

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Chautauqua Tower

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Glen Echo Park

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Glen Echo

VICINITY OF

8th

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY
Montgomery

CODE
031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 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 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (If applicable)

National Capital Region, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE

D.C. 20242

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE National Park Service List of Classified Structures

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Resource Services Division
National Capital Region, National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

DESCRIPTION

M:35-26

CONDITION

<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED

CHECK ONE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1891-92, the Chautauqua tower is a circular structure of rough native stone, approximately 34 feet in diameter and three stories high, capped by an 11-sided roof of steep pitch with a flagpole rising from its peak.

The stone wall at the first floor level is broken by an entrance door on the south, four double casement windows on the south and west, and four single casement windows on the north and east. The double casements have 15 panes three abreast per sash; the narrow single casements have 20 smaller panes two abreast. The second floor is lighted on the south and west by four double casements having 20 panes four abreast per sash, one double casement of the first floor type over the door, and four single casements matching those below on the north and east. The third floor has nine double casements of 20 panes four abreast per sash circling the tower. Each of these paired third story sash meet at an angle directly beneath a corresponding angle of the overhanging roof cornice. The exterior stonework of the third story between the windows curves inward as it rises to the cornice. The cedar-shingled roof makes a similar curve as it splays out just above the cornice in its descent from the peak.

A square chimney of matching stone projects from the northwest side of the tower at its juncture with an adjoining frame building and rises approximately six feet above the cornice line. Another stone projection rises from the top of the tower wall to the left of the chimney, and a gabled, shingled belfry roof runs between them. The chimney is connected to a fireplace on the second floor and a stovepipe opening on the third floor.

The first floor of the tower is undivided except for an enclosed stair curving against the east wall. It is unknown whether this space may once have been partitioned. The second floor, now open, displays evidence of having been divided into two rooms of unequal size. The third floor retains its original interior walls forming three rooms. A central post concealed at the juncture of these walls is the tower's only interior supporting member. The stair, which appears to be original, continues in the second and third stories to the attic.

The exterior appearance of the tower is little changed. A 1914 fire destroyed the original wood-shingled roof, which was then replaced by a tin-covered roof. This had seriously deteriorated by 1975, when a new roof closely matching the original was installed. Crude wooden blocks suggestive of brackets beneath the eaves were not replaced in this restoration. Most of the wood-framed casement sash are original; others are accurate reproductions. The bells installed in the belfry have long been absent. The mortar between the stones has been repointed and the chimney has been rendered nonfunctional by a cement cap. The ferrous stone quarried nearby, originally a dark gray, has oxidized redder and lighter over the years. Remnants of flashing on the interior walls at the third floor level suggest that the third floor windows were once unglazed, requiring the floor to be covered with protective roofing.

(continued)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The most significant alterations have been to the tower's architectural context. Until 1919 a stone arch extended from over the entrance door on the south side to another circular stone structure, framing an entrance gate to the Chautauqua grounds. A 1940 moderne flat roof on cylindrical posts now attaches to the tower in the same location. Opposite this feature, a 1-1/2-story stone building joined the tower on the northwest. This burned in the 1914 fire and was replaced by the taller frame structure standing today, which retains some of the original stonework in its northeast wall. Doors on the first and second floors of the tower connect with this building, as they did with its predecessor. Both of these later additions are clear departures from the original rustic Chautauqua architecture, and although the frame building is not unattractive, neither possesses particular historical or architectural merit. For these reasons, they are excluded from this National Register nomination. All other Chautauqua structures in Glen Echo Park have been removed except for a portion of a stone caretaker's cottage, which lacks sufficient integrity for inclusion in this nomination. Given the nearly total alteration in the tower's context, the National Register boundary is limited to the perimeter of the tower.

(The nearby carousel, a significant remnant of the later Glen Echo Amusement Park, is the subject of a separate National Register nomination. The Clara Barton house adjoining Glen Echo Park, built contemporary with the Chautauqua, is on the Register as the Clara Barton National Historic Site.)

B SIGNIFICANCE

M:35-26

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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891-92

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Victor Mindelef

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chautauqua tower is significant as the sole intact physical remnant of the late-19th-century Chautauqua movement at Glen Echo, Maryland, and as a local specimen of late-Victorian rustic architecture.

The Chautauqua movement, so called from the first assembly of its adherents on the shore of Lake Chautauqua, New York, in 1874, was an effort to democratize learning within an ecumenical Protestant religious framework by bringing the culture of the well-to-do to the masses. By 1891 the movement had expanded from its permanent home base to 52 more modest assemblies conducting two-week summer programs of educational lectures, classes, and entertainments in tents. The idea caught hold in Washington, D.C., where several groups formed a Chautauqua Union to plan programs for the area.

Coinciding with this local flowering of the Chautauqua movement were the plans of Edwin Baltzley, a Philadelphia real estate promoter, and his brother Edward of Washington for a residential and resort development to be known as Glen Echo-on-the-Potomac. By 1889 they had acquired some 1300 acres on the Maryland bank of the Potomac between Cabin John Creek and Sycamore Island, northwest of Washington. Stone for houses like that built by Edward Baltzley overlooking Sycamore Island (still standing outside Glen Echo) would be provided property owners from quarries onsite. An elaborate rustic resort "cafe" of rough cedar logs, the "Pawtawomeck," was opened to the public in July 1890 but succumbed to fire that November. A giant stone hotel evocative of a Rhineland castle was promised in Glen Echo publicity but was never realized.

Seeing the Chautauqua idea as a potential enhancement of their development, the Baltzleys on March 24, 1891, deeded 80 acres to the "National Chautauqua of Glen Echo." The National Chautauqua was incorporated by 43 prominent citizens including John Wesley Powell, George Peters, Arthur B. Cropley, and the Baltzleys themselves "to promote liberal and practical education, especially among the masses of the people; to teach the sciences, arts, languages, and literature; to prepare its patrons for their several pursuits and professions in life, and to fit them for the duties which devolve upon them as members of society."

(continued)

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Construction began quickly on two principal structures--the Amphitheater and the Hall of Philosophy--and on the stone tower, archway, and adjoining buildings forming the gateway to the campus. The Amphitheater and Hall of Philosophy were designed in rustic style by Theophilus Parsons Chandler of Philadelphia, architect of the Baltzley house and the cafe. The tower, the subject of the present nomination, housed administrative offices and mounted bells from the McShane foundry of Baltimore. It was designed by Victor Mindelef, a local architect.

Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, became president of the Woman's Executive Committee of the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo, formed to foster the "advancement of woman, improving and enlarging her scope of usefulness." Miss Barton herself acquired adjoining property at Glen Echo in 1891 and built what would later become her residence and American Red Cross headquarters. Its original rough stone facade, removed in 1897 except for corner towers, matched the character of the Chautauqua buildings nearby.

The assembly opened in June 1891 with the buildings still unfinished, although the Amphitheater was sufficiently complete to accommodate the large dedication crowd. The array of Chautauqua programs was well attended by several hundred persons until August. But this first successful season proved to be the last. In late August Dr. Henry Spencer, head of the Chautauqua's business school, died of pneumonia. Rumor spread that he had contracted malaria, making people reluctant to visit the area. This dampened residential lot sales and cut the cash flow necessary to support expansion. With the area's image thus tainted, the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo was doomed. (Except for the original assembly, which remains active on Lake Chautauqua to this day, the Chautauqua movement evolved to a long-popular traveling format.)

In 1899 the National Chautauqua property was leased to the Glen Echo Company, an amusement park venture. The Amphitheater eventually became a midway, and a roller coaster and numerous other structures significantly altered the character of the area. The midway was demolished in 1956, by which time the amusement park had passed its prime. The property was ultimately acquired by the Federal Government in 1971 for administration by the National Park Service. The majority of Glen Echo Park structures now present date from the amusement park era; only the stone entrance tower remains intact from the Chautauqua development.

Despite the loss of its architectural context, the Chautauqua tower stands as a highly picturesque Glen Echo landmark and as a reminder of a significant aspect of the modern community's origins.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 35/26

MAGI#

NR eligible

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The National Chautauqua of Glen Echo

AND/OR COMMON
Glen Echo Park

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER MacArthur Blvd.

CITY, TOWN Glen Echo CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8
VICINITY OF

STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 National Park Service
Department of the Interior Telephone #: 343-1100

STREET & NUMBER "C" Street - between 18th & 19th Street, N.W.

CITY, TOWN Washington, D.C. STATE, zip code 20240
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3952
Folio #: 575

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE 1976
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M:35-26

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In the early 1890s, Glen Echo, Maryland was selected to be the site of the National Chautauqua. Early promoters dreamed that this would be the largest cultural and educational center in the country, and that it would be "a great educational center, a mighty influence on the land."

A leading architect from Philadelphia was hired to develop plans for the center. He designed a series of concentric circles for the residential, educational and cultural functions of the National Chautauqua. Despite the great plans and the considerable work done to establish this national center, the National Chautauqua Movement failed and in 1911, the center was sold and became Glen Echo Park.

The Park is an eclectic assembly of architectural styles which attest to the richly varied history of growth and change of the Park has undergone. The Chautauqua Tower, a Richardsonian Romanisquue structure of irregularly shaped, rough faced stone, dominates the entrance to the Park. Opposite the tower is the Dentzel Carousel, 1921, a whimsical structure with a curved circular roof which gives it the appearance of a large mushroom or umbrella. Beyond the carousel is the Spanish Ballroom, erected in the early 1930s and reflecting many Spanish design elements. During World War II the Ballroom was a place where the big bands entertained. In 1931 the Crystal Pool was constructed for \$250,000. This was the largest pool in the area at the time. Adventure Theater is an Art Deco structure housing a variety of carnival entertainments as well as a theater.

The park is crisscrossed by wide paved walkways. There are picnic tables on gravel lots shaded by mature oak trees. There are sand piles and wooden jungle gyms for children. Modern structures include a group of cupcake-like structures with grass thatched roofs and a solar energy exhibit.

The imprint of the National Chautauqua Center has given form to a park of remarkable vitality; a vitality enhanced by the great variety of architectural styles, entertainment activities and centers for socializing.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:35-26

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1889 Edward and Edwin Baltzley, twin brothers, bought 80 acres of land for \$20,000, sited along the banks of the Potomac.¹ They planned to build a replica of the German Rhineland, and an adjacent, planned residential community. Funds were provided with the \$250,000 amassed by Edwin's invention of an improved eggbeater. The first building they constructed was the Glen Echo Cafe, a grand resort overlooking the Potomac, completed in May, 1890. Edwin Baltzley wrote down his hopes for the venture: that the cafe "should be a temple...for creature comforts..." Visitors should eat well, and yet be reminded "of their aboriginal inheritances."² The Cafe was a rustic structure of 30,000 unhewn cedar trees, and comprised a scramble of rooms, lofts, alcoves and bridges in a crazy quilt pattern to accord with the Victorian fancies of the era.

To further the theme of "aboriginal" precursors, rooms and halls were given Indian names. For example, the name given the restaurant was Paw-taw-o-meck; it was a lavishly furnished structure which was destroyed by fire six months after the opening day ceremonies.³

The National Chautauqua of Glen Echo was planned to draw people to the Baltzley twins' Washington Rhine as a permanent, national seat of culture. Methodists had originated the movement at Lake Chautauqua, New York, in 1874, as a training center for Sunday School teachers, and included nature study and recreation. The Glen Echo Chautauqua chapter was incorporated, and donated 60 acres to be used for buildings. An enormous amphitheatre was built by opening day, June 16, 1891, and three to four hundred people came to Glen Echo to celebrate the event and participate in its dedication to the cause of education for the masses.⁴ The most valued feature of the building was the grand pipe organ, 27 feet wide by 20 feet tall and 14 feet deep. The organ was powered by a waterwheel on Minnehaha Creek which flowed beneath the building.

During the 1891 summer season, approximately 300 families lived in tents on the Chautauqua grounds, participating in the education and recreational activities. Many brought along furniture, draperies and rugs. The usual Washington summer storms of wind and rain turned the grounds to a sea of mud, and blew down the tents. A police force was enlisted to patrol the campsites.⁵

Transportation to the park for Washington residents was a problem, as the electric trolley line ended about a mile from the gates. Yet many people did participate, lured by exciting programs described in the Washington Star. Topics of lectures and courses included manual training for women; American history; Hebrew language, and Egyptian architecture.

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The National Chautauqua of Glen Echo

The Chautauqua Band held daily concerts with violinists, vocalists, whistlers and other soloists performing. The Marine Band, the Swedish Male Quartet, and the Court Pianist to the Emperor of Germany performed on scheduled occasions. In addition, bicycle riding exhibitions and baseball games were held regularly.⁶

The Chautauqua recruited feminists. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, was given land, labor and a gift of \$1,000 to persuade her to live at Glen Echo as a sponsor of the Chautauqua. Built in 1891, her home was used as a Red Cross warehouse and office until her death in 1912. Other early feminists were involved with Glen Echo also, and included members of the Women's Press Association, who headquartered at the Glen Echo Chautauqua.⁷

The Chautauquan plans were grandiose, but the organization folded in one year. Opening day for the first session of the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo was June 16, 1891. Closing day was July 31 of that year. Although attendance was over 100,000 persons, neighboring land sales for the Baltzleys' real estate corporation were lively, and the press published daily accounts of activities. However, an encroaching economic depression, fear of malaria, and competition from the Chevy Chase Land Company combined to plummet the lofty hopes of the Baltzley twins and the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo. And by 1899 all the Chautauqua buildings were put to another use, and plans for this ambitious educational project and suburban community were abandoned.

At the turn of the century, Alonzo P. Shaw leased and converted the area into an amusement park. The Chautauqua's core, the amphitheatre, was converted into a midway. Shaw installed a ferris wheel in front of the Barton house and built a roller coaster with a screeching turn by the side of her home.⁸

The trolley line was extended to the front gates by the Washington Railway and Electric Company, who had purchased the Chautauqua property in 1911.⁹ Leonard B. Schloss, vice-president and general manager of Glen Echo Amusement Park, invested over a million dollars in improvements, and achieved success with the Coaster Dip (roller coaster), shooting gallery, penny arcade, swimming pool and ballroom. In 1921 he added the Dentzel Carousel, a splendid array built by William and Gustav Dentzel of Philadelphia, and boasting 55 animals, two chariots, a canopy of mirrors and murals, and hundreds of incandescent lamps, all of which spun slowly clockwise, accompanied by music from the caliola.¹⁰

From 1923-1939 the park was considered a success with approximately 30,000 visitors each weekend. In 1956, however, the amphitheatre was ruled unsafe, and burned down by the fire marshal. Many of the features remained, but interest wained during the 1950s and 60s.¹¹

The next owner was a firm named Rekab, Inc., who purchased the property in 1955. When the park closed in 1969, the owners drew up plans for apartment hotels and intensive commercial use, but these plans were never consummated.

(Continued on Attachment Sheet B)

The National Chautauqua of Glen Echo

In 1970, the U.S. General Services Administration swapped other properties with Rekab, Inc., and became the new owners of Glen Echo Park. All the rides were sold except for the carousel. County citizens raised \$80,000 to buy the carousel from a Virginia dealer who planned to ship it to California. The citizens donated the carousel to the National Park Service.

Glen Echo Park is presently administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, as a park. Classes are taught by local artisans in exchange for free working space. The old Penny Arcade has become the Adventure Theater, performing dramas such as Heidi and Peter Pan. The Chautauqua Tower, the only extant original structure, is used as an art gallery and museum.

From the Baltzley twins' National Chautauqua of Glen Echo in 1890 to the National Park Service's Glen Echo Park in 1978, open space with an aura of learning has been retained on the banks of the Potomac.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., JAll/70.
2. Baltzley, Edwin, Glen Echo on the Potomac: The Washington Rhine, p. 16.
3. Levy, Benjamin, "Glen Echo Chautauqua on the Potomac", National Park Service, June 5, 1967, p. 3.
4. The Washington Star, August 4, 1891, p. 8.
5. Ibid., June 3, June 17, June 19, July 11, July 16, July 23, 1891.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid., June 6, 1891, p. 1; July 4, 1891, p. 3.
8. Levy, op. cit., p. 19; Cook, Richard, lecture, September 12, 1978.
9. Land Records, op. cit., 218/272.
10. Fried, Fredrick, "Last Ride for Carousel Figures", Historic Preservation, (National Trust, July-September 1977).
11. "The Evolution of a People's Park", American Education, May 1977.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Attachment Sheet C)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.295 Acres

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

Kathleen Sullivan

Michael Dwyer
Arch. Description
December 1978

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

926-4510

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

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

The National Chautauqua of Glen Echo

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Axelrod, Susan, The Washington Star. "Congress Can Save the Montgomery Park", May 8, 1977.

Baltzley, Edwin, Glen Echo on the Potomac: The Washington Rhine.

Brown, Joan, The Washington Star. "The Return of the Glen Echo Carousel"., March 13, 1977.

Cook, Richard, Lecture: September 12, 1978; Interview: August 24, 1978.

Fried, Frederick, Historic Preservation. "Last Ride for Carousel Figures", (National Trust, July-September 1977).

Holman, Doree Germaine, Old Bethesda.

Bradley, Gertrude D., Bethesda Not So Old, Gaithersburg, Md: Franklin Press.

Levy, Benjamin, "Glen Echo Chautauqua on the Potomac", National Park Service, 1967.

MacMaster and Hiebert, A Grateful Remembrance, 1976.

Norris, Theodore, Chautauqua: A Center for Education, Religion and the Arts in America, University of Chicago, 1974.

National Park Service, "Statement for Management: Glen Echo Park and Clara Barton National Historic Site", November 30, 1976.

-----The Washington Post, April 28, 1977.

-----The Washington Star, June 3, 1891 - July 31, 1891.

"The Evolution of a People's Park", American Education, May 1977.

NR Reliable

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Town of Glen Echo

AND/OR HISTORIC: Glen Echo Chatauqua

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Mac Arthur Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: Glen Echo

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Montgomery

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Bath	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 checked="" 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: Various private owners, National Park Service and M-NCPPC

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Rockville STATE: Maryland

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Sites in the Bi-County Region

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: M-NCPPC

STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; margin-bottom: 5px;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The town of Glen Echo was laid out in 1891. The Redding House already stood on the site. It is a two-story, Federal style stone structure with a three bay facade. The cornice, with a dentil course below, returns into the gable end. The doorway has panelled reveals and a small transom; the two windows are glazed French doors opening onto the porch with tall, three panel shutters. A two story galleried porch extends across the facade. At the end are two internal chimneys with brick stacks. Behind the house is a stone slave quarter.</p> <p>The other houses in the town are of a later date. Some are bungalows but most are early twentieth century. The street pattern, however, follows the original plat, with concentric circles of streets surrounding a church circle.</p> <p>South of the town is an amusement park, formerly the Glen Echo Chatauqua. The surviving Glen Echo Chataqua Tower is a stone building with a conical roof. The upper story of the tower is an open observation deck. The attached building is in a similar rustic stone style.</p> <p>Near the Chatauqua stands the Clara Barton House. It is a two story, frame building with several wings and dormers.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1891, the Baltzley brothers, who had already laid out a town on the heights above the Potomac River, deeded eighty acres to the National Chataqua of Glen Echo to be used only for educational purposes. The deed also stipulated that the land be developed following the plat of Henry B. Looker. The Chataqua was incorporated by John Wesley Powell, George Peters, Arthur Cropley and forty other men with the purpose of promoting "liberal and practical education, especially among the masses of the people." Glen Echo was laid out as a campus, with streets named after universities, served by a trolley line, following the alignment of Conduit Road (MacArthur Blvd.) Initially, families camped in tents, although lots were divided and sold. In 1892, however, workmen enlarging the campus succumbed to malarial fever and the Chataqua suddenly closed. In 1897, the Chataqua lectures gave way to vaudeville performances in the amphitheatre; in the early twentieth century, an amusement park, owned by Capital Transit, was created, saving only the tower and amphitheatre as reminders of the past; the amphitheatre subsequently burned down and only the tower remains today.

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:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 11 Sept 74

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:

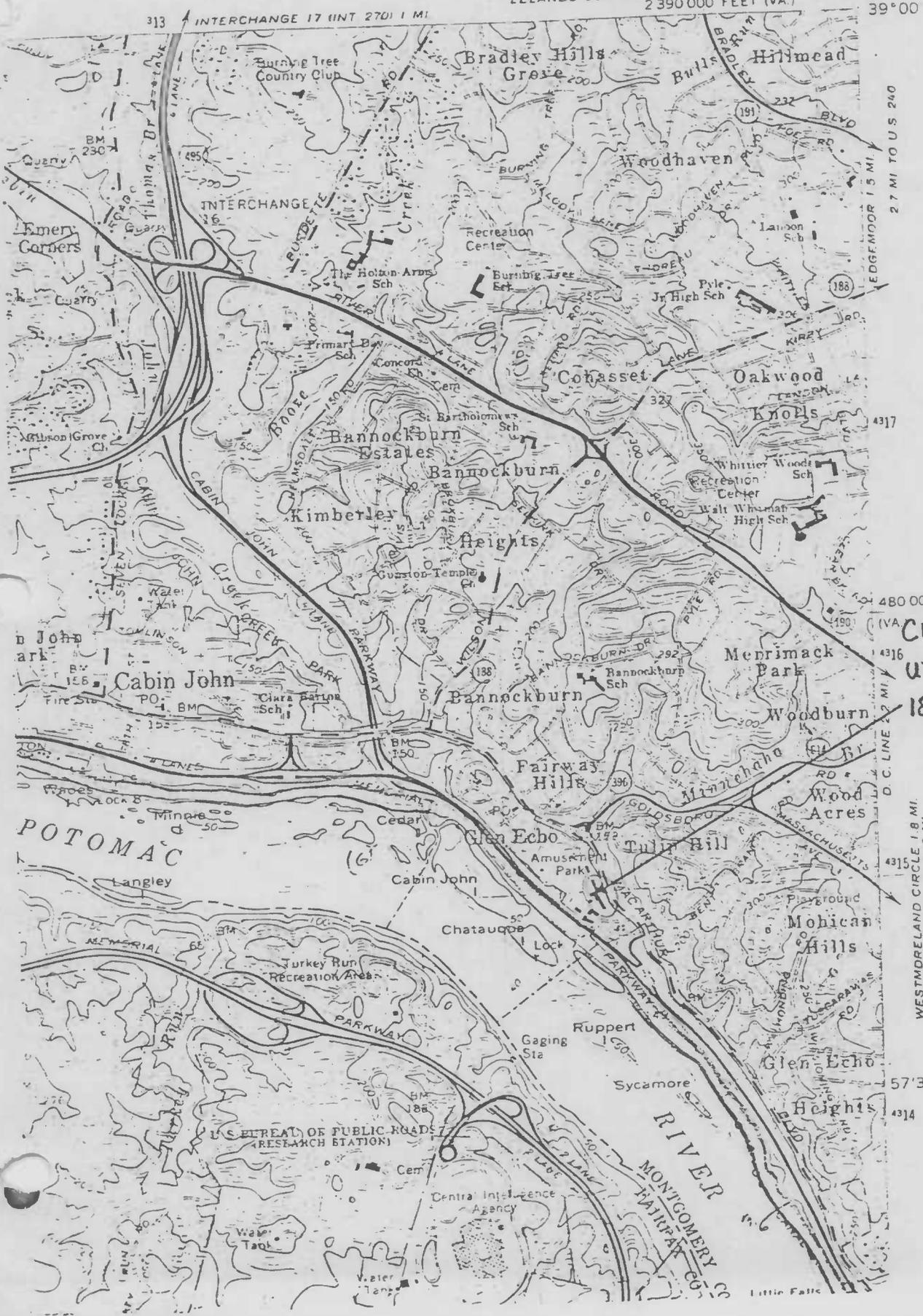
National State Local

Signature _____

FALLS CHURCH QUADRANGLE
 VIRGINIA - MARYLAND
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

LELANDS CORNER 1.9 MI
 2390 000 FEET (VA.) 77°07'30"
 39°00'

1:50,000 (SCALE)
 (M.F. 1:50,000)



M: 35-26

480 000 FEET
 (VA) CHAUTAUQUA TOWER
 UTM REFERENCE:
 18/31A740/4315000

WESTMORELAND CIRCLE 1.8 MI.
 DUPONT CIRCLE, D. C. 6 MI.

2.7 MI TO U.S. 240

57'30"

4314



#35-26

NAME GLEN ECHO CHATAUQUA
LOCATION MC ARTHUR BLVD. GLEN ECHO, Md.
FACADE NE
PHOTO TAKEN 9/10/74 MDWYER