

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
Intercounty Connector Project

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

historic Amelia Oursler Property

and/or common Butler Property

2. Location:

street & number 15715 Oursler Road

 not for publication

city, town Burtonsville

 vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Montgomery

3. Classification:**Category** district building(s) structure site object**Ownership** public private both**Public Acquisition** in process being considered not applicable**Status** occupied unoccupied work in progress**Accessible** yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no**Present Use** agriculture commercial education entertainment government industrial military transportation museum park private residence religious scientific other:**4. Owner of Property:** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James and L. A. Butler

street & number 15715 Oursler Road

telephone no.:

city,town Burtonsville

state and zip code MD 20705

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Montgomery County

liber

street & number Montgomery County Judicial Center

folio

city,town Rockville

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

 federal state county local

depository for survey records

city,town

state

7. Description

Survey No. M:15-86 (PACS D3.30)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Resource Count: 4

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

Constructed in 1903, the Amelia Oursler Property is a 2½-story, 2-bay, cross-gable cottage. Part of the roof extends to form an integral porch on the first floor of the front elevation. The cottage is of wood frame construction with a parged foundation, has an interior brick chimney, double-hung windows and an enclosed rear porch. The exterior is covered with asbestos shingles on the first and second stories, while the gable ends have wood shingles. The cross-gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The front, or west, facade of the front-gable has a pair of 6/1 double-hung windows centered on the first story and two 6/1 double-hung windows on the second story. The gable end has a 1/1 double-hung window. The front facade of the side-gable has an integral porch with new wood posts and railing on the first floor. Within the porch is a 6-light wood panelled door with an aluminum storm door. A shed roof dormer with a 6/1 double-hung window is located on the second floor of the side-gable.

The south facade has an asymmetrical fenestration pattern. The first floor has a wood door at grade level and a 6/1 double-hung window on the first floor. A 6/1 double-hung window is located between the first and second floors, while the another 6/1 double-hung is on the second floor.

The rear, or east, facade has a 1-story, enclosed hipped roof porch. The porch has no openings on the south side, while the east side has a 6/1 double-hung window, two sets of four 1/1 double-hung windows and a door. The north side of the porch has a pair of 6/1 double-hung windows. The second story of the rear facade has two 6/1 double-hung windows and a smaller 1/1 double-hung window is located in the gable end.

The north facade has a symmetrical fenestration pattern. The basement level has two hopper windows. Vertically aligned with these windows are two 6/1 double-hung windows on both the first and second stories. is two-bays wide with 6-over-1 double-hung windows.

Three related outbuildings are located east of the cottage. The first outbuilding is a 1-story wood frame shed with board-and-batten siding. It has a gable roof covered with standing seam metal and a concrete masonry unit foundation. The door is located in the east gable end, and there are four 6-over-6 double-hung windows spaced evenly across the south facade. The second building is a modern, 1-story metal shed with a gable roof which sits on concrete blocks. The third outbuilding is a 1-story, 3-bay, side-gable shed. The building has board-and-batten siding above a concrete masonry half-wall.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:15-86 (PACS D3.30)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-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 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"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1903

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: 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 Amelia Oursler Property was originally part of 49.37 hectares (122 acres) of land which Lewis and Mary Jane Duvall sold to William Spencer in 1855. The land remained in the Spencer family until being sold by Joseph Stabler to Amelia Oursler in 1894. Amelia and Charles Oursler built the cross-gable cottage in 1903. In 1910 they sold the cottage and 2.33 hectares (5.75 acres) to Laurence Oursler. The property passed from the Oursler family in 1918. The property had several owners before being purchased by James and Lori Ann Butler in 1986.

The Amelia Oursler Property is located in the town of Burtonsville, on land originally patented in 1703 as "Bear Bacon" and in 1715 as "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" in what was then Prince George's County. "Bear Bacon" was approximately 245 hectares (605 acres) of land stretching from present Oursler Road to Old Columbia Pike. "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" was approximately 1214 hectares (3000 acres) of land from Old Columbia Pike to the present city of Laurel, and from south of Greencastle and Van Dusen Roads to north of Sandy Spring Road. Later additions to the patent north and northwest of the present junction of U.S. 29 and MD. 198 eventually covered 3749 hectares (9265 acres) by 1743. (Geraci, Walker and Donnary 1976: 4; Cook, 1976: 270-271). As settlement in the new county increased, the need for improved roads became apparent. The Columbia Turnpike Company was chartered in 1809 to build a road from Georgetown, D.C. to Ellicott's Mills, and construction began in 1810 (present U.S. 29 and Old Columbia Pike follow the route of this original road) (Hiebert and MacMaster 1976, 107).

Burton family records indicate that their ancestors settled in the area by 1707. Basil Burton settled east of the turnpike in 1817. Basil's son, Isaac, considered the founder of the community, bought out his family's share of his father's land in 1825, and by 1850 the crossroads of the Columbia Turnpike and the Laurel-Sandy Spring Road was known as Burtons. The community remained small and rural in the decades after the Civil War. It had a population of about fifty people, a Baptist church, a blacksmith shop, a schoolhouse, and a store (Dixon-Williams 1994, A-4).

During the twentieth century, the size of Burtonsville increased gradually as the Washington suburbs spread further north, and large employers located their operations in Silver Spring, northern Prince George's and neighboring Howard County. Shopping centers and widened roads replaced the historic crossroads. A 1960s master plan for the Fairland-Beltsville corridor marked eastern parts of Burtonsville as an "employment center" for the area. However, even though public utilities were extended to the community in the early 1970s, a sewer moratorium was imposed before extensive development occurred. Land unsuitable for septic systems also slowed growth in the Burtonsville area (Daniels).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Amelia Oursler Property

SURVEY NO.: M:15-86 (PACS D3.30)

ADDRESS: 15715 Oursler Road, Burtonsville, Montgomery County

8. Significance (Continued)

In the 1980s, continued growth of federal and private sector employment and the new U.S. 29 highway made Burtonsville accessible to new residents and commercial development. Today Burtonsville retains a rural character. Old working farms still remain, but the area is becoming one of the major suburban centers outside of Washington, D.C.

The Amelia Oursler Property, constructed in 1903, is a vernacular cross-gable cottage. Between 1870 and 1940 the vernacular cottage style was typically built for Americans of modest means. They are characterized by simple ornamentation and mass-produced components, such as door frames, moldings, sash and window units, and porch decoration. The development of post-Civil War machinery capable of producing large amounts of standardized housing elements, such as those found in cottages, contributed greatly to the development of the modern American housing industry. Designs for vernacular cottages were obtained from popular magazines, such as House Beautiful, or carpenter's and builder's journals, such as American Builder. A variety of front-gabled, side-gable, cross-gable and hipped roof frame cottages were developed in the early to mid-twentieth century. Front gable and hipped roof cottages are primarily one to one-and-a-half-stories tall, 3 bays wide and several rooms deep. Side-gable and cross-gable structures are usually two to two-and-a-half-stories tall, are typically two to three bays in width and vary from one to three rooms deep. They usually include a porch covered with a shed roof. Porches are supported by posts often containing machine-produced Victorian ornamentation. Some cottages feature ornamentation drawn from Craftsman style or Colonial Revival architecture (Gottfried and Jennings 1988, viii-xv).

National Register Evaluation:

The Amelia Oursler Property, constructed in 1903, is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It does not meet Criterion A or B, as it has no known association with historically significant persons or events. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an example of a common building type which lacks individual distinction. In addition, the integrity of the building has been compromised by the enclosure of the rear porch, removal of the front porch materials and the covering of the exterior walls with asbestos siding. Finally the property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, does not meet Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended XX

Comments

Reviewer, OPS: [Signature]

Date: 4/25/98

Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature]

Date: 4/27/98

[Handwritten mark]

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No.M:15-86(PACSD3.30)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Beltsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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 Caroline Hall/ Tim Tamburrino

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date October 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

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 purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Amelia Oursler Property

SURVEY NO.: M:15-86 (PACS D3.30)

ADDRESS: 15715 Oursler Road, Burtonsville, Montgomery County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

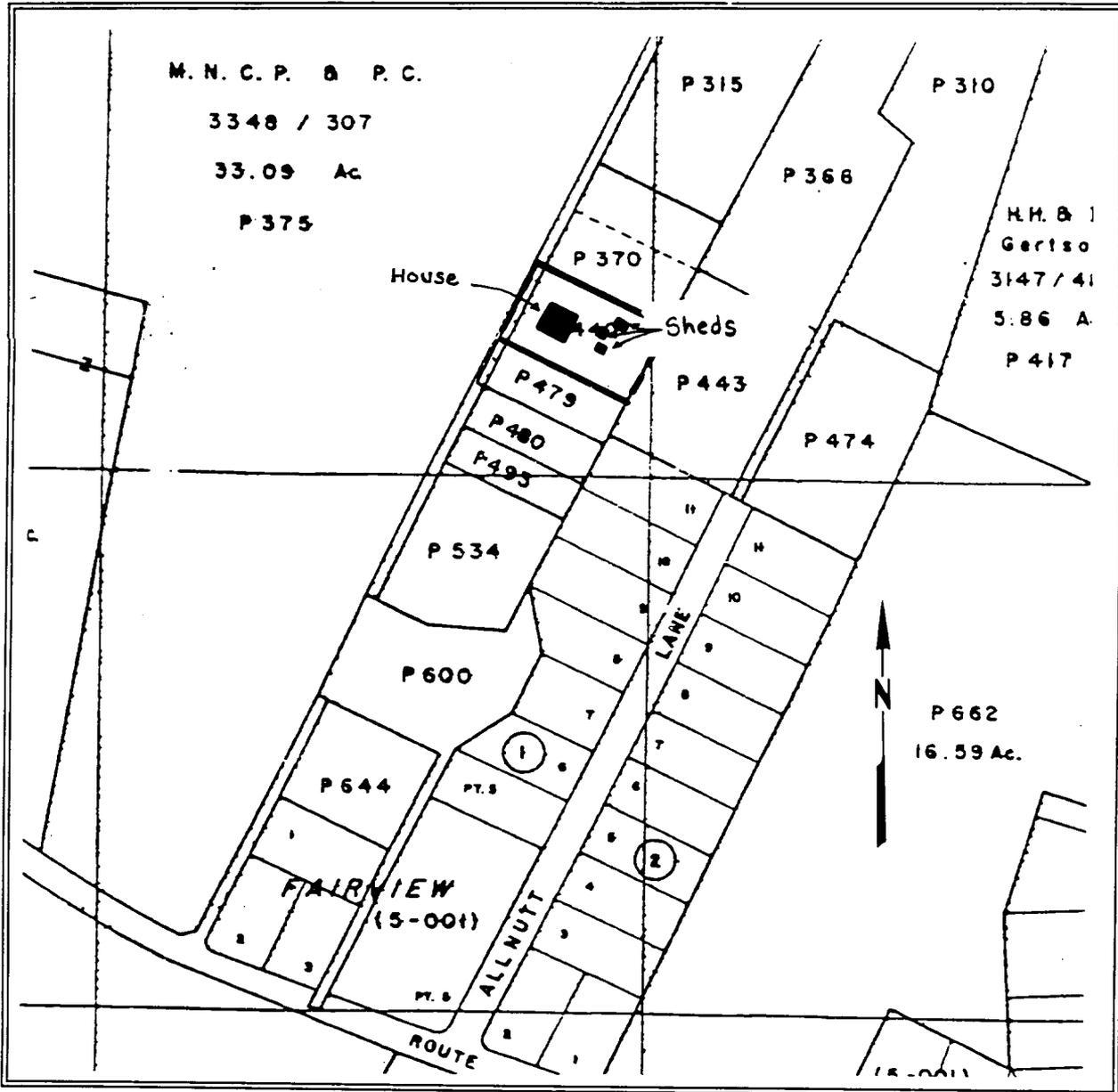
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- Coleman, Margaret Marshall. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1984, rev. 1990.
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- Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
- Martenet, Simon J. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Baltimore, Maryland: Simon J. Martenet, 1865; reprint, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.
- Tindall, George Brown. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1984.

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10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map



CONTINUATION SHEET

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Amelia Oursler Property

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ADDRESS: 15715 Oursler Road, Burtonsville, Montgomery County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

11. Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

2. Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

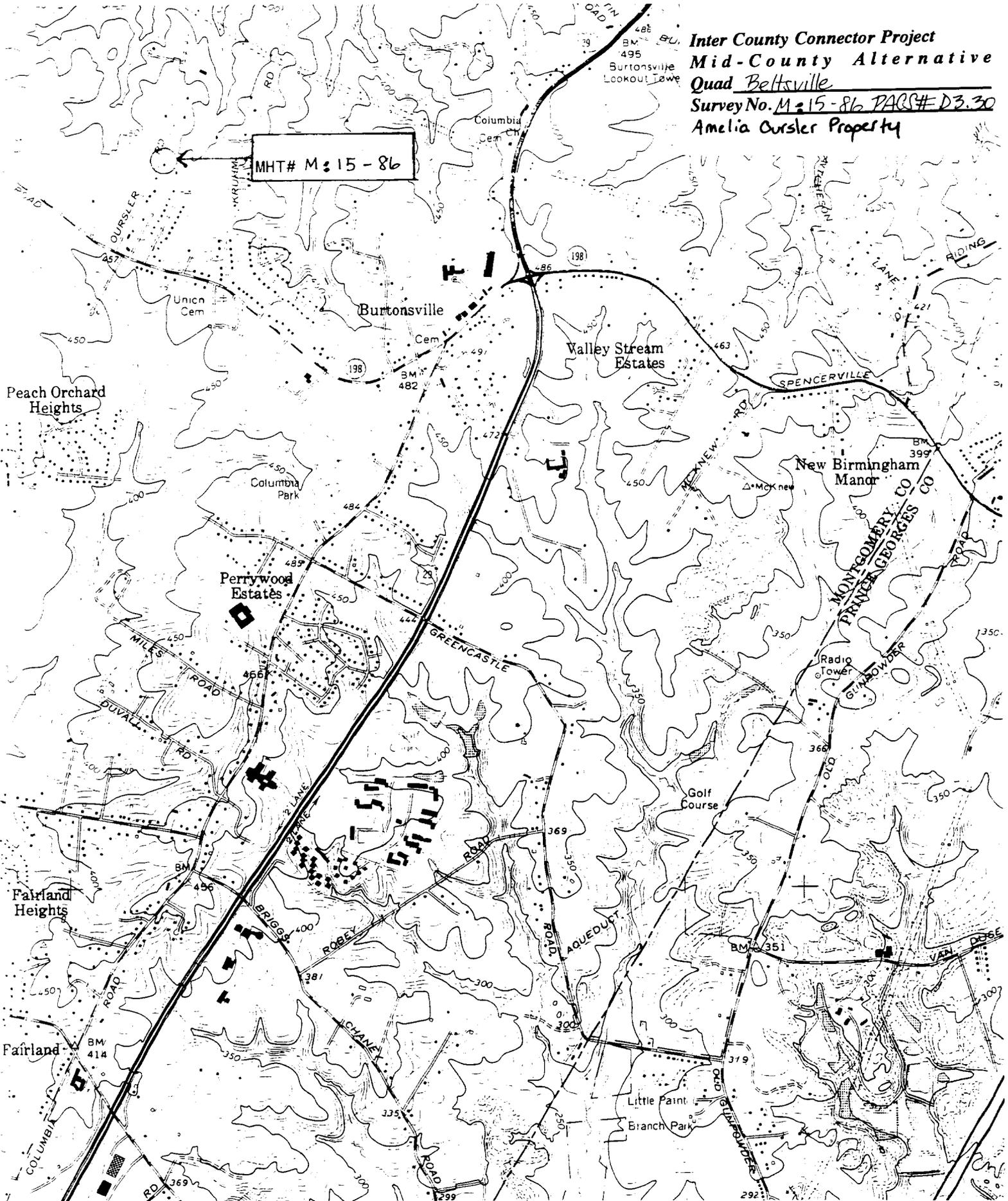
Dwelling

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
October 1996

**Inter County Connector Project
Mid-County Alternative
Quad Beltsville**
Survey No. M:15-86 PARC# D3.30
Amelia Oursler Property



MHT# M:15-86

Peach Orchard Heights

Burtonsville

Valley Stream Estates

New Birmingham Manor

Perrywood Estates

Fairland Heights

Fairland

Golf Course

Little Point

Branch Park

Radio Tower

Columbia Cem

Union Cem

Columbia Park

GREENCASTLE

MONTGOMERY CO
PRINCE GEORGES CO

GLIMPPOWER

VAN DUSE

OURSLER

NILES

BUVALD

BRIGGS

ROBEY

CHANCE

ROAD

NEW

ROAD

SPENCERVILLE

LANE

RIDING

McK new

OLD



M: 15 86

Overstar Property

1000 1/2

1000 1/2

1000 1/2

1000 1/2

1000 1/2

1000 1/2

1000 1/2

1000 1/2

1000 1/2

1000 1/2





10 5 20

Properties

10 5 20

5

10



11-5-86

Custer Property

Foot

11-5-86



M. 15-84

Owner Property

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Value P



1. 15-82

Owls Property