NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 11-90)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Clover Crest
Other names/site number: Salmon/Stohlman House (preferred); M-35-36-6

2. Location

Street & Number: 4728 Dorset Avenue
City or town: Chevy Chase , Vicinity N/A
State: Maryland Code: MD County: Montgomery Code: 031 Zip Code: 20815

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [✓] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [✓] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [✓] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

SHPO 2-22-02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Maryland Historical Trust
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[ ] entered in the National Register.
( ) see continuation sheet
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register
( ) see continuation sheet
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register
[ ] removed from the National Register
[ ] other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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Salmon/Stohlman House — Montgomery County, MD
Name of Property — **County and State**

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
[X] Private
[ ] Public-Local
[ ] Public-State
[ ] Public-Federal

Category of Property
[X] Building(s)
[ ] District
[ ] Site
[ ] Structure
[ ] Object

No. Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	Buildings
		Sites
		Structure
		Objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)
N/A

Number of contributing resources Previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)
Late Victorian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation: stone
wall: wood
roof: slate

Narrative Description
Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS)

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Salmon/Stohlman House
Name of Property

Montgomery County, MD
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark x in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

[X] **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development
Science
Architecture
Politics and Government

Period of Significance
1893-1951

Significant Dates
1893 - construction
1893-1902 - Salmon residence
1902-1947 - Stohlman residence

Criteria Considerations
(Mark x in all the boxes that apply.)

[ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] **B** removed from its original location.

[ ] **C** a birthplace or grave.

[ ] **D** a cemetery.

[ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] **F** a commemorative property.

[ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)
Dr. Daniel Salmon
John William Stohlman

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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Salmon/Stohlman House | Montgomery County, MD
Name of Property | **County and State**

9. Major Bibliographic References

[X] See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

[ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
[ ] previously listed in the NR
[ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
[ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
[ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
[ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of add. data:

[X] State SHPO office
[ ] Other State agency
[ ] Federal agency
[X] Local government
[ ] University
[X] Other

Specify repository:

Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission--Montgomery County

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .83 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

[X] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

[X] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

[X] See continuation sheet

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Salmon/Stphlman House — Montgomery County, MD
Name of Property — **County and State**

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Kimberly Prothro Williams
Organization _____ Date October 2001
Street & Number 9120 LeVelle Drive Telephone 301 907-3435
City or Town Chevy Chase State MD Zip code 20815

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

[X] Continuation Sheets

Maps

[X] A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

[ ] A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

[X] Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

[X] Figures (architectural drawings)
[ ] Historical photographs

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name James Brian Graham, Trustee for the J.B.G. Revocable Trust and Victoria Clarke, Trustee for the V.C. Revocable Trust.
street & number 4728 Dorset Ave. telephone (301) 913-9260
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of the Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

I. SUMMARY

The house at 4728 Dorset Avenue, originally called "Clover Crest," is more commonly referred to as the Salmon/Stohlman House for its original owner/builder, Dr. Daniel Salmon, and its long-time owner/resident John W. Stohlman. The two-story Victorian dwelling is located at the corner of Dorset Avenue and Surrey Street in the Town of Somerset in Montgomery County, Maryland. The house was built circa 1893 by Dr. Daniel Salmon, a leading veterinarian at the Department of Agriculture, and one of the founding members of the residential enclave, historically known as Somerset Heights (incorporated as the Town of Somerset in 1906). The house was one of the first houses constructed in the community, and survives on its original lot of land. The dwelling retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

II. SITE

The Salmon/Stohlman House is located at the corner of Dorset Avenue and Surrey Street in the heart of the Town of Somerset. Somerset is located just north of the Montgomery County-District of Columbia border at Friendship Heights. It is bounded on the east by Wisconsin Avenue, on the west by Little Falls Parkway, on the south by Little Falls Creek, and on the north by the residential community of Drummond. Topographically, Somerset Heights occupies a slight knoll of gently rolling terrain. The community of narrow residential streets slopes south from its high point at Cumberland Avenue and Surrey Street to the Little Falls Creek stream bed below. A wooded ravine and stream bed area of Little Falls Creek, originally platted as a driving and walking park, is now known as Vinton Park.

As originally laid out, Somerset Heights consisted of a grid system of narrow streets with large residential building lots. A fifty-acre tract of the 242-acre suburb historically formed the nucleus of the community. Its narrow streets were landscaped with rows of trees, and its first houses, built between 1893 and 1915, respected uniform setbacks, creating a park-like setting that still defines the community today. A significant section of the originally platted territory, however, was not developed until after 1946, at which time it was resubdivided in a free form pattern typical of the mid-20th century, with gently curving streets following the contours of the land. As development in the area intensified in the mid-to late 20th century, the especially large corner lots of the older section were resubdivided into narrower lots fronting side streets, while other deep lots were divided from the front, creating interior lots accessible by narrow drives or alleys. In addition to new houses on newly divided lots, the community has experienced, in recent years, the demolition of older houses and their replacement with larger residences. As a result, the residences of Somerset Heights represent four periods of construction. These range from the original large frame Victorians of the initial period of construction (1890-1900), to the smaller craftsmen bungalows and other builder-erected houses from the second phase of construction (1900-1915), to the 1-1/2-story, brick and frame Colonial Revival-style houses of mid-century, to the ranch houses of the post-1946 infill period, and finally to the large historicist houses of the 1980s and 1990s.

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The Somerset Historic District (M:35/36), listed on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation, is limited to a reduced section of the original fifty-acre tract of land (primarily developed between 1893 and 1915), that retains the highest degree of architectural integrity. In general, the streets and avenues of the historic district retain their suburban residential scale, uniform setbacks, and landscaping. Rows of trees line each street and grassy medians separate the side walk and street, providing a clear distinction between public and private space. The neighborhood is particularly verdant and bucolic. Individual lawns feature mature shade trees, hedges, bushes and flowering plants. Some property owners have taken advantage of the naturally rolling terrain by building stone retaining walls, an effect that further emphasizes the rusticity of the residential neighborhood. Garages and other outbuildings, generally detached and located at the rear of the lots, are not visible from the public streets.

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Salmon/Stohlman house at 4728 Dorset Avenue occupies Lot 1 in Block 5 on the plat of Somerset Heights. Lot 1 is located at the southeast corner of Dorset Avenue and Surrey Street, an intersection that historically was dubbed "Founders Corner" for the original houses that were clustered around the intersection and built by the town's founders. The Salmon/Stohlman house is one of three surviving original houses, the other two being the Wiley/Ringland House at 4722 Dorset Avenue (listed on the National Register of Historic Places), and the Crampton house at 4805 Dorset Avenue.

Set back from the road with a circular drive in front, and surrounded by a generous yard, the house is a 2- ½ story frame structure built circa 1893. It is designed in a transitional manner with late Victorian detailing, but with more regularized Colonial Revival-style massing. Generally square in plan with a wrap-around porch and projecting side bay, the house sits upon a rubble stone foundation with grapevine joints, and is covered with a wide, front gable roof. The walls are clad with narrow weatherboard siding on the main block, and with wood shingles in the gable ends and on the projecting bay. The roof, sheathed with slate shingles, features a prominent, brick corner chimney with corbeled brickwork, a second brick chimney at the rear of the main block, and dormer windows on the sides. In addition to the ornate chimney stack, the house offers several other Queen Anne-inspired details, including a wrap-around porch; a polygonal projecting bay, with a semi-conical, bell-shaped roof; and shingled wall surfaces. An original two-story ell projects from the rear of the house, while a single-story, family room addition extends off of the ell. Other additions to the house include a shed-roof sun room (now playroom), that was originally a porch and enclosed in the 1960s or 1970s and that extends across the rear wall of the main block; and, a two-story, polygonal, projecting bay built on the east side wall of the house, behind the two-story dining room bay window.

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Exterior Description:

The primary facade is the north elevation facing Dorset Avenue. This wide, front-facing gable wall is divided into four bays and features a broad, wrap-around porch with a half-hipped roof and projecting gable at the entrance.[1] The first story consists of an entry door in the third bay from the east, with large, 1/1 windows to either side. The second story has three, wide, 1/1 windows over the windows on the first story, and a wider and shorter, 6/1 window over the entry bay. This window replaced a smaller casement window. All of the windows have square-edged wood trim, wood sills and louvered shutters. The front entry retains its original wood and glass door and single sidelight. The door has three horizontal wood panels occupying the bottom half and a large, plate glass window in the upper half.

Above the second story windows is a slightly projecting cornice with dentils above a plain freize board. The wide gable end above the cornice is clad with wood shingles and features, on center, a tri-partite replacement window tucked under an eyebrow shed. An historic photo of the house[2] indicates that this central window was originally bowed and was supported by wood brackets. A molded raking cornice encloses this gable end.

A painted brick chimney is located on the northwest corner of the house and rises well above the lower slope of the roof. The chimney stack is ornately decorated with two beltcourses, raised brick panels and elaborate corbeling at the cap. The weatherboard walls abut the stepped shoulder of the chimney, thus de-emphasizing its mass.

The wrap-around porch is set upon brick piers and is covered with a half-hipped roof supported by replacement Tuscan wood columns. As shown in the historic photograph, the original porch had narrow turned columns. The porch railing consists of tightly spaced square balusters spanning the porch columns. A handicapped ramp has been unobtrusively built into the porch along the western side.

The west elevation facing the Surrey Street side yard is two bays deep and is symmetrically arranged with contemporary French doors[3] on the first story and two, long and narrow 1/1 windows above. A hipped roof dormer with replacement sash is located on center of the roof slope. A contemporary set of wooden stairs on center provides access to the porch from this side of the house.

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[1] The porch was rebuilt in 1990?, but was based upon historic photographs of the house.

[2] An historic photo of the house is on display in the off ices of the Town of Somerset.

[3] The first story originally had 1/1 windows as shown in an historic photo of the house. These were replaced probably in the 1960s or 1970s with plateglass windows. The current French doors were put in by the present owners.

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The east elevation is less symmetrical in its arrangement. An original two-story projecting bay occupies the front bay of the wall, while a contemporary two-story, three-sided projecting bay addition now occupies the rear bay. A single bay of 1/1 windows separates the two projections. The original bay is set upon a stone foundation, has 1/1 windows with square edged trim on all three sides and on both floors. The projecting bay is covered with a semi-conical, bell-shaped roof clad with slate shingles. The rear projecting bay, a later addition based upon the existing front bay in form and detail, projects from the east wall of the rear kitchen ell. It is set upon a concrete foundation, is three-sided with wood shingle cladding, and has wide, 1/1 windows (wider than original windows) in each of the three sides.

The wall between the projecting bays has single 1/1 windows and a gable-roofed dormer above. The dormer has a pair of eight-light casements.

The rear elevation is defined by its broad gable adorned with cornice returns, its random arrangement of windows, and, most notably, its hierarchy of projecting wings. The two-story rear ell (original to the house), located at the southeast side of this rear elevation, is covered with a gable roof, has weatherboard walls and cornice returns in the gable end. Off of this rear ell is a one-story family room addition, also covered with a gable roof and featuring cornice returns based upon those on the main house. A shed roof wing with a fully glazed end wall, probably built in the 1960s or 70s, extends across the remainder of the first story of the house. Above this shed roof, the main block of the house has a series of windows cut into it. Wide, 1/1 windows are symmetrically located at the second and third floor levels of the house, while smaller single-light casements in the stairwell, ascend the wall in a hierarchical manner.

Interior Description:

The interior of the Salmon/Stohlman house has an off-center, central-passage plan. The entry door opens directly into a stair passage with a living room and dining room to either side and a kitchen wing and family room to the rear. The central hall is a wide and generous space with oak floors running the width of the room, and bold, bulls eye corner block trim around the doors and windows. An original quarter-turn, open-stringer stair with turned balusters and heavy, turned newels is located against the west side wall of the hall, well back from the entry door. The main newel and landing newels are almost identical to those at 4722 Dorset Avenue, another of the first four houses built in Somerset.

The living room is located to the right of the stair hall and is entered from it by a double-wide pocket door. The room extends the full depth of the main block of the house with two French doors opening onto the wrap-around porch, and a fireplace on center of the south end wall. The northwest wall is chamfered where the exterior chimney is, but there is no longer a fireplace opening or mantel in place. The fireplace opening on the end wall is adorned with a contemporary wood mantel with a marbleized finish.

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The dining room, located to the left of the entrance hall, does not extend the full depth of the house, but takes advantage of the extra space provided by the projecting bay. A corner fireplace, located in the room's southwest corner, is embellished by an original wood mantel with brackets and original glazed mosaic tile.

Behind the dining room is a large, contemporary kitchen that occupies the original rear ell, and the projecting bay addition. The kitchen then opens onto the family room in the one-story wing addition.

The second floor is divided into three bedrooms, a master bath and hall bath. The front bedroom has a chamfered wall surface at the location of the corner chimney, but no fireplace opening or mantel survives. Although there have been some interior changes, the second floor retains its original bulls eye trim, transom lites, high wood baseboards, and wood floors.

The third floor, or finished half-story, is presently divided into a guest bedroom, office and bath. Again, original bulls' eye trim survives intact, though new openings are distinguished from the original by square-edged casings and mitred joints.

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SIGNIFICANCE

I. SUMMARY

The Salmon/Stohlman house at 4728 Dorset Avenue was one of the first houses built in the present-day Town of Somerset by Dr. Daniel Salmon, a leading veterinarian at the Department of Agriculture, and one of the original developers of the suburban property. Originally known as Somerset Heights, the suburban town was started in the early 1890s by a group of five scientists, including Daniel Salmon, who banded together to develop a residential enclave or "colony" outside the city limits. The group, referred to as the Somerset Colony Company, purchased a fifty-acre tract of land from the owners of Somerset Heights and began the development of their colony by first constructing their own residences, and then later subdividing the land into building lots, and promoting their individual sale as a real estate venture.

The Suburban Colony Company specifically chose the fifty-acre tract of land outside the city, but convenient to the existing and growing streetcar and railroad network leading to and from Washington. Inspired by the large-scale and comprehensive development of Chevy Chase to the east, Somerset Heights was planned as a picturesque suburban community boasting of spacious lots and tree-lined streets that promised the clean air and tranquility of country life, along with the comforts of the city, including the prestige of distinguished and urbane residents.

The Salmon/Stohlman house at 4728 Dorset Avenue meets the following National Register criteria and is significant under the themes of Community Development and Planning and, in the case of Criterion B, Science, and Politics and Government.

1) Built circa 1893, the Salmon/Stohlman house is significant under Criterion A for its association with the pattern of suburban migration from northwest Washington to Montgomery County via the streetcar and railroad networks. Built adjacent to three emerging streetcar lines and thus easily accessible to the city, Somerset Heights was founded upon the late 19th-century suburban ideal that rejected the congested living conditions of the city for the bucolic setting of freestanding houses, spacious grounds and private lawns of the country. Set back from the public right-of-way and executed in a transitional Victorian manner, the house was designed to fit this suburban ideal. It was one of the four "company officer" houses to be built, and survives on its original one-acre lot.

2) The Salmon/Stohlman house is significant under Criterion B for its associations with owner/builder Dr. Daniel Salmon, and long-time resident J. William Stohlman, mayor of Somerset from 1919 to 1938. Dr. Daniel Salmon, one of the five founders of Somerset Heights, was, at the time, an important leader in the field of veterinary science, and is best known today for identifying the infectious pathogen Salmonella, which was named after him. As founding chief of the U.S. Bureau of Animal Industry at the Department of Agriculture, Salmon entered into the

suburban development with his colleagues and friends, probably not only as a residential "colony" in which the owners or tenants would reside, but, like many other Washington professionals of the era, as a real estate and financial venture. This type of entrepreneurial speculation on the rising value of land prices in the outskirts of Washington and along the newly emerging streetcar networks, strongly encouraged the residential growth of northwest Washington and the rise of Montgomery County as a suburban community of the nation's capital. Daniel Salmon built, owned and occupied the house at 4728 Dorset Avenue until he sold it in 1902. The house survives as an essential component of the present-day Town of Somerset, and is crucial to a complete understanding of the community's history and development.[4]

John William Stohlman, a Georgetown merchant, owned the house from 1902 to 1947. During his long ownership of the house, John Stohlman served as Mayor of Somerset, from 1919 to 1938, and, along with his wife, raised a large family of ten children in the house.

3) The Salmon/Stohlman House meets criterion C as a good, representative example of late 19th century, suburban residential building. With its irregular building form, the use of a variety of wall surface materials, projecting bays, dormers and a wrap-around porch, the house embraced the principles of the ideal suburban house, including a sense of individual space and a relationship with the natural setting.

The period of significance extends from 1893, the year the house was constructed, to 1951, a date fifty years in the past from the present.

II. SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT IN DC AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

The significance of the house at 4728 Dorset Avenue and the larger residential community of Somerset Heights is directly related to the suburbanization of the District of Columbia and Montgomery County. Located along three emerging streetcar lines, and one emerging railroad corridor, Somerset Heights offered the key elements of the mid-to late 19th-century suburban ideal--that is, it was located on remote and undeveloped land at a distance from, but easily accessible to, the city center.

In the mid-19th century, Washington was a small, tightly-knit city clustered around "old downtown." During the Civil War and its aftermath, as the city's population increased exponentially, the city began to grow beyond its old borders. In the 1860s, horse drawn streetcar routes opened up new areas of the city for residential development, while the emergence of the steam railroad into

[4] The house is one of three of the original four houses still standing.

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Washington in 1873 began to push the city's development beyond the city/county line. In that year, the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad opened off the railroad's primary east-west line, bringing a new line from Point of Rocks, Maryland across Montgomery County to Washington 42 miles away. This branch ran important freight operations, transforming upper Montgomery County from pine forest to productive farmland and opening new markets for agricultural endeavors.

At the same time that the railroad opened up the possibility of transporting goods, it also offered the benefit of transporting people. Ultimately, between 1873 and 1893, the railroad created a suburban corridor in the northern section of the District and lower part of the county by spurring the development of resorts, a religious campground, summer cottages, and commuter residences.

In 1888, the introduction of the electric streetcar accelerated national investment in suburban real estate and led to changes in the District and Montgomery County landscapes. Electric streetcars were faster and cheaper to build than steam railroads, and reached well beyond the limits of horse cars or cable cars. The rise of the electric streetcar in Washington, coupled with a growing trend to escape the negative perceptions of the city, directly influenced the development of Somerset Heights.

Located about four miles from the city, the area that was to become Somerset Heights was, prior to 1890, open farmland. The site was located between the Georgetown and Rockville Turnpike and River Road, both important stagecoach roads in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the 18th and early 19th centuries, the area saw little development and growth. However, in the late 1880s, three separate streetcar lines, and one proposed steam railroad line arose that placed the site of Somerset Heights in prime, developable territory.

The most relevant of these networks was the Georgetown and Tenallytown streetcar line. Chartered in 1888 from Georgetown to Tenallytown, this line was, in 1890, extended from Tenallytown to Alta Vista (Bethesda) across the Maryland line. This extension ran immediately east of Somerset Heights along present-day Wisconsin Avenue, offering an ideal site for a suburban community.

Less practical for potential residents, but still compelling and highlighted for promotional purposes was the Glen Echo Railway. The Glen Echo Railway, chartered in 1889, and opened in 1891 from Georgetown to Glen Echo, ran within 200 feet of the southern border of Somerset Heights. While not as accessible as the Georgetown and Tenallytown streetcar line, this secondary line emphasized the growing accessibility of the area, and the future prospects for surrounding development.

The Rock Creek Railway, noted as "within a few minutes walk" was probably the least accessible, but most alluring of the three streetcar networks. The Rock Creek Railway, chartered in 1888, provided a direct link from downtown Washington to the newly planned suburb of Chevy Chase, east of Somerset Heights. While still in the planning stages, Chevy Chase was a comprehensive suburb

that offered the security of rising land values for the speculative developer and the promise of prominent neighbors for the potential purchaser of lots in Somerset Heights.

In addition to the streetcar lines leading into the city, the Metropolitan Southern Railroad Company which ran the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (opened in 1873) was looking for a southern route from Linden, near Silver Spring, to the port at Georgetown. In 1890, the company proposed a branch line that would run from Linden, west through the holdings of the Chevy Chase Land Company in Chevy Chase, then pass through Bethesda on its way to Georgetown and the C&O Canal. Although not yet implemented in 1890, the proposed branch line further ensured that the once-remote area would be within minutes reach of the city.

The spread of electrified traction and the consequent growth of streetcar suburbs into Montgomery County were typical of trends in many American cities between 1888 and 1918. By 1893, just five years after the introduction of the electric streetcar, more than 250 streetcar companies had been incorporated in the United States. By 1920, the electric streetcar had opened new lines in Montgomery County, promoting pleasant suburban neighborhoods of large, detached houses, grassy yards and tree-lined streets. Government clerks, lawyers, bankers, scientists, military officers, and other white collar professionals that made up the communities like Somerset, Chevy Chase, Kensington, and others were essentially city people living in the countryside. It was Washington, not Rockville, that was the focal point of their lives and their place of employment, entertainment and shopping.

In this climate, Somerset Heights was developed as a picturesque suburb of the nation's capital and was one of the earliest suburban communities in the northwest reaches of the District. The suburb's plan, though still a standard grid form, introduced the "picturesque" in its spacious, one-acre lots, and community park with meandering parkways and a wooded preserve. It's park-like setting was further enhanced by the choice of English names for streets, that still define the neighborhood today. Finally, its origins as a "colony" for a group of scientists and their families, distinguish Somerset Heights as a unique streetcar suburb of Washington.

III. HISTORY OF SOMERSET HEIGHTS

From Farmland to Suburban Neighborhood

The land that became the residential streetcar suburb of Somerset Heights in the late 19th century was originally part of an extensive tract of land called "Friendship," patented in 1711. By the early 19th century, a triangular-shaped, 211- ½ acre part of this tract, having almost the same boundaries as the present Town of Somerset, was purchased by Richard Williams, a farmer and patron of the Friendship Heights area. Throughout the 19th century and several changes in ownership, the 211- ½- acre tract of land remained an operating farm in what was a flourishing rural community. By 1890, however,

the forces of suburbanization began to alter the rural landscape. In particular, the introduction of new streetcar lines, and the planned development of Chevy Chase at the end of one of these lines, fueled a flurry of speculative development that prevailed in transforming the Williams family farm from its rural roots to one of the first streetcar suburbs northwest of the District of Columbia.

It was local entrepreneur John E. Beall, one of the powers behind the streetcar line and Bethesda Park, along with local resident Dr. Ralph Walsh[5] who effected this transformation. In March of 1890, the partners purchased the "Friendship" farm, and with plans for its development and subdivision, designated the former farmland as "Somerset Heights."

The Department of Agriculture Colony

Meanwhile, a group of five, high-level Department of Agriculture scientists and friends had banded together in an unconventional and somewhat utopian manner in search of a tract of land on which to establish a residential "colony." The five scientists, Harvey W. Wiley, Charles A. Crampton, Miles Fuller, Daniel Salmon, and Horace Horton, were men of exceptional accomplishment and ability. The leader of the group, Dr. Wiley, was Chief of what became the Bureau of Chemistry in the Department of Agriculture. Dr. Charles Crampton was Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry under Dr. Wiley. Daniel Salmon, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry in the Department of Agriculture, gained an international reputation for his steps leading to the eradication of pleuropneumonia and Texas tick fever, both major killers of cattle. Miles Fuller, a lawyer who handled the business details of the partnership, was Chief Clerk in the Bureau of Animal Industry, and later operated a business school in D.C.[6] Horace Horton, about whom little is known, sold his interests in the venture early on to Dr. E.A. de Sweinitz, Chief of the Biochemistry Division in the Bureau of Animal Industry. Of these five men, three of them--Harvey Wiley, Charles Crampton and Daniel Salmon--became leaders in their field, securing both national and international names in science.

A committee representing the five men was charged with finding an appropriate site for purchase according to a set of criteria established by the group. Somerset Heights caught the attention of the committee, and in August of 1890, the group of five purchased a fifty-acre tract of Somerset Heights from owners Beall and Walsh for $19,000.[7] Prior to the official completion of their purchase of the land, *The Evening Star* reported the committee's find:

[5] Dr. Ralph Walsh lived on a large tract of land northeast of Somerset Heights on land that was platted and subdivided in 1893 as Norwood Heights, and now part of the Town of Chevy Chase.

[6] Miles Fuller also later bought out the other partners' share of the real estate venture.

[7] Montgomery County Land Records JA19:489-491.

> After considering various propositions made by land owners the committee representing the scientific men of the Department of Agriculture, who have in view the establishment of a suburban colony, have selected a tract of rolling land on the Tenleytown road, adjoining the property of Gen. Drum, just across the District line in Montgomery county, owned by John E. Beall, esq. and Dr. Ralph Walsh. The tract is a part of the so-called "Somerset Heights," and consists of fifty acres sloping to the south. The Company will begin operations by providing the property with a good system of sewage, a bountiful supply of water and electric light from the Georgetown and Tenleytown Electric Railroad Company. During the coming summer and autumn active steps will be taken in preparing the property for building. Mr. Beall, through whom the property was purchased, will build a broad avenue from the pike along the border of the property, plant shade trees and lay a sidewalk. The initiatory steps in house building will be taken by Dr. D.E. Salmon, Dr. H.W. Wiley, Dr. C.A. Crampton, Mr. H.E.L. Horton, Mr. Miles Fuller and others. The lots are to contain not less than one acre, with a view to insuring the building of a cluster of villas, forming a suburb fashioned after the very pleasant ones of Boston and other northern cities.[8]

The fifty-acre tract was located in the northern section of the larger Somerset Heights. As part of the sale, the five purchasers, referred to as the "Somerset Colony Company," were required to erect "within (1) one year from the completion of an electric railway...through said 'Somerset Heights,' five (5) or more private residences to be occupied by them or their tenants, and to cost not less than two thousand ($2,000) each."[9] In addition, the "colony" was subject to the same restrictions as that of the larger subdivision, including covenants prohibiting alleys, and one establishing 30-foot front yard setbacks.[10]

Following the sale of the 50 acres, Beall and Walsh, who still had 192 acres of land to promote and sell, prepared a sales brochure and plat describing the residential development. The brochure emphasized the investment by the "men of high standing in scientific, business and Departmental circles" and the convenience of the suburb to three nearby electric railways and the promised arrival of the B&O. The brochure noted that, "unlike other subdivisions about Washington, in which the land is parceled up into narrow slices after the plan of city lots," Somerset Heights was to have large,

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[8] *The Evening Star*, May 17, 1890.

[9] Montgomery County Land Records JA 19:489-491.

[10] Montgomery County Land Records JA 19:489-491.

one-acre lots to "afford residents facilities for establishing ideal country residences, with ample grounds, lawns and gardens." The brochure highlighted a civilized location "400 feet above tidewater"and "Away from the river; no mosquitoes; no malaria," while still conjuring up the image of a park-like setting:

> Instead of building the houses in stiff rows along a street, the citizen of Somerset can place his house in the most favorable point in a large square of ground, which will permit the exercise of his taste in landscape gardening and ornamental architecture, with broad walks or drives, smooth lawns, and shady groves."[11]

The sales plat, included with the promotional brochure, shows the subdivision of the triangular parcel of land into a grid of streets and divided into several blocks. The 192-acre tract of land owned by the Somerset Land Company was subdivided into a series of building lots, generally rectangular in plan, while a wooded preserve along Little Falls Creek, with a parkway, meandering through it, was inserted into the subdivision as a public amenity. In the tradition of residential suburbs of the times, the streets were given English names. The five streets defining the "Suburban Colony Company" were named after counties in England: Dorset, Warwick, Surrey, Cumberland, and Essex. In contrast to the subdivided lots of the larger subdivision, the four large blocks of land constituting the fifty acres purchased by the "colony," remained unsubdivided. These four blocks were clearly noted as "Property of Suburban Colony Company, Five Handsome Houses to be Erected Spring 1891." ***(See Figure 1.)***

The Suburban Colony Company Houses

As indicated, the Company houses did materialize, though not by the Spring of 1891 as promised. By circa 1893, four of the original investors, Daniel Salmon, Harvey Wiley, Charles Crampton, and Miles Fuller built residences in Somerset. The four cottages, each displaying vernacular Victorian detailing, were sited on spacious lots, clustered around the intersections of Dorset Avenue and Surrey Street. The houses were located at 4722 Dorset Avenue, 4723 Dorset Avenue (demolished 1965), 4728 Dorset Avenue, and 4805 Dorset Avenue. The fifth original owner, Horace Horton, sold off his interest in the venture early on to Dr. E.A. de Sweinitz. Dr. deSweinitz constructed his house in 1895 at 4721 Essex Avenue, apart from the others at what is referred to as "Founders Corner."

Following construction of the houses, the partners subdivided the remaining acreage into building lots. An 1899 plat of the subdivided tract shows that it was divided into 97 lots, comparable in size to the lots of the rest of Somerset Heights. On average, these lots had 100-foot-wide street frontages

[11] Sales brochure, Somerset Heights Land Company, circa 1890 (copy on file at Montgomery County Historical Society, Vertical Files).

and 150-foot-deep or deeper depths. The one-acre lots on which the company houses stood were exceptionally large, being double that of the average lot. The tax assessment and land records in the period 1893-1906 indicate that while each of the partners eventually owned the lot on which he built his house as well as other unimproved lots, Miles Fuller, the attorney in the group, owned 47 of the subdivided lots. Based upon the land records at the time, it appears that Miles Fuller then actively promoted the sale of the lots to outside purchasers.

While the "broad avenues" advertized in the sales brochure were still only dirt roads, and the make-shift water supply, improper drainage and sewage systems were inadequate at best, lots began to sell well after 1900. By 1905, 35 families lived in Somerset Heights--up from a mere dozen in 1900. In 1902, Dr. Crampton and four other men founded and incorporated the Somerset Heights Water and Power Company of Montgomery County, for the purposes of "dealing in land" and for procuring and selling "a supply of water" in Somerset...and also for producing and selling power and light and "constructing and maintaining a system of sewage..."[12] In 1906, the boundaries of the residential community were enlarged and the area was incorporated by Montgomery County as the Town of Somerset, transforming the once small suburban colony of Somerset Heights into the thriving Town of Somerset.

IV. DR. DANIEL ELMER SALMON (1850-1914)

Dr. Daniel Elmer Salmon, the founding chief of the U.S. Bureau of Animal Industry at the Department of Agriculture is best known in scientific circles for his extensive and pioneering work in the eradication of pleuropneumonia and Texas tick fever in cattle. Dr. Salmon's name, however, is more universally recognized as the derivative of "Salmonella," an infectious pathogen which Dr. Salmon discovered.

Dr. Daniel Salmon was born in July 1850 in Mount Olive, New Jersey. He spent his adolescence on a farm and working as a clerk in a country store. In 1868, Daniel Salmon entered the newly established Cornell University as a member of its first freshman class. There, Salmon met Professor James Law, who had just emigrated to America to fill the chair of veterinary science. Under Professor Law's tutelage, Salmon pursued the study of veterinary medicine at Cornell, except for a six-month period in which Salmon studied at the Alfort Veterinary School in Paris. In 1872, having graduated from Cornell with a degree in Veterinary Science, Salmon began practicing as a veterinarian, first in New Jersey, and then in North Carolina. In 1876, Salmon received a Doctor of

[12] William Offutt, *Bethesda: A Social History* (Bethesda, MD.: The Innovation Game), 1995, 235.

Veterinary Medicine degree from Cornell University--the first such degree granted in the United States.

In 1879, Dr. Salmon was appointed to the veterinary staff at Cornell University, and with Professor Law, participated in a Department of Agriculture program to eradicate contagious bovine pleuropneumonia. Six months later, when the grant funds for this study were exhausted, Dr. Salmon accepted a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study Texas cattle fever. Four years later, he was chosen to establish a veterinary division within the Department, and in 1884, was appointed director of the newly created Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), a position he held for just over 20 years. During his tenure at the BAI, Dr. Salmon created "the first significant medical research institution in the United States," and developed the concept of geographic area or regional disease eradication.[13] According to his obituary, the most important things accomplished by the BAI during Dr. Salmon's administration from 1884 to 1905 were:

1) The complete eradication of the contagious pleuro-pneumonia of cattle from the United States.
2) The study and control of Texas fever in cattle.
3) The establishment of the Federal meat-inspection service.
4) The establishment of the inspection of exported animals, and the ships carrying them, thus doing away with the cruel treatment and suffering which had been a startling feature of this traffic, reducing the losses and preserving the trade.
5) The preservation of the country from imported diseases by perfecting the system of inspecting and quarantining imported animals; and

[13] Ole H.V. Stalheim, "Daniel Elmer Salmon, the National Veterinary College and Veterinary Education," *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, Jan. 1, 1983, vol. 182 (1), p. 33-36.

6) The scientific investigation of animal diseases and their bearing upon public health questions.[14]

In addition to his role as Chief of the BAI, Dr. Salmon founded the National Veterinary College (NVC) in Washington, D.C. and acted as dean from 1892 to 1898. Despite its name, the NVC was not sponsored by the U.S. government, but was a private college supported by tuition from its students and fees from clients. Staffed primarily by veterinarians employed at the BAI, including Dr. Salmon, the college offered a two-year degree in veterinary science (as opposed to the standard three-year terms offered elsewhere). This shorter term was criticized by professionals in the veterinary field, but defended by Dr. Salmon who argued that a two-year course of study was adequate, "as long as livestock owners in many parts of the country were without the services of a trained veterinarian." The teaching staff of NVC, primarily federal employees, was also criticized by the public for accepting salaries in addition to their federal pay. As enrollment declined amidst the criticism, the young school could not maintain its independent status. In 1896, it became part of Columbian University (renamed George Washington University in 1904). Two years later, the college suspended operations. In 1908, classes in the college resumed, but by 1918, had ceased entirely.

Despite Dr. Salmon's professional accomplishments and early distinguished career, he suffered several professional difficulties that went beyond those at the National Veterinary College. In particular, the brutally graphic writings of Upton Sinclair on the meat-packing industry in the United States aroused great public indignation and outcry, which ultimately led to the reform of federal food inspection laws. It apparently, also, had the dual effect of precipitating Dr. Salmon's resignation as Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and virtually ending his career in this country. In 1906, Dr. Salmon accepted a position with the government of Uruguay as head of the Department of Veterinary Science of the University of Montevideo. He lectured on veterinary science, reorganized the department, and assisted in the establishment of the School of Veterinary Medicine. Upon his return to America, he was, according to one source, "a wreck of his former self."[15]

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[14] As listed in Dr. Daniel Salmon's obituary in the *American Veterinary Review*, October 1914.

[15] From Merillat LA, Campbell DM: Veterinary Military History in the United States. Chicago, *Veterinary Magazine Corp*, 1935, vol. 1, p. 229 as quoted in Ole H.V. Stalheim, "Daniel Elmer Salmon, the National Veterinary College and Veterinary Education."

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For the remainder of his life, Daniel Salmon was engaged in special veterinary work in the West. The year before his death, he was in charge of a plant for the production of anti-hog-cholera in Butte, Montana. There, he lived in a hotel, physically and emotionally distant from the progressive Somerset Heights suburb which he had helped to build. In August 1914, Daniel Salmon died at the age of 64 of pneumonia and a malignant disease of the stomach. His body was returned to Washington and buried in Rock Creek Cemetery.

At his death, friends and colleagues of Dr. Daniel Salmon remembered him as a kind and generous person who devoted his life to research, and who sought to impart his knowledge to the public through teaching and writing. His obituaries note that he "drank of the cup of bitterness of a country's ingratitude," but that "future history will probably record this good man's worth and our children's children will lay at his feet their tribute of appreciation of his life work of investigation and usefulness."[16]

Since 1885, when Dr. Salmon discovered the first strain of the Salmonella disease, over 2,000 other strains have been identified.

V. HISTORY OF 4728 DORSET AVENUE

The Salmon/Stohlman house at 4728 Dorset Avenue was built by Dr. Daniel Salmon by 1893 and survives intact on its original one-acre lot of land. Although the original plans called for the construction of the "company houses" by the Spring of 1891, records indicate that the first houses were not actually built until circa 1893.

Daniel Salmon gained ownership of his property at 4728 Dorset Avenue in 1892, when the one-acre lot was transferred to him by Miles Fuller.[17] The following year, in 1893, Salmon was assessed for one acre of land in "Part of Somerset Heights." The acre of land was valued at $200.00 and the improvement thereon at $2,000.00, for a total assessed value of $2,200.00.[18] This high assessment

[16] Dr. W. Horace Hoskins, "Tribute to Doctor Salmon," American Journal of Veterinary Medicine, vol. IX, October 1914, No. 10, p. 740-741.

[17] Montgomery County Land Records, JA 34/135.

[18] Tax Assessment Records, Maryland State Archives, Rockville 4th Collection District, 1876-1896.

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confirms that Daniel Salmon had built the house at 4728 Dorset Avenue between the time of conveyance in 1892 and the time of the assessment in 1893. By 1897, Salmon's taxes had increased to include a $2,900.00 assessment for land and improvements, plus $380.00 for personal property, including livestock, household furniture and "other."

In 1900, Daniel Salmon is listed in the U.S. Census records as living on Dorset Avenue with his wife, Mary Salmon and a 26-year old female servant. Two years later, Daniel Salmon sold his house and lot to John William Stohlman, and within three years moved to Uruguay. It is not known where Salmon lived in the three-year period from 1902-1905. In 1906, after Salmon had left this country for South America, he is listed in the Montgomery County assessment records as owner of 9 lots in Somerset Heights, comprising about 4 ½ acres total. These lots, scattered throughout the emerging neighborhood on Dorset, Essex and Cumberland Avenues, were all unimproved. The entire 4 ½ acres was assessed at a mere $630.00. By the next year, Salmon appears to have sold at least one of the lots. Based upon these findings, it seems clear that as one of the founding members of the "colony," Daniel Salmon entered into the Somerset Heights venture not only with the intention of building his own home, but with the intention of speculating on the land for investment purposes.[19]

In 1902, while still at the Bureau of Animal Industry, Dr. Daniel Salmon sold his house to John William Stohlman, a Georgetown merchant who owned the Georgetown Stohlman Confectionary store at 1254 Wisconsin Avenue. John William Stohlman lived at 4728 Dorset Avenue with his wife and 10 children, three of whom were born in the house, from 1902 until 1947. Mr. Stohlman served as the Town's fifth mayor, from 1919 until 1938. The Victorian interior of the Stohlman candy store was disassembled in 1950, then rebuilt and displayed in the Smithsonian Museum of American History. The store reputedly sold "the best ice cream in town."

From 1947 to 1951, the Stohlmans rented out the house. In 1951, at the death of Annie Stohlman, the property descended to the Stohlman heirs, and in 1958, was sold out of Stohlman family hands. Since 1958, the property has had just three owners. The present owners purchased the property in 1998.

[19] Further land record research on the nine unimproved lots owned by Salmon and later sold by him may indicate how financially successful the venture was.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Salmon/Stohlman house at 4728 Dorset Avenue occupies Lot 1 on Block 5 in the Town of Somerset, Montgomery County, Maryland. The lot occupies .83 acres of land.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The lot on which 4728 Dorset Avenue is located has been associated with the property since the house was constructed on the site circa 1893. Around 1899, at the time the land was subdivided and platted for development, the lot was designated Lot 1, Block 5. The property has been designated as such since then. According to historic tax assessments Lot 1, Block 5 occupied one acre of land. According to land record research, there have been no changes to the lot size or shape; however, current surveys indicate that the lot consists of .83 acres.

UTM REFERENCES

Washington West, DC-MD-VA Quad

18-318410-4315080

Washington West Quad

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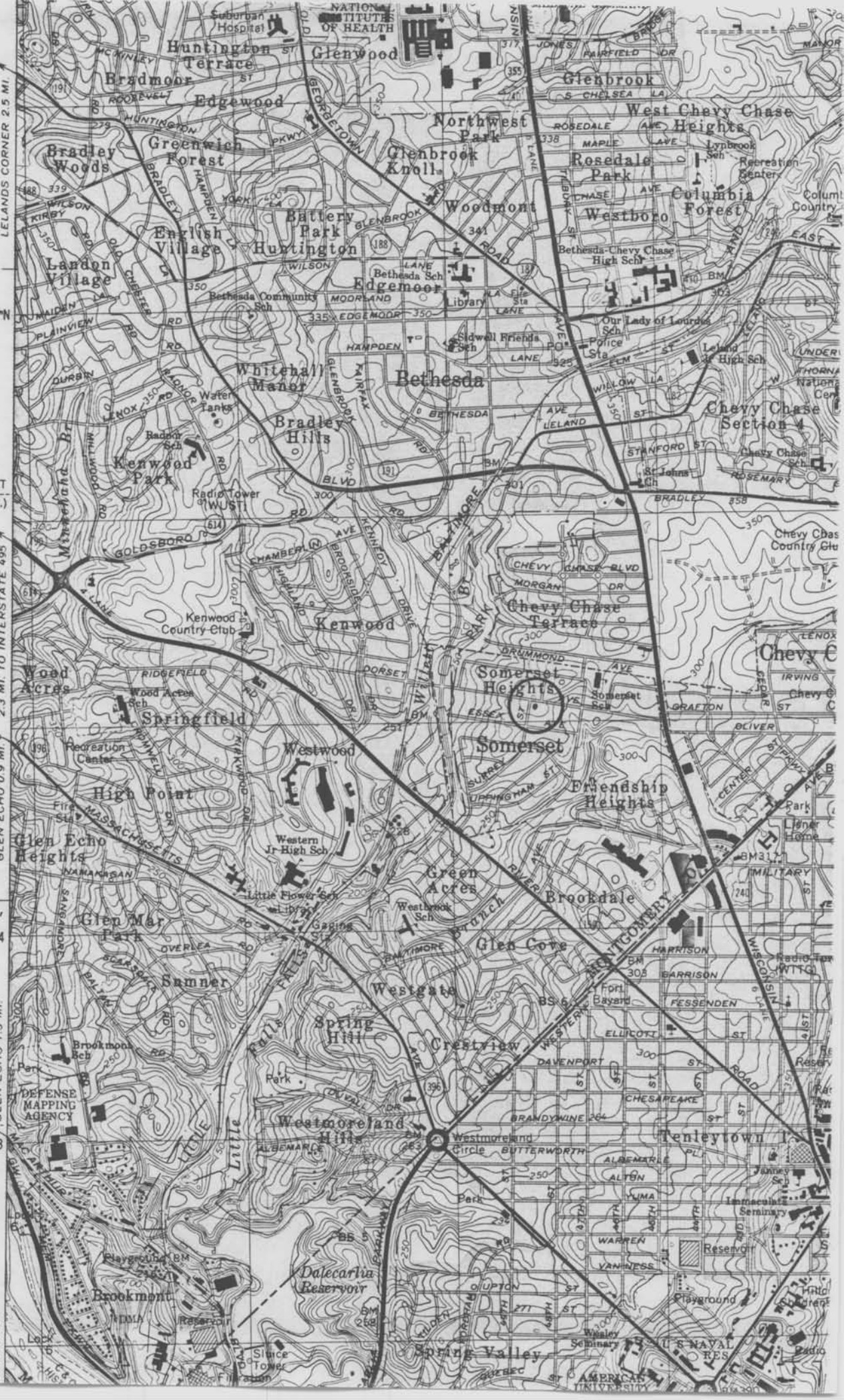

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SALMON-STOHLMAN HOUSE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

18-318410-4315080

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Salmon/Stahlman House
Montgomery County, MD
Kim Williams
November 2001
MD Historical Trust
North and East Elevations looking SW
1/5

10 12'01

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Salmon/Stohlman House
Montgomery County, MD
Kim Williams
November 2001
MD Historical Trust
North and west Elevations looking SE
2/5

10 12'01

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Salmon/Stohlman House
Montgomery County, MD
Kim Williams
November 2001
MD Historical Trust
South and East Elevations looking NW
4/5

10 12'01

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Salmon / Stohlman House
Montgomery County, MD
Kim Williams
November 2001
MD Historical Trust
West Elevation looking East
3/5

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Salmon/Stohlman House
Montgomery County, MD
Kim Williams
November 2001
Interior view of front stair
5/5
MD Historical Trust