

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Parkton Hotel

and/or common Parkton Hotel

2. Location

street & number 18,848 York Road n/a not for publication

city, town Parkton n/a vicinity of congressional district Second

state Maryland code 24 county Baltimore code 005

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name John M. and Dorothy R. Hicks

street & number 18,848 York Road

city, town Parkton n/a vicinity of state Maryland 21120

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue

city, town Towson state Maryland 21204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

1983 federal state county local

repository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

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Continuation sheet Parkton Hotel Item number 7 Page 2
Baltimore County, MarylandGENERAL DESCRIPTION

The rear wall of the extension is four bays broad. A one-story shed-roofed porch runs across the three northernmost (right-hand end) bays. The open part of the porch has three round posts with scroll brackets. The northern part of the porch is enclosed, and is punctuated by one window. The six windows visible at the rear of the hotel (three at each level, irregularly placed) are 3-over 3 types similar to others in the structure. The north end of this extension is two bays deep with an open wooden stairway leading to a door at second story level. The other three fenestration positions in this wing, both upstairs and down, are occupied by windows similar to the others.

Each end of the extension has a centrally located end-chimney. The foundation is stone.

The rear of the house faces the Gunpowder Falls across its back yard, and enjoys a moderate elevation above normal flow level. Prior owners reported a 4-foot inundation in the first story in 1972. The current owners have experienced one flood with a level of 1½ to two feet inside. The southeast corner of the property adjoins the oldest known stone-arch bridge in Maryland (Site BA-593).

The interior of the hotel was originally very plain, with flat plastered walls and undecorated ceilings. All ceilings are nine feet high on the first floor. The present wooden cornices are 4½ inch wooden crown moulding, added by the current owners after 1973. There is a six-foot wide center hall flanked on either side by the former public rooms. The main door originally had one large pane of corrugated glass, but it was vandalized prior to 1973 and its replacement installed c. 1974 is a close match to corrugated glass found in the gallery door on the second story. The 30-foot long hall contains a plain, straight staircase with oak treads, oak newell post and banister, and square balusters. Under the stairway was the only closet on this story, now converted to a powder room with exposed brick walls. The northwest room (now a family room), once used as the Parkton Post Office, is lined with vertical wooden wainscoting to 4 feet 3 inches above the floor. This former post office contains a fireplace now equipped with a stock mantel of the Victorian period (a replacement from Hill House, Parkton); the mantel decorations consist of spandrels and a round center cartouche. To the rear of the post office is the present kitchen, also equipped with a fireplace; the kitchen mantel is very plain, one of the few originals in the house. With the removal of a partition that separated the postal room from the present kitchen, the two fireplaces appear to have been intended as twins.

The southwest room, the present living room, has an elegant wooden fireplace mantel, also a replacement (acquired from a nearby antique shop); this mantel is set in a projecting chimney breast. The fireplace opening is framed by fluted pilasters and topped by a frieze with rectangular tablet and endblocks. The mantel shelf is of simple design.

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Continuation sheet Parkton Hotel Baltimore County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The southwest room has a solid four-panel door opening on the front porch. The present westernmost window opening has been adapted from a former door that gave access to the wrap-around porch facing the public highway. The large sash window in this opening is decorated with bands of stained glass panes of various colors. A photo of 1970 shows a door in this position.

The rear southeast room in the main brick section is divided from the living room by sliding paneled doors (of oak) recessed into the party walls. The entrance to the former hotel dining room is blocked by new book shelves across the east wall. This rear, southeast room has a small fireplace in its southwest corner but its chimney is now needed by the furnace system. The mantel is a replacement, but very similar to those stripped from the house by prior owners. An artifact from Baltimore City, the mantel has an overmantel with rectangular mirror; there is a small bracketed shelf under the mirror. The main shelf is supported by round fluted columns; rather than a central tablet, there is a carved anchor symbol flanked by garlands on the frieze.

This southeast room or library has a formal entrance opening onto the side porch; its crystal glass door is flanked by sidelights (in a fern pattern, of frosted glass); the door is topped by a transom with one long glass light. The cut crystal glass is original.

The remaining rooms on the first level are all in the rear wing, which is an add-on, a balloon-framed wooden appendage (1884) with certain applied Victorian features on the outside, almost no stylistic elements inside. This annex includes a former kitchen and the very plain hotel dining room, where there is one fireplace, also very plain. The windows are generally stock items of the late Victorian period, usually 2-over-2 double-hung sashes.

The rear wing provides a closed back stairway that leads up to an original wooden swinging gate. Beyond the gate are French doors that lead to the various rear hotel bedrooms, including a spacious Edwardian bath where the claw-footed tub stands in the middle of the room, rather than against a wall. Ceilings are nine feet high. Transoms over the room doors are hinged at the sides.

There are four rooms in the rear wing, five in the front portion built of brick. The southwest room in the brick portion is the best chamber, now a master bedroom, with a fireplace and a door that leads out onto the wrap-around gallery. The small master bedroom fireplace has a wooden mantel with a plain frieze, plain pilasters, and simple mantel shelf; the wood had once been "grained" with paint or varnish, but has been sanded down to the natural surface. The southeast bedroom in the brick portion contains a small fireplace that is flanked by a tall narrow closet with numerous shelves. This fireplace mantel is also extremely plain, with undecorated shelf, plain frieze, plain pilasters, the wood stained to resemble oak.

BA-933

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Parkton Hotel

Continuation sheet Baltimore County, Maryland

Item number

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The three rooms on the north were originally equipped with flues to vent stoves and were built without fireplaces.

The long center hall also provides a door to the gallery.

The third story contains four hotel bedrooms with eight-foot ceilings, each room supplied with a deep dormer. There is also a dormer at the east end of the central hall. A fifth room is a linen closet at the west end of the hall; it measures 6 feet 3 inches wide by 11 feet deep, and is lighted by the middle dormer of the main facade.

The present owners opened a small access panel into the space over the third floor rooms to inspect the chimneys. There is room to stand erect under the ridge line but there are no windows or vents. Mr. Hicks was able to observe a small part of the roofing rafters, which are nailed rather than pegged, of sawn timber, about 12 by 1-inch material.

The attic rooms are all plastered, including the slanted ceilings directly under the roofing.

The hotel had once been fitted with a home gas system (no city gas is available, even at present), and the remnants of gas pipes are found here and there, and one complete brass jet survives in the former post office room.

In sum, there are 19 full-sized rooms (including two over-sized baths), four halls, three storage rooms, (utility, pantry, and linen), and one powder room. The rear, first story porch had formerly been enclosed, but the present owners have reopened the space.

8. Significance

BA-933

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

Specific dates	1850-1860	Builder Architect	unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criteria: A, C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Parkton Hotel is significant for its association with the development of transportation in the 19th century between the important market centers of York, Pennsylvania and Baltimore, Maryland. In the mid-nineteenth century, the primary transportation links between these points were the Baltimore and York Town Turnpike, completed in 1810, and the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad, which opened in 1838. The Parkton Hotel, constructed in 1850-1860, was advantageously sited at an intersection of these major arteries and accommodated travelers using both modes. Of the many hotels which were integral to Baltimore County's nineteenth-century transportation network, only six remain. The Parkton Hotel derives additional significance from its architecture, which embodies the distinctive characteristics of mid-to-late 19th century lodgings in rural northern Maryland in its brick construction, simple massing, multiple entrances, limited interior and exterior ornament. Pennsylvania influence is reflected in the two story porch which spans the west facade; the building retains a high degree of integrity.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Parkton Hotel is a place of public accommodation built to take advantage of an interstate railroad (the Baltimore and Susquehanna) that passed through the region in 1838. The main facade of the hotel was aligned with the railroad while its left-hand end was aligned with a pay-highway, the Baltimore and Yorktown Turnpike Road. Parkton was a stopping place on the railroad and later the scene of a water-tank and a company office and maintenance depot. The turnpike brought much farm produce through the town as well as cattle on the hoof before rail transport became the most accepted mode of shipment. Turnpikes and railroads made it easy to get farm products to the large market in Baltimore City where crops could be sold for cash. Progressive farmers could easily import guano and bone dust from city processors. The hotel belonged to the single wealthy family that owned the entire village and its mill (BA-180). The hotel seems to have appeared between the publications of the 1850 county map (which showed only Mrs. Parke's store here) and 1860, when Mrs. Parke's inventory mentioned a "bar account." In 1862, a hotel was advertised in the county weekly. The hotel-keepers were tenants of the Turner-Parke family. The mill is known to have been built for Congressman James Turner, who lived until 1861; it is likely that the hotel was also built during his lifetime. The founding family sold the hotel in 1892. It seems to have reverted to a private dwelling between 1911 and 1918. This is a large 2½ story brick building in a mixture of Maryland and Pennsylvania vernacular building styles. There is a full-width front porch at lawn level with a second-story gallery in a style seen more frequently north of the Mason-Dixon Line in Pennsylvania. This is a good example of a voluminous and well constructed rural building.

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Continuation sheet Parkton Hotel
Baltimore County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 5

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Such hotels were once found at almost every mile along the web of turnpikes that radiated from Baltimore, but now only two remain on Liberty Road, one in Reisterstown, and on the York Road, only the Weisburg Inn (BA-62), Parkton Hotel (BA-933), and the Maryland Line Hotel (BA-992).

Parkton had been served by a railroad since 1838, but when the 1850 county map was published by J. C. Sidney, there was almost no development near the depot other than a "store" shown as that of Mrs. M. Parke. Mrs. Parke was the daughter of Congressman James Turner who owned most of the property in the vicinity and had built the Turner Mill (BA-180). Mrs. Parke's inventory taken in 1860 mentioned a "Bar Account," the first clue to a hotel.¹ The first firm mention of an inn was in an 1862 advertisement placed by Oliver T. Kelly who announced that he had taken over the "store and hotel at Parkton" from Peter G. Hunter.² The following year, Henry M. Hoffacker advertised that he was conducting the "Parkton Hotel."³ When the first commercial directory covering the entire state was published in 1866, W. M. Hoffacker was listed as hotel keeper at Parkton.⁴

There is no clue to the origin of the building in the Transfer Book covering 1853-1866, where new structures were periodically added to the tax base. The first generation of Towson tax ledgers (c. 1851) has been lost. However, it is logical to suggest that the hotel was built during the lifetime of Congressman Turner - some time before 1861. Hotels, like mills, were often capitalistic ventures of landed families, to be operated by tenants, as was the case with the Ten Mile House on the Reisterstown Road (BA-42) and Dr. Ephraim Bell's Maryland Line Hotel (BA-992), or the Cockeysville Hotel (BA-515), all in Baltimore County.

In 1876, the Assessor's Field Book listed "Parkton Hotel" among the assets of Martha Turner.⁵ Miss Turner was a granddaughter of the original settler of the neighborhood, a Captain James Calder, and had received a large share of the original property in 1874 following an inter-family lawsuit.⁶ Her share was then called "Parkton Hotel Property."

The hotel faced the railroad line, and its south boundary was formed by the pay-road, the Baltimore and York Town Turnpike. Thus, it was convenient to the two main arteries of trade through the center of the county. The hotel was an unidentified square at that intersection in the 1877 atlas, where J. Scott Price (a Turner descendent) was listed as hotel keeper at Parkton in the tabulated patron list.⁷

In 1884, a local newspaper reported, "Parkton Hotel has been enlarged, renovated, and repainted by its proprietor, J. S. Price."⁸

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Following the death of Mrs. Turner, the hotel was shown on a plat drawn in 1892 in connection with the disposition of the property.⁹ The Turner executor sold in October 1892 to William Ensor.¹⁰ Ensor acquired 1.3 acres, the same area that is shown in his account by the 1896 tax ledger where the "Improvements thereon" were valued at \$1325.¹¹

The 1911 tax ledger listed a "Hotel and Dwelling owned by William Ensor."¹² However, in the 1918 ledger, when Annie R. Fishel was owner, only dwellings were charged to her account.¹³ The structure had apparently ceased to serve as a hotel as times changed and fewer halfway facilities were needed along the roads.

In 1956, when the property was involved in a lawsuit, the owners were uncertain of its age and William Fowble, a real estate broker, estimated its age at 80 years, which was clearly an underestimate.¹⁴ The witnesses verified that it was indeed an "old hotel." One witness stated:

There is not sufficient money to keep it in repair and pay insurance, and recently the taxes have been increased. It will go down on a pile unless it is sold and some money spent on it.¹⁵

The testimony of William Fowble contained a number of interesting statements:

It is a large house with 19 rooms and a bath and a big central hall, and a cellar under the main house. The main building is three stories high, and is 30 feet by 36 feet. The frame portion is approximately 18 feet by 30 feet and is two stories high. There is also a one story frame section which is about 6 feet x 20 feet, which is built onto that, and there is a small porch in front. The main house has a front porch on the south and west sides. There is a double-decker porch roof is very bad ... I would be afraid to walk on the top porch spouting ... practically gone ...

The main building is approximately 30 feet by 36 feet and is brick The Brick portion is three stories high and the frame portion is two ...

Yes, the interior of the property needs a complete overhauling. The papering has come off, the woodwork needs painting, the floors need dressing, and the plaster needs repairing seven rooms and a large hallway on the first floor with an open stairway, eight rooms on the third floor

... roof is tin and is leaking ... no electricity ... age? ... about 80 years

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Trustee Lawrence E. Ensor advertised the "Parkton Hotel" in the Jeffersonian of September 14, 1956, and sold to Julia Shaul and Aerial M. Baily.¹⁷ Those co-owners sold in 1972 to Earl and Rhoda V. Ensor.¹⁸ Photos of 1970 show the property much improved from the condition described in the 1956 lawsuit. However, the floods of 1972 and 1975 damaged the hotel, but it was undergoing restoration in 1976 and in 1980 presented a good appearance.¹⁹

This property contained a separate frame store building at one time, which was in this century operated by Milton Stiffler; it was the same place or on the same spot as a store fronting directly on the turnpike that was shown in the 1850 map. There had also been a post office and a millinery shop in the hotel structure itself.

The residents in this part of Parkton are anxious to have the former NCCR plate girder bridge (no MHT number assigned) removed to stop the piling up of debris during high water periods.

NOTES:

¹Baltimore County Orphans Court Inventories, JLR 4:164.

²Baltimore County Advocate, Towson, January 18, 1862.

³Baltimore County Advocate, January 24, 1863.

⁴Maryland State Business Directory (New York, 1866), p. 125.

⁵Assessor's Field Book, District 7, 1876, n.p.

⁶Judicial Records, JB 41:86 (1874).

⁷G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1877).

⁸Maryland Journal, Towson, September 6, 1844, p. 3, col. 3.

⁹B. C. Plats, JWS 1:79, 79A.

¹⁰B. C. Deeds, LMB 194:284.

¹¹Assessment Ledger, District 7, 1896, entry #175-33.

¹²Tax Ledger, District 7, 1911, f. 499.

¹³Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 513.

¹⁴Judicial Records, GLB 577:406.

9. Major Bibliographical References

BA-933

Baltimore County Judicial Records, Deeds, Tax Ledgers.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.897 acre

Quadrangle name New Freedom, Md.-Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8	3	5	7	6	0	0	4	3	8	9	0	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #8

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor, under MHT contract

organization Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning date April 7, 1980 (revised & updated June 1983)

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue telephone (301) 494-3521

city or town Towson state Maryland 21204

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] 10-25-83

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register date

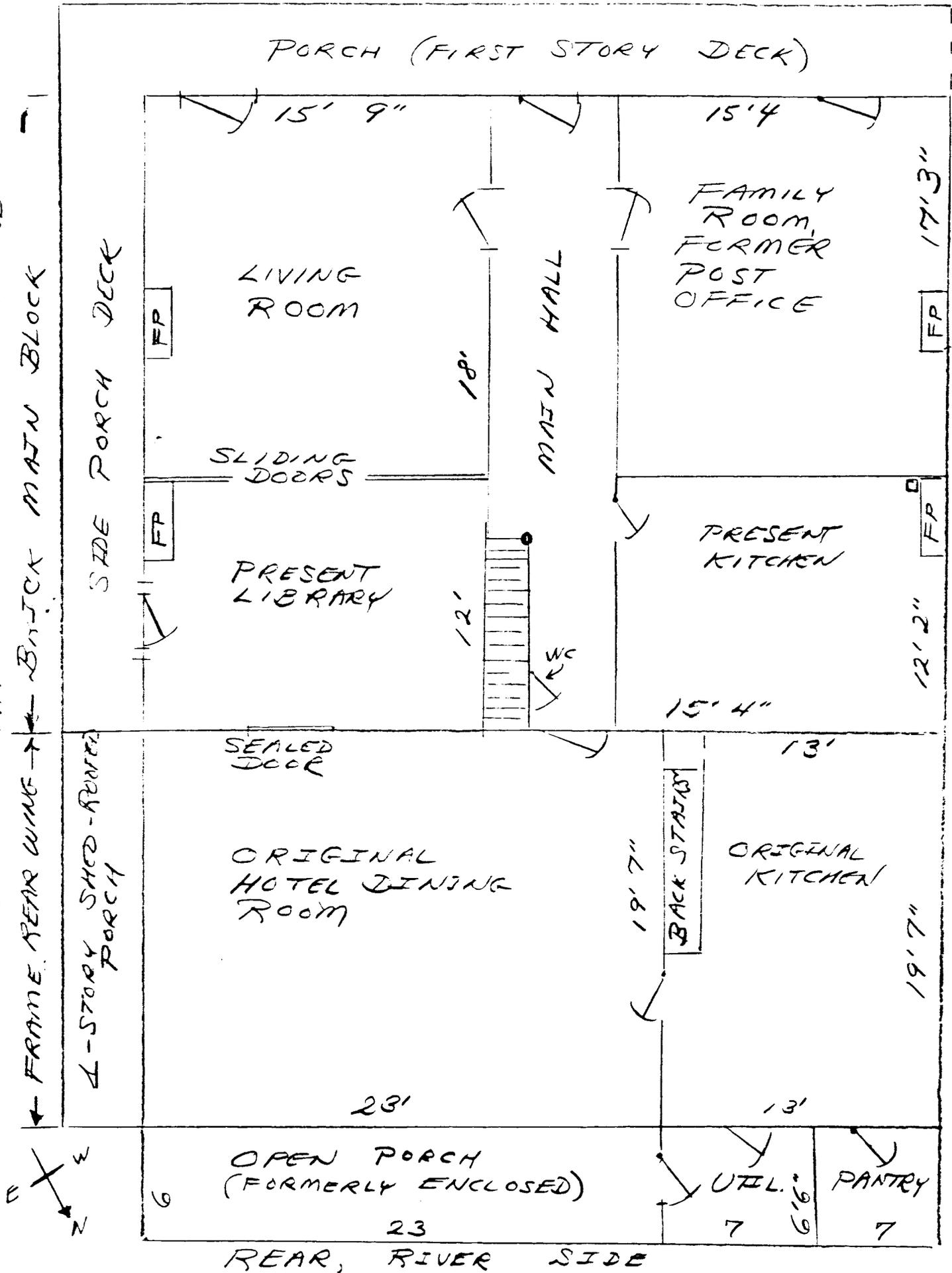
Attest: date

Chief of Registration

MAIN FACADE, FACING RAILROAD

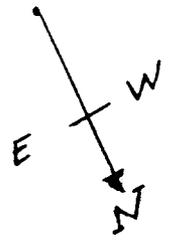
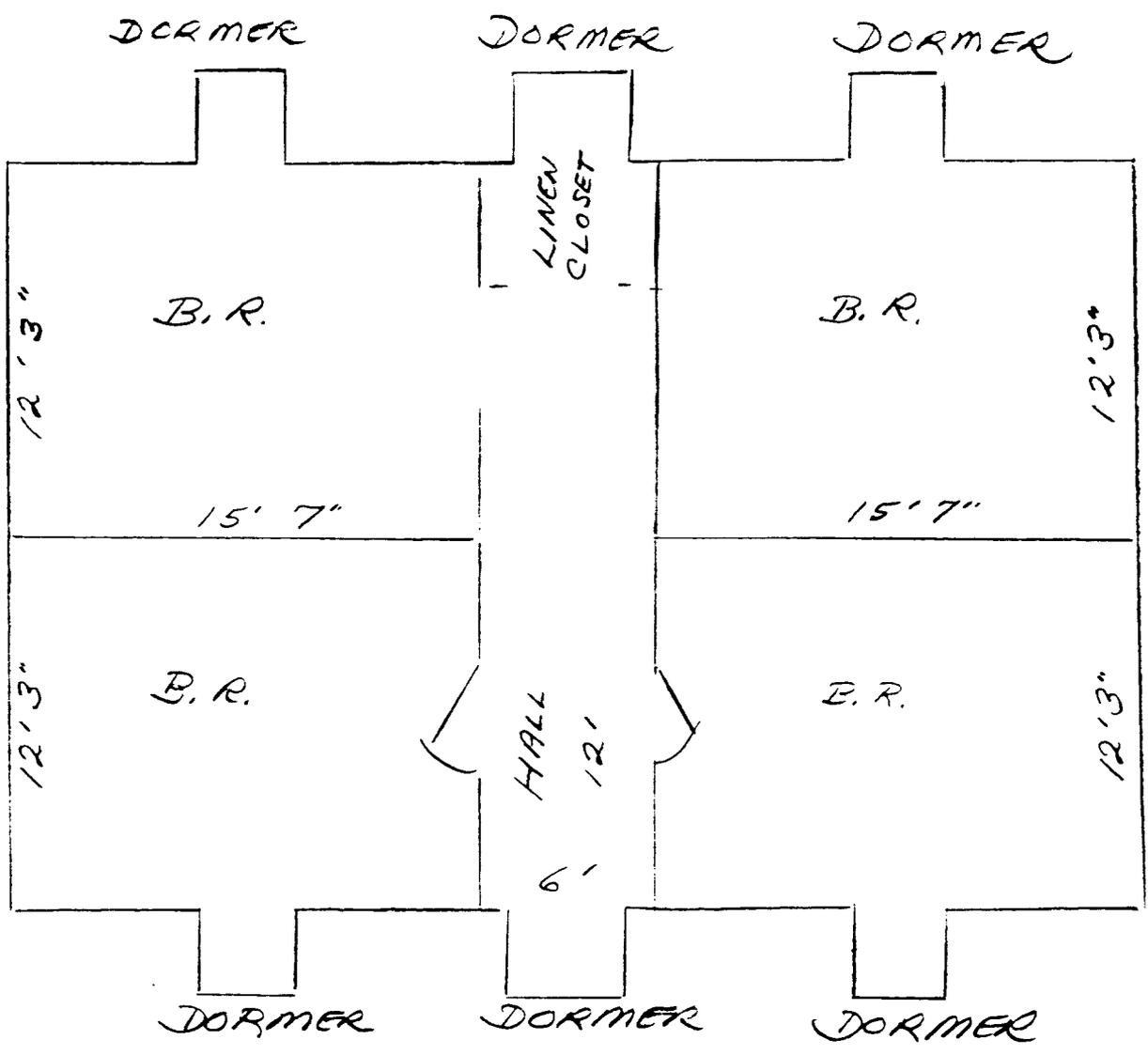
BA 933

SOUTH ELEVATION, FACED W/ DARK TERRAZZO
 FRAME REAR WING → BRICK MAIN BLOCK



PARKTON HOTEL - FIRST STORY

TRACK-SIDE, MAIN FACADE



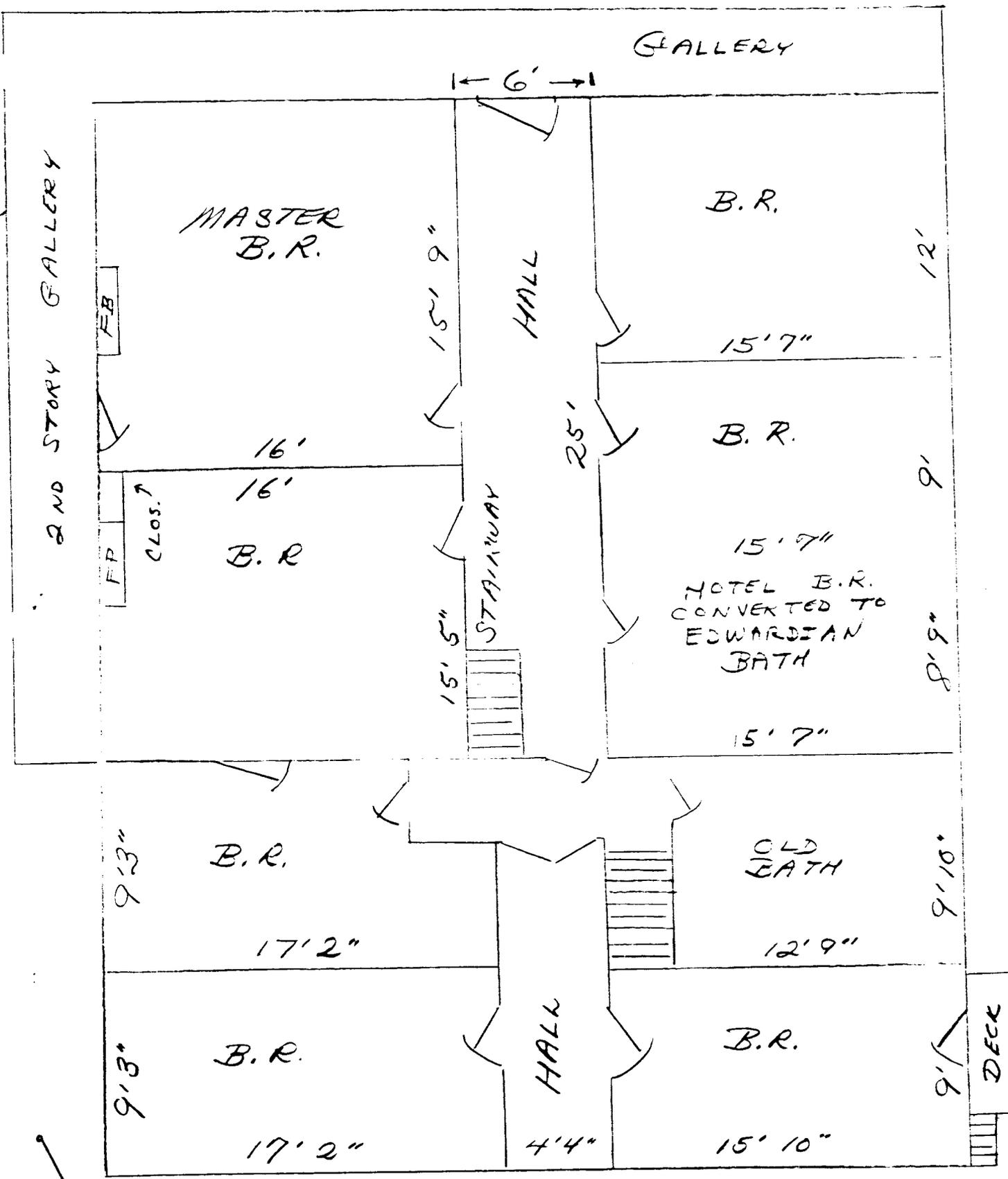
REAR - RIVER SIDE

PARKTON HOTEL - THIRD STOREY

FRONT - THACK SIDE

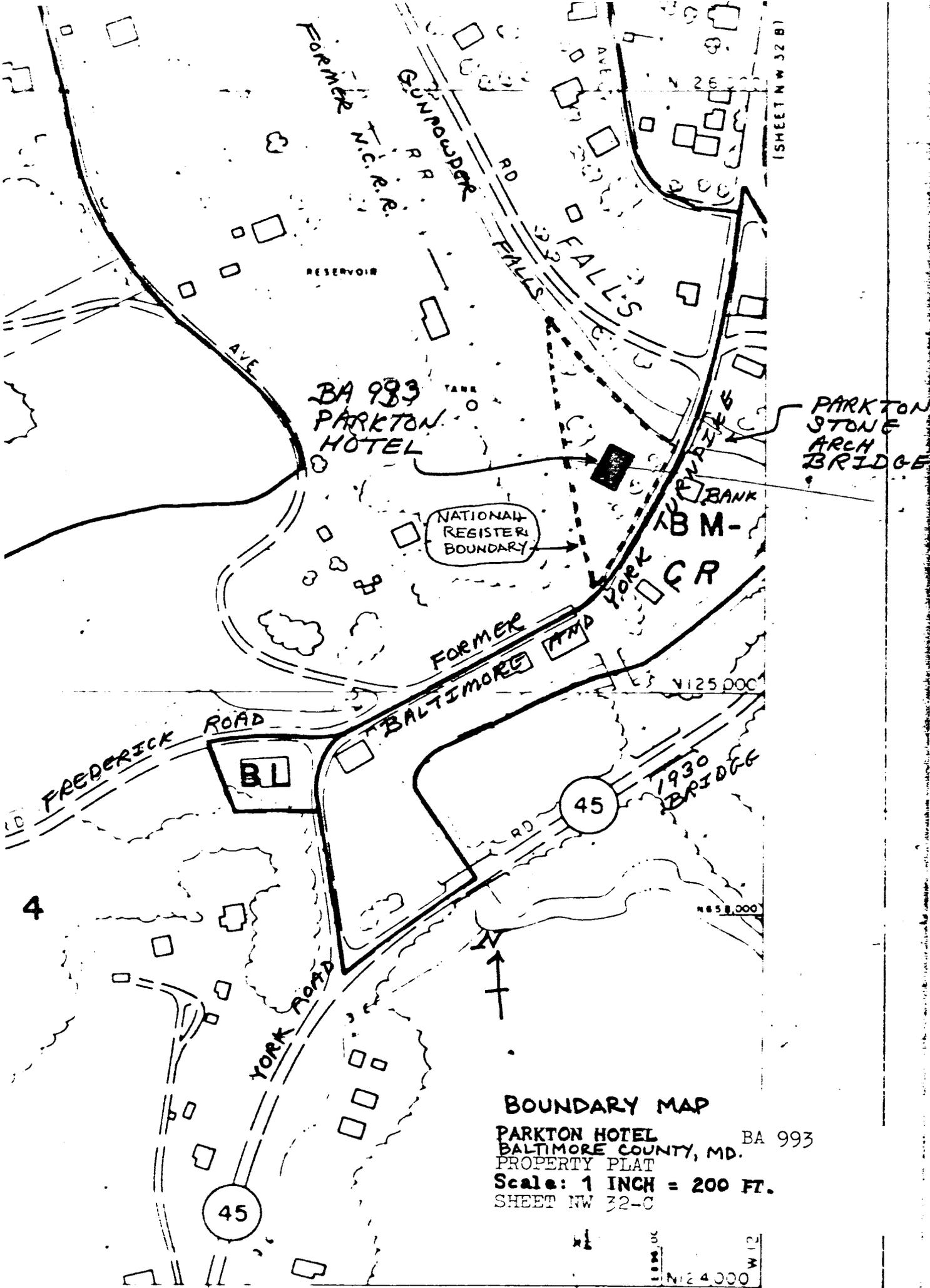
BA 933

2ND STORY GALLERY
1ST STORY GALLERY
FR
CLOS.
FP
MAIN BLOCK, BRICK



REAR, RIVER SIDE

PARKTON HOTEL - SECOND STORY



SHEET NW 32 B1

BA 993
PARKTON
HOTEL

NATIONAL
REGISTER
BOUNDARY

PARKTON
STONE
ARCH
BRIDGE

FORMER
BALTIMORE
AND
YORK
CR

FREDERICK ROAD

BALTIMORE

1930
BRIDGE

BOUNDARY MAP

PARKTON HOTEL BA 993
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD.
PROPERTY PLAT
Scale: 1 INCH = 200 FT.
SHEET NW 32-C

N 12 4 000 W 12

PARKTON HOTEL

1350-1363

PARKTON

PRIVATE

This brick, 2-1/2 story hotel in vernacular style is not found on the 1850 map but a hotel here was listed in Maryland's first business directory in 1866, with W.M. Hoffacker as operator. The hotel was an investment property of Martha Turner who had inherited most of the surrounding town and country. The hotel appears in the 1877 atlas and in plats drawn of the Turner estate. William Evans bought the hotel in 1892. It was last listed as a hotel in the 1911 tax ledger. The property was described as going to ruin in a 1956 lawsuit, but by 1970 had been visibly restored, only to be damaged by floods in 1972 and 1975, necessitating further restoration. The brick portion has its main facade facing the former railroad; there are porches at two levels; the main facade is five bays across, providing three doors at ground level. Three dormers open from the main facade. There is also a wrap-around porch on the south (or York Turnpike side). An entire rear wing of frame forms the rear of the house and contains decorative elements in Italianate style, including bracketing and parapets.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC PARKTON HOTEL

AND/OR COMMON

18,848 York Road (MD 463)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

18,848 York Road (MD 463)

CITY, TOWN

Parkton

___ VICINITY OF

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John M. and Dorothy R. Hicks

Telephone #: 343-0204

STREET & NUMBER

18,848 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Parkton

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: EHK 5336

Folio #: 247

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 STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Parkton Hotel is a large, complex building of brick and frame, 2½ stories maximum height, in the Pennsylvania vernacular style that is found in northern Maryland. The brick portion is the main block, 2½ stories, its two-deck galleries facing the former railroad line across a lawn, the side gallery facing the former turnpike road. The brick section is five bays wide, three bays deep. Six gable-roofed dormers protrude through the standing-seam sheet metal of the gable main roof; there is a set of three dormers with 2-over-2 double-hung sash windows on each slope of the roof. This house has a total of nine doors opening on the outside.

There are three front entrances, one centered, the others in the bays at either end of the hotel. The first-story porch is only one step above grade. Windows are 6-over-6 double-hung sash types on this level. The second-story gallery is supported by eight columns, some round, some square. The upper deck is sheltered by a shed roof. A central door opens onto the gallery, flanked on each side by 6-over-6 windows. The gallery roof is supported by a total of twelve posts, including the side porch. The gallery is surrounded by a wooden railing. Both the main front entrance door in the southernmost bay (locally called a "coffin door") and the door leading to the gal-

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
REHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES **1850-1860**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Parkton Hotel is a good example of a place of public accommodation built to take advantage of an interstate railroad (the Baltimore and Susquehanna) that passed through the region in 1838. The main facade of the hotel was aligned with the railroad while its left-hand end was aligned with a pay-road, the Baltimore and Yorktown Turnpike Road. Parkton was a stopping place on the railroad and later the scene of a water-tank and company office. The turnpike brought much farm produce through the town as well as cattle on the hoof before rail transport became the most accepted mode of shipment. The hotel belonged to the single wealthy family that owned the entire village and its mill (BA-180). The date of construction has not been established from tax records or from family papers, but it seems to have appeared between the 1850 map (which showed only a Mrs. Parke's store here) and 1860, when Mrs. Parke's inventory mentioned a "bar account." In 1863, a public auction was advertised to take place at Hoffacker's Hotel. Henry Hoffacker was presumably the tenant of the Turner family. The mill is known to have been built by Congressman James Turner, but, since he died in 1861, it is very likely that the hotel was also an enterprise of his tenure. The founding family sold off the hotel in 1892. It seems to have reverted to a private dwelling between 1911 and 1918. This is a large, 2½-story brick building in a mixture of Maryland and Pennsylvania building styles. There is a full-width front porch and a covered porch at second-story level in a style seen more often across the Mason-Dixon line in Pennsylvania. This is a good example of a voluminous and well-constructed vernacular building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PARKTON HOTEL 24-733

Baltimore County Judicial Records, Deeds, Tax Ledgers.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.897

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

S33-3/4E	105 ft	S55½W	70 ft
S57½E	114 ft along Gunp. Falls	N34½W	40 ft
S46½E	100 ft " " "	N55W	215 ft along lane
S30½W	159 ft along York Turnpike	S30½W	79 ft
S55E	215 ft along lane	Five courses along N.C.R.R. to the BG	
N75E	80 ft		
S4W	20 ft		

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

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore County Office of Planning & Zoning

DATE

April 7, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3521

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

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

The rear wall of the extension is four bays broad. A one-story shed-roofed porch runs across the three northernmost (right-hand end) bays. The open part of the porch has three round posts with scroll brackets. The northern part of the porch is enclosed, and is punctuated by one window. The six windows visible at the rear of the hotel (three at each level, irregularly placed) are 2-over-2 types similar to others in the structure. The north end of this extension is two bays deep with an open wooden stairway leading to a door at second-story level. The other three fenestration positions in this wing, both upstairs and down, are occupied by windows similar to the others.

Each end of the extension has a centrally located end-chimney. The foundation is stone.

The rear of the house faces the Gunpowder Falls across its back yard, and enjoys a moderate elevation above normal flow level. Prior owners reported a 4-foot inundation in the first story in 1972. The current owners have experienced one flood with a level of 1½ to two feet inside. The southeast corner of the property adjoins the oldest known stone-arch bridge in Maryland (Site BA 593).

The interior of the hotel was originally very plain, with flat plastered walls and undecorated ceilings. All ceilings are nine feet high on this floor. The present wooden mouldings have been added by the current owners. There is a six-foot wide center hall flanked on either side by the former public rooms. The main door originally had one large pane of corrugated glass, but it was vandalized and its replacement is clear glass. The 30-foot-long hall contains a plain, straight staircase with oak treads, oak newell post and banister, and square balusters. Under the stairway was the only closet on this story, now converted to a powder room with exposed brick walls. The northwest room (now a family room), once used as the Parkton Post Office, is wainscoted and contains a narrow fireplace, now equipped with a stock mantel of the Victorian period (a replacement). To the rear is the present kitchen, also with a matching fireplace. With the removal of a partition that separated the post office from its rear room, the fireplaces appear to have been intended as twins.

The southwest room, the present living room, has an elegant wooden fireplace mantel, also a replacement (brought about a mile from Hill House, Site No. BA 1152). This room has a solid four-panel door opening on the front porch. The present southeast window opening had once been equipped with French doors giving access to the east deck of the wraparound porch; the large sash window presently occupying this opening is decorated with bands of stained glass panes of various colors.

The rear east room of the main brick section is divided from the living room by sliding paneled doors (of oak) recessed into the party walls. The entrance to the former hotel dining room is blocked by new book shelves across the east wall. This rear east

room has an active fireplace in its southwest corner but its chimney is now needed by the furnace system. The overmantel has a rectangular mirror. This room has a formal entrance opening onto the side porch; its glass door is flanked by narrow sidelights and topped by a rectangular transom with one long glass light. The main pane in this door is an original light of cut crystal glass.

The remaining rooms on the first level are all in the rear wing, which is an after-thought, a balloon-framed wooden addition with certain applied Victorian features on the outside, almost no stylistic elements inside. This annex includes a former kitchen and the very plain hotel dining room, where there is one fireplace. The windows are generally stock items of the mid-to-late Victorian period, usually 2-over-2 double-hung sashes.

The rear wing provides a closed back stairway that leads up to an original wooden swinging gate. Beyond the gate are French doors that lead to the various rear hotel bedrooms, including a spacious Edwardian bath where the claw-footed tub stands in the middle of the room, rather than against a wall. Ceilings are nine feet high. Transoms over the room doors are hinged at the sides.

There are four rooms in the rear wing, five in the main portion built of brick. The southwest room in the brick portion is the best room, now a master bedroom, with a fireplace and a door leading to the gallery which wraps around both south and west facades of the brick block. The southeast room contains a fireplace which is flanked by a tall, narrow closet with numerous shelves. The fireplaces had once been decorated with an artificial pattern of marble design.

The three rooms on the north were originally equipped with flues to serve stoves and were built without fireplaces.

The long center hall also provides a door to the gallery.

The third story contains four hotel bedrooms with eight-foot ceilings, each room supplied with a deep dormer. There is also a dormer at the east end of the central hall. A fifth room is a linen closet at the west end of the hall; it measures 6' 3" wide by 11' deep, and is lighted by the middle dormer of the main facade.

The present owners have opened an access panel into the space over the third floor rooms to inspect the chimneys. There is room to stand erect under the ridge line but there are no windows or vents.

This hotel had once been fitted with a home gas system (no city gas is available, even at present), and the remnants of gas pipes are found here and there, and one complete brass gas jet survives.

In sum, there are 19 full-sized rooms (including two oversized baths), four halls, three storage rooms (utility, pantry, and linen), and one powder room. The rear, first-story porch had formerly been enclosed, but the present owners have reopened the space.

NOTE: Since this hotel is not aligned on a north-south axis, the main facade, which faced the north-south railway, has been called the "west" for purposes of description.

lery deck are topped by transoms with four lights each. All windows are topped by heavy wooden lintels.

The ends of the house are three bays deep. At ground level in the south end, there is a center window flanked by doors. The door in the northeast end is formal, with a large glass light, topped by a transom, flanked by sidelights. One door opens on the second story. At attic level, there are three windows, a pair of four 4-over-4 windows in the center, flanked by two windows of 2-over-2 layout; all these windows are topped by prominent wooden lintels.

Each gable end has twin inside end-chimneys that narrow in width after rising through the roof line. The roof eaves overhang both the side walls and the main and rear facades.

The north end of the brick main block is three bays wide, without doors or porches, every fenestration position at both stories and in the attic occupied by windows matching those on the south end.

The rear wing is a frame and clapboard extension, two bays deep, shed-roofed, its ends disguised by parapets. This less important portion is Italianate Victorian in style, the parapet decorated with a simple architrave and cornice. The side or end facing the street (the turnpike, MD 463) has a shed-roofed porch, with corrugated sheet iron roofing. Three round posts with scroll brackets support this roof. Its deck is only one step above grade, unrailed. Two sash windows at each story face the street in this rear extension, the windows in 2-over-2, double-hung layout. The two window openings at porch level have louvered shutters.

BA-933

Parkton had been served by a railroad since 1838, but when the 1850 County map was published by J. C. Sidney, there was almost no development near the depot other than a "store" shown as Mrs. M. Parke's. Mrs. Parke was the daughter of Congressman James Turner who owned most of the property in the vicinity and had built the Turner Mill (BA-180). Mrs. Parke's inventory taken in 1860 mentioned a "Bar Account." The first firm mention of a stopping place was in an auction notice wherein it was announced that the Wilson Still property was to be disposed of at a sale taking place at "Henry Hoffacker's hotel" on that July 15.

(1) The first commercial directory covering Maryland country towns appeared in 1866, with W. M. Hoffacker listed as hotel keeper at Parkton. (2) It is logical to believe that Hoffacker's and the Parkton Hotel were one and the same, since all the town land belonged to the Calder-Turner family. Such hotels were generally operated by tenants rather than by the families of gentry.

There is no clue to the origin of the building in the Transfer Book covering 1853-1866, where new structures were periodically added to the tax base. The first generation of ledgers has been lost. However, it is logical to suggest that the hotel was built during the lifetime of Congressman Turner—some time before 1861—rather than during the ownership of his female heirs.

In 1876, the Assessor's Field Book listed "Parkton Hotel" among the assets of Martha Turner. (3) Mrs. Turner was a granddaughter of the original settler of the neighborhood, a Captain James Calder, and had received a large share of the original prop-

erty in 1874 following an inter-family lawsuit. (4) Her share was then called "Parkton Hotel Property."

The hotel faced the railroad line, and its south boundary was formed by the pay-road, the Baltimore and York Town Turnpike. Thus, it was convenient to the two main arteries of trade through the center of the County. The hotel is an unidentified square at that intersection in the 1877 atlas, and the atlas patron list showed J. Scott Price, a Turner descendant, as hotel keeper at Parkton. (5)

Following the death of Mrs. Turner, the hotel was shown on a plat made in 1892 in connection with disposal of the property.

(6) The Turner executor sold in October 1892 to William Ensor.

(7) Ensor acquired 1.3 acres and that same area is shown in his account in the 1896 tax ledger with the "Improvements thereon" valued at \$1325. (8)

The 1911 tax ledger listed a "Hotel and Dwelling owned by William Ensor. (9) However, in the 1918 ledger, when Annie R. Fishel was owner, only dwellings were charged to her account.

(10) The structure had apparently ceased to serve as a hotel as times changed and fewer halfway facilities were needed along the roads.

In 1956, when the property was involved in a lawsuit, the owners were uncertain about the age of the place and William A. Fowble, a real estate broker, estimated its age at 80 years, which was probably an underestimate. (11) The witnesses verified that it was indeed an "old hotel." One witness stated:

There is not sufficient money to keep it in repair and pay insurance, and recently the taxes have been increased. It will go down on a pile unless it is sold and some money spent on it. (12)

The testimony of William Fowble contained a number of interesting statements:

It is a large house with 19 rooms and a bath and a big central hall, and a cellar under the main house. The main building is three stories high, and is 30 feet by 36 feet. The frame portion is approximately 18 feet by 30 feet and is two stories high. There is also a one story frame section which is about 6 feet x 20 feet, which is built onto that, and there is a small porch in front. The main house has a front porch on the south and west sides. There is a double-decker porch roof is very bad ... I would be afraid to walk on the top porch spouting ... practically gone ...

The main building is approximately 30 feet by 36 feet and is brick The brick portion is three stories high and the frame portion is two ...

Yes, the interior of the property needs a complete overhauling. The papering has come off, the woodwork needs painting, the floors need dressing, and the plaster needs repairing seven rooms and a large hallway on the first floor with an open stairway, eight rooms on the third floor

... roof is tin and is leaking ... no electricity ... age? ... about 80 years
(13)

Trustee Lawrence E. Ensor advertised the "Parkton Hotel" in the Jeffersonian of September 14, 1956, and sold to Julia Ann Shaul and Aerial M. Baily. (14) Those co-owners sold in 1972 to Earl and Rhoda V. Ensor. (15) Photos of 1970 show the property much improved from the condition described in the 1956 lawsuit. However, the floods of 1972 and 1975 damaged the hotel,

but it was undergoing restoration in 1976 and in 1980 presented a good appearance. (16)

This property contained a separate frame store building at one time, which was in this century operated by Milton Stiffler; it was the same place or on the same spot as a store fronting directly on the turnpike that was shown on the 1850 map. There had also been a post office and a millinery shop in the hotel structure itself.

The residents in this part of Parkton are anxious to have the former NCRR plate girder bridge (no MHT Number Assigned) removed to stop the piling up of debris during high water periods.

NOTES:

1. Baltimore County American, July 18, 1863. Baltimore County Inventories, JLR 4:164.
2. Maryland State Business Directory (New York, 1866), p. 125.
3. Assessor's Field Book, District 7, 1876, n.p.
4. Judicial Records, JB 41:86. (1874).
5. G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1877).
6. B.C. Plats, JWS 1:79, 79A.
7. B.C. Deeds, LMB 194:284.
8. Assessment Ledger, District 7, 1896, entry #175-33.
9. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1911, f. 499.
10. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 513.
11. Judicial Records, GLB 577:406.
12. Judicial Records, GLB 577:400.
13. Judicial Records, GLB 577:402, 406.
14. B.C. Deeds, GLB 3065:242.
15. B.C. Deeds, EHK JR. 5319:100.
16. S. B. and C. E. Clemens, From Marble Hill to Maryland Line (Monkton, Md., 1976), p. 14.

ADD-ON TO CONTRACT:

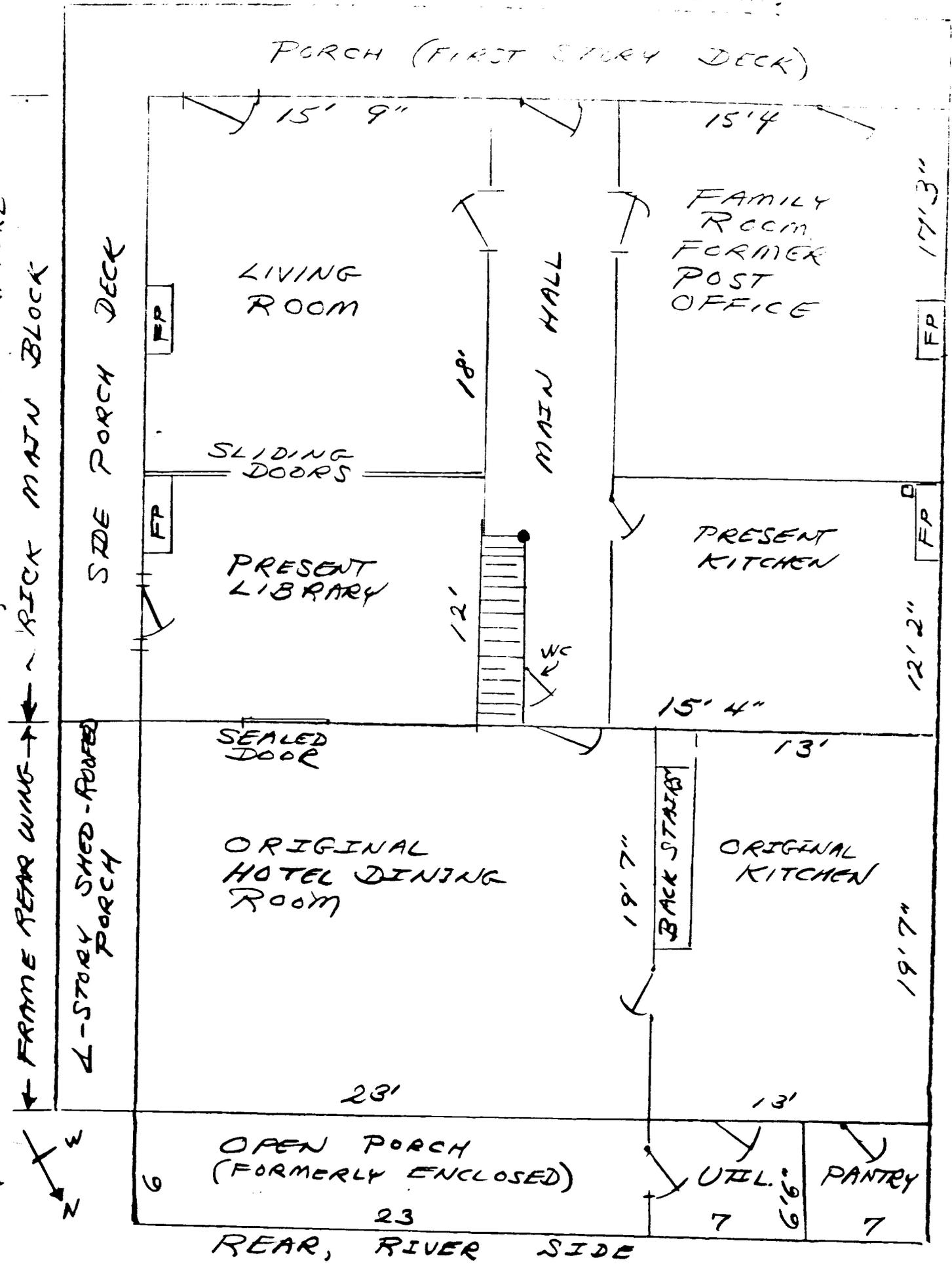
Parkton Hotel -- List of Color Slides (Additional, AUG 1981)

BA-953

4. Corner of family room (horizontal view)
5. " " " (vertical view)
6. Family room fireplace (vertical view)
7. " " " (horizontal view)
8. Present kitchen; fireplace
9. Family room; door to center hall
10. Livingroom fireplace
11. Living room, door to front porch
12. Living room, sliding doors to library
13. Library, side door (E) to York Road
14. Library, fireplace & mantel, SE corner
15. Center hall and main (W) door (vertical view)
16. Center hall and main door (horizontal view)
17. Center hall and main stairway

MAIN FACED SIDE ELEVATION

SOUTH ELEVATION, FACED YORK TURNPIKE
FRAME REAR WING -> RICK MAIN BLOCK

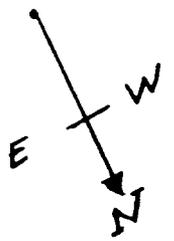
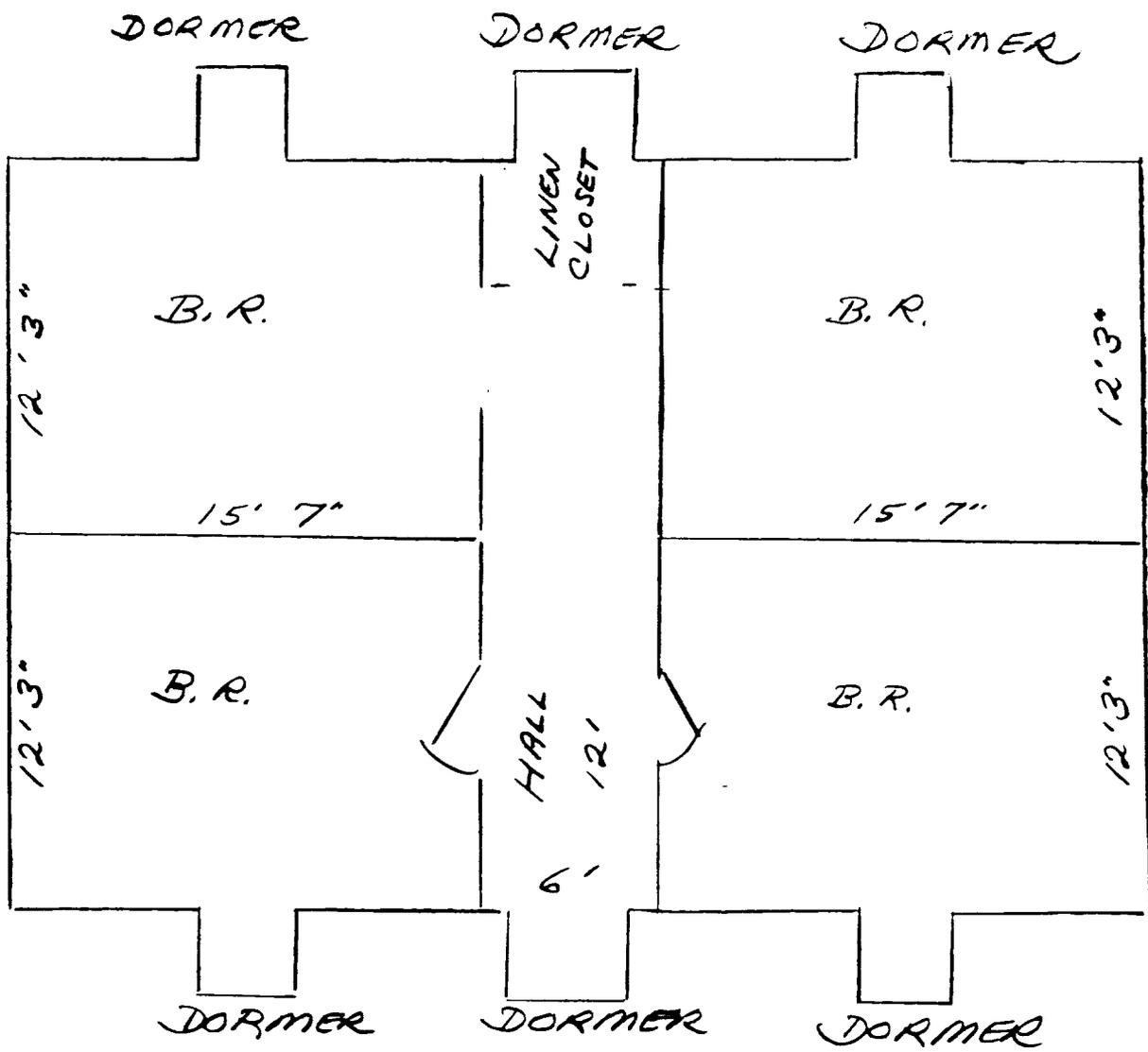


REAR, RIVER SIDE

BP - 93

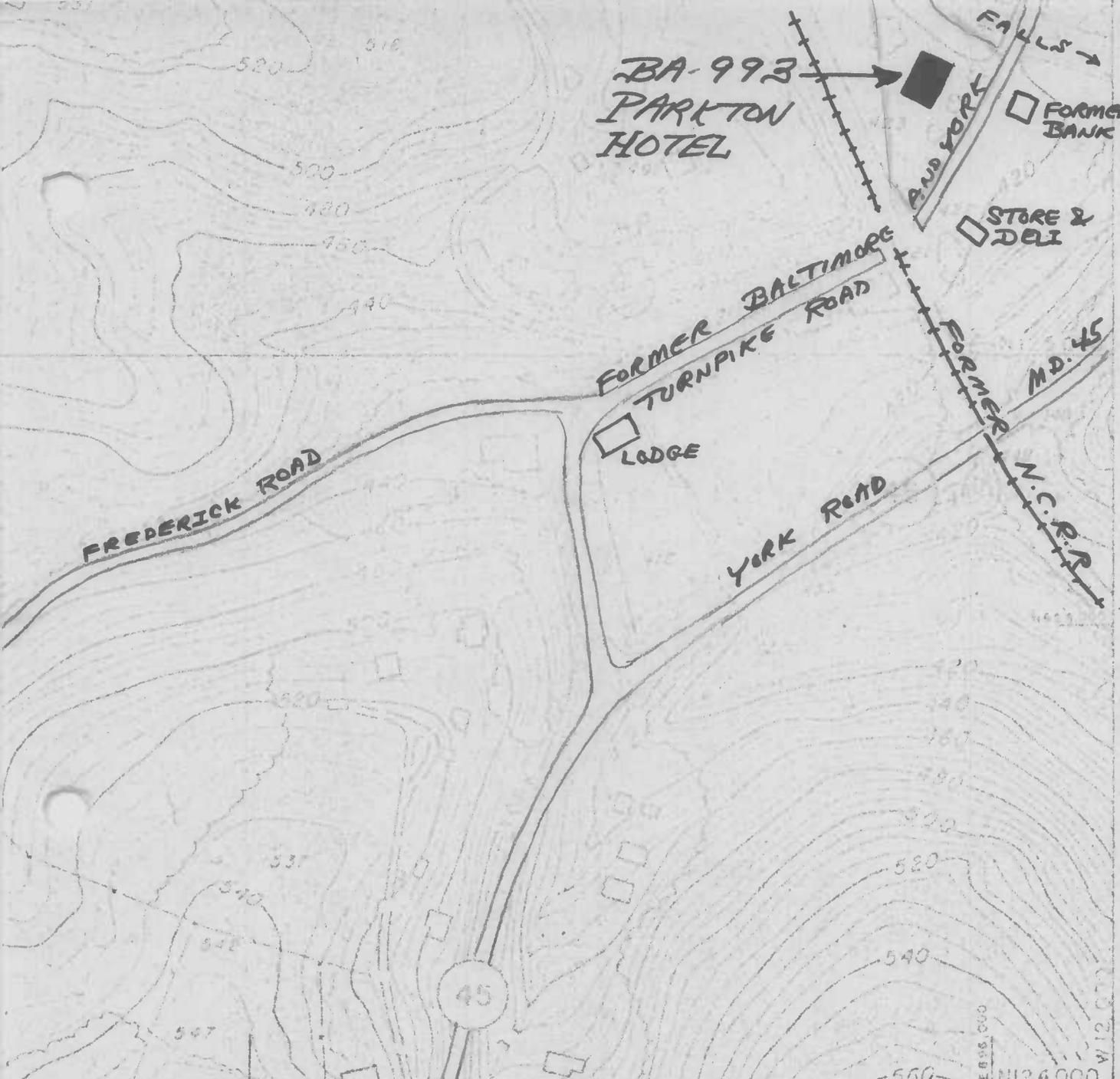
PARKTON HOTEL - FIRST STORY

TRACK-SIDE, MAIN FACADE



REAR - RIVER SIDE

PARATOU HOTEL - THIRD STOREY



BY		DATE
BY		1-1-63
BY		8-29-63

SCALE
1" = 200'

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY
APRIL 1961

LOCATION
PARKTON, BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

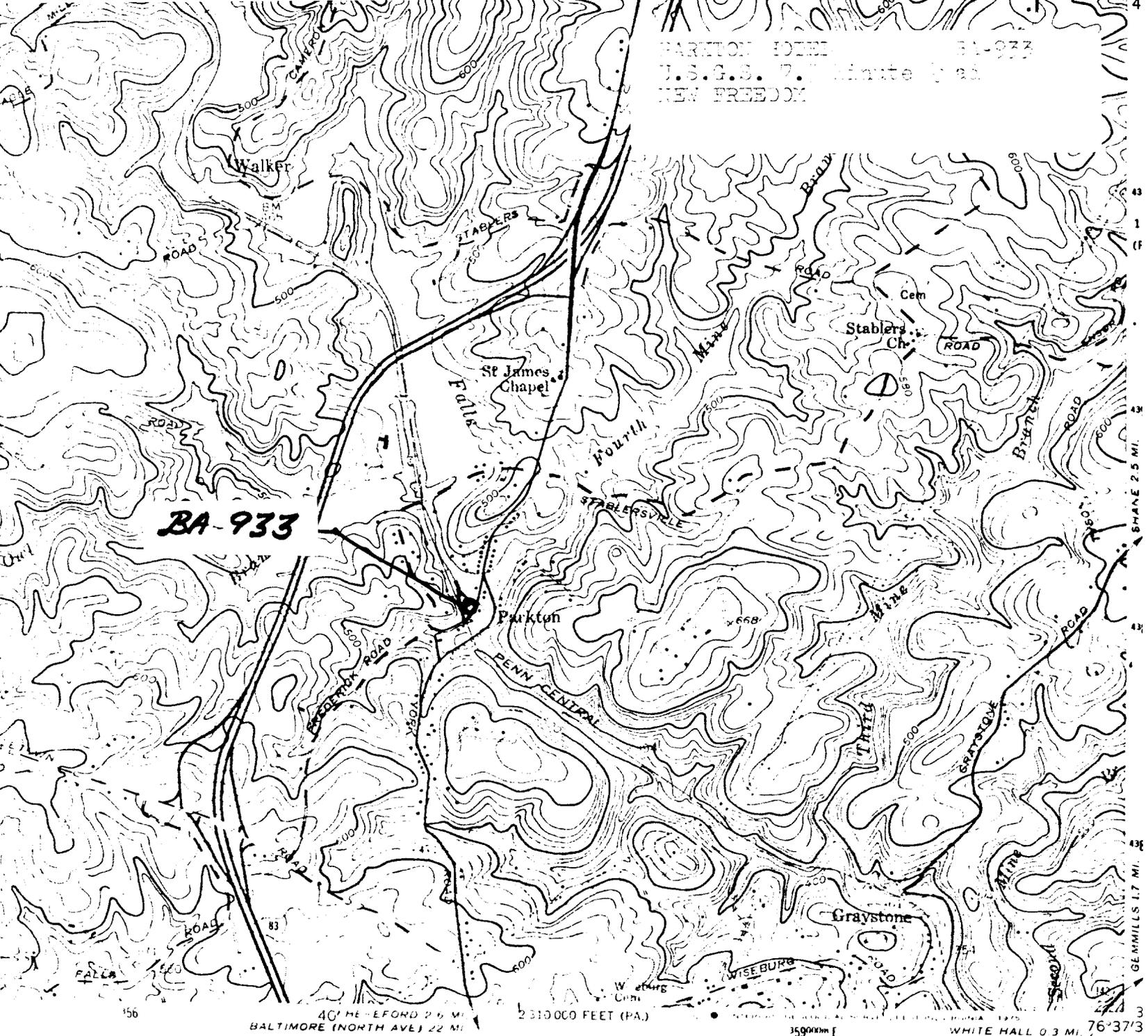
SHEET
N.W.

Produced By Photogrammetric Methods
ADCO - BALTIMORE 22, MARYLAND

PARKTON, BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
PLEASE RETURN TO

PARKTON HOTEL BA-993
PROPERTY PLAT
Scale: 1 INCH = 200 FEET
SHEET NW 32-C

PARKTON FOOTE BA-933
 U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quad
 NEW FREEDOM



BA-933

40' HELEFORD 2.5 MI.
 BALTIMORE (NORTH AVE) 22 MI.

231000 FEET (PA.)

359000m [

WHITE HALL 0.3 MI.

76°37'3

1 MILE

1 KILOMETRE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy duty
- Medium-duty
- Light-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- U.S. Route
- State Route

NEW FREEDOM, MD.—PA.

N3937.5—W7637.5/7.5

1958
 PHOTOREVISED 1974
 AMS 5663 II NW SERIES V833

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1974. This information not held checked

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