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MHT K-127

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland	
COUNTY:	Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	DEC 15 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON: Rich Hill, The Griffith House

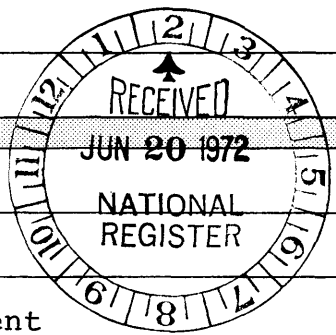
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Adventure

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Maryland Route 299

CITY OR TOWN: Sassafras

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Kent CODE: 029



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Rectory for Episcopal Church</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple ownership

STREET AND NUMBER: Contact: The Reverend James O. Reynolds, "Rich Hill"

CITY OR TOWN: Warnick Post Office, Kent County STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Kent County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Cross Street

CITY OR TOWN: Chestertown STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Kent

ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 15 1972

DATE: DEC 15 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rich Hill, on the north side of Maryland Route 299, 0.2 miles northeast of the intersection of Maryland Route 299 and Maryland Route 290 at Sassafras, is in a location where this mid-eighteenth-century Georgian-style elaborate dwelling is an enigma. Built as a status symbol by Alexander Baird, a "tobacco planter turned builder," who in his day was a prominent member of the community, the house during the twentieth century has been converted into the Episcopal Rectory for nearby St. Augustine Parish, Cecil County, Maryland.

The dwelling, Rich Hill, is owned (1971) by the Vestry of St. Augustine Parish, St. Augustine Church, Chesapeake City, Cecil County, Maryland, and is occupied by the Rector of St. Augustine Church, The Reverend James O. Reynolds.

Rich Hill, "The Adventure," was built by Alexander Baird soon after the land was patented to him in 1753. The five-bay, two-and-a-half story, brick building has a two-story, brick kitchen wing on the northeast gable end. The southeast facade overlooks a lawn as well as a driveway and cultivated field crops on both sides of the main road to Sassafras.

The original, eight-paneled entrance door is surmounted by a five-light transom. The door frame, similar to all the frames and sashes throughout the house, is not original, dating after the mid-nineteenth century. The central door in the northwest facade has been lowered and does not have a transom due to the interior stair arrangement. Each doorway originally had flanking seats, each partly set into the brick exterior of the building. The northwest facade, having been restored to its original appearance, has irregular fenestration above the basement: three windows on the first story, two windows on the second story and a smaller opening at the level of the staircase landing.

Above the stone foundation, with galleting below the basement windows, is English bond brickwork between the sills and the molded water table. The remainder of the brickwork is Flemish bond, interspersed on the northwest and southwest sides by glazed headers at random.

All the openings support segmental brick arches with the exception of the flat-arch on the attic windows. The lintels on the northwest facade of the main block and the southeast facade of the kitchen wing have alternate glazed headers in a vertical pattern in the brick lintels.

The kitchen wing is laid in Flemish bond with the glazed headers on the southeast facade in reverse to the main block. The thin coat of (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

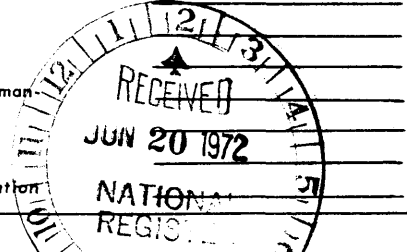
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) patented 1753, built soon afterwards

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Alexander Baird, for whom "The Adventure" was patented in 1753, was of local importance as a successful tobacco planter and an active member of the vestry of Shrewsbury Parish (1755-1792) in Kent County. During his lifetime he acquired approximately 2500 acres of land near Head of Sassafras, now the Sassafras River, where he lived, owned a grist mill and a saw mill as well as the wharf, later called "the public landing," from which the crops were shipped to market. In 1782 we find his name among the subscribers to Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland.

In October of 1746 he married Elizabeth Ellis. Of their eleven children six daughters lived to maturity and married members of the Keene, Hanson, Johns and Stoops families. At the time of Alexander Baird's death, "The Adventure" passed to his daughter, Ann Baird Stoops. Elizabeth Stoops, daughter of Ann Baird and Jonas Stoops, later married Charles Thomas of New Castle, Delaware, who became the Governor of Delaware in 1830.

The farm was sold in 1839 to Joseph Griffith, who changed the name to "Rich Hill." The Griffith family owned surrounding farms which had previously been owned by Alexander Baird. Their farming endeavors prospered and the sons built homes on the adjoining early tract, "Morton," the latter patented in 1670.

Since the late nineteenth century it has been used as a house for tenant farmers until it was acquired for the Vestry of St. Augustine Parish, Cecil County, as the rectory. Since its acquisition in 1968, the house has been preserved and restored. It is occupied in 1971 by the Reverend James O. Reynolds, Rector of St. Augustine Parish, Chesapeake City, Cecil County, Maryland.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorder: Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust,
 94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland

Hanson, George A., Old Kent. Regional Publishing Company,
 Baltimore, 1967 (orig. 1876).

Kent County Wills & Land Records, Kent County Courthouse,
 Chestertown, Maryland.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 39 ° 22 ' 10 "	Degrees Minutes Seconds 75 ° 48 ' 38 "		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	39 ° 22 ' 18 "	75 ° 48 ' 24 "				
SE	39 ° 22 ' 08 "	75 ° 48 ' 15 "				
SW	39 ° 22 ' 01 "	75 ° 48 ' 27 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **64 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **Jan. 18, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Orlando Ridout IV</u> Orlando Ridout IV</p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer for Maryland</u></p> <p>Date <u>January 19, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert H. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>12/10/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>12/8/72</u></p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 15 1972

(Number all entries)

Rich Hill, The Griffith House

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

stucco covering the northeast gable hides the brickwork. On the northwest facade is a modern screened porch.

The interior cornices, chair rails and baseboards are intact as well as a paneled chimney breast over each fireplace opening. The turned balusters on the closed-string stair conforms with the early character of the woodwork.

The front entrance of Rich Hill faces the public road, Maryland Route 299, and looks across the road to open fields. The sixty-four acres designated will protect the immediate area surrounding the house and the vista to and across the public road.

#9. REFERENCES continued

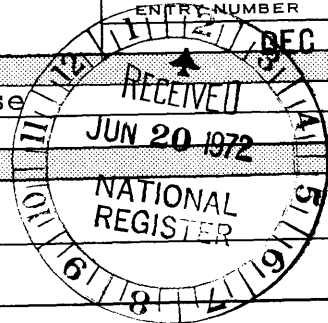
Kent County Wills & Land Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Kent County Chancery Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.



Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 15 1972



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

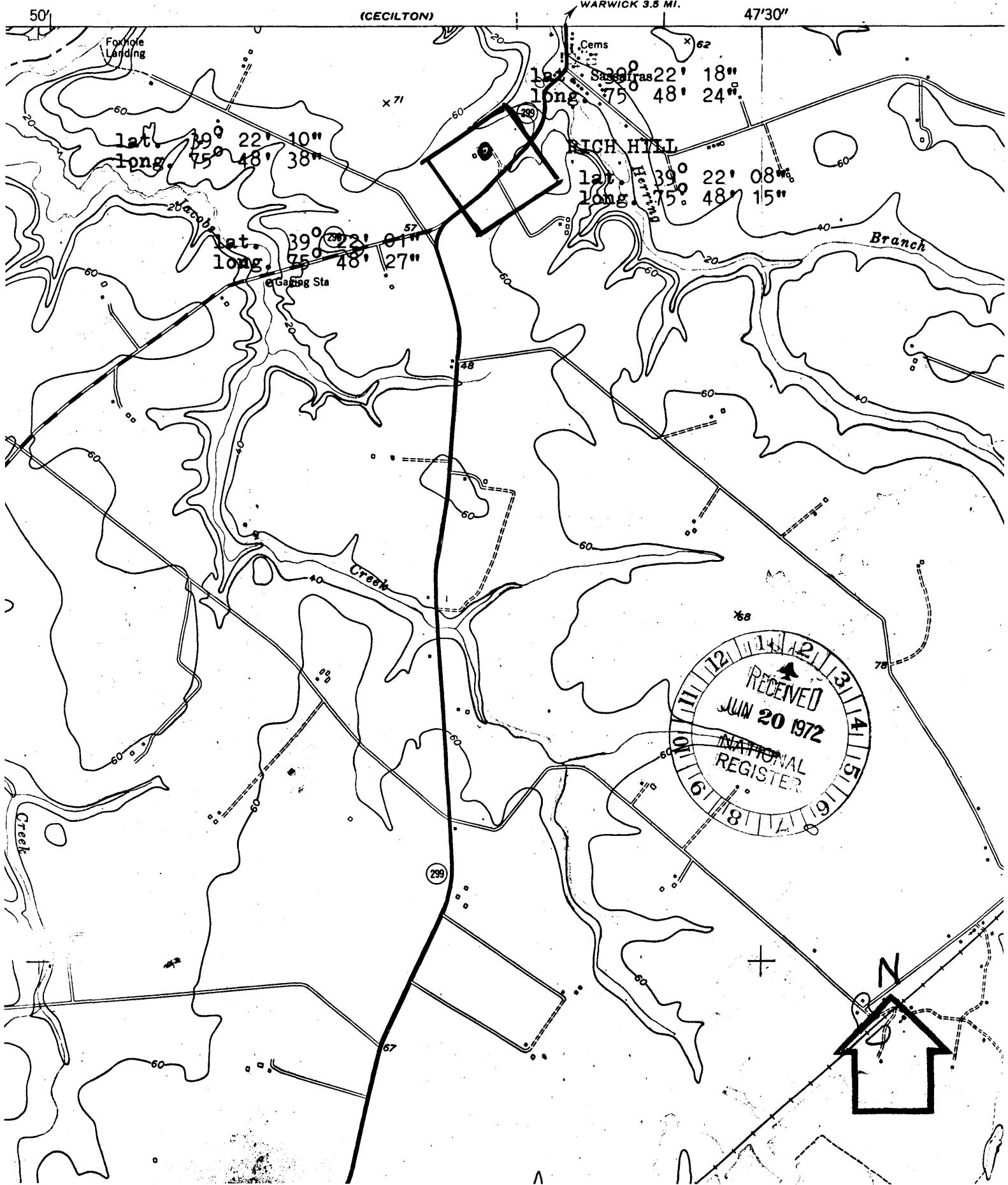
1. NAME			
COMMON:		Rich Hill, The Griffith House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		The Adventure	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Maryland Route 299			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Sassafras			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:
Maryland		24	Kent
			CODE
			029
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map; Millington Quadrangle, Maryland			
SCALE:			
1:24,000			
DATE:			
1953			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map (Maryland)
scale: 1: 24,000
1953 UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MIDDLETOWN, DEL. 7.4 MI.
WARWICK 3.5 MI.

(CECILTON)

47°30'



lat. 39° 22' 10"
long. 75° 48' 38"

lat. 39° 22' 18"
long. 75° 48' 24"

RICH HILL
lat. 39° 22' 08"
long. 75° 48' 15"

lat. 39° 22' 01"
long. 75° 48' 27"

RECEIVED
JUN 20 1972
NATIONAL
REGISTER

