

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Glen Castle Apartments

and/or common The Castle

2. Location

street & number 10 Post Office Road not for publication

city, town Silver Spring vicinity of congressional district 13

state Maryland county Montgomery

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name John T. Doran

street & number c/o Rental Tools & Equipment Co. telephone no.:

4900 Upshur St.

city, town Bladensburg state and zip code MD 20710

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 4082

street & number Rockville folio 731

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title M-NCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records M-NCPPC Park Historian's Office

city, town Rockville state Maryland

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Castle as it exists today is a large, two-story masonry structure - a mixture of stuccoed surfaces, painted and unpainted granite - with a green tile hip roof topped by elaborate granite battlements and turrets. The front (southeast) elevation has a first floor arcade of seven and one-quarter bays. The northeasternmost bay projects beyond the building to form a porte-cochere. The bay at the opposite end (southern corner) has a narrow pointed arch. The rest of the arches are segments of an ellipse. The arcade on the second floor of this elevation is identical to that on the first floor except it has one fewer bay. These arcades are concrete or stucco scored to resemble stone.

The wall behind the arcade is stucco except for the southern bay which is granite. Both floors contain a variety of windows and doors. First floor windows are single-light and appear to be recent replacements. Second floor windows are two-over-two, double-hung wood sash. Two windows are paired, and three of the windows form a projecting bay. The main entrance on the first floor has a glass and anodized aluminum entry. One doorway on the second floor has sidelights with a three-part transom above. The remaining doors are single with transoms above. Aluminum storm windows have been installed in the window openings. There are signs that many openings have been altered. Atop the southern corner a granite turret rises above a small section of crenelated wall containing windows with metal grilles in them.

The arcade turns the corner and continues for four and one-third bays along the southwest elevation. While the arcade is still stucco, the entire wall here is granite, unpainted, and of very high quality with beaded joints. The tile roof continues until it stops against a round, crenelated tower of granite whose upper portion has round window openings filled with metal grilles. Beyond this the three-level granite elevation (the ground has dropped away at this point) contains one bay of windows and ends with a granite turret atop its west corner.

The rear of the building (northwest) is granite for two bays, then rough-textured stucco, then smooth stucco. A firestair and glass and metal entryway have been added to this elevation. The northeast elevation has four segmentally arched windows with two-over-two wood sash and four tall, one-light, newer windows. This wall shows evidence of other openings now closed, stuccoed and painted over.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 31-8-4

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1915 + **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Castle is one of the most unique buildings in Montgomery County. The building was originally constructed in the nineteenth century as a general merchandise store with living quarters above. George M. Wolfe and William P. Miller bought the store from Oliver and Mary Harr in 1900 (Deed T.D. 16/181). The pair ran the store until 1907 when Wolfe bought out Miller (Deed 196/157). In 1912, Wolfe joined John A. I. Cassedy, owner of the National Park Seminary, in forming the Forest Glen Trading Company. In 1915, Wolfe and Cassedy sold their individual land holdings in that part of Forest Glen to the Trading Company, and radically remodeled the old store building. It was enlarged to about four times its original size; given a tiled, hip roof; and fronted with an eight-bay, one-story arcade. The ground floor contained a grocery store, a post office, and an ice cream shop.¹ Two apartments (including one behind the grocery store) were on the first floor and four apartments on the second floor. These rented for approximately \$50 per month.² The Forest Glen Trading Company sold the building to Thomas L. Miller in January, 1922, although the deed (314/223) was not recorded until April 17, 1922.

On the night of April 24, 1922, six families and their guests were in residence when a spectacular fire nearly destroyed the structure. According to the newspaper account,³ the furnace beneath the southern end of the building overheated, firing off a revolver in the post office, setting afire 500 gallons of kerosene stored behind the grocery store, and exploding an underground tank of gasoline. The heat from this conflagration severed the telegraph wires between Washington and Pittsburgh. The occupants of the building were fortunate to escape with their lives, for "the location on the west [sic] end of the ruined structure today is a smoldering mass of twisted concrete and steel, with little left to mark the place where several families lived."⁴

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M: 31-8-4

Montgomery County Land Records and Tax Assessment Records.
Washington Star, April 24, 1922.
Interview with Miss Frances Wolfe, Sept., 1987 (589-1798).
Polk's Directory for Suburban Washington, 1930-31.
The Forest Glen Trolley..., Louis N. Markwood, 1975.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 32,006 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Rebeck

organization Mont. Co. Hist. Pres. Comm. date 12/87

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town Rockville 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

8. Significance, continued

Page 2

The new owners were underinsured, and hastily sold the building to Joseph C. Trees and James E. Ament (Deed 318/92, recorded May 31, 1922). Dr. Ament had succeeded Cassedy in 1916 as head of the National Park Seminary. Under his ownership, the damaged commercial block was rebuilt in an even grander form. The southernmost portion of the building was demolished and the arcade, now two-story, was reduced to seven bays and one very narrow, pointed-arch bay. The southern corner, the southwestern elevation, and part of the northwestern elevation were rebuilt out of granite, and elaborate granite battlements and turrets were added to the roof. A triangular park in front of the building was enclosed with a granite wall embellished with urns, iron chains and grillework. This work took place prior to 1926, for in that year the property assessment jumped from \$35,000 to \$50,000. The building was renamed the Glen Castle Apartments, and the Polk Directory for 1927-28 listed six families living there at that time. Tenants still paid their rent to Mr. Wolfe, however, for he was manager of the purchasing department and supervisor of the grounds at the National Park Seminary.

In 1941, Dr. Ament's widow sold the property to Washington real estate executive John A. Brickley (Deed 872/93), who converted it into a hotel. By this time the National Park Seminary had been taken over by Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and Brickley hoped to attract relatives visiting recuperating soldiers. In addition to the stores, he installed a restaurant, a dry cleaning shop and a barber shop. Brickley sold his hotel in 1952, and the building passed through a series of uses, among others, the home of a locally prominent Hungarian restaurant. In 1965 another damaging fire occurred, and the building suffered neglect for a few years, until its present owner, John T. Doran, remodeled it into the office building it is today.⁵

In its lifetime, the building was a local commercial center, a very early example of a multi-family dwelling, and in all probability the first mixed-use structure of any real size to be built in the County. In more ways than one it is an extension of the National Park Seminary, profiting from that institution's population, and enjoying the same level of architectural attention as did most of the Seminary's buildings. One of these, a medieval-style house, has bold stonework and a huge round tower. Although it is badly deteriorated today, one can see the similarity between this building and the Castle. The Castle is a prominent landmark. Its appearance is distinctive, half folly and half commercial attraction, and represents its owners' pride and enthusiasm for their venture.

REFERENCES

1. Interview with Miss Frances Wolfe, (589-1789), Linden, MD, October 13, 1987.
2. Louis N. Markwood, *The Forest Glen Trolley and the Early Development of Silver Spring* (Arlington, VA: National Capital Historical Museum of Transportation and Montgomery Co. Historical Society, 1975), p. 38.
3. *Washington Star*, April 24, 1922, p. 1.
4. *Ibid.*
5. Markwood, p. 41.

Evening Star

SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

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Saturday's Net Circulation, 59,174
Sunday's Net Circulation, 92,859

C., MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1922—TWENTY-SIX PAGES.

M. 31-8-4

TWO CENTS.



HALF HOLIDAY PLANNED FOR DEDICATION FETE FAVORED BY PRESIDENT

Whether federal and District government employees will be granted a half holiday next Thursday to witness the dedication of the Grant Memorial in Bohan Garden is left to President Harding.

This fact was made known at the White House today. The President, when seen by a delegation representing those arranging for the celebration, indicated that he approved of such a holiday for the employees and intimated that he would make his approval known to the members of his cabinet and those in charge of the several independent government agencies and to the District Commissioners.

Following this expression of approval on the part of the executive, the delegates left the White House feeling confident that the half holiday would be granted.

In the delegation were Bishop Samuel Hallows of Chicago, President of the Army of the Tennessee, and chairman of the Grant Memorial Commission; Brig. Gen. John Clem, U. S. A., retired, and Col. John McElroy, District department commander, G. A. R.

FRENCH THREATEN TO QUIT AT GENOA IF PLANS DIGRESS

Premier Poincare Warns Parley Must Continue Under Agreed Conditions.

SAYS COUNTRY IS READY TO ENFORCE PACT ALONE

Will Undertake to Carry Out Versailles Treaty if Germans Default on Reparations.

By the Associated Press.
LONDON, April 24.—A Central News dispatch from Genoa today says:

"It is learned unofficially that the reds (soviet Russian representatives) are negotiating a secret treaty with Hungary giving mutual support against Romanians and the little entente."

PAR-LE-DUC, April 24.—Premier Poincare announced in a speech here today that if the French delegation at Genoa could not go ahead with its work under the agreed conditions France would regretfully have to cease participation in the conference.

France will, if necessary, undertake alone to see that the treaty of Versailles is executed if the Germans default in their reparations payments, Premier Poincare intimated, in a speech before the general council of the department of the Meuse today.

The 31st of May, when the Germans must either accept the conditions laid down by the reparations commission or default in their payment, is an important date for France, said the premier. It is France's duty, he added, "in full independence, to assume the duty of maintaining the integrity of the treaty."

Insists on Treaty Terms.

"All we have ever asked and all we ask today is the execution of the treaty," said M. Poincare, "and that we must have and shall have. The peace of Europe depends upon it. Our future and our national prosperity depend upon it."

"It is not by precipitate action or by decisions without reflection that we will obtain it. It is by persevering and methodical action. But it must be done."

The premier declared he ardently hoped for the co-operation of the allies in case Germany defaulted, "but according to the terms of the treaty," he added, "each may in case of need take, respectively, such measures as are deemed necessary, and we shall not suffer if that one unfortunate country succumb under the burden of reparations alongside of a Germany that does not consent to make the necessary effort to discharge her debts."

"We shall defend, in full independence, the French cause, and we shall not abandon any arms the treaty gives us."

Answers Imperialism Charge.

Referring to the charges of militarism and imperialism made against France, M. Poincare said:

"The imperialism of France is a current theme in some countries, in which we are charged with uttering..."

8 FAMILIES FLEE FOREST GLEN FIRE

Block Containing Post Office and Store Practically Wrecked.

Aroused from sleep shortly after midnight this morning by revolver shots, eight families living in the business block of the Forest Glen Trading Company at Forest Glen, Md., owned by Harry Wardman, barely escaped with their lives from a fire which nearly destroyed the property, causing \$60,000 damage.

A revolver in the post office in the west end of the concrete business block was set off by the heat. Apparently the fire started between the grocery run by Laras Linhart and the post office. C. M. Miles is the Forest Glen postmaster. The explosion woke up the families, all of whom were in the block, and they fled to the street in their night clothes.

Five hundred gallons of kerosene, stored behind the store, exploded, throwing up a gigantic flame. This occurred just before a clock this morning and was followed by the explosion of gasoline stored in an underground tank owned by H. H. Isopot. Isopot lost all his personal belongings. The heat of the flames cut through the main telephone wires between Washington and Cumberland and Pittsburgh, interrupting telegraph communication with those points for several hours. Linhart worked at work today making the break; although service was resumed early this morning by rerouting messages through Baltimore.

Origin in Basement.

The fire is believed to have started from an overheated furnace in the basement beneath the grocery and post office. The location on the west end of the ruined structure today is a smoldering mass of twisted concrete and steel, with little left to mark the place where several families lived.

Four children, ranging in age from one year to twelve years, all ill, one seriously with measles, were rescued from the burning building by their parents, Mrs. Lavinia Davis, eighty-four years of age, who lived alone on the ground floor of the building, was rescued with difficulty by Postmaster Miles. She pleaded to remain but was taken from the

GDOLL DENIED IT TO PROPERTY

Holds \$750,000 Is Forted If He Is Proved Draft Evader.

A government can prove that C. Bergdoll, the draft evader, is not convicted of desertion from my and that he is a fugitive justice, the alien property custodian will not have to surrender and securities valued at \$750,000 belonging to Bergdoll, Justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, so held to be overruled a motion of for Bergdoll to strike out part of the amended answer of the property custodian to Bergdoll's motion in his name by his Emma C. Bergdoll of Philadelphia.

answer of the alien property custodian claimed that the judgment of a court-martial which found him a deserter and sentenced him to five years in the penitentiary and prevented him from ever property seized under the act. The act also claimed that Bergdoll, a fugitive from justice, could be heard in a court of equity because he did not come into court with hands clean. Attorney J. R. Maxwell of Philadelphia moved to strike the portions of answer from the files as not setting up a good defense to the action on behalf of Bergdoll. The court took the opposite view of the act and Assistant United States

New Skin-Dyeing Fad Throngs Henna Bath With London Belles

By the Associated Press.
LONDON, April 24.—A henna bath cult is forming among London's more ultra-society women who deem olive-colored skin something worth acquiring.

The craze is said to be of French or American origin. Belles strongly incensed with henna dye are taken monthly and impart a delicate tint which looks well with the evening dresses of oriental shades and designs now popular here. Immersing is declared to be easier than treating only that considerable portion of the body exposed by modern evening gowns.

U. S. AND MEXICAN RELATIONS BETTER

Administration Holds Off Recognition Looking to a Permanent Settlement.

BY DAVID LAWRENCE.

Mexico and the United States are getting closer together. Out of the mass of misunderstandings which has characterized the relations between the two countries there will emerge soon an agreement greater in its significance than merely the extension of recognition by one government to another—a treaty of permanent friendship and good will.

So much emphasis has been placed upon the points of controversy of the past that an understanding of what the Harding administration has been striving to achieve in the Mexican situation unfortunately has been impossible on either side of the international boundary.

The problem can be best understood when it is explained that, so far as satisfying the requirements of recognition, few people will doubt that the Oregon government has brought order out of chaos and that substantial progress has been made toward a return of normalcy. If it were a matter of according recognition to a regime which deserved it, President Obregon would be recognized instantly. There is the friendly disposition toward him and his administration.

On Broader Plane.

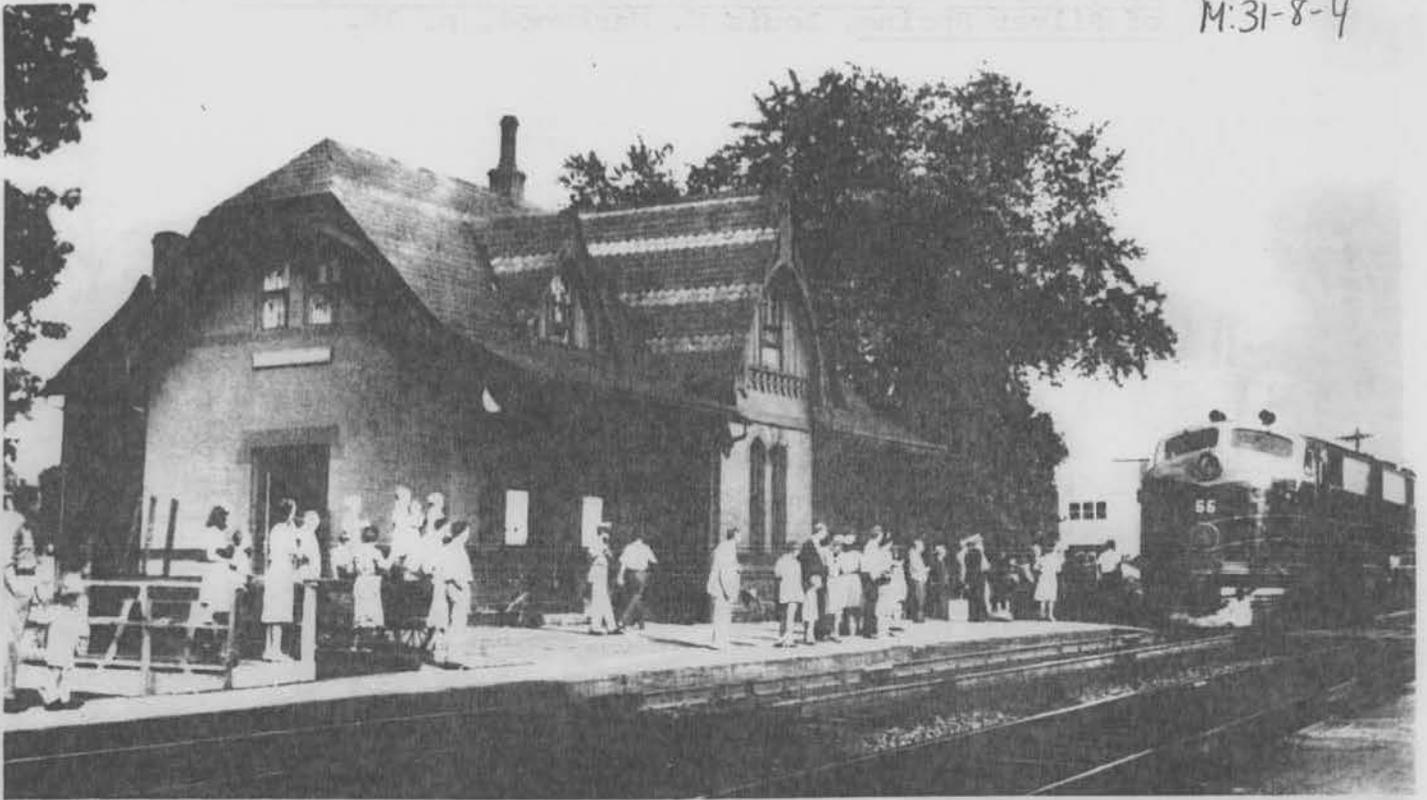
But President Harding and Secretary Hughes are endeavoring to place the whole matter on a broader plane than

SMOOT SEES END OF TARIFF STRIFE

New Bill Offers Continuing Adjustment Fair to All Nations, He Says.

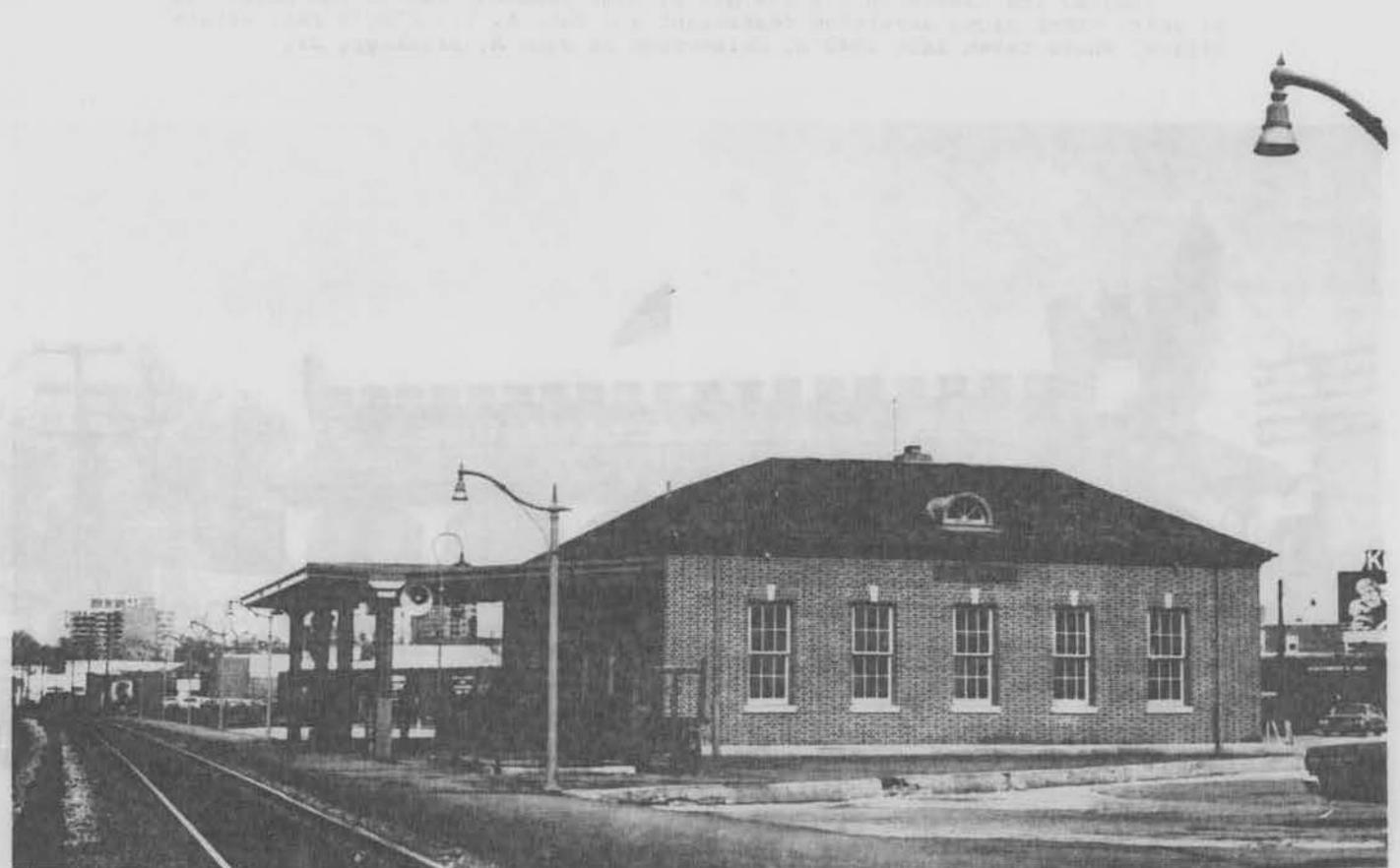
Provisions in the pending tariff bill which would authorize the President to increase or decrease rates and proclaim American valuation were described today to the Senate by Senator Reed Smoot, republican, Utah, as not only offering a solution of the particular tariff problem now before Congress, but also as "suggesting a practical basis for a continuing scientific adjustment of the tariff."

M:31-8-4



(Above) Westbound train pulled by Baltimore and Ohio Railroad diesel loco No. 66 enters the first Silver Spring station. Photo taken about 1943. Collection of Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville.

(Below) The second (present) Baltimore and Ohio Railroad station, Silver Spring. Photo by C. L. Andrews March 1972.





(Above) The Castle, before being rebuilt. Truck next to building is lettered "Forest Glen Trading Company." Photo taken 1916. Collection of Courtland U. Kramer, Silver Spring.

(Below) The Castle in all its glory. Sign reading "Castle Inn Hotel" is at left; other signs advertise restaurant and John A. Brickley's real estate office. Photo taken late 1940's. Collection of John A. Brickley, Jr.



FOREST GLEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

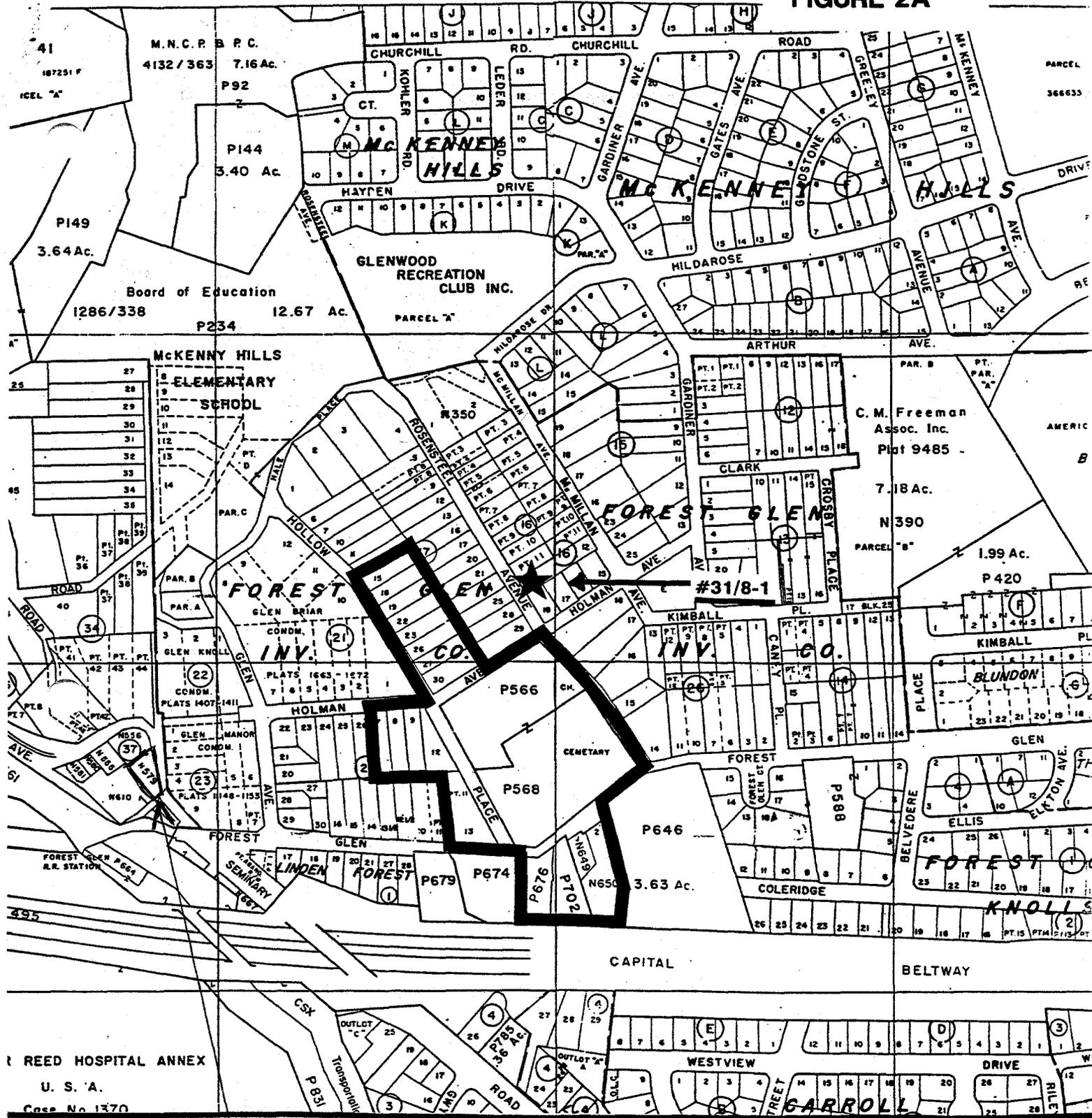
#31-8



(M:31-8-3)
GENERAL
CASTLE
(M:31-8-4)

2418 2416

M: 31-8-4



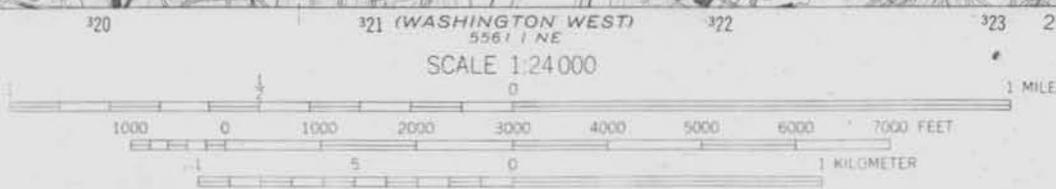
#31/8 - FOREST GLEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

M: 31-8-4
The Castle, 10 Post Office Road

DISTRICT BOUNDARIES - 
INDIVIDUAL RESOURCES - 



NORTH



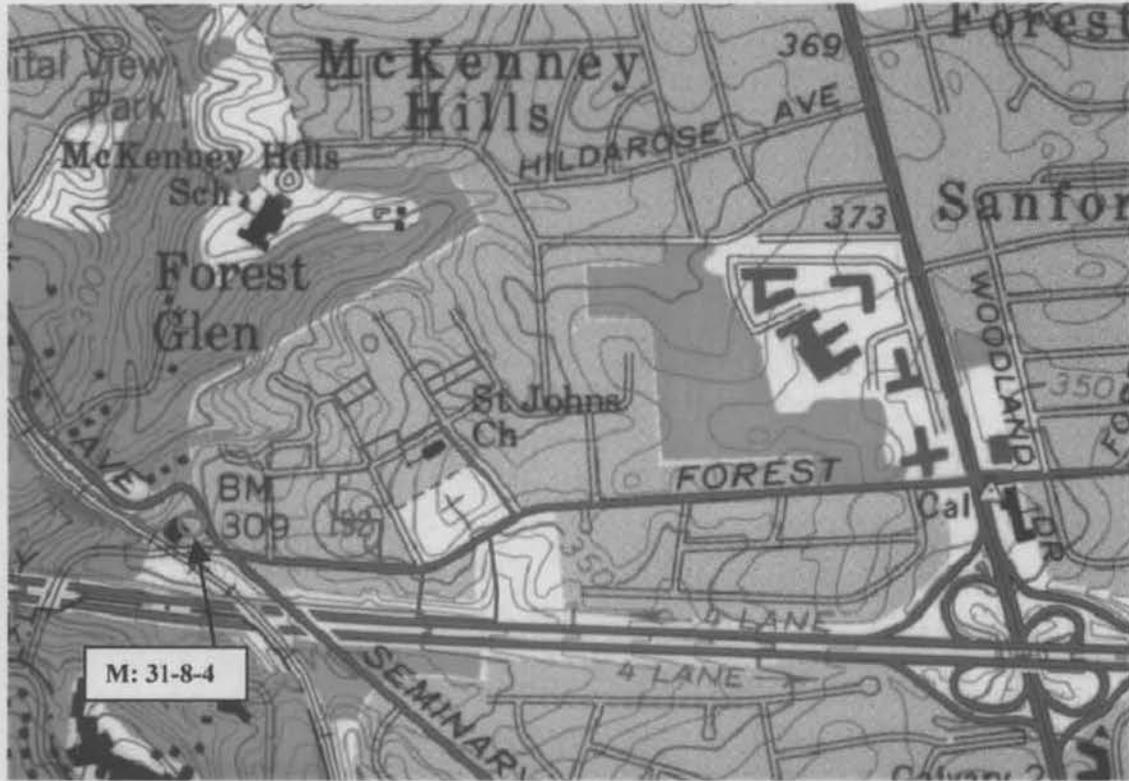
1" = 2.1 MILES
MAGNETIC NORTH
DIFFERENCE 11 FEET
Light-blue pattern
indicates inundation to 351 feet

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

KENSINGTON M: 31-8-4

QUADRANGLE LOCATION
Boundary lines shown in purple
information available from the
Purple tint indicates extension
Revisions shown in purple are
taken 1977 and other sources
field checked. Map edited 1977

M: 31-8-4
Glen Castle Apartments (The Castle)
10 Post Office Road
Kensington Quadrangle





M: 31-8-4

The Castle/Forest Glen
Trading Company
10 Post Office Road
Silver Spring, MD
Andrea Rebeck
Southeast elevation

1987