

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Baltimore
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Ballestone Mansion

AND OR HISTORIC:  
Cedar Point Mansion

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rocky Point Park, Back River Neck Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Essex

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Baltimore CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>vacant, soon to be restored</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks

STREET AND NUMBER:  
301 Washington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Towson

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
200 Washington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Towson

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Landmark List, Baltimore County

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Heritage Society of Essex and Middle River, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
113 Riverside Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Essex

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MARYLAND STATE

BALTIMORE COUNTY

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed		
	(Check One)		(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<p>The Ballestone Mansion is located on Cedar Point between Back River and Middle River in Essex, Baltimore County, Maryland, and is presently part of the Rocky Point Park, owned by Baltimore County. The house was originally built in the late 1700's or early 1800's and has been enlarged twice. The original house measured 20.2 feet by 17.5 feet, approximately 350 square feet. The major addition was 20.6 feet by 24.6 feet, adding 506 square feet on one floor. A second story was later added to this addition, bringing the total floor area to 1362 square feet (see sketches).</p> <p>The old part of the existing house, built c. 1800, is brick: Flemish bond brickwork on the roadside (northwest), Common bond brickwork on the Middle River side (southeast) and ends (i.e. header course every sixth course). The bricks were generally soft burned, with a few glazed headers on gable end wall. A carry-over from the eighteenth century, the pitch of the roof is above 45° to the horizontal. There is a corbelled brick cornice in the rear (southeast facade) under the roof. Before being raised for the two-story porch, the front cornice was similar to that in the rear. The cornice is wood with ogee cove molding, sawtooth dentils, square volutes, The main block of the house had three bays on the front and rear. End walls are blank except for a small attic light. The window frames are narrow (2 1/2 inches) with half-round face. The second floor bedroom door dates from the late eighteenth century (c. 1780) and has flush raised panels; other doors appear to date from 1820 or later. Typical of Maryland houses of this period are the wide random-width floor boards in the attic (probably tulip poplar) and narrower random-width floor boards on the first and second floors. Pine trim is also a characteristic feature. The original attic rafters were lapped at the ridge and pinned together. The original collars tied the rafters together with a dovetail joint. The attic was never plastered. The stairway is the type used in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.</p> <p>It appears that the Miller family added the second story to the addition c. 1870-80. The brickwork is all common bond. The front pitch of the 1800-20 portion had the rafters changed to carry the flatter roof over the porch. Prior to the addition of the second story wing and porch, the original rafters had the same pitch as the rear roof and were pegged at the ridge. The full-length, two-story porch, second floor of this addition, three dormers and Victorian trim around the</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE Maryland	
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(Number all entries)

Ballestone Mansion

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

new porch cornice were a later part of the 1870-80 addition. The fireplace mantel dates sometime after 1850. A chimney, painted red and located over the attic window at the end of the later wing, balances the chimney of the 1800-20 part. A central main entrance, leading into the 1800 section stairhall, widened the original door. The original flat-jack arch was removed and the space covered by the wall framing member of the second floor porch, c. 1870-80. Evidence of cutting and patching in brickwork for second floor porch rafters can be seen. The brick porch wall was whitewashed and later painted gray.

A concrete block shed has been added, within the last fifty years. Also, the rear wall of the later addition was rebuilt in a nonconforming design and will have to be restored as to brick type and coursing and window openings.

The sash windows on the front (northwest) elevation measure 5 feet 6 inches by 3 feet with 6 over 6 panes. The front entrance door, in the third bay from the left (facing house) consists of a masonry opening of 5 feet four inches. The frame includes a full width transom light and two panels, each with side light and two raised panels below. The lintels are brick flat-jack arches and the sills brick row-lock.

The basic first floor plan of this house consists of a center hall and stair, with a large parlor to the left and two rooms to the right, probably dining and sitting rooms (in the later addition), or possibly the kitchen. Upstairs there is one bedroom to the left and two interconnected rooms on the right.

A graveyard is located nearby, across the road. The graveyard has one Stansbury gravestone. Others, including that of Thomas Stansbury, were removed, subsequently recovered are presently guarded by the local historical society. They will eventually be replaced.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian:	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1800, 1870-1880's

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	local
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	history
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Back River Neck in Baltimore County, situated between Back River to the south and Middle River to the north, was once a rural district populated mainly by farmers. Today, just across Back River from the Baltimore Beltway, it is becoming an increasingly suburban area. As the only extant farmer's house in this area, Ballestone Mansion is the sole visible reminder of its past way of life.

In about 1800 when the first part of the house was built, possibly by Joseph Ward Stansbury or his son Ephraim Stansbury, 95 percent of the families in the United States lived on farms or in small country towns.<sup>1</sup> Ballestone probably began its existence as the home of one such American farming family. When the property was to be sold at auction in 1817 in the settlement of Joseph Ward Stansbury's estate, it was described as follows in a newspaper advertisement:

...[a] Farm called BALISTON, containing about 100 acres of land, distant about 13 miles from the city in Back River Neck-the improvements are, a two story dwelling in good order, with barns, stabling and other suitable buildings...<sup>2</sup>

The property was sold for \$17.06 per acre to Willim Cook, stepfather of Ephraim Stansbury's two children, William and Mary Ann. It remained in the Stansbury family until 1852 when Richardson Collins, son of Mary Ann (Stansbury) Collins, submitted it for auction.

According to Russel B. Nye in his Cultural Life of the New Nation, the farmer in the early nineteenth century "made his living by hard, backbreaking labor that involved his entire family...His farm was supposed to provide for practically all his needs, with a surplus for sale or export, and it usually did."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Russel Blaine Nye, The Cultural Life of the New Nation, 1776-1830, The New American Nation Series, Harper Torchbooks (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1960), p. 128.

<sup>2</sup>Newspaper clipping from the American, April-May 1817. Chancery Paper 4782, Baltimore County. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>3</sup>Nye, p. 129.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

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STATE	
Maryland	
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Ballestone Mansion

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Ballestone's proximity to Baltimore gave its owners an added advantage in marketing their crops. It was a large city which, according to Henry Adams, has the "diversity of interests and local markets"<sup>4</sup> which made it possible for farmers and planters to realize a profit from their labor.

Ballestone was purchased in 1855 by Edward Miller, whose heirs owned it until 1969. In about 1870 the Millers enlarged the farmhouse by adding a one and one half story wing to one end. It was apparently some time during the 1870's or 1880's that this addition was made into a full two stories and the cornice, dormers, and two-story porch were added. These alterations made the house much more imposing. Today Ballestone is the only house in Back River Neck in restorable condition. It as still in a fairly rural setting, being surrounded by a golf course. Owned by the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, it will be restored by the Essex-Middle River Bicentennial Committee for use by the community as a part of Rocky Point Park.

11. FORM PREPARED BY, continued

Peter C. Powell, AIA  
Mark Beck Associates, Inc.  
762 Fairmount Avenue  
Towson, Maryland 21204

Pamela James, Research Assistant  
Maryland Historical Trust  
2525 Riva Road  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

<sup>4</sup>Henry Adams, The United States in 1800, Cornell Paperbacks, (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1955 (orig. 1889), p. 23.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Chancery Records (Baltimore County). Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.  
 Land Records, Baltimore County. Hall of Records.  
 Probate Records, Baltimore County. Hall of Records.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Edward Seidel, Chariman (See continuation sheet No. 2)

ORGANIZATION: Baltimore County Bicentennial Committee through the Essex Bicentennial DATE: August 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 211 Courtland Street

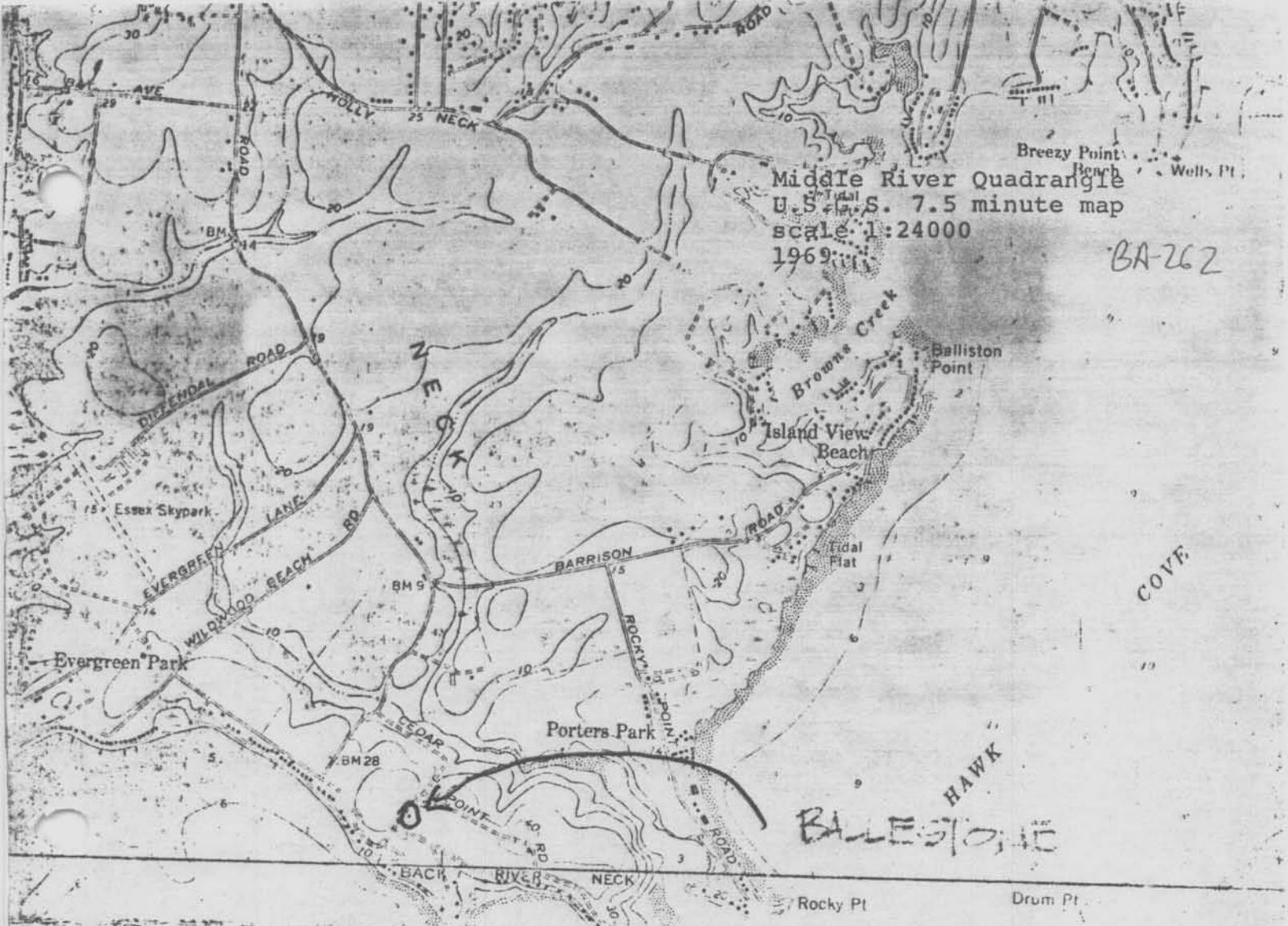
CITY OR TOWN: TOWSON STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665). I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Orlando Ridout IV</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____  <i>Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____  <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

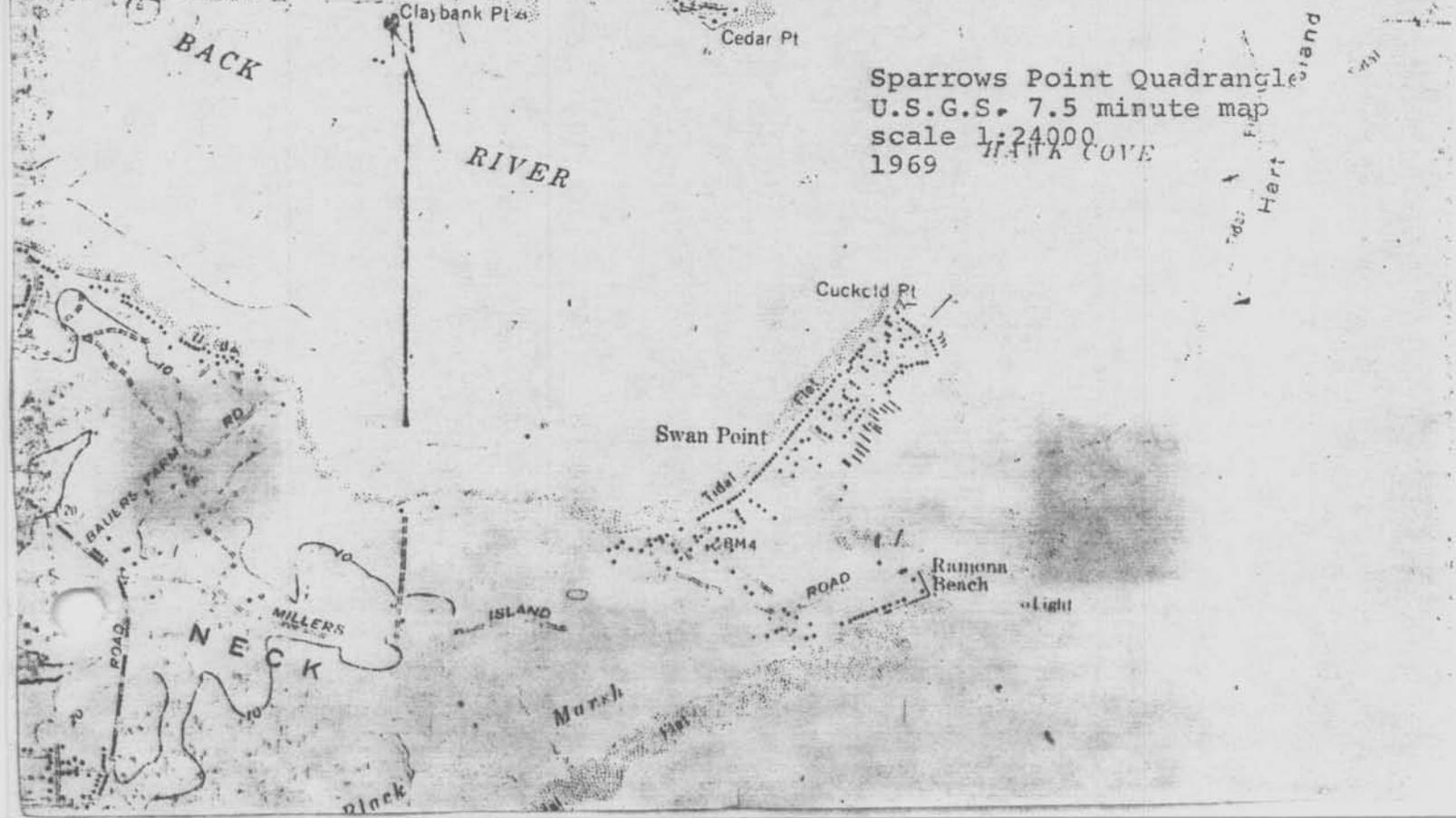
Middle River Quadrangle  
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map  
scale 1:24000  
1969

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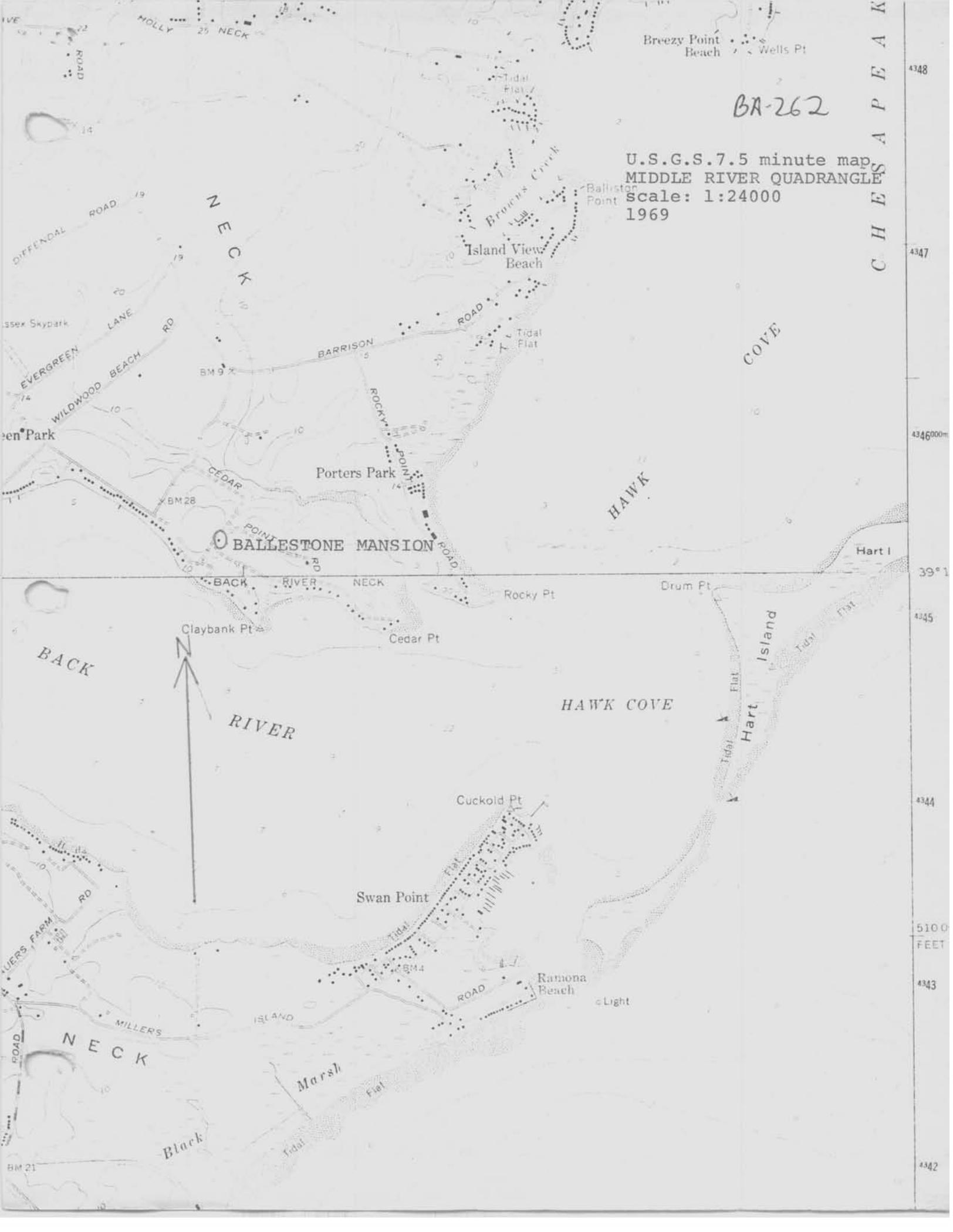


BALISTON HAWK COVE

Sparrows Point Quadrangle  
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map  
scale 1:24000  
1969



Hart Island



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U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map  
MIDDLE RIVER QUADRANGLE  
Scale: 1:24000  
1969

CHESAPEAKE

4348  
4347  
4346000  
39° 1'  
4345  
4344  
5100  
FEET  
4343  
4342



BACK

RIVER

HAWK COVE

NECK

Black

Marsh

Hart Island

BALLESTONE MANSION

Porters Park

Island View Beach

Ramona Beach

Breezy Point Beach

Wells Pt

DIFFENDAL ROAD

EVERGREEN LANE

WILDWOOD BEACH RD

BARRISON ROAD

ROCKY POINT ROAD

CEDAR POINT ROAD

BACK RIVER ROAD

MILLERS ROAD

RAMONA BEACH ROAD

BM 21

BM 28

BM 9

BM 4

Ballestone Point

Hart I

Drum Pt

Rocky Pt

Cedar Pt

Cuckold Pt

Swan Point

ISLAND

Tidal Flat

Marsh

ROAD

Tidal Flat

Tidal Flat

Tidal Flat

Tidal Flat

Tidal Flat

BROOKS CREEK

Skypark

en Park

Light



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
COUNTY	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Ballestone Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC: Cedar Point Mansion

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Rocky Point Park, Back River Neck Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Essex

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

COUNTY:

Baltimore County

CODE

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Robert Dugent

DATE OF PHOTO: July 17, 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Robert Dugent

442 Margaret Avenue Essex

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Looking due West showing East facade.



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Maryland		Baltimore County	
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PHOTO CREDIT: Robert Dugent			
DATE OF PHOTO: July 17, 1974			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Robert Dugent			
442 Margaret Avenue Essex			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Looking due North showing South facade and surrounding grounds.			
Looking from graveyard.			



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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Looking due East showing West facade.			



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PHOTO CREDIT: Robert Dugent			
DATE OF PHOTO: July 17, 1974			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Robert Dugent			
442 Margaret Avenue Essex			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Looking Southeast showing West facade			



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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Interior showing original mantel.			



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442 Margaret Avenue Essex			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Interior showing added brick work in attic for addition and raised roof			

HERE  
LIES THE  
BODY OF JANE  
STUBBY WHO  
DEPARTED THIS  
LIFE OCTOBER 1 1766  
AGED 77 YEARS

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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Tombstone of Jane Stansbury; one of seven tombstones to be restored.			



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