

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey # 68-69

Building Date 1919

Building Name Grimes- Clayton House

Location 6304 46th Street, Riverdale , MD

Private/ Residence/ Occupied/ Good/ Inaccessible

DESCRIPTION

The Grimes-Clayton House, located at 6304 46th Avenue (Lots 11 and 12, Block 68, Riverdale Park) is a one-and-one-half story frame bungalow with a modified rectangular plan on a high, stucco-covered, poured-concrete foundation. The house has a side-gable, asphalt-shingle roof with overhanging eaves. The bungalow is located on the southern half (Lot 11) of its two lot parcel. Originally stuccoed, the house is currently sheathed with aluminum siding and its main facade windows are trimmed with aluminum shutters. The house retains its original 3/1 wood-sash craftsman-style windows.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Grimes-Clayton House is significant as an essentially intact example of the modest "craftsman-style" bungalow built in Riverdale throughout the early 20th century. The bungalows of this period represent a later phase of the community's development; the streetcar and automobile suburb that followed the railroad suburb of the late 19th century.

Acreage: 11.000 square feet

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

PG:  
Survey No. 68-69  
Magi No.  
DOB  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Grimes-Clayton House

## 2. Location

street & number 6304 46th Street  not for publication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	<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 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 Margaret A. Clayton

street & number 6304 46th Street telephone no.:

city, town Riverdale state and zip code Maryland 20737

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. PG County Courthouse liber 2323

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 123

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title NONE

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<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 Grimes-Clayton House, located at 6304 46th Avenue (Lots 11 and 12, Block 68, Riverdale Park) is a one-and-one-half story frame bungalow with a modified rectangular plan on a high, stucco-covered, poured-concrete foundation. The house has a side-gable, asphalt-shingle roof with overhanging eaves. The bungalow is located on the southern half (Lot 11) of its two lot parcel. Originally stuccoed, the house is currently sheathed with aluminum siding and its main facade windows are trimmed with aluminum shutters.<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, windows throughout are 3/1 "craftsman-style" double-hung wood sash.

The house's two-bay main (east) facade contains a double craftsman-style window in its southern bay, placed just below the eave. Centered on this window in the foundation is a small three-pane awning window that lights the cellar. The northern bay is defined by a projecting front-gable porch supported by short, plain, wooden Doric columns on tall square-plan stuccoed bases. The porch, which has a concrete floor and is accessed by a set of concrete steps, is encircled by a non-original wrought-iron railing. Sheltered by the porch, and slightly recessed from the facade's southern bay, is the wood and glass "craftsman-style" entry door and a single, large, window. Centered in the east-sloping roof of the main facade is a small front-gable dormer with an attached pair of metal frame double-hung windows.

Centered on the three-bay north facade is a small, wood and glass door at grade leading to the cellar. Flanking the door and centered within the facade's east and west bays, are single craftsman windows. Within the foundation, below the east-bay window, is a small awning window lighting the cellar. The attic gable contains a smaller version of the craftsman window.

The windows of the three-bay west (rear) facade are placed just below the eave, as on the main facade. The facade contains three windows in a symmetrical arrangement, centered on a small window closely flanked by larger ones to the north and south. Within the foundation and below the southernmost window is a cellar window identical to those of the other facades.

The three-bay south facade has a single craftsman window to the west. Centered on the facade is a wood-and-glass entry door leading to the kitchen and accessed by a concrete stoop and steps. Immediately to the east of the door is a small window. Within the attic gable is a window identical to that of the north facade. The easternmost bay of the facade contains a semi-hexagonal cantilevered projecting bay with an asphalt-shingle roof. Each facet of the projecting bay is lighted by a single, large craftsman window.

Interior

Both in plan and decoration, the bungalow retains many of its original details. The modest house has two bedrooms and a small bath to the rear (west) separated by the kitchen and hall from the living and dining rooms to the east. The only non-original aspect of the floor plan is the reworking of access to the cellar. Originally, a door on the north wall of the kitchen lead to the cellar. Early in the Clayton family occupancy, the door in the kitchen was removed to enlarge that room and access to the cellar was provided by what had formerly been a closet north and west of the dining room (see floorplan). Throughout the house there are molded window and door surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks. Doors doors with inset horizontal panels. All woodwork is painted. The house has harwood floorswhich are covered with wall-to-wall carpet.

The main entry, which is sheltered by the projecting porch, leads directly to a small living room at the northeast corner of the house. Projecting from the west wall of the room is a fireplace with a simple, brick mantel and a wooden shelf. South of the living room and separated from it by a wooden colonnade, is the dining room. This room is the largest one on the main floor of the house and is light from the east by the large pair of windows on the main facade and from the south by the projecting semi-hexagonal bay.

West of the dining room is the kitchen. The modestly-sized room contains three doorways; one to the dining room to the east, an exterior door to the south, and a door to the larger bedroom at the southwest corner of the house. From the north wall of this bedroom, a door leads to the small L-shaped hallway linking the larger bedroom with the bath and smaller bedroom in the northwest corner of the house. Immediately west of the living room, is an enclosed stair leading to the finished attic which is used as an additional bedroom/sitting room.

NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Oral interview, Mrs. Margaret Clayton, February, 1990.

# 8. Significance

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanities
<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 type="checkbox"/> other (specif

Specific dates c.1919 Builder/Architect

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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 Grimes-Clayton House at 6304 46th Street is significant as an essentially intact example of the modest "craftsman-inspired" bungalows built in Riverdale throughout the early 20th century. The bungalows of this period represent a later phase of the community's development; the streetcar and automobile suburb that followed the railroad suburb of the late 19th century.

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.<sup>1</sup> 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, including the mansion and the family burial ground to the northwest, was laid off for Calvert's widow.<sup>2</sup> This 300-acre dower lot (as well as the 175-acre lot adjoining it on 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.<sup>3</sup>

The land was platted in 1889 by surveyor 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 historic memories."<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

Construction of dwellings began in the early 1890s. All were of frame construction, and reflected the popular taste of the period, as illustrated in house plan catalogs of those years. Some were pyramidal-roof Foursquares, others 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 sidewalks were constructed, and sewers were provided for the principal streets.<sup>6</sup> 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.

Iva M. and William H. Grimes purchased Lots 11 and 12 in Block 67 of Riverdale Park from the Riverdale Park Company in April of 1918.<sup>7</sup> By the following year, their modest bungalow was completed.<sup>8</sup> The Grimes' held the property briefly after the house was completed and sold it in March of 1920 (see Chain of Title). Through the late 1950s, the house had a number of owners and in April of 1959, the house was purchased by George E. and Margaret A. Clayton. Until his death in 1972, George Clayton was employed nearby as a mechanic at Mifflin & McCambridge, a pharmaceutical company located at 6400 Rhode Island Avenue.<sup>9</sup> Mrs. Clayton and a daughter and son-in-law still occupy the house.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup>See Riversdale, Historic Structures Report, 1979, Part II, History (S.G. Pearl).

<sup>2</sup>Prince George's County Equity Records #475.

<sup>3</sup>Prince George's County Land Records, JWB 8:426, JWB 12:484, JWB 13:614.

<sup>4</sup>Riverdale Park Real Estate Brochure (undated), circa 1904.

<sup>5</sup>Prince George's County Plat JWB 5:747, 688; Riverdale Park Real Estate Brochure (undated), circa 1904.

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

Survey No. PG 68-69

Section 8 Page 3

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<sup>6</sup>Riverdale Park Real Estate Brochure, "Riverdale Park" article, source unknown. circa 1899.

<sup>7</sup>Prince George's County Land Records, 130:105, 24 April 1918.

<sup>8</sup>Prince George's County Assessment Records, E.D. # 2, 1919.

<sup>9</sup>Mifflin & McCambridge was known to have operated in Riverdale until at least 1975, and today is no longer located there. Oral interview, Mrs. Margaret Clayton, February, 1990.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. 68-09

See Notes, Section #8

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Lots 11 and 12, Block 67

Quadrangle name Washington Riverdale Park

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References East  
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

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name Howard S. Berger, Architectural Historian

organization P G County Historic Preservation Comm May 1990

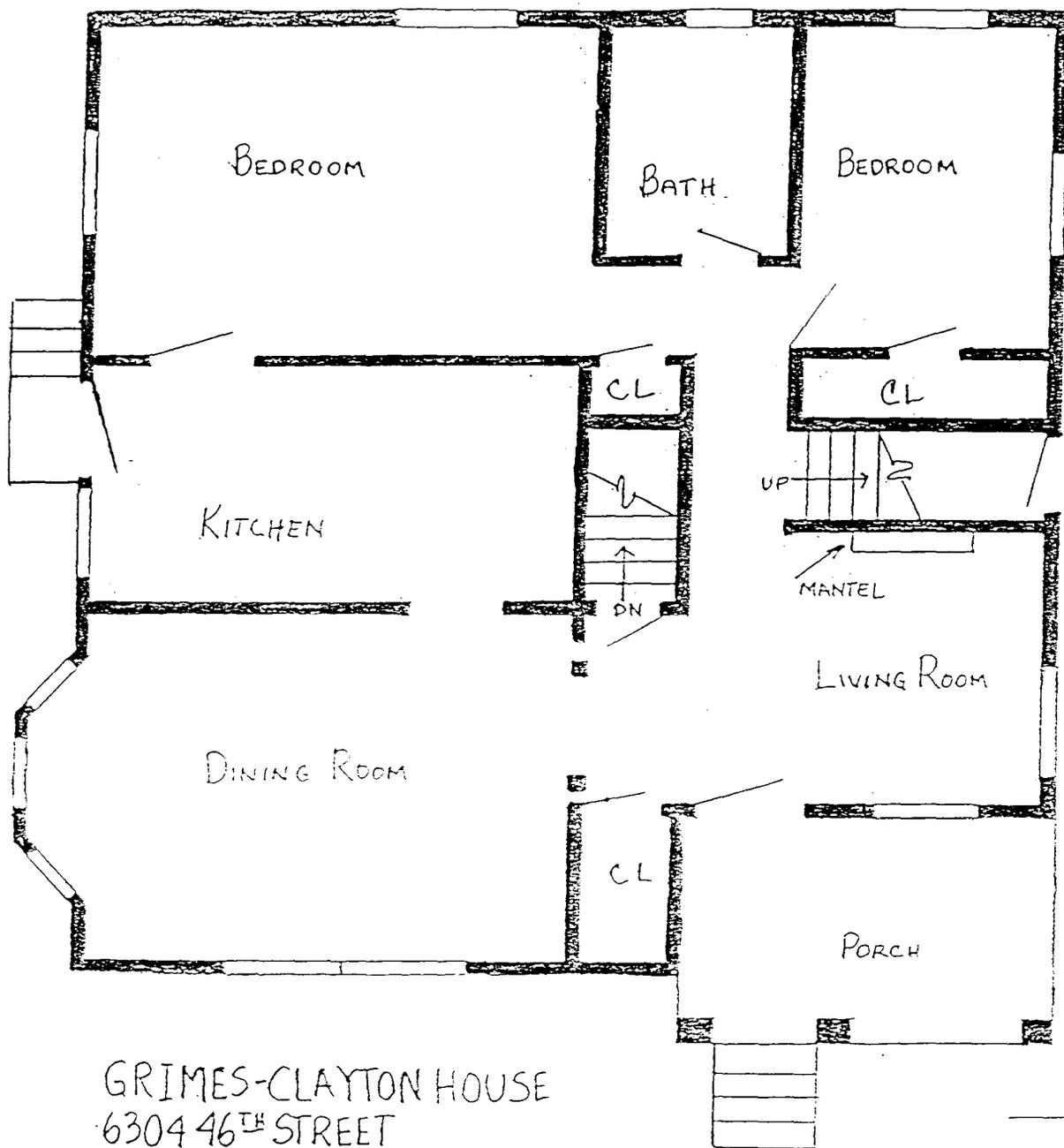
street & number 4th Floor, CAB telephone (301) 952-3520

city or town Upper Marlboro m Maryland

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



GRIMES-CLAYTON HOUSE  
 6304 46<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
 RIVERDALE, MARYLAND

P. G. # 68-69  
 MARCH 1990  
 NOT TO SCALE

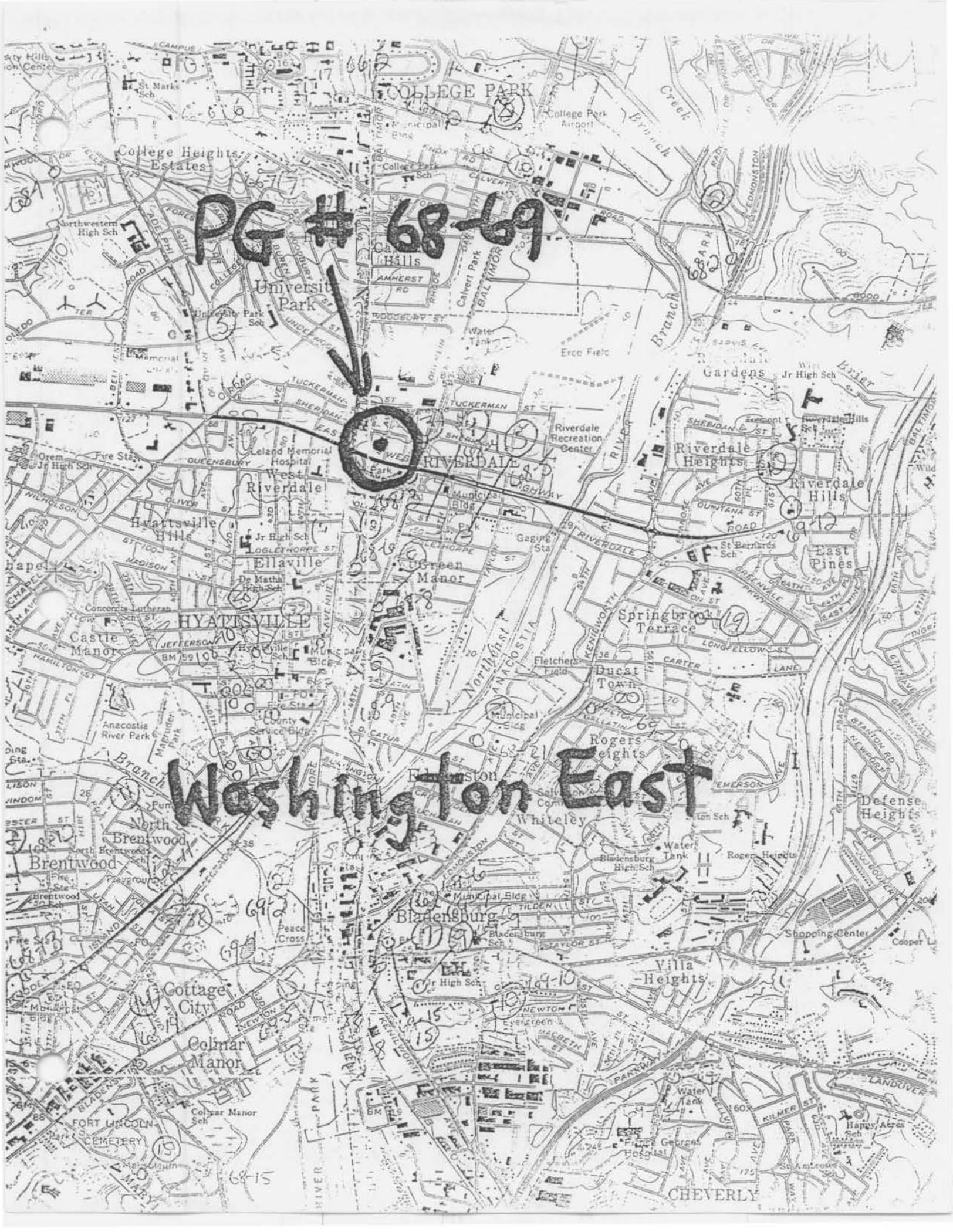
CHAIN OF TITLE  
6304 46th Avenue

2323:123 21 April 1959 Deed	Antonio M. and Phyllis M. Marinelli to George E. and Margaret A. Clayton. Grantors convey Lots 11 and 12 in Block 67, Riverdale Park. Plat recorded A:42. Same obtained from George A. Baker and Warren W. Grimes, 6 August 1958, 2239:126.
2239:126 6 August 1958 Deed	George A. Baker and Warren W. Grimes, trustees Evelyn L. Kenyon to Antonio M. Marinelli. Grantors convey Lots 11 and 12 in Block 67. Same obtained from Clarence Edward and Helen Elizabeth Clark, 9 July 1956, 2016:406.
2016:406 9 July 1956 Deed	Clarence Edward and Helen Elizabeth Clark to Evelyn L. Kenyon. Grantors convey Lots 11 and 12 in Block 67. Same obtained from Miles H. and Lucille H. Appleberry, 10 December 1946, 891:361.
891:361 10 December 1946 Deed	Miles H. and Lucille H. Appleberry to Clarence Edward and Helen Elizabeth Clark. Grantors convey Lots 11 and 12 in Block 67. Same obtained from James I. and Miriam F. Parker, 25 February 1946, 805:108.
805:108 25 February 1946 Deed	James I. and Miriam F. Parker to Miles H. and Lucille H. Appleberry. Grantors convey Lots 11 and 12 in Block 67. Same obtained from Vera R. Parker and Elizabeth G. Boyle, 25 November 1941, 664:263.
664:263 25 November 1941 Deed	Vera R. Parker and Elizabeth G. Boyle to James [A.] I. and Miriam F. Parker. Grantors convey Lots 11 and 12 in Block 67. Same obtained from Harold E. and Gertrude A. Boyle, 25 May 1938, 504:401.
504:401 25 May 1938 Deed	Harold E. and Gertrude A. Doyle to Vera R. Parker and Elizabeth G. Boyle. Grantors convey Lots 11 and 12 in Block 67. Same obtained from Lillian M. Rose, 19 June 1923, 261:277.
261:277 19 June 1923 Deed	Lillian M. Rose to Harold E. Doyle. Grantor conveys Lots 11 and 12 in Block 67. Same obtained from Goldie M. and Theodore F. Pappe, 5 March 1923, 190:389.
190:389 5 March 1923 Deed	Goldie M. and Theodore F. Pappe to Lillian M. Rose. Grantors convey Lots 11 and 12 in Block 67. Same obtained from Iva M. and William H. Grimes, 3 March 1920, 152:288.
152:288 3 March 1920 Deed	Iva M. and William H. Grimes to Goldie M. Pappe. Grantors convey Lots 11 and 12 in Block 67. Same obtained from Riverdale Park Company, 24 April 1918, 130:105.

130:105  
24 April 1918  
Deed

Riverdale Park Company to Iva M. and William H.  
Grimes. Grantor conveys Lots 11 and 12 in Block 67.





PG # 68-69



Washington East

COLLEGE PARK

College Heights Estates

University Park

RIVERDALE

HYATTSVILLE

Green Manor

Springbrook Terrace

Rogers Heights

Brentwood

Bladensburg

Villa Heights

Cottage City

Colmar Manor

CHEVERLY



GRIMES-CLAYTON HOUSE

PE# 68-69

6304 46<sup>th</sup> AVENUE, RIVERDALE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

HOWARD S. BERGER

NOVEMBER 1989

FROM SOUTHEAST

NEG.: MHT, ANNAPOLIS

1 OF 4



GRIMES-CLAYTON HOUSE  
6304 46<sup>th</sup> AVENUE, RIVERDALE

PG#68-69

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

HOWARD S BERGER

NOVEMBER 1989

FROM WEST

NEG: M4T, ANNAPOLIS

20F4



PK# 68-69

GRIMES-CLAYTON HOUSE  
6304 46<sup>th</sup> AVENUE, RIVERDALE  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND  
HOWARD S. BERGER  
NOVEMBER 1989

DETAIL: DINING ROOM COLONNADE  
FROM SOUTH

NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS  
30F4



PG# 68-69

GRIMES-CLAYTON HOUSE  
6304 46<sup>th</sup> AVENUE, RIVERDALE  
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND

HOWARD S. BERGER

NOVEMBER 1989

DETAIL: DOOR AND SURROUND  
IN HALL

NEG: MHT, ANNAPOLIS

4 OF 4