

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG#66-33 Building Date: 1926

Building Name: College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building

Location: 4813 Calvert Road, College Park, Maryland

Public/Archives Storage/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description:

The College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building is a one-story front-gabled building constructed of concrete block, painted white. It is two bays by three, and entrance is in the first bay of the two-bay north gable front. The only decorative feature of the building is the shaped parapet of brick which serves as a facing on the principal north gable front. Entrance is in the first bay of this north front, through a six-panel wooden door. The second bay consists of a large single-pane picture window flanked by narrow sidelights with louver openings. Both door and window are slightly inset within the brick facing, both surmounted by a horizontal band of concrete which serves as a lintel. The gable roof is covered with green asbestos shingle. A lower one-story addition, also of concrete block, has been built onto the south(rear) gable end of the building; a plain brick chimney stack rises from the shed roof of this addition. Immediately behind (south of) the building is a tall metal siren tower, with the antique (1927) siren device still in place.

Significance:

The College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building has been a familiar feature in the College Park community since 1926. The Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1925 through the efforts of the College Park Home and School Association. In 1926, College Park developer Elmore Power donated a lot on the south side of Calvert Road to be used for the erection of a fire house for the town's newly organized fire department. This building was constructed and opened in August of that year. In 1927 the present siren tower was erected. In 1945 the City of College Park was incorporated, and in the next year a new Fire Service Extension Building was established on the campus of the University of Maryland. The subject building, temporarily empty, was subsequently used as a polling place, and as an interim town hall for the new municipality. Remodeled in 1969, it is now used as a meeting hall, storage area, and display room for the historical archives of the Fire Department. Although altered, it represents the early history of the College Park Fire Department, and is a familiar local feature.

Acreage: 7000 square feet

College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building

PG#66-33

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: Firehouse/Town Hall/Archives

Design Source: unknown

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4813 Calvert Road 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 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"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name City of College Park

street & number 4500 Knox Road telephone no. :301- 277-3445

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 1023

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 145

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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			

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

The College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building is a one-story front-gabled building constructed of concrete block, painted white. It is two bays by three, and entrance is in the first bay of the two-bay north gable front. The only decorative feature of the building is the shaped parapet of brick which serves as a facing on the principal north gable front.

Entrance in the first bay is through a six-panel wooden door. Immediately to the right (west) of the door is a wooden plaque which reads:

"First Fire House of the College Park Volunteer Fire Department Organized 1925 Now used as an all-purpose building, housing the Historical Archives".

Immediately west of the plaque is a large three-part window: a large single-pane picture window flanked by narrow sidelights with louver openings. Both door and window are slightly inset within the brick facing, both surmounted by a horizontal band of concrete which serves as a lintel.

The gable roof is covered with green asbestos shingle. The three bays on the west long side of the building are lighted by 1/1 windows. On the east side, the windows in the two northerly bays are similar, but a side (rear) door forms the first (southernmost) bay; immediately north of this side door is a small window at a higher level which lights a small bathroom.

There is a low one-story shed-roof addition, also of concrete block, has been built onto the south (rear) gable end of the building; a plain brick chimney stack rises from the shed roof of this addition.

The interior of the building is very plain. There is a dropped ceiling, tile covers the concrete slab floor, and partitions are formed of drywall.

Immediately behind and south of the building is a tall metal siren tower, with the antique (1927) siren device still in place.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cf. Deeds (Prince George's County) #242:252, #1023:145

See Notes, Item 8

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ca. 7000 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Washington East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of lot 18, Block 1, of Elmore Power's Additional to College Park

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 G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian		
organization	Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission	date	June 1993
street & number	14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive	telephone	(301) 952-3521
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

over it to allow movement of equipment.²

During the first year, a bell attached to the fire house was used to summon the volunteers. In May 1927 the present siren tower was erected, but the siren had to be activated by hand. By early 1930, a telephone connection was made which allowed the siren to be activated by the nearby Berwyn telephone operator.³

The City of College Park was incorporated in 1945. In 1946, a new building, the Fire Service Extension Building, was built on the campus of the University of Maryland, and all firefighting equipment was moved to the new location. The small building on Calvert Road was temporarily empty; it was subsequently used as a polling place, and as an interim town hall for the new municipality.⁴

In 1959 a new Town Hall was built, and the building on Calvert Road was again empty. It was later used by supporters of the preservation of the College Park Airport in the initial stages of the restoration of that facility.⁵

Two additions have been made to the College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building since it was constructed in 1926. It was remodeled in 1969, and is now used as a meeting hall, storage area, and display room for the historical archives of the Fire Department.⁶ Although altered and in somewhat deteriorating condition, this modest building represents the early history of the College Park Fire Department, and is still a familiar feature in the community.

² A History: College Park Volunteer Fire Department, 1925-1985: College Park, Maryland. Update of 1975 publication, published in 1985.

³ ibid.

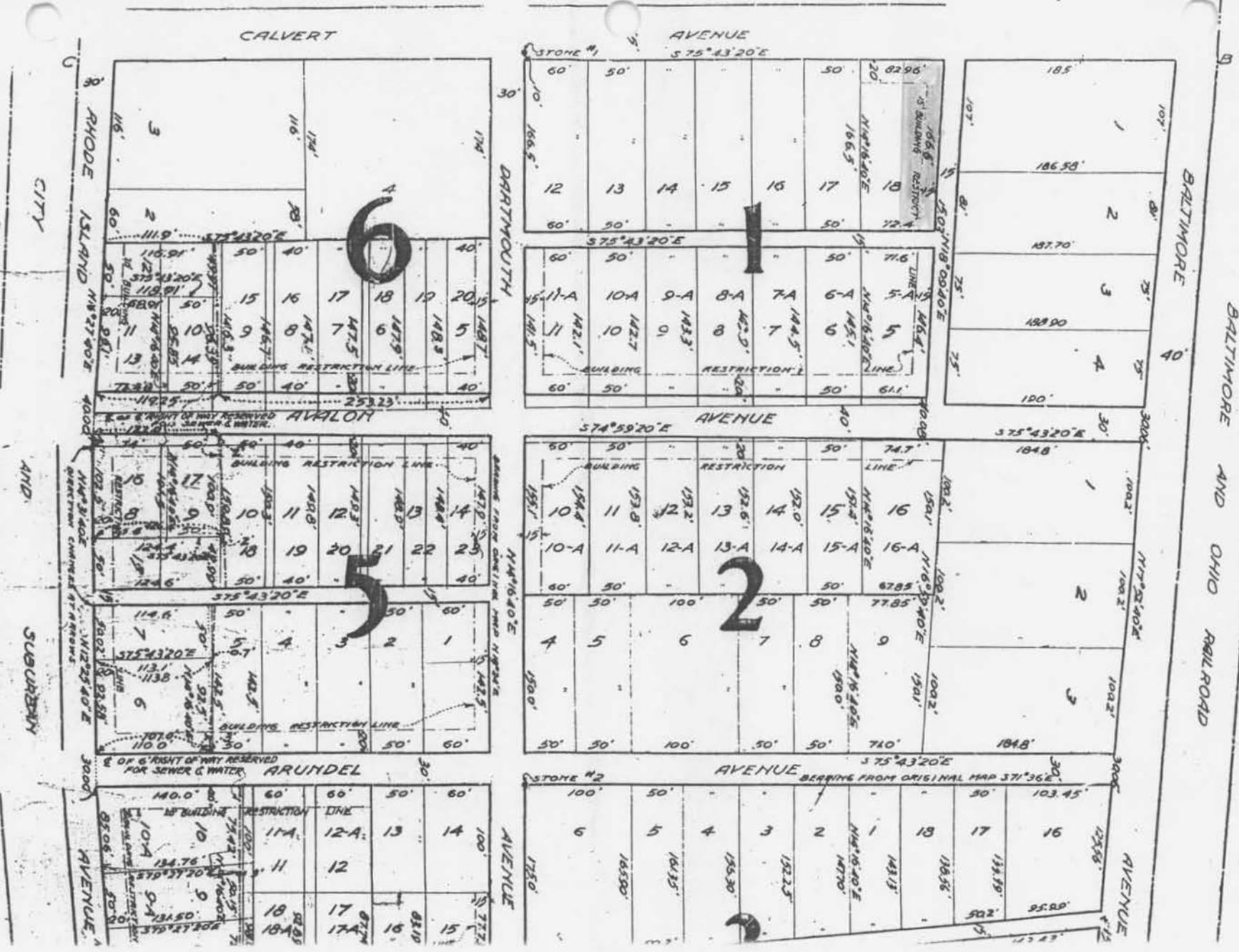
⁴ ibid.

⁵ ibid.

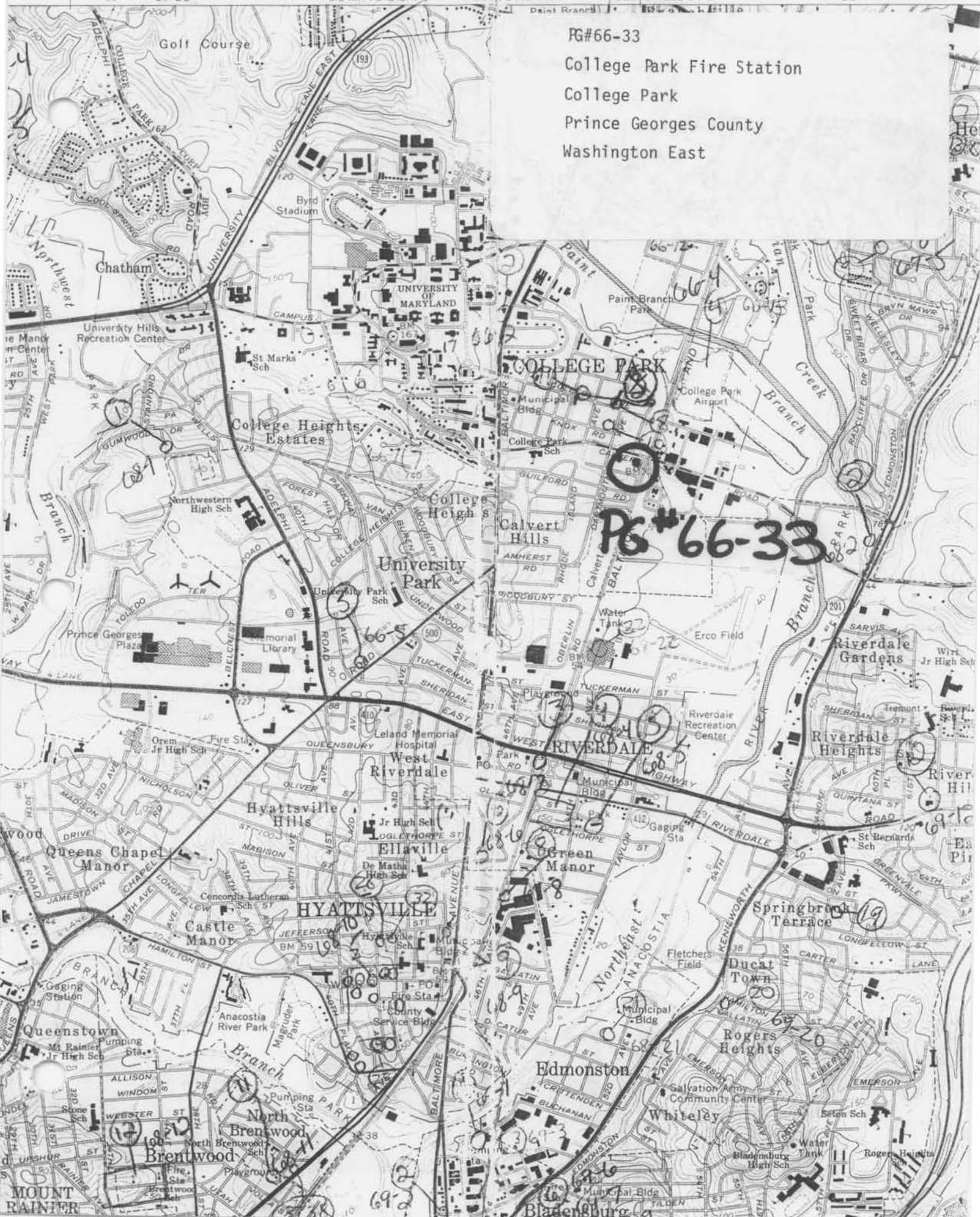
⁶ ibid. Additional information about the history of the College Park Volunteer Fire Department was provided by Frank G. Leser, Jr., interviewed in September 1991 by (then) M-NCPPC employee Marina King.

Clarke Davis's Addition to Cough Park 1925

PG: 66-33



PG#66-33
 College Park Fire Station
 College Park
 Prince Georges County
 Washington East





P6[#] 66-33

College Park Vol Fire Dept.

Pk Co Md.

Susan L. Pearl

May 1992

Md SHPO

N facade

1 of 3



Pl. # 66-33

College Park Nat. Herb. Dept.

PG Co. Maryland

Susan S. Paul

May 1992

Mid. SHPU

Arch (rear) elevation

3 of 3

First
FIRE HOUSE
of the
COLLEGE PARK
Volunteer Fire Dept.

ORGANIZED 1925

*Now used as an all purpose
building housing the*
**HISTORICAL
ARCHIVES**

PG # 66-33

PG Co., Md
College Park Val Line Dept.
Susan H. Pearl
June 93
Md SHPO

6/93
Sgp
Plaque on N facade
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