FHR 8-300 (11-78)

M-17-46

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Mt. Nebo

and or common Mt. Nebo

2. Location

street & number 14510 Mt. Nebo Road n/a not for publication

city, town Poolesville X vicinity of congressional district Third

state Maryland code 24 county Montgomery code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	X unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ruth E. Wilmot

street & number 14520 Mt. Nebo Road

city, town Poolesville n/a vicinity of state Maryland 20837

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number 50 Courthouse Square

city, town Rockville state Maryland 20801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date October 1976 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X original site
good	ruins	X altered	moved date n/a
X fair	unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
		Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: residential, agruculture

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Mt. Nebo is a large 2½ story gable roofed frame dwelling located near Poolesville in western Montgomery County, Maryland. The house was constructed in three periods: the main block, dating to the second quarter of the 19th century, is three bays wide by one room deep and faces south. It rests on a sandstone foundation and has a brick exterior chimney on each gable. The main entrance is located in the central bay, and consists of a five-panel door in a classical surround with sidelights and transom, under a one-bay-wide portico supported by square posts. Nine-over-six sash windows flank the entrance; the second floor is lighted by 6/6 sash, and there is evidence that the central bay originally held a door opening onto the portico. The interior is arranged in a center-hall plan, and retains the majority of its Greek Revival-influenced trim. A 1½ story ell extends from the rear of the main block; this section appears to have been an earlier (late 18th century) dwelling. A three-bay, two-story addition was made to the east gable end of the main block around the turn of the 20th century. All sections are covered with sawn weatherboards, and have standing-seam metal roofing. Also on the property is a mid-19th century log smokehouse in good condition, and the remains of an early terraced "waterfall" garden; the yard also features 19th-century sandstone water troughs, benches, and mounting block.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Mt. Nebo is situated on Mt. Nebo Road (called Shepard Road on the USGS map), 4.8 miles west of Poolesville, Maryland, and .3 mile north of River Road, reached by a driveway .2 mile long.

Mt. Nebo is a two and a half story frame dwelling built in three sections.

The main block which faces south, is of brick-nogged heavy timber frame construction, three bays wide by one room deep, 2½ stories in height. It is sided with wooden weatherboards and rests on a sandstone foundation.

On the front facade, facing south, a one-story square entrance portico extends across the center third of the house. The roof is supported by four, square, tapered, solid wood columns across the front. There are traces of a railing which has been removed. Large, cut Seneca Sandstone steps lead up to the wooden porch.

On the front (south) facade, there are two double hung 9 over 6 light windows on the first floor flanking the doorway. There are three 6 over 6 light windows on the second floor. There is evidence of the center window having been a door indicating that the portico was probably balustraded at one time. The main entrance consists of a door panelled with five horizontal panels. A 7 light flat transom extends across the top of the doorway. At each side there is a wooden panel 3 feet high with three vertical panes of glass above.

On the west facade there is an exterior brick chimney flanked by two 4-pane attic windows in the gable end. There are no other windows on the west wall.

To the rear of the main block, a one and one half story ell extends northward. Beaded siding over brick nogging, heavier construction, small windows, wide low doors and simpler, hand-cut woodwork indicate that this is probably the earliest part of the building. It appears to have been a small cottage which was converted to a kitchen when the main block was built.

On the north wall there is an exterior chimney of rough red-brown fieldstone with a brick stack. This two room wing attaches to the main block at its south end. A one story enclosed porch extends along the east side. A one story enclosed porch extends along the west side. The roof has been raised to make a second story addition. The two porches and second floor appear to be of much later design and construction than the central part of this wing.

A two-story, three bay by one bay, frame wing is attached to the east side of the main block. A one-story open porch with a hipped roof supported by four chamfered posts, extends across the full length of the front (south) facade. Two nine over six windows flank a four panelled door opening off the porch. There are three six over six double hung windows on the second floor.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The two story wing partly conceals a (formerly) exterior brick chimney on the east end of the main block. There is an interior brick chimney on the east end of the two story frame wing, flanked by two small windows in the gable end. The north facade of the wing contains one window on the first floor and two on the second floor. On the north side where the east wing joins the main block, there is a square tower with a door at the first floor level and a window at the second floor level, constructed at the corner to provide for a small hallway which joins the three wings.

All three sections of the house are roofed with standing seam metal roofing.

Interior: The main block has a center hall extending the depth of the house with a south, main entrance and a north, rear entrance. An open staircase rises on the east wall. On each side of the center hall there is a large room, each containing a fireplace.

The second floor corresponds in plan to the first floor, containing center hall with a staircase and a room on each side, each with fireplace. The east bedroom opens onto a hall connecting the main block to the two wings.

A stairway rising from the first floor to the second, continues to the attic. The attic is divided into two rooms finished with plaster walls, pine flooring, board and batten doors with HL hinges. Between the two rooms, at the stair landing, there is a large storage cupboard which appears to still have its original paint, a dull red color. A test of this paint could probably be used to date the main block of the house.

The two story wing to the east contains one large room on the first floor. There is an entrance in the center of the south wall, two windows on this wall, one window on the north wall and a fireplace on the east wall. On the west wall there is an opening to a closed staircase to the second floor of this wing and a door to a hall connecting this wing to the main block to the west.

The second floor of the two story addition contains one room with three windows on the south wall, two on the north wall and a fireplace on the east wall. A door opens from the west side onto a small hall connecting this wing to the main block and to the north wing. The closed staircase opens onto this hall.

The story and a half wing to the north contains on the first floor a bathroom and hall and a large kitchen. The hall opens onto a porch on the east side and a door from the kitchen opens onto a porch on the west side. The kitchen contains a large store cooking fireplace on the north wall and one small window on the west wall and one on the east wall.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The second floor of this wing contains two adjoining rooms, each with a window facing west and a window facing east. The second floor level of this wing is three steps below the second floor level of the main block. It is reached by a small connecting hall through doors opening onto the hall from the main block and the east wing. The original door and window openings on the west wall have been covered to accommodate the addition.

In the main block, the center hall ceiling contains a medallion of molded plaster in the form of concentric circles. The dog leg stairway rising on the east wall has a walnut handrail of simple design and rectangular balusters. The step ends are decorated with triangular panels carved in a reverse ogee design.

At the landing where the stairway reaches the north wall, there is a nine over six window situated halfway between the first and second floors.

In the hall, living room and dining room, the door and window architraves are of a reeded design with bullseyes at the top corners. The doors are six panel "cross and bible" design. The floors throughout the main block are of random width. Those on the second and third floor are in better condition than those on the first floor.

The mantelpiece on the west wall of the living room is of elaborate design. On each side smooth tapered columns set on plinth blocks have ionic capitals. Rectangular panels above the capitals support the cornice and mantel shelf. The frieze is carved in a horizontal voluted design.

On the second floor there is a window (formerly a door) facing south in the hall. The woodwork in the hall and two bedrooms is of a simpler design than that on the first floor. The door and window surrounds have no bullseyes. The mantels in the bedrooms have the same moulding vertically as horizontally, mitered at the corners.

The east bedroom has one window facing south. There is evidence that a window facing east, on the same wall with the fireplace, was changed into a doorway with three steps down into a doorway in the north wall of the bedroom. This would have made access directly into the loft or second story of the north, earlier, wing.

The walls of the main block are plaster over lath.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

In the east wing, woodwork is of plainer design than in the main block. The mantels are also of simpler design. Much of the plaster has been removed from the walls. Floors are of 2½ inch tongue and groove.

In the north wing, the walls have been stripped of layered "modernization" to reveal heavy uneven plaster over lath on the upper half and horizontal wooden wainscoting on the lower half. Boards in the wainscoting are 12" to 24" in width. The same wide panelling is used on the south side of the dividing wall from floor to ceiling. The windows facing east and west are 18" wide and 30" high.

Door and window surrounds have a simple molding. There is evidence on the south wall of an opening to a stairway as well as two covered openings in the ceiling of the kitchen indicating 2 "ladder" stairways.

On the second floor of the north wing the floors are of wide boards 10" to 18" in width beaded on the under side to form a ceiling for the first floor. In one room a patch in the floor shows where a stairway to the kitchen below was removed. The exterior walls of the second floor and the wall dividing the two small 2nd floor rooms are of more recent construction than the rest of this wing. It appears that originally a small staircase opened into one loft bedroom with pitched roof and a window facing south (which was blocked by the addition of the main block).

Outbuilding: A 12' by 10' log building is located about 15' from the north wall of the north wing. It appears to have been a smokehouse. The logs are chinked with diagonally set Seneca Sandstone chips. The roof is metal over old cedar shingles.

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
X 1700–1799	art	engineering	music	theater
X 1800–1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	transportation
1900–	communications	industry	politics/government	other (specify)
		invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: B, C
Applicable Exceptions: none
Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Mount Nebo is significant for its architecture, representing a type of dwelling characteristic of large plantations in western Montgomery County in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Distinguishing characteristics of this type include frame construction, center-hall plan, and 2½-story height; Mount Nebo also retains Greek-Revival-influenced interior decorative detailing including symmetrically-molded architrave trim, mantels with pulvinated friezes, paneled doors, stair and balustrade. An earlier building is incorporated as an ell at the rear. Other significant features of the property include an early log smokehouse, and the remains of a terraced "waterfall" garden. The property derives additional significance from its association with the White family through the latter half of the nineteenth century; Joseph White (1825-1903) was a locally-prominent supporter of the Confederate cause during the Civil War.

For History and Supporting Documentation, see Continuation Sheet No. 5

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Mt. Nebo was patented by Thomas Fletchall for 487 acres in 1807[1] although his father lived on part of the land in the eighteenth century.

Mt. Nebo's land was made up of parts of two original land grants which were patented as Brightwell's Hunting Quarter in 1695 and Preston's Marsh in 1734. Parts of these tracts were divided in later years and became known as "Sugar Bottom," "Resurvey on Brandy," "Corsbasket," "Indulgence," "Thomas's Point" and "Mt. Ararat" and, in turn, these were divided so that Mt. Nebo was made up of only part of each of these tracts except that all of "Thomas's Point" became part of Mt. Nebo.[2]

One of the earliest references to a Fletchall (sometimes spelled Fletcher) in Maryland was on May 17, 1715, in the General Assembly Proceedings[3] when a letter was received from Thomas Fletchall's great grandfather, Capt. Thomas Fletchall of Prince George's County (Montgomery County was part of Prince George's in 1715) giving an account of "some fright the inhabitants on the frontiers of Potowmack are now in by reason of some of our Indians hastily coming in among the inhabitants on sight of naked Indians." It was advised that arms be distributed among the inhabitants on the "frontier plantations on Potowmack."

This same Thomas Fletchall was, in 1715, granted two tracts of land totaling 1079 acres and a half interest in two other tracts totaling 1787 acres. These were in the present Chevy Chase/Bethesda area.[4] He also owned a tract in what is now the Zoological Park[5] as well as other land in what was then Prince George's County. This may well have been the Thomas "Fletcher" who was transported to Maryland in 1676,[6] probably from Scotland. In his will of July 17, 1717, Thomas left his dwelling plantation, "Widow's Mite," to his wife, Ann; other land was left to his daughter, Elizabeth, and his son, Thomas.[7]

A Thomas Fletchall, of Frederick County (Montgomery County was then part of Frederick County), bought slaves and bought and sold land in Frederick County from 1750 to 1772. A Thomas Fletchall was married to a Mary in 1752[8] and was Constable of Sugarland Hundred from 1749-1751.[9] In 1755 Thomas and John Fletchall sold property called "Two Brothers" in Frederick County. Thomas bought 150 acres of "Flint's Grove" with a house on it in 1752[10] and in 1773 John bought 50 acres of "Flint's Grove."[11] Although Thomas Fletchall lived at the same time as John there is not enough information on Thomas to be certain of their relationship nor to know the names of any of their parents.

The John Fletchall mentioned above was the father of Thomas who eventually patented Mt. Nebo, which was made up of various adjoining tracts of land. John lived on the farmed part of the land which became Mt. Nebo and he arranged to accumulate other adjacent land to enlarge his farm. He and his wife and several of their children were buried at Mt. Nebo and the grave stones are there today, placed along the bottom terrace of the "Waterfall Garden."

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

John was born in 1727[12] and he died in 1777.[13] In 1748 he was a member of the first grand jury of Frederick County.[14]

In about 1750 John Fletchall married Elizabeth (Betty) Hickman who was born December 27, 1731.[15]

In 1760 a deed was conveyed to John Fletchall for 85 acres of "Hickman's Discovery" for "love and affection" from David Hickman (cousin of Betty). John and Betty most likely spent their first married years at "Hickman's Discovery." In 1765 John received from Ninean Edmonston,, planter, 42 acres of "Bongey" with appurtenances on it.[16] "Bongey" was a part of "Sugar Bottom" which became part of Mt. Nebo and it was either immediately adjoining or included the area where the buildings of Mt. Nebo are situated. It is interesting to note that on the same day that John's deed for "Bongey" was written Solomon Hickman (brother of David) had a deed drawn up for 53 acres of "Pimgey," a part of "Sugar Bottom" which adjoined "Bongey," and 25 acres of "Hickman's Pleasure," part of "Preston's Marsh," which adjoined "Pimgey."[17] Both tracts were conveyed to Thomas Fletchall in 1784[18] and later they also became part of Mt. Nebo. In 1765 Hickman's Pleasure, which had belonged to Solomon's father, Henry Hickman, had buildings and orchards on it.

In 1768 John Fletchall received from Ninean Edmonston, for 150 pounds, 188 acres of "Sugar Bottom." Thomas Fletchall owned most of this bottom land in 1793,[20] and it became part of Mt. Nebo.

In 1768 John sold "Hickman's Discovery"[21] so he had probably moved to "Bongey" to live.

According to an old document[22] in about 1775 John Fletchall, aged about 48, indicated boundary stones of part of "Brightwell's Hunting Quarter," which later became part of Mt. Nebo. Abraham Fletchall, aged 62, also helped locate boundary stones for this tract in 1789.

In 1775 John Fletcher was appointed with four others to help raise money for arms and ammunition for Sugarland Hundred[23] and at the time of his death in 1777 he had in his possession "a drum and collours belonging to a company of militia."[24]

Indications of farming appear in the will and in the accounts of John Fletchall of 1779.[25] Among his wife and his six children were divided his horses, cows, 3 servants, and his 12 slaves, and he left his overseer his choice of cows on the "place where he lived provided he rents the plantation." To his wife, Betty, he left, among other things, as many sheep as she needed to clothe herself and small children and to his eldest son, Thomas, he left "one negro man

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

named Great Sampson, one negro woman named Kitt, my Riding Horse, my Watch, the Whole of my wearing apparel, a Waggon I bought of Strider and the four creaturs that works on my plantation and a yellow man slave named Frank, in order to Raise and Educate my two Small Children."

In his will John Fletchall also left "one negro woman named Ruth and her increase" to his daughter, Jean, wife of William Hickman. There is one gravestone among those of the Fletchall family at Mt. Nebo which says simply, "Ruth."

Concerning crops on the farm, money was paid for "wagoning tobacco to market" and George Plater, who owned land adjoining what became Mt. Nebo, was paid for corn to be given to the wagonier for wagoning tobacco to Georgetown. The Sugarland Road referred to locally in the eighteenth century as the "main road"[26] and now known as River Road was the road used for transportation from what is now the Edward's Ferry area toward Georgetown. The part of River Road which then ran from Mt. Nebo to the Edward's Ferry area is now obsolete. Pertaining to this part of the road, in 1777 road overseers were in charge of a road from a crossroad on Sugarland Road below John Fletchall's farm to John Fletchall's upper gate and they were in charge of a road from John Fletchall's to John Wilcoxen's road.[27]

In his will of 1777 John Fletchall left 50 acres of "Flint's Grove" to Ann Fletchall, his daughter, "and in case she choose to live with her mother to be rented." The rest of his land was to be divided equally between his sons, Thomas and John, after the death of his wife. His eldest son, Thomas, aged 17, was executor and was requested to complete the trade arrangement of lands which John had made with Robert Peter. This land exchange indicates that John may have planned to patent "Mt. Nebo."

Betty Fletchall died April 14, 1785, and she and John are buried at Mt. Nebo with their children, Cinthy, Ann and John.

Between John Fletchall's death and 1803 Thomas sold some land and purchased other tracts to add to his inherited land.[28] In 1797 Thomas and John had the deed drawn up for the trade, agreed upon by them in 1793, of the land which they had inherited from their father. Robert Peter exchanged with the Fletchalls 225 acres of his "lands lying more to their advantage...between the Sugarland Road and Potomack River."[29] The TF#1 and TF#2 stones set for this transaction were present in 1789[30] and exist today (on the Chiswell farm adjoining the present Mt. Nebo). Also in 1797 the deed was drawn up for the land Thomas was to receive from his father.[31] In 1802 a deed conveyed to Thomas 151 acres from his brother, John.[32] Thomas was then prepared for the patent of Mt. Nebo which he requested in 1805 and received in 1807.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

The earliest direct references to buildings on what became Mt. Nebo were in 1783 when Thomas Fletchall owned "Bongey" which was listed in the Tax Assessment records of that year with thirty acres of cleared good land, one dwelling house, one framed barn and three log houses.[33] Since he has already been mentioned, "Bongey" was either adjoining or included the area where the existing buildings are, it should be noted that there were "appurtenances" on "Bongey" in 1765 when Thomas Fletchall's father received it.

Thomas Fletchall was born in 1760[34] and in 1780 he married (first) Elizabeth Blackmore.[35] In 1782 they had a son, James (married Jane Luckett).[36] In 1786 Thomas married (second) Elizabeth Walter Hickman, Widow of Stephen Hickman, and they had a daughter, Sarah, born in 1787 (married William Chiswell)[37] and a son, George Walter, born in 1793 (married Eleanor White Chiswell).[38] Elizabeth was probably raised near Cabin Branch where her father, George Walter, a planter, lived and which land became part of Mt. Nebo.[39] Elizabeth died in 1799 and Thomas married (third) Sarah Newton Chiswell (sister of Eleanor White Chiswell and William Chiswell above) in 1801.[40]

Thomas Fletchall was a successful farmer. The 1783 Tax Assessments show Thomas as owner of 7 slaves, 6 horses, 20 cattle and other property worth 34 pounds. By the 1790 Census and in 1800 Thomas owned 18 slaves, indicating considerable wealth. In 1799 Thomas bought a lease (from William Cumming's heirs) on 100 acres of the adjoining farm upstream[41] (he left this in his will of 1819 to his daughter, Sarah Fletchall Chiswell and it, along with adjoining undeveloped acreage became known as the Chiswell Farm) and in 1805 he bought another Cumming's lease on 87 or 88 acres just below Edward's Ferry.[42]

Thomas was involved in local affairs. In 1790 he was among the appraisers of a sale of goods and that year he bought at a sale two dozen plates and one cheese.[43] In 1794 he received three pounds for his six days attendance as Tax Commissioner for Sugarland Hundred.[44] In 1799 Thomas Fletchall was appointed one of the first five commissioners for the new Montgomery County's five election districts.[45] He was also a commissioner in 1818 and 1815.[46] In 1811 a patent referred to "Colonel" Thomas Fletchall.[47]

When Thomas died in 1819 he left his son, George W. "the part of my plantation whereon I now reside including all the buildings thereon... Mt. Nebo". The rest of Mt. Nebo, 115¼ acres, he left to his daughter, Sarah Chiswell, along with his lease of the 100 acres adjoining Mt Nebo which, with its buildings, became part of the Chiswell Farm.[48] Aside from land, he left his wife her choice of slaves and "her choice of two feather beds, bedsteads and furniture, one bureau, her choice of horses and milk cows and one gilt looking glass."

In 1829 the C. & O. Canal appropriated eighteen acres of Mt. Nebo for the Canal.[49] After the Canal was built it could be seen from the house at Mt. Nebo.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Hard times struck and on May 26, 1832, an ad appeared in the Frederick-Town Herald for 368 acres of Mt. Nebo for sale. The farm house was described as a two story frame dwelling house attached to a frame back building with a frame kitchen adjoined. The newest section was apparently built shortly thereafter. According to the ad the out-buildings consisted of a new frame Switzer barn, a brick dairy (part of which still remains) and there was a garden with "handsome falls" in front of the house, "which commands a view of the river and the C. & O. Canal passing through the farm. The land is well watered...fertility of the soil and commanding view... render it the most desirable place in that section of the country." George W. Fletchall was one of the many farmers who lost everything in those depressed times. In 1830 a deed of trust was recorded between George Fletchall and William Chiswell, his brother-in-law, who became "surety" for George. A partial list of the property turned over to William Chiswell gives an idea of the farm in those days: nineteen slaves including eleven children, nine horses, twenty-one hogs, one yoke of oxen, twenty seven sheep, "cattle of every description, farming utinsils and the now growing crop on the farm."[50] In 1832 William Chiswell bought Mt. Nebo at a public sale. The 368 acres were sold in 1833 to Horatio Trundle for $9,186.90.

After the Fletchalls sold Mt. Nebo it changed hands numerous times with the amount of land varying somewhat.

The first purchaser, Horatio Trundle, was one of the most active members of the Medley District's Agriculture Society formed in 1840. Their report of June, 1849, showed that Horatio Trundle had greatly improved his dwellings and outhouses as well as the immediate grounds and farmed land, which had been, previous to his ownership "in a ruinous condition." "Superior" wheat, timothy, clover, oats and corn were grown on the farm in that year.[51]

In 1857 Horatio Trundle and his wife, Sarah S., conveyed to Joseph White for $20,000 368 acres of Mt. Nebo.[52] The deed included two adjoining tracts of 56 and 3 acres.

The family of Joseph White owned the farm for seventy eight years. The Tax Assessments of 1858 list Joseph White with $1000. of private securities, household furniture worth 200 pounds, silver plate valued at 25 pounds and watches worth 15 pounds.

The Martenet and Bond Map of 1865 shows Joseph White as the owner of Mt. Nebo.

Joseph White, son of Benjamin and Rachel Chiswell White,[53] was born in 1825[54] and in 1846 he married Ann White. In his will, which was probated in 1903, Joseph requested that his sons, Joseph "Furr" White and Elijah, have the use of the farm one year after "our death" free of any charge.[55]

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

One interesting highlight which occurred during the years when the Whites owned Mt. Nebo took place during the War Between the States. On September 23, 1861, Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote home to his mother describing his "post of honor" in a grove "about two miles" from Edward's Ferry. In the letter he mentioned the house of a "secesher" who fed him "Delicious goose and ice cream, etc., but the artillery men hooked his pigs, geese, etc. The secesher, named White, has since been arrested for signalizing by lights from his house but evidence seems inconclusive and I guess he'll be released."[56] On October 20 Holmes received a serious wound in the battle of Balls Bluff, but after convalescing he returned to duty the next year.[57] It turned out that the planter named White had a number of slaves and so was able to keep up his farming despite the military movements close by. It was alleged by the spies for General Stone that every morning before daylight lights were observed flitting across the windows of the upper rooms of the White home and it was believed that Confederate scouts hiding across the river were receiving these signals of communication. Sergt. Chris Heffelfinger, of Company D, of the First Minnesota Regiment was ordered to find out the truth. His men, who were stationed in a barn within good view of the house observed all night and reported that just before first light, lights did indeed flicker at the upstairs windows. They were candles carried by slaves who had risen early to start the day's duties.[58]

In 1935 Joseph White's heirs sold 368 acres of Mt. Nebo to John B. Shepard.[59]

John Shepard bought other land adjoining the farm.[60] In 1946 his wife, Mary, inherited the 438½ acres of Mt. Nebo as well as considerable other land. That year she conveyed to James Symington a total of 925 acres including Mt. Nebo.[61]

Of interest is the archeological research which has been conducted by the Archeological Society of Maryland since 1936.[62] "The Shepard Site," named for John B. Shepard who bought Mt. Nebo in 1936, is located on the Mt. Nebo property between River Road and the Potomac River on the flood plain. Separate excavations conducted in 1936-39, 1952-55 and in 1955 revealed evidence of an Indian village with thirty-one burials discovered along with many pieces of pottery, projectile points and tools, bones, pipe pieces, beads, etc. representing the Archaic and Early Woodland cultures.

In 1950 James and Valerie Symington conveyed 925 acres of Mt. Nebo, etc. to Hugh M. and Caroline Beshers.[63] At that time what is now called Mt. Nebo Road was known as Shepard Road.

In 1964 the Beshers sold the 438½ acres of Mt. Nebo to the Potomac Valley Turf Farm, which was run by William H. and Ruth E. Wilmot.[64] The turf farm is spread over other adjacent land sold by the Beshers.[65]

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

The Wilmot family is very interested in Mt. Nebo. Son, Joseph A. Wilmot has spent much time in research and study of the house and has contributed his discoveries and conclusions.

He began the restoration of "Mt. Nebo" in summer 1984 with the repair to the foundation level of the house.

For Footnotes, see Continuation Sheet No. 12 through 15

1. Land patents, EC #R/632 (1807).

2. Ibid.

3. Archives of Maryland, Vol. XXX, 52.

4. Boyd, Montgomery County, 32.

5. Rockville Sentinel, 1893, John Thomas Fletchall obituary.

6. Index of Early Settlers of Maryland, 16/376. Fletchall, 114.

7. Prince George's County wills, 14/389-391.

8. Accounts, Vol. 32, folio 137-139, Annapolis. Fletchall, 26.

9. Scharf, Western Maryland, 421.

10. Land records, B/535 (1752).

11. Ibid. T/296 (1773).

12. Census Records, 1776.

13. Montgomery County wills, A/7 (1777).

14. Rockville Sentinel, 1893, John Thomas Fletchall obituary.

15. Genealogy file, "Fletchall."

16. Land records, J/1178 (1765).

17. Ibid. J/1179 (1765).

18. Ibid. B/298 (1784).

19. Ibid. L/370 (1768).

20. Assessments, 1793, Second District, Montgomery County.

21. Land records, L/423 (1768).

22. Ibid. D/540- (1791).

23. Scharf, Op. cit., 129.

See Continuation Sheet No. 13

24. Montgomery County wills, A/209 (1779).

25. Ibid. A/7 (1777); A/209 (1779).

26. Land records, G/622 (1797); Montg. Co. wills L/123 (1819).

27. Scharf, op. cit., 696.

28. Land patents, IC #M/502 (1783) for 68 3/8 acres "Sugar Bottom Resurveyed; HC #H/65 (1791) for 8 1/4 acres "Thomas's Point;" IC #P/421 (1803) for 16 acres "Mt. Ararat" surveyed in 1785. Land records, B/298 (1784) for 53 acres "Pemgey," 25 acres "Hickman's Pleasure," and 74 acres "Sugar Bottom."

29. Land records, G/619 (1797).

30. Ibid. D/540 (1791)

31. Ibid. G/622 (1797) for 39 1/2 acres "Sugar Bottom" and "Corse Baskett or Blantyre," 115 3/4 acres, parts of "Indulgence," "Corse Baskett," "Brandy," and "Resurvey on Brandy," and 4 1/2 acres "Bungey."

32. Ibid. K/128 (1802) for parts of "Brightwell's Hunting Quarter," "Sugar Bottom," "Blantyre" and part "Preston's March."

33. Ibid. D/540 (1791).

34. Census Records, 1776.

35. Genealogy file, "Fletchall."

36. Ibid.

37. Ibid.

38. Ibid.

39. Land records (1791) D/540; Montgomery County wills B/199, Administrations, Liber C, p. 195.

40. Genealogy file, "Fletchall."

41. Land records, H/463-6 (1799).

See Continuation Sheet No. 14

42. Ibid. M/150 (1805).

43. Montgomery County wills, Liber C, pp.12-13, 47.

44. Assessments 1793-1830, Sugarland Hundred.

45. Boyd, op. cit., 53.

46. MacMaster, A Grateful Remembrance, 397.

47. Land patents, JK #U/520-521 (1811).

48. Land records, STS 5/36 (1850); H/463 (1799).

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51. Rockville, Maryland, Journal, Sept. 8, 1849.

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53. Genealogy file, "White."

54. Monocacy Cemetary records.

55. Montgomery County wills, HCA 4/46.

56. Holmes, Touched With Fire, 10.

57. Cosmos Club Bulletin, 8-9.

58. Montgomery County Story, 6. Montgomery County Historical Society

59. Land records 622/466 (1935); EBP 15/436 (1876) for 23 3/4 acres, part "Piney Hills," part "Corsbasket," part "Sugar Bottom."

60. Ibid. 622/432 (1936); 632/432 (1936); 644/28 (1936); 644/148 (1936).

61. Ibid. 1001/95 (1946).

62. MacCord, "The Shepard Site Study."

63. Ibid. 1345/372 (1950).

See Continuation Sheet No. 15

64. Ibid. 3214/699 (1964).

65. Tax map.

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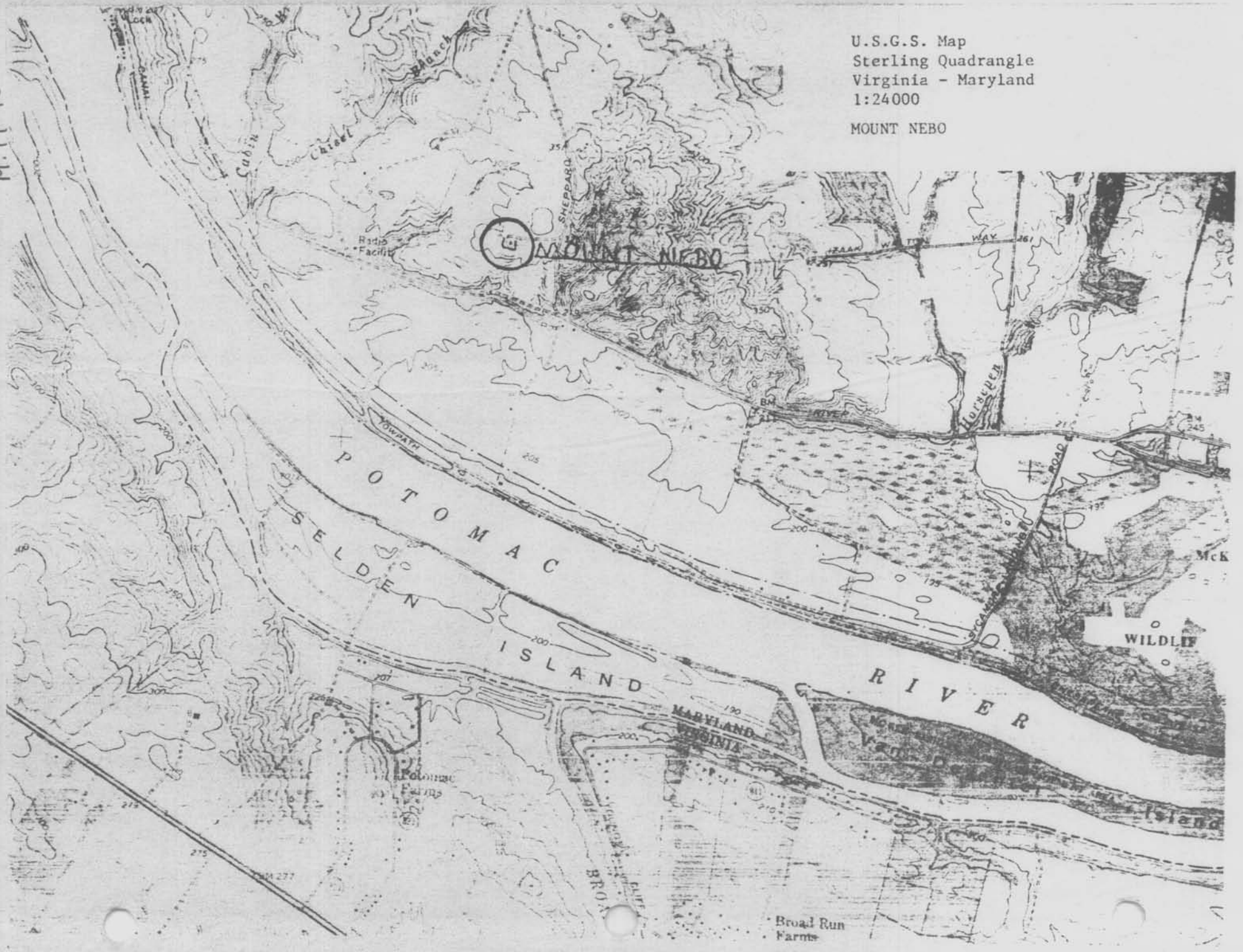
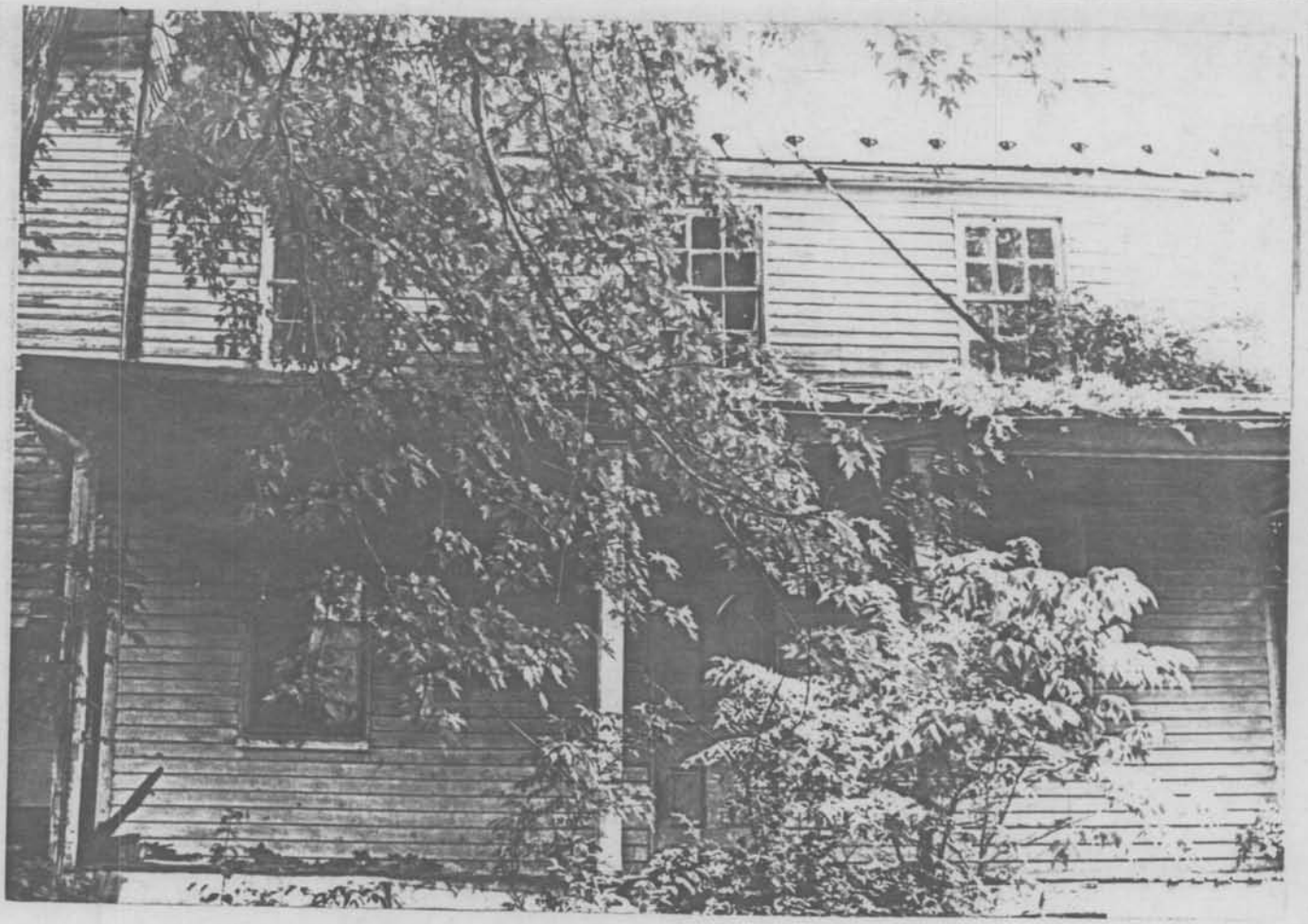
Sterling Quadrangle
Virginia - Maryland
1:24000

MOUNT NEBO





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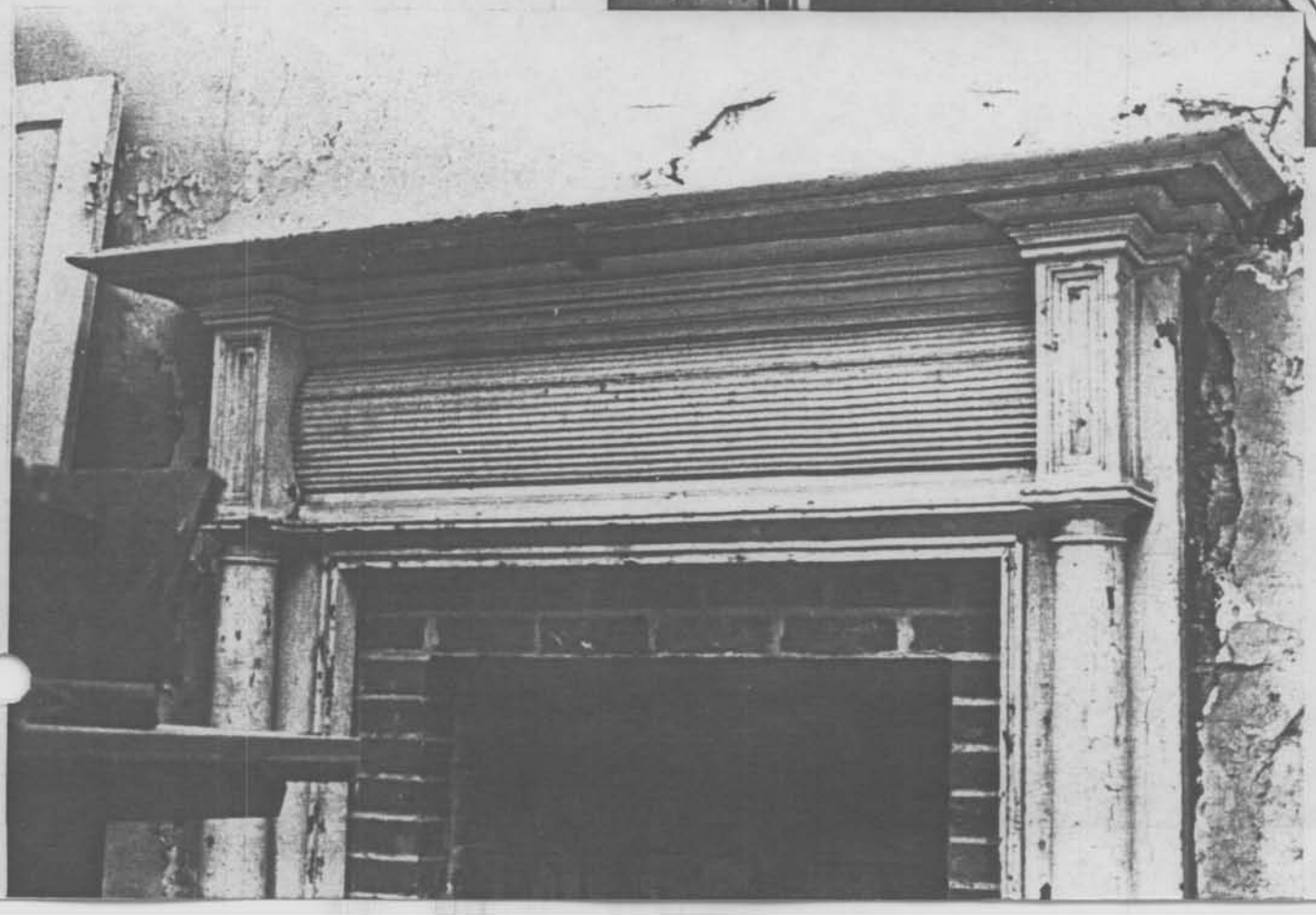

[redacted] 1966 Mt. Nebo M-17-46

1966 - photo taken M-17-46

Mt. Nebo - southern exposure
(towards River)

S. elev.

30

#M-46

NAME "MT. NEBO" (FLETCHALL - WHITE HOUSE)

LOCATION SHEPPARD Rd & OLD RIVER Rd POOLESVILLE, Md.

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 10/4/73 MDWYER

[illegible] 1966 Mt. Nebo M-17-46

Eb

#17-46

NAME "MT. NEBO" (FLETCHALL- WHITE HOUSE)

LOCATION SHEPPARD Rd. POOLESVILLE, Md.

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 10/4/73 M DWYER

1966 - photo taken

M-17-46
022

Mt. Nebo

W. Gabbe

#17-46

NAME "MT. NEBO" (FLETCHALL- WHITE HOUSE)

LOCATION SHEPPARD Rd. POOLESVILLE, Md.

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 10/4/73 MDWYER