

35/12-94A 8940 Jones Bridge Road

Woodend

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Hubbard, Acting Chief
Division of Development Services and Regulation
Department of Environmental Protection

FROM: Gwen Marcus, Historic Preservation Coordinator
Design, Zoning, and Preservation Division
M-NCPPC

SUBJECT: Historic Area Work Permit

DATE: 5-2-94

The Montgomery Historic Preservation Commission has reviewed the attached application for a Historic Area Work Permit. The application was:

+ Approved _____ Denied.

_____ Approved with Conditions: _____

The Building Permit for this project should be issued conditional upon adherence to the approved Historic Area Work Permit.

Applicant: Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States
Address: 3940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase INC.



Historic Preservation Commission

51 Monroe Street, Suite 1001, Rockville, Maryland 20850
217-3625

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT

TAX ACCOUNT # 53-0233715
 Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic
 NAME OF PROPERTY OWNER States, Inc. TELEPHONE NO. 301-652-9188
 (Contract/Purchaser) _____ (Include Area Code)
 ADDRESS 8940 Jones Mill Rd., Chevy Chase MD 20815
 CITY STATE ZIP
 CONTRACTOR Instant Sign Center TELEPHONE NO. 301-933-3191
 CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION NUMBER _____
 PLANS PREPARED BY Precision Surveying & Consulting TELEPHONE NO. 301-474-4800
 Services (Include Area Code)
 REGISTRATION NUMBER MD 171

LOCATION OF BUILDING/PREMISE
 House Number 8940 Street Jones Mill Road
 Town/City Chevy Chase Election District _____
 Nearest Cross Street Woodhollow Drive
 Lot _____ Block _____ Subdivision _____
 Liber _____ Folio _____ Parcel 774, Map HP 561

1A. TYPE OF PERMIT ACTION: (circle one)
 Construct Extend/Add Alter/Renovate Repair Circle One: A/C Slab Room Addition
 Wreck/Raze Move Install Revocable Revision Porch Deck Fireplace Shed Solar Woodburning Stove
 Fence/Wall (complete Section 4) Other sign
 1B. CONSTRUCTION COSTS ESTIMATE \$ 1400
 1C. IF THIS IS A REVISION OF A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIVE PERMIT SEE PERMIT # _____
 1D. INDICATE NAME OF ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANY Peopco
 1E. IS THIS PROPERTY A HISTORICAL SITE? yes

PART TWO: COMPLETE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND EXTEND/ADDITIONS
 2A. TYPE OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL 2B. TYPE OF WATER SUPPLY
 01 () WSSC 02 () Septic 01 () WSSC 02 () Well
 03 () Other _____ 03 () Other _____

PART THREE: COMPLETE ONLY FOR FENCE/RETAINING WALL
 4A. HEIGHT _____ feet _____ inches
 4B. Indicate whether the fence or retaining wall is to be constructed on one of the following locations:
 1. On party line/Property line _____
 2. Entirely on land of owner _____
 3. On public right of way/easement _____ (Revocable Letter Required).

I hereby certify that I have the authority to make the foregoing application, that the application is correct, and that the construction will comply with plans approved by all agencies listed and I hereby acknowledge and accept this to be a condition for the issuance of this permit.

Kenneth W. Nicholls Kenneth W. Nicholls April 15, 1998
Signature of owner or authorized agent (agent must have signature notarized on back) Date

APPROVED _____ For Chairperson, Historic Preservation Commission
 DISAPPROVED _____ Signature _____ Date _____

APPLICATION/PERMIT NO. _____ FILING FEE: \$ _____
 DATE FILED: _____ PERMIT FEE: \$ _____
 DATE ISSUED: _____ BALANCE \$ _____
 OWNERSHIP CODE: _____ RECEIPT NO: _____ FEE WAIVED: _____

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

Sworn to before me and subscribed in
my presence this 5th day of April 1994

Muriel A. Keri Notary

MURIEL S. ROBINSON
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MARYLAND
Commission Expires December 3, 1995

MURIEL S. ROBINSON
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MARYLAND
Commission Expires December 3, 1995

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Address: 8940 Jones Mill Road Meeting Date: 4/27/94
Resource: Woodend Review: HAWP/Alteration
Case Number: 35/12-94A Tax Credit: No
Public Notice: 4/13/94 Report Date: 4/20/94
Applicant: Audubon Naturalist Society Staff: Nancy Witherell
PROPOSAL: Install sign RECOMMEND: Approve

The HAWP application, filed retroactively, is for the installation of a wooden sign measuring 4' x 8' on square posts with finials. On Jones Mill Road approximately 350 feet from the gatehouse near the driveway entrance to the property, the double-faced sign, placed perpendicular to the road, has both permanent and changeable lettering.

STAFF DISCUSSION

The sign does not interfere with the pair of signs at the driveway that state "Audubon Naturalist Society" and the name of the estate and address. The newer sign is evidently meant to be seen as people drive along Jones Mill Road and to provide information about upcoming public programs.

In material, form, and dimensions, it is similar to the earlier signs and does not interfere with the views to or from the historic property or the character and openness of the landscape.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Commission find the sign compatible with the character of the house and landscape and consistent with the purposes of Chapter 24A, particularly 24A-8(b)1:

The proposal will not substantially alter the exterior features of an historic site, or historic resource within an historic district;

and with Standard #2:

The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.



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- 2A. TYPE OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL
 01 () WSSC 02 () Septic
 03 () Other _____
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 3. On public right of way/easement _____ (Revocable Letter Required).

I hereby certify that I have the authority to make the foregoing application, that the application is correct, and that the construction will comply with plans approved by all agencies listed and I hereby acknowledge and accept this to be a condition for the issuance of this permit.

Kenneth W. Nicholls Kenneth W. Nicholls April 5, 1994
 Signature of owner or authorized agent (agent must have signature notarized on back) Date

APPROVED _____ For Chairperson, Historic Preservation Commission

DISAPPROVED _____ Signature _____ Date _____

APPLICATION/PERMIT NO: _____ FILING FEE: \$ _____
 DATE FILED: _____

2. Statement of Project Intent:

Short, written statement that describes:

- a. the proposed design of the new work, in terms of scale, massing, materials, details, and landscaping:

The sign is wood; the middle three lines are replaceable type.
Landscaping and plantings around the sign will be completed
this spring.

- b. the relationship of this design to the existing resource(s):

The design of the sign is compatible with the existing
structures.

- c. the way in which the proposed work conforms to the specific requirements of the Ordinance (Chapter 24A):

The project is appropriate because it does not substantially
alter the area.

3. Project Plan:

Site and environmental setting, drawn to scale (staff will advise on area required). Plan to include:

- a. the scale, north arrow, and date;
- b. dimensions and heights of all existing and proposed structures;
- c. brief description and age of all structures (e.g., 2 story, frame house c.1900);
- d. grading at no less than 5' contours (contour maps can be obtained from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring; telephone 495-4610); and
- e. site features such as walks, drives, fences, ponds, streams, trash dumpsters, mechanical equipment, and landscaping.

4. Tree Survey: If applicable, tree survey indicating location, caliper and species of all trees within project area which are 6" in caliper or larger (including those to be removed).

5. Design Features: Schematic construction plans drawn to scale at 1/8" = 1'-0", or 1/4" = 1'-0", indicating location, size and general type of walls, window and door openings, roof profiles, and other fixed features of both the existing resource(s) and the proposed work.
6. Facades: Elevation drawings, drawn to scale at 1/8" = 1'0", or 1/4" = 1'0", clearly indicating proposed work in relation to existing construction and, when appropriate, context. All materials and fixtures proposed for exterior must be noted on the elevations drawings. An existing and a proposed elevation drawing of each facade affected by the proposed work is required.
7. Materials Specifications: General description of materials and manufactured items proposed for incorporation in the work of the project.
8. Photos of Resources: Clearly labeled color photographic prints of each facade of existing resource, including details of the affected portions. All labels should be placed on the front of photographs.
9. Photos of Context: Clearly labeled color photographic prints of the resource as viewed from the public right-of-way and from adjoining properties, and of the adjoining and facing properties.

Color renderings and models are encouraged, but not generally required.

Applicant shall submit 2 copies of all materials in a format no larger than 8 1/2" x 14"; black and white photocopies of color photos are acceptable with the submission of one original photo.

10. Addresses of Adjacent Property Owners. For all projects, provide an accurate list of adjacent and confronting property owners (not tenants), including names, addresses, and zip codes. This list should include the owners of all lots or parcels which adjoin the parcel in question, as well as the owner(s) of lot(s) or parcel(s) which lie directly across the street/highway from the parcel in question. If you need assistance obtaining this information, call the Department of Assessments and Taxation, at 279-1355.

1. Name Please see attached lists
 Address _____
 City/Zip _____
2. Name _____
 Address _____
 City/Zip _____

MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
SIGN REVIEW BOARD
250 HUNGERFORD DRIVE, 2ND FLOOR, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850-4153
PHONE: (301) 217-6280

CASE NO. 199400037

CERTIFICATION OF NOTICE TO AFFECTED PARTIES

Sign Review Board
250 Hungerford Drive, 2nd Floor, Station 5
Rockville, Maryland 20850-4153

Note: The applicant shall supply the names and certify that notice has been sent to those parties to whom notice is required and shall furnish such Certification of Notice and a listing of the persons to whom notice has been sent to the Sign Review Board at least (15) days prior to the hearing.

ADDRESS OF PROJECT: 8940 Jones Mill Rd Chevy Chase 20815

DATE NOTICES SENT: 2-25-94

SIGNED	<u>Kenneth W. Nicholls</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
	Print Name	Signature
	<u>(301) 652-9189</u>	<u>2-24-94</u>
	Telephone	Date

OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESSES:

- 1. 7-502-P672 Charlotte R. Sykes, 9001 Jones Mill Rd.
- 2. 7-119-14A-6 Gabriel J. + J.S. Hanna, 9000 Jones Mill Rd.
- 3. ⁶⁵⁴⁻⁴⁰¹⁵ 7-119-15A-6- William E. + J.B. Rutsch, 9001 LeVelle Dr.
- 4. 7-119-7A-4- Bruce S. + D.T. Preble, 9000 LeVelle Drive
- 5. ⁶⁵⁴⁻⁶¹²³ 7-119-8A-4- Stewart A. + C.R. Grubman, 9002 LeVelle Drive
- 6. 7-119-6-4- Timothy D. + H.L. Lipman, 3214 Woodhollow Drive
- 7. ⁶⁵²⁻⁶⁸²⁹ 7-119-9-1- ^{Yasmin} William P. + R.A. Pantou, 3213 Woodhollow Drive
- 8. 7-119-7-1 William D. + A.D. Bokere, 9113 Brierly Rd
- 9. ⁹¹³⁻⁵⁹⁵² 7-119-6-1 Charles M. Kogod, 9111 Brierly Rd
- 10. 7-119-5-1 Theodore J. + R.R. Schatz 9109 Brierly Rd
- 11. 7-119-4-1 Stuart + F. Eizenstat, 9107 Brierly Rd
- 12. ⁶⁵⁶⁻³⁴⁶⁴ 7-119-3-1 ^{1/25/95} Samuel B. + E. Rubin, 9105 Brierly Rd.

(A)

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SIGNED Kenneth W. Nicholls
Print Name
(301) 652-9188
Telephone

[Signature]
Signature
2-24-94
Date . . .

OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESSES:

1. 7-119-2-1 - Paul F. + J.A. CAVAGHAN, 9103 Brierly Rd
2. 7-119-1-1 - Edward + F. Meltz, 9101 Brierly Rd.
3. 7-90-PT20-D - Bert + A.M. Kelly, 9018 Brierly Rd
4. 7-90-PT20-D - Stephen A. + K.M. Drake, 9012 Brierly Rd
5. 7-90-D-19 - John R. + Mc. Warfield, 9010 Brierly Rd
6. 7-90-D-18 - Joseph E. + Helen E. Kelly, 9006 Brierly Rd
7. 7-90-D-17^{656-7cc7 Jean} - Robert F. Kreimeyer, 9002 Brierly Rd
8. 7-90-D-16⁴⁵¹⁻¹²⁵⁶ - Kalman F. + J.M. Salata, 3401 Inverness Dr.
9. 7-90-E-1 Robert F. Kreimeyer, Jr., 3400 Inverness Dr.
10. 7-90-E-2 John J. + M.E. McKean, 8922 Brierly Rd
11. 7-90-E-4 Anthony J.J. + M.A. Froelich, 8918 Brierly
12. 7-90-E-5 - Delfin S. + Ma. Go, 8912 Brierly Rd

(5)

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Signature
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Date

OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESSES:

1. 7-90-E-6 Paul Devinsky + Mary E. Signorella, 8908 Brierly Rd
2. 7-90-E-7 John N. + F.A. Simiratzakis, 3401 Kenilworth Dr
3. 7-90-F-1 Robert Desimone + Leslie G. Ungerblicker, 8828 Brierly Rd
4. 7-90-F-2 - Thomas E. + B.G. Corbin, 8826 Brierly Rd
5. 7-90-F-3 Joseph E. + B.F. Quillon, 8824 Brierly Rd
6. 7-90-H-6 Dr. John J. + M.C. Boron, 3500 Dundee
7. 7-90-H-11 Stanley + J. Sporkin, 8816 Brierly Rd
8. 7-502-1-9 Howard L. Rosenberg, 8816 Altimate Lane
9. 7-502-2-9 - Joseph M. + T.A. Sita, 8819 Altimate Lane
10. 7-502-2-16 Scott Smith Company, 3212 Flushing Meadows Terr.
11. (Scott Smith Companies, Inc. 330-M-N Stonestreet Ave.
12. Rockville, Md 20850)

All addresses are Chevy Chase, MD 20815 unless otherwise noted.

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Print Name

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Signature

(301) 652-9188
Telephone

2-24-94
Date

OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESSES:

1. 7-502-2-17 - Scott Smith Co. - 3213 Flushing Meadow Terrace
2. (Scott Smith Co. Inc., 330 m. N. Stone Street Ave., Rockville, Md, 20850)
3. 7-502-2-18 Thomas Bilday, 3211 Flushing Meadow Terrace
4. (Thomas Bilday, 16201 Beavenor Pl #818, Rockville, Md 20852)
5. 7-502-2-23 Scott Smith Co. - 3201 Flushing Meadow Terrace
6. (Scott Smith Co. Inc. 330 m. N. Stone Street Ave., Rockville, Md 20850)
7. 7-502-23 E.C. Holly oak LLC, 3102 Black Chestnut Lane
8. 7-502-24 E.C. Holly oak LLC 3103 Black Chestnut Lane
9. 7-502-25 E.C. Holly oak LLC 3105 Black Chestnut Lane
10. 7-502-26 E.C. Holly oak LLC 3107 Black Chestnut Lane
11. 7-502-18 E.C. Holly oak LLC 3108 Black Chestnut Lane
12. (E.C. Holly oak LLC, 16029 Comprint Circle, Gaithersburg, Md 20878)
Dickie Asibley - 948-4747
657-9225

(7)

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Print Name Signature
(301) 652-9188 2-24-94
Telephone Date

OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESSES:

1. 7-502-14 A - Barbara Winkler, 8809 Jones Mill Rd
2. 7-502-15 A Henry F & L.W. Krautwurst, 8811 Jones Mill Rd.
3. 7-502 P759. MNCP & PC Donald Cochran, Director, Park Dept.
4. Parkside Headquarters, 9500 Brunett Ave., Silver Spring MD 20910
5. 7-502 N909. NCCSPA Peter Preston 9020 Brierly Rd.
6. Coquelin Run Citizens Assoc. Gott Krautwurst, 8811 Jones Mill Rd.
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
- 5 12. _____

SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC AREA WORK PERMIT
REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

1. WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

a. Description of existing structure(s) and environmental setting, including their historical features and significance:

A mansion designed by John Russell Pope and constructed in 1928 is approximately 1000 feet west of the sign. The Gatehouse (to the right of the driveway, designated 'Whittell' on the Woodend map) is 345 feet away from the sign. Forty acres of grounds are managed as a nature sanctuary and teaching laboratory for ANS environmental education classes. Thirty-two acres are west of Jones Mill Rd., eight acres are east of Jones Mill and adjoin Rock Creek Park. Woodend is an example of Georgian Revival domestic architecture. (See Welcome to Woodend: A historical tour)

b. General description of project and its impact on the historic resource(s), the environmental setting, and, where applicable, the historic district:

The project is a 4' x 8' double-faced wooden sign, erected close to Jones Mill Rd. to provide identification from the road to the ANS property, Woodend. The impact on the existing Gatehouse, 345 feet away, and on the mansion which is approximately 1000 feet away, is negligible. The sign has been constructed; ANS is requesting retroactive approval from the Historic Preservation Commission. The Sign Review Board has given conditional approval pending approval from the H.P.C.

Welcome to Woodend: A historical tour

The Audubon Naturalist Society, founded in 1897 as the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, is a local, independent environmental education and conservation organization.

ANS sponsors many programs and activities throughout the year both in the Washington metropolitan region and beyond.

Among them are:

- *Classes for children and adults*
- *Teacher training*
- *Field trips and forays for adults*
- *Natural History Field Studies*
- *School programs*
- *Audubon Lecture Series*
- *Birdseed sales, Holiday Fair, Spring Fling, and other events*
- *Audubon Naturalist stores*

ANS' Woodend headquarters include 40 acres of woods, fields, and lawn. Woodend was the gift of Mrs. Chester

Wells, who died in 1967.

Since 1969, when ANS moved its headquarters to Woodend, the estate has been transformed from an elegant country house with formal gardens to bustling offices and a nature education center.

The acquisition of Woodend also transformed ANS, giving it a large and centrally located headquarters and making possible the expansion of programs and membership.

Woodend, listed on the National

Register of Historic Places and on Montgomery County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation, has a rich human and architectural history that began long before Marion Dixon Wells approached John Russell Pope to be architect of her estate. This brochure is designed to provide the visitor with information about that history.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Woodend and that you return to take part in some of our many programs and activities. ■



Woodend Before the Wellises

By Edith Ray Saul

The area surrounding Woodend was the hunting grounds for Algonquin Indians in 1632 when King Charles I of England granted the Province of Maryland to Cecil Calvert, 2d Lord Baltimore. For 144 years this feudal fief remained the personal property of the Calvert family who granted it, parcel by parcel, to favored individuals as the wave of settlement swept forth from the tidewater, across the fall line, onto the Piedmont plateau.

The reaches of Rock Creek were not considered safe for settlement until late in the seventeenth century. In 1688 William Joseph, a prominent figure in the Calvert establishment, patented 4,220 acres north and east of Rock Creek which included what is now Wheaton, Garrett Park, Kensington, Forest Glen, and Linden. A large portion of this grant across the creek from Woodend was held until Civil War times by the Carroll and Brent families.

In 1699, ten years after the Joseph Park grant, 1,400 acres along the southwestern bank of the creek were patented by John Courts of Charles County who entered his property on the land records as Clean Drinking.

In colonial days each land patent was entered at the Land Office and on the Rent Rolls under a name given to it by the patentee. [The metes and bounds of patents and deeds always describe the real property as beginning at a certain bounded tree, often referring to abutting land by name if any existed and always mentioning any creeks or streams.]

The name Clean Drinking was obviously chosen in honor of the unusually copious spring that can still be seen in the parklands between Susanna Lane and the creek. In 1978 the Colonial Dames placed a marker on the spring with ceremonies commencing at Woodend and proceeding to the spring house around which they planted lilacs, offspring of the bushes that grew in great profusion around the old manor house.

If a complete chain-of-title were compiled for the Woodend real property, ownership would be found to originate with the Courts [some references use the name "Coates"] patent of 1699.

Elizabeth Courts [Coates] married a local judge, Charles Jones, about 1750 and they built the house that is remembered by long-time residents as situated about where the nursing home stands today at 8700 Jones Mill Road.

[Jess Fant Evans wrote in an article in the *Washington Star* in 1937: "In Browning's 'Americans of Royal Descent,' in the Library of Congress, may be noted concerning Col. John Coates, Clean Drinking's first patentee, 'He was a planter in St. George's Hundred, Charles County, Maryland (from which Montgomery County, Maryland, has since been carved out), a Burgess and a member of the Maryland Assembly for many years, and being recommended to the King as a good, honest, substantial Protestant, was appointed a

(Continued on back page)

Mrs. Wells and her days at Woodend

Editor's note: *The late Irston Barnes was President of the Audubon Naturalist Society at the time that Mrs. Chester Wells was considering bequeathing Woodend to the Society. It was largely through Barnes' efforts that Woodend became the headquarters of the Audubon Naturalist Society.*

By Irston Barnes

During the early fall of 1963 I was invited by Admiral and Mrs. Spears, loyal members of our Audubon Society, to accompany them to Woodend. Mrs. Chester Wells had expressed a desire to meet our Audubon Society, and her Thursday afternoon at home seemed an appropriate occasion to present me as a representative sample of the Society.

The Thursday afternoon tea turned out to be cocktails, and the occasion was sprightly and entertaining. Mrs. Wells directed the conversation to the liveliest topics of the day, spiced any dull moments with her own provocative observations, and gave everyone a sense of having shared in a most interesting exchange of ideas. As we were leaving, Mrs. Wells invited me to call again, and set a time about three weeks hence.

I went away charmed with Mrs. Wells as a hospitable and spirited hostess, and tremendously impressed with what I saw in passing of a splendidly furnished and spacious home, filled with treasures from around the world, and with the beautiful gardens. But I was puzzled that there had been no mention of the Audubon Society, even when other guests had left. However, the Speares reassured me by saying that Mrs. Wells would not have invited me again "if I had not passed her first tests."

My next visit to Mrs. Wells established a pattern. Again there was no mention of the Audubon Society. The conversation took on the characteristics of a rapier duel. Every position I took, Mrs. Wells was of another opinion. Clearly she enjoyed lively talk about the world, was bored by easy agreements, and had no patience whatever with gossip.

Throughout the winter and early spring, I continued to visit Mrs. Wells on invitation, sometimes for drinks, sometimes for dinner, sometimes for tea. Then in the early spring she began to ask about the Audubon Society, its activities and goals, how it would use a property bequest. She had been receiving our magazine, and she had become acquainted with much of our thinking and with some of our leaders. Meanwhile she had invited me to walk about the grounds on several occasions, and once she took me on a tour of the house.

In April, Mrs. Wells suggested that I invite the officers and directors of the Society to come for tea on a May afternoon. And so for the first time, I advised

the Board of my visits and arranged for the occasion. It was a most enjoyable party; the grounds and gardens were most colorful, the house was bright and open, filled with the fragrances of spring. And Mrs. Wells was at her best as an entertaining hostess. I counted it good fortune that we had on our Board at that time Rear Admiral Neill Phillips (USN Ret.) and Captain Thomas Fuller, who came in uniform, for Mrs. Wells dearly loved the Navy. As we left I suggested that the Board not discuss publicly any ideas they might have about the future of Woodend.

My visits with Mrs. Wells continued, always on a social basis. Then several months later, she informed me that she would like to leave Woodend to the Society, but she wished assurances on how I thought the property would be used. Also she said that her attorney was concerned that the Society might lack the resources to maintain the property, adding that she would not care to have the Society begin using Woodend during her lifetime.

Mrs. Wells had a deep attachment to Woodend, which can only be understood in terms of her early life in Australia and of her determination to recreate the atmosphere of English country living in her American home.

Marion Lee Dixon was one of eleven living children of Sir Hugh Dixon and Emma Elizabeth Shaw. Marion Dixon was born a twin, but her twin brother died at birth. Sir Hugh was immensely wealthy, being the founder of British Tobacco Company of Australia, which in association with James B. Duke, later became the British American Tobacco Company of Australia. During the first World War, Sir Hugh contributed a destroyer to the Australian Navy.

The Dixon estate, Abergelde, on the outskirts of Sydney, was a self-contained community. In the very large country house, each child had his or her own suite and servants. There were two music rooms, a billiard room, which was exactly reproduced at Woodend, and all the appurtenances of luxurious country living. A favorite place for Marion Dixon was a large enclosed porch which was the aviary, filled with the most musical and colorful of native and exotic birds.

Marion Dixon's love of flowers and gardens developed early. Her father was an amateur botanist, collecting plants and engaging in plant breeding in his later years. Abergelde had vast formal gardens and extensive glass houses. Quite naturally, with her delight in the gardens, she became a 'professional,' quite beyond the competence of any of the gardeners she could find in this country.

Like girls of her class, Marion Dixon was sent to private girls' schools and tutored at home. She learned all the essentials of managing a large country house, the graces of a hostess, and somehow or other, many

of the intellectual interests which were then thought to be the peculiar province of the educated gentleman. And with her mother and sisters, she traveled; they made the grand tour of Europe, visited extensively in Britain, and went around the world.

Chester Wells entered her life sometime around 1905 when he presented a letter of introduction to her father on the occasion of a visit to Sydney, Australia, by an American naval squadron. He was then a Lieutenant Commander, some fifteen years her senior. They were married in London, England, on October 9, 1907.

Chester Wells was born October 15, 1870, in Wyalusing, Pennsylvania. His father was Major Levi Wells, a prominent local official who served with distinction with the Northern Forces during the Civil War.

Captain Wells attended the Naval Academy and was scheduled to graduate with the class of 1891. However, due to the fact that there were not sufficient billets for all graduates of the class of 1891 he was held over and graduated with the class of 1893.

During his stay at the Academy, he played guard on the football team and won his gold football for playing as guard for the Navy in the 1891 Army-Navy game. He served with distinction in the Cuban Campaign, Philippine Insurrection, Spanish-American War, North China Campaign, and World War I. He held the Navy Cross and several other decorations.

Around 1909 as a result of having been stationed in Washington, Captain and Mrs. Wells decided that Washington would be their permanent home and the place to which he would retire. With this in mind, they began in 1910 acquiring land which was later to become "Woodend."

Their first purchase was in 1910 and consisted of approximately ten acres and a farm house which they purchased from Charles Barber. They lived in the farm house for some years, continuing acquisition of land surrounding the farm house and across the road.

Mrs. Wells, with the Captain's help, planned the construction of the house known as Woodend. Designed by John Russell Pope, construction began sometime in 1927. At the time of completion of Woodend sometime in the latter part of 1928 or the early part of 1929, the Captain and Mrs. Wells had acquired some 80 acres of land.

But first and foremost, Mrs. Wells set about recreating the beauty and loveliness that had surrounded her in her girlhood home. The gardens were wholly her enterprise. Woodend became a center of friendly and hospitable social life. The city grew around it, but



Pictures of Captain and Mrs. Chester Wells, painted around 1907, can be seen on the stairway at Woodend.

Woodend remained an island of natural charm with its screening woodland and its fragrant, beautiful gardens.

Later on the Captain and Mrs. Wells gave away some acreage to the Maryland Park System. The land that was given lies to the east of the present tract owned by the Audubon Naturalist Society on the east side of Jones Mill Road. It extended all the way down to Rock Creek and now forms a part of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission portion of Rock Creek Park.

The Depression curtailed Mrs. Wells' income from Australia, which necessitated the selling off of some of the land they had acquired, and World War II further curtailed Mrs. Wells' income when Australia imposed a restriction on the transmission of funds outside of Australia. This necessitated the sale of more land.

Upon Captain Wells' death on September 17, 1948, serious tax difficulties were experienced in connection with her estate which required Mrs. Wells to sell more land in order to satisfy the tax liabilities.

It was some ten years ago that Mrs. Wells completed her arrangements to leave Woodend to the Society. During the late 1950s, particularly after two accidents confined her to a wheel chair, I suggested that she might enjoy some of the movies and slides that our more talented members took. On two evenings, she invited small groups to see Dr. Darner's slides and Mr. Sutherland's movies, but thereafter she expressed a preference for evenings of conversation. And so, after leaving Washington in 1960, I arranged on each return to the city to visit with Mrs. Wells. Her friendship was a most enjoyable privilege, for she remained a lively, spirited, and gracious lady all her days. ■

Excerpted from an article that appeared in the Spring 1969 *Atlantic Naturalist*, Vol. 24, No. 1.



Photo #1. View of the mansion from the lawn.



Photo #5. Semicircular Greek portico covered by heavy wooden cornice and balustrade (see detail Photo #3).

Woodend's architecture: Eclectic blend of styles

By David Rivin
Photographs by Ralph Himmelhoch

Woodend stands atop a knoll to the west of Rock Creek amid a lawn area containing some large trees and surrounded by woods that the Society has left in a natural state.

When first approaching the house from the main facade that opens onto the lawn (Photo #1), we see the house taking the shape of a capital H, apparently two stories high. Stepping back across the lawn, we see, behind the stone balustrade at the roof level, a hip roof coated with standing seam copper. What is not apparent from the main facade is the low third level, which contains what used to be a caretaker's apartment and is now used for office space. Since the legs of the H have flat roofs, as does a narrow part of the house opposite this facade, the apartment windows all open onto the flat roofs; we only learn of this by going inside and ascending to the third floor.

Each of the H legs has two window bays while the center section has three French doors opening onto an elliptical

stone terrace (Photo #2). The two side doors are rather simply framed. The center door stands beneath a scrolled broken-pedimented stone work with an egg-and-dart dentilled cornice, the whole resting on two fluted stone pilasters with Corinthian capitals.

If one glances to the right while standing on the terrace, one sees a single window at each floor level, but looking to the left we see no windows facing the terrace. We look upward from the terrace and see two large brick chimneys rising above the intersections of the legs and the main section. Then we peek inside the large room beyond the French doors and find that only one fireplace opens into the room; this fireplace, to our right, has a back-to-back fireplace in the adjacent room, while the chimney to our left serves a fireplace in another room that is now used for office space.

But let's return to our tour of the outside. We notice that the foundation is of coursed ashlar stone terminating in a molded water table above which rise the brick walls laid up in Flemish bond. There is a stone belt course to give

exterior indication of the second floor level.

We also notice that the tall windows are of wood, six panes over six in most cases, set into wood frames and topped by flat arches one-and-one-half brick soldier courses high. At the center of each arch is a large stone keystone.

Studying the balustrade (Photo #3), we see turned posts evenly spaced between brick piers. The balustrade is capped by a carved stone railing. The balustrade sets above a stone molding consisting of an ogee curve below an egg-and-dart work which in its turn is below a continuous belt with large stone dentils (Photo #4).

At each corner of the building there are quoins composed of four courses of brick. These quoins project from the wall face to provide an air of rustication, a popular idea in the Georgian period.

Here we pause to consider the style of architecture: Georgian quoins, Greek Revival entrances, Greek portico on the right leg, and a rather Baroque main entrance pediment. Building in the early 1900s, architect John Russell Pope was



Photo #6. Large Palladian window, overlooking staircase.



Photo #2. Center section of Woodend's "capital H" shape has three French doors opening onto an elliptical stone terrace.

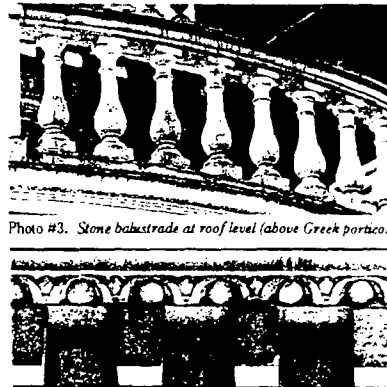


Photo #3. Stone balustrade at roof level (above Greek portico).

Photo #4. Stone molding consisting of an ogee curve below egg-and-dart work.



Photo #7. Side or parking lot entrance features a stone segmented-arch pediment supported by two Ionic stone columns. A semi-circular fan light over the entrance is set within rectangular frame of stone.



to capture the spirit of several
ies.
roceeding around the outside by
king counterclockwise, we find the
ek portico (Photo #5) standing at the
of the leg of the H. The portico is
ircular, and about half as wide as
leg—the back half projects about six
feet. The portico is covered by a rather
heavy wooden cornice and balustrade.
The roof is flat, affording a sun deck on
the second floor. The cornice is dentilled
and stands above wooden Ionic columns
resting on a stone and marble terrace.
Around to the rear or driveway facade,
the fact comes to light that the plan is
usually not an H—one of the legs is
much longer than the other. The longer
leg forms a two-story wing that was
originally used as a servants' quarters but
which now houses a small shop and
bathrooms.

In the center section of this facade is
the entrance below a large Palladian
window (Photo #6), one that has a tall
central window flanked by square
pilasters, these having Ionic column
capitals. The entrance itself is flanked
by semicircular pilasters with Doric
capitals.

Around to the remaining side we walk
and come upon a side entrance off the
main parking lot (Photo #7). This
entrance is at the right end of the side,
within the main section of the house, and
features a stone segmented-arch
lintel, projecting about three feet and
supported by two Ionic stone columns.
The arch is being lured inside, but we pause
to notice that the mortar joints between
the bricks are "raked," meaning that the
mortar face is smooth and parallels the
face of the brick, but is set back about a
half-inch. This is a detail seldom if ever
found in much older buildings.

There is a semicircular fan light over
the entrance, set within a rectangular
frame of stone. We look to our left at the
wing and see that the windows are
taller than those in the main house and
they have no keystones. Instead of a
balustrade, the wing has a stone cornice
with a simple brick parapet wall above.
On all four sides of the house, there
are copper rain leaders emerging from
the roof level through the wall below the
balustrade, into elaborately shaped

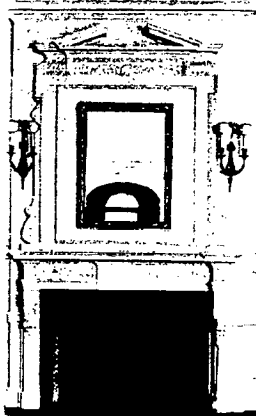


Photo #8. The fireplace in the entrance hall, like all the fireplaces at Woodend, has detailed mantel work, marble hearth, and brick setback.

copper scuppers.

In the side entrance there is a
small square room leading into a
hallway that affords access to a small
office on the right and the dining room to
the left. The dining room boasts of a
large fireplace with a marble mantel.
The floor is made up of wide random-
width boards with pegs, as are all the
other floors on this level. There are chair
rails throughout the first floor level, and
carved ceiling molds that vary in detail
from room to room. The walls, where
they are not plastered, are of wood
paneling. All these details are painted.
Three of the doors in this room are
functional—the two leading to the
pantry and the one leading to the main
central room. The fourth door leads to
nowhere, placed there for symmetry.

We enter the main central room,
noticing as we do that the doorway
details also vary, from segmental- and
flat-arched heads to simpler frames with
projecting "ears" at intersections of the
sides and head.

The principal attraction within the
house is the huge central room with its
gracefully sweeping stairway opposite
the three French doors. The room is
somewhat divided into entrance hall and
stair hall by a flat coffered wood beam
flanked by square fluted pilasters
supporting Ionic capitals.

The stair itself has a fairly bulky
wood handrail supported by heavy
turned newel posts at each landing. The
rail sweeps upward steeply as it nears
the higher newel, then levels off sharply
just before meeting the newel. Between
the newels there are thin turned
spindles, two at each tread.

The stair rises to the first landing,
which spans the full width of the
Palladian window. Now we notice at the
inside of this window that the central
window member has 15 lights over ten,
and is single-hung (only the bottom part
opens). The pilasters between the
windows are semicircular fluted Ionic
columns while the piers flanking the
Palladian motif are square and fluted.

The fireplace in the entrance hall
(Photo #8) has a different mantel from
that in the dining room, and we soon
learn that the remaining fireplaces each
have differently detailed mantel work,
even though all the fireplaces have
marble hearths and brick firebacks. The
other important room on the first floor is
the library, or Bird Room, a richly
paneled space with natural wood finish,
not painted like the other woodwork in
the house (Photo #9).

The doors throughout the first floor
are wood paneled, and some of them are
the "spirit" type popular in the Georgian
period, in that the paneling was formed
to represent a cross. ■



Photo #9. The library, or Bird Room, is a richly paneled space with natural wood finish. This room is a reproduction of a room in Aberfeldie, Mrs. Wells' girlhood home in Australia. It now houses the Audubon Naturalist Society's Banks Bird Collection, an antique collection of mounted birds, and a collection of natural history books.

John Russell Pope: Conservative classicist of eclecticism



Mrs. Wells had architect John Russell Pope design and construct the gatehouse at Woodend before she gave him the go-ahead to design the mansion.

Woodend is a fine specimen
of Georgian Revival
domestic architecture by
the prominent eclectic classicist
John Russell Pope (1874-1937), one
of America's foremost "establishment"
architects in the 1920s
and 30s.

In 1927 Chester and Marion
Wells commissioned Pope to
design the present mansion. The
house was built in 1928, following
the construction of the garage-
gatehouse, also designed by Pope.

According to Mrs. Neal Fitzsimons
in "The Audubon Naturalist
Society and its Home, Woodend," a
1974 publication of the Montgom-
ery County Historical Society,
"Despite the illustrious reputation
of Mr. Pope, Mrs. Wells, a strong-
minded woman, had him build the
five-stall garage before she

allowed him to
proceed with the
house."

Pope was a leader
of the second genera-
tion of eclectic
architects of the
twentieth century (the
first having been
epitomized by
McKim, Mead, and
White, who strongly
influenced him). After
study at the Ecole des
Beaux Arts in Paris
in 1900, Pope
embarked on a highly
successful career.

In Washington his commissions
included the Scottish Rite Temple
(1910-16), Constitution Hall (1930),
the National Archives (1935), the
National Gallery of Art (1941), and
the Jefferson Memorial (1943). The
latter two were completed after his
death in 1937.

Among his many works else-
where were the Lincoln Birthplace
Memorial in Kentucky, the
Marshall Field estate on Long
Island, and the Tate Gallery wing
in London.

His highly conservative classi-
cism made no concession to
modernism, yet it well suited his
wealthy, conservative clients and
no doubt appealed to the great
body of contemporary lay opinion.

Woodend, designed at the height
of Pope's career, exemplifies his
eclectic classicism in domestic
architecture. ■

13

Woodend Before the Wellse

(Continued from front page)

member of the Governor's Council and so served until his death.'"]

In dramatic contrast is the D.A.R. tablet in the courtroom of the Frederick County Court House attesting that his collateral descendant, Judge Charles Jones, builder of the manor house, previously referred to as the husband of Elizabeth Coates, was one of the twelve justices of the colony who in 1765 formally repudiated the Stamp Act of their majesty, King George III.

Further interesting records concerning this distinguished Maryland family indicate that this same Charles Jones was the great-grandfather of Mrs. John Augustine Washington, wife of the last member of the Washington family to live at Mount Vernon.

The early owners prospered by planting Maryland's money crop, tobacco, which was shipped in the early eighteenth century to the mother country from the seaport of Bladensburg and later in the century from Georgetown. Soon, however, the thin topsoil characteristic of lower Montgomery County became exhausted. Crops were diversified and the mill was operated in hopes of bolstering the family fortunes. But times were hard and an oft-quoted bit of doggerel originated about this time:

Here lie the body and bones
Of old Walter C. Jones,
By his not thinking,
He lost "Clean Drinking,"
And by his shallow pate,
He lost his vast estate.

In the manner of folk literature, "Walter C. Jones" has been invented out of whole cloth, but the lament has an underlying element of truth.

When Scharf published his monumental study of Montgomery County in 1882 he stated that this doggerel was to be seen on a stone, the "inscription, though somewhat defaced by time, is still legible."

In the collection of the Kensington Historical Society is a photograph dated 1915 showing the old house in the far stages of decay after the death of the last



Clean Drinking Manor

Nicholas Jones

resident owner Nicholas E. Jones. It shows a one-and-a-half story farm house with the steep pitched roof extending over the front porch. In the roof are two dormers. At either end is a brick chimney. There are two entrance doors side by side, each flanked by two windows. A foundation planting of boxwood stands across the front.



In 1906 a 48-piece set of silver service was designed and executed for the *USS Maryland* by Samuel Kirk and Sons. This treasure was transferred to the new *USS Maryland* in 1921. It can now be seen in the State House at Annapolis. On the beautifully proportioned and decorative 15-inch-long ice cream platter representing Montgomery County is a detailed view of Clean Drinking corresponding exactly to the 1915 photograph.

Within a few years after the photograph was taken the house had virtually disappeared, due in part to the ravages of time but also to the scavenging propensity of the neighboring residents. Brick, iron work, wood paneling, mantels, tiles, millstones, lumber—everything went their way into surrounding homes.

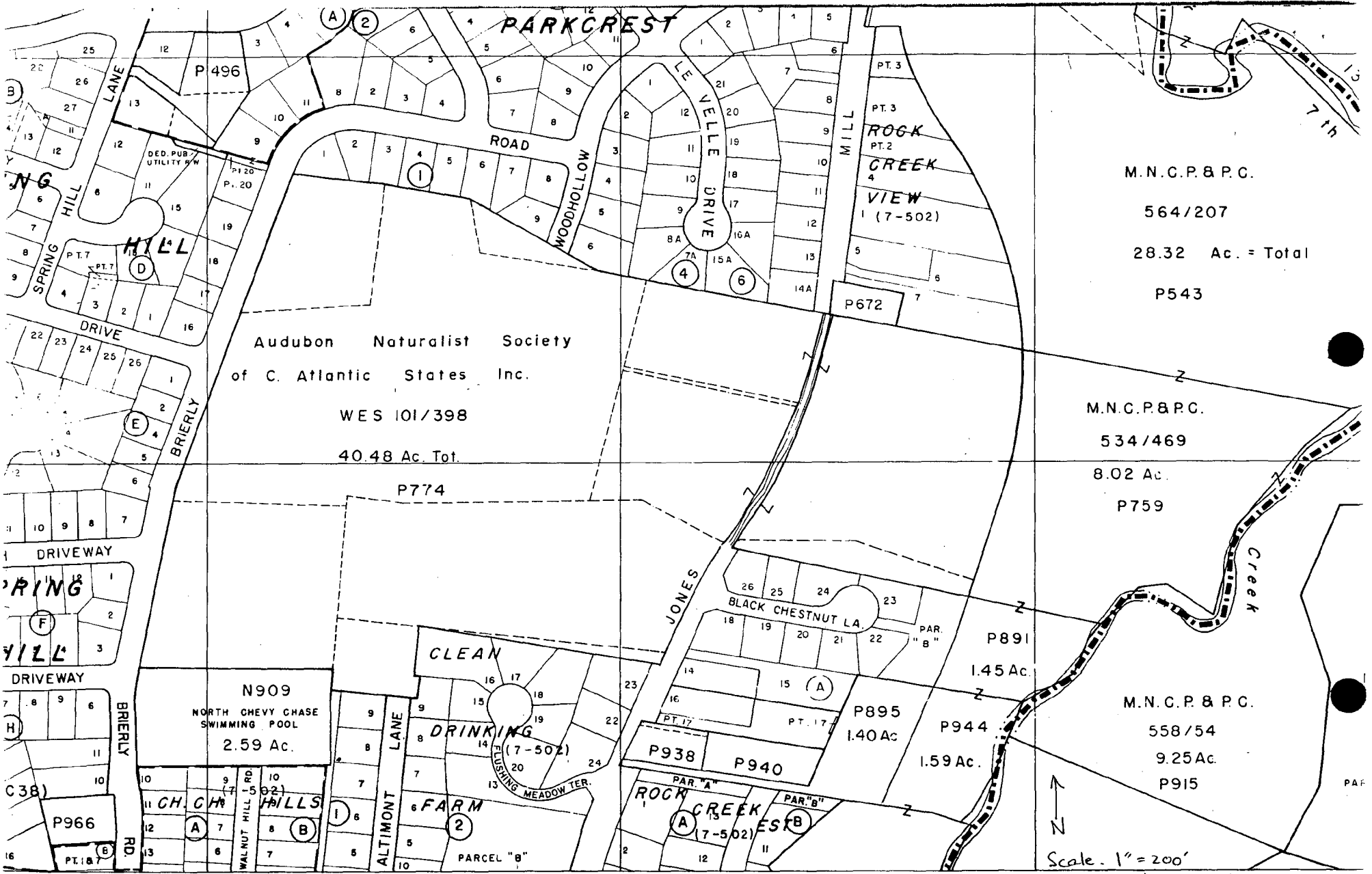
The Jones Mill is shown on Farquhar's map as standing on the east bank of the creek. Today it is hard to visualize Rock Creek deep enough or running swiftly enough to turn the heavy millstones necessary to grind the grain into flour. There does not seem to be anyone alive today who remembers the mill structure or any of the many supportive buildings that surrounded the old family homestead. At one time the contour of a somewhat elaborate garden was visible but no more. All is gone.

In its heyday Clean Drinking was the center of hospitality for local gentry as well as for prominent national figures. No less a personage than George Washington refreshed himself here on several occasions.

Another old house in Woodend's neighborhood dates from colonial times—Hayes, 4101 Manor Road, the central portion of which was built in 1762 by Rev. Alexander Williamson, rector of St. Paul's Church, Rock Creek Parish. When the storm clouds of revolution broke, the good parson was deprived of his church duties. At his death in 1787 the property of 700 acres was sold to James Dunlop, son-in-law of Robert Peter, mayor of Georgetown. The Dunlops added a wing on either side of the original house and the family has owned the estate ever since.

Memory of the vanished Clean Drinking with its architectural simplicity and its local planter family together with the living presence of a more elaborate Hayes home and its occupants with their urban wealth are reminders of our country's colonial past to be experienced in the immediate vicinity of Woodend. ■

PR



M.N.C.P. & P.C.
 564/207
 28.32 Ac. = Total
 P543

M.N.C.P. & P.C.
 534/469
 8.02 Ac.
 P759

P891
 1.45 Ac.
 P944
 1.59 Ac.

M.N.C.P. & P.C.
 558/54
 9.25 Ac.
 P915

Audubon Naturalist Society
 of C. Atlantic States Inc.
 WES 101/398
 40.48 Ac. Tot.

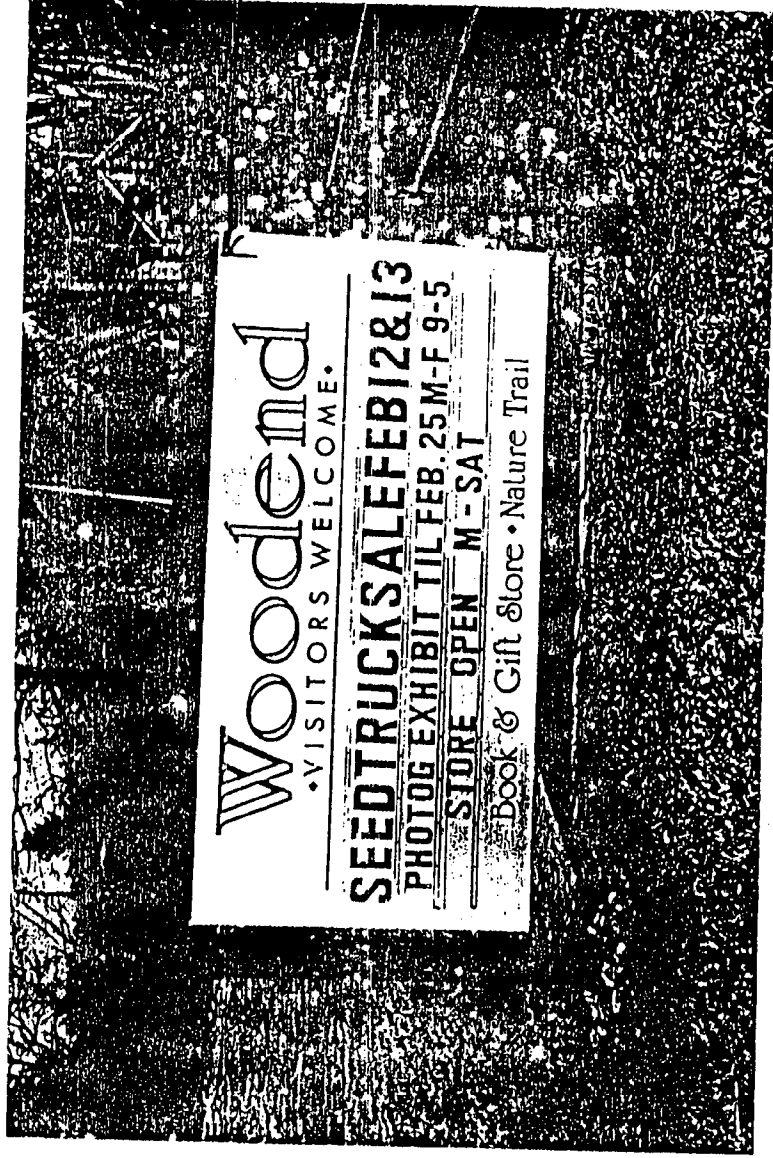
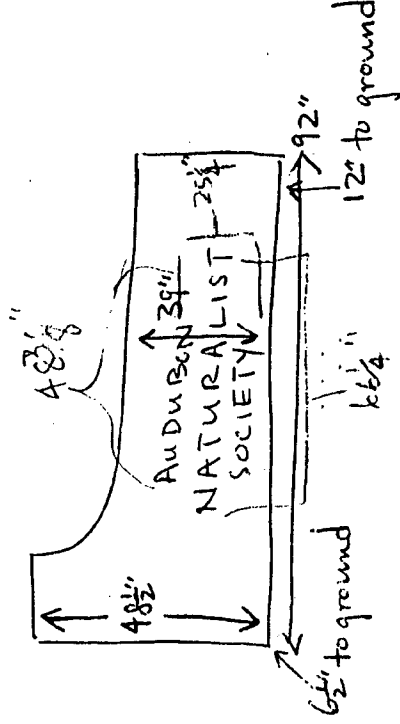
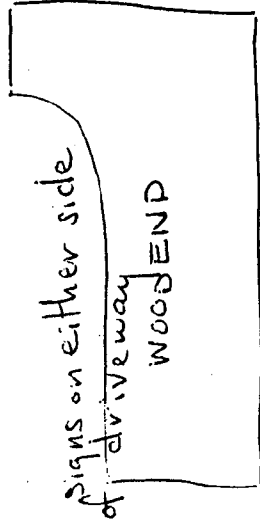
N909
 NORTH CHEVY CHASE
 SWIMMING POOL
 2.59 Ac.

Scale - 1" = 200'

HN 563 Map HP 561

L-5

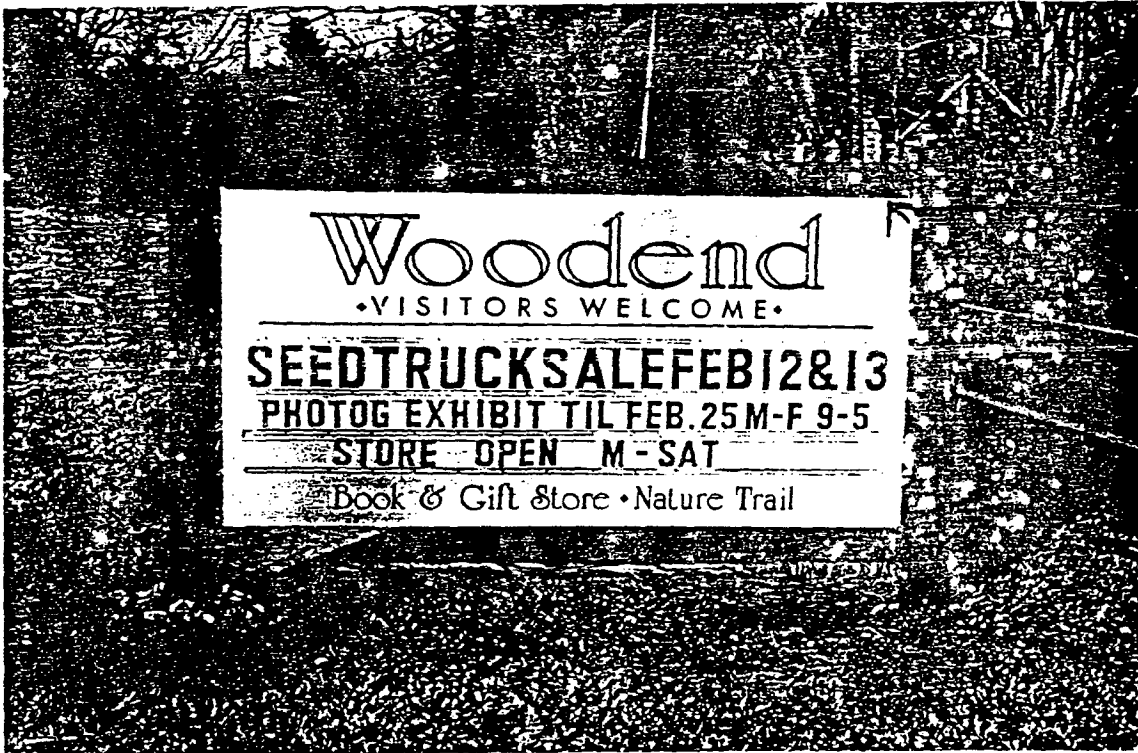
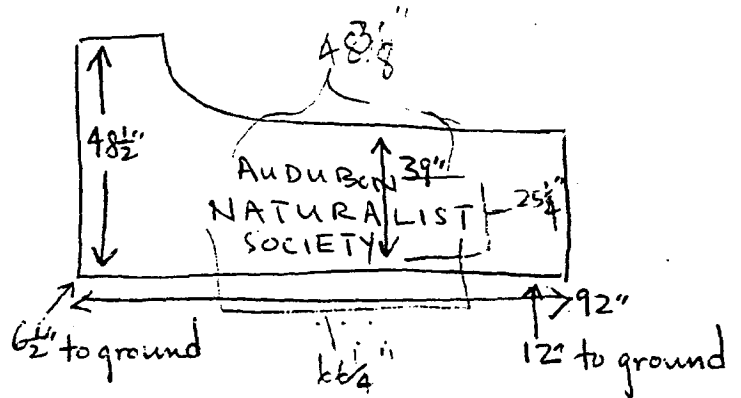
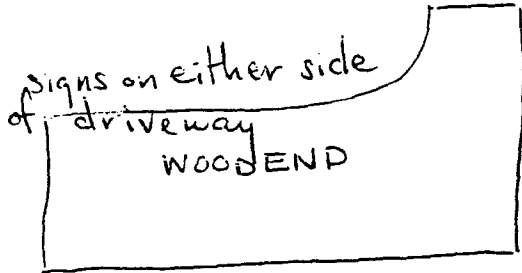
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top of sig
is 5'2 1/2" above
ground

bottom of
sign is 14 1/2"
above ground

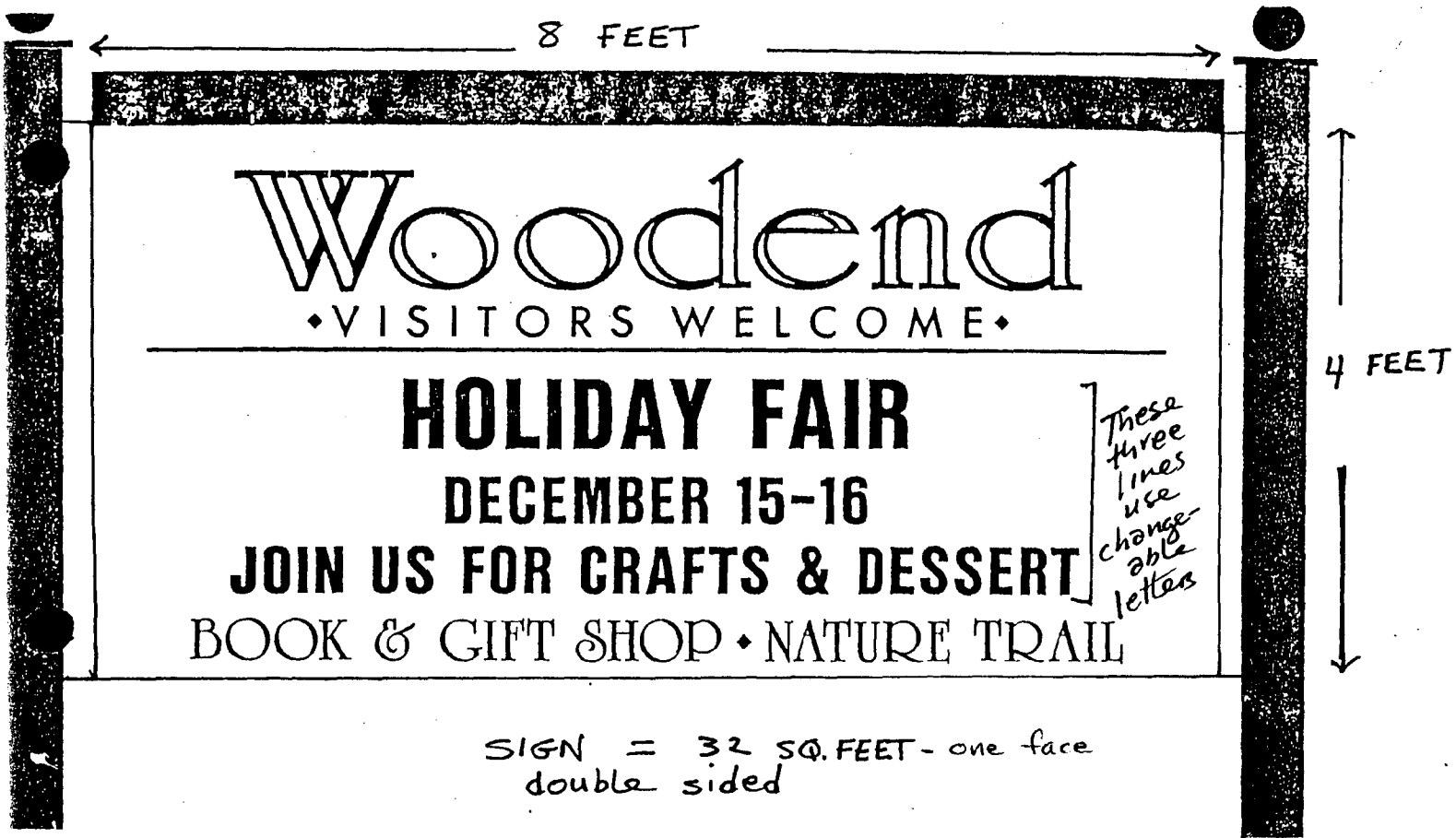
(10)



top of sign
is 5'2 1/2" above
ground

bottom of
sign is 14 1/2"
above ground

5



Woodend

•VISITORS WELCOME•

SEED TRUCK SALE FEB 12 & 13

PHOTO EXHIBIT TIL FEB. 25 M-F 9-5.

STORE OPEN M-SAT

Book & Gift Store • Nature Trail

South face of sign

North face of sign

Woodend

•VISITORS WELCOME•

SEED TRUCK SALE FEB 12 & 13

PHOTO EXHIBIT TIL FEB. 25 M-F 9-5

STORE OPEN M-SAT

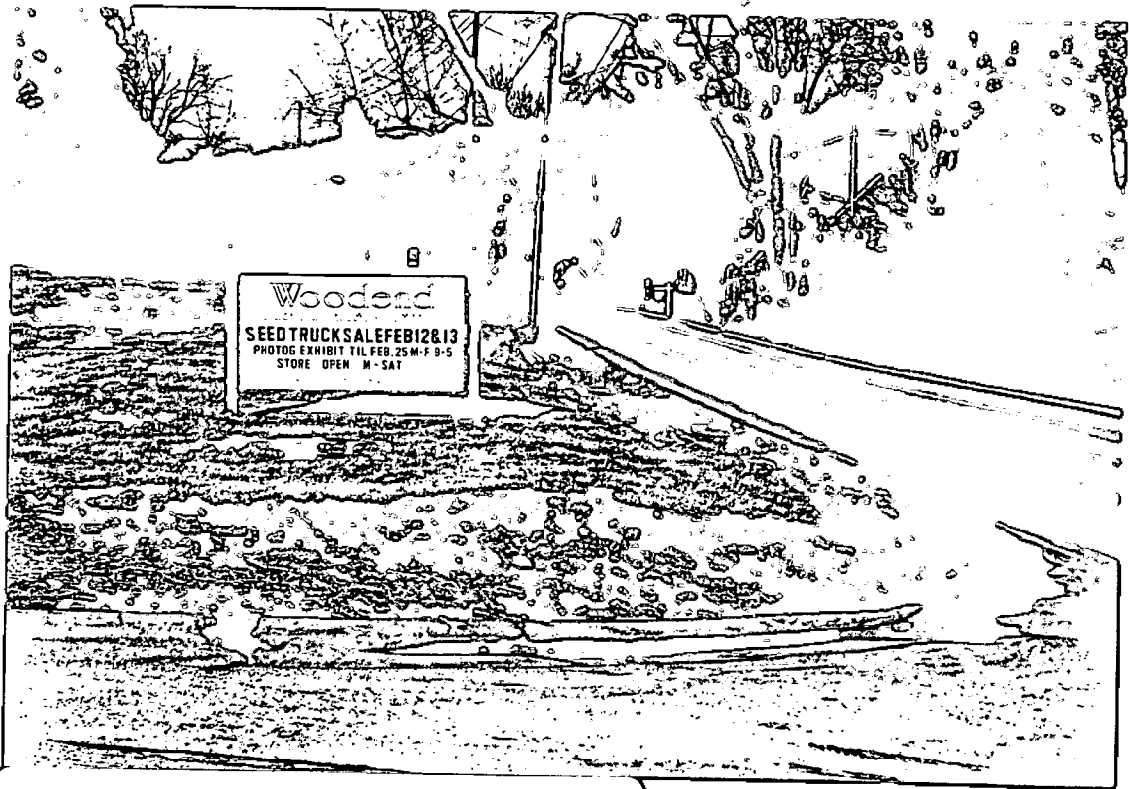
Book & Gift Store • Nature Trail



Looking up the driveway toward the mansion

South face of sign; looking northwest; taken from across the street on ANS property





South face of sign; looking north
on Jones Mill Road

South face of sign; looking east





Looking south; photo taken from ANS property across the street, close to 9001 Jones Mill Rd.

Looking north; photo taken from ANS property across the street; top of sign barely visible





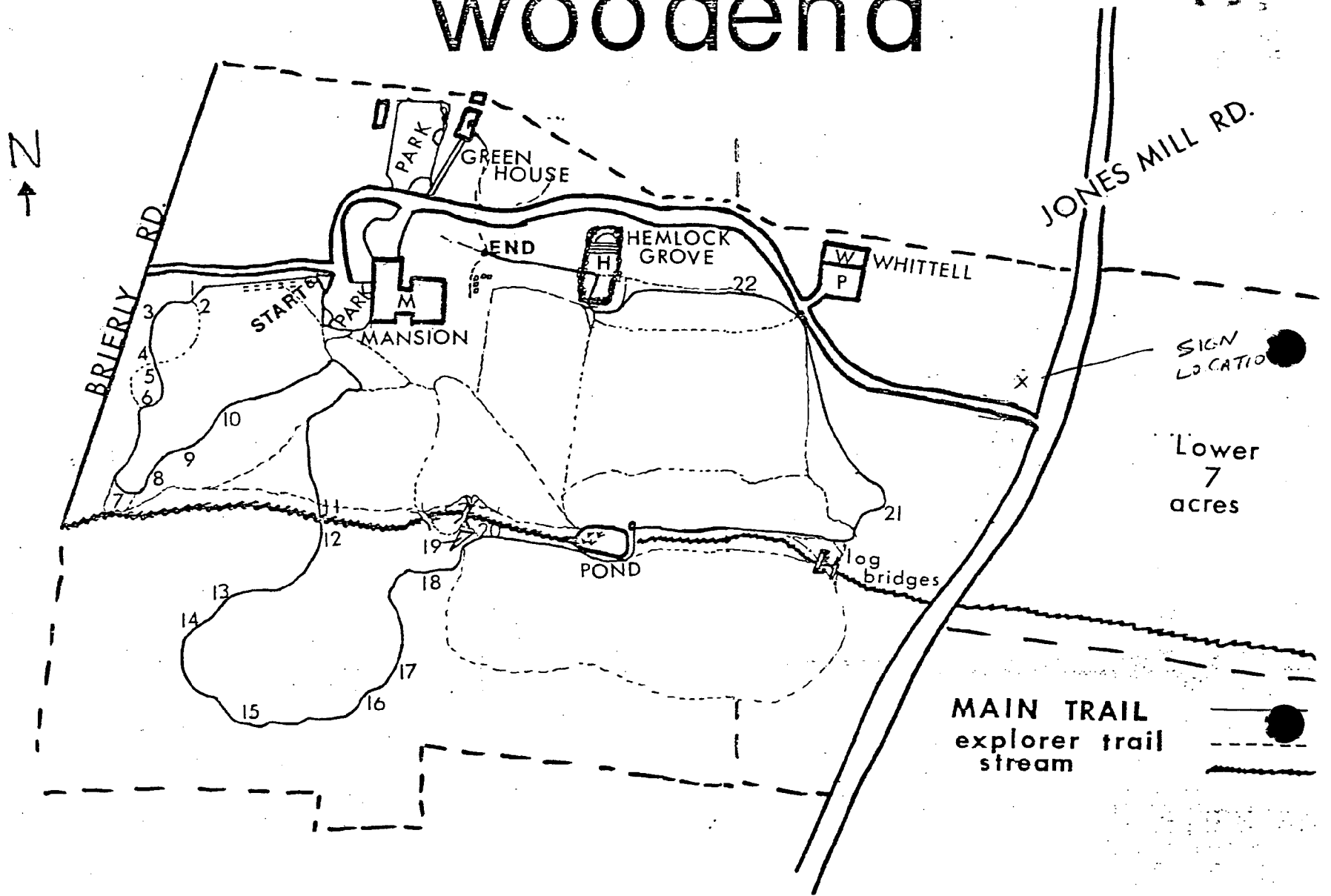
House of right: 9001 Jones Mill Rd.,
lot P672, directly adjoining ANS
property on east side of Jones Mill Rd.

looking North

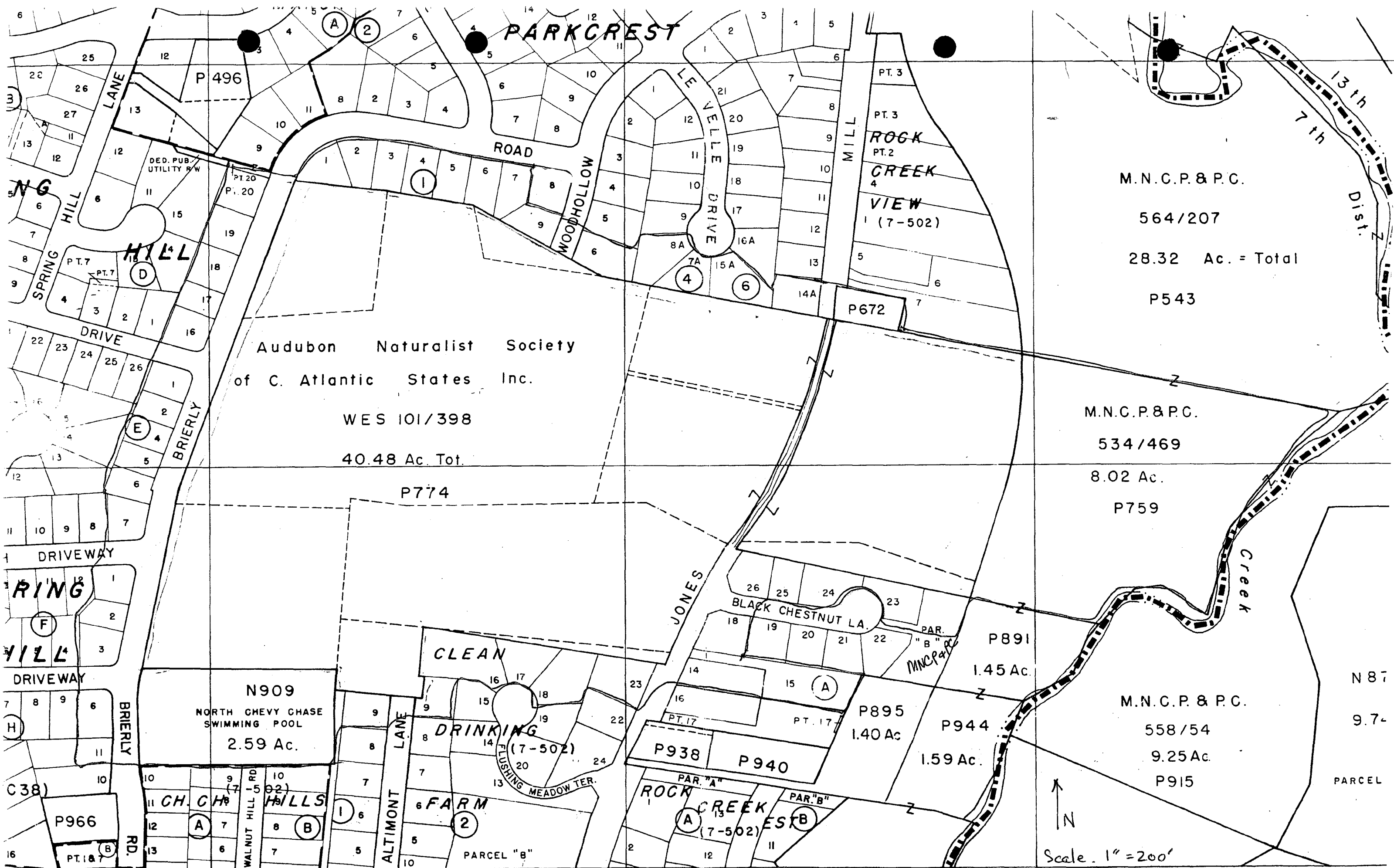
House at 9000 Jones Mill Rd., lot 14A,
Parkcrest, directly adjoining AND
property on west side of road
(cannot be seen from sign) *looking North*



woodend



123



Audubon Naturalist Society
of C. Atlantic States Inc.

WES 101/398
40.48 Ac. Tot.

N909
NORTH CHEVY CHASE
SWIMMING POOL
2.59 Ac.

DRINKING
(7-502)

ROCK CREEK
(7-502)

ROCK
CREEK
VIEW
(7-502)

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1.45 Ac.

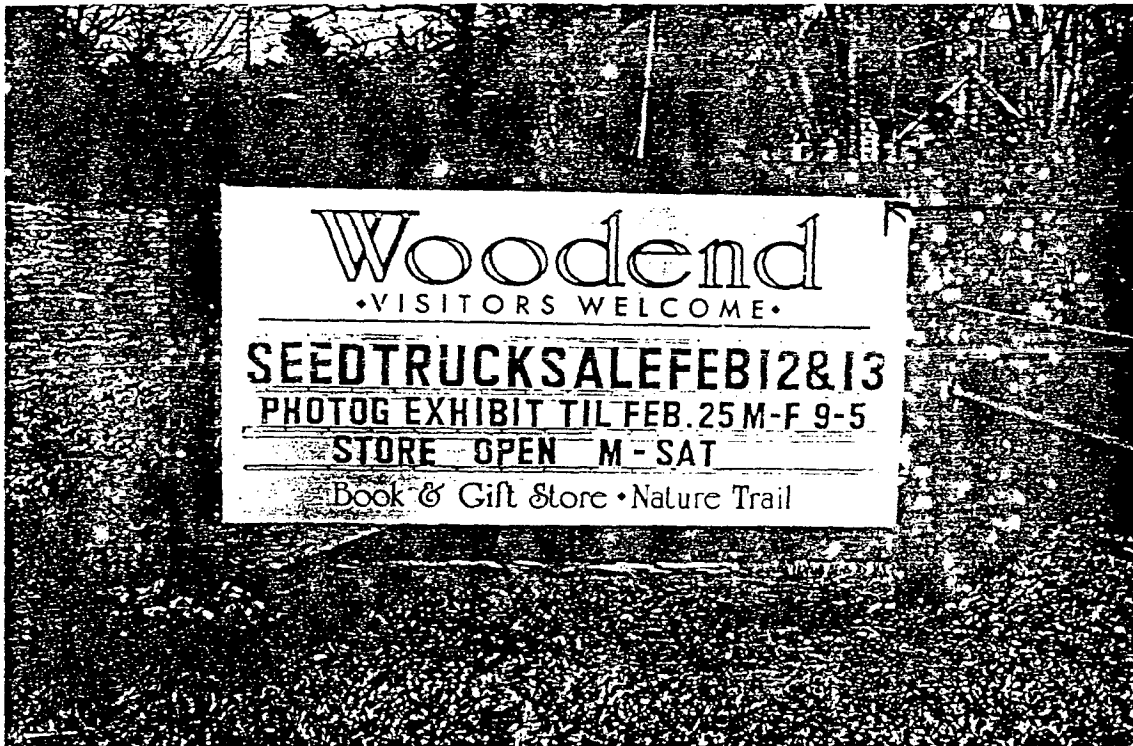
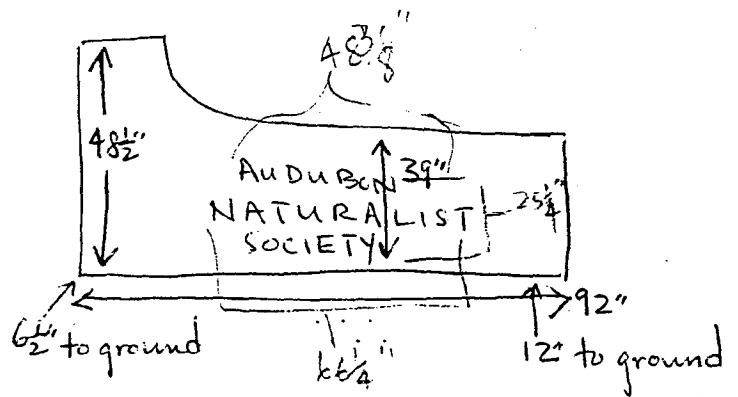
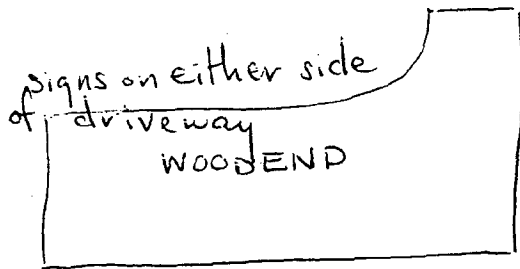
P895
1.40 Ac.

P944
1.59 Ac.

M.N.C.P. & P.C.
558/54
9.25 Ac.
P915



Scale 1" = 200'



top of sign
is 5'2 1/2" above
ground

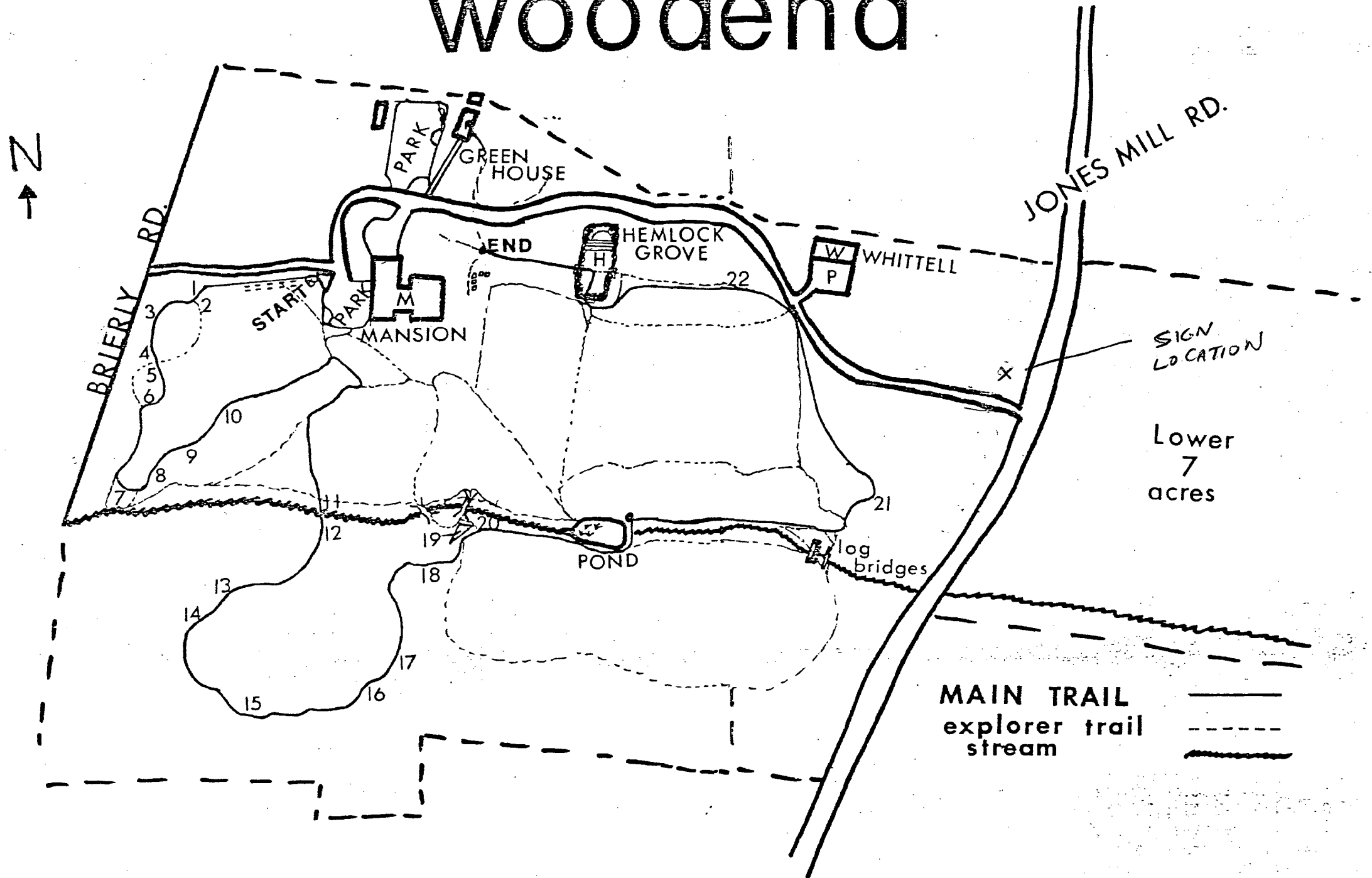
bottom of
sign is 14 1/2"
above ground

A U D U B O N N A T U R A L I S T S O C I E T Y

Regional • Independent

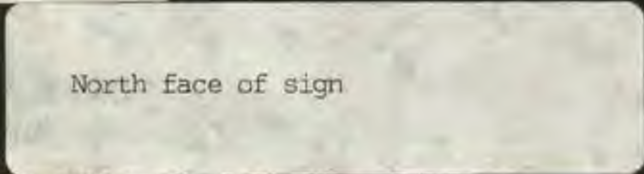
8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 • 301 652-9188 • Fax 301 951-7179

woodend

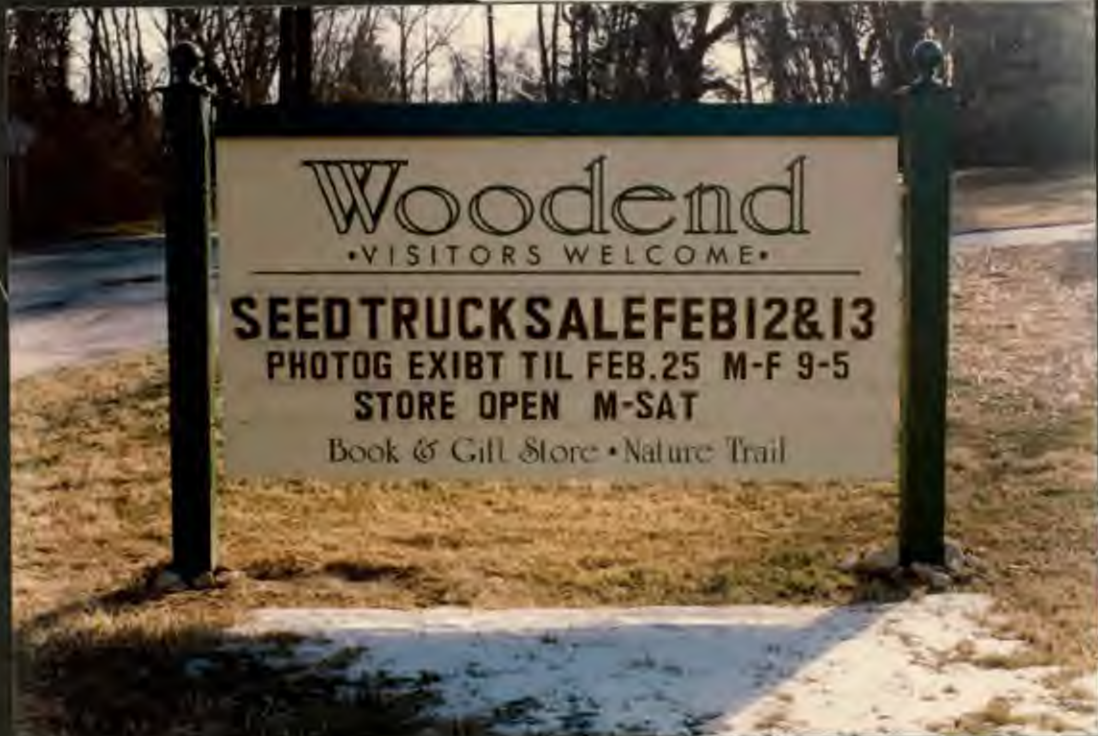




South face of sign



North face of sign





Looking up the driveway toward the mansion

South face of sign; looking northwest; taken from across the street on ANS property





South face of sign; looking north
on Jones Mill Road

South face of sign; looking east





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property across the street, close to
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Looking north; photo taken from ANS
property across the street; top of
sign barely visible



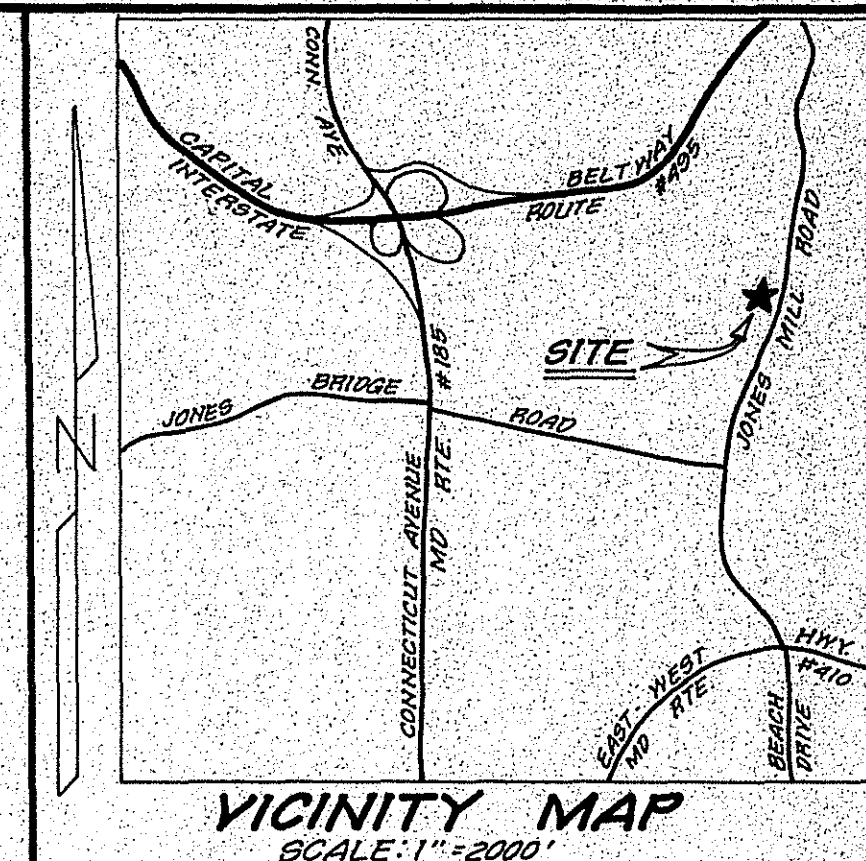


House of right: 9001 Jones Mill Rd.,
lot P672, directly adjoining ANS
property on east side of Jones Mill Rd.

looking North

House at 9000 Jones Mill Rd., lot 14A,
Parkcrest, directly adjoining AND
property on west side of road
(cannot be seen from sign) looking North

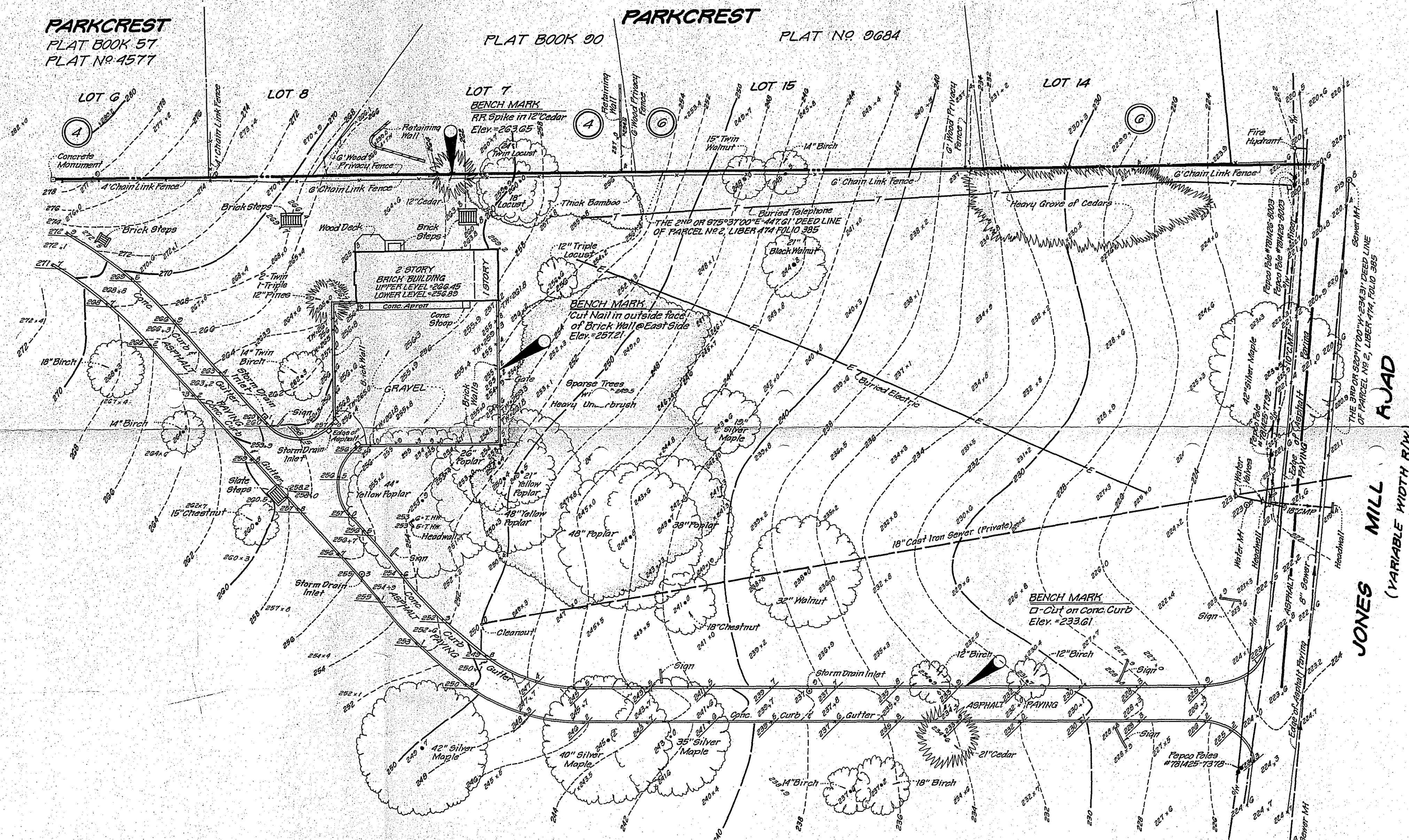




NOTES

1. This site appears on Montgomery County Map Book, Page 39, within Grid C-2; on Tax Map No. HP561; and on W.S.S.C. Sheet 211W5.
2. Zoning of subject and adjacent properties is R-90.
3. Utility locations have been taken from plans furnished by utility companies and have been field checked where surface indications exist. However, call "Miss Utility" 48 hours prior to any digging (1-800-257-7777).
4. This site does not lie within a 100 Year Flood Plain according to National Flood Insurance Rate Map, Community-Panel No. 240049 01750, dated August 1, 1984.
5. This survey has been prepared without the benefit of a title report.
6. Top of curb elevation shown thus: 232x0
7. The curb is 0.5' feet high.

NOTE: Houses, Deck and/or Retaining Walls Have Not Been Shown.

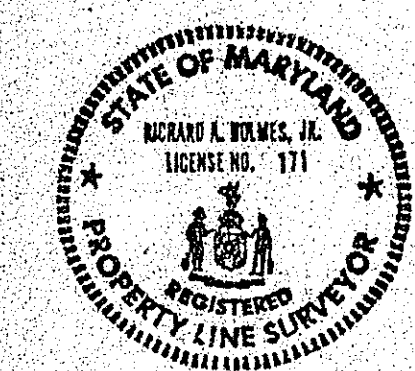


**AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY
OF C. ATLANTIC STATES, INC.**
LIBER WES 101 FOLIO 308
(WILL)

JONES MILL ROAD
(VARIABLE WIDTH R/W)
AJAD

SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY TO AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY THAT THE SURVEY SHOWN HEREON IS CORRECT, TO THE BEST OF MY INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.
JANUARY 12, 1994



Richard A. Holmes, Jr.
Richard A. Holmes, Jr.
Registered Property Line Surveyor
Maryland No. 171

Date	Revisions	By

OWNER:
Audubon Naturalist Society of Central
Atlantic States, Inc.
8940 Jones Mill Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815
Contact Person: Ken Nicholls, Executive Director
Phone: (301) 652-9188 Ex. 3005

Precision Surveying and Consulting Services
4907 NIAGARA ROAD, SUITE 102
COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND 20740
(301) 474-4800

TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY
PART OF THE LANDS OF
AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY
BETHESDA DISTRICT NO. 7
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Dwg. 2001D
Scale 1" = 30'
T.M. HP 561
W.O. 4096
P. 23111