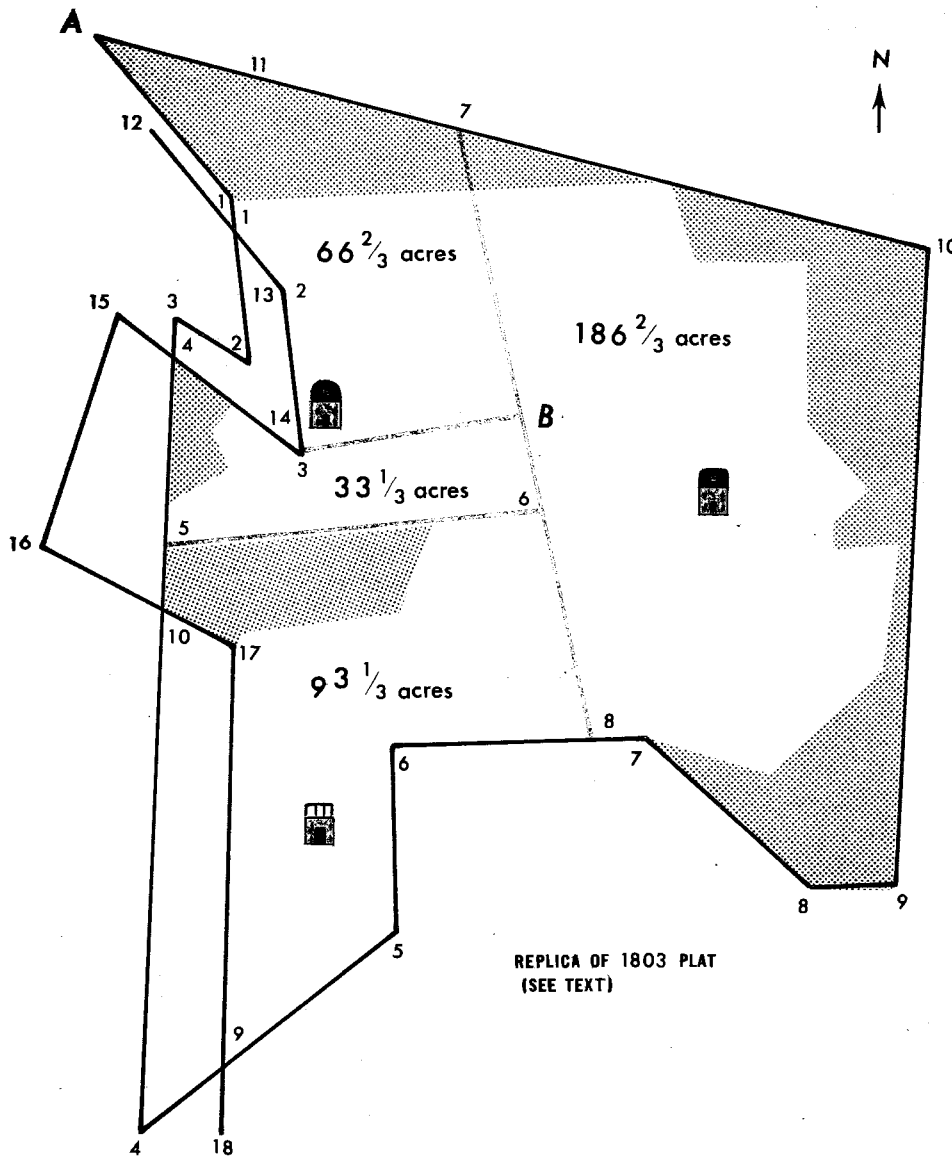


HISTORY

SPRINGBROOK FOREST

and

SECOND ADDITION TO CULVERS CHANCE

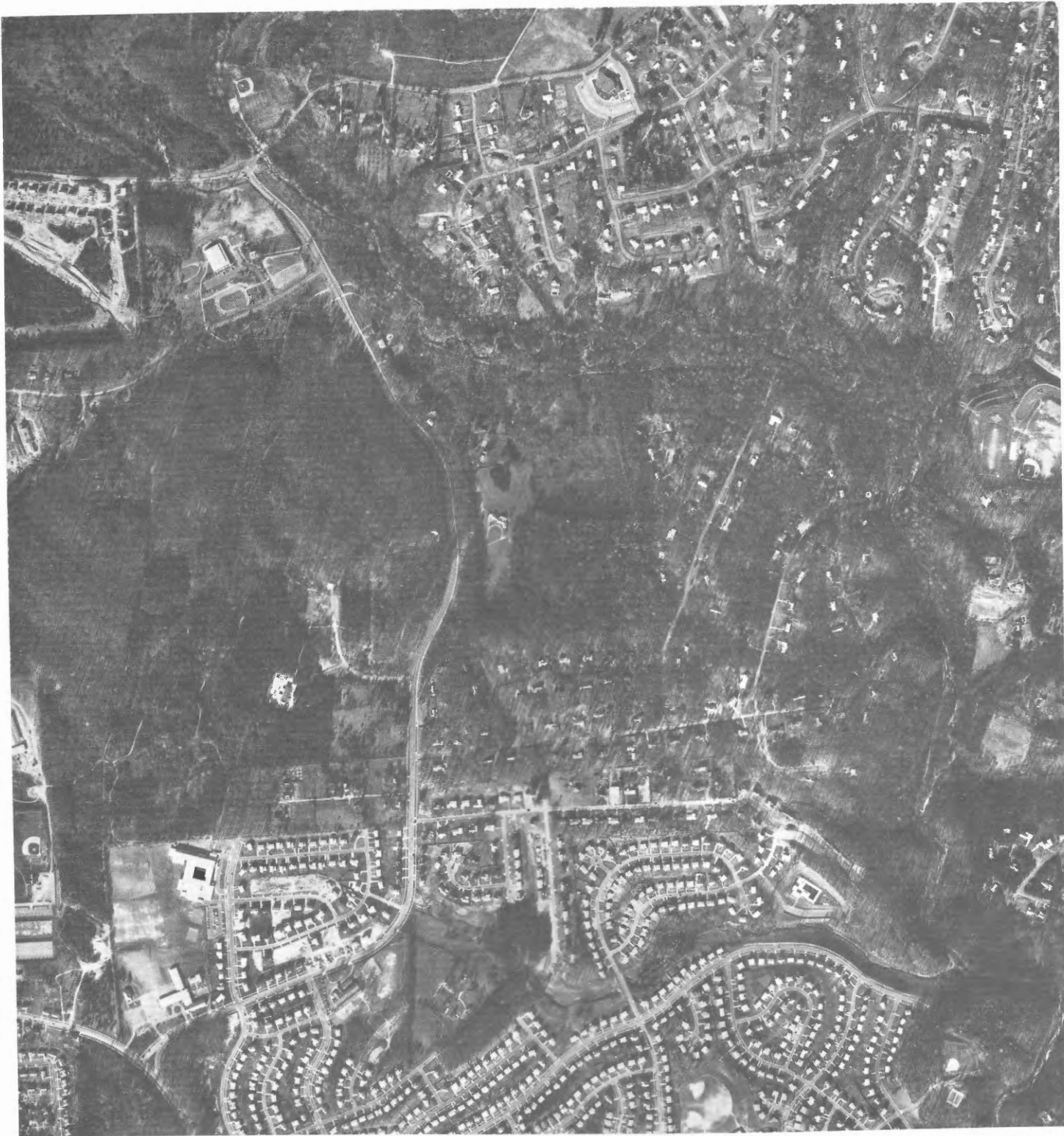


FIRST EDITION
APRIL 1970

HISTORY
SPRINGBROOK FOREST
AND
SECOND ADDITION TO CULVER'S CHANCE

Prepared by
The History Committee
of the
Springbrook Forest Citizens Association
Montgomery County, Maryland

April 1970



Aerial photograph of the Springbrook Forest area. Randolph Road is at top of photo; Kemp Mill Road runs from top to bottom, and Arcola Avenue is at lower left. Springbrook Forest is located at the center of the picture to the right of Kemp Mill Road. All of the "Second Addition to Culver's Chance" is shown, and many of the boundary lines of the map on the cover can be seen in this photo. The picture was taken in December of 1968. (Photo from Air Photographics, Inc.)

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Springbrook Forest is unique in many ways, including its wonderful forest setting and numerous community interests. Many of Springbrook Forest's problems are nonetheless typical suburban concerns. Some insight into reasons for both our uniqueness and typicality will perhaps be found in the following pages.

This History had its beginnings at a Citizens Association meeting in late 1967. At that meeting Ellis Clough, one of our foremost citizens, suggested a study of the factors contributing to the quality of life in the Forest. This document is the outcome. Dr. Clough has been the History project's Commander-in-Chief and through his perseverance, dedication, and plain hard work, this "document" has become a reality.

It is our hope that this History will prove of interest to past, present and future residents of the area, as well as to all interested in the growth of modern suburbia.

Our wish is that this document will help bridge the gap between old and new residents, and even more importantly help bridge the ever present generation gap. (Many of the younger generation have assisted in the preparation of this booklet). If this wish is even partially fulfilled, we will count this document a success.

David H. Schaefer, President
Springbrook Forest Citizens Association

FOREWORD

Two closely related purposes have guided the planning and writing of this History. One - to piece together and interpret the story of the original raw land of our Forest area and of the people drawn to it to build their homes and make a fresh new community. The land had lain intact and relatively virgin over 200 years seemingly awaiting families who would use and guard it well. Two - to make the History a full community project. The magnificent response of many families has enabled the fulfillment of both objectives. We hope that they as full partners will feel pride and deep satisfaction in the end product of our work.

We believe that such a story deserves telling whenever and wherever it occurs. The physical and spiritual merging of a family with its own new piece of earth is a stirring experience - especially so if the land is a forest "wilderness", and perhaps their first ownership experience. To accomplish this in common with other kindred souls deepens and enriches the overall experience. While we may generalize that some of the Forest's problems have been typical of most new suburban communities, the experiences referred to are always individual, thus personal and unique.

We have tried to write the story to appeal to a wide-ranging audience: the pioneer families; later families who have shared in promoting the community's wellbeing; future citizens, young and old - in our hope that they too will feel a strong bond with neighbors here and with the land; former residents including "grownup" youth who treasure some of their experiences here; and groups outside the Forest. We are keenly aware of benefits gained from the larger community around us.

Our sources included (1) Land records; (2) publications; (3) family responses - 82% - to a formal community-wide survey; (4) group interview meetings involving 20 early families; (5) interviews with and record files of developer George Moss; (6) innumerable personal and telephone interviews; (7) records (especially the Minutes) of the Citizens Association; and (8) sixteen separate "Special Stories" written by residents.

The document presents only a small portion of what has been learned. Many facts, anecdotes and other contributions will be placed in either the separate Supplement to this book or in bound archive volumes to prevent them from being forever lost. The Committee proposes that a Historian or a History Committee be established to aid in this work and to carry it on through future years.

An informal Advisory Group composed of Dave Griffin, Les Miller and Jerry Zindel provided early guidance on project objectives, content sources and working relationships. Subsequently, they have contributed

many facts and anecdotes, some special stories, and helpful reinforcement and review. While not formally a member of the Group, Wes Meginn has been helpful in review, evaluation, and other ways.

The Working Committee consisted of the following:

John Finn	Rae Nelson
Roland Fritz	David Schaefer
Don Leslie	Preston Stang
Ellis Clough, Chairman	

The title is truly descriptive! Working as a unified team and individually this dedicated group has performed over two years the really vital functions of planning, promotion, followup, continuous review, evaluation and refinement. Each has done some share of the research and verification; most have prepared summaries, essays or "special stories". Three have written major segments of the document: David Schaefer - Chapter I; Ellis Clough - Chapter II; and Don Leslie - Chapter III. The same three have developed the eight Appendices. Along with this Committee should be named Mel Leonberger who has taken the very rough sketches of the working group and through both his own research and his artistic ability has produced the illustrations that have greatly enhanced this History.

Rae Nelson has been the Working Group's special sweetheart. Along with doing a large share of the necessary work, she has kept the project going with her encouragement and inspiration.

Acknowledgements: A very great number of persons within the Forest and outside have given specific assistance to the project. A partial listing includes:

Typing of manuscript: Naomi Clough, Maxine Schaefer, Thelma Wilson, Dorothea Misko.

Essays and special stories: Paul Amundsen, Elma and Julian Hoskinson, George DeBuchananne, Roland and Rosemarie Fritz, Selma Goldberg, Ruby Lee Beach, Eugene Beach, Jr., Les Miller, Ruth Preston, Barbara Rock, Rae and Lloyd Nelson, Don Leslie.

Special assistance relating to Chapter I: William Gray, Silas Bean, Eugene Beach, Jr., George Misko, Jr., Noble Hembree, Walter Seek and Ann Marie Vick who drew the faces that appear on Figure 17. Additional "thanks" are given in Appendix 4.

Content and design of the early community-wide Survey form: Rae Nelson and son, Rodger.

Advising on and printing of the Survey form and the final History document: Walter McArdle and sons, Mickey and Terry.

Follow-up work on the Survey: Bea Fitzsimmons, Dale Jackson, Alice and Carl Kallina, Helen Stang and Toni Zindel.

Host families for four Group Interview Meetings: Helen and Preston Stang, Toni and Jerry Zindel, Rae and Lloyd Nelson, Cathy and Don Leslie.

Photo processing and Xeroxing: Bernie von Bernewitz, J. M. Leslie, Chris Bassich, George Misko.

Special aid concerning family-built versus speculatively-built homes: Harold Bradshaw and Carl Sharp.

More than 100 persons have helped in many ways not described above. Some of these are the following:

Ann Alden	Peggy Humphrey
Paul Amundsen	Dick and Lois Julius
Ed and Marie Anderson	Rita and William Lyons
Janie Barkley	Estelle and Wes Meginn
James Blalock	Vivian and Floyd Morris
Nancy Boggess	William and Ollie Millet
Gil Bowen	John and Kay Ohlmacher
Nick and Mary Carter	Violet Randel
Bernice Clark	Hugo Ranta
George and Mary DeBuchananne	Marlin and Grace Smith
Roald and Betty Evensen	Henry and Helen Temple
Elma and Julian Hoskinson	Wayne Travers

A special word of appreciation is due my wife, Naomi for her understanding, patience and reinforcement.

It has been a high privilege to help in the preparation of this History of our beautiful land and neighborhood.

Ellis Clough
Chairman, History Project

CHAPTER I

THE SECOND ADDITION TO CULVER'S CHANCE

In 1679 a young man named Henry Culver sailed from London to Maryland aboard a ship with the incongruous name "Glob". The records show that he did not pay for his passage. The master of the ship, Samuel Groome, gladly transported him free as Maryland granted land rights to anyone bringing people into the Province. Master Groome quickly sold his rights, pocketed the money, and headed back to London.

Henry Culver prospered in Maryland, sired six girls and two boys, and by 1725 had been granted "patents" to four sizeable tracts of land. On February 9, 1742 (when George Washington was a lad of only nine years) a tract of land of 400 acres called "The Second Addition to Culver's Chance" was surveyed for Henry Culver's son, whose name was also Henry. This land included all of what is now Springbrook Forest. The northwest point of the tract was a "bonded White Oak standing on the West Side of a branch called the North West that falls into the Eastern Branch of the Potomack". The oak was known as "Woodcock's Tree". The 1742 survey certificate is shown in Figure 1 (All of Montgomery County then was a part of Prince George County). The relationship of the land to 1970 landmarks is shown in Figure 2.

The text of the actual "patent" granting Henry Culver rights to the land is in Appendix 5. Charles Calvert, the Fifth Lord Baltimore, retained ownership of the land as Maryland had been given to the Calvert family by King Charles I of England in 1632. Henry Culver paid 16 shillings (around \$4.00) rent a year to the Calvert family. An "alienation fine" equal to a year's rent was due when the right to rent was turned over to someone else. All rents were to be paid at the City of Saint Mary. The patent was signed by Governor Bladen, after whom the town of Bladensburg was named.

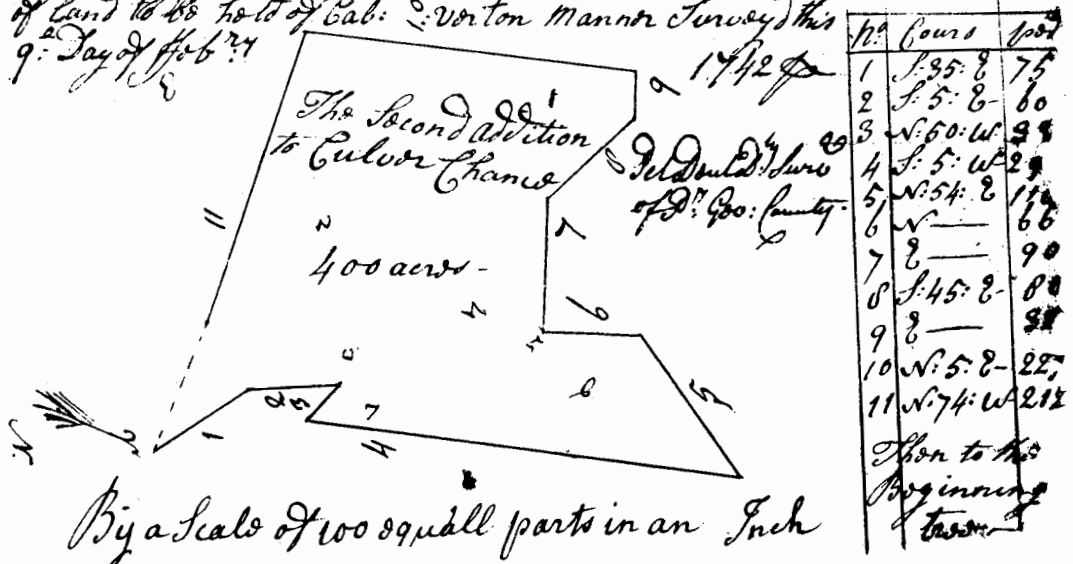
In 1748 the tract became part of the new county called "Frederick County". Twenty years after obtaining the land, Henry Culver sold his rights to the Second Addition to Culver's Chance. Mr. Culver, identified in the deed as "a planter of Frederick County", paid his alienation fine of 16 shillings on February 12, 1762. Joseph Simmes "a planter of Charles County" paid Henry Culver 52 pounds 10 shillings sterling for the rights to the land. Using the classical exchange

This Chapter has been written by D. H. Schaefer.
References and other comments will be found in Appendix 4
entitled "Chapter I - Comments and Sources".

Prince Geo. County Va

By Virtue of a Warr. Granted out of his Lordships Land Office
of this province to Henry Culver of Prince Geo. County for
350 acres of Land bearing Date by renewment Aug: 9: 20: 1742
and also part of one other Warr. bearing Date by renewment
Aug: 9: 20: 1742 for 250 acres of land & Located Sit:

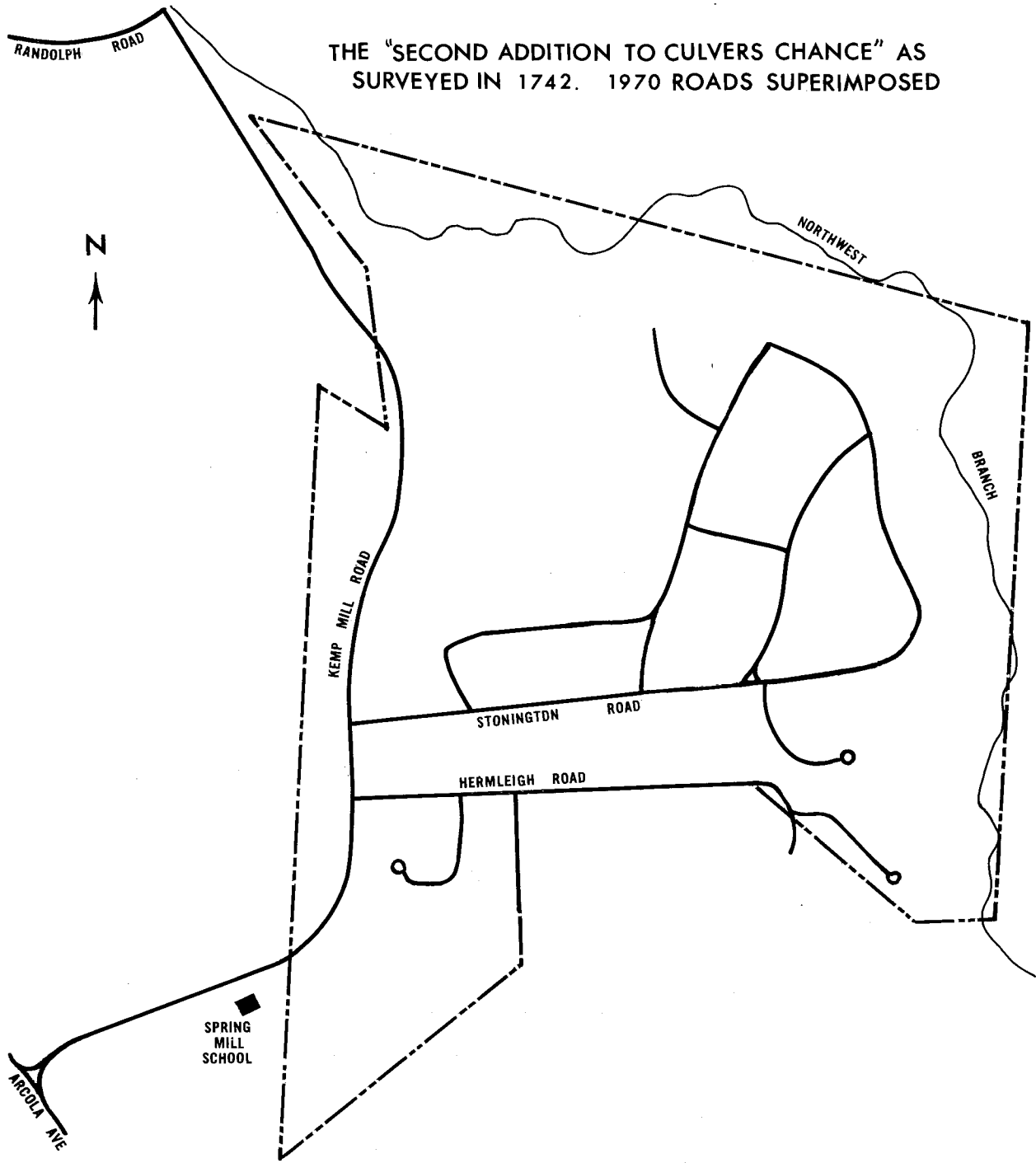
Therefore Certifie as Deputy Surveyor of Prince Geo. County under
his Ex^{ty} Tho: Bladen Esq: Governr of Maryland have Carefully
laid out for & in the name of him, the Said Culver all that tract of
land lying in Prince Geo. County Called the Second Addition to
Culver Chances Beginning at a bounded White oak Standing in
West Side of a branch Called y^e North West that falls in to the Eastern
Branch of Patomack Commonly known by the Name of Woodpecker
Tree and running thence South thirty five Deg: East seventy five
per then South five Deg: East Sixty per then North fifty
Deg: West thirty three per then South five Deg: West two hundred
& Ninety four per then North fifty four Deg: East one hundred
& Eighteen per then North Sixty six per then East ninety per then
South forty five Deg: East Eighty per then East thirty two per then
North five Deg: East two hundred & twenty seven per then North twenty
four Deg: West two hundred & twelve per then by a Straight line to the
Beginning tree Containing & now laid out for four hundred acres
of Land to be hold of Cal: E: Vorton Manner Survey this
9: Day of Feb: 1742



By a Scale of 100 square parts in an Inch

Figure 1
1742 Survey Certificate of the "Second Addition to Culvers Chance"
(Hall of Records of Maryland)

THE "SECOND ADDITION TO CULVERS CHANCE" AS SURVEYED IN 1742. 1970 ROADS SUPERIMPOSED



LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE
- ROADS — 1970

FIGURE 2

rate of an English pound being worth \$4.76, Simmes paid Culver less than \$250 for the right to rent four hundred acres at \$4.00 per year. These figures would indicate that the land was worth less than seventy cents an acre in 1762.

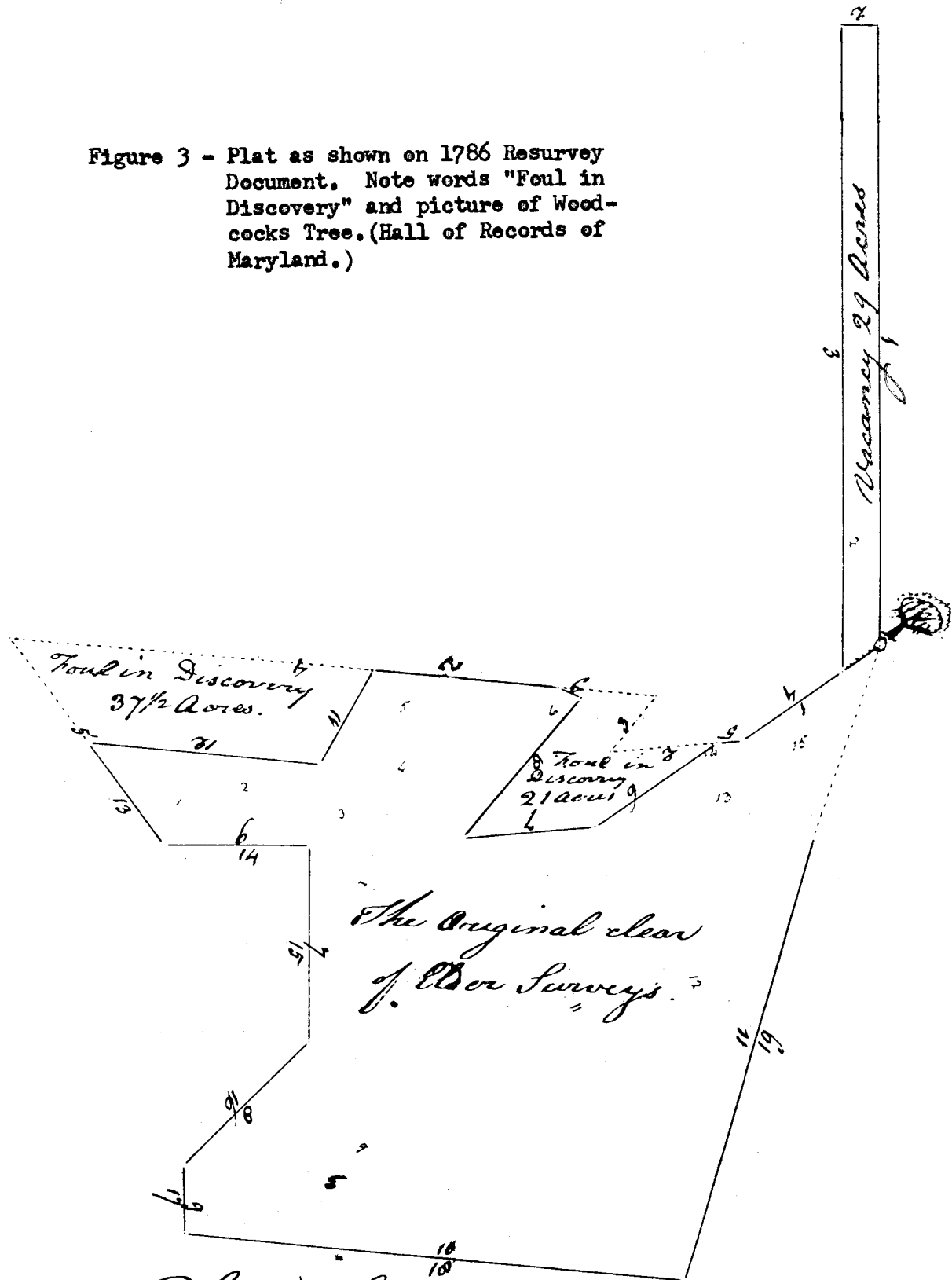
A memorandum attached to the 1762 deed between Culver and Simmes says in part "Mary the wife of said Henry Culver being privately conveyed out of the hearing of her said Husband Released her right of Dower in the same [Second Addition to Culver's Chance] and declared that she did the same Voluntarily and Freely without being compelled thereto by any threats of her said Husband or fear of his Displeasure"!!!

Montgomery County came into being in 1776 at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. A description of the County written for its Centennial Celebration reads as follows: "From Georgetown to Frederick there was not in the year 1776 a village or hamlet that had a name. Public highways were unknown. Rolling roads made by tobacco hogsheads rolled to Inspection Warehouses, and bridle paths used by pack horses, were the chief means of communication. A county without roads, without villages, mills or markets must have been a comparative wilderness, and such was the condition of the greater part of this county in 1776."

Following the American Revolution ownership of this wilderness land came into the hands of the former rent payers. The first mention of the Second Addition to Culver's Chance after the Revolution is a 1786 resurvey for Joseph Simmes. The surveyor's certificate tells a frustrating story caused by a surveying mistake in 1742: "I certify as Surveyor for [Montgomery] County that I have carefully resurveyed [The Second Addition to Culver's Chance] and find that it runs into an elder [elder] tract or parcel of land called Discovery in two places, and loses in one place twenty-one acres, and in the other part, thirty seven acres and one half acre and contains but 351 acres clear which is forty nine acres less than it was originally granted for." The plat of the property as represented in the resurvey is shown in Figure 3. The land being taken away is clearly labelled by the words "Foul". As "The Discovery" was an elder patent than "The Second Addition to Culver's Chance" seniority prevailed and Joseph Simmes lost land. The long tenacle at the top of the plat is Mr. Simmes vain attempt to recoup some of his losses by claiming twenty-nine acres of "vacant land" that extended to the West.

An interesting item about this resurvey is that it mentions the names of surrounding patents. Figure 4 shows these names along with modern landmarks superimposed on the 1786 plat. At the western end of the long finger is "The Hermitage". The Hermitage is a well known very early patent issued in 1689 for 3866 acres of land. The Hermitage's

Figure 3 - Plat as shown on 1786 Resurvey Document. Note words "Foul in Discovery" and picture of Woodcocks Tree. (Hall of Records of Maryland.)



Platted by a Scale of 80 parts in an Inch.

1786 RESURVEY SHOWING NAMES OF ADJACENT PATENTS
 1970 ROADS SUPERIMPOSED

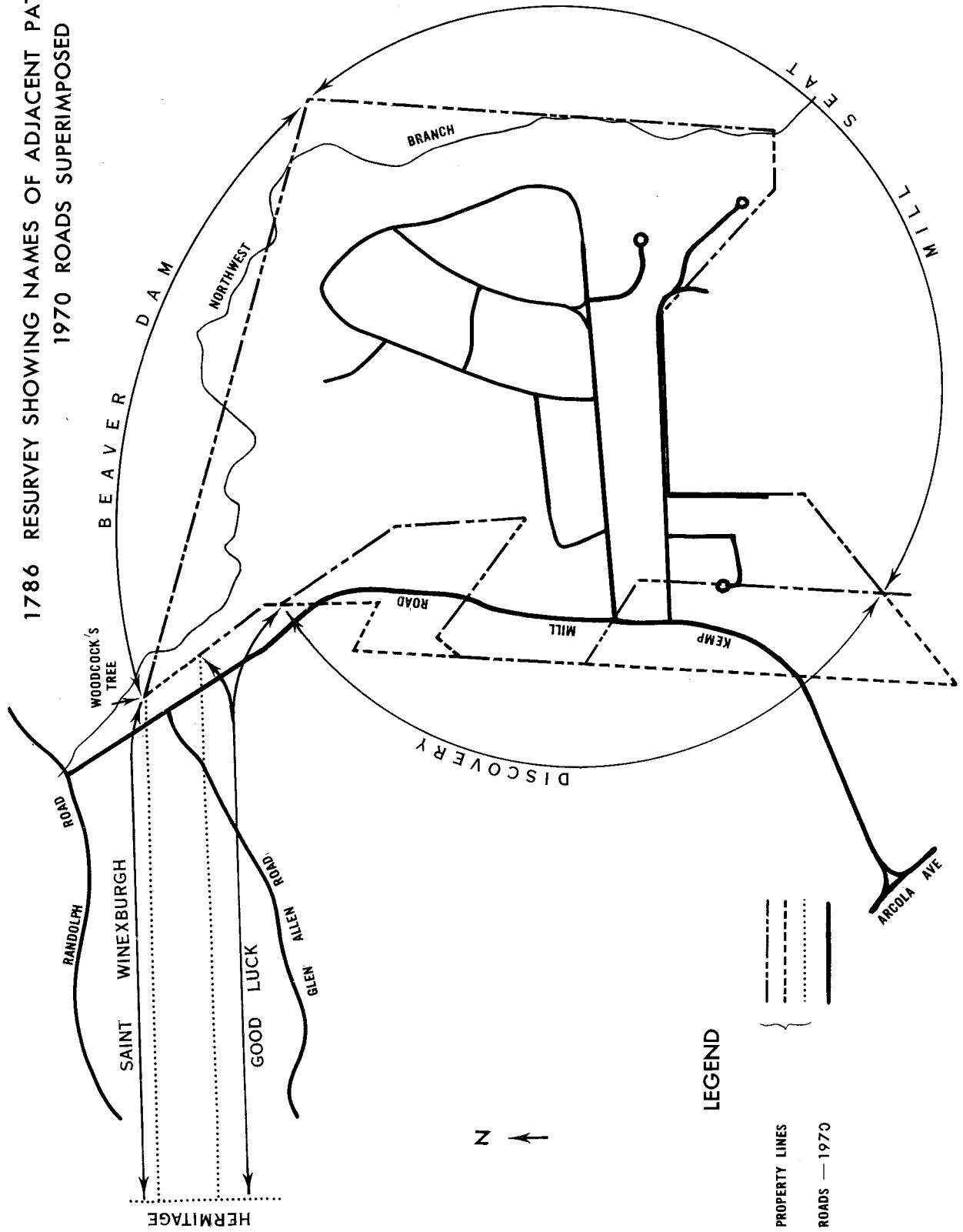


FIGURE 4

eastern boundary was approximately the western boundary of Wheaton Regional Park. The patent included all of Wheaton and Glenmont. St. Winexburg was also surveyed in 1689. The patent (for 500 acres) was issued to John Woodcock, thus accounting for "Woodcock's Tree".

The first census of the United States in 1790 lists Joseph Simmes as head of a household that consisted of four "free white males under sixteen years of age", three "free white females"(ages unspecified), and seven "slaves". Before his death on December 12, 1792, Joseph Simmes had given his son 100 acres comprising the northwest corner of the tract. After his death, his ten children caused all sorts of trouble when it came time to divide the remaining property. Their squabbles take up sixteen pages of court records in Reckville. Finally the court in disgust directed that the land be sold.

On Wednesday, October 15, 1802 in a Washington paper, the National Intelligencer and Washington Advertiser, amidst advertisements of slaves for sale and rewards for return of runaway slaves, appeared the following:

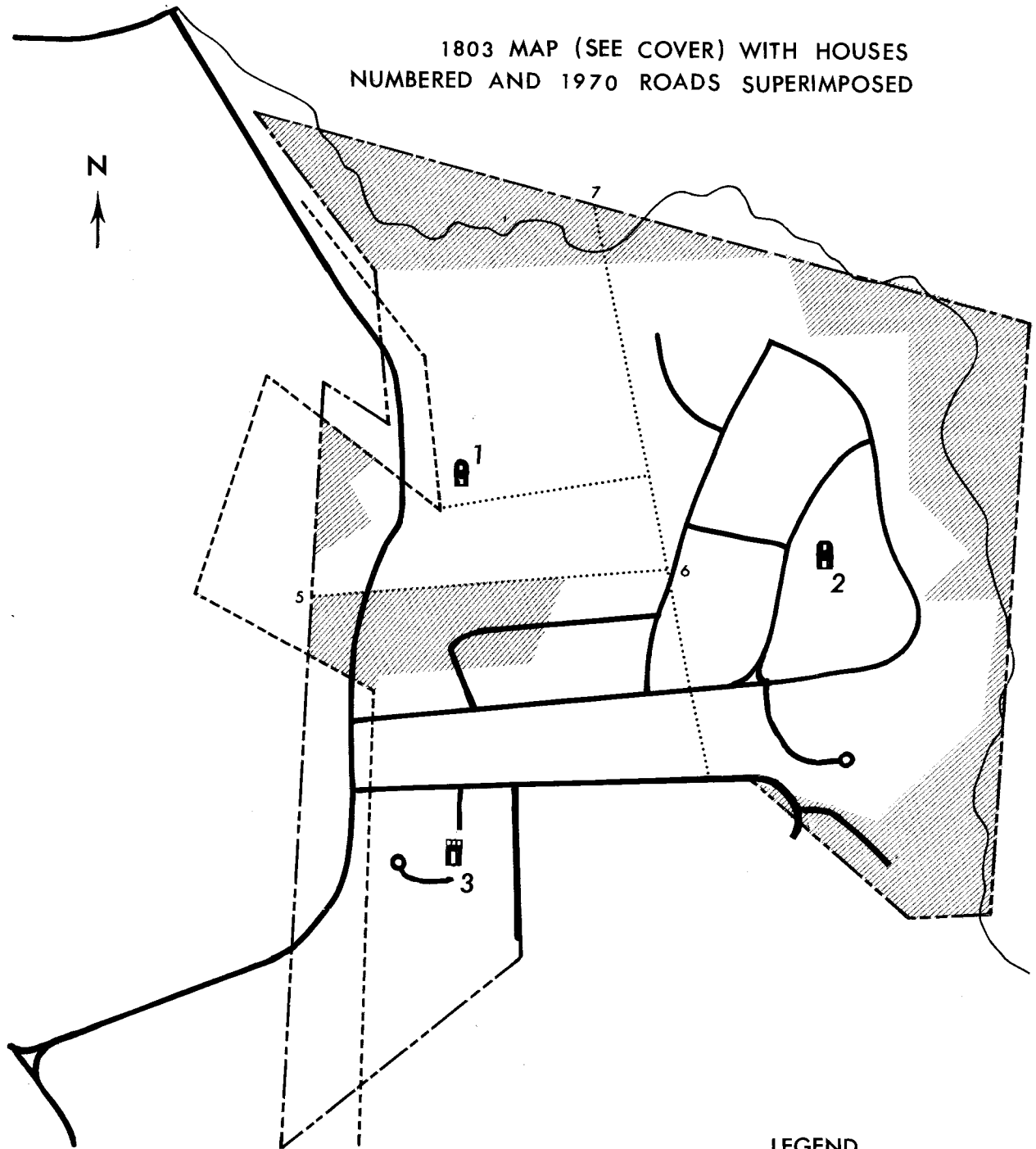
By virtue of an order from Montgomery County Court to us directed we will proceed to sell on Monday the 25th day of October, next, if fair, otherwise the next fair day, on the Premises to the highest bidder on a credit of one, two, three and four years, with interest to be paid annually from the date — All the right, title and Effects of JOSEPH SIMMES, deceased, to a certain tract of land, called the Second Addition to Culvers Chance, containing 300 acres, Lying on a stream of water called the North West, and in Montgomery County, now in possession of his widow, Catherine Simmes.

Daniel Reintzel
Adam King
John Threlkeld

September 27, 1802

At the auction Mr. Nathaniel Wilson agreed to pay \$12 an acre for the land. By this time, however, there were doubts about exactly how many acres the tract contained. The Court therefore decided to hire a surveyer. The result of this survey is the full color map reproduced on the cover of this booklet. This colorful plat appears twice in the

1803 MAP (SEE COVER) WITH HOUSES
NUMBERED AND 1970 ROADS SUPERIMPOSED



LEGEND

- ORIGINAL TRACT -----
- BOUNDARY LINE
"THE DISCOVERY" - - - - -
- BOUNDARY LINE 5-6-7
SPRINGBROOK FOREST
- ROADS - 1970 —————
- WOODED AREAS ▨

FIGURE 5

NATHANIEL WILSON'S PURCHASE OF 1803

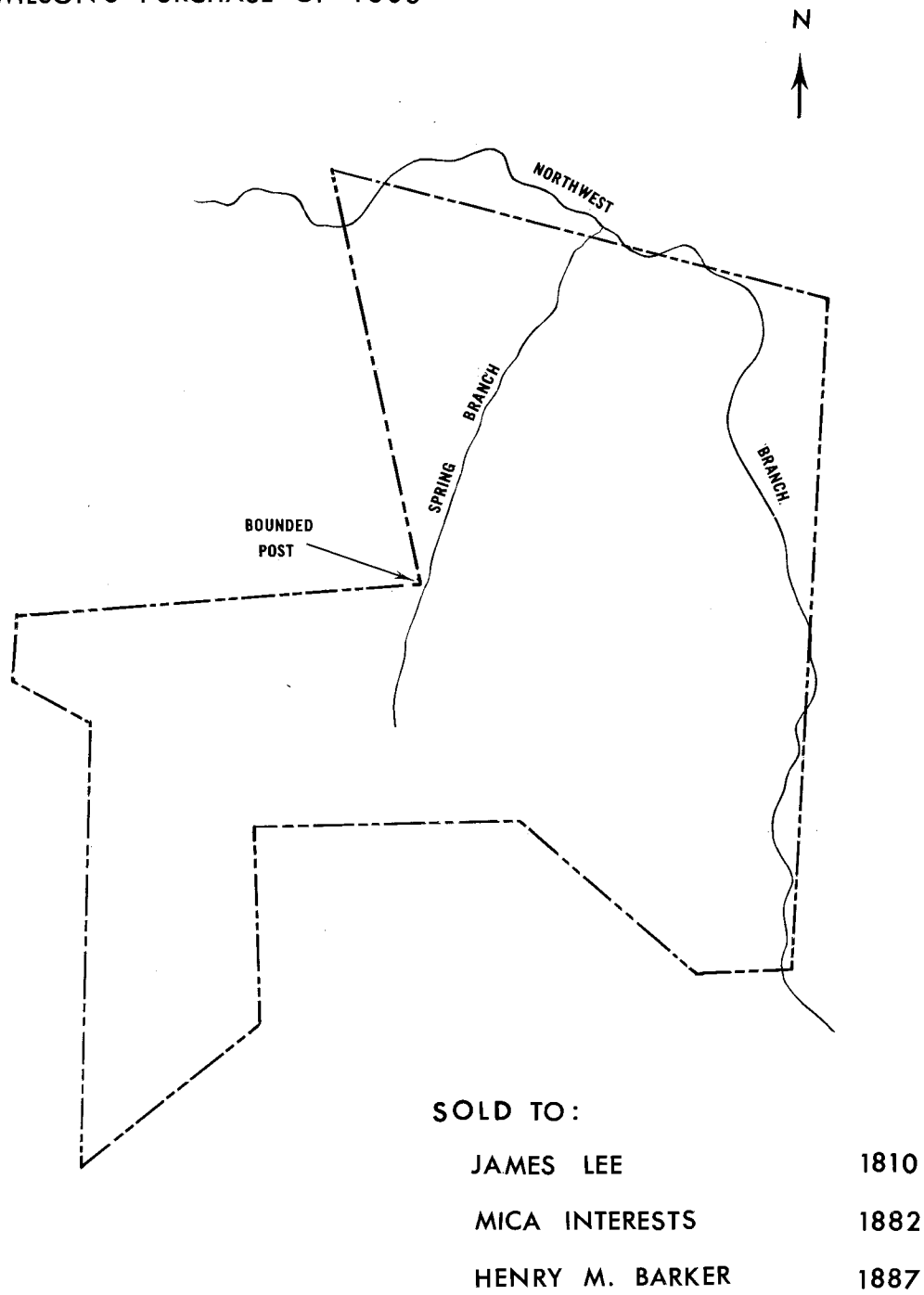


FIGURE 6

Rockville court records. The claimed 1786 "vacant land" is nowhere to be seen. Red outlines the original tract (The Second Addition to Culver's Chance). Blue is the boundary line of "The Discovery" showing it in a slightly different position than the 1786 survey. Green is the "woodland". The orange lines 5-6 and 6-7 are present day Springbrook Forest boundaries. Three houses are shown. Tobacco growing is a good guess for the use of the cleared land.

Figure 5 shows the cover map with 1970 roads superimposed. House No. 1 is where the Naham's present house is located. House No. 2 is in Springbrook Forest on the lower part of Stonington Road. This general location for a house will also be noted on later maps. House No. 3 is close to the old Curran house in Waterford Downs, presently the Fisher-Saginer office.

Nathaniel Wilson's purchase of about 280 acres is shown in Figure 6. Here land claimed by "The Discovery" has been removed, as well as the previously mentioned northwest corner of the tract.

In 1810 Mr. Wilson's land was bought by James Lee. Mr. Lee was only 19 years old when he came into possession of what was to become known as "Lee's Farm". His land was described as starting "at a bounded post standing on the side of a hill and on the West side of the Spring Branch." The position described is west of Brookhaven Drive at the point where the present properties of the Nelsons and Travers meet. The "Spring Branch" evidently flowed along Brookhaven and on into the Northwest Branch. James Lee paid \$3360 for the 280 acres - the \$12.00 an acre price.

The population of Montgomery County in 1810 was 17,980. In 1840 it had decreased to 15,496. "Continual planting of tobacco had worn out the soil. Farmlands held no promise and younger people moved elsewhere. By 1840 the traveler from one farm to the next found the same broken fences, homes in need of repair, everywhere a general atmosphere of disillusion and abandonment. Montgomery County had come to be called the 'Sahara of Maryland'." *

In 1844 the Quakers of Sandy Spring introduced Peruvian guano into the county. This fertilizer had "the properties of Aladdin's lamp" according to the Montgomery County chronologer of 1876. "Where thirty years ago nothing but a crop of brown-sedge grew, now the yellow wheat waves a plentiful harvest, and where poverty grass scarce covered the earth, the green corn field promises crowning plenty."

*See "Notes and Comments"

As better times were coming in 1856, James Lee died. He was buried in a family graveyard located (according to Mr. William T. Gray) half on property owned by Mr. Julius and half on the Misko property. James Lee's tombstone is shown in Figure 7. This stone was found by Mr. Hembree in back of his home on Grays Lane. He generously donated it to Springbrook Forest.



at

Figure 7

James Lee's Tombstone
Born 29 Dec 1790
Died 19 Feb 1856

A portion of Martinet's Map of Montgomery County published in 1865 is shown in Figure 8. Note the "Grist and Saw Mill" on the map next to "Mrs. S. Kemp" at the present Randolph Road and the Northwest Branch. Like the 1803 map, three houses (indicated by arrows) are shown within the bounds of the Second Addition to Culvers Chance. One appears to be occupied by a Captain Stewart; the one within Springbrook Forest by someone named Carrington, while the third house shows just above the "A" of "A. Moran". Mr. William Gray's grandmother was a Moran and he has told of two Moran homestead locations, both of which are shown on the map. The one to the right of "A. Moran" is located where the Kemp Mill Recreation Center has now been built. The one above the "A" is between Mr. Yateman's and Mr. Auth's houses behind Spring Mill school. A photograph of this latter building known as "The Homestead" taken about 1930 is shown in Figure 9. Mr. Gray's parents are standing in front.



Figure 8 - Portion of Martinet's Map of Montgomery County (1865). Three houses on Second Addition to Culvers Chance located by arrows.



Figure 9 "The Homestead"

Figure 10 is an 1878 map of the same area. Here Mr. Moran's "Homestead" near Spring Mill Scheel alone is shown. Kemp Mill Road, unnamed, appears for the first time on a map. It has all its present curves and turns. The Northwest Grist and Saw Mill is shown as two buildings both east of the Northwest Branch, one north and the other south of what is shown as old Annapolis Road. Mitchells Cross Roads is at the present intersection of University Boulevard and Georgia Avenue.

By 1880 the green corn fields were promising crowning plenty to Montgomery County. On Lee's farm, however, there was a different premise. Mica had been found. Mica, a transparent material that does not burn or melt, was then used extensively for stove windows, for chimneys and shades on open flame lights, for furnace peephole covers, and even for lubrication and decoration.

The "Lee Farm" became the "Mica Mine Farm" in 1882 when the land was sold to Charles D. Gilmore and John H. Rice. In 1884 the Maryland Mica Mining Company was "substituted as purchaser". The 1883-1884 U.S. Geological Survey Annual Report states: "There has quite recently been a good deal of activity among mica miners in Maryland, especially in Howard and Montgomery Counties. One group of mines is located a few miles West of Laurel; and another mine, the Gilmore, is near Colesville, and only twelve miles north of Washington, District of Columbia. At the Gilmore mine there is a vertical shaft about 50 feet deep, and two

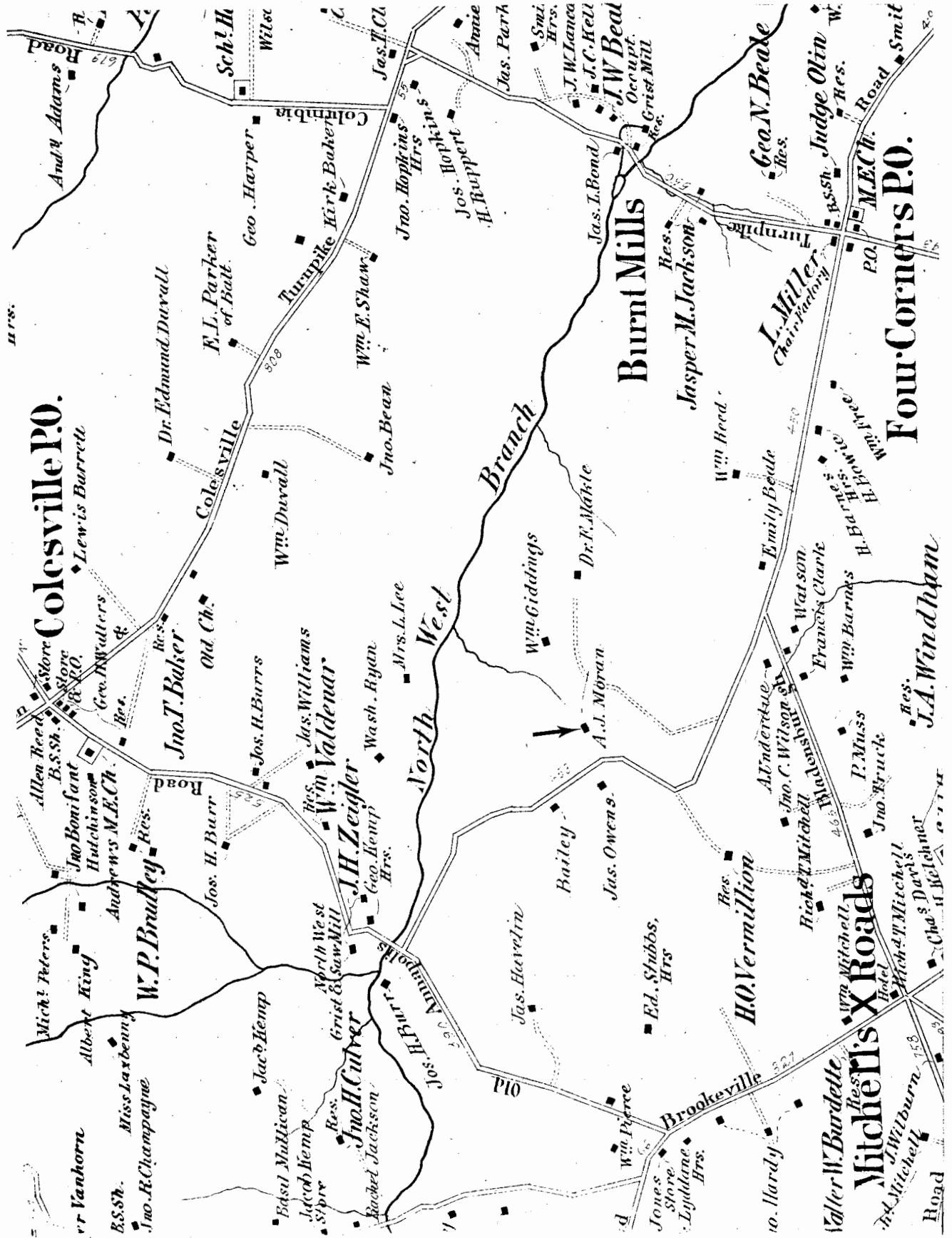


Figure 10 - 1878 Map - First Map to show Kemp Mill Road. Arrow points to Moran's "Hemestead".

horizontal tunnels; and a considerable quantity of good mica has been taken out. At present however, but little work is being done in this field". (Springbrook Forest is eleven and three-quarter miles north of the Capitol Building.)

A 1923 Geological Survey Bulletin states: "A mine was worked from 1882 to 1884 on the southwest side of the Northwest Branch, 4 miles N 55° E of Kensington. It was then known as the Gilmore Mine. The mine was worked by an open cut 60 feet long, 15 to 25 feet wide, and 10 to 15 feet deep, driven S 35° W into a hillside, with a shaft and some underground work in the northeast end of the cut." The location referred to is Springbrook Forest.

Figure 11 has been made from a topographic map prepared for George Moss, the developer of Springbrook Forest. An open cut of the proper dimensions and directions is clearly shown. At its northeast end is a ten foot hole, the remains of a shaft. Mr. Walter Seek reports that broken timbers could be seen at the bottom of the hole. The location of the shaft is shown to be about twenty feet east of the intersection of Stonington and Remington, just about on Mr. Allen's property line. Dirt from the cut made for Stonington Road was pulled down the hill into the shaft area, completely obliterating the mine landmarks. The "open cut" has been completely filled up leaving the shaft under many feet of fill.

Mr. Gray remembers from his childhood a tunnel (rather than a shaft) from which mica was removed. This tunnel was big enough to accommodate a four horse team. It was located in back of the present property of the Leonberger's and the Sandor's. This may be one of the horizontal tunnels mentioned in the 1884 report. Mr. Gray states that the mouth of the tunnel was filled in by Mr. Moss' men in 1945.

Traces of old wagon ruts, deserted roads and "mica ditches" can be found throughout Springbrook Forest. Combining this information with our other sources, Figure 12 has been drawn showing how Springbrook Forest may have looked as mica producing land. The "mica ditches" are believed to be the locations of open pit mining operations. The very large ditch along upper Brookhaven Drive is perhaps the best example of such an open pit. This ditch is over 10 feet deep and over 40 feet wide near Rockford Road. Along its west side are the remains of a road, and areas can be found where wagons could be driven into the ditch to be loaded. Maps of George Moss show Auth Lane to be a filled-in mica ditch. A house known as the "Mica Mine House" stood on what is now Mr. Blalock's property. This house was for the use of men working at the mine. A stable for the many horses needed was located on what is now Mr. Zindel's property, and a trimming house was located "one-fourth mile NE of the mine on a ridge". The principal road, known as the "Mica Mine Road" ran through the present back yards of houses along the south side of Stonington Road then, at the present Triangle, moved northward along Stonington Road. Ditch locations and road segments shown in Figure 12 are the product of surveys made by Eugene Beach, Jr. and George Misko, Jr.

GEORGE MOSS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP - 1945 - SHOWING THE MICA MINE SHAFT LOCATION

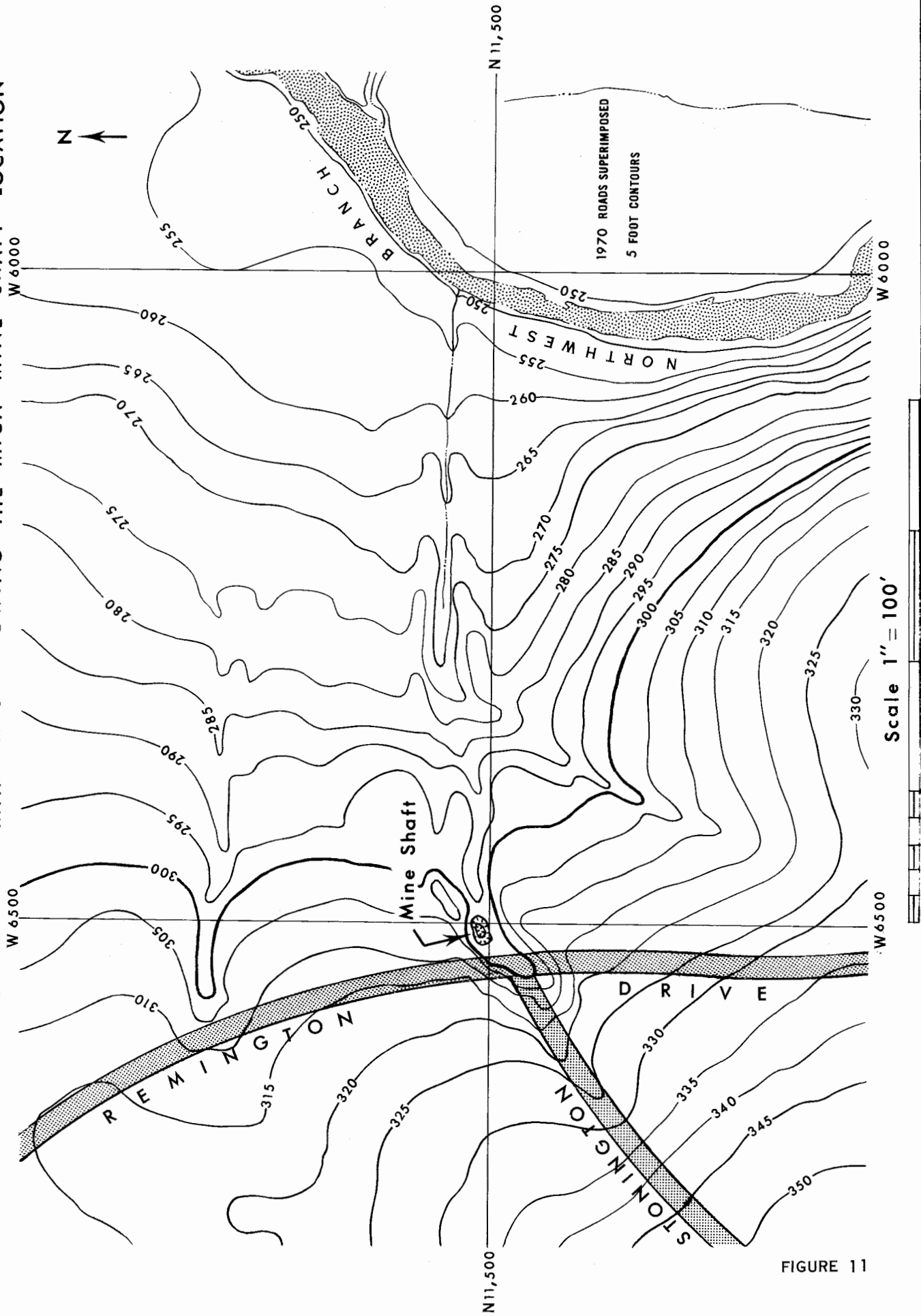
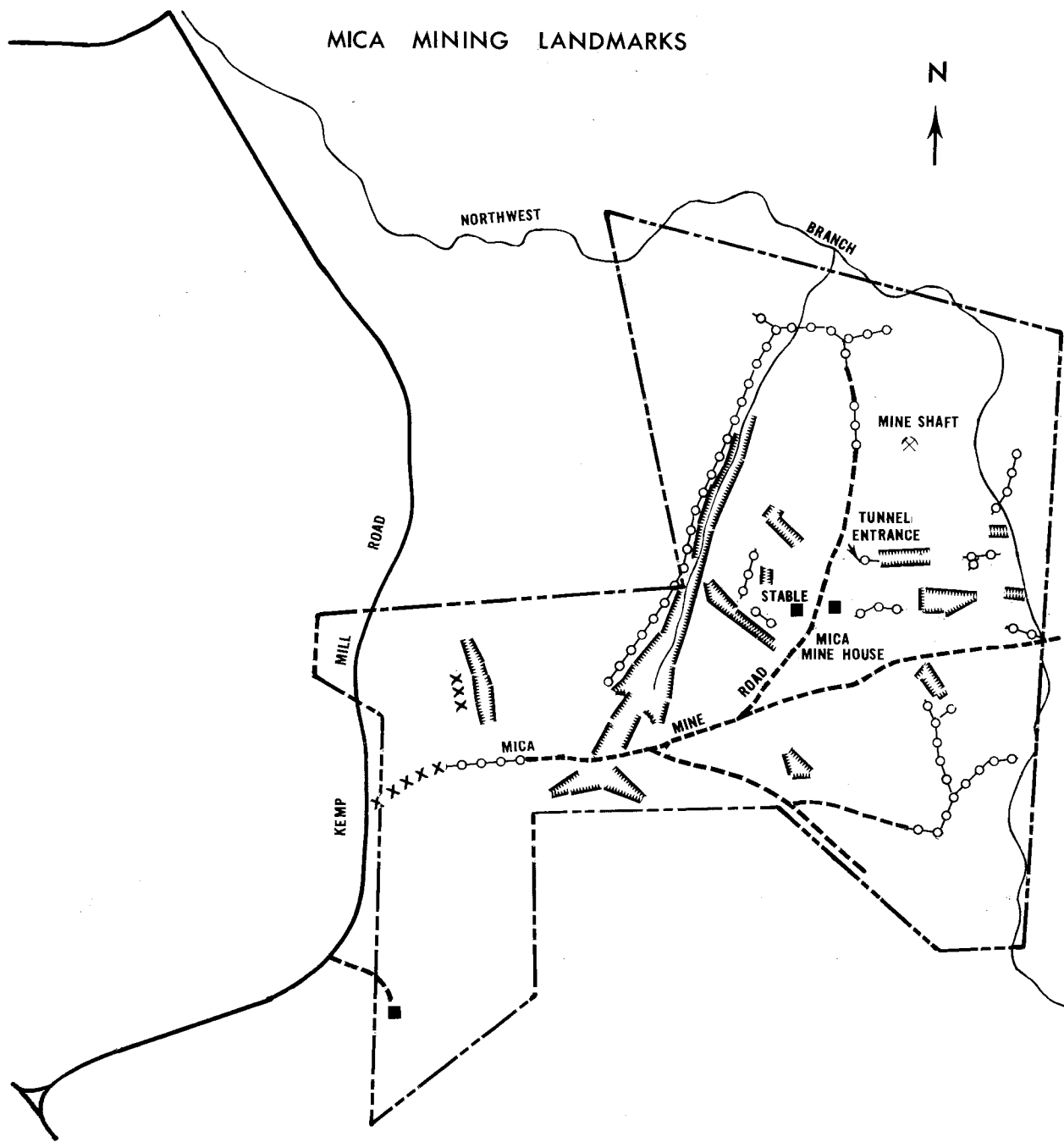


FIGURE 11

MICA MINING LANDMARKS



LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE -----
- ROADS ON 1906 AND 1915 MAPS -----
- ROAD SEGMENTS VISIBLE IN 1969 -o-o-o-o-o-
- ROAD SEGMENTS VISIBLE ON 1937 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH x x x x x x
- MICA DITCHES ~~~~~

FIGURE 12

In 1887 the "Mica Mine Farm" was sold to Henry M. Baker - Gilmore, Rice and their Maryland Mica Mining Company having "failed to comply with the terms of sale" of 1884. Henry Baker over the years sold parts of his tract as shown in Figure 13. Ten acres at the southern tip of the property were sold to Andrew J. Moran some time before 1896. This brought the Moran "Homestead" under the ownership of Mr. Moran. In 1896 twenty-two adjoining acres (now comprising Waterford Downs) were also sold to Mr. Moran. In 1901 the present Mr. Gray's father purchased 55 acres of land north of Mr. Moran's property. This tract contains the lots on both sides of Hermligh Road between Kemp Mill Road and Auth Lane, all lots directly north of Hermligh Road, all of Crestview, and all of Mansions in the Woods. Mr. Baker kept the northern portion of the property consisting of 209 acres. Springbrook Forest is contained in this tract.

At the turn of the century the Forest was full of chestnut trees and the Bean and Gray families picked and sold chestnuts. In the early 1900's a chestnut tree blight hit the area and by 1920 most of the chestnut trees had died. The land was alive with game. Fox, raccoon and wild turkey hunting were popular. At the Northwest Branch fish could be killed under the winter ice and a boy could come home with a burlap bag bulging with fish. Maps of 1909 show a house on the Clark's present property.

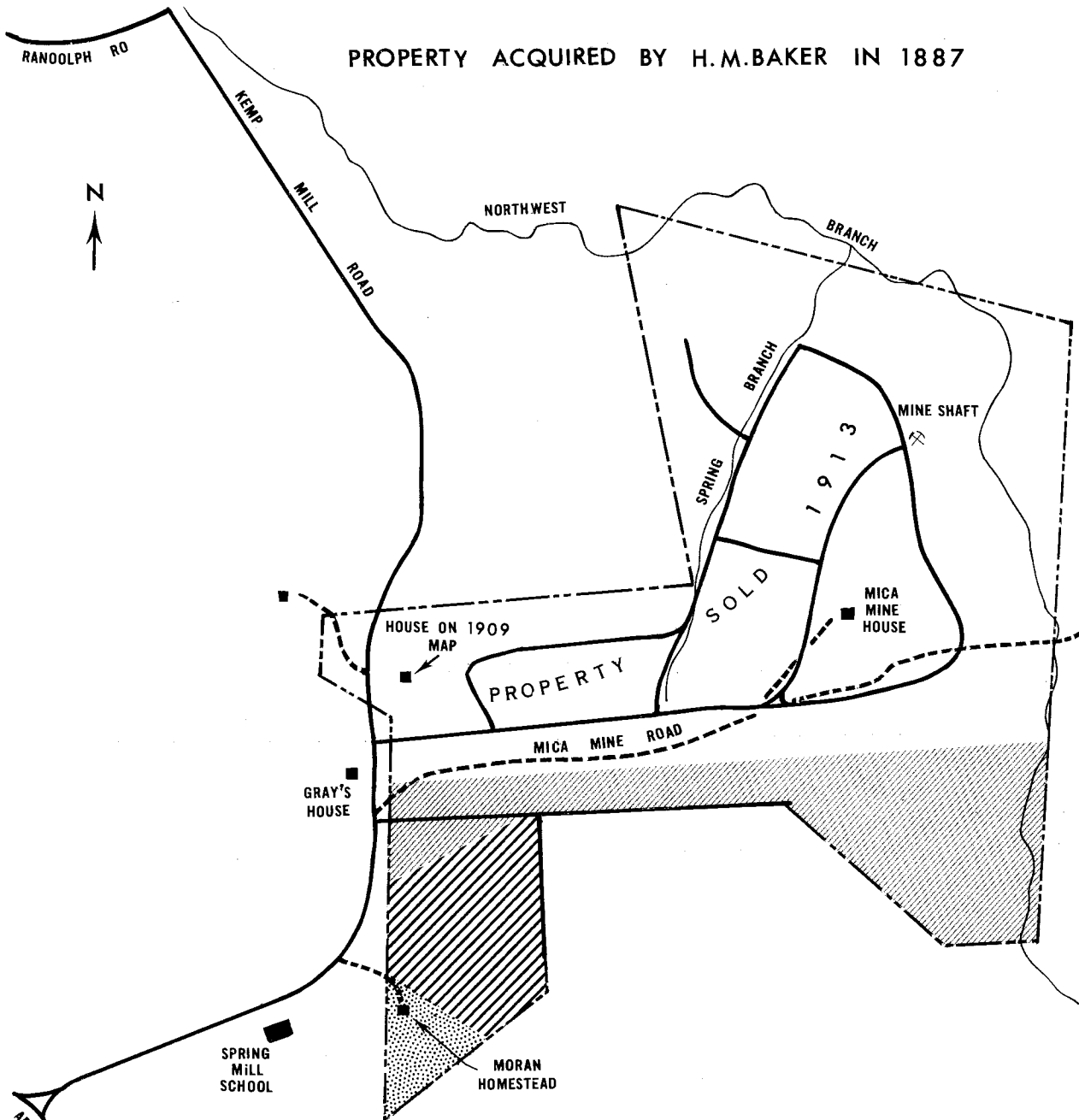
In 1913 the 209 acres of Henry Baker were sold to Charles D. Smith and Joseph H. Bradley. Smith and Bradley were partners who owned the Columbia Sand and Gravel Company.

The mica mine was evidently worked in a small way up to the time of World War I, when mica was badly needed for radios and other electrical equipment. Mr. Gray can remember the mica mine, the mica house and the stable from before 1920. He tells of seeing teams hauling mica from the tunnel. A caretaker family named Alwalt who lived in the mica mine house is especially remembered. Sometime before 1920 the mica mine house burned down.

The previously mentioned 1923 Geological Survey Bulletin states "The Gilmore Mine is now owned by B. H. Warner, Jr. of Washington, D.C." The reference to Mr. Warner, the son of B. H. Warner who founded Kensington, is puzzling as land records give no indication of B. H. Warner, Jr. ever owning land that became Springbrook Forest. A 1940 plat does, however, show the name "B. H. Warner" on Springbrook Forest land. Evidently Mr. Warner either had an option or a lease on the land from sometime after 1900. The 1923 Bulletin further states that "the shaft has caved badly".

Various names that seem to apply to the mica mine after 1884 are "B. H. Warner Mine", "Kensington Mica Mine", "Gremoses Mica Mine" and "Gilbert Mica Mine", the last presumably a near miss for "Gilmore".

PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY H.M.BAKER IN 1887



LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE -----
- ROADS — 1970 —————
- ROADS ON 1906 MAP - - - - -
- PROPERTY SOLD — 1901 ▨▨▨▨▨
- PROPERTY SOLD — 1896 ▩▩▩▩▩
- PROPERTY SOLD BEFORE — 1896 ▫▫▫▫▫

FIGURE 13

One of the trips of a group called the "Wanderbirds Hiking Club" was a hike to the "old mica mines". A 1936 map of theirs (Figure 14) shows both the mica mine and the graveyard, the only map we have explicitly showing these locations. The name "Gilbert" is used instead of the correct "Gilmore".

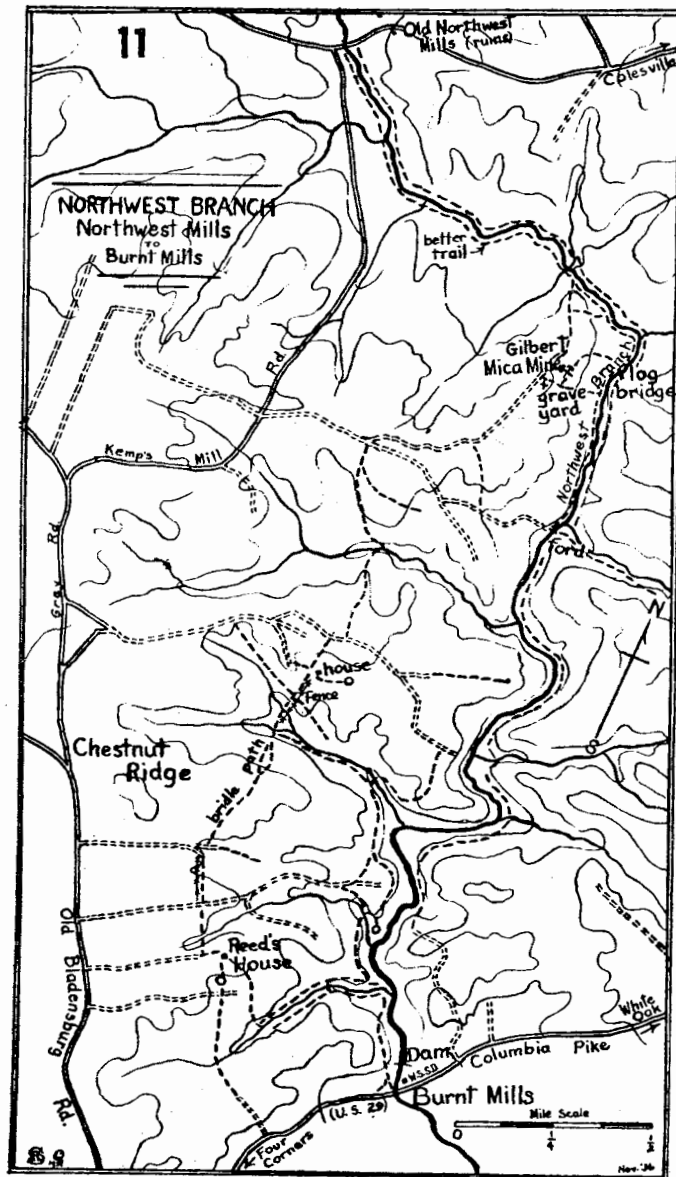


Figure 14
Wanderbirds Hiking Club Map

On May 11, 1934 the Washington Post told about an upcoming trip of the Wanderbirds: "The old mica mines near the Northwest Branch will be the goal of Sunday's trip. Leaving the highway a short distance below Four Corners, the club will follow a dirt road through the woods for a quarter of a mile and enter a trail just beyond the old Reed house. After crossing a field, the hikers will reach an excellent spring where canteens can be filled. About this spring may be found some interesting salamanders. The trail now leads through a rich forest of oaks and tulip poplar, in which several species of orchids and members of the lily of the valley family are liable to be found. Descending to the Branch, the group will reach the old mica mines. These old diggings furnished mica to local industries years ago. In searching through the debris, one can usually find a sizable slab of mica for his mineral collection. The Club turns back at the mines, following the east bank of the Branch for nearly 2 miles."

In March 1935 the Wanderbirds went to the mines again, this time talking about "beryl, garnet and mica mines", and ending up at the "old Kensington mica workings".

Figure 15 is a portion of a real estate map published in 1937. Joseph H. Bradley has 209 acres of land identified as "Mica Mine". Access from it is Grays Lane, called Grays Avenue on the map. Mr. Gray's land was known as "Gray's Farm", and its main crop was strawberries.

Kemp Mill Road is incorrectly placed on the real estate map. This can be confirmed by inspection of Figure 16. This view of what was to become Springbrook Forest was taken on April 30, 1937 at 4:00 in the afternoon. It is the earliest known aerial photograph of this area. Springbrook Forest land is located below and to the right of the white area (a field) located on what is now Mr. Naham's property. Kemp Mill Road can be seen at the left and Randolph Road at the top of the photograph. Grays Lane is the straight line going west from Kemp Mill Road. The beginning of the Mica Mine Road can clearly be seen to the east of Grays Lane, and its wandering into the Forest can just be made out. The mica ditches along Breckhaven and elsewhere show as bright areas among the darker trees.

In 1941 Hermligh Road was put in by Mr. Walter Seek driving a commandeered Highway Department grader. The house now occupied by Mr. Mersten was the first house built on Hermligh Road.

In 1945 both Charles Smith and Joseph Bradley had died, and the land was being held by the widow of Mr. Bradley and heirs of Mr. Smith. An offer to buy the land came from George Mess, a builder who was developing "Springbrook" just across the Northwest Branch. On August 6, 1945, Mr. Mess's company, Springbrook Forest Incorporated, bought the "Mica Mine Farm". He remembers paying \$35,000 for the whole tract, around \$175 an acre. Mr. Mess described the land as "impenetrable". Almost immediately land for the Northwest Branch Park was sold to the Park and Planning Commission at \$600 an acre.



Figure 16
1937 Aerial Photograph - Kemp Mill Road runs through center of picture. Randolph Road is at top. Springbrook Forest area is below and to the right of white field in center of picture.

SPRINGBROOK FOREST LAND PRICES PER ACRE

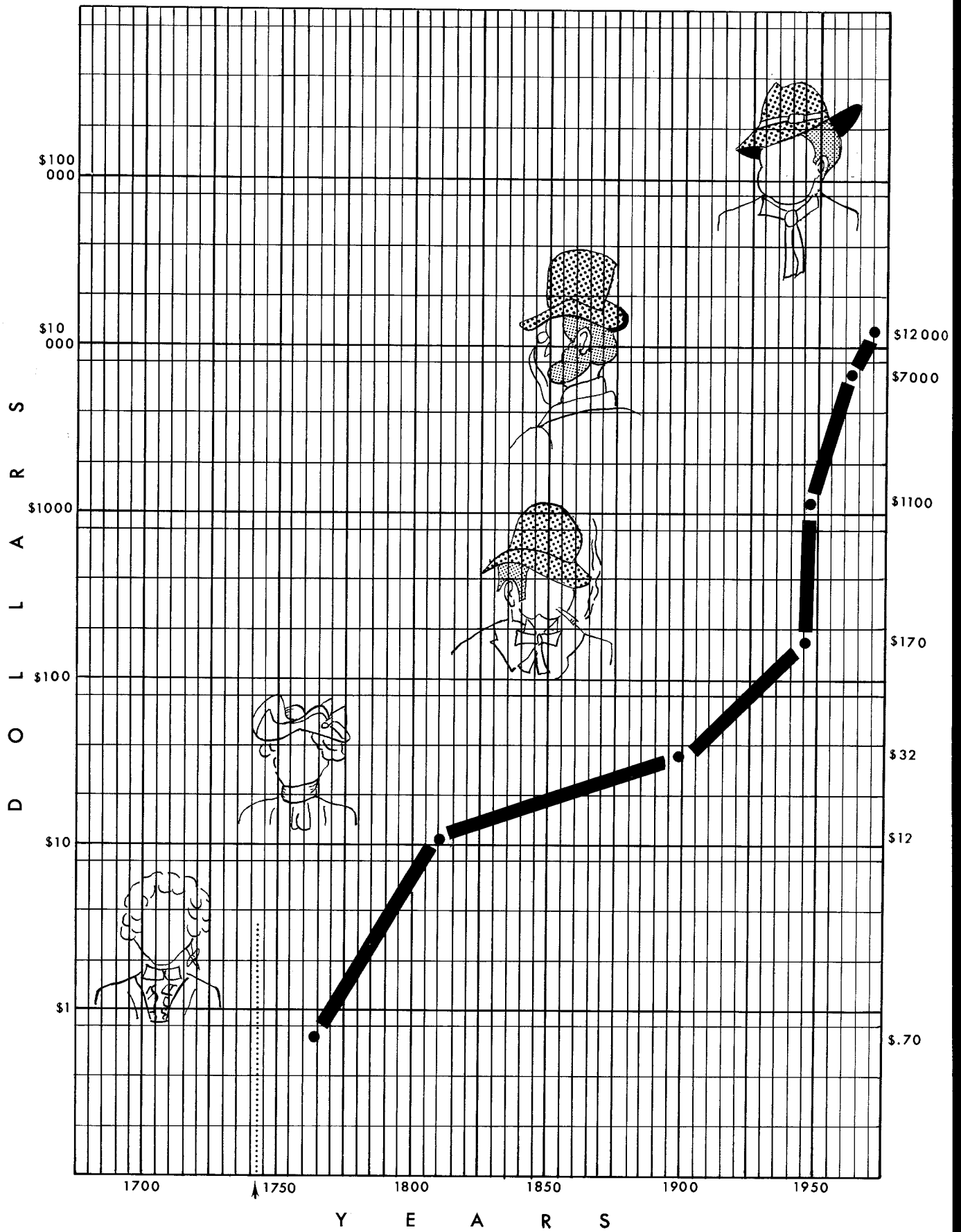


FIGURE 17

Initial sales of lots were for about \$1000 an acre. The physical development of the area after 1945 is shown by the 1948 aerial photograph on Page 23, and the 1968 photo at the front of the booklet. The 1937 white field can be used as a reference landmark in all pictures.

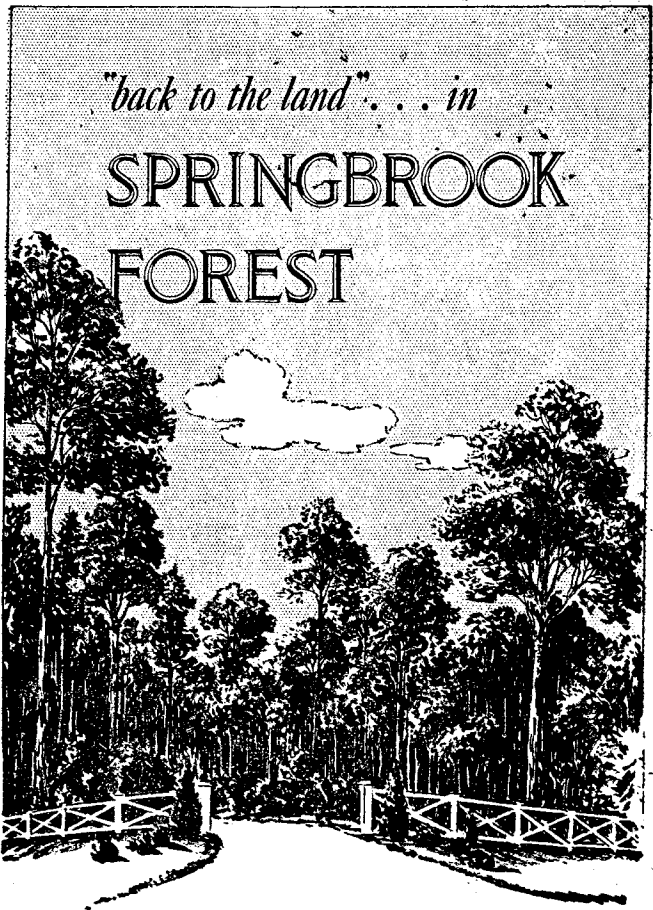
Figure 17 is a plot of land prices for the Second Addition to Culver's Chance from 1762 to 1970. It shows the climb from 70 cents an acre to the present price of around \$12,000 an acre. Note that the graph is not the usual linear graph, but instead has a logarithmic scale.

The Second Addition to Culver's Chance has had a long and honorable history beginning at the time of the British Governors, continuing through the American Revolution, onward to contributing mica to a developing America, and emerging in its present status as a forest oasis in sight of high rise structures. It has indeed played a full role in the drama of America.

CHAPTER II TREES AND PEOPLE

The Early Years of Springbrook Forest Community

"back to the land" . . . in
**SPRINGBROOK
FOREST**



Homesites of 1, 2, 3 or More Acres
Be prepared to build this
Spring or Summer
SELECT YOUR SITE NOW

This sketch in a 1945 sales brochure had special appeal for families hungering, planning to create homes somewhere "out in the country." And seeing was believing! Clearly SPRINGBROOK FOREST offered physical features and kinds of challenge and adventure not provided by most sections in our Suburbia during the 1945-54 period.

This chapter has been written by Ellis Clough.

The early years of our neighborhood make an exciting story of "Trees and People" - of resolute families carving homes and a community out of a friendly wilderness. The rolling terrain was almost completely covered with a tangled forest - see Figure 16. There were no dwellings within the tract. It was accessible only on the west by rough, winding 2-lane Kemp Mill Road black-topped from Arcola Avenue to just past the entrance but only an unimproved country lane from there on to Glenmont-Colesville Road, now Randolph Road. Although 41 building plots were purchased during the first year of sales, June 1945-May 1946, there were no roads or streets within the Forest until late 1946 except that Stonington had been bulldozed out and roughly graded a few hundred feet toward Auth Lane; remnants of the old mica mining and logging roads were not usable; prospective buyers and actual purchasers parked their cars near the entrance and proceeded on foot through the timber to search out and inspect the plots or begin clearing operations.

Unpolluted Northwest Branch made the northeastern-eastern boundary with the developing SPRINGBROOK estates on its other side. To the south, west across Kemp Mill, and north were horse farms, a saw mill, some Angus cattle, a few homes and acreages on Gray's Lane and Hermleigh Road, and more deep woods. Deer, fox, wild turkey, raccoon and smaller wild life ranged freely. There were no water, gas or sewer mains anywhere near; new residents would rely on individual drilled wells and septic tanks. The first power line entered the tract in 1947 but telephone service was not generally available until late 1949; because there were few patrons, phone bills would include a special "mileage charge" for many years. Mail was delivered to family boxes "all in a row" at the entrance until home service was initiated during 1949. The nearest post office was 8 miles away in Silver Spring. Wheaton, Glenmont, Colesville and Four Corners were crossroads hamlets. For several years the closest schools would be Glenmont Elementary, Montgomery Hills Junior High and Blair Senior High.

Developer George Moss' aim in the SPRINGBROOK FOREST enterprise was to sell 1 to 2 acre building tracts to families who would sometime build their own homes as contrasted with the speculative offering of many completed houses on smaller lots. He and associates had developed and sold most of WOODMOOR near Four Corners - a group of modest homes on approximately 1/4 acre plots and were currently promoting the 3 to 8 acre "estates" in SPRINGBROOK. Moss planned SPRINGBROOK FOREST as an intermediate between these two, blending some features of each. Here are excerpts from the brochure: "Ever had a longing for the country life - - yearned for the tranquility of a peaceful home apart - - your own piece of this earth - -? - - The beautiful wooded acres - - offer the perfect setting - a spot where (you and) the neighbors with kindred interests might build modest estates in the rustic background." Quotes from a classified advertisement: "Beautiful one-acre building knoll - - only 25 minutes drive from downtown - - an appealing rustic 200 acre development - -. Wooded - - knolls - - average less than 4¢ per sq. ft. - -; acquire an acre or more for less than the cost of an ordinary lot - -."

There were written restrictions as to the type, exterior design and minimum cost of the house and its placement on the lot. Owners must refrain from dividing the tract into building plots of less than one-half acre or using the house and tract for purposes other than residence. Written approval of building and site development plans had to be secured from the developer's "Committee" before major construction could begin. One primary

FIRST 50 LOTS PURCHASED IN
 SPRINGBROOK FOREST

LEGEND

- 17 DURING JUNE -- DECEMBER 1945
- 33 DURING JANUARY -- JUNE 1946
- BLOCK IDENTIFICATION
- LOT IDENTIFICATION

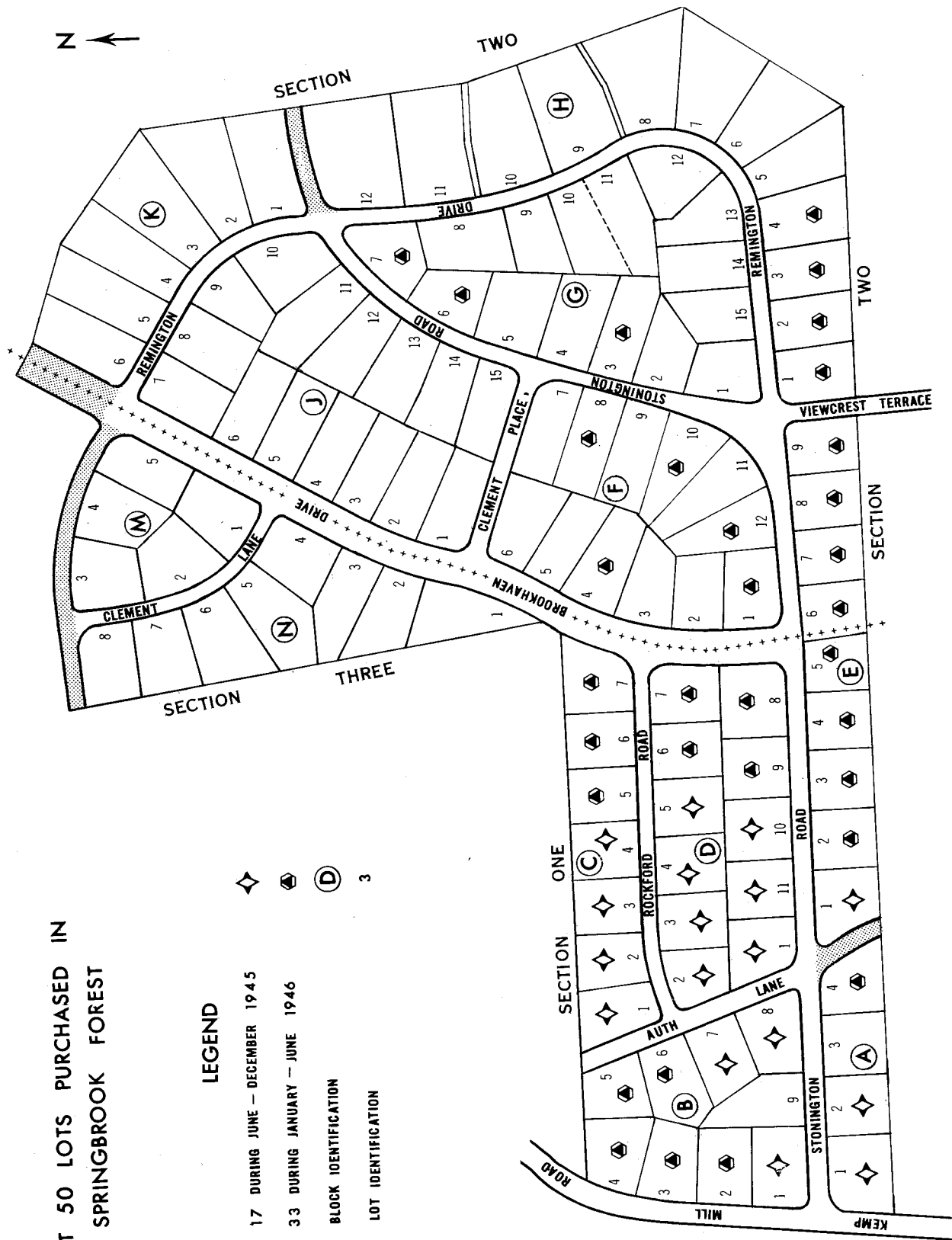


FIGURE 18

motive for organizing the Springbrook Forest Citizens Association in 1952 was to extend and assure adherence to these covenants; potential and a few actual deviations from the requirements gave early Forest residents and absentee tract owners much concern.

The Moss Plan, roughly illustrated in Figure 18, was approved by MNCPPC and WSSC Section by Section during September 1945-January 1947. WSSC's approval read "Suitable for Water and Sewer Design without Commitment as to Installation." The location and direction of streets enabled plots of fairly uniform size and fitted well into the terrain as we now know it to be. Part of Stonington follows the old mica mine road, Brookhaven parallels the large mica ditch and Auth Lane resulted from the filling in of another mine trench. Although the original Plan shows a feasible continuation of either Stonington or Brookhaven across Remington toward Northwest Branch, the proposal was not carried through because of early strong opposition by most property owners on both sides of the Branch; each group insisted that its area should remain a cul-de-sac.

The total Forest area of approximately 200 acres was divided into 113 lots. The tracts ranged in size from slightly less than 1 acre - 24 of these with none under 7/8 acre - to more than 2 acres - 3 of these, the largest being about 2 3/8 acres. The first plot purchased was B-1, now the Griffin property, bought by a person named Brown in June 1945 for \$930. A Mr. Chrisman bought the second lot in August - A-1 directly across Stonington, now the Paddon place. Figure 18 identifies the first 50 lots purchased. Prices for the total 82 lots sold during the 1945-47 period averaged \$1684 and ranged from the initial \$930 purchase mentioned to \$4200 for a plot bought in July 1947.

Average Lot Prices by Time Period*

<u>Period</u>	<u>Lots Sold</u>	<u>Average Sale Price</u>
June-Dec. 1945	17	\$1130
Jan.-June 1946	33	1577
July-Dec. 1946	23	1976
Jan.-June 1947	5	2085
July-Nov. 1947	4	2737

*Source: Calculated from informal record contributed by Moss.

The great majority of buyers were individuals rather than speculative realtors or builders. Sixty-six different persons bought single plots, six purchased 2 each and one bought 4. Most of these multiple purchases were of contiguous plots, suggesting that the buyers simply wanted larger home tracts. However we must conclude that some early buyers bought tracts as an investment and that many others had to abandon hopes to build for one reason or another; we are aware of only 9 original buyers during the 2½ year period who later moved here. These are Ed Anderson, Bob Clark, Zindel, Kragh, Sabin, Harry Jones, Payne, Dyker and Vitiello. Some transferred from the area to business or career opportunities elsewhere and others lost their resolve to build because of such factors as the strenuous competition for materials in short supply following World War II and for contractors and skilled laborers fully employed in other delayed construction.



FIGURE 19 A 1948 airview of embryo Springbrook Forest and vicinity. Note the Sabin (Pavlo) home and the five Moss-built houses on west Stonington, mid-Brookhaven and lower Remington, also evidences of clearing on other lots. What appears as an extension of Stonington across Remington is the landfill of the main shaft and work area of the mica mine. The principal approach to the Forest was from curving Arcola Avenue in extreme lower left onto Kemp Mill and past the Curran horse farm and training track on the left, on past the Auth and Yeatman tracts and the Carabelli farm on the right and finally the Hermleigh Road and Gray's Lane intersections. Compare features in this view with those in the Figure 16 1937 photo. Suggestion: Use of a magnifying glass will prove rewarding.

Inevitably the deep quiet of the forest was broken by the strange new sounds of lot clearing, street construction, well drilling and house building. Families came during weekends, holidays and vacations, summer and winter, eager to accomplish the work and savor the adventure they had planned for so long. Some began before the first crude roads were cut through - packing gear, lunches and perhaps infant children through the woods and stumps to their tracts. Thudding sound of axes, whine and sputter of chain saws, the swish-swish of the hand crosscut, crash of falling trees, shouts of excited children, the eager talk between new-made friends who would be future neighbors, the roar and clatter of the inevitable bulldozer; smells of freshly disturbed earth, hot asphalt, burning brush and cooking fires. Niches were cut out of the forest where the houses would go. BUT THEY LEFT MOST OF THE TREES! Deer and other wild life retreated deeper into the woods.

Earliest families to begin clearing included O'Hara, Miller, Sabin, also the Pauls who planned to build on the two lots now occupied by the Leslies and Humphreys but later sold these. Families beginning some later included Zindel, Spangler, Hewitt (now Muckenfuss), Sharp (now Morris), Vitiello (now Alden), Ed Anderson, Robert Clark, Randel, Griffin, Dyker (now owned by Curtin) and William Lyons. Logs were cut up and piled for fireplaces-to-be; some were sold for lumber or pulp wood. Families brought city dweller friends out to share in combined work-picnic activities. The Zindels tell of "Fowler's Folly" - a tall pine which a friend insisted on felling alone; it lodged in the branches of another and hung there awkwardly till removed later during more serious clearing. Children used the wild setting for old and new games; excited by the glint of mica particles, the Vitiello youngsters played at "gold mining." Household dogs were driven to frenzy by scent of wild game. Families marked each other's progress and exchanged labor and ideas on building and landscaping. Most early families postponed major construction several years after purchasing tracts. For example, of 13 families who bought open lots during 1945-48 and became residents, one built and occupied the home within 2 years, seven waited 4 to 6 years and five waited 7 or more - the longest being 15 years. Figure 19 reveals some of the clearing and building operations completed or underway in 1948. The first families to move in were:

Albert Bauman - April 1948	Ralph Barkley - September 1949
Andrew Sabin - April 1948	Milton Hermance - September 1949
Preston Stang - August 1948	Pete Millet - November 1949
Marlin Smith - January 1949	Wes Meginn - December 1949
Dale Stewart - March 1949	

The Baumans lived where the Sullivans now are and were parents of Dorothy Winslow. The Morgans now occupy the Stewart house and Evensens the Hermance place. The Sabins (now Pavlo) constructed their own home but the others bought houses built by Moss and Moss-Freeman; see more below.

"The forest was dark and lonesome on the August Saturday we moved in," say Helen and Preston Stang. "Later citizens cannot visualize the appearance in those days - -, " the approach over old Kemp Mill Road past the horse farms, now taken over by housing developments, to the simple sign at the entrance - see Figures 20 and 21. "It was truly a wilderness" of great and smaller trees with the undergrowth of holly, dogwood, mountain laurel, vines, crows-foot. On returning home one day the Stangs found 10 of Mr. Curran's horses in their front yard. At a later time several of Mr. Segal's cattle ate up all

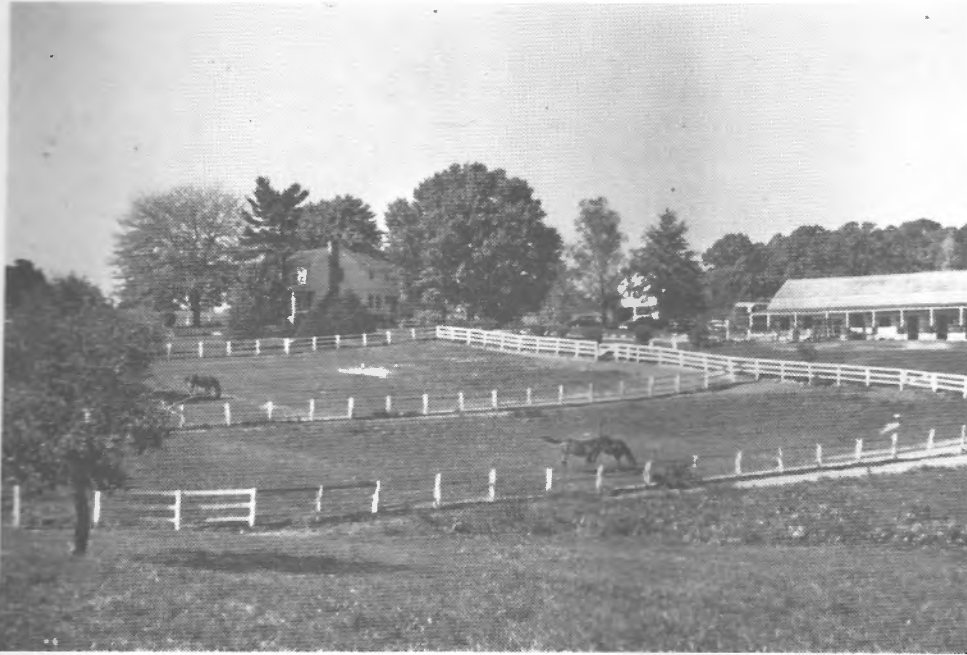


FIGURE 20 1956 View of old Curran farm prior to development into Kemp Mill Farms subdivision. The photo was taken near the lowest point of present Spring Mill playground looking toward present Lee Junior High.



FIGURE 21 Old Kemp Mill Road north of the Stonington Road entrance. The driveway at center leads up to the Robert Clark home among the trees.

their flowers. For the considerable time they were without a telephone they used that of Mr. Riggs at the far end of Gray's Lane.

The Marlin Smiths tell of a beautiful deer coming into their yard soon after they moved in and of a skunk which had been finding shelter in the breezeway. The new Forest streets were better than the roads outside. It was easy to get stuck in mudholes and snowdrifts along Kemp Mill, especially at the lowest point just below present Spring Mill School. Walter Seek and William Gray provided assistance during heavy snow storms and on other occasions. The Smith children and others usually walked to and from the school bus stop at the entrance and for a time were taunted, sometimes bullied by outside boys who seemed to resent "outsiders" invading their domain! A little later deep friendships developed among these youth which continue strong today. Property taxes were low; the Smiths paid \$149 their first year here.

The sight and sound of hounds chasing game were common. Mr. Stang says hunting was good, engaged in mostly by trespassers from outside who had hunted the area for years. "One day while working in our back yard I heard buckshot rattling through the trees above me - - . The Gray's Lane boys took young fox pups from nest holes along the Branch." Bud Anderson tells of raccoon hunters and their dogs gathering for the hunt, usually at the lower end of Rockford Road; once he saw a nearly exhausted fox give hounds the slip. An early favorite sledding place was east down Stonington and around the turn onto Auth Lane. A later popular slide was Dyker's Hill - around the big bend on Remington - and for the "daredevils", off the road and on down through the timber. Sometimes Mr. Seek pulled the kids back up the hill with a rope behind his tractor. Bonfires and weiner roasts - with parents joining in!

The Millets found remnants of an old corduroy road which presumably had been used for logging or perhaps farm hauling long ago. The original boggy character and contour of the land around Clement Lane presented early families on the street with many septic tank and run-off drainage problems. The WSSC sewer line was installed along that street during 1962.

Rate of settlement - Figure 22 shows the rate at which our present total of 106 Forest homes were occupied over the 21 years 1948-1969. Seventeen families moved in during the first 3 years; about half the homes had been completed and occupied within 7 years and nearly three-fourths within 9 years. The period of most rapid settlement was 1954-56 when 40% of the original families came. These original occupant families are listed below by year of moving in. Thirty-seven of these have since moved away; many now live within a 20 mile radius and several continue some association with the Forest through old friends here and attendance at the Annual Picnic or Christmas Party.

FIRST OCCUPANTS OF OUR 106 HOMES (1948-69)#

1948

Albert Bauman B 9*
Andrew Sabin F 1*
Preston Stang A 3

1949

Ralph Barkley N 8
Milton Hermance N 7*
Wesley Meginn M 2
William Millet N 5
Marlin Smith J 8
Dale Stewart J 2*

1950

Bernard Baldwin J 9*
James Clarke N 4*
James Hewitt H 12*
William Jones M 5
Joseph Langford F 5*
Carl Sharp E 6
Eugene Spangler E 3
Jerry Zindel F 8

1951

Raymond Kern A 2
Wm. Lyons E 7
Louis Vitiello G 5*

1952

Robert Clark B 3
Charles Dyker G 12*
Dave Griffin B 1
Julian Hoskinson H 2
Harry Jones G 8*
Joseph Langford F 10*

1953

Ed Anderson C 6
H. Bradshaw J 10
Henry Frey D 9
J. A. Jackson G 3*
Henry Jenkins H 8
Carl Sharp J 14
Edward Spielman E 1
Ben Wagner H 1
Raymond Ward B 2*

1954

Herbert Bacheller J 11*
Vaughn DeLong K 3*

1954 Contd

James McKay B 8*
John Ohlmacher J 5
Ralph Payne F 11*
William Preston B 4
Oscar Soderstrom K 5*
Lester Steele H 4*
James Umbarger G 13*
Bernie von Bernewitz G 14
William Weiss G 1

1955

John Beckham B 6*
Ellis Clough D 7
George DeBuchananne K 4
Dick Julius G 6
Ray Mayer F 4*
Leslie Miller D 6
George Morris F 12*
Frank Nichols J 1*
Michael Persun N 1*
Hugo Ranta H 6
Murl Rogers F 2
Dwight Schum J 7
Kemp Smith F 3
Allen Sperling H 3*
Henry Temple A 4
Wayne Travers C 7
Dale West H 5*

1956

Edward Bassett G 11
Charles Dabney J 6
Gerald Gilmore D 8
Chester Howard F 6
Paul Kelley J 4*
Don Leslie D 5
Walter McArdle E 4
Kenneth Morris K 2*
George Randel D 1
Howard Rother H 9
William Savchuck D 3
Harry Thoben D 2*
Robert Thoben G 7*
Don Wilson C 5

1957

Hank Clay J 12*
Grant Decker B 7*
E. Heppenstall C 1*

1958

Sam Humphrey D 4
Elmer Kragh E 9
Harry Paddon A 1
Roy Smith C 4
Ray Tuttle J 13
Austin Yates G 10

1959

George Grove C 3
John Laddbush G 4

1960

Walter Allen K 1
Eugene Beach H 11
John Beers N 2
Wilbur Whipp B 5

1961

Myron Kiefer E 2
Harold Meyers N 6*

1962

Willard Vick M 3

1963

Andrew Axelsson E 5
Melvin Leonberger G 9
Stanley Woolwine D 11*

1964

Donald Dahl D 10

1965

Gilbert Bowen K 6
Raymond Bradshaw H 10
Joseph Rock M 1
David Schaefer C 2

1966

Robert Chaplick and
Ralph Duxbury N 3

1967

None

1968

None

1969

Charles Grover H 7
Terry Horowitz (Viewcrest)

The letter-number after names gives Block and Lot locations in the Figure 18 map. Asterisk* identifies families no longer here (Dec 1969).

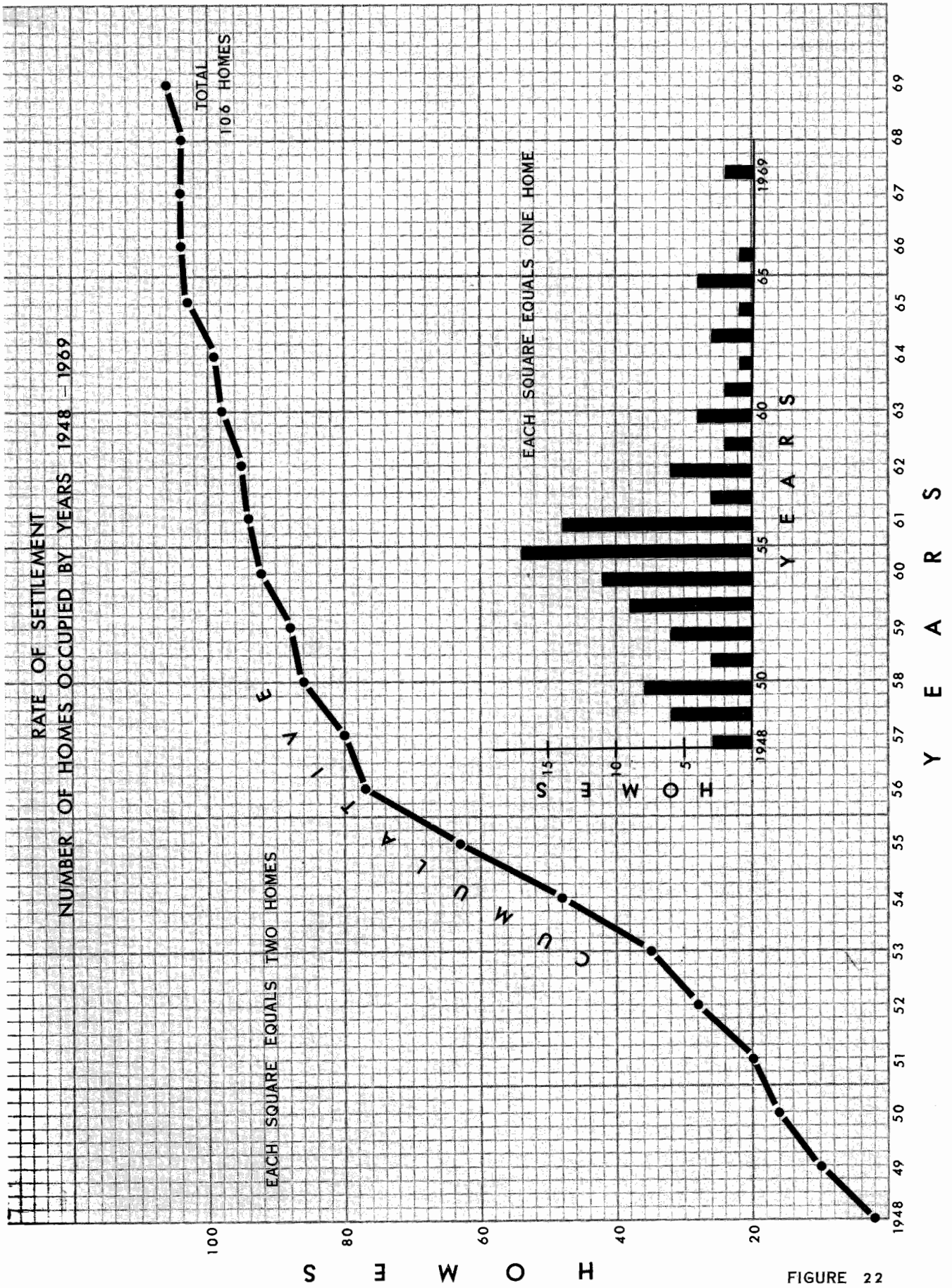


FIGURE 22

About 80 of the 106 homes have been planned and built by the families themselves as contrasted with 26 houses known or assumed to have been built by "speculative" realtor-builders. At least 21 families constructed their homes quite entirely with their own skills and labor with some help from co-operating neighbors and friends. These were:

Ed Anderson	William Lyons	Harry Thoben
Harold Bradshaw	John Ohlmacher	Robert Thoben
George DeBuchananne	Michael Persun	Ben Wagner
Vaughn DeLong	George Randel	William Weiss
Dave Griffin	Andrew Sabin	Dale West
James Hewitt	Carl Sharp (2)	Wilbur Whipp
Dick Julius	Eugene Spangler	Jerry Zindel

These homes are regarded as among the most sturdy and attractive in the community. Over 50 other families did some to much of the planning and/or construction of their dwellings with help from architects, general contractors or sub-contractors selected by the families.

Of special interest in our story are the five houses built by Developer Moss during 1947-49 to entice prospective tract buyers into the Forest and to demonstrate the general quality of construction and site development which hopefully purchaser-builders would equal or surpass. These can be identified in Figure 19 and were bought by Bauman, Stang, Marlin Smith, Stewart and Langford, the latter occupying the place until they had built another home on what is now the Boggess property. Another interesting group are the five houses built by Freeman-Moss during 1948-50, all on Clement Lane; these were purchased by Barkley, Hermance, Millet, Meginn and James Clarke. Families who bought these ten houses have made additions or other significant improvements to the structures and landscaping. Other "speculative" builders have been Persun - 2, Joseph Lyons - 3, Sharp and Spangler - 2, Thoben Brothers - 2, Musgrove - 1, Westburg - 3, Kramer and Snyder - 1 and Ebner - 1. Most of these houses were constructed during 1953-56.

All of the properties here, from earliest years to the present, have been built as single family homes intended for owner occupancy; most of the few tenant residents have rented from absent owner families expecting to return. This owner occupant pattern of predominantly middle- and upper-middle income families and such other factors as natural physical features, lot size and the strategic location of the neighborhood have combined to contribute very great influences on the favorable beginning, development and stability of the Forest as an attractive and wholesome place to live and rear our children. The significance of these factors is demonstrated repeatedly as our story unfolds.

Types of problems confronting early residents - While pursuing similar goals, families experienced common problems. Many of their difficulties stemmed from the Forest's physical location - in the population void between Georgia and New Hampshire Avenues, thus lacking in public services. By end of 1951 there were still only 20 households here, some widely scattered over the 200 acre area and as far as a mile from the entrance. Examples of problems: Getting children to schools several miles distant; assuring safe recreation for them here far from established play fields; beautification - completing the clearing and landscaping of tracts and concern for the over-all appearance within the Forest and of the approaches to it; establishing feasible safeguards

to replace the Moss covenants when these would expire; fire protection without water mains; inadequate trash collection; trespassing; which local government units or other bodies would be willing to listen and able to help. Such problems inevitably dominated talk between neighbors and at social gatherings. Eventually people realized their need for some neighborhood organization to facilitate effective communication and discussion and to formalize group decisions and actions.

THE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION IS BORN

On March 17, 1952 "a meeting for Springbrook Forest home owners" was held at the Langfords. Representatives of 16 families attended, also Mr. Moss who was present to advise and assist in 1) setting up a belated local Home Building Plans Approval Committee to replace the expired Moss "Committee" and 2) organizing a citizens association. Major recommendations were to establish a permanent committee of 3 property owners empowered to represent all owners in their respective Sections in review and approval of plans; hold an early meeting of all tract owners to draw up and sign an appropriate document outlining this function and to be filed in the county government; notify all owners including absentees of the impending action; and establish a separate committee to study charters of some neighborhood citizen groups and later submit a proposed constitution and by-laws for the local association. Messrs. Marlin Smith, Stang and Vitiello were named as the charter committee.

In April, 31 people representing 25 owners met at the Zindels to establish the Approval Committee and to sign documents authorizing it to act in their behalf. Some absentee owners were represented by proxy; for example the Leslies conveyed theirs by letter from their American Embassy post in London. Committee member service was set at 3 years with re-election of Section representatives to be on a rotating basis. Those elected were:

Section 1	1 yr. term	Preston Stang; Dave Griffin, Alternate
Section 2	2 yr. term	Joseph Langford; Jerry Zindel, Alternate
Section 3	3 yr. term	Milton Hermance; Wm. Millet, Alternate

The authorizing documents were given to Attorney Ralph Shure to determine their legality and insure proper recording at Rockville. In July he gave the opinion that the new committee could replace the Moss Committee by securing an amendment to the original Declaration of Restrictions. However this would require that "all present land owners -- join in such an instrument" because "a covenant must run with the land to be enforceable and is not effective unless all owners in the particular subdivision effected so declare it to be."

The group met next in August at the Vitiellos with 18 families represented. Mr. Smith presented his committee's draft constitution and by-laws for a Springbrook Forest Citizens Association which was adopted the same evening after being clarified and strengthened at basic points. The 18 families present were declared Charter Members. These were:

Ed Anderson	David Griffin	Joseph Langford	Dale Stewart
Robert Clark	Milton Hermance	Wesley Meginn	Louis Vitiello
Charles Dyker	James Hewitt	George Randel	Preston Winslow
Irvin Fuller	Julian Hoskinson	Marlin Smith	Jerry Zindel
	Harry Jones	Preston Stang	

Meetings would be held monthly on the 3rd Wednesday except during July, August and September. Membership would be limited to Forest owners. Annual dues were set at \$5.00 per family. Voting rights of absentee members were spelled out. Nominations for offices were made for election the next month - the group agreeing they should meet this September because of urgent problems confronting them and to utilize the good momentum already gained. (NOTE: It is of special interest that our Association has held firmly to the original pattern of monthly meetings during its entire 17 year history with these exceptions: The Christmas Party has replaced the December meeting; a change from the "3rd Wednesday" was tried during 1954-55 and abandoned; extraordinary conditions have occasionally dictated an alternative meeting date; and the June meeting has been cancelled some years when there was no pressing business. It seems especially significant that no more than ten monthly meetings have been cancelled during the entire 17 years except for the Junes just mentioned.)

At that August meeting the attorney's advice on establishing a "legal" Plans Approval Committee seemed to present insurmountable difficulties - those of gaining the acceptance of all tract owners, many of whom were widely scattered absentees. In the interim, many families and some speculative builders were building or preparing to. An alternative was proposed: 1) Ensure that the Forest's Committee gained the solid support of the neighborhood and 2) negotiate agreement with the county government that its Building Inspector's office would promptly alert the Association of applications for building permits here and would not grant permits until the Committee had approved the plans. Association members felt unready to act at the moment and the situation continued in limbo for several months.

Twenty-eight persons attended the September meeting at the Zindels and elected and installed the following officers:

President - Marlin Smith
Vice President - David Griffin
Recording Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. Zindel
Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. Barkley

The Springbrook Forest Citizens Association had become a reality!
President Smith pledged to do his utmost and challenged other officers and the members to join wholeheartedly in the hard work ahead, especially in committee activities of many kinds.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

We now know that the Association was to play a significant role in the quality of life in the Forest, in the community's development and stability. Its activities and accomplishments during early and later years demonstrate vividly the merits of such an instrument for new suburban communities. Many problems and opportunities were better defined, understood and dealt with as a group for the general good as contrasted with dominance by a few and apathy of the many as in some localities. Residents look back on the early period as a time of challenge and trial, with mixed feelings of satisfaction in some achievements and regret for a few failures. Dedicated efforts by officers

and committees were not always rewarded by response of others. A few issues and Association actions threatened deep division within the neighborhood. Even so it is very clear that the total over-all effects were very great.

In addition to accomplishment of specific undertakings, there were to be other direct and indirect effects. Examples: A deepening and widening of neighborliness and of friendships; growth in attitudes of community pride, cooperation, individual and group responsibility; focus on human values and priorities; reinforcement of several non-Association efforts; the emergence of varied initiatives and natural leaders; and stronger interest and participation in affairs of the larger community outside.

A PROFILE OF THE ASSOCIATION'S EARLY YEARS

Major Activities October 1952 - September 1954

This summary of the Association's first two years illustrates how the citizen body identified its principal problems and dealt with them. The information presented is drawn from Minutes of the group's monthly meetings and related records. We have not attempted to report minor projects nor to name all participating persons.

Membership and Attendance Chairwoman - Catherine Langford.

Eighteen charter member families are listed on page 37. All monthly meetings specified in the charter were held except for June and December 1953. Attendance ranged from about 8 persons to a high of at least 33. The only membership drive mentioned was one proposed in June 1954 when the group voted a reduction in dues from the original \$5.00 per family to \$2.00. Efforts to gain new members stressed early contacts with new residents by neighbors, a welcoming committee and the President.

Streets and Lights Chairman - Dale Stewart.

The county repaired or replaced damaged wooden street signs and finally did major portions of the street repair requested. To reduce traffic hazards and improve the general appearance, volunteers partially cleared the Triangle and cut back brush and trees at the Entrance and other intersections. Other problems: The health and safety hazard presented by the neglected excavation on a vacant lot which was always partially filled with drainage water, often up to a 4-foot depth; the health and driving hazard caused by poor drainage along the lower Brookhaven right-of-way; the procedure for changing the name of Clement Place to avoid confusion with Clement Lane and other streets of similar names in the Silver Spring area; the "proposed bridge" across Northwest Branch; and should street lights be installed within the Forest?

Beautification Chairman - Julian Hoskinson 1952-53; Charles Dyker 1953-54.

Trash - The commercial company arbitrarily reduced its refuse collections from twice weekly to once until residents yielded to a price increase. WSSC lacked authority to serve the area. Police assistance



FIGURE 23 A 1952 view of old narrow Remington Drive looking north with Stonington Road merging from lower left. The Harold Bradshaws built their home among the trees at left.



FIGURE 24 The first entrance marker designed and constructed by Forest volunteers during 1953. Some of the Moss-planted hemlocks were moved to the Kemp Mill-Arcola intersection.

was requested when dumping by outsiders began within the Forest and continued along Kemp Mill and Arcola even after the county had cleaned up the rubbish at the latter point and erected NO DUMPING signs.

Entrance - The need for a distinctive marker and more attractive entranceway to replace the wooden sign and rough overgrown banks had preoccupied the neighborhood from its 1948 beginning. This became one of the Association's first major projects and served well to draw residents into group efforts and accomplishment. During early discussions, Louis Vitiello offered a great boulder for the marker. Charley Dyker agreed to develop structural designs and Jerry Zindel volunteered to do the stone cutting and propose a landscaping plan. One of the designs was approved in January 1953. Later it was decided to substitute a massive concrete block for the boulder. The lettering mold and wooden form were made in the Dyker garage. Volunteers had installed the foundation by May, Dave Griffin having provided sand and gravel. The block was "poured" at the Wagners who were then building their house, using their mixer and materials. One summer day Mr. Griffin, Julian Hoskinson and a Wagner workman moved the finished block to the entrance site and set it in place. See Figure 24. More volunteers later joined in completing the over-all task. Weeds, brush and some trees were cleared away. The high, rough banks were reshaped to give a more pleasing appearance. Certain panels of the Moss-built board fence were discarded. Bud Anderson led in choosing and planting shrubs on the exposed banks and around the marker to soften and beautify the whole. Mr. Langford offered to provide an automatic time clock if it was decided to install an entrance light. It seems that no more than \$20 was ever voted to pay for outright expenditures. This original marker was displaced during the widening of Kemp Mill Road in 1965 - see Chapter III.

Planting of "Distinctive" Ornamentals? - During Spring 1953 the group rejected a proposal that residents should plant similar flowering trees or shrubs; they felt that a uniform appearance in an area like the Forest was not desirable and it would always cause heavy traffic for weeks at flowering time.

The Triangle - The spot was an eyesore and a traffic hazard - a tangle of trees, brush, vines and stones. Formal discussion on beautifying it began in early 1954. The group decided against moving some of the Entrance hemlocks to the area. A few volunteers began clearing it in June. Mr. Seek's help would be needed in removing stumps and rocks. A whole year would pass before much was accomplished.

The Kemp Mill - Arcola Intersection - The unsightly appearance and often hazardous conditions at this point and along Kemp Mill Road had annoyed Forest residents from the beginning - it was the principal approach to the community for them and their visiting friends and for prospective tract buyers. In October 1952 and again in January the Association renewed contacts with county authorities about the situation, especially the indiscriminate dumping of rubbish and junk. Erection of NO DUMPING signs and police cooperation partially relieved the situation for a time. The modest direction sign to the Forest was repaired. In early 1954 Mr. Dyker led volunteers including Mr. Seek in some clearing and

in transplanting there some trees from the Stonington entrance. A later hope to clear out and landscape the whole intersection was not accomplished.

Schools Chairman - Dorothy Winslow.

The Forest's influences on schools were channeled mainly through PTAs. The Schools Committee performed effective liaison functions enabling the Association to keep in touch with developments and provide occasional reinforcement. There was continuing uncertainty as to where and when children might be transferred, especially those in elementary grades. These had attended Glenmont School until they were reassigned in 1953 to Glen Haven for 3 years. Junior high youngsters went to Montgomery Hills until transferred to Wheaton in 1954. Senior high students attended Blair High until Northwood opened in 1956. Parochial school children went to St. Bernadette's until St. Andrew's could receive them.

A Community Recreation Field?

Although the forest and stream valley were ideal for some types of recreation for older youth part of the time, the needs of all youngsters were not being met for varied and safe activities in all seasons. The situation was especially acute during summer. Established playfields were several miles distant; there were no extensive open spaces within the Forest; trees and thickets crowded in on the narrow streets; a child could vanish from sight a mere 30 yards from his home. In October 1952 the Association began discussion of a proposal to develop a Recreation Field within the Forest, possibly with assistance from the Park and Planning Commission. A month later PPC officials explained their program including sports and handicraft teaching and how the Commission could help develop a program here. The area could be chosen jointly then developed by PPC; the land and equipment would be Park property; if PPC gave such assistance, the area would have to be available for public use through specific permits screened and issued by PPC. At a special meeting in December the group explored all aspects of the proposal but it was voted down by a very narrow margin. Major objections centered on the practical problems of controlling use by outsiders even if the area was not Park property; the only access to it would be along a single street through the Forest; and the consequences of inadequate supervision. In April a committee to propose alternatives was named with Pete Millet as chairman. He suggested later that residents of each Section should determine whether they wanted some kind of playground in their own specific area.

Allied Civic Group

In September 1952 the group agreed they should join one of the two federations - the Montgomery County Civic Federation or the Allied Civic Group. Benefits of affiliation would include gaining status as an "accredited" local association and reinforcement from the larger group in some future problems. The merits of both federations were explored under Irvin Fullmer's leadership. In May 1953 the group voted to join ACG as being more appropriate because of its sharper focus on affairs of the lower eastern portion of the county.

First delegates were Messrs. Amundsen, Fullmer and Meginn; alternates named were Messrs. Harold Bradshaw, Griffin and Harry Jones. The Forest's first request for specific ACG guidance and support was made in March 1954 in connection with the potential violation of a Forest covenant and a county ordinance - see "Day Nursery" below.

Building Plans Approval (Committee members are named on page 37)

The community's Approval Committee had been created in April 1952 before the Association's formal organization but its powers had not been clearly defined. In May 1953 the Committee was authorized to request the County's Office of Building Inspector to supply the Association with copies of applications for building permits here and that Office complied. The general situation was reviewed more thoroughly the following October. Thus far no building plans had been found objectionable. The original committee was asked to continue functioning with Preston Stang as chairman; it would have one week to approve or disapprove any plan received and would notify the Association of any objectionable plan; the president would inform the Inspector and would call an Executive Committee session if needed to deal with a problem. These arrangements worked fairly well. However, the Forest was about to experience its most rapid growth - forty-two new homes would be built and occupied during 1954-56. The committee worked valiantly even if sometimes awkwardly; there were slip-ups in the Inspector's Office and in the committee; some applicants were unwilling to accept the Association's disapproval as binding. Preston Stang reminisced in 1969 that "This became a very unpopular committee!"

The "Day Nursery" Problem

In late 1953 there were rumors that a family moving to the Forest planned to operate a day nursery. Residents interpreted this as a violation of a Moss covenant still in force that "-- parcels shall be used exclusively for private dwelling house purposes -- for the exclusive use of the owner or occupant --." The matter became a principal topic at four consecutive Association meetings. The review of building plans showed no mention of the nursery enterprise. No application for a county permit to operate one had been made nor had the Board of Appeals contacted residents for their reactions. President Smith and Vice President Meginn called on the family, learned that they did plan such a venture, informed them of the restrictions and invited them to the next Association meeting. The family accepted and told the group that the realtor had said there were no restrictions, they had spent an extra \$5000 on the house, the primary aim was not commercial, and they felt that residents should not object to a few more little children. The family invited people to visit and view the home and facilities planned. Many in the group felt the realtor was the guilty party; some said he had misled other Forest families. The motion to oppose the nursery passed overwhelmingly. Some felt that the Association should stand back of the family in any retribution they might have in view of the realtor's misrepresentation. A committee formally interviewed the realtor who pleaded innocent of any wrongdoing. Forest delegates to ACG consulted that group's Zoning Committee, were advised on prohibitive county ordinances and Board of Appeal procedures and were assured that ACG would support Forest representatives at any hearing on the day nursery. In February the Association passed a landmark resolution which presumably is

still valid - - that it " - - is opposed in accordance with the existing covenants to the establishment of a nursery school operation or any other deviation from strictly residential use - - " within Springbrook Forest. The same resolution requested "all necessary offices and/or agencies" to notify the Association of any application for deviant use and directed the Executive Committee to place the resolution before all appropriate authorities. This formal 1954 action by the Association established a precedent and has provided part of the deterrent to other actual and potential violations of the specific covenant involved.

Fire Protection

Serious fire was a continuing threat because of the need for burning brush after clearing, the long accumulation of forest litter on unoccupied tracts, widely scattered household wells provided the only source of water, and the nearest fire station was in Four Corners 3 miles away. Beginning in 1953 Floyd Morris represented the Association on the Fire Area Committee and Marlin Smith was later elected to the Kensington (District) Fire Board. Dale Stewart, a volunteer fireman with long experience, provided advice and informal liaison. The Association endorsed the proposed county "Fire Bill" which when enacted gave citizen groups a stronger voice in the planning and administration of Department facilities and services.

The First Community Picnic

It was called a "barbecue" and held on Sunday November 1, 1953 at the Zindels - the forerunner of the lovely gatherings we have enjoyed every Autumn since then. Helen Stang chaired the committee; the Association approved an expenditure of \$20 from Treasury funds! The 1954 and 1955 affairs were in October, also at Zindels. Since then the picnic has been centered at some public recreation facility to accommodate increased attendance.

Hunting and Trespassing

Incidents had become less frequent but were still aggravating and clearly unlawful. Mr. Stewart was requested to post NO HUNTING signs supplied by PPC and residents were urged to report incidents directly to Silver Spring police.

"Hot Rod" Drivers

Then as now!! But hazards were greater then in some respects - because of narrower street surfaces, no curbs or gutters, poorer visibility at the overgrown curves and intersections. Also, most children walked to and from school buses at the Entrance. The problem was discussed at several meetings but always the group decided to use a personal approach to violators' parents before requesting police action. This proved generally effective.

County Budgets and Taxes

Taxes paid in 1952-54 might seem ridiculously low compared with the present but not so, relatively speaking. Association records reveal good initiative in these matters: In early 1953 Messrs. Kern and Stewart were delegated to study in Rockville the reasons for a significant increase in the property tax; in 4 subsequent meetings, a county official met with the group to interpret the situation, the president reviewed a budget hearing he attended, the group discussed the 44% cut made in the School Budget and examined legislation proposed by County Council and other citizen groups; reactions submitted were summarized and passed on to the Allied Civic Group.

Early residents may recall some matters considered by the Association which are not reflected in the above 1952-54 "Profile". They will also remember some citizen workers not mentioned here. Such subjects and names have been omitted because no specific action was taken or recorded or because of our need to conserve space in the telling of the long range Forest story.

* * *

In this chapter covering the 1945-54 period we have interpreted how the relatively isolated forest "wilderness" became a lively neighborhood of 46 households, offering great promise for the future. We have tried to present a broad framework of fact and anecdote to aid early residents to reminisce on and re-evaluate their individual and group goals, labors and accomplishments. We hope also that this review will stimulate later residents and future citizens to identify and to value the significant contributions which the pioneer families made to our "heritage". Living and working in general accord with each other and with the Land they established a strong foundation for the community's further development, described in our next segment. Much of the early "promise" becomes reality!

Chapter III

COMING-OF-AGE (1955 through 1969)

In the mid-fifties the rate at which lots were developed and new houses built reached a peak. As was noted in Chapter II, some 40% of the original families in the Forest moved in during the period 1954 - 1956. By 1957 seventy-seven of the one hundred twelve original lots were either occupied or being built upon. But by 1960 the rate had declined significantly to the point where only two to four houses a year were being built; by 1966, the year when the community of Springbrook Forest reached the ripe age of 21, almost all of the buildable lots had been developed. Only one new home has been built since 1966. In the same chronological manner as a growing youth, the community had almost stopped growing (in the physical sense of house construction) and had "come of age."

While no statistics are available on the ages of householders - who would have the nerve? - it seems likely that most were in their 30's or 40's upon moving to Springbrook Forest. It seems likely, also, that most families had picked their new homesites in the light of some past experience and with a developed feel for their ideal home. Thus, by the mid-fifties, there were children of all ages in the Forest, from babes to married sons and daughters.

During these years and up to the present, time has dealt kindly with the community. While there have been community problems galore, these have tended not to be of an earth-shaking nature, and the years have rolled by rather placidly. Many of our earlier "pioneers" have moved away, a few to their planned retirement homes in other climes, although an increasing number of retirees are staying in the Forest. Perhaps a very few have departed for personal reasons to seek new environments in which to live. But most who left have moved away merely as a part of that larger America on the Move - new job opportunities have called. But almost always, we have been fortunate in the congeniality and the compatibility of new neighbors, families usually attracted here by the rural verdant character of the Forest.

In the main, our growing-pain problems have been typical of any growing and expending area: schools, roads, zoning, utilities, and other services. Some of these will be recalled to your mind as you read this brief section on "Coming-of-Age."

1955 - Covenant Crisis

In June, it was discovered that one of the houses being built speculatively was being constructed in violation of one of the restrictive covenants which run with all lots in the Forest. This covenant specifies, among other things, that homes must not be built closer than 40 feet to front or side street lines or than 20 feet to side parcel lines. The original building permit for this particular house had been issued to conform with the 20-foot side restriction, but later amended (in error)

This chapter has been written by D. M. Leslie.

to 10 feet. Furthermore, there was concern on the part of many residents that the builder's ultimate purpose might be to divide the lot into two half-acre parcels and build another house later on the other parcel. In any event, the SFCA, working through a special committee, retained an attorney to oppose the violation. Some months after this action was started, the house and total lot were sold through an independent realtor. The new purchasers were totally unaware of the delicate situation until the date of settlement. Over the next few months, considerable skirmishing took place between our attorney and the builder's attorney. In the light of new ownership of the property, the matter eventually was settled, in effect, by permitting the existing structure to stand but serving notice that the community would take legal action where necessary to oppose future violations of the covenants or subdivision of established lots. To finance the legal action needed in this case, virtually all homeowners showed the seriousness of their intentions by contributing to a special fund for attorney's fees.

In other actions during the year just about every able-bodied man in the community joined in to clear and smooth the Triangle - our nearest equivalent to a town square or "common". Until this time, the Triangle had been an uneven thicket of trees, brush, and boulders, although some preliminary clearing had been done in 1954. With the help of our good friend, Mr. Seek, the area was tamed to its present park condition.

Trash collection, which had been handled heretofore on a sometime basis by a commercial collector or by individual homeowners, was finally assumed by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

Action was started this year to persuade the Telephone Company to rescind its mileage rates charged to Forest residents who, it appears, were considered as living way out in the country. This led to a reduction the following year to Metropolitan Area fees of the type now in effect.

1956 - The Homemakers Club

The first preliminary discussions leading to formation of the Homemakers Club were made this year. This most important and effective organization has had - and continues to have - a major impact on the progress and well-being of the Forest. Rather than developing the subject chronologically, we would prefer, at this point, to present a concise overall summary of the Club and its activities, provided by the current Club Secretary, Selma Goldberg:

"Our Springbrook Forest Homemakers Club, which meets from September through June at 8:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the homes of its 42 members, was organized in 1956 by 27 of our neighbors, 10 of which are still very active. The purpose of the Club, which is affiliated with the Montgomery County Council of Homemakers

(and in turn with the Maryland State Council, the National Extension Homemakers' Council, and The Associated Country Women of the World) is to acquire the latest information on nutrition, home furnishings, health education, consumer protection, safety, and other aspects of home management so that we can become more productive members of our own families, the community in general, and the world at large. In putting these principles to practice, we attend lectures and demonstrations (planned by the County Extension Home Economists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture under whose auspices we operate) on such disparate subjects as international relations, making of wills, clothing construction, floor coverings, and landscape design; we hold morning craft workshops in our own homes to promote creative leisure activities and prepare exhibits for County Homemaker shows; and we participate as individuals in related community services such as 4-H (having organized the Forest groups), American Field Service (sponsor a bus stop family entertainment of many foreign students), Civic Association (cook for annual picnic), school libraries and health rooms, etc. We make charitable contributions to social agencies such as Junior Village, Head Start, and Henryton State Hospital, as well as pay sick and condolence calls in the Forest; we have baked cookies for our own Forest soldiers in Viet Nam, as well as cooperated annually in County-sponsored cooky projects for the veterans' hospitals. A concomitant of the more structured aspects of our activities has been the social aspect of welcoming newcomers in the community; exchanging recipes, household hints, vacation experiences, and advice on child-rearing; and learning to appreciate each other's talents and interests. Our annual May smorgasbord social, to which husbands are invited, and our Christmas meeting, at which we exchange handicraft gifts, are highlights of homemaker hospitality in action."

"Club officers by years are -- 1956-57: Pres. Helen Stang, V. P. Catherine Langford, Sec. Ruth Preston, Treas. Saline Jones. 1957-58: Pres. Helen Stang, V. P. Catherine Langford, Sec. Ruth Preston, Treas. Saline Jones. 1958-59: Pres. Ruth Preston, V. P. Doree West, Sec. Dorothy Savchuk, Treas. Iris Jenkins. 1959-60: Pres. Jean Clay, V. P. Doree West, Sec. Marion Tuttle, Treas. Audrey Mathieson. 1960-61: Pres. Jean Clay, V. P. Alice Wagner, Sec. Lois Julius, Treas. Audrey Mathieson. 1961-62: Pres. Toni Zindel, V. P. Alice Wagner, Sec. Lois Julius, Treas. Iris Jenkins. 1962-63: Pres. Toni Zindel, V. P. Elma Hoskinson, Sec. Rosemary Mayer, Treas. Iris Jenkins. 1963-64: Pres. Toni Zindel, V. P. Elma Hoskinson, Sec. Rosemary Mayer, Treas. Betty Evensen. 1964-65: Pres. Toni Zindel, V. P. Mary Carter, Sec. Bernice Clark, Treas. Betty Evensen. 1965-66: Pres. Louise Beers, V. P. Mary Carter, Sec. Bernice Clark, Treas.

Iris Jenkins. 1966-67: Pres. Louise Beers, V. P. Nancy Thompson, Sec. Jean Meyers, Treas. Iris Jenkins. 1967-68: Pres. Ruby Lee Beach, V. P. Nancy Thompson, Sec. Selma Goldberg, Treas. Marion Tuttle. 1968-69: Pres. Ruby Lee Beach, V. P. Dorothy Leonberger, Sec. Selma Goldberg, Treas. Marion Tuttle. 1969-70: Pres. Iris Jenkins, V. P. Dorothy Leonberger, Sec. Selma Goldberg, Treas. Sharon Thomas."

This year saw the start of our now-traditional Christmas Party - held at the Rantas - and since then replacing the December SPCA meeting. Also, our first Community Christmas Tree, donated by the Seekes, was planted in the Triangle, and the first Santa Claus/Carol Sing affair was held around it. Among our more famous Santas have been Marlin Smith, Dale Stewart, and John Dennis. Decorations have been made for some years by our 4-H girls. Electric power to light the tree is given by the Weisses each year.

In the larger community, both Arcola Elementary and Northwood High (at that time, both Jr.-Sr.) Schools were opened during the year.

Association minutes record a rather interesting and curious problem which arose this year - the discovery of several four-foot high anthills behind Remington Drive. These were thought to be a possible health hazard to children playing in the area. In due course, the anthills were inspected by University entomologists who suggested ways of eradicating them, and this presumably ended this problem.

1957 - Should We Light Our Streets?

Perhaps the most important issue that faced the community in 1957 was the question of street lights: Should we or shouldn't we have them? The matter was thoroughly discussed at the first meeting of the year at the Langfords. An investigation of the "mechanics" was made by the Streets and Lights Committee (chaired most efficiently for many years by Mrs. Saline Jones). If 80% of the residents of a given community indicate a desire for such lights, they could be installed at no immediate cost to them, with amortized installation costs plus operating costs added to each homeowner's real-estate tax bill. The advantages of lighted streets lie obviously in the ease and safety with which residents can walk in the community at night; the chief disadvantages appear to be some loss in the rural nature of the community, as well as added taxes. After a full discussion of the matter, members voted overwhelmingly against street lights.

Once again the community rallied as a group to spruce up the entrance area - repairing and painting the original white wooden fence along Kemp Mill Road on each side of the entrance, as well as cutting the weeds and trimming trees near the entrance.

By this time, the community had grown to the point where prompt snow plow service was being provided by the County. At the same time, more children were sledding on our hilly streets after each snow. An inquiry to the County was made concerning the possibility of blocking off "Dykers Hill" on Remington Drive and leaving this stretch unplowed for the benefit of sledders. We

were informed that formal arrangements were unnecessary but that, no doubt, our friendly snowplow driver would be glad to bypass the hill on request.

During the year, the initial tree donated to our community by the Seeka to beautify the Triangle gave up the ghost and died. (The present tree was donated by the 4-H girls.)

In another action, the system of Block Captains was started in order to speed and personalize communications within the Forest.

1958 - The Latter Day Pioneers

In February, 1958, the worst blizzard in the history of the community occurred. At places, Kemp Mill Road was covered by drifts more than six feet deep. The only way in or out was by foot. For three days we were snowbound. For some residents, this presented a real hardship. Travel commitments had to be honored; milk, food, medicines had to be obtained on foot from Wheaton. Some newly-arrived residents were ready to depart this wilderness to return to "civilization." But the situation had its happier side. Our latent pioneer spirits were aroused and most of us found ways of postponing commitments, rationing or sharing food, etc., to make do for a few days. Many people joyfully kicked over the traces in their daily routine for a few days and joined the kids in sledding on the streets. Neighbors visited neighbors to a degree never before tried, and the storm turned out to be quite a social success.

Then, just a month later, the big ice storm of 1958 hit us. In late evening with temperatures hovering around the freezing mark, the rain fell gently and, almost silently, ice began to form on trees, power lines, and telephone lines. By midnight the effects were no longer silent. Ice had accumulated to a thickness of about two inches on everything exposed, and the overloaded trees began to give way. In the eerie quietness, the reports of cracking trees sounded like gun shots throughout the Forest. By early morning, the situation had become chaotic with fallen trees lying helter-skelter across roads, power lines, telephone lines, everywhere. Some lines suffered as many as a dozen separate breaks. Power service was interrupted in most homes for about four days. This meant not just that we were without lights but that furnaces would not operate. Even more acute, water was not available from our wells. But the roads became passable rather quickly, and many families deserted the Forest for heat and water at the homes of friends or relatives. A hardy few stayed on, using fireplaces for heat, cooking, and melting ice for water (that was when we discovered that toilets are voracious users of water). For a second time that winter, we felt truly like pioneers - a little too much like pioneers for some.

Later that year arrangements were made with a private pest control company to treat the lawns of interested residents with milky spore disease to curb the Japanese beetle population. This treatment was done in April.

That old problem, rezoning for higher-density land usage, arose in the form of application by the Kay Construction Company to rezone a portion of the nearby Curran horse farm (a part of that section now known as Kemp Mill Farms) from Rural Residential (1/2 acre minimum) to R-90 (9,000-square-foot

minimum) lots. Seeking to preserve the rural character of the neighborhood and to minimize crowding of schools and streets, the SFCA strongly opposed the application. The Park and Planning Commission recommended, as a compromise, that part of the tract be left RR and the rest be rezoned to R-90. Nevertheless, the Council granted the full request. The action seemed to be so arbitrary in this case that for some months thereafter the Forest and other nearby communities considered the possibility of legal restraining action. Eventually, this effort was dropped because of numerous practical obstacles. At this point, we would like to recognize the yeoman work of Hugo Ranta in performing a "watchdog" function for the Forest on zoning matters in nearby areas. (In later years, George DeBuchanan succeeded to this role and was equally effective.)

Two other matters regarding the original Moss covenants and internal zoning restrictions arose this year. The first of these involved a part-time boat-repair business conducted at one of the homes in the community. An enquiry by the Citizens Association to the County regarding the legality of this sort of enterprise resulted in independent action by the County (not at the request of the Citizens Association) to have the business terminated. The second incident had to do with the stabling of horses in the community for riding purposes. The County normally prohibits the stabling of livestock on lots smaller than 5 acres. A special exception to this rule may be granted, however, provided most immediate neighbors offer no objection. One of our residents applied for such special exception. The matter was debated at length at a special meeting of the Association, with the applicant present to present his views. The final action was a vote to oppose the application. Notwithstanding this opposition, the County later granted the special exception in January, 1959.

The first 4-H Club (The Foresters) was started this year by Doree West, using as a nucleus the old Bluebird Club organized two years earlier by Dorothy Winslow. In 1966, a second 4-H Club of younger girls called the Cloverleaves was started by Mary Carter, and in 1967 a still-younger group, called the Acorns, by Strib Dahl. Our 4-H girls have been very active over the years, winning a number of County Fair ribbons, County and State citations, and contributing to various community projects such as the planting, care and decoration of our current Triangle Christmas Tree.

Another landmark innovation in community communications, the FORESTER, house organ of the SFCA, appeared late in the year.

1959 - Major Developments in Nearby Areas

A proposal by the County to construct a library in the Wheaton area was strongly endorsed by the SFCA with the recommendation that a site on Hermitage be purchased for this purpose. Iris Jenkins had been our effective representative on the citizen "Library Advisory Committee" and continued so for some years.

In another action, we joined other citizens groups in urging the County Council to adopt a three-year waiting period (instead of 18 months) before reapplications for rezoning a piece of property could be filed.

The construction of Springbrook High School was started this year. Wheaton Plaza was nearing completion.

Another major County facility of considerable significance to Springbrook Forest moved into high gear this year: Wheaton Regional Park. Land purchase, which actually began in 1958, was at a peak. Our Association heard and endorsed detailed plans from Mr. Hewitt of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and gave strong support to the overall effort (see Appendix 6).

1960 - First Proposal for a Through Road Across Northwest Branch

In January, 1960, the Cub Scouts were off and running after much planning and groundwork the previous year. Two Dens were in operation with Vivian Morris and Helen Seek as Den Mothers.

St. Andrew's Catholic Church was under construction.

But the big news of the year was the opening barrage by the County to put a road through Springbrook Forest across Northwest Branch. This started in the form of a proposed road identified as P-15, extending Stonington Road across the Branch to Colesville. After a full airing, our Citizens Association went on record as opposing the new road, for various reasons. (See "1966" for a discussion of the "P-5 Road" project.)

1961 - Public Works

Things were rather quiet in the Forest during 1961. This doesn't mean that we took no concerted action during the year - only that the issues seem to have been a little less earth-shaking. Witness this excerpt from a letter by our president at the time (Dale West) to the Montgomery County Board of Education, concerning school bus service in the Forest:

"In particular, we would like the present bus service to Springbrook Forest to be a little less hairbrained. At present, we have two buses taking children to Arcola. One arrives with dash and verve, gathering all in sight with great magnanimity, including some for other schools, and carting them off to school by whatever variations in itinerary our poor road system affords. The other arrives timidly, if the weather isn't a bit bad, and picks up the stragglers.....The list of complaints includes a scheduled early departure from Sligo that severely tests the agility of the children. If they fumble with the lock, they get left. If the driver's watch is a trifle fast, the trip is hardly worth the effort."

This elicited a long letter from the Board explaining their problems and promising to do what they could to improve the situation.

Although the matter of Road P-15 had not yet been settled, the matter rose again in a slightly different form. We were notified in October, 1961, that a hearing was to be held on the proposed P-5 road (extending Brookhaven

Drive across Northwest Branch to New Hampshire Ave. extended). This did not become acute until 1966 and is discussed in detail in that section.

Construction of sewer extensions from the Northwest Branch trunk line to some homes and building sites in the Forest was started this year (and completed in 1962).

1962 - Footbridge Across Northwest Branch?

Kemp Mill Elementary School was under construction during the year and was scheduled for completion in September, 1963. At about the same time, funds were appropriated by the County to widen Kemp Mill Road from the Arcola intersection to the entrance of Springbrook Forest.

Alas, after nearly three years of operation, the SF Cub Scout Pack folded due to a general lack of interest and support.

During the fall of 1962, there was considerable interest around the Forest in Springbrook High School, which had just opened, and in the possibility that our children might be allowed to go there. Although the school area boundary nominally is Northwest Branch, our community lies almost adjacent to Springbrook High property, making this High School much closer than either Northwood or the later John F. Kennedy High School. Lacking a road across the Branch, the question was raised with the County as to whether our children could go to Springbrook High if a path and footbridge were available. In essence, the County implied that this could be arranged but that there were no County plans to put a footbridge across the Branch. This was a Park matter and the Park and Planning Commission had no such plans either. Another factor was the reaction of our own residents to this possibility. While many were attracted by the proximity and the intended high quality of Springbrook High School, it was clear that bus service would not be available, even for more distant students. Then, too, there was considerable concern over the safety hazards which might ensue as a result of our youngsters walking to school through a heavily wooded area devoid of police protection. After considerable discussion at the November, 1962, meeting, a vote was taken with the majority favoring a footbridge. But the vote was by no means unanimous, and the pragmatic aspects of the matter led eventually to the proposal's being dropped.

It was during a weekend in May, 1962, that camping as a group project for Foresters got started. The Clarks, Hoskinsons, Carters, Prestons, Blalocks, Allens, and Evsens camped at Trap Pond, Delaware. For a review of this fascinating program in the Forest, see Appendix 7.

1963 - GO

Again, this was a quiet year insofar as major community problems were concerned. Primary SFCA activity centered on County reforms proposed in the "GO" (Government Operations) Report developed by a special committee of the Allied Civic Group. The significance for the Forest of certain reforms was interpreted at several SFCA meetings by our own ACG delegates, especially Dr. Beach and Mr. Nelson.

1964 - Water Service and the Widening of Kemp Mill Road

It was announced in February, 1964, that water service would be extended to Springbrook Forest soon. (Water lines were installed to 10 families on lower Brookhaven Drive and on Clement Lane in the summer of 1965.)

As the schools, Park and new housing subdivisions were developed along Kemp Mill Road, it became obvious that the picturesque, winding country road serving our community would have to be enlarged. By 1962, funds for this purpose had been appropriated. In 1964 under "Project 1842", actual construction got underway for the section from Arcola to a point 200 ft. north of Stonington (the Fritz's driveway). The new road embodied an 80-ft. right-of-way with the road surface itself being 40 feet wide. This section was completed in 1965. Shortly afterward, work was started on the remaining section to Randolph Road, this portion reaching completion in 1967. Under the "Right of Prior Taking" law, the last section was actually built before the County had obtained title to all the land. Many residents along the east side protested the land acquisition because of the effects this had on increasing the steepness of the already-steep slopes, and some of these protest actions are still unsettled today (1970).

You may remember the old cement entrance marker. Somewhat to our distress and chagrin, the marker was ignominiously bulldozed under by the road builders and now lies as part of the fill on the west side of Kemp Mill Road opposite the entrance. The present entrance signs, installed in 1965, were based on a design prepared under the guidance of Ray Tuttle, Roland Fritz, and others, after much discussion in SFGA meetings. Costs were met by donations from most of the residents of 1964.

1965 - 1966 - Coming of Age of the P-5 Road

As other suburbs mushroomed all around our forest oasis, eventually our community became a rather unique wooded haven or cul-de-sac almost on the edge of town. No longer were we "out in the country" as in earlier days. Nearby Wheaton, almost overnight it seems, no longer was a sleepy country crossroads but emerged as a major suburban center. High-rise apartments were appearing in the suburbs with increasing frequency.

Springbrook Forest had "grown up" to the mature age of 21. But, as we "came of age," a new and vital threat was presented to the community: the road project identified as "P-5" on planning maps.

We have noted earlier efforts by the County to open a second road into Springbrook Forest from the east: the P-15 Road proposal to extend Stonington across the Northwest Branch in 1960, and an early hearing on the P-5 Road proposal (extending Brookhaven across the Branch) in 1961. Now, suddenly in 1966, residents living on Brookhaven Drive and a part of Stonington Road received notices of new plans to build the P-5 road which would have resulted in assessments of front foot benefit taxes against their property ranging up to \$14,000 per home. Thus was touched off the most massive group action in the history of the Forest.



Figure 25

"Don't make this into a four lane highway!" One of the exhibits in the P-5 case.
Stonington Road at Brookhaven looking west.

P-5, as approved by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission as part of the Northwest Branch Watershed Master Plan, was to be a 36 ft. wide macadam thoroughfare with concrete curbs, gutters, sidewalks, lights, and sod. It was to include the widening of Brookhaven Drive and Stonington Road to the entrance of the Forest. By February, 1966, detailed planning and survey work had been essentially completed on the bridge across the Branch and connecting roadways. Ultimately, it would have directly affected the homes and property values of 39 residents of the Forest, with front-foot benefit charges of \$26 to \$40 per front foot. Indirectly, it would have altered drastically the entire character of Springbrook Forest. No longer would we live in a quiet cul-de-sac. Many trees would be lost and substantial traffic would flow through the community.

In perhaps our "finest hour", residents rallied around the SFGA and organized an opposition both rapidly and effectively. A Special Roads Committee was formed under the leadership of Lloyd Nelson. Special notice "Alerts" were distributed. Contacts were quickly established with other affected Associations to the east of Northwest Branch as well as with official bodies such as the Park and Planning Commission, the County Department of Public Works, the Board of Education, and with traffic officials. Many meetings were held. Acting jointly with the other Associations, we retained an attorney, and subsequently a realty appraiser and a traffic engineer. The committee prepared a special informative booklet for all residents. Donations for financial support were collected through the block captain system with near-100% cooperation.

The crisis reached its peak at a Council hearing in the County Office Building, Rockville, on March 22, 1966. Over two hundred united, determined citizens were there to support our position, as presented by our attorney, Mr. Howard Thomas, and by Mr. James Pammel (consultant on city planning and traffic) and Mr. Lowell Hendrick (consultant on real estate values).

Under Mr. Thomas' instructions, the tense audience maintained its decorum. The case against the road was excellently presented by Mr. Thomas. Then the County Road Commissioner rose to present the case for the road. To everyone's surprise, he turned to the audience instead of to the Council to defend his position. Finally, he addressed the Council, and to the astonishment of one and all, he said that he agreed that the road should not be built. Although the Council was not expected to vote on the issue that day, a motion was made and by a six to zero vote, the project was deleted from the year's budget. The Council's action was met by shouts and applause. Subsequently, the road was removed from the master plan. (The preceding account is based on a summary by Rae Nelson.)

1967 - 1969 - Up to Date

Although it sometimes appeared that the world outside was collapsing around our ears, the last three years in the Forest saw no major internal crises. While these years could hardly be called tranquil, at least they might be considered from a community standpoint as on an even keel.

Tragedy struck some homes as several long-time residents died.

In 1967, construction work on Viewcrest Terrace was started. Hermligh Road was hard-surfaced and widened to 26 feet. It was announced that gas service would be extended to parts of the Forest.

1968 saw the approval of the project which culminated ultimately in this History, plus a substantial collection of archives containing a wealth of anecdotes and other historical material relating to the Forest. Less pleasant, however, the crime problems of the City began to touch Springbrook Forest. Nuisance telephone calls, thefts, vandalism to mail boxes, all experienced an upswing. The SFCA considered several informal actions in attempts to combat this trend for the community as a whole.

In 1969, the Association acquired as a by-product of the History project one of the old tombstones which had in earlier days graced the small pioneer graveyard in the Forest (see Chapter I). In other actions, the Association gave strong support to the rapid rail transportation plan; urged the Park and Planning Commission to construct that portion of the NW Branch hiking trail which lies between Randolph Road and Route 29; and considered the possibility of incorporating as a self-governing community.

Thus closes the brief summary of community highlights during the last one and one-half decades. Although few names were mentioned herein, it is not just a few who have done the necessary work, have solved our problems, have made progress. We all know that virtually every resident, young or old, has contributed to this dynamic fragment of history. Progress is made by working together in united action toward common goals. We now face the 70's as a young adult community, 24 years of age.

APPENDIX 1 PRESENT RESIDENT FAMILIES (March 1970)

<u>Arrived</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Arrived</u>	<u>Name</u>
1958	William Alden	1966	Dale Jackson
1960	Walter Allen	1953	Henry Jenkins
1953	Ed Anderson	1959	Tom Jones
1963	Andrew Axelsson	1950	William Jones
1949	Ralph Barkley	1955	Richard Julius
1956	Edward Bassett	1961	Carl Kallina
1968	Chris Bassich	1951	Raymond Kern
1960	Eugene Beach	1961	Myron Kiefer, Jr.
1960	John Beers	1958	Mrs. Ellen Kragh
1965	Neil Bishop	1959	John Laddbush
1958	James Blalock	1963	Melvin Leonberger
1959	Albert Boggess	1956	Donald Leslie
1965	Gilbert Bowen	1951	William Lyons
1953	Harold Bradshaw	1957	George Mathieson
1965	Ray Bradshaw	1956	Walter McArdle
1966	Robert Chaplick	1949	Wesley Meginn
1952	Robert Clark*	1955	Leslie Miller
1955	Ellis Clough	1949	William Millet
1956	Charles Dabney	1960	George Misko
1964	Donald Dahl	1963	Philip Morgan
1962	Mrs. Dorothy Dale	1952	Floyd Morris
1954	George DeBuchananne	1957	Jerome Moskowitz
1959	John Dennis	1960	Ralph Muckenfuss
1966	Ralph Duxbury	1958	Lloyd Nelson
1958	Roald Evensen	1965	Ben O'Brien
1962	John Finn	1954	John Ohlmacher
1969	Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr.	1958	Harry Paddon*
1953	Mrs. Jennie Frey	1969	Mrs. Laura Patton
1959	Roland Fritz	1959	Anthony Pavlo
1956	Gerald Gilmore	1954	William Preston
1966	Donald Gish	1956	George Randel
1962	Joseph Goldberg	1955	Hugo Ranta
1966	Harvey Greene	1967	Bradley Reardon
1952	David Griffin	1965	Joseph Rock
1959	George Grove	1955	Murl Rogers
1969	Charles Grover	1956	Howard Roher
1965	Donald Harrington	1969	John Sandor
1969	Leurice Herlan	1956	William Savchuck
1969	Terry Horowitz	1965	William Saylor
1952	Julian Hoskinson	1965	David Schaefer
1956	Chester Howard	1955	Dwight Schum
1958	Sam Humphrey	1950	Carl Sharp*

<u>Arrived</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Arrived</u>	<u>Name</u>
1959	George Sites	1967	Charles Thomas
1955	Kemp Smith	1962	Glen Thompson
1949	Marlin Smith	1955	Wayne Travers
1958	Roy Smith	1958	Ray Tuttle
1950	Mrs. Doris Spangler	1962	Willard Vick
1960	Nelson Spencer	1954	Bernie VonBernewitz
1953	Edward Spielman	1953	Ben Wagner
1967	David Spokely	1954	William Weiss
1948	Preston Stang	1960	W. N. Whipp
1967	Willis Sullivan	1956	Donald Wilson
1955	Henry Temple	1958	Austin Yates
		1950	Louis Zindel, Jr.

* Lived elsewhere one year or more.

APPENDIX 2 FORMER RESIDENT FAMILIES

<u>Years*</u>		<u>Years*</u>	
1952-60	Paul Amundsen*	1950-52	James Hewitt
1962-65	Robert Anderson	1953-58	Joseph Jackson
1954-67	Herbert Bacheller	1952-69	Harry & Saline Jones*
1950-52	Bernard Baldwin	1967-69	Patrick Kaiser
1948-?	Albert & Ida Bauman	1956-59	Paul Kelley
1948-58	Preston Bauman	1959-62	Ward Lang
1955-57	John Beckham	1950-59	Joseph Langford
1950-55	James Clarke	1955-68	Ray Mayer
1957-66	Hank Clay*	1954-56	James McKay*
1957	R. O. Clemons	1961-67	Harold Meyers
1957-62	Roger Cooper	1955-59	Dan Morley
1959-62	David Curtin*	1955-56	George Morris*
1956-57	Jack Daniels	1958-65	George Morris*
1958-60	Stuart Danoff	1956-65	Kenneth Morris*
1957-59	Grant Decker	1955-62	Frank Nichols
1954-59	Vaughn DeLong	1958-62	George Pappas
1969	Arthur Donahue	1954-69	Ralph & Edna Payne*
1952-55	Charles Dyker*	1952-54	John Pellam
1962-69	Robt. Fitzsimmons, Sr.*	1955-58	Michael Persun
1952-62	Irvin Fullmer*	1957-67	Lyons Rose*
1957-58	Gilbert Giuliani	1948-58	Andrew Sabin*
1962-63	Charles Hall	1955-57	Austin Schweitzer
1957-62	Edward Heppenstall	1962-63	Lawrence Severy
1949-58	Milton Hermance*	1954-66	Oscar & Brooks Soderstrom*

<u>Years*</u>		<u>Years*</u>	
1955-60	Allen Sperling ↗	1954-59	James Umbarger
1954-57	Lester Steele	1951-56	Edna & Maria Vitiello*
1949-62	Dale Stewart	1953-59	Raymond Ward
1965-67	Tony Stickel	1955-65	Dale West
1964	Joe Stockard	1968	Donald Weisman
1956-61	Harry Thoben	1948-67	Maywood P. Winslow
1956-60	Robert Thoben	1963-66	Stanley Woolwine

* Families may not have resided here during the entire calendar year(s) shown.

APPENDIX 3 OFFICERS OF SPRINGBROOK FOREST CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

<u>Year</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Rec. Sec'y. & Treasurer</u>	<u>Corresponding Secretary</u>
1952-53	Marlin Smith	Dave Griffin	Toni Zindel	Janie Barkley
1953-54	Marlin Smith	Wes Meginn	Toni Zindel	Ann Stewart
1954-55	Paul Amundsen	Catherine Langford	Toni Zindel	Iris Jenkins
1955-56	Jerry Zindel	Preston Bauman	Augusta Griffin	Iris Jenkins
1956-57	Hugo Ranta	B.VonBernewitz	Julia Miller	Elma Hoskinson
1957-58	Leslie Miller	Walter McArdle	Ruth Preston	Naomi Clough
1958-59	Hank Clay	Don Leslie	Mary Ann Moskowitz	Thelma Wilson
1959-60	Don Leslie	Geo.Mathieson	Mary Ann Moskowitz	Iris Jenkins
1960-61	Dale West	Ray Tuttle	Iris Jenkins	Rose Mary Mayer
1961-62	Ray Tuttle	Roald Evensen	Thelma Wilson	Jeanne Clay
	<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary-Treasurer</u>	
1962-63	Roald Evensen	Albert Boggess	Jeanne Clay	
1963-64	Albert Boggess	Eugene Beach	Jeanne Clay	
1964-65	G. deBuchanne	Willard Vick	Marion Tuttle	
1965-66	Willard Vick	Roland Fritz	Marion Tuttle	
1966-67	Roland Fritz	John Finn	Ruth Dahl	
1967-68	John Finn	Leslie Miller	Ruth Dahl	
1968-69	Leslie Miller	David Schaefer	Dorothy Leonberger	
1969-70	David Schaefer	Ellis Clough	Dorothy Leonberger	

APPENDIX 4

CHAPTER I - COMMENTS & SOURCES

Rather than write Chapter I with footnotes, it was felt that it would be better to provide source information in this Appendix. In reading the following it is helpful to know two Latin terms: "Liber" means "book" and "Folio" means "page".

There are many sources for the chapter. The very old documents were found in the Hall of Records in Annapolis where all Maryland records prior to the Revolution have been collected and expertly indexed.

The information concerning Henry Culver's arrival is found in Liber WC #2, Folio 169, a volume recording land rights awarded and sold. Information concerning Henry Culver's children is from his will that can be found in a publication entitled The Maryland Calendar of Wills compiled and edited by Jane Baldwin and Roberta Rolling Henry, Volume VI, Page 155 and Volume VIII. The original Second Addition to Culvers Chance patent is in the Hall of Records Liber L.G. No. E, Folio 217. The survey is Patented Survey Certificate Number 1947. The deed giving Joseph Simmes the property in 1762 is found at the Hall of Records in Frederick County Land Records Liber G, Folio 391. The 1786 resurvey is Hall of Records unpatented Survey Certificate Number 246.

The description of Montgomery County in 1776 is from a book entitled "Centennial Celebration of the Erection of Montgomery County into a Separate Municipality - 6 Sept. 1876" that can be found at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore.

Facts concerning "The Hermitage" and "St. Winexburg" can be found in a book entitled The History of Montgomery County, Maryland from its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879 by T. H. S. Boyd, reprinted in 1968 by the Regional Publishing Company of Baltimore.

The courthouse at Rockville contains records dated after 1800. The many pages concerning Joseph Simmes' children and the cover map are found in a tome entitled "Court Record 1801 - 1806, Insolvent Record 1807 - 1823" starting on Page 91. James Lee's deed is recorded in Liber O, Folio 509.

The "Sahara of Maryland" quote is from a magazine put out by Woodward and Lothrop called the "Suburban Spectator". In the November - December 1959 issue is the quoted article entitled "A Brief History of Montgomery County in the Early Years".

James Lee's gravestone was being used as a stepping stone at Mr. Hembree's house on Grays Lane. He most graciously donated his step to the history project.

Most of the maps were found at the map room of the Library of Congress. The 1878 map is in an atlas entitled "Fifteen Miles Around Washington" by a gentleman named Hopkins.

The Maryland Mica Mining Company sale is recorded in Liber JA 4, Folio 143 at Rockville. The 1884 quote concerning the Gilmore Mine is from a Geological Survey report entitled "Mineral Resources of the United States 1883 - 1884" with a report on "Mica" by F. W. Clarke. The quote is on Page 908. The 1923 Geological Survey Bulletin is Number 740. The Gilmore Mine quote is from the article entitled "Mica Deposits of the United States" by Douglas B. Sterrett. Two modern references place the Gilmore or "Gilbert" mica mine behind the Kemp Mill Recreation Center. They are (1) a book entitled Potomac Trail Book by Robert Shosteck and (2) a 1948 map of the National Geographic Society. Both Mr. Shosteck and the Geographic have been contacted and neither is sure why they located it there. The National Geographic Society, in fact, made a search for an older map showing the mine location and came up with nothing. Mr. Gray knew the Kemp Mill Recreation Center area well in his childhood. He says "no" to there being any mine at that location. At the time of writing this history, all evidence points to the one and only mica mine on the Northwest Branch being in Springbrook Forest. The topographic map showing the mine shaft was located at the office of Ben Dyer Associates, Inc.

Mr. B. H. Warner, the third, has indicated that he knows that his father lost money trying to deal in mica. The name "B. H. Warner" shows on Springbrook Forest land in a plat entitled Composite Plat Plan of Property of Donald D. Shepard. Mr. Shepard's land was to the north. The plat is in the office of Ben Dyer Associates. The names "Kensington" and "Gremeses" for the mine are found in a book entitled Minerals of Maryland by Charles Ostrander and Walter E. Price published by the Natural History Society of Maryland in 1940.

The 1913 deed of sale to Smith and Bradley can be found in Rockville in Liber 238, Folios 404 and 406. Telephone conversations with Mr. Frederick Bradley, a cousin of Joseph Bradley, and L. Mercer Smith, the son of Charles Smith, provided a great deal of information about this period.

The Wanderbirds Hiking Club articles and map can be found in the Washington Room of the D. C. Public Library.

The real estate map was published by Frank H. M. Klinge of Lansdale, Pennsylvania in 1937. It was located in the Library of Congress.

The 1937 aerial photograph is a Department of Agriculture photo that is on file at the National Archives.

The Springbreek Forest Inc. deed of 1945 is in Rockville, Liber 975, Folio 424.

Acknowledgement for assistance that helped in the preparation of Chapter I is extended to Miss Martha Poole and Robert Baumberg of the Montgomery County Historical Society, Susan N. Gump of the State of Maryland Hall of Records, Mr. Fitzgerald of Ben Dyer Associates, and Emery C. Patton to mention a few of the many individuals outside this area who have been a great help.

APPENDIX 5

1742 "PATENT" GIVING LAND RIGHTS TO HENRY CULVER

Hall of Records
Liber KI No. 6
Folio 629

HENRY CULVER
PAT 400

THE SECOND ADDITION TO CULVERS CHANCE

Charles V [the fifth Lord Baltimore] Know Ye that for and in consideration that Henry Culver of Prince George County in our said Province of Maryland hath due unto him four hundred acres of Land within our said province three hundred and fifty acres thereof by virtue of a Warrant for that quantity granted him the twentieth day of August Seventeen Hundred and Forty two and the remaining fifty acres by virtue of that much part of a Warrant for two hundred and fifty acres granted him the twentieth day of August 1742 as appears in our Land Office and upon said conditions and terms as are expressed in our condition of Plantation of our said province bearing date the fifth day of April fifteen hundred and eighty four and remaining upon record in our said province together with such alternative as in them are made by our further Condition bearing date the fourth day of December sixteen hundred and ninty six together with the alteration made by our Instructions bearing date at London the twelfth day of September 1712 and registered in our Secretary's office of our said province together with a paragraph of our instructions bearing date at London the fifteenth day of December 1738 and registered in our Land Office WE DO therefore hereby Grant unto him the said Henry Culver all that tract or parcel of land lying in Prince George County called the Second Addition to Culver Chance Beginning at a bounded White Oak standing on the West side of a branch called the North West that falls into the Eastern branch of the Potomack commonly known by the name of Woodcocks Tree and running thence South 35° east 75

perches then South 5° east 60 perches then North 50° West 33 perches then South 5° west 294 perches then North 54° east 118 perches then North 66 perches then East 90 perches then South 45° east 80 perches then East 32 perches then North 5° east 227 perches then North 74° West 212 perches then by a straight line to the Beginning Tree containing and now laid out for 400 acres more or less according to the Certificate of Survey thereof taken and retained into our Land Office bearing date the ninth day of February seventeen hundred and forty two and there Remaining together with all Rights, profits, Benefits and privileges thereunto belonging Royal mines excepted To have and to hold the same unto him the said Henry Culver his heirs and assigns forever to be holden of Us and Our Heirs as of our Manner of Calverton in free and common socage by fealty only for all manner of services Yielding and paying therefore yearly unto us and our heirs at our Receipt at our City of Saint Mary at the two most equal feasts in the Year by the feast of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary and St Michael the Arch Angel by even and equal portions the Rent of 16 shillings sterling in silver or gold and for a fine upon every alienation of the said land or any part and parcel thereof one whole year's rent in silver or gold on the full value thereof in such commodities as We and our heirs or such Officer or Officers as shall be appointed by us and our heirs from time to time to collect and Receive the same receipt in discharge thereof at the Choice of us and our heirs or such Officer or Officers aforesaid provided that if the said sum for a fine for alienation shall not be paid unto us and our heirs or such Officer and Officers aforesaid before such alienation and the said alienation entered upon Record either in the provincial Court or County Court where the same parcel of land lieth within one month next after such alienation then the said alienation shall be void and no Effect Given under our great Seal of our fair Province of Maryland this twenty-sixth day of September seventeen hundred forty three Witness our truth Well Beloved Thomas Bladen Esq Lieutenant General and Chief Governor of our said Province of Maryland - Chancellor and Keeper of the Great Seal Thereof

Bladen

Proprietary Governor of Maryland 1742-1747

NOTE: The mention of "Calverton Maner" may indicate that this land was earlier considered to be part of a tremendous "Proprietary Maner" called "Calverton Maner". Little is known of the history of these Proprietary Maners.

APPENDIX 6 WHEATON REGIONAL PARK

(Based on a Summary by Don Leslie)

The original plan for Wheaton Regional Park was placed in the Master Plan in July 1956. It was approved by the Park and Planning Commission that same year. Public hearings on it were held in connection with the adoption of the 1957 - 58 Budget. A total of \$1,980,000 was appropriated for the purchase of 496 acres for Wheaton Regional Park, and for initial purchase of land for the Cabin John Park. The actual purchase of some 42 pieces of property was started in 1958 by Mr. Hewitt of the Park and Planning Commission, continuing until completion in 1960. Ultimately, a total of exactly 500 acres were purchased, the entire \$1,980,000 having been used exclusively for Wheaton Regional Park.

Development of the property into a Park began in 1960 with the construction of the campsites. The Nature Center also was completed, and work was started on Old MacDonald's Farm that same year. The Lake was completed in 1961, the Riding Stable and the Athletic Fields (baseball, softball, basketball, tennis, handball) in 1962. The Artificial Ice Rink was opened in 1968.

The final feature, the Arboretum, was completed during the Spring and Summer of 1969 and opened to the public on July 13, 1969.

In addition to the main facilities mentioned above, the Park also features bicycle trails, bridle trails, a miniature railroad and picnic grounds. For the last six summers an annual series of "concerts in the Park" has been one of the most delightful programs offered by the Park.

The old Shorefield House, now serving as headquarters for the Park Police, is of considerable historical interest dating back to the early 1800's.

The Park has been a resounding success. It is one of the largest and best equipped parks in the metropolitan area and is used by many thousands of people each year, both from the immediate vicinity and from more distant areas. Lying adjacent to Springbrook Forest and incorporating some of the original land in the "Second Addition To Culvers Chance," the Park has been a source of great personal interest and satisfaction to many "Foresters". It has been perhaps one of the most important external elements in forming the special character and attractiveness of Springbrook Forest.

APPENDIX 7 THE RISE OF GROUP CAMPING
BY SPRINGBROOK FOREST FAMILIES

(Based on a Summary by Elma and Julian Hoskinson)

In 1960 or 1961, the Bob Clarks, the Allens and the Randels all had taken long (but separate) camping trips to the west coast. The Clarks persuaded the Hoskinsons to try this venture in 1962. In preparation for it, the Hoskinsons bought some camping equipment and planned a shakedown trip to Trap Pond in May, 1962. They, in turn, asked the Clarks to join them for that trip. This led to a general invitation to others, in the form of a small notice placed in the Forester. In all, seven families (Bob Clarks, Hoskinsons, Allens, Blalocks, Evensens, Carters and Prestons) responded and took part in that first group trip to Trap Pond; the Hoskinsons receiving their baptism to camping by arriving (with the Clarks) in the middle of a rainstorm. But the next day the weather cleared up and the occasion turned out to be a big success. All had so much fun that they decided it would be nice to do it again the following year.

This brought up the question of reservations. The next year they tried Sharando Lake but due to lack of reservations were unable to get more than two or three families close together. They had a fine time notwithstanding. One incident slightly marred this trip: Jo Ann Millet fell and injured her finger and was taken to the hospital in Waynesboro. Fortunately her finger was only dislocated and she was fine the next morning. That year there were also seven families participating.

During the winter of 1963-64 the group decided to get a little more formal about the whole affair and had a meeting at the Evensens and decided to try Kimball Point at Kerr Dam, North Carolina. Mary Carter called the ranger and made reservations.

Kimball Point has been the choice each year since because it offers a wide variety of entertainment. A long weekend over the Memorial Day holiday has become the annual date for the trip. Most bring their boats and either sail or fish part of the time. In 1968 there were 21 families or, one should say, groups, because everyone seems to have extra children with them from the neighborhood. The 21 groups yielded a total of 123 humans, 4 dogs and 1 bird.

Over the years Mary Carter has maintained a very good relationship with the ranger at Kerr Dam and somehow or other the letter with the name Carter on it gets on top of the pile on New Year's Day when he opens the applications for reservations the following summer.

The first year at Kerr Dam, John Ohlmacher caught a seven-pound bass. Kay cooked it and shared it with everyone at the campfire that night. Sure was good eating.

Mrs. Flynn, Ruth Preston's mother, showed off all the so-called fishermen one year. With the rest of the crowd using well over \$1,000 worth of equipment, they had no fish to show for their efforts. But Mrs. Flynn managed to catch a big fish with her bare hands while she was wading with the children in shallow water.

Sailboats have increased each year. Of course not everyone can manage to upset a sailboat in four feet of water and get the mast stuck in the mud on the bottom while the hull is waving in the breeze. But Nick Carter can.

During the summer of 1968, the group tried out summer camping at Bethany Beach, Delaware. There were 12 families on that sojourn and the whole group came back complete with sunburns. This may become a regular part of the program. Care to join?

APPENDIX 8 GEOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY IN THE SPRINGBROOK FOREST AREA

(Based on a Review by George DeBuchananne)

Geology - Springbrook Forest is on the edge of the piedmont, lying just a short distance west of the fall line separating the coastal plain from the piedmont. The community is underlain by what geologists call the Oligoclase-mica facies of the Wissahickon formation. The Wissahickon formation, a specific type of rock, extends from the Philadelphia area across southeastern Pennsylvania, northeastern Maryland and on into Virginia. The formation is pre-Cambrian in age (more than 560 million years old). As found in this area it is a banded or laminated quartz-muscovite schist, and phyllite of various compositions; locally it may be rich in the minerals chlorite, albite, or oligoclase.

In the eons since the sediments that now form the Wissahickon were first deposited, many chemical and physical changes have completely altered the original sediments into the schist found today. The original sands and clays were subjected to intense heat and pressures; twisted, folded and faulted; cut and intruded by hot igneous solutions or magma to form the metamorphic rock seen today. Erosional processes also have taken their toll of this formation by weathering of the solid rock into a red and grey, sticky soil that varies from 0 to 40 feet thick, and in the erosion of the hills and valleys to provide the topography so interesting today. The total range of topographic relief in the Forest area is more than 160 feet: from the creek valley to the top of the hill just south of the entrance.

Near where Stonington Road and Remington Drive come together at the foot of the hill the Wissahickon formation probably includes a quartz-mica pegmatite intrusive dike, since the mica (muscovite) that was mined near here before World War I occurs in pegmatite intrusives rather than in the schist. Sheets and small "books" of mica can still be picked up along the side of the road and near the Northwest Branch in this area.

The only gem stone found in this general area is golden beryl reported in the literature to have been found in the "Kensington mica mine" (See Chapter I). Small garnets, not of gem stone quality, can be picked out of the schist outcrops found along the Branch adjacent to the Forest.

Hydrology - The hydrology of the area can be divided into surface and subsurface hydrology; the former is the more spectacular because we can see it, but the latter has had a more important bearing on the development of the community since it permitted the development of individual water supplies.

Records of the Geological Survey gaging station on the Northwest Branch about 400 feet upstream from Randolph Road indicate that during the last 45 years the highest instantaneous flow in the stream occurred 8 August 1953. On this day the rate of flow was 36,825 gallons of water per second. The lowest flow occurred in 1966 when, on August 30, 31, September 1, 3, 5 through 11, no water at all flowed past the gage. The average daily flow for a 35-year period of record was 22 cubic feet per second (or over 14,000,000 gallons per day). For many years the Washington Suburban Water Supply District used this watershed as a source of raw water. More recently, however, this source has not been used.

Wells drilled in this area do not get their water directly from the soil zone or the weathered rock but rather from fractures encountered in the solid rock itself. This partially explains why your neighbor may have a better well than you do. His well intercepted more and/or bigger fractures than your well did. This occurrence of ground water also indicates that in general all of the water is chemically the same since it has a common origin and common history of occurrence. Exceptions do occur, but generally water from a Wissahickon well in Montgomery County will have a similar analysis to that of a well in Howard County.

Major differences in chemical quality of well water as used in your home usually are due to chemical action of the water on the metal pipes in the wells and the plumbing system used in the house. In isolated cases, due to a different mineralogical composition of the underlying rocks, differences in chemical composition of the water do occur. In such cases however, this difference in chemical quality is noticed when the well is first drilled and used, whereas in the former case, the water will be good when the well is first drilled but deteriorates as it is used over a period of years.