

9401449

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Swallow Falls Inn Survey Number: G-IV-A-187

Project: Scenic Easement Acquisition Agency: FHWA/SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on available information, Swallow Falls Inn, the Elsey Property, on Swallow Falls Road near Swallow Falls State Park, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for association with Garret County's development as a resort area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The property consists of the Swallow Falls Inn and Variety Store, a single story, three bay wide structure with front porch, three cabins, three cottages, and a modern convenience store/gift shop. The Inn, cabins and cottages appear to have been constructed in the 1920s and 1930s. The modern store was probably constructed in the 1950s or 1960s and is an intrusion. The Inn, with its wood shingled wall exterior and porch supported by tree trunks, and cabins, constructed of logs, exhibit the rustic architecture which was extremely popular for park and resort structures in this period.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project File, Inventory Form

G- (form completed but not yet submitted)

Prepared by: Engineering-Science

Elizabeth Hannold June 30, 1994
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable
[Signature] 7.1.94
Reviewer, NR program Date

Survey No. G-IV-A-187

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic, Commercial

Known Design Source: NA

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. G-IV-A-187

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Swallow Falls Inn

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Swallow Falls Road not for publication

city, town Oakland vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Garrett

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: resort

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

name James & Rosetta Elsey

street & number Rte. 5, Box 167A telephone no.: 301-387-4696

city, town Oakland state and zip code MD 21550

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Garrett County Courthouse liber

street & number folio

city, town Oakland state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. G-IV-A-187

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input 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 Swallow Falls Inn, Swallow Falls Road, Garrett County, Maryland

Set into the forest, close by the side of Swallow Falls Road near the Swallow Falls State Park is a complex of rustic vacation cabins and cottages surrounding a small variety store. Across the road and down a slope lies the Youghiogheny River. The buildings appear to date from the late 1920s or early 1930s, the resort era of Garrett County.

The focal point of this modest resort is the Swallow Falls Inn and Variety Store. It is a three-bay wide, one-room deep building with a wooden porch running almost the full width of the front facade. The building has a concrete foundation and a side gabled roof clad in composition shingles. The porch is raised four steps from ground level and is supported by wooden pilings. Its roof is hipped and supported by four tree trunks, adding to the building's rustic character. The front of the store is clad in wood shakes, while the back and side elevations are covered with weatherboard.

Next to the store is the small three- or four-room log Cabin 1, three bays wide, with a side gable and a wide overhang covering the wooden front porch. The logs are reported to be chestnut. A porch spans almost the entire width of the cabin. It is two stone steps above ground level and is supported at each end with small boulders; large tree trunks support the roof of the porch. The front door of the cabin has two over two lights. To the left of the door is one large window with six over six lights; on the right are two adjacent windows with four over four lights. The door has a log lintel, and the windows have heavy log sills, lintels, and framing. On the right side of the cabin is an exterior fieldstone chimney. The fieldstones are held with cement.

To the rear of Cabin 1 is another log cabin. It, too, is three bays wide and two rooms deep. This cabin has a front gabled roof, clad in composition shingles. Across the width of the front facade is a wooden porch with a shed roof, also held up by logs. Windows are six over six, framed with logs. There are two windows evenly spaced on each side elevation. There is an interior brick chimney.

Also on the property is the slightly larger Cabin 3. This building is three bays wide and one-room deep. It is clad in vertical wood siding. It has a cross-gable roof, clad in composition shingles. The front gable is at the east end of the building. The sliding windows have two horizontal lights. The front door is under the gable at the east end of the building. A porch spans half of the front facade. The porch has a shed roof covered in composition shingles that is held up by three tree trunks.

A fourth cottage, larger than any of the cabins, is also on the property. This cottage is clad in vertical wood siding and is one and one-half stories. It is three asymmetrical bays wide. It has no porch, but has a shed overhang that runs almost the entire front facade, covering a concrete slab. On the right side of the building is a small one room addition, perhaps a bathroom. Windows are six over six, with those on the side elevations being smaller than those on the front. The building has an interior brick chimney.

Section 7, page 2

A much smaller cottage of perhaps two rooms is also on the property. It is also covered with vertical wood siding. It is three bays wide and one room deep. The roof, with a side gable, is clad in composition shingles. The sliding windows on either side of the front door have two vertical panes, which are now broken out. The front door also has a single pane window. There is no porch or overhang over the front door.

Finally, another modern convenience store/gift shop is located along Swallow Falls Road to the west of the older complex. It appears to date from the 1950s or 1960s and is an intrusion.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) resort

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

These resort buildings have been evaluated under National Register Criteria A and C. They are potentially eligible under Criterion A as representative of the more modest resorts that sprang up in Garrett County following the popularity of the more architecturally stylish railroad resort hotels of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They are potentially significant for their association with the development of Garrett County's tourism industry. The log cabins and the store are rustic in their architecture. This style was popular in a county covered with forests, and one that perhaps appealed to city dwellers of the 1930s looking for a quiet, naturalistic retreat. This complex does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C. Although the buildings, for the most part, are in good condition, and although they retain their integrity of location and setting, they do not represent a unique architectural design, nor the work of a master.

Garrett County, the westernmost county of Maryland, spans the continental divide of the Appalachian Mountains and is located entirely within the Allegheny Plateau. The terrain varies between rolling hills and steep, forested slopes. Settlement in the region was slowed due to the mountainous topography and dense forests. The soil is generally stony and unsuited for intensive agriculture. The river valleys, which might be thought to be fertile and productive, are too wet to support much agriculture. The early economy depended largely on livestock raising and subsistence farming on river terraces and upland glades.

The history of Garrett County focuses primarily on transportation routes through the area. Rivers and streams did not provide satisfactory transportation routes because of flooding and navigational obstacles. The earliest settlement, therefore, took place along Indian trails, with pioneers seeking water, level ground and fertile soil. While the first was quite abundant, the latter two requirements were much harder to find. There were four east-west Indian trails and one that ran north-south. These trails provided the basic routes along which the county's transportation system grew.

Transportation and Settlement, 1750-1810

Settlement of what would become Garrett County began in the second half of the eighteenth century. Europeans from the east passed through the region on their way to the Ohio Valley, only a few of them choosing to remain in extreme western Maryland. Before 1774, a royal proclamation prohibited settlement west of Fort Cumberland in the interest of maintaining peace with the Indians, although this did not impede some dauntless souls. After Lord Dunmore defeated the Indians in 1774, Lord Baltimore opened public lands west of Fort

Section 8, page 2

Cumberland to settlement. The first settlements in what became Garrett County were formed along the Youghiogheny River and along Braddock's Road and the old Morgantown Road.

In 1786, construction was begun on the Maryland-Virginia Interstate Road. Crossing from east to west in about the center of the county, the road provided settlers in the Youghiogheny Valley a major route for shipping their produce to market and also an access for immigrants into the area. Construction of other roads followed in the early nineteenth century, and small communities developed along these roads, too. Most of these communities consisted of small farms and local industries, such as blacksmith shops and grist mills, that catered to the local populace. Taverns and inns sprang up along the roads to serve travelers.

The new settlers were chiefly Germans or those of German descent who came to western Maryland from Pennsylvania. Many Amish and Mennonite families moved into the region, who established small family farms where they raised livestock and grew wheat, corn, oats, rye, and potatoes.

Early Industry, 1810-1850

The earliest industry in Garrett County consisted of small blacksmith shops and grist mills that served local needs. In addition, sawmills were built to provide building materials for settlers. The earliest incorporated industry appears to have been the Allegany Iron Company, founded in 1828, near Friendsville. It was soon after renamed the Youghiogheny Iron Company. Iron ore was mined in the nearby mountains, and the company forged it into agricultural implements, among other things.

The construction of railroads across the county in the mid-nineteenth century allowed the development of extractive industries, including coal, iron ore, and timber. The railroads provided cheap transportation to move these heavy products to markets in the north and the east. These extractive industries remained fairly important to the economy of Garrett County into the early twentieth century.

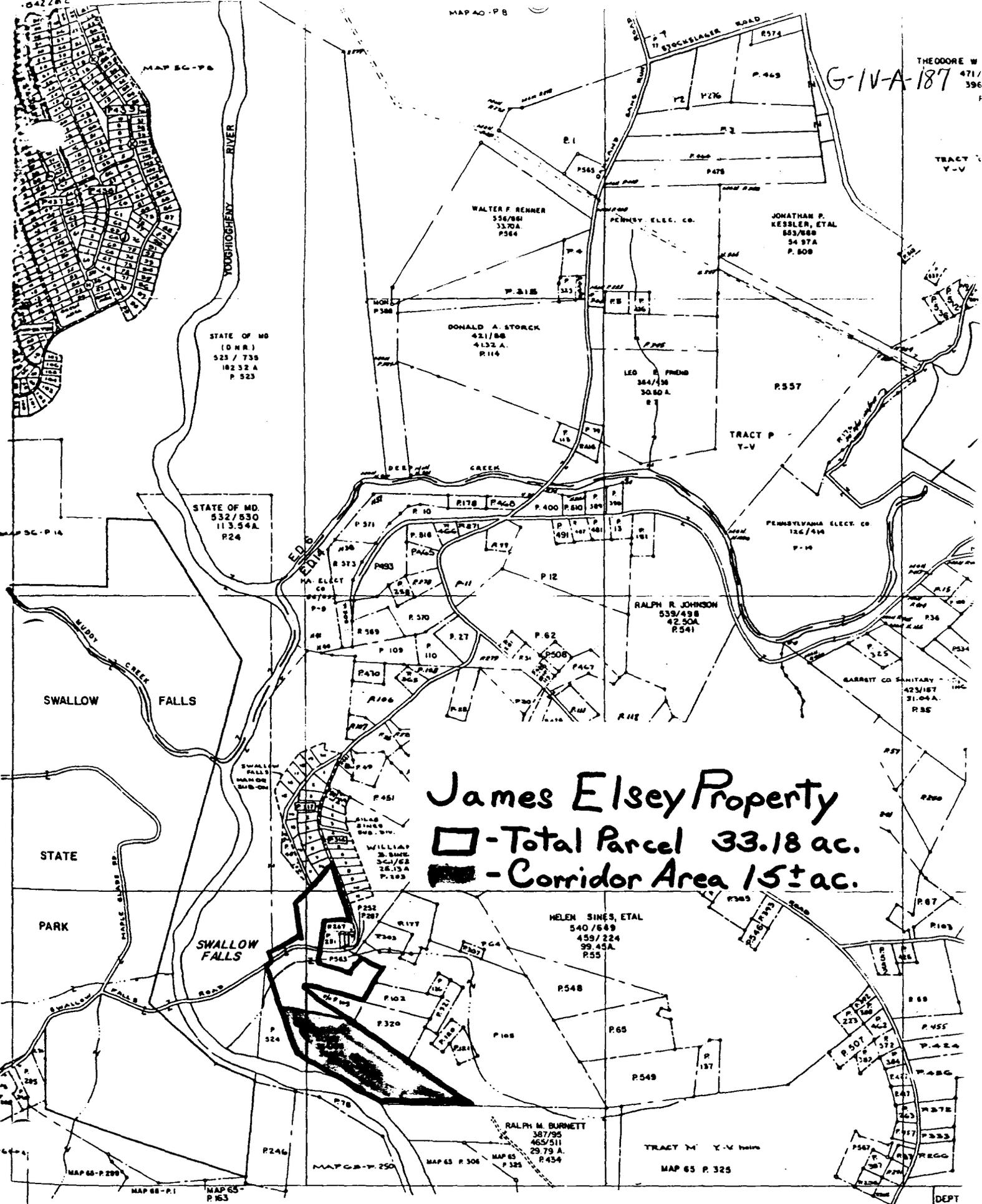
1850-1930

Tourism also developed as a result of the railroads. The resort era in Garrett County began with the construction of the Deer Park Hotel in 1873 and lasted into the twentieth century. One of the major promoters of Garrett County's resorts was John W. Garrett, President of the B&O Railroad, who was very enthusiastic about the "salubrious climate and picturesque and attractive region for summer resort" (Ware 1991:33). The railroads brought visitors from Baltimore, Washington, and Philadelphia. While much of this resort activity took place in large, architecturally imposing hotels, other more modest facilities were built throughout the county. Whether grand or modest, they were all designed to take advantage of the scenic beauty of western Maryland. Oakland, which became the county seat of the newly formed county in 1873, owed its growth to the railroad and the tourists it brought.

Section 8, page 3

The railroad resorts began to decline after the advent of the automobile in the early twentieth century, but the popularity of Garrett County as a vacation spot has remained until the present day.

G-14-A-187
THEODORE W 471 / 396



James Elsey Property
□ - Total Parcel 33.18 ac.
■ - Corridor Area 15± ac.

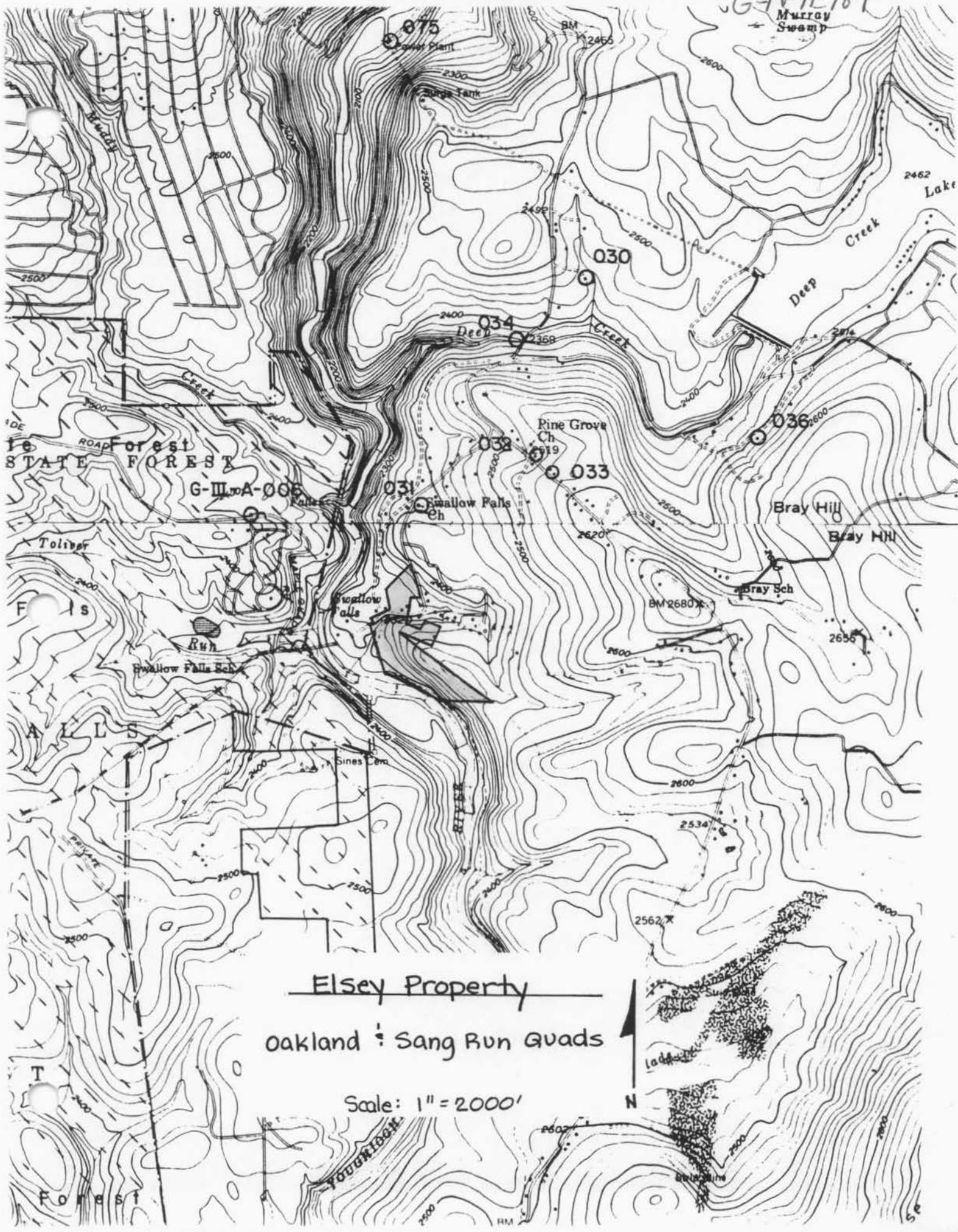
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DEPT
REV!

G-IV-A-187
Murray
Swamp



STATE FOREST
G-III-A-006

Elsey Property

oakland 1/2 Sang Run Quads

Scale: 1" = 2000'



lad



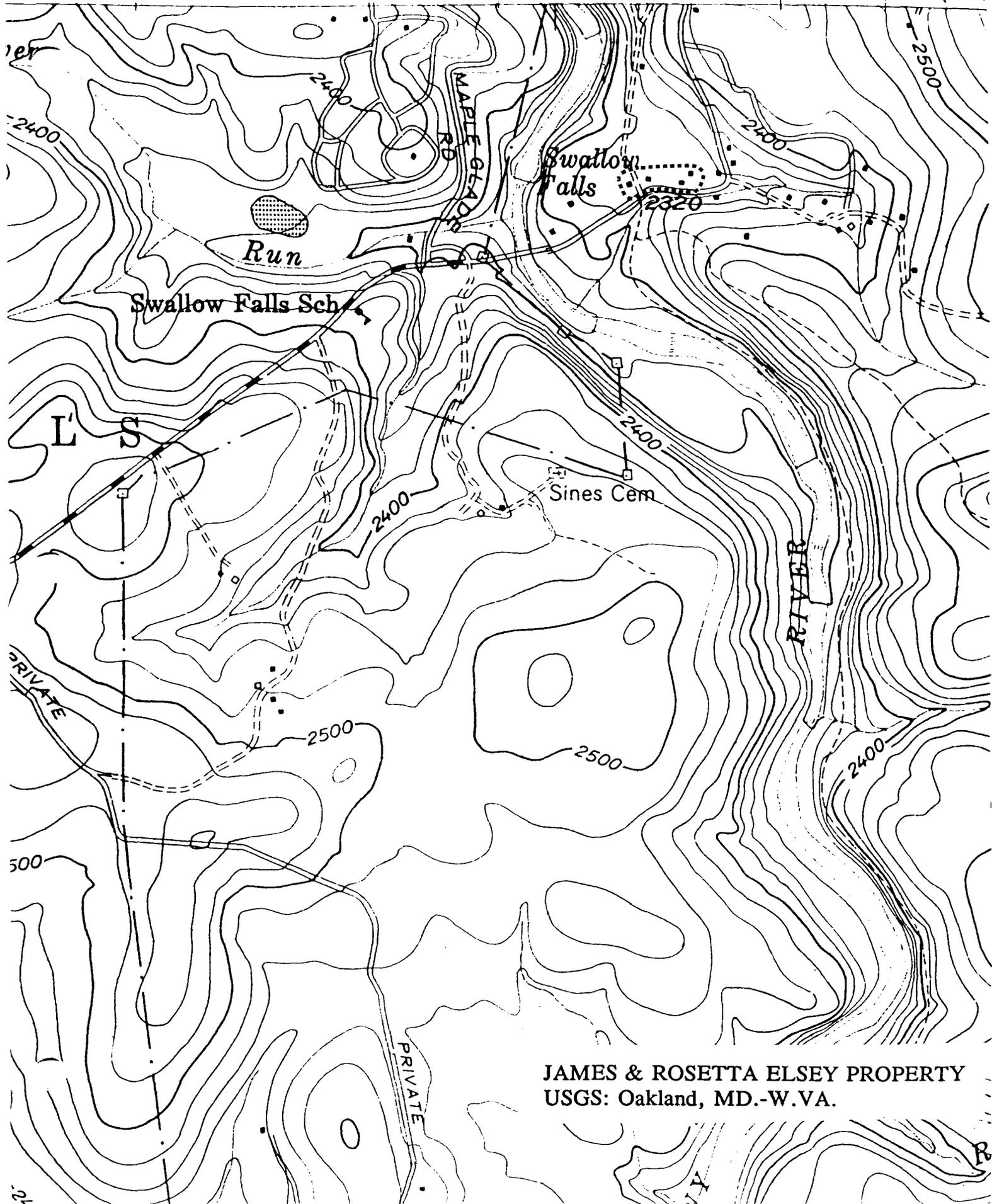
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G-IV-A-187

635

636 25'

120 000 FEET (MD.)



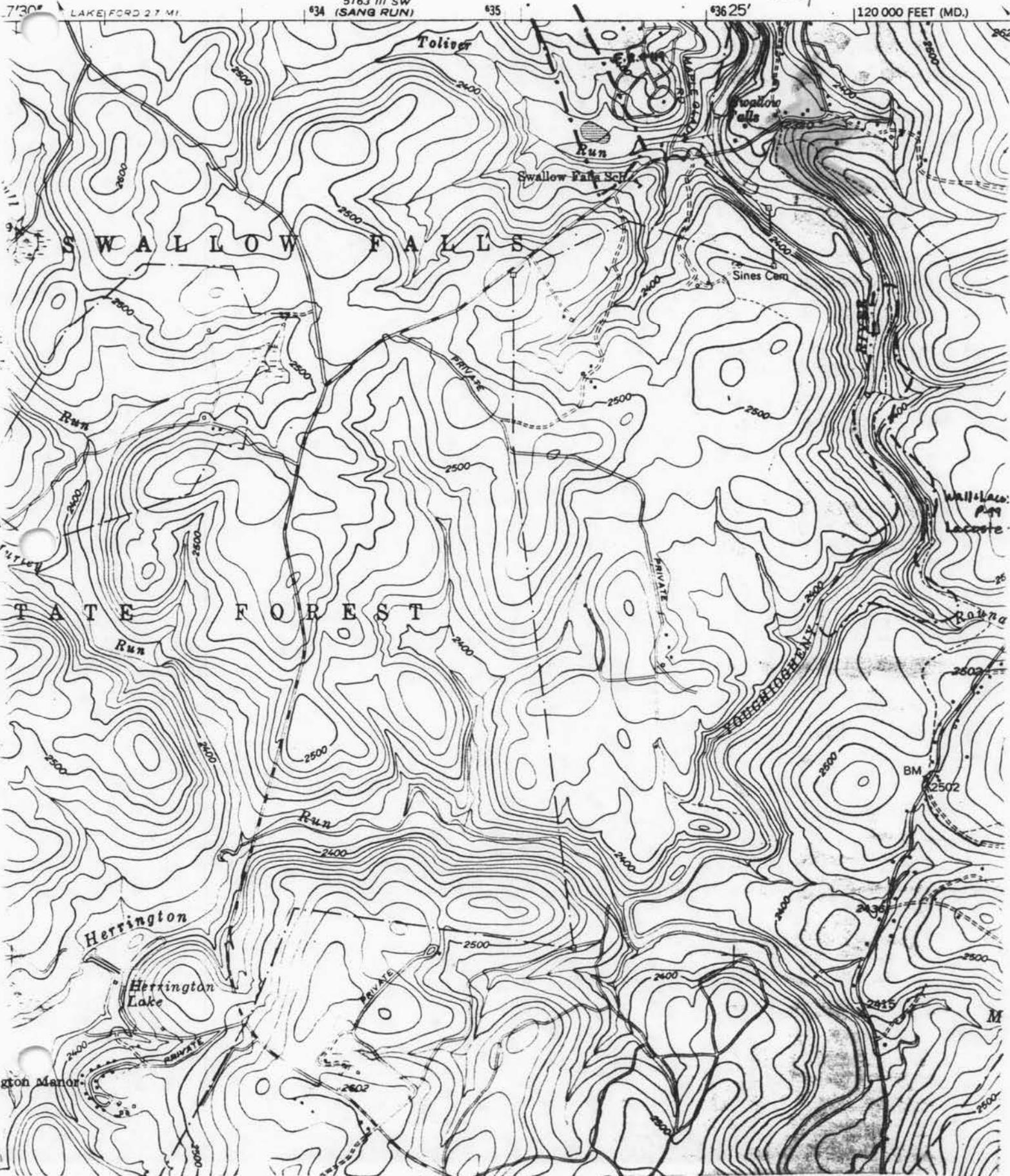
JAMES & ROSETTA ELSEY PROPERTY
USGS: Oakland, MD.-W.VA.

2

STATE OF MARYLAND
MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

G-IV-A-187

Elsey





Northeast corner of convenience store on Elsey property.



Northwest corner of vacation cabin on Elsey property.

Source: Engineering-Science

Youghiogheny Properties

Plates 1 and 2



Northwest corner of modern Swallow Falls Gift Shop, located on Elsey property. Intrusion.



Northwest corner of vacation cottage on Elsey property.

Source: Engineering-Science



Southwest corner of vacation cabin on Elsey property.



North facade of Cabin 3 on Elsey property.

Source: Engineering-Science

Youghiogheny Properties

Plates 5 and 6



North facade of vacation cottage on Elsey property.

Source: Engineering-Science



One of the cabins on the Elsey property. The three cabins are made of chestnut logs and stand along Swallow Falls Road.



A close view of one of the cabins on the Elsey property made of chestnut logs.

Source: Engineering-Science



The cabin chimney is made of field stones held with cement.

Source: Engineering-Science