

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

PG: 76A-32

Property/District Name: 5909 Auth Road, Camp Springs Survey Number: P. G. County

Project: CDBG Rehabilitation Agency: P. G. County

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

According to the information presented by Prince George's County and located in the project files, this two-storey frame house with front porch dating from the late 19th or early 20th century does not meet the Criteria for individual listing in the National Register, nor is it located in an eligible historic district.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: review and compliance project files

Prepared by: Linda Thompson, P. G. County

J. Ellen Greene Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date 3/17/95

~~NR~~ program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

R. Anderson Reviewer, NR program Date 10.3.95

DT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural/Suburban

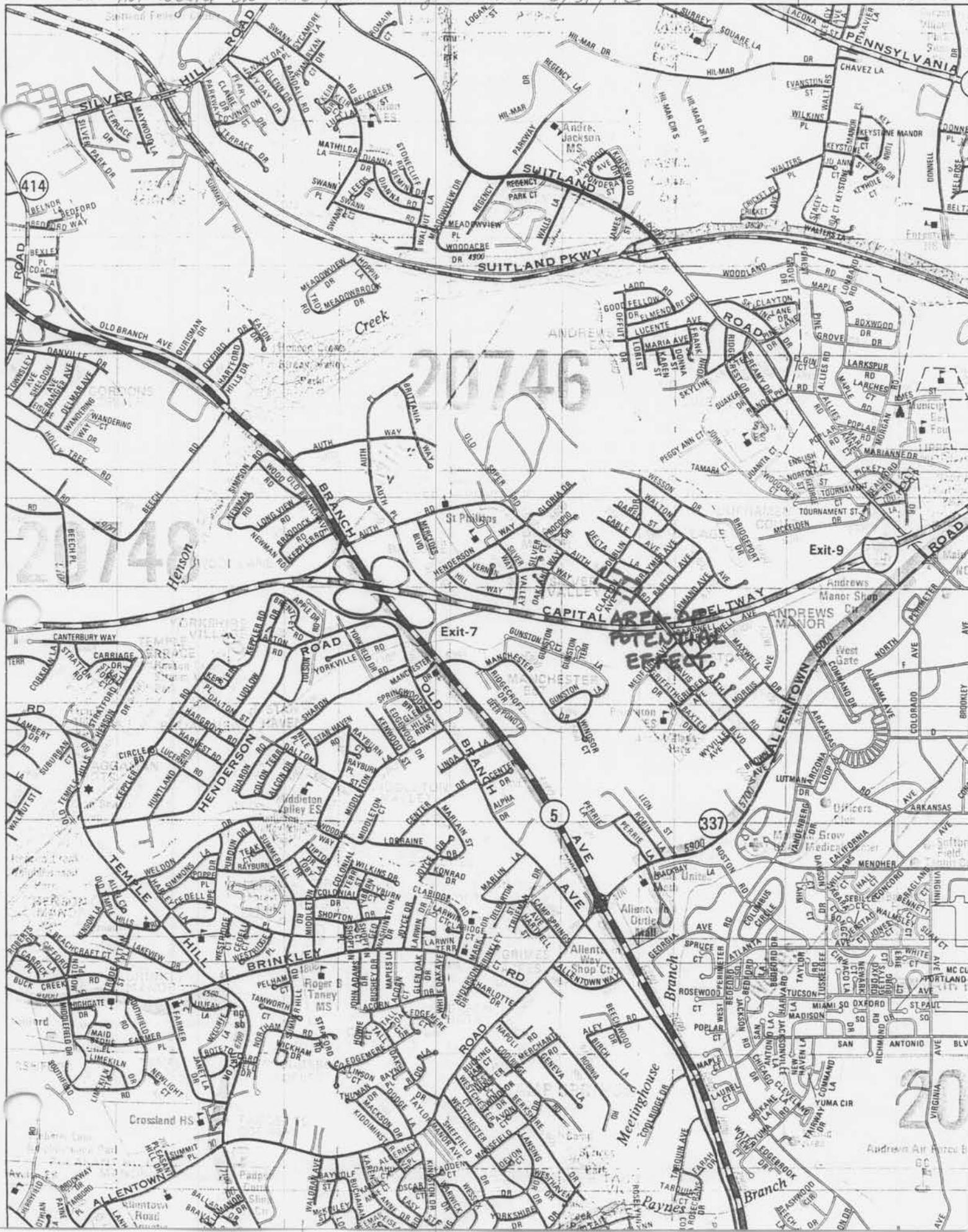
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): House

Known Design Source: None

4 SE 820,000 FT  
#1A JEF hot located in H.D. not elig. indiv. 3/31/72

5 SE Joins Map 14

6 SE 830,000 FT PG-76A-32



20746

20748

20

## Prince George's County Historic Site Summary Sheet

Survey No: PG76A32

Name: **Roland Darcey Houses**

Location: 5905 and 5909 Auth Road, Suitland, Maryland

Date: 1934

Description: The two houses at 5905 and 5909 Auth Road are nearly identical frame dwellings constructed for Roland Darcey by his father, then sold to developers thirty years later for the construction of a subdivision immediately south of the two houses. They are basically early twentieth century examples of the nineteenth century I-house type.

Significance: These structures are architecturally undistinguished frame dwellings which have been engulfed by recent subdivision construction. They are among the very few structures pre-dating 1950 in what was basically an agrarian area in the early twentieth century in the Washington suburbs of Prince George's County, nonetheless they fail to evoke any association with this era or the agricultural pursuits of the inhabitants, especially that of truck farming for the Washington, D.C. population.

The Roland Darcey Houses are undistinguished examples of a popular house form, the I-house. Although among twelve structures identified in the project area which are fifty years old, the Roland Darcey Houses are examples of a widespread and ubiquitous house form which has minimal architectural or historic interest.

**PG76A32**  
**Roland Darcey Houses**  
**Suitland, Maryland**

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period (s): Modern 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s): Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function (s) and Use (s): Domestic/Single Dwellings/Residence

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

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

historic

and/or common    Roland Darcey Houses**2. Location**street & number    5905 and 5909 Auth Road    N/A not for publicationcity, town    Suitland    vicinity of    congressional districtstate    Maryland    county    Prince George's**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)name    Wayne Branch (5905) and Robert Freeman (5909)street & number    5905 and 5909 Auth Road    telephone no.:    301 702 2352city, town    Suitland    state and zip code    Maryland 20746**5. Location of Legal Description**courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.    Courthouse    liber    8370/470 (5905)street & number       folio    10206/309 (5909)city, town    Upper Marlboro    state    Maryland**6. Representation in Existing**    Historical Surveystitle    N/Adate       federal    state    county    localdepository for survey records   city, town       state

# 7. Description

Survey No. PG76A32

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved    date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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. PG76A32

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

Specific dates	1934	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



**PG76A32**  
**Roland Darcey Houses**  
**Suitland, Maryland**

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

Description Summary

5905 and 5909 are nearly identical frame dwellings constructed by Eugene Darcey for his son Roland on land purchased by Warren Darcey (Roland's Grandfather) for that purpose in 1929. These structures, built in the second third of the twentieth century, utilize a conservative architecture form--the nineteenth century I-house vocabulary.

Description

5905 and 5909 Auth Road are identical frame dwellings which were constructed for Roland Darcey by his father Eugene in 1934. Currently separated by Claxton Road which was constructed to access the then new Andrew Village subdivision in the 1960's, the two houses previously shared an eleven acre parcel before they were sold to developers. Each house is currently located on a quarter to third acre parcels and front Auth Road on the north. To the south or rear is a tightly clustered apartment/townhouse cluster which abuts I-495.

The structures are simple, two-story frame ell-shaped buildings composed of a rectangular gable roofed blocks paralleling Auth Road and extended with a two-story wings which continues the west elevations. The entries are centered between two windows on the first level of the north facade and sheltered by a hip roofed, full width porches. Two windows are located at the second level, and a small square window is centered in the cross gable at the roof level. Both structures have German siding with cornerboards, boxed cornices and cornice returns, and are supported by rusticated concrete-block foundations. A single window at all three levels are centered in the west elevation.

In the east elevation the house at 5709 Auth Road has a tripartite bowed window surmounted by a pent-roof hood at the first level. Another variation in the fenestration is the substitution of two small paired windows in the west elevation of the ell in place of the one-over-one replacement sash. The fenestration of the dwelling at 5905 Auth Road is more regular, with the sole deviation of the insertion of a sexpartite window in the west face at the junction of the main block and the ell. This house has the original chimneys--one at the ridge midway along the length of the main block, and near the bottom of the east slope of the ell roof. There are no chimneys evident on the house at 5709 Auth Road. Both houses have a similar treatment as regards the angle infill of the main block and wing--a flat roofed two story addition directly in the angle is hemmed in by two identical shed-roofed one-story additions--open projecting east from the west face of the ell, and one projecting south from the rear elevation of the principle section.

**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.

**PG76A32**

**Roland Darcey Houses**

**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.

## **PG76A32**

### **Roland Darcey Houses 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, six 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). Six 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) the Marescalco House (PG76A21) and the Roland Darcey Houses (PG76A32).

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.

**PG76A32**

**Roland Darcey Houses**

**Suitland, Maryland**

**Continuation Sheet 8.1**

**Statement of Significance.**

Significance Summary

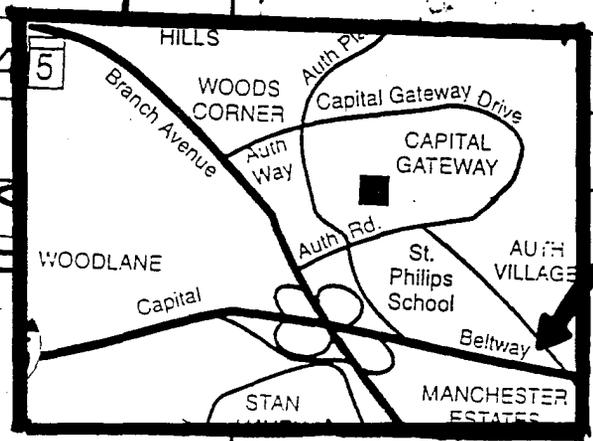
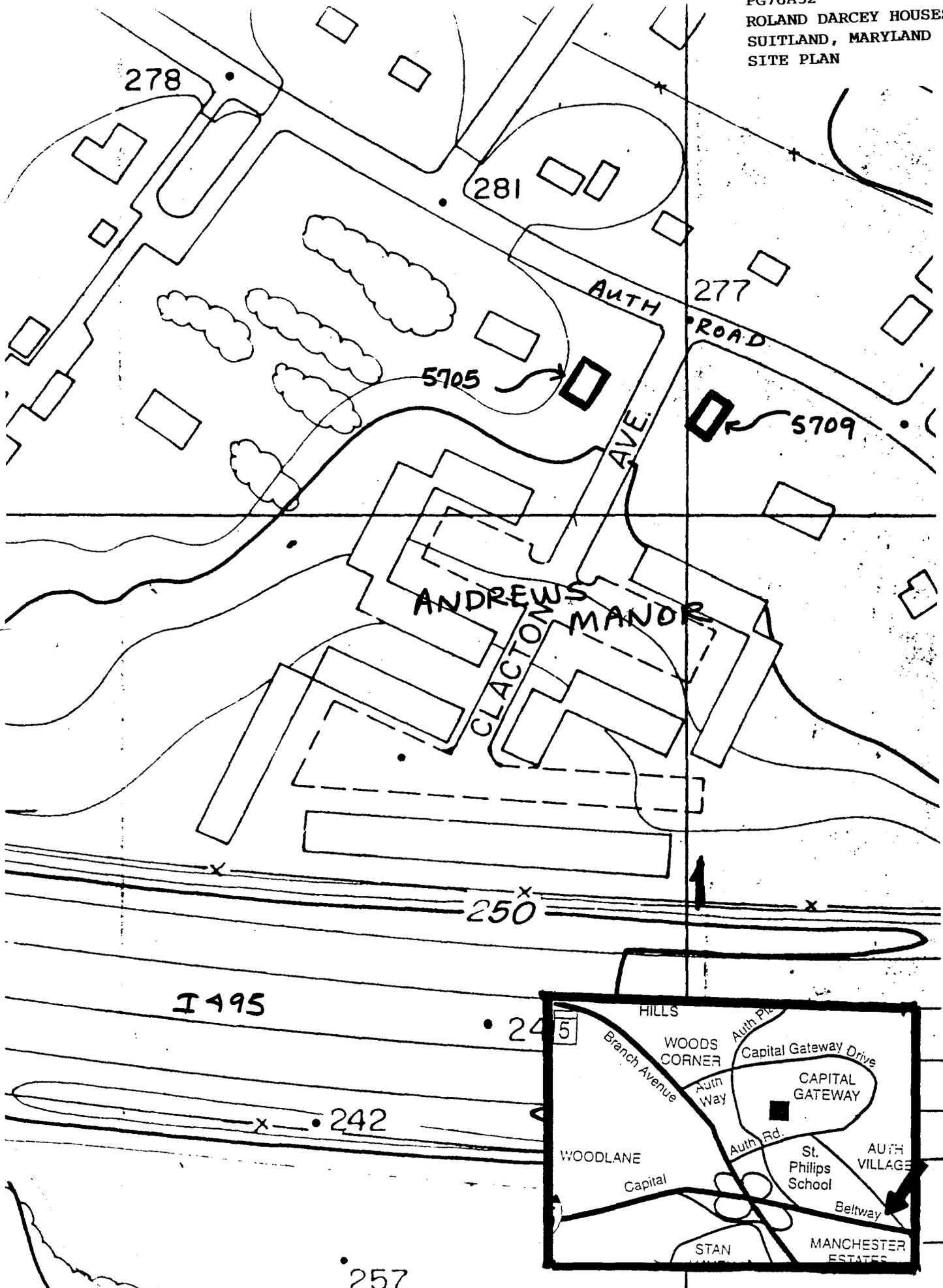
The Roland Darcey Houses exhibit a mid-twentieth re-use of the venerable nineteenth century I-house form, a reflection of the inherent conservatism of agrarian areas despite the proximity to Washington, D.C. The houses are architecturally undistinguished and have only marginal significance as remnants of an area which agriculturally based well into the twentieth century.

Statement of Significance

The Roland Darcey Houses are architecturally undistinguished frame dwellings which, although they date from the agrarian period of the area prior to 1950, do not reflect any association with agriculture, unlike the Wood's and Soper (not extant) farmsteads. The houses were built for Roland Darcey by his father Eugene, who had accumulated considerable acreage and had farmed the land along with his father Warren Darcey and sundry uncles. The land on which the houses were constructed was part of the subdivided farm of Theodore B. Middleton, which was purchased by Guy and Cora Trueman in 1924 along with numerous other tracts. These were, in turn, sold to Warren Darcey (Roland's Grandfather) in 1929 (Land Record 328/295). One of the dwellings was Roland's home for awhile and stayed in the family until the 1960's at which time it was sold to developers. The properties passed rapidly from owner to owner since then, subject to foreclosures, etc.

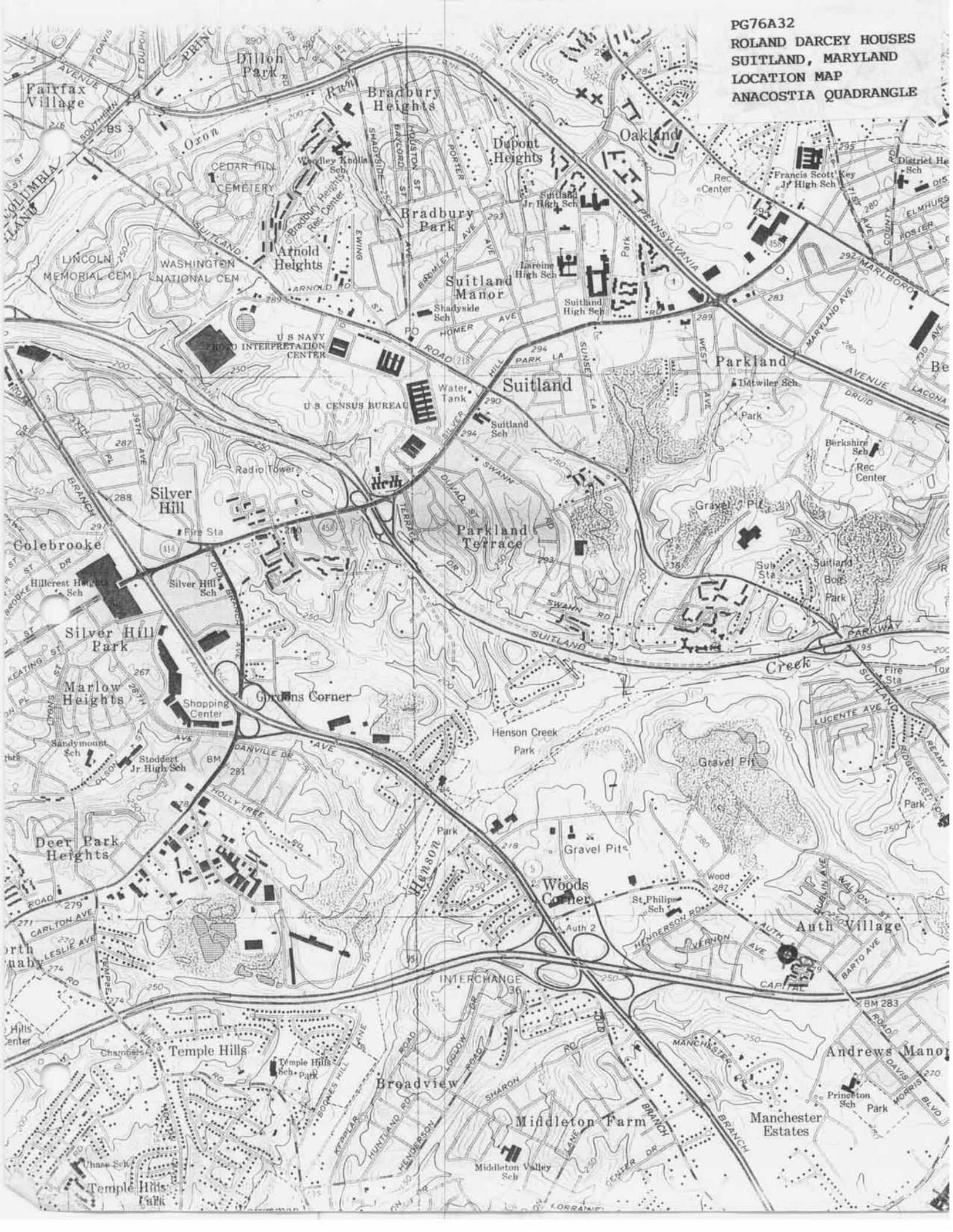
The house form is a variation of the nineteenth century I-house although it was constructed in the second third of the twentieth century. The longevity of this house type reflects the inherent conservatism of the agrarian based communities despite the proximity of this area to Washington, D.C.

PG76A32  
ROLAND DARCEY HOUSES  
SUITLAND, MARYLAND  
SITE PLAN





PG76A32  
ROLAND DARCEY HOUSES  
SUITLAND, MARYLAND  
LOCATION MAP  
ANACOSTIA QUADRANGLE





PG 76A-32

Beland Nancy Jones

Sussex

R. Guffin 3/97

1/15/97

3709 Axta Road

SE corner

1/7



PG 76A-32

Kolond Darcey House  
Switzerland

R Saffers 3/97

MO State Highway

Adm-

5709 Aath Rd

St Corner

2/7



PG-6A-32

Richard Darce, H. ...  
Switzerland

✓ 2 Sufferer 3/47

mid state Highway A/B

5709 Auth Rd

NElevation

3/7



PG 76A-32

Roland Darcey House  
Sutland

R Suffern 3197

MD State Highway 211

5709 Auth Road

SW corner

417



PB 76A-32

Roland Darcy House

Suitland

R. S. Hoff <sup>5/15</sup> →

MD State Highway Admin

5705 Auth Road

NW Corner

517



PG 76A 32

Roland Dorcey House

Smith -

Residence 3/97

MI State Hwy Adm

5705 Auth Rd

North East

675



PO 76A-32

Roland Dancy House  
Switland

R. S. Suf Co. 3/97

MD State Hwy Admin

5705 Auth Rd

SE Corner

717