## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_

#### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000203

The Meadows Property Name Date Listed:3/23/88

BaltimoreMDCountyState

Multiple Name

mbia property is listed in the National Desister of Wistoria

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.

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Criterion B is checked on the form, but the name of the specific important individual is not included. Ron Andrews of the MD SHPO on 3/28/88 confirmed that the property is significant for its association with Samuel Owings.

#### RECEIVED

FEB 1 2 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER

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

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for *Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or 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 Proper historic name	The Meadows	
other names/site numb	per	BA-32
2. Location		

street & number	302 Mea	adows L	ane			t for publication $N/A$
city, town	Owings	Mills			vic	inity N/A
state Maryland	code	MD	county Baltimore	code	005	zip code 21117

3. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Res	ources within Property
X private	X building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local	district	4	<u> </u>
public-State	site		sites
public-Federal	structure structure		structures
	object		objects
		4	0Total
Name of related multiple proper	ty listing:	Number of cont	tributing resources previously
<u>N/A</u>	·····	listed in the Na	tional Register0

#### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 19 Image: Information request for determination of eligibility meets the documental National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Image: Information of the property meets does not meet the National Register Minage: Information of the property meets does not meet the National Register	tion standards for registering properties in the al requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
Signature of certifying official	Date
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER	
State or Federal agency and bureau Housing and Community Developme	ent, Maryland Historical Trust
In my opinion, the property Lameets and 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 Bark Coming Contification	
5. National Park Service Certification	
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	
Ventered in the National Register.	/ /
See continuation sheet.	3/23/88
determined eligible for the National	
Register. See continuation sheet.	
determined not eligible for the	
National Register.	
removed from the National Pagister	
removed from the National Register.	
other, (explain:)	

Signature of the Keeper

6. Function or Use		
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Fund	ctions (enter categories from instructions)
single dwelling	single	e dwelling
7. Description	. <u></u>	
Architectural Classification enter categories from instructions)	Materials (en	ter categories from instructions)
	foundation _	stone
Federal	walls	stone
	roof	asphalt

#### Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

"The Meadows" is the name of an 18th-century stone house and its compound of outbuildings built and occupied for approximately 80 years by various members of the Owings family, for whom Owings Mills, Maryland was named. The main dwelling is an L-shaped two and one-half story stone house built in a rural Federal style. The east-facing original block of the house is four bays wide, with a center passage plan. A one-story kitchen wing is attached to the north end of the main block, and a twostory ell extends westward from the south end of the main block. The remainder of the compound is comprised of a two and one-half story stone slave house, an 18thcentury stone and timber stable, and a two-story tenant house. Together, these buildings form the surviving residential nucleus of the Owings family's vast farmland holdings and milling operations from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

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#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The overall integrity of the site with regard to location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association is excellent, with all of the buildings being nominated surviving today largely as they stood--in their original relationship to one another--during the period of significance c. 1770 - 1850. Exceptions to this high degree of overall integrity relate to integrity of design and materials with regard to the log tenant house and the main dwelling. Specifically, an enclosed front porch has been added--possibly in the 20th-century--to the tenant house and a third story addition of undocumented appearance was made to the dwelling sometime after 1926 and removed shortly after 1943. But according to a first-hand account of the main dwelling before this addition was made, it is known that the house had a steeply-pitched roof and dormer windows (see the historical narrative in the "Statement of Significance," p. 7). Presumably, the present roof and dormer configuration are similar, if not identical, to the original features.

#### Main Dwelling

The dwelling house at "The Meadows" is an L-shaped, two-and-one-half story, gable-roofed stone house in the vernacular style. The two-and-one-half story main block of the house and one-story kitchen wing appear on the 1798 tax list, although their exact dates of construction are not known. The ell is estimated to have been built in 1820. The entire dwelling house, with kitchen wing, is a strongly contributing structure to the nominated property.

The main block is a 50' x 20', four-bay wide structure with a center hall plan, two interior end chimneys, and three gabled dormers on the front (east) slope of the roof. The main entrance is flanked by four-over-four double-hung windows which serve as half-height side lights. Above the entrance are a five light transom and simple fronton. All windows on the facade (east elevation) of the main block, including the dormers, contain six-over-six, double-hung wood sash. The north gable end of the main block, above the adjoining one-story kitchen, contains a pair of six-light windows at the attic level. The south gable end of the main block is two bays wide, with four six-over-six double-hung windows in addition to two nine-light windows at the attic level.

At the north end of the main block the kitchen wing, 20' x 18', is two bays deep with a steeply-pitched roof and interior end chimney. The east elevation of the kitchen wing, corresponding to the facade of the main block, has two six-over-six double wood windows. The gable end contains a single six-over-one window.

The ell is a five-bay wide, two-story structure with a central chimney. Entrances on the south facade occur in the eastern-and western-most bays. All windows on the south facade contain six-over-six, double-hung wood sash.

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The exterior of the dwelling house possesses a high degree of integrity. A third story addition of undocumented appearance was made to the main dwelling sometime after 1926 and removed shortly after 1943. But according to a first-hand account of the main dwelling before this addition was made, it is known that the house had a steeply-pitched roof and dormer windows (see the historical narrative in the "Statement of Significance," p. 7). Presumably, the present roof and dormer configuration are similar, if not identical, to the original features. The present asphalt roofing material likely dates from the post-1943 roof restoration but does not significantly degrade the integrity of the structure.

On the interior of the dwelling house, an impressive number of original features and decorative details survive. The kitchen wing has plain plaster walls and a heavy beamed ceiling. The formal rooms on the first floor and most of the bedrooms on the second floor have wood fireplace surrounds and mantels. All windows and doors have beaded trim, and the entire house has beaded baseboard molding. The majority of windows in the house have deep reveals, some with interior raised panel shutters and raised panels on the "ceiling" of the reveal. The same raised paneling occurs on the sides and top of the passage between the main block and the ell. Most doors in the house have raised paneling. Both the center stairway in the main block and the side hall stairway in the ell are fairly plain in character. The main block stairway has square balusters and a nicely proportioned handrail which curves at the landing between the first and second floor. The ell stairway has square balusters as well, but is generally more crudely executed. All of the interior decorative details are in excellent condition and possess a high degree of integrity.

#### Slave House

A two-story stone slave house (or storehouse) is located to the south of the dwelling house on the north bank of Red Run. It is a plain vernacular structure, 16' x 18', one bay wide and one bay deep with a gable roof. It's exact date of construction is not known, but because it does not appear to be on the 1798 tax list, it presumably was built in the 19th-century. The slave house is in fair condition and possesses a high degree of integrity. It is a contributing structure to the nominated property.

#### **Stable**

The stable, located to the southeast of the dwelling house off the entrance drive, is a two-story structure. The first story is constructed of field stone, the second of squared logs. It appears to be the structure described in the 1798 tax list as "one stable, two story, one stone, the other logs, 44 by 20." The building is gable-roofed, with a hoisting door in one gable end at the upper level. A number of plain board half-doors open into the stable yard. The stable is in fair condition and survives with a high degree of integrity. It is a contributing structure to the nominated property.

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#### **Tenant House**

The small log and clapboard tenant house consists of four sections; two gable-roofed, two shed-roofed. An enclosed full-width front porch with shed roof appears to have been added long after the house was originally constructed. Windows in the house are irregularly-spaced and have a variety of pane configurations. The date of construction of the tenant house is not known. With a number of additions having been made over the years, its integrity has been compromised, although these additions may have acquired significance in their own right with the passage of time. The tenant house is a contributing structure to the property being nominated.

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in ationally state	relation to other properties:	
Applicable National Register Criteria	)	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	E F G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) INDUSTRY	Period of Significance 	Significant Dates
	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person N/A	Architect/Builder unknown	<i>.</i>

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

#### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

"The Meadows" is a farm compound of four buildings on a five-acre site in Owings Mills, Maryland and was the residential nucleus of no less than six fulling, woolen and grist mills established and run by the Owings family in the immediately surrounding area. The first of these mills likely was built by Samuel Owings II in the 1770s. The established mills in the area, documented in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment list, were owned and operated by Samuel Owings and his decendants, including Thomas for whom this house was built, throughout the period of significance of this nomination, c. 1770 - 1850. As none of the mill structures remains standing today, The Meadows is eligible for listing in the Register because it is the only surviving property made up of standing structures which is associated with Samuel Owings' establishment and the Owings family's subsequent milling operations at Owings Mills. It is therefore eligible for listing under National Register Criterion B for its association with Samuel Owings and the Owings family, important locally within the context of agricultural and industrial development in late 18thand early 19th-century Baltimore County. The Owings family owned the property and mills until about 1850. No archeological sites associated with the mills are known to exist because of the extensive new development (houses, roads, a shopping center) in the surrounding area.

See footnotes in item 8.

	See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested	X State historic preservation office
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	
recorded by Historic American Buildings	
Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering	Other
Record #	Specify repository:
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property5.0756 acres	
USGS quad: Reisterstown, MD	
UTM References	
A المالة المالية المالي	
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
Ç└──┤ └┼┼╌└──┥ └─┼╶┼╶╿└╅┙┥	
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
See Continuation Sheet 10.1 and resource sket	ch map.
	X See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
The boundaries chosen coincide with the leg	ally recorded boundary lines of the
parcel on which the nominated property is 1	ocated.
	See continuation sheet
	I See continuation cheet
11. Form Prepared By	
11. Form Prepared By name/title John McGrain, Exec. Secretary	
name/title	
name/title	Comm. date November 8, 1987
name/title	
name/title <u>John McGrain, Exec. Secretary</u> organization <u>Baltimore Co. Landmarks Preservation</u> street & number <u>401 Bosley Avenue</u>	Comm.       date       November 8, 1987         telephone       (301)       494-3211         state       Maryland       zip code 21204

Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)828-9605

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Meadows

(BA-32)

Baltimore County, Maryland

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Historic/Prehistoric Theme(s):

The property is being nominated for its association with the Owings family's fulling, woolen and grist milling operations during the period of significance. Its historic theme, therefore, is **Economic (Industrial)** Activity.

Geographical Organization:

Located in Baltimore County, the property is in the **Piedmont** geographic region of the state

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

The period of significance spans the Owings family's ownership c. 1770-1850 of the residential and related farm structures on the property being nominated, as well as the surrounding mill structures being operated by the family. The nomination therefore spans the **Rural** Agrarian Intensification and the Agricultural-Industrial Transition time/ development periods.

Resource type:

The significance of the nominated property is expressed by **Standing Structures** remaining in "The Meadows" compound.

With the agricultural development of Baltimore county in the 18th-century came the obvious need for converting raw agricultural products into foodstuffs and household goods. The milling operations which accomplished this conversion process occurred for the most part at nodal milling sites throughout the county and larger Piedmont region. The fulling, woolen and grist mills operated by the Owings family during the period of significance of this nomination served served the surrounding agricultural area in this industrial capacity. The growth of the family's milling operations during the late 18th- and early 19th-centuries --eventually encompassing at least six mills -- speaks to the importance of the Owings' Mills in this role and to the family's success. The physically substantial and capacious nature of the main dwelling suggest the family's financial success and the importance of its industrial activities to the surrounding community.

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The nominated property comprises the only known standing structures immediately associated with the Owings family's important milling operations. The Samuel Owings II Mansion, c. 1767 (currently known as the Ulm Restaurant) at Dolfield Road and Painters Mill Road in Baltimore County is the only other known structure associated with the family from this period. However, it doesn not share the physical proximity to the family's mills that "The Meadows" does. As the following historical narrative illustrates, the nominated property was literally at the center of the Owings' milling operations.

#### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

#### INTRODUCTION

The following Historical Narrative traces the history of "The Meadows" and the surrounding Owings family milling operations from their beginnings in the 18th-century to the 1980s. Bear in mind that the mill structures discussed here -- now ruins or archeological sites -- are not part of the property being nominated to the National Register. Nevertheless, they are critically important elements in understanding the context in which "The Meadows" compound -- which served as the residential nucleus of the Owings family's milling operations -- is being nominated.

#### THE DWELLING HOUSE:

"The Meadows" is the name of a large farmhouse with its outbuildings, some of which can be found on the 1798 tax list. The land survey name here is "Timbered Level," laid out for Samuel Owings (I) in 1747.<sup>1</sup> The name Red Run was in use at that time, because the patent contains the wording "Red Run or Soldiers Delight Branch."<sup>2</sup>

Owings' son, Samuel Owings (II), was probably the first of his family to engage in milling in this vicinity and his string of three mills (later four mills) gave its name to the neighborhood. The first documented mention of an Owings Mill occurs in a newspaper item of 1781, where the public was informed that their Baltimore County taxes could be paid with wheat in lieu of cash, the collection point being at Samuel Owings Mill.<sup>3</sup> There are traditional views that an Owings Mill existed as early as the 1760s, but no documentary evidence is available. Some of the traditions were orally transmitted by the late William D. Groff, Sr., whose father, Benjamin F. Groff had known the last of the Owings family about 1848. Unfortunately, the few Owings papers that came with the mill fail to show when the business started or when the various Owings dwellings were built.<sup>4</sup>

Samuel Owings I deeded some of Timber Level to his son, Thomas Owings in  $1770.^5$  Owings' will of 1772 also mentioned that Thomas was already living on Timbered Level.<sup>6</sup> In fact, as early as 1767, Thomas Owings had purchased some

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non-Owings land in the same valley. Upon inheriting their father's property, Samuel Owings II and Thomas kept the property intact for eleven years, then made a deed of partition.<sup>7</sup>

Eventually, there were two mills upon the property of Thomas Owings at the Meadows (making a total of five Owings family mills by 1798 and six by 1828). One of the mills was mentioned in the 1798 tax list of Soldiers Delight Hundred, a stone mill, 64 by 26 feet, probably in the same class with the first two mills of Samuel Owings II, but dwarfed by Samuel Owings' mill of 1794, which measured 50 by 60 feet. The services of a fulling mill were advertised as early as 1782.<sup>8</sup> When trying to sell 510 acres in 1814, Thomas Owings advertised a fulling mill, grist mill, and sawmill.<sup>9</sup> If the Soldiers Delight tax list of 1783 had not perished, it would be possible to estimate the state of development on this property by the value assigned to the "improvements." While it might be expected that Thomas Owings would have started to develop his farm complex after acquiring the valley bottom portion in 1770, there is no hard evidence until the 1798 tax list, which shows a full range of structures, but no clue as to whether the houses were old or new. The structures listed were as follows:

Particular List of House #3221 Thomas Owings -- Part of Timber Level One Stone Dwelling House, two story, 50 by 20 Two stone kitchens, one story each, 20 by 18 One stone smoke house, one story, 26 by 16 One stone milk house, one story, 12 by 12 ... \$800. #3222 Thomas Owings -- Part of Timber Level Occupant: Isaac Owings One stone dwelling house, two story, 40 by 16 One hew'd log milk house, one story, 12 by 12 ... \$180.

Particular List of Lands

#3443 Thomas Owings -- Part of Timber Level and Sundry Other Tracts Occupant: Isaac Owings

> One stone barn, one story, 40 by 30 Stone work house, one story, 26 by 16 One stable, two story, one stone, the other logs, 44 by 20 One log house, 24 by 16 One stone mill house, 64 by 26 Log stable, 12 by 10 .... 446 acres .... \$2230.<sup>10</sup>

> > See Continuation Sheet No. 8/4

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The same assessment showed that Thomas Owings had fifteen slaves. In 1981, the owner of The Meadows was able to point out a slave burial ground in a grove of trees.<sup>11</sup> The Isaac Owings listed as "occupant" was Thomas' son, born 1773, according to family Bible records.

Thomas Owings had been born October 18, 1740, and married Ruth Lawrence, daughter of Levin and Susan Lawrence in 1760. He was commissioned a lieutenant in Captain Alexander Welles' Battalion in 1776, promoted to Captain in 1777; possibly he was with that unit at the Battle of Brandywine and at Valley Forge. He is recorded as taking the Oath of Fidelity in April 1778. He died on August 23, 1822.<sup>12</sup>

Upon the death of Thomas Owings, the main house property passed to his son, Thomas (Beal) Owings (born in 1767).<sup>13</sup> The following year, Levi Owings, another son and heir, advertised "A woolen factory for rent or lease... Owings Fulling Mill," along with a carding machine "at the late residence of Mr. Thomas Owings, about 14 miles from Baltimore, and not more than one and a half miles from the Reisters-Town Turnpike."<sup>14</sup> The fulling and carding mill property for a time split off into different ownership from that of the mansion. Nancy Offutt had searched for its ruins upstream of the main house, expecting to find it in that part of the grounds because her property deeds mentioned both a gristmill dam and a fulling mill dam, separate ponds on Red Run as demanded by the geometry of the boundaries. Miss Offutt was unable to find the fulling mill in the mid-1940s, and John McGrain, walking south from Dolfield Road, had no better success in March of 1982. However, Thomas W. Offutt had reported encountering a run while quail-hunting. Millraces, however, are clearly visible in the late winter and have also been indicated on the photogrammetric maps used by Baltimore County Department of Public Works.<sup>15</sup> In 1982, a Mr. Easter of Pleasant Hill Road recalled hunting about 40 years ago along Red Run and had also seen a millrace and the ruin of a mill foundation about 0.5 mile south of Dolfield Road, "just about the point where you break out of the woods and The Meadows farmstead comes into view."16

The 1850 map by J. C. Sidney is on a fairly small scale, but it is possible to see that the square representing the Hannah Owings Fulling Mill is southeast of the dwelling house, located on the inside of the elbow-bend made by Red Run. The 200-scale maps of the present show that the inside bend of the stream bank is 580 feet southwest of the nearest corner of the main house. This place on the map (Sheet 10-I-NW) shows what looks like a small side stream, a watercourse that may have been the incoming millrace required by the fulling mill. Levi Owings' property at the time of his death in 1846 was south of Red Run and in testimony taken in 1850, William Frush described the buildings as "very poor" and the dwelling was "an old log house" of 1-1/2 stories, the improvements were "not worth \$100," the land "old fields overgrown by bushes."<sup>17</sup>

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The younger Thomas Owings conveyed the main property to his daughter, Ann Owings in  $1830.^{18}$  Ann Owings married Benjamin Arthur, and in 1846 the Authors conveyed their property in trust to Jacob Orndorff, retaining a life tenancy; in 1854, they executed a confirmatory deed to Orndorff.<sup>19</sup> The 1850 map by J. C. Sidney showed the house as Mrs. Author's property.<sup>20</sup> Following the death of Ann Arthur (in or before 18), Benjamin Arthur remarried and with his second wife, signed another confirmatory deed in 1860, this time making all interest over to Isaac Tyson, Jr.<sup>21</sup> John W. Triplett also had some sort of interest in the property (possibly, because of his family connections, in relation to its minerals), and in a joint deed with Benjamin Arthur, signed away his rights to Isaac Tyson, Jr. That deed mentioned the tenant on the property as S. A. McNair Arthur, who was to be allowed to finish out his lease and harvest wheat then in the ground.<sup>22</sup>

The new buyer, Tyson, was famous for his ability to find deposits of chromite or chrome ore, and that mineral had attracted him to Red Run.<sup>23</sup> The Meadows was well beyond the barrens where chromite deposits could be mined, but chrome sands washed loose from disintegrating formations were traditionally extracted from the streams by placer mining at installations called buddles. The State Geologist James T. Ducatel as early as 1840 mentioned that E. Triplett was involved in chrome mining, in this neighborhood, so Isaac Tyson may not have been the first to carry on that industry. The Tripletts were involved in chrome washing for two generations.<sup>24</sup>

Tyson died in 1864 and his executors sold promptly to Richard W. Hook, reserving the right to keep on mining for chrome in the stream.<sup>25</sup> Hook was a former sheriff of Baltimore County and owner of the Rockland Cotton Mill (MHT Site BA 220). Hook's obituary showed that he continued to live a half mile from The Meadows mansion until almost the time of his death in 1895. He had been a millwright by trade and had apparently evolved into a civil engineer. He was among the freemasons who laid the first stone of the B&O Railroad on July 4, 1828, and was a contractor or engineer in the B&O construction of the inclined place at Mount Airy. In 1837, at an early period in the development of the Jones Falls cotton industry, he had been a partner in the White Hall Factory with Horatio N. Gambrill and David G. Carroll, but sold his interests, missing out on the phenomenal profits reaped by the two who stayed in the firm.<sup>26</sup>

Hook sold some of The Meadows property in 1868 to Frederick C. Bryan.<sup>27</sup> Bryan advertised it under the name of Willow Grove Farm in 1870; the farm was "in a high state of cultivation...adapted for truck or dairy farm."<sup>28</sup> The atlas of 1877 shows that Hook's house was exactly 0.5 mile northeast of The Meadows and its mills. Unable to find a buyer, Bryan mortgaged the place and was unable to meet the payments, suffering the loss of the property at a public auction in 1877.<sup>29</sup> The tract at the time was under lease to John Hollingsworth, listed in the 1876 assessment with 100 acres worth \$45000, a stone barn, cowshed, dairy, chopping mill, and woodshed; structures worth \$2,000.<sup>30</sup>

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The trustees appointed to sell the property placed an informative advertisement in the **Sun** prior to the auction:

... assignee's sale of valuable fee simple property situate about twelve miles from Baltimore City about one mile and a half from Owings Mills and near the Western Maryland Railroad in Baltimore County....by virtue of a mortgage from Frederick C. Bryan and Elizabeth Ann Bryan, his wife, to George McK. Teal bearing date the 14th day of January A. D. 1871 and recorded among the land Mortgage Records of Baltimore County in Liber EHA No. 39, folio 305....public sale at the Court House door in Towsontown on Wednesday, February 21, 1877 at 12 o'clock. All that piece or parcel of land Baltimore County, parts of the following original tracts of land, Viz. "Harrison's Meadows," "Dividende," "Timber Level," and "Howard's Fancy," which by deed dated the 18th day of June 1864 and recorded in Liber JHL No. 41, folio 305....was conveyed by James W. Tyson and Francis T. King, executors and devisees in trust to Richard W. Hook, Trustee.... One hundred acres of land more or less. The improvements are a large and commodious stone dwelling, a large stone barn, a stone stable, a two-story frame double tenement and other improvements usual on a farm.

The farm is now occupied by Mr. John A. Hollingsworth....

-George W. Ward Trustee and Assignee of Mortgage

The place was also referred to as Willow Grove Farm in the records of this case.<sup>31</sup> The first newspaper report stated that William A. Fisher was highest bidder at the auction.<sup>32</sup> Later accounts, as well as the judicial records, show that Colonel James Fenner Lee was substituted as purchaser.<sup>33</sup> Lee was shown as owner in the 1877 Hopkins atlas. Lee was a foreign service officer. A native of Rhode Island, he was described as a lawyer and diplomat, "Chief Clerk of the State Department," the "first envoy to Brazil," and charge at Vienna. 0ne daughter married Count Anton Alexander Otto von Heussenstamm during his service in Austria.<sup>34</sup> His death took place at his other farm, Myrtle Point, in St. Mary's In addition to The Meadows, the Lee's had a townhouse at 1901 North County. Charles Street.<sup>35</sup> It was probably the Lee family that gave the place its present name because the Sun in 1926 reported that "The Meadows" had been in the same family for 50 years prior to its recent sale to Dr. Lambie, a medical missionary to Ethiopia, then called Abyssinia.<sup>36</sup> The 1918 tax ledger charged the mansion property to Lee's daughter, Mrs. Sarah F. Walker. Mrs. Lee had turned some of the property over to her daughter in 1904.<sup>37</sup>

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The 1918 ledger also showed that the main house stood on 28 acres, some eight acres of which was "tillable," the rest pasture. The structures enumerated were:

House 20 x 60	24 x 30	\$2830
Stable 20 x 48		290 200 <sup>38</sup>
Other Buildings		200 <sup>38</sup>

The 100 acres retained by Mrs. Cornelia Lee had a smaller house, measuring 14 x 28 feet with a 12 x 20 wing, worth but \$100. Mrs. Lee had another 31 acres of pasture, which may help account for the name "Meadows."<sup>39</sup>

Following Mrs. Walker's death, as well as that of Mrs. Lee, there was a suit against the minor children to obtain court permission to sell the property to a willing buyer, and the petitioner, John Moseley Walker, Sr., testified about the condition of the property:

The tract of land contains about twenty-seven and one-half acres and is improved by a large stone dwelling (containing about fourteen rooms and two baths) and by the usual outbuildings.... The property has been for sale for the past two years and the contract filed with the bill represents the only bid for the property which has been received during that time. The property lies near Owings Mills Baltimore County Maryland and can be reached only by an unimproved road about one mile long. The condition of the road is the principal reason why no other purchasers can be found . . . .

Gaylord Brooks, Jr. also testified that the place was known as "the Meadows."<sup>41</sup> There was no need to advertise the property at the conclusion of this case.

The **Sun's** feature story at the time of the sale claimed that the house was built in 1737. Some of the paragraphs that can be regarded as on-site observations are as follows:

....the rock of its walls and the oak of its beams are as sound today as they ever were, and Gaylord Brooks the agent who made the sale, says that the new owner purchased it that he might have a permanent home in America....It has changed, of course, since the day when Owings declared it done, but the changes have in the main not gladdened the old house. Even before it became the property of Colonel Lee some one had on two sides covered the carefully wrought stone walls with plaster, so that its front gleams whitely at the occasional passer-by....Kind, indeed is the

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vegetation which surrounds it, the oaks and the maples, and the willow trees; kinder yet the roses and the vines which hide the plaster's white.

The buildings around it have caught the dwelling's spirit. Virginia creeper and wisteria gloss the crumbling walls of the "abbey"; willows frame and shade the stone spring house; wild growth surrounds a great fireplace, all that remains of a mill which once stood almost in the Meadows' front yard. The "abbey" is only the ruins of a stone-walled barn, but the name was chosen well. Within it and around it are quietness and peace.

In the house itself there are, of course, anachronisms--bathrooms and steam heat, fireplaces sealed up or made smaller to provide room for stoves, windows cut where the builder saw no need of windows. Such things could not be helped.

But the spirit of pre-Revolutionary days is there; no visitor takes issue with the authorities who declare it to be Colonial architecture of the purest type.

Doors of great breadth and scanty height, doors that were made by hand at the builder's order, separate the low-ceilinged, spacious rooms. Every window is a niche, so think are the outer walls. And there is the almost inevitable step down or two steps on entering any room; Colonial builders often seemed unable to visualize a house in which the occupants did not continually climb or descend while going about the same floor.

And some of the niche-like windows are protected by the same staunch shutters which were placed their originally--shutters which during the Revolution were pierced with a hole some three inches across, so that at night, according to legend, a ray of light might inform the initiate that therein dwelt those who supported the colonist's cause.

In the kitchen, the ceiling joists stand bravely out in view; oak beams which would serve for a railroad bridge. But the fireplace, where the servants cooked with crane and spit and baking pots, is now all but walled up, and the alcove left holds a very modern stove.

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The second story is not very different from the first. In the third (the servants' quarters), again there are joists unconcealed. Here, too, there are dormer windows like narrow boxes, and the slope of the roof leaves only a few feet on which one may stand erect.<sup>42</sup>

Dr. Lambie's plan was to provide a rest home for other missionaries between assignments in third-world countries.

In 1943, The Misses Nancy J. Offutt and Jean C. Marshall, the co-headmistresses of nearby Garrison Forest School, purchased the property and resided there for the remainder of their lives.<sup>43</sup> Miss Marshall died in 1973 and Miss Offutt in 1982.<sup>44</sup> Miss Offutt was interested in the background of the property and showed numerous investigators around, including archaeologists Wayne E. Clark and Katherine Quinn and historians John McGrain, Bayly Ellen Marks, Beryl Frank, and Marie Forbes. The joint owners found the millrace still intact when they arrived, and had it filled in, because it created dampness near the house and the mill itself was a useless ruin--and had been even in 1926.<sup>45</sup>

Beryl Frank reported changes made after 1943:

A third floor was added to the dwelling in this century, but has since been removed in an effort to restore the house to its original state.

When the present owner bought The Meadows in 1943, the structure was covered with white stucco. There was a derelict porch on the front and there were bay windows which had been added.

In the restoration, these bay windows were removed and the original living room fireplace was excavated. Today, this is a working fireplace framed on either side by two windows, with wooden shutters recessed in the thick walls that match the original ones.

The original floors had been painted black. When the paint was removed, there were tongue and groove fittings on random pine boards. These floors are back to their original lustre today.

An interesting detail in The Meadows is what is called the coffin door. This is a four-foot-wide door off the kitchen, said to be the door where the dead could pass through on their final journey....

There is no Owings family burial plot, as many of the family were buried at St. Thomas Church.

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Evidence of a formal garden can still be seen in the springtime, but most of what remains at The Meadows shows the home to have been the center of a prosperous plantation of the  $1700s.^{46}$ 

Just three months before her death, Miss Offutt placed the house on the Owings Mills History Council's pre-Christmas tour and her last newspaper interview was published the week before. Marie Forbes quoted the owner's comment that the place had been in "sad condition" when she and Miss Marshall had found it.

A third story had been added, giving it, as Miss Offutt recalls, "the appearance of a rundown summer hotel." This and other such excressences as bay windows were removed by Miss Offutt and Miss Marshall and the house was returned, as nearly possible to its original condition.

While tour visitors will find much to admire in the house's comfortable unpretentious interior, they will enjoy equally the tranquil beauty of its setting. It is not at all unusual at The Meadows to come upon a flight of Mallards taking wing from the slow-moving Red Run and often sheep graze in the pasture directly in front, duplicating the ambience of an English country manor.<sup>47</sup>

Jean G. Marshall had left a life interest in the property to Nancy J. Offutt and, in 1975, Miss Offutt's brother, Thomas W. Offutt purchased the half-interest from the Marshall estate representative.<sup>48</sup> In 1982, Mr. Offutt inherited the other half and in 1983 conveyed his interests to a family-controlled entity, Baltimore County Mortgage Company, shown as owner on the 1984 tax maps.<sup>49</sup>

The lack of original documents make it difficult to date this house, but various newspaper items have boldly proclaimed facts about it, for example, a 1952 feature which declared that The Meadows was the first home of Samuel Owings II and his wife, Deborah Lynch.<sup>50</sup> On the other hand, the Allen history, **The Garrison Church**, assigned the first family home of the Owings to Berry Hill, a now demolished structure that stood on Dolfield Road.<sup>51</sup>

#### THE FATE OF THE MILLS

**Fulling Mill.** As already mentioned, Thomas Owings advertised his fulling mill in Garrison Forest within one mile of Owings Mills in the **Maryland Journal** of September 17, 1782. He advertised for a fuller for fulling, dyeing, and dressing of cloth some nine years later.<sup>52</sup> The 1798 tax list of Soldiers Delight Hundred showed Thomas Owings with the tract Timber Level and a stone millhouse 64 x 26 feet, occupied by Isaac Owings, but failed to show the fulling mill.<sup>53</sup> The fulling works was mentioned again in 1814 when Thomas Owings advertised a grist,

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merchant, and fulling mill 12 miles northwest of Baltimore within sight of the turnpike.<sup>54</sup> Levi Owings (son of Thomas Owings) advertised that a slave named Will or Bill Pye had run away: "He has been several winters employed in a fulling mill, and will very likely take upon himself that of being a fuller, &c., his clothing tow linen and fulled cloth."<sup>55</sup> The fulling mill appeared along with the grist and sawmill on the 1818 tax list of Old District 7, located on what was transcribed as "Cambridge Level."<sup>56</sup> This part of Thomas Owings' property passed to his son, Levi in 1822, and the following year Levi advertised a woolen factory for rent: "Owings Fulling Mill....at the late residence of Mr. Thomas Owings about 14 miles from Baltimore, and not more than one and a half miles from the Reisters-Town Turnpike."<sup>5/</sup> The property included fulling mill, sawmill, and two carding machines. That year's District 7 tax list charged Levy [sic] Owings with part of Howard's Fancy and Timbered Level, plus a fulling mill worth \$200.58 Apparently, it was the two carding machines that had raised the status from "fulling mill" to "woolen factory." Levi Owings' brother-in-law Peter Reister bought the plant in 1829.<sup>59</sup> Yet, Levi Owings advertised for a clothier in 1837, and offered to rent his fulling mill or "let it on shares, or hire a hand by the year. The mill is in a good neighborhood for business. There is a sufficient room in the mill for spinning machines."<sup>60</sup> Peter Reister, however, still held title, and in 1845 he sold to his sister Hannah, Mrs. Levi Owings; the deed mentioned the fulling mill pool, fulling mill dam, fulling mill run, and "the fulling mill and machinery thereto.<sup>61</sup> Levi Owings had also left a life interest in the fulling mill "where she now resides" to his wife Hannah by his will signed in 1842.<sup>62</sup>

Sidney's 1850 map showed "Woolen Factory Hannah Owings" on the north bank of Red Run north of the present Meadows Road. Mrs. Owings sold to Ferdinand Weaver, another relative, in 1852.<sup>63</sup> Weaver received release of Mortgage on the fulling mill and machinery in 1857.<sup>64</sup> Taylor's 1857 map still showed Hannah Owings Woolen [sic] Factory as did the 1863 military map. The 1857 map showed Ferd. Weaver's land on the other side of the run.<sup>65</sup> Weaver died in late 1858 and his farm implements were auctioned on February 28, 1859 at the Benjamin Arthur farm.<sup>66</sup> Only Colonel Fenner Lee's gristmill appears in that area in the 1877 Hopkins atlas.<sup>67</sup> By plotting out the courses given in a deed of 1864, it can be determined that the fulling mill was upstream and used a separate dam from that of the gristmill.<sup>68</sup> Local fulling mills last appeared in the 1877 County Atlas and were soon rendered obsolete by ready-made clothing.

**Gristmill.** Companion to Owings Fulling Mill was a mill first mentioned on the 1798 tax list of Soldiers Delight Hundred, when Thomas Owings was charged with part of Timber Level and "One Stone Mill house 64 x 26," occupied ;by Isaac Owings. The 1804 Assessment carried a mill worth L500, while the 1818 list of Old District 7 showed Owings with a Grist Mill (\$500) and a sawmill (\$180), plus the fulling mill described in the preceding paragraphs.<sup>69</sup> In 1814, Thomas Owings had advertised a grist, merchant, and fulling mill 12 miles northeast of Baltimore and within sight of the Reisterstown Turnpike.<sup>70</sup>

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Thomas Owings' widow, and second wife, Achsah Owings was charged with Timber Level, Owings Lot, and a gristmill (\$200) in Old District 7 Assessment of 1823.<sup>71</sup> The gristmill, like the house, passed to Thomas Owings' son Thomas, then to Mrs. Ann Owings Arthur.<sup>72</sup> Sidney's map of 1850 shows the Ann Arthur house a little east of the Hannah Owings Woolen Factory. In 1860, Benjamin Arthur and his wife, Mary H. Arthur, sold the mill and house to Isaac Tyson, Jr., the chrome ore magnate, reserving the family burying ground.<sup>73</sup>

Four years later, Tyson's executors conveyed the property in trust to Richard W. Hook, reserving the right to dig chrome ore in the stream.<sup>74</sup> In another four years, Hook sold to Frederick C. Bryan parts of Harrisons Meadows, Dividende, Timber Level, and Howard's Fancy.<sup>75</sup> Bryan offered the mill for rent in 1871 in the County weekly.<sup>76</sup> Bryan made a mortgage and then defaulted, and the tracts were advertised in the County weekly in 1877 with "a two story grist mill with frame sawmill attached" then occupied by John Hollingsworth.<sup>77</sup> The 1876 Assessment Ledger of District 4 had listed Hollingsworth with 100 acres (\$4,500), stone barn, cowshed, dairy, chopping mill, and woodshed (\$2,000), as if he were the actual owner.<sup>78</sup>

The week after the auction, a Towson paper reported that William A. Fisher had bought the mill for \$1,700.<sup>79</sup> As it turned out, James Fenner Lee of Carroll County was substituted as purchaser when the deed was drawn up.<sup>80</sup> The Atlas of 1877 showed the Grist and Saw Mill of Col. Fenner Lee north of Red Run and north of the present Meadow Road. The mill was not enumerated on any assessment after 1876, although Bromley's 1898 atlas (Plate 29) shows the saw and grist mill of Colonel J. Fenner Lee while the 1915 issue shows a saw and grist mill without indication of ownership.<sup>81</sup> Colonel Lee died in 1898 and his widow, Mary Cornelia Lee, held the property. Lee's inventory included a certificate of membership in the Baltimore Corn and Flour Exchange.<sup>82</sup> Mrs. Lee conveyed in 1904 to her daughter, Sarah Fenner Walker, in a deed that mentioned the landmark as "an ice house now erected...." and mentioned the "centre of an old Mill Race...north wall of an Old Burying lot...." and a "driveway which leads to the dwelling house...."

The mill was not found in the highly detailed 1880 manufacturers' census. Described as a "chopping mill" in the 1876 assessment, it was probably in decline, making only "chop," or animal feed for the farm. This small mill could hardly have figured in Colonel Lee's activity on the Corn and Flour Exchange. By 1882, country mills had begun to install self-contained roller mill units that substituted steel rollers for millstones; the mills that failed to modernize soon became unprofitable and went out of business, soon followed by many of the mills that had sunk fresh capital into new equipment that failed to pay for itself.

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Miss Offutt reported to the author in June 1974 that water still flowed in the millrace when she first lived there. The race swung around the west and north sides of the house and reached the ruin of the mill. However, the proximity of the race and its sluggish water created dampness in the house, and the owners had it filled in; a slight depression in the ground marked its course in 1974.

One corner of the mill survives in a pasture just northeast of the mansion. It is fieldstone, only one story remaining, the walls covered with long-established wisteria. At the east end of the ruin, there is an arched drain or outflow now partially submerged. The mil had apparently been put to some other use; the inner walls have been cement-plastered. The remnant is nine feet wide by 18 feet 8 inches. After the longest wall breaks off, there is still another 27 feet of loose stones that form a mound. Location of the building is about 550 feet north of Red Run, exactly the configuration shown in the 1877 atlas (District 4 plate).

The Misses Marshall and Offutt had given the millstones to their relatives. Miss Offutt remembered the stone as all in one piece with an "iron thing in the middle," which suggests a Cologne stone — perhaps a runner stone--which would need an iron bracket for mounting on the mill axle that would cause it to spin.<sup>84</sup>

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FOOTNOTES:

1

Patents, LG No. C, folio 664, Hall of Records, Annapolis (hereafter cited as H.R.).

<sup>2</sup>William B. Marye, "The Baltimore County 'Garrison,' and the Old Garrison Roads," Maryland Historical Magazine, 16 (September, 1921): 209 (hereafter cited as MHM).

<sup>3</sup>Maryland Journal, Baltimore, February 27, 1781, Supplement, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup>William D. Groff, Jr., to author, June 7, 1984.

<sup>5</sup>Baltimore County Deeds, AL No. B, folio 64, H. R.

<sup>6</sup>Baltimore City Wills, 40, folio 392, H.R.

<sup>7</sup>Baltimore County Deeds, WG No. Z, folio 394, H.R.

<sup>8</sup>Maryland Journal, September 17, 1782.

<sup>9</sup>Baltimore American and Commercial Daily Advertiser. August 14. 1814.

- <sup>10</sup>Federal Direct Assessment, 1798, Baltimore County, Soldiers Delight Hundred, H.R. The Isaac Owings mentioned as "occupant" was Thomas Owings' son.
- <sup>11</sup>Marie Forbes, "Colonial Homestead," Sun Magazine, Baltimore, December 16, 1981, pp. 64-65.
- <sup>12</sup>Robert Barns, The Green Spring Valley, (Baltimore, 1978), 2:79, 80. Archives of Maryland, 16:348, 21:27 (Baltimore County Deed GHC 31:110 attempts to account for the Owings genealogy but is erroneous.)
- <sup>13</sup>Baltimore County Wills, W. B. No. 11, folio 308, H. R. Barnes, Green Spring Valley, 2:80.
- <sup>14</sup>Baltimore American, June 19, 1823.
- <sup>15</sup>John W. McGrain, "An Industrial Archaeological Survey of the northwest Transportation Corridor," Md. Geological Survey, 1975, p. 5-35.

<sup>16</sup>Verbal communication from George Horvath, SHA, March 11, 1982.
<sup>17</sup>Judicial Records HMF 7:377, 382. Plats on f. 385, 386.

<sup>18</sup>Baltimore City Deeds, WG 207:218.

<sup>19</sup>Baltimore County Deeds, GHC 31:110 (Towson).

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tion number <u>8</u> Page <u>15</u> The Meadows Baltimore County, Maryland	(BA-32)
<sup>20</sup> J. C. Sidney and P. J. Browne, "Map of the City and County of B from Original Surveys," Baltimore, 1850.	altimore, Maryland
<sup>21</sup> Baltimore County Deeds, HMF 11:481; 482. Also, Administration D	ocket, 2:482.
<sup>22</sup> Baltimore County Deeds,GHC 31:109.	
<sup>23</sup> Collamer M. Abbott, "Isaac Tyson, Jr., Pioner Mining Engineer MHM, 60 (March 1965) :15.25.	and Metallurgist,'
<sup>24</sup> J. T. Ducatel, American Farmer, June 24, 1840, p. 43.	
<sup>25</sup> Baltimore County Deeds, JHL 41:305.	
26 Maryland Journal, Towson, June 8, 1895. Baltimore City Deeds, 280:129, re White Hall Factory.	TK 273:346 and T
<sup>27</sup> Maryland Journal, December 31, 1870.	
<sup>28</sup> Baltimore County Deeds, EHA 59:495.	
<sup>29</sup> Baltimore County Judicial Records, JB 47:455.	
<sup>30</sup> Baltimore County Assessment Ledger, District 4, 1876, unpaged.	
<sup>31</sup> Baltimore <b>Sun,</b> January 2, 1877.	
<sup>32</sup> Maryland Journal, Towson, February 17, 1877.	
<sup>33</sup> Baltimore County Judicial Records, JB 99:556.	
<sup>34</sup> Baltimore <b>American,</b> May 18, 1886.	
<sup>35</sup> Obit., Baltimore County Democrat, February 5, 1898.	
<sup>36</sup> "The Meadows Built in 1737, Sold to Medical Missionary," <b>Sun</b> , Oc 3.	tober 25, 1926, p
<sup>37</sup> Baltimore County Deeds, WPC 280:350.	
<sup>38</sup> B.C. Tax Ledger, District 4, 1918, f. 456.	
<sup>39</sup> B. C. Tax Ledger, District 4, 1918, f. 295.	
<sup>40</sup> John Moseley Walker et. al. v. John Moseley Walker, Jr., Judi 322-310.	cial Records, WP
<sup>41</sup> Judicial Records, WPC 322:323.	

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<sup>64</sup>Baltimore County Deeds, HMF 1:238. <sup>65</sup>Robert Taylor, "Map of the City and County of Baltimore from Actual Surveys," Baltimore, 1857. <sup>66</sup>Accounts of Sales, JLR 2:331 <sup>67</sup>G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1877). <sup>68</sup>Baltimore County Deeds, JHL 41:305. <sup>69</sup>Assessment, 1810, Old District 7, H.R. No. 8269. 70 American, August 14, 1814. <sup>71</sup>Assessment, 1823, Old District 7, H.R. No. 8275. <sup>72</sup>Baltimore County Deeds, WG 207:218. <sup>73</sup>Baltimore County Deeds, GHC 31:110. <sup>74</sup>Baltimore County Deeds, JHL 41:305. <sup>75</sup>Baltimore County Deeds, EHA 59:495. 76 Maryland Journal, November 5, 1870. 77<sub>Maryland Journal, January 27, 1877.</sub> <sup>78</sup>Baltimore County Tax Ledger, 1876, District 4. 79 Maryland Journal, February 17, 1877. <sup>80</sup>Baltimore County Deeds, JB 99:556. <sup>81</sup>George W. Bromley, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1898, 1915). Plates 29, 41, respectively. <sup>82</sup>Baltimore County Inventories. TP 19:248. <sup>83</sup>Baltimore County Deeds, WPC 280:350. <sup>84</sup>McGrain, "Industrial Archaeological Survey," 5-37, 38.

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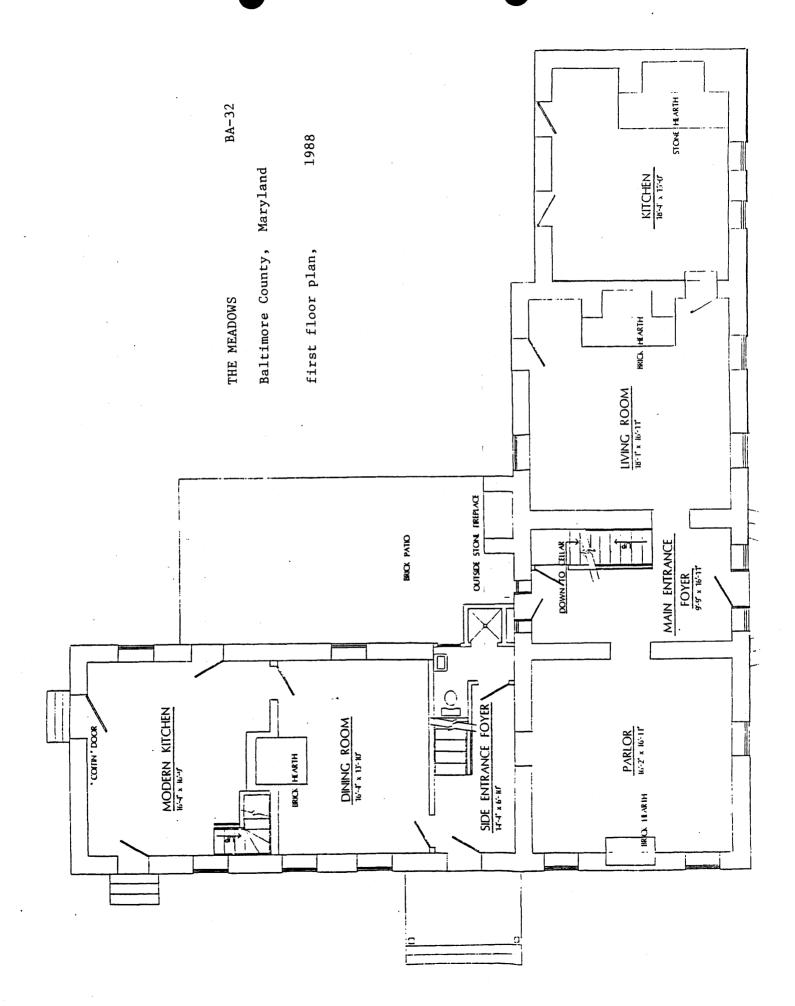
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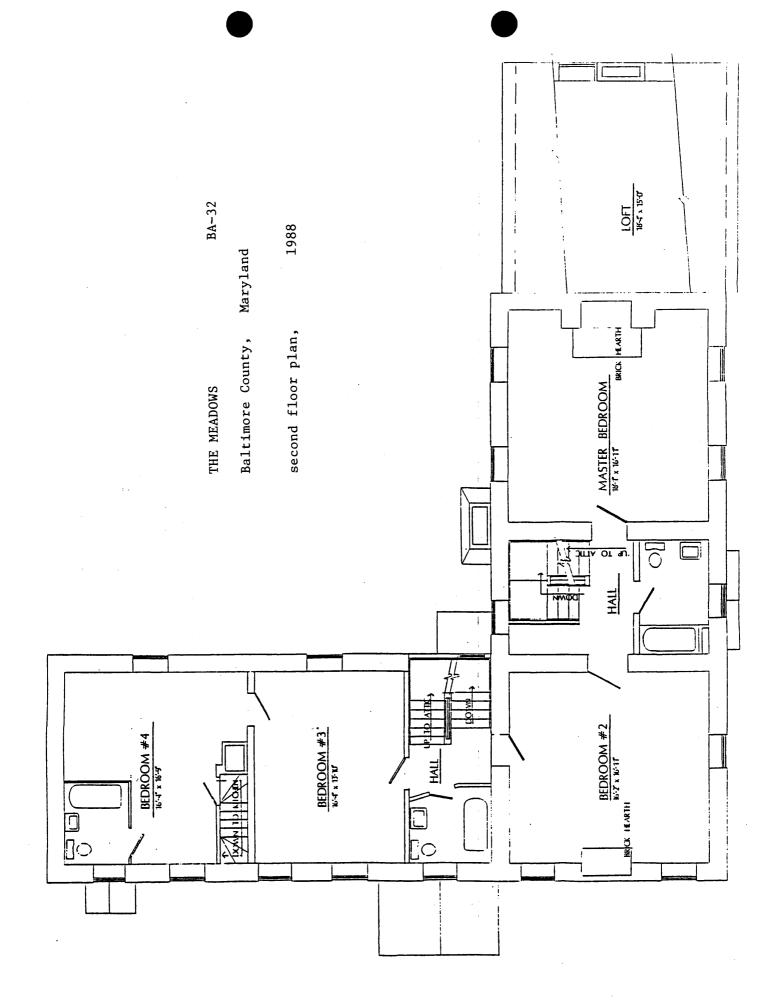
Baltimore County, Maryland

#### DESCRIPTION OF 5.0756 ACRE PORTION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY MORTGAGE COMPANY PROPERTY (PARCEL C) EIGHTH ELECTION DISTRICT BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Beginning for the same at a point in the 32nd or North 03 degrees 24 minutes 10 seconds West, 703.66 foot line of that tract of land which by deed dated May 19, 1965 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber R.R.G. 4460 folio 473 was conveyed by Commodore Holding Corporation to Painters Mill Venture (said land being described in a deed from Thomas W. Offutt and Josephine B. Offutt, his wife, to Commodore Holding Corporation, dated May 19, 1965, and recorded among said Land Records in Liber R. R. G. 4460 folio 453), said point being distant 641.33 feet South 03 degrees 21 minutes 26 seconds East from the end of said line as shown on Amended Subdivision Plat of Property of Baltimore County Mortgage Company, recorded among said Land Records in Plat Book S.M. 55 folio 126 on December 18, 1986, thence leaving said place of beginning and running with and binding on said plat and also running with and binding reversely on the 32nd and a portion of the 31st lines of said deed, s now surveyed and referring all bearings of this description to the Baltimore County Metropolitan District Grid Meridian,

- 1. South 03 degrees 21 minutes 26 seconds East, 424.86 feet to a point thence, leaving said 31st line and running with and binding along Parcel A of said plat, the four following courses and distances viz:
- 2. North 81 degrees 26 minutes 34 seconds West, 194.65 feet to a point thence,
- 3. North 50 degrees 27 minutes 09 seconds West, 95.52 feet to a point thence,
- 4. North 14 degrees 02 minutes 09 seconds West, 181.06 feet to a point thence.





Baltimore County Maryland

resource sketch map, 1988

