

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M: 26-5

1. Name: Watt's Branch Miller's House (Veirs Log Cabin) MAGI #1650055204
(#assigned 11/86)
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 26/5 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 15
Coordinate C-14

Address: 1050 W. Montgomery Avenue
Rockville, Md.

5. Classification Summary

Category building
Ownership private
Public Acquisition N/A
Status occupied
Accessible no
Present use private residence

Previous Survey Recording MNCPPC
Title and Date: Historic Sites Inventory
1976

Federal State x County x Local

6. Date: 1790s

7. Original Owner: Richard Wootton

8. Apparent Condition

a. excellent b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This log and frame house sits at the end of a dirt road near Watts Branch Creek, facing northeast. Built in two sections: the northwest sections is log, it is three bays across and one and a half stories high. The southeast section is frame and is three bays across and two and a half stories in height. The frame section is irregularly shaped and projects forward from the log house. The log house has V-notched logs and concrete chinking. The frame section has beige beaded clapboarding. Both sections have six-over-six double-hung windows. The log section has a gable roof, the frame section has a hipped roof with asbestos shingles.

10. Significance: This log and frame dwelling is a fine example of an early cabin which grew to meet the needs of the families who lived in it. It sits on land once owned by the "father" of Montgomery County, Dr. Thomas Sprigg Wootton, who introduced the successful resolution on August 31, 1776, to divide Frederick County into 3 parts -- Washington, Frederick, and Montgomery Counties.

Wootton's son, Richard, probably had the log dwelling constructed in the 1790s. The mill was operating by 1821. In 1848, Turner and Olivia C. Wootton separated the ownership of the mill from that of the miller's house by selling 229 acres and the dwelling to Chandler Keys, reserving the right of way into the family burial ground and the privileges of the "stream". The saw and grist mill operated until about 1919 when the property was sold to Charles Veirs. The present owners purchased the house in 1953.

11. Researcher and date researched: Candy Reed/ Architectural Description
Michael Dwyer, Sharon Green 2/79

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled: 2/79

14. Designation
Approval 15. Acreage: 5.635 acres plus
right of way

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 26/5
Magi #
1650055204

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Watts Branch Miller's House

AND/OR COMMON

Veirs Log Cabin

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1050 W. Montgomery Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

A.B. and Barbara Veirs

Telephone #: 424-4960

STREET & NUMBER

1050 W. Montgomery Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 1807

Folio #: 31

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL STATE COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M:26-5

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This log and frame house sits at the end of a dirt road near Watts Branch Creek, facing northeast.

Built in two sections, the northwest section is log, three bays across and one-and-a-half stories in height. The southeast section is frame and is three bays across and two-and-a-half stories in height. The frame section is irregularly shaped and projects forward from the log house.

The log house is built on fieldstone foundations. The exposed log walls have V-notched corners with concrete chinking which has been painted beige. Three fieldstone steps lead up to the glass and wooden paneled northeast (front) door. It is square and has six-over-six double hung windows flanked by black wooden louvered shutters. There is a shed-roofed dormer window on both the northeast and southwest elevations. Each has three six-light casement windows. At the northeast gable end there are two six-over-six double hung windows flanking the chimney. The log house has a gable roof covered by asbestos shingles. At the northeast elevation there is a massive exterior fieldstone base and a brick chimney stack. A modern lean-to addition to the log house on the northwest elevation also has a massive exterior brick chimney. This frame lean-to addition was built on brick foundations and has a shed roof.

The frame section of the house has beige beaded clapboarding. It has an irregular plan and is joined to the garage to the southeast elevation by a breezeway. The frame section of the house has two small southwest projecting pavilions. Throughout the frame section the six-over-six double hung windows are grouped in twos and threes. There is a hipped roof with asbestos covering and a brick interior chimney.

The breezeway and garage have gable roof covered by asbestos shingles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:26-5

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1790s BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This log dwelling is a fine example of an early cabin which grew to meet the needs of the families who lived there, and to furnish nearby living quarters for those who operated the mill.

By the time of the American Revolution, Dr. Thomas Sprigg Wootton was the owner of this land. Wootton is known as the father of Montgomery County for it was he who had played a major role in the local events leading up to the separation from England, and introduced the successful resolution on August 31, 1776 to divide Frederick County into three parts -- Washington, Frederick, and Montgomery counties.

Wootton deeded 383 acres of "Exchange and New Exchange Enlarged" to his son Richard in 1778,¹ and it was probably Richard who had the log dwelling constructed on his property two miles outside "Montgomery Court House". Richard in 1803 sold 400 acres to his daughter Elizabeth Beall,² who conveyed it ten years later to Henry Strause and Otho H. Williams.³ The mill was operating before 1821, as the grist and saw mill of the late Henry Strause was advertised for sale in the March 8 Baltimore Advertiser of that year.

The property was again offered for sale in 1844 -- 431 acres "lying about a mile and a quarter from the town of Rockville, with a DWELLING HOUSE and GRIST MILL thereon."⁴

In 1848, Turner and Olivia C. Wootton separated the ownership of the mill from that of the miller's house by selling 229 acres and the dwelling to Chandler Keys. The Woottons reserved the right of way into the family burial ground and also the privileges of the "stream which was formerly used in operating the Mill of Strause and Williams, and which was subsequently the Mill of John Braddock, and which is now conducted into the Mill race of said Wootton, through the aforesaid described land and premises for the benefit of the Mill of said Wootton, with full power to improve and repair the same."⁵

The saw and grist mill which appears on the 1865 Martinet and Bond map of Montgomery County was a local or custom mill. It was powered by an overshot wheel, in which the weight of water conducted through the race to the top of the wheel caused it to turn. This small mill ground the Woottons grain and, upon the payment of a toll, that of their neighbors.

The mill and the cabin were leased to the miller and his family. In the 1850 Census, Benjamin Sparrow, age 41, born in Maryland, lived here with his large family, and operated the mill. Olivia C. Wootton and her daughters Martha and Ella sold the mill and 12 acres for \$2400 to John . Robertson, in 1868,⁶ but they continued to live nearby. The property was sold at public auction in 1881 to William T. Grimes, who resold it two

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (continued on Attachment Sheet A)

Watts Branch Miller's House

years later to Salathiel T. Mullican.⁷ Mullican operated the mill himself, selling the 12 acre property in 1897 to Frisby Price.⁸ Price sold it to Lindsay R. Hickerson in 1899,⁹ who in turn sold it to Kate O. Holmes in 1905.¹⁰

William H. Holmes was the curator of the Smithsonian Institution from 1879 to 1920. He was also an artist of some note, and some of his work as well as photographs of the cabin taken during his residence are available in the Fine Arts Collection of the Smithsonian. Holmes named the log house "Holmescroft".

Charles Veirs purchased the property in 1919,¹¹ about the time that the mill ceased operation. The present owners purchased the house in 1953.

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., A112 (March 13, 1778).
- 2 Ibid., K465 (April 27, 1803).
- 3 Ibid., R36 (December 28, 1813).
- 4 Maryland Journal, July 31, 1844.
- 5 Land Records, op. cit., STS3/472 (June 6, 1848).
- 6 Ibid., EBP 6/47 (January 11, 1869).
- 7 Ibid., EBP 28/289 (March 26, 1883).
- 8 Ibid., JA 60/489 (December 14, 1897).
- 9 Ibid., TD 12/359 (December 30, 1899).
- 10 Ibid., 184/84 (September 29, 1905).
- 11 Ibid., 274/471 (January 20, 1919).

Maryland Journal (Rockville) - July 31, 1844

On FRIDAY the 27th of September next, at 12 M. on the premises, the following tracts or parts of tracts of land,

On the same day, at 6 P. M. on the premises, part of a tract of Land called "Wickham's Park;" part of a tract called "Joseph's Good Will," part of a tract called "Discontent," part of a tract called The Resurvey on West's Part of Discontent, lying adjoining each other, and supposed to contain about

431 Acres, ^{A.B.} ~~VEIR'S~~ ^{PROP. 27}

being the Lands conveyed by the late Richard Wootton to Messrs. Sprause & Williams; lying about a mile and a quarter from the town of Rockville, with a DWELLING HOUSE and GRIST MILL the rem. at head of Watts

ALSO—On SATURDAY, the 28th of September next, a tract or part of a tract of LAND, called "Exchange and New Exchange Enlarged," containing

120 Acres.

Part of a tract called the "Wheel of Fortune," containing

123 Acres,

as deced by Wm. O'Neale, Sen. to Wm. O'Neale, Jr.; lying about two and a half miles from Rockville, and occupied by Wm. O'Neale, Sen., having a

DWELLING HOUSE and other improvements thereon—all of which are more particularly described in the bill and proceedings aforesaid.

The above Lots or parts of Lots, tracts or parts of tracts of Land, will be sold separately, except where two or more constitute one enclosure or farm, or are attached to one building; such will be sold together, unless a division should be advantageous to all concerned.

TERMS OF SALE.—One-tenth of the purchase money to be paid in hand, or on the ratification of the sale; the residue in equal annual instalments, of one, two, and three years from the day of sale; the whole to bear interest from the day of sale, the payment thereof to be secured by bonds or single bills of the purchaser, with a surety or sureties to be approved by the Trustee.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Braunberg, Robert, "Rockville Mills", City of Rockville newsletter, June 18, 1975.

Land and Will Records of Montgomery County, Md.

Lee Ann Smith, "A Quest for the Age and History of the Log Mill House Rockville, Maryland", 1972

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.635 acres plus rights of way

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Candy Reed
Arch. Description

Michael Dwyer/Sharon Green

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

2/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 87

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dickerson

Maryland

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

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

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

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
Box 87, Stronghold
Dickerson, Md. 20753
(301) 926-4510

1606865404

M# 26-25

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Watts Branch Miller's House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
(Veirs log cabin)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1050 W. Montgomery Ave.

CITY OR TOWN:
Rockville

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Montgomery

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
--	--	---	---	-----------------------------------

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
A.B. Veirs

STREET AND NUMBER:
1050 W. Montgomery Ave.

CITY OR TOWN: Rockville 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:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is built in several parts, the earliest section being a one-story log cabin at the north end. The log walls are exposed and there is a large, external, stone chimney on the north end. There are three bays on the main (east) facade, and the door is in the center bay. Windows are six-over-six, double-hung, and there are painted boards nailed over the window heads.

The second part of the house is a late nineteenth-century, frame building of two stories. It is basically an L-shaped farmhouse that was remodeled by the Alvin Veirs family during the mid-twentieth century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 5/7/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Ave.

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

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

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature _____

CITY of ROCKVILLE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 21, NO. 13

"AN INFORMED CITIZEN IS A BETTER CITIZEN"

JUNE 18, 1975

MAYOR AND COUNCIL HOLD THE LINE ON THE CITY BUDGET

The Mayor and Council have adopted a fiscal year 1976 (July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976) budget which will keep the City's real property tax at last year's level of \$1.24 per \$100 of assessed valuation. This was done despite many inflationary cost increases and while maintaining most services at current levels.

Working with the City Manager's proposed budget of \$11,504,601, the Council's approved a total budget of \$11,547,822. Of this amount, \$7,780,515 is to be spent from the General Fund revenues which are tax and fee supported.

Among changes made by the Mayor and Council were increases for police activities, right-of-way maintenance and other activities related to the Bicentennial. The following increases were made: \$32,500 for workman's compensation insurance; and \$36,000 for gasoline and utility

costs expected because of the import tariff. These were not anticipated when the Manager submitted the budget in late April. An employee wage increase of 2% plus a payment of \$300 per employee to be paid in two parts, was incorporated from funds providing this discretion in the City Manager's proposed budget. In total, expenses added during the budget deliberations were \$159,191. Budget reductions, which included additional staff cuts, recreation expenses (which will be offset by higher fees), and lower expenditures for the interest on the City's recent bond issue totalled \$172,589.

In addition, the Mayor and Council approved initial expenditures for the City's \$1,137,000 Community Development Block Grant which will be concentrating expenditure in the neighborhoods of Rockcrest and Monroe Street-Lynfield in FY '76.

STATEMENT OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF ROCKVILLE TO ITS CITIZENS AND EMPLOYEES

The Mayor and Council of Rockville agreed at its meeting Monday evening to adopt a no tax increase budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1975. The tax rate which will be set officially on June 16 will remain at \$1.24 per \$100 assessed valuation. This was accomplished only by a careful review of the City Manager's Proposed Budget, and a general maintenance of present levels of service.

While the Mayor and Council was carrying out its review of the City Manager's Proposed Budget, the City Manager was engaged in negotiations with Local #1453 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, which represents the City's blue collar employees. Although the City Manager negotiated for over five weeks with the representatives of Local #1453, the negotiations have not resulted in an agreement and the parties unfortunately are presently at an impasse.

Negotiations with the Local #1453 have centered around two main economic issues: wages and health insurance.

The Mayor and Council has included funds in the FY '76 Budget to provide a 2% across the board salary adjustment plus a lump sum payment of \$300 per employee. For an employee with current salary of \$10,000, this represents a wage package increase of \$500. The lump

sum payment is being made to increase the purchasing power of the employees.

Rockville presently provides a family health insurance program at no cost to its employees. The City's contribution is comparable or superior to that provided by the federal, state and other nearby local jurisdictions. Last year, the Union negotiated a contract with the City which stipulated that the employer and the employee would share equally any future increased health premium costs. The Union now demands that the City pay the entire amount.

The task of being attentive to the needs and capabilities of City residents while at the same time acting in fairness to the City's employees has been extremely difficult. In taking preliminary actions towards the adoption of the forthcoming Budget, the Mayor and Council has continued the tax rate at its present level and, in this way, is seeking to minimize additional financial burdens on its residents. By the same token, the Mayor and Council has attempted to meet increased needs of its employees while at the same time recognizing that economic conditions in the United States today require that both citizens and city employees share the burdens of the dual problems of inflation and recession.

CITY CONCERN OVER SOUTHLAWN INCINERATOR SITE USE

Mayor William Hanna has written a letter on behalf of the Mayor and Council to the Members of the County Council requesting that the County plans to use the Southlawn Incinerator site as a refuse transfer station be only temporary. The City is not pleased with the use of this site as a transfer station since original County plans for the site were to convert it into a park once the incinerator was closed down. The present plan is to use the site as a temporary transfer station only until the Central Processing Facility for

processing refuse opens July 1977. The Mayor's letter suggested that it be stated in the Ten Year Solid Waste Plan that the Southlawn Incinerator site will operate as a temporary transfer station until the CPF opens, but in no event any later than December 1977. The letter stated that the City has often seen temporary facilities somehow become permanent, and that the City is looking forward to the recreational use which would serve the residential area proposed for the Gude and Mobley areas west of this site.

ROCKVILLE MILLS



Mrs. Wootton's Mill.

Photo courtesy of the Columbia Historical Society.

This article is another in a series of articles about Rockville's past brought to you by the Rockville Bicentennial Commission.

This article was written by Robert Braunberg, who has been involved locally in industrial archeology for a number of years. The Montgomery County Historical Society quarterly, THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY STORY, will soon carry a more extensive discussion of this topic by Mr. Braunberg. He gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Michael F. Dwyer (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission), John W. McGrain (Molinography of Maryland), Robert Truax (Columbia Historical Society), and the Montgomery County Historical Society library.

The local mill was vital to American agrarian life in the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries. Before the revolution, there were virtually no large industrial centers in America. Even iron was made locally in small furnaces located anywhere that the raw materials could be obtained. Just as settlement patterns

followed the establishment of transportation networks, the locations of towns in early Maryland was often determined by the presence of suitable mill sites on creeks and rivers. Aside from animals, wind and water were the only prime movers available to the colonists. Milled grains were vital to the diet, and transportation was poor at best until well into the 19th century. The grains grown locally had to be milled locally.

Within a six-mile radius of the Courthouse in Rockville, there are recorded the sites of eleven grist mills. Here, on the Piedmont, water mills were the rule. On Maryland's Coastal Plain, where there are no waterfalls, wind mills were constructed.

Of the eleven mills mentioned only two were operated on the undershot principle. In undershot operations, the flow of the stream under the wheel caused it to turn. One such mill, Bowie's Mill, the mill nearest the head waters of Rock Creek, was located where Bowie's Mill Road

(Cont. on page 2)

ROCKVILLE MILLS

(Cont. from page 1)

crosses the creek, and was probably built by Jeffrey Magruder before 1786. The other undershot mill wheel was located in the area now flooded by Lake Frank and was built by Joseph Elgar before 1772. Elgar and his brothers, originally from Philadelphia, constructed several mills on their Milton Farm and in the neighboring area. Elgar probably built the Muncaster Mill, for example, about 1820 and gave it a 15 foot diameter overshot wheel. Most 19th century mills were powered by overshot wheels, in which the weight of water conducted through the race to the top of the wheel caused it to turn with about three times the efficiency of an undershot wheel.

The two mills closest to Rockville are good examples of the two different types of mill that were operated. Mrs. Wootton's saw and grist mill was a local or custom mill. Custom mills were small. They ground the owner's grain and, upon the payment of a toll, that of his neighbors. Typically such mills had but one run of stones and were sometimes located on streams of such trifling flow that one wonders how they could induce any sort of wheel to turn. One answer was that the miller saved water behind his dam at night to have enough to run the mill during the day. In addition to the single run of stones, such a mill would have an up-and-down saw out back, and operation would be seasonable at best. Wootton's Mill may have been built as early as the 1770s - there is a somewhat cryptic reference to a mill that might be this one in a document dated 1779. Wootton's Mill is described in the (Rockville) **Maryland Journal** of July 31, 1844, as to be offered for auction on September 27 of that year. It is shown on Martenet and Bond's map of 1865 as located on Watts Branch a few hundred yards downstream from the present Route 28. The accompanying photograph (c. 1930) from the collection of the Columbia Historical Society shows what we have come to expect as typical of such mills throughout this

area.

The second class of mills is represented by the Rockville mill we hear of most frequently, the merchant mill built by Samuel Clark Veirs soon after he purchased the property in 1838. The mill, along with the Veirs house, Meadow Hall, which overlooked the creek, was a landmark in the area. Merchant millers were in the business full time and located their operations on streams that could be counted upon to turn their wheels most of the year. They did custom milling, and they also bought grain from local growers and sold flour. The Rockville Flour Milling Company, as advertised in 1880, sold flour under the brand name of **Veirs Family and Bouquet**. The 1880 census listed Veirs and Bro. Mill as worth \$230,000, with 14 employees and a 100 bushel per day capacity. The mill was driven by an overshot wheel nine feet broad which rated at 30 horsepower.

After the coming of the railroad in 1873, the improved transportation opportunities made the local mills less of a necessity. Some millers improved their efficiency by converting their water powers to turbines; others such as Bowie's went to steam power. Few were able to effectively meet the competition of large regional milling centers far into the 20th century.

The other mills within a six mile radius of Rockville were Glenwood on Muddy Branch at Turkey Foot Road, Belt's Old mill at the mouth of Watts Branch, Bell's Mill at Seven Locks Road at Democracy Boulevard (on Cabin John Creek), Magruder's Folly on Cabin John Creek at River Road, Horner's on Rock Creek at Avery Road, Muncaster's on Rock Creek at Muncaster Mill Road, McOrmick's grist mill on Piney Branch near Glen Road, and two ancient (and to date unlocated) sites of Elgar mills on Rock Creek between Horner's and Muncaster's mills.

NEXT ISSUE: July 4, Centennial and Bicentennial.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT RENT-A-KID

The RENT-A-KID business is still booming. Residents who phone in jobs are receiving referrals of interested teenagers almost immediately after calling.

If you are a City resident or business person, and you wish to have any type of job performed on a full or part-time basis by an interested teenager, please call the Youth Services Division at 424-8000 ext. 270. Your job will be referred to all interested teens who will also be calling Youth Services. When your job is filled, call Youth Services and and calls from teenagers will no longer be referred to you.

If you are between 13 and 18 years old, and you would like a RENT-A-KID job referral, call Youth Services at the number listed above.

Remember, RENT-A-KID works because you use it!

Below is a listing of jobs still

available as of this writing. Many babysitting jobs are open as of now.

- **Fallsmead** - Babysitting for infant. Pay is negotiable.
- **College Gardens** - Housecleaning on Saturdays. Pay is negotiable.
- **Twinbrook** - Grass cutting on a regular basis. \$5.00 per job.
- **College Gardens** - Mother's Helper for the summer - 5 days a week, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Care for 18 month old. Pay is negotiable.

(Please note: The Youth Services Division and the City of Rockville have no responsibility for the manner in which any job is performed. To prevent any misunderstanding, the way in which the job should be performed, and the amount to be paid for the job should be thoroughly discussed between the youth and the resident or business before any work is begun.)

SCHUTTLER - NEW COMMUNITY RESOURCES HEAD



City Manager Larry Blck is happy to announce the appointment of Barry Schuttler as the Project Manager for Community Development and Community Resources for the City of Rockville. Mr. Schuttler began employment with the City June 9. His job includes directing the Community Resources Department which includes Senior Citizen Services, Youth Services, Human Rights, and Special Community Services, as well as coordinating the Community Development Block Grant program and carrying out the Citizen Participation aspects of that program.

Mr. Schuttler brings to the City an extensive background in planning and managing community services for businesses, private institutions, and government agencies throughout the U.S. and the Far East. He has

worked for the Rouse Company in planning and developing concepts and programs for the basis institutions and government services of Columbia, Maryland.

Before that, developing successful community schools through intensive citizen participation was his responsibility in the U.S. Office of Education. There he was part of the team that developed and tested what is known as the "Charrette" process in over 35 cities during the period of the urban riots. Later he formed a private consulting practice and adopted the process for urban planning, developing downtown malls, recreation, health and education facilities and neighborhood planning.

This week Barry is in England advising Britain's largest industry, International Chemicals Inc., and the British government on management techniques involving citizen participation.

His Far Eastern experience came with the job of directing \$7 million, 36,000 ton distribution programs of food, medicine, clothing, and equipment in Taiwan and Korea to 3 million refugees, 1400 institutions, and 125 construction projects utilizing 10,000 distributors in 14 language groups.

Special interests include photojournalism. As a Far Eastern correspondent, he filed 15,000 photos on 20 countries with features in Time, Newsweek, the New York Times and others.

ATTENTION TEENS

Teen Boat Ride on the Potomac. Wednesday, July 2nd. Buses leave Richard Montgomery High School parking lot 6:30 p.m. Ride from 8:00-11:00 p.m. Cost only \$5.00. Adult supervision. This ride is to give our city youth a scenic cruise on the luxury charter ship Wilson Liner. The boat is reserved exclusively for the teens from the City of Rockville. Entertainment will be provided by a famous live D.J. Dance, laugh and have a good time on a cool ride on the Potomac. Sign up now. Only 80 seats available. Registration deadline June 23.

Trip of Ocean City. Sunday, July 13th. Buses leave Richard Montgomery High School parking lot 6:00 a.m.; return 9:00 p.m. Adult supervision. Cost \$7.00, includes

round-trip transportation to Ocean City. Enjoy a fun-filled trip to Ocean City for Rockville teens, exclusively. Swim, walk along the boardwalk, shopping, good eating and much, much more. For those adventurous folks, Deep Sea Fishing will be provided for an additional \$8.00*, 1:00-4:00 p.m. on the Atlantic Ocean. Bring home a fresh fish for the family. Registration a must. Deadline July 1st. Only 70 seats available.

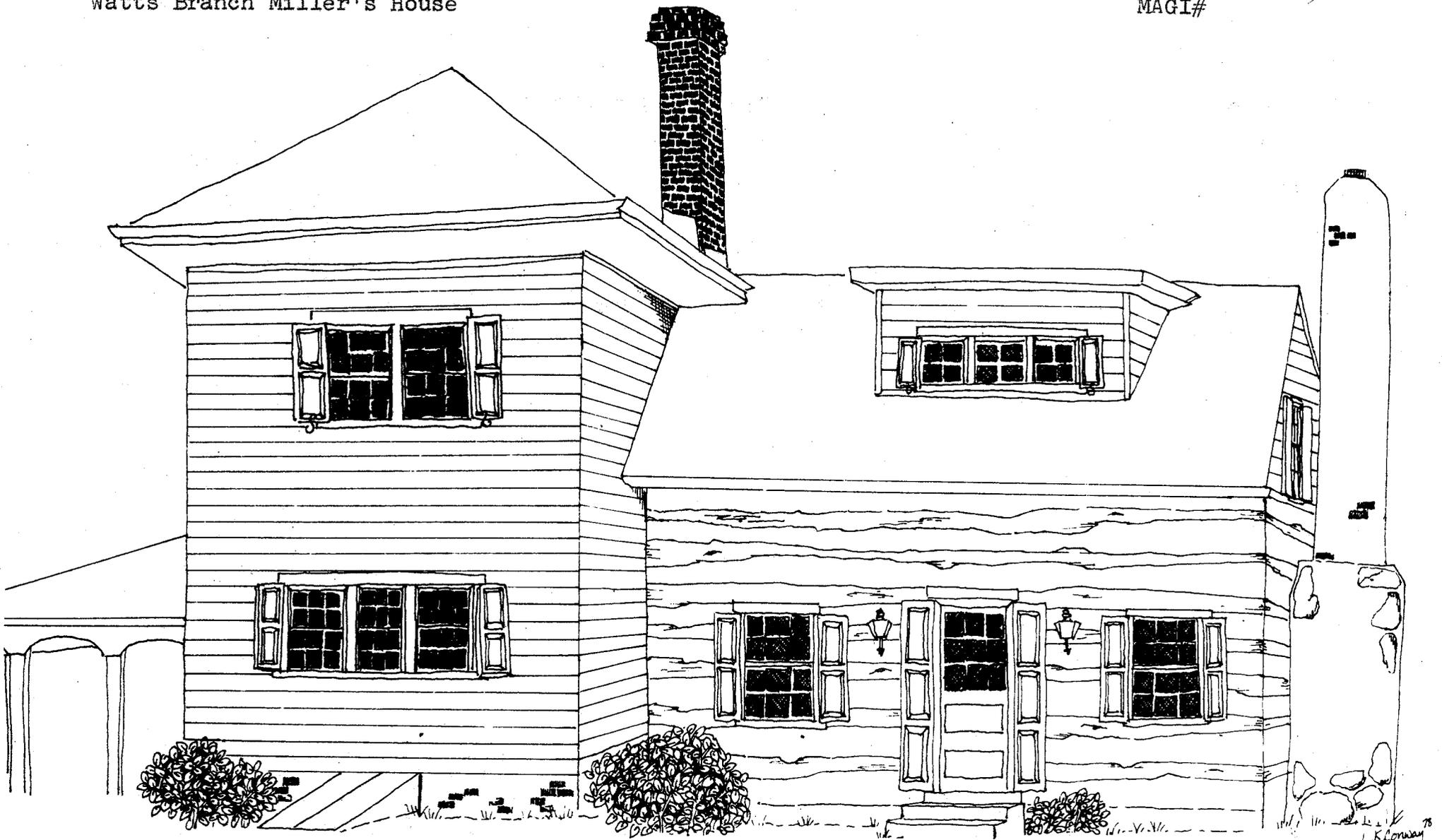
* (payable at fishing pier at Ocean City).

Send check payable to:
"City of Rockville"
c/o Teen Trips
Recreation Services Building
850 Avery Road
Rockville, Md. 20851

A BICENTENNIAL TIDBIT



Mrs. Mayme Simpkins holds one end of the American Flag she hand crocheted in honor of the Bicentennial. Holding the other end is Carolyn Twohig, staff to the Rockville Bicentennial Commission.



Watts Branch Miller's House

L.K. Conway '78



M: 26-5
 Watts Branch Miller's House
 (Viers Log Cabin)
 Rockville Quad, 1956

Substation
 462
 466
 452
 450
 439
 465

Hunting Hill
 513

Glen Hills

Beverly Farms

West End Park

Rockville
 (BM 4511)

Westmore

Carver High Sch
 Rock Terrace Sch

West Rockville Sch

Library
 City Hall

Willerburn Acres

Evergreen Ch

Scotland

ting ill

Ranch

Barton

John

Cabin

GLEN

HUCKERMAN

SNAKEDEN

LANE

ROAD

ROAD

DRIVE

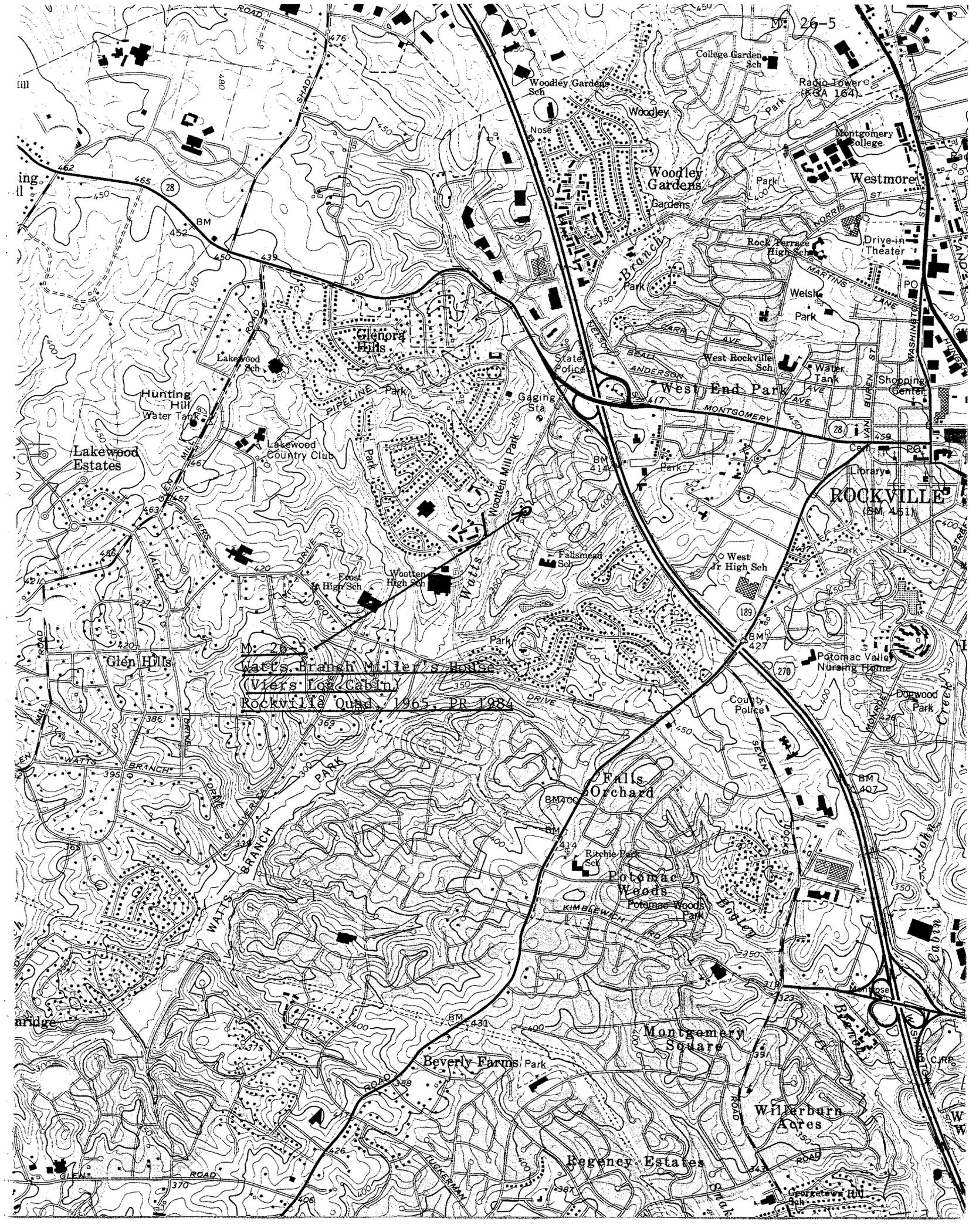
ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD



M: 26-5
M: 26-3
Watts Branch Miller's House
(Viers Log Cabin)
Rockville Quad, 1965, PR 1984



NAME #26-5 WATT'S BRANCH MILLER'S HOUSE

LOCATION VEIR'S LANE - OFF RTE. 28 + RTE. 70S, ROCKVILLE,

FACADE WE MD.

PHOTO TAKEN OCT. 1972, M. DWYER



NAME WATT'S BRANCH MILLER'S HOUSE

LOCATION (UIER'S LANE) RTE. 28 + 70 S, ROCKVILLE, MD.

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 5/7/75

M. PLOYER