

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71A-34 Building Date: 1917

Building Name: Boyden House (Spring Garden Farm)

Location: 6501 Hillmeade Road, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Boyden House is a frame gable-roof house covered with white stucco; it consists of a side-gabled main block, with an enclosed sun porch at one end, behind which is a small one-story kitchen addition. The main block is two-and-one-half stories high, five bays by two, with entrance in the central bay of the five-bay west facade, through a six-panel door with three-pane sidelights and an elliptical fanlight in leaded sections. This main entrance is sheltered by a gable-roof entry porch supported by fluted Roman Doric columns with molded capitals and bases. The house was apparently covered with stucco from the period of its construction. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds, and louvered wood shutters painted black. A single exterior brick chimney rises at the ridge at the north gable end, enclosed by a one-story Tuscan porch. Three gable dormers pierce each of the east and west planes of the gable roof. Extending to the south is a lower, one-and-one-half-story side-gabled wing, originally a sun porch, but subsequently enclosed with white wood siding. Extending the depth of this former sun porch is a small one-story kitchen addition on the east. Interior plan of the main block consists of a wide central stairhall flanked by a parlor on each side and a smaller space behind each of parlors. The two-run open-string stair has a slim turned newel, plain rectangular balusters, and bracketed stairends. Surrounds of doors and windows are simple Colonial Revival in style. In the north parlor, a handsome, possibly antique, wood mantel adorns the fireplace.

Significance

The Boyden House (Spring Garden Farm) is one of three similar early twentieth-century houses in the Bowie area designed and built by local carpenter Millard Schafer; it was built in 1917 for attorney J. Hanson Boyden, and is distinguished by its Colonial Revival detail, and its landscaped garden setting. In 1916, J. Hanson Boyden purchased this property and contracted with Millard Schafer, who had just completed the construction of the Addison house at Cedar Hill. Although presently bounded on two sides by residential development, the Boyden House retains much of its historic setting in its landscaped grounds and large old trees. One of three fine dwellings built in the immediate area by Millard Schafer, it is an excellent example of an early twentieth century Colonial Revival style house.

Acreage: 2 acres

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Boyden House

and/or common Spring Garden Farm

## 2. Location

street & number 6501 Hillmeade Road  not for publication

city, town Bowie  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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. and Mrs. David Snyder

street & number 6501 Hillmeade Road 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 7097

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 519

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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 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.

The Boyden House (Spring Garden Farm) is a two-and-one-half-story frame gable-roof house covered with white stucco, and situated on a two-acre lot planted with mature poplars, pines, and hollies, and ornamental trees. The house consists of a side-gabled main block, with an enclosed sun porch at one end, behind which is a small one-story kitchen addition. It is accessible by a long unpaved drive, lined with dogwoods, which runs eastward between other residential lots on the east side of Hillmeade Road.

The main block of the house is two-and-one-half stories high, five bays by two, with entrance in the central bay of the five-bay west (main) facade. Entrance is through a six-panel door with three-pane side lights over molded panels, and an elliptical fanlight in leaded sections. The door has a plain board surround. This main entrance is sheltered by a gable-roof entry porch supported by fluted Roman Doric columns with molded capitals and bases. The pediment which surmounts the columns is embellished with a semicircular molding.

The house was apparently covered with stucco from the period of its construction, for recent repairs have revealed stucco applied directly to lath. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds with molded backbands. Most have louvered wood shutters painted black. The gable roof of the main block is covered with gray asbestos shingle. There is no frieze course or cornice; the overhanging eaves have a plain soffit. A single exterior brick chimney rises at the ridge at the north gable end, enclosed by a one-story Tuscan porch. This chimney is laid in English bond (alternating courses of headers and stretchers) all the way up to the corbelled cap. Two small windows flank the chimney at attic level. The north porch which encloses this chimney has a hip roof and is supported by Tuscan columns on a high concrete foundation. French doors in the west bay of the north gable end lead from the north parlor onto this porch. Two sets of concrete steps lead down from the porch: northward into a boxwood garden, and westward onto the lawn.

Three gable dormers pierce each of the east and west planes of the gable roof. In each plane, the central dormer is the largest and most recently constructed. The central dormer in the main (west) plane of the roof encloses two windows side by side, while the central dormer in the east encloses only one window, as do the four smaller dormers. Differences in the stucco identify the central dormers as newer than the others, but an attempt has been made in the central dormers to match the narrow wainscoting above the windows which was used in the smaller dormers.

Fenestration in the rear east elevation is somewhat irregular, and the windows have no shutters. There is a rear entrance in the central bay, a plain door sheltered by a small latticed porch with a shed roof. The entire main block rests on a poured concrete foundation which encloses a full basement; there is an exterior entrance to the cellar in the northmost bay of the east (rear) foundation, accessible by a flight of steps within a concrete retaining wall.

Extending to the south is a lower, one-and-one-half-story side-gabled wing. This south wing was originally a sun porch, but was subsequently enclosed with white wood siding; its gable roof is steeply pitched and covered with gray asbestos tile. One pedimented gable dormer pierces the west plane of this roof. There are five 6/6 double hung sash windows across the main west facade which light the family room created in this space. An exterior brick chimney rises at the ridge at the south gable end of this south wing; it is laid in regular American bond, and flanked at second level by two small 6/6 windows in the south gable end. Extending the depth of this former sun porch is a small one-story kitchen addition on the east. It is one bay deep and sided with horizontal board; its shed roof is covered with standing seam metal.

Interior plan of the main block consists of a wide central stairhall flanked by a parlor on each side and a smaller space behind each of parlors. The two-run open-string stair begins to the rear of the stairhall, rises four steps along the south wall of the stairhall to a landing, then turns 180 degrees and rises to the second story. It has a slim turned newel, plain rectangular balusters, and bracketed stairends. The space beneath the second run is open, and the staircase hangs free. Floors are of narrow board, and baseboards are high with crown molding. Surrounds of doors and windows are simple Colonial Revival in style, with a plain unbroken field framed by narrow ogee moldings. In the north parlor, a handsome, possibly antique, wood mantel adorns the fireplace which is centered in the north wall; the plain frieze has a projecting central rectangular panel, the firebox is flanked by Tuscan colonnettes, and set into their molded capitals is an applied bullseye molding. There is no fireplace in the south parlor. The two small rooms behind the two parlors are interconnected by a transverse hallway which opens onto the landing of the front staircase, and which leads to the rear (east) entrance.

Another wood mantel, possibly antique, has been installed in the fireplace in the enclosed (south) sun porch. The firebox is framed by panelled pilasters, and there are fluted panels at the ends of the frieze, and a narrow course of fluted molding under the shelf.

A short distance southeast of the house is a small barn, covered with vertical board siding, now used as a garage and for storage. Slightly

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. PG#71A-34

Description (continued)

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farther to the south is a small crossgable tenant house, now a separate dwelling on a separate lot. The grounds around the Boyden House show evidence of careful landscaping. The drive approaches the house, lined with dogwoods, then forms a circle southwest of the house. Within the circle is an ornamental Japanese red maple, and the house is framed by mature poplars, locusts, hollies and pines. The north part of the property has been planted as a boxwood garden.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. PG#71A-34

Period	Areas 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1917 Builder/Architect Millard Schafer

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

The Boyden House (Spring Garden Farm) is one of three similar early twentieth-century houses in the Bowie area designed and built by local carpenter Millard Schafer; it was built in 1917 for attorney J. Hanson Boyden, and it stands in a subdivided residential neighborhood which was once part of the Cedar Hill plantation. It is an excellent example of a Colonial Revival style dwelling, distinguished by its modified Georgian plan and decorative detail, and its landscaped garden setting.

Cedar Hill plantation, which included parts of tracts known as Darnall's Grove and Widow's Purchase, had been the home of James William Lock Weems during the late eighteenth century.<sup>1</sup> In 1836 the plantation was divided between the families of Weems' two daughters, the 330-acre westerly section (which came to be known as Cedar Hill) going to Margaret French Bowie, whose husband used the sobriquet "Robert Bowie of Cedar Hill" to distinguish himself from his cousins of the same name.<sup>2</sup> Bowie lost the Cedar Hill farm after the Civil War through default in tax payments, and the farm was purchased by the Cooke family of Baltimore; the old Cedar Hill dwelling was destroyed during this time period, around the turn of the century.<sup>3</sup>

The Cookes held the Cedar Hill property into the twentieth century; in 1915, 150 acres, including the old house site, were purchased by Robert Bowie's great-grandson, Joseph Addison.<sup>4</sup> Addison hired a local carpenter to build the present Colonial Revival dwelling on the site of his great-grandfather's house. Millard Schafer, a locally well-known carpenter in the Bowie vicinity, had in 1909 built the house at nearby Spafield for cousins of the Addisons, and late in 1915 was hired by Addison to build a new house at Cedar Hill.<sup>5</sup> At approximately the same time, March 1916, the Addison family sold a 15-acre parcel of the Cedar Hill farm to J. Hanson

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Statement of Significance (continued)

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Boyden, a lawyer who practiced in Washington D.C. and lived in the Springfield/Good Luck area. This parcel of land was bounded on the north by the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad right-of-way, east of but not bounding on the Springfield-Marlborough Road. Access to the Boyden property from this road was by a common right-of-way along the south border of the Katherine Richards house lot.<sup>6</sup> Within a year, Boyden contracted with Millard Schafer, who had just completed the construction of the Addison house at Cedar Hill, to build a similar house for his young family.<sup>7</sup>

The Boyden House, which came to be called Spring Garden Farm, was, like Cedar Hill and Boxlee (which Schafer was to build for Addison's brother five years later)<sup>8</sup> a two-and-one-half story side-gabled frame house with Colonial Revival style decorative detail. Like Cedar Hill and Boxlee, the Boyden House has a lower sunporch at one gable end (later enclosed and converted into a family room), but it differs from the other two in that its framing was covered, apparently from the beginning, with stucco. As he did at Cedar Hill and Boxlee, Schafer built into one parlor of the Boyden House an antique mantel which he had acquired from another house; in the case of the Boyden House, however, the source of the Victorian mantel is not known.

Spring Garden Farm remained the home of the Boyden family until 1975. During their residence of nearly 60 years, the south sunporch was enclosed and converted into a family room and a kitchen addition was built along its east side. The grounds to the west and north of the house were carefully landscaped with boxwood and ornamental shrubbery, and a small frame tenant house was built a short distance to the south. When J. Hanson Boyden died in 1972, his will devised the property in equal shares to his three children, who sold it in 1975.<sup>9</sup> Since that time, part of the land has gone into the Prospect Knolls subdivision, and the remainder subdivided into two-acre lots.<sup>10</sup> Although bounded on two sides by residential development, the Boyden House retains much of its historic setting in its landscaped grounds and large old trees. One of three fine dwellings built in the immediate area by Millard Schafer, it is an excellent example of an early twentieth century Colonial Revival style house.

#### Notes

- 1 Federal Direct Tax, Horsepen Hundred, Prince George's County, 1798.
- 2 Prince George's County Chancery AB #2:203.
- 3 Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1871-1890's; G.M. Hopkins Map of Vicinity of Washington D.C., 1894; Prince George's County Equity #1032.
- 4 Prince George's County Deed #108:267.
- 5 See Maryland Historical Trust forms #70-21, #71A-8.
- 6 Prince George's County Deed #115:68; see also Maryland Historical Trust form #71A-29.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
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Statement of Significance (continued)

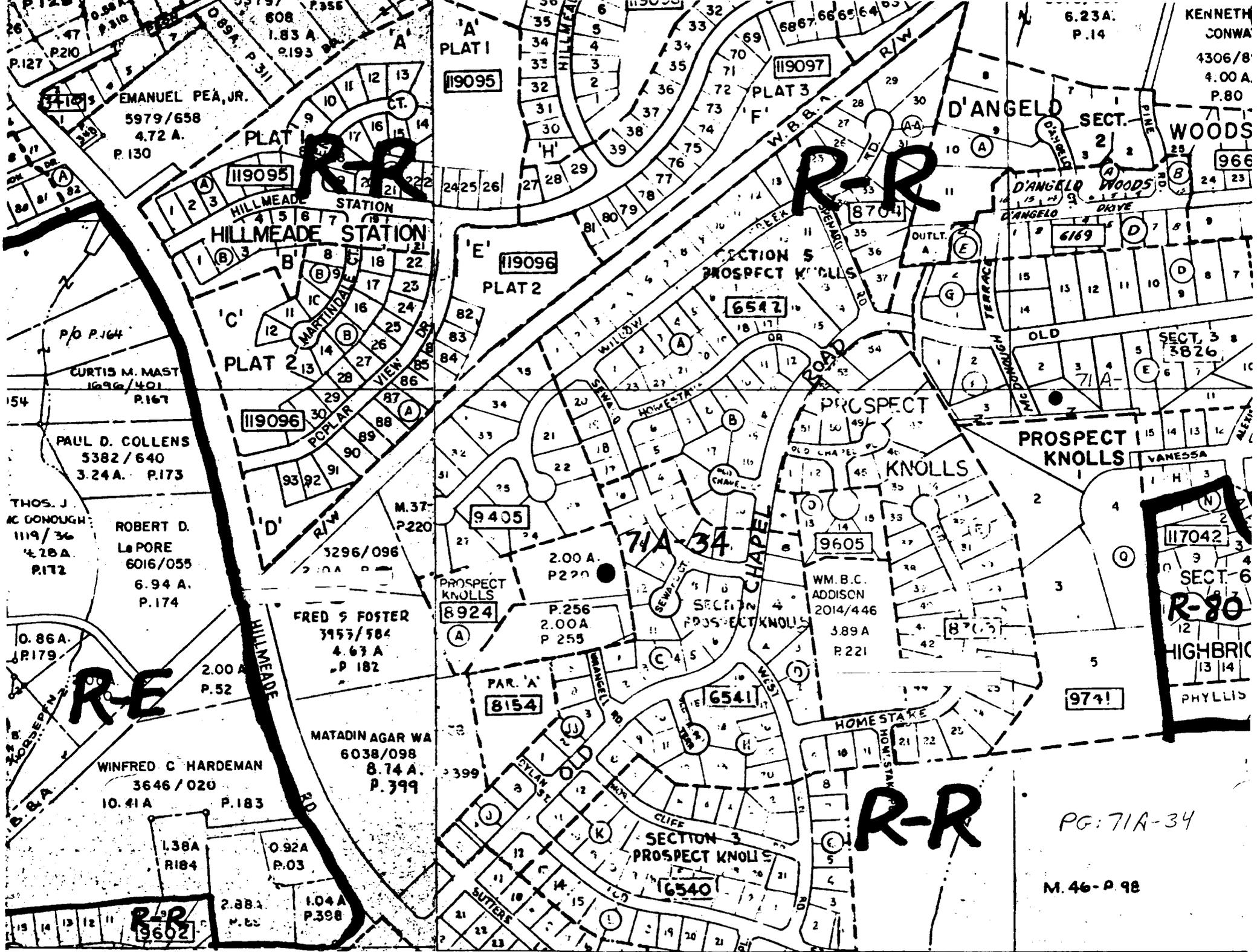
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- 7 Prince George's County Tax assessments, 1912-15, 1916-17, 1918-20.
- 8 See Maryland Historical Trust forms #70-39 and 71A-8.
- 9 Prince George's County Will GSMcG #12:473, Estate file #21722, Deed #4563:111.
- 10 Prince George's County Plats NLP #95:27, #101:3.





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4.72 A.  
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CURTIS M. MAST  
1696/401  
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ROBERT D. LAPORE  
6016/055  
6.94 A.  
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WINFRED C HARDEAN  
3646/020  
10.41 A  
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PG: 71A-34

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DB # 21A 34

Bayden House

Prince Georges Co. Md.

Jessie L. Pearl

May 1989

West elevation

Prof. Md. Hist. Trust.

Annapolis, Md.

1 of 4



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Bayden House  
Prince Georges Co. Md.  
Susan L. Bae

May 1987

Statement from asset

Ref: Md. Nat Trust  
- Annapolis, Md.

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Pb # 71A-34

Bryden House  
Prince Georges Co., Md.

Jessie H. Baul

May 1989

Mental, north park

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

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Pl. # 442-34

Boyd's House  
Prince George's Co. Md.  
Susan H. Powell

May 1989

NE

Near Md. Heat. Transit  
Annapolis, Md.

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