

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Woodend

historic ↓

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 8940 Jones Mill Road ___ not for publication

city, town Chevy Chase ___ vicinity of congressional district Eighth

state Maryland code 24 county Montgomery code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Conservation

4. Owner of Property

name Audubon Naturalist Society c/o

street & number 8940 Jones Mill Road

city, town Chevy Chase ___ vicinity of state Maryland 20015

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Rockville state Maryland 20855

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This Georgian Revival house was built on the site of Clean Drinking Manor and is now owned by the Audubon Society. It is located on the west side of Jones Mill Road, about 3500 feet south of the Capital Beltway in North Chevy Chase.

Built upon ashlar block foundations, it is a 2½ story, seven bay by five bay, I-shaped building with Flemish bonded brick walls and brick quoins. The north elevation entrance is through a wooden paneled door surmounted by a rectangular transom with a fanlight tracery design and flanked by two stone columns. The entire composition is surmounted by a denticulated rounded pediment. On the west elevation, a large curved patio connects the north and south wings and leads to the broken pedimented west doorway, which is flanked by applied pilasters with acanthus capitals. The paired doors are French windows of eight lights each surmounted by four-light transoms. There are six-over-six, double-hung sash windows in the main portion of the house (except the northeast kitchen wing). There is a Palladian window on the east elevation at the stairway landing between the first and second stories.

The house has a low hipped roof with a stone balustrade at the outer perimeter of the roof. The roof is covered by raised seam metal roofing and has dentils and egg and dart molding at the cornice line. There are two large chimney stacks visible on the west elevation at the south and north section of the house. In addition, there are two other chimneys on the east side of the north and south sections.

Entering the house through the north entrance, one comes into a small octagonal hall with marble tiling. To the east is the dining room and beyond this the kitchen-service wing. The dining room has a fireplace with an elaborately carved mantel and surround against the east wall. To the west of the octagonal hall is an office. South of the entry hall is the main hall. An open well, four-flight stairway ascends along the east wall of the main hall and a fireplace is located on the south interior wall. This main hall connects the north sections of the house with the south section. It has full fielded paneling. The south section is composed of two rooms, a southeast and southwest room. The southeast room has full fielded wooden paneling and is presently used for movies and slide presentations. At the south end of the southeast room is an archway, and behind this is an area approximately 7 feet deep of built-in bookcases. There is a built-in cabinet with a broken pediment on the north wall. The southwest room is notable for its fireplace (against the north interior wall), which has a marble surround and a wooden mantel with harvest sheaves at the corners and a harvest basket in a central plaque. The mantel is supported by semi-attached voluted columns with acanthus capitals. There are French windows on the south wall similar to those on the west elevation.

The floors throughout the house are wooden. On the first floor they are random width and have been pegged. Except where specified, the walls are plaster over lath.

The house is beautifully sited on a hillside and set back at a distance from the street. The grounds are gracefully landscaped and provide a congenial habitat for birds. Six hundred feet east of the house is a brick garage-gathehouse five stalls wide. Overhead are servants quarters (now adapted to an apartment and offices) accessible by a stair inside the east end of the buildin. Five casement windows on the facade are centered over the stall doors below. The roof is hipped and covered with slate.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1927-28 **Builder/Architect** John Russell Pope (1874-1937)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

The house at Woodend is a fine specimen of Georgian Revival domestic architecture by the prominent eclectic classicist John Russell Pope, one of America's foremost "establishment" architects in the 1920s and 30s. The estate is additionally significant for its adoption as the home of the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, a private conservation organization founded in 1897 (predating the National Audubon Society), which now manages Woodend as a nature preserve in the midst of dense suburban development.

HISTORY

Woodend occupies the largest remaining undivided portion of "Clean Drinking," a 700-acre tract granted to Col. John Courts of Charles County in 1700. Charles Jones, married to a granddaughter of Courts, acquired the northern portion of the tract in 1750 and built a residence on it. Jones Mill Road, on which Woodend fronts, and nearby Jones Bridge Road derive their names from features constructed by this prominent figure in Frederick and (after 1776) Montgomery County politics. Varying amounts of "Clean Drinking" remained in the Jones family until 1916, when the remaining 23 acres containing the now-decayed 18th century residence were sold to Chester and Marion Wells. (The present Woodend estate does not include the site of this house, now demolished.)

The Wellses ultimately acquired approximately 100 acres of the former "Clean Drinking" tract. In 1927 they commissioned John Russell Pope to design the present mansion. The house was built in 1928, following the construction of the garage-gatehouse, also designed by Pope.

Pope was a leader of the second generation of eclectic architects of the 20th century (the first having been epitomized by McKim, Mead, and White, who strongly influenced him). After study at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris in 1900, Pope embarked on a highly successful career. In Washington his commissions included the Scottish Rite Temple (1910-16), Constitution Hall (1930), the National Archives (1935), the National Gallery of Art (1941), and the Jefferson Memorial (1943). The latter two were completed after his death in 1937. Among his many works elsewhere were the Lincoln Birthplace Memorial in Kentucky, the Marshall Field estate on Long Island, and the Tate Gallery wing in London. His highly conservative classicism made no concession to modernism, yet it well suited his wealthy, conservative clients and no doubt appealed to the great body of contemporary lay opinion. Woodend, designed at the height of Pope's career, exemplified his eclectic classicism in domestic architecture.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mrs. Neal Fitzsimons, "The Audubon Naturalist Society and Its Home, Woodend," The Montgomery County Story, The Montgomery County Historical Society, vol. 17, no. 3 (August 1974).

Mark Watson, "A Short History of Clean Drinking and Its Owners," typescript, n.d.(1978).

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acree of nominated property 32.6052 acres

Quadrangle name Kensington

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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

B

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

C

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

D

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

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary encompasses all of the property at 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, lying west of that road, comprising parcels 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of the "Clean Drinking" tract of Montgomery County as platted October 1949. (Two other parcels, 14 and 15,

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries lying east of the road and totaling 7.884 acres, are not included.)

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barry Mackintosh, Historian; Candace Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Sugarloaf Regional Trails date December 21, 1978

street & number Box 87 telephone (301) 926-4510

city or town Dickerson state Maryland 20753

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] 1-3-80

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

W. Ray Luce date 3/20/80
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Emma Jane Saxe date 3-19-80

Chief of Registration Regional Coordinator

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 4 1980
DATE ENTERED MAR 20 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Woodend
Montgomery County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION, continued

An exterior chimney with twin conical caps rises at the east end of the structure. A high brick wall surrounds a courtyard in front and is entered by a gateway surmounted by decorative iron scrollwork.

The lawns and gardens around the house and extending east to Jones Mill Road were originally intensively maintained. Now little more than an acre around the house is kept in lawn. Elsewhere the grounds are selectively mowed as meadow or have been allowed to revert to natural succession. The southern and western portions of the property are forested, with access by nature trails. The grounds serve as a habitat for some 30 species of birds and a range of small mammals.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 14 1980

DATE ENTERED

MAR 20 1980

Woodend
Montgomery County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

SIGNIFICANCE, continued

When the widowed Marion Wells died in 1967, she left the mansion and the 40 acres still remaining with the estate to the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States. The Society had been founded in the District of Columbia in 1897 to promote the protection and public appreciation of bird life at a time when the wholesale slaughter of birds was still common, particularly for the millinery trade. President Theodore Roosevelt became an active member of the Society. The Society chose to remain independent of the National Audubon Society, founded in New York in 1905, and has so continued to the present.

In the years after World War II the Society broadened its concern from birds to the total natural environment and offered a range of programs embracing many aspects of conservation and education. With the donation of Woodend, it acquired a natural laboratory for field studies, as well as interior space readily adapted for offices and classrooms. Both nature conservation and historic preservation have benefited as a result.

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 14 1980
DATE ENTERED MAR 20 1980

Woodend
Montgomery County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Background on Mr. and Mrs. Chester Wells, who commissioned the building of the Woodend mansion from John Russell Pope:

Chester Wells was born October 15, 1870 in Wyalusing, Pennsylvania, the son of Major Levi Wells, who served with the Northern forces in the Civil War. Chester wells graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1893 and served with distinction in the Cuban Campaign, Phillipine Insurrection, Spanish-American War, North China Campaign, and World War I. He held the Navy Cross and other decorations.

Chester Wells met Marion Lee Dixon on a trip to Australia and married her in London on October 9, 1907. Marion Dixon was a daughter of Sir Hugh Dixon, founder of the British Tobacco Company of Australia (later the British American Tobacco Company of Australia).

Captain Wells was stationed in Washington, D. C. in 1909 and began buying land in Chevy Chase about 1910. Mrs. Wells planned Woodend as a country estate to recreate the atmosphere of the Dixon family estate Abergelde near Sidney, Australia. The billiard room at Woodend is patterned exactly after one at Abergelde.

Mrs. Neal Fitzsimons, editor of The Montgomery County Story, published by the Montgomery County Historical Society, wrote in the August, 1974, issue: *

Mrs. Wells commissioned John Russell Pope . . . to design Woodend and to duplicate some of the features of her father's estate near Sidney. Despite the illustrious reputation of Mr. Pope, Mrs. Wells, a strong-minded woman, had him build the five-stall garage before she allowed him to proceed with the house.

By the time the mansion was completed in 1929, the Wells had acquired more than 80 acres of land. Several acres were later given to the Maryland Park System to become part of Rock Creek Park.

Captain Wells retired in 1929 and became extremely active in metropolitan Washington. He was a director of the District National Bank (which failed in 1933) and the Hamilton National Bank (now The National Bank of Washington), which he helped form; a trustee of George Washington University Hospital and member of the board of Columbia Hospital for Women; and an active leader in the Boy Scouts, at one time heading the Washington Council for Boy Scouts. He was also active in Maryland and District politics until his death September 17, 1948.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 14 1980
DATE ENTERED	MAR 20 1980

Woodend
Montgomery County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

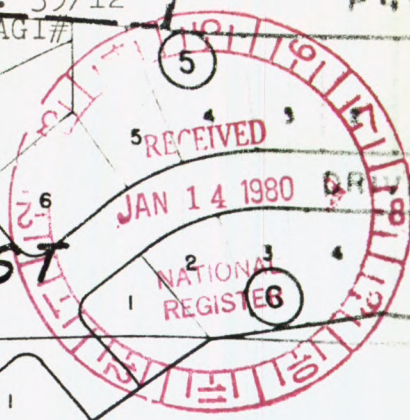
PAGE 4

SIGNIFICANCE, continued

The Wells had two adopted daughters. Mrs. Wells stayed on at Woodend until her death in 1967. Ac active member of the Audubon Naturalist Society for many years, Mrs. Wells willed the property to the society to be kept as a nature sanctuary. Captain and Mrs. wells are both buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

*copy available at Woodend, Audubon Naturalist Society, 8940 Jones Mill Road,
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

MAGI#



SPRING HILL

MANOR

DRIVE

PARKCREST

ROAD

WOODHOLLOW

J. B. Sleman Sr. et al

3516 / 564

6.635 Ac.

P574

Audubon Naturalist Society of C. Atlantic States Inc.

WES 101/398

40.4892 Ac. = Total (Includes acreage east of road)

P774

WOODEND SITE PLAN

N909

NORTH CHEVY CHASE SWIMMING POOL

2.3844 Ac.

CLEAN LANE

P902

4.05 Ac.

JONES

