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BA-221

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BA-220

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Baltimore
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER | DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Rockland Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC: Rockland

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: East and West Side of Falls Road at Junction of Old Court Road
CITY OR TOWN: Brooklandville
STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24 | COUNTY: Baltimore | CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☒ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☒ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Dr. Robert Johnson
STREET AND NUMBER: Rockland
CITY OR TOWN: Brooklandville | STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records
STREET AND NUMBER: st. John's College, College Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis | STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis | STATE: Maryland | CODE: 24

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Baltimore
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated along Falls Road, a few hundred yards west of the Jones Falls Expressway in Baltimore County, Rockland contains fifteen buildings. These include a general store, tavern, the shell of a blacksmith shop, a carriage house, several log buildings, a group of stone rowhouses, a mill, and an eighteenth-century dwelling. Although all of the original public buildings except the smithy have been converted into private dwellings, nothing has been done to change the integrity of their original exterior appearances.

The Rockland Mill,[1] located on the west side of Falls Road facing northeast, is a large, rectangular building of stone construction. At the facade the structure has two stories and is five bays in length. There are transomed center doors and windows of six-over-six pane sash. At the west elevation the structure is three stories in height and five bays in length. The extremely gradual pitch of the gambrel roof is broken by cross gables and peaked dormers. Later Victorian additions include two-story flanking wings and a brick chimney shaft with a heavy ornamental cap.

The Miller's House, (A)[1] circa 1800, and is a two-story dwelling of an "end-hall" floor plan. Three bays in length, it has an 'A' frame roof, the ridge of which is broken at the south end by a large, flush, gable-chimney. To the west wall a two-story frame addition was built in 1890.

Facing southeast onto Old Court Road is the Tavern (B)[1] which is a four-part composition. The two stone portions were built first and later connected by a two-story frame hyphen. From exterior observations it is felt that the one-story wing is the earliest part and may date prior to 1800.

Of Federal character, the General Store (C)[1] as has the Tavern, has been renovated for use as a dwelling. The facade with its large double door, appropriate for a store, and the date stone, bearing the date 1813, at the second floor level have been preserved intact.

The first distinct block of Rowhouses (D, E, F)[1] dating circa 1820-30, is a finely constructed stone building composed of four dwelling units. Each original unit is two bays in width and three stories in height at the facade. The commonly shared 'A' frame roof has its ridge (north/south) broken by two large brick chimney stacks. To the northwest end of this block is a second group (H,I) of two units. This later duplex addition has two stories and each unit is four bays in width. Originally there was a one-story porch extending the width of both later units.

[1]See site map.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	X 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	X Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
X Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	X Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rockland, a village surrounded by interstate highways, is one of the surviving examples of a small, quiet, sylvan community of the early nineteenth century. It is caught in the midst of visual and aural pollution of twentieth-century technology. The extant industrial and domestic structures represent an aspect of the state's social and economic past rapidly being disfigured and destroyed.

The District contains a mill, a series of good examples of nineteenth-century genre architecture, several commercial structures and the Falls Turnpike Road as well as being the former home of an innovational cotton printing process.

The beginnings of Rockland lie in the eighteenth century when Thomas Johnson (d. 1791), the founder of the Johnson family in America, consolidated into one large farm several tracts of land in Baltimore County. Johnson probably lived in the "Eighteenth Century House," (N) the oldest building at Rockland.

Johnson died in 1791; his considerable estate eventually became the property of his third son, Dr. Thomas Johnson. The latter studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and served in the Maryland legislature. His name appears in the Baltimore City Directory for 1796 as a practicing physician. Later city directories give no mention of his name indicating that Johnson moved to his father's country estate.

Johnson's fortune was founded through his Baltimore County lands and from property interests he controlled for his wife, Joanna Giles Johnson. She had inherited land and the right to ground rents, which her husband managed, on Fells Point in Baltimore City (a National Register historic district). For at least a century the Johnson family received a large income from these holdings.

The industrial development of Baltimore County and, to a larger extent Baltimore City, centered on Jones Falls. The construction of the Falls Turnpike Road stimulated this growth. Incorporated in 1805 the instigators of the road initially wanted to connect Baltimore City with Richard Caton's lime kiln at

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION continued

On the east side of Falls Road, directly opposite the General Store, stands the shell of a c. 1815 Blacksmith's Shop (J). This was once a large, rectangular, stone structure; now (1972) only three of the original walls remain intact. The original facade was removed and renovated to allow for its present use as a garage.

A short distance north of the Blacksmith's Shop is a two-story Frame House (K) of a two-part composition. The original house is the three-bay section at the south end. Its first-level windows still retain their original batten shutters. An unusual feature of this house is its foundation walls of hewn logs enclosing a full cellar beneath the original dwelling.

Standing a few hundred feet north is a Frame House (L) possessing an exterior similar to many houses of the post World War I period. However, this was once a frame block of three separate dwelling units, each two bays in width and one-and-one-half stories in height. Though completely renovated on both the exterior and interior, traces of its original design are still discernable.

A 1805-1820 two-part Dwelling (M) is located a few yards away from the Frame House (L). This house is of log and frame construction, the log portion of which is of the earliest date. The two-story frame section has beaded clapboarding on three walls; the north gable displays what appear to be clapboards of random width riven boards.

On the crest of a hill at the extreme north end of the town is a one-and-one-half story frame eighteenth century House (N, see photograph). It is unusual because it is of a style more closely associated with the counties of Southern Maryland than with those of the northern area. Originally three bays in width (c. 1750), the house was later enlarged, about 1770, by an addition of two bays width at the north end. The projection of the roof to form a porch conjecturally dates from the time of the c. 1770 addition. This porch roof possesses a coved ceiling with raised panels and ovolo mouldings. To the north end of the building is a recessed two-story stone wing. This contains a large kitchen with a massive fireplace on the first floor level. A few feet away from the northeast corner of this building is a Square Stone Building (O) of two-story height, with a wood shingled pyramid roof. Access to its interior is gained through a double door on its west wall, and it may safely be assumed that this structure was a carriage house of a very distinct design. While the main house dates from 1750 to 1775, the stone wing and

7. DESCRIPTION continued

carriage house do not appear to have been built before 1800.

Fifteen buildings have been included in this survey. There are others in or near Rockland which may have early nineteenth-century origins. There are numerous sites within the village which will be worth further study.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

Brooklandwood to the north of Rockland. Following the falls the turnpike passed right through the Johnson property. The Johnsons do not figure prominently in the early history of the road although Thomas Johnson owned Falls Road stock. By the end of the nineteenth century, however, the Johnsons, as well as Richard Caton's descendants, held the controlling interests in the company which still collected tolls.

The "Eighteenth Century House" predates the road. The alignment of the rest of the structures at Rockland along the roadbed indicates they were constructed subsequent to the choice of the route of the Falls Turnpike Road, c. 1806.

The combination of water power from the Jones Falls plus adequate road transportation made the Falls valley a natural site for industrial development. Factories still line the Falls today. The convenience of the valley was apparent to nineteenth-century railroad builders who placed the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad there as well as to twentieth-century highway engineers who ran Interstate 83 through the valley to Baltimore City.

The small commercial buildings at Rockland were probably constructed and occupied in conjunction with the opening of the road. The blacksmith's shop, the general store and the tavern were natural businesses for the area.

The buildings were rented by the Johnson family before the 1830's. The southern half of the stone row was rented with the Rockland Mill. These four houses were sold with the mill in 1855, which substantiates the claim of local historians that mill workers lived in the houses.

The Rockland Mill has had a history fraught with financial difficulty. Originally the Johnsons maintained a flour mill on the site. In 1830 Dr. Thomas Johnson and his son William Fell Johnson (d. 1862) the owners, leased the site, including a mill, a miller's house and stabling, to Albin Mellier. The lease

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

stipulated that the Johnsons would erect a "stone dye house" one hundred feet by thirty feet. By mid-1831 Mellier's cotton mill was producing between seven and eight thousand yards or two hundred fifty pieces of calico per day. In 1836 he incorporated the Maryland Print Works Company to print cotton.

Mellier's operation at Rockland was short lived for, in 1842, the Johnsons leased the mill to new tenants, Frederick Dawson and Philip Dawson. A year later the Dawson's operation folded and a Philadelphia cotton printer, Samuel Comly, Jr., came to Rockland and rented the mill. Although the Rockland Print Works produced four hundred pieces per diem, his operation failed and by 1847 Comly was bankrupt. In 1855 Johnson sold the mill and eight and five-eights acres to Richard W. Hook. Two years later the mill and the interior machinery burned. The property was sold at public auction for $2550. Numerous firms and individuals owned the Rockland Mill from the 1850's until 1927 when William Fell Johnson (d. 1968) bought the property bringing it back into the Johnson family.

In industrial history the significant period of the Rockland Mill is its early years. Among the Johnson family papers exists a list of the cotton printing machinery at Rockland Mill written after one of the early failures, possibly in the 1840's. The calico printing machines, including a three-color, a two-color and a one-color machine, are unusual for the 1840's. The early cotton printing at Rockland was an innovational process--although not a financial success.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES continued

Cordell, Eugene Fauntleroy. The Medical Annals of Maryland 1799-1899. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1903.

The Evening Sun (Baltimore), April 15, 1968.

Johnson family manuscripts on deposit at the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Maryland.

Laws of Maryland. 1804 chapter 91; 1816 chapter 115; 1835-1836. Chapter 79.

Niles Weekly Register (Baltimore), August 27, 1831.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The American (Baltimore), November 2, 1831, July 7, 1847.

Baltimore County Land Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland and Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

Baltimore County Plat Books. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

Baltimore County Probate Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis Maryland.

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39	24	11	76	40	09
NE	39	24	11	76	40	02
SE	39	23	55	76	40	02
SW	39	23	55	76	40	09

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 24

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: J. Richard Rivoire and Nancy A. Miller

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust

DATE: July 20, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name O. Orlando Ridout IV

Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date July 26, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

BA-222

BALTIMORE COUNTY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME

HISTORIC (a) Turkey Cock Hall and
(b) Stone Dwellings

AND/OR COMMON Rockland Village

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Both sides Falls Road, north of Old Court Road

CITY, TOWN Brooklandville X VICINITY OF

2nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd Councilmanic District

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Baltimore County

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
_DISTRICT	_PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	_AGRICULTURE	_MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED	_COMMERCIAL	_PARK
_STRUCTURE	_BOTH	_WORK IN PROGRESS	_EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCES
_SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	_ENTERTAINMENT	_RELIGIOUS
_OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	X YES RESTRICTED	_GOVERNMENT	_SCIENTIFIC
	_BEING CONSIDERED	_YES UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		_NO	_MILITARY	_OTHER

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME (a) Dr. Robert W. Johnson, III
(b) Dr. J.H.T. Johnson, et al.

Telephone #: (a) 235-2211 (b) 685-0908

STREET & NUMBER none

CITY, TOWN (both): Brooklandville __ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code Maryland 21022

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: (a) 5129:404
Folio #: (b) 5599:286

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN Towson

STATE Maryland 21204

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE National Register of Historic Places, "Rockland Historic District"
(a) MHT No. BA 222; (b) BA 221

DATE On National Register April 11, 1973

X FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service

CITY, TOWN Washington

STATE D.C. 20240

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	_RUINS	_ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Turkey Cock Hall (MHT No. BA 222) is a very plain, 1-1/2 story house of colonial design, with gable roof and clapboard wall covering. Its design is reminiscent of tidewater country houses of Southern Maryland, and the style has also been called "French Huguenot." There is a full-width front porch and its roof slopes upward and merges with the main gable roof. The house is five bays wide. There are two dormer windows; a brick chimney emerges in the middle of the roof and vents "clustered" fireplaces in two adjcining rooms. The 1798 tax list had mentioned porches or "piazzas" on two sides; only one porch survives. A small, stone, two-story recessed wing is attached to the north of the frame house and contains a large kitchen with a massive fireplace.

Stone Dwellings. The stone mill town houses on the accompanying map bear various names, some of them given in the 1972 National Register nomination form. Maryland Historical Trust Number BA 221 applies to the whole "Rockland Village."

1. Tavern. Also called "the second miller's house." North side of Old Court Road, just west of Falls Road. A long house of four segments, two stories of stone and frame, vernacular style, with gable roof. Entered via a porch recessed under an overhanging second story. The two stone portions were built before the frame section that connects them; J. Richard Rivoire, of the MHT believed that a small stone wing was the oldest part of all, built possibly before 1800. In the 1920s or 1930s, a tearoom was operated here.

2. Miller's House. No. 10,114 Falls Road. The prominent stone house at the NW corner of Falls and Old Court Roads is two stories, three bays wide, with gable roof, off-center entrance portico, frame cornice and broad brick flush gable-chimney on the south end. A photo of 1897-1900 shows no attic windows under the chimney, but these square openings appear in 1978. The frame wing at the rear (west) dates from 1890. Mill owner M. L. Garrett resided here.

3. Rockland Post Office or General Store. (MHT No. BA 815) is two stories plus attic of stone in a Federal character. There is a full width front porch with hip roofing, supported by four round columns. This building bears the date stone marked "1813" between the second story windows. It was also a store, and was advertised in 1922 as equipped with a store front. For a time it served as the Brooklandville Post Office. There are double entrance doors. Apparently unoccupied in September 1978.

4, 5. Row Houses. Nos. 10,106 through 10,112 Falls Road. This is a continuous row of houses, some units three stories and the rest two; they were occupied by mill workers and team drivers. The houses are all served by individual entrance porches with shed roofs, each porch one bay wide. The three-story block is the southern segment, and is a total of eight bays wide. The main roofing is gabled, with ribbed metal covering. The long dimensions of the houses are parallel to the road.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

There are half-round gable windows (or demi-lunes) at attic level in each structure. This row is clearly shown in Plate 19 of Bromley's atlas of 1915, and a photo of 1900 shows both segments of housing. The 1918 tax ledger of District Three carried the entry "S. Tenant House 27 X 66 ..... $1782" under the account of the mill owner of that time, M. L. Garrett.

The upper end of the row consists of two units, two stories high, similar in character, eight bays in all. The property line between the Johnson holdings and the mill lot once passed through the party walls between rows. A term paper of 1938-39 states that the miller Garrett

> rearranged eight houses of four rooms each into three seven-room houses. The original wooden beams, already 100 years old, were used in the reconstruction.[1]

The 1928-40 tax ledger charges William Fell Johnson with "Addition to Row of Houses, $3000" in a revision entered in 1934; the new tax base was more than the assessment of the entire row in 1928 (which was $2000) but there do not seem to have been any more buildings put up.

[1]Roger Hecklinger, Helen Mixter, and Katherine Merritt, "The Rockland Mill," 1938-39 term paper, in Enoch Pratt Library VF, p. 6.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	_RELIGION	
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	_CONSERVATION	_LAW	_SCIENCE	
_1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	_ECONOMICS	_LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE	
_1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	_EDUCATION	_MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
X 1700-1799	_ART	_ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER	
X 1800-1899	_COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	_PHILOSOPHY	X TRANSPORTATION	
_1900-	_COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY	_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY) Medical family	
		_INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1813 (stone dwellings) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Turkey Cock Hall, a small, 1-1/2 story house, stands on a land survey of the same name, 200 acres laid out in April of 1706 for Richard Gist who accumulated a great amount of land in the area. Gist sold 80 acres of Turkey Cock Hall in 1713 to Edward Riston (also spelled Reeston, Reaston) for 34 pounds of tobacco per acre; Riston eventually acquired the remainder of the 200 acres from other owners. Dawn F. Thomas' new book The Green Spring Valley cites records in 1728 court proceedings of Riston's living in the county "at the Garrison Ridge" and she finds a reference of 1733 to the "road which leads from Edward Reeston's by Mr. Richard Gist's house."

> Mary (Welch) Cook mentioned in a deposition given in 1737 or 1738, that when she and her husband came to live on part of Welch's Adventure, their nearest neighbor for many years "was Edward Riston who lived on Turkey Cock Hall." (1)

The question rises then, if Gist had some other dwelling place near present Pikesville, was there any structure standing when Riston took possession in 1713?

Riston married three times; his last wife and first widow married Rinaldo Monk who lived nearby and was the first miller in the vicinity. Riston's daughter Anne inherited all her father's land on his death in 1749 or 1750. About the same time, Anne Riston married Thomas Johnson and in 1753, their son Rinaldo Johnson, the first of ten children was born. The Johnson family connection still continues, 225 years later.

Mrs. Thomas reports that the date "1712" inscribed on the chimney was added within the last twenty years (1958-78). Estimates for the antiquity of the house vary:

Mrs. D. F. Thomas	1707-1733
Mr. W. B. Marye	1700-1745
Rinaldo Johnson's adv.	1706.

(continued)

In 1794, Rinaldo Johnson placed the following advertisement in the Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser, an item which no local historian has thus far quoted:

> To be SOLD, or RENTED, on account of its remoteness from my present residence, for any term of years not exceeding twenty,
>
> That truly valuable GRAZING FARM, called and known generally by the name of Turkey-Cock-Hall, situate on Jones-Falls, in Baltimore county, distant seven or eight miles from the town, of which immediate possession will be given, with or without the right of taking off the crop of small grain growing thereon. One half of the rent will be annually left in the hands of the tenant for the first five years, and one fourth of the annual rent for five years thereafter, for the purpose of erecting suitable buildings and improvements on the premises, to be judged of and declared by the proprietor, and executed by the tenant.
>
> Such as may wish, on account of their health or other circumstances, to retire from the dread of war alarms, or the noise and bustle of a city, to the sweet, secure, and calm repose of the country, may here find an asylum, and yet not be too remote to be deprived of the pleasures and advantages of the Town. A particular description of Turkey Cock-Hall is unnecessary, as no one, it is presumed, would either buy or lease without first visiting the lands; but let it suffice, for the present, that this place has been constantly inhabited by a considerable number of people ever since the year 1706, and that there has never been a death on it (as I am well informed) since the year 1739 40, but one who was a person then eighty years of age. For terms apply to the subscriber.
>
> RINALDO JOHNSON
> Aquasco, Prince George's County, Maryland, March 15, 1794 (2)

The 1798 tax list showed the house as a one-story frame dwelling, 44 X 22 feet, with a "piazza" on both sides, 44 X 8 feet. There were three other one-story log houses on the property, but the mill town had not appeared. The mill founded by the Johnson kinsman, Rinaldo Monk in 1758, was nearby, downstream, and on a separate tract called Monk's Discovery, a part of Turkey Cock Hall condemned as a mill seat.

A theory offered by William B. Marye was that Turkey Cock Hall "had undergone construction three times, with the middle portion built first and the south section a few years later. His conclusions were based on the similarity of wood details inside and out; the existence of the vertical joint where the south and north portions were joined together; and the wood sill on the stone foundation which was also jointed at this point. The house contained a clustered chimney (i.e., all the fireplaces were arranged in the center of the adjoining rooms)." (3)

(continued)

Rinaldo Johnson conveyed the old hall to his brother, Dr. Thomas Johnson in 1801; he had been listed as occupant on the 1798 assessment. The doctor had studied at the University of Pennsylvania and served in the Maryland Legislature; the 1796 Baltimore directory showed him practicing in the town. His wife, Joanna Giles Johnson, had inherited extensive lands and ground rents in Fells Point. By at least 1820, Dr. Johnson was calling the old hall "Rockland," a name that extended to the mill and grounds as well. His son, William Fell Johnson, had a large new stone and stucco house built on a hill on the west side of Falls Road in 1836-37; that house came to be the only dwelling known as Rockland.

Dr. Johnson had left Turkey Cock Hall to his daughter, Anne G. Johnson Tagart, along with the land east of the Falls Road. The property passed to Samuel H. Tagart, who left his assets to the Mayor and City Council in trust for the McDonogh Educational Fund. William Fell Johnson (2d) bought the property in 1893. It passed to William Fell Johnson (3rd) and on his death in 1968, the property and cottage passed to Dr. Robert W. Johnson, whose son lives next door, the 9th generation of related persons to dwell there.

Stone Dwellings. The stone houses on the west side of Falls Road at Rockland date to 1813 as demonstrated by an inscribed stone in the building known as the post office or general store. The entire "town" was part of the capitalistic venture of one man, Dr. Thomas Johnson, and was built as an adjunct to the Rockland Grist Mill, also dated at 1813 by Johnson family records. Dr. Johnson built two miles of the Falls Turnpike Road to assure an outlet for his mill products. The 1818 assessment book Dr. Thomas Johnson with the tract Turkey Cock Hall and a gristmill and a sawmill worth $1000. The mill was a big venture for that period, and the 1820 census form shows that the capital investment was $25,000. In the period before Europe recovered from the Napoleonic wars, Maryland millers had been doing a booming business and getting high prices for flour, but there were numerous complaints on the 1820 census form about peace and poor business, and Samuel Scott, who was either hired miller or tenant operator, at what he listed as "Rockland Mills," reported that flour sales were dull.

In 1831, the flour mill was converted to a calico printing works under arrangement with Dr. Johnson's heirs. The establishment was "conducted by Aline Mellin, an European of great knowledge, as well practical as theoretic." (4) By 1840, Mellin or Mellier, was insolvent and his elaborate equipment was advertised for sale, but the auction notice in the American stated that the mill itself belonged exclusively to Mr. William F. Johnson. (5) Both Johnson and his real estate agent advertised the calico works for rent in 1847 and 1848, respectively. The 1848 ad mentioned "outhouses for hands." (6) Richard Hook and Company bought the mill and some of the stone houses in 1855 and were using it to spin cotton when the works burned on October 21, 1857. By at least 1863, Rockland Mill was back in business, spinning yarn, presumably reconstructed within the old walls; it was a flour mill again in the 1877 atlas. Early in 1897, it was converted to steam power, and kept going until 1922, when offered for sale under default of mortgage. In 1927, William Fell Johnson (3rd) bought the old family mill and associated stone houses. (7)

(continued)

The mill went through a number of diverse manufacturing uses including the making of wooden toys, paper products, Standard Brand cake mixtures, Wagner extracts, hermetically sealed bread products, and Dorothy Lamour Enterprises cosmetics. None of these undertakings enjoyed a long run, and eventually the mill became vacant, and one tragedy took place there in 1975 when a 52-year-old woman went into the mill, took tranquilizers, and died. In 1970, there had been a plan to use the village as a focus for building a James W. Rouse planned community, but the project was not carried through. (8)

Five years later, a new development plan was announced with J. R. Azola & Associates as prime contractors. (9)

In 1978, the Johnsons sold the mill to the Azola firm to carry out an adaptive use plan drawn up by James R. Grieves Associates to convert the mill to professional office space. The necessary parking permits were secured early that same year and grading was completed by October 1; the millrace was also cleared of underbrush.

The Rockland dwellings have remained a compact village, written up every so often in the newspapers under such headlines as "Falls Road Village Depends on a Venerable Industry," or, "Mansion, Dinky Post Office, Contribute to Rockland's 'Country Club' Life." (10)

Various accounts have confused the gristmill-calico factory with the Rockland Bleach Works downstream, which was founded by three brothers from England named Wright about 1810. A deed of 1860 mentions W. F. Johnson as sole owner of the bleaching plant, but that industry has generally followed a totally different history and is still manufacturing curtain linings in a complex of buildings a mile downstream, structures that are replacements of the original works burned in 1884.

The obituary of William Fell Johnson (3rd) reported that in spite of his education, sporting interests, and social connections, Mr. Johnson did all the repairs himself for the tenants in his rental properties. Following his death in an auto accident in 1968 at age 83, the property descended to still other members of the Johnson family. (11)

The entire village and mill were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 as an historic district, following submission of documentation by Miss E. Frances Offutt of the Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning in 1966 and preparation of a National Register form in 1972 by Nancy A. Miller and J. Richard Rivoire.

NOTES:

1. Dawn F. Thomas, The Green Spring Valley (Baltimore, 1978), p. 356.

2. Maryland Journal & Baltimore Advertiser, May 16, 1794, p. 4, col. 1.

3. Thomas, Green Spring Valley, p. 358.

4. Niles Register, Baltimore, 40 (August 27, 1831): 425. Also, Charles Varle, A Complete View of Baltimore (Baltimore, 1833): p. 97.

5. American, April 1, 1840.

6. American, January 19, 1848, p. 3.

7. B.C. Deeds, CWC 651:11.

8. Frederic B. Hill, "Development Planned for Brooklandville," Sun, April 10, 1870, p. C-24. Also, "Rouse Firm Promises to Spare Most of Johnson Tract in County," Sun, December 24, 1973.

9. Monte L. Trammer, "Rockland Proposal Approved," Sun, February 2, 1978, p. C-1.

10. "Falls Road Village Depends Upon a Venerable Industry," Sunday Sun, January 15, 1933. Also, John A. Ahlers, "Mansion, Dinky Post Office, Contribute to Rockland's 'Country Club' Life," Evening Sun, February 25, 1952.

11. "William Johnson Rites Being Held," Evening Sun, April 16, 1968.

BA-222

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dawn F. Thomas, The Green Spring Valley (Baltimore, 1978).

Nancy A. Miller and J. Richard Rivoire, "Rockland Historic District," National Register Nomination Form, July 20, 1972.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

a. 232.63
b. 47.18

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Stone row is one lot deep, fronting on west side of Falls Road. Part of Map 69, Parcel 1060.

Turkey Cock Hall is on lot, east side of Falls Road. Map 69, P206.

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

STATE	COUNTY
None	
STATE	COUNTY
None	

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain

ORGANIZATION — DATE

Office of Planning and Zoning — September 1978

STREET & NUMBER — TELEPHONE

401 Bosley Avenue — 494-3495

CITY OR TOWN — STATE

Towson — Maryland 21204

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

030 3215304

Form 10-445
(5 62)

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Baltimore
TOWN VICINITY Dist. IX
STREET NO. Old Court and Falls Road

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNER
PRESENT USE
WALL CONSTRUCTION
NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY BA-222 2/

2. NAME Rockland Village

DATE OR PERIOD 1813
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

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

A group of attractive mill houses substantially built of quarried stone as living quarters for the mill workers.
Originally these included a tavern and blacksmith shop. The houses are modernized but retain their original charm.
Owner, Mr. William Fell Johnson

(second HABS report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
County HISTORICAL SOCIETY
March 20, 1968

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

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

030 2225104

Form 10-445
(5 62)

1. STATE Maryland

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

030 2225 01

Form 10-445
(5 62)

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Baltimore
TOWN VICINITY Dist. IX
STREET NO. E. side Falls Road nr. Old Court Rd.
OPIGINAL OWNER
OPIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNEP
PRESENT USE
WALL CONSTPUCTION
NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY BA-223 222

2. NAME Turkey-Cock Hall
DATE OR PERIOD 1712
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

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

This colonial style house described as "French Hugenot" well screened from the road, part stone - part frame, with sloping roof-line and dormers; the above date is engraved on the chimney stone. This farm consisted of 200 acres and was purchased from the Merrymans by Edward Risteau when he married the daughter of Thomas Johnson. The present owner is Dr. Robert W. Johnson.

(second HABS report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
March 20, 1968

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

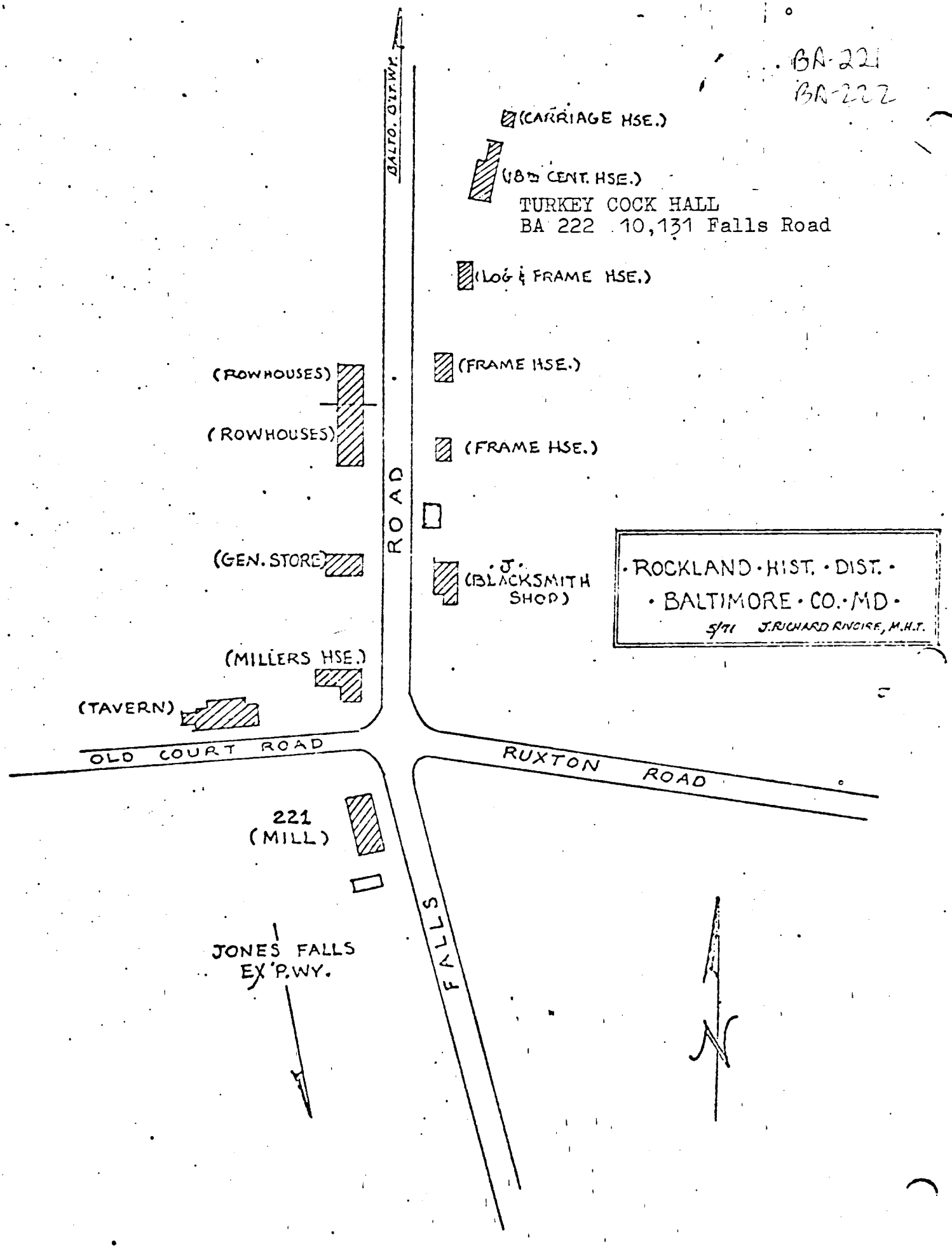
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

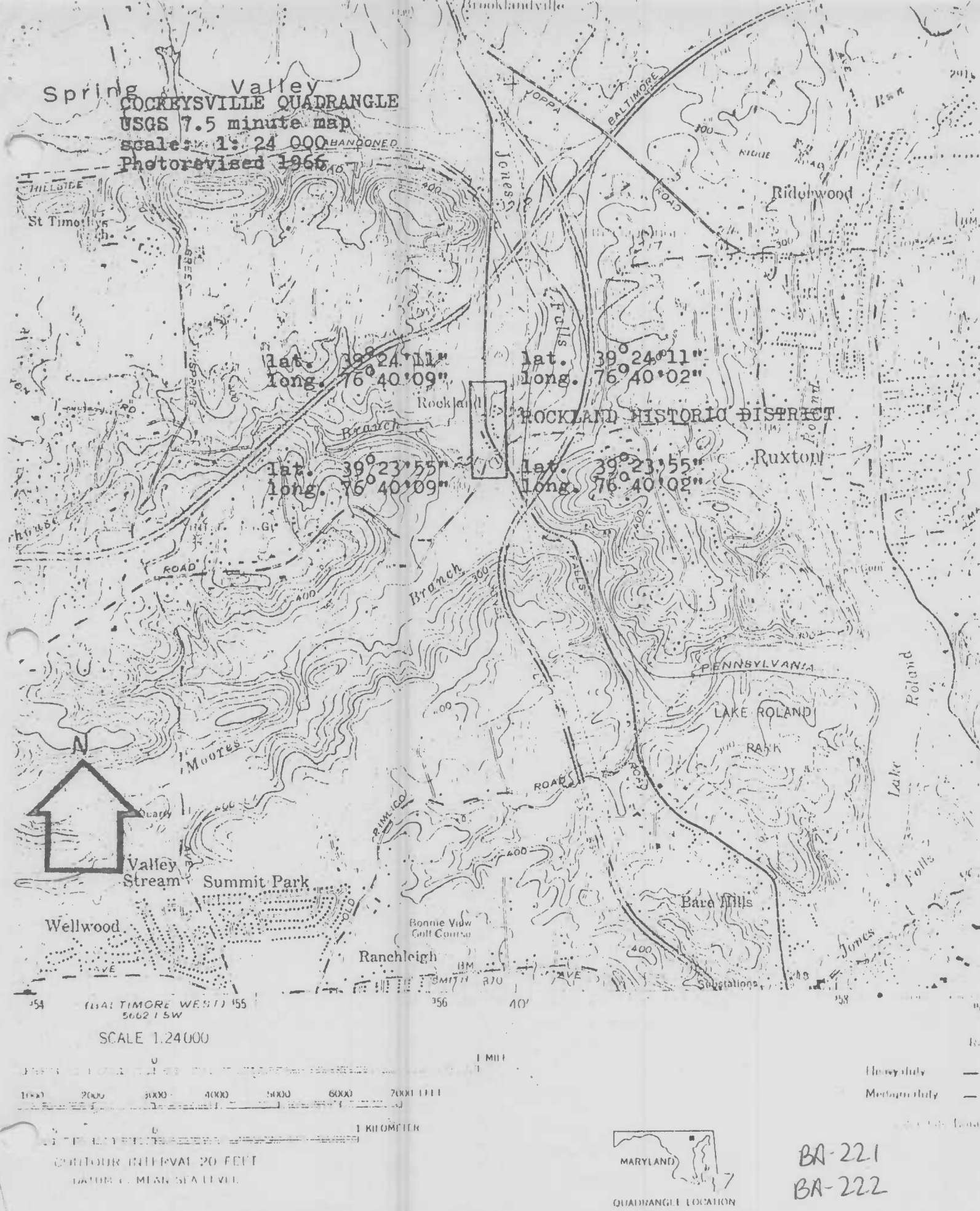
9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECOPD

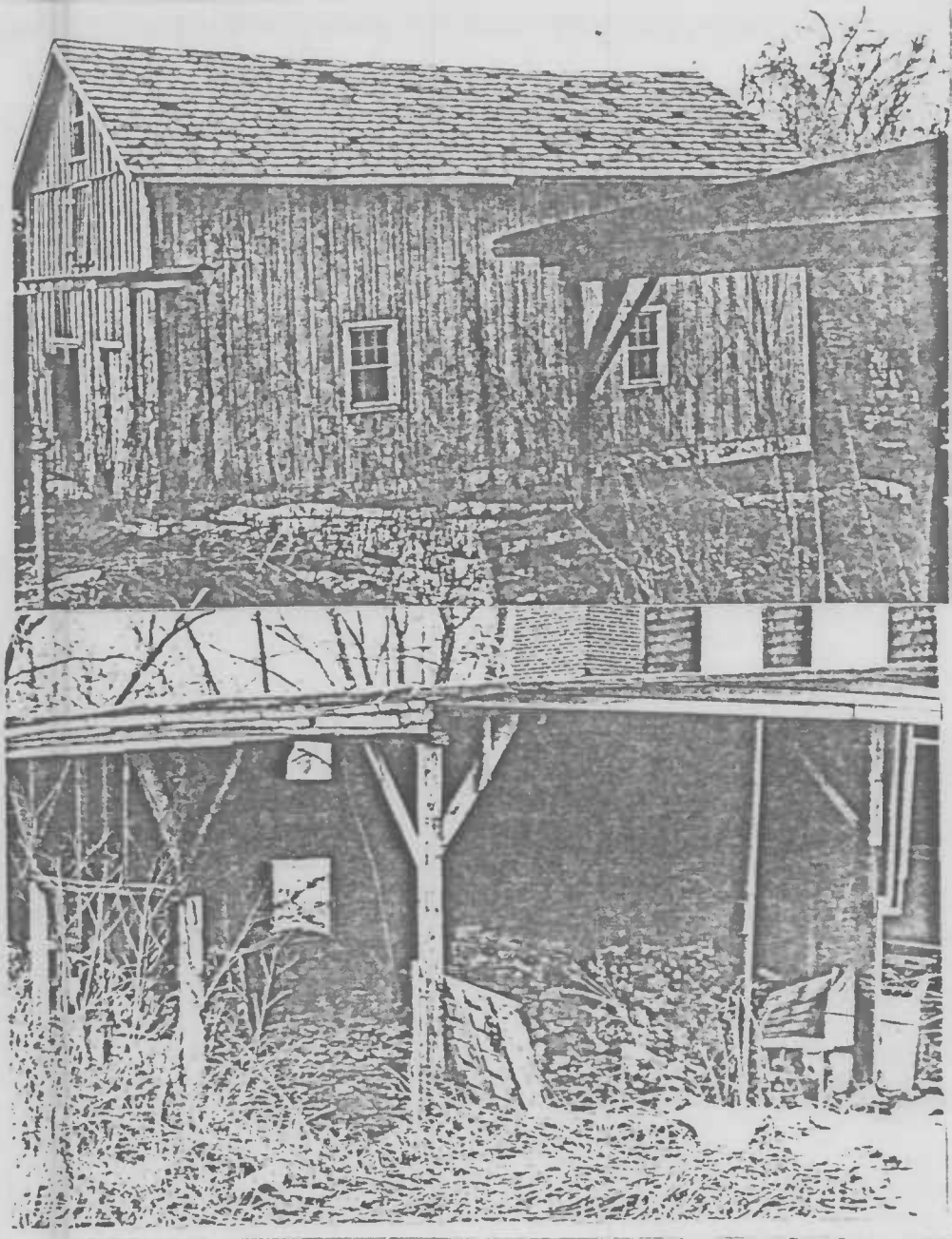
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

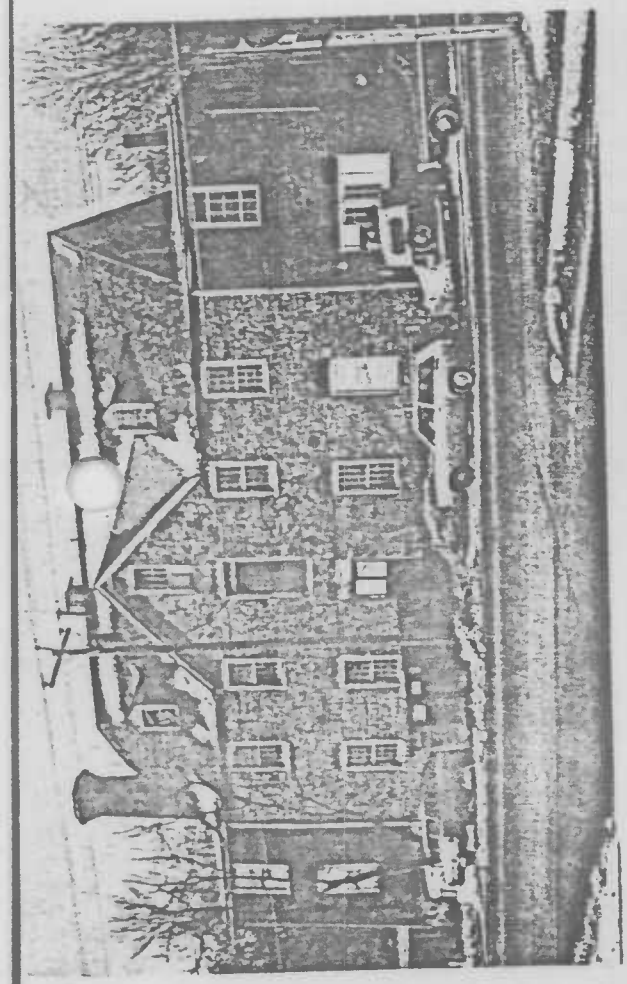
BA-221
BA-222


BALTO. CITY LINE
(CARRIAGE HSE.)
(18th CENT. HSE.)
TURKEY COCK HALL
BA 222 10,131 Falls Road
(LOG & FRAME HSE.)
(ROWHOUSES)
(ROWHOUSES)
(FRAME HSE.)
(FRAME HSE.)
(GEN. STORE)
J.
(BLACKSMITH SHOP)
ROAD
· ROCKLAND · HIST. · DIST. ·
· BALTIMORE · CO. · MD ·
5/71 J. RICHARD RINGIE, M.H.T.
(MILLERS HSE.)
(TAVERN)
OLD COURT ROAD
RUXTON ROAD
221
(MILL)
JONES FALLS
EX'P.WY.
FALLS
N


Spring Valley
COCKEYSVILLE QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1: 24 000
Photorevised 1966
lat. 39°24'11"
long. 76°40'09"
lat. 39°24'11"
long. 76°40'02"
ROCKLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT
lat. 39°23'55"
long. 76°40'09"
lat. 39°23'55"
long. 76°40'02"
Rockland
Ruxton
Riderwood
St Timothys
Brooklandville
Jones Falls
Branch
Moores
Valley Stream
Summit Park
Wellwood
Ranchleigh
Bonnie View Golf Course
Bare Hills
LAKE ROLAND PARK
PENNSYLVANIA
Lake Roland
Jones Falls
N
(BALTIMORE WEST) 5662 I SW
SCALE 1:24000
1 MILE
1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
MARYLAND
QUADRANGLE LOCATION
Heavy duty
Medium duty

BA-221
BA-222





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BA-222

KODAK SAFETY FILM
KODAK SAFE

BA-221
TAVERN

Michael Bourne 12/1971

KODAK SAFETY FILM
2

BA-221
TAVERN

Michael Bourne 12/1971

KODAK SAFETY FILM

BA - 221

LIME
KILN

Michael Bourne

FILM

FILM

BA-221

LIME
KILN

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LIME
KILN

Michael Bourne 12/1971

S.M

BA-221

BLACKSMITH SHOP

BA-221

MILESTONE

BA-221

LOG & FRAME HOUSE

Michael Bourne 12/1971

KODAK SAFETY FILM
8

KODAK SAFETY FILM
7

KODAK SAFETY FILM
6

KODAK SAFETY FILM
5

KODAK SAFETY FILM
12

KODAK SAFETY FILM
11

KODAK SAFETY FILM
10

KODAK SAFETY FILM
9

BA-221
STORE

BA-221
JOHNSON
HOUSE

BA-221
MILLER'S
HOUSE

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MILLER'S HOUSE,
STORE &
ROWHOUSES

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ROWHOUSES

Michael Bourne 12/1971

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ROW
HOUSES

Michael Bourne 12/1971

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Copy for Multiple Numbers

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AND

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