

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71A-33 Building Date: 1880's

Building Name: Highlands

Location: 6510 Highbridge Road, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Unoccupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description

Highlands is a multi-part frame dwelling of the 1880's, the main block of which is side-gabled with central crossgable; the several rear additions incorporate an older two-story structure. The largest section is the side-gabled main block, two-and-one-half stories high, three bays by two. Entrance is in the central bay of the three bay main south facade, through a four-panel door with transom and sidelights. A pointed-arch pentagonal window lights the central crossgable. The south facade is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch with Tuscan columns which wraps around and shelters also the east gable end. Windows in the main block are 2/2 double hung sash with louvered wood shutters. In each of the east and west gable ends, the first story is lighted by a four-part Palladian-style window. The wood siding of the main block is covered with plain horizontal aluminum siding. There are two corbelled brick chimneys at the ridge, flanking the center stairhall. Attached to the rear elevation of the main block are three more sections: a two-story nearly-flat-roofed section which connects the main block with the older originally-separate kitchen section, and a two-story shed-roof flounder section on the east. Interior of the main block is that of a traditional I-house: central stairhall with a parlor on each side. The staircase has a heavy turned newel, and bedrooms have handsome late Victorian wood mantels.

Significance

Highlands is a variant of the traditional I-house, expanded to incorporate an older freestanding outbuilding. It was built in the early 1880's by Dr. James McElderry Mullikin on land which he purchased in 1883 out of the old Cedar Hill estate of the Weems and Bowie families. His new house at Highlands was a spacious variant of the traditional I-house, embellished with interior trim typical of the 1880's: turned newel and sweeping staircase, and molded wooden mantels late Victorian in style. Just north of the new dwelling stood an older structure with a large chimney built of local sandstone, and small windows lighting its upper story; it was used by the Mullikin family as the kitchen of their new home. Soon after Dr. Mullikin's new house was finished, a long, narrow addition was built connecting the new dwelling with the old kitchen. The main block of Highlands is a good example of a late Victorian I-house, complete with interior trim typical of the period. It is somewhat simpler in exterior detail than contemporary dwellings of similar plan, but it includes fine interior trim and is unusual in its incorporation of an older outbuilding; it is distinguished also by its siting on high ground at the end of a well-worn rural lane.

Acreage: 23.72 acres

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Highlands

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6510 Highbridge Road not for publicationcity, town Bowie Collington vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 Joseph T. Hunt Construction-Company, Inc.

street & number 6606 Lisa Lane telephone no.:

city, town Bowie state and zip code Maryland 20715

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6509

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 636

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" 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.

Highlands is a multi-part frame dwelling of the 1880's, the main block of which is side-gabled with central crossgable; the several rear additions incorporate an older two-story structure. This complex dwelling stands on a wooded hill in an area which is undergoing residential development.

The largest section of the house at Highlands is the side-gabled main block, two-and-one-half stories high, three bays by two, 38½ by 20 feet. Entrance is in the central bay of the three bay main south facade, through a door with a two-pane transom and two-pane sidelights over molded wainscot panels. The door itself has four deeply molded rectangular panels, and a plain board surround painted dark green. Above the door at loft-level, a central crossgable varies the lines of the eaves, and is lighted by one pointed-arch single-pane pentagonal window.

The principal south facade is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch which wraps around and shelters also the east gable end. The wood floor of the porch rests on shallow concrete piers, and Tuscan columns support the boxed, molded cornice and the porch roof, which is covered with standing seam metal.

Windows in the main block are 2/2 double hung sash with narrow molded surrounds painted white. Most windows have louvered wood shutters, painted dark green. In each of the east and west gable ends, the first story is lighted by a four-part Palladian window: a central 1/1 window flanked by two narrower 1/1 windows, all three surmounted by a shallow elliptical fanlight with intricate multi-section tracery, and the whole window complex enframed by a plain board surround.

The original wood siding of the main block is nowhere visible, but is probably German; it is covered with plain horizontal aluminum siding. The gable roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle. The boxed cornice is sheathed with white aluminum. There are two corbelled brick chimneys at the ridge, flanking the center stairhall. The main block rests on a foundation of local ironbearing sandstone; there is no basement.

Attached to the rear (north) elevation of the main block are three more sections of the house: a) a two-story nearly-flat-roofed section (family room) which connects the main block with b) the older originally-separate kitchen section, and c) a two-story shed-roof flounder section on the east.

The oldest structure (b) on this site was the northmost, originally a two-story freestanding side-gabled building with an exterior stone chimney at its east gable end. This small structure clearly predates the main block, and may originally have been a kitchen or an overseer's dwelling; it was connected to the main block sometime shortly after the construction of the main block, and served as the kitchen for the new dwelling before the present kitchen was added. It is three bays by two, roughly 18 by 16 feet, with entrance through a four-panel door in the center bay of the three-bay north facade. It may be constructed of log, although this cannot be determined because the exterior is completely covered by aluminum siding. There is an exterior chimney at the ridge at the east gable end; it is constructed of local ironbearing stone to the weatherings at first story level and above this a stove chimney has been constructed of brick. Windows in the first story are 2/2 double hung sash; there are two small single-sash windows in the second story of the north facade. At loft level, there is one 2/2 window in the west gable end, and one small single-sash window just south of the chimney in the east gable end. All have plain aluminum surrounds and no shutters. This discrete structural unit rests directly on the ground, with no foundation; it is warped and seriously sagging. Interior consists of a single space. The original fireplace in the east gable end has been covered over with wainscoting and cannot be observed. A two-run boxed staircase rises toward the west in the northwest corner of this space, turns to the south and rises to the loft level along the west wall. Lath, where it can be observed, is hand split. The gable roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle.

Connecting this oldest structural unit to the main block is a two-story nearly-flat-roof section (a) which consists of a long family room lighted by a two-story semi-octagonal projecting bay on the west. This projecting bay has a four-plane pyramidal roof (integrated with the nearly-flat roof which continues to the east) which lends variety to the rooflines of the whole house. Modern 1/1 double hung sash windows have been installed in the three faces of this bay, and its roof is covered by the same gray asphalt shingle as the rest of the building. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney at the east end of this connecting section. This section rests on a brick foundation and has no basement; aluminum siding is the same as the rest of the house.

A one-bay two-story shed-roof addition (c) extends east from connecting section (a), and forms a flounder section projecting to the east of the east gable end of the main block. A 2/2 double hung sash, shuttered window opens onto the main porch from the first story of the south facade of this section, and a similar window above it, without shutters, lights its second story. Its shed roof is covered with standing-seam metal. A one-story northerly shed-roof addition doubles the first-floor space of this section and constitutes the present kitchen and pantry of the house. Aluminum siding is the same as the rest of the building.

Interior of the main block is that of a traditional I-house: central stairhall with a parlor on each side. The two-run open-string stair rises along the east wall of the stairhall, turns 90° at a landing, then turns 90° again and rises to the second story. It has a heavy turned newel with mitred cap, turned balusters and ornately bracketed stairends. The staircase hangs free, with an empty space beneath the first run.

The mantels in the parlors have been removed. Mantels in the bedrooms are late Victorian in style and identical: wood (painted white) with molded pilasters ornamented with a projecting long oval panel which is repeated horizontally on the frieze. Moldings in the main block vary; some display multi-band fluting (without cornerblocks) while others have a deep ogee molding between a plain backband and an inner bead.

In the section (a) which joins the main block with the older freestanding outbuilding, there is an ornate Colonial Revival style wood mantel (painted white) at the east end of the family room. The firebox is framed by tall unfluted colonnettes with Corinthian order capitals and block bases. The colonnettes support a shelf which consists of an entablature with a cushion frieze. Immediately above the firebox is a smaller shallow shelf supported by jigsaw brackets, and above it (still framed by the colonnettes) a plain rectangular recessed area which may have framed a mirror. The family room is divided by an elliptical Colonial Revival style arch.

The house at Highlands stands on high ground overlooking the Horsepen Branch. The long straight entrance lane, with deeply cut banks, comes in from the east to a circle south of the house. The house is framed by very large old oaks and sycamores, as well as cedars, and the ground to the south is covered with ivy and myrtle. To the east and north are a few old sheds, but there is no sign of the old outbuildings (dairy, meat house, corn crib, stable, chicken house and barn) which stood on the property early in this century. Just west of the old kitchen structure is an old well.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#71A-33

Period	Area of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> political/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	local history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specif

Specific dates early 1880's

Builder/Architect

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.

Highlands is a variant of the traditional I-house, expanded in an unusual way, and incorporating an older freestanding outbuilding. The main block, built by a locally well-known physician from a prominent County family, incorporates typical and fine decorative elements of the period.

Highlands was built in the early 1880's by Dr. James McElderry Mullikin on land which he purchased in 1883 out of the old Cedar Hill estate of the Weems and Bowie families. A 220-acre farm, part of Cedar Hill (cf. MHT #71A-8), was sold in 1859 by the Bowie family to Grafton H. Isaac, whose family lived and farmed on property just to the east of Cedar Hill.¹ The south half of the Cedar Hill property (ca. 113 acres) passed in 1869 to Ruth Ann Jacob, sister of Grafton Isaac.² Mrs. Jacob, who probably never lived on this property, died intestate in 1874, and her creditors brought suit in Equity Court; the Court decreed that her property should be sold, and attorney C.C. Magruder was appointed to make the sale. In January 1883, Magruder sold the 113-acre farm to Dr. James M. Mullikin for \$1000. The farm was described in the sale notice as follows: "113 acres of which the late Ruth Ann Jacob died seized,whereon William Culver is at this time a tenant, and adjoining Cedar Hill farm and the land of Joshua T. Clarke;improved by a good-sized dwelling house, cornhouse and stabling for at least 12 horses; 3/4 of the land is arable, and the balance is in chestnut, oak and poplar, [as well as] a small orchard;the property is convenient to churches, railroad stations, public schools and mills."³

Dr. James McElderry Mullikin (1819-1905) was the son of Basil Duckett Mullikin of Roscoe, also known as Williams Plains.⁴ Dr. Mullikin had built a home (known as Hillview) on the Williams Plains property at about the time of his marriage (1856) and had lived there with his family until he bought the Isaac-Jacob farm in 1883. He then built a new home on the 113-acre property, and called it Highlands. Approximately three miles west of his family's former home at Roscoe, this new home at Highlands brought Dr. Mullikin closer to most of his patients and to his church,

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

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Section 8 Page 2

Holy Trinity at Collington; Dr. Mullikin served on the Vestry of Holy Trinity during the 1880's.⁵

The new house at Highlands was a spacious variant of the traditional I-house, and was built on a high point of ground overlooking the Horsepen Branch and the slightly lower site of Holy Trinity Church. The house was embellished with interior trim typical of the 1880's; turned newel and sweeping staircase, and molded wooden mantels late Victorian in style. It is possible that the pseudo-Palladian windows which light the gable ends of the dwelling are original to the building.

Just north of the new dwelling stood an older structure with a large chimney built of local sandstone, and small windows lighting its upper story. This building, which had probably served as an overseer's dwelling, certainly dated from the period of Bowie family ownership. It was used by the Mullikin family as the kitchen of their new home. Soon after Dr. Mullikin's new house was finished, a long, narrow addition was built connecting the new dwelling with the old kitchen. This connecting section was lighted on the west by a two-story projecting bay, and the formal room which it contained was embellished with a fine Colonial Revival style mantel and archway. Somewhat later, a new kitchen was added east of the connecting section. At the turn of this century, Dr. Mullikin's married son, Robert Lee Mullikin, and his family were also living in this enlarged house.⁶

Dr. Mullikin died in 1905, and his wife in the following year. By their wills, the Highlands property was to be divided equally among their five children.⁷ The heirs came to an amicable agreement, and in 1907 conveyed the property (by then 134 acres) to the youngest son, James McElderry Mullikin, Jr., executor of his parents' estate; the younger Mullikin lived in Baltimore, but his older brother, Robert Lee Mullikin, at approximately the same time, built a home for his family a half-mile to the southwest, on the other side of Holy Trinity Church.⁸ James M. Mullikin Jr. sold Highlands in 1912, and it was sold again in 1925 to Campbell Williams; Williams was a brother-in-law of Washington Booth Bowie of Fairview, the historic seat of the Bowie family, approximately two miles to the south.⁹ The Williams family farmed the Highlands property until the late 1950's when parts of the adjoining land were subdivided and developed into the residential subdivisions of Highbridge Estates; the old Mullikin dwelling at Highlands, which stood on the remaining 23 acres, was retained by an heir of the Williams family as a tenant dwelling.¹⁰

Within the last 20 years, aluminum siding was applied to the entire house, covering the original siding of the main block, as well as the exterior wood of the older kitchen and the sequential additions. In 1988, this parcel of land was purchased by a development company.¹¹ The Mullikin House at Highlands will be demolished to make way for new housing.

The main block of Highlands is a good example of a late Victorian I-house, complete with interior trim typical of the period. It is simpler

in exterior detail than other dwellings of similar plan. Navajo, built circa 1880, has the same central crossgable, but its cornices and entry porch are highlighted by ornate jigsaw brackets.¹² The Hamilton House, built just before 1880, has clipped gables and a bracketed Victorian porch, as well as projecting bays at its gable ends.¹³ The house at Highlands is a simpler version of the same type, but it includes fine interior trim and is unusual in its incorporation of an older outbuilding; it is distinguished also by its siting on high ground at the end of a well-worn rural lane.

Notes

1 Prince George's County Deed CSM #3:12,; see also Martenet map of Prince George's County, 1861.

2 Prince George's County Deeds CSM #3:641, HB #2:781, Will WAJ #1:332.

3 Prince George's County Equity #1185; Prince George's County Deed JWB #1:638.

4 Williams Plains, PG#71B-3, is listed in the National Register.

5 Prince George's Historical Society News and Notes, January 1982, article by Margaret Mullikin Marshall; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1888-1900; Holy Trinity Vestry Minutes, M930, Maryland Archives; Census for Prince George's County, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880.

6 Census for Prince George's County, 1900.

7 Prince George's County Wills WRS #1:389, 538. Administration files #1975, #2066.

8 See MHT form #71A-31.

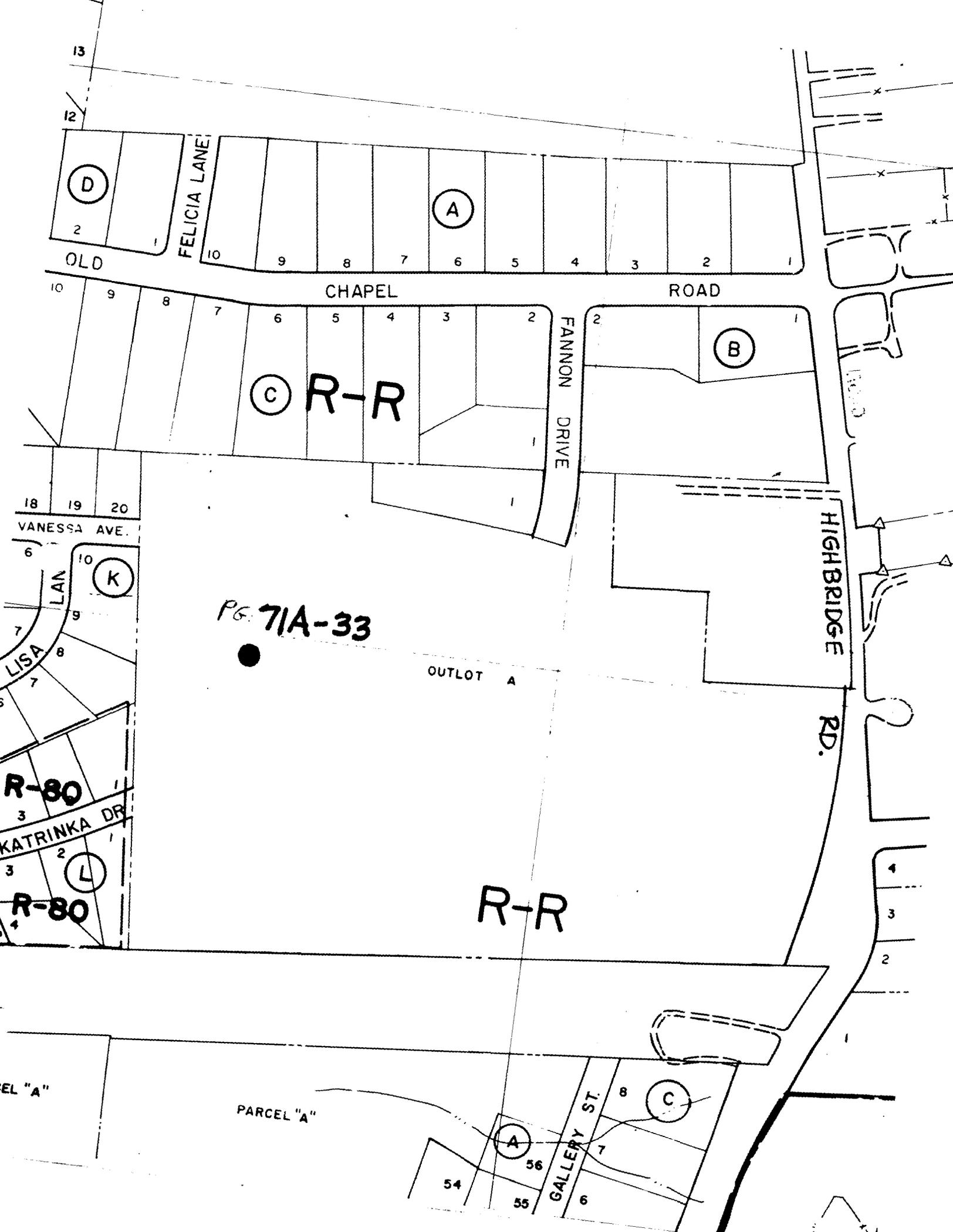
9 See MHT form #71A-13.

10 Prince George's County Deed #3166:594.

11 Prince George's County Deed #6509:636.

12 See MHT form #78-22.

13 See MHT form and National Register nomination #74B-7.



13

12

(D)

2

FELICIA LANE

(A)

OLD

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

CHapel

ROAD

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

(C) R-R

FANNON DRIVE

(B)

2

18

19

20

VANESSA AVE.

6

10

(K)

PG. 71A-33



OUTLOT A

HIGHBRIDGE

RD.

LISA LANE

R-80

KATRINKA DR

R-80

(L)

R-R

PARCEL "A"

PARCEL "A"

GALLERY ST.

(C)

(A)

54

56

55

6

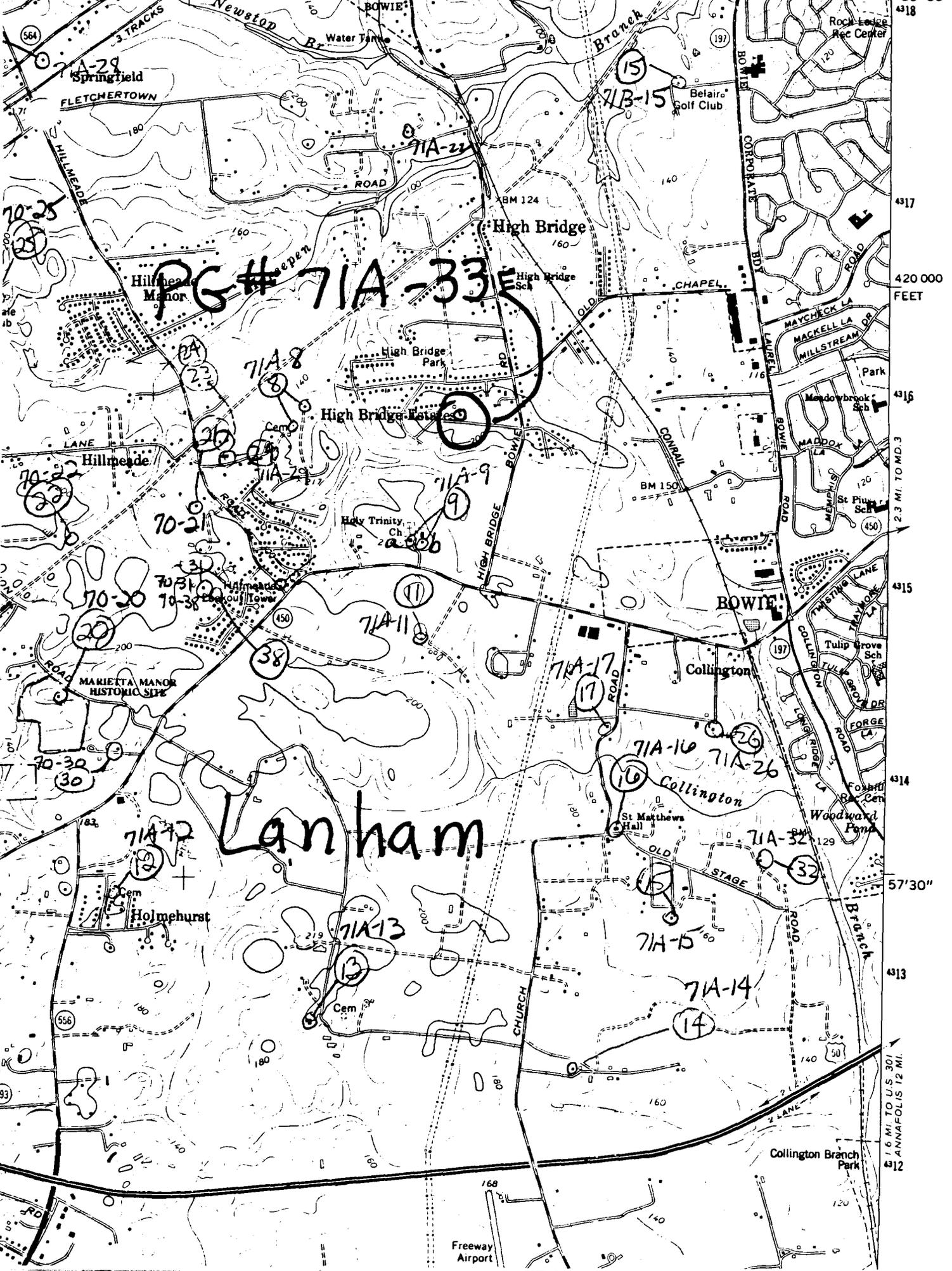
8

7

4

3

2





Highlands ^{pk #} 71A-35

Prince George's Co., MD

Susan G. Pearl

January 1989

South facade

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust,
Lansdowne, Md.



Highlands

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan S. Pearl

January 1989

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust

Annapolis, Md.



Highlands
Prince Georges Co. Md.
Susan H. Pearl
January 1989
Northwest 3/4 elevation
Reg: Md. Heat. Trust,
Annapolis, Md.



P6 #71A-33

Highlands
Princi Kergis Co. Md.
Susan H. Pearl
January 1989

Northeast $\frac{3}{4}$ elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust,
Annapolis, Md.



Highlands
Prince Georges Co. Md.
Susan H. Ball
January 1959

East elevation
Hq: Md. Hist. Trust,
Annapolis, Md.



Highlands

Prince George's Co. Md.

Susan H. Peare

Early 20th century

South facade

Ref: Prince George's Co. HPL



Highlands
Prince Georges Co. Md.
Susan H. Pearl
January 1989

Master, family room
Ref: Md. West Trust,
Annapolis, Md.



Highlands

Prince George's Co., Md.

Susan G. Paul

January 1989

Mantel, west bedroom

Ref: Md. Hist. Trust,
Annapolis, Md.



PG #71A-33

Highlands

Trincee George's Co, Md.

Susan D Pearl

January 1989

Stairhall from north

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust

Annapolis, Md.



Highlands

Prince Georges Co. Md.

Susan G. Pearl

January 1989

View, from SW

Md. Hist. Trust,

Annapolis, Md.



Highlands
Prince George's Co., Md.
Susan L. Pearce
January, 1989
Mantel, east bedroom
Ref: Md. Hist. Trust,
Annapolis, Md.



Highlands
Prince Georges Co. Md.
Susan H. Pearce
January 1989
South entrance
Ref: Md. Hist. Trust,
Annapolis, Md.