PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: P.G.#66-21-30 Building Date: 1893-97

Building Name: Taliaferro House

Location: 7406 Columbia Avenue, College Park

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

The Taliaferro House is a two-and-one-half story front gable frame dwelling with an irregularly spaced pattern of bays and a rectangular plan. An entrance porch with a triangular pediment above the entrance bay crosses the east (main) elevation and wraps around the south elevation where it forms a semi-octagonal bay. Centered on the main elevation at second story level is a semi-octagonal oriel window supported on wood brackets, lighted by four 6/2 sash windows. At attic level the gable end is lighted by a single centered 6/6 sash window surmounted by a triangular wainscotted panel in the gable peak. Formerly covered with horizontal wood siding on the first story and wood shingle on the second, the house is now clad in asbestos shingle applied in the late 1960's. Located on a town lot in Old Town College Park, the house is surrounded by mature trees and plantings.

Significance

The Taliaferro House is significant as a fine example of a suburban dwelling in the simplified form of the Queen Anne style, popular in developing suburban areas in the late 19th century. Constructed between 1893 and 1897, it also is significant as one of the first houses constructed in the new suburb of College Park. It is closely associated with the family of John Oliver Johnson, the developer of College Park. It is the only remaining dwelling associated with Johnson.

Acreage: 14,000 square feet

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance - AD 1870 - 1930

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Domestic/Single Dwelling

Design Source: unknown

Survey No. P.G.66-21-30

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Taliaferro House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 7406 Columbia Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town College Park ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state MD county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	_X_ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	_X_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_X_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	_X_ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Emily Smith Bryant

street & number 7406 Columbia Avenue telephone no.:

city, town College Park state and zip code MD 20740

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6215

street & number Main Street folio 298

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#66-21-30

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

The Taliaferro House is a two-and-one-half story front gable frame dwelling with an irregularly spaced pattern of bays. It is a fine example of a suburban dwelling in a simplified form of the Queen Anne style, popular in developing suburban areas in the late 19th century. An entrance porch wraps around the east and south elevations. Formerly covered with horizontal wood siding on the first story and wood shingle on the second, the house is now completely covered with asbestos shingle put on in the late 1960's. Located on a town lot in Old Town College Park, the house is surrounded by mature trees and plantings.

The east, main gable end is roughly one bay. The main entrance is slightly off-center, flanked by a single 6/2 double-hung wood sash window on the north and two to the south. The entrance door is enframed by a flat board surround. The lintel has a raised cornice molding. Incorporated within the door surround is a sidelight on the north side of the door, above a wainscot panel.

The second story has a centered semi-octagonal oriel window supported on wood brackets, lighted by four 6/2 sash windows. The attic story has a single centered 6/6 sash window surmounted by a triangular wainscotted panel in the gable peak. The windows have wide board surrounds, wood sills and narrow lintel moldings.

The hipped roof entrance porch has a triangular enclosed pediment above the entrance bay. A metal covering in the pediment is decorated by a wreath and floral swag, impressed into the metal. The porch is reached by a flight of four brick stairs. There are three bays on the east elevation and the porch wraps around the east bay of the south elevation. The porch roof has a boxed, crown-molded cornice. The south bays were enclosed circa 1955, and the resulting room serves as an office. The porch roof is supported by double heavy turned wooden posts at each bay division. The posts rest on a wooden half-wall covered with the same siding material as the house.

The house stands on a brick foundation. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingle. The crown-molded cornice conceals the boxed guttering system. The cornice is returned in the gable ends, with a plain frieze board below the cornice line.

The two bay south elevation has the east bay covered by the enclosed entrance porch, which is semi-octagonal, lighted by double 6/1 sash windows in each face. The second story is punctuated by a window which breaks through the cornice line and has a separate hipped roof. The west bay is a two story semi-octagonal bay, having a single 6/2 sash window in each face and a hipped roof. There is a large rectangular brick chimney centered at the gable ridge.

The west (rear) gable end has three regularly spaced bays at first and second story level and a centered 6/6 sash window at attic level. The south bay

originally had a cut-out corner balcony, which was enclosed for use as a bathroom prior to 1930. The northeast corner is covered by a one-by-one bay, one story gable roof kitchen wing, standing on a concrete-parged brick foundation. The wing has a small rectangular wooden belvedere with louvered sides and a gable roof, centered at the gable ridge.

The two bay north elevation has a one-story semi-octagonal bay in the east bay, lighted by a 6/2 sash window in each face. The west bay is an entrance door sheltered by a flat-roofed porch with posts and balustrade identical to those on the front porch. Between the projecting bay and the side porch is a diamond-shaped opening containing a circular window which lights the landing of the interior stair. There are two windows at second story level which break through the cornice, forming hipped-roof dormers.

The interior of the Taliaferro House has an off-center entrance hall. The parlor and the dining room flank the hall on the south, while a small octagonal parlor and the stairwell flank the hall on the north. The kitchen is at the west end of the hall. Door and window surrounds are wide white-painted flat moldings with two outer rectangular bands and a central ovolo molding. There are bull's-eye corner blocks and banded base blocks. The baseboards are wide, with an ogee cap. An original light fixture in the hall near the entrance door is a glass lantern with an open bottom, suspended by a chain. The hall and two parlors have wall-to-wall carpeting. Hardwood flooring installed throughout the house in the late 1930's is visible in the dining room.

Double French doors added circa the late 1930's give entrance to the small north parlor. The parlor is set in the one story projecting north bay, and has a semi-octagonal north wall. This room is lighted by an original chandelier composed of a central circular metal tray suspended from the ceiling by three chains. Hanging from beneath the tray are three tulip-shaped frosted glass shades, open at the bottom.

The enclosed stair is located halfway down the north side of the entrance hall. The black-painted newel is a large, rectangular post with a cubical base and a long center section with a turned spindle at each corner. The upper section has a decorative fan motif engraved in each of the three outer faces, and a flat cap. There are two turned balusters to the step. The stair turns a dogleg and meets a landing lighted by a circular window. A flight turns 90 degrees and continues to the second floor. A second flight forms a rear stair, running along the north wall down to the kitchen.

The large south parlor is reached through a wide opening which originally was closed by pocket doors. The pockets have been enclosed. French doors were added during the 1930's, but these also have been removed. A fireplace is centered in the west wall. The firebox and hearth are covered with narrow rectangular green tile. The wood mantel has a rectangular mantel shelf above a frieze with three rectangular inset panels. The mantel shelf is supported by two elongated spindles standing on long curving brackets which reach all the way to the floor, flanking the firebox. Walls throughout the dwelling are plaster. The ceiling in the south parlor and dining room have been covered

with ceiling tile. There is an entry to the dining room in the west wall, south of the fireplace. This opening was created circa 1940, when the opening from the main hallway to the dining room was closed and made into a closet.

The dining room is reached from the parlor on the east and a small hallway from the kitchen on the west. There is a fireplace in the east wall, sharing the chimney with the one in the east parlor. The mantel is identical. The south end of the room is in a semi-octagonal bay. A door in the southeast corner has three lower panels and two upper rectangular lights. It formerly was an exterior door and now gives access to the enclosed south porch. A five-panel door in the north wall formerly gave access to the main stair hall but now remains closed because a closet was created on the hall side.

At the west end of the main hallway is a short perpendicular hall, with an entry to the basement stairs on the north and entry to a closet on the south. This closet originally was a small entry vestibule to the dining room, but the dining room door has been closed, and shelving and a coat bar have been installed.

The west end of the main hallway gives access to a breakfast room with a built-in cupboard in the south wall. This room originally served as the kitchen. A chimney that serviced the stove rises on the west wall. There is an exit to the side porch in the north wall. This opening also gives access to the rear stair to the second story. An opening in the south wall adjoining the built-in cupboard gives access to a short west hallway with entry to the dining room and a bathroom in the southwest corner of the house. This bathroom was once a corner porch, which was enclosed for a bath prior to 1930.

The one story west wing is reached through a wide opening in the north wall of this room. The wing originally held a back kitchen or summer kitchen. It was remodeled to serve as the main cooking area of the house.

The Taliaferro House stands on lot 7 and the south ten feet of lot 6 in Johnson and Curriden's Subdivision of College Park, for a lot of 14,000 square feet. The rear yard contains two outbuildings. Both are gable roof, frame one-by-two bay structures. The east building is a dirt floored shed constructed in the 1930's. Covered with German siding, it has a five-panel wooden door in the north gable end and a fixed double 4-light window in the east elevation. There are projecting rafter ends, corner boards and a crown-molded raking cornice.

The west building is a frame garage dating prior to 1930. It has horizontal wood siding, and an asphalt shingle roof. There are double wood garage doors with glazed upper panels in the north gable end. The building stands on a poured concrete slab.

The house is surrounded by mature trees and plantings. Trees planted by Warner Taliaferro prior to 1930 include the pecan tree in the center of the rear yard and the tulip poplar along the north property line. A horsechestnut along the north rear property line was transplanted there from the Cory House

(66-8) in the 1950's. Other plantings include large old boxwoods along the foundation at the front of the house.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#66-21-30

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	X community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1893-97 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: X A ___ B X C ___ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Level of Significance: ___ national ___ state X local

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

The Taliaferro House is significant as a fine example of a suburban dwelling in the simplified form of the Queen Anne style, popular in developing suburban areas in the late 19th century. Constructed between 1893 and 1897, it also is significant as one of the first houses constructed in the new suburb of College Park. It is closely associated with the family of John Oliver Johnson, the developer of College Park. It is the only remaining dwelling associated with Johnson.

College Park was platted in 1890 by John Oliver Johnson, a real estate developer from Washington, D.C.[1] He had purchased approximately 127 acres from Ella Calvert Campbell, which constituted her share of Riversdale, the Calvert family estate.[2] It had been divided among the heirs after the death of Charles B. Calvert in 1864. In addition to the acreage, the Johnsons had acquired the Campbell dwelling (now gone), and they resided there off and on over the next 23 years, as the new suburb developed.[3] John Oliver Johnson died in 1913.

College Park was bounded by the old Baltimore-Washington Turnpike (U.S. Route 1) on the west, and the Washington Branch of the B & O Railroad on the east. It was serviced by a railroad stop called College Station. The Campbell mansion was located just west of the railroad track, at the intersection of what is now College and Columbia Avenues. The railroad station was close by, at the Calvert Road crossing of the tracks.

The Taliaferro House was constructed by George H. Johnston, a cousin of the Johnson family.[4] The dwelling was located just south of the Johnson residence, on lot 7 of block 5, fronting on Columbia Avenue. In 1893 Johnston was assessed $1600 for a new house in College Park. In 1897 the assessment was increased to $2200, for a two and one-half story dwelling on Columbia Avenue.[5] It is probable that the earlier assessment was for the same dwelling, but what caused the increase in assessed value is not known.

Construction proceeded slowly in the new subdivision. In 1897 there were only

thirteen dwellings constructed, making the Taliaferro House one of the earliest.[6] Emily F. Taliaferro, a daughter of John Oliver Johnson, was married in 1896, and according to family history, she took up residence in the Taliaferro House at that time. She did not actually gain title to the house until 1904, when she purchased it from George H. Johnston.[7] Emily had married Warner T. L. Taliaferro, a professor of agricultural economics at the University of Maryland. His cousin was a Dean at the University of Maryland, and Taliaferro Hall on the campus is named for this related family member, not for Warner Taliaferro.

After the death of John Oliver Johnson in 1913, his wife, Katharine D. L. Johnson, moved to the Taliaferro House to live with her daughter and son-in-law. The dwelling is resided in by family members to the present day.

The Taliaferro House is one of the few remaining dwellings in Old Town College Park which is a relatively unaltered example of the large late Victorian dwellings which characterized the earliest period of the development of the town. Although the original horizontal wood siding and wood shingle was covered with asbestos shingle in the late 1960s, the dwelling displays the form and many architectural details of the Queen Anne style. Although basically rectangular in plan, it displays irregular placement of bays and door and window openings. There are one and two story semi-octagonal bays, including the south end of the wrap-around entrance porch. Other decorative elements include bracketing supporting an oriel window, and a wainscot panel in the main gable end.

The house stands in a setting of mature trees and plantings, planted by Warner Taliaferro. The Taliaferros and the associated Johnson family were instrumental in the early development of the town of College Park.

1.Maude Cahill, "Centennial Celebration, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, College Park, Maryland, 1890-1990,". Brochure published by the church, located at 4512 College Avenue, College Park, Maryland, 20740.

2.Prince George's County Land Records, JWB 13:297; and Susan Pearl, Riversdale Historic Structures Report, 1979.

3.Interview with Emily Smith Bryant and Katharine Bryant, April 29, 1991; and Cahill, op.cit.

4.Interview, op.cit.

5.Prince George's County Tax Assessments, Election District #1, for the years 1890 through 1900.

6.Prince George's County Tax Assessments, Election District #1, 1897.

7.Prince George's County Land Records, 20:541.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#66-21-30

See End Notes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 14,000 sq. ft. map 33 Lot 7, Block 5

Quadrangle name Washington East B **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

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 Marina King, Preservation Planner

organization Historic Preservation Commission **date** April 1992

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr. **telephone** 301-952-4609

city or town Upper Marlboro **state** MD 20772

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.

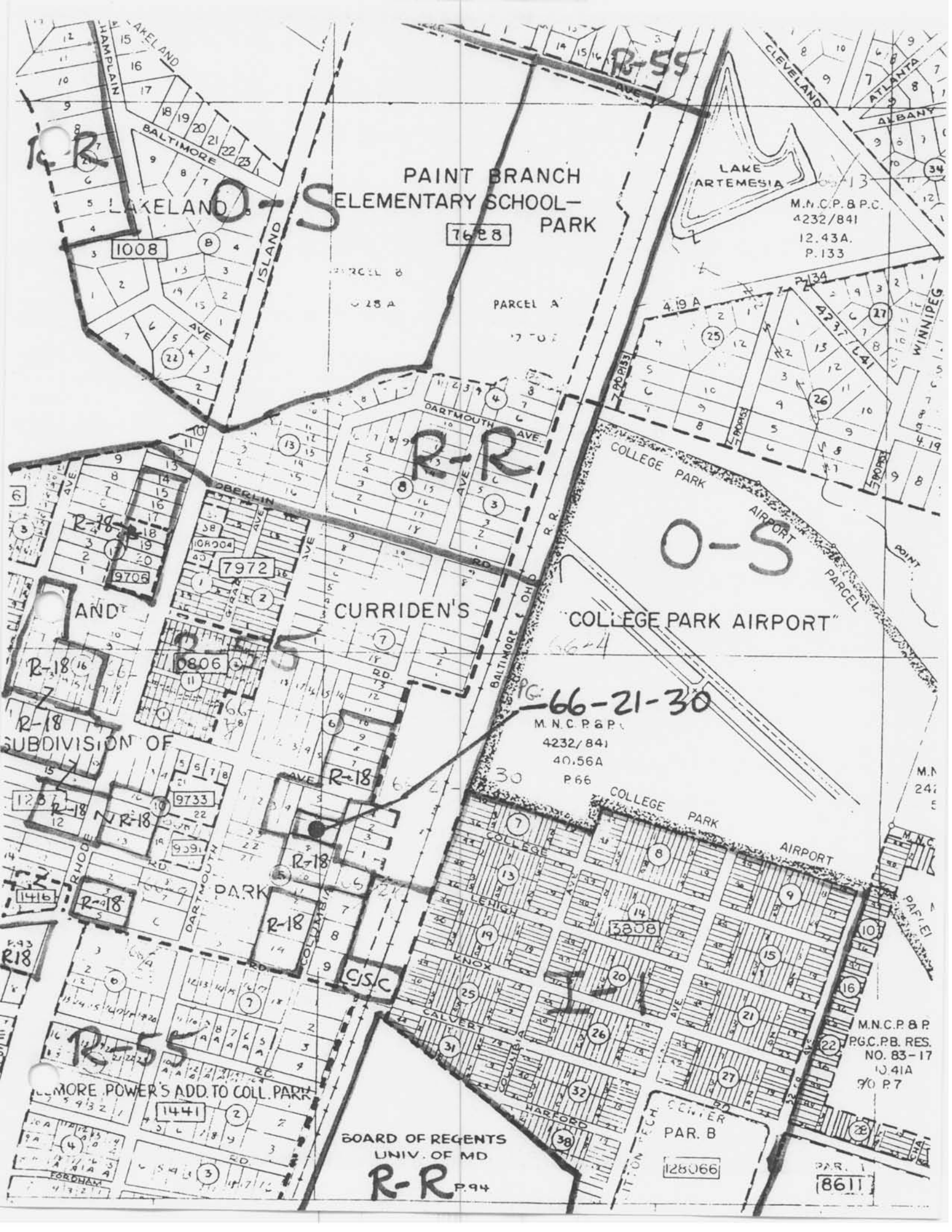
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

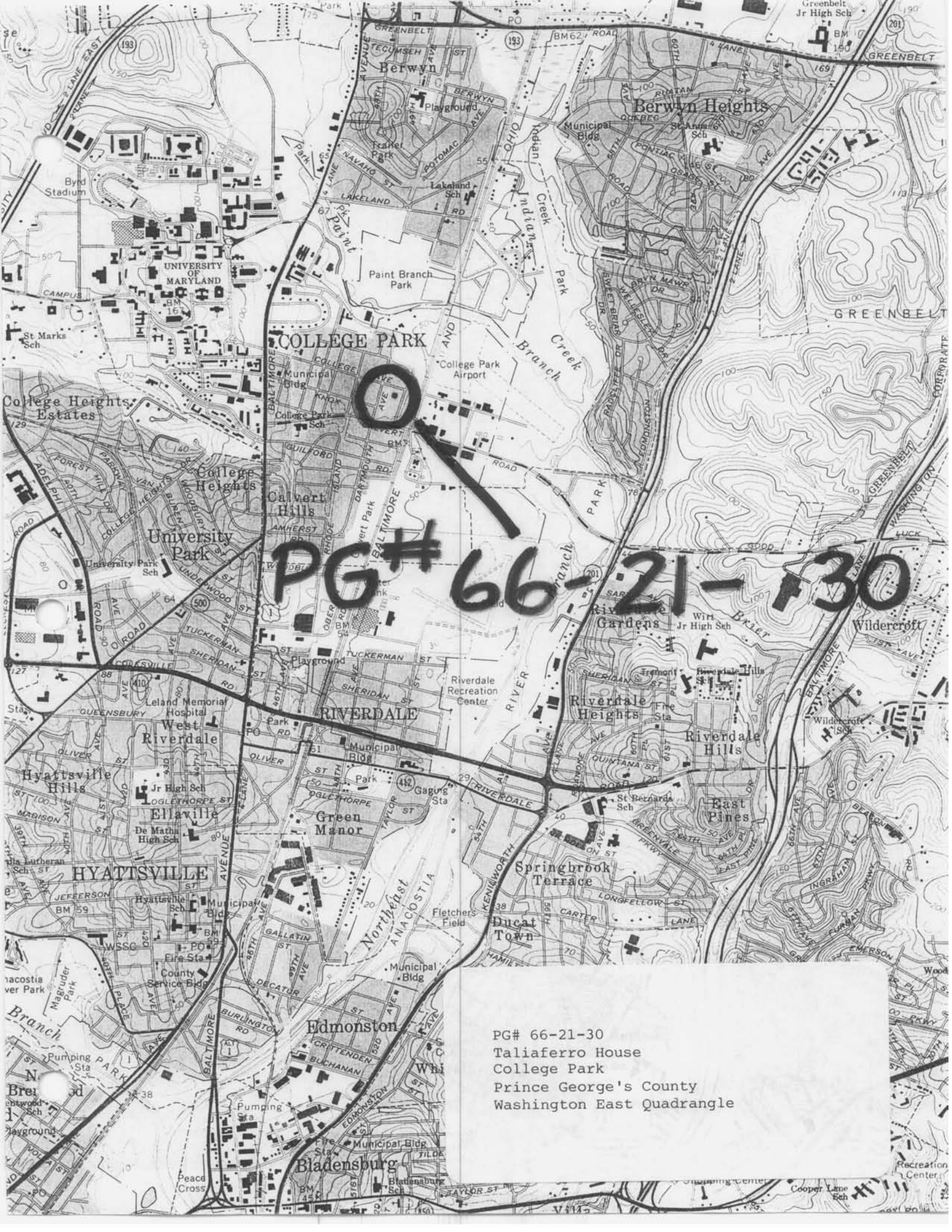
Chain of Title

Taliaferro House
fG: 66-21-30

6215:298 14 Nov 1985 Deed	Warner T. and Frederick W. Smith, representatives of the estate of Katharine Darlington Smith, dec'd., to Emily Smith Bryant, Warner T. Smith and Frederick W. Smith. Under terms of the will (Ad #32,749), parties of the 2nd part receive Smith's share of Lot 7 and the south 10 feet of Lot 6 with buildings and improvements. Same received under will of Elizabeth E. Smith, 6 Oct 1953, Ad #10330, WCH 2:312. Above are all children of Elizabeth E. Smith.
Ad File 10,330 6 Oct 1953	Will of Elizabeth E. Smith. Rest and residue of estate to four children, share and share alike. Two remaining sons, John O. Smith and William A. Smith - $1.00. Katherine D. Smith and Warner T. Smith executors. Elizabeth E. Smith owned Lot 7 and part of Lot 6, Block 5, with improvements valued at $9,500.
24:333 6 April 1905 Deed	John O. Johnson and Katharine L. Johnson of Washington, D.C. to Emily Taliaferro. For $10 grantors convey Lot 3 in Block 1, Lots 6 and 8 in Block 5, subject to indeptedness by Deed of Trust.
20:541 24 Dec 1904 Deed	George H. Johnston (widower) to Emily Taliaferro. For $1000 grantor conveys Lot 7 in Block 5, subject to $1700 mortgage.



PAINT BRANCH
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—
PARK
7628
LAKELAND
1008
LAKE
ARTEMESIA
M.N.C.P. & P.C.
4232/841
12.43A.
P.133
PARCEL A
R-55
R-R
O-S
CURRIDEN'S
"COLLEGE PARK AIRPORT"
COLLEGE PARK AIRPORT PARCEL
BALTIMORE & OHIO R.R.
DARTMOUTH AVE.
OBERLIN
7972
9706
0806
SUBDIVISION OF
PARK
9733
1416
R-18
66-21-30
M.N.C.P. & P.C.
4232/841
40.56A
P.66
COLLEGE PARK AIRPORT
COLLEGE
LEHIGH
KNOX
CALVERT
HARFORD
3808
I-1
C.S.C.
M.N.C.P. & P.
P.G.C.P.B. RES.
NO. 83-17
10.41A
P.7
LLMORE POWER'S ADD. TO COLL. PARK
1441
BOARD OF REGENTS
UNIV. OF MD
R-R P.94
PAR. B
128066
8611



PG# 66-21-30
Taliaferro House
College Park
Prince George's County
Washington East Quadrangle

PG # 66-21-30

Talliaferro House

Elevation

College Park

Date _____

Picture of a picture

Martha King

Fall 1991

1/89

PG # 66-21-30

Talliaferro House
College Park

N elevation

Fall 1991

Marina King

Neg: MD SHPO

6 of 9

Pg # 66-21-30

Talliaferro House
College Park
S elevation

Fall 1991

Marina King

Neg: MD SHPO

325

Pic # 66-21-30

Talliaferro House
College Park

East Elevation

Front door detail

Fall 1991

Marina King

Neg: MD SHPO

4 of 9

Pl. # 66 - 21 - 30

Talliaferro House

SW Elevation

Bay window detail

Fall 1991

Marina King

Negs: MD SHPO

(College Park, P.O.)

5 of 9

PG # 66-21-30
Talliaferro House
outbuildings, N elevation
Fall 1991
Marina King
Neg: MD SHPO

(College Park, PG Co.)

6 of 9

Pic # 66-21-30
Talliaferro House, College Park
West elevation
Fall 1991
Marsha King
Neg: MD SHPO

795

Pg. # 66-21-30

Talliaferro House
College Park
Outbldgs, E elevation
Fall 1991
Marina King
Neg: MD SHPO

8 of 9

Pic # 66-21-30

Talliaferro House
College Park
E elevation

Fall 1991

Marina King

Neg: MD SHPO

9 of 9