

Site: M:26/22/8

"Vallonia" Bungalow

Built: 1927

2 West Argyle Street

Arch: Sears, Roebuck
and Company

Private

This five room bungalow is an example of the popular catalog houses offered by Sears, Roebuck & Company. The frame, three-bay by three-bay 1-1/2 story bungalow is almost unaltered on the three sides exposed to the street. It has a wood shingled, side-gable roof, central front dormer, clapboard siding, and brick foundation. Details of this popularized craftsman-style house include wide overhanging eaves, decorative rafters, eight-over-one double sash windows, and plaster ceiling medallions.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

NR eligible yes no
contrib. element in H.D.

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic "Vallonia" Bungalow

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2 West Argyle Street not for publication

city, town Rockville vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 4)

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"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. and Mrs. Damon W. Voneiff

street & number 2 West Argyle Street telephone no.: 251-1594

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 5547

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 770

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M:26/22/8

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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			

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

The subject house faces north on Argyle Street, set well back on a deep lot shaded with mature trees and landscaped with azaleas, shrubs, and perennial beds. A concrete walk leads to the house. A crushed stone driveway is on the east property line, accessed from Argyle Street. A frame two-car garage is located at the end of the driveway on the west side of the house.

This 1927 frame, three-bay by three-bay, 1-1/2 story bungalow has a wood shingled, side-gable roof with central front dormer. The house is sheathed with clapboard siding and rests on a brick foundation.

Sold as the "Vallonia" model by Sears and Roebuck Co., the house is virtually unaltered on the three sides exposed to the street. Classic shape, proportion, and detail characterize this popularized craftsman-style house. The overhanging eaves are wide, semi-enclosed, and detailed with decorative wooden knee brackets and wide vergeboards on the side overhang and dormer front, and decorative rafter ends under the front and rear overhang. Eight-over-one double sash windows predominate, used singly and in pairs. Doors and windows have plain surrounds. The full basement has rectangular three-light windows. There is an enclosed back porch with lattice panel skirting between brick piers.

The three-bay north (front) facade is dominated by the central front three-windowed dormer whose peak projects above the main roofline. The dormer's wide overhanging eaves are finished with three decorative knee brackets and a wide vergeboard. A cluster of three wood half-columns pinned together with wood keys rest on brick half-piers at each corner to support the roof of the front porch. The first story has a pair of 8/1 windows in the west bay, a central exterior door with decorative stained glass, and one 8/1 window in the east bay.

The three-bay east facade has a pair of 8/1 windows in the gable under the semi-enclosed eaves. The wide eaves have decorative rafter ends painted white. The first story has one 8/1 window in the north bay, a central shed-roofed projecting rectangular bay with a pair of windows, and one 8/1 window in the south bay.

The south (rear) facade has an interior brick chimney in place of the dormer. A fully-glazed enclosed porch is located in the central bay with stairs leading down to the back yard. The shingled roof has been extended to cover this porch addition. This facade faces a large rear lawn landscaped with ornamental flower beds and mature trees.

Continued on attachment 7 page 1 (7.1)

Description (continued) : 2 Argyle

The three-bay west facade has a pair of 8/1 windows in the gable. Like the east facade, the wide overhanging eaves have decorative rafter ends. The first floor has one 8/1 window in the north and south bays and a smaller 1/1 window in the central bay.

The two car garage is a simple front-gabled structure clad in German siding. The padlocked entry door appears to slide open.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/22/8

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1927 **Builder/Architect** Sears, Roebuck & Co. **Local history** "Vallonia"

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: 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.

Significance

This five room bungalow is an example of the popular catalogue houses offered by Sears, Roebuck & Company. Constructed in 1927, it is faithful to the advertised design and features, pre-assembled by the company. It is well documented by the families who have owned it, and it has been little altered.

ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:

1. Historic context theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, City of Rockville
3. Chronological Period(s): Maturation and Expansion, 1873-1931
4. Resource type: single family residence

History and Support

The "Vallonia" model was one of Sears, Roebuck and Company's most popular bungalow homes. This "kit house" was offered from 1921 to 1939 at a cost of \$1,465 to \$2,479. 1/ This bungalow was constructed in 1927 and purchased by the newly married Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Hedgman. 2/ Mrs. Hedgman, the former Vivian Waters, was the widow of Charles Norman Bouic who had died in the flu epidemic of 1919. The Hedgmans purchased the newly constructed bungalow shortly before their marriage in September, 1928.

The original advertisement for the model house is attached (Attachments 8.2, 8.3). The house was constructed exactly as shown on the floor plan for the five room version. 3/ It illustrates such typical craftsman features as exposed rafter ends and ridge beams

continued on attachment 8 page 1 (8.1)

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : 2 Argyle Street

decorating the wide undereaves; a full-width porch has applied wooden cornerposts on brick piers. In addition, touches of the "Mission" decorative school are seen in the stylized cutout pattern of the balustrade's wider members, and in the squared knobs that pin the corner post assembly together. 4/ (See attachment 8.4) The low-pitched dormer is decorated with patterned wooden shingles around a triple window. The house is sheathed in cypress (which Sears called "the wood eternal"), with a matching garage occupying the west side of the lot.

The Vallonia model could be ordered with a large number of options and/or ornamental features. The directions accompanying the pre-cut elements were voluminous, but each piece from roof to door jambs was carefully numbered and fit together perfectly. 5/ Instructions for such things as the molding of the cement block foundations to achieve either a beveled or rock face configuration were detailed. The Hedgmans' bungalow, though primarily used as a summer cottage, was embellished with several deluxe features. The lower sash of the front 8/1 windows were filled with stained "art glass", whose geometric pattern echoes the porch balustrade design. Contemporary advertisements called this glasswork "Venetian", "Art Nouveau", or "Cathedral", evoking a more romantic image than the modern, angular patterns actually displayed. 6/

The interior of the house retains the wide stained woodwork, plaster ceiling medallions, and original metal wall sconces. Its current owners, the Damon Voneiffs, are both graphic artists and illustrators. They have augmented the 1930s atmosphere by the use of contemporary oak furniture and artifacts and have added wallpapers appropriate to the period.

Minor alterations to the bungalow were done during the 1975-1980 ownership by William Rickman, Jr. The original shingled roof was replaced the present one of cedar shakes. The old pantry/service porch was fully enclosed by glass panels, and the attic was finished as a bedroom. The original multi-paned front door has been replaced by an ornate stained, leaded pebble glass door with wooden console. 7/

This bungalow is located in Block 18 of Rockville Heights. The development was platted in 1890, and its prime location is reflected in the price of \$600 paid by Susan Rand for the vacant lot in that year. 8/ Rockville Heights was the site of many elegant homes, but the full scale development of the community never materialized; smaller homes, like this bungalow, were built over the next 30 years. 9/

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : 2 Argyle Street

Edgar and Vivian Hedgman died two days apart in 1936. The William Robertson family owned this home from 1937 to 1975, along with two other small homes on the street. Many of these small cottages began as summer houses but were expanded to full-time residences. ^{10/} A vacant lot on the south side of the bungalow was added to the property in 1940 and with the mature trees adds to the feeling of spaciousness, although the house itself remains the compact home advertised in 1926.

Footnotes:

1. Houses by Mail, The Preservation Press 1986, p. 131.
2. The house is dated to 1927 by two of its owners. This model was not offered in the Sears Line in 1927, so is presumed to have been ordered from the 1926 catalogue, built in 1927, and sold to the Hedgmans in 1928 at Montgomery County Land Record 464/182.
3. This original document accompanied the detailed plans and instructions which were until recently extant, but only this piece now remains.
4. The Gordon-Van Tine Co. Architectural Details 1915 catalogue offered similar balustrade on the design for interior staircase and newel post, called "Truly Mission Design Stairs". Page 69 of the American Life Foundation reprint (1985).
5. B. Robertson, a carpenter and grandson of the owner of this home, 1937 to 1975, has examined the (now lost) documents and noted that this "sheaf of instructions" matched those now needed for a four story office building. Building parts all evidence numbers.
6. Gordon-Van Tine, op. cit., pages 35-41 offered comparable patterns as "Art Nouveau Leaded Glass Windows".
7. Interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Voneiff and B. Robertson. The present door, though contemporary, was cut down from a 12-foot door and is of more elaborate, sophisticated design than would have been installed on this bungalow.
8. Land Record, op. cit., JA19/430 (1890) to Susan Rand. Ms. Rand owned the vacant lot until 1924. Katherine and Henry Matthews owned the property from 1924 to July, 1928 and are the presumed builders before its sale to the Hedgmans.
9. Two of these larger turn-of-the-century homes are extant at Maryland Avenue and S. Adams Street. See Survey Sites M:26/22/1 and M:26/22/3.
10. B. Robertson is now enlarging one of the Robertson-owned cottages diagonally across Argyle Street from the subject site. The house he is enlarging began as a one room structure c. 1900 and has been extended several times since then.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:26/22/8

Sears Roebuck Floor Plans, Drawings, and descriptions. Interviews with the Robertson, Voneiff families. Montgomery County Land and Plat Records. Architectural details from various period catalogues 1915-1927. Montgomery County Sentinel abstracts 1890-1936.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 18,000sq'

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot #7 of Block 18 of Rockville Heights and adjoining lot at southeast corner as per Montgomery County Plat A/56.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Cissel Mary Fitch, Arch. Description

organization Peerless Rockville date October, 1986

street & number P.O. Box 4262 telephone 762-0096

city or town Rockville state Maryland 20850

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.

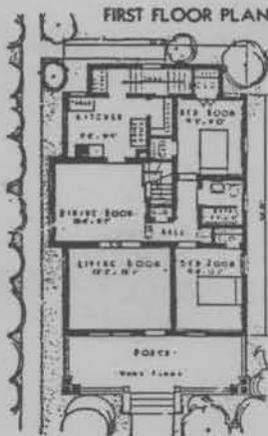
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : 2 Argyle Street
Sears, Roebucks and Co.: description / floor plans accompanying 1926-27
order from instructions.

THE VALLONIA . . .

▲ FIVE OR EIGHT ROOMS AND BATH



MODERN HOME
ALREADY CUT AND FITTED
No. 13049A—FIVE ROOMS
No. 13049B—EIGHT ROOMS
SEE PRICE LIST

JUDGING from the photographs and letters which hundreds of satisfied home owners have written us, telling of their delight in its splendid features and wonderful value—the Vallonia is a real prize bungalow. It meets many living conditions because it lends itself to future growth without the expense of changing roof or foundation.

Wide overhanging eaves with wood bracket supports, large front porch and careful detailing of all exterior elevations give it a pleasing appearance from both perspectives.

Complete description of the guaranteed specifications for this home will be found on pages 8 to 11. Carefully study the list of options and indicate on Information Blank, the ones you wish to include in complete delivered price.

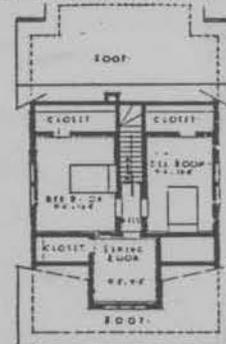
Can be built on 35-foot lot.

THE FLOOR PLANS

First Floor.—The living room and dining room, both large, well proportioned, with good wall space and plenty of light are connected by wide cased opening. Four windows light and ventilate the pleasant kitchen and pantry. The rear hall or vestibule at the top of the grade and cellar stairs provides good refrigerator space. The center hall opening off the dining room connects and gives privacy to the two first floor bedrooms and bath. The bathroom is equipped with a nice Venetian mirrored medicine case and will accommodate modern fixtures shown by Specifications 20A or 21B.

Second Floor. Modern Home No. 13049A indicates the five-room plan and a closed stairway is furnished, opening out of the dining room leading to the attic or unfinished portion. If you desire the house with the rooms finished on the second floor, you can order Plan No. 13049B, in which case the stairs are changed to semi-open type. Eight big rooms in a modern, up-to-date house at lowest cost.

Fill in the Blank for complete delivered price.



Description/Floor Plans Accompanying 1926-27 Order Form Information

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : 2 Argyle Street
Houses By Mail, The Preservation Press, 1986, page 131.

THE VALLONIA



The Vallonia is a prize bungalow home. It has been built in hundreds of localities. Photographs and many testimonials confirm the splendid features and value. Customers tell of saving as much as \$2,500 on their Vallonia and often selling at a big profit. The Vallonia is favored by a sloping, overhanging roof and shingled dormer which has three windows. Roof has a timber cornice effect. Sided with cypress (the wood eternal). Perfect harmony in all details marks the architecture of the Vallonia.

Details and features: Eight rooms and one bath. Full-width front porch supported by brick and wood piers; shed dormer.

Years and catalog numbers: 1921 (3049); 1922 (13049); 1925 (13049AX); 1926 (13049A); 1928 (C13049A, C13049B); 1929 (P13049A, P13049B); 1932 (13049A, 13049B); 1933 (13049A, 13049B); 1934 (13049A, 13049B); 1935 (13049A, 13049B); 1937 (13049A, 13049B); 1939 (13049A, 13049B)

Price: \$1,465 to \$2,479

Locations: Elmhurst and Park Ridge, Ill.; Bowling Green, Ky.; Bridgeton, N.J.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Perrysville, Pittsburgh and Rosalyn, Pa.



Living room



Dining room



Bedroom



Compare These Low Prices on Guaranteed Stair Work

Our Stock Designs



View of Mr. Behymer's Stairs

Our Stock Designs Admit of Numerous Variations

We have made the question of stair business a careful study, and illustrate on these pages a line which is at once adaptable to the small and modest cottage as well as to more elaborate home. When we say study we refer particularly to the style of construction, for instance of our posts, the correct size of all moldings, in order that the assembled effect may be harmonious and complete. Likewise, the turning of the balusters and shape of rails are especially adaptable for these specific purposes.

With the styles illustrated, an infinite variety of arrangements of stairs are permissible, and it is a very rare exception when special work will be required for any particular purpose.

Secrets of Stair Building Exposed

It is an "open secret" that the question of being able to get stairwork at modern figures and with any degree of promptness, has been a serious drawback to prospective builders.

Through our ceaseless efforts of selling reliable stairwork at cost, plus one small profit to the consuming public, we have been able to produce and sell stairwork at prices within range of all.

If you have ever had occasion to build before, and have required a new flight of stairs, you no doubt will recollect the mysterious air which has enshrouded your desire to get information as to the probable expense of a flight of stairs from the manufacturer or your local lumber dealer.

We itemize on these stair pages, individually, each and every article required for the stairs, and explain fully just how this material comes to you and at what price. With this information at your command, and infinite variety of arrangements of stairs can be figured within a few moments, and you know the exact cost without entrusting your interest to any outsider.

The fact that part of this material is already machined ready to go right into the stairs, reduces the erecting cost very materially.

We use only thoroughly kiln-dried material in making up the different parts of this stair stock, and only the most skilled and expert mechanics are employed in the production of the finished article. By using kiln-dried lumber you avoid any of the annoying effects of shrinking or coming apart of the stairs after they are put in the building.

If you had no previous experience in the stair building line should not deter you, moment from learning its simplicity now. Think over any points which are not practically clear to you regarding the proposed stair for your home in the market, write us, and we will give you the advice of an expert stair-builder.

Truly Mission Design Stairs

THE great demand for Mission Design Interior Finish has made it possible for us to put in stock the different items necessary to build a Truly Mission Stairway.

Our designers have made a special study of the Mission period, and the result is especially gratifying. We are able to show you for the first time, Mission Designs which are typical of Craftsman and Colonial periods and can be produced at a low price on account of being made up in large quantities.

We can furnish the items listed below singly, or can furnish a complete Stairway to fit exact measurements; all material being Mission and ready to set up.

The Mission Design Stairway is furnished only in oak.

Mission Stair Newel

Starting Newel No. E 302.

Size 6 1/2 x 6 1/2 in., 4 ft. long, Red Oak, price each, **\$4.00**

See design of Newel in photograph below.

Starting Step and Riser

No. E 308, Mission Starting Step and Riser, made to conform with Mission Design stairways. When ordering, be sure to state whether starting step is for right hand or left hand going up stairs. See design of starting step at right.

No. E 308, Red Oak, price each, complete, **\$3.25**

Mission Stair Balusters

True Mission Design requires special balusters as shown in cut. Size 1 1/2 x 3/4 inches, 22 inches long.

No. E 305, Stair Balusters, Red Oak, price each, **20c**

Per Carton of 20 **\$3.75**

Face String Ornaments

These ornaments are key and wedge shaped and to be placed on step line, one ornament to every two balusters.

No. E 304, Red Oak, price each **25c**

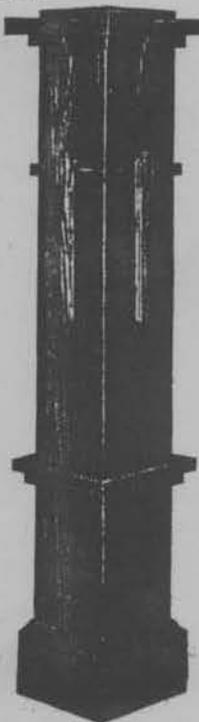
Foot Rail

Foot Rail is 1 1/4 x 2 1/4. Plowed to receive balusters.

No. E 306, Red Oak, per lin. ft. **34c**

Stair Rail

For full description see Mission Stair Rail No. 302, page 71.



E 302, Mission Stair Newel



This Photograph Shows a Modern Mission Stair

Face String

E 200, size 1 1/2 x 1 1/4 in. surfaced two sides, machine sanded one side, and jointed edges. Red Oak, lengths 10 to 14 feet. Price per lineal foot **11c**

Sub Fillet and Fillet

Sub Fillet, No. E 208 is 1 1/2 x 1/4 in. plowed 1/2 x 1/4 in. Red Oak, price per lineal foot, **1 1/4c**
Fillet for Sub Fillet, E 207, size 1/2 x 1/4 in. Red Oak, price per lineal foot **1c**

Eric, Pa., Oct. 21, 1914.
Dear Sir: About three years ago I sent for \$125.00 worth of oak balusters. I can recommend your oak above all others in good quality and low price. Just to show the difference in price I will quote a few items. In Eric they cost \$28.00 a thousand for 6 months, your price was \$37.00. My flight of stairs cost me \$25.00 from you. They wanted \$35.00. I know it is a big saving to deal with the Gordon-Van Tine Company.
I thank you for your honest treatment.
Yours truly,
HARRY COPPERSMITH,
Eric, Pa., R. F. D. No. 1.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance/History (continued) : 2 Argyle Street
Gordon Van Tine Co., Architectural Details 1915, American Life Books, 1985.
SURVEY NO. M:26/22/8
SECTION 8 PAGE 4



RICHARD H. ANDREWS
424-8282
1603 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

M:26/22/8
Sears "Vallonia" Bungalow
2 West Argyle Street
Rockville, Md. 20850
Richard Andrews
date:6/1987 elevation:NE

12863211