Site: M:26/23

Warwick Montgomery Country House Built: 1929

16 Pipestem Court

Architect: Warwick Montgomery

Private

Designed by an area architect as his own summer residence, this one-story three-part, fieldstone house evokes its French antecedents. Warwick Montgomery used a skillful combination of stone, slate, and copper to decorate this angular structure in which every room opened to the terrace vista. Wooden additions at each end were built in the 1950s, and the house is now surrounded by a modern subdivision.

Survey No. M:26/23

Magi No. 1651675804

DOE ___yes ✓no

NR ___yes X no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ~~Warwick Montgomery Country House~~

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 16 Pipestem Court ___ not for publication

city, town Rockville ___ vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 14)

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
✓ building(s)	✓ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	✓ work in progress	___ educational	✓ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	✓ not applicable	✓ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name LMD Co., Inc.

street & number 16 Pipestem Court telephone no.: 424-1890

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20854

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 5821

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 517

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title ~~None~~

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M:26/23

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	✓ original site
___ good	___ ruins	✓ altered	___ moved date of move _____
✓ fair	___ unexposed		

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

The subject house faces east on Pipestem Court, a recently developed cul-de-sac in Fallsmead. Its neighbors are moderately spaced rows of two story modern aluminum-clad or brick-faced colonials with attached garages with front yard set backs of about 20 feet. By contrast the subject sits well back from the street on a circular drive leading from Pipestem Court. Situated on the crest of a hill, it formerly had an unobstructed view of Watts Branch to the north and south and the Potomac River to the west. Mature trees and boxwood are evidence of old landscaping. A flagstone terrace backs the entire house on the south with steps leading downhill to a garden and inground pool, now filled in and overgrown by poison ivy. Vacant for many years, the structure was badly vandalized. The present owners are in process of renovating the house and grounds.

The subject house is a one-story, three-part, fieldstone structure reminiscent of 18th Century French Provincial architecture in style. Built in 1929, the three-part masonry structure has two frame additions on each end added in the 1950s. The masonry part, a central great room with side wings, is faced with random coursed fieldstone, has rough sawn wooden beams for lintels and sills, and a fieldstone foundation. The side gable roofs are covered with striated slate, which form a herringbone pattern. Triangular roof pieces connect the separate gables together. The central section has a massive multi-flue chimney on the west end and the stone-faced wings each have chimneys. The two frame additions have fieldstone foundation, deep eaves, board and batten siding, and common slate roof.

In plan, the canted three-part main structure is in the 18th century rural French tradition but departs from the steeply-pitched hipped roof, center courtyard, and dominant towers of either the original or the 1930s French revival. Rather, this cottage, with its tall narrow overlit French doors and nearly symmetrical facade is closer to French Colonial examples. This particular combination, where the courtyard is turned inside out, the terrace lining the back of the structure and the garden in front, gives the impression of a weekend country home of a wealthy individiual. Indeed, the front entrance to the house, the mock entry tower, has the playful feel of a 19th Century garden folly found in many English or German country homes of that period.

As built, the east (front) facade is composed of the center core and two wings, with frame additions on each end. The three bay center core is rigidly symmetrical. The primary entryway is through a three-sided mock tower with a conical copper roof in the center bay; it has a paneled wooden double door in the center bay. A granite block with incised shallow relief of a coat of arms with a cornucopia is inset over the transom. On each side of the center bay were placed double four-light French doors with a four light transom overhead.

continued on attachment 7.1

The east facade of the north wing has one window in the north and south bays. An exterior door, cut through the fieldstone in the 1950 renovation, is located in the second bay. The east facade of the south wing has one 6/6 double hung window in two of its three bays. A single exterior door occupies the center bay, which has served as the primary entrance to the house following the 1950 renovation.

The west facade has irregular fenestration: the northern wing and cental core have five bays each with a four-bay section on the southern wing. Most bays had 6/6 double hung windows. The center core has four-light French doors in the second and fourth bays that opened out into the garden, but are not non-functional.

Each side addition is 1-1/2 stories with deep eaves finished with narrow, beaded siding. The northern addition has a pergola on the west side for hanging vines such as the wisteria, now growing rampantly in the yard, and windows on the northwestern corner. An original wood paneled door is located on the south. The 1950 south addition formerly served as the garage. It has one window centered on the south.

The interior great room was originally entirely paneled and trimmed with natural finished wood. Built before air conditioning, the French doors could completely open the room to breezes. Four rough-hewn pegged trusses support the roof. A massive fieldstone fireplace is at the west end of the room. The original interior also included a paneled combination den and library and a master bedroom and bath.

The building is currently undergoing extensive renovation. Most of the original windows have been replaced by aluminum casement windows. The two French doors on either side of the central entrance have been replaced with casement windows. The door in the front facade of the north wing has been removed and the entryway will be filled with fieldstone. The door on the south wing, the main entry since 1950, will be closed off and the central entrance will again become the front door. The west facade has had most of its windows replaced, although the two French doors and one small 6/6 double hung window remain on the central core.

The paneling has been stripped from the interior exposing the brick structure. The south wing and addition have been combined to form a spacious, modern kitchen. The north addition is being remodeled into a master bedroom suite.

8. Significance

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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	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
✓ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1929 **Builder/Architect** Warwick Montgomery(A)

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B ✓C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state ✓local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

Architect Warwick Montgomery designed this summer house for his country estate to include rustic French Norman detailing. Unoccupied for several years, the solid masonry building suffered severe damage and deterioration, but is now being rehabilitated as a private residence.

History and Support

During the 1920s, several of the working farms around Rockville were purchased by Washingtonians for use as country estates. The old Victorian farmhouses were replaced by new summer homes in fashionable period styles, usually Georgian or Tudor. In 1929, architect Warwick Montgomery purchased the 101-acre Jones/Rabbitt farm just off the Great Falls Road.1/ He razed the 19th century farmhouse and constructed this home on the same elevated site. 2/

To take advantage of this vista, Mr. Warwick designed a one-story, one-bay-wide building with wings angled so that each room opens onto a flagstone terrace overlooking the woodland below. The approach to the house includes a circular driveway. The original entry was located in the semi-octagonal half tower with a pyramidal, copper-clad roof; the tower entry is decorated with the Montgomery coat of arms.

The original four-room section of the house was constructed entirely of brick faced with randomly-coursed native stone, under a steeply pitched slate roof. Interest is provided by the interplay of materials with the stone, copper and slate joined by wooded lintels of chesnut laid flush with the stone walls. The use of wormy chestnut (plentiful in this area at that time) is continued in the interior where four open-work trusses span the main (living) room.

continued on attachment 8.1

Before purchasing this property, Warwick Montgomery had been a partner in the Wardman Park Dairy Farm near Bethesda 3/, but Mr. Montgomery is remembered as a "country gentleman" whose tillable land was rented to tenant farmers. In 1936, stables and other outbuildings were added north of the house 4/, but the house remained a summer retreat. The original house evidences only one bedroom.

Nancy and Thomas Clagett owned the property from 1943 to 1946, nicknaming the estate "Duration Farm." It was rechristened "Double-D Farm" after its purchase by the Duncan family in 1946. The Duncans enlarged the building with frame extensions at each end. The one room at the left end and two rooms on the right are sheathed in vertical board and batten painted red, giving a tacked-on, barn-like flavor to an otherwise sophisticated architectural form. The Duncans also added the swimming pool, now hidden in the undergrowth. 5/

In 1960, David and "Sis" Betts owned the estate which adjoined their own acreage by way of the shared entry road, Evergreen Lane. When the Kettler Brothers bought the Double-D land for their Fallsmead subdivision, Mrs. Betts was asked to name some of the streets. The orginal configuration of the long lane leading back to the pipebowl-shaped Double-D Farm reminded Mrs. Betts of a pipestem. 6/

The stone house and nine acres surrounding it were sold by the Betts to Richard T. Ewing in 1962. 7/ Since Mr. Ewing was in the Foreign Service, the family lived abroad and the house was rented out. It lay vacant for a number of years and was stripped of any moveable appliances and interior detailing.

In February 1986, the house was purchased by LMD, Inc., a limited partnership, whose members include a contractor skilled in rehabilitation. The stone, brick and slate shell of the building will provide the envelope for a completely renovated interior. 8/

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Records 478/17 (1929) and Assessment Records 1929-40.
2. Information about Mr. Warwick was provided by Mrs. David Betts. He was not a locally known architect and is not listed in the AIA membership.
3. Mr. Warwick had purchased the Wardman Park Dairy with a partner in 1927. It was located in the "north side of Georgetown Park" according to Land Record 422/184.
4. Assesments, 1936
5. Telephone conversations with Maude W. Betts and Dr. Richard Buckingham.
6. Mrs. Betts, and Plats/Atlases 1917, 1949, 1979.
7. Montgomery County Land Records 3046/42 (1962).
8. Onsite inspection and interview with two of the partners of LMD.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Interviews with Mrs. Betts, Mrs. Liberman. Montgomery County Land Records. Maps/Atlases 1879, 1917, 1949, 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 30,837 square feet

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 103, Block D of Fallsmead as per Plat #13844 in Book 117

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Anne Cissel	Judy Christensen, Arch. Description	
organization	Peerless Rockville	date	December 1985
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone	762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland 20850

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.

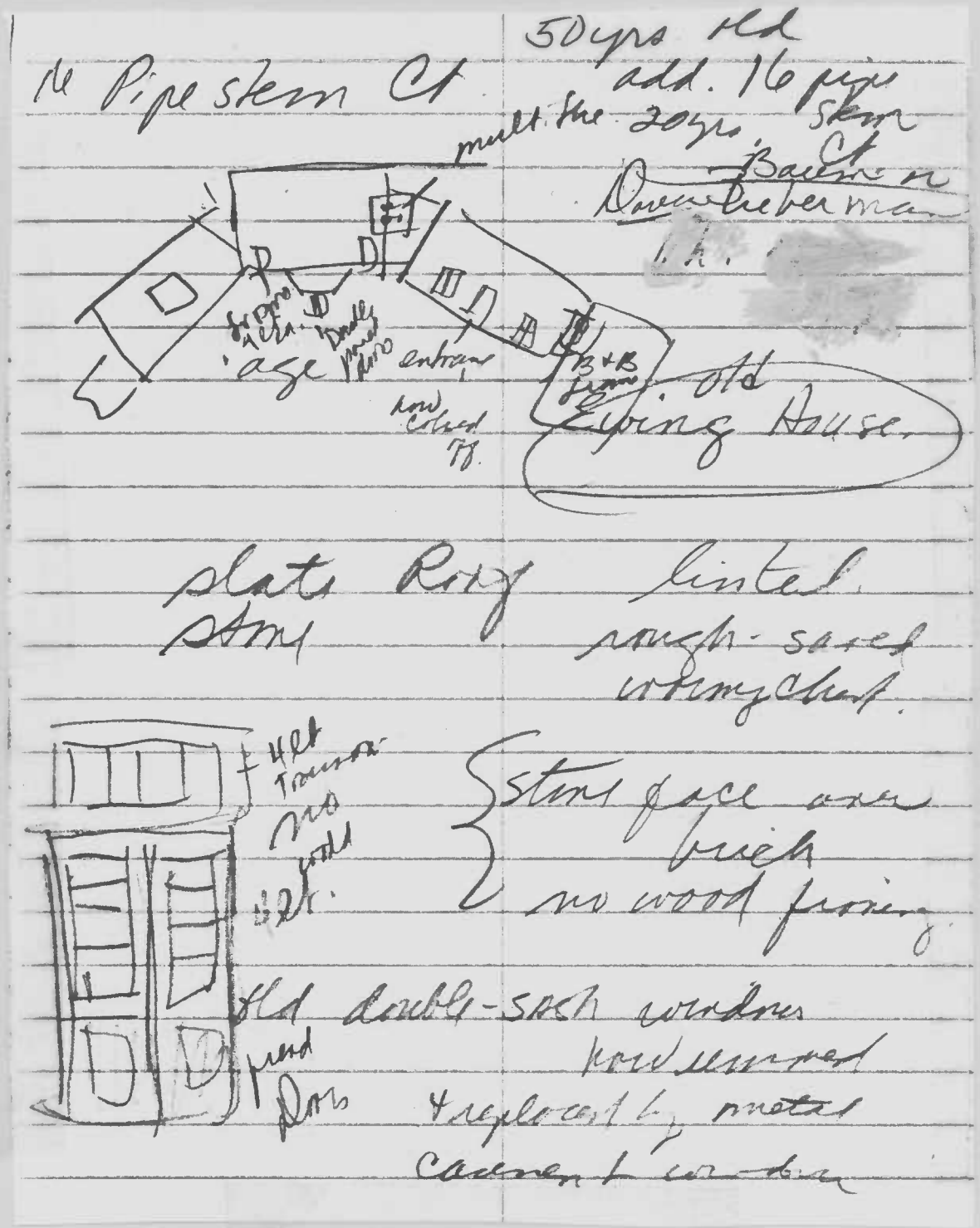
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

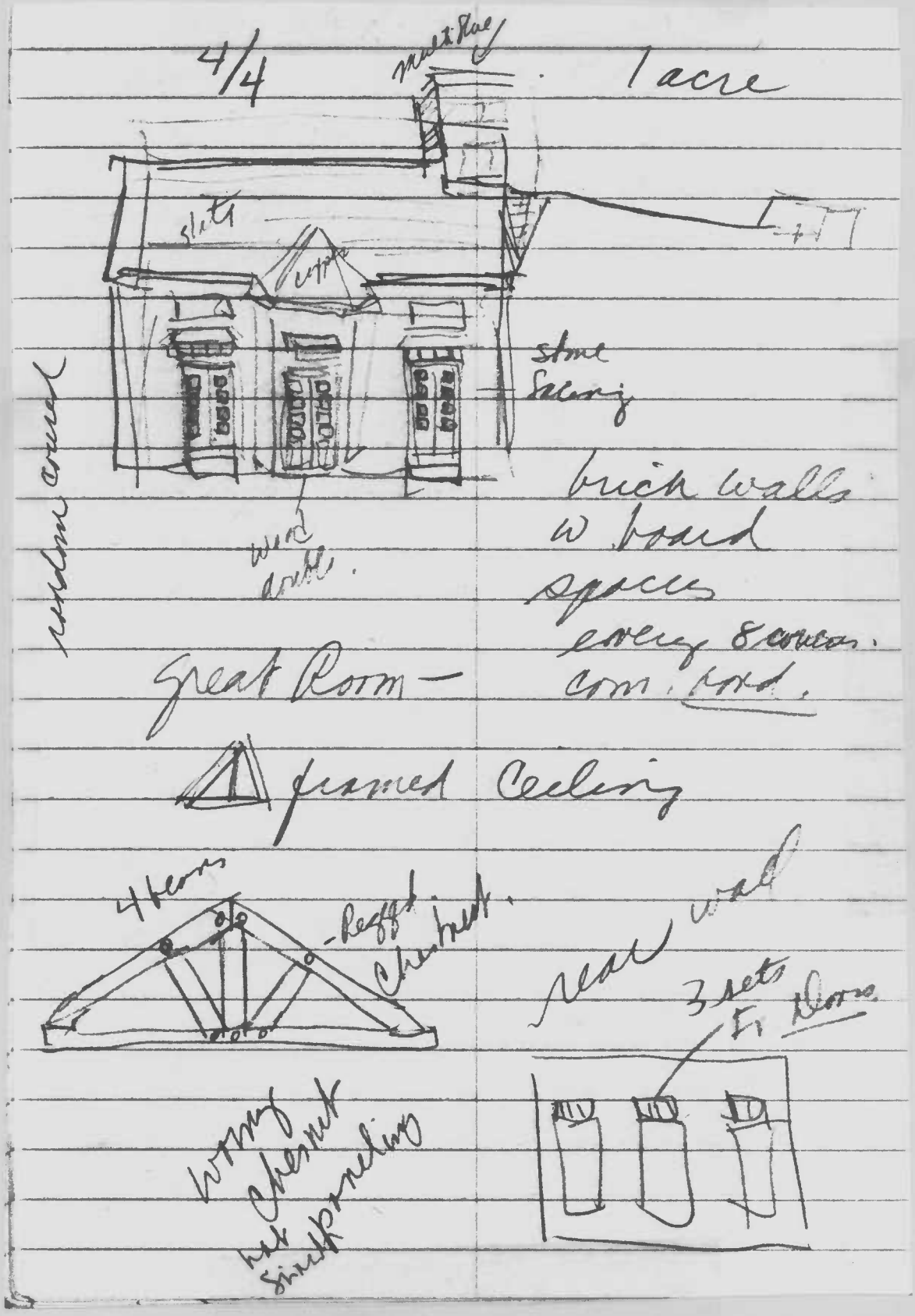
M:26/23
Warwick Montgomery Country House
Attachment 7.2

Architectural notes by J. Christensen, June, 1986, showing building before exterior renovation.



M:26/23
Warwick Montgomery Country House
Attachment 7.3

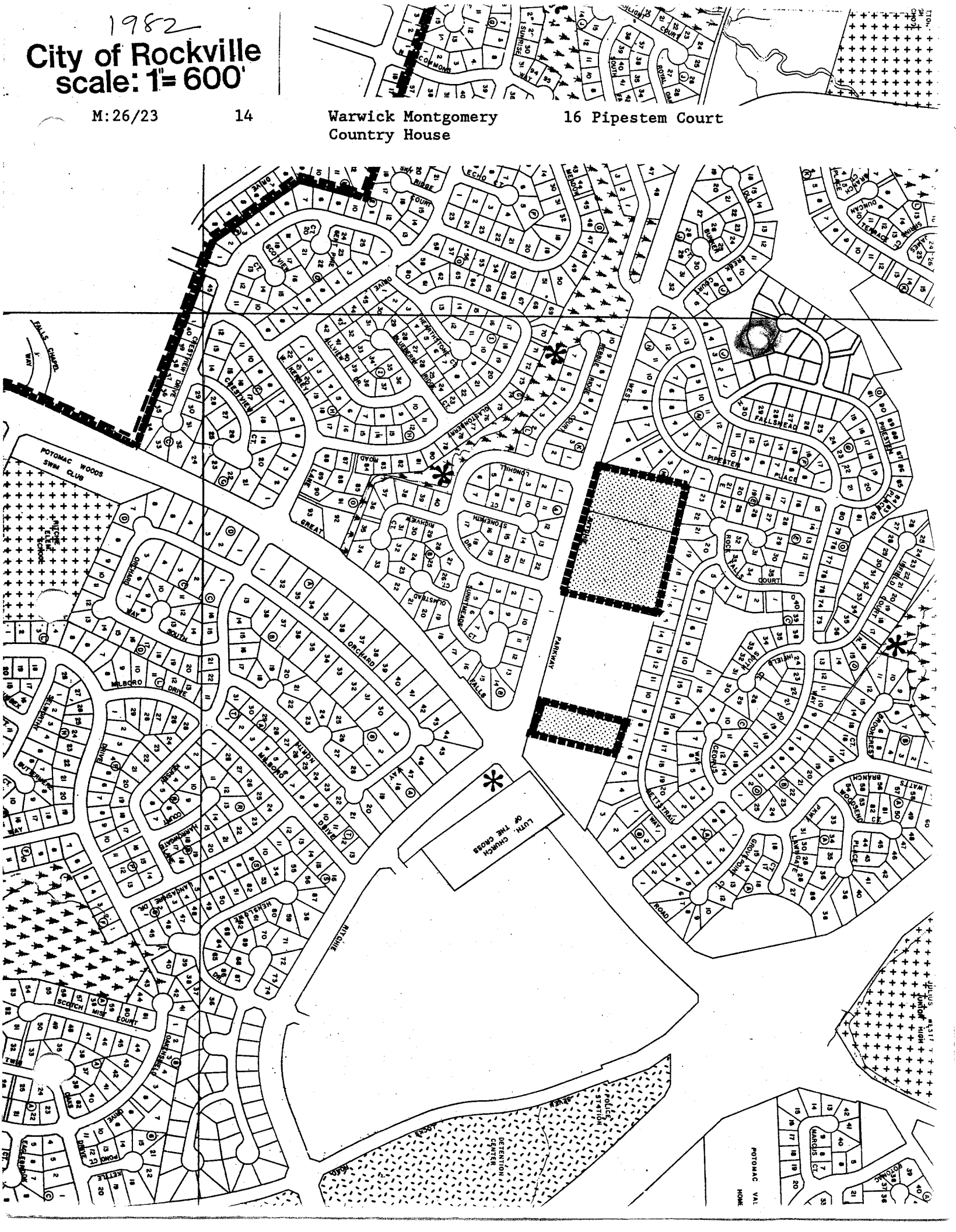
Architectural Notes by J. Christensen, June 1986, showing building before exterior renovation.



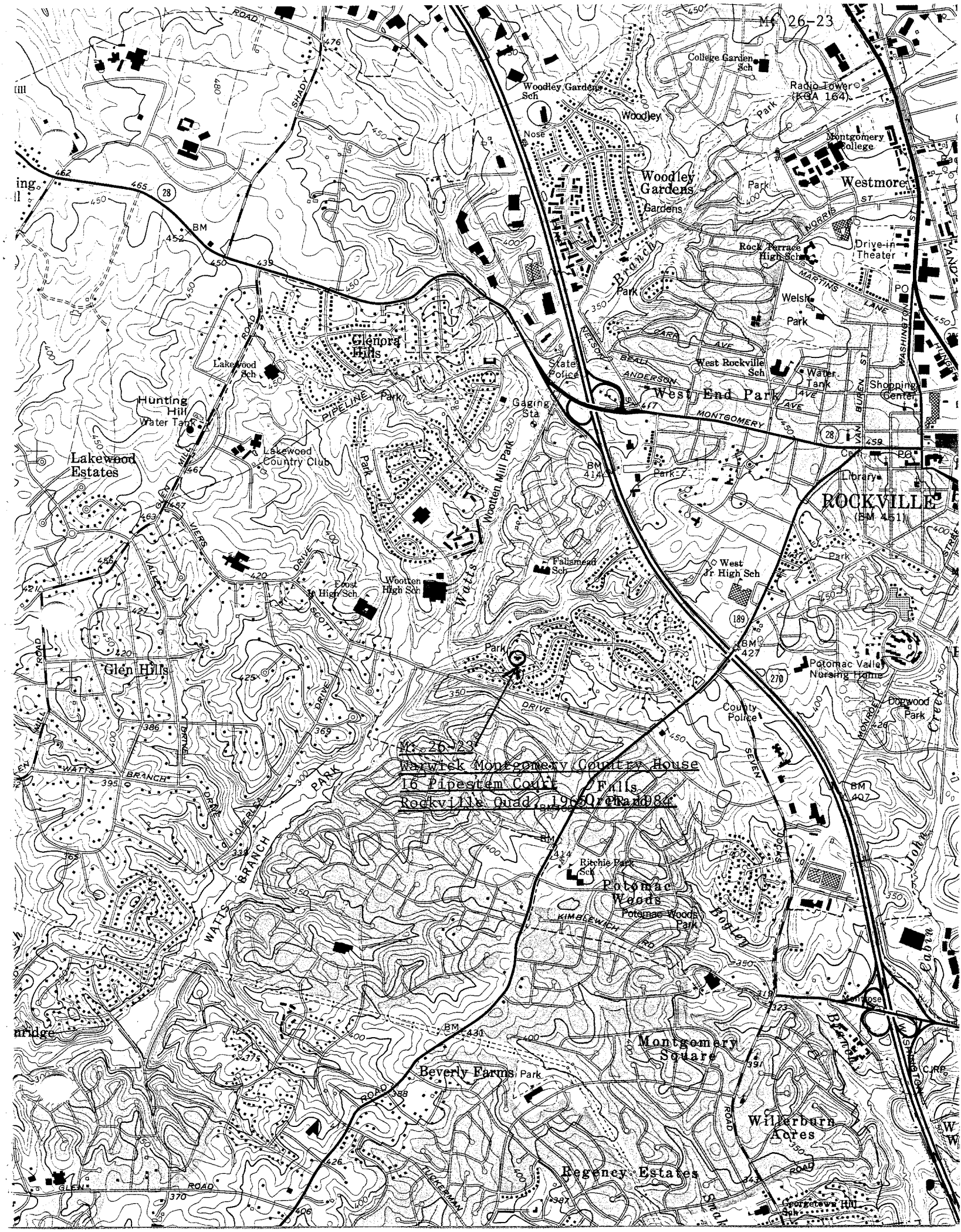
1982

City of Rockville
scale: 1" = 600'

M:26/23 14 Warwick Montgomery Country House 16 Pipestem Court



M: 26-23
Substation
Westmore
Carver High Sch
Drive-in Theater
Rock Terrace Sch
West Rockville Sch
West End Park
Water
Gaging Sta
Hunting Hill
Library
City Hall
ROCKVILLE
(BM 451)
Glen Hills
Swimming Pool
Watts
Branch
Beverly Farms
Willerburn Acres
Evergreen Ch
Scotland
Snakeden
Bogley
Branch
Cabin John Creek
M: 26-23
Warwick Montgomery Country House
16 Pipestem Court
Rockville Quad, 1956


M: 26-23
Warwick Montgomery Country House
16 Pipestem Court
Rockville Quad, 1965 Orchard 984
College Garden Sch
Woodley Gardens Sch
Radio Tower (KQA 164)
Woodley
Nose
Montgomery College
Woodley Gardens
Gardens
Westmore
Park
Rock Terrace High Sch
Drive-in Theater
Welsh
Park
Glenora Hills
Lakewood Sch
State Police
West Rockville Sch
Water Tank
West End Park
Shopping Center
Hunting Hill
Water Tank
Gaging Sta
Lakewood Country Club
Lakewood Estates
Wootten Mill Park
Library
ROCKVILLE
(BM 451)
Fallsmead Sch
West Jr High Sch
Foost Jr High Sch
Wootten High Sch
Glen Hills
Potomac Valley Nursing Home
County Police
Dogwood Park
Falls
Ritchie Park Sch
Potomac Woods
Potomac Woods Park
Montgomery Square
Beverly Farms
Willerburn Acres
Regency Estates
Georgetown Hill Sch
Montrose
Watts Branch
Cabin Creek
Bogley Branch
Park
Drive
Road
Shady
Pipeline
Glen Mill
Viers
Scott
Overlea
Kimblewich Rd
Seven Locks
Monroe
Washington
Van Buren St
Norris St
Martins Lane
Carr Ave
Beall
Anderson
Montgomery
Tuckerman
Glen Road
Wilson
Bridge

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05861517

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5-96