UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

HO-47

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC
TEMORA

AND/OR COMMON
Temora

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
4252 Columbia Road — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Ellicott City — X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
sixth

STATE
Maryland

CODE
24

COUNTY
Howard

CODE
027

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __DISTRICT | __PUBLIC | X OCCUPIED | __AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| X BUILDING(S) | X PRIVATE | __UNOCCUPIED | __COMMERCIAL | __PARK |
| __STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | X PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| __SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | __ENTERTAINMENT | __RELIGIOUS |
| __OBJECT | __IN PROCESS | __YES: RESTRICTED | __GOVERNMENT | __SCIENTIFIC |
| | __BEING CONSIDERED | __YES: UNRESTRICTED | __INDUSTRIAL | __TRANSPORTATION |
| | | X NO | __MILITARY | __OTHER: |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. John Breckenridge - Miss Laura Hanna

STREET & NUMBER
4252 Columbia Road

CITY, TOWN
Ellicott City — X VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland 21043

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Howard County Courthouse — Tax map 24, parcel 300

STREET & NUMBER
Court Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Ellicott City

STATE
Maryland

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE
__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| X EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | X UNALTERED | X ORIGINAL SITE |
| __GOOD | __RUINS | __ALTERED | __MOVED DATE_____ |
| __FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

TEMORA is located on the southwest corner of the junction of Columbia Pike (Rt. 29) and St. John's Lane, about one-half mile southwest of Ellicott City, in Howard County, Maryland. Its setting is enhanced by a small pond adjacent to the house, and lofty trees that include 200 year old American and English lindens, a ginko tree, and several varieties of evergreens.

Temora is a "T" shaped, two-story and cupola, Tuscan-style Victorian house of stuccoed tongue and groove boards. The house was built in 1857 after a design prepared by Nathan Gibson Starkwether.

The symmetrically arranged principal facade faces southeast and features two projecting gabled pavillions joined by a one-story porch. Centered between the pavillions is the main entrance, one of the most outstanding features of the house. Elegant in its simplicity, it has a double, semi-circular headed architrave framing narrow side lights, a large fanlight, and a heavily paneled double leafed door. Above this door on the second floor level is a three-part hooded window in a Palladian motif. On the front of both pavillions are double windows at both floor levels. Those of the first floor are flat headed and extend down to within one foot of the porch floor. Those of the second floor have rounded upper sash, molded hoods and also extend down to within a short distance of the porch roof. Both pavillions have shallow pitched gables and deep eaves decorated with carved brackets. The porch fronting this elevation has four sets of double posts, bracketed eaves and a balustraded roof.

On both ends of the house, the rear half of the building projects out in a manner similar to the front pavillions. Each has, on the first floor level, a projecting five-sided bay window with balustraded roof. Above these are triple, Palladian style windows with molded hoods.

The rear elevation of the house has a centered gabled pavillion with a first floor entrance that opens into the main hall which is now covered by a later wood vestibule. The north half of this elevation is covered by a two-story kitchen wing. With the exception of those already discussed, the first floor windows of the house have bracketed hoods and skills.

The shallow-pitched, tin-sheathed, multi-gabled roof has deep bracketed eaves and four paneled chimneys with decoratively corbelled caps. Centered on the roof is a square cupola with a triple, elliptically arched and hooded window on each of its four sides. Its Queen Anne-style roof, repeating the arched entrance and second floor windows, adds continuity and grace to the total composition.

The room arrangement of Temora consists of a wide centered hall flanked on both sides by two large rooms (see plan). At the end of the hall stands a

(See Continuation Sheet No. 1)

DESCRIPTION #7

gracefully proportioned stair which rises in two flights to the second floor. The two rooms on the southwest side of the hall (the front parlor and rear drawing room) have white marble mantels with arched openings. Both mantels are embellished with carved triangular shaped panels and a centered, cartouche-like bracket beneath the shelf. On the northeast side of the hall, the front library and rear dining room have mantels executed in a much more simpler taste, each having a Greek Revival-style pointed arch over the fireplace opening.

The rectangular shaped rear rooms are further differentiated from the square front rooms by bay windows at their outside ends. Sliding paneled doors can be used to shut the bays off from the rest of the room and similar doors on the front walls of both can be used to close the front rooms off from the rear rooms. On the ceilings of all four rooms and the hall is an elaborate plaster medallion.

The rear wing houses a small back stair, as well as a kitchen and breakfast room. Beneath the wing is the original basement kitchen. It contains an expansive fireplace and small pantry. The arrangement of rooms in the brick floored cellar of the main block is the same as that of the first and second floors.

On the second floor of the main block are five bedchambers arranged like those rooms of the first level, but with an additional small bedroom over the first floor kitchen and breakfast room. At the front of the second floor hall is a stair providing access to a storage area over the hall and to the cupola. Throughout this level, as on the first floor, the simple but handsome woodwork is consistently Greek Revival in style.

Temora is in an excellent state of preservation and, with the exception of the addition of plumbing, electricity, and heat, remains unaltered from its initial appearance.

As stated in the beginning of the description, the grounds are attractively landscaped. Although most of the remaining acreage is to the northwest and southwest sides of the house, the abundance of large shade trees shields the house from the two busy roads bordering the property on the northeast and southeast sides. Several hundred yards northwest of the house stands a large wood framed stable and carriage house that is probably contemporary to the main house in its date of construction.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

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| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __PREHISTORIC | __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | __COMMUNITY PLANNING | __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | __RELIGION |
| __1400-1499 | __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | __CONSERVATION | __LAW | __SCIENCE |
| __1500-1599 | __AGRICULTURE | __ECONOMICS | __LITERATURE | __SCULPTURE |
| __1600-1699 | X ARCHITECTURE | __EDUCATION | __MILITARY | __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| X 1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | X OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | local history |

SPECIFIC DATES 1857 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Temora was designed by Nathan Gibson Starkwether, a little known but accomplished architect from Oxford, England, who also designed the First Presbyterian Church on Park Avenue in Baltimore. The house was designed and built for Dr. Arthur Pue, a prominent mid-nineteenth century Howard County physician. Dr. Pue had inherited the Temora property from his grandmother, Mary Dorsey Pue. Mary Dorsey Pue was a daughter of Caleb Dorsey of Belmont, an illustrious member of an old, prominent Maryland family. Caleb Dorsey's home, Belmont, is one of Maryland's most significant early eighteenth century landmarks, well known for its architecture and historical associations.

Temora was bequeathed by Dr. Pue to his granddaughter, Miss Eleanor Harrison. Miss Harrison sold the property in 1915 to Mrs. Varina Hanna. At Mrs. Hanna's death, the property was inherited by her daughters, Mrs. V. H. Breckenridge and Mrs. Laura Hanna, the present owners.

Temora is a particularly fine example of its architectural type, reflecting in a restrained, sophisticated manner the tastes of the period. It is especially important in that it was designed by an architect contract specifically for that purpose and because it remains today much the same in appearance as it did when built.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Mrs. Varina Hanna Breckinridge, Miss Laura Hanna, owners (2nd generagion of second owners of the house.

"Origin and History of Howard County, Maryland" by Charles Francis Stein, Jr. (Published by Author in cooperation with the Howard County Historical Society 1972)

G. M. Hopkins Atlas of Howard County 1878

Martenet's Map of Howard County 1860

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 19 acres

UTM REFERENCES

| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | B | | | |
| C | | | | D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Acreage Justification: The setting with its trees, pond and barn are important...it could be on smaller acreage but would certainly lose a great deal.

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

Frances Wellford Mason (cs)

ORGANIZATION: Howard County Committee-Maryland Historical Trust

DATE: January 21, 1975

STREET & NUMBER: 9725 Old Annapolis Road

TELEPHONE: 301-267-1438

CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City

STATE: Maryland

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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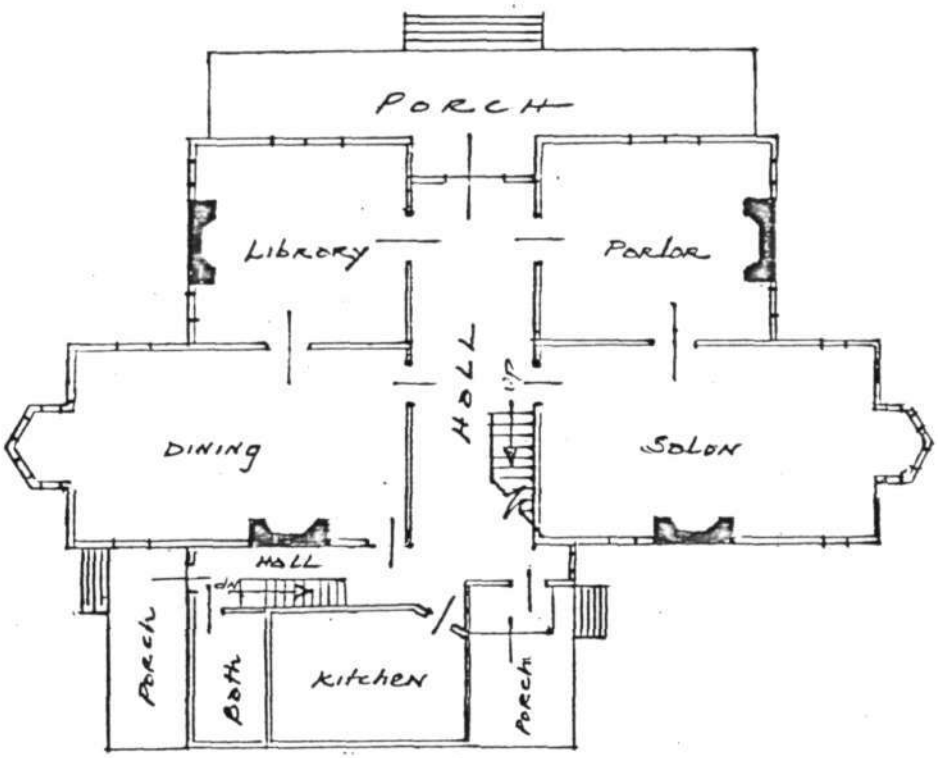
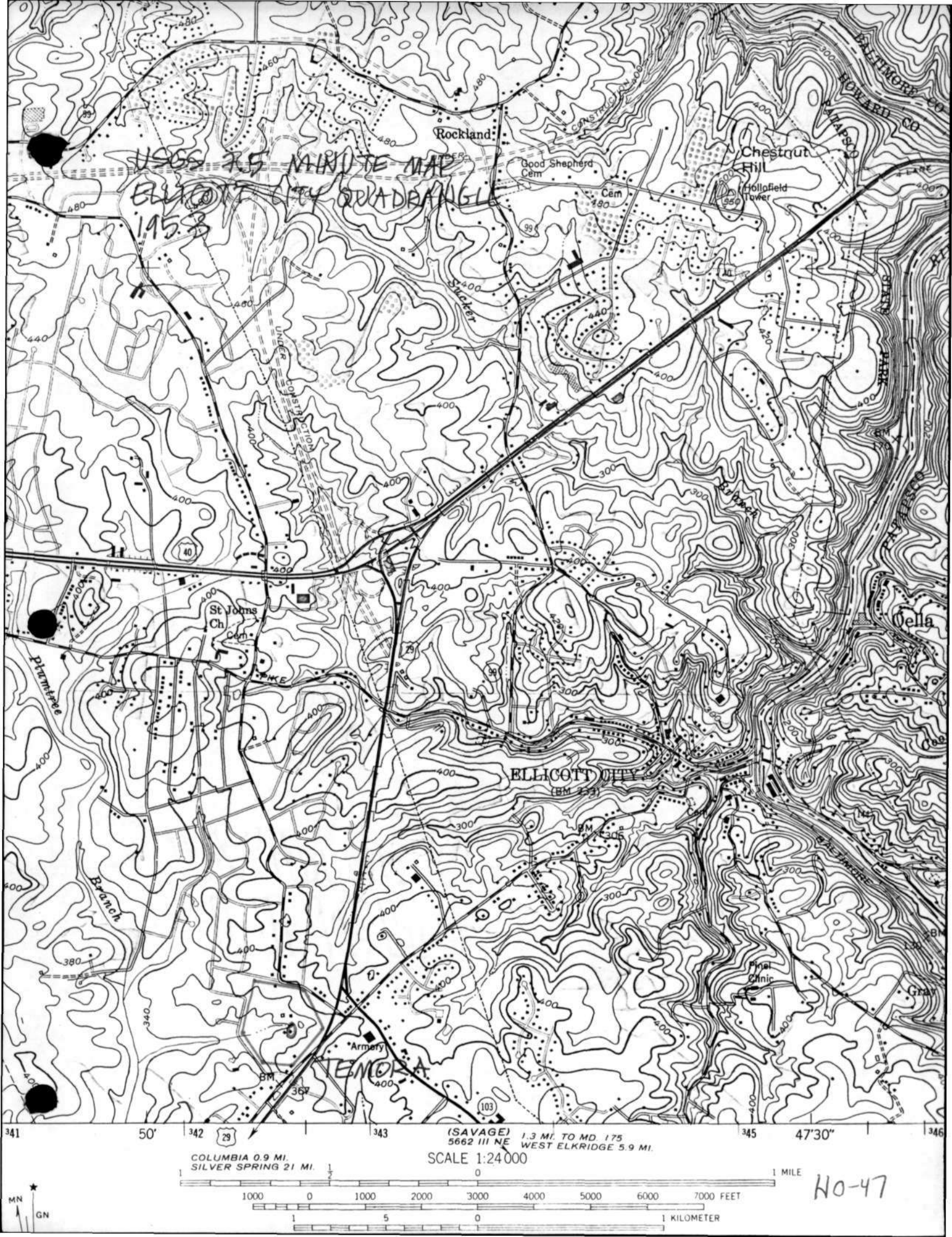



TEMORA, Howard County, Maryland
Sketch plan, first floor. Not to scale.

USGS 7.5 MINUTE MAP
ELLICOTT CITY QUADRANGLE
1953

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