

1. Name: Elmer School
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 16/19 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 11
H-3
4. Address: Club Hollow Road, Dickerson
5. Classification Summary
- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Category <u>building</u> | Previous Survey Recording <u>M-NCPPC</u> |
| Ownership <u>private</u> | Title and Date: <u>Inventory of Historical Sites - 1976</u> |
| Public Acquisition <u>NA</u> | |
| Status <u>unoccupied</u> | |
| Accessible <u>no</u> | Federal <u> </u> State <u>X</u> County <u>X</u> Local <u> </u> |
| Present use <u>other: unused</u> | |
6. Date: 1909-10 7. Original Owner: Montgomery County School Board
8. Apparent Condition
- a. deteriorated b. unaltered c. original site
9. Description: This three bay by two bay, one and a half story frame school house is set back from the road facing northwest. The exterior walls are covered by unpainted clapboards. Three poured concrete steps on the northwest elevation lead up to the front door (now missing). The two-over-two double-hung windows are arranged in single, double, and quadruple groupings. The gable roof has a raised seam metal covering.
10. Significance: Elmer School was an important community institution for white families of the Edwards and White's Ferry area from 1865 until its closing in 1931.
- The names Elmer, Edwards' Ferry and Oak Hill were all applied to the same school. Local tradition dates the school in operation as early as 1859, before the establishment of public schools in the County. The first school, a single room building of 22'x20', operated until 1892 when a new and larger school was built. This school burned down between 1907 and 1909. A third school building was built in 1910, larger than its predecessors, serving 45 children in grades 1-9. There was a stable near the spring to house the teacher's horse. The school operated until 1930-31, when it was closed and its pupils consolidated with those in Poolesville. The abandoned building was sold in 1933 to John J. Umstead, and remained in the Umstead family until 1974.
11. Researcher and date researched: Tamar Hoewing - 2/79 Candy Reed
Arch. Description
12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled: 2/79 14. Designation
Approval
15. Acreage: 1 acre

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 16/19
Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Elmer School / Edward's Ferry School / Oak Hill School

AND/OR COMMON
Elmer School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Club Hollow Road -- two miles NW of Edward's Ferry

CITY, TOWN
Dickerson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
8

STATE
Maryland

VICINITY OF
Edward's Ferry

COUNTY
Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Ted R. Lingo

Telephone #: 428-8180

STREET & NUMBER
Box 191

CITY, TOWN
Poolesville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 20837

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Montgomery County Courthouse

LIBER #: 554
Folio #: 436

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Rockville

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE
1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN
Rockville

STATE
Maryland 20855

12.6-2

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three bay by two bay, one and a half story frame school house is set back from the road facing northwest. It is in poor condition and is overgrown.

Built on fieldstone foundations, the exterior walls are covered by unpainted clapboards. On the northwest elevation three poured concrete steps lead up to an open door way (the door is missing). The door frame has a single light transom. A shed-roofed hood extends out over the doorway. There is a doorway on the southwest elevation. The schoolhouse has two-over-two double-hung windows arranged in single, double, and quadruple groupings. The gable roof has raised seam metal covering. There is an exterior stove chimney on the southeast elevation.

The northwest (front) door opens into a entry way and cloakroom. Southeast of this is a single large classroom with windows on the northeast and southeast walls. The shadow remains of the blackboard are visible on the southwest and northwest walls. There is tongue and groove wainscotting around the classroom. Above the wainscotting is pressed metal wall and ceiling covering. The floors are narrow hardwood boards. Although the doors are missing, the simply molded door frames remain.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:16-19

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 pre 1865;
1892; 1909-10 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The names Elmer, Edward's Ferry and Oak Hill were all applied to the same school. These names applied to the first school in operation by 1865 and replaced in 1892, which burned down around 1909, and then carried over to the third school which was built soon after in the same location.

The first mention of Oak Hill School is on the 1865 map of Montgomery County, but local tradition dates it as early as 1859, before the establishment of public schools in the county. Although no description of this earliest school survives, except its dimensions are known to have been 22 by 20 feet, it seems likely it was a single-room building much like the slightly larger building that replaced it in 1892. School Board records show that in 1883 it was insured for \$263.

Like all schools of that period, Elmer School was segregated, serving only white children. Entries in the Montgomery County Sentinel indicate problems at the school: in 1877, the Electoral Commission "sat upon the qualification of Jas. E. Phillips as teacher of Oak Hill school, decided in his favor by a vote of 14 to 7. Joe Bradley was well represented." A month later a stabbing was reported at the school: "This is the second occurrence of this kind that has happened among the pupils of this school in the last eighteen months." And Mr. Phillips apparently continued to have his problems, for at the end of the 1888-9 term: "It is generally conceded that Mr. Jas. E. Phillips will teach the Oak Hill school another year. This is as it should be, and a source of gratification to three-fourths of the patrons of the school. Your writer, as one of the trustees, has and will always oppose the removal of a teacher for personal grounds, taking into consideration the interest of the school at large and its patrons."¹

By 1887, the School Board talked of merging Oak Hill with Marble Quarry school, as Oak Hill was "very small" and on private property. \$450 was appropriated in 1891 for building a new school, with an additional \$50 for furniture. An acre of land was purchased for \$150 from George W.H. Smith and others, with the "privileges of using the water from a spring located near the northeast corner of the lot of land."² By the following year, the Sentinel reported that "the school house at Elmer (Oak Hill) has been rebuilt, and with its new appearance is second to none in the district."³ It was slightly larger, 22' by 28'. It had one room, was heated by a wood stove, and served twenty children and a teacher. There was a spring down over the hill to the east, and a house nearby where local residents would pick up their mail. This school burned down between 1907 and 1909.

(continued on Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attachment Sheet B

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Candy Reed

Tamar Hoewing

Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

2/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 87

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dickerson

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 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 277-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
Box 87, Shergold
Dickerson, Md. 20753
(301) 926-4510

Elmer School/Edward's Ferry School/Oak Hill School

In June 1910 the School Board approved \$600 for the construction of a third building on that site. This was much like the earlier one, even to having a pot-belly coal stove and a raised curved stage at the front of the classroom. It was larger than its predecessors, however, serving on the average 45 children in grades one through nine. There was a stable near the spring to house the teacher's horse and the rare horse ridden by a student. Most children walked, in some cases, up to five miles each way. "Once in a while some children might hook a dog cart up to a horse for transportation; it was easier on the feet and much more interesting."⁴ The older children who made it to Poolesville for further education were considered to be moving up the ladder because they could ride to school on horses. The older children occasionally would drop the younger ones at Elmer School and ride on.

School was from 9 to 4 with two fifteen minute breaks and one hour break; there was one break in the morning, one afternoon lunch break which lasted an hour, and one in the later part of the day. Some popular games were the girls playing ball against the boys, hide and seek, a game called Black Dog (comparable to chase), London Fog, Farmer in the Dell and other typical games. Of course, during the mid-noon recess the children would eat their lunches that they had carried to school in tin buckets. The old bell told the children when school and recess began and ended. The teacher would teach one grade or class at a time while the others studied or while the older children helped the younger with their studies.

Reciting and some types of punishments took place on the large round stage in front of the classroom which both schools had. Punishments commonly used for misbehaving were standing in the corner up on the stage, kneeling on broomhandles for a set period of time, a sharp whip on the hand, sticking your head under the black board ledge or maybe the lunchpail table, which was table in the rear of the room for the children to place their lunches on. The informant recalls that quite a few times while one child had his head under the lunchpail table other students would stick him with a pin, thereby upsetting all the lunches and being punished again.

The course of studies included spelling, math, reading, geography, history, English and physics for the older grades. Two children would sit at one desk. Some children, particularly the grown young men, would go to school until harvest or planting time and drop out for a while to help with the farm work. The students used slate boards to do their work.

At the spring, sometimes the children would bring milk from local cows and use the spring to make "cream" or "skim milk" by leaving the milk in cans and setting them in the spring water. The milk would then separate into the milk and cream substance on top which they would "skim" off. Two children would go down to fetch water for the other children to drink during class time. They would drink water from a coconut shell, and had a water bench inside with water to drink or wash with. Box socials, spelling bees, and church services were gatherings held in the schools.

Elmer School was an important community focal point for white families of the Edward and White's Ferry area. This school operated until 1930-31, when it was closed and its pupils consolidated with those in Poolesville; this period of consolidation coincides with the availability of better transportation -- in the form of the horse-drawn school bus. The abandoned building was sold on February 14, 1933 to John J. Umstead for \$100.⁵ The building remained in the Umstead family for many years, coming to the present owner as part of a larger parcel in 1974.

(continued on Attachment Sheet B)

Elmer School/Edward's Ferry School/Oak Hill School

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 E. Guy Jewell, "Schools That Were", unpublished manuscript at Montgomery County Historical Society (1973).
- 2 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. JA 29/283 (recorded October 8, 1891).
- 3 Montgomery County Sentinel, August 26, 1892.
- 4 Interview with George Butler, Poolesville, former student.
- 5 Land Records, op. cit., 554/436.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

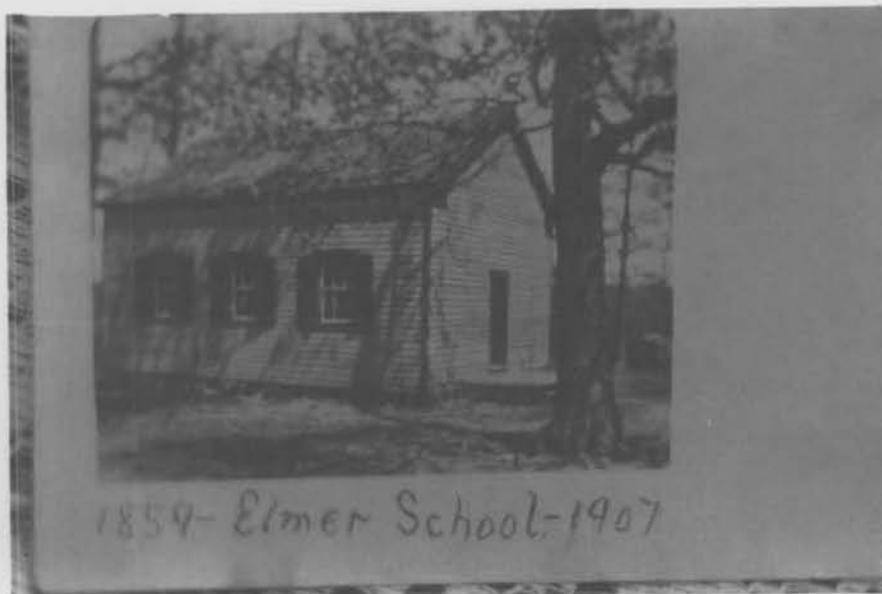
Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Jewell, E. Guy, "Schools That Were", unpublished manuscript at Montgomery County Historical Society (1973).

Interviews:

Mr. George Butler, Poolesville, Md.
Mrs. Mary Silkworth, Westminster, Md.
Miss Mamie Fry, Buckeystown, Md.
Mrs. Louise Shoemaker, Beallsville, Md.
(all former students)

Elmer School/Edward's Ferry School/Oak Hill School



1859- Elmer School-1907

First Elmer School



From Left to Right

Front Row: George Brunner, Fannie Poole, Betty Spates,
Flora Hyatt (Teacher), Elizabeth Oxley,
Maurice Oxley

Second Row: John Oxley, Malista Brunner, (?), Beatrice Shry,
Mary Shry, Mamie Fry, Eugene Fawley

Third Row: Harry Fawley, Maggie Fry, Nannie Spates, Helen Fawley

Back Row: (?), Gilbert Oxley, Thomas Oxley, William Shry,
Lawrence Fry

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET 16031459

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

Seconds

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NAME OF HISTORIC PLACEMENT: Elmer School

STREET AND NUMBER: Club Hollow Road

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Montgomery

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input 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 Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Ruins	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
HOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Courthouse, Montgomery County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: Maryland

Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):
MENTION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TYPE OF SURVEY RECORDS:
 Federal State County Local

STREET AND NUMBER: STATE:

73

M:16-19

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is a one-story frame structure with clapboard siding. It has a school room with a long, narrow cloak room running along one flank. There is an entrance in the south gable end and through the west cloakroom wall. Interior walls and ceilings are patterned tin.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

II. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

[Empty space for the Statement of Significance]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M.16-19

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Empty box for Major Bibliographical References.

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	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreege Justification:

Large empty box for Acreege Justification.

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

STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: MNCPPC DATE: 25 Sept 73

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

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

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:16-19

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated June 12, 1984

ACTION TAKEN

The following sites have been reviewed and found not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Those sites also listed on the Locational Atlas will no longer be subject to regulation under the Moratorium on Alteration and Demolition.

Site No.

10/2			
10/9		23/70	
10/11		23/98-1	
10/22		24/12	
10/25		24/14	
10/54		24/15	
10/71		25/1	
10/73		25/10-1	
	15/68	27/5	
	15/69	27/7	
10/74	16/19	*27/11	
11/8	*17/4	*27/13	35/6
12/14-1	17/55	28/15	36/9
12/16	18/1	28/26	*37/4
12/26	18/9	30/3	
	18/22	30/7	
13/15	18/27	30/9	
13/16	18/29-1	30/15	*Recommended for designation by the
13/28	19/8	30/17	Mont. Co. Historic Preservation
13/32	19/18	30/19	Commission.
	19/20	31/9	
14/1	20/6	33/3	**These sites were previously considered
14/15	20/14	33/5	by the County Council and found not
14/18	20/27	33/11	to warrant regulation under the
14/19	22/5	*34/1	Historic Preservation Ordinance.
14/23	22/6-1	*34/9	They are listed here to bring the
14/30	22/18		functional Master Plan in conformance
14/31	22/21		with Council's actions.
14/40	22/22		
14/48	22/23		
14/54	22/24		
15/10	23/13		
15/11			
15/18			
*15/62			