

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-39 Building Date: 1916

Building Name: Gonzalez House

Location: 3434 Rhode Island Avenue, Mt. Rainier

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Gonzalez house is a one story, three-by-four bay frame bungalow situated on a knoll overlooking Rhode Island Avenue, to its east. The east (main) facade is marked by three irregular bays, the second bay entrance and third bay window set close together. The entrance is surmounted by a rectangular transom. Windows are one-over-one double-hung wood sash with wide plain wood surrounds and narrow wood sills. The main facade is sheltered by a facade-wide entrance porch, incorporated beneath the overhang of the building's hipped roof, supported by four tapering Doric pillars. The facade is surmounted by a hipped roof dormer having a double casement window with wood tracery. The house is set on a high brick foundation, and covered with narrow horizontal wood siding. The hipped roof is slate shingle. There are deeply overhanging eaves with a wide frieze. The north facade has a projecting, semi-octagonal screened porch bay with a balustrade of plain rectangular balusters. The interior has a five room plan. Entrance is into an ell-shaped combination living room, dining room and parlor. A corner brick fireplace with corbelling beneath the mantel shelf is in the parlor. Door and window surrounds are wide flat boards with a crown molded lintel. There are tapering full height Doric columns marking the doorway between the entry parlor and the south living room.

Significance

The Gonzalez House is significant as a fine, early 20th century bungalow. The combination of unaltered details such as its north semi-circular porch bay, its slate roof, narrow lapped wood siding with wide frieze and foundation level boards, high brick foundation, hipped dormers with window tracery, overhanging eaves and front porch with Tuscan Doric columns, all give the house an exceptionally well-defined appearance and style. The house was constructed by James H. Babcock, Jr. in 1916, when he mortgaged the property for \$2,000. He sold the house and lot to Louis Rosenfield in 1917. Rosenfield was a restaurateur who owned the house through 1956, then sold it to Alexander and Virginia Gonzalez. Gonzalez, an interior decorator and skilled furniture restorer and upholsterer ran a shop in Mt. Rainier for many years and later ran his business from his house, where he still resides.

Acreage 10,571 square feet

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Gonzalez House

2. Location

street & number 3434 Rhode Island Avenue (U.S. Route 1) not for publicationcity, town Mt. Rainier vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Alexander Gonzalez

street & number 3434 Rhode Island Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Mt. Rainier state and zip code Maryland 20712

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 2016

street & number Main Street folio 432

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title NA

date federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, Rm. 4010 CAB

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#68-39

For an		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" 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 Gonzalez house is a one story, three-by-four bay frame bungalow situated on a knoll overlooking Rhode Island Avenue, to its east. The house is located on a small town lot in the community of Mt. Rainier.

The east (main) facade is marked by three irregular bays, the second bay entrance and third bay window set close together on the north side of the facade. The entrance door has two lower horizontal panels and an upper glass pane. It is surmounted by a rectangular transom. Windows throughout the first level are one-over-one double-hung wood sash with wide plain wood surrounds and narrow wood sills. The first bay on the main facade is a very wide, large window.

The main facade is sheltered by a three-bay, facade-wide entrance porch, incorporated beneath the overhang of the building's hipped roof. The porch is supported by four tapering Doric pillars and is set high on brick piers. It is reached by a flight of wooden stairs. The turned balusters and heavy turned newel posts at the bottom of the porch stair were salvaged from a 19th century house in Georgetown. The facade is surmounted by a slate covered, hipped roof dormer having a double casement window with wood tracery.

The house is set on a high brick foundation having two-light casement windows. There is a wide board "string course" above the foundation. The house is covered with narrow horizontal wood siding and the hipped roof is covered with slate shingles. There are deeply overhanging eaves with a wide frieze below.

The three bay north facade has a projecting, semi-octagonal screened bay with a balustrade of plain rectangular balusters. An exterior corbelled brick chimney rises east of the projecting bay, pierces the overhanging eaves and projects from the north slope of the roof.

The three bay west (rear) facade has a small enclosed rear porch in the first bay. A stairway beneath the porch leads to a basement entrance. The facade is surmounted by a centered hipped roof dormer similar in appearance to that on the main facade. A corbelled brick chimney rises from the roof ridge.

The five bay south facade has irregularly spaced windows of different sizes. The fifth bay has an extra large, wide window. The facade is surmounted by a centered dormer similar to those already described.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORMSurvey No. P.G. #68-3

Description (continued)

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The interior of the Gonzalez house has a simple five room plan. Entrance is into an open, ell-shaped combination living room, dining room and parlor. A corner brick fireplace with corbelling beneath the mantel shelf is in the entry parlor. Door and window surrounds are wide flat boards with an inner and outer raised molding and a crown molded lintel. There are tapering full height Doric columns marking the doorway between the entry parlor and the south living room. Doors throughout the interior are of six horizontal panels, also of walnut. The wide baseboards are of walnut and have a crown molding. A plaster cornice encircles all the rooms in the dwelling except the kitchen. The kitchen has a flat board chairrail with four centered incised bands. The kitchen is at the rear of the house, accessible from the dining room. The two bedrooms and bath are off of a rear hall, accessible from the kitchen. There is a three room attic and a large open basement.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#68-39

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1916 **Builder/Architect**

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 Gonzalez House is significant as a fine, early 20th century bungalow. The combination of unaltered details such as its north semi-circular porch bay, its slate roof, narrow lapped wood siding with wide frieze and foundation level boards, high brick foundation, hipped dormers with window tracery, overhanging eaves and front porch with Tuscan Doric columns, all give the house an exceptionally well-defined appearance and style.

The Gonzalez House was constructed after Lots 9 and 10 in the subdivision called Rhode Island Avenue Addition to Mt. Rainier were purchased by James H. Babcock, Jr. in 1911.¹ Babcock probably had the house constructed in 1916, when he mortgaged the property for \$2,000. Babcock sold the house and lot to Louis and J. Doran Rosenfield in 1917.²

Louis Rosenfield was a restaurateur who owned and operated the Log Cabin Nightclub in Bladensburg for many years.³ Rosenfield and his wife owned the Gonzalez House through 1956, when they sold it to Alexander and Virginia Gonzalez.⁴ Gonzalez, an interior decorator and skilled furniture restorer and upholsterer ran a shop on 34th Street in Mt. Rainier for many years and later ran his business, Alexander and Company, from his house, where he still resides.

The house is an exceptionally well finished middle class suburban dwelling, built in the streetcar suburb of Mt. Rainier. The Mt. Rainier trolley stop was directly across Rhode Island Avenue from the house. The Gonzalez House is also exceptionally well finished on the interior. The wide oak moldings around doors and windows are original. A small parlor or sitting room to the left of the entrance is reached through a wide rectangular opening supported by full height Tuscan Doric oak columns. A corner fireplace with a corbelled brick mantel is to the left of the entrance. The French doors to the north side porch are flanked by windows and surmounted by a transom, the whole having a wide oak surround.

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

Survey No. P.G.#68-39

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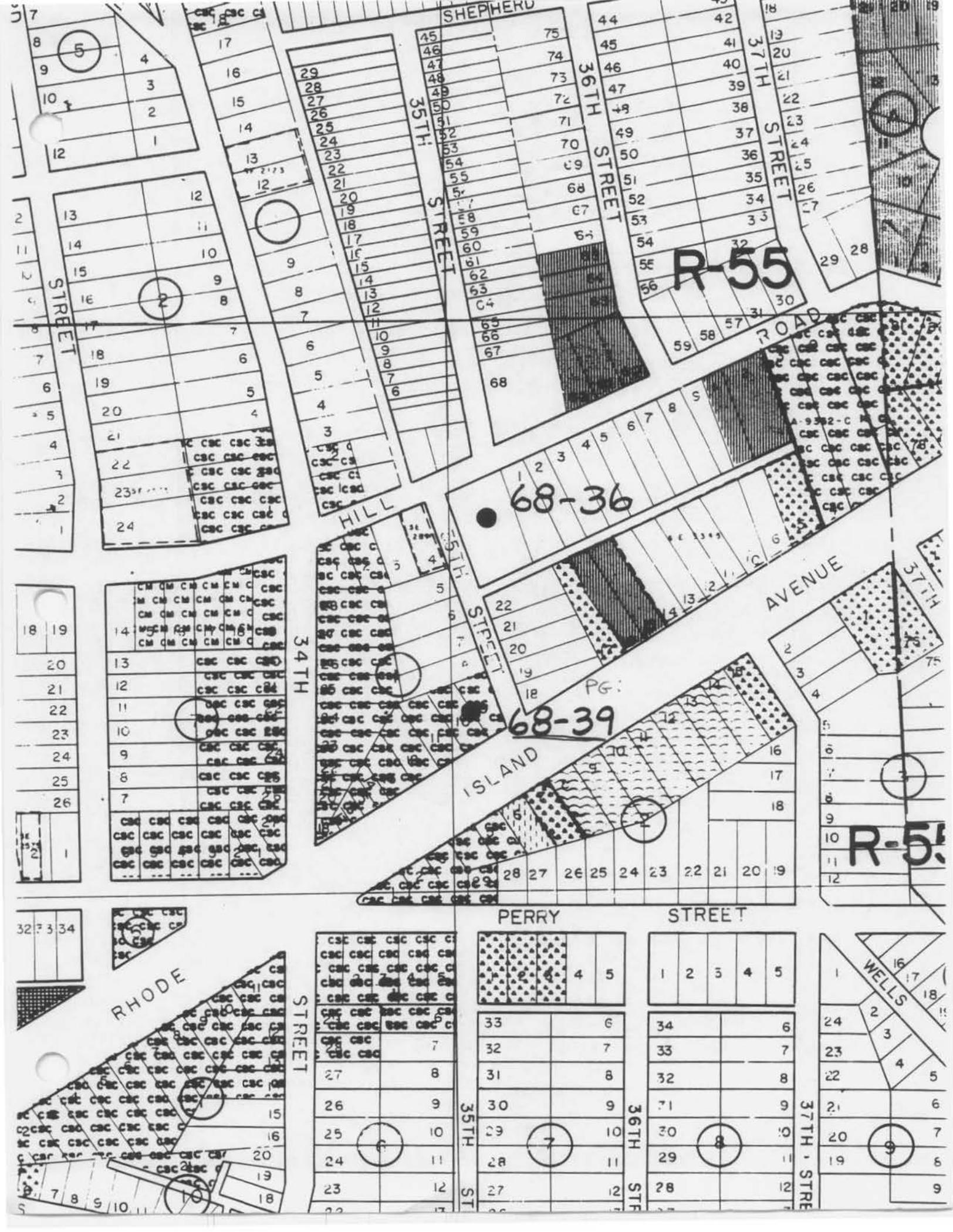
Notes

- 1 Land Records of Prince George's County, 71:285.
- 2 Ibid. 123:466.
- 3 Interview with Alexander Gonzalez, January 1987.
- 4 Land Records, 2016:432.

Chain of Title

Gonzalez House
P.G. #68-39

- 2016:432
15 July 1956
Deed
F. Doran Rosenfield (widow) to Alexander and Virginia Gonzales. For \$5 grantor conveys Lots 9 and 10 in Block 1, Rhode Island Avenue Addition to Mt. Rainier, excepting the rear 6 feet for use as public alley. Plat recorded JWB 5:694 or A:6. Same obtained from Claude Cabbage, May 1931, 373:56.
- 373:56
29 May 1931
Deed
Claude W. Cabbage to Louis and F. Doran Rosenfield. For \$10 grantors convey Lots 9 and 10 in Block 1. Same obtained May 29, 1931 from Rosenfields.
- 373:55
29 May 1931
Deed
Louis and F. Doran Rosenfield to Claude W. Cabbage. For \$10 grantors convey Lots 9 and 10 in Block 1. Same obtained from Arthur Carr Feb. 24, 1921, 172:92.
- 172:93
24 Feb. 1921
Deed
Arthur Carr to F. Doran Rosenfield. For \$10 grantor convey Lots 9 and 10 in Block 1, together with buildings and improvements.
- 172:92
24 Feb. 1921
Deed
Louis Rosenfield and F. Doran Rosenfield to Arthur Carr. For \$10 grantors convey Lots 9 and 10 in Block 1.
- 123:466
10 Feb. 1917
Mortgage
Louis and Doran Rosenfield to James H. Babcock, Jr. Rosenfields indebted to Babcock for \$1,334. To secure loan, grantors mortgage Lots 9 and 10 in Block 1, Rhode Island Avenue, Addition to Mt. Rainier.
- 125:281
10 Feb. 1917
Deed
James H. Babcock, Jr. to Louis Rosenfield. For \$10 grantor conveys same Lots 9 and 10 obtained from Willard D. Bigelow and others, August 8, 1911, 71:285. Subject to \$2,000 mortgage dated 1916.
- 71:285
8 Aug. 1911
Deed
Edwin W. Spalding, J. Harris Rogers and Willard D. Bigelow to James H. Babcock, Jr. By deed dated June 20, 1906, 28:402, grantors conveyed to Roger Bellis Lot 10 in Block 1. By deed dated July 23, 1906, 30:540, conveyed to Samuel J. Crown, Lot #9. Roger Bellis conveyed to Babcock July 21, 1910, 67:220. Crown conveyed to Babcock March 27, 1911, 70:379. To clear title, this deed is made.



SHEPHERD

35TH STREET

36TH STREET

37TH STREET

STREET

R-55

HILL

68-36

35TH STREET

AVENUE

18 19
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34TH

68-39

ISLAND

R-55

32 33 34

RHODE

STREET

PERRY

STREET

WELLS

35TH ST

36TH ST

37TH ST

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WASHINGTON EAST





P.G.#68-39

Gonzalez House
Prince George's County
Marina King
January 1987
East elevation
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #68-39
Gonzalez House
Prince George's County
Marina King
January 1987
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #68-39
Gonzalez House
Prince George's County
Marina King
January 1987
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #68-39
Gonzalez House
Prince George's County
Marina King
January 1987
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



Parlor

P.G. #68-39
Gonzalez House
Prince George's County
Marina King
January 1987
Parlor
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.