

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71B-2-6 Building Date: 1911

Building Name: Herbert Sansbury House

Location: 13021 7th Street, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

The Herbert Sansbury House is a two-story square frame building which is distinguished by an oriel window and a two-story veranda at the rear. The building is three bays by two bays, with pyramidal roof, and fronts directly on one of the original streets of Huntington City (now known as Bowie). Across the principal north facade is a one-story hip-roof porch with Tuscan columns. The building is sheathed with German siding painted white and has a foundation is of poured concrete. The cornice is boxed, and has deeply overhanging eaves. The west facade of the house is ornamented with an oriel window which lights the staircase. The three-bay south facade is sheltered by a two-story shed-roof porch with turned bracketed posts. The easterly half of the second-story porch has been enclosed, creating an additional room. The remaining portion of the second-story porch (the west half) is bounded by a railing of plain square balusters, while the entire first story porch has a railing of horizontal boards.

Significance

The Herbert Sansbury House is now the Rectory of St. James Episcopal Chapel in Bowie. It is a particularly good example of the American four-square (Classic Box) house plan, distinguished from similar models by an oriel window and a two story veranda on the rear. The Sansbury family settled in Huntington in 1874; Richard H. Sansbury worked for the U.S. Post Office, and in that year brought his family to live in the newly established railroad town. His son, R. Herbert Sansbury, Jr., became an engineer for the Railroad, married circa 1900, and in 1911 built the subject house. The new house was typical of the square hip-roof dwellings which were popular early in this century. Herbert Sansbury died in 1940, and his widow continued to live in the house. Nearly a quarter century later, she sold the house (and the twelve lots on which it stood) to the Episcopal Church; the house became the Rectory for the Vicar of St. James Chapel. It is a good and visible example of the "Classic Box" style of early twentieth century dwelling.

Acreage: 12,500 square feet

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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 Herbert Sansbury House is a two-story square frame building which is distinguished by an oriel window and a two-story verandah at the rear. The building is three bays by two bays, with pyramidal roof, and fronts directly on one of the original streets of Huntington City (now known as Bowie). It serves as the Rectory of St. James Chapel.

The principal facade faces north onto 7th Street. Entrance is in the third bay of the three-bay north facade, through a door with three-pane transom, and single pane sidelights over wainscot panels. The dark wooden door has six panels; its casing is of plain board.

Across the principal north facade is a one-story hip-roof porch with Tuscan columns; the porch rests on concrete piers. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds and black louvered shutters.

The building is sheathed with German siding painted white. The foundation is of poured concrete and encloses a basement under the north section of the house. The pyramidal roof is covered with gray shingle. A tall brick chimney rises from the east plane of the roof between the two bays. The cornice is boxed, and has deeply overhanging eaves.

The west facade of the house is ornamented with an oriel window which lights the staircase, between the two bays, and between first and second stories. Each of the three faces of the oriel window is lighted by a narrow 1/1 window.

The three-bay rear (south) facade is sheltered by a two-story shed-roof porch with turned bracketed posts. The porch is supported on concrete piers. A flight of wooden steps leads to an entrance in the first bay. The easterly half of the second-story porch has been enclosed, creating an additional room; this addition is sheathed with vertical-chanelled siding. The remaining portion of the second-story porch (the west half) is bounded by a railing of plain square balusters, while the entire first story porch has a railing of horizontal boards.

The Rectory stands on a spacious sloping lot. Entrance from the street is through two gateposts of molded concrete block. There are no outbuildings.

8. Significance

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1911 **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.

The Herbert Sansbury House is now the Rectory of St. James Episcopal Chapel in Bowie. It is a particularly good example of the American four-square (Classic Box) house plan, distinguished by an oriel window and a two story verandah on the rear.

The Sansbury family settled in Huntington (now Bowie) in 1874. Richard H. Sansbury worked for the U.S. Post Office, and in that year brought his family to live in the newly established railroad town. Sansbury was instrumental in the establishment of the Bowie Methodist Church; his son, R. Herbert Sansbury, Jr., became an engineer for the Railroad, married circa 1900, and in 1911 built the subject house.¹ The new house was typical of the square hip-roof dwellings which were popular early in this century. The Sansbury home was distinguished from similar models by the oriel window which lights the side staircase, and the two-story verandah across the rear facade.

Herbert Sansbury died in 1940, and his widow continued to live in the house. Nearly a quarter century later, she sold the house (and the twelve lots on which it stood) to the Episcopal Church. The twelve lots fronted on both 7th and 8th Streets and adjoined the property of Saint James Episcopal Chapel. On them stood not only the dwelling, which fronted on 7th Street, but also a garage, closer to 8th Street. The garage was renovated and put to use for church activities; the dwelling became the Rectory for the Vicar of St. James Chapel.²

Soon after its renovation, the garage structure was destroyed by fire; it has been replaced by a concrete block Sunday School building known as Cornelius Hall. The Rectory (the Herbert Sansbury house) has been well maintained and stands today as a good and visible example of the "Classic Box" style of early twentieth century dwelling.

#8 (Continued)

Notes

1 Census for Prince George's County 14th District, 1880, 1900, 1910; "Methodist Church History", The Bowie Register, 8 November 1934; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1900-1916; Prince George's County Deeds #70:265,266; #38:223.

2 Prince George's County Deed #3067:490; interviews with St. James Chapel historian, 1986.

WILLIAM T HUBBERT
5373/083
4-80A. P.213

R-R

R-R

R-55

LAUREL BONIE RD

71B-2-1

71B-2-6

71B-2-7

71B-2-5

71B-2-2

R-55

71B-2-4

71B-2-3

71B-13

I-1

NEW JERSEY STEEL CORP.
5545/680

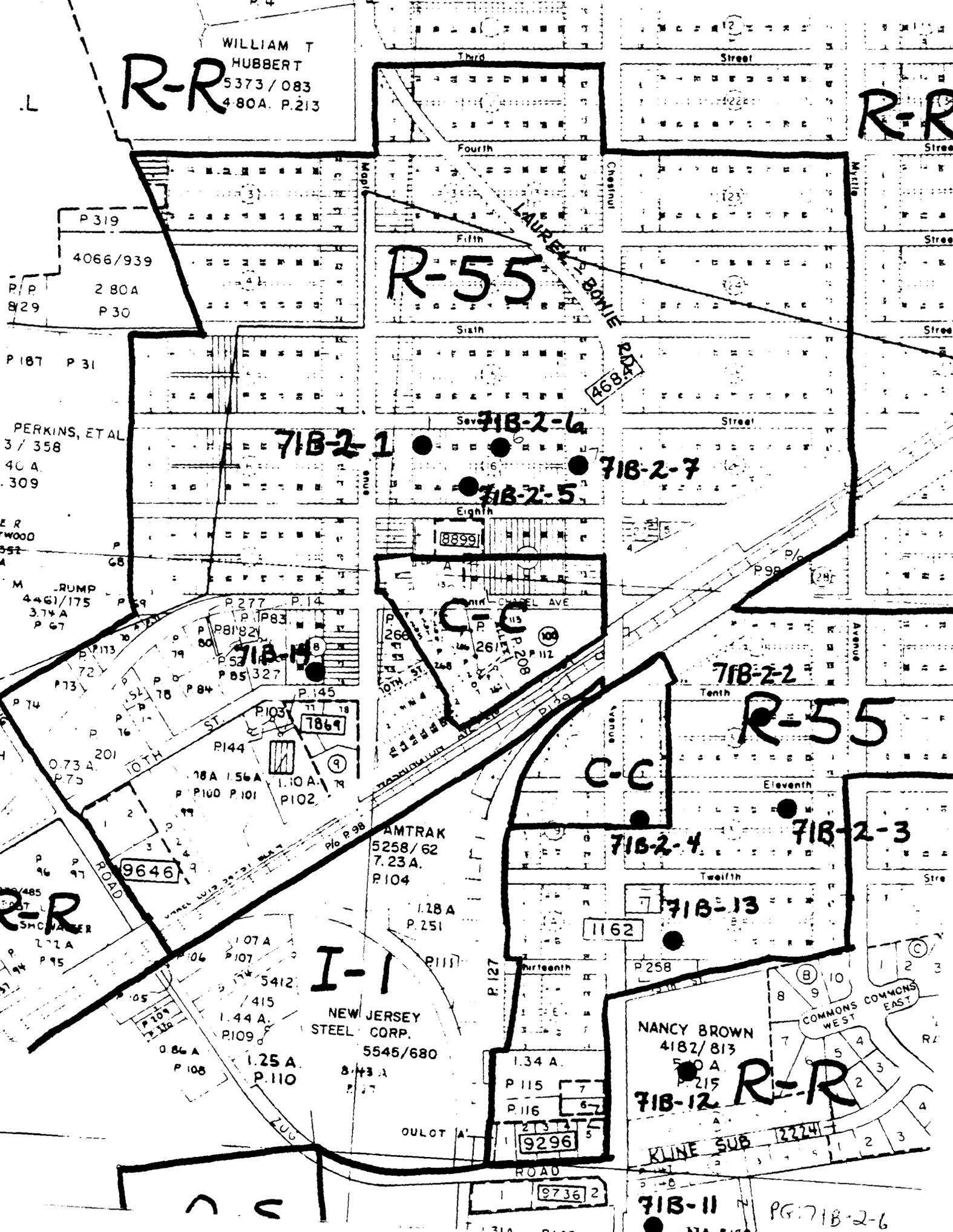
NANCY BROWN
4182/813

R-R

71B-12

71B-11

PG 71B-2-6





PG#71B-2-6

St. James Rectory (Sansbury House)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-2-6

St. James Rectory (Sansbury House)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Northwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-2-6

St. James Rectory (Sansbury House)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-2-6

St. James Rectory (Sansbury House)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD