

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Wild Acres / Grosvenor Estate Inventory Number: M:30-15

Address: 5400-5430 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland 20814

Owner: Renewable Natural Resources Foundation

Tax Parcel Number: P65 and P71 Tax Map Number: HP122

I-495/I-95 Capital Beltway Corridor Transportation

Project: Improvement Study Agency: State Highway Administration

Site visit by: _____ Staff: No Yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility recommended: X Eligibility not recommended: _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Is property located within a historic district? No Yes Name of District: _____

Is district listed? No Yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: I-495/I-95 Capital Beltway Corridor Transportation Improvement Study
Historic Resources Survey and Determination of Eligibility Report

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo):*

Wild Acres, also known as the Grosvenor Estate, is a large Tudor Revival manor house constructed in 1928 for Gilbert Grosvenor, founder of the National Geographic Society. The property was previously surveyed by Michael Dwyer of the M-NCPPC in 1976 and by Marsha Mai and Roy Gauzza of Sugarloaf Regional Trails in 1978. Not mentioned in the prior survey forms are several structures located on the Wild Acres Property, including a 2-story cottage located at 5420 Grosvenor Lane, an agricultural outbuilding and a silo. Since the prior surveys two brick and steel-frame modern commercial structures have been constructed on the property. The property is accessed by a paved driveway extending south from Grosvenor Lane. The driveway passes the cottage at 5240 Grosvenor Lane, then splits to extend west toward the main house and south to the parking areas for the modern office buildings on the property. The main house has not changed since the previous survey. The cottage at 5420 Grosvenor Lane is a 2-story wood-frame structure with a brick foundation, wood shingle siding, and a cross-gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. It has a cut-away porch at the southwest corner of the front elevation, a central brick chimney, wood 6/6 double-hung windows, wood shutters, exposed rafter ends and an enclosed rear porch. To the north of this cottage are a 1-story wood-frame agricultural outbuilding and a concrete silo structure located within a fenced area.

Prepared by: Tim Tamburrino, KCI Technologies, Inc., January 2000

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended: Eligibility not recommended: _____
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Comments: _____

[Signature]
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

9/11/00
Date

[Signature]
Reviewer, NR Programs

10/12/00
Date

[Signature]

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Wild Acres / Grosvenor Estate

Inventory Number: M:30-15

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo):* (CONT'D)

The two modern office buildings on the property were constructed circa 1980 and are 2-story steel-frame structures with a brick and glass exterior. Though unmistakably modern, the use of brick, glass, ornamental timber-framing with corner braces, and dormers lessens their impact on the property. The parking lots associated with these structures are not visible from the main house.

Wild Acres, the Grosvenor Estate, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C as an excellent example of a Tudor Revival-style manor house constructed by a significant person during the suburban estate-building era of the early twentieth century. The property is eligible under Criterion A as a representative example of twentieth century suburban estate construction. The property retains such features as the main house, garage, historic approach to the house, and sweeping rear lawn. The property is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion B for its association with Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, founder of the National Geographic Society. Gilbert Grosvenor, and his wife Elsie purchased the land in 1912 and spent summers on the property in an old farmhouse until the current house was constructed in 1928. The Grosvenors held large social functions at Wild Acres, including a birthday party for Mrs. William Howard Taft. The property remained in the ownership of Gilbert Grosvenor until his death in 1966. Since 1975 the property has been home to a consortium of earth science organizations. Finally, the property is eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of Tudor Revival architecture. The main house retains such character-defining features as a steeply pitched roof pieced by gables and dormers, bands of multiple-light casement windows, prominent chimneys, and false half-timbering. The stone exterior, wood shingle roof, and scale of the building distinguish this structure from other Tudor Revival-style residences constructed during the early twentieth century. Investigations have not been conducted to determine whether the property has the potential to yield information important in history or pre-history, therefore, National Register Criterion D can not be assessed at this time.

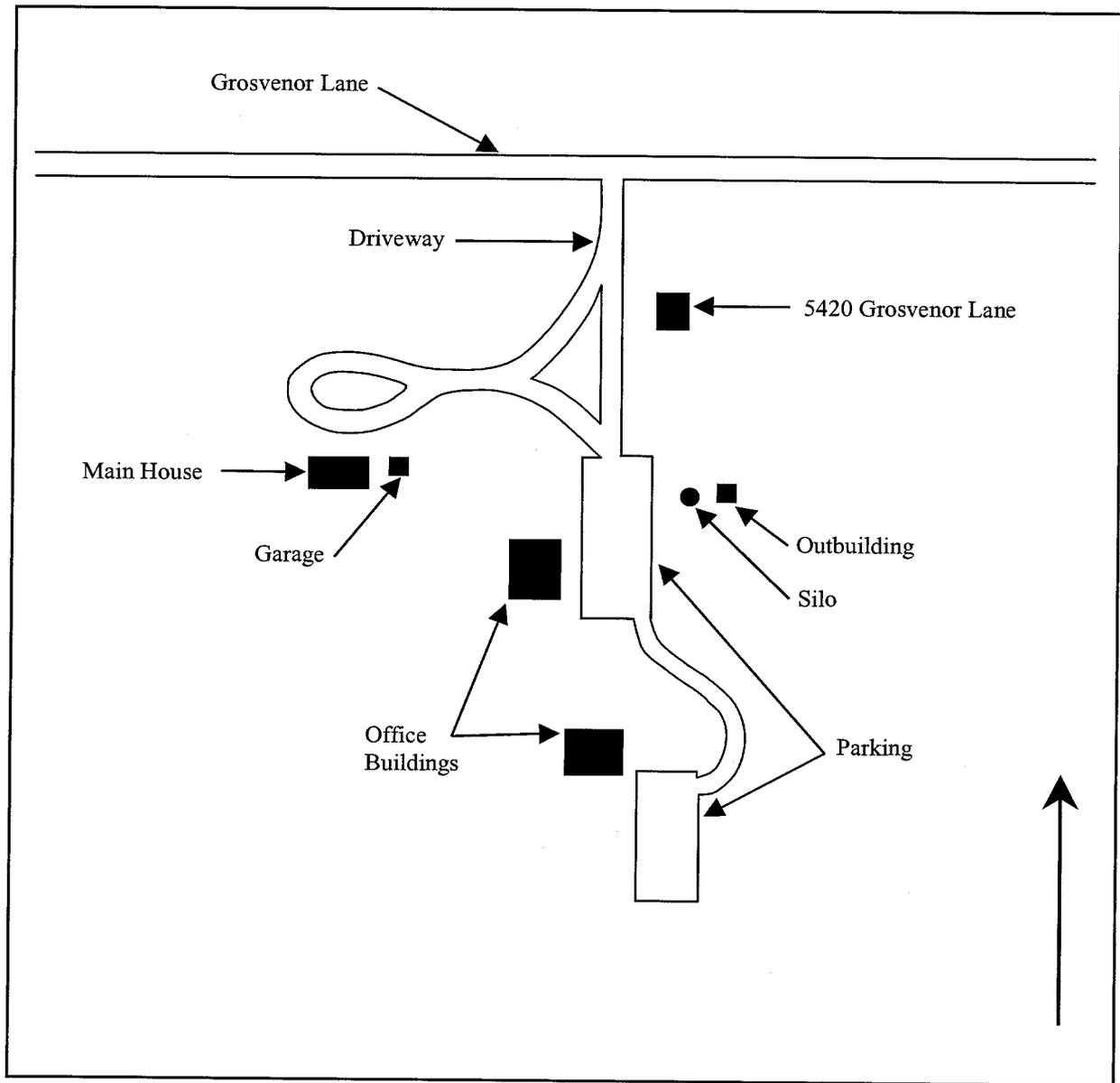
The National Register Boundary for Wild Acres, the Grosvenor Estate, includes all land remaining from its association with Gilbert Grosvenor and the property's period of significance of 1928-1966. The boundaries consist of tax parcels P65 and P71 on Montgomery County tax map HP122. The boundary includes 14 hectares (34.7 acres), the main house, garage, outbuilding, silo, and cottage at 5420 Grosvenor Lane as contributing structures. Non-contributing structures within the National Register boundary include the two modern office buildings and all associated parking areas.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Wild Acres / Grosvenor Estate

Inventory Number: M:30-15

Resource Sketch Map:



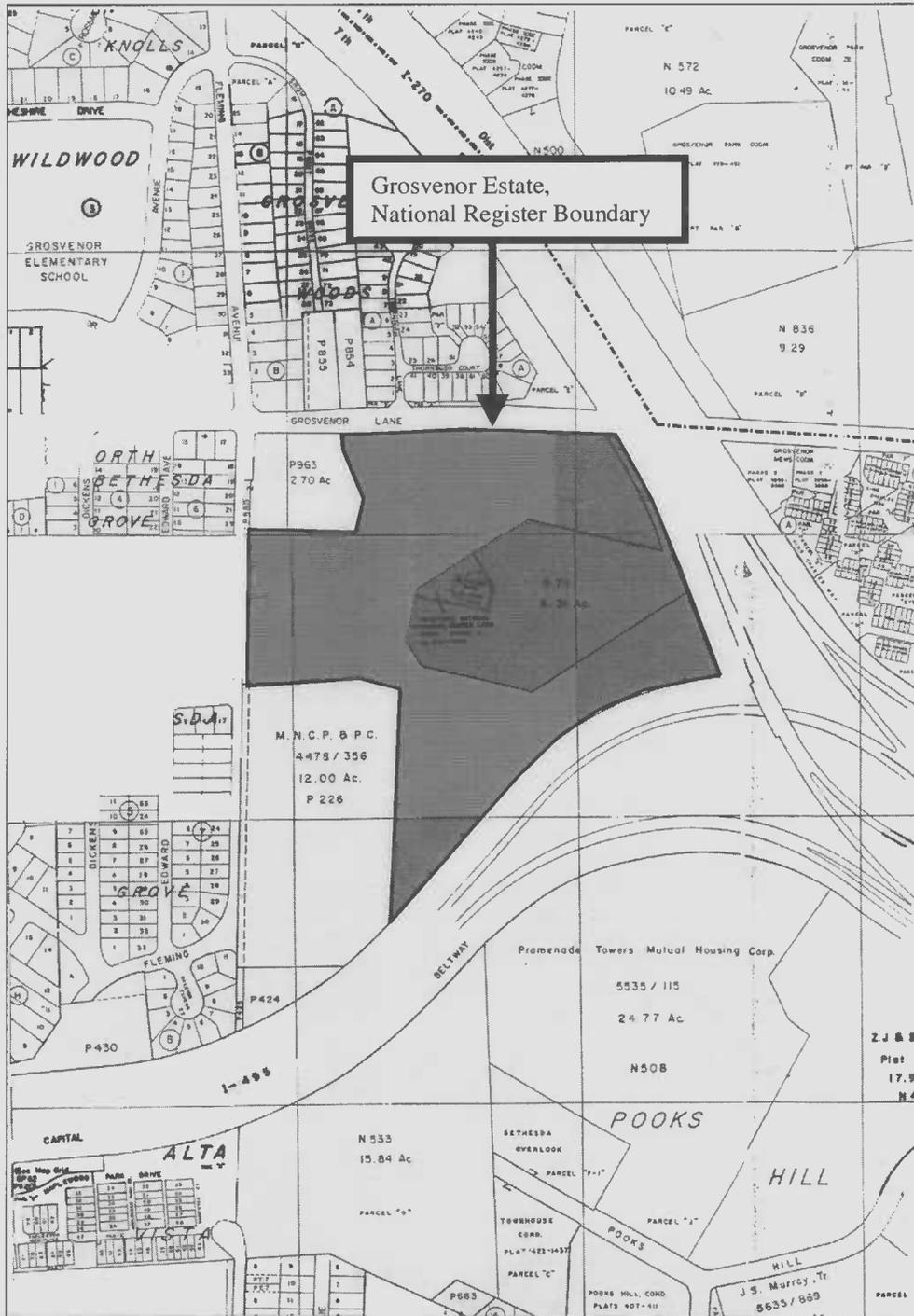
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Wild Acres / Grosvenor Estate

Inventory Number: M:30-15

National Register Boundary Map:

Montgomery County Tax Map HP122, Parcel 65 and 71



**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property Name: Wild Acres / Grosvenor Estate

Inventory Number: M:30-15

**PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

IV. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Private Residence

Known Design Source: Arthur B. Heaton (original design), Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (1975-1976 interior renovations)

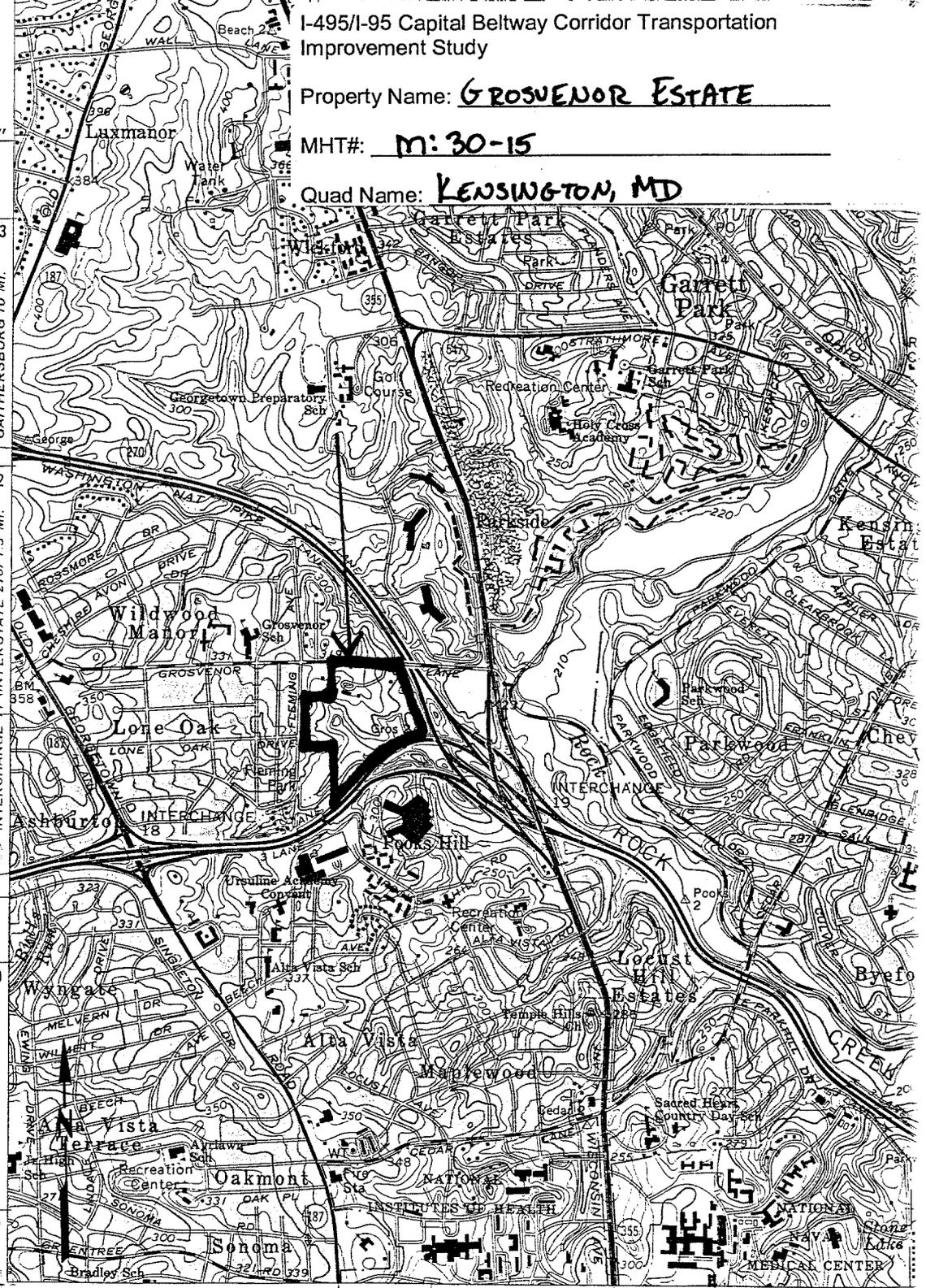
I-495/I-95 Capital Beltway Corridor Transportation Improvement Study

Property Name: GROSVENOR ESTATE

MHT#: M: 30-15

Quad Name: KENSINGTON, MD

2'30"
4323
4322
430 000
4320
4319
39°00'
77°07'30"



BETHESDA (CIVIC CENTER) 1.5 MI. 1770 000 FEET BETHESDA (CIVIC CENTER) 1.1 MI. LINCOLN MEMORIAL 9 MI.

(FALLS CHURCH)
5561 1 NW

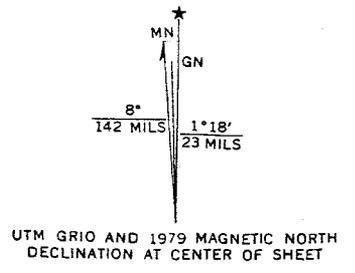
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and WSSC

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1955. Field checked 1956. Revised 1965

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 8 meters south and
26 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to controlled inundation to 351'



- 1) 11:30-15
- 2) GROSSMAN ESTATE / WILD ACRES
- 3) MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
- 4) TIM TAMBUKING
- 5) DECEMBER 1989
- 6) MID SHPO
- 7) 5400 GOVERNOR LANE, FRONT ELEVATION OF HOUSE,
VIEW EAST
- 8) 1 OF 18



- 1 M. 30-15
- 2 GRIFFIN ESTATE / V. ED. ADAMS
- 3 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
- 4 TIM TAMBUKIN
- 5 DECEMBER 1999
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 5400 GROSVENOR LANE, FRONT ELEVATION OF MAIN HOUSE, VIEW SOUTH

B) 2 of 18



1. 11:30-15
2. GROSVENOR ESTATE / WILD ACRES
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
4. TIM TAMBUKING
5. DECEMBER 1989
6. MD SHPO
7. 5400 GROSVENOR LANE, PLAIN ELEVATION OF HOUSE,
VIEW NORTHEAST
8. 3 OF 18



1. M. 30-15
2. GROSSVENDOR ESTATE / WILD ACRES
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
4. TIM TAMBUKINDO
5. DECEMBER 1999
6. MD SHPO
7. 5100 GROSSVENDOR LANE, REAR ELEVATION OF MAIN HOUSE,
SOUTHEAST CORNER, VIEW NORTHWEST
8. 4 of 18



1. M: 30-15
2. GROSVENOR ESTATE / WILD ACRES
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
4. TIM TAMBUKING
5. DECEMBER 1999
6. MD SHPO
7. 5400 GROSVENOR LANE, MAIN BUILDING, NORTHEAST
CORNER VIEW SOUTHWEST
8. 5 OF 18



1. 11:30-12
2. GROSVENOR ESTATE / WILD ACRES
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
4. TIM TAMBUKINO
5. DECEMBER 2004
6. MD SHPO
7. 5400 GROSVENOR LANE, FRONT ELEVATION OF GARAGE, VIEW SOUTHEAST
8. 6 OF 18



1. M: 30-15
2. GROSVENOR ESTATE / WILD ACRES
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
4. TOM TAMBURRINO
5. DECEMBER 1999
6. MD SHPO
7. 5400 GROSVENOR LANE, REAR LOCATION OF
GARAGE, VIEW NORTH.
8. 7 of 18



1. M:30-15
2. GROVEVIEW ESTATE / WILD ACRES
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
4. TIM TAMBURRINO
5. DECEMBER 1996
6. MD STPD
7. 5400 GROVEVIEW LANE, GARAGE, EAST ELEVATION,
VIEW WEST
8. 8 of 18



1. 11:30-15
2. GROSVENOR ESTATE 1 WILD ACRES
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
4. TIM TAMBUKUNDO
5. DECEMBER 1999
6. MID SHPO
7. 5400 GROSVENOR LANE, OUTBUILDING AND SILO,
VIEW SOUTHEAST
8. 9 OF 18



1. M: 30-15
2. GROSVENOR ESTATE / WILD ACRES
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
4. TIM TAMBUORINO
5. DECEMBER 1994
6. MD SHPO
7. 5420 GROSVENOR LANE, VIEW FROM PARKING LOT,
VIEW NORTHEAST
8. 10 OF 18



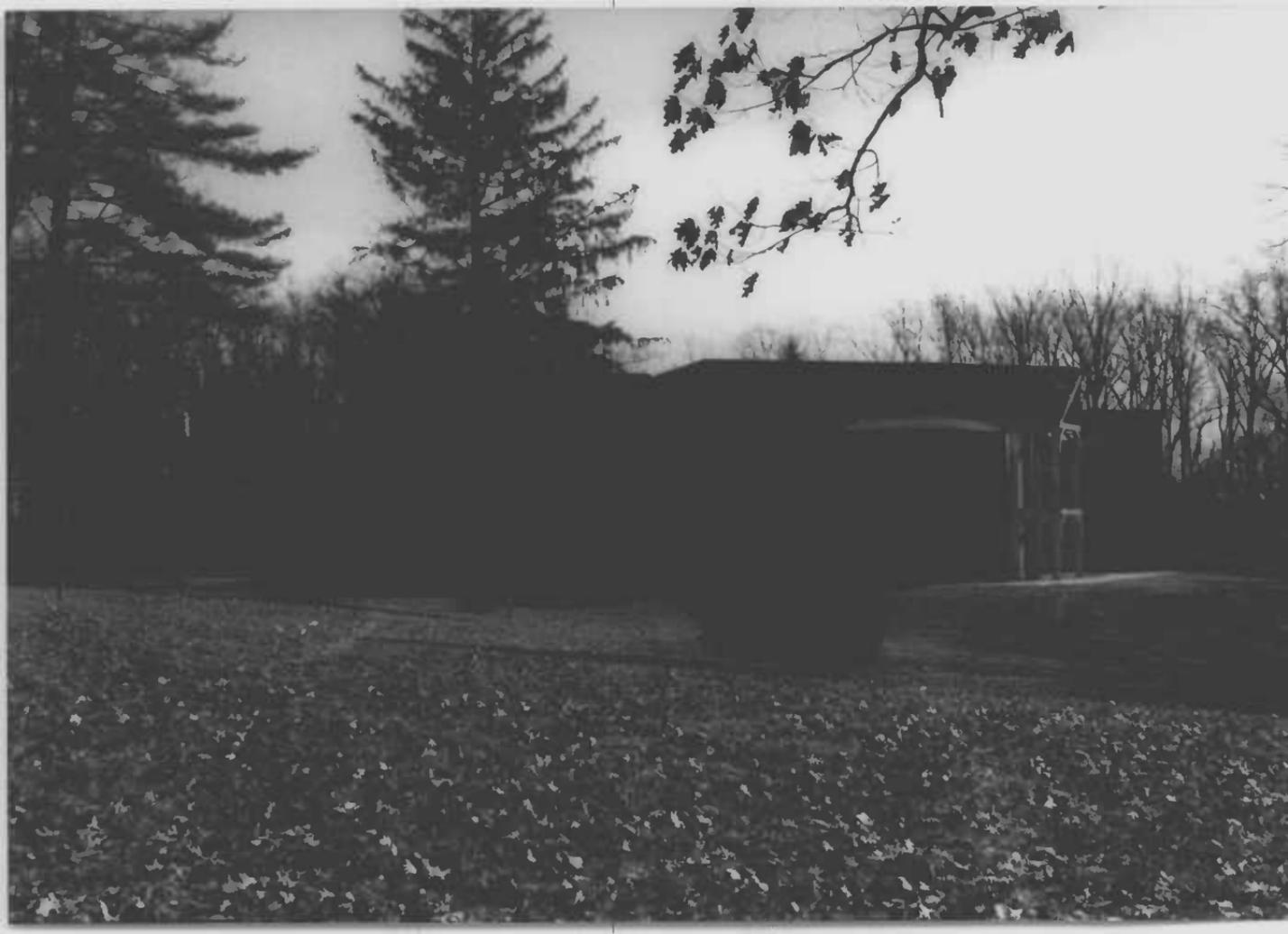
1. M: 30-15
2. GROENEER ESTATE / WILD ACRES
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY
4. TIM TAMBURRINO
5. DECEMBER 1999
6. MD SHPO
7. 5480 GROENEER LANE, SOUTHWEST CORNER;
VIEW NORTHEAST
8. 11 OF 18



1. M: 30-15
2. GROSVENOR ESTATE / WILD ACRES
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
4. TIM TAMBURINO
5. DECEMBER 1999
6. MD SHPO
7. 5420 GROSVENOR LANE - NORTHEAST CORNER,
VIEW SOUTHWEST
8. 12 OF 18



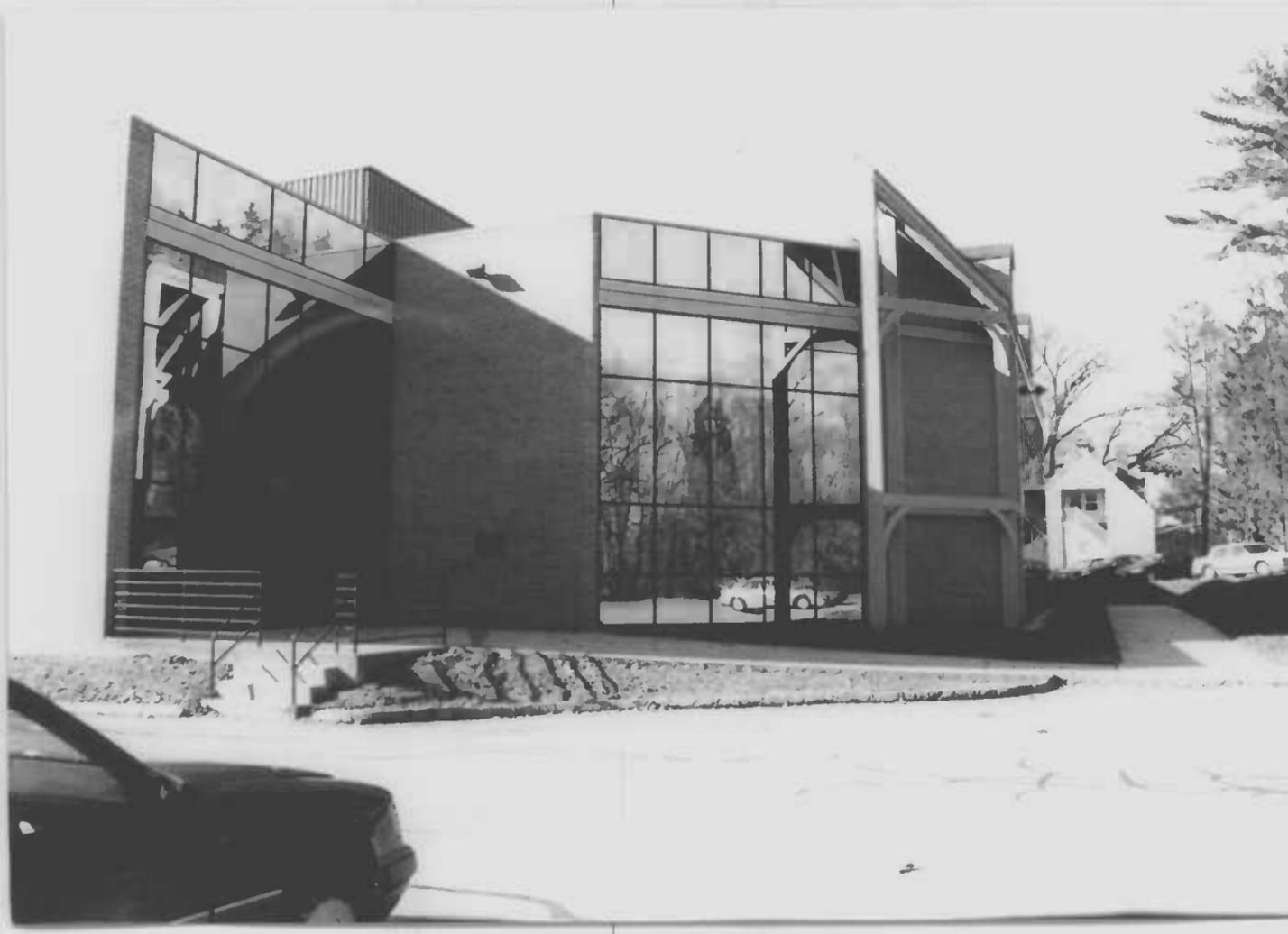
1. M: 30-15
2. GROSVENOR ESTATE / WILD ACRES
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
4. TIL TAMBURRINO
5. DECEMBER 1999
6. MID STATE
7. 5400 GROSVENOR BLVD, VIEW OF MODERN OFFICE BUILDING FROM REAR OF HOUSE VIEW SOUTHEAST
8. 13 OF 18



1. M 30-15
2. GROSVENOR ESTATE MOUNTAIN APRES.
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
4. TIM TAMBUKIDLO
5. DECEMBER 1999
6. MD SHPO
7. 2100 GROSVENOR LANE, MODERN OFFICE BUILDING,
VIEW SOUTHEAST
8. 14 OF 18



1. M-30-15
2. GROSVENOR ESTATE / WILD ACRES
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
4. TIM TAMBLING
5. DECEMBER 1989
6. MD SHPO
7. 5410 GROSVENOR LANE, VIEW FROM GARAGE,
VIEW SOUTH
8. 15 OF 18



1. M. 30-15
2. GROSVENOR 'STATE' WILD ACRES
3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
4. TIM TAUBURKINO
5. DECEMBER 1999
6. MD SHPO
7. 5430 GROSVENOR LANE - SULLIVAN BUILDING,
VIEW SOUTHWEST
8. 16 OF 18



- 1 M:30-15
- 2 GROSVENOR ESTATE / WILD AREAS
- 3 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
- 4 TIM TAMBURRINO
- 5 DECEMBER 1999
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 5430 GROSVENOR LANE - SULLIVAN BUILDING,
VIEW SOUTHEAST
8. 17 OF 18



1. M: 30-15

2 GROSVENOR ESTATE ' WILD ACRES

3 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

4 Tim Tamburino

5 DECEMBER 1979

6 MD SHPO

7 5410-5430 GROSVENOR LANE, VIEW: NORTHWEST

8 18 OF 18

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M: 30-15

1. Name: Wild Acres (Grosvenor Estate)

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 30/15 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 21

B-4

Address: 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda

5. Classification Summary

Category building Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC
 Ownership private Title and Date: Inventory of Historical
 Public Acquisition NA Sites - 1976
 Status occupied
 Accessible yes: restricted Federal State X County X Local
 Present use educational/scientific

6. Date: 1928

7. Original Owner: Gilbert Grosvenor

8. Apparent Condition

a. excellent b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This large Tudor-influenced estate house was built in 1928 for Gilbert Grosvenor. Built in two distinctive sections, the west section is constructed of uncoursed rubblestone quarried from the nearby River Road Quarry. The east section is constructed of brick and the second level has wattle and daub designs applied to clay block walls. There are six-over-six double-hung windows arranged as singles, pairs, and triples. There is a second level bay window on the south (front) door. The gable roof above the west section and the hipped roof above the east section are covered by slate tiles.

10. Significance: Wild Acres was for almost 40 years the home of Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, founder of the National Geographic Society, and his wife Elsie, daughter of Alexander Graham Bell.

The three parcels which total the original 105 acre estate were consolidated in 1910 by Leigh and Jessie Hunt; this land was improved by an old farmhouse. The Grosvenors bought the land in 1912, and spent summers in the old farmhouse, until they built the mansion in 1928. The mansion had 14 bedrooms, 8 baths, and 3 libraries. The house was the scene of frequent social functions, attended by many world-famous personalities.

After Dr. Grosvenor's death in 1966, Wild Acres was offered to Montgomery County for use as a cultural or community center. The offer was refused, and in 1973, 47 acres and the house were sold to the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, a combination of 11 earth science professional organizations. The interior was remodeled in 1975 by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill.

11. Researcher and date researched: Marsha Mai - Fall 1978 Candy Reed
Roy Gauzza Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Gail C. Rothrock 13. Date Compiled: 2/79 14. Designation
 Approval

15. Acreage: 47 acres

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wild Acres

AND/OR COMMON

Grosvenor Estate

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5400 Grosvenor Lane

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Renewable Natural Resources Foundation Telephone #: 897-8720

STREET & NUMBER

5400 Grosvenor Lane

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 4478

Folio #: 335

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPPC Historical Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

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 large Tudor-influenced estate house was built in 1928 for Gilbert Grosvenor and his family.

There are two visually distinctive parts to this estate. Built on stone foundations the west section is constructed of uncoursed rubblestone quarried from the nearby River Road quarry. The east section is constructed of brick, and at the second story, imitation wattle and daub is applied to clay block walls.

On the south elevation, west section, there is a three part door. The center piece is a door of diamond panes and wooden panels flanked by sidelights of diamond panels and surmounted by a diamond-paned transom. A conical metal hood shelters the doorway. On the south elevation, east section, there is a French door. On the north elevation, west section, there is a projecting pavilion. A pair of glass doors with wrought iron decoration built into the interior side of the door is set into a round arch. Above the arch is the carved stone Grosvenor family shield which supports a bay window. The window is composed of four eight light casement windows surmounted by four light transom windows. At the peak of the bay window is a modern skylight.

At the west end of the structure is a porch which wraps around from the northwest corner of the north elevation around the west elevation, and onto the southwest corner of the south elevation. The gable roof of the house extends out over the porch and is supported at the outer corners by stone posts and at the center by chamfered wooden posts. The porch has a flagstone floor.

There are two large bay windows flanking the main door on the south elevation. At the second story there are paired eight by eight light casement windows. At the third story there are five dormer windows with three by three light casement windows. On the south elevation, east section, there are large picture windows at the first and second stories. The exterior wall is decorated by applied balusters.

On the north elevation, east of the projecting pavilion, there are six over six light double hung windows arranged as singles, pairs, and triples. In the west section these windows have wooden lintels and brick sills. There are two dormer windows above the east section. There are six by six light casement windows with pent roofs. At the extreme west end of the west section there is a large triple dormer window composed of two six over six double hung windows flanking an equal sized blank wall which is bisected by a wooden post flush against the daubing.

There is a gable roof over the west section of the house. At the east section however, the roof is hipped. The roof is covered by slate tiles imported from England. There are four brick chimneys.

The interior of the house was extensively remodeled and renovated for the present owners by Baltimore Architect Rurick Ekstrom, in 1975. All the walls have been covered by various types of vertical wooden paneling; all ceilings are white pine. At the west end of the house the former living room has been partitioned to provide both a conference room and an office for the President of the Society of American Foresters. The bird frieze and corner plaques of barn owls mounted in the four corners of the living room were created by Hashime Murayama and now are covered by ~~XXXXXX~~ the wooden paneling. The marble fireplaces are all that remain of the days when the Grosvenor family lived here.

~~CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY~~

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:30-15

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Important Owners

SPECIFIC DATES 1928 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Arthur B. Heaton, Skinker & Garrett

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wild Acres was for many years the home of Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, founder of the National Geographic Magazine, and his wife Elsie, daughter of Alexander Graham Bell. It was the scene of frequent social functions, attended by many world-famous personalities.

The three parcels which total the 105 acres of Wild Acres were consolidated in 1910 by Leigh & Jessie Hunt; this land was improved by an old farmhouse.¹ After a brief ownership by Julian Hite Miller,² the Grosvenors bought the land in 1912³ and spent summers in the old farmhouse for 16 years.

Construction of the mansion was begun in spring of 1928. It had 14 bedrooms, 8 baths, and 3 libraries. Woodwork and doors were brought from Alexander G. Bell's house in Washington, D.C., demolished in 1927, and from the maternal home of Gilbert Grosvenor in Massachusetts.

The Grosvenors entertained often at Wild Acres. Mrs. Grosvenor belonged to several local clubs and organizations. Dr. Grosvenor was the editor and president of the National Geographic Magazine from 1899 to 1954 when he retired. In 1929 the Grosvenors held a birthday party for Mrs. William Howard Taft, and in 1950 the Grosvenors celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Wild Acres with 400 guests.

After Dr. Grosvenor's death in 1966 at his home in Nova Scotia, Wild Acres was rented to the National Graduate University as the residence of its President, Dr. Walter E. Bock. This University never materialized, and in 1970 the Grosvenor heirs offered the mansion to Montgomery County for use as a cultural or community center. This never materialized and 3 years later 47 acres and the house were sold to the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, a combination of eleven earth science professional organizations. The Foundation engaged Skidmore, Owings and Merrill to remodel the interior of the house in 1975.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. 218/473,475, and 476.
- 2 Ibid, 230/237.
- 3 Ibid, 230/260.

(See Attachment Sheet A for Personal Significance of Gilbert H. Grosvenor)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- (1) Land Records of Montgomery County, Md.
- (2) Interview with Albert J. McClure, Exec. Dir., RNRF, 897-8720.
- (3) Farquhar, R.B., Old Homes & History of Montgomery County (1962) pp. 320-322.
- (4) Reed, Pat, Editor, The Tiger's Territory, North Bethesda Junior High School PTSA, Bethesda, Md., Nov. 1976
- (5) The Renewable Natural Resources Foundation booklet, 1974.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 47 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	NONE	COUNTY
STATE		COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Marsha Mai/Roy Gauzza	
ORGANIZATION	Sugarloaf Regional Trails	DATE Fall 1978
STREET & NUMBER	Box 87	TELEPHONE 926-4510
CITY OR TOWN	Dickerson	STATE Maryland 20753

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

Wild Acres -- Grosvenor Estate

Personal Significance of Gilbert H. Grosvenor

Gilbert Harvey Grosvenor, scientist and educator, is widely known as the former director and president of the National Geographic Society and editor of the society's monthly magazine for over fifty years. Under his guidance the society became the world's largest organization of its kind. The major exploratory expeditions sponsored by National Geographic were made possible by Grosvenor's success in economic management of the Society in its earliest days. Included in such explorations were the discovery trip to the North Pole, the discovery of the oldest dated work of man in the Americas, and the greatest undersea descent in the Atlantic. Gilbert Grosvenor was also responsible for the Society's famous map service, one of the standard sources of reference throughout the country today.

A mountain range in Antarctica, a lake in Alaska, a fish, and a glacier in the Peruvian Andes were given Grosvenor's name in recognition of his distinguished services to the science of geography. He received many honorary degrees, and the first Grosvenor Medal Award from the National Geographic Society. He has been decorated by France, Norway, and Belgium.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M #30-15
1608075704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wild Acres

AND/OR COMMON

Grosvenor Estate

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5400 Grosvenor Lane

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Renewable Natural Resources Foundation

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

5400 Grosvenor Lane

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:30-15

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a large, Colonial Revival estate home, built in 1928-29, of local, dressed quarry stone. It has a five-bay main facade with a central door. Bay windows flank this doorway. The steep A-roof is covered with slate shingles and has five dormer windows. Huge, brick chimney stacks rise flush with each end of the house. Gable-ends are covered with siding. There are lower wings of similar design-extending east and west from the main house. An original, hewn-stone boundary marker (from Colonial times?) is located here.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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"/> 400-1499	<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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This was the home of Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert Grosvenor for over 30 years. Dr. Grosvenor was the founder of National Geographic Magazine, and his wife was the daughter of Alexander Graham Bell. They bought the land here in 1912, and spent summers in an old farm house located here-until they built the present mansion in 1928-29. This was the scene of many social functions, that usually included many world-famous personalities. One such occasion (shown in Farquhar's book), was a birthday party for Mrs. Taft, wife of the former U.S. President, in 1929.

The building and grounds have recently become the international headquarters for the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation-a coalition of environmental and conservation organizations.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Farquhar, R.B. OLD HOMES & HISTORY OF MONT. CO. (1962) pp. 320-322.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

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

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

Winter, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

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



M:30-15

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated June 12, 1984

ACTION TAKEN

The following sites have been reviewed and found not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Those sites also listed on the Locational Atlas will no longer be subject to regulation under the Moratorium on Alteration and Demolition.

Site No.

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| 10/2 | | 23/70 |
| 10/9 | | 23/98-1 |
| 10/11 | | 24/12 |
| 10/22 | | 24/14 |
| 10/25 | | 24/15 |
| 10/54 | <u>Site No.</u> | 25/1 |
| 10/71 | | 25/10-1 |
| 10/73 | 15/68 | 27/5 |
| | 15/69 | 27/7 |
| 10/74 | 16/19 | *27/11 |
| 11/8 | *17/4 | *27/13 |
| 12/14-1 | 17/55 | 28/15 |
| 12/16 | 18/1 | 28/26 |
| 12/26 | 18/9 | 30/3 |
| | 18/22 | 30/7 |
| 13/15 | 18/27 | 30/9 |
| 13/16 | 18/29-1 | <u>30/15</u> |
| 13/28 | 19/8 | 30/17 |
| 13/32 | 19/18 | 30/19 |
| | 19/20 | 31/9 |
| 14/1 | 20/6 | 33/3 |
| 14/15 | 20/14 | 33/5 |
| 14/18 | 20/27 | 33/11 |
| 14/19 | 22/5 | *34/1 |
| 14/23 | 22/6-1 | *34/9 |
| 14/30 | 22/18 | |
| 14/31 | 22/21 | |
| 14/40 | 22/22 | |
| 14/48 | 22/23 | |
| 14/54 | 22/24 | |
| 15/10 | 23/13 | |
| 15/11 | | |
| 15/18 | | |
| *15/62 | | |

Site No.

- 35/6
- 36/9
- *37/4

*Recommended for designation by the Mont. Co. Historic Preservation Commission.

**These sites were previously considered by the County Council and found not to warrant regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. They are listed here to bring the functional Master Plan in conformance with Council's actions.