

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG # ~~68-4-81-~~ 68-93-5 Building Date: c. 1929

Building Name: 6104 44th Avenue

Location: 6104 44th Avenue
Riverdale, Maryland

Private/Residences/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

6104 44th Avenue (Block 7, Lot 17 and south half of Lot 16, West Riverdale) is one of a group of six, small, one-story Spanish Colonial/Mission Revival style stucco houses with rectangular plans and shallow shed roofs concealed by stucco parapets. Five of the six houses form a cohesive group on both sides of the 6100 block of 44th Avenue in the subdivision of West Riverdale (just north of the Riverdale/Hyattsville corporate boundary); the sixth house is located in the 5000 block of Riverdale Road in the Riverdale Park subdivision. Within the group of six houses, two models were built, four of one model and two of the other. Both models employ a similar scale, form and decorative treatment. The houses are simply detailed and their distinctive appearance is derived from their flat roofs and simple parapets, terra cotta tile cornices and gables set off by roughly textured stucco walls, and multi-pane windows. 6104 44th Avenue retains most of its original windows. The concrete entry stoop, originally open, is now sheltered with a corrugated plastic roof with wrought iron supports. The original entry (to the north) retains its vertical board door and wrought iron hinges. A second wood and glass door has been inserted in the center bay of the main facade in the center of a three-part window.

Significance

6104 44th Avenue is significant as one of a group of six modest early 20th century revival style houses. The houses are also significant as the work of Walter R. Wilson, an early 20th century contractor and builder who was largely responsible for the development of the West Riverdale subdivision within the Town of Riverdale. Completed by 1929 and executed in the Spanish Colonial/Mission Revival style, these houses represent the popular taste of the period for picturesque architectural styles with European and other non-American origins. The location of five of the cottages in a cohesive group on 44th Avenue, is representative of the development of West Riverdale as an early and mid 20th century neighborhood. Isolated from the other houses, the cottage on Riverdale Road represents the popular practice of "infill" development employed in the more developed sections of Riverdale Park in the years prior to World War II. Wilson had acquired the property for the 44th Avenue houses in 1915 from Francis S. Carmody and the property for the house on Riverdale Road from William and Madeline Thomson in 1919. According to assessment record data, Walter Wilson had completed 6104 44th Avenue and the other houses in the group by 1929.

Acreeage: 6,720 sq. ft.

68-93-5

Survey No. PG# ~~68-4-81~~

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common 6104 44th Avenue

2. Location

street & number 6104 44th Avenue _____ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name William E. & Barbara A. Melvin

street & number 6104 44th Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Riverdale state and zip code MD 20737

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6631

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 403

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

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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.

6104 44th Avenue (Block 7, Lot 17 and South half of Lot 16, West Riverdale) is one of a group of six, small, one-story Spanish Colonial/Mission style stucco houses with rectangular plans and shallow shed roofs concealed by stucco parapets. Five of the six houses form a cohesive group on both sides of the 6100 block of 44th Avenue in subdivision of West Riverdale (just north of the Riverdale/Hyattsville corporate boundary); the sixth house is located in the 5000 block of Riverdale Road in the Riverdale Park subdivision. The three houses on the west side of the street have elevated sites that slope down to the sidewalk. On the east side of the street, the house at 6101 is at grade and the house at 6103 is elevated by a slight berm. The house at 5007 Riverdale Road is at grade.

Within the group of six houses, two models were built. Both models employ a similar scale, form and decorative treatment; four of one model and two of the other. The houses are simply detailed and their distinctive appearance is derived from their flat roofs and simple parapets, terra cotta tile cornices and gables set off by roughly textured stucco walls, and multi-pane windows. Each of the houses employs a similar window schedule, commonly 6/1 double-hung wood sash, either alone or in groups of two or three. Several of the houses retain their original vertical panel wooden entry doors with wrought iron hardware. Several houses also have free-standing, single-car stucco garages with unadorned horizontal parapets concealing shed roofs.

The house at 6104 44th Avenue (along with 6101 44th Avenue) is less elaborate than the other four in the group. The house has a simple horizontal parapet and an unsheltered, off-center entry stoop. The main facade of this model is also three-bays wide. The southernmost bay projects beyond the remainder of the main facade. The two recessed bays of the facade contain a three-part window in the center and the entry door in the northernmost bay. Sheltering these two recessed bays is a simple stucco cornice with a shallow terra cotta roof. The secondary elevations have single or paired, 6/6 double-hung windows. The house has a round-arched main entry with a three-light, demi-lune transom.

The house retains most, but not all, of its original windows. Several have been replaced with new vinyl-clad windows. The concrete entry stoop, originally open, is now sheltered with a corrugated plastic roof with wrought iron supports. The house now has two entry doors in the main (east) facade. The original entry to the right (north) retains its vertical board door and wrought iron hinges. A second wood and glass door has been inserted in the center bay of the facade in the center portion of the three-part window. Metal awnings shelter the remaining window of the main facade and the windows of the south and west elevations.

8. Significance

Survey No. ~~68-4-81~~ 68-93-5

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.1929 **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 6104 44th Avenue is significant as one of a group of six modest early 20th century revival style houses, the Wilson Spanish Cottages. The houses are also significant as the work of Walter R. Wilson, an early 20th century contractor and builder who was largely responsible for the development of the West Riverdale subdivision within the Town of Riverdale. Completed by 1929 and executed in the Spanish Colonial/Mission Revival style, these houses represent the popular taste of the period for picturesque architectural styles with European and other non-American origins.¹ The location of five of the cottages in a cohesive group on 44th Avenue, represents the development of West Riverdale as an early and mid 20th century neighborhood. Isolated from the other houses, the bungalow on Riverdale Road, represents the popular practice of "infill" development employed in the more developed sections of Riverdale Park in the years prior to World War II.

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.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

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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."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 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.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.

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 Riversale 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.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
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 most of 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, D.C., 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 In West Riverdale, Wilson appears to have improved lots before selling them but often held on to an improved property for several years.

Wilson had acquired the property for the 44th Avenue houses in 1915 from Francis S. Carmody and the property for the house on Riverdale Road from William and Madeline Thomson in 1919.¹¹ According to assessment record data, Walter Wilson had completed 6104 and the other five similar houses in 1929. Upon their completion, the houses were valued at \$3250 or \$3450.¹²

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

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NOTES

1. For a comprehensive treatment of early 20th century eclecticism, see A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia and Lee McAlester and America's Favorite Homes by Robert Schweitzer and Michael W.R. Davis.
2. Pearl, S.G., Riversdale Historic Structures Report, Part II, 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. "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 source materials on Wilson are known to exist. The dates given are derived from the Wilson family crypt at Fort Lincoln Cemetery.
11. Prince George's County Land Records, 109:36; 138:121.
12. Prince George's County Assessment Records, E.D. # 19, 1927-1930.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. 68-93-5
PG# 68-4-81

See notes, Section #8

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 6,700 sq ft. BL 7, Lot 17 & S half Lot 16

Quadrangle name Washington East West Riverdale Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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.

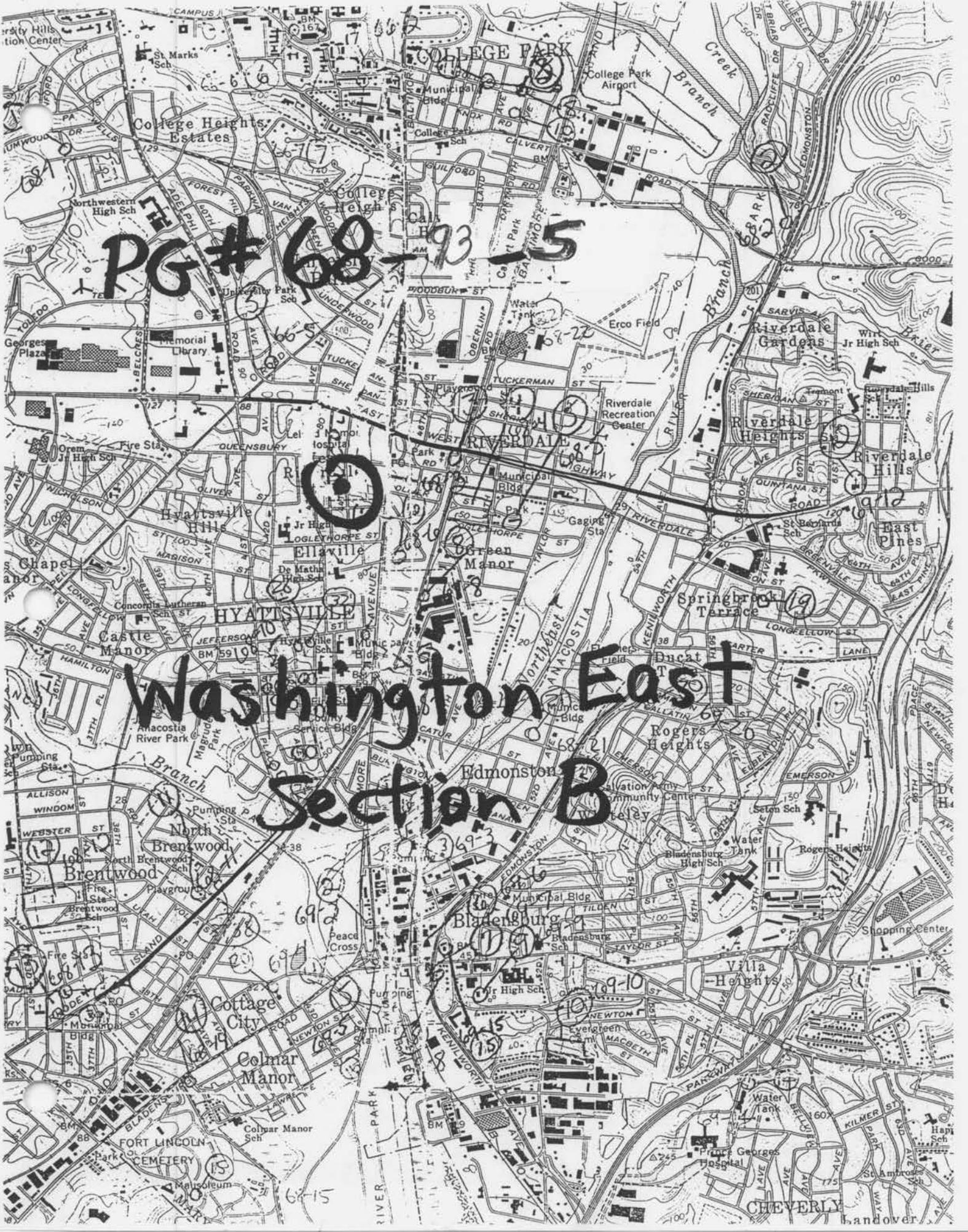
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



PG: 68-13-5

PG # 68-93-15

Washington East Section B





Wilson Spanish Cottages

PG# 68-93-5

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

November 1990

6104 44th Avenue

From E

NEE: MHT, CROWNSVILLE, MD

lot 4



Wilson Spanish Cottages

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

November 1990

6104 44th Avenue

From N

NEB: 1114T, CROWNSVILLE, MD

20F4

PG #68-93-5



PG# 68-93-5

Wilson Spanish Cottages

6104 49th Avenue

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

November 1990

FROM SW

NIEG MHT, CROWNSVILLE, MD

3 OF 4



Wilson Spanish Cottages

PG #68-93-5

6104 44th Avenue

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

November 1990

Detail: Garage FROM SE

NE6: MAT, CROWNSVILLE, MD

40 F 4