

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG # 68-4-76 Building Date: c.1892

Building Name: 4606 Queensbury Road

Location: 4606 Queensbury Road, Riverdale, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description

4606 Queensbury Road (Block 34, Lot 14, Riverdale Park) is a large, two-story-and attic, stuccoed, frame house with an irregular plan, multi-cross gable roof. At the southwest corner of the house is a three-story, square-plan tower with a pyramidal roof. The house is sited on the north side of Queensbury Road east of Route 1, on an elevated lot fronted by a random ashlar retaining wall. The house rests on a poured concrete foundation that is partially excavated to the north as a cellar. Although the house has been altered, most notably by its current stucco covering, it retains many original 2/2 double-hung wood sash windows and the multi-pane Queen Anne window lighting the entry door. The interior of the house has been modified. The house has been altered for use as a rooming house with a single apartment on the first floor and individual rooms on the upper floors sharing common bath and kitchen facilities. The most distinctive decorative feature remaining in the house is the main stair in the southwest corner of the house. The heavily turned newel is typical of those found in late Victorian and Queen Anne houses. The open-string, open newel stair also retains its slender turned spindles.

Significance

The house at 4606 Queensbury Road, completed by 1892, is significant as one of the oldest houses in Riverdale and as one of those early houses erected by the Riverdale Park Company to encourage the sale of lots and the development in its newly platted suburb. Located within sight of the B & O Railroad station and near the Baltimore Avenue streetcar line, the large house and its prominent tower were undoubtedly an impressive sight to both prospective buyers and new residents. Although the house has been altered, both the interior and exterior retain some of its original Queen Anne features; the house has been a prominent visual landmark in the community since its completion. Assessment Records indicate that beginning in 1892, while still owned by the Riverdale Park Company, Block 34, Lot 14, and its \$2,000 improvement, were assessed to Mary Weeks Jones. Land Records indicate that Jones did not purchase the property from the Company until September 1895. Jones retained the property until July 1907, when it was sold to Agnes and William Anderson. The Andersons owned the property until August 1910, when they sold it to Miron E. Jardine, listed in an early directory as a carpenter. Jardine and his wife Altha, owned the house until 1955. Sometime thereafter, the house was adapted for multi-family use. The current owner, Stanley Bruce Wernek, purchased the property in June 1987.

Acreage: 10,059 sq. ft.

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common 4606 Queensbury Road

2. Location

street & number 4606 Queensbury Road ___ not for publication

city, town Riverdale ___ vicinity of congressional district 5th

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 Stanley Bruce Wernek

street & number 4606 Queensbury Road telephone no.:

city, town Riverdale state and zip code Maryland 20737

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6679

street & number Main Street folio 26

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

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} 68-4-76

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.

4606 Queensbury Road is a large, two-story-and attic, stuccoed, frame house with an irregular plan, multi-cross gable roof. At the southwest corner of the house is a three-story, square-plan tower with a pyramidal roof. The house is sited on the north side of Queensbury Road east of Route 1, on an elevated lot fronted by a random ashlar retaining wall. The house sits on a poured concrete foundation that is partially excavated to the north as a cellar. Although the house has been altered, most notably by its current stucco covering, many original 2/2 double-hung wood sash windows and the multi-pane Queen Anne window lighting near the entry door, remain.

The main (south) facade is two bays wide. The eastern bay is a two-story-and-attic, front-gable projection with simple vergeboards decorating the eaves. At the first two stories is an attached pair of 2/2 windows. The attic windows are slightly smaller and are modern 6/6 double-hung replacements. The western bay of the facade, the three-story square tower containing the entry door, is slightly recessed and surmounted by a metal ball finial. The third story windows of the tower are also modern 6/6 double-hung replacements. The single door entry has a simple surround and a modern wood door. To the west of the entry, just below the porch roof, is a square, multi-pane Queen Anne window with clear lights. At the southwest corner of the house, uniting the main facade with the west elevation, is a shed roof wraparound porch supported by plain square columns. The porch has a narrow board wood floor.

The east elevation contains a projecting two-story and attic front-gable bay like that of the main facade. The bay has paired 2/2 windows at each story and very tall and narrow 2/2 windows are located in the side walls of the bay. To the south, a shed roof dormer with a modern window, has been added.

The rear (north) elevation appears to be the result of several alterations and additions to the original cross-gable plan of the house. The main block of the house is defined by a two-story and attic front gable section to which a two-story and a one-story enclosed projection have been added. Both of these projections appear to represent the enclosure of porches which may have been later additions themselves. The two-story projection has a hip roof and is lighted by small 6/6 double-hung windows. A modern wood and glass door fire door is centered on the second story. The one-story projection wraps around the northeast corner of the house. It also has a hip roof and is lighted from the north and east by three attached 6/6 double-hung windows.

The west elevation is similar to the east, with a centered full-height projecting front-gabled bay. The south end of the elevation is composed of the west elevation of the tower and part of the wraparound porch.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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Description (continued)

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INTERIOR

The interior of the house has been modified. The house has been altered for use as a rooming house with a single apartment on the first floor and individual rooms on the upper floors sharing common bath and kitchen facilities. The attic story, reached by a narrow stair, is finished with three small rooms. Throughout the house, several partitions have been added or altered to redefine interior spaces. Each floor appears to retain narrow board flooring which may be original to the house. The second floor and attic floors are covered with carpeting. While many of the windows retain their original molded surrounds and bull's eye corner blocks, there are no original interior doors remaining. The house has only one fireplace, in the northwest corner of the first floor center parlor; the brick mantel appears to date from the mid-twentieth century. The most distinctive decorative feature remaining in the house is the main stair in the southwest corner of the house. The heavily turned newel is typical of those found in late Victorian and Queen Anne houses. The open string, open newel stair also retains its slender turned spindles.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#68-4-76

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 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		

Specific dates c.1892

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 house at 4606 Queensbury Road, completed by 1892, is significant as one of the oldest houses in Riverdale and as one of those early houses erected by the Riverdale Park Company to encourage the sale of lots and the development in its newly platted suburb.¹ Located within sight of the B & O Railroad station and near the Baltimore Avenue streetcar line, both lifelines of the community from its founding to the years before World War II, the large house and its prominent tower was undoubtedly an impressive sight to both prospective buyers and new residents. Although the house has been altered, both the interior and exterior retain some of its original Queen Anne features: the house has been a prominent visual landmark in the community since its completion.

The land on which Riverdale Park was built had been part of the Riversdale Plantation established in 1801 when Henri Joseph Stier, a Belgian aristocrat, purchased 800 acres north of Bladensburg, and began to develop a plantation. After Stier's return to Belgium in 1803, completion of the Riversdale mansion and management of the plantation were taken over by his daughter Rosalie and her husband George Calvert. The Riversdale Plantation became a model of its type, and remained within the Calvert family for three generations.² After the death in 1864 of Charles Benedict Calvert (son of Rosalie and George Calvert), a commission was appointed to divide the plantation among his heirs and a 300-acre dower lot (as well as the 175-acre lot adjoining it to the north) was sold by Calvert heirs in 1887 to John Fox, president of the Riverdale Park Company, a New York real estate syndicate which then began to develop the suburb of Riverdale Park.³

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

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The land was platted in 1889 by D. J. Howell. Streets were laid out in a grid pattern, straddling the Washington line of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which ran north and south through the new community and offered residents easy commuting into the Federal city to the southwest. Park spaces and circles of green were provided in the plan and parkland was reserved around the Calvert mansion which was to be preserved "as a sacred relic of an era replete with memories."⁴ Streets were named for the Presidents of the United States, Washington through McKinley, as well as for other distinguished statesmen such as Clay, Lafayette and Beale.⁵

Construction of dwellings began in the early 1890s. All were of frame construction, and reflected the popular tastes of the period, as illustrated in house catalogs of those years. Some were pyramidal-roof Foursquares, other front-gabled or cross-gabled; many were highlighted by projecting bays or corner towers, and almost all had prominent wraparound porches with jigsaw decorative details. By the turn of the century, the new suburb had approximately 60 dwellings, a presbyterian church, a handsome Victorian schoolhouse and a railroad station; the latter two public buildings were built by the Riverdale Park Company. There were two general stores and telephone and telegraph communications were available. Concrete side walks were provided for the principal streets.⁶ Because of its convenient location, its efficient line of transportation into the City, its primary school, and its picturesque tree-lined streets, Riverdale Park became one of the most desirable residential suburbs in the Washington area.

Prince George's County Assessment Records indicate that beginning in 1892, while still owned by the Riverdale Park Company, Block 34, Lot 14, and its \$2,000 improvement, were assessed to Mary Weeks Jones.⁷ Land Records indicate that Jones did not purchase the property from the Company until September 1895.⁸ Jones retained the property until July 1907, when it was sold to Agnes and William Anderson. The Andersons owned the property until August 1910, when they sold it to Miron E. Jardine. Jardine and his wife Altha, owned the house until 1955.⁹ In an early directory, Jardine is listed as a carpenter residing on Madison Avenue near the Post Office (Queensbury Road near Rhode Island Avenue).¹⁰

Since the mid 1950s, the house has had a number of owners. Sometime thereafter, the house was adapted for multi-family use. The current owner, Stanley Bruce Wernek, purchased the property in June 1987.¹¹

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

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NOTES

1. The exact number of houses speculatively built by the Riverdale Park Company is not known. Another example, also near the B & O station, is the Harry Smith House (PG#68-4-1) at 4706 Oliver Street, built by the Company in 1890.
2. See Pearl, S.G., Riversdale Historic Structures Report, Part III, History: M-NCPPC, 1979.
3. Prince George's County Land Records, JWB8:426, 520; JWB12:484; JWB13:614.
4. "Riverdale Park" real estate promotional brochure, c.1904.
5. Prince George's County Subdivision Plats, JWB5:747; "Riverdale Park" real estate promotional brochure.
6. "Riverdale Park" real estate promotional brochure; see also Pearl, S.G., Victorian Pattern Book Houses in Prince George's County, Maryland, M-NCPPC, 1988.
7. Prince George's County Assessment Records, E.D. #2, 1891 - 1895.
8. Prince George's County Land Records, JB3:148.
9. Prince George's County Land Records, 40:536; 66:319; 1851:492.
10. Nelson's Suburban Directory of Maryland and Virginia Towns Adjacent to the District of Columbia, 1912-1913, p. 132.
11. Prince George's County Land Records, 6679:26.

Chain of Title

4606 Queensbury Road

6679:26 13 June 1987 Deed	Glenn H. Larsen and Evelyn C. Larsen to Stanley Bruce Wernek. Grantors convey Lot 14 in Block 34, Riverdale Park. Plat recorded JWB5:475 or A:42. Same obtained from Joseph P. Vito and Shirley A. Vito, 1 October 1979, 5170:285.
5170:285 1 October 1979 Deed	Joseph P. Vito and Shirley A. Vito to Glenn H. Larsen and Evelyn C. Larsen. Grantors convey Lot 14 in Block 34. Same obtained from Gary H. Walker and Charlotte J. Walker, 22 November 1978, 5031:728.
5031:728 22 November 1978 Deed	Gary H. Walker and Charlotte J. Walker to Joseph P. Vito and Shirley A. Vito. Grantors convey Lot 14 in Block 34. Same obtained from Joseph P. Vito and Shirley A. Vito, 29 June 1978, 4950:539.
4950:539 29 June 1978 Deed	Joseph P. Vito and Shirley A. Vito to Gary H. Walker and Charlotte J. Walker. Grantors convey Lot 14 in Block 34. Same obtained from Orville and Rita Brack and Catherine H. Schmitt, 31 January 1964, 2939:108.
2939:108 31 January 1964 Deed	Orville and Rita Brack and Catherine H. Schmitt. Grantors convey Lot 14 in Block 34. Same obtained from Sadie M. McDermott, 12 December 1958, 2281:44.
2281:44 12 December 1958 Deed	Sadie M. McDermott to Orville and Rita Brack and Catherine H. Schmitt. Grantor conveys Lot 14 in Block 34. Same obtained from Julia H. Gwynn, 6 June 1957, 2112:35.
2112:35 6 June 1957 Deed	Julia H. Gwynn to Sadie M. McDermott. Grantor conveys Lot 14 in Block 34. Same obtained from Miron E. and Altha J. Jardine, 20 April 1955, 1851:492.
1851:492 20 April 1955 Deed	Miron E. and Altha J. Jardine to Julia H. Gwynn. Grantors convey Lot 14 in Block 34. Same obtained from Agnes E. and William L. Anderson, 25 August 1910, 66:319.

66:319
25 August 1910
Deed

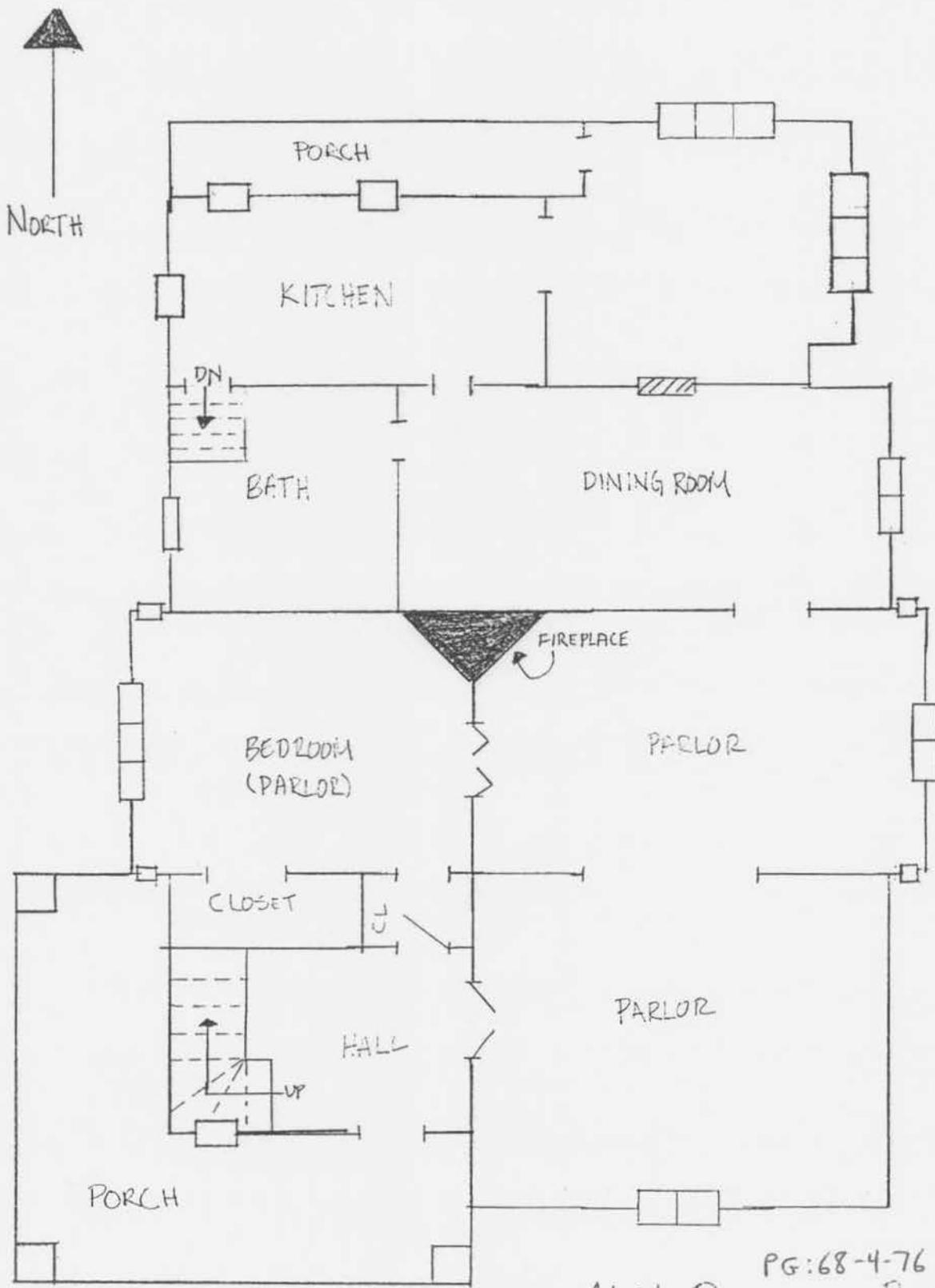
Agnes E. and William L. Anderson to Miron
E. Jardine. Grantors convey Lot 14 in
Block 34. Same obtained from Mary Weeks
Jones, 31 July 1907, 40:536.

40:536
31 July 1907
Deed

Mary Weeks Jones to Agnes E. Anderson.
Grantor conveys Lot 14 in Block 34. Same
obtained from Riverdale Park Company, 4
September 1895, JB3:148.

JB3:148
4 September 1895
Deed

Riverdale Park Company to Mary Weeks
Jones. Grantor conveys Lot 14 in Block 34
of grantor's subdivision of Riverdale
Park. To clear title, this deed is made.



PG:68-4-76
 4606 QUEENSBURY ROAD
 RIVERDALE, MARYLAND
 NOVEMBER 1990
 NOT TO SCALE



68-4-76

R-55

HIGHWAY R-18

R-5

R-10

R-55

CM

0672

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1.10A. P.54

1.05A P.55

0.96A P.57

1.16A. P.59

P.101

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DR. R.A. BENNETT'S RESERVE RIVERDALE

THE OGLETHORPE

J.A. REGISTER

RIVERDALE

RIVERDALE PARK

RIVERDALE PARK

RIVERDALE PARK

RIVERDALE PARK

RIVERDALE PARK

EAST AVENUE

AVENUE

BEALE CIRCLE

HARRISON

CLEVELAND

LONGFELLOW

KENNEDY

WATTS

OHIO

HIGHWAY

CA

CA

NICHOLSON

ST.

ST.

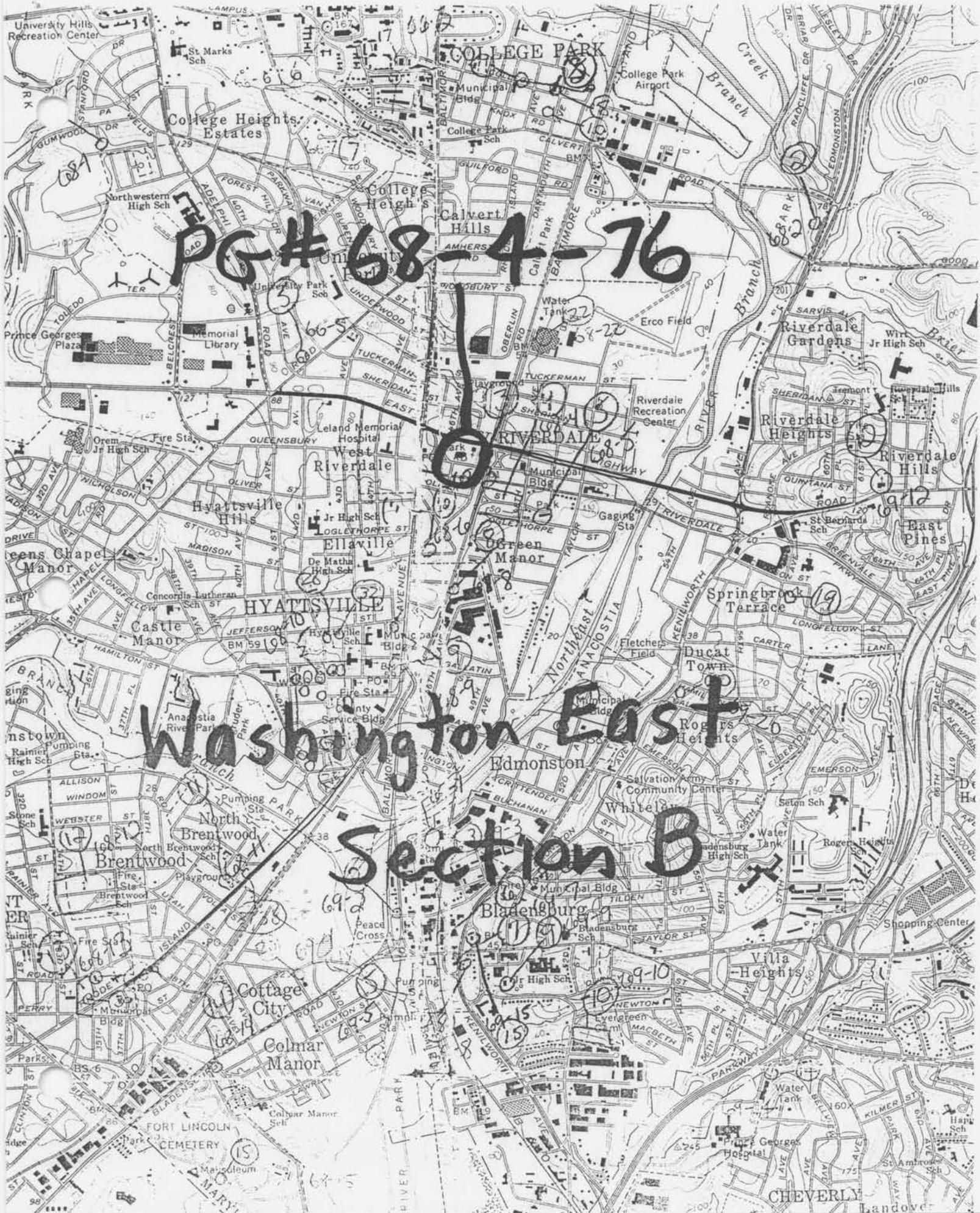
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PLACE

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PG# 68-4-76

Washington East

Section B



4606 Queensbury Road

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

November 1990

From S
NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS
1 of 6

PG# 68-4-76



4606 Queensbury Road
Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

November 1990

From SW

NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS

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PG#68-4-76



4606 Queensbury Road

PG#68-4-76

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

November 1990

From SE

NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS

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4606 Queensbury Road

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

November 1990

From NE

NEG: 0747, ANNAPOLIS

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PH#68-4-76



4606 Queensbury Rd
Riverdale

PG# 68-4-76

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

November 1990

Detail: Parlor Window &
Door Surround

From SW

NEG: M#T, ANNAPOLIS

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4606 Queensbury Rd P6#68-4-76

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

November 1990

Detail: Main Stair Rail &

Newel

From NE

NEG: MIT, ANNAPOLIS

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