

(1/5/79)

(NOTE: SEE PENDING NR FORM)

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # 66-2 Date circa 1803

Building Name Rosborough Inn

Location Baltimore Boulevard (Rte.#1), College Park, Md.

Open to Public  yes  no  Restricted

The original central portion of the Rosborough Inn is a two-and-one-half-story brick structure laid in Flemish bond with flush gable chimneys at each end. The windows in the five-bay east facade have stone lintels with keystones. The entrance, in the central bay of the east facade, is topped by a Coade stone keystone with a Silenus head and the inscription "T. Coade 1798" beneath it.

The Inn has two one-and-one-half story wings: a north wing three bays wide with central door, and a south wing two bays wide with a door in the northmost bay; both wings have external end chimneys. These wings were constructed in 1938, to replace frame wings which had been part of the inn during the 19th century.

Rosborough Inn was built circa 1803 on a tract of land purchased by Richard Ross from George Calvert in 1802. It is known to have been in use as an inn by October 1811, when Anthony St. John Baker, secretary to the British legation stayed at "Ross's Tavern" on his way from Baltimore to Washington.

George Calvert repurchased the Rosborough tract in 1822, and it passed to his son, Charles Benedict Calvert of Riversdale, who in 1858 sold it to the newly formed Maryland Agricultural College (not the University of Maryland). Since this time, the Inn has served as a faculty residence and a classroom. In 1888 the Inn was renovated, and a third story and mansard roof were added; from that time to 1938, it served as the agricultural experiment station. In 1938 the present wings were constructed on the foundations of the 19th century wings. The Inn serves today as the University of Maryland Faculty Alumni Club.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #66-2 Building Date: ca. 1803

Building Name: Rossborough Inn

Location: Route #1 opposite Rossburg Drive, U. of Md., College Park, Md.

Public/Educational/Occupied/Excellent/Accessible

Description

The Rossborough Inn is an early nineteenth century Federal style brick building, Georgian in plan, with lower flanking wings constructed in 1938 at the same time the main block was rebuilt; it is distinguished by stone lintels and a handsome fanlight doorway with Coade keystone. The main block is two-and-one half stories, and side gabled. Entrance is in the central bay of the principal east facade; there is a delicate eleven-section fanlight over the door; the outer arch is ornamented by impost rosettes and an outstanding Coade keystone in the form of a smiling Silenus head. At each gable end is a flush chimney at the ridge; three gable dormers pierce each plane of the roof. The main block is flanked by two brick one-and-one-half story wings, built new in 1938.

Significance

The Rossborough Inn is one of few Federal style brick buildings surviving in Prince George's County, and the only one known to have been built as a Tavern. The land on which the Tavern stood was resurveyed and renamed Rossborough; in 1821 it was repurchased by George Calvert and passed, after his death, to his sons. In 1858 Charles Benedict Calvert sold it for the location of the new Maryland Agricultural College. The Tavern was the first building on the new campus. In 1888, the building was converted to house the new Agricultural Experiment Station; a third story was added by raising the original roof to a steep mansard. Restoration of the Rossborough Inn was begun in 1938 and completed in 1941. The most dramatic change was in the roofline, from the late Victorian gambrel/mansard to the present gable roof with symmetrically placed dormers; the two flanking wings were also built. The Inn is now used as the Faculty and Alumni Club and restaurant. It is an excellent example of a restoration project of the 1930's, and an integral part of the history of the Maryland Agricultural College, now the University of Maryland at College Park.

Acreege: 1,026 acres

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ross's Tavern, University of Maryland Building #080

and/or common Rossborough Inn (preferred)

## 2. Location

street & number Rt. #1 opposite Rossburg Drive (Baltimore Avenue)  not for publication

city, town College Park  vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name University of Maryland

street & number 3618 Campus Drive telephone no.: 454-3940

city, town College Park state and zip code Maryland 20742

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber

street & number Main Street folio

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. Historic Sites & Districts Plan

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission c/o MNCPPC

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. PG#66-2

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Rossborough Inn is an early nineteenth century Federal style brick building, Georgian in plan, with lower flanking wings constructed in 1938 at the same time the main block was rebuilt; it is distinguished by stone lintels and a handsome fanlight doorway with Coade keystone. It stands on the west edge of the old Baltimore-Washington Turnpike, on the eastern border of the University of Maryland campus at College Park.

The main block is two-and-one half stories, and side gabled, five bays by two, circa 45 by 35 feet. Entrance is in the central bay of the principal five-bay east facade through a six-panel door with a central vertical bead. The door is inset within a double two-plane round arch of gauged brick. There is a delicate eleven-section fanlight over the door set inside a panelled soffit. The outer arch (which is flush with the east facade) is ornamented by impost rosettes and an outstanding Coade keystone in the form of a smiling Silenus head. The doorway has a stone threshold, and a louvered wood stormdoor. There is no porch, but the door is approached by a flight of five modern brick steps, bounded by metal railings. Old photographs show that, before the 1938 restoration, there was a one-story porch across the entire east facade, supported by eight slim Tuscan posts.

The bricks of the east facade are laid in irregular Flemish bond, with an occasional double header or double stretcher. Windows are long wood frame 6/6 double hung sash, with plain wood sills, and dark green louvered wood shutters. On the main east facade, each window has a fine dressed stone lintel with projecting keystone; on the gable ends and the west elevation, each window is surmounted by a segmental arch in the brick.

The rear west elevation is slightly asymmetrical, because the rear door is slightly to the south of the staircase. The second-story window in the central bay of this elevation is downset to light the stair; earlier this opening had served as a door to a gallery which was constructed to connect the main block to the perpendicular rear annex. In 1938 the opening was reconverted to a window for the stair landing.

The main block rests on a foundation of dressed stone, above which is brick up to the molded watertable. Two below-grade windows with flat-arch lintels open into the east foundation and light the basement under the main block, and there is a bulkhead entrance to the basement in the first bay of the west rear elevation.

The gable roof (new with the 1938 restoration) is covered with brown asbestos shingle. There is a molded wood cornice, painted white, as are the narrow molded raking boards. At each gable end is a wide, flush corbelled chimney at the ridge. Three gable dormers pierce each plane of the gable roof; each dormer has molded cornice and full pediment, and encloses a small 6/6 window. Also lighting this third story level is a four-pane lunette window in each gable end.

Interior of the main block is Georgian plan: central stairhall with two parlors (joined by an arch) to the north, and one large parlor to the south. In the rear of the stairhall, the open-string staircase rises along the north wall, turns 90° at a landing, and turns again to the second story. There is a slim turned newel, rectangular balusters, and bracketed stairends. A simple pedestal chair-rail decorates the staircase wall. A plain plaster arch supported by pilasters divides the stairhall, and a similar arch divides the two halves of the north parlor. In each of the exterior walls are two wood mantels, with panelled pilasters and rectangular panels in the frieze. All of this interior trim probably dates from the 1938 restoration. The joined north parlors serve as a dining room while the large south parlor is another dining room and bar; a diagonally-set bar has been built into the northwest corner of the south room. There are five small individual dining rooms and two lavatories on the second story of the main block.

The main block is flanked by two unequal wings, and to the rear (west) another service building stands at right angles. The two flanking wings were constructed new in 1938, as part of that restoration project, presumably on the foundations of nineteenth century frame wings. Each of the wings is one-and-one half stories, built of brick in Flemish bond. The gable roofs are covered with brown asbestos shingle and each has a slightly projecting end chimney at the ridge. The north wing, which now serves as the office wing, is three bays long, circa 30 feet by 20, and deeply inset on both elevations from the main block. It has an entrance in the central bay of both east and west facades. Windows have the same treatment as in the main block, but are topped by segmental arches in the brick. Three gable dormers, flush with the facades, break through the east and west planes of the roof. These dormers have the same treatment as those of the main block. The south wing, which now serves as the kitchen, is two bays by two, ca. 25 by 30 feet, and only slightly inset from the main block. It has entrances in the northmost bays of the east and west facade. Treatment is the same as in the north wing, except that the two dormers in each plane of its gable roof are not flush with the facades, but set higher in the roof planes.

The rear two-part building is set at right angles to the main building; it dates at least from the mid-nineteenth century. It consists of a side-gabled two-story section five bays by one, approximately 43 feet by 17; a one-story two-bay section extends the building circa 17 more feet to the west. There is an end chimney at the west end of each. This building was also rebuilt in 1938; brick bonding, window, dormer and roof treatment are the same as the main building. The dormers (four on the south and three on the north) of the two-story section are flush with the south

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. PG#66-2

Description (continued)

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and north elevations, and break through the eaves and molded cornice. A long one-story shed-roof porch, with square panelled posts and segmentally-arched frieze, shelters the entire south side of the rear building. An enclosed gallery was constructed in 1888 to connect this rear building to the main building; this gallery was removed during the 1938 restoration, and the entrance to the gallery was converted into a window to light the staircase landing in the main block.

The complex of Rossborough buildings is lined by brick walkways, and there is a large old magnolia at the southwest corner. To the north, across the campus road, is the Dairy Building which was constructed in 1924. Originally a frame building with a flat roof, the Dairy was renovated in 1938 to be compatible with the Rossborough Inn; a brick veneer was applied, the roof was raised to a pitched gable, and double gable end chimneys were constructed.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history

**Specific dates** 1803 **Builder/Architect**

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  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 Rossborough Inn is significant on three separate levels: it is one of few Federal style brick buildings surviving in Prince George's County, and the only one known to have been built as a Tavern; it is an excellent example of a 1930's restoration project; and it is an important and integral part of the history of the Maryland Agricultural College, now the University of Maryland at College Park.

The main block was built circa 1803 by Richard Ross, on land (part of Buck's Lodge) which he had purchased from George Calvert of Riversdale in 1802. Tax assessments indicate the construction of the building circa 1803.<sup>1</sup> It was well-established as a tavern by 1811 when the following account was written by Anthony St. John Baker, a member of the British legation: "October 19, 1811: arrived early at Ross's, and went out, while dinner was getting ready . . . . Mr. Ross, the proprietor of the tavern, is a very respectable man, an Irishman, who came to this country without a penny, but has, by his good conduct, contrived to obtain a property of at least thirty thousand dollars. October 20, 1811: At about nine left Ross's tavern; thirteen miles to Washington."<sup>2</sup>

"Ross's Tavern" was one of the landmarks indicated in the laying out of the Baltimore Washington Turnpike a year later.<sup>3</sup>

During Ross' ownership, parts of Buck's Lodge and other tracts, including the tavern, were surveyed and combined into a new and larger tract, and renamed Rossborough. In 1821 George Calvert repurchased this tract, and considered it "a great addition to the Riversdale estate by the purchase of Ross Tavern."<sup>4</sup> In October 1824, Lafayette and his retinue spent the night at Ross' Tavern as the guests of George Calvert, on their way from Baltimore to Washington.<sup>5</sup>

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#66-2  
Section 8 Page 2

Rosborough (also known then as the Rossburg Farm) passed, after George Calvert's death in 1838, to his sons;<sup>6</sup> in 1858 Charles Benedict Calvert, then proprietor of Riversdale and prime mover in the establishment of the Maryland Agricultural College, sold to the college the 428- acre Rossburg Farm, eleven small parcels "unitedly constituted into one farm . . . by the name of Rosborough"<sup>7</sup>, on which the college was to be built.

The Planters' Advocate praised the selection of this site for the college: "a farm belonging to Charles B. Calvert, Esq., about 2 miles from Riversdale' . . . immediately on the line of the railroad between Baltimore and Washington, . . . readily accessible from all parts of the state . . . has upon it valuable improvements that will be easily made available for the purpose of the Institution, is well watered, . . . So happy a selection is a good omen for the future success of the college."<sup>8</sup>

Ross' Tavern, which for some years before its sale to the College had not served as a tavern, was immediately converted into a faculty residence and classroom, while at the same time, ground was broken for the principal new building: "The cornerstone of the proposed edifice was laid by Charles B. Calvert, Esq., with appropriate ceremonies, and the same gentleman delivered an address suitable to the occasion."<sup>9</sup>

A plat of the Rosborough Inn, which dates to the period just before the establishment of the College and which was discovered during the 1938 restoration, shows that at that time the tavern building had two flanking wings.<sup>10</sup> In 1865, insurance claims indicate a fire at the building,<sup>11</sup> and it is likely that the flanking wings, presumably frame, were not replaced after the fire. In any case, the wings were not standing in 1888 when the first major renovation of the building was undertaken. At that time the building was converted in order to house the new Agricultural Experiment Station; a third story was added by raising the original gable (or gambrel) roof to a steep mansard, and the rear building was connected to the main one by an enclosed gallery.

The first annual report of the Experiment Station described the alterations: "Without much change to the exterior, the main building has had a third story added, and has been remodeled and thoroughly repaired, at an expense of about three thousand dollars. . . . A hall nine feet wide extends across the middle of the first floor of the main building. On the north side are two rooms, 16 feet square and connecting, for the general offices; on the south the whole space is thrown into one large room for the chemical laboratory. One the second floor . . . a library and study, . . . museum, a room for the principal and a great chamber. On the third floor are four good rooms for the private quarters of the assistants and a small one for meteorological apparatus and chemical stores. The rear building has been connected with the one in front by an enclosed gallery, ten feet long . . . the buildings are well-finished, furnished, and equipped for their special uses."<sup>12</sup>

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#66-2

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Photographs from the turn of this century show the new roof profile of the building, with "Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, 1888" painted in huge white letters on the south end.

In the 50 years between the establishment of the Agricultural Experiment Station and the renovations of 1938, a series of minor repairs were undertaken and recorded in the annual reports of the experiment station, e.g., lining the basement with concrete, whitewashing the brick, and creating a library in the south parlor.<sup>13</sup>

There exists a description of the Rossborough building as it was in 1926, particularly valuable in that it records the condition of the building before the 1938 renovations were begun. This essay describes the main facade and fine treatment of the principal east facade, the stair-hall and room arrangements, including the two rooms to the north and one large one to the south, as well as the enclosed gallery which led from the stair landing to the rear building.<sup>14</sup>

Restoration/renovation of the Rossborough building was begun in 1938 and completed in 1941, under the direction of architect Howard W. Cutler.<sup>15</sup> The most dramatic change was in the roofline, from the late Victorian gambrel/mansard to the present gable roof with symmetrically placed dormers. Excavations located the foundations of the early wings, and the two present wings were built upon their lines. The east porch was removed and replaced by a simple brick stoop. The rear building was completely rebuilt, changed from a fully two-story assymetrical structure to the present more regular structure with dormers breaking through the eaves; the connecting gallery was removed and its entrance (in the main building) converted into a landing window. At the same time, the dairy building just to the north was remodeled to present a compatible appearance.

Since this renovation, the Rossborough building has been used as the Faculty and Alumni Club and restaurant. It is a noticeable landmark on the main artery through College Park; it preserves many original features of the Federal style tavern, (including a unique Coade stone Silenus keystone), and serves as an excellent example of a restoration project of the 1930's. At the same time it is an important and integral part of the history of the Maryland Agricultural College, now the University of Maryland at College Park.

Notes

1 Prince George's County Deeds JRM #9:301,378; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1798-1805.

2 Baker, Anthony St. John, Memories d'un Voyageur qui se repose, London, 1850

3 Acts of General Assembly 1812, Chapter 78.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
Statement of Significance (continued)

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- 4 Prince George's County Deed AB #2:211; letter from George Calvert to brothers-in-law Stier and Van Havre, 21 September 1821.
- 5 Nolan, J. Bennett, Lafayette Day by Day, Baltimore, 1934, pp. 253-54.
- 6 Prince George's County Will PC #1:89 ff.
- 7 Prince George's County Deed CSM #2:294
- 8 Planters' Advocate, 27 January 1858
- 9 Ibid, 1 September 1858
- 10 This plat is presently on display in the taproom of the Inn.
- 11 "Proof of loss" statement, 27 May 1865, (Maryland Room, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland.)
- 12 First Annual Report of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station at Maryland Agricultural College, Prince George's County, Maryland, 1888.
- 13 Annual reports of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station.
- 14 Kellerman, William F., "The History and Construction of the Rossburg Inn", essay for initiation into Phi Mu Engineering Fraternity, University of Maryland, 1926. Later published in Maryland Historical Magazine, vol 33, pp. 273-80, Sept. 1938.
- 15 Working drawings "Restoration of Rossborough Inn", 1938, microfilm at Physical Plant department, College Park.



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

P.G. 66-2

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Rossborough Inn

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Baltimore Boulevard (Rte.#1)

CITY, TOWN College Park VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5th

STATE Maryland COUNTY Prince George's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME University of Maryland

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN College Park VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Liber #: CSM#2:294

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Prince George's Courthouse

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER Main Street

CITY, TOWN Upper Marlboro STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey (Library of Congress)

DATE Prince George's County Survey  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Calvert Mansion, Riverdale, Maryland

CITY, TOWN STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

PG:66-2

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original central portion of the Rossborough Inn is a two-and-one-half-story brick structure laid in Flemish bond with flush gable chimneys at each end. The windows in the five-bay east facade have stone lintels with keystones. The entrance, in the central bay of the east facade, is topped with a recessed inner and a flush outer arch within which is an arched fanlight. The outer arch has impost rosettes and a keystone with a Silenus head and the inscription "T. Coade 1798" beneath it.

The Inn has two one-and-one-half-story wings: a north wing three bays wide, with central door, and a south wing two bays wide, with a door in the northmost bay; both wings have external end chimneys. These two wings were constructed in 1938, to replace frame wings which had been part of the inn during the 19th century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local history

SPECIFIC DATES 1803-1804

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rossborough Inn was built on a tract of land (Buck's Lodge) purchased by Richard Ross from George Calvert in 1802. Ross completed the construction of the inn between 1803 and 1804, and it came to be known as Ross's Tavern. (It is known to have been in use as an inn by October 1811, when Anthony St. John Baker, secretary to the British legation stayed at Ross's Tavern on his way from Baltimore to Washington.)

Parts of Buck's Lodge and other tracts (including the Inn) were surveyed and combined into a new and larger tract known as Rossborough, which was repurchased by Calvert in 1822. It passed to his son, Charles Benedict Calvert of Riversdale, who in 1858 sold 428 acres including the Rossborough tract to the newly-formed Maryland Agricultural College. Calvert was instrumental in the founding of the college, the campus was laid out on this tract, and it is now known as the University of Maryland.

In the early years of the college, the Inn served as both a faculty residence and classroom. In 1888, it was thoroughly renovated, and a third story and mansard roof were added. The earlier frame north and south wings no longer existed, but a rear dependency was connected to the main building, forming an annex to the west. It was at this time, in 1888, that this structure became the first agricultural experiment station in the nation; it served this purpose for 50 years. In 1938, the present north and south wings were constructed on the foundations of the earlier wings, the roof was restored to its former lines, and the kitchen-dining annex to the west was completely rebuilt. The Rossborough Inn today serves as the University of Maryland Faculty-Alumni Club.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

P.G. County Deeds: JRM#9:301; JRM#9:378 AB#2:211  
 CSM#2:294. AB#11:377

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Susan G. Pearl, Project Co-ordinator

ORGANIZATION

P.G. Historical & Cultural Trust

DATE

October 1979

STREET & NUMBER

6701 McDonough Terrace

TELEPHONE

262-3367

CITY OR TOWN

Bowie, Maryland

20715

STATE

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  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

(NOTE: SEE REMAINING NR FORM)

PG # 100-2  
11-1-52  
P.G. 52

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1700524210

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Faculty Club-University of Maryland				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Rossborough Inn				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: Baltimore Boulevard (Rte. 1)				
CITY OR TOWN: College Park				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Prince George's		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: University of Maryland				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: College Park			STATE: Maryland	
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress				
STREET AND NUMBER: 10 1st Street SE				
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC			STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered    <input type="checkbox"/> Unfiltered           </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site           </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The house is a two story, brick structure laid up in Flemish bond with flush gable chimneys at either end. The central doorway is set in an arched opening with a recessed inner and flush outer archivolt. The keystone and impost blocks are carved. Above the square-headed, panelled door is an arched fanlight. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash with stone lintels carved in the shape of jack arches with keystones. The windows in the gable ends have segmental arches; in the attic is a semi-circular window. There are three dormers on the facade; they have pedimented faces and are clapboard sheathed.</p> <p>On either end is a wing. The north is three bays with a central doorway and flanking 6/6 double hung sash windows. It is a story and a half, with dormers breaking through the line of the eaves. The south wing is two bays and one story with dormers on the roof slope. Both wings have external end chimneys.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the 1930's, the building was restored, with extensive remodelling, as a WPA project.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

[Empty space for bibliographical references]

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

[Empty space for acreage justification]

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: MNCPPC      DATE: 1 Nov 74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

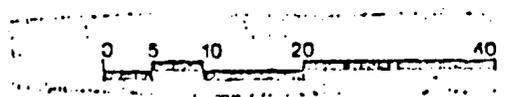
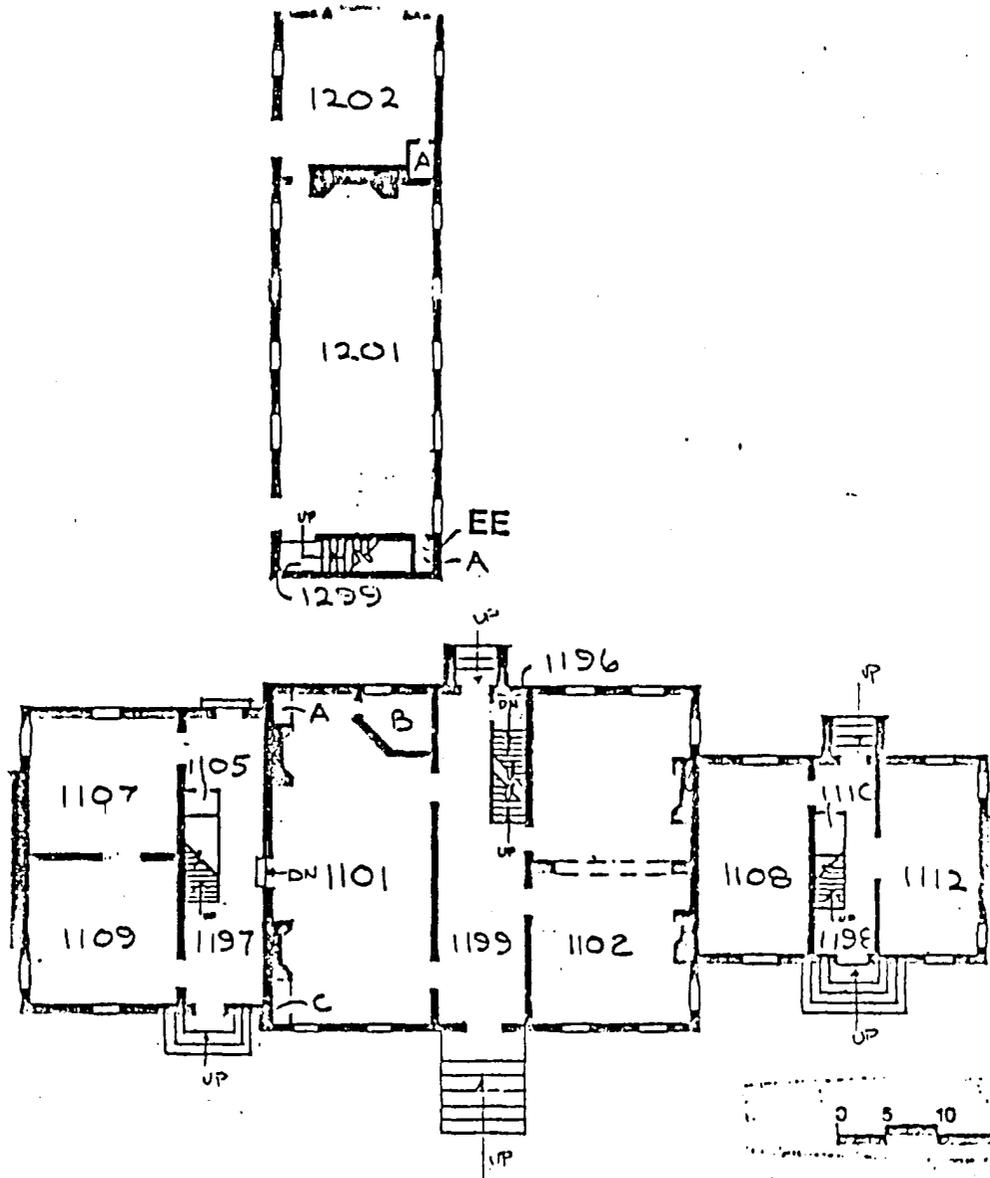
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring      STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:  
 National     State     Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



BUILDING: ROSSBOROUGH INN

FLOOR: FIRST

SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"

DATE: MAY 28, 1976

REV. 11-9-78

PG: 66-2

G.S.F:

UNIVERSITY  
OF  
MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF:  
PLANS, PROGRAMS AND  
CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

0000

GOLF COURSE

MD. ROUTE 193

BRANCHVILLE

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

MAIN CAMPUS

PG: 66-2

ROSSBOROUGH INN

(66-2)

INDIAN CREEK

PARK UNIT NO.

INDIAN CREEK

COLLEGE PARK

LAKELAND

PAIN BRANCH PARK

BALTIMORE

LAKELAND

ROAD

AVENUE

COLLEGE

RHODE ISLAND

AVENUE

GUAYLORD

ROAD

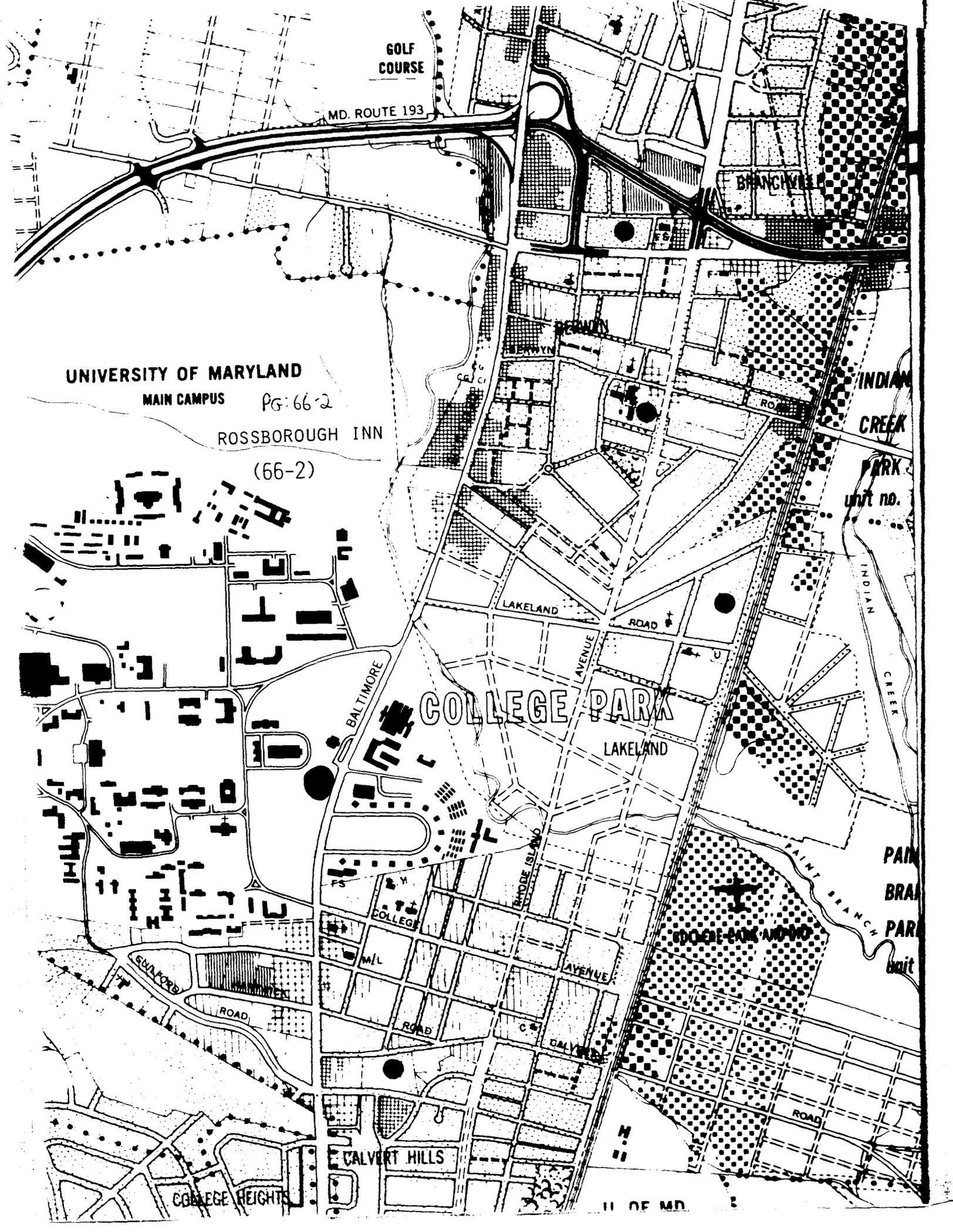
ROAD

GALVIER

CALVERT HILLS

COLLEGE HEIGHTS

U. OF MD.

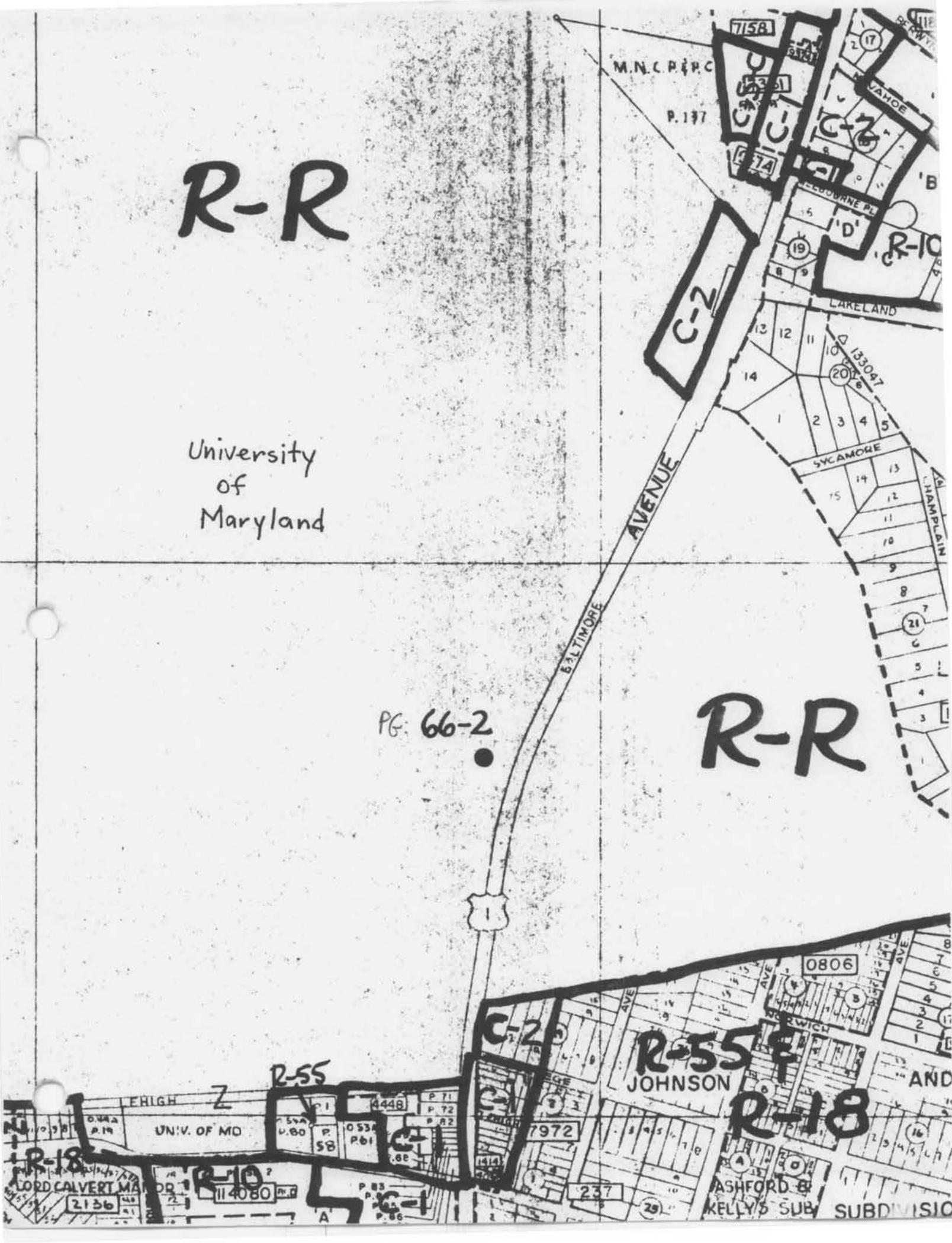


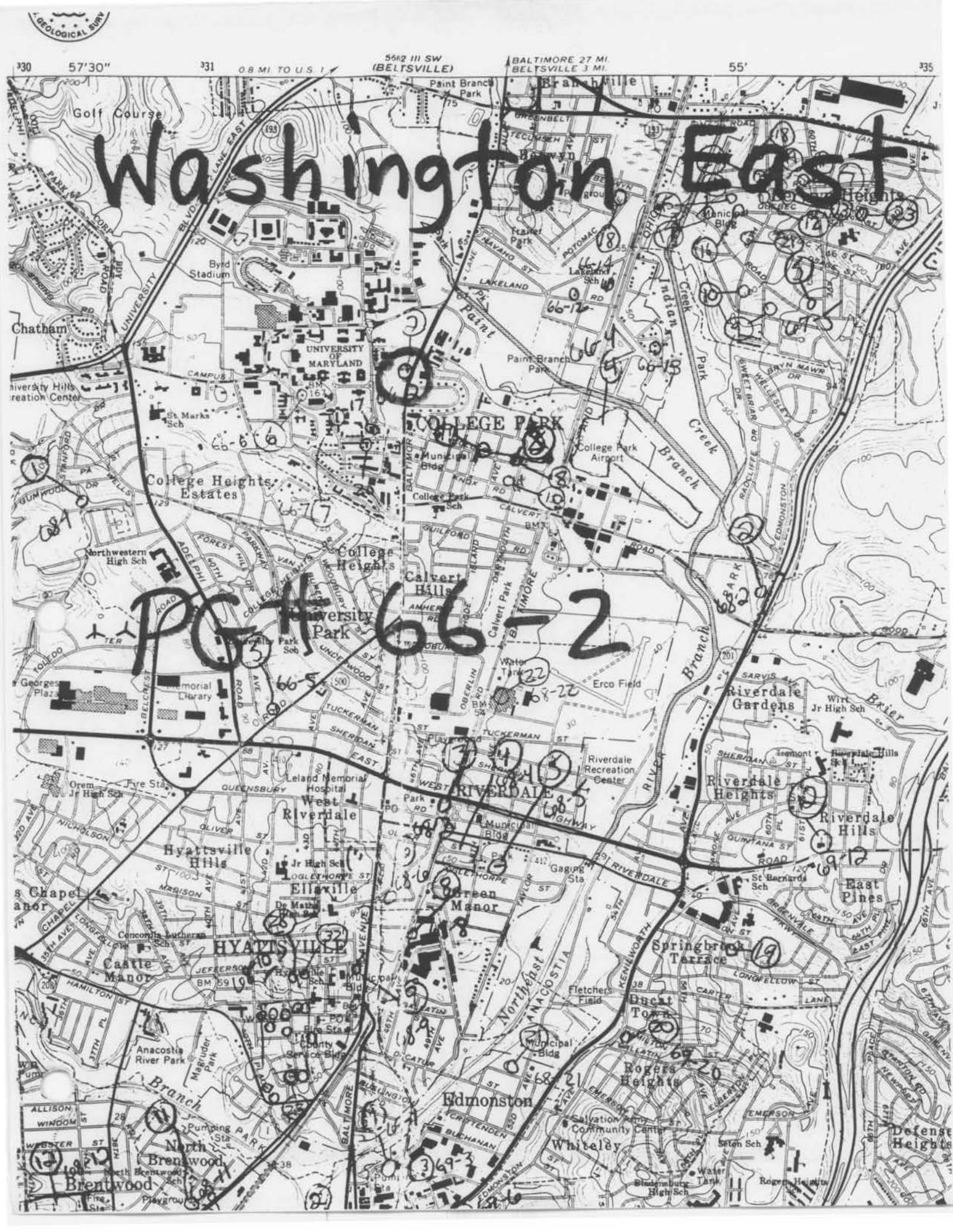
R-R

University  
of  
Maryland

PG: 66-2

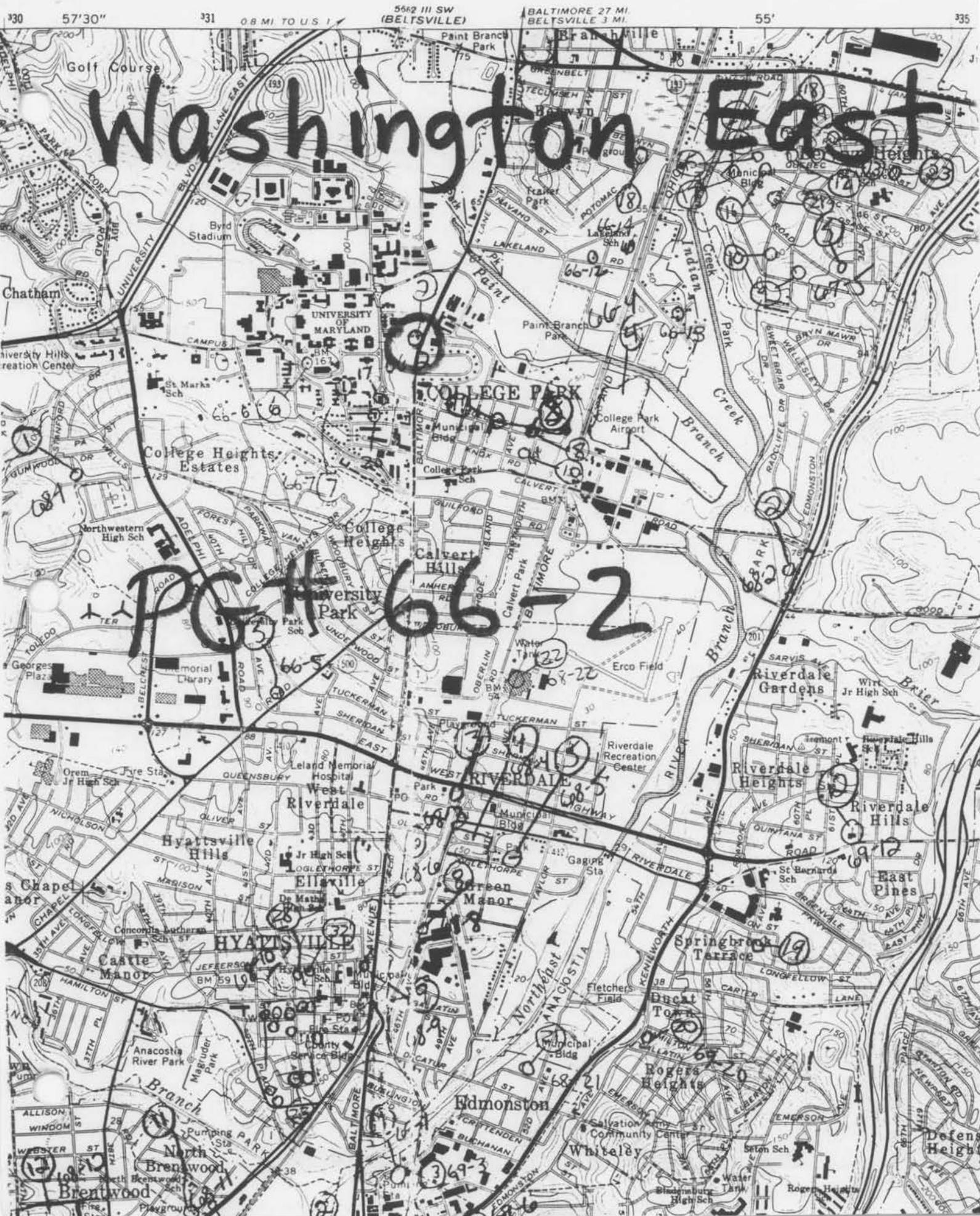
R-R





# Washington East

PG# 66-2





ROSSBURG INN  
COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND  
VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST (FRONT) PHOTO BY: JOHN O. BROSTRUP

1936

PG:66-2



Rossborough Inn  
Prince George's Co. MD  
Susan L. Pearl  
April 1988  
Southeast  $\frac{3}{4}$  elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust,  
Annapolis, MD.



P6-66-2

Rosborough Inn  
Prince George's Co, MD  
Susan L Poehl

April 1988

East door, detail

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust,  
Annapolis, MD.



Rossborough  
Inn  
Maryland University Club

Pk # 66-2

Rosedown Inn  
Prince George's Co MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
April 1988  
Northcrown  
Mtg: Mt. West. Trust,  
Annapolis, MD.



Rosborough Inn  
Prince Georges Co., MD.  
Susan L. Pearl  
April 1988  
Northeast  $\frac{3}{4}$  elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust,  
Annapolis, MD.



Pl. # 66-2

Rosborough Inn  
Prince George's Co. MD.  
Susan L. Pearl  
April 1988  
Southeast  $\frac{3}{4}$  elevation  
Mag: MD. Hist. Trust,  
Annapolis, MD.



PG # 66-2

Rosborough Inn  
Prince George's Co., MD  
Susan L. Pearl

April 1988

Scrit parlor mantel  
Fig: Md. Hist. Trust,  
Annapolis, MD.



PG #66-2

Rosborough Inn  
Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1988

Stair from east

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust,  
Annapolis, MD



PG #66-2

Roseboroyt Inn  
Prince Georges Co. MD  
Susan L. Pearl

April 1988

East window, detail

Neg: Md. Hist Trust



PG #66-2

Rosborough Inn  
Prince Georges Co. MD  
Susan L. Pearl  
April 1988  
East door  
neg: Md. Hist. Trust,  
Annapolis, MD



PG # 66-2

Rosborough Inn  
Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1988

Northwest detail

neg: Md Hist Trust,  
Annapolis, MD



NAME ROSSBOROUGH INN (UNIV. OF MD)

LOCATION Rt 1 COLLEGE PARK, MD

FACADE E

PHOTO TAKEN 11/1/74 MDWYER

PG: 66-2