



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING

Livable Frederick Planning & Design Office

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

Deborah A. Carpenter, AICP, Division Director
Kimberly Gaines, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Amanda Whitmore, Historic Preservation Planner
DATE: April 25, 2025
RE: 2832 B Park Mills Road

At the April 2nd Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting, the HPC and property owner of 2832B Park Mills Road discussed alternatives to demolition of the log cabin. The property owner did not want to designate the cabin to the County Register. It was agreed to that the log cabin could be documented with photographs and measured drawings and that Staff would explore the possibility of moving the cabin to a County park. The HPC also suggested that the Frederick County African American Resources Cultural Heritage (AARCH) Society be contacted about the cabin as well to help determine if anything specific should be documented.

Documentation

County historic preservation staff, AARCH board member Bonnie Key, and architectural historians from Howard County and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources visited the property on April 16 to document the structure. Measured drawings of the exterior and interior of both floors were taken ([Attachment 1](#)) along with numerous photographs. During the investigation, the building materials were examined to help further date the property and showed no evidence of pre-1900 materials indicating the cabin was built in the 1900s and not the late 1880s as suspected. Staff reviewed deed records further and concluded that based on the building materials observed that the cabin was built about 1907 when Mary Overs was deeded a half-acre off the original nearly three-acre parcel. Staff believe the Cromwell cabin was located on the other 1 ½ acres which has since been demolished. Mary sold the parcel to her daughter in 1923 reserving a life estate.

Staff are expanding their research of Flint Hill to be included in the documentation forms about the history of the property. From this expanded research, we have learned that Flint Hill Public School No. 8 and a Methodist Episcopal Church, South stood along Park Mills Road, prior to the entrance to the cabin ([Attachment 2](#)). AARCH Society did not identify any specific feature to be documented but did comment on the landscaping and the canned food as elements that may be interpreted for rural African American life.

Moving

Staff also reached out to two house moving companies and heard from one. Their rough estimate to move the cabin one to two miles was between \$40,000 to \$100,000 and did not include removing utility lines and tree limbs to drive the truck and cabin safely. Therefore, the cost to move the cabin

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in one piece is not feasible. Staff have identified Othello Park as a possible location for the cabin which is approximately 15 miles away. The property Othello Park is now located on keeps the cabin in a rural setting, somewhat close to its original location. Staff are currently waiting on an estimate to disassemble and reassemble the cabin. Additionally, the Maryland African American Heritage Preservation Grant has been identified as an option to help offset expenses. Once we have an estimate we can present the project to the County Executive.

Recommendation

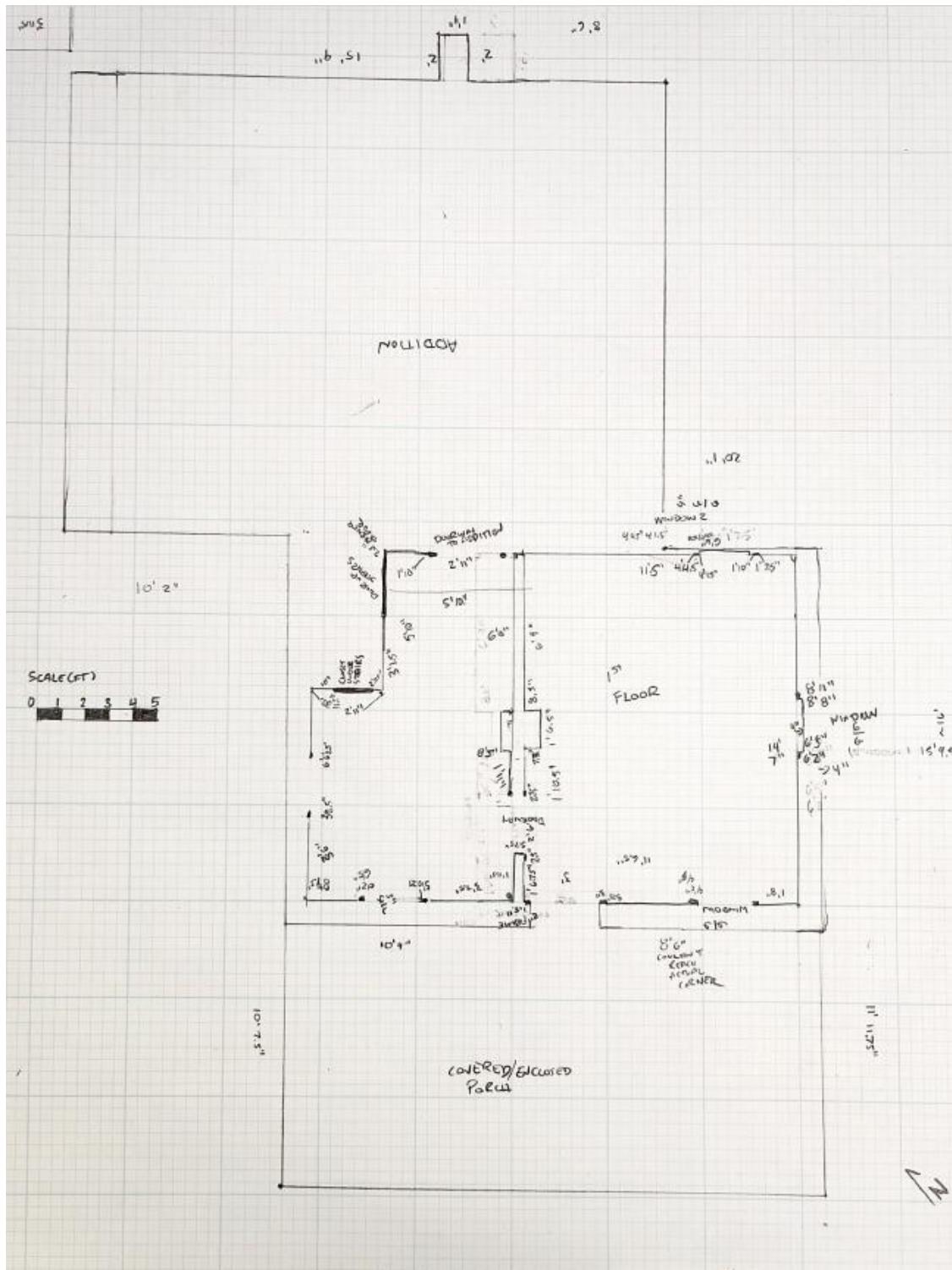
Staff recommends the Commission allow Staff to continue the discussion with the property owner and the County about the move and Staff will provide updates to the Commission if things progress. If the move is determined to not be feasible, Staff recommends the documentation collected serve as the mitigation for the demolition and the demolition to proceed.

Attachment(s):

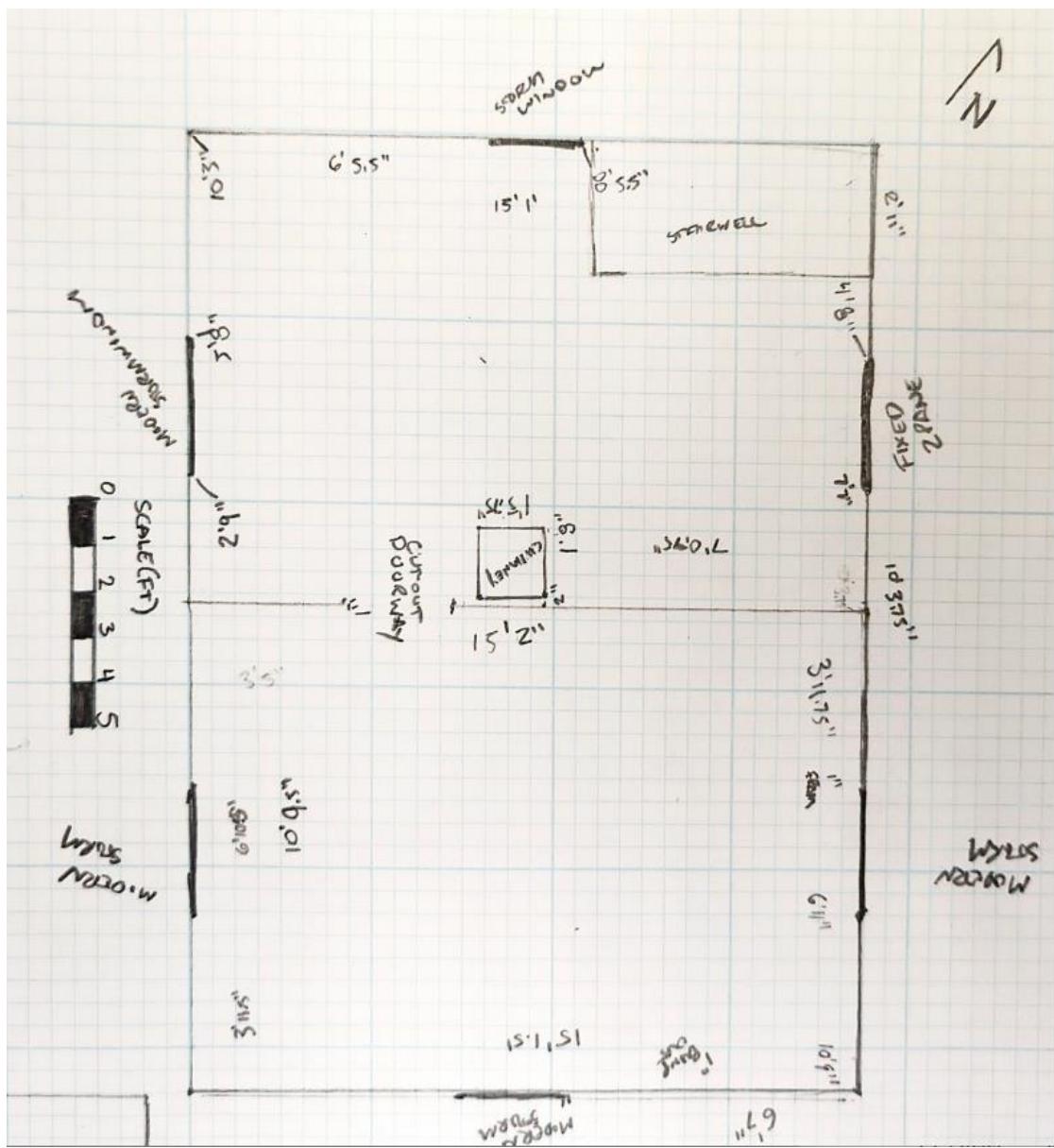
Attachment 1: Measured Drawings of 2832 B Park Mills Road

Attachment 2: Flint Hill Land Owner Map

Attachment 1



First Floor



Second Floor

Attachment 2

2832 B Park Mills Road Surrounding Area Property Owners

