

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received SEP 14 1984

date entered

## 1. Name

historic The Lawnand/or common The Lawn

## 2. Location

street & number 6036  
5388 Old Lawyers Hill Road, n/a not for publicationcity, town Elkridge n/a vicinity of congressional district Sixthstate Maryland code 24 county Howard code 027

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Joseph A. Cobbstreet & number 5388 Old Lawyers Hill Roadcity, town Elkridge n/a vicinity of state Maryland 21227

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse

street &amp; number

city, town Ellicott City state Maryland 21043

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  nodate 1978  federal  state  county  localdepository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circlecity, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Lawn is a 19th century frame house with five outbuildings, three of which date from the 19th century (two cottages and a barn) and contribute to the significance, and two of which do not (20th century garage and greenhouse). The Lawn was constructed in three phases (c. 1842, c. 1845, c. 1860). This complicated building embodies both the eclecticism of the 19th century and the changing and varied interests of the owner/builder, George Washington Dobbin. The Phase I house was a simple rectangular building built as a summer retreat. In the mid-1840's when Dobbin retired for health reasons, he doubled the size of the building. He converted the original house to a library and stair hall and constructed a two story addition to the west containing a double parlor, dining room, back hall and porch on the first floor and bedrooms above. A one story porch surrounded the Phase I building on the north, east and south. Fifteen years later, Dobbin made the final additions: (1) extending the southern double parlor to the south which became the base of the three story observatory tower, (2) added a two story kitchen wing to the west and (3) enclosed part of the Phase II western porch. The asbestos siding was added in the 1970's. The outbuildings are located to the west and south. A mid-20th century garage exists to the west adjacent to a mid-20th century greenhouse. These two buildings do not contribute to the significance of The Lawn. The 19th century barn is located south and west of the house. The two 19th century cottages were moved to avoid demolition by the Harbor Tunnel Thruway to the south side of The Lawn just east of the house.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

#### I. The Lawn

The Lawn is a rambling, complex structure built over a period of two decades in the middle of the 19th century as the private residence of a man of manifold interests. It reflects the romantic and eclectic architectural tastes of the time as well as the diverse intellectual interests of the builder, George Washington Dobbin (1809-1894). A lawyer, and at one time a member of the Supreme Bench of the City of Baltimore, Judge Dobbin began the The Lawn as a summer country retreat but soon turned it into a year-round residence by adding to it in several stages. Although modifications have been made to the complex throughout its existence (most obviously the addition of asbestos siding in 1979), its development can be attributed to three basic building periods or phases. For convenience, these phases can be addressed as Phase I: The Cottage, Phase II: The Cottage Enlarged, and Phase III: The "Super" Cottage.

#### A. Phase I: The Cottage

In 1842 Judge Dobbin purchased 9 acres of land on the prominence south and west of the Patapsco River now known as Lawyers Hill. Here he proceeded to build a cottage to be used as a summer retreat from the heat of Baltimore City. Although the interior was subsequently modified, the exterior has persisted largely unchanged from its original appearance and shows that the cottage was intended to be the quintessence of the small, romantic and rustic retreat then at the height of fashion and championed by A. J. Downing.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

This is a one and one-half story, rectangular frame structure (see floor plan and roof plan) with a shingled, gable roof running east-west intersected by a subordinate north-south gable roof. It rests on a fieldstone foundation (unexcavated), and is sheathed with wide weatherboarding, now covered with asbestos shingle as mentioned above. Beside panelled double doors at the west end of both the north and south facades, the first floor apertures are large-paned casement windows and a pair of large-paned French doors. Second floor windows, in the existing three gables, are small-paned casements, with the east gable featuring a projecting polygonal bay window, or oriel, supported by scrolled brackets. Scalloped bargeboards outline all the gables and rustic stick-like modillions project from the cornice line. Although no longer extant, a large wooden finial of fleur-de-lys shape originally surmounted the peak of each of the four gables.

Although the interior was subsequently altered during Phase II, it is said to have consisted of five rooms (parlor, dining room, two bedrooms, and "spare" room) on the first floor. There is no indication of the existence of chimneys, fireplaces or cooking facilities; a detached kitchen and servants quarters, located some distance westward, are no longer extant.

B. Phase II: The Cottage Enlarged

Not long after construction of Phase I, Judge Dobbin was advised, for reasons of health, to give up city living and reside in the country. Thus, in order to provide for the amenities required for winter comfort and to provide space for his growing family, modification and enlargement of the cottage was undertaken c.1845. The result was the addition of a large block along the west wall of the cottage.

The "enlargement" also of frame construction with brick nogging and clapboard, consisted basically of two wings, each two stories high and covered with a moderately steep jerkin-head gable roof. The roof ridges of the wings are at right angles to each other (see roof plan), and the western-most wing is subordinate to the other in height, width and ornamentation; only the north and south gables, for instance, are trimmed in scalloped bargeboards. Two massive brick chimneys pierce the standing-seam tin (originally, wood shingle) roofs of the block, and each is ornamented with tapered caps and two belt course-like projecting bands. The principal, central chimney divides into three separate flues, a pseudo-Tudor innovation.

A one-story pent-roofed open veranda was constructed around all three exposed sides of the original cottage, during Phase II, thus tying the two sections together. A similar open veranda (later enclosed and enlarged) runs along the extreme west side of the new block. Both verandas utilize unfinished sapling logs as columnar supports for the roofs, adding a further touch of sophisticated rusticity to the composition.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

As if to underscore the bucolic setting of this idealized "country cottage," a farm bell is housed in a pyramidal-roofed belfry astride the main roof ridge of the original cottage.

The fenestration of the Phase II block was characterized by an assortment of large-paned and small-paned double-hung sash windows. In some cases, the windows are grouped two and four together giving a "mullioned" effect reminiscent of Elizabethan-style window treatments. (The fenestration of the north elevation was repeated in the south elevation prior to the latter's subsequent extension.) All the windows are flanked by louvered external shutters; the shutter dogs are of scallop shell design. The principal, multiple-window groupings are surmounted by a bracketed projecting cornice-like motif which tends to introduce an Italianesque element into what is predominantly an "English cottage" style with its steep roofs, clipped gables, scalloped bargeboards, multiple-flue chimneys, and grouped "mullioned" windows.

With the construction of the west block, the interior of the original cottage wing to its east was altered to its present configuration and function: to provide a central entrance and stair hall as well as a large and elegant library. The stair is open string and ascends in a single flight, winding through a right-angle turn midway to the second-floor. A rounded handrail with ramps and easements is supported by straight-sided rectangular balusters and terminates at a slim, tapered colonnette newel. (A stairway of identical style, but rising in a single straight run, is located along the extreme west wall of the west block.) At either end of the hall are glazed and panelled double entrance doors.

The library, however, dominates the wing, not only in size, but in decor as well showing Gothic influence. Glass-doored bookcases with heavy overhanging lancet-arched cornices line all four walls of the room. The flat plaster ceiling is ornamented with heavily moulded ribbing forming an intricate pattern of interlocking geometric shapes suggestive of vaulting and evocative of the elaborate moulded ceilings of the Tudor era. A four-light transom over the central doorway bears colorful heraldic devices in mock "stained glass" and adds to the Gothic effect. The floor of this room is laid in narrow hardwood strips of alternating light and dark hues. (Downing urges this treatment of floors in entrances and parlors.)

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Howard County, Maryland    Item number    7    Page    3GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)C. Phase III: The "Super" Cottage

After the 1845 enlargement, further modifications and additions were made to the complex, probably in the period c. 1855-1865, yielding not only the rambling effect present today, but also certain stylistic alterations.

The most extensive addition was an attached kitchen. This wing was butted against the open veranda of the westernmost wing of the Phase II addition. The two-story frame wing has a gable roof (running east-west and shingled, see roof plan) and sits on an unexcavated fieldstone foundation. A single, wide gable is centered on the north roof face and two narrow gables are situated at either extreme of the south face. Windows are all double-hung sash of varying sizes (both 4/4 light and 6/6 light) and are flanked by external louvered shutters. An external square brick chimney is centered on the west wall and rises from a fireplace structure featuring a sloped weathering on one side and an unusual wide, horizontal pent-roofed brick wood shed on the other. The first floor of the wing is a single kitchen room with a brick hearth and tall, arched fireplace opening. Several servants' rooms occupy the second floor.

The formerly open veranda between the kitchen and the house was partially enclosed during Phase III to provide a larder and pantry.

The other modifications of Phase III came about as a result of the varied interests in science and technology of Judge Dobbin. An inveterate thinker and admirer of gadgetry, Dobbin created work areas in which to pursue his several hobbies. One of these was photography, and the west veranda, now partially enclosed and joining the kitchen to the main house, was raised to its present two-story height, with the north end being used as a darkroom. (Its window is the only one of the house to have light-tight panelled shutters.) The south end of this enlargement was utilized as a workshop and a farther square projection westward served as a metal-working shop (complete with anvil). An un-roofed gallery outside this work area provided a drying porch for photographic plates.

The final refinement to the cottage complex also came about as a result of the owner's pursuit of science and, stylistically, profoundly altered its composition and feeling. A 12-foot extension southward of the parlor wing was topped by a rectangular pavilion-like structure emerging from the gabled roof and evoking a tower-like effect. A basically flat roof is outlined with scalloped bargeboard-like appendages. Casement windows on the long sides of the pavilion and a projecting gallery or balcony at its south end, bracketed on the underside and canopied by an overhanging roof, interject an Italianate feeling, which effect is heightened by the inclusion of elongated sash windows, surmounted by bracketed projecting cornices in the lower stories of the extension. Stylistically, this eclectic intrusion of Italianesque detailing into what might otherwise be taken for Steamboat Gothic makes for a hybrid, and curious blend of Mediterranean and Mississippi.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Irrespective of the style, however, the roof top pavilion is not solely decorative; it once functioned as an astronomical observatory, complete with an 8-foot diameter circular opening in its ceiling (under a shallow gabled-roof square covering) for the mounting of a telescope. Bookshelves for works on astronomy line the walls. A large wooden weather vane atop the roof serves not only as a decorative element but also gives evidence of the owner's Jeffersonian fascination with gadgetry as well; its shaft descends to the first floor parlor window where it pierces the frame at right angles and terminates in an indoor readout on a compass rose.

Apart from the Gothic treatment of the library, the south parlor contains perhaps the most significant surviving interior decor and would appear to date from the above-described extension of the wing in the early 1860's. A notable, deep plaster cornice, picture moulding and ceiling moulding enhance the elegant, large proportions of the 18' x 30' room as well as emphasize the broad and deep chimney breast. The mantelpiece, of possibly unique design, consists of a deep shelf topped by a tall, panelled backrail and supported by a pair of wooden, voluted consoles, each of which is richly carved in deep relief and capped by a fox's head. Over the arched marble fireplace opening a similarly carved boss featuring an owl's head is located as if a keystone. The hearth is of glazed tile laid in a geometric pattern and incorporating an arabesque motif. The doors of this room, as are virtually all the doors of the house, are four-panelled with broad lock rail fitted with rectangular rim locks, brass knobs, and brass keyhole escutcheons. Architraves are mitered and moulded.

II. The Outbuildings

In its heyday, The Lawn embraced an area in excess of 240 acres which afforded not only an adequate "lawn" for the principal house but also permitted the estate to be practically self-sustaining. It boasted not only fields, pastures and woods, but also barns, stables, an ice house, smoke house, tenant houses and other ancillary buildings necessary for comfortable country living in the mid-nineteenth century. Time, of course, has taken its toll of both acreage and structures, and only three of the early outbuildings survive; (and only because they were snatched from their original sites in the path of the present interstate highway system and relocated on the remaining acres of the Lawn in 1970). They consist of a barn and two tenant cottages.

A. The Barn

Resting on a modern cinder block foundation in its new location just southwest of the main house, the late 19th century barn is a rectangular frame structure covered with a gabled roof (running east-west) and intersected by a subordinate gabled roof on the northeast corner, the gable of which is dominated by a large loft door. A wide, deep shed projection (probably not original) occupies the remainder of the north elevation. Siding on the north side is a very narrow shiplap; siding on the other three sides is the vertical board and batten commonly found on 19th century barns in Howard County. A large rectangular, gable-roofed, louvered ventilator is centered on the ridge line of the main roof.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

B. Tenant Cottage #1 (Rose Cottage)

This cottage which, stylistically, would appear to date from circa 1850, is located southeast of the main house and is one and one-half story "L"-shaped frame structure featuring five roof gables, each outlined by broad scalloped bargeboards cut in distinctive Gothic, or lancet, arch pattern. Typical mid-19th century six over six double-hung sash windows predominate. Because of the necessity to relocate the cottage, it now rests on a modern concrete foundation and is sheathed in asbestos siding. The original framing has not been disturbed. The south wing is of recent construction.

A particularly noteworthy feature is a small porch containing its own scalloped bargeboarded gable, echoing the slightly larger bargeboard gable from which the porch projects.

Considering the rather large size and extensive ornamentation of this structure, speculation concerning its original function becomes intriguing.

C. Tenant Cottage #2 (Lilac Cottage)

This is a small, mid-19th century, two story frame cottage of basically rectangular floor plan and consists of two intersecting gabled roof wings and a one-story shed roof extension. (The intermediate wing is of recent construction.) Fenestration is irregular, but typical 19th century six over six double-hung sash. Gable ends overhang generously and originally were ornamented with Gothic-arched bargeboards. Because of the necessity to relocate the structure, it also rests on a modern concrete foundation and is sheathed in asbestos siding. But the original framing is intact.

D. Other outbuildings

Also included on the property are a mid-20th century pre-fabricated greenhouse, and a garage of similar date, which do not contribute to the significance of the resource.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Lawn is situated on the top of a high ridgeline, on the west side of the Patapsco River. The land is gently undulating and features a heavy growth of trees and shrubs. The boundaries are delineated sharply on the northeast by a hill sloping north to the Patapsco, on the northwest by the Harbor Tunnel Thruway and on the east and west by a dense, old growth of trees and shrubs which create a natural boundary between The Lawn and its neighbors.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1842-early 1900's **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Applicable Criteria: B, C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The significance of The Lawn derives primarily from association with George Washington Dobbin, 1809-1894, a lawyer for whom the house was erected as a residence. Admitted to the bar at the age of 21, Dobbin rose to the position of judge on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore in 1867. A graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law, Dobbin became Dean of the law faculty of that institution. He was also a founder of the Maryland Historical Society and member at various times of the board of directors or trustees of the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, the Peabody Institute, Baltimore Library Company, Maryland Hospital for the Insane, and Johns Hopkins Hospital. The house has further significance from the architectural character. The Lawn underwent three major changes for Dobbin in adapting the building to meet his tastes, and needs, and interests. Although several architectural influences are visible in the decorative detailing, the architectural significance comes from the personal quality that is reflected in the assemblage to accommodate the owner's use rather than fashion.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

George Washington Dobbin, 1809-1894, was admitted to the bar at the age of 21 and, as a lawyer, made his mark in the practice of that profession, ultimately becoming a judge on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore and, for 14 years, Dean of the University of Maryland School of Law. In addition, he was a founder of the Maryland Historical Society and served as a Director of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, a Trustee of the Johns Hopkins University and a Trustee of the Peabody Institute. A philanthropist in his own community, he donated land near his home in Lawyer's Hill for the construction of a neighborhood community center.

As an example of the esteem in which he was held, the Mayor of Baltimore chose him as one of the delegation of three to make representations to President Lincoln to order a cessation of Union troop movements through Baltimore subsequent to the bloodshed of April 19, 1861, when the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment was attacked by Baltimore mobs.

His intellectual nature apparently caused him to take an interest in science and technology as well as the arts. His fascination with gadgetry (e.g., his remote-reading weathervane), his tinkering in his workshop, his pursuit of photography, and his serious study of astronomy, as well as his accomplishments in the fields of law, history and education mark him as a "Renaissance Man."

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet # 9

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 7.935 acres

Quadrangle name Relay, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	1 8	3 5 1 6 8 10	4 13 4 12 5 18 10
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 8	3 5 1 7 4 10	4 13 4 12 4 18 10
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 8	3 5 1 5 4 10	4 13 4 12 4 12 10
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	1 8	3 5 1 4 13 10	4 13 4 12 6 12 10
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are delineated on the attached map; for Boundary Justification see Continuation Sheet #5.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Philip Reitzel and Cleora Thompson and Nancy Miller Schamu		
organization		date	1983
street & number	8814 Guilford Road	telephone	301-730-2927
city or town	Columbia	state	Maryland 21046

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *J. M. A.* 8-27-84

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Linda McClelland</i>	date 10-29-84
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Dobbin built the first section of the house (1842) on a hill west of the town of Elkridge, accessibility from Baltimore having been made possible by the 1835 construction of the Thomas Viaduct and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (Metropolitan Branch). Within a few years several other Baltimore lawyers built their summer houses nearby causing the area to be named "Lawyer's Hill."

The resident families of Lawyers Hill became a homogenous and relatively isolated group. Diversions consisted mainly of mutual visiting, much of it at The Lawn. According to the 1914 reminiscences of one of Dobbin's daughters, Rebecca Pue Penniman, the house was the scene of perpetual activity. Mrs. Penniman's reflections add to the significance of The Lawn by creating an animated picture of its use. She wrote, "We had a very gay house and constant company - plenty of horses and carriages and everything that could add to our pleasure." Choir practice was held every Friday night at The Lawn followed by a generous supper ". . .which insured the attendance not only of the choir, but of some neighbors who came for the social end."

Plentiful though the luxuries may have been, life at The Lawn was not one of indolence. Judge Dobbin was a man of precision and punctuality, and he expected similar virtues in his children. Their education was conducted at home by tutors ". . . till they were old enough to need school training and discipline." Music lessons began as early as 5:00 a.m. Breakfast was at 6:30 a.m. year round, by candlelight if necessary. No child was ever late for this family gathering. "We were so used to it that we never felt it a hardship, but I cannot say as much for our guests."

The Civil War years saw the otherwise unified community equally divided in its sympathies. Although feelings ran high, the families were sagacious enough never to let the subject of sympathy be discussed among them - a most wise decision, which left us at the end of the war as good friends as ever." The Dobbins were apparently sympathetic to the Southern cause. A Union Regiment always encamped near The Lawn, apparently in connection with General Butler's control of the Thomas Viaduct (c. 1,000 yards away, National Register) and the railroad between Baltimore and Washington. According to Mrs. Penniman, "The (Union) soldiers from the North were rude and insolent to all suspected of Southern sympathies. They took our horses, stole our fruit and vegetables. The Western regiments were composed of much more decent men." She further describes the family's actually welcoming the possible arrival of Confederate troops.

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When General Lee entered Pennsylvania a rumor reached us that a part of the army was in Maryland not far from us. Father went to meet them and Mother looked into the resources of the store room and meat house to feed the hungry men. General Ben Butler threatened to cut down all our trees to clear the way for guns, which were . . . across the (Patapsco) River, and it was proposed to move me and my two day old baby to the cellar for comparative safety. But our hopes were in vain; Gettysburg had made Maryland impossible, and our only cheer was that our trees were spared.

The re-uniting of the neighborhood in the post-war years was furthered by Judge Dobbin who, in 1869, provided land upon which to build "The Assembly Room," a community center for dances, plays, readings, etc., "a kind of neighborhood parlor," as he expressed it.

The close-knitmess of the Dobbin family was not diminished as the children grew up and married. They did not move away: land was made available to them from The Lawn acreage for the building of their own cottages. (Four of these survive today.) Thus, parents, children and grandchildren were in close proximity to one another and The Lawn continued as a scene of bustling activity, remaining the focus for one large, extended family.

A. J. Downing in his The Architecture of Country Houses (1850) offers his concept of what the American "true home" of the time should be.

The beautiful, rural unostentatious, moderate home of the country gentleman, large enough to minister to all the wants, necessities and luxuries of a republican, and not too large or too luxurious to warp the life or manners of his children.

The Lawn measures up to this description.

Architecturally, The Lawn is a well-preserved example of a private residence constructed in several phases during the middle of the 19th century (c.1840-c. 1865) and reflecting the range of prevailing tastes and styles of that era. It exhibits the early Victorian fascination with the romantic and the rustic, as evidenced in Phase I (see Description). A one and one-half story frame cottage (with a detached kitchen) nestled on a wooded nine-acre site and adorned with roof finials, scalloped bargeboards and oriel window bespeaks an attempt to present a picturesque and rustic country cottage with simple ornamentation, in the highly romantic Gothic Revival style. In this, the cottage is Downing-esque, if not actually inspired by his published works, and gives evidence of the far-reaching influence of fashion on the domestic architecture of the time. This is an indication of the change from localized vernacular traditions toward a uniform, national architecture - from published sources.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

The additions of Phase II (see Description) further attest to the near-universal prevailing tastes of the period. By this time, however, pretense to a diminutive cottage has been dropped; a large mass of blocks, topped by steep roofs and chimneys bespeaks the conversion from summer cottage to year-round residence, and a country house of near-villa proportions results. English rural style ornamentation, in the form of scalloped bargeboards, truncated gables, and grouped mullioned windows, continues to prevail, but with restraint. The theme continues to be Gothic, as evidenced by the interior treatment of the library. The open verandas, however, with their sapling-log posts, contribute a feeling of rural rusticity. The additions and modifications of the Phase III era (see Description) further add to the mass and decoratively contribute elements of the Italianate style (particularly in the observatory pavillion), thus adding to the eclectic nature of the total composition.

Of further architectural significance is the reflection of the owner's interests and hobbies in the building. The solid external shutters disclosing the location of the darkroom, the several protrusions forming the workshop areas, and, most strikingly of all, the astronomical observatory dominating the south elevation all make a strong statement of the owner's personality and demonstrate that form does indeed follow function. Furthermore, The Lawn possesses a very rare example of an astronomical observatory in a private residence. (No other Maryland example is known.)

HO-141

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet    The Lawn  
Howard County, Maryland    Item number    9    Page    9

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Andrews, Matthew Page. Tercentenary History of Maryland. 1925

Downing, A. J. The Architecture of Country Houses. Reprint of 1850  
ed. New York: Dover, 1969.

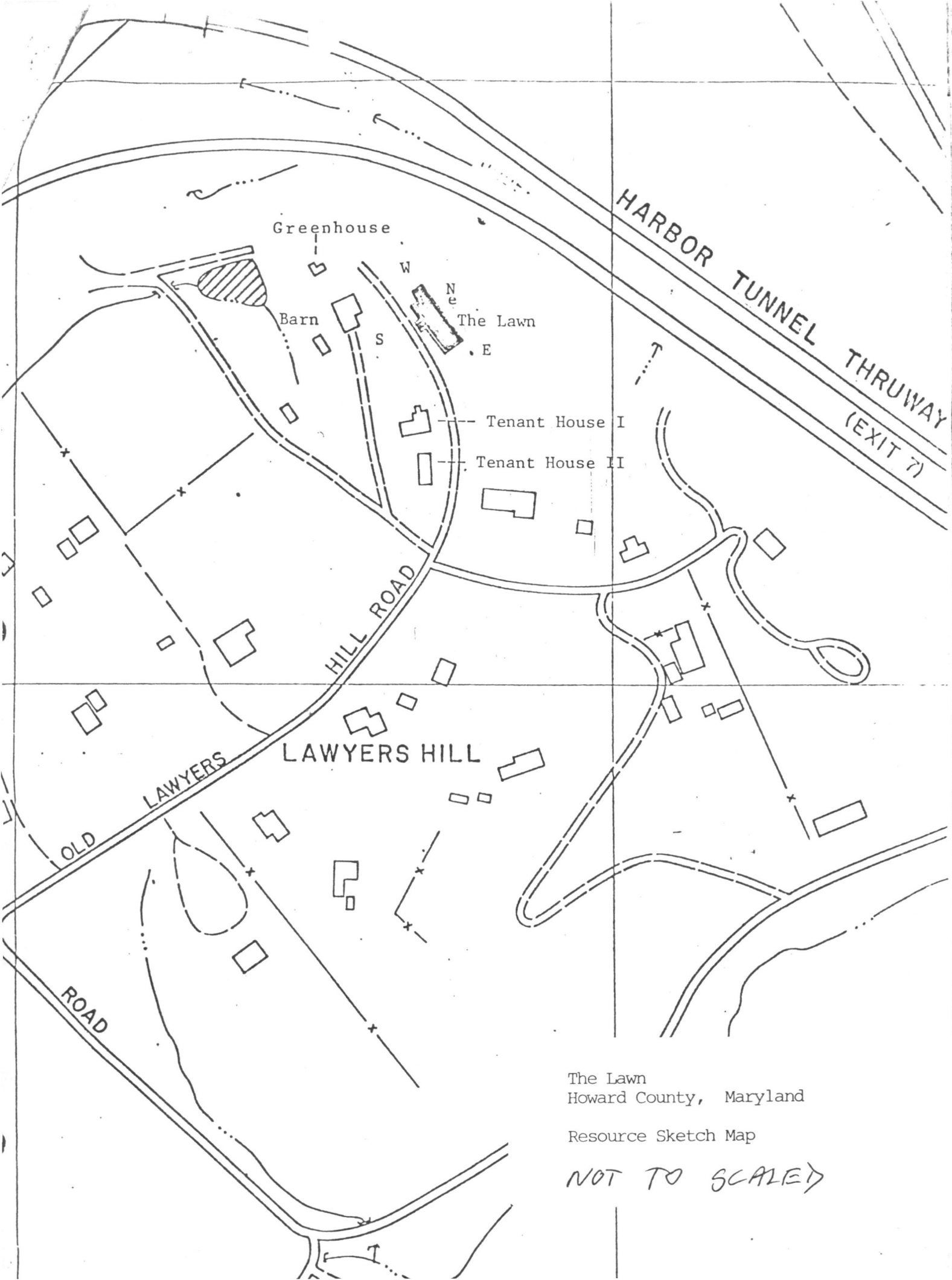
Howard County Land Records, Howard County Courthouse, Ellicott City, Maryland.

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Cobb, July and August 1982.

Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory: Howard County (HO-141),  
Cleora Thompson, surveyor.

Penniman, Rebecca Pue. "The Lawn" manuscript, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Cobb,  
April 1914, owners.

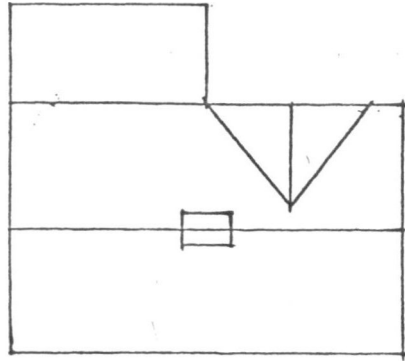
Photograph of The Lawn, c. 1850, Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cobb, owners.



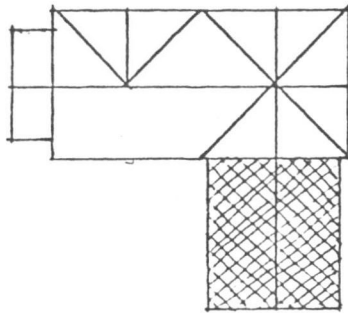
The Lawn  
Howard County, Maryland

Resource Sketch Map

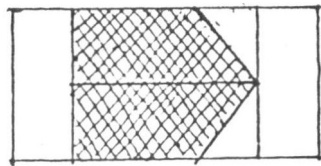
NOT TO SCALE



THE BARN




COTTAGE # 1  
"Rose"

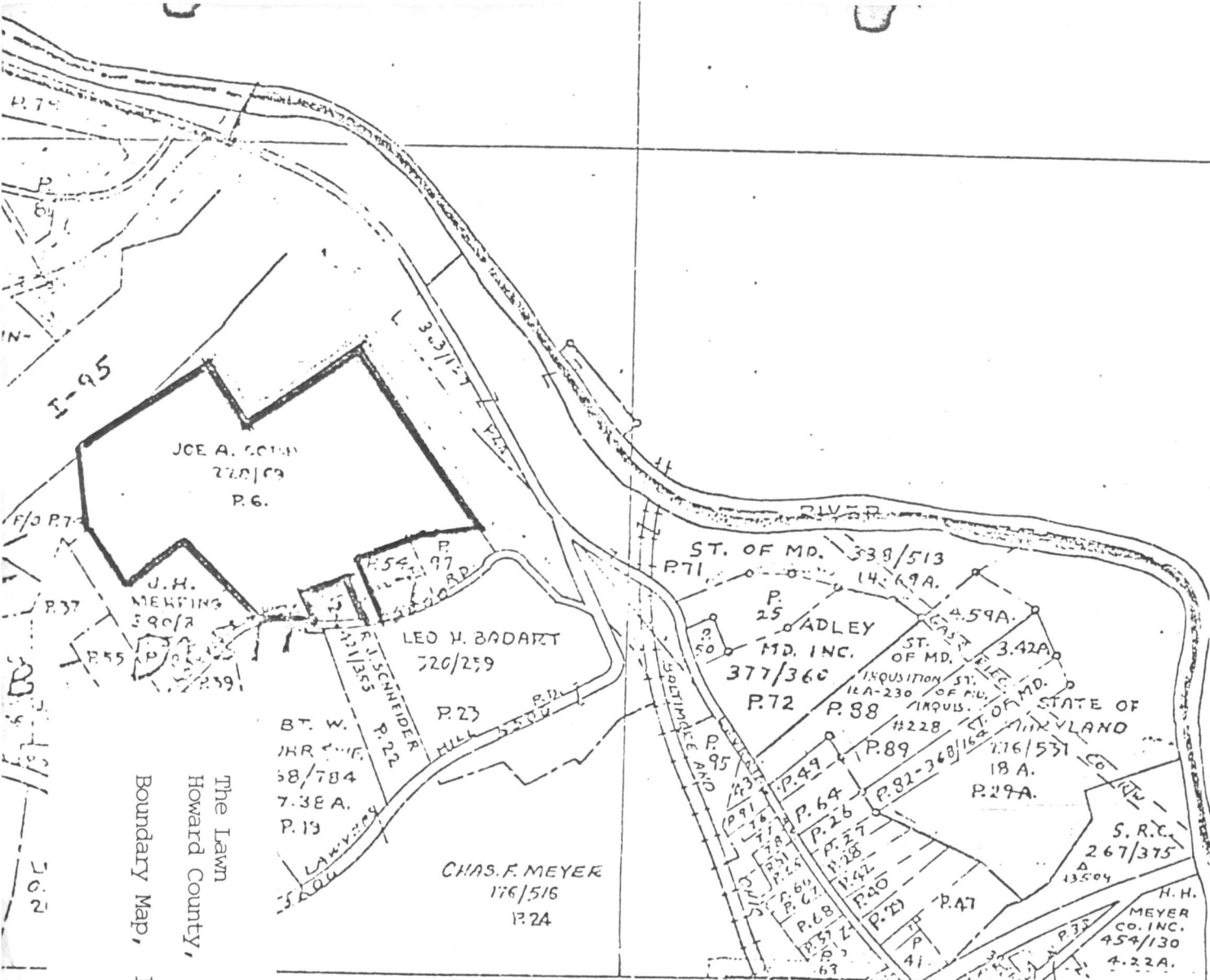


COTTAGE # 2  
"Lilac"

The Lawn  
Howard County, Maryland  
Roof Plan of Outbuildings

 = of recent construction

- Not to Scale -  
PR



Attachment 1  
 HO-141  
 The Lawn  
 Tax Map 32

The Lawn  
 Howard County, Maryland  
 Boundary Map, 1983

881

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
 TAX MAP DIVISION

THE INFORMATION SHOWN HEREON HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM DEED DESCRIPTIONS AND IS NOT AN ACTUAL SURVEY. IT SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS. USERS NOTING ERRORS ARE URGED TO NOTIFY DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION, 301 W. PRESTON ST., BALTO. 1, MD.

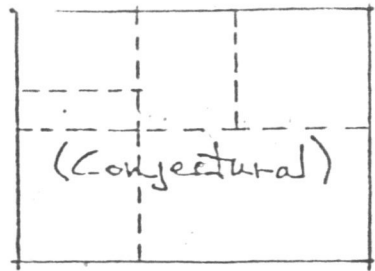
REVISED TO:	DATE	LIDER	BY	LAST P. NO.	PHOTO	OWNER
	7-1-69	512	J.A.	97	57-100	

PROPERTY LINE - - - - -  
 SUB-DIVISION BOUNDARY - - - - -  
 CONTINUING OWNERSHIP - Z I.E. - Z -  
 PARCEL NUMBER - P. 349 (ASSIGNED TO OWNERSHIP BY MAP NUMBER)

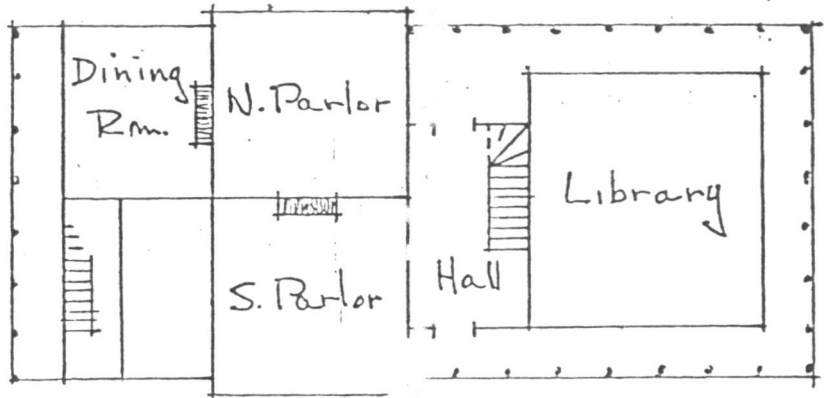
SCALE: 1" = 600'

The Lawn  
Howard County, Maryland

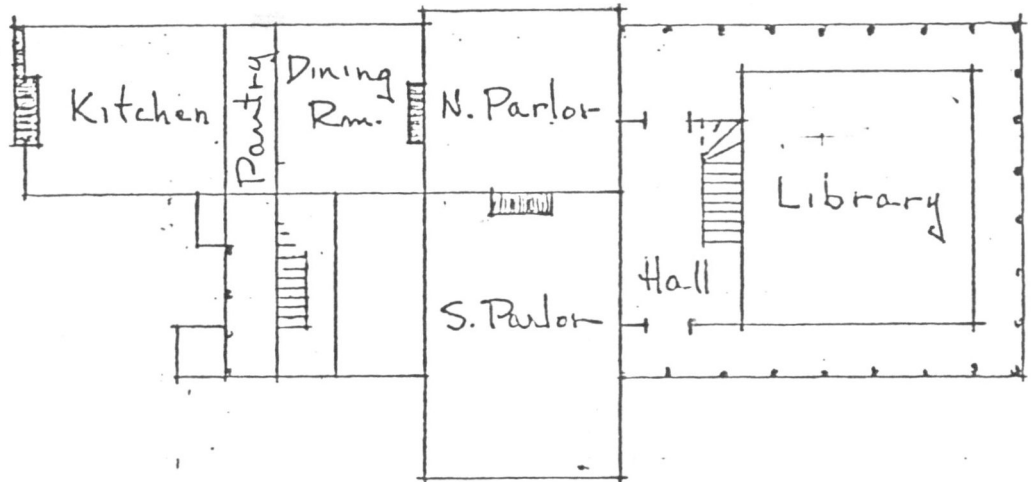
Floor Plan of House



PHASE I  
c. 1842



PHASE II  
c. 1845



PHASE III  
c. 1860

- Not to Scale -  
PR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Lawn, The  
Howard County  
MARYLAND

Working No. SEP 14 1984  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86  
Date Due: 10/11/84 10/29/84  
Action: ACCEPT 10-29-84  
RETURN  
REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments: *Nomination clearly discusses property's merit in architecture for its reflection of both the mid-19th century ideal of rural life and "picturesque" design and the eccentricity and personal style and taste of Judge Dobbin's. 3 distinct stages occurred during the judge's residency - a period in which he made significant contributions in law and education.*

Recom./Criteria Accept B+C  
Reviewer LMcClelland  
Discipline Architectural Historian  
Date 10-29-84  
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

*Very thorough description, and careful identification of contributing & noncontributing structures.*

---

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs *extensive photo documentation*
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Comments (continued)

(1842)

The first stage distinctly reflects the picturesque cottage prototype popularized by A. J. Downing and A. J. Davis. The two later stages reflect more the personal needs, <sup>occupations</sup> and taste of Judge Dobbins and his family, thus making the architectural character of the property inseparable from the personality and talents of its owner. The presence of 2 small period houses and a vintage barn adds to the architectural significance of the property.

The Judge's contributions qualify him as a <sup>if not statewide</sup> person of significance locally for his leadership in law, as a member of the Baltimore Supreme Bench ~~in~~ (1867) and as Dean of the University of Maryland School of Law, and in civic affairs, as a founding member or director of ~~many~~ <sup>several</sup> of Maryland's educational or medical institutions.



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Nancy Miller Schamu

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

SE elevation of house

1/20



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Nancy Miller Schamu

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

SW elevation of house

2/20



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Nancy Miller Schamu

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

west elevation of house

3/20



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Nancy Miller Schamu

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

NW elevation of house

4/20



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Nancy Miller Schamu

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

NE elevation of house

5/20



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo: Nancy Miller Schamu

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

detail of north porch of east section

6/20



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

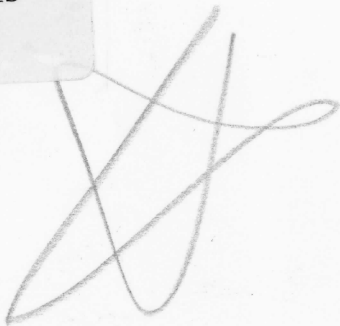
photo date: 1983

photo: Christopher Winslow

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

view north of interior of south parlor

7/20





The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Christopher Winslow

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

fireplace of south parlor

8/20

9/11/83



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Christopher Winslow

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

view south of interior of south parlor

9/20



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Christopher Winslow

entrance hall

10/20

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Christopher Winslow

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis  
library, east section

11/20



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Nancy Miller Schamu

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

second floor fireplace

12/20



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Nancy Miller Schamu

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

entranceway to observatory

13/20



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: ;983

photo: Nancy Miller Schamu

neg: Maryland Histoircal Trust, Annapolis

view of house and barn

14/20



The Lawn  
Howard County, Maryland  
photo date: 1980  
photo: Cleora Thompson  
neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis  
15/20  
barn

Name: H3671+1

The Lawn

Location: 5388 Old Lawyer's Hill Road  
Elkridge, Howard County, Maryland

Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.

Date of Photograph: October 1980

Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust

View: North elevation of barn

Photographer looking: South

Photograph number: 10 of 10



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Nancy Miller Schamu

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

SE elevation of Cottage No. 1

16/20



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Nancy Miller Schamu

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis

N elevation of Cottage No. 1

17/20



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1983

photo: Nancy Miller Schamu

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis  
Cottage No. 1

18/20



The Lawn

Howard County, Maryland

photo date: 1982

photo: Nancy Miller Schamu

neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis  
Cottage No. 2

19/20



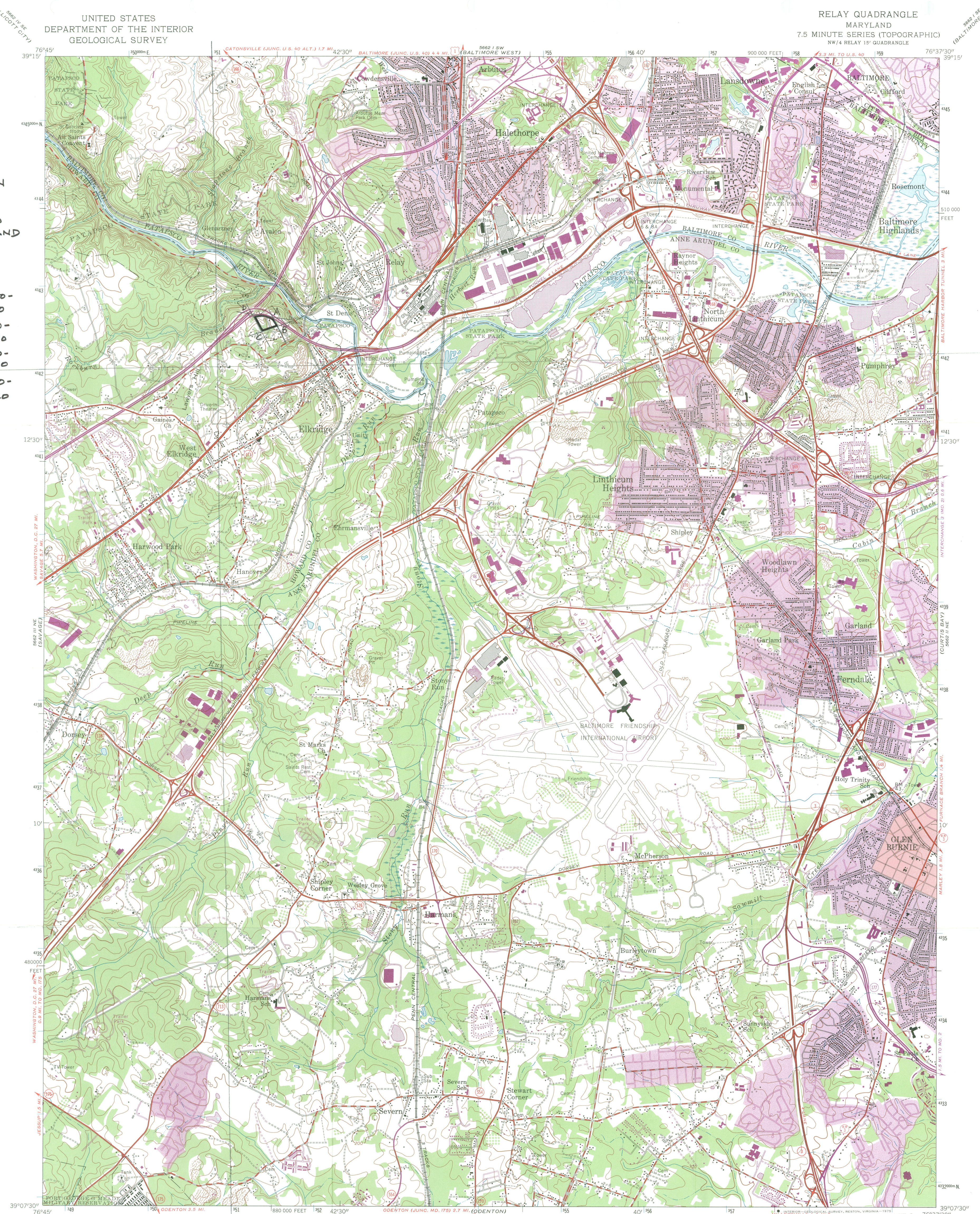
The Lawn

20

The Lawn  
Howard County, Maryland  
photo date: 1980  
photo: Cleora Thompson  
neg: Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis  
1980 phot of N elevation as siding was added  
20/20

HO-141  
THE LAWN  
HOWARD COUNTY,  
MARYLAND

A: 18-351680-4342580  
B: 18-351740-4342480  
C: 18-351540-4342420  
D: 18-351430-4342620



Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and SCS  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods and by planetable surveys 1943. Planimetric detail revised from aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1957  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Rivers shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

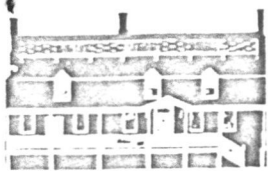
SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
Interstate Route ——— U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

RELAY, MD.  
NW/4 RELAY 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3907.5-W7637.5/7.5

1957  
PHOTOREVISED 1966 AND 1974  
AMS 5662 II NW-SERI: 333



4

22 August 1983

Maryland Historical Trust

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Cobb  
5388 Old Lawyers Hill Road  
Elkridge, Maryland 21227

Re: The Lawn, Elkridge  
Howard County

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Cobb:

The above referenced property will be considered by the Governor's Consulting Committee on 27 September 1983 for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the Federal Government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage. Enclosed is a copy of the criteria under which properties are evaluated.

Listing in the National Register provides the following benefits to historic properties:

-Consideration in the planning for federally assisted projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 provides that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment on projects affecting such properties.

-Eligibility for Federal tax benefits. If a property is listed in the National Register, certain tax provisions may apply. The Tax Reform Act of 1976, as amended by the Revenue Act of 1978 and the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980, and the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 as amended by the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, contain provisions intended to encourage the preservation of depreciable historic structures by allowing favorable tax treatments for rehabilitation, and to discourage destruction of historic buildings by eliminating certain Federal tax provisions for demolition of historic structures. Beginning January 1, 1982, the Economic Recovery Tax Act replaces the rehabilitation tax incentives available under prior law with a 25% investment tax credit for rehabilitations of certain historic commercial, industrial and residential rental buildings. This can be combined with a 15-year cost

GOV. JR'S CONSULTING COMMITTEE MEET  
HELD AT THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
27 September 1983



*The Lawn  
Howard Co.*

Maryland Historical Trust

*Maryland*

*p. 4*

Present:

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNOR'S CONSULTING COMMITTEE

Tyler Bastian

(State Archeologist, Maryland Geological Survey)

Orin Bullock, Jr., (FAIA)

Mark P. Leone

(Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland)

Orlando Ridout, IV

(former Director of MHT and former SHPO)

Robert M. Vogel (Curator, Division of Mechanical & Civil Engineering,  
The National Museum of History and Technology, The Smithsonian Institution)

MEMBERS OF THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Mark R. Edwards, Administrator, Survey and Planning Services and Deputy SHPO

Ronald L. Andrews, National Register Administrator

Peter E. Kurtze, Assistant National Register Administrator

Peggy Weissman, Historic Sites Surveyor/Preservation Planner

Kim Kimlin, Historic Sites Surveyor/Preservation Planner

Peggy Clarke, Secretary

VISITORS

Nancy Paige, in reference to Union Memorial Hospital - Charles Village/Abell  
Historic District

Alfred Barry, III, Barbara Hoff and Fred Shoken in reference to Charles Village/  
Abell Historic District

Druscilla Null, in reference to Dundalk Historic District

Marsha Fritz, Rita Suffness and Louis Ege in reference to Chester River Bridge

Mayor Hillman, Norwood Brown and Joseph Z. Simms in reference to Stanton Center

The Lawn, Howard County

Mr. Bullock felt that the building was an architectural hodge podge. Mr. Vogel felt that it was eccentric vernacular architecture that reflected the personality of its owner. Mr. Vogel moved to nominate The Lawn; Mr. Bastian seconded the motion; the motion failed by a vote of 3 to 2.

Vessey House, Somerset County

After presentation, Mr. Bullock moved to nominate the resource; Mr. Ridout seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Member absence

The near-failure to have a quorum led the committee to examine membership. It was noted that John Hill had not been able to attend the past four meetings. Committee requested staff to write Mr. Hill to determine whether or not he is able to continue as an active member of the committee. Robert Vogel moved to recommend to Mr. Little that he present the name of Nancy Miller Shamu to the Governor as a highly qualified person in the field of historic preservation to serve on the committee; the motion was seconded by Mr. Ridout and carried unanimously.

Conflict of Interest

In its program audits, the National Park Service examines each state's policy and procedures for avoiding conflict of interest involving members of the state review board. Motion was made by Mr. Ridout to amend the by-laws to include a statement of the Committee's legal responsibility under the Maryland Public Ethics Law, and procedures for dealing with such conflicts when they occur. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bullock and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.



8

Maryland Historical Trust

28 September 1983

Mrs. Joseph A. Cobb  
5388 Old Lawyers Hill Road  
Elkridge, Maryland 21227

Re: The Lawn (HO-141)  
5388 Old Lawyers Hill Road  
Elkridge vicinity  
Howard County

Dear Mrs. Cobb:

The Lawn was reviewed on 27 September by the Governor's Consulting Committee for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The next step in the process is submission of the application to the National Register office in Washington. Although the Governor's Consulting Committee did not give a favorable review of the nomination, the Trust feels that the property is eligible for listing. The application is scheduled for forwarding to the National Register office in the coming weeks as soon as Ed Shull forwards the finished photographs. Final decision on listing is made by the National Register. You will be informed of their decision as soon as we know it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions in this matter. Thank you for showing me around last week. It is a complicated house that I found easier to understand after my visit.

Respectfully,

Ronald L. Andrews  
National Register Administrator

RLA/pc

cc: Mrs. Mary Louise Gramkow  
Mr. Ed Shull  
Ms. Nancy A. Miller Schmu



MARYLAND  
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE PLANNING  
 301 W. PRESTON STREET  
 BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2365

*file*  
 (9)

HARRY HUGHES  
 GOVERNOR

CONSTANCE LIEDER  
 SECRETARY

October 31, 1983

Mr. J. Rodney Little, Director  
 Maryland Historical Trust  
 21 State Circle - Shaw House  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RECEIVED

NOV 3 1983

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 OF HISTORIC PLACES REVIEW

MARYLAND HISTORICAL  
 TRUST

Applicant: Maryland Historical Trust

Project: The Lawn, Howard Co. Proposed Historic Nomination

State Clearinghouse Control Number: 83-9-1041

Dear Mr. Little:

The State Clearinghouse has reviewed the proposed nomination. Acting under Article 88C of the Annotated Code of Maryland directives received from the Governor's office, the State Clearinghouse received comments from the following:

Department of Natural Resources, Regional Planning Council, Department of Economic and Community Development, Department of Transportation, and the Department of State Planning stated that this nomination is not inconsistent with their respective agencies' plans, programs, and objectives.

As a result of the review, it has been determined that the proposed nomination is not inconsistent with State plans, programs, and objectives.

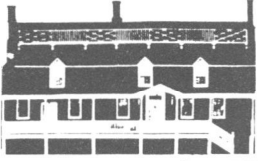
In consonance with established procedures, a copy of this letter should be included with your formal submission. The comments are valid for a period of two years from the date of this letter. If the nomination is not processed within this period of time, it should be resubmitted to the Clearinghouse for updating of the comments.

Sincerely,

Guy W. Hager  
 Director, State Clearinghouse

GWH:hd

cc: Lowell Frederick/Clyde Pyers/Herbert Sachs/Comprehensive/Stephanie O'Hara (83-291)



Maryland Historical Trust

12 Sept  
~~24 August~~ 1984

Ms. Carol Shull  
Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: The Lawn  
Howard County

Dear Carol:

Enclosed is documentation for nominating the Lawn to the National Register. The owner concurs in the nomination. The state review board (Governor's Consulting Committee) voted against nomination by a vote of 3 to 2. The majority of the review board did not feel that the house has sufficient architectural merit for listing. I believe that The Lawn has strong historical association and architectural merit for listing. The review board discussed little of the historical associations. Enclosed are copies of correspondence and the applicable sections of the review board minutes.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions in this matter.

Sincerely,

J. Rodney Little  
State Historic Preservation Officer

JRL/RLA/pc

Enclosures: NR form and 9 Continuation Sheets  
1 U.S.G.S. quad  
1 Boundary map  
1 Resource sketch plan  
1 floor plan of the house  
1 roof plan of outbuildings  
20 photographs  
GCC minutes (2 pages)  
Correspondence:  
Little to Cobb, 22 Aug. 1983  
Andrews to Cobb, 28 Sept. 1983  
Hager to Little, 31 Oct. 1983

LMK  
11/5

H32 (413)

NOV 5 1984

Mr. J. Rodney Little  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Little:

The National Register Branch of the Interagency Resources Division of the National Park Service has reviewed the nomination for The Lawn, Howard County, Maryland. We have carefully considered the documentation submitted with the nomination including your comments and the minutes of the State Review Board meeting regarding the eligibility of this property. We have found that the property meets criteria B and C. The property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 29.

The property is significant as the home of George Washington Dobbin during the productive period of his legal career when he made significant contributions locally and perhaps statewide as a Judge on the Supreme Bench of Baltimore, as Dean of the University of Maryland School of Law for 14 years, and as a founder or trustee of several important educational and medical institutions in Maryland. Because Judge Dobbin's accomplishments and contributions exceeded those generally expected of a member of his profession and promoted the advancement of legal and educational institutions that continue to be important, we consider him a person significant in the past and his home of many years eligible for listing in the National Register.

Furthermore, the property is significant architecturally for its reflection of the spirit and details of mid-19th-century country architecture promoted by A. J. Downing, particularly evident in the original 1843 cottage, and for the highly idiosyncratic stamp that its owner placed on later additions. The house in its evolution and the outbuildings reflect a mix of the pattern book influences of the period as well as the individualized tastes, interests and life-style of its owner. As a result it is difficult to disassociate the architectural character of the property from its historical association.

We appreciate your bringing this nomination to our attention, and hope that our comments will be of help to your staff and the review board in understanding our decision.

Sincerely,

Beth Grosvenor

for

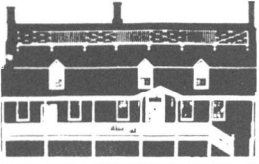
Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
Interagency Resources Division

bcc:4000-MARO  
413  
Reading File  
Record Center

FNP:LMcClelland:lm:10/31/84:343-9536

Sys. 3 (NRH) Little

Basic File Retained in 413



---

Maryland Historical Trust

11 January 1985

Ms. Carol E. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: The Lawn  
Howard County

Dear Carol:

The house number given in the National Register application for the Lawn, 5388 is incorrect. The correct number is 6036. The owner was properly notified of the intent to nominate and the listing and supported the nomination from the beginning.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions in this matter.

Sincerely,

J. Rodney Little  
State Historic Preservation Officer

JRL/RLA/pc

*Rec'd 1/16/85*