

PG: 71A-43

Roberts House

~~PG: 71-43~~

12215 Annapolis Road

Glenn Dale

1941

private

The Roberts House is a 1941 Colonial-Revival-style house that occupies a two-acre lot at the end of a long, curving drive located south of Annapolis Road. The two-and-a-half-story brick dwelling is oriented east and faces adjoining farm land. The dwelling occupies a rectangular footprint measuring five bays wide and two bays deep. The house terminates in a side-gabled roof and features two exterior gable chimneys. Three dormers punctuate the building's roof. Window openings contain double-hung, wood-sash windows flanked by wood shutters. The building's principal (east) facade is bilaterally symmetrical. The east facade features a central entrance topped by a gabled pediment supported by Doric columns.

The Colonial Revival in architecture is defined by references to historic architecture of the United States. "Colonial" prototypes came from a literally colonial period ending with the Revolution, or from a generally pre-industrial time. The Roberts House is a prototypical example of the style, illustrating these characteristics: an accentuated front door crowned with a gabled entry porch, supported by a pair of columns; a symmetrical front facade featuring a clear center; and double-hung window sashes containing multi-pane glazing, arranged in adjacent pairs. While not necessarily recalling a particular prototype, the house exhibits the use of a simple, gabled house form decorated with applied elements as was typical of the late Colonial Revival. As a representative example of a type or style, the building appears to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

The Roberts House was built in 1941 in the northern portion of land owned by the Bowie family. As a counterpart to the Bowies' eighteenth-century Fairview house (PG71A-13), located on the south part of the farm, the Roberts House currently overlooks the Fairwood Turf Farm.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

PG: 71A-43  
Inventory No. ~~PG: 71-43~~

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic                  Roberts House

other                      N/A

## 2. Location

street and number      12215 Annapolis Road                           not for publication

city, town                  Glenn Dale                                           vicinity

county                      Prince George's County

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

name                          Eugene Bowie Roberts, Jr.

street and number      12215 Annapolis Road                      telephone      301-390-6288

city, town                  Glenn Dale                                      state      MD                      zip code      20769

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.      Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6816                      folio 758

city, town                  Upper Marlboro                                      tax map 46                      tax parcel 27                      tax ID number 0801092

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<u>    </u> district	<u>    </u> public	<u>    </u> agriculture	<u>    </u> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u>    </u> commerce/trade	<u>    </u> recreation/culture	<u>    2    </u>	<u>    0    </u> buildings
<u>    </u> structure	<u>    </u> both	<u>    </u> defense	<u>    </u> religion	<u>    0    </u>	<u>    0    </u> sites
<u>    </u> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>    </u> social	<u>    0    </u>	<u>    0    </u> structures
<u>    </u> object		<u>    </u> education	<u>    </u> transportation	<u>    0    </u>	<u>    0    </u> objects
		<u>    </u> funerary	<u>    </u> work in progress	<u>    2    </u>	<u>    0    </u> Total
		<u>    </u> government	<u>    </u> unknown		
		<u>    </u> health care	<u>    </u> vacant/not in use		
		<u>    </u> industry	<u>    </u> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				<u>    0    </u>	

## 7. Description

Inventory No. ~~PG:71-43~~

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Roberts House is a ca. 1941 Colonial-Revival-style house located at 12215 Annapolis Road. The house remains in the ownership of Eugene Bowie Roberts, Jr.

The two-and-a-half-story brick dwelling occupies a two-acre lot at the end of a long, curving drive located south of Annapolis Road in Prince George's County. The house is oriented east and faces adjoining farm land. The house lot is bordered on the west, north, and south by dense woods. The dwelling occupies a rectangular footprint measuring five bays wide and two bays deep. The house terminates in a side-gabled roof and features two exterior gable chimneys. Three dormers punctuate the building's roof. Window openings contain double-hung, wood-sash windows flanked by wood shutters.

The building's principal (east) facade is bilaterally symmetrical. The east facade features a central entrance topped by a gabled pediment supported by Doric columns.

The building features two additions: a one-story sun room extends from the south facade, while a two-story, side-gabled addition extends the building to the north. Several outbuildings associated with the property stand northwest of the house. The current owner indicated that the house was built in the 1940s (Eugene Roberts, personal communication 11 May 2001). Maryland Real Property records document the building's construction date as 1941.

The dwelling is a private residence. Access to the house for the purpose of documentation was denied by the owner. Data were compiled from the public right-of-way.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. PG-71-43

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

<b>Specific dates</b>	1941	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	1941		

Evaluation for:

National Register       Maryland Register       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Statement of Significance

The Roberts House is an example of Colonial Revival architecture in Prince George’s County, Maryland. The building was built ca. 1941 in the northern portion of land owned by the Bowie family. As a counterpart to the Bowies’ eighteenth-century Fairview house (PG71A-13, located on the south part of the farm, the Roberts House currently overlooks the Fairwood Farm. The two-and-a-half-story brick building appears to retain its overall integrity and embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Colonial Revival style (Criterion C).

Land Tenure History

The Roberts House occupies one part of a larger estate that the Bowie family acquired in the nineteenth century. Though the historic estate is currently divided into two portions, Fairwood in the north and Fairview, with its eighteenth-century house, in the south, the entire property was known historically as Fairview. Mary Bowie Beanes inherited the Fairview estate from her father, William Beanes, Jr., ca. 1800. The property later passed through her husband Baruch Duckett (1745-1810) to their daughter Catherine (Kitty) Duckett (1783-1819) (Bowie 1975:652, 708). Catherine Duckett married William Bowie (1776-1826), who moved from his family’s nearby estate to live at Fairview after their 1802 marriage (Bowie 1975:708). At the time of William Bowie’s death, the couple had two sons and two daughters surviving; the estate went to the younger son Walter Baruch Bowie since his brother William Duckett Bowie (1803-1873) had settled at the Collington estate of his grandfather Baruch Duckett. When Walter Baruch Bowie died young, however, his older brother William Duckett Bowie bought out his two sisters’ interests in the property and moved to Fairview (Bowie 1975:708, 762).

William Duckett Bowie remained at the estate until his second marriage in 1854. Moving to his new wife’s house, William conveyed Fairview to his first son Oden Bowie (1826-1894). Oden Bowie and his wife Alice Carter (d. 1905) moved to Fairview and resided at the house throughout their lives (Bowie 1975:763). Bowie was prominent in state politics and followed an interest in horse-breeding. After Bowie’s death in 1894, the estate went to his wife and children (Prince George’s County Chancery Court Records, JWB28-189). The north portion of the estate, land measuring about 570 acres that would form Fairwood, was divided into three parts.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

PG: 71A-43  
Inventory No. ~~PG:71-43~~

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

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Bowie's eldest son William Duckett Bowie (1854-1920) and his second son Carter Lee Bowie (b. 1872) each inherited a tract (Prince George's County Equity 2171). Third son Washington Booth Bowie (d. 1936) inherited a tract of 230.0 acres, including the land on which Fairwood stands (Prince George's County Land Records 34-361; Bowie 1975:770).

A Bowie descendant reassembled the north part of the estate before World War II. Washington Booth Bowie conveyed his portion of the Oden Bowie inheritance to his sister Annette Bowie Roberts in 1906. Roberts and her husband Eugene Roberts (1859-1929) willed the land to their four children (PGCLR 34-361; Bowie 1975:770). Son Eugene Bowie Roberts (b. 1893) bought out his siblings' portion of the property in 1939, and two years later acquired the two nearby tracts that today comprise Fairwood (PGCLR 529-465). Mary Bowie Whitridge (b. 1890) had bought her brother Carter Lee Bowie's land in 1919, and sold it to Roberts in 1941 (PGCLR 138-289; 629-390). In 1941, Roberts also acquired the William Duckett Bowie tract. Mary Lee Bennett Bowie had inherited the land, willing it to Hunter Bennett in 1931 (PGCR Equity 2171; PGC Wills WTD3-7). In 1941, Bennett sold the land to William and Mary-Eula Mason Blair, who soon sold it to Eugene Bowie Roberts and Alice Roberts Addison (PGCLR 605-326).

Eugene Bowie Roberts built the subject house ca. 1941, placing it near the center of the three newly-acquired tracts of land. A two-acre lot surrounds the house, most of it a part of the land Washington Booth Bowie inherited from Oden Bowie (PGCLR 6816-758). As the eighteenth-century Fairview (PG71A-14) overlooks its portion of what was once the greater Bowie estate, Fairwood stands as a counterpart to the north, owned by a related branch of the family. The estate as a whole continues to serve agricultural uses. Eugene Bowie Roberts used the property to grow tobacco as earlier owners had. Roberts later switched to cattle and finally turf farming, establishing the Fairwood Turf Farm (Mapes 1989:1). Roberts's son Eugene Bowie Roberts, Jr. continues to own the Roberts House and operate the turf farm.

## Historic Context

The Colonial Revival is the most popular of several revival styles applied to suburban housing in the early twentieth century. The style became a sign of the associations and aspirations of a building's builders and owners. At its root, the style commonly adopted the forms and ornamentation of regional architecture of the period ca. 1680-1840. In contrast with the industrialization and social concerns of the period, the revival of the colonial past provided romanticized associations of patriotism, security, and social stability. The Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition of 1876 usually is credited with popularizing this interest in colonial architecture. The emphasis of the style expanded from patriotic associations to aesthetic considerations following a much-publicized tour of New England colonial houses by the prominent architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White. Some historians have asserted that the Colonial Revival "may be said to have originated in the offices of McKim, Mead, and White" (Howett 1985:127).

The first examples of the style rarely were historically-correct reproductions, but instead were romantic interpretations still heavily influenced by late-nineteenth-century eclecticism. The emerging Colonial Revival style overlapped with two other popular

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

PG:71A-43  
Inventory No. ~~PG:71-43~~

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

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architectural styles, Queen Anne and what is now called the Shingle style. Many late examples of Queen Anne and Shingle-style houses have colonial details applied to their exteriors. As scholarship increased, Colonial-Revival architecture began to exhibit historically-correct details and proportions, and to resemble more closely the period prototypes (McAlester 1987:326). Ornamentation began to be confined to door and window areas, as in the original examples. The simplification of design also may reflect a reaction against the exuberant, multi-colored, and highly-ornamented architecture of the mid-to-late-nineteenth century. Restoration and reconstruction of Colonial Williamsburg during the 1930s marked the apex of national interest in the Colonial Revival style; the style exerted a dominant influence in the Washington, D.C., region in domestic architecture and decorative arts. For those unable to visit Williamsburg, mass-circulation magazines, catalogues, and builders' guides provided access to the stylistic elements of the Colonial Revival. Though the influence of the Colonial Revival style continued, the changing tastes and building booms of mass-produced houses after World War II resulted in simplification of the style with less emphasis on historical accuracy.

Though the influences of the Colonial Revival affected the design of many property types, including schools, courthouses, and commercial buildings, houses were the primary type exhibiting this popular style. The defining characteristics of Colonial Revival domestic design are:

accentuated front door, normally with decorative crown (pediment) supported by pilasters, or extended forward and supported by slender columns to form entry porch; doors commonly have overhead fanlights or sidelights; facade normally shows symmetrically balanced windows and center door (less common with door off-center); in one or both sashes; windows frequently in adjacent pairs (McAlester 1988:321).

## Analysis

The Colonial Revival in architecture is defined by references to historic architecture of the United States. "Colonial" prototypes came from a literally colonial period ending with the Revolution, or from a generally pre-industrial time (Butler 1985:15). The Roberts House is a prototypical example of the style, illustrating these characteristics: an accentuated front door crowned with a gabled entry porch, supported by a pair of columns; a symmetrical front facade featuring a clear center; and double-hung window sashes containing multi-pane glazing, arranged in adjacent pairs. While not necessarily recalling a particular prototype, the house exhibits the use of a simple, gabled house form decorated with applied elements as was typical of the late Colonial Revival. As a representative example of a type or style, the building appears to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. ~~PG-71-43~~

Bowie, Walter Worthington.

1975 *The Bowies and their Kindred* [1899]. Reprint in Effie Gwynn Bowie, *Across the Years in Prince George's County*. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore.

Butler, William

1985 *Another City upon a Hill: Litchfield, Connecticut, and the Colonial Revival*. In Alan Axelrod, ed., *The Colonial Revival in America*. W.W. Norton & Company for The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, New York.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2 acres

Acreage of historical setting 2 acres

Quadrangle name Lanham, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Roberts House occupies a two-acre lot following a rough parallelogram shape. The building is bordered on north, east, south and part of its west side by the property of the Rouse-Fairwood Development. The property is bordered on part of its west side by the Holmehurst Estates subdivision.

Starting at the driveway on the west side of the property, the west boundary runs north along the Rouse-Fairwood property line. From the northwest corner of the Roberts property, the north boundary follows the line of the Rouse-Fairwood property to the southeast. At the northeast corner of the property, the boundary follows a farm road south until it meets the south part of the Roberts House drive, where the boundary turns west until it meets the east boundary of the Homehurst Estates. The Roberts House property boundary follows the northeast corner of Holmehurst Estates to the north and then west until meeting the south boundary of the Rouse Fairwood Development's northwest section. The Roberts House property boundary then follows the winding driveway as it travels to the northwest, north and then northwest to meet Annapolis Road at Glendale Road.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Scott Meacham, Architectural Historian		
organization	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.	date	May 2001
street & number	241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100	telephone	301-694-0428
city or town	Frederick	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

PG: 71A-43  
Inventory No. ~~PG:71-43~~

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

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1985 A Georgian Renaissance in Georgia; The Residential Architecture of Neel Reid. In Alan Axelrod, ed., *The Colonial Revival in America*. W.W. Norton & Company for The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, New York.

Hopkins, G.M.

1878 *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington including the County of Prince George, Maryland*. Philadelphia, Pa.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee

1987 *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Consumers Union, New York.

Prince George's County, Maryland

Land Records

Will Records

Chancery Court Records

Roberts, Eugene Bowie

Personal communication 11 May 2001.

Mapes, Lynda V.

1989 "The World has Changed." *The Prince George Journal*. 3 March.

Virta, Alan

1984 *Prince George's County, A Pictorial History*. The Donning Company, Virginia Beach, Va.

PG: 7/A-43



