

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

DOE yes no1. **Name:** (indicate preferred name)

historic Walter J. Harding House

and/or common Chromak Property

2. **Location:**

street & number 15935 New Hampshire Avenue

 not for publication

city, town Silver Spring

 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	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"/> 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 Jon and Shirley Chromak

street & number 15935 New Hampshire Avenue

telephone no.:

city,town Silver Spring

state and zip code MD 20905

5. **Location of Legal Description**

Land Records Office of Montgomery County

liber 5835

street & number Montgomery County Judicial Center

folio 263

city,town Rockville

state MD

6. **Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Properties

date December 1995

 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city,town Crownsville

state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No.M:28-36 (PACS D7.20)

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

Resource Count: 3

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

The Walter J. Harding House is a 1½-story, 3-bay side-gable cottage with bungalow features on the east side of New Hampshire Avenue in the vicinity of Silver Spring, Montgomery County. Constructed in 1903, the cottage is rectangular in plan, with a porch and a gable dormer on the front and rear elevations, cornice returns, and corner boards.

The structure has an asphalt shingle, side-gable roof with an interior brick chimney near the north end. It is of wood-frame construction with wood siding, and it has a stuccoed foundation. The windows are double-hung wood. The cottage has a 1-story hipped-roof porch on the front elevation. The porch has four square and paneled posts on molded cinder block piers and a concrete half-wall.

The west, or front elevation has a centered glass and wood panel door. The fenestration pattern is symmetrical, with one pair of 6/1 double-hung windows on each side of the door, and one pair of 6/1 double-hung windows in the dormer. Bungalow features such as the full-width porch with piers and posts, and a centered gable dormer are evident on this elevation. Deterioration is evident in the peeling and scaling of the painted wood siding.

The north and south elevations are identical. The fenestration pattern is symmetrical with two 3-light fixed windows on the basement level and three 6/1 double-hung windows on the first story. The second story has a pair of 6/1 double-hung windows and a triangle-shaped attic ventilator is located in the gable end. Deterioration is evident in the peeling and scaling of the painted wood siding.

The west, or rear elevation has a small, gabled entry porch. The porch is located in the center of the elevation and it has a wood floor, concrete piers with wood posts, and an asphalt shingle roof. The fenestration pattern is asymmetrical. There is a centered glass and wood panel door, one 6/1 double-hung window and four 4-light casement windows in the first bay, and a 6/1 double-hung window in the third bay. The dormer has one 6/1 double-hung window.

There are two outbuildings associated with this property. The first outbuilding is a garage, with a standing seam metal, gable roof. Constructed circa 1905, it is of wood frame construction and is located approximately 30 meters (100 feet) from the rear of the cottage.

The second outbuilding is a shed with an asphalt shingle, gable roof. Constructed circa 1940, it is of cinder block construction. The structure is located approximately 30 meters (100 feet) from the rear of the cottage, near the garage.

The property is located on the east side of New Hampshire Avenue, with residential property to the north, south and east, and forested land to the west. There are plantings in the front yard and numerous trees in the rear yard. The site slopes steeply up from New Hampshire Avenue, a result of present road widening. The property's setting is a rural area which has been altered by new road construction.

8. Significance

Survey No.M:28-36 (PACS D7.20)

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 1903

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 Walter J. Harding House, constructed in 1903, was built on property owned by the Harding family. According to records, Joseph Harding settled in the Sandy Spring area in 1822. The 1860 census of Montgomery County lists Harding as a farmer, and by 1880 he had acquired over 80.9 hectares (200 acres) of land along present-day New Hampshire Avenue and Spencerville Road. Upon the death of Josephine Harding, Joseph's second wife, the land was given to their son Walter. A cottage on the property was built by Walter Harding in 1903, one year after his marriage to Annie Porter Thompson. The property remained in the ownership of the Harding family until 1934, when the cottage and 24.98 hectares (61.72 acres) of land were purchased by Frank DeVilbiss. From 1934 to 1981, the property was reduced in size to its present 0.6 hectares (1.47 acres). The current owners, Jon and Shirley Chromak, purchased the property in 1981.

The Walter J. Harding House is located near the junction of New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650) and Spencerville Road (MD 198). Although the street address of the property is the Colesville area of Silver Spring, the property is actually close to Spencerville, named for the founder, William Spencer. The location of the property is on land originally patented in 1703 as "Bear Bacon" and in 1715 as "Snowden's Manor Enlarged" in what was then Prince George's County. This patent was a resurvey of earlier Snowden patents, and it increased Snowden family holdings to 3749 hectares (9265 acres) of land in what is now four Maryland counties. In 1850, William Spencer of Pennsylvania settled in the area when he led his relatives and others from Southhampton Township, Pennsylvania into Montgomery County. A small community called Drayton was formed by Spencer on the Laurel Road (present Spencerville Road), which connected the Quaker settlements of Sandy Spring and Ashton with the railroad line at Laurel. The settlement was renamed Spencerville in 1859 in honor of William Spencer.

In the late nineteenth century, Spencerville reached its peak of importance as an economic and social center. The town contained over 100 residents, as well as two stores, a post office, a blacksmith shop, a physician's office and a grange.

The town began to decline in the first few decades of the twentieth century as the local economy shifted from agriculture to a reliance on the industries and job opportunities created by the federal government. The town was small and rural until after the Second World War, when rapid economic growth in southern Montgomery County and improved roads made Spencerville accessible to new residents. Empty lots in the town were filled with modern residences, while the surrounding area retained a rural character. Many of the old working farms remain, however, the area continues to grow into one of the major suburban centers outside of Washington, D.C.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Walter J. Harding House

SURVEY NO.: M:28-36 (PACS D7.20)

ADDRESS: 15935 New Hampshire Avenue, vicinity of Silver Spring, Montgomery County

8. Significance (Continued)

Between 1870 and 1940 the vernacular cottage style was typically built for Americans of modest means. Structures such as the Walter J. Harding House are characterized by simple ornamentation and mass-produced components, such as door frames, moldings, sash and window units, and porch decoration. The development of post-Civil War machinery capable of producing large amounts of standardized housing elements, such as those found in cottages, contributed greatly to the development of the modern American housing industry. Designs for vernacular cottages were obtained from popular magazines, such as House Beautiful, or carpenter's and builder's journals, such as American Builder. A variety of front-gable, side-gable, cross-gable and hipped roof frame cottages were developed in the early to mid-twentieth century. Front gable and hipped roof cottages are primarily one to one-and-a-half-stories tall, 3 bays wide and several rooms deep. Side-gable and cross-gable structures are usually two to two-and-a-half-stories tall, are typically two to three bays in width and vary from one to three rooms deep. They usually include a porch covered with a shed roof. Porches are supported by posts often containing machine-produced Victorian ornamentation. Some cottages feature ornamentation drawn from Craftsman style or Colonial Revival architecture (Gottfried and Jennings 1988, viii-xv).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Walter J. Harding House

SURVEY NO.: M:28-36 (PACS D7.20)

ADDRESS: 15935 New Hampshire Avenue, vicinity of Silver Spring, Montgomery County

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

The Walter J. Harding House was previously surveyed by the Maryland Historical Trust in December 1995. The property, constructed in 1903, was determined by the Maryland Historical Trust to be not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A; no event or patterns of events significant in local, state, or national history 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 have been associated with the property. The property is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an example of a common architectural style which lacks architectural distinction. In addition, the historic setting of the cottage has been altered by the close proximity of road construction. 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: Andrew Lewis Date: 01/02/02
Reviewer, NR Program: McIntyre Date: 3/4/02

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No.M:28-36(PACS D7.20)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name Beltsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

name/title Caroline Hall/Tim Tamburrino

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

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 purposed 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: Walter J. Harding House

SURVEY NO.: M:28-36 (PACS D7.20)

ADDRESS: 15935 New Hampshire Avenue, vicinity of Silver Spring, Montgomery County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Boyd, T.H.S. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968.
- Brugger, Robert A. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.
- Coleman, Margaret Marshall. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1984, rev. 1990.
- Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland. Washington: Judd and Detweiler, Inc., 1962.
- Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988.
- Hiebert, 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.
- Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including County of Montgomery, Maryland. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1879; reprint, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.
- Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
- Martenet, Simon J. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Baltimore, Maryland: Simon J. Martenet, 1865; reprint, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.
- Tindall, George Brown. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1984.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

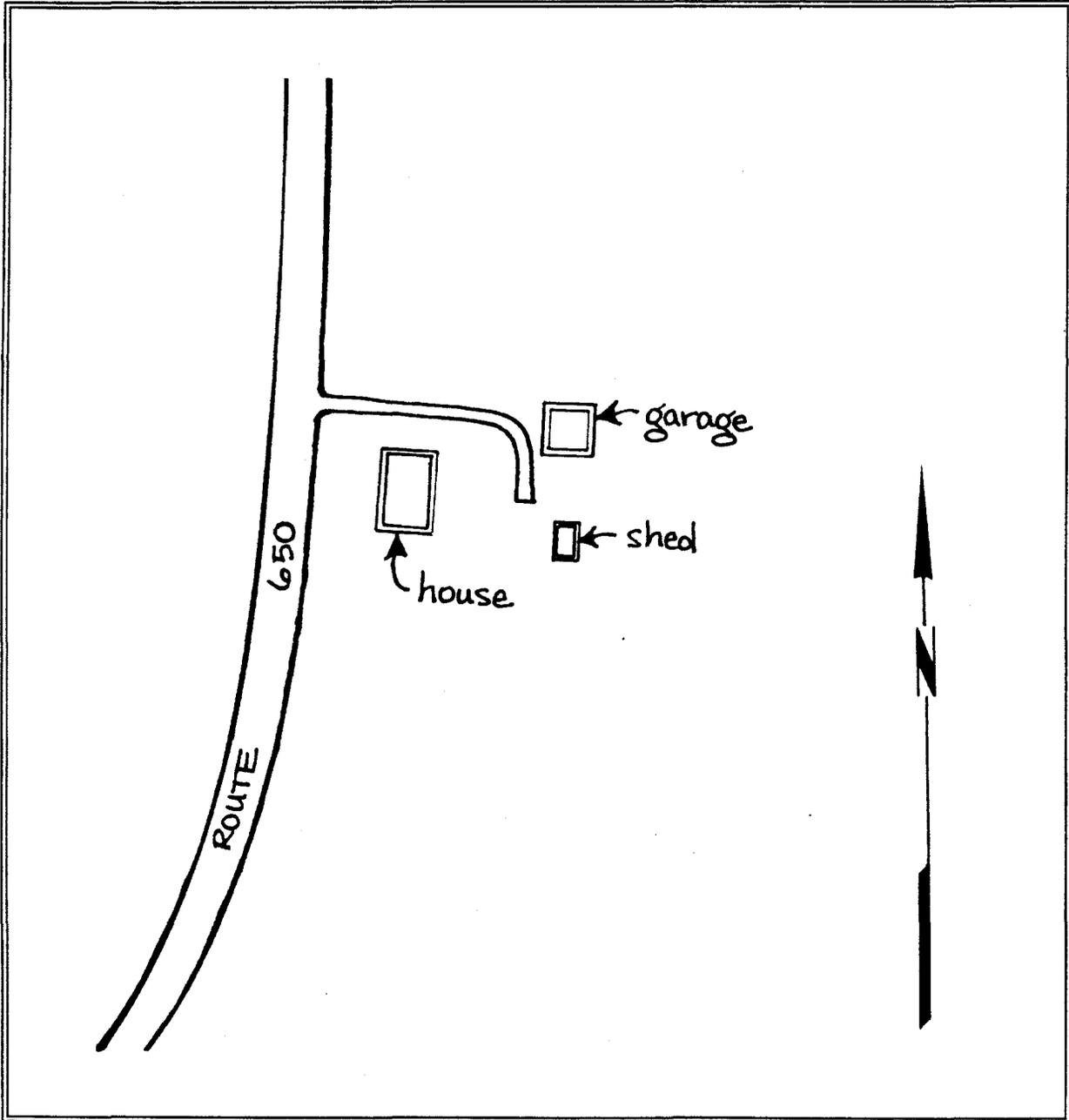
RESOURCE NAME: Walter J. Harding House

SURVEY NO.: M:28-36 (PACS D7.20)

ADDRESS: 15935 New Hampshire Avenue, vicinity of Silver Spring, Montgomery County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Walter J. Harding House

SURVEY NO.: M:28-36 (PACS D7.20)

ADDRESS: 15935 New Hampshire Avenue, vicinity of Silver Spring, Montgomery County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

11. Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

2. Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

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

Rural

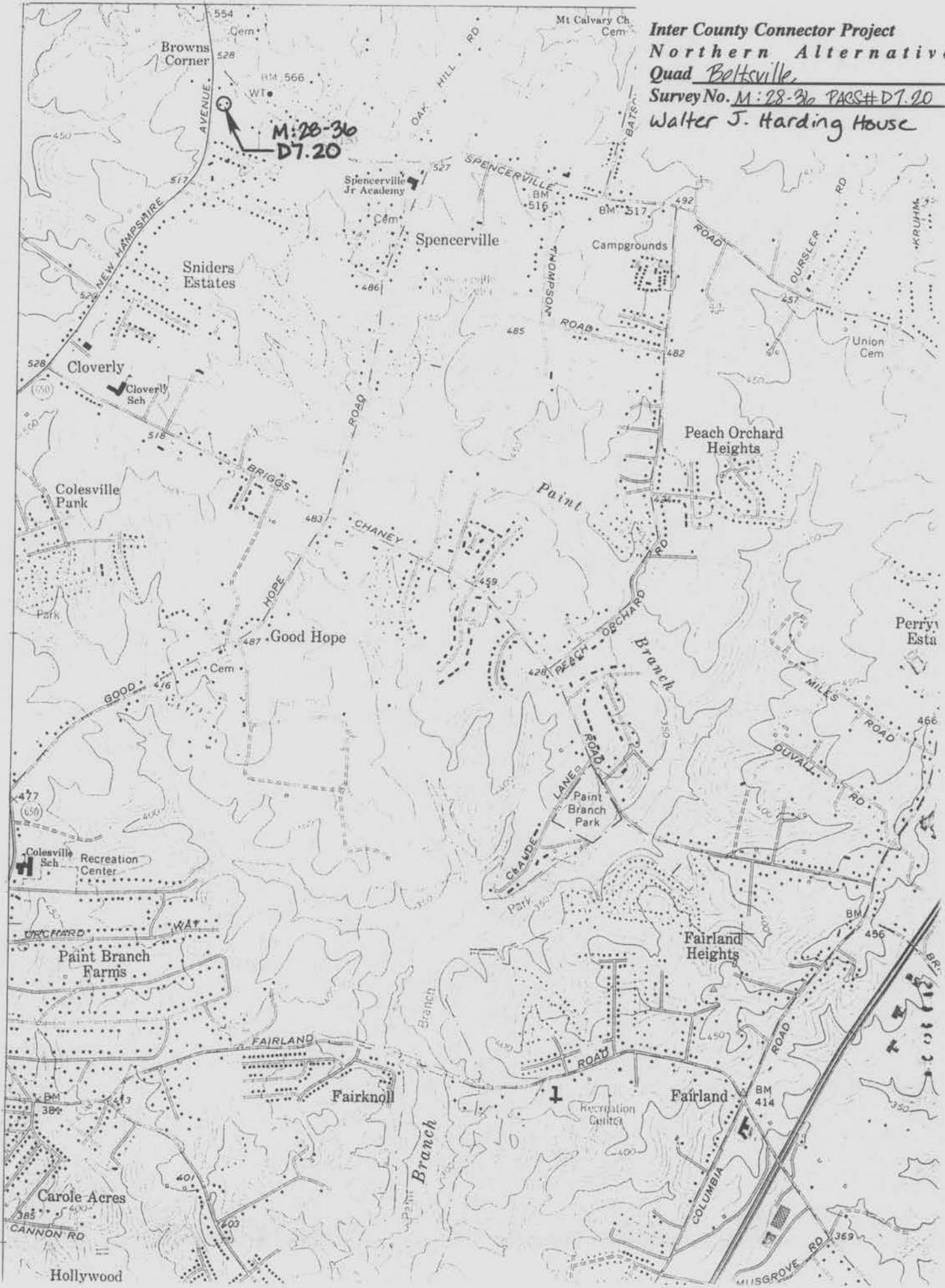
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Inter County Connector Project
Northern Alternative
Quad Beltville
 Survey No. M:28-30 PARC# D7.20
 Walter J. Harding House





- 1 M:28.36
- 2 Walter J. Harding House
- 3 Montgomery County
- 4 Jim Tamburino
- 5 February 1996
- 6 PAC Spew and Company, Towson MD 21284
- 7 15935 New Hampshire Avenue,
front elevation
- 8 1 of 5



- 1 M: 28-36
- 2 Walter J. Harding House
- 3 Montgomery County
- 4 Tim Tamburino
- 5 February 1996
- 6 PAC Spew and Company, Towson MD 21204
- 7 15935 New Hampshire Avenue, South
elevation
- 8 2 of 5



- 1 M:28-36
- 2 Walter J. Harding House
- 3 Montgomery County
- 4 Tim Tamburino
- 5 February 1996
- 6 PAC Spew and Company, Towson MD 21204
- 7 15935 New Hampshire Avenue, near
of house
- 8 3 of 5



- 1 M: 28-36
- 2 Walter J. Harding House
- 3 Montgomery County
- 4 Jim Tamburino
- 5 February 1996
- 6 PAC Spew and Company, Towson MD
21204
- 7 15935 New Hampshire Avenue, garage
- 8 4 of 5



- 1 M: 28-36
- 2 Walter J. Harding House
- 3 Montgomery County
- 4 Tom Tamburino
- 5 February 1996
- 6 PAC Spew and Company, Towson MD 21204
- 7 15935 New Hampshire Avenue, shed
- 8 5 of 5

9502403

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: 15935 New Hampshire Avenue Survey Number: M-28-36

Project: MD 28/198 Connector Agency: COE/Mont. Co.

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the available information, the house at 15935 New Hampshire Avenue in the Spencerville vicinity does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for individual listing. The 1 1/2 story frame bungalow-style house was probably constructed c. 1930. The property also includes a number of frame and cinderblock outbuildings. The modest house exhibits bungalow style influences and is an example of a house type that was extremely common throughout Maryland and the nation in the 'teens, 'twenties and 'thirties. The house does not appear to possess any architectural distinction and thus would not be eligible under Criterion C. The property is not known to have been associated with any significant event or person and thus is unlikely to be eligible under Criteria A and B. The property is not located in any known historic district.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project File + Report (MO 128 Addendum)

Prepared by: Peter Kurtze

Elizabeth Hannold December 8, 1995
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable
Quanda Padgett 12-14-95
Reviewer, NR program Date

Handwritten signature

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

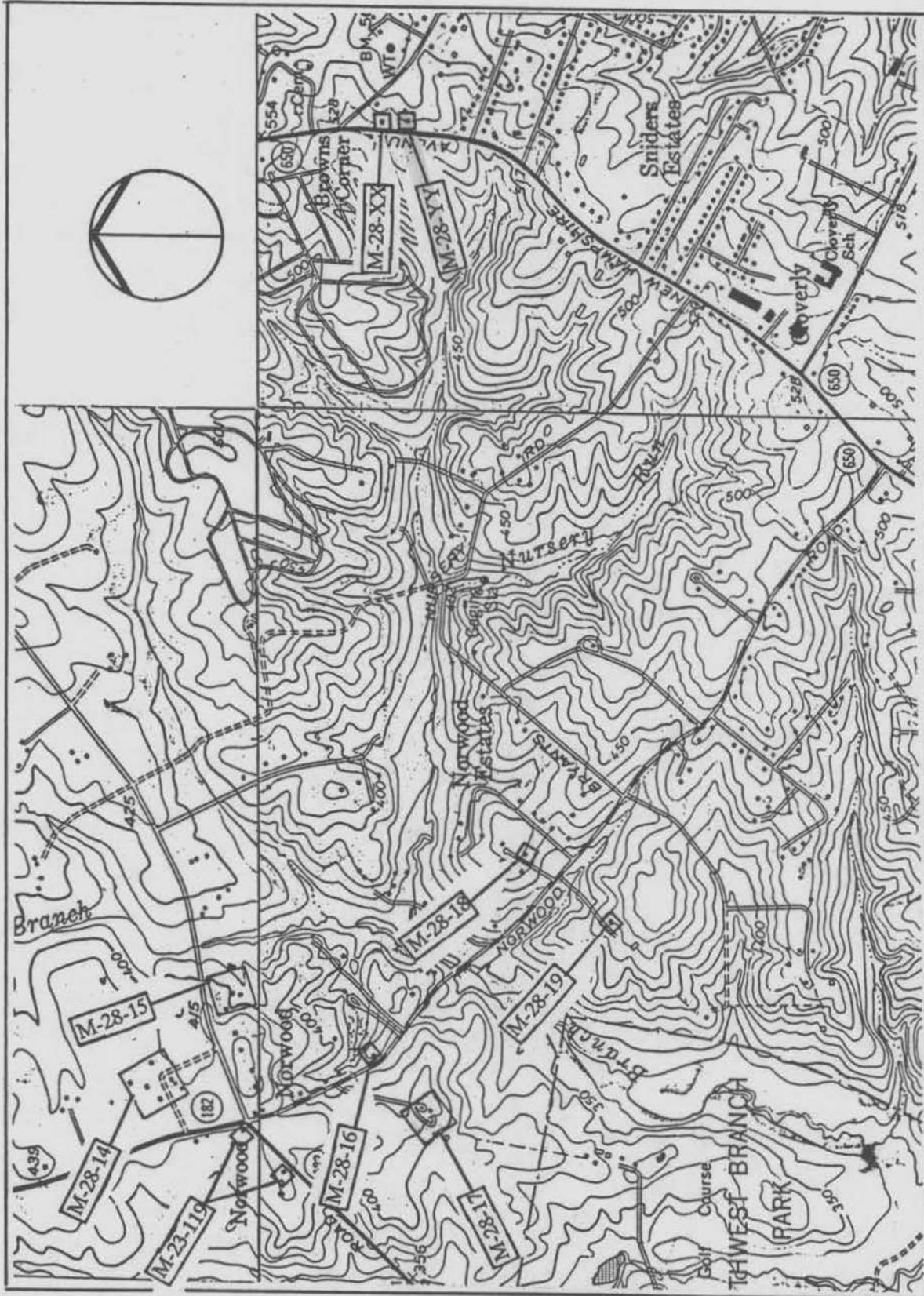
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic-single dwelling

Known Design Source: na

Figure 1.

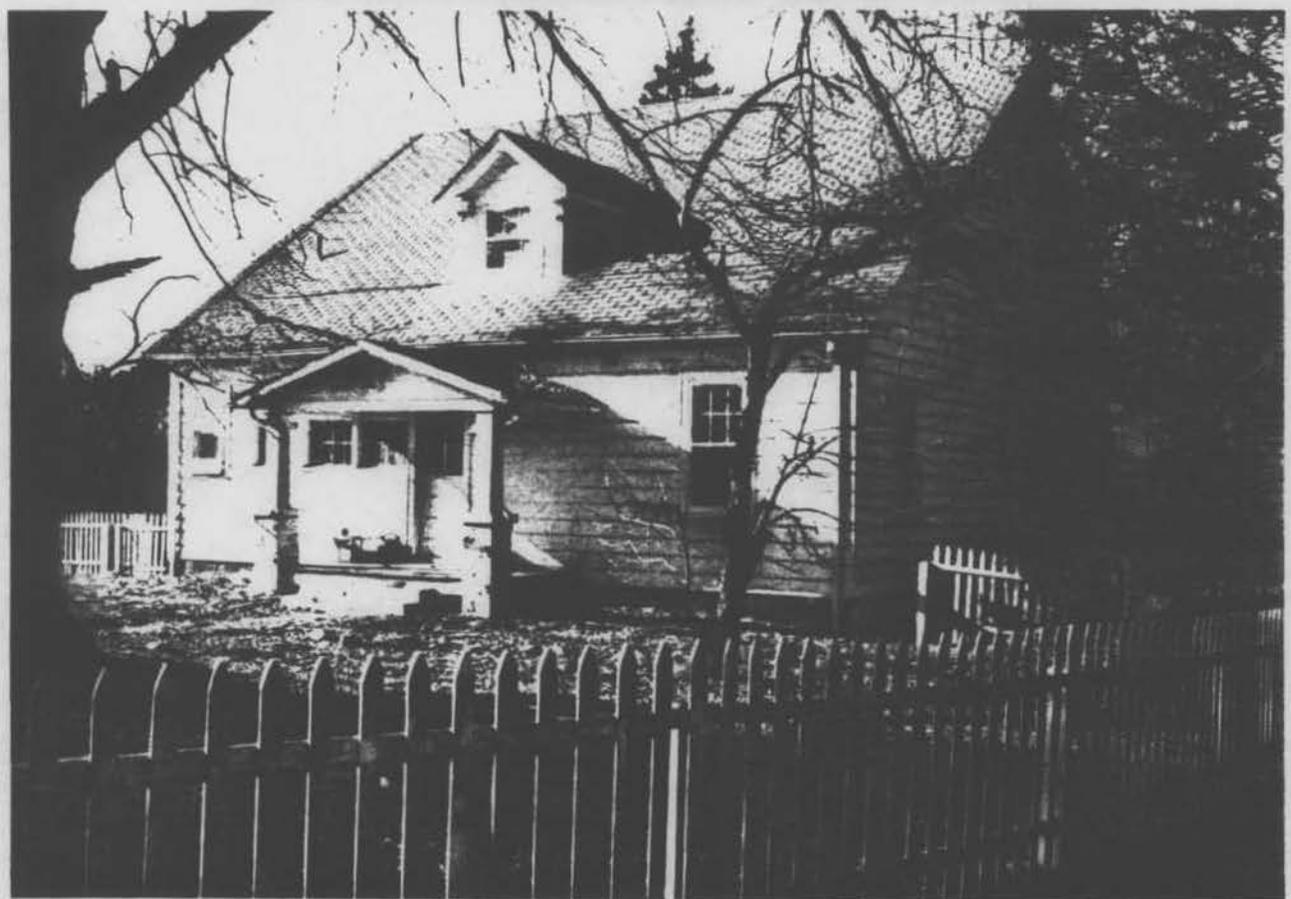
M: 28-36

HISTORIC PROPERTIES LOCATION MAP



Source: USGS 1:24,000 Quads
Kensington, MD; Beltsville, MD; Sandy Spring, MD

M. 28-36



M: 28-36

15935 New Hampshire Ave, Mont. Co.