

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey * 68-1 Date c.1840
Building Name Hitching Post Hill / Ash Hill
Location 3308 Rosemary Lane, Hyattsville, Maryland
Open to Public ~~yes~~ no ~~Restricted~~

HITCHING POST HILL is a two-story, brick building resting on a high foundation of the stately Greek Revival style. The house was built circa 1840 by Robert Clark, an Englishman who acquired the land from George Calvert in 1836. In 1875, General Edward Fitzgerald Beale, an early surveyor and government agent in the southwest and owner of the Decatur House in Washington, bought the estate. Here he entertained President Grant; a close friend who kept his two Arabian horses stabled here, President Cleveland, and Buffalo Bill Cody. The house retains the atmosphere of a retreat due to the surrounding trees, many of which date back to Clark's day.

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

Ash Land; ASH HILL

AND/OR COMMON

Hitching Post Hill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3308 Rosemary Lane

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hyattsville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Prince George's

CODE

033

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

T. Raymond Burch

STREET & NUMBER

3308 Rosemary Land

CITY, TOWN

Hyattsville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 20781

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

PG:68-01

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hitching Post Hill is located at 3308 Rosemary Lane in Hyattsville, Maryland. It stands on a high rise of ground and is reached by a long, semi-circular driveway of century old trees.

The house is a two-story, brick building erected circa 1840 on a high brick foundation. It is a square structure measuring fifty feet by fifty feet with brick walls that are twelve inches thick.

The facade is five bays long with a central doorway with transom and side lights. The twelve foot high flanking windows are big double hung sash, opening to the floor of the porch across the facade. The center window of the second floor is also 6/9 double hung sash; the other windows are 6/6 double hung sash. The openings are all spanned by jack arches one stretcher tall. The wooden cornice is boxed above a frieze and dentillated bed molding. The crown molding is an exaggerated ogee.

At the peak of the roof is a square lantern with a bracketed boxed cornice, fifteen feet square. On either end wall there are two chimneys rising flush with the walls.

The porch across the front extends around either side. It has Doric columns supporting an entablature of frieze and cornice. The present porch is an addition.

The rear facade is similar to that of the front. The central doorway has a transom light and to one side a tall narrow opening with a case-ment sash of three lights.

The plan of Hitching Post Hill is similar on both floors. There is a central hall extending through the house. On each side of it are two large rooms. To the left of the entrance is the present diningroom and, behind it, a modern kitchen. In the diningroom there is a chair rail and a picture mold. The chair rail is found throughout the first floor and up the stair but not on the second level. All of the floors are pine. The fireplace in the kitchen has a pine mantel of very plain Greek Revival design. There are Victorian marble mantels with arched openings in the diningroom and in the parlor across the hall. Both the parlor and the library behind it have bold Victorian plaster cornices. In the library, there is a dumbwaiter which connected that room to the original kitchen below.

The central dog-leg stair is Victorian. Its heavy newel and ramped rail are made of cherry. In the ceiling of the second floor hall there is a two by four foot access to the cupola. A ladder held across the ceiling (now missing) was pulled down in order to climb up.

The basement has four large rooms with a stone area-way leading to the springhouse to the east of the house. The springhouse is a square brick building with a pyramid roof covered with slate tiles. It has a cupola at the peak. A brick carriage house stands in the north yard.

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1559 | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hitching Post Hill's importance is three-fold, including its architecture, its landscape architecture, and its historical associations. The house was built circa 1840 by Robert Clark, an Englishman who was seeking space and quiet in contrast to the crowded city of Washington. He bought 427 1/2 acres for his plantation and many of the ancient trees are still standing as they were 135 years ago. Among these are a 45 foot high holly tree estimated to be 250 years old and a black willow tree listed in the Maryland Tree Champions book published in 1973.

In 1875, General Edward Fitzgerald Beale, a pioneer (as surveyor and government agent) in the southwest and the owner of Decatur House on Lafayette Square in Washington, bought Hitching Post Hill from Robert Clark. Beale entertained President U.S. Grant, a close personal friend, President Grover Cleveland and Buffalo Bill Cody here, among others. Grant kept his two Arabian horses, Leopard and Linden, stabled here. The original paintings of the horses hang in Decatur House, and there are copies of them at Hitching Post Hill. In a letter from Scotland written in 1877, Grant wrote: "I will feel more at home back in Washington than anywhere else, and no place more than in visiting your farm with you."

The house, with its twelve inch thick brick walls and hilltop site, is an imposing one, made even more so by the massive pillared porch which surrounds it on three sides. This latter feature was added by Admiral Chauncey Thomas who purchased the property in 1895. Today Hitching Post Hill stands out as a house built solidly of good materials and still surrounded by three tree-covered acres in spite of its location on the outskirts of Washington, D.C.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Hitching Post Hill / Ash Hill				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 3308 Rosemary Lane				
CITY OR TOWN: Hyattsville				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: T. R. Burch				
STREET AND NUMBER: 3308 Rosemary Lane				
CITY OR TOWN: Hyattsville			STATE: Maryland	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Maroboro			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites in the Bi-County Region				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: MNCPPC				
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring			STATE: Maryland	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Uncolored	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story, brick building erected on a high brick foundation. In plan it is almost square, with a hipped roof. The facade is five bays with a central doorway with transom and side lights. The flanking windows are 6/9 double hung sash, opening to the floor of the porch across the facade. The center window on the second floor is also 6/9 double hung sash; the other windows are 6/6 double hung sash. The openings are all spanned by jack-arches one stretcher tall. The wooden cornice is boxed, above a frieze and dentillated bed moulding. The crown moulding is an exaggerated ogee. At the peak of the roof is a square lantern with a bracketed boxed cornice. On either end wall there are two chimneys rising flush with the walls.

The porch across the front extends around either side. It has doric columns supporting an entablature of frieze and cornice. The present porch is an addition.

The rear facade is similar to the front. The central doorway has a transom light and to one side a tall, narrow opening with a casement sash of three lights.

The brick springhouse is a square building with a pyramid roof covered with slate tiles. It has a coupola at the peak.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1840

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | lasophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house was built in 1840 by Robert Clark, who bought 999 acres of land from the Calvert family. In 1875, General Edward Beale, surveyor and government agent in the Southwest, bought the property. Presidents Grant and Cleveland were visitors, the former keeping his Arabian horses stabled here.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

[Empty space for bibliographical references]

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: MNCPPC DATE: 1 Nov 74

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

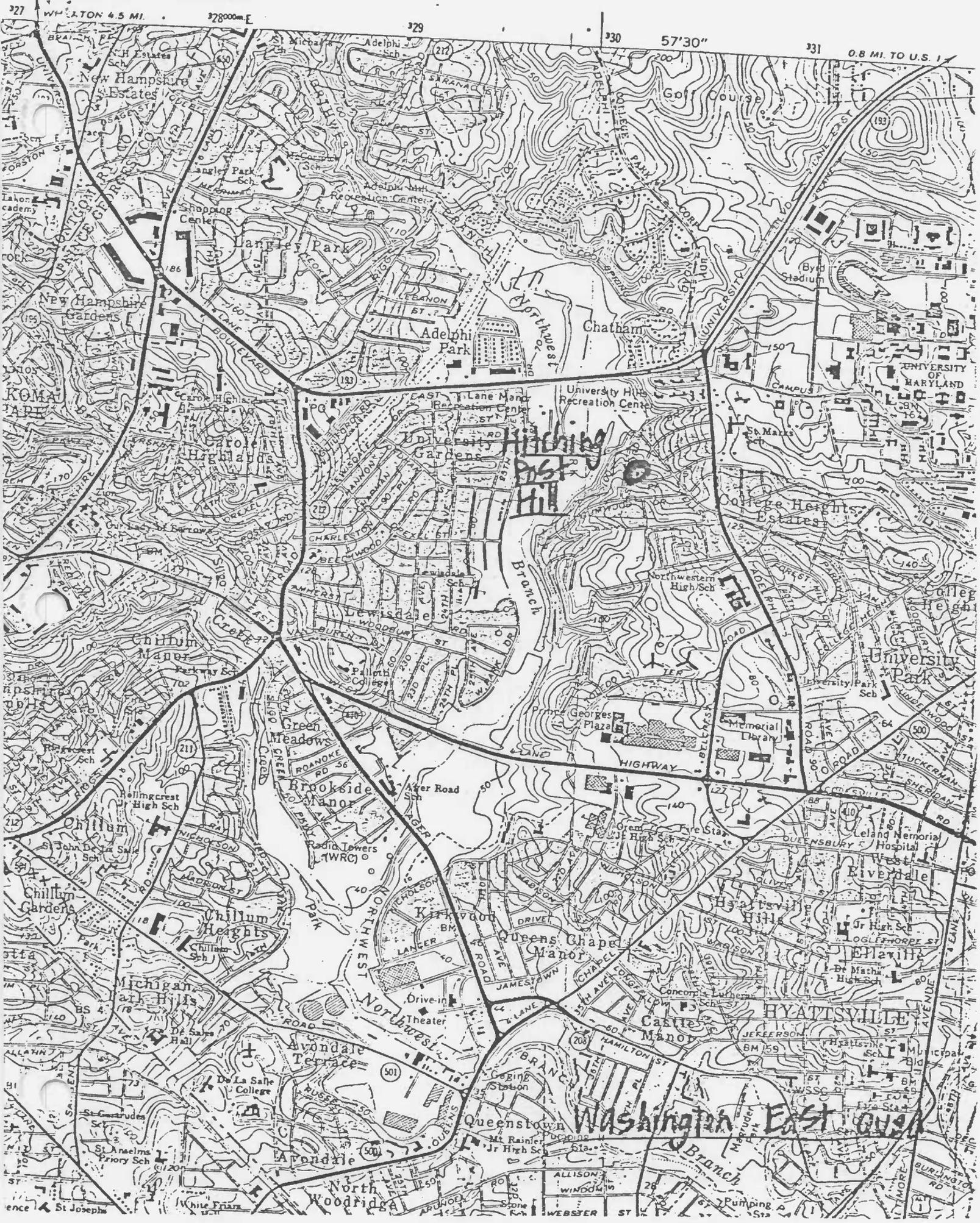
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

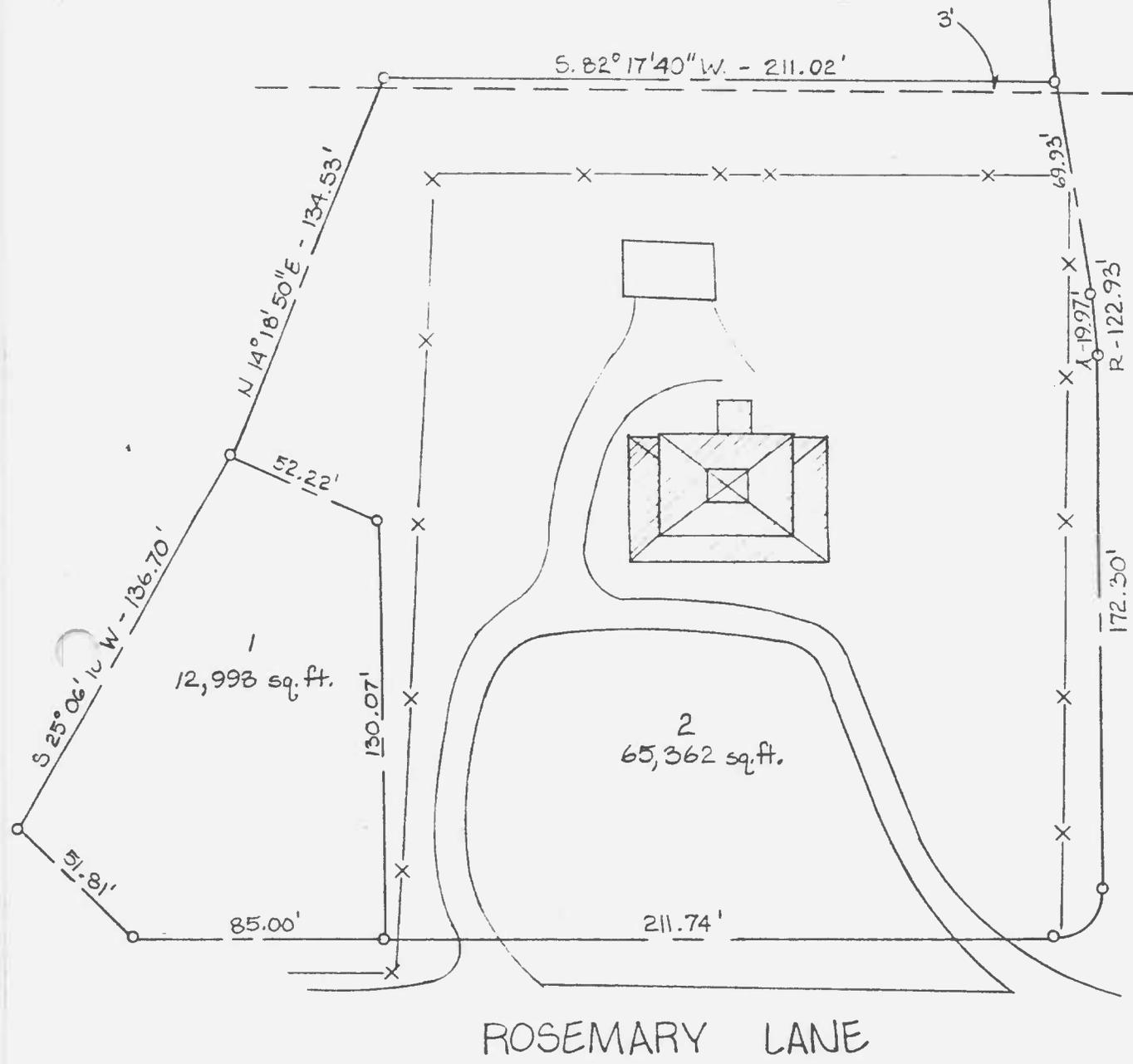
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

 Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





...H HILL PG:68-1
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. A, Page 2 of 7

Site Plan
SCALE: 1" = 50'-0"
PREPARED: 4/82 JEF
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST



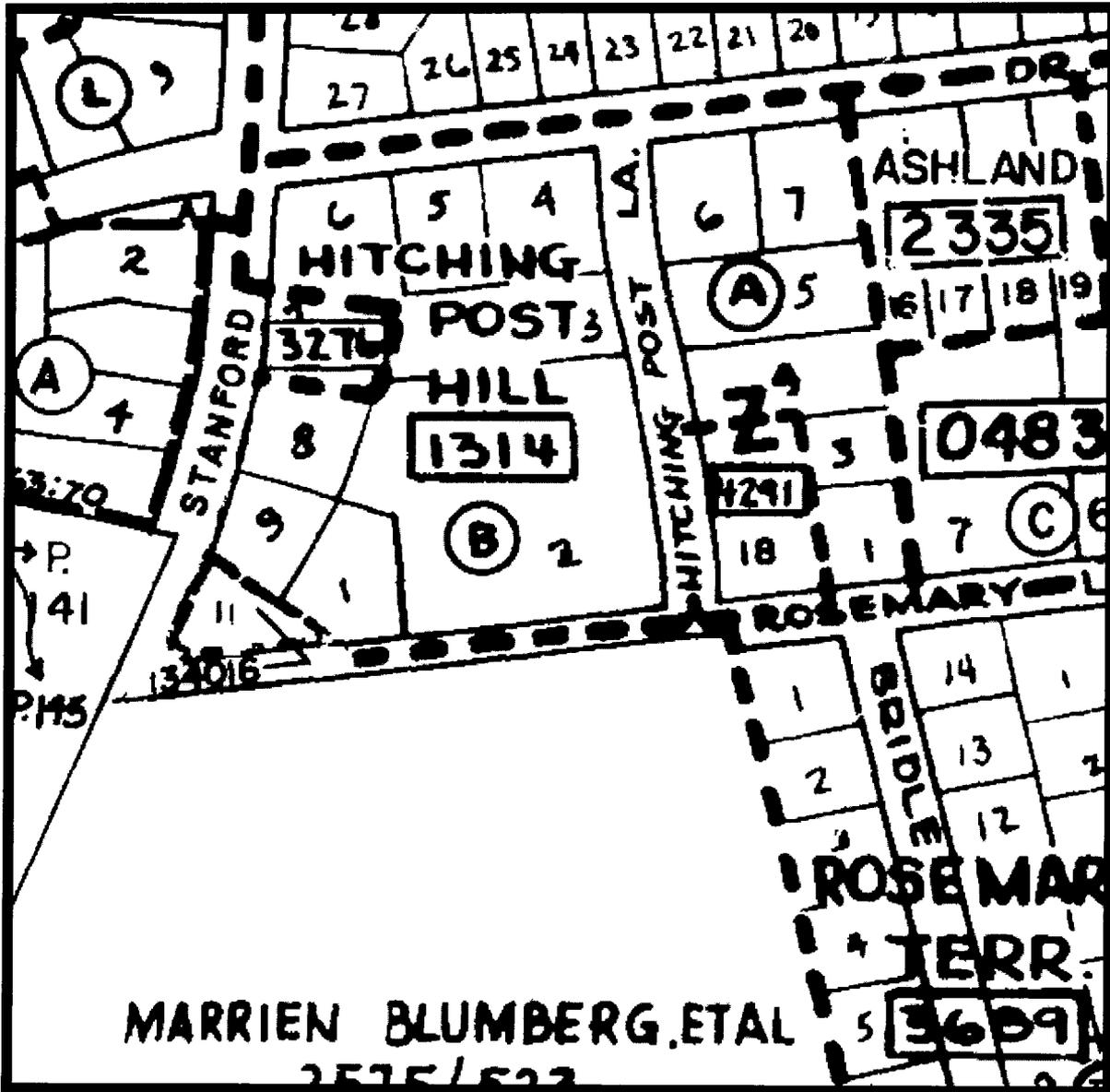
SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE WITH THE M.H.T.

GRANTOR

GRANTEE

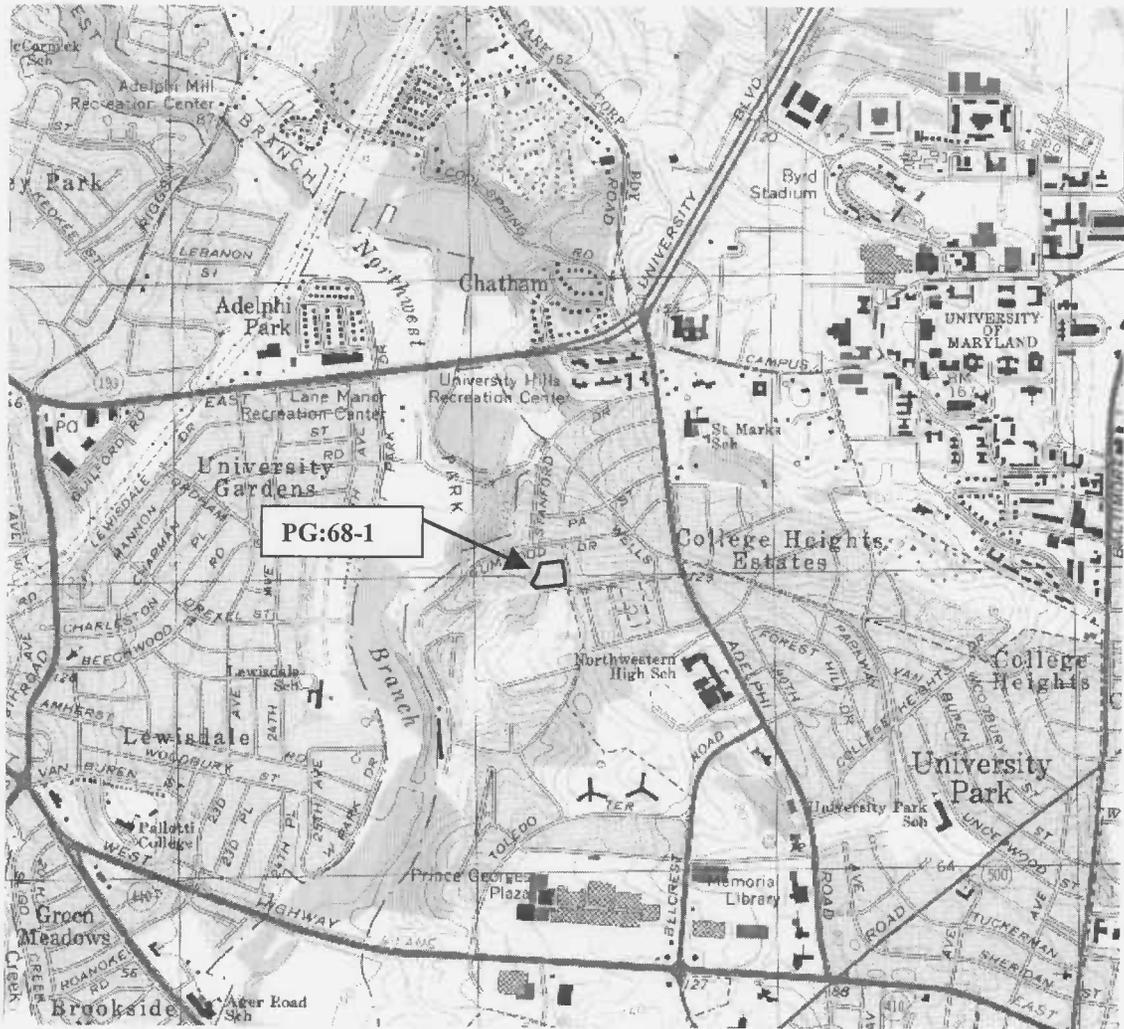
	<p>Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Real Property Data Search</p>	<p>Go Back View Map New Search</p>
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District - 17 Account Number - 1850809



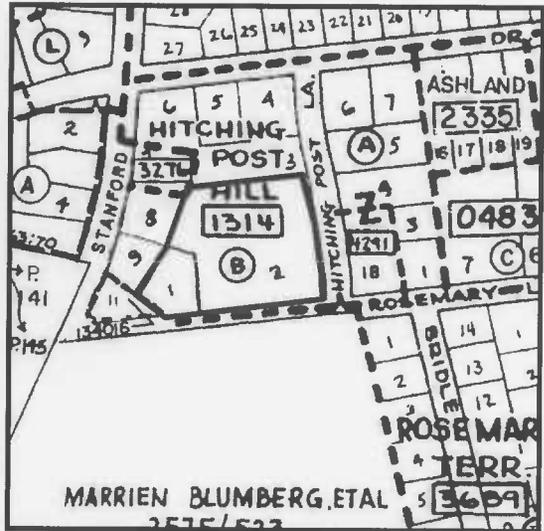
Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2001.
 For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning
 web site at www.mdp.state.md.us/webcom/index.html

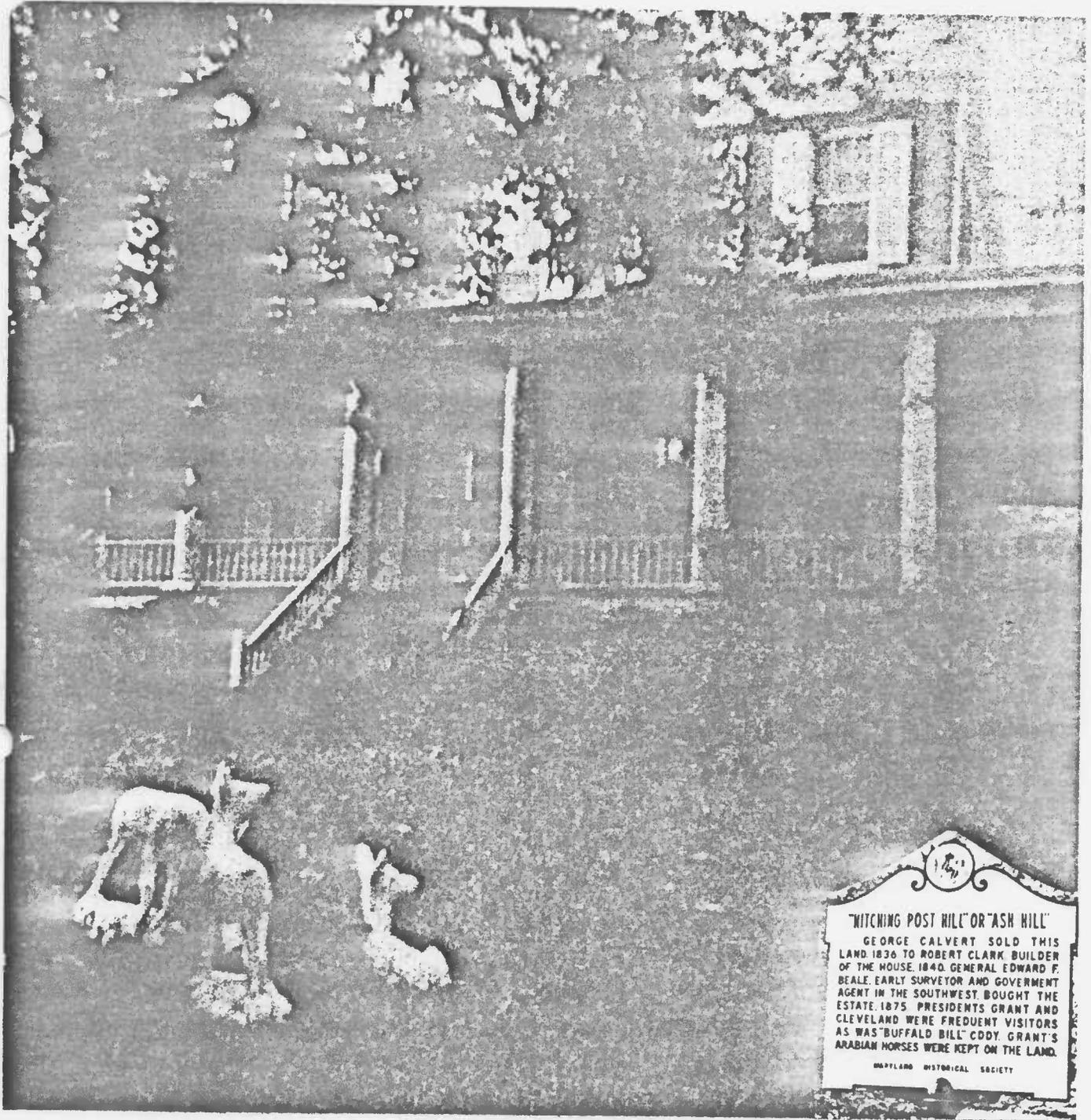
PG:68-1
 Ash Hill (Hitching Post Hill, Ash Lawn)
 3308 Rosemary Lane, Hyattsville
 Washington East Quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo

Tax Map 32, Block B, Lots 1 & 2 (plat A-1314)






"WITCHING POST HILL" OR "ASH HILL"
 GEORGE CALVERT SOLD THIS LAND 1836 TO ROBERT CLARK, BUILDER OF THE HOUSE, 1840. GENERAL EDWARD F. BEALE, EARLY SURVEYOR AND GOVERNMENT AGENT IN THE SOUTHWEST, BOUGHT THE ESTATE, 1875. PRESIDENTS GRANT AND CLEVELAND WERE FREQUENT VISITORS AS WAS "BUFFALO BILL" CODY. GRANT'S ARABIAN HORSES WERE KEPT ON THE LAND.
CHAPLAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HILL PG:68-1
 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. A, Page 3 of 7

South (Front) Elevation

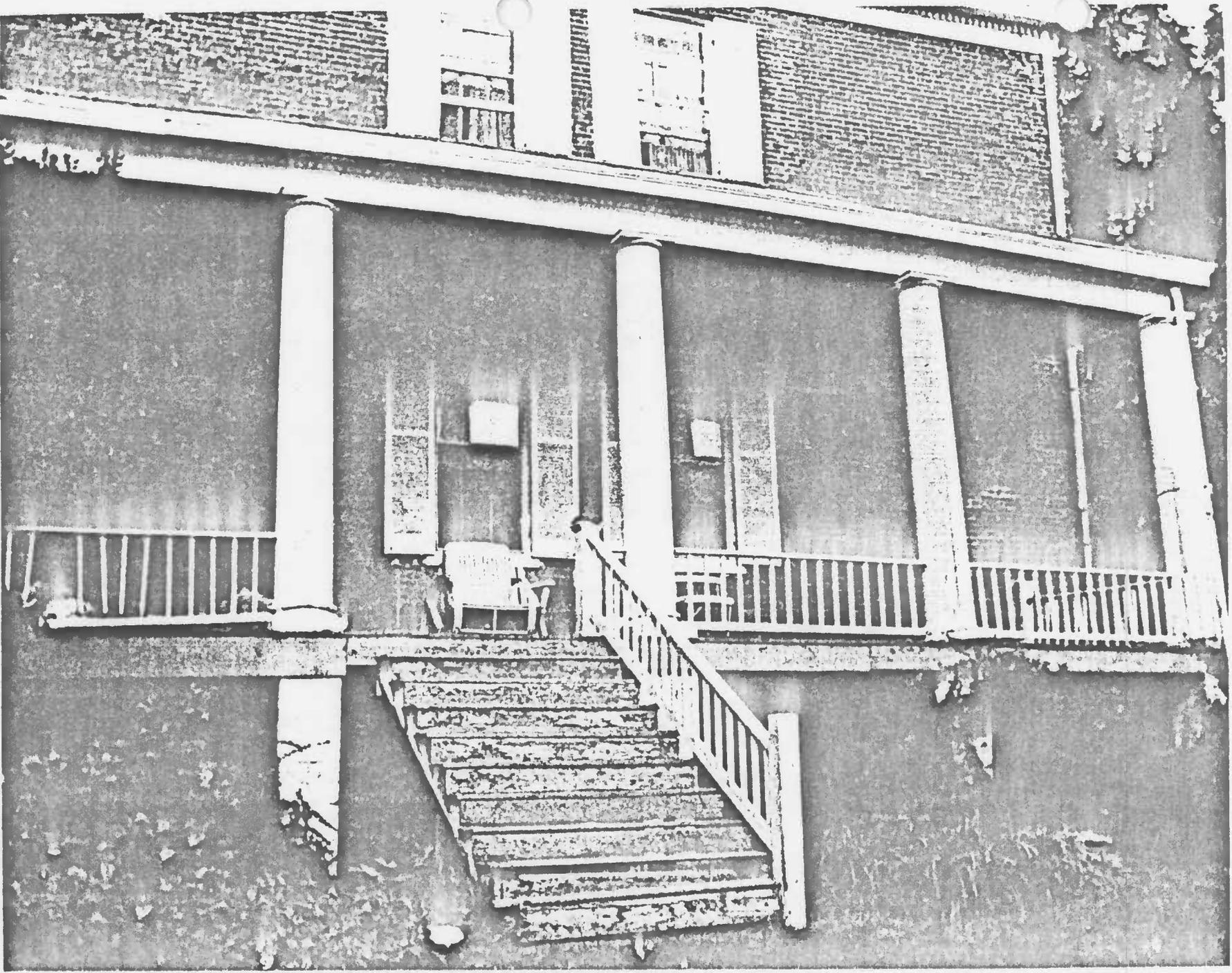
SCALE:
 PREPARED: 4/82 JEF
 MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

NORTH

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE WITH THE M.H.T.

GRANTOR

GRANTEE



ASH HILL PG:68-1
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. A, Page 5 of 7

Detail of East Elevation - Porch
SCALE:
PREPARED: 4/82 JEF
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

NORTH



ASH HILL
PG:68-1
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. A, Page 6 of 7

Detail of West Elevation
SCALE:
PREPARED: 4/82
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

JEF
NORTH



ASH HILL
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

PG:68-1

EASEMENT EXHIBIT NO. A, Page 7 of 7

North (Rear) Elevation

SCALE:

PREPARED: 4/82

JEP

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

NORTH



MAR 30 1948

PG: 68-1





PG- 68-1

Hitching Post Mill

stair



505

PG- 68-1

Hitching Post Hill

Parlor fireplace





PG- 68-1

Hitching Post Hill

fireplace in present kitchen