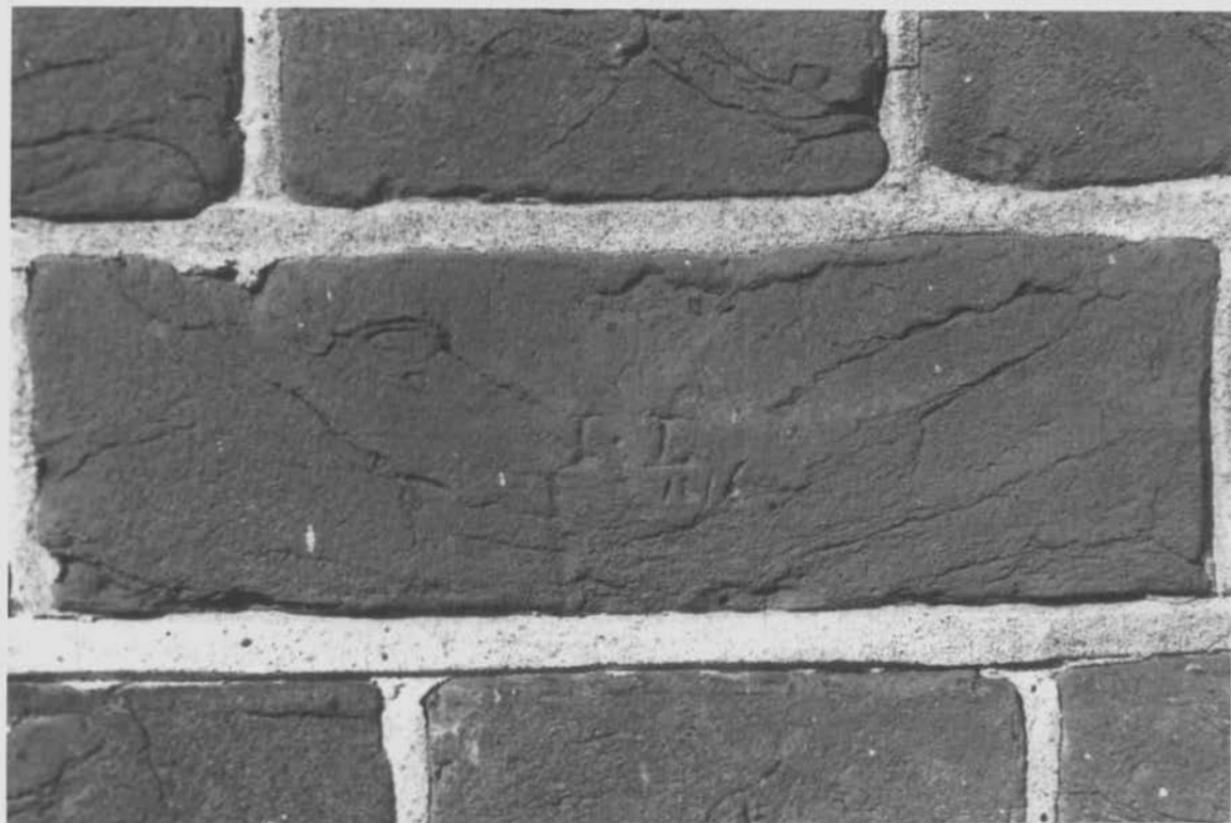
Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

South entrance

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PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

Inscribed breck near S. door

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[IL 1816]



Pg # 70-20

Marionetta

Princ George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

South window detail

5722



PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co MD

Susan G Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

South facade from SW

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PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

Law office + dwelling from E

7 of 22



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

North wing from E

8 of 22



PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

View from NW

9 of 22



PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

West wing from SW

10 of 22



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Susan G. Pearl

Prince Georges Co. MD

MD SHPO

February 1993

Law office with wreath from NW

11 of 22



PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co MD

Susan G. Pearl

MD SHPO

Law office w/o wreath  
from S

12 of 22



PG #p-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

Root cellar from NW

13 of 22



PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

Root cellar foundation, NW corner

14 of 22



PG #70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

Stair, view up from SW

15 of 22



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

View N to landing between  
2nd & 3rd stories

16 of 22



PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

East parlor from NE

17 of 22



PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

west parlor, view to W

18 of 22



PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

east bedroom, 2nd story

19 of 22



PG # 70-20

Marietta

Susan G. Pearl

Prince Georges Co. MD

MD SHPO

February 1993

west bedroom, view to NW

20 of 22



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

First story room in North Wing

21 of 22



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1993

MD SHPO

East basement space, support anch

22 of 22



PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1988

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust. Annapolis MD

Mantel, north room

1 of 12



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

Feb. 1988

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD

Mantel, west bedroom

2 of 12



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

Feb. 1988

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD

Law office, east wall

3 of 12



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1988

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD

Law office, west wall

4 of 12



PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges Co, MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1988

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD

Stair; view from east parlor

5 of 12



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince Georges County MD

Susan G. Pearl

Feb. 1988

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD

Stair; view from SW

6 of 12



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

Feb. 1988

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

Mantel, east parlor

7 of 12

19



PG. # 70-20

Marietta

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

Feb. 1988

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD

West entrance

8 of 12



PG # 70-20

Marietta

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

Feb. 1988

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD

west elevation

9 of 12



PG. #70-20

Marietta

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

Feb. 1988

Neg: Md. Hist Trust, Annapolis MD

west elevation, house

root cellar, law office

10 of 12



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

Feb. 1988

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis MD

east elevation

11 of 12



PG# 70-20

Marietta

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

Feb. 1988

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

east elevation, law office  
and dwelling

12 of 12

# Assessment

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #70-20 Building Date: ca. 1813, 1830's

Building Name: Marietta

Location: 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale

Private/Residence-Museum/Occupied/Excellent/Accessible

### Description

Marietta is a two-and-one-half story brick plantation house begun in 1813, a classic example of the traditional I-house in the Federal style. Attached to the rear of the main block at right angles is a two-story wing, added in the 1830's, and attached to the west gable end is an L-shaped wing added ca. 1950. Entrance is in the south facade of the main block; it has a semi-circular fanlight enframed by a round brick arch with molded wood keystone. The main south facade is laid in Flemish bond; windows have stone sills and lintels with central keystones. The cornice is ornamented with alternately projecting bricks in dentil pattern above one course of brick corbelling; there is a flush chimney at each gable end. A two-story gable-roof wing extends to the north and forms a T. Interior of the main block is that of the traditional I-house, central stairhall flanked by a single parlor on each side. The open-string staircase has a slim turned newel, plain rectangular balusters, bracketed staired ends and panelled spandrel; all rooms have wood mantels of elegant Federal style. Marietta stands on terraced, landscaped grounds, with two contemporary outbuildings: a brick law office and a stone-and-brick root cellar/ice house.

### Significance

Marietta is one of the finest surviving examples in Prince George's County of a late Federal-style brick plantation house. Moderate in size and restrained in its decorative elements, it differs from the grander mansions of the end of the eighteenth century. It was built for Gabriel Duvall, one of Prince George's County's most outstanding citizens. Born in 1752, Duvall pursued a career of public service which lasted for more than 60 years. After serving several positions during the Revolutionary War, he served in the Maryland House of Delegates, the U.S. Congress, the Maryland Supreme Court, and as Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury under Jefferson. Soon after 1812, when he was appointed by President James Madison to the U.S. Supreme Court, Duvall began construction of Marietta. He served on the U.S. Supreme Court until 1835; in January of that year, he retired to spend the rest of his life at Marietta, where he died in 1844. Marietta is a rare example of a late Federal-style plantation house built on the traditional I-house plan; it is significant for its fine period trim and for the unique brick law office which stands on the immediate grounds. It is important also as the home of one of the Prince George's County's most distinguished citizens, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall.

Acreage: 23.6877 acres

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE    yes    no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Marietta

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 5626 Bell Station Road    not for publication

city, town Glenn Dale    vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name M-NCPPC

street & number 6600 Kenilworth Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Riverdale state and zip code Maryland 20737

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 3689

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 601

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1981 (also HABS 1936)    federal    state  county    local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission  
c/o Area Plans, #4010 CAB, M-NCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

# 7. Description

<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Marietta, begun in 1813 by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall, is a two-and-one half story side-gabled brick dwelling, a classic example of the traditional I-house in the Federal style. Attached to the rear of the main block at right angles is a two-story wing, added in the 1830's, and attached to the west gable end is an L-shaped wing added ca. 1950. Marietta stands on terraced, landscaped grounds, with two contemporary outbuildings, a brick law office and a stone-and-brick root cellar/ice house.

The main block of Marietta is of brick, two and one half stories high, and side gabled. It is five bays by two, and entrance is in the central bay of the five-bay main south facade. Entrance is through a large door, with six flush panels, set in a narrow molded surround painted white; the threshold is stone. Above the door is a molded wood cornice painted white, and above that a six-section semi-circular fanlight which is enframed by a round brick arch with molded wood keystone. The door is approached by a (modern) stone stoop with seven stone steps, bounded by an iron railing; this replaces a pedimented gable-roof entry porch which appears in a turn-of-the-century photograph. Just west of the door at shoulder level, incised in one of the brick stretchers is the legend "IL 1816". The main south facade is laid in Flemish bond; there is no water table, but below the flat arches of the cellar windows the brick of the main facade is laid in 5:1 American bond. The other three elevations are laid in 5:1 American bond. The structure rests on a foundation of local iron-bearing sandstone which encloses a full basement. Windows on the first story are 9/9 double hung sash, and 9/6 on the second story; they have narrow molded surrounds, stone sills and splayed flat-arch lintels with central keystones. There are no shutters, but iron shutter-dogs survive at most of the windows of both the main block and the wing. The cellar level is lighted by three-pane single sash windows in the first, second, fourth, and fifth bays; they have flat brick arches.

The east gable end is unfenestrated on first and second stories, but has two small 4/4 windows at loft level. On the north (rear) elevation, windows are 9/9 and 9/6 as on the main south facade, but lack the stone lintels.

The gable roof of the main block is covered with new wood shingle. Beneath the slightly overhanging eaves on the south and north elevations, the cornice is ornamented with alternately projecting bricks in dentil pattern above one course of brick corbelling. In the gable ends, the raking cornices bend to a horizontal kick at the eaves, forming a shallow parapet at the corners. At each gable end there is a flush chimney cen-

tered at the ridge. Two gable dormers pierce the south plane of the roof to light the attic level; each encloses a 6/6 window, and the pediment above the window has a crown molding. There is only one dormer in the rear, centered in the north plane of the roof.

Centered in the north rear elevation, extending north at right angles and forming a T, is a two-story gable-roof wing, set on a high basement. It is two bays long and has no openings in its north (rear) gable end. Windows in the east elevation of the wing are similar to those in the main block, i.e., 9/9 on the first story and 9/6 on the second, and with stone sills and splayed flat stone lintels.

In the southmost bay of the west elevation of the wing is a narrow 4/4 window at second story level, and a door with three-pane transom at first story level; each is surmounted by a splayed flat arch of brick, and in both cases the openings have not been finished with closers, suggesting that these openings are not original to the building. The door opens onto a wooden deck over a modern garage. Because Marietta is built on a slope, the first story of the wing is much higher above grade than the first story of the main block. The wing rests on a subfoundation of the same local sandstone as the main block; above this subfoundation is a high foundation of brick which is marked by a high watertable, and which encloses a full basement. The basement is lighted by three three-pane single-sash windows in the east elevation.

Above the water table, the walls of the wing are laid in Flemish bond on the east elevation, and in 5:1 American bond on north and west. The gable roof of the wing has a much shallower pitch than that of the main block; it is covered with the same new wood shingle, and has the same shallow parapet at the north gable end. A single flush chimney rises at the ridge at the north gable end. The cornice is embellished with a course of corbelled brick and dentil pattern as in the main block.

Interior of the main block is that of the traditional I-house, i.e., central stairhall flanked by a single parlor on each side. The principal south entrance leads into the stairhall; the two-run open-string staircase rises along the west wall of the stairhall to a landing, then turns 180° to the second story. It has a slim turned newel (repeated at the landings) with mitred cap, plain rectangular balusters, elegantly bracketed stair-ends and panelled spandrel. The staircase trim continues consistently to the third story. The main south door has six panels and is framed by fluted pilasters from which springs the round arch enframing the fanlight. Separating the door and the fanlight is a course of vertical fluting, and above the fan is a central molded keystone. The door is framed by panelled jambs and soffit.

At the foot of the stairs, a door opens into the west parlor, or dining room. The wood mantel centered in the west wall of this parlor is of elegant Federal style; it has a (vertically) fluted frieze broken in the center by a rectangular panel of bolder fluting, and on the ends by convex oval shell ornaments. The firebox is framed by elegant convex fluted pilasters. On each side of the mantel is a door; in the south bay a new (but compatible) surround frames a door which opens into the walled garden. This opening may originally have been a window; the chair-rail has been cut to allow the opening of the door. North of the mantel a door leads into the modern kitchen wing. In this case, also, the chair-rail has been cut to accommodate the door opening, but the surround has a Victorian ogee molding and probably predates the south doorway.

The wood mantel in the east parlor is similar, i.e., it has the same fluted pilasters and oval shell pattern, but the frieze has horizontal fluting, and the central rectangular panel is ornamented with a sunburst pattern. Beneath the shelf is a course of gougework in a meander pattern. The alcoves flanking the chimney breast are filled with floor-to-ceiling book shelves.

The floorboards in the east parlor are of random width, worn, and probably original. All other floors in the first story have been replaced with narrow board. The baseboards throughout are high with crown molding, and just below the window sills is a pedestal chair-rail. There are no interior shutters. Surrounds of doors and windows are two-step, two plain fields separated by a narrow ogee molding, and bounded by a wider ogee backband and an inner bead. All doors have six molded panels, and have panelled jambs and soffit.

The second story consists of a central stairhall (into which has been constructed a modern bathroom) flanked by two bed chambers. Each bedroom has a fine Federal style wood mantel, simpler in design than those in the first story parlors. The mantel in the west bedroom has a plain frieze with a central rectangular panel with cut-out oval motif, rectangular fluted pilasters, and a narrow course of fluting beneath the shelf. The mantel in the east chamber has a plain frieze in which is centered a rectangular fluted panel. Beneath the shelf is a course of dentils, and the firebox is framed by rectangular flat fluted pilasters. There is a pedestal chair-rail in the east chamber. Surrounds of windows and doors are similar to those on the first story, but they are one-step, i.e., a single unbroken field bounded by ogee backband and inner bead. All floors in the second story have been replaced with narrow boards.

Interior of the north wing consists of a small rear stairhall and a single parlor. A six-panel door with panelled jambs and soffit leads under the landing into the north wing. The door itself is identical to the main south door; it has a stone sill and was originally exterior. It now leads down two steps into a rear stairhall from which steps descend to

the cellar, and a rear stair ascends along the east wall to the second story. These rear stairs have slim turned newels and rectangular balusters in the Federal style, but appear to be of new materials. To the west, a door with a three-pane transom opens from the rear stairhall onto a modern deck. The rear parlor has a fireplace centered in its north wall; it has Greek Revival style wood mantel with plain frieze and panelled pilasters. Trim at doors and windows is similar to that in the main block, but windows have a molded sill with a bold Greek profile. Floorboards are of random width and probably original; baseboards are high with crown molding, and there is no chair-rail.

From the landing of the formal staircase, a doorway leads up four steps into the second story of the wing. Each leaf of the double door has three molded panels, and the surround of the doorway is two-step, compatible with the moldings of the first story, but of new material.

Circa 1950 a modern L-shape wing was built onto the west gable end of the main block. It is built of brick, one-story high over a high basement, has a gable roof covered with slate, and a brick-walled garden to the west. Built into the northwest corner formed by the main block and north wing is a two-bay garage, above which is a wooden deck. From this deck there is access to the north wing, and also to the center (kitchen) section of the modern wing by means of a sliding glass door.

The house at Marietta stands on a high point of land, which slopes gradually off to the north behind the house, and falls to a lower lawn area in the south. On the lower level are several champion pecan trees. Rough stone steps lead through an opening in a boxwood border from the dwelling house level down to the lower lawn. East of this opening in the boxwood border, built into the slope, is a two-level brick-and-stone root cellar/ice house. It is constructed up to the gable pitch of local iron-bearing sandstone, and the mortar is embellished with galleting. The gables are constructed of brick. This root cellar/ice house is in the process of restoration/rebuilding; it is at present unroofed and its gable ends are supported by wooden braces.

Just east of this outbuilding, but standing on the upper level, is a small gable-roof brick building, which was built to serve as Justice Duvall's study or law office. It is one-and-one-half stories high, one bay by two, and there are entrances in each of the two-bay north and south facades. Each door has six molded panels, a narrow molded surround, and is surmounted by a splayed flat arch of brick. To the right of each door is a 6/6 double hung sash window. The walls of the office are laid in Flemish bond, above a foundation of local ironbearing sandstone in which the mortar is embellished with galleting. The gable roof is covered with (new) wood shingle, and a flush brick chimney rises at the ridge at the east gable end. The east gable end is unfenestrated; the loft level is

lighted by a single 4/4 double hung sash centered high in the west gable end.

The interior of the law office consists of one space. There is a plain wood mantel at the fireplace in the east wall. In the north corner of this east wall, a small, boxed staircase rises to the loft level; between the stair and the mantel, a short two-panel door which hangs on HL hinges opens into a small closet under the stairs. The opposite (west) wall is completely taken up with built-in double-door bookcase cabinets: three cabinets, each one consisting of two six-panel doors over two two-panel doors. Around the room at the level of the window sills runs a plain pedestal chair-rail; baseboards are of plain board, and the floor boards are of random width and probably original.

The grounds around the dwelling house and the law office include several very large old oaks, maples and walnuts. In the yard to the west of the house is a champion specimen of dawn redwood, as well as several very large walnuts. On the grounds to the west of the redwood is a new stone memorial marking the 1987 re-interrment of Gabriel Duvall (removed from the small family burial ground one-half mile to the north), as well as four monuments to other members of Justice Duvall's immediate family.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. PG#70-20

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

local history

**Specific dates** 1813-16, ca.1830 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Marietta is one of the finest surviving examples in Prince George's County of a late Federal-style brick plantation house. Moderate in size and restrained in its decorative elements, it differs from the grander mansions of the end of the eighteenth century. It is distinguished by its handsome keystone lintels, its fine interior trim, its unique and important law office dependency, and the fact that it was built for one of Prince George's County's most outstanding citizens.

Marietta was built circa 1813-1816 by Gabriel Duvall, then serving as one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. Duvall was born in 1752 at Darnall's Grove, the plantation of his father, Benjamin Duvall, in "The Forest" of Prince George's County. In 1771, he went to Annapolis, and began a career of public service which would last for more than sixty years. He read law, and after serving as clerk of the General Court, and of the Council of Safety, began in 1778 the practice of law. During the Revolutionary War, he served in several positions, including that of commissioner for the Preservation and Sale of Confiscated British Properties; after the War, he served as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. In 1794, he was appointed to fill the vacant seat as Maryland's Representative in the Third United States Congress. He served for only one year, by 1795 having been elected judge of the Maryland Supreme Court.<sup>1</sup>

Gabriel Duvall supported Thomas Jefferson in his bid for the Presidency, and served as a Jefferson elector in both the 1796 and 1800 elections. In 1802, Duvall was appointed by President Jefferson to fill the position of Comptroller of the United States Treasury. At this time, Duvall and his wife took up residence in the District of Columbia.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#70-20

Section 8 Page 2

In 1812, President James Madison appointed Gabriel Duvall to serve as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States, a seat which he held until his retirement in 1835. It was at about this time that Duvall began the construction of a fine new brick house on the large acreage which he had accumulated in Prince George's County adjoining the plantation where he had been born. The property was called Marietta, and it included parts of Darnall's Grove, Orphan's Gift and Holliday's Choice.<sup>2</sup> Duvall's new plantation house was moderate in size, unlike His Lordship's Kindness, Compton Bassett and Montpelier, grand Federal Style mansions of a generation earlier.<sup>3</sup> Marietta was built in the form of the traditional I-house, i.e., a central stairhall flanked by a single parlor on each side. The brick walls rested on a heavy foundation of local sandstone, and were laid in stylish Flemish bond. The exterior appearance of the house was moderately severe, but was highlighted by the fine key-stone lintels over all of the windows. Interior trim, including the stair-case, the door and window surrounds, and particularly the mantels, was fine and typical of the period. Although moderate in size, and restrained in decorative detail, Marietta was a very handsome building, and can be compared to only one other surviving dwelling of its period in the County; even that example, William's Plains, begun around 1813 and finished in the 1840's, was considerably larger than Marietta, with Georgian floor plan, i.e., central stairhall and double parlors.<sup>4</sup>

Marietta is rendered unique by the existence on its immediate grounds of a small outbuilding, the law office of Justice Duvall. This small gable-roof brick study contained copious bookshelves and mantel, and a loft for storage, and allowed the Judge to retire to privacy for preparation of his cases.

In 1831, Justice Duvall's son, Edmund Bryce Duvall, died, and in the following year, his young widow also, leaving two minor grandsons in the care of Justice Duvall. It was as this time that the rear wing was added to Marietta, increasing the living space in the house and giving it the shape of a T. In 1834, when Jenny Duvall, the Justice's second wife, died, the inventory of her personal belongings indicates that the rear wing had been finished.<sup>5</sup>

Gabriel Duvall served on the U.S. Supreme Court until 1835; in January of that year, he retired to spend the rest of his life at Marietta. He died March 6, 1844, at Marietta, and the Supreme Court, after paying tribute to "his urbanity, his courtesty, his gentle manners, his firm integrity and independence, and his sound judgement", adjourned in his memory.<sup>6</sup> He was interred in the family burial ground approximately one-half mile north of Marietta.

Marietta remained in the possession of the Duvall family for two more generations. In 1941 Marietta was in seriously deteriorating condition;

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#70-20

Section 8 Page 3

it was purchased by William and Mary-Eula Blair and they began extensive restoration work.<sup>7</sup> In 1945, the stabilized building and grounds were sold to Paul and Margaret Scherer, who had the modern wing constructed on the west end of the house.<sup>8</sup> The Scherers conveyed the house and 25 acres to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1968,<sup>9</sup> retaining a life tenancy in the house, a right which they voluntarily relinquished in 1978.

Marietta is now in excellent condition, having been recently repaired and refurbished by M-NCPPC. It stands on a 25-acre setting of ancient trees and lawn, an oasis of unusual serenity. The graves of several members of the Duvall family have been removed from the old burial ground to the west lawn of Marietta, a resident caretaker lives in the modern wing, and the basement of that wing serves as the library of the Prince George's County Historical Society.

Marietta is a rare example of a late Federal-style plantation house built on the traditional I-house plan. In plan, but not in decorative trim, it resembles Harmony Hall, that fine Georgian dwelling built more than a half-century earlier.<sup>10</sup> Marietta is distinguished by its fine key-stone lintels and interior trim; its grounds include a unique brick law office. Marietta was the home of one of the Prince George's County's most distinguished citizens, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Duvall.

Notes

1 Baltz, Shirley, *Marietta*, M-NCPPC, 1986; see also Prince George's County Hall of Fame "Directory of Prince Georgians Honored"

2 Ibid.

3 See National Register nominations for His Lordship's Kindness (P.G. #81A-1), Compton Bassett (P.G. #79-10) and Montpelier (P.G. #62-6).

4 See National Register nomination for Williams Plains (P.G. #71B-3).

5 Inventory, taken by Gabriel Duvall, 1834; see *Historic Structures Report*, History Division, M-NCPPC.

6 Baltz, op cit.

7 Prince George's County Deed #605:326.

8 Prince George's County Deed #780:82

9 Prince George's County Deed #3689:601

10 See MHT Form P.G. #80-11.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #70-20

See Chain of Title  
See Notes, Item #8

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 23.6877 acres  
Quadrangle name Lanham

Tax Map 45, parcel 144  
Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A            
Zone Easting Northing

B            
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl

organization Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission date May 1988

street & number c/o Area Plans (E/S), M-NCPPC telephone (301) 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

# Easement

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

## HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # 70-20 Date 1810-1816, c.1830

Building Name Marietta

Location Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, Maryland

Open to Public  yes  no Restricted

Marietta is a two-and-one-half story, Federal style brick structure. The five bay south facade of the main block (which was built between 1810 and 1816) is laid in Flemish bond, has a central door with semi-circular fanlight, and windows with keystone arches of stone. One large flush chimney rises at each gable end. Around 1830, a two story wing was added, running north from the main block. This wing is laid in common bond, as are the three subordinate walls of the main block, and the windows have flat arches of brick and sills of stone. A modern wing to the west serves as the living quarters of the current residents.

Marietta was the home of Gabriel Duvall (1752-1844), distinguished for his lifetime of public service. A resident of Annapolis in his early life, Duvall was clerk to the Committee of Safety in the years prior to the Revolution, and subsequently clerk to the Constitutional Convention. He practiced law in Ann Arundel County, and was a member of both houses of the state legislature. In 1802, he was appointed Comptroller of the Treasury by President Jefferson, a position which he held until 1811, when he was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Madison. At about this time, Duvall began building Marietta, and moved there from his rented home in Washington. He served as Supreme Court Justice until his resignation in 1835. His years of retirement were spent at Marietta.

Marietta remained in the hands of Gabriel Duvall's descendants until 1902. The last private owners, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Scherer, built the modern west wing, and deeded the mansion to the Maryland - National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1968.

# Easement

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

P.G. #71-20

### INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

#### 1 NAME

Marietta

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

#### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bell Station Road

CITY, TOWN

Glenn Dale

— VICINITY OF Collington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Prince George's

#### 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

#### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Maryland - National Capital Park & Planning Telephone #: 277-2200

STREET & NUMBER

Kenilworth Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Riverdale

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Md.

#### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

P.G. County Courthouse

Liber #: 3689

Folio #: 601

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Md.

#### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

H.A.B.S.

DATE

1936

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress; (Surratt House)

CITY, TOWN

Washington D.C.

(Clinton, Md.)

STATE

**DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Marietta is a two-and-one-half story, Federal style brick structure. The five bay south facade of the main block is laid in Flemish bond, has a central door with semi-circular fanlight, and windows with flat keystone arches of stone. One large flush chimney rises at each gable end. Research indicates that the main block was constructed between 1810 and 1816.

Around 1830, a two story wing was added, running north from the main block. This wing is laid in common bond, as are the three subordinate walls of the main block, and the windows have flat arches of brick and sills of stone.

A modern wing to the west serves as the living quarters of the current residents.

Outbuildings include Justice Duvall's small brick law office southeast of the mansion, and a root cellar built into the hill beside the law office.

 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1810-1816, c.1830

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Marietta was the home of Gabriel Duvall (1752-1844), distinguished for his lifetime of public service. A resident of Annapolis in his early life, Duvall was clerk to the Committee of Safety in the years prior to the Revolution, and subsequently clerk to the Constitutional Convention. He practiced law in Ann Arundel County, and was a member of both houses of the state legislature. In 1802, he was appointed Comptroller of the Treasury by President Jefferson, a position which he held until 1811, when he was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Madison. At about this time, Duvall began building Marietta, and moved there from his rented home in Washington. He served as Supreme Court Justice until his resignation in 1835. His years of retirement were spent at Marietta.

Marietta remained in the hands of Gabriel Duvall's descendants until 1902. It was acquired in 1941 by William and Mary Blair, who did much to repair the deteriorating structure. In 1945, Marietta was purchased by Paul and Margaret Scherer, who built the modern west wing, and who deeded 25 acres including the mansion house to the Maryland - National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1968.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

P.G. Deeds 5889, 301.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 25 acres

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE		DATE
Shirley Baltz / Susan Pearl		Spring 1979
ORGANIZATION		TELEPHONE
P.G. Historical & Cultural Trust		599-6776
STREET & NUMBER		STATE
9110 Brandywine Road		Md.
CITY OR TOWN		
Clinton,		

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

# Easement

PG:70-20

Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE <b>Maryland</b> COUNTY <b>Prince Georges</b> TOWN <b>VICINITY #15</b> STREET NO. <b>Bell Station Rd.</b>  ORIGINAL OWNER <b>Judge Gabrille Duvall</b> ORIGINAL USE <b>Private Dwelling</b> PRESENT OWNER <b>Paul Scherer</b> PRESENT USE <b>Private Dwelling</b> WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>brick</b> NO. OF STORIES <b>2 1/2</b>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY  2. NAME <b>Marietta</b>  DATE OR PERIOD <b>Ca. 1785</b> STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER <b>Judge Gabrille Duvall</b>  3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
--	--

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

*Handwritten: M.N.C.P.P.C.*

The whole surrounding area is owned by M.N.C.P.P.C.  
 Evidently, the Md. Park and Planning will take the area over when the present occupant dies.

Ancient house destroyed.

Bond: five rows stretchers to one row headers  
 Brick outbuilding<sup>2</sup> of slightly later period, appears to have been a kitchen.  
 Addition on back and side, Flemish ~~ENE~~ bond  
 Fieldstone foundation.  
 Some modern additions, garage underneath.

Very good condition, no danger.

*Handwritten: Flemish bond on front; sandstone jack arches & key stone over windows East side of north addition Flemish bond. All other is common bond as described above. Outbuilding<sup>2</sup> was a law office. Kitchen was in the basement. corrections per J Wollon 1968*

*Handwritten: HABS - 2 photos*

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

*Handwritten: Paul Scherer to Maryland Nat'l Capital Park & Planning Com. Feb. 1970*

*Color # 748, 859, 944*

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.  <b>Bowie, pg. 233</b>  <i>Earle</i> <i>Rinn, Survey, p 141</i>	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER     DATE OF RECORD
---	--

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the

010  
1701064204

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Marietta			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Bell Station Road and Rte. 450 (Northwest Quarter)			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Prince George's	
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>			
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public      Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	
		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <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"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____	
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>			
OWNER'S NAME: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring		STATE: Maryland	
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro		STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):			
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER: 10 First Street SE			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC		STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story, brick structure laid up in Flemish Bond with the entrance in the center bay of the five bay main (south) facade. The doorway has a moulded keystone arch with a fanlight springing from impost blocks. The door itself has six beaded panels set flush with the stiles and rails. Over the windows stone lintels of jack-arch form have large, plain keystones. The first floor windows are 9/9 double hung sash, while those on the second floor are 9/6 sash. The cornice consists of three courses, the lowest of stretchers, the middle of headers, with every other one set forward in a dentiled pattern, and the highest of stretchers. There is no water table.

Each end wall has a large flush-gable chimney with a cap consisting of three courses of projecting bricks. The sides of the gable ends terminate in parapets, which are corbelled out from the walls of the house at their extreme ends.

On the rear facade, which is partially obscured by a later wing, the openings have brick segmental arches. The wing, extending to the north, has a flush-gable chimney on the north end. The windows are handled identically to those on the main facade, but the lintels do not have keystones. The cornice, too, is similar to the one on the main block. The pitch of the roof, however, is much lower.

In plan, the house has a center hall and flanking parlors. The fireplaces have mantelpieces of typical Federal form but with elaborations that give them a distinguished character. Fluted pilasters carry a frieze band; where the band breaks out over the <sup>pilasters are</sup> rosettes; over the fireplace opening, the band is fluted, while toward the center, the fluting becomes heavier and more pronounced. Above the frieze, a bed moulding supports the wide shelf. There are chair rails but no cornice moulding; the door jambs are panelled with fielded panels.

Two other houses sit on the property. A spring house, with a stone foundation, has an arched doorway on the lower level. The gable ends are brick. The roof construction is of principal rafters, mortised, tenoned, and pegged together; the ridgepole is cut in an L profile and sits over the rafters like a hood.

The second outbuilding is the law office of Justice Duvall. It is a brick structure on a stone foundation, two bays wide with the doorway in the west bay. On the east end is a large, squarish flush gable chimney.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)** 1790

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Historic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Art</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communications</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Invention</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Literature</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Military</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Music</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Political</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Theater</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|--|

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Empty box for major bibliographical references.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreeage Justification:

Large empty box for acreeage justification.

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

STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: MNCPPC      DATE: 15 Nov 73

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring      STATE: Maryland

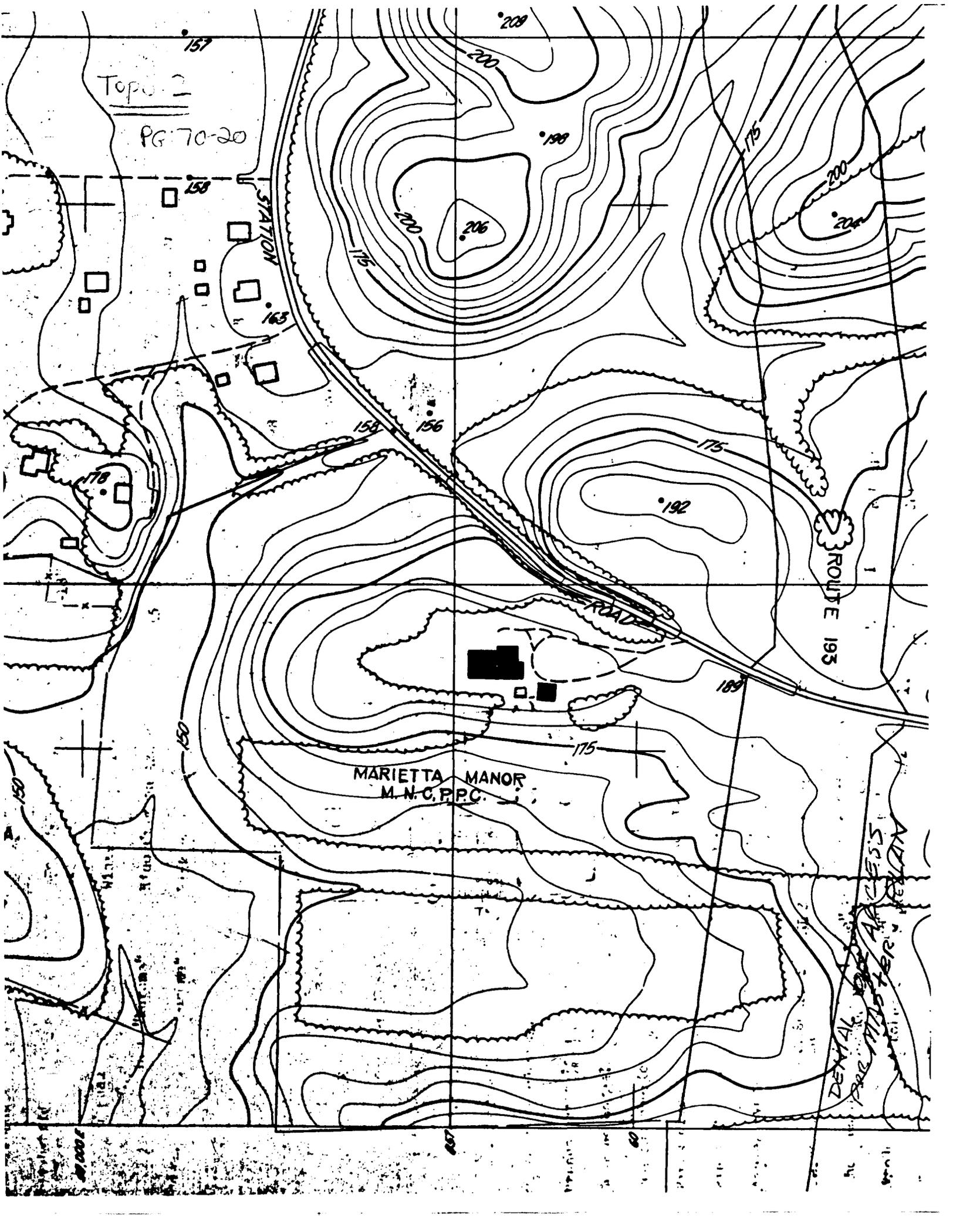
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:  
 National     State     Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





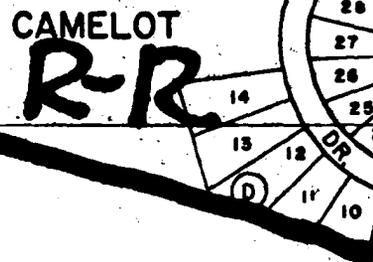
Topo 2  
PG 70-20

STATION

ROUTE 193

MARIETTA MANOR  
M.N.C.P.C.

DENTAL OFFICE ACCESS  
PRE-MANOR



JOHN R. KURTZ  
5813 / 340  
10.14 A.  
P. 49

R-E

Glenn DALE

1.57A. P.50  
0.65A. P.51  
0.80A. P.52  
0.63A. P.53  
P.54

RUTH / PAUL  
BOUDER  
0862/008  
1.73A  
P.88

M. LEO STORCH  
3412 / 1  
89.19 A.  
P. 142

PG: 70-20

Bell Station

MARY F. CUPPETT  
5142 / 555  
26.34 A  
P. 56

M.N.C.P. & P.C.  
3689 / 601  
23.69 A.  
P. 144

VINCENT D.  
PALUMBO, ET AL  
6073 / 166  
11.38 A.  
P. 57

EU  
ROE  
598 /  
22.4  
P. 1

LARRY A. BRANNON  
4644 / 786  
6.68 A.  
P. 138

P/O.P.1

EUGENE M. ZOGLIO  
5818 / 912  
26.39A.  
P.74

ROAD

O-S

R-R

FRANK W.  
HAWKINS  
3361 / 504  
5.51 A.  
P. 5

R-A

S. A.  
/ 457  
0.00 A.  
/ O P.121

P/O P. 114

KOPEL M.  
SHATENSTEIN  
ETAL  
5719 / 69

FRANK W.  
HAWKINS  
3868 / 156  
4.52 A.  
P. 123

M. 46

2.29 A.  
P. 72

10.71 A.  
P. 73

F.W. HAWKINS  
4878 / 011  
13.51 A  
P. 118

J.L.  
WATSON  
1859 /  
245  
2.74 A.  
P. 158

G-M

J. CARL  
HENDERSON  
5672 / 198  
7.66 A.  
P. 115

P.139  
P.129

C.78A.  
P. 2

0.98A  
P.159

14 15 16

PAR. A

ROAD



PG# 70-20

Lanham





NAME MARIETTA

PG. 70-20

LOCATION BELL STATION Rd. GLENN DALE, Md

FACADE W

PHOTO TAKEN 11/15/73 M. DWYER



NAME MARIETTA

PG: 70-20

LOCATION BELL STATION Rd GLENN DALE, Md

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 11/15/73 M. DWYER