

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | JUL 3 1978 |
| DATE ENTERED | MAY 30 1979 |

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

Norris-Stirling house

AND/OR COMMON

Mount Pleasant

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER SE side of Ring Factory Road, NE of its junction with
Hollingsworth Road, 4 miles SW of Bel Air

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bel Air

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

024

Harford

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input 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"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Campbell Lloyd Stirling

STREET & NUMBER

2211 North Charles Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Baltimore,

VICINITY OF

Maryland 21218

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Bel Air,

Maryland

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Norris-Stirling house, presently known as Mount Pleasant, is located approximately four miles southwest of Bel Air on the southeast side of Ring Factory Road, northeast of its junction with Hollingsworth Road. The house is comprised of an early nineteenth century stone section and two later frame additions. Outbuildings include a frame barn and corn-crib, a stone springhouse and a garage.

The original section of the house is three bays by one room deep. It is constructed of uncoursed fieldstone with a slate roof. Its front and rear elevations both consist of an entrance in the north bay with two nine-over-six windows in the south bays of the first floor. Over the plainly trimmed, recessed door is a four-light transom. Flanking the entrance, reveals carved with three panels echo the pattern of the six-paneled door. A reconstructed hood, contemporary in design to the house, protects the entrance. On the second floor, three six-over-six sash windows are aligned with the door and two first floor windows. All of these windows have narrow, white painted trim and green shutters with stationary louvers. The gabled dormer window was probably added after the first addition was constructed to admit light to the south attic room. Two casement windows, in the peak of the north elevation, illuminate the other small attic room and stairway. The windows in the house all have very wide sills due to the thickness of the walls, and many window panes retain the original glass.

The floor plan consists of a stair hall and one room on both the first and second stories. Much attention was given to the design and execution of the open string stair with halfpace landings. Opposite these two landings, the well is terminated in a quarter circle which lends simple elegance to the lines of the stair. The balusters, square at the bottom and round above, are delicately proportioned, as are brackets along the string course. The division of a second story rear window by a stair landing is functional as it illuminates two flights of the stair and retains the symmetry of the exterior elevation.

There is an interior end chimney of brick at the east end of the stone portion. The first floor wooden mantel is carved with plain pilasters, topped by a frieze with torus molding and a simple mantel shelf. The mantel on the second floor is also classically inspired but is more simple in its execution.

Six-paneled doors throughout the original section are identical to the one of the front entrance. They have brass box locks which were present when Mrs. Stirling's mother, Mrs. Louis Muller, purchased the house in 1936. One of the attic doors has a wooden box lock. The original walnut floors remain throughout this section.

The first addition may be entered from the older part by a door cut

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--|
| PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| 1500-1599 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| 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 Circa 1803

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Situated in the midst of a wooded tract of about 50 acres, the Norris-Stirling house is an early 19th century farmhouse with a later 19th century addition and small 20th century addition.

The original section of the house is a small, stone structure typical in style of early 19th century stone architecture in Harford County. The quality of craftsmanship on the interior is unusually fine and well preserved for a house of this type in this area.

Outbuildings, including the stone springhouse, frame barn, and corn house, are evidence of the agricultural activity which supported at least three generations of the Norris family. The property consists of pasture, in addition to its wooded areas, enhancing the farm setting of the complex.

Aquilla Norris purchased this land, part of a tract known as Clegates Forest, from John Beale Bordley in 1784 (JLG F/132). The 73½ acres were conveyed by Aquilla to his son Rhesa in 1803 (HD U/423). The house is thought to have been built within several years of this date. In 1843 Rhesa and his wife Susannah deeded 26½ acres to their son Silas N., "in consideration of love and affection for their son" (HD 29/89). After the death of Silas, his trustee, Frank C. Norris, sold the property to Archibald H. Wann (WSF 95/145). The land passed to Benjamin F. Wann, and in 1936 he sold it to Amelia V. Muller, who listed Amelia Prescott Stirling and Campbell Lloyd Stirling as tenants in common (SWC 241/447). The house was restored by Baltimore architect, Laurence Ewald, shortly thereafter.

In 1976 Mr. and Mrs. Campbell Lloyd Stirling granted an easement on the house and surrounding acres to the Maryland Historical Trust. This document states that the property constitutes a "significant historical and cultural resource."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Harford County.
 Research provided by Mrs. Stirling, copy in the files of the Maryland Historical Trust.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA *14 ac. Revised. See Continuation Sheet*

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ~~50 acres~~ (approximately) *50 acres*
 QUADRANGLE NAME Edgewood QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| A | 1 8 | 3 8 3 2 6 0 | 4 3 7 2 2 8 0 | B | 1 8 | 3 8 3 6 0 0 | 4 3 7 1 9 2 0 |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | 1 8 | 3 8 2 8 9 0 | 4 3 7 1 5 6 0 | D | 1 8 | 3 8 2 6 8 0 | 4 3 7 1 5 8 0 |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Revised 5-29-79
 See enclosed plat map and boundary description.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Cheryl Dees, Summer Intern
 ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust DATE August 1977
 STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle TELEPHONE (301) 269-2438
 CITY OR TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland ZIP 21401

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *[Signature]* DATE 3-15-79
 TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

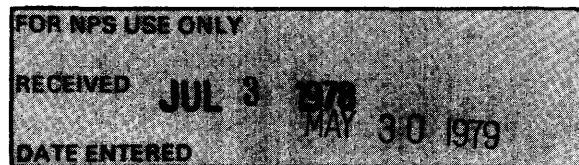
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *[Signature]* DATE 5-30-78
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
[Signature] DATE 5-30-79
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
 Regional Review Coordinator

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



Norris-Stirling house
Harford County,
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

through the south end of the chimney wall of the first and second stories. This section was in extreme disrepair when Mrs. Muller became the owner. As many of the walnut floorboards as possible were left on the first level. The replacements are well matched. The fireplace in the single first story room is wide and has an old iron crane in place at the back of the hearth. As the upstairs was beyond restoration, it was reconstructed to include a bath and two bedrooms. A winding stair which led to the second story was replaced by a straight stair located behind the same door which hid the original stair. The door to the stair is hung on iron strap hinges as is the closet next to it. The second floor doorway was cut through a closet in which some of the wooden clothes pegs remain.

A double-tiered porch was added to the front of the first addition in 1936. The first floor of the porch is paved with slate slabs originally from the streets of Delta, Pennsylvania. The upstairs porch is screened. The front and back doors with panes on the first floor were also installed at that time.

A lean-to which forms the most southern section replaces a smaller, earlier addition. This 1936 addition contains a kitchen, 2 baths, maid room and kitchen porch. Both this addition and the earlier one have slate roofs.

The large bank barn is constructed of roughly sawn timber and covered by a gable roof with cedar shingles. The foundation is of stone. Nearby is a frame corncrib. A stone springhouse is located in the wooded area in front of the house. In addition to the springhouse, there is a spring in the original cellar. The frame, three-car garage was built in 1936 and conforms to the lines of the barn.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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MAY 30 1979

Norris-Stirling house
Harford County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE 2

ENVIRONMENT OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Built on a high elevation in the rolling hills of Harford County, Mount Pleasant commands a view of spacious lawns and unspoiled woodlands. A number of the original trees and shrubs remain on the property, and others have been planted to enhance the landscape-box, magnolias, holly, azaleas, some evergreens, etc.

Whereas there are no formal gardens, there are thousands of spring bulbs and a wealth of native fern, myrtle, pachysandra, and dogwood. Violets carpet some areas in the spring, lilies-of-the-valley bloom in profusion and lilac waft their fragrance. Handsome stone walls of local fieldstone, restored or built by Mr. Stirling, are an unusual feature.

The large wooded areas abound in wild life, and are rich in laurel, wild azaleas, great masses of fern, wild flowers of many varieties. Any everywhere -- the music of birds.

Two streams water the property, and the half-mile wooded frontage along Ring Factory Road extends northerly to within about 400 feet of Winter's Run, a broad rock-bound creek in a picturesque valley. Truly a nature preserve.

The natural spring in the old stone springhouse is the source of an abundant supply of fine water, brought to the main house by an electric pump in the springhouse.

The large pastures are fenced for livestock.

ARCHEOLOGICAL NOTE: According to Mr. Stirling, an old resident of the neighborhood told him years ago that as a boy he remembered an Indian village nearby, and that he used to play with the Indian children. He said there were probably Indian mounds in our woods. Indian relics have been found there in the past.

Sept. 6, 1977

Amy A. Stirling
(Mrs. Campbell Lloyd Stirling)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| FOR HCRS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | 5/29/79 |
| DATE ENTERED | MAY 30 1979 |

Norris Stirling House
Harford County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (REVISED)

Revised Acreage: approx. 14

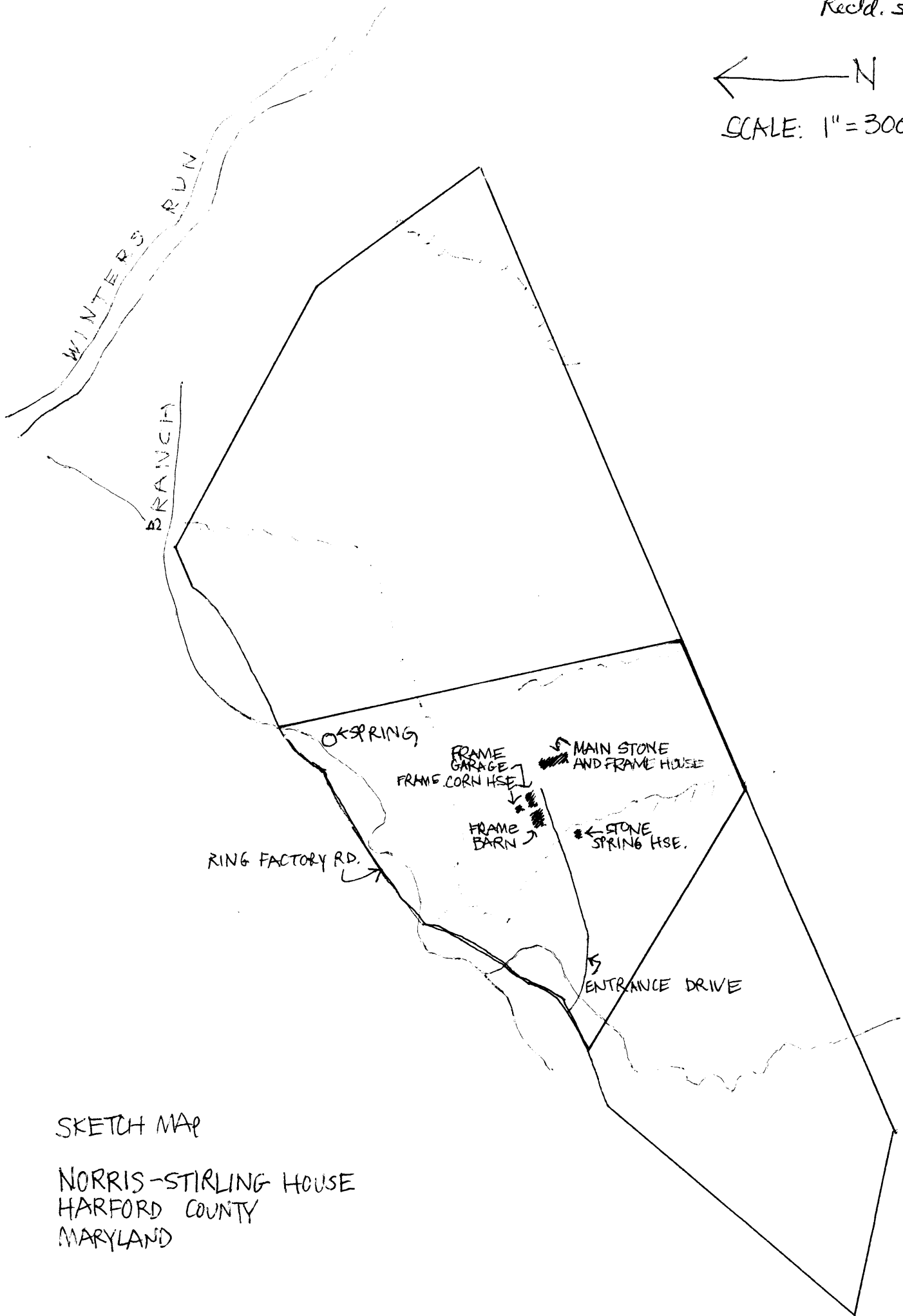
Beginning on the south side of Ring Factory Road about 112.5' southwest of the entrance drive to Mount Pleasant, following said road northeast about 1,050' to the point where a branch of Winters Run crosses said road, then south/southeast about 975' to a point on the property line of Mount Pleasant (course S67°20'W for a distance of 2,231.2 feet, of plat recorded in Harford County Deed Book 1017/105), then following said course southwest about 375 feet to a point inside the tree line then going in a straight line northwest about 750 feet to the point of beginning, containing approximately fourteen acres, more or less.

BOUNDARY EXPLANATION:

The boundary was drawn to include the house, outbuildings, spring drive, and immediate surroundings of the house. The latter includes woodlands on the north and west and open ground around the buildings. A line of trees partially closes off the view from the house to the open field beyond, which is outside the nominated boundary. (The black boundary on the sketch map encloses the acreage on which an easement was given to the Maryland Historical Trust.)

Rec'd. 5/29/79

← N
SCALE: 1" = 300'



SKETCH MAP

NORRIS-STIRLING HOUSE
HARFORD COUNTY
MARYLAND