

PG: 62-22

P.G. - *Augustus Ross House*
~~Johnson Crump House~~
Beltsville Vicinity
Private

c. 1887

This two story, three bay frame house was built by Augustus Ross soon after he purchased the property in 1887. Though now abandoned and in derelict condition, the house was one of the largest farm houses owned by a black family in Prince George's County. Ross's descendants live nearby and have formed a substantial landowning community, the present-day matriarch of which is Ross's one hundred year old daughter, Sadie Ross Crump.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Augustus Ross House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 7802 Old Muirkirk Road

CITY, TOWN Beltsville X VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 13

STATE Maryland COUNTY Prince George's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Abandoned

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Bernice Dotson and Mrs. Louise Ross Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 7802 Old Muirkirk Road

CITY, TOWN Beltsville X VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 20705

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Registry of Deeds, ETC. Registry of Deeds, Prince George's County Courthouse Liber #: JWB 9 Folio #: 209

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Upper Marlboro STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

This two-story, balloon frame house with an A roof faces west toward the Old Muirkirk Road, which used to be one of the major roads in the county. The facade consists of three bays in the common arrangement of a centrally located door with two windows on either side. Each window contains double hung sashes with 6 x 6 lights. A screen porch, built in circa 1918, shelters the facade. The northern gable end has no windows, while the southern end has one in the downstairs. A kitchen L was added to the northeast corner of the rear of the house at the same time as the porch was built, according to a former occupant and descendant of Augustus Ross, Bernice Dotson.

The exterior was sheathed with weatherboards that have now been covered with synthetic siding in the design of red bricks. The cornices are boxed with plain planks. A brick chimney ascends through the south wall of the north wall room (the sitting room).

In plan, the house has a central stair-hall flanked by two rooms on each floor. The interior has been greatly modified over time by re-sheathing, and since the collapsing roof is open to the weather, the house is rapidly deteriorating. Due to its dangerous condition, the upstairs was not investigated.

Downstairs the sitting room had once been formally appointed room in comparison with other houses surveyed during this project. Picture moldings lined the plastered walls; the doors and windows were trimmed with plain boards with rounded edges. Above the fire-box, the mantelplate was thick and plainly dressed, with rounded edges at either end, while the pilasters had champered edges, and the capitals and bases were reeded. In short, the interior shows strong stylistic aspirations, and the achievement of those aspirations within the income of laborer and farmer, the two jobs that Ross held simultaneously while living here.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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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 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			

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1886

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Augustus Ross

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Mrs. Sadie Ross Crump-- the daughter of Augustus Ross, the owner and builder of this house -- her father came to the Muirkirk community from Montgomery county. She did not know whether he had been a slave there or not. According to the deed records, copies of which are included with this report, Augustus Ross bought this tract of land in 1886 as one of the lots taken from the division of the large Duvall farm. Notley Johnson, another Negro farmer whose house Ross's daughter purchased, also purchased a tract from that division. (See Johnson-Crump House).

Ross came to this area to work in the Muirkirk Charcoal Pig Iron Foundry at Muirkirk, a job which brought him a steady income, one result of which was that he could purchase land, use timbers from that land to build his house, and pay the saw miller to have some timbers finished as decorative woodwork for the sitting room. The result was a house that was very attractive, when it was occupied and maintained, a house that reflected the living conditions of the rural black middle class.

NOTE: No photo of house available.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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 George W. McDaniel

ORGANIZATION Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER 20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

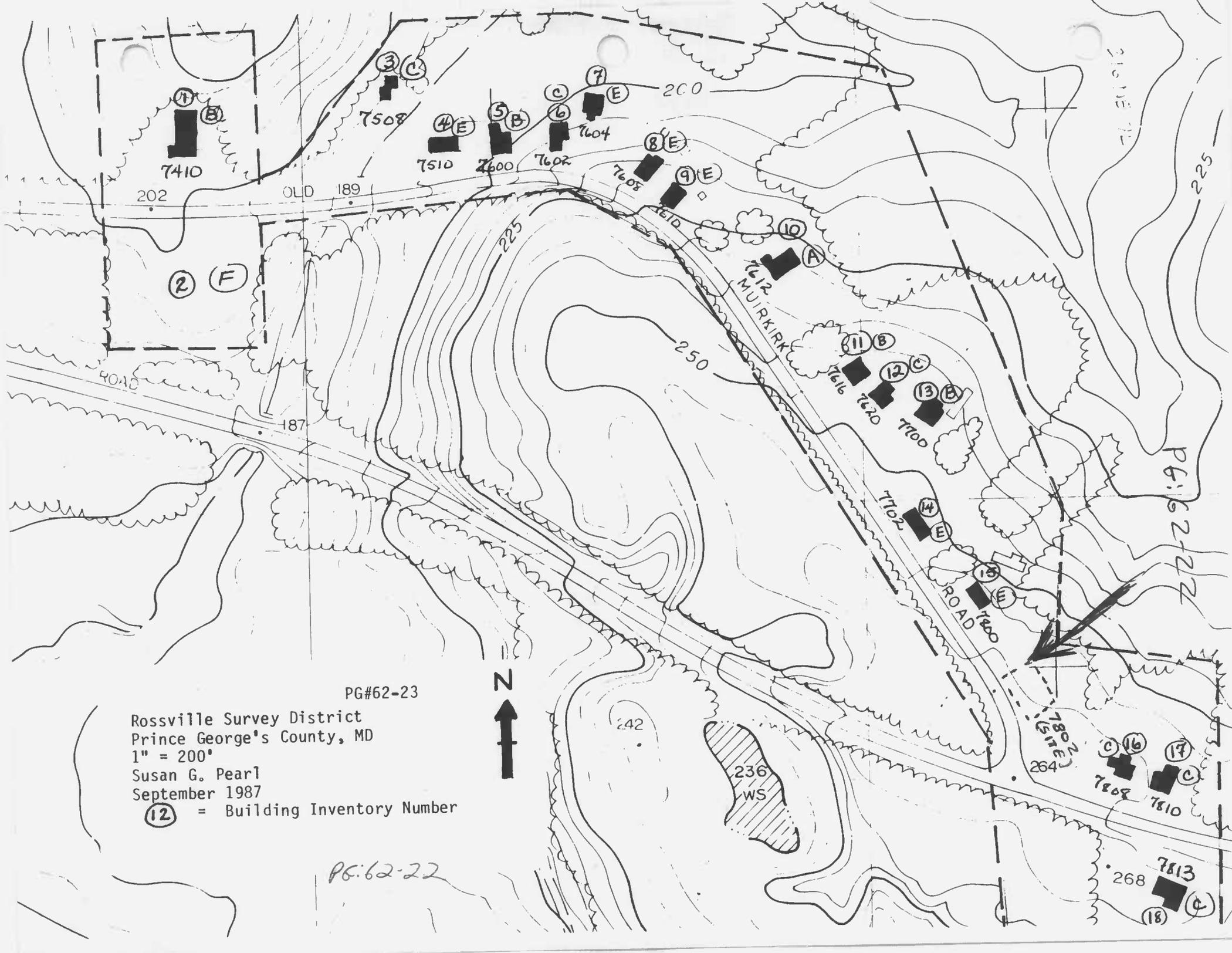
CITY OR TOWN Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

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



PG#62-23

Rossville Survey District
 Prince George's County, MD
 1" = 200'
 Susan G. Pearl
 September 1987

⑫ = Building Inventory Number

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WASHINGTON MONUMENT 17 MI.
BELTSVILLE 2.9 MI.

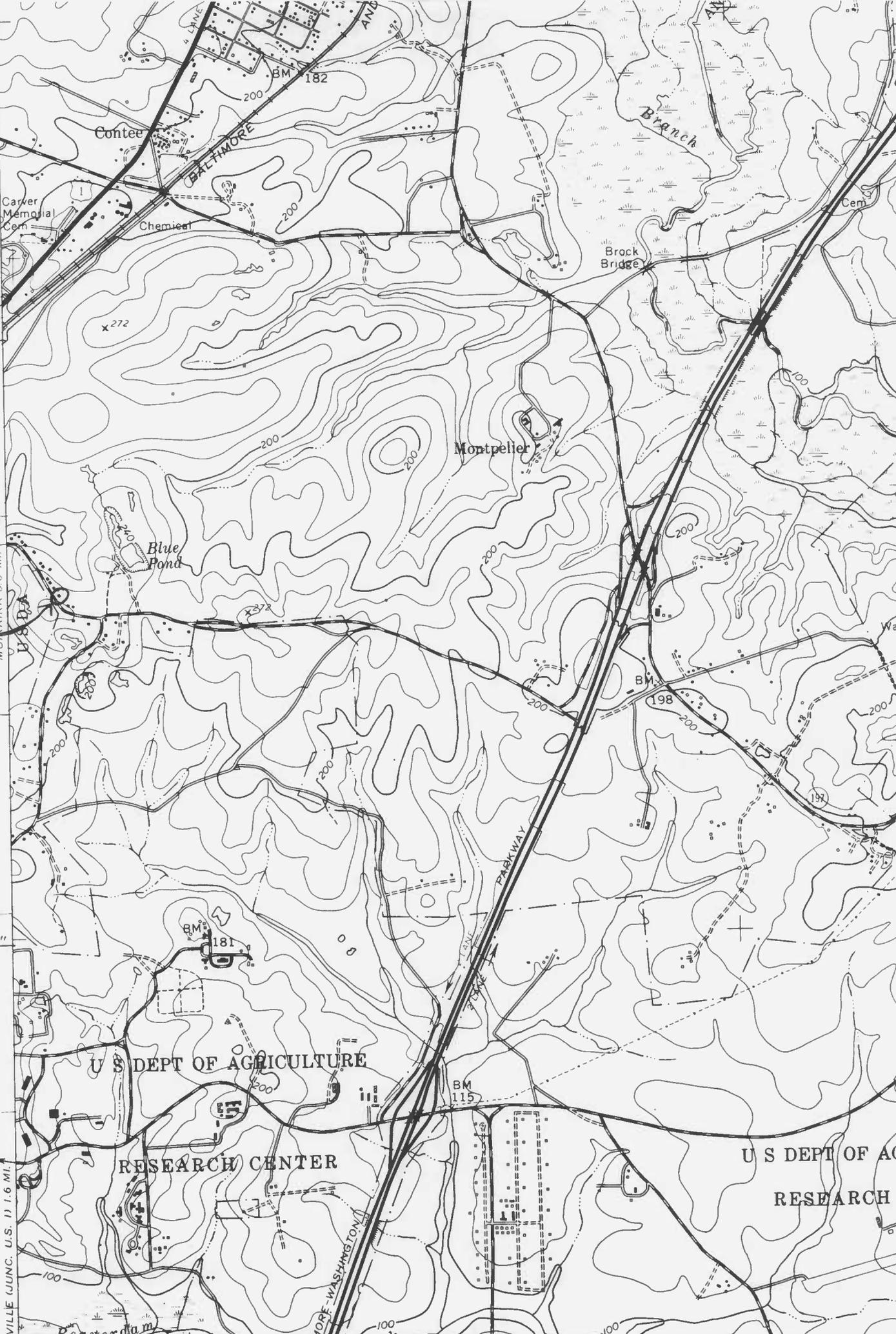
MURKIRK 0.6 MI.
(BELTSVILLE)

2'30"

VILLE (UNCL. U.S.) 11.6 MI.

LAUREL
QUAD
1957

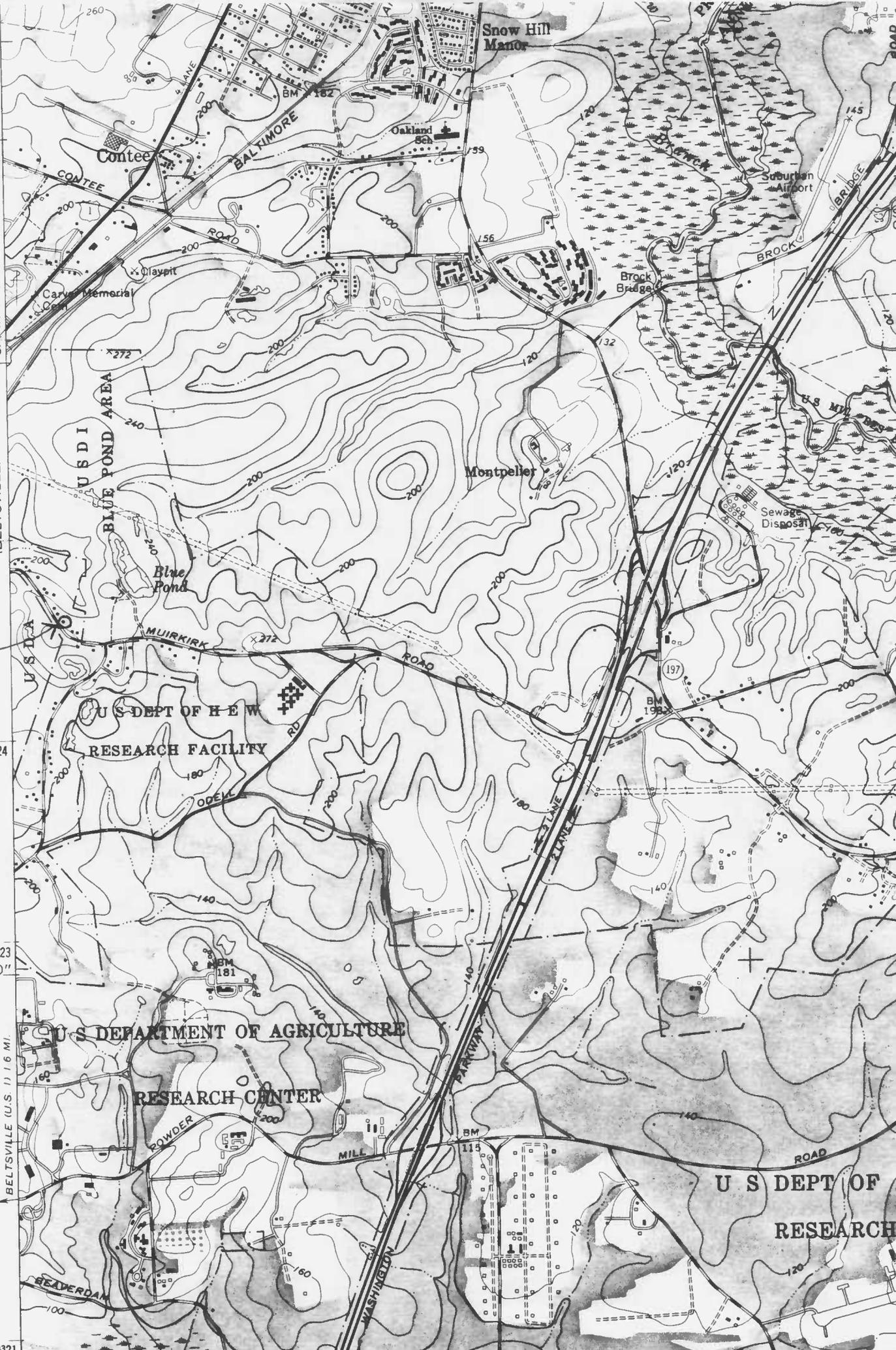
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WASHINGTON MONUMENT 17 MI.
INTERSTATE 495 (INTERCHANGE 27) 3.8 MI.
5'
4326
5662 III SW
(BELTSVILLE)
4324
4323
2'30"
BELTSVILLE (U.S.) 16 MI.
4371

LAUREL
QUAD
1965

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LAUREL
QUAD
1965,
PR
1979

PG: 62-22

WASHINGTON MONUMENT 17 MI. INTERSTATE 95 (INTERCHANGE 27) 3.8 MI.
5662 III SW (BELTSVILLE)
U.S.D.A.
4326
4324
4323
2'30"
BELTSVILLE (U.S. 1) 1.6 MI.
4321



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RESEARCH CENTER