

GLEN ECHO PARK, CHAUTAUQUA TOWER
(Gate Tower)
George Washington Memorial Parkway
McArthur Boulevard
Glen Echo
Montgomery County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1080-D

HABS
MD
16-GLENEC,
3D-

PHOTOGRAPHS

PAPER COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS
MD
16- GLEN ECHO,
30-
HABS No. MD-1080-D

GLEN ECHO PARK, CHAUTAUQUA TOWER (Gate Tower)

Location: 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, Montgomery County, Maryland. (UTM coordinates: Zone 18, E 314717/N 4315033)

Present Owner & Occupant: George Washington Memorial Parkway, National Capitol Region, National Park Service.

Present Use: Public Park.

Significance: The substantial, three-story tower is the only intact structure remaining from the late nineteenth-century Chautauqua community based at Glen Echo, Maryland.¹ The stonework reinforces the tower's significance as it alone conveys the massive scale of the Chautauqua building campaign and the picturesque quality of the site overall.

The Chautauqua Tower, known during the period as one of the gate towers, was constructed of stone in 1891 shortly after Edward and Edmund Baltzley deeded part of their land holdings to the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo. The Baltzley brothers also hired a well-established architect from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Theophilus Parsons Chandler, to design several of the earliest Glen Echo Chautauqua structures, including the Amphitheater. In addition, Chandler drew up plans for a hotel that was never realized.² However, it was a local architect

¹ Further architectural evidence of the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo exists in the stonework seen in the east elevation of the adjacent Yellow Barn and in the much-altered incinerator building.

² Regarding Chandler's plans for the Amphitheatre, see Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide vol. 6, no. 4 (January 21, 1891): 50 and vol. 6, no. 5 (February 4, 1891): 66; regarding his plans for the hotel, see Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide vol. 5, no. 29 (July 23, 1890): 434, and vol. 5, no. 36 (September 10, 1890): 545; Chandler's plans are now housed in the Theophilus P. Chandler collection at the University of Pennsylvania. Chandler also designed Edward Baltzley's house; see Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide vol. 5, no. 39 (October 1, 1890): 1, vol. 5, no. 45 (November 12, 1890): 111, and vol. 6, no. 5 (February 4, 1891): 66. Similarly, Chandler designed the "Pa-taw-o-meck Café" for the Baltzleys; while the building burned, copies of the drawings remain in safety at the University of Pennsylvania archives in the Theophilus P. Chandler collection. Records of the connection between Chandler and the Baltzleys also include a ledger that notes \$1345.00 in payments to Chandler for plans (\$500), water color (\$145), Café plans (\$140), plans & specs (\$245), and Café plans (\$420) all made on April 17, 1890. These payments were referenced as "Ledger A, folio 39" and to the "Real Estate" account, probably meaning the Glen Echo Real Estate Company. Another entry, dated January 3, to the "Real Estate" account specified \$3814.74 but nothing further appeared on the opposing column of the journal to correspond to this notation. This, too, was given another folio number, here number 239.

GLEN ECHO PARK, CHAUTAUQUA TOWER
HABS No. MD-1080-D

(page 2)

named Victor E. Mindeleff who was responsible for the gate tower and for some of the other buildings on the Glen Echo Chautauqua grounds. Mindeleff was remembered as someone with a reputation for creating rustic stone structures and so his milieu fit in well with the Baltzleys' desire to capitalize on the "rugged grandeur of the glen."³

PART 1. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1891.
2. Architect: Earlier researchers determined that Victor E. Mindeleff was responsible for the design and construction oversight of the tower and adjacent stone buildings.⁴

In the 1880s, Victor Mindeleff (1860-1948) and his brother Cosmos worked in New Mexico; their study of pueblo architecture helped drive the late nineteenth-century fascination with Native American antiquities that, in turn, partially sustained the budding preservation movement. By 1891 the Mindeleff brothers were doing business with Edwin and Edward Baltzley, as both their names are noted in the journals and ledgers relating to Glen Echo and to the Chautauqua there. Victor Mindeleff was later described as "a well-known Washington architect who perfected the cottage style," but little beyond his publication on pueblo architecture appears in library and archive catalogues, including

See Ledger, [1890-1891], p. 173 (Richard A. Cook Collection, copies in the Clara Barton House Library, Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, Maryland (microfilm 2, book 7). (Glen Echo Park hereafter). Note: This ledger appears to include transactions of the Baltzleys on behalf of the Glen Echo Chautauqua but was not identified or titled as such.

³ Eastern Team, Denver Service Center, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior, "Glen Echo Park Historic Structures Report," March 1987, pp. III-17, 19-20, p. IV-1, at Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, Maryland. (HSR hereafter). George Freeman Pollock's reminiscences were published after his death as Skyland: The Heart of the Shenandoah National Park (1960); Pollock said Mindeleff "made a specialty of rustic stone buildings" and the HSR cites his remarks on pp. III-19 to III-20. See Skyland, pp. 41-42. The extant journals and ledgers for the Chautauqua period indicate Pollock worked there, certainly in 1892, so he would have been in a position to know who was responsible for what building. See, for example, Edwin and Edward Baltzley, Cash Book, 1889-1895 (Glen Echo Park, microfilm 1, book 2) and Edwin and Edward Baltzley, Ledger, 1890-1893, p. 692 (Glen Echo Park, microfilm 1, book 3).

⁴ See HSR, pp. III-19 to 20, footnote, 11; Victor Mindeleff, A Study of Pueblo Architecture: Tusayan and Cibola (Washington, 1891); Historic Preservation 9, no. 1 (Fall 1998); Paul K. Williams, "1400 Block of Belmont Street: A Short History," excerpt available at www.innecity.org. Regarding the North Carolina State University project, see www.lib.ncsu.edu; regarding the tomb of the unknown soldier, see www.gcmarshallfdn.org and www.arlingtoncemetery.com; regarding Shenandoah National Park, see Shaun Eyring, "Judd Gardens: Between Culture and Nature," CRM vol. 1, pp. 16-17. See also, "A Brief History of Chaco Culture National Historical Park," at www.nps.gov/chcu/briefhis.htm.

GLEN ECHO PARK, CHAUTAUQUA TOWER
HABS No. MD-1080-D
(page 3)

the Library of Congress, the Department of Interior Library, and local colleges. No reference to Mindeleff occurs in the American Institute of Architects' library catalogue at all.

However elusive the records of his career are, it is known he that designed one of the row houses at 2003 G Street, NW, now owned by George Washington University. The other was the work of architect George S. Cooper. Both structures were designed in 1892. Also in Washington, D.C., Mindeleff is credited with the design of a dwelling at 1400 Belmont Street, in 1894. Moreover, Mindeleff worked in North Carolina at some point because his name appears alongside those of other architects in the North Carolina State University sponsored survey of "architectural collections in repositories outside North Carolina," that feature materials on North Carolina architects, builders, and projects. Others on the list with Mindeleff include Henry Bacon, Carrere and Hastings, Alexander Jackson Davis, Henrietta Dozier, Richard Morris Hunt, John Russell Pope, Samuel Sloan, Richard Upjohn, and Thomas U. Walter.

By 1910, Mindeleff is credited as working in the cottage style of architecture and is known to have designed Sentinel Lodge for George H. and Marianna Judd; Sentinel Lodge was located in Skyland, which later became Shenandoah National Park. The building was taken down by the Park Service around 1960. Mindeleff also served as an architectural advisor to the committee that oversaw the design and erection of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, placed in Arlington National Cemetery after the close of World War I.

3. Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses: Built for the Baltzley brothers in the late nineteenth century, the Chautauqua Tower is the only structure from that era to survive. The administrative offices were located inside the tower during the Chautauqua period; bells from the McShane foundry in Baltimore, Maryland, hung in the belfry.⁵ The tower was transferred from the Baltzleys to Capital Transit when the latter purchased the Glen Echo land in 1911. Afterwards, the tower was considered one of the improvements to the Glen Echo Amusement Park tract and so its ownership follows that of the park, eventually becoming property of the United States Government. Today the tower is used for storage on the upper floors and serves as a gift shop on the first-floor level. The chain of title for Glen Echo Park is as follows:

July 7, 1888	Edward and Laura A. Baltzley of Washington City bought 516 acres more or less containing parts of the tracts of land called the "Resurvey on Magruder and Beall Honesty," "Fletchall's Garden," and "Magruder's and Beall Honesty" for \$20,000.00 from William
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⁵ Barry Mackintosh, "Chautauqua Tower," National Register Nomination, 1980, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

and Sarah H. Reading of Montgomery County; at Edward Baltzley's request, the deed was recorded on August 2, 1888.⁶ In August of 1888, Baltzley recorded his mortgage for the property covering the remaining \$18,000.00 that he owed to Reading. The payments consisted of four promissory notes in denominations of \$3000, \$5000, \$5000, and \$5000 and payable to the Montgomery County National Bank of Rockville over the ensuing three years. If Baltzley were to default, then Thomas Anderson and William Veirs Bowie, Jr., were to sell it at Mrs. Bolinger's Hotel or Cabin John Bridge after advertising the property as "for sale" for at least three weeks beforehand.⁷

March 24, 1891 Edward and Laura A. Baltzley and Edwin and Edith M. Baltzley conveyed to the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo ten acres more or less of their property in Montgomery County. The land was described as "all that certain piece or parcel of land and premises known and distinguished as being the lands conveyed to [the Baltzleys] by Rosa Bobinger lying east or a little south of east of Cabin John Creek, and further described as being a portion of lot ten of the John D. Grady survey, bounded on the west by Cabin John Stream, on the south by the Canal, and on the North by the Conduit Road [... The] land must be used for purpose of education upon the Chautauqua idea and plan and for no other purpose whatsoever and in event that the land is not used for education upon the Chautauqua plan [the land will revert back to the Baltzleys]."⁸ A second deed transferred an additional sixty-seven acres more or less to the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo in April of 1891.⁹

March 10, 1894 At the request of the Baltimore Building and Loan Association a mortgage was recorded on March 28, 1894. The National Chautauqua of Glen Echo wanted an extension on the loan made to the Glen Echo Land and Building Company by the Baltimore Building and Loan Association on April 7, 1892. The National Chautauqua of Glen Echo wanted to prevent the eminent foreclosure because its property was adjacent to that of the building company and it was "part of the same enterprise." Fearing

⁶ Montgomery County Land Records, Liber JA, No. 11, pp. 70-82.

⁷ Montgomery County Land Records, Liber JA, No. 10, pp. 210-213.

⁸ Montgomery County Land Records, Liber JA, No. 25, pp. 179-181.

⁹ Montgomery County Land Records, Liber JA, No. 25, pp. 252-254.

GLEN ECHO PARK, CHAUTAUQUA TOWER

HABS No. MD-1080-D

(page 5)

foreclosure would ruin their business, the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo offered additional security to the initial mortgage, namely twenty acres of land including the Amphitheater, Hall of Philosophy, and Administration Building. The last, however, was already mortgaged in part to the Carl Barckhuff Church Organ Company of Salem, Ohio. For \$309.00, the organ company owned a lien against the Gate Tower buildings of the Administration Building complex and the organ in the Amphitheater. The Baltimore Building and Loan Association granted a two-year extension on the loan.¹⁰

February 16, 1897 An indenture was made between the Washington and Glen Echo Railroad Company, the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo, Edward and Laura A. Baltzley, and Edwin and Edith M. Baltzley that conveyed a right of way to the railway for a double track, electrically-equipped railroad.¹¹

April 21, 1903 A deed made April 21, 1903, by Fielder C. Slingluff, attorney, is hereinafter summarized: Under and by virtue of a mortgage from the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo to the Baltimore Building and Loan Association of Baltimore City bearing date March 10, 1894, and recorded in Liber JA, No. 43, pp. 325 &c., Fielder C. Slingluff – the attorney named in the mortgage – proceeded to sell the property as advertised on November 2, 1902. Bird M. Robinson and Randolph Barton, receivers for the Baltimore Building and Loan Association, got the property in question for \$15,000.00. The sale was reported to the Montgomery County Circuit Court under title, “Baltimore Building and Loan Association of Baltimore City vs. National Chautauqua of Glen Echo,” and was taken to the Circuit Court of the United States by the National Chautauqua in January of 1903. The U.S. Circuit Court for the district of Maryland ratified the sale on April 9, 1903. The receivers then paid the \$15,000.00 and so won title to the property first described in a deed made on March 24, 1891, from the Baltzleys to the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo recorded in Liber JA, No. 25, beginning on p. 179, and in another deed from the Baltzleys dated April 17, 1891 and recorded in Liber JA 25, beginning on p. 252. Excepted from this transaction were the lands

¹⁰ Montgomery County Land Records, Liber JA, No. 43, pp. 325-329.

¹¹ Montgomery County Land Records, Liber JA, No. 58, pp. 184-192; see also, Montgomery County Land Records, Liber JA, No. 53, p. 392.

GLEN ECHO PARK, CHAUTAUQUA TOWER
HABS No. MD-1080-D

(page 6)

of the Red Cross Society and Clara Barton and the land retained by the Baltzleys "containing the Administration Building or Gate House Tower and buildings thereto attached on the west side of the entrance to the Chautauqua ground now owned by the Baltimore Building and Loan Association by a purchase under a mortgage from the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo to Carl Barckhoff Church Organ Company." Included in the transaction from the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo to the Baltimore Building and Loan Association were the Amphitheater and the Hall of Philosophy.¹²

March 14, 1911 Jennie Miles Hepburn and Frederick Hepburn of Jersey City, New Jersey, the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo, Edith M. Baltzley and Edwin Baltzley sold to the Washington Railway and Electric Company all those lots in Montgomery County (lots one through twelve, block two, lots thirteen through twenty-six, and block five, the Chautauqua property outlined in Liber JA, No. 25, p. 253) with all the buildings and improvements thereon. Louis E. Baltzley, attorney for the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo, acknowledged the deed on the Chautauqua's behalf. Moreover, three previous deeds were corrected and amended at this time: the first two involved the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo and Mary E. Kammerer on April 27, 1893 (Liber JA, No. 38, p. 140), and on April 19, 1895 (Liber JA, No. 49, p. 111), and the third involved Edith M. Baltzley and Edwin Baltzley to Jennie Miles Hepburn on October 18, 1909, (see Liber 210, p. 65).¹³

April 1, 1954 Capital Transit Company transferred ownership of Glen Echo Park to Continental Enterprises, Inc. The sale included three parcels of land, with all the improvements, easements and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in Montgomery County. The easements held by the Potomac Electric Power Company remained in force, moreover. The first parcel contained just over sixteen acres. The second parcel included lots one through five of the subdivision known as the "National Chautauqua of Glen Echo," and recorded

¹² Montgomery County Land Records, Liber TD 26, pp. 107-109. Moreover, the Evening Star reported that the "Foreclosure proceedings under a mortgage given by the National Chautauqua Association to the Baltimore Building and Loan Association have resulted in the purchase of the Glen Echo property by the Trustees of the building association, the bid being \$13,000." See "Glen Echo Property Transferred," Evening Star 20 May 1903 p. 16.

¹³ Montgomery County Land Records, Liber 218, pp. 272-274.

GLEN ECHO PARK, CHAUTAUQUA TOWER
HABS No. MD-1080-D

(page 7)

in Plat Book B, pp. 16-17. The third parcel was lot nineteen of block one of the "National Chautauqua of Glen Echo" property.¹⁴

June 17, 1955 Continental Enterprises, Inc., sold Glen Echo Park to Rekab, Inc., for \$950,000.00.¹⁵

April 1, 1970 Rekab, Inc., sold its Glen Echo property, consisting of six parcels of land, to the United States Government. The government also acquired a seventh tract, described in a "Plat of Abandonment," that was abandoned by Montgomery County in Council Resolution No. 4-2613.¹⁶

4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers: The Baltzley brothers turned to the following list of vendors during the construction of the administrative offices, which were housed in the gate towers, for the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo: ¹⁷

E. & E. Baltzley	760 yards of stone and sand	(\$2100.00)
Belt and Dyer	moldings	(\$15.15)
Barber and Ross	sashes and frames	(\$373.25)
W.T. & T.B. Weaver	gutter tin for south tower	(\$57.65)
O'Connor and Dodd	(by invoice)	(\$37.71)
J. Edward Libbey	shingles and lumber	(\$1146.33)
Fisher and Johnson	gutter in bell tower, spouting	(\$43.00)
Pettit and Dripps	grates, etc.	(\$105.60)
J.G. & J.M. Waters	cement	(\$282.75)
C.J. Collier	painting and staining the towers	(\$260.00)
Wheatley Bros.	12,000 shingles	(\$114.00)

¹⁴ Montgomery County Land Records, Liber 1922, pp. 398-402.

¹⁵ Montgomery County Land Records, Liber 2072, pp. 448-451.

¹⁶ Montgomery County Land Records, Liber 3952, pp. 575-578. Actually, Rekab, Inc., traded the sixteen-plus acres of Glen Echo for the Old Emergency Hospital property in Washington, D.C. The Government Services Administration (GSA) valued Glen Echo at \$2,685,000.00. In 1970, the National Park Service began managing the site, although it was not until March of 1976 that the Park Service officially became the property's steward. Of the sixteen-plus acres, seven and one-half became the Clara Barton National Historic Site and the remaining nine and one-third acres became part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway system. The latter is Glen Echo Park. HSR, p. III-160. A contemporary newspaper account of the pending real estate transaction is: Lawrence Feinberg, "U.S. Agency Moves to Take over Glen Echo," *Washington Post* 1968 (Clippings file, Martin Luther King Library).

¹⁷ National Chautauqua of Glen Echo Ledger, 1890-1898, p. 170 (Glen Echo Park, microfilm 2, book 6). This ledger is cross-referenced by the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo Journal, 1891-1898, pp. 50, 71, 91-92, 95, 99, 100-101, 103-104, 107 (Glen Echo Park, microfilm 1, book 4) and also by the individual vendor accounts listed in the ledger on subsequent pages. The charges for the bells differ however; the journal the charges amount to \$1081.50 (p. 92) rather than the \$1076.50 listed in the ledger and copied in the above accounting.

GLEN ECHO PARK, CHAUTAUQUA TOWER

HABS No. MD-1080-D

(page 8)

Henry McShane Mfg, Co. bells

(\$1076.50)

The ledger covered \$5611.94 of expenses incurred between 1891 and 1893. The first charge entered into the journal was for \$2100 and was from Edwin and Edward Baltzley for the stone and sand. Presumably, the \$2100 was credited to their quarry business account. The final charge against the account came in January of 1893, from W.T. & T.B. Weaver for \$2.20.

5. Original Plans and Construction: There are no known plans for the gate towers. However, the third floor of the Chautauqua Tower is partitioned into three sections, most likely as it was planned in 1890-91.¹⁸ It is also known that the Chautauqua Tower had a belfry equipped with bells manufactured by the Henry McShane Manufacturing Company in Baltimore, Maryland.

6. Alterations and additions: The smaller, south tower was taken down in 1940 when the entrance to park was moved; in contrast, the Chautauqua Tower has fared well over the years. A fire in 1914 damaged the roof and destroyed the building to the north. The adjacent structure was rebuilt and the tower's shingle roof was replaced with one of tin. In the mid-1970s, the National Park Service replaced that roof with one more sympathetic to its 1890s appearance. The mortar was re-pointed at this time as well.¹⁹ From 1914 into the 1920s, the second and third floors were used as the residence of the amusement park's superintendent; these floors connected to the Yellow Barn to the north. It is likely some changes were made to the Chautauqua Tower at this time to accommodate the superintendent and his family. Historic photographs suggest that there was once a sign anchored to the west side of roof, show a rustic railing made of wood on the west elevation, and place flower boxes in the windows. In the 1919 photographs, a trellis had replaced the railing and the flower boxes were gone.²⁰

B. Historical Context:

In the summer of 1874, John Heyl Vincent, a Methodist minister, and Lewis Miller, a businessman from Akron, Ohio, planned and organized a two-week long assembly on the shores of Lake Chautauqua, New York. This assembly was the first Chautauqua meeting. Vincent and

¹⁸ HSR, p. IV-3. This supposition is likely based on the vintage of the extant partition walls and door openings.

¹⁹ HSR, pp. IV-2, 6-7, referencing a historic photograph: [view looking east toward the west elevation of the north (bell) tower and stone arcade; in foreground are the gazebo and lake and walkways of the Chautauqua grounds], ca. 1891, Glen Echo Park; and another, more recent photograph: [metal roof and overhang], ca. 1970, Glen Echo Park.

²⁰ HSR, p. IV-2, referencing historic photographs: [view looking east toward the west elevation of the north (bell) tower and stone arcade; in the foreground are the gazebo, lake, and walkways of the Chautauqua grounds], ca. 1891, Glen Echo Park; and [view of west elevation generally showing the tower's ivy covered walls and a trellis system], 1919, Richard A. Cook Collection, copy at Glen Echo Park.

Miller initially were interested in developing a program to train Sunday school teachers, but included secular entertainment in their assembly session schedule as well. Participants came to Lake Chautauqua and lodged inside the camp in tents or in cottages. Vincent's and Miller's idea was so successful that the assembly became a permanent summer colony in New York and the program was expanded to include home study or reading courses administered by the Literary and Scientific Circle and to offer courses in mathematics, science, domestic science, music, and so on. In 1912, the Chautauqua assembly joined forces with Cornell University and opened a school of agriculture. Outside of the New York Chautauqua, hundreds of local assemblies popped up across the United States; the programs of these groups imitated that of the New York Chautauqua and the names of the local assemblies often incorporated "Chautauqua" into theirs. After 1900, traveling shows modeled after the New York Chautauqua program took off around the country. The traveling or lecture circuit-like Chautauquas were, essentially, tent meetings that featured a week or two of lectures and concert recitals.²¹

The Chautauqua movement was so popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries because it was designed as an educational and recreational program and played into the politics of progressive reform. The Chautauqua emphasized reading and, through the significance placed on the book, the Chautauqua became a place of learning for adults, often those without other opportunities or without access to educational institutions. As such, the Chautauqua demographic was broadly based, rural even, and was appealing to women nationwide. In addition to the literary advantages found in the Chautauqua curriculum, the Chautauqua lecture series and camp setting provided a forum for discussion and debate of contemporary political and social issues, such as women's suffrage. To further its appeal beyond that of intellectual stimulation, the Chautauqua planners incorporated recreational activities into its intellectual and morally uplifting agenda. This aspect of the Chautauqua was greatly enhanced by its setting. Lake Chautauqua was perfect for boating and fishing and other outlets for "healthy fun." The picturesque setting of the Chautauqua also afforded the patrons a sylvan retreat, a place outside of the city or a place beyond the reach of daily life pressures, or both. Beginning with the New York Chautauqua, and continuing with its imitators across the continental United States, Chautauquas had a reputation for respectable, cultural entertainment, for non-denominational but religious reverence, and for thought provoking inquiries and debates on educational topics. Today, the Chautauqua Institution in New York has about 142,000 people visiting each summer and is promoted as a "nine week summer center for the arts, education,

²¹ Alvin F. Harlow, "Chautauqua Movement," Dictionary of American History (1976), p. 1. See also, Thomas J. Schlereth, "Chautauqua: A Middle Landscape of the Middle Class," Cultural History and Material Culture: Everyday Life, Landscapes, Museums (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1992), pp. 219-232; Theodore Morrison, Chautauqua: A Center for Education, Religion, and the Arts in America (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1994); Pauline Fancher, Chautauqua: Its Architecture and Its People (Miami: Banyan Books, Inc., 1978); and Joseph E. Gould, The Chautauqua Movement: An Episode in the Continuing American Revolution (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1972). For a Glen Echo, contemporary account of the movement's history, see "The National Chautauqua of Glen Echo," wherein the Women's Executive Committee summarized the origins of the Chautauqua and of the Literary and Scientific Circle, pp. 8-11.

religion and recreation, a festival for the mind and body, and a lake-side Victorian village situated in a beautiful, secure setting.”²²

Busily developing their Glen Echo property in 1890 and 1891, the Baltzley brothers donated a portion of their land for the site of one of the Chautauqua programs; theirs was the fifty-third such program chartered under the auspices or guidance of the mother Chautauqua in New York. They, however, were brought into the idea of sponsoring a Chautauqua in Glen Echo through the participation of Edwin’s wife Edith in the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle; another woman, Susie Birch Jennings allegedly introduced the Baltzleys to the leaders of the Chautauqua movement. She was in a position to do so because she helped to set-up the New York Chautauqua. The Baltzleys then enlisted the assistance of experienced Chautauquans, particularly Dr. A.H. Gillet who would later become the Chancellor of the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo and William Harper, to establish their Chautauqua venture.²³

Chartered in 1891, the fifty-third Chautauqua was founded to “promote liberal and practical education, especially among the masses of the people; to teach the sciences, arts, languages, and literature [...]” Its business was run by the appointed Trustees; named as Trustees were the Honorable William T. Harris, Dr. A.H. Gillet, A.S. Pratt, James B. Henderson, and E[dwin?] Baltzley. Harris was the U.S. Commissioner of Education at the time while Gillet had been involved with the National Chautauqua in New York for sixteen years. Henderson and Pratt were well-known locally, an attorney and a businessman respectively. Trustees were needed for the Chautauqua because the charter of the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo authorized one million dollars for the “construction of college buildings, amphitheatres, lecture halls, studio, music academy, schools for physical culture, kindergarten, school of cookery, and other buildings, together with the necessary improvement of the grounds, etc.”²⁴ These men, in their roles as Trustees, oversaw the Chautauqua’s financial matters and saw to the construction of its campus in Glen Echo.

Although many buildings were incomplete when the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo opened its gates in June of 1891, the campus of the Glen Echo Chautauqua had already taken a distinctive form, subdivided as it was by lots and streets. The thoroughfares were named after universities. Along the riverfront, there were plans for meandering walkways and seating as well as for boating, canoeing, and swimming facilities near Sycamore Island. A work-in-progress, the Glen Echo waterfront was already a popular place for picnics with food from the café and the grounds suited for baseball, bicycling, tennis, and swings.²⁵ To encourage attendance, the Glen

²² Regarding the Chautauqua Institution of today, see www.chautauqua-inst.org/about. Otherwise, see above footnote.

²³ Cook and Lange, p. 18; Owen Kelley, “How Glen Echo Joined to the National Park Service,” Paper, n.d., p. 5 (Montgomery County Historical Society, Glen Echo Clipping files).

²⁴ “National Chautauqua of Glen Echo,” Women’s Executive Committee, pp. 2-3.

²⁵ Montgomery County Land Records, 1891, Plat Book B, pp. 16-17; William B. Webb, Centennial History of the

GLEN ECHO PARK, CHAUTAUQUA TOWER
HABS No. MD-1080-D

(page 11)

Echo Chautauqua offered housing to those wishing to summer in Glen Echo. There was space available in the Hotel Chautauqua, a tent hotel, as well as purpose-built cottages.²⁶ An advertisement for the cottages ran in an issue of the Glen Echoan. It read:

41 cottages in process of erection on Chautauqua grounds, to be sold to desirable purchasers on the installment plan. These cottages are especially provided for those who desire to avail themselves of the Chautauqua advantages and the benefits of a life in Glen Echo. The prices range from \$2347 to \$2914 each. Terms, \$500 cash and the balance from \$20 to \$30 per month. They are provided with city system of sewerage and waterworks. Hot and cold water, and bath in every house. Electric light. Electric cars will in all probability be finished to the houses by the time this issue of the Glen Echoan goes to press.²⁷

The Glen Echoan also described the gate towers as “two rough stone structures, circular in form and designed for administrative and school purposes. The top story of the western one is a belfry, and is said to be the largest one in the country. The three large bells furnished by the McShane Bell Co., of Baltimore, are already in it.” The authors continued, confidently asserting that “more [bells] will be added later on.”²⁸

In these buildings and on the grounds, the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo offered “educational opportunities for all [...]” In its founding charter, the Trustees of the Chautauqua were tasked with administering the real estate and financial matters in the interest of education; ensuring Glen Echo’s program followed the Chautauquan method; establishing the Glen Echo Chautauqua as a center for the Literary and Scientific Circle and extending its home study program; coordinating and planning for lectures covering historical, scientific, philosophic, artistic, and literary subjects; providing university-like classes during the summer months; setting up summer schools and correspondence courses. The Trustees also formally acknowledged their “intellectual debt” to Vincent and Miller and to the National Chautauqua in New York, in essence recognizing that they were using the ideas of others as a basis for the Chautauqua at Glen

City of Washington (Dayton: 1892), pp. 9-13; Webb in turn cites: The Evening Star June 6, 1891, p. 8, July 11, 1891, p. 6, July 16, 1891, p. 3, and July 22, 1891, p.3. See also, Cook and Lange, pp. 14, 29, “On the Way to Glen Echo: Progress on the Buildings,” Washington Post May 12, 1891, p. 1 (microfilm 39, 03/26-06/15/1891), “A Corner-stone Laying at Glen Echo: The Progress on Buildings and Grounds – Demands for Lots,” Washington Post May 19, 1891, p. 1 (microfilm 39, 03/26-06/15-1891), and “A Throng at Glen Echo: Laying the Corner-stone of the Amphitheater’s Entrance Arch,” Washington Post May 21, 1891, p. 1 (microfilm 39, 03/26-06/15/1891) regarding the construction of the Amphitheater and other Glen Echo structures; and The Glen Echoan, p. 45 & “At Glen Echo Tomorrow,” The Evening Star June 15, 1891, p. 1 & “Opening Day at Glen Echo,” The Evening Star June 16, 1891, p. 8, regarding opening day.

²⁶ “The National Chautauqua: The Glen Echo Railway All Right – More About Prices,” Washington Post June 12, 1891, p. 1 (microfilm 39, 03/26-06/15/1891)

²⁷ The Glen Echoan (Clippings file, MKL Library). Note: The advertisement is separate from the intact issue of the Glen Echoan, also available in the Glen Echo files held at the MLK Library.

²⁸ The Glen Echoan, p. 21.

Echo. The declaration of trust was signed by both Baltzley brothers and by Trustees Henderson, Pratt, and Gillet.²⁹ Also at this time, a “Women’s Executive Committee” was established to oversee the woman’s department or rather that part of the Chautauqua program geared towards female education and advancement; the committee was chaired by Clara Barton. Jennings served as the department secretary; other prominent women selected for the committee included Mrs. John A. Logan, Mrs. Major John Wesley Powell, Mrs. Leland Stanford, Mrs. T.S. Hamlin, Mrs. Miranda Tulloch, Mrs. Ida Harper, Mrs. Emily L. Sherwood, Mrs. Somers, Mrs. Frank Stewart Osborn, Mrs. Judge Bentley, Mrs. Lizzie Tilton, and Mrs. Sara A. Spencer.³⁰

Once the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo was established and the site under construction, the Baltzleys advertised the upcoming season. They wrote and published a book, Glen-Echo on the Potomac, in late 1890, around the time the Paw-to-mack Café burned, hyping the location. The Baltzleys planned to rebuild the café and referenced their ambitions for a Glen Echo Chautauqua near the end of the document. They described the Chautauqua as “a wonderful institution and peculiarly modern. There has been nothing like it in the past. It has been made possible only by the general diffusion of knowledge which distinguishes this period.” More precisely, the Chautauqua assemblies reflected the advantages of a summer-time resort mixed with the intellectual pursuits available in an academic setting. Shifting from the Chautauqua institution to the proposed site in Glen Echo, the Baltzley brothers mentioned the “magnificent waterfront” along the “historic Potomac” by which they were raising “suitable” structures such as the 8000-person capacity Amphitheatre, lecture halls and college buildings, studios and music academies, as well as kindergarten, cookery, and physical culture schools. The projected curriculum went beyond the lectures; the Baltzleys planned to bring musical and spectacular entertainments to Glen Echo, as well as the Chautauqua tradition of promoting Bible-school studies and studies in music, in the arts, in developing practical skills, in physical education, and in teacher’s education. Glen Echo would also include a chapter of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle and a Women’s Executive Committee.³¹

In addition to their publication, the Baltzley brothers enlisted Gillet to write a brochure promoting the project, a venture wherein the “public [could] participate in affordable educational programs in a beautiful rural setting, featuring famous speakers from across the country. The featured speakers included Clara Barton and John Wesley Powell [the explorer].”³² In addition to lectures by Barton, Powell, and others, the charter called for secular entertainment; these events were scheduled to occur in the Amphitheater, a structure reputed to hold 8000 people.³³

²⁹ The Glen Echoan, p. 48.

³⁰ “National Chautauqua of Glen Echo,” Women’s Executive Committee, p. 6; Webb, pp. 9-10.

³¹ Glen-Echo on the Potomac, pp. 40-42. Note: Regarding the description of the Chautauqua itself, the Baltzleys quote the New York Sun. Regarding the real estate development and café at Glen Echo between 1888 and November of 1890, see Cook and Lange, pp. 8-13.

³² Kelley, p. 6.

³³ Regarding the lecturers, see for example, “Today at Glen Echo,” The Evening Star June 17, 1891, p. 5. On that

Entertainment venues included Shakespearian readings, concerts, and festivals. Political venues included activities for veterans' groups and debates on political issues such as women's suffrage. Curriculum set for Glen Echo specifically included bible studies, vocal and instrumental musical training, physical education and sporting events, and educational and training for teachers of secular subjects. It also incorporated the ideas for university extension courses in history, poetry, and literature and for the Literary and Scientific Circle that the Trustees envisioned and alluded to in the declaration of trust.³⁴ More specifically, the fees for the actual classes were listed in the newspaper just before the season opened. The first Chautauqua assembly at Glen Echo had a "School of Languages" for which twenty lessons in any language cost \$5 and forty lessons ran to \$8. Prices for instruction in the "School of Music" averaged around \$2 to \$3; lessons were available in voice culture, harmony and private, piano and pipe organ, banjo and mandolin, and guitar. The "School of Business" offered Spencerian penmanship, shorthand and typewriting, and typewriting only in four and eight week sessions with tuition ranging from \$5 to \$15. The "School of Domestic Science" offered single lessons for fifty cents each and a full course of instruction, or ten lessons, for \$4 in tuition fees. The "Art School" was perhaps the most expensive. Its curriculum consisted of industrial, art, and manual training as well as instruction in the fine arts.³⁵

The first summer about three to four hundred people summered in Glen Echo and the Chautauqua received rave reviews. That initial assembly of the summer of 1891 was so promising that the Baltzleys extended the season until the first of August, roughly by about four weeks.³⁶ Unfortunately, one of the lecturers, Henry C. Spencer, died of pneumonia in August of 1891; Spencer was a well-known, and well-regarded, local man who founded the Spencerian Business School and who taught at Glen Echo. His death was a blow to the community and to Glen Echo in particular. Even after the death of Spencer, the Baltzleys reflected on the first assembly and concentrated on its successes; through those reflections, they promoted the upcoming Chautauqua season at Glen Echo.³⁷ In an early 1892 edition of the Glen Echoan, for example, they wrote about their "phenomenal accomplishment" in 1891 despite the many days of rain that interrupted the construction and the meetings associated with the Chautauqua. In spite of inclement weather, at Glen Echo

day lectures were scheduled to be given by Dr. Talmage, Mrs. Coleman E. Bishop, and Rev. Russell Connell.

³⁴ Webb, pp. 9-10; Kelley, p. 6; on the Chautauqua program, see Cook and Lange, pp. 27-29.

³⁵ "The National Chautauqua: The Glen Echo Railway All Right – More About Prices," Washington Post June 12, 1891, p. 1 (microfilm 39, 03/26-06/15/1891).

³⁶ Cook and Lange, p. 28; Webb, pp. 12, 14, 17; Kelley, pp. 6, 8; regarding the extension of the first season Webb cites The Evening Star July 6, 1891, p. 8.

³⁷ Henry C. Spencer's obituary ran in the Post; see "Henry C. Spencer's Death: Sudden Demise of the Well-known Business Educator," Washington Post August 31, 1891, p. 2 (microfilm reel 40: 06/16/1891 – 09/05/1891). See also, Cook and Lange, p. 18.

the most magnificent buildings in enduring granite been erected, railroads made, a perfect system of water supply and sewerage completed, an electric light plant for public and private use installed, many roads made, the grounds of the Chautauqua improved and beautified, store buildings erected, administrative offices built, hotel in process of construction, forty-three cottages building, boating and pleasure facilities provided, and many other things accomplished, the management feels that they have justified the generous confidence extended by the public last year.³⁸

However, rumors surrounded the cause of Henry Spencer's death, popularly said to have been of malaria contracted at Glen Echo.³⁹ This most likely cut into the advance sales or reservations for the next Chautauqua. The Baltzleys also cut back on their media budget, spending far less on advertisements in the local papers than they had done the previous summer and the Chancellor of the first assembly, Dr. A.H. Gillet, was too ill to help the brothers with the administrative and promotional duties that running a National Chautauqua site entailed.⁴⁰ As a result, only a fourth of July celebration was hosted at Glen Echo in the summer of 1892. It was well attended. No mention of malaria or fear of disease was made in reference to the event. The Evening Star reported that four thousand people came out to Glen Echo for the day. The Baltzleys ran a program of "unique and artistic entertainment" keeping the Amphitheatre booked from two o'clock until seven o'clock in the evening. The entertainment featured mostly musical performances, ranging from classical compositions to the more popular melodies. Between the musical numbers and other scheduled events, the attendees could "enjoy the sylvan delights that the place affords." That they did, for the Star also noted that the "improvements [made] in the way of building were objects of general interest and admiration."⁴¹ Unfortunately, the interest generated in the place was not sustained after the patriotic outing. In 1893, with the country in the throes of a depression, the Chautauqua was cancelled.⁴² Years later, a remnant of the Baltzleys' Chautauqua landscape, the present Chautauqua Tower, was recalled as

Administration building, facing the street, was particularly artistic and beautiful, and in it was hung a set of chimes that could be heard for miles across the country. These were later removed when the venture failed.⁴³

³⁸ The Glen Echoan, p. 45. Plans for next year called for expanding the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo campus by erecting buildings to house a School of Fine Arts and a Women's Temple as well as a hotel. See Cook and Lange, pp. 15-16, and Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide vol. 5, no. 29 (July 23, 1890): 434, and vol. 5, no. 36 (September 10, 1890): 545, and Theophilus P. Chandler collection, Special Collections, University of Pennsylvania.

³⁹ Cook and Lange, p. 30.

⁴⁰ Regarding the advertising, see Kelley, p. 8 (MCHS), and National Chautauqua of Glen Echo Ledger, 1891-1898 (Glen Echo Park, microfilm 1, book 4).

⁴¹ "The Fourth at Glen Echo," The Evening Star July 5, 1892, p. 5 (microfilm reel 85, 06/18/1892-09/15/1892).

⁴² Cook and Lange, p. 30.

⁴³ R. Woodland, "Vanishing Memories of Cabin John's and Glen Echo," American Motorist (March 1930): 102.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Dating to the late nineteenth century, the Chautauqua Tower embodies the then-popular penchant for romantic or sentimental moods and picturesque settings. It is a rustic, round structure fashioned from stone and built to a monumental scale. The stones lend the tower texture, a natural sort of roughness common to materials found in the wild. The composition of the thick stone walls, moreover, is reminiscent of that seen in medieval architectural examples; therefore, the Baltzleys' choice of aesthetics based on the past gives the tower a romantic bent, perhaps to identify their educational, inspirational Chautauqua venture with the morality associated with pre-industrial living.⁴⁴ The scale of the building ensures it is anchored firmly to earth, a solid mass three stories in height that is capped by a tall sweeping roof. The peak of the roof is extended further upward by a flagpole projecting from the central point and pointing up to the heavens. The tower's bulk was in keeping with the other Chautauqua buildings' scale, such as the Amphitheatre, and its location was planned to take advantage of a site high above the Potomac River. The tower itself, together with its compatriot gate tower to the southeast, welcomed visitors to the Chautauqua grounds and gave them a hint of what architecturally to expect inside.⁴⁵

2. Condition of fabric: The Chautauqua Tower is in good condition generally, only showing signs of wear commiserate with its age.

B. Description of Exterior:

⁴⁴ The association between morality and architecture was expressed by Augustus Welby Pugin in his book, Contrasts ... (1836), wherein he promotes building in the Gothic style because it was the architecture of the church. Following Pugin and the Ecclesiologists in England was William Morris, who disparaged against the mass production of the industrial age he lived in, instead turning to the craftsmen and the guild. Morris's Red House is a seminal building and a touchstone of the Arts and Crafts movement. By the time the Baltzleys were investing in Glen Echo, the legacy of Pugin and Morris, and of the movements they represented, impacted architectural taste and picturesque landscaping efforts on both sides of the Atlantic. The Baltzleys chose the architectural forms and the setting at Glen Echo for intellectual, entrepreneurial reasons as well as for the wistful desire to emulate sites along the Hudson and the Rhine rivers.

⁴⁵ In form and function, the Chautauqua Tower resembles the gate lodge to Llewellyn Park in Orange, New Jersey. Designed by Alexander Jackson Davis in 1857, the gate lodge is also a rustic building constructed of stone masonry and capped by a polygonal roof. Likewise, the gate lodge served as a checkpoint into the park and as a "prelude" of things to come. See William H. Pierson, Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects, 2nd Vol., Technology and the Picturesque: The Corporate and the Early Gothic Styles (Garden City: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1978), p. 427.

GLEN ECHO PARK, CHAUTAUQUA TOWER
HABS No. MD-1080-D
(page 16)

1. Dimensions: The circular structure measures about 34' in diameter and stands three stories tall.
2. Foundations: The Chautauqua Tower rests on a stone foundation that is essentially a continuation of the load-bearing, native stone wall seen above grade; in the mid-1980s, a concrete collar was poured around the circumference of the building, presumably as preservation tactic undertaken to reinforce the original stone base.⁴⁶
3. Walls: The exterior walls are constructed of ferrous (native) stone. They are about 3' thick and abruptly taper in at the cornice line.
4. Structural system, framing: Inside, the flooring and interior partition walls are supported by wood framing members, as is the roof. Key to the frame of the third floor and attic space flooring is a central post.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, porticoes, bulkheads: Beneath the art deco inspired entrance canopy to the park, there is a modern ramp leading to the doorway into the tower. It slopes gently upward from east to west to provide wheelchair access to the gift shop, which is housed on the first floor of the tower. On the west or park side, there are a couple of steps leading up to the ramp -- and so doorway -- as well. This ramp-step combination was made of wood and its lack of structural ornamentation or surface decoration reveals its strictly utilitarian purpose.
6. Chimneys: There is a stone masonry chimneystack on the west end of the belfry; another stone chimney-like shaft projects upward from the cornice on the east end of the belfry. The chimney now has a concrete cap and the concrete infill effectively seals it off. The eastern, chimney-like stack is capped by a gable roof, with a ridge running north-to-south. The belfry roof is also gabled, but its ridge extends from east to west. There are no longer any bells hanging in the belfry, however. Similar to the larger tower roof, the belfry roof is covered by wood shingles. A firebox opens into the tower on the second floor.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There is one exterior door leading into the tower on the north, park-side elevation; it is located beneath the park's (1940) entrance canopy and accessed by way of a ramp from the east and two steps up from the west. The door is made of wood and the body of the door consists of five rectangular panels. It is encased by a plain, unadorned surround with butt joined corners and is recessed into the 3'2" deep, stone wall. There is no sill or light-bearing transom.

⁴⁶ HSR, p. IV-5.

b. Windows and shutters: The windows lighting the Chautauqua Tower are all casement windows, although they vary in size. There are single casements glazed with twenty lights arranged in pairs to form two columns of ten separated only by muntins as well as larger double casements. The glazing in the double casements also varies. Two of the first-floor windows are glazed with thirty lights, fifteen per side, and the others have forty lights, twenty per side arranged four abreast. The glazing of one of the double casement windows on the second floor has been removed; this window is closed and currently housing an air conditioning unit. The window location corresponds to that of the exterior door on the first floor. The single casements are found on the eastern side of the building on the first and second floors. Crowning the double casement windows is an arched lintel, echoing the shape of the segmental arch of fashioned of stone seen on the exterior face of the window openings. The window surrounds are all butt joined.

8. Roof: The tower is capped an eleven-sided polygonal roof with a steep pitch that flares outward at the base. The roof is supported by rafters arranged in a radial pattern. It also is covered in wood shingles and is crowned by a flagpole. There are modern downspouts that funnel water from the roof and away from the structure. There is also a hatch cut into the north side of the roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Plan: Inside the tower, the first floor is left in the round producing an open plan devoid of interior partition walls; it has been renovated for use as the gift shop. The second and third floors have been partitioned to produce multiple interior spaces. The second floor is subdivided into two interior spaces by an impermanent partition running north to south and standing about 8' tall. This partition probably dates to the Park Service's occupation; the second floor itself holds Park Service administrative equipment and stores Park materials. The third floor partitions radiate outward from a central point, likely a structural post. The partitions form three interior spaces and date, most likely, from when it served as part of the park superintendent's residence. Similar to the first floor, the attic is one large, open room.

2. Stairways: Single-run stairs follow the curvature of the exterior walls; the boxed, winder-like steps are located on the eastern side of the building. The bottom run opens into the first floor and is graced with a curving handrail supported by turned balusters that terminates in a squat-proportioned, turned newel post. This is repeated on the second floor, wherein five steps are visible between the floor and the door to the stairwell. On these steps there is a balustrade topped by a handrail and anchored by a newel post similar to that seen on the first floor. The handrail, balusters, and newel post have been painted white in this instance, however. As the stair opens onto the third floor, there is

another balustrade protecting the opening. The part of the staircase between the floor and door to the third floor stair leading up the attic is missing. Behind the door, there is a boxed quarter turn stair with winders.

3. Flooring: The flooring consists of tongue and groove wood boards that run from east to west on the first floor, and from north to south on the second and third floors. In the attic, joists radiating outward from a central post support the flooring. Overall, the floor boards typically measure about 2" to 2 ½" inches.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The first-floor walls are simply the interior face of the stone exterior walls; the stonework is finished with the addition of wood trim at the window openings as well as box-like baseboards on the first and second floor. The first floor ceiling has been painted white; it supports the track lighting positioned to highlight the artwork displayed on the walls. The stair wall consists of plaster on wood lathe. Similarly, the second floor ceiling consists of drywall painted white and the walls are the exterior stone. The enclosed portions of the stairwell have been framed out and finished by a cornice with ogee curves. The interior of the stairwell has been painted on its northern side, while the stone masonry of the southern side has been left alone. Once the stair reaches the third floor level it opens up, protected only by a balustrade and a hand rail to the north. The third floor partition walls consist of plaster on wood lathe; although the ceiling is no longer in place, there is evidence that it too was plaster on lathe. As it is, the ceiling is simply the exposed, radial floor joists of the unfinished attic space above.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: On the first and second floors, there is a doorway cut into the curving stone walls of the tower on its north side. These doorways connect the interior of the tower to the adjacent Yellow Barn; both are presently blocked. In addition, both of these doors are capped by an arch made of stones aligned vertically to resemble voussoirs; neither have true sills other than the flooring nor do they have ornamental surrounds. On the first floor, there is also an interior door leading into the closet beneath the stairs. It is held in place by butt hinges, painted brown, operated by a modern door knob, and hung in a surround with a bead at the inside edge. In addition, there are doors blocking access to enclosed portion of the stairway leading to the third floor and to boxed winder stair leading up to the attic. The second to third floor stairway door is made of wood and has five rectangular panels. The casing is butt joined together and there is no decorative architrave molding. Similarly the door leading to the boxed, quarter turn stair with winders reaching up to the attic consists of five panels and hangs from a simple, butt joined frame without an ornamental surround. There are also two interior doorways cut into the partition walls on the third floor; although the

doors are no longer extant both have single light transoms, presumably cut to capitalize on the available natural light. The doorway of the east to west partition wall has been blocked by wire, as is a larger opening cut into the north end of the north to south partition wall.

- b. Windows: The interior of the casement windows consists of plain wood framing in that the sills follow the curvature of the exterior walls and the wood members are butt joined and nailed into place. All of the woodwork is painted brown. Beneath the sills of the first-floor windows are decorative panels.
6. Decorative features and trim: There is a firebox cut into the stone masonry of the second floor wall; it is characterized by a segmental arch lintel two courses of brick deep and on the inside, by small, slightly splayed cheeks. In a corresponding location on the third floor, there is a hole cut into the wall for a stovepipe. Also on the third floor is the ghost of shelving on one of the plaster partition walls. Ornamental features that are still intact include box-like baseboards on the first and second floors as well as architrave trim on the window surrounds throughout the structure.
 7. Hardware: The tower hosts a variety of hardware, predominantly modern. There are sliding bolt locks, hook and eye locks, and a wood button helping to secure the structure's openings; and there are butt hinges on the doors. The second floor stair door has an ornamental doorknob, but no manufacturer's name or serial number is in evidence.
 8. Mechanical Equipment: There is no running water in the tower, however, there is electricity powering the air conditioning units, lighting, and ceiling fans.

D. Site:

Strategically planned and placed by Edwin and Edward Baltzley, the location of the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo was close to the tracks for the Glen Echo Railroad; the rail lines "enter[ed] Glen Echo near its eastern boundary, at the beginning of Glen Echo Park, and opposite Sycamore Island [...] from thence traversing the park along and fifty feet from the Conduit Road to the Chautauqua grounds and Cabin John Bridge, a distance of one and three-fourths miles. The Chautauqua is midway between Sycamore Island and Cabin John." Not only did the Baltzleys donate the land to the Chautauqua, but they also invested in the Glen Echo railroad.⁴⁷ The railroad promised to bring Washingtonians to Glen Echo, and the Baltzleys

⁴⁷ Montgomery County Land Records, Liber JA, No. 25, pp. 252-254; The Glen Echoan: Devoted to Glen Echo and the Glen Echo Chautauqua Located at Glen Echo-on-the-Potomac Five Miles from Washington the Washington Rhine (Washington, D.C.: 189[1/2]), pp. 9-10; and Edwin and Edward Baltzley, Cash Book, 1889-1895 (Glen Echo

needed Washingtonians to patronize and populate Glen Echo for their real estate investments to succeed. Their choice of land for the Chautauqua was, therefore, unsurprising in its proximity to the rail lines.

In addition to their connection of the Glen Echo Chautauqua to mass transit, the Baltzleys advertised in the local and national media in hopes of ensuring business profits.⁴⁸ The crux of all the advertisements was the “charm of locality” that Glen Echo offered, the scenery, and the advantages of the train ride from Washington. The Evening Star reported that the Glen Echo line “runs through a picturesque region, and every curve and grade reveals some new beauty.” Whereas the Washington Post emphasized the comforts of the ride itself, describing the trip as “the most charming ride out of Washington on the elegant cars of the Glen Echo railway.”⁴⁹ Shifting from the Glen Echo Railroad specifically, but still focused on the landscape, the site of the Chautauqua also received due attention. The Women’s Executive Committee of the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo promoted the institution primarily as the newspapers had done, using the appeal of the location and hinting at the grand nature of the buildings to be erected there. In their own words, the Women’s Executive Committee explained,

The site chosen is on the high banks of the historic Potomac, south of the Conduit road, at the terminus of the Glen Echo R.R. It comprises about 80 acres, donated and dedicated for the [Chautauqua], and is that magnificent river front beginning a mile and a half this side of Cabin John Bridge and extending to the bridge. It is 125 feet above the river and throughout its entire length commands inspiring views of the Potomac, which is so beautiful at this point. Nature has done so much for the place in the way of shade, running streams, leaping cascades, picturesque rock forms and wonderful vistas of the river that it only requires a touch of the landscape gardener here and there to make it an ideal place for such an institution. There will be drives upon the commanding bluffs, walks, fountains, flowers, and great buildings. [...] All these buildings are to be in granite, and designed with especial reference to their sites and purpose. They will be imposing in their grouping as well as in their architecture, and by their art will emphasize the rugged grandeur of the glen, and by the learning to be disseminated from them, as time goes on, will make classic this beautiful vale.⁵⁰

The Post, on the other hand, was more succinct. It exclaimed, “treasures of sight and sound here

Park, microfilm 1, book 2); and Edwin and Edward Baltzley, Ledger, 1890-1893, (Glen Echo Park, microfilm 1, book 3).

⁴⁸ Edwin and Edward Baltzley, Ledger, 1890-1893, pp. 42, 310, 344 (Glen Echo Park, microfilm 1, book 3); National Chautauqua of Glen Echo Journal, 1891-1898, pp. 2-3, 7, 13, 20-21, 24-28, 33 (Glen Echo Park, microfilm 1, book 4).

⁴⁹ Washington Post, August 11, 1891; The Evening Star, June 15, 1891, p. 1; The Glen Echoan.

⁵⁰ Women’s Executive Committee, pp. 3-4 (MCHS).

GLEN ECHO PARK, CHAUTAUQUA TOWER

HABS No. MD-1080-D

(page 21)

[are] almost within touch, [...], and the time is not far distant when man's skillful touch will add the newer graces of architecture and landscape gardening to the beauty of nature's work."⁵¹ Undoubtedly the Baltzley brothers and the other organizers of the Fifty-third Chautauqua at Glen Echo, such as Dr. A.H. Gillet, were responsible for the enthusiastic references to the site and to their developing Chautauqua campus. While no authorship was claimed for the newspapers' text, the Baltzleys paid Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper for advertising in May of 1891; the following month a lengthy article about Glen Echo appeared in the paper. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper summarized the siting of the Chautauqua as "located within four and a half miles of Washington, on the famous macadamized Conduit road, high up on the foot-hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and upon the majestic bluffs that overlook the most picturesque and entrancing part of the Potomac River, Glen Echo offers superb attractions for all the purposes of a summer resort and a place of delightful residence."⁵²

The Baltzleys' efforts to sell Glen Echo went beyond the local and national media. They sponsored a newspaper, The Glen Echoan, and wrote a book, Glen Echo on the Potomac: The Washington Rhine, in which they promoted the place through emphasis on its natural beauty and on its inspirational character, both worthy of the culturally uplifting, and didactic, Chautauqua they planned in 1891. In the Glen Echoan, the Baltzleys also took care to point out the proximity of Glen Echo to Washington – close enough to see, that is to say, convenient, but far enough away from the city that Glen Echo could be cathartic as well. The Baltzleys enumerated in the Glen Echoan thusly:

The foot-hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains hurry down to [the] Potomac at Glen Echo and the pause in high plateau overlooking the long descent of the majestic river. Bold and precipitous they drop 125 feet to the murmuring edge of the waters under the eloquent shade of giant trees and luxuriant foliage. On it is located the Glen Echo Chautauqua. Looking to the east, when the sun is in mid-heavens, the white shaft of the Washington Monument gleams against a southern sky, blue and soft as Italy's. To the north arise the caressing hills, so near their summits overhang the slumberous highland plain; to the south the river, and above its shining waters the Virginia hills in long line and competing altitudes; to the west a picturesque stretch of plain, and the misty line of the Blue Ridge, confusing itself with the configuration of the clouds.⁵³

⁵¹ Washington Post, May 12, 1891, p. 1.

⁵² Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper vol. 72, no. 1867 (June 27, 1891): 362; Edwin and Edward Baltzley, Ledger, 1890-1893, p. 42 (Glen Echo Park, microfilm 1, book 3); National Chautauqua of Glen Echo Journal, 1891-1898, p. 33 (Glen Echo Park, microfilm 1, book 4); National Chautauqua of Glen Echo Ledger, 1890-1898, pp. 457, 470-471 (Glen Echo Park, microfilm 2, book 6); and Ledger, 1890-1891, pp. 306-307 (Glen Echo Park, microfilm 2, book 7).

⁵³ The Glen Echoan, p. 15.

Later in the same promotional publication the Baltzleys' confidence in their plans was impossible to suppress. They claimed that "it will be safe to count the annual visitors to the Glen Echo Chautauqua at hundreds of thousands, and the land within and favorably contiguous to it at more than double the prices of that of the [New York] Chautauqua. The combined influences make these lands more valuable to hold than to sell for years to come, although prices have already advanced with marvelous rapidity to a high mark."⁵⁴ Self-congratulatory as it reads, the words were chosen to solicit and assure potential investors that Glen Echo was a sure thing.

Similar in tone, the text of Glen-Echo on the Potomac described the setting as follows:

And high on the highlands, where munificent Nature has made one of her supreme efforts to be grand and lovely, Glen-Echo [...], relines on glen and promontory, overlooking the sun-kissed river, which, [...] sweeps into view and comes smiling close up to the foot of the highlands of Glen-Echo [...]. Here, too, the tall hills slope gracefully down to the [Conduit] road, with intervening glen and wooded glade to individualize and lend them varied beauty. On the altitudes, overlooking the trees below, a surprise of pleasure awaits you. The river, the valley, and the Virginia hills spread out in all their splendor.⁵⁵

[...] here at Glen-Echo, each step in our wandering takes us through Nature's ever-changing mood; now on the hill-top, where the heart pants after the sublime and unattainable; now in the wooded glen, where the foliated twilight makes the mind reverent and dreamful; now upon the river's bank, where the music of the waters ripples against the spirit, made joyful by the themes sung into it by the minstrel of the trees; and now again in the deep ravine, whose somber shades and rugged, rocky bed awakens thoughts of pain and toil which naturalizes men into the high citizenship of being.⁵⁶

Hoping that Washingtonians would be attracted to the site they glowingly described, the Baltzleys built the Chautauqua campus. They began by contracting for topographical surveys in 1889 for their Glen Echo property, and sponsored others as their real estate development plans got underway.⁵⁷ The map of the Chautauqua and early historic photographs place the Chautauqua Tower at the edge of the grounds, near the rail lines and Conduit Road, and adjacent to the entrance, post office, and store buildings.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ The Glen Echoan, p. 44.

⁵⁵ Edward Baltzley and Edwin Baltzley, Glen Echo on the Potomac: The Washington Rhine (Philadelphia: P. Gutekunst Press, [189_]), p. 3.

⁵⁶ Glen Echo on the Potomac, p. 5.

⁵⁷ For example, one of the first entries in the Baltzleys' cash book was for a topographical survey. See Edwin and Edward Baltzley, Cash Book, March 1, 1889 (Glen Echo Park, microfilm 1, book 2).

⁵⁸ Montgomery County Land Records, 1891, Plat Book B, pp. 16-17. Also known as the "Looker Map," this plat

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings:

1. Denver Service Center, Technical Information Center, Denver, Colorado. (NPS)

Stabilization of Chautauqua Tower	08/1978
Belfry Tower	n.d.
Plan & Elevation of Chautauqua Tower and Barn	n.d.

Two property surveys exist for Glen Echo Park in the Denver Service Center's collection, one done in 1941 for the Baltzley heirs and the other in 1952. Copies of plats recorded in 1957, 1958, and 1960, are stored in Denver as well as topographical documentation for the town and park, hydrological maps (1985, 1986, 1994), aerial photographs (1965, 1984), and proposed archaeological survey information (n.d.). Plus, the Denver Service Center's Technical Information Center holds microfilm copies of the several site plans (1992), development plans (1970,1971), and an interim plan (1979) for the Glen Echo Park area. The Technical Information Center also maintains documents produced when utilities came into, or were altered within, the park; these date primarily between the 1950s and 1993. Likewise, documents relating to transportation into and out of the park are held in Denver. An "Existing Conditions" report (1981) and an "Existing Facilities Survey" (n.d.) are on file, too.

2. Montgomery County Land Records, Rockville, Maryland.

There are two plats for Glen Echo. The first was made in 1889 (see Plat Book A, pp. 30-31). This plat recorded part of the "Glen Echo Heights" subdivision. The second plat was made in 1891 (see Plat Book B, pp. 16-17). Also known as the "Looker Map," this plat recorded the grounds of the "National Chautauqua at Glen Echo."

B. Early Views:

1. Theodor Horydczak Collection, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

Selected images from this collection also may be seen on the website for Glen Echo Park within that site (<http://www.nps.gov/glec>).

2. Richard A. Cook Collection, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Copies of the collection photographs are on file at Glen Echo Park.

3. Abram Baker Collection, Clementon, New Jersey.

Copies of the fifty photographs in this collection are on file at Glen Echo Park.

4. Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, Maryland.

The Historical Society's collection covers Glen Echo proper, the Glen Echo Chautauqua, and Glen Echo Amusement Park. Some of the earliest images are part of the Leroy O. King Collection and date to the 1890s.

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GLEN ECHO PARK, CHAUTAUQUA TOWER
HABS No. MD-1080-D

(page 25)

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D. Manuscripts/Collections:

Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D.C.

The Historical Society maintains the John Clagett Proctor Collection, which emphasizes the C&O Canal rather than the Park itself, and the Society's vertical files, which include newspaper clippings and materials about the Park's recent history, that is the segregation and sale, and some Chautauqua nostalgia.

Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, Maryland.

Glen Echo Park records include videos and newspaper clippings about the Park. Also on site there are copies of Richard A. Cook Collection and Abram Baker Collection photographs and slides, as well as microfilm copies of account books, press scrapbooks, and park records dating from 1891 to about 1968. The original books were obtained from Emory Crouch by Richard Cook.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library, Washington, D.C.

The library maintains a Washingtoniana Collection, which includes press clippings and other materials relating to Glen Echo from the 1930s to the 1970s.

Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, Maryland.

Press clippings, photographs, and miscellaneous materials relating to the recent history of Glen Echo Park and its restoration/fundraising efforts.

National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., and College Park, Maryland.

In Washington, D.C., there are records of the Bureau of the Census that place the Baltzleys and Frank Finlon in Glen Echo, Maryland, at times that correspond with their involvement in the park and with the times they were in residence, particularly, Finlon. Also downtown there are records pertaining to Washington's public buildings and public parks (Record Group 42), but Glen Echo became a National Park Service site too late to be included in the archival record at this juncture. Similarly, in College Park, Maryland, the holdings of the civilian textual record department, cartographic and architectural

records, motion pictures, and still pictures do not relate directly to the park because of its late arrival in the Park Service system. The archival reference for the National Park Service is Record Group 79. There is some information relating to the George Washington Memorial Parkway, but too early to reference Glen Echo. There is also a picture of the Chautauqua Institute's Hall of Missions (reference RG 306-PS, negative number 52-11530) taken by a photographer for the U.S. Information Agency, Public Service.

Richard A. Cook Collection, private, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Manuscripts, photographs, and documents relating to the history of Glen Echo as both a Chautauqua site and an amusement park site. Microfilm copies were made for Glen Echo Park, and are available for research through the National Park Service.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation was undertaken in summer 2001 by the Washington, D.C. office of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). The principals involved were E. Blaine Cliver, Division Chief, HABS/HAER, and Paul D. Dolinsky, Chief, HABS. The project was jointly sponsored by the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Audrey Calhoun, Superintendent; and by HABS/HAER. The documentation was initiated by Mark S. Schara, Project Leader, with Catherine C. Lavoie, Supervisory Historian, of HABS and by Tim Buehner, Historical Architect, George Washington Memorial Parkway. The field recording was done by Project Supervisor Mark S. Schara (Washington, D.C.), and HABS architect J. Raul Vazquez (Washington, D.C.), with architectural technicians Michael Gibble (The Catholic University of America) and Bogdan Kutsevych (US/ICOMOS). HABS architects Mark S. Schara, Edward L. Byrde, Jr., and Jennifer Most did additional field measurements, recording, and editing of the drawings during the fall and winter months. The report was written by HABS historian Virginia B. Price. Thank you to Karen Pittleman, Sam Swersky, and Mary Troy of Glen Echo Park for their assistance with the recording project.

ADDENDUM TO:
GLEN ECHO PARK, CHAUTAUQUA TOWER
(Glen Echo Park, Gate Tower)
George Washington Memorial Parkway
7300 McArthur Boulevard
Glen Echo
Montgomery County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1080-D

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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