

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cedarcroft Historic District
other names B-1340

2. Location

street & number Bounded by Gittings Ave., York Rd., East Lake Ave. & Bellona Ave. not for publication
city or town Baltimore vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Independent city code 510 zip code 21212

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

[Signature] 11-7-03
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____
Date of Action _____

Cedarcroft Historic District (B-1340)
Name of Property

Baltimore City, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
293	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
293	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
 RELIGION: church

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
 RELIGION: church
 COMMERCE/TRADE: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic, Italianate
 LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
 Colonial Revival; Neoclassical Revival

foundation Stone, concrete
 walls Stone, brick, wood, vinyl, aluminum

 roof Slate, asphalt
 other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1340
Cedarcroft Historic District

Name of Property

Baltimore City, Maryland

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Section 7 Page 1

Cedarcroft is an early 20th century residential subdivision located just inside the northern boundary of Baltimore City, Maryland. The historic district is roughly bounded by Gittings Avenue, York Road, East Lake Avenue and Bellona Avenue, all heavily trafficked roadways. Cedarcroft Road, which runs east-west between York Road and Bellona Avenue, is the only major road within the district. Other streets in the district, including Blackburn Lane, Hollen Road, Sycamore Road and Pinehurst Road, are narrow and curve with the contour of the land, which slopes gently from Bellona Avenue to York Road at the lowest point. Old growth trees lining the roadways and within house lots, informal landscaping, shallow gutters, and original exposed-aggregate concrete sidewalks contribute to the appearance of a rustic setting.

The district incorporates 290 contributing resources. With the exception of one church and its connected parish house, the resources are single detached houses, most of which were constructed between 1909 and 1937 during the period when Cedarcroft was actively developed as a residential suburb. Houses in the district reflect the influence of a wide variety of early 20th century revival styles, predominantly Neoclassical Revival and Dutch Colonial designs. Many of the houses have associated garages. One house and its associated outbuildings survive to represent the area's history as a rural country seat in the mid-19th century. There are only four non-contributing resources whose construction postdates the period of significance.

Early 20th century revival styles and popular building types of the period constitute the predominant architectural influences in the district. Architectural expressions represented in Cedarcroft include the following:

Neoclassical Revival

This style is primarily based on Greek and Roman architectural orders. It includes early Federal stylistic subtypes, in part influenced by the Adam brothers. There are 54 houses of this style in the district.

Dutch Colonial Revival

This style incorporates design elements used in Dutch colonial settlements of the Eastern seaboard. The most prominent design element is the gambrel roof. Several examples have roofs with a gentle curve on the front slope found on early Dutch houses in New Jersey and New York. Façade designs freely incorporate Georgian and Federal style elements. There are 41 houses of this style in the district.

Tudor Revival

Roofs of houses in this style typically have a steep pitch. These houses employ irregular massing, multiple gables and materials that include clapboard, brick and stucco. Houses of this style are noted for diverse fenestration and often employ casement style windows.

Georgian Revival

This category includes a broad range of architecture with design elements known in English and German

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colonial settlements of the Eastern seaboard. Common to this category are straightforward, rectangular massing, simple gable roofs, and symmetrically organized façades. Massing variations involve either a linear arrangement of secondary volumes or a perpendicular arrangement with subsidiary volumes to the side or rear. Front façades are almost always symmetric with a central entry. Character defining features include windows that are double-hung, multi-pane, and placed in vertical rectangular openings. Ornamentation is usually applied to window and door openings, eaves, cornices lines, and gable ends. In many cases, elaborate decorative treatments at the main entrances feature full or broken pedimented surrounds, transoms, side and fanlights and are enhanced with a portico based on the classic orders. Cornices are often detailed with dentils, entablatures and friezes.

Bungalow

This one and one half story building type features a low-pitched gabled roof with wide unenclosed eave overhang. Roof rafters are usually exposed, with decorative braces often added under gables.

Shingle Style

Shingled walls without interruption at corners and asymmetrical façades characterize this style. Several examples in Cedarcroft have roofs with intersecting cross gables and extensive porches.

American Foursquare

Popularized by publications in the early 20th century, this style features a low-pitched, usually hipped, roof with widely overhanging eaves. All examples in the district have the characteristic two stories and façade that emphasize horizontal lines as well as multi-windowed dormers on the front façade.

Italianate

Two to three stories in height, houses of this design are characterized by tall, narrow windows and a low-pitched hipped or flat roof with widely overhanging eaves supported by decorative brackets. The earliest house in Cedarcroft, constructed in the mid-19th century when the property was occupied as a country seat, reflects Italianate influence.

Analysis of the Resource

The district is characterized by houses reflecting the influence of a wide variety of early 20th century revival styles; Neoclassical Revival and Dutch Colonial designs predominate, but examples of Tudor Revival, Shingle Style, American Foursquare, and Bungalow types are found as well. The church and tower reflect the half timbered Tudor Revival style; the parish house, constructed later to the design of Baltimore architects Mottu & White, exemplifies the Late Gothic Revival style.

The work of at least seven local architects or architectural firms is represented in Cedarcroft, including Edward L. Palmer, Jr., Roy G. Pratt, George Norbury MacKenzie III, Herbert L. Walton, J. S. Downing, G. Bernard

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Lohmuller and the firm of Mottu & White. The design sources for the majority of the buildings, however, are undocumented.

The district retains a high level of integrity both in its architecture and in its landscape. The buildings have experienced relatively few alterations and additions, and those which have occurred are generally not deleterious to the overall character of the district.

All but four of the properties within Cedarcroft contribute to its significance. The commercial building at 6212 York Road was constructed in 1967, outside the period of significance, and is inconsistent with the predominantly residential land use; however, due to its location at the extreme northeast corner of the district its effect on the overall character of the district is negligible. Three houses within the district are considered non-contributing because they post-date the period of significance. Although these properties are not architecturally incompatible with the contributing resources, they are not directly related to the trends which produced Cedarcroft's historic character, but rather appear to be associated with the random infill development that occurred throughout Baltimore's neighborhoods beginning in the period immediately preceding the nation's entry into World War II.

The table on the following pages lists the properties included in the Cedarcroft Historic District, indicating their street address, status (N = non-contributing), construction date, style, architect or builder (if known), materials, and resource type.

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	Address	Style	Date Built	Architect	Materials	Resources
6201	Bellona Ave.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1937		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
6203	Bellona Ave.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1936		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
6231	Bellona Ave.	N Cape Cod Revival	1947		asp/shingle/concrete	house
6100	Blackburn Lane	Dutch Colonial	c.1928		slate/shingle/stone	house & garage
6101	Blackburn Lane	Tudor Revival	c.1927		slate/stucco/stone	house & garage
6102	Blackburn Lane	Dutch Colonial	c.1925		slate/clapbd./stone	house & garage
6103	Blackburn Lane	Dutch Colonial	c.1922		slate/stone, clapbd./stone	house & garage
6104	Blackburn Lane	Dutch Colonial	c.1926		slate/shingle/stone	house & garage
6105	Blackburn Lane	Bungalow	1919	Herbert L. Walton	asph./clapbd./stone	house & garage
6106	Blackburn Lane	Neoclassical Revival	c.1926		slate/shingle/stone	house & garage
6108	Blackburn Lane	Neoclassical Revival	1936	John Ahlers	slate/stone/concrete	house
6202	Blackburn Lane	Tudor Revival	1919	Palmer, Willis & Lamdin	asph./vinyl/concrete	house & garage
6203	Blackburn Lane	Dutch Colonial	1921	Herbert L. Walton	slate/brick, stucco/concrete	house & garage
6204	Blackburn Lane	Tudor Revival	1919	Palmer, Willis & Lamdin	asp/asp shingles/ concrete	house & garage
6206	Blackburn Lane	Tudor Revival	1919	Palmer, Willis & Lamdin	slate/vinyl/stone	house & garage
6207	Blackburn Lane	Neoclassical Revival	c.1922		slate/stucco/stone	house & garage
6208	Blackburn Lane	Tudor Revival	1919	Palmer, Willis & Lamdin	asp/clapbd./stone	house
6209	Blackburn Lane	Dutch Colonial	c.1922		slate/vinyl/stone	house & garage
6210	Blackburn Lane	Neoclassical Revival	c.1923		slate/vinyl/stone	house & garage
6212	Blackburn Lane	Neoclassical Revival	c.1925		slate/vinyl/stone	house & garage
6213	Blackburn Lane	Salt box Revival	1922	Herbert L. Walton	asp/shingle/concrete	house & garage
200	Cedarcroft Rd.	Cape Cod Revival	c.1915		slate/stone/stone	house & garage
201	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1927		slate/shingle/stone	house & garage
202	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1922		asp./shingle/stone	house & garage

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203	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1929		asp./alum.siding/stone	house & garage
204	Cedarcroft Rd.	Tudor Revival	c.1928		slate/stucco/stone	house & garage
205	Cedarcroft Rd.	Tudor Revival	c.1928		slate/shingle/??	house & garage
206	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1926		slate/alum.siding/stone	house & garage
207	Cedarcroft Rd.	Tudor Revival	c.1929		slate/stucco/stone	house & garage
208	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1923		slate/shingle/??	house & garage
209	Cedarcroft Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1928		asp./alum.siding/??	house & garage
210	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1929		slate/stucco/???	house & garage
211	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1926		asp./alum.siding/stone	house & garage
212	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1927		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
213	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	1919	Palmer, Willis & Lamdin	slate/shingle/stone	house & garage
214	Cedarcroft Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1927		slate/stucco/stone	house & garage
215	Cedarcroft Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1926		slate/stucco/stone	house & garage
216	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1922	Harry E. Storck	slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
217	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1926		slate/alum.siding/stone	House
219	Cedarcroft Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1925		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
300	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1924		slate/alum.siding/stone	house & garage
301	Cedarcroft Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1927		slate/stucco/stone	house & garage
302	Cedarcroft Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1926		slate/alum.siding/stone	House
303	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1926		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
304	Cedarcroft Rd.	Cape Cod Revival	c.1951		slate/stucco/stone	house & garage
305	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1927		slate.like/brick/concrete	house & garage
306	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	1915		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
307	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1922		slate/shingle/stone	House
308	Cedarcroft Rd.	Dutch Colonial	1914	George N. MacKenzie III	slate/shingle/stone	house & garage

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309	Cedarcroft Rd.	American Foursquare	1911		slate/shingle/stone	house & garage
311	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1922		slate/shingle/stone	house & garage
312	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1922		slate/brick/stone	house & garage
400	Cedarcroft Rd.	Cape Cod Revival	c.1927		slate/shingle/stone	house & garage
401	Cedarcroft Rd.	Bungalow	1914		asp/shingle/stone	house & garage
402	Cedarcroft Rd.	New England Revival	1965		asp./brick,alum.siding/conc.	house & garage
403	Cedarcroft Rd.	Bungalow	1920	Roy G. Pratt	asp./vinyl/stone	house & garage
404	Cedarcroft Rd.	Shingle Style	1910		asp./shingle/stone	house & garage
405	Cedarcroft Rd.	Shingle Style	1909		slate/shingle/stone	house & garage
406	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	1911		asp./brick/concrete	House
407	Cedarcroft Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1922		slate/alum.siding/stone	house & garage
408	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	1911		slate/brick/concrete	House
409	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1927		slate/stucco/concrete	house & garage
410	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	1911		slate/brick/concrete	House
411	Cedarcroft Rd.	Cape Cod Revival	c.1915		slate/alum.siding/stone	house & garage
412	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	1911		asp./brick/concrete	House
413	Cedarcroft Rd.	Dutch Colonial	1919	Palmer, Willis & Lamdin	asp./clapbd./stone	house & garage
414	Cedarcroft Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1927		slate/shingle/concrete	house & garage
415	Cedarcroft Rd.	Cape Cod Revival	1919	R.B. Mason, builder	slate/shingle/stone	house & garage
416	Cedarcroft Rd.	Shingle Style	1911		slate/shingle/stone	house & garage
417	Cedarcroft Rd.	Shingle Style	1915		asp/shingle/stone	House
418	Cedarcroft Rd.	Shingle Style	1914		slate/shingle,calpbd./stone	house & garage
419	Cedarcroft Rd.	Half Timbered Tudor	1889	James Wolfe	slate/stucco/stone	Church
419	Cedarcroft Rd.	Gothic Revival	1923	Mottu & White	slate/stucco/stone	Parish House
420	Cedarcroft Rd.	Shingle Style	1914		slate/shingle,calpbd./stone	House
219	Gittings Ave.	Tudor Revival	c.1930		slate/stucco/stone	house & garage

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301	Gittings Ave.		Dutch Colonial	c.1922		slate/vinyl/stone	house & garage
303	Gittings Ave.		Neoclassical Revival	c.1929		slate/shingle/concrete	house & garage
305	Gittings Ave.		Dutch Colonial	c.1921		slate/clapbd./concrete	house & garage
307	Gittings Ave.		Neoclassical Revival	1919	Palmer, Willis & Lamdin	slate/clapbd./concrete	House
311	Gittings Ave.		Neoclassical Revival	c.1922		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
313	Gittings Ave.		Neoclassical Revival	c.1922		slate/vinyl/stone	house & garage
315	Gittings Ave.		Craftsman	1919	Herbert L. Walton	slat/stucco/stone	house & garage
317	Gittings Ave.		Neoclassical Revival	1923		aspo/shingle/stone	House
319	Gittings Ave.		Dutch Colonial	1925		asp/alum/stone	house & garage
321	Gittings Ave.		Neoclassical Revival	1918		slate/brick/stone	House
401	Gittings Ave.		Neoclassical Revival	1915		slate/brick/concrete	House
403	Gittings Ave.		Neoclassical Revival	1920		asp/clapbd./stone	house & garage
405	Gittings Ave.		Neoclassical Revival	1921		slate/clapbd./stone	house & garage
407	Gittings Ave.		Bungalow	1924		slate/clapbd./stone	House
409	Gittings Ave.		Neoclassical Revival	1940		slate/brick/stone	House
411	Gittings Ave.		Neoclassical Revival	c.1927		slate/vinyl/stone	house & garage
400	Hollen Rd.		Dutch Colonial	c.1913		asp./shingle/stone	House
401	Hollen Rd.		Neoclassical Revival	c.1916		slate/clapbrd./stone	house & garage
402	Hollen Rd.		Dutch Colonial	1921	Herbert L. Walton	slate/brick,shingle/concrete	house & garage
403	Hollen Rd.	N	Neoclassical Revival	1946		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
404	Hollen Rd.		American Foursquare	c.1913		asp./vinyl/stone	house & garage
405	Hollen Rd.		Dutch Colonial	1910		slate,asp./shingle/stone	house & garage
406	Hollen Rd.		Dutch Colonial	c.1919		asp./stucco/stone	house & garage
407	Hollen Rd.		Neoclassical Revival	c.1922		slate/alum.siding/stone	house & garage
408	Hollen Rd.		Dutch Colonial	c.1923		slate/shingle/stone	house & garage

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409	Hollen Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1923		asp./alum.siding/stone	house & garage
410	Hollen Rd.	Dutch Colonial	1920		asp./stucco/stone	house & garage
411	Hollen Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	1919	Palmer, Willis & Lamdin	asp./alum.siding/stone	house & garage
412	Hollen Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1930		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
413	Hollen Rd.	Dutch Colonial	1919		slate/shingle/stone	House
414	Hollen Rd.	Tudor Revival	c.1930		slate/stucco/concrete	house & garage
415	Hollen Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1920		slate,asp./stucco,brick/stone	house & garage
416	Hollen Rd.	Cape Cod Revival	1952		asp./brick/concrete	House
417	Hollen Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	1921	J. S. Downing	slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
202	E. Lake Ave.	Neoclassical Revival	1937		asp./brick/concrete	house & garage
204	E. Lake Ave.	Neoclassical Revival	1936		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
206	E. Lake Ave.	Dutch Colonial	1928		asp/shingle,brick/stone	house & garage
208	E. Lake Ave.	Tudor Revival	1929		asp/alum/stone	house & garage
210	E. Lake Ave.	Dutch Colonial	1928		asp/alum/stone	house & garage
212	E. Lake Ave.	Dutch Colonial	1929		slate/alum/concrete	House
214	E. Lake Ave.	Tudor Revival	1928		slate/stone,stucco/stone	house & garage
216	E. Lake Ave.	Dutch Colonial	1928		slate/stone/stone	house & garage
218	E. Lake Ave.	Tudor Revival	1937		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
220	E. Lake Ave.	Tudor Revival	1937		asp/brick/stone	House
6101	Pinehurst Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1927		slate/vinyl/stone	House
6103	Pinehurst Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1928		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
6104	Pinehurst Rd.	Tudor Revival	c.1935		slate/brick,clapbd./concrete	house & garage
6105	Pinehurst Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1928		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
6106	Pinehurst Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1935		asp/brick,stucco/stone	House
6200	Pinehurst Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1921		asp/shingle/stone	house & garage
6202	Pinehurst Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1923		asp/brick/stone	house & garage
6203	Pinehurst Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1925		asp/alum/stone	house & garage
6204	Pinehurst Rd.	American	c.1921		asp/alum/stone	house & garage

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		Foursquare				
6205	Pinehurst Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1925		asp/shingle/stone	house & garage
6206	Pinehurst Rd.	American Foursquare	c.1921		asp/stucco/stone	House
6207	Pinehurst Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1925		asp/alum/stone	house & garage
6208	Pinehurst Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1921		asp/stucco/stone	house & garage
6209	Pinehurst Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1925		slate/alum/stone	house & garage
6211	Pinehurst Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1925		slate/alum/stone	house & garage
6213	Pinehurst Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1925		slate/alum/stone	house & garage
6214	Pinehurst Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1923		asp/shingle/stone	house & garage
6216	Pinehurst Rd.	Georgian Revival	c.1923		slate/brick/stone	house & garage
6202	Sycamore Rd.	Neoclassical Revival	c.1922		slate/brick/concrete	house & garage
6204	Sycamore Rd.	Italianate	c.1848		slate/clapbd./stone	House, 2nd building & garage
6208	Sycamore Rd.	Dutch Colonial	c.1922		asp./brick/concrete	house & garage
6212	York Rd.	N contemporary comm. bldg.	1967		built-up/brick/concrete	

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
B Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1848-ca. 1937

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Multiple architects and builders; see continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Neoclassical agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
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Summary Statement of Significance:

The Cedarcroft Historic District is significant under National Register Criteria A and C for its association with the suburban development of Baltimore in the early 20th century, and as an example of a type of residential subdivision which characterized the area in the period.

The period of significance, 1848-ca.1937, spans the period between 1848, when the property on which the district developed was initially created as a country seat, and ca. 1937, by which time the suburban development of Cedarcroft was substantially completed.

Resource History and Historic Context

The Cedarcroft Historic District is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of urban development in the Baltimore metropolitan area. The York Road, which bounds Cedarcroft on the east, was established as a major turnpike route by the early 19th century, linking the growing port of Baltimore with agricultural lands to the north. The first house in the area that was to become Cedarcroft was constructed as a country retreat in the late 1840s, about the same time as the horse-drawn street railway was introduced to Baltimore. A horse-drawn railway became established on York Road in 1863 and was subsequently converted to electric power. York Road's importance as an artery into the city from points north was confirmed with the increasing popularity of automobile travel after the turn of the 20th century. Around that time, real estate developers began to focus their attention on the York Road corridor, where a relatively undeveloped, pastoral setting combined with convenient transportation to downtown to make it a desirable location for suburban residential subdivisions.

The development of Cedarcroft also illustrates the process by which the overall appearance of the community was shaped by a few influential house designs. The architectural office of Edward L. Palmer, Jr. created three plans for houses in Cedarcroft in 1916 and 1919. Although only eight houses were constructed using these plans, many of the design elements they employed came to be seen throughout the district.

Resource History

In 1755, Frederick Calvert, the sixth Lord Baltimore and the next to last Lord Proprietor of Maryland sold several hundred acres of land, part of which is now Cedarcroft, to William Govane, a well-to-do importer and ship owner in the Annapolis area wishing to gain a foothold near the port of Baltimore. It was after this time that Williams Govane served for several years as a representative of Baltimore County in the lower house of the Colonial General Assembly of Maryland. This meant that far above meeting the requirement of 50 acres or 40 pounds sterling of visible property for voting, he met the much higher property requirements for holding public

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office. Eventually, Govane enlarged this holding by purchasing adjoining land called "Friends Discovery" from Job Evans. A portion of "Friends Discovery" was later sold by Govane to Samuel W. Hopkins, whose family constructed a five-bay Federal style house ca. 1848, the earliest surviving documented building in the area now known as Cedarcroft (present 6204 Sycamore Road). Hopkins died in 1858 and five years later, his family sold this house and the surrounding grounds to a Henry Ernest Theodore Schwerdtman, the proprietor, along with a Gustave A. Schwarz, of a samples business in downtown Baltimore. This land owned by Schwerdtman was enlarged by his purchase of an adjoining parcel from Richard J. Gittings in 1859.

Already by 1863, the convenience of travel along York Road permitted both Theodore Schwerdtman and Gustave Schwarz to operate a business in downtown Baltimore and live far to the north. White Schwerdtman was resident in the Hopkins house, Schwarz was living just north of the district. In 1863, Schwarz re-styled his house in the Italianate style. When in 1876, Schwerdtman sold his homestead to Schwarz, his business partner, the parcel consisted of 24 acres. In 1885, this land passed from Schwarz into the hands of George M. Lamb, Sr. who named this estate Cedarcroft.

The Lamb estate had orchards and a barn that stood on what is now Blackburn Lane. Woods and fields and ponds stretched to from behind the barn to Bellona Avenue. In April of 1892 George Lamb, Sr. purchased an adjoining parcel of land from Mary Presstman.

In May of 1909 Annie R. Lamb (widow of George, Sr.) deeded forty acres more or less to Charles L. Applegarth and William H. McGee and on the same day Applegarth and McGee deeded this land to the Cedarcroft Land Company. George M. Lamb, Jr. became the President of the Land Company and his younger brother, Philip, an attorney was employed as the secretary and attorney for the Company. In 1911 the Cedarcroft Land Company installed sidewalks lined with trees after lines for gas, water and electricity were installed. This work initially covered Cedarcroft Road., Hollen Road, Sycamore Road, all on the eastern portion of the district. The same facilities were installed later for the western section of the district. Also in 1911 the Land Company sold three lots at the intersection of York and Cedarcroft Roads to a Society that was to become The Church of the Nativity congregation.

In the late nineteenth century, Baltimore was characterized by a higher proportion of home ownership than most other major cities. But Baltimore had suffered through a number of health crises associated with people living very close to each other. Baltimore did not have as many green open areas and boulevards as many other large cities. Many Baltimoreans, living in row houses, wished to live in more spacious surroundings. Like many new residents who in the second decade of the twentieth century were seeking more space by moving northward along the York Road corridor, the State Normal School which had been authorized by the General Assembly for Baltimore City in 1865 (now, Towson University) moved to its present location in Towson in 1915. This move not only contributed to the growth of Towson, it also contributed to the attractiveness of Cedarcroft as a suburban community though one soon to be located within the city. Baltimore City's final annexation from

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Baltimore County in 1918 incorporated Cedarcroft. State taxation records indicate that by this time the Cedarcroft Land Company and the Towson-Cedarcroft Bus Company were two of the major companies in Maryland.

Historic Context

In 1910 the Cedarcroft Land Company employed the architectural firm of Palmer, Willis and Lamdin to produce the subdivision plan. This was the period that Edward L. Palmer, Jr. chief architect of the Roland Park Company was working with Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. as Olmsted designed the Guilford subdivision a short distance to the south. The path of the roadways of Hollen, Blackburn and Pinehurst plus the shallow gutters to be found in part on these roadways reflect design motifs used in Guilford, and Palmer's specifications for houses he designed in Cedarcroft directed builders to use the specifications that the Roland Park Company employed.

Palmer continued his relationship with the Cedarcroft Land Company by creating three house designs in 1916 and 1919. Two of these designs were used for the construction of seven houses. One design used both the 'front facade' and the 'side facade' as facades facing the roadway. Although there were several Dutch Colonial style houses prior to Palmer's Dutch Colonial at 413 Cedarcroft Road (1919), this outstanding design clearly influenced designers working in Cedarcroft. The majority of houses in this style in Cedarcroft were built between 1919 and 1930. In addition, Palmer's use of Tudor massing coupled with traditional ornamentation, such as at 6202 Blackburn Lane, clearly influenced other designs in Cedarcroft.

Edward L. Palmer, Jr.'s influence on the architectural quality of Baltimore's early 20th century residential suburbs is acknowledged. Palmer was the first of only two "Company architects" for the Roland Park Company, the other being John A. Ahlers who replaced Palmer in 1935. Both through their own design work and in their contribution to the standards and specifications which the Roland Park Company adopted, these men significantly influenced the quality of architecture found in Roland Park, Guilford, Homeland, the Orchards, Parts of Dundalk and Original Northwood. Many other developers adopted the Roland Park Company system for developments such as Tuscany-Canterbury, Oakenshawe, Woodbrook, Blythewood, and Cedarcroft.

The district also illustrates that transitional period in American architecture between late Victorian and 18th century revivals. The earliest buildings reflecting the Shingle Style and in that transitional period the use of American inspired designs such as Bungalow, American Foursquare and Craftsman and then during the period of most rapid growth of Cedarcroft the revival styles such as, Dutch, Federal, Georgian, Cape Cod, Tudor and Gothic.

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Architects and Builders whose work is represented in Cedarcroft

Edward L. Palmer, Jr. (1878-1952)

Edward L. Palmer, Jr, Roland Park Company's chief architect from 1905 to 1918, exerted a major influence on development of Roland Park, Guilford, and Homeland as well as Cedarcroft. He was educated at the John Hopkins University and the University of Pennsylvania. Overlapping with this period, he was a partner in the firm of Palmer, Willis and Lamdin which was commissioned by the Cedarcroft Land Company to develop a subdivision plan for its development. Also during the time that he was associated with the Roland Park Company, he produced the designs used for eight Cedarcroft houses. Palmer was a pioneer in working out the theory, technique and legal basis for development functionally, architecturally and socially restricted by covenants. Between 1905 and 1927, Palmer is associated with the design of over 800 Baltimore area houses in Roland Park, Guilford, Homeland, Dundalk and Cedarcroft.

George Norbury Mackenzie, III

Mackenzie's work spans at least the period from 1910 to 1925. He was working with the architect G. Stevenson at the beginning of this period and in 1912, he was working with the architects Voorhees and Glehlin. In 1920, he is known to have been associated with the architectural firm of Wyatt & Nolting. Among his work in Towson, the Baltimore County seat a few miles north of Cedarcroft, are an office building for the Black and Decker Manufacturing Company, the Towson Presbyterian Church, and the former Baltimore County Bank at the northeast corner of York Road and Pennsylvania Avenue. He also designed several houses in Cedarcroft, including an outstanding Dutch Colonial style dwelling at 308 Cedarcroft Road.

Roy G. Pratt

Roy Pratt's work spans at least the period from 1920 to 1927. He is known to have designed ten Guilford houses as well as several in Roland Park. In Cedarcroft, his work includes 403 Cedarcroft Road and plausibly several others.

Other architects:

Herbert L. Walton

James Wolfe

Harry E. Storck

Builders:

Downing Construction Company

Lohmuller Building Company

Louis C Wood

Piel Construction Company

The Walton Company

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- Greene, Constance McLaughlin. *The Rise of Urban America*. New York: Harper & Row, 1965.
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- Palmer, Willis, and Lamdin Archives, Langsdale Library, University of Baltimore.

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 40 acres

UTM References Baltimore East, MD quad
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

A | 18-361298-4359116
Zone Easting Northing

C | 18-360602-4358888
Zone Easting Northing

B | 18-361283-4358791

D | 18-360572-4359259

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dean R. Wagner, Consultant
organization _____ date July 2002
street & number 1213 Roundhill Road telephone _____
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21218

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Boundaries are depicted on the map which accompanies this documentation.

The Cedarcroft Historic District is bounded on the north by Gittings Avenue from its intersection with York Road to the eastern property line of 217 Gittings Avenue, then south along the rear property lines of houses on the west side of Hollen Road to a point where this line intersects with the north property line of 214 to 202 Cedarcroft Road, and along that line to a point where it intersects the property line which separates 6231 Bellona Avenue and 201 Hollen Road, then north on that property line to its intersection with Hollen Road, then in a westerly direction along Hollen Road to its intersection with Bellona Avenue, then in a southerly direction along Bellona Avenue to East Lake Avenue, then along East Lake Avenue in an easterly direction to the westerly property line of 308 East Lake Avenue, then north along that property line to the alley named Allenwood, then along Allenwood alley in an easterly direction to York Road, then north along York Road to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

These boundaries correspond to the area under the jurisdiction of the Cedarcroft Improvement Association and encompass the property historically associated with the development of the Cedarcroft subdivision.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5882 (NW
COCKEYSVILLE)

B-1340

76°37'30" 361000m E TOWSON 1.7 MI 362 363 35'

CEDACROFT
HISTORIC
DISTRICT

BALTIMORE
CITY, MD

A: 18-361298-
4359116

B: 18-361283-
4358791

C: 18-360602-
4358888

D: 18-360572-
4359259

