

HO-60

Patapsco Female Institute, ruins (Patapsco Heights Hotel, Burg Alnwick Hotel, The Hilltop Theatre)

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.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 02-07-2013

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: <i>Patapsco Female Institute</i>			
AND/OR HISTORIC: <i>same</i>			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>Church Road</i>			
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Ellicott City</i>			
STATE: <i>Md. 21043</i>		COUNTY: <i>Howard</i>	
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <i>Unoccupied Ruin</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments			
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: <i>Howard County</i>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>Court House</i>			
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Ellicott City</i>		STATE: <i>Md. 21043</i>	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: <i>Court House</i>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>Court Ave.</i>			
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Ellicott City</i>		STATE: <i>Md. 21043</i>	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 34-3/26 <i>p 212</i>			
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	

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7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered </div> <div> (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. Description PATAPSCO FEMALE INSTITUTE

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The ruins of the Patapsco Female Institute are quite magnificent. The Greek Revival building designed by architect Robert Cary Long, Jr. and built by Charles Timanus is of cut and dressed rare yellow tinted granite quarried locally. The four columns under the great portio still remain though they are in constant danger from the elements. The building is but a shell--all interior wooden parts having been removed by a previous owner so that the walls are open to attacks from weather and vandals as well as the ravishes of time. Some local effort was made in 1968 by the Friends of the Patapsco Institute Inc. to restore the building but the project was abandoned due to a lack of interest by the public. Since then the County has tried several times to demolish the building--at one time there were attempts to build the People's Court Bldg. on the site but the idea did not succeed and the Friends have thwarted all attempts at demolition.

The original Greek Revival structure was changed only slightly from Long's original plans when a chapel wing was added (designed by N. G. Starkwether) in 1856 and dormers over the portico were added to accomodate the students' dormitory area.

The roof was of tin and two large cisterns atop the roof held water for the school's needs.

When built the entire 57-room structure cost little more than \$12,000. The chapel wing added \$4,600 to the building.

Charles Timanus has been given credit for the building since Mr. Long left the job in disgust over a dispute with the building committee. The trustees, it seems, wished a cupola on top of the building--an item which Mr. Long found incompatible with his Greek Revival design. NO-60

The original grounds were beautifully landscaped with boxwood, day lilies, iris, wysteria, and many magnificent trees. Under the direction of the Friends the grounds were enclosed with a Page Fence and some attempt was made to clear the honeysuckle and debris but little has been done in the past few years.

8. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Invention <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Political <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- losophy <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- itarian <input type="checkbox"/> Theater <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Patapsco Female Institute, a "select" finishing school for well-bred young ladies, was officially open January 1, 1837. Designed by the well known Maryland architect, Robert Cary Long, Jr., in the Greek Revival style of the period, the Institute was built high above Ellicott City of rare yellow tinted granite donated by the Ellicott brothers. The land upon which it stands was also donated by the Ellicotts.

Among its famous alumnae was the daughter of Jefferson Davis, Winnie Davis, and the mother of the Duchess of Windsor. Thomas Jefferson's great grand daughter, Miss Sally Randolph, was headmistress of the school.

The Institute was the second school of its type for young ladies established in the country. It was originally supported by private contributions as well as state grants and was at first required to "educate eight poor girls, free of charge" for which it was to be paid eight hundred dollars per year out of the treasury of the State of Maryland. This idea was suggested by George Ellicott and was conceivably the forerunner of today's state scholarship program.

Governor Thomas Watkins Ligon, 33rd governor of Maryland, served as its president after his retirement from public service in 1857.

Following the Civil War, the Institute's reputation gradually diminished and it closed its doors as a school in

1891..In that year, it was purchased by a Mr. James E. Tyson and turned into a summer hotel. In 1905, Miss Lilly Tyson bought the Institute and renamed it "'Berg Alnwick'" after Alnwick Castle, the ancestral home of the Tyson family in England.

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In 1917, it was fitted out as a 50 bed hospital for use by returning wounded World War I veterans. The institute in the 1930's was known as the "'Hill Top Theatre'" and was the scene of a number of summer theatre productions directed by the well known local artist and actor Don Swann.

The last owner of the Institute to actually live in it was the late Mrs. Manola Brennan who bought it in the early 1940's and willed it upon her death to her daughter. The daughter, in turn, sold it in 1958 to Dr. James Whisman.

Dr. James Whisman's efforts to continue to use the building as a nursing home were thwarted by the County Building Inspector's insistence that it was a fire trap and that all wooden parts had to be removed. Dr. Whisman then sold the contents of the building (paneled walls, flooring, mantels, shutters, etc.) to a wrecking contractor and the building was gutted and reduced to its present condition.

When Dr. Whisman died in 1965, he deeded it to his alma mater, the University of Cincinnati, from whom the County Commissioners purchased it in 1966.

W0-60

In 1966 the "'Friends of the Patapsco Institute"' incorporated ^{Tried} ~~to try~~, through public subscription, to restore the building as a civic and cultural center. Because of public apathy the project was unsuccessful though the Friends did succeed in fencing the area against vandals and have so far stopped the county from clearing the ruins from the site.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

E.C. Bicentennial Journal, vol. 1 no. 1 Sec. B, 1972, *E.C. Times*
Origin & History of Howard County, Md., Charles J. Stein jr., 1972, Schneidereith Press, Balto. pp. 118, 146
The Founders of Anne Arundel & Howard Counties, Md. J.D. Warfield, 1905, Regional Publishing Co. 1967. p. 282
Ellicott City, Md. Milltown USA. Celia Holland, Adams Press, 1970. pp 136-167
Schofield Map of Ellicott City. 1857, Key.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds		LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8 acres

Acreage Justification:

Original acreage

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

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <i>Jean O. Hannon v. pres. NEC</i>	
ORGANIZATION: <i>Historic Ellicott City, Inc.</i>	DATE: <i>1/75</i>
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>2416 McKenzie Rd.</i>	
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Ellicott City</i>	STATE: <i>Md. 21043</i>

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

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

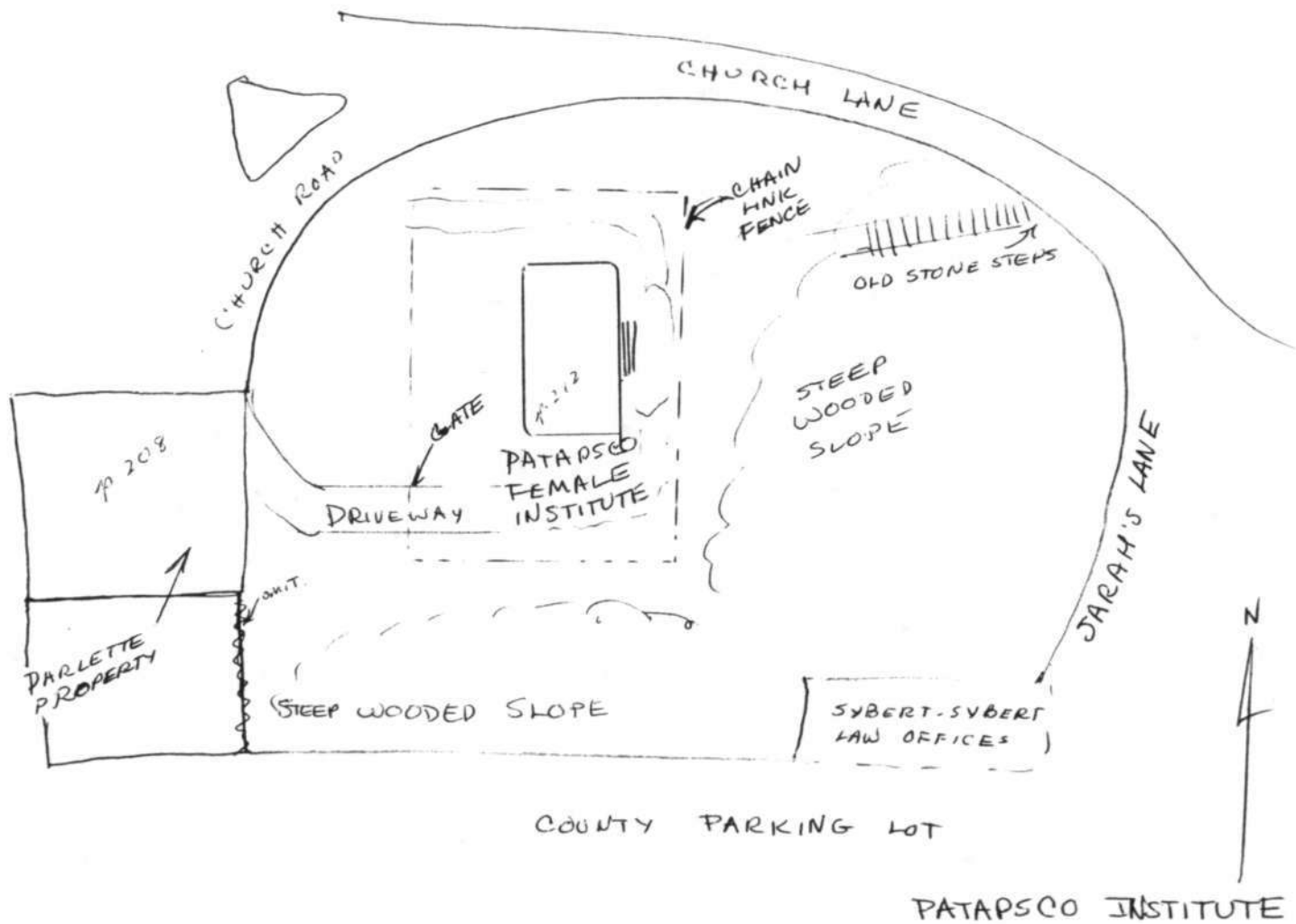
Easement

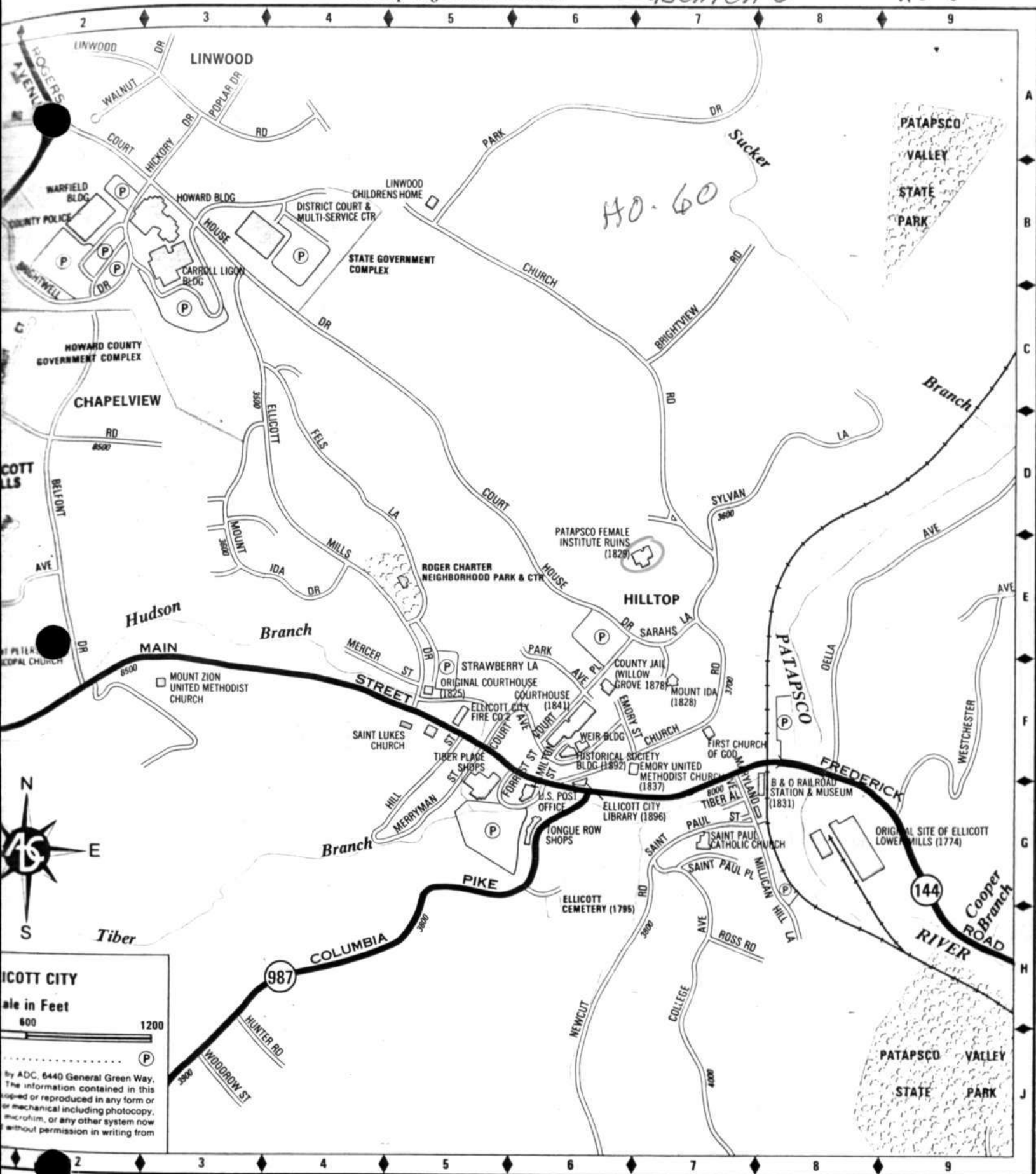
1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Howard</u> TOWN <u>Ellicott City</u> CITY STREET NO. <u>Church Street</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>finishing school</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Howard County</u> PRESENT USE <u>vacant Commissioners</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>granite</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2 1/2</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>HO - 60</u>	
		2. NAME <u>Patapsco Female Institute</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>1837</u> STYLE <u>Greek Revival</u> ARCHITECT <u>Robert Cary Long, Jr.</u> BUILDER <u>Robert Cary Long, Jr.</u>	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION			
OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>no</u>			
<p>Patapsco Female Institute is a huge Greek Revival building set upon the top of a hill above Ellicott City. It was designed by Robert Cary Long, Jr. and built in 1837 as a finishing school for "well bred young ladies". The interior materials are stored. The main portion of the structure has a center door below a Greek arch, flanked by a window on each side. To reach the main door it is necessary to climb up a long flight of granite steps to a Doric portico. This central portion of the Institute including the portico is covered by a Mansard roof. Set back from the plane of the main facade is a wing on each side, each of which is two stories above a full basement, two bays long and four bays deep, with a pilaster at the outer corner extending above the line of the lowpitch hipped roof.</p> <p>Set back still farther is a third granite wing on the west side, five bays long and three bays deep. The windows of the first floor are elongated and semicircular arches. It may have been a chapel. Lintels above the other windows throughout the building are of a single block of granite. Traces of woodwork remain in the rubble within.</p> <p>(see reverse side)</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE			
Endangered <u>yes</u> Interior <u>gone</u> Exterior <u>poor</u>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)			
7. PHOTOGRAPH			
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <u>Nat'l Trust Preservation News,</u> <u>Aug 1967.</u> <u>(continued on reverse side)</u>		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> <u>Maryland Historical Trust</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>June 19, 1968</u>	



National Trust for Historic Preservation
"Preservation News", August, 1967, announced the
'Friends of the Patapsco Institute' are undertaking restoration
restoration of building.
School closed - 1891..... later used as Hotel.
Hospital in 1917 for war vetrans.
Summer theater productions in the 1930's.

8. National Trust Preservation News, Wrenn letter, June 28, 1965
National Trust Preservation News, Garvey letter, Oct. 4, 1965





Hill St G-5
Hunter Rd H-3
Linwood Rd A-2
Main St E-3
Maryland Ave F-7
Mercer St E-4

Walnut Dr A-2
Westchester Ave F-9
Woodrow St J-3

ROUTE

GOVERNMENT FEATURES

County Jail F-6
County Police B-1
Courthouse E-6

Sucker Branch A-7
Tiber Branch H-2

PARKS

Patapsco Valley State

Saint Lukes F-4
Saint Paul Catholic G-7
Saint Peters Epis E-1

POINTS OF



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy duty	—————	Light duty	—————
Medium duty	- - - - -	Unimproved dirt
() Interstate Route	() U.S. Route	() State Route	

ELLICOTT CITY, MD.

N3915 W7645/75

1953

PHOTO REVISED 1966 AND 1974
AMS 5662 IV SE SERIES V833



(RELAY)
5662 II NW

1. Patapsco Female Institute
2. Mt. Ida
3. Angela Cottage
4. Patapsco Hotel
5. Town Hall - Opera House

6. Railroad Hotel
7. B & O Station
8. C.R.R. Patapsco Bank Bldg.
9. Court House
10. Emory Methodist Church

11. Geo. Elliott House
12. St. Paul's Gothic Ch.
13. Quaker Meeting Hse.



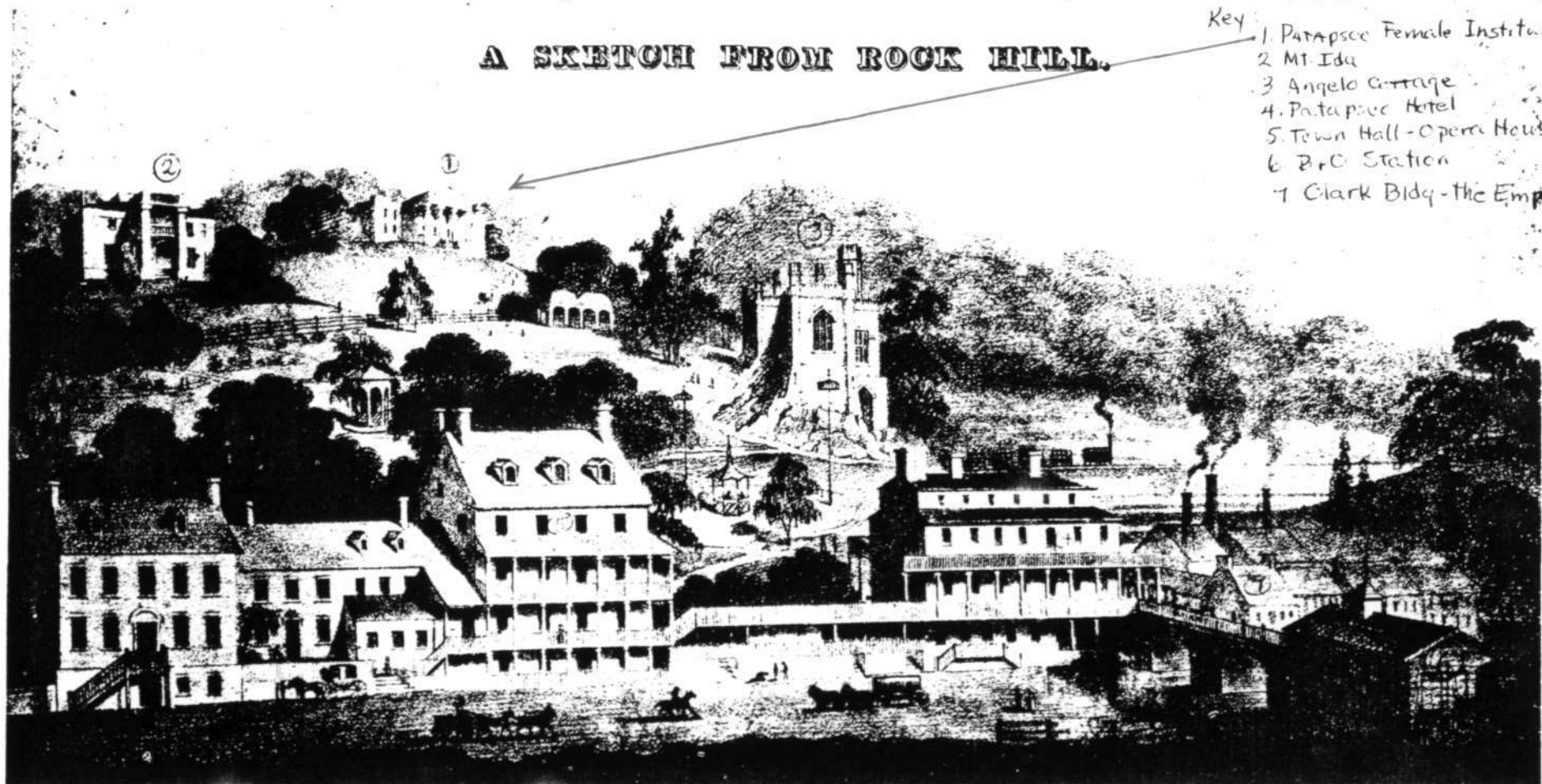
ELLICOTT'S MILLS, MARYLAND.

FROM E.C. JOURNAL

The Railroad Hotel can be located in this etching, dated cir. 1840.

A SKETCH FROM ROCK HILL.

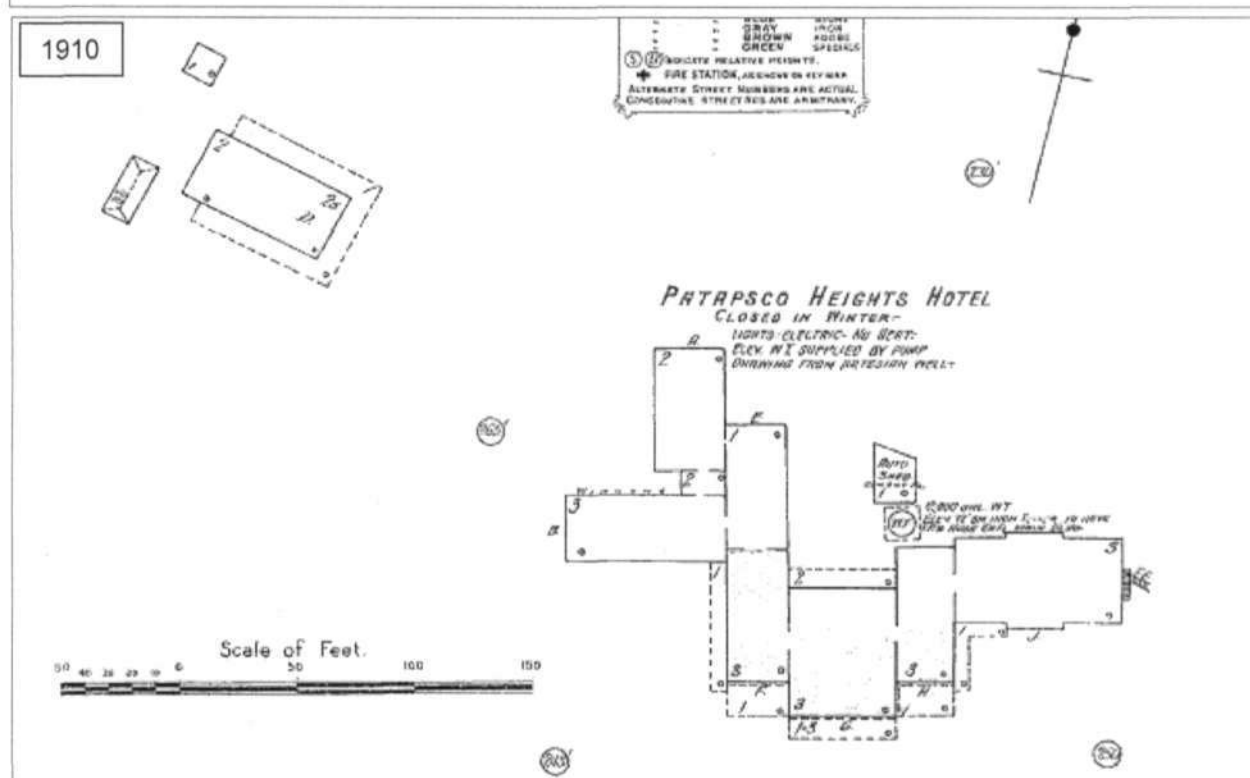
- Key:
1. Patapsco Female Institute
 2. Mt. Ida
 3. Angelo Cottage
 4. Patapsco Hotel
 5. Town Hall - Opera House
 6. B & O Station
 7. Clark Bldg - the Emporium



Lithography of Main Street, dated cir. 1832, shows location of yet to be constructed Railroad Hotel.

FROM THE SOURCE

Sanborn Maps

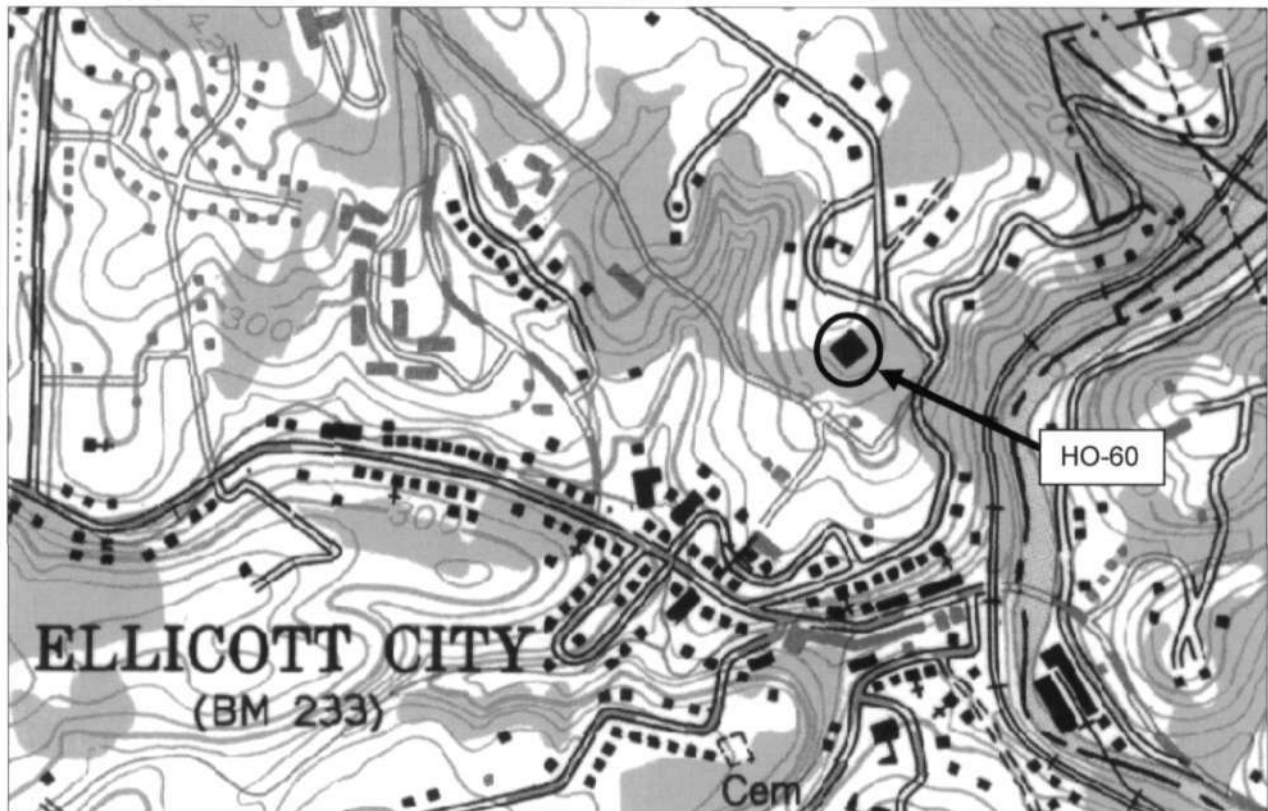


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Patapsco Female Institute (Patapsco Heights Hotel)

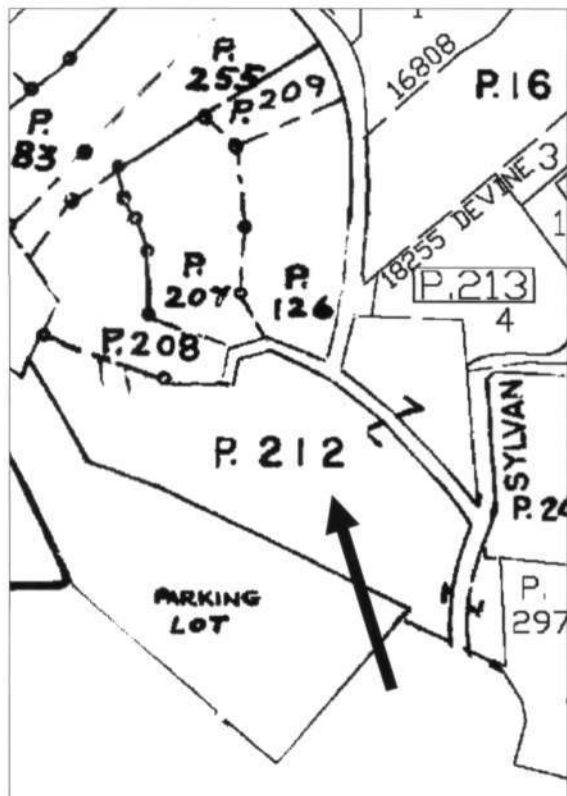
3655 Church Road, Ellicott City

Ellicott City quad 1953, Photorevised 1966 and 1974



Tax Map 25, Parcel 212

National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2010



HO-60
Patapsco Female Institute (Patapsco Heights Hotel)
3655 Church Road, Ellicott City
Photos by Jennifer K. Cosham, 11/28/2012
South elevation



South elevation



Southeast elevation





HO-60

J. Hannon

2/1975

PATAPSCO FEM. INST, CSE

HO-60

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: TATAPSCO FEMALE INSTITUTE
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

~~COLLEGE~~ Church Road,

CITY OR TOWN:

ELLICOTT CITY

STATE:

Md.

CODE

COUNTY:

21043

CODE

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: J. HANNON

DATE OF PHOTO: FEB 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT: MHT (enclosed)

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

SE side (front)
(Bldg. Ruins in Center of Photo)



HO-60

J. Hannon

2/1975

FEM. PAT. 1Y5T.

N.W. SIDE



HU-60

J. Hammer
2/14/75

PAT. FE. INST. REAR

Ho-60

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: FATAPSCO FEMALE Institute

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CHURCH Rd.

CITY OR TOWN:

ELLCOTT City

STATE:

Md 21043

CODE

COUNTY:

Howard

CODE

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT:

J. HANNON

DATE OF PHOTO:

FEB 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

MHT (enclosed)

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

NW side (REAR)
(2 views)