

## Prince George's County Historic Site Summary Sheet

Survey No.: **PG76A30**

Name: **Linda Holmes House**

Date: 1947

Location: 5114 Oakland Way, Suitland, Maryland

Description: The Holmes House is a nearly square, stone veneer, three bay-by-two bay, small and very modest 1947 dwelling which is an abstracted version of the Cape Cod revival style popularized by the merchant builders in the large tracks of suburban housing.

Significance: The Linda Holmes House is a mediocre example of the abstracted Cape Cod revival style utilized by merchant builders for the widespread speculative housing developments built in the United States in the decades after World War II. It is one dwelling of about one dozen dwellings in the area bounded by I-495 Suitland Parkway, MD 5, and Suitland Road which was constructed at least fifty years ago. This area was largely agricultural until Robert Warren Ammann started the development of speculative housing in the 1950's with "Auth Village". The ever-accelerating pace of development has resulted in the dense pattern of large commercial, educational, office and residential building complexes, which have obliterated the previous agrarian land patterns.

The Linda Holmes House is an undistinguished example of the highly popular eclectic house form popularized by merchant builders for the tradition-bound civil servants and workers streaming into the area in search of cheap housing after World War II. Although among twelve structures identified in the project area which are fifty years old, the Knox House is an undistinguished example of a widespread and ubiquitous house form which has minimal architectural or historic interest.

**PG76A30**  
**Linda Holmes House**  
**Camp Springs, Maryland**

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Modern/1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function (s) and Use (s): Residential/Dwelling

Known Design Source: None

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIESMaryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Linda Holmes House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street &amp; number 5114 Oakland Way N/A not for publication

city, town Suitland \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Prince George's

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 Linda Holmes

street &amp; number 5114 Oakland Way telephone no.:

city, town Suitland state and zip code Maryland

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse liber 8884

street &amp; number folio

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title N/A

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. PG76A30

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" 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.

See Continuation Sheet 7.1

# 8. Significance

Survey No. PG76A30

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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	1947	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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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.

See Continuation Sheet 8.1

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG76A30

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1/4 acre

Quadrangle name Anacostia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rita Suffness, Leader, Cultural Resources Group

organization State Highway Administration date July 6, 1997

street & number 707 N. Calvert Street telephone 301 589 0659

city or town Baltimore state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

*DHCPI/DHCD*  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032

**PG76A30**  
**Linda Holmes House**  
**Suitland, Maryland**

**Description**  
**Continuation Sheet 7.1**

Description Summary

The Holmes House is a nearly square, stone veneer, three bay-by-two bay, small and very modest 1947 dwelling which is an abstracted version of the Cape Cod revival style popularized by the merchant builders in the large tracks of suburban housing.

Description

The Linda Holmes House is a modestly scaled, side-gable box located at the end of Oakland Way immediately adjacent to the I-495 (Washington Beltway) right-of-way. Probably originally composed of a greater amount of acreage, the Beltway construction may have reduced its size to the current roughly one-quarter acre parcel.

The Holmes House is oriented to the west (Oakland Way), with the longer side-flank of the slightly rectangular structure containing the entry. It is a one-and-one half story masonry structure, side-gabled, with two gable-roofed dormers on the west (entrance) elevation and a continuous Garrison-type dormer on the east side. In its basic form it reflects the "Cape Cod" dwelling types, although in the building boom which ensued after World War II this style became highly abstracted and reduced to a simple unadorned box by the merchant builders who started to build speculative housing.

The entry, reached by means of a concrete porch and protected with a wooden gable hood, is centered between two six-over-six wood sashes. The building may have originated as a brick structure, possibly clad in a stone veneer at a later date. The roof is clad with asphalt combination shingles, and the dormers with asbestos shingles. The two dormers on the west entrance elevation are located immediately above the two windows on either side of the entry.

The south elevation is the location of two windows on the first level and one at the roof level. On the north side a set of paired sash windows, plus a single sash, are located on the first level, with a single window near the apex of the gable end. The rear (east) is the location of a Garrison-type continuous shed dormer which has one window and one door, reached by a single run wood stair attached to the wall. A first floor deck on the right (north side) of the rear elevation provides a landing for the entrance (rear door).

**Historic and Geographic Context:** This property is located on the western side of Prince George's county abutting the District of Columbia. A suburb of Washington, D.C. the area is characterized by densely built-up residential neighborhoods crossed by several main arterial roadways lines with commercial strip malls. Before the 1950's this area of Prince George's County was generally rural and agricultural with few small crossroads settlements. The only crossroads within the area which developed an identity was "Wood's Corner," named for a fruit stand, no longer extant, operated in the twentieth century by the Wood family. It serviced the few farms and the very small population that existed prior to 1950 near the intersection of MD 5 (Branch Ave) and Auth Road, an area currently overwhelmed by commercial development, especially mammoth automobile dealerships. Although some suburban development had taken place on the fringes of this area in the 1940's, it was not until the cessation of World War II that widespread development and suburbanization began in this area of Prince George's County.

**PG76A30**

**Linda Holmes House  
Suitland, Maryland**

**Description**

**Continuation Sheet 7.2**

Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Suburbanization of Prince George's County

The earliest suburbs of Prince George's County date to the late nineteenth century and are located in the northern section of the County. After the Civil War, Washington took on a "boom town" atmosphere and in a tight housing market, Washington residents began to look outside the District for housing. The initial growth occurred in the previously settled towns along the B & O Railroad north of the district, there the new residents could enjoy the established local amenities (Virta 1984:190). These towns included Hyattsville, Bladensburg and Beltsville. Other developments were constructed more specifically as railroad suburbs. These places included Riverdale Park, Berwyn and Berwyn Heights, College Park and Takoma Park, all constructed in the late 1800's.

However, as the northern sections of the County were experiencing steady development, the western section of the county remained virtually undisturbed. Both the 1861 Simon Martenet Map and the 1878 Hopkins Atlas of the "Spaulding District" show a sparsely settled area with small settlements around Suitland, Silver and Camp Springs outside of the area in which this site is located. The 1955 USGS map (Anacostia Quadrangle) shows that the area was still primarily agricultural as late as the 1940's. The development of the area did not begin until the early 1950's, with the bulk of it occurring within the last two decades, when the growth was intense. There are a number of factors that contributed to this massive development of the rural countryside in the county, including the expansion of the Federal Government in the 1940's, the overall development of roads and bridges linking the areas to Washington, and the movement of Federal government agencies and facilities to the new suburbs.

The increase in the Federal work force began in the 1930's with the initiation of the New Deal and continued through World War II and on into the 1950's. This explosive expansion was attended by a rise in land values and property taxes, which again sent the Washingtonians into the suburbs in search of affordable housing. What distinguished this expansion from the late nineteenth century suburban development was its spread into previously undeveloped area, principally into western Prince George's County. This was made possible by the automobile; the automobile allowed for development away from the railroad lines, which had limited the earlier nineteenth century developments. In addition, road improvements throughout the county as well as bridge improvement over the Potomac provided easy access to the District and made a daily commute into the district a possibility.

Plentiful land at low cost motivated the Federal government to locate offices in the suburbs as well. The Suitland Federal Center opened in 1941 on the north side of Silver Hill Road. The complex was constructed on 285 acres of land and was built to house up to three thousand employees of the Federal Bureau of the Census, Navy Hydrographic Office and a file office of the Public Roads Administration (Evening Sun, August 14, 1942).

Another major development in the area was the construction of Andrew's Air Force Base near Camp Springs. Building began in 1941 on approximately 4000 acres of farm and open land. A few years later the Suitland Parkway was constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers to provide safe and rapid access to the air base from Washington. Carrying traffic south and west of Suitland, the parkway also provided better access for Washington commuters to the growing neighborhoods on either side of the road. These factors drew commuters and developers out to this section of Prince George's County bordered by Suitland Parkway on the north, MD 5 on the west, I-495 on the south and Suitland Road on the east. The result was the rapid construction of speculative housing and new neighborhoods. Some of the housing was constructed around the core of older settlements and some represented completely new developments.

**PG76A30**

**Linda Holmes House  
Suitland, Maryland**

**Description  
Continuation Sheet 7.3**

Development in the Study Area

The only village in the immediate vicinity of the historic site that pre-dates 1950 is Morningside, however, it was only extended to the west side of Suitland Road in the 1960's and 1970's with the construction of subdivisions known as Andrews Estates, Skyline, Skyline Hills and Tournament Court. The original portion of Morningside, located on the east side of Suitland Road, was built over a number of years beginning in 1938-39 by developer Morgan Wayson and his brother-in-law Randolph Hopkins. The original subdivision contained approximately 500 homes, which were mostly two-story Cape Cod style cottages on the east side of Suitland road. It housed veterans of World War II and their families, plus workers in the Federal Center in Suitland, its close neighbor (Prince George's County Magazine, 1983: 55). Most of the development of Morningside took place in the 1950's after it was incorporated in 1949.

With the construction of the Andrews Air Force Base and the improvement to MD 5 (Branch Avenue) in the 1950's, the Camp Springs area, which is also outside of the study area, witnessed the construction of several suburban developments. One development was Middleton Valley, located off Old Branch Avenue, on the fringes of the western edge of the project area. This development was created after old farmland belonging to the Middleton family was subdivided and made into a residential suburb. Additional subdivisions developed in the last few decades in the vicinity of the old Middleton property are Broadview and Stan Haven.

In the project study area some of the agricultural properties owned by the Auth, Darcey, Soper, Thornton and Wood families survived until fairly recently, as the subdivision and development of the farms did not begin until the 1950's. Of the twelve historic structures remaining in the project area, seven date to the first quarter of the twentieth century. These are: Thornton-Wood Farmstead (PG76A24), Milstead House (PG76A27), John and Marie Darcey Houses (PGA7631), Anthony Soper House (PG76A34), Eugene Darcey House (PG76A32), John Mulloy House (PG76A29), and the Roland Darcey Houses (PG76A32). Five properties date to the second quarter of the twentieth century. These are: Ammann House (PG76A33), Holmes House (PG76A30), Knox House (PG76A26), L. and R. Lawnmower (PG76A25) and the Marescalco House (PG76A21).

The development of Auth Village by the Darcey (and the related Ammann) families in the 1950's started the rush to subdivide by other families, resulting in developments like Manchester Estates, Darcey Manor, Darcey Estates, Andrews Village, Andrews Manor and Woodlane. These were constructed since 1950 on the farmland previously owned by these families and utilized primarily for truck farming. Long time families in the area report that Auth Road was a dirt lane, called Epiphany Lane, until well into the sixth decade of the twentieth century. Its intersection with the predecessor (Old Branch Avenue) of MD 5 was known as Wood's Corner for the fruit stand and farm owned by the Woods (and Soper) families. Across from it on the west side of Old Branch Avenue was Pat's Carryout and Restaurant (PG76A25), currently housing the L and R Lawnmower, and which was discontinued in the 1960's. The history of the study area exemplifies the history of rapid suburbanization, a process that has affected both the function and appearance of the region. In less than fifty years, the area went from a rural, agricultural region of Prince George's County to a modern, bedroom suburb or Washington, D.C. This suburbanization continues at breakneck speed today.

**PG76A30**

**Linda Holmes House  
Camp Springs, Maryland**

**Statement of Significance  
Continuation Sheet 8.1**

Significance Summary

The Linda Holmes House is a mediocre example of the abstracted Cape Cod revival style utilized by merchant builders for the widespread speculative housing developments built in the United States in the decades after World War II.

Statement of Significance

The Holmes House is a mediocre example of the Cape Cod revival cottage, a type incorporated into the industrial vernacular tradition in the 1920's. Following Massachusetts custom, the Cape Cod cottage was a compact house clad with shingles. Many models had a low gable on the facade and twin gable dormers. It was produced and distributed in packages of integrated architectural elements. A major component of large subdivisions, the Cape Cod was often streamlined and abstracted until only the basic form, with narrower gable end configuration, remained.

The Linda Holmes House is an undistinguished example of this popular eclectic house form popularized by merchant builders for the tradition-bound civil servants and workers streaming into the area in search of cheap housing after World War II. Although among twelve structures identified in the project area which are fifty years old, the Knox House is an undistinguished example of a widespread residential style which has minimal architectural or historic interest. There is no known connection with person or events significant in American history, thus it does not appear to meet the requirements of Criteria A and B for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is not an outstanding example of a particular type or style of architecture qualifying it for Register listing under Criterion C. Having no known archeological significance, it would not likely meet the requirements of Criterion D for yielding information important in history or pre-history.

**PG76A30**  
**Linda Holmes House**  
**Suitland, Maryland**

**Bibliography**  
**Continuation Sheet 9.1**

Evening Sun, August 14, 1942.

Hopkins, G. M. Atlas of Prince George's County, 1878. Reprint edition. Prince George's County Historical Society, 1975.

Norton, Darlie. "A History of Suitland." Privately Printed, 1976.

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Sweitzer, Robert and Michael Davis, America's Favorite Home (Detroit, MI: Wayne State University, 1990).

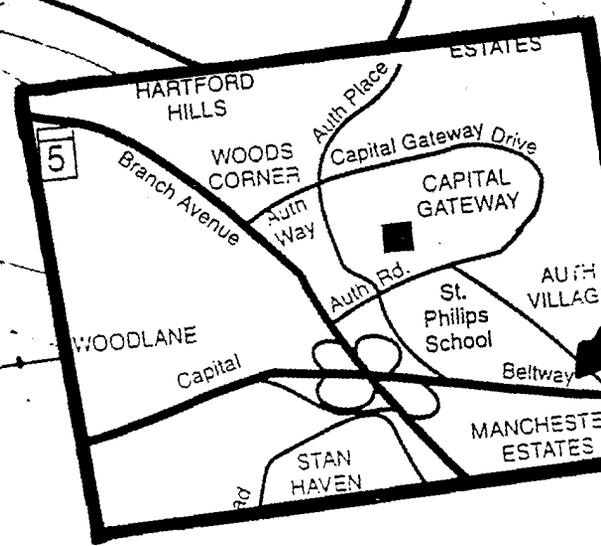
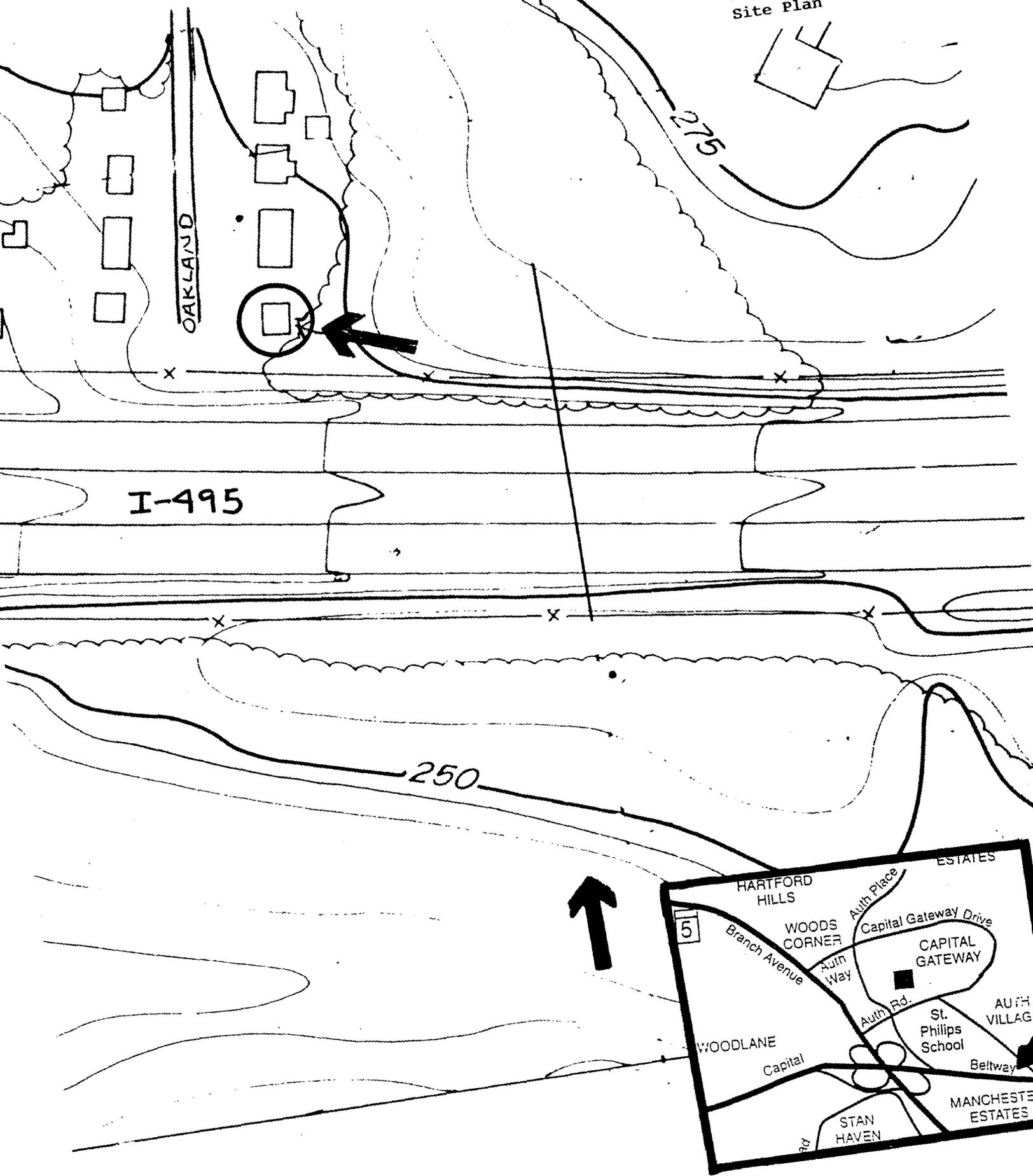
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Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. "Draft Supplemental EIS: Outer Branch Avenue Segment, Green Line (F) Route." Washington, D.C.: WMATA, November, 1992.

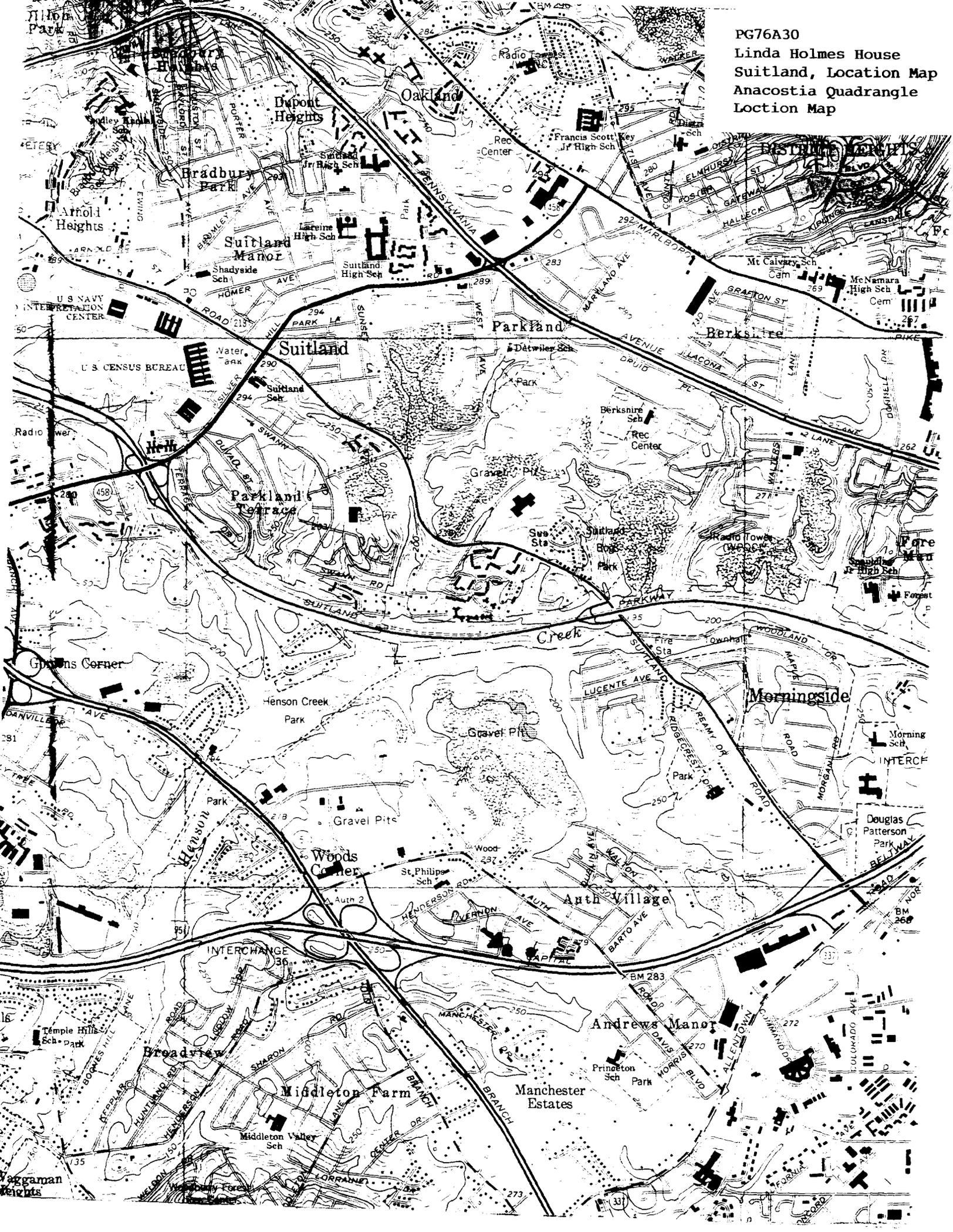
Watson, James Douglas. Prince George's County: Past and Present. Washington, D.C.: Federal Lithograph Company, 1962.



PG76A30  
Linda Holmes House  
Suitland  
Site Plan



PG76A30  
Linda Holmes House  
Suitland, Location Map  
Anacostia Quadrangle  
Loction Map





PB 76130

Linda Wilson, Hawaii

Camp 2000

R. 5000 3/1, 7

2000 Hata 2

West 5000

3/3



PG 764 in  
 Linda Haines Her-  
 camp Springs

R Supper at  
 Mid State Hwy Sta-

New Corner  
 2/3



PG 76A 33

Handwritten notes  
Cant - p... g?

22. 3/97

1nd Start: ...

SWC ...

1/3