

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

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

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

historic Belle Saunders Property

and/or common Seger Property

**2. Location:**

street &amp; number 6504 Muirkirk Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Beltsville  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Prince George's

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" 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 addressed of all owners)

name Bernard L. Seger

street &amp; number 6504 Muirkirk Road telephone no.:

city, town Beltsville state and zip code Maryland 20705

**5. Location of Legal Description**

Land Records Office of Prince George's County liber 1405

street &amp; number Prince George's County Judicial Center folio 56

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. PG: 60-12 (PACS E2.34)

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: 8

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

The Belle Saunders Property is a 1½-story, 3-bay bungalow on the north side of Muirkirk Road in the Beltsville vicinity, Prince George's County. The bungalow was constructed circa 1925.

The structure has a side gable asphalt shingle roof, with a gable dormer with exposed rafters and a brick chimney at the roof peak on the west side. It is of wood frame construction with beveled wood siding, and has a concrete masonry foundation. The windows are double-hung wood sash with aluminum storm windows. The house has an extended roof porch on the south elevation. The porch has two battered concrete piers, each with 3 decorative posts. The porch has a horizontal wood lattice skirt and concrete steps.

The south, or front facade has a full width porch. The basement level has no windows. The first story entrance is a centered wood panel door with 3 lights and has a flared cornice. The fenestration pattern is symmetrical, with one paired 3/3 double-hung window and one 6/6 double hung window on the first story. The dormer has two 2/2 double-hung windows.

Typical elements of the bungalow style, including a full width porch with battered and decorative columns, gable dormer, and exposed rafters are evident on this elevation. Deterioration is evident in a settling front step.

The west elevation has a fenestration pattern that is asymmetrical, with two 3-light fixed sash windows on the basement level and two pairs of 3/3 double-hung windows and one awning window on the first story. The second story has one paired 2/2 double-hung window and an attic vent in the gable peak. The two paired windows have wood flower boxes.

The north or rear elevation has no fenestration and there are two doors; one wood 1-light panel opening to a concrete patio, and one wood panel door with 1-light and a wood screen storm door.

The east elevation has a wood panel, four light door below grade at the basement level. The door is accessed by concrete steps. The fenestration pattern is irregular, with one 2-light, fixed sash window on the basement level and two 6/6 double-hung windows and one 1/1 double-hung window on the first story. The second story has two 6/6 windows and a small attic vent in the gable peak.

There are seven outbuildings associated with this property. The first outbuilding is a garage, with a front gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Constructed circa 1925, it is of wood frame construction with a brick chimney. The structure is located south west of the main house.

The second outbuilding is a barn, with a gable, standing seam metal roof. Constructed circa 1925, it is of wood frame construction. The structure is located northeast of the house. The barn is 2 stories with two large doors on the south elevation for tractors. A shed porch projects to the west.

The third outbuilding is a cattle barn with a shed roof, covered with standing seam metal. Constructed circa 1925, it is of wood frame construction. The structure is located northeast of the house.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Belle Saunders Property

SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-12 (PACS E2.34)

ADDRESS: 6504 Muirkirk Road

## 7. Description (Continued)

The fourth outbuilding is a shed with an asphalt shingle roof. Constructed circa 1975, it is of wood frame construction. The structure is located northeast of the house, east of the barn and north of the cattle barn.

The fifth outbuilding is a storage shed with a gable, asphalt shingled roof. Constructed circa 1930, it is of wood frame construction. The structure is located east of the house and south of the cattle barn.

The sixth outbuilding is a chicken house with a shed standing seam metal roof. Constructed circa 1925, it is of wood frame construction. The structure is located east of the house and south of the storage shed.

The seventh outbuilding is a privy with a wood shed roof. Constructed circa 1925, it is of wood frame construction. The structure is located north of the house and west of the barn.

The property is located on the north side of Muirkirk Road, with residential property to the west, commercial property to the east and farmland to the north and south. There are several old trees and the land slopes up to the northwest from Muirkirk Road. The property's setting is rural, however, there is commercial and industrial property to the east.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. PG: 60-12 (PACS E2.34)

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/ 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"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates circa 1925

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 earliest reference to the Belle Saunders Property is a deed which documents that William Saunders purchased 36 hectare (90 acres) of land from John N. and Ann Robey in October 1870. The property passed to Martha Saunders, the wife of William, in 1883, and in 1913 Belle Saunders inherited the property. It was during this time that the bungalow was constructed. Belle C. Saunders subsequently conveyed 18.3 hectare (45.208 acres), exclusive of a roadway, to Lucy Jane Elliott in June 1928. In October 1940, Lucy Jane Elliott conveyed approximately 2.2 hectare (5.5 acres) of land to Elvira Catharine Seanor. Bernard L. and Ruth R. Seger, the current owners of the property, acquired the land in August 1951.

The Belle Saunders Property is located on Muirkirk Road, west of Virginia Manor Road. Although the street address is Beltsville, the property is very close to Muirkirk. Muirkirk is on land originally patented to Richard Snowden in 1715 as "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" in Prince George's County. "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" was approximately 1214ha (3000 acres) from Old Columbia Pike to the present city of Laurel, and from south of Greencastle and Van Dusen Roads to north of Sandy Spring Road. The 1715 patent increased the already substantial Snowden land holdings, and later additions to Snowden land eventually covered 3749ha (9265 acres) by 1743. (Geraci, 1976: 4; Cook, 1976: 270-271).

Iron ore was noticed in the Muirkirk area about 1800, but since there is no natural source of power there and overland travel was difficult until the railroad was built, it was not until 1847 that the iron was mined (Brennan 1974: 2). The Ellicott family of Ellicott's Mills established a furnace at what is now the junction of U.S. 1 and Muirkirk Road. During the nineteenth century, the Muirkirk furnace supplied pig iron for use as gun carriages and engine cylinders. The Muirkirk MARC train station and a paint pigment manufacturing plant now occupy the site of the furnace.

The Muirkirk settlement, near the intersection of Muirkirk Road and Old Baltimore Pike, consisted of the furnace, kilns, the mansion of Charles Coffin, who owned the furnace after the Ellicotts, approximately 30 workers residences, a store and post office. Suburban development began with the formation of the Muirkirk Land Company and the construction of electric street car lines through Muirkirk to Laurel. The furnace operated until 1911, and was one of the last furnaces operating in Maryland (Brennan 1974: 3; Prince George's County 1974: 290).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
RESOURCE NAME: Belle Saunders Property  
SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-12 (PACS E2.34)  
ADDRESS: 6504 Muirkirk Road

8. Significance (Continued)

The Muirkirk area is also known for its clay, sand, and gravel mining. Red and grey clays that are useful for making bricks have been mined in the area since the nineteenth century. Sand and gravel were also mined, and during the 1940s mining in the area increased significantly. Currently, much of the land between Laurel and Beltsville on either side of Interstate 95 consists of gravel pits and sand piles.

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

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION:

Constructed circa 1925, the Belle Saunders Property is not eligible for the National Register. The property is not eligible under Criterion A; no significant events have been determined to be associated with the property. The property is not eligible under Criterion B; no person significant in local, state, or national history has been determined to be associated with the property. The property is not eligible under Criterion C; the house is a common vernacular style which lacks individual distinction, and the removal of two porch supports has resulted in the loss of a character defining feature of the bungalow style. The installation of two wood posts supporting the porch roof has introduced elements that are out of character with the bungalow style. Finally the property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, does not meet Criterion D.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST</b>	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility Not Recommended <u>  X  </u> _____
Comments _____	
_____	
Reviewer, OPS: <u>Andrew Levin</u>	Date: <u>11/05/01</u>
Reviewer, NR Program: <u>PKW</u>	Date: <u>11/9/01</u>

✓-entered

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. PG:60-12(PACS E2.34)

---

See Continuation Sheet

---

## 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
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

---

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Caroline Hall/Ryan McKay

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date October 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Ave., Ste. 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: Belle Saunders Property  
SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-12 (PACS E2.34)  
ADDRESS: 6504 Muirkirk Road

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

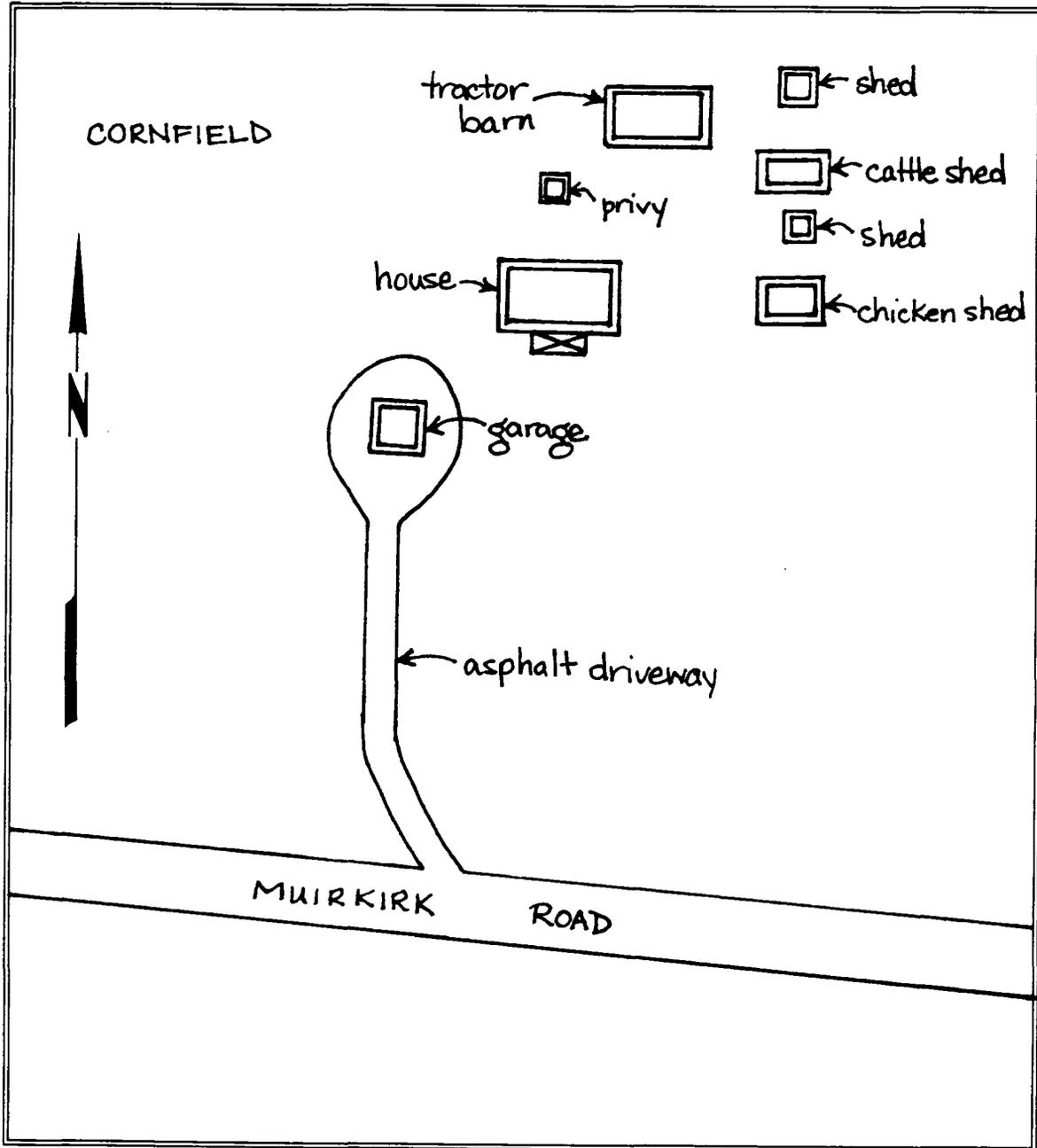
- Brennan, John C. The Muirkirk Iron Mines and the 1940 WPA Maryland Guidebook. Unpublished paper, 1974.
- Cook, William G. Montpelier & the Snowden Family. Privately Printed, 1976.
- Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including the County of Prince George (sic), Maryland. Philadelphia, 1879. Reprint.
- Land Records of Prince George's County, Maryland.
- "The Laurel Factory." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 38-40. (First published in The American Farmer. Baltimore, Maryland, August 1845.)
- Prince George's County Community Renewal Program. The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County. Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Prince George's County Government, 1974.
- Virta, Alan. "The Pretty, Rosy-Cheeked Girls of Laurel." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 37.
- Virta, Alan. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1984, rev. 1991.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
RESOURCE NAME: Belle Saunders Property  
SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-12 (PACS E2.34)  
ADDRESS: 6504 Muirkirk Road

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Belle Saunders Property

SURVEY NO.: PG: 60-12 (PACS E2.34)

ADDRESS: 6504 Muirkirk Road

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

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):

Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Dwelling

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer:

P.A.C. Spero & Company

October 1996





1 VGT: '55-12

2 Belle Saunden Property

3 Prince Georges County

4 Ryan McKay

5 February 1996

6 PAC Spew and Company, Towson MD

7 6504 Murkirk Rd., south and west

8 1/4

facades



1 PG: 60-12

2 Belle Saunders Property

3 Prince George's County

4 Ryan McKay

5 February 1996

6 PAC Spiro and Company, Towson MD

7 6504 Muirkirk Road, north & east  
facades

8 2/4



- 1 25:60-12
- 2 Belle Saunders Property
- 3 Prince George's County
- 4 Ryan McKay
- 5 February 1996
- 6 PAC Spero and Company, Towson MD
- 7 6504 Muirkirk Rd., barn and  
outbuildings
- 8 3/4



- 1 Ref: 60-12
- 2 Belle Saundew Property
- 3 Prince Georges County
- 4 Ryan Mc Kay
- 5 February 1996
- 6 PAC Spero and Company, Towson MD
- 7 6504 Muirkirk Road, garage
- 8  $\frac{4}{4}$