

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68- 60 Building Date: 1905

Building Name: Bellman House

Location: 4012 33rd Street, Mt. Rainier

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Bellman House is a large, three-by-two bay, two-story frame dwelling with a cross-gable roofline and corner octagonal tower. The house is stucco-covered and has a wrap-around entry porch with Victorian detailing. It stands on a town lot, on a hill overlooking 33rd Street in Mt. Rainier. The three-bay east (main) facade is irregularly massed, due to the projecting octagonal tower at the southeast corner and a two-story semi-octagonal bay surmounted by a pediment in the northeast bay. The central entrance is surmounted by a narrow dentilled band, below a rectangular transom. The first story is sheltered by a hipped roof entrance porch which wraps around the south side of the building. The frame structure of the house is covered with beige stucco material scored to look like stone blocks. The house rests on a high concrete foundation covered with the same stucco material. The roof is covered with red shingle. There is a wide frieze, boxed crown-molded cornice and deeply overhanging eaves.

Significance

The Bellman House, dating to ca. 1905, is significant as a large Queen Anne house in the simplified style constructed in suburbs throughout the nation around the turn of the century. It is one of a cluster of large early twentieth dwellings with architectural styles recalling late nineteenth century Victorian domestic architecture, located in Mt. Rainier. Mt. Rainier developed as a streetcar suburb beginning with the platting of the Mt. Rainier subdivision in 1903. The house was constructed for Oscar and Bertha Bellman, originally from Hagerstown, Maryland in 1905. Bellman was founder and owner of the Bellman Heating Company in Washington D.C. The house was the home of members of the Bellman family for 56 years.

Acreage: 7,500 sq. ft.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G. 68-60

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bellman House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 4012 33rd Street  not for publication

city, 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Frederick and Debora Sissine

street & number 4012 33rd Street 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 6797

street & number Main Street folio 203

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. P.G. #68-60

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" 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 Bellman House is a large, three-by-two bay, two-story frame dwelling with a cross-gable roofline and corner octagonal tower. The house is stucco-covered and has a wrap-around entry porch with Victorian detailing. It stands on a town lot, on a hill overlooking 33rd Street in Mt. Rainier, immediately to the east.

The three-bay east (main) facade is irregularly massed, due to the projecting octagonal tower at the southeast corner and a two-story semi-octagonal bay surmounted by a pediment as the northeast bay. The central entrance has a six-panel door with nine panes glazing the upper half. The door is surmounted by a narrow dentilled band, below a rectangular transom. The windows on first and second stories are 1/1 double-hung sash with narrow wood surrounds. The first story is sheltered by a hipped roof entrance porch which wraps around the south side of the building. The porch is set on a high parged concrete foundation and has a wooden floor, reached by a flight of six concrete steps. The turned and chamfered porch posts are arranged in pairs set on high stucco-covered concrete bases. The balustrade is a modern replacement metal balustrade. The posts support a roof with a plain frieze, and an overhanging boxed crown-molded cornice. There are foundation windows beneath the porch and a ground level entry to the basement beneath the southeast corner of the porch, reached by two steps down.

The tower is a full octagon at loft level. There is a 4/2 sash window in each face and it is surmounted by a pyramidal cap. The enclosed pediment above the northeast bay has a square 8/8 sash window and a wide crown-molded raking cornice.

The frame structure of the house is covered with beige stucco material scored to look like large blocks. The house rests on a high concrete foundation covered with the same stucco material. The roof is covered with red shingle. There is a wide frieze, boxed crown-molded cornice and deeply overhanging eaves.

The two-bay south elevation is sheltered by the east entrance porch which wraps around the crosses the entire facade. There is a one-story semi-octagonal west bay. There are four windows on the facade. It appears that there may have been more originally.

The one-bay north elevation has double windows at second and third story levels, centered on the facade. An interior chimney with a parged covering rises just west of the windows.

The three-bay west (rear) elevation has a steep hipped roofline. An entry to the kitchen is in the northwest bay. It is sheltered by a two-bay, two-story shed roof porch supported on metal posts. There is an entry to the porch on the second story.

The interior of the Bellman House has an "L" shaped central hallway, and a square plan, with two parlors flanking the hall at the front of the house and a dining room and kitchen at the rear. The parlors are irregularly shaped due to the projecting bays and octagonal tower.

Entry is into a central hall flanked by a parlor on each side. The parlors are reached through wide rectangular entryways with fixtures for curtain poles. There are no doors or pocket doors. The dark stained wood door and window surround have an inset panel with raised rectangular inner and outer bands, set on base blocks. Cornices are wide and plain with raised crown molding.

The entry hall runs west through the house and then turns at a right angle to the north. The closed-string stair raises along the west wall in this north section of the hall. It turns 90° at a landing lighted by a double 1/1 sash window, turns 90° once again and rises along an east wall to the second story. The balusters are turned, with upper and lower blocks. The square newel post has an applied floral design and is surmounted by a spherical knob. A doorway beneath the stair leads to the basement.

The flooring throughout the interior is original, of narrow uniform width boards. The high baseboard has an ogee cap. The dining room, at the southwest corner of the house, has a mantel centered on the south wall. The mantel is purely decorative, as there is no chimney behind it. It has a square hearth opening surmounted by oval an applied floral design centered in the frieze. Grooved brackets support the mantel shelf. There is a rectangular mirror in the over-mantel. The upper mantel shelf is supported by tapering ionic columns on base blocks, and is surmounted by a band of egg and dart molding. There is a built-in cupboard with glazed doors in the west wall of the room, between an entry to the kitchen and an entry to the stair hall.

There are 4 bedrooms on the second story, surrounding a rectangular central hall. The stair to the unfinished attic is enclosed behind a door off the second story hall. The attic has one finished room, in the octagonal tower. It has a far reaching view to the east, as the house is located on a high ridge.

The town lot upon which the house stands has a steeply sloping front yard. The house is reached by a long flight of concrete stairs up from the sidewalk. The rear yard is quite flat and has a large oak tree.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1905 **Builder/Architect** Wesley Dayhoff, builder

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 Bellman House, dating to ca. 1905, is significant as a large Queen Anne house in the simplified style constructed in suburbs throughout the nation around the turn of the century. It is one of a cluster of large early twentieth dwellings with architectural styles recalling late nineteenth century Victorian domestic architecture, located in Mt. Rainier. Mt. Rainier developed as a streetcar suburb beginning with the platting of the Mt. Rainier subdivision in 1903. The house was constructed for Oscar and Bertha Bellman, originally from Hagerstown, Maryland in 1905. Bellman was founder and owner of the Bellman Heating Company in Washington D.C. The house was the home of members of the Bellman family for 56 years.

The Bellman House is constructed on Lot 8, Block 3 of the Mount Rainier Subdivision. Bertha O. Bellman purchased the lot from members of the real estate partnership which had platted the subdivision. Tax records indicate that the house was constructed at the time of purchase. It was constructed by Wesley Dayhoff, a building contractor who was also a native of Hagerstown, Maryland and was married to Bertha Bellman's half-sister. Dayhoff was responsible for a number of other houses in Mt. Rainier at that time.

A ca. 1921 photograph shows the Bellman house substantially as it is today, with the same stucco wall treatment and front porch resting on the projecting basement story. A driveway visible along the south side of the lot has since been filled in.

Oscar Bellman (1875-1937) was the founder of the Bellman Heating Company, which was involved in installing residential heating systems. The company offices were located on 5th Street Northwest, in downtown Washington. After Bellman's death in 1937 the business was assumed by three of Bellman's sons, Donald, Robert and Alfred.

Bertha Bellman lived on at the family residence with son Robert Bellman until her death in the late 1940's. Robert Bellman was involved with the family business and lived at the house until his death in 1961. At that time the property was sold out of the family.

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

Survey No. P.G.#68-60  
Section 8 Page 2

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The Bellman House is significant for its Queen Anne style detail, including an octagonal tower and semi-octagonal bays on the front and side elevations. It also retains double turned porch post. The interior of the house has the original wide wood Classical Revival style moldings around doors and windows which were very popular in the early twentieth century. Three of the door openings, into the parlors and dining room are wide and probably originally had curtain closures.

The stair with turned balusters and rectangular paneled newell, and the built-in cupboard in the dining room with glazed doors are outstanding features.

The Bellman house is significant as an example of the turn-of-the-century suburban Queen Anne style. It stands out as one of the more elaborate dwellings in the streetcar suburb of Mt. Rainier. It also is significant as the home of the Bellmans, one of Mt. Rainier's early families, who were members of the community for 56 years.



Chain of Title  
Bellman House  
P.G.#68-60

6797:203  
2 Oct 1987  
Deed  
Sander H. Lee and Wendy Sue Smith joint tenants, to Frederick and Deborah Sissine for \$91,000 grantors convey lot in 17th E.D., Lot 8, Block 3 in Mount Rainier Subdivision. Same conveyed 5939:901

5939:901  
13 July 1984  
Deed  
Michael J. Alspaugh et. al. to Sander H. Lee and Wendy Sue Smith as joint tenants for \$60,000 grantors convey Lot 8 in Block 3

4638:672  
7 July 1976  
Deed  
John H. Moore, attorney to Michael J. and Margaret C. Alspaugh. Default on mortgage, David G. and Fay J. Bartin to Cameron Brown Co., June 11, 1972, 4233:566. Public sale held 23 Dec., 1975 and Cameron Brown purchased Lot 8, Block 3.

4233:566  
11 June 1973  
Mortgage  
David G. Bartin and Fay J. Bartin and Cameron Brown Co. Grantors indebted for \$8,462. Lot 8, Block 3.

3947:349  
11 May 1971  
Deed  
H.U.D. to David G. Bartin and Fay J. Bartin for \$1 grantor conveys Lot 8 in Block 3. Same acquired by grantor through National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1701 et. seq.

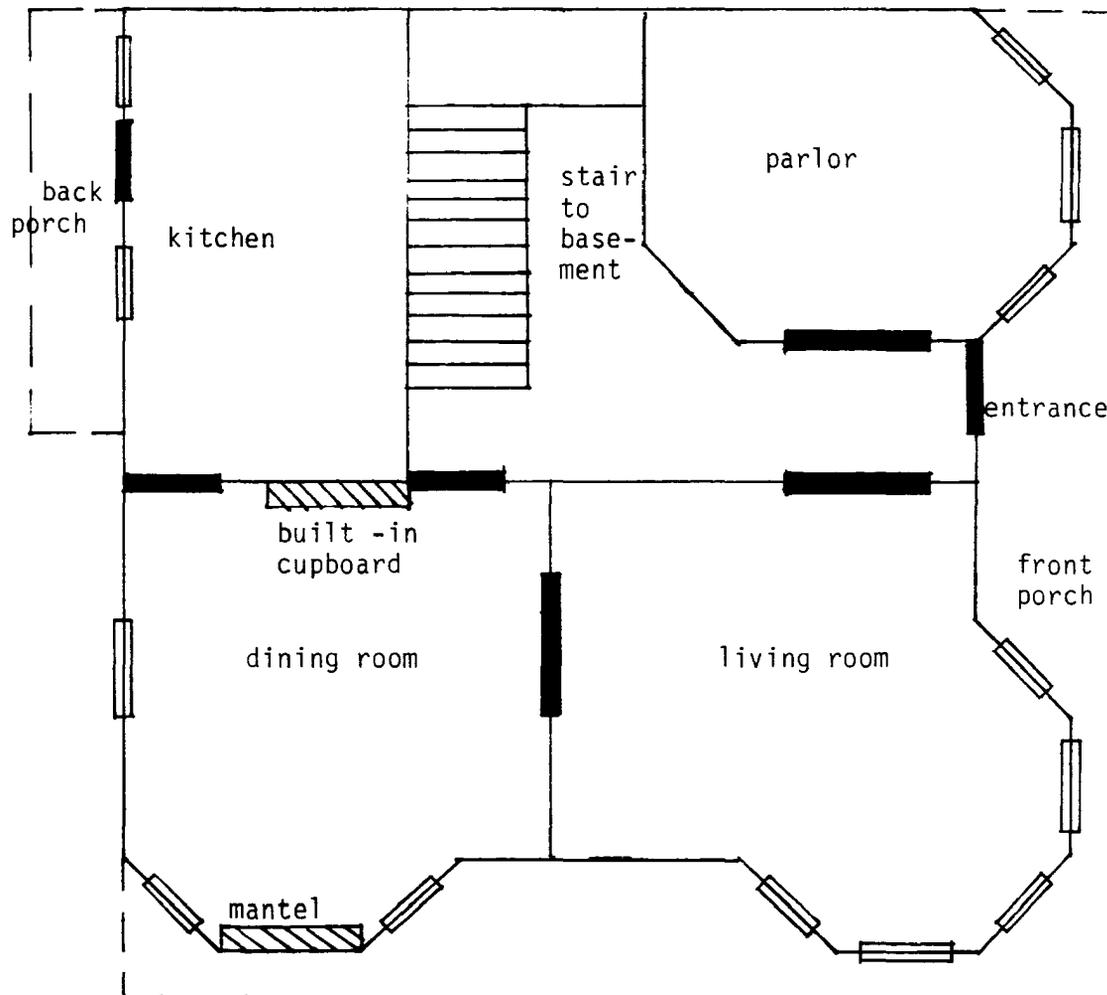
3386:537  
18 Aug 1963  
Deed  
Thomas D. Estrada-Palma and wife to Carl Eugene and Margaret Herberger

3204:43  
20 Aug 1965  
Deed  
Winfield M. and Margaret E. Kelly to Thomas D. Estrada-Palma, Lot 8, Block 3 in Mt. Rainier.

2583:131  
17 March 1961  
Kathleen and William Aberg and Donald and Ruth Bellman, Alfred H. and Evelyn N. Bellman, Henry and Hester Bellman and Francis Gaegler, Trustee by virtue of Equity B-71443, 27 April 1961, to Winfield and Margaret E. Kelly. Lot 8, Block 3 in Mount Rainier Subdivision as per plat JWB 9:659. Above are sole heirs of Bertha W. Bellman sole devisee under will of Robert W. Bellman (WDA 6:344) and who pre-deceased him.

28:260  
14 Sept. 1905  
Deed  
Wallace T. Bartlett, Sigmund A. Czarra and Ira J. Baker to Bertha O. Bellman. For \$600 grantors convey Lot #8, Block #3 of Mt. Rainier, with conditions that no house placed within 20 feet or stable within 30 feet of a platted street. Nor any house constructed of value less than \$1,500.

P.G.#68-60  
Bellman House  
November 1988  
Sketch Floorplan  
Not to Scale



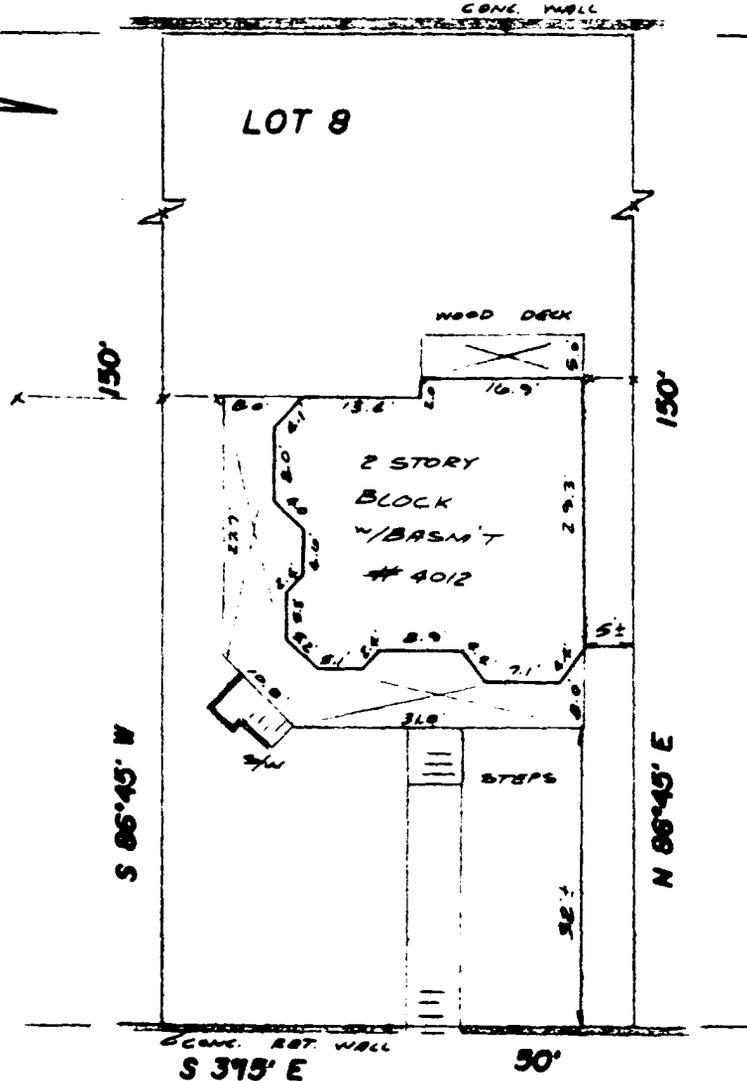
# HOUSE LOCATION LOT 8 BLOCK 3

CASE M-1809

## MOUNT RAINIER

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD.

18 | N 375° W 17 50' | 16

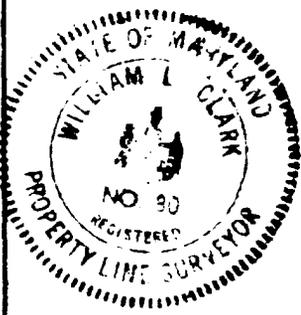


3

7

9

S PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN  
FIRM ZONE C AS SHOWN  
ON COMMUNITY PANEL NUMBER  
24508-25 OF NATIONAL  
FLOOD INSURANCE MAP DATED  
JULY 25 1987



33<sup>RD</sup> STREET  
40' R/W

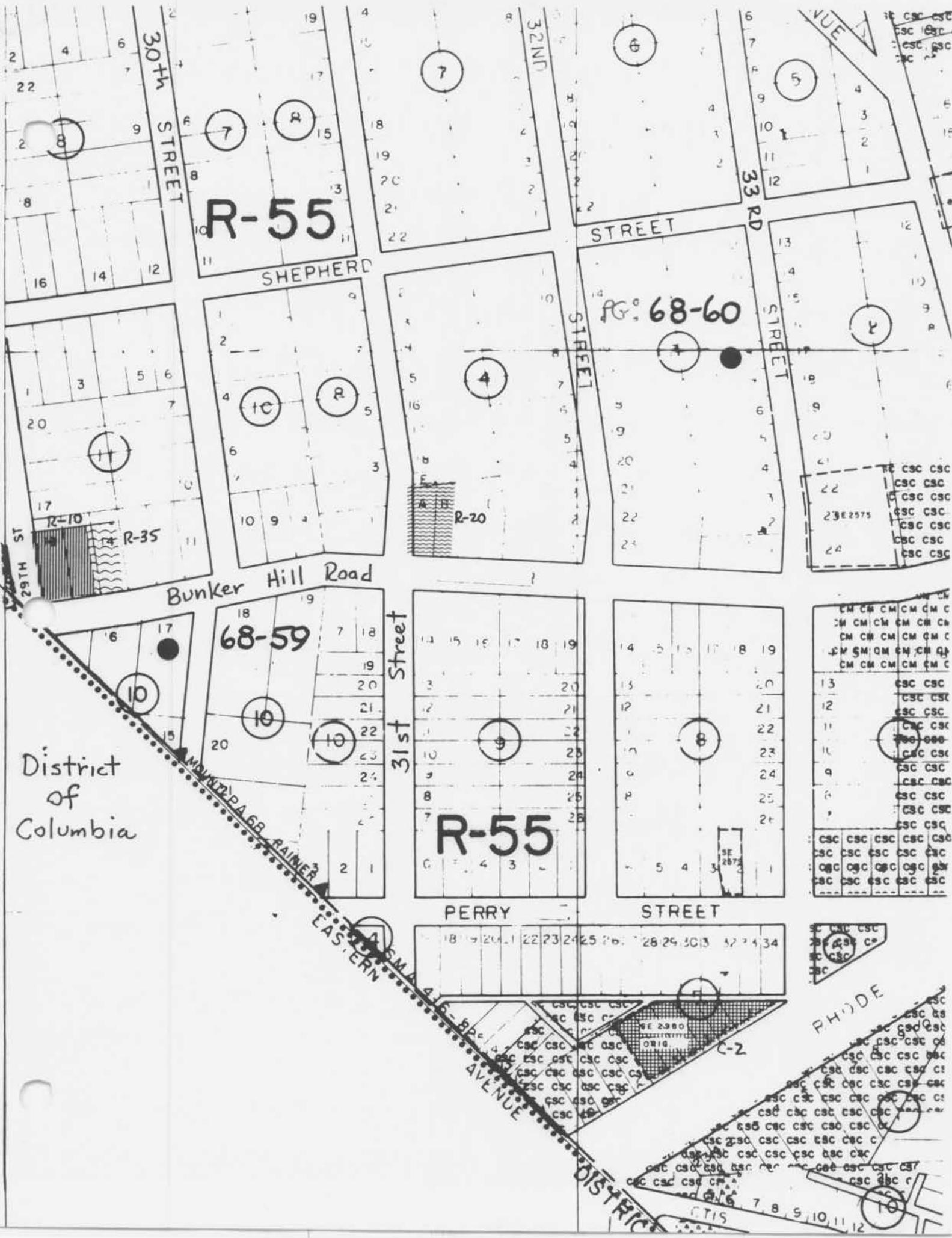
PLAT BOOK A PLAT S NO TITLE REPORT WAS FURNISHED

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE LOCATION OF THE EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS  
ON THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY HAS BEEN CAREFULLY ESTABLISHED  
BY A TRANSIT-TAPE SURVEY AND THAT UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN THERE  
ARE NO ENCROACHMENTS. THIS SURVEY IS NOT TO BE USED OR RELIED  
UPON FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY FENCE, BUILDING, OR OTHER  
MOVEMENT LINES, AND NO PROPERTY CORNERS WERE SET

### BELTWAY SURVEYS

5627 ALLENTOWN ROAD  
CAMP SPRINGS, MARYLAND 20746  
SUITE 104 (301) 899-3440

5/2/87 *William L. Clark*



R-55

PG-68-60

R-55

68-59

District of Columbia

30th STREET

32nd STREET

33rd STREET

SHEPHERD STREET

Bunker Hill Road

31st Street

PERRY STREET

STREET

RHODE AVENUE

EASTERN AVENUE

23E2575  
CSC CSC  
CSC CSC  
CSC CSC  
CSC CSC  
CSC CSC

13	CSC CSC
12	CSC CSC
11	CSC CSC
10	CSC CSC
9	CSC CSC
8	CSC CSC
7	CSC CSC
6	CSC CSC
5	CSC CSC
4	CSC CSC
3	CSC CSC
2	CSC CSC
1	CSC CSC

CSC CSC  
CSC CSC  
CSC CSC

R-20

R-10  
R-35

C-2

DISTRICT

CTIS

7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12





Bellman House

Prince George's County, MD

Marina King

[ porch 1988

E main elevation

Negative - MD Historical  
Trust, Annapolis



P.G. # 68-60

Bellman House

Marina King

March 1988

SE elevation

Negatives - MD Historical Trust,

Annapolis



William  
house Jan 1921



Vernon house, 281st  
St. Plummer

Jan 1921



William  
house Jan 1921



Jan 1921

2000 Camera Store  
1-800-421-4222

PG. #68-60

Bellman House

Marina King

March 1988

Views of Bellman House, ca. 1921

Negatives - MD Historical Trust,  
Annapolis



P.G. # 68-60

Bellman House

Marina King

March 1988

W elevation

Negatives - MD Historical Trust

Annapolis



P.G. #68-60

Bellman House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Marina King  
March 1988  
Stair - detail  
Negative - MD Historical  
Trust, Annapolis



P.G. #68-60

Bellman House

Prince George's County, MD

Marina King

March 1988

E - entry door detail

Negatives - MD Historical

Trust, Annapolis



Bellman House  
Prince Georges County, MD  
Marina King  
March 1988  
mantel - west parlor  
Negatives - MD Historical  
Trust, Annapolis