

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG # ~~68-4-88~~ 68-93-11 Building Date: c.1919

Building Name: 4311 Queensbury Road

Location: 4311 Queensbury Road  
Riverdale, Maryland

Private/Residences/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

4311 Queensbury Road (Block 7, Lot 35, West Riverdale) is one a group of seven large, craftsman-style, frame bungalows in the West Riverdale subdivision. Five of the houses are located in the 4300 block of Queensbury Road (west of Route 1); two others (just to the north) are in the 6200 block of 43rd Street. The five houses along Queensbury Road share a setting of mature shade trees and ornamental plantings. All of the houses in the group share the same scale, form and fenestration. The houses have steeply pitched, side-gable roofs and a large front-gable dormer in the street-facing slope of the roof. To the rear, each bungalow has a full-height second story. The main facade roof shelters a deep front porch supported by plain Doric-style wood columns on square bases of rusticated concrete block or random ashlar stone. Each house has a single-door off-center entry. The houses rest on poured concrete foundations and all have asphalt shingle roofs. All have double-hung windows, some the original 9/1 wood sash, and others, later 1/1 or multi-light sash. The houses differ from one another now, as they may have when built. The houses are sheathed with a variety of materials and retain original details in varying degrees. 4311 Queensbury Road retains its original appearance; the house is sheathed with narrow horizontal board siding and the east and west elevations retain old louvered shutters.

Significance

4311 Queensbury Road is significant as an excellent example of early 20th century speculative residential development in the emerging suburb of Riverdale. The craftsman-style dwelling is additionally significant as one of a group of seven that were built by Walter R. Wilson, a prominent local contractor. Wilson was largely responsible for the development of the West Riverdale subdivision within the present day Town of Riverdale. Individually and collectively the bungalows are distinctive, and character-defining features within their early 20th century neighborhood. Prince George's County Land and Assessment Records indicate that Wilson completed the bungalows over a period of about four years, from 1915 to 1919, and sold them soon after. Wilson sold 4311 Queensbury Road to George and Anna Montgomery in January 1919.

Acreeage: 13,113 sq. ft.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common 4311 Queensbury Road

## 2. Location

street & number 4311 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	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Jas. C. & Mary A. Keefer

street & number 4403 Holly Hill Road telephone no.:

city, town University Park state and zip code MD 20782

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 2399

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 421

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

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.

4311 Queensbury Road (Block 7, Lot 35, West Riverdale) is a large frame Craftsman style bungalow. The house is one of a group of seven bungalows in the West Riverdale subdivision that share the same interior plans and exterior organization. The exterior materials and decoration of each of the houses differ from one another now, as they may have when built. Five of the houses are located in the 4300 block of Queensbury Road (west of Route 1); two others (to the north) are in the 6200 block of 43rd Street, just south of East-West Highway (see map). The five houses along Queensbury Road share a setting of mature shade trees and ornamental plantings. All of the houses in the group share the same scale, form and fenestration. The houses have steeply pitched, side-gable roofs and a large front-gable dormer in the street-facing slope of the roof. To the rear, each bungalow has a full-height second story. The main facade roof shelters a deep front porch supported by plain doric-style wood columns on square bases of rusticated concrete block or random ashlar stone. Each house has a single-door, off-center entry. The houses rest on poured concrete foundations and all have asphalt shingle roofs. All have double-hung windows; some original 9/1 wood sash, and others, later 1/1 or multi-light sash. The houses are sheathed with a variety of materials and retain original details in varying degrees.

The house at 4311 Queensbury Road also retains its early appearance. The entire house is sheathed with narrow horizontal board siding. Both the east and west elevations retain old louvered shutters on most windows.

# 8. Significance

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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	<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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** c.1919 **Builder/Architect** Walter R. Wilson, 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 house at 4311 Queensbury Road is significant as an example of an early 20th century contractor-built speculative dwelling and is one of a groups of seven similar Craftman bungalows constructed in West Riverdale between 1915 and 1919. The houses are additionally significant as the work of Walter R. Wilson, a prominent local contractor and builder, who was largely responsible for the development of the West Riverdale subdivision. Individually and collectively the bungalows are distinctive, and character-defining features within their early 20th century neighborhood.

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 in 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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

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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 community 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<sup>5</sup> as for other distinguished statesman such as Clay, Lafayette and Beale.

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, 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 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-line streets, Riverdale Park became one of the most desirable residential suburbs in the Washington area.

The subdivision of West Riverdale was platted in 1906 by Francis S. Carmody, a Prince George's County contractor and builder who was also the founder of the Southern Maryland Trust Company in Seat Pleasant, where he resided. Carmody had acquired a 55-acre tract on the west side of the Old Baltimore and Washington Turnpike (the present U.S. Route 1), from George H. Calvert and Edward S. McCalmont, trustees of the estate of Charles Benedict Calvert. The acreage acquired by Carmody had been part of the larger tract of Ellaville, located due west of the main gate of the Riversdale Plantation, that Charles Benedict Calvert had purchased from John Bowie in 1853. As subdivided in the nineteenth century, Ellaville was composed of 17 lots ranging from 3 to 8 acres. The venture met with little success.<sup>8</sup> It was not until 1906, when Carmody resubdivided a number of the northernmost lots as West Riverdale, that development in the area began.

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
Statement of Significance (continued)

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Initially, Carmody succeeded in selling a number of lots, particularly those closest to the developing sections of Riverdale Park and along Route 1. For the first ten years of the subdivision, the development of the blocks to the west was slow. In June of 1915, Carmody sold the remaining lots (numbering more than 200) to Walter R. Wilson, a builder who was largely responsible for the development of West Riverdale in the two decades following his purchase.<sup>9</sup> Walter R. Wilson (1867-1953) was a Washington, DC builder and real estate investor. Little is known about Wilson although land records indicate that he was also active in nearby areas of Hyattsville as well as West Riverdale.<sup>10</sup>

Prince George's County Land and Assessment Records indicate the Wilson completed the bungalows over a period of about four years, from 1915 to 1919 and sold them soon after. Wilson sold 4311 Queensbury Road to Geoffrey and Anna Montgomery in January 1919.<sup>11</sup>

NOTES

1. Pearl, S. G., Riversdale Historic Structures Report, Part II, History: M-NCPPC, 1979.
2. Prince George's County Equity Records, #475.
3. Prince George's County Land Records, JWB8:426; JWB12:484; JWB13:614.
4. "Riverdale Park" real estate promotional brochure, c.1904.
5. Prince George's County Subdivision Plat, JWB5:747, 688; "Riverdale Park", real estate promotional brochure.
6. "Riverdale Park" real estate promotional brochure; Pearl, S.G., Victorian Pattern Book Houses in Prince George's County, Maryland, M-NCPPC, 1988.
7. "F.S. Carmody Dies: Prominent in Maryland"--The Evening Star, 16 April 1921, p. 7.
8. Prince George's County Equity Records, #509; Prince George's County Land Records, JWB7:286; Prince George's County Subdivision Plat, 1:31.
9. Prince George's County Land Records, 109:36.
10. No secondary source material on Wilson is known to exist. The dates given are derived from the Wilson family crypt at Fort Lincoln Cemetery.
11. Prince George's County Land Records, 141:161.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG# <sup>68-93-11</sup> ~~68-4-88~~

See notes, Section #8

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 13,113 sq ft., BL 7, Lot 35, West Riverdale

Quadrangle name Washington East

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

UTM References 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

D

E

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G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Howard S. Berger, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Pres. Section, M-NCPPC date June 1991

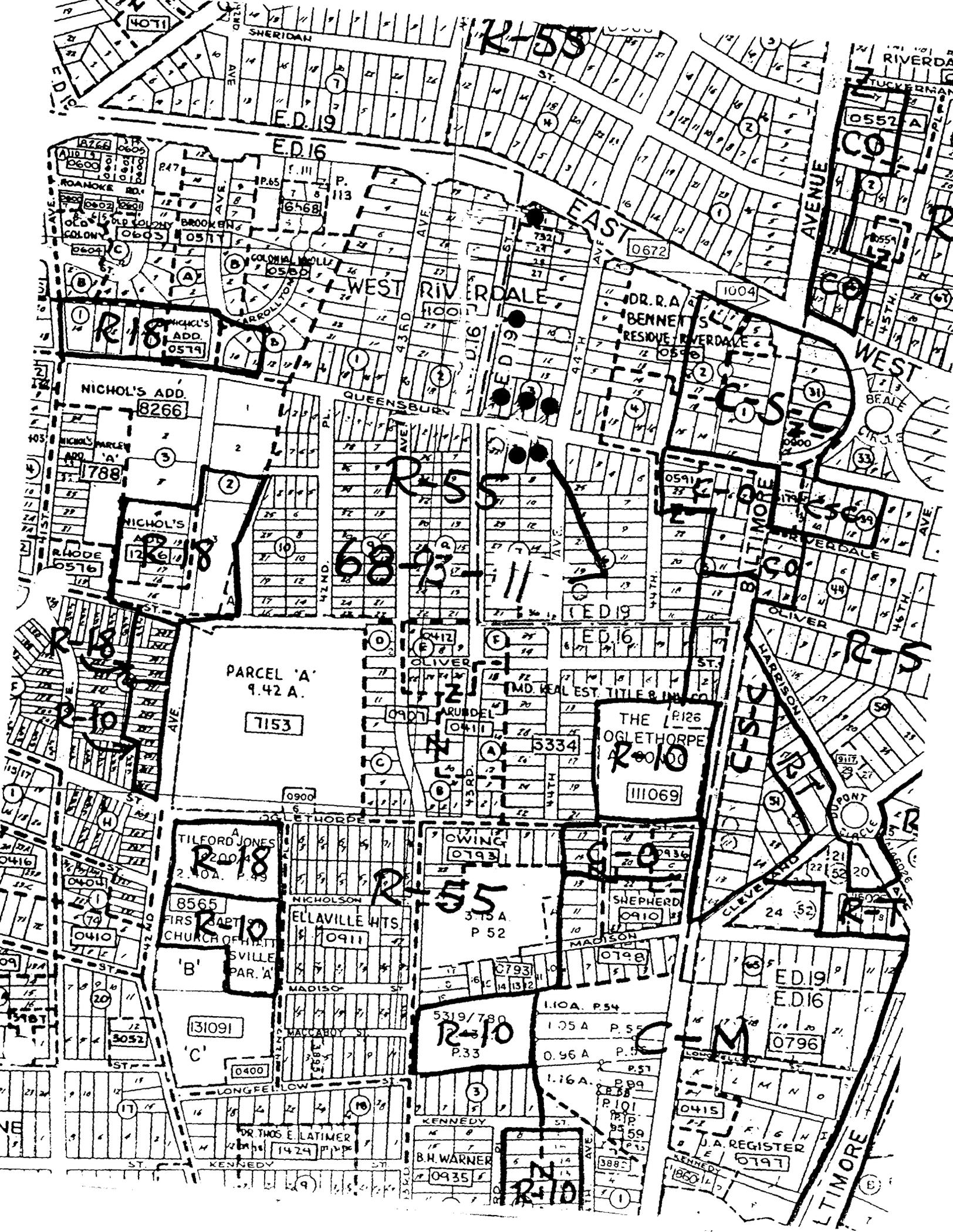
street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr. telephone (301) 952-3520

city or town Upper Marlboro state 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  
(301) 269-2438



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R-18

R-55

68-93-11

R-10

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NICHOL'S ADD. 8266

NICHOL'S ADD. 'A' 1788

NICHOL'S ADD. 12611

PARCEL 'A' 9.42 A. 7153

THE OGLETHORPE 111069

TILFORD JONES 2.10A. P.49

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST 8565

'B' PAR. 'A'

'C' 131091

ELLAVILLE HTS. 10911

OWING 0793

3.15A P.52

0793

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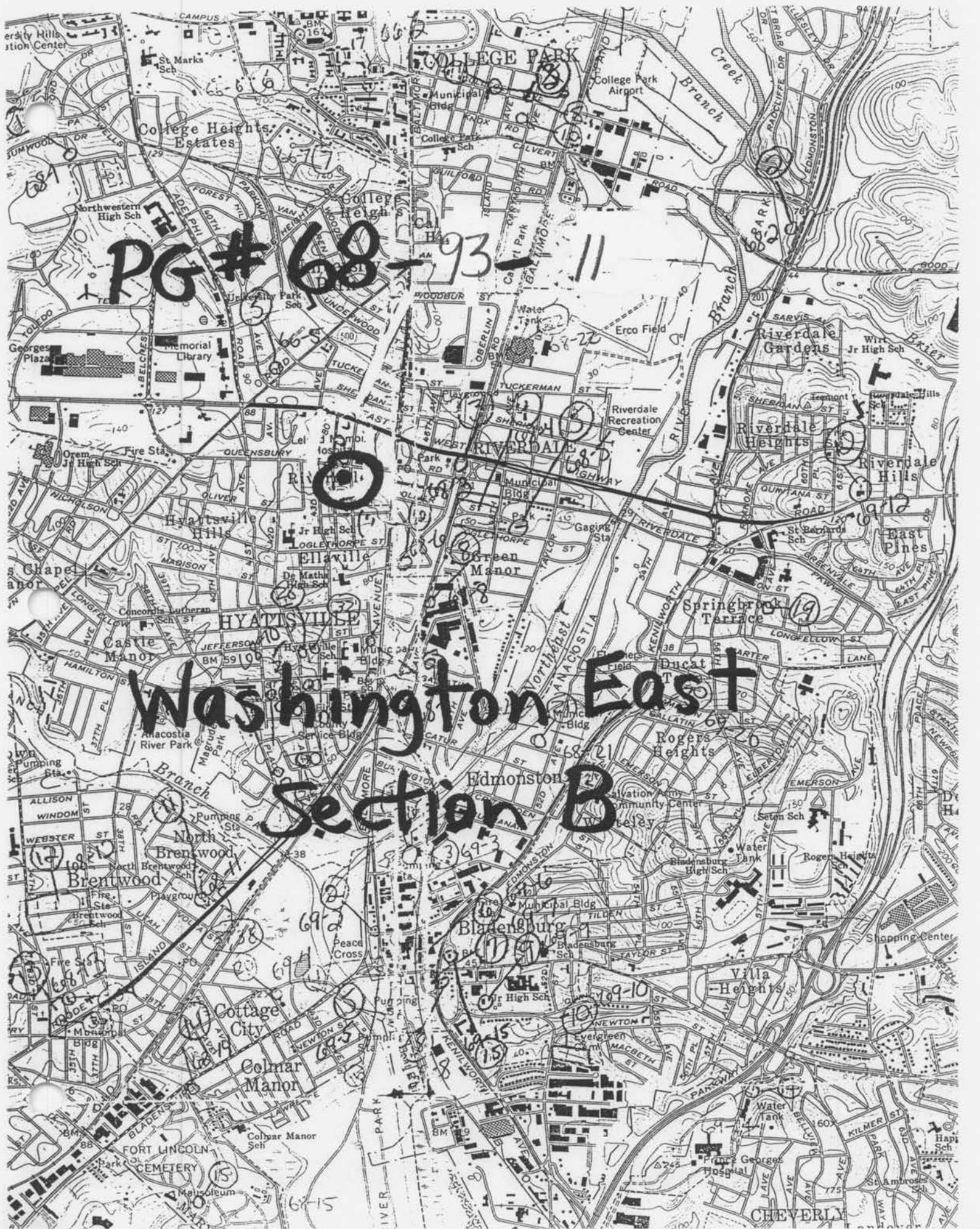
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PG # 68-93-11

# Washington East Section B





4311 Queensbury Rd (at left)

PG #68-93-11

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

January 1991

FROM NW

NEG: MAT, CROWNS VILLE, MD

10.F1