MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Smith Brothers House Inventory Number: BA-931

Address: 525 Monkton Road City: Monkton Zip Code: 21111

County: Baltimore USGS Topographic Map: Hereford, MD

Owner: Horace A. Palmer and Rebecca J. Palmer

Tax Parcel Number: 223 Tax Map Number: 22 Tax Account ID Number: _____

Project: Hereford Tower Project Agency: FCC

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no ___yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility **not** recommended ____

Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Is the property located within a historic district? X no ____yes Name of district: _____

Is district listed? X no ___yes Determined eligible? X no ____yes District Inventory Number: _____

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP form; Rotenstein 2000

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

This property consists of a large Victorian Stick house and a similarly styled carriage house. The house is a 2½-story wood frame building constructed on a masonry wall foundation with an irregular plan. The house measures four bays by five bays and has multiple intersecting roof lines, a cross gable and a cupola; the main block has a jerkinhead roof. Extensive spindlework covers the house, including roof spires, brackets and bargeboards. There are several additions to this house, including an enclosed wrap-around porch. The windows are wood double-hung sash (2/2 lights) in pedimented surrounds; there are bracketed hood moldings above windows in the second story. The carriage house is constructed in a similar style to the main house and has extensive spindlework, a cross gable, and cupola. Converted into apartments, the carriage house is clad by wood drop siding and the roof is clad by composition shingles.

Built in 1878, the Smith Brothers House is an excellent example of high Victorian architecture. The property, despite additions and alterations to the original fabric, retains a considerable amount of its integrity. This property appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural merit.

Prepared by: **David S. Rotenstein** Date Prepared: **09/07/2000**

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X **Eligibility not recommended** _____

Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D **Considerations:** ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Comments: _____

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	**Date** 11/16/00
Reviewer, NR program	**Date** 6/21/01

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-931

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Smith Brothers House
other	Gingerbread House

2. Location

street and number	525 Monkton Road	___ not for publication
city, town	Monkton	vicinity
county	Baltimore	

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

name	Horace A. Palmer and Rebecca J. Palmer				
street and number	517 Gifford Lane			telephone	
city, town	Monkton	state	MD	zip code	21111

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse	tax map and parcel:	22-223
city, town	Towson	liber 6119	folio 84

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
___ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
X Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
___ Other:

6. Classification

Category
___ district
X building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership
___ public
X private
___ both

Current Function
___ agriculture
___ commerce/trade
___ defense
X domestic
___ education
___ funerary
___ government
___ health care
___ industry
___ landscape
___ recreation/culture
___ religion
___ social
___ transportation
___ work in progress
___ unknown
___ vacant/not in use
___ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	___	buildings
___	___	sites
___	___	structures
___	___	objects
2	___	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
2

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-931

Condition

X excellent	deteriorated
good	ruins
fair	X altered

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

This property consists of a large Victorian Stick house and a similarly styled carriage house. The house is a 2½-story wood frame building constructed on a masonry wall foundation with an irregular plan. The house measures four bays by five bays and has multiple intersecting roof lines, a cross gable and a cupola; the main block has a jerkinhead roof. Extensive spindlework covers the house, including roof spires, brackets and bargeboards. There are several additions to this house, including an enclosed wrap-around porch. The windows are wood double-hung sash (2/2 lights) in pedimented surrounds; there are bracketed hood moldings above windows in the second story.

The carriage house is constructed in a similar style to the main house and has extensive spindlework, a cross gable, and cupola. Converted into apartments, the carriage house is clad by wood drop siding and the roof is clad by composition shingles.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-931

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
___ 1600-1699	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ health/medicine	___ performing arts
___ 1700-1799	___ archeology	___ education	___ industry	___ philosophy
X 1800-1899	X architecture	___ engineering	___ invention	___ politics/government
X 1900-1999	___ art	___ entertainment/ recreation	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 2000-	___ commerce	___ ethnic heritage	___ law	___ science
	___ communications	___ exploration/ settlement	___ literature	___ social history
	___ community planning		___ maritime history	___ transportation
	___ conservation		___ military	___ other:

Specific dates	1878-1950	Architect	
Construction dates	1878	Builder	

Evaluation for:

X National Register ___ Maryland Register ___ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Built in 1878, the Smith Brothers House is an excellent example of high Victorian architecture. The property, despite additions and alterations to the original fabric, retains a considerable amount of its integrity. This property appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural merit.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-931

Name Smith Brothers House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Historic Period Theme(s):

Resource Type:

Category:

Historic Environment

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Known Design Source:

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-931

Baltimore County Council (1991); Brooks, N. A., and E. G. Rockel (1979); Clemens and Clemens (1983); McGrain (1980)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	16,944 sq. ft.		
Acreage of historical setting	16,944 sq. ft.		
Quadrangle name	Hereford, MD	Quadrangle scale	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries for this property conform to the tax parcel boundary: Map 22, parcel 223.

11. Form Prepared By

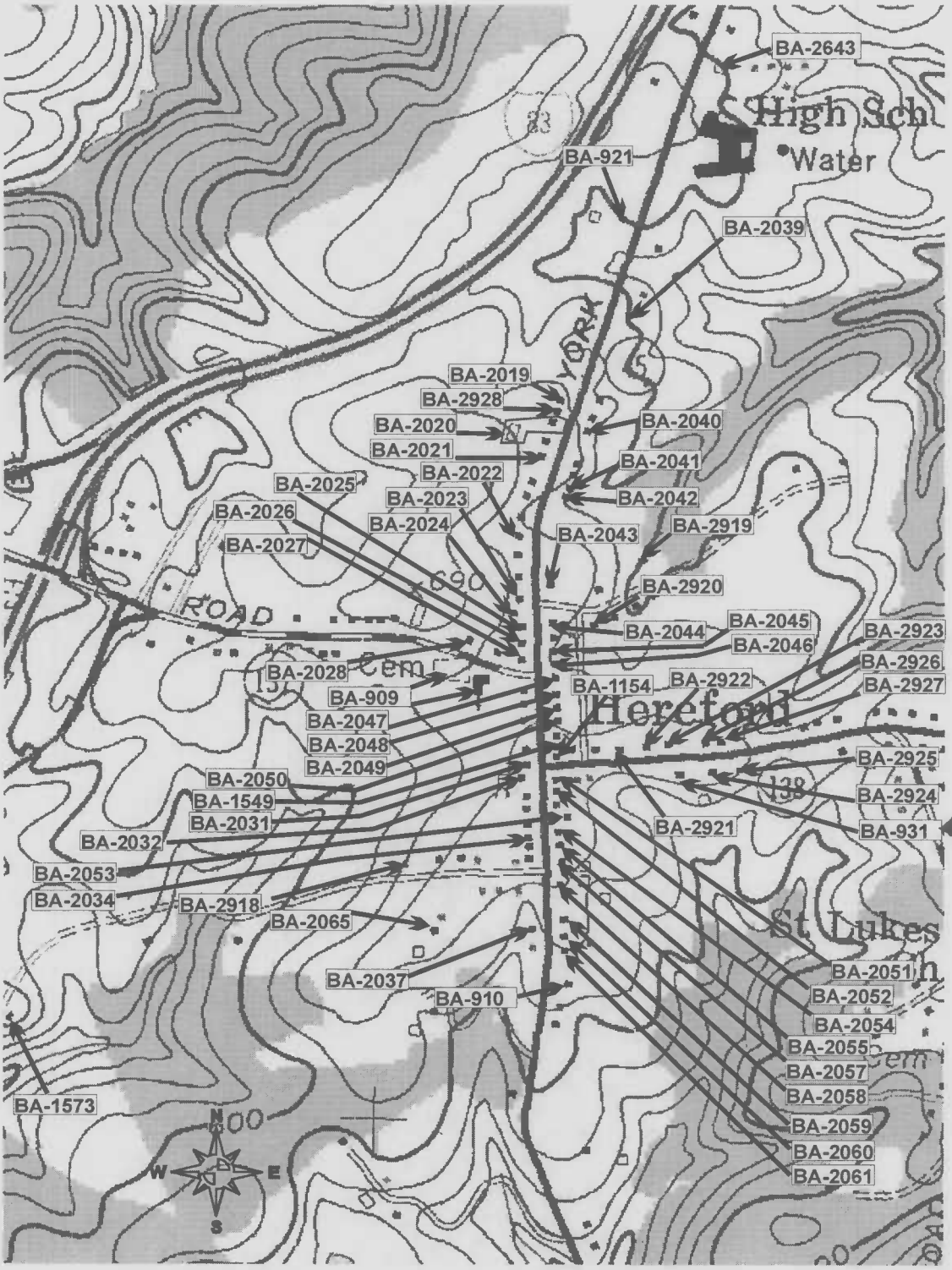
name/title	David S. Rotenstein, Ph.D./Historian		
organization	URS/Dames & Moore	date	09/07/2000
street and number	7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700	telephone	301-652-221
city or town	Bethesda	state MD	zipcode 20814-4870

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

BA-931


BA-2643
High Sch
Water
BA-921
BA-2039
YORK
BA-2019
BA-2928
BA-2020
BA-2040
BA-2021
BA-2041
BA-2022
BA-2025
BA-2023
BA-2042
BA-2026
BA-2024
BA-2043
BA-2919
BA-2027
690
ROAD
BA-2920
BA-2044
BA-2045
BA-2046
BA-2923
BA-2926
BA-2028
Cem
BA-909
BA-1154
BA-2922
BA-2927
Hereford
BA-2047
BA-2048
BA-2049
BA-2925
BA-2050
BA-1549
BA-2924
BA-2031
BA-2921
BA-931
BA-2032
BA-2053
BA-2034
BA-2918
BA-2065
St. Lukes
BA-2051
BA-2037
BA-910
BA-2052
BA-2054
BA-2055
BA-2057
BA-2058
BA-1573
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3A-931

1/4

Smith Brothers House
Gingerbread House
525 Monkton Road
Baltimore County, Maryland

David S. Rotenstein
8/23/2000
MD SHPO

View of the Smith Brothers House, to the southeast.

0411 NNNN 09.06.00

BA 931
2/4

Smith Brothers House
Gingerbread House
525 Monkton Road
Baltimore County, Maryland

David S. Kotenstein
5/23/2000
MD SHPO

View of the Smith Brothers House, to the northwest.

BA-931
3/4

Smith Brothers House
Gingerbread House
525 Monkton Road
Baltimore County, Maryland

David S. Rotenstein
8/23/2000
MD SHPO

View of the Smith Brothers House and Carriage house, to the southeast.

044 NNNN ---- 09.06.00

BA-931

4/4

Smith Brothers House
Ginger-bread House
525 Markton Road
Baltimore County, Maryland

David S. Rotenstein
8/23/2000
MD SHPO

View of the Smith Brothers House carriage house (apartments), to the south-east.

BA 931

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE 1878

HEREFORD

PRIVATE

The Smith Brothers House, often called the Gingerbread House, is the most prominent Carpenter Gothic structure in Hereford. Its construction is attributed to the little known Smith Brothers, one of whom is found in an old directory as a stone mason. The house can be dated at 1878 by a painted dateboard now incorporated into the stable siding. The brothers supposedly did the actual construction themselves and had only Sundays free to work on it. Extensive repairs were executed in 1980 and 1981. This is a two-story duplex of frame and clapboard, with a jerkinhead roof as well as dormers, cross-gables, twin cupolas, crests, brackets, decorative shelves, and window hoods. The elaborate applied decoration includes vergeboards, finials, pendants, and scroll-sawn lace applied to flat surfaces. Its two-story stable is fitted with dormers and a louvered cupola. The stable decorations are almost as elaborate as those of the dwelling. (This site is easily mistaken for the D. Conn house shown on the 1877 atlas.)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE
a. Dwelling b. Carriage House

AND/OR COMMON:
GINGERBREAD HOUSE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER:
525 Monkton Road

CITY, TOWN: Hereford — ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2nd

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME:
Horace A. Palmer and Rebecca Palmer — Telephone #: 343-1010

STREET & NUMBER:
517 Gifford Lane

CITY TOWN: Monkton — ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 21111

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: County Courts Building

Liber #: EHK JR. 6119
Folio #: 84

STREET & NUMBER:
401 Bosley Avenue

CITY TOWN: Towson

STATE: Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Baltimore County Historic Sites Inventory
Maryland Historical Trust

DATE:
On-going since 1964 — __FEDERAL XSTATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: 21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	_RUINS	X ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Smith Brothers House is of frame, 2½ stories, T-shaped in layout. It is four bays wide on the principal facade. There are two main entrances as if it had been planned as a duplex. The house is two bays deep in the main block, two bays deep in the rear wing. Style is high Victorian gothic or carpenter gothic.

The chief feature of this structure is its applied decoration along the eaves and its crests and finials. The decorative elements are intact but, unfortunately, the porch is a ready-made, sheet metal replacement, shed-roofed, and supported by contemporary wrought iron posts of fairly light construction. (A full-width porch with four columns has been lost; it once had a standing-seam sheet metal roof.) Present porch deck is concrete.

All the major windows are over-sized, double-hung sash types in 2-over-2 format. But the windows on either side of the two front doors are floor-to-ceiling types of 2-over-2 format. The two doors, set in the inner bays, are topped by rectangular transoms.

The main facade presents a cross-gable to the highway. The main roof is jerkinhead, with its slanted folds located at the east and west ends of the house.

A pointed window flanked by two narrow sidelights opens from the cross-gable. A decorative shelf supported by elabo-

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (continued)

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	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1878 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Smith Brothers, Hereford

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Smith Brothers House, often called the "Gingerbread House," is the most prominent Carpenter Gothic structure in Hereford. Its origin is attributed to the little known Smith Brothers. The date is established by a painted board marked "1878." The brothers reputedly did the construction work themselves and neighborhood tradition holds that they had only Sundays free to work on it. This is a two-story house that originally had two front doors, but now resembles a house designed as a duplex, because one door was shifted in converting the space to apartments in the 1940s or thereabouts. This is a frame and clapboard house with a jerkinhead roof, cross gabling, two square cupolas, and dormers. There is an elaborate encrustation of verge boards, crests, pendants, finials, and applied wooden lace, as well as shelves, brackets, and window hoods. Its two-story frame stable or carriage house is almost as elaborate as the dwelling.

The fanciful house on Hereford-Monkton Road stands on a lot formed from a 27-square perch parcel and a 0.22-acre parcel. This numerical combination makes it possible to trace the owner-

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE B-2-937

Baltimore County Deeds, Tax Ledgers, Atlases.
Maryland Journal, Towson, August 2, 1873.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 27 square perches and 0.22 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Slightly irregular rectangular parcel fronting 125 feet along southside of Hereford Road, with depth of approximately 141.9 feet. (Tax Map 22, Parcel P431).

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

STATE	COUNTY
NONE	NONE
NONE	NONE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	
John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning	November 1981
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
401 Bosley Avenue	494-3521
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

PS-1108

rately cut brackets is mounted in the cross-gable directly under its windows.

A large lace pendant hangs in the peak of the only cross-gable and the corners of the cross-gable are decorated with lace pendants. A flat, wooden-lace panel runs along the inside eaves of the cross-gable; the outer edge of the cross-gable is dentiled. The cross-gable roof is surmounted by wooden lace cresting. The gable ends of the main block are provided with round-topped sash windows flanked in turn by slim, rectangular sash-windows. The attic window frames are trimmed with applied decoration of scroll-sawn lace.

There are two dormers, each with a porthole window, their individual roofing topped by cresting, the window frames decorated with flat wooden lace.

The gable-end windows are also equipped with shelves supported by Italianate bracketing. The shelves apparently serve no useful purpose. Small hoods in the same style as the decorative shelves are located over the second-story windows on the ends of the house.

The rear wing of the house is both gable- and shed-roofed. Two square cupolas rise from the rear wing and are elaborately decorated with lace pendants, miniature cross-gables, and flat, applied wooden-lace banding or paneling. The cupolas are lighted by four pairs of 2-over-2 windows and each cupola is topped by a sharp wooden finial.

The outer covering is clapboard, once painted a dull brown or buff, now white. Roofing material is a tan rubber material. Foundation is of stone. This house has always been well kept and was

undergoing additional repairs in the summer of 1980 – continuing through 1981.

This house would scarcely be noticeable, except for its exuberant decoration.

Interior Features

The interior of the house is remarkably plain and, having been made into apartments, some rooms were reduced in volume by the addition of passages and stairs. There are no good examples of fireplaces. Some of the door frames include bull's-eye corner blocks and some were provided with plain transoms. Most rooms contain the original floor planking. The attic contains the most interesting features. The attic was apparently a finished space from the beginning. The walls and interior recesses of the dormers are fully plastered. There are a number of small storage places under the eaves, some with paneled doors, others with board and batten doors. The room doors are unusually low. Two light shafts are provided by the two square cupolas that rise above the roofing. These spaces are almost too small to be of any use, but one serves as a pantry, the other contains a table for electronics hobby projects. Some of the fanciful dormer windows are oval and others are round-topped and lancet-topped. The oval windows open by pivoting; the other small windows—some sashes only about a foot high—actually function and slide upward. The attic dwellers find these windows at shoe-top level.

The central gable houses a set of three windows, and there is a platform behind the windows, railed with a classical (rather than Victorian) wooden balustrade. The main stairway descends to the second story under the dormer platform. The small floor space pro-

vided by the platform is now used for tubs of large house plants.

The attic apartment has a kitchen at the rear of the house that was built by installing a shed dormer (more like a booth) through the rear roof area. The small storage compartments in the attic reveal that the house was constructed in part with previously painted lumber that had been used somewhere else.

The cellar contains an array of floor joists still covered with bark. There is a stone wall (north-south) that serves no use at present and is apparently the remains of some earlier building that occupied the lot. There are also the stumps of two side-by-side chimneys, one of which once served a first-story fireplace. There is also the shell of a cellar fireplace that once stood at the ground level of the present cellar and may well have warmed a former one-story dwelling. Other cellar joists have been trimmed of their bark but still present a primitive, adze-hewn appearance. Some parts of the cellar floor are dirt, heavily underlain by large rocks. There are two distinct levels in the cellar flooring. There are also empty window spaces that once held cellar window frames and sashes opening on the outside beneath the walk-under side porches. Those spaces were later filled in.

THE STABLE OR CARRIAGE HOUSE

The frame, two-story carriage house to the southwest of the dwelling is another frame structure heavily laden with applied decoration. It also has a square louvered cupola, two dormers, and a weathervane. In the last year or so (1980-81), it was converted into a home for the owner's daughter with basement utility space, a first-story kitchen and living room, and second-story bedroom, bath, and walk-in closets. The bedroom was formerly a haymow, and the

former hay-loading door has been made into a window – located at about shoe-top level. The gable ends of the stable contain what looks like sunburst decorations but are actually wagon wheels sawn in two. The main (or north) gable peak contains an entire wagon wheel as its decorative feature. Behind the wheel are panes of glass and plexiglass that help light the bedroom. One board reworked into the clapboarding over the doors is the old datemarker from the house, many times painted white, but the numerals "1878" still showing through as if embossed.

The north or main facade presents a pair of paneled doors to the highway at first-story level. Until recent restoration, the east end of the building contained garage doors, but has been reworked to provide the living room with a full-width picture window composed of multiple square window lights.

The south facade has a door at basement level and a newly cut door for a yet-completed porch.

The stable was sinking into the ground some years ago and the present owner jacked it up, removed the old four-by-four sills and replaced them with a brick foundation. The old timber sills had seen previous service in some earlier building: there were various mortices at the ends of the timbers, mortices along the length of the timbers, marks scored by earlier carpenters or millwrights, and round holes that may have accommodated bolts or treenails.

ship back from the present owner to Mrs. Laura A. Smith, who took title to the 27 square perches on August 23, 1873. Deeds show that Mrs. Smith had contracted to buy the ground in the early 1870s from Martin Conn, who died before he could execute a deed. Mrs. Smith had already paid $550 for the property, and Martin Conn's administrator, William T. Conn, executed the deed in settling the estate. (1) The lot was a chip out of Conn's 6-3/4-acre "town" land in Hereford.

Orphans Court records show that Martin Conn had owned one large frame house worth $2,000, plus a small log house on Piney Hill Road. (2)

The price paid by Mrs. Smith was fairly high for a building lot in those days, and could well have included a small structure.

Martin Conn's large frame house was purchased at public auction by his brother, Daniel Conn, and is apparently the house shown as his in the 1877 atlas. (3) The atlas failed to show that Mrs. Smith owned a house next door, but the 1876 Assessor's Field Book recorded:

Laura A. Smith
....
House and Lot in Hereford $700
Household furniture 100.00 (4)

The existing Palmer house contains the foundation of an earlier structure in its basement, and local tradition holds that the builders of the large house constructed it around a log cabin which was eventually removed. The house and its stable both contain large quantities of painted, reused boards that had served some other purpose.

A surviving tax collection ledger shows Mrs. Smith's account, starting in 1877. The book fails to show that her "starter house"

appreciated in value, but an entry of 1886 shows that $833 dollars of assessment was transferred from her account to that of George W. Smith. (5)

The other Smith was her husband, George W. Smith, who took title by deed on April 3, 1885, paying a mere $100. (6) The 1878 State business directory listed Smith as a mason by profession. (7)

The 1896 tax ledger listed George W. Smith and valued his house at $1,150 and the stable, mentioned there for the first time, at $125. (8)

The Smith title is presented at such length because of the temptation to mistake the surviving structure for the Conn House shown in the 1877 atlas. Since the present owner, Horace A. Palmer, lived in the house in the 1930s when his parents were the tenants, he can serve as a witness that there was a spacious house on the now vacant lot immediately to the east; that house was in a state of decay, its broken windows stuffed with rags. About 1936 or 1937, it was torn down. (9) That house was the Conn house marked in the 1877 atlas.

The most interesting item of evidence was discovered recently by Mr. Palmer in the form of a board with the date "1878" on it in embossed numerals. His neighbor, Mrs. Beulah A. Bull, recalls that when the house belonged to her father, he took down the date board because he did not want anyone to know how old his house was. At that time, Victorian houses were a source of embarrassment rather than pride and probably difficult to market with a depression in progress. (10)

Local traditions in Hereford hold that the house was built by the "Smith Brothers" themselves. They were reported to have had

Sundays only free for the work. There is no history as such connected with the house. No reports of it have been found in the vertical files of libraries or historical societies.

The house looks like a planned duplex now, but its western front door was shifted during the ownership of W. S. Ruhl. Mr. Ruhl developed the interior into apartments and did some skillful carpentry that left no traces in the clapboarding to show that the western door was shifted one bay to form an entrance to a second-story apartment.

At that time, a full-width front porch was removed and its traces obliterated. The changes that occurred over time include filling in walk-in spaces under the side porches, adding a third-story kitchen, and filling in the back summer kitchen with clapboarding. If two Smith brothers had an interst in this house, its title was never split into two deeds.

This house was valued at $1,241 in the 1918 tax ledger and its measurements were given as 22 by 36 feet. (11) George Smith was then the owner but, in 1923, he sold to Lewis C. Ruhl. (12) In 1947, Walter S. and Lesba G. Ruhl sold to Charles Benson Kline (13), who one year later sold to Kenneth C. Bollinger. (14) The next owner was Mary R. Blundon (1956), who became Mrs. William Stanley Smith as disclosed in a deed of 1969. (15, 16). The Smiths (not related to the "brothers") sold to Horace A. Palmer and Rebecca Palmer in November 1979. (17) Considerable restoration work was carried out in 1980 and 1981 and continues. The stable has been converted into a two-level cottage for Mr. Palmer's daughter and her husband.

The significance of this house lies in its design and decora-

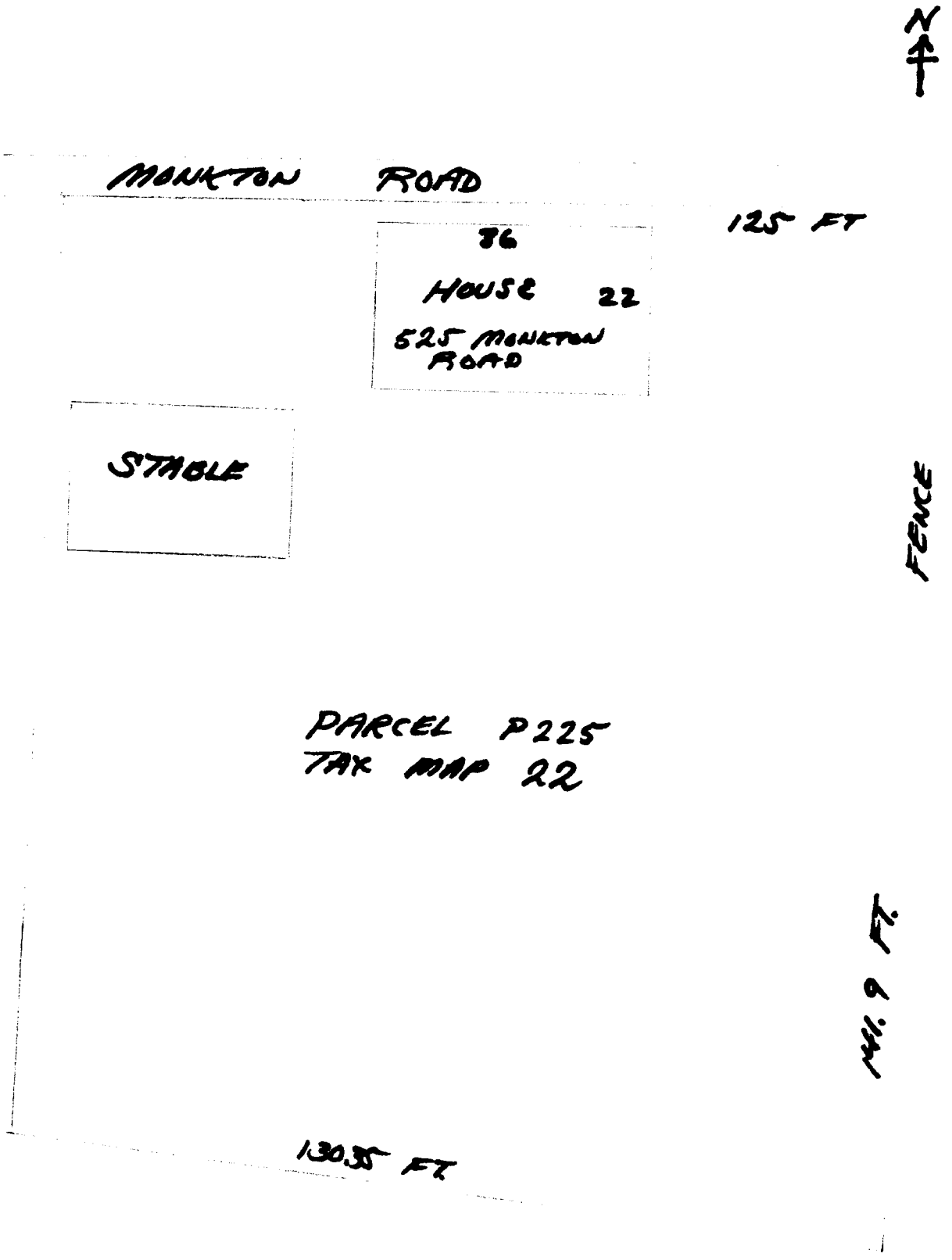
tion and the exuberance of its execution. Most of the decorative features are for the enjoyment of the passerby because the interior was always very plain. The Smiths were apparently excellent craftsmen driven by some impulse to out-Victorian the Victorians in applied decoration.

NOTES:

1. Baltimore County Deeds, JB 85:228.
2. Baltimore County Orphans Court, Account of Sales, JBM 7:369. Inventories, OPM 10:611-613; OPM 11:237.
3. G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Baltimore County Maryland, (Philadelphia, 1877).
4. Assessor's Field Book, District No. 7, 1876, n.p.
5. Ledger 6-9 (1877--), f. 177 (Records Management Storage Area, Towson).
6. Baltimore County Deeds, WPC 351:51.
7. Maryland State Business Directory, (Baltimore, 1878), p. 530.
8. B.C. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1896, Entry #551-125.
9. Personal Communication from Horace A. Palmer, July 1981. Other data from Mrs. Beulah A. Bull, daughter of former owner, 1980, 1981. The Conn House was advertised as a two-story house with an attic and a rear wing, or "back building" in the Maryland Journal, Towson, August 2, 1873.
10. Painted date board, now incorporated into the siding on north facade of stable. Observed November 5, 1981.
11. B.C. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 774.
12. B.C. Deeds, WPC 573:585.
13. B.C. Deeds, JWB 1542:185.
14. B.C. Deeds, TBS 1654:564.
15. B.C. Deeds, GLB 2975:103.
16. B.C. Deeds, OTG 4976:46.
17. B.C. Deeds, EHK, JR. 6119:84.

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931

PROPERTY MAP
1 INCH = 20 FEET



SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE - List of Color Slides BA-931

1.	Main (north) and west elevations, also rear wing	June 1980
2.	Main (north) facade	June 1980
3.	Applied decoration, west front door	Nov. 1981
4.	Main facade and east end from NE	Nov. 1981
5.	East end from east	Nov. 1981
6.	Rear, from south	Nov. 1981
7.	SW corner from SW	Nov. 1981
8.	West end, second story, jerkinhead roof	June 1980
9.	West end, crests and western cupola	Nov. 1981
10.	Typical window frame, 2nd story front	Nov. 1981
11.	Typical paneled door, attic apartment	Nov. 1981
12.	Interior of front cross-gable, attic apartment	Nov. 1981
13.	Interior of gable end window sashes, attic apt.	Nov. 1981
14.	Stable, main (north) facade and west end	June 1981
15.	Stable, main (north) facade from north	Nov. 1981
16.	Stable, main (north) facade, applied decoration	Nov. 1981
17.	Stable, main (north) facade, cross-gable decoration	Nov. 1981
18.	Stable, rear, incl. vergeboards and cupola	Nov. 1981
19.	Stable, east end	Nov. 1981
20.	Stable, west end and NW corner	Nov. 1981

NOTE: This building has not been repainted. The cream-colored tones in the views of the north side result from late evening sunshine near the summer solstice when light can be found on the north facade.

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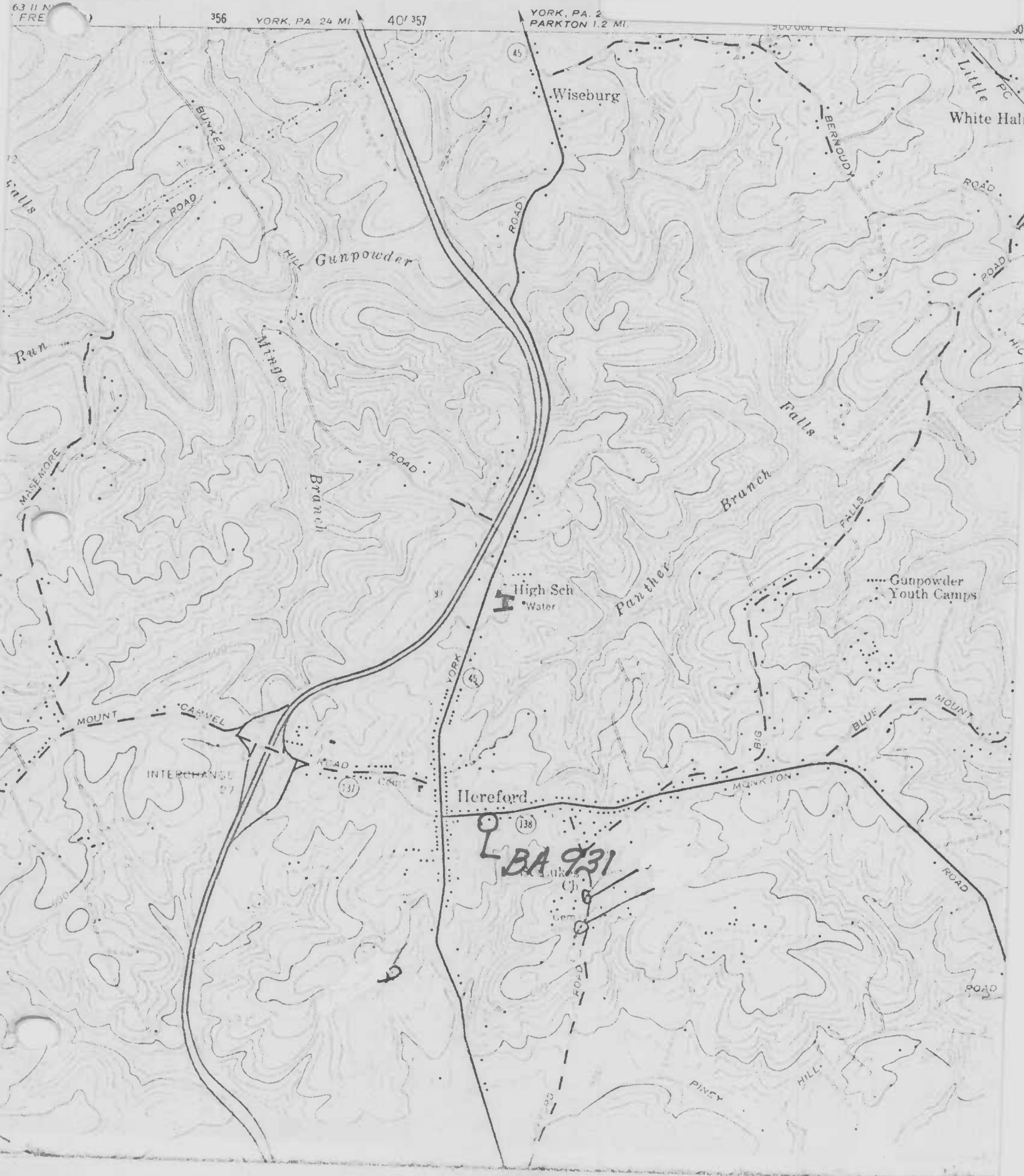
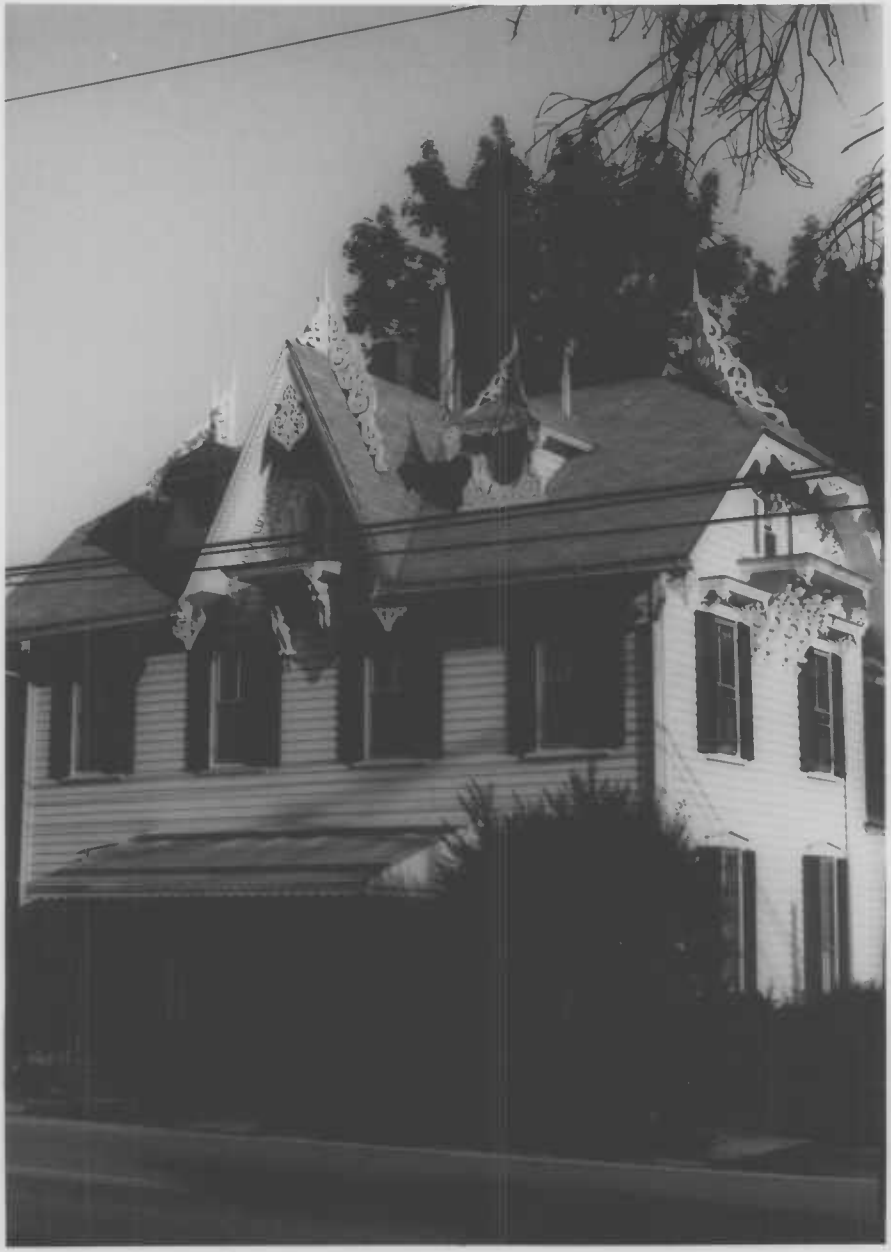
F ENGINEERS

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA-931

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quad
HEREFORD



SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain June 1980
Neg. located at MHT
Main (north) & west elevations
Photo 1 of 14



SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain June 1980
Neg. located at MHT
Main (north) facade
Photo 2 of 14

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain June 1980
Neg. located at MHT
West end, jerkinhead roof
Photo 3 of 14

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Nov. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Main fac. & east end from east
Photo 4 of 14

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Nov. 1981
East end from east
Photo 5 of 14

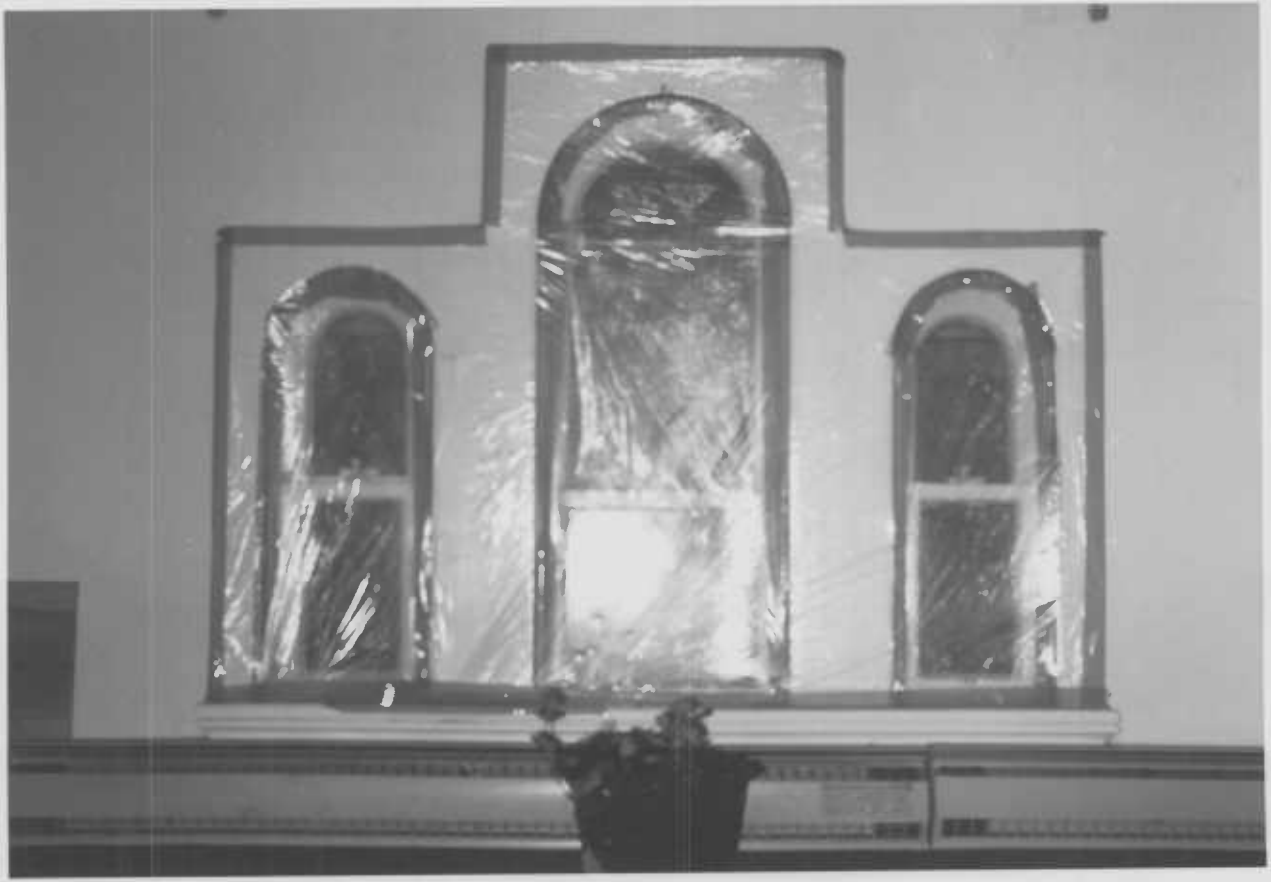
SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Nov. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Rear, from south
Photo 7 of 14

525

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Nov. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Applied decoration, west front door
Photo 6 of 14

30 SECONDS

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Nov. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Interior of front cross-gable, attic apartment
Photo 8 of 14



SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Nov. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Interior of gable-end window sashes,
attic apartment
Photo 9 of 14

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931A
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Nov. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Stable, main (north) g facade
Photo 10 of 14

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931A
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Nov. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Stable (main) north facade, applied decoration
Photo 11 of 14

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931A
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Nov. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Stable, rear
Photo 13 of 14

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931A
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain Nov. 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Stable, east end
Photo 12 of 14

SMITH BROTHERS HOUSE BA 931A
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain November 1981
Neg. located at MHT
Stable, main (north) facade & west end
Photo 14 of 14