

SM-73

Gravelly Hills (Hamberg)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 01-06-2004

S' M -73
GRAVELLY HILLS
Chaptico
Private

1847

Rescued from a nearly ruinous state, this three-part frame house again functions as a very attractive and well-maintained home. The largest section has a side hall, double parlor plan and two chimnies on the east where it is joined to the middle section which also has two chimnies on the east. This second section has a floor plan consisting of a long hall across the front and two rooms divided by a hall in the rear. A 1 1/2-story kitchen is built onto the chimney wall of the middle section. All three parts of the house were apparently built at the same time, in 1847 according to a date found in the house during restoration.

A two-story front porch once stood on the 3 1/2-story section. The west bay on the second floor held a door to the porch, but now contains a 6/6 light window over two panels.

This property remained in the hands of the descendants of Philip Key until 1920 except for the period 1856-1864. For further information, see archeological listing.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

SMA-73
GRAVELLY HILLS
Chaptico
Private

18th or early 19th century

In his will, probated in 1820, Philip Key, a prominent St. Mary's Countian in the politics of the Revolutionary and Early National periods, left his house at Gravelly Hills to his wife. The discovery of some Flemish bond brick work in the cellar of the present Gravelly Hills house may suggest that it sits on the site of the earlier house. The use of some earlier trim in the 1847 house is also thought to point to this. In any case, an earlier house, probably 18th century, did stand on this land until at least 1820, although its location is not known for certain.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Gravelly Hills

AND/OR COMMON

Hamberg

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Brent Davis Road

CITY, TOWN

Chaptico

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

COUNTY

St. Mary's County 037

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Miss Mary Elisabeth Hoff and Miss A. Hope Swann

STREET & NUMBER

Davis Road

CITY, TOWN

Chaptico

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

20621

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's County Courthouse

Liber #: CBG 60

Folio #: 369

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Lane

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Pre-1850 Houses, St. Mary's County

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

St. Mary's City Commission

CITY, TOWN

St. Mary's City

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Gravelly Hills is about 1½ miles north of Chaptico, Maryland, near Maryland Route 234 on Davis Road, in St. Mary's County.

Constructed in the 1840's with some parts of possibly earlier date, Gravelly Hills was restored from near ruin by the present owners, beginning in 1955. All mantels, doors and trim except for the cornices, are original.

Gravelly Hills is a telescope house of three sections. The largest is 3½ stories tall and three bays wide; the next, 2½ stories and two bays; and the last 1½ stories and one bay. Each section is set back from the one before on the front, but on the rear all are flush.

The exterior of the two larger sections is covered with clapboards, painted white. The kitchen, however, is covered with flush tongue and groove siding, painted white. All three have gable roofs covered with asphalt shingles. The pair of gable dormers on the south slopes of both the larger sections are not original while those on the north slope are all contain 6/6 sash. The south slope of the kitchen roof extends to the front wall of the middle section, creating a porch across the kitchen facade.

There are two exterior chimneys on the east end of the largest sections. The north edge of the southerly one is flush with the front wall of the middle section; the other is enclosed within the middle section and services both it and the larger section. Another chimney between the middle section and the kitchen services only the wide kitchen hearth on the first floor level. The stacks of all the chimneys are detached from the buildings at the roof line.

A two story porch once stood on the front of the largest section. The second-story window in the west bay was the door to the porch. This window now has a six-over-six light double hung sash over two panels. The louvered shutters extend the full height of the panels and the window.

The largest (west) section has the main entrance to the house in the west bay. The doorway has an eight-panel door with a six-light transom and three-pane sidelights over a narrow panel. Louvered shutters hang on either side of the doorway. There are two six-over-six light windows to the east of the two door openings. These all have louvered shutters.

The middle section has an eight-panel door in the west bay and the six-over-six light window in the east bay and two such windows on the second floor. Door and windows all have louvered shutters.

The kitchen has a window (replacing a door) in the center of the south facade. The porch here was supported by four posts; there are presently no posts.

See Continuation Sheet #1

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Gravelly Hills
Chaptico

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

The east facade of the kitchen has a 6/6 light window on the first floor and directly above it in the gable. The east facade on the middle section has a 6/6 window in the gable to the south of the chimney. The east facade of the largest section has a 6/6 window just north of the south chimney stack in the gable, and a narrow 2/2 window in the peak of the gable; none have shutters.

The west facade of the largest section has two 6/6 windows on the three floors and one 2/2 in the peak of the gable. The two pairs below the roofline are set slightly off-center to the south. The pair in the gable are slightly smaller and they are centered.

On the rear of the house there is an entrance in the west bay of the largest section with 6/6 windows in the other two bays on the first floor, and three 6/6 windows spaced as on the south facade, on the second floor. The middle section has windows in the bays except the next to the eastern most of the first floor which has an entrance. The single bay of the old kitchen has a window formerly a door. A gable-roofed, square screened porch stands at each entrance on this facade.

The floor plan of the largest section is a side hall/double parlor one. The doors on the two parlors and the two parlor chambers are of pine painted to simulate maple graining. Those to the parlors have ten panels. The architraves around these doorways have corner blocks. The doors in the rest of the house are painted and have plain architraves. In the hall of the largest section is an open string stair with large round and turned newel posts, square balusters and decorative brackets on the step ends. The stair ascends from the first floor to the third. The parlors are identical in decoration with cornices and mantels with plain pilasters. The cornices are not original. The parlors are connected by two large doors in the center of the partition. The second floor plan is the same as that of the first floor. The bedrooms have mantels similar to those in the parlors and more simple cornices; the latter also not original. On the third floor the hall is divided with a small room at the north end. There is a narrow open string stair without railing leading to the attic. A doorway has been cut through the east wall of the north room leading to the half-story of the middle sections.

The first floor plan of the middle section consists of two rooms on the north separated by a narrow hall and a long hall along the south side. This hall has a door at either end; the west one opening into the south parlor and the east one onto the old kitchen porch. Between the door and window on the south wall of the hall is an open string stair leading to the second floor. Beneath this stair is an entrance to the cellar, not original. The west room is used as a dining room, the narrow hall is a bath, and the east room is a modern kitchen. The dining room has closet on either side of the fireplace with five-panel doors. A new door in the east wall leads into the modern kitchen. There is a drain rail in the dining room.

See Continuation Sheet #2.

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Gravelly Hills
Chaptico

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

On the second floor of this section the floor is almost the same. A bathroom over the dining room has a fireplace, sharing the chimney with a bedroom in the largest section as on the first floor. There is a bedroom over the modern kitchen, and a stair to the half-story between the two rooms. The bedroom extends the width of the house. Its west wall has vertical wood paneling and a board and batten door to a closet under the stair to the half story. This is the only paneled wall in the house; the rest are all plastered. A fireplace on the east wall has a mantel similar to others in the house; it uses the same chimney that services the old kitchen fireplace on the first story.

The smaller section, the old kitchen, called the slave kitchen addition, is entered through a new doorway from the modern kitchen. The interior has been modernized with vertical board paneling, and windows replace the doors in the north and south walls. A stair to the loft in the northeast corner has been removed, and the original dirt floor has been paved with bricks. Only the wide brick fireplace in the west wall has not been touched. It is 4½ feet deep and 6½ feet wide and retains the original swinging cranes.

8 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 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
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1847

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gravelly Hills near Chaptico, Maryland was once part of Chaptico Manor which was originally part of St. Clements Manor. Lord Baltimore acquired Chaptico Manor from Thomas Gerard in 1670, and set this land aside for the Indians. By 1692 only one tribe, the Chopticon, were still living in the Manor and the rest of the land was rented to tenant farmers.

Gravelly Hills was constructed in the mid-19th century, but there is some evidence in the use of different trim and doors and the presence of flemish bond in a cellar wall, that the house may have been built in two periods. Also there is documentary evidence of a house at the location of the present Gravelly Hills earlier than the mid-19th century. One of these is the will of Philip Key who left Gravelly Hills, the house he was living in, to his wife at his death in 1820.

The house belonged to Key's descendants except for a brief period (1856-1864) until 1920 when it was sold out of the family. The house then went through a succession of owners until 1955 when the present owners purchased and restored it after it had fallen into almost complete disrepair.

Philip Key, born in 1750 in St. Mary's County, was a member of the same Key family that had distinguished itself through service on the state, federal and local levels in Maryland. Returning from schooling in England in 1770, he became an attorney in St. Mary's County and soon was representing his district in the Maryland Assembly.

Key served the House of Delegates in 1773 and 1779-1790. He was a member of the Committee of Correspondence for St. Mary's County in 1774 and was an active supporter of the Revolution, contributing one of the largest donations in money and tobacco in Maryland. In 1791, Key was elected to the second U.S. Congress, serving until 1793. In 1795 and 1796, Key was a member of the state House of Delegates and served as Speaker of the House during this period. After his term ended in 1796, Key returned to St. Mary's County to retire at Gravelly Hills. It is recorded that he declined an appointment to the cabinet of President Monroe, and he also declined an appointment to the Governorship of the State of Maryland.

See Continuation Sheet #3.

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Gravelly Hills
Chaptico

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Gravelly Hills is a good example of the side hall/double parlor plan of ten found in St. Mary's County in the first half of the 19th century. It is important because it has been specifically dated by the discovery of "1847" written on a window frame hidden by the lathe and plaster until restoration. The plan of the middle section built at the same time, is more developed than many of this type, with its two rooms and two halls connecting them to the rest of the house. The mantels in the house are early examples of an early Victorian style that became popular after the Federal period, although the side hall/double parlor plan is a Federal one. The pine-paneled doors in the west stair hall grained to resemble maple are fine examples of art of graining, lost to modern builders.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Hoff, Elisabeth and Hope Swann, "Miracle at Gravelly Hills", Chronicles of St. Mary's, Vol. 10, No. 12, December 1962.
2. Biographical Directory of American Congress 1774-1971, United States Printing Office, 1971.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

John K. Bruton, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION

DATE

St. Mary's County Committee, Maryland Historical Trust 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o David Roberts (Chmn.) 109 Lakeland Drive

301-373-5251

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Hollywood

Maryland

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____

STATE _____

LOCAL _____

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

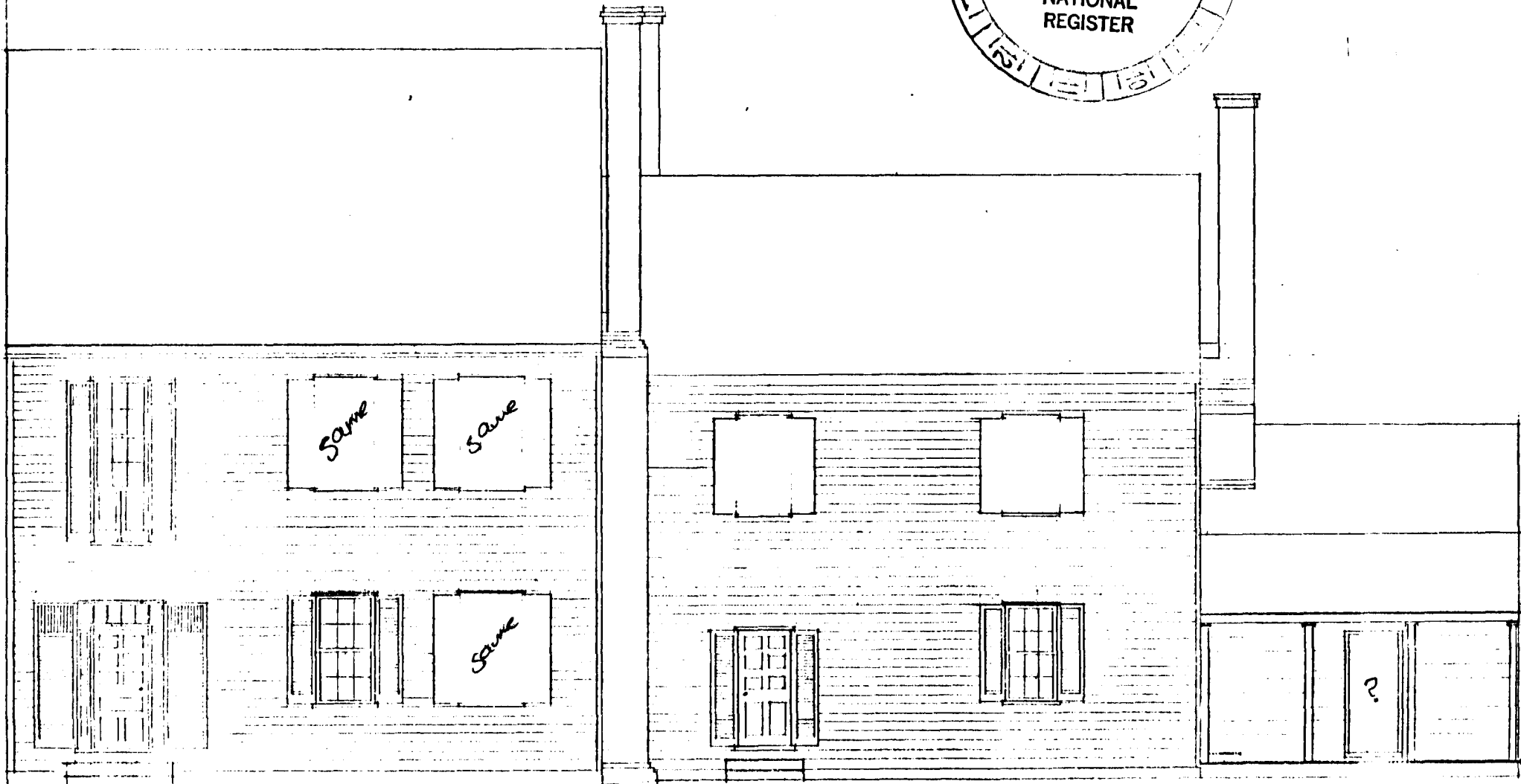
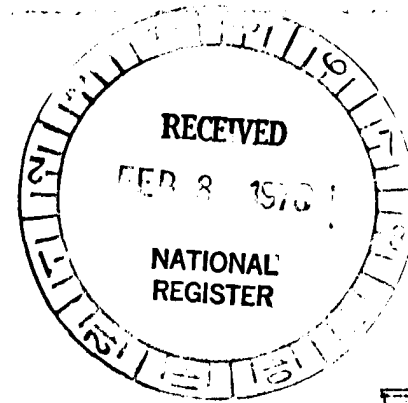
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

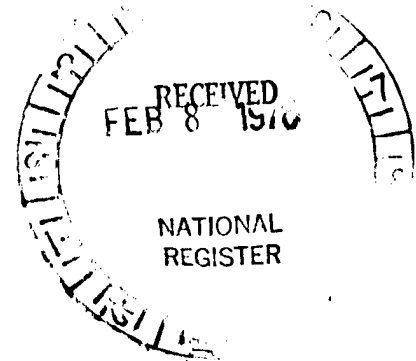
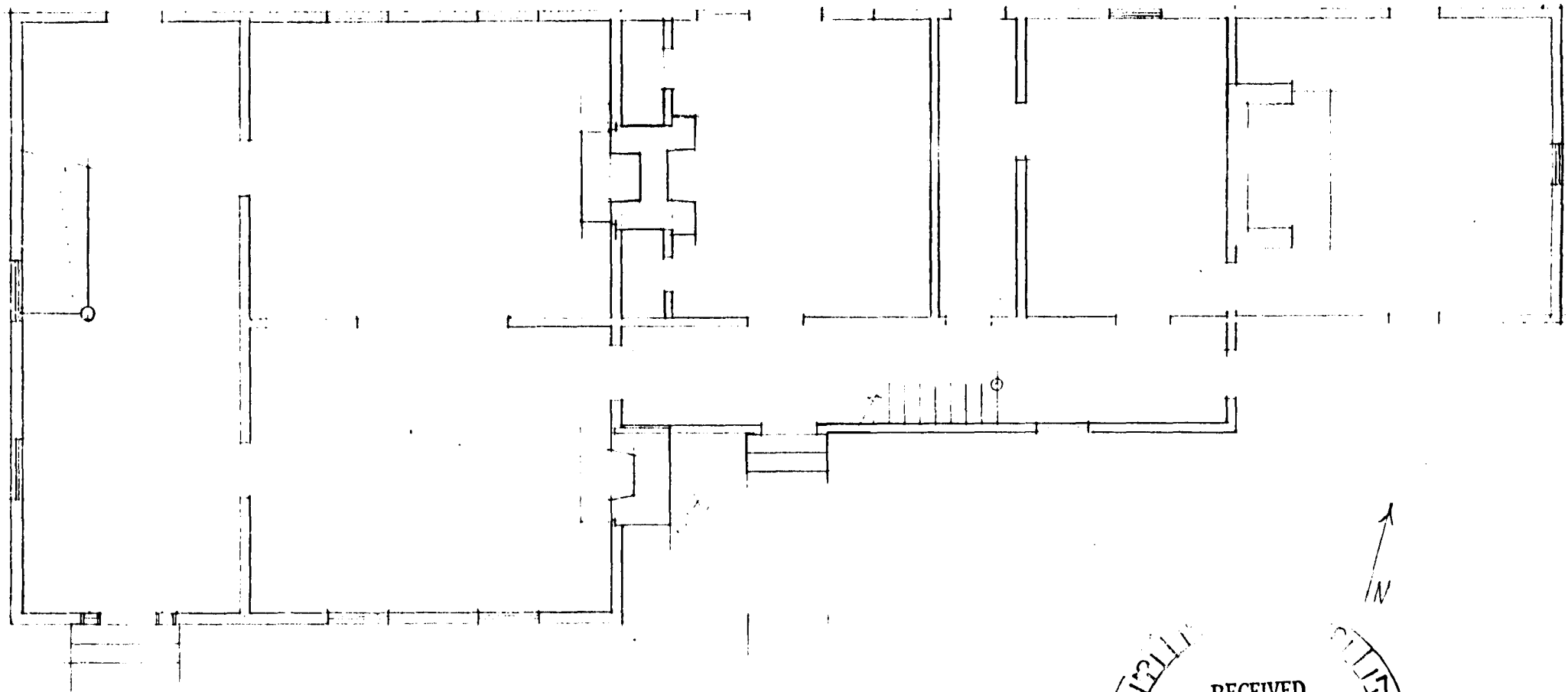
Gravelly
SM-73



SM-73

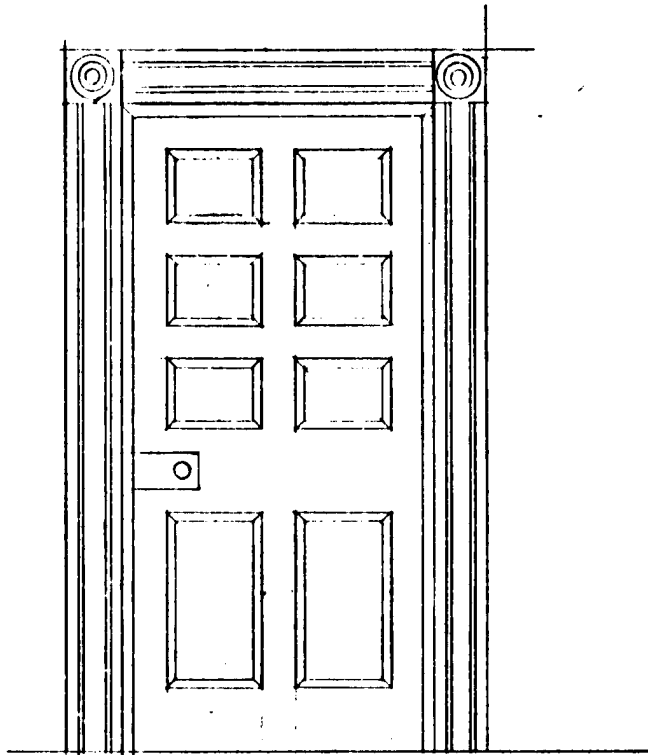
Gravelly Hills
SM-73

prior to restoration

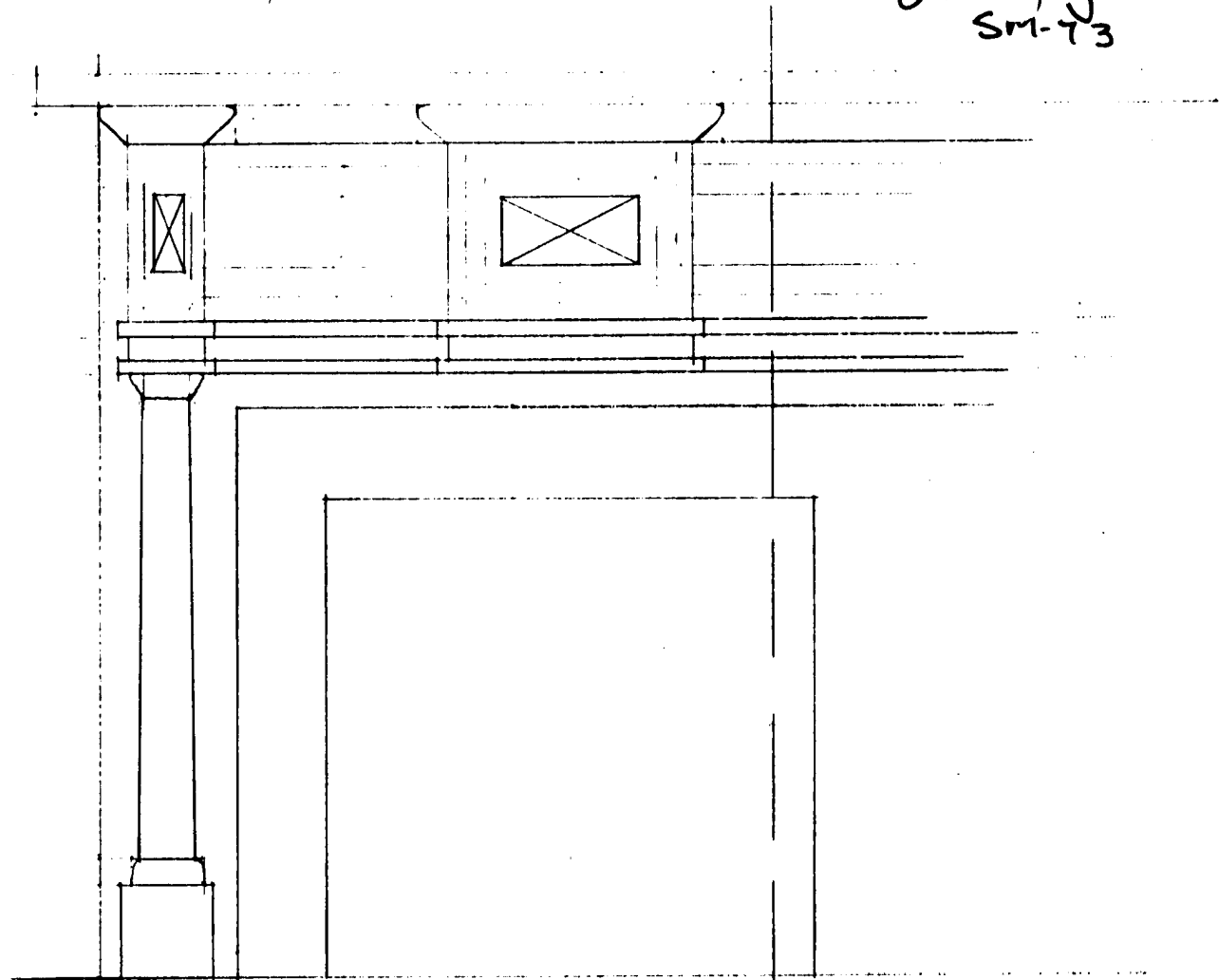


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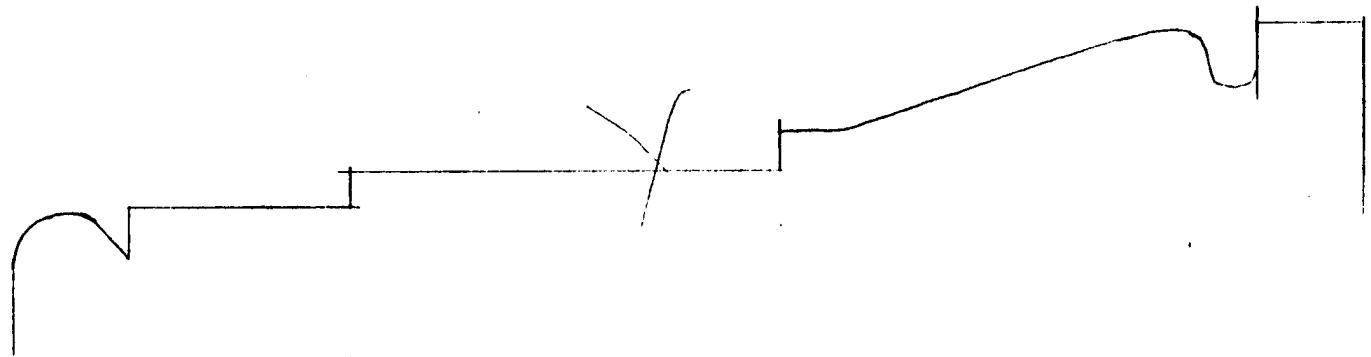
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SM-73



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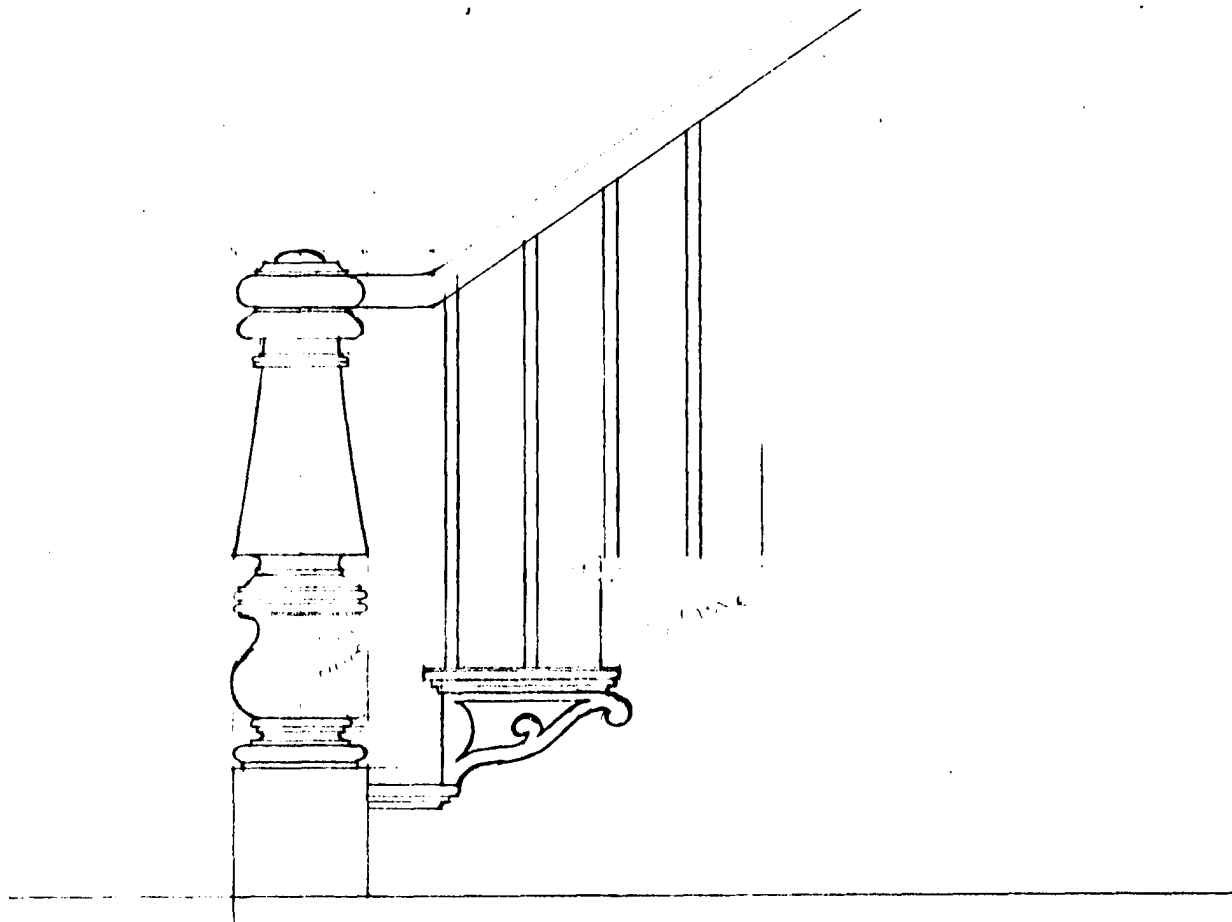


1"



SM-73

Gravelly Hills
SM-73

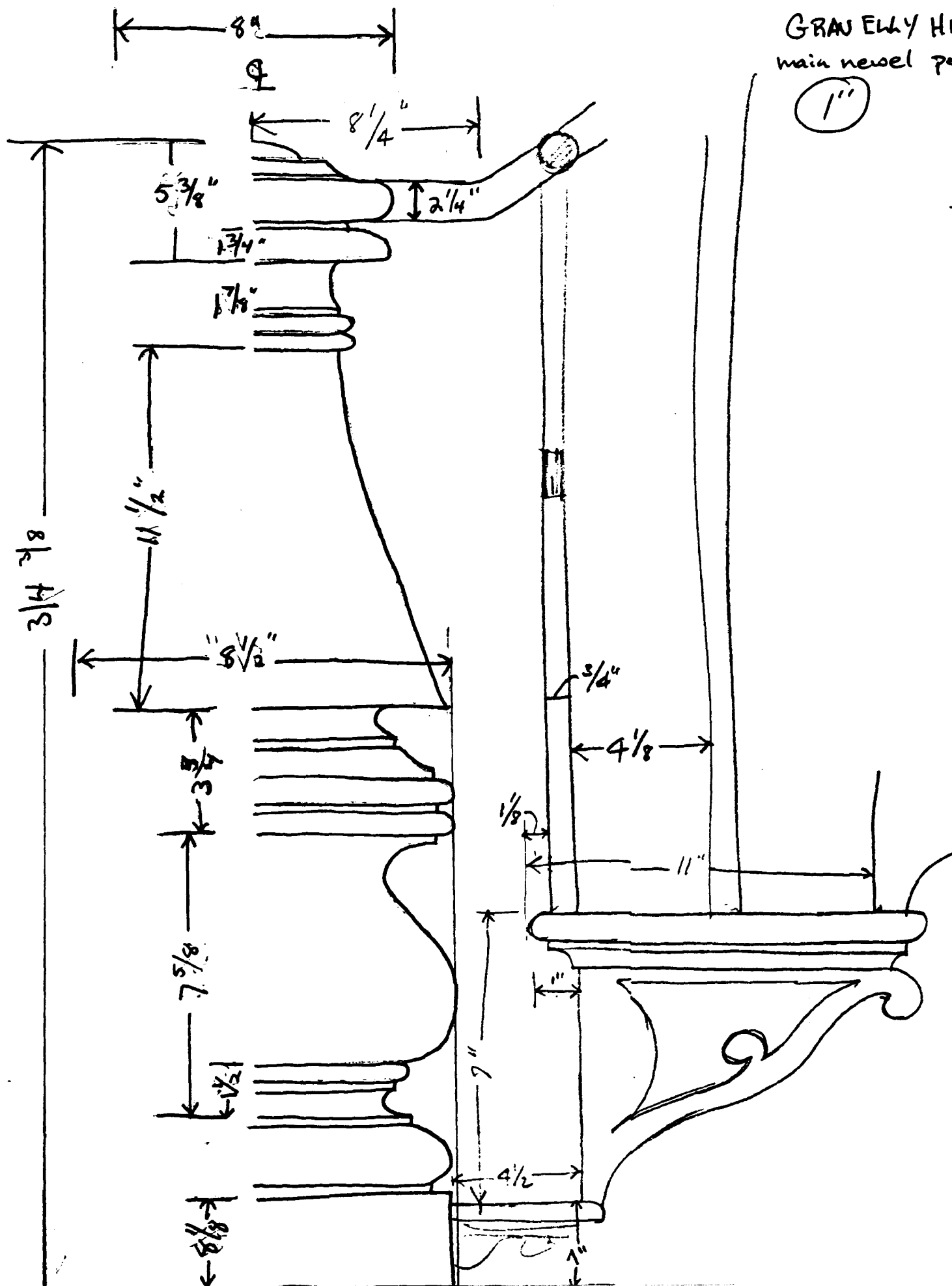


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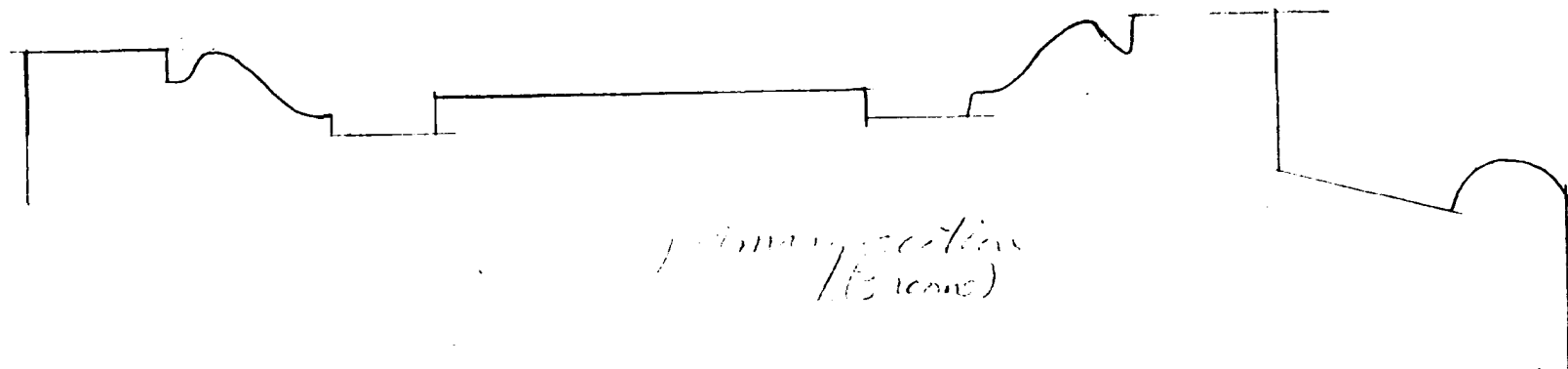
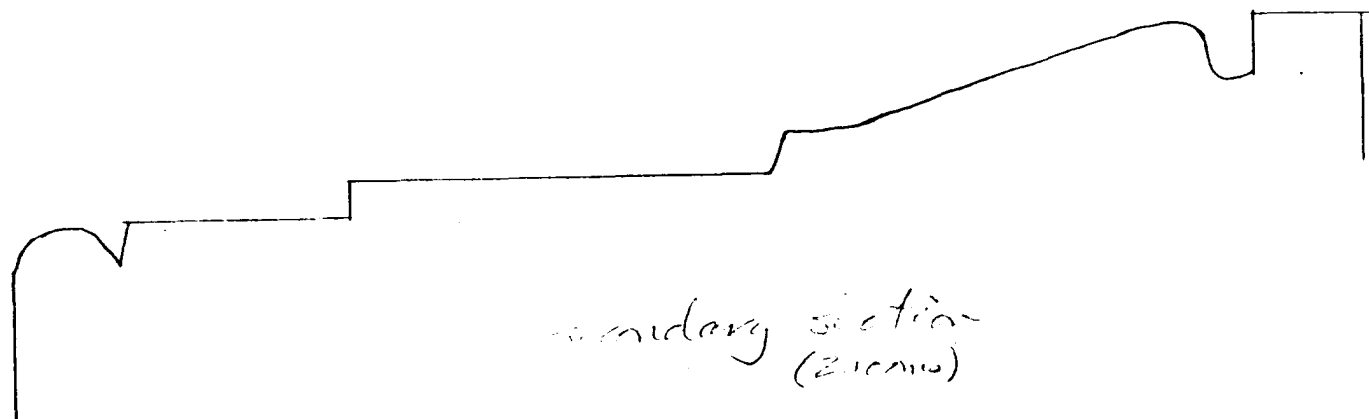
SM-73

GRAVELLY HILL
main newel post

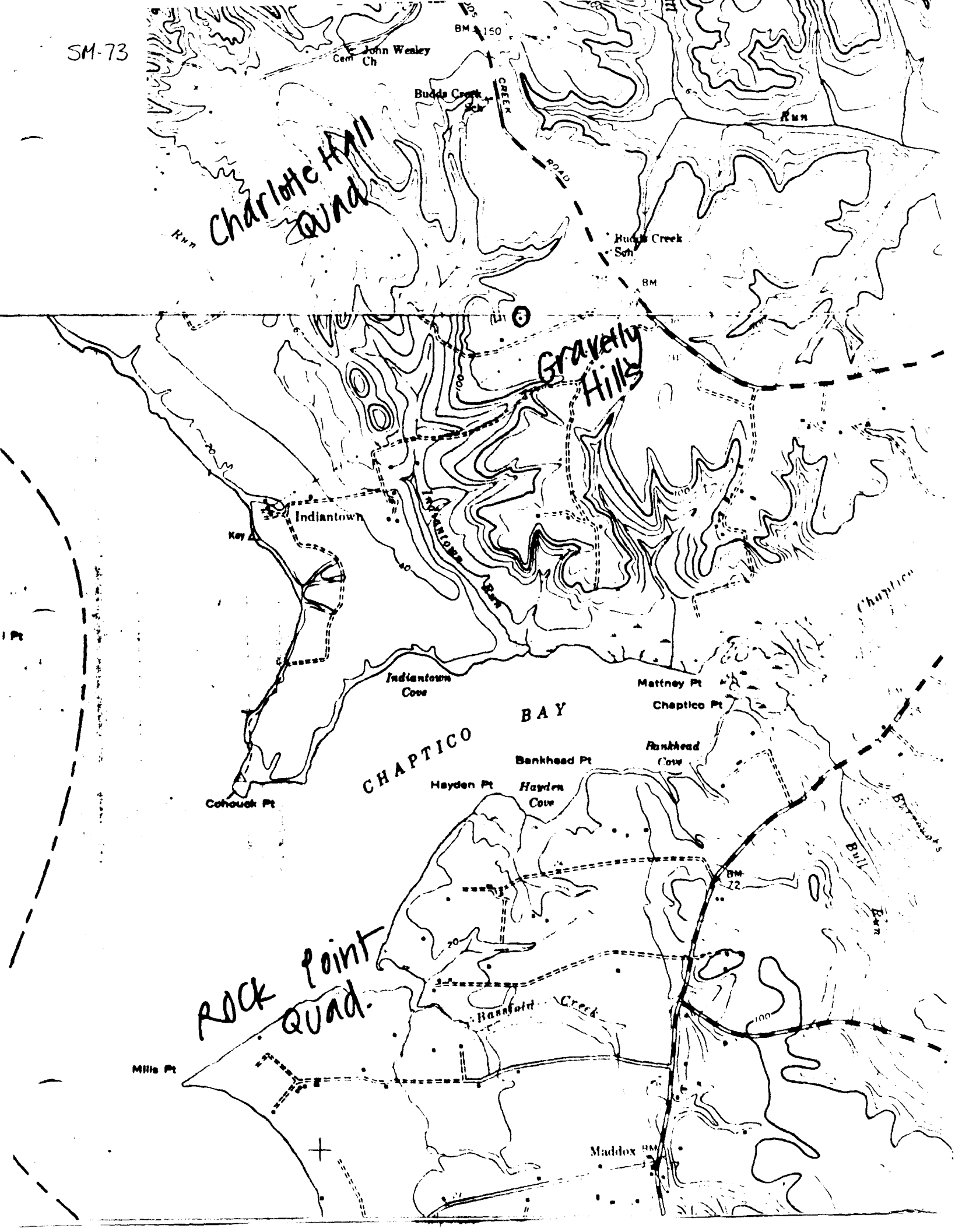
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primary & secondary
MB



SM-73





GRAVELLY HILLS

Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Photographer: John Bruton

Negative Located: St. Mary's Co. Comm/MHT

Date Photograph Taken

Exterior View

FEB 8 1978

SM-73



6 GRAVELLY HILLS St. Mary's County SM-73
GRAVELLY HILLS

Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Photographer: John Bruton

Negative Located: St. Mary's Co. Comm/MHT

Date Photograph Taken:

Exterior View

FEB 8 1978



Gravelly Hills, St. Mary's SM-73

GRAVELLY HILLS

Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Maryland
Photographer; John Bruton

Negative Located: St. Mary's Co. Comm./MHT

Date Photograph Taken:

Exterior View,

FEB 8 1978



Gravelly Hills St. Mary's County

GRAVELLY HILLS

Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Photographer: John Bruton

Negative Located: St. Mary's Co. Comm./MHT

Date Photograph Taken:

Exterior View

FEB 8 '1978

SM-73



Gravelly Hills St. Mary's County
GRAVELLY HILLS

Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Photographer: John Bruton

Negative located: St. Mary's Co. Comm/MHT

Date Photograph Taken: FEB 8 1978

Exterior View

SM-n³



Gravelly Hills St. Mary's County

GRAVELLY HILLS

Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Photographer: John Bruton

Negative Located: St. Mary's Co. Comm./MHT

Date Photograph Taken:

Interior View, Door,

FEB 8 1978

SM-73



SM-73

GRAVELLY HILLS

Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Photographer: John Bruton

Negative Located: St. Mary's Co. Comm./MHT

Date Photograph Taken:

Interior View, Second Floor Bedroom

Fireplace FEB 8 1978



St. Mary's County
GRAVELLY HILLS

Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Photographer: John Bruton

Negative Located: St. Mary's Co. Comm./MHT

Date Photograph Taken:

Interior View, Fireplace

FEB 8 1978

SM-73



North Bedroom
GRAVELLY HILLS

Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Photographer: John Bruton

Negative Located: St. Mary's Co. Comm/MHT

Date Photograph Taken:

Interior View, Fireplace, North Bedroom

FEB 8 1978

SM-73



GRAVELLY HILLS

Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Photographer: John Bruton

Negative Located: St. Mary's Co. Comm/MHT

Date Photograph Taken: 1976

Interior View North Parlor

FEB 8 1978

Sm-173



Gravelly Hills, St. Mary's County
GRAVELLY HILLS

Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Photographer: John Bruton

Negative Located: St. Mary's Co.Comm/MHT

Date Photograph Taken;

Interior View

FEB 8 1978

sm-173



St. Mary's County
GRAVELLY HILLS

Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Photographer: John Bruton

Negative Located: St. Mary's Co.Comm./MHT

Date Photograph Taken:

Interior View, Stairway

FEB 8 1978

SM-73



GRAVELLY HILLS

Chaptico, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Photographer: John Bruton

Negative Located St. Mary's Co. Comm/MHT

Date Photograph Taken:

Interior View

FEB 8 1978

SM-73

Gravelly Hills, St. Mary's County