



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 23/9812  
 Olney H.D.  
 MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC "Olney House", "Little Olney", "Olney"

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 3308 Sandy Spring - Olney Road

CITY, TOWN Olney VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8

STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery 20832

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME In Revocable Trust with Nat'l Bank Wash Telephone #: 537-2000

STREET & NUMBER

for Helen Pumphrey Denit, Widow, Presently Infirm

CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 4731  
 Folio #: 516

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE 1976 HABS, 1968  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:23-98-2

**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This is a large rambling old frame house, dated on its chimney -- 1841. Parts of it supposedly date from 1800 or so, but these have been hidden in the later structure. The main house is 2½ stories in height and 5 bays long with the door occupying the second bay from the right. All the windows are six-over-six sashes. There are two six-over-six dormers on the front roof. There are two chimneys rising from within the walls of this main section. To the right is a lower 2½ story, one bay wide wing. To the left is a one and a half story, two bay wide A-roofed wing, with a chimney at its left end; this was probably the original kitchen. The house is covered with clapboarding which appears of quite recent vintage.

This is an attractive rambling frame house, noteworthy for its age, size, and condition.

(Photographs - See Attachment Sheet A<sup>1</sup> and A<sup>2</sup>)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES      c. 1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Olney House and its outbuildings are important as the only survivors at the historic intersection of the Brookeville-Washington Pike and the Sandy Spring-Mechanicsville Road. Before the turn of the 19th century, a village developed at this intersection; taking the name of the nearby early home of Col. Richard Brooke, the community became known as "Fair Hill". Near the southeast corner of this intersection, the small cottage which became Olney House was built in the early decades of the 19th century. Artisans and craftsmen were attracted to "Fair Hill", and the town became known as "Mechanicsville". In 1851 the name was officially changed to "Olney".

Roger Brooke V obtained what is believed to be Olney House property from Whitson Canby in 1822; included in the transaction were the cottage and 1/2 acre.<sup>1</sup> In 1840 Brooke conveyed this land and other properties to his daughter Sarah and her husband, Dr. Charles Farquhar, Sr., who lived there at the time.<sup>2</sup> After Dr. Farquhar died, Sarah divided her land holdings among her 6 children; Olney House and approximately 8 acres went to daughters Anna, Mary Edith, and Eliza Farquhar.<sup>3</sup> Anna and her husband, Charles F. Brooke, lived in the house. Their son, Charles Jr.,<sup>4</sup> purchased the house in 1898 after it had been sold to Henry C. Sherman. Charles was a physician, and at one time president of the Montgomery County Medical Society. His wife, Cornelia Strain Farquhar, inherited the property.

The next owner was Estelle M. Gilmore who made extensive modifications to the house, after her purchase in 1925.<sup>5</sup> In 1936 Gordon A. Grant bought the house and 3.26 acres, selling it in 1946 to the Olney Inn, Inc.<sup>6</sup> In 1963 Helen P. Denit purchased it,<sup>7</sup> relinquishing control to the present owners in 1978.

At the present time, the building is divided into 5 commercial rental units. It is the sole remainder of this historic intersection, but it is threatened by major highway and business projects.

**FOOTNOTES:**

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, W/338.
2. Ibid., BS10/180.
3. Ibid., Deed of Partition EBP3/244.
4. Ibid., TD6/258
5. Ibid., 364/479.
6. Ibid., 644/476-7; 1009/447.
7. Ibid., 3100/624.

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 c. 3½ acres

Presently part of larger holdings in Trust with Nat'l Bank of Washington and managed by R. W. Rogers, Agent.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

See Attachment Sheet C

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John L. Lankford; Paul A. Brinkman/Barry A. Weintraub/HABS

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

January 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

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 ~~Historical~~ State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) ~~777-1438~~

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

"Olney House"

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Montgomery County Assessment Records.

Montgomery County Will Records.

Barnsley, Myrtle, Annals of Sandy Spring, Vol. I through V, Maryland,  
1884, 1902, 1909, 1929, 1950.

Martinet & Bond Map of 1865, Map of Montgomery County, Mechanicsville,  
Rockville Library

Farquhar, Roger B., Historical Montgomery County, Md., Old Homes  
and History, 1952 Edition Monumental Printing Co., P. 244-6.

Boyd, T.H.S., The History of Montgomery County, Md. 1650-1879, 1879,  
Regional Publishing Co., Balitmore, Md., Copyright 1968, 1972,  
Library of Congress Card #68-31727.

Olney Directory 1978 Longwood Commenorative Edition, by Greater Olney  
Civic Association, P. 5-23, Illustration by E. Longley, P. 10.

"Olney House"

DISTANCES ROUGHLY APPROX. ONLY

NOT TO SCALE

M: 23/9812

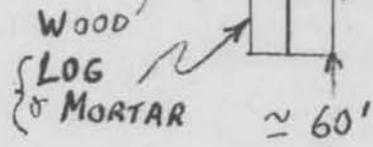
Olney H.D.

FINNEY-FROCK'S

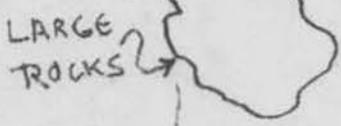
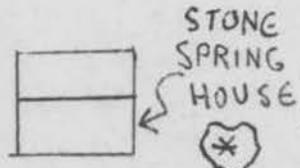
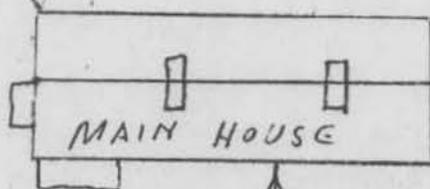
NEW BANK PROPERTY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

REAR BOUNDARY IN QUESTION?

≈ 16' SQUARE LOG SECTION



AREA ROUGHLY 3 TO 3 1/2 AC.



≈ 450'

≈ 250'

≈ 400'

\* MANY LARGE OLD TREES NOT BEING CARED FOR

NATURAL DRAINAGE BADLY DISTURBED OVER LEFT HALF OF THE SITE

FOOD LOCKER PLANT NEXT DOOR (TO BE DEMOLISHED) ORIG. "THE GRANGE"



SANDY SPRING - OLNEY ROAD (RT108)

UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

FIGURE 3 SKETCH OF PRESENT OLNEY HOUSE PLAT

98  
1/19/79

# MECHANICSVILLE DIST.

## NO. 8.

Mont. Co.

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.

M: 23-98-2

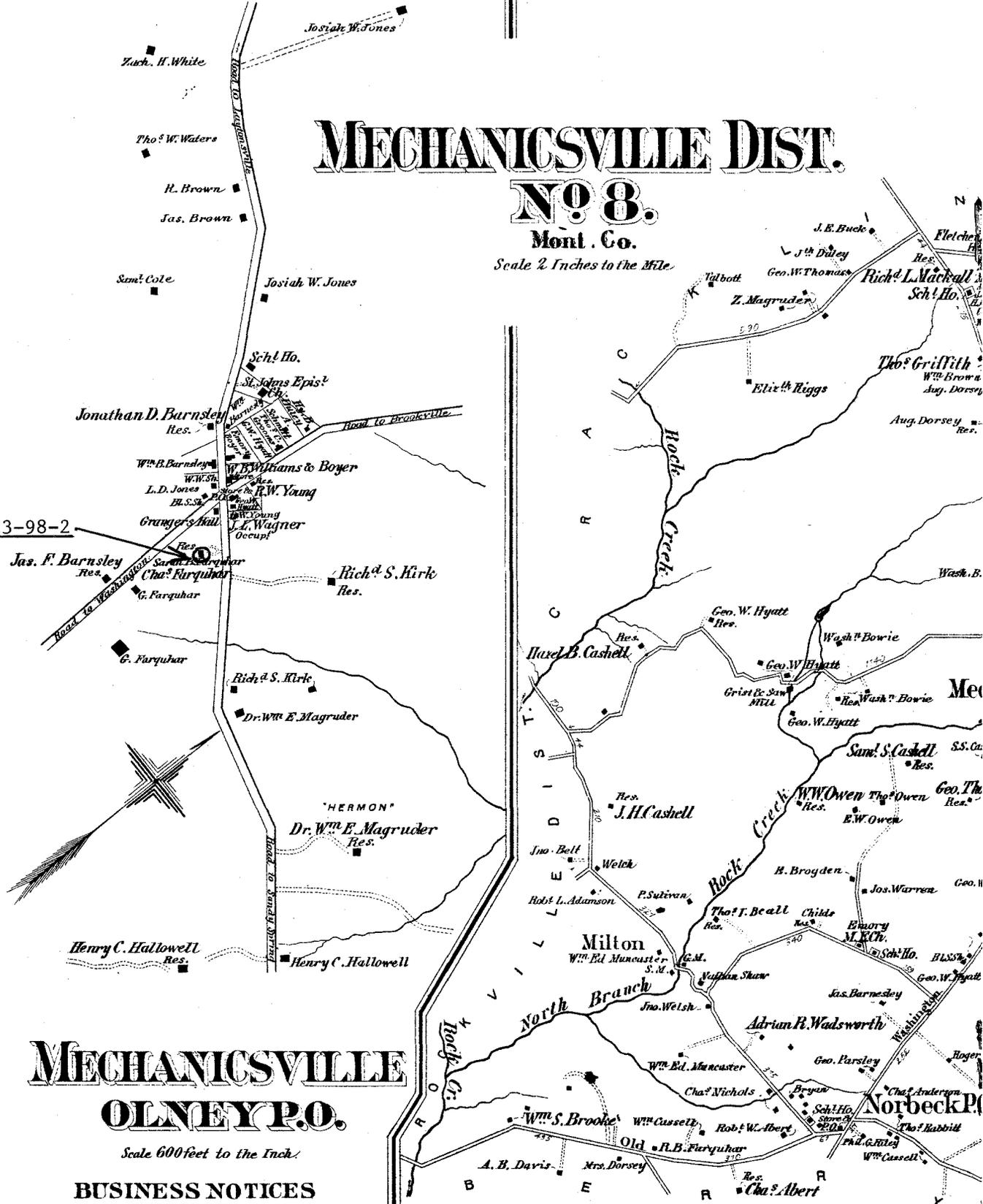
# MECHANICSVILLE

## OLNEY P.O.

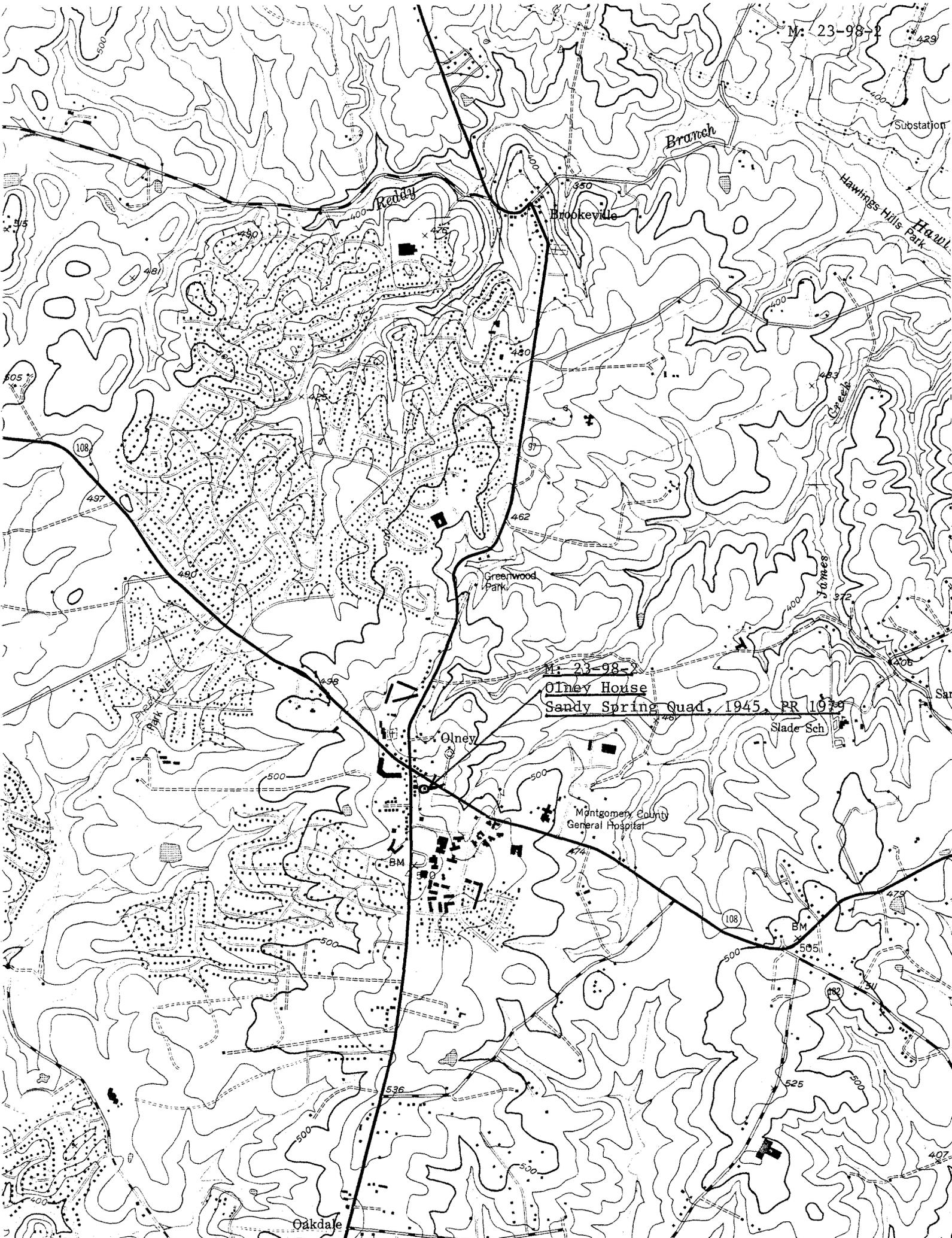
Scale 600 feet to the Inch.

### BUSINESS NOTICES

<b>J. D. Barnsley</b> Dealer in all kinds of Merchandise, Mechanicsville Md.	<b>Williams &amp; Boyer</b> Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Hardware, Books, Shoes etc. Mechanicsville.	<b>Joseph L. Wagner</b> Manufacturer and Dealer in Stoves, Tin & Sheet Iron Ware, also Roofing, etc. Mechanicsville.
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M: 23-98-1



M: 23-98-1  
 Olney House  
 Sandy Spring Quad, 1945, PR 1079

Oakdale

Substation

Hawkins Hills Park  
 Howard Park

Branch

Brookeville

Reddy

Greenwood Park

Olney

Montgomery County  
 General Hospital

Slade Sch

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M:23-98-Z

Olney House

N. Facade

12/1978



MADE  
IN  
USA  
BY  
KODAK  
CORP.



M:23.98.2

Oiney House

East End, showing details of  
dormer, chimney, & other features

1/1979