

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For HCRS use only
received SEP 16 1980
date entered NOV 25 1980

1. Name

historic Fair Meadows

and/or common Clement Dietrich Estate/Eastern Christian College

2. Location

S of Creswell on Creswell Rd.

street & number West side of Creswell Road, south of inter- section with Cavalry Road not for publication

city, town Creswell vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Harford code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Eastern Christian College, Attention: Jeff Bullock

street & number Creswell Road

city, town Bel Air vicinity of state Maryland 21014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse

street & number 40 South Main Street

city, town Bel Air state Maryland 21014

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on the west side of Creswell Road (Md. Rte. 543) south of the intersection with Cavalry Road (Md. Rte. 136), this Second Empire 2-1/2 story stone mansion facing south was built in 1868 for the last owner of the Harford Furnace, Clement Dietrich.

Five-bays wide and two-rooms deep, this house of regularly-laid ashlar shows a mixture of continental influences with its mansard roof, cupola, dormers with rounded hoods, and stone quoins at the corners and framing the windows and door openings. On the north is a frame addition, and the northeast corner of the house is of frame rather than stone construction.

There are four brick chimneys: two on the west and one east of center with corbelled caps, and one plain exterior chimney in the north facade. Windows are arched with 2/2 sash and stone segmental arches with projecting keystones. Each flank of the roof contains three dormers, whose wide eaves are supported on carved consoles. The cornice is similarly supported--here the consoles are of alternating lengths. The south--or front--facade is spanned by a one-story, hip-roofed porch with a pedimented central projecting pavilion. It is said to have extended around the west side as well at one time.

The interior has a central hall plan. Except for the enclosure of the top two flights of the staircase and the north end of the hall to house a fire staircase, the original structure and ornament are virtually intact.

The first story floors have intricate inlay designs, and the center hall has black and white marble tiles. Ceilings and friezes have plaster ornament of formal geometric or naturalistic designs, and several of the original crystal chandeliers are still in place. Mantels are white marble with three-dimensional naturalistic designs or black marble with incised designs.

Also on the property are six outbuildings. West of the house are the ruins of a round springhouse with a copper roof.

North of the house is a one-story stone carriage house with a mansard roof and dormers similar to those on the main house. The fenestration on this structure has been altered, with most of the door openings replaced by windows.

Northwest of the house is a brick smokehouse laid in eight-stretcher bond and set on a stone foundation.

Farther north are three coursed rubblestone structures with hipped roofs and exposed eaves. These buildings are one story in height and appear to be contemporary to the house.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1868

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

The significance possessed by Fair Meadows in Creswell, Harford County, Maryland stems from two sources. First, as a residence executed in a richly ornamented but conservative interpretation of the Second Empire style, Fair Meadows embodies the distinctive characteristics of a period and type of architecture that, while popular in the U.S. in the 1860s and 1870s, was rarely used in its "high style" form in rural Maryland. Its important features include the exterior stonework, intact interior tile flooring, plaster ornamental work and marble mantels and a mansard-roofed carriage house. Second, as the house which was the residence of Clement Dietrich, an entrepreneur who substantially expanded the Harford Furnace Iron Works to include flour and saw mills and a large chemical manufacturing plant, Fair Meadows is associated with a person significant in Harford County's industrial history.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Fair Meadows was erected for Clement Dietrich, a man of sophisticated and flamboyant tastes. A native of France, he first settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1830, where he ran a soap and candle manufacturing industry and was president of the Dayton and Michigan Railroad. In 1867, Dietrich purchased the Harford Furnace Iron Works near Creswell, Maryland, on James Run which flows into the Bush River, and a year later built this 15-room mansion for an astounding cost of \$93,000.

Harford Furnace was the only iron furnace on Bush River and one of 2 in southern Harford County. The furnace comprised at least some of the land of the Bush River Iron-Works, whose date of precept was 1746, thus establishing a 130-year iron working tradition by the time of its demise in 1876. When Clement Dietrich owned the Furnace, the iron industry in Maryland was floundering due to its inability to adapt to technological innovations introduced elsewhere and the increasing popularity of steel. Dietrich's supplementary operations (i.e. the chemical works) indicate his attempt to shore up Harford Furnace's operations by diversifying the product. His attempt failed and he went bankrupt in 1876. Furthermore, quite a large and important community with all of a town's services (except government) grew up around the Furnace and the whole complex figured importantly in the cultural development of southern Harford County and the industrial development of the regions. The furnace was located some distance to the south of Fair Meadows.

Dietrich went bankrupt in 1876 and his property was sold at a sheriff's sale. The property subsequently was headquarters of a chicken farm and

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Wright, C. Milton, Our Harford Heritage, 1967.
 Land, Will, and Equity Records of Harford County.
 1878 Martenet's Map/1858 Jennings and Herrick Map
 McGrain, John, The Molinography of Maryland.
 Portrait and Biographical Sketches of Harford and Cecil Counties, New York, 1897.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 10.4 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Edgewood Quadrangle and

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References Bel Air Quadrangle

Bel Air Quad.

Edgewood Quad.

A

1	8	3	9	1	0	6	0	4	3	7	2	9	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	8	3	9	1	2	4	0	4	3	7	2	8	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	8	3	9	1	3	1	0	4	3	7	2	6	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	8	3	9	1	0	0	0	4	3	7	2	5	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor
Harford County Historic District
 organization Commission date March, 1980
 street & number 45 South Main Street telephone (301) 838-6000 x 207
 city or town Bel Air state Maryland 21014

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *M. Shivers* date 8-27-80

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>M. Shivers</i></u>	date <u>11-25-80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u><i>Emma Jane Saxe</i></u>	date <u>11-24-80</u>
Chief of Registration <u>Regional Coordinator</u>	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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RECEIVED SEP 16 1980
DATE ENTERED NOV 25 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Fair Meadows
Harford County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

the estate of Ronald Harris, Mayor of Wilmington. The Eastern Christian College purchased the site in 1958 and now uses the mansion as its administration building.

With dense development occurring right up to the edges of the site, the mansion, associated outbuildings, and their immediate landscaped setting remain intact as a discrete unit. Four new buildings have been constructed in the northwest and northeast portions of the 18.6 acre site owned by the College. But they have not been included in the boundaries of the nomination. Their removal from the boundaries of the site leaves an el-shaped lot, which includes all the buildings associated historically with the mansion and their immediate setting as they were originally, with no intrusions.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Fair Meadows
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

BEGINNING at a point on the northernmost boundary of the lot as described in Liber 565 folio 631 of the Harford County Land Records: North 71° 37' East 100' to a concrete monument, said monument being the northwesterly most corner of a parcel conveyed to Jung, thence, leaving the entire tract outline and binding on the Jung parcel for the following three courses, as now surveyed, viz: South 19 degrees 36 minutes East 100 feet. to a monument, north 72 degrees 36 minutes East 302.16 feet to a monument on the southwesterly side of Creswell Road continuing North 72 degrees 36 minutes East 20 feet to a point in the center of said road, thence leaving the Jung parcel and binding on the South 19 degrees 36 minutes East 23.23 feet to a point, said point being the northeasterlymost corner of an 0.40 acre parcel conveyed to J. H. Drumm, thence leaving the center of said road and binding on the outlines of the said 0.40 acre Krumm parcel for the following 5 courses, as now surveyed, viz: South 69 degrees 24 minutes West 20 feet to a monument on the southwesterly side of said road, continuing South 69 degrees 24 minutes West 180.08 feet to a monument, south 19 degrees 36 minutes East 96.14 feet to a monument, North 70 degrees 31 minutes East 180 feet to a monument on the southwesterly side of the aforesaid road, continuing North 70 degrees 31 minutes East 20 feet to a point in the center of said road, thence leaving the J. H. Krumm parcel and binding on or near the center of said road the two following courses, viz: South 19 degrees 36 minutes East 474.88 feet, South 20 degrees 29 minutes East 162.36 feet, thence leaving the center of said road and running South 69 degrees 31 minutes West 989.29 feet to a pipe, North 18 degrees 23 minutes West 180' to a monument, then due East 400', then due North 255' then due East 160', and due North 375' to the place of beginning, containing approximately 10.4 acres more or less.

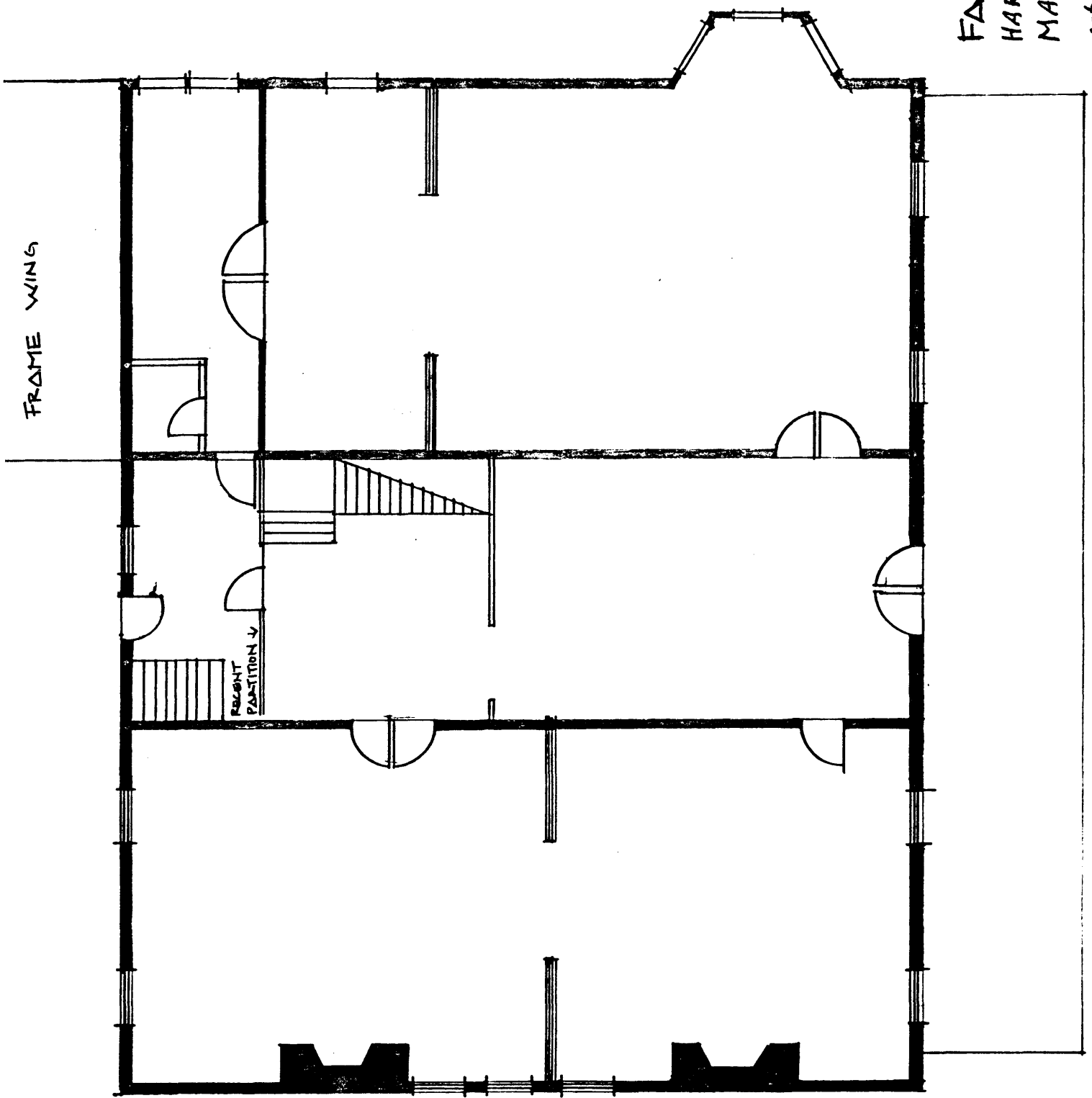
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the proposed site include that portion of the estate that remains intact as it was when Clement Dietrich lived here: the mansion and associated outbuildings and the part of the landscaped setting that maintains the original scheme--the entrance drive, south and east lawns, and the pond, which is still reached by a daffodil-lined walkway. This represents the core of the original estate, and excludes the section on which Eastern Christian College's new buildings are located.

FAIR MEADOWS
HARFORD CO.
MARYLAND
not to scale
1980 AS



FRAME WING



SEP 16 1980

NOV 25 1980

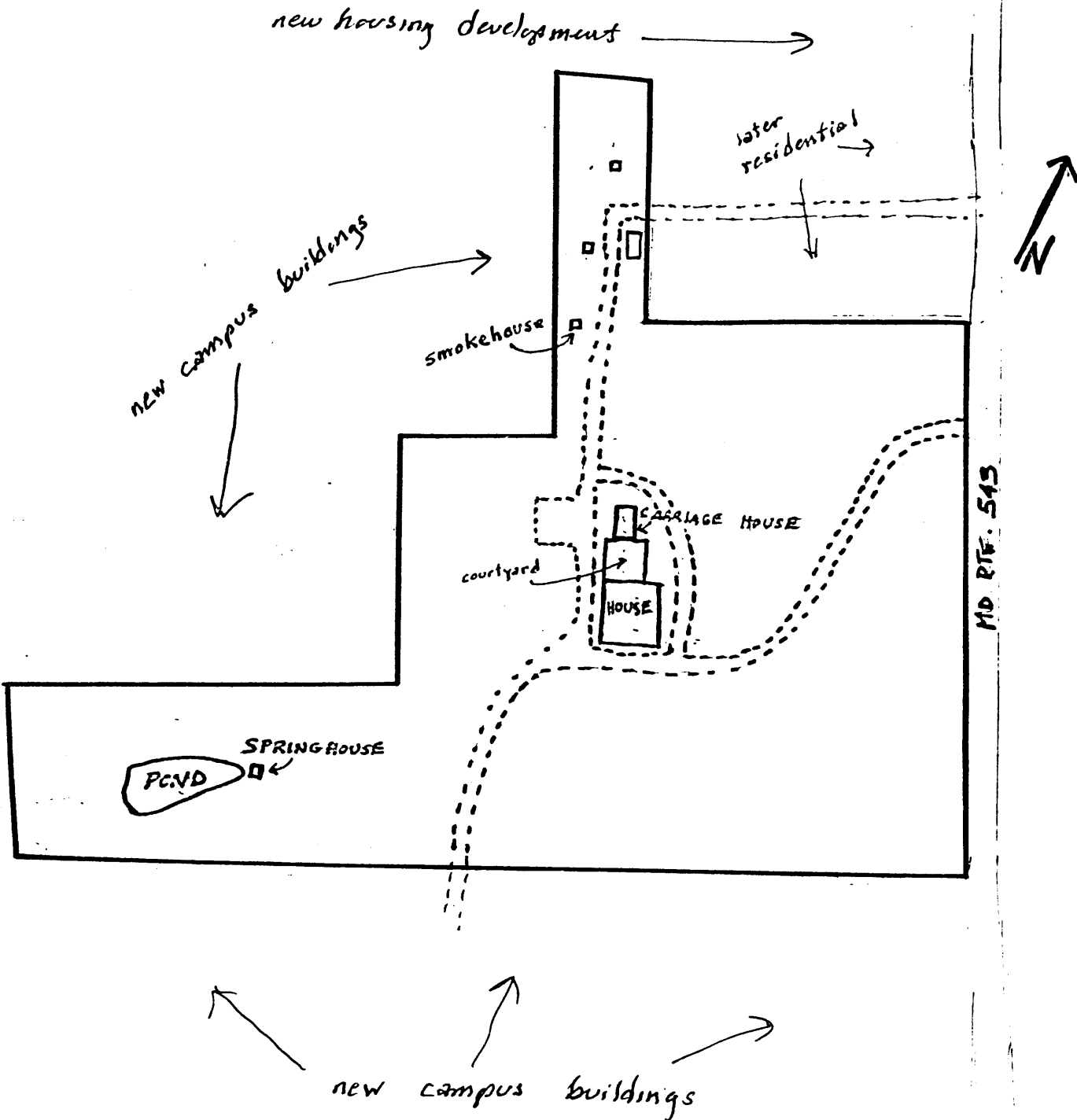
Fair Meadows

Harford County

Maryland

not to scale

sketch plan of property



SEP 16 1980

NOV 25 1980