

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Bacon Hall Inventory Number: BA-405

Address: 16300 Cedar Grove Road City: Sparks Zip Code: 21152-9435

County: Baltimore County USGS Topographic Map: Hereford

Owner: Melvin J. Duckett & Laura Cogar Is the property being evaluated a district? ___ yes

Tax Parcel Number: 324 Tax Map Number: 28 Tax Account ID Number: (See description)

Project: TEA-21 Viewshed Protection Grant Agency: Federal Highway Administration

Site visit by MHT staff: X no ___ yes Name: Date:

Is the property is located within a historic district? ___ yes X no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: ___

NR-listed district ___ yes Eligible district ___ yes Name of District: ___

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ___ yes ___ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ___ yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible X yes ___ no

Criteria: X A X B X C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G X None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:
MHT Inventory form prepared by John W. McGrain, Office of Planning, January 21, 1992

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

Description of the Property: The current Bacon Hall farm lies on tax maps 27 and 28. It is listed in the SDAT records as Map 28, parcel 324, but with two separate account numbers (under the same deed): # 05 2200016448 (25.04 ac.), and # 07 2200016447 (212.04 ac.). The mailing address at the time the MHT Inventory form was completed was 16300 Bacon Hall Road. As shown on the enclosed excerpts from maps 27 and 28, the farm abuts the west side of Interstate 83, primarily north of Cedar Grove and Bacon Hall Roads (on the Hereford 7.5' USGS quadrangle).

Eligibility of the Property: The "Bacon Hall" farm is particularly significant in Baltimore County history. (Full documentation, from which this summary is adapted, is provided in the MHT Inventory form.) The present property consisting of more than 200 acres is part of the original 1,036-acre "Bacon Hall" land grant surveyed in 1772 for Nicholas Merryman, Sr., who eventually owned and farmed at least 1,376 acres. The senior Merryman died "at his residence in Baltimore County" in 1801.

The next owner, Nicholas Merryman, Jr., had been the first lieutenant of Captain Thomas Moore's militia company in 1777, and was appointed captain the same year in the Upper Battalion of Baltimore County. The farm subsequently was inherited by several generations of the Merrymans, a family prominent in Baltimore County agricultural and social history, and later passed to the Thomas, Gillet, and Boyce families.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended ___
Criteria: X A X B X C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None

MHT Comments

Andrew Lewis
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Bluntz
Reviewer, NR Program

5/28/03
Date
5/30/03
Date

200302007

Besides its significance for more than 200 years of continuous agricultural use, the "Bacon Hall" farm is especially important for its original remaining farmhouse. The main, center block of this 2-1/2 story stone structure measures 46' x 23', exactly matching the dimensions specified for the Nicholas Merryman house in the 1798 Federal tax list. The house is almost certainly somewhat earlier, possibly dating from ca. 1790. The evidence from the Nicholas Merryman entry in the 1783 tax list is not conclusive, but the high overall value of improvements on the property – 200 pounds sterling – could allow for a large, five-bay house existing by 1783.

"Bacon Hall" is an architecturally very plain but sturdy survivor of its almost-frontier era, complemented by its two attached, two-story, early nineteenth century wings. With their consistent, flush stonework the house and its wings present an impressive, 10-bay façade, fully 96 feet long. The main block has three gable-roofed dormers set in the southern slope (main façade) of the roof, and a center-hall floor plan. Although dating essentially from the Federal era, the house is a restrained example with little internal decoration. The house has many fireplaces, some with plain wood mantels and others with arched-opening marble mantels of the Victorian era. The stairway rises straight behind the front door, ascending without a bend to the second story. The sturdy newel post of oak or mahogany is typical of rural house designs in Baltimore County.

Surviving outbuildings also contribute to the property's historic character. These include a two-story stone barn with dressed quoins and an irregular pattern of door and ventilator openings (probably the 30 x 50 structure on the 1798 tax list), a small stone building (probably the milk house or one of the two meat houses from 1798), and a two-story frame barn (probably late nineteenth or early twentieth century).

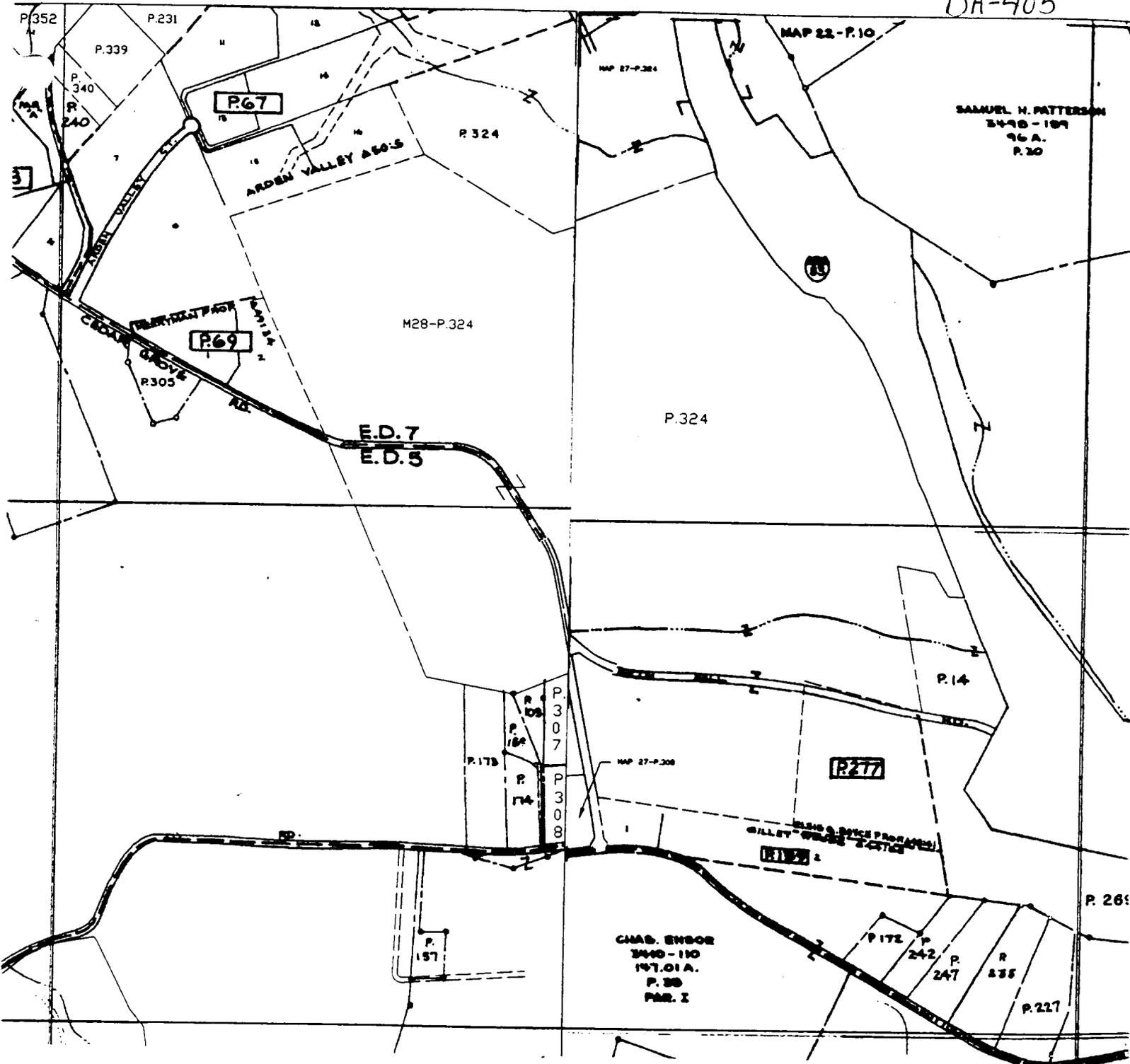
Remarkably, the Bacon Hall house survived a period of extensive physical neglect in the Civil War era, and was rescued and restored into a functional dwelling. Houses of this great antiquity (eighteenth century), and with such a substantial degree of physical historic integrity, are very rare in Baltimore County. Efforts about a decade ago to protect the building by placing it on the County Landmarks List were unsuccessful. The cooperative effort by the owner with the County to achieve permanent protection through the TEA-21 funding should strongly be supported. This not only will protect the historically-important farmstead but also will complement the TEA-21 projects for scenic protection on the opposite side of the highly scenic I-83 corridor, maintaining the contextual integrity of the area's outstanding visual, agricultural quality.

Prepared by: Tim Dugan, Baltimore Co. Planning

Date Prepared: 05/21/2003

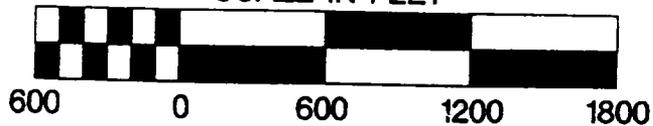
212370.2m 212370.2mN
427457.5m 427457.5mE

BA-405

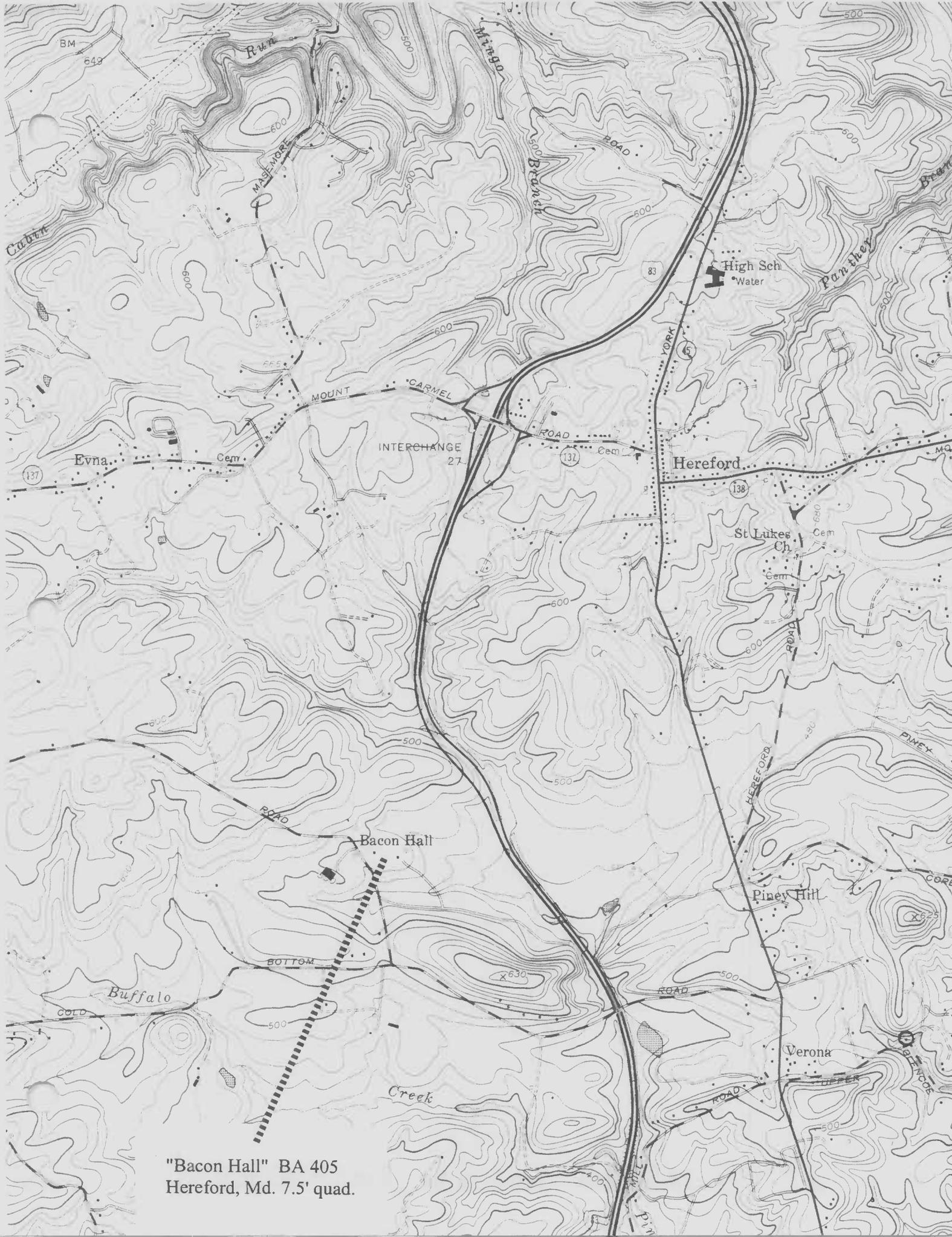


Source: Tax Maps 27, 28, Dec.'99

SCALE IN FEET



"Bacon Hall" BA 405
Hereford, Md. 7.5' quad.





BA 400 Essential Jobs? - May 2000 - 1 of 23

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD SHTO

MAIN HOUSE

1 OF 7



7-22-17 1-City Hall 2-County 3-County 4-County 5-County 6-County 7-County 8-County 9-County 10-County

BALTIMORE Co. MD

MD SHPO

MAIN HOUSE

2 OF 7



ISA-1-3: Borden Hall Site 10/2/2011 10:23

BALTIMORE CO MD

MD SHPO

MAIN HOUSE

3 OF 7





BA-405 BACON HALL

11 2 72

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD SHPO

STONE BARN

5 OF 7



BA-405 BACON HALL

BALTIMORE CO, MD

MID SHPO

FRAME BARN

6 OF 7



BA-405 BACON HALL

BALTIMORE CO. MD

MD SHPO

STONE BARN

7 of 7

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. BA 405
Magi No. 0304055204

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bacon Hall

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 16300 Bacon Hall Road not for publication

city, town Hereford

vicinity of

Councilmanic District 3

congressional district 2nd

state Maryland

county Baltimore County

3. Classification

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

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

name Mrs. Elsie Kelsey

street & number 1016 Lake Avenue

telephone no.: Unknown

city, town Greenwich

state and zip code Connecticut 06830

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building

liber 2655

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue

folio 443

city, town Towson

state Maryland 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Inventory

date 1981

federal state county local

depository for survey records 100 Community Place

city, town Crownsville

state MD 21032-2032

7. Description

Survey No. BA 405

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" 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.

Bacon Hall is a three-part stone house with a 2½ story center section five bays wide, with two-story wings on either end. The west (left) wing is two bays wide, the east (right) is three bays wide. The house is coated with antique stucco (like Hampton House) scribed in an ashlar pattern while still wet. The main block has three gable-roofed dormers set in the southern exposure (main facade) of the roof. Measurements taken in 1986 show that the main block is 46 feet 6 inches wide. Its kitchen wing is 25 feet 8 inches. The newer wing on the west is 22 feet 6 inches wide. All the sections are 23 feet 2 inches deep. The center block is certainly the 46 by 23-foot structure listed in the 1798 tax list.

The main block has a center-hall floor plan. The main door is set in a plain frame with neither transom nor sidelights. A one-story entrance porch with a second-story open deck stretches across three bays of the main facade. Window frames have prominent lintels, possibly replacements. The window sashes are a mixture of layouts.

The main block has two stone, gable-end, inside chimneys.

Present dimensions are 95 feet, overall width. The 1918 tax ledger gave overall width of 121 feet, based on measurements of two house segments:

22 x 48
22 x 73. (1)

Possibly some frame extension has disappeared.

The house has numerous fireplaces, some with plain wood mantels, others marble mantels of the Victorian era with arched openings. The stairway rises straight behind the front door and ascends without bend to the second story. The sturdy newel post of oak or mahogany is typical of rural house designs in this county.

Bacon Hall is sturdy but very plain. If it dates from the Federal era, it is a restrained example with little internal decoration. The high value of the improvements on this property in the 1783 tax list (200 pounds Sterling) would allow for a large, five-bay house. The main block was definitely in existence by the 1798 tax list.

The grounds contain a stone barn, a frame barn, and some minor outbuildings.

NOTE:

1. Baltimore County Tax List, 1918, District 7, f. 433.

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

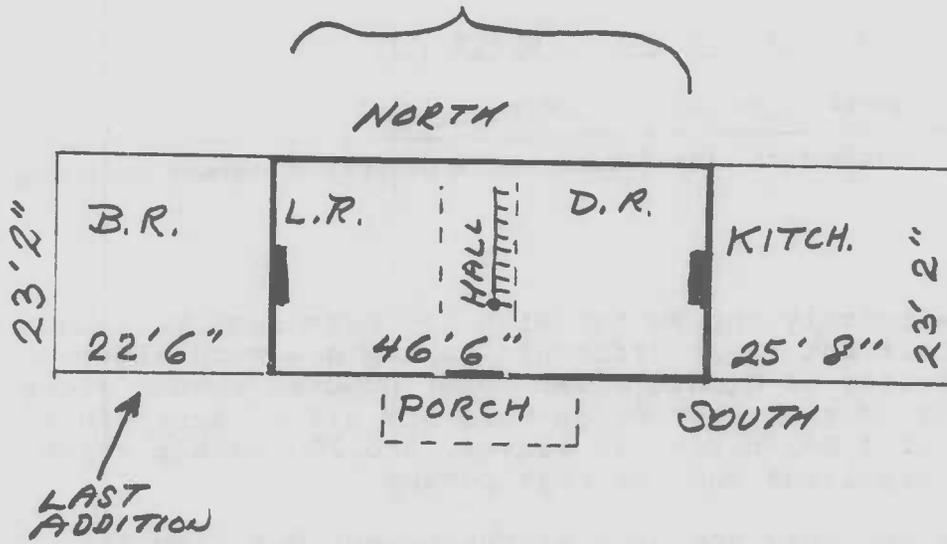
MHT Inventory No.

name of property:

Section number 7 Page 2

Bacon Hall

MATCHES 1798
TAX LIST



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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Before 1783 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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.

Bacon Hall definitely checks out with the measurements found in the 1798 tax list but it is difficult to say how much older it is. The 1783 tax list of Middle River Upper Hundred showed Nicholas Merryman with part of the tract Bacon Hall and all of Merryman's Pasture, a total of 1,091 acres, 19 slaves, and 200 pounds worth of improvements, a very large sum for that period. (1)

Bacon Hall is not only the name of the house, but also the name of a 1,036-acre landgrant, "Bacon Hall", surveyed in 1772 for Nicholas Merryman. (2)

Nicholas Merryman, Senior, owned 1,376 acres in the 1798 tax list and his tract names included:

Bacon Hall Enlarged
Pine Ridge
Ells Grove

Better Saved Than Lost
Little Account
Merryman's Slipe.

The structures listed that year were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 Stone dwelling house, 2 stories | 23 x 46 feet |
| 1 Stone kitchen, 1 story | 23 x 36 |
| 1 Stone Milk House | 12 x 12 |
| 1 Stone Meat House | 12 x 12 |
| 1 Stone Meat House | 14 x 16 |
| 6 log outhouses, stables, etc. | |
| 1 Stone Barn | 30 x 50. (3) |

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BA 405
MHT Inventory No.

name of property:

Section number 8 Page 2

Bacon Hall

Local historian Shirley Clemens estimated the age of Bacon Hall at about 1790, an estimate that seems reasonable because the house is built in a simplified Federal style and would conform to that period. (4)

Measurements taken in May, 1986, suggest that the 23-by-46-foot main block and part of the kitchen wing are the same structures recorded in the 1798 tax list.

The election districts established in 1800 placed Bacon Hall in Old District No. 5. Starting in 1841, it would have been within Election District No. 7, the same subdivisions used in 1992.

Nicholas Merryman, Senior, died "at his residence in Baltimore County", age 76, in 1801. The property mentioned in the will as "Bacon Hall," passed to Nicholas Merryman, Jr. (5)

Francis B. Culver's family history calls the second Merryman "White-headed Nickey of Bacon Hall" (1751-1832). Nicholas Merryman, Jr., was the first lieutenant of Captain Thomas Moore's militia company in 1777, and was appointed a captain the same year in the Upper Battalion of Baltimore County. He was twice married, first to Deborah Ensor, who died in 1801. In 1805, he married his cousin Nancy Merryman, also called Ann. The widow was named as Ann in the 1840 administration account. (6)

The house appears on J. C. Sidney's and P. J. Browne's 1850 county map as "Bacon Hall, Mrs. Ann Merryman." To the east was another farm, Elzes Grove, belonging to N. R. Merryman, that house was later known as "Hereford Farm," (BA 128), a place where the colonial house survived until 1982. That farm had belonged to a number of John Merrymans, later to Nicholas Rogers Merryman, a family that maintained a small cemetery for their own line, none of the Bacon Hall Merrymans being interred there.

Almost nothing historical has been published about Bacon Hall. Not until 1864 is there anything quotable in legal records. The Nicholas Merryman property was divided up by court-appointed commissioners under the Baltimore County Court of Chancery. The large holdings were divided and Bacon Hall was part of "Lot 3" resulting from the case of Elizabeth Scott v. Nicholas Merryman. (7) After the division of the Nicholas Merryman, Jr., estate, the house was allotted to Ellen Merryman and passed to her granddaughter, Elizabeth E. Frisby (Mrs. William M. Pendelton). The Pendelton's daughter, the

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BA 405

MHT Inventory No.

name of property:

Section number 8 Page 4

Bacon Hall

going down. The soil is becoming exhausted, and the place is going down. I should suppose that there is some three hundred acres of tillable land or such as could be tilled all would not pay to till it. The balance is grown up in pines and wood and all the woods has been more or less culled over."

Henry N. Merryman (of Hereford Farm) testified:

"It is called part of Bacon Hall and part of Cold Bottomthe buildings, the barns, stables are all to pieces, part of the dwelling house is falling down, and the fences throughout the whole place need thorough repairing. The soil is going down and the parties who live on it can hardly raise corn on it to last one third of the season.

The soil has been very much worked down and is becoming rapidly exhausted. I do not think the property in a short time will rent for one per cent of what it would sell for[It adjoined Merryman's own residence & property]"

George Childs testified:

"Mrs. Merryman told me there was 437 acres in Bacon Hall and 50 acres in Cold Bottom....(he would not want to pay more than \$150 a year for it) I rented it at about \$175 a year and was not able to pay that....

...I think so because the place is reduced so and is still going down. The buildings are in a very poor condition, the cellar wall is giving way now. The floors are all decaying and nearly rotten and decayed and all going to pieces. The soil is getting worked down, it is very thin at this time. I left the place about two years ago this spring." (8)

The court-appointed trustees set several sale dates and took four years to find a buyer. Their advertisement in the summer of 1864 offered the tracts Bacon Hall, Elzey's Grove, and Cold Bottom. (9) 427 acres in all.

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BA 405
MHT Inventory No.

name of property:

Section number 8 Page 6 Bacon Hall

In May, 1868, Matilda M. Rhett, wife of Charles H. Rhett, and Julia L. Rhett, wife of Roland Rhett, bought Lot 1, the 2,360 $\frac{1}{4}$ -acre house parcel for \$9,300. (11) The G. M. Hopkins atlas of 1877 showed the home of H. Rhett with two other Rhett family houses nearby. No estate name was given.

There were a number of complex deeds and trusteeships during the 1880s and various members of the Thomas family had the place. Under the will of Lambert Gittings, the property passed in 1895 to Mrs. Louisa Gillet. The property has remained in the related Gillet and Boyce families down to the present. (12) Nearby Gillett Road was only recently renamed Cedar Grove Road. (13) The neglect mentioned in the 1864 court action was staved off and Bacon Hall and its farm were the scene of horse breeding and sporting events.

In the 1980s, the ownership devolved on one person, Mrs. Kelsey, a Boyce by birth. An out-of-state resident, she has been trying to market the house for a number of years. The house is occupied by a reliable tenant, Mr. Michael Jacobson (472-4551). (14)

During 1990 and 1991, there was interest inside the county administration to buy Bacon Hall for parkland and school purposes. Later, opposition developed and funding became inadequate for the purchase. (15)

The most recent word was:

The county will abandon
for the moment its plan to
purchase the \$1.9 million Bacon
Hall property in Sparks for
parkland. (16)

NOTES:

1. Tax List of Middle River Upper and Back River Upper Hundred, 1783, folio 10.
2. Patents, Index Cards, Hall of Records, Annapolis, supplied by telephone, January 16, 1992. "Bacon Hall Enlarged," surveyed in 1794 for Nicholas Merryman, was 1,674- $\frac{3}{4}$ acres.

Trustee's Advertisement, Maryland Journal, Towson, August 12, 1865

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 195.0

Quadrangle name Hereford

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

Irregular parcel west of I-83, north of Bacon Hall Road, east of Cedar Grove Road. See Tax Map 28, Grid 7, Parcel P4.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrain

organization Office of Planning

date January 21, 1992

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue

telephone 887-3211

city or town Towson

state Maryland 21204

