FHR 8-300 (11-78)

M-17-46

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic: Mt. Nebo

and or common: Mt. Nebo

2. Location

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 Nebo Road — n/a not for publication

city, town: Poolesville — X vicinity of — congressional district: Third

state: Maryland — code: 24 — county: Montgomery — code: 031

3. Classification

Category
___ district
X building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership
___ public
X private
___ both

Public Acquisition
___ in process
___ being considered
X not applicable

Status
___ occupied
X unoccupied
___ work in progress

Accessible
X yes: restricted
___ yes: unrestricted
___ no

Present Use
___ agriculture
___ commercial
___ educational
___ entertainment
___ government
___ industrial
___ military
___ museum
___ park
X private residence
___ religious
___ scientific
___ transportation
___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name: Ruth E. Wilmot

street & number: 14520 Mt. Nebo Road

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

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number: 50 Courthouse Square

city, town: Rockville — state: Maryland 20801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date: October 1976 — ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: 21 State Circle

city, town: Annapolis — state: Maryland 21401

7. Description

M-17-46

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
		Total

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

Original and historic functions and uses: residential, agruculture

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

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

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The walls of the main block are plaster over lath.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

8. Significance

M-17-46

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/humanitarian
X 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

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

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

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

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

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

For Footnotes, see Continuation Sheet No. 12 through 15

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

2. Ibid.

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

4. Boyd, Montgomery County, 32.

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

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

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

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

9. Scharf, Western Maryland, 421.

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

11. Ibid. T/296 (1773).

12. Census Records, 1776.

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

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

15. Genealogy file, "Fletchall."

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

17. Ibid. J/1179 (1765).

18. Ibid. B/298 (1784).

19. Ibid. L/370 (1768).

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

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

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

23. Scharf, Op. cit., 129.

See Continuation Sheet No. 13

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

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

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

27. Scharf, op. cit., 696.

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

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

30. Ibid. D/540 (1791)

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

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

33. Ibid. D/540 (1791).

34. Census Records, 1776.

35. Genealogy file, "Fletchall."

36. Ibid.

37. Ibid.

38. Ibid.

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

40. Genealogy file, "Fletchall."

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 14

42. Ibid. M/150 (1805).

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

44. Assessments 1793-1830, Sugarland Hundred.

45. Boyd, op. cit., 53.

46. MacMaster, A Grateful Remembrance, 397.

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

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

49. Land records, BS 3/1-9 (1829); assessments 1841-1842, third district.

50. Land records, BS 6/136 (1833).

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

52. Land records, JGH 6/168 (1857).

53. Genealogy file, "White."

54. Monocacy Cemetary records.

55. Montgomery County wills, HCA 4/46.

56. Holmes, Touched With Fire, 10.

57. Cosmos Club Bulletin, 8-9.

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

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

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

61. Ibid. 1001/95 (1946).

62. MacCord, "The Shepard Site Study."

63. Ibid. 1345/372 (1950).

See Continuation Sheet No. 15

64. Ibid. 3214/699 (1964).

65. Tax map.

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Tax Map, Montgomery County, Maryland 1975.

Waters, William Henry, editor. Taxables in Montgomery County 1778.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet No. 16 and 17

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.7 acres

Quadrangle name Sterling, VA - Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county		code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Mary Ann Kephart and Sheila Cochran		
organization	Historic Medley District, Inc.	date	May 20, 1984
street & number	P. O. Box 232	telephone	(303) 9728635 or 972-8588
city or town	Poolesville	state	Maryland 20837

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

M #17-46

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Mt. Nebo

AND/OR HISTORIC: Joseph White House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Sheppard Road and River Road

CITY OR TOWN: Poolesville

STATE: Maryland | COUNTY: Montgomery

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☒ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Sumner Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Gaithersburg | STATE: Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Rockville | STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: | STATE:

M:17-46

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story frame structure with external chimneys on the gable ends. The main (south) facade is three bays. There is a one story porch over the central entrance bay; the doorway has transom and sidelights. On the second floor, the center window was once a door, indicating that the porch was probably balustraded at one time. The siding is random-width clapboards.

To the east is a lower two story wing of three bays with an internal end chimney on the east end. It has a porch across all three bays.

A later wing extends to the north.

In the yard there are water troughs, benches and a mounting block, all of Seneca Sandstone.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M. 17-46

H. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)* _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:17-46

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

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

STATE:		COUNTY	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: MNCPPC

DATE: 4 Oct 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

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

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

M:17-46

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated March 10, 1986

ACTION TAKEN

M: 13/3..... Oliver T. Watkins House (Wells Farm)
M: 13/7..... Ned Watkins House (Wells Farm)
M: 13/30..... High View/Burdette (Boyds) Hotel
M: 17/46..... Mount Nebo
M: 24/16..... Poplar Grove Baptist Church
M: 24/19-1..... Darnestown Presbyterian Church

Amendment to Master Plan

The purpose of this amendment is to designate these sites on the Master Plan.

M:17-46

Site	Name	Location	Associated Acreage
13/7	Ned Watkins House (Wells Farm)	12001 Skylark Road	290 Acres (Ovid Hazen Wells Special Park)

- Stylish late Victorian frame farmhouse constructed in 1892 for Ned Watkins, a farmer and member of the Watkins family, prominent in the history of the Cedar Grove area.

- The 11.1 acre environmental setting encompasses the entire 4-acre life estate currently held on the farm which includes the Victorian frame house, bank barn, hen and smoke houses, the farm pond and the significant plantings which define the farmyard. To buffer the farmstead on the south and west, the setting extends beyond the area delineated as the life estate to include additional acreage across the front of the site, and to the west of the house and barn the setting extends to the adjacent stream bed.

13/30	High View/Burdette (Boyds) Hotel	21010 Clarksburg Road	2.9 Acres

- 1887 -- Large Queen Anne style house featuring a central projecting, three-story pavilion flanked on the east side by two porches with a two-story porch on the west side and a two-story square bay window on the north. The house also features a mansard roof with diamond and square shaped slate tiles.

- One of the best extant examples of Victorian 'summer resort' architecture in the County, the hotel reflects the historical development of Boyds as a summer resort during the late 19th century.

17/46	Mount Nebo	Mount Nebo Road	2.97 Acres

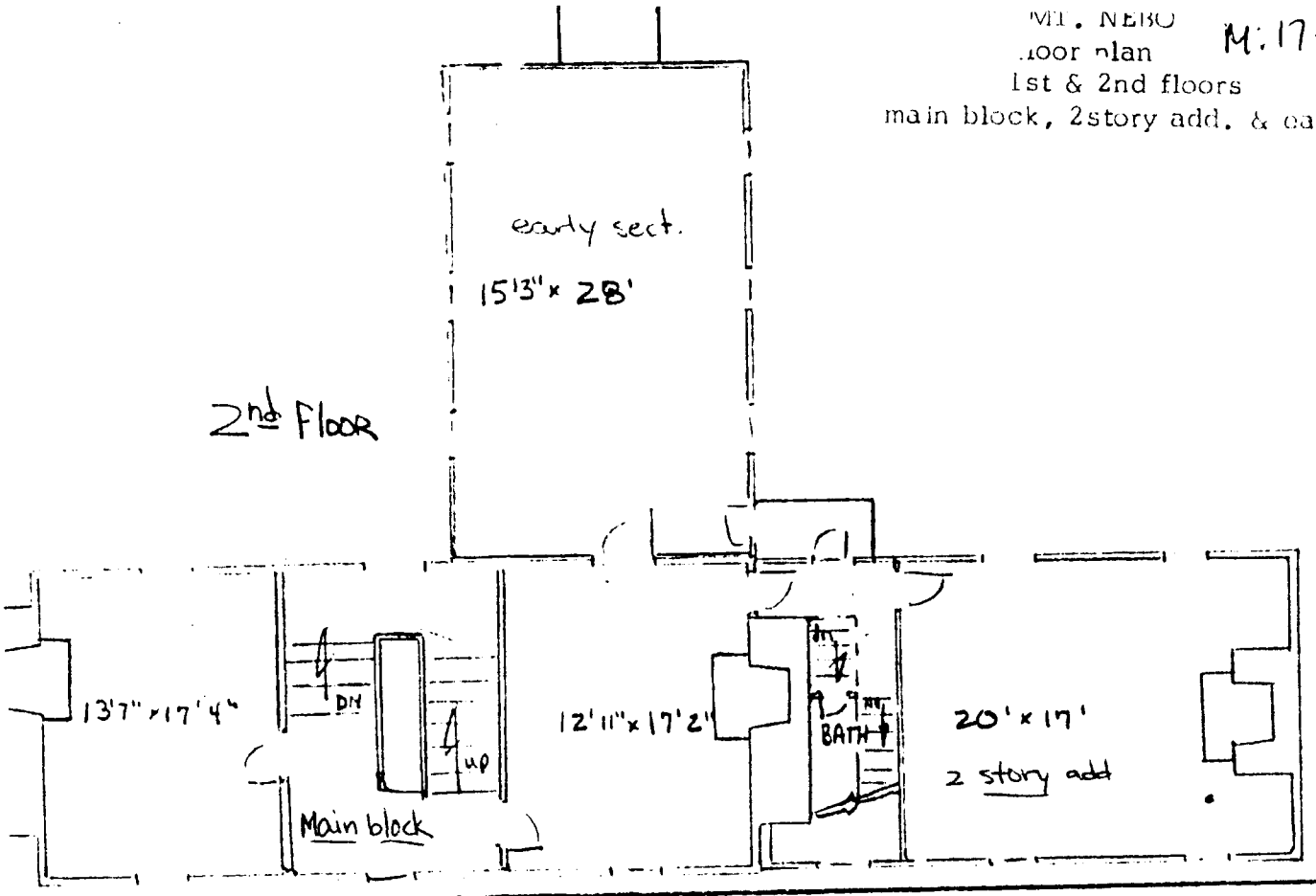
- Good example of late 18th century Federal style architecture and one of very few remaining frame dwellings of this style and age in the County.

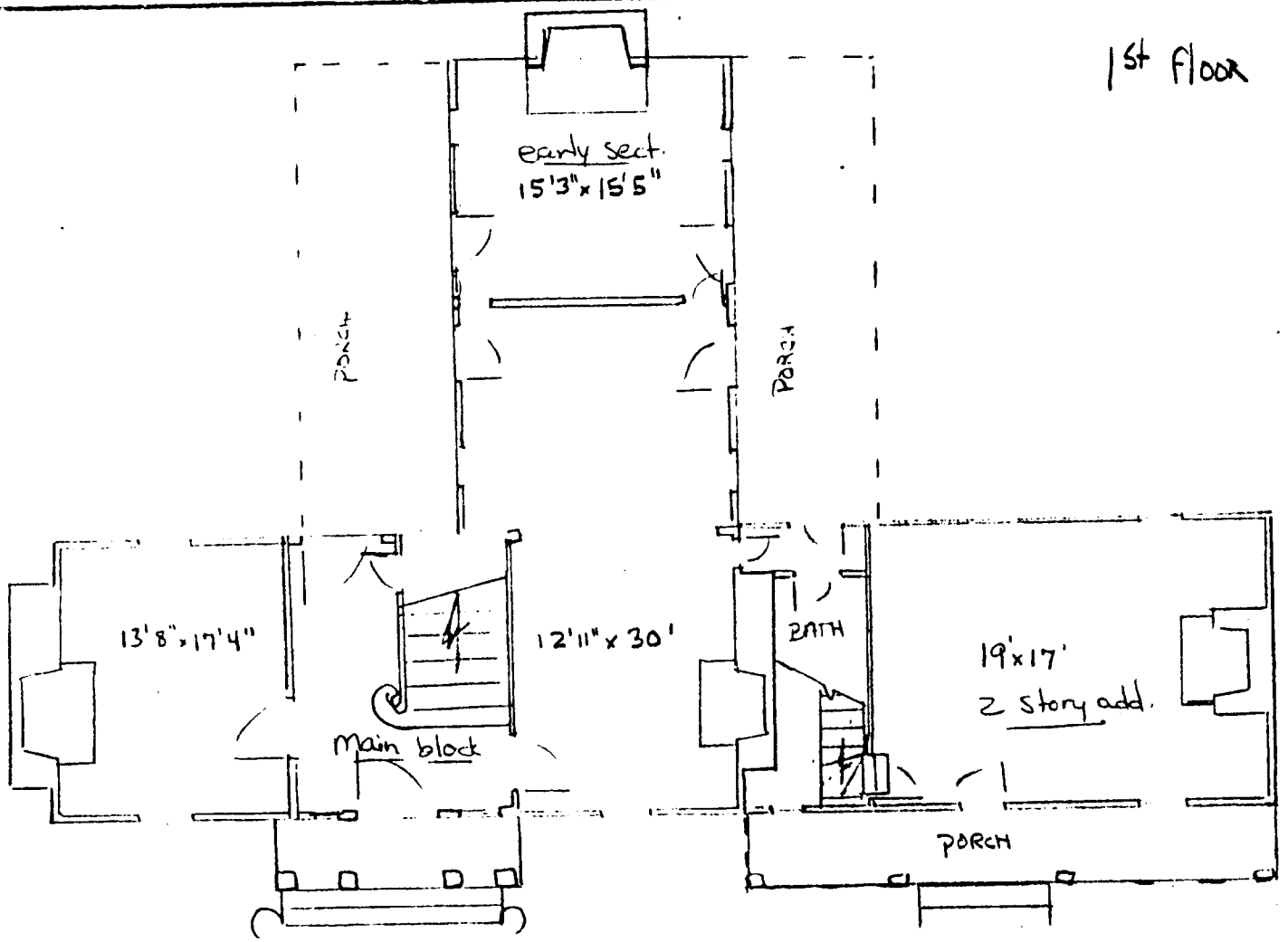
- Associated with the Fletchall and White families, early settlers prominent in the history of the western part of the County.

- The recommended environmental setting of 2.97 acres includes the terracing to the front of the house and extant outbuildings associated with the site.

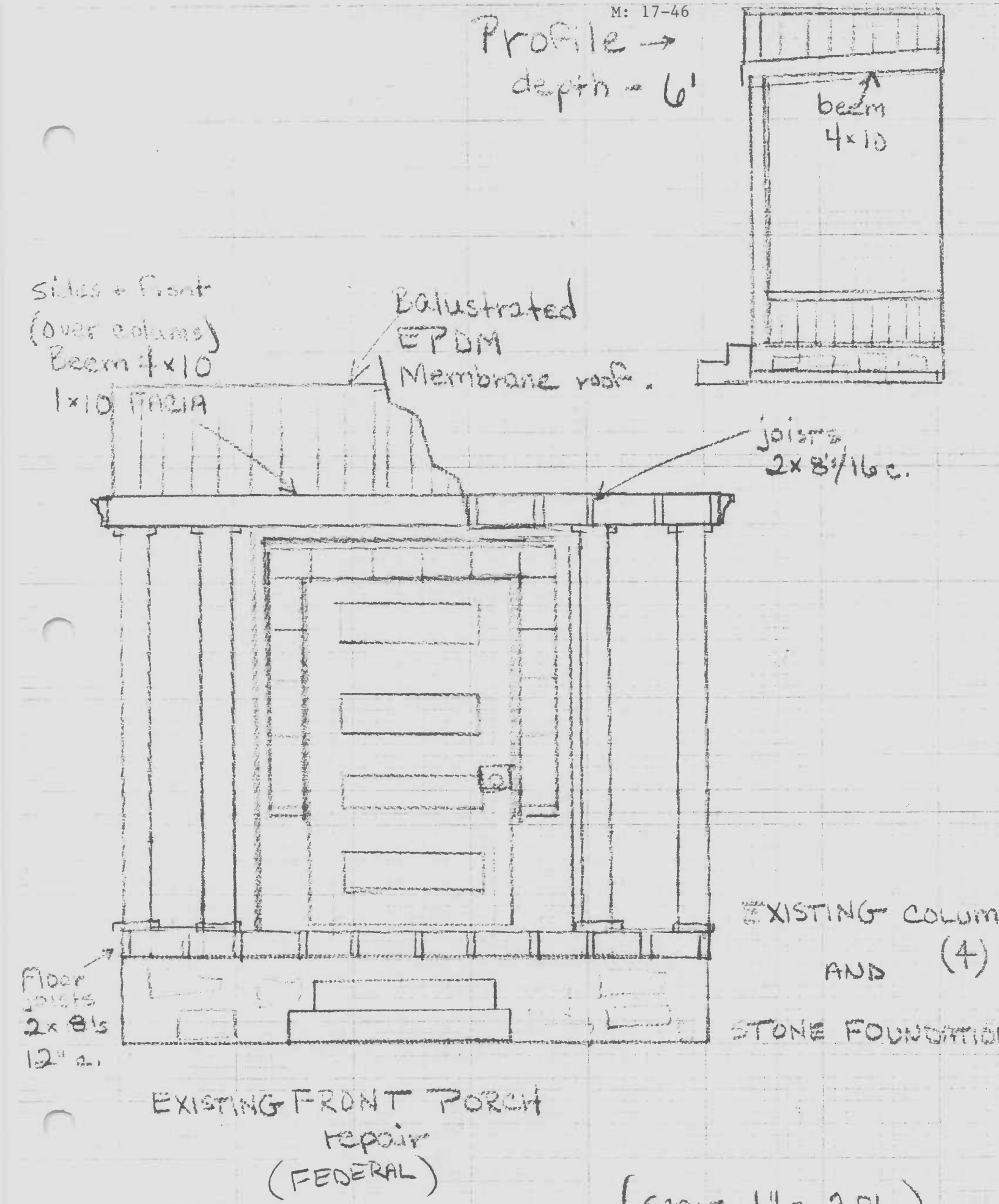
MT. NEBO
Floor plan
1st & 2nd floors
main block, 2story add. & early sect.

M:17-46





EXISTING ROOF
CEDAR SHINGLES
COLONIAL WING PORCHES
8'x 28'
"Sotterley" Style
1" = 2'
WILMOT
M: 17-46



EXISTING FRONT PORCH
repair
(FEDERAL)

(SCALE - 1" = 2 ft.)

Carol Stuart Watson

The Beall-Dawson House, c. 1815
home of the Montgomery County Historical Society
103 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville, Maryland

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY STORY
Published by the Montgomery County Historical Society

Rex L. Sturm
President

Mary Charlotte Crook
Editor

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MOUNT NEBO AND THE FLETCHALL FAMILY

by Sheila Cochran

A mile and a half below Edward's Ferry, on a hill with a beautiful view, stands an old frame house known as Mount Nebo. This house is one of the few remaining wooden farm houses with the original eighteenth-century structure along the Potomac between Seneca Creek and the Monocacy River. Mount Nebo was built by the Fletchall family who, with the Chiswells, Gattons, Hickmans, and Whites, were among the early settlers of the "Sugarland," where the sugar maple trees used to be so plentiful, between Poolesville and the Potomac River. The early history of Mount Nebo reveals a clear picture of the life of three generations of farmers in the Fletchall family during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

"Mount Nebo" was the name given the land Thomas Fletchall patented in 1807, although his father had lived on part of that land in the eighteenth century.[1] Mount Nebo's 487 acres were made up of parts of "Brightwell's Hunting Quarter" and "Preston March," two original land grants. These tracts were divided in later years and became known as "Sugar Bottom," "Resurvey on Brandy," "Corsbasket," "Indulgence," "Thomas's Point," and "Mount Ararat."

According to the well-known historian, J. Thomas Scharf, the Fletchers were among the families "worthy of record and ... honorable recollections."[2]

An early reference to a Fletcher (later spelled Fletchall) in Maryland was on May 17, 1715, in the General Assembly Proceedings[3] when a letter was received from Captain Thomas Fletchall of Prince George's County, giving an account of "some Fright The Inhabitants on the Frontiers of Potowmack are now in by reason of some of our Indians hastily coming in among the Inhabitants on Sight of naked Indians." It was advised that arms be distributed among the inhabitants on the "frontier plantations on Potowmack."

This same Thomas Fletchall may well have been the son of Thomas Fletcher who was transported to Maryland in 1676, probably from Scotland.[4] He was, between 1713 and 1716, granted 2964 acres in Prince George's County[5] including, in today's District of Columbia, "Lancaster," "Gleanings," and his 600-acre dwelling plantation, "Widow's Mite." "Clagett's Purchase," "Jacob," "Huntington," "Fletchall's Chance," and "Fletchall's Garden" were in present Montgomery County. He also had a partnership with Charles Beall in 1768 acres of land, mainly in what is now Bethesda.[6]

According to Thomas's will of 1717,[7] he left his two children, Thomas and Elizabeth, in the care of his loving friend, John Bradford, so he must have been very young when he died. In 1719, his widow, Ann, married William Renshaw, a witness of her husband's will.

Young Thomas and his wife, Elizabeth, sold Widow's Mite in four parts from 1720 to 1723.[8] In 1724, Thomas took out a warrant for "Poor Tom's Last Shift" which was granted to him for 200 acres in 1727.[9] The name of this tract suggests that Thomas was experiencing financial difficulties.

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1. Maryland Patent Records, Book IC R, p. 632.

2. J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Western Maryland* (Baltimore, MD: Regional Publishing Company, Reprinted 1968), Vol. I., p. 682.

3. *Archives of Maryland*, Vol XXX, pp. 52-53.

4. Maryland Patent Records, Book 15, p. 376.

5. Proprietary County Rent Rolls, Book 4, p. 355. Maryland Patent Records, Book PL 3, p. 526; Book PL 4, p. 75, 78-82; Book RY 1, p. 296.

6. Maryland Patent Records, Book FF, p. 60; Book CE 1, p. 2. Proprietary Rent Rolls, Book 4, p. 414.

7. Prince George's County Wills, Book 14, pp. 389-391.

8. Prince George's County Land Records, Book I, pp. 391-393 and 407.

9. Maryland Patent Records, Book PL 6, p. 460.

A Prince George's County indenture recorded in 1734 between the sheriff and Thomas Fletchall, planter,[10] confirms these difficulties. This document states that "any person in custody for 40 days or more is entitled to relief of prisoners for debt" provided he is willing to give up his estate. It further states that Thomas owns a tract of land called "Poor Tom's Last Shift," 200 acres lying in Prince George's County (on the west side of Rock Creek near "Tomlinson's Foard" - in today's Chevy Chase near Beach Drive), and that his possessions are to be sold and any that remain are to be left in trust for Thomas.

Perhaps poor Tom moved to the frontier around 1726 and raised his family there. Thomas died about 1740, and his accounts for that year[11] show a value of 88 pounds 4 shillings and 6 pence for his goods and chattels and more than 57 pounds for his tobacco crop. Among his simple inventory were a parcel of shoemaker tools and three and a half barrels of Indian Corn.

It is difficult to find absolute proof that the Thomas Fletchall and his brother John, who acquired the land for Mount Nebo, were the sons of poor Tom, but they would seem to be. In 1737, Thomas and John Fletchall, both planters, patented "Two Brothers, near a lick now called Broad Run Lick."[12] They also bought parts of "Flint's Grove," "on the west side of Sinicar Creek" in 1752 and 1773.[13]

In about 1750, John Fletchall married Elizabeth (Betty) Hickman, who was born December 17, 1731. Their six children, were named Jean, Ann, Thomas, Elizabeth, Cinthia, and John. John and Betty lived on and farmed part of the land which became Mount Nebo, and John arranged to accumulate other adjacent land to enlarge his farm. He and his wife and several of their children were buried at Mount Nebo; the gravestones are still there today.

In 1760, John Fletchall received 85 acres of "Hickman's Discovery" for "love and affection" from David Hickman[14] (a cousin of Betty). John and Betty may have spent their first married years at Hickman's Discovery; perhaps they lived there for years before the deed was recorded. In 1765, 42 acres of "Bongey," part of Sugar Bottom, with appurtenances, was conveyed to John.[15] In 1766, John bought some animals and numerous household items;[16] perhaps he had just moved his family to Bongey. Bongey became part of Mount Nebo and probably included the area where the buildings are. The earliest direct references to buildings on what became Mount Nebo were in 1783, when John's son, Thomas, owned Bongey which was listed in the Tax Assessment Records with a value of 94 pounds for 50 acres with 30 acres of cleared good land, one dwelling house, one framed barn and three log houses, and, in 1789, when Thomas Fletchall's barn stood on the second line of Brightwell's Hunting Quarter[17] along the Sugarland road (later River Road and now a farm road again). No doubt John lived in the eighteenth-century part of Mount Nebo which has been beautifully restored by the present owner.

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10. Prince George's County Land Records, Book T, p. 227.
11. Prince George's County Accounts, Book 19, p. 317.
12. Maryland Patent Records, Book EI 2, p. 548.
13. Prince George's County Land Records, Book B, p. 535; Book T, p. 296.
14. Frederick County Land Records, Book F, p. 120.
15. *Ibid.*, Book J, p. 1178.
16. *Ibid.*, Book K, p. 487.
17. Montgomery County Land Records, Book D, pp. 540-546.

This oldest part of Mount Nebo, with its two rooms and a loft, probably looks as it did when it was first built. The one-and-a-half story building is protected with beaded weather boards. It has two outside batten doors and two small four-over-four windows on both the east and west sides, directly opposite each other. Three pairs of four-over-four dormers, which perfectly match the lower windows, have been added to the original loft replacing the shed dormer which had been put up earlier in the twentieth century. There is a large exterior chimney of Seneca sandstone with a brick stack and a four-and-a-half by four-foot inside opening with evidence of a crane for hanging pots. The outline of the pitched roof was exposed on the newer adjoining building during restoration. This and other clues, including an old door and a hand-forged strap hinge found in the cellar, were discovered by the present observant owner.

Inside this old building, eighteenth-century construction materials and methods include hand-split laths and hand-made nails. Beaded ceiling beams support the loft floor boards which are also decorated with a bead on their undersides. The wainscoting is made up of 10- to 16-inch horizontal beaded boards which have a chair rail above reaching just to the window sills. The central wall which divides the two rooms is of the same horizontal beaded siding and it runs up to the ceiling. A new steep enclosed stairway replaces the one that had been torn out. The rectangular hole in the floor board, which received the original post of the loft stair railing, has been uncovered and awaits a new post.

After settling his family in their home, John completed various real-estate transactions. In 1768, he sold Hickman's Discovery.[18] That same year the land commissioners proved the bounds of Poor Tom's Last Shift, which John had inherited. The 1772 document[19] refers to John Fletchall being in partnership with Robert Beall to take up land on Rock Creek (the second generation of Fletchall/Beall partnerships).

In 1775, John Fletcher was appointed to help raise money for arms and ammunition for Sugarland Hundred.[20] At the time of his death in 1777, Captain Fletchall had in his possession "a drum and collours belonging to a company of militia".[21]

Indications of farming life appear in the will and in the accounts of John. The inventory[22] of his estate had a total value of more than 510 pounds. Among his possessions were: 16 chairs; 2 tables; 1 desk; 1 "Frame of Drawers;" 1 "pr. Hand Irons;" 11 pewter basins; 3 yards of plaid; family books; 2 linen wheels; 1 loom; 1 hand bellows; carpenter tools; 21 cyder casks; 1 "Buckaneer Gun;" a variety of cattle, cows, and horses; 1 sheep; 101 hogs; 1 still; 2 bee hives; flax seed; 8 barrels of corn; 6 1/2 bushels of rye; 342 bushels of wheat; 271 pounds of aged bacon; 36 pounds of aged dried beef; and a parcel of tobacco hogsheads. His final estate after debts were settled was 751 pounds 9 shillings and 1335 pounds of tobacco.[23]

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18. Frederick County Land Records, Book L, p. 423.

19. Prince George's County Land Records, Book P, p. 431.

20. Scharf, *op. cit.*, p. 129.

21. Montgomery County Accounts, Book A, pp. 209-211.

22. Montgomery County Inventories, Book A, pp. 148-149.

23. Montgomery County Accounts, Book A, pp. 209-211.

M:17-46

Rear View of Mount Nebo Prior to Restoration

Mount Nebo Today Showing Restored Eighteenth-Century Wing to the Left

These accounts also indicate how crops were marketed. They show money paid for "Waggoning Tobo. to Markett," and corn to be given to the "Wagoner for his Horses for Wagoning Tobo. to Geo. Town."[24] An Indian trail on the upper edge of the low land had become 'the Sugarland Road." This "main road," now called River Road, was the road used for transportation from what is now the Edward's Ferry area to Georgetown. In 1777, road overseers were in charge of maintaining this road from a crossroad on Sugarland Road below Fletchall's farm to his upper gate, and another section from his gate to John Wilcoxen's road below the Monocacy.[25] One can still see traces of the original road to the house from what used to be the Sugarland Road.

In his will,[26] signed with his name not his mark, John Fletchall left to be divided among his wife and his six children, his horses, cows, three servants, and his 12 slaves. He left his overseer "his choice of cows on the place where he lived provided he rents the plantation." His wife, Betty, received, among other things, as many sheep as she needed to clothe herself and her small children. To his eldest son, Thomas, he left "one negro man named great Sampson one negro woman named Kitt, my Riding horse, my Watch, the whole of my wearing apparel, a Waggon and the four creaturs that work on my plantation and a yellow man slave named Frank, in order to Raise and Educate my two Small Children." He left "one negro woman named Ruth and her increase" to his daughter, Jean, wife of William Hickman. (Mr. and Mrs. Beshers, who owned Mount Nebo in the 1950's, remembered a gravestone marked "Ruth" among those of the Fletchall family. William Hickman's 1809 inventory lists "lile Ruth the youngest," aged 40 and "Ruth," aged 80.[27])

John also left 50 acres of Flint's Grove to his daughter, Ann, "and in case she choose to live with her mother to be rented." Ann lived at Flint's Grove[28] and never married. The 1790 Census shows her living alone with three slaves. According to her gravestone at Mount Nebo she died at age 41.

The rest of John's land was to be divided equally between his sons, Thomas and John, after the death of his wife. His eldest son, Thomas, aged 17, was asked to complete the trade arrangement of lands which John had made with Robert Peter. This land exchange indicateds that John may have planned to patent Mount Nebo.

Betty Fletchall died April 14, 1785. In her will,[29] which appears to be in her writing (unusual in those days), she left all her possessions, except one gray mare, to her daughter, Ann; her gray mare she left to her daughter, Cinthia. Betty and John are buried at Mount Nebo with some of their children, Cinthia Ramon (d. 1787, aged 21), Ann, John, and Thomas.

Between John Fletchall's death and 1803, his son, Thomas, sold some land and patented 245 acres to add to his inherited land.[30] The tracts patented were "Resurvey

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24. *Ibid.*

25. Scharf, *op. cit.*, pp. 696-697.

26. Montgomery County Wills, Book A, pp. 7-10.

27. Montgomery County Inventories, Book F, pp. 242-246.

28. Assessments, 1795, Second District, Montgomery County.

29. Montgomery County Probate Records, Annapolis, Box 2, folder 10.

30. Maryland Patent Records, Book IC M, p. 502; Book IC H, p. 65; Book IC P, p. 21. Montgomery County Land Records, Book B, p. 298.

on Sugar Bottom," "Thomas's Point," "Mount Ararat," "Pemgey," "Hickman's Pleasure," and part of "Sugar Bottom." In 1797, Thomas and John had the deed drawn up for the trade, agreed upon by them in 1793, of the land which they had inherited from their father.[31] Robert Peter exchanged with the Fletchalls 225 acres of his "lands lying more to their advantage ... between the Sugarland Road and Potomack River." The TF #1 and TF #2 stones set for this transaction exist today on the Chiswell farm adjoining Mount Nebo. Also in 1797, the deed was drawn up for the land Thomas was to receive from his father.[32] Parts of "Corse Baskett," "Brandy," and "Indulgence" were among those he received. In 1802, a deed conveyed to Thomas 151 acres from his brother, John.[33] Thomas Fletchall was then prepared for the patent of Mount Nebo for 487 acres which he requested in 1805 and received in 1807.[34]

This Thomas Fletchall, son of John Fletchall and Betty, was born in 1760.[35] and married three times. In 1780, he married his first wife, Elizabeth Blackmore. In 1782, they had a son, James, who, in 1808, married Jane Searcy Luckett,[36] widow, (daughter of William Hickman of Arthur Hickman, who had been married to James's aunt, Jean Fletchall). Elizabeth Blackmore Fletchall died in 1786, and Thomas married Elizabeth Walter Hickman, widow of Stephen Hickman. They had a daughter, Sarah, born in 1787, and a son, George Walter (at least sometimes known as Walter),[37] born in 1793. In 1809, Sarah married William Chiswell; in 1814, George married Eleanor White Chiswell, William's sister.[38] Elizabeth was probably raised within a mile of Mount Nebo near the Horsepen Branch where her father, George Walter, a planter, lived.[39] Elizabeth died in 1799, and, in 1801, Thomas married Sarah Newton Chiswell, sister of Eleanor White Chiswell and William Chiswell, his childrens' spouses!

In 1780, Thomas sold 337 1/4 acres of "Magruder and Beall's Honesty" with buildings and improvements for $10,000.[40] This may have been the beginning of Thomas's financial success. Thomas Fletchall was a farmer. The 1783 Tax Assessments show him as owner of seven slaves, six horses, 20 cattle, and other property worth 34 pounds. By the 1790 Census and in 1800, Thomas owned 18 slaves, indicating considerable wealth. Thomas probably built the largest frame section of Mount Nebo.

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31. Montgomery County Land Records, Book G, p. 619.

32. *Ibid.*, Book G, p. 622.

33. *Ibid.*, Book K, p. 128 (parts of "Brightwell's Hunting Quarter," "low land," "blantyre" and "Preston's march").

34. Maryland Patent Records, Book IC R, pp. 632-637.

35. Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh, M.S., M.D., *Maryland Records. Colonial Revolutionary, County and Church*, (Baltimore, MD: Williams & Wilkins Co., 1915), Vol. I, p. 221.

36. *Marriage Licenses 1796-1850.* Montgomery County Historical Society.

37. Family papers from Annette Fletchall, 1982.

38. Montgomery County Historical Society, "Fletchall" file.

39. Montgomery County Land Records, Book D, pp. 540-546; Montgomery County Wills, Book B, p. 199; Montgomery County Administrations, Book C, p. 195.

40. Montgomery County Land Records, Book A, p. 442.

This two-and-a-half story west wing faces south toward the river and is of Federal structure with later Greek Revival and a few Victorian changes. It is of braced frame construction with three bays and is covered with plain shiplapped clapboard siding. The exterior brick chimneys provide fireplaces in each of the four rooms. Some of the lights over the front door of the entrance porch are stencilled. At one time there was a small upstairs porch centered over the lower one. The first floor windows are nine over six; upstairs they are six over six. Inside, this wing has two rooms on each floor with a central stairway and walnut railing extending to the attic.

The foundations of all three wings of Mount Nebo are of Seneca sandstone as are the drain stones for the gutters, a large stone step cut with a curve, a stone mounting block, and the lining of the 60-foot well.

From wills and accounts one can begin to know Thomas of Mount Nebo. Thomas's younger brother, John, who had married Dorcas Veirs, died at the age of 37. In his luxurious inventory of 1808[41] is one old silver watch valued at 8 pounds. Thomas bought the old watch for $2.00. Could this have been the silver watch left by their father to Thomas in 1777? (In 1819 "my silver watch" was left by Thomas to his eldest son, James.) Thomas, for no fee, also took back "old Sampson, aged 60 and infirm," valued at $20. At the same time he bought back into the family four negroes valued at $920.

Thomas Fletchall was much involved in local affairs. In 1790, he was among the appraisers of a sale of goods.[42] In 1793 and 1794, he received 15 pounds for 30 days attendance as a tax commissioner.[43] In 1794, he received seven pounds to continue on the land commission.[44] In 1799, Thomas Fletchall was appointed one of the first five commissioners for the county's election districts.[45] He was a levy court and county commissioner from 1813 through 1815.[46] In 1811, a patent referred to "Colonel" Thomas Fletchall.[47]

By his death in 1819, besides Mount Nebo and Flint's Grove, Thomas owned over 1200 acres in present Montgomery County,[48] mainly along the river between Seneca and White's Ferry. He also owned 1200 acres in Harrison County, Virginia. He left his

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41. Montgomery County Inventories, Book F, pp. 474-475.

42. Montgomery County Wills, Book C, pp. 12-13, and 47.

43. Montgomery County Commissioners Assessment Book, 1793-1797.

44. Montgomery County Clerk's Fee Book, 1794.

45. T.H.S. Boyd. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, from Its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879 (Baltimore, MD: Regional Publishing Company, Reprinted 1968), p. 53.

46. Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance, the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland* (Rockville, MD: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976), p. 397.

47. Maryland Patent Records, Book JK U, pp. 520-521.

48. Montgomery County Land Records, Book K, p. 391 and Book M, pp. 595 and 601, (two parts of Wolf's Cow); Book K, p. 126, (part of Cyder and Ginger); Book L, p. 213 (Three Springs).

son, George Walter, most of Mount Nebo; 115 1/4 acres, he left to his daughter, Sarah Chiswell.[49] Aside from land, he left his wife her choice of his male and female negroes and "her choice of two Negroe Girls Maria or Mahala her choice of two feather Beds, Bedsteads and furniture one Buroe her choice of one pair of tables, one tea chest, choice of horses and milk cows and one gilt looking glass." Thomas's kindness and thoughtfulness appear again in the choices he gives his wife. This was not common in wills of that time. He left his share of a lot in Georgetown to his brother's children who owned the other half.

In 1799, Thomas had bought a lease on 100 acres of the adjoining farm upstream which had buildings on it. This tract is part of the land Thomas left to his daughter, Sarah, and it, along with adjoining land, became known as the Chiswell Farm[50] during the time her son, Thomas, raised his family there.

When Sarah Chiswell died in 1863, she left a slave, Mariah, $2.00 for her faithfulness and good conduct and asked that she have the privilege of selecting her own master or mistress and not be exposed to public sale.[51]

The 1850 Census shows Thomas's wife, Sarah, age 69, lived at her house at Flint's Grove with her nephew, William A. Chiswell (son of William and Sarah Chiswell) and his wife, her "adopted daughter", Rachel Ann Fletchall Chiswell (daughter of George Walter Fletchall).[52]

Hard times again struck the next generation. In 1825, George Walter Fletchall mortgaged Mount Nebo to pay his debts.[53] In 1827, George Walter Fletchall owned 15 slaves, 28 ounces of silver plate, and other personal property valued at $392.50; his total value was $1,203.00[54]. On May 26, 1832, an advertisement appeared in the *Frederick-Town Herald* for 368 acres of Mount Nebo for sale. the farm house was described as a two-story frame dwelling house attached to a frame back building with a frame kitchen adjoined. According to the advertisement the outbuildings consisted of a new frame Switzer barn (which is there today) and a brick dairy (part of which still remains). There was also a garden with "handsome falls" in front of the house, "which commands a view of the river and the C. & O. Canal passing through the farms. The land is well watered ... fertility of the soil and commanding view ... render it the most desireable place in that section of country."

George Walter Fletchall was one of the many farmers who lost everything in those depressed times. Debts to him went unpaid,[55] and he, in turn, was in debt. In 1830, a deed of trust was recorded between him and his brother-in-law, William Chiswell, who became "surety" for George.[56] A partial list of the property turned over to William

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49. Montgomery County Wills, Book L, p. 123.

50. Montgomery County Land Records, Book H, pp. 463-466.

51. Montgomery County Wills, Book JWS 1, p. 135.

52. Montgomery County Land Records, Book EBP 4, p. 448.

53. Montgomery County Land Records, Book Y, p. 176.

54. Tax Assessment Records, Second District.

55. Montgomery County Land Records, Book V, p. 63; Book W, p. 298.

56. *Ibid.*, Book BS 2, p. 433.

gives an idea of the farm in those days: 21 slaves including six men, four women and 11 children. Among the slaves was Jacob who may have been the same Jacob (aged 3 or 4)[57] willed by John Fletchall, in 1777, to his son, John (aged 6). Also listed were nine horses, 21 hogs, one yoke of oxen, 27 sheep, "cattle of every description, farming utensils and the now growing crop on the farm."

In 1832, William Chiswell bought Mount Nebo at a public sale; because he could not comply with the terms of sale, in 1833, Horatio Trundle was substituted as purchaser of the 368 acres for $9,186.90.[58] George Walter Fletchall died in 1832.[59]

George Walter and Eleanor Fletchall had four children: John Thomas, Sarah, Rachel Ann, and Hester.[60] By 1850, Eleanor was living with William and Sarah Matthews, her daughter. A gravestone in Eleanor's memory at Mount Nebo is dated 1878.

It is sad to note that George Fletchall's half-brother, James Fletchall, was forced to sell his 478 acres of "Resurvey on Part of Forest" with its dwelling house (possibly the early part of "Stoney Castle"), which he had inherited from his father. In 1831, Stephen Newton Chiswell White purchased this land from James for $5,529.57.[61] James's 1827 tax assessment showed a total value of $1,612.00 including 13 slaves. In 1833, after his death, James's debts were "much greater than his personal estate" and over 300 acres adjoining Edward's Ferry landing, which his father also had left him, were sold for $4,660.[62] James's widow, Jane, asked for the "mansion house with all the other buildings attached and the priviledge of using the well of water."

After the Fletchalls sold Mount Nebo, it changed hands numerous times. The first purchaser, Horatio Trundle, was one of the most active members of the Medley's District Agricultural Society formed in 1840. Their report of 1849 showed that Horatio Trundle greatly improved his dwelling and outhouses as well as the grounds and farm land, which had been, "in a ruinous condition." "Superior" wheat, timothy, clover, oats, and corn were grown on the farm that year.[63] In 1855, Horatio Trundle owned 27 slaves, valued at $4,260.[64] It is likely that he built the newest east wing of Mount Nebo.

Although it is also two stories high, this wing is less tall than the adjoining west wing. Across the south side of this part of the house a Victorian entrance porch with a hip roof and chamfered columns faces toward the river and shades two nine-over-six windows, one on either side of the door. There is an interior brick chimney on the east end. There may have been an earlier kitchen where the east wing was built. The present kitchen is trimmed with Victorian wainscoting and enclosed stairs lead up to the second floor where there are three pairs of six-over-six windows, opposite one another.

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57. Brumbaugh, *op. cit.*
58. Montgomery County Land Records, Book BS 6, p. 136.
59. Montgomery County Historical Society "Fletchall" file.
60. Family papers received from Annette Fletchall, 1982.
61. Montgomery County Judgement Records, Book BS 2, pp. 237-250.
62. *Ibid.*, Book BS 3, p. 116.
63. *The Maryland Journal*, Rockville, Maryland, September 8, 1849.
64. Assessment Records 1841-1857, Third District.

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Front View of Mount Nebo, Circa 1966, Showing Newest Wing on the Right

Nearby is a 12-foot by 10-foot log building with remains of its original wood shingled roof. This building is chinked with Seneca sandstone chips laid diagonally; it has been used as a smoke house. There are also, on the property, the brick remains of a dairy, and Ida Shepard, whose father owned Mount Nebo, remembers evidence of log houses down the hill toward the river and near the old road to the house.[65]

In 1857, Horatio Trundle conveyed to Joseph White, for $20,000, 368 acres of Mount Nebo.[66] The White family owned the farm for 78 years. Joseph White, son of Benjamin and Rachel Chiswell White, was born in 1825. In 1846, he married his first cousin, Ann White, daughter of Stephen and Mary Veirs White of Stoney Castle.[67] In his will, which was probated in 1903, Joseph requested that his sons, Joseph "Furr" White and Elijah, have the use of the farm one year after "our death" free of any charge. Joseph died on February 26, 1903; Ann died on March 5, 1903.

An interesting highlight occurred when Joseph White owned Mount Nebo during the War between the States. On September 23, 1861, Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote home to his mother describing his "post of honor" in a grove "about two miles" from Edward's Ferry. In the letter he mentioned the house of a "secesher" who fed him "delicious goose and ice cream, etc., but the artillery men hooked his pigs, geese, etc. The secesher has since been arrested for signalizing by lights from his house but evidence seems inconclusive and I guess he'll be released."[68] Sergeant Chris Heffelfinger, of Company D, of the First Minnesota was ordered to find out the truth. His men,

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65. Conversation with Joseph Wilmot in 1987.

66. Montgomery County Land Records, Book JGH 6, p. 168.

67. Tressie Nash Bowman, *Montgomery County, Maryland, Marriages, 1796-1850* (The author, 1966).

68. Oliver Wendell Holmes, *Touched with Fire* (Boston, MA: Harvard Univ., 1946), p. 10.

M:17-46

who were stationed in a nearby barn, reported that just before first light they saw the flickering candles of slaves starting their day's work![69]

In 1935, Joseph White's daughter and son, Mary Elizabeth White Pratt, widow, and Joseph "Furr" White, widower, and other heirs transferred 368 acres of Mount Nebo to John B. Shepard.[70] The Shepards rented out Mount Nebo.[71] In 1946, Mrs. Shepard conveyed to James Symington a total of 925 acres including Mount Nebo.[72] In 1950, the Symingtons conveyed the 925 acres to Hugh M. and Caroline Beshers.[73]

The Beshers Loved Mount Nebo. They renovated the kitchen of the house and moved the Fletchall gravestones into the garden[74] where the terraces of the original "falls" of the garden may still be seen. In 1964, the Beshers sold the 438 1/2 acres of Mount Nebo to The Potomac Valley Turf Farm, which was run by William H. and Ruth E. Wilmot.[75]

Joseph (Joche) Wilmot now owns the old house, and he is doing a beautiful job of restoring it. With hard work and patient supervision he is converting what had become a collapsing receptacle for hay back into an elegant historic home. Joche has spent much time in research and study of the house, and he has generously contributed his conclusions to this paper.

Joche Wilmot found, in the telephone book, Annette Rose Fletchall, the only descendant of the Fletchall family living in the Washington area. Annette is the daughter of John Thomas and Annette Rose Fletchall and the great-great-granddaughter of George Walter Fletchall. She provided interesting information about her antecedents. It has been my pleasure to meet her and to share her enthusiasm for her interesting family.

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69. Roger S. Cohen, Jr., "The Civil War in the Poolesville Area," *The Montgomery County Story*, Vol. V, No. 1, p. 6.
70. Montgomery County Land Records, Book 622, p. 466.
71. Conversation with Joseph Wilmot, March 1988.
72. Montgomery County Land Records, Book 1001, p. 95.
73. *Ibid.*, Book 1345, p. 372.
74. Visits between the Beshers and the Carlyle Cochrans, circa 1960.
75. Montgomery County Land Records, Book 3214, p. 699.

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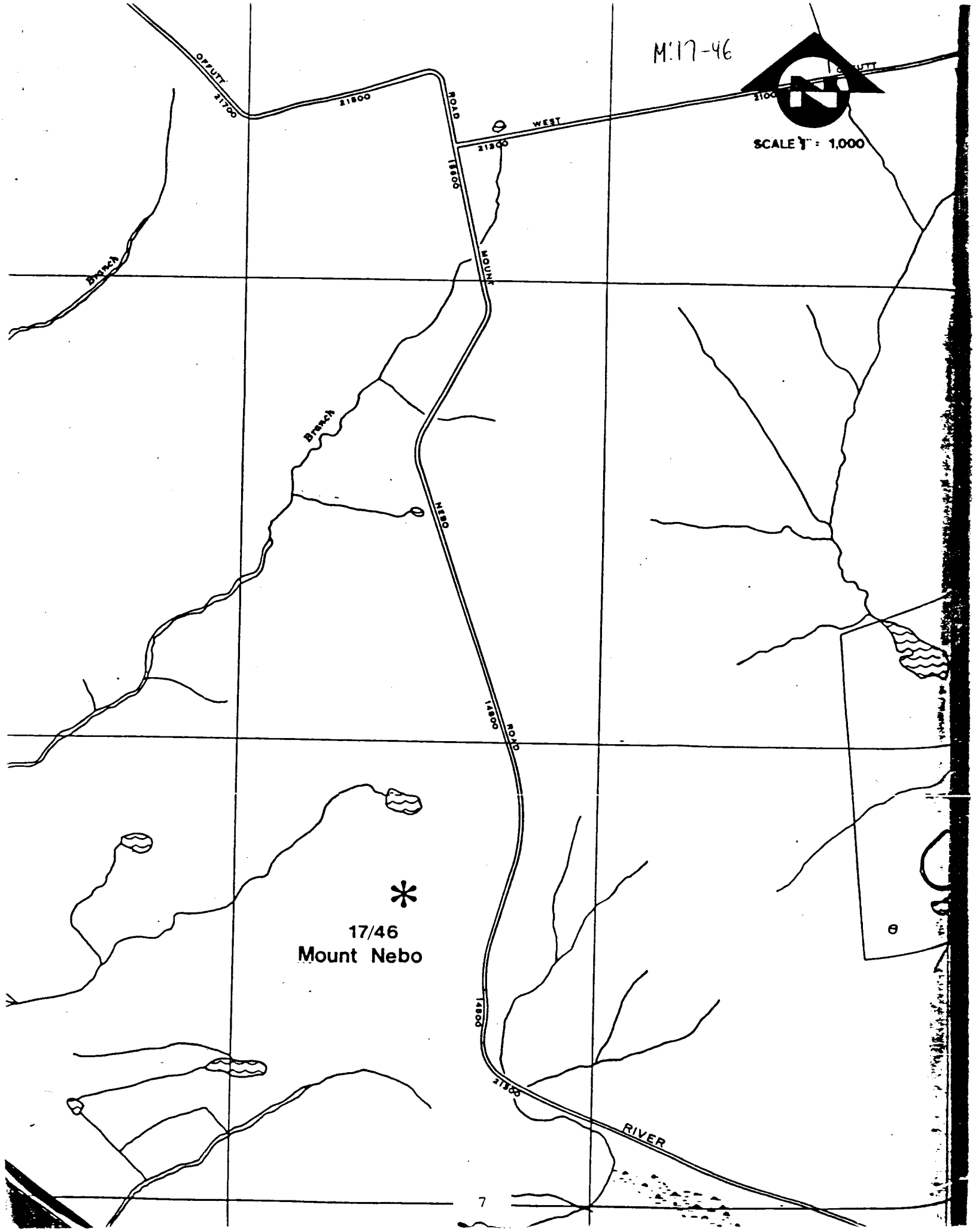
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SCALE 1" = 1,000
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ROAD
17/46
Mount Nebo
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RIVER

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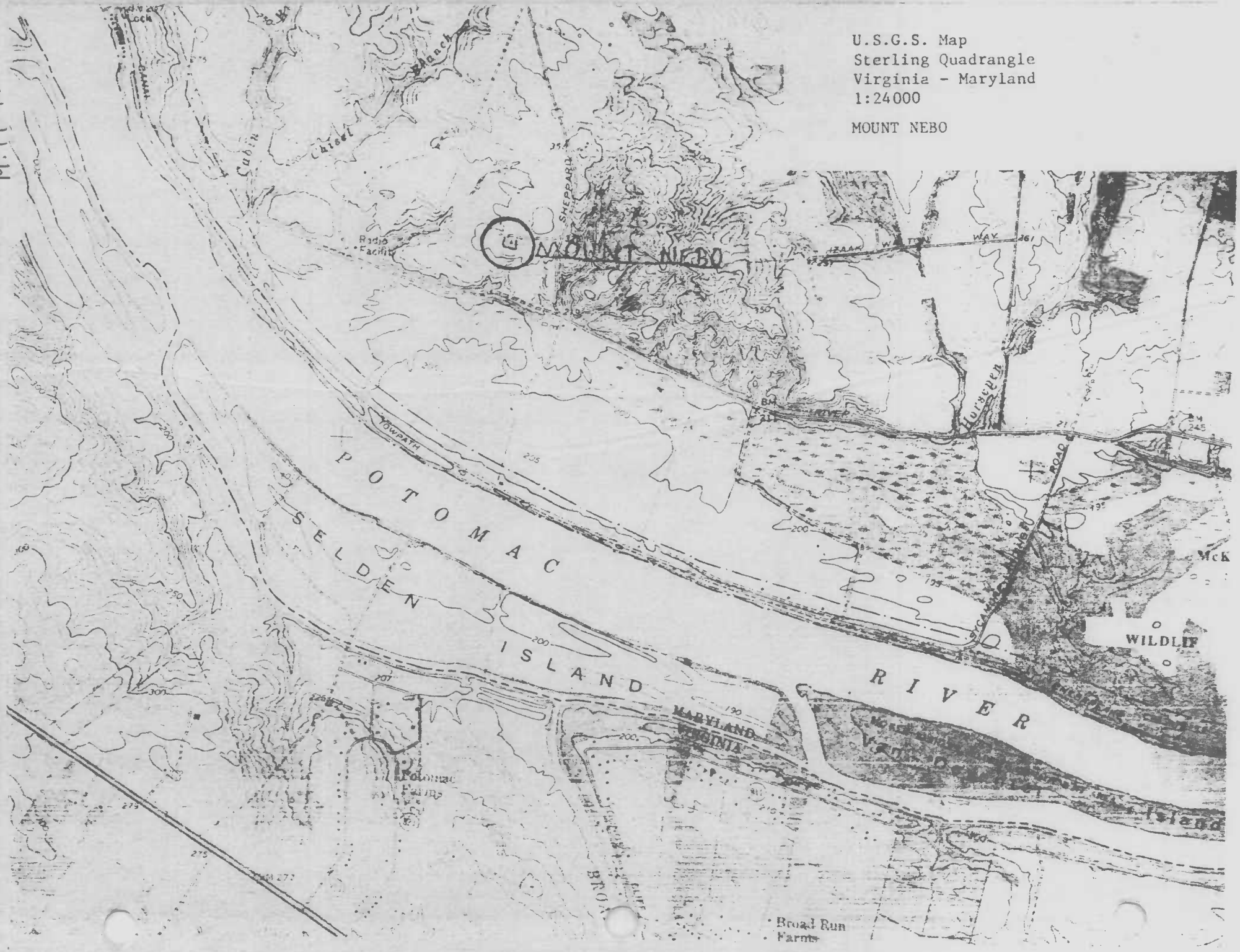
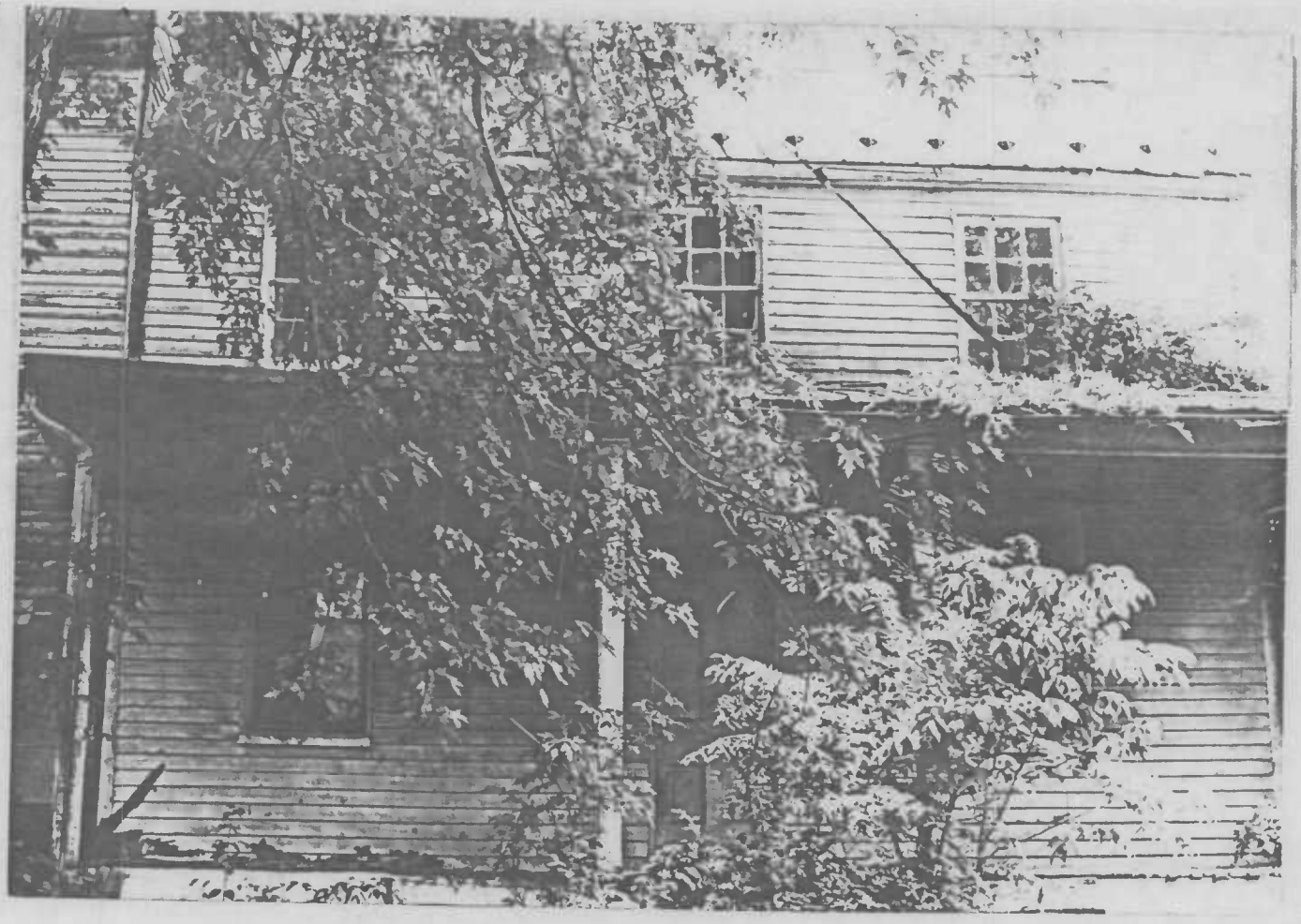
U.S.G.S. Map
Sterling Quadrangle
Virginia - Maryland
1:24000

MOUNT NEBO





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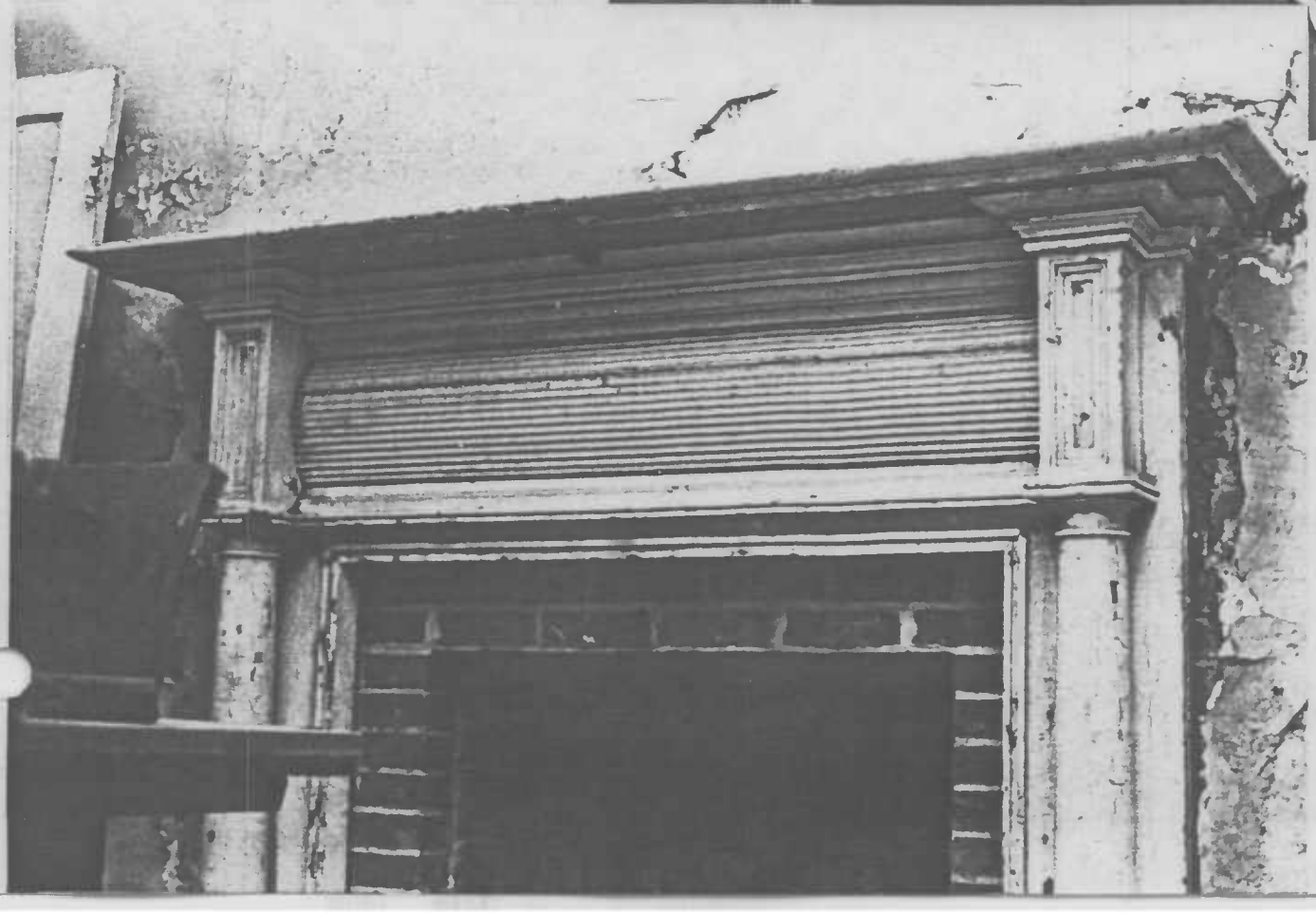

[redacted] 1966 Mt. Nebo M-17-46

1966 - photo taken

M-17-46

Mt. Nebo - southern exposure
(towards River)

30

S. elev.

#M-46

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

LOCATION SHEPPARD Rd. & OLD RIVER Rd. POOLESVILLE, Md.

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 10/4/73 M DWYER

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

Ex

#17-46

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

LOCATION SHEPPARD Rd. POOLESVILLE, Md.

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 10/4/73 M DWYER

1966 - photo taken

M-17-46
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Mt. Nebo

W. Gable

#17-46

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

LOCATION SHEPPARD Rd. POOLESVILLE, Md

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 10/4/73 MOWYER