## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

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Mt Ida was built in 1828 by Wm. Ellicott, son of Johathan and Sarah Ellicott and grandson of Andrew (one of the founders of Ellicott City). He resided in the home until his death 8 years later. The home was then sold to Judge John Snowden Tyson and his wife Rachel. He lived there until his death c. 1878 when the property was listed as belonging to his heirs. An only son died in a boating accident and his three sisters - all maiden ladies - lived in the family home during their lifetimes. One sister, Anna M. Tyson, left her share of the estate to her sister Ida who lived to be the last survivor of the family and after whom the house was named -- Mt. Ida. In her later years she was cared for by a second cousin, Adelaide Snowden, widow of George Addison Hodges, Sr., who with her six children lived at Mt. Ida until Ida Tyson's death.

The property was then purchased in October 1930 by Mr. and Mrs. Louis T. Clark who lived there until 1959. The house was then sold to business interests who planned to demolish it (the small carriage house was torn down) and build a complex of modern office buildings on the site. The building was allowed to stand for some years unoccupied and vandalized until purchased by the Miller Land Co. and restored as an office building for the Howard County News. The surrounding land is to be developed as office buildings de-

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signed to blend with the existing structure. Injunctions filed by neighbors who wish to prevent the additional buildings from being built are at present in the courts so the grounds surrounding the building have not been finished. The building itself however is once again functioning as a viable part of the Ellicott City community.

The architectural significance of Ellicott City is unique in its record of an early mill town done in granite ashlar with the strong simplicity of its Quaker creators. There is little in its design to tie in with any of the well-known and named styles. It is a complete consise expression of a local and shortlived culture.

In the first third of the 19th century, the prosperous town felt the impact of fashionable revivals of old forms in architecture and, as elsewhere, simplicity gave way to fashion. On the hills above Ellicott City stand the remains of three imposing structures, each of which was a fine example of one of the three revivals. The Patapsco Female Institute was good strong Roman, almost brutal; now a ruin, it probably will remain so. Angelo Cottage is one of the first and most interesting of the examples of a nostagic medieval revival, almost finicky in its romance and a far cry from the granite of the town streets. But most interesting, to a historian, is the old house, Mount Ida.

Mount Ida is better Greek Revival than most expressions of the style found elsewhere in the country, better than the forms

generally recognized as such in the histories. Its design is NO-59 a reflection of archaic aegean, symmetrical to a fault, practically devoid of ornament, strong and simple as a megaron but curiously done in the geometrical approach of Ledoux.

Its cultural significance lies in its clear exposition of a Quaker background, still so apparent in its form, affected by a new desire to show both acquired worldly goods and acquired knowledge of the world. Plain building with the best of local material in order to achieve good function in the most direct way no longer satisfied its first owner, or the town, by inference.

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COURSING WITH DILASTERS AT IT'S CORNERS AND A MOST

RESTRAINED BIT OF VINE ORNAMENT ON IT'S HALL CEILING COMPLETED THE BUILDING.

Robert Carey Long, jr., was the architect who designed the building and, besides his work on the Patapsco Institute building he is well know for his work in Baltimore. The house is perhaps the most perfect instance of a surface change in local character, done at a human scale, to be found anywhere in the country.

During the rebuilding by the Miller Land Co. an additional pertico extractor was created at the rear entrance to the building in order to give access to offices in the basement. While the remodeling of the building would not satisfy the pure restorationist it has been adapted quite nicely to its commercial function and most importantly—

A building mercial function and most importantly—

A still stands.

Careful architectural drawings were obtained before any of the work was done so a record is available of the original.

NO-59

The small carriage house demolished in 1965 was an exact replica of the original building though only about 20 feet square. No drawings were done of the building though photos exist.

Interior photos of the ornate plaster ceilings and early hardware exist also. The ceiling ornamentation remains—the door locks and hardware and marble mantels fell victim to the vandals who also destroyed the original stairway.

The front walk of Mt. Ida was originally lined by large English boxwood which were removed when the property was sold. Early pictures show the boxwood and many large trees surrounding the house while a placid figure (possibly Miss Ida) rocks on the upstairs porch over the front entrance. 8. SIGNIFICANCE PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate) Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century 20th Century ☐ 17th Century 2 19th Century ☐ 15th Century SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate) ☐ Urban Planning Abor iginal ■ Education ☐ Political Prehistoric ☐ Engineering Other (Specify) Religion/Phi-🔀 Historic ☐ Industry losophy Agriculture ☐ Invention Science ★ Architecture Londscape □ Sculpture ☐ Årt Architecture Social/Human-□ Commerce ☐ Literature itarian □ Communications ■ Military ☐ Theater ☐ Conservation Music ☐ Transportation STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

EINSTRUCTIONS

Mt. Ida ranks among the three most important buildings in Ellicott City--the B & O station (already in the National Register of Historic Places) and the Patapsco Institute leading the list. It takes first place as the town's ''fanciest'' building despite it's pure Greek Revival lines and the luxury of its molded plaster ceilings, which are in stark contrast to the unadorned Quaker lines found in most of Ellicott City's frame and granite buildings.

It is one of the few remaining buildings built by one of the founders of the Mills. The building was designed by Robert Carey Long, jr., who designed the Patapsco Female Institute in Ellicott City and is well know for his work in Baltimore.

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Signature

| STATE Maryland | COUNTY Howard | TOWN Ellicott CityCINITY | STREET NO. Church Street

NO. OF STORIES 2

ORIGINAL OWNER William Ellicott
ORIGINAL USE dwelling
PRESENT OWNER Tyson Square Mtg. CorpPRESENT USE Vacant oration

WALL CONSTRUCTION stone-stucco

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY HO - 59

2 NAME Mt. Ida

DATE OR PERIOD 1848 STYLE Greek Revival ARCHITECT BUILDER William Ellicott

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC NO

Mt. Ida, located just below the ratapsco Female Institute on Church Street in Ellicott City, was built in 1828 by William Ellicott. It is a Greek Revival building constructed of rough granite covered with stucco to simulate ashlar masonry. The foundation of basement is made of dressed granite, champhered at the water table, where the stucco begins. It is three bays long, two bays deep and two stories high with a low pitch hipped in front of the central entrance is a two-story portico with square columns and dressed granite steps; the entrance has very tall double doors with sidelights leading to a central hall. [On each side of the portico with square columns and dressed granite steps; the entrance has very tall double doors with sidelights leading to a central hall. On each side of the portico is a three-part window, now covered with louvered shutters extending nearly to the floor while the second story windows are small and have six over six sash. At the corners of the building are pilaster strips, like the columns of the portico. The cornice consists of a flat strip extending around the building like the pilaster

(continued on reverse side)

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered yes Interior poor

Exterior Door



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

7. PHOTOGRAPH

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

Michael Bourne Maryland Historical Trust

DATE OF RECORD June 19, 1908

strips. On the south side is a small two-story frame wing. The north and south walls contain two chimneys each. Two windows between the chimneys of the second "floor, north facade, light the two bedrooms on that side.

A central hall passed entirely though the building unobstructed. To the north are two parlors connected by huge double doors and each lighted by only one three-part window extending to the tloor, with nine over nine shas in the middle and three over three sash on each side.

The following commentary by lan C. MacCallum, Architect, was prepared for the Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, 1964.

## MOUNT IDA Ellicott City, Maryland

The architectural significance of Ellicott City is unique in its record of an early mill town done in granite ashlar with the strong simplicity of its Quaker creators. There is little in its design to tie in with any of the well-known and named styles. It is a complete consise expression of a local and shortlived culture.

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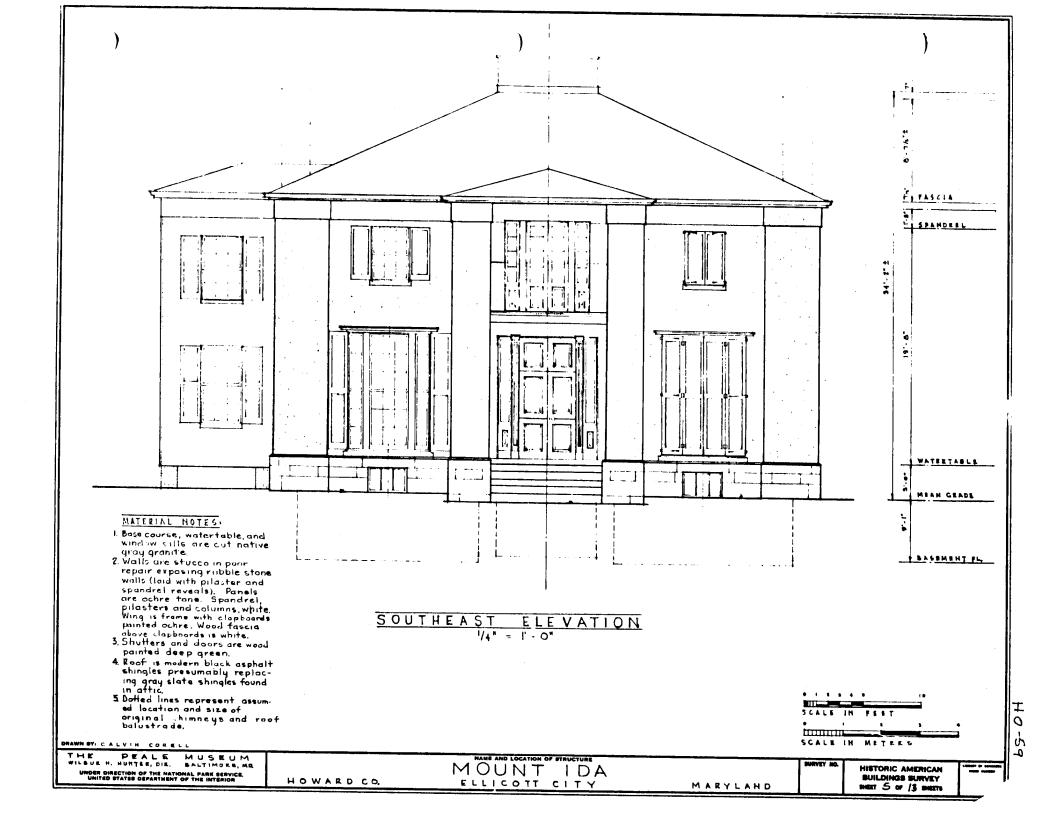
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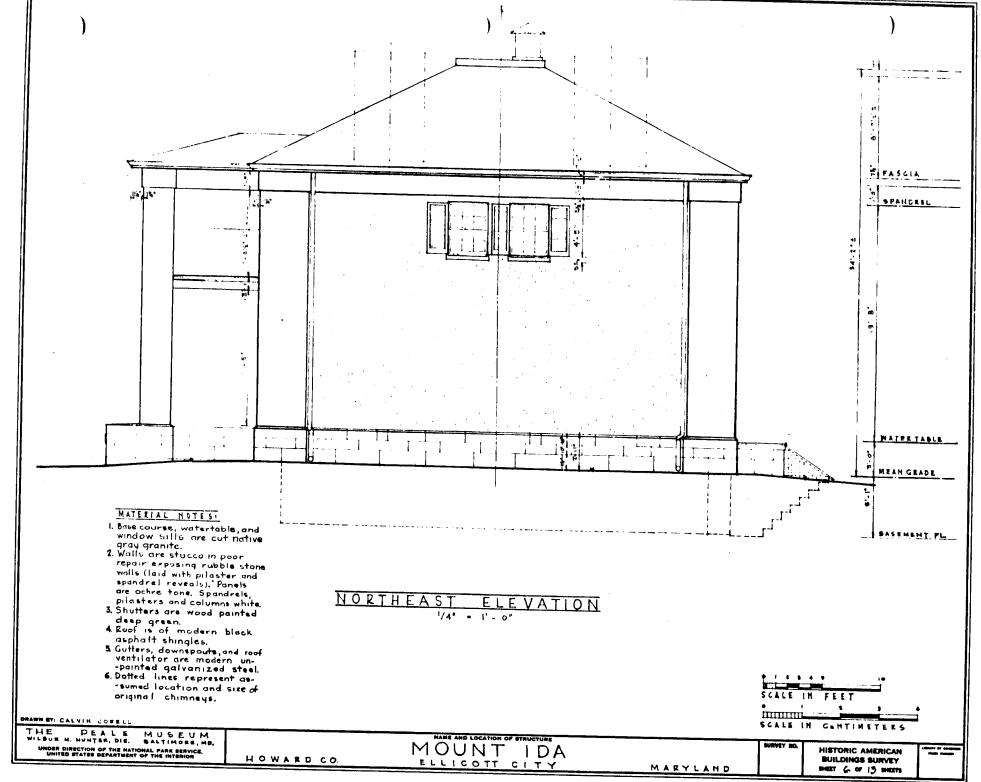
Its cultural significance lies in its clear exposition of a Quaker background, still so apparent in its form, affected by a new desire to show both acquired wordly goods and acquired knowledge of the world. Its very name has a docker sound, a most pagan meaning. Plain building with the nest of local material in order to achieve good function in the most direct way no longer satisfied its first owner, or the town, by inference. Not able to discard basic simplicity for fashion, completely, he built into Mount Ida that same simplicity—and then stuccoed the granite, marked off the stucco to simulate dressed stone coursing, placed pilasters at its corners and a most restrained bit of vine ornament, almost with a feeling of mixed audacity and guilt, on its hall deiling.

MOUNT IDA

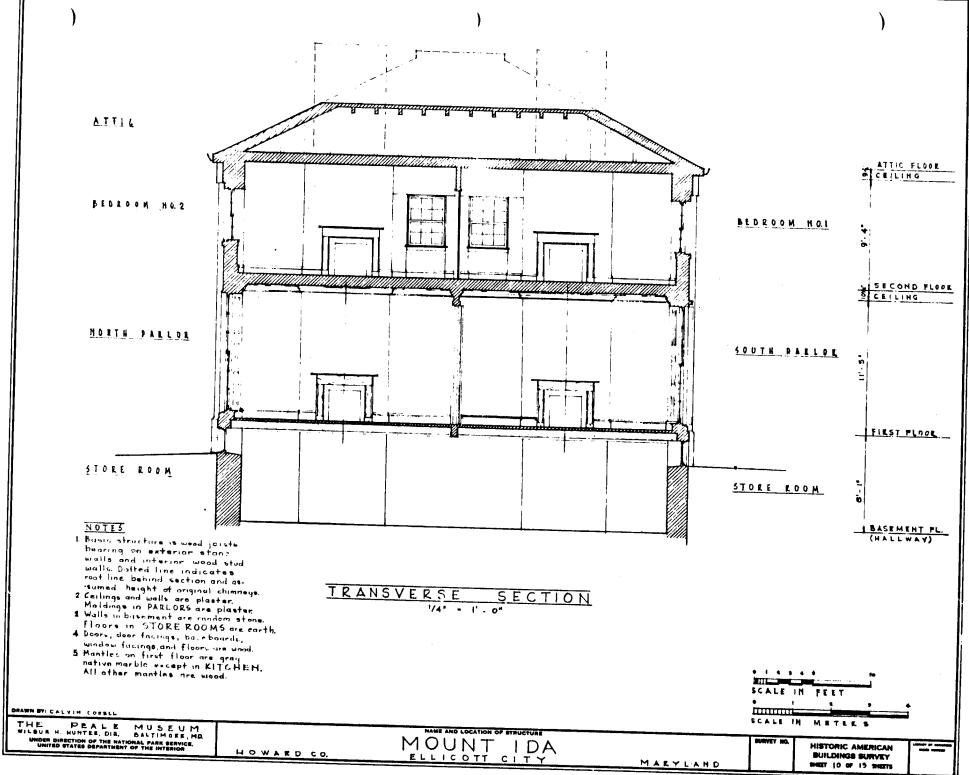
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The house is perhaps the most perfect instance of a surface change in local character, done at a human scale, to be found anywhere in the country. It is in excellent structural condition, having been occupied as a residentce until very recently. Its complete and faithful restoration could be accomplished easily and inexpensively.

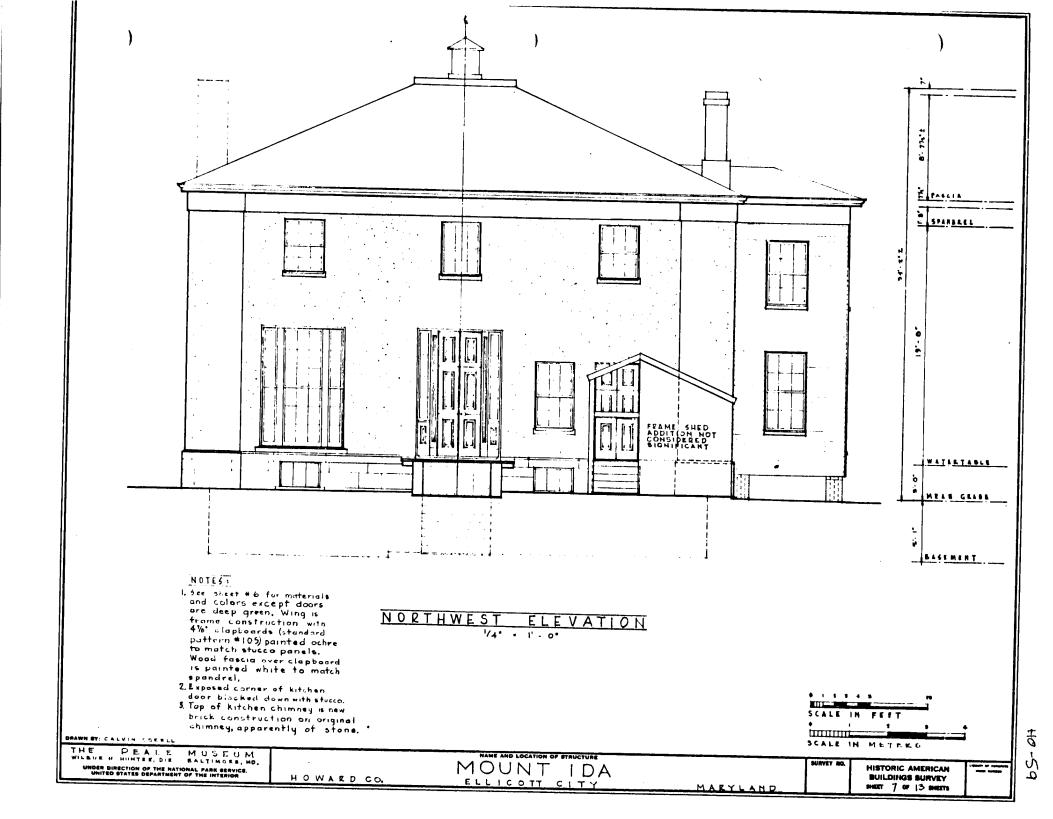


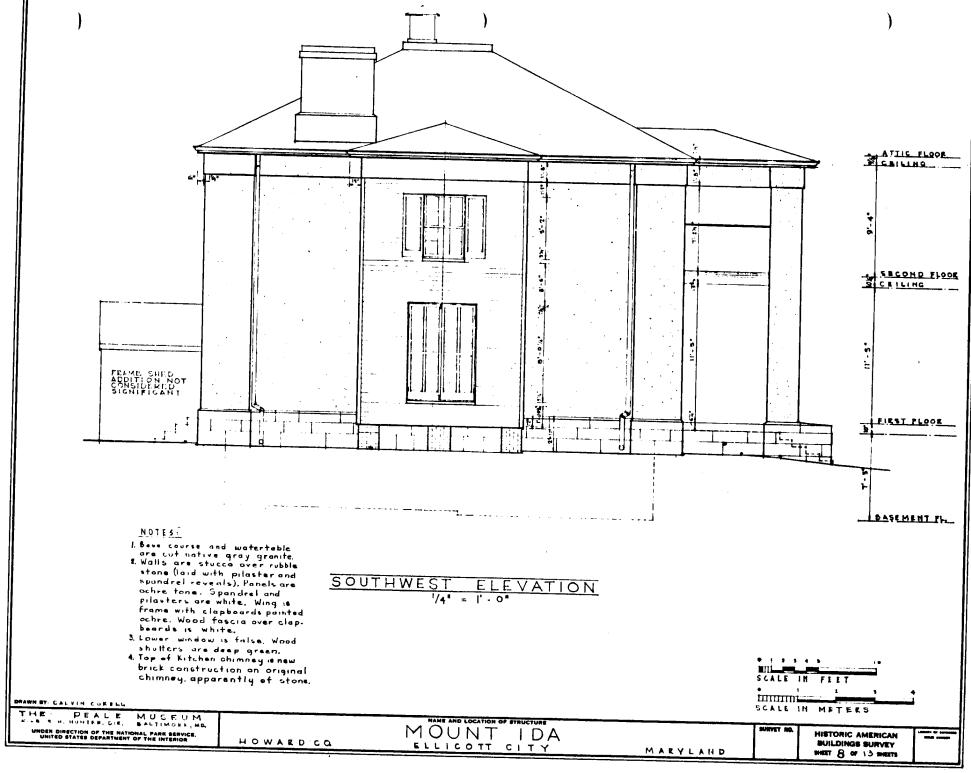


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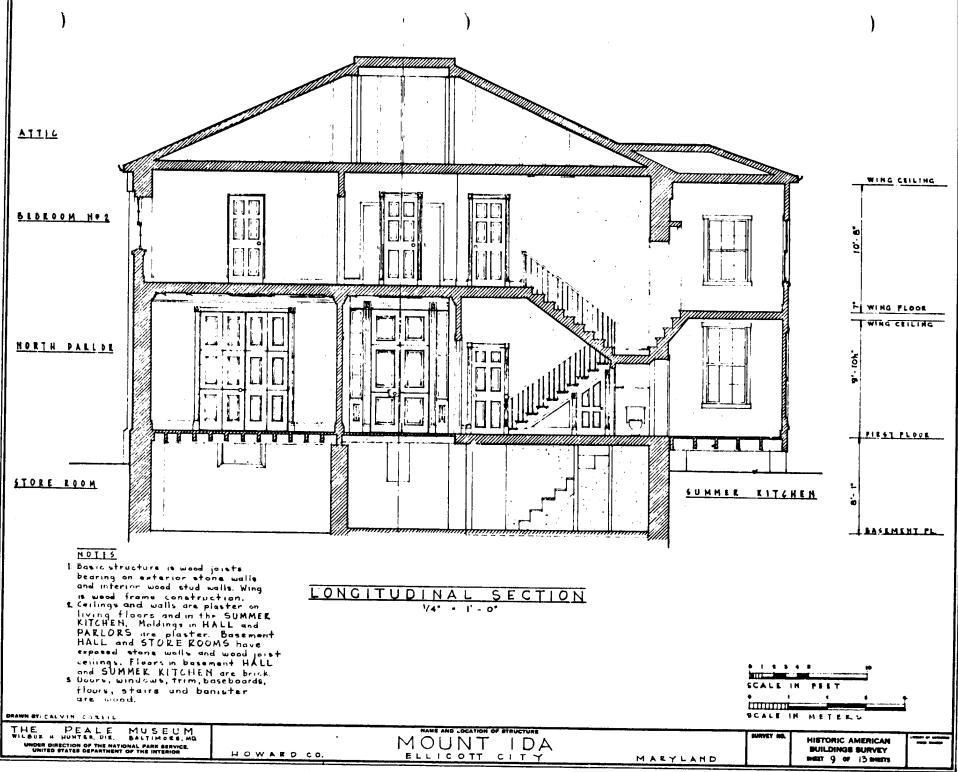


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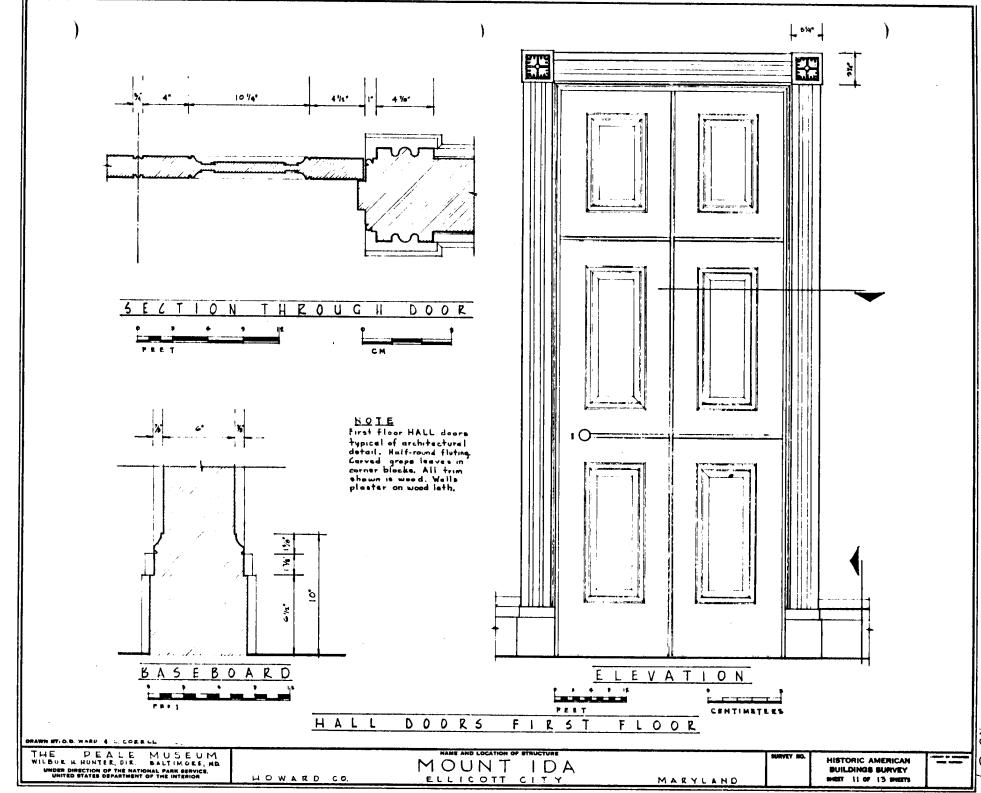




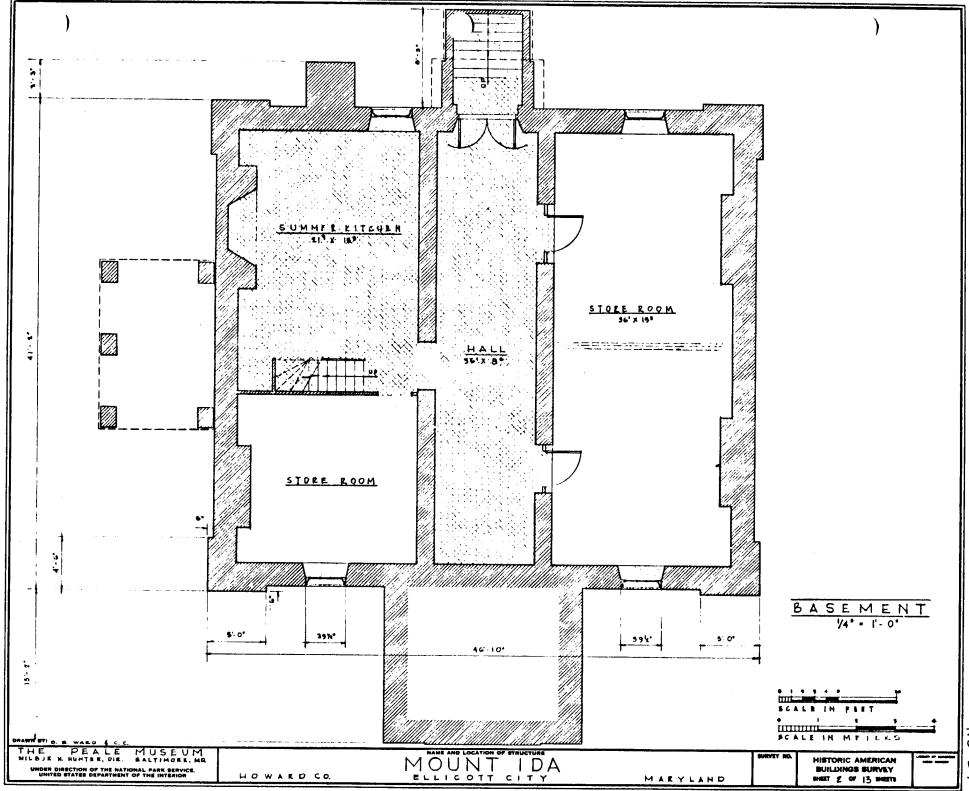
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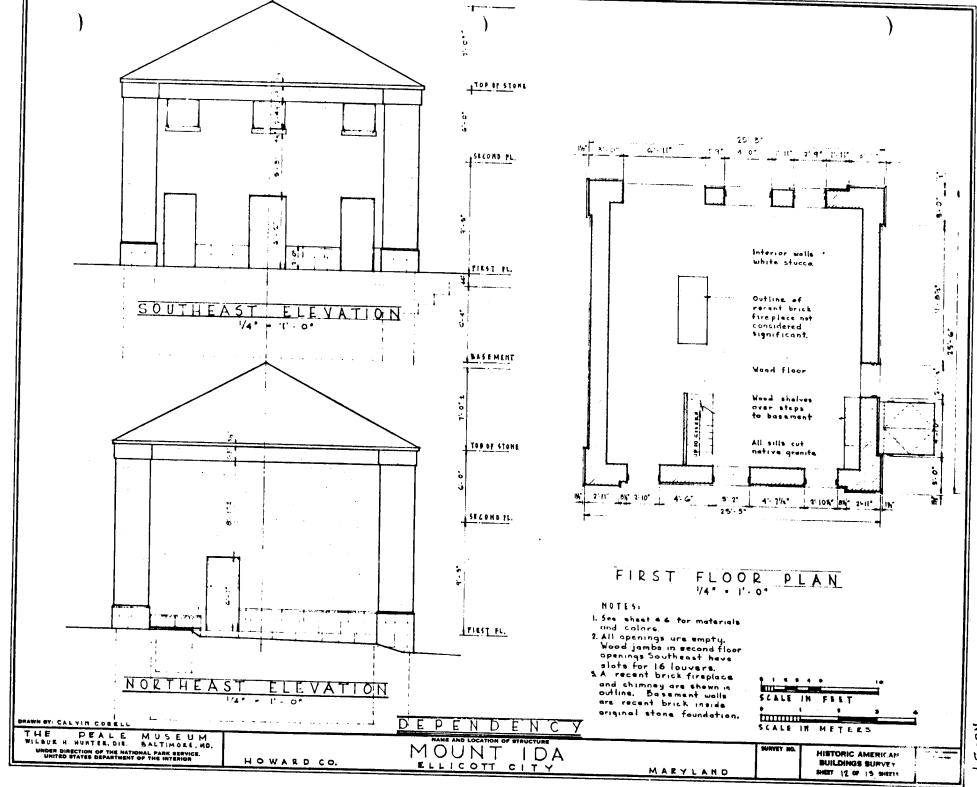
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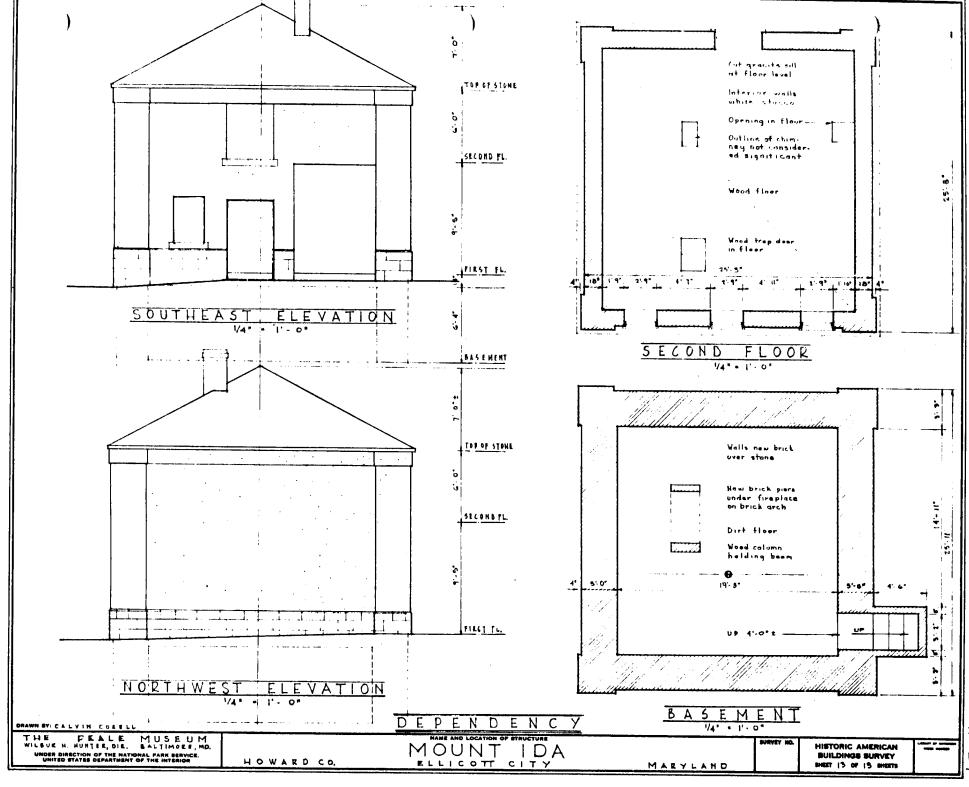
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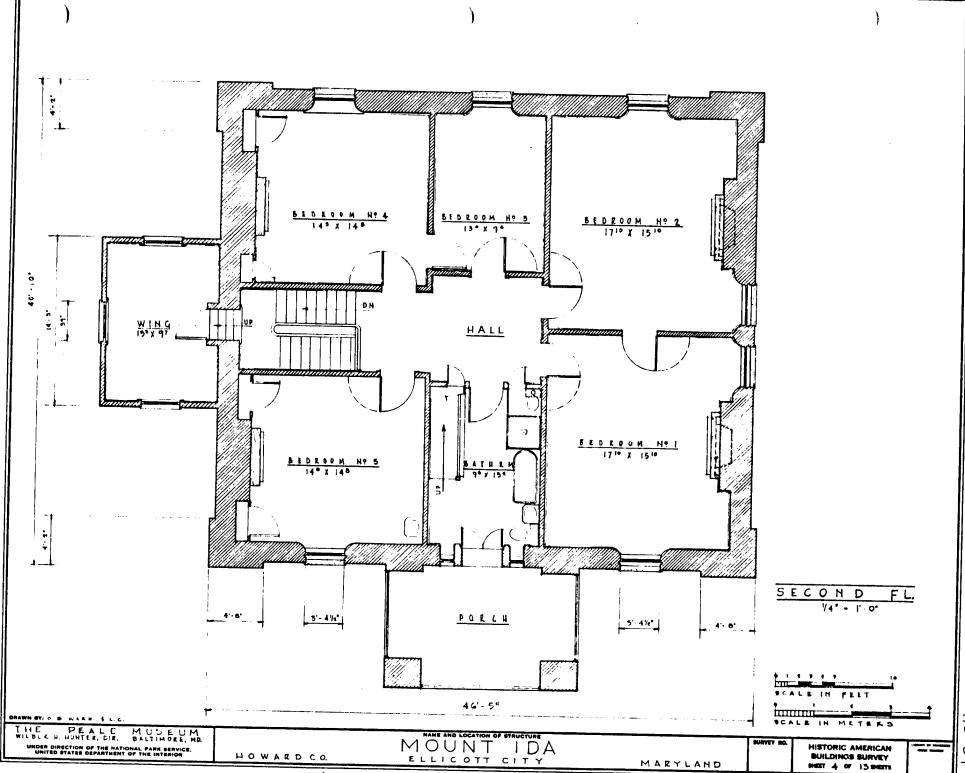
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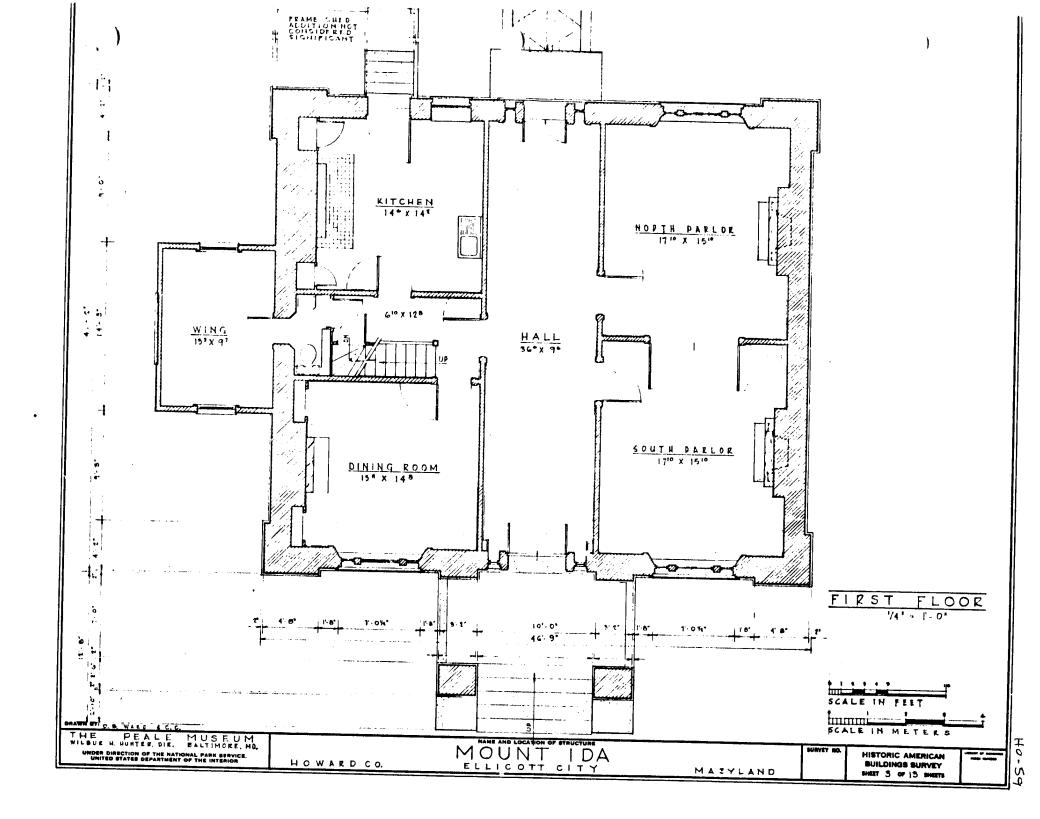
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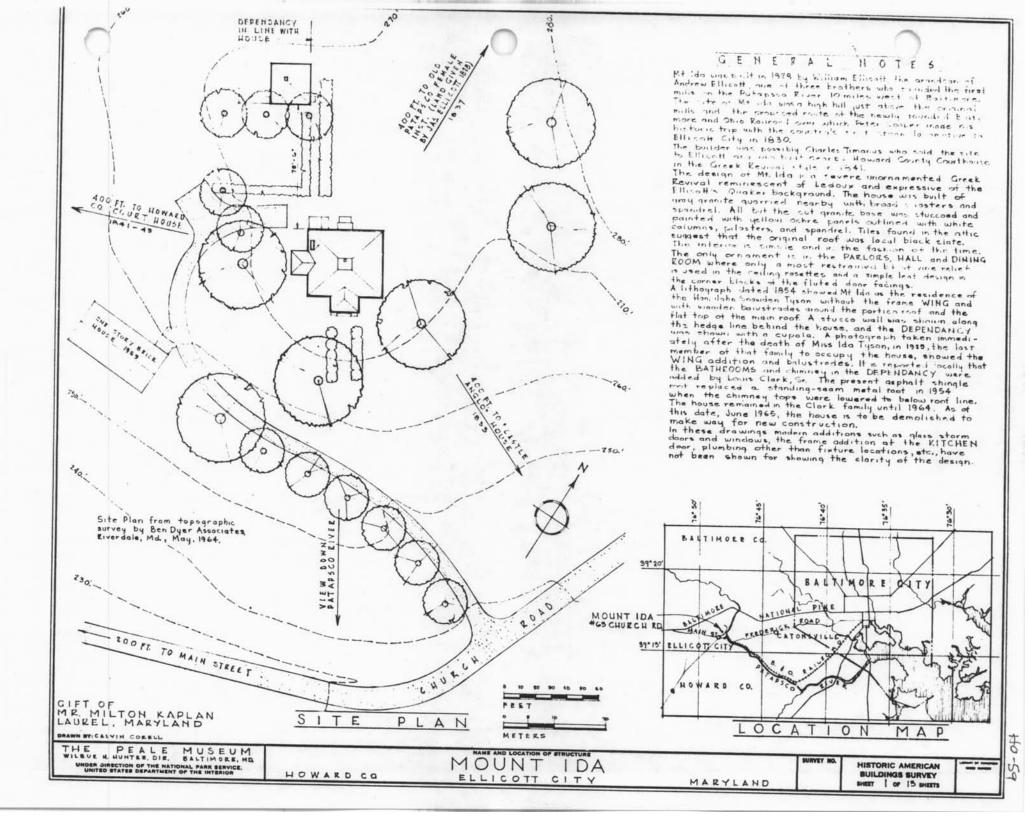


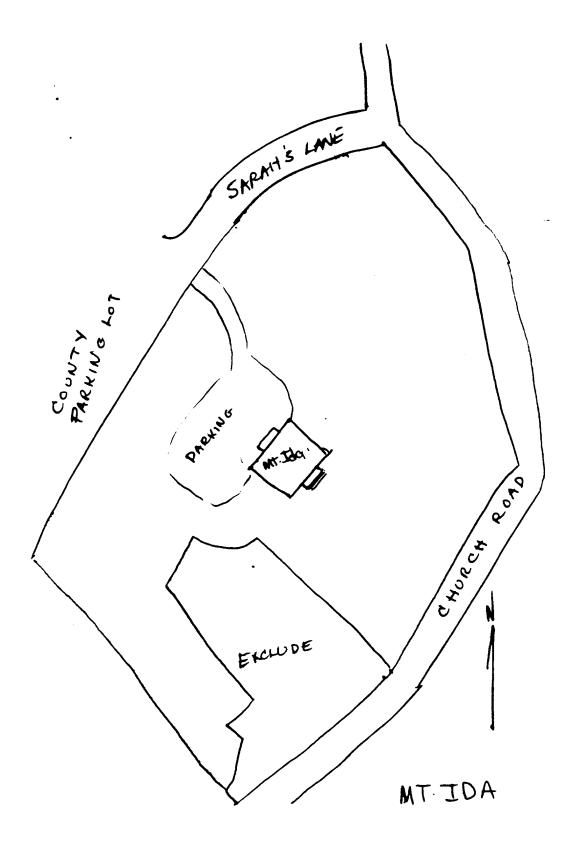
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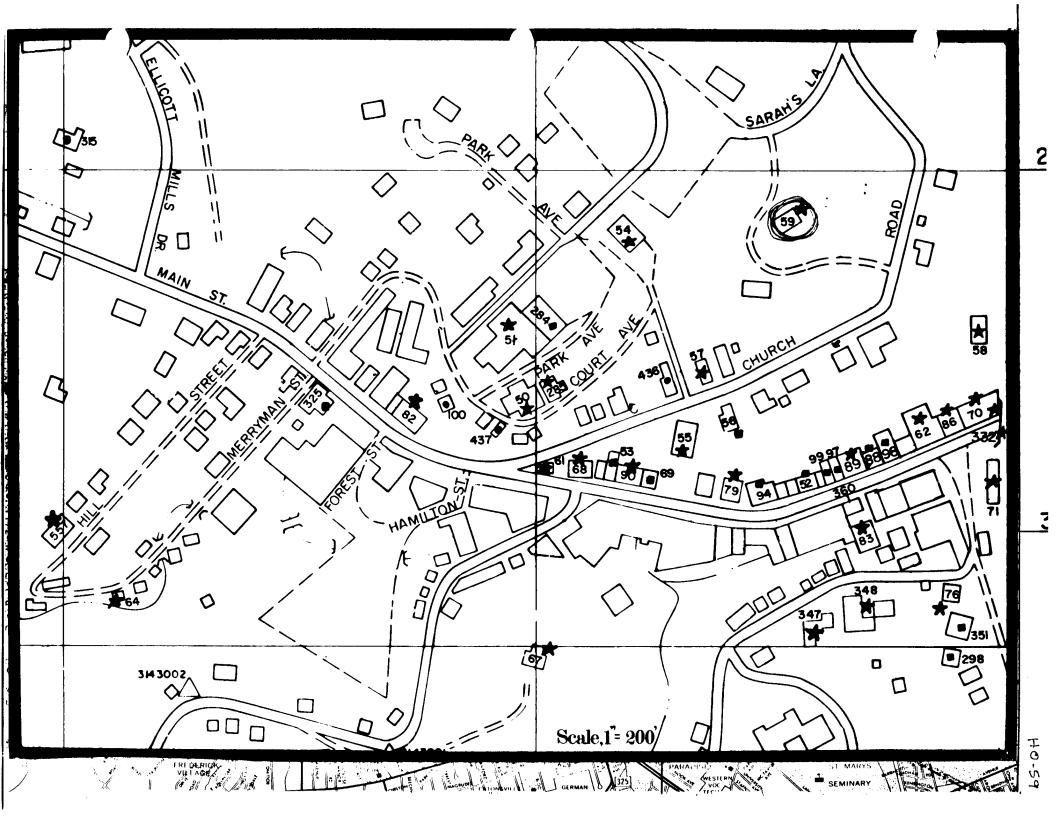
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