

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

CARR-202

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUL 20 1987

date entered SEP - 3 1987

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

1. Name

historic Avalon

and/or common Avalon

2. Location

street & number Maryland Route 31 N/A not for publication

city, town New Windsor X vicinity of Sixth Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Carroll code 013

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Slingluff

street & number Avalon

city, town New Windsor N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21776

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New County Office Building

street & number 225 Center Street

city, town Westminster state Maryland 21157

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

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| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 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 <u>N/A</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Number of Resources | | Original historic function and uses: residential |
| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
| <u>2</u> | <u>0</u> buildings | |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> sites | Number of resources previously listed in the National Register: <u>0</u> |
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> structures | |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> objects | |
| <u>3</u> | <u>0</u> Total | |

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Avalon is an early 19th century brick house located at the end of a dirt lane on the south side of Maryland Route 31, approximately one mile east of the town of New Windsor in Carroll County, Maryland. The house is unique in the county in its refined expression of Neoclassical influence, and stands 1 1/2 stories high above an exposed basement constructed into a gentle slope. The west facade is laid in Flemish bond, and divided into three equal bays, with the central bay slightly recessed. The entrance, located in the central bay of the principal story, comprises a large double door framed with 3/3 sidelights, paneled pilasters, and a complex bracketed hood mold, the flanking bays hold 12/12 windows. A long flight of wooden steps reaches an open entrance porch; beneath this porch, a single door provides access to the ground (cellar) story, with an 8/8 window in each of the flanking bays. There is no watertable or belt course. Wooden panels are set into the brickwork at the half-story. a deep bracketed cornice runs along the eaves of the metal-clad gable roof. The south gable wall is also Flemish bond; a two-story retaining wall projects perpendicular to the east end of this wall. The common-bond north gable wall has a large doorway which served a breezeway which formerly connected the house to the 1 1/2-story gable-roofed brick summer kitchen standing just to the north. Also on the property is a large cellar dug into the bank behind the house, remaining from an early outbuilding since demolished. The interior is organized in a piano nobile plan, with each story partitioned into four rooms of unequal size. A remarkable freestanding spiral stair rises through the southwest hall. Interior decorative detailing comprises mantels, doors, architrave and baseboard trim reflecting Federal and Greek Revival designs. The building retains a high level of integrity.

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Avalon
Carroll County, Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Avalon is sited on gently sloping land, with the principal facade facing west down the hillside. The house is of brick construction, a true 1 1/2 stories high on a fully exposed cellar, with the pitched gable roof oriented on a north-south axis.

The front or west facade is divided into three equal bays, with the center bay recessed about 4 inches. A large double door on the principal floor is framed with 3/3 sidelights, paneled pilasters and a complex bracketed hood mold. Single 12/12 windows are centered in each flanking bay. Rectangular wood panels with a raised oval motif are centered above each window; triangular panels with an arched motif are set into a pair of recesses above the central door, which opens onto an open, 20th century entrance porch. A single door below the porch serves as the entrance to the ground floor (the cellar); this door is flanked by a single 8/8 window to each side.

The front facade is laid entirely in Flemish bond with no watertable or belt course. The window openings are formed with simple splayed jack arches. A deep, complex cornice with curvilinear brackets extends across the front facade and is repeated in smaller scale above the door.

The south gable wall is also offset to right of center. There are three 8/8 windows across the ground floor; the center and left window were originally doors. Several courses of American bond below the right hand window suggest the grading has been altered at some point, perhaps as part of a campaign of restoration and renovation carried out by F. Donald Shriver following his purchase of the property in 1935. A single 12/12 window is centered on the principal story, and smaller 6/6 windows are in the center and left bays of the upper story. A small opening in the upper gable provides minimal light to the attic.

A two story brick curtain wall projects perpendicular to the east end of the south wall. This wall is not keyed into the masonry of the house. An arched door opening in this wall at ground level opens into a passage that leads to the cellar of both the main house and the earlier building demolished by Mr. Shriver.

The north gable is less carefully executed. Constructed in 5:1 common bond, there is a pair of flush chimneys with a projecting base at the foot of the east chimney. Openings include a large cellar door, one large 6/6 window on the main floor and two smaller 6/6 windows in the upper story.

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The rear (east) facade is also relatively simple, with 5:1 common bond and a plainer version of the front cornice. There are four openings across the main story: a single six-panel door with one 12/12 to the left and two 12/12 windows to the right. A jib window is located in the bay immediately to the right of the entrance. A one story 20th century porch extends across the entire facade. The cellar story is completely below grade on this elevation.

The interior of the house essentially incorporates a piano nobile plan within a vernacular bank house. Principal access was apparently always through the ground level door in the west facade. The elaborate entrance above on the main floor formerly opened onto a balcony with no direct access, a feature that probably replaced an earlier entrance porch. The ground floor plan consists of four unequal sized rooms, with a remarkable "floating" circular stair in the south room, a large, sunny dining room to the southeast, a study in the northwest corner, and a kitchen and furnace room inserted into what was evidently a kitchen to northeast. A modern bath has been inserted between the two west rooms. Except for this alteration the stair hall remains completely original with Federal period architrave trim, chairrail and baseboard. The stair rises against the south and west walls and then curves up in a free-standing spiral to the principal floor. It has plain round rail, square balusters, and a relatively plain carriage.

The dining room also retains Federal period architrave trim and chairrail but the baseboard appears later and the floor has been replaced in recent years, presumably due to moisture. The mantel appears to be a 20th century custom built replica, possibly added by Mr. Shriver.

The study was completely renovated by Mr. Shriver, as was the old kitchen.

The four room plan is repeated on the principal floor with the addition of a bathroom inserted between the two north rooms by Mr. Shriver.

The stair continues up in a sweeping spiral to the second floor, and is further embellished by a reeded column with a carved Ionic capital.

The woodwork throughout the principal floor is more typical of the Greek Revival period, but has the appearance of being original, suggesting an exceptionally early, avant-garde occurrence consistent with the unusual refinement of the building's overall design. The architrave trim is symmetrically molded with Greek ogee-astrayal moldings and turned corner blocks; while this type of trim is most commonly associated with the period ca. 1830-50, it has been found in contexts as early as 1798 (at Druid Hill in Baltimore).¹ The mantel in the southeast room (the living room) is the most

¹Michael F. Trostel, A.I.A., personal communication.

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dramatic feature of this floor (aside from the stair). It has an exceptionally large broad surround with paneled pilasters flanking the opening, plain sideblocks and center block against a plain frieze and highly decorative complex molded shelf that breaks forward above the blocks.

The mantel in the northeast room appears to have been extensively reworked by Mr. Shriver, including a new frieze board, shelf and shelf moldings.

An elaborate mantel may also be seen in the northwest room but cannot be examined in detail due to the room's use as a bed chamber by Mrs. Slingluff, an invalid.

The four room plan is repeated on the second story, but with a storeroom between the two west rooms and a pair of shallow closets extending across the south gable wall of both south chambers. The woodwork on this floor is Federal in character, matching the ground floor.

Access to the roof is gained through a trap door in the southeast second-floor chamber. The roof framing comprises pit sawn common rafters joined at the ridge with a pinned mortise-and-tenon joint; pitch is relatively modest. The joists are not continuous, but are joined over a longitudinal partition. A pair of light braces runs diagonally from joists to rafters; they are half-lapped over these members and secured with double-struck nails. Later 1" x 10" boards run horizontally at the level of the intersection of the rafters and braces; these members are also attached with double-struck nails. Most of the 1" bracing is vertical sawn.

Troughs cut into the top face of some rafters indicate that the early roof had narrow (probably 1" x 3") nailers; this was replaced in the nineteenth century with wide board sheathing held in place by mature machine nails. The slate which is attached to this sheathing probably replaces an earlier covering of wood shingles. A metal roof, put on after 1935, now conceals the slate.

A 1 1/2-story brick summer kitchen stands to the north of the house; its west gable facade is two bays wide, with an entrance in the south bay and a 6/6 window in the north bay. A single window is centered on the second story. A door in the south wall marks the location of a breezeway which formerly connected the summer kitchen to the main house. The interior of the kitchen has two rooms on each story, with a large hearth and bakeoven in the north room on the first floor. Much of the interior finish has been renewed in recent years; historic trim which survives is quite plain. A small one-story shed-roofed wing projects from the north wall of the kitchen.

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 type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates ca. 1814 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: C
 Applicable Exceptions: none
 Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Avalon is significant for its architecture. In form and detailing, the house presents an urbane expression of Neoclassical influence which is unique in rural Carroll County. The ground story of the house is constructed against a partially-excavated slope, consistent with the traditional bank-house form which characterized vernacular domestic architecture in Piedmont central Maryland in the 18th and early 19th century; this tradition is expressed as a highly-refined piano nobile form featuring an exceptional freestanding spiral staircase and elegant Neoclassical detailing.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

The construction of Avalon is attributed to Francis Hollingsworth (1773-1826), a prominent Baltimore merchant who purchased the land on which the building stands in 1808; in 1814, Jesse Slingluff purchased the acreage and the deed of transfer mentions a house on the property at that time. Jesse Slingluff was president of the Commercial and Farmers' Bank of Baltimore; according to J. Thomas Scharf, Slingluff bought Avalon to provide a safe location for his family in response to the British threat to Baltimore in the War of 1812. His son, Isaac Slingluff, came into possession of Avalon following the death of Jesse in 1836.

Avalon remained in the Slingluff family continuously until 1935, when F. Donald Shriver purchased the property. Shriver is responsible for the installation of running water, electrical service, and central heating in the house. He also demolished an early building that stood adjacent to the east facade (its foundation survives as a cellar accessible through the southeast ground-floor room and independently through a door in the retaining wall which extends from the southeast corner of the building). Bathrooms were inserted in the ground and first-floor rooms, knotty-pine paneling was installed in the northwest ground-floor room, and some ceilings were tiled during Shriver's ownership; the present metal roof was installed during this period as well.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet No. 4.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 10.585 acres

Quadrangle name New Windsor, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| A | <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> | <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>10</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>10</u> | <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>18</u> <u>7</u> <u>15</u> <u>10</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| B | <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> | <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>10</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>10</u> | <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>18</u> <u>4</u> <u>10</u> <u>10</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--|--|
| C | <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> | <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>10</u> | <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>18</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>10</u> |
|---|----------------------------|--|--|

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--|--|
| D | <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> | <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>10</u> | <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>19</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>10</u> |
|---|----------------------------|--|--|

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| E | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|

| | | | |
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| F | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| G | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| H | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

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

| | | | | |
|-------|------------|------|--------|------|
| state | <u>N/A</u> | code | county | code |
|-------|------------|------|--------|------|

| | | | | |
|-------|--|------|--------|------|
| state | | code | county | code |
|-------|--|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter Kurtze/Orlando Ridout V/ Joe Getty

organization Maryland Historical Trust date March 1987

street & number 21 State Circle telephone (301) 974-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 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]* 7-16-87

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patrick Anders date 9/3/87

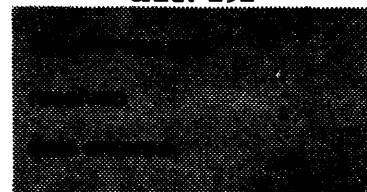
61 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet Avalon
Carroll County, Maryland Item number 10 and 9 Page 4

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification: Boundaries are depicted on the attached plat, drawn to a scale of 1" = 100'. The nominated property, 10.585 acres, represents the remnant of the acreage historically associated with the resource and contributes to its integrity of setting. The surrounding property is slated for residential development.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Scarf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland (1882; rpt. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968), pp. 904-5.

Land Records of Carroll and Frederick Counties.

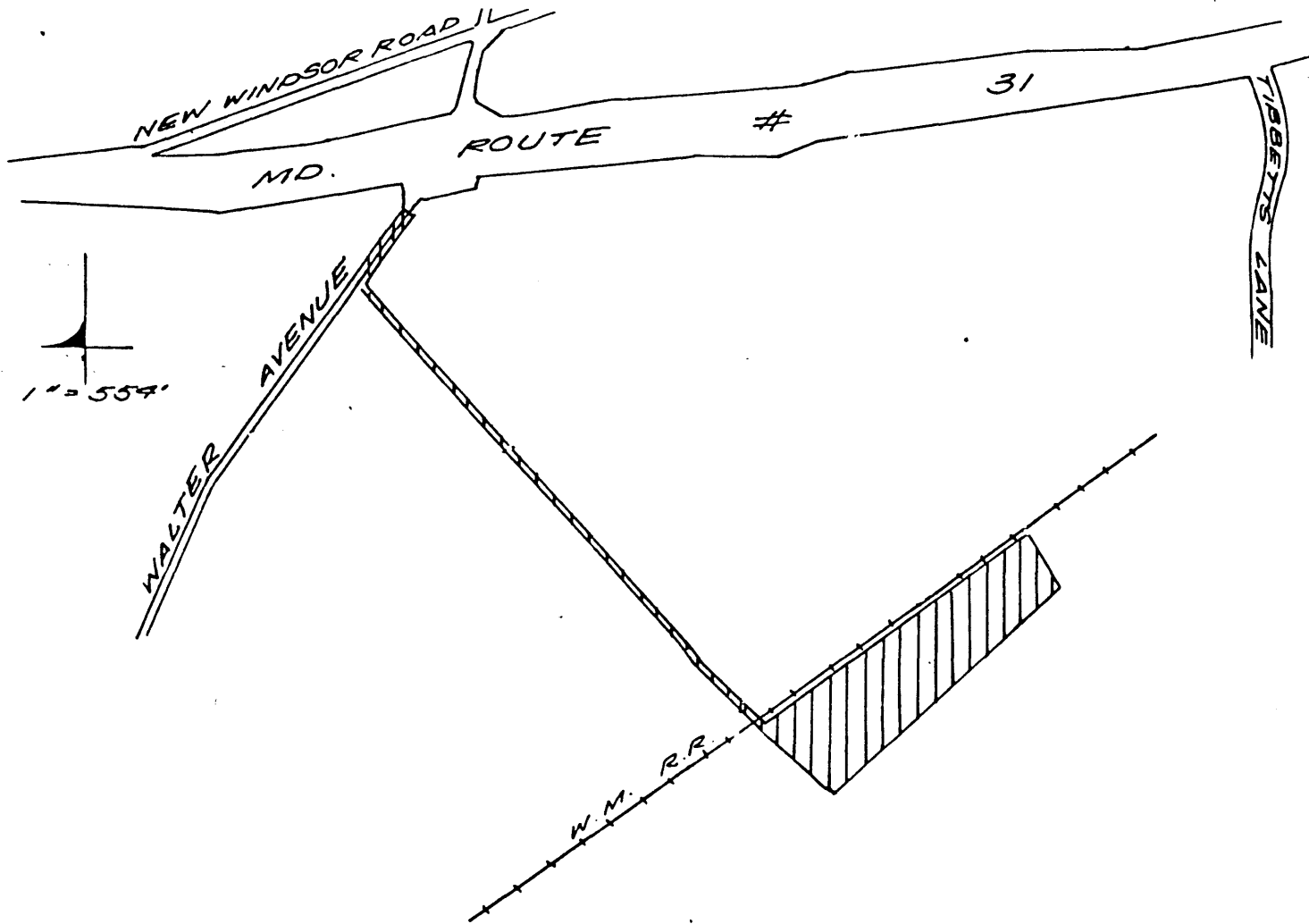
Historical Society of Carroll County research files.

Papenfuse, Edward C. et. al., A Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature 1635-1789 (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979), Vol. 1, pp. 448-9.

AVALON
Carroll County, Maryland

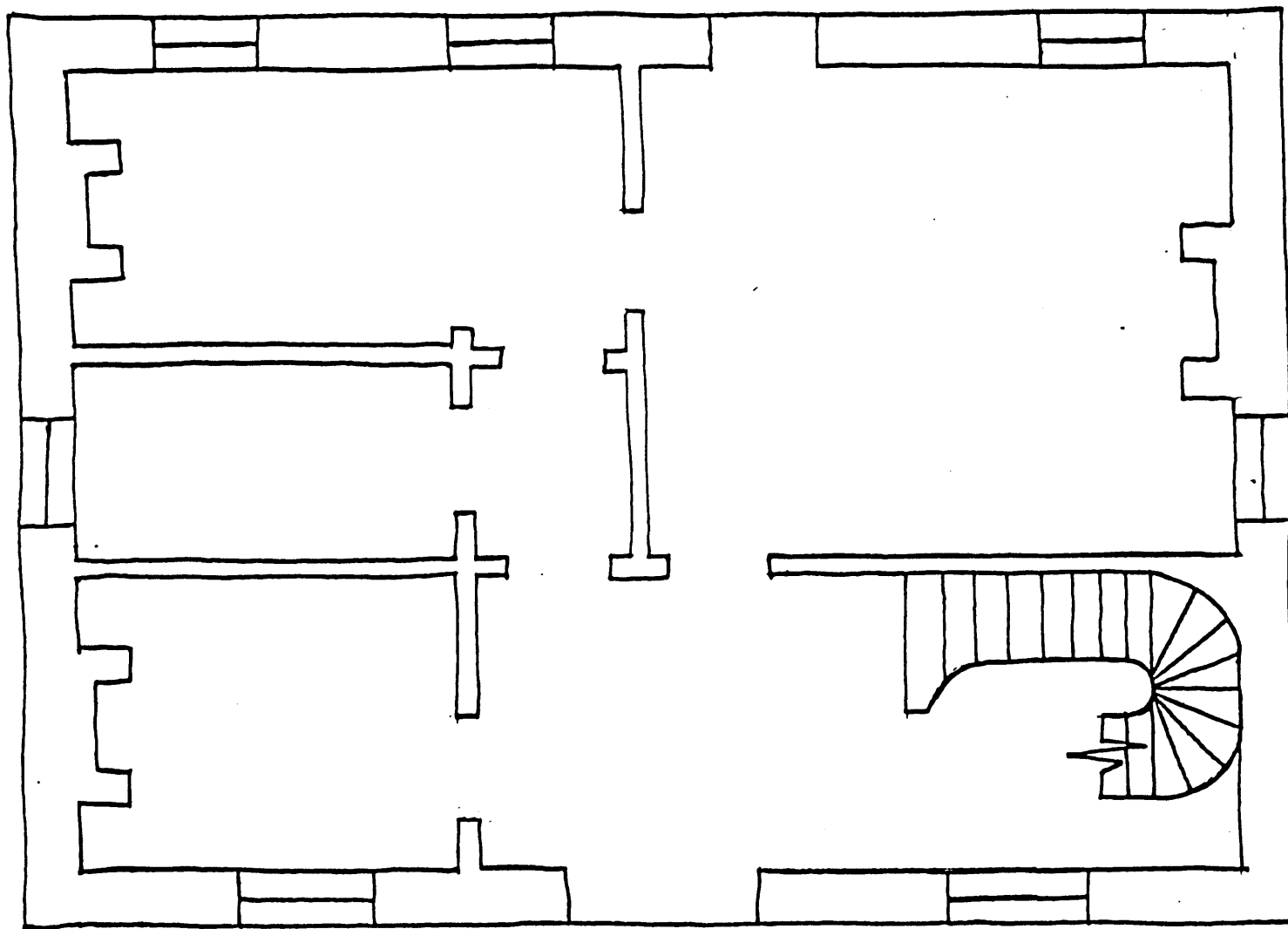
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National Register Boundaries



Hatched area indicates nominated property (approximately 10.585 acres)

March 1987



AVALON
Carroll County, Maryland

schematic plan--not to scale

March 1987

