

WO-279
James Dirickson House
Berlin
private

c. 1835, c. 1898

Although this two-and-a-half story frame house appears to date from the late nineteenth century, the front block was actually built around 1835. Built with a side hall/parlor plan, the house boasts a pedimented front entrance, nine-over-six sash windows, and well-executed Federal style woodwork. Similar features including scalloped edge moldings and sunburst motifs link this house with other contemporary Berlin dwellings. (See, WO-75 Calvin B. Taylor house and nearby, WO-28 Engleside.)

Evidently, this house was built for James Dirickson, who purchased 123 acres of the "Mount Pleasant" tract on October 17, 1835. He remained on the property until his death around 1859. On July 27 of that year, the property was sold for \$4,000 to George W. Staton, who is listed as a merchant the next year in the United States census for Worcester County. His real estate was valued at \$4,000, while his personal property reached the sum of \$3,000. However, during the ten-year span between the two censuses his career apparently shifted. He is designated as a minister in 1870. George W. Staton resided on the property with his wife Mary until his death around 1890. A few years later the farm was acquired by Joseph G. Harrison. It was during Harrison family ownership of the property, which began in 1898, that the house was renovated in Victorian taste. The current owner purchased the house in 1957.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: JAMES DIRICKSON House

MHT Inventory Number: WU-279

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1815-1870 Agriculture / Industrial Transition

4) Resource Type(s):

1. STANDING STRUCTURE

a. SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JAMES DIRICKSON HOUSE

and/or common BREUCKMAN HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 300 North Main Street not for publication

city, town Berlin vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

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

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

name Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Breuckman

street & number 300 North Main Street telephone no.:

city, town Berlin state and zip code MD 21811

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber 99

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 415

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21811

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-279

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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The James Dirickson house, currently known as the Breuckman house, stands at 300 North Main Street in Berlin, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame house faces east with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Initially built around 1835 and extensively reworked during the late nineteenth century, the side hall/parlor main block is three bays across by one room deep. Attached to the back of the front section is a two-and-a-half story dining room and service wing. Supported by a brick foundation, the house is sheathed with wood shingles, and it is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof.

The east (main) facade is an asymmetrical three-bay elevation with a side entrance and flanking nine-over-six sash windows. The pedimented front entrance, retaining a six-panel door, is enhanced with fluted pilasters and carved sunburst capitals. Filling the arched fanlight are radiating muntins. The Federal style decoration is similar to that found on several contemporary dwellings in Berlin including the Calvin B. Taylor house and Engleside. The nine-over-six sash windows to the right are framed by an ovolo molded surround. Sheltering the entire first floor is a turned post front porch with a gable marking the entrance bay. Slender spindle decorations trim the corners of the porch. Lighting the second floor are three evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows. Centered on the steeply pitched roof is a cross gable pierced by small single-pane sash window.

The north gable end is marked by a pair of nine-over-six sash windows on the first floor and a pair of six-over-six sash windows on the second floor. A single-pane sash window illuminates the attic.

The south side, on the other hand, is sheltered on the first floor by the wraparound porch, and the second floor is lighted by six-over-six sash windows.

Extending to the rear and covering most the west side of the main block is a two-and-a-half story rear wing distinguished by a two-story five-sided bay window on the south side. A side entrance is incorporated in the bay as well as single-pane sash windows on each floor. A brick chimney protrudes through the west end of the service wing. Shed roofed additions extend the rear wing to the south and west.

(continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-279

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The James Dirickson house stands out in Berlin as part of a small collection of second quarter of the nineteenth century dwellings finished with well-designed Federal style woodwork. The pedimented front entrance with its scalloped molding and sunburst carving repeats similar treatments exhibited by the Calvin B. Taylor house, Burley Manor, Engleside, and several other frame dwellings in and near Berlin. Unlike the others however, the James Dirickson house was extensively reworked during the late nineteenth century, around 1898, in Victorian taste with cross gabled roofs and two-story bay windows. As a result the house displays an interesting mixture of two distinct periods reflective of two principal building periods in Berlin.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Due to the late Federal style architectural details, this side hall/parlor frame dwelling dates from around 1835 and was the residence of James Dirickson. After he purchased 123 acres of the "Mount Pleasant" tract from John C. and Catherine Dirickson in October 1835 he financed the construction of the house a short time later. (JCH 2/327) The house remained his residence until his death around 1859. On July 27 of that year the property was sold for \$4,000 to George W. Staton, who is listed as a merchant the next year in the United States census for Worcester County. His real estate was valued at \$4,000, while his personal property reached the sum of \$3,000. However, during the ten-year span between the two censuses his career apparently shifted. He is designated as a minister in 1870. George W. Staton resided on the property with his wife Mary until his death around 1890. A few years later the farm was acquired by Joseph G. Harrison.(FHP 10/263) It was during Harrison family ownership of the property, which began in 1898, that the house was renovated in Victorian taste. During the past thirty years the property has been the residence of Frederick W. Breuckman. (99/415)

JAMES DIRICKSON HOUSE DESCRIPTION (continued)

The interior of the front section retains a large percentage of its 1830s Federal style woodwork. Divided into a side hall/parlor plan, the stair rises against the south wall with a slender turned newel post, rectangular balusters, and a molded handrail. The stringer retains a scrolled decoration, and the area below is finished in a paneled design. A four-panel door opens into the stair closet below the first landing.

Directly adjacent to the hall is a squarish parlor fitted with much of its period woodwork as well. The late Federal style mantel is flanked by original paneled door closets, and late Federal style surrounds frame the windows and doors. In addition, chair rail and baseboard moldings trim the perimeter of the room.

On the second floor plainer six-panel doors are framed by less elaborate moldings. Distinguishing the front bedroom is a Federal style mantel. The stair continues to the finished third floor.

The back of the house has been extensively changed through with a turn of the century remodeling. Fixed against the east wall of the living room is a fancy Federal style mantel that was removed apparently from another structure and installed in this location when the room was enlarged around 1900.

WO-279
JAMES DIRICKSON HOUSE
(BREUCKMAN HOUSE)
Chain of title

99/415 Norman E. Whitman, Carmean F. Whitman

to

4/10/1957 Frederick W. Breuckman
Elizabeth P. Breuckman
"The Home Residence"

JEB 19/329 Union Trust Company of Maryland, trustee

to

2/15/1944 Norman E. Whitman
\$5,900 Public sale in cause No. 5160
of Chancery "The Home Residence"
Survey by William D. Pitts 11/23/1943

FHP 12/599 Joseph G. Harrison

to

11/6/1899 my two sons, Orlando and George A. Harrison
Tract 2, 9 acres
\$1,200 "Home Residence"

FHP 10/263 Robert J. Showell
Margaret L. Showell

to

1/1/1898 Joseph G. Harrison
\$1,700 "Mount Pleasant"

WO-279
JAMES DIRICKSON HOUSE
Chain of title

Page 2

FHP 3/211

Clayton J. Powell, trustee

to

1/13/1892

Robert J. Showell

\$2,775.00 called the John W. Staton
Residence" Decree of Circuit Court
4/9/1890 Henry C. Hudson vs. Annie
M. Staton, Margaretta J. Staton, Edna
M. Staton and Mary M. Staton, and Clayton
J. Purnell, admin. and Mary M. Staton
widow of John W. Staton deceased

WET 1/539

Hillary R. Pitts and wife Rebeacca A. Pitts

to

7/27/1859

George W. Staton

\$4,000 all that lot or parcel in the
town of Berlin in Worcester County
aforesaid, upon which James Dirickson,
deceased, resided at the time of his
death, known as part of a tract of land
called 'Mount Pleasant' containing 30
acres and which was conveyed by Mary J.
J. Harris (one of the children of the
said James) to said Hillary (7/7/1859)

WET 1/515

Mary J. Harris

to

7/7/1859

Hillary R. Pitts
part of a tract called Mount Pleasant
upon which James Dirickson resided at
the time of his death

WO-279
JAMES DIRICKSON HOUSE
Chain of title

Page 3

JCH 2/327

John C. Dirickson
Catherine Dirickson

to

10/17/1835

James Dirickson
William U. Purnell

123 acres \$1,400 near the village of
Berlin called Mount Pleasant, formerly
the property of Josiah Hill and which was
conveyed by George W. Wyattt, Anne Wyatt,
George Hill, Sarah M. Hill, and Mary Hill
to Robert Franklin by deed 6/11/1835 and
which was conveyed by Robert Franklin and
Mary Franklin to John C. Dirickson by deed
7/7/1835

JCH 2/329

Robert and Mary Franklin

to

7/7/1835

John C. Dirickson

\$1,375.00 122 3/4 acres
...situate near the village of Berlin it
being the land that Josiah Hill, decd.
bought of George W. Purnell 7/12/1817

JCH 2/232

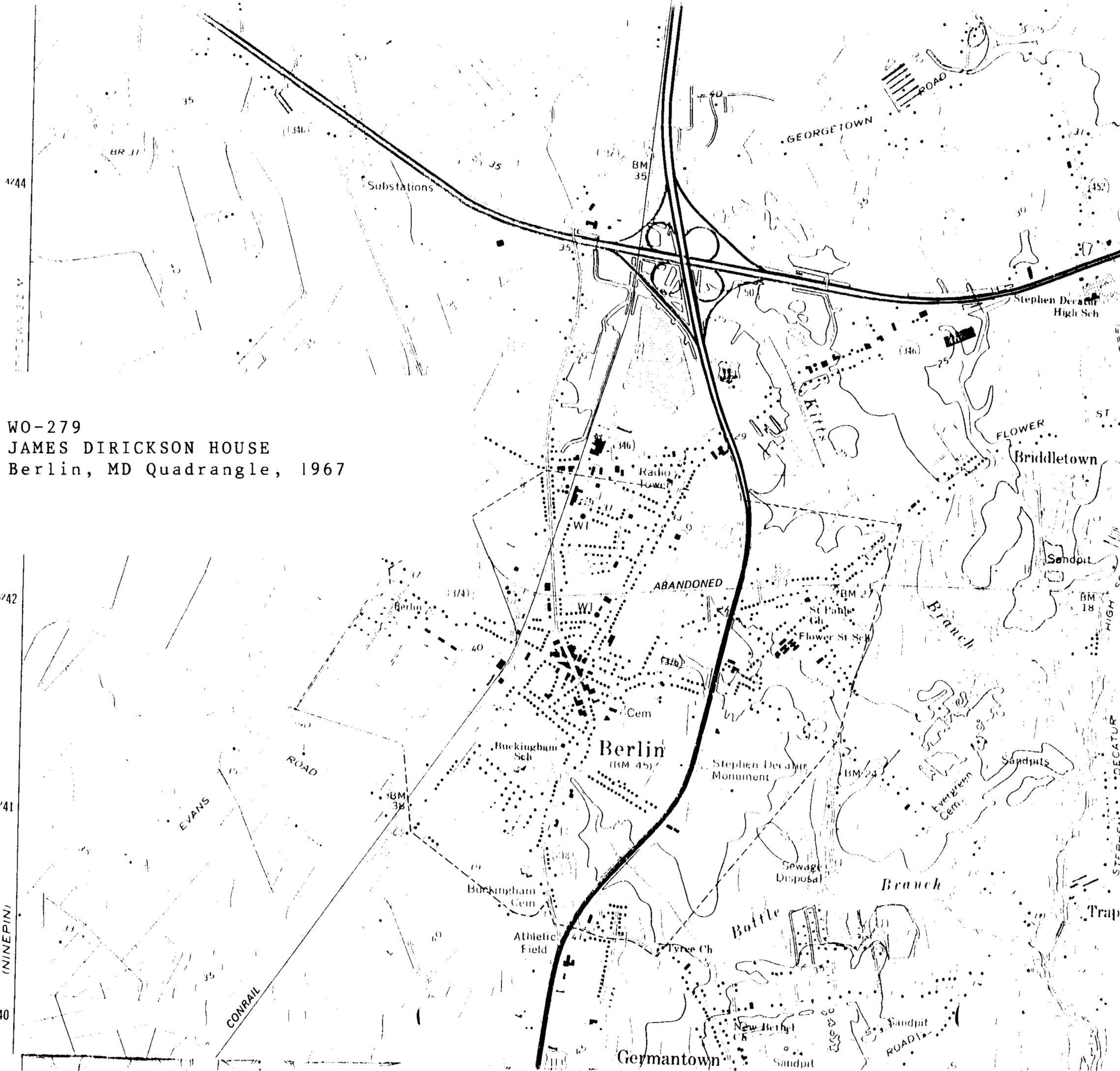
George W. Wyatt, Ann Wyatt, George Hill,
Sarah M. Hill, Mary Hill, heirs of Josiah
Hill

to

6/11/1835

Robert Franklin

\$1,300 "Mount Pleasant" 122 1/2 acres



WO-279
JAMES DIRICKSON HOUSE
Berlin, MD Quadrangle, 1967