IN RE: PETITION FOR SPECIAL HEARING NE/S Falls Road, opposite Gardman Avenue

9th Election District 4th Councilmanic District (6207 & 6209 Falls Road)

Rebecca Reeves & Christopher Hampson Petitioners BEFORE THE

\* DEPUTY ZONING COMMISSIONER

\* OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

\* CASE NO. 01-519-SPHA

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

#### FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

This matter comes before this Deputy Zoning Commissioner as a Petition for Special Hearing and Variance filed by the legal owners of the subject property, Rebecca Reeves and Christopher Hampson. The Petitioners are requesting special hearing relief to approve existing undersized lots located at 6207 and 6209 Falls Road. In addition, variance relief is requested as follows: (1) to permit lot widths and areas of 94 ft. and 34,124 sq. ft. for 6207 Falls Road and 93 ft. and 34,107 sq. ft. for the lot at 6209 Falls Road in lieu of the required 150 ft. width and 40,000 sq. ft.

Appearing at the hearing on behalf of the special hearing and variance request were Rebecca Reeves, owner of the properties in question and Bruce Doak, professional land surveyor who prepared the site plan of the property. Many residents appeared in opposition to the Petitioners' request, all of whom signed in on the Protestants' Sign-In Sheet.

This particular case is a companion case to Case No. 01-505-SPH. That case involved a lot line adjustment in order to eliminate a property line encroachment regarding a garage. That special hearing request was granted to resolve that title defect.

In this case, the Petitioners are requesting a special hearing to approve an undersized lot located at 6209 Falls Road. In addition to that request, the Petitioners have sought additional relief. Apparently, the zoning technician who reviewed the file required the Petitioners to request additional variance relief, as well as a special hearing to approve the undersized lot at

6207 Falls Road. This additional zoning relief is unnecessary, in that the Petitioners need not request variance relief for this property located at 6209 Falls Road, if in fact they can meet the undersized lot requirements as contained within Section 304 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations. In essence, the Petitioners are requesting much more than is necessary regarding this property.

All that is necessary for the property at 6209 Falls Road, is a request to approve an undersized lot at that location. Consequently, the special hearing request to approve an undersized lot at 6207 Falls Road (the adjacent property) shall be dismissed as being unnecessary. That property is already improved with an existing single-family dwelling and garage and the size of that lot has not been reduced from that which has existed for many years. In addition, no variances are necessary since nothing has changed regarding the lot widths or lot sizes for the properties located at 6207 and 6209 Falls Road. Accordingly, the variance requests shall be dismissed as unnecessary. This case is simply a special hearing request to approve an undersized lot located at 6209 Falls Road, pursuant to Section 304 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations. It shall be treated in that fashion.

As stated previously, Ms. Rebecca Reeves appeared on behalf of the special hearing request. She testified that she has owned, along with Christopher Hampson, the properties located at 6207 and 6205 Falls Road since the early 1980's. Both properties are improved with single-family residential dwellings and have been their own lots of record. At issue in this case is an unimproved lot located at 6209 Falls Road. Shortly after Ms. Reeves took title to 6205 and 6207 Falls Road, 6209 was placed for sale on the open market. Ms. Reeves approached the owner of the vacant lot adjacent to her home and inquired about purchasing same. On April 19, 1985, Ms. Reeves and her then husband purchased the unimproved lot at 6209 Falls Road. It was her testimony that she wished to preserve the lot in question from being developed with a

single-family residential dwelling. In all probability, had she not purchased the subject property in 1985, a home would exist on that property today.

The Petitioners offered into evidence as Petitioners' Exhibit No. 5, the deed from which Ms. Reeves and her then husband, John Reeves, took title to the lot in question. The unimproved lot which the Reeves purchased in 1985, by virtue of the title documents submitted into evidence at the hearing before me, has in fact been a recorded lot of record since at least January 23, 1904 and continuing thereon. There has never been any subdivision of this lot from that time, nor have the properties owned by Ms. Reeves at 6205 and 6207 Falls Road ever been subdivided since the time she took ownership. The time at which a property becomes a lot of record is critical in the application of Section 304 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations. In this case, I find the lot at 6209 Falls Road to have been a lot of record from at least 1904 up until the present time.

Ms. Reeves further testified that at this time she has placed all three of her properties up for sale. Apparently, as a result of problems with her business, she has been put in a position to have to sell her two residential dwellings and the unimproved lot which is the subject of this special hearing request. As stated previously, Ms. Reeves purchased the subject unimproved lot in 1985 and paid \$20,000 for it at that time. No doubt, the lot in question was a buildable lot in 1985 and was marketed for sale in that fashion. The price paid for the property at that time is commensurate with the value of a buildable lot. Had the property been sold to anyone but Ms. Reeves, a single-family residential dwelling would have been constructed on the property then and would be in existence today. However, Ms. Reeves, who, at that time, had the financial means, purchased the lot and preserved it from development. Over the years, the lot has been used in conjunction with her existing property as additional yard space.

As stated previously, many residents from the surrounding community appeared in strong opposition to the Petitioners' request for approval of an undersized lot. The cumulative testimony of those neighbors in attendance was that the lot in question is simply too narrow to accommodate the construction of a single-family residence. These neighbors believe that the location of the house on this lot would not be in character and keeping with the spacing of the existing homes along Falls Road. Furthermore, they believe that the access to Falls Road is not adequate to allow a single-family home to be located on this lot. The Protestants testified that this area is very historical and that a newly constructed home on this narrow lot would be out of character with the historic preservation efforts being made in this area.

As stated previously, the issue of whether Ms. Reeves can construct a residence on this lot is governed by Section 304 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations. This section specifically deals with the use of undersized, single-family lots. Section 304.1 states as follows:

"A one-family detached or semi-detached dwelling may be erected on a lot having an area or width at the building line less than that required by the area regulations contained in these regulations if:

- A. Such lot shall have been duly recorded either by deed or in a validly approved subdivision prior to March 30, 1955;
- B. All other requirements of the height and area regulations are complied with; and
- C. The owner of the lot does not own sufficient adjoining land to conform to the width and area requirements contained in these regulations."

In determining whether Ms. Reeves can construct a home on this property, I am bound to follow the procedure as stated in Section 304 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations. Obviously, the lot in question contains an area or width at the building line which is less than that which is required by the DR.1 zoning regulations. Therefore, I must first determine if the lot in question was duly recorded either by deed or a validly approved subdivision prior to March 30, 1955. Based on the deeds submitted into evidence, I find that this lot of record has existed

since at least 1904 and probably even earlier than that. However, the deed submitted into evidence relates back to a prior deed dated 1904. This lot has existed in its unimproved state in this same configuration since at least 1904 until the present time. Therefore, the Petitioners have in fact satisfied the first test as to whether a dwelling can be constructed on this lot.

The second requirement is that the Petitioners meet all other height and area regulations associated with this DR.1 zoning classification. Based on the front, rear and side yard setbacks applicable to this lot, as shown on the site plan submitted, there is ample room within the building envelope wherein the Petitioners can construct a home. In actuality, Ms. Reeves submitted into evidence as Petitioners' Exhibit No. 3 the type of home she has considered having constructed on the lot. However, at this time it has not been determined whether she will in fact be building a home for herself or simply placing the lot up for sale. However, as an example, she submitted an elevation drawing of a cottage which she thought would be appropriate to construct on this property. The house in question meets all front, side and rear yard setbacks.

The final prong of the test as stated in Section 304 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations requires that the Petitioners not own sufficient adjoining land to cause the lot in question to meet the width and area requirements of the DR.1 zoning classification. As was indicated at the hearing, Ms. Reeves does in fact own property adjacent to this unimproved lot. However, the property adjacent to this lot of record is in and of itself an undersized lot. She does not own "sufficient" adjoining land whereupon additional land can be taken and added to this undersized lot to make it meet the width and area requirements of the DR.1 zone. Therefore, Ms. Reeves does in fact satisfy this last prong of this test, in that she does not own sufficient adjoining land which when added to the undersized lot in question would cause it to meet the width and area requirements.

Therefore, having applied the requirements of Section 304 to the facts and circumstances of this case, I find that the Petitioners have in fact satisfied all the requirements of Section 304 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations and that a single-family residential dwelling can be constructed on this property.

Once it is determined that a lot satisfies the requirements of Section 304, it is incumbent upon the property owner to submit architectural drawings of the house to be constructed on the property and show the actual location of the house on the unimproved lot to the Office of Planning for their review and approval. The Office of Planning takes great care to ensure that any house constructed on an unimproved lot be in character and keeping with the other homes located within the neighborhood. This has not been done as of the time of the hearing before me. Therefore, as a condition of approval of this undersized lot, I shall require the Petitioners to submit elevation drawings of the house to be constructed on the property and its exact location on the lot to the Office of Planning for their full review and approval. No building permit or grading permit should be issued to these Petitioners or any property owner for this property until such time as the house plans for the home to be constructed are submitted to the Office of Planning.

While this decision may not be very popular with the many citizens who appeared at the hearing in opposition to this request, the plain language of Section 304 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations, compels me to have to approve of this lot for the purpose of constructing a single-family dwelling thereon. This property owner meets all of the requirements of that section. It should also be noted that Ms. Reeves purchased this property in 1985, at which time it was being sold as a building lot. Since 1985 until the present, Ms. Reeves has had the luxury to be able to utilize this lot of record as additional side yard to her existing dwelling. Had she not purchased the lot, a house would have been built upon it in 1985. She has preserved this

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Date 4/10/01

By YE Grands

property for the past 16 years. As a result of her financial situation, she is no longer able to maintain the property in this fashion.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED by the Deputy Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County this day of September, 2001, that the Petitioners' Request for Special Hearing, to approve an undersized lot at 6209 Falls Road, be and is hereby GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the special hearing to approve an undersized lot at 6207 Falls Road be and is hereby DISMISSED as being unnecessary.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the variance requests for the properties located at 6207 and 6209 Falls Road are also DISMISSED as being unnecessary.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Petitioners shall be required to submit elevation drawings of any home intended to be constructed on this vacant lot, located at 6209 Falls Road. The elevation drawings shall be reviewed and approved by the Office of Planning prior to any permit being issued for the construction of a home, or any grading of the property.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that any appeal of this decision must be filed within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order.

TIMOTHY M. KOTROCO

DEPUTY ZONING COMMISSIONER

FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY

TMK:raj



Suite 405, County Courts Bldg. 401 Bosley Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204 410-887-4386

Fax: 410-887-3468

September 10, 2001

Ms. Rebecca Reeves Mr. Christopher Hampson 6207 Falls Road Baltimore, MD 21209

> Re: Petition for Special Hearing Case Nos.: 01-519-SPH

Property: 6207 & 6209 Falls Road

Dear Ms. Reeves & Mr. Hampson:

Enclosed please find the decision rendered in the above-captioned case. The petition for special hearing has been granted in accordance with the enclosed Order.

In the event the decision rendered is unfavorable to any party, please be advised that any party may file an appeal within thirty (30) days from the date of the Order to the Department of Permits and Development Management. If you require additional information concerning filing an appeal, please feel free to contact our appeals clerk at 410-887-3391.

Very truly yours, Suntly Motroco

Timothy M. Kotroco

Deputy Zoning Commissioner

TMK:raj Enclosure

#### Copies to:

Bruce Doak Gerhold, Cross & Etzel, Ltd. 320 E. Towsontown Blvd., #100 Towson, MD 21286

Adelaide Rackemann 1301 Copper Hill Road Baltimore, MD 21209

Ed & Aviva Hord 1220 Copper Hill Road Baltimore, MD 21209

Helga Morrow 1203 Hollins Avenue Baltimore, MD 21209

Natalie Bundey 6500 Pleasant View Avenue Baltimore, MD 21209

Peter Maloney 6219 Falls Road Baltimore, MD 21209

Richard Jamison 6215 Falls Road Baltimore, MD 21209

Gail Stetten 6219 Falls Road Baltimore, MD 21209

Bruce Boswell 6201 Falls Road Baltimore, MD 21209

Christopher Croft Lynn Davidson 6211 Falls Road Baltimore, MD 21209 Peggy Squitteri RRLRAIA P. O. Box 204 Riderwood, MD 21139

Sarah Lord 6134 Barrell Road Baltimore, MD 21209





# Petition for Special Hearing

to the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County

ase No. 01-519-5PHA UNAVAILABLE FOR HEARING	MARYLAND	
This Petition shall be filed with the Department of Permits and Development Management. The undersigned, legal owner(s) of the property situate in Baltimore County and which is described in the description and plat attached hereto and made a part hereof, hereby petition for a Special Hearing under Section 50.0.7 of the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County, to determine whether or not the Zoning Commissioner should approve THE CREATION OF AN UNDERSTEAD LOT AREA CONTAINING AN EXISTING RESIDENCE FOR GOOT FROM AND TO APPROVE AN UNDERSTEAD LOT FOR #6.209 FALLS RD.  Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by the zoning regulations, or we, agree to pay expenses of above Special Hearing, advertising, nosting, etc. and further agree to and are to be bounded by the zoning regulations and restrictions of Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the zoning in the zoning regulations and restrictions of Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the zoning legal and for Baltimore County.  If we do solemnly declare and affirm, under the penalties of perjury, that they are the legal owner(s) of the property which is the subject of this Petition.  Legal Owner(s):  Rebecca Receves  Repermission Property and the subject of this Petition.  Legal Owner(s):  Rebecca Receves  Repermission Property and the subject of this Petition.  Legal Owner(s):  Rebecca Receves  Repermission Property and the subject of this Petition.  Legal Owner(s):  Rebecca Receves  Repermission Property and the subject of this Petition.  Legal Owner(s):  Rebecca Receves  Repermission Property and the subject of this Petition.  Legal Owner(s):  Rebecca Receves  Repermission Property and the subject of this Petition.  Legal Owner(s):  Rebecca Receves  Repermission Property and the subject of the property and fully and the subject of this Petition.  Legal Owner(s):  Rebecca Receves  Repermission Property and the subject of the subject of this Petition.  Repermission Property and the subject of the s	for the pro	
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ESTIMATED LENGTH OF HEARING AHRS TOTAL  Case No. 01-519-5944  UNAVAILABLE FOR HEARING	State Zip Code	City State Zip Code
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Sase No. 01-519-5PHA UNAVAILABLE FOR HEARING	THE STATE OF THE S	
Deviewed Du 1/1	ase No. <u>01-519-5PHA</u>	UNAVAILABLE FOR HEARING
		Reviewed By VL Date 6/07/01

SET WITH OI-505-SPH



#### Gerhold, Cross & Etzel, Ltd.

Registered Professional Land Surveyors • Established 1906

Suite 100 • 320 East Towsontown Boulevard • Towson, Maryland 21286 Phone: (410) 823-4470 • Fax: (410) 823-4473 • www.gcelimited.com

519

May 22, 2001

# ZONING DESCRIPTION TO ACCOMPANY A PETITION FOR A SPECIAL HEARING OF THE REEVES & HAMPSON PROPERTY 6209 FALLS ROAD, NINTH ELECTION DISTRICT, FOURTH COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

Beginning for the same on the northeasternmost side of Falls Road at a point distant measured northwesterly along the northeasternmost side of Falls Road North 52 degrees 53 minutes 30 seconds West 35.00 feet, more or less, from the intersection of the northeasternmost side of Falls Road with the prolongation northeasterly of the centerline of Gardman Avenue, thence leaving Falls Road and binding on the land of the herein petitioner, the following three courses and distances, viz: (1) North 47 degrees 45 minutes 04 seconds East 390.27 feet, (2) North 22 degrees 01 minutes 30 seconds West 102.66 feet, and (3) South 42 degrees 20 minutes 01 seconds West 443.19 feet to intersect northeasternmost side of the said Falls Road, thence running and binding on the northeasternmost side of Falls Road, South 52 degrees 53 minutes 30 seconds East 93.00 feet to the place of beginning.

Containing 0.783 of an Acre, more or less.

Note: This description only satisfies the requirements of the Office of Zoning and is not to be used for the propose of conveyance



# DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT ZONING REVIEW

#### ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ZONING HEARINGS

The <u>Baltimore County Zoning Regulations</u> (BCZR) require that notice be given to the general public/neighboring property owners relative to property which is the subject of an upcoming zoning hearing. For those petitions which require a public hearing, this notice is accomplished by posting a sign on the property (responsibility of the petitioner) and placement of a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the County, both at least fifteen (15) days before the hearing.

Zoning Review will ensure that the legal requirements for advertising are satisfied. However, the petitioner is responsible for the costs associated with these requirements. The newspaper will bill the person listed below for the advertising. This advertising is due upon receipt and should be remitted directly to the newspaper.

OPINIONS MAY NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL ALL ADVERTISING COSTS ARE PAID.

For Newspaper Advertising:
Item Number or Case Number: 5/9 Petitioner: HAMPSON REEVES
Address or Location: 6207-6209 FALLS RD.
PLEASE FORWARD ADVERTISING BILL TO:  Name: REBECCA REEVES
Address: 6207 FALLS ROAD
BALTIMORE MD 21209
Telephone Number: 4/10 - 5'83 - 8 935

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND 9388	1 POIN PERCEPT
OFFICE OF BUDGET & FINANCE MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPT	PAYANI NCIUM TIME
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DATE 6/07/01 ACCOUNT 001 006 6/50	TEIPT # 176502
	Per la 5 520 ZUNING WRIPICATION RR 10. 093881
AMOUNT \$ 00,00	Recent Tol 200.00
RECEIVED C. HAMPSON V P RELEVES	Raltimore County, Maryland
FHOM:	
FOR CRES SPH ZRES VAC FILED POSETWER	2
DISTRIBUTION	
WHITE CASHIER PINK - AGENCY YELLOW - CUSTOMER	CASHIER'S VALIDATION

### 

The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County, by Authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County. will hold a public hearing in Towson, Maryland on the property identified by

NE/S Falis Road, opposite Gardman Avenue 9th Election District -4th Councilmanic District Legal Owner(s): Rebecca Reeves & Christopher Hampson

Special Hearing: to permit creation of an undersized lot area containing an existing residence for 6207 Falls Road and to approve an undersized lot for #6209 Falls Road. Variance; to permit lot widths of 94 feet and 32,124 square feet (for lot at 6207 Falls Road) and 93 feet, and 34,107 square feet for the lot at 6209 Falls Road respectively in lieu of the required 150 feet width and 40,000 square feet to each. Hearing: Friday, July 27, 2001, at 9:88 a.m. in Room 407, County Courts Building, 401 Bosley, Avenue.

Table 1

LAWRENCE E. SCHMIDT

Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County

NOTES: (1) Hearings are Handicapped Accessible; for special accommodations, Please Contact the Zoning Commis-

cial accommodators reason of the file and/or Hearing.
(2) For information concerning the File and/or Hearing.
Contact the Zoning Review Office at (410) 887-3391.
7/124 July 12.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION**



#### Gerhold, Cross & Etzel, Ltd.

Registered Professional Land Surveyors • Established 1906

Suite 100 • 320 East Towsontown Boulevard • Towson, Maryland 21286 Phone: (410) 823-4470 • Fax: (410) 823-4473 • www.gcelimited.com

#### **CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

RE: CASE # 01-519-SPHA
PETITIONER/DEVELOPER:
Rebecca Reeves & Christopher
Hampson
DATE OF HEARING:
July 27, 2001

BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 111 111 WEST CHESAPEAKE AVE. TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204

ATTENTION: GEORGE ZAHNER

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THIS LETTER IS TO CERTIFY UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE NECESSARY SIGN(S) REQUIRED BY LAW WERE POSTED CONSPICUOUSLY ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT



#### LOCATION

Northeast side of Falls Road, opposite Gardman Avenue

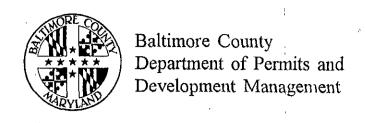
**DATE: July 11, 2001** 

SIGNATURE OF SIGN POSTER

**BRUCE DOAK** 

GERHOLD, CROSS & ETZEL, LTD
SUITE 100
320EAST TOWSONTOWN BLVD
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21286
410-823-4470 PHONE
410-823-4473 FAX

POSTED ON July 11, 2001



Director's Office County Office Building 111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204 410-887-3353

Fax: 410-887-5708

June 25, 2001

#### NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County, will hold a public hearing in Towson, Maryland on the property identified herein as follows:

CASE NUMBER: 01-519-SPHA 6207 & 6209 Falls Road NE/S Falls Road, opposite Gardman Avenue 9<sup>th</sup> Election District – 4<sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District Legal Owners: Rebecca Reeves & Christopher Hampson

Special Hearing to permit creation of an undersized lot area containing an existing residence for 6207 Falls Road and to approve an undersized lot for # 6209 Falls Road. Variance to permit lot widths of 94 feet and 32,124 square feet (for lot at 6207 Falls Road) and 93 feet, and 34,107 square feet for the lot at 6209 Falls Road respectively in lieu of the required 150 feet width and 40,000 square feet for each.

HEARING: Friday, July 27, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 407, County Courts Building, 401 Bosley Avenue

Arnold Jablon Gワン Director

C: Rebecca Reeves & Christopher Hampson, 6207 Falls Road, Baltimore 21209 Brian Dietz, Gerhold Cross & Etzel Ltd, 320 E Towsontown Bivd # 100, Towson 21286

NOTES: (1) THE PETITIONER MUST HAVE THE ZONING NOTICE SIGN POSTED BY AN APPROVED POSTER ON THE PROPERTY BY THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2001.

- (2) HEARINGS ARE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE; FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS PLEASE CALL THE ZONING COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AT 410-887-4386.
- (3) FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FILE AND/OR HEARING, CONTACT THE ZONING REVIEW OFFICE AT 410-887-3391.

TO: PATUXENT PUBLISHING COMPANY
Thursday, July 12, 2001 Issue – Jeffersonian

Please forward billing to:
Rebecca Reeves
6207 Falls Road
Baltimore MD 21209

410 583-8935

#### NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County, will hold a public hearing in Towson, Maryland on the property identified herein as follows:

CASE NUMBER: 01-519-SPHA 6207 & 6209 Falls Road NE/S Falls Road, opposite Gardman Avenue 9<sup>th</sup> Election District – 4<sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District Legal Owners: Rebecca Reeves & Christopher Hampson

Special Hearing to permit creation of an undersized lot area containing an existing residence for 6207 Falls Road and to approve an undersized lot for # 6209 Falls Road. Variance to permit lot widths of 94 feet and 32,124 square feet (for lot at 6207 Falls Road) and 93 feet, and 34,107 square feet for the lot at 6209 Falls Road respectively in lieu of the required 150 feet width and 40,000 square feet for each.

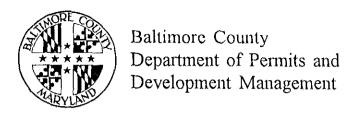
HEARING: Friday, July 27, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 407, County Courts Building, 401 Boslev Avenue

LAWRENCE E. SCHMIDT GDZ ZONING COMMISSIONER FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY

awrence E. Schmidt

NOTES: (1) HEARINGS ARE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE; FOR SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE ZONING COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AT 410-887-4386.

(2) FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FILE AND/OR HEARING, CONTACT THE ZONING REVIEW OFFICE AT 410-887-3391.



Development Processing County Office Building 111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204

July 23, 2001

Christopher Hampson Rebecca Reeves 6207 Falls Road Baltimore MD 21209

Dear Mr. Hampson & Ms Rebecca Reeves:

RE: Case Number: 01-519-SPHA, 6207 & 6209 Falls Road

The above referenced petition was accepted for processing by the Bureau of Zoning Review, Department of Permits and Development Management (PDM) on June 7, 2001.

The Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC), which consists of representatives from several approval agencies, has reviewed the plans that were submitted with your petition. All comments submitted thus far from the members of the ZAC are attached. These comments are not intended to indicate the appropriateness of the zoning action requested, but to ensure that all parties (zoning commissioner, attorney, petitioner, etc.) are made aware of plans or problems with regard to the proposed improvements that may have a bearing on this case. All comments will be placed in the permanent case file.

If you need further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the commenting agency.

Very truly yours,

W. Carl Ruhard, Jr.

W. Carl Richards, Jr. らりて Supervisor, Zoning Review

WCR: gdz

Enclosures

c: Brian Dietz, Gerhold Cross & Etzel People's Counsel

Similar

#### BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

#### INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO:

Arnold Jablon, Director

DATE: July 18, 2001

Department of Permits & Development Mgmt.

FROM:

Robert W. Bowling, Supervisor Bureau of Development Plans Review

SUBJECT:

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting

For July 2, 2001

Item Nos. 502, 503, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 516, 517, 519,

and 520

The Bureau of Development Plans Review has reviewed the subject zoning items, and we have no comments.

RWB:HJO:jrb

cc: File



Office of the Fire Marshal 700 East Joppa Road Towson, Maryland 21286-5500 410-887-4880

June 25, 2001

Department of Permits and Development Management (PDM) County Office Building, Room 111 Mail Stop #1105 111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204

ATTENTION: Gwen Stephens

Property Owner: SEE BELOW RE:

Location: DISTRIBUTION MEETING OF June 25, 2001

Item No.: See Below

Dear Ms. Stephens:

Pursuant to your request, the referenced property has been surveyed by this Bureau and the comments below are applicable and required to be corrected or incorporated into the final plans for the property.

The Fire Marshal's Office has no comments at this time, IN REFERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING ITEM NUMBERS:

502, 503, 504, 505, 508, 510, 511, 512, 513, 515, 516, 517, 518, and 519

REVIEWER: LIEUTENANT JIM MEZICK, Fire Marshal's Office

PHONE 887-4881, MS-1102F

cc: File

RECEIVED

JUN 27 2001

DEPT. OF PERMITS APP DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

## BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND DEFARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

TO:	Arnold Jablon
FROM:	R. Bruce Seeley
DATE:	July 6, 2001
SUBJECT:	Zoning Item 519 Address 6207 & 6209 Falls Road
Zoning	g Advisory Committee Meeting of <u>June 25, 2001</u>
	epartment of Environmental Protection and Resource Management has no ents on the above-referenced zoning item.
an exte	epartment of Environmental Protection and Resource Management requests ension for the review of the above-referenced zoning item to determine the to which environmental regulations apply to the site.
	epartment of Environmental Protection and Resource Management offers lowing comments on the above-referenced zoning item:
<u>X</u>	Development of the property must comply with the Regulations for the Protection of Water Quality, Streams, Wetlands and Floodplains (Sections 14-331 through 14-350 of the Baltimore County Code).
	Development of this property must comply with the Forest Conservation Regulations (Section 14-401 through 14-422 of the Baltimore County Code).
	Development of this property must comply with the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Regulations (Sections 26-436 through 26-461, and other Sections, of the Baltimore County Code).
,	Additional Comments:

Date:July 2, 2001

Reviewer: David Lykens

Sent

#### BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

#### INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO:

Arnold Jablon, Director

**DATE:** June 26, 2001

Department of Permits and Development Management

FROM:

Arnold F. 'Pat' Keller, III

Director, Office of Planning

SUBJECT: Zoning Advisory Petition(s): Case(s) 01-505, 01-511, & 01-512

The Office of Planning has reviewed the above referenced case(s) and has no comments to offer. For further questions or additional information concerning the matters stated herein, please contact Mark A. Cunningham in the Office of Planning at 410-887-3480.

Prepared by:

JM 26

Section Chief: (

AFK/JL:MAC



Parris N. Glendening Governor John D. Porcari Secretary Parker F. Williams Administrator

Date: 6.25'21

Ms. Ronnay Jackson
Baltimore County Office of
Permits and Development Management
County Office Building, Room 109
Towson, Maryland 21204

RE:

**Baltimore County** 

Item No. 519

JLL

Dear Ms. Jackson:

We have reviewed the referenced item and have no objection to approval, as a field inspection reveals that the existing entrance(s) on to MD/US 25. are acceptable to the State Highway Administration (SHA) and this development is not affected by any SHA projects.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Larry Gredlein at 410-545-5606 or by E-mail at (lgredlein@sha.state.md.us).

Very truly yours,

1. J. South

10

Kenneth A. McDonald Jr., Chief Engineering Access Permits Division





RE: PETITION FOR SPECIAL HEARING PETITION FOR VARIANCE 6207 & 6209 Falls Road, NE/S Falls Rd, opp Gardman Ave 9th Election District, 4th Councilmanic

Legal Owner: Christopher Hampson & Rebecca Reeves Petitioner(s)

\* BEFORE THE

\* ZONING COMMISSIONER

\* FOR

\* BALTIMORE COUNTY

Case No. 01-519-SPHA

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

#### **ENTRY OF APPEARANCE**

Please enter the appearance of the People's Counsel in the above-captioned matter. Notice should be sent of any hearing dates or other proceedings in this matter and of the passage of any preliminary or final Order. All parties should copy People's Counsel on all correspondence sent/ documentation filed in the case.

PETER MAX ZIMMERMAN

People's Counsel for Baltimore County

CAROLE S. DEMILIO Deputy People's Counsel Old Courthouse, Room 47 400 Washington Avenue Towson, MD 21204

(410) 887-2188

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 13th day of July, 2001 a copy of the foregoing Entry of Appearance was mailed to Brian Dietz, Gerhold, Cross & Etzel, 320 E. Towsontowne Blvd., Suite 100, Towson, MD 21286, representative for Petitioners.

PETER MAX ZIMMERMAN

то:	INTER-OFFICE CORF RECOMMENDAT  PACIFIC TO P. 6 07 01  Attention: Jeffrey Long County Courts Building, Room 406 401 Bosley Avenue Towson, MD 21204  INTER-OFFICE CORF RECOMMENDAT  ATTENTION  ATTENTION  ATTENTION  TOWNSON, MD 21204  F(LE)	Permit or Case No. 01-519-594A  Residential Processing Fee Paid
FROM:	Arnold Jablon, Director Department of Permits & Development Management	(\$50.00)  Accepted by  Date 6/0.7/0/
RE:	Undersized Lots	·
	to Section 304.2 (Baltimore County Zoning Regulations) effective June 25, 1992 e of Planning and Community Conservation prior to this office's approval of a dwi	
MINIMU	M APPLICANT SUPPLIED INFORMATION:	
	. Rebecca Reeves 6207 Falls Road	(410) 583-8935
	Print Name of Applicant Address  Lot Address 6209 Falls Road Election District	7 Telephone Number  9 Councilmanic District 4 Square Feet 34107
Lot Loca	ation: (NE)S W/side/corner ofFalls Road,(street)	
Land Ov	wner: <u>Rebecca Reeves &amp; Christopher Hampson</u>	Tax Account Number 0918350251
Address	: 6207 Falls Road	Telephone Number (410 ) 583-8935
CHECKL	IST OF MATERIALS (to be submitted for design review by the Office of Planni	ng and Community Conservation)
TO BE	FILLED IN BY ZONING REVIEW, DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS AND DEVEL	
	FILLED IN BY ZONING REVIEW, DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS AND DEVEL  Recommendation Form (3 copies)	OPMENT MANAGEMENT ONLY! PROVIDED? YES NO
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<ol> <li>This F</li> <li>Permi</li> <li>Site P         Prop         Topo</li> <li>Buildi</li> <li>Photo         Adjoint         Surrou</li> <li>Current</li> </ol>	Recommendation Form (3 copies)  It Application  Ian  erty (3 copies)  Map (2 copies): available in Room 206, County Office Building - (please label site clearly)  ing Elevation Drawings  graphs (please label all photos clearly)  ing Buildings  inding Neighborhood  int Zoning Classification:  TO BE FILLED IN BY THE OFFICE OF  ENDATIONS / COMMENTS:	PROVIDED? YES NO

Signed by for the Director, Office of Planning and Community Conservation

# SCHEDULED DATES CERTIFICATE OF FILING AND POSTING FOR A BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 304.2

Department of Permits and Development Management (PDM)
County Office Building
111 West Chesapeake Avevnue
Towson, Maryland 21204

The application for your proposed Building Pe	rmit application has	been reviewed a	nd is accepted for
filing by (name of planner)		Date	(A)
A sign indicating the proposed building must be decision can be rendered. The cost of filing current fees prior to filing the application.	pe posted on the pro is \$50.00. This fee	perty for fifteen ( is subject to ch	15) days before a ange. Confirm all
In the absence of a request for public hearing expected within approximately four weeks. How then the decision shall only be rendered after the	wever, if a valid dema	and is received b	a decision can be y the closing date,
*SUGGESTED POSTING DATE		D (15 Days	Before C)
DATE POSTED			
HEARING REQUESTED? YES NO			,
CLOSING DAY (LAST DAY FOR HEARING DE	MAND)	C (E	3-3 Work Days)
TENTATIVE DECISION	DATE	B (/	A + 30 Days)
*Usually within 15 days of filing			
CERTIFICATE OF POSTING			
District:			
Location of Property:			
Posted by:Signature	Date of Post	ing:	
Number of Signs:			

### INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE RECOMMENDATION FORM

TO:	Director Office of Diamains & Community Community	Permit or Case No. 01-519-SPHA
	Director, Office of Planning & Community Conservation Attention: Jeffrey Long County Courts Building, Room 406	Permit or Case No. UI VIII VIIII
	401 Bosley Avenue Towson, MD 21204	Residential Processing Fee Paid
FROM:	Arnold Jablon, Director	(\$50 00)
	Department of Permits & Development Management	Accepted by JL
RE:	Undersized Lots	Date6767/01
Pursuant	to Section 304.2 (Baltimore County Zoning Regulations) effective	June 25, 1992, this office is requesting recommendations and comments from
	e of Planning and Community Conservation prior to this office's ap  IM APPLICANT SUPPLIED INFORMATION:	oproval of a dwelling permit.
		(410) 502 6025
	Rebecca Reeves 6207 Falls Road Print Name of Applicant Add	(410) 583-8935 ress Telephone Number
	Lot Address 6209 Falls Road E	Election District 9 Councilmanic District 4 Square Feet 34107
Lot Loca	ation: NES W/side/corner of <u>Falls Road</u> (street)	
Land Ov	vner: <u>Rebecca Reeves &amp; Christopher Hamps</u>	Son Tax Account Number0918350251
Address	6207 Falls Road	Telephone Number (410 ) 583_8935
CHECKL	IST OF MATERIALS (to be submitted for design review by the C	
1.2 55 C. 1. 11 Sep	FILLED IN BY ZONING REVIEW, DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS	
4 Tit 1		PROVIDED? YES NO
	ecommendation Form (3 copies)	
	Application	
3. Site P! Prope	an erty (3 copies)	
Торо І	Map (2 copies): available in Room 206, County Office Building - (please lab	el site clearly)
4. Buildir	ng Elevation Drawings	
-	graphs (please label all photos clearly) ng Buildings	<u></u>
Surrour	nding Neighborhood	V
6. Curren	at Zoning Classification:	
	TO BE FILED IN BY TH	IE OFFICE OF PLANNING ONLY!
		COPPLE OF PLANNING UNLY!
RECOMME	ENDATIONS / COMMENTS:	
		required modifications of the application to conform with the following recommendations
Pri	or to the assumce of ony pe	proposed house within the cation of the curb-cut/driving
the	espect to precise location of	proposed house within the
long	Falls Rock Indicate The 10	
Signed by	for the formation of th	BEENVEN POSTER CO/19/01
7	for the Piractor, Office of Planning and Community Conservation	
0		JUN 2 2 2001
		OFFICE OF PLANNING DEPT CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT
		OFFICE OF PLANNING

# SCHEDULED DATES CERTIFICATE OF FILING AND POSTING FOR A BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 304.2

Department of Permits and Development Management (PDM) County Office Building
111 West Chesapeake Avevnue
Towson, Maryland 21204

The application for your proposed Building Permifiling by	t application has beer	n reviewed and is a	accepted for
filing by (name of planner)		Date	(A)
A sign indicating the proposed building must be decision can be rendered. The cost of filing is current fees prior to filing the application.	nosted on the propert	v for fifteen (15) da	vs hefore a
In the absence of a request for public hearing of expected within approximately four weeks. However, then the decision shall only be rendered after the respective to the contract of the cont	ver it a valid demand.	ie received by the c	sion can be closing date,
*SUGGESTED POSTING DATE	·	_ D (15 Days Before	e C)
DATE POSTED		<b></b>	
HEARING REQUESTED? YES NO			
CLOSING DAY (LAST DAY FOR HEARING DEMA			rk Days)
TENTATIVE DECISION DA			
*Usually within 15 days of filing			
CERTIFICATE OF POSTING			
District:			
Location of Property:			
Posted by:Signature	Date of Posting:		
Number of Sians:			

6211 Falls Road Baltimore, MD 21209 (410) 825-8202 Home (301) 785-1991 Mobile

## Christopher K. Croft

August 7th 2001

The Honorable Timothy M. Kotroco Deputy Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County Courts Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor 401 Bosley Avenue Towson, MD 21204

AUG - 7

HAND DELIVERED

Re: Case # 01-519-SPHA

Dear Commissioner Kotroco:

This letter is to follow-up on the hearing of July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001 regarding a variance to permit undersized lot areas for 6205, 6207 and 6209 Falls Road.

In 1985, when the Reeves' purchased the lot at 6209 for \$20,000, Rebecca told my wife's family, and since then both of us, that her motivation for purchasing the property was to maintain a buffer to protect the privacy of her adjacent home. However, since putting her residence at 6207 up for sale, an almost surrealistic atmosphere of cordial extortion has characterized her communiqués with us concerning purchase of the buffer. Ms. Reeves made it clear that if we did not accept her terms, she would build a house on a narrow construction footprint next to ours—just what she herself once sought to prevent.

The recent activities of creating a driveway and construction planning appear to take the zoning process for granted. Moreover, such activities disregard the community's interests, and forestall reasonable attempts to resolve this matter in a way that is in keeping with the present status of the parcel. Property owners are obliged to understand the responsibilities and restrictions of ownership, including zoning regulations. As Ms. Reeves has interests in multiple lots with the same designation, it is hard to believe that she has not fully understood the implications of DR-1 zoning.

We do not wish to deny Ms. Reeves fair value for the land. However, her expectation that the lot is presently worth between \$100,000 and \$150,000, as stated in correspondence to us on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2001, seems to be the impetus of this variance petition and the driving force of the dispute.

We wish to reiterate our family's interest in purchasing the lot at 6209 Falls Road at Maryland's present assessed value for the property—\$38,900. We stated this in a correspondence to Ms. Reeves, dated April 17<sup>th</sup> 2001. As an alternative to purchasing the entire lot from the Reeves, we would also be willing to split the lot with our new neighbors. The house at 6207 is presently under contract to a buyer, and according to Ms. Reeves, several perspective buyers were interested in purchasing all or part of 6209 as a buffer between their new home and ours. In addition, we are willing to make equitable arrangements regarding the costs associated with subdivision. We see this as an opportunity to bring the lots at 6205 and 6207 Falls Road, as well as our own, closer to compliance with conforming use requirements of DR-1 zoning in order to maintain the standards of our community.

We hope that the county can avoid the untenable position of granting zoning variances to accommodate speculation and unreasonable financial expectations, especially if alternatives are available. Granting this variance will not solve existing irregularities with the parcels; however, it will create yet another undersized lot. It will also come at the expense of a community that has worked unselfishly and made consistent sacrifices to protect and upgrade our quality of life.

Thank you for your thoughtful deliberation regarding this difficult situation. We stand ready to work with Ms. Reeves, Baltimore County, and our community. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Sincerely,

**Christopher Croft** 

Case Number 01-5/9-SAHA

#### PLEASE <u>PRINT</u> LEGIBLY

#### **PROTESTANT'S SIGN-IN SHEET**

Name	Address	City, State	Zip Code
Adelaile C. Rackeman	1301 Copper 14'1112	1, Bactimy	21209
ED Horo	1220 WPPER HILLRI	. /**	<i>N</i>
AVIVA HORD	£ (	IX.	13
Gelga M Morrow	1203 (Nollins Ave	Ball.	21209
natelia Bunday	6500 Planant VW Ga	Bosto	5,589
Reter Chaloney	6219 Falls Rd	Balto Co	21209
RICHARD JAMISON	6215 FALLS RD	BALTO (&	2/209
Gail STETTEN	6219 Falls Rd	Bult	21209
BRUCE BOSWELL	6201 Falls Rd	Ball Co	21209
Christo Phen Croft & Lynn V	6211 Falls Road	Ball. Co.	21209
Pegy Soution	P.O. Box 204 21139	Riderwood	21139
SARAH LORD	6134 Barodl Rd 2120	7	
	,		
		Revised 4	/17/00

Protex # 1

1220 Copper Hill Road Baltimore, MD 21209

July 28, 2001

Office of the Zoning Commissioner County Courts Building 401 Bosley Avenue Towson, MD 21204

Re: Case Numbers 01-505-SPH and 01-519-SPHA

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

My wife and I are residents of the Bare Hills neighborhood and live just up Falls Road to the north of the subject property. My wife is also a Board Member of the Ruxton Riderwood Lake Roland Area Improvement Association. We request that you deny the variances requested for 6205, 6207 and proposed 6209 Falls Road, in cases 01-505-SPH and 01-519-SPHA. Granting them would set precedents which would permanently hamper historic preservation efforts underway in the Bare Hills neighborhoods.

Bare Hills is a rich historic neighborhood of 19<sup>th</sup> century residences dating from well before the Civil War, built by both white owners and African-American owners, and as a district it is under consideration for National Register designation. Note that the variances being sought would establish not just one but *three* undersized lots (where now there are two conforming lots). We oppose the attempt to subdivide this parcel into building lots that are too small (34,000 square feet instead of the required 40,000 square feet) and too narrow (93 feet instead of the required 150 feet). This is not in keeping with the character of the neighborhood. The hardship being argued is self-created for the owners, whereas the consequences for the surrounding neighborhoods would be drastic.

A troubling pattern has established itself in this case. The sign informing the community of the zoning variance hearing was removed a few days after it was posted and it has not been replaced. Two days ago, neighbors were startled to discover that vegetation on the undersized proposed building site was being destroyed for a steep driveway of dirt and crusher run, being graded without any silt fencing -- and prior even to the establishment of a separate buildable lot or the issuance of a building permit (at 6209).

We appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely.

Ed and Aviva Hord

anva How

· Prof Ex#2

#### Lake Roland Protective Association 1203 Hollins Lane Baltimore, MD 21209

Office of Zoning Commissioner County Courts Building 401 Bosley Avenue Towson, MD 21204 27, July 2001 Case Numbers 01-505-SPH 01-519-SPHA

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

Members of our associations are greatly disturbed by the request for variances for 6205, 6207 and 6209 Falls Road. Along with the Greater Falls Road Neighborhood Task Force and other neighborhood associations concerned with the preservation of Falls Road's historic character and its natural beauty, we respectfully request that you deny these variances. Just recently Falls Road was designated as a Maryland Scenic Byway. Such a designation is not done without careful consideration by the authorities. As written in the introduction to the Maryland Scenic Byways guide book by Governor Parris Glendening and Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, "When visiting a Scenic byway, rest assured that these sites, through our Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation Programs, will remain legacies to be inherited by future generations of Marylanders".

Granting the variance would set a dangerous precedent in terms of efforts to conserve this precious historical corridor. Over the past several years we have experienced repeated efforts by both businesses and individuals to seek rezoning or variances for their properties, that if granted would detract from Falls Roads beauty. One, the Falls Road Animal Hospital, did manage to put up a structure that is clearly in disharmony with the Falls Road community. The structure is not only a nuisance to its neighbors, but clearly an eyesore to all who pass it. We do not want to see this happening. We would like to preserve what is there, beautify what needs to be improved and guard what needs to be protected.

Thank you very much for consideration of this Association's concerns.

Sincerely,

Kelfa M Morrow
Helga M/Morrow

President

Potex #3

#### Testimony

On

Baltimore County Zoning Case # 01-519-SPHA

Variance to permit creation of two undersized lot widths

94 ft. and 34,124 sq. ft. for 6207 Falls Road

And

93 ft. and 34,107 sq. ft. for 6209 Falls Road

By

Lynn Davidson

Friday 27 July 2001

My name is Lynn Davidson, and I'm testifying on behalf of my husband, Christopher Croft and myself. We live at 6211 Falls Road (next door to the lot at 6209) in a house built by my great grandfather in the late 1800s, and owned by my family since that time—about 125 years. We have a long-term interest in historic preservation of the community as well as disposition of the properties under consideration. And, we are opposed to downgrading present zoning.

•

To date, we have a friendly relationship with our neighbors, and it is with great sadness and some trepidation that we find ourselves involved in a process that by its very nature is adversarial. Nevertheless, we believe that it is not only a right but also a responsibility for citizens to think and act carefully regarding the way future development in their neighborhoods and surrounding communities will take place. We have recently heard a prediction that there will be as much development in the next twenty years in the state of Maryland as there has been in the last two hundred years. Without knowing the basis of these figures, unrestricted development remains a very sobering thought.

We believe that associations of neighbors should determine the future of specific communities in a non-adversarial manner, and that laws and a legal process exist to facilitate the decisions of those communities and provide a forum when consensus cannot be reached. Our attempts to communicate and obtain information about the disposition of the land at 6209 Falls Road have left us concerned that this process is not presently functioning as well as we had hoped in Baltimore County.

Our experience with the County Government has led us to believe that the zoning variance is a forgone conclusion. Considering the fact that a new driveway was under construction at 6209 Falls Road two days *before* the public hearing, it appears that we are not the only ones who have been left with this impression.

The notice of a zoning variance for an undersized lot next to our home consisted of a sign posted along Falls Road for about 96 hours. As it was removed on a Sunday afternoon we concluded that County officials had not removed it, and attempted to report it missing. Our calls to the County regarding removal of the sign were not answered, and when we finally reached the Clerk's office we were informed that replacing the signs was unnecessary. This does not represent very much in the way of practical notice to the community for downgrading its zoning, and we found ourselves asking if this constitutes due diligence in Baltimore County.

In our attempts to ascertain the nature of the proposed zoning variance, we were informed by the County Clerk's office that any concerns we may have regarding the variance would need to be posed as very strong, convincing arguments at the public hearing in order to maintain the present zoning. This shifting of the burden of proof to the neighbors in order to maintain the law runs contrary to our understanding of how government should work. And, begs the question, where does Baltimore County place the burden of proof with regard to changing its zoning laws?

With regard to the variance for 6207 Falls Road, our efforts to ascertain the reason for a zoning change met with failure, and at this writing we remain unclear as to its purpose. Were the house and lot not "grandfathered" into the County zoning plans?

The request for a variance for an undersized lot at 6209 Falls Road is of more concern. In real estate terms it is an unimproved and undersized lot. But it is also green space contiguous with Robert E. Lee Park, and as such provides habitat for several species of wildlife. When John and Rebecca Reeves bought the lot from Virginia Tormey in 1985 it was with the stated intention of preserving it from future development. We applaud that intention and are still interested maintaining that goal.

Recently, when Ms. Reeves made the decision to move, discussions regarding the lot between our homes began. We talked about subdividing it in half lengthwise, in order to increase the lots at both 6207 and 6211 Falls Road. Not only would this forestall future development, but increase the value of our respective properties and preserve the value of surrounding ones as well. In addition, this solution would help preserve the historic character of the neighborhood. Unfortunately, our discussions came to an end when we did not meet her asking price. We did, however, make an offer based on the assessed value, which represents a 100% return on her investment.

We sincerely hope we are wrong in our assessment of the County's intentions. But, as our efforts to gain information left us with the impression that resistance was futile, we are here presenting testimony in the hopes of forestalling further erosion of the zoning ordinances by going on record requesting that further changes not be entertained. Specifically, we are concerned about maintaining building setbacks, and preserving the historic integrity of the neighborhood.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Prot Ex#4

RE: Case No. 01-505-SPH

Case No. 01-519-SPHA

July 26, 2001

Zoning Commissioner Baltimore County County Courts Building 401 Bosley Avenue Towson, MD 21204

#### Dear Commissioner:

I write as President of the Falls Road Scenic Route Group to request that you **DENY** the zoning variances related to 6205 and 6207 Falls Road (and the proposed 6209 address). These variances would create three undersized lots where two full lots now exist. Such a change would be totally out of character with long standing traditions in a neighborhood whose stability makes it eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Sites.

Respectfully,

Gail Stetten

President

Prot Ex #5

July 26. 2001

Zoning Commissioner Baltimore County County Courts Building 401 Bosley Avenue Towson, MD 21204

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

As a Falls Road resident I am writing to ask that you DENY the zoning variances related to my neighbor's property at 6205 and 6207 Falls Road (Case Nos. 01-505-SPH and 01-519-SPHA). The surprisingly rural nature of this area is a continuing delight to us all and an ongoing benefit to the larger community. The character of our neighborhood will be irreversibly damaged if such a change is allowed.

Sincerely,

Peter C. Maloney 6219 Falls Road

Baltimore, MD 21209

## THE BARE HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

6222 Falls Road, Baltimore, Maryland, 21209

Marie Fischer Cooke, Esq. President

Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County

July 27, 2001

County Courts Building, Fourth Floor 401 Bosley Avenue

Re cases: 01-505-SPH 01-519-SPHA

Towson, MD 21204

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

As you may know, the 6100 and 6200 blocks of Falls Road contain a wealth of 19<sup>th</sup> century houses, several of which are already listed as County Landmarks and/or with the National Register of Historic Places.

The African-American Scott Settlement dates from 1832, the Bare Hills House from 1856, the Nelson Bowen House from the 1870s and the Bare Hills School from the 1880s.

Over the past few years three architectural historians have been hired to study Bare Hills architecture, each concluding that we should band together to become a Bare Hills District listed on the National Register. We will soon accomplish this. Similar efforts to conserve the texture and picturesque character of the Jones Falls Valley neighborhoods abound.

But what is the preservationist's worst enemy? The granting of variances to zoning regulations. These set precedents which make it impossible for communities to defend standards.

Cases 01-505-SPH and 01-519-SPHA pose just such a threat. If three under-sized lots are suddenly created at 6205 and 6207 and "6209," then preserving the character of the neighborhood will be exceedingly difficult from here on out.

Will the house proposed for the undersized lot "6209" interrupt the perfect row of preserved 19<sup>th</sup> century houses currently extant? Yes. Will it compromise the proposed historic district? Quite possibly.

Please deny these variance requests, as they will cause a significant change in the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Marie Fischer Cooke, Esq.

President

Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, New Courts Building 401 Bosley Avenue Towson, MD 21204

July 27, 2001

Dear Mr. Commissioner,

The entrance to the Pleasant View Civic Association neighborhood is directly across Falls Road from the properties seeking variances from you today. We feel strongly that these variances need to be denied.

If you grant them you will be creating a total of three lots which are smaller than the zoning regulations permit. From then on, the ability of our Falls Road neighborhoods to maintain standards -- and challenge conditions which don't meet them -- will be severely compromised.

Kindly DENY the variances from zoning regulations requested in Cases 01-505-SPH and 01-519-SPHA. Thank you.

Sincerely, Gladys G. Reed

Gladys G. Reed, President

Profex #8

## The Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 204
Riderwood, Maryland 21139
Telephone/FAX: 410-377-4700
office@rrlraia.org

July 27, 2001

Office of the Zoning Commissioner County Courts Building 401 Bosley Avenue Towson, MD 21204

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

Re: Case Nos. 01-505-SPH and 01-519-SPHA

The Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Area Improvement Association respectfully requests that you deny the variances requested for 6205, 6207 and proposed 6209 Falls Road, in cases 01-505-SPH and 01-519-SPHA. Granting them would set precedents which would permanently hamper historic preservation efforts underway in the Bare Hills neighborhoods.

Bare Hills remains a time-capsule of 19<sup>th</sup> century residences dating from well before the Civil War, built by both white owners and African-American owners, and as a district it is under consideration for National Register designation. Please note that the variances being sought would establish not just one but an overwhelming *three* undersized lots (where now there are two conforming lots). The hardship being argued is self-created for the owners, whereas the consequences for the surrounding neighborhoods would be drastic.

A troubling pattern has established itself in this case. The sign informing the community of the zoning variance hearing was removed a few days after it was posted and it has not been replaced. Two days ago, neighbors were startled to discover that vegetation on the undersized proposed building site was being destroyed for a steep driveway of dirt and crusher run, being graded without any silt fencing -- and prior even to the establishment of a separate "buildable" lot or the issuance of a building permit (at "6209").

The RRLRAIA feels it is appropriate to support the Falls Road associations, which are unanimous in their opposition to the granting of these variances. We further ask that you require the current owners to restore the land to its previous condition.

Thank you for your consideration of this Association's views.

Peggy Squitieri

Sincerely

**Executive Director** 

Greater Falls Road
Neighborhood Task Force, Inc.

Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County 4<sup>th</sup> Floor County Courts Building Towson, MD 21204

July 27, 2001

Dear Mr. Commissioner.

Our umbrella organization seeks actively to preserve and strengthen Jones Falls Valley neighborhoods, both in the city and county, along Falls Road from Northern Parkway to the Beltway. We are heartened by preservation efforts actively underway, which would designate National Register status for linked Falls Road districts, from the Mt. Washington Mill, through Bare Hills, into Rockland.

Along this stretch, Falls Road is both a county Scenic Route and a Maryland State Scenic Byway. It is vital that standards be upheld.

Preservation efforts take tremendous work and they deserve the active support of local government. The granting of variances is a blow to these efforts, because precedents are set which cripple the only means by which neighborhoods can maintain their standards and historic character.

Our neighborhoods feel it is imperative that you DENY the variances requested in Cases 01-505-SPH and 01-519-SPHA. The waiving of standards as requested at 6205, 6207 and the proposed 6209 Falls Road (all currently owned by Rebecca Reeves and Christopher Hampson) would create THREE undersized lots along this very special corridor of preserved 19<sup>th</sup> century houses.

Moreover, the granting of these variances will jeopardize all future preservation efforts in our neighborhoods.

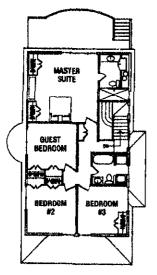
Very troly yours

Hanold A. MacLaughlin, Esq., President

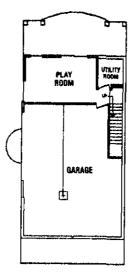
1112 Bryn Mawr Road

Baltimore, MD 21210





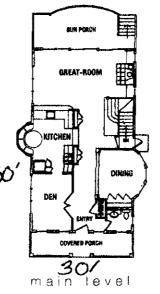
upper level



2,882 sq. ft. 4 Bedrooms 2½ Bathrooms

# Cottage Charm

lower level



- 1,104 square feet on the main level, 990 square feet on the upper level; 288 square feet on the lower level
- Perfect for a narrow lot, it holds enough bedrooms for a growing family
- The great-room is positioned to take advantage of backyard views. For privacy, the den is situated near the entry
- Suggested exterior materials include cottage siding and a metal roof.

To order, see page 78; use price schedule D.

72 BUILDING IDEAS SPRING 1999

Pet Ex#3

PRIOR TITLE

LIBERG 9 | 4 FOLIO8 3 |

ERF SIMPLE - INDIVIDUAL GRANTOR - LONG

G-9733

This Deed, MADE THIS

in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighty-four by and between

Kathryn R. Mathias and Charles H. McMahon, her son and Anna B. Riley, widow and sole heir of John J. Riley, Jr., deceased

the State of Maryland

of the first part, and

John J. Reeves and Rebecca B. Reeves, his wife

of the second part.

Witnesseth, That in consideration of the sum of Five (\$5.00) Dollars and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, (the actual consideration paid or to be paid is \$90,000.00)

the said Kathryn R. Mathias and Charles H. McMahon, her son and Anna B. Riley, widow and sole heir of John J. Riley, Jr. deceased

grant and convey to the said John J. Reaves and Rebecca B. Reeves, his wife, as tenants by the entireties, the survivor of them and the personal representatives and assigns of the survivor

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, in fee simple, all

that lot of ground situate in Ninth Election District of Baltimore County, State of Maryland and described as follows, that is to say:

#09772 COO4 ROI TID:12

15/13/85

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF.

Being the same lot which was granted and assigned by an Assignment dated August 22, 1939 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber C.W.B., Jr. No. 1072 folio 419 from Sarah R. Cangelosi to John J. Riley (Sr.) and Anna C. Riley, his wife, for their lives with full powers of disposition in them and the survivor of them, with the remainder, if any, to their son, John J. Riley, Jr., subject to an annual ground rent of One Dollar; SAVING AND EXCEPTING, however, a small portion thereof which was granted and conveyed by Anna C. Riley, widow, et al to Richard F. Parron and wife, by Deed dated November 23, 1968 and recorded as aforesaid in Liber O.T.G. No. 4943 folio 698.

Said John J. Riley (Sr.) died on or about February 19, 1944 leaving his wife, Anna C. Riley, as surviving life tenant the powers of disposition. Said John J. Riley, Jr. died August 6, 1974 whereupon title to his said remainder interest, subject to Anna C. Riley's life estate, passed to the hears of his estate. Under his Will, John J. Riley, Jr. devised and bequeathed all his property to his wife, Anna B. Riley, who was his wife and sole heir. See the Estate of John J. Riley, Jr., File A-8141 in the office of the Register of Wills for Baltimore City. Said Anna C. Riley died October 15, 1981 without having exercised her powers as to the herein property, whereupon the entire leasehold interest therein passed to the aforesaid Kathryn R. Mathias and Charles H. McMahon, her son and Anna B. Riley, widow.

Being also the same lot described in a Deed dated May 19, 1966 and recorded as aforesaid in Liber O.T.G. No. 4637 folio 94, whereby the reversion in fee therein and the annual ground rent of One Dollar was granted and conveyed by Kathryn R. Mathias and husband to John J. Riley, Jr. and Anna B. Riley, his wife, as tenants by the entireties, subject to the leasehold estate therein. John J. Riley, Jr. died August 6, 1974, thereby vesting title to said reversion and annual ground rent in Anna B. Riley, as surviving tenant by # 050\*\*\*\*1440D0\*a 802#A B

LIBERG 9 1 4 FOLIOS 3 2

TOGETHER with the buildings thereupon, and the rights, alleys, ways, waters, privileges, appurtenances and advantages thereto belonging, or in anywise appertaining.

To HAVE AND To HOLD the said described lot

of ground and premises to the said

John J. Reeves and Rebecca B. Reeves, his wife, as tenants by the entireties, the survivor of them and the personal representatives and assigns of the survivor, forever in fee simple.

х<del>үннөйн үеркөсикай ашкалоканса</del>х

xxioesimolex

And the said parties of the first part hereby covenant that they have not done or suffered to be done any act, matter or thing whatsoever, to encumber the property hereby conveyed; will warrant specially the property hereby granted; and that they will execute such further assurances of the same as may be requisite.

WITNESS the hand of said granter

STATE OF MARYLAND, CITY OF BALTIMORE, to wit:

212 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That on this

October

, before me.

in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighty-four

the subscriber, a Notary Public of the State aforesaid, personally appeared Kathryn R. Mathias and Charles H. McMahon, her son

known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person # whose names \* All are subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged the foregoing Deed to be their act, and in my presence signed and sealed the same

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

My Commission expires:

July L. 1986

SEE OVER FOR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PRIOR TITLE

LIBERT 9 1 4 FELICA 3 3

DEED - FEE SIMPLE - INDIVIOUAL GRANTOR - LONG FORM

G-10061

Pet Gx #5

This Deed. MADE THIS

19th day of April

in the year one thousand nine hundred and

eighty-five

hy and between

Virginia C. Tormey individually and as Personal Representative of the estate of George L. Tormey, deceased

the State of, Maryland

of the first part, and

John J. Reeves and Rebecca B. Reeves, his wife

of the second part.

WITHERESTH, That in consideration of the sum of Pive (\$5.00) Dollars and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, (the actual coneideration paid or to be paid is \$ 20,000.00)

the said Virginia C. Tormey individually and as Personal Representative of the estate of George L. Tormey, deceased B SC:F

17.00 8 T TA 100.00

B DOCS DEFO

100.00

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EHK JR T

217.00

grant and convey to the said John J. Reeves and Rebecca B. Reeves, his wife, with 110:12 does as tenants by the entireties, the survivor of them and the personal representatives .5. 13/85 and assigns of the survivor

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, in fee simple, all

of ground situate in Ninth Election District of Baltimore County, State of Maryland

and described as follows, that is to say:

See Exhibit A attached hereto as part hereof

FOR TITLE: See deed dated January 23, 1904 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber W.P.C. No. 273 folio 344 from Roland Hebden, et ux to F. Carroll Tormey; the said F. Carroll Tormey having departed this life on or about July 24, 1947, intestate, leaving as his only heirs at law, Lillian B. Tormey, widow, Ellen E. Tormey and Virginia C. Tormey, daughters, and George L. Tormey, son. The said Lillian B. Tormey departed this life December 6, 1958, intestate, leaving as her only heirs at law, George L. Tormey, son, Virginia C. Tormey and Ellen E. Tormey, daughters. See Estate Docket, Register of Wills for Beltimore County 20/229. The said Ellen E. Tormey departed this life March 6, 1978, testate, appointing Virginia C. Tormey, George L. Tormey and Nicholas G. Penniman, III, Personal Representatives of her Last Will and Testament filed with the Register of Wills for Baltimore County, Wills Liber 166/604.

SEE ALSO: Deed dated May 15, 1980 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber B.H.K. Jr. No. 6166 folio 454, from Virginia C. Tormey, George L. Tormey, and Nicholes G. Pennimen, III, Personal Representatives under the Last Will and Testament of Ellen E. Tormey, to Virginia C. Tormey and George L. Tormey. The said George L. Tormey died November 4, 1981 in Baltimore County (see Estate #49427) and under his Last Will and Testament Virginia C. Tormey was named Personal Representative.

(OVER FOR EXHIBIT A)

## LIBERD 9 1 4 FOLIC8 3 8

#### EXHIBIT A

Beginning for the same on the easternmost side of the Falls Turnpike Road at the distance of ninety-four feet northerly from a Sycamore tree standing on the east side of Falls Turnpike Road at corner of Lots No. 7 and 8 in a plat of Hector's Hope Yard and running thence binding on the lot conveyed by John McPhail to William Rehbrin north forty-seven and three quarters degrees east three hundred and ninety degrees inches to the westernmost side of a proposed road thence north sixteen degrees forty minutes west one hundred and two feet eight inches thence south forty-seven and three quarter degrees west parallel to the first line in this description four hundred and forty-three feet three inches to the Falls Turnpike Road and at a south side of the Falls Turnpike Road south forty-seven degrees end thirty-five minutes east ninety-three feet to the place of beginning, thence binding on thousand five hundred and eighty-six square feet. The improvements thereon being known as No. 6209 Falls Road.

are accluded Astronomy bounty aforemed to comply abband landar 16. Himsone house the grant and a 16. His paries to be and a landar 16. His paries to be hid as s. Mornette langer 1. 17 Obsorbed Oak 28, 1898 at 9680 a. M. and engalished Herry A. Caralay Morryman Clarks Morningental Centratina Marrolled majorthursey. Kenith Besidency & Samuel Secrety has been of Cotaler in the factories Willow and eight limbled and Roland Holley lacasety eighbolitous in the Moundemobile Confermed and and Saving Localety no by of Cottonsone lity about of composition duly great birther Westle lays of the State of Many and of the first part and Robins Hebberry Baltinae founts in the State of Maryland of the second partlishers that on regularition of the arion of one to his and filty halles sixthe reacype while of is birely acknowledged them is Morningatal Cenfestical Building budlaving Strict me a body co-posts. With grant unto the said Alland Hebden his helisand assegres which prompts delither bot or framed in ground retreated with lying as Paltinove housety and dearthis as Arlswe (Delginnang for the same on the externment side of the dadle Turneld Welload as the destaure of receity four few mostenly from a bycamore bue standing and be done in the willed Terrephilland account of latelor mater commend ages in a filest of Hertos: He of Wild and remembered hindred on Aleston conveyed by John McChail and to Aleftian Mahling westerdiques each three lunder and reduced feel three melos to the electerum or indeed a knowned hoad the sociarity sixteem degrees and fully minited Well one hundred and two feet reight inkhes them Spinsh hoster recovered three munitur defree when for all to rive Kenst Unice method less hiption do les landret and forty theref Head Aluxe concles to the Falled Turnpike Road and as a punt directly three feet most welly from the opene of large in ingeni the selection of the talls turbing to the talls turbing to de Considerate actually example their friends instructed in with the expectation of their properties of the pedagon of the experience of the Perny other service let if gradual earliel creat removed by technology the leader of the technology of Annie a Berlieb van Gran Gran War in War van Gran war in Station of the Company of the Company of the Company

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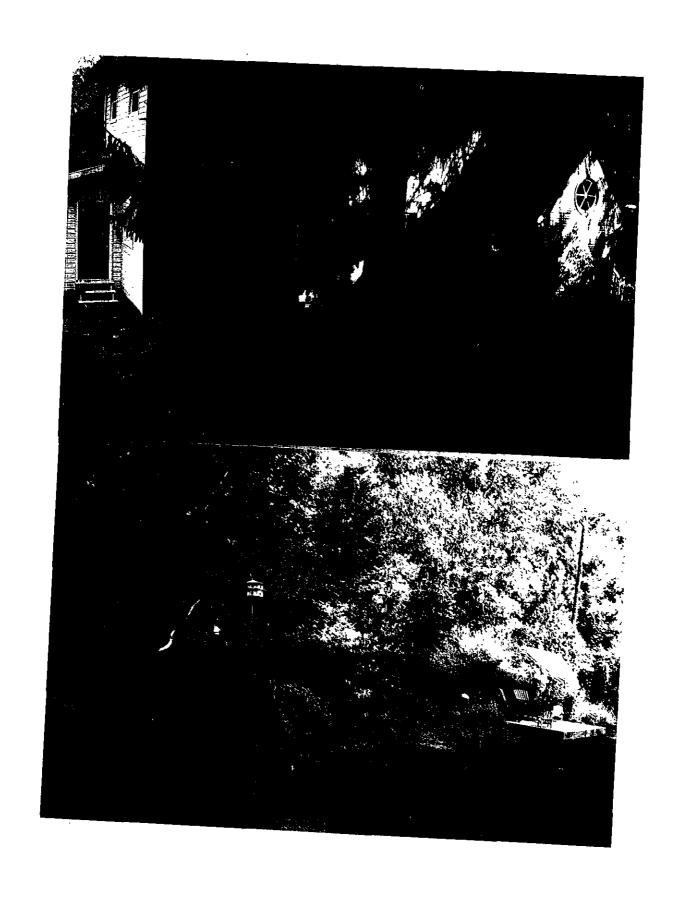


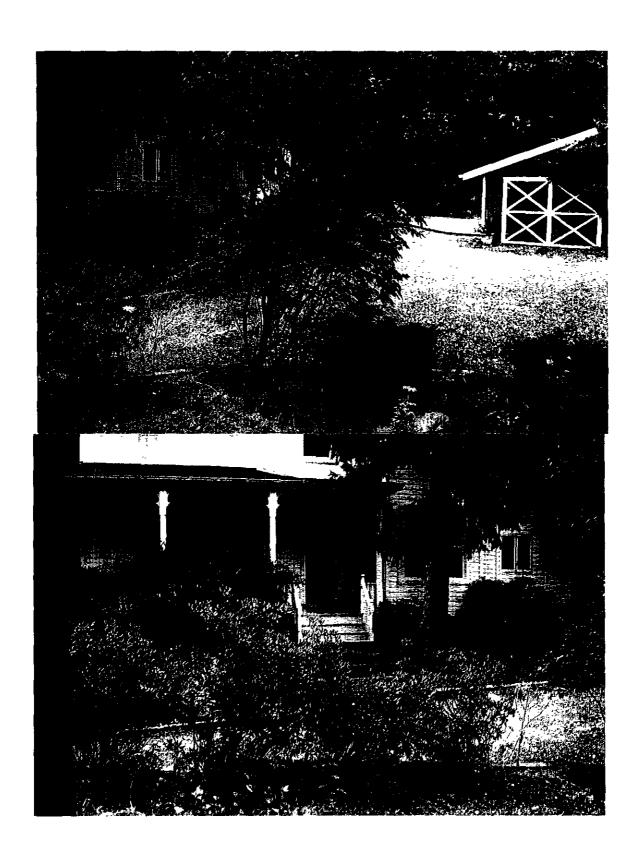
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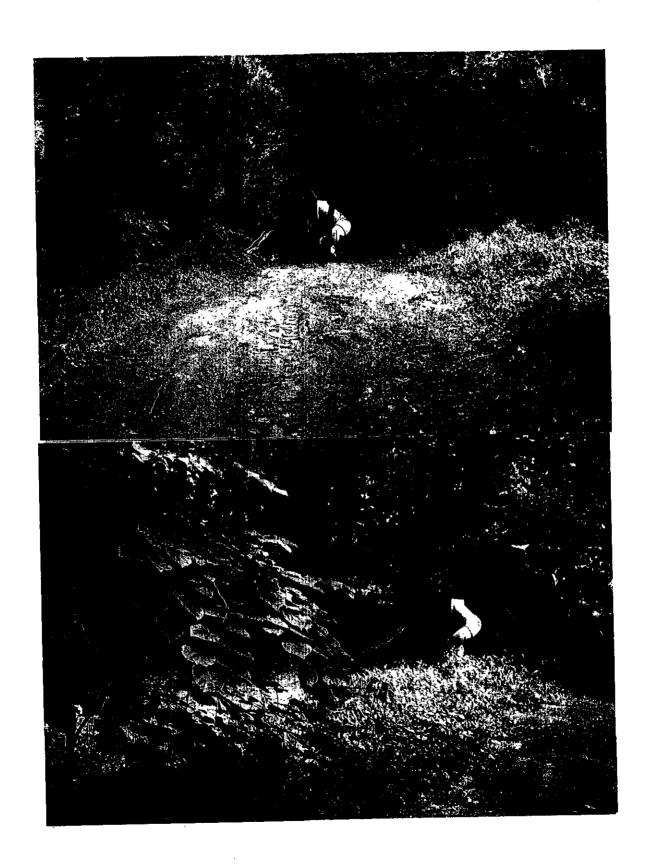
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