

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **JAN 29 1980**
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Mitchell House, (Fair Hill)

AND/OF COMMON

LOCATION

MD 213 and MD 273

STREET & NUMBER Southeast corner of the intersection of
Maryland Routes 213 and 273

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Fair Hill

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Cecil

CODE

015

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: None

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Graziano

STREET & NUMBER

R.D. 8, Box 106

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21921

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland 21921

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The Mitchell House, circa 1764, is a 2½-story, side hall/double parlor, granite house with frame additions located at Fair Hill, Maryland on the southeast corner of Route 273 and Route 213. The main gable runs east/west, while the primary facade has a southern exposure.

The 18th century main block is three bays across by two rooms deep and approximately 25' x 31'. The 19th century brought many additions and alterations to the existing hall-parlor plan. A single story stone wing was added to the back of the main block at an uncertain but probably 19th century date. Later in the 19th century, this was raised to two stories by the addition of a frame section. On the east a more extensive addition was made to the gable end in the mid to late 19th century. This is a 2½-story frame structure, two bays across by two rooms deep. The roofline of the early stone structure was continued with this addition. A late 19th or early 20th century, one-story porch was added across the front and half of the west wall of the original house. Other less significant and smaller additions were attached to the east and north sides of the residence.

The 18th century house is constructed of coursed granite with an uncoursed fieldstone foundation. The structure has a medium-pitched gable roof sheathed in tin.

The three-bay south facade has symmetrical fenestration with later two-over-two sash with plain trim replacing the earlier window treatment. The entrance, located in the easternmost bay, retains its ovolo banded surround and paneled reveals. It also has a four-light transom overhead. The six-panel door was stolen, and the doorway is now boarded up. The boxed cornice on this facade is a 19th century replacement.

The west end of the 18th century section has two 2/2 sash windows on each floor on either side of the interior chimney. Two four-pane windows flank the chimney in the gable. The stack above the roof line has been replaced with a stretcher bond brick cap. A stone drip course extends across this end at eave level and served as protection for the pent eave that formerly stretched across this facade; just under the drip course the stonework is inferior, where it was covered by the pent roof. A barge board closes the roof on the gable end.

The north facade of the 18th century section is totally covered by the rear additions. The additions themselves are fairly plain. The first story stone section has been stuccoed and the frame section is sheathed with 19th century weatherboard siding. The windows have been covered over with protective plywood. A stretcher bond brick chimney stack protrudes from the shallow tin roof at its north gable end. Another non-descript gabled frame addition was appended to the northeast of the frame and stone wing. An open shed-roofed storage shed is attached to this latest addition.

The west elevation of the house at the rear appears as a conglomeration of porch additions. The east facade of the front addition has the same depth as the 18th century block. This section, like the rest of the addition, is sheathed with weatherboard siding. The fenestration is symmetrical with two-over-two sash and plain trim. A small, pedimented lintel is attached to the top of each window.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mitchell house at Fair Hill is an important part of the architectural history of Cecil County. It is one of four houses that give the main intersection at Fair Hill its early to mid-19th century character. It exhibits a number of regional building characteristics, including construction with local stone and the presence of a pent eave across the gable end at cornice height. The house is also an interesting combination of high-style and vernacular architectural forms. The house was presumably built by Dr. Abraham Mitchell, shortly after he purchased the property in 1781. The house has a side hall/double parlor floor plan, which is a very early use of this plan in this area. It is constructed of dressed stone blocks, a fancier treatment than is seen in the more usual fieldstone construction. At the same time, the woodwork in the house is characteristic of the third quarter of the 18th century and does not reflect the style consciousness evident in the features mentioned above.

John Hollingsworth obtained the grant of land called Fair Hill in 1714. Dr. Abraham Mitchell purchased 200 acres, including the location of the present house, in 1781. Dr. Mitchell was an early physician, who established a practice that extended from Harford County through Cecil County and into New Castle County, Delaware. During the Revolutionary War, Dr. Mitchell ran a hospital in Elkton for sick and wounded soldiers. Dr. Mitchell owned houses in both Elkton and Fair Hill, but it was to his Fair Hill home that he retired in later years. Dr. Mitchell died in 1817 leaving the Fair Hill residence to his son, George E. Mitchell.

Born in 1781, George E. Mitchell was also a physician. In 1808 he was elected to the Maryland General Assembly, and later he was elected president of the Executive Council. In 1812 he resigned his political posts, raised a company of volunteers, and entered the military. He fought at Sackett's Harbor on Lake Ontario and Oswego. At the close of the War of 1812, he was the first to announce the news of peace to the British authorities in Canada. Upon his return to Maryland, Colonel Mitchell was decorated, and in 1821 he resigned his commission. In 1822 he was elected to the 18th U.S. Congress. Mitchell had the honor of extending an invitation to Lafayette to revisit the United States. The two men became friends, and Lafayette visited the Mitchell residence at Fair Hill. Colonel Mitchell died in 1832, while still a member of Congress.

The ownership of the Mitchell House is unclear from the end of George Mitchell's occupancy in 1832 to the year 1861. A map of 1838 indicates that a hotel was on the site, along with a store and post office. This would substantiate the need for the numerous additions dating from the mid-19th century. In 1861 Henry Hess purchased the Mitchell property from George Cleadon (WHR 2/696). Three generations of the Hess family lived there until 1937, when Stockford Farms purchased the property. In 1975 the State of Maryland acquired the house along with other properties in the vicinity.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ewing, Cecil. The Mitchell House, Report to the Cecil County Historical Society, January 18, 1975
Miller, Alice. Cecil County, A Study in Local History.
Mitchell File, Cecil County Historical Society, Elkton.
Land Records, Cecil County Courthouse, Elkton, Maryland.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Newark West

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 4,2,5 5,6,0 4,3 9,4 8,7,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE George W. Lutz, Historic Sites Surveyor
Paul B. Touart, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION Cecil County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust DATE August 15, 1978

STREET & NUMBER Cecil County Courthouse, Room 1 TELEPHONE (301) 398-7568

CITY OR TOWN Elkton STATE Maryland ZIP 21921

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE [Signature] DATE 1-16-80

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4-11-80

ATTEST: [Signature]
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
Regional Coordinator

DATE 4-9-80

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Mitchell House Fair Hill
Cecil County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

There are paneled shutters on the first floor and louvered on the second and in the gable. The eave is extended with short returns on this gable end. A two-story bay window occupies the southernmost bay; it is topped by a heavy cornice and bracketed supports. A basement entrance is located on this side of the structure.

The south (main) facade of this east addition is similar to the east side in detail. There are two bays across the front and the window placement is symmetrical with paneled shutters on the first floor and louvered on the second. The box cornice is a continuation from the 18th century section.

The late 19th century, one-story porch across the front and west of the house has a shed roof supported by Doric columns. The columns rest on a frame floor.

The front door to the eighteenth century section opens into a spacious hall (8' x 24') with the main stair rising to the second floor in the northeast corner. The hall possesses two different types of chairrail and door moldings. The front door molding and chairrail that abuts it appears to be of 18th century style, while the surrounds of the doors to the front and back parlors and the chairrail next to it seem to be of the 1825-1840 period. (see drawings).

The stairway was vandalized and the newel and part of the railing are missing, but the half rail and supports on the inside exterior wall have survived. Enough of the handrail remains so the appearance of the missing parts can be determined. The main newel was composed of four square posts that rose from a solid block about four inches square. The post closed again when the open section reached four inches from the top of the newel. The entire effect was that of a cage. There are five rectangular balusters on each tread of the first flight of stairs, these decrease in number above the first landing. The step ends have a simple scroll decoration. The open stair extends to the second floor where it closes for the attic flight. The attic stair was previously enclosed with a paneled door and paneled partition; these features were removed by vandals. A flight of steps to the basement is located under the first floor flight; the early door has been removed.

The 18th century front parlor has been altered slightly with later woodwork, and the opening between the front and back parlors was enlarged. Early paneled reveals remain in the front and side windows in both parlors. The chairrail has disappeared and a Greek Revival corner mantel has replaced the early one. This mantel has partially detached columns that support a fairly plain entablature with pilasters at the ends and a central block in the frieze. The mantel shelf is stepped out and extends beyond the pilasters. The corner fireplace in the rear parlor retains a fireback with the date 1764, but the mantel is gone.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION , continued)

The basement space is divided by a partition of overlapping boards. Triangular chimney supports are located on the west wall. On the south wall are two basement windows with heavy timber mortise and tenon frames and diamond cross-sectioned bars. A cellar entry, obsolete with the presence of the east addition, is located on the southeast wall of the 18th century structure. A partial basement was dug under the east addition and a cellar entry added there. A doorway was then cut through the stone to gain access to the entire cellar. The interior of the 18th century section has been whitewashed.

The second floor of the original stone section has been altered and most of the early woodwork removed. The space is divided into three rooms and a hall. The north bedroom has a simple mantel with a small architrave molding and extended mantel shelf. The south bedroom mantel is no longer in place. All the early doors have been replaced with later paneled doors and mid to late 19th century hardware. The scar of a missing chairrail is evident in the south bedroom.

The attic space is unfinished, and a few original pine floor boards remain.

The interior of the mid-19th century sections have so far remained intact. The east wing is divided into two rooms, each with a chimney flue. The door and window surrounds are composed of fluted trim and corner blocks. The woodwork in the back wing is very plain. A small stair located on the south wall of the wing is open until the attic flight, which is enclosed.

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Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

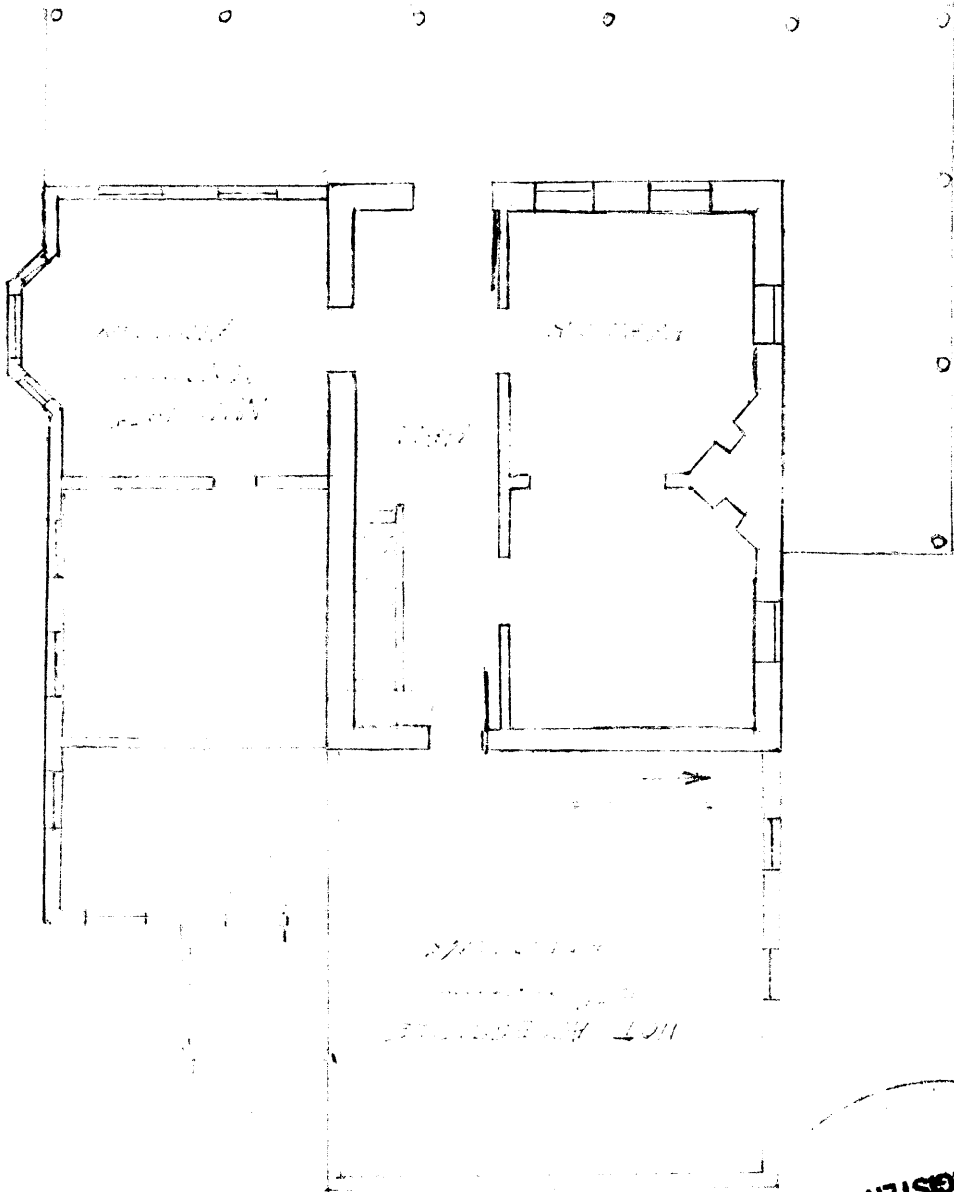
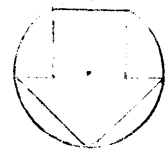
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the corner of the intersection of Routes 273 and 213 at Fair Hill and going directly south 150 feet to an access road to the Fair Hill Park property, from thence 450 feet ~~due east~~^{north easterly} and thence about 37 feet due north to Route 273, thence directly west 450 feet to the place of beginning and containing approximately a half an acre.

see phone report of 6/5/78

100-100000

100-100000



HOT BATHROOM



100-100000

MILWAUKEE

100-100000