

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

DOE yes no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Willard Straight Property

and/or common John Gagnon Property

2. Location:

street & number 4417 Gridley Road not for publication

city, town Rockville 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
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	

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

name John & C.A. Gagnon

street & number 4417 Gridley Road telephone no.:

city,town Silver Spring state and zip code MD 20906

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Montgomery County liber 12025

street & number 50 Maryland Avenue folio 63

city,town Rockville state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

ty,town state

7. Description

Survey No. M:31-18(PACS B2.29)

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: 2

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

The Willard Straight Property is a 2-story, 2-bay vernacular Colonial Revival residence on the north side of Gridley Road in the Rockville vicinity, Montgomery County. Constructed in 1918, the building has a 1-story, front-gable porch on the front elevation and a 1-story, hipped roof addition on the rear elevation

The structure has an asphalt shingle, side-gable roof with an end wall brick chimney at the west elevation. It is of wood-frame construction with vinyl siding, it has a stuccoed foundation, and the windows are wood frame.

The first story of the front, or south facade has an off-center entrance with a 6-panel wood door and a triple, 6/1 double-hung window. The porch on this elevation has square wood columns, a wood railing, wood floor, and wood lattice skirting. The second story has two pairs of 6/1 double-hung windows.

The west elevation has two, 2-light sliding windows on the basement level and a wood door at grade. The first story has one, 6/1 double-hung window and one, 6-light fixed window. The second story has three, 6/1 double-hung windows and there is one, 6/1 double-hung window in the gable end.

The rear, or north elevation has a 1-story, hipped roof addition on the first story. The second story has one pair of 6/1 double-hung windows, and two, single, 6/1 double-hung windows.

The east elevation has two, 2-light sliding windows on the basement level and two, 6/1 double-hung windows on the first story. There are two, 6/1 double-hung windows on the second story and one, 6/1 double-hung window in the gable end.

Typical elements of the Colonial Revival-style, including paired and triple windows, and classical porch columns are evident in this structure.

There is one outbuilding associated with this property, a wood-frame, front-gable garage. The structure has two, overhead metal garage doors on the west elevation, and is located to the north, or rear of the house.

The property is located on the north side of Gridley Road, and the east side of Charles Road. There is residential development on all properties adjacent to this structure.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:31-18(PACS B2.29)

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	1918	Builder/Architect
check:	Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
	Applicable Exceptions: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
	Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

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

Leigh Hunt and Willard Straight purchased approximately 76 hectares (188 acres) of farmland southeast of Rockville in 1914. The partnership began dividing the land into lots, however Hunt sold his half of the land to Straight in 1916. The extant house was constructed in 1918, however, little other development occurred in the area until after World War II. Straight Improvement Company, as the business became known, continued to acquire land in the area, including over 380 hectares (950 acres) in the 1930s. Finally, in the late 1940s, much of the land was sold to the Viers Mill Village Company, which began building on the adjacent lots. The Willard Straight Property is now located in Viers Mill Village on a .07 hectare (.18 acre) lot.

Rockville became the County seat when Montgomery County was created in 1776. Through most of the 19th century, Rockville was a courthouse village, surrounded by agricultural land. It remained a small town until the coming of the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1873. The railroad brought summer and weekend visitors, and the resort trade encouraged the rapid expansion of Rockville, both in size and population. Many summer hotel patrons built summer residences and others became year-round residents.

Following the rapid growth from the 1870s to the 1890s, the expansion of Rockville stabilized until a second development boom after World War II. The growth of the Federal government in nearby Washington, D.C. in the years after the War, spurred considerable suburban expansion in Rockville and surrounding areas. Access to the Capital by rail and improved roadways encouraged this suburban expansion (Rockville Historic District Commission, 1973).

While the Queen Anne, Folk Victorian and Four Square styles were at the height of popularity in the United States, the Colonial Revival style, such as the Willard Straight house, began to capture the American imagination. Popular in the years from 1880 to 1955, the Colonial Revival style resulted from a rebirth of interest in the colonial English and Dutch houses of the eastern seaboard coincident with the Philadelphia Centennial. Stylistic details in Colonial Revival dwellings were drawn predominantly from Georgian and Federal styles; secondary influences included Dutch Colonial and English Post-medieval types. Late nineteenth century examples of Colonial Revival were often asymmetrical and exhibited a combination of Queen Anne features, such as turrets and wide porches, and Colonial features such as Palladian windows and Adamesque swags and urns. Examples built from 1915 to 1935 reflected colonial precedents more closely, while those built after World War II simplified the style, with details which only suggested rather than duplicated the original examples. Various sub-styles, such as the Dutch Colonial Revival, were popular during the early to mid-twentieth century.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Willard Straight Property

SURVEY NO.: M: 31-18 (PACS B2.29)

ADDRESS: 4417 Gridley Road, Rockville vicinity, Montgomery County, Maryland

8. Significance (Continued)

Colonial Revival houses are usually strictly rectangular in plan with few projections, and have symmetrical facades. They range from one to three stories with hipped, side-gable, cross-gable, or gambrel roofs. Clapboard is the most popular sheathing material, although brick is not uncommon. After World War II, colonial homes frequently featured a brick-sided first story with an overhanging wood-sided second story. In more elaborate homes, a hipped roof is often topped with a flat deck, with a surrounding railing and sometimes a cupola. Pedimented doorways and fanlights are common. Some pediments evolved into porticos with slender columns. The typical form of the windows is rectangular with double-hung sash. Palladian windows are common on more sophisticated dwellings. The addition of side porches, terraces and sunrooms are modern features common to Colonial Revivals homes (McAlester 1984, 321-6).

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION:

The Willard Straight Property, a vernacular example of the Colonial Revival style constructed in 1918, is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. The property does not meet Criterion C, as it is an undistinguished example of a common architectural style. Although the structure shows evidence of the influence of the Colonial Revival style, it lacks finely articulated details common to the style, including classical detailing, a front door with sidelights, and use of decorative fenestration such as the Palladian window. In addition, the integrity of the structure has been compromised through the application of vinyl siding and the construction of a rear addition. The property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended X

Comments: _____

Reviewer, OPS: E. Hannold/K. Williams Date: 11/25/1996
Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature] Date: 3/4/02

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No.M:31-18(PACS B2.29)

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .07 hectare (.18 acres)
Quadrangle name Kensington, MD

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

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date December 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: Willard Straight Property

SURVEY NO.: M: 31-18 (PACS B2.29)

ADDRESS: 4417 Gridley Road, Rockville vicinity, Montgomery County, Maryland

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.
- Gowans, Alan. Styles and Types of North American Architecture. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.
- 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.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1983.
- Rockville Historic District Commission. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: West Montgomery Avenue Historic District. Rockville, Maryland, 1973.
- Tindall, George Brown. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1984.
- Wells, Camille, ed. Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, II, Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri, 1987.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

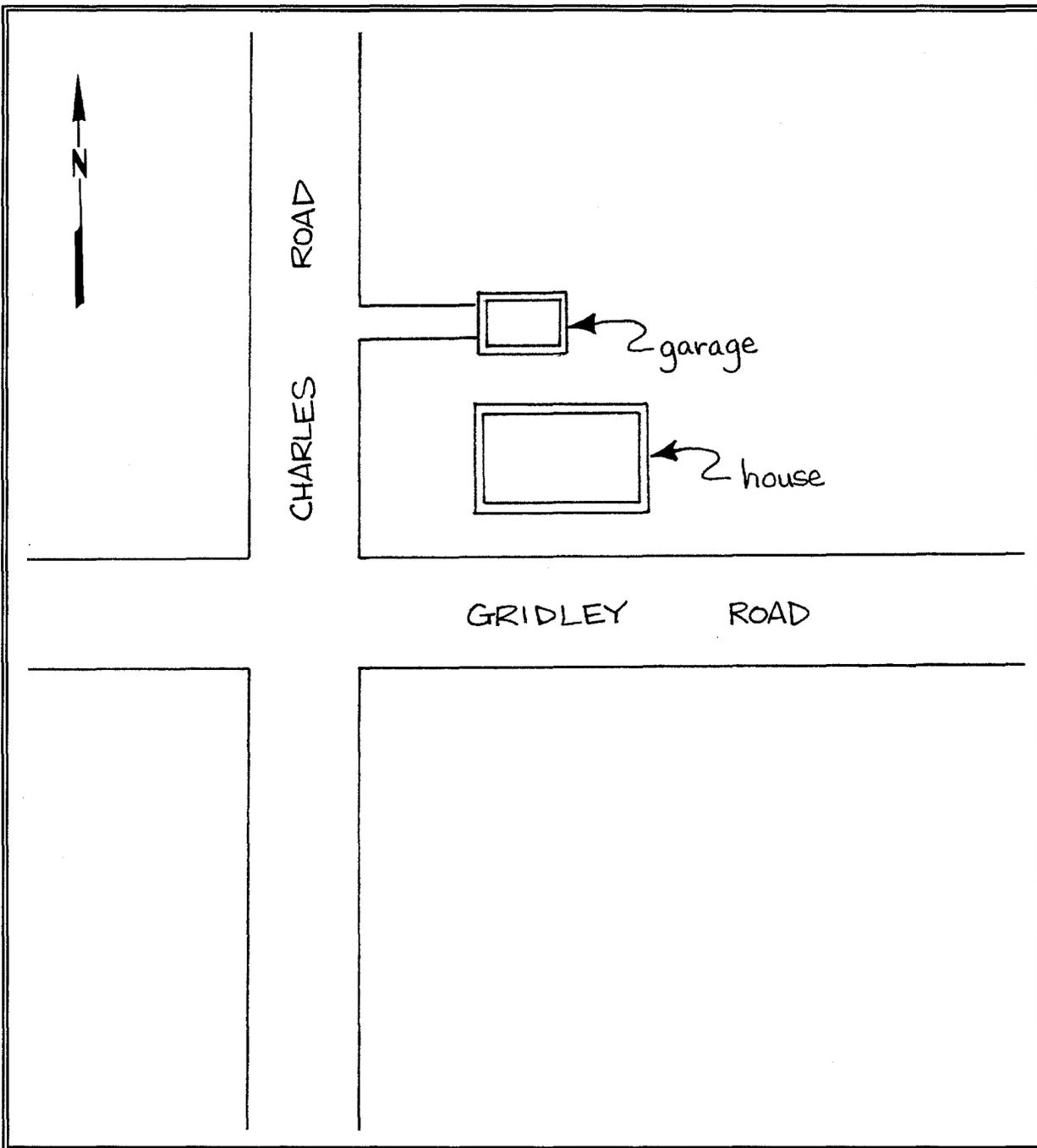
RESOURCE NAME: Willard Straight Property

SURVEY NO.: M: 31-18 (PACS B2.29)

ADDRESS: 4417 Gridley Road, Rockville vicinity, Montgomery County, Maryland

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Willard Straight Property

SURVEY NO.: M: 31-18 (PACS B2.29)

ADDRESS: 4417 Gridley Road, Rockville vicinity, Montgomery County, Maryland

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

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):

Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer:

P.A.C. Spero & Company

December 1996

Intercounty Connector Project
Upgrade Existing Roads Alternative
Quad Kensington
Survey No. M:31-18 (PACS B2.29)
Property Name Willard Straight Property





1. M: 31-18
2. Willard Straight Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 4417 Gridley Road, South facade
8. 1055



1. M: 31-18
2. Willard straight Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spers & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412 Towson MD 21204
7. 4417 Gridley Road, east elevation
8. 2055



1. M: 31-18
2. Willard Straight Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 4417 Gridley Road, west elevation
8. 3 of 5



1. M: 31-18
2. Willard Straight Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 4417 Gridley Road, north elevation
8. 4 of 5



1. M: 31-18
2. Willard Straight Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave. Suite 712, Towson MD 21204
7. 4417 Gridley Road, garage
8. 5 of 5