

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AA -720  
0207204511

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Camp Parole

AND/OR COMMON

Parole (now a part of the City of Annapolis)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Anne Arundel

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

AA-720

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

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SPECIFIC DATES \_\_\_\_\_ BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Background

Camp Parole was established as a Union Army training camp early in the Civil War. In November, 1861, the 53rd New York Infantry squatted on land in what is now the Parole area, erected barracks and dug wells. Known as the "Zouaves", this regiment was led by Colonel Lionel J. D'Epeneuil, and was one of the regiments of General Burnside's brigade. The "Zouaves" were primarily French, but also included Belgians, Germans, Italians, Spaniards and English, having been recruited from the foreign quarters of New York City. They were lusty, brawling, poker-playing, drinking men. The "Zouaves" had been ordered to Fort Monroe, but D'Epeneuil brought his troops to Annapolis instead, wrote an angry letter to his superiors about the conduct of war, and the Union War Department ordered the regiment disbanded.

Parole became an unusual type of Union prison camp from 1862 until the end of the Civil War. It was a common practice for both sides to exchange prisoners shortly after their capture. Many Union soldiers were drafted young men who were frightened, homesick and disillusioned after their first taste of battle; they eagerly surrendered in hopes of being quickly exchanged and sent home. In order to prevent these wholesale desertions, the Union's War Department cancelled all furloughs for former prisoners and instead sent them to three selected camps in Missouri, Ohio, and Annapolis, Maryland.

Originally the Annapolis prisoners camped at St. John's College, and the men sometimes strayed from camp and frightened Annapolis residents. The camp was therefore moved to the present site of Parole. There, there were wooden barracks with floors, stoves and kitchens to accommodate 2,000 men. Eight new barracks were built to accommodate 150 men each, to indoctrinate, clothe and supply new arrivals. In March, 1863, a nearby site, closer to the railroad track was chosen for Camp Parole. Sixty frame barracks, designed to house 120 men each, were erected along with two storehouses, 20 kitchens (each capable of feeding 400 men at one time) and six hospital buildings.

Some 70,000 prisoners were processed through Camp Parole, but probably not more than 8,000 men at any one time. A letter written by Captain John Powers, who was commanding officer at the time, June 21, 1865, said that the "business of the camp would be closed in two or three months".<sup>1</sup>

Following the U.S. Civil War, ex-slaves and their families settled in the former camp. The frame structure of the Old Macedonia A.M.E. Church (Mount Moriah Church) was removed to a site in Camp Parole as a mission in the early 1870's. Another mission was established there by the Methodist Church, known as the Cecil Memorial Methodist Church. Both of these institutions function as churches

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Annapolitan Magazine. "Parole: Former Civil War Troop Encampment Site and Racetrack". Sept. 1975, pp. 7, 41, 52.
2. Molter, Nelson J. "An Illustrated History of Severna Park, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, the Annapolis Short Line & W.B.&A. Railroads with a Brief Mention of the Surrounding Communities". Copyright

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

by author, Severna Park, Md., 1969,  
Second Printing 1976.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marie Parr

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History and Culture

DATE

May 28, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

267-5955

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Statement of Significance (Cont.)

today in the Parole community, which is a predominantly black community. During the first urban renewal effort in Annapolis, new houses for the black middle class were constructed in or near Parole, where Annapolis' older black families make their homes in a suburban type atmosphere.

When the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad was in full-scale operation (1908-1935), Parole was an important station as a way point for passengers leaving Annapolis for both Washington and Baltimore. <sup>2</sup>

Parole was annexed by Annapolis in 1951. A Parole branch of the U.S. Post Office is still maintained and shopping centers have been built on the former Camp Parole site.

The name Parole derived from the time when the Government converted the Union training camp into a prison camp (1862). When the Union soldiers who had permitted themselves to be captured by the Confederates, and were later paroled by the Confederates, they were picked up by the Union forces and sent to camp until their cases could be disposed of, so the installation was named Camp Parole. In later years the name was shortened to Parole. <sup>3</sup>

Parole has a history going back even to colonial days. It was the site of one of the oldest race tracks in America. "It drew the sporting gentry from far and wide in colonial days." <sup>4</sup>

George Washington, in his diary notation of September 21, 1771, notes: "Set out with Mr. Wonneley for the Annapolis Races." <sup>5</sup>

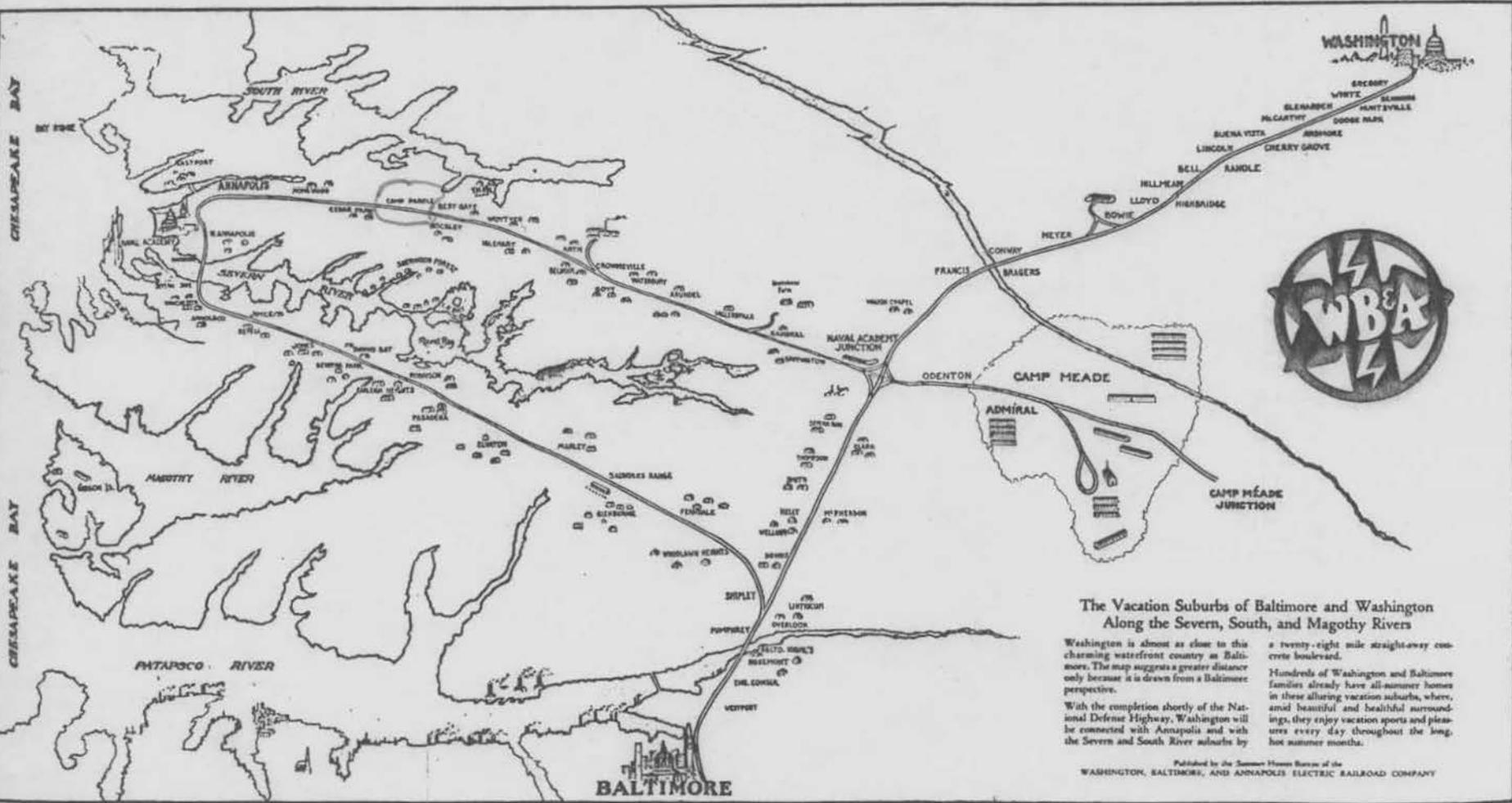
Behind the race track, Parole had a famous community spring. "Oldtimers describe it as a 'boiling spring' because it welled from deep in the earth and bubbled to the surface through a heavy layer of clean sand, which gave it a shimmering appearance. The clear, cold water, drunk or dipped from the surface" was said to have been pure and sweet. Into the 1960's "a soft drink bottling company brought tank trucks to the spring and drew its entire water supply from it." <sup>6</sup>

Major Bibliographic References (Cont.)

3. Reppert, Ralph. The Sunday Sun Magazine. Baltimore, Maryland.  
March 26, 1961. "Parole, Maryland".
4. Ibid.
5. Schaun, George and Virginia C. "Everyday Life in Colonial Maryland".  
Greenberry Publications, Annapolis, Md. Copyright 1962.
6. Reppert, Ralph. "Parole, Maryland".

AA-720

# MAP OF THE WASHINGTON, BALTIMORE & ANNAPOLIS ELECTRIC RAILROAD SYSTEM



**The Vacation Suburbs of Baltimore and Washington  
Along the Severn, South, and Magothy Rivers**

Washington is almost as close to this charming waterfront country as Baltimore. The map suggests a greater distance only because it is drawn from a Baltimore perspective.

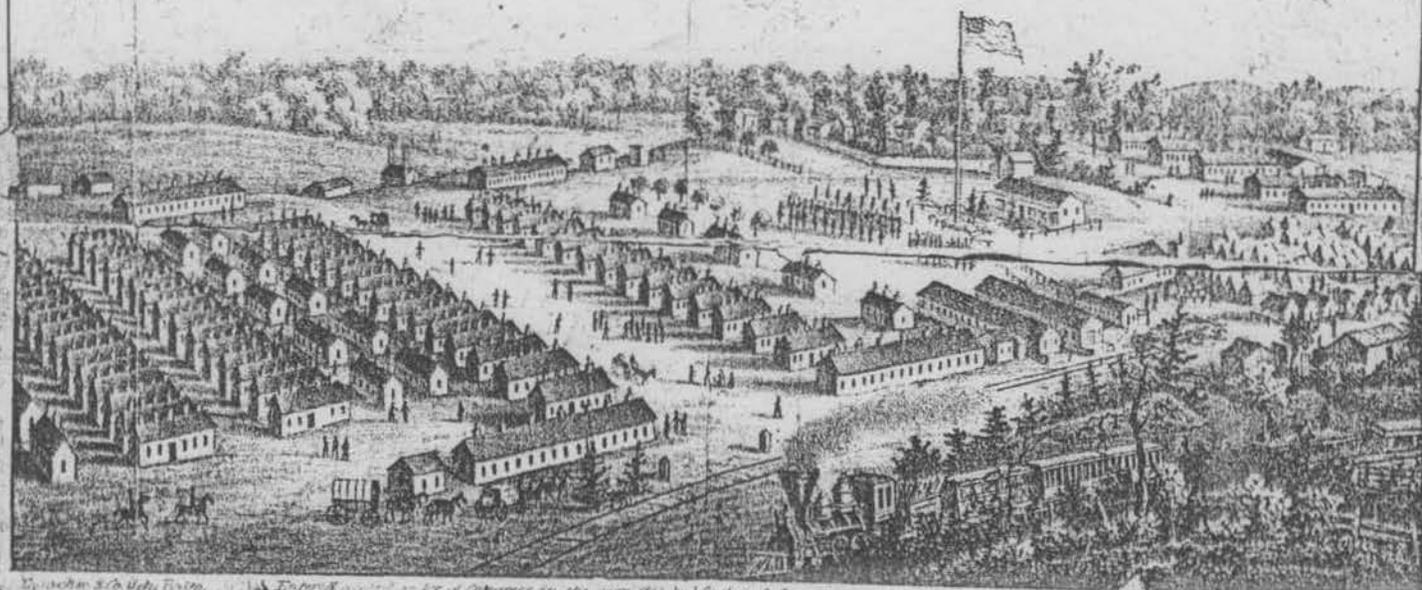
With the completion shortly of the National Defense Highway, Washington will be connected with Annapolis and with the Severn and South River suburbs by a twenty-eight mile straight-away concrete boulevard.

Hundreds of Washington and Baltimore families already have all-summer homes in these alluring vacation suburbs, where, amid beautiful and healthful surroundings, they enjoy vacation sports and pleasures every day throughout the long, hot summer months.

Published by the Summer Home Bureau of the  
WASHINGTON, BALTIMORE, AND ANNAPOLIS ELECTRIC RAILROAD COMPANY

—Courtesy Robert A. Truax

REPRODUCED FROM AN OFFICIAL COMPANY PUBLICATION



Engraved by Wm. H. Fisher,

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1861 by J. S. Fisher & Co. in the Clerk's Office of the District Court  
Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1864 by F. S. & Co. in the Clerk's Office of the District Court  
**PAROLE CAMP ANNAPOLIS, MD.**

AA-720

Original of loan to  
Maryland Hall of  
Records.