

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Village of Triadelphia

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

end of Triadelphia Lake Road, off Rte. 97

CITY, TOWN

Sunshine

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

\_\_\_ BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

SITE

\_\_\_ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

\_\_\_ PRIVATE

\_\_\_ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

\_\_\_ OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_\_ YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ NO

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

**PARK**

\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hyattsville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #:

Folio #:

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1936

FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:23-37

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" 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**

There are only a few stone foundations in the woods above the parking lot. These mark the only remains of an important, early-19th Century, industrial village that disappeared from floods, explosions, and finally the damming of the Patuxent River for the local water supply.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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"/> 400-1499	<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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This was the only operation of its kind ever to operate in Montgomery County. (See excellent history by Esther B. Stabler in MARYLAND HISTORICAL MAGAZINE, June, 1948.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1) Stabler, Esther B. MARYLAND HISTORICAL MAGAZINE. (June, 1948.)
- 2) Farquhar, R.B. OLD HOMES & HISTORY OF MONT. CO., MD. (1961)
- 3) Scharf, J. Thomas. HISTORY OF WESTERN MARYLAND. (1882)
- 4) Boyd. HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD. (1879)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

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

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

1974

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

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 House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

# Triadelphia

**T**RIADELPHIA deserves a place in this volume, for while it was never strictly an old home, it was a thriving little town of many homes more than one hundred years ago. Under many feet of water today, impounded by the big Brighton Dam, it was a ghost town for several generations. Triadelphia contained a cotton mill, blacksmith shop, stables, store, dairy, granary, grist and saw mill, tobacco house, church, school house, post office, and many fine dwellings, nearly all swept away by a disastrous flood in 1868.



NO. 114 C-9 1809-'10 BY ISAAC BRIGGS, THOMAS MOORE AND CALEB BENTLEY, PARTNERS STONE

The town was established in 1809 or 1810 on the Montgomery County side of the Patuxent River, which forms the boundary line with Howard County. It was five miles north of Ashton and twenty-five miles from Zero. The town was erected on a plot of about 275 acres that were part of Benjamin's Lot, a land grant of 516 acres made to Benjamin Gaither in 1725. Since 1940, when the Brighton Dam was developed by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission the whole site of the ancient town has been inundated.

The sonorous name adopted by the founders of the town meaning "Three Brothers," is a slight misnomer for they were really brothers-in-law. All three of the founders had married Brooke sisters, daughters of Roger Brooke IV, of Brooke Grove. The founders were Isaac Briggs, who married Hannah; Thomas Moore,

who married Mary; and Caleb Bentley, whose first wife was Sarah Brooke. For more detailed accounts of the activities of these three interesting gentlemen, all pioneers in Montgomery County, see articles elsewhere in this volume on their respective homes, Sharon, Longwood, and Bloomfield.

The photograph above shows one of the few buildings which withstood terrific floods, and gives a good idea of the substantial stone construction of many of the buildings comprising the town. Most of them were two-story houses of rough stone large enough for two or more families. The particular building shown, which was used from 1880 to 1900, had the post office in the left door. The center part was a store room. The right-hand door shown was the entrance to the home of the Lansdale family, who at the time were owners of the acreage and the remnants of the town. Richard H. Lansdale was born in that house in 1883.

The three founders of Triadelphia were as much intellectuals of a high order as they were practical idealists. But they were plagued by floods and wars. No sooner had their several projects become productive with their mills humming, than the second war with England, 1812-1814, threatened their existence. They struggled along between that time and the War between the States which war in turn was also destructive to their operations. During that time two of the original owners, Briggs and Moore, became interested in important engineering work elsewhere at the instance of President Jefferson, who was a friend and admirer of both men. This left Bentley holding the fort, as it were. The project never was profitable.

In 1830, it was decided that the property should be sold, for at that time both Moore and Briggs had passed away. Among those who then became interested were Samuel P. Gilpin and Thomas Lansdale. The latter was a man of real mechanical ability. He met with some success until the floods brought destruction upon the town. His wife was Eliza Strain. He was in the Maryland State Senate in 1865.

In the town's better days before the Civil War most of the grain in the lower part of the

County was ground at Triadelphia mills. It had the only good blacksmith and wheelwright shops for many miles. The mails were brought twice weekly to Triadelphia from Sandy Spring and Ashton on the way to and from Baltimore and Washington. Thomas Lansdale, who took over the operations of the town in 1840, was a grandfather of Richard H. Lansdale. His family owned the place and acreage until 1923, when Richard Lansdale and P. Garland Ligon, after much difficulty, bought the whole property containing about 350 acres from numerous heirs in both Montgomery and Howard Counties.

In 1927, Lansdale sold out his interest in Tri-

adelphia to Ligon, who then became the sole owner. He operated the agricultural part of the farm for a year or two before he sold the acreage to the Suburban Sanitary Commission.

The Brighton Dam, completed in 1943, has a water surface of 775 acres, and the Sanitary Commission owns 1,738 acres of land around the lake. Of this, 429 acres are pastureland and 807 acres are of standing timber, according to a recent article in the *Evening Star*, describing the project. Thus, the little industrial town, Triadelphia, will be remembered only in its successor, the beautiful Brighton Dam serving the National Capital with pure water.

## Uncle Tom's Cabin

IN the spring of 1851 a few short stories appeared in an antislavery newspaper, *The National Era*, published in Washington. They were written by Harriet Beecher Stowe, an unknown author. The publisher of the newspaper asked her to send in more articles, and advanced her one hundred dollars. She began a new series which she called, "Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Life Among the Lowly." These articles made such a profound impression when the slavery issue was so acute that they were finally published in March, 1852, as a book. It was ultimately read in Europe and America, was translated into twenty languages, and over six million copies were sold.

It is safe to guess that very few citizens of Montgomery County know that "Uncle Tom" hero of the book lived for many years on a plantation between Rockville and Bethesda. One of the cabins thereon is still standing in 1961. The author, who is quite familiar with the County, was incredulous to hear rumors recently that the real Uncle Tom lived in Montgomery County for many years when he was a slave of the Riley family. The cabin shown on the next page the right part of photo was on the Riley plantation. Uncle Tom, whose name was Josiah Henson, wrote a book entitled "Uncle Tom's Story of His Life" which had a sale of tens of thousands. Perusal of this little volume and a search of the land records identify the cabin on Old Georgetown Road near Wall Lane as the location of the Riley plantation.

Josiah Henson was born on a farm in Charles County in 1789. When he was less than ten years of age his father was "sold down south," and his mother, to a Montgomery County farmer named Riley. The child was separated from his mother, but also brought to Montgomery. Later he was restored to his mother, and for years was a foreman, or overseer for the Rileys. His story states that when he was sold in Charles County, they were taken "about forty miles to Montgomery County." He refers to trips to market in Georgetown and Washington. He also made frequent trips to the Montgomery Court House (Rockville), where Riley spent a good deal of time in revelry at a tavern, and at times needed "Si's" help to get safely home. Josiah reports how he was converted to the "blessedness of religion" by the preaching of an evangelist named John McKenney at Newport Mill, which was a well-known mill near Kensington (also known as Duvall's Mill).

Mrs. Stowe wrote a preface to Henson's book in which she gives him credit for being her leading character; she wrote, "Among the singular and interesting records to which the institution of American slavery has given rise, we know none more striking, more characteristic; and instructive than that of Josiah Henson." In the appendix to Henson's book is a statement, that "he supplied the principle facts of life to Mrs. Stowe upon which she built her inimitable work, 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.'" Henson refers to talks he had with Mrs. Stowe in New England and



**BUSINESS NOTICES.**

**BRIGHTON.**

**Isaac Hartshorne.**  
 Agent for The Home Mutual Life Ins. Co. of Philadelphia.  
 Incorporated 1847. Assets \$1,000,000.  
 Dividends paid in Cash Annually.

**E. Pierce & Co.**  
 Dealers in Merchandise, Groceries, Dry Goods, Hardware, Shoes, etc.  
 Ed. Pierce. J. Hartshorne.

**Henry Stabler.**  
 Dealer in Groceries and Superior Sweet Corn and Fruit. Goods packed with care in Air-Tight Drums.

**MT. ZION.**

**J. A. Snowden.**  
 Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, etc.

**Thos. Brown.**  
 Dealer in Groceries, Provisions, Dry Goods, etc.

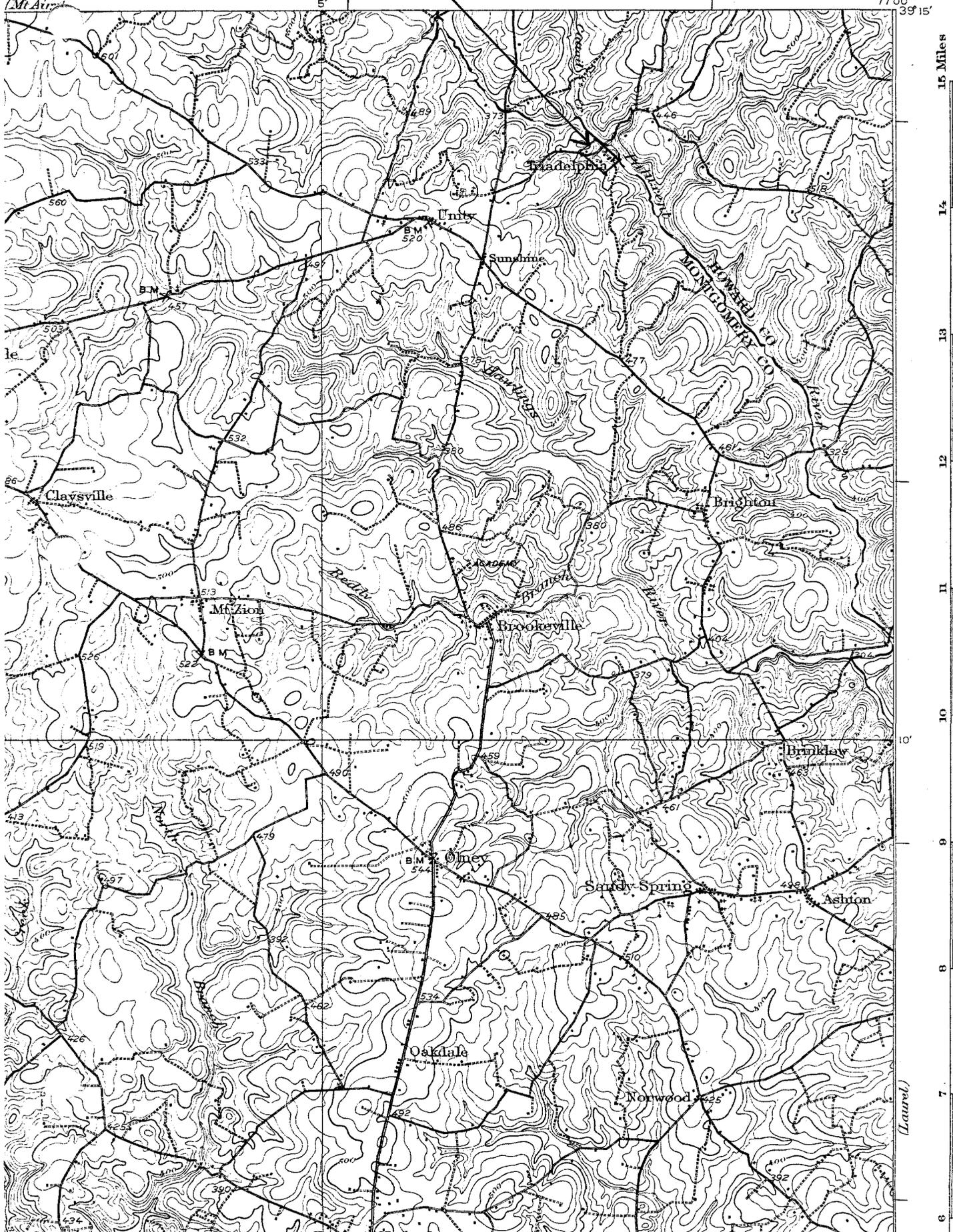
Map in the year 1879 by G.M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington D.C.

M: 23-37  
Triadelphia Historic District  
Rockville 15' Quad, 1923

OF MARYLAND  
ICAL SURVEY  
(Mt Airy)

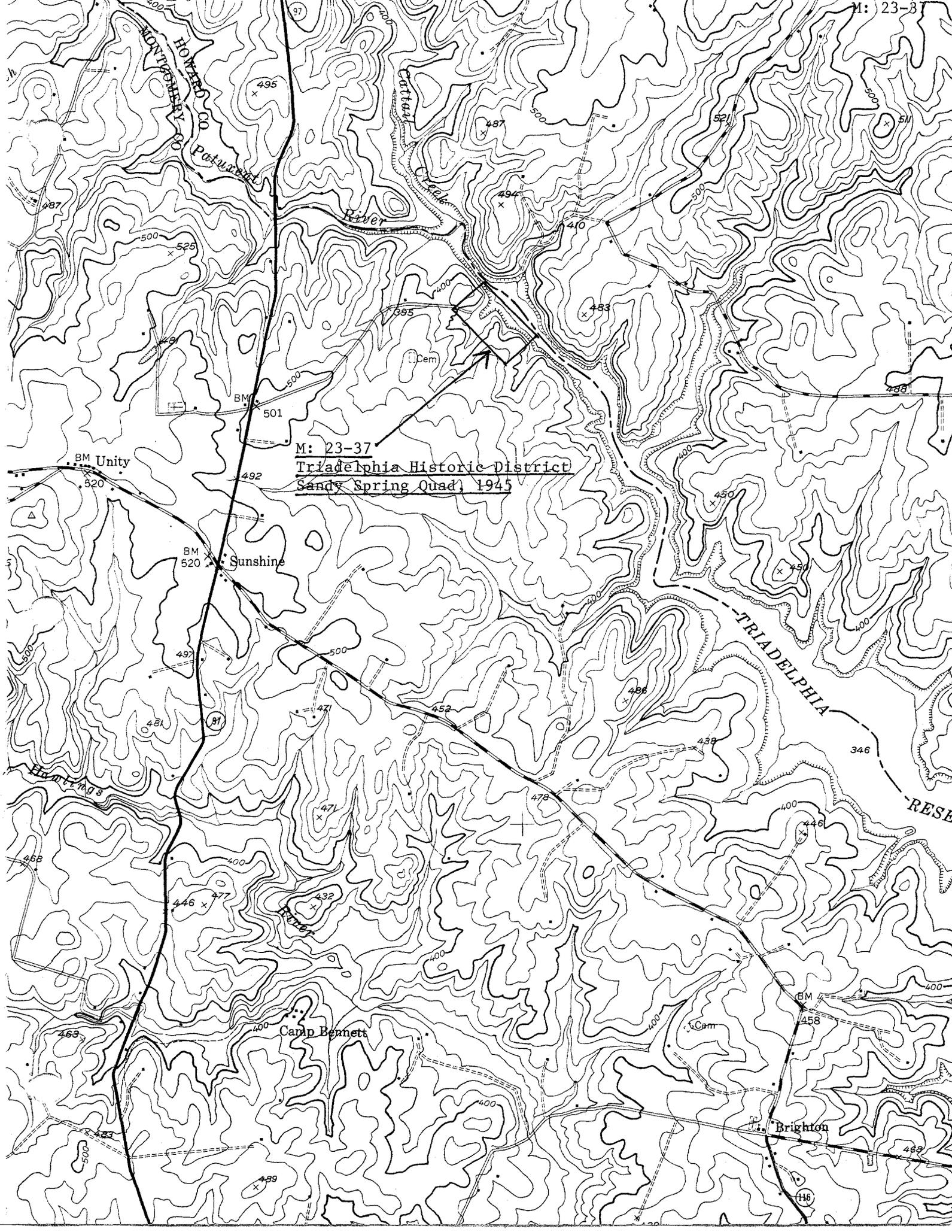
MARYLAND-VIRGINIA  
ROCKVILLE QUADRANGLE

77°00' (Ellcott)  
39°15'



15 Miles  
14  
13  
12  
11  
10  
9  
8  
7  
6

(Laurel)



M: 23-37  
Triadelphia Historic District  
Sandy Spring Quad, 1945

--- TRIADELPHIA

RESE

Camp Bennett

Brighton

BM Unity  
520

BM 520  
Sunshine

BM  
501

BM  
458

492

492

520

497

481

446

477

446

432

400

489

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