

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Woodlawnand/or common Worthington House. Formerly, Strawberry Hill.

2. Location

street & number 10122 Lyons Mill Road not for publicationcity, town Randallstown vicinity of Councilmanic District 1
congressional district 7state Maryland county Baltimore County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Baltimore County, Maryland, Recreation & Parksstreet & number 301 Washington Avenue telephone no.: 410-887-3824city, town Towson state and zip code MD 21204

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber SM 12,458street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 512city, town Towson state MD 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title "Woodlawn" - Maryland Historical Trustdate 1965 - on-going federal state county localdepository for survey records 100 Community Placecity, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Rezin H. Worthington House, Woodlawn, formerly Strawberry Hill, is a modest frame structure in vernacular style, possibly built in the Federal period. It is five bays wide, two stories with an L-shaped footprint. The house measured 55 by 17 feet in 1918 Tax Ledger of Election District 2.

The roofing is gabled, the house set close to the ground. The rear, kitchen wing, terminates in a small garage of no great antiquity. The house has lost any appearance of its historical period by the replacement of all window sashes with modern one-over-one metal framed windows. The wall cover is a modern aluminum siding in deep red. Only the chimneys suggest a 19th Century structure. There are two brick, inside end-chimneys on the main block, and two stone chimneys in the rear wing. The stone inside chimney at the end of the rear wing probably vented a kitchen.

The east end of the main block has only two square windows to light the attic. The gable end of the house is otherwise blank as seen so often in rural houses.

The 1935 article in the Jeffersonian mentioned a full-width front porch and a full-length side porch, both of which are gone. The existing front porch is three bays wide, hip-roofed, and supported by thin modern wrought iron posts.

The 1935 feature story describing this property speaks of a center hall plan and a stairway to the second story and to the attic.

The outbuildings include two small log structures built with V-notches; the chinking includes recent materials such as portland cement and whole bricks. Another building has totally collapsed. A small cinder block dairy barn is far gone in decay and lacks architectural qualities. The grounds are strewn with debris and junk.

The house is historically significant because there is an early 19th Century country dwelling obscured by bad repairs. The log outbuildings are significant because they demonstrate the persistence of log construction.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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		

Specific dates After 1827 Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The old house on the proposed golf course on Lyons Mill Road was called "Woodlawn" when added to the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory in 1965. The house was described in an article in the Jeffersonian, August 16, 1935. At that time, the property contained two dwellings, one a small stone house to the west, and a larger frame house to the east. The stone house was detached from this property in 1946 and remains in private hands at No. 10212 Lyons Mill Road, located on Tax Map 66, Parcel P115. A business sign standing in 1998 advertised the place as Arbor Masters, a tree-trimming service.

The LPC staff investigated the stone house in 1981 when it belonged to Mrs. Helen ruven. At that time, local resident Wilson Herrera thought the house dated from the early 1700s, yet the structure did not match the dimensions given in the 1798 tax list for that property. The Jeffersonian's anonymous writer, William Williams of Lutherville, thought the stone house was almost 300 years old, or about 1635, an absurdly early date, which would predate the erection of the County itself in or about 1659.

The first settler on this land was Captain Philip Jones, who patented 400 acres of land in 1723 under the name "Son Jones Park." (2)

The only landmark mentioned in the survey was Locust Branch, a stream name still in use today. The same parcel was laid out a second time in 1756 to pick up some adjoining vacant land, resulting in a tract called "Son Jones Park Resurveyed" measuring 606 acres. (3)

The Lord Proprietor's Debt Book showed that Philip Jones' heirs owned "Son Jones Park" from 1754 to 1771. (4)

Nicholas Jones was owner of this plantation in 1787 when he wrote his will, devising the place to Cornelius Howard along with 300 Pounds current money. This was a trustee arrangement, and in 1794, Cornelius Howard conveyed the trust estate to William and Catherine Bruff. Mrs. Bruff was the widow of Nicholas Jones. The specified duty of the Bruffs was to hold the property for nieces of Nicholas Jones: Mrs. Elizabeth Beall and Henrietta Jones (later Mrs. Dallam). (5)

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In 1794, William Bruff conveyed most of the properties and trustee's obligations to George Ward along with some houses and lots in Baltimore Town. However, the deed excluded "all that part of the Plantation or Plantations, tract or tracts of land aforesaid which is situated and lying on the north and west of the road leading from Robert Lyon's Mill into the road which leads from Baltimore Town to Frederick and on the north and west of the said road leading to Frederick, which part of said land described as above shall on the decease of the said Catherine [Bruff] pass unto the proper use and behoof of Elizabeth Beall and Henrietta Jones of Baltimore County." (6)

Presumably, William Bruff would have been the person shown as owner in the 1798 tax list. Bruff appeared as owner of 677 acres of "sundry tracts" with a one-story stone dwelling measuring 20 by 16 feet. That house does not fit the dimensions of the house surviving at 10212 Lyons Mill Road which the LPC staff measured a few years ago. The tract called "Son Jones Park" is not listed under any other citizen of Soldiers Delight Hundred in that assessment. (7) In 1798, the occupant of the property was Benjamin Bond.

In 1821, the heirs of George Ward made the property over to the Jones heirs, Elizabeth Beall of Georgetown, D.C., and Henrietta Dallam of Harford County. This deed stated that "some doubt having arisen," the Ward descendants agreed to divest themselves of the property on Lyons Mill Road. The property was then known as "Strawberry Hill." This deed was intended to put an end to a lawsuit. The persons claiming ownership via trustee George Ward were William T. Harris and wife, Anne E. Harris and also Howes Goldsborough and Henrietta R. Goldsborough. (8)

Although the property was finally deeded to the Jones family heirs, it was not inhabited by them but was found in the 1823 tax list of Old District No. 6 under the names of Elizabeth Beall and M. Henrietta Dallam, 400 acres called "Farm where Robert Shipley lives." The improvements were worth \$80, which could represent a modest house and some outbuildings of an ordinary kind. (9)

In 1827, the two Jones heirs, Mesdames Beall and Dallam, sold their shares of Strawberry Hill to Rezin H. Worthington using the old term "moiety", meaning a one-half interest. (10)

This property stayed in the Worthington family until 1946. Rezin Hammond Worthington was branching out from his ancestral base near Granite. The 1850 County map by J.C. Sidney and P.J. Browne showed at least three R.H. Worthington houses within the neighborhoods of Granite and Randallstown. The Granite vicinity was the place where the family had a fairly large number of slaves, some 52 in the 1798 tax list.

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Feeding the "army of slaves" gave considerable business to Wright's Mill as a County paper once remarked. (11)

Tradition cited in the Jeffersonian in 1935 held that Rezin H. Worthington did not know how old the small stone house was although he estimated it at 1715. Yet, that date was eight years before the original settler had the land surveyed.

The same newspaper feature gave the date of the larger house at about 1825, still two years before Worthington took title. At any rate, the Worthingtons interviewed in 1935 believed their great-grandfather had the frame house constructed 900 feet east of the old stone house:

It was an all frame house, which rises to a height of two stories and attic in its main part portion and drops to two stories in the long extension to the rear. A more or less modern porch extends across the front and a second porch extends along the east side of the extension. The home is set back some little distance from the public road and is almost hidden by surrounding trees and shrubbery. At one time, the place boasted of many fine old boxwoods. (12)

The same article noted that the house had eleven rooms, some with high ceilings. There was a center hall and a stairway rising two levels. Little had been done to alter the house by succeeding generations.

This is a very ordinary, low-rise house for a family who owned \$5,058 acres at the time of the 1798 tax list. Possibly the Worthingtons were "land-poor" and failed to prosper even with 52 slaves.

Rezin H. Worthington in 1876 started to make the Lyons Mill property over to his son, Thomas Chew Worthington. The first deed was deemed insufficient and it took a total of three documents. The first deed was extremely short and failed to mention where the place was. (13) The second deed cited Lyons Mill Road and described the place as Strawberry Hill. (14) The first deed noted that Thomas C. Worthington had lived on the place twenty years (since 1856), improved the property, and paid taxes. The third deed conveyed a 19-acre part of Shipley's Grievance which Worthington had owned since 1844. (15) By the time the land was fully transmitted, Worthington had owned it 53 years.

The elder Worthington died at Harrisonville close to age 90 on June 2, 1884. The County paper credited him with service in the War of 1812. During the Civil War, he had been briefly imprisoned by the

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Federal authorities. His funeral took place from Holy Family Catholic Church. Burial place was the old Worthington plot on Old Court Road. The Towson papers claimed that his holdings were between 3,000 and 4,000 acres. (16)

Thomas Chew Worthington in 1896 deeded the tract to son Thomas Chew Worthington, Jr., a physician. (17) The elder Thomas noted in the deed that Son Jones Park and Son Jones Park Resurveyed and some of The Plains of Paran were the same tracts "on which said Thomas Chew Worthington lived and occupied upwards of forty years."

The 1918 Tax Ledger showed Thomas Chew Worthington with 277 acres, of which 75 acres were tillable, 82 acres pasture, 100 acres wooded, and 20 acres marsh. The main house was 55 by 17 feet, worth \$1,200. Other structures were:

Tenant house	27 x 23	\$285
Carriage House	20 x 25	\$105
Other buildings		\$250

There were \$100 each of vehicles and livestock. (18)

Dr. Worthington was a resident of the City when he died in 1930, leaving the place to his sons Thomas Chew Worthington, III and Richard Walker Worthington. (19) These sons used the farm as a summer home for a while, but the place was vacant in 1935 at the time of the newspaper feature story. The name Woodlawn but not Strawberry Hill was used in that article.

Finally in 1946, Thomas Chew Worthington, III and wife Claire and Richard Walker Worthington, described as a widower, sold the place to Thomas W. Buckman and wife Katherine. (20)

About four months later, the Buckmans sold the small house and 13.97 acres to William B. Martin. (21)

The Buckmans sold the larger house and main parcel to George Russell Collins and wife in 1954 for approximately \$55,000. (22) It was the Collins house that Wilson Herrera and E. Frances Offutt suggested for the "Historic American Buildings Survey" list being compiled, first by the Baltimore County Historical Society, later taken over by the Office of Planning and Zoning. At that point in 1965, the name of "Woodlawn" was used for the house. This long identified structure bears Maryland Historical Trust Site No. BA 20.

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The property was acquired for a golf course development which went to the Planning Board in January 1993 because of its "involvement" with the nearby Mount Paran Presbyterian Church, a Baltimore County Final Landmarks List site. (23) Triangle Development at that time agreed to preserve the "Woodlawn" mansion, which the LPC staff had noted in the County Review Group plan comments during 1992. (24)

Baltimore County acquired this property, still undeveloped, for its potential as a future golf course, in January 1997. Total area is 249 acres. (25)

NOTES:

1. "Original House on Worthington Estate, Harrisonville, said to be 300 years old," Jeffersonian, August 16, 1935.
2. Patents, Liber IL No. A, folio 521, Hall of Records, Annapolis (hereafter cited as HR)
3. Patents, Liber,
4. Debt Book, Baltimore County, 1754-1771, HR No. 17664-1
5. Baltimore City Deeds, WG 161:402, which recites the complete descent.
6. Baltimore City Deeds, WG No. PP, folio 533.
7. Tax List, 1798, Soldiers Delight Hundred, Microfilm No. 606, Maryland Historical Society.
8. Baltimore City Deeds, WG 161:402.
9. Baltimore County Tax List, Old District No. 6, H.R.
10. Baltimore City Deeds, WG 187:207. and WG 188:516.
11. "Wright's Old Mill," Baltimore County Union, Towson, November 2, 1878.
12. Jeffersonian, 1935
13. Baltimore County Deeds, JB 99:129.
14. Baltimore County Deeds, WMI 117:215.
15. Baltimore County Deeds, WMI 117:353.
16. "Death of Rezin Hammond Worthington," Maryland Journal, Towson, June 28, 1884.
17. Baltimore County Deeds, LMB 221:19.
18. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, 1918, District 2, folio 873.

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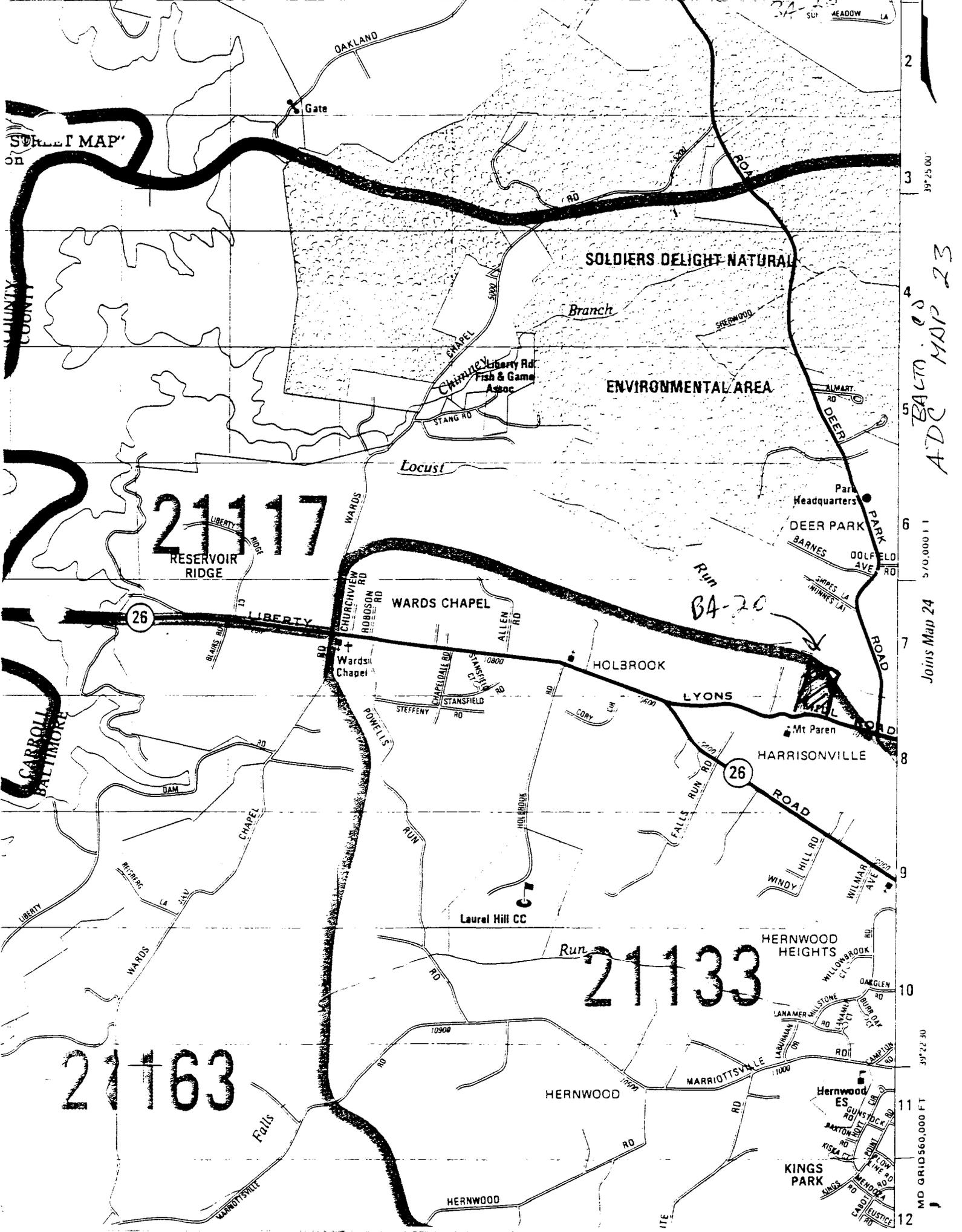
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19. Baltimore County Wills, WTP 26:320 (1927, probated 1930).
20. Baltimore County Deeds, RJS 1470:427.
21. Baltimore County Deeds, RJS 1504:418.
22. Baltimore County Deeds, GLB 2454:517
23. Baltimore County Deeds, SM 12001:726
24. Kim Asch, "Golf Course Won't Damage Landmarks," Owings Mills Times, January 28, 1993.
25. Baltimore County Deeds, SM 12273:99 and SM 12458:512.



SHEET MAP' on

COUNTY

CARROLL BALTIMORE

21117
RESERVOIR RIDGE

SOLDIERS DELIGHT NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

WARDS CHAPEL

HOLBROOK

Run
BA-70

21163
Falls

Run
21133

HERNWOOD

Hernwood ES

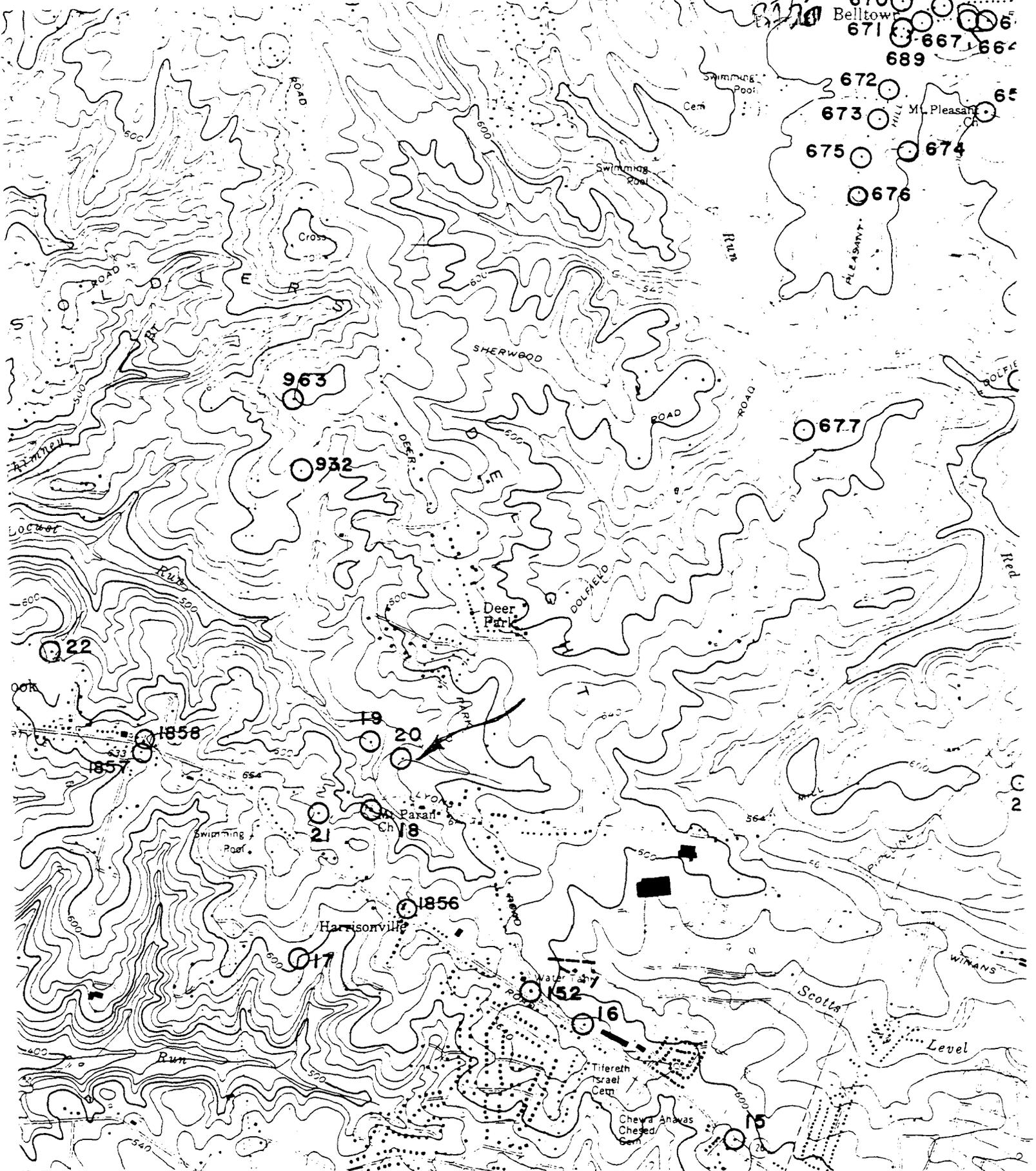
KINGS PARK

34 25 MEADOW LA

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
39°25'00"
570,000 FT
39°22'30"
MD GRID 560,000 FT

BALTO. CO'S
ADC MAP 23

Joins Map 24



1341 1342 1343 1345
 50' 540' 560' 5662 IV SE

REISTERSTOWN QUAD SCALE 1:24,000

ammetric
 ick 1944

8"
 1:42 MILS
 1"=39'
 20 MILS

