NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

BA-2582

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: GRANITE HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Old Court Road, St. Paul Avenue — N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town: Granite — N/A ☐ vicinity

state: Maryland code: MD county: Baltimore code: 003 zip code: 21163

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[X] private	[ ] building(s)	54	13 buildings
[ ] public-local	[X] district	1	0 sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site	1	0 structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure	1	0 objects
	[ ] object	57	13 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER — Date: 8/4/94

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[ ] entered in the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.

[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.

[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.

[ ] removed from the National Register.

[ ] other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling	DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store	SOCIAL/meeting hall
SOCIAL/meeting hall	RELIGION/religious structure
RELIGION/religious structure	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls synthetics
stone
roof asphalt
other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Granite Historic District comprises the focus of a rural quarrying community located in the Patapsco Valley of western Baltimore County, Maryland. The district includes properties along Old Court Road and several side streets, between Granite Road on the east and Hernwood Road on the west. Contributing resources include two churches, a school, a social hall, former commercial buildings, and houses and outbuildings, representing the period from the initial settlement of the area c.1750 through the early 20th century, when the village achieved its present form. The district also includes the former Waltersville quarry, one of two major granite operations in the region during the period. Primarily dating from the late 19th and early 20th century, the resources within the district reflect a variety of building forms which characterized rural communities of the period in the region. Most of the houses are of frame construction, two stories high, with a central cross gable; this type appears in various sizes and degrees of elaboration, from the small, three-bay-wide houses of quarry workers to the expansive five-bay residence of the mine owner. Also present are examples of workers' duplexes, and representatives of turn-of-the-century Queen Anne and Foursquare house types. The district retains a high level of integrity, with few significant alterations or modern intrusions.

[X] See continuation sheet no.1 for General Description

8. Statement of Significance

BA-~~2528~~

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
INDUSTRY	1750-1941	1750
		1941

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Kennedy, Thomas C., architect(1879 school building)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Granite Historic District is significant for its association with the granite quarrying industry in western Baltimore County in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Originally known as Waltersville and renamed Granite in recognition of its principal product, the village was the center of this industry, which during its peak in the late 19th century provided building materials for major projects throughout the eastern seaboard. Granite from the Waltersville and Fox Rock quarries was utilized in construction of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in the 1830s, and later in such projects as the Library of Congress, old Treasury Building, and parts of the inner walls of the Washington Monument in Washington, DC; the old Post Office, Courthouse, Custom House, Polytechnical Institute, and monument to the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution in Baltimore; numerous other projects in Baltimore city and county; and local buildings including the Odd Fellows' Hall, two churches, and the public school building which still stand within the district. The district comprises a cohesive collection of resources representing the development of the rural quarrying community from the mid-18th century through the late 1930s. Most of the resources are residential in character and date primarily from the peak of the quarry industry in the last quarter of the nineteenth through the early twentieth century; these houses typically conform to the two-story cross-gabled type which characterized rural communities throughout the region during the period.

☒ See continuation sheet no. 12
for Historic Context & Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan data

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Granite Historic District comprises a cohesive collection of historic resources located along Old Court Road and its side streets including St. Paul Avenue, Hernwood Road, Bunker Hill Road, Sylvan Dell Lane, and Melrose Avenue. Most of the resources are residential in character, including houses and domestic outbuildings; in addition, two churches, a school building, a social hall, and former commercial buildings contribute to the district. Contributing resources range in date from the mid-18th century to the Depression era of the 1930s, but most were constructed during the heyday of the local granite industry in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

The district substantially achieved its present form during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and first quarter of the twentieth, when the granite quarries in the area were at their peak. The houses in the district primarily reflect this period. The earliest property in the district, predating the quarry era but participating in its history, is "Mt. Welcome," a mid-18th century farmstead located off the north side of Old Court Road in the eastern portion of the district. Constructed by Samuel Walters, patriarch of the family which developed the Waltersville granite quarry, the property comprises a c.1750 1½-story frame hall-parlor house with a stone-ended wing, a stone outbuilding, the ruined stone foundation of a large bank barn, and a family cemetery. Mt. Welcome remained in the hands of Walters heirs throughout the quarry era and to the present.

The predominant house type in the village--and throughout rural central Maryland in the post-Civil War era--is of frame construction, three (or, infrequently, five) bays wide, and two stories high with a gable roof. A central cross gable typically appears on the front slope. Houses are generally one room deep, with an ell or (on smaller buildings) a shed at the rear; a one-story porch usually spans the facade (on smaller houses, this porch may cover only the entrance bay). This basic form occurs in several variants; it was employed for small, one-room-deep workers' houses, such as those on Bunker Hill Road and at 2760 Melrose Avenue, through the typical middle-class houses on St. Paul Avenue, to the large, five-bay-wide residence of quarry owner Atwood Blunt,

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

Jr., at 10225 Old Court Road.

While the overwhelming majority of the houses within the district conform to the two-story, cross-gabled type, several other late 19th and early 20th century forms are represented as well. Several two-bay, two-story frame houses with a single room on each floor represent the smallest dwellings of quarry workers; examples include 10212, 10528, and 10621 Old Court Road. Duplexes present another form of workers' housing, exemplified by 10506-08 Old Court Road and 10622-24 St. Paul Avenue, among others. A few houses reflecting popular turn-of-the-century styles appear within the district, including 10500 Old Court Road, a frame gable-front Queen Anne style house with a corner turret; 10621 St. Paul Avenue, a large frame Foursquare; and 10501 Old Court Rd., an L-shaped early 20th century house of the type called "Homestead" or "gable-front-and-wing."

Other buildings within the district reflect the growth and diversity of the community during the quarrying era. The Baltimore County school commissioners established the first public school in the area at the northwest corner of Hernwood and Old Court roads about 1860. The one-story, gable-roofed frame building with a lower gabled vestibule conformed to a newly-developed standard plan for county schoolhouses; it still stands, converted for use as a residence. The Hernwood School was superseded in 1878 by a substantial granite structure on the north side of Old Court Road opposite Bunker Hill Road; the new public school, eight bays wide by two bays deep, features large 12/12 windows and a steeply-pitched hipped roof with multiple gabled dormers. It was designed by Thomas C. Kennedy, a prominent Baltimore architect.

St. Paul's Methodist Church (now the Granite Missionary Baptist Church) was built on rising ground on the north side of St. Paul Avenue in 1878; it is constructed of granite, and stands four bays deep, with an entrance centered in the south gable end. A round-arched opening holds double-leaf doors, sheltered by a peaked hood. On the south side of Old Court Road near the western boundary of the district, the present Granite Presbyterian Church was built in 1926, the second building to serve a congregation established in 1844. The Gothic-style church is constructed of granite, and features a crenelated entrance tower. Window openings

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

are three-centered arches, and hold double stained-glass casements. The church property also includes a Colonial Revival parish house and an extensive landscaped cemetery.

The Improved Order of Odd Fellows constructed the Shiloh Lodge No. 3 at the southwest corner of Old Court Road and Bunker Hill Road in 1888. This is a large two-story gable-front frame meeting hall on a raised granite foundation, three bays deep, with a one-story, one-bay extension at the rear. The building remains in use, and was recently the subject of a thorough interior and exterior rehabilitation.

A one-story, gable-fronted commercial building on the northeast corner of Hernwood and Old Court roads, and a large frame house formerly used as a store at the southwest corner of Old Court Road and St. Paul Avenue reflect historic commercial uses within the district.

Development is concentrated in the western half of the historic district, in the areas of St. Paul Avenue, Old Court Road, and Bunker Hill Road. East of Melrose Avenue and Sylvan Dell Lane, the north side of Old Court Road remains wooded and undeveloped except for the clearing surrounding "Mt. Welcome," the 18th-century residence of the first quarrying entrepreneurs. The eastern end of the district is anchored by "Woodside," the c.1886 residence of quarry owner Atwood Blunt, Jr.

The remains of the Waltersville Quarry are located off Sylvan Dell Lane in the northeast part of the historic district. The quarry pit filled with water following its abandonment in the early 1930s, and the site was developed as the Sylvan Dell Swim Club. A pavilion associated with the swim club survives on Sylvan Dell Lane; it has been converted for use as a residence.

The ubiquitous building stone with which the village's history is inextricably associated appears in various uses throughout the district. St. Paul's Church and the Granite Public School, both built in the late 1870s, and the raised basement of the 1888 Odd Fellows' Hall, exemplify the use of local granite in building construction. Granite was the overwhelming choice for building foundations, and also appears throughout the district in gateposts,

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garden walls, and cemetery monuments.

The district retains a high level of integrity. Alterations to houses within the district generally have been confined to the application of synthetic siding; the basic form and character of the buildings is not affected. The overall setting of the district also remains largely unchanged, with few modern intrusions. At present, only four houses of recent date occur within the district; two additional houses are under construction. A wooded area on the south side of Old Court Road, opposite the quarry site, is currently undergoing residential development which affects its ability to convey the sense of time and place consistent with the 19th-century quarrying community, so it has been excluded from the boundaries of the nominated property.

The following resources are included within the boundaries of the Granite Historic District. Street numbers are given where available; where street numbers are unavailable or uncertain, properties are identified by parcel number corresponding to the tax map which accompanies this nomination.

All properties are considered to contribute to the significance of the district unless otherwise noted. Small sheds and structures of a temporary nature were not counted.

10626 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 219), a two-story, three-bay frame house. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

10628 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 307), small two-story frame house, one room deep. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

10623 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 362), a large, three-bay, two-story, L-shaped frame house with a cross gable. Also on the property are a two-story board-and-batten outbuilding and a small board-and-batten shed. Late 19th century.

10622-24 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 106), a two-story frame duplex with an ell. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

10621 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 183), a large, two-story frame Foursquare sheathed in a combination of shingles and German siding.

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

Early 20th century.

10617 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 205), a recently constructed frame house; non-contributing.

10618 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 264), a three-bay, two-story frame house with a cross gable and jigsawn trim. Late 19th century. Also on the property is a large garage of recent date (non-contributing).

10615 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 425), a five-bay, two-story frame house with a cross gable. Late 19th century.

Granite Missionary Baptist Church (former St. Paul's Methodist Church), 10614 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 6), a c.1878 gable front church building of granite; it stands four bays deep, with an entrance centered in the south gable end; a round-arched opening holds double-leaf doors, sheltered by a peaked hood.

10611 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 120), a small three-bay, two-story frame house with a cross gable, featuring a porch with turned columns and frieze. Late 19th century.

10610 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 336), a three-bay, two-story frame house with a cross gable and a Colonial Revival porch. Early 20th century.

10609 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 164), a three-bay, two-story frame house with a cross gable, with large 4/4 windows at the first story. Late 19th century.

10608 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 217), a small three-bay, two-story house located on a large lot; formerly used as a store. Late 19th century.

10600 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 296), a three-bay, two-story frame house with a cross gable, featuring granite porch piers. Also on the property is a large board-and-batten outbuilding. Late 19th century.

10601 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 163), a large three-bay, two-story frame house. Late 19th century. Also on the property are two large

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

frame outbuildings (non-contributing).

10529 Old Court Road, (p. 291), a small, four-bay, two-story frame duplex. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

10528 Old Court Road, (p. 168), a small, two-bay, two-story frame house. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

10522 Old Court Road, (p. 162), a large Colonial house of recent date; non-contributing.

10521 Old Court Road, (p. 255), a three-bay, two-story, cross-gabled frame house with an ell. Late 19th century. The rear of the parcel is currently under development; two traditional-style houses (non-contributing) are under construction.

10527 Old Court Road, (p. 262), a three-bay, two-story frame house with a cross gable. Late 19th century.

10500 Old Court Road, (p. 131), a frame gable-front Queen Anne style house with a corner turret, sheathed in narrow bevel siding, with projecting bay windows. Late 19th century.

10501 Old Court Road, (p. 329), a two-story, L-shaped "Homestead"-type house. Early 20th century. Also on the property is a large cinderblock garage (non-contributing).

10530 Old Court Road, (p. 161), a small, two-bay, two-story frame house. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

2760 Melrose Avenue, (p. 412), a small, two-story, three-bay frame house. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

10504 Old Court Road, (p. 210), a small gambrel-roofed frame cottage. Early 20th century.

10506-08 Old Court Road, (p. 210), a two-story frame duplex with turned porch columns. Early 20th century.

10510 Old Court Road, (p. 209), a two-story, four-bay frame house with a cross gable, possibly a former duplex. Late 19th century.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

10322 Old Court Road, (p. 212), "Mt. Welcome," a c.1750 1½-story frame hall-parlor house with a stone-ended wing. Also on the property are a stone outbuilding, the foundation of a large bank barn, and a family cemetery. This mid-18th century farmstead was established by Samuel Walters, patriarch of the family which developed the Waltersville granite quarry, and remained in the hands of Walters heirs throughout the quarry era and to the present.

10225 Old Court Road, (p. 421), "Woodside," c.1886, a large five-bay, two-story frame house with a cross gable and a three-sided projecting bay centered in the upper facade. Constructed as the residence of quarry owner Atwood Blunt, Jr.

10220 Old Court Road, (p. 88), a mid-20th century Cape Cod style house; non-contributing.

10212 Old Court Road, (p. 86), a small two-story, two-bay frame house with a one-story shed at the rear. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

10428 Sylvan Dell Lane, (p. 373), former swim club pavilion, currently a residence; features bell-cast eaves. Early 20th century.

Waltersville Quarry, east side of Sylvan Dell Lane, (northern portion of p. 212); contributing site. Includes abandoned quarry and foundations of crusher building, cutting shed, and boarding house. Ox barn associated with quarry operations remains standing (p. 374). Early 19th through early 20th centuries.

10426 Sylvan Dell Lane, (p. 130), a four-bay, two-story frame house. Late 19th century.

10615 Old Court Road, (p. 294), a three-bay, two-story frame house with a cross gable and rear ell. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

10621 Old Court Road, (p. 248), a small two-bay, two-story stuccoed house with a one-story wing. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

Granite School, 10612 Old Court Road, (p. 208), a long 1½-story building constructed of granite, eight bays wide by two bays deep, with a steeply-pitched hipped roof and multiple gabled dormers. Constructed in 1879 as the Granite Public School; Thomas C. Kennedy, architect.

I. O. O. F. Shiloh Lodge No. 3, 10613 Old Court Road, (p. 414), a large two-story gable front frame meeting hall on a raised granite foundation, three bays deep with a one-story, one-bay extension at the rear; constructed in 1888, recently rehabilitated.

2619 Bunker Hill Road, (p. 204), a two-story, three-bay shingled frame house with a cross gable, featuring jigsawn ornament in the gable peak. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing. The Bunker Hill Road area is traditionally considered the center of a substantial community of African American quarry workers during the period.

2616 Bunker Hill Road, (p. 336), a small three-bay, two-story frame house with a cross gable and entrance porch, one room deep with a two-story ell, featuring a lancet-arched ventilator in the gable peak. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

2615 Bunker Hill Road, (p. 319), a two-story, gambrel-roofed house of recent date; non-contributing.

2609, 2611 Bunker Hill Road, (p. 319), two small three-bay, two-story frame houses, each with a one-story shed at the rear. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

2600, 2606, 2608 Bunker Hill Road, (p. 392), three small three-bay, two-story cross-gabled frame houses, one room deep with a two-story ell, similar to #2616. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

Granite Presbyterian Church, 10637 Old Court Road, (p. 334, p. 289, p. 146), a Gothic church building constructed in 1926 of granite, featuring a crenelated entrance tower. Window openings are three-centered arches, and hold double stained-glass casements. There is a large stuccoed addition at the rear. The building replaced a previous structure built in 1844.

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

Granite Presbyterian Church Parish House, 10635 Old Court Road, (p. 376), a large Colonial Revival building with a portico. Early 20th century.

10630 Old Court Road, (p. 263), a three-bay frame house with a lancet window in the gable. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

10636 Old Court Road, (p. 297), a 2-story frame cottage with wall dormers. Early 20th century.

10639 Old Court Road, (p. 215), a two-story, three-bay, cross-gabled house with a dentil cornice, patterned shingles, and granite porch piers. Also on the property is a board-and-batten outbuilding. Late 19th century.

10701 Old Court Road, (p. 18), a large gable-front frame house. Late 19th century.

10700 Old Court Road, (p. 128), former Hernwood School, constructed c.1860; one-story gable-roofed frame building, now used as a residence.

2701 Hernwood Road, (p. 258), a one-story gable-front building, formerly a store. Early 20th century.

2703 Hernwood Road, (p. 258), an early 20th century frame bungalow.

2704 Hernwood Road, (p. 283), a small two-story, three-bay frame house with a one-story shed at the rear. Late 19th century; typical of quarry workers' housing.

2707 Hernwood Road, (p. 118), a large, two-story, three-bay, shingled frame house with an overhanging bracketed cornice and a lancet window in the central cross gable; granite gateposts mark the entrance to the property. Late 19th century.

2803 Hernwood Road, (p. 4), a large frame barn on a stone foundation; also on the property is a wagon shed/corncrib. Late 19th century.

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

2711 Hernwood Road, (p. 181), brick rancher constructed in the 1950s (non-contributing).

2803 Hernwood Road, (p. 5), brick rancher constructed in the 1950s (non-contributing).

10625 St. Paul Avenue, (p. 119), brick rancher constructed in the 1950s (non-contributing).

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

GRANITE HISTORIC DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY
MARYLAND

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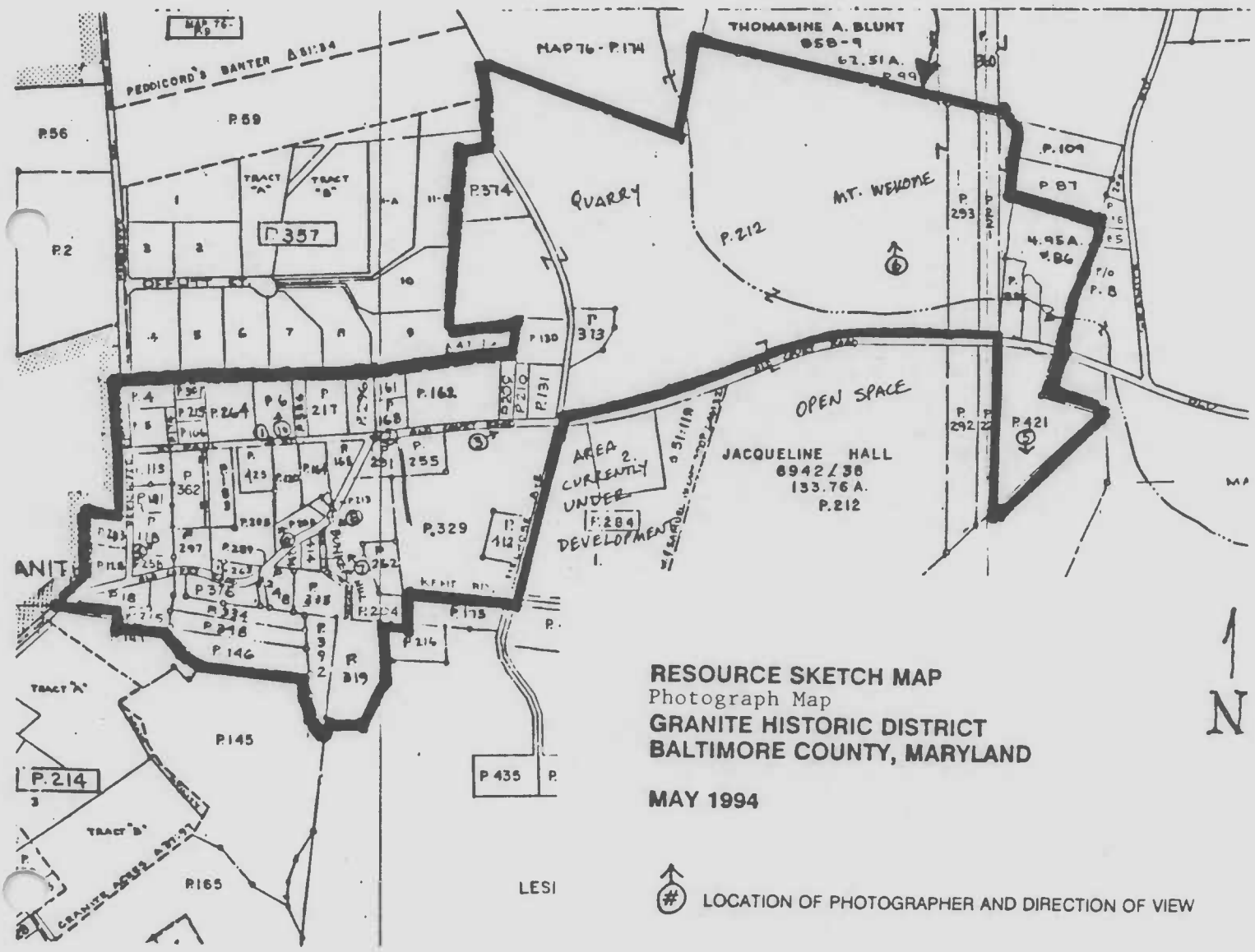

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
Photograph Map
GRANITE HISTORIC DISTRICT
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

MAY 1994

(#) LOCATION OF PHOTOGRAPHER AND DIRECTION OF VIEW

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D.1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D.1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Type:

Category: District

Historic Environment: Rural agricultural area

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCIAL/department store
SOCIAL/meeting hall
RELIGIOUS/religious structure

Known Design Source: Kennedy, Thomas C., architect (1879 school building)

See Continuation Sheet No. 13

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The area around the village of Granite was effectively settled in the mid-18th century, when Samuel Walters established his residence, "Mt. Welcome," on the north side of Old Court Road west of present Granite Road. Walters constructed a 1½-story frame hall-parlor house--a form more characteristic of his native Eastern Shore than the Piedmont region of Maryland--and utilized the abundant granite on the property in the building foundation, the end of a frame addition, a large rectangular outbuilding, and the foundation of an imposing bank barn. The area initially took the name "Waltersville" in recognition of the principal land-owning family; descendants of Samuel Walters initiated quarrying on the family lands, and the property remains in the hands of Walters descendants at present.

Quarrying in the area did not assume commercial proportions until the 1830s, after numerous surface outcrops caught the attention of prospectors from the granite quarrying area of New Hampshire. Shortly after this discovery, two ledge quarries were opened in the area. The extensive granite resources of the Walters property were first exploited around 1832; a few years later, another major quarry, called "Fox Rock," was opened at a location about a mile to the west [outside the boundaries of the present historic district].

The first major customer was the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which was extending its tracks westward through the Patapsco River valley in the 1830s; quarries supplied stone stringers and rails, and also provided the material for bridges and culverts. The most important early project furnished from the Waltersville quarry was the B & O Railroad's Thomas Viaduct between Relay and Elkridge, completed on July 4, 1835. This structure, designed by Benjamin H. Latrobe, consists of a series of eight arches comprising some 25,000 cubic yards of granite. Its construction completed the first rail link between Baltimore and Washington. A private railroad bridge across the Patapsco River, constructed by the firm of Putney & Riddle during their operation of the Waltersville quarry, also utilized stone from this source.

In the heyday of the quarry industry, from about 1870-90, the

See Continuation Sheet No. 14

Fox Rock quarry employed about 50 workers; the Waltersville quarry was a larger operation with many more hands. Many of the quarrymen during this period (and into the early 20th century) were immigrants from Scotland, Wales, England, France, and Italy. A significant African American community developed in Granite during the period; the village once included as many as 110 African American residents, working in various occupations connected with the quarry industry, who lived primarily in the areas of Bunker Hill Road and Melrose Avenue.[1]

In 1893, Atwood Blunt, Jr.--who had married the heiress to the Walters property, and had operated the quarry for a period--summarized the history of the quarrying industry in Granite:[2]

> In the neighborhood of Granite, Baltimore county, Md. (formerly Waltersville), about one and one-half miles from Woodstock, is a territory not exceeding two miles in length by about one mile in breadth, on which granite boulders occur. These boulders first attracted attention, and were worked by several enterprising men from New Hampshire, who commenced their operations about the years 1832-33. Among them were the names Sweatt, Riddle, Putney, Holbrook, followed by many others, among whom were the Emorys, Gaults and Eatons. The principal demand was at first by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad for stone stringers, dressed to correspond to the flange and tread of the car wheels, and also ashlar, &c., for their bridge and culvert work.
>
> Although prospecting has been carried on ever since, only two ledge quarries have been discovered, viz: the "Waltersville" and "Fox Rock." The former is the principal one, and was first called the "Branch." This rock developed into a fine ledge, surpassing all the granite around in quantity, quality, and easy access, so that all the boulders in which Sweatt, Putney and Riddle were interested were at once abandoned. After working it for a year or two Putney and Riddle obtained a lease of this quarry for twenty years in August, 1835, from the owner, Captain Alexander Walters, to whose family this quarry has belonged for more than a century. It is called in the lease, and is still known as the Waltersville quarry, although the name of the village of Waltersville was changed to Granite about 1873-74, when the

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first postoffice at the place was established. The lessees went to work vigorously, and besides many other improvements built a railroad two miles long to connect with the B. & O. at Putney and Riddle's bridge, about one mile east of Woodstock [on the Patapsco River]. Their first contract of importance was furnishing stone for the Baltimore Custom House. They, however, continued the business only a few years. Extravagance and mismanagement caused failure, and they were succeeded by Edward Green and Joshua B. Sumwalt, under the firm-name of Green & Sumwalt. The senior partner dying about the year 1849, he was succeeded by his son Frederick, and the firm became Sumwalt & Green, who conducted the business until 1865, when Attwood Blunt, whose wife owned the property, took charge and continued the business until 1871, when the Quarry was leased to Ansley Gill and James McMahon. After a lapse of about sixteen years, the firm was dissolved by the death of McMahon. Mr. Gill continued the business alone for a short while, when he associated with him Wm. H. Johnson, of Baltimore, and they soon after formed with Geo. Mann, Hugh Hanna, Messrs. Grey & Sons of Philadelphia, and Mr. Hamilton, of Baltimore, a joint stock company, calling it the Guilford and Waltersville Granite Co. This company is now [1893] conducting the business. In Baltimore fully three-fourths of the stone for fine granite work has been procured from this quarry, and in Washington in has also been largely used. Many years ago this stone was extensively used in the Capitol, Patent Office and Post Office buildings. The interior granite work of the Post Office affords as fine a sample of its working qualities as any of the work in Washington, unless surpassed by the more recent work on the new Congressional Library Building, the interior court of which has been built of this stone within the past three years.

Shortly after the Waltersville quarry was opened the "Fox Rock" quarry, which is also a ledge quarry, was also opened (1836) and worked by Emery & Gault. But after constructing a railroad to connect it with the B. & O. at Woodstock, and bridging the Patapsco there and working the quarry about ten years, they abandoned it, and it remained idle for some time. The bridge and railroad went to decay and have never been rebuilt, although work was resumed in a small way, first by Alvin Eaton about 1869, who continued until it was sold to the

See Continuation Sheet No. 16

> Woodstock College [which was then under development on the adjacent property]. Shortly afterwards the quarry alone was sold by the college to several persons, including the Messrs. William A. and Matthew Gault, of Baltimore, who formed the Woodstock Granite Co. The quality of this granite is excellent. It has been largely used in Baltimore, notably in the B. & O. central building, corner Baltimore and Calvert streets, all the granite of which came from the Fox Rock quarry, except a few of the larger blocks, which were obtained from Waltersville. All the granite in the Fidelity Trust and Deposit building, corner Lexington and Charles streets, was also furnished by the Fox Rock quarry.
>
> Until within the past fifteen to eighteen years the methods of quarrying and handling stone at these quarries were exceedingly primitive, and consequently slow, costly and inadequate. No steam power had been used except for pumping, and the output from the Waltersville ranged from 30,000 to 50,000 cubic feet per annum. But recently modern appliances have been adopted, particularly at the Waltersville, were a very costly and efficient plant has been built up and steam is used for pumping, hoisting, drilling and sawing the stone, and a steam motor used for transporting freight cars to and from the B. & O., instead of horses as formerly. This quarry can furnish stone of almost any required size, and it would be a comparatively easy matter to quarry out a monolith equal in size to the famous 'Cleopatra's Needle.'

In addition to the projects mentioned in this account, the Waltersville quarry is credited with furnishing the stone for the German Lutheran Church in Rockdale, Baltimore County; both the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Granite; the monument to the Sons and Daughters of the Revolution on Mt. Royal Avenue in Baltimore; a monument to Garfield in an unspecified midwestern city; and parts of the inner walls of the Washington Monument in Washington, DC.[3]

Writing in 1937, Frank Peach, a member of the family which owned the Fox Rock quarry, presented the following account of the stone industry in the Granite region, and particularly of the Fox Rock quarries at Woodstock:[4]

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The Fox Rock Quarries have been a Baltimore County industry for one hundred ten years. The name 'Fox Rock' was given because the stone was discovered by men digging a fox from the holes in the rocks.

As many as fifty men have been employed here--local men who are recognized as among the best in their trade. Only twice in these years have the quarries been idle.

[Granite from the Fox Rock quarries] is used in the Baltimore Courthouse, Fidelity Building and St. Ambrose Church. Woodstock College is of this stone; in Washington the Congressional Library, the Naval Hospital and the nine bridges on Me. Vernon Highway from 14th Street to Mt. Vernon; the Pressor Building in Philadelphia; the Studebaker Monument (1895) in South Bend, Ind.; a public building in Cuba; all the stone in the new National Cemetery to 1900. The new building now [1937] being erected at Hood College in Frederick, Md., is being supplied from Fox Rock Quarries.

The Blunt [Waltersville] Quarry in Granite was originally owned by the Walters. Mrs. Blunt was a Walters so the quarry fell to her. About seventy-five years ago it was leased by Putney and Riddle who operated it for a number of years, then by Atwood Blunt, Mrs. Blunt's husband. It was idle for some time and then leased to Gill & McMahan [sic] up to 1890 and was taken over by the Guilford & Waltersville Granite Co. until about 1925 and has been idle since.

The Baltimore Custom House was furnished from this quarry.

It specialized in rough stone for building purposes, also Belgian blocks for street work.

Granite from the Woodstock quarries also was used in the construction of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church at Woodstock, the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, the Randallstown Public School and Community Hall, a bank in Towson, and the public school building and Odd Fellows' Hall in Granite.[5] Woodstock granite also was used in St. Elizabeth's Church (1912), Convent (1922), and School (1926) in East Baltimore.

In addition to the major operations at Waltersville and Fox Rock/Woodstock, several smaller quarries were opened in the Granite

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area. The Star Granite Company was one of these, located on the Hernwood Road. William F. Weller operated a quarry on the Blunt property, behind the extensive Waltersville operation. In the early 20th century Patrick A. Feeney, a former foreman of the Waltersville quarry cutting shed, entered a partnership with Frank Atherton of Maine to open a quarry on the Weller family land on Hernwood Road. The Feeney-Atherton enterprise employed as many as 60 men before it closed in 1922. During winter months when the large quarries sometimes shut down, stonecutters sometimes worked surface outcroppings or "cobble holes," producing Belgian blocks, paving stones, and street curbing. Tradition holds that building stone from such an outcrop was used in the construction of the Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost (later St. Alphonsus, since demolished) on Old Court Road in 1886; quarrymen donated their labor to the cause.

By the turn of the twentieth century, power equipment had been introduced into the Granite-area quarries, including steam drills and compressed-air finishing machinery. The Waltersville quarries ceased operations in the 1920s; the Fox Rock quarries continued into the late 1930s. The closing of the quarries at Granite was attributed to competition from other building materials, including softer North Carolina granite and Indiana limestone, which were easier to quarry and to ship, and newly-developed products such as concrete blocks and cast stone.

The period of significance extends from the settlement of the Granite area by Samuel Walters c.1750 through the cessation of quarry operations in the 1930s.

See Continuation Sheet No. 19

Notes:

1. Baltimore Evening Sun, October 24, 1977.

2. Maryland: its Resources, Industries and Institutions (n. p., 1893), pp. 126-27.

3. Anonymous [Mary A. Ruff?], "Granite," Baltimore County Federation P. T. A. News, Vol. 14, No. 4, March-April, 1937.

4. Frank Peach, "The Woodstock-Granite Stone Industry," Baltimore County Federation P. T. A. News, Vol. 14, No. 4, March-April, 1937.

5. Anonymous [Mary A. Ruff?], "Granite," Baltimore County Federation P. T. A. News, Vol. 14, No. 4, March-April, 1937.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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☒ See continuation sheet no. 20

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 190 acres

USGS quad: Ellicott City, Maryland

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	341440	4356800
B	18	341610	4356150
C	18	340101	4355840
D	18	340101	4356480

E 18/340560/4357010

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet no. 22

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet no. 21

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian for the
organization Granite Historical Society date March 1994
street & number 109 Brandon Road telephone (410)296-7538
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★U.S.GPO:1988-0-223-918

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

In addition to references specifically cited in the Notes to Section 8, see:

"The Granite Story--A Chronicle of the Most Unique Square Mile in Baltimore County," The Community News, March 10, 1967.

Griffith, Beverly M. Patapsco Historic Background Addenda Information, ms., September 1990.

Hopkins, G. M., Map of Baltimore County, Maryland, 1877.

Johnson, Traci A., "Stone-Proud of its History," Baltimore Sun Magazine, April 25, 1993.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland

McGrain, John. Patapsco Plan Historic Background, ms., February 1989.

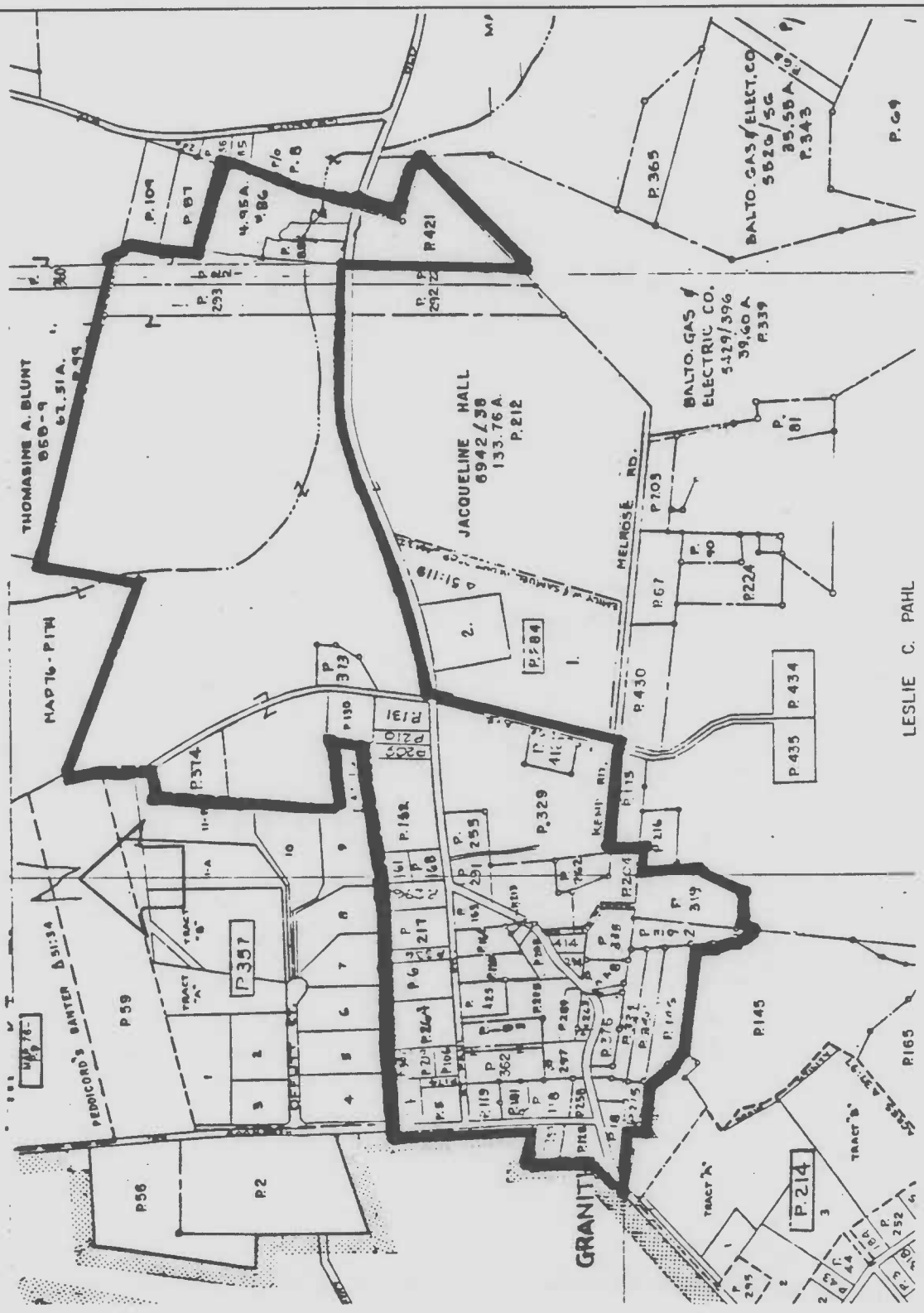
"River of History; Patapsco River Valley," Towson (MD) Times, June 27, 1968.

The generous assistance of Beverly M. Griffith and the members of the Granite Historical Society is gratefully acknowledged.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property comprises approximately 300 acres, including the resources which comprise the village within its immediate environment and excluding modern buildings and surrounding property which do not contribute directly to the significance of the district. Additional potential historic resources related to the quarrying theme are located one-half to one mile west of the district boundary; however, they are visually and geographically separated from the primary concentration by significant changes in land use which occurred during the post-World War II period.

See Continuation Sheet No. 22



The district consists of the indicated parcels on Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Baltimore County Map No. 86.

BA-2582

GRANITE H.D.

BALTIMORE CO., MD

PETER E. KURTZE, 2/94

NEG AT MD SHPO

ST. PAUL AVE, FACING SE FROM CHURCH

#1 OF 10

BA - 2582

GRANITE H.D.
BALTIMORE CO., MD
PETER E. KURTZE, 2/94
NEG AT MD SHPO

ST. PAUL AVE, FACING WEST FROM
INTERSECTION WITH OLD COURT RD.

2 OF 10

BA - 2582

GRANITE H.D.

BALTIMORE CO., MD

PETER E. KURTZE, 2/94

NEG AT MD SHPO

OLD COURT RD., NORTH SIDE

10506-08 AT LEFT, # 10500 AT RIGHT

3 OF 10

BA-2582

GRANITE H.D.

BALTIMORE CO., MD

PETER E. KURTZE, 2/94

NEG AT MD SHPO

2805 HERNWOOD RD., SOUTH FACADE

#4 OF 10

BA-2582

GRANITE H.D.
BALTIMORE CO., MD.
PETER E. KURTZE, 2/94
NEG AT MD SHPO

"WOODSIDE," 10225 OLD COURT RD.,
NORTH FACADE

5 OF 10

BA-2582

GRANITE H.D.

BALTIMORE CO., MD.

PETER E. KURTZE, 2/94

NEG AT MD SHPO

"MT. WELCOME", 10322 OLD COURT RD.,

SOUTH FACADE

#6 OF 10

BA-2582

GRANITE H.D.

BALTIMORE CO., MD.

PETER E. KURTZE, 2/94

NEG AT MD SHPO

WORKERS' HOUSES, BUNKER HILL RD.,
VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST

7 OF 10

BA-2582

GRANITE H.D.

BALTIMORE CO., MD.

PETER E. KURTZE, 2/94

NEG AT MD SHPO

ODD FELLOWS HALL, VIEW FROM N.W.

#8 OF 10

BA-2582

GRANITE N.D.

BALTIMORE CO., MD

PETER E. KURTZE, 2/94

NEG AT MD SHPO

GRANITE PUBLIC SCHOOL, VIEW FROM S.E.

#9 OF 10

BA-2582

GRANITE H.D.

BALTIMORE CO., MD

PETER E. KURTZE, 2/94

NEG AT MD SHPO

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST CHURCH (NOW GRANITE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH), VIEW FROM S.E.

10 OF 10