

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG # ~~68-4-85~~ 68-93-8 Building Date: c.1916

Building Name: 4308 Queensbury Road

Location: 4308 Queensbury Road
Riverdale, Maryland

Private/Residences/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

4308 Queensbury Road (Block 3, Lots 16 & 17, 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. The exterior of 4308 Queensbury Road retains a high degree of integrity. With the exception of a recent one-story addition to the rear (north) that is covered with aluminum siding, the house is covered with wood shingles and retains its original windows. There is a small shingled garage at the northwest corner of the site that appears to date from soon after the construction of the house.

Significance

4308 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. The bungalow at 4308 Queensbury Road was sold to Joseph Seay in February 1916.

Acreeage: 13,500 sq.ft.

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common 4308 Queensbury Road

2. Location

street & number 4308 Qennsbury Road not for publicationcity, 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 David A. & Florence M. Brandt, Sr.

street & number 4308 Queensbury Road 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 7611

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 298

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.

4308 Queensbury Road (Block 3, Lots 16 and 17, 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 exterior of the bungalow at 4308 Queensbury Road retains of high degree of integrity. Across the entire house are the original shingles which are now stained green. The house are retains original wood sash screens. To the rear of the house is a one-story frame addition with a rectangular plan on a concrete block foundation. The addition is sheathed with light green aluminum siding. To the rear of the house (at the northwest corner of the site) is an old and possibly original, single-car, front-gable, shingle garage that is also stained green.

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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 statesmen 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-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.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)

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

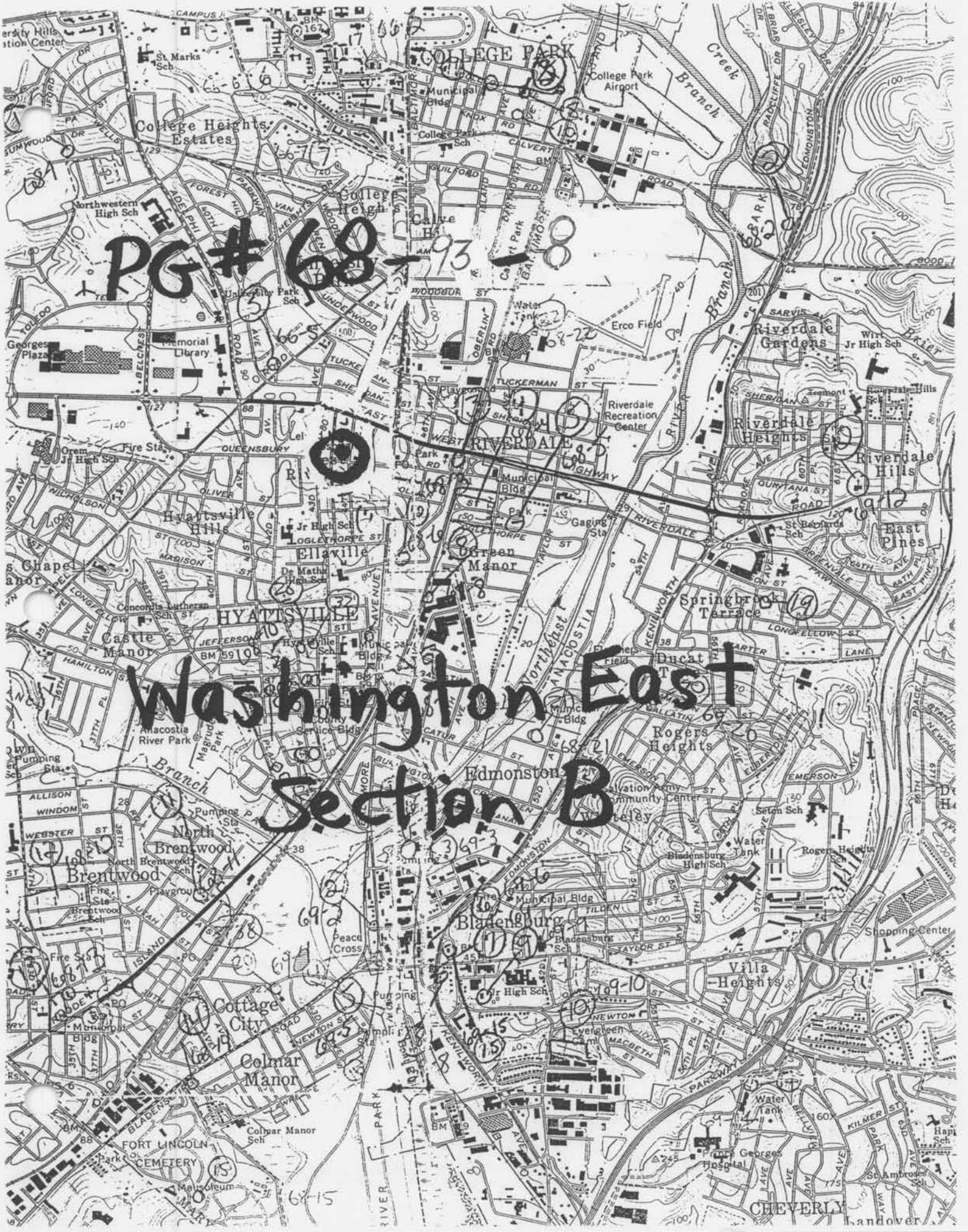
Prince George's County Land and Assessment Records indicate the Wilson completed the bungalows over a period of about four years, from 1915 to 1919 and sold them soon after. Wilson sold 4308 Queensbury Road to Joseph Seay in 1916.¹¹

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, 115:13.

PG # 68-93

Washington East Section B





4308 Queensbury Rd.

PG# 68-93-8

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

October 1990

From SW

NEG: MHT, CROWNSVILLE, MD

1 OF 3



4308 Queensbury Rd.

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Howard S. Berger

October 1990

FROM NE

NEG: MHT, CROWNSVILLE, MD

2 OF 3

PG#68-93-8



4308 Queensbury Rd.

Riverdale

Prince George's County, Maryland

Noward S. Berger

October 1990

DETAIL: GARAGE

FROM SE

NES: MAT, CROWNSVILLE, MD

3023

PG # 68-93-8