HO-48
Woodlawn, site (Le Papillon)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 05-03-2004
This fine well proportioned stone structure is three bays wide, three bays deep and three stories high. In 1889 an intersecting gable took up the mid portion of this roof line where three gabled roof dormer windows now face south.

A one story shed roofed wooden sunporch addition lies along its south facade whose central and side doors open onto a semi-circular open patio surrounded by a wooden ballustrade.

Notable features of the house are its fine stone work in the flat stone lintels and projecting sills which accentuate the windows, and the lovely grounds on which it and its dependencies (carriage house, barns, ice house, well) rest.

Built by John Thomas Beale Dorsey, circa 1850 son of Judge Thomas Beale Dorsey who built El Monte, Woodlawn has seen several owners and now houses The Papillon Restaurant which features French cuisine along with an outstanding setting.
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME

COMMON:

Papillon

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Woodlawn

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

8880 Frederick Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Ellicott City

STATE:

Maryland

COUNTY:

Howard

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

(Check One)

[ ] District
[ ] Building
[ ] Site
[ ] Structure
[ ] Object

PRESENT USE

(Check One or More as Appropriate)

[ ] Agricultural
[ ] Commercial
[ ] Educational
[ ] Entertainment
[ ] Government
[ ] Industrial
[ ] Military
[ ] Museum
[ ] Private
[ ] Public
[ ] Religious
[ ] Private Residence
[ ] Private
[ ] Public

OWNERSHIP

[ ] Public
[ ] Private
[ ] Both

Public Acquisition:

[ ] In Process
[ ] Being Considered

STATUS

[ ] Occupied
[ ] Unoccupied
[ ] Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

[ ] Yes:
[ ] Restricted
[ ] Unrestricted
[ ] No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Investors Developers

STREET AND NUMBER:

Penthouse 6 - 8401 Connecticut Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Chevy Chase

STATE:

Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:

Howard County Court House

CITY OR TOWN:

Ellicott City

STATE:

Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

Tax Map #24, 675/242

4. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY:

1976

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:

21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE:

Maryland

21401
Woodlawn, now The Papillon Restaurant, is located on the north side of the Old Frederick Road east of the intersection of Route 29.

The fine basic stone structure is three bays wide, three bays deep and three stories high. The south elevation of the building has three gabled roof dormer windows set into the gabled roof. Each dormer window has a full pediment and pilasters applied at each side. The windows are rectangular with six-over-six lites. A photograph taken in 1889 of Woodlawn indicates an intersecting gable taking up the mid portion of the roof.

The second floor windows contain air conditioning units on the east and west bays which fill the original double-hung rectangular windows with four-over-four lites, one of which remains in the central bay. All have shutters.

South of the south wall of the original structure is a wooden sun porch addition of one story with shed roof decorated with scalloped detail along the eaves. Similar detail is found on the carriage house and garage. Two casement windows with twelve-twelve lites lie on the east while three full casement windows and a half flank the central entrance to the porch. Four Doric columns are inset into the wooden frame of the porch which lend one to believe the porch was at one time open. It is presently used for dining and has a one story, one bay wide, one bay deep entrance way addition with four steps leading to the French doors containing eight lites each. A rectangular double-hung window with six-over-six lites is inset into the east and west wall of this entrance addition. An open circular patio lies south of this porch with railroad tie base and wooden balustrade.

The north wall has a one story double garage on the east bay with a flat roof which has a wooden balustrade with yellow hard plastic flat roof. This open but covered space is used for outdoor dining. The north wall contains four hip roofed dormers with double-hung rectangular windows with six-over-six lites. A second floor six-over-six window lies between and below the two west dormers. Chimneys with corbeled brick courses decorate the roof line.

A north entrance door onto the upstairs terrace is located in the middle of the north wall with nine lites on the upper portion. A double double-hung rectangular window, each window containing four-over-four lites is located east of the door. Scalloped wood decoration runs along the cornice of the garage addition.

A one story flat roofed wooden addition with no apertures runs along the north wall up to the garage. Another wooden addition with flat roof lies along the east wall of the garage. A double-hung rectangular window with six-over-six lites is located north of this wooden addition. An iron fire escape with iron railing runs up the north side of the frame addition which has a cinder block foundation and forms the north wall of the east wing.

This east wing is one story high, flat roofed with no apertures and houses the bar for the restaurant.

The east elevation contains the frame bar addition on the north and a shingled three window, one story bay window with stone foundation and wooden cornice on the south. This bay window is surmounted by a double double-hung
Woodlawn's significance is both architectural and historic.

An old Dorsey house dating circa 1850, is now the location of a fine French restaurant, The Papillon.

John Thomas Beale Dorsey, son of Judge Thomas Beale Dorsey who built El Monte at the intersection of Routes 29 and 99, built Woodlawn.

A popular story among local residents relates that Dorsey laid out his property with two driveways into Frederick Road, one toward Frederick and the other toward Baltimore, in order to avoid the nearby toll gate.

During the 1880's and 90's, the Rogers family inhabited the home.

In the course of its history, Woodlawn has also been an inn called Woodlawn Hall.

Walter K. Plumb, an executive of the American Oil Company, acquired the property in the 1930's. He renamed it Woodlawn Manor and undertook a revision of the first floor plan as well as installing central heating and rewiring.

In 1947 the home was acquired by Dorsey Williams, the retired master of fox hounds at the Patapsco Hunt. That year he married Frances Lurman, a sweetheart of six decades who was the belle of Newport, Philadelphia, London, and Baltimore in the gay 90's. She was considered one of the ten most beautiful women in Baltimore. A mural of these ten women hangs in Shriver Hall at Hopkins University for which Alfred Jenkins Shriver donated funds. A picture of Mrs. Williams was kept in every room of Woodlawn by her husband.

In 1953 Dr. and Mrs. H. Allan Jones acquired the property and during their tenure enclosed the open front porch to create an informal living room.

In 1970 Geith G. Barr et al owned Woodlawn.

Today it houses The Papillon Restaurant where many may enjoy the beautiful surroundings and history of a Howard County Landmark.

Woodlawn's significance is increased by its setting; the house stands in a grove of mature trees on some twenty-five acres of land. Route 29 runs along the west boundary of the property not far from the house. The trees and shrubs, however, protect the integrity of the site with their foliage and act as a protective cover. The house is far enough from the highway, (Continued)

Interview with Mrs. Eric Lassotovitch, July 14, 1976, granddaughter of Mr. Rogers, owner of Woodlawn in 1889.

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10. **GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:**

Acreage Justification:

Please See Tax Map #24 675/242 p. 121

26.01 Acres

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11. **FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME AND TITLE:**

Mrs. Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

**ORGANIZATION:**

Howard County Office of Planning and Zoning

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

3450 Court House Drive

**CITY OR TOWN:**

Ellicott City

**STATE:**

Maryland

**DATE:**

2104

12. **State Liaison Officer Review:** (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National □  State □  Local □
Woodlawn - Description (continued)

rectangular window with shutters, each window containing four-over-four lites. The stone building is decorated with flat stone lintels and flat projecting sills.

The bay window is decorated with three bands of zig zag molding which is repeated midway between the windows but hidden by the black shutters which decorate the rectangular one-over-one double-hung windows on the north and south sides of the bay window. A large air conditioning unit takes up the entire middle window of the bay.

The west elevation contains a french door with eight lites each and six lite transom. A brick path flanked by boxwood leads to two wide stone stairs and a third covered with brick stretches which approach this west entrance to the enclosed porch. A twelve lite casement window is located in the south bay.

Three double windows similar to those already described are located on the first and second story, proportionally scaled with flat stone lintels and flat projecting sills. A third story window is located in the middle of the A formed by the gable roof line.

An air conditioning unit takes up the whole middle first floor window.

The entire house is surrounded with boxwood, fir, and other trees interspersed with lawn. The original name of Woodlawn certainly befits the setting of the house. The parking lot for the Papillon is located south, at the bottom of a slope, and is surrounded by trees and shrubs.

A gable roofed wooden entrance addition of one story with rectangular west entrance door is approached by a cement walkway flanked by a wooden railing with six posts holding a flat hard plastic roof. This entrance addition sets into the original garage whose west elevation also contains a rectangular double-hung window with six-over-six lites north of the entrance. Sloping lawns and lovely old trees complete the setting. Two tall free standing wrought iron lanterns flank the entrance to the cement walkway. A road runs along this west side of the house down to the parking lot and past it to Old Frederick Road.

Well

Northwest of the house is a round stone well decorated with stretcher bricks with an open gabled roof supported by four square tapered posts which are supported by four square brick courses composed of four stretcher bricks in a basket weave pattern four courses high.

Ice House

A square stone building west of the well with conical roof and set deeply into the west side of a sloping hill has a south batten wood entrance door.

Square wooden vents are located on the west and east walls of this structure.
Carriage House

A wooden frame one and half story carriage house, three bays wide, one bay deep, with one story shed roof addition on the north wall is located northeast of the well. It has a gabled roof running east-west with scalloped decoration along the eaves of the gabled roof.

An intersecting one story gabled roof entrance way with rectangular entrance door on the south is centered into the south wall. The east and west walls of this addition contain rectangular double-hung windows with six-over-six lites and shutters. This addition is flanked by rectangular double-hung windows with six-over-six lites and shutters. A wrought iron lite is set on each side of the entrance door.

The shed roof addition used as a kitchen runs along the entire north wall and contains a central rectangular entrance door with four lites approached by seven wooden steps.

The interior is open to the roof line and used as the Pauvre Papillon. Originally a second floor may have existed for use by the groom. The south and east sides of the building are terraced for use as an outdoor cafe.

Wooden framed barns and a two-car garage, all with gabled roofs, lie northwest of the Pauvre Papillon Cafe.
Woodland - Significance (continued)

to seem isolated from it, but near enough to it to feel the pressure of possible future development. This has in fact occurred. Zoning Board Case #692, 12 May 1976, proposed a motel development on the property, which was denied. Future action, however, may occur in the form of alternative plans for the 26 acre site. Any development of this tract of land should ensure the gently sloping woodland area between Old Frederick Road and the Old Carriage House, now used as a small cafe adjunct to the fine French restaurant located in the main structure. The integrity of the site would be assured if the area east and west of Woodlawn Manor to the east and west boundary lines, and south of the house to Frederick Road encompassing all that area north of Frederick Road up to the parking lot north of the carriage house, remains basically as it is now. The present parking lot, sufficient for The Papillon Restaurant, should not be enlarged to serve any future facility developed on land north of the carriage house. The present setting speaks of a 19th century tranquility which offers a stable element to a rapidly developing Howard County.