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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL
REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name FRIENDS ADVICE
other names/site number Walldene M: 18-15

2. Location

street & number 19001 Bucklodge Road N/A not for publication
city, town Boyd vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Montgomery code 031 zip code 20841

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>3</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>13</u>	<u>7</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 9/16/92

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

[Signature] 10/28/92

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

M: 18-15

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)DOMESTIC/single dwellingDOMESTIC/secondary structureAGRICULTURAL/animal facility**Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)**DOMESTIC/single dwellingDOMESTIC/secondary structureAGRICULTURAL/animal facility**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(enter categories from instructions)

FEDERALCOLONIAL REVIVAL**Materials (enter categories from instructions)**foundation STONEwalls STONEWEATHERBOARDroof SLATEother ALUMINUM**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Part of a working farm since its inception and created over a period of two centuries, Friends Advice is an estate set in the rolling farmland of upper western Montgomery County, Maryland. The estate is dominated by a main house of local sandstone in the impressive overall image of a Georgian plantation house. It incorporates and blends a Colonial Revival-style block constructed in 1939-40, a Federal style block of the first quarter of the 19th century, and a frame block constructed in 1882 on the foundation of an 18th century log structure. The main house is the centerpiece to a setting which includes farm and estate buildings and structures as well as landscape features, dating from the major periods of development.

8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Military

Period of Significance

c.1806-1951

Significant Dates

1806

1939-1940

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

General Albert C. Wedemeyer

Architect/Builder

Milton Grigg, architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

From the first quarter of the twentieth century to about the start of World War II, Montgomery County, which borders Washington, D.C., experienced a phase of country estate development. Mostly located along the main arteries leading into the city, these properties were generally grand in scale, with buildings of historicized design basis, and architect designed. Often, they incorporated existing buildings and landscape features, as is the case here, to create a romantic and bucolic stage set in which to live. Some were developed as weekend retreats, but many, with Friends Advice as an excellent example, were developed as permanent residences. This phase of Montgomery County history represents a significant change in the county's history; from a rural agricultural county bordering the city, to a suburbanized affluent county responding to the rapid growth of Washington in population and importance. Washington was becoming a center of influence and expanding government, and with that came new office workers and wealthy people drawn to power. With its present appearance created in 1939-1941, Friends Advice represents the last phase of country estate development in the county. In this phase, architectural precedents generally came from American vernacular origins, particularly rural Pennsylvania and Virginia, though often mixed with high style Georgian and Federal elements and usually with a smaller scale than the earlier phases. Friends Advice is believed to be the last example developed. Significance is also derived from association with General Albert C. Wedemeyer (1897-1989), a person significant in American military history. General Wedemeyer is the architect of the plan used by the Allied forces during World War II to defeat the German forces. General Wedemeyer and his wife, whose family owned this property since the eighteenth century, used Friends Advice as their permanent home throughout his military career and after his retirement in 1951 until his death in 1989. The period of significance extends from 1806, the date of the earliest building on the property which contributes to its character, to 1951 when General Wedemeyer retired from military service.

See continuation sheet No. 11

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

Montgomery County, Maryland. Land, will, and assessment records.
 Drawings for 1939-40 block, Grigg & Johnson, 1938 (overall, cross-section, details).
 Wedemeyer, Elizabeth Dade, The Forebears of Colonel Robert Townshend Dade, privately printed, 1968.
 Dade, Wall, and Wedemeyer families: family papers, newspaper articles, photos, and recollections.
 A.I.A. files, information on Milton Grigg.
 Correspondence with Floyd E. Johnson, 1991.
 Who's Who in America, Vol. 21, A.N. Marquis Co., Chicago, Illinois, 1940.
 Fiske Kimball, "The American Country House," in Architectural Record, October 1919, Vol. XLVI, No. 4.
 Hubbard, H.V. An Introduction to the Study of Landscape Design, Hubbard Educational Trust, 1967 reprint (originally published 1917).
 Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Montgomery County. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

 See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Approximately 38 acres
 USGS Quad: Germantown, Maryland

UTM References

A

1	8	2	9	6	5	1	0	4	3	3	7	8	5	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

 C

1	8	2	9	5	9	2	0	4	3	3	7	4	1	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

1	8	2	9	6	3	4	0	4	3	3	7	3	4	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

 D

1	8	2	9	6	1	4	0	4	3	3	7	9	7	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes approximately 38 acres and is bounded on the west by Bucklodge Road (state route 117), on the north by the southern boundary of the PEPCO right-of-way, on the south by a line 340 yards distant and parallel to the south side of the main block of the main house, and on the east by a line 160 yards east of and parallel to the section of Bucklodge Road directly in front of the main house.

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Boundary Justification

These boundaries were selected to include the extent of the property which has always been considered as the "formally" landscaped section of the property. Here stand the manmade resources which characterize the country estate qualities of Friends Advice. Surrounding this area are fields generally under cultivation.

 See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eileen S. McGuckian (with assistance from Roy H. Gauzza, Jr.)
 organization _____ date January 1992
 street & number 11807 Dinwiddie Drive telephone (301) 762-0096
 city or town Rockville state Maryland zip code 20852

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Section number 7 Page 1GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Characterized by a gracious setting, Friends Advice includes an array of estate "composition" elements. Having evolved, not as one collection of a particular era, but as structures and buildings added through the cycle of the estate's two hundred year history, these elements each ornament the setting. While the historic function of some elements, such as the dairy house and spring, is no longer active, historical association and aesthetic value maintain their importance as elements of the setting. Others from the latest eras, such as the pond, serve a practical as well as an aesthetic purpose. See Resource Sketch Map.

1. **Main House** (Contributing Building)Exterior

Rambling and spacious, the main house represents the grand style of the Colonial Revival architectural style of the first third of the 20th century. Although it incorporates sections built in the 19th century, and was constructed in several stages as needs and styles changed over a period of 200 years, its dominant appearance projects the image of the 18th century Georgian house as defined by the alterations and additions undertaken between 1939 and 1940. These features are carried on a T-shaped plan, oriented to the west. The oldest existing section, a three-bay central block of sandstone, is flanked on the east by a frame late 19th century two-part block, and on the west by a large 20th century sandstone main block. The structure is in good condition. Its architectural elements from the Colonial Revival era are pure recreations of the originals, while its scale, in both the 1939-40 section and the altered early 19th century section, reflects the adaptation toward the grand country house so pervasive in the "country house era."

1939-40 Block

The main sandstone block faces west, and is situated at the keystone of a semi-circular drive lined with maple and linden trees. From architect-designed plans, elevations, and sections, dated August 1938 and October-December 1938, the actual construction of alterations and additions was begun presumably in the spring of 1939, lasting into 1940. This work greatly transformed the structure and included razing of the west 1880s frame section and removal of the stucco finish from the early 19th century block to expose the original sandstone walls. In place of the 1880s section, the 1939-40 block of locally quarried, rose-brown colored sandstone, matching that of the early 19th century block, was built on a sandstone-faced concrete foundation; steel I-beams run east-west. The white mortar joints protrude into a V shape, as do those reworked in the earlier block. The sandstone is uncoursed and roughly squared.

The 1939-40 block's entrance facade (west elevation) is five bays wide. The one-story pedimented portico sheltering the entrance doorway is supported by four Doric columns with pilasters. The entrance doorway has a raised, eight-panelled door with original brass hardware, and is flanked by fluted Doric pilasters, each of which is flanked by leaded glass, traceried sidelights. The

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doorway is surmounted by an elliptical arched fanlight. The deck is flagstone. The gabled roof, originally covered in wood shingle (although the plans called for slate) but now covered in asbestos shingles, at this elevation features three clapboard gabled dormers and a cornice.

The south elevation is two bays wide, gable-ended, with an interior chimney. The north elevation is three bays wide, gable-ended, with an interior chimney. A screened porch, with square chamfered columns, roof of asbestos shingles, and flagstone deck, is attached; this appears to be contemporary with the porches attached to other sections of the house on this elevation. The central bay is a doorway of French doors.

The 19th century stone block joins the 1939-40 addition at the center of the latter's east elevation. On this elevation to the north, are two bays, one a doorway with six-light panelled door; to the south, is a doorway of French doors surmounted by a transom. The roof of the east elevation features two clapboard dormers and a cornice.

On the south, west, and north elevations, windows are six over six double-hung sash, with molded concrete lintels and sills. The east elevation windows are two over two on the second floor, and four over four on the first floor below.

Early 19th Century Stone Block (first quarter century)

The central block is the oldest remaining section of the house, constructed in the first quarter of the 19th century. Of local sandstone quarried at nearby Seneca, it is three bays across and faces south. The 2½ story Federal-style block sits on a stone foundation, surmounted by a gable roof with gabled dormers (altered slightly in 1939-40 to match those of the new addition). The exterior stone has been scored, presumably done in the late 19th century to hold a stucco-like finish compatible with the west frame section; only the top floor east exterior wall section and portions of the basement wall retain the stucco and white paint. To match the 1939-40 block, the mortar of this section was repointed to match the v-shaped mortar joints and the roof covered with the same wood shingle. About 1970, the west brick end chimney was roofed over, and the roofs of the entire house were covered with asphalt shingles.

Windows in this block are six-over-six double-hung sash, with sandstone lintels. On the north elevation, there is a shallow open porch with a shed roof supported by square posts. The south (formerly main) doorway from the exterior has been altered, and the deep inset now holds a glass and wood paneled door surmounted by an 8-light transom. The older, wood paneled north door retains its original interior hardware.

Late 19th Century Frame Block

The frame east block of the house has been considerably altered since its construction in the 1880s, on the fieldstone foundation of the original log house to which the original family owner came in 1792. It is composed of two sections. To the west is a three bay by two bay, 2½ story gable-roofed frame block. On the

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south facade, there is a central door with stone stoop; one of the six over six sash windows was converted into a bay window in the 1960s. On the west, there is an interior brick chimney at this block's juncture with the middle stone block. On the north facade, all window openings are six over six.

The two frame sections of the east block are divided visually on the south facade by an exterior brick chimney. The east section of this block is two bays by two bays; it sits on a cinderblock foundation reworked in the 1930s. The gable roof of this section slopes dramatically to the south, making the block two stories on that side. The entire east block was sheathed in aluminum siding in the 1960s.

Interior - Entrance Hall, Library, Sitting Room, Bedrooms (1939-40 Block)

The interior of the 1939-40 section illustrates an adaptation of 18th century Georgian architecture in room arrangement and ornamentation. The first floor plans feature a center hall flanked by two main living areas or public spaces, and each is highly ornamented with characteristic detail.

The entrance hall, aligned west to east, is two stories high. The ceiling is a rough-textured finish plaster, surrounded by a wood cornice of ogee and cyma moldings; at its center is an oval medallion of plaster with scalloped edges and a center of wheat shafts and a hanging globe light of metal and translucent amber glass. The walls are plaster with wainscoting of applied wood molding and with original wallpaper above. The floor is of random width oak planks, with original dark stain, resembling walnut. The eight-panelled entrance door with original brass hardware is flanked by fluted pilasters; the ellipse of its fanlight is repeated in the ellipse of the archway dividing the entrance hall. Fluted, Doric styled pilasters support the coffered arch, and its architrave is inset with a wood keystone.

Beyond the archway (on the east wall) is a doorway, with a pair of raised, dark-stained three-panelled doors opening to the dining room and surmounted with a full entablature with a cornice and bolection molding, and on the north wall a doorway to a smaller hallway leading to a study and powder room. Preceding the archway, doorways to the flanking rooms are surmounted with full entablatures having cornice and bolection molding.

The focal point of the entrance hall is the open string staircase of one run, ascending from west to east along the north wall. Its treads are old floor planks, and it has rectangular wooden balusters and a railing of pieced, carved walnut. The balusters, walnut newel post, and scrolled steps are copies of those features found on the staircase of the early 19th century section.

The library, to the south of the entrance hall, stretches the full width of the 1939-40 section. The ceiling, with the same finish as the entrance hall, is surrounded by a carved wood cornice of talon ornament, modillions with acanthus leaf enrichment, and dentils. The plaster walls have panelling and wainscoting of applied wood molding. The floor is regular-width fir with the original dark stain as in the entrance hall. On the north wall are two doorways, one with a pair of raised, three-panelled doors opening to the entrance and the

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second with a single raised, six-panelled door opening to the rear hall. Each is pine with an original dark stain resembling walnut, and each has original brass hardware in the style of 18th century locks, knobs, and keyhole escutcheons. The west wall has two windows, and on the east wall is a set of French doors with a bookcase. The focal point of the library is the south wall. At its center is a wall projection featuring a fireplace with a wood mantelpiece of a shelf of cyma molding above dentils above a flush panel flanked by scrolls above a bolection molding. The facing is slate, and the hearth is brick. Two hanging lights of brass, crystal pendants, and translucent glass are original to the room. The fireplace is flanked by windows with panelled reveals above window seats, which in turn are flanked by semi-circular arched, recessed bookcases surmounted by keystones.

The sitting room, to the north of the entrance hall, stretches two-thirds of the width of the 1939-40 section. The ceiling, with the same finish as in the entrance hall and library, is surrounded by a plaster, full entablature of cyma molding, bead ornament, egg-and-dart ornament, and a frieze of anthemion-palmette adaptation. At the ceiling's center is a brass and crystal chandelier. The plaster walls are unpanelled, and the floor is regular width with original dark stain. On the west wall are two windows, flanking a floor-to-entablature gilded and painted frame mirror. On the south wall is a doorway, with a pair of raised, three-panelled doors with original dark stain, opening into the entrance hall. The focal point of the sitting room is the north wall. At its center is a wall projection featuring a fireplace with a wood mantelpiece of a shelf with dentil ornament supported by two pairs of colonnettes with Corinthian capitals and plinths. The facing is grey-veined marble. The overmantel, which is painted over gilding, has a mirror framed with a molding of geometric shapes and patterns which is uncharacteristic of the rest of the 18th century design. The mantel, overmantel, and chandelier were relocated from the Jacob Wall house in Baltimore and reinstalled during the 1939-40 construction.

At the second floor level, a central hall overlooks the entrance hall, with a bowed balcony overhang and skirt of scrolls. Four doorways with elliptical archways, keystones, and panelled doors open to bedrooms, a rear hallway, and a staircase to the third floor. The second floor contains two bedrooms, each with its own bath and each with a wood mantelpiece of fluted pilasters and shelf. The third floor contains two bedrooms, each with the rough texture finish plaster of the first floor for walls, and each with a fireplace without mantelpiece; there are two bathrooms on this floor.

Interior - Rear Hall, Dining Room, Bedrooms (early 19th century block)

This section has a floor plan similar to that of the contemporary Beall-Dawson house in Rockville. What originally served as a side hall on the east, and now serves as the rear hall for the entire main house, extends the full 28' north-south width of the block. To the west is the dining room, a large room which now extends the full north-south width, but which originally was two rooms of unequal size; the front parlor was 15' x 17', the back parlor 13' x 17'. There are incised black stone surrounds for the two fireplaces on the west wall (from the Jacob Wall house in Baltimore). In the 19th century there were wood paneled folding doors dividing the two rooms, but the entire area is now open,

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united visually with an arch added in the 1939 construction. The defined area at the north end is used as a second, informal dining area.

The three-run, open string, bracketed stairway ascends from south to north along the east interior wall. Dark-stained floorboards in this block vary in size, and the wall and ceilings are plaster over lath. In the late 19th century, when Mary Catharine Dade Wall built additions to the east and west, she made a number of interior changes in the central sandstone block; these include bullseye door frames, panelled doors, a large gilded mirror and cornice installed on the south wall first floor (from the Jacob Wall house in Baltimore), and the two fireplaces on the first floor.

The second and third floors originally contained three rooms each. On the second floor there are now two bedrooms and a bath; the third floor contains one large and one small room, both used for storage. One mantle with tiled surround, in the second floor north bedroom, appears to be original. Most of the random-width floors in this block are stained dark. The interior decorative detailing of this section includes original woodwork and late nineteenth century woodwork and possibly some c.1939 trim.

Interior - Kitchen, Pantry, Laundry, and Apartment (late 19th century east block)

The first floor serves as a huge open kitchen, pantry, and laundry, and there are bedrooms and baths above. 1880s interior features remain in some bullseye window moldings; others are fluted similar to woodwork in the old stone section. However, the interior was altered dramatically in the 1960s when the area was converted into a small apartment. There is a living room, kitchen and dining area on the first floor, and two bedrooms and bath on the second.

Secondary Buildings and Structures

Secondary buildings and structures of Friends Advice were constructed and developed from the early 19th century to the present, during two centuries of family ownership.

2. **Dairy House and Spring** (Contributing Building)

The earliest secondary building is a sunken stone spring and dairy house, located southwest of the main house. It has rough wooden openings on three elevations, and a wood-pedimented and shingled, gable roof supported by wooden square posts extending beyond the north (front) facade over a small spring. "F.S. 1806" is incised on the front of the building. There is a U-shaped trough inside, which transports water from the spring and empties through a drain into the adjacent stream. At one time there was a square enclosed cupola on the ridge line of this building.

3. **Ice House** (Contributing Building)

Built in the late 19th century, the ice house is covered with rough wood clapboards, with a fieldstone foundation and gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. It is located east (rear) of the main house in a close grouping with

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the meat house and well.

4. **Meat House** (Contributing Building)

The meat house, built in the late 19th century, is covered with novelty wood siding, with a fieldstone foundation and gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. It is located east (rear) of the main house.

5. **Garden Shed** (Contributing Building)

The garden shed, built in the late 19th century, is covered with novelty siding and has a shed roof. It is located to the southeast of the main house.

6. **Bank Barn** (Contributing Building)

The large cross-gabled frame bank barn, built in the late 19th century, is five bays by four bays. It has a sandstone foundation, standing seam tin roof, and a large gable facing in each direction. The barn, which faces north is located approximately 175 feet east of the house. Its large wooden structural members are pegged. The lower level, which opens into the barnyard, is divided into stalls and storage areas. The upper level is divided into thirds, all of which are used for storage.

7. **Tenant House** (Contributing Building)

The center gable vernacular frame tenant house, built in the late 19th century, is located north of the main house and garage, facing northwest. It is three bays by three bays, 2½ stories, L-shaped with the center of the L now enclosed. It has a standing seam tin roof, interior brick chimney, and fieldstone foundation. The building retains its bracketed front porch columns and two over two sash windows, but was sheathed in aluminum siding in the 1960s. There are four rooms on each floor of the house.

8. **Garage** (Contributing Building)

North of the house stands a stone and frame garage with slate cross-gable roof. It was built in the 1930s as two double garage bays flanking a tack room which was indented about four feet from the facade. The walls are stone on three sides; the south (front) facade is vertical weatherboard with a second-story gable of stone. The north facade reverses the stone and weatherboard, and has a brick exterior chimney behind the tack room. In 1976 the west garage was converted to an office, and the tack room and second floor into a small apartment; at that time the south facade central indentation was filled in, a brick exterior chimney was added on the north facade, and the north weatherboard was sheathed in aluminum siding. In 1991, the office was incorporated into the apartment.

9. **Bathhouse** (Contributing Building)

The bathhouse, built in the 1930s, is of frame construction. It is located south of the main house, adjacent to the pool, and is now used for storage.

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10. **Non-contributing Buildings**

There are five non-contributing outbuildings east of the stone garage, including a cinderblock garage and a series of small frame buildings. The boathouse near the pond is also non-contributing.

11. **Pool (Contributing Structure)**

The pool, built in the 1930s, is of concrete construction. It is located south of the main house.

12. **Well No. 1 (Contributing Structure)**

Well number 1, built in the late 19th century, has a fieldstone wall and is covered with a roof of a later period. It is located in the ice house/meat house grouping to the east of the main house.

13. **Well No. 2 (Contributing Structure)**

Well number 2 was built in the 1930s, and is located between the tenant house and the garage.

14. **Landscape (Contributing Site)**

Evolving through the two centuries of Dade-Wall-Wedemeyer ownership, the overall setting of Friends Advice is that of an estate within a rural environment. The 38+ acres nominated with the built historic resources maintains that setting, with farm message and pond. The immediate setting of the main house at Friends Advice reveals extant landscape elements from the early 19th century to the present, forming estate-like pleasure grounds of some six acres.

The hardscape elements of Friends Advice, located south and west of the main house, consist of sandstone walkways, steps, and retaining walls; iron gates and posts purchased in England by General Wedemeyer; a pair of carved stone lions imported from England by William Edwards Wall; stone bench and urns; and a sundial dated 1723, brought back from Italy in 1900 by Mary Catharine Dade Wall. A brick terrace runs along the south elevation of the early 19th century block, and a creation of sandstone boulders, set on end in grotto-like fashion in the late 1890s by William Guy Wall and his brothers and termed by them "The Rockery," borders Bucklodge Road. Entrance gates of iron with stone pillars mark the north entrance from Bucklodge Road. The entrance drive traverses the creek across a bridge with wooden balustrade. An important hardscape element north of the main house, added by William Guy Wall, is a sandstone screen wall forming a garage court entrance.

Landscape features include maples and lindens flanking the semi-circular entrance drive. Sandstone retaining walls create a cutting garden, terraced at the west elevation. There are English boxwood bordering walkways, a copse of American holly, rhododendron, flowering dogwood, and a specimen Ginkgo tree of champion size and age, borders of hydrangea and peonies, and hedge of common lilac. Mature specimen plantings include native and exotic trees and shrubs,

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such as Norway and Serbian spruce, Kentucky coffee tree, American sweetgum, American holly, American linden, tulip poplar, southern magnolia, American and English boxwood, white pine, and wisteria.

During their tenure, General and Mrs. Wedemeyer added a large flagstone patio and a pond to the south of the main house.

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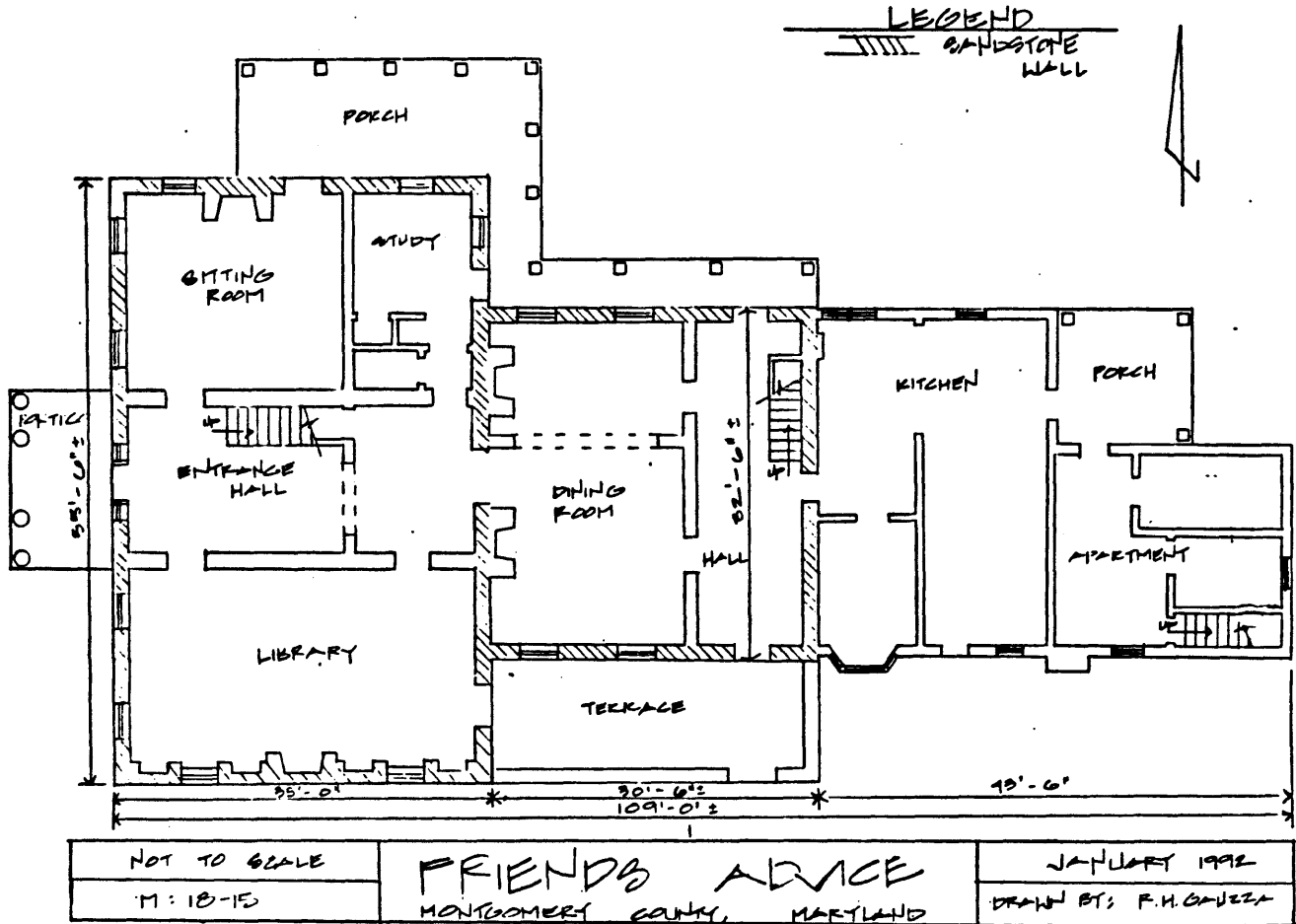
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main house

first floor

1992

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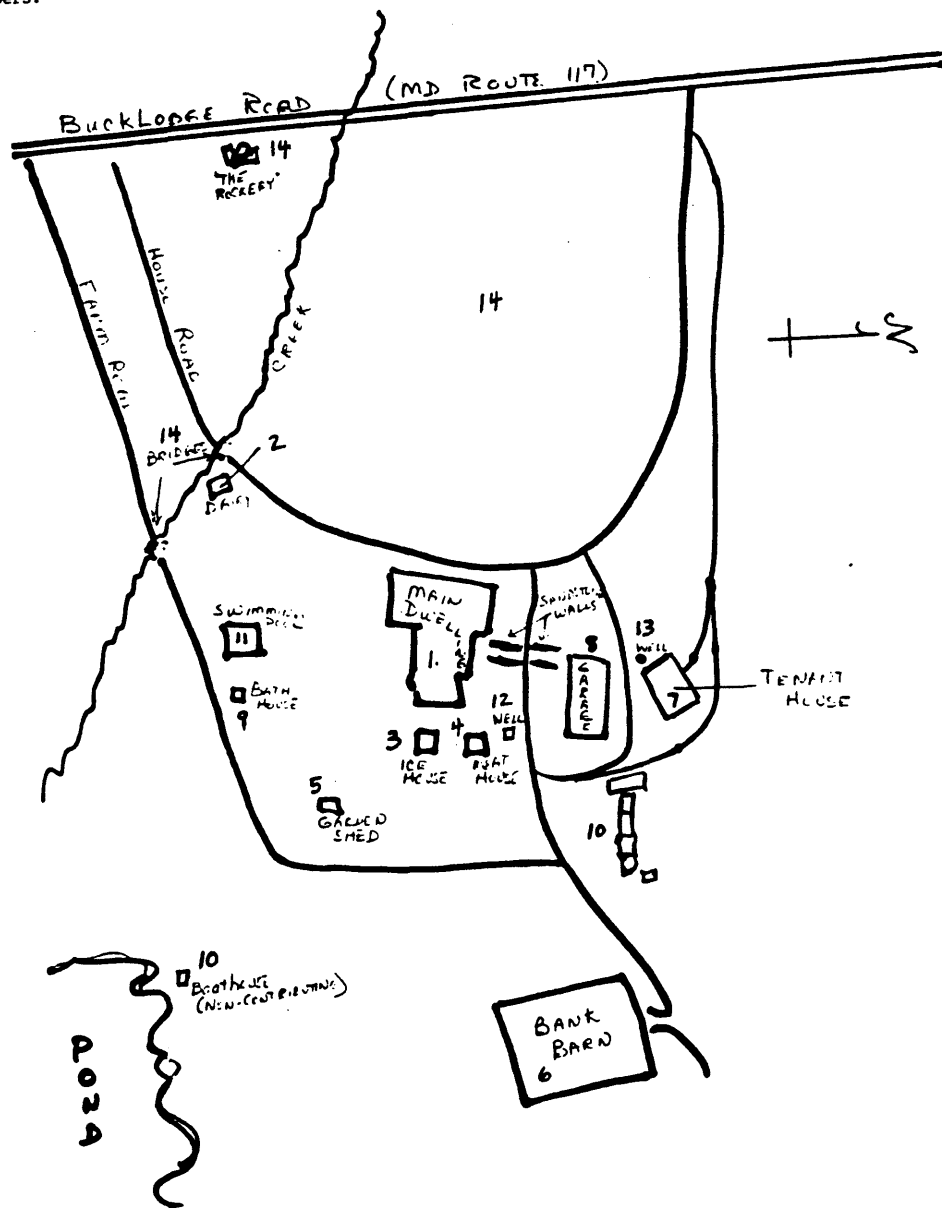
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See Section 7 for explanation of numbers.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP 1992



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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural/Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural/Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
Modern Period A.D. 1930-present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Military

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURAL/animal facility

Known Design Source: Architect/Milton Grigg

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The evolution of Friends Advice, also known at one time as Walldene, is a reflection of its association with the members of a prominent Montgomery County family whose achievements became part of the chronicles of American history and who inevitably anchored their lives there, to carry, through one era after another, an ambitious cycle of development - improving, changing, adding to, altering, and redefining Friends Advice until it reached its present level as an authentic American country seat. Beginning in 1792 with the Reverend Townshend Dade, the history of Friends Advice has been highlighted by the biographies of his son Robert Townshend Dade, great great grandson William Guy Wall, and his great great great grandson-in-law General Albert C. Wedemeyer.

Reverend Townshend Dade (1742-1822)

Two hundred years of Dade family ownership of Friends Advice began in 1792, when the Reverend Townshend Dade purchased 345 acres of "Resurvey on Friends Advice" for £630.¹ Reverend Dade's residency in Montgomery County came after three decades of religious and revolutionary activities in Virginia. In 1765 the 23-year-old Dade, whose ordination had been sponsored by family friend George Washington, became the rector of Falls Church and of a small Episcopal chapel of ease near Alexandria, Virginia. When the congregation completed Christ Church in Alexandria in 1773, Reverend Dade became its first rector.

Reverend Dade was an active participant in early revolutionary events. With his father, he signed the "Resolutions of the Patriots of the Northern Neck of Virginia," drawn up by Richard Henry Lee to protest the Stamp Act; in 1774 he was recorded as a member of the Fairfax County committee.² In 1778, Reverend Dade resigned and relocated in Loudoun County, Virginia. Visits to relatives and occasional preaching led Reverend Dade to Maryland, where his marriage in 1784 to Polly Simmons of Piney Hill (present-day Boyds) settled them in Montgomery County by 1792.³

¹ Friends Advice had been patented in 1760 and resurveyed in 1772; Patents BC & GS #13, BC & GS #43, Maryland Hall of Records.

² From a paper given by Mrs. Robert J. Boyd, Past Historian of Chevy Chase Chapter DAR, on the occasion of placing a DAR marker on the grave of Reverend Townshend Dade, October 7, 1951, in Monocacy Cemetery.

³ Montgomery County Land Records, E/328 (recorded May 11, 1793); Elizabeth Dade Wedemeyer, The Forebears of Colonel Robert Townshend Dade, privately printed, 1968, p. 20-26.

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By 1792, the Dades had two children and twice that number of slaves. Reverend Dade practiced medicine and occasionally married couples upon request, but was not affiliated with any church. To the original acreage, he added 120+ more, as well as a stone spring and dairy house (1806), tobacco barns, and other buildings necessary to a growing plantation.⁴ He continued to live at Friends Advice until his death in 1822.

Robert Townshend Dade (1786-1873)

Colonel Robert Townshend Dade, only son of Townshend and Polly, brought his bride Ruth Simmons to Friends Advice in 1808. This event probably occasioned the need for improvements to the original five-room log house on the property. Robert Townshend Dade "cleared my places of stones, and put up a good deal of fence, built a large three-story stone house." The three-bay Federal-style block made of local Seneca sandstone faced south, featured front and back parlors on the west side, a spacious hall, and six bedrooms on two floors above, and was joined to the earlier building by a covered arch or breezeway.⁵

Robert served as a captain in Cramer's Detachment of the Maryland Militia during the War of 1812, taking part in the disastrous Battle of Bladensburg and in the victory at Baltimore. Setting a family military tradition, he was known as Colonel Dade for the remainder of his life. At his death in 1822, Reverend Dade left his son a substantial estate, including cattle, hogs, horses, turkeys, ducks, geese, furniture, nine slaves, crops of wheat, rye, corn, and tobacco.⁶ Robert continued to live at Friends Advice with his wife and children, mother, and two unmarried sisters. He added other farms and slaves to the holdings, by 1856 owning 1200 acres and 20 slaves. A democrat, Dade served three terms in the Maryland Legislature, beginning in 1832, and in 1861 represented Montgomery County at the convention held to determine the State's role in the impending conflict. During the war, the Dade family sided with the south, as did most of their neighbors.⁷

Robert Townshend Dade died in 1873 at age 86, a few months before the B&O Railroad Company opened its Metropolitan Branch through Montgomery County. His son Robert and daughter Anna, who remained at Friends Advice, took advantage of being located one mile from Bucklodge station.

⁴ U.S. Census, 1790; Land Records, I/191 (1800).

⁵ Wedemeyer, Forebears, p. 26-27; letter from Robert Townshend Dade to his uncle James Simmons, October 14, 1856, quoted in Forebears, p. 33-34.

⁶ Inventory, 1822, entered in Docket 2/61, recorded in Montgomery County Will Records at N401.

⁷ 1856 letter quoted in Forebears, p. 33-34; Roger B. Farquhar, Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, 1965, p. 31.

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Mary Catharine Dade Wall (1849-1932)

After the death of her father Robert in 1881, Colonel Dade's granddaughter Mary Catharine Dade Wall, with her husband William Edwards Wall, took over operations of the farm.⁸ The Walls moved into the house with their six children, governess, and friend Laura Kendall. William Wall, a selling agent for the B.B. & R. Knight cotton mills, best known for Fruit of the Loom cottons, remained based in New York City. He traveled extensively on business and came to the Boyds farm on holidays and many weekends. Before her husband retired from active business in 1920, Mary Wall was responsible for overseeing the farm. She hired a professional farm manager and constructed a frame house for him and his family.

Mrs. Wall razed the original log house to the east of the stone Federal-style section, building a kitchen on the old foundation and adding a tiny porch south of where the former breezeway had been. About 1882, she constructed a large frame addition to the west of the stone section, effectively reorienting the main entrance of the house from the south to the west side. The south-facing sandstone section was scored, "stuccoed," and painted white on the exterior to blend with the flanking frame blocks, and its first floor became two adjoining dining rooms.

The new west orientation was reinforced with a semi-circular tree-lined drive and statuary, including carved stone lions. In addition to the tenant house, Mrs. Wall built an icehouse, meathouse, well, water tower, and large bank barn on the estate she now called "Walldene." Before the turn of the century, the young men of the family, including her son William Guy Wall, moved large sandstone boulders to the road frontage of the property.⁹

William Guy Wall (1876-1941)

At Mary Wall's death in 1932, the property was inherited by William Guy Wall. Colonel Wall was an automotive engineer and a graduate of VMI and MIT and veteran of the Spanish-American War. By 1900 he moved to Indianapolis, center of activity for the budding automobile industry. He was the founder, vice president, and chief engineer of the National Motor Car and Vehicle Corporation, and in 1917 was one of the first automotive engineers to be called upon by the U.S. government to assist in wartime. For two years he headed the Ordnance Department section charged with design, construction and maintenance of armored cars, tanks, ammunition trucks and artillery tractors, playing an important part

⁸ Land Records, EBP27/173 (recorded October 24, 1882); Mary Catharine Dade had attended Vassar College in 1865, the school's opening year.

⁹ Recollections of Elizabeth Dade Wedemeyer, to Dorothy Troth Muir, 1960s-70s; family photographs of early 20th century.

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in the motorization of the American army.¹⁰

After WWI, he returned to Indianapolis, and became the consulting engineer for several prominent automobile companies. Colonel Wall in 1928 was president of the Society of Automotive Engineers, a professional standards organization for the automobile industry. His first wife died in 1931. Three years later, he married Helen Wessel of Washington, D.C. The couple maintained homes in Indianapolis and in Boyds at Walldene.¹¹

The 1930s, when the Walls lived at Walldene, was a decade of dramatic contrasts in Montgomery County. In the last two decades of the 19th century and first three of the 20th, the jurisdiction had gained a reputation as one of the nation's most affluent and desirable residential areas. This was most notable in the landscape of the southern portion of the county, which had shifted from rural to suburban residential patterns as a result of its location on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. The transformation was influenced by the wealth and taste of a group of people whose image of life led them to a country setting while maintaining contact with the city for professional reasons. This image placed them in the role of clients who commissioned architects to create one country house after another, demanding and receiving the symmetry, simplicity, detail, and classical lines of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and perhaps sparked by renewed interest in early American history and architecture. It was this perception of the American country life which influenced William Guy Wall to commission Charlottesville, Virginia architect Milton Grigg to design additions and alterations to the main house at his family property in Boyds. And, like generations of his family before and after, Guy Wall came home to Friends Advice.

In the hands of Wall and Grigg, Friends Advice in 1939-40 became an "American country house." While family ownership and agricultural operations had never changed, Friends Advice had evolved from its origins as a rustic and isolated farmstead in the 18th century to a country estate in the 20th century, intended for leisure, amusement, beauty, luxury, and entertaining. In this transformation, the main dwelling house came to dominate the image of the property and to inspire corresponding amenities.

Although incorporating two earlier periods of 19th century rural vernacular construction, the main dwelling house at Friends Advice projects the character of a country house of the first half of the 20th century as defined by the additions and alterations of 1939-40. Transformed at a time when the lavish

¹⁰ Montgomery County Will Records, PEW20/365; Indianapolis Star, March 13, 1919.

¹¹ Who's Who in America, Vol. 21, 1940-41, A.N. Marquis Co., Chicago, 1940, p. 2663. Founded in 1906, SAE sets standards for the auto industry; for example the viscosity of oil carries SAE rating of 10W-40.

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revival of historical styles was the vogue in conservative circles, it provides a rich illustration of an era when architectural design and society's building aspirations were greatly inspired by the teachings of the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. It belongs to a class of architectural undertakings in the counties bordering the nation's capital that became suburban estates and country retreats; these were characterized by large land tracts, dwellings of ample or grand scales, revivals of European and American historical house types, and dates of construction within the first half of the 20th century; the earliest being built in the teens. It was a "country house era" defined in Montgomery County by notable examples such as Woodend (M: 35-12) and the Corby Estate (M: 30-12), recreations of 18th century English manor house (John Russell Pope, Chevy Chase, 1920s, and Charles Barton Keen, North Bethesda, 1914), Glen View (M: 26-17-1), a recreation of an 18th century Pennsylvania farmhouse (Porter and Lochie, Rockville, 1920s), and Marwood, a recreation of an 18th century French chateau (John J. Whelan, Potomac, 1931).¹² The majority were located along established transportation routes from Washington, D.C., such as the Rockville Pike, which became known at the time as an estate-bordered boulevard.

Within this context, Friends Advice stands unique. While the inspirational historical styles led to a majority of country houses being built as revivals of colonial and antebellum American house in brick, clapboard, and stone, the main house at Friends Advice is the only known example built with a masonry of sandstone, a stone of rose colors and locally quarried from Seneca since the 18th century. While its use in the 1939-40 section was inspired by the desire to match the same sandstone used in the early 19th century section, the impression of a unique local material gives it a strong sense of place, emphasizing its revival of the antebellum stone houses of upper western Montgomery County. In addition, while the majority of country house were built in the 1920, with some construction extending into the early 1930s, the 1939-40 additions and alterations of the main house represent the last phase of the "country house era." It caps an era as the last country house of this level known to be developed in Montgomery County.

In the interpretation of a style, the main house at Friends Advice illustrates a recreation of a late 18th century Georgian plantation house of the inland valleys of the Mid-Atlantic region. As seen in the 1939-40 block, the proportions are well-executed, the architectural details are academic, and the craftsmanship is excellent, all the product of the designs of architect Milton Grigg in response to the desires of his client.

Milton Grigg, who attended the University of Virginia engineering and architectural schools in the 1920s, entered private practice in Charlottesville in 1933. At the time he designed the additions and alterations to Walldene, Grigg was in partnership with Floyd E. Johnson, an association which continued through 1941. Grigg then formed Grigg, Brown & Associates, opening branch offices in Alexandria in 1949 and in New York in 1940. He was with the Corps of

¹² Woodend (M: 35-12) is listed in the National Register, and the Corby Estate (M: 30-12) has been nominated.

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Engineers in Washington, as Chief of Design for the Washington Engineer District, from 1942 to 1945. His career included writing numerous articles in popular and professional journals, lecturing at George Washington University and the University of Virginia extension department, serving on various civic boards and commissions in the Charlottesville area, and involvement in restorations of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and Colonial Church. Grigg was active in the American Institute of Architects, serving on various committees and as president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer of the Virginia Chapter.

Grigg's architectural accomplishments include the Thomas Jefferson Inn (Charlottesville); Grace Church, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Parish House of Old Christ Church, and Juvenile Court Building (Alexandria); and Chapel of the atonement (Washington, D.C.). His restoration work includes Monticello and Hollymead (Charlottesville); Edgemont (North Garden); Glen Echo (Proffitt); and the Dulaney House (Alexandria). The influence over Grigg of the first stage of the restoration work at Williamsburg (which began capturing the imagination of American architects, particularly those in the region, by the early 1930s), is indicated by a house he designed for Richard B. English in Bell Haven (Alexandria) in 1935 in "the 18th Century Virginia style."¹³

Through the 1939-40 additions and alterations, the interior spaces of the main house evolved into a typical arrangement of the "country house era," with a display of 18th century ornament. The entrance hall, library, and sitting room reveal a "pattern book" approach in decoration. Design motifs include modillions with acanthus leaf decoration to the frieze of anthemion-palmette decoration and scrolls in the library mantelpiece and the ceiling medallion of the entrance hall.

Colonel and Mrs. Wall worked with Grigg to intertwine generations of family history at Walldene. They removed the west frame section Colonel Wall's mother had constructed in the 1880s, replacing it with the new sandstone addition. In addition to echoing the earlier stone house in the new construction, they incorporated interior architectural features from Colonel Wall's father's home in Baltimore. They added touches to make the earlier sections more compatible with the new, on the exterior repointing the old stone block with mortar to match the 1939-40 addition, and on the interior reusing a gilded mirror, mantel, and overmantel. They also worked on the east block, enclosing the tiny south kitchen porch and reinforcing the foundation. On the grounds, the Walls added a stone and frame garage with tack room, brick terrace, boxwood plantings, stone walls, iron gates and posts, a swimming pool and bathhouse, and removed the old water tower at the rear of the house.

The transformation of Friends Advice in the 1930s from a family farm to a family country estate created a unique array of components and functions. The estate "composition" included support for the workings of the estate and farm, as well as for aesthetics and recreation. It also assimilated the historical

¹³ Information from A.I.A. files and from correspondence with Floyd E. Johnson (1991); Architecture, June 1936, p. 81.

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components, some of which became ornaments to the landscaped setting. While the original functions of the dairy house and spring, ice house, meat house, and garden shed have long since become obsolete, they reinforce the historical integrity of the estate while reflecting the evolutionary layers of farm and buildings. Thus, by the middle of the 20th century, the estate was an amalgam of barns and sheds for the working gentlemen's farm, garage and tenant house for the luxuries of its inhabitants and upkeep of the property, stables, tack room, pool and bathhouse for active recreation, and landscape features (terraces, walkways, and plantings) for visual pleasure and passive recreation.

The Walls like to entertain, and the two bedrooms in the new addition were often filled with guests. Colonel Wall's membership in several prestigious Washington clubs and his position as master of the Potomac Hunt, a county institution, solidified their local social connections.

Colonel Wall died in 1941. Helen Wall continued to live at Walldene for another decade. To conserve costs, she used the rear north room on the first floor of the new stone addition as her kitchen. As he had no children of his own, Colonel Wall's will directed his surviving siblings to elect among his nieces and nephews the Dade descendant who should inherit the ancestral home upon Helen's death. They chose Elizabeth Dade Wedemeyer, granddaughter of Mary Dade Wall, who since her marriage in 1925 had lived in different parts of the world with her husband, General Albert C. Wedemeyer.

Albert C. Wedemeyer (1897-1989)

General Albert C. Wedemeyer played a significant role in the American conduct of World War II. A West Point graduate, he was the first American to attend (1936-1938) the Kriegsakademie, the German general staff college. It was he who formulated the grand strategy later adopted by the Allies to win World War II. Known as the "Victory Program" upon its presentation to President Roosevelt in September of 1941, it proposed defeating Germany with ground forces and relegating war against Japan to a secondary role. After Pearl Harbor, this plan served official Washington as the basic guide for deploying the Allied forces.

In October 1943, General Wedemeyer became deputy Chief of Staff to Britain's Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, commander in chief of the Southeast Asia Command. A year later, when General Stillwell was recalled and China-Burma-India operations reorganized, General Wedemeyer was placed in command of the separate China theater. As Chief of Staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, leader of the Chinese Nationalists, and as American commander in China through 1946, General Wedemeyer participated in the early stages of the Chinese civil war.

General Wedemeyer's subsequent career included commands of the Second and Sixth armies, a mission to the Far East for President Truman, and to the Pentagon. He received the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and Distinguished Flying Cross.

Throughout their married life, the Wedemeyers lived in Army quarters and, as they moved from one assignment to another, had no permanent home. The family

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farm in Boyds was the constant thread in their lives, as they returned to spend summers and lengthy vacations between overseas military assignments. The Wedemeyers entertained military and civilian guests at Friends Advice, and General Wedemeyer worked and wrote there.

Upon his retirement in 1951, General and Mrs. Wedemeyer made the Walldene estate their permanent home, renaming it "Friends Advice." General Wedemeyer was promoted to full general in 1954. In retirement, he served as a director of several corporations, and also published a book of memoirs entitled Wedemeyer Reports.¹⁴

General and Mrs. Wedemeyer lived at Friends Advice from 1951 until the General's death in 1989. During that period, they purchased two adjoining farms and renovated the farmhouses, added a pond, rebuilt the hoghouse into a bathhouse, rebuilt bridges, remodeled the tenant house, and added a new septic system, well, iron gates and posts brought from England, and large flagstone patio. In the main dwelling, the Wedemeyers concentrated on updating the rear frame section; they modernized the back kitchen, installed a hot water heating system, developed the back apartment, and sheathed the frame exterior in aluminum siding.

During their 38-year tenure, the Wedemeyers made few alterations to the 1939 stone section; Helen Wall's front kitchen was replaced with an office, and a small back hall area became a coat closet with trap door over the cellar steps. In the 1970s, they re-roofed the entire house with asphalt shingle. In 1974 General Wedemeyer moved his secretary Elaine Hill from their Washington, D.C. office to the newly-converted west (frame) section of the garage. Soon after, the Wedemeyers converted the east section of the late 19th century frame block into a two-story apartment for Ms. Hill, and she moved there.

Since 1989, General and Mrs. Wedemeyer's son, Albert D. Wedemeyer, and his wife Dorothy have lived at Friends Advice, on the property purchased by Mr. Wedemeyer's family 200 years and six generations ago.

¹⁴ Wedemeyer obituary, Washington Post, December 20, 1989; Land Records, 1524/359 (May 9, 1951); and Keith Eiler, Wedemeyer on War and Peace (Stanford, California: Hoover Institution Press, 1987).

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