

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: PG:62-30 (PACS 2.7) Construction Date: circa 1885

Name: William H. Diven House

Location: 13309 Baltimore Avenue (US 1), Laurel Vicinity, Prince George's County

Private/Commercial/Occupied/Fair/Restricted

Description:

The William H. Diven House is a 2-story, 2-bay side-entrance hall-parlor plan house on the east side of Baltimore Avenue in the Laurel Vicinity, Prince George's County. Constructed circa 1885, the building is one room deep with a 1-story rear shed-roof addition. There is a 1-story, shed roof porch on the front elevation.

Significance:

The William H. Diven House was built circa 1885 on 23.5 hectares (58 acres) of land purchased from Dr. William W. Childs. The lands were originally part of a large estate called "Williams Range" and "Wintersells Range." This large estate was gradually sold off during the 19th century. Dr. William W. Childs' original purchase consisted of 40.4 hectares (100 acres) bounded by the Washington Branch of the B & O Railroad, the lands of Thomas Mitchell, and the lands of George Ernest. The house remained in the ownership of William Diven until his death. It passed to William Atha in 1920, with the 23.5 hectares (58 acres) of land surrounding it. William Atha sold the house with a small parcel of land, .3 hectares (.75 acres), to Solomon and Frances Reese in 1921. Theodore Roosevelt Castle received the house from the estate of Frances Reese in 1969. Mr. Castle sold the property to the current owners in 1984.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term Congestion Relief

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic William H. Diven House (preferred)

and/or common Roberts Oxygen Property

2. Location:

street & number 13309 Baltimore Avenue

n/a not for publication

city, town Laurel 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 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 William P. Roberts III, and Gana R. Dunlop

street & number 15830 Redland Road

telephone no.:

city,town Rockville

state and zip code Maryland 20855

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records of Prince George's County

liber 5971

street & number Prince George's County Judicial Center

folio 754

city,town Upper Marlboro

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___federal ___state ___county ___local

depository for survey records

city,town

state

7. Description

Survey No. PG:62-30 (PACS 2.7)

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

Resource Count: 1

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

The William H. Diven House is a 2-story, 2-bay side-entrance hall-parlor plan house on the east side of Baltimore Avenue in the Laurel Vicinity, Prince George's County. Constructed circa 1885, the building is one room deep with a 1-story rear shed-roof addition. There is a 1-story, shed roof porch on the front elevation.

The structure has a side-gable roof covered in asphalt shingles, with a central brick chimney on the rear slope of the roof. It is of wood-frame construction with aluminum siding, and it has a brick foundation. The windows are 1/1 double hung aluminum. There is a 1-bay, 1-story shed roof porch over the entrance on the front elevation. The porch has an asphalt shingle roof supported by square wood posts.

The west, or front elevation faces onto Baltimore Avenue. The first story entrance is in the first bay. The door has a transom, and is fitted with a barred door. The fenestration pattern is symmetrical. There is one 1/1 double-hung aluminum window in the second bay of the first floor, and two windows on the second floor. Each window has fixed shutters and is fitted with bars. Alterations to this elevation include the addition of aluminum siding, the replacement of windows, and the addition of bars over all the windows.

The north elevation consists of the gable end of the main block and the 1-story shed roof addition. There is one 1/1 double-hung aluminum window on each floor of the main block. There is a small 2-light sliding window centered in the wall of the 1-story rear addition.

The east, or rear elevation consists of the 1-story rear shed addition which extends across the entire length of the rear elevation. There are two windows on the first story. They are both 2-light sliding windows fitted with bars. There is evidence, in the form of remaining steps, that there used to be an entrance at the northeast bay of the rear elevation. There are two 1/1 double-hung aluminum windows on the second story. They are also fitted with bars. There is a bulkhead door located towards the southeast corner of the rear elevation.

The south elevation consists of the gable end of the main block and the 1-story shed roof rear addition. There is a door centered in the wall of the rear addition. There is no fenestration in the main block.

There is a small portable shed located adjacent to the south elevation of the building. Currently empty, it has a wooden path leading from the door on the south side of the building to a door on the north side of the shed.

There is a fenced yard to the northeast of the building, used for the storage of oxygen and other gas tanks.

The property is located on the east side of Baltimore Avenue, with commercial property to the north, east, and west, and additional commercial properties and a cemetery on the opposite side of Baltimore Avenue. The property's setting is dense commercial with heavy traffic use of along Baltimore Avenue. The historic setting of the building would have been agricultural, with cultivated fields, outbuildings, and other residential buildings surrounding it.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG:62-30 (PACS 2.7)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1885	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.

The William H. Diven House was built circa 1885 on 23.5 hectares (58 acres) of land purchased from Dr. William W. Childs. The lands were originally part of a large estate called "Williams Range" and "Wintersells Range." This large estate was gradually sold off during the 19th century. Dr. William W. Childs' original purchase consisted of 40.4 hectares (100 acres) bounded by the Washington Branch of the B & O Railroad, the lands of Thomas Mitchell, and the lands of George Ernest. The house remained in the ownership of William Diven until his death. It passed to William Atha in 1920, with the 23.5 hectares (58 acres) of land surrounding it. William Atha sold the house with a small parcel of land, .3 hectares (.75 acres), to Solomon and Frances Reese in 1921. Theodore Roosevelt Castle received the house from the estate of Frances Reese in 1969. Mr. Castle sold the property to the current owners in 1984.

The William H. Diven House is located south of Laurel. Laurel is located 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 1214 hectares (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 3749 hectares (9265 acres) by 1743. (Cook 1976: 270-271).

The Snowden family had established a grist mill at Laurel about 1810. In 1824, the grist mill was adapted to spin cotton yarn that was shipped to textile mills. In 1835, the mill was converted back to a grist mill. Snowden family members and the O.C. Tiffany company of Baltimore established the Patuxent Cotton Manufacturing Company. Factory buildings were built along the river, and the town of Laurel developed as a manufacturing town along Main Street running between the factory and the B&O Railroad station (Prince George's County 1974: 283; Prince George's County Historical Society 1980: 37). Laurel became the largest town in the county. The textile mill provided the basis for Laurel's economy into the twentieth century. When textile output began to decline early in the century, Laurel began to develop as a suburb for both Washington and Baltimore. Located halfway between the two cities, Laurel was accessible to commuters by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and by U.S. 1 (Prince George's County 1974: 284).

The William H. Diven House is an example of side-entrance hall-parlor plan house. The hall-parlor plan is a common example of an open-plan house, which is characterized by direct access from the outside into heated living areas. Open-plan houses were built during the earliest periods of

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: William H. Diven House

SURVEY NO.: PG:62-30 (PACS 2.7)

ADDRESS: 13309 Baltimore Avenue (US 1), Laurel Vicinity, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

development, and were common during through the mid-1800s. Open plan houses most often had one or two rooms on the ground floor.

The most common arrangement of a two-room plan consists of two rooms aligned end to end on the ground floor, with a fireplace at one or each gable end. The main room, or hall, contained the principal fireplace and the stair or ladder to the story above. Popularly known as hall-parlor houses, these buildings could be 1, 1½, or 2-stories, and were built from the early colonial period through the early 1900s. The room connected to the outside was the main living room, used for cooking, eating, craftwork and sleeping.

The best hall-parlor houses contained a fireplace in each of the two main rooms. The room with the entry from the outside usually held the larger fireplace; the other room typically possessed a much smaller fireplace. Architectural trim in the form of moldings, cornices, and mantel pieces also served to distinguish the quality and finish of these two rooms. Unheated parlors were most-often used as sleeping chambers (Lanier and Herman 1997, 12-16).

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed circa 1885, the William H. Diven Property 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. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an undistinguished example of an side-entrance hall-parlor plan house which has been altered with the addition of aluminum siding, the replacement of all windows with aluminum windows, and the replacement of the front porch. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility Not Recommended <u>XX</u>
Comments _____	

Reviewer, OPS: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>3/24/99</u>
Reviewer, NR Program: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>3/24/99</u>

[Handwritten mark]

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. PG:62-30 (PACS 2.7)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name Laurel, 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

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan L. Taylor

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date May 1998

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 purposes 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: William H. Diven House

SURVEY NO.: PG:62-30 (PACS 2.7)

ADDRESS: 13309 Baltimore Avenue (US 1), Laurel Vicinity, Prince George's County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Brugger, Robert A. 1988. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Cook, William G. 1976. Montpelier & the Snowden Family. Privately Printed.
- Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. 1976. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society.
- Hopkins, G.M. [1879] 1975. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including County of Prince George's, Maryland. Reprint, Riverdale, Maryland: Prince George's County Historical Society.
- Land Records of Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.
- Lanier, Gabrielle and Bernard L. Herman. 1997. Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.
- "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. 1974. The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County. Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Prince George's County Government.
- Tindall, George Brown. 1984. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.
- Virta, Alan. 1984. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Rev. 1991. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers.
- Virta, Alan. "The Pretty, Rosy-Cheeked Girls of Laurel." News and Notes from the Prince George's County Historical Society. (July 1980): 37.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

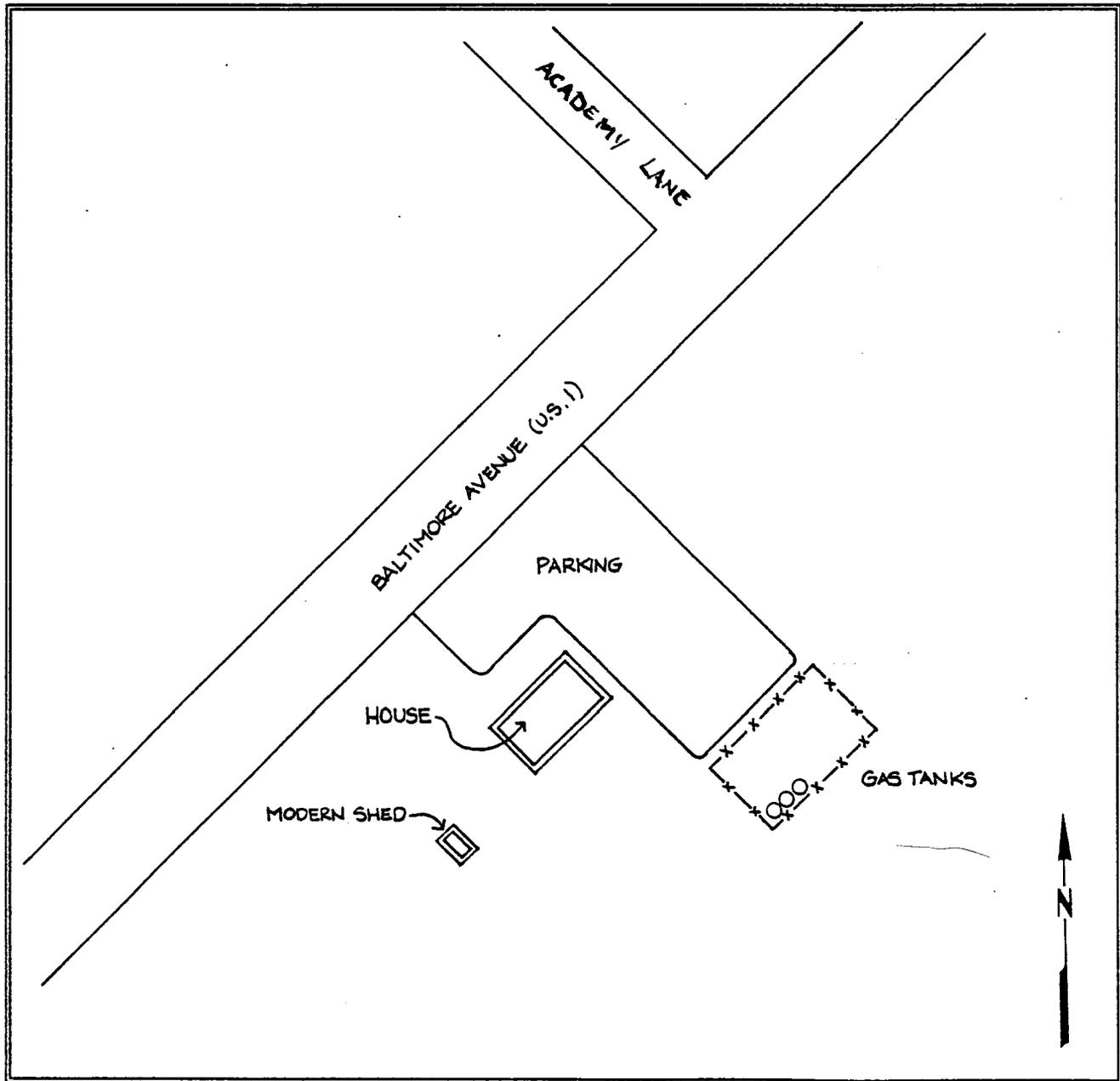
RESOURCE NAME: William H. Diven House

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10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s): Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Agriculture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form): Buildings

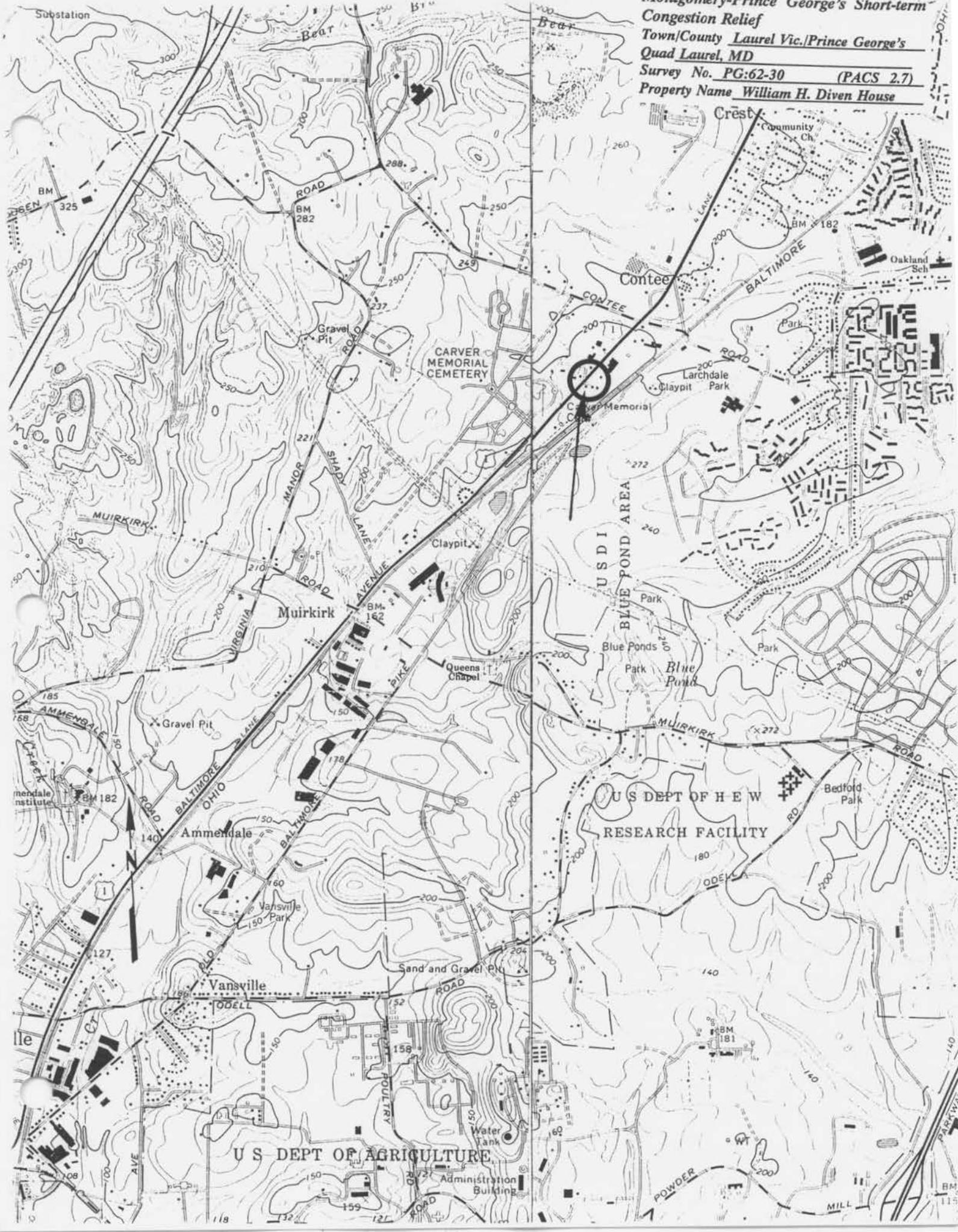
Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural): Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown): None

Preparer
P.A.C. Spero & Company
May 1998

Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term
Congestion Relief
Town/County Laurel Vic./Prince George's
Quad Laurel, MD
Survey No. PG:62-30 (PACS 2.7)
Property Name William H. Diven House





ROBERTS OXYGEN

ROBERTS

- 1 PG. 62-30
- 2 13309 Balt. Ave, William +. Duerksen
- 3 Prince Georges Co MD
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5198
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 West elevation
- 8 1 of 8

ROBERTS OXYGEN

ROBERTS OXYGEN

- 1 PG 62-30
- 2 13309 Balt. Ave, William H. Dixon House
- 3 Prince George's Co, MD
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 MD 511PO
- 7 West elevation
- 8 2 of 8

ROBERTS OXYGEN

**THE REAL ESTATE
LEADERS**

ROBERTS OXYGEN
INDUSTRIAL & MEDICAL GASES
WELDING SUPPLIES

1 PG:62 30

2 13309 Ba H. Ave, Williams + Durr House

3 Prince Georges Co MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 MDS + PO

7 N Elevation,

8 3 of 8



- 1 PG. 62-30
- 2 13309 Bart, Ave, William H Green house
- 3 Prince Georges Co MD
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 NE corner
- 8 4 of 8



- 1 PG: 62 - 30
- 2 13309 Ball Ave, N. in the J. I. House
- 3 Prince George's Co MD
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 MD SHPO
- 7 East Elevation
- 8 5 of 8



1 PG 62 30

2 13309 B.H. Ave. Williams H. Dinner House

3 Prince George's Co., MD

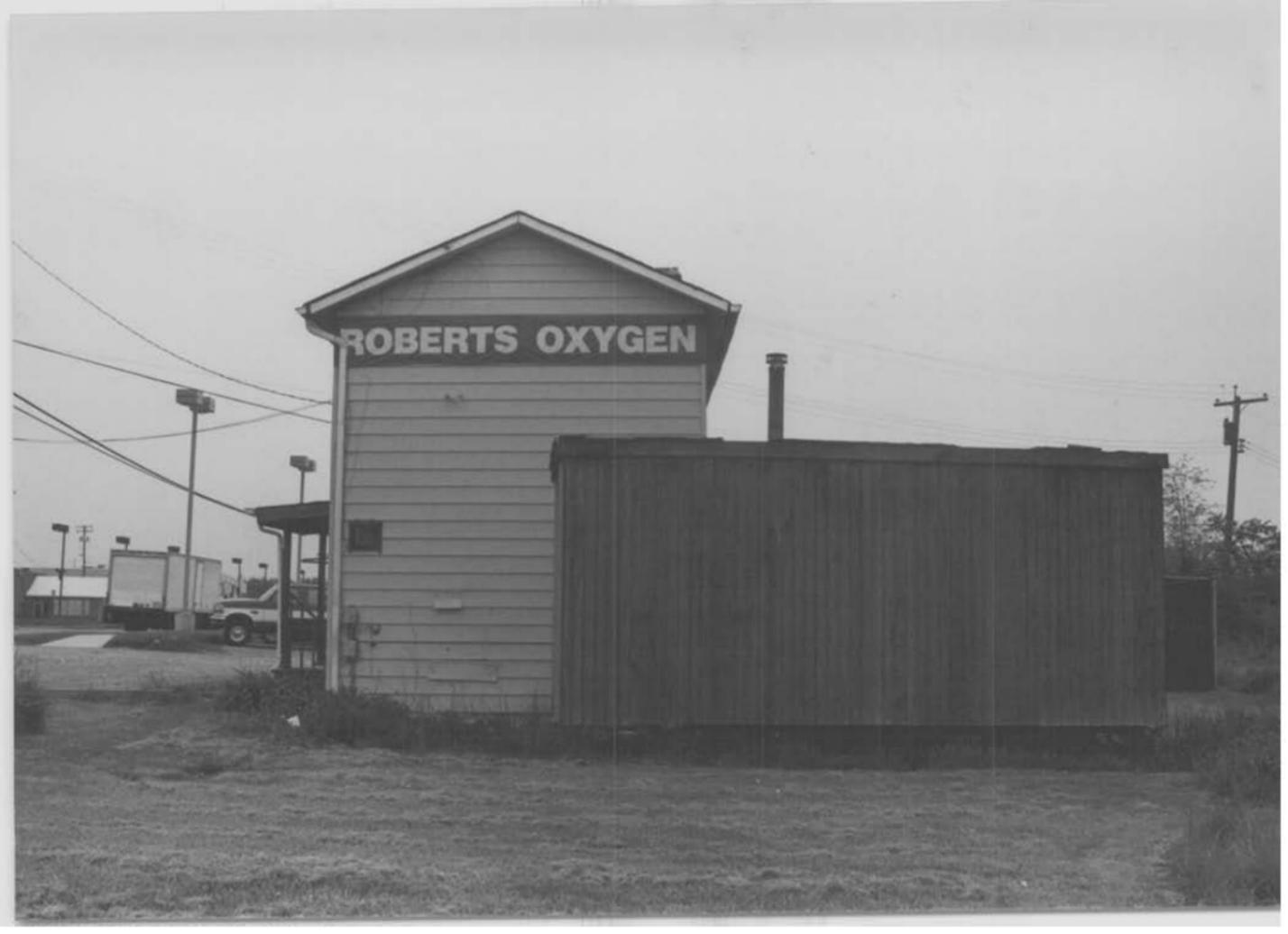
4 Susan Taylor

5 5/95

6 MD SHPO

7 SE corner

8 6 of 8



ROBERTS OXYGEN

1 PG:62 3D

2 13309 Balt. Ave, Niman H. Dixon House

3 Prince Georges Co, MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/78

6 1110SHP0

7 South elevation

8 7 of 8



ROBERTS OXYGEN

ROBERTS OXYGEN

1 PG 162-30

2 13309 Balt. Ave, William H. Diven House

3 Prince George's Co, MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/78

6 11.05.11.00

7 SW corner

8 2 of 8