

## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:35-29-2

(date)

1. Name: R.A. Charles' Castle

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 35/29/2 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 20  
Coordinate J-154. Address: 5417 Mohican Road  
Glen Echo Heights

## 5. Classification Summary

Category <u>building</u>	Previous Survey Recording <u>MNCPPC</u>
Ownership <u>private</u>	Title and Date: <u>Historic Sites Inventory</u>
Public Acquisition <u>N/A</u>	<u>1976</u>
Status <u>occupied</u>	
Accessible <u>no</u>	Federal <u>    </u> State <u>x</u> County <u>x</u> Local <u>    </u>
Present use <u>private residence</u>	

6. Date: 1890

7. Original Owner: R.A. Charles

## 8. Apparent Condition

a. good b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This three bay by one bay, two and a half story stone "castle" faces south, and is smaller than #5415.

Constructed of bluestone, the house has a two story screened porch with a flat roof at the southeast corner of the south elevation. The enclosed second level is supported by three columns at the first level.

There is a screened porch on the north elevation that wraps around to the west elevation. Six columns support the half-hipped porch roof. A two story tower is located at the northwest corner of the west elevation with a conical roof.

There are one-over-one double-hung windows with stone lintels, and a variety of multi-paned transoms or upper sashes above single light lower sashes. The south elevation has a hipped dormer window. The house has a hipped roof with red slate covering. There are two interior chimneys with corbelled caps.

10. Significance: This unusual dwelling is a reminder of a grandiose scheme to create a Washington "Rhineland of the Potomac". Twin brothers Edwin and Edward Baltzley bought 516 acres of land in 1888, built the Glen Echo National Chautauqua, and sold lots for a planned development across the street. Houses were to be of brick, stone or metal, but the use of granite was encouraged by offering stone delivered at quarry cost. This house was built for R.A. Charles in 1890 and was the second of two "castles" built in the planned development. The Baltzley castle was larger than this one and was probably intended as a model home.

A disastrous fire at the Glen Echo Cafe in November, 1890, coupled with rumors of malarial mosquitoes, put an abrupt end not only to the Glen Echo Chautauqua, but also to the Baltzleys' real estate business.

The Charles family owned this house for many years. The present owners purchased the "castle" in 1962, and rent it out.

11. Researcher and date researched: Candy Reed/Architectural Description  
Carlotta Anderson 4/7912. Compiler: Peg Coleman 13. Date Compiled: 6/79 14. Designation  
Approval     

15. Acreage: 54,572 sq. ft.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC R.A. Charles' Castle

AND/OR COMMON Baltzley "Castle"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 5417 Mohican Road

CITY, TOWN Glen Echo Heights 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. Paul W. and Elizabeth Carol Schafer Telephone #: 229-4190

STREET & NUMBER 5415 Mohican Road

CITY, TOWN Glen Echo Heights VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 20016

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3041 Folio #: 365

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20850

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**

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		

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This three bay by one bay, two and a half story stone "castle" faces south, and is smaller than #5415.

Constructed of bluestone, the house has a two story screened porch with a flat roof at the southeast corner of the south elevation. The enclosed second level is supported by three columns at the first level.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" 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 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

This unusual dwelling is a reminder of a grandiose scheme to create a Washington "Rhineland of the Potomac".

In 1888, twin brothers Edward & Edwin Baltzley purchased 516 acres overlooking the Potomac River.<sup>1</sup> Edwin was a prolific inventor and had made about a quarter of a million dollars on a mechanical eggbeater he patented in 1885 -- money used to buy the land.<sup>2</sup> It extended from Cabin John Creek east to the Walkonding Road area overlooking Sycamore Island.

The brothers set up their real estate office in the wildly fanciful Glen Echo Cafe which they built above Sycamore Island. They sold lots only for "houses of brick, stone or metal of not less value than \$3,000", out encouraged "the erection of none but granite houses" and promised stone from five local quarries "at the bare cost of quarrying".<sup>3</sup> They planned a gigantic fortress-like riverview hotel to be called "The Mohican", and built their own Mohican Road house in imitation of a castle and probably as a model home for the area. They also deeded 80 acres in 1891 to the "National Chautauqua of Glen Echo" and became members of the board of trustees. By summer 1891, completed structures for this center of culture and education included an amphitheatre seating 8,000, a hall of philosophy, an entrance complex with two stone towers and a tent hotel.

In February 1890, R.A. Charles, an employee of the Treasury Department, purchased land from Edward & Laura Baltzley,<sup>4</sup> and constructed this house soon after. Theophilus Parsons Chandler, who designed the larger "castle" for the Baltzleys, may have designed this smaller one also.

A disastrous fire at the Glen Echo Cafe in November, 1890, coupled with rumors of malarial mosquitoes, put an abrupt end not only to the Glen Echo Chautauqua, but also to the Baltzleys' real estate business.

The Charles family owned this house for many years. The present owners purchased the "castle" in 1962, and rent it out.

## FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, JA 11/70.
2. Article (and slide show) by Carol Barton, Glen Echo Park historian, "The Glen Echo Barometer: A History of Glen Echo Park." 1979, no paging.
3. Glen Echo on the Potomac, Edwin and Edward, Frank Gutekunst Press, Philadelphia, 1891, reprinted May 1978 by the Writer's Center, Glen Echo Park, p. 8, etc.
4. Land Records, Opt. Cit., 21/70.

Baltzley, Edwin & Edward, Glen Echo on the Potomac, Frank Gutekunst Press, Philadelphia, 1891, reprinted May 1978 by the Writer's Center, Glen Echo Park.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

M:35-29-2

Research by Richard Cook.

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

Land Records of Montgomery County.

Baltzley, Edwin & Edward, The Glen Echoan; E.&E. Baltzley, 1892.  
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 54,572 sq. ft.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Lot B & Part of C, Block 3 "Glen Echo Heights"

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	Carlotta Anderson	Candy Reed Architectural Description
ORGANIZATION	Sugarloaf Regional Trails	DATE April 1979
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, State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 278-1438~~

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

M:35-29-2

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Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
 Real Property Data Search

[Go Back](#)  
[View Map](#)  
[New Search](#)

**Account Identifier:** District - 07 Account Number - 00508312

**Owner Information**

**Owner Name:** SCHAFFER, PAUL W & E C **Use:** RESIDENTIAL  
**Principal Residence:** NO  
**Mailing Address:** 5415 MOHICAN RD **Deed Reference:** 1) / 3041/ 365  
 WASHINGTON DC 20816 2)

**Location & Structure Information**

**Premises Address** **Zoning** **Legal Description**  
 5417 MOHICAN RD R90 PT LOT C GLEN ECHO H  
 BETHESDA 20816 GTS

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:
GM53		N530		29		3	B	81	Plat Ref:
<b>Special Tax Areas</b>			<b>Town Ad Valorem Tax Class</b>						
			38						
<b>Primary Structure Built</b>			<b>Enclosed Area</b>		<b>Property Land Area</b>		<b>County Use</b>		
1883			2,252 SF		54,572.00 SF		111		
<b>Stories</b>		<b>Basement</b>		<b>Type</b>			<b>Exterior</b>		
2		YES		STANDARD UNIT			STONE		

**Value Information**

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2002	Phase-in Assessments	
			Value As Of 07/01/2002	Value As Of 07/01/2003
Land:	228,570	278,570		
Improvements:	286,710	275,430		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>515,280</b>	<b>554,000</b>	<b>528,186</b>	<b>541,092</b>
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

**Transfer Information**

Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:
Seller:	Date:	Price:
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:

**Exemption Information**

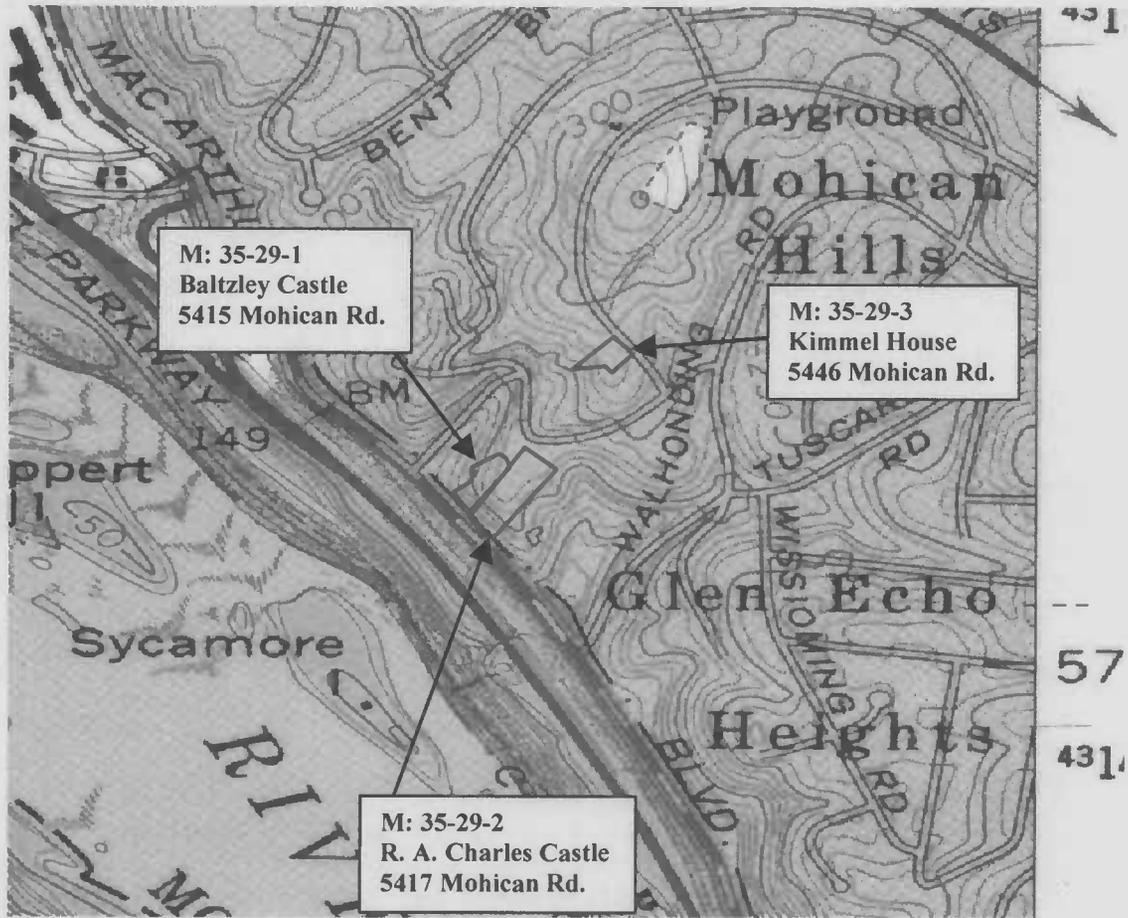
Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2002	07/01/2003
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

**Tax Exempt:** NO **Special Tax Recapture:**

\* NONE \*



M: 35-29 - 2  
Baltzley Castles  
5415, 5417, and 5446 Mohican Road, Bethesda  
Falls Church Quad





# 35-29-2

NAME EDWIN BALTZLEY CASTLE

LOCATION SCIOTO Rd GLEN ECHO, Md

FACADE S

PHOTO TAKEN 9/11/74 MOWYER