

Capsule Summary
SM-742
Patuxent Park Subdivision
Lexington Park vicinity
Private

1947

In order to accommodate the growing numbers of workers associated with the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, residential developers purchased large tracts of land outside of the base gates and began to construct large subdivisions. Drastically different from any housing community in the rural landscape of St. Mary's County, these developments were characterized by sidewalk-lined curvilinear roads, even setbacks, and repetitive house designs.

One of the most extensive of these subdivisions was Patuxent Park. Begun in 1947 by Tell W. Nicolet of the State Planning Commission, Patuxent Park was slated to include 216 acres and over 500 houses. Taking inspiration from the nearby Naval Air Station, Nicolet named all of the roads after famous aircraft carriers such as Wasp, Saratoga, Princeton, Midway, Enterprise, and Kearsarge. Two story brick and frame houses line these narrow streets. Although these dwellings have been modified since their initial construction, the overall design and feeling of the development remains intact. Further research is warranted for one of the county's first subdivisions.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-742

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Patuxent Park Subdivision

other

2. Location

street and number N side of Great Mills Road just S of its int. with Shangri La Lane __ not for publication

city, town Lexington Park __ vicinity

county St. Mary's

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name This resource contains several hundred houses under just as many owners.

street and number telephone N/a

city, town Lexington Park state Md zip code 20653

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel TM-43A, P-?

city, town Leonardtown liber CBG 18 folio 240

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>400+</u> <u>?</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u> </u> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u> </u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<u>400+</u> <u>?</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
				<u>0</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-742

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Patuxent Park Subdivision, located in Lexington Park, Maryland, is located on the north side of Great Mills Road just south of its intersection with Shangri La Lane. Consisting of approximately 200 acres, the subdivision is characterized by curvilinear and narrow roads, small lots that range in size from 50,000 to 100,000 square feet, and repetitive tract housing designs. The property features mildly undulating topography and is bounded to the south by Great Mills Road to the south, commercial tracts to the east and west, and wooded tracts to the north.

First construction of the Patuxent Park Subdivision began in 1947. Following the designs of subdivisions across the United States, the development created a whole network of narrow curvilinear roads and cul-de-sacs lined with two-story frame and brick tract houses that followed repetitive design models. Setbacks were evenly adhered to and sidewalks were placed beside curbed roads. Some hierarchies among the various sections of the development remain. Some lots, for instance, are large enough to accommodate garages and driveways, while other lots are too small forcing occupants to park vehicles on the streets. Although almost all of the houses have been modified since their initial construction, the overall design and layout of the development remains intact thereby creating an accurate representation of mid-twentieth century subdivision.

Due to the large size of the development, not all roads were traveled and not all resources were seen. Resource counts and acreage are only estimates.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-742

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1947 **Architect/Builder** Tell W. Nicolet, engineer

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

In order to accommodate the growing numbers of workers associated with the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, residential developers purchased large tracts of land outside of the base gates and began to construct large subdivisions. Drastically different from any housing community in the rural landscape of St. Mary's County, these developments were characterized by sidewalk-lined curvilinear roads, even setbacks, and repetitive house designs.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-742

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge, Md: Self-published, 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>see description</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>see description</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Lexington Park</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24 000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Patuxent Park is bounded to the south by Great Mills Road, commercial tracts to the east and west, and wooded tracts to the north. A more specific description of the property boundaries can be found in St. Mary's County Land Records Liber CBG 18, Folio 240.

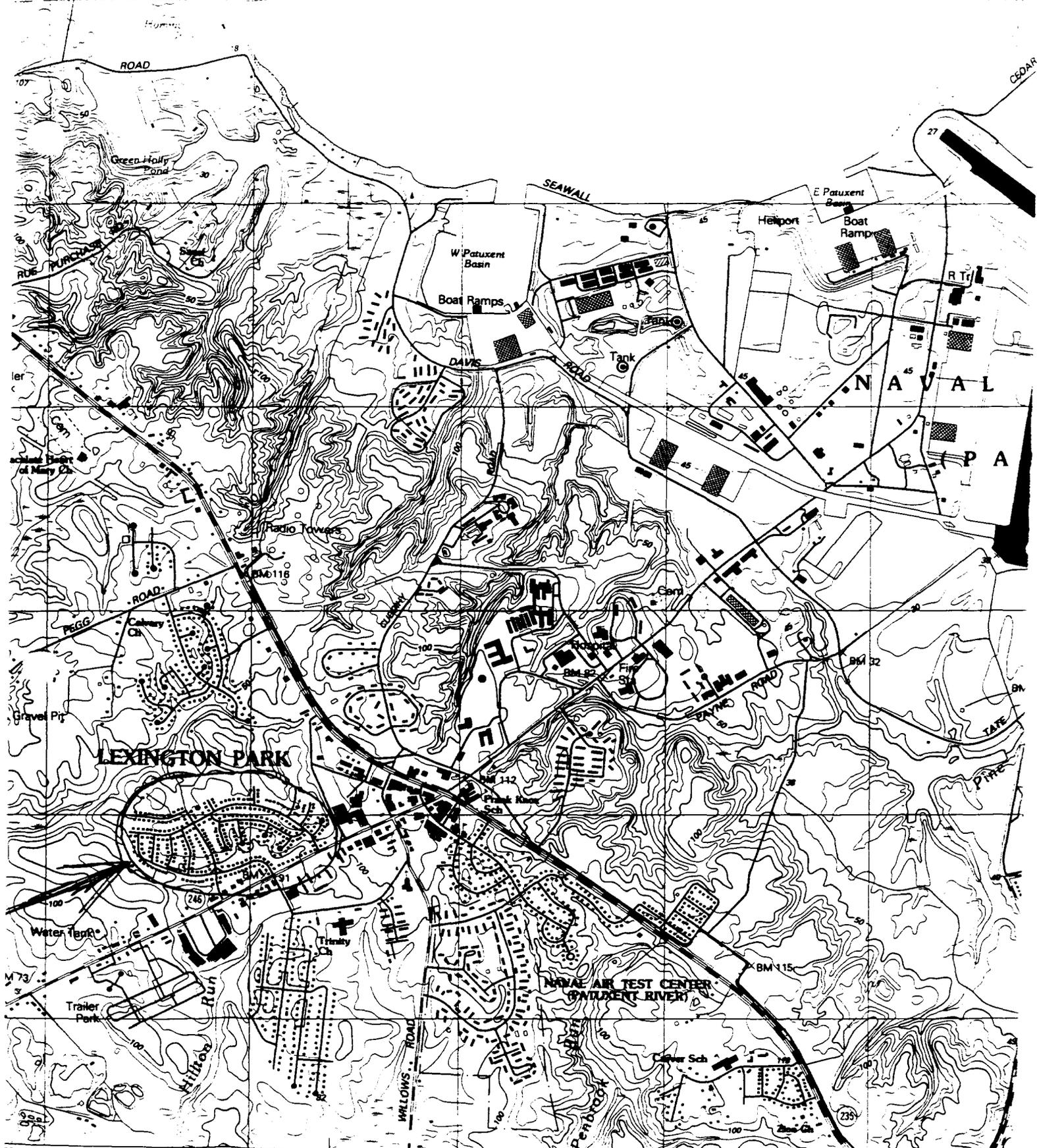
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	August, 2000
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

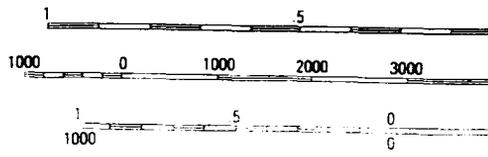
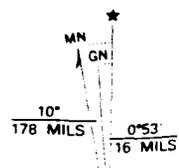


(ST. MARYS CITY)
5760 III NW

ST. JAMES 4.1 MI.
RIDGE (MD. 51) 10 MI.

SCALE 1:24 000

SM-742
Patuxent Park Subdivision
Lexington Park
St. Mary's County
Lexington Park Quad



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



SM-742

Patuxent Park Subdivision

27 May's Camp 1/1

2010 - 2012

2013 - 2014

2015 - 2016

2017 - 2018

2019 - 2020