

M: 28-66  
Odd Fellows Lodge  
Montgomery County, MD

The Odd Fellows Lodge, located at 1310 Olney-Sandy Spring Road in Sandy Spring, Maryland is located next to the Sharp Street Methodist Church. Built during the 1920s, the two-story frame structure is vacant and in need of structural repairs. Linked to the national organization of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Odd Fellows Lodge in Sandy Spring was built during the 1920s as a health and life insurance agency, and social organization for the African-American community of Sandy Spring. The Odd Fellows Lodge survives as a physical reminder of the county's African-American history and provides a historical link to one of the largest and oldest fraternal orders in the United States. The Odd Fellows Lodge meets Criteria A and D of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. M-28-66

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Odd Fellows Hall

common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 1310 Olney-Sandy Spring Rd Not for publication   
city or town Sandy Spring vicinity  state Maryland code MD  
county Montgomery code \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 20860

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

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5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing      Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_ No X

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: Fraternal Organization  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: OTHER Sub: Vacant  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
roof Gable: sheet metal  
walls Bricktex over Weatherboard  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance  
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY  
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION  
ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

Period of Significance circa 1920  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates circa 1920  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Annals of Sandy Spring*, Vols. I-V, Sandy Spring, MD.: Privately Printed.

Barrow, Healan. "Sharp Street UMC celebrates heritage with parade." *Courier Gazette*. August 18, 1993.

Boyd, T.H.S., *History of Montgomery County*, 1879. Reprint. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Comp., 1989.

MacMaster, Richard K. and Ray Eldon Hiebert. *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1776-1976*. Rockville, MD.: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD., Vertical Files.

Montgomery County Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland.

Nesbitt, Martha C. and Mary Reading Miller. *Chronicles of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting and Environs*. Sandy Spring, MD., 1987.

Porter, Pamela. "A village founded: Sandy Spring founders were freed by 1815." *Montgomery Journal*. November 15, 1988.

Reed, Sue. "Last weekend for black community exhibit." *Express*. June 24, 1992.

Sandy Spring Museum, Sandy Spring, Maryland, Vertical Files.

Vaughn, Peggy. "Sharp Street UMC to celebrate 175th anniversary." *The Gazette*. September 3, 1997.

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property 30,927 SF

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The Odd Fellows Lodge occupies Parcel # 456 on Montgomery County Tax Map JT 22.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

This parcel of land has been associated with the building since the its construction in the early twentieth century.

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11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Kimberly Williams/Michele Naru, Architectural Historians  
organization M-NCPPC date 07-01-99  
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301/563-3403  
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910  
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12. Property Owner  
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name Odd Fellows Lodge C/O John F. Beverley  
street & number 15511 Holly Grove Rd telephone 301-388-0505  
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20905  
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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Inventory No. M-28-66

Odd Fellows Lodge

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

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The Odd Fellows Hall building in Sandy Spring, Maryland is located on the south side of the Olney-Sandy Spring Road, next to and set back from, the Sharp Street Methodist Church. Built during the 1920s,<sup>1</sup> the two-story frame structure is vacant and in need of structural repairs.

Architectural Description:

The Odd Fellows Hall is a two-story, gable-fronted frame structure set upon a concrete foundation. The building measures 27' x 52' and is two bays wide and four bays deep. The weatherboard walls are clad with bricktex and the roof is covered with sheet metal. The metal roofing is missing towards the front of the building, leaving the sheathing boards exposed. There are two brick chimney flues projecting from the roof, one towards the front and one towards the rear.

The north elevation facing the Olney-Sandy Spring Road features a double door on center of the first story and two, single, 6/6 windows on the second story. The double door has replacement plywood panels, while the 6/6 windows appear original.

The east and west side walls are four bays deep, defined by single bays of 6/6 windows, some in deteriorating condition and others boarded up entirely. The end bay of the west side of the building has a door in place of the window, with a small window opening next to it. The door has two, long wood panels.

At the northeast corner of the foundation is a marble cornerstone inscribed with the Odd Fellows symbol of three chain links and the number 6430.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The exact date of construction has not been determined. However, based upon the building's architecture, as well as archival information, it appears to have been erected during the 1920s.

<sup>2</sup>The three links of the Odd Fellow's symbol represent Friendship, Love and Truth.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Inventory No. M-28-66  
Odd Fellows Lodge  
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county and state

=====

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Odd Fellows Lodge is located at 1310 Olney-Sandy Spring Road in Sandy Spring, MD. Linked to the national organization of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Odd Fellows Lodge in Sandy Spring was built during the 1920s as a health and life insurance agency, and social organization for the African-American community of Sandy Spring. The Odd Fellows Lodge survives as a physical reminder of the county's African-American history and provides a historical link to one of the largest and oldest fraternal orders in the United States. The Odd Fellows Lodge meets Criteria A and D of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

Historic Context

The Odd Fellows Lodge is located on a small lot of land that was originally part of, or immediately adjacent to, a one-acre tract donated, in 1854, by Sandy Spring Quakers to members of the local African-American community for use as a church. During that time, Maryland laws prohibited the assembly of blacks without white supervision. The one-acre tract was conveyed to blacks for the purpose of erecting a place of worship by Thomas L. Brooke and Sophia Brooke, both Quakers. The Brookes' deeded the land to Sandy Spring Quakers, William Stabler, Richard Bentley and Alpon Gilpin, to be held for the people of color of Sandy Spring. The deed stipulated that any misuse of the land would revert the property to the Brooke family heirs.<sup>3</sup> This parcel of land was part of the original land tract "Charley's Forest."

A log cabin, built circa 1822, already stood on the one-acre tract. The cabin, referred to as "An Independent Methodist Church for Colored People of Sandy Spring" served as a house of worship. In 1886, the land was transferred from Richard Bentley, et al., trustees, to Remus Q. Hill, S.E. Powell and Levi Hall, trustees of the church. In 1887, a frame church building was constructed on the site of the old log cabin. In 1920, this church burnt down and the present brick structure was erected in 1923 and the church named the Sharp Street Methodist Church.

It is not clear exactly when the Odd Fellows Lodge was constructed, or by whom. According to a history of African American schools in Montgomery County, the present site of the Odd Fellows Lodge was historically the site of the Sandy Spring Industrial School, which operated from 1911 until 1926. In that year, the school burnt down, and was apparently replaced by the present Odd Fellows

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<sup>3</sup>Sandy Spring Museum, Vertical Files

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=====  
Lodge.<sup>4</sup>

According to the history of the Sharp Street Church, the congregation worshiped in the Odd Fellows Lodge between 1920 and 1923, while funds were being raised to rebuild the burnt-down church building.

A further complication to the building's history involves the ownership of land. Although it appears to have been part of the original one-acre tract of land deeded to the Sharp Street church, a 1937 deed indicates the lot on which the building stands was acquired by the odd Fellows organization, not from Sharp Street, but from Mary E. Gilpin (ancestor tp Alpon Gilpin. According to the land records, in February of 1937, Mary E. Gilpin sold a parcel of land totaling 27,375.6 square feet, to the Sandy Spring Lodge No. 6430, of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, Inc.<sup>5</sup>

It seems then, that the Odd Fellows built, sometime during the 1920s the lodge building, and that in 1937, had legal ownership of the land on which it stood.

The Odd Fellowship was founded in England in the 18th century. The Patriotic Order in England was followed by the Union of United Orders and the Loyal Order. In 1813, various lodges of the Union Order organized the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows as we know it today began in Baltimore, Maryland, where five members of the Order from England founded Washington Lodge No. 1 on April 26, 1819, by self-institution. One of these Brothers was Thomas Wildey, the first Noble Grand and the man revered as the founder of Odd Fellowship in North America. A charter was received from Duke of York Lodge in Preston, England, in 1820, a year and a half after its self-institution.

In 1821, the "Grand Lodge of Maryland and of the United States of America, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows," was founded. Brother Wildey also served as the first Grand Master/Grand Sire of the first Grand Lodge, for a period of 12 years. Several more lodges were established, and in 1824, the "Grand Lodge of the United States" now termed "The Sovereign Grand Lodge," was separated from the Grand Lodge of Maryland. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows in North America (United States and Canada) became

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<sup>4</sup> Clarke, Nina H. And Brown, Lillian B., History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, MD. (Vantage Press: New York, 1978), p. 23, 56.

<sup>5</sup>Montgomery County Courthouse, Deed Book 184 Folio 20.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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independent from the Order in England in 1834.<sup>6</sup>

Although not an African American fraternal organization at the national level, the Odd Fellows institution served as a health and life insurance agency for the African-American community of Sandy Spring. The members paid fees to the club and it provided medical and funeral expenses for its members.<sup>7</sup>

The Odd Fellows Lodge also played an active social role in the African-American community. The Lodge was the site of various dances and social events for the community.<sup>8</sup> The building still stands, though it is vacant, no longer in use, and is currently exposed to the weather and in deteriorating condition.

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<sup>6</sup>Internet site: [www.ioof.com](http://www.ioof.com)

<sup>7</sup>Porter, Pamela. "A Village Founded: Sandy Spring founders were freed by 1815." *The Montgomery Journal*. November 15, 1988.

<sup>8</sup>Reed, Sue. "Last Weekend for Black Community Exhibit." *Express*. June 24, 1992.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
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**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Piedmont

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Modern Period, 1930-Present

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

Social/Education/Cultural

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** Social Hall for a Fraternal Organization

**Known Design Source:** none

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
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**Chain of Title:**

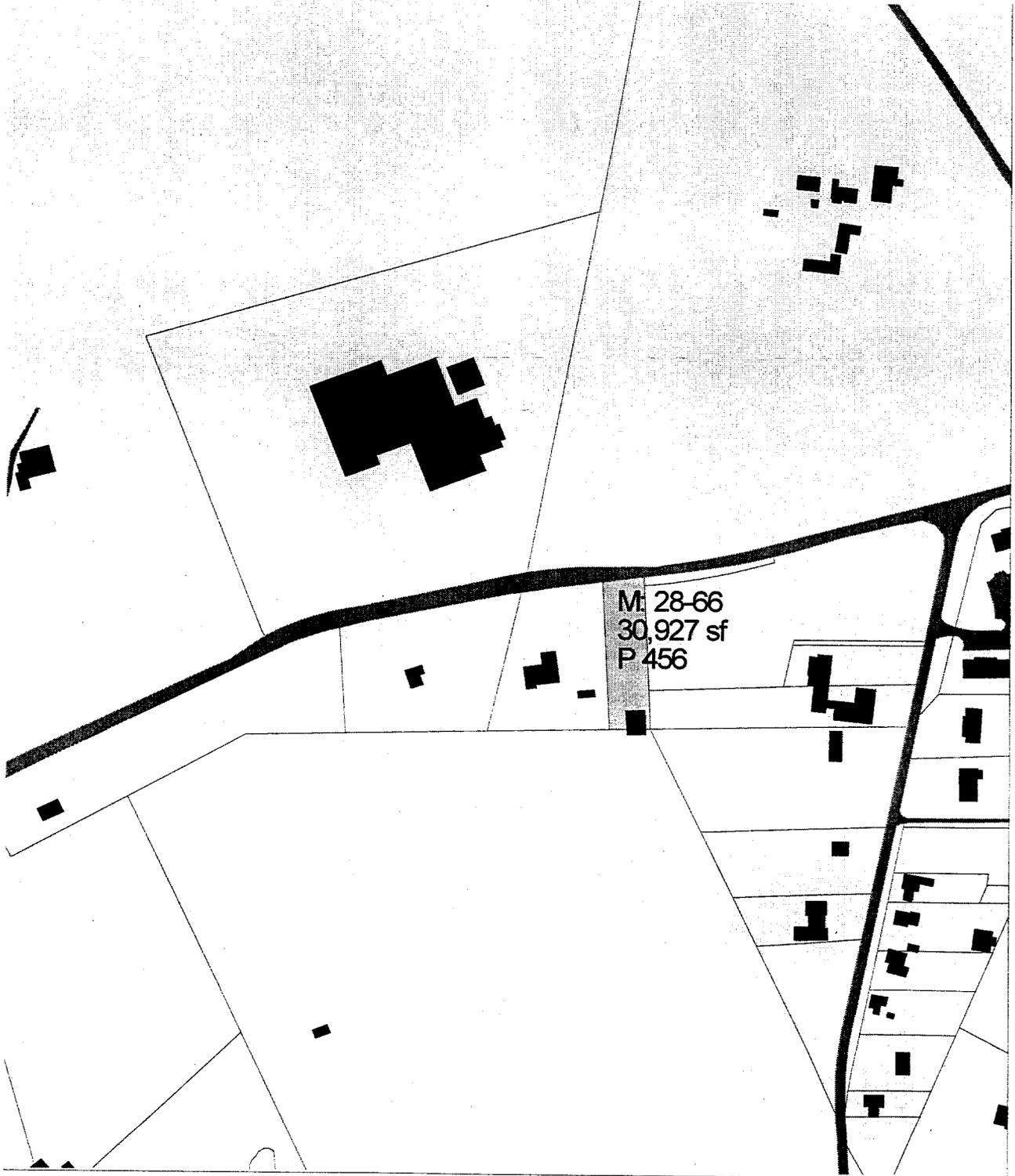
1854

The land was deeded for the purpose of erecting a place of worship. Thomas L. Brooke and Sophia Brooke to William Stabler, Richard Bentley and Alpon Gilpin, all Quakers, to be held for the people of color of Sandy Spring. Any misuse of the land would revert the property to the Brooke family heirs. (History of Sharp Street Methodist Church written by the congregation of the church. Sandy Spring Museum vertical files.)

February 1, 1937

Mary E. Gilpin to the Grand Order of Odd Fellows, Inc. Present Owners. (Deed Book 184 Folio 20)

# ODD FELLOWS HALL (M: 28-66)



Casual User Application

M-NCPPC



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760



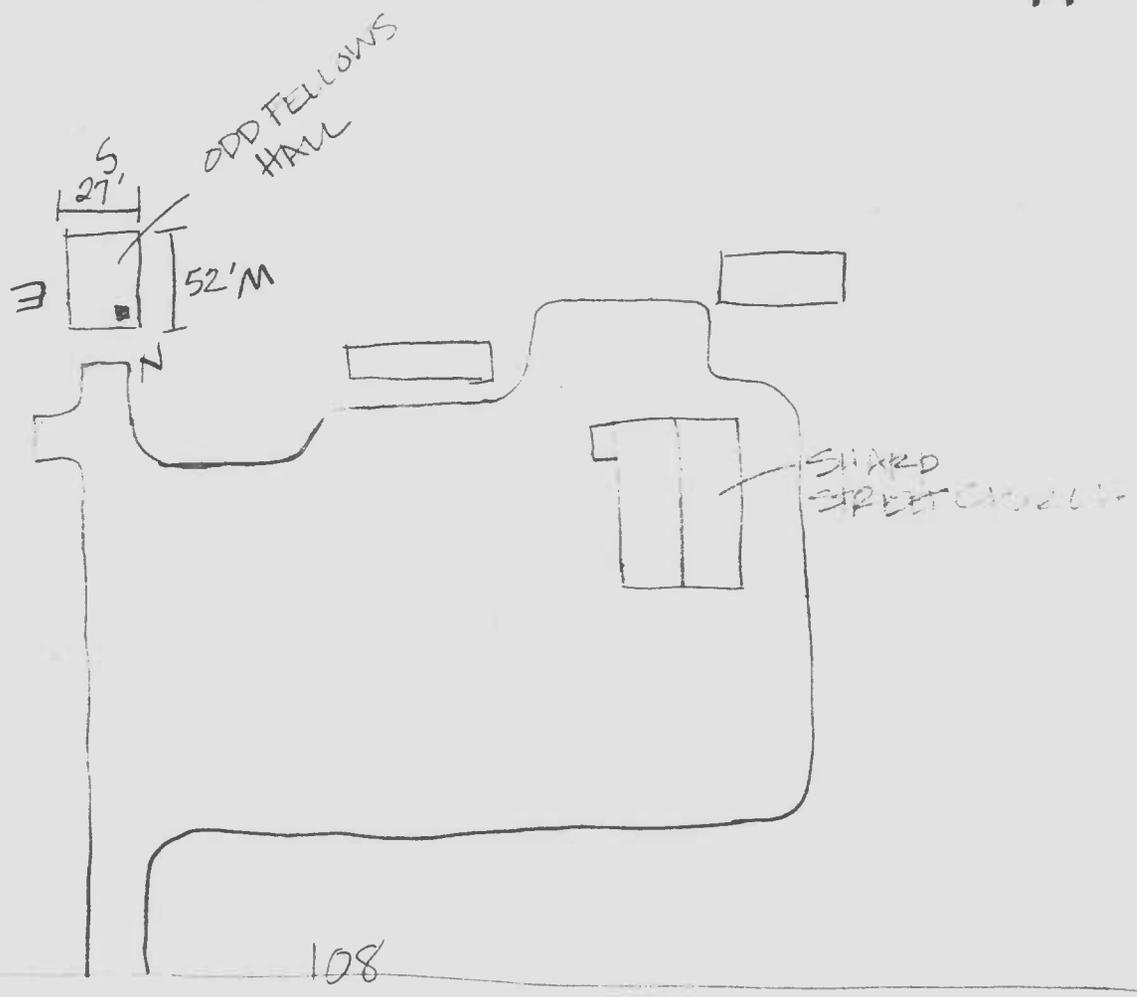
Scale 1" = 300'



Technology  
Research & Technology Center



ODD FELLOWS HALL  
M: 28/66





4337  
10'  
HIGHLAND 3.2 MI.  
4335  
COLESVILLE 5.1 MI.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 19 MI.  
4330  
39°

1323 2'30" 324  
GLENMONT 4.7 MI.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 19 MI.  
INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-1986  
326  
3270000E 77°00'

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Name: SANDY SPRING  
Date: 7/13/99  
Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 039° 08' 53.3" N 077° 01' 33.7" W  
Caption: ODD FELLOWS LODGE M: 28-66  
1310 Olney-Sandy Spring Rd

M: 28-66



28-66

ODD FELLOWS HALL  
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTHWEST OBLIQUE LOOKING SOUTHEAST

1 of 4



28-66

ODD FELLOWS HALL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

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28-66

ODD FELLOWS HALL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ELEVATION

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28-66

ODD FELLOWS HALL

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

MICHELE NARU

7-8-99

MARYLAND SHPO

ODD FELLOWS PLAQUE ON EAST ELEVATION

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