

HO-36
Oak Hall, site
Oak Hall Lane
Columbia
Savage Quad

House and outbuildings demolished November 1985

HO-36
OAK HALL
Columbia
Private

1809
CC

Oak Hall as sister house to Waveland, which is the residence of the owners of Sewell's Orchards, is highly significant to the history of Howard County. Built by Richard Dorsey, brother of Larkin who built Waveland, it has been owned and occupied continuously by the Dorsey family and was once located on the same tract of land on which the site of Elkhorn, a 1732 Dorsey residence, is found.

Richard built his house of brick in five bays with central entrance and hall as did brother Larkin at Waveland but enlarged the depth to two rooms rather than one on the south side of the central hall, including the hall, leaving the north side of the house one room deep. It may well be he intended to add an additional room at a later date for he put a shed roof on this side of the house which appears as a gable roof from the west elevation perfectly in balance with the south side. A wide north brick chimney with corbeled edge rising to meet in height, width and depth the wide south brick chimney which is its twin adds to this total effect. Both chimneys run north-south along the apex of the gable roof.

A flat roof portico supported by four square wooden posts and two pilasters connected by a wooden diamond motif railing covers the central rectangular west entrance which is surmounted by a four lite transom.

Another similar, but smaller one story high portico, featuring a gable roof, covers the east entrance door of the central hall, which runs the depth of the building.

In perfect condition and lovingly cared for by Mr. and Mrs. William Dorsey, Oak Hall remains one of Howard County's most valuable landmarks.

1400365304

HO-36

District 6

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME						
COMMON: Oak Hall						
AND/OR HISTORIC:						
2. LOCATION						
STREET AND NUMBER: 6899 Oakland Mills Road (Now on Oak Hall Lane)						
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia						
STATE Maryland			COUNTY: Howard			
3. CLASSIFICATION						
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY						
OWNER'S NAME: Mr. & Mrs. William Dorsey						
STREET AND NUMBER: 6899 Oakland Mills Road						
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia			STATE: Maryland		21045	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION						
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records						
STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Courthouse						
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City			STATE: Maryland		21043	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): See Tax Map 36&42						
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS w/r 17/175 p. 284 11.0 acres						
TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory						
DATE OF SURVEY: 1977 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local						
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust						
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle						
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis			STATE: Maryland		21401	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

2. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1809

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Oak Hall

Oak Hall lies on a tract of land which once belonged to John Dorsey who built Elkhorn Farm in 1732. Wild Caleb Dorsey acquired the property in 1765 and passed the land and homestead to his son John who lived at Elkhorn. It was this Caleb Dorsey and his son John that gave the land on which the Old Brick Church was built.

John's brothers, Larkin and Richard settled near him and built homes. Larkin built Waveland sometime between 1790 and 1809 and Richard built Oak Hall in 1809. Both homes are of brick, five bays wide with a central hall. Larkin built his home one room deep, while Richard at Oak Hall thought in more grandiose terms and began his home more grandly with a two bay, two room wide, south side and hall and a one room deep north side on which he put a shed roof, probably meaning to add to it in the future and complete it. This was never done.

Inherited by Larkin Dorsey, a bachelor who died in 1882, Oak Hall was sold to Mr. John Sieling. It passed from him to his son Henry. In 1969, it came back to the Dorseys, inherited by Mr. William Dorsey, present owner.

Built by the Dorsey family, Oak Hall is a major historical site which has been designated as a critical area of state concern suitable for pre-servation. It is surrounded by the new city, Columbia and immediately by the New Post Office complex and industrial park. It is thus subject to the impact of further development and should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places and included in any future local landmark legislation.

NOTE: Big Uncle Dick and Big Uncle Lark

Big Uncle Dick and Big Uncle Lark refer to Richard Dorsey, who built Oak Hall and his brother Larkin Dorsey who built Waveland.

Larkin Dorsey, a bachelor who died in 1882 and inherited Oak Hall is not to be confused with Big Uncle Lark. Larkin Dorsey, the bachelor was the nephew of both Big Uncle Dick and Big Uncle Lark.

The John Seiling, who bought Oak Hall, had a daughter Elise, who married Hammond Dorsey III, great great nephew of Richard Dorsey who built Oak Hall. Mr. William Dorsey, who inherited Oak Hall, was the son of Hammond Dorsey III and Elise Seiling Dorsey.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Warfield, J.D. Founders of Ann Arundel and Howard County, Maryland. Baltimore 1972.

Interview with Mr. & Mrs. William Dorsey, owners of Oak Hall at Oak Hall Feb. 9, 1977.

Interview with Dr. Caleb Dorsey, local historian and 25th Caleb Dorsey

Interview with Mrs. Brownley, whose father was born at Mount Hebron, grandson of Thomas Beale Dorsey

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Please see Tax Maps 36 and 42
w/r 17/175 p. 284 11.0 acres

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Cleora B. Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION: Comprehensive Planning Section

STREET AND NUMBER:
3450 Courthouse Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City

STATE: Maryland

21043

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

Signature _____

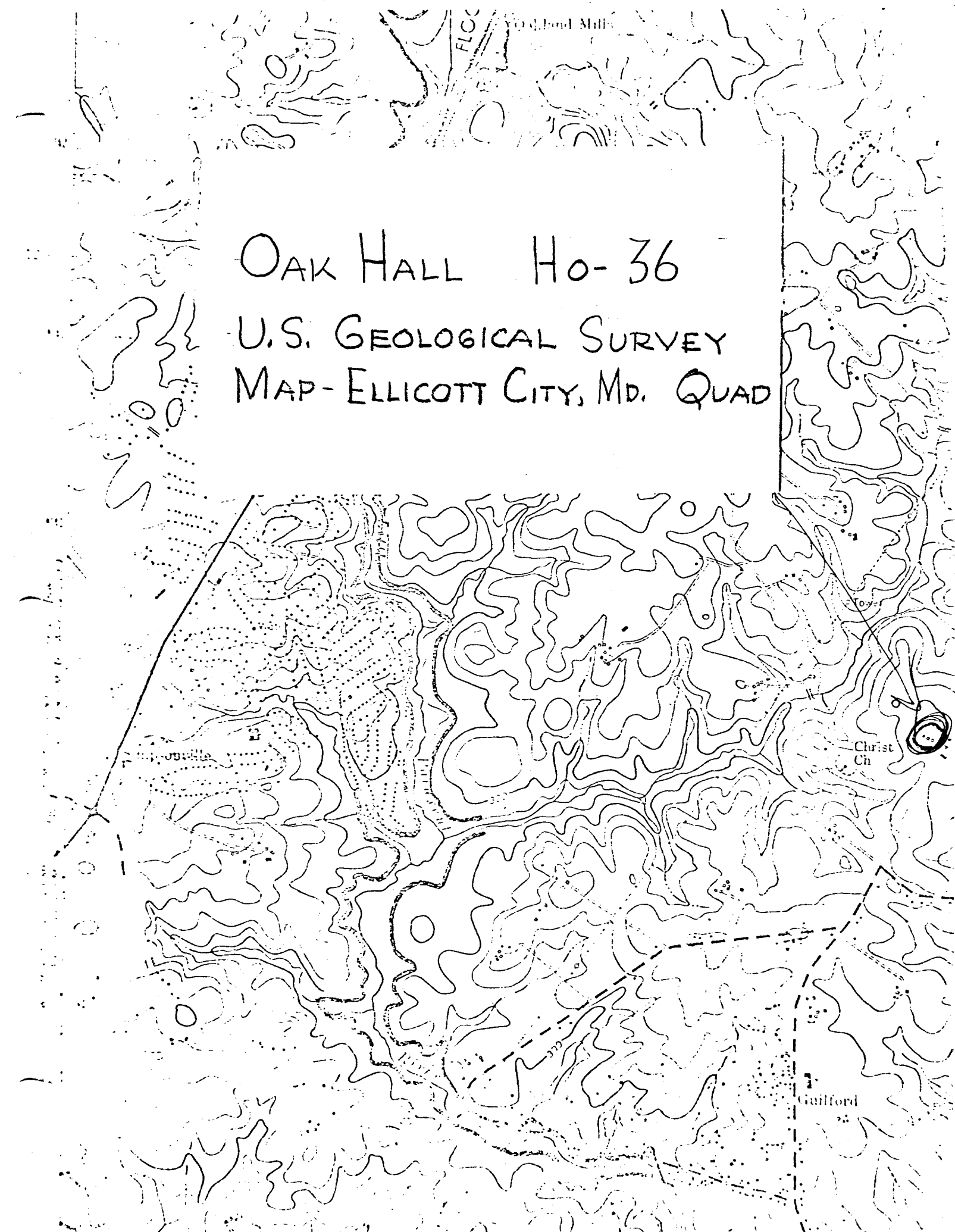
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FLOCC

Woodland Mills

OAK HALL Ho-36

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
MAP-ELLICOTT CITY, MD. QUAD





HO-36
OAK HALL
(WEST) FEB. 1977

CLEOPA STANER THORSON
PLANNING CONSULTANT
1000 1/2 10th St. N.E.