

HO-403
Gambrill-Meyer Farm
10097 Century Drive
Private

Capsule Summary

Description:

The Gambrill-Meyer Farm house is a two-story, three-bay by one-bay structure with a rubble stone foundation, vinyl siding over log walls, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge. There is a 1 ½-story wing on the southwest gable end that has a rubble stone foundation, vinyl siding over frame walls, and a shed roof that slopes down to the southwest and has asphalt shingles. All the sash are new except one. The southeast elevation has a porch in the center of the first story. The center bay has a door with one light over two panels and a one-light transom. On the northwest elevation the north bay is recessed back from the plane of the center and west bays, from foundation to the top of the wall, with the roof overhanging so that the eave is unbroken. The house has a center-passage plan that is single-pile on the northeast side of the passage and double-pile on the southwest, with a one-room wing on the southwest end. The passage has an open-well stair that ascends to the northwest on the northeast wall. It has an open stringer with no brackets, rectangular balusters, and a three-quarter-round handrail that is straight and mortised and tenoned and pinned to the newel posts. The newels are chamfered into octagonal profiles, with lambs' tongue stops. The northeast room has a fireplace on the northeast that has splayed brick jambs and a parged surround in a stone stack, with a wood mantel. Many of the second-story joists are former railroad stringers. The south room has a fireplace on the southwest with a wood mantel. There is an enclosed stair to the second story south chamber in the south corner. This chamber has a ladder stair on the southwest, between the winder stair and the chimney stack, giving access to the attic.

Significance:

After the death of Denton Hammond, of Burleigh, in 1813, his property was divided among his three children, with daughter Elizabeth Ann receiving Lot 2, containing 1073 acres. It must have been divided into a number of tenant farms that were rented to provide income. Ephraim Gaither of Montgomery County purchased most of this land in 1838, apparently subdivided it into farms of desirable size and sold one of them, of 287 acres, to Elizabeth Gambrill in 1842. Elizabeth was holding the property in trust for Richard Gambrill, who was almost certainly her son. There is evidence in court records that Richard Gambrill and his family moved onto the farm in 1839. At some point in the 1840s, and most likely c. 1842-1845, Gambrill "... expended large sums of money in erecting valuable buildings + in improving the said real estate." Richard J. Gambrill sued his father and siblings in 1850 to get his share of the farm while he was still young. The Court ordered the sale of the farm, but the auction was unsuccessful. In the meantime, the trustee arranged to cut off 137 acres of the farm, reportedly with no improvements, and Richard Gambrill proposed to buy the remainder for \$6,000. The Gambrills sold it in 1854, and it changed hands numerous times until being purchased by Henry and Catherine Meyer in 1885. The Meyers had no children, so they arranged to raise Catherine Meyer's nephew, Lawrence Manner, as their own, while he worked on their farm. Catherine died in 1926, and the entirety of the farm passed into the hands of the Manners. The southern wing was probably constructed in the second decade of the twentieth century as a modern kitchen.

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-403

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Gambrill-Meyer Farm
other Meyer-Manner Log House

2. Location

street and number 10097 Century Drive not for publication
city, town Ellicott City X vicinity
county Howard

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

name Thomas Curtin & Laura Thomas
street and number 10097 Century Drive telephone
city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21042

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 20901 folio 409
city, town Ellicott City tax map 24 tax parcel 451 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
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> agriculture	Contributing
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> landscape	Noncontributing
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> commerce/trade	<u>1</u> buildings
<u> </u> site		<u> </u> defense	<u>2</u> sites
<u> </u> object		<u>X</u> domestic	<u>0</u> structures
		<u> </u> education	<u>0</u> objects
		<u> </u> funerary	<u>3</u> Total
		<u> </u> government	
		<u> </u> health care	
		<u> </u> industry	
		<u> </u> recreation/culture	
		<u> </u> religion	
		<u> </u> social	
		<u> </u> transportation	
		<u> </u> work in progress	
		<u> </u> unknown	
		<u> </u> vacant/not in use	
		<u> </u> other:	

**Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory**
1

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-403

Condition

☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated
☒ good	☐ ruins
☐ fair	☐ altered

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

Summary:

The Gambrill-Meyer Farm house is a two-story, three-bay by one-bay structure with a rubble stone foundation, vinyl siding over log walls, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge. There is a 1 ½-story wing on the southwest gable end that has a rubble stone foundation, vinyl siding over frame walls, and a shed roof that slopes down to the southwest and has asphalt shingles. All the sash are new except one. The southeast elevation has a porch in the center of the first story. The center bay has a door with one light over two panels and a one-light transom. On the northwest elevation the north bay is recessed back from the plane of the center and west bays, from foundation to the top of the wall, with the roof overhanging so that the eave is unbroken. The house has a center-passage plan that is single-pile on the northeast side of the passage and double-pile on the southwest, with a one-room wing on the southwest end. The passage has an open-well stair that ascends to the northwest on the northeast wall. It has an open stringer with no brackets, rectangular balusters, and a three-quarter-round handrail that is straight and mortised and tenoned and pinned to the newel posts. The newels are chamfered into octagonal profiles, with lambs' tongue stops. The northeast room has a fireplace on the northeast that has splayed brick jambs and a parged surround in a stone stack, with a wood mantel. Many of the second-story joists are former railroad stringers. The south room has a fireplace on the southwest with a wood mantel. There is an enclosed stair to the second story south chamber in the south corner. This chamber has a ladder stair on the southwest, between the winder stair and the chimney stack, giving access to the attic.

Description:

The Gambrill-Meyer Farm is located at 10097 Century Drive in Columbia in central Howard County, Maryland. The farm sits on the south side of the road and the house is set back from the road on the east side of a looping private lane off Century Drive. It is set on top of a ridge that slopes down to the west, south, and east. Only the house and some ruins of outbuildings survive.

Exterior

This is a two-story, three-bay by one-bay house with a rubble stone foundation, vinyl siding over log walls, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge. There is a 1 ½-story wing on the southwest gable end that has a rubble stone foundation, vinyl siding over frame walls, and a shed roof that slopes down to the southwest and has asphalt shingles. All of the sash are new except one, which is described below.

The southeast elevation has a porch in the center of the first story that has a parged foundation, a flagstone deck, four fiberglass columns, a tongue-and-grooved wood ceiling, and a semi-hip roof with asphalt shingles. It extends between the inner sides of both windows, thus covering more than one bay. The center bay has a door with one light over two panels that have sunken fields and quirked Greek ogee

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panel moulds. There is a one-light transom and a one-over-one sash in each of the end bays. The second story has three one-over-one sash. The soffit of the eave is covered in aluminum.

The northeast elevation has no openings on the first or second stories. The gable end has two plastic vents. At the north end the roof is cantilevered over the rear wall by about 2 feet.

On the northwest elevation the north bay is recessed back from the plane of the center and west bays, from foundation to the top of the wall, with the roof overhanging so that the eave is unbroken. The first and second stories of this bay each have a typical one-over-one sash. The center bay, on the first story, has a door with four lying lights over one panel. The second-story window is set low on the wall and is a typical one-over-one. The west bay has the log exposed on the first story and the chinking has vertical gaps where the siding nailers were; the evidence indicates that the nailers were put on before the chinking was done. The window has a six-over-six sash. A new porch covers the center and west bays and a portion of the wing. The second story of the west bay has one typical new window.

The northwest elevation of the wing has a door set to the north on the first story that has one light over three lying panels. There are a pair of new four-light sliding sash to the west of it. The upper story has a new six-over-six sash. The southwest elevation has a one-story, projecting gabled entrance to the basement, with vinyl siding and a vertical-board door. There is a one-light window to the west of it in the foundation. The first story has one six-over-six sash to the west and two to the south. There are no openings in the upper story. The southeast elevation of the wing has a three-light wood sash in the basement, a six-over-six sash on the first story, and a matching sash set to the east in the upper story. The wing foundation is built up against the main block.

Interior, first story

The house has a center-passage plan that is single-pile on the northeast side of the passage and double-pile on the southwest, with a one-room wing on the southwest end. The interior was undergoing significant renovations on both stories, which have exposed portions of the construction.

The passage has tongue-and-grooved flooring that runs northwest-southeast and is painted. It is of random width, varying between 3 ½ and 5 inches. The walls and ceiling are plaster on sawn lath and the baseboards, trim, and corner blocks are all plain. The wall lath is all diagonally laid. The northeast door has been temporarily removed. The door jambs are 2 ½-inch thick sash-sawn planks that are spiked to the log ends with cut nails. The jambs are rabbeted to take the door header. The front (southeast) door has been converted to have one light over two panels, with sunken fields and no panel moulds. It is mortised and tenoned and pinned. It has a large cast iron rim lock with a maker's seal covered with thick paint, and cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles, also with heavy paint accumulation. The transom is now one light but the muntins have been cut out; they were ovolo-moulded and there were apparently originally 12 lights, arranged four wide by three high, with the three to each side much

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narrower than the six in the center. The rear door has four lights over one lying panel, with new butt hinges and a mortise lock with a brass knob. The original door was hung on the southwest jamb and the strike plate that survives on the northeast jamb matches the front door. The southwest wall has a wide doorway to the south that is recent and temporarily closed off. To the west of it, in the center of the wall, is a narrower doorway that has been closed off. There is an open-well stair that ascends to the northwest on the northeast wall. It has an open stringer with no brackets, rectangular balusters, and a three-quarter-round handrail that is straight and mortised and tenoned and pinned to the newel posts. The newels are chamfered into octagonal profiles, with lambs' tongue stops. The stringer has a broken field with a small, quirked bead at the break and a large, quirked bead on the bottom edge. Beneath the stairway are hand-planed tongue-and-grooved vertical boards and two matching doors, one of which is short. This was all added, since the top nailer that the boards are fastened to is laid over top of plaster, but it appears to be a very early addition. The doors have cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and appear to have fast joints. There were shelf boards on the northwest wall under the stairs, but they were not set into the plaster. All of this work uses cut nails. On the northeast wall the lath is sawn and laid diagonally.

The northeast room floor has been taken up and the rotted joists removed and replaced with a concrete slab and wood sleepers in what was always a crawl space. About 5 feet, 6 inches southwest of the northeast wall was a low stone wall under the floor that ran northwest-southeast. The lath and plaster have been removed, exposing v-notch corner log walls. The chinking was a high clay content, with some lime in it. The bottom logs had already rotted and been replaced with short frame walls of 2 by 6s, on rough brick piers. The remaining logs are clearly re-used – some have cut-outs and some have traces of whitewash – and were given vertical nailers for the plaster lath, especially on the top half of the wall, where there are no plaster burns. The lower logs that survive mostly have diagonal plaster burns. The second-story joists run northeast-southwest, which is the shorter distance. They are hewn and many are re-used. Many of them are former railroad stringers, having a depression along one edge where the strap rail was, with periodic spike holes and rabbets for splice plates to join two pieces of strap rail. Most of the joists have plaster burns. The windows have new sash in old splayed jambs. The windowsill and the jambs are all of two pieces and appear to use a pre-made frame for a frame house, which was too narrow for the log walls and had to be built out for this application. The window jamb boards are all 1-inch thick. The openings are cut up to above the ceiling level, even though the window frames are shorter than the openings. The northwest opening is cut up to the ceiling height and cuts completely through a log that only had to be cut partially into. There is a fireplace on the northeast that has splayed brick jambs and a parged surround in a stone stack. The hearth was removed when the floor was taken up. The wood mantel has pilaster strips with quirked Greek ovolo capitals, a plain frieze with new pressed foliate trim added, a quirked Greek ovolo bed mould, and a plain mantel shelf. The second-story joists are mortised and tenoned and pinned to the fireplace header, and the header is mortised and tenoned and pinned to the trimmer joists. The hearth support boards are set on a ledger board on the header and on the stone wall of the stack.

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The south room flooring is random-width, tongue-and-grooved painted boards that vary between 3 ½ and 6 inches and run northwest-southeast. It has typical baseboards and architrave, and a new tray ceiling. There is a fireplace on the southwest with a concrete hearth and splayed brick jambs. It has a wood mantel with plain pilaster strips, a plain entablature and frieze, and a plain square bed mould. Pressed wood decoration has been added to the frieze. The mantel shelf has rounded corners but is otherwise plain. The northwest wall has a recent wide opening cut into it, and to either side is a horizontal patch in the plaster, fairly high on the wall, perhaps where there was peg rail. The northeast wall has a wide opening in the center that is recent. There is an enclosed stair to the second story in the south corner. It has three steps below a beaded-edge vertical-board door with new hinges and a cast iron rim lock. The bottom half of the stair has a straight run along the southeast wall. There is a closet under the stairs, with a beaded-edge vertical-board door built with clinched wrought nails and hung on butt hinges with pins. There are shelves inside that appear to be original.

The west room has new flooring that covers the hearth of the fireplace on the southwest. The firebox has splayed brick jambs, a new mantel, and a faux brick covering. To the south of it the wall is solid masonry at the bottom, while above is a small cupboard door of vertical boards. The battens and boards continue behind the partition wall, though it is not evident why they do. The wall to the west of the fireplace is flush with the front of the fireplace and is hollow, enclosing a small space of unknown function. The northwest wall has a window with the only in-situ historic sash in the house. It has 10-inch by 14-inch lights, ovolo muntins, and no parting beads. The sash is mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners. At the north end of this wall is a doorway with plain trim and a cut-down door that has one light over two panels. It is hung on butt hinges with ball finials and has a plain cast iron rim lock. This doorway is covered on the exterior. There is a new, shallow tray ceiling in the room.

The wing has one large room with the west corner subdivided into a pantry that has been converted to a powder room. The flooring is new. There is bead-board half wainscot on the walls, with a moulded top rail. In the east corner is an enclosed stair to the second story. It has beaded board walls and ascends to the northeast, with a winder at the top and a closet underneath. The architrave throughout this room has a sunken field in the center with cavettos to each side, and it is miter-cut at the corners. There is a cupboard built into the southwest wall that has a pair of three-light doors at the top and a pair of beaded vertical-board doors at the bottom. To the north of the pantry is an exterior door. On the northeast is a chimney stack that corbels northeast to the existing fireplace in the main block rather than passing up through the second story.

Interior, second story

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The main block has a center-passage, double-pile plan with a small room at the southeast end of the passage. There are two rooms in the wing that are not accessible from the main block.

The passage flooring is random-width, mostly 4 to 5 ½ inches, is tongue-and-grooved, is mostly painted, and runs southeast-northwest. The stair details match the first story. The window on the stair landing has plain trim and corner blocks matching the first-story doorways. The jambs are straight. The baseboards are plain. There is a doorway on the southwest wall to the west chamber but not one to the south chamber; one was just recently cut through. The plaster is on sawn lath. In the new opening is a horizontal log in the center that was just cut through and another at the door header height. There is an old stud to the southeast of the new opening and the head of the stud is set in a notch in the header. There is a similar notch in the bottom of the header, to the northwest, but without a stud in it, and the bottom of the log header between the two notches has been flattened, as if the builders had planned to put a door here originally. There are also cut nails in the middle of the bottom of this header for a stud that was apparently added later, probably when the intended opening was closed off. The southwest side of this wall was lathed before the partition wall dividing the south and west chambers was built but was not plastered until after the partition wall was built. The header of the doorway into the east chamber is lower than that of the other doors. The doors have been removed for stripping. That to the east chamber had a stock lock.

The west chamber has typical flooring that appears to be pine, plain baseboards, and typical architrave. The south corner has a chimney stack and the edge of a mantel projects through the partition wall into this room. There is a doorway in the partition wall, leading to the south chamber, with typical architrave. The door has beaded-edge, tongue-and-grooved vertical boards with a piece added on the lock stile. It has plain cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles that appear to have fast joints, and the hinge screws have blunt tips. It had two locks, both of which have been removed but are still in the room. The lower one on the stile was a stock lock installed over top of either an olive green paint or a tan paint with green paint below showing through. The top lock was a cast iron rim lock with dark green paint underneath on most of the door, but no paint on the added strip. The widow jambs are splayed.

The south chamber also has typical flooring, baseboards, and architrave. The widow jambs are splayed. There is a fireplace on the southwest wall, set to the west, with a concrete hearth and the firebox closed off. It was exposed and has splayed brick jambs and a parged surround that has a blue limewash under wallpaper. It has a wood mantel with plain pilaster strips, a plain entablature and frieze, and a plain square bed mould. The mantel shelf has rounded corners but is otherwise plain. In the south corner is a stairway from the first story that ascends to the southwest on the southeast wall, with a winder at the top that turns to the northwest. The railing here has four horizontal rails between rectangular posts, with a simple cap that is beveled on the sides. There is a ladder stair on the southwest, between the winder stair and the chimney stack, giving access to the attic. It is painted and is early, if not original.

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The southeast chamber is located at the end of the passage. It also has typical flooring, baseboards, and architrave. The plaster ceiling has sawn lath with cut nails. The attic joists are 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, are spaced 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 26 inches on centers, and run southeast-northwest. There is a circular-sawn shingle above the lath that appears to be unused and is 4 inches wide. Its length could not be determined. The widow jambs are splayed.

The east chamber also has typical flooring, baseboards, and architrave. The walls are boxed out on the lower half, with the typical baseboard covered by it. There is a fireplace on the northeast wall, set to the north. The hearth is concrete, and the firebox has been closed off with sheet iron, with a hole in it for a stove pipe. It has a wood mantel identical to that in the south chamber. There are modern built-in shelves to the south of it. The ceiling height is 7 feet, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The northwest wall has a doorway to the north chamber, which is the only access to this room.

The north chamber is divided into a bathroom and closet by a modern wall. Half of the flooring is up. In the east corner the edge of the chimney stack projects into the room and several inches of the mantel shelf project through the partition wall. The partition wall studs are 2 by 4 inches, are circular-sawn, and are toenailed at the top, most likely with cut nails though the heads are fairly rounded. The westernmost stud captures plaster, and the wall header appears to, as well. The plaster lath is circular-sawn, with cut nails. The widow jambs are splayed. The west corner was partially opened and both the northwest and southwest walls are log, notched in the west corner; it appears that the southwest logs continue past the northwest wall, but this could not be definitively confirmed. There is typical flooring, baseboards, and architrave.

The wing is divided into two chambers by a partition wall that runs northeast-southwest, with a doorway in it at the northeast end. The southwest end of both chambers is only about 3 feet tall. Each room has one window, and the architrave matches that of the first story of the wing. The flooring is 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch tongue-and-grooved pine that runs northwest-southeast. A bead-board half-wall with cap encloses the stairway in the east corner. The walls and ceiling are lathed and plastered, and some of the ceiling has come down, exposing the roof frame. The rafters are circular-sawn 2 by 6s that are spaced 2 feet apart. They slope down to the southwest and the center of the rafters has deflected about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Interior, attic

The attic has random-width flooring that is tongue-and-grooved pine running northeast-southwest; it varies between 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 6 inches. The rafters are sash-sawn, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 inches wide, and are tapered from 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 4 inches deep at the ridge to over 5 inches at the foot. They are spaced 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 26 inches on centers, have a birds-mouth cut at the foot that laps over a board false plate, and are set over top of the joists. There are collar beams that are lapped and nailed with cut nails and are set high on the rafters. They are re-used, with many having a bead on both the top and bottom edges of one face. There is some

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whitewash on some of them, but no rabbets or tongues or grooves. The rafters have an open-faced bridle and peg at the ridge, and most of them are not numbered. The sheathing boards are re-used tongue-and-grooved flooring with whitewash. There are stone chimneys at both gable ends, with brick at the top. The siding is sash-sawn weatherboards that are lapped but do not appear to be rabbeted at all. There are four-light sash on the gable end that are mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners and the center vertical muntin, which is wider than the horizontal muntin. They have ovolo moulds.

Interior, basement

There is a basement only under the wing. The joists have cross-bracing that is wire-nailed and there is no evidence of anything earlier. There was once a stairway in the east corner from the first floor.

Outbuilding

About 50 feet southwest of the house are the ruins of a stone outbuilding that was small like a smokehouse, but there is no evidence to suggest its function.

About 30 feet northwest of the house are concrete steps leading down the hill, with a stone and concrete foundation for an outbuilding banked into the hill. The well is located between this and the house.

To the south of the house is a modern outbuilding that was constructed c. 2012 using some old material.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates N/A Architect/Builder N/A

Construction dates c. 1842-45, c. 1910-20

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:

After the death of Denton Hammond, of Burleigh, in 1813, his property was divided among his three children, with daughter Elizabeth Ann receiving Lot 2, containing 1073 acres. It must have been divided into a number of tenant farms that were rented to provide income. Ephraim Gaither of Montgomery County purchased most of this land in 1838, apparently subdivided it into farms of desirable size and sold one of them, of 287 acres, to Elizabeth Gambrill in 1842. Elizabeth was holding the property in trust for Richard Gambrill, who was almost certainly her son. There is evidence in court records that Richard Gambrill and his family moved onto the farm in 1839. At some point in the 1840s, and most likely c. 1842-1845, Gambrill “. . . expended large sums of money in erecting valuable buildings + in improving the said real estate.” Richard J. Gambrill sued his father and siblings in 1850 to get his share of the farm while he was still young. The Court ordered the sale of the farm, but the auction was unsuccessful. In the meantime, the trustee arranged to cut off 137 acres of the farm, reportedly with no improvements, and Richard Gambrill proposed to buy the remainder for \$6,000. The Gambrills sold it in 1854, and it changed hands numerous times until being purchased by Henry and Catherine Meyer in 1885. The Meyers had no children, so they arranged to raise Catherine Meyer’s nephew, Lawrence Manner, as their own, while he worked on their farm. Catherine died in 1926, and the entirety of the farm passed into the hands of the Manners. The southern wing was probably constructed in the second decade of the twentieth century as a modern kitchen.

Significance:

After the death of Denton Hammond, of Burleigh, in 1813, his property was divided among his three children, with daughter Elizabeth Ann (1809-1882) receiving Lot 2, containing 1073 acres. Her portion did not include the recently-built, substantial brick house known as Burleigh. Elizabeth married Richard Cromwell, Jr. (1807-1890) in 1832, and at this time it is not known where they might have lived, but since she was so young when she inherited her tract of land, it must have been divided into a number of tenant farms that were rented to provide income. The Cromwells sold 978 acres of her land to Ephraim

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Gaither of Montgomery County, Maryland in 1838 for \$20,102.79. Gaither apparently subdivided the parcel into farms of desirable size and sold one of them, of 287 acres, to Elizabeth Gambrill in 1842 for \$3,517.97. Elizabeth was holding the property in trust for Richard Gambrill (who was almost certainly her son), for his life, with the remainder going to Richard's wife, Mary L. D. Gambrill, for life or until remarriage, and then to their children. Though the deed is dated 1842, there is evidence in court records that Richard Gambrill (1804-1866) and his family moved onto the farm in 1839. Most likely, he was able to take possession of the property even though the full purchase price had not yet been paid, an occurrence that was common at the time. Court records indicate that at this time "... the dwelling house on said farm was a small log house in a dilapidated condition and badly situated + that said R. Gambrill and his family lived in said house until from its small size, dilapidated condition, and unhealthy situation (being so pronounced by physicians) it was unfit for him and his children to live in and that repairs would not answer their purposes."¹

At some point in the 1840s, and most likely c. 1842-1845, Gambrill "... expended large sums of money in erecting valuable buildings + in improving the said real estate, + he also expended much time + labor in building on + improving the same" Several sons and neighbors testified that

... the said new house was not more expensive in cost than was necessary and proper for the comfortable support and maintenance of himself, wife, and numerous children and we further state that the said new house was not more expensive in cost than was necessary for that purpose as every economy was used in building, and we believe the said house to be worth at this time more than three thousand dollars.

The farm was described in sales advertisements in 1851 as having

... a new and convenient frame dwelling house, built in the most substantial manner, with all proper and convenient out-buildings, orchards, &c. The whole farm is enclosed and divided into fields, with springs of fine water in each field. Its situation is elevated, with a fine view of the surrounding country. It is supposed that there is on part of the premises a valuable soap stone quarry.²

The description of the house as a framed building is inaccurate, but since it was weatherboarded outside and plastered inside, the trustee would not have known that it was actually log and probably just assumed that it was framed. A detailed examination of the building is worthwhile at this point.

Ostensibly a center-passage plan house, the Gambrill house is unusual for having the room north of the passage almost three feet shorter than the rooms to the south. As a result, the northwest corner of the roof is cantilevered beyond the wall by this same amount, requiring all the joists be cantilevered on the

¹ Peggy Bruns Weisman, "Burleigh Manor" (HO-23), *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*, 1980. Estate of Denton Hammond, Howard County Circuit Court, Equity Papers, plats, MdHR 4877-73, Maryland State Archives. Richard J. Gambrill vs. Richard Gambrill, Howard County Circuit Court, Equity 8018, Maryland State Archives.

² Gambrill vs. Gambrill. See also, *Baltimore Sun*, 15 July 1851, p. 4.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-403

Name Gambrill-Meyer Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

west, as well as one substantial end log to carry a substantial plate on which the rafter feet rest. The house is built of logs, with the west wall of the north room tied into part of the longer north wall of the passage. It seems unlikely that a desire to make both the exterior and interior walls of log, and to notch them together, drove the decision to make the north room so much shallower than the passage and southern rooms. When Gambrill explained that he made his house as cheaply as possible, he could have been implying that he reused materials from the earlier building, though given its poor condition and small size, there was probably little worth salvaging and thus it seems unlikely that this explains the choice. Perhaps it would be more accurate to approach the design from another perspective, that Gambrill did not want to create a traditional kitchen ell, which would have cost him more, so chose instead to make the southern half deeper and create two rooms. Presumably, the western room was originally a kitchen and the large cooking fireplace has been reduced in size, leaving a deep void behind the wall in the southwest corner of the room. The southeast room probably functioned as a dining room, with the large northern room as a formal parlor. The architectural finishes in the house, architrave and stair details, are decidedly simple, which squares with the description given by Gambrill, though the valuation given for the house, \$3,000, seems high in comparison. The southeast room is curious for the secondary staircase to the southeast chamber, which in itself is unusual because there was originally no doorway from the passage into this chamber. Other than the stairs, the access seems to have been from the southwest chamber, creating a semi-private suite. The space over the north room was divided into two chambers and the northwest chamber was only accessible from the northeast chamber, again appearing to create a suite. In this case it may have been the location of the stairway that was actually driving the appearance of a suite, however. Also of note is the ladder stair to the attic, which might have been a re-used element of the earlier house. It was almost certainly cheaper to build than continuing the enclosed winder stair up to the attic, which was done in the majority of cases. The southern wing was probably constructed in the second decade of the twentieth century as a modern kitchen, probably to enlarge the house when Lawrence and Elenora Manner began having children and the house started to become crowded, as will be seen below.

According to the 1850 agricultural census, Richard Gambill had 230 acres of improved farmland and the remaining 60 acres was unimproved, worth in total about \$9,000. His livestock consisted of five horses, nine milch cows, one other cow, 12 sheep, and 30 hogs, indicating that he was running a typical family farm with diverse output. The livestock numbers are considerable for a family farm of the period, but commensurate with the acreage he owned. His crops included wheat, maize, oats, potatoes, and orchard fruits, along with making butter, wool and hay, and his farm machinery valued at \$500 indicates that he had already transformed his farm into an early version of industrialized production. Richard and Mary had eight of their nine children still living at home, and they ranged in age from 23 to 3. James Gambrill had apparently left home and moved to Frederick County, where he ran a grist mill. Their son, Richard J., sued his father and siblings in 1850 to get his share of the farm while he was still young. He explained to the court that the land could not be equitably divided amongst the children and that "... the improvements thereon are now nearly new + are in good repair + the said farm generally in good

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Name Gambrill-Meyer Farm
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condition . . .”, so would bring a better price than if one were to wait to sell it. This conveniently ignored the fact that his father was still in his 40s, was still actively farming, and had a few sons who were still at home and of age to provide much help on the farm. Richard J. explained that he was a conductor for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, with no interest in farming now, and that he doubted that would change. Since Elizabeth Gambrill had died, her heirs would take over the trusteeship, and they all chose to leave the disposition of the farm to the Court. In December of that year Richard J. Gambrill, age about 23, apparently fell from his train and was later found dead on the tracks in Carroll County, having had the back of his skull crushed and his left arm cut off below the elbow. The suit was not dropped, however; Richard J.’s brother, Joseph J. Gambrill, who had been named as a defendant, now joined the suit as a petitioner, stating that he was a teacher and like his brother would benefit more from getting his inheritance now rather than later. It was also stated that their father was not in good health and could not put the required effort into running the farm. The Court ordered the sale of the farm, as noted above, but the auction in July 1851 was unsuccessful and was postponed until September, where once again no good buyer was found.³

At this point Richard Gamrill, Sr., countered the suit, claiming that he and his wife had a life estate in the farm, which was of some value, and that he had spent a great sum of money and labor to improve the farm, for which he was entitled to be reimbursed. There was no exact precedent for the claim, but several other cases had similarities that eventually led the court to conclude, in March 1853, that he was entitled to fair compensation. In the meantime, the trustee arranged to cut off 137 acres of the farm, reportedly with no improvements (though the agricultural census would imply that, at the least, there were cleared fields under cultivation), and privately found a buyer. Both the plaintiff and the defendants agreed to the sale, reasoning that it would increase the value of the remaining acreage. The Court agreed, leaving the Gambrill Farm reduced to 150 acres. Having still not found a buyer for the bulk of the farm, Richard Gambrill proposed to buy it for \$6,000, with the payments spread out over six years. Little money was to be paid up front, which was unusual, but having failed to find more favorable terms, the trustee brought the proposition before the court, and the sale was ratified in January 1852. Three witnesses, all farmers, determined that the value of the buildings that Richard Gambrill had added to the farm totaled \$2,876.75 and that these, in combination with his labor and other improvements to the farm, had a value of \$5,130. The question of Richard’s health was still an issue, though it is not clear why, exactly. It is suggested that his share of the property would be less if his health was impaired, and he

³ U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Census, Howard District, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1850. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Howard District, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1850. James was associated with Araby Mill and would eventually operate “. . . a large steam flouring establishment.” *Baltimore Sun*, 12 December 1887, p. 6. Gambrill vs. Gambrill. *Baltimore Sun*, 10 December 1850, p. 1. Gambrill vs. Gambrill.

Maryland Historical Trust

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Name Gambrill-Meyer Farm
Continuation Sheet

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provided witnesses to attest that he had recovered from what had been a temporary illness. The case was finally settled in mid-1853, with Richard getting the deed to his farm, outright, in August.⁴

It is unclear whether Richard and Mary Gambrill could not raise enough money to pay off the farm or whether they had just grown tired of the place, but they sold it to William Jameson of Baltimore for \$7,000 in November 1854. Jameson apparently moved to Howard County but did not retain the farm for long, agreeing to sell it in June 1857 to John Wakefield of Brooklyn, New York, for \$8,500. The deed was executed two years later, netting Jameson, who had moved on to Frederick County, a tidy profit. The 1860 Martenet Map of Howard County gives Wakefield the title of Captain, but the 1860 census lists the 46-year-old native of England as a farmer. His wife, Caroline, was 19 years his junior. What brought them to Howard County is not clear, at this time. The 1860 agricultural census notes that 120 acres of the 150-acre farm were improved, with the value of the farm, \$6,000, being about average for the acreage under cultivation. Wakefield's livestock consisted of three horses, two milch cows, and one other bovine, numbers that were on the low side of average but not unusual for someone still starting out in agriculture. Likewise, the value of his farming implements, at \$106, is lower than many with farms of his size and probably also reflects the introductory nature of his enterprise. His crops included wheat, maize, oats, potatoes and hay, all typical of a diverse family farm in Piedmont Maryland. Wakefield also made out well, selling the farm in 1866 for \$10,000. The buyer was William Brosiers (Brosius) of Hagerstown, though his interest in the farm is unclear since he quickly sold it and moved to Baltimore. This was one of several rapid transactions that are unexplained, and thus puzzling, ending with the Gambrill Farm being owned by Dr. Joshua Jones by 1869.⁵

Joshua Jones is listed in the 1870 census as a retired doctor and the agricultural census indicates that he was better capitalized than Wakefield had been. The value of the farm given, \$11,000, undoubtedly reflects the recent purchase price, and the improved acreage had gone up slightly, to 125 acres. Jones's livestock consisted of four horses, four milch cows, and eight swine, though his farming implements were valued at only \$75. His crops were the same, though he was producing less wheat and more maize and oats instead, and he also had orchard fruits and wine that Wakefield had not reported. This suggests the possibility that one of Wakefield's improvements was a new or revitalized orchard that took some years before it started producing.⁶ Dr. Jones had mortgaged the property and was foreclosed upon, with the farm being auctioned in 1877. Unfortunately, the sales advertisement could not be located, so a

⁴ Gambrill vs. Gambrill. Recorded in High Court of Chancery, March Term, 1853, pp. 259-262.
<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000200/html/am200c--259.html>

⁵ Simon J. Martenet, *Martenet's Map of Howard County, Maryland* (Baltimore, 1860). U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1860. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1860. *Baltimore Sun*, 14 August 1866, p. 1.

⁶ U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1870. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1870 ag census.

Maryland Historical Trust

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Inventory No. HO-403

Name Gambrill-Meyer Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

good description of the farm in this period is not available. The sale was not ratified for three years, and it is not known who, if anyone, may have been living here. In any case, the mortgagee, Nathan Pumphrey, purchased the farm for \$5,100, just \$600 more than the mortgage he held on the property, and immediately sold it to Margaret Hicks, wife of John T. Hicks, of Baltimore, for only \$3,800. Pumphrey had probably arranged the sale much earlier and perhaps the Hicks's had lived here for several years prior to taking title to the farm. The decline in sales price is unusual but may be related to an assumption of mortgage that was either hidden or overlooked. Hicks was listed in the 1880 census as a 54-year-old sea captain, an interesting pattern for this property, and may also have been retiring, or at least semi-retiring, when he chose to purchase the farm. While the Hickses moved to Howard County they did not stay long, either, selling the farm in 1885 to Henry and Catherine Meyer for \$4,000.

The history of the farm under the Meyers was thoroughly recounted by Cleora Barnes Thompson in her original inventory of the property and need only be summarized here. The Meyers had no children so they arranged to raise Catherine Meyer's nephew, Lawrence Manner, as their own, while he worked on their farm. They also brought Eleanora Mattigan from St. Vincent's Orphans Home in Washington, D.C. to provide female help on the farm for Catherine. Lawrence and Eleanora eventually married, after she had turned eighteen and he was thirty. They remained on the farm after Henry Meyer died in 1916, and Catherine deeded an equal share in the farm to her nephew in 1922. The tax assessments, which run through 1917, make no note of an addition to the house. While this could simply be an oversight, given the details of the addition it probably reflects the reality that the addition was built c. 1920. Catherine Meyer died in 1926, and the entirety of the farm passed into the hands of the Manners.⁷ With Eleanora's death the house, on one acre, passed to her daughter, Kathryn Snow, who had been living here since about 1950. It was about that time that the house was divided into two apartments, one for the mother and the other for the daughter. The house apparently stayed in the family until 2021. At an unknown date several courses of the bottom logs in the northern half of the building were removed, probably due to insect damage, and replaced with modern framing. Deteriorated floors were not addressed but were being replaced as part of a restoration of the house by the current owners.

⁷ Howard County Commissioners of the Tax, Assessment, District 2, 1876-96, 1896-1910, 1910-1917, Maryland State Archives. *Baltimore Sun*, 3 February 1926, p. 20.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-403

See footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .87 A.
Acreage of historical setting 287 A.
Quadrangle name Ellicott City

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the outlines of the property, tax map 24, parcel 451, which encompasses all of the historic buildings and features on the site.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	July 2025
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

Gambrill-Meyer Farm (HO-403)
10097 Century Drive
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSID- ERATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Theresa L. Green & Richard V. Green / ?	Thomas Curtain & Laura Thomas (husband & wife) / ?	2 August 2021	WAR 20901-409	Deed – fee simple	\$475,000	1.143 A -.273 A	
Theresa L. Green / ?	Theresa L. Green & Richard V. Green (wife) & husband / ?	1 March 2002	MDR 6043-625	Deed – fee simple	\$0	1.143 A -.273 A	
Eleanor Theresa Garland, personal rep. of Kathryn Snow / ?	Theresa L. Green / ?	2 November 2001	MDR 5869-117	Deed – fee simple	\$0	1.143 A -.273 A	Estate no. 14289 See will of Kathryn Snow
Agnes Sheets, widow Francis C. Manner & wife Dorothy Marie G. O'Donnell & husband Gerald A. Lawrence J. Manner & wife Betty Alberta Cavey & husband Joseph L. Eleanor Theresa Garland & husband Arthur E. Charles Manner & wife Sally Michael Manner & wife Ella Virginia / ?	Kathryn Snow / ?	28 April 1969	CMP 508-669	Deed – fee simple	\$1.00	1.143 A	Item 2 of will of Eleanora T. Manner gives dwelling & 1 A around it to her daughter Kathryn Snow. Grantors are devisees of Eleanor Theresa Manner Lawrence J. Manner predeceased her.
Jerome A. Laughran, unmarried / Howard Co.	Lawrence J. Manner & wife Eleanor T. / ?	9 February 1926	HBN 126-146	Deed – fee simple	\$5.00	148 A, 14 p.	Farm on which the Manners now reside.
Lawrence J. Manner & wife Eleanor T. / Howard Co.	Jerome A. Laughran / ?	9 February 1926	HBN 126-145	Deed – fee simple	\$5.00	148 A, 14 p.	M. C. Meyer d. 31 January 1926 making L. J. Manner sole owner Catherine Meyer aka Mary Catherine Meyer
Jerome A. Laughran, unmarried / Howard Co.	Mary Catherine Meyer Lawrence J. Manner / ?	4 March 1922	HBN 114-462	Deed – fee simple	\$5.00	148 A, 14 p.	Farm where grantees now live

Gambrill-Meyer Farm (HO-403)
10097 Century Drive
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSID- ERATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Mary Catherine Meyer / Howard Co.	Jerome A. Laughran / ?	4 March 1922	HBN 114-461	Deed – fee simple	\$5.00	148 A, 14 p.	J. H. Meyer d. 1 November 1916 making M. C. Meyer sole owner
Margaret Hicks & husband John T. / Howard Co.	J. Henry Meyer & wife Catherine / Baltimore Co.	9 September 1885	LJW 49-580	Deed – fee simple	\$4,000	150 A, 29 p. -2A, 15 p.	Grantees joint tenants not tenants in common “Hammonds Inheritance”
Nathan Pumphrey / Anne Arundel Co.	Margaret Hicks / Baltimore City	23 October 1880	LJW 42-449	Deed – fee simple	\$3,800	150 A, 29 p.	
M. Bannon, attorney & trustee / Anne Arundel Co.	Nathan Pumphrey / ?	23 October 1880	LJW 42-447	Deed – fee simple	\$5,100	150 A, 29 p.	See mortgage, 27 September 1871, Joshua Jones to Pumphrey for \$4,500 Public sale, 11 September 1877, ratified 21 October 1880
Nathan Pumphrey / Anne Arundel Co. William Brosiers & wife Susan / Baltimore City John Wakefield & wife Caroline / Carroll Co. John L. Dunkel, trustee of Caroline Wakefield	Dr. Joshua Jones / ?	12 October 1869	WWW 31-318	Deed – fee simple	\$10,000	150 A, 29 p.	Wakefields sold to Brown in 1866. Brown agreed to sell to Jones, then sold to Pumphrey. This clears up title.
John Wakefield & wife Caroline	William Brosiers	1 October 1866	WWW 26-189	Deed – fee simple	\$10,000	–	p/o “Hammonds Inheritance”
William D. Jameson & wife Eleanor / Frederick Co.	John Wakefield / Howard Co.	16 September 1859	WWW 20- 311	Deed – fee	\$1.00	150 A, 29 p.	Purchase price has been paid
William D. Jameson / Howard Co.	John Wakefield / Brooklyn, NY	16 June 1857	WHW 18-232	Bond of Conveyance – fee	\$8,500	150 A, 29 p.	\$2,000has been paid
Richard Gambrill & wife Mary L. D. / Howard Co.	William D. Jameson / Baltimore City	2 November 1854	WHW 15-248	Deed – Indenture	\$7,000	150 A, 29 p.	

Gambrill-Meyer Farm (HO-403)

10097 Century Drive

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSID- ERATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Robert J. Brent, trustee / Baltimore City	Richard Gambrill / Howard Co.	19 August 1853	WHW 13-523	Deed – Indenture	\$6,000	287 A±	High Court of Chancery decree 16 June 1851, Joseph T. Gambrill v. Richard Gambrill Sale 26 January 1852 Land left over from sale of Brent to Ezekiel Mills [no previous reference]
Ephraim Gaither & wife Sarah E. / Montgomery Co.	Elizabeth Gambrill, trustee / Anne Arundel Co.	21 November 1842	4-11	Indenture	\$3,517.97	287 A, 29 p.	p/o "Hammonds Inheritance" – Howard District in trust for use & benefit of Richard Gambrill, for life, then to his wife Mary L. D. Gambrill for her life or remarriage, then to their kids
Richard Cromwell, Jr. & wife Elizabeth A. / Anne Arundel Co.	Ephraim Gaither / Montgomery Co.	15 December 1838	WSG 23-433	Indenture	\$20,102.79	978 A	Land allotted to Elizabeth in division of real estate of her father Denton Hammond. North of Old Montgomery Rd. – lot 2 on plat.

NOTES:

A. MODERN PORCH -- OUTLINE ONLY.

B. MODERN SASH IN ALTERED OPENING -- ORIGINAL CONFIGURATION UNDETERMINED.

C. ONLY ORIGINAL SASH STILL IN SITU.

D. MODERN OPENING WIDENED/CREATED.

E. LATH & PLASTER RECENTLY REMOVED DURING RENOVATIONS.

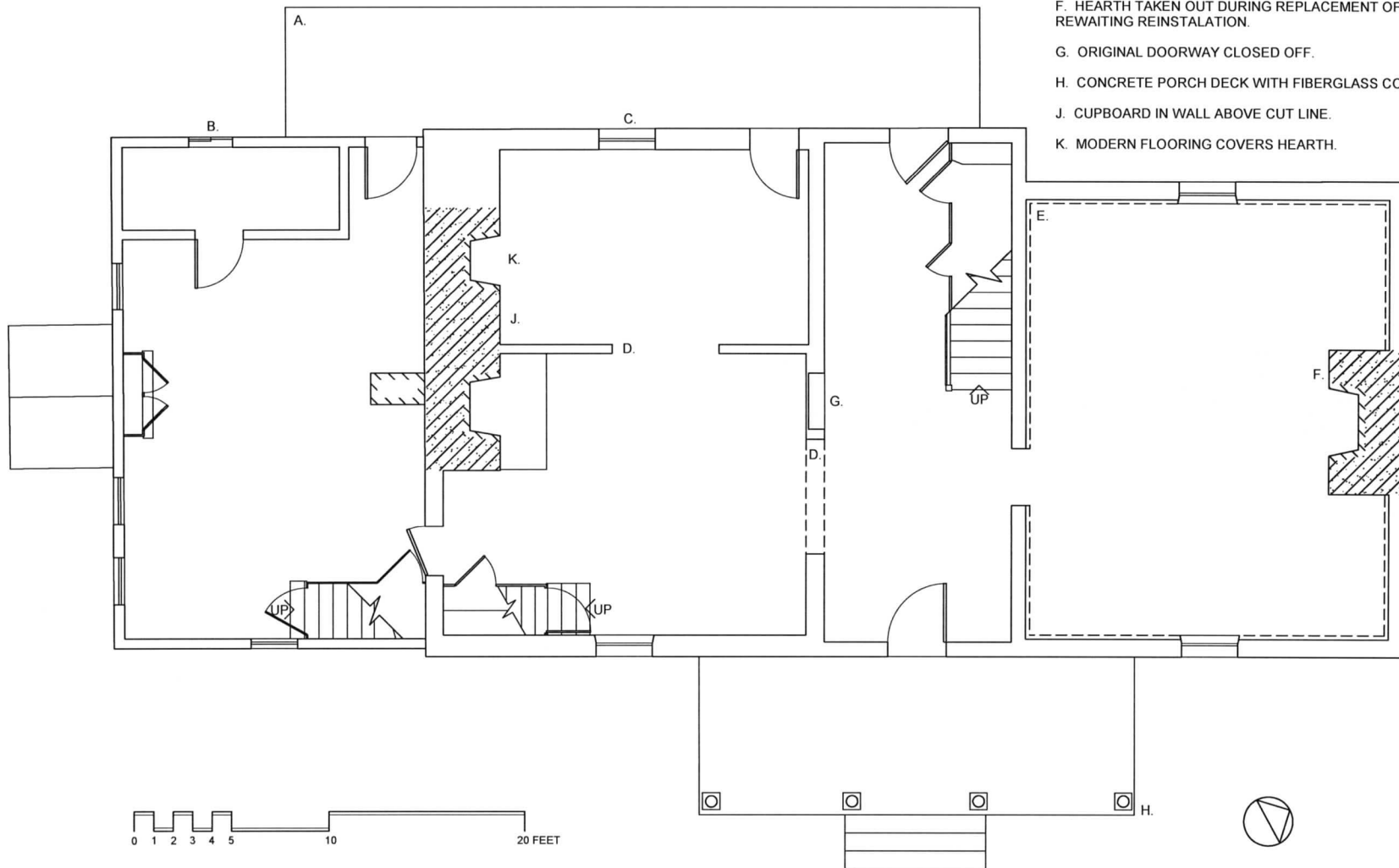
F. HEARTH TAKEN OUT DURING REPLACEMENT OF ROTTED JOISTS, REWAITING REINSTALLATION.

G. ORIGINAL DOORWAY CLOSED OFF.

H. CONCRETE PORCH DECK WITH FIBERGLASS COLUMNS.

J. CUPBOARD IN WALL ABOVE CUT LINE.

K. MODERN FLOORING COVERS HEARTH.



HO-403 GAMBRILL-MEYER FARM 10097 CENTURY DRIVE

FIRST FLOOR PLAN --MEASURED BY KEN SHORT & PETE MORRILL -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- JANUARY 2022

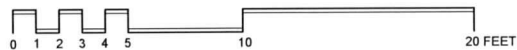
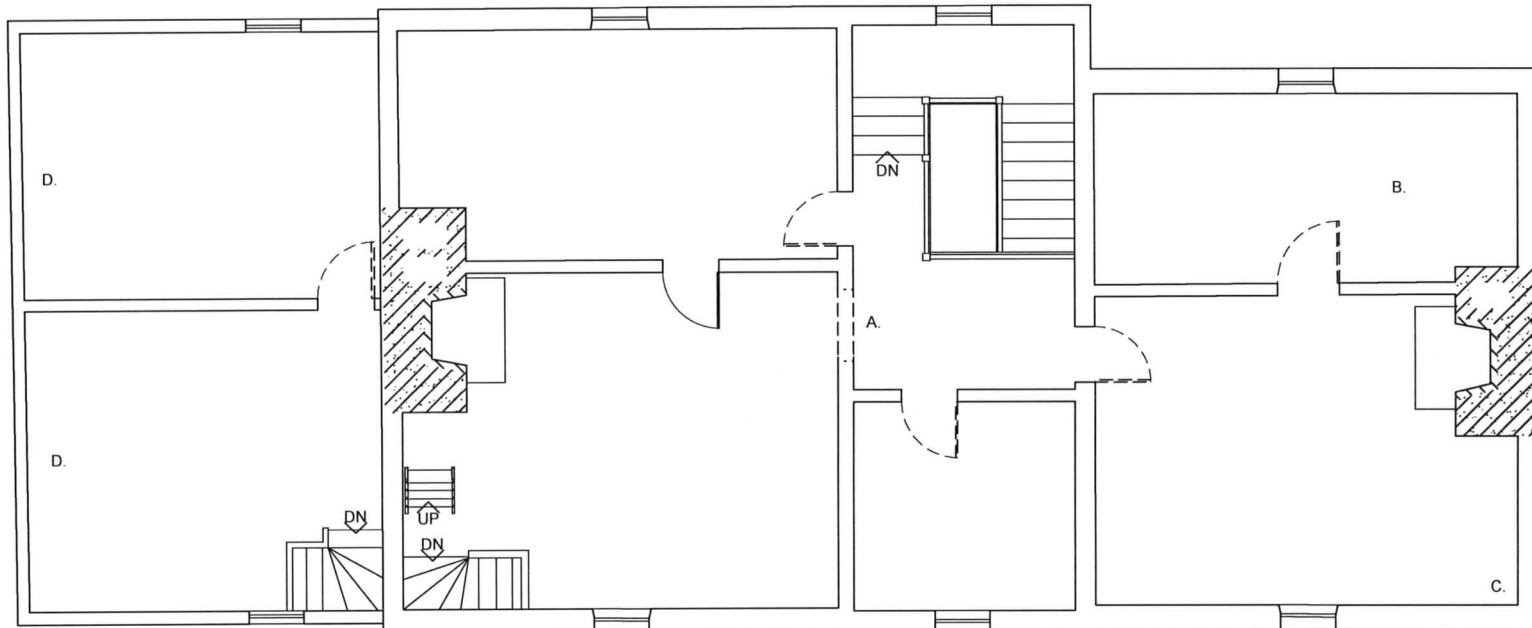
NOTES:

A. EVIDENCE INSIDE WALL INDICATES DOORWAY ORIGINALLY INTENDED HERE BUT ABANDONED. EXPOSED RECENTLY WHEN DOORWAY CUT THROUGH HERE.

B. MODERN PARTITION NOT SHOWN.

C. MODERN BUILT-IN CUPBOARD AND BOXED-IN LOWER WALL NOT SHOWN.

D. CEILING HEIGHT AT THIS END ABOUT 3 FEET.



HO-403 GAMBRILL-MEYER FARM 10097 CENTURY DRIVE

SECOND FLOOR PLAN --MEASURED BY KEN SHORT & PETE MORRILL -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- JANUARY 2022



HO-403
Gambrill-Meyer Farm
10097 Century Drive
Ellicott City quad



HO-403
Gambrill-Meyer Farm
10097 Century Drive
Ellicott City quad

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Photo 1 of 20: Southeast elevation. 1/19/2022



Photo 2 of 20: Northeast and northwest elevations. 1/19/2022

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Photo 3 of 20: Northwest elevation, first-story west bay. 1/19/2022

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Photo 4 of 20: Northwest and southwest elevations. 1/19/2022



Photo 5 of 20: Southwest & southeast elevations. 1/19/2022

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Photo 6 of 20: Passage, view northwest. 1/19/2022

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Photo 7 of 20: Passage, newel. 1/19/2022

**Maryland Historical Trust
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Inventory No: HO-403

Name: Gambrill-Meyer Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 6

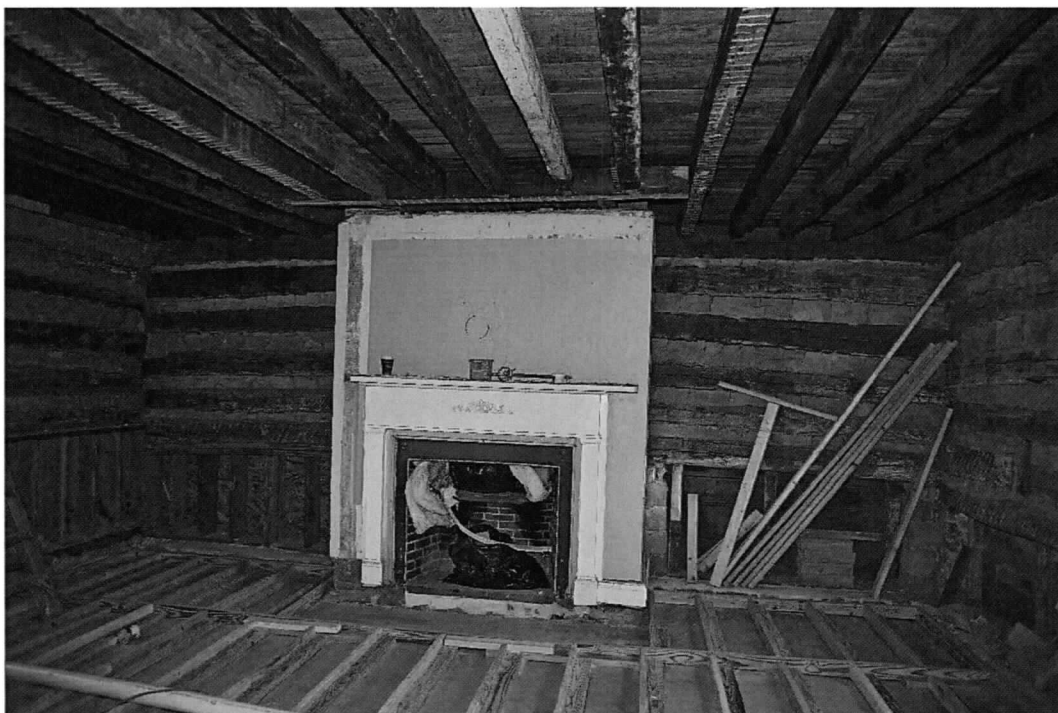


Photo 8 of 20: Northeast room, view northeast. 1/19/2022



Photo 9 of 20: Northeast room, mantel detail. 1/19/2022

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
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Name: Gambrill-Meyer Farm
Continuation Sheet

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Photo 10 of 20: Northeast room, railroad stringers re-used as second-story joists. 1/19/2022

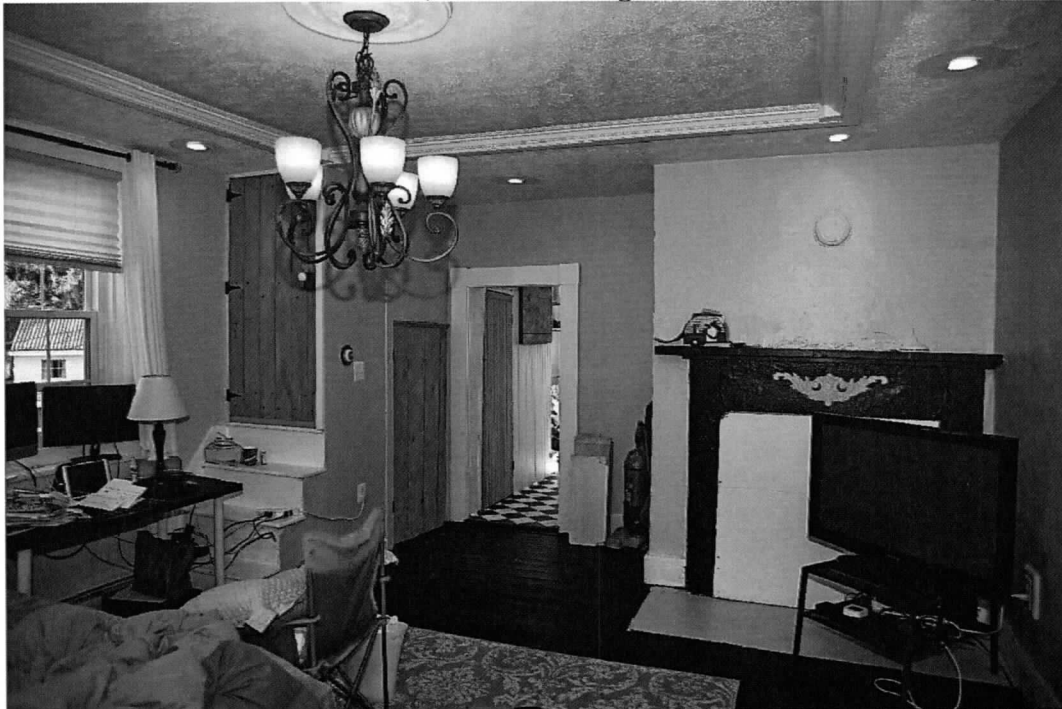


Photo 11 of 20: South room, view south. 2/18/2022

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Photo 12 of 20: West room, cupboard door on southwest. 2/18/2022

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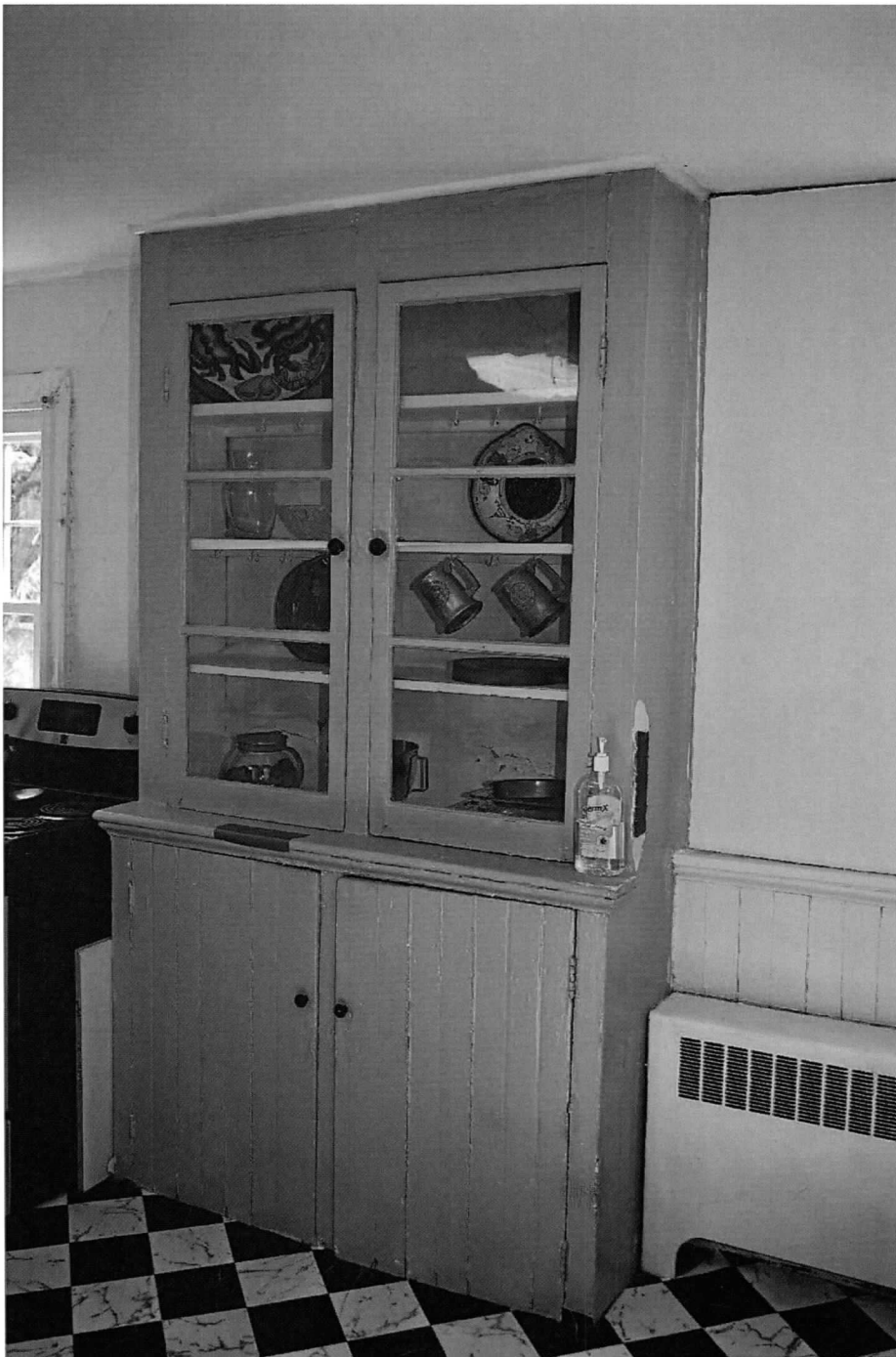


Photo 13 of 20: Southwest addition room, cupboard on southwest. 2/18/2022

**Maryland Historical Trust
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Photo 14 of 20: Southwest addition room, view southeast. 2/18/2022

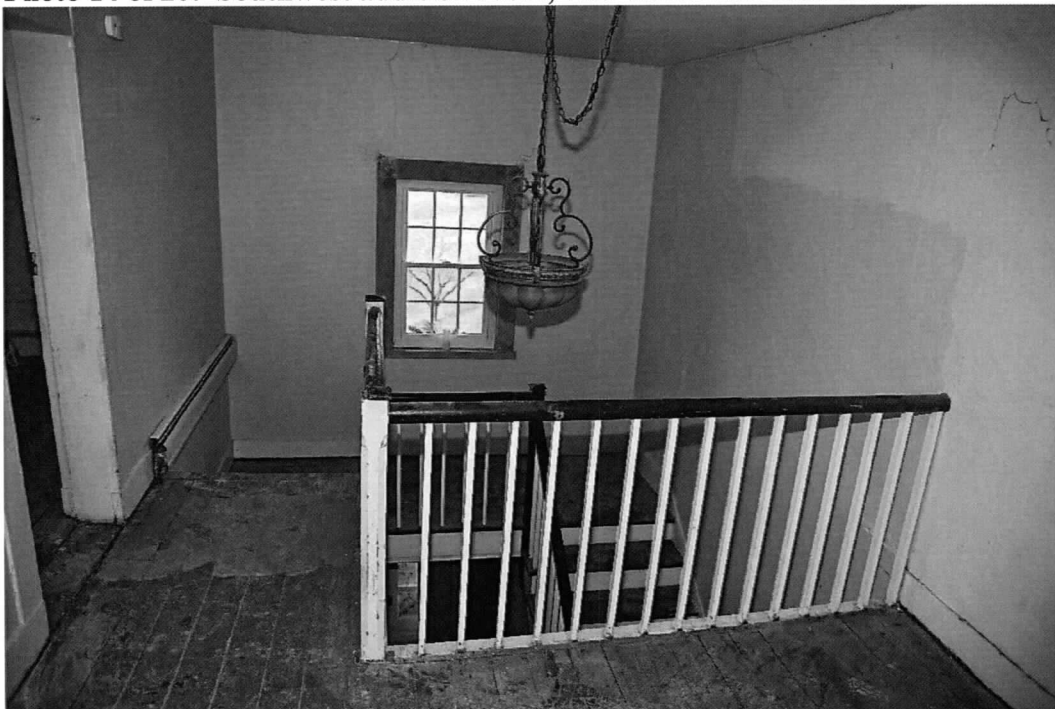


Photo 15 of 20: Second-story passage, view northwest. 1/19/2022

**Maryland Historical Trust
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Photo 16 of 20: Second-story passage, newel detail. 1/19/2022

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Photo 17 of 20: West chamber, view west. 1/19/2022

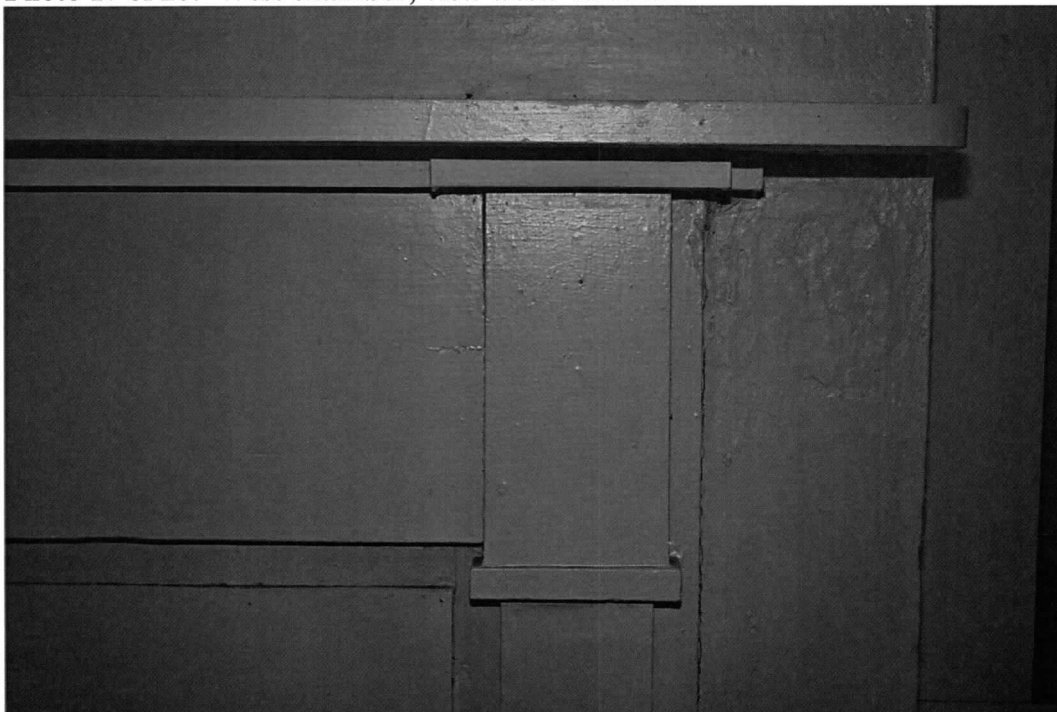


Photo 18 of 20: West chamber, mantel detail. 1/19/2022

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Photo 19 of 20: South chamber, view south. 2/18/2022



Photo 20 of 20: Stone outbuilding ruin, view north. 1/19/2022

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Name: Gambrill-Meyer Farm
Continuation Sheet

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PHOTO LOG

Name of Photographer: Ken Short
Date of Photographs: 19 January, 18 February 2022
Location of Original Digital File: MD SHPO

Photographs inserted on continuation sheets.

Photo 1 of 20:
Southeast elevation.
HO-0403_2022-01-19_01.tif

Photo 2 of 20:
Northeast and northwest elevations.
HO-0403_2022-01-19_02.tif

Photo 3 of 20:
Northwest elevation, first-story west bay.
HO-0403_2022-01-19_03.tif

Photo 4 of 20:
Northwest and southwest elevations.
HO-0403_2022-01-19_04.tif

Photo 5 of 20:
Southwest & southeast elevations.
HO-0403_2022-01-19_05.tif

Photo 6 of 20:
Passage, view northwest.
HO-0403_2022-01-19_06.tif

Photo 7 of 20:
Passage, newel.
HO-0403_2022-01-19_07.tif

Photo 8 of 20:
Northeast room, view northeast.
HO-0403_2022-01-19_08.tif

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-403

Name: Gambrill-Meyer Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 15

Photo 9 of 20:

Northeast room, mantel detail.

HO-0403_2022-01-19_09.tif

Photo 10 of 20:

Northeast room, railroad stringers re-used as second-story joists.

HO-0403_2022-01-19_10.tif

Photo 11 of 20:

South room, view south.

HO-0403_2022-01-19_11.tif

Photo 12 of 20:

West room, cupboard door on southwest.

HO-0403_2022-01-19_12.tif

Photo 13 of 20:

Southwest addition room, cupboard on southwest.

HO-0403_2022-01-19_13.tif

Photo 14 of 20:

Southwest addition room, view southeast.

HO-0403_2022-01-19_14.tif

Photo 15 of 20:

Second-story passage, view northwest.

HO-0403_2022-01-19_15.tif

Photo 16 of 20:

Second-story passage, newel detail.

HO-0403_2022-01-19_16.tif

Photo 17 of 20:

West chamber, view west.

HO-0403_2022-01-19_17.tif

Photo 18 of 20:

West chamber, mantel detail.

HO-0403_2022-01-19_18.tif

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-403

Name: Gambrill-Meyer Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 16

Photo 19 of 20:
South chamber, view south.
HO-0403_2022-01-19_19.tif

Photo 20 of 20:
Stone outbuilding ruin, view north.
HO-0403_2022-01-19_20.tif

NOTE: Per the *Standards & Guidelines*, the preparer may submit up to 20 images in print form or on continuation sheets. Printed photographs must accompany all grant-funded and National Register nomination projects. If you elect to provide more than 20 images, please include them as digital files only on archival CDs. Each photo log should clearly indicate for which photo numbers there are hard copy prints or images on continuation sheets, and for which photo numbers there are additional digital images available on CD only.

HO-403

THE MEYER-MANNER LOG HOUSE

early nineteenth century

Ellicott City

Private

The Meyer-Manner Log House faces east on the east side of the end of Century Drive.

It is a three bay wide, two room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) log covered with frame siding house with wide brick chimneys inset into its north and south walls, which hold two square, four light attic windows.

Its central rectangular east entrance door is surmounted by a one light transom and covered by a wide, hipped roof, one story high, open porch, held by four iron posts and approached by three wide cement steps.

At one time the north section of the house may have been a detached kitchen which was later connected to the larger log house (south end) by a central hall connector.

Owned by Catherine and Henry Meyer from 1885 to 1922, it was fully conveyed by Catherine Meyer to her nephew Lawrence Manner and his wife Eleanora in 1926, both of whom were brought up in the house by Henry and Catherine.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI # 1404035304

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Meyer-Manner House

AND/OR COMMON

The Manner House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 10097 Century Drive

CITY, TOWN
Ellicott City

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6thSTATE
MarylandCOUNTY
Howard**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Kathryn Snow

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

10097 Century Drive

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City, Md. VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

H0-403
District 2

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Meyer-Manner Log Farm house faces east on the east side of the end of Century Drive on 1.143 acres of land. It once encompassed 153 acres. See Attachment 3, Hopkins Atlas of 1878, Mrs. Patterson. The stone foundation for its peg barn lies southwest of the house and the stone foundation for the old smoke house almost directly south.

The house is an interesting one and may at one time have been a log house and log kitchen which were later joined by a wide central hall sometime in the early nineteenth or late eighteenth century. Several features in the house lead to such a conclusion:

- 1) The north bay of the west wall is two feet narrower than the rest of the house.
- 2) Under the north section of the house which has this width differential is no basement, though it is set on a stone foundation. A wide brick chimney is set into its north wall.
- 3) There is a one way staircase in the southeast corner of the present dining room, the south section of the house. This section features two large fireplaces on its south wall on the first floor with simple wide wooden lintels flanked by flat pilasters and crowned by a mantelpiece, with a similar second floor fireplace above. This was probably the main house and the north section its detached kitchen.

It is believed by the author that in the late eighteenth century or beginning of the nineteenth century these two log houses were joined together with a central hall. Both the south and central part of the house rest on a stone basement foundation. The staircase of the central hall is put together with wooden pegs and its spindles are simple and rectangular in design, with no curvilinear pattern so evident in a house of this size and scale in the mid-nineteenth century. The hall must date conservatively to 1820 and may indeed be of the eighteenth century. All the woodwork around the door frames of the house matches and is early in design. The door frame found between the east and west second floor rooms on the early north end of the house is of the earliest design, totally perpendicular and not mitred.



Flat wooden lintel
with two flat
pilasters

The remainder of the woodwork features square end pieces to the flat wooden lintel, over the flat pilasters. The flat base boards measure some seven inches in depth. The total simplicity of the woodwork and mantelpieces, the log construction, as well as the very fine but restrained mantelpieces of the five wide fireplaces date the total building from circa 1820 and the earliest log house prior to that.

Today the house presents itself as a very large three bay wide, two room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south), log covered with frame siding house with wide brick chimneys inset into its north and south walls, which hold two square,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

four light attic windows.

The building faces east with its central, rectangular entrance door surmounted by a one light transom and covered by a wide, hipped roof, one story high, open porch, held by four iron posts and approached by three wide cement steps.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☒ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☒ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 18th & 19th Centuries BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Meyer-Manner farm house is significant architecturally, historically, and in the social-humanitarian area. Architecturally it is significant as one of the largest log houses in Howard County yet inventoried by the Comprehensive Planning Section for the Maryland Historical Trust Howard County Inventory. Its walls are some 8-10 inches thick and there are evidences that the large house now standing may have originally been two log houses which were joined together in the late eighteenth or very early nineteenth century. The floors throughout the house are wide random width pine floors of the early nineteenth century. A door frame in the north section of the house features an unmitred flat wooden lintel supported by two flat pilasters, which is indicative of late eighteenth century woodwork. Throughout the remainder of the house are featured square end pieces to the flat wooden lintels of the door frames, supported by flat pilasters. The staircase holds plain rectangular spindles put together with wooden pegs. The north wall of the house has been covered with ship lap frame siding while the remainder of the house has been covered by plain wooden shingles.

Historically the old farm has been most recently known as the Manner Farm, owned by Lawrence and Eleanora Manner who raised twelve children, six boys and six girls, here. Their story is an interesting one. It seems that Lawrence's mother died in childbirth and it was left to his father, Charles Manner, to bring him up alone. On September 9, 1885, Mary Catherine Meyer, sister of Charles, and her husband Henry Meyer bought the present farm from a Captain Hicks (LJW 49-580) and moved to Howard County. This couple had no children and Henry Meyer asked Charles Manner, his brother-in-law, if he would let him have Lawrence to help him work the farm, bringing him up as his own son. Charles ran a tavern in Govans, Baltimore County, and feeling this was a fine opportunity for his son Lawrence, agreed. Lawrence came to Howard County to help his Uncle Henry run the farm. As Henry and Catherine got the farm going, Catherine decided it would be helpful to have a girl in the family. She went to St. Louis' Catholic Church in Clarksville and there she asked the priest to help her find a young girl. The priest visited St. Vincent's Orphans Home in Washington, D. C. and there found Eleanora Mattigan who came to live with Henry and Catherine, and was brought up with Lawrence. Mrs. O'Donnel, daughter of Lawrence and Eleanora Manner, relates how her father remarked that the older Eleanora got, the prettier she got. They were married when she was eighteen and he was thirty and raised their family of twelve here. Uncle Henry died in 1916 and Aunt Kate made Lawrence and Eleanora joint tenants of the property on March 4, 1922 (HBN 114-462). In 1926 Aunt Kate died and the farm was conveyed to Lawrence and Eleanora.

The old kitchen on the west side of the south section of the house became Eleanora's sewing room (now a den) and a new two story high, shed roofed kitchen addition with two upstairs bedrooms was constructed along the south wall of the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The north section of the house, believed to be the oldest section, was one large room with central mantelpiece. Mrs. O'Donnell remembers dances taking place here; her mother playing the piano and her father the accordin for her wedding party. Circa 1950 it was made into a separate apartment for her mother with kitchen and living room as the house was occupied by Mrs. Kathryn Manner Snow, another daughter of Eleanora and Lawrence and sister of Mrs. O'Donnell.

The story of the Meyer-Manner House is also a story which is significant in the social-humanitarian area for it is the story of a house which sheltered a loving and caring family, whose traditions are carried on by the children and grandchildren of Lawrence and Eleanora.

Mrs. O'Donnell relates that her mother sewed beautifully, even making winter coats for the children. At harvest time everything that was not eaten or sold was put up and/or canned to provide for the winter.

The deep religious values of Aunt Kate were just as deeply instilled in Eleanora and this religious heritage with its esteem for family gatherings is carried on by her daughters. Such a gathering at the old residence was in progress during an interview with Mrs. O'Donnell and her sister, Kathryn, owner of the house. In almost every room can be seen religious artifacts of one kind or another. A family with a Roman Catholic religious heritage, Eleanora and Lawrence with their family around them read the Bible each Sunday after attending church and having their Sunday dinner. During storms Eleanora would recite the rosary. Such piety made a deep impression on her children, which in turn has been inherited by her grandchildren. All have remained Roman Catholics and have been married in the church. Two daughters-in-law who were not brought up as Roman Catholics decided to join the church before their marriage to Mrs. O'Donnell's twin sons. The first double wedding ever to occur at historic St. Paul's Catholic Church was the marriage of these two sons and their brides on May 19, 1962. Receptions had always taken place at the old residence but with four families in attendance, the Ellicott City Armory had to be used.

Historically and architecturally the Meyer-Manner house is noteworthy--in the social-humanitarian area it is incomparable. Four generations now have been influenced by the deep religious and humanitarian values of Aunt Kate and present an interesting social study of an American family.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. Gerald A. O'Donnell April 2, 1978

Howard County Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.143 Acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 24 p.451

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records 308-669

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY Howard

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

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

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

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

(23)

Attachment 1
H0-403
The Meyer-Manner House
Tax Map 24

G. OUDLEY IVERSON, Y
WR 6/396
597.50A.
P.290

BOARD OF ED. OF HIO. CO.
696/608
70.00A
P.1095

C. MERRITT PUMPHREY
-ET. AL.
453/757
46.41A.
P.291

ED. OF
ED.
540/235 P.1029
P.1020

FONT HILLS
JOINT VENTURE
574/78
106.25A.
P.131

BICENTENNIAL
JOINT VENTURE
762/288
81.55A.
P.295

FOX HILL
JOINT VENTURE
780/395
9.56A.
P.402

W. PEREZ
772/906
P.574

MAP 30-P.160 MAP 30-P.161

SCALE
1"=800'

PUBLISHED
1977

MAP COORDINATE BLOC
NUMBER SEQUENCE

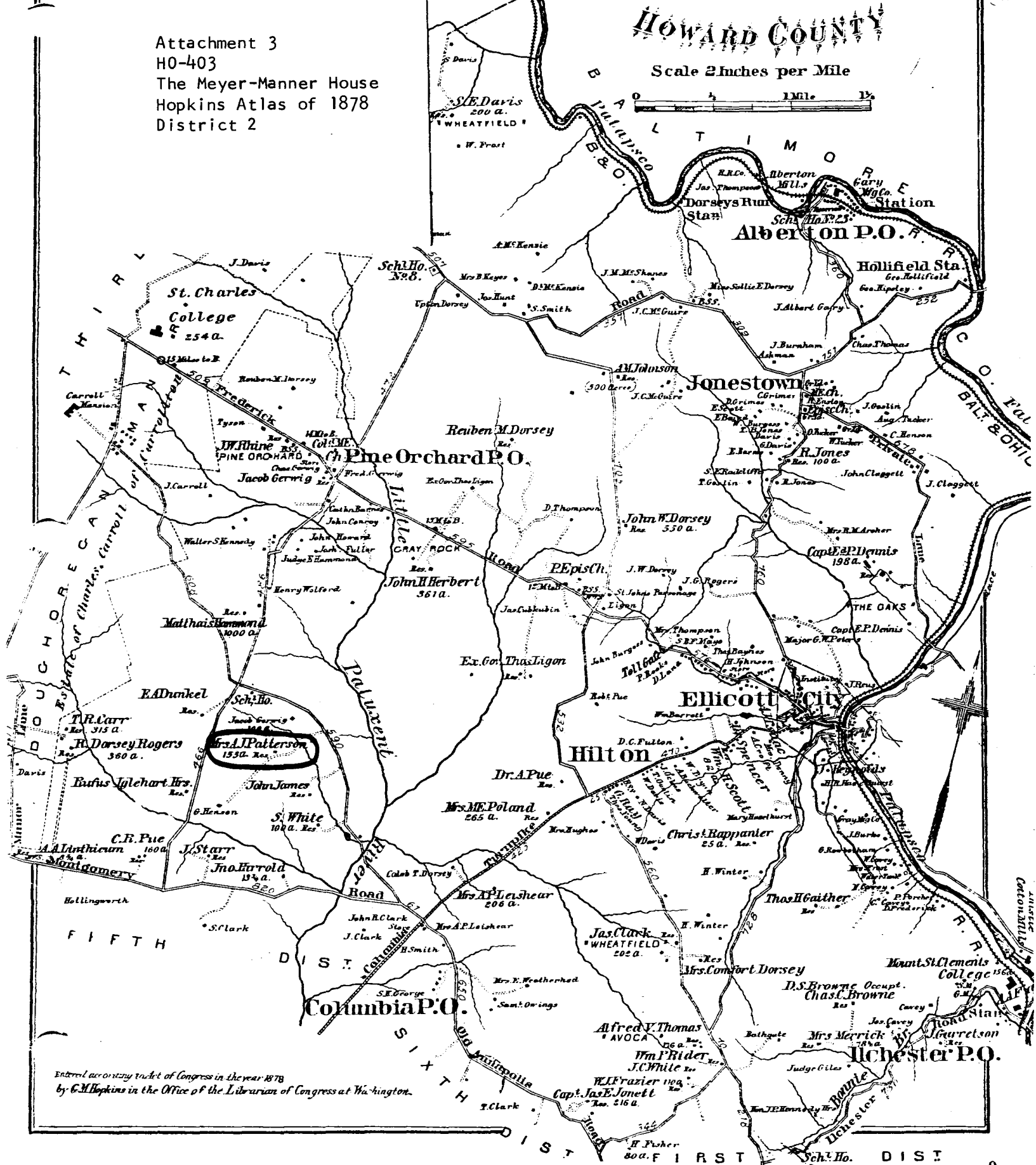
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

(SECOND DISTRICT)

HOWARD COUNTY

Scale 2 Inches per Mile

Attachment 3
H0-403
The Meyer-Manner House
Hopkins Atlas of 1878
District 2



Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1878
by G.M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.

Attachment 2

H0-403

The Meyer-Manner House

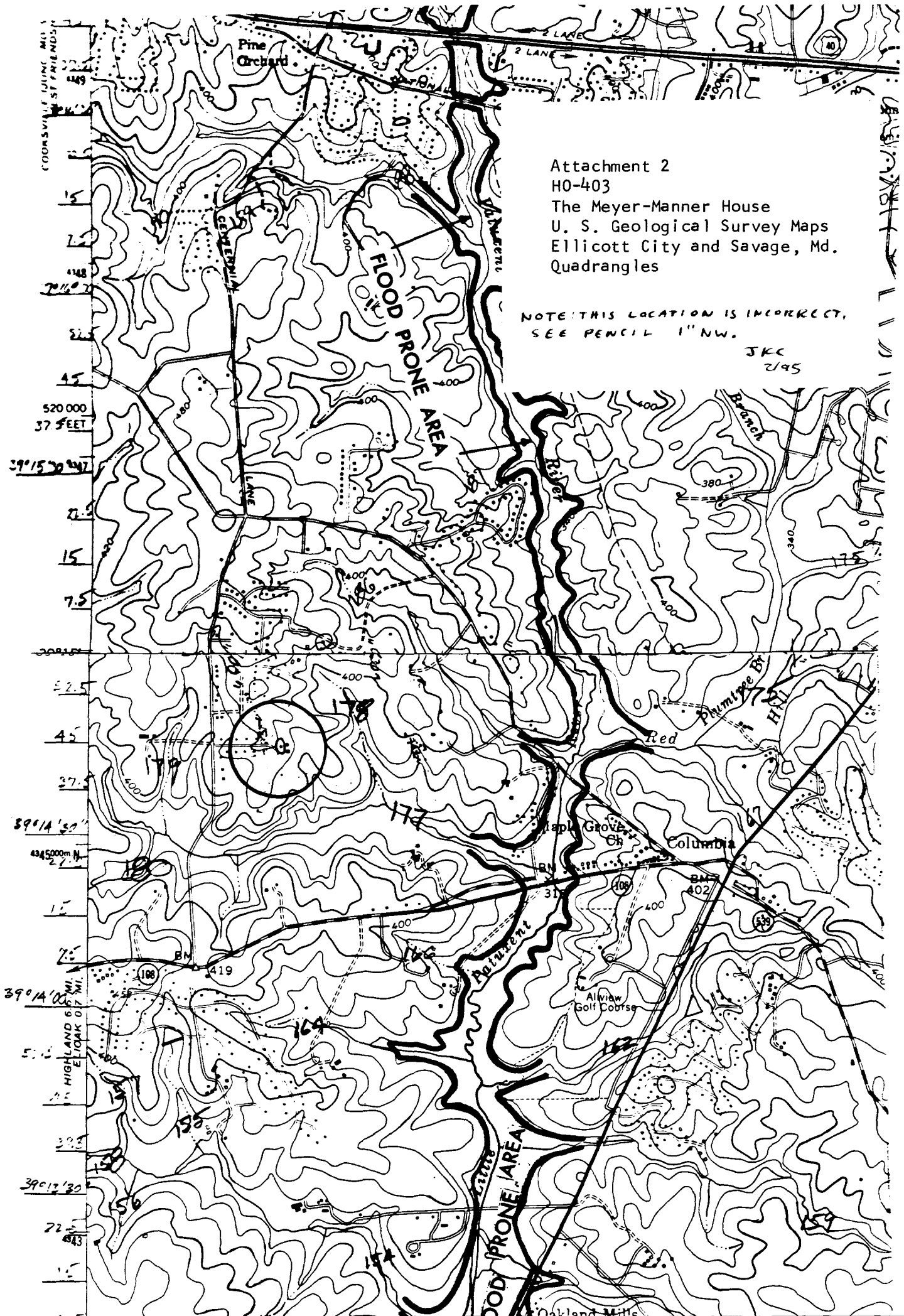
U. S. Geological Survey Maps

Ellicott City and Savage, Md.

Quadrangles

NOTE: THIS LOCATION IS INCORRECT,
SEE PENCIL 1" NW.

JKC
245





HO-403

THE MEYER-MANNER HOUSE

N.WEST

CB THOMPSON, AIP

MAR - 1978