

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form**  
**Intercounty Connector Project**

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name:** (indicate preferred name)

historic Leroy Snyder Property

and/or common Ralph Becraft Property

**2. Location:**

street &amp; number 4408 Sandy Spring Road

 not for publication

city, town Burtonsville

 vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Montgomery

**3. Classification:**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	

**4. Owner of Property:** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ralph Becraft

street &amp; number 4408 Sandy Spring Road

telephone no.:

city,town Burtonsville

state and zip code MD 20866

**5. Location of Legal Description**

Land Records of Montgomery County

liber 4588

street &amp; number Montgomery County Judicial Center

folio 144

city,town Rockville

state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title N/A

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city,town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No.: M: 15-89 (PACS D2.8)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Resource Count: 7

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Leroy Snyder Property is a 1½-story, 3-bay bungalow on the north side of Sandy Spring Road in Burtonsville, Montgomery County. Constructed circa 1940, the building has an integrated porch.

The structure has a side gable, asphalt shingle roof, with an interior chimney near the gable peak. The roof has a large shed dormer on the southwest gable. The structure is of concrete masonry construction with brick veneer, and it has a concrete masonry foundation. The windows are double-hung wood sash. The house has a full-width integrated porch on the southwest elevation. The porch has two brick columns and 2 brick piers with wood battered columns, and it has concrete steps and a concrete floor.

The southwest, or front facade has a full-width integrated porch and a large shed dormer. The first story entrance is off center to the east, and is a 15-light wood door with an aluminum storm door. The fenestration pattern is irregular, with one triple 1/1, double-hung window and one single 1/1 double hung window on the first story. The second story has three 1/1, double-hung windows in the shed dormer. Typical elements of the bungalow style, including a large porch with battered columns, a dual pitch gable at the porch, and a dormer are evident on this elevation. Deterioration is evident in rusting gutters and a damaged sill at the dormer windows.

The southeast elevation has an exposed basement. The fenestration pattern is irregular, with one 6-light, fixed sash window on the basement level and two 1/1 double-hung windows on the first story. The second story has two 1/1, double-hung windows. There is a 4-light wood door with an aluminum storm door at grade. Alterations to the elevation include a basement window that has been closed with plywood.

The northeast, or rear elevation has a large, interior brick chimney off center to the west. The fenestration pattern is irregular, with no windows on the basement level, and two 2/2, double-hung windows and one 1/1 double-hung window on the first story. The second story has four 1/1, double-hung windows in a large, off center shed dormer. The first story has an off center hollow metal door with an aluminum storm door. Concrete steps at grade lead to the door.

The northwest elevation has a one story bay window. The fenestration pattern on the first story is irregular, with no windows on the basement level and one 1/1, double-hung window, and one 1/1 double-hung window on each side of the bay. The bay window has an oxidized copper roof. The second story has two 1/1, double-hung windows.

There are six outbuildings associated with this property. The first outbuilding is a garage, with a side gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Constructed circa 1960, it is of concrete masonry construction. The structure is located northwest of the house.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Leroy Snyder Property

SURVEY NO.: M: 15-89 (PACS D2.8)

ADDRESS: 4408 Sandy Spring Road, Burtonsville, Montgomery County

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## 7. Description (Continued)

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The second, third, and fourth outbuildings are sheds with asphalt shingle gable roofs. Constructed circa 1950, the sheds are of wood frame construction. The structures are located northeast of the house and east of the garage.

The fifth outbuilding is a shed with an asphalt shingle shed roof. Constructed circa 1970, it is of wood frame construction. The structure is located east of the house, southeast of the garage, and south of the second, third, and fourth outbuildings.

The sixth outbuilding is a shed with an asphalt shingle gable roof. Constructed circa 1950, it is of wood frame construction. The structure is located northwest of the house, immediately southwest of the garage, southwest of the second outbuilding, west of the third and fourth outbuildings, and northwest of the fifth outbuilding.

The property is located on the northeast side of Sandy Spring Road, with residential property to the north, east and west. The property slopes down to the north from Sandy Spring Road. There are a few trees on the property. The property's setting is suburban, with heavily traveled Sandy Spring Road to the southwest.

## 8. Significance

Survey No.: M: 15-89 (PACS D2.8)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates circa 1940

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exceptions:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The location of the Leroy Snyder Property is shown on the 1865 Martenet and Bond Map, and the 1878 Hopkins Atlas, as land belonging to the Carr family. The earliest reference to the property is a deed which documents that George Daniel Snyder and Annie Snyder conveyed 0.82 hectares (2.025 acres, recorded in the deed as 324 perches) of land to Leroy D. Snyder and Alexenia Snyder January 13, 1928. It was during the Snyder ownership, circa 1940, that the bungalow was built. The next reference to the property is a deed dated October 21, 1974, in which Daniel Leroy Snyder (sic.), widower of Alexenia Snyder, conveyed the land to Ralph L. and Emma G. Becraft. The Becrafts are the current owners.

The Leroy Snyder Property is located near Burtonsville, on land originally patented in 1703 as "Bear Bacon" and in 1715 as "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" in what was then Prince George's County. "Bear Bacon" was approximately 245 hectares (605 acres) of land stretching from present Oursler Road to Old Columbia Pike. "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" was approximately 1214 hectares (3000 acres) of land from Old Columbia Pike to the present city of Laurel, and from south of Greencastle and Van Dusen Roads to north of Sandy Spring Road. Later additions to the patent north and northwest of the present junction of U.S. 29 and MD. 198 eventually covered 3749 hectares (9265 acres) by 1743. (Geraci, Walker and Donnary 1976: 4; Cook, 1976: 270-271). As settlement in the new county increased, the need for improved roads became apparent. The Columbia Turnpike Company was chartered in 1809 to build a road from Georgetown, D.C. to Ellicott's Mills, and construction began in 1810 (present U.S. 29 and Old Columbia Pike follow the route of this original road) (Hiebert and MacMaster 1976, 107).

Burton family records indicate that their ancestors settled in the area by 1707. Basil Burton settled east of the turnpike in 1817. Basil's son, Isaac, considered the founder of the community, bought out his family's share of his father's land in 1825, and by 1850 the crossroads of the Columbia Turnpike and the Laurel-Sandy Spring Road was known as Burtons. The community remained small and rural in the decades after the Civil War. It had a population of about fifty people, a Baptist church, a blacksmith shop, a schoolhouse, and a store (Dixon-Williams 1994, A-4).

Montgomery County remained predominantly rural as the twentieth century began. The extension of Washington trolley lines encouraged development close to the District line, but population growth fell below national averages and some areas of the county experienced declining population. Road improvements and the increase in the size of the federal government began to reverse that trend after the First World War, but Burtonsville remained a small crossroads. In the 1920s the buildings within the community did not have indoor plumbing, electricity was a luxury, and the

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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ADDRESS: 4408 Sandy Spring Road, Burtonsville, Montgomery County

## 8. Significance (Continued)

only telephone was in the general store (Daniels). The Great Depression caused much hardship among the area's farmers; farm prices fell drastically and the county could not afford to improve roads, utilities, and schools. Burtonsville did not benefit from the increase in federal employment brought by the New Deal.

The Second World War and the following Cold War completely changed the character of the county. The federal government expanded dramatically, and southern Montgomery County experienced tremendous growth as new government agencies and new industries located there. Farmland rapidly decreased overall as new housing and retail centers were developed. By the mid 1970s, over half of the remaining farmland was devoted to grazing for dairy and beef cattle, rather than for crops (Hiebert and MacMaster 1976).

During this time the size of Burtonsville increased gradually as the Washington suburbs spread further north, and large employers located their operations in Silver Spring, northern Prince George's and neighboring Howard County. Shopping centers and widened roads replaced the historic crossroads. A 1960s master plan for the Fairland-Beltsville corridor marked eastern parts of Burtonsville as an "employment center" for the area. However, even though public utilities were extended to the community in the early 1970s, a sewer moratorium was imposed before extensive development occurred. Land unsuitable for septic systems also slowed growth in the Burtonsville area (Daniels).

In the 1980s, continued growth of federal and private sector employment and the new U.S. 29 highway made Burtonsville accessible to new residents and commercial development. Today Burtonsville retains a rural character. Old working farms still remain, but the area is becoming one of the major suburban centers outside of Washington, D.C.

The Leroy Snyder Property is a bungalow. The bungalow became the dominant style of middle and working class housing in the period between 1900 and 1920. It was a style spread primarily by plans sold in popular catalogues, rather than by architects. Bungalows are typically one-and-a-half-story structures, with low, horizontal lines and an integral porch on the front of the house. They are also characterized by a series of broad gables that form contiguous and receding planes. Gables often are bracketed and have wide projecting eaves. Roofs are gently pitched and often have either gable or shallow shed dormers. Windows are either sash or casement with many lights or single panes of glass. Bungalows are also notable for their earth-tone stains and use of natural materials such as stones, shingling, or stucco. The bungalow form frequently features Craftsman-style detailing, such as exposed rafter tails, wood brackets under eave overhangs, three-over-one double-hung sash windows, and wide wood frames around doors and windows. Bungalows were enormously popular in the early years of the twentieth century because they were inexpensive to design and build. Their emergence coincided with the rise in the number of working and middle class Americans who could afford to purchase a house (Klein 1985, 44). The Leroy Snyder Property exhibits such bungalow characteristics as an integral porch on the front of the house and shallow shed dormers.

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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ADDRESS: 4408 Sandy Spring Road, Burtonsville, Montgomery County

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed circa 1940, the Leroy Snyder Property is not eligible for the National Register. The property is not eligible under Criterion A; no significant events have been determined to be associated with the property. The property is not eligible under Criterion B; no person significant in local, state, or national history has been determined to be associated with the property. The property is not eligible under Criterion C; the bungalow is a common vernacular style which lacks individual distinction, and exhibits only a few of the character defining features, such as an integrated porch and shed dormers, of the bungalow style. Finally the property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, does not meet Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Not Recommended   X  

Comments

Reviewer, OPS: [Signature]

Date: 8/22/98

Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature]

Date: 8/27/98

[Handwritten mark]

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No.: M:15-89(PACS D2.8)

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e Attached

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name Beltsville \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Caroline Hall/Ryan P. McKay

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date October 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Leroy Snyder Property

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ADDRESS: 4408 Sandy Spring Road, Burtonsville, Montgomery County

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

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- Boyd, T.H.S. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. 1879. Reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968.
- Coleman, Margaret Marshall, and Anne Dennis Lewis. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk: Donning Co., 1984.
- Cook, William G. Montpelier & the Snowden Family. Privately Printed, 1976.
- Daniels, Lee A. "Burtonsville: A town of the past trapped between the future." Washington Post. no date.
- Dixon-Williams, Gail. "Originally Burtons, this suburb has come a long way from 1800's." Burtonsville Gazette 14 Sept. 1994: A-4.
- Geraci, Ron, Vicki Walker, and Linda Donnary. Old Building Survey of the Burtonsville Area. Burtonsville, Maryland: Burtonsville Bicentennial Committee, 1976.
- Lebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.
- Klein, Marilyn W. and David P. Fogle. Clues to American Architecture. Washington D.C. and Philadelphia: Starrhill Press, 1986.
- Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
- Lord, Elizabeth M. Burtonsville Heritage: Genealogically Speaking. Burtonsville, Maryland: Burtonsville Bicentennial Committee, 1976.
- Martenet, Simon J. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Baltimore, Maryland: Simon J. Martenet, 1865. Reprint.

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

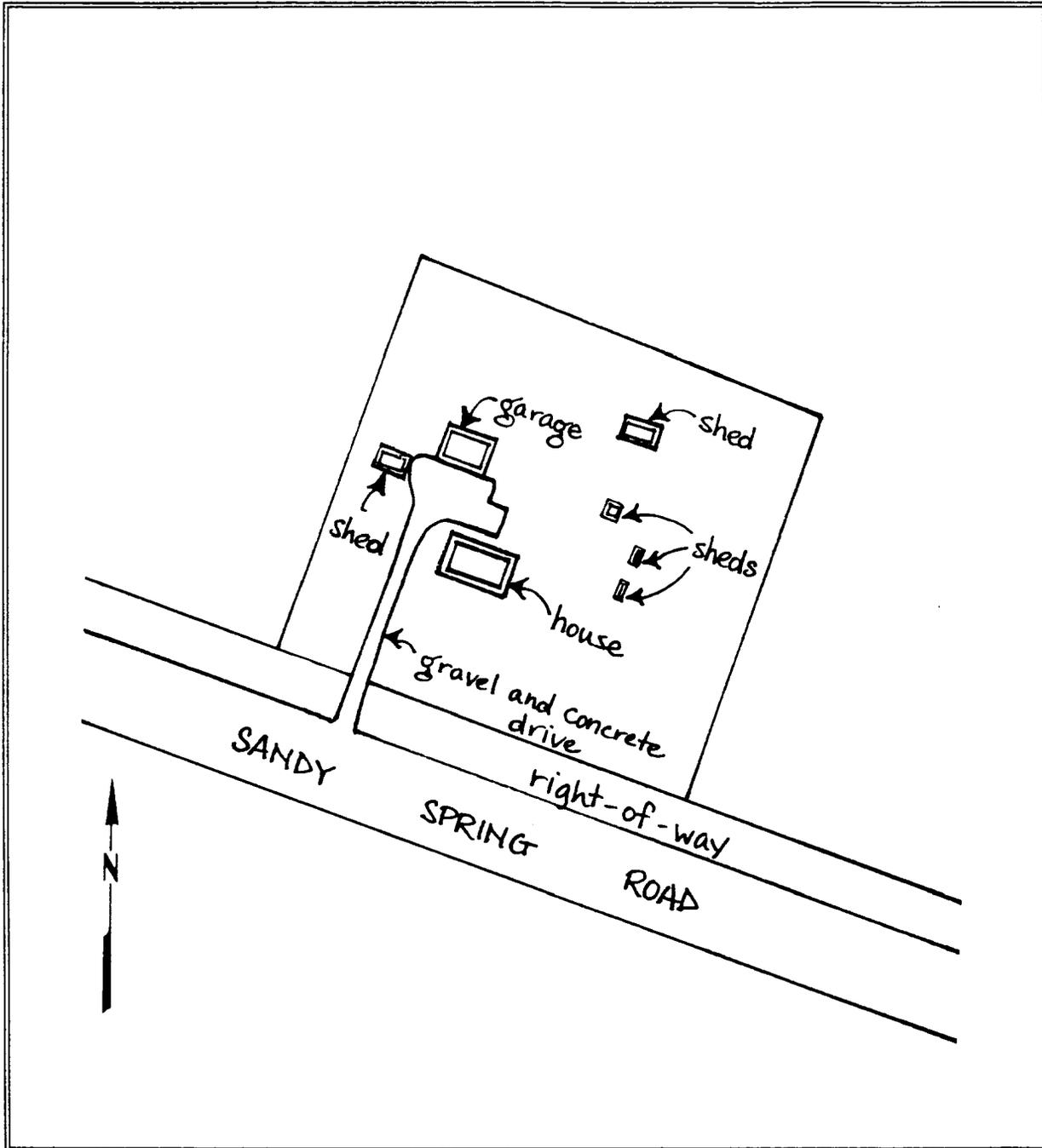
RESOURCE NAME: Leroy Snyder Property

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ADDRESS: 4408 Sandy Spring Road, Burtonsville, Montgomery County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map



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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

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RESOURCE NAME: Leroy Snyder Property

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ADDRESS: 4408 Sandy Spring Road, Burtonsville, Montgomery County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

12. Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

2. Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

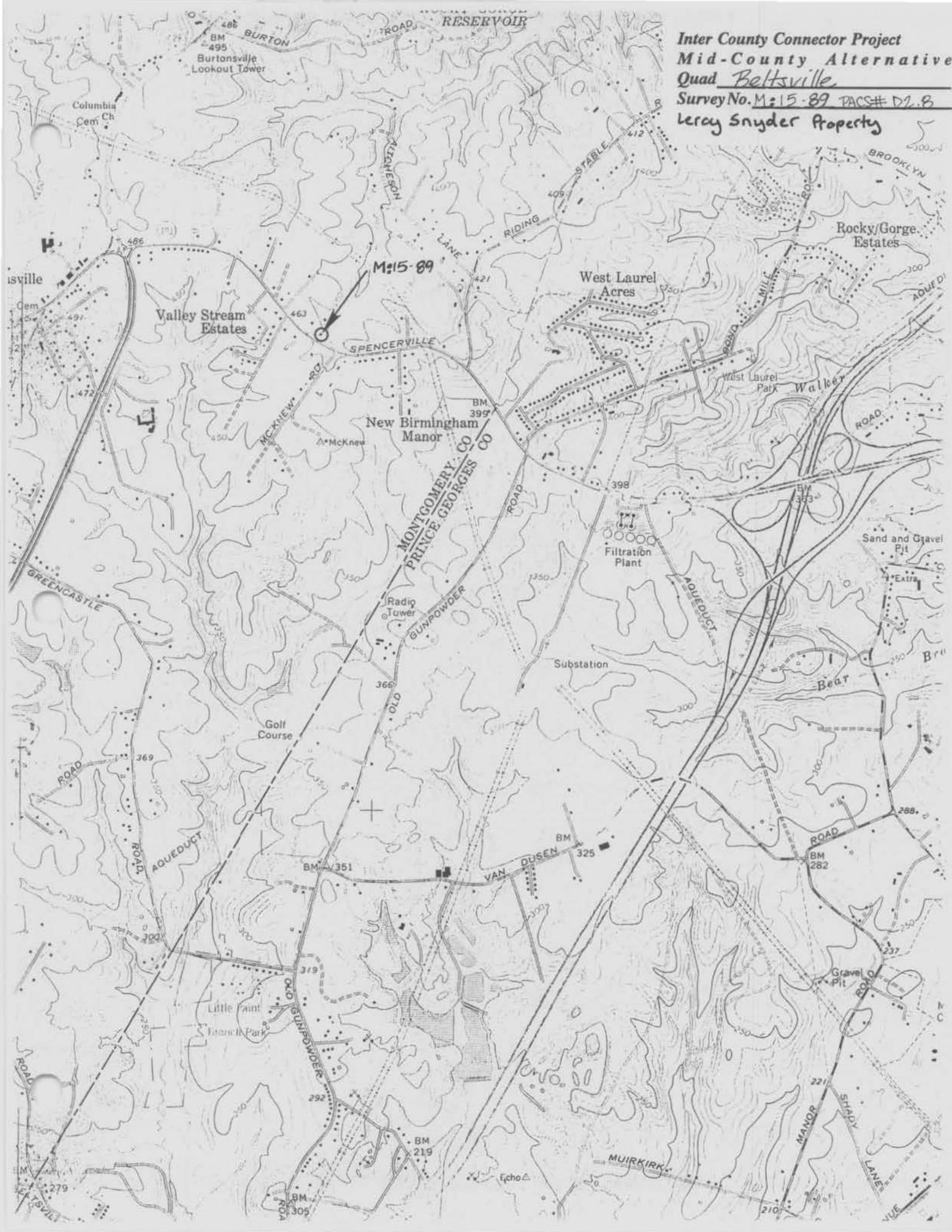
Dwelling

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer:  
P.A.C. Spero & Company  
October 1996

Inter County Connector Project  
Mid-County Alternative  
Quad Beltsville  
Survey No. M:15-89 PACS# D2.B  
Lercy Snyder Property





- 1 M15-89
- 2- Leroy Snyder Property
- 3 Montgomery County
- 4 Ryan McKay
- 5 February 1996
- 6 PAC Spero and Company, Towson MD 21204
- 7 <sup>4428</sup> Sandy Spring Rd., southwest facade
- 8 1 of 6



- 1 M 15-89
- 2 Leroy Snyder Property
- 3 Montgomery County
- 4 Ryan McKay
- 5 February 1996
- 6 PAC Spew and Company, Tawson AID 21204
- 7 <sup>4485</sup> Sandy Spring Rd., northeast facade
- 8 206 E



- 1 M/S 87
- 2 Leroy Snyder Proprietor
- 3 Montgomery County
- 4 Ryan McKay
- 5 February 1996
- 6 PAC Speio and Company, Towson MD 21204
- 7 <sup>4408</sup> Sandy Spring Road, northeast facade
- 8 3 of 6



1 M 15-89

2 Leray Snyder Properties

3 Montgomery County

4 Ryan McKay

5 February 1996

6 PAC Spero and Company, Towson MD 21284

7 <sup>44087</sup> Sandy Spring Road, northwest facade

8 4 of 6



1. M/B-89
2. Leroy Snyder Property
3. Manassas County
4. Brian McKay
5. February 1996
6. PAC Sperry and Company, Towson MD 21204
7. 41408 Sandy Spring Road, Garage - south facade
8. 5 of 6



1. M15-89
2. Leroy Snyder Property
3. Montgomery County
4. Ryan McKay
5. February 1996
6. PAC Spero and Company, Towson MD 21204
7. 4406 Sandy Spring Road, South facade  
of outbuilding
8. 6 of 6