NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

ational Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name SWANSBURY
other names/site number Jay House HA-240

2. Location

street & number Beard's Hill Road Extended N/A ☐ not for publication
city, town Aberdeen ☒ vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Harford code 025 zip code 21001

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☒ private	☒ building(s)	12	1 buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district		sites
☐ public-State	☐ site		structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure		objects
	☐ object	12	1 Total

me of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 6/9/94

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD
roof SLATE
other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Swansbury consists of 86.78 forested acres adjacent to the burgeoning town of Aberdeen in Harford County, Maryland. The property, owned by the Griffith-Smith-Jay family since America's federal era, is generally low-lying and flat. It is located at the headwaters of Swan Creek, from whence the property's name; the creek is a tidal tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. The land is wooded, necessary to screen the historic structures from the post-World War II housing subdivisions of Aberdeen (which abut the property line to the west) and the B&O Railroad tracks (CSX) and U.S. Route 40 (both of which abut the property to the south and southeast). The principal buildings, which are clustered together near the center of the acreage, consist of a five-bay, two-story, multi-part, frame residence and several period frame dependencies. The oldest (west) section of the house was almost certainly a one-room, frame, c.1760, vernacular dwelling. In the late 18th (or very early 19th) century, that house was completely engulfed in a locally unique, high-style federal addition. There was also a contemporary rear service wing (which was rebuilt later in the 19th century and has been remodeled since), and the result is a T-plan dwelling. Perhaps the most stylish structure from its period in Harford County, the house would not be out of place in such urban centers as Alexandria, Virginia; Charleston, South Carolina; or Salem, Massachusetts. The main section faces south and consists of a center-hall plan unit with one room to each side of the open stair; the principal entrance forms the center bay and is marked by a two-story, frame, projecting entrance pavilion with an open ground story and a small second-story room lighted by an elegantly trimmed Palladian window. In addition to the house's rare form, its trim, too, is without equal in the county and consists of a delicately carved Adamesque fanlight over the main door with a gouged metope-rope-and-star motif around the Palladian window; these motifs are repeated in the stairhall's chairrail and in the chairrail and window trim in the second-story porch room. In addition, the mantel in the ground floor room to the right (east) of the hall is embellished with a motif of stylized acanthus leaves. Swansbury also contains an array of eleven frame outbuildings (barns, wash house, poultry houses, meathouse, etc.) which seem to date from the early 19th century; a log structure, almost certainly built as slaves' quarters, stands nearby and probably dates from the 18th century. The main house sits on a slight rise and the grounds are dotted with ancient exotic specimen trees and shrubs. Visually, the entire complex remains virtually unchanged from its federal-era appearance.

[X] See continuation sheet No. 1
for GENERAL DESCRIPTION

8. Statement of Significance

HA-240

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
ARCHITECTURE	c.1775-c.1838	c.1775
		1838

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Swansbury, an extraordinary federal-era frame villa, may be the most architecturally intriguing building in Harford County, Maryland. It was built and continuously owned by successive generations of the Griffith-Smith-Jay family, whose members had blood ties to the first Chief Justice of the United States and military and social ties to the nation's first president (all of which is discussed in the Historic Context). The house is an important reminder and rare survivor of the optimism and enthusiasm that surrounded the city of Havre de Grace in the years around 1800. At this time the city was in serious contention to be chosen national capital and visionaries including Benjamin Henry Latrobe and Thomas Jefferson were planning "infrastructure" improvements to the region that would make the city the economic and commercial equal of Philadelphia and Baltimore. As a direct result of this, learned, internationally sophisticated men and women flocked to southeastern Harford County. With great optimism they in effect ringed Havre de Grace with a 7-mile arc of superb high-style villas, similar in every respect to contemporary developments in and around Philadelphia, Baltimore, and (once it was established) Washington, D.C. Seven such villas were built around Havre de Grace (with acreages that were originally contiguous and unbroken), but only two remain in recognizable form: the brick Sion Hill and Swansbury. The former is a National Historic Landmark, and the latter's frame construction, overall form, and elegant details (projecting two-story entrance pavilion and interior and exterior carved trim) have no extant local equals. As for the others, Mount Pleasant, Bloomsbury, and Blenheim (all brick) have been destroyed and obliterated without a trace; the foundations only remain of Secretary of the Navy Robert Smith's villa on Spesutia Island; the Stumps' stone Oakington has been swallowed by three different 20th century additions and the entire house has been recently drastically altered and adapted for use as a drug rehabilitation center. Moreover, the entire ensemble at Swansbury remains virtually unchanged from its 1800 appearance, thus creating a remarkably clear and comprehensive image of life in the American federal era at the very highest level; this is the only such grouping of outbuildings remaining in the county.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 8
For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

9. Major Bibliographical References

HA-240

Jay family papers, Manuscripts Division, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Maryland.

Land, Equity, and Probate Records of Harford County, Harford County Courthouse, Bel Air, Maryland.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Harford County, Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, Maryland.

Preston, Walter, History of Harford County, (Baltimore: The Sun Book Office, 1901).

Trostel, Michael, Mount Clare, Being an Account of the Seat built by Charles Carroll, Barrister, upon his Lands at Patapsco, (Baltimore: The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maryland, 1980).

Wright, C. Milton, Our Harford Heritage, (Bel Air: privately printed, 1967).

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 86.78 acres

USGS Quad: Aberdeen, MD

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	400870	4375530
B	18	401450	4374930
C	18	400790	4374750
D	18	400400	4375130

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of parcel #256 on Harford County Tax Map Number 52.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 18

Boundary Justification

The acreage, which has been associated with the resource since the 18th century, is necessary to encompass the property's many historic features and structures and to ensure its integrity. The owners have granted a preservation easement on the entire tract to the Maryland Environmental Trust.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher Weeks, Preservation Planner

organization Department of Planning and Zoning date April, 1993

street & number 220 S. Main Street telephone (410)638-3103

city or town Bel Air state Maryland zip code 21014

*U.S.GPO.1988-0-223-918

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Swansbury consists of 86.78 acres of forested, low-lying land at the headwaters of Swan Creek adjacent the burgeoning industrial/suburban town of Aberdeen in south-central Harford County, Maryland. The villa/estate (as will be discussed, the house's builders viewed the property thus) is also near Havre de Grace, a community with a limitless future for growth, or so its federal-era backers believed. In the late 1780s the community was seriously considered as site for the new nation's capital, and in 1803 the celebrated architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe wrote Thomas Jefferson that "all the advantages" of Havre de Grace would inevitably render the city the commercial equal of Baltimore and Philadelphia.[1] Among those to flock to this boom-town was the learned entrepreneur Samuel Jay (a nephew of the Chief Justice), who moved to Havre de Grace, became an extensive property owner, immersed himself in the new town's government, and established such optimistic enterprises as a lumber mill and a nail factory. In 1810 and 1812 Jay married, in succession, the two heiresses whose family owned the Swansbury tract, and the property has been owned by Jay's descendants ever since. (See Historic Context.)

The property presents a remarkably complete (and locally unique) picture of American federal-era life at the most sophisticated level. Standing structures include a five-bay, two-story frame principal dwelling and eleven frame, period dependencies all of which date to the early 19th (or late 18th) century. A description of each feature follows; numbers are keyed to the accompanying sketch map.

1. Main House; c.1760 (core); c.1800

The principal dwelling crowns a slight (probably man-made) knoll in an otherwise flat landscape; it faces south to control a visual axis that led, c.1800, from the house, through an alley, and to a then-navigable inlet of Swan Creek, a tidal tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. While the house has grown over three distinct periods of time (two historic) the vast majority of the building's fabric dates to the federal era; in fact at first look the house seems to be an all-of-a-piece creation from that time.

The oldest section of the house is a mid-18th century, one-room, two-bay frame portion that forms the western room of the expanded structure. Virtually nothing remains of that house, for members of the Griffith-Smith-Jay family transformed the old vernacular cottage into a five-bay, two story, center-stairhall plan frame villa, extraordinary in form and detail.

---

[1] See, for example, Peter A. Jay, ed., Havre de Grace, An Informal History, (Havre de Grace: Susquehanna Publishing Company, 1986), pp. 2-5.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

The main unit, sheathed in its original beaded weatherboarding, is dominated by a projecting, two-story, 14' X 14' entrance pavilion located in the center of the facade. The pavilion's ground level is open to create a porch while the upper level, supported by four, squared and chamfered wooden columns, is enclosed to form a small room. The east and west sides of the porch level are defined by a delicate turned railing supported by simple squared balusters; the south side is open and a flight of six wooded steps run the length of the porch.

The main entrance completely fills the north side of the porch, and contains a six-panel double door flanked by three-light sidelights. All three elements are crowned by a long fanlight whose members are defined through elaborate yet delicate beaded wooden tracery. The entire creation--door, sidelights, and fanlight--is essentially enclosed by a segmental-arched, keystone composition with fluted wooded pilasters separating the door and sidelights and visually supporting a frieze which surrounds the fanlight. Moreover, the pilasters' continuous cornice is embellished with well-conceived and finely executed carving and gougework in the repeating pattern of metopes linked by drooping beaded garlands containing simple Greek-cross stars.

Unusually fine as the porch's woodwork is for Harford County (see Significance), it is the second-story room that makes the pavilion--indeed the house--extraordinary for the time and place. The south facade of the room is virtually overtaken by a Palladian window that echoes the entrance door composition, i.e., a large squared central unit tipped by a rounded unit and flanked by smaller squared units with fluted pilasters and carved trim with keystone. The central part of the window is double hung 12/8 sash; the sidelights are 6/4 sash. One 12/8 window is placed on the ends of the room, resulting in a remarkably well-lit, airy space and a virtually open--that is wall-free--composition. the two-story pavilion is topped by a gable roof with an exposed pedimented end containing an eight-spoke bull's eye window.

Other windows on the house repeat the panning of those on the main facade, i.e., 12/12 on the ground story and 12/8 above, all with decidedly slender muntins. The rear (north) elevation of the house contains a two-story, four-bay deep, gable-roof, perpendicular dining room/service wing (a c.1900 replacement of a c.1800 wing) across the western three bays; this wing contains two 20th century doors on its western flank and a full-length modern porch. The eastern two bays of the main block are exposed and repeat window treatment seen on the south facade. All sections are covered in identically-treated weatherboarding; roofs of all sections are covered in slate with box cornice and bed molding; the east and west end walls of the main block contain a simply-capped interior brick chimney.

The inside of the house is, in good, neoclassical fashion, precisely what the outside of the various units visually suggests. When the federal-era owners transformed the main block they created a dwelling with a through-center-stairhall plan with one room on each side; the plan is identical on both finished stories. (There are two unfinished rooms in the attic.) The western ground-story room (known as the library) incorporates what remains of the older

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

dwelling--in all likelihood this consists only of some foundation stones, for every other feature of the room seems to date from the federal era, i.e., the flooring, the smoothly plastered walls, the simple cornice and chairrail, the window framing and sash, and the simple wooden mantle with fluted pilasters.

The other parts of the main block, built all-of-a-piece c.1800--are more elaborately finished. The chairrail in the stairhall, for instance, continues the star-and-bead-and-metope trim seen at the entrance door. The stair itself, entirely original, rises gracefully against the western wall; its railing and bannister display the delicacy and simplicity one associates with such period features. The eastern room (used by the house's present owners--professional artists--as a studio) generally repeats the trim in the library (chairrail, cornice, smooth walls), but the mantel is decidedly different, for it's frieze is embellished with stylized acanthus leave that lack any known local equivalent. Generally, spaces on the second story are even more simplified versions of their ground-floor counterparts (fluted chairrails, cornices, mantels), except for the interior of the second-story porch room. This highly delicate, well-lighted space repeats the star-bead-metope motif seen on the ground floor in its chairrail and in the trim around its large, south-facing Palladian window.

Rooms in the rear wing are furnished simply; the dining room--reached from both the library and the stairhall--and back stair are mid 20th-century replacements of earlier counterparts, while the powder room and kitchen are modern. It is important to note that this wing, although conceived of in the federal era, reads as an afterthought (or at best as a thoroughly subordinate creation); when one leaves the house, one takes away the impression of an elegant, high-style federal villa.

2. Slaves' Quarters; 18th century

One story; shed roof; log framing; pegged hand-hewn siding; deteriorating condition.

3. Meathouse; early 19th century

One story; vertical slat siding; hipped roof with simple sawn wooden trim.

4. Wash House; early 19th century

One story; vertical slat siding; gable roof.

5. Chicken House; early 19th century

One story; vertical slat siding; gable roof.

6. Summer Kitchen; c.1800

Ruins; brick fireplace and chimney remain.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

7. Privy; c.1800

One story; plank siding; hipped roof.

8. Duck House; early 19th century

One story; vertical siding; shed roof.

9. Wood House; early 19th century

One story; vertical siding; shed roof

10. Corn House; early 19th century

One story; gable roof; vertical siding; slats spaced for ventilation.

11. Cow House; early 19th century

1½ story; gable roof; weatherboard.

12. Barracks/barn; early 19th century

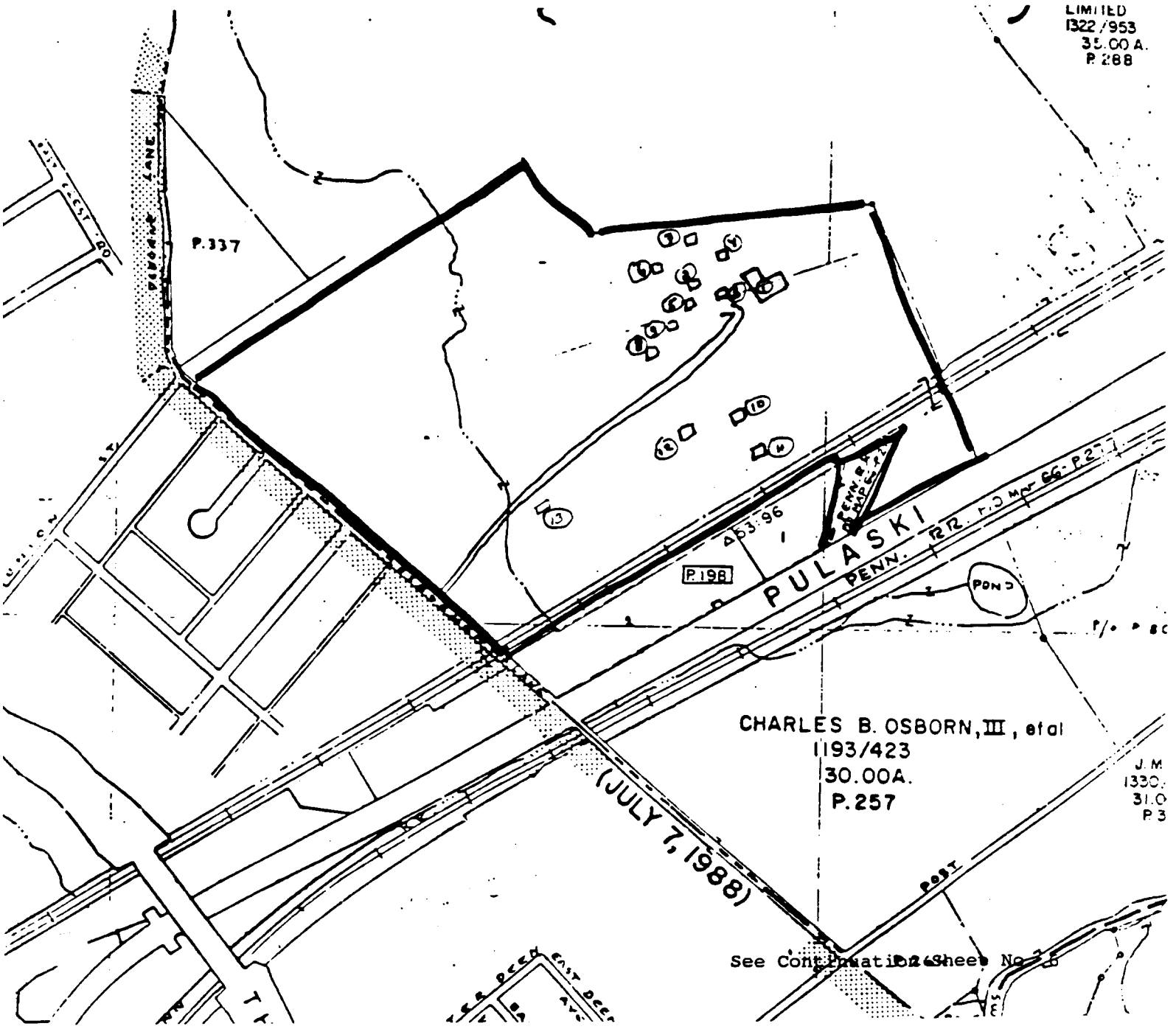
1½ story; gable roof; vertical siding; large sliding doors for carriages.

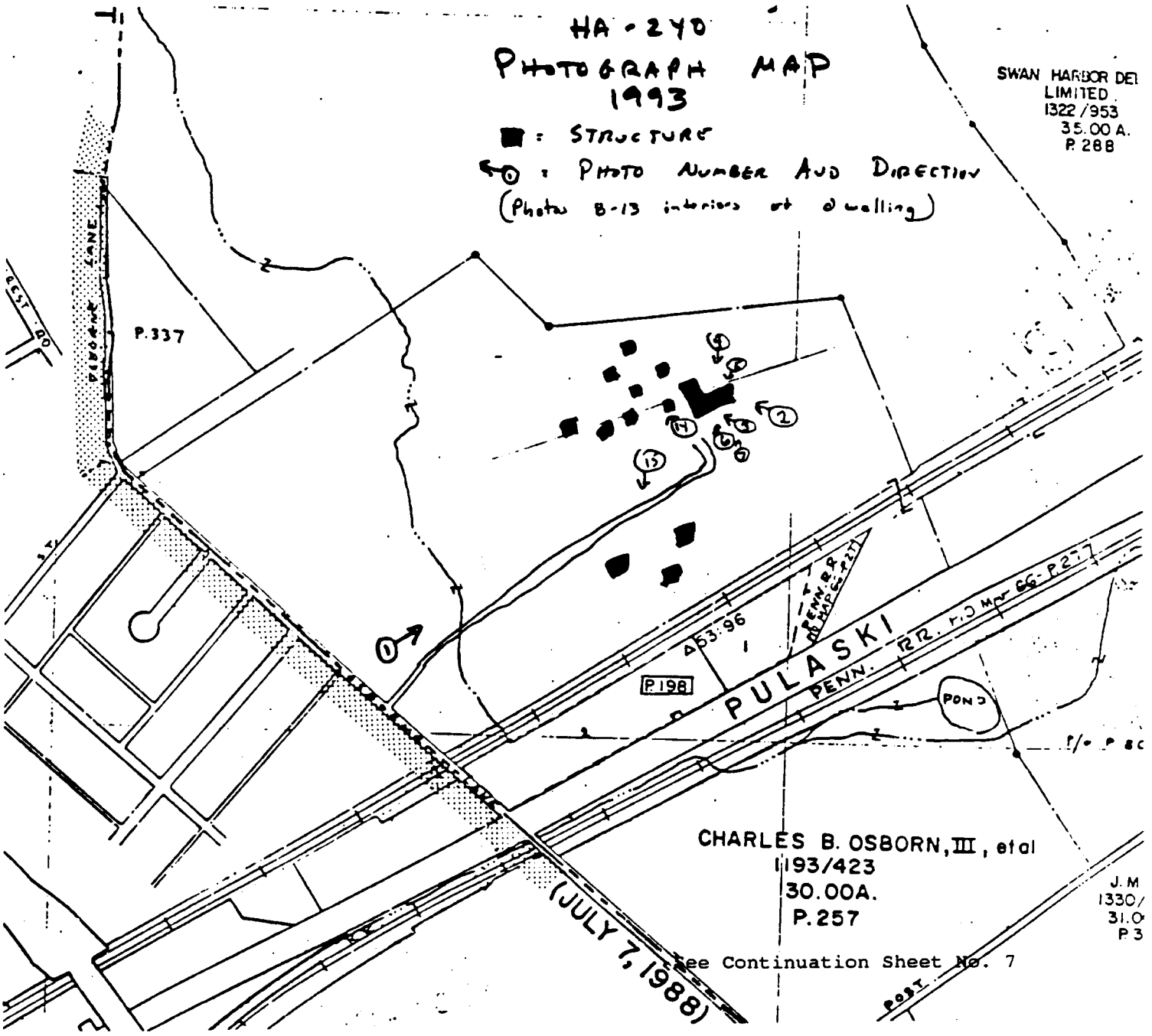
13. Tenant House; mid 20th century; noncontributing

One story frame bungalow; vertical siding; gable roof.

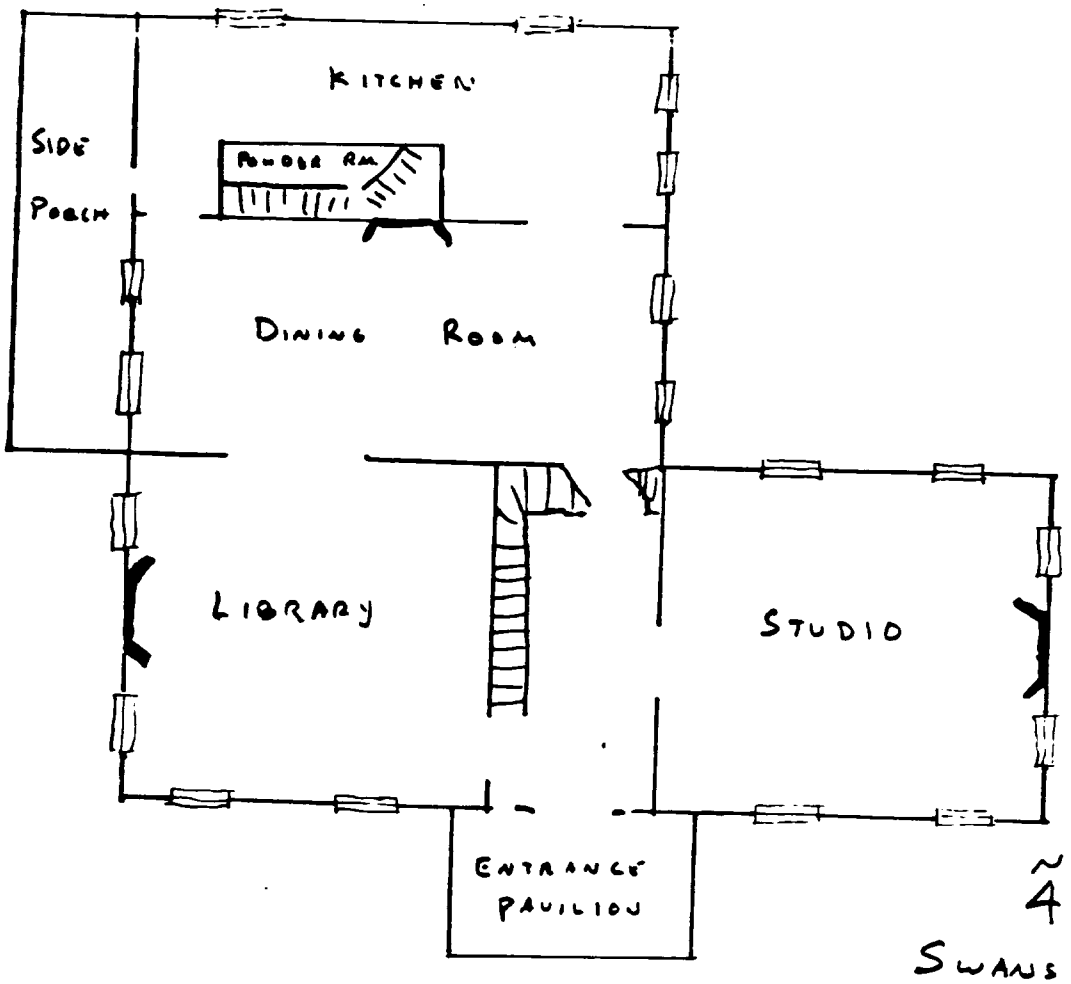
See Continuation Sheet No. 5

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP





See Continuation Sheet No. 7



not to scale

4

SWANSBURY
HARFORD COUNTY
HA-240

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period(s):

Rural Agricultural Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Domestic/Single Dwelling
Agriculture

Known Design Source: none

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

During the federal era, the city of Havre de Grace in northeastern Maryland, located where the Susquehana River broadens out to form the Chesapeake Bay, was in the midst of a time of intense (ultimately short-lived) optimism and prosperity. In serious contention to be the site of the national capital, Havre de Grace, with its seemingly limitless, golden future, attracted an amazingly diverse--yet uniformly sophisticated--group of ambitious men and women. Accustomed to acting on an international stage, these men and women ringed the city with a contiguous, seven-mile arc of neoclassical villas (and their acreages). All but Sion Hill (National Historic Landmark) and Swansbury have been either completely destroyed or changed beyond recognition.

The land that would become Havre de Grace (National Register Historic District) had been patented to one Godfrey Harmer as long ago as 1658. Harmer sold the tract the following year to Thomas Stockett, then sheriff of Anne Arundel County, who established a farm on the site. In 1713 the land passed to the Stokes family. The great Post Road, laid out in the 1680s to connect Philadelphia and Virginia, passed through the Harmer-Stokes property. Travellers, upon reaching the Susquehanna (roughly 1½ miles wide at the site) had to be ferried across to resume their journey and taverns quickly appeared on both shores of the river to service these travellers. All the elements for town growth were thus in place, and in 1762 Rebecca Stokes, who had inherited the land, petitioned the colonial legislature for permission to lay out a town on her property. This was denied, but her son Robert Young Stokes, did plat a town on the land in 1781.

In the summer of 1781, combined Franco-American forces under Rochambeau and Washington marched south to engage Lord Cornwallis. (This resulted in the Battle of Yorktown that October.) French cartographers mapped what they found at their many encampments en route and their map number 31, entitled "Susquehanna Lower Ferry" shows nothing in the town but the tavern and ferry slip. This tavern, its counterpart across the river, and the ferryline were all operated by John and Elizabeth Rodgers, who made a comfortable living from this monopoly, and who are frequently mentioned by name in journals of the time--Washington alone cites over three dozen meal stops at the Rodgers' two establishments.[2]

Almost immediately coinciding with American independence, the sleepy ferry stop began to stir with activity. In 1783, 40 visionaries chartered a canal company (rapids located two mile upstream render the Susquehanna impassable to any sizeable ships) to construct a canal to link the town with the rich farmlands, coal fields, and timber stands of central Pennsylvania. This group included such locals as Robert Young Stokes and Rodgers, and such distant luminaries as war-hero John Eager Howard, Charles Carroll of Carrollton (possibly the richest man in American at the time), and William Augustine Washington. Begun shortly thereafter and completed in 1803, the nine-mile Susquehana Canal

[2] See Jay, Havre de Grace, pp. 3-15.

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

paralleled the river--on its eastern bank--from Port Deposit to just beyond the Pennsylvania line. This proved a failure, however: "Boatmen avoided the canal and used the river whenever possible, because the canal's rounded bottom was not suitable for wide flat-bottomed boats. It also had a strong current and much siltation." Consequently it proceeded to lose money, was sold at a sheriff's sale in 1817, and was closed altogether in 1836.[3]

Despite the dismal failure of the eastbank canal, plans were hatched by 1823 for a canal on the west bank, with its southern terminus at Havre de Grace. When the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal opened in 1829, Maryland merchants, fearing loss of business to Philadelphia, pressured the state legislature to charter the westbank canal, which they did in 1834; Pennsylvania chartered an extension of the canal in 1835 and work began immediately. The resulting 43-mile-long Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal opened in May 1840; stockholders and invited guests from Baltimore and Philadelphia, accompanied by brass bands, arrived in Havre de Grace in special trains, and the ceremonies were much covered in the national press. Canal traffic peaked in 1849 and then declined; the Civil War disturbed its markets on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line, and the Johnstown Flood seriously damaged it structurally in 1889. The Pennsylvania section was closed in 1890, the Harford County section followed suit in the early 20th century, and today (1993) nothing remains but the lock and lockhouse in Havre de Grace (National Register) and traces of two or three other granite-walled locks.

But, in their early years, these improvements brought an atmosphere of almost giddy optimism to the Havre de Grace area and the Rodgers' tavern and ferry dock were soon all but lost in a building boom as a wide array of internationally known men and women swooped to the site, bought lots, and erected several extremely sophisticated buildings. In fact, in 1803, no less a personage than Benjamin Henry Latrobe wrote to no less a personage than Thomas Jefferson about the limitless future that the young town would inevitably enjoy: "one Million of Bricks were laid during the year 1801," he said, "in building stores and houses in Havre de Grace and double that number is expected to be laid this year." The city "has all the advantage of the improved navigation of the Susquehanna...and without the expense of freight and time at which Baltimore obtains it;" it also boasted "on the east side as deep a harbour as Baltimore;" finally, wrote Latrobe, the planned Chesapeake and Delaware Canal "will...open [the city] up to the whole of the Trade of South Jersey, and important Timber and Iron Country" and all this, he felt, will "necessarily...render Havre de Grace" the economic equal "to Philadelphia as well as to Baltimore."[4]

---

[3] See Marion Morton Carroll, "The Tidewater Canal," in Jay, Havre de Grace, p. 28.

[4] Quoted in Jay, Havre de Grace, p. 5.

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

As a direct result, the once-somnolent town suddenly attracted a diversified group of truly sophisticated men and women, who moved to Havre de Grace attracted by the seemingly inevitable riches due to flow to the site. They ringed the town with a series of 7 extremely stylish, up-to-the-minute neoclassical villas, as if to emulate Horatian Rome or Medicean Florence. The English-born educator the Rev. John Ireland began the house Sion Hill, which was purchased (in incomplete state) by the merchant Gideon Denison and finished by Denison's daughter Minerva and son-in-law Commodore John Rodgers (eldest son of the tavern/ferry Rodgers family), as Rodgers simultaneously shaped the early history of the U.S. Navy. On the land adjacent Sion Hill to the south, iron-industry pioneer Jacob Giles (who established forges and furnaces throughout the Upper Chesapeake in the 1740s) built a five-bay brick house called Mount Pleasant, notable also for the garden which he created around a two-mile alley and which he embellished with neoclassical stone garden houses (according to the 1798 tax rolls). Samuel Hughes, owner of the Principio Iron Works in nearby Cecil County, bought Mount Pleasant and 1,400 surrounding acres in 1803. Hughes was also one of five men appointed to serve on Havre de Grace's first board of commissioners (1875), petitioned the legislature to improve the city's harbor, had his portrait painted by Charles Willson Peale, and ran the city lottery in 1803 and 1809. To the south of Mount Pleasant, Baltimore financier Mark Pringle built Bloomsbury on 600 acres adjacent to the town, and this 2½ story brick house was so elegant that even as late as 1863 Harper's magazine could call it "the finest country house in the state."[5] (Pringle also ran the city's lottery, invested heavily in the Susquehanna fishing trade, co-founded the Havre de Grace Bank, and in 1783 served as director of the Susquehanna Canal Company.) In 1797 Pringle married Lucy Smith, a daughter of Thorogood Smith of Willow Brook (the Rev. Ireland, formerly of Sion Hill, officiating) and one of the Pringles' sons married a Miss Grundy of Bolton, and Bloomsbury compared favorably with those (demolished) Baltimore City villas. South of Mount Pleasant and Bloomsbury and located on the Post Road, was Blenheim, a villa inherited by lawyer Paca Smith from his father, William, in 1795. (William, who named the land and built the house, was a nephew of Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. Paca Smith, born 1779, was a minor when his father died and the court placed him under the care of Samuel Hughes, who proceeded to run up huge debts purportedly on his ward's behalf, including over £6,200 "current money" from Paca Smith's first cousin, Declaration of Independence signer and Maryland governor William Paca.) Farther south, on a 700-acre tract located at the confluence of Swan Creek and the Chesapeake, was the stone villa Oakington built c.1816 by John Wilson Stump and his Baltimore heiress wife (nee Sarah Biays; her father, James, was "a large shipping merchant of Baltimore who...aided materially in building up the commerce of the city"[6]) Southernmost of all, on the 2,300-acre Spesutia Island, was the truly astonishing three-part brick Jeffersonesque villa built by Robert and Margaret Smith;

---

[5] See Lossing's Pictorial History of the War 1812, p.674.

[6] Walter Preston, History of Harford County, (Baltimore Sun Book Office, 1901), p. 162.

See Continuation Sheet No. 12

Margaret's father (another William Smith whose superb portrait by Charles Willson Peale is in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond) died c.1800 and left the island to Margaret and she and her husband began building. Robert (born 1752) was a son of the Baltimore merchant shipper John Smith and younger brother of Samuel (born 1752), U.S. senator, mayor of Baltimore, and savior of the city in the War of 1812. "Ambitious, industrious, courteous, and amiable," attorney Robert Smith soon built up the "largest admiralty practice in" Baltimore; he was also politically minded and was elected to the state senate in 1793, the house of delegates in 1796, and the Baltimore City Council (1798-1801).[7] But Smith, "a loyal...and ardent admirer of Jefferson," truly found himself with the Virginian's election to the White House, for he served Jefferson as Secretary of the Navy during both of the latter's administrations, commuting to Washington by boat. (A man of vision, Smith was instrumental in negotiating the Louisiana Purchase, and in 1804 he and brother Samuel toyed with the idea of having America ally itself with Britain, conquer Napoleon-controlled Spain, and snatch Florida and Cuba as war spoils, but the Francophile Jefferson quashed this idea.[8])

Holding his own amongst this truly interesting group (and the only one, save Rodgers, with an extant local architectural legacy), one finds Samuel Jay, a nephew of Chief Justice John Jay who moved to Havre de Grace form his native New York in the late 18th century. Jay, a descendant of the emigre Augustus Jay who arrived in New York in the 1680s, was drawn to the upper Chesapeake for the same reasons Baltimoreans Pringle and Robert Smith were--to make money. He began buying property in the area in 1794, and by 1798 federal tax assessors noted that "Samuel Jay & Co." owned at least four substantial rental properties in Havre de Grace; by the time of the 1814 tax Jay had expanded his interests to include over 1,000 acres of farmland near the town on Swan Creek and a "nail factory, stone, 2 stories, 50' X 16'." He also invested heavily in other Chesapeake-region enterprises, and when he died in 1818 he owned $1,000 in Bank of Alexandria stock and shares in two Baltimore banks worth $8,500. He also dabbled in politics and served on Havre de Grace's board of commissioners in 1802.

One might think that Jay, a native New Yorker, would have thought it prudent to marry a Marylander to further cement his ties to his adopted boom-town: and he did, twice. In April 1810 he married Sarah Griffith, and the wedding took place "at Swansbury," according to an account of the ceremony in the newspaper the Baltimore American.[9] Sarah Griffith Jay died in Havre de Grace eight months later and in 1812 Jay married Sarah's sister Martha (born 1771), herself a widow, an important fact discussed below. Sarah and Martha's father,

---

[7] See Dumas Malone, ed., Dictionary of American Biography Vol. IX, (New York: Charles Scribners Sons, 1934), pp. 337-341.

[8] Malone, DAB, p. 495.

[9] Clipping in the Diehlman genealogical files, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore.

See Continuation Sheet No. 13

Samuel Griffith, was a scion of a family that had been prominent in Tidewater Harford County since the 17th century. Samuel, a prosperous shipper, a pioneer in the China trade, and one of five men appointed by the governor to "straighten out the Post Road from Havre de Grace to Baltimore Town,"[10] died in 1794 worth £3,500; his estate papers reveal that he owned hundreds of acres on Bush River and Swan Creek as well as a sawmill. (Several marriages connected them with other prominent local families including the Davises, Presburys, and Halls, and Martha and Sarah Griffith were able to trace their ancestry back to Nathaniel Utie, the original [1658] patentee of Spesutia Island.)

Martha Griffith's first husband was Col. Alexander Lawson Smith (born 1754); the couple wed in 1792 and according to tradition lived at Swansbury, possibly in her widowed mother's house, a "frame dwelling with piazza, 33' X 18', according to the 1798 tax rolls. Smith had been an aide to Gen. Washington during the Revolution and the two remained "personal friends" after the war; indeed Griffith-Smith-Jay papers show that Washington visited his former aide at least once in Harford County and that Washington made Smith an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati.[11] (For that matter, Martha's father, Samuel Griffith, boasted a distinguished war record himself: he "served as a captain in the 3rd Maryland Regiment commanded by Colonel Mordecai Gist...commissioned December 10, 1776 and resigned August 1, 1778."[12]

The Maryland Historical Society, Manuscripts Department, contains a voluminous file of letters (and other papers) to and from Martha Griffith Smith and all the letters to her are addressed "Swan Creek near Havre de Grace." Family tradition holds that the Smiths lived at Swansbury, probably in a small house that is essentially the room called the library of the present dwelling--possibly Mrs. Smith's mother's 33' X 18' frame house cited in 1798. Col. Smith wrote his traveling wife from Swansbury in August 1796 to report that "great attention is paid to your chickens; [illegible] cleaned the henhouse out yesterday," which seems to refer to the extant chicken house at Swansbury (#5 on sketch map). The present log building known by tradition as a slaves' quarters (#2 on map) may have been standing by the 1790s, too, for an undated letter from Martha's sister Sally Griffith to their Aunt Fanny Garrettson in Alexandria notes that a slave named Dinah threw water at her and that "Col. Smith was going to whip her but she kicked him several times at his legs til they are so sore he can scarcely walk;" Dinah also "scratched him" and "threatened to burn the house over

---

[10] C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage, (Bel Air: privately printed, 1967), p. 103.

[11] See Jay Collection, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Manuscript #1828.

[12] Record and Pension Office, War Department, Washington, D.C., letter to Dr. S. Griffith Davis dated September 6, 1902.

See Continuation Sheet No. 14

his head [and] kill Martha."

As for the house itself, the family papers at the Historical Society contain a tantalizing (but undated) bill from John Evans for "Lathing and Plastering;" itemized charges include fees for "106 yards" of wood (£2.8.4), "repairing old work" (£1.2.6), "plastering the porch" (10/0), building "two fireplaces" (3/), and "painting the house" (15/). According to the 1798 tax list, Evans was a "plasterer" who rented a house worth $10 nearby.) It seems reasonable to infer from this that Col. and Mrs. Smith took the existing frame house (with its "piazza" or porch), added onto it, repaired (or remodelled) the older section, and had Evans build and plaster the distinctive two-story entrance pavilion. While the bill from Evans is undated, it is addressed to Mrs. Smith; Col. Smith died in 1802 and thus it seems reasonable to date the extant house to between 1792 (when the Smiths married) and 1812, when the widowed Martha married Samuel Jay.

This c.1800 date seems likely, too, based on stylistic evidence. Perhaps the building most similar to Swansbury in Maryland is Mount Clare, the highly elegant brick residence of Charles Carroll, Barrister, and his wife, nee Margaret Tilghman. Begun in the mid 1750s, the house has endured a near-continuous secession of architectural changes, some made after the Carrolls, some made by them to reflect their own "increased architectural sophistication."[13] Michael Trostel, FAIA, who researched Mount Clare for its owners, the Colonial Dames, has written that "the most important" of these changes "was the addition of the portico with the chamber above," (or frontispiece) in 1767. Mount Clare's frontispiece measures 18' X 8'; Swansbury's is a 14' square so while it is somewhat larger than its (possible) Baltimore prototype it clearly serves the artistic same purpose, that is, "to provide a needed focal point to the composition."[14] Trostel describes "the chamber above the portico" at Mount Clare as "a small but very stylish room...flooded with light from the Venetian window"[15] and the similarities between the two houses' Venetian (or Palladian) windows is evident at a glance, down to the delicate keystones. On the inside, Swansbury's portico room is a most elegant space, marked by exquisitely detailed woodwork and plastering including finely reeded pilasters and a delicate chairrail enriched with stars, beaded festoons, and Adamesque metopes--all the height of federal-era design fashion.

In overall concept and in specific detail, there is nothing remotely like Swansbury in Harford County. Indeed, except for Mount Clare, the house is

---

[13] See Michael Trostel, "The Annapolis Plan in Maryland," in Mario de Valmarana, ed., Building by the Book II, (Charlottesville, the University Press of Virginia, 1989), p. 7.

[14] Trostel, Mount Clare, p. 7.

[15] Trostel, Mount Clare, p. 39.

See Continuation Sheet No. 15

virtually unique among extant houses in Maryland. One does, however, find a very few similar period structures up and down the East Coast from Charleston to New England, the residences of rich merchants and planters. In 1921 the distinguished architectural writer Aymar Embury II discussed projecting entrance pavilions like Swansbury's (and Mount Clare's), "full and rich...compositions," that were (he opined) a logical evolution of the colonial-era "combination of the doorway and the Palladian window above." "The use of the Palladian motive as a treatment of the central opening in the second story" had become almost commonplace in the late 18th century and Embury argued that a few ambitious builders, decided "to push forward an already designed applied feature," i.e., to bring the entrance and second-story window forward to add depth to the otherwise single-plane composition.[16] Trostel located a few such innovative houses, all built by people at the very apex of federal-era society: in Maryland he notes (demolished) additions built in the 1770s by Charles Carroll of Carrollton to his father's house in Annapolis ("at the entrance of the new wing was a portico" and "above the portico was a chamber with a Venetian window in its main facade"[17]) and in Connecticut there is the "post-Revolutionary [frame] residence" in Litchfield with a portico-cum-Palladian-window addition "designed by the British-trained builder William Spratt" and built onto "the...Sheldon house of 1760."[18]

The specific inspiration for these features is not clear, but it seems highly likely that it came from one of the many English patternbooks then popular among America's elite. Trostel, for instance, suggests that "elements in a number of plates in" these books could have served as models for "portions of the center pavilion at Mount Clare" (such as Plate 39 in Isaac Ware's Complete Body of Architecture [1736, 1760, 1764][19]). The Smiths and the rest of Harford County's villa builders would have had plenty of access to such books, for the Library Company of Baltimore (founded in 1795) owned one of the largest collections of architectural books in America[20] (including the latest works by

---

[16] Aymar Embury II, "A Comparative Study of a Group of Early American Doorways," in The White Pine Series, October 1921, pp. 3-4.

[17] Trostel, Mount Clare, p. 104.

[18] Trostel, Mount Clare, p. 107.

[19] Trostel, Mount Clare, p. 40.

[20] Its 14 titles placed it third in America after the Philadelphia Library (33 architectural titles) and the New York Library Society (15). See Janice G. Schimmelman, Architectural Treatises and Handbooks Available in American Libraries and

See Continuation Sheet No. 16

Sir John Soane) and among the first published list of Library subscribers, one finds the Smiths' Havre de Grace neighbors Mark Pringle (and Pringle's father-in-law Thorogood Smith) and Robert Smith of Spesutia Island.

Moreover, it is known that the Smiths enjoyed the federal-era's glittering high life, for letters to and from Martha Griffith Smith and her sisters bubble over with their stylish adventures: sister Francis wrote from Alexandria in December 1801 that she had been attending many assemblies and reassured Martha that "your sister had as handsome dresses as any in the Ballroom, and (in an undated letter) that she "had the honor of having tea with 2 members of Congress." She also advised Martha that "the Alexandria bank stock [priced at $195 a share] is the most advantageous [since] they do not divide all the profits." (Less glamorously, Martha's and Frances's sister Sarah--Samuel Jay's first wife--wrote an undated letter from Alexandria to Martha at Swansbury to complain that she'd just completed a long voyage only to find herself "devoured with chinches and even while I write they are running across the paper, but all this you must keep to yourself.")

Col. Smith, too, was exposed to all that was new and fashionable, for there are several letters written from him to his wife while he was in Baltimore, Annapolis, and Alexandria on business matters on and off between 1792 and 1800. On these trips he certainly could have seen--and had entree to--the few area residences that might have inspired Swansbury's two-story projecting entrance frontispiece and other locally unique features. (Recall that Smith's comrade in arms, Washington, added a federal-style dining room to Mount Vernon in 1787 and that room is dominated by an elaborate Palladian window embellished with delicate, Adamesque details that suggest Swansbury's--although on a more elaborate scale. While there is nothing to directly link the two buildings, despite the legendary visits of Washington to the Smiths, it seems safe to surmise that Swansbury and the Mount Vernon Banqueting Room resulted from a general, shared aesthetic.)

To resume the house's history: the Griffith sisters' parents had died by the early 19th century and in 1809 Frances Griffith came back from Alexandria long enough to buy Swansbury and 165 acres; in 1816 she married the Rev. Alexander McCain and in 1822 the McCains brought an action in the Court of Chancery in Annapolis against Frances's siblings, nieces, and nephews to clarify the complex title to the property. (One brother, Samuel Griffith II, was left out of the suit since he was dead--"killed by slaves" around 1821, according to the reliable Baltimore Niles Register.) The court established a value of $3,250 for Swansbury; the McCains paid that amount to an appointed trustee in 1823, but they may have been acting as agents for "Mrs. Smith" (who had commissioned artisan Evans to make the additions) for the following year "Martha Jay, widow," paid the McCains the identical sum ($3,250) for the identical 165 acres and house. (It isn't precisely clear where she had been living, but wherever it was

---

Bookstores Through 1800, (Worcester, Massachusetts: The American Antiquarian Society, 1986).

See Continuation Sheet No. 17

it was commodious, for she needed room for all of Samuel Jay's furniture: there was a lot of it and it was quite elegant indeed, for his estate papers contain, in addition to the requisite mahogany tables and chairs, an "elegant gilt framed looking glass, almost new, $25," parlor tables with "pillar supports" and "brass claws," some "handsome Japanned Waiters," some "elegant plates," and an "elegant cut glass bowl." (There was also something called "Venetian carpet" in the parlor, on the stair, and in one bedroom.)

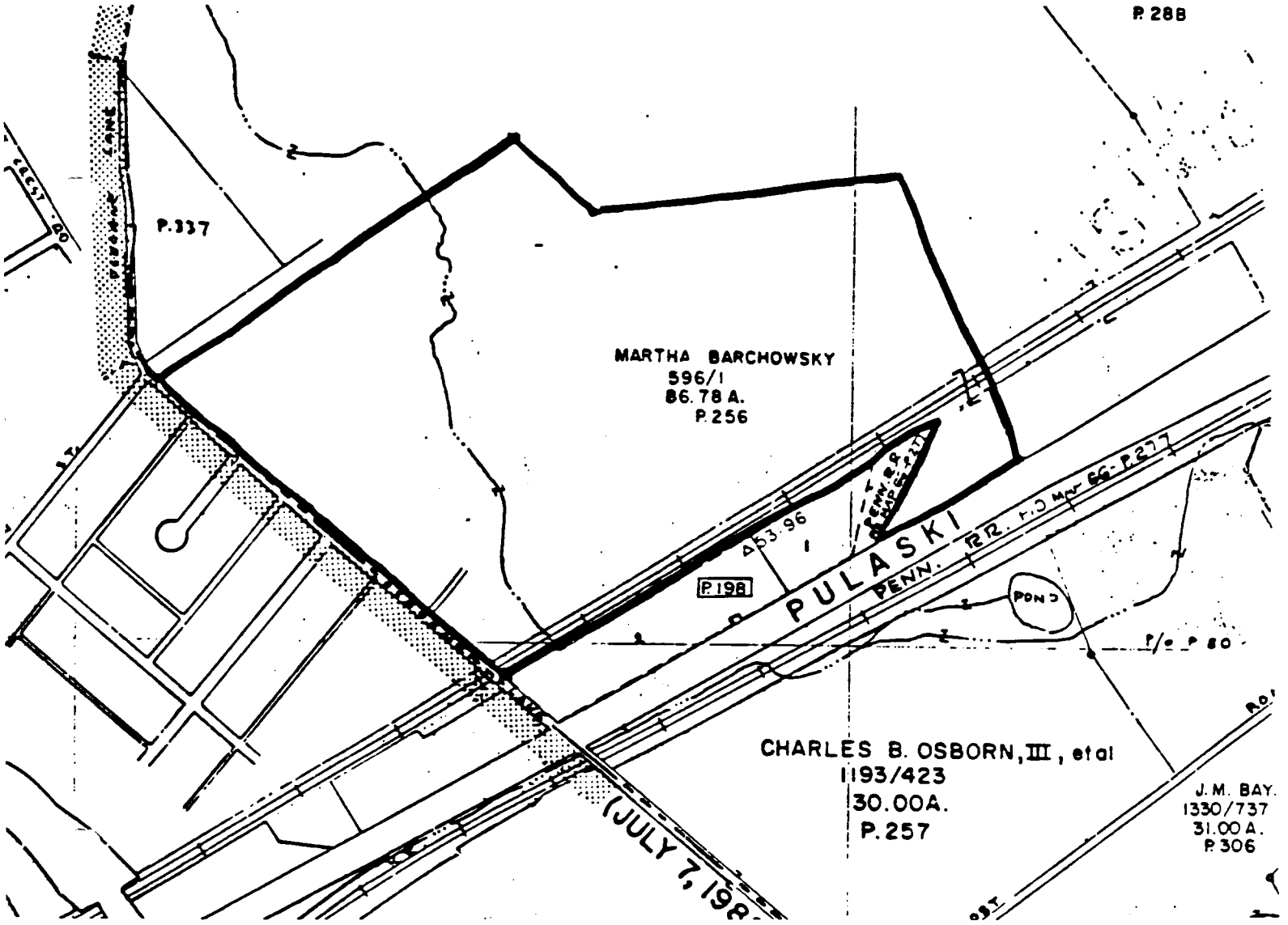
Jay's appraisers were also impressed by his library which contained 25 titles in 130 volumes, an especially large collection of books for Harford County in 1818. There are no architectural titles, but there was a Johnson's Dictionary, a lot of contemporary fiction (including Tristram Shandy and Sentimental Journey), Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations, and several travel volumes (e.g., A Tour to Morocco, Letters From Scandinavia, and Travels Thorough Syria and Egypt). In all, Jay owned personal property appraised at $16,466.67 (including 12 slaves), with debts due the estate of $3,070.78; there was no appraisal of his real estate.

Martha Griffith Smith Jay held title to Swansbury until June of 1838 when she transferred ownership to her "son and heir, John Jay." In the deed she pointed out that since John was over twenty-one (just over for his father had died in 1818) he was legally entitled to his father's estate and ought to get it. Since then Swansbury has been continuously owned by the direct descendants of Martha and Samuel Jay.

To guarantee the preservation of their inheritance, the present owners granted an easement over all the acreage and buildings to the Maryland Environmental Trust in 1978, and although it is now a part of the industrial and suburban town of Aberdeen (with subdivisions and interstate highways encroaching on nearly all sides), Swansbury should be viewed as a rare survivor of the villa era in Havre de Grace. Indeed, only it and the brick Sion Hill (National Historic Landmark) remain as visual evidence of a time when that Harford County city was home to men and women who boldly and optimistically strode on an international stage.

BOUNDARY MAP

Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxaction:
Harford County Map 52, parcel 256



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 1302404304 HA-240

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Swansbury

AND/OR COMMON
Barchowsky-Jay Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Mt. Royal Ave. ext.

CITY, TOWN
Aberdeen — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
—DISTRICT	—PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	X AGRICULTURE	—MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	—UNOCCUPIED	—COMMERCIAL	—PARK
—STRUCTURE	—BOTH	—WORK IN PROGRESS	—EDUCATIONAL	—PRIVATE RESIDENCE
—SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	—ENTERTAINMENT	—RELIGIOUS
—OBJECT	—IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	—GOVERNMENT	—SCIENTIFIC
	—BEING CONSIDERED	—YES: UNRESTRICTED	—INDUSTRIAL	—TRANSPORTATION
		—NO	—MILITARY	—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. Paul Barchowsky Telephone #: 272-0836

STREET & NUMBER
Mt. Royal Ave. ext.

CITY, TOWN
Aberdeen — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21001

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: GRG 596
Folio #: 1

STREET & NUMBER
40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
_GOOD	_RUINS	X ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This southern-facing house is of two stories and L-shaped. The walls are of bevelled frame and sit upon a high stone foundation. An added shed protrusion of two stories is sited on the western end of the main section. The main part of the house measures five bays by two, while the wing measures four by two. Most of the windows are flanked by shutters. The main house has 12 X 12 windows, while the wing has 2 X 2's. An elaborate Palladian window, with a patterned transom and Doric column trim, is situated on the piazza on the southern side. A double, panelled door is sheltered underneath of this, flanked by three-pane sidelights and an unusual leaded glass transom (see diagram). The pediment-gable of the piazza also has a circular attic-level window. The eastern and western extremes of the main dwelling have nine-pane attic windows. Another entrance is located on the north side of the mainhouse where the wings are joined, while two more are on the western side of the addition. A cellar door is positioned on the western side of two-story addition. The roof is gable-flank and asphalt on both parts. They are trimmed with an old box cornice and frieze. Single cellar openings are stationed on either side of the entrance on the southern facade. Two capped brick inside-end stacks are located on the western and eastern ends of the mainhouse, and two more are positioned on the inside ends of the wing. A four-bay, shed-roof porch stretches along the western side of the addition.

Most of the outbuildings are Nineteenth Century in nature. The barns, coops, wash-shed and meathouse are all of vertical slat siding with gable front or flank roofs, with the exception of the meathouse, which has a hip roof. None of these structures has a foundation. The oldest buildings are the old slave quarters and kitchen. The slave quarters are built of pegged, hand-hewn siding and log, locked in cut joints. One small window and one door are on the east side, as the structure is divided into two. It has a shed roof. The kitchen was originally of two parts, but the eastern stone part has crumbled, leaving only the walls and a fireplace with a brick top. The western half is made of vertical lath frame with a south-facing door and a tin roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house is said to date from the very early 1800's and is unique in the configuration of the piazza on the south side that shelters the main entrance and contains the Palladian window. The house sits on a tract called Paradise, patented by Thomas White sometime in the first half of the Eighteenth Century. The Hall family acuired the land in 1750 and held it until 1800, when miller Charles Rigdon constructed a mill on the stretch of the parcel that fronted upon Swan Creek. The farm has been in the hands of the Jay family and it's direct descendants since 1828. The 1878 Martenet map indicates the owner of the existing house to be John Jay, and also shows three gristmills and a distillery to be located nearby along the banks of Swan Creek.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford County Land Records
Martenet's Map of 1878

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 108

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is located near the town of Aberdeen, off of a lane running northeast from north-south running Mt. Royal Avenue extended. It is bounded on the west by this thoroughfare, and to the south by the Baltimore and Ohio railroad tracks.

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	DATE
Paul L. Penrod/site surveyor	June 29, 1976
ORGANIZATION	
Maryland Historical Trust	
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Shaw House, 21 State Circle	267-1212
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Annapolis	Maryland

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

HA-240

INVENTORY NO. _____ ELECTION DISTRICT _____

DATE: 6/16/76 TAX MAP NO. _____

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor PARCEL NO. _____

NAME OF PROPERTY: BARCHOWSKI-JAY FARM

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: LANE OFF OF MT. ROYAL AVE, EXT.

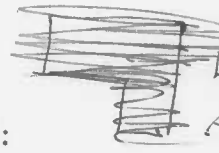
DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: ~~[illegible]~~ SOUTH

NAME OF OWNER: PAUL R. BARCHOWSKI

ADDRESS: MT. ROYAL AVE.
ABERDEEN MD.

STORIES: 1[ ] 2[ ] 3[ ] 4[ ] 5[ ] 6[ ] BAYS: MAIN 5X2
4X2 wing

WINGS, ADDITIONS:



L shaped
see back

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

[✓] FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten(type?)
[ ] BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
[ ] STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
[ ] LOG

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS NONE
FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE
WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK NONE

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1[ ] 2/2[✓] 6/6[ ] 9/6[ ] 9/9[ ] other[ ] 12X12
✓ REPL. WING
pegged[ ] nailed[ ] wide[ ] narrow[ ]
original[ ] replaced[ ]

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: ON S. SIDE - MAIN
2 S. SIDE WING (3 LT TRANSOM) - ON ONE
HARDWARE: original[ ] replaced[ ]
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN

BOX MAIN HOUSE
CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES:
FRIEZE
original[✓] replaced[ ]

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, MANSARD, FLAT, DORMERS
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original[ ] replaced[✓]

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed[ ] portico hip[ ] gable[ ] 4 long shed on west side of addition

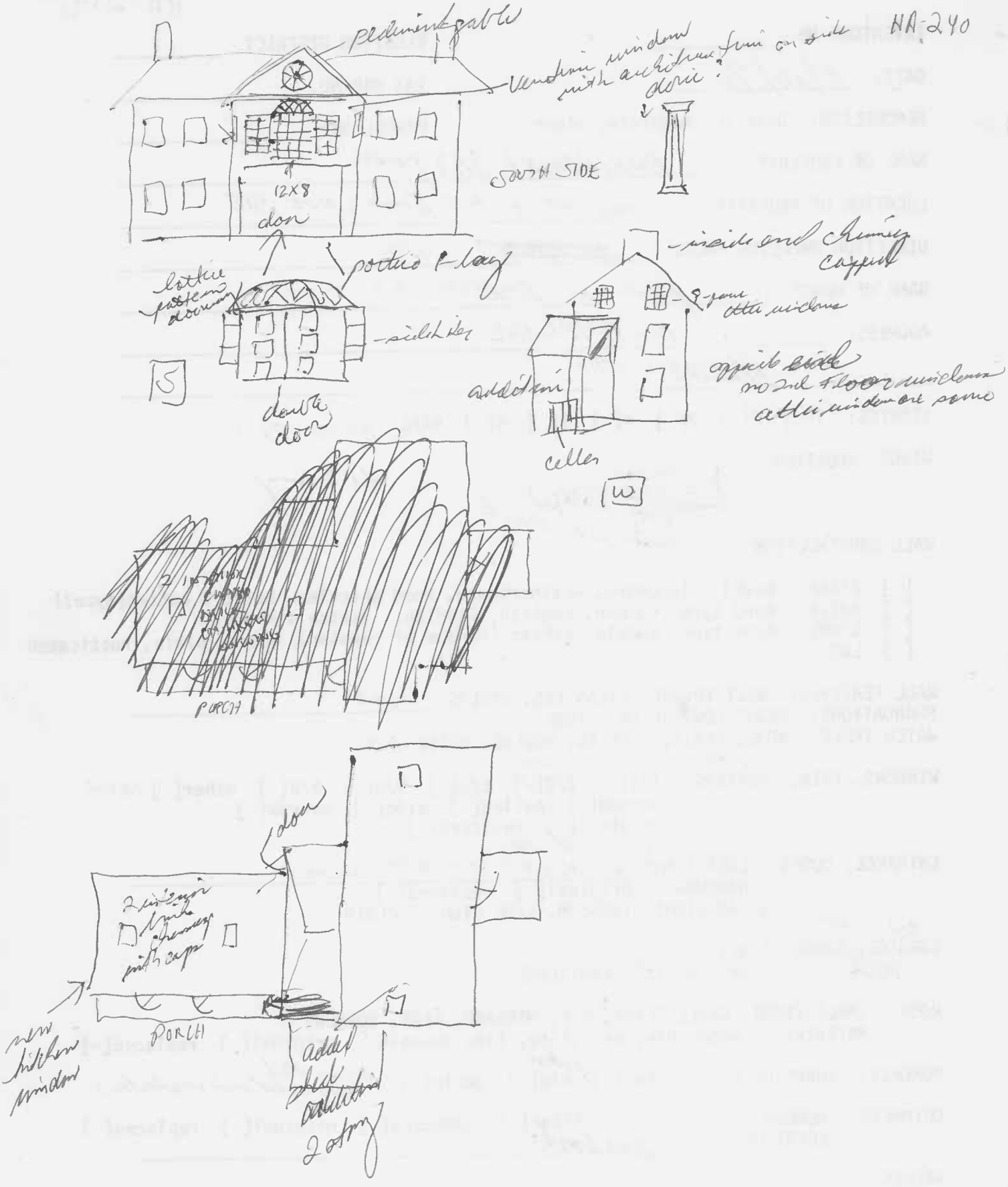
CHIMNEYS: NUMBER ____ BRICK[ ] STONE[ ] CORBELED[ ] original[ ] replaced[ ]
LOCATION: see back

ARCHES:

COMMENTS: Cellar window on either side of front door

Jet

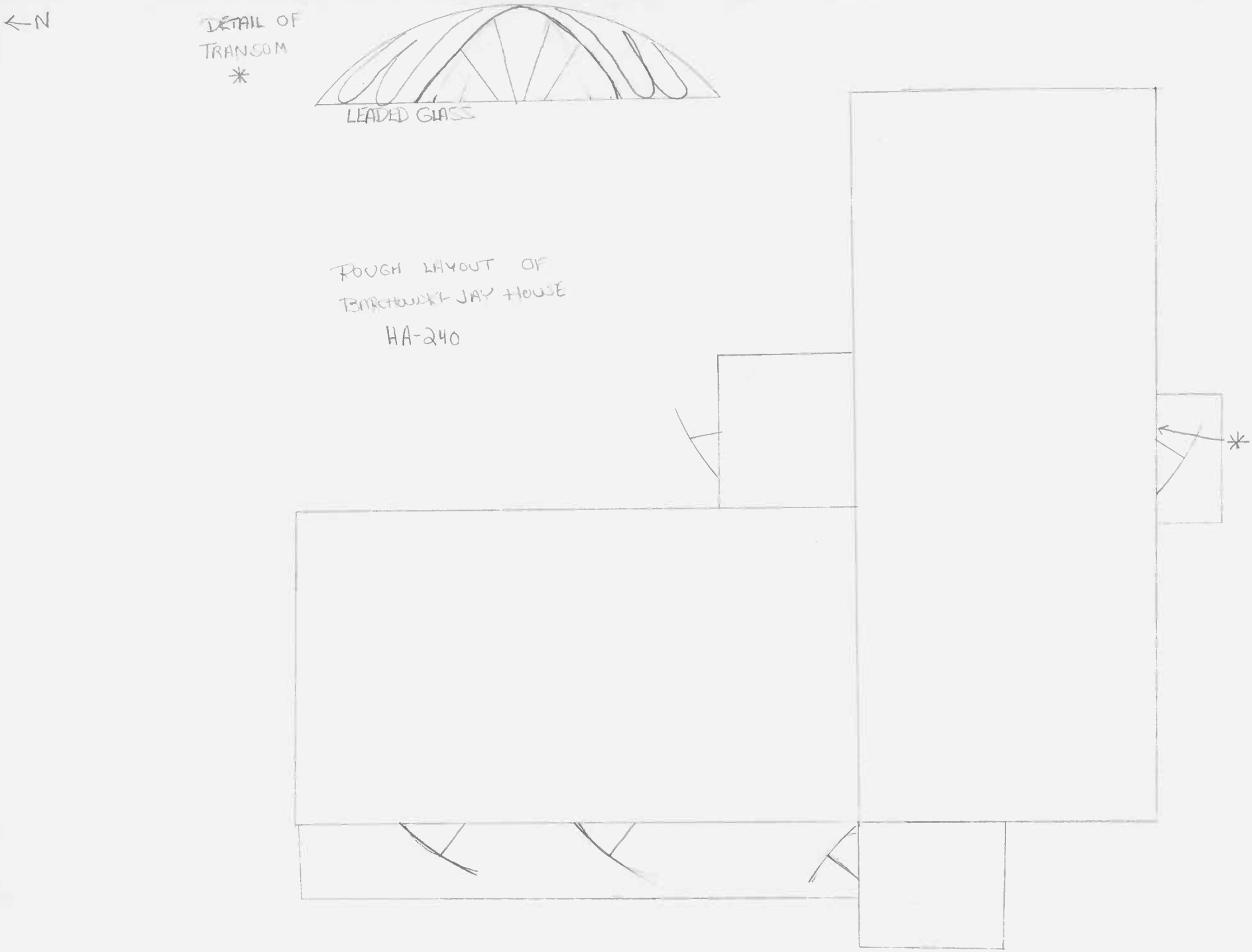
HA-240

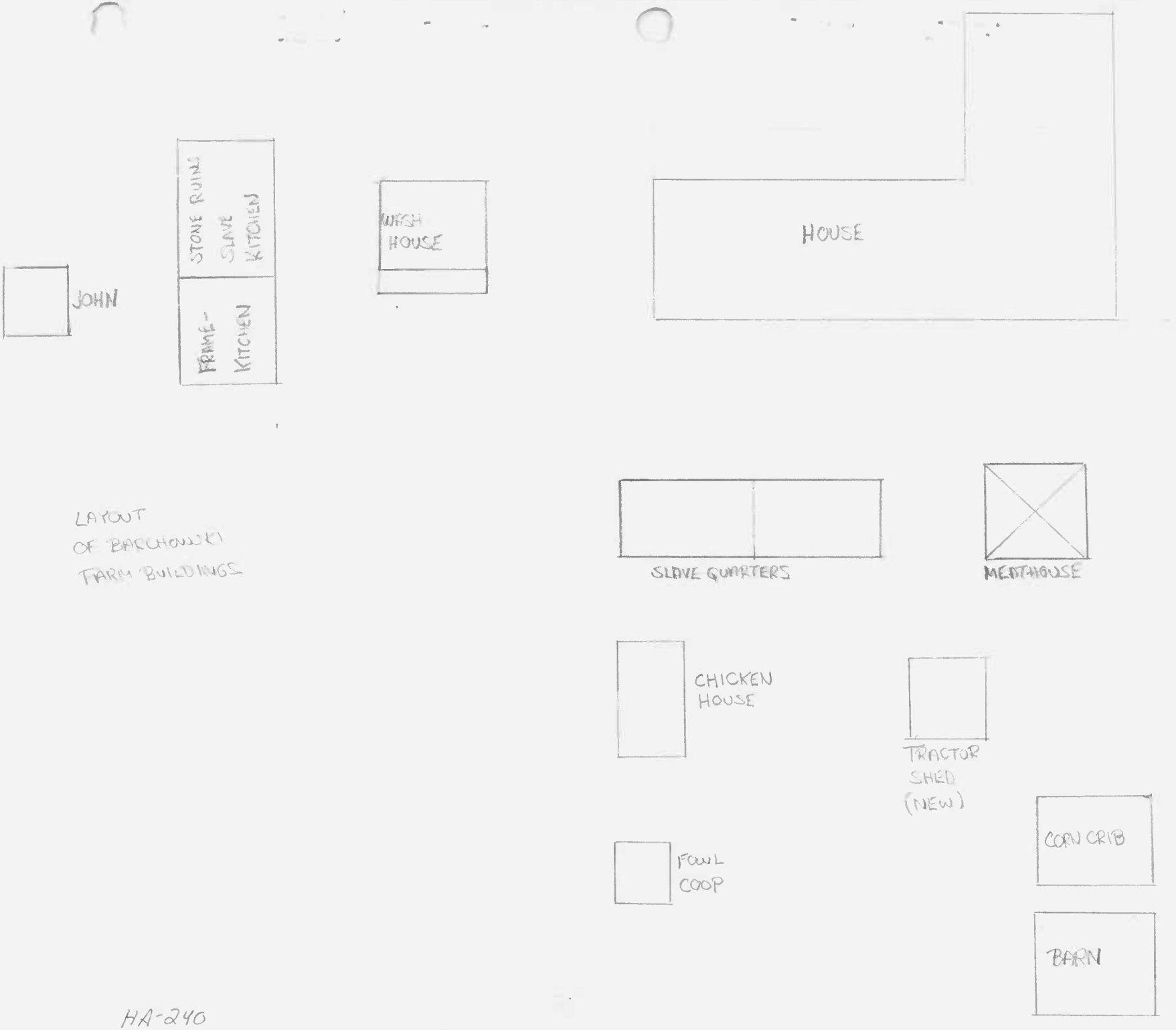

pediment gable
Venetian window with architrave trim on side
doric?
12X8
door
SOUTH SIDE
portico 1-bay
lattice pattern doorway
sidelite
S
double door
inside end chimney capped
9-pane attic windows
opposite side no 2nd floor windows attic windows are same
addition
cellar
W
PORCH
door
2 interior brick chimneys with caps
new kitchen window
PORCH
added shed addition 2 story

HA-340

TITLE SEARCH

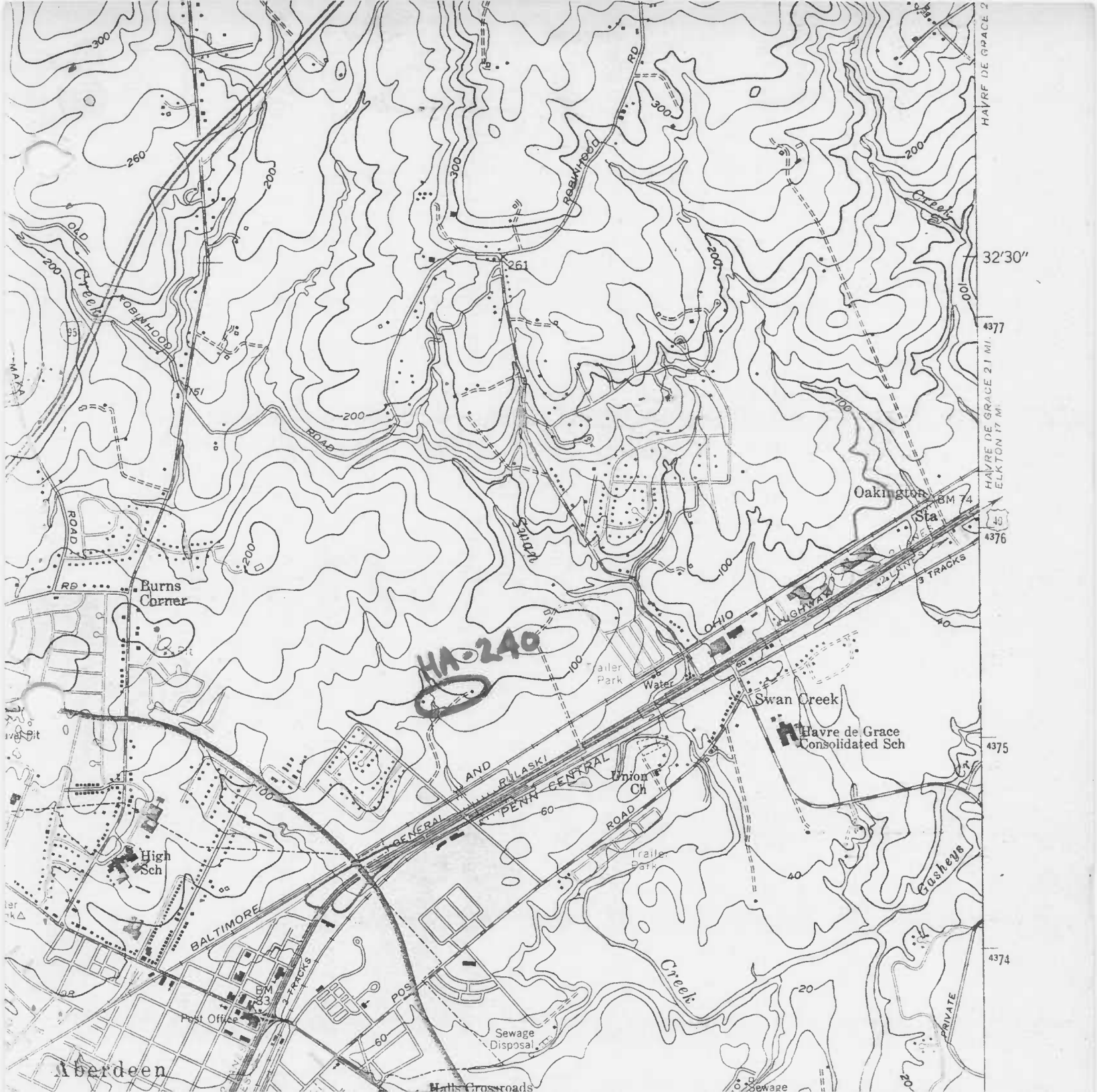
Libre		Folio	
GRG	596	1	In 1962, Alice Jay Black sold the parcel to Nan Jay Barchowski.
GCB	290	190	In 1945, the property was conveyed to Henrietta D. Jay by Nannie D. Jay.
WSF	90	435	In 1896, Swansbury Farm, consisting of 108 acres, was sold by Samuel S. Jay to Nannie D. Jay. Samuel came by the land by way of the will of his father, John Jay.
HD	21	287	John Jay received the same tract from Martha Jay in 1838.
HD	8	57	Alexander McCain sold 162 acres to Martha Jay in 1824.
HD	6	396	In 1823, Samuel Moale, a trustee, sold the same tract to Alexander McCain. Moale had been named as a trustee over the land following a land suit involving McCain and Samuel Griffith.
HD	Z	488	In 1817, Samuel Griffith purchased parts of Paradise and Royal Exchange, amounting to 123 3/4 acres, from Edward Griffith.
HD	Y	312	In 1815, Charles Rigdon sold the same portions of land to Edward Griffith.
JLG	P	282	In 1800, Charles Rigdon, said to be a miller, purchased 123 acres of the Paradise tract from Josias Carvill Hall. This deed mentions the fact that Thomas White sold John Hall 60 acres of Paradise in 1750 (Baltimore County Land Records, Libre BB 1, Folio 530) and that this land had been willed to Josias Carvill Hall by John Hall in 1770 (Baltimore County Wills, WDJ 4 712).
HD	M	180	Another possible source of the farm is discussed in this deed. In 1787, Richard Dallam sold 515 acres of Palmer's Point and Palmer's Neglect to Samuel Griffith. This land had also once belonged to Josias Carvill Hall.


←N
DETAIL OF
TRANSOM
*
LEADED GLASS
ROUGH LAYOUT OF
BARCHOWSKI-JAY HOUSE
HA-240
*

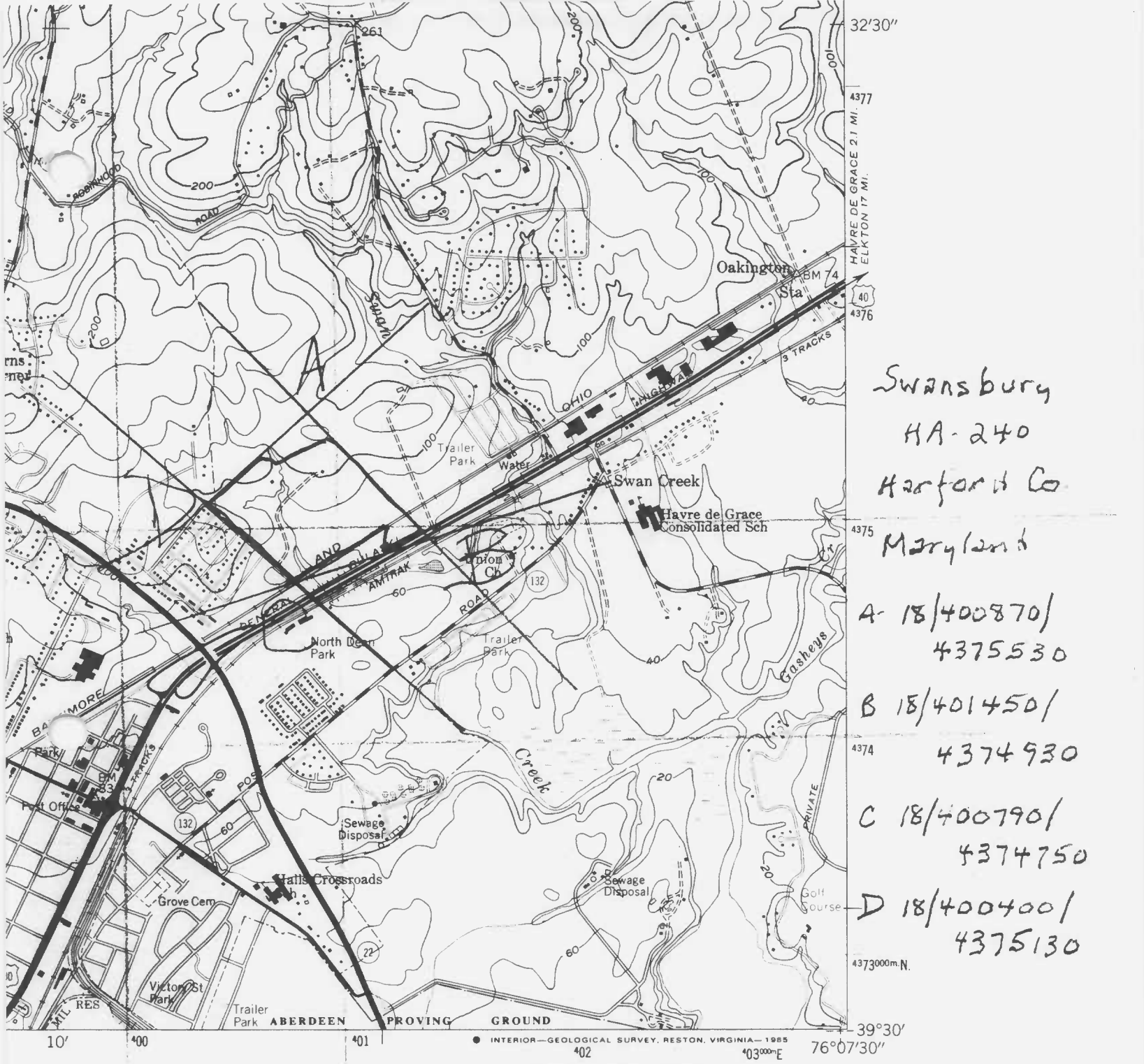


LAYOUT OF BARCHOWSKI FARM BUILDINGS

HA-240



HA-240
32'30"
HAVRE DE GRACE 2
HAVRE DE GRACE 2.1 MI.
ELKTON 17 MI.
4377
4376
4375
4374
Oakington
Sta
BM 74
Burns Corner
Swan Creek
Havre de Grace Consolidated Sch
Union Ch
High Sch
Post Office
Aberdeen
Halls Crossroads
Sewage Disposal
Trailer Park
Water
OHIO
HIGHWAY
3 TRACKS
2 LANES
PENN CENTRAL
GENERAL
AND
PULASKI
BALTIMORE
ROAD
OLD
ROBINHOOD
RD
Creek
Swan
Gasheys
PRIVATE



Swansbury
HA-240
Harford Co
Maryland

A- 18/400870/
4375530

B 18/401450/
4374930

C 18/400790/
4374750

D 18/400400/
4375130

Swansburg HA-240

Harford Co. MD

C. Weeks 4/93

Harford Co. Planning Dept.

Entrance lane

1/15

Sweetbury HA-240

Harford Co MD

C Works 4/93

Harford Co Planning Dept.

S facade

2/15

16

Swansbury HA 1240

Hartford Co. MD

C. Weeks 4/93

Hartford Co. Planning Dept.

Entrance position

3/15

Swansbury HA-740

Hartford Co MD

C. Weeks 4/93

Hartford Co Planning Dept.

N. Facade

4/15

Sarasbury HA-240

Harford Co. MD

C Weeks 4/93

Harford Co Planning Dept.

NE facade detail

5/15

Swansboro HA-240

Hartford Co. MD

C. Works 4193

Hartford Co. Planning Dept.

Entrance detail

6/15

Swansbury HA-240

Harford Co MD

C. Weeks 4/93

Harford Co Planning Dept.

Entrance Sunlight

7/15

Swansboro HA-240

Hartford Co. MD

Crooks -193

Hartford Co. Planning Dept.

Stair

8/15

Swansbury HA-240

Hartford Co MD

C. works 4/93

Hartford Co Planning Dept.

Stanhill Chemical

9/[illegible]

Swansbury HA-240
Harford Co. MD
C. Weeks 4/93
Harford Co. Planning Dept.
'Studio' mental detail
16/15

Swansboro HA-240

Hartford Co MD

Creeks 4/83

Hartford Co Planning Rent.

2nd story (east) bedroom

11/15

Swansbury HA-740

Hartford Co. ~D

C Works 4/93

Hartford Co Planning Dept.

Porch Room

12/15

Swansbury HA-240
Harford Co MD
C Weeks 4/93
Harford Co. Planning Dept.
Porch Room (detail)

13/15

Swansburg HA. 240

Harford Co MD

C. Weeks 4/93

Harford Co. Planning Dept

Meathouse + outbuildings

14/15

Swansboro HA-240

Hartford Co. MD

C. Work. 4/93

Hartford Co. Planning Dept

Outbuildings (Barracks, Cow House)

15/15