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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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property


historic name Round About Hills (HO-9)  
other names Peacefields

2. Location

street & number 15505 Cattail Oaks  not for publication  
city or town Glenwood  vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county Howard code 027 zip code 21738

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments).

  
Signature of certifying official/Title

10-1-08  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

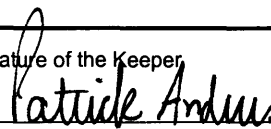
4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 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



11/20/2008

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/Storage

AGRICULTURE/Agricultural Outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Southern Colonial

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD

STONE

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Round About Hills  
Name of Property

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## Description Summary:

Round About Hills, built ca. 1773, is located at 15505 Cattail Oaks near Glenwood in central Howard County, Maryland. The property of 3.192 acres contains a 1 ½ story frame house with a stone addition, a stone outbuilding called the slave quarter, and a small frame outbuilding called the cottage, used as a tenant house. Oriented to the southeast, the main block is three-bay by one-bay, with a gambrel roof. On the northeast end of the house is a shed-roofed, four-bay by one-bay rubble stone addition that has two stories on the front and one story on the rear. There are modern additions on the northwest (rear) of the stone addition. A fourth structure on the property, a stone foundation with a concrete roof, has lost its integrity and does not contribute to the resource.

## General Description:

### House-Exterior

The house is a 1 ½ story, three-bay by one-bay frame structure with a rubble stone foundation, beaded-edge, flush-board siding fastened with rose-head nails on the southeast and northwest, and stuccoed stone on the southwest gambrel end. It has a gambrel roof that has asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge. There is a four-bay by one-bay rubble stone addition on the northeast that has a two-story front with a shed roof that slopes down to the northwest, making a one-story elevation on the rear, or northwest. There are modern additions on the northwest of this stone addition.

The southeast elevation of the main block has a center door with eight panels, six of them set above the lock rail. The panels have sunken fields and quirked Greek ovolo panel moulds. The architrave has an ogee backband, a broken field with an ogee at the break, and a bead on the inner edge. There is a three-light transom, and the transom bar has a quirked ovolo at the top, a fillet and bead in the center, and a fillet and bead at the bottom. There is a nine-over-nine sash on each side of the window with architrave that has a bead on the inner edge and is mitered at the corners. The wood sill has a large bull-nose on the edge, with a bead board below it. The windows have blinds hung on cast-iron butt hinges, and with cast-iron shutter dogs. There is a one-story, three-bay porch with a hip roof that has asphalt shingles, and open eaves with exposed rafter ends. The porch has four chamfered wood posts, tongue-and-groove wood deck, and beaded-edge-and-center board soffit. There are three six-over-six double-hung sash in shed-roof dormers on the roof.

The southwest elevation of the main block has no openings. Beneath the existing stucco is earlier roughcasting. Not enough is visible to determine whether this was scored, though one line that is visible could be a score mark to imitate ashlar. The rake boards have recently been replaced, and the earlier ones are now sitting on the ground. The earlier boards have beaded edges with an ogee-and-

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bevel moulding at the eave, and were all fastened with wire nails, so they must have been replacements themselves.

The northwest elevation of the main block has a six-panel door in the north bay, with sunken fields and quirked Greek-ogee panel moulds. The architrave is side cut and has a beaded interior edge. The other two bays have typical nine-over-nine sash with blinds. There is a wood box cornice with an ovolo above an ovolo on the bed mould, and two ogees on the cornice. The siding has corner boards with a bead on both edges. There is a new porch on the rear, or northwest, with a CMU foundation. The roof has three new six-over-six sash in shed-roof dormers. The northeast elevation of the main block has cellar doors to the basement under the main block. The weatherboards here are plain and are new. The ell butts against most of this elevation, but there is a six-over-six sash in the center of the gambrel peak.

The southeast elevation of the stone addition, or ell, has three new six-over-six sash in beaded-edge frames on the first story, with wood sills and splayed brick jack arches. The east-center bay has a door with six panels that have sunken fields and ogee panel moulds. The doorframe matches the window in the ell, and there is a three-light transom with a transom bar that has a quirked Greek ovolo and bead. There is a one-story, one-bay porch that has been rebuilt and has a gable roof with a northwest-southeast ridge, and has CMU piers. The second story has three new six-over-six sash like the first story and has no opening above the door. There is a tie-rod with an "S" plate at the south end, between the first and second stories. There is a date stone on the east end, near the eave, marked "TBDM 1820." The cornice is covered with aluminum now.

The northeast elevation of the ell has no openings. There is an interior brick chimney in the center of the northeast wall and another in the center of the ell. A modern kitchen addition has been constructed on the northwest, to the north, and the northwest porch connects to it. In the center of the ell is a small earlier pantry addition on the northwest that is now covered with the screened-in porch. This addition is one bay by one bay, one story, and has a shed roof. It has weatherboards that are circular-sawn and are fastened with wire nails. There is a six-over-six sash on the northwest elevation of this pantry addition. The bottom sash slides back into the wall on the north, and the top sash is fixed, with a track on the outer face for the bottom sash to slide in.

## House-Interior, basement

The basement is only under the main block of the house, and is only accessed from stairs on the outside of the building. It has a concrete floor and whitewashed rubble stone walls. There is a hewn summer beam that runs northeast-southwest and is 10 inches wide by 8 ¼ inches deep. It has ghosts of studs along it, with square nail holes, indicating a wall in the center of the basement that ran northeast-southwest. The joists are hewn, run northwest-southeast, and are 4 to 4 ¾ inches wide by

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6 ¾ to 7 ¼ inches deep. The joists are spaced 18 ½ to 19 ½ inches on centers and have half-tenons into both the summer beam and the sills. The southwest wall has a stone pier that projects out in the center of the wall and supports the end of the summer beam. The flooring above is gauged. The summer beam has a tenon with beveled haunch on the southwest end into a large beam that runs northwest-southeast. This beam is the same size as the summer and is set 1 foot from the wall. This beam supports the hearth. There are two iron bars set into the stone wall, and this large hearth beam, in order to support boards beneath the hearth. The southeast end of the hearth beam rests over a vent opening, and this opening has a mortised and tenoned and pegged frame and three horizontal diamond wood louvers. There is a similar vent with louvers cut through on the northwest wall, set west of center. In the north corner is a stair header that runs northeast-southwest and supports three joists. There must have originally been a stairway down to the cellar from the northeast to the southwest. This would have cut across the back door and stairway on the first story. The first story partition wall between the stairs and the west room has stud ends passing through the floor and nailed to the side of the joist. These were probably for doorposts. There are four others that pass through the floor, as well, and two of them are boards with the remains of boards nailed over the stud ends running northwest-southeast.

### House-Interior, first story

The first story has one room across the front of the main block, a room and stair passage in the rear of the main block, two rooms in the ell, and two rooms in the additions on the rear of the ell. The southeast room in the main block has 2 ¼-inch-wide oak flooring that runs northwest-southeast. The walls have been covered with drywall, and the wood trim was removed and some of it put back after the drywall was installed. The chair rail in this room appears to be all new, and the board with bead at the bottom, beneath the chair rail shelf, is new. There is a moulding below the shelf that has an ovolo above a cavetto, and it sticks out beyond the shelf and is new. The chair rail shelf itself could be old or reused, though it appears to be in too good a condition. The baseboard is all new, with a flattened bead on top. The front, or southeast, door architrave has three lancet mouldings in the center with a quirked ogee to each side, and a beaded interior edge. The architrave has bulls-eye corner blocks. The door is mortised and tenoned and pinned, with two pins on each side of each rail and four pins on the center lock rail. The door has sunken fields with quirked Greek ovolo panel moulds that are applied to the door. It has a wrought-iron rim lock that has been refurbished, and has a brass knob with set screws. The door has cast-iron butt hinges with five knuckles, and two of the hinges are marked "THO<sup>S</sup>. CLARK." There is a three-light transom. The window architrave is new and is fastened over top of the old architrave. The original has a bead on the inner edge. The sash have 10-inch by 12-inch lights, have deep, narrow ovolo muntins, and have plain rails with no parting beads. The sash are mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners, but not on the muntins. There is a door on the northwest that has new architrave, and the door is missing. The southwest elevation has a paneled fireplace wall. The firebox was once of soapstone, but has been rebuilt of

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brick. The hearth is soapstone ashlar. There is a wood mantel that has been added. It has turned half columns with beads at the bottom and top of the column. There is a segmental arch on the bottom of the frieze, and the frieze is otherwise plain. The bed mould has a quirked bead at the top, a cavetto above two fillets, and a deep Greek ovolo on the edge of the shelf. The mantel covers the bottom of one lying panel above it, and there are three tall panels at the top of this wall. There is one tall panel to the south of the mantel and two tall panels to the west of it, above the chair rail. Below the chair rail, there is also one panel to the south and two to the west of the mantel. The panels on this wall have raised fields with ovolo panel moulds, and the rails and stiles are mortised and tenoned and pinned. There is chair rail on this wall that has an ogee below the shelf, and it matches the backband found in the northwest room. To the south of the fireplace is a built-in cupboard with two doors at the bottom that have one panel each, and are mortised and tenoned and pinned. The panels match those of the wall, and the doors are hung on new brass H hinges. There are two drawers above these doors, and above the drawers is a torus and fillet moulding, with chair rail above this moulding. The top section of the cupboard is missing its doors, but still retains shelves. This section has a broken-field architrave with an ogee at the break, a beaded interior edge, and an ogee backband. The back side of the cupboard has beaded-edge vertical boards. There is crown moulding that was added by the current owners and matches the architrave on the cupboard.

The passage floor matches the southeast room, and there is new baseboard, chair rail, and architrave here. There is a straight run of stairs along the northeast wall, and it ascends to the northwest. It has new oak treads, rectangular-in-plan balusters, and a slim turned newel that is slightly tapered. There is an ovoid handrail that is mortised and tenoned and pinned to the newels, and the handrail is straight. The stairs have a plain open stringer with a rabbet and raised bead at the bottom, and the bead is flanked by a small fillet on each side. The rear, or northwest, door has sunken fields and quirked Greek ovolo panel moulds. The door has cast-iron butt hinges with five knuckles, and they appear to be Thomas Clark hinges. There is a cast-iron rim lock that is labeled "BLW." There is a door beneath the stairs that has four panels with raised fields and ovolo moulds, has H-L hinges at the top and bottom, and has a wrought-iron rim lock with no knobs. This door leads to a closet beneath the stairway, and the interior of the closet has plywood paneling. There is a door on the southwest elevation that leads to the northwest room. It has six panels with raised fields and ovolo panel moulds. It is mortised and tenoned and pinned, with one pin on each rail, other than the lock rail, which has two. The door is hung on H-L hinges on the top and bottom, and has an H hinge in the center. It has a large wrought-iron rim lock with a new brass knob, and on the back side of the door the panels are sunk and flat, with no panel moulds.

The northwest room has the same flooring as the southeast room, and has new baseboard and chair rail and new architrave on the northeast door. The windows have original architrave that has an ogee backband and a beaded interior edge. The sash have 10-inch by 12-inch lights and are the same as

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the southeast room windows. The southwest wall has been closed off with drywall that covers a fireplace that is now used for the furnace. To the west of the fireplace is a closet with a six-panel door with raised fields and ovolo panel moulds. It is mortised and tenoned and pinned, with one pin on each end of each rail except the lock rail, which has two. It is hung on HL hinges on the bottom rail and the frieze rail, and the hinges are screwed to the door with hand-cut screws. The architrave matches the windows. Above the closet door are two one-panel doors that are wider than the lower door. They are hung on H hinges, and the backband is crossetted in order to wrap around the wider doors. The lower door has a wrought-iron rim lock with new brass knobs. Wood crown moulding has been added to this room. The interior of the closet now has shelves. The back sides of the door panels are hand-planed.

The stone ell has a lobby entry, with the wall of the fireplace in the southwest ell room to the north of the lobby and a built-in ladder on the northeast side of this fireplace. The ladder stair ascends to the northwest and was closed-off originally, but the present owners removed the board wall on the northeast side. The southwest doorway architrave has a quirked Greek ovolo-and-bead backband and a beaded interior edge. The northeast doorway has been completely opened up. The southeast or front door on the ell has architrave that matches the southwest ell room, as does the door here. This door has a large cast-iron rim lock marked "NORWALK L. CO." and has brass knobs. The door has cast-iron butt hinges that have five knuckles and appear to have pins, and the hinges are plain.

The southwest room in the ell has the same flooring as the southeast room, and has new baseboard, new crown moulding, and mostly new chair rail. The chair rail on the southeast wall is original and has a bead on the bottom corner of the shelf and a bead on the bottom edge. There are new sash in slightly splayed jambs, and the architrave has a quirked Greek-ovolo backband and a beaded interior edge. The northwest door architrave has had the backband replaced. The door has six panels with sunken fields and ogee panel moulds, and is mortised and tenoned and pinned with two pins in each end of the lock rail and one pin at each of the other rails. The door has a small cast-iron rim lock, which replaces a large rim lock, and has cast-iron butt hinges with five knuckles. These hinges are labeled, but the marks cannot be clearly read. On the northeast elevation is a fireplace in the center with a rebuilt firebox and a brick hearth, and there is new tile on the surround. There is a wood mantel that has architrave with the same backband as the southeast windows. The bed mould has a large stack of small mouldings consisting of seven fillets at the bottom, then a bead, a quirked Greek ovolo and bead, and a cavetto and bead at the top. An ogee and bevel have been added to the mantel below the mantelshelf, and at the edge of the mantelshelf. There is a bead on the bottom of the mantelshelf, too. The added moulding mostly hides this bead. To the north of the fireplace is an enclosed stairway that extends out into the room, with a door on the southwest end that has new architrave and is missing the door. There is one step below the doorway, and the stair has a straight

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run with a winder at the southeast end. To the east of the fireplace is a door to the lobby entry. It has new architrave laid over the old, with the old architrave having a bead on the inner edge. There is a six-panel door with sunken fields and ogee panel moulds. It has a cast-iron rim lock with brass knobs. There is heavy wear on the lock stile above the knob, and on the windowsill next to it, indicating heavy usage. The door has cast-iron butt hinges with five knuckles and heavy paint, and there are three pairs of hinges on the door. The back side of the door has no panel moulds.

The northeast ell room is one step down from the lobby entry and has a new floor that replaces rotted three-quarter-round log sleepers that had narrow board flooring. There is a large cooking fireplace on the northeast that now has a brick hearth, but originally did not have a hearth when the present owners acquired the property. The fireplace has straight stone jambs and a bricked-in oven opening on the back wall, to the north, that has a semi-circular brick arched top. The fireplace has a straight brick jack arch on an iron bar, and has an iron strap on the east jamb and face to hold a crane. A new crane has been added here by the present owners. About 21 inches above the opening of the fireplace is a horizontal wood beam set into the wall. Old photographs of the exposed stone do not show clear evidence of whether this was infill below the beam to lower the fireplace opening. The southeast window backband appears to be removed, and the opening has new sash. Parts of the second-story floor joists are exposed, and they are sawn, but there are no clear saw marks. The joists had lath and plaster, and there is whitewash on the stone between the joists, suggesting that neither the walls nor the ceiling were originally plastered in this room. The southwest wall has bead boards on the bottom side of the ladder. There is a short door to the west of this ladder that leads to a closet, and it has beaded-edge vertical boards. This door has now been flipped upside down, has a new latch, and is set under the winder stair in the southwest ell room. The door header for this opening has center tenons into the studs on either side of the door opening, and there are center studs that are fastened to the top of this header with cut nails. The side of the fireplace stone to the southeast in the closet is whitewashed. On the northwest elevation of the northeast ell room there is a doorway that leads to the modern kitchen addition on the northwest.

On the northwest side of the southwest ell room is a pantry that was added to the room at an unknown date. The doorway on the southeast of this pantry has a bull-nose frame and a splayed brick jack arch. There are built-in cupboards on the southwest with beaded-edge-and-center boards, and the boards were used as the northeast walls of the pantry. They were also used on the ceiling, but this has all been removed. The northwest elevation has a six-over-six sash, with the bottom sash set outside of the top sash. It has 10-inch by 12-inch lights, ovolo muntins and is mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners and the muntins.



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### House-Interior, second story

The second story floor plan is identical to the first story, but with two rooms to the southeast in the main block. The passage stair landing has a window set high on the wall because it is in a dormer. The flooring matches the first story. The baseboard on the northeast elevation has a bead on the top, while the rest of the baseboard is new. The stairway ends at the second story, and the handrail and balustrade match the first story. The door architrave is also all new. The southeast and southwest doors have three beaded-edge boards that are hand-planed, and the doors are hung on H-L hinges. The south chamber door has a cast-iron rim lock that is a replacement for the original, and it has glass knobs. The northwest chamber door has a large wrought-iron rim lock with original oval brass knobs. The east chamber door has a replacement cast-iron rim lock with porcelain knobs. The door on the northeast has five beaded-edge vertical boards, and they are hand-planed. The door has a Norfolk latch with a cast handle and a wrought-iron plate, and has cast-iron butt hinges with five knuckles and they are labeled "BALDWIN PATENT." The east chamber is a modern bathroom that had a vertical board wall on the southwest. This is covered with drywall.

The south chamber has random-width tongue-and-grooved pine flooring that runs northeast-southwest, ranges from 6 inches to 11 inches, and is face-nailed. There is new baseboard and trim, new sash, and drywall over the plaster. There is a built-in closet on the southwest that has four drawers in the center with square pulls, and a door above and below the drawers, plus a two-panel door to each side that leads to a closet. This closet covers over the fireplace or chimney on the southwest wall. To the south of this closet is an original closet with a beaded-edge vertical-board wall and door that are hand-planed. The door has H-L hinges at the top and bottom, and an H hinge in the center. This original closet has six shelves inside of it, at least some of which are original. The back wall of the closet also has beaded-edge vertical boards. A heating vent that probably dates to the circa 1920s has been cut into the wall at the bottom of the south corner.

The west chamber has paneling on the walls and ceiling tiles. There is a closet at the west end that has large H-L hinges on the door, and the door is also covered with paneling. The southwest wall was studded out at an unknown date, and this has been partially removed, exposing a fireplace here. Behind the dimensional studs, at the top, are beaded-edge-and-center horizontal boards, but it is not clear what these were put here for.

The ell is divided into two rooms. The southwest ell chamber has 6 ¼-inch to 8-inch pine flooring that is tongue and grooved, is face-nailed, and runs northeast-southwest. The flooring has carpet-tack holes that run northeast-southwest for strip carpet that was 18 inches wide. There are four steps down from the passage to this chamber. The walls have modern paneling, and the ceiling is finished but has a partially exposed purlin that runs northeast-southwest. It is hewn, is 4 inches wide, its

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depth cannot be determined, and it has traces of whitewash. The ceiling slopes down from the southeast to the northwest. There is a stair in the north corner that has rectangular balusters, chamfered square newel posts, and a round handrail. It is not possible to tell whether there was a fireplace in this chamber because there is paneling over the northeast wall. The window architrave has a quirked Greek ovolo-and-bead backband, and a beaded interior edge. There is new sash. The door on the northeast is missing, but has the same architrave as the windows.

The northeast ell chamber has the same flooring as the southwest ell chamber, and has a trapdoor in the floor on the southwest wall that gives access to the ladder stair below. The east corner of this chamber has been closed off for a modern bathroom. The door is old, and was moved from another location. It has six panels with sunken fields and ogee panel moulds on the southwest side. It has a plain cast-iron rim lock with brass with setscrews, and cast iron butt hinges that are labeled, but not legible. The label is written in a semi-circular pattern. The window on the southeast has new backband and new sash. There is bead board that has been added recently on the northwest, along with a closet, and a skylight has been added to this room.

### House-Interior, attic

The main block attic is in the top half of the gambrel roof. There is a pull-down stair in the passage that gives access to the attic now. The rafters are 2 ½ to 3 inches wide by 3 ½ to 4 inches deep, and are spaced 25 ½ to 26 ¾ inches on centers. The rafters are sash-sawn, but many are hewn and adzed on the bottom face. The rafters do not taper. They have half-dovetailed half-lap collar beams that are nailed with wrought nails. The collars are pit sawn and are 1 to 1 ½ inches by 3 ¾ inches. The rafters have an open-faced bridle and peg at the ridge. There are circular-sawn rafters that are fished alongside the originals, and they all support circular-sawn board sheathing. The rafter feet sit on top of a board plate. The gambrel collars/joists are not very visible, though one appears to possibly be sash-sawn. The board floor is not tongue and grooved and was probably added later when the modern stair was put in. The stone wall on the southwest elevation is parged. The studs on the northeast elevation are hewn on the face and are partly in the round, and are covered by insulation. The northeast elevation has no sash.

### Slave Quarter

The slave quarter is located about 5 feet north of the kitchen addition to the house. It is a one-story, four-bay by one-bay rubble stone structure with a gable roof that has corrugated metal and a northeast-southwest ridge, and an interior brick chimney on both the northeast and southwest gable ends. On the southeast elevation, the south bay has a beaded-edge vertical-board door hung on large tapered strap hinges that have round ends. There is a cast iron rim lock that is not original to the door. The door frame is mortised and tenoned and pegged, and there is a stone sill. The south-center bay has a six-over-six sash in a mitered frame, and has a wood sill. The east-center bay has a

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door and frame that match that in the south bay. This door has a cast iron Suffolk latch and T hinges, but the frame has pintel holes. The east bay has a six-over-six sash that matches the south-center bay. There is a wood box cornice. The southwest elevation has no openings, and has tapered rake boards. The northwest elevation has a typical six-over-six sash set to the north and a window opening to the west that has been in-filled with stone. The northeast elevation has a modern wood shed that is in the process of being constructed up against it. There are two four-light sash in the gable end, and the plain rake boards appear to be fairly new.

The interior of the slave quarter has two rooms divided by a stone wall that runs northwest-southeast. The southwest room has plastered walls and a concrete floor. There is a brick chimney on the southwest elevation, and it is plastered and has a stovepipe hole. There is no ceiling in this room, and a previous owner converted this to a smokehouse. The joists above are hewn, run northwest-southeast, are 4 inches by 6 inches and are spaced 45-46 inches on centers. There are only four joists in this room, with two of them set just inside of the stone end walls. The northeast wall has a vertical-board door hung on T hinges. The northeast room has a wood floor that is tongue-and-grooved 12-inch boards, and they run northeast-southwest. The window sash have ovolo muntins, 8-inch by 10-inch lights, and are not mortised and tenoned and pinned. The walls have plaster on stone. There is a stove chimney with a thimble on the northeast end, and the north corner has an enclosed winder stair to the attic. The southwest end of the stair has a vertical-board door hung on cast iron butt hinges. The attic joists match those in the southwest room, and are whitewashed. In this room is stored a wood mantel very similar to that found in the south room of the main block.

In the attic, the rafters are sash-sawn and have few tool marks. They are 3 inches wide and are tapered from 4 inches at the foot to 3 inches at the ridge. The rafter feet have a bird's mouth cut and rest on a false plate. The rafters have an open-faced bridle and peg at the ridge. They also have Roman numeral marriage marks that are chiseled, and most of these are hidden by corrugated metal that has been added to the ceiling. The rafters are spaced 36 ½ to 39 inches on centers. The southwest wall is reused tongue-and-grooved vertical boards with whitewash, and with lines of exposed natural wood spaced about 45 inches apart. These boards appear to be the old flooring taken up from the attic over the southwest room. The rafters support shingle lath. The northeast elevation sash are mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners.

### Cottage

About 40 feet east of the house is a building referred to as the cottage. It is a one-story, three-bay by three-bay frame structure covered in new wood weatherboards, with a rubble stone foundation and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northwest-southeast ridge. There is an interior brick chimney on the northwest gable end, and a recent addition on the northwest end. The southwest elevation has

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a center door with beaded-edge vertical boards. There is a new six-over-six sash to each side, and the south bay window opening was added by the present owners. The windows have board shutters. There is a wood box cornice. The southeast elevation has a boarded-up window opening in the foundation, a new six-over-six sash on the first story and a new one-over-one sash in the gable end. The northeast elevation has a new six-over-six sash in the center. The northwest elevation, in the gable end, has two four-light sash.

The cottage interior is approximately 15 feet, 3 inches deep by 15 feet, 4 inches wide, has new pine flooring, and has new sash and trim. The door trim is original, and is head-cut with a pedimented top piece. There are exposed corner posts that are roughly in the round, and are not exposed at the top approximately one foot of the post. All four corner posts are the same as they all disappear into the wall at the top. The upper-story joists are hewn and run northeast-southwest. They are 3 to 5 inches wide, their depth could not be determined, and they are spaced 23 to 25 inches on centers. They were never plastered over. The lower story has a single room, and there is flat chair rail board in it. There is a stove chimney on the northwest and a winder stair in the south corner that contains knotty pine paneling. The inner side of this wall is vertical boards with gaps between them. The second story of the cottage also has a single room, and has random-width flooring that runs northwest-southeast. The boards vary between 9 and 16 ¾ inches and are face-nailed with what appear to be cut nails. It appears that some of these nails have been added. According to the owner, the walls have brick nogging. The upper-story ceiling is finished, but the rafters are visible behind the knee walls. They are sawn, 3 ½ inches wide, and their depth could not be determined. Two pairs of rafters are spaced 24 inches on centers, and they contain traces of whitewash.

### Stone Foundation

About 100 feet southeast of the house is a stone foundation that is banked into a hill on the northwest, with a doorway on the southeast. The building now has a flat concrete roof. It does not appear to have been constructed as a cellar, but was probably a foundation for a larger building that is now gone. Due to lack of integrity, it does not contribute to the significance of the property.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**Area of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

c. 1773-1937

**Significant Dates**

c. 1773, 1820

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

**Previous documentation on files (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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Summary Statement of Significance:

Round About Hills is significant under Criterion C as an example of a gambrel-roofed double-cell plan dwelling with a stone end, very much in the tradition of the Chesapeake Tidewater in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but a rare survival in inland Howard County. The house retains a high degree of integrity, and incorporates an 1820 stone kitchen addition that illustrates the change from detached to attached kitchens in this region. There are several outbuildings associated with the house, most significantly a stone structure that is believed to have been a slave quarter, another rare survival. The period of significance begins ca. 1773, the approximate construction date of the house, and continues until 1937 when the complex was sold out of the Cook-Stewart family and by which date the house and outbuildings had substantially achieved their present form and appearance.

## Resource History and Historic Context:

Round About Hills originated as a 266-acre land patent granted to Henry Ridgely III, a surveyor, in 1745. Ridgely reportedly lived to the east of Guilford in present-day Howard County. Ridgely has traditionally been credited with constructing the original, frame part of the existing house in the late 1740s, just prior to his death, though this is almost certainly incorrect. In his will of 1749, Ridgely divided his estate among his widow and children, with his son, Joshua, receiving part of a resurveyed tract of land around Highland as well as the tract Round About Hills. Joshua was apparently a minor, since Ridgely placed him in the care of Philemon Dorsey until he reached age 21. In 1756 Joshua Ridgely turned his estate over to his mother, Elizabeth, in exchange for her providing him room and board and money for his clothing. The property included all of "the said Joshua Ridgelys estate both real and personal now in his possession as also all that part of Coll. Henry Ridgely deceased." This suggests that Joshua owned other land than Round About Hills and may have lived on that other land. The rights given to his mother were only for life, and seem to be the formalization of an arrangement by which they took care of each other. This was probably because Joshua was not married. The deed stipulates: "the true intent and meaning of these presents is that the said Elizabeth Ridgely her heirs and assigns have no estate right title or property after the death of the said Joshua Ridgely to the aforesaid estate by virtue of this deed." Elizabeth Ridgely died in 1762, and in her will transferred back to him his property, even though her heirs had no legal claim to it. This was probably meant to make very clear the title to Joshua's estate, in case there were any questions. (1)

Joshua apparently died in 1774 without issue, yet clearly his brother Nicholas already owned Round About Hills. According to Joshua's father's will the property was to pass to Joshua's brother, Nicholas Greenberry Ridgely after Joshua's death, but how it came into his hands before that time is not known, since no deed can be found to that effect. Round About Hills has traditionally been

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credited as Nicholas' home, but Nicholas had his own estate, where he lived, as is made clear in a sale advertisement for his property in 1771. Nicholas died in that year, and his will ordered that all of his real estate be sold at auction. In addition to the main farm of Nicholas, the ad described a 266-acre tract about 4 miles from the main farm, "whereon is a dwelling-house, corn-house and tobacco-houses, in good repair." Nicholas had a carpenter and a bricklayer in his employ, and had recently erected a brick tenant house on his home farm that they had probably been hired to construct. The main, frame house on Nicholas' home farm was described as having three rooms downstairs (two of them with fireplaces) and two rooms up, while the houses on all of the other parcels are not described according to the number of rooms. This may be because the other houses were only of one room, and were for the use of tenant farmers. If so, the outbuilding that stands near the house on Round About Hills could be the dwelling mentioned in the sale ad. (2)

Round About Hills was sold to Reuben Meriweather, who reportedly came from Virginia and was serving as the rent-roll keeper for the western shore of Maryland. The deed was dated 1774, but by that time Merriweather had already taken possession of the farm. Presumably he had purchased the property almost three years earlier, when it was advertised, and had taken the intervening years to pay off the purchase price. Reuben also purchased 415 acres of Ridgely's Great Park, adjacent to Round About Hills, with the deed executed from another Henry Ridgely in 1773. This raises the question of which tract Reuben took possession of first, and where he moved to, and this question bears on who built the main house at Round About Hills, and when. This is partially answered by Reuben Meriweather's 1794 will. In it Reuben's eldest son, Nicholas, received "my quarter plantation known by the name of good range," which totaled 666 acres. Reuben's youngest son, Thomas Beale Dorsey Meriweather, inherited "my home plantation whereon I now dwell known by the name of Round about Hills, and the land adjoining it that was purchased from Henry Ridgely. This latter tract had a plantation on it, as well as a mill and tan yard. There was also a blacksmith shop on some portion of Reuben's land, and Reuben owned a slave named Jack who was a blacksmith and another named Andrew who worked as Jack's "striker." Since Nicholas Merriweather inherited Jack, Andrew, and the tools in the shop, it is possible that this building was located on Nicholas' inheritance, not at Round About Hills. Later evidence shows a blacksmith shop on Round About Hills, but one was not noted in the 1798 tax. As for the house, it thus seems likely that Reuben Meriwether built the larger frame house at Round About Hills for his use, probably in the 1770s. (3)

This house was definitely standing by 1798, as the Federal Direct Tax for that year attests. For unknown reasons, both the 266 acres of Round About Hills and the 417 adjoining it were assessed to Thomas' mother, Sarah (daughter of Thomas Beale Dorsey and Ann Worthington), along with:  
1 frame dwelling 28 x 28  
1 log kitchen 24 x 24

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1 log meat house 16 x 16

1 log Negro quarter 24 x 20

1 log stable 24 x 16

2 small homes 14 x 14

Meriweather also owned 39 slaves who provided the labor for his plantation, 18 of them between the ages of 12 and 50. (4)

The house is a 1 ½-story, gambrel-roofed structure with a double-cell plan similar to that found at Cherry Grove (HO-1, NR), though having a separate stair passage divided off of the rear room. The house was built with a full stone end where the fireplaces were, with the other three walls of frame. The front and rear of the house have original wide, flush, beaded-board siding, protected by a later porch. The rear also retains its original wood cornice. The house measures roughly 25 by 28 feet, close to the measurements given in the 1798 tax. The front room has a paneled fireplace wall with a built-in cupboard to one side. The mantel in this room was added, possibly in the 1830s-'40s, but more likely in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The front door and transom were also an alteration, possibly as early as 1820, though it could be as late as the 1840s. The rear room has had its fireplace wall covered over with drywall, though there was definitely a fireplace here. An original built-in closet survives next to the fireplace stack. Original trim includes ovolo backbands and six-panel doors hung on H-L hinges, with plain H hinges at the center of each door. The evidence suggests that the partition wall between the rear room and stair passage is original, but the stair may have been rebuilt. It has an open stringer with a thin, turned and slightly tapered newel post, and simple square balusters. The stairway could date to the time of the stone addition that adjoins it, which has a date stone of 1820 and the initials of Thomas Beale Dorsey Meriweather. The first-story floor framing contains a header that suggests that there was originally an interior stairway to the basement, and that it probably ran across the northwest wall, from northeast to southwest, rather than in the direction of the present stair. However, the stair has a straight railing, rather than a ramped one, as might be expected by 1820, and the newel taper is so slight that it is possible that it is original or re-used. Its construction details are covered at this time. The second story follows the plan of the first story, but with two rooms along the front. The partition walls here were apparently originally beaded boards, but they have been covered with plaster.

The stone addition, as noted, is dated 1820. The house originally had a separate kitchen, but this feature was falling out of favor in Tidewater Maryland in the early nineteenth century. The addition not only gave the house an attached kitchen, at the northeast end, but also a room that must have been used for dining, between the kitchen and the original frame house. The original house may not have had a room intended solely for dining, so this addition not only added convenience, but also refinement. These two rooms, and the chambers above were clearly intended to have very different purposes. The dining room has a wood mantel with the stacks of narrow mouldings so common in



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the Federal period, and a stairway to the chamber above. The kitchen originally had whitewashed stone walls and exposed joists. The large cooking fireplace had a bake oven at its rear, but only the bricked-in opening survives. This room retains its steep ladder stair to the chamber above them, and though the original board wall that enclosed it has been removed to better see the stair, this is still a very special survival. The chamber above was originally only accessed from this stair, through a hatch in the floor, and both spaces were clearly intended as working and living space for slaves. The addition has a shed roof, with the higher wall placed on the front. This is a form that can be seen on an addition to Mt. Hebron (HO-49) that probably dates to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. How common this form was in the nineteenth century, and why it was chosen, is not known at this time.

Set to the side of the addition, and behind it, is a one-story stone outbuilding that was probably constructed at the same time and has traditionally been called a slave quarter. It contains two rooms, with stove chimneys on the gable ends of each room. There is one stairway that gives access to what was originally a wide-open attic story. This building would not have functioned well for most ancillary uses, such as food preservation or preparation, or for services such as a laundry. It could have functioned as a shop building for some crafts, such as weaving, though its proximity to the house suggests a closer connection, probably domestic in nature. There was a tradition in nineteenth-century Maryland of building improved slave quarters out of stone, and this building is probably representative of that. The other outbuilding on the property, a small frame structure, has seen great changes on the interior and has little beyond some exposed corner posts available for inspection. Whether these corner posts indicate an early date of construction or are a function of simple interior treatment for a non-domestic building cannot be determined at this time. When the farm was subdivided most of the other farm buildings were demolished.

In 1825 Thomas Meriweather sold off 100 acres of his farm, and in 1833 he sold all of the remaining land to Thomas Cook for \$12,500 and purchased Cook's property around Cooksville (including Robert's Inn, HO-5, NR) This is usually described as an exchange of property, though it is not clear whether it was an equal swap. Cook added 351 acres to his estate in 1838. Little is known about Thomas Cook until his death in 1858. In his will he divided his estate equally between his four children. His only son, John, died three months later, leaving the estate in the hands of his three daughters, two of whom would never marry. The inventory of Cook's estate lists rooms one and two, which were probably the front and rear rooms of the old frame section, then moves to four bed rooms upstairs, and then the garret, which was probably the chamber over the kitchen. The inventory then moved to the stair hall, the dining room, the pantry and kitchen, and finally to the cellar. Unfortunately, the furniture in each room was not itemized, so a better understanding of how the rooms functioned cannot be had. Also mentioned in the inventory were a wood house, a blacksmith shop, and a granary. Cook was ploughing with oxen and raised wheat, rye, oats, and

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corn, and kept fallow fields in clover. His livestock included five work horses, four colts and a pony, 12 cows, two calves, a bull, 28 ewes and lambs, three sows with 17 pigs, and 20 shoats. This quantity of livestock is indicative of a plantation with slave labor, not a family farm, but it was still a diversified operation rather than focused on a single cash crop. The relative scarcity of hogs probably reflects the fact that the inventory was made in April, when there would be numerous newly born pigs and last years young shoats, but most of the adults would have been slaughtered last December. Also of interest is that Cook owned four "Owen Dorsey reapers." Dorsey had a factory just southeast of Round About Hills where he manufactured these. Arguments have been made that the use of slaves retarded the adoption of mechanical innovations into southern agriculture, but that was clearly not the case with Cook. He also owned wheat fans, a threshing machine, four cultivators, and at least four different varieties of ploughs. (5)

Mary Cook served as executrix of both her father's and her brother, John's, estates. The Cook estate ended up in equity court and was ordered sold in 1859. It was described in advertisements at that time as having about 200 of its 600 acres in wood, along with an orchard, and the remainder in a high state of cultivation. The advertisement went on: "the improvements consist of a good two-story dwelling house, a saw and clover mill, barn, dairy and other necessary out-buildings." John Cook was deeply in debt to creditors in San Francisco, California, and they sued to stop the sale, hoping to cut off his one-quarter share and sell it separately to better advantage. This petition was dismissed and the property was advertised again in 1865, with a very similar description. Round About Hills was purchased by Thomas Crawford in 1867 for \$25,000 and it totaled over 975 acres. Mary Cook and her sister Anna moved to Frederick County to live. Both of them, along with Isaac Anderson, held a mortgage on the property, and when Crawford failed to pay the principal, they foreclosed upon him. Once again the property was put up for sale, but this time a portion of the land containing 158 acres and the house and outbuildings was platted off separately from the rest of the farm. Mary and Anna Cook purchased Round About Hills together, and apparently lived there for the rest of their lives. When Mary died in 1896 she left her half of the farm to Ann, for life, and then to her nieces and nephews. No inventory was made of her estate. Ann continued to live at Round About Hills until 1905, when she and her two nieces sold their shares of the property to her nephew, Thomas C. Stewart. (6)

It was around this time that a folk-art painting was made of the main house. The porch had railings on it, with wooden stairs in the center, but otherwise, there is very little difference from what can be seen today. In 1937 the farm was bought by William and Isabelle Owings. Photographs from this time show a large bank barn where dairy cows were housed, and a wagon shed for farm equipment. Both of these buildings probably dated to the Cook/Stewart ownership, but both were demolished when the farm was subdivided in the mid-1990s. (7)

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## Endnotes:

(1). Patent Book 1-173. J. D. Warfield, Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland (Baltimore: Kohn & Pollock, 1905), p. 351. Celia M. Holland, Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland (Author, 1987), p. 251. Henry Ridgely III Estate, Will 27-160, Register of Wills, Anne Arundel County, Maryland State Archives. Anne Arundel County Land Records, BB1-221. I am indebted to Julie Anderson for bringing this to my attention. Elizabeth Ridgely Estate, Will 31-799, Register of Wills, Anne Arundel County, Maryland State Archives.

(2). Joshua Ridgely Estate, Inventory. SR 4366, Prerogative Court Inventories, Maryland State Archives. Holland, Old Homes and Families, p. 251. Warfield, Founders, p. 442. Nicholas Greenberry Ridgely Estate, Will, 38-293, Register of Wills, Anne Arundel County, Maryland State Archives. Maryland Gazette, 10 October 1771, p. 4, col. 2.

(3). Warfield, Founders, p. 493. Holland, Old Homes and Families, p. 251. Maryland Gazette, 26 September 1771, p. 2, col. 1. Reuben Meriweather Estate, Will JG1-437, Register of Wills, Anne Arundel County, Maryland State Archives. Warfield, Founders, p. 442.

(4). Holland, Old Homes and Families, p. 252. Federal Direct Tax, Upper Fork & Bear Ground, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1798, Maryland State Archives file.

(5). Thomas Cook Estate, Will BHD 1-405, Register of Wills, Howard County, Maryland State Archives. Holland, Old Homes and Families, p. 252. I am indebted to Joetta Cramm for bringing Owen Dorsey's factory to my attention. Thomas Cook Estate, Inventory TBH 3-433, Register of Wills, Howard County, Maryland State Archives.

(6). Mary Cook et al v. Anna v. Cook, Equity WWW 5-230, Howard County Circuit Court, Maryland State Archives. Mary Cook et al v. Thomas Crawford et al, Equity 439, Howard County Circuit Court, Maryland State Archives. Mary Cook Estate, Will JS 3-372, Register of Wills, Howard County, Maryland State Archives.

(7). Copies of the painting and photographs are in the possession of the owner of the house.

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## Major Bibliographical References:

See Endnotes, Section 8.

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property**     3.192 acres

**UTM References**  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8	3 2 4 8 0 2	4 3 4 8 8 6 6	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**  
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification**  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title     Ken Short  
Organization     Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning     date 7/23/2007  
street & number     3430 Courthouse Drive     telephone 410-313-4335  
city or town     Ellicott City     state Maryland     zip code 21043

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional Items**  
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name     Thomas & Julie Anderson  
street & number     15505 Cattail Oaks     telephone 443-266-7142  
city or town     Glenwood     state Maryland     zip code 21738

**Paperwork Reduction Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is shown as parcel 63, lot 14, on Howard County tax map 21.

## Boundary Justification:

The nominated property comprises the remnant of the acreage historically associated with the resource.

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Section PHOTO Page 1

## Index to Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs which accompany this documentation:

Name of Property: Round About Hills  
Location: Howard County, Maryland  
Photographer: Kenneth M. Short  
Date: November 2006

### Photo captions:

MD\_HowardCounty\_RoundAboutHills\_0001.tif  
House, southeast elevation

MD\_HowardCounty\_RoundAboutHills\_0002.tif  
House, southeast and northeast elevations

MD\_HowardCounty\_RoundAboutHills\_0004.tif  
House, northwest elevation

MD\_HowardCounty\_RoundAboutHills\_0005.tif  
House, southeast room, view southeast

MD\_HowardCounty\_RoundAboutHills\_0006.tif  
House, stair hall, view north

MD\_HowardCounty\_RoundAboutHills\_0007.tif  
House, northwest room, view west

MD\_HowardCounty\_RoundAboutHills\_0008.tif  
House, addition, southwest room, view north

MD\_HowardCounty\_RoundAboutHills\_0010.tif  
House, addition, northeast room, view north