

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #84-22 Building Date: ca. 1915

Building Name: Dent-Metcalf House

Location: 1504 Accokeek Road, Accokeek, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

The Dent-Metcalf House is a two-and-one-half-story gable-roof frame house. It is distinguished by a projecting central bay with cross-gable in front, and the use of novelty shingles. The house consists of a side-gabled main block, a standard I-house with a rear kitchen ell, to which a new (1980's) wrap-around wing has been added. Entrance is in the central bay of the main south facade, through a door with a three-pane transom and single-pane sidelights over wainscot panels. The central bay projects slightly from the south facade and rises to a cross-gable above second story level; the cross-gable is sided with fishscale shingles and its molded cornice is decorated with unperforated scalloped bargeboards. A one-story hip-roof porch spans the south facade, supported by turned posts. The building is covered with German siding painted white. The cornice is boxed with crown molding in the east and west gable ends; the scalloped bargeboards of the cross-gable are repeated, as are the fishscale shingles. There is a corbelled brick chimney at the ridge between second and third bays, and another at the cross-ridge where the rear wing joins the main block. The two-bay wing which was the original kitchen extends to the north at right angles to the main block. A new two-story kitchen addition has been constructed to the rear (north) of the original wing, and wraps around to add a hallway on the east side of the ell. The addition has a five-window semi-octagonal projecting bay in the first story of its west facade.

Significance:

The Dent-Metcalf House is a good example of late Victorian vernacular architecture. A plain and functional dwelling, it is highlighted by a handsome projecting central cross-gable and a facade-wide porch with entry decoration which repeats that of the cross-gable. The subject house was built circa 1915 by Catherine and John F. Dent, who purchased a farm of approximately 150 acres called Apple Valley. In approximately 1915 they built the subject house, and it remained in the family until 1966. The Dent family home is a good example of an early twentieth century I-house, highlighted by the use of novelty shingles to vary the wall surfaces. It also incorporated a projecting central cross-gable, which was a popular variation on the standard I-house plan. The apex of the cross-gable was sided with fishscale shingles and scalloped bargeboards. Although a major addition has been built on two sides of the original kitchen, the early twentieth century appearance of the main facade has not been significantly altered. It is still a noticeable landmark on the old road to Accokeek, and an important reminder of the social and agricultural heritage of early twentieth century Prince George's County.

Acreege: 2.79 acres

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Dent House

and/or common Metcalfe House

2. Location

street & number 1504 Accokeek Road (Maryland Route 373) not for publication

city, town Accokeek vicinity of congressional district 4

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

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

name Robert Metcalfe

street & number 1504 Accokeek Road telephone no.:

city, town Accokeek, state and zip code MD. 20607

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5803

street & number Main Street folio 221

city, town Upper Marlboro, state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #84-22

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 Dent-Metcalf House is a two-and-one-half-story gable-roof frame house. It stands on the north side of the road from T. B. to Accokeek in farmland which is gradually being developed. It is distinguished by a projecting central bay with cross-gable in front, and the use of novelty shingles.

The house consists of a side-gabled main block, a standard I-house with a rear kitchen wing at right angles, to which a new (1980's) wrap-around wing has been added. The main block is three bays by one bay, with entrance into the central bay of the main south facade, through a door with a three-pane transom and singlepane sidelights over wainscot panels. A bead-and-reel molding separates the sidelights from the panels; the surround is of plain board. The door itself consists of a large glazed panel over three molded panels; there is a row of bead-and-reel molding under the glazed panel. The central bay projects slightly from the south facade and rises to a cross-gable above second story level; the cross-gable is sided with fishscale shingles and its molded cornice is decorated with unperforated scalloped bargeboards. Within it is a single-pane lunette window. A one-story hip-roof porch spans the south facade; it is supported by turned posts. (The deteriorated jig-sawn brackets have been removed; a new plain-baluster railing has been added.) The porch is highlighted by a peaked gable at the entry, which repeats the fishscale shingles and scalloped bargeboards of the cross-gable above.

The building is covered with German siding painted white. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash, with plain board surrounds; there are no shutters. The cornice is boxed with crown molding in the east and west gable ends, the scalloped bargeboards of the cross-gable are repeated, as are the fishscale shingles and the lunette window. The roof is covered with black asphalt shingle; there is a corbelled brick chimney at the ridge between second and third bays, and another at the cross-ridge where the rear wing joins the main block. The house rests on a poured concrete foundation.

The two-bay wing which was the original kitchen extends to the north at right angles to the main block, slightly recessed from the west gable end. Fenestration is similar to that of the main block; but the rear wing is sided with plain horizontal board.

Interior plan is that of the standard I-house, with central stairhall, and a parlor on each side. The closed string single-run staircase rises along the west wall of the stairhall; it has a square panelled newel and turned balusters. The staircase has a wainscot spandrel. Interior molding is multi-band, with bulls-eye corner blocks.

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 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 ca. 1915 **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 Dent-Metcalf House is a good example of late Victorian vernacular architecture in rural Prince George's County. A plain and functional dwelling, it is highlighted by a handsome projecting central cross-gable and a facade wide porch with entry decoration which repeats that of the cross-gable.

The subject house was built circa 1915 by Catherine and John F. Dent, who came to Prince George's County at the turn of the century. They purchased a farm of approximately 150 acres called Apple Valley on the north side of the road from TB to Accokeek, and farmed the land. Approximately 1915 they built the subject house, and it remained in the family until 1966.¹

The Dent family home was a good example of an early twentieth century I-house, highlighted by the use of novelty shingles to vary the wall surfaces. It also incorporated a projecting central cross-gable, which was a popular variation in Prince George's County of the standard I-house plan. The apex of the cross-gable was sided with fishscale shingles and scalloped bargeboards, and this treatment was repeated in a similarly decorated entry gable on the porch below it.

The Dents sold the house and 16 acres to the Accokeek Association in 1966, and the land was platted as six residential lots called Accokeek Estates. Lot #3, on which the Dent house stands, was purchased in 1983 by the present owners.² They are in the process of restoring and renovating the house. Although a major addition has been built on two sides of the original kitchen, the early twentieth century appearance of the front of the house has not been significantly altered; it is still a noticeable landmark on the old road to Accokeek, and an important reminder of the social and agricultural heritage of early twentieth century Prince George's County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. P.G. #84-22

Description (continued)

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A new kitchen addition has been constructed to the rear (north) of the original wing, and wraps around to add a hallway on the east side of the ell. The addition is two stories high (lower than main block and ell), has two doors in its north gable end, and a five-window semi-octagonal projecting bay in the first story of its west facade.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

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Notes

1 Prince George's County Deed #34:35; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1900-1920.

2 Prince George's County Deeds #5803:221; Plat NLP #118:32.

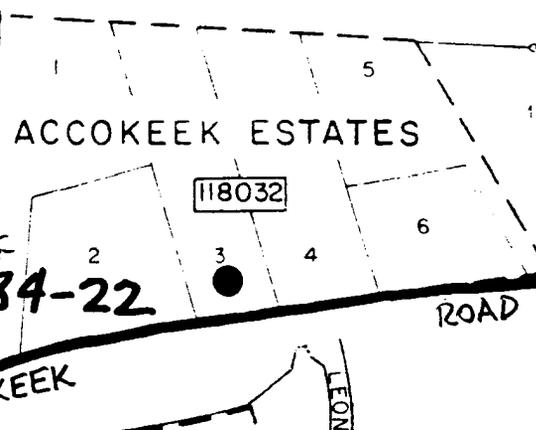
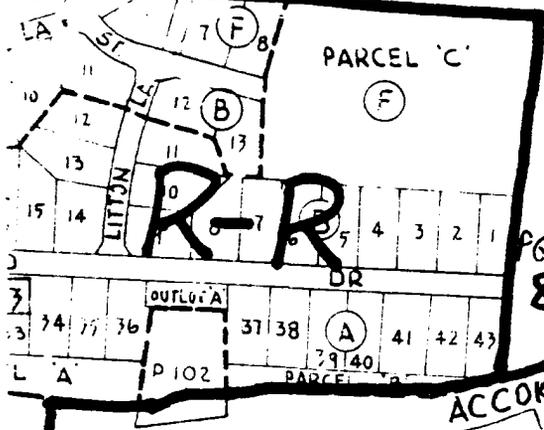
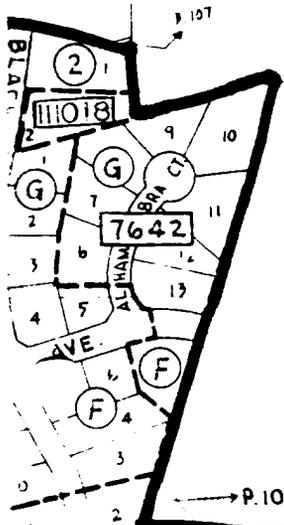
CHRISTOPHER N. BERRY 5787/502
OOA. P.30

AN FARRELL
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70 A.
271

T. COLEMAN FARRELL
2554-410
15.22 A.
P.29

R-A

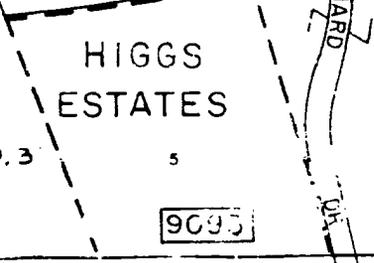
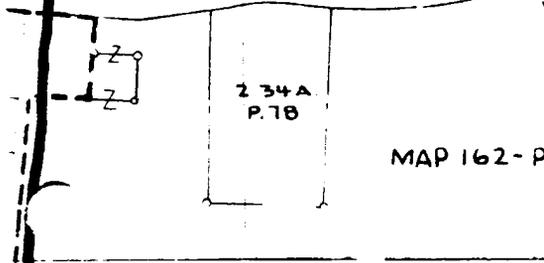
ACCOKEEK ASSOCIATES
3717/59
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P. 23



MARZINA ROBINSON
5276/C
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P.82

R-R

84-22



O-S

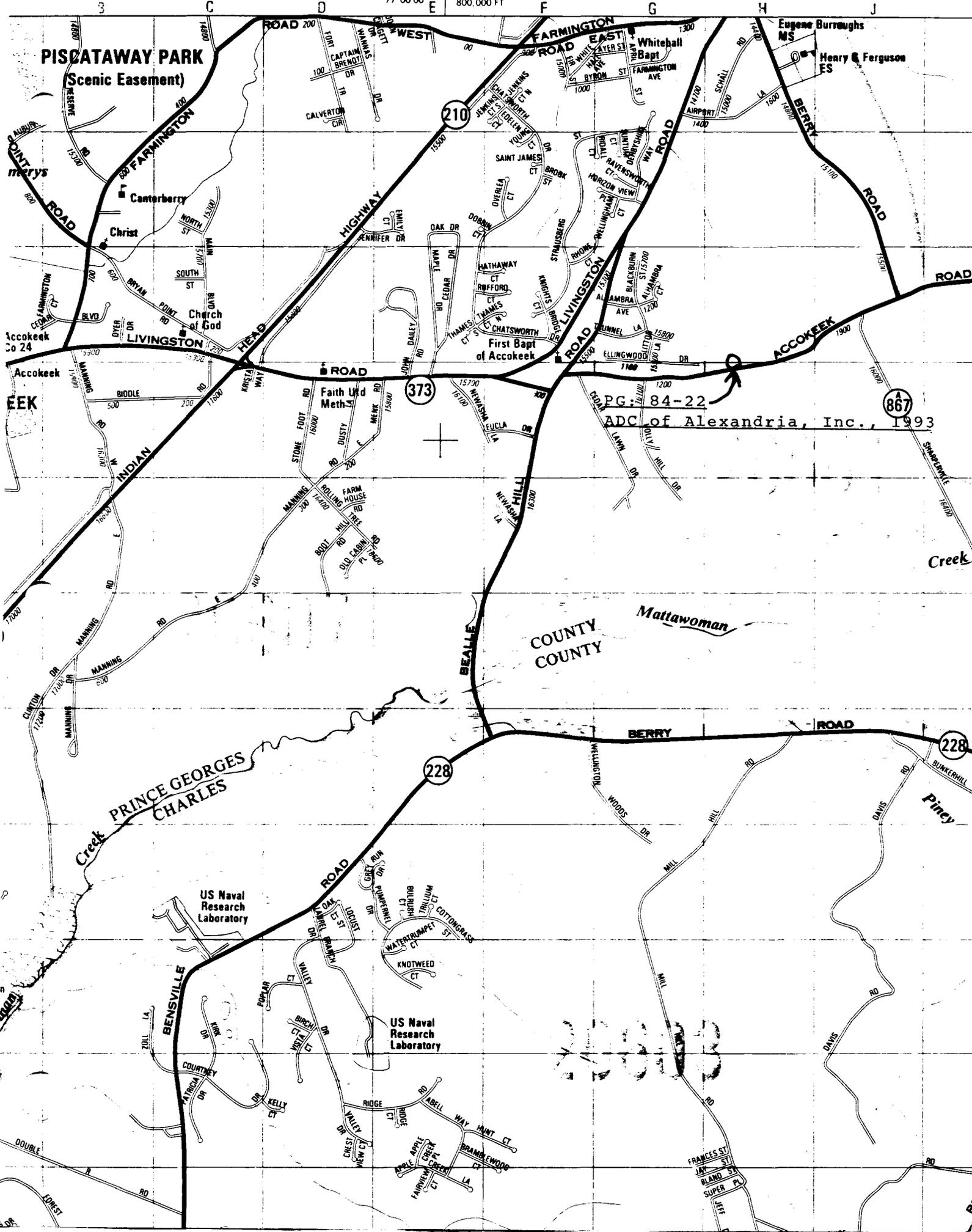
MAP 162-P.3

9095

2.48 A.
P.113

1.25 A.
P.46

P.104



PISCATAWAY PARK
(Scenic Easement)

210

373

867

228

228

PG. 84-22
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1993

COUNTY
COUNTY

PRINCE GEORGES
CHARLES

US Naval
Research
Laboratory

US Naval
Research
Laboratory

Piney

FRANCES ST
JAN ST
BLAND ST
SUPER PL



PG#84-22

Dent-Metcalf House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
South elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#84-22

Dent-Metcalf House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#84-22

Dent-Metcalf House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
North elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#84-22

Dent-Metcalf House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#84-22

Dent-Metcalf House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
South detail
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD