

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**BA-2493**  
**Bachelor's Hall**  
**9000 McDonogh Road**  
**Owings Mills, Baltimore County**  
**1692 ca.**  
**Private**

Although heavily altered since 1964, Bachelor's Hall has remained in the same family since construction in 1692. Over the last 300 years, the house has experienced several alterations that have been revealed since 1964, when a systematic dismantling and reconstruction of the house began. From the family of Stephen Hart Owings, the property passed down to his granddaughter, Frances Risteau Owings Griffith. It was prior to this conveyance that the dwelling experienced two phases of alteration. The first occurred between 1790 and 1820, while the second most likely happened in the 1830s. From the Griffith family, the house was transferred to the Penniman family. The current owner is a descendant of Stephen Hart Owings. In 1964, the current owners undertook the dismantling of the structure and, through this process have discovered the dwelling's complex architectural evolution.

The dwelling known as Bachelor's Hall fronts southeast at the end of a long gravel driveway. The parged stone foundation of the main block supports a wood frame building clad in wood weatherboard. Two 12/12 windows on the first story pierce the façade. The single-leaf entry has wood door that is paneled with lights. Two gabled wall dormers, each of which features an 8/8 window, pierce the asphalt-shingled side gable roof. To the northeast is a two-story addition with a poured concrete foundation. Connecting the two sections of the house on the façade is a one-story shed-roofed porch enclosed with twelve one-light windows and a double-leaf one-light door. The addition also has an asphalt-shingled side gable roof pierced with four gabled wall dormers each containing a 6/6 window. On the first-story of the wing are three 6/6 windows. All of the windows have square-edged wood sills and surrounds. Projecting to the rear of the wing is a shed roof porch that is enclosed with windows. The main block features a reconstructed exterior end shouldered chimney while the addition has a central-interior chimney. Both chimneys are brick with corbeled caps. Located to the northwest of the main dwelling is a circa 1800 springhouse. West of the springhouse is a circa 1850 barn. To the southwest of the main dwelling is a circa 1990s stone wall that outlines a once-existing family cemetery. West of the main dwelling is a circa 1980s garage. Next to the garage is a circa 1990 shed. Another circa 1990 garage was built on a pre-existing poured concrete foundation.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2493

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Bachelor's Hall

other

## 2. Location

street and number 9000 McDonogh Road \_\_ not for publication

city, town Owings Mills \_\_ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Not Available

street and number Not Available telephone Not Available

city, town Not Available state MD zip code Not Available

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber Not Available folio Not Available

city, town Towson tax map N/A tax parcel N/A tax ID number Not Available

## 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
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
			<u>1</u>	

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2493

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

Heavily altered, the dwelling known as Bachelor's Hall fronts southeast at the end of a long gravel driveway. The parged stone foundation of the main block supports a wood frame building clad in wood weatherboard. Two 12/12 windows on the first story pierce the façade. The single-leaf entry has wood door that is paneled with lights. Two gabled wall dormers, each of which features an 8/8 window, pierce the asphalt-shingled side gable roof. To the northeast is a two-story addition with a poured concrete foundation. Connecting the two sections of the house on the façade is a one-story shed-roofed porch enclosed with twelve one-light windows and a double-leaf one-light door. The addition also has an asphalt-shingled side gable roof pierced with four gabled wall dormers each containing a 6/6 window. On the first-story of the wing are three 6/6 windows. All of the windows have square-edged wood sills and surrounds. Projecting to the rear of the wing is a shed roof porch that is enclosed with windows. The main block features a reconstructed exterior end shouldered chimney while the addition has a central-interior chimney. Both chimneys are brick with corbeled caps.

Located to the northwest of the main dwelling is a circa 1800 springhouse. Originally constructed of log, the building has been rebuilt circa 1990 with brick laid in five-course Flemish bond over a poured concrete foundation. This one-story, one-bay-square building has an overhanging front gable roof with wood shingles and log posts. An offset vertical-board door with square-edged wood surrounds marks the single-leaf entry. Directly opposite this building is a smaller springhouse that is built into the hill. This vaulted brick structure has a round-arched screened door.

Located to the west of the springhouse is a circa 1850 barn with a side gable roof clad in corrugated metal. The random rubble stone foundation supports a wood frame structure clad with vertical board. The two-and-a-half story building is three bays wide with a shed-roofed addition to its side. This one-story addition consists of an open bay beside a slatted wood corncrib. There are two double-leaf vertical board doors at the basement level.

To the southwest of the main dwelling is a circa 1990s stone wall that outlines a once-existing family cemetery. The wall consists of dry-laid, coursed rubble stone and stands about three feet high.

To the west of the main dwelling is a circa 1980s garage with an L-shaped footprint. Two side-gabled sections with metal standing seam roofs that are connected by a hyphen comprise the garage. Built on a wood post foundation over gravel, each section has a roll-up metal door.

Next to the garage is a circa 1990 wood frame shed with an asphalt shingle gambrel roof. The concrete block pier foundation supports a structure clad with pressed vertical board siding. A double-leaf, cross-braced door marks the entry.

Another circa 1990 garage was built on a pre-existing poured concrete foundation. This wood frame structure is clad with pressed vertical board and protected by an asphalt shingle gambrel roof. The entry has a double-leaf pressed vertical board door that is cross-braced. .

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2493

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

<b>Specific dates</b>	1692 ca.-1964	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	1692 ca., 1790-1820 ca., 1964		

Evaluation for:  
 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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

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The dwelling appears to have originated as a double dogtrot house that was constructed circa 1692 by Stephen Hart Owings, whose family lent its name to the nearby community of Owings Mills. Fifty years later, Owings had the land on which the house existed surveyed, and the sixty-acre tract was called Bachelor’s Hall, a name that has subsequently been applied to the dwelling, itself. In 1742, Owings married Sarah Gott and fathered several children, including Nicholas Owings, who was born in 1755. In 1786, Nicholas Owings married Frances Risteau, who died two years later. Nicholas Owings married Sophia Dorsey in 1794, and their daughter Frances Risteau Owings was born the following year. The first phase of alterations to the structure seem to have occurred after the Owings-Dorsey marriage.<sup>2</sup>

In 1818, Frances Risteau Owings married Silas Griffith. Robert Silas Owings Griffith and Prudence Silas Owings Griffith were the children of this union. Previous documentation on the property suggests that it was in the 1830s that the second addition to the original house was constructed. In 1841, after the death of her husband and upon the death of both her parents, Frances Risteau Owings Griffith inherited Bachelor’s Hall. Verifying this transfer is the 1850 county atlas, which attributes occupancy of the dwelling to “Mrs. Griffith.” Upon her death in the early 1870s, her children inherited the property. It was Robert Silas Owings Griffith who resided

<sup>1</sup> Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
<sup>2</sup> Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Bachelor's Hall, 9000 McDonogh Road, Owings Mills, Baltimore County  
**Continuation Sheet**

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on the property in the late 1870s, then transferring ownership of Bachelor's Hall to his daughter Frances Risteau Owings Penniman.<sup>3</sup>

In 1938, Frances Risteau Owings Penniman died, leaving the property to her daughter, Frances Risteau Penniman Hazell, and her granddaughter, Frances D. Hazell. Her granddaughter was only eight years old at the time of inheritance. During the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the house was used as a rental property and occupied by tenants until 1962, when the current owners returned to the property. Two years later, the family began dismantling and reconstructing the building. The extant resource has been greatly altered since its original construction in 1692 and now retains its historic framing; however the remaining materials have been extensively altered.<sup>4</sup>

The surrounding landscape has also changed significantly since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The 1850 county atlas reveals that very little development of the landscape had occurred between Randallstown to the south and Owings Mills to the north. Prospect Hill—the home of Miss T.H. Gist—and the dwelling occupied by Mrs. Griffith were the only houses along this portion of Lyons Mill Road in the mid-1800s. Lyons Mill Road and Old Church Road, although constructed by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, were still relatively unpopulated.<sup>5</sup> Between 1850 and 1877, only a few more dwellings were built along the Lyons Mill corridor. Additionally, the McDonogh Institute, a private academy, was established during this twenty-seven year period.<sup>6</sup> The area retained its rural character through the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>7</sup> Over the past fifty years, however, Randallstown and Owings Mills have become suburbs of Baltimore City, and the land lying between the two communities has been extensively developed. Old Church Road and Lyons Mill Road, which is now known as McDonogh Road, have been re-graded and their positions altered. Within the last ten years, an expansive residential subdivision has been established to the southwest of the property.

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<sup>3</sup> Baltimore County Historic Inventory; see also J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850); and *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

<sup>4</sup> Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

<sup>5</sup> J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

<sup>6</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

<sup>7</sup> *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2493

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*Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Reisterstown

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction circa 1692, Bachelor's Hall has been associated with the acreage located at 9000 McDonogh Road.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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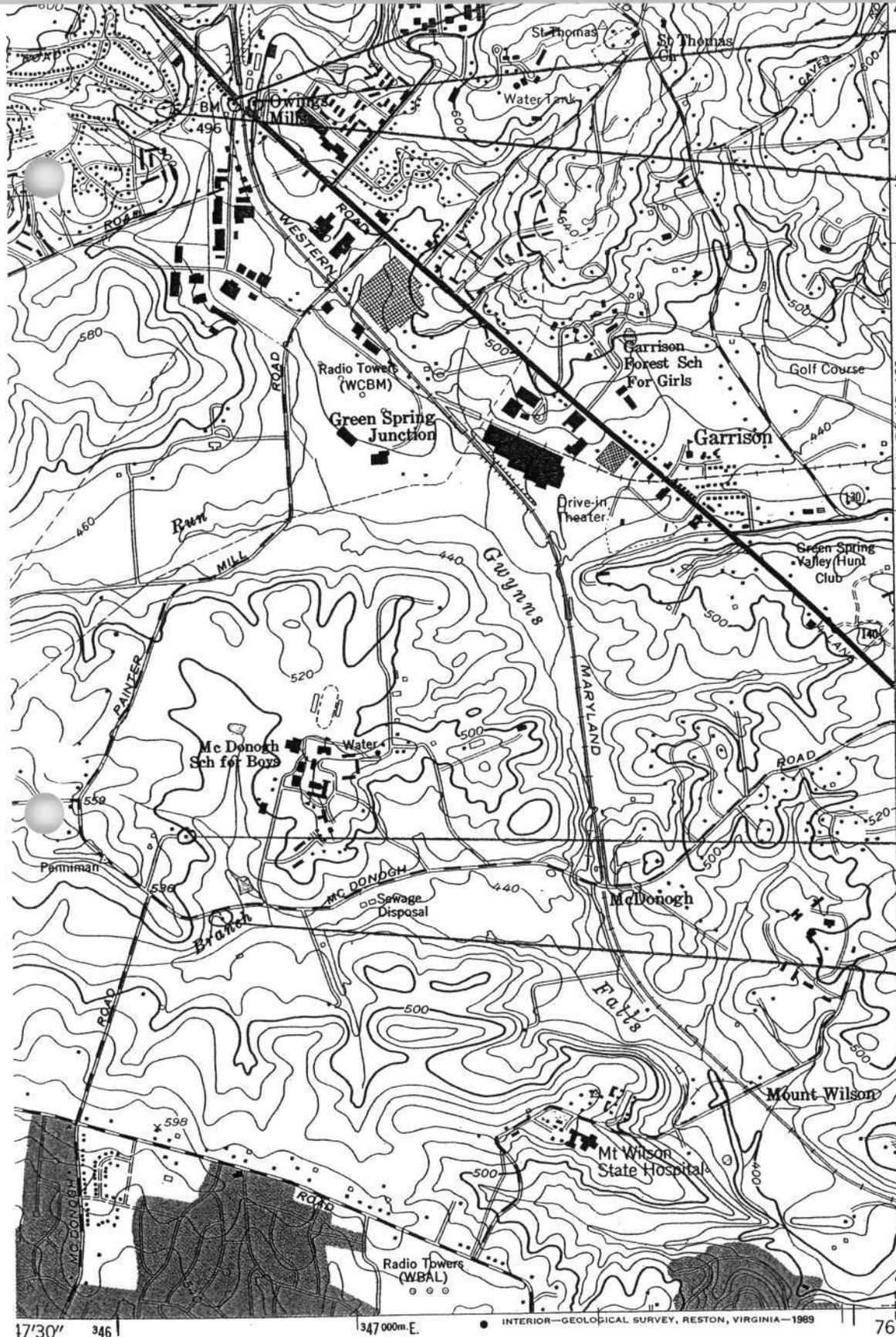
name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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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 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



BA-0650  
10425 REISTERSTOWN RD  
OWINGS MILLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0651  
24 LASTGATE ROAD  
OWINGS MILLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2493  
9000 MCDONOGH ROAD  
OWINGS MILLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0685  
8815 MCDONOGH ROAD  
OWINGS MILLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

17°30' 346

1347000m.E.

76°45'

39°22'30"

(BALTIMORE WEST)  
5662' SW

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty ————
- Light-duty —————
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- U.S. Route (square symbol)
- State Route (circle symbol)



REISTERSTOWN, MD.

20076 D7 TE 024



BA-2493  
9000 McDONOGH ROAD  
GWINGS MILLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
TRAILERIES  
4/2001  
MD-STPD  
NW ELEVATION

1 of 3



BA 2473

9000 McDONOGH ROAD

OWINGS MILLS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILER

4/2001

MD SHPD

E CORNER

2 of 3



BA-2493

9000 McDONOGH ROAD

OWINGS MILLS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERFS

4/2001

MD-SHPD

OUT BUILDINGS

3 7 3