

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name BELLAMY, RAYMOND W., HOUSE

other names/site number Belmar PG: 69-22

2. Location

street & number 2819 Cheverly Avenue N/A  not for publication

city or town Cheverly N/A  vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20785

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] SHPO 2/25/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

MD SHPO  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

PG: 69-22

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls ASBESTOS

roof ASPHALT

other STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 1

8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property or National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Landscape Architecture
- Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1925

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Derrow, Joseph S., Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheet No. 22

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

See Continuation Sheet No. 33

Bellamy, Raymond W., House  
Name of Property

Prince George's-Maryland  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

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Acreege of Property 1.5 acres  
USGS Quad: Washington East, D.C.-Maryland

UTM References  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	334180	4310240
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description  
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 33

Boundary Justification  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 33

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marina King, Architectural Historian/Preservation Planner  
organization M-NCPPC date April 1992  
street & number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive telephone (301) 952-4609  
city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland zip code 20772

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr. (Elizabeth S.)  
street & number 2819 Cheverly Avenue telephone (301) 773-5439  
city or town Cheverly state Maryland zip code 20785

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section number 7 Page 1DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Constructed in 1925, the Raymond W. Bellamy house is a Sears, Roebuck and Company mail-order house in the Spanish Revival style. The model was called the Alhambra. It is a large, two story frame dwelling measuring 28 feet square, with a low pyramidal hipped roof. Spanish Revival style-influenced details include stepped parapets centered above the north, south and west facades, and the open veranda on the west and south facades. The original exterior covering was stucco, provided by Sears and call "Magnesite." The dwelling is now covered with asbestos shingle over the stucco, added during the renovations in 1962. The roof covering is asphalt shingle, the covering offered by Sears when the dwelling was constructed. Boxed, deeply overhanging eaves are clad in aluminum, added in 1967. The interior of the house has an open plan in the first story, with a living room, dining room and kitchen in the original block of the house. Entry is into the large living room that encompasses the front half of the house. The majority of the architectural features in the living room/dining room area are original features of the Sears Alhambra model. The prominent and unifying decorative feature is the use of dark varnished oak for all wood decorative detail. Oak was used for door and window surrounds, the doors and windows themselves, baseboards, a cornice and a wide crown-molded picture rail, wood paneling below the window seat, the mantel shelf, bookcases, the stair balustrade and newel post, and the colonnade which separates the living room and dining room. The house stands on a one and one-half acre tract consisting of two corner lots embellished with numerous rare and ornamental plantings. In addition to his horticultural interests, Bellamy created garden structures such as stone seats, walkways, steps and walls, cedar pergolas and arbors, a stone greenhouse, a lily pond with an arched stone bridge, a sunken garden, two cedar gazebos, a small amphitheater, and an eighteen hole golf course.

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Section number 7 Page 2GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Constructed in 1925, the Raymond W. Bellamy House is a Sears, Roebuck and Company mail-order house, the Spanish Revival style model called the Alhambra. It is a large, two story frame dwelling measuring 28 feet square, with a low pyramidal hipped roof. Spanish Revival style-influenced details include the stepped parapet centered above the north, south and west facades, the stepped parapet on the south two story projecting bay, and the open veranda on the west and south facades. The house stands on a one and one-half acre tract consisting of two corner lots embellished with numerous ornamental shrubs and trees. It is located in Cheverly, Maryland, a residential suburb of Washington, D.C.

The main elevation of the dwelling faces west, toward Cheverly Avenue. It is three bays wide, with entry in the north bay, through a door glazed with 10 lights and flanked by sidelights of 10 lights each. The door surround is of plain, white painted board with a raised rectangular cornice. The entrance is sheltered by a one bay gable roof entrance porch. The roof is supported on heavy rectangular piers and has deeply overhanging eaves. The covered porch is the north bay of an open veranda with poured concrete floor which crosses the west facade and wraps around the south side of the house. A low half-wall encloses the porch/veranda. It is reached by a flight of four brick steps centered on the facade.

The shallow projecting west bay on the first story is lighted by two large double casement windows with 10 lights in each casement. The bay has a shed roof. A louvered metal awning shades the windows. Two small square double casement windows of four lights each flank the projecting bay. The second story has two double windows on the north and south bays, of 12/1 double-hung wooden sash with plain board surrounds. Both are shaded by metal awnings. The center bay is a small 9/1 double-hung sash window. Centered above it at third story level is a small square double casement window with four lights in each casement, centered in a stepped parapet that breaks the cornice line.

The Bellamy house is covered with asbestos shingle over the original "magnesite" stucco provided by Sears, Roebuck and Company. The asbestos shingle was added during renovations in 1952. The roof covering is asphalt shingle. This was the covering offered by Sears, Roebuck and Company when the house was constructed. The

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original red shingle color was replaced by green shingle in 1962. The boxed, deeply overhanging eaves are clad in aluminum, added in 1967. A corbelled brick chimney rises from the south roof slope. The foundation is concrete block over poured concrete. There is a full basement. A soldier course of brick embellishes the exterior of the foundation at ground level.

The south elevation is three irregular bays in width. A wide two story projecting bay with a stepped parapet is centered on the facade. It contains the main stairwell for the dwelling. The first story has a large rectangular picture window with a single fixed pane in the west bay. The center bay has an entry door to the basement and kitchen at ground level. The front veranda wraps around this side of the house and ends where it meets the door to the kitchen and basement. There are concrete steps up to the veranda from ground level. Above the door, between first and second story levels, is a 12/1 double-hung sash window which lights the interior stair landing. At second story level there is a rectangular double casement window on the east and west bay. Centered at third story level is a stepped parapet with a rectangular louvered opening.

The three bay east (rear) elevation doesn't have the central stepped parapet at third story level and the hipped roof is plainly visible. There is a garage entrance below grade in the north bay. The triple wooden garage doors have vertical wooden wainscoting on the lower two-thirds. The upper third is glazed by two fixed panes in each door. Above the garage, at first story level is a large window which lights the dining room. It is composed of two double casements of ten lights each, surrounded by a plain board surround with an outer raised edge. The south bay at first story level has two small double casement windows of six lights each, which light the kitchen. At second story level is a 12/1 double-hung sash window in the north and south bay. A smaller center window is 9/1 double-hung sash.

The north facade is two bays in width, with a shallow one story projecting bay on the west. The projecting bay has a shed roof and two double casement windows with 10 lights in each casement. Flanking the double casements are two single casement windows with 10 lights in each casement. At second story level there is a 12/1 double-hung sash window in the east and west bay.

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The north elevation is dominated by a one-by-one bay, one story addition, measuring 18 feet square, on the east bay. Added in 1966, it contains one room and a bathroom. It is clad in asbestos shingle, with wooden soffits and aluminum fascia. The flat roof is encircled by a metal balustrade. The foundation is concrete block. One 6/6 double-hung sash window faces west. A triple window faces east, composed of a large fixed pane in the center, flanked by two small 4/4 double-hung sash windows.

The interior of the Bellamy house has an open plan on the first story, with three rooms in the original block of the house. The second story has four bedrooms, one in each corner of the square dwelling, and a bath.

Entry into the Bellamy house is into a large (14'6" x 27') open living room that encompasses the front (west) half of the house. The majority of the architectural features in the room are original features of the Sears Alhambra model. Wood casement windows light a window seat in the north wall, which is set in a shallow projecting bay. There is a fireplace with a brick surround in the east wall of the room. The brick surround has a central panel above the firebox with a decorative herring-bone pattern. A stair rises along the south side of the house, and is set in a shallow projecting stair bay. The stair is reached from the south end of the living room and is on a raised landing two steps up from the floor of the room. The stair is enclosed except for the lowest two steps, which have a short balustrade and newel post. The newel post is distinctive, a large rectangular post with two raised vertical moldings in the outer three faces and a rectangular crown molding set below the cap. A closet with an original mirrored door is on the landing, opposite the stair. A large picture window lights the landing and the living room beyond. The picture window is an original feature of the dwelling and an example of how Sears, Roebuck and Company would add custom features to a house plan at the request of an individual buyer.

The prominent and unifying decorative feature on the first story is the use of dark varnished oak for all wood decorative detail. This oak molding includes door and window surrounds, the doors and windows themselves, baseboards, a cornice and a wide crown-molded picture rail in the living room and dining room, wood paneling below the window seat, the mantel shelf, bookcases with glazed doors which flank the fireplace, the stair balustrade and

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newel post, and the colonnade which separates the living room and dining room.

The dining room is directly opposite the front door. In the northeast corner of the dwelling, it shares the east half of the house with the kitchen. The dining room is reached through a colonnade consisting of a low half-wall containing shelving with leaded-glass doors which open into the living room. Two tapering rectangular columns with inset panels stand atop the half-wall and frame the entry into the dining room. The east wall of the dining room has double casement windows overlooking the grounds at the rear of the house.

The north wall of the dining room has double louvered doors leading to the 1966 addition. Flanking these doors are two small square cabinets with dark oak surrounds and sills below. These were exterior windows and were converted to cabinets when the addition was added to the north wall of the house. The south wall of the dining room has entry into the kitchen, which has been modernized over the years. The south wall of the kitchen opens into the stair bay described in the living room. A door in the southwest corner opens into a basement stair, which has an exterior door to the south side of the house on a landing. There is a full basement beneath the house, including a garage below the dining room.

There are four bedrooms and a bath on the second story, and an unfinished attic on the third story. The plaster throughout the dwelling is original.

The front yard of the house is approximately 75 feet deep. There is a grassy lawn with a central concrete walk up to the veranda stairs. The lot line is completely planted with a mix of bushes and trees. There are foundation plantings encircling the house. Along the north and south sides of the lawn are beds of azaleas mixed with bulb flowers and ornamental bushes and trees. A gravel driveway enters the property from the south and curves around behind the house. Across the driveway is a south lot and the rear yard, both of which are extensively planted with beds of flowers, flowering bushes and mature evergreen and deciduous trees. The lighted grounds are one and one-half acres in total, and are completely planted with a garden begun in 1927 and continuously added to since that time. The grounds also contain brick borders

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for all flower beds, over 40 stone seats and benches, stone walkways, steps and walls, two cedar pergolas, a lily pond with an arched stone bridge, a sunken garden, two cedar gazebos with marble floors, an outdoor fireplace, a small amphitheater, a small eighteen hole golf course and a greenhouse/potting shed. A garden plan accompanies this text, detailing the plant types and the landscape plan.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

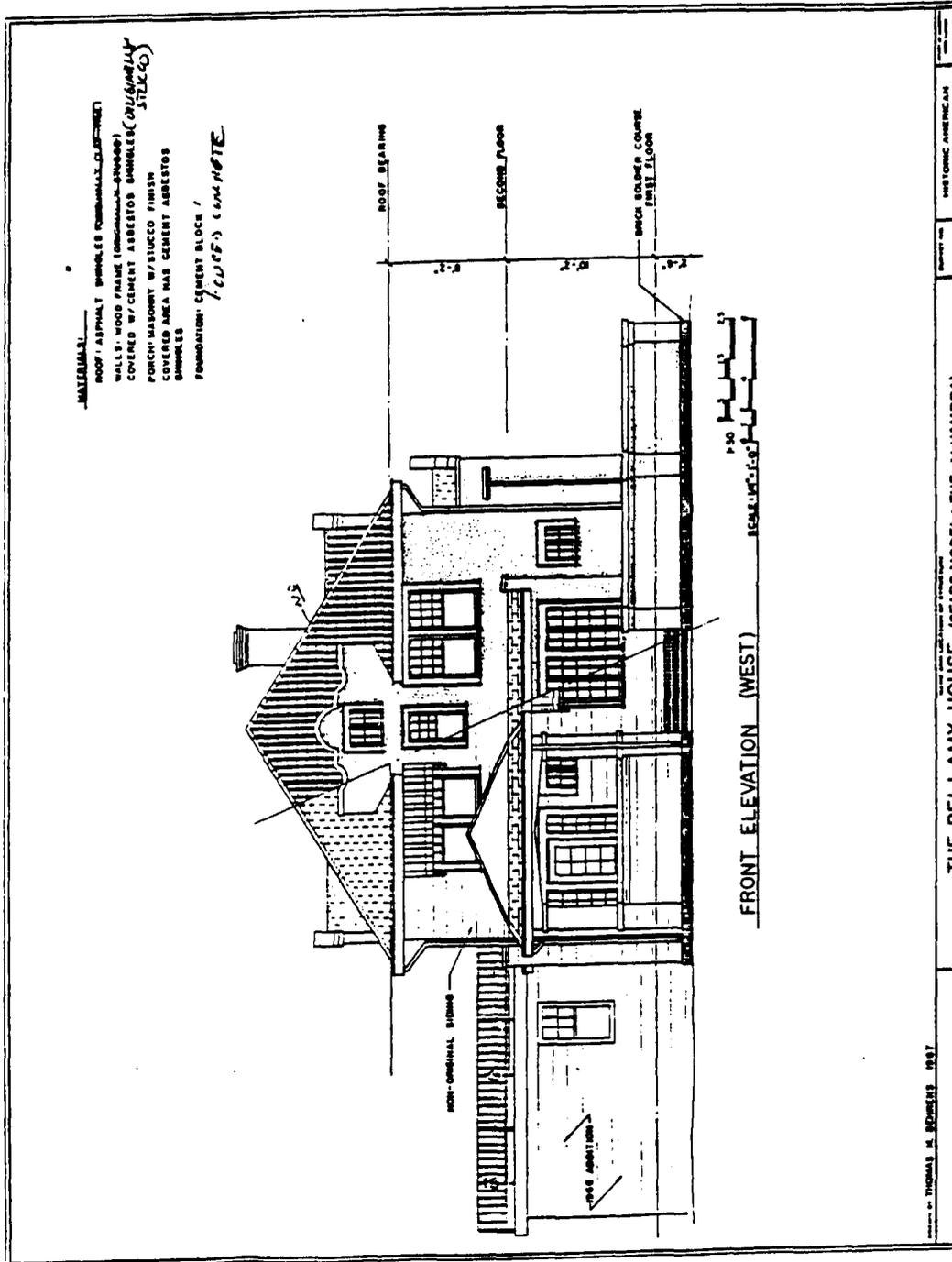
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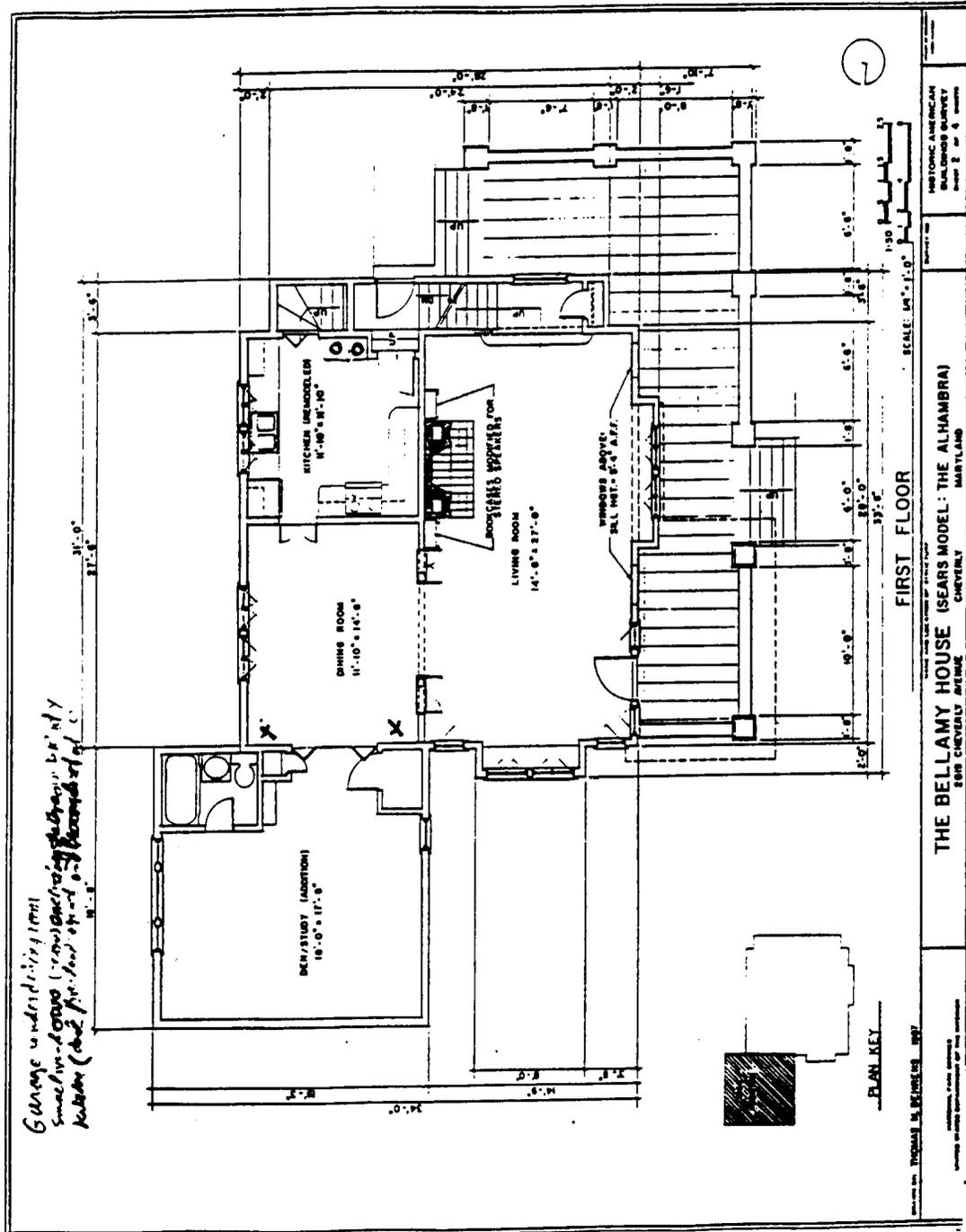
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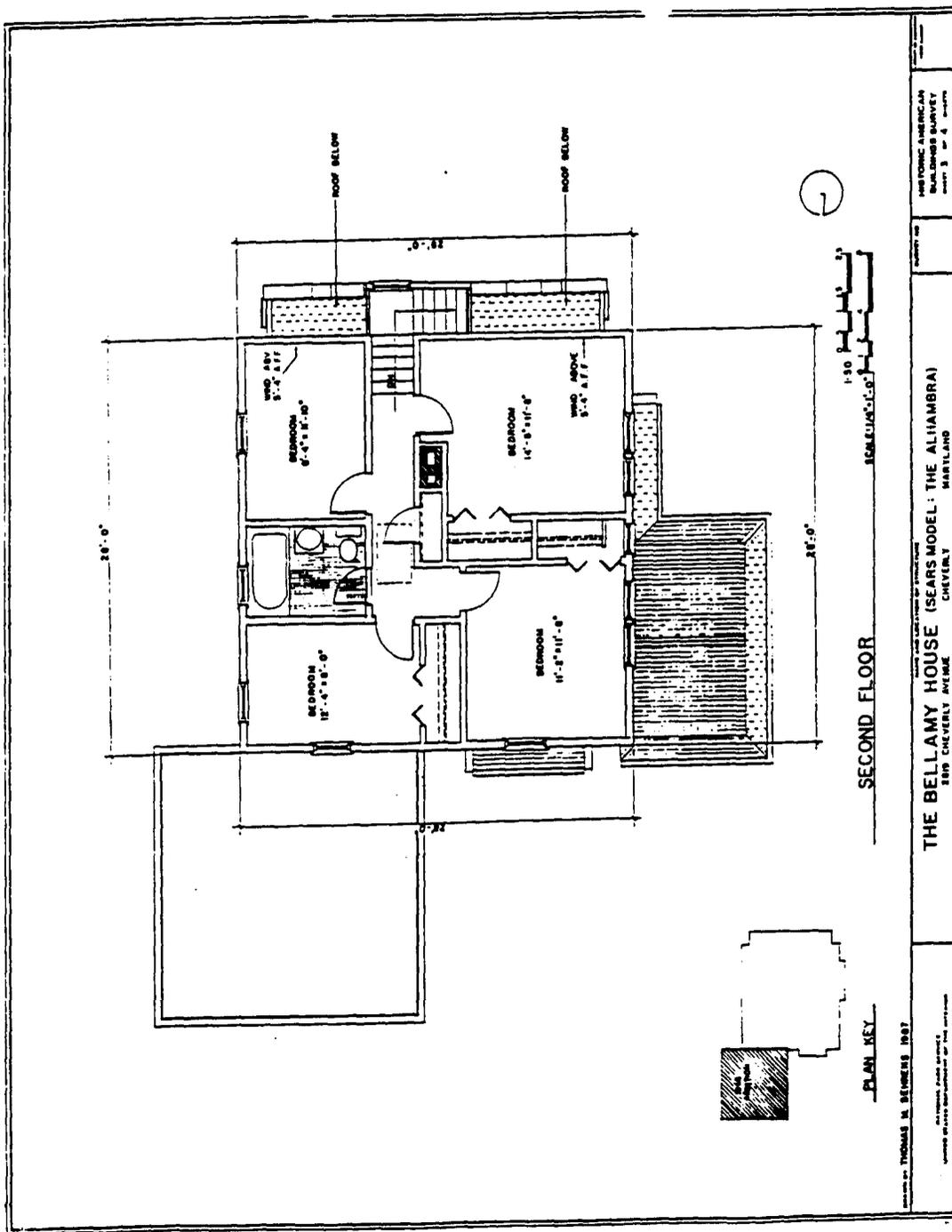
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HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
Series 3 or 4 sheets

THE BELLAMY HOUSE (SEARS MODEL: THE ALHAMBRA)  
330 CHEVERLY AVENUE  
CHEVERLY  
MARYLAND

DESIGNED BY THOMAS H. SEYMOUR 1907

Architectural Record 1907  
Reproduced by permission of the National Park Service

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

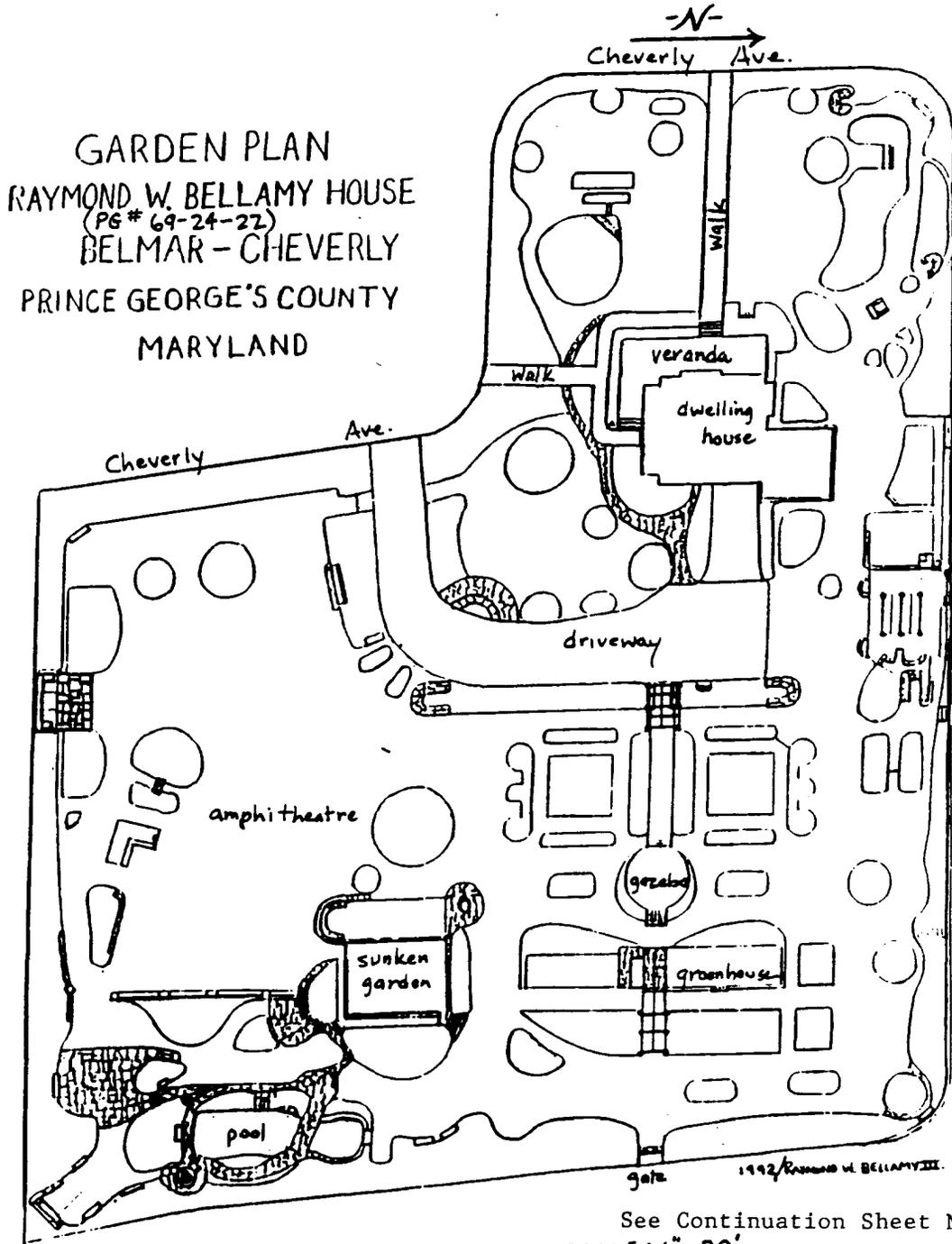
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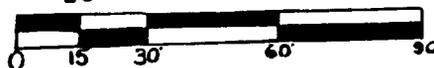
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See Continuation Sheet No. 11

SCALE: 1" = 30'



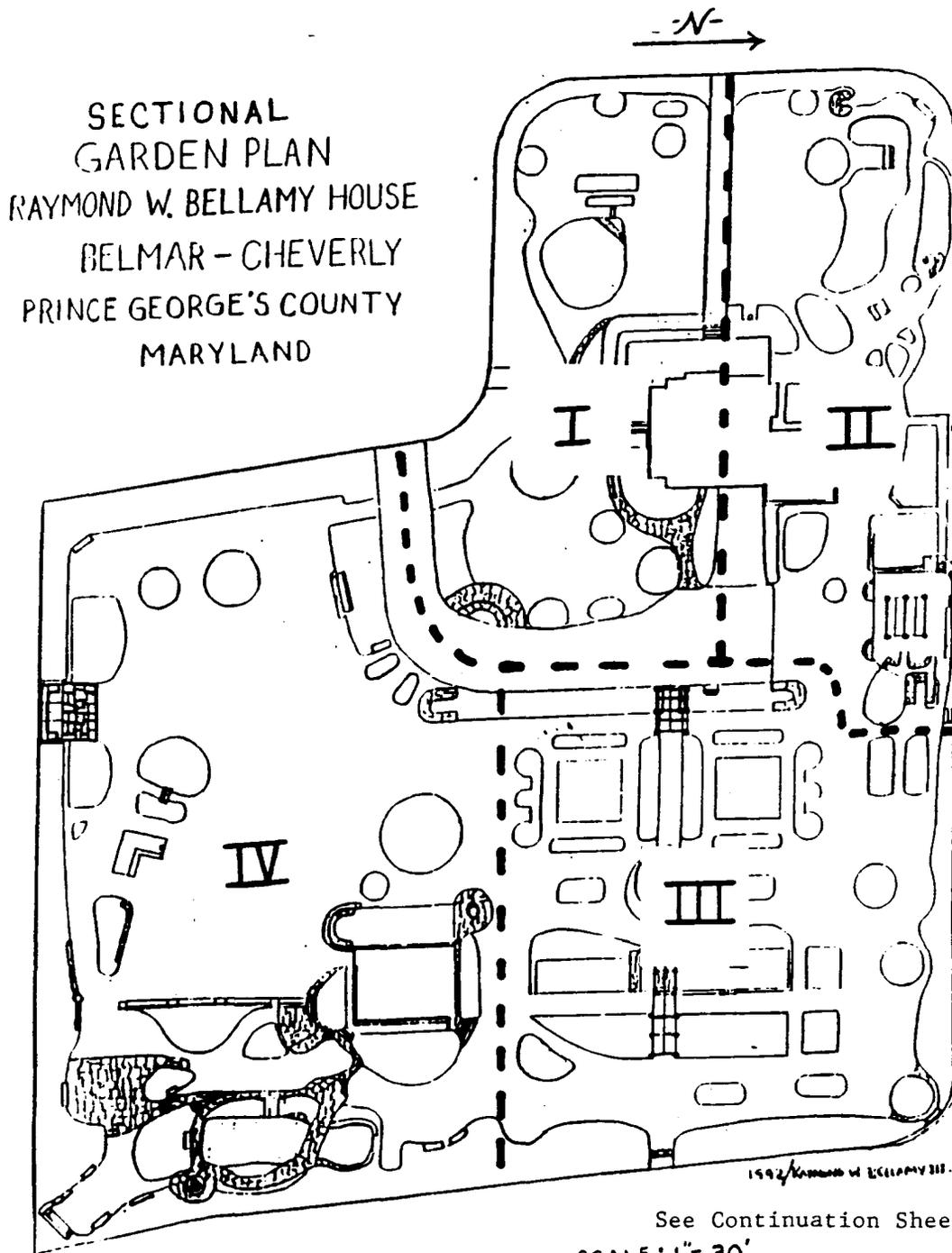
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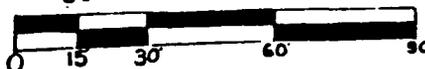
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SCALE: 1" = 30'



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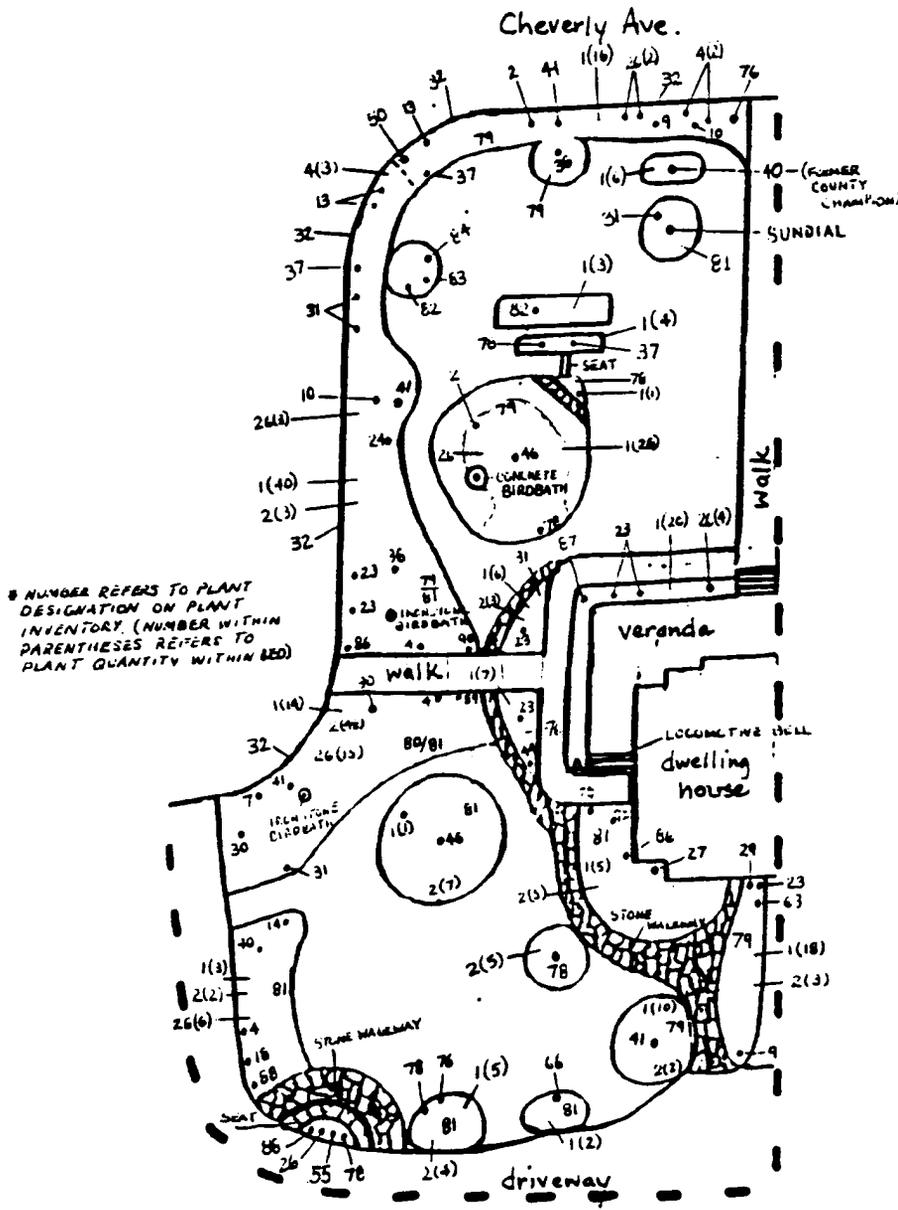
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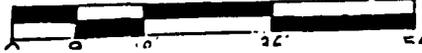
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RAYMOND W. BELLAMY HOUSE  
(BELMAR) GARDEN PLAN  
SECTION I



SCALE: 1" = 18'



See Continuation Sheet No. 13



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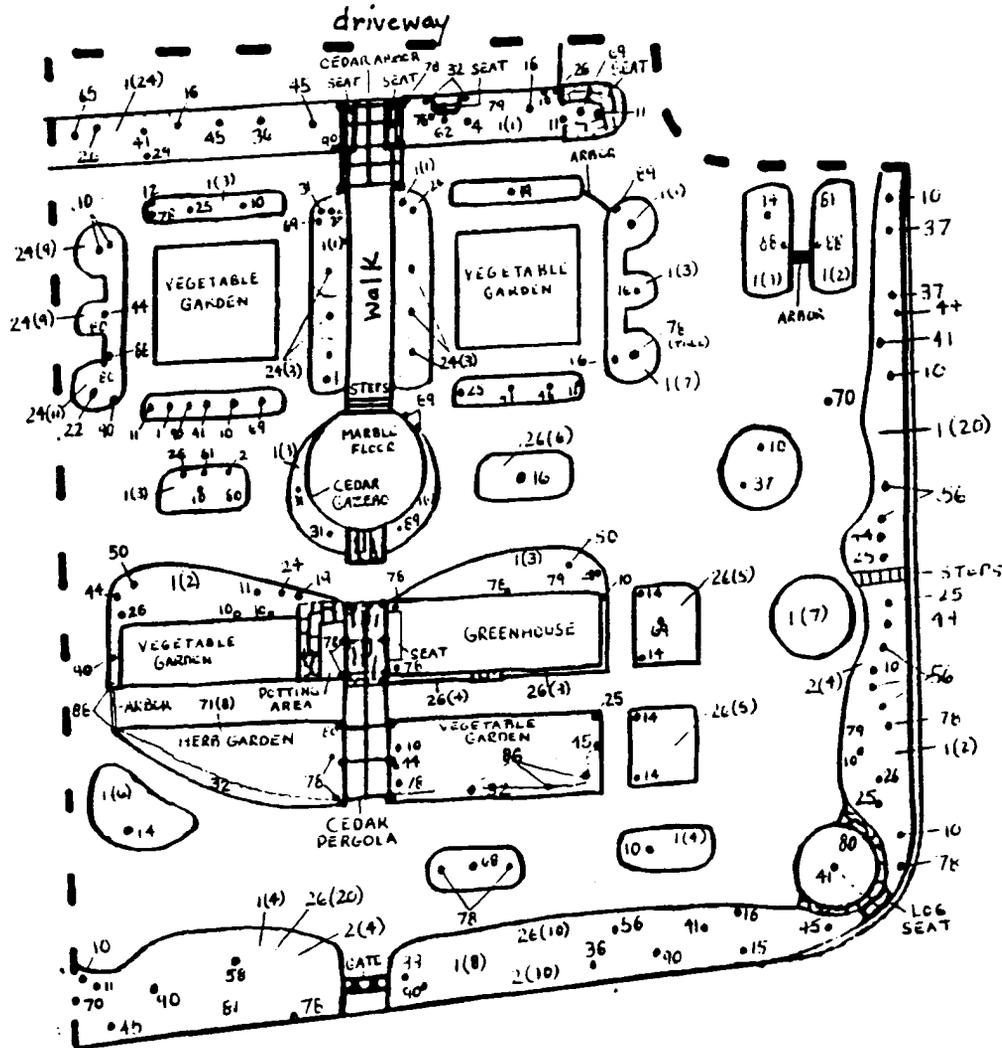
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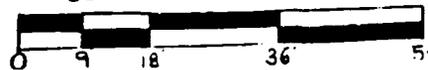
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RAYMOND W. BELLAMY HOUSE  
(BELMAR) GARDEN PLAN  
SECTION III



SCALE: 1" = 18'



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**GARDEN PLANT INVENTORY  
RAYMOND W. BELLAMY HOUSE  
(BELMAR) CHEVERLY  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
<b>SHRUBS</b>		
<u>Flowering Evergreen</u>		
1. Azalea	Rhododendron, various hybrids	832
2. Camellia japonica	Camellia japonica	175
3. Camellia sasanqua	Camellia sasanqua	1
4. Mountain laurel	Kalmia latifolia	16
5. Chinese photinia	Photinia serrulata	1
6. Rhododendron	Rhododendron, various species	4
<u>Flowering Deciduous</u>		
7. Althea (Rose of Sharon)	Hibiscus syriacus	5
8. Bush honeysuckle	Lonicera tartarica	3
9. Crapemyrtle	Lagerstroemia indica	6
10. Deutzia	Deutzia lemoinei	34
11. Forsythia	Forsythia	9
12. Hydrangea	Hydrangea hortensis	1
13. Lilac	Syringa vulgaris	3
14. Mockorange	Philadelphus coronarius	8
15. Japanese flowering quince	Chaenomeles japonica	6
16. Eastern redbud	Cercis canadensis	6

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17. Sweet shrub	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	1
18. Beauty bush	<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>	2
19. Snowball viburnum	<i>Viburnum plicata</i>	2
20. Doublefile viburnum	<i>Viburnum plicatum tomentosum</i>	2
21. Winter honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	1
22. Weigela	<i>Weigela florida</i>	1
<u>Non-flowering Evergreen</u>		
23. Arbor vitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	11
24. Boxwood	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	70
25. Chinese holly	<i>Ilex cornuta</i>	12
26. Aucuba (Gold dust tree)	<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	130
27. Heavenly bamboo	<i>Nandina</i>	1
28. Japanese yew	<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>	4
29. Ligustrum lucidum	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	5
30. Russian olive (Tree of Paradise)	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolius</i>	5
<u>Non-flowering Deciduous</u>		
31. Japanese barberry	<i>Berberus thunbergi</i>	11
32. European privet hedge	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	9

See Continuation Sheet No. 18

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**TREES**

Flowering Evergreen

33. Southern magnolia                      Magnolia grandiflora                      3

Flowering Deciduous

34. Japanese cherry (single)                      Prunus serrulata Yoshino                      3

35. Japanese cherry (double)                      Prunus serrulata Kwanzan                      3

36. Japanese crabapple                      Malus japonica                      10

37. Flowering dogwood (white)                      Cornus florida                      31

38. Flowering dogwood (pink)                      Cornus florida rubra                      1

39. Fringetree                      Chionanthus virginicus                      3

40. Bigleaf magnolia                      Magnolia macrophylla                      2

41. Saucer magnolia (tulip)                      Magnolia soulangeana                      12

42. Star magnolia                      Magnolia stellata                      3

43. Sweet bay magnolia                      Magnolia virginiana                      1

Non-flowering Evergreen

44. American holly                      Ilex opaca                      14

45. Eastern red cedar                      Juniperus virginiana                      9

46. Eastern hemlock                      Tsuga canadensis                      14

47. Foxtail pine                      Pinus balfouriana                      1

48. White pine                      Pinus strobus                      2

49. Virginia pine                      Pinus virginiana                      1

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50. Norway spruce                      *Picea excelsis*                      8

Non-flowering  
Deciduous

51. American beech                      *Fagus grandifolia*                      1

52. Blackgum (Black  
tupelo)                      *Nyssa sylvatica*                      4

53. Devils-  
walkingstick                      *Aralia spinosa*                      6

54. American elm                      *Ulmus americana*                      1

55. Hackberry                      *Celtis occidentalis*                      2

56. Silver maple                      *Acer saccharinum*                      14

57. Japanese red  
maple                      *Acer palmatum*                      1

58. Red mulberry                      *Morus rubra*                      1

59. Pin oak                      *Quercus palustris*                      2

60. Southern red oak                      *Quercus falcata*                      2

61. Willow oak                      *Quercus phellos*                      4

62. Sweetgum                      *Liquidambar styraciflua*                      1

**FRUIT AND NUT TREES, SHRUBS AND VINES**

Fruit Trees

63. Apple (Red  
Delicious)                      *Malus sylvestris*                      3

64. Apple (Yellow  
Delicious)                      *Malus sylvestris*                      1

65. Cherry (Bing)                      *Prunus avium*                      1

66. Cherry (Black  
tartarian)                      *Prunus avium*                      1

67. Pear                      *Pyrus*                      1

68. American  
persimmon                      *Diospyros virginiana*                      1

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Nut Trees

69. Black walnut	Juglans nigra	4
70. Japanese chestnut	Castanea crenata	3

Fruit Shrubs

71. Blueberry	Vaccinium corymbosum	8
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Fruit Vines

72. Grape (Concord)	Vitis	1
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**VINES**

73. Japanese honeysuckle	Lonicera japonica	1
74. Moonflower (moonvine)	Calonyction aculeatum	1
75. Sweet pea	Lothyrus odoratus	1
76. Trumpet vine	Camsis radicans	3
77. Virginia creeper	Ampelopsis quinquefolia	2
78. Chinese wisteria	Wisteria sinensis	31

**GROUND COVERS**

79. English ivy	Hedera helix	--
80. Japanese spurge	Pachysandra terminalis	--
81. Myrtle (periwinkle)	Vinca minor	--

**ROSES**

(Rosa)

Hybrid Tea

82. Peace		2
83. Mr. Lincoln		2

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84. Queen Elizabeth	1
<u>Grandiflora</u>	1
85. Prominent	
<u>Rambler</u>	
86. Chevy Chase	5
<u>Climber</u>	
87. Aloha	2
88. Blaze	6
89. New Dawn	4
<u>Shrub</u>	
90. Rosa multiflora	8

Perennial flowers scattered throughout the Belmar gardens include Japanese money plant, aster, phlox, chrysanthemum, iris, daylily, Shasta daisy, dianthus, peony, oriental poppy, hosta, yucca, hollyhock, Dusty Miller, columbine, and ferns.

Bulbs include the following types: narcissus, tulip, gladiolus, chionodoxa, grape hyacinth, Dutch hyacinth, wood hyacinths, crocus, snowdrop, and lily of the valley.

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SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Raymond W. Bellamy house, built in 1925, is significant for its association with the newly developing Washington, D.C. suburb of Cheverly in Prince George's County. Cheverly was one of the last suburban communities developed in Prince George's County along the District of Columbia border. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, several suburban developments grew in the northwest portion of the county along railroad and trolley lines. Developments like Cheverly, University Park, and District Heights came about after World War I when the automobile was widely available. Cheverly was developed by the Suburban Realty Company. The first houses, four in number, were built in 1921-1922. These seem to be custom designed houses. For the next round of construction, 1923-1925, which was ambitious in size, the company purchased 23 ready-built houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company and the McClure Company. These houses were scattered some distance apart to spur the sale of lots. The ready-built type of house was selected because it could be quickly assembled and occupied. The Bellamy house is one of the Sears, Roebuck and Company houses, a variation of the Alhambra model. Several of these houses still stand, but as noted they are scattered so they do not as a group reflect a period of the community's development. Of these, the Bellamy house is one of the best in terms of integrity of historic character. The Bellamy house is also unique in the community's history as it was the residence of a company official, Raymond W. Bellamy, who served as Assistant Property Manager and Director of Landscaping during its early years. In these capacities, Bellamy oversaw the day-to-day development of Cheverly and prepared the plans for the town's two parks. His own property has extensive and elaborate landscaping, and has served for community functions for over 50 years.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning  
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)  
Government/Law

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function and Use:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source: Sears, Roebuck and Company

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Section number 8 Page 24HISTORIC SETTING:

The Raymond W. Bellamy house is a Sears, Roebuck and Company mail-order house, constructed in 1925 in the newly developing suburb of Cheverly, Maryland. Cheverly, located just east of Washington, D.C., was accessible to the city in the 1920s via automobile and bus, as well as the Pennsylvania Railroad. Cheverly was developed at the end of the early 20th century boom in the growth of suburbs in western Prince George's County. Beginning in the late 19th century, suburbs were developed in the northwest portion of the County, along the Washington spur of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and later along trolley lines which ran between Washington, Baltimore, and Annapolis. Incorporated towns like Cheverly, University Park and District Heights, not located immediately on a trolley line, were suburbs developed after World War I, when automobiles were becoming more widely available. Cheverly was constructed on five hundred acres, purchased by Robert Marshall, a real estate developer, in 1918-1926. Marshall bought the Washington Suburban Realty Company in 1918 and used it to build and market Cheverly. Following four "hollow tile" houses built in 1921-22, twenty-three of the next thirty houses built in the town, from 1923-25, were purchased by Marshall from Sears, Roebuck and Company and the McClure Company.<sup>2</sup> Marshall constructed mail-order houses because they could be shipped to the nearby railroad freight depot at Benning and easily trucked in to the property, allowing the new suburb to have a number of residences to offer for sale. The houses were scattered some distance apart to spur the sale of lots. Cheverly incorporated in 1931, with a total of eighty-six dwellings and a population of 252. The town continued to develop, through the 40s and 50s, on lots platted by Marshall in the 1920s. The population continued to grow, reaching 909 in 1940, 3,117 in 1950, 5,223 in 1960, and peaking at 6,696 in 1970. Today, new construction continues on the few undeveloped lots and parcels that remain.

Two other suburbs which later became incorporated towns were developed in Prince George's County in the 1920s. These were District Heights and University Park. Like Cheverly, both were constructed on farmland located along main roads in proximity to other populated areas. District Heights, platted in 1925 by the District Heights Company, was located just west of Forestville on Marlboro Pike, the old turnpike leading from Upper Marlboro into the District of Columbia. The development company laid out and

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graveled the streets, offered limited bus service into Washington, and constructed dwellings, including Sears, Roebuck and Company mail-order houses, for sale. District Heights incorporated in 1936 with a building stock of 45 dwellings and a population 250. The town did not experience the early growth that Cheverly did; the population was only 400 in 1940. District Heights experienced its growth beginning in 1946 and continuing through the 1950s.

University Park is located west of and adjoining U.S. Route 1, just south of College Park. Marketing of University Park began in 1924 when developers formed the University Park Company. The development coincided with newly established water and sewer service provided by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. Cheverly also benefitted from the establishment of this service in 1925. Houses in University Park tended to be more expensive. Architectural plans had to be approved by the developer and covenants were part of the land deeds. Buyers could buy lots or completed dwellings, and some of those provided were Sears, Roebuck and Company mail-order houses. Neither District Heights nor University Park had as great a concentration of Sears houses as Cheverly. University Park incorporated in 1936 with 200 dwellings built. In 1940 there were 878 dwellings and a population of 2,205. The last intensive period of construction was in the 1950s, when 300 units were constructed, with an associated population increase to 2,926 residents.

RESOURCE HISTORY:

The Raymond Bellamy house was constructed between August and November of 1925.<sup>3</sup> It is the Alhambra model mail-order house offered by Sears, Roebuck and Company during the years 1918-1929.<sup>4</sup> A large two story house, it was constructed on lot 546 of Section 5 on the east side of the main road through the new suburb. It was Robert Marshall's intention that larger lots and more substantial dwellings be located in this central section of the town.<sup>5</sup> The house was constructed by a local contractor, Joseph S. Darrow, who also constructed the Sears Americus model located at 18 Cheverly Circle, approximately two blocks southeast of the Alhambra.<sup>6</sup>

The Washington Suburban Realty Company, headed by Robert Marshall, obtained a five-year mortgage of \$9,000 from Sears to construct the house.<sup>7</sup> It remained empty until May 1927, when it

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was purchased by Raymond W. Bellamy, Sr. (1891-1967), former assistant property manager for the Washington Suburban Realty Company.<sup>8</sup> In 1930, Bellamy also purchased the north section of lot 547, adjoining to the south, for a total of one and one-half acres.<sup>9</sup> Bellamy did not obtain clear title to the "Alhambra" and lot 546 until 1930. He had arranged with the Washington Suburban Realty Company to obtain the house and lot by trading them for 11 undeveloped lots in Cheverly that he owned near the southern boundary of the town. The company also was to complete payments on the mortgage with Sears. The Washington Suburban Realty Company sold its interest in Cheverly to the Wardman Company of Washington, D.C. in August 1929. The Wardman company agreed to honor the earlier agreement, but defaulted on payments to Sears as well as not paying the taxes on the property in 1928 and 1929. Bellamy assumed the mortgage in 1930 and also paid the back taxes.<sup>10</sup>

Raymond Bellamy arrived in Washington, D.C. from Carbondale, Pennsylvania in April 1925, having visited the area frequently since 1913. He had college level training in public speaking, law, and horticulture, and had begun his career in railroading. He started as a brakeman for the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Company in 1910, was promoted to fireman the same year, and to engineer in 1917. He also began work as a local organizer for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen in 1913. He was appointed a national organizer in 1917, traveling primarily in the mid-west and south. Bellamy served temporarily in the last days of World War I, in Washington, D.C., as Supervisor of Safety for the U.S. Railroad Administration.<sup>11</sup>

Bellamy first visited Cheverly in the summer of 1924, and purchased property there in August of that year. He became a property salesman for the Washington Suburban Realty Company at that time, and began developing landscape plans for the new suburb. In April 1925, he moved to Cheverly at Robert Marshall's request, and became assistant property manager and director of landscaping. In that position, Bellamy oversaw the development of the community when Marshall was unavailable, either because he was wintering in Florida or traveling. Bellamy ceased to work directly for the company in May of 1927, when Marshall began to reduce his own involvement in it. Bellamy was independently involved in Cheverly property sales into the 1940s.<sup>12</sup> His close relationship with Robert Marshall is indicated by Marshall leaving his personal files on Cheverly with Bellamy when Marshall left the area in 1929.

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Bellamy remained closely involved with Cheverly for the rest of his life. Because his work in the thirties and forties required extensive travel, he did not hold elective office. However, he did serve in 1945-46 as a member of the Cheverly Planning Board, a task force convened by the mayor after World War II to determine the future direction of the town. The lighted gardens of the Alhambra were used during four decades as a community park. In a 1960 interview, Bellamy stated that he started the gardens in 1930 to give neighborhood children a place to play. Numerous community events were held in the gardens over the years, including those related to the local schools, Cheverly's two churches, Bellamy's Masonic membership, and the Girl Scouts, among many others. In 1980, for these services and his role in early Cheverly, the town designated Bellamy Park, just south of the American Legion Park, both of which had been landscaped by him fifty-five years previously.

Bellamy's interest in horticulture resulted in the extensively planted grounds around the Alhambra. His original landscape plan for lot 546 has survived, and he mentions the extensive landscaping in numerous letters during the late twenties and early thirties. A real estate appraisal in 1939 calls the landscaping and planting exceptional.<sup>13</sup> Today there are thousands of flower bulbs and hundreds of flowering shrubs, trees, and vines on the grounds; these include rare ornamental species of azaleas, camellias, and magnolias from the National Arboretum. Through his interest and expertise in horticulture, he became personal friends with several succeeding directors of the arboretum and exchanged plants with them. There are notable collections of azaleas, camellia Japonica and Sasangua, pink and white dogwood, crepe myrtle, climbing roses, hollies, aucuba, wisteria, and Japanese cherry trees. Plants he propagated in Cheverly were given to many collections, including those at the National Arboretum, Bellingrath Gardens in Alabama, and former President Eisenhower's farm in Gettysburg, PA.<sup>14</sup>

Bellamy embellished his gardens with brick borders for all flower beds, over 40 stone seats and benches, stone walkways, steps and walls, cedar pergolas and arbors, rose archways, a lily pond with an arched stone bridge, a sunken garden, a stone potting shed/greenhouse, two cedar gazebos with marble floors, a small amphitheater and a small 18 hole golf course, all of which he constructed himself.<sup>15</sup>

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Bellamy's career included a variety of positions in the Republican National Committee, Department of Labor, War Production Board, U.S. Senate, and the State of Maryland. He served as federal director of employment for Maryland from 1931-1933, at the same time serving as a special assistant to Secretary of Labor William N. Doak. He was an aide to Alfred M. Landon in the 1936 presidential campaign, and to Wendell L. Wilkie in the 1940 campaign. He was involved in the Republican presidential campaigns of 1928 and 1952 as a labor advisor and speaker. In 1941 he worked for former President Herbert Hoover on the National Committee on Food for Small Democracies, and from 1942 to '44 as a regional representative for the War Production Board. From 1944-51 he was public relations consultant and a speaker for the Republican National Committee. He served Congress from 1947-49 as Doorkeeper of the U.S. Senate.<sup>16</sup>

Bellamy was appointed Chairman of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission in 1951, and served until his retirement in 1955. Under his chairmanship, the Rocky Gorge dam in Laurel, Maryland, was constructed. He led a program to beautify Patuxent Reservoir lands, and the Brighton Dam azalea garden, which he started, is dedicated to him.<sup>17</sup>

Bellamy called his Cheverly house "Belmar," a combination of his and his second wife's last names (he married Pearl Martin in 1927).<sup>18</sup> The house is a well-preserved example of the Sears Alhambra model, retaining the exterior features evident in construction drawings, which still exist. The house was originally covered with a material the Sears company called magnesite stucco, laid on over wooden lath. The stucco did not weather well and came off in large pieces.<sup>19</sup> In 1952 the house was covered with asbestos shingle. The original red asphalt shingle roof was replaced with green shingle at that time. In addition, metal awnings were installed over the windows on the main facade. In 1966 a one-by-one bay, one story addition was added on the north side of the house, containing a single large room and a bathroom. The two small square casement windows in that location, which had lighted the dining room, were left with their original dimensions and moldings and converted into cabinets.

On the interior, the dwelling retains the distinctive oak moldings in the living room and dining room offered as an extra cost option in the Sears catalog. These include the door and

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window surrounds, cornice, picture rail, bannister, and built-in window seat along the north wall. Additionally, there are built-in cabinets flanking the fireplace, which has the brick mantel offered by Sears. The original electrical wall sconces in the living room, in a "Spanish" or "Mediterranean" style, have been replaced by colonial style fixtures.<sup>20</sup> Other than these changes, the house has been maintained with its original features on the interior and exterior.

The house is an adaptation of the Sears Alhambra plan. Instead of entry into a sunroom, as the plan calls for, the Bellamy house has entry into a large open room which combines entry hall and living room. The entry area was not enclosed as a separate sunroom because that side of the house has a northern exposure and would not receive much sun. The entry porch wraps around the south side of the house for one bay, also an alteration to the Sears plan. The south side of the dwelling receives sunlight and the porch was continued to take advantage of that factor. The large, rectangular picture window on the main stair landing on the south wall of the living room is original, another feature added to take advantage of the southern exposure.<sup>21</sup> Entry to the dining room is opposite the front door, through an open colonnade rather than through French doors as the Sears plan called for. The colonnade, of rectangular oak half-columns atop built-in bookcases with leaded glass doors, is an important decorative feature of the living and dining room area. The Sears Company advertised that it was willing and able to adapt its plans to a particular lot or setting, and the Bellamy house is an illustration of this.<sup>22</sup>

RESOURCE ANALYSIS:

The Raymond W. Bellamy house represents the theme of community planning. Mail-order housing is an important component of Prince George's County's suburban development in the first third of the twentieth century. The house represents the national phenomenon of mail-order house construction in the burgeoning suburbs surrounding the nation's large cities. Mail-order housing was important in the early development of Cheverly. Of the first thirty-four dwellings in the town, constructed between 1921 and 1925, seventeen were Sears mail-order houses and six were from the McClure Company, constructed by the developer to spur the sale of lots.

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The Bellamy house is also distinguished by its extensive, and unique for Cheverly, 1½ acre landscaped grounds. The eclectic benches and structures, and the numerous and rare plantings were all installed by owner/resident, Bellamy, an amateur horticulturalist. The grounds around the house were for many years a community showplace. Bellamy opened his property for numerous community showplace. Bellamy opened his property for numerous community activities, making it a location known in and significant to Cheverly, during the period of significance, 1927-1967.

The Bellamy house and grounds are also interesting for association with Raymond W. Bellamy, who was active in the development of Cheverly, from its early days through his death in 1967. The property, and particularly the grounds, are his creation and convey Bellamy's activity within the town. Early in its history, Bellamy served as assistant to Robert Marshall, the town's developer. Bellamy also was responsible for landscaping of the dwellings sold by the development company and for planting trees in the town's parks. Bellamy served in an advisory capacity to the town throughout his residence there, particularly when he served on the Planning Board in 1945-46. Bellamy was important in local public life, serving as the Chairman of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. He was prominent in the national Republican Party as well, and held numerous positions within its hierarchy and within the State and Federal governments from the late 1920s to the mid-1950s. His collected papers, held at the property, serve as a memorial to his work in government both on the local and national level.

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1. "Hollow Tile" is the construction material referred to in letters from the National Realty Co., which funded the first four houses developed in Cheverly.
2. "History: The Town of Cheverly, Maryland - Plantation to Planned Community," Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr., published in Cheverly, Maryland Citizen's Handbook, March 1989, pg. 8.
3. Papers of Raymond W. Bellamy, Sr. Collection located at 2819 Cheverly Avenue, Cheverly, Maryland 20785. Letters dated 23 July 1925, from Washington Suburban Realty Co., to Sears, Roebuck and Co.; and 26 October 1925, from P.G. Cooper, engineer to Robert Marshall; and 18 December 1925, year-end report of the Washington Suburban Realty Co.
4. Houses by Mail, A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company, Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, The Preservation Press, Washington, D.C., 1986, pg. 286.
5. Prince George's County Land Records, Plat of Cheverly, Section 5, SDK 3:46; and interview with Raymond W. Bellamy, Jr., January 1990.
6. Papers, op. cit., letter dated 21 September 1925, from M.G. Philips, Sears, Roebuck and Company to Robert Marshall; and 1925 Sales Brochure of Washington Suburban Realty Company.
7. Land Records, 241:46.
8. Ibid. 336:450.
9. Ibid. 355:278.
10. Papers, op. cit., letter dated 19 June 1933, from Raymond W. Bellamy to Federal Home Loan Bank Board.
11. Interview, op. cit.; and Who's Who in Government, Vol. II, The Biographical Research Bureau, Inc., 450 West 34th Street, New York, NY, 1932, pgs. 204-205.
12. Papers, op. cit., letters dated 12 August 1925, from Raymond W. Bellamy to Robert Marshall; 1 September 1925, same; 20 March 1945, from Raymond W. Bellamy to Mayor and Council of Cheverly; and Interview, op. cit.

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13. Papers, op. cit., letter dated 18 November 1939.
  14. Interview, op. cit.
  15. Papers, op.cit.; and The Evening Star. Washington, D.C., 24 May 1960, "Meet Mr. Girl Scout."
  16. Papers, op. cit.; and The Evening Star, Washington, D.C., 23 February 1967, obituary.
  17. Papers, op. cit., letter dated 2 May 1973, from David H. Elliott, Chairman, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to Mrs. Raymond W. Bellamy, Sr.; and obituary.
  18. Interview, op. cit.
  19. Ibid.
  20. Ibid.
  21. Ibid.
  22. Houses by Mail, op. cit., pg. 21.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Prince George's County.  
Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The property is bounded by Cheverly Avenue on the west, Cheverly Avenue and Lot #548 on the south, a publicly owned alley on the east, and Lot #545 on the north.

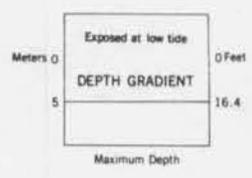
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries are Lots #546 and #547 in Block 45 of Cheverly Section 5, Plat #3:46 in the Land Records of Prince George's County.



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048  
 To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808



HEIGHTS 2.3 MI  
 ARLBORO 11 MI.



**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

- Heavy-duty Light-duty
- Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
- Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route



WASHINGTON EAST, D.C.-MD.  
 38076-HB-TB-024

1965  
 PHOTOREVISED 1979  
 BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982  
 DMA 5661 IV NW-SERIES V833

18/334180/4310240

PG: 69-22

Bellamy, Raymond W., House



P.G.#69-22

Raymond W. Bellamy House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Marina King

May 1990

West facade

Neg: MD Historical Trust  
Annapolis, MD

1 of 27



P.G. #69-22

Raymond W. Bellamy House  
Prince George's County  
Marina King

May 1998

West entrance

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

3 of 27



P.G. #69-22

Raymond W. Bellamy House  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King  
May 1990  
South elevation  
Neg: MHT, Annapolis  
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P.G. #69-22

Raymond W. Bellamy House  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King  
May 1990  
Southeast  
Neg. MHT, Annapolis  
6 of 27



P.G. #69-22

Raymond W. Bellemey House,  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King  
May 1990  
Northeast  
Neg: MHT, Annapolis  
7 of 27



Raymond W. Bellemey House  
Prince George's County  
Marina King

May 1990

dining room, looking east

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

8 of 27



P.G. #69-22

Raymond W. Belknap House

Prince George's County

Marina King

May 1990

main entrance, looking west

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

9 of 27



P.G. #69-22

Raymond W. Bellamy House  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King

May 1990

living room, looking north

Neg: MAT, Annapolis

10 of 27



P.G #69-22

Raymond W Bellemj House  
Prince Georges County

Marina King

May 1990

mantel, east wall, living room

Veg: MAT, Annapolis

11 of 27



Raymond W. Belknap House  
Prince Georges County

Marina King

May 1998

living room, looking south

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

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Raymond W. Bellamy House  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King  
May 1990

Dining room, looking north  
Neg: MHT, Annapolis  
13 of 27



P.B. #69-22

Raymond W. Bellemey House  
Prince George's County  
Maxine King  
May 1990

Dining Room, looking southeast  
Neg. M45, Annapolis  
14 of 27



P.G. 69-22

Raymond W. Bellamy House  
Prince Georges County

Maring King

May 1990

North elevation

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

17 of 27



P.G. #69-22

Raymond W. Bellemey House  
Prince Georges County

Marina King

May 1990

Amphitheater, south yard

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

18 of 27



P.G. #69-22

Raymond W. Belkemy House  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King

May 1990

Bridge over fish pond, southeast

yard  
Neg: MBT, Annapolis

20 of 27



P.G. # 69-22

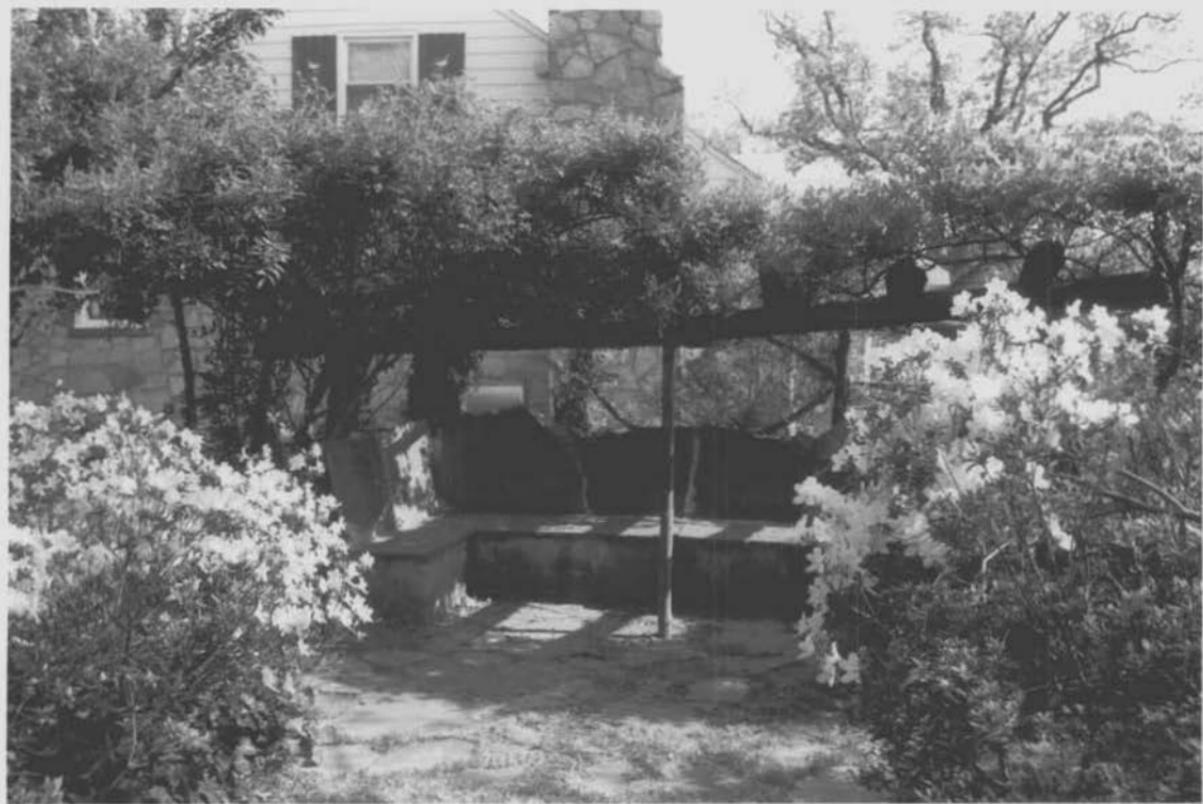
Raymond W. Belknap House  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King

May 1990

Amphitheater, looking east

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

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P.G. #69-22

Raymond W. Bellamy House

Prince Georges County

Marina King

May 1990

Pergola, south yard

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

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P.G. #69-22

Raymond W. Bellemey House  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King

May 1990

Potting shed, east yard

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

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Raymond Bellemey House  
Prince George's County  
Marina King  
May 1990  
Stairs to sunken garden, south  
Neg: MHT, Annapolis  
24 of 27



P.G. #69-22

Raymond W. Bellemey House  
Prince George's County  
Marina King

May 1990

Potting shed, looking west

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

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P.G. #69-22

Raymond W. Bellemey House  
Prince Georges County  
Maring King

May 1991

East elevation, below  
garage door

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

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Raymond W. Bellemey House  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King

May 1990

North elevation, bay window  
detail

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

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Raymond W. Belamy House  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King

May 1990

West porch, looking north

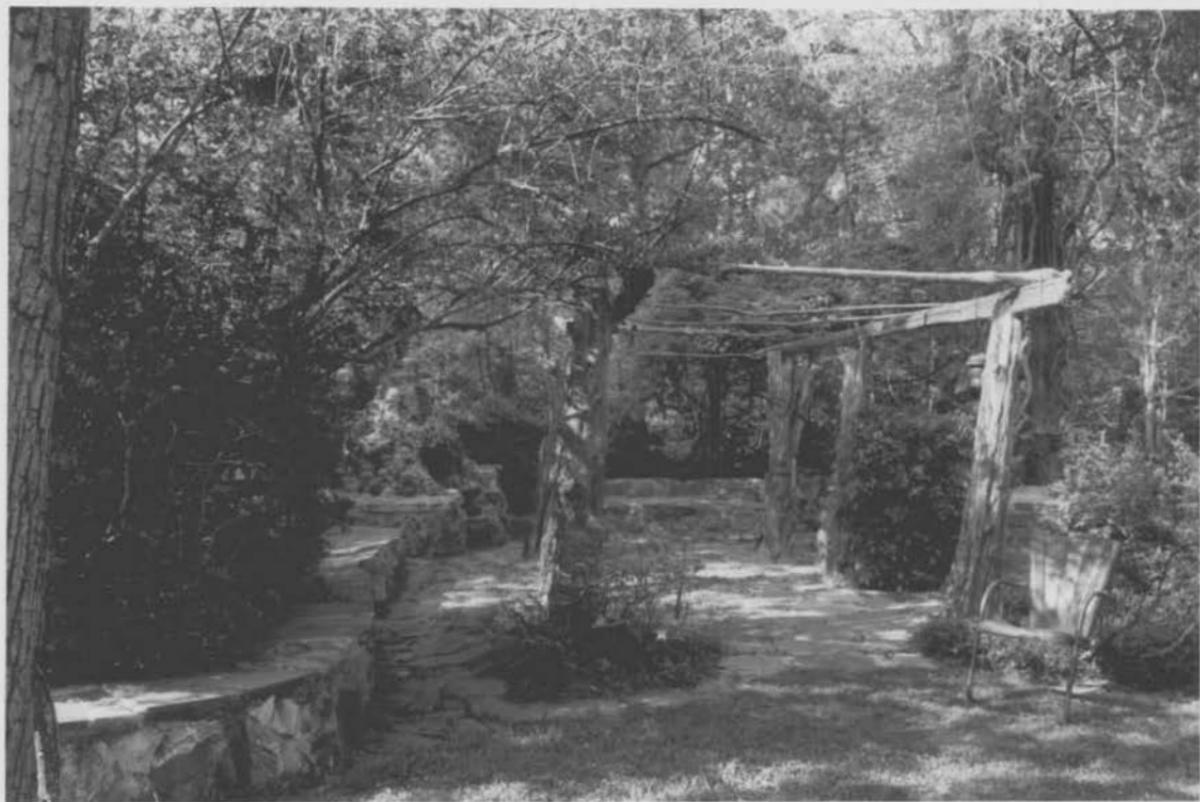
Neg: MHT, Annapolis

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P.G. #69-22

Raymond W. Bellamy  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King  
May 1970  
West entrance, detour  
Neg: MHT, Annapolis  
2 of 27



Raymond W. Belknap House  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King  
May 1990  
Pergola, northeast yard  
Neg: MHT, Annapolis  
27 of 27



Raymond Bellemey House  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King  
May 1990  
West, front yard  
Neg: MHT, Annapolis  
25 of 27



Raymond Bellemy House  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King  
May 1990  
Seat, northwest yard  
Neg: MHT, Annapolis  
26 of 27