

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

DOE yes no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic George Grauel Property

and/or common Forrest Grauel Property

2. Location:

street & number 2901 Spencerville Road

not for publication

city, town Burtonsville

vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Montgomery

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"/> education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation

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

name George H. Grauel, Jr.

street & number 2905 Spencerville Road

telephone no.:

city,town Burtonsville

state and zip code Maryland 20866

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records of Montgomery County

liber 9341

street & number Montgomery County Judicial Center

folio 279

city,town Rockville

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date

federal state county local

depository for survey records

city,town

state

7. Description

Survey No.: M: 28-39 (PACS D10.4)

<u>Condition</u>		<u>Check one</u>	<u>Check one</u>	
<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			

Resource Count: 5

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

The George Grauel Property, constructed circa 1930, is a 2½-story Four-square house with a 1-story addition on the south side. The house has a standing seam metal hip roof with a hipped roof dormer on the north side. The house is of wood frame construction with clapboard siding, and it has a formed concrete foundation with wood windows at grade. All other windows in the house are double hung aluminum, with the exception of the north windows on the ground floor, which are wood sash. The house has a 1-story hip roof porch on the north side. The porch has a standing seam metal roof, has three battered wood columns and wood railings, and has formed concrete steps.

There are four outbuildings associated with this property. The first outbuilding is a garage which has a standing seam metal gable roof and is of formed concrete construction. The garage is located southeast of the house. The second outbuilding is a barn which has a flat seam metal gambrel roof and is of wood construction with asbestos siding. The barn is located southeast of the house and south of the garage. The third outbuilding is a shed which has a flat seam metal gambrel roof and is of concrete block construction. The shed is south of the house and northwest of the garage and barn. The fourth outbuilding is also a shed which has a flat seam gambrel roof and is of wood construction with asbestos siding. The shed is southwest of the house, northwest of the garage and barn, and west of the third outbuilding.

The property is located on the south side of Spencerville Road, with residences on the west and east. There are a few trees in the front yard. The land to the south of the buildings is farmland.

8. Significance

Survey No.: M: 28-39 (PACS D10.4)

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/
<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"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates circa 1930

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 location of the George Grauel Property is shown on the 1865 Martenet and Bond Map as part of a property belonging to Search family. The earliest reference to the property is a deed which indicates that Christopher Search bought the land from the heirs of Richard Holmes in June 1848. Christopher Search sold 41.6 hectares (103 acres) of land to John Waters in December 1865. The property remained in the Waters family until 1921, when William Waters sold 13.3 hectares (33 acres) of land to Luther C. Poole. Over the next twenty years, parcels of land owned by Luther C. Poole were conveyed to his son-in-law George Grauel, Sr. According to George Grauel, Jr., his father built the house circa 1930. The property has remained in the Grauel family since that time, and the current resident is Forrest Grauel, son of George Grauel, Sr.

The George Grauel Property is near Burtonsville, located 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).

Montgomery County remained predominantly rural as the twentieth century began. The extension of Washington trolley lines encouraged development close to the District line, but population growth fell below national averages and some areas of the county experienced declining population. Road improvements and the increase in the size of the federal government began to reverse that trend after the First World War, but Burtonsville remained a small crossroads. In the 1920s the

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: George Grauel Property

SURVEY NO.: M: 28-39 (PACS D10.4)

ADDRESS: 2901 Spencerville Road, Burtonsville, Montgomery County

8. Significance (Continued)

buildings within the community did not have indoor plumbing, electricity was a luxury, and the only telephone was in the general store (Daniels). The Great Depression caused much hardship among the area's farmers; farm prices fell drastically and the county could not afford to improve roads, utilities, and schools. Burtonsville did not benefit from the increase in federal employment brought by the New Deal.

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 George Grauel Property is a Four-square house, which was a type popular in both suburban and rural areas of America from the late 1890s into the 1920s. American Four-square dwellings are usually two to two-and-a-half-stories tall with a simple square or rectangular plan, low-pitched, hipped roof, and a front entrance, usually off-centered, which served as the focal point of the facade. They also commonly featured front and side dormers and a wide one-story front porch. Inside are usually four roughly equal-sized rooms on each floor, with a side stairway. Exterior wall surfaces were generally clad in clapboards or wood shingles. In vernacular examples, the Four-square often featured hipped dormers, a single-story, full-width front porch, and double-hung sash windows.

The development of the Four-square house was part of a stylistic movement known as "Rectilinear" which represented a reaction against the ornate Queen Anne style of the late 1880s. It was part of the same movement which produced the Colonial Revival style which returned to the symmetry of Georgian and Federal designs, and the Prairie School which stressed horizontal lines and intersecting, perpendicular planes. Four-square homes contain some features of both the Colonial Revival and Prairie styles but the style developed independently from them (Wells 1987, 51). Like Colonial Revival houses, Four-square homes emphasize geometric forms, and like Prairie houses they have low-pitched roofs and windows that feature multi-light panels. Yet the Four-square houses also differ from these other styles in significant ways. Unlike Colonial Revival houses, for example, Four-squares do not contain historical features such as Palladian windows, fanlights, and ornamented bracketing. They also often have off-center entrances. Designers of Four-squares also rejected the Prairie School emphasis on horizontal lines and irregular forms.

From the architectural avant-garde, the Four-square form moved to popular builder's magazines, beginning in 1895 when they began publishing drawings of such houses. Companies such as Montgomery Ward and Sears Roebuck included Four-Square variations among the designs for which they offered complete, pre-cut materials shipped ready for assembly (Wells 1987, 53).

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: George Grauel Property

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ADDRESS: 2901 Spencerville Road, Burtonsville, Montgomery County

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed circa 1930, the George Grauel Property is not eligible for the National Register. The property is not eligible under Criterion A; no significant events have been determined to be associated with the property. The property is not eligible under Criterion B; no person significant in local, state, or national history has been determined to be associated with the property. The property is not eligible under Criterion C; the house is a common vernacular style which lacks individual distinction, and the form and massing of the original design have been altered by a 1-story addition on the rear elevation. 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 XY

Comments

Reviewer, OPS: [Signature]

Date: 8/25/98

Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature]

Date: 8/27/98

[Signature]

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No.: M:28-39(PACS D10.4)

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
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caroline Hall/Ryan P. McKay

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 purposes 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: George Grauel Property

SURVEY NO.: M: 28-39 (PACS D10.4)

ADDRESS: 2901 Spencerville Road, Burtonsville, Montgomery County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Boyd, T.H.S. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. 1879. Reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968.
- Coleman, Margaret Marshall, and Anne Dennis Lewis. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk: Donning Co., 1984.
- Cook, William G. Montpelier & the Snowden Family. Privately Printed, 1976.
- Daniels, Lee A. "Burtonsville: A town of the past trapped between the future." Washington Post. no date.
- Dixon-Williams, Gail. "Originally Burtons, this suburb has come a long way from 1800's." Burtonsville Gazette 14 Sept. 1994: A-4.
- Geraci, Ron, Vicki Walker, and Linda Donnary. Old Building Survey of the Burtonsville Area. Burtonsville, Maryland: Burtonsville Bicentennial Committee, 1976.
- Grauel, George H. Personal Interview, 2 April 1996.
- Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.
- Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including the County of Montgomery, Maryland. Philadelphia, 1879. Reprint.
- Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
- Lord, Elizabeth M. Burtonsville Heritage: Genealogically Speaking. Burtonsville, Maryland: Burtonsville Bicentennial Committee, 1976.
- Martenet, Simon J. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Baltimore, Maryland: Simon J. Martenet, 1865. Reprint.
- Wells, Camille, ed. Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, II. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri, 1987.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

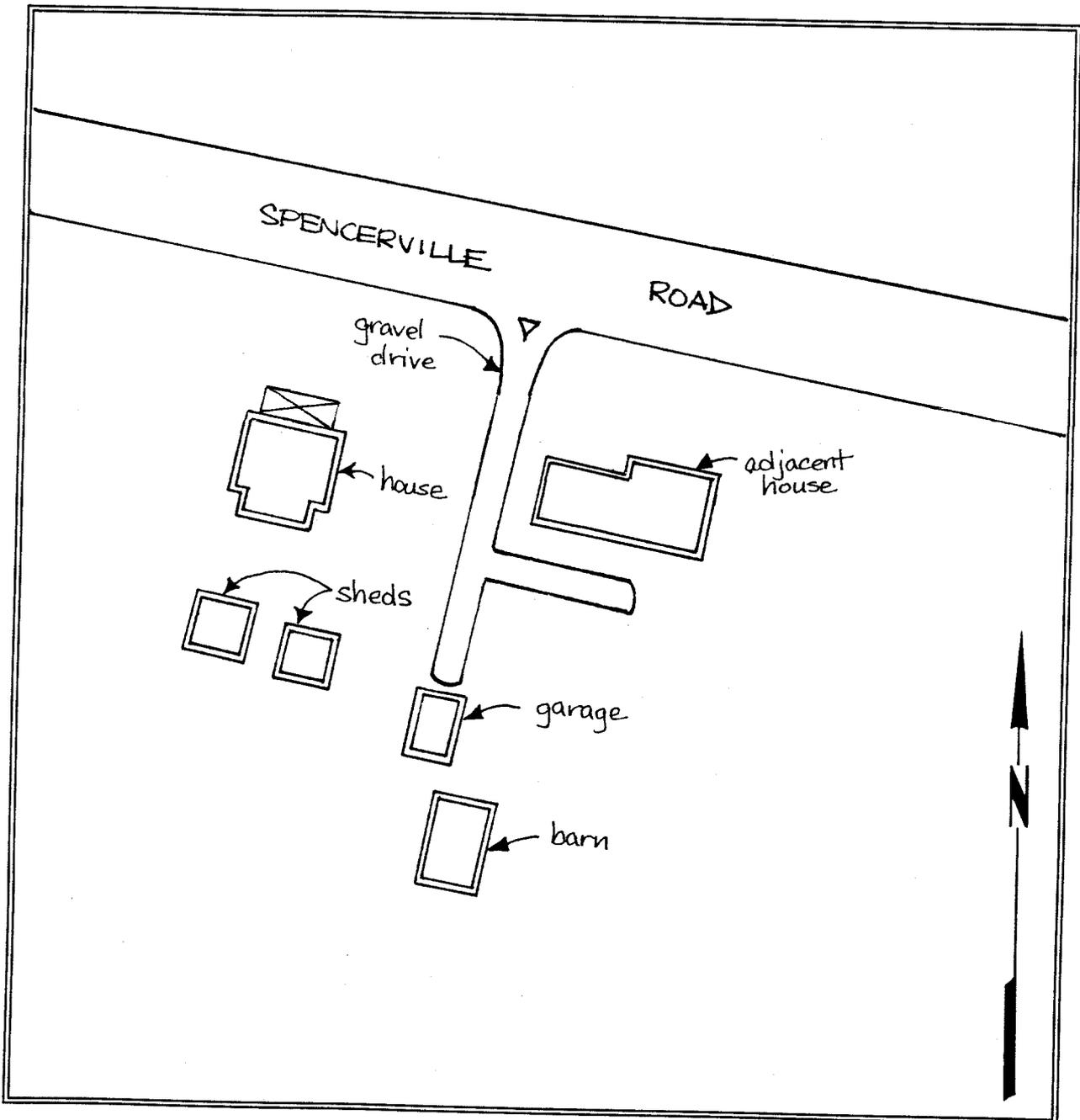
RESOURCE NAME: George Grauel Property

SRVEY NO.: M: 28-39 (PACS D10.4)

ADDRESS: 2901 Spencerville Road, Burtonsville, Montgomery County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map



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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: George Grauel Property

SURVEY NO.: M: 28-39 (PACS D10.4)

ADDRESS: 2901 Spencerville 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):

12. Modern Period A.D. 1930-present

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

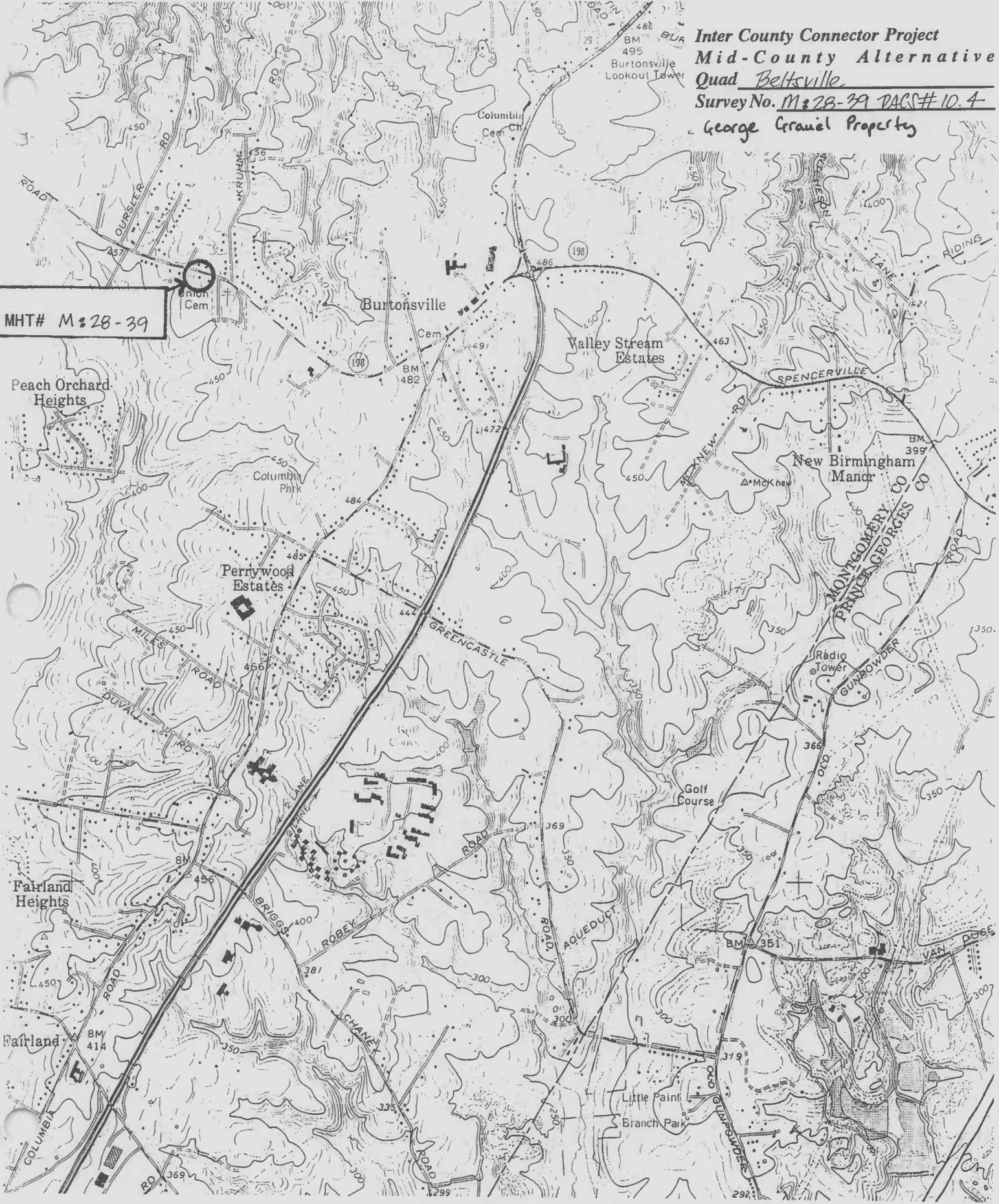
Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

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

Inter County Connector Project
Mid-County Alternative
Quad Beltsville
Survey No. M:28-39 DAC# 10.4
George Craniel Property

MHT# M:28-39





11/28-39
Grand Property
MONTGOMERY CO. MD

PAC Sporo E, Co.

11/95

PAC Sporo E, Co
40 W. Chesapeake Ave #412

BALTO MD 21204

2901 Spencerville Road

NORTH FACADE

lot 2



MZP-37

Gravel Property
MONTGOMERY Co MD

PAC Spero & Co

11/95

PAC Spero & Co

40 W. Chesapeake Ave #1412

BALTO, MD 21204

2901 Spencerville Road

OUTBUILDINGS VIEW WEST

2 of 2