PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG # ~~68-4-90~~-- 68-93-13 Building Date: c.1916

Building Name: 6217 43rd Street

Location: 6217 43rd Street
Riverdale, Maryland

Private/Residences/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

6217 43rd Street (Block 3, part Lots 30, 31 & 32, West Riverdale) is one a group of seven large, craftsman-style, frame bungalows in the West Riverdale subdivision. Five of the houses arrelocated 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. The house at 6217 43rd Street is sheathed with white aluminum siding and the two-story rear porch has been enclosed. At the southeast corner of the house is a large shed roof addition with a large multi-light bay window in the west elevation.

Significance

6217 43rd Street 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. In October 1916, Wilson sold 6217 43rd Street was sold to Henry L. Cranford.

Acreage: 9,506 sq. ft.

68-93-13

Survey No. PG#~~68-4-90~~

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common 6217 43rd Street

2. Location

street & number 6217 43rd 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	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Edward G. & Carlee A. Holson

street & number 6217 43rd Street 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 3958

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 634

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

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

6217 43rd Street (Block 7, Lot 31 and part of Lot 32, 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 6217 43rd Street has also been altered. The house is sheathed with white aluminum siding and the two-story rear porch has been enclosed. At the southeast corner of the house, connected to the first story of the rear porch is a shed roof addition with a large multi-light bay window facing the street (west). The front porch of the house also appears to have been altered. The porch is supported by four round wooden columns (all of the other bungalows have three columns across the porch) and the steps are centered on the facade and surrounded by more extensive random ashlar stonework.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	X community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates c.1916 **Builder/Architect** Walter R. Wilson, builder

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B X C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The house at 6217 43rd Street 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.[1] 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.[2] 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]

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."[4] Streets were named for the Presidents of the United States, Washington through McKinley, as well as for other distinguished statesman 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, others front-gabled or cross-gabled; many were highlighted by projecting bays or corner towers, and almost all had prominent wraparound porches with jigsawn 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.[6] 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.[7] 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.[8] It was not until 1906, when Carmody resubdivided a number of the northernmost lots as West Riverdale, that development in the area began.

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.[9] 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.[10]

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 6217 43rd Street and a number of undeveloped adjacent lots to Henry Loud Cranford in October 1916.[11]

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, 120:397.

68-93-13

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See notes, Section #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9,506 sq ft., BL 3, part Lots 30,31,32, West Riverdale

Quadrangle name Washington East **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

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

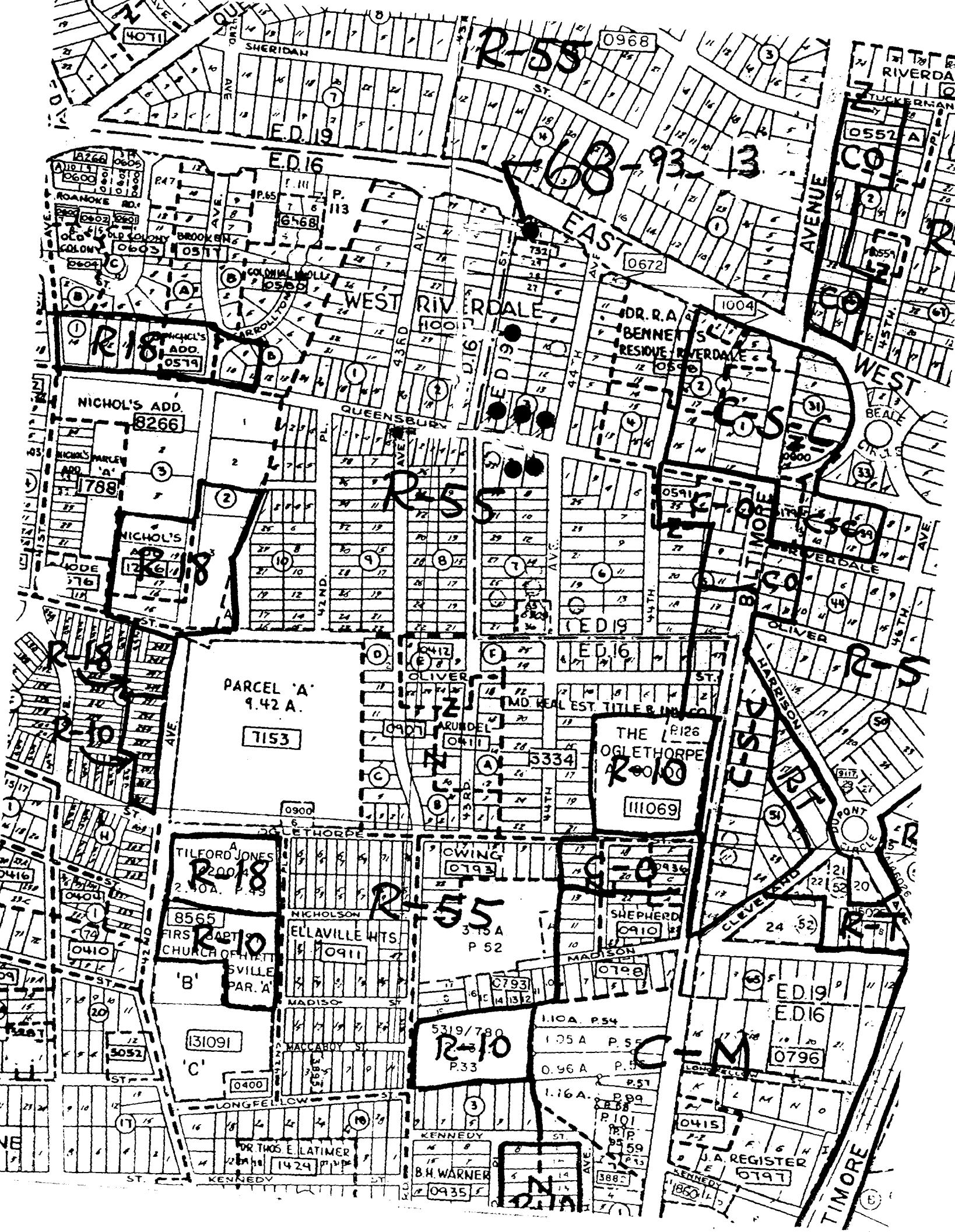
city or town Upper Marlboro **state** Maryland

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

PS-2746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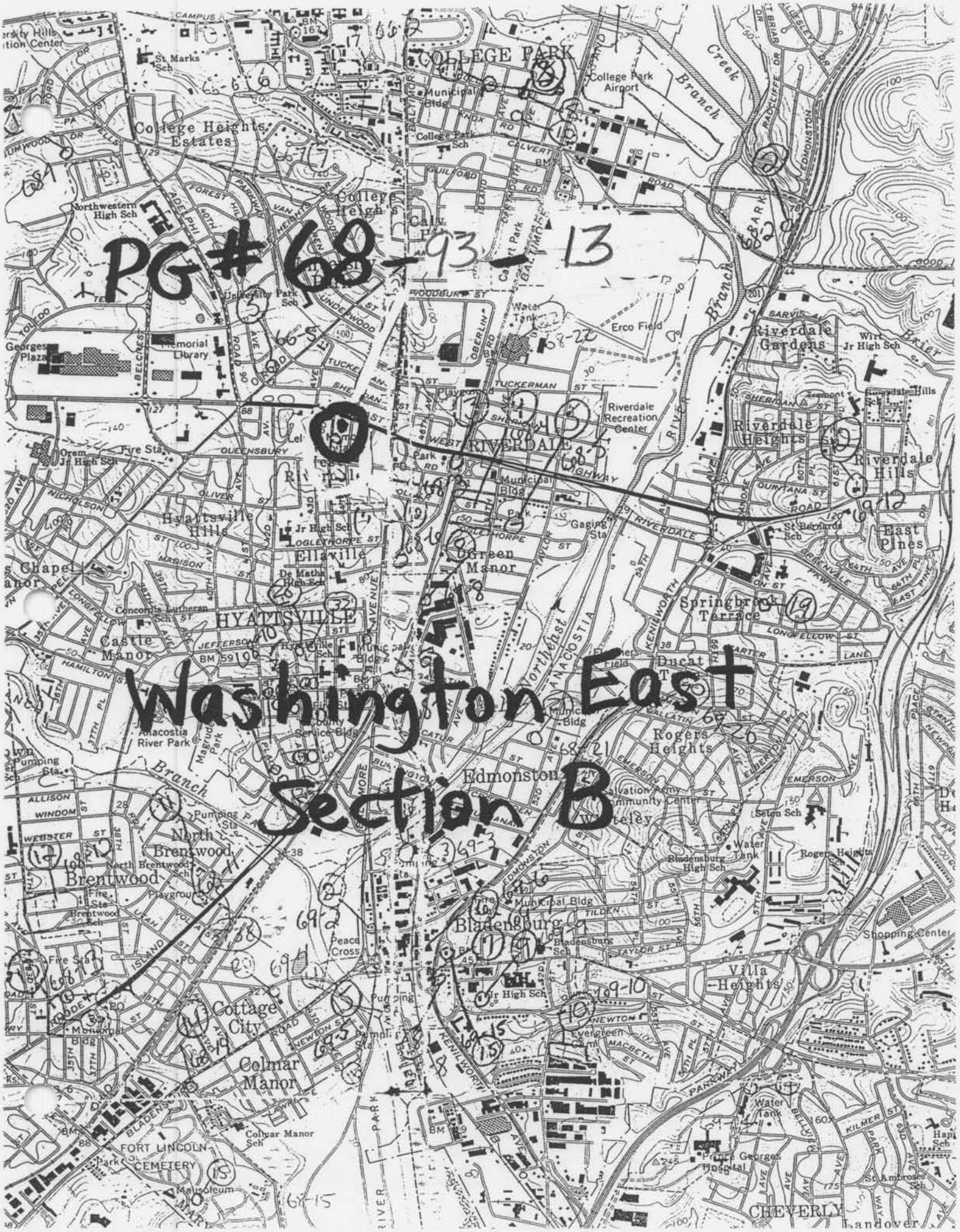
PG # 68-93-13
Washington East
Section B
COLLEGE PARK
College Heights Estates
College Park Airport
Municipal Bldg
College Park Sch
St Marks Sch
Northwestern High Sch
University Park Sch
Memorial Library
Georges Plaza
Erco Field
Riverdale Gardens
Wirt Jr High Sch
Riverdale Recreation Center
RIVERDALE
Riverdale Heights
Riverdale Hills
Fire Sta
Orem Jr High Sch
Hyattsville Hills
Jr High Sch
Ellaville
Green Manor
Gaging Sta
St Bernards Sch
East Pines
Chapel Manor
Concordia Lutheran Sch
HYATTSVILLE
Castle Manor
De Matha High Sch
Springbrook Terrace
Ducat Park
Anacostia River Park
Magruder Park
Rogers Heights
Edmonston
Seton Sch
Pumping Sta
North Brentwood
Brentwood
North Brentwood Sch
Bladensburg High Sch
Water Tank
Bladensburg
Bladensburg Sch
Peace Cross
Shopping Center
Villa Heights
Cottage City
Colmar Manor
Colmar Manor Sch
FORT LINCOLN CEMETERY
Mausoleum
Prince Georges Hospital
CHEVERLY
Landover
Branch
Creek
Northeast
ANACOSTIA
RIVER

6217 43rd Street
Riverdale
Prince George's County, Maryland
Howard S. Berger
January 1991
FROM SW
NEG.: MHT, CROWNSVILLE, MD
1 OF 1

PG # 68-93-13