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## POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT

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### ON THE COVER

The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Aqueduct over Seneca Creek. Photograph by Dick Downing.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### 100TH AIA CONVENTION — JUNE 23 - 29

Portland Oregon and Honolulu, Hawaii will be host cities this year for the national convention of the American Institute of Architects with its theme of MAN/ARCHITECTURE/-NATURE. It is hoped that the Potomac Valley Chapter will be well represented.

### NEW MEMBERS

The chapter cordially welcomes the following new Corporate Members:

JOHN W. REESE, A.I.A., transfer from the Portland Chapter. He is Chief of the Architectural Section, Architects, Engineers and Equipment branch of the division of Bureau of Health Service, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, which administers the Hill-Burton program of hospital construction.

R. JOSE KING-SHAW, A.I.A., transfer from the Washington-Metropolitan Chapter. Mr. King-Shaw is a member of Mr. Reese's staff.

LEE F. UHLMANN, A.I.A., transfer from Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter. He is the Assistant Director of Construction for the Montgomery County School Facilities.

### CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

Kelsey Y. Saint, Baltimore architect, has been elected president of the Construction Specifications Institute and will take office on July 1, 1968.

Charles J. Dorman, member of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter, A.I.A., has been advanced to Fellowship in the CSI and will be formally invested at the 12th CSI National Convention in Denver, Colorado, May 29, 1968.

Jack Lawrence of the Potomac Valley Chapter will receive an Honorary Mention for a specification submitted in the annual CSI competition. The award will be made at the same convention in Denver.

The local chapter of CSI will present a program on Soils and Soil Testing for its May 21st meeting at the Longworth Restaurant, Rosslyn, Virginia.

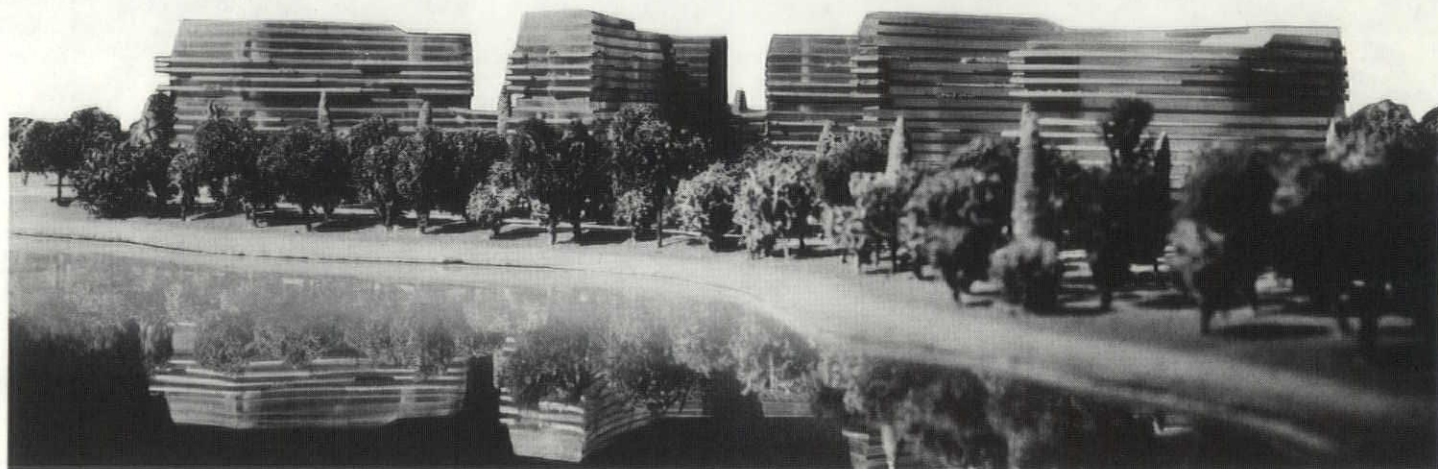
Speakers for this program will be James J. Schnabel of Foundation Test Service, Bethesda, and Harry Coulter, Deputy Assistant Chief Geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey. All interested are cordially invited and may call Charles Stover, DI 7-6767 for further information.



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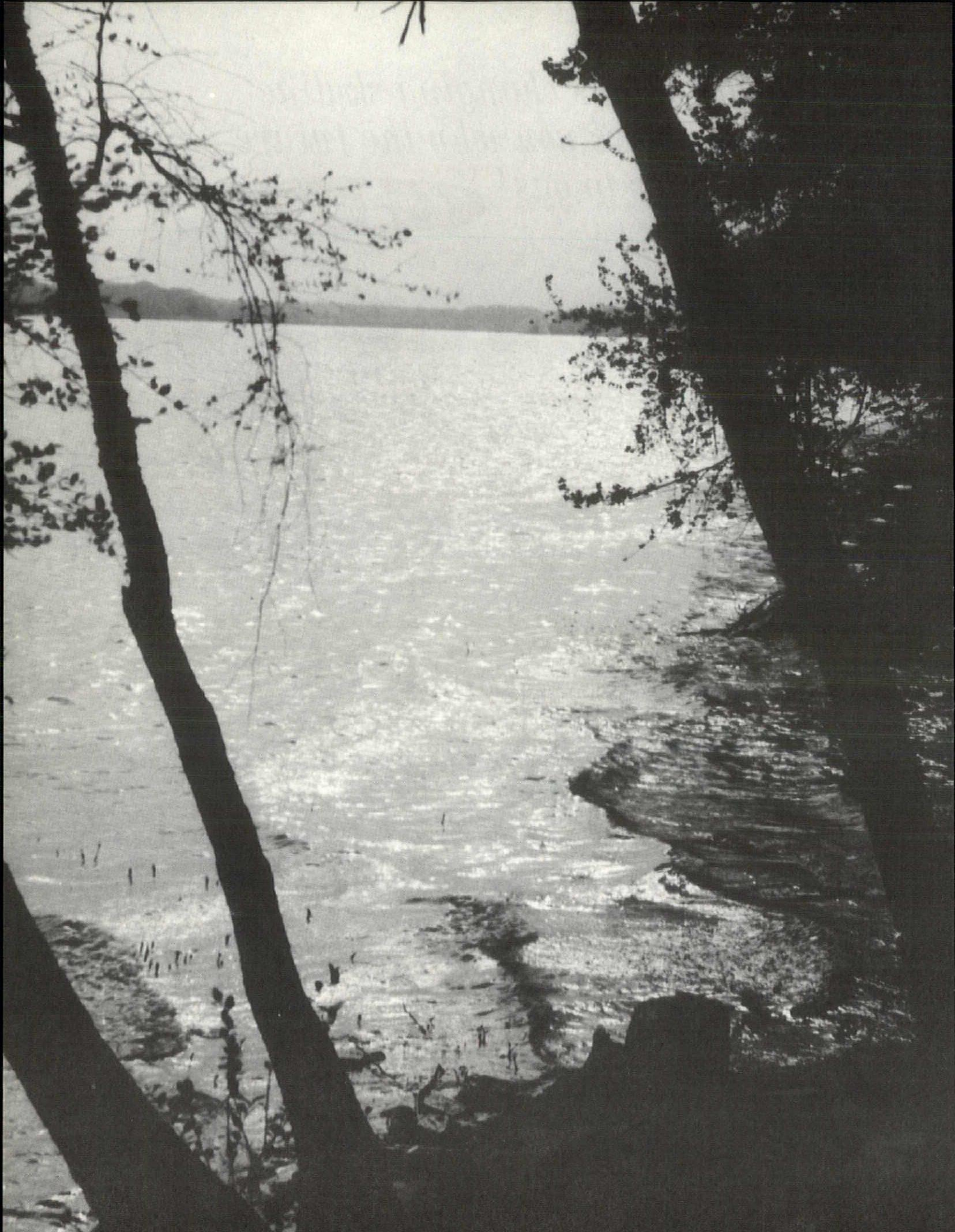
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# THE POTOMAC

DAVID W. DRAPER, A.I.A.

The Potomac Valley Chapter of The American Institute of Architects owes its chapter title to the major geographic feature which has shaped the region in which its membership resides. As public servants dedicated to the enrichment of man's environment, there should be no organization more interested in the Potomac River Valley than this chapter. It is to the stimulation of interest in the future of the river that this article is directed.

The problem of water pollution, which has resulted in the desecration of one of our richest natural resources, has always faced us. It has been only in recent years, however, that the general public has been educated in regard to the problem. The success of programs in public education can be largely attributed to the efforts of the Federal Government and the Department of the Interior.

The water pollution question goes well beyond the realm of simple solutions resulting from singular action by those most responsible. The solution to this problem will in the years ahead depend upon comprehensive community action.

In 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson directed that a model study be made to propose ways to "clean up the river and keep it clean . . . protect its natural beauties . . . provide adequate recreational facilities." Accordingly, The American Institute of Architects was invited by Secretary of the Interior Stuart Udall to appoint an interdisciplinary Task Force to study ways to implement the President's directive.

A panel of distinguished local and nationally respected architects, landscape architects, planners and authorities in the fields of geography and engineering were selected to serve on the Task Force. After considerable study a report was published in 1967. The published text, entitled *The Potomac, The Report of the Potomac Planning Task Force*, is both comprehensive and stimulating. It includes historical background, a definitive statement of the problems and issues surrounding the river and suggested solutions to what is outlined as a multi-faceted problem.

The Task Force report reveals that the heavy concentration of population along the eastern seaboard between Virginia and Massachusetts is largely a result

of the roles played by the six major rivers which serve the region. The development of the eastern seaboard began with a chain of coastal port cities and continued with a chain of cities established at the headwaters of these rivers. Little development occurred beyond the headwaters. The importance of this developmental pattern is that even today the areas above the headwaters are generally undeveloped and are capable of supporting the recreational needs of the adjacent densely populated regions.

The Task Force interjects an historical note into the report which is most significant in regard to the Potomac. When George Washington selected a site along the Potomac for the proposed Federal City, he did so because he envisioned the river playing an important role in developing the city as a center of commerce and trade. His efforts to develop the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal were a result of this anticipated goal. Land transportation, however, began to replace river traffic before the canal could be completed to connect with the Ohio River, and the Federal City therefore began to lose the battle for trade and industry to other established cities. This loss turned out to be good fortune in disguise because the river remains today as a relatively unspoiled resource which has more potential for preservation than does any other river in the region. The importance of this situation should not escape us. If, after mustering of all forces necessary to meet this challenge, we are unable to win the preservation battle here then its chances of success elsewhere appear remote.

The Task Force visualizes a long range program over the next thirty to forty years to provide "a region of carefully managed landscape and soils, of well-regulated streams supporting an abundance of wildlife and fish, of urban and recreational development that will meet both the needs and the hopes of its residents and visitors from throughout the land." The program for accomplishment outlined by the Task Force includes the following major considerations: the river's roles as a water source to cities, industries, farms and recreation areas; control of sewage, industrial wastes and sediment; flood and drought control; maintenance of farmland and forests; land preservation for recrea-

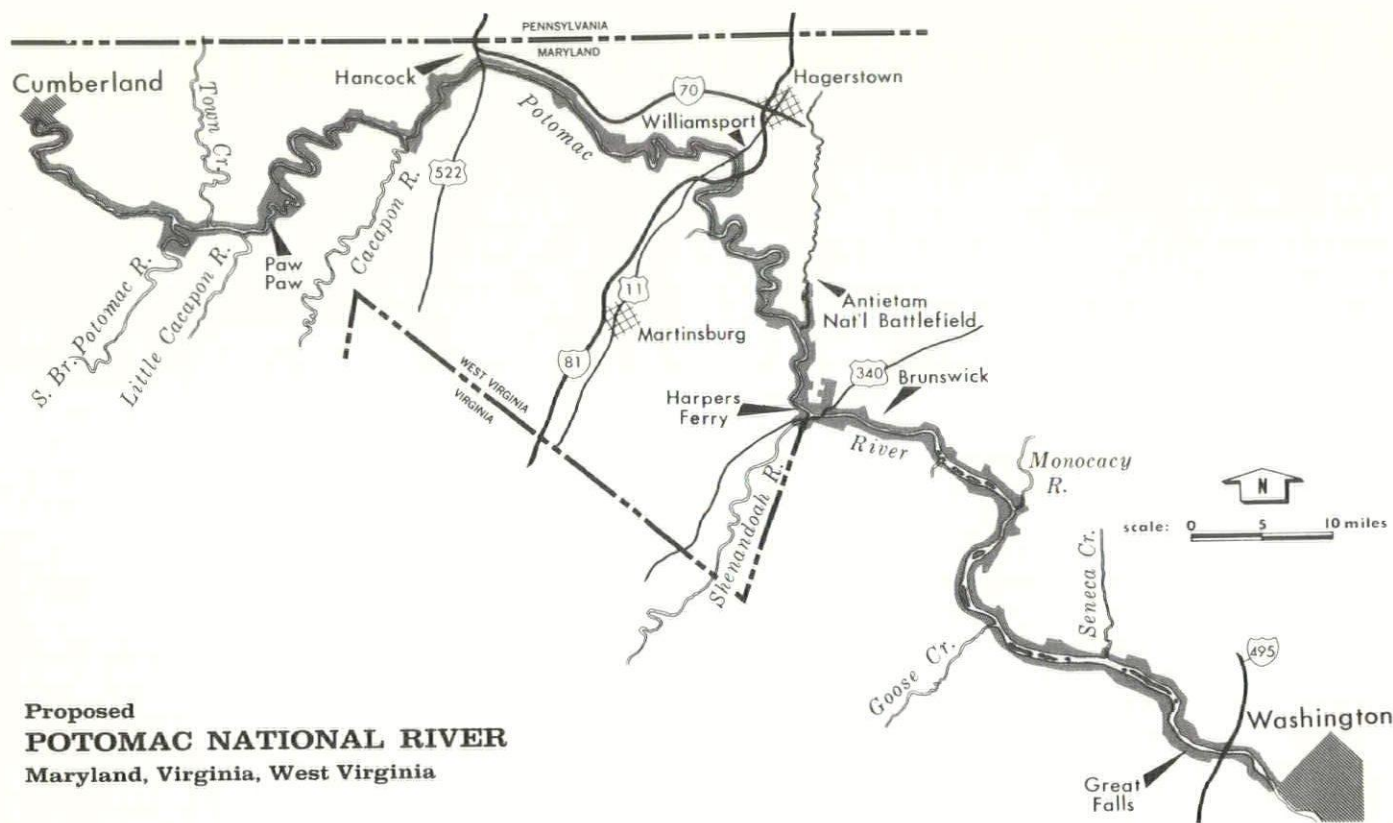


tion, transportation and development; preservation of wildlife and historic landmarks; land control for open space and development; promotion of proper industrial uses and planned visual appeal. The Task Force has outlined a plan for the control of the river, the riverside and the river setting.

As a result of the Task Force study, a Potomac National River has been proposed by the Federal Government which calls for "a green sheath" parkland stretching from Washington, D. C. 195 miles northwest to Cumberland, Maryland. Legislation in regard to this proposal is now pending before Congress. It marks the beginning of a third major conservation effort by the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service. Other efforts which preceded it were the preservation of inland National Parks and, later, a preservation effort to protect our shorelines for public use. This first proposal in a new effort to protect our rivers will involve 10,000 acres of public land and 57,000 acres of private land. The minimum average width of the proposed "green sheath" will be 600 feet on each side of the river, but would be 1,400 feet

(1/4 mile) if the entire 67,000 acres were distributed equally on each side of the river. Much of the land would remain available for private development by virtue of scenic easements. This proposal is an important step in helping to preserve the land which affects the river, as suggested by the Task Force report.

The Washington Metropolitan area, which occupies a critical thirty-mile stretch along the river, has contributed greatly to the problems of the river, but offers opportunity for appropriate development. Of primary importance in the Task Force report was the need for suburban development to follow patterns of high density coupled with large open spaces. This is a problem that has and will be attacked in terms of zoning modifications. It is easy, therefore, from this one point alone to appreciate the role which architects can play in helping to support those measures which will contribute to the success of this program. The entire effort and National River Proposal deserve both our attention and support at all levels.



*Courtesy of U.S. Dept. of the Interior  
National Park Service.*





*Cherry Grove, 1780*

## A VIEW OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

RICHARD DOWNING, A.I.A. and T. GIRARD LEE, JR., A.I.A.

The house, Cherry Grove, shown in this sketch by Edwin Bateman Morris, F.A.I.A., who very generously supplied much of the material for this article, has its foundation in the beginnings of the history of Montgomery County. This history could actually be said to originate with a certain Richard Snowden, descendant of a wealthy family in Wales, who came into possession in about the year 1690 of unbelievable thousands of acres of Maryland land and forest which included the area now occupied by the city of Laurel, Maryland.

He first built an unpretentious house and fifty years later a more beautiful home which he called Montpelier, now the property of the State of Maryland.

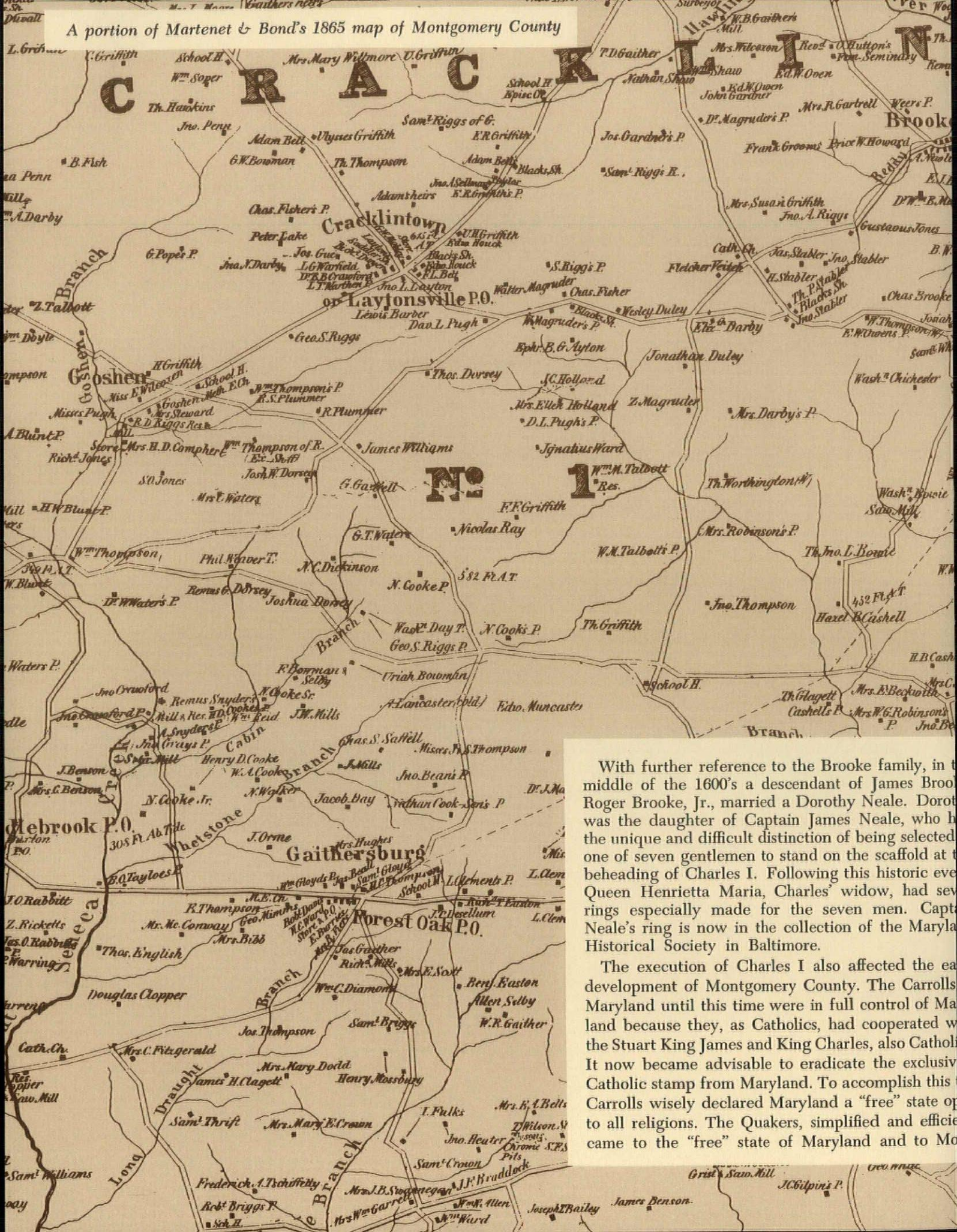
Two of Richard Snowden's gifts to the world and certainly to Montgomery County were his personable daughters, Deborah and Elizabeth. Deborah married James Brooke, descendant of the Maryland founder, Roger Brooke. To this couple Snowden gave a very large tract of land in what is now Montgomery County. Upon this tract the James Brookes built the house, Charley Forest, which was in existence until about thirty years ago.

The other daughter, Elizabeth, married John Thomas around 1728. He was also a descendant of the early settlers of Maryland. To Elizabeth Richard Snowden gave a similar size tract of land on which they built a log house. This partially burned in 1773 and was restored by their son, Richard Thomas, into the brick home known today as Cherry Grove. The red brick used in the rebuilding was made in nearby pits and laid in Flemish bond by bricklayers imported from England. The house, Clifton, located about one-half mile from Cherry Grove and built by John Thomas in 1742, also used the popular Flemish bond, but the bricks used here seem to unquestionably have come from England.

Both Cherry Grove and Clifton are visible from Route 198 (New Hampshire Avenue extended) just south of Ashton. They have been beautifully preserved and are in the category of Proud Houses. Cherry Grove is now owned by George Riggs, a Washington architect, who, exercising his trained architectural judgment, married Eugenia, a charming lady who also is an architect. Thus, a fine house, nurtured by two architects, could not but have a good final result.



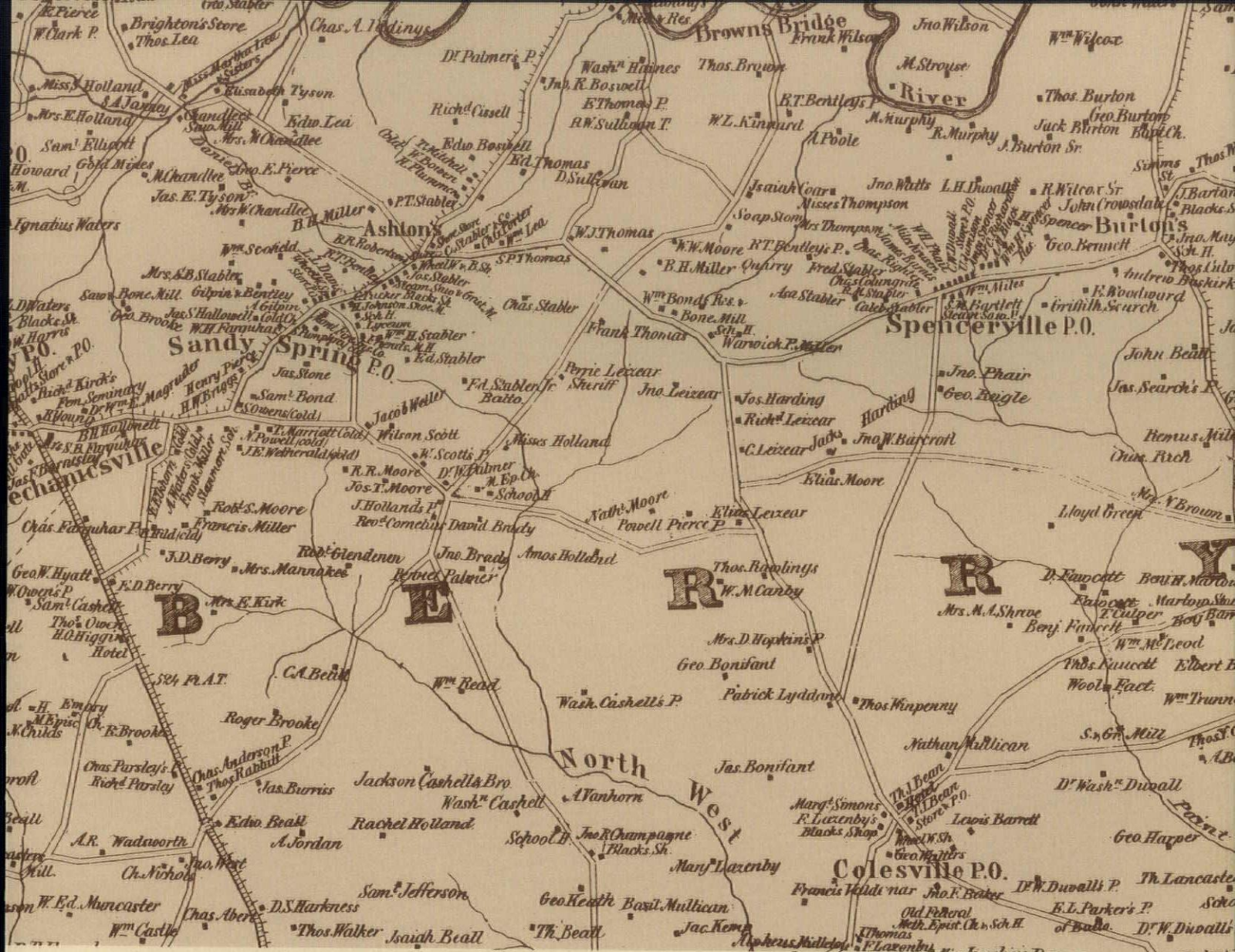
A portion of Martenet & Bond's 1865 map of Montgomery County



With further reference to the Brooke family, in the middle of the 1600's a descendant of James Brooke Roger Brooke, Jr., married a Dorothy Neale. Dorothy was the daughter of Captain James Neale, who had the unique and difficult distinction of being selected one of seven gentlemen to stand on the scaffold at the beheading of Charles I. Following this historic event Queen Henrietta Maria, Charles' widow, had seven rings especially made for the seven men. Captain Neale's ring is now in the collection of the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore.

The execution of Charles I also affected the early development of Montgomery County. The Carrolls of Maryland until this time were in full control of Maryland because they, as Catholics, had cooperated with the Stuart King James and King Charles, also Catholics. It now became advisable to eradicate the exclusive Catholic stamp from Maryland. To accomplish this the Carrolls wisely declared Maryland a "free" state open to all religions. The Quakers, simplified and efficient, came to the "free" state of Maryland and to Montgomery County.





Montgomery County early in the history of both areas. They divided the lands of James Brooke and John Thomas and settled in the middle, calling their community Sandy Spring, after the spring that bubbled forth at a point not far from the main road.

In time the Quakers came to be relied upon for their great thoroughness. The county seat at Rockville, recognizing the exact accuracy of Quaker records, waived marriage licenses for them, placing full confidence in the value of the books of the Meeting.

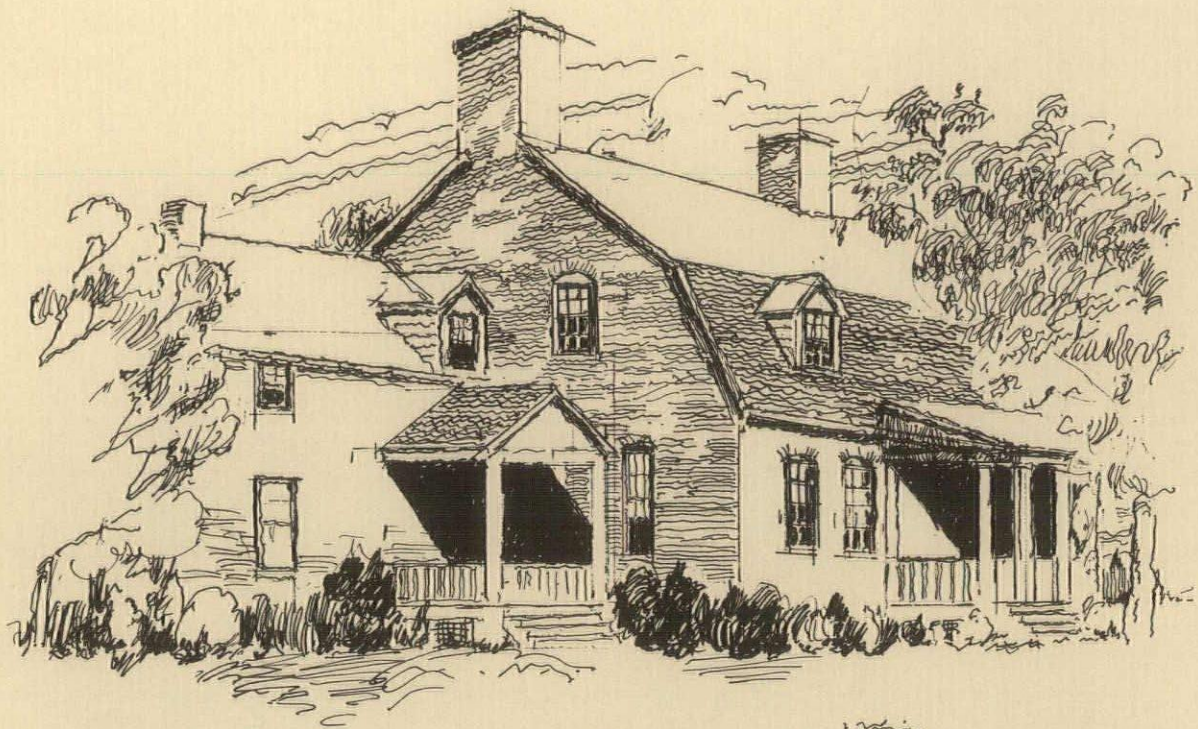
Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House, constructed in the early 1800's, was the beginning of a successful and prosperous community at Sandy Spring. At about the same time the Quakers instituted a fire insurance company, followed shortly by a volunteer fire company and, to stabilize the resources of the community, a bank was established. The Quakers of the Sandy Spring area were instrumental in rejuvenating the great farmlands in the Montgomery County area by their introduction in 1844 of a Peruvian Guano fertilizer which aided in rebuilding soil impoverished by overproduction of tobacco.

In 1776 the Maryland Convention at Annapolis passed a bill dividing Frederick County into three parts. The lower part became Montgomery County, named for General Richard Montgomery, a patriot killed in the battle of Quebec on December 31, 1775.

It was appropriate that a young county, striving for its own rights in a very revolutionary time, should choose for its name that of a man who embodied the spirit of freedom and justice. This man, Irish by birth, and an officer in the English army, felt the justice of the American cause and took that cause for his own.

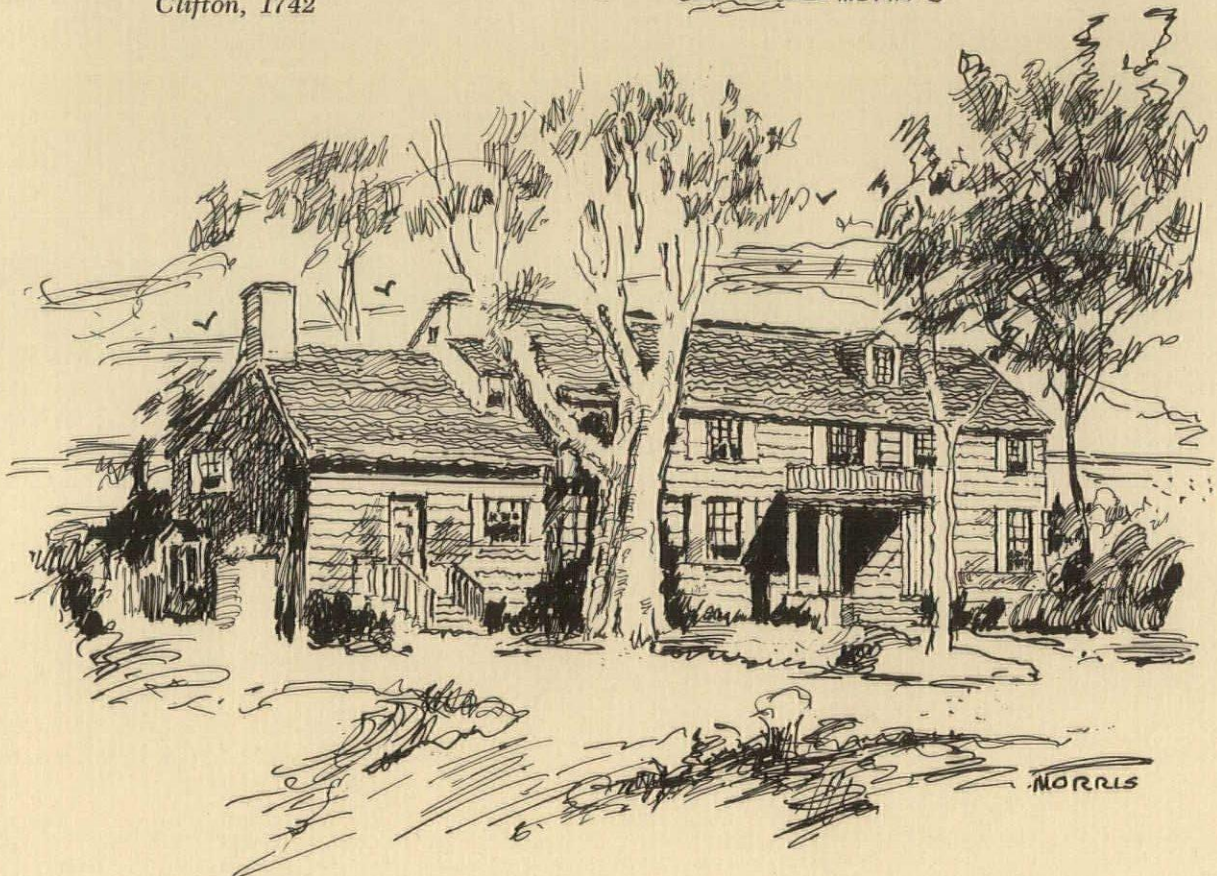
When Rockville was selected as the county seat its most important building was Hungerford Tavern, a story and a half in height, constructed of siding logs chinked with stone and mortar. The tavern served as a meeting place for many of those patriots fighting for freedom and liberty in the early days of the Revolutionary War. This tavern, which no longer stands, also provided a hospitable stop for travellers passing between Georgetown and Frederick. The first public road built in the county in 1774, extended from Georgetown to Frederick.





Clifton, 1742

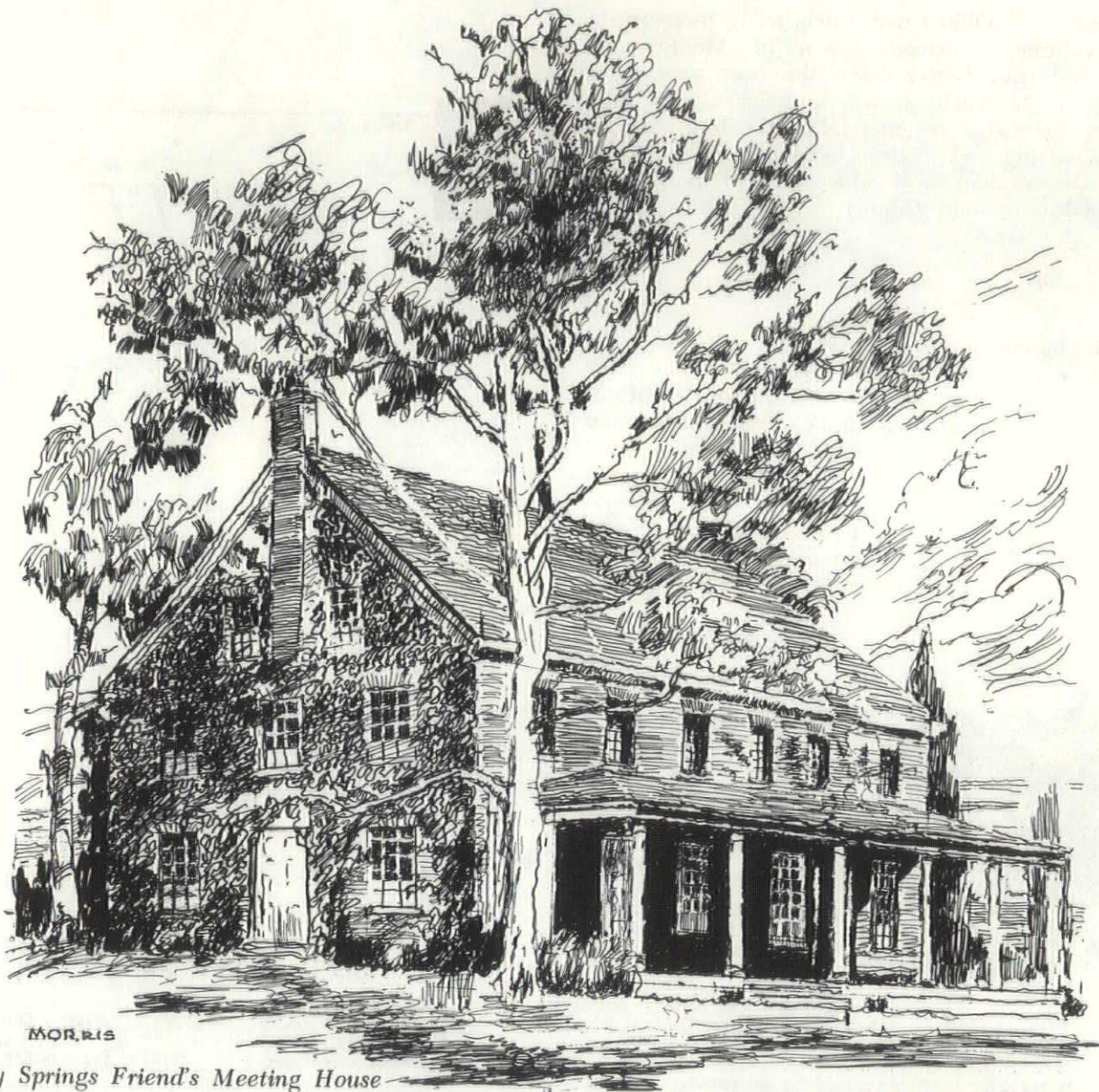
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Olney, 1811

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*Sandy Springs Friend's Meeting House*

Of present historical interest in Rockville is the restoration of the Beall-Dawson house, at 103 Montgomery Avenue, by the Montgomery County Historical Society. The house, which is typical of fine Georgian Architecture, was built about 1815 by Upton Beall, a clerk of the County Court.

The town of Olney has a pleasantly interesting history. Originally called Mechanicsville, it was required in time to change its name because there was another Mechanicsville in Maryland. After some discussion it was decided to call the town Olney, after the historic old home on the road from Olney to Sandy Spring. The house was owned by Dr. Farquhar, a devoted admirer of poetry and especially that of William

Cowper. He named his home Olney after the village of Olney in England where Cowper had resided.

A few years ago the rector of the Episcopal Church in Olney, England, on hearing of Olney, Maryland, made a visit to the American Olney. It was on this occasion that arrangements were made for an exchange of pulpits, during the summer, between the Olney, England church and the St. John's Episcopal Church in Olney, Maryland. This exchange has been made annually for the past several years.

Georgetown, which contributed much to the early development and prosperity of Montgomery County, was until 1790 a part of the county. Its importance as a major port city is evident by the construction of the



Chesapeake and Ohio canal, intended to increase its export volume. Tobacco grown in Montgomery County and transported down the post road from Frederick to Georgetown was a major export. The canal, no longer of commercial value, but with its beautiful setting and historic locks preserved by the Federal Government, now adds much to the natural beauty of Montgomery County.

☆☆☆

*Edwin Bateman Morris, F.A.I.A., and his wife, Faith, have been most helpful in contributing their knowledge and talent to make this history of Montgomery County available. All sketches of Maryland homes were drawn by Mr. Morris. Their own lives and experiences are deeply involved in this county. Mrs. Morris is a direct descendant of the Brooke, Thomas and Farquhar families and was born in the present Olney Inn. E. B. and Faith were married in Olney Inn. Both are active in the Montgomery County Historical Society.*



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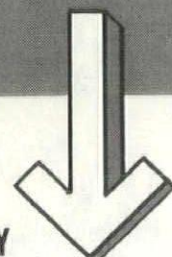
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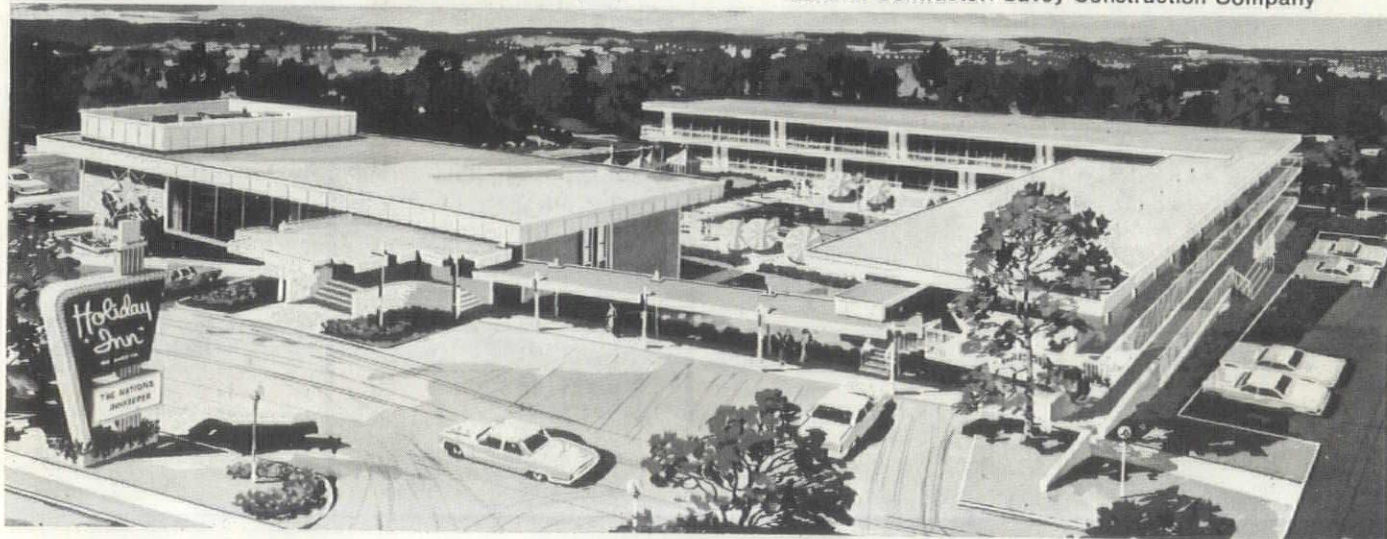


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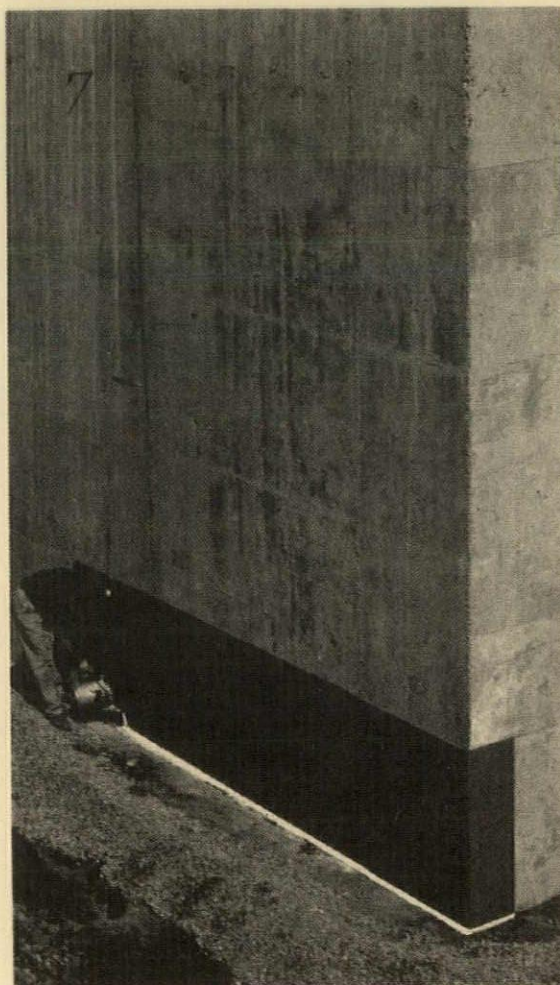
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