

HO-1025  
"Sweetair"  
4122 College Avenue  
Demolished

#### DESCRIPTION:

"Sweetair" sits on the east side of the road but faces west toward a drive into Taylor Manor Hospital. The house sits on a small flat lot that was originally separate from the hospital, but was later purchased and incorporated into the hospital facilities. This is a 2½-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure with a rubble stone foundation, German siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a north-south ridge. There is an interior brick chimney in both the north and south bays. There is a two-story, one-bay by two-bay frame addition on the south that has a hip roof with asphalt shingles. A one-story porch wraps around the east, north, and west elevations. On the north elevation is a porte cochere. The ell on the rear is two stories and two bays by one bay. It has a parged rubble stone foundation, German siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge. There is a one-story enclosed porch on the south side of the ell that has a shed roof with asphalt shingles, German siding, and is set on brick piers with CMUs laid in between the piers. There is a one-story mud room addition on the south side of the enclosed porch and the main block. It has a shed roof with asphalt shingles that slopes down to the south, and has German siding. On the west elevation the first story has a center entrance with side lights and a transom of leaded glass. The first story has a center-passage double-pile plan with one room in a rear ell.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

William Boyce Peter was the son of Maj. George Washington Peter and great-great grandson of Martha Dandridge Custis Washington. In June 1878 Peter married Ella Mercer. In May of that year he purchased three acres of land from Thomas and Sophia Gaither. Peter must have already made plans to build a new house there, for it was reported less than two weeks later that he was already "engaged in erecting a dwelling." It was described as "a three story frame house of neat design," and Charles Grimes was the contractor and C. Rappanier the stone mason. The house was completed in August and the Peters moved in at that time. The house, which Peter called "Sweetair," is a traditional center-passage, double-pile plan with a kitchen ell on the rear. Peter served several terms as a State Senator. In 1895 William and Ella Peter divorced, Peter retained "Sweetair," and he died there of Bright's disease in 1907. He left the house and most of his estate to his two daughters, and they sold it two years later to Drusilla Myers. The purchase price of "about \$3,600" was reportedly paid for by Abram H. Colmary, shoe manufacturer. Drusilla Myers had worked for Colmary and had become one of his mistresses. Abram Colmary reportedly lived at "Sweetair" at least some of the time until his death in 1925, at age 69. In 1932 Drusilla Myers sold "Sweetair" to George and Laura Morrison. George Morrison was a native of Scotland who came to this country in 1895 and worked as the head gardener and estate superintendant of "Uplands," the country house of Mrs. Henry Barton Jacobs. Morrison was well-known in horticultural circles, and at age 61 in 1932 was probably contemplating retiring.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-1025

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

historic "Sweetair"

other

## 2. Location

street and number 4122 College Avenue not for publication

city, town Ellicott City  vicinity

county Howard

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

name Historic Ellicott Properties, Inc.

street and number PO Box 396 telephone

city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21041

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 5051 folio 629

city, town Ellicott City tax map 25 tax parcel 93 tax ID number

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	0
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	0	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b> <span style="font-size: 1.5em;">0</span>	

## 7. Description

Inventory No. HO-1025

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered            Demolished 2010

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

### SUMMARY:

"Sweetair" sits on the east side of the road but faces west toward a drive into Taylor Manor Hospital. The house sits on a small flat lot that was originally separate from the hospital, but was later purchased and incorporated into the hospital facilities. This is a 2½-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure with a rubble stone foundation, German siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a north-south ridge. There is an interior brick chimney in both the north and south bays. There is a two-story, one-bay by two-bay frame addition on the south that has a hip roof with asphalt shingles. A one-story porch wraps around the east, north, and west elevations. On the north elevation is a porte cochere. The ell on the rear is two stories and two bays by one bay. It has a parged rubble stone foundation, German siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge. There is a one-story enclosed porch on the south side of the ell that has a shed roof with asphalt shingles, German siding, and is set on brick piers with CMUs laid in between the piers. There is a one-story mud room addition on the south side of the enclosed porch and the main block. It has a shed roof with asphalt shingles that slopes down to the south, and has German siding. On the west elevation the first story has a center entrance with side lights and a transom of leaded glass. The first story has a center-passage double-pile plan with one room in a rear ell.

### DESCRIPTION:

"Sweetair" is located at 4122 College Avenue, south of Ellicott City, in northeastern Howard County, Maryland. The house sits on the east side of the road but faces west toward a drive into Taylor Manor Hospital. The house sits on a small flat lot that was originally separate from the hospital, but was later purchased and incorporated into the hospital facilities.

### Exterior:

This is a 2½-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure with a rubble stone foundation, German siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a north-south ridge. There is an interior brick chimney in both the north and south bays. There is a two-story, one-bay by two-bay frame addition on the south that has a hip roof with asphalt shingles. A one-story porch wraps around the east, north, and west elevations and has a standing-seam metal hip roof with internal gutters, square boxed wood posts, and a wood deck and ceiling. The porch has a cornice with an ogee and bead moulding, and balustrades that have a cross-buck. On the north elevation is a porte cochere with two posts on the north that are set on a rubble stone wall and are chamfered and have lamb's-tongue stops. The ell on the rear is two stories and two bays by one bay. It has a parged rubble stone foundation, German siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge. There is a one-story enclosed porch on the south side of the ell that has a shed roof with asphalt shingles, German siding, and is set on brick piers with CMUs laid in between the piers. There is a one-story mud room addition on the south side of the enclosed porch and the main block. It has a shed roof with asphalt shingles that slopes down to the south, and has German siding.

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On the west elevation the first story has a center entrance with the door missing, but this door is probably the door sitting on the side of the porch. This loose door has four bolection-moulded panels, the top two being round-arched at the top, with quadrant corners at the bottoms of the panels. The two bottom panels have quadrant corners all around. There are leaded glass side lights and transom, with the side lights over one panel that has a field with a cavetto moulding at the edge and a bolection moulding that is an ogee and bevel. The frame has a beaded interior edge. There is a single two-over-six double hung sash to each side of the center doorway, set in a beaded-interior-edge frame, with blinds that have one panel at the bottom. The south addition has a center doorway that is missing its door but has a three-light transom. There are eight-light casements to each side. The second story has three four-over-four double hung sash with blinds in the main block, and the south addition has two new one-over-one sash. There is a wood box cornice with returns and with an internal gutter, and in the center of the roof is a cross gable with a four-over-four double hung sash and blinds.

On the north elevation the first story has two four-over-four double hung sash. The second story also has two four-over-four sash, and the gable end has a single four-over-four sash in the center. On the east elevation the first story center bay has a doorway that is missing its door, but retains a leaded glass transom. The north bay has a four-over-four double hung sash, while the south bay has the ell attached to it. The second story has a four-over-four sash in both the center and north bays. The cornice matches the west elevation, with an internal gutter.

The north elevation of the ell has a six-over-six sash in the center of the first story, with a doorway to the west that is missing its door. There is a wood handicapped ramp with wood fire escape above added to this side and the east side of the ell. The second story has a new one-over-one sash in the center. The eave has rake-boards on the soffit. The east elevation of the ell has two four-light casements that have been added to the first story, and the second story has no openings. On the south elevation of the ell, the first story has an enclosed porch with a pair of four-light casements in the center. The porch has exposed rafter ends that have an ogee cut. The second story has a six-over-six sash in the east bay.

On the south elevation of the main block, the west bay of the first story is covered by the south addition, which has four pair of twelve-light casements. The east bay has a four-over-four sash. The west bay of the second story has a pair of new one-over-one sash to the west and nothing to the east in the south addition, while the east bay of the main block has two four-over-four sash. The gable end has a four-over-four sash in the center. On the east elevation of the south addition, the first story has two pair of twelve-light sash and the second story has no openings. The mud room addition west elevation has a pair of four-light casements. The south elevation has a doorway to the west that is missing its door, and a pair of four-light casements to the east. The east elevation of this addition has a pair of four-light

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casements. This addition covers part of the main block and part of the enclosed porch, and also covers the entrance to the basement.

**Interior, first story:**

The first story has a center-passage double-pile plan with one room in a rear ell. The passage has linoleum tile on the floor and has a baseboard with a quirked ogee-and-bevel moulding. The architrave has a quirked ogee-and-bevel backband and a large bead on the inner edge. There is chair rail that has an ogee on the top face of the shelf, an ogee under the shelf, and an ogee and fillet on the bottom edge. The chair rail is nailed over raw plaster and is fastened with wire nails, while the plaster lath is fastened with cut nails. There is also a cornice that has a small ogee at the top, a cavetto and bead, and a small ogee at the bottom. There is a drop ceiling. The front door has four panels with sunken fields and quirked Greek ogee-and-bevel panel moulds. It is hung on cast iron butt hinges that have two knuckles, and it has a new lock. There are side lights with leaded glass, with two sash on each side, and each sash consists of an oval light between diamond lights. One of the sash in the side lights is missing. The side lights are set over one flat, sunken panel that has an ogee-and-bevel bolection mould. The door was grained with a comb and has a yellow-brown color beneath later paint. The side lights were painted a red-brown, like mahogany. The transom is also two sash of leaded glass, though one sash is now missing. They also have an oval light in the center with diamond lights to either side. The walls and ceiling of the passage are plaster on circular-sawn lath. There is a straight run stair on the south that ascends to the east. It is walled off, but retains its original details. There is a heavy walnut newel post with a squat urn at the base and a tapered shaft. On the top of the round disk of the newel is a button. The handrail abuts the top disk and has a squat ovoid profile. There are turned, tapered balusters that also have an urn profile, and the open stringer stair has sawn foliate brackets. The east end of the stair handrail is curved, and then has been cut off. Most of the interior doors are missing. The northwest room door remains and has four panels that are sunken and flat and have quirked ogee-and-bevel panel moulds. The door is not mortised and tenoned and pinned, and it has replaced hinges and a new lock. The rear, or east, door matched the front, but the top two panels have been converted to lights, and are now broken out. Above the doorway is a transom of one leaded light that matches the front transom.

The northwest room has carpeting, typical baseboard, chair rail, architrave, and cornice, and the cornice is fastened with wire nails, though the plaster below it appears to be unpainted. The west window is a mortised and tenoned and pinned two-over-six sash that extends down to the floor, with a pocket in the soffit of the window opening for the sash to go up into the wall above. The window has parting beads and is hung on sash weights, with ovolo muntins that have a wide center muntin. The architrave matches the passage, but does not have a bead on the inner edge. The north window is a four-over-four sash that otherwise matches the west window in its details. Beneath the window sill is an ogee-and-bevel moulding. There is a fireplace on the east elevation with a quarry tile hearth and a fire box of fire brick. There is a brick mantel with a thick wood shelf, and this appears to date to the circa 1920s or

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'30s. There is a door to the south of the fireplace, and it has typical architrave. The northwest corner on the first story was opened up to reveal a 4 by 4 corner post with a 3 by 4 down brace toe-nailed to it with cut nails. There is a 1 by 2 nailer added to the south side of the post to nail the west wall plaster lath to, and it was added after the north wall lath had been put in. The lath is circular-sawn and is fastened with cut nails.

The northeast room has carpeting, typical baseboard, chair rail, architrave, and cornice, and has four-over-four sash in the windows that are otherwise like those in the northwest room. These sash are typical for the house. The inner stop on the windows acts as the inner bead on the architrave. There is a chimney breast on the west that is closed off and has no mantel, and a closet was added to the north of it. The west wall fireplace has been bricked in and plastered over, then that wall was covered with a pier mirror, and the pier mirror was walled over with metal studs and drywall. The pier mirror is of walnut, painted white, and has paneled pilasters with acroterion at the base of them. There is a stylized leaf at the top with impost block above that also has a stylized leaf. There is a plain frieze on the mirror and a cornice with an ogee above a cavetto. In the center of the top of the mirror is a cartouche consisting of a shield with foliage sprays. The mirror is 4 feet 10 inches wide by 7 feet 2 inches tall. On the back of the mirror is a label that reads:

From  
ART PLATE GLASS & MIRROR WORKS  
DESIGNERS AND MANUFACTURERS  
GENUINE ELECTROLYTIC  
COPPER BACK MIRRORS  
920-922 LINDEN AVENUE  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND  
TRADEMARK  
ABRITOR  
FOR  
Mr. Morrison  
4421 Old Frederick Rd.

The southwest room has carpeting, typical baseboard, chair rail, cornice, and the west window extends down to the floor like in the northwest room. On the east elevation is a chimney breast with a large bolection moulding applied to the front creating a rectangular panel. This panel is 5 feet wide by 7 feet 4 inches tall and there is a bead and reel on the inside of the moulding. The area enclosed inside the moulding has drywall laid over top of horizontal boards, and this appears to have been a large mirror originally. North of the chimney breast is a doorway that has typical architrave but is missing its door. The south wall was opened up at an early date to give access to the porch on the south. This porch has

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carpeting and typical architrave, though the window architrave has a bead on the inner edge. There is bead board on the ceiling. The windows are casements and contain interior casement screens. This porch has a doorway on the west that had a one-light over two-panel door, and the panels had sunken fields and Greek ovolo panel moulds. The door has been broken down, but the three-light transom above survives. The window and door architrave in the porch is narrower than that found in the rest of the house, and may be made to match it.

The southeast room is divided into a secondary passage along the north side and two small rooms to the south, and this appears to be the original configuration. All of the spaces have linoleum or tile, with typical baseboard and architrave. The secondary passage has a doorway on the north leading to the primary passage, a door at the east end into the ell, and two doors on the south into the two small rooms; the latter each have a two-light transom and a transom bar with a quirked ogee-and-bevel mould. The small western room is a modern kitchen with a typical four-over-four sash at the south end, and the east room is a modern bathroom with no window.

The ell room is divided into a major space to the east and a secondary passage and closet at the west end. There is carpeting and typical baseboard and architrave. The east wall has a chimney breast that has been closed off, but had a tall and wide opening, with square jambs, for a cook stove. This chimney breast is made with reused bricks, some of which are painted, and some of which look like pressed brick. It is constructed with poor quality mortar joints, but was definitely not built to hold a fire. It is possible that it has been re-lined with used brick and the face of the breast built out to the west about 1 inch with extra plaster added. The opening was closed off with drywall, then plaster, then more drywall on top. The interior is closed off above with a metal sheet that has two round holes in it for stove pipe.

**Interior, second story:**

The second story floor plan matches the first story. The passage has carpeting, and typical baseboard and architrave. There is new chair rail on the north wall, typical chair rail on the east wall, and no chair rail on the west wall. The stairway has been closed off with drywall. The west end has been closed off with a new wall to make a small room. There are typical four-over-four sash on both the east and west ends of the passage. The doors have four panels with sunken double fields and ogee panel moulds. They are constructed with through tenons that are not pinned, and the doors were originally varnished. One of these doors has butt hinges with two knuckles, while the others have new hinges, and they all have new locks. Several of the doors are missing.

The northwest chamber has carpeting, typical baseboard, architrave, and sash, and has a drop ceiling. A bathroom has been added in the northeast corner. The chimney stack projects into the room on the east. The northeast chamber is the same as the northwest chamber, with a chimney stack on the west and a bathroom added in the northwest. The southwest chamber is identical to the northwest chamber, with a

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chimney on the east wall. The south wall has a wide doorway that had double doors. It has typical architrave and a four-light transom. This doorway leads to the sun porch on the second story, and this porch has typical architrave with new sash, and drywall installed over vertical bead board. There is carpeting and a drop ceiling that covers 3-inch wide bead board. There is a bathroom to the east in this porch, with all modern fixtures and partition wall. The southeast chamber is cut up with a bathroom and utility room to the northwest and a passage to the northeast and a closet on the east; all of these walls are of new construction. The chamber has carpeting, typical baseboard, architrave, and sash, and has a drop ceiling. There are three steps down on the east through a doorway to the ell chamber. The ell chamber ceiling follows the pitch of the rafters and collar beams. It has carpeting, typical baseboard, architrave, and sash, and has a narrow chimney on the east wall.

The attic has been completely finished with vertical bead board on some walls and plaster on other walls. The basement walls and ceiling are covered with very moldy drywall.

There are no outbuildings on the property.

## 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** N/A **Architect/Builder** Charles Grimes, contractor

**Construction dates** 1878

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SUMMARY:

William Boyce Peter was the son of Maj. George Washington Peter and great-great grandson of Martha Dandridge Custis Washington. In June 1878 Peter married Ella Mercer. In May of that year he purchased three acres of land from Thomas and Sophia Gaither. Peter must have already made plans to build a new house there, for it was reported less than two weeks later that he was already "engaged in erecting a dwelling." It was described as "a three story frame house of neat design," and Charles Grimes was the contractor and C. Rappanier the stone mason. The house was completed in August and the Peters moved in at that time. The house, which Peter called "Sweetair," is a traditional center-passage, double-pile plan with a kitchen ell on the rear. Peter served several terms as a State Senator. In 1895 William and Ella Peter divorced, Peter retained "Sweetair," and he died there of Bright's disease in 1907. He left the house and most of his estate to his two daughters, and they sold it two years later to Drusilla Myers. The purchase price of "about \$3,600" was reportedly paid for by Abram H. Colmary, shoe manufacturer. Drusilla Myers had worked for Colmary and had become one of his mistresses. Abram Colmary reportedly lived at "Sweetair" at least some of the time until his death in 1925, at age 69. In 1932 Drusilla Myers sold "Sweetair" to George and Laura Morrison. George Morrison was a native of Scotland who came to this country in 1895 and worked as the head gardener and estate superintendant of "Uplands," the country house of Mrs. Henry Barton Jacobs. Morrison was well-known in horticultural circles, and at age 61 in 1932 was probably contemplating retiring.

### SIGNIFICANCE:

William Boyce Peter was born in Jefferson County, Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1847 and was the son of Maj. George Washington Peter and great-great grandson of Martha Dandridge Custis Washington. Maj. Peter moved his family to Washington, D. C. when William was only six, and then moved to Ellicott City in 1856 where he leased, and later purchased, "Linwood" (HO-193). William Peter was educated at the Maryland Military Institute in Catonsville and at Rock Hill College, in Ellicott

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City, and became a real estate and insurance agent after finishing his schooling. In June 1878 Peter married Ella Mercer (b. 6 Dec. 1859), of Anne Arundel County, who was 13 years his junior. In May of that year he purchased three acres of land from Thomas and Sophia Gaither. Peter must have already made plans to build a new house there, for it was reported less than two weeks later that he was already "engaged in erecting a dwelling." It was described as "a three story frame house of neat design," and Charles Grimes was the contractor and C. Rappanier the stone mason. The house was completed in August and the Peters moved in at that time. The house, which Peter called "Sweetair," is a traditional center-passage, double-pile plan with a kitchen ell on the rear. It had fireplaces in the primary first-story rooms and such amenities as a wrap-around porch on two full sides and part of the other two, with a porte cochere off the side, full height windows on the front in order to walk out onto the porch, leaded glass sidelights and transom, and a cross-gable on the front.<sup>1</sup>

Peter also served briefly as a clerk for the House of Delegates before being elected a State Senator. Peter was apparently good friends with Gaither, and they hunted together in the late 1870s. In 1895 William and Ella Peter divorced, reportedly "having agreed to disagree." Shortly after the divorce Mrs. Peter "received two anonymous letters, and her friends received others, attacking the character of herself and her children, and threatening them with bodily injury from vitriol and dynamite." Mrs. Peter accused Sophia B. Gaither, wife of Thomas Gaither and her former neighbor, with being the author of the letters and sued her. The case was transferred to Hagerstown and later settled, so the details of the accusations have apparently not been recorded. Before settling the case Mrs. Peter married one of the attorneys representing her, Edwin J. Farber, of Baltimore and Catonsville. Despite having two teenage daughters, she was described as "still a handsome and dashing woman." Ella Peter had known Edwin Farber from at least as early as August 1895, when she hosted the wedding of her sister and Schuyler Hamilton, Jr. and Mr. Farber served as the best man. In addition to being a member of the Baltimore bar, Farber was also the president of the Daily Record Printing and Publishing Company.<sup>2</sup>

William Peter retained "Sweetair" in the divorce and died there of Bright's disease in 1907. (*Washington Post*, 11 April 1907, p. 13; 16 April 1907, p. 14.) He left the house and most of his estate to his two daughters, and they sold it two years later, through their attorney, Edwin Farber, to Drusilla Myers. The purchase price of "about \$3,600" was reportedly paid for by Abram H. Colmary, business partner in A. H. Colmary & Co., shoe manufacturers. Drusilla Myers had worked for Colmary and had become one of his mistresses, then was fired by Colmary's partner, Patrick J. Monaghan. Mrs. Colmary had heard

<sup>1</sup> *Baltimore Sun*, 1 Jan. 1890, p. 1. *Ellicott City Times*, 25 May 1878, p. 3, col. 3. *Ellicott City Times*, 31 August 1878, p. 3, col. 5.

<sup>2</sup> *Baltimore Sun*, 1 Jan. 1890, p. 1. *Maryland Manual* (Baltimore: King Bros., 1899), p. 225. *Ellicott City Times*, 19 April 1878, p. 3, col. 4. *New York Times*, 15 December 1897, p. 3. *Baltimore Sun*, 29 August 1896, p. 2, col. 5; 7 December 1896, p. 2, col. 6; 30 May 1898, p. 12. *New York Times*, 19 December 1897, p. 7. *Baltimore Sun*, 4 May 1899, p. 2.

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allegations of her husband's infidelities, but had dismissed them until discovering his diaries documenting the women's names and times and places of liaisons. She left him in October 1908, and Miss Myers convinced him to purchase the Peter house for herself. Abram Colmary reportedly lived at "Sweetair" at least some of the time until his death in 1925, at age 69. There were a number of lawsuits between the Colmarys, including over assets that Mrs. Colmary took when she left her husband, and her suit for separate maintenance. After his death Mrs. Colmary continued to sue to gain control of assets that he had placed in Miss Myers control, and the final outcome of these suits is not known at this time. Drusilla Myers could not be located in the census until 1930, at which time she was described as a 45-year-old single woman living alone in a house valued at \$6,000, and with no occupation. In 1932 Drusilla Myers sold "Sweetair" to George and Laura Morrison, and apparently moved to Baltimore City.<sup>3</sup>

The history of "Sweetair" turns decidedly more serene at this time. George Morrison was a native of Scotland who came to this country in 1895 and worked as the head gardener and estate superintendant of "Uplands," the country house of Mrs. Henry Barton Jacobs, from at least as early as 1908. Mrs. Jacobs, the widow of Robert Garrett, was the unquestioned doyenne of Baltimore society. Morrison was well-known in horticultural circles, especially for his chrysanthemums, and at age 61 in 1932 was probably contemplating retiring. He was apparently responsible for closing off the fireplaces, removing the mantels, and setting up pier mirrors in their place. The one mirror, which was made in Baltimore, was addressed to Morrison at 4421 Old Frederick Road. This was either on, or at the edge of, the "Uplands" estate in west Baltimore, and this must have been from where Morrison was moving. Unfortunately, nothing is known at this time about the landscaping that Morrison likely created at "Sweetair" after his purchase of the property. Either he or his son, George, gave \$60,000 to the Howard County Library in 1960 for the construction of the new building on Frederick Road. The younger George Morrison acquired "Sweetair" in 1950, and then sold it six years later to Taylor Manor Hospital (HO-975). The house was scheduled to be demolished in 2010 as part of the redevelopment of the hospital site.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The inventory of his property was not itemized. See William Peter Estate, Inventory WHM 10-416, Register of Wills, Howard County Circuit Court, Maryland State Archives. *Baltimore Sun*, 9 April 1909, p. 8; 6 June 1913, p. 5; 19 June 1913, p. 4; 6 May 1914, p. 3; 24 January 1923, p. 5; 22 October 1925, p. 3. U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1930. *Baltimore Sun*, 3 July 1940, p. 24.

<sup>4</sup> U. S. Bureau of the Census, 28<sup>th</sup> ward, Baltimore City, Maryland, 1930. *Baltimore Sun*, 3 December 1908, p. 10; 15 November 1927, p. 8; 11 November 1936, p. 22; 1 April 1960, p. 14.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. HO-1025

● See footnotes

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 3 Ac.  
Acreage of historical setting 3 Ac.  
Quadrangle name Ellicott City

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the outlines of the property, tax map 25, parcel 93, which encompasses all of the historic buildings and features on the site.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	June 2011
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

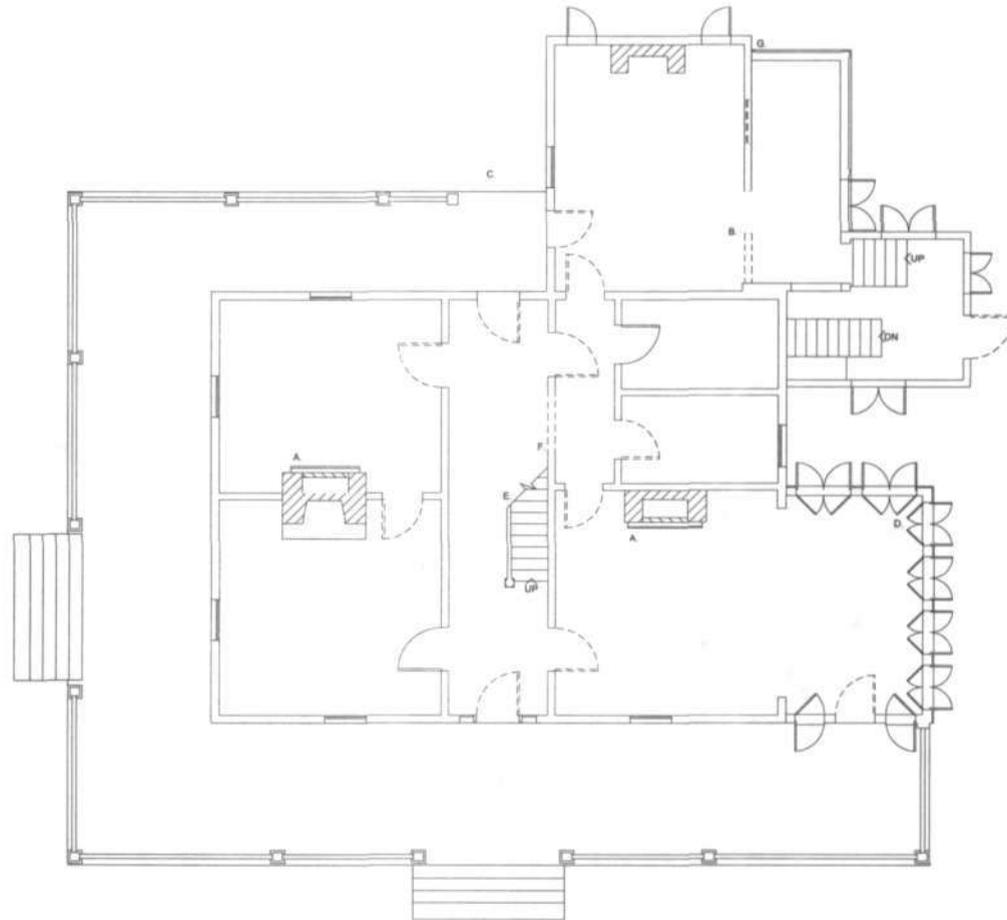
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

"Sweet's (HO-1025)  
4122 College Avenue  
**CHAIN OF TITLE**

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER -ATION	ACREAG E	NOTES
Howard County Sanitarium, Inc. / MD	Historic Ellicott Properties, Inc. / ?	6 Jan. 2000	MDR 5051-629	Deed - fee simple	\$251,124	3-0-35 ARP	34.04% interest Grantee now owns 100%
Howard County Sanitarium	Historic Ellicott Properties, Inc.	24 Nov. 1998	MDR 4559-347	Deed - fee simple	\$55,872.26	3-0-35 ARP	7.57% interest
Howard County Sanitarium, Inc. / MD	Historic Ellicott Properties, Inc. / ?	10 Mar. 1998	MDR 4215-503	Deed - fee simple	\$430,924	3-0-35 ARP	58.39% to grantee 41.61% w/grantor
George Warren Morrison & wf May Chambers / ?	Howard County Sanitarium, Inc. / MD	8 May 1956	RHM 284-181	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	3-0-35 ARP	
George Morrison, widower / Ellicott City	George Warren Morrison & wf May Chambers / ?	8 May 1950	MWB 216-537	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	3-0-35 ARP	
Drusilla Myers, unmarried / Howard	George & Laura Morrison / ?	1 July 1932	HSK 143-522	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	3-0-35 ARP	
Emily M. Peter, unmarried / Balto. Mary Peter Gallagher & husb. Augustus J.P. / Montreal, Canada	Drusilla Myers / ?	29 Mar. 1909	WWLC 87-131	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	3-0-35 ARP	
William B. Peter / Howard	Emily M. Peter Mary Peter Gallagher Daughters	<u>Written</u> 20 Sept. 1906 <u>Probated</u> 23 April 1907	<u>Wills</u> WHM 4-394	Bequest	---	?	Balance of estate (\$250 to nieces Emily Boyce & Mildred Lee Mackubin)
Thomas H. Gaither & wf Sophia B. / Howard	William B. Peter / Howard	13 May 1878	LJW 39-335	Deed - fee simple	\$650	3-0-35 ARP	
William M. Loney & wf	Thomas H. Gaither	1 Apr. 1873	WWW 32-335				

NOTES

- A. FIREPLACE CLOSED OFF AND COVERED WITH PIER MIRROR. MIRROR REMOVED TO LOCATE ORIGINAL JAMBS.
- B. WALL REMOVED AND MODERN DOOR PLACED HERE. ORIGINAL CONFIGURATION UNKNOWN. MODERN WALL ADDITIONS NOT SHOWN.
- C. HANDICAP RAMP NOT SHOWN.
- D. INTERIOR SCREENS ORIGINAL. ALL SASH ORIGINAL.
- E. MODERN FIRE WALL NOT SHOWN.
- F. WALL OPENED UP TO CAPTURE SPACE UNDER STAIRWAY WHEN FIRE WALL ADDED.
- G. PORCH ENCLOSED C. 1930s.



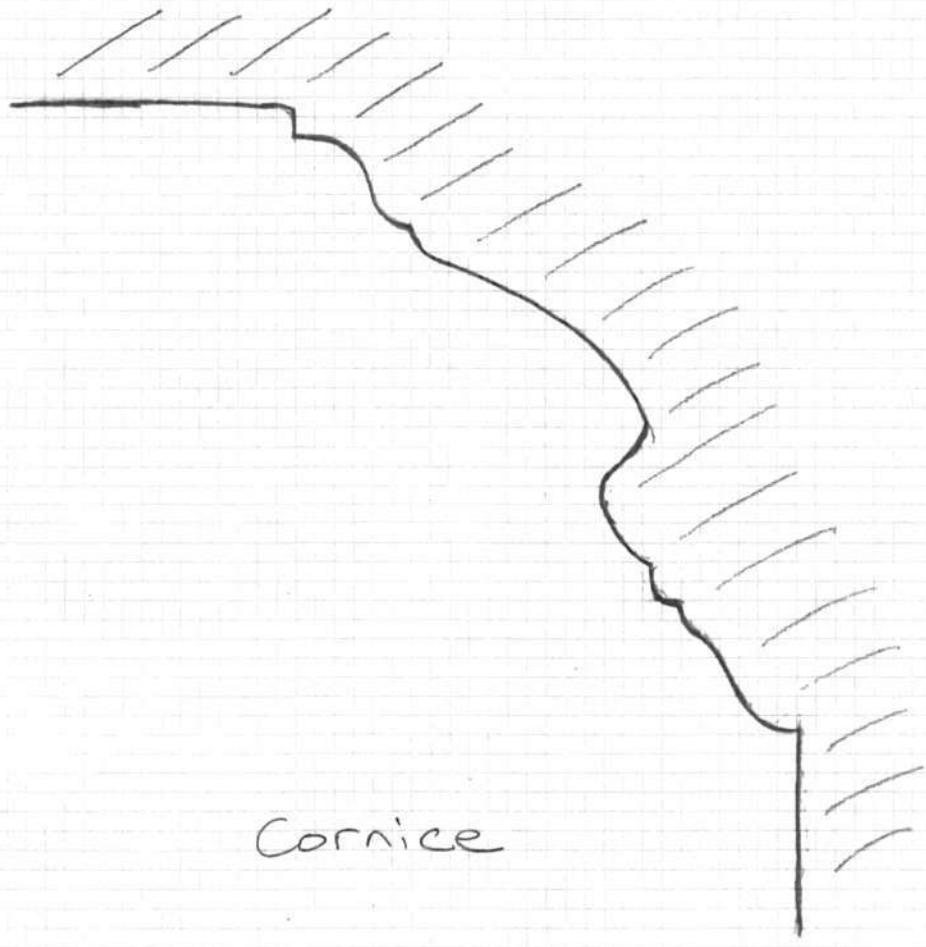
# HO-1025 "SWEETAIR" 4122 COLLEGE AVENUE

FIRST FLOOR PLAN -- MEASURED AND DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- AUGUST 2010

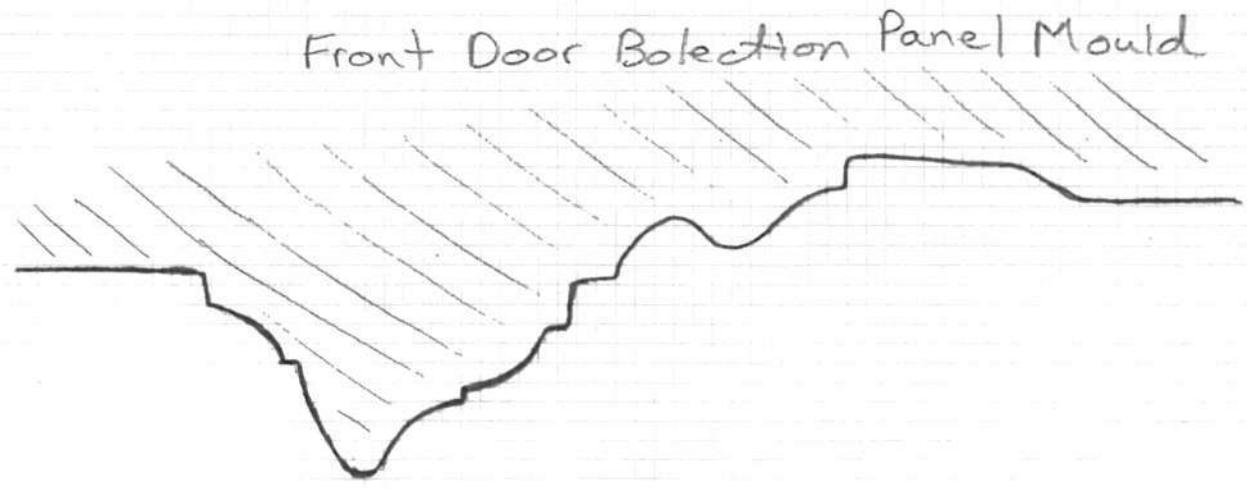
1/4 4122 College Ave  
Moulding Profiles

HO-1025

KMS  
25 Aug 2010



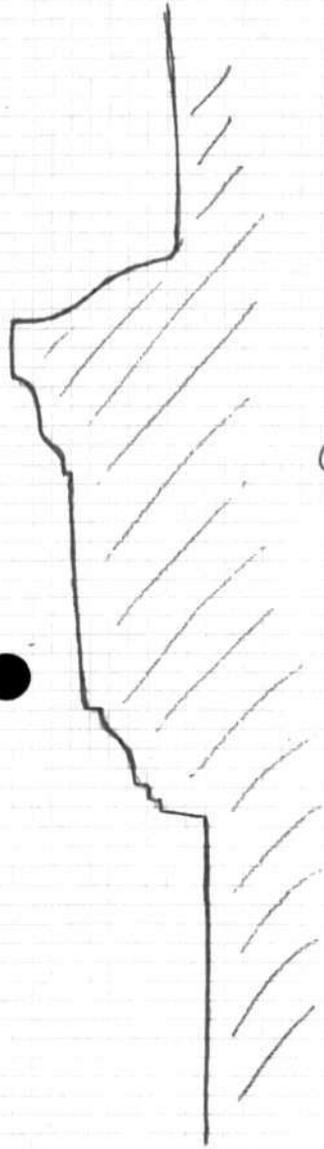
Cornice



Front Door Bolection Panel Mould

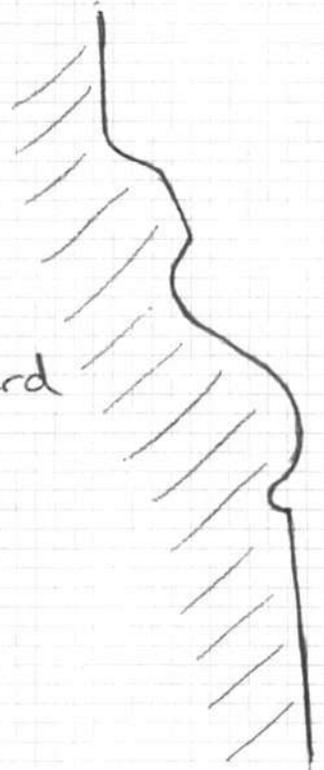
2/4 4122 College Ave HO-1025  
Moulding Profiles

KMS  
25 Aug. 2010

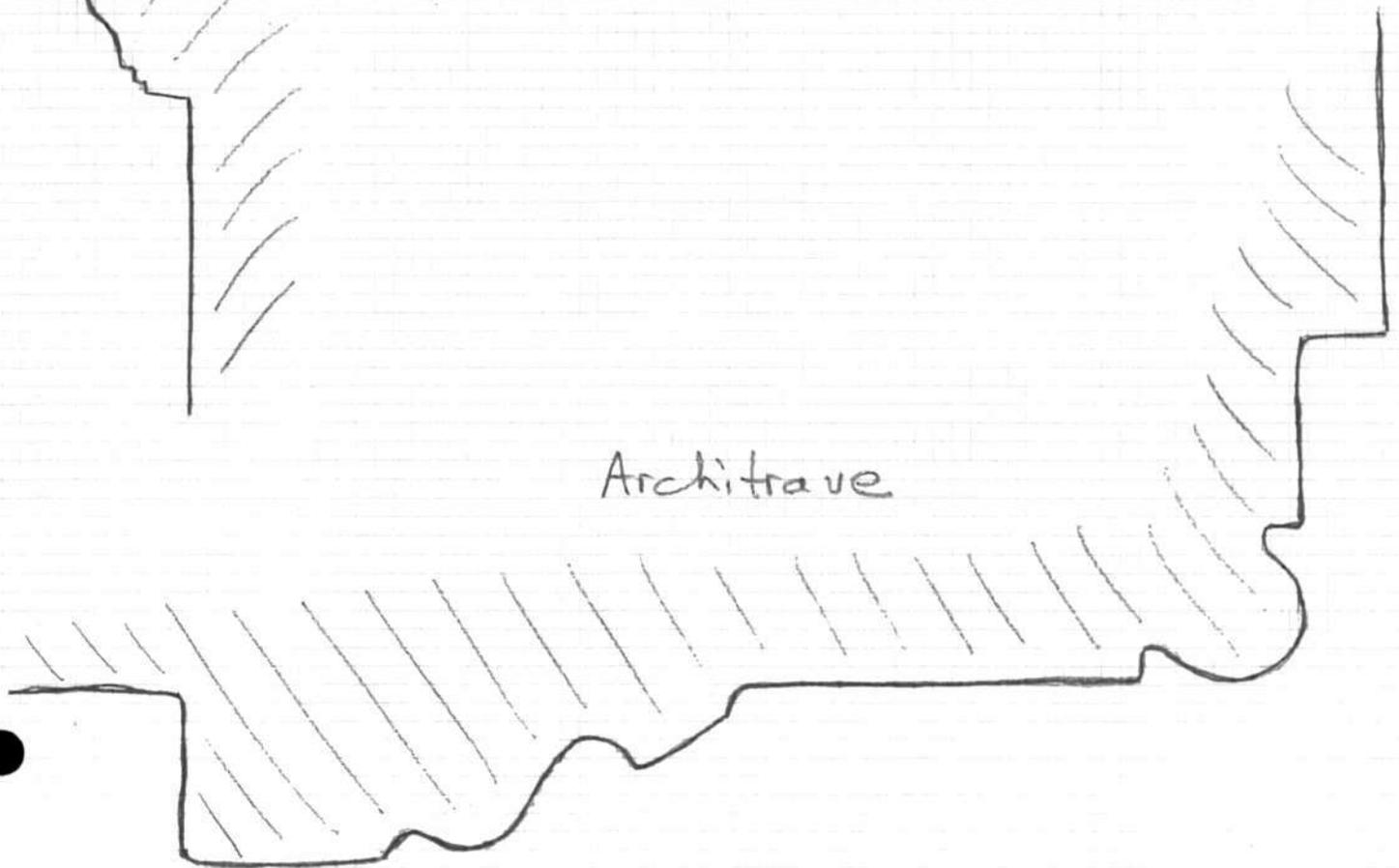


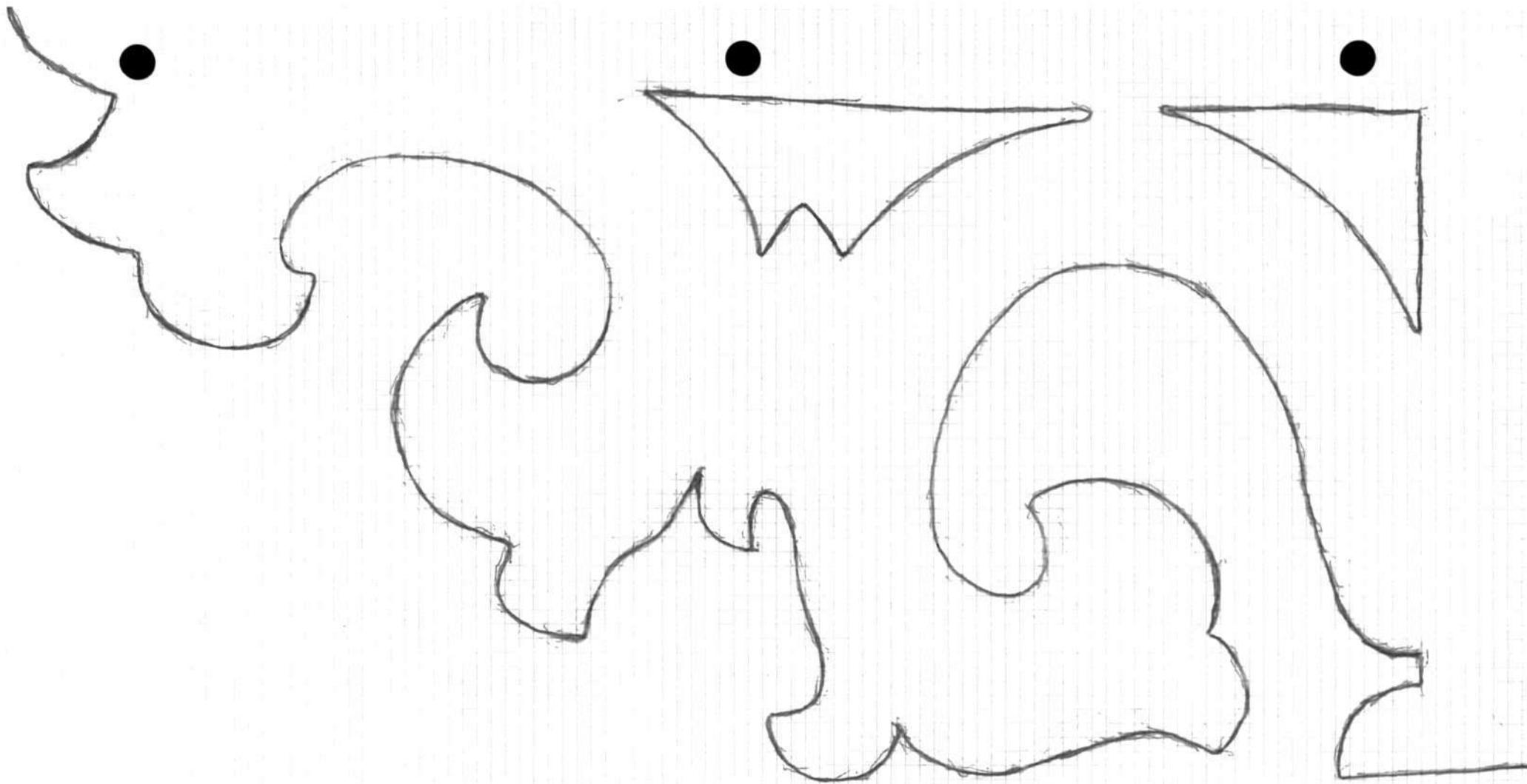
Chair rail

Baseboard



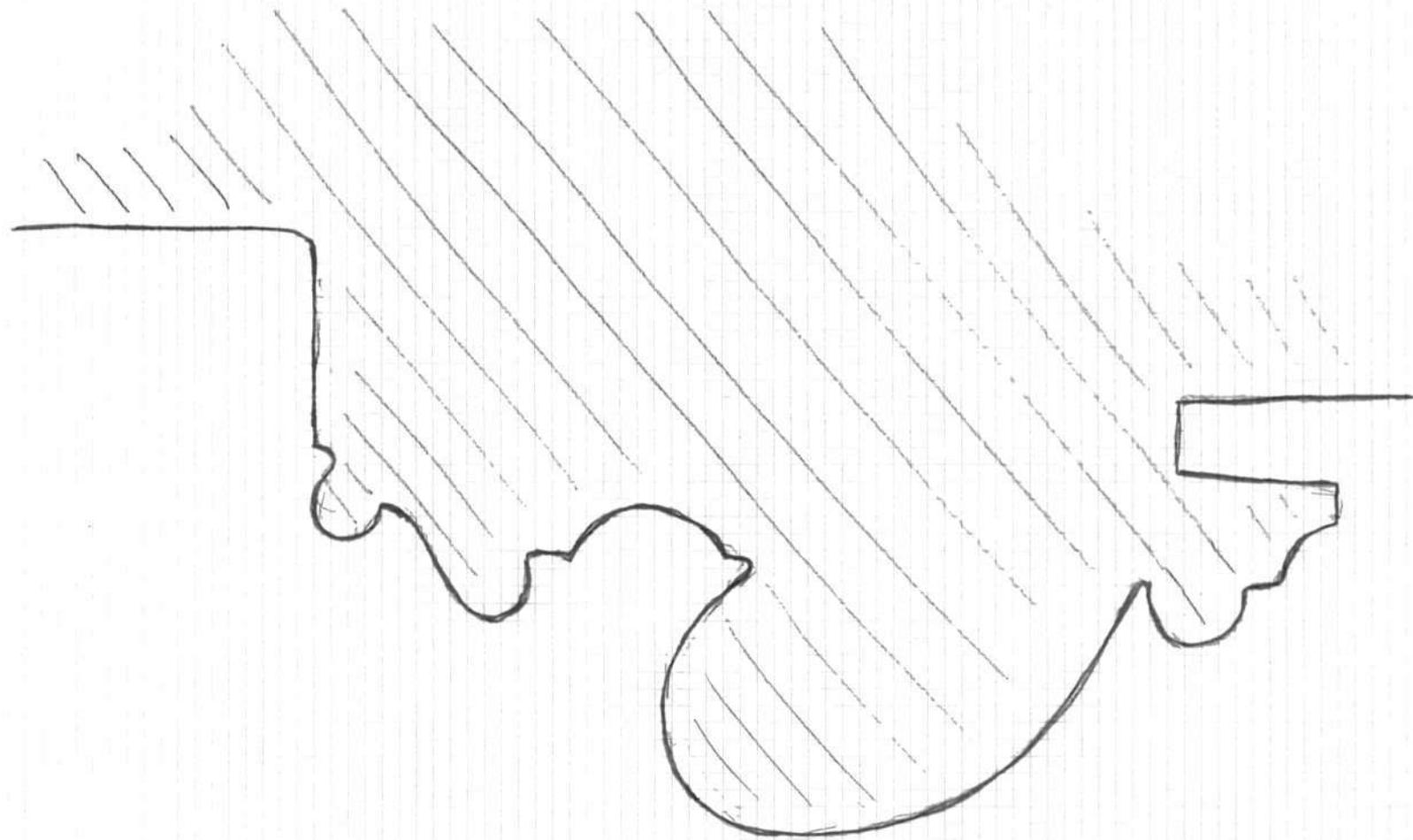
Architrave





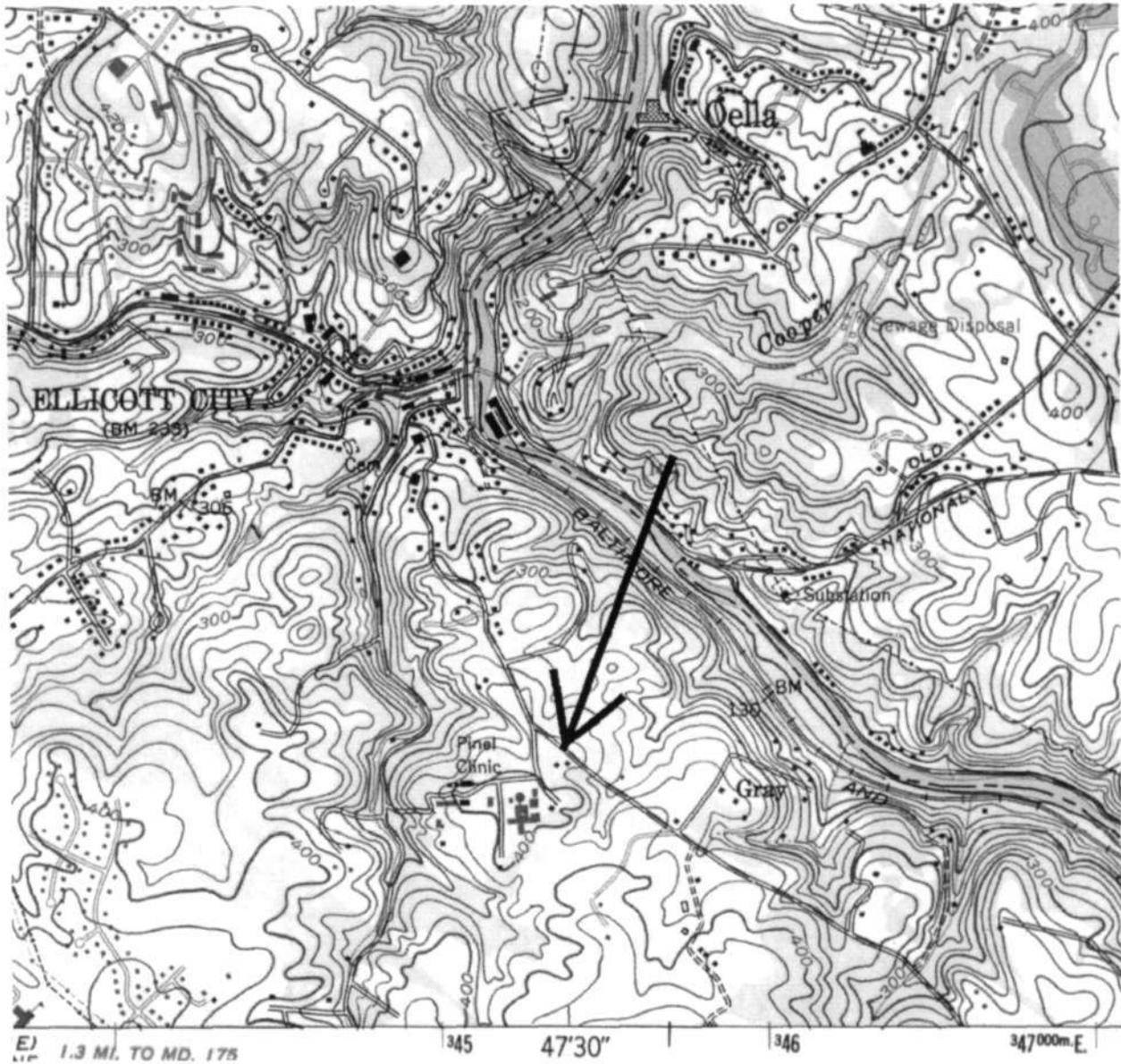
3/4 4122 College Ave HO-1025  
Stair bracket

KMS  
25 Aug 2010



4/4 4122 College Ave HO-1025  
SW. Rm. Pier Mirror Moulding Profile

KMS  
25 Aug. 2010



HO-1025  
"Sweetair"  
4122 College Avenue  
Ellicott City quad

HO-1025  
"Sweetair"  
4122 College Avenue  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera  
HP Premium Plus paper  
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-1025\_2010-08-25\_01  
North & west elevations

HO-1025\_2010-08-25\_02  
East elevation

HO-1025\_2010-08-25\_03  
South & east elevations

HO-1025\_2010-08-25\_04  
West doorway, interior view

HO-1025\_2010-08-25\_05  
Newel

HO-1025\_2010-08-25\_06  
Southwest room, mirror frame

HO-1025\_2010-08-25\_07  
Northeast room, pier mirror

HO-1025\_2010-08-25\_08  
Stairwell apron



HO-1025

Sweetair

4122 College Avenue

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2010-08-25

MD SHPO

North + west elevations

1 of 8



40-1025

Sweetair

4122 College Avenue

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2010-08-25

MD SHPO

East elevation

2 of 8



HO-1025

Sweetair

4122 College Avenue

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2010-08-25

MD SHPO

South + east elevations

3 of 8



H0-1025

Sweetair

4122 College Avenue

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2010-08-25

MD SHPO

West doorway, interior view

4 of 8



40-1025

Sweetair

4122 College Avenue

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2010-08-25

MD SHPO

Newel

5 of 8



Handwritten note on the door:

- 1. [illegible]
- 2. [illegible]
- 3. [illegible]
- 4. [illegible]
- 5. [illegible]
- 6. [illegible]
- 7. [illegible]
- 8. [illegible]
- 9. [illegible]
- 10. [illegible]

HO-1025  
Sweetair  
4122 College Avenue  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short  
2010-08-25  
MD SHPO  
Southwest room, mirror frame  
6 of 8



H0-1025  
Sweetair  
4122 College Avenue  
Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short  
2010-08-25

MD SHPO

Northwest room, pier mirror  
7 of 8



HO-1025  
Sweetair  
4122 College Avenue  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short  
2010-08-25  
MD SHPD  
Stairwell apron  
8 of 8