

# HO-151

## Rockburn

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 05-03-2004***

HO-151  
ROCKBURN  
Elkridge  
Private

circa 1730's

The original building, the center of an architectural complex built in five stages dates from the early 1730's, located on Moor's Morning Choice and owned by Caleb Dorsey, the iron master of the Avalon Iron Works. The house is said to have been built as home and office prior to the construction of its neighbor, Belmont in 1738.

This two and a half story brick house does not have the symmetry in plan of adjoining Belmont but presents an interesting and intricate composition with its intersecting gabled roofs of slate and its fenestration accented by stone sills and keystones.

The original building, three bays wide, two bays deep and two and a half stories high, located south of Rockburn Branch is presently the mid structure of this large two and a half story brick home.

East and west wings, built at different times, are each three stories high, two bays wide and two bays deep, whose gabled roofs intersect with the main structure.

Another notable architectural feature of the house is the use of various decorative brick bonds; English bond on the north wall, Flemish bond on the south wall with a Flemish diagonal diamond pattern between the two second floor windows. A stretcher brick course topped by a header brick course divides the first and second stories of the south elevation of the original structure.

It is presently the well maintained private home of Dr. and Mrs. Dale N. Schumacher and Mr. Brian Biles.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Rockburn				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Moore's Morning Choice				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: 6581 Belmont Wood's Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Elkridge				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Howard		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Brian Biles and Dr. & Mrs. Dale Schumacher				
STREET AND NUMBER: 6581 Belmont Wood's Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Elkridge		STATE: Maryland		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records				
STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Courthouse				
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Tax Map 32 592-248				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b> 4.73 acres				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1976 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust				
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle				
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland		21401

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Uncltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original building located at Rockburn south of Rockburn Branch is presently the mid structure of a large 2½ story brick home built in five stages by the Dorsey family descendents of Caleb of H ckley, who ran iron furnaces along the Patapsco River.

Intersecting gabled roofs of slate characterize the architecture of Rockburn. The fine brick work of the house is another notable feature which is evidenced in the splayed brick flat arched lintels with stone keystones and the various decorative brick bonds used in the building construction. This is particularly true of the three bay wide, two bay deep original two and a half story house, whose north wall is composed of English bond and whose south wall is laid in Flemish bond brick on the first floor with a Flemish diagonal diamond pattern between the two second floor windows. A stretcher brick course topped by a header brick course divides the first and second stories of the south elevation of this original structure.

The north elevation of this structure now furnishes the main entrance to the house. Formerly, it was located on the south facing toward Rockburn Branch. Presently the south wall contains three first floor double-hung windows with splayed brick lintels decorated with stone keystones and flat-stone sills and holding six-over-six lites. A similar window, proportionally scaled, lies in the second floor west bay while a tripartite second floor window lies in the east bay decorated with a flat stone sill and splayed brick flat arched lintel with stone keystone. The central window contains six-over-six lites while the flanking windows contain two-over-two vertical lites. The detail of the brick work on this south wall, the decorative diamond pattern created by the black header bricks as well as the indication that all the lintels of the first floor were constructed much later than the original wall -- all bespeak of the main entrance lying on the south. Additionally, vestiges of an arched brick lintel on the east side of the central bay window indicate the original doorway to the house, while a stone foundation beneath it indicates a possible porticoed entrance.

Presently a cellar door lies in the stone foundation between the east and middle bays of the south wall.

Two gabled roofed dormer windows, encasing rectangular double-hung windows with six-over-six lites surmounted by frontons are inset into the east and west bays of the south elevation of this original structure.

Boxwood, shrubs and mature trees intersperce the sloping lawn which runs down to Rockburn Branch.

This original structure's brick chimneys are inset into the east and west walls, terminating in decorative corbeled brick courses.

The first floor windows of the north elevation have been rearranged, the window of the west bay moving east. A rectangular cross paneled entrance door on the east bay is flanked by vertical wooden panels with three vertical lites, all encased in a rectangular wooden frame. A flat roofed portico whose cornice is decorated with a row of dentils is supported by three doric columns on each side and flat pilasters on the north wall.

All fenestration is decorated with splayed brick flat arched lintels with stone keystones and flat stone sills.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input 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

The significance of Rockburn is both historical and architectural. It also has industrial significance as it was used by the Dorseys at one time as an office to run their iron furnace at Avalon. An old private road ran from Rockburn to the old River Road along the Patapsco. You could follow the old road to Rockburn Creek where a lovely bridge abutment was constructed.

Architecturally Rockburn presents a complex, composed of five parts. It is not a symmetrical building like its neighbor Belmont nor have its additions given it the wholeness presented by such facades as Font Hill. It does, however, present an interesting and intricate plan with its intersecting gabled roofs and accented windows with stone sills and keystones.

Two wings, east and west, have been added to the original structure but were built at different times. The west wing, constructed in the twentieth century was the last addition to the house and appears to have been an attempt to bring a symmetry into the over-all plan of the house. Its dimensions are similar to that of the east wing which was the first addition to the house. Both wings have slate roofs which run north-south and intersect the east-west gable of the original structure. Proportionally scaled fenestration decorated with splayed brick flat arched lintels with stone keystones and flat stone sills characterize these wings.

Each is three stories high, two bays wide and two bays deep. Their north elevations hold two windows on the first and second floors which are double-hung with six-over-six lites. Differences do occur. The east wing contains a third floor bulls-eye centered into the A formed by its gabled roof. It is decorated with a stretcher brick course and four stone keys. Its windows are not of the same dimension as those of the west wing, and its second floor windows indicate restoration was necessary or that the windows have been lowered. Two third story windows containing four lites rest in the north wall of the west wing.

The second east wing constructed before the west wing has a gabled roof which runs east-west intersecting with the first east wing addition. This addition would not have resulted in a symmetrical plan as its dimensions are not similar to those of the original structure. It appears that Rockburn grew like topsy. As additional space was needed, another wing was added. The final west wing does, however, appear to be an attempt to bring some order and symmetry into the total plan. An additional attempt for unity is evidenced in the interior woodwork of the house which was probably added in

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HO-151

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howard County Historical Society. Bulletin, Volume 1, No. 2. Ellicott City, March, 1959.

Interview with Mrs. Schumacher, present owner of Rockburn, Rockburn July 21, 1976.

Interview with Mrs. Malkmus, telephone, June 24, 1976.

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:

Please see Tax Map 32 592-248

4.73 Acres

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION: Office of Planning and Zoning - Comprehensive Planning      DATE:

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3450 Court House Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City      STATE: Maryland      ZIP: 21043

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Description - Rockburn (Continued)

Three gabled roofed dormer windows are inset into the roof on the north elevation. They hold rectangular double-hung windows with six-over-six lites surmounted by frontons.

A second east wing addition, three bays deep, four bays wide, three stories high has been constructed east of the east wing whose gabled roof runs east-west intersecting with the roof of eastwing one to the original dwelling. It has two double-hung second floor windows on the north wall holding six-over-six lites decorated with splayed brick flat arched lintels with stone keystone and flat stone sills.

The first floor north wall contains a tripartite window separated by a wooden cornice encased by a segmental arched lintel of header bricks. The three windows which are held thus are double-hung with six-over-six lites. A gabled roof dormer is set into the middle of the roof of the north elevation of a second wing east of the first east wing. This second east wing has a gabled roof which runs east-west thus intersecting with east wing number one.

The west elevation of the house has a flat roofed one story open porch which runs along the west wall of the west wing of the house supported by six doric columns mounted on square wooden posts which serve as connectors to the ballustrade which runs around the west and south sides of the porch. Six stone pillars serve as a foundation support for the porch which has a wooden cornice decorated with a row of dentils.

Two first floor french doors with eight-eight lites surmounted by two-two casement transoms on the west wall lead onto the open porch. A brick chimney terminated by corbeled brick courses is inset into the west wall of the west wing. Two dormer windows, similar to those described, lie north of the chimney and another similar dormer lies south.

Two second floor french doors are located in the north and south bays of the west wing. They hold 8-8 lites and are decorated with splayed brick flat arched lintels and stone keystones opening onto the flat roof of the porch. This wing was the last part of the house to be constructed.

South Elevation

The south wall of the west wing contains three second floor windows and two third floor windows, each double-hung, rectangular and containing 6/6 lites, decorated by splayed brick flat arched lintels with decorative stone keystones and flat stone sills. A tripartite window similar to that second floor window described on the north wall of the second east wing takes up the central portion of the south wall of this wing. West of it is a rectangular double-hung splayed brick flat arched lintel and flat stone sill. A basement window is set into the stone foundation on the west side of the tripartite window and contains 4 lites, decorated by a stretch<sup>of</sup> brick flat arched lintel.

Description - Rockburn (Continued)

The south wall of the first east wing is laid in English garden wall brick bond and has two windows on each floor proportionally scaled with six-over-six lites and similar decoration to the other windows of the house. The splayed brick flat-arched lintels appear to be a later addition.

A third east wing located on the southeast corner of the present structure may be of an early vintage. It has always been used as the kitchen to the property. It springs from the south wall of the second east wing addition.

Its west elevation contains two similar first and second floor windows to those already described.

Its south elevation contains three second floor windows, one third floor window set into the A formed by its gabled roof which runs north-south and intersect the gabled roof of East Wing Addition #2. Additionally it contains two first floor windows in the middle and east bay. All fenestration is proportionally scaled and similar to that described. A first floor vertical four lite casement window is located in the west bay decorated with a splayed brick flat arched lintel and stone sill.

A rectangular cellar door with splayed brick flat arched lintel is centered into the stone foundation of the south wall. Four concrete steps lead down to the concrete landing.

The east facade of this wing contains two second floor windows and a rectangular central entrance door.

East Elevation of Southeast Wing

The first floor contains a 6/6 double-hung window decorated with splayed brick flat arched lintels. The two second floor windows are similar in decoration to others described.

The rectangular entrance door is located beneath and to the south of the north bay second floor window. It is decorated by a splayed brick flat arched lintel. North of the door is a wooden enclosed entrance which opens onto a one story flat roofed porch running the width of the east wall, supported by three doric columns. Its wooden cornice is decorated by a row of dentils. Its wooden platform is supported by stone columns.

Four cement stairs on the east decorated with stretcher bricks flanked by a wrought iron railing lead to the wooden landing.

The south wall of the second East Wing Addition contains three second floor windows and one third story window similar to others described.

A rectangular <sup>east</sup> entrance with a double-hung 6/6 rectangular window underscored by a rectangular wooden panel to the south are both surmounted by a splayed brick flat arched lintel with stone keystone.

Description - Rockburn (Continued)

Two wide cement steps lead to the wooden landing and the entrance. A one story, one bay wide, one bay deep brick addition laid in English garden wall brick bond springs from the east wall north of the entrance. Its wooden cornice is decorated with a row of dentils. A four lite vertical casement window with splayed brick flat arched lintel and flat stone sill is located on the east wall. A rectangular entrance door with 6 lites in its upper portion is located on the west side of its north wall and is surmounted by a splayed brick flat arched lintel with stone keystone.

## Rockburn - Significance (Continued)

the early 1900's. It is characterized by elliptical arches which lead from one space to another and provide very successfully a unity of scale, character and openness to the interior plan.

Historically Edward Dorsey, born in 1718, the younger brother of Caleb, Jr., is the legendary builder of Rockburn. A conjectured date of 1735 has been offered.

At one time Rockburn was known as the Grey House as it was painted grey. The bricks happily have been resurrected to enable one to appreciate fully the interesting diagonal pattern appearing on the original south facade of the house which is unique in Howard County.

The interior remodeling has produced a wide hall with winding staircase on the east with a dining area south of it. To the west of the large hall are two large living rooms containing lovely marble mantels.

An outstanding brick wall chimney is seen on the south wall of the kitchen wing topped by a wooden mantel.

Antedating Belmont, though not presenting the symmetry and unity of Belmont, Rockburn nonetheless may stand on her own merit as the first Dorsey dwelling on Moore's Morning Choice. As such, she qualifies as National Register material and should be so considered. The integrity of the site also remains to enhance the property and add to its significance as an outstanding historical landmark of Howard County.



(James C. Wilfong, Jr.)

## ROCKBURN

South of BELMONT, but on the same tract of land once held by Caleb Dorsey, is another home of merit known as Rockburn. This particular Dorsey property later became the residence of the Murrays of ELKRIDGE. The original block of the house, which is distinguishable from the later additions, is believed to be older than Belmont and to have served young Caleb as both office and temporary home from which he conducted his business.

Having purchased the land prior to 1732,<sup>1</sup> Caleb Dorsey of Hockley-in-the-Hole gave it to his son Caleb, Jr., who immediately acted on his plans to clear and plant the fields and to promote the exportation of iron ore and related minerals to England. This endeavor called for careful planning and required a place from which he could direct operations: the result was the first part of Rockburn. Belmont followed in 1738. In the meantime the first mine was opened; forges were built and furnaces erected—Elk Ridge Furnace in 1756, followed by Curtis Creek in 1759. The latter was owned jointly by Caleb, his son Edward, and an associate, Alexander Lawson; it was by far the larger operation. Although Caleb is also credited with having owned the Avalon Forge, conclusive evidence is wanting to substantiate the claim.<sup>2</sup>

Edward Dorsey succeeded his father Caleb as owner of Belmont. In 1815 when the estate was partitioned, Mary, daughter of Edward, received a sizable tract of land and the house that came to be known as Rockburn. She is said to have named the place after a small stream that ran through the property. Meanwhile, on 8 December 1808 Mary Dorsey had married Daniel M. Murray, eldest son of Dr. James and Sarah (Sallie) Maynadier Nevitt-Murray at St. Paul's Church, Baltimore.<sup>3</sup>

Born on 8 August 1778, Murray graduated from St. John's College, Annapolis, in July 1796, along with his classmate Francis Scott Key, who became his

most intimate members of the class exercise held in Key's beloved while Key pursued President John though quite p Murray resigned ing, first on W politics and was in-law, were be escaping with h

Murray was 1841, when the Ridge, although for Sunday serv acting pastor. F take an active in generously in ti

Despite the mained lifelong and college com that Murray was greeted him wit joy as he spoke c reflected on the found impressio

And now per ago he made domestic life, knew him lon, came intimate earliest recol seemed to me me. . . . But I character, and fact as a hum;

He went on to t

On my first se cannot describ never knew it.' I will tell you v the boy, your g every night in on me, which ing you repeat without repeat upon me all m

most intimate friend. On 12 November 1800 Murray, with Key and other members of the class of '96, was honored with a degree of master of arts at the final exercise held in St. John's Hall. For a time he was a friendly rival for the hand of Key's beloved Mary Tayloe Lloyd, but instead went on to a career in the navy while Key pursued the study of law.<sup>4</sup> Murray was appointed midshipman by President John Adams on 13 July 1799; by January 1807 he was a lieutenant. Although quite proficient in languages and by nature "of a scholarly disposition," Murray resigned from the navy in October 1811 and spent the rest of his life farming, first on West River, and after 1822 at Rockburn.<sup>5</sup> He became interested in politics and was among those who, with Alexander Contee Hanson, his brother-in-law, were besieged in the office of the *Federal Republican* in 1812, narrowly escaping with his life.

Murray was a deeply religious man and well known for his generosity. In 1841, when the first steps were taken to establish GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH in Elk Ridge, although not a well man, he opened his home to the small congregation for Sunday services until a small building was acquired by Rev. Robert Piggott, acting pastor. Following Murray's death the next year, his family continued to take an active interest in the growth and welfare of the parish, each contributing generously in time, money, and talent.<sup>6</sup>

Despite their extended separation, Daniel Murray and Francis Scott Key remained lifelong friends. In April 1842, when Key heard that his boyhood friend and college companion was seriously ill, he hurried to his bedside, only to learn that Murray was dying. Himself a religious man, Key understood when Murray greeted him with words of consolation; his manner was calm and almost one of joy as he spoke of his own approaching death.<sup>7</sup> Later, in a letter to a friend, Key reflected on the friendship and their final encounter, which clearly made a profound impression upon the poet-patriot.

And now permit me to say something of him who thus died. Upwards of thirty years ago he made profession of religion. From that time to his death, during a retired and domestic life, he was known as a warm, consistent Christian. All this you know. But I knew him long before this. At eight or nine years of age, he being a year older, we became intimate, and were brought up together almost in the same family. . . . From my earliest recollections of him, his character and conduct were so remarkable, that he seemed to me without a fault. . . . I remember well how strong his influence was over me. . . . But I ascribed to natural causes altogether the peculiarity and excellence of his character, and did not see how religion could change him, who seemed already as perfect as a human being could be.

He went on to the final visit.

On my first seeing him he said, "You witness my most comfortable and happy state. I cannot describe it to you. Now, I owe it all to you, though I never told you, and you never knew it." Shortly after this, when we were alone, he called to me and said: "Now I will tell you what I never told you or anyone. When we first met, and you were a little boy, your good mother had taught you a hymn, which you used to repeat aloud every night in getting into bed. That hymn made a remarkable and deep impression on me, which was never effaced. Without you knowing it, I got it by heart from hearing you repeat it; and from that time to this, I have never gone to my rest at night without repeating to myself that hymn and praying. This had a most salutary effect upon me all my life. When at sea, I never, under any circumstances, omitted it; and



(James C. Wolfong, Jr.)

Caleb Dorsey, Dorsey property, block of the road, believed to be older and temporary. Hockley-in-the-island plans to clear and related minor work required a placement of Rockburn. opened; forges followed by Curtis Edward, and an Although Caleb's evidence is Belmont. In 1815 received a sizable amount. She is said to own property. Meanwhile, Murray, eldest son of Paul's Church, College, Annapolis, who became his

under the influence produced by it, I remember that when I was once for a short time in command of a small brig we had captured from the French in the Mediterranean, one of the first orders I gave, was for the regular meeting of all hands for reading and prayer, which was well received, and had a good effect." He then repeated it to me, and I took a pencil and wrote it down. I had forgotten every word of it. . . .

Surely God has here shown us some of the doings of his wonder-working hand. A pious mother teaches her child a hymn. It makes no impression upon his heart, and is soon effaced from his memory. But its work is done, and its fruits appear in the heart and life of another.

Shall she complain that the seed has been blown away from the soil over which she so carefully cast it, to take root in another? No. . . . Her wayward child had forgotten her instructions, but they had made for him a friend, whose influence and counsel and example restrained and strengthened him in the dangerous paths of youth, whose life had taught him how to live, and whose death hath now taught him how to die.<sup>8</sup>

Daniel Murray died at Rockburn 19 April 1842, leaving five sons and six daughters. He is credited with having enlarged the historic home by adding the two wings on either side of the original structure, forming the 22-room mansion that stands today.

In September 1941 Rockburn was badly damaged by a fire that destroyed the south wing—consisting of nine rooms including the nursery and servants' quarters—as well as the water towers, then the only source of water supply. Damage was estimated at approximately \$20,000, the fire being attributed to a spark from the chimney landing on the wooden shingled roof. At the time Rockburn was the home of Mrs. Henry J. Bowdoin, granddaughter of Daniel M. Murray and mother of Mrs. Howard Bruce of Belmont. Restoration was started almost immediately.<sup>9</sup>

In 1962 Rockburn became the home of Col. and Mrs. Elliott Burwell Cheston. Colonel Cheston was a direct descendant of Daniel M. Murray and his wife, Mary, through their daughter, Sally Scott Murray, who became the wife of Dr. James Cheston.<sup>10</sup> The property subsequently became the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Parker, their daughter and son-in-law and three grandchildren.

Although Rockburn is seldom mentioned in either the history of Elkridge or Howard County, it remains one of the county's significant homes, both in its appearance and in its association with celebrated occupants.

NOTES

1. John H. Scarff, "Belmont, Howard County," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 48 (March 1953): 38.
2. William Davis, "Principio to Sparrows Point: A Brief History of Maryland Iron Industry" (June 1962), Sparrow's Point, Management Conference agenda, pt. 1, p. 7.
3. "Daniel Murray, Late Lieutenant in the American Navy: From a letter of the Hon. Francis S. Key, United States Attorney of the District of Columbia," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 20 (June 1925): 204n.
4. Edward S. Delaplaine, *Francis Scott Key* (Baltimore: Biography Press, 1937), pp. 22, 28, 36.
5. "Murray," p. 204.
6. [John Randolph Stidman], *One Hundredth Anniversary of Grace Church, 1845-1945* (Elkridge: Grace Episcopal Church, [1945]), p. 5.
7. Delaplaine, *Key*, pp. 468-70.
8. "Murray," pp. 201-4.
9. "200-Year-Old Bowdoin Home Damaged by Fire," *Baltimore Sun*, 7 September 1941, p. 20.
10. J. D. Warfield, *The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland* (Baltimore: Kohn and Pollock, 1905), p. 341.



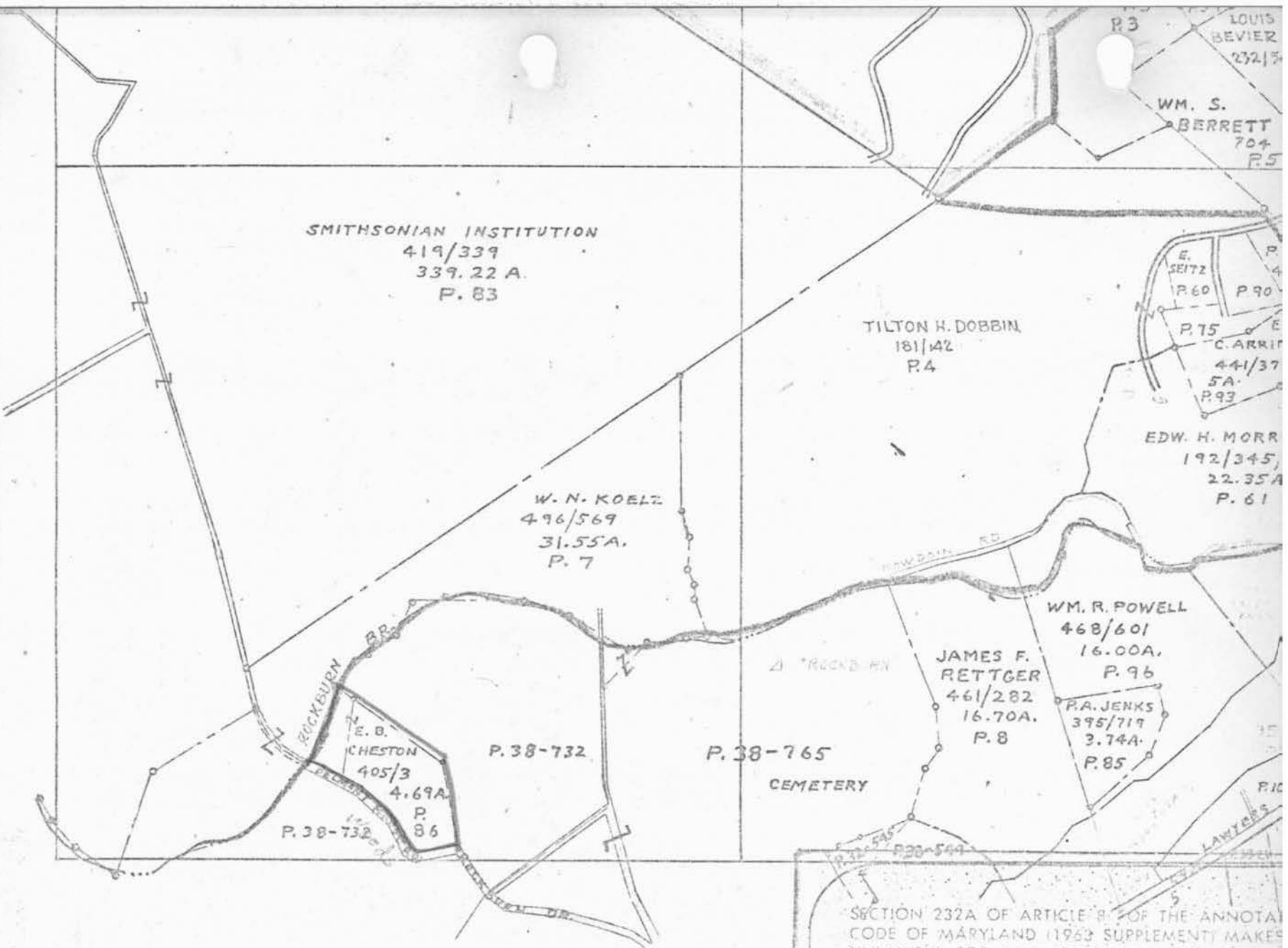
The ELKR of the 18th an a shadow of i

Another product of the two-story wing Caleb and Eli Hill, daughter as the home c Caleb Dorsey troduced in N "CPD 1738," was built, are

In 1695, Moore, husba called Moore's the turn of an recorded for t in 1815. It w daughter of C

The hous uou: ntil tc constructed of

ROCKBURN  
TAX MAP # 32



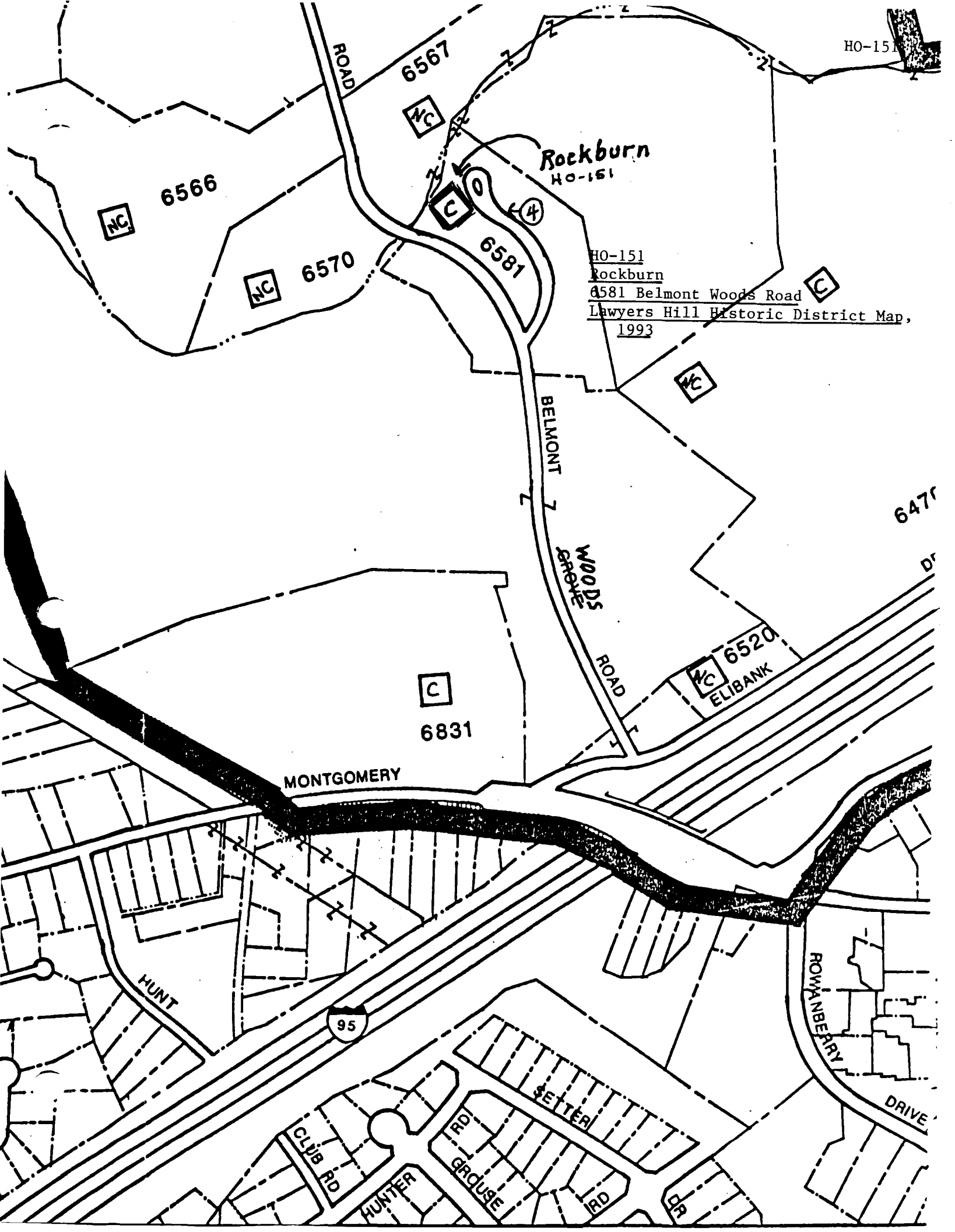
HO-151

872

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MD. DEPT. OF ASSESS. & TAX.

875

SECTION 232A OF ARTICLE 87 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (1963 SUPPLEMENT) MAKES UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON OR AGENCY OTHER THAN THE DEPARTMENT, TO SELL, LEASE, TRADE, OTHERWISE CONVEY FOR PROFIT THIS MAP OR A COPY THEREOF. VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO A FINE OF UP TO \$50.00 FOR EACH OFFENSE.



HO-151

Rockburn  
HO-151

HO-151  
Rockburn  
6581 Belmont Woods Road  
Lawyers Hill Historic District Map,  
1993

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MONTGOMERY

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95

ROMANBERRY DRIVE

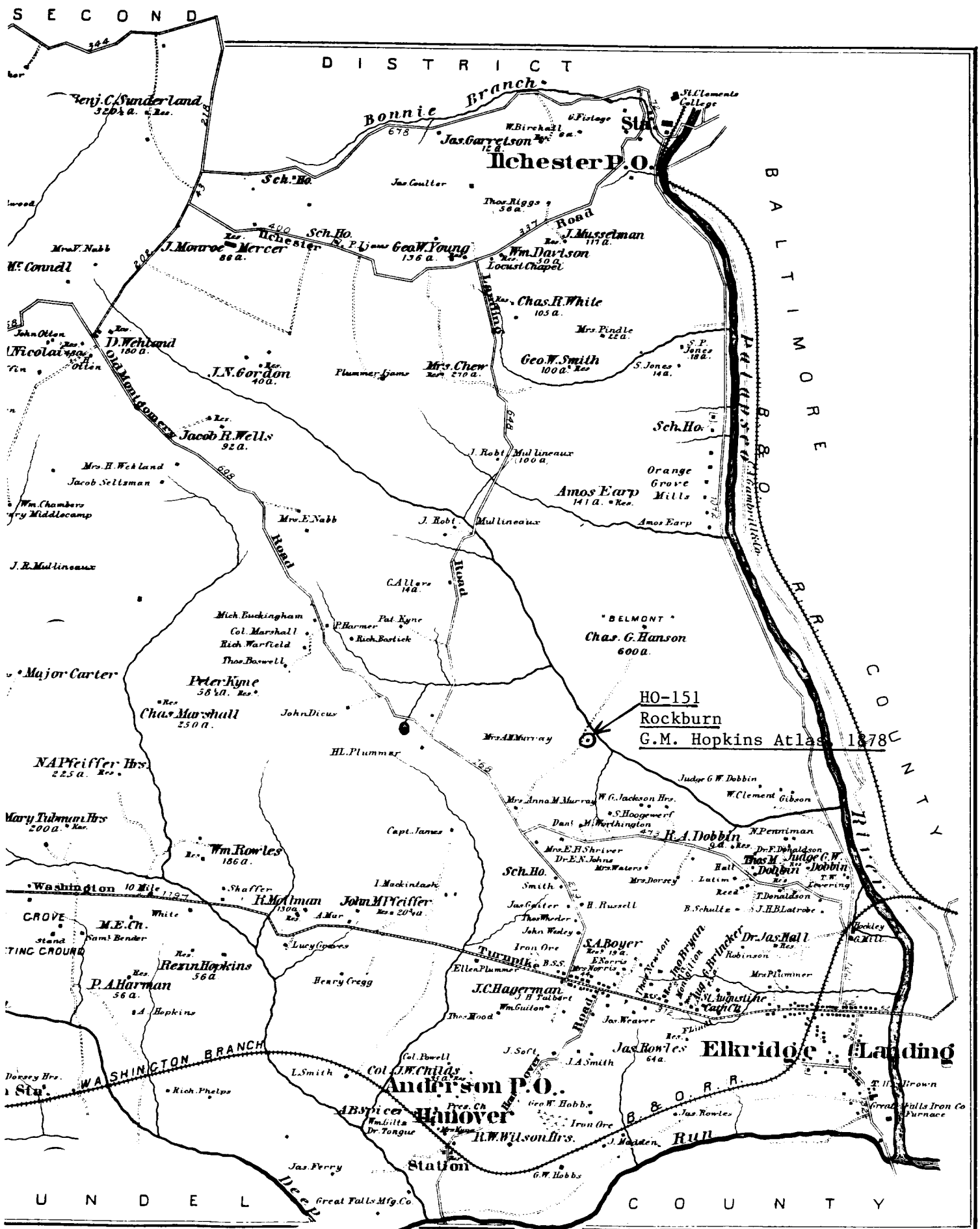
SETTER RD

GRLOUSE RD

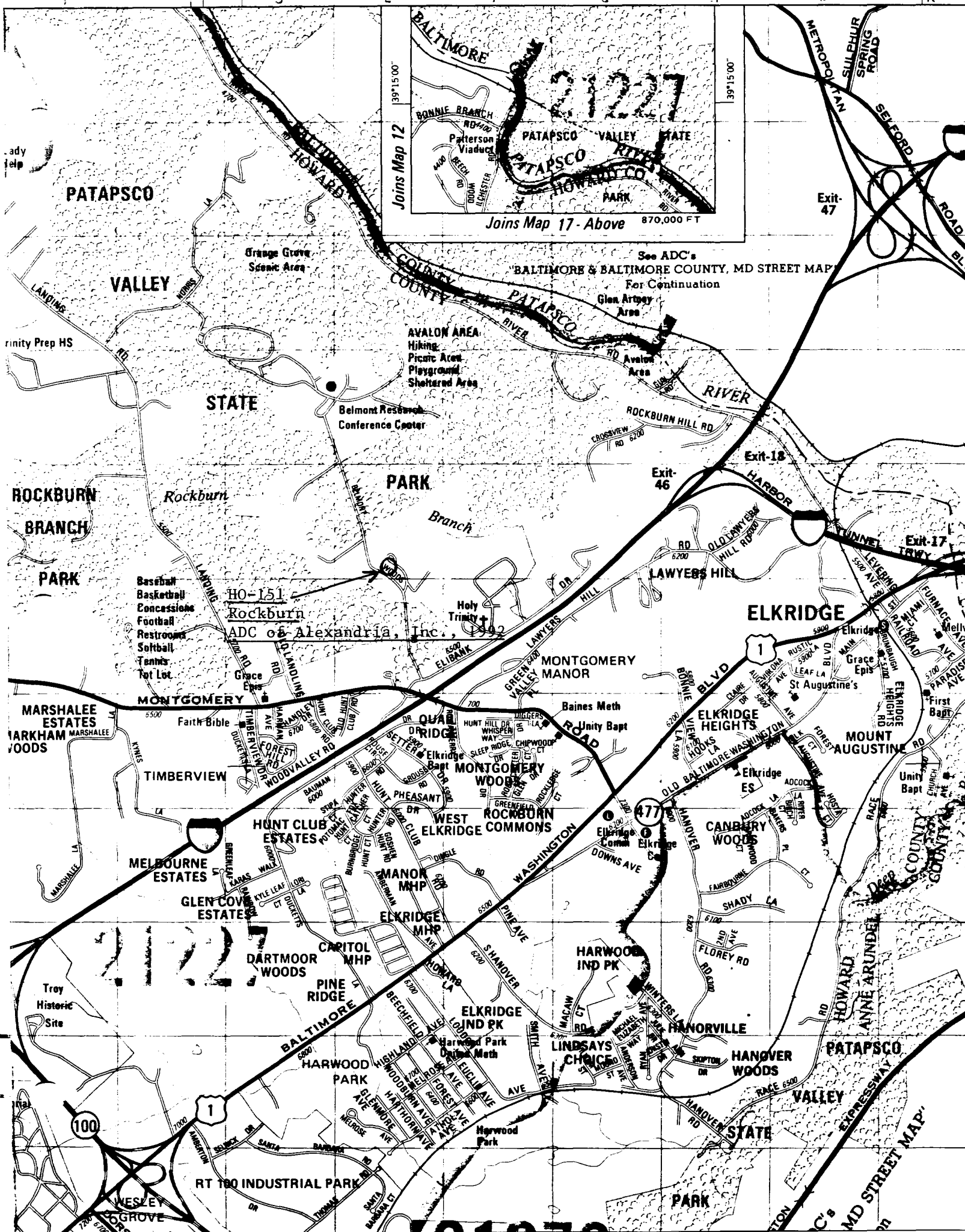
HUNTER RD

CLUB RD

RD



HO-151  
 Rockburn  
 G.M. Hopkins Atlas 1878



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help

Trinity Prep HS

ROCKBURN  
BRANCH  
PARK

MARSHALEE  
ESTATES  
MAYKHAM  
WOODS

Troy  
Historic  
Site

WESLEY  
GROVE

PATAPSCO

VALLEY

STATE

Baseball  
Basketball  
Concessions  
Football  
Restrooms  
Softball  
Tennis  
Turf Lot

MONTGOMERY  
WOODS

TIMBERVIEW

MELBOURNE  
ESTATES

GLEN COVE  
ESTATES

DARTMOOR  
WOODS

PINE  
RIDGE

HARWOOD  
PARK

RT 100 INDUSTRIAL PARK

Grange Grove  
Scenic Area

Belmont Research  
Conference Center

Rockburn

ADC of Alexandria, Inc.

Faith Bible

HUNT CLUB  
ESTATES

MELBOURNE  
ESTATES

GLEN COVE  
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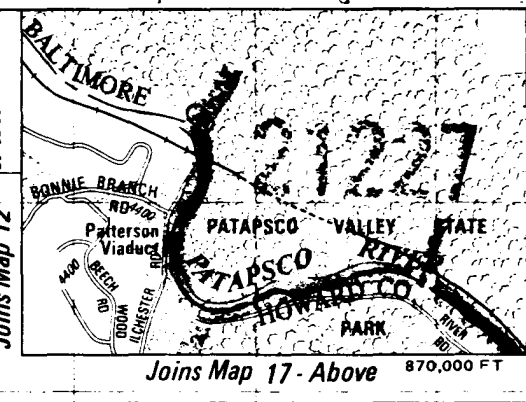
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See ADC's  
BALTIMORE & BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD STREET MAP  
For Continuation

AVALON AREA  
Hiking  
Picnic Area  
Playground  
Sheltered Area

Glen Arroyo  
Area

ROCKBURN HILL RD

CROSSVIEW  
RD 6200

Exit-46

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See ADC's  
BALTIMORE & BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD STREET MAP  
For Continuation

Glen Arroyo  
Area

AVALON AREA  
Hiking  
Picnic Area  
Playground  
Sheltered Area

ROCKBURN HILL RD

CROSSVIEW  
RD 6200

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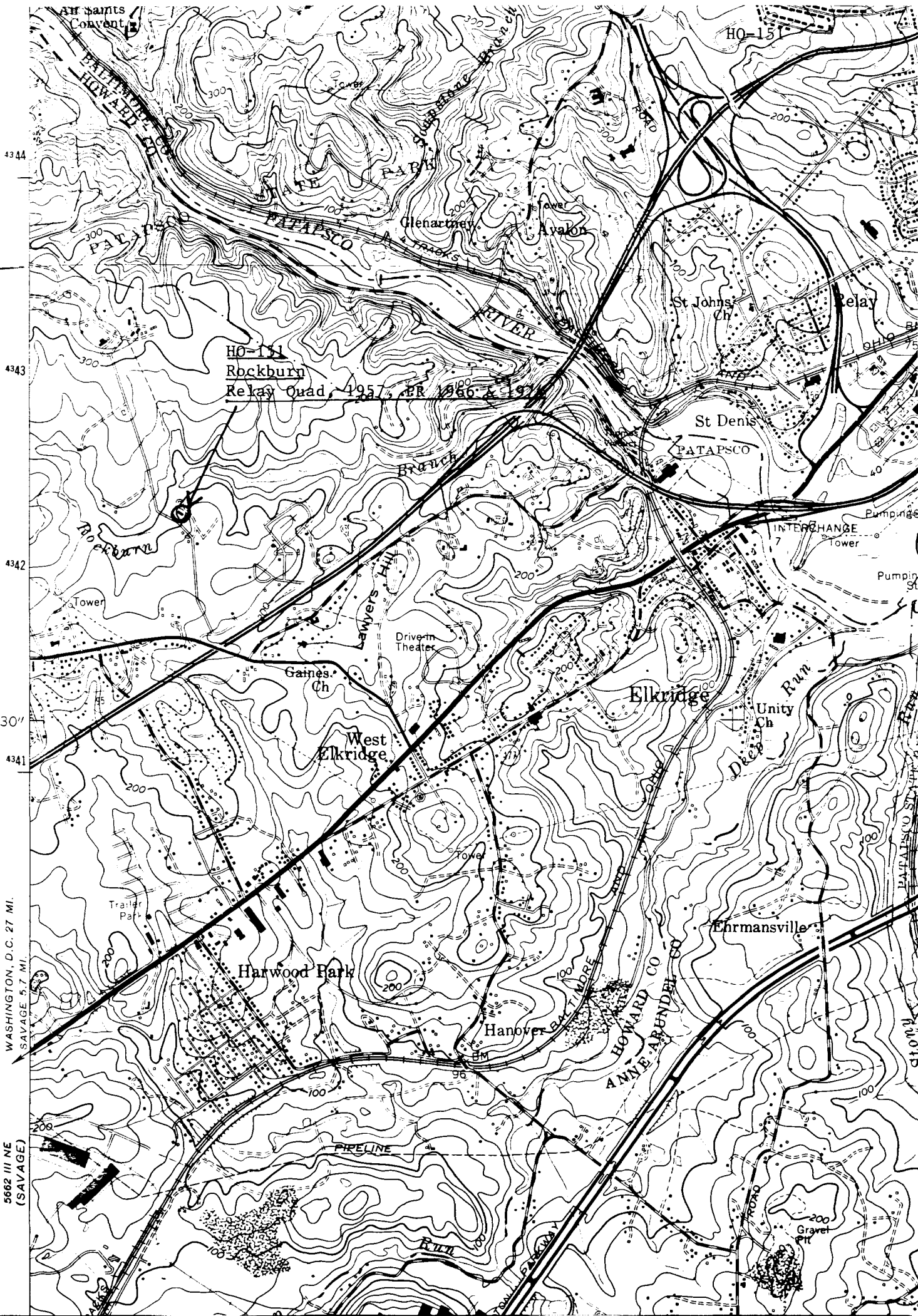
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 27 MI.  
SAVAGE 5.7 MI.  
5662 III NE  
(SAVAGE)

HO-151  
Rockburn  
Relay Quad, 4957, PR 1866 & 1971

HO-151

St. Johns Ch  
Relay  
St Denis  
PATAPSCO  
Pumpin  
INTERCHANGE  
Tower  
Pumpin  
St  
Elkridge  
Unity Ch  
Dicks Run  
Ehrmansville  
Harwood Park  
Hanover  
ANNE ARUNDEL CO  
HOWARD CO  
Glenartney  
Avakon  
Lawyers Hill  
Drive-in Theater  
Gaines Ch  
West Elkridge  
Tower  
Trailer Park  
PIPELINE  
Gravel Pit



#0151

158A

Rockburn

SE 7/72



**HO-151**  
**ROCKBORN**

GLEORA BARNES THOMPSON  
PLANNING CONSULTANT  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



HO-151 DIST 1  
ROCK BURN

CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON  
PLANNING CONSULTANT  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

OCT. '76