

Site: M:26/23

Warwick Montgomery Country House

Built: 1929

16 Pipestem Court

Architect: Warwick Montgomery

Private

Designed by an area architect as his own summer residence, this one-story three-part, fieldstone house evokes its French antecedents. Warwick Montgomery used a skillful combination of stone, slate, and copper to decorate this angular structure in which every room opened to the terrace vista. Wooden additions at each end were built in the 1950s, and the house is now surrounded by a modern subdivision.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ~~Warwick Montgomery Country House~~

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 16 Pipestem Court ___ not for publication

city, town Rockville ___ vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 14)

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name LMD Co., Inc.

street & number 16 Pipestem Court telephone no.: 424-1890

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20854

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 5821

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 517

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

ite ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M:26/23

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 type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The subject house faces east on Pipestem Court, a recently developed cul-de-sac in Fallsmead. Its neighbors are moderately spaced rows of two story modern aluminum-clad or brick-faced colonials with attached garages with front yard set backs of about 20 feet. By contrast the subject sits well back from the street on a circular drive leading from Pipestem Court. Situated on the crest of a hill, it formerly had an unobstructed view of Watts Branch to the north and south and the Potomac River to the west. Mature trees and boxwood are evidence of old landscaping. A flagstone terrace backs the entire house on the south with steps leading downhill to a garden and inground pool, now filled in and overgrown by poison ivy. Vacant for many years, the structure was badly vandalized. The present owners are in process of renovating the house and grounds.

The subject house is a one-story, three-part, fieldstone structure reminiscent of 18th Century French Provincial architecture in style. Built in 1929, the three-part masonry structure has two frame additions on each end added in the 1950s. The masonry part, a central great room with side wings, is faced with random coursed fieldstone, has rough sawn wooden beams for lintels and sills, and a fieldstone foundation. The side gable roofs are covered with striated slate, which form a herringbone pattern. Triangular roof pieces connect the separate gables together. The central section has a massive multi-flue chimney on the west end and the stone-faced wings each have chimneys. The two frame additions have fieldstone foundation, deep eaves, board and batten siding, and common slate roof.

In plan, the canted three-part main structure is in the 18th century rural French tradition but departs from the steeply-pitched hipped roof, center courtyard, and dominant towers of either the original or the 1930s French revival. Rather, this cottage, with its tall narrow overlit French doors and nearly symmetrical facade is closer to French Colonial examples. This particular combination, where the courtyard is turned inside out, the terrace lining the back of the structure and the garden in front, gives the impression of a weekend country home of a wealthy individual. Indeed, the front entrance to the house, the mock entry tower, has the playful feel of a 19th Century garden folly found in many English or German country homes of that period.

As built, the east (front) facade is composed of the center core and two wings, with frame additions on each end. The three bay center core is rigidly symmetrical. The primary entryway is through a three-sided mock tower with a conical copper roof in the center bay; it has a paneled wooden double door in the center bay. A granite block with incised shallow relief of a coat of arms with a cornucopia is inset over the transom. On each side of the center bay were placed double four-light French doors with a four light transom overhead.

continued on attachment 7.1

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Warwick Montgomery Country House
Attachment 7.1

The east facade of the north wing has one window in the north and south bays. An exterior door, cut through the fieldstone in the 1950 renovation, is located in the second bay. The east facade of the south wing has one 6/6 double hung window in two of its three bays. A single exterior door occupies the center bay, which has served as the primary entrance to the house following the 1950 renovation.

The west facade has irregular fenestration: the northern wing and central core have five bays each with a four-bay section on the southern wing. Most bays had 6/6 double hung windows. The center core has four-light French doors in the second and fourth bays that opened out into the garden, but are not non-functional.

Each side addition is 1-1/2 stories with deep eaves finished with narrow, beaded siding. The northern addition has a pergola on the west side for hanging vines such as the wisteria, now growing rampantly in the yard, and windows on the northwestern corner. An original wood paneled door is located on the south. The 1950 south addition formerly served as the garage. It has one window centered on the south.

The interior great room was originally entirely paneled and trimmed with natural finished wood. Built before air conditioning, the French doors could completely open the room to breezes. Four rough-hewn pegged trusses support the roof. A massive fieldstone fireplace is at the west end of the room. The original interior also included a paneled combination den and library and a master bedroom and bath.

The building is currently undergoing extensive renovation. Most of the original windows have been replaced by aluminum casement windows. The two French doors on either side of the central entrance have been replaced with casement windows. The door in the front facade of the north wing has been removed and the entryway will be filled with fieldstone. The door on the south wing, the main entry since 1950, will be closed off and the central entrance will again become the front door. The west facade has had most of its windows replaced, although the two French doors and one small 6/6 double hung window remain on the central core.

The paneling has been stripped from the interior exposing the brick structure. The south wing and addition have been combined to form a spacious, modern kitchen. The north addition is being remodeled into a master bedroom suite.

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Warwick Montgomery Country House
Attachment 8.1

Before purchasing this property, Warwick Montgomery had been a partner in the Wardman Park Dairy Farm near Bethesda 3/, but Mr. Montgomery is remembered as a "country gentleman" whose tillable land was rented to tenant farmers. In 1936, stables and other outbuildings were added north of the house 4/, but the house remained a summer retreat. The original house evidences only one bedroom.

Nancy and Thomas Clagett owned the property from 1943 to 1946, nicknaming the estate "Duration Farm." It was rechristened "Double-D Farm" after its purchase by the Duncan family in 1946. The Duncans enlarged the building with frame extensions at each end. The one room at the left end and two rooms on the right are sheathed in vertical board and batten painted red, giving a tacked-on, barn-like flavor to an otherwise sophisticated architectural form. The Duncans also added the swimming pool, now hidden in the undergrowth. 5/

In 1960, David and "Sis" Betts owned the estate which adjoined their own acreage by way of the shared entry road, Evergreen Lane. When the Kettler Brothers bought the Double-D land for their Fallsmead subdivision, Mrs. Betts was asked to name some of the streets. The original configuration of the long lane leading back to the pipebowl-shaped Double-D Farm reminded Mrs. Betts of a pipestem. 6/

The stone house and nine acres surrounding it were sold by the Betts to Richard T. Ewing in 1962. 7/ Since Mr. Ewing was in the Foreign Service, the family lived abroad and the house was rented out. It lay vacant for a number of years and was stripped of any moveable appliances and interior detailing.

In February 1986, the house was purchased by LMD, Inc., a limited partnership, whose members include a contractor skilled in rehabilitation. The stone, brick and slate shell of the building will provide the envelope for a completely renovated interior. 8/

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Records 478/17 (1929) and Assessment Records 1929-40.
2. Information about Mr. Warwick was provided by Mrs. David Betts. He was not a locally known architect and is not listed in the AIA membership.
3. Mr. Warwick had purchased the Wardman Park Dairy with a partner in 1927. It was located in the "north side of Georgetown Park" according to Land Record 422/184.
4. Assesments, 1936
5. Telephone conversations with Maude W. Betts and Dr. Richard Buckingham.
6. Mrs. Betts, and Plats/Atlases 1917, 1949, 1979.
7. Montgomery County Land Records 3046/42 (1962).
8. Onsite inspection and interview with two of the partners of LMD.

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 Attachment 7.2

Architectural notes by J. Christensen, June, 1986, showing building before exterior renovation.

14 Pipe stem Ct

50 yrs old
 add. 16 pipe stem
 mult. the 20 yrs
 Baum
 Dwan Lieberman

age
 kitchen
 stove
 sink
 entrance
 low island
 living room
 B+B
 fireplace

Old Eving House.

slats Rwy lintel.
 stony rough-sared
 w/rough chert.

4 ft transom
 no wood
 4 ft.
 old double-sash windows
 had
 door
 now removed
 & replaced by metal
 casement window

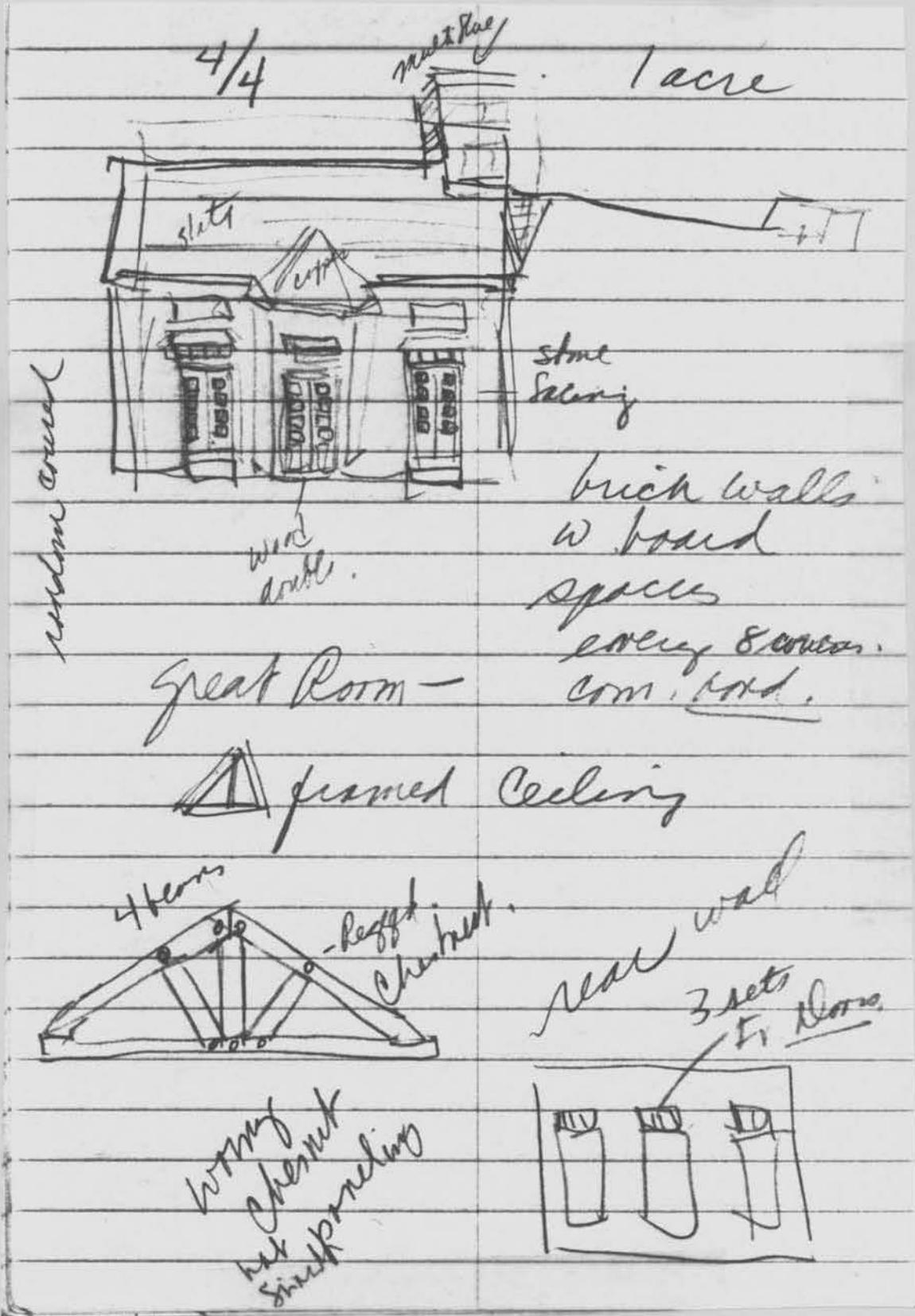
stone face over
 brick
 no wood framing

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Warwick Montgomery Country House

Attachment 7.3

Architectural Notes by J. Christensen, June 1986, showing building before exterior renovation.



1982

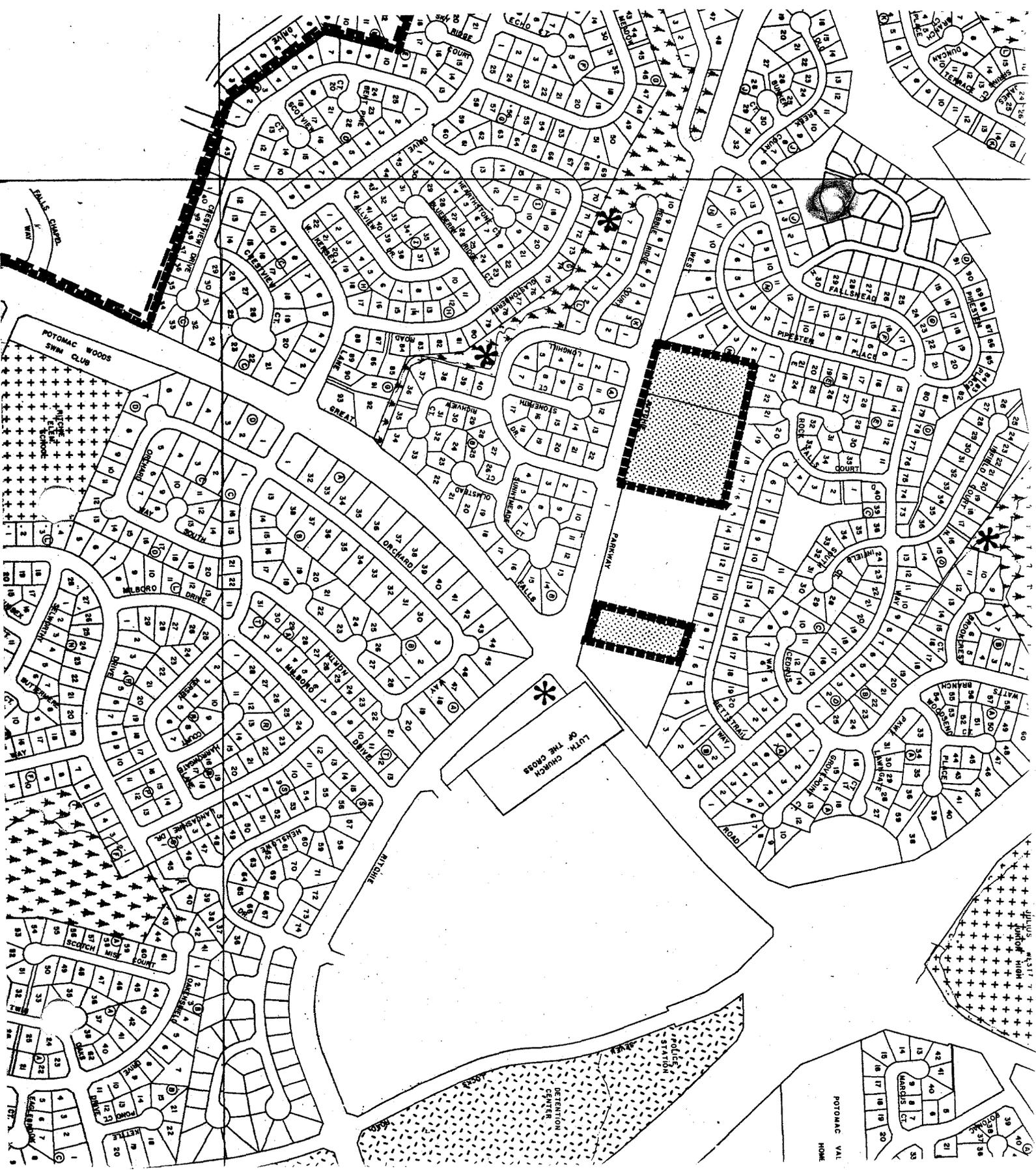
City of Rockville scale: 1"= 600'

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14

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16 Pipestem Court





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