

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88002064

Date Listed: 11/10/88

James Hamilton House
Property Name

Prince George's
County

MD
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews

Signature of the Keeper

11/10/88

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Through an oversight a period of significance was not provided. Ron Andrews with the MD SHPO clarified this point. The official period of significance for this property now coincides with the Specific Dates provided, ca. 1875.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SEP 26 1988

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in **NATIONAL REGISTER** *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bowdle's Choice
other names/site number Hamilton, James, House (preferred) PG:74B-7

2. Location

street & number 1311 Crain Highway North not for publication
city, town Mitchellville vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20716

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 9-19-88
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 11/10/88
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

PG:74B-7

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwellingDomestic/secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwellingDomestic/secondary structureAgriculture/animal facility**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorianother; Gothic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls wood/weatherboardroof slateother wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The James Hamilton House, built in the mid 1870s, is a two-and-one-half-story gable-roof frame Late Victorian house which stands in a grove of trees on farmland east of Crain Highway at Mitchellville. Its main block is a refined form of the traditional I-house plan, highlighted by clipped gable ends, asymmetrical projecting bays, and central crossgable on the main north facade; the cornices of the main block, projecting bays, and north porch are embellished with bold jigsaw brackets. A rear kitchen wing extends to the south, inset slightly from the east gable end of the main block, forming an ell. The house is sheathed with German siding painted white; it rests on a brick foundation, and its roof is covered with (original) slate shingle. Outbuildings include a board-and-batten meat house contemporary with the house, a garage constructed in the 1950s, and a large concrete block dairy barn constructed in the 1960s.

See continuation sheet for
GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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Prince George's County, Maryland

The James Hamilton House is a two-and-one-half-story gable-roof frame Late Victorian house which consists of main block and a slightly lower rear kitchen wing which forms an ell. It stands in a grove of trees approximately 1/4 mile east of (but not visible from) Crain Highway at Mitchellville.

The main block is three bays by one bay, approximately 36 by 18 feet, an elaborate form of the traditional 1-house plan with fine Italianate detail. It is highlighted by clipped gable ends and bold jigsaw brackets. Entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay principal north facade, through a four-panel door with deeply molded round-arch Victorian panels. The three-pane transom and two-pane sidelights are now filled with clear glass, which replaces the original colored lights. There are wainscot panels beneath the sidelights, and the casing consists of a plain board surround.

Above the entrance at third story level is a central crossgable; it is lighted by an arched window which repeats the profile of the clipped gable ends. This window is wood frame, 3/3 double hung sash, and has a plain board surround without shutters. An early photograph of the house shows that the central cross gable was originally ornamented with stick style pendants and tall finial; the finial has been preserved.

Sheltering the north facade of the main block is a one-story hip-roof porch supported by chamfered posts with jigsaw brackets: open curved lateral brackets, and boldly profiled Italianate brackets supporting the eaves. The house is clad with German siding painted white. Windows are wood frame; on the first story they are full-length 4/8 double hung sash, (created by additional muntins applied to the original 2/4 sashes). Windows in the second story are 6/6 double hung sash, replacing the original 2/2 sashes (3/3 in the central bay). The windows have plain board surrounds and dark green louvered shutters.

Each of the east and west gable ends of the main block is lighted by a two-story projecting bay; these two bays are not symmetrical to one another. In the east gable end is a hip-roof semi-hexagonal bay with 6/6 windows in each of its two faces. South of this east bay is a side entrance to the house, sheltered by a one-story shed-roof entry porch; the porch is supported by chamfered posts with molded capitals and bases. In the west gable end is a hip-roof semi-octagonal bay with 6/6 double hung sash windows in each of its three faces; this west bay fills the entire west gable end. The eaves of the two projecting bays are punctuated with boldly profiled jigsaw brackets. The present windows replace original 2/2 sashes.

The gable roof of the main block is covered with slate (original), and the gable ends are clipped (jerkinhead style). The cornice is boxed, with overhanging eaves, and embellished with the same jigsaw bracket which adorn

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the north porch and side bays. Two corbelled brick chimneys rise from the ridge, flanking the central bay, and serving fireplaces in the interior walls of the two parlors.

Interior plan of the main block is a central stairhall flanked by two parlors. The open-string two-run staircase rises along the east wall of the stairhall to a landing, then turns 90 degrees, and a second run rises along the west wall to the two second-story chambers. The stair has a heavy turned newel, turned balusters and bracketed stair ends; the spandrel is plain. The stairhall has a circular plaster ceiling medallion with floral motifs. The door and window surrounds throughout the main block are particularly fine, with a large outer torus bead, and inner courses of frieze, fillet and cyma reversa moldings.

Each of the parlors is warmed by a fireplace centrally located in its interior wall. These two fireplaces have identical mantels of dark marbled stone with applied central shield/cartouche below the shelf. The living room (west) has a high molded baseboard, and a plaster ceiling medallion with floral and acanthus-leaf motifs. The dining room (east) has a pedestal chair-rail, below which is vertical beaded wainscoting. The oval plaster ceiling medallion has grape motifs.

Inset from the east gable end of the main block, extending to the south and forming an ell, is a two-bay by one-bay kitchen wing, approximately 24 by 16 feet. Siding of the wing is the same as the main block. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash with plain board surrounds and ark green louvered shutters. There is a small lunette window at third story level in the south gable end. The overhanging eaves of the gable roof are not bracketed. The roof is covered with slate, as is the main block, and a corbelled brick chimney is centrally located at the ridge. Filling the inside (southwest) corner of the ell is a shed-roof porch with stick-style brackets; it shelters entrances into the rear of the stairhall (main block) and the first bay (west facade) of the wing. There is a doorway centered in the south gable end of the wing; it is sheltered by a plain (1940s) one-story shed roof porch which spans the south gable end. All exterior trim, including corner posts, is painted white. The entire house rests on a brick foundation which encloses a full cellar under the kitchen wing.

Interior of the wing consists of two spaces, pantry on the north and kitchen on the south connected by a side corridor along the west wall. There is a small enclosed staircase in the southwest corner which has been closed to create a bathroom. All of the interior walls of the wing were originally covered with beaded wainscoting, laid horizontally. Alterations (1940s) in the kitchen space include the replacement of a south window by the present door, and the addition of a two-pane window in the east wall where the original door had been.

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The house stands within a semicircular drive. Two large linden trees, planted at the time of construction of the house, frame the north entrance. Directly east of the house is an open gable-roof garage structure constructed (1950s) of brick and concrete block. Directly south of the garage is a frame meat house, contemporary with the dwelling. The meat house has a gable roof covered with corrugated metal, and wide board-and-batten siding. Entrance is through a batten door in the west facade. The meat house is in deteriorating condition, surrounded by considerable undergrowth.

Southeast of the meat house is a large concrete block dairy barn, constructed in the 1960s. It has a gambrel roof covered with standing seam aluminum. Entrance is in the west end of the building, and there is a small one-story shed-roof addition attached on the south. Farther to the east and not within the nominated property, is a gable roof tobacco barn with vertical board siding, constructed in the 1950s.

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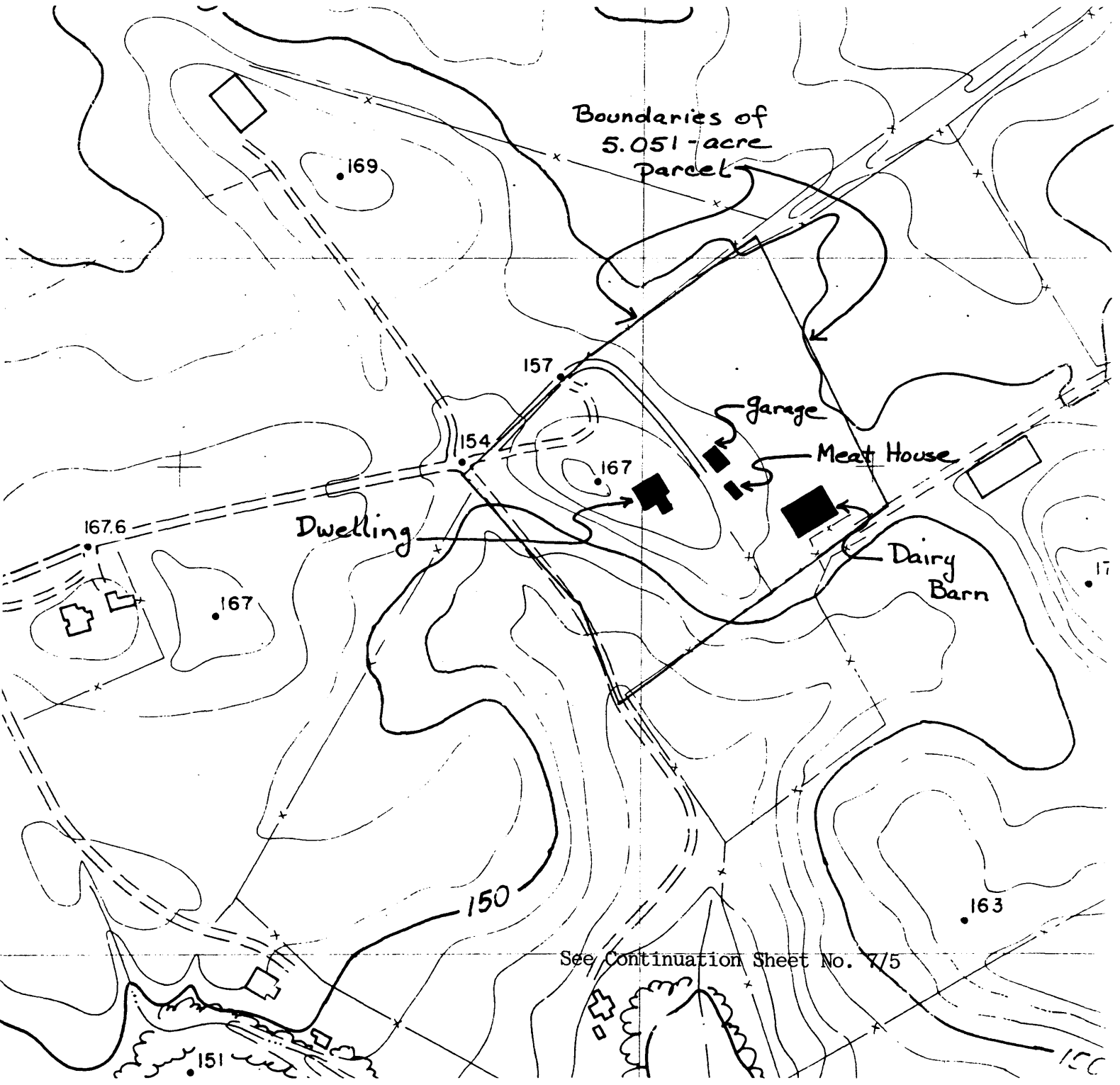
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Hamilton, James, House
Prince George's County, Maryland

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resource sketch map



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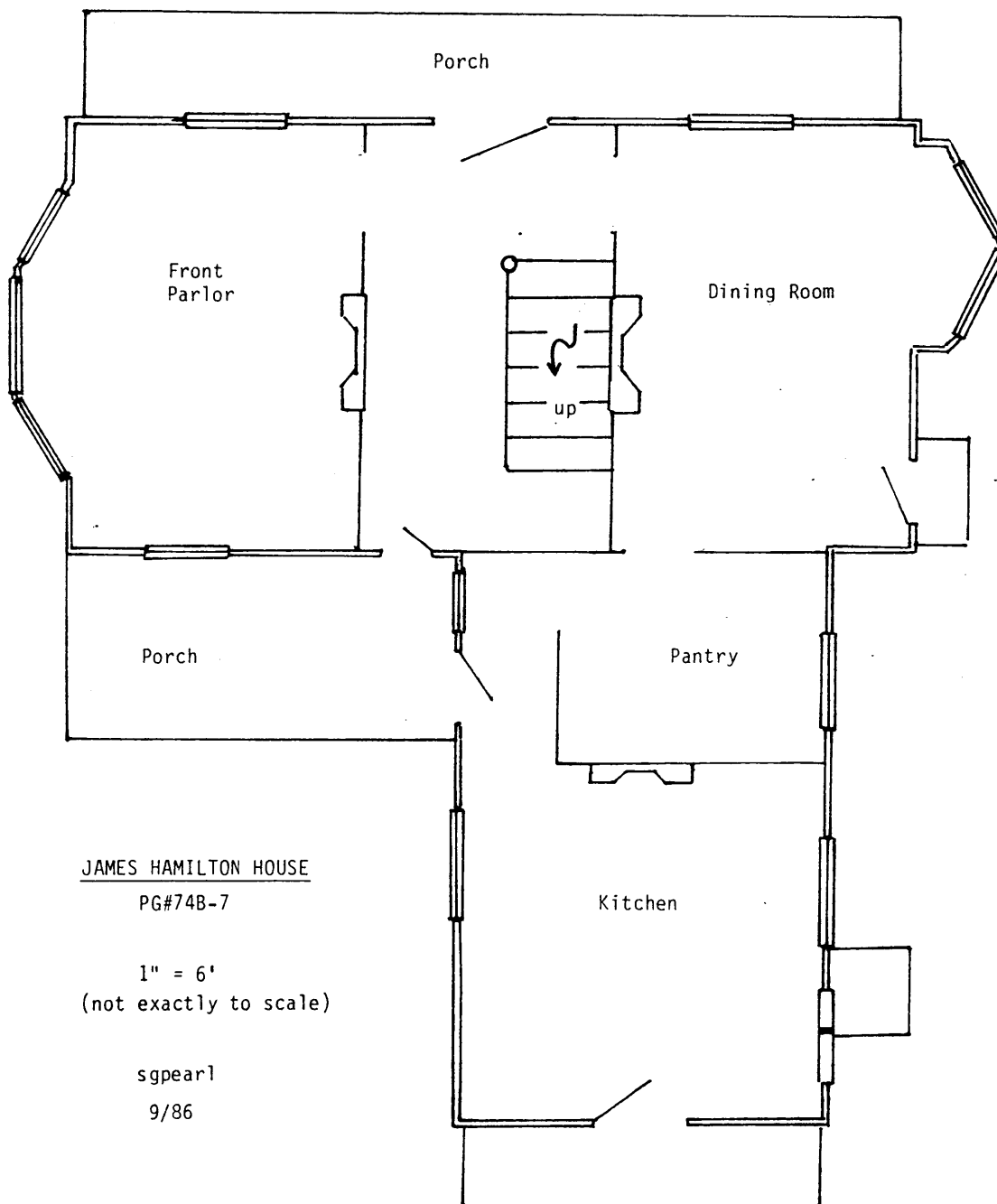
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Hamilton, James, House
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first floor plan



JAMES HAMILTON HOUSE

PG#74B-7

1" = 6'
(not exactly to scale)

sgpearl

9/86

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

N/A

Significant Dates

mid 1870s

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wyvill, John C.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The James Hamilton House is a good example of a Late Victorian farmhouse, typical of the post-Civil War period in rural Prince George's County; it has fine detail both exterior and interior. Built in the mid 1870s, it is distinguished by clipped gable (jerkinhead) roof treatment, central crossgable, jigsawn cornice brackets, and asymmetrical projecting bays. It was built by John C. Wyvill, a locally well-known carpenter and (together with Ingleside, Navajo and Kenilworth in the Marlboro area) is a prominent surviving example of his work. The Hamilton House has undergone a minimum of alteration, and has been the home of three generations of the family for whom it was built.

See continuation sheet for
HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE
PRESERVATION PLAN data.

Prince George's County Land and Will Records, Upper Marlboro, MD
 Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

preparer _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 5.051 acres

USGS quad: Bowie, MD

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are delineated on Continuation Sheet No. 10/1

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 10/2

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl Research/Architectural Historian
 organization P.G. Co. Historic Preservation Commission date September 1986
 street & number 4010 C.A.B. c/o M-NCPPC telephone 301-952-3521
 city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland zip code 20772

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Prince George's County, Maryland

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
A.D. 1870-1930Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/single dwelling
Domestic/secondary structure

Known Design Source: unknown

Prince George's County has had an agriculture-based economy since the earliest days of its settlement; its principal crop during the eighteenth century was tobacco, and the principal avenue of commerce in the eastern part of the County was the Patuxent River. In 1704 Queen Anne Parish was created out of the older St. Paul's Parish, and St. Barnabas' became the established church of the new parish. In 1706 Queen Anne on the Patuxent River was established as a port town, and in 1747 was designated as a tobacco inspection station. Queen Anne remained a bustling commercial village until the middle of the nineteenth century when the river became unnavigable. In 1843 Queen Anne Election District (#7) was created out of the east central section of the County; it included the village of the same name, and approximately 50 square miles of wooded and cultivated land.

The period after the Civil War, saw a shift from a primarily agricultural economy to one which was dominated by industry and commerce. Towns and suburbs began to develop on the outskirts of Washington, D.C., in northwest Prince George's County. The southern and eastern sections of the County, however, remained entirely rural and dependent upon agriculture for subsistence. Many hereditary plantation owners found it impossible to hold together their large land holdings, and sold off parts of their land to be developed into small farms. This was the case with James Hamilton, a young farmer who in 1873 purchased from his brother-in-law, Beale Mullikin, 109 acres of farmland, part of the large plantation which the Harwood and Mullikin families had occupied since the late eighteenth century. The land lay in the rich agricultural area known as "The Forest" in the Queen Anne District of Prince George's County.

The Hamilton House is a good example of a refined rural vernacular dwelling, typical of the post-Civil War period in rural Prince George's County. It combines the traditional I-house plan with fine decorative

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detail both exterior and interior. It was built in the mid 1870's for James H. Hamilton by John C. Wyvill, and is one of several houses of this period built by the Wyvill family of carpenters who lived in Upper Marlboro. Two examples of Wyvill's work in the Marlboro area are Ingleside (P.G. #78-14b) and Navajo (P.G. #78-22). The Hamilton House bears significant resemblances to both of these houses: to Ingleside, with its jigsawn cornice brackets, central crossgable and two-story semi-octagonal bay, and to Navajo, with its central hall and flanking chimneys, and its rear kitchen ell. The Hamilton House is the only one of these buildings which has clipped gable (jerkinhead) roof treatment.¹

The Hamilton House is an important example of the work of a local builder who was active during the period following the Civil War, when descendants of hereditary plantation owners were struggling to continue their traditional farming practices. John C. Wyvill and his sons built many dwellings in the Upper Marlboro area, i.e. the east-central section of Prince George's County (Western Shore of Maryland). The Hamilton farmstead is typical of the small post-bellum farms of Prince George's County, in its production, on approximately 100 acres, of tobacco, grain and livestock. The property is important both for its architectural and its agricultural themes.

The period of significance of the Hamilton House covers approximately 70 years, from the period of construction of the house (mid-1870's) to the death in 1940 of James H. Hamilton for whom it was built. This period of significance includes the growth of the farm from 109 to 172 acres, and the construction of some new farm buildings around 1920.

* * * *

The James Hamilton House was built in the mid-1870's on a 109-acre farm, part of the tract known as Bowdle's Choice. James Higgins Hamilton had acquired the land in 1873 from his brother-in-law, Beale D. Mullikin, whose home, Harwood Hall (cf. P.G. #74B-9), adjoined the farm to the west. In the mid 1870's, Hamilton contracted with John C. Wyvill to design for him a farmhouse to be built of imported Georgia pine. The house was a refined form of the traditional vernacular I-house, distinguished by central crossgable, jigsawn cornice brackets and projecting bays, and with particularly fine interior wood moldings. Family tradition indicates that the construction bill was \$6,000.²

In 1886 Hamilton married Ida Hume, and their two children were brought up in this house. The Hamilton family continued to farm the property, increasing the acreage to 172 acres, and constructing a few new farm build-

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Prince George's County, Maryland

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ings in the 1920's.³ James Higgins Hamilton died in 1940, leaving all of his real estate to these two children, James Hume Hamilton and Louise Hamilton Peach. In the division of his land, James Hume Hamilton received 87 acres of Bowdle's Choice including the home place. It has remained the Hamilton family home to the present day. The surrounding 81 acres has recently been converted to horse farming; the Hamilton family holds a life estate in the approximately five-acre residential parcel.⁴

Approximately 1/4 mile north of the house is an early gable-on-hip-roof tobacco barn, which predates the house; it was part of the Harwood Hall plantation out of which the Hamilton farm was created.⁵ This barn was used by the Hamiltons as part of the farm complex, but is not included in the nominated five-acre parcel.

The Hamilton House is a fine example of a Victorian vernacular farmhouse which has undergone a minimum of alteration. It embodies several characteristics of this rural vernacular dwelling type (e.g. central cross-gable, jigsaw cornice brackets and projecting bays) and is one of several buildings produced by John C. Wyvill, a locally well-known carpenter. It has remained the home of the Hamilton family for more than a century since its construction.

Notes

- 1 cf. Prince George's County Inventory Files #78-14b, #78-22, #79-50.
- 2 Prince George's County HB #7:153; cf. Prince George's County Historic Site File #74B-9; the Hamilton family has the bill for Wyvill's services, but it has not been located at the present time.
- 3 Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1888-1925.
- 4 Prince George's County Will WTD #6:120; estate file #6711; deed #634:7.
- 5 Prince George's County Will TT #1:61; Federal Direct Tax, 1798, for Prince George's County.

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Hamilton, James, House
Prince George's County, Maryland PG:74B-7

Chain of Title

James Hamilton House
P.G. #74B-7

- #6435:455
8 Sept. 1986
Deed
Lillias W. Hamilton (surviving tenant by the entireties of James H. Hamilton who died 28 October 1973) to J. Michael Fajman, 5.051 acres as shown by plat of Real Estate Development Technology Associates, July 1986, part of land described in #1953:500, together with 22 foot right-of-way from U.S. Route 301.
- #1935:500
1 Feb. 1956
Deed
R. Bowie Clagett to James H. Jr., and Lillias W. Hamilton; three parcels: (a) one acre, (b) 86.68 acres which Hamilton acquired by #634:7, (c) 6 acres - making a total of 93.68 acres; all of which Clagett obtained from Hamilton by deed of even date.
- #1935:497
1 Feb. 1956
Deed
James H. Jr., and Lillias Hamilton to R. Bowie Clagett; same three parcels as in above deed.
- #634:7
5 Mar. 1942
Deed of
Partition
Louise Hamilton Peach and husband, to James H. Hamilton and wife, 86.68 acres; this deed divides land of James H. Hamilton, Sr., their father. Lands thus conveyed form part of "Bowdle's Choice", conveyed to Hamilton, Sr. by HB #7:153; includes dwelling house of late James H. Hamilton, Sr., devised by him in will WTD #6:120; Louise Hamilton Peach and James H. Hamilton, Jr., being his only surviving heirs. (#628:355 conveys 86.62 acres of Hamilton's land to Louise Hamilton Peach.)
- WTD #6:120
22 Feb. 1940
Deed
Testator, James H. Hamilton, Sr., to wife Ida, all real estate. Ida Hamilton predeceased James; his only survivors are James H. Hamilton, Jr., and Louise Hamilton Peach.
- HB #7:153
24 April 1873
Deed
Beale D. Mullikin and wife, Talitha, and Mortimer Mullikin to James H. Hamilton; 109 acres of Bowdle's Choice.

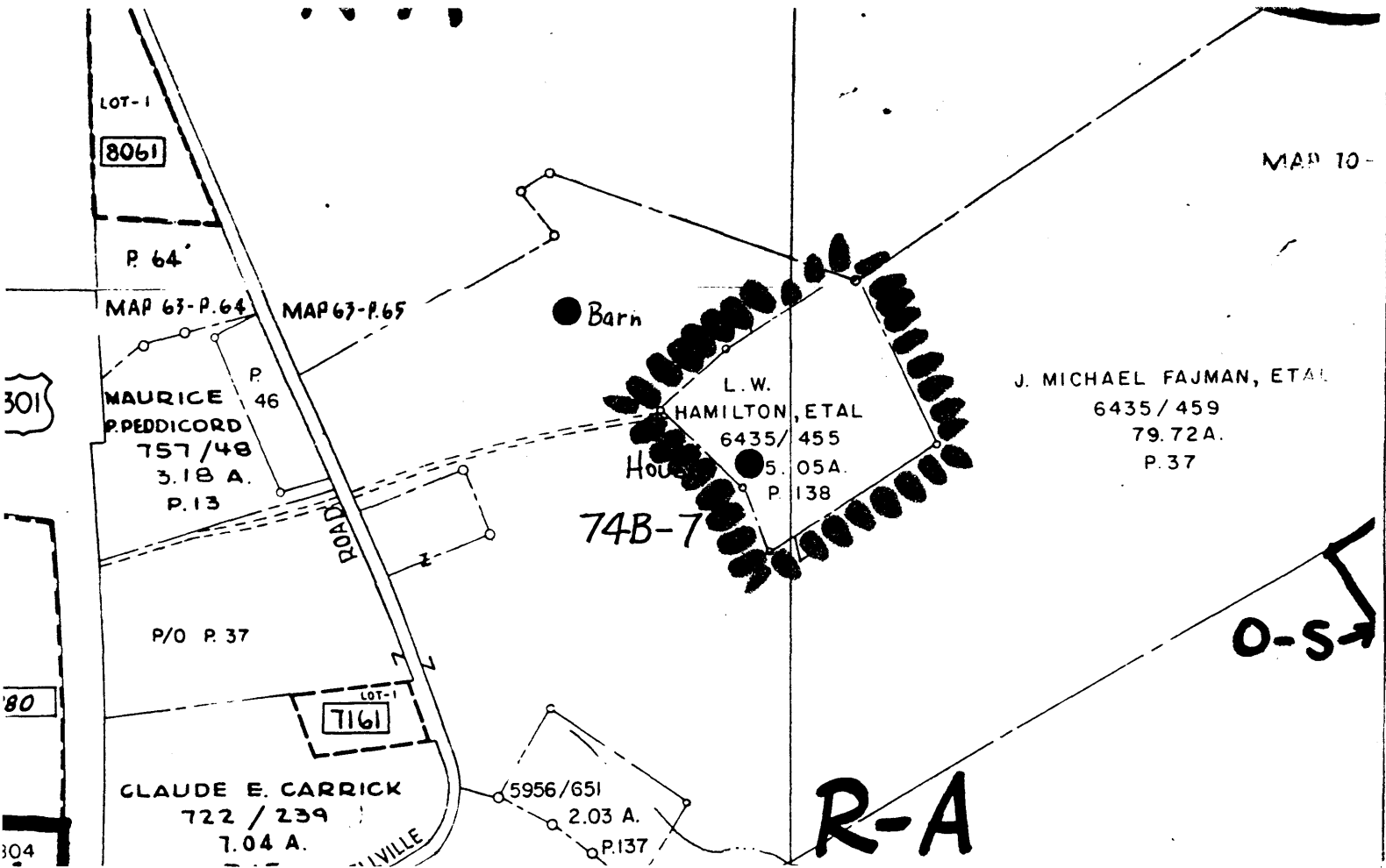
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Section number 10 Page 1

Hamilton, James, House PG:74B-7
Prince George's County, Maryland

boundary map scale 1"=600'



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Prince George's County, Maryland PG:74B-7

#10

Boundary justification

The nominated property consists of 5.051 acres, all of that parcel of land described in Prince George's County deed #6435:455, parcel 138 on Tax Map #70. The property has a roughly rectangular shape; it is accessible from the northbound lane of U.S. Route 301 by an unpaved land which runs in an easterly direction and curves southward around the dwelling. The nominated property includes the dwelling house, and the mature trees which form its setting, one other contributing building (the meat house), and two non-contributing buildings (the garage and the dairy barn). The nominated property is partially bounded on the north by part of the entrance lane, and on the west by another unpaved farm lane. The boundaries of this 5.051 acre parcel preserve the immediate grounds of the dwelling, and its historical and environmental setting.