

HO-1171
Highlands
4480 Doncaster Drive
Private

Description:

Highlands is set back from the road and faces south toward it, on a large lot that slopes sharply down to the north and west, and it is set on this steep slope, leaving the basement exposed on the north and west. The house experienced a catastrophic collapse of a stone gabled wall and chimney stack on the interior in August 2018. Fieldwork occurred after the rubble was cleared and the building stabilized. The house is in four rather distinct parts: A two-story, two-bay by one-bay frame section with a rubble stone foundation and a gable roof with standing-seam metal and an east-west ridge; a three-story, one-bay by two-bay frame section adjoining Section 1 on the east, with rubble stone foundation and hip roof with standing-seam metal roofing. This section extends south of the south elevation of Section 1; a two-story, four-bay by three-bay section adjoining Section 1 on the north, the western half of which is frame with a rubble stone foundation and the eastern half of which is rubble stone with stucco. The gable roof has standing-seam metal and an east-west ridge that creates an "M" roof where it meets the first section; and a three-story, one-bay by one-bay frame section appended to the north side of Section 2, with a rubble stone foundation and a semi-hip roof of undetermined roofing. The south elevation of Section 2, on the first story, has a projecting vestibule with a pair of two-panel doors with sidelights and transom. The south elevation of Section 1 has horizontal flush-board siding on the first story and German siding on the second story. There is a two-bay porch in the re-entrant angle formed by this section and Section 2.

Significance:

Highlands is built on part of the "Chew's Vineyard" land patent. Some time before October 1815 Charles W. Hanson and his wife Rebecca Dorsey Ridgely Hanson, whose farm adjoined the "Chews Vineyard" land, sought to buy 354 acres. They borrowed the money from Dennis A. Smith of Baltimore and secured the debt by a deed of trust. When the merchants Baring Brother and Company made a claim against Smith, the Hanson's land was drawn into the suit. By that time, 1821, the Hansons had sold the land to John S. Williams. The court eventually ordered the sale of the 354-acre property, which was described in an August 1825 newspaper advertisement as containing "a small two story stone house 21 by 24 feet." Williams bought his farm at auction and in 1846 he sold Highlands to Charles C. Browne of Queen Anne's County, Maryland. The tax assessment in 1857 notes a "New House" worth \$500 assessed to Browne. In 1865 he subdivided the farm, sold Highlands, and apparently moved back to Queen Anne's County. Highlands was purchased by Mary W. Merrick, wife of Judge William M. Merrick of Washington, D.C. In 1862 Republicans in Congress had introduced a bill to abolish the Circuit Court for the District of Columbia and create a new court as a means to rid the courts of southern sympathizers, and especially Judge Merrick. The bill passed putting the judge out of a job. His only option was to return to practicing law, something he clearly could not do in Washington, but could in his home state of Maryland. President Grover Cleveland appointed Merrick to fill a vacancy in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in 1885, and Judge Merrick moved to Washington, at least part time, where he died in 1889. In 1910 Mary Merrick was declared non compos mentis and a guardian was appointed to oversee her affairs. This guardian sold

Highlands in 1914 to Donald Creecy. The earliest part of the existing house is the two-story stone section, which was probably built between c. 1815 and 1822 by John S. Williams. It was first enlarged by a frame section on the south side that was longer than the original house. This addition was most likely one story and could have been done by Williams in the 1830s, or by Browne shortly after he bought the property in 1846. What is certain is that Charles Browne was responsible for a major improvement to the house in 1856 that made it into an Italianate villa. This included the three-story section on the east end of the frame addition, and probably the second story added to the frame addition, as well as the front porch. The last major change to the house was made in the c. 1890-1915 period, when the northwest section was added and the fireplaces added to the three-story section. These were most likely made by Donald Creecy after he purchased Highlands in December 1914.

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Inventory No. HO-1171

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Highlands

other

2. Location

street and number 4480 Doncaster Drive not for publication

city, town Ellicott City vicinity

county Howard

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

name Charles L. Kesting

street and number 4480 Doncaster Drive telephone

city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21043

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 5026 folio 176

city, town Ellicott City tax map 31 tax parcel 810 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
☐ district	☐ public	☐ agriculture	Contributing
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ landscape	Noncontributing
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ commerce/trade	1
☐ site		☐ recreation/culture	0
☐ object		☐ defense	0
		☐ domestic	0
		☐ education	0
		☐ funerary	1
		☐ government	0
		☐ health care	0
		☐ industry	0
		☐ unknown	0
		☒ vacant/not in use	0
		☐ other:	0
			Total
			0

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

0

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent ☒ deteriorated partial collapse in 2018, awaiting reconstruction
☐ 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:

Highlands is set back from the road and faces south toward it, on a large lot that slopes sharply down to the north and west, and it is set on this steep slope, leaving the basement exposed on the north and west. The house experienced a catastrophic collapse of a stone gabled wall and chimney stack on the interior in August 2018. Fieldwork occurred after the rubble was cleared and the building stabilized. The house is in four rather distinct parts: A two-story, two-bay by one-bay frame section with a rubble stone foundation and a gable roof with standing-seam metal and an east-west ridge; a three-story, one-bay by two-bay frame section adjoining Section 1 on the east, with rubble stone foundation and hip roof with standing-seam metal roofing. This section extends south of the south elevation of Section 1; a two-story, four-bay by three-bay section adjoining Section 1 on the north, the western half of which is frame with a rubble stone foundation and the eastern half of which is rubble stone with stucco. The gable roof has standing-seam metal and an east-west ridge that creates an "M" roof where it meets the first section; and a three-story, one-bay by one-bay frame section appended to the north side of Section 2, with a rubble stone foundation and a semi-hip roof of undetermined roofing. The south elevation of Section 2, on the first story, has a projecting vestibule with a pair of two-panel doors with sidelights and transom. The south elevation of Section 1 has horizontal flush-board siding on the first story and German siding on the second story. There is a two-bay porch in the re-entrant angle formed by this section and Section 2.

Description:

Highlands is located at 4480 Doncaster Drive near Ilchester in northeastern Howard County, Maryland. The house is set back from the road and faces south toward it, on a large lot that slopes sharply down to the north and west, and it is set on this steep slope, leaving the basement exposed on the north and west. The ground also slopes down more gradually to the east.

Note: The house experienced a catastrophic collapse of a stone gabled wall and chimney stack on the interior in August 2018. Fieldwork occurred after the rubble was cleared and the building stabilized.

Exterior

The house is in four rather distinct parts:

1. A two-story, two-bay by one-bay frame section with a rubble stone foundation and a gable roof with standing-seam metal and an east-west ridge.
2. A three-story, one-bay by two-bay frame section adjoining Section 1 on the east, with rubble stone foundation and hip roof with standing-seam metal roofing. This section extends south of the south elevation of Section 1.
3. A two-story, four-bay by three-bay section adjoining Section 1 on the north, the western half of which is frame with a rubble stone foundation and the eastern half of which is rubble stone with stucco. The

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gable roof has standing-seam metal and an east-west ridge that creates an "M" roof where it meets the first section.

4. A three-story, one-bay by one-bay frame section appended to the north side of Section 2, with a rubble stone foundation and a semi-hip roof of undetermined roofing.

The south elevation of Section 1 has horizontal flush-board siding on the first story and German siding on the second story. The first story has French doors in both bays, of ten lights each, with ghosts in the siding above of pedimented trim and infill siding between the ghosts. The existing pedimented trim around the doors is re-used, with pieces added on both ends because the doors are wider than the original windows. There is a two-bay porch in the re-entrant angle formed by this section and Section 2. It has a wood deck, fluted Doric columns, railings with turned balusters, a plain frieze, and slats on the ceiling. At the west end of the porch, against the siding of the south elevation, is a plain, engaged pilaster with a quirked Greek ogee capital. The shed roof has standing-seam metal and a balustrade that matches the first story, except that the balusters are inverted. The second story has two six-over-six sash with pedimented trim and blinds. There is a wood box cornice with a return on the west. There is an interior brick chimney centered on the ridge between these two bays.

The west elevation of Section 2, on the first story under the porch, has flush board siding and a six-panel door that has the frieze panels set in the center. The panels are sunken and flat, with quirked ogee-and-bevel panel moulds and pedimented trim. The second story has German siding and a six-panel door that has the frieze panels set in the center. The panel fields are sunken, with no panel moulds. There is plain, head-cut trim with a bead on the inner edge. The third story has no opening.

The south elevation of Section 2, on the first story, has a projecting vestibule with a pair of two-panel doors that have sunken double fields and bolection mouldings. There are sidelights with three lights over one panel, with sunken fields and quirked ogee-and-bevel panel moulds. There are pilaster strips between the doors and sidelights that have a symmetrical moulding on the face, with a torus in the center flanked by rabbets to each side. There is a wide transom bar with an astragal at the top, a small fillet, a small ovolo, a torus, another ovolo, and three fillets at the bottom. There is a transom with eight lights. At the corners of the vestibule are plain pilaster strips with quirked Greek ogee caps, a plain frieze with elongated dentils, and an ogee cornice. It has a semi-hip roof of standing-seam metal with internal gutters. The second story has paired six-over-six sash with pedimented trim and blinds and the third story has the same, but the sash are shorter. There is a plain board frieze, a block cornice, and internal gutters, all carried around all four elevations of this section. All four elevations also have German siding, except where noted.

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The east elevation of Section 2 has a three-sided bay window on the first story, with a six-over-six sash in the center and a four-over-four sash to each side. The sash extend down to the floor. Above the windows is a plain frieze with elongated dentils and an external gutter. The second story has two six-over-six sash with pedimented trim and blinds, and the third story matches this arrangement, but the sash are shorter.

The north elevation of Section 2 is covered by Section 4, which is shorter and narrower than Section 2. Section 4 has German siding on all three elevations, with no openings on the east and west elevations. The first story of the north elevation is extended over to the stuccoed east wall of Section 3, with no break in the siding. There is a door set to the west, with 12 lights over two panels that have sunken fields. The panel moulds have thick paint, but may be a quirked ogee and bead. There are full-height blinds, and the trim has a quirked bead on the inner edge. The second story has a six-over-six sash with blinds, but no trim. To the west of the window is a shed-roofed addition above the first-story extension, connecting Section 4 to Section 3. This addition has a two-over-two sash with blinds. The third story has no opening.

Section 3 on the east elevation is stuccoed, and the first story has two six-over-six sash that have wood lintels, blinds, and a small bullnose on the frames. The second story north bay has a six-over-six sash with shutter hardware, and the gable end has a six-light sash.

The north elevation of Section 3 has the basement exposed, with a concrete retaining wall several feet north of the building, to the east where the ground level is higher. The basement has two six-over-six sash to the east, the stone wall is missing from the center, and the frame portion has a wood door to the east and a six-over-six sash to the west. The first story, from east to west, has a six-over-six sash centered between the basement openings, the east jamb of a missing window, then the stone wall is missing from the center. The frame portion has a wood door to the east and a six-over-six sash to the west, with a modern deck off of this portion. The second story has a six-over-six sash set west of center, with the stone wall missing to the west of it. The frame portion has a six-over-six sash to the west. There is a wood box cornice.

The west elevation of Section 3 projects westward of the west elevation of Section 1 by one bay. The basement, first, and second stories each have three six-over-six sash. There is no opening in the gable end. The south wall laps the west end of Section 1, and the roof pitch on this portion is flatter than the rest of the roof. The south elevation of this projecting portion is one bay, with no opening in the basement or the second story. The first story has a small two-over-two sash, and there is a box cornice with return on the west side.

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The west elevation of Section 1 has a six-over-six sash in the center of the basement and first stories. The second story has two six-over-six sash. The wall cladding is German siding.

Interior, first story

The house generally reads as a double-pile plan with three rooms across the front, two in the back, plus the stair passage in the northeast corner. Section 1 has two rooms, Section 2 has one large room, Section 3 generally has two rooms with several ancillary rooms, closets, and passages, and Section 4 is the stair passage.

The east room is in Section 2 and the front door opens directly into here from the vestibule. The south door has six panels with the frieze panels in the center, and they have sunken, flat fields with quirked ogee-and-bevel panel moulds. The door is mortised and tenoned and pinned, with one pin in each joint, and it has a mortise lock with porcelain knobs. There are butt hinges with ball finials that replace earlier butts. The architrave on all the doors has pilasters with quirked ogee-and-bevel capitals, a plain frieze, and a cornice with an ovolo above a cavetto. The flooring is random-width, mostly 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ or 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide, is tongue-and-grooved pine that is blind-nailed, and runs north-south. The baseboard has an ogee on top, except that on the west, between the two doors and around the fireplace, where it has a broken field with a quirked ogee-and-bevel on top. The latter was probably added when the fireplace was re-worked. The fireplace has a brick hearth laid in mortar and a brick surround in Portland cement, with straight jambs. There is a Colonial Revival wood mantel with crossetted architrave, a pulvinated frieze with a panel in the center, and an ogee-and-bevel bed mould. The doors to the north and south of the fireplace, as well as the north door, match the south door. They have brass mortise locks that are not labeled, and the west door, to the north, has glass knobs. All these doors have cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and probably fast joints. There is heavy paint build-up, but they appear to be plain. The east window sash have 12-inch by 21-inch lights, with Gothic bead muntins. They are mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners, have check rails and parting beads, and are hung on chains with pulleys. The pilasters, frieze, and cornice match the doors. The jambs of this bay window are curved and plastered.

The south-center room is at the east end of Section 1. The flooring is random-width and varies between 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. It is tongue-and-grooved, is blind-nailed, and runs north-south. The baseboard has a quirked bead on top. The south French doors have a brass mortise lock with glass knobs and butt hinges with ball finials. They have plain architrave with a bead on the inner edge and on the bottom edge of the top piece which is carried across the whole length. There is cracking in the plaster above that suggests a window opening originally. The east door architrave is plain, with a quirked bead on the inner edge, and has plain corner blocks. The west door has six panels with sunken fields and quirked steep Greek ogee-and-bead panel moulds on this side, with no moulds on the west-

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room side. The door is mortised and tenoned and pinned, with two pins at each end of the lock rail and one in each other joint. The lock rail has faint hand-planing marks. The door has been flipped; it is now hinged on the south jamb but was originally hung on the north jamb, and the hinge mortises on both the door and jamb have been filled. It also originally had a rim lock but now has a mortise lock with brass knobs. The cast iron butt hinges have five knuckles and appear to have fast joints and be plain, though they have heavy paint build-up. The architrave is narrow, with a quirked bead on the inner edge, and it is mitered at the corners. The north wall has the ghost of a doorway to the east, with seams here in the baseboard, and the wall is hollow, while it is plaster on stone in the rest of the wall. A door is now set to the west, with six panels that are identical to the west door, and the hardware is identical except that the mortise lock is brass. The opening is slightly splayed and appears to have been a window opening later converted to a door, though there is little visible to be certain of this. The architrave here is generally symmetrical, with two beads in the center, and with a small field and quirked bead on the inner edge. There are bullseye corner blocks cut only for the width of the symmetrical portion of the architrave. The west wall has plain baseboard in the center and the seams line up with seams in the flooring where there is infill flooring that appears to replace a hearth. There are vertical cracks in the wall that also roughly suggest this, but that do not entirely align.

The lath and plaster ceiling in this room was taken down, exposing log joists that are hewn on top and bottom, and they run east-west. They contain some riven lath that is nailed parallel to the joists and was apparently used as shims. There are also several pieces of sawn lath running perpendicular to the joists. The northern-most joist retains some riven lath that is nailed perpendicular to the joist. The joists are about 4 inches deep and about 6 ½ inches in diameter, and are spaced 21 ½ to 28 inches on centers. The ceiling is 9 feet, 10 inches high. At the west wall are the ends of log joists for the southwest room, set next to these joists. The western half of these joists have tongue-and-grooved, random-width flooring that varies between 4 ¾ and 11 inches wide, with most boards around 7 inches. The eastern edge of the eastern-most floorboard does not have a tongue or a groove and appears to be cut, not broken. There is a second set of joists above these, and they run north-south. They are circular-sawn, are 3 inches deep by 8 inches wide. The upper tier joists are cut back on the bottom face about 1 inch and sit on sawn girts on both the north and south ends. There are blocks under each of the upper joists where it crosses the fourth lower joist from each end. At least four of these blocks are the cut-off ends of what were probably joists, with center tenons on the end that are 3 inches long. The tenons were not pegged. At the west end of the ceiling, in the center of the west wall, is the hearth support for the fireplace above. The header is sawn and is 2 inches wide; its depth could not be determined. It appears to be lapped to sit half on top of the lower tier of joists, suggesting that it was added in. There are three iron straps set into the brick chimney stack on the west end and curved up on the east where they are fastened to the trimmer. There is a single board set on the straps, but they do not support anything else. Above this are short boards that run from the stack to over top of the trimmer, and they likely support the brick hearth.

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The eastern wall at the second-story level has studs and a downbrace from the north corner, and this framing is set about 4 to 6 inches east of the plane of the first story wall, suggesting that there are back-to-back walls on the first story. On the south wall the ends of slightly rectangular sawn porch joists are visible. There is knob-and-tube wiring in the ceiling. There is no frame wall on the north side of the room; the plaster is on the stone, though the mortar joints are not struck behind the lower tier joist.

The southwest room in Section 1 has random-width tongue-and-grooved pine flooring that runs north-south and is face-nailed. The boards vary between 4 ½ inches and 6 inches wide. The walls have been furred out and vertical boards with a natural finish nailed on. The south French doors match those in the south-center room, as does the trim. The east door architrave matches that on the south-center room side of this opening. The west window is a six-over-six sash with ovolo muntins and 10-inch by 13-inch lights. It is mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners and has no parting beads. The trim is plain, with a narrow fillet across the whole bottom edge of the top piece. There is a fireplace on the east wall, with a brick hearth and splayed brick jambs in Portland cement. The back of the firebox has fire bricks set rowlock. There is a wood mantel with pilasters that have quirked ogee-and-bevel capitals. It has a plain frieze, an ogee-and-bead bed mould, and a plain shelf that continues around the south side of the stack. There is a doorway in the north wall with a six-panel door that is mortised and tenoned and pinned, with two pins in the lock rail joints and one in all the other joints. It has sunken fields and no panel moulds. The lock rail appears to be hand-planed, with the marks being faint. There is a plain cast iron rim lock with beveled sides and brass knobs, and it appears to be the original lock on this door. The cast iron butt hinges have five knuckles and appear to be plain, with fast joints, but have thick paint. The architrave is pulvinated, with plain corner blocks. To the east of the doorway the wall is recessed and infilled with later shelves. The back and side walls of the recess are beaded-edge-and-center vertical boards, and this appears to have been a cupboard or closet that was altered when the walls, ceiling, and fireplace were renovated. The ceiling has wood beams added, creating nine large coffers in the center with small square coffers in the corner and three small rectangular coffers on each side. The beams are boxed, varnished pine with quarter round mouldings on the bottom corners. The ceiling between the beams is plaster.

The stair passage is located in Section 4, at the north end of Section 2. The flooring is 2 ½-inch wide tongue-and-grooved pine that runs east-west. The baseboard is plain except on the north wall, at the stairs, where it has a Greek ovolo on top. Under the stairs the original flooring survives. The architrave has a quirked Greek ovolo backband and a quirked bead on the inner edge. The west elevation doorway has plastered stone jambs and a frame that is mitered at the corners and has a quirked bead on the inner edge. There is a four-panel door with sunken fields and ogee panel moulds. It is not mortised and tenoned and pinned, is hung on butts with pins, and has a brass mortise lock with brass knobs. The north elevation has a doorway set to the west, leading to the north porch. It is mortised and tenoned and

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pinned and its 12-light over two-panel configuration is original. The lights are 10 by 14 inches, with ovolo muntins and the panels have sunken fields with quirked ogee-and-bead panel moulds. The lock rail ends are cut at an angle to transition from the narrower panels to the wider glazing at the top. The east jamb has scars for a rim lock and strike plate, but there is no evidence that the hinges were on the west jamb originally; previous hinge mortises could simply be well-filled. The hinges are cast iron butts with five knuckles and probably have fast joints. The cast iron rim lock has beveled sides, is not labeled, and has new knobs. There is a ghost of an earlier, larger rim lock. There is a dog-leg stair on the north wall that ascends to a landing on the east. It has three stairs below the newel, which is turned, with a slight taper, and has an urn profile at the bottom. There is an open stringer with plain rectangular strips trimming out under the treads and the edge of the risers. The balusters are also turned and tapered, with an urn profile at the bottom. The handrail is ovoid. There is a closet under the stairs, with a two-panel door and modern flat ogee trim.

The north-center room is in the eastern end of Section 3, which is within the stone walls of what appears to be the earliest part of the house. The flooring is random-width tongue-and-grooved pine that runs east-west and is blind-nailed. It varies between 2 ½ and 4 ½ inches, but most boards are 3 ½ to 4 ½ inches wide. The baseboard is plain and the walls are plaster on stone. The east wall has windows in the center and north bays, with two large beads on the edge of the frame that are fastened with cut sprigs. The six-over-six sash have ovolo muntins. The north bay sash is mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners, has 9-inch by 12-inch lights and has no parting beads. There is a cast iron friction plate lever to hold the window open. The center bay has a twentieth-century wood window. The opening is about 2 inches wider than the north bay window. The north jamb has a crack in the plaster that runs down to the baseboard, with a seam in the baseboard. The south jamb has no clear crack or seam. The whole space below the sill sounds hollow, as though this was originally a doorway converted to a window, perhaps when the doorway in the south bay was cut through. The south bay is the doorway to the stair passage. The north wall had two windows. The west opening is gone due to the wall collapse and the center bay has CMU infill for temporary support of an inserted I-beam. The south wall has a doorway set to the west that leads to the south-center room. It has modern flat ogee trim. There is no evidence of another opening on this wall. The ceiling in this room is now exposed and has sash-sawn joists that run north-south. They are 3 to 3 ¼ inches by 9 ½ to 9 ¾ inches and are spaced 20 ½ to 22 ½ inches on centers. In the southeast corner is a header to create a stair well, with a through tenon and exposed peg. The infill closing up the opening is old material with several large spike heads that look wrought, and there is some riven ceiling lath remaining on the infill. On the east face of the west joist that trims out the opening are several scraps of wallpaper with a geometric pattern in green and blue-green with white. On the south wall adjoining this infill the wall plaster continues above the plaster ceiling and contains a scrap of green wallpaper that appears to be the same as that found on the trimmer. The west wall had a fireplace that completely collapsed.

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Section 3 is divided into a passage along the south, with a bathroom in the southwest corner, and a large room to the north that was a modern kitchen. The flooring throughout this section is 2 ½-inch tongue-and-grooved pine that runs east-west and is blind-nailed. The architrave has a sunken field in the center with an ogee to each side and a small quirked bead on the inner edge. It is mitered at the corners, and can be found on all of the windows and doors in this section.

The south wall of the passage has a built-in cupboard and closet of knotty pine. The west window is a six-over-six, twentieth-century wood sash with 9-inch by 12-inch lights and ovolo muntins. It has parting beads and is hung on chains. The bathroom and kitchen doors have been removed to install stabilizing. The wall between the passage and kitchen is plaster on circular-sawn lath with wire nails. The baseboard has a quirked Greek ovolo on top.

The northwest room sash match that in the passage to the south. The baseboard has a sort of Gothic bead on top, with a torus below. The south wall has built-in cupboards with three pairs of doors at the bottom, three drawers below the countertop, and three pairs of doors at the top, each with three sunken, flat panels, on reproduction H hinges. The north door is a modern wood door that leads to the rear deck. There is an enclosed stair to the second story in the northeast corner with a four-panel door that has sunken fields and ogee panel moulds. It is hung on butt hinges with pins and has a plain cast iron rim lock. Most of the stair was destroyed, but the bottom straight treads survive and there must have been a winder in the corner in order to get the requisite rise. Most of the east wall is gone, but there was apparently a stair to the cellar beneath the second-story stair.

Interior, second story

The second-story plan generally follows the first story, but with a cross-passage that runs east-west through the center of the house.

The stair passage in Section 4 has plaster missing from the north wall at the landing. The lath is circular-sawn, with cut nails. The north girt is sawn, is 4 inches thick by 8 inches high, and has been nicked to take plaster. The studs are sash-sawn, are 3 ¼ inches deep by 3 inches wide, and are mortised and tenoned and pegged to the girt with ¾-inch diameter pegs. The pegs are alternately driven from the south side, and then from the north side. There is a downbrace from the corner that is a sash-sawn 1-inch by 8-inch board, set in the outer plane of the wall. It has wire nails coming through it, probably from the German siding. The stair continues up to the third story with the same details, and has a winder at the bottom of the section up to the third story. There is a doorway on the west, and the cross-passage continues to the west through the center of the house, in Section 3. There was never a door here, but there is architrave with a cavetto inside of the outer backband, and a bevel on the inner edge. There is

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also a doorway on the south, to the southeast chamber. The architrave has a quirked Greek ovolo backband and a quirked bead on the inner edge. The door has been moved to the south, as will be more clearly seen in the southeast chamber.

There is a short section of passage connecting Section 4 with Section 3. It has a low ceiling, and the east wall, north of the doorway, has flush-board siding indicating that it was added later to connect the stairs to the rest of the passage. The north wall has a two-over-two twentieth-century wood sash with parting beads. It has plain, mitered trim with rounded edges, typical of the 1920s and '30s. The flooring is tongue-and-grooved, is random-width between 3 and 4 inches, and runs east-west. There are three steps down to the level of the main cross-passage, with seams in the floor at the steps. The ceiling below this section is lower than in the rest of the first story stair passage, suggesting the possibility that the floor level was originally lower, with the steps at the east end.

In the main cross-passage the flooring at the east end runs north-south where the earlier stair was, while the rest of the flooring runs east-west. It is random-width. The floor is now missing in the center of the cross-passage. The baseboard is plain. The south wall is plaster on stone with a hollow section in the middle, probably where an original window opening was. The south wall has a doorway with modern flat ogee architrave and three steps up to the south-center chamber. Just west of the end of the stone wall is a doorway to the southwest chamber, with architrave that matches that in the northwest first-story room. There are also three steps up to the southwestern chamber floor level. The north wall is lath on plaster. At the eastern end of the wall is a beaded-edge vertical-board door of two wide boards, leading to an enclosed straight run of stairs to the attic. The door has plain cast iron butt hinges with three knuckles, a small porcelain door pull, and a small cabinet lock. In the center of the wall is a doorway to the north-center chamber. The architrave is mitered at the corners and has a quirked bead on the inner edge. The door originally opened out into the cross-passage, and was hung on the south side of both jambs, but it now opens in. It has six panels with sunken fields and no panel moulds. It is mortised and tenoned and pinned, has a plain cast iron rim lock with beveled sides and brass knobs, and has cast iron butts with five knuckles and heavy paint build-up, but appears to have fast joints. The west end of the passage has a doorway on the west to the bathroom and a doorway on the north to a short passage. Both openings have four-panel doors with sunken fields, ogee panel moulds, mortise locks, and butt hinges with pins. They are not mortised and tenoned and pinned.

The southeast chamber is in Section 2. The flooring is tongue-and-grooved pine that varies between 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches and 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide, runs north-south, and is blind-nailed. The baseboard has a broken field. The architrave has a quirked ogee-and-bevel backband, and the inner stop on the windows is flush with the architrave and is rounded on the front edge, creating the appearance of a bead on the inner edge. The north wall has closets built in on both sides of the doorway, creating a vestibule between them. The

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closet doors have five lying panels, mortise locks, and butt hinges with pins. The door in the center has six panels with sunken fields and no panel moulds on either side, and the frieze panels are set in the center. The door has a mortise lock with brass knobs, which is not original. The cast iron butt hinges have five knuckles and heavy paint, and appear to be plain and have fast joints. The architrave on all three of these openings is modern flat ogee, while the architrave inside the vestibule, around the opening to the stair passage, has the typical ogee-and-bevel backband. The sash have a Gothic bead profile on the muntins, have 12-inch by 17-inch lights, are mortised and tenoned and pinned, have parting beads, and are hung on chains. Centered on the west wall is a brick fireplace with straight jambs laid in Portland cement. The hearth could be original, since the bricks are laid loose, but all of the joints align rather than being staggered. There is a wood mantel with plain pilasters, pressed egg and dart moulding on the capital, and a plain frieze. There are doors to either side of the fireplace that match the north door to this chamber. The southern one leads to the second-story porch and the north one to the south-center chamber.

The south-center chamber is in the eastern half of Section 1. The flooring is random-width tongue-and-grooved pine that is blind-nailed, runs east-west, and varies between 4 and 6 inches. The baseboard is plain. The architrave matches the southeast chamber, except for the east door leading to the southeast chamber, which has a quirked Greek ovolo backband. The southern sash are six-over-nines that are carried down to the baseboard, with a pocket at the head for the sash to go up into the wall; otherwise, the details match the southeast chamber sash. There is a fireplace centered on the west wall, with a brick hearth in which all of the joints align. The splayed brick jambs have been repointed. There is a wood mantel with plain pilasters, and the capitals have a Greek ovolo above an ogee and bevel. The frieze is plain and the bed mould has an ogee and bead. The shelf is also plain, with slightly rounded corners. There is a doorway to the south of the fireplace, leading to the southwest chamber, and a doorway on the north to the cross-passage. Both doors match the original doors in the southeast chamber. There is a closet door on the east, set to the north, that has five lying panels.

The lath and plaster ceiling was taken down, and the joists above are sash-sawn and run north-south. They are 3 to 3 ¼ inches wide by 3 ½ to 3 ¾ inches deep, and are spaced 20 ½ to 23 ¾ inches on centers. The rafters above are approximately 3 by 6 inches and are mitered and butted at the ridge. They have a birds-mouth cut at the foot and engage a false plate that is about the same size as the joists. There are collar beams made of 1-inch thick boards of varying widths, nailed across the rafter couples. There is wide board sheathing with gaps between of 3 to 6 inches, and a lot of the sheathing on the north gable has been replaced. At the east end of the room, nailed across the two eastern-most joists are eight pairs of short boards running east-west, with rectangular holes cut out of the center. These apparently captured and secured the tops of studs for a missing partition wall that ran north-south, about 30 inches west of the east wall. There is also a seam in the baseboard of the north wall in line with the location of

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this missing wall. There are wider gaps between the placement of the studs in the center, where the door is, and between the two northern-most stud holes and the next one to the south. There are also two of these pairs of boards with holes flanking the center doorway and very close to the east wall, and there are cracks in the plaster that align with these holes. The arrangement of stud holes suggests there were two closets on the east end of the chamber, creating a vestibule between them for the doorway between the two chambers. The door to the closet to the north was in this chamber, while the door to the southern closet must have been in the southeastern chamber, where the fireplace now stands. Above the ceiling level on the east wall, the studs have lath and plaster on the east side that is covered over by the brick chimney to the east, indicating that the chimney was added later.

The southwest chamber is in the western half of Section 1. It is divided in two by a later partition wall that runs east-west. The flooring and baseboard match that in the south-center chamber, while the baseboard on the partition is thinner and slightly shorter. The architrave has the ogee-and-bevel backband, but the west window ogee and bevel are flatter than what is typical, and looks like it was added later and an attempt was made to match. This window does not extend down to the baseboard, but it has a wide board under the sill, just like the southern window, and not like the windows in the southeast chamber. The sash also has ovolo muntins and 9-inch by 12-inch lights. It is mortised and tenoned and pinned both at the corners and on one vertical muntin, and it has no parting beads and no pulleys. The south window is identical to the southern windows in the south-center chamber, complete with pocket. There is a door in the partition wall with four panels, sunken fields, and no panel moulds. It has a mortise lock with brass knobs, and cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and heavy paint; they appear to be plain and have fast joints. The architrave is plain, with a quirked bead on the inner edge, and is mitered at the corners. The north half of this chamber is now a bathroom, with a claw-foot tub, a new water closet, and a bead-board closet added at the east end. The baseboard has a raised bead on the top, with a small torus at the bottom of the top moulding. The window on the west has plain, mitered trim and a six-over-six wood sash that is not pinned, has no parting beads or pulleys, and has a cast iron friction-plate sash lever. There is a door on the north that has six panels, with the frieze panels in the center. It has sunken fields with no panel moulds, and is mortised and tenoned and pinned, with one pin in the end of each rail. It has a mortise lock with brass knobs and cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and a heavy paint build-up. The north wall is very thick but is not stone, and raises the question of whether there was an earlier section where the northwest addition now is (the western half of Section 3), though more likely this is a later plumbing chase.

The north-center chamber is in the eastern half of Section 3. The flooring is random-width and tongue-and-grooved, and appears to be pine. It varies between 4 and 8 ½ inches wide and runs east-west. The baseboard is plain. The ceiling has plaster on riven lath fastened with cut nails. The attic stair is enclosed in the southeast corner and there is no access from this room, even to the space under the stairs.

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On the east wall the north bay has a six-over-six wood sash with ovolo muntins and 9-inch by 12-inch lights. It is mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners and has no parting beads or pulleys. There are straight jambs of plain boards. The edges of the frame have double beads. The center bay is mostly covered by the stairs, but the north end of it sounds hollow, raising the possibility that there was a window here originally. The north wall has a window in the center that matches the east window in this chamber. The south wall door architrave is simple, with a slight break in the field near a quirked bead on the inner edge. It is mitered at the corners. The west wall and the west end of the floor are gone.

The northwest chamber is in the western half of Section 3. The flooring is 2 ½-inch pine that is tongue-and-grooved, is blind-nailed, and runs east-west. The baseboard moulding has a bead at the top, with a fillet and small torus below it. The architrave has a sunken field with small ogees to each side. The window sash are wood, from the twentieth century, are not pinned, and are hung on chains, with parting beads. The east wall has a closet set to the north, with two doorways into this chamber to the south. All of the doors have four panels, with sunken fields and ogee panel moulds and have butt hinges with five knuckles and pins. The closet door has a cabinet lock while the others have brass mortise locks with a mixture of brass, mineral, and painted, stamped-metal knobs. There is no evidence of a partition wall between the two doorways, and no explanation for them. To the east of the room is a passage at the top of the missing northern stair, with two closets and the same flooring and doors as in the northwest chamber. There is no evidence of a partition that once divided this space, either. The closets are at the north end, west of the missing stairs, and on the east side. There is also a doorway at the south end that connects to the main cross-passage.

At the west end of the cross-passage, south of the northwest chamber, is a bathroom with a clawfoot tub, new sink and water closet, and a metal shower stall added. There is a closet of bead-board in the southwest corner. The window on the west is identical to those in the northwest chamber, and the door to this room matches that chamber, too.

Interior, third story

The third story of the tower, in Section 2, is accessed from the stair passage in Section 4, and the stairway has the same details. The doorway is on the south side of the landing at the top of the stairs, and has architrave with a quirked Greek ovolo backband and a sunken quirked bead on the inner edge. The door has six panels, with the frieze panels in the center, and has sunken fields with no panel moulds. It is hand-planed and is mortised and tenoned and pinned, with one pin in each joint. It has one cast iron butt hinge with five knuckles, and one replacement butt hinge, and the plain cast iron rim lock is not the original; it has a porcelain knob on the passage side and a metal knob on the room side. There is a cut-out in the floor board of the door opening that is 1 inch by 3 ¾ inches and appears to have been for a

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stub tenon on the bottom of a now-missing stud. The tower is divided into two rooms by a stud wall that runs east-west, roughly through the center of the tower.

The third story of Section 2 is subdivided into a passage and closet to the north, and a chamber to the south. The passage is further subdivided by a board wall that runs north-south and extends from the floor to about 1 foot from the ceiling, creating an eastern chamber. The boards are hand-planed and tongue-and-grooved, and the door into the chamber matches the board wall. It has cast iron butt hinges with three knuckles, and they are labelled "N. ENG. BUTT C°." The door has a plain cast iron rim lock with beveled sides and a porcelain knob. The east window matches the second-story sash, and the sash are hung on cords with pulleys. The architrave matches the doorway to the stair passage. On the west side of the passage is a closet with a six-panel door. The door and architrave also match the stair passage door. This door only had a cabinet lock, which has been replaced, and the butt hinges may be labelled. The closet has five tiers of built-in shelves on all four walls. The south side of the passage has a doorway to the south chamber of the tower. The door and architrave match the door to the stair passage on the north side of this passage, and have a cast iron rim lock with beveled sides, and have mineral knobs. There is a hatch in the ceiling above the doorway into the eastern chamber, giving access to the attic.

The south chamber in the tower has random-width tongue-and-grooved flooring that runs north-south and varies between 3 ¾ inches and 5 ¼ inches. The baseboard is plain and the architrave has a quirked Greek ovolo backband. The inner stop acts as the bead on the inner edge and the sash match the second story of this section, with cords and pulleys. The walls and ceiling are lathed and plastered, and the ceiling lath that is visible (around the chimney in the northwest corner of the room) is sawn. The attic joists run east-west and pass into the chimney stack. There is a 5-inch wide board laid on top of the joists on the east side of the stack, with bricks making up the eastern side of the stack laid on top of this board, apparently to corbel the stack over to the east by one wythe.

Interior, attic

The attic above the north-center chamber is in the stone portion of Section 3. It is accessed from a straight run of stairs along the east wall, which ascends to the north. The attic is divided roughly in half by a partition wall that runs north-south. It is plastered and has a doorway in the center that has a large double bead on the frame. The door has beaded-edge vertical boards hung on cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and pins. The eastern half of the attic is finished, with plaster on riven lath with cut nails. There is a knee wall on the south that has been added to the interior side of an original knee wall. The added wall has sawn lath. The original wall is in the plane of the interior face of the stone wall. There is infill framing in the floor to the north of the wall, indicating that the stairwell has been reconfigured. There is a six-light casement on the east, with 8-inch by 12-inch lights and ovolo muntins. It is mortised

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and tenoned and pinned at the corners and has butt hinges with pins. A wood mantel is stored here that has applied half columns, plain impost blocks and center frieze block, with horizontal half columns across the center of the frieze between the blocks. There is no bed mould and the mantel shelf is thick and not moulded, with rounded front corners.

The western half of the attic in the stone portion is also finished with plaster on riven lath. The rafters are sawn, with an open-faced bridle and peg at the ridge, but they are not accessible to measure. There are two beams added just above the floor, running north-south. Each beam is constructed of two 3-inch by 11 ½-inch circular-sawn planks ganged together. The beams support a wooden cistern that is 4-feet, 1-inch high by 4-feet, 9 ½ inches across. It is made of staves that are 1 ¾ inches thick, with four iron hoops on the outside, and is set in a metal-lined trough. There are three galvanized metal pipes to the cistern; two are on the southwest side, one set high and one low, and one is on the northeast side, set high and sloping down as it passes through the roof. The west wall of the attic is now missing due to the collapse.

The attic in the western half of Section 3 is unfinished, but is currently inaccessible for examination.

The tower attic walls in Section 2 extend above the floor, with plates on top and the rafter feet are cut off flat and nailed down to the top of the plates. The roof has four large hip rafters with a smaller, full-length rafter on the north, south, east, and west sides, and jack rafters filling between. All the rafters are sawn, and the center joint appears to be nailed. There are struts under the middle of the hip rafters and struts from the top of the wall down to the joists. There is solid board sheathing that is very wide. There are short nailers that extend out from the studs to support the cornice. Some of the joists are lapped against the sides of the studs, while others are set between studs and must be supported by ledger boards that are not visible.

The attic over Section 1 originally had no access, but a hole has been cut through the third-floor tower closet for access. The rafters are sawn and are mitered and butted at the ridge, with a birds-mouth cut at the foot. The joists are about 3 inches by 4 inches and there is a false-plate that is about 3 inches high on top of the joists. The rafters support solid board sheathing.

Interior, basement

The basement consists of one room in the eastern half of Section 3 (the stone section) and one room in the western half of Section 3, plus two rooms in Section 1, one under each room above. The remainder of the house has crawl spaces.

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The southwest basement room is located in the western half of Section 1. It is accessed from the exterior, via a doorway in the south wall under the front porch. This opening contains the remains of a four-panel door that is not original to the opening, though the opening itself appears original to the building. The flooring is wood that runs north-south and is set on sleepers that run east-west and are buried in the dirt. The walls are plaster on stone and the ceiling was lathed and plastered, with some pieces of riven lath surviving. The first-story joists run east-west, are logs that are hewn top and bottom, and vary between 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ and 8 inches in diameter. They are spaced 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches on centers. There is a doorway on the north wall, leading to the northwest basement room. There is a window on the west with a twentieth-century wood sash in what appears to be an original opening. Centered on the east wall is a fireplace with splayed stone jambs that are parged. The back of the firebox is brick, as is the hearth. There is a wood mantel with pilaster strips that have a large bead on both corners, and plain impostes and a plain frieze. The bed mould has a Gothic bead above a quirked bead. The mantel shelf has beads on the top and bottom edges and the ends are rounded. The hearth support of the fireplace above is clearly added in, with the timber fastened with cut nails. At the north end of the room, the first-story northernmost joist is only on the eastern half, with circular-sawn 2 by 4s with cut nails added in to close off this space. The infill joists run north-south.

The northwestern basement room is in the framed western half of Section 3. It has been heavily rebuilt, prior to the collapse, but has twentieth-century wood window sash that predate the rebuilding. The joists appear to be original, are circular-sawn, 2 inches by 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and are spaced 14 to 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches on centers. There is cross-bracing that is wire-nailed.

The north-center basement room, in the eastern half of Section 3 has a dirt floor that is excavated in the center for the furnace. The walls are plaster on stone. The west wall is missing, but there was a doorway near the south corner, and the south jamb survives. It is splayed on the inner half, with wood nailing blocks at the top and bottom and near the middle; they have "L"-head cut nails in them. The east wall has no opening. The north wall has two windows with twentieth-century wooden six-over-six sash. The eastern opening has a bit of brick in the splayed jambs, the lintels are not executed traditionally, and it appears that this opening was cut through later. The western opening has had the west jamb partially rebuilt to stabilize it after the collapse. The east jamb is splayed, with wood nailing blocks, and there is no brick in the wall. The ceiling is riven lath with plaster. The first-story joists are sash-sawn, run north-south, and are 3 inches by 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. They are spaced 25 to 26 inches on centers. There is no evidence of stairs in the southeast corner. The south wall has a doorway into the south-center basement. It has plain board jambs with no trim and no door.

The south-center basement room has a dirt floor and plaster on the walls and ceiling of the western half of the room. A partition wall ran north-south, dividing this space in two, but it has been long gone. The

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ceiling has riven lath attached to log joists that are hewn top and bottom and run east-west; most are 5 inches deep. There are no openings on the east or west walls. The south wall has two boarded-up window openings. The west opening has straight, parged jambs and riven lath on the bottom of the lintel. The eastern opening has splayed jambs with some brick in them, and the sill is set a little higher than the western opening. The lintel may also be set higher, but it is not clear whether the differences are a result of the eastern opening being cut in later, or because the ground level is higher on the east and the eastern half of this space was left unfinished while the western half was, and remains, finished.

There is a pile of rubble behind the house, consisting primarily of stone and brick taken from the basement after the collapse. This includes pieces of marble that may be Belgian black and gold. Some are 6 ½ inches wide, and may be for facing the fireplace surround, and 8 ¾ inches wide, and may be for facing the firebox lintel. This material is 1 inch thick and is gauged on the edges of the back face to ¾ inch thick. There is some lime putty on the back face. There are also some pieces of a dark grey stone that are 11 inches wide and 1 1/8 inches thick. They have no apparent veining but look more like marble than slate, and may have been for a narrow hearth. Finally, there are some black marble pieces that are 3 ½ inches wide and are sawn on one edge, but rough cut (not broken) on the other edge. This rough edge was lapped over, probably by a mantel, while something butted up against the sawn edge. Also in the pile is a V-shaped wrought iron bar 26 inches long and made of 1-inch stock. The prongs of the V are 9 ½ inches apart (outside measurement) and the opposite end has a ¾-inch diameter hole in it that does not pierce the other side. This was undoubtedly an eye to hold one end of a crane in a cooking fireplace.

There are no surviving outbuildings.

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/	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion	
☐ 2000-	☐ commerce	☐ recreation	☐ law	☐ science	
	☐ communications	☐ ethnic heritage	☐ literature	☐ social history	
	☐ community planning	☐ exploration/	☐ maritime history	☐ transportation	
	☐ conservation	☐ settlement	☐ military	☐ other: _____	

Specific dates	N/A	Architect/Builder	N/A
Construction dates	c. 1815, 1856, c. 1915		

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:

Highlands is built on part of the "Chew's Vineyard" land patent. Some time before October 1815 Charles W. Hanson and his wife Rebecca Dorsey Ridgely Hanson, whose farm adjoined the "Chews Vineyard" land, sought to buy 354 acres. They borrowed the money from Dennis A. Smith of Baltimore and secured the debt by a deed of trust. When the merchants Baring Brother and Company made a claim against Smith, the Hanson's land was drawn into the suit. By that time, 1821, the Hansons had sold the land to John S. Williams. The court eventually ordered the sale of the 354-acre property, which was described in an August 1825 newspaper advertisement as containing "a small two story stone house 21 by 24 feet." Williams bought his farm at auction and in 1846 he sold Highlands to Charles C. Browne of Queen Anne's County, Maryland. The tax assessment in 1857 notes a "New House" worth \$500 assessed to Browne. In 1865 he subdivided the farm, sold Highlands, and apparently moved back to Queen Anne's County. Highlands was purchased by Mary W. Merrick, wife of Judge William M. Merrick of Washington, D.C. In 1862 Republicans in Congress had introduced a bill to abolish the Circuit Court for the District of Columbia and create a new court as a means to rid the courts of southern sympathizers, and especially Judge Merrick. The bill passed putting the judge out of a job. His only option was to return to practicing law, something he clearly could not do in Washington, but could in his home state of Maryland. President Grover Cleveland appointed Merrick to fill a vacancy in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in 1885, and Judge Merrick moved to Washington, at least part time, where he died in 1889. In 1910 Mary Merrick was declared non compos mentis and a guardian was appointed to oversee her affairs. This guardian sold Highlands in 1914 to Donald Creecy. The earliest part of the existing house is the two-story stone section, which was probably built between c. 1815 and 1822 by John S. Williams. It was first enlarged by a frame section on the south side that was longer than the original house. This addition was most likely one story and could have been done by Williams in the 1830s, or by Browne shortly after he bought the property in 1846. What is certain is that Charles Browne was responsible for a major improvement to the house in 1856 that made it into an Italianate villa. This included the three-story section on the east end of the frame addition, and probably the second story added to the frame addition, as well as the front porch. The last major change to the house was made in the c. 1890-1915 period, when the northwest section was added and the fireplaces

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added to the three-story section. These were most likely made by Donald Creecy after he purchased Highlands in December 1914.

Significance:

Highlands is built on part of the "Chew's Vineyard" land patent, and according to later court testimony the land was owned in part by Edward Hill Dorsey of Anne Arundel County and by Richard Ridgely of Baltimore County, though when they acquired it was not determined. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax records place Dorsey on the tract "Chews Resolution Manor", which adjoined the west side of "Chews Vineyard". Dorsey, whose farm adjoined that of Mary Pue, had a stone dwelling and additional farm buildings, but no tenant houses were listed. Richard Ridgely had several tenant farms on the tracts "Dorseys Search", "Long Reach", and "Freeborns Progress", and several of them also adjoined Mary Pue's. While the absence of "Chews Vineyard" among their holdings could suggest they had already disposed of that land, it seems more likely that "Chews Vineyard" was subsumed within other tracts, especially "Chews Resolution Manor". The only mention of "Chews Vineyard" in 1798 is as part of a 221-acre farm owned by Mary Pue and tenanted by John Dabbs. It included land from the "Search Enlarged" tract, and this tenant farm adjoined Edward Hill Dorsey's farm. In 1810 Dorsey sold 1200 acres of "Chews Resolution Manor" and "Chews Vineyard" to Dr. Arthur Pue, in what would become "Bethesda" (HO-87). It is believed that this sale included Dorsey's stone house. The implication of this incomplete and somewhat confused history of the land seems to be that the portion of "Chews Vineyard" that Dorsey transferred to Charles Hanson (see below) was not improved.¹

Some time before October 1815 Charles W. Hanson and his wife Rebecca Dorsey Ridgely Hanson, whose farm adjoined the "Chews Vineyard" land, sought to buy 354 acres for \$8,266.48. They borrowed the money from Dennis A. Smith of Baltimore and secured the debt by a deed of trust. When the merchants Baring Brother and Company made a claim against Smith, the Hanson's land was drawn into the suit. By that time, 1821, the Hansons had sold the land to John S. Williams. Unfortunately, no deeds could be located for this property with the Hansons as either grantees or grantors. In December 1821 John S. Williams sold to Henry L. Williams of Baltimore City "four iron pots, two bake ovens, 1 frying pan, two tea kettles, six chairs, four tubs, nine halter chains, six sets of wagon gears, 1 cutting box, 1 corn sheller, one threshing mill, one wheat fan, six axes, three mattaks [sic], ten hoes, four spades, two crowbars, one sledge hammer, two log chains, one four wheel wagon, one horse and one ox cart, two wheel barrows, five ploughs, four harrows, two roan horses, one bay horse, one sorrel horse, four milch cows, two red oxen, two steers [sic] viz one brindle, one dark bay, six sows, one boar, all &

¹ Kenneth M. Short, "Bethesda" (HO-87), Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, updated 2010 for more on the disposition of these lands. Federal Direct Tax, 1798, Elk Ridge & Elk Ridge Landing Hundreds, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Maryland State Archives.

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Name Highlands
Continuation Sheet

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singular which said goods & chattels &c are now remaining standing & being on & upon a certain farm situate in Anne Arundel County called in the adventure 'part of Chews Vineyard' & now called 'Highlands' the right of which by bond of conveyance from Ch^s W. Hanson is assigned to H. L. Williams aforesaid & now in the tenure & occupation of the said J. S. Williams." John Williams was not mentioned in the will of Henry L. Williams (died 1826), so it is not clear what connection there might have been between the two, but the transaction seems most likely to have been to secure payment for a loan of an undisclosed amount. This could have been related to the purchase of the land, the lawsuit, or it could have been to raise funds for the construction of a building on the land. While much is obscured in this deed, it does document that the farm was already called Highlands at this early date, and it establishes John S. Williams as an average farmer, based on the number of his livestock. Interestingly, no slaves are mentioned, suggesting that Williams did not own any. Had he been a slaveholder, they would have been the most valuable chattels in his possession, so they likely would have been included as collateral.²

The court eventually ordered the sale of the 354-acre property, which was described in an August 1825 newspaper advertisement as containing "a small two story stone house 21 by 24 feet, a quarter for the hands a small log house, meat house and two tobacco houses." Of the 354 acres, 100 were in woodland and an undisclosed amount of the cleared land was in clover. The size given for the house matches exactly the stone section of the existing house. Williams bought his farm at auction for \$10 an acre. He borrowed \$3,000 from Henry L. Williams and issued a promissory note to the trustee in the court case for the remaining \$540. Henry L. Williams died the following year and it is not clear how John S. Williams debt to him was settled, but in 1836 John S. Williams mortgaged Highlands to the American Life Insurance & Trust Company for a loan of \$1,500. Again, this raises the question of whether Williams was covering an outstanding debt related to the acquisition of the farm, or whether he was using the farm for collateral for something else, including possibly enlarging the house or adding an outbuilding. Court records from 1843 related to this debt unfortunately shed no light, but a deed to Williams in 1846 is very suggestive. In 1830 the Chancery Court of Maryland decreed that the real estate of the late Thomas Norris of Thomas was to be sold, which it finally was in June 1835. John S. Williams was the purchaser of the 114-acre parcel, a part of "Chews Vineyard", for the sum of \$1,500. The deed was lost before it was recorded, and a new deed was finally recorded in 1846. Thus, it would seem that John S. Williams borrowed the \$1,500 in order to enlarge his farm; he was actually assessed for this land in 1842, several years before the new deed was recorded. Williams cleaned up the title to

² Robert Gilmer v. Dennis A. Smith, et al, Chancery Court of Maryland, Case # 8092, 1821, Maryland State Archives. Anne Arundel County Land Records, WSG 8-315. See Henry L. Williams Estate, Will 12-279, Register of Wills, Baltimore City Circuit Court, Maryland State Archives.

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the farm in 1846 because he sold the original 354 acres plus 66 acres of the additional land to Charles C. Browne of Queen Anne's County, Maryland, for just over \$10,000 in May of that year.³

Charles Browne is first registered in the tax assessments in 1847, where he is assessed for seven slaves (one man, two women, a boy, and three children under the age of 14), three horses, five cows, furniture worth \$300, private securities worth \$200, and bank stock worth another \$120. Much of this was probably transferred from Queen Anne's County, but just why he chose to move from there to Howard District of Anne Arundel County is not clear. The 1850 census describes him as a 28-year-old farmer, but ten years later he is listed as age 47. Since he and his wife Mary had a 14-year-old son in 1850, he was probably 38 at that time, and Mary was apparently a year younger than he. The 1850 agricultural census lists the farm as 200 acres of improved land and 150 acres unimproved. Browne had eight horses, two oxen, seven milch cows, seven other cattle, and 17 hogs. Wheat and corn were his primary crops, but he also raised some oats, rye, hay, potatoes and orchard fruits, and he or his wife made butter. Thus, he had a diversified farm rather than a plantation focused on one staple or market crop, and he had clearly been successful in the few years he had been at Highlands. Ten years later the improved lands on his farm had been increased to 250 acres, though his livestock was much the same as it had been. He still had two working oxen and had two mules, as well. Oats had become a more important crop, at the expense of rye, which he seems to have dropped. Most important for the existing property is the tax assessment in 1857 of a "New House" worth \$500 to Browne. This undoubtedly refers to an addition to the stone house, and it meshes perfectly with the current owners statement that during renovations many years ago his father found a date of "1856" written on a board.⁴

Little is known about Charles Browne beyond what these records note. In 1865 he subdivided the farm, sold Highlands, and apparently moved back to Queen Anne's County, though he could not be located in other records so it is not known why he chose to go back. He was certainly in Queen Anne's by 1873, if not sooner. The house was sold along with 78 acres, and the deed contains a few enigmatic details that give a partial glimpse of the farm. It notes a road leading from the Bonnie Branch road to the dwelling,

³ *Baltimore American and Commercial Daily Advertiser*, 30 August 1825, p. 7. American Life Insurance & Trust Company v. John S. Williams, Chancery Court of Maryland, Case # 6006, 13 June 1843, Maryland State Archives. Howard County Commissioners, Transfer Book, 1841-51, Maryland State Archives.

⁴ Howard County Commissioners, Transfer Book, 1841-51, Maryland State Archives. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Howard District, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1850. U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1860. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Census, Howard District, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1850. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1860. Howard County Commissioners, Transfer Book, 1841-51, Maryland State Archives. Howard County Commissioners, Transfer Book, 1852-71, Maryland State Archives.

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and a fence along the boundary with Mrs. Dorsey's land, with two gateways, at least one of them onto Mrs. Dorsey's. One boundary marker was a white oak tree in a field, suggesting that this was a pasture for livestock, with a tree to provide shade. Also noted was a stone wall near the dairy (though where exactly the dairy was is not clear). Browne reserved the right to travel across the land he was selling to a barn that was clearly on the remainder of the land, and retained the right to travel along the farm lane from Bonnie Branch and along where it forked. The configuration of the farms becomes a little more clear with the 1877 Hopkins Atlas of Howard County, which shows the farm lane leading back to Highlands and another lane branching off to the north, to a second farm still owned by Charles C. Browne and tenanted by his son, D. S. Browne. Whether Charles Browne built this farm for himself and later left his son, David, in charge, or always intended it for David, is not clear.⁵

Highlands was purchased by Mary W. Merrick, wife of Judge William M. Merrick of Washington, D.C., for \$12,000. William Matthews Merrick was born in 1818 in Charles County, Maryland, the son of lawyer and U. S. Senator William Duhurst Merrick. Like his father, he attended Georgetown College (later University), where his uncle, William Matthews, was president, and after studying law at the University of Virginia he was admitted to the Baltimore bar in 1839. The younger William Merrick moved his practice first to Frederick, Maryland in 1844, then to Washington, DC, in 1854. A year after his move to the Capitol, he was nominated and confirmed for a vacant seat on the Circuit Court for the District of Columbia. His activities and experiences on this court during the Civil War are significant for the history of American jurisprudence. Judge Merrick was believed to be supporter of the Confederate cause, and he apparently used his position to cause grief to the Lincoln administration by issuing numerous writs of habeas corpus for underage volunteers in the Union army. While the issuance of these writs followed the law, the military had more important issues than to round up young soldiers who had volunteered to serve their country. Since federal judges were appointed for life, Lincoln could not fire Merrick, and impeachment would have been difficult and time consuming, so in late 1861 Secretary of State William H. Seward had a military guard placed on the judge in order to observe his actions (and undoubtedly intimidate him), and Lincoln, in violation of the Constitution, suspended Merrick's pay. In 1862 Congress enacted a federal income tax to help pay for the war, and Judge Merrick immediately protested that this act was unconstitutional, causing another firestorm of controversy. The following year Republicans in Congress introduced a bill to abolish the Circuit Court for the District of Columbia and one other court, and create a new one called the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. It was clearly meant as a means to rid the courts of southern sympathizers, and especially Merrick, and Democrats protested against it as a tyrannical move. Senator Henry Wilson of Massachusetts said of Judge Merrick, "I believe his heart is sweltering with treason," but he and some others resisted such a heavy-handed attempt to get around the Constitution. In the end, however, the bill

⁵ "Tournament at Queenstown, Queen Anne's County, Md." *Baltimore Sun*, 23 August 1873, p. 4. Howard County Land Records, WWW 24-77.

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passed and the judge was out of a job. His only option was to return to practicing law, something he clearly could not do in Washington, but could in his home state of Maryland where there were many other sympathizers to the Confederate cause. This need for a change of scenery must have led Mary Merrick, a daughter of the former Governor of Kentucky, Charles A. Wickliffe, to purchase Highlands.⁶

William M. Merrick formed a law partnership in Westminster with John J. Baumgartner by 1868, and the following year was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates, apparently his first foray into politics, where he was a “zealous advocate of that provision which gave to the colored people the right to testify in the Courts, and to his earnest advocacy was due, in a great measure, its success.” Democratic party supporters of Merrick, at least, felt that “as a statesman his views are liberal and sagacious – evidently the result of deep study and reflection. As a man his honesty and purity of purpose are recognized and admitted by all.” The 1870 agricultural census indicates that the Merricks had \$200 worth of farm implements and paid \$500 in wages. In addition to four horses they had three milch cows, four other cattle and several hogs. Their crops included corn, oats, potatoes and hay in amounts that were probably proportionate to the acreage of the farm. In the 1876 reassessment of property, the land of Highlands was valued at \$3,140 and the improvements at \$4,000. The Merricks had three horses, nine cattle, and farming utensils worth \$515. The combination of the two sources indicates that Highlands was an active farm and not just a summer retreat, even though agriculture was not the primary source of income for the Merricks. The household furnishings were valued at an astounding \$3,000 and must have included quite a few valuable pieces acquired in the Capitol over the decade that they lived there. In a supreme bit of irony, President Grover Cleveland appointed Merrick to fill a vacancy in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in 1885, and Judge Merrick moved to Washington, at least part time. His tax assessment reflected this change: the six cattle were gone from the farm, as was \$2,000 worth of furniture, no doubt moved back to Washington to fill the house where he died in 1889, still serving on the court. The Merricks had no children, though they did adopt a daughter, a Miss Beckham. After the death of her husband, Mary Merrick may have moved back to Highlands at least part time, but she also rented it out for the summer at least on occasion; in 1895 Rabbi Benjamin Szold of Baltimore spent the summer there. In 1910 she was declared non compos mentis and a guardian was appointed to oversee her affairs. This guardian did not sell Highlands until 1914, the

⁶ “William Duhurst Merrick,” Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Duhurst_Merrick, accessed 7 March 2019. “William Matthews Merrick,” Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Matthews_Merrick, accessed 7 March 2019. “Merrick, William Matthews,” Federal Judicial Center, <https://www.fjc.gov/history/judges/merrick-william-matthews>, accessed 7 March 2019. Jonathan W. White, “‘Sweltering with Treason’: The Civil War Trials of William Mathew Merrick. *Prologue* 39, no. 2 (summer 2007). Gov. Wickliffe had a long history of public service, including five terms in the U. S. House of Representatives and Postmaster General under President John Tyler. He served as a delegate to the 1861 Peace Conference that attempted to forestall the Civil War and eventually supported the Union. He died in 1869 at Highlands while visiting his daughter. See “Charles A. Wickliffe, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_A._Wickliffe, accessed 7 March 2019. *Southern Aegis*, 5 November 1869, p. 3.

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year before she died at age 99. For over 50 years she had been closely associated with the City Orphan Asylum of Washington.⁷

Highlands was purchased by Donald Creecy, whose father's home adjoined it, for \$5,000. The Creecy family retained it until 1946, when it was sold at public auction. It was owned briefly by the Breckinridge family before being acquired by the Kesting family in 1952; they continue to own it to this day. According to the family, Charles F. Kesting was in construction and was responsible for the development of the surrounding neighborhood. The only changes made to the house, apparently, were the insertion of the French doors on the south (front) porch, replacing original windows.⁸

As the 1825 sale advertisement makes clear, the earliest part of the existing house is the two-story stone section, which was probably built between c. 1815 and 1822 by John S. Williams. It had one room on the first floor, with the stairway probably a winder in the southeast corner, and the fireplace on the west gable end. The location of the front door is not certain at this time, though it seems most likely to have been on the center of the east gable end. It is not known how many rooms were on the second story – two seem likely – but the attic was always finished, with two chambers there. The house was built on the edge of a steep hill, thus providing its name, and this location was unusual for the time period; the use of dramatic, romantic landscape settings would not become common for several more decades. It was first enlarged by a frame section on the south side that was longer than the original house. This addition was most likely one story, with the gable ridge running south to north, the north gable end being up against the original south wall of the stone house. It had two rooms, one to the east that was heated, and a smaller room to the west. This addition has been altered greatly so that there is nothing with which to date it; it could have been done by Williams in the 1830s, or by Browne shortly after he bought the property in 1846. What is certain is that Charles Browne was responsible for a major improvement to the house in 1856 that made it into an Italianate villa.

⁷ *Westminster (Maryland) Democratic Advocate*, 20 August 1868, p. 2. *Washington, D. C. Daily National Republican*, 6 November 1869, p. 3. *Port Tobacco (Maryland) Times*, and *Charles County Advertiser*, 23 September 1870, p. 3. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1870. Howard County Commissioners of the Tax, Assessment, District 2, 1876-96, Maryland State Archives. *Westminster (Maryland) Democratic Advocate*, 9 May 1885, p. 3. *Saint Mary's (Maryland) Beacon*, 7 February 1889, p. 3. *Baltimore Sun*, 5 February 1889, p. 1. *Baltimore Sun*, 12 July 1895, p. 2. *Baltimore Sun*, 24 December 1914, p. 10. *Washington, D. C. Herald*, 11 April 1915, p. 3. Judge Merrick's half-brother, Richard T. Merrick, was also a lawyer, first in Chicago and after 1864 in Washington, D.C. Richard Merrick purchased the "Linwood" farm in Ellicott City (HO-193) in 1877 as a summer home for his family. Richard Merrick's daughter, Mary Virginia Merrick, founded the Christ Child Society, one of whose employees would later purchase "Linwood" to serve as the center for the Linwood Children's Farm school. See *Cecil (Maryland) Whig*, 27 June 1885, p. 3. "Richard T. Merrick," Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_T._Merrick, accessed 7 March 2019. Kenneth M. Short, "Linwood Farm" (HO-193), Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, 2011.

⁸ *Baltimore Sun*, 24 December 1914, p. 10.

Maryland Historical Trust

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The full extant of these additions is not clear. They certainly included the three-story section on the east end of the frame addition, and probably the second story added to the frame addition, as well as the porch on the south side of that earlier addition. The original winder stair in the stone section was likely pulled out at this time. There are aspects of the vestibule, bay window, and stair tower that make them appear to be additions (different cornices and no internal gutters, among others), though it is difficult to see how the house would have functioned without the stair tower where it is. More problematic is the question of heating the very large parlor and bed chamber above. The existing fireplaces were added c. 1890-1915 in the only logical place for a fireplace, but they cover up earlier lath and plaster that indicates that there were not fireplaces in this location prior to the existing ones. Both of these rooms were grand spaces, and it seems highly unlikely that they would have been unheated, even if Highlands was only being used as a summer house, which it seems it was not. When the house was enlarged it was reoriented so that the south elevation was the primary one, and the raised frame addition was given a gable roof with the ridge now running east-west, rather than north-south, as it had been. This created an "M" roof on the house, which was never a common roof type and had generally been discredited and discarded decades earlier because the valley in the center of the house invariably leaked. A metal roof might have lessened this probability, though whether the house was given one is not known. Italianate houses were especially popular in the 1850s, with several architecturally significant ones built in Howard County to the designs of N. G. Starkweather. Though Highlands is not to the quality of "El Monte" (HO-96), "Temora" (HO-47), or architect T. U. Walter's additions to "Glenelg" (HO-15), it still has some pretensions and a commanding presence. That it was given flush-board siding, apparently on all elevations, is an indication of that. The siding was most likely painted to imitate stone. In addition, three-story towers were always rare on farmhouses and country houses. Presumably, the desire to have an Italianate villa drove the choice of, or at least the resignation to, an "M" roof.

The last major change to the house was made in the c. 1890-1915 period, when the northwest section was added and the fireplaces added to the three-story section. The front porch was probably rebuilt at this time and the flush-board siding replaced with German siding where it was not protected by porches. Finally, the first-story southwest room, in the early frame addition, was refinished with its coffered beamed ceiling and the fireplace reoriented to heat this room rather than the room to the east. The stucco on the stone section appears to date to this period, though it could be a refinishing of deteriorated roughcasting applied when the Italianate additions were made. Since the Merricks had moved to Washington, D. C. in the 1880s and Highlands was mostly a summer house, either for Mrs. Merrick or for renters, in the 1890-1914 period, the additions and improvements were most likely made by Donald Creecy after he purchased Highlands in December 1914. No doubt the house had not been maintained for some years, perhaps even for two decades. The opening of some walls and ceilings as a result of the collapse of the original stone gable end and fireplaces has enabled a better understanding of how

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Highlands has evolved over time, but there are probably some more surprises to be had if other areas are exposed in the future, and perhaps more answers to be had, too.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 35,740 sq. ft.

Acreage of historical setting 354 A

Quadrangle name Savage

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the outlines of the property, tax map 31, parcel 810, 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 2019
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

Highlands (HO-1171)
4480 Doncaster Drive
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSID- ERATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Charles F. Kesting H of Velma M. / ?	Charles L Kesting / ?	9 February 2000	MDR 5026- 176	Deed – Fee Simple	\$425,000	?	Lot 119 on plats 11397 ff [11403]
SDC Group, Inc. / ?	Charles F. Kesting H of Velma M. / ?	18 October 1994	MDR 3367- 303	Deed – Fee Simple	\$0	?	Lot 119 grantor bought all but Lot 119 from grantee before lot 119 was created.
Charles F. Kesting & wf Velma M.	SDC Group, Inc. / MD corp.	29 June 1994	MDR 3288- 239	Deed – Fee Simple	\$2,533,200	52.971A	[Deed not clear]
Varina H.H. Breckinridge & Husband John P. / Charles H. Hanna / Howard	Charles F. Kesting & wf Velma M. / Baltimore City	1 April 1952	MWB 242- 241	Deed – Fee Simple	\$5.00	?	p/o Chews Vineyard in JLM 6-273
Varina H.H. Breckinridge & husband John P. / Howard	Charles H. Hanna / ?	4 October 1946	BM Jr. 193- 32	Deed – Fee Simple	\$5.00	1) 75-3-25 ARP 2) 2-2-15 ARP	½ interest
George M. White, assignee / ?	Varina H. H. Breckinridge / ?	4 October 1946	BM Jr. 193- 27	Deed – Fee Simple	\$8,100.00	78-2-0 ARP	#4205 Equity public auction 15 Aug. 1946 – sold to Don Creecy, Jr. for \$8,100 VHHB is substitute purchaser
Winifred B. Wyse and husband William P.E. / Baltimore Co.	Donald B. Creecy / ?	19 December 1916	HBN 102- 496	Confirma- tory Deed – Fee Simple	\$1,000 & \$4,000 mortgage	78-2-0 ARP	Baltimore County Circuit Court – Equity 19-59 16 Dec. 1914 ratified sale Mary W. Merrick non compos mentis MWM dec'd. will probated 28 April 1915 WJP 18-176 gave everything to WBW
Winifred B. Wyse / Baltimore Co. Guardian & Committee of Mary W. Merrick, lunatic	Donald B. Creecy / Howard	21 December 1914	WWLC 98- 254	Deed – Fee Simple	\$5,000	78-2-0 ARP	WBW appointed committee of MWM 30 March 1910 Circuit Court Baltimore County – Equity sale ratified 16 Dec. 1914
Charles C. Brown & wf Mary E. M. / ?	Mary W. Merrick wf of William M / ?	8 April 1865	WWW 24- 77	Deed – in fee Indenture	\$12,000	78-2-0 ARP	

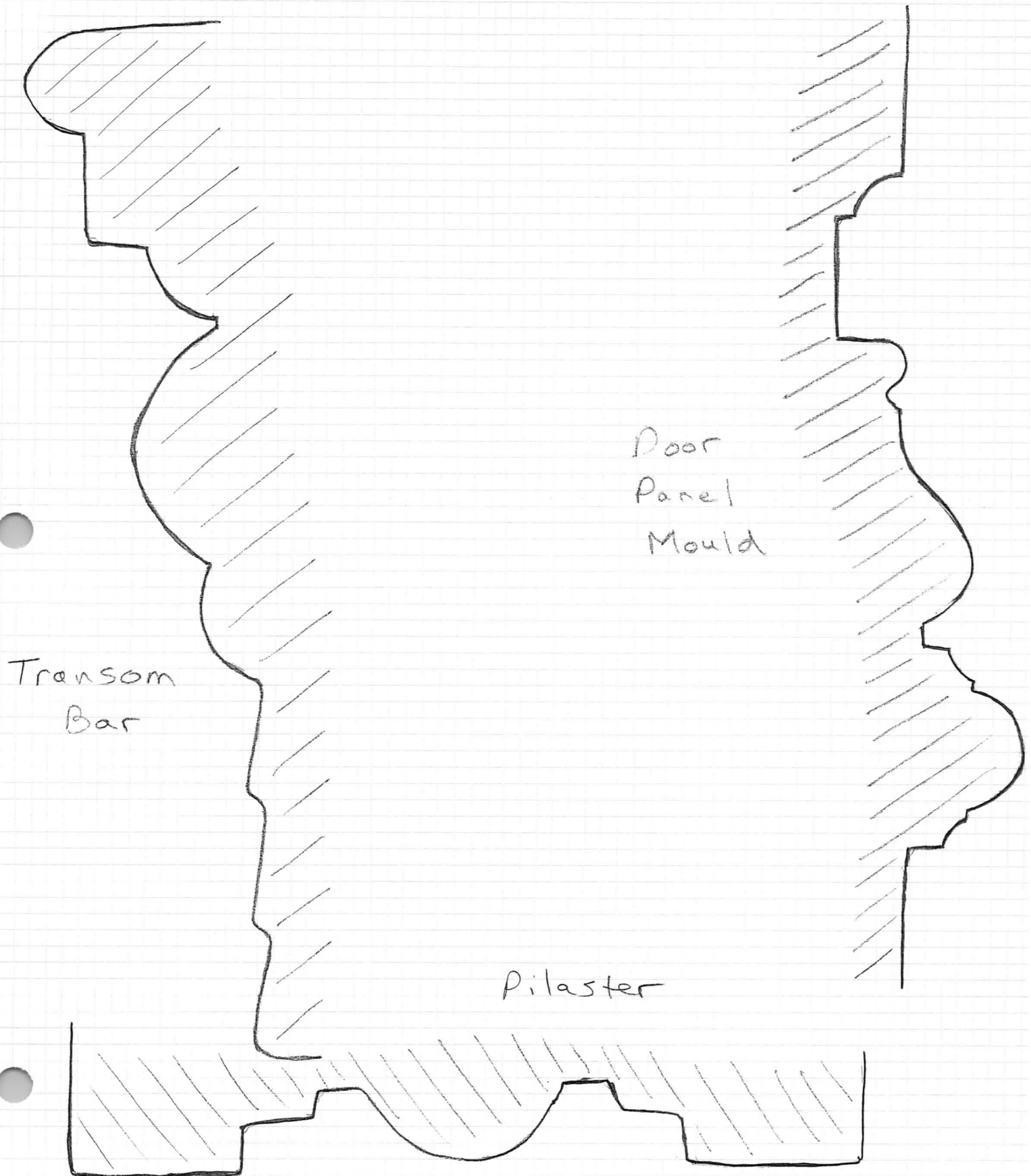
Highlands (HO-1171)
4480 Doncaster Drive
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSID- ERATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
John S. Williams / Howard Dist., Anne Arundel	Charles C. Browne / Queen Annes	22 May 1846	JLM 6-273	Deed – Indenture	\$10,062.58	A) 354 A+/- B) 66-3-12 ARP	B) All that land not conveyed by JSW to Oliver Wight, May 1846 -- lies NW of road from Elkridge Landing to Ilchester
Gideon G. Tongue, trustee / Anne Arundel	John S. Williams / Anne Arundel	6 April 1846	JLM 6-260	Deed- Indenture	\$1,500.00	114-1-0 ARP	Chancery Ct of MD Decree 2 April 1830 – sell RE of Thomas Norris of Thomas, late of AA sold 4 June 1835 to JSW Deed lost before recorded Chews Vineyard see plat (B)
Benjamin C. Howard trustee / Baltimore City	John S. Williams / Anne Arundel	30 June 1831	WSG 16- 257	Indenture	\$10/A. -- \$3,540.00	354A +/-	High Ct. of Chancery, MD decree 24 June 1825 Robert Gilmor exec. of Robert Gilmor v John S. Williams Public auction 3 September 1825 p/o chews vineyard [no previous reference] (A)

1/8 Highlands (H0-1171)

KMS

Front Door Moulding Profiles - 18 Apr. 2019
Exterior



2/8

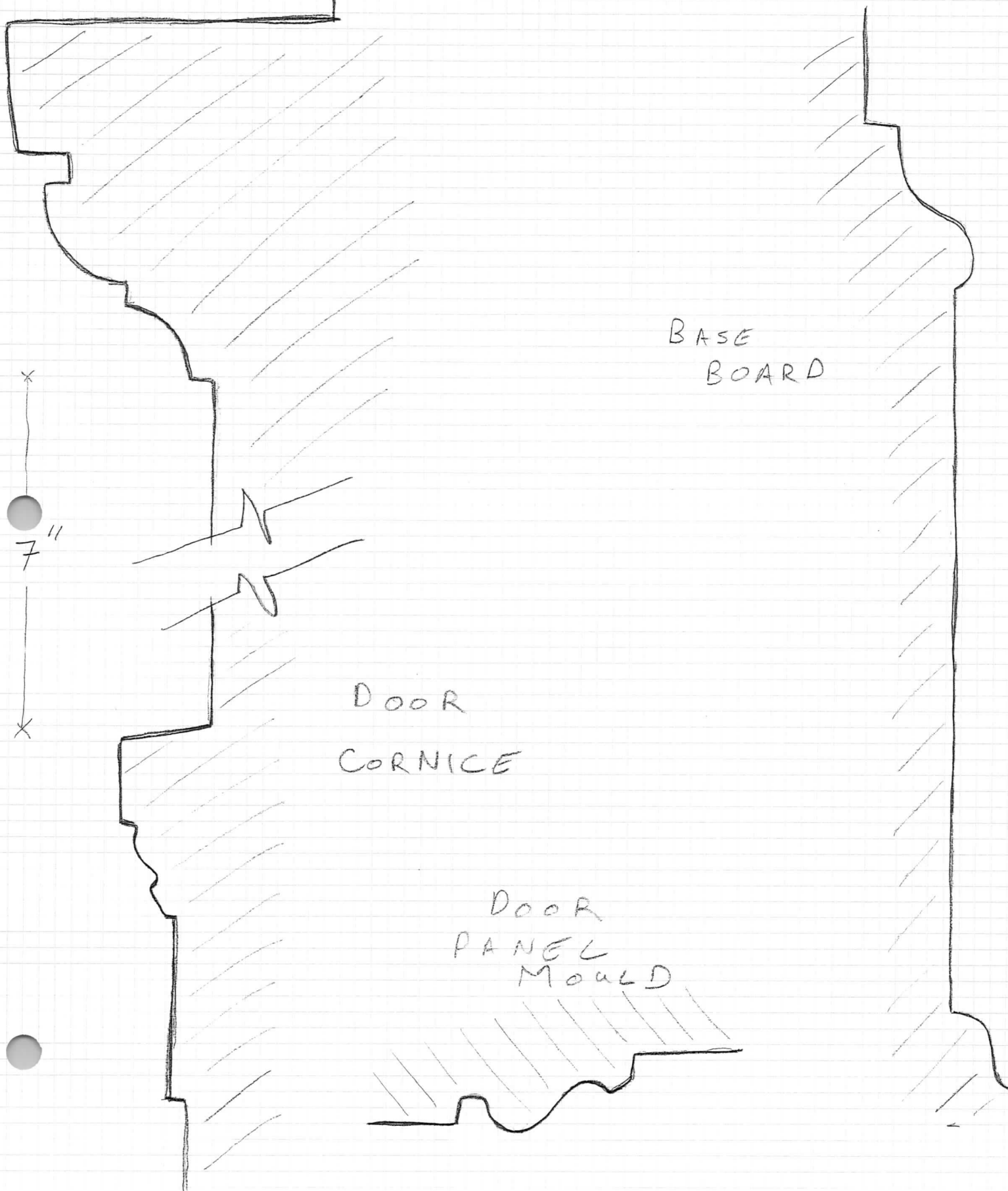
HIGHLANDS (HO-1171)

KMS

EASTRM

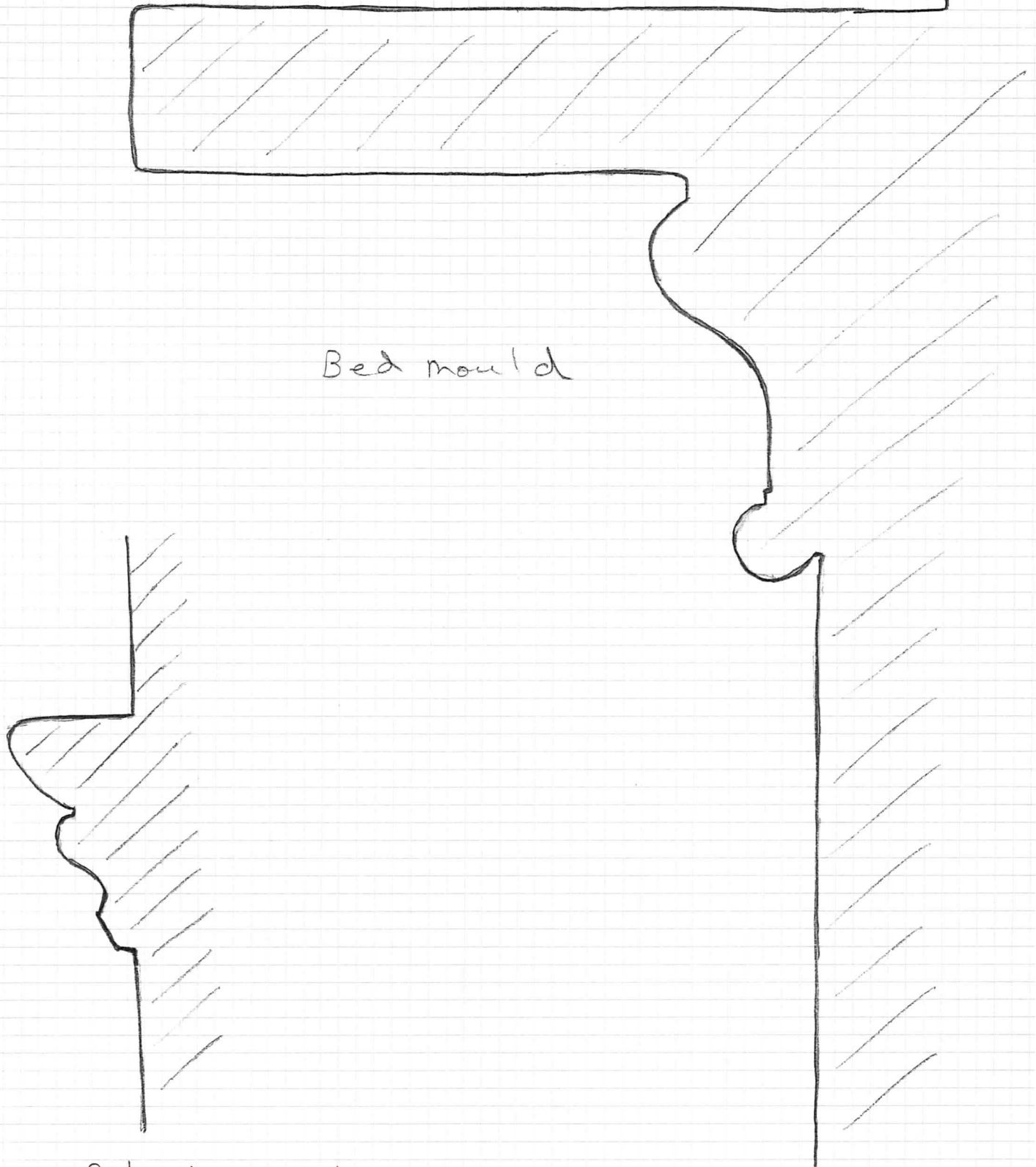
MOULDINGS

8 Mar 2019



3/8 Highlands (HO-1171)
S.W. Room Mantel

RMS
16 May 2019

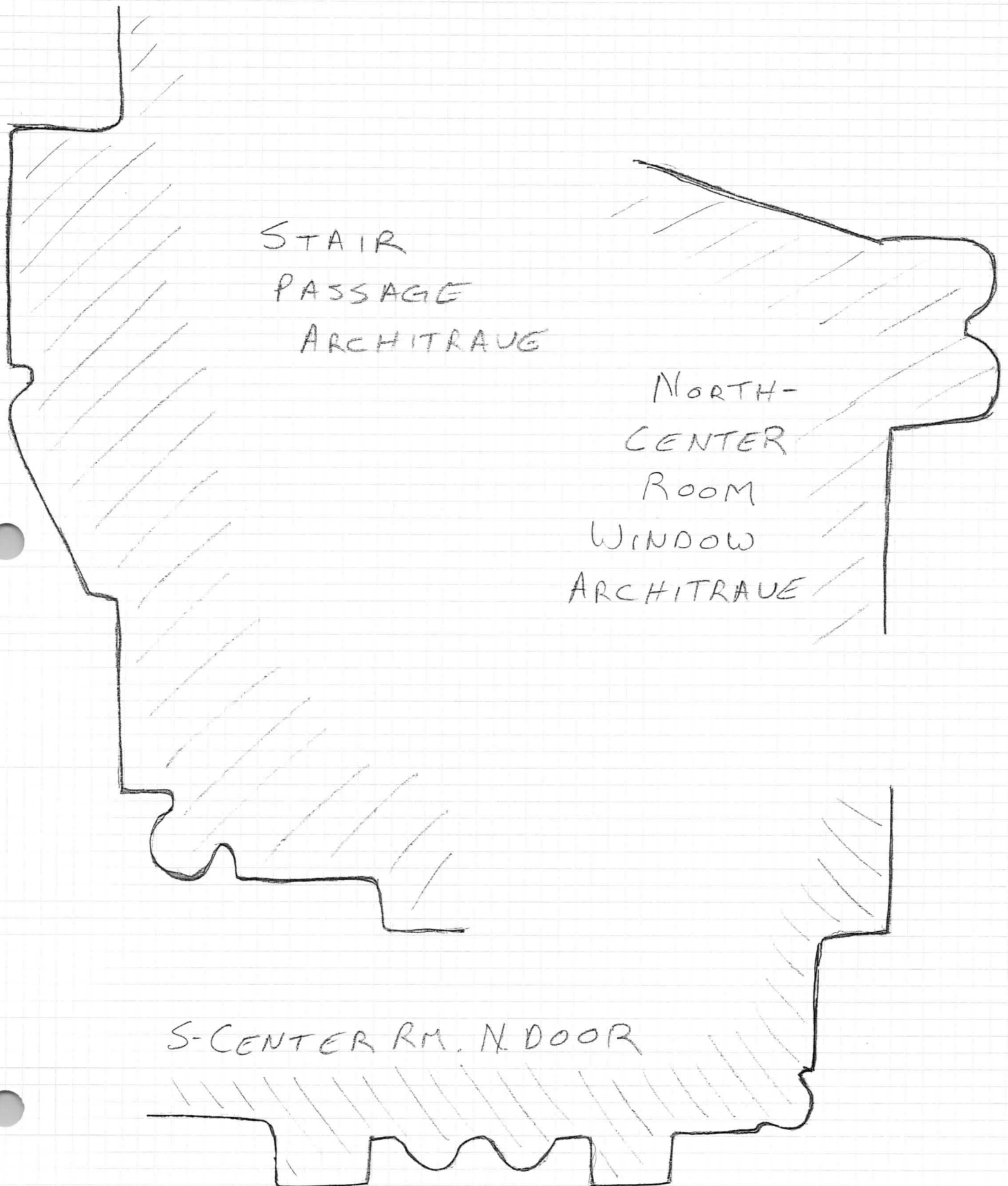


Bed mould

Pilaster Capital

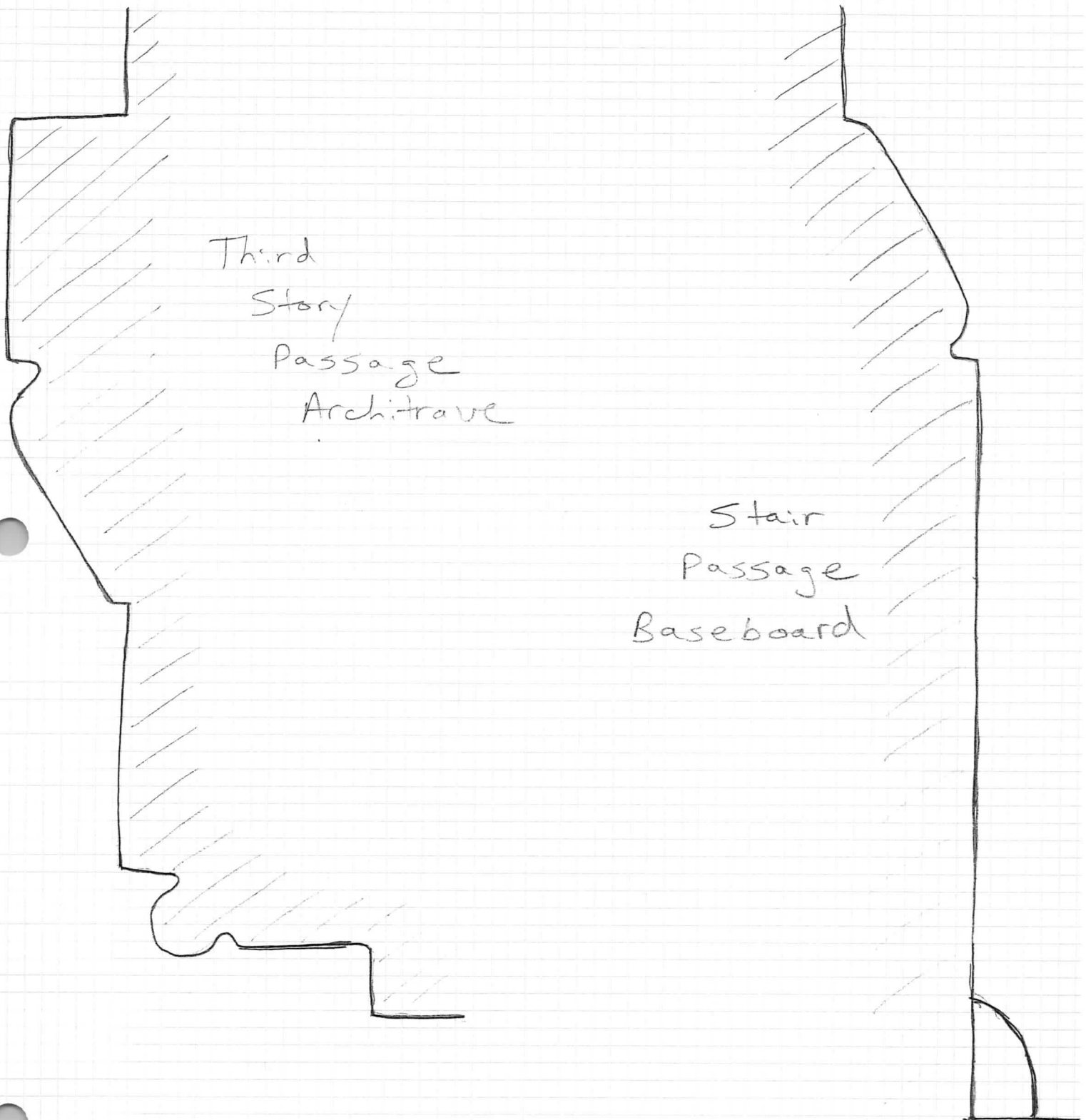
4/8 HIGHLANDS (HO-1171)
Moulding Profiles

KMS
8 Mar. 2019



5/8 HIGHLANDS (HO-1171)
Moulding Profiles

KMS
9 May 2019

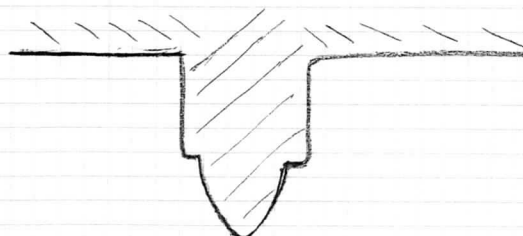


6/8 HIGHLANDS (H0-1171)
MOULDING PROFILES

KMS
8 MAR 2019



EAST
CHAMBER
WINDOW
MUNTIN



7/8 HIGHLANDS CHO-1171

KMS
8 Mar. 2019

SOUTH-CENTER
CHAMBER
MANTEL

9 3/8"

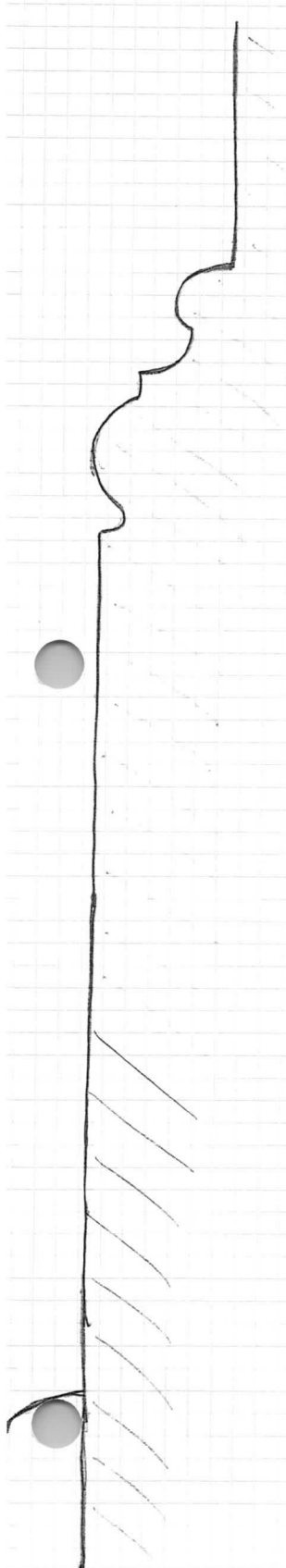
8/8

HIGHLANDS CHO-1171)

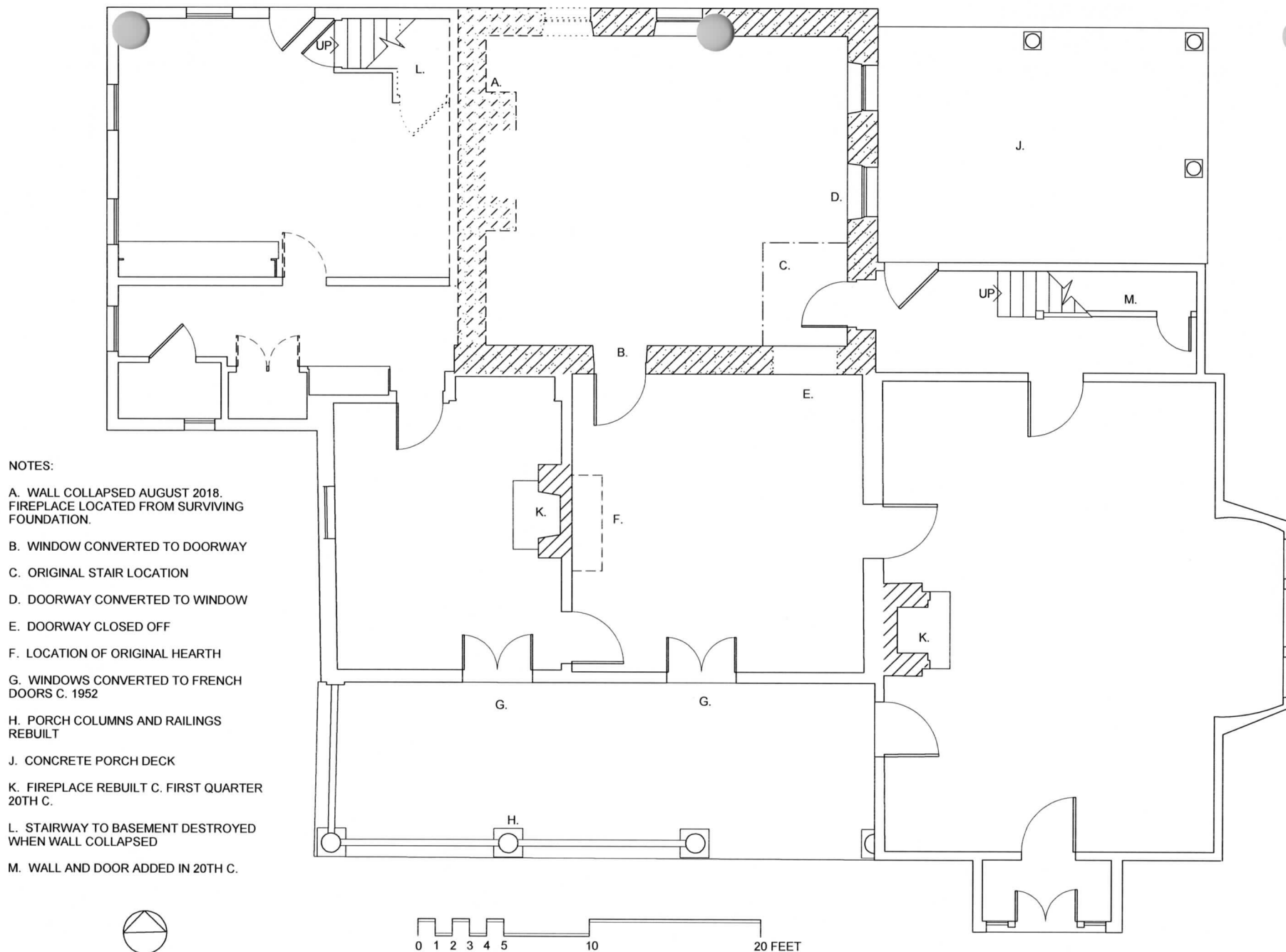
Moulding Profiles

KMS

9 May 2019



North west
Chamber
Baseboard



HO-1171 HIGHLANDS 4480 DONCASTER DRIVE

FIRST FLOOR PLAN -- MEASURED BY KEN SHORT, HEATHER BARRETT, CASEY PECORARO, PETER KURTZE & PETE MORRILL -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- MARCH 2019

NOTES:

A. WALL COLLAPSED AUGUST 2018. FIREPLACE SIZE AND CONFIGURATION CONJECTURAL

B. CLOSET ORIGINALLY LOCATED HERE

C. PASSAGE AND DOORWAY FROM STAIRWAY ADDED IN 20TH C.

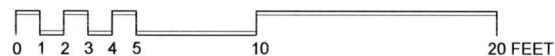
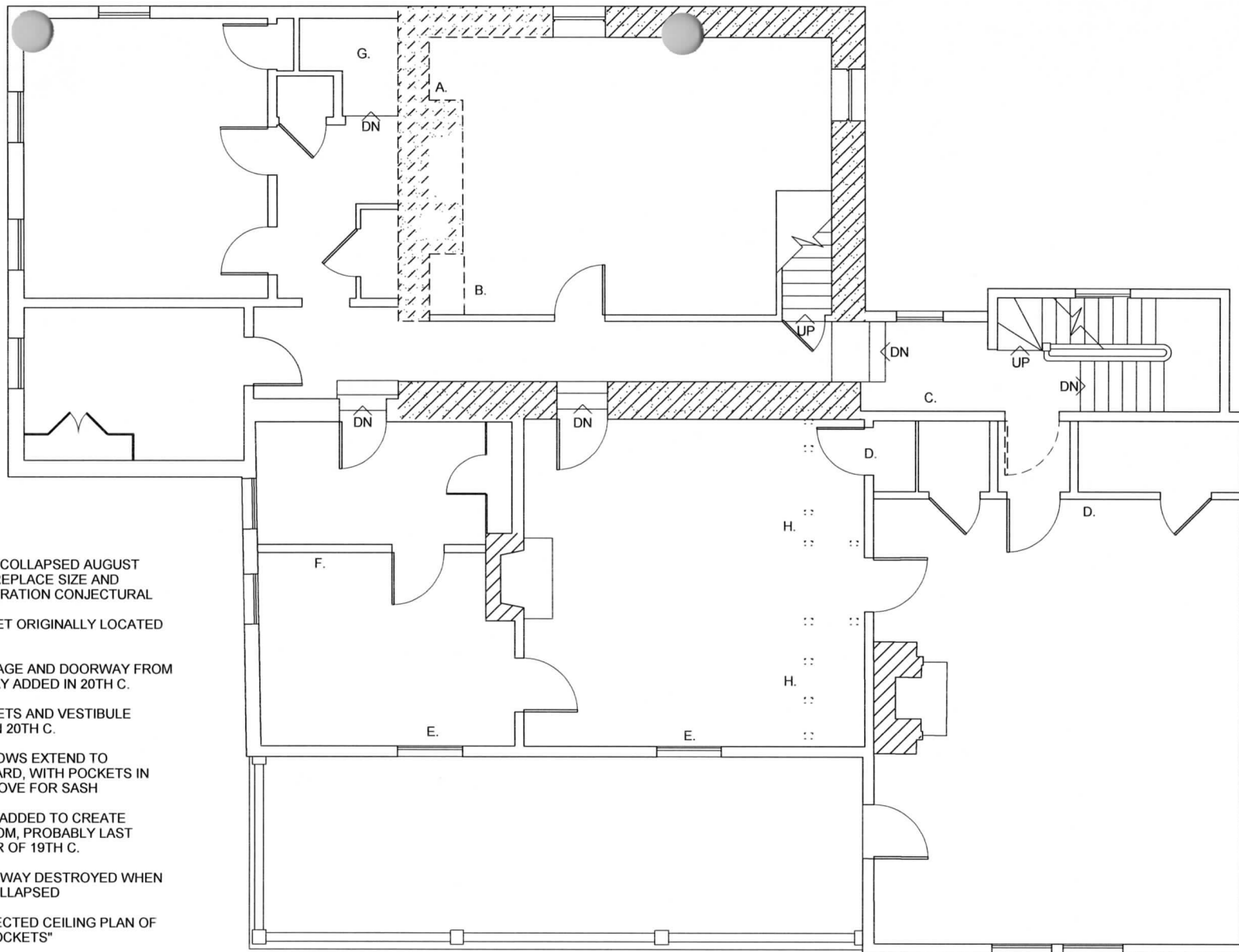
D. CLOSETS AND VESTIBULE ADDED IN 20TH C.

E. WINDOWS EXTEND TO BASEBOARD, WITH POCKETS IN WALL ABOVE FOR SASH

F. WALL ADDED TO CREATE BATHROOM, PROBABLY LAST QUARTER OF 19TH C.

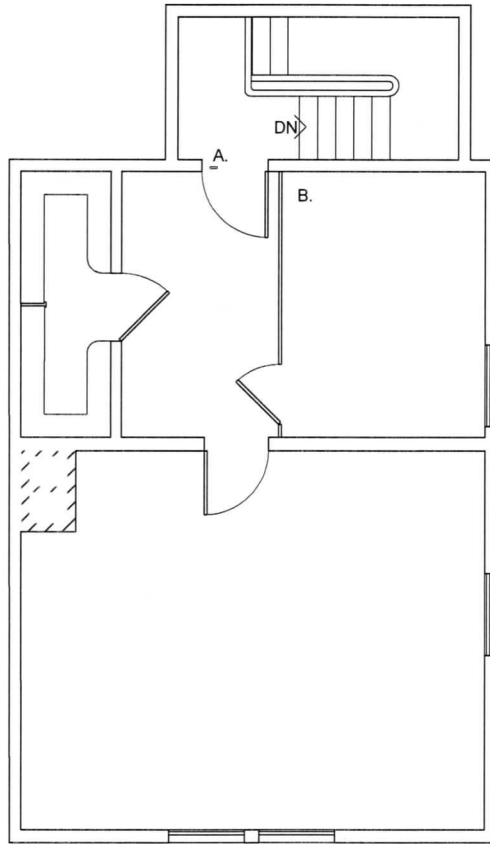
G. STAIRWAY DESTROYED WHEN WALL COLLAPSED

H. REFLECTED CEILING PLAN OF STUD "POCKETS"



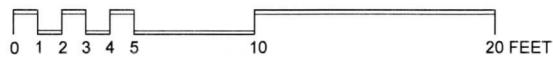
HO-1171 HIGHLANDS 4480 DONCASTER DRIVE

SECOND FLOOR PLAN -- MEASURED BY KEN SHORT, HEATHER BARRETT, CASEY PECORARO & PETER KURTZE -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- MARCH 2019



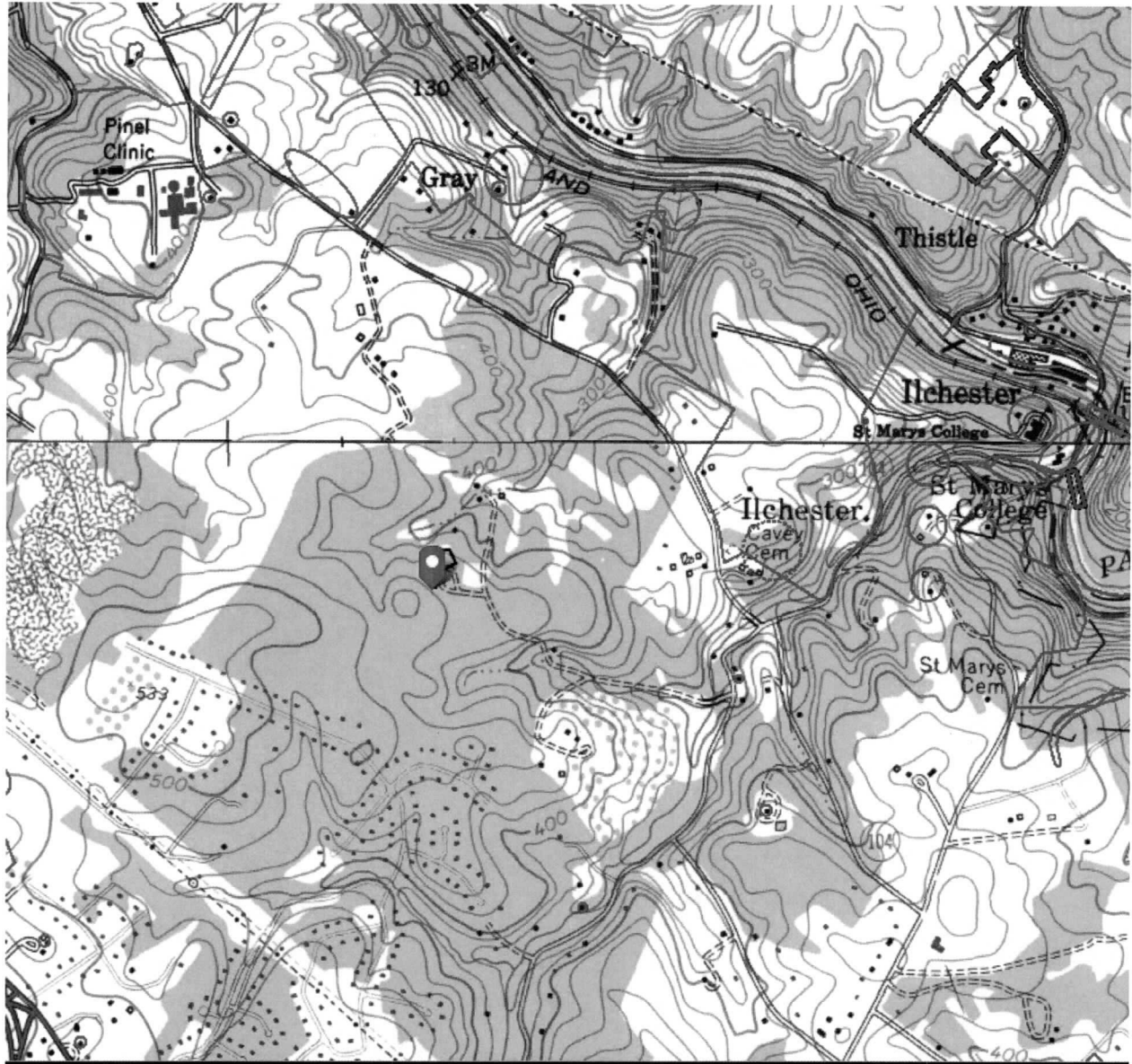
NOTES:

- A. CUT OUT IN FLOORING POSSIBLY FOR STUB TENON ON MISSING STUD
- B. HAND-PLANED BOARD WALL STOPS ABOUT 1 FOOT SHORT OF CEILING

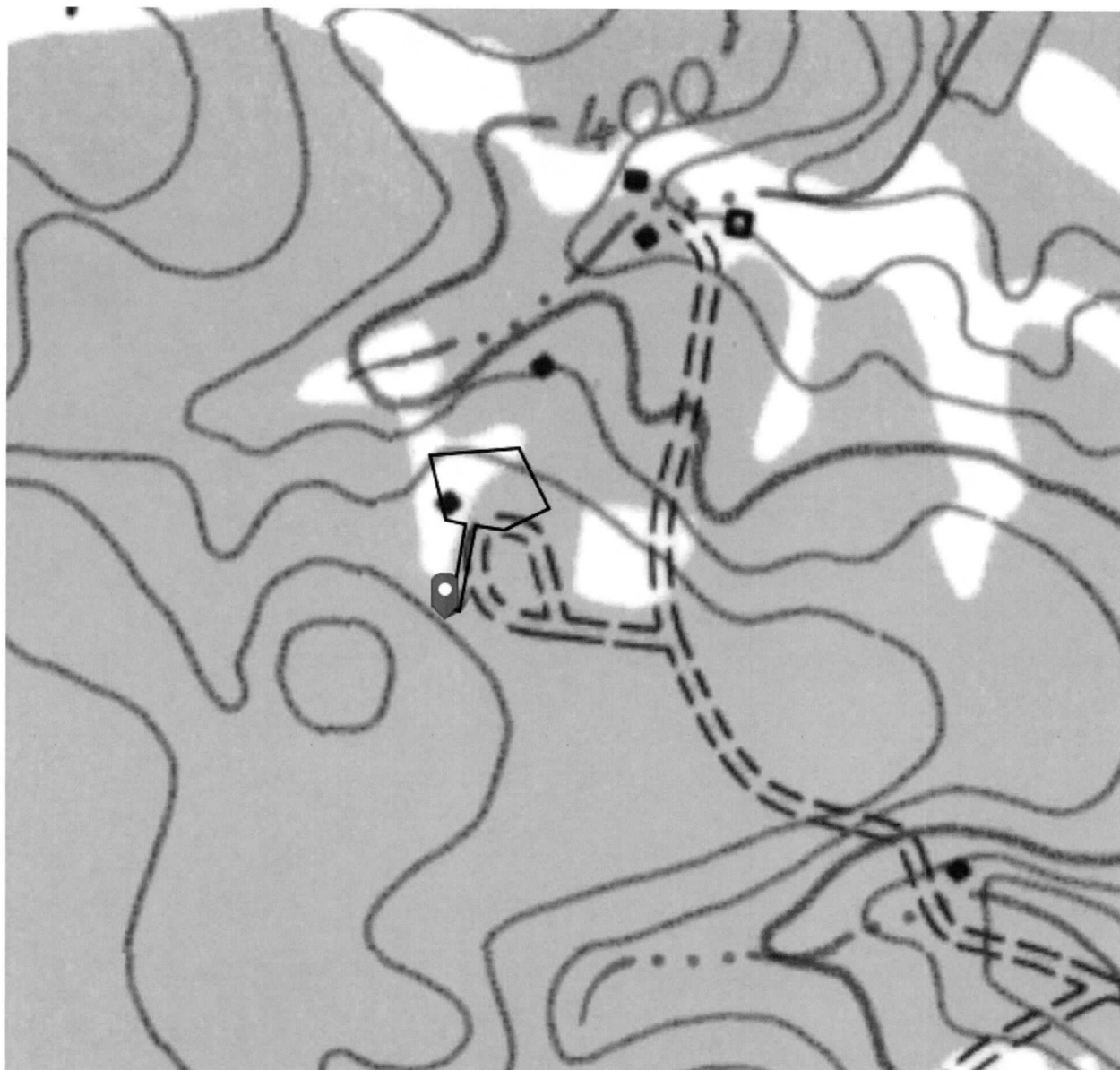


HO-1171 HIGHLANDS 4480 DONCASTER DRIVE

THIRD FLOOR PLAN – MEASURED BY HEATHER BARRETT & PETER KURTZE – DRAWN BY KEN SHORT – MARCH 2019



HO-1171
Highlands
4480 Doncaster Drive
Savage quad



HO-1171
Highlands
4480 Doncaster Drive
Savage quad

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No: HO-1171

Name: Highlands
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 1



Photo 1 of 22: South elevation. 3/8/2019

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
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Inventory No: HO-1171

Name: Highlands
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 2



Photo 2 of 22: South elevation, front door. 3/8/2019

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No: HO-1171

Name: Highlands
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 3



Photo 3 of 22: East elevation. 3/8/2019



Photo 4 of 22: North elevation. 3/8/2019

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

Inventory No: HO-1171

Name: Highlands
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 4



Photo 5 of 22: West elevation. 3/8/2019



Photo 6 of 22: Southeast room, view southeast. 3/8/2019

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
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Inventory No: HO-1171

Name: Highlands
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 5



Photo 7 of 22: Southeast room, view northwest. 3/8/2019



Photo 8 of 22: Southeast room, architrave detail. 3/8/2019

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
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Inventory No: HO-1171

Name: Highlands
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 6



Photo 9 of 22: South-center room ceiling framing, view north. 5/9/2019



Photo 10 of 22: Southwest room, view northeast. 3/8/2019

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
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Inventory No: HO-1171

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Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 7



Photo 11 of 22: First story stair passage, view east. 5/9/2019

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
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Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 8



Photo 12 of 22: First story stair passage, newel. 3/8/2019

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
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Number Photos Page 9



Photo 13 of 22: Second story stair passage, view northeast. 3/8/2019

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Photo 14 of 22: Second-story southeast chamber, view northwest. 3/8/2019



Photo 15 of 22: Second-story south-center chamber, mantel. 3/15/2019

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
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Continuation Sheet

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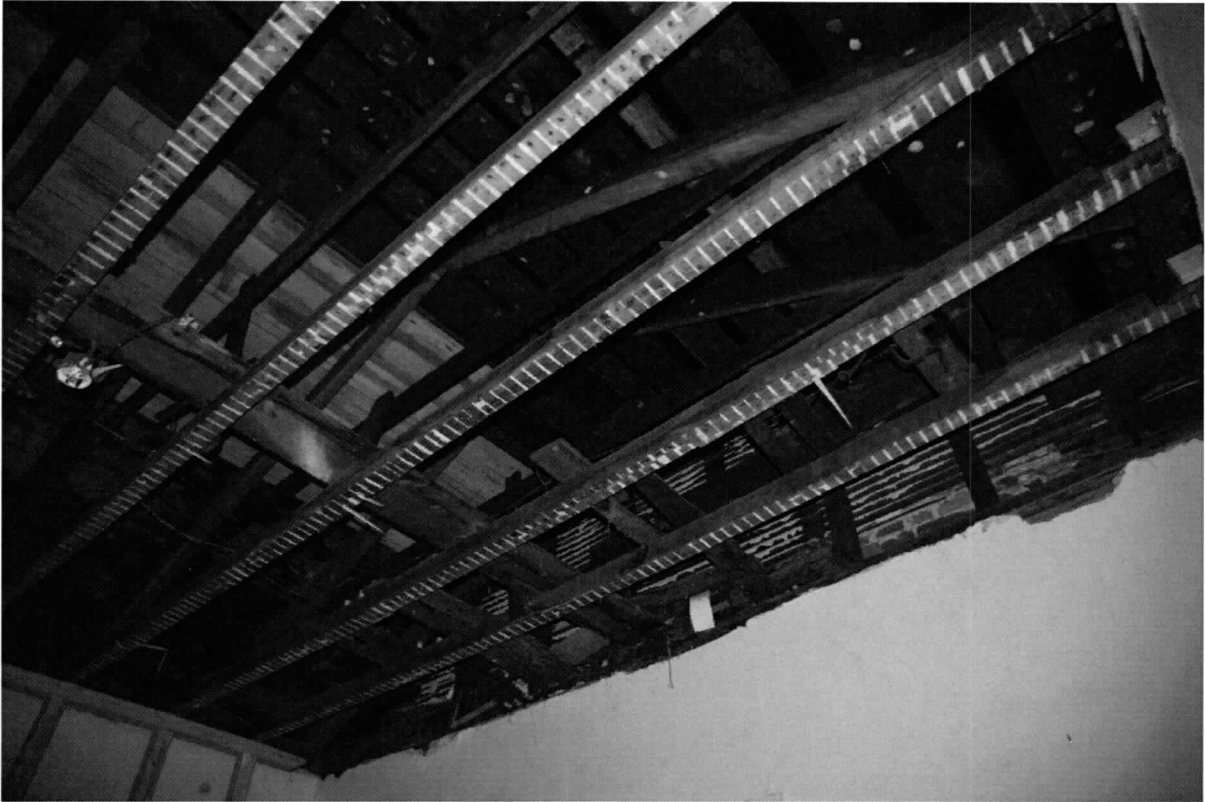


Photo 16 of 22: Second-story south-center chamber, ceiling framing showing notches for missing studs and lath and plaster behind southeast chamber fireplace. 5/9/2019

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
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Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 12

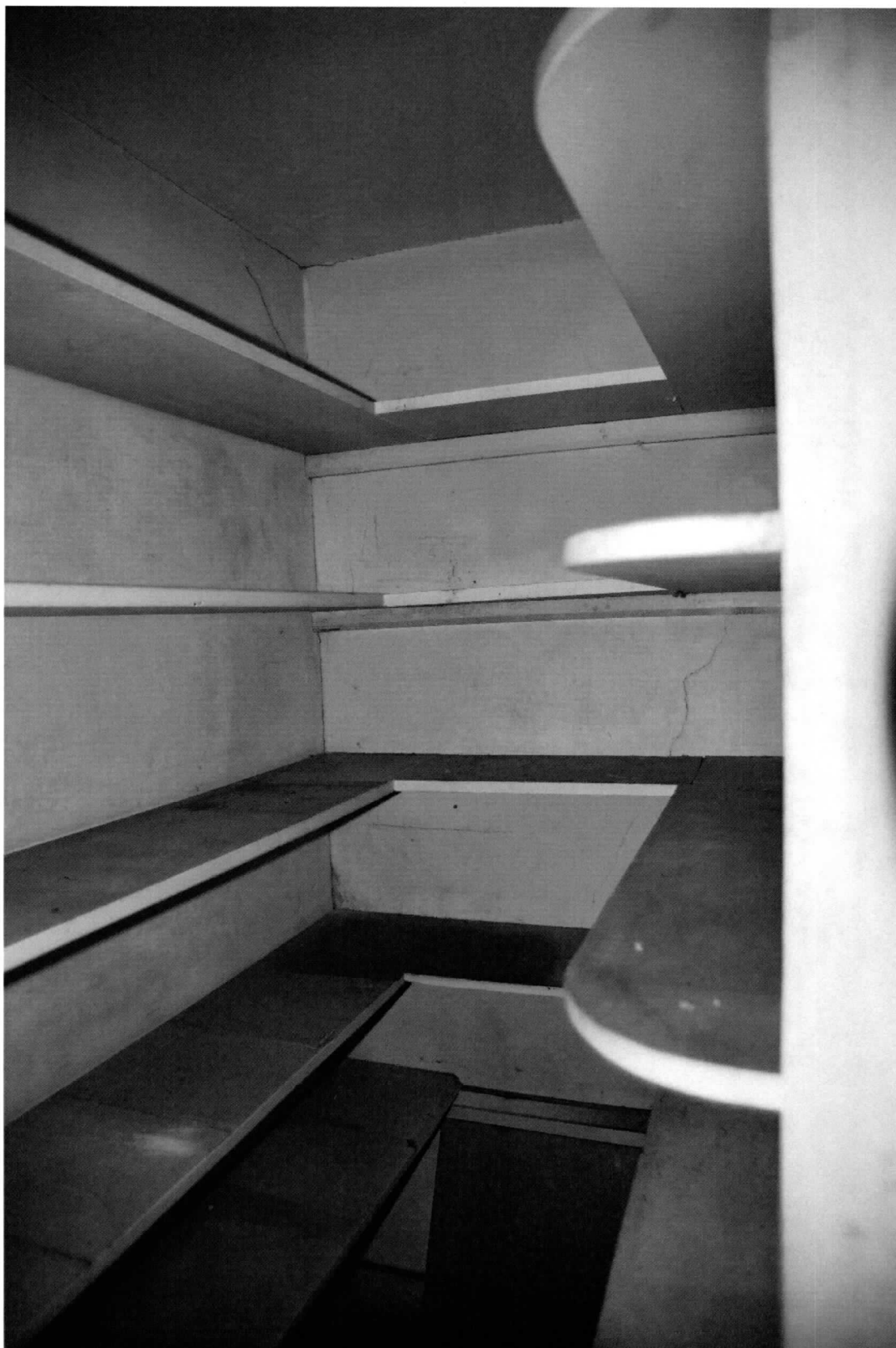


Photo 17 of 22: Third-story closet. 3/8/2019

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
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Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 13



Photo 18 of 22: Cistern in attic of stone section. 3/8/2019



Photo 19 of 22: Mantel stored in attic of stone section. 3/26/2019

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Continuation Sheet

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Photo 20 of 22: Basement, southwest room, mantel detail. 3/26/2019

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
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Name: Highlands
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 15

PHOTO LOG

Name of Photographer: Ken Short
Date of Photographs: 8, 15, & 26 March 2019 & 9 May 2019
Location of Original Digital File: MD SHPO

Photographs inserted on continuation sheets.

Photo 1 of 22:
South elevation.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_01.tif

Photo 2 of 22:
South elevation, front door.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_02.tif

Photo 3 of 22:
East elevation.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_03.tif

Photo 4 of 22:
North elevation.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_04.tif

Photo 5 of 22:
West elevation.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_05.tif

Photo 6 of 22:
Southeast room, view southeast.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_06.tif

Photo 7 of 22:
Southeast room, view northwest.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_07.tif

Photo 8 of 22:
Southeast room, architrave detail.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_08.tif

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Photo 9 of 22:

South-center room ceiling framing, view north.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_09.tif

Photo 10 of 22:

Southwest room, view northeast.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_10.tif

Photo 11 of 22:

First story stair passage, view east.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_11.tif

Photo 12 of 22:

First story stair passage, newel.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_12.tif

Photo 13 of 22:

Second story stair passage, view northeast.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_13.tif

Photo 14 of 22:

Second-story southeast chamber, view northwest.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_14.tif

Photo 15 of 22:

Second-story south-center chamber, mantel.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_15.tif

Photo 16 of 22:

Second-story south-center chamber, ceiling framing showing notches for missing studs and lath and plaster behind southeast chamber fireplace.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_16.tif

Photo 17 of 22:

Third-story closet.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_17.tif

Photo 18 of 22:

Cistern in attic of stone section.
HO-1171_2019-03-08_18.tif

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Maryland Inventory of
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Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 17

Photo 19 of 22:

Mantel stored in attic of stone section.

HO-1171_2019-03-08_19.tif

Photo 20 of 22:

Basement, southwest room, mantel detail.

HO-1171_2019-03-08_20.tif

Additional digital image files are located at the Maryland Historical Trust.

Photo 21 of 22:

View west from east half of house showing damage in center of house where wall collapsed.

HO-1171_2019-03-08_21.tif

Photo 22 of 22:

View east from west half of house showing damage in center of house where wall collapsed.

HO-1171_2019-03-08_22.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.