

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name:

historic: Property has no historic name

and/or common: Property has no common name

2. Address:

street and number: 4704 Guilford Road

City, town: College Park

State: Maryland

County: Prince George's

3. Classification:

Category: Buildings

Ownership: Private

Public Acquisition: Not applicable

Status: Occupied

Accessible: Yes - Unrestricted

Present Use: Private residence

4. Owner of Property:

Name: Kevin Latner

Street & Number: 4704 Guilford Road

City, town: College Park, Maryland 20740 **Telephone Number:** (301) 779-7847

5. Location of Legal Description:

Courthouse, registry of deeds: Prince George's County Land Records Office
Lower Level, County Administration Building

Street & Number: 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive

City, town: Upper Marlboro

State: Maryland

Liber/folio: Liber 11829, Folios 266-267

6. Representation in Existing Surveys:

Not applicable - property is not represented in existing historical surveys

7. Description:

Condition: Good

Unaltered/altered: Altered

Original site/moved: Original Site

Contributing Resource Count: 2

Summary paragraph/general description of resource:

This detached dwelling is located on its original site at 4704 Guilford Road in the Calvert Hills neighborhood of College Park, Maryland on Block 5, Lot 4 of Elmore Powers Addition to College Park (Illustrations 1 - 4). The house, which was built in 1927, is in good condition, and is a good example of the so-called "comfortable" homes built in the first decades of the twentieth century (Gowans, p. xiv). Alterations have been made to both the house's exterior and interior. These changes, however, have been made to the rear portions of the house rather than to its front elevation. They do not result in a loss of the property's integrity, and do not detract from its ability to contribute to and convey the Calvert Hills neighborhood's history and significance as an early twentieth century railroad, streetcar, and automobile suburb of Washington, D.C.

The house (Illustrations 5 and 6), like two others in its immediate vicinity (4702 Guilford Road and 4705 Guilford Road) was constructed by College Park developer Elmore Power in accordance with a standard set of plans produced by an unknown architect or builder. It is a

2 1/2-story 3-bay balloon frame structure built on a poured concrete foundation. The house has a cross-gable asphalt shingle roof with a single front gabled dormer. Originally, the house probably had a two-story rear shed-roofed sleeping porch similar to those on the neighboring properties at 4702 and 4705 Guilford Road. In c. 1950, however, the then owners of the house (most likely Susan F. and Roscoe F. Woolard) dismantled the porch and replaced it with a larger 2 1/2-story gable-roofed rear addition that increased the house's depth by approximately 5 feet (Illustrations 6 and 7). The house is currently clad in synthetic composite shingles, part of which Kevin Latner, the present owner, believes may be the original exterior wall finish. The windows, including the largely original front and side windows, are mostly 6 over 1 wooden sash. The house has three doors (front, rear, and right side) and a single brick chimney on the left side. There is a hipped-roofed frame front porch with four Tuscan columns supported by brick piers.

With the exception of the former sleeping porch area in the rear, the house's first floor interior has remained unchanged for 70 years (Illustration 7). The lath and plaster walls, oak floors, pine woodwork, and fireplace are all original, as are several of the iron radiator covers and cast iron hot water radiators. The floor plan and circular circulation pattern of the house's front rooms—the hall, living room, dining room, and kitchen—are typical of those found in many "comfortable" homes of the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s, and are identical to those in the neighboring house at 4702 Guilford Road. This "Progressive" layout is much simpler than that found in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Victorian homes, and incorporates the latest domestic technological developments (electric lighting, plumbing, central heating, etc.). It also illustrates the evolution of both the living room (the old formal parlor) and the dining room as informal multipurpose living spaces (Clark, pp 162-167). First-floor plans laid out in this pattern can be found in catalogs from Aladdin (Illustration 8), Bennett (Illustration 9), Sears and Roebuck (Illustration 10), and other mail-order builders of this period. The rear sleeping porch, which once extended across the entire back of the house and doubled as a sun room was also typical of "Progressive" homes built during this era, and physically reflected the widely-held belief that exposure to fresh air and light is healthy and "good for you" (Gowan, p. 28). This open porch, however, was replaced in the c. 1950 remodeling by the current larger rear addition that includes the present bath, hall, and bedroom/storage room. The current owner believes that the addition was built to maximize the rental value of the dwelling, which was then being used as a several-unit boarding house.

Like the house's downstairs plan, the design of its second floor has been partially changed. The second floor's original bath and three bedrooms all retain their initial configurations. The former sleeping porch area, however, was replaced in the c. 1950 remodeling with the present larger back room, which may have been further subdivided during the property's years as a boarding house. The current owner is extensively remodeling this area and other spaces in the house.

An original c. 1927 single-bay gable-roofed frame garage is located to the left rear of the house (Illustrations 4 and 11). Its location, derived from the placement of the garage's antecedent--the carriage house and stable, reflects a continuing 1920s habit and practice of

placing what were once considered to be offensive and smelly structures at a distance from houses (Gowan, p. 23). The garage's doors have been replaced, and a portion of its rear wall has been extended to accommodate a larger vehicle than it was initially designed for.

8. Significance:

Period of significance: 1900-

Areas of significance: Architecture and community planning

Specific Dates: 1927-1941

Builder/architect: Unknown

Applicable criteria: A and C

Applicable Exception: Not applicable

Level of Significance: Local

Summary paragraph of significance/general statement of history:

The property is significant because of its "association with an event or historical trend"--the development of College Park's Calvert Hills neighborhood as an early twentieth-century middle-class railroad, streetcar, and automobile suburb of Washington, D.C. (Criterion A); and because its "architecture" and "construction" illustrate early twentieth-century "comfortable" building practices and technology (Criterion C). College Park evolved as a largely privately-planned and developed residential commuter suburb of Washington, D.C. that straddled three major transportation lines--the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the City and Suburban Railway's electric streetcar line, and United States Route 1. The area's readily-accessible suburban subdivisions offered federal employees and other members of Washington's expanding population the opportunity to attain the middle-class ideal of a single-family home set on a quiet tree-shaded lot away from the crowds, noise, and heat of the District. In many cases, these middle-class norms were enforced through deed restrictions that specified minimum values for houses and/or prohibited African-Americans from owning or renting the properties. Houses built on College Park's suburban lots were normally built in the so-called "comfortable" building styles of the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s (see Section 7 above). At a minimum, they were usually constructed in accordance with a standard set of architect's or builder's plans, and in some cases they were built with plans and materials provided by Sears and Roebuck, Bennett, Aladdin, Loizeaux, or other mail-order builders. These building patterns, however, are not unique to the College Park and its Calvert Hills neighborhood. Indeed, College Park is only one of a series of similar early twentieth-century railroad, streetcar, and automobile suburbs in the Washington, D.C. area, including Hyattsville and Riverdale in Prince George's County, Maryland; Silver Spring and Chevy Chase in Montgomery County, Maryland; and the early

twentieth century neighborhoods of Arlington County, Virginia. These areas, moreover, are representative of national suburbanization patterns during the first decades of the twentieth century.

The house illustrates these associational and architectural contexts. It was built in 1927 by College Park developer and builder Elmore Power on Block 5, Lot 4 of Elmore Power's Addition to College Park--his developing middle-class Washington commuter subdivision located on the City and Suburban Railway streetcar line (Illustrations 2 - 4). Because it was originally virtually identical to the adjacent 1920 house at 4702 Guilford Road, which cost \$6,000 to build, the house was also presumably in this price range. This \$6,000 value was higher than the average price of a house in Washington, D.C.'s Maryland suburbs in the mid-1920s, and insured that the property would be developed in accordance with middle class norms (Lubar, p. 323; Prince George's County Deed Book 277, pp. 413-414). The house that Power constructed on the property was built accordance with a standard set of plans produced by an unknown architect or builder, and as described above embodied typical 1920s-era "comfortable" building design and technology. According to the current owner, Power gave the finished house to his daughter or daughter-in-law, but this transfer could not be confirmed in a routine search of the Prince George's County deed books (a detailed and time-consuming title search would, however, identify the transaction). By 1950 the house was owned by Susan F. and Roscoe L. Woolard, who operated the property as a several-unit boarding house for many years, and presumably made the previously-discussed changes to its interior and exterior. In 1995 guardians for Roscoe L. Woolard sold the house to Richard J. and Eri S. Delabrer, who made repairs to the property, and in turn sold it to Kevin Latner, the current owner, in 1997. Despite the changes that have been made to the house in the last 70 years, including the c. 1950 gable-roofed rear addition and the alterations to the first and second-story floor plans, the property retains its ability to contribute to and convey the Calvert Hills neighborhood's history and significance as an early twentieth century railroad, streetcar, and automobile suburb of Washington, D.C.

9. Major Bibliographic References:

Aladdin Company, The. *Aladdin Built-in-a-Day House Catalog, 1917*.

New York: Dover Publications, 1995 reprint of original edition.

Bennett, Ray H. Lumber Company, Inc. *Bennett's Small House Catalog, 1920*.

New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1993 reprint of original edition.

Clark, Clifford Edward, Jr. *The American Family Home, 1800-1960*. Chapel Hill,

North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1986.

Classic Homes of the 1920s by Loizeaux. New York: Dover Publications, 1992, reprint of original edition.

- Goat, Leslie G. "Housing the Horseless Carriage: America's Early Private Garages," in Thomas Carter and Bernard L. Herman, Eds., *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, III*. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1984, pp. 62-72.
- Gowans, Alan. *The Comfortable Home: North American Suburban Architecture, 1980-1930*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1986.
- Jennings, Jan, "Cheap and Tasteful Dwellings in Popular Architecture," in *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, V*. Knoxville, Tennessee: The University of Tennessee Press, 1995, pp. 133-151.
- Kihlstedt, Folke T., "The Automobile and the Transformation of the American House, 1910-1935," *Michigan Quarterly Review* 19-20 (Fall 1980/Winter 1981), pp. 555-570.
- Levy, Anneli Moucka. "Washington, D.C. and the Growth of Its Early Suburbs, 1860-1920" Unpublished M.A. Thesis. University of Maryland, College Park, 1980.
- Lubar, Steven. "Trolley Lines, Land Speculation, and Community-Building: The Early History of Woodside Park, Silver Spring, Maryland," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 81 (Winter 1986), pp. 316-329.
- Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Real Property System Database, Land Records Office, Prince George's County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.
- Prince George's County, Maryland - Land Records. Prince George's County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.
- Prince George's County, Maryland - Plat Maps. Prince George's County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.
- Reem, Harold L. Conversation with Kevin Latner, 4704 Guilford Road, College Park, Maryland, March 11, 1998.
- Reem, Harold L. "The Development of Rail Transportation Systems, Roads, and Streets in College Park, Maryland, c. 1749-1998." George Washington University: American Civilization 278 Term Paper, April 1, 1998.
- Reem, Harold L. Field notes and photographs on 4704 Guilford Road, College Park, Maryland, February - March 1998.
- Sanborn Map Company. *Insurance Maps of Washington Suburban, Volume 2, Prince George's County, Maryland*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1939.

Stevenson, Katherine Coles, and H. Ward Jandl. *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1986.

Volz, Candace M. "The Modern Look of the Early-Twentieth-Century House: A Mirror of Changing Lifestyles," in Jessica H. Foy and Thomas J. Schlereth, Eds., *American Home Life, 1880-1930: A Social History of Spaces and Services*. Knoxville, Tennessee: The University of Tennessee Press, 1992.

10. Geographical Data:

Acreage of Nominated Property: 7,125 SF (0.164 acres)

Quadrangle Name: Washington East Quadrangle: District of Columbia-Maryland

Quadrangle Scale: 7.5 Minutes

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification: Block 5, Lot 4, Elmore Powers Addition to College Park, Maryland (historic property boundary)

11. Form Prepared By:

Name/Title: Harold L. Reem

Organization: George Washington University

Date: April 10, 1998

Street & Number: 2721 South Buchanan Street

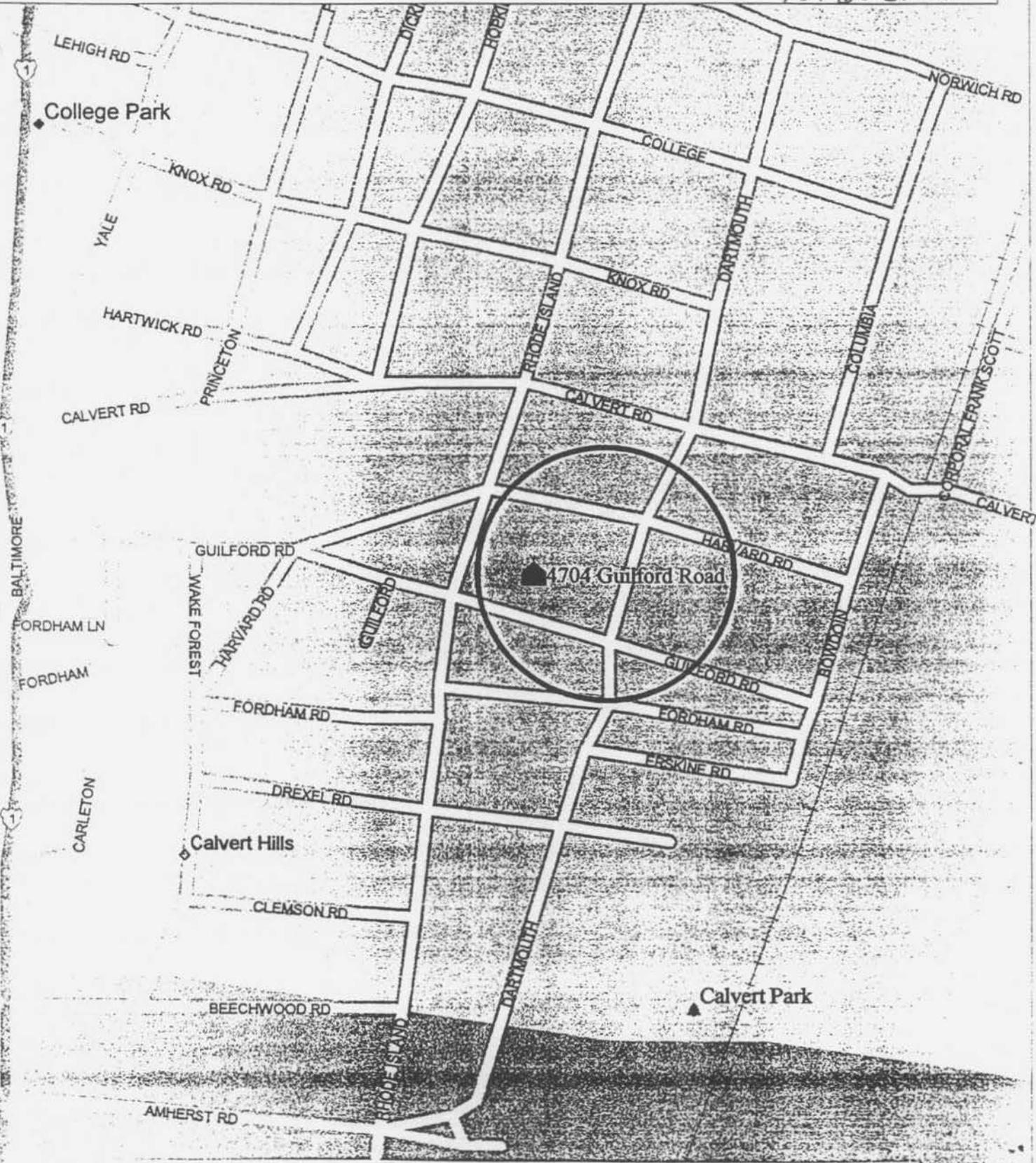
Telephone: (703) 845-8659

City or Town: Arlington

State: Virginia 22206

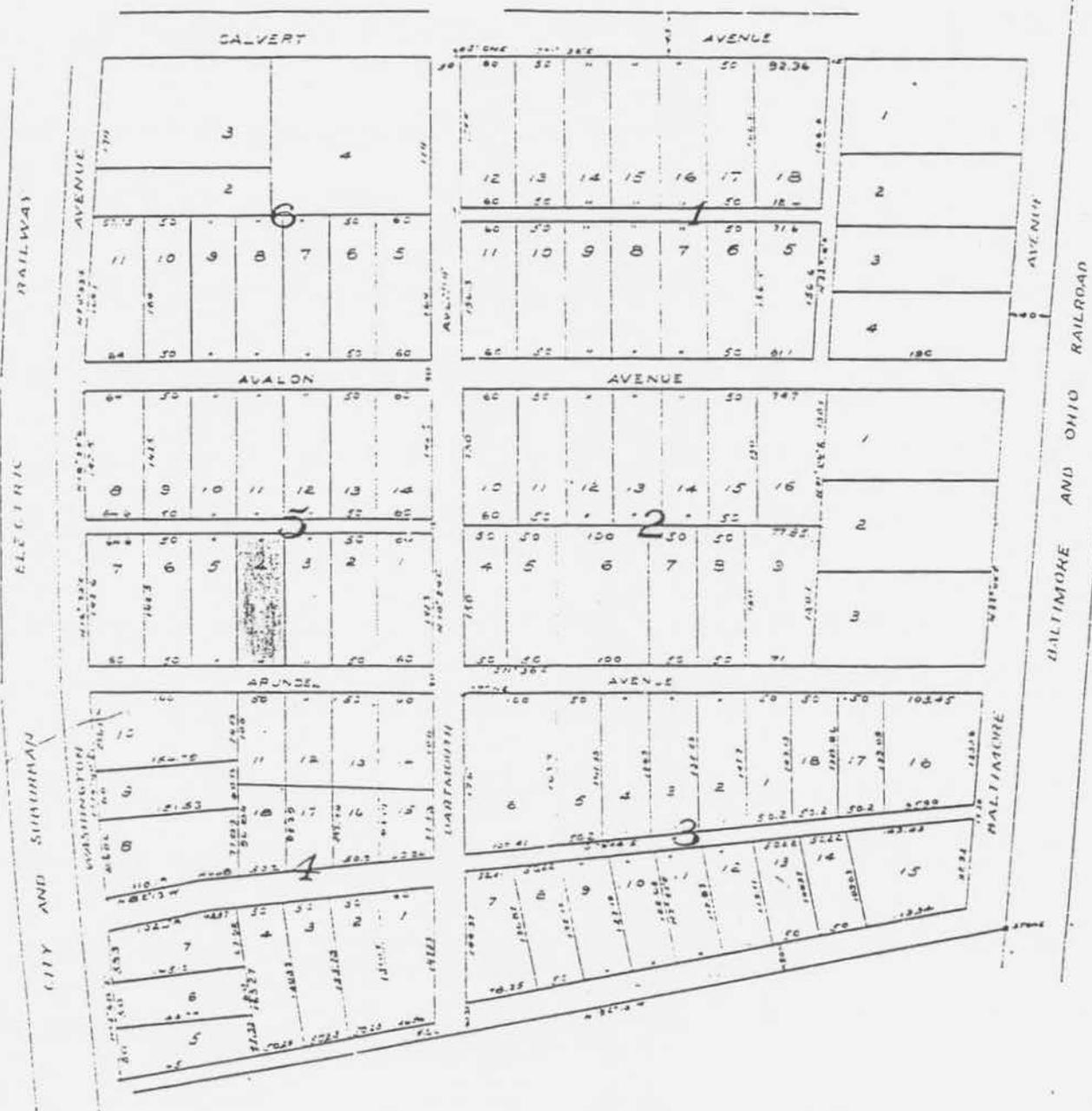
4704 Guilford Road - College Park, MD

PG. 66-37-28



1. 4704 Guilford Road, College Park, Maryland (Source: Map by Author).

ELMORE POWERS ADDITION TO COLLEGE PARK.



2. Plat of Elmore Power's Addition to College Park - 1921 (Lot 4, Block 5 highlighted) (Source: Plat Book 2, Page 60. Prince George's County Land Records Office. County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro, Maryland).

REVISED FEB 10 1921
 COUNTY SURVEYOR
 MOUNTAIN VIEW, MD
Filed for - 1921 County 058

09-C
 Baltimore & Annapolis Electric Railway

1921
 66

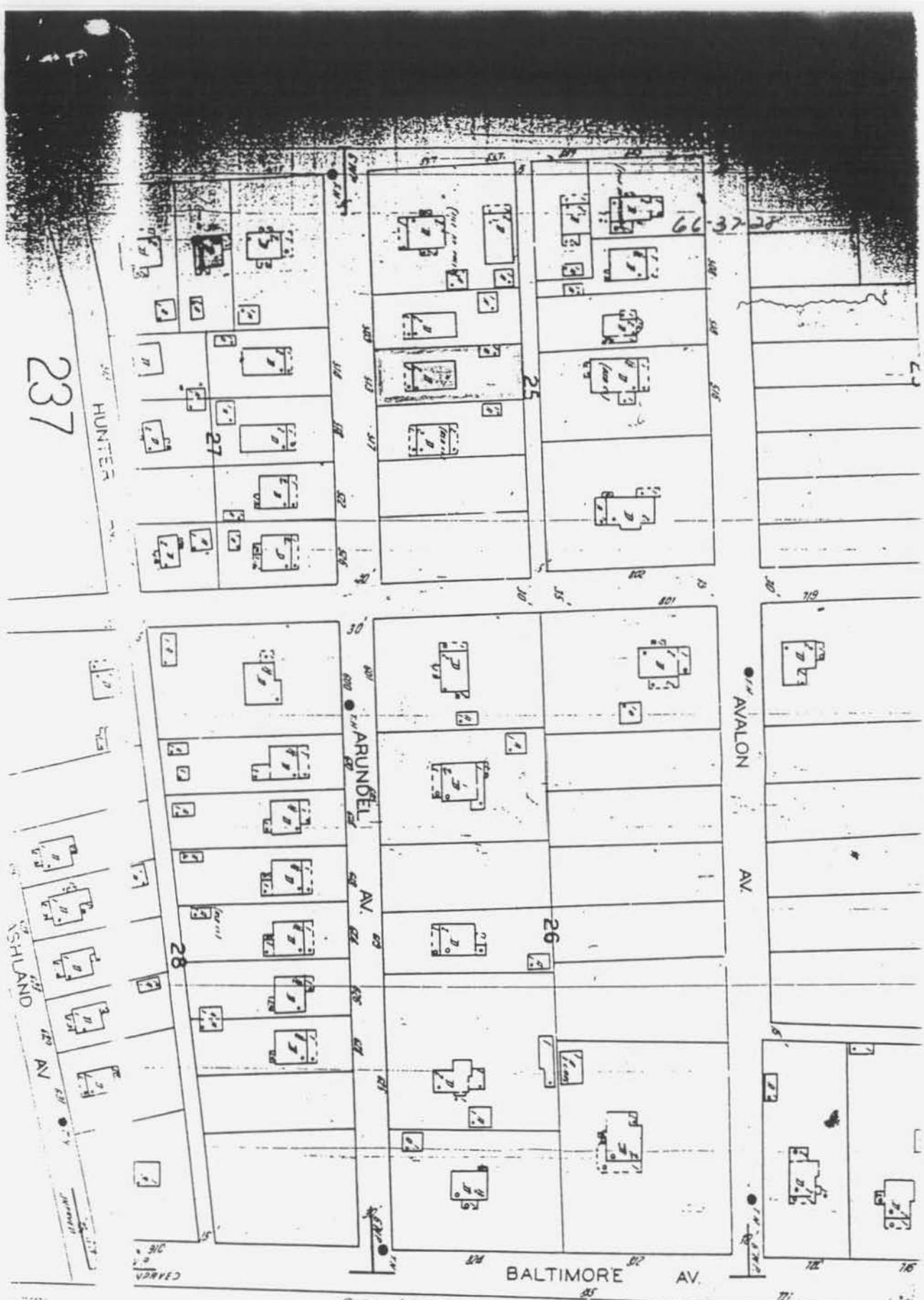
RAILWAY

ELECTRIC

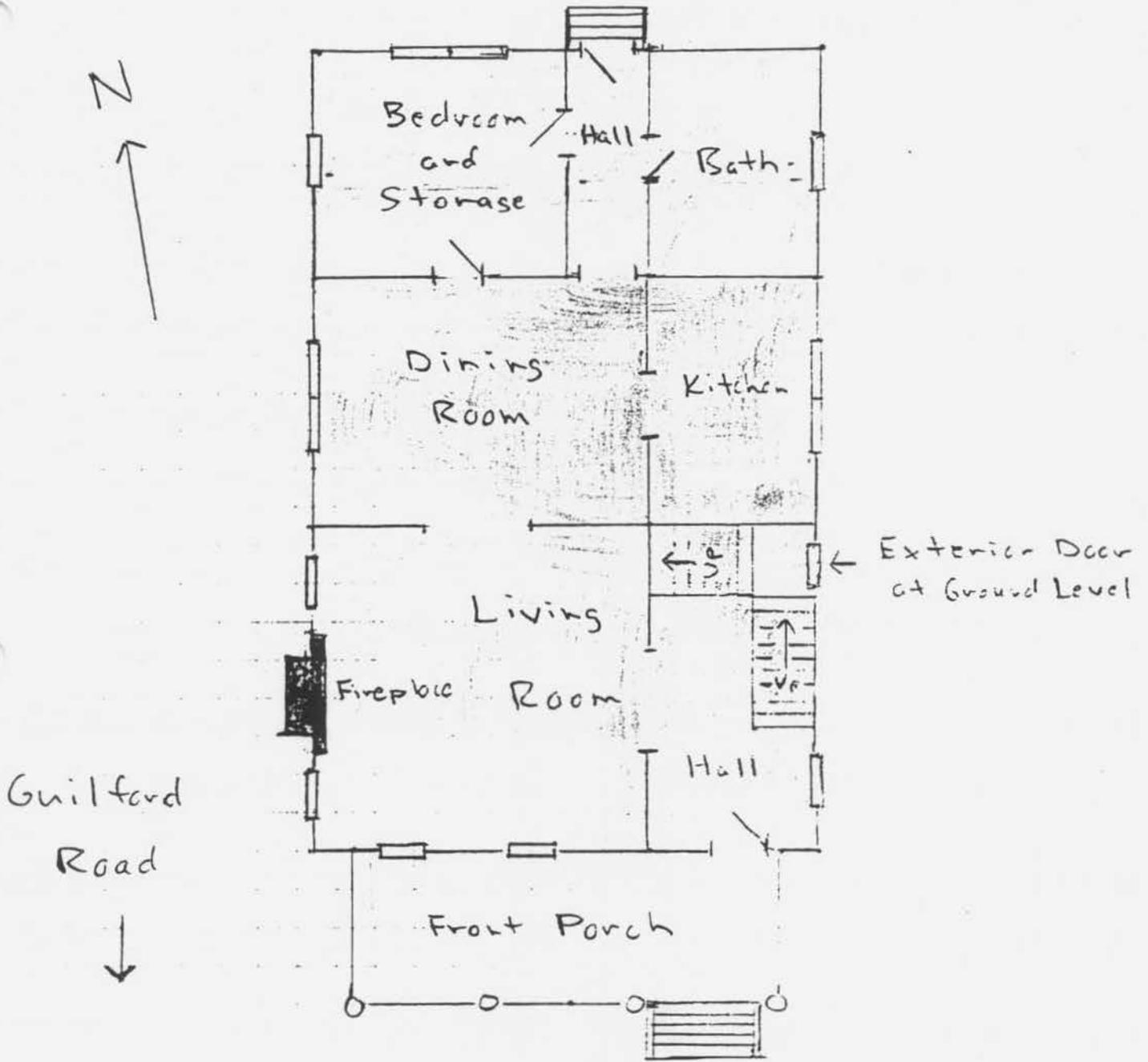
CITY AND SUBURBAN

RAILROAD AND OHIO

BALTIMORE



4. Sanborn Insurance Map of 4704 Guilford Road (highlighted) and Vicinity, College Park, Maryland - 1939 (Note pre-1941 address—513 Arundel Avenue) (Source: Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Washington Suburban*, Volume 2, *Prince George's County, Maryland*, Sheet 236).



Scale: 1 Inch = 8 Feet

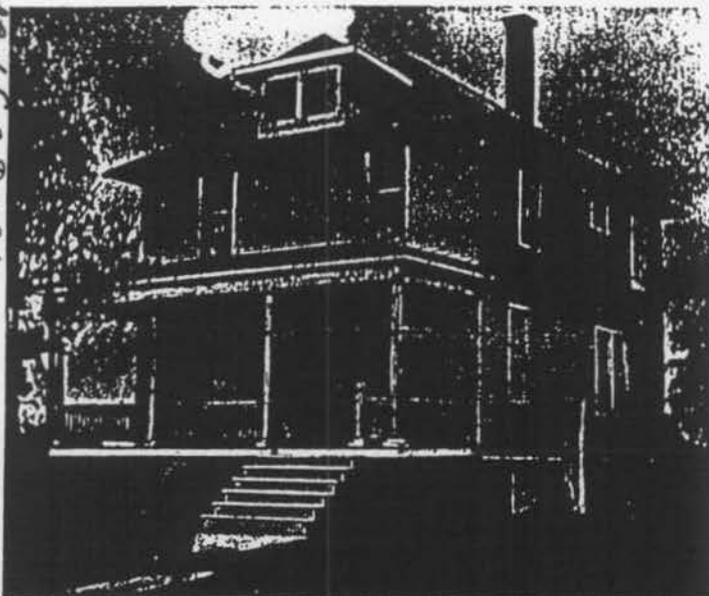
Original Floor Area - 1927

Addition - c. 1950

First Floor Plan

4704 Guilford Road

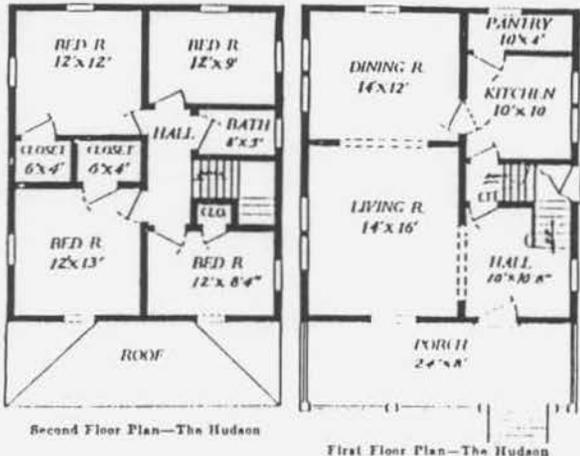
PG: 66-37-24



The Hudson \$1,098.20

Price, \$1,156.00
Cash discount, 5%
Net price, \$1,098.20

CAN you imagine a better utilization of space than is obtained in the plan of the Hudson? The constant thought of Aladdin designers is toward giving a maximum of convenience and comfort for the lowest possible cost. It is doubtful if this result has been exceeded by any other Aladdin house. The exterior will please you, we are sure, as this home has a greater number of admirers. The Design is practical and conservative with no sign of over-trimming being evident. Simple lines in the porch construction, heavy overhead boxing, and roof are in perfect harmony with the balance of the home. The windows of both first



and second story are treated somewhat differently from the average. On the first floor the windows are capped by the wide belt dividing first and second floor. The windows on the second floor line up to the trim board under eaves.

The wide belt dividing first and second stories adds much to the general appearance of the Hudson.

Notice the hip roof dormer on the front roof. It helps break up the flat plain roof. Study the location of rooms and the placing of doors and windows. Hudsons have been erected in many cities and towns about the country and you may be sure that each creates much favorable comment by friends and neighbors of the owners. The arches dividing hall, living room and dining room give an impression of size and space that is most desirable. The reception hall permits direct access to kitchen, living room, or second floor. Ample light for hallway and staircase is provided by full size window and three-quarter length glass in front door.

By referring to the plan you will find there is a stretch of space twenty-eight feet thru living room and dining room. The large living room, size 14x16 feet will prove interesting to you with the many possibilities for attractive furniture arrangements.

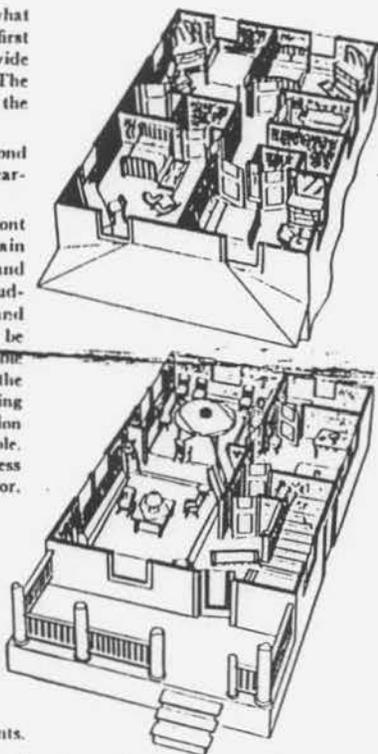
Entrance from hall to kitchen saves the housewife many steps. Four good bedrooms, closets and bath are arranged on the second floor. Four Colonial columns support the porch roof and a beautiful glass front door throws light into the hall, in addition to the side window, and the woodwork and floors are of the beautiful grained Western fir which is subject to any treatment you like. To lovers of simplicity in home architecture the Hudson always appeals strongly.

We have many interesting letters from Hudson owners telling of their experiences, cost of erection, and length of time in building. We will be glad to send you copies of these letters or will send you names and addresses of owners nearest you. In this way you can write and learn at first hand of their complete satisfaction.

See Specifications on pages 12 and 13.

20° Below Zero—Hudson Warm and Comfortable

My "Hudson" purchased last year was very warm and comfortable this winter when the thermometer was twenty degrees below zero. The lumber was first class and I am more than satisfied with my home. Everything was found as represented and no knots to be seen. If I were to build again I would build another Aladdin. H. M. Pierce.



8. View and Plan of "The Hudson" (Source: The Aladdin Company, Aladdin Built-in-a-Day House Catalog, 1917, p. 46).

Bennett Homes

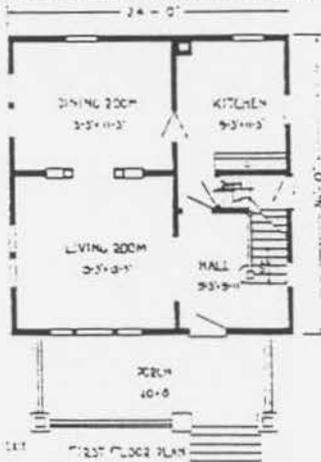
Better-Built Ready-Cut



Erie

24 ft. x 26 ft.
over all
3 Rooms,
Bath, Hall

However much house styles may change, that most practical of all plans, the square house, always remains in vogue. And "The Erie" is genuinely an all-prized design of this most popular type. There is a prosperous, substantial appearance to this home. It is free from elaboration—yet full of the spice of style. The extending roof with its distinctive dormer, the shingled upper story, the wide expanse of porch, the solid type of porch pillars—everything bears out the impression that here live people of a most desirable American type. The first room inside is a reception hall, serving the purpose of receiving the casual caller, and of providing the place from whence a simple stairway winds toward the upstairs. The living room is a square one with five windows to guarantee a flood of light. From here a colonnade-opening leads to the dining room on one of the back corners of the house. This room is also bright with light. The kitchen is the usual compact and complete Bennett arrangement. There is a passageway from the kitchen to the front hall.



The upstairs arrangement of this home is as ideal as that of the lower floor—every room a corner room. Three spacious sleeping chambers—each with its own capacious closet—a convenient bath and a handy linen closet complete the layout.

"The Erie," outside and inside, is a most inviting home—its arrangement is most practical and most complete—its construction and finish of a quiet, rich and enduring type.

SPECIFICATIONS

Ceiling height first floor approximately 9 ft.
Ceiling height second floor approximately 8 ft.
Girders 6 in. x 8 in.
First and second floor joists 2 in. x 8 in.
Chimney joists 2 in. x 4 in. Rafters 2 in. x 6 in.
Front door—our "Chautauqua," of solid Chestnut, 3 ft. x 6 ft. 8 in. and 1 1/4 in. thick, glazed with clear glass. See pages 26-27.
"Niagara" colonnade between living room and dining room. See pages 26-27.
Curt. No. 1, with iron cupboard, medicine cabinet and linen closet included in selling price. See pages 26-27.
See pages 8-9 for general specifications.



9. View and Plan of the "Erie" (Source: Ray H. Bennett Lumber Company, Inc., *Bennett's Small House Catalog*, 1920, p. 45).

THE ROCKFORD

PG: 66-37-21

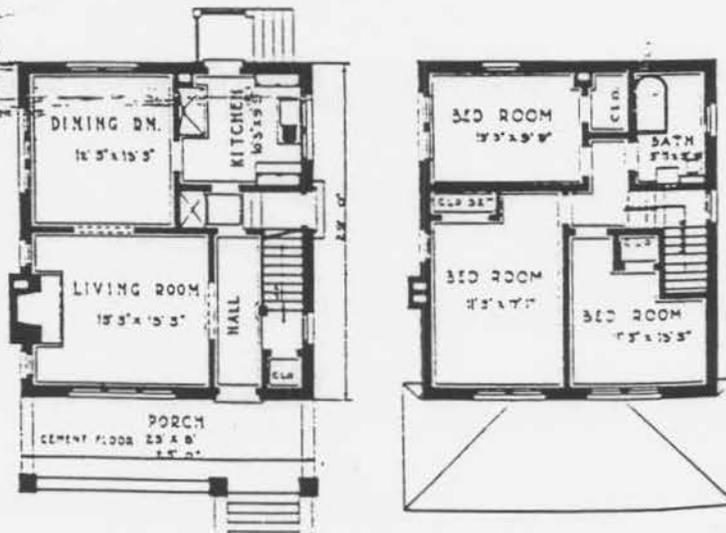


The Rockford two-story home is finished with a veneer of brick. Substantial strength is expressed in its dignified exterior. The roof is of a hipped type, and any suggestion of plainness is eliminated by the use of a dormer in the front elevation, the tall brick fireplace chimney and the porch trellis for climbing plants. The solid brick rail gives the porch added privacy, thus increasing its usefulness to the family. The Rockford is conveniently planned to allow the greatest use of space consistent with good architecture.

Details and features: Six rooms and one bath. Brick exterior; full-width front porch with hipped roof and brick piers; hipped-gable dormer. Fireplace in living room flanked by windows; open stairs.

Years and catalog numbers: 1926 (P3251); 1928 (C3251); 1929 (P3251)

Price: \$2,086 to \$2,278



P6:66-37-2F



5. 4704 Guilford Road, College Park, Maryland (View of front and left side elevations from Guilford Road) (Source: Photo by Author).



6. 4704 Guilford Road, College Park, Maryland (View of rear elevation from alley) (Source: Photo by Author).

4704 Guilford Road