

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC White Hall

AND/OR COMMON White Hall

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
4130 Chatham Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Ellicott City

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Sixth

STATE  
Maryland

CODE  
24

COUNTY  
Howard

CODE  
027

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mrs. Harriet Goyane Ligon Hains

Telephone: 465-4717

STREET & NUMBER  
4130 Chatham Road

CITY, TOWN  
Ellicott City

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Maryland 21043

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Howard County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
8360 Court House Drive

CITY, TOWN  
Ellicott City,

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
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

White Hall is located on Chatham Road, 1.3 miles south of U.S. Route 40, about 2 miles west of Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland. The house consists of three sections: the east wing, dating from the early 19th century, the center section and the west wing. In 1890 the house was partially destroyed by fire. The east wing, which was and is not connected by any interior passageways, was not damaged. The center section between the massive end walls was totally destroyed. The west wing, which is larger than the east wing, was destroyed internally but the walls and chimney remained intact. As rebuilt in 1900, the original dimensions were retained with a cellar under the center section only. The surviving structure was utilized where possible. Granite outside window sills were incorporated in both reconstructed sections, while the original wooden outside window sills survive in the east wing. The outside door sills in all three sections are also granite. The original finish of stone or brick covered with stucco grooved to simulate ashlar masonry was retained and incorporated in the reconstruction.

White Hall stands on the top of a hill surrounded by several acres of tree-shaded lawns. It overlooks a spacious front lawn which slopes down to a quarter-acre pond with a wooded slope beyond. The perimeter of the property is entirely covered with woods which permits the residence to stand unchanged by the surrounding neighborhood.

The house originally, and as reconstructed, is 102 feet long in an east-west direction with a recently added screen porch bringing the total length to 111 feet. On the north or rear side of the house the walls of all three sections are in line providing a single straight wall the length of the house. On the south or front side, due to the different depths of the sections, the walls of the wings are stepped back from the wall of the center section. Because of this, the three-section character of the house is more apparent from the south.

The east section is a two-story wing, three bays wide. The smallest section, it is stepped back over seven feet from the center section on the south side. The windows are six over six with louvered shutters. On the south side, the first floor center window was omitted, thus on this side there are two windows on the first floor and three windows on the second floor. On the north side, there are two windows and a door on the first floor and three windows on the second floor. There are three rooms in this wing; one on the first floor and two on the second floor. A heavily molded cornice is located under the eaves of the roof. This same cornice design is used under the eaves of all three sections. There are two louvered openings in the east gable end of the wing providing ventilation to the unfinished, unlighted attic. There are no internal connections to the center section of the house, allowing this wing to be spared in the 1890 fire. Photographs taken before the reconstruction show that the east wing has not changed. The original use of this wing is unknown, but it was used as caretakers quarters before the fire.

The west section is a three-story wing, three bays wide. This wing is thirteen feet higher than the east wing and only four feet lower than the center section. It is stepped back a little less than four feet from the center section. Windows are six over six with louvered shutters on all but the dormer windows. There are seven rooms in this wing, a kitchen and pantry on the first floor, a bedroom and bath on the second

See continuation sheet #1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

White Hall  
Howard County,  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

## DESCRIPTION

floor, and two servant's bedrooms with a sitting room on the third floor. The sitting room used to contain the water storage tank for a gravity fed water system. The west gable end contains a double flue chimney and the kitchen door. There is a wood/coal range in the kitchen and a fireplace in the second floor bedroom. In 1965 a screened-in porch was added to the west end.

The center section is five bays wide and contains three stories and the cellar. This section also contains two four-flue chimneys, one in each gable end. On the south side the cellar contains five windows, all located under the front porch. The first floor contains four windows, which are nine over nine with louvered shutters, and a central front door. The front door has two side lights which start about half way up and end just under the fanlights which spans one door and the side lights. The second floor has four windows which are six over six with louvered shutters and a central Palladian window. This window was modeled after the top two-thirds of the Palladian window in the Ridout house in Annapolis, Maryland. The third floor contains three dormer windows. On the north side, the cellar contains four windows and a door to the cellar stairway; the door is housed in an upright entrance structure placed over the stairway. The third cellar window from the east is under the centrally located back porch. The first floor contains four windows which are nine over nine with louvered shutters and a central back door. The second floor has five windows which are six over six with louvered shutters. The center window is placed 30 inches lower than the other windows on this floor. This allows the window to be used to light the front stairs and hall without being obstructed by the stairs themselves. The third floor has three dormer windows. The center section contains ten rooms, not including four cellar rooms. On the first floor there is a parlor and a library on the east side of the central hall. On the west side of the hall is the dining room. All of these rooms have fireplaces. On the second floor there are two bedrooms to the east and a master bedroom to the west. The central hall is smaller than on the first floor and there is a small nursery centered on the south side behind the Palladian window. All second floor rooms except the nursery have fireplaces. The third floor has three rooms: a large unfinished room east of the small hall, a large bedroom with a fireplace west of the hall, and a small unfinished room located between the large rooms and directly over the nursery. Since the center section contains the main living quarters, it has a higher level of woodwork and plaster than the other sections. On the first floor, all rooms and the central hall have a molded chairboard and molded plaster cornices. Also noteworthy are the mantelpieces in the house which date from 1900, were removed from an older Dorsey house.

See continuation sheet #2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

White Hall  
Howard County,  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

## DESCRIPTION

On the center of the north side is a small porch leading to the back door. This porch is supported by the wall of the house and two brick piers. The hip roof is supported by the wall and two pairs of white columns, each pair placed on brick piers.

On the south side is the most noticeable feature of the house. A large columned porch spans the entire center section first floor. This porch is supported by the wall of the house and six brick piers. The hip roof is supported by the wall and by six simple white columns placed directly above each brick pier.

White Hall is in good to excellent condition due to a comprehensive maintenance program including a yearly inspection by a qualified building contractor.

Three outbuildings remain on the White Hall property, all dating from the original early 19th century building date of the house. A small square frame workshop on fieldstone foundations has a pyramidal roof and a door on the south facade. It has been recently refurbished. The smokehouse-privy is laid up with neatly coursed, squared-off stones with brick jack arches over the doors. The roof of the privy has disappeared and the walls are crumbling at the top; there is a window on the north facade. The smokehouse has a simple wooden cornice and pyramidal roof; the two vents above the door have iron bars. The joined buildings face the east. The springhouse is constructed of fieldstone with large stone quoins; it has a pyramidal roof and a door in the west facade. The ruins of a fieldstone tenant house with large stone quoins stand on the property.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <b>Local History</b>
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

White Hall, as reconstructed in 1900, represents the successful utilization of an older building which has undoubtedly been damaged beyond economical, accurate restoration. Although the central section of White Hall was destroyed by fire, its foundations and end walls remained, allowing for a rebuilding that is probably quite accurate. The structure was constructed in the simple Federal style of early 19th century Maryland, appropriate to the original building. While the essential character of the building was restored, it bears the unmistakable mark of its owner during the reconstruction. As Charles W. D. Ligon's needs for a home were different than those of his grandfather, Col. Dorsey, the reconstructed portions were modified accordingly. Mrs. Ligon's influence can also be clearly seen in three unusual features for a home in this area. The Huguenot-style doors used in all but three of the door ways in the house are modeled after those in Mrs. Ligon's family home, the Ridout house in Annapolis. Close examination shows that the Palladian window is modeled after the great Palladian window in the Ridout house, although on a more modest scale. The expansive front porch was also designed at Mrs. Ligon's request.

Charles W. Dorsey was born on April 7, 1785.<sup>1</sup> On May 28, 1812 he married Mary Tolley Worthington, daughter of Walter and Sarah Hood Worthington of Baltimore County.<sup>1,2</sup> In August 1814 Major Dorsey was 3rd in command of the 32nd Maryland Regiment which stood to the last along with Commodore Barney at the battle of Bladensburg.<sup>3</sup>

In 1822 Colonel Charles W. Dorsey and his brother, Caleb, started to purchase land in the Howard District of Anne Arundel County. On October 11, 1822 Judge Richard Ridgely sold to Col. Dorsey 161 acres which included part of the early land patent of Freeborn's Progress, patented in 1695 by Thomas Freeborn.<sup>3,4,19</sup> White Hall stood on this land. On July 20, 1825 Col. and Mrs. Dorsey's daughter, Mary Tolley, was born at White Hall.<sup>1,5</sup> Judge Ridgely had died in 1824 and apparently there was some difficulty with his estate, because on December 3, 1828, in compliance with an order of a Court of Chancery, the trustees of the estate of Richard Ridgely sold to Caleb and Charles W. Dorsey 744 1/2 acres.<sup>6</sup> This sale included the land sold in 1822. On December 30, Charles W. Dorsey and Caleb Dorsey divided this land. The line of division can be seen to this day. By the Census of 1850 Col. Dorsey had land appraised at \$57,000.00, or more than 1,000 acres.<sup>8</sup>

In 1854 Col. Dorsey's daughter, Mary Tolley, married Thomas Watkins Ligon, of Prince Edward County, Virginia.<sup>1,9</sup> The son of Thomas D. Ligon and Martha Hughes Watkins Ligon, Mr. Ligon, born May 1, 1810, had served from 1843 to 1845 in the Maryland House of

See continuation sheet #3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

White Hall  
Howard County,  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 3

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Delegates.<sup>9,10</sup> In 1845 Mr. Ligon was elected to the United States House of Representatives. He served in the 29th and 30th Congresses until 1849.<sup>3,9,10</sup> Governor Ligon, a Democrat, was confronted by a Whig Legislature. The Whigs were dominated by the Know Nothings, a secret political faction whose purpose was to deny the rights of all but the native born. In the election of 1856 the voters of Baltimore appealed to Governor Ligon for protection.<sup>10</sup> As he was unable to get the cooperation of Mayor Swann, the Governor considered calling out the militia.<sup>3,9,10,11</sup> A compromise was reached, but the results of the election were unsatisfactory and the abuses were widespread. The Governor's forceful arguments and earnest efforts started a reform movement in Baltimore which ended with a conservative victory.

In 1857 Governor Ligon retired to Howard County to reside at White Hall with Col. and Mrs. Dorsey. In the same year Col. Dorsey had started construction of "Chatham" was to be a gift to Col. Dorsey's youngest daughter, Comfort Augusta, wife of James Macubin, however, she died before it was completed. Governor and Mrs. Ligon lived there until his death on January 12, 1881.<sup>9</sup> Col. Dorsey had died at White Hall on May 24, 1864.<sup>1</sup> In his will Col. Dorsey left his property to his wife during her lifetime and then it was to go to his daughter, Mary Tolley Ligon, except for a bequest to his granddaughter, Mary Tolley Worthington Ligon, daughter of Thomas Watkins Ligon and his first wife, Sallie Ann Dorsey Ligon.<sup>12</sup>

In 1890 White Hall, which had been unoccupied except for a caretaker since Col. Dorsey's death, was struck by lightning and almost completely destroyed by fire. Mrs. Ligon, who had continued to live at Chatham after Governor Ligon's death, was for a longtime unable to view the remains of her birthplace. However, she did see it at least once before her death on March 27, 1899.<sup>5</sup> In her will Mrs. Ligon directed that White Hall be divided between her daughters. Elizabeth W. D. Ligon was to receive one half, including White Hall and Sallie Augusta Ligon was to receive the remaining half including her home, Chatham.<sup>13</sup>

Governor Ligon's son, Charles W. D. Ligon, after purchasing about 430 acres of White Hall from his sister Elizabeth, commenced the reconstruction of the residence in 1900. The reconstruction was completed in 1901. Mr. Ligon was born in the old Governor's Mansion in Annapolis on March 31, 1856.<sup>10</sup> In 1887 Mr. Ligon was married to Harriet Simpson Ridout of Annapolis, daughter of Dr. William Govane Ridout and Ellen McElroy Ridout.<sup>5</sup> Mr. Ligon died in December, 1917 and his will, a model of brevity consisting of exactly 134 words, states in part, "I give, devise and bequeath to my wife, Harriet R. Ligon, all my property, real and personal, of every sort and description."<sup>14</sup>

Mrs. Ligon died in July 1947, leaving White Hall to her daughter, Harriet Govane

See continuation sheet #4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

White Hall  
Howard County,  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

4

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Ligon Hains and her son, Colonel Thomas Watkins Ligon.<sup>15</sup> In 1965 Mrs. Hains and Col. Ligon sold 350 acres of White Hall, retaining the residence and 41.3 acres.<sup>16</sup> In 1969 Col. Ligon deeded his remaining interest in White Hall to his sister, Mrs. Hains.<sup>17</sup>

In 1976, in order to preserve Col. Dorsey's residence and the only part of his extensive holdings still owned by his direct descendants, Mrs. Hains gave to the Maryland Historical Trust a perpetual easement on the residence and the remaining 41.3 acres which create the essential atmosphere and character of this historic building.<sup>18</sup> Mrs. Hains and her husband, Rear Admiral Hamilton Hains still reside at White Hall.

- \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> Family Bible, Charles Worthington Dorsey  
<sup>2</sup> Maryland Society of Colonial Dames. Proof of eligibility for membership No. 1040-3 for Harriet Govane Ridout Ligon, April 8, 1926.  
<sup>3</sup> Stein, Charles Francis, jr. Origin and History of Howard County Maryland, Baltimore Maryland: Schneidereith and Sons, 1972.  
<sup>4</sup> Deed WSG 9/51 Anne Arundel County Land Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.  
<sup>5</sup> Lockett, Margie H. Maryland Women Baltimore, Maryland: King Bros., Inc., 1931.  
<sup>6</sup> Deed WSG 14/291 Anne Arundel County Land Records, Hall of Records.  
<sup>7</sup> Deeds WSG 14/295 and 14/298 Anne Arundel County Land Records, Hall of Records.  
<sup>8</sup> Newman, Harry Wright. Anne Arundel Gentry: Annapolis, Maryland: Maurice Leaser Co., 1971.  
<sup>9</sup> Ligon, William Daniel, jr. The Ligon Family and Connections, New York, New York: Bond Press Inc., 1947.  
<sup>10</sup> Warfield, Joshua D. The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland: Regional Publishing Company, 1967-1973.

See continuation sheet #5

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

White Hall  
Howard County,  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

## FOOTNOTES (continued)

<sup>11</sup>Letter from Secretary of War for the United States, Jefferson Davis, to Governor T. Watkins Ligon, Barnums Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, Dated November 2, 1856; Property of Govane Ligon Hains.

<sup>12</sup>Will TBH 2/28 Howard County Probate Records, Howard County Courthouse, Ellicott City, Maryland.

<sup>13</sup>Will IS 3/568 Howard County Probate Records, Howard County Courthouse.

<sup>14</sup>Will RD 5/453 Howard County Probate Records, Howard County Courthouse.

<sup>15</sup>Will RCP 9/471 Howard County Probate Records, Howard County Courthouse.

<sup>16</sup>Deed WHH 436/12 Howard County Probate Records, Howard County Courthouse.

<sup>17</sup>Deed CMP 504/360 Howard County Probate Records, Howard County Courthouse.

<sup>18</sup>Deed CMP 760/517 Howard County Probate Records, Howard County Courthouse.

<sup>19</sup>Map of Early Howard County Land Grants, Dr. Caleb Dorsey, copyrighted 1968, Maryland Historical Society.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Primary Sources: Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland  
 Chancery Records, Anne Arundel County  
 Anne Arundel County Land Records  
 Anne Arundel County Probate Records  
 Howard County Land Records  
 Howard County Probate Records

See continuation sheet #6

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 41.3

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
		41121680	4254700			412580	4254260
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
		412230	4254440			412420	4254760

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*See Continuation Sheet #7*

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE  
 Hamilton Hains, jr.

cah

ORGANIZATION

DATE  
 June 25, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

4100 Chatham Road

TELEPHONE

465-4777

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City,

STATE

Maryland 21043

**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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

White Hall  
Howard County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 6

## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

SECONDARY SOURCES

- Family Bible, Charles Worthington Dorsey  
Letter from Secretary of War for the United States, Jefferson Davis, to Governor T. Watkins Ligon, Barnums Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. Dated November 2, 1856; Property of Govane Ligon Hains.
- Ligon, William Daniel, jr. The Ligon Family and Connections, New York, New York: Bond Press Inc., 1947.
- Lockett, Margie H. Maryland Women, Baltimore, Maryland: King Bros., Inc., 1931.
- Map of Early Howard County Land Grants, Dr. Caleb Dorsey, Copyrighted 1968, Maryland Historical Society.
- Maryland Society of Colonial Dames. Proof of eligibility for membership No. 1040-3 for Harriet Govane Ridout Ligon, April 8, 1926.
- Newman, Harry Wright. Anne Arundel Gentry, Annapolis, Maryland: Maurice Leesor Co., 1971.
- Stein, Charles Francis, jr. Origin and History of Howard County Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland: Schneidereith and Sons, 1972.
- Warfield, Joshua D. The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland: Regional Publishing Company, 1967-1973.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

White Hall  
Howard County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 7

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at an iron pipe heretofore set 113.50 feet from the end of the eleventh or South 45-1/4° East 19 perches line of the firstly described parcel of land, the land herein described being a part thereof, which by Certificate of Division dated November 4, 1901 and recorded among the Land Records of Howard County in Liber No. 74, folio 459, etc., was agreed upon by Elizabeth W. Dorsey Ligon, Sally Augusta Ligon and Charles W. Dorsey Ligon and running with a part of the said eleventh line to the end thereof, as now surveyed,

(1) South 40 degrees 49 minutes East 113.50 feet to an iron pipe heretofore set, thence running with the twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and a part of the fifteenth lines of the said firstly described parcel,

(2) South 18 degrees 13 minutes East 148.69 feet to an iron pipe heretofore set on the Western edge of a private right-of-way, thence running with the western edge of the said right-of-way the two following courses and distances,

(3) South 25 degrees 48 minutes West 131.02 feet to an iron pipe heretofore set,

(4) South 26 degrees 21 minutes West 391.70 feet to an iron pipe now set on the said road margin, thence crossing the said road,

(5) South 81 degrees 48 minutes East 110.00 feet to an iron pipe now set, thence running with eight lines of division now made,

(6) South 34 degrees, 33 minutes West 574.83 feet to an iron pipe now set on the West bank of Plum Tree Branch near its intersection with a stream from the northeastward,

(7) South 85 degrees 00 minutes West 200.00 feet to an iron pipe now set,

(8) North 05 degrees 00 minutes West 200.00 feet to an iron pipe now set,

(9) South 82 degrees 46 minutes West 425.05 feet to an iron pipe now set,

(10) North 74 degrees 26 minutes West 505.97 feet to an iron pipe now set in an old fence row, thence

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #8

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

White Hall  
Howard County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 8

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (continued)

- (11) North 18 degrees 42 minutes West 434.18 feet to an electric pole,
- (12) North 26 degrees 00 minutes East 870.00 feet to an iron pipe now set on the Southern bank of a small branch,
- (13) North 72 degrees 21 minutes East 604.85 feet to an iron pipe heretofore set at the end of the twelfth or North 28 degrees 35 minutes West 265.10 foot line of that land which by deed dated November 9, 1929 and recorded among the said Land Records in Liber No. 137 folio 489, etc., was granted and conveyed by Harriet R. Ligon to J. Natwick and Company, Incorporated, a body corporate, and running reversely with the twelfth and eleventh lines of the said conveyance to Natwick,
- (14) South 28 degrees 39 minutes East 266.07 feet to the corner-post of the existing fence,
- (15) South 75 degrees 42 minutes East 539.67 feet to the point of the beginning, containing 41.300 acres of land, more or less.

**WHITEHALL GIFT EASEMENT:** It was moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mrs. Eager, and unanimously

RESOLVED that the Trustees note with great pleasure that the owners of Whitehall in Howard County have offered a gift easement on their estate; and direct the staff to prepare a proposal for the Board of ~~Trustees~~ for action at the next meeting.

Public Works

-4-

12/17/75 W2

**PROPOSED WHITEHALL EASEMENT:** Mr. Clagett welcomed and introduced Mr. Hamilton Hains, Jr., son of the owner of Whitehall, and his attorney, Mr. Jednorski. It was moved by Mr. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Clark, and unanimously

VOTED that the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust accepts with great pleasure and gratitude from Harriette Govane Ligon Hains the gift of an easement on a certain 41.3 acre tract of land and the improvements thereon lying in Howard County, Maryland and known as "Whitehall" and authorize and direct the Director to request that such gift be approved and accepted by the Governor and Board of Public Works of Maryland.

"WHITE HALL"

HO-394

Howard County, Maryland

"White Hall" originally consisted of parts of the early land grants of Dorsey's Search and Freeborn's Progress in Howard County. The mansion house, located on what was Freeborn's Progress, was constructed prior to 1822; the best available information indicates that it was constructed between 1800 and 1810. It was first occupied by Col. Charles Worthington Dorsey in 1822. At that time the property was owned by the Dashiell family and N. G. Ridgely.

Charles Worthington Dorsey, a prominent landowner and planter, was born in Maryland in 1787. He served during the War of 1812 as a Captain of the 32nd Maryland Regiment of Anne Arundel Countians. He was active in politics both before and after the separation of the Howard District from Anne Arundel County and later served as a County Commissioner of Howard County.

In 1828 Col. Dorsey purchased property which included "White Hall" from Alfred and Ann Dashiell and N. G. Ridgely. The deed, which was executed by Alexander MacDonald, Trustee, states that the property is to be sold "because costly and expensive buildings on the land have been erected at an expense of not less than \$8,000.00 or \$10,000.00 being much too extravagant and expensive for a farm of such magnitude."

In 1825 Mary Tolley Dorsey was born to Charles W. and Mary Tolley Worthington Dorsey at "White Hall". In 1854 Mary Tolley Dorsey married Thomas Watkins Ligon. Thomas Watkins Ligon was born in Prince Edward County, Virginia in 1810. He served in the Maryland House of Delagates from 1843 to 1845, in the United States House of Representatives from 1845 to 1849, and was Governor of Maryland from 1854 through 1857. After he retired in 1857, Governor and Mrs. Ligon resided at "White Hall".

In 1857 Col. Dorsey started construction of "Chatham", an "Italian style residence", designed by the noted architect Nathan G. Starkweather. After "Chatham" was completed about 1859 or 1860, he gave it to his daughter and Governor Ligon. Governor and Mrs. Ligon lived at "Chatham" until their deaths in 1881 and 1899 respectively. Col. Charles W. Dorsey died May 26, 1864 at "White Hall" in his 78th year.

In 1890 "White Hall", which was unoccupied except for a caretaker, was struck by lightning and was partially destroyed by fire. The central section was completely destroyed and the west wing was severely damaged. The east wing which had no connecting passageways, was undamaged. Also lost in the fire were many records and papers pertaining to Col. Dorsey and Gov. Ligon, which were stored at "White Hall".

In 1901 Governor Ligon's son, Charles Worthington Dorsey Ligon, purchased "White Hall" from his sister Elizabeth Wcrthington Dorsey Ligon. In the same year he commenced construction of his home at "White Hall".

As designed by Messers Appleton Wilson and Thomas Wilson of Baltimore, the reconstructed "White Hall" utilized the undamaged gable ends and foundation of the original house and was reconstructed in the same detail as the original "White Hall". The gable ends each incorporate a massive 4 flue colonial style brick chimney. The east chimney connects to 4 fireplaces, 2 each on the first and second floors. The west chimney connects to the furnace in the basement and 3 fireplaces, one each on the first, second, and third floors. A smaller 2 flue brick chimney is incorporated in the outer gable end wall of the east wing and is connected to a coal or wood kitchen range with a slate hearth and to a fireplace on the second floor.

The west wing was internally redesigned to include the kitchen which had been separately housed prior to the fire. The central section which had been 1 room deep prior to the fire was made 2 rooms

deep east of the central hall on each of the first 2 floors. West of the central hall the 1 room depth was maintained on the first 2 floors. The 1 room portions are backed by a hallway connecting with the west wing. The 1 room depth was retained on the third floor.

A small room on the second floor front, above the central hall was built as a nursery or sewing room. The nursery incorporates a Palladian window reminiscent of the window in Mrs. Ligon's family home, the Ridout House in Annapolis.

The east wing was not damaged by the fire and remains as it was then, unconnected to the main house by any passageways and is unchanged. It has a stove duct which connects to the massive east chimney. It is presently used for storage.

Photographs taken in May 1901 prior to the reconstruction show that the original house was stuccoed over stone and brick construction. This same finish was used in the reconstruction with stucco of the original sandstone color. All of the outside window sills in the reconstructed portion are granite as are all of the outside door sills in the house.

A porch with 6 large white columns spans the entire central section in front, and provides access to the front door. A large porch of this type did not exist on the original house and was incorporated in the reconstruction at the request of Mrs. Ligon. A smaller porch with 2 sets of paired white columns leads to the back door. The central hall connects the front and back doors. This arrangement suggests that the original intention was to have the driveway come to the rear of the house and thus provide an unbroken vista from the front porch over the large front lawn as was done in colonial times, however, at the present time the driveway passes the front door. In the late 1950's the east end of the front porch was screened in, however, this involved no structural change.

In 1965 the present owner, Mr. Ligon's daughter, Govane Ligon Hains, added a screen porch to the west end of the house. This

porch provided a protected entrance to the kitchen and relieved the severe 3-1/2 story gable end which was unbroken except for the kitchen door and stone steps. The granite steps were moved to the screen porch door. This addition required minor changes to the exterior of the west gable end, but involved no structural change.

Col. and Mrs. Charles Worthington Dorsey, Governor and Mrs. Thomas Watkins Ligon, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Worthington Dorsey Ligon are all buried at St. John's cemetery about 2 miles from their home "White Hall". They are gone now, however "White Hall" remains as a tangible link with the past that they influenced. It is also a legacy for the future. In order that it may continue to preside over a part of Howard County which remains much as it was in Col. Dorsey's time, his great granddaughter, Govane Ligon Hains, proposes to grant to the State of Maryland an historical easement in perpetuity. This easement will allow part of the county to be forever preserved from what passes for progress in 1976. In so doing Mrs. Hains hopes that not only will "White Hall" continue to be a home for Col. Dorsey's descendants, but that it will also serve to remind Howard Countians and Marylanders of what it was like to live in that earlier and perhaps more gracious era. It is to be hoped that there will always be room for such places, little changed by time, to remind us how, in less than 200 years, America grew from 13 small colonies to become the most powerful and advanced nation in the world; places which will preserve our past, and perhaps influence our future.

January 14, 1976  
Hamilton Hains, Jr.

Mr. Hains plans to fully document and expand this short history as time permits.

WHITE HALL

CELLAR  
ENTRANCE

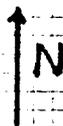
BACK  
PORCH

SIDE  
PORCH

WEST  
WING

CENTER  
SECTION

EAST  
WING



FRONT  
PORCH

EAST WING

STORAGE

FIRST  
FLOOR

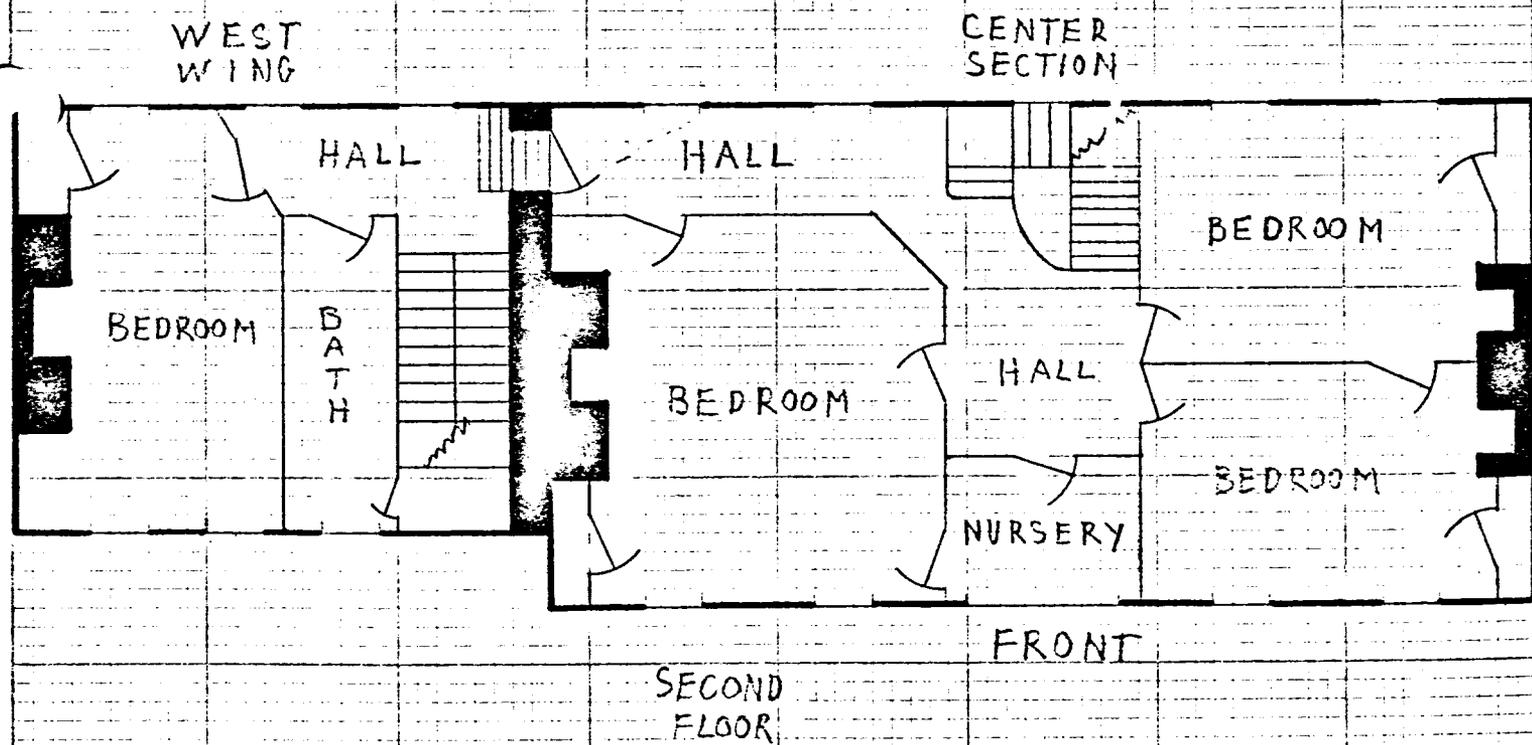
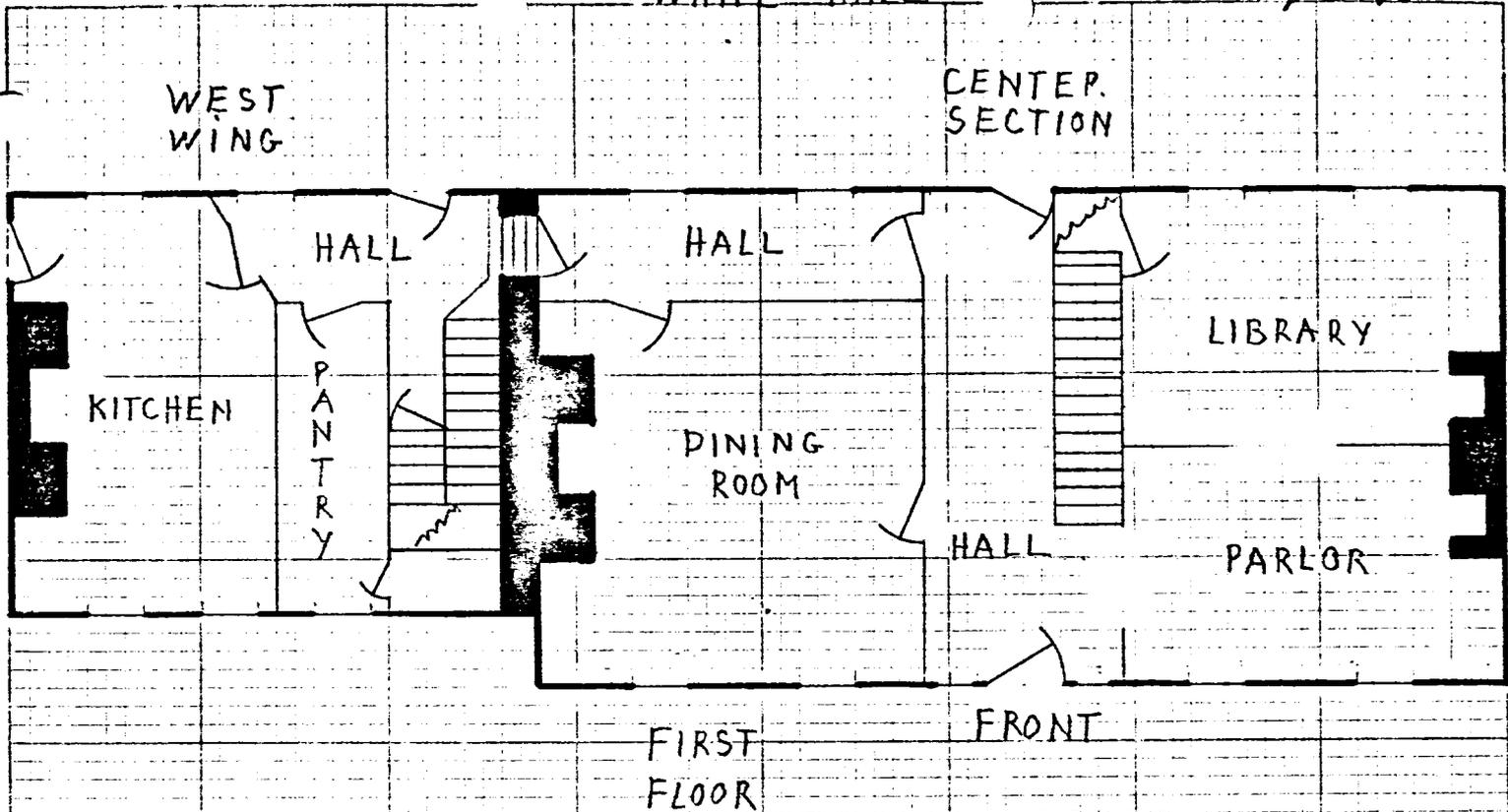
STORAGE

SECOND  
FLOOR

NOT TO SCALE

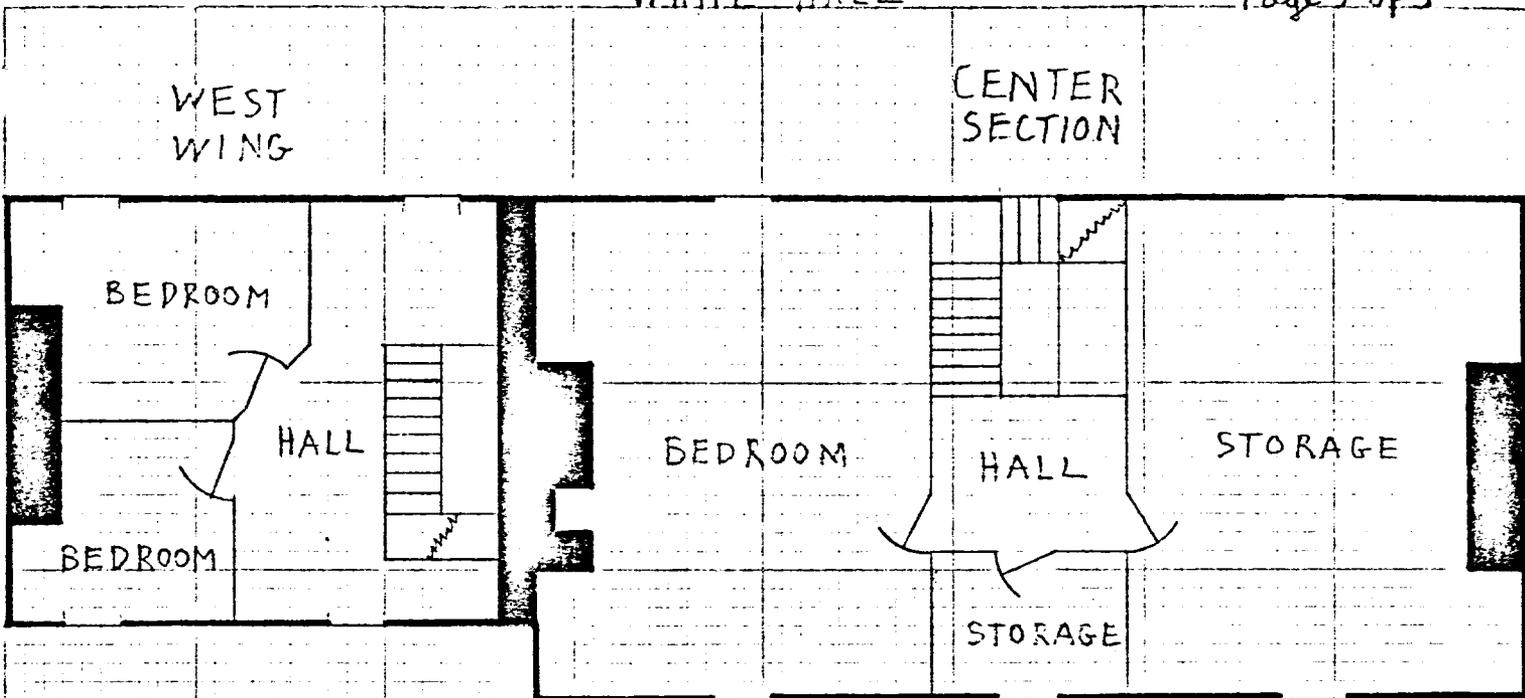
5/27/76 Hjt

WHITE HALL



NOT TO SCALE  
 5/27/76 Hjr.

WHITE HALL



THIRD FLOOR

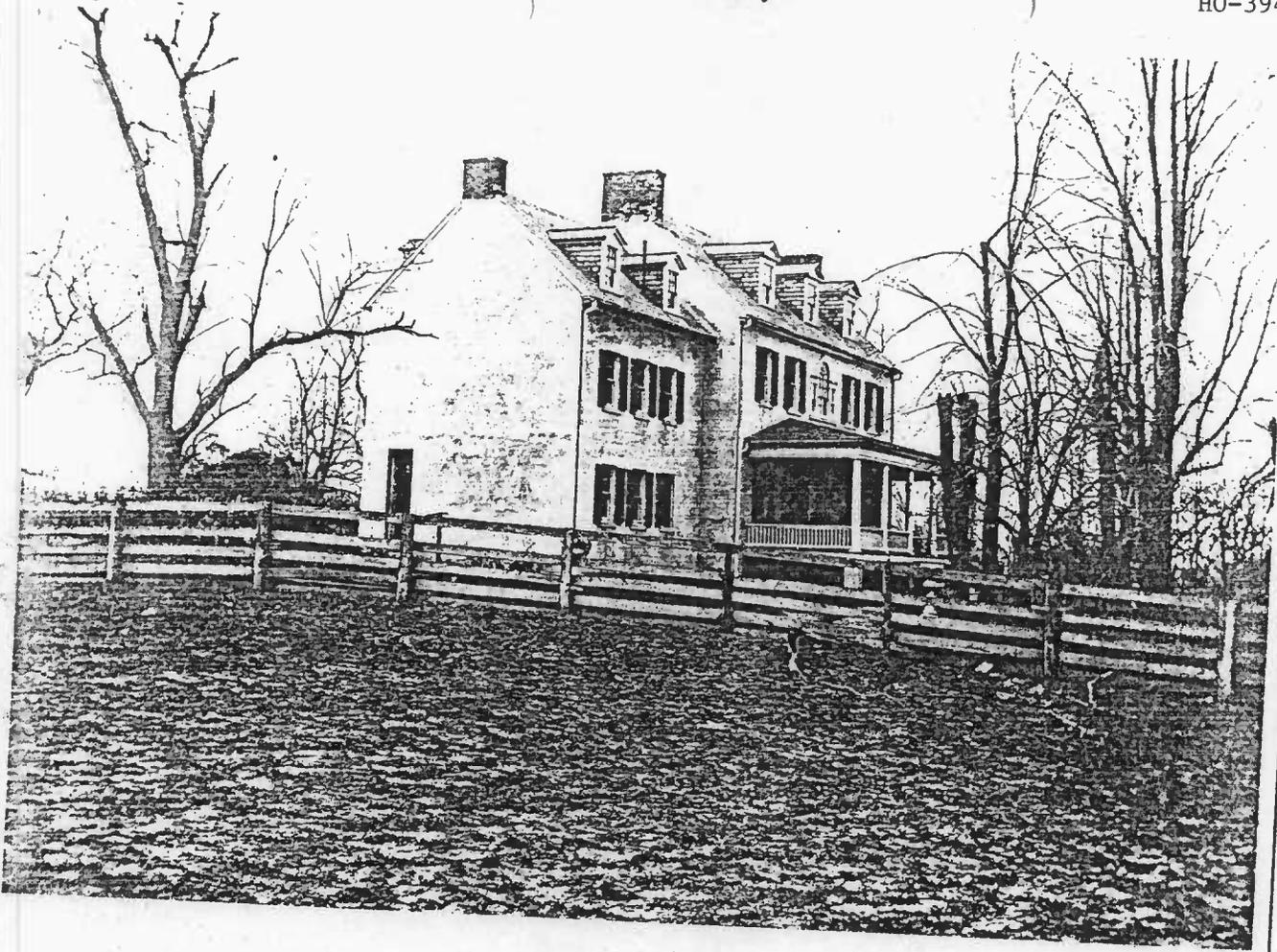
FRONT

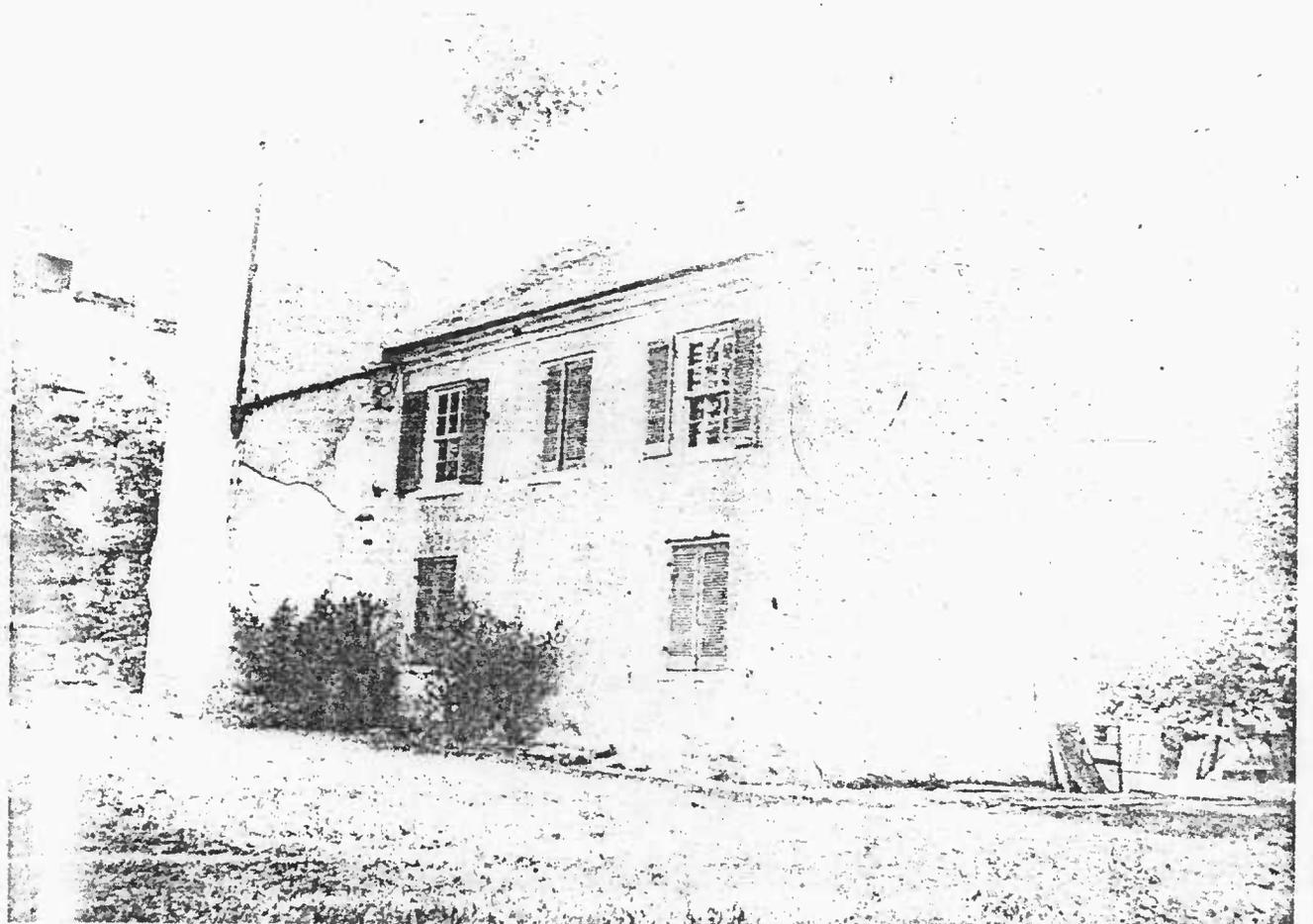
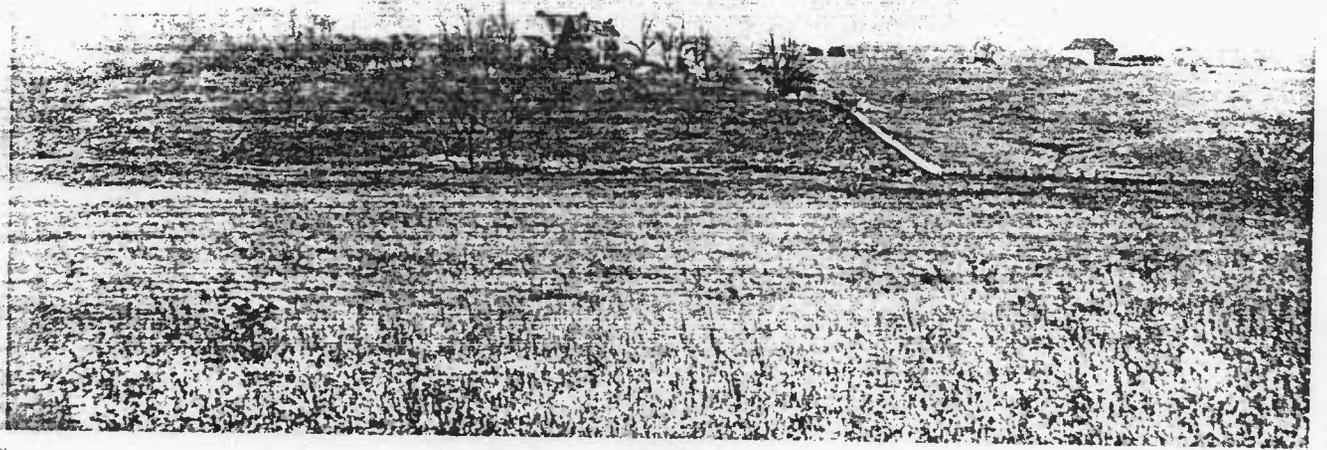
NOT TO SCALE  
5/27/76 Y.H.

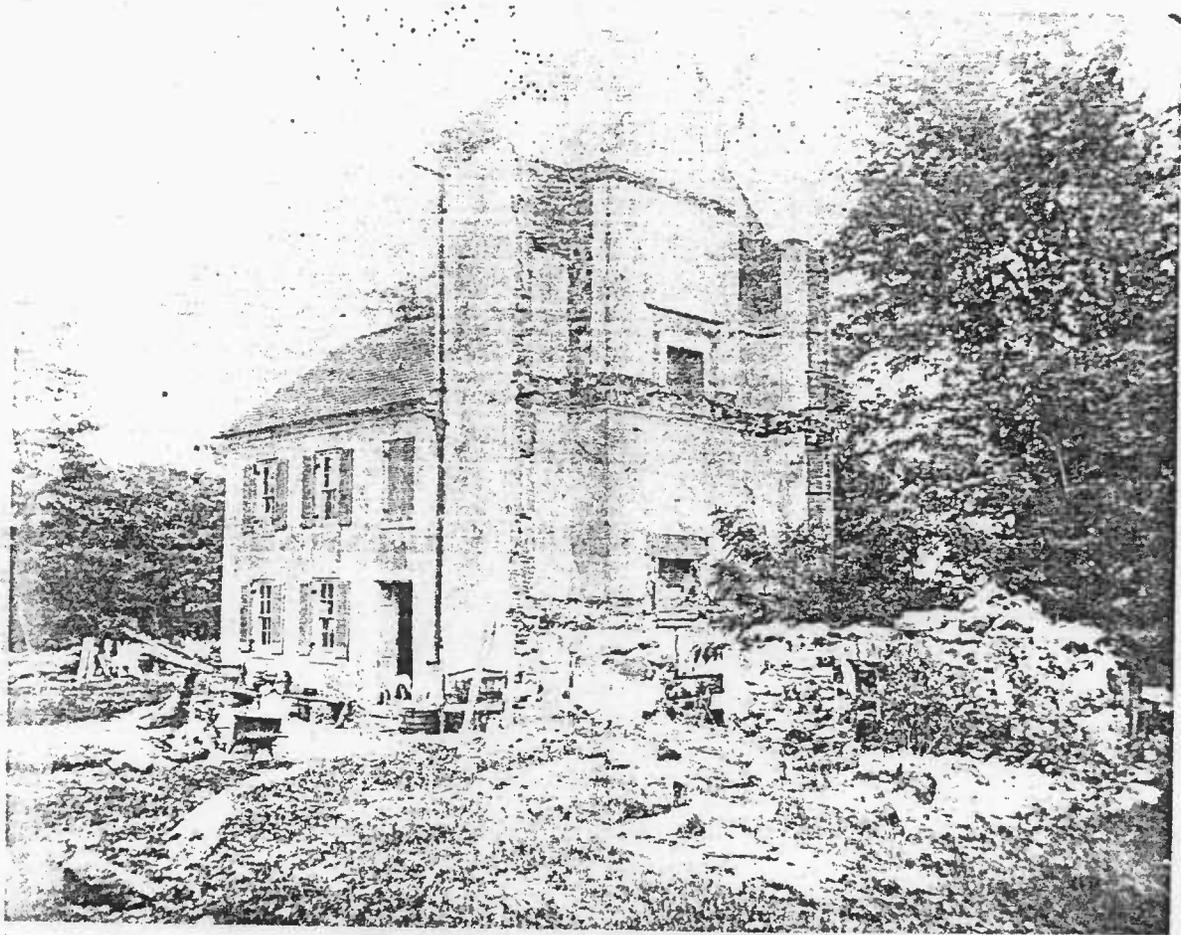
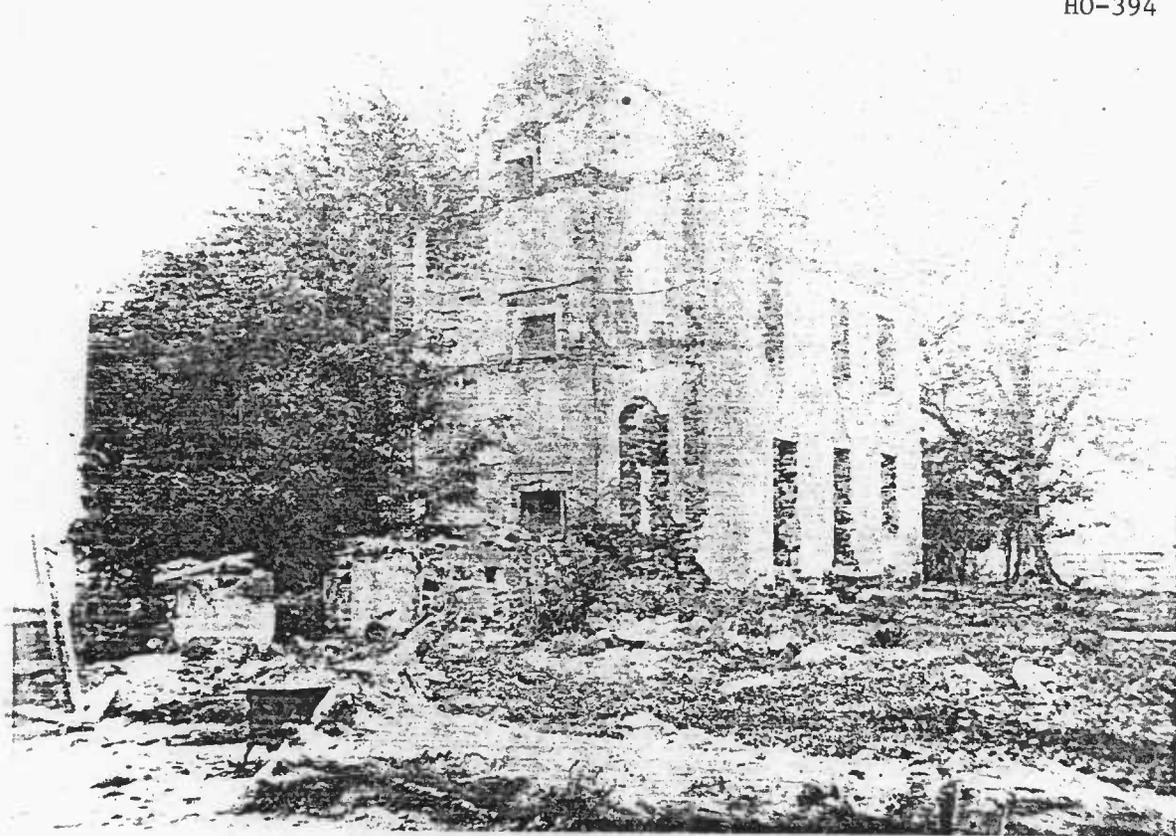
*white hall, woodbury ny*

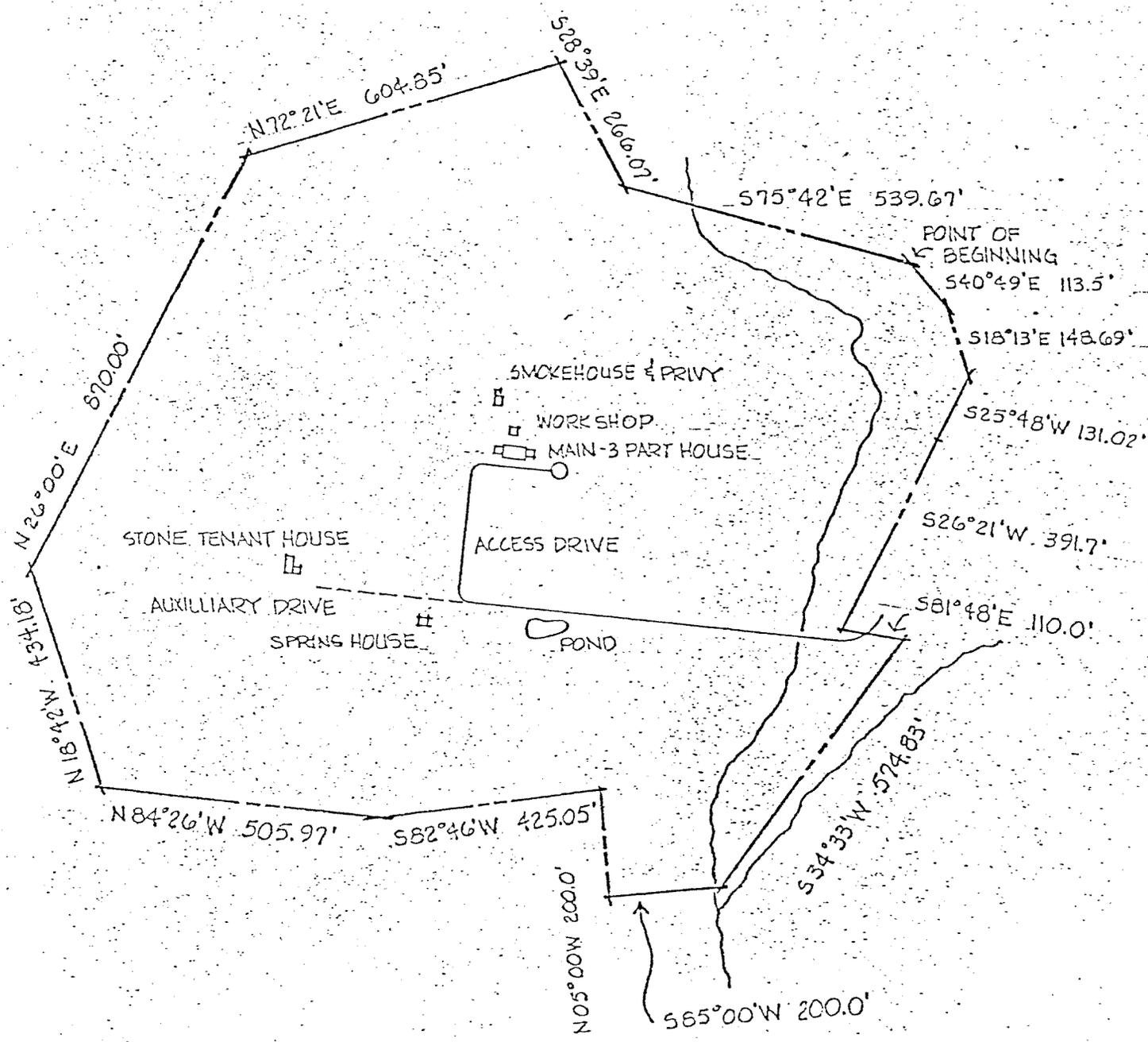
HO-3

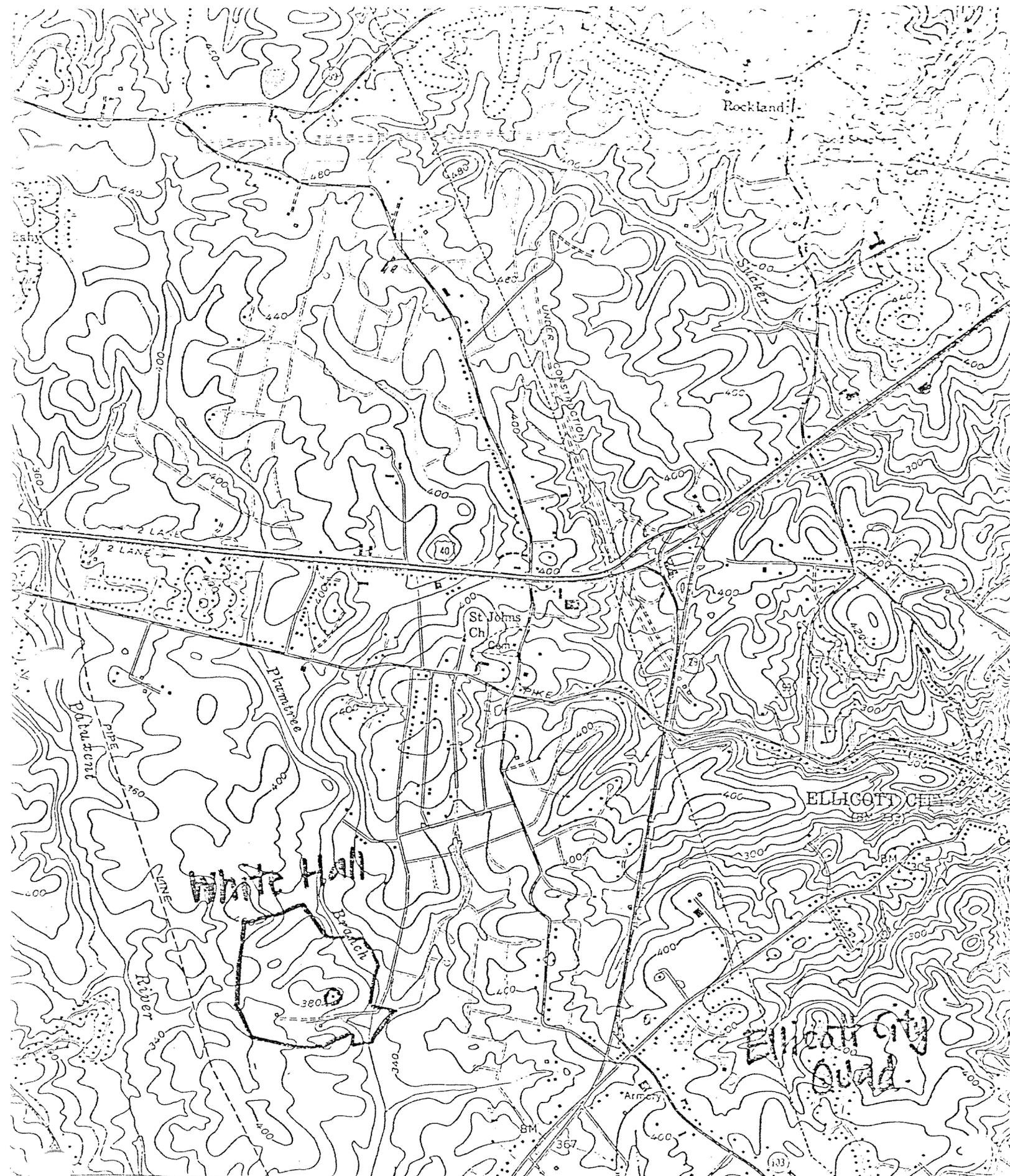
HO-394





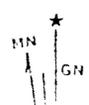






HO-394

(SAVAGE) 1:24,000  
 5662 III NE WEST ELICOTT 59 MI  
 SCALE 1:24,000





WHITE HALL HO-394  
J.H.C. WINTER '15/16

SS





neg 6  
1111

H.O. 3-2-1

White Hall - looking west - Howard County

James East 212 12/25



105

H0-3901

White Hall - Conroy West - Howard County

May 6

1117

Trinity Episcopal Church



HO-394

No. 5  
MKT

White Hall - Looking East - Howard Co

James G. ...







133

HO-34-1

White Hall - Smoke House & Poultry - Howard, Cambridge

James S. West, 1873

NYE  
HBT



1 - 2 - 3

HO-374

White Hall - Looking North - Hancock County

June 1975

Page

147

7/75





FD 394

White Hall - looking West - Howard County

NEG-C  
MHT

James Cook, III 12/75