

**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

1. Name

historic Glencoe

and/or common Glencoe

2. Location

street & number 1314 Glencoe Road N/A not for publication

city, town Glencoe N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

state Maryland code 24 county Baltimore code 005

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 type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. J. Alexander Haller, Jr.
Dr. Emily S. Haller

street & number 1314 Glencoe Road

city, town Glencoe-Sparks vicinity of state Maryland 21152

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue

city, town Towson state Maryland 21204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

BA-407

Condition
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one **Check one**
 unaltered original site
 altered(stable) moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Glencoe is a complex of Italianate-influenced domestic buildings and structures, clustered around a square, two-story frame dwelling, five bays wide by four bays deep, with a transomed central entrance flanked by floor-to-ceiling 6/6 sash windows. A broad porch wraps around the south (front) and west facades; an iron-railed deck atop the porch is accessed through a second-story doorway in the central bay of the south facade. The shallow hipped roof is covered with standing-seam tin; its deeply overhanging soffits feature Italianate brackets, with acorn pendants at the corners. Four interior brick chimneys rise around a central observation deck. The interior has a center-hall plan, and retains much original decorative detailing, including the stair, ceiling moldings, wide plain architraves, and carved marble mantelpieces. Gas lighting fixtures are still in place. Also on the property is a two-story, mansard-roofed stable/carriage house, seven bays wide by two bays deep; round-topped dormers interrupt the shingled mansard. The cornice is bracketed, and a cupola tops the roof. Other significant outbuildings include a smoke house, ice house, sheep shed, garden house (probably a former chicken house), and a latticed frame gazebo with scroll-sawn barge boards. The buildings are situated in a scenic landscape of slopes and rock outcrops; their siting reflects the picturesque esthetic of the second half of the 19th century.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

"Glencoe" is the name of both a neighborhood and an estate. The property here described is a complex of Italianate domestic buildings that once embraced a summer hotel, a rail station, boat house, and post office. The present mansion was the family home of the Mowells who developed the vacation spot. The surviving home structures are not much changed from their appearance in a two-page woodcut published in the standard county history of 1881.

The structures on the property include:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Mansion | 5. Sheep shed |
| 2. Stable-carriage house | 6. Garden house |
| 3. Smoke house | 7. Gazebo |
| 4. Ice House | |

1. Mansion. The mansion is mainly a square, two-story structure of frame and clapboard in Italianate design. The architectural front faces south and is five bays wide with a central entrance topped by a transom. The broad front porch continues to the west (left) side of the house. Directly above the main, formal entrance is a second-story doorway leading to an iron-railed deck over the porches. The main and west facades are fitted with outsized floor-to-ceiling windows typical of the period, double-hung sashes with 6/6 lights. The west facade is four bays wide at each story with both wooden railed porch and iron-railed deck. The north facade or rear is three bays deep with fully

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

developed window pattern, including a centrally located rear door (double doors), (the more practical access from the driveway), with side lights and a transom with seven square lights.

The east facade is the point of contact for an older dwelling, a smaller and lower structure of frame and clapboard in vernacular design with a gable roof. This wing also has a full-width porch on the south elevation, which is four bays wide, with two doors opening onto the porch.

The main block features an overhanging roof and full complement of Italianate scroll-sawn brackets between cornice and soffit. At each corner of the roof there is a large acorn drop pendant. The roof is of standing-seam tin, hip in design, rather low in pitch. Four internal chimneys of brick rise around a centrally located observation deck that is enclosed by plain wooden railings and square ballusters. The rain gutters of the house are hidden inside the fascia and soffits.

This house is perched on a high basement, and standing as it does at the top of the slope, seems to tower over the pasture and the local road. Dimensions taken in 1918 by the county assessor were 36 by 46 feet. The 1881 woodcut shows the house with a third story of Mansarding, but that layout apparently never existed and the oldest residents recall the structure as it is now.

The east wing has been embellished with a one-story (plus basement) half-hexagon bay at its east end. A small, louvered, half of a cupola is attached to the gable end of the east wing, rising from the roofing of the hexagonal addition.

The interior of the mansion is spacious but not elaborate, possibly because it was part of a rural resort. The best interior features are the full length central hall, the steep stairway that almost reaches the second story before curving, and the wooden ceiling mouldings. The main block has three parlors and a dining room on the first story: two rooms on either side of the hall. Elaborate gas fixtures are still in place. The fireplace mantels are set in chimney breasts and the mantelpieces are of grey polished marble with round-topped openings decorated with cartouches and spandrels. The two west parlors are divided by a wide archway that once contained four folding doors. The dining room and east parlor are joined by a wide rectangular opening. The ceiling mouldings are all of wood, simple in design but notable. Door frames are wide but plain. The stairway has a round oak newell post, white turned ballusters, and white ornamental brackets. At the north and south ends of the center hall are paneled double doors topped by rectangular transoms, flanked by sidelights.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The smaller wing to the east contains a narrow stairway and smaller rooms. The exposed kitchen ceiling shows that the second-story rafters and girts are mortised and tenoned, probably of sawmill timber.

2. Stable-Carriage House. The stable-carriage house consists of a one-story ground floor segment built of frame and clapboard with a loft and living quarters for slaves or servants located in a mansard-roofed garret. The west end of the building was a dairy. The main facade faces south and contains seven bays of double-hung sash windows at each level. The second-story windows are set in shallow dormers that break through the shingled mansarding. The upper sashes in the dormers are round-topped. The stable is two bays deep on its ends, also supplied with windows and dormers. The rear elevation opened into the farm yard and contained one wide door for vehicles and animals, plus four ordinary doors, all at ground level. The second-story contains seven more windows set in shallow dormers. The mansard story overhangs the first story and provides room for a series of scroll-sawn brackets in the Italianate style. The rain gutters, like those on the main house, are ingeniously hidden in the soffit and fascia. The building is topped by a square cupola formed of sash windows, three sets of windows along the long axis of the stable, twin windows on the short axis. The windows are of the casement type, four large lights each. The cupola is decorated with Italianate brackets and its hip roof of sheet metal is topped off by a short finial. This building was thoroughly restored in 1982 to provide habitable space on both levels. Much good country carpenter work can be seen in its framing, studding, and early lath and plastering.

3. Smokehouse. Behind the stable (to the northwest) is a rectangular gable-roofed, smoke house of mixed brick and frame construction. The main facade is clapboarded; a lancet-framed doorway is flanked by lancet windows. There are twin lancet windows in the gable peak at the attic or loft level.

4. Ice House. Behind the stable (to the northwest) is an ice house with brick sides and clapboard front. The central door is round-topped with louvering in its pediment. The flanking windows are also round-topped and louvered. A 50-foot-deep pit inside once stored ice cut from the nearby Gunpowder Falls.

5. Sheep Shed. Up the slope from the smoke house is a small one-story frame building in vertical board-and-batten with a center door topped by a carved wooden sunburst. This structure was designed to shelter ewes during the lambing season.

6. Garden House. A small frame structure that appears to have been a chicken house was apparently converted to a garden house or play house. The doorway is topped by a diamond shaped louvered ventilator; the center door is flanked by diamond window frames with four lights each.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

7. Gazebo. The gazebo is a square frame structure with a red sheet-metal hip roof. The walls are formed of white lattice panels, set in arches between the supporting columns. The roof is decorated with saw-toothed descending barge boards.

8. Significance

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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/ humanitarian
<input 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 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 1851-1856 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: B, and C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Glencoe derives significance from two sources. The complex has architectural significance as an example of the type of country residence constructed by affluent city dwellers in the mid-19th century in response to new developments in rail transportation which made rural locations conveniently accessible from the urban centers of commerce and industry. Shortly after the initial construction of Glencoe ca. 1851-1856 as a private residence, subsequent owners further capitalized on the rail link by developing the property as a summer resort. The buildings reflect the influence of the Italianate style of architecture as expressed in rural contexts in Maryland, and are situated in a scenic landscape which expresses the picturesque esthetic of the late 19th century. The complex derives additional significance from its association over the period of 108 years between 1858 and 1966, with the heirs of Peter Mowell (1806-1869), a Baltimore industrialist whose iron-smelting business prospered during the expansionary era of the national railway system. The iron balcony railings of the house may be the products of the Mowell plant.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

"Glencoe" is an excellent collection of Victorian domestic structures of Italianate style that once formed the core of a fashionable summer resort and spa for the heat-oppressed and plague-fearing residents of the port city of Baltimore. The surviving structures were probably built between 1851 and 1856. A newspaper advertisement of 1856 clearly documents the development of the farm complex by at least that date. The surviving buildings are almost unchanged from those shown in a realistic, center-fold woodcut published in the first county history book of 1881 which depicts the complex as a fully-developed summer resort. The buildings are in excellent condition and reflect the spaciousness and cheerfulness of the old summer resort and are set in a terrain full of slopes and gneiss outcrops that reflects the picturesque esthetic of the Victorian era.

"Glencoe" was apparently developed between 1851, when William Medcalfe purchased a large tract of rural land from Rufus K. Love at "Love's Switch", and 1856, when a highly improved home site was advertised in the Baltimore City papers. Medcalfe was a Baltimore banker, and a former clerk of the County Court.¹ By August of 1854, Medcalfe had become insolvent and was obliged to convey his property to a trustee, Grafton L. Dulany.² The trustee conveyed in

9. Major Bibliographical References

J. Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County (Philadelphia, 1881), illustration pp. 916-917; text, p. 879.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 4 acres

Quadrangle name Hereford, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

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 #6

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrain, Secretary, Landmarks Preservation Commission

organization Office of Planning and Zoning date 24 September 1982

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue telephone 301-494-3521

city or town Towson state Maryland 21204

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 *J. McGrain* date 3-18-83

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. Melrose Byrum date 5/9/83
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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National Park Service**

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

November 1854 to William J. Ward, an attorney who lived and worked at 48 Lexington Street in Baltimore City.³ In the absence of early tax and transfer books, it is difficult to determine whether the structures were built by Medcalfe or by Ward. In June 1856, Ward advertised the property called "Glencoe" for sale, and a number of structures were then in place; a key statement in the advertisement claimed, "The farm has been cultivated for a few years only." The 1857 county map published by Robert Taylor showed at this spot one house symbol identified as "Glencoe/J. Ward."⁴

In May 1858, Ward assigned the property to Peter Mowell, whose family would be owners for the next 108 years.⁵ Mowell paid \$16,186 for 223 acres along the Gunpowder Falls, part of the ancient land survey called "Taylor's Purchase." A native of Little Washington, Pennsylvania, Mowell was a highly-successful industrialist who owned and operated steam-powered furnaces for the production of bloom and pig iron. His holdings included the Cedar Point Furnace at the east edge of Baltimore City as well as other industrial tracts in Canton (then part of Baltimore County) on which other investors had built iron furnaces. He had started out as an employee of the Ellicott family's furnaces and managed their furnace at Locust Point.⁷ Mowell died on November 7, 1869, and later testamentary proceedings showed that he had made his home at Glencoe and was a widower at the time of his death. One witness, Samuel Kirk, bookkeeper of the Chesapeake Bank, stated that he had helped lay out Mr. Mowell's body. By Kirk's estimate, the entire estate was worth \$200,000. A plat of Glencoe Farm filed in the case showed the dwelling, station, and a small structure west of the Northern Central Railroad tracks.⁸ Peter Mowell's son, Joseph W. Mowell, became owner. A transfer book entry of 1872 shows the addition of a warehouse to his tax account.⁹ The 1876 tax ledger carried 21 identifiable structures, including a steam saw and grist mill.¹⁰

In 1878, a county weekly carried the following news item:

Glencoe Springs. - This beautiful resort on the Northern Central Railroad, in this county, has been rented by Miss Amelia Graham, formerly of Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore. Thk place has been nicely fitted up and many improvements made so as to make it attractive to visitors.¹¹

The following year, Joseph Mowell advertised for a new tenant to lease and operate the hotel, stating, "the furniture all new and made for the house, with ample supply of china and silverware . . ."¹²

At its heyday, the hotel and surrounding homesite were depicted in the 1881 county history by Scharf.¹³ In 1906, the Glencoe hotel was leased by Henry D. Perky to house the women students of agricultural and industrial college. The summer hotel was made habitable by adding insulation and a heating plant. The projected college would have dwarfed the private residences of Glencoe

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

neighborhood, had it grown as planned, but Henry Perky died in 1907, leaving an estate incapable of finishing his ambitious Oread College. ¹⁴

The property was gradually broken up and the 1915 atlas shows George R. Mowell as owner of the acreage containing the Glencoe house and outbuildings, and J. W. Mowell south of Glencoe Road. The atlas shows the resort as "McLaughlin Hotel," for its owner Frank E. McLaughlin, who had acquired its three acres in 1908. ¹⁵

Eventually, Baltimore residents stopped patronizing summer resorts so close to home, and the hotel was "removed" in 1936, according to the tax ledgers. ¹⁶ Local traditions hold that it burned in the 1920s. The executor of the last Mowell family owner (Christine C. A. Mowell) sold the mansion property to the present owners in 1966. ¹⁷ The spacious environment and cheerful appearance of the old resort town is preserved amid the surviving buildings north of Glencoe Road.

Notes

- ¹Baltimore City Deeds, TK 457:329.
- ²Baltimore County Deeds, HMF 8:544.
- ³Baltimore County Deeds, GHC 21:45, 46.
- ⁴Robert Taylor, "Map of Baltimore County, Maryland," Baltimore, 1857.
- ⁵Baltimore Sun, June 5, 1856, p. 2.
- ⁶Baltimore County Deeds, GHC 21:494.
- ⁷J. Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County, (Philadelphia, 1881), p. 879.
- ⁸B.C. Judicial Records, EHA 24:88, 96,98,105,107.
- ⁹B.C. Transfer Book No. 10, 1867 -, District 10, F. 6.
- ¹⁰B.C. Tax Ledger, District 10, 1876, unpagged.
- ¹¹Towson Maryland Journal, June 1, 1878.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Notes Continued)

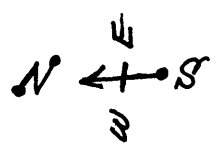
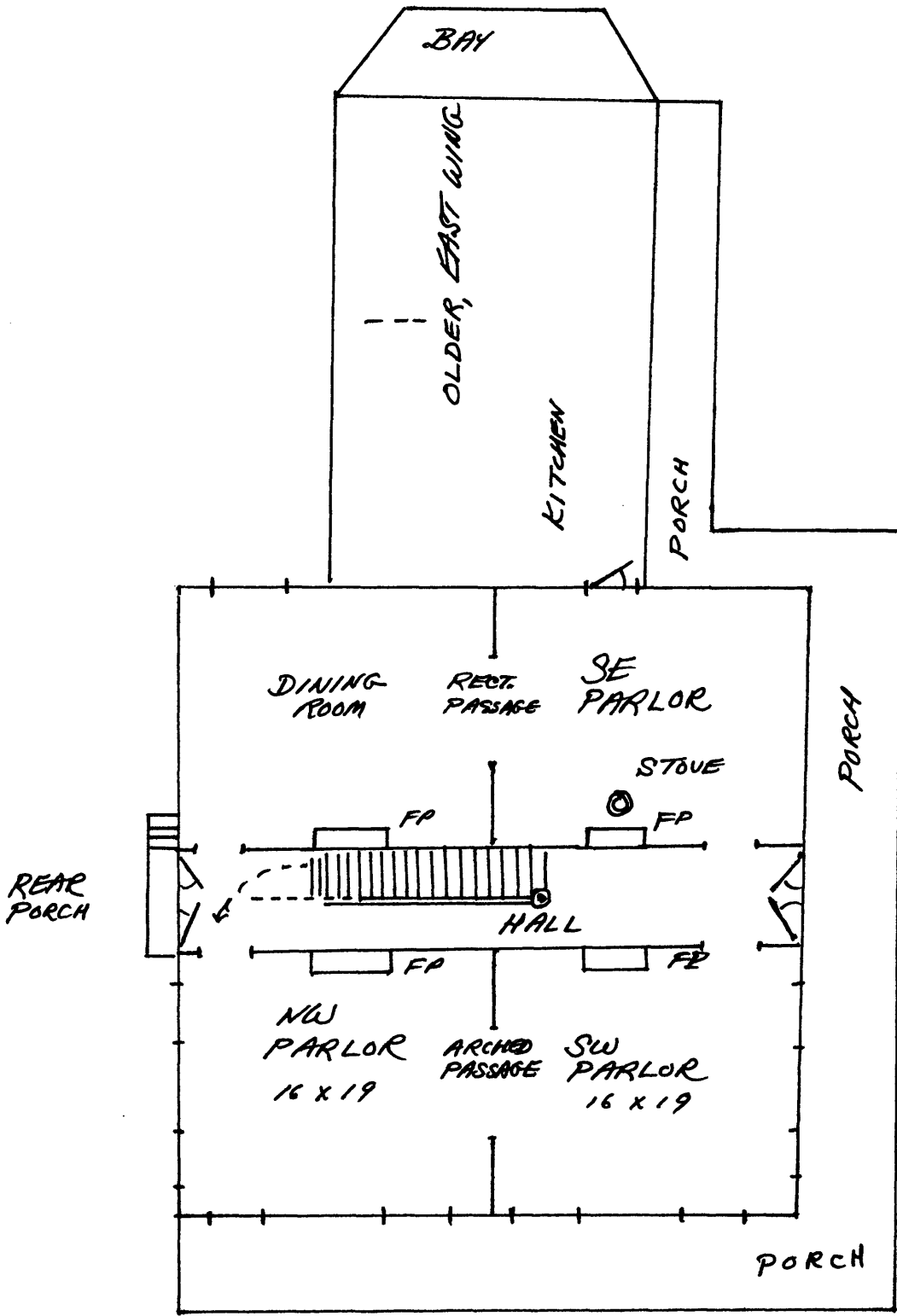
- 12 Baltimore Sun, May 5, 1879.
- 13 J. Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County, (Philadelphia, 1881,) p. 916 917.
- 14 Andrew C. Clemens, "The Oread Republic," History Trails, 11 (Winter 1976-77): 8-9. Includes 1929 photo of hotel.
- 15 George W. Bromley, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1915). Also, B.C. Tax Ledgers, District 10, 1911, f. 153; 1918, f. 183. B.C. Deeds, WPC 341:72.
- 16 B.C. Tax Ledger, District 10, 1928-1940, f. 219. Beginning in 1928, the hotel had been merely listed as a house (valued at \$6200).
- 17 Ms. Mowell died on July 15, 1966. B.C. Deeds, OTG 4704:77.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

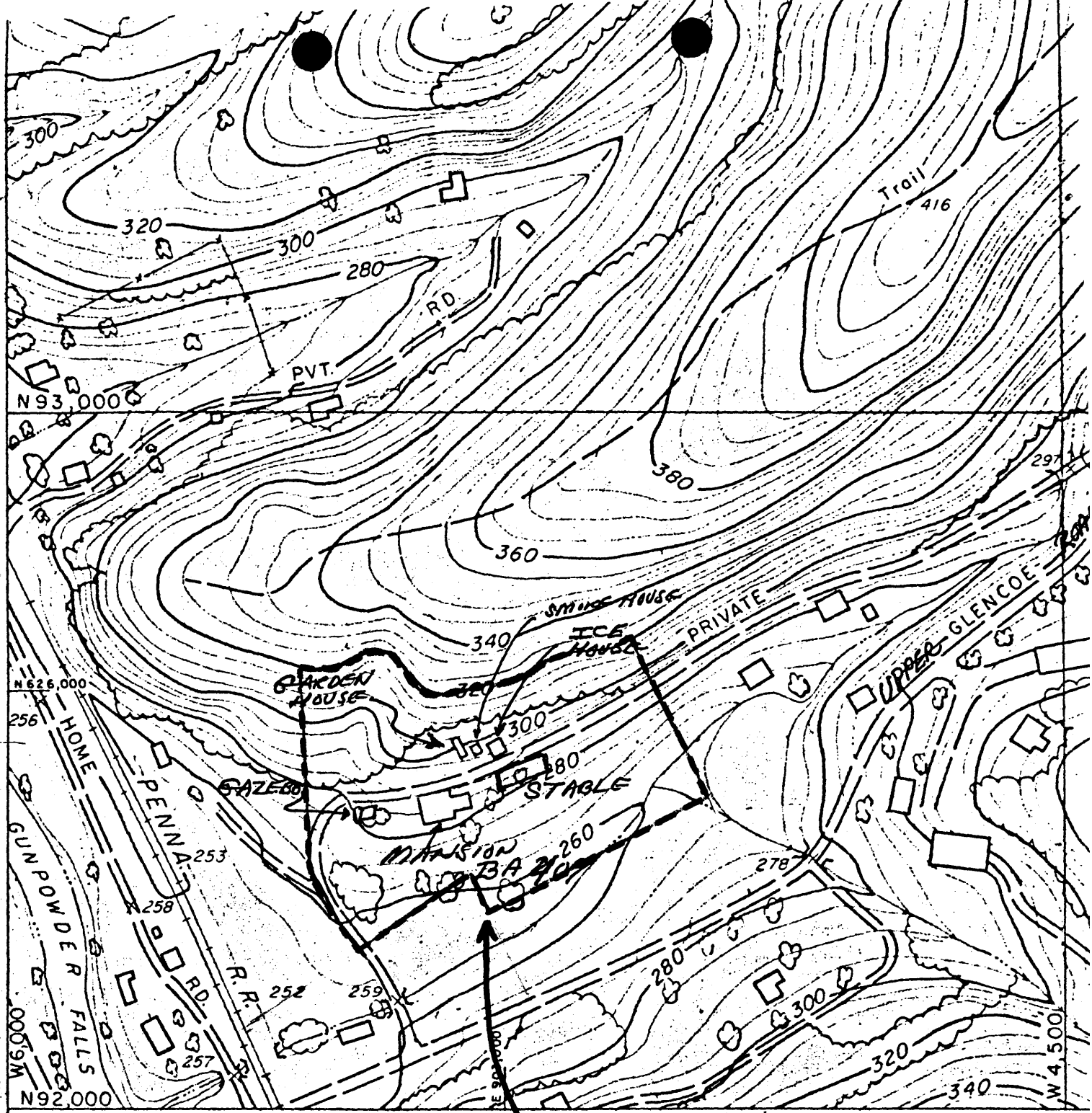
Boundaries are depicted on the attached map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes approximately 4 acres, containing the buildings which contribute to the significance of the complex and the landscaping features which evoke the historic setting of the resource.



GLENCOE, MANSION,
FLOOR PLAN



DD - NE EE - NW

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY

GLENCOE BA 407

Scale: 1 INCH = 200 FEET

SHEET 24 A NW

Glencoe about 1880, shown in
J. Thomas Scharf, History of
Baltimore City and County
(Philadelphia, 1881), between
pp. 916-917

