

Property Address 8314 Contee Road, Laurel Vicinity, Prince George's County
Owner Name/Address Jean Lynch, Trustee/135 Ridgewood Dr., Gettysburg, PA 17325
Year Built circa 1798

Description:

Oaklands has been previously surveyed, and was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the Maryland Historical Trust in a letter dated September 8, 1994. The previous survey form was completed in 1978. At that time, no description of the cluster of circa 1930s or 1940s outbuildings on the property was given, and the description of the house was incomplete. Access to the house complex was denied by one of the owners, but a description written in 1994 by James Thomas Wollon, Jr. written December 22, 1994 will be used to provide recent information on the condition of the 18th-century house and outbuildings.

The house is a 3-story, 5-bay Georgian-style house which has been altered with the addition of a mansard roof sometime in the 19th century. The house is located at the end of a curving dirt lane which is accessible from Contee Road. Constructed circa 1798, the building is a massed, center hall plan. There is a 2-story brick kitchen on the south end, and a small 1-story addition at the intersection of the southwest corner of the main house and the south addition. The structure has a mansard roof with wood shingles and five gable dormers on both the east and west elevation. It is of glazed-header Flemish-bond brick construction, and it has a stone foundation. The windows are double-hung wood sash.

The east elevation sits on a raised foundation. The basement level has two windows with horizontal wood bars. The first story entrance is centered on the main block. Brick steps lead to the door, which has a broken pediment door surround with fluted engaged columns and a semi-circular foliated fanlight. There are four 12/12 double-hung windows with brick jack arches on the first story. There is a molded brick stringcourse. The second story has five 12/9 double hung windows directly under the dentil and modillion cornice. There are five gable dormers, each with a 2/2 double-hung window. The 2-story brick kitchen was built in the late-19th century, possibly at the same time the mansard roof was added. There are two 2/2 double-hung windows with segmental arches on the first story. There is a single 2/2 double-hung window with a segmental arch in the second story.

According to the report on Oakland written by Thomas Wollon, Jr., the west elevation is reported to be identical to the east elevation.

The house is reported to be in deteriorating condition, with water damage under the windows and along the cornice line. Cracks in the masonry and the addition of ties rods was also reported.

A brick smokehouse is located to the south of the house, and a stone outbuilding, identified as a spring house is located to the southeast.

There are five outbuildings located to the southeast of the main house complex, which are visible from Contee Road. Dating from circa 1930 to 1940. The outbuildings consist of a gambrel roof barn, a stable, a machine shed, and two collapsing wood sheds. The gambrel-roof barn and stable are located at right angles to one another, forming a courtyard. The gambrel-roof barn is 2-stories high and of concrete block construction. The stable is 1-story high, also of concrete block construction. Both buildings have asphalt shingle roofs. The machine shed is located to the west of the barn/stable group. It is of wood-frame construction with weatherboard siding. It has a gable-roof covered in asphalt shingles, and is in deteriorating condition. There are two small wood-frame sheds located between the barn/stable group and the machine shed. The sheds are covered in brick-textured asphalt roll siding, and are collapsing.

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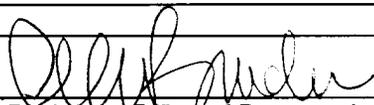
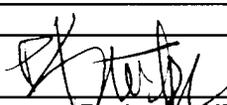
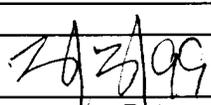
Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The proposed National Register boundaries of the Oaklands Property follow the current property lines of 8314 Contee Road (Tax Map 10 Parcel 54). This 19.8 hectare (49.03 acre) parcel is bounded on the north and east by adjacent tax parcels, on the south by Contee Road, and on the west by the CSX Railroad. The boundary includes the house, smokehouse, springhouse, barn, stable, machine shed, and two sheds. According to research, the property was originally part of the estate of Richard Snowden.

Bibliography:

Woolon, James Thomas. December 22, 1994. Oaklands Report. From the Prince George's County M-NCPPC file on Oaklands, PG:62-3.

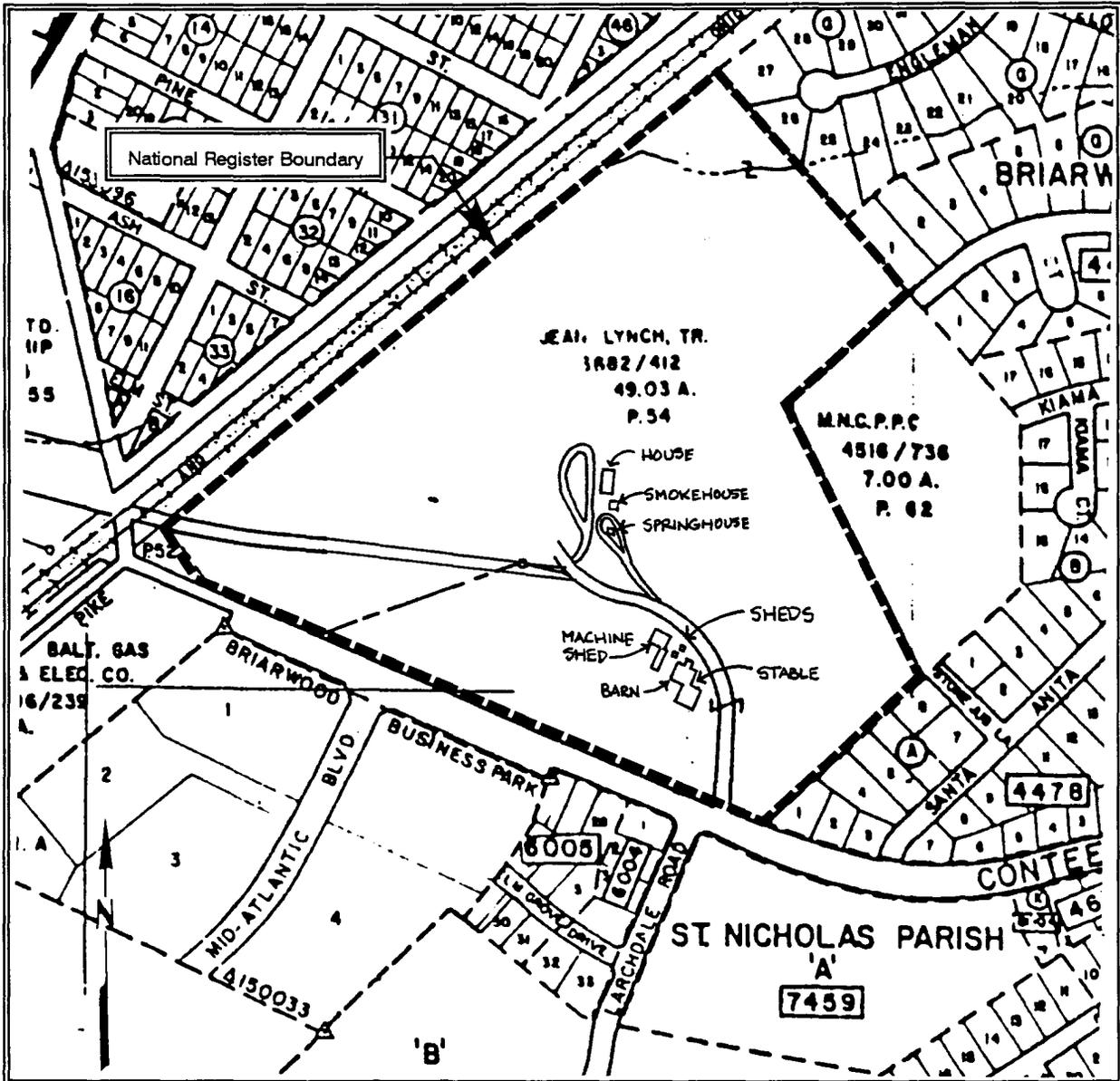
MHT CONCURRENCE:			
Eligibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recommended	<input type="checkbox"/> not recommended	
Criteria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D
Considerations	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____			

			
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date	Reviewer, NR program	Date

msj

Property Address 8314 Contee Road, Laurel Vicinity, Prince George's County
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Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



9401868

gmg

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Oaklands Survey Number: PG-62-3

Project: MD201 Extended/US1 from I-95 to Intercounty Con. Agency: FHWA/SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the information provided by SHA, Oaklands, located on Contee Road, Contee, Maryland, does appear to meet the National Register Criteria for individual listing. The two-and-one half story, five bay brick house was constructed c. 1798 by Richard Snowden of the Snowden family, prominent in iron manufacturing. The house was built in the Georgian style and exhibits flemish bond brickwork, a prominent brick belt course, a pedimented front doorway with fanlight and pilasters, and 12/8 and 12/12 sash windows. The roof appears to have been altered in the 19th century to a mansard with dormers. This alteration would have made the attic a livable space. In addition to the house, several early outbuildings remain. Thus the house is a fairly rare example of a residence of a wealthy landowner/industrialist of the late 18th century in Prince George's County and provides an interesting example of the owner's changes in taste and requirements toward the end of the 19th century. The Snowden family was prominent in iron manufacturing and had extensive landholdings in Prince George's County in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project File, PG-62-3

Prepared by: Rita Suffness (SHA), Christopher Owens (MNCPPC), Ruth Lockard (PGCHT)

Elizabeth Hannold October 18, 1994
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

... program concurrence: yes no not applicable
R. Andrews 10.19.94
Reviewer, NR program Date

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic, single family dwelling

Known Design Source: unknown

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # 62-3 Date c. 1798

Building Name Oaklands

Location Contee Road, Laurel, Maryland

Open to Public yes no

Oaklands is a two-and-one-half story, five bay, brick house. It is laid in Flemish bond with random glazed headers. The roof is mansard shaped with five shallow dormers. Very small, square windows located on either side of the flush gable-end chimney suggest that the roof line has been altered. The main entrance, centered on the south facade, is an elegant Georgian doorway. The recessed door has molded panels. The fanlight is divided diagonally into five lights and is capped by a molded arch with keystone. The whole is surrounded by compound, reeded pilasters which support the pedimented frontispiece. A two-story, two-bay brick wing extends from the east end of the main block.

The house was built before the Federal Direct Tax Assessment was made in 1798. That list describes the house and states that the owner was Richard Snowden. His descendants owned the property into the 20th century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Oaklands

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Contee Road

CITY, TOWN

Laurel

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Prince George's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Delores Staggers Pecor, et al

Telephone #: 776-5106

STREET & NUMBER

Contee Road

CITY, TOWN

Laurel

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prince George's County Courthouse

Liber #: 4380

Folio #: 121

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Bi-County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1969, 1973

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

PG:62-3

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ story brick house with glazed headers. The main (east) facade has five bays with the entrance in the center bay. The pediment, columns, and fanlight of the entrance are Federal. A two-brick wide string course separates the two main stories. The water table consists of bricks with a straight-edged chamfer. The mansard roof has five dormer windows. East and west facades are indential.

On the north facade there are windows on either side of the chimney stacks except for the first floor, which has only one window on the west side of the stack. On the south end, an addition obscures the original fenestration. On the first and second floors, all windows are 12/9. The 2/2 dormer windows are now as old as the house. Flat relieving arches carry the walls over the first and second floor window and door openings. The foundation is stone and there is a stone springhouse on the property.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PG: 62-3

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES C. 1798

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Richard Snowden

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house was built about 1798 by Richard Snowden, eldest son of Major Thomas Snowden of Montpelier and wife, Ann Ridgely, prior to his marriage to his first wife, Eliza Warfield. Their eldest daughter, Ann Louisa, inherited the estate after her father's death in 1823. She became the second wife of Lt. John Contee on Feb. 17, 1824. He died in 1839 and she died in 1840, leaving infant children who inherited the estate. The title to the property was taken up by the Bowling estate trustees in 1878; in 1908, John Domirck; 1912, Charles R. Hooff and wife,

Carlyle H. Hooff, who was a descendant of Caroline Eliza Snowden, the daughter of Major Thomas Snowden and wife, Ann Ridgely of Montpelier, who married Hon. Albert Fairfax of Virginia; 1921, John W. Staggers and wife.

In 1834, John Contee and his wife gave land to the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. Co.; 1839, Baltimore Turnpike; and in 1893 by Anna C. Contee and husband to P. G. Co. Commissioners for the Contee Rd.

NOTE: The house is endangered since the land is planned for industrial use. At the present time it is not being maintained by the owners, who use the property to stable and train horses. A section of the cornice has already fallen off the north end of the east facade.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Cook, William G. Montpelier and the Snowden Family. 1976.
 Bowie, Effie G. Across the Years in Prince George's Co. 1947.
 Scarborough, Katherine. Homes of the Cavaliers. 1930.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 49.03 acres

USGS Map-Laurel Quadrangle

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

DE BORO & SONS

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ruth Lockard

August 1978

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Prince George's Co. Historical and Cultural Trust

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

5807 84th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

New Carrollton

Maryland 20784

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

PG 03

NOMINATION FORM
for the

1700255304

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND OR HISTORIC:				
Oaklands				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
Contee Road				
CITY OR TOWN:				
Laurel				
STATE:		COUNTY:		
Md.		Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
				ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
				<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
J. W. Staggers				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
Contee Road				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Laurel			Md.	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Upper Marlboro			Md.	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 200/245				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
M-NCPPC Historic Sites Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969		<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
M-NCPPC				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
8787 Georgia Avenue				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Silver Spring			Md.	

II. 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 type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house was built by the Snowden family.

Other: The house is endangered since the land is planned for industrial use. At the present time, it is not being maintained by the owners, who use the property to stable and train horses. A section of the cornice has already fallen off the north end of the east facade.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 1/31/73

STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Md.

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. STATE Prince Georges COUNTY TOWN VICINITY #1 STREET NO.		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY P.G. 1	
ORIGINAL OWNER Snowden Family ORIGINAL USE Private dwelling PRESENT OWNER Mrs. Pecor PRESENT USE Same WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick NO. OF STORIES 2½		2. NAME Oaklands DATE OR PERIOD 1732 (according to STYLE Georgian owner) ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <p style="text-align: center;"> Gambrel roof changed to Mansard (like Rossborough Inn) Flemish bond, glazed headers, 3 stretchers in belt course Numerous outbuildings </p> <p style="text-align: right;">sources: Forman pg. 94 Bowie</p> <p style="text-align: left;">HABS - 7 1/2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Owner interested (invited us back to see interior) Good state of repair Contee family also involved originally </p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior			
<p style="text-align: center;">Contee Rd. - ¼ mile east of U.S. 1</p>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH <p style="text-align: right;">Color # 923</p>	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. Forman, Early Manors, 1954, pp. 83, 94 photo, floor plan Rinn Survey, p 178		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">KER</p> DATE OF RECORD	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

Gallagher, Trish
1988 *Ghosts and Haunted Houses of Maryland*.
Centerville, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, pp 62-64.

PG: 62-3
*Laurel's
Most Haunted House*

At last count, there were five ghosts at the old Georgian mansion called Oaklands, which was built from ballast bricks in the 1700s by Richard Snowden. Located on forty acres in the town of Laurel in northern Prince George's County, the house once stood on thousands of acres. Snowden built it for his daughter as a wedding gift and over time it passed into the hands of other families.

In the 1920s Oaklands was purchased by Mr. Staggart, the grandfather of Pam Pecor Unger and John Pecor, both of whom now live on the property with their spouses. Pam remembers having first heard stories of the old mansion's ghosts from her grandmother, who claimed that some people had seen the spirit of Richard Contee, one of the home's earlier owners, on Oaklands' grounds. When Pam was a teenager, her family came to live in the house and she began to notice strange things about it as soon as they moved in. Between nine and ten o'clock each night, the young girl would distinctly hear from her bedroom the sounds of a horse galloping up the driveway, the front door of the house opening and closing as if someone were entering, and footsteps in the hallway. The sounds would then occur in reverse after a brief period, until Pam heard the sound of the horse's hooves galloping away. Often, she would notice that a perfumelike smell of apple blossoms permeated her room and she could sometimes hear the sound of a

Laurel's Most Haunted House

rocking chair rocking back and forth in the third-floor bedroom above hers.

It was also in her bedroom that she had her first glimpse of the ghost of a young child. Having just finished reading in bed before turning off her bed light and going to sleep, Pam suddenly noticed that a little boy of about five was seated on the edge of her bed. The boy was close enough for Pam to see his blue eyes and notice that he was dressed in old-fashioned clothes—a light brown suit with shorts and a rounded shirt collar. Unalarmed, she watched him and waited for him to go away, but found that he was just as intent on watching her watching him. Finally, Pam recalls, she decided to turn off her light and go to sleep. She has since seen the same boy three or four other times in the house and believes that he might be the ghost of one of the Contee family's many children. John Pecor and a blacksmith once employed by the family have also seen the boy.

In addition to the child, several people, including Pam's mother, have seen the ghost of a large black woman. Pam herself has seen the apparition of a black man dressed in the work clothes of a much earlier era. Noting that Oaklands was once a working farm with over 200 slaves, Pam feels that these two individuals might have once worked at the mansion.

John Pecor has a ghost story that will rival most in its unusualness. About seven years ago John was outside the house when he noticed a very attractive young woman in a long dress beckoning to him from across the front lawn. Mystified, he followed her and eventually was led to an area near one of the terraces. The strange woman stopped and, pointing down toward the grass at her feet, disappeared. When John looked at the place she had indicated, he found a gold jewelry chain. He later took the chain to a local jeweler who identified its material and workmanship as those of the eighteenth century. John, who has seen the woman again within the past year, believes, as does his sister, that the woman had been concerned with trying to clear herself of some past misdeed connected with the chain. Consequently, she had been determined to show

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someone where the jewelry was.

Other supernatural phenomena at the mansion have been of a more frightening nature. While sleeping in the master bedroom, Pam's husband, Bill Unger, was awakened by the sound of heavy, dragging footsteps. Sensing rather than seeing something, Bill could hear the sound of someone's breathing drawing closer to him until the presence actually was bending over him. Unable to move or shout, he lay immobilized for an indefinite period of time while the terrifying thing stubbornly maintained its position. At last, Bill was able to poke Pam, who was sleeping next to him, into wakefulness. As soon as she awoke, the presence was gone.

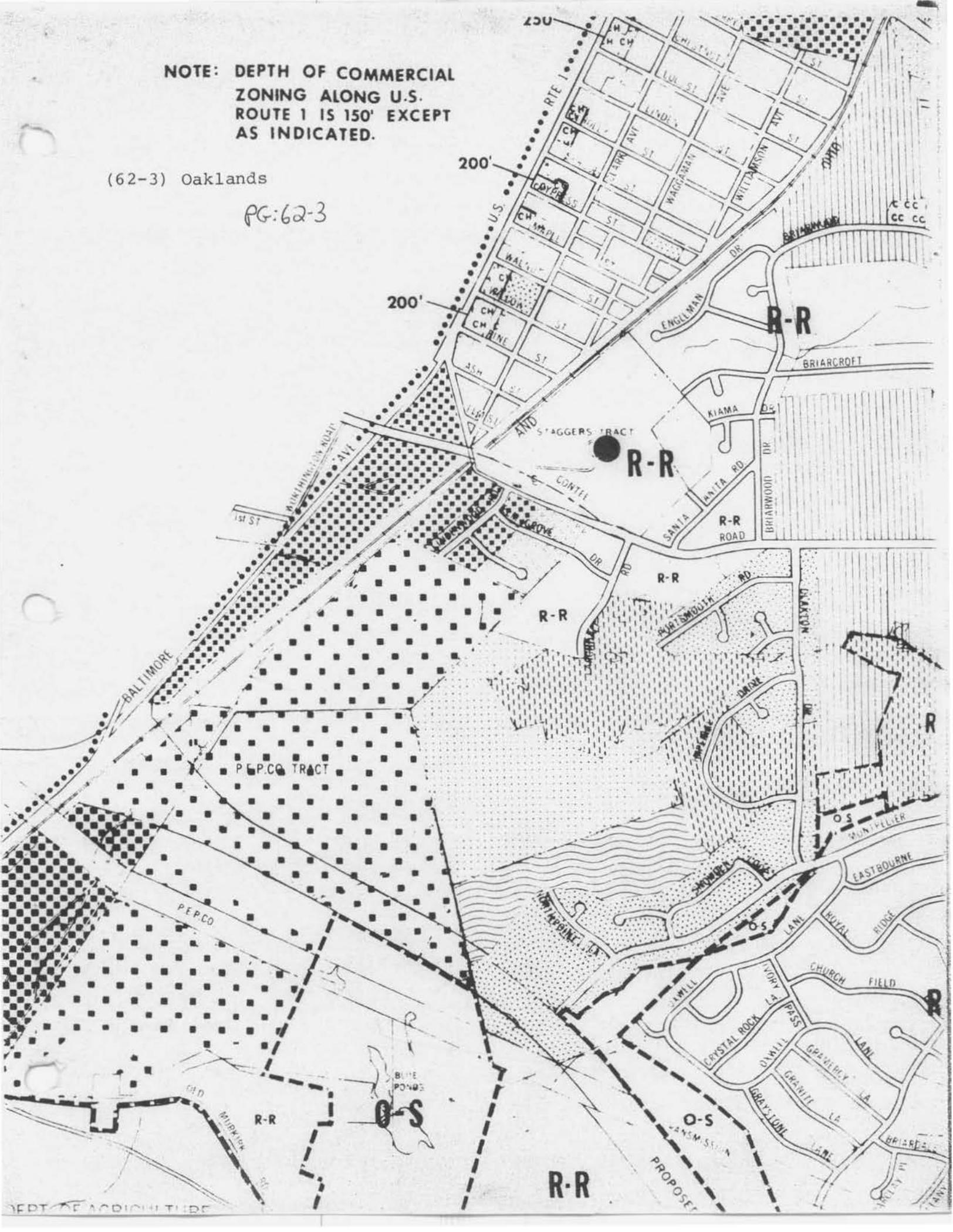
Oaklands has had other not-so-pleasant happenings. Both John and Pam have heard the sound of a woman crying somewhere in the house. Several people have heard a terrible scream coming from a wooded area on Oaklands' grounds. The same woods were the scene of a murder over fifty years ago when a local Laurel woman was killed there. Her assailant was never found. Other times, Oaklands' residents just have the strange sensation of being watched. One evening Bill was out near the stables when he swore that someone was following him as he walked on a path in the area.

The Ungers and Pecors have learned to live with their ghostly visitors gracefully, however, and Pam has even succeeded in putting an end to one particularly annoying ghostly habit. Irritated that someone seemed to take great pleasure in interrupting her activities whenever she was preparing to take a bath or shower by ringing an old farm bell outside the house and making her go down to see who it was, Pam took down the farm bell. Now she's satisfied that she has some control over at least a few of her home's ghostly happenings.

NOTE: DEPTH OF COMMERCIAL ZONING ALONG U.S. ROUTE 1 IS 150' EXCEPT AS INDICATED.

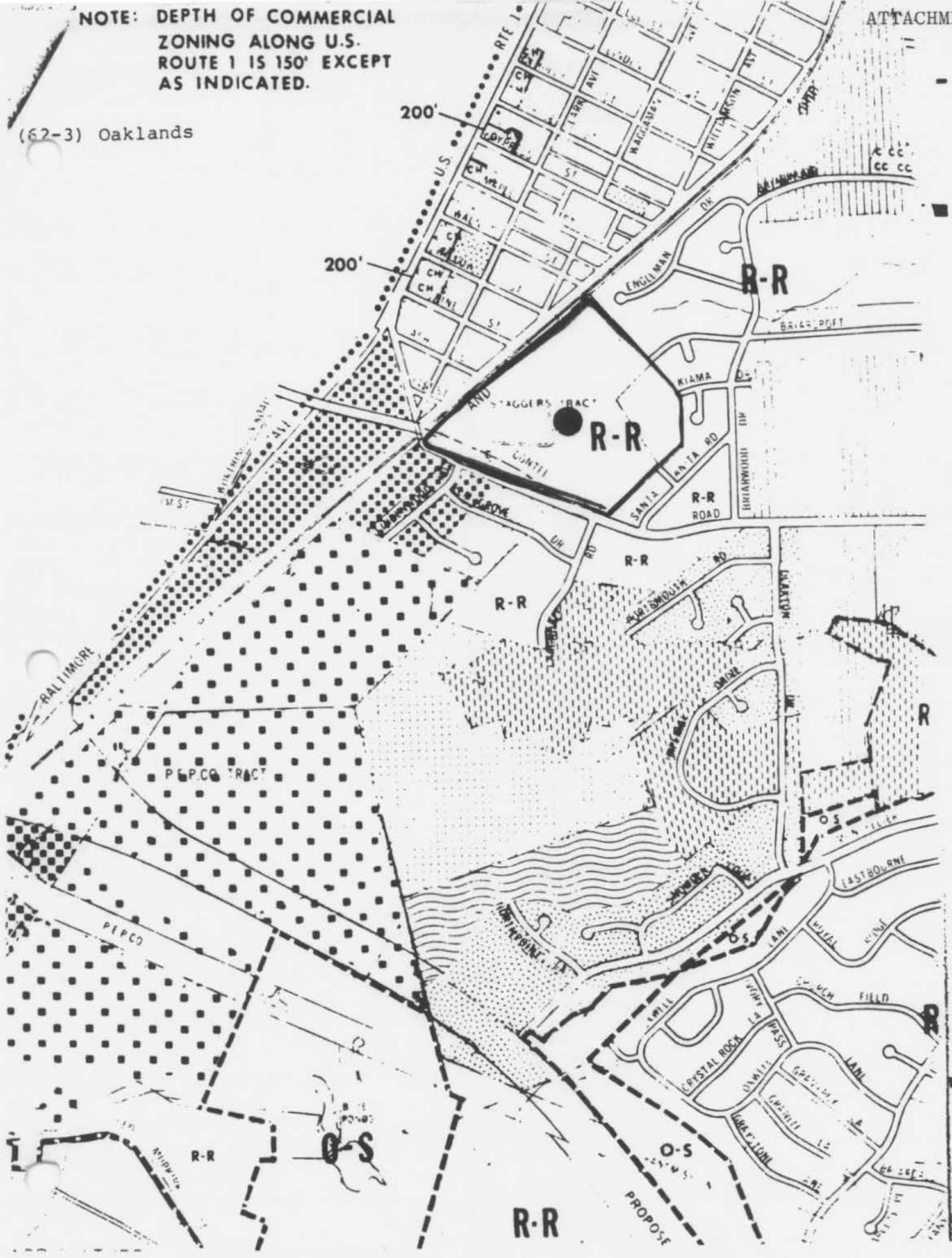
(62-3) Oaklands

PG:62-3



NOTE: DEPTH OF COMMERCIAL ZONING ALONG U.S. ROUTE 1 IS 150' EXCEPT AS INDICATED.

(62-3) Oaklands





NAME OAKLANDS

#62-3

LOCATION CONTEE Rd. NEAR RT. 1 CAUREL, Md

FACADE E.

PHOTO TAKEN 1/26/73 M. DWYER

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NAME OAKLANDS - SPRINGHOUSE

#62-3

LOCATION CONTEE RD. NEAR RT. 1, LAUREL, Md

FACADE N.W.

PHOTO TAKEN 1/26/73 M. DWYER



PG: 62-3

Oaklands

Southwing LK_g

N.E



PG: 62-3
Oaklands
S.W. corner

10/10/10
10/10/10



PG: 62-3

Oaklands

outbldg. S.E. of dwelling

~~PG: 62-3~~



NAME "OAKLANDS" - MEATHOUSE

#62-3

LOCATION CONTEE RD. NEAR RTE. 1, LAUREL, MD.

FACADE S.W.

PHOTO TAKEN 1/26/73 M. DWYER



- 1 PG 6208
- 2 8314 Conlee Rd, Oak 2pt,
- 3 Prince Georges Co, MD
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/97
- 6 MD S 420
- 7 Barns - courtyard, looking SW
- 8 1 of 6



1 P5 52-3

2 8314 Cortez Rd. Oakland,

3 Prince Georges Co. MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5198

6 MD SHPO

7 Stable, SE corner

8 2 of 6



- 1 PG 62 B
- 2 8314 Contee Rd Duxbury
- 3 Prince Georges Co. MD
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 0198
- 6 MUSEPO
- 7 Gambrel barn, N elevation
- 8 3056



1 PG-62-3

2 8314 Cortee Rd, Oakland

3 Prince Georges Co, MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 MD SHPO

7 Shed + gambrel Roof barn, looking EAST

8 4 of 6



1 PG 167 3.

2 8314 Conlee Rd, Oakland's

3 Prince Georges Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/78

6 MD SHPO

7 Shed + machine shed, looking E

8 5 of 6



1 PE 62-3

2 8314 Contee Rd, Oaklands

3 Prince Georges Co. MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 MD SHPO

7 Machine Shed, East elevation

8 6 of 6

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