

PH 0672599

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 18 1977

DATE ENTERED

AUG 25 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **** Elmonte

AND/OR COMMON

Twiford

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W. of Ellicott City at
Northeast corner of Mt. Hebron Dr. and ~~Md. Rt. 99~~ ^{MD}

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City *vic.*

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

CODE
24

COUNTY

Howard

CODE
027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Cal Sutphin

STREET & NUMBER

9098 Old Frederick Road

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21043

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Howard County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Court Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Elmonte (Twiford) is located north of Maryland Route 99 just west of the intersection of that road with U. S. Route 29 in Howard County, Maryland. This 2½-story country house, built of random ashlar granite in the Italian villa style, cost \$25,000 and is thought to have been completed in 1858. The granite was taken from a quarry near the Patapsco River on the plantation of Miss Sally Eliza Dorsey.

Miss Dorsey selected the name "El Monte" because it meant "the wooded mount." This name adequately describes the villa's picturesque setting. Its design closely follows A. J. Downing's guidelines for a mansion as given in The Architecture of Country Houses (1850).

Elmonte faces south toward the county road. According to a drawing inset within the border of Martenet's Map of Howard County, the mansion was approached from the southwest and was encircled by a drive. The original tree-lined road to the house is still there; however, the drive now goes to the rear and forms a semicircle there, thus making the northern entrance the principal one. Identical with that on the south, this entrance has rectangular double doors with a large round-headed glazed transom and sidelights which are continuous over the transom. The view one received from the intended arrangement is more in keeping with Downing's statement that the kitchen and offices should be on the blind side of the house so they were not readily visible and could be further concealed by planting. There is a lower, two-story kitchen wing to the northeast which has a secondary stair connecting it to all levels of the main house. Thus, a visitor first saw a symmetrical south facade and the irregular west elevation with its bay window.

No elevation of Elmonte, except the principal facade of the main house, is symmetrical; nor is the plan. On the south there are three bays with a central gable penetrating the hipped roof which is now covered with asphalt shingles. This third story central gable with a circular window is present in all four elevations. The cupola duplicates the roof from below and has a Palladian window in each face which extends upward into its small gable. The second floor has double segmental, arched openings flanking a Palladian window, the center part of which is a door to the roof of the veranda below. The veranda, six steps above ground level, extends across the full width of the main house and returns along the sides ending at the projecting parlor on the west and the kitchen wing on the east.

(See Continuation Sheet No. 1)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Nathan Gibson Starkweather

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elmonte was built by a member of the Dorsey family. The Dorseys are a prominent Maryland family who have distinguished themselves in law, politics, military life and business. Colonel Edward Dorsey received one of the earliest land grants (c. 1690) in what was to become Howard County. Descendants of Thomas Beale Dorsey were the first settlers of the area which includes nearby Ellicott City. Thomas Beale Dorsey, Jr. (1823-52), a judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, willed his 900-acre Mt. Hebron estate to his children, Priscilla M. Dorsey, William H. G. Dorsey and Sally Eliza Dorsey. In 1856, the children divided it among themselves. William built his Italianate villa "Wilton" across the road from Sally Dorsey's "El Monte."

Elmonte has been maintained as a farm until recently. Sally Dorsey's will directed that her mansion and farm (82 acres) be sold. Claude M. Ackler bought it in 1890. Subsequent owners have been: Jere H. Weelwright (1911); Jere H. Weelwright, Jr. (1920); C. Allen and Gladys L. Hechter (1939); Karl J. Eisenhardt and wife (1940); William E. and A. Myrtle Woefel (1950); and Patapsco Associates (1965). Patapsco Associates now wants to retain the mansion as a residence but develop the farm lands into a subdivision.

Elmonte is not only connected with a distinguished Maryland family but is also a fine example of a mid-nineteenth century country villa. Taken with his other buildings, its design demonstrates that Twiford's architect, Nathan Gibson Starkweather, was knowledgeable of current style and could produce a finished house which could meet the needs of the upper classes.

Nathan Starkweather was born in England and educated at Oxford University. Undoubtedly influenced by the Oxford Society, he designed at least two Gothic Revival churches — one in Brooklyn, New York, and the other, the First Presbyterian Church (1859) in Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Starkweather also favored the

(See Continuation Sheet No. 3)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The First Presbyterian Church of Baltimore, A Two-Century Chronicle.
pub. by The First Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, 1962.

Howard County Land Records. WWW 17/263, JHO 57/206, WWLC 90/566,
BM Jr. 163/ 513, BM Jr. 168/503, MWB 217/304, MWB 447/257.

(See continuation sheet #3)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 20 acres ¹²

J.F.T. 11/14/77
2 3/4 Lebovich
8/23/78

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1, 8 | 3 | 4, 2 | 8, 9, 0 | 4, 3 | 5, 2 | 2, 9, 0 |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | 1, 8 | 3 | 4, 2 | 8, 6, 0 | 4, 3 | 5, 2 | 1, 0, 0 |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | 1, 8 | 3 | 4, 2 | 7, 0, 0 | 4, 3 | 5, 1 | 9, 1, 0 |

D | 1, 8 | 3 | 4, 2 | 5, 9, 0 | 4, 3 | 5, 1 | 9, 1, 0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E1 8/ 342640/ 4352160

see attached subdivision map.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George J. Andreve, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

DATE

2/6/76

TELEPHONE

(301) 267-1438

STATE

Maryland

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John N. Pearce 9/14/77
SHPO

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST: *[Signature]*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8/20/78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 8/24/78

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CONTINUATION SHEET Elmonte

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION #7

The porch has a balustrade with pairs of chamfered, rather slender rectangular columns. Its central portion, the width of the entrance bay, projects over the front steps. Because of the height restrictions of the porch roof, the double windows facing south and the single side windows of the drawing and dining rooms are rectangular. All other openings, including the circular windows in the gables have bold but plain hoodmolds of granite. The windows are 4/4 and extend to the floor.

The north facade has a projecting entrance pavilion with the cornice returning partially across the gable. There is a small landing covered by a flat roof. It is supported by very large scroll brackets extending from the landing and terminating in pendants.

Twiford's exterior trim is consistently very bold but plain and geometric in form. Openings, including the circular windows in the gables, have headmolds which are rectangular in section and are finished by an engaged pendant. Underneath the projecting cornice there are large pointed dentils against the stone. Large brackets, void of decorative carving, are few in number. One is placed at each angular change in the roof line and one in each direction at a corner.

The plan of Elmonte shows it to be consistent with Downing's definition of a moderate size villa. Three apartments flank the hall. The two western ones, probably a parlor and drawing room or library, are separated by sliding doors. There are also sliding doors which can be used to close off the south end of the hall on the second floor. Located in the southwest corner of the hall is the main stair with scrolled step ends. Between floors, there is one cantilevered run and a quarter turn with winders at each end. At the base is a heavy newel. The spiral rail is continuous to the third floor.

At the eastern end of the servant's wing is the kitchen which retains its original fireplace. Between the kitchen and the principal stair in the hall are two rooms approximately equal in size — a pantry and most likely a laundry. One is now subdivided into a bath and storage closet. Three unheated sleeping rooms on the second floor accommodated an appropriate number of domestics for the villa's size. Within this wing is a secondary stair giving
(See Continuation Sheet No. 2)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Elmonte ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

DESCRIPTION #7

servants access to all levels of the main house.

The woodwork as well as other interior appointments is original. There are shutters at all windows. High baseboards, wide architraves and complex plaster cornices with bold, circular sections have been kept in excellent condition. The gold chandeliers in the parlor and living room show curvilinear forms characteristic of gas fixtures at mid-century. They complement large, elaborate gold-framed mirrors above the fireplaces. There are marble mantels throughout the house. All of them are white except for the parlor which is pink. On the first floor, the mantels have arched openings with panels. In the bedrooms, they are rather plain with unfluted columns in a simplified Greek Revival design. In the basement is a safe placed within a stone vault having an iron door. The third floor has a built-in cedar closet under the eaves.

On the property there are several outbuildings in fair condition. To the rear of the mansion is a stuccoed carriage house with a two-car garage. East of the house is a large wooden barn with a slate roof and a log smokehouse.

The artist's drawing on Martenet's Map shows Elmonte with several differences, mostly in applied ornament. All of the windows are round-headed but with the same dripstones. There is no circular gable window or Palladian window on the south but three center openings of equal height. Finials are placed at all gable peaks including those of the cupola. There is a short, massive balustrade over the front veranda which is supported by paneled, square columns on pedestals. Rather plain, scalloped trim finished in pendants follows the roof edge including that of the porch.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Elmonte ITEM NUMBER 8, 9 PAGE 3

SIGNIFICANCE #8

villa style promoted about mid-century by A. J. Downing and Calvert Vaux. He designed Italianate mansions including Camden (1857) in Caroline County, Virginia, and several within a short distance of each other in eastern Howard County, Maryland — "Temora" (1857), "Wilton" for William Dorsey and "El Monte" for Miss Sally Dorsey. Though commissioned with these buildings, Mr. Starkweather was arrested for debt in the financial panic of 1857-58 but later was appointed Superintendent of government buildings in Washington.

Since the mansion was built, Elmonte has not been altered except for minor changes such as the installation of heat and electricity. As a result, it is a well-executed, unaltered example of one architect's interpretation of the country villa.

REFERENCES # 9

Howard County Wills. MWB 447/257, RD 6/93.

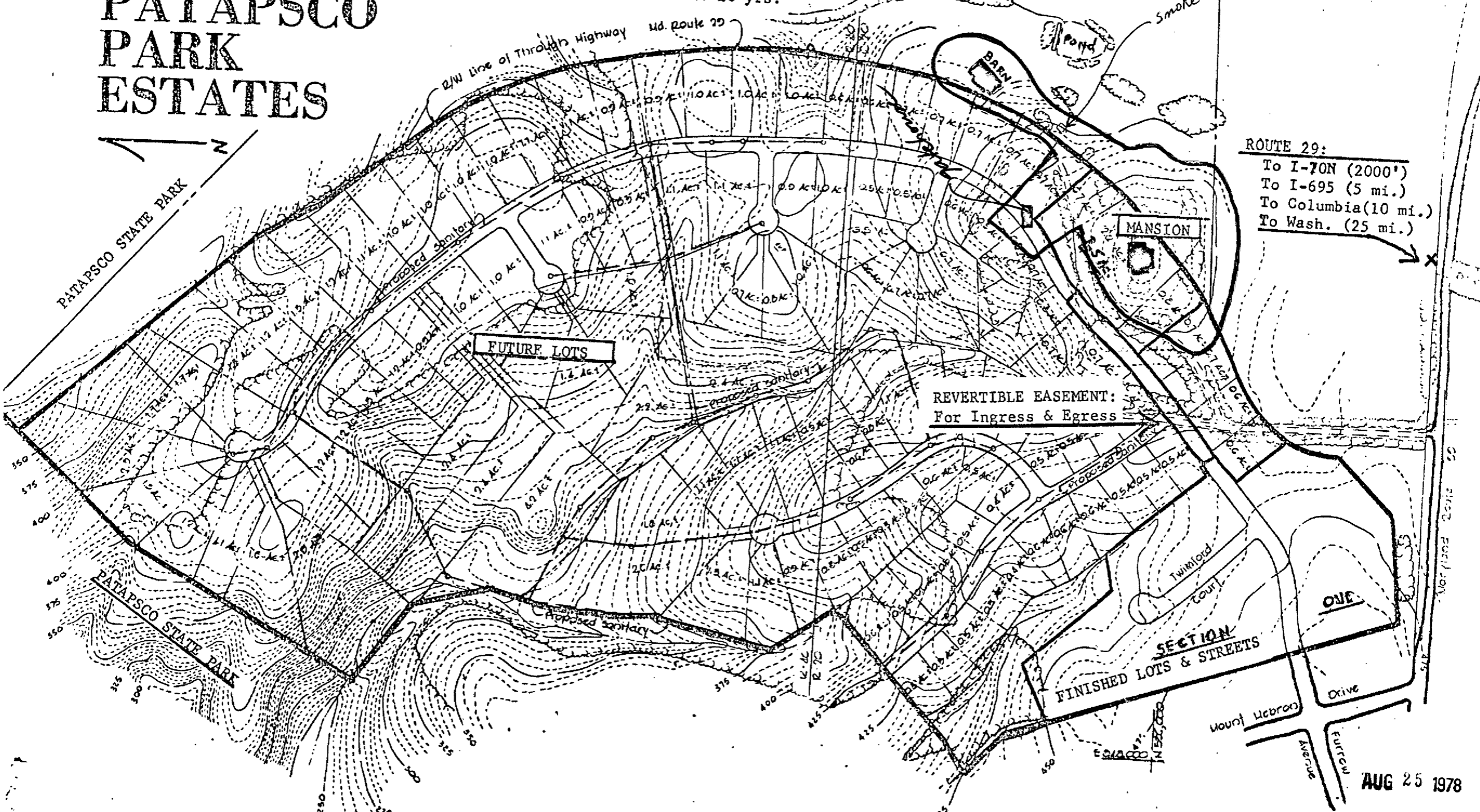
Martenet's Map of Howard County Maryland. pub by John Schofield, Ellicotts Mills, 1860.

Stein, Charles Francis, Jr. Origin and History of Howard County Maryland. Pub. by the author in cooperation with the Howard County Historical Society, Baltimore, 1972.

PATAPSCO PARK ESTATES

STATE PROPERTY:
No use scheduled
for next 10-20 yrs.

Smoke house JET 11/14/77



ROUTE 29:
To I-70N (2000')
To I-695 (5 mi.)
To Columbia (10 mi.)
To Wash. (25 mi.)

AUG 25 1978