Survey No. M:28-44 (PACS E11.36)

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

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic George M. Edwards Farmstead

and/or common George T. Merriken Property

2. Location:

street & number 2141 Briggs Chaney Road ___ not for publication

city, town Colesville _x_ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___district	___public	_x_occupied	___agriculture	___museum
_x_building(s)	_x_private	___unoccupied	___commercial	___park
___structure	___both	___work in progress	___education	_x_private residence
___site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___entertainment	___religious
___object	___in process	___yes: restricted	___government	___scientific
	___being considered	___yes: unrestricted	___industrial	___other:
	_x_not applicable	_x_no	___military	
			___transportation	

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

name George T. and Elnora H. Merriken

street & number 2141 Briggs Chaney Road telephone no.:

city,town Silver Spring state and zip code MD 20904

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Montgomery County liber 2246

street & number 50 Maryland Avenue folio 409

city,town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___federal ___state ___county ___local

depository for survey records

ity,town state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one	
_x_excellent	___deteriorated	_x_unaltered	_x_original site	
__good	___ruins	___altered	___moved	date of move _____
__fair	___unexposed			

Resource Count: 7

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

The George M. Edwards Farmstead consists of a 2½-story, Four-square house and six outbuildings on the west side of Briggs Chaney Road in the Colesville area, Montgomery County. The house, constructed in 1929, is unaltered and in excellent condition.

The structure has an asphalt shingle, pyramidal roof with hipped-roof dormers on the north, south, and east elevations. There is an interior brick chimney near the center of the house. The structure is of wood-frame construction with beveled wood siding, and it has a rock-faced, concrete block foundation. All windows are 6/1 double-hung wood, unless noted otherwise. Each dormer has a pair of 6-light wood windows. The house has a 1-story, full-width porch on the east elevation which wraps around the north elevation. The porch has a concrete floor supported by decorative concrete blocks, and an asphalt shingle, hipped roof supported by slender Tuscan-style columns.

The east, or front elevation has a centered wood door with an aluminum storm door. The fenestration pattern is symmetrical, with two pairs of windows on both the first and second stories. The second-story windows have shutters.

The south elevation has a 1-story, shed-roof projecting bay. The bay has three windows. The fenestration pattern is symmetrical; there is a pair of windows on the first story, one window at an intermediate level, and two windows on the second story.

The west, or rear elevation has a 1-story, enclosed, hipped-roof entry porch which conceals the first story of the house. The second story has two windows. The enclosed entry porch has chamfered wood corner posts and vertical board siding. There are two doors, one centered and accessed by steps and one at grade, a series of four 2-light awning windows, two screened windows, and one 6/1 double-hung window. The north elevation of the porch has three awning windows.

The north elevation has a symmetrical fenestration pattern. There is one wood panel door, one window, and one pair of windows on the first story. The second story has three windows.

There are six outbuildings and one ruin associated with this property. The first outbuilding is a one-car garage with an asphalt shingle, front-gable roof. Constructed circa 1930, it is of wood-frame construction with a concrete block foundation. The garage is located south of the house.

The second outbuilding is a milking house with an asphalt shingle, front-gable roof. Constructed circa 1930, it is of wood-frame construction with a concrete block foundation. The milking house is located southwest of the house and west of the garage.

The third outbuilding is a guest house with an asphalt shingle, front-gable roof. Constructed circa 1930, it is of wood-frame construction with a concrete block foundation. The guest house is located northwest of the house, garage, and milking house.

7. Description (Continued)

To the south of the guest house are the ruins of a stone fireplace. The fireplace has a large, concrete-covered stone hearth, and a clay flue.

The fourth outbuilding is a two-car garage with an asphalt shingle, front-gable roof. Constructed circa 1930, it is of wood-frame construction with a concrete block foundation. The two-car garage is located southwest of the house, west of the one-car garage and milking house, and southwest of the guest house and fireplace.

The fifth outbuilding is a stable with a standing seam metal cross-gable roof. Constructed circa 1930, it is of wood-frame construction with a concrete block foundation. The stable has been converted to a residence and it has three entry porches with jigsaw cut scroll brackets. The stable is located south of the house and outbuildings.

The sixth outbuilding is a cinderblock shed with an asphalt shingle, front-gable roof. Constructed circa 1950, the shed is located south of the house and outbuildings.

The property is located on the west side of Briggs Chaney Road, with residential property to the north, south, and west. The property slopes gently down to the west, and there are many old trees near the house and outbuildings. There is a small meadow west of the buildings. The roperty's setting is a post-1945 suburban area that has recently been developed with new single-family houses.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
__prehistoric	__archaeology-prehistoric	__Community planning	__landscape architecture	__religion
__1400-1499	__archeology-historic	__conservation	__law	__science
__1500-1599	__ agriculture	__economics	__literature	__sculpture
__1600-1699	x_architecture	__education	__military	__social/ humanitarian
__1700-1799	__art	__engineering	__music	
__1800-1899	__commerce	__exploration/settlement	__philosophy	__theater
x_1900-	__communication	__industry	__politics/government	__transportation
		__invention		__other (specify)

Specific dates 1929 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B _x_C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state _x_local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The location of the George M. Edwards Farmstead, in the area of Colesville, is shown on the 1879 Hopkins Atlas as land belonging to Lloyd Green. The earliest reference for the property is a deed dated October 1880 which documents Lloyd Green conveyed approximately 97.94 hectares (242 acres) of land to Edward Fawcett. In January 1919, Edward Fawcett conveyed approximately 38.04 hectares (94 acres) of the land to George W. and George M. Edwards. George M. Edwards acquired the title to 14.97 hectares (37 acres) of this land in September 1923. According to the current owner, the house was built in 1929, during the ownership of George M. Edwards. The dwelling is identical in design to the John Norton House at 13808 Old Columbia Pike (M:34-23), also constructed in 1929 and located approximately .40 kilometer (.25 mile) southeast of the Edwards House. These two structures were likely constructed by the same builder. In addition, the two structures were both owned by the Edwards family in the early twentieth century.

Edwards owned the property until February 1945, when he conveyed approximately 13.15 hectares (32½ acres) to William Humphreys. The property then had a succession of owners until June 1956, when a 1.70 hectare (4.21 acre) parcel containing the house and outbuildings was acquired by George T. and Elnora H. Merriken. The Merriken family currently owns the property.

The George M. Edwards Farmstead, located on Briggs Chaney Road in the Colesville area, is on land originally patented in 1720 as "Beall's Manor" in what was then Prince George's County. Colesville developed from a cross-roads community at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue (Annapolis Road) and Randolph Road (Old Annapolis Road) in eastern Montgomery County. The first documented use of the name "Coalsville" was in 1804, in reference to a 1.11 hectare (2.75 acre) parcel at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and Notley Road, just north of the intersection mentioned above. By 1837 the center of the community had shifted to the southern intersection, and in 1844, a network of private roads running east/west, were made public and became known as Randolph Road. In 1851, the town had a post office, a hotel, two stores and at least one tavern. In the twentieth century, Colesville is located in the growing suburban Silver Spring and Rockville region. Several of the area's farms have been developed into residential subdivisions and modern commercial businesses have moved into the area.

8. Significance (Continued)

The George M. Edwards Farmstead house is a Four-square house. The Four-square house was 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 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).

8. Significance (Continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION:

The George M. Edwards Farmstead, constructed in 1929, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as an intact vernacular farm complex, including a Four-square house, two garages, milking house, a guest house, stable, and a shed. Character defining features of the main house such as a pyramidal roof, original double-hung windows, and hipped-roof dormers have been retained and possess good integrity. The George M. Edwards Farmstead retains its rural association and good site integrity despite the reduction of its land holdings to 1.70 hectares (4.21 acres). The period of significance of the property extends from 1929 to 1947. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state, or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. In addition, it has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, does not meet Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility Not Recommended _____

Comments: Criterion C.

Reviewer, OPS: E. Hannold/K. Williams Date: 11/25/1996

Reviewer, NR Program: [illegible] Date: 2/2/02

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.70 hectares (4.21 acres)
Quadrangle name Beltsville Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caroline Hall/Ryan P. McKay

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company date December 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

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Boyd, T.H.S. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968; reprint, Clarksburg: n.p.,1879.

Brugger, Robert A. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.

Caravan, Jill. American Barns, a Pictorial History. Philadelphia and London: Courage Books, 1995.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including County of Montgomery, Maryland. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1879; reprint, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A Knopf, Inc., 1984.

Merriken, Lynne. Personal Interview, 25 June 1996.

ells, Camille, ed. Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, II. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri, 1987.

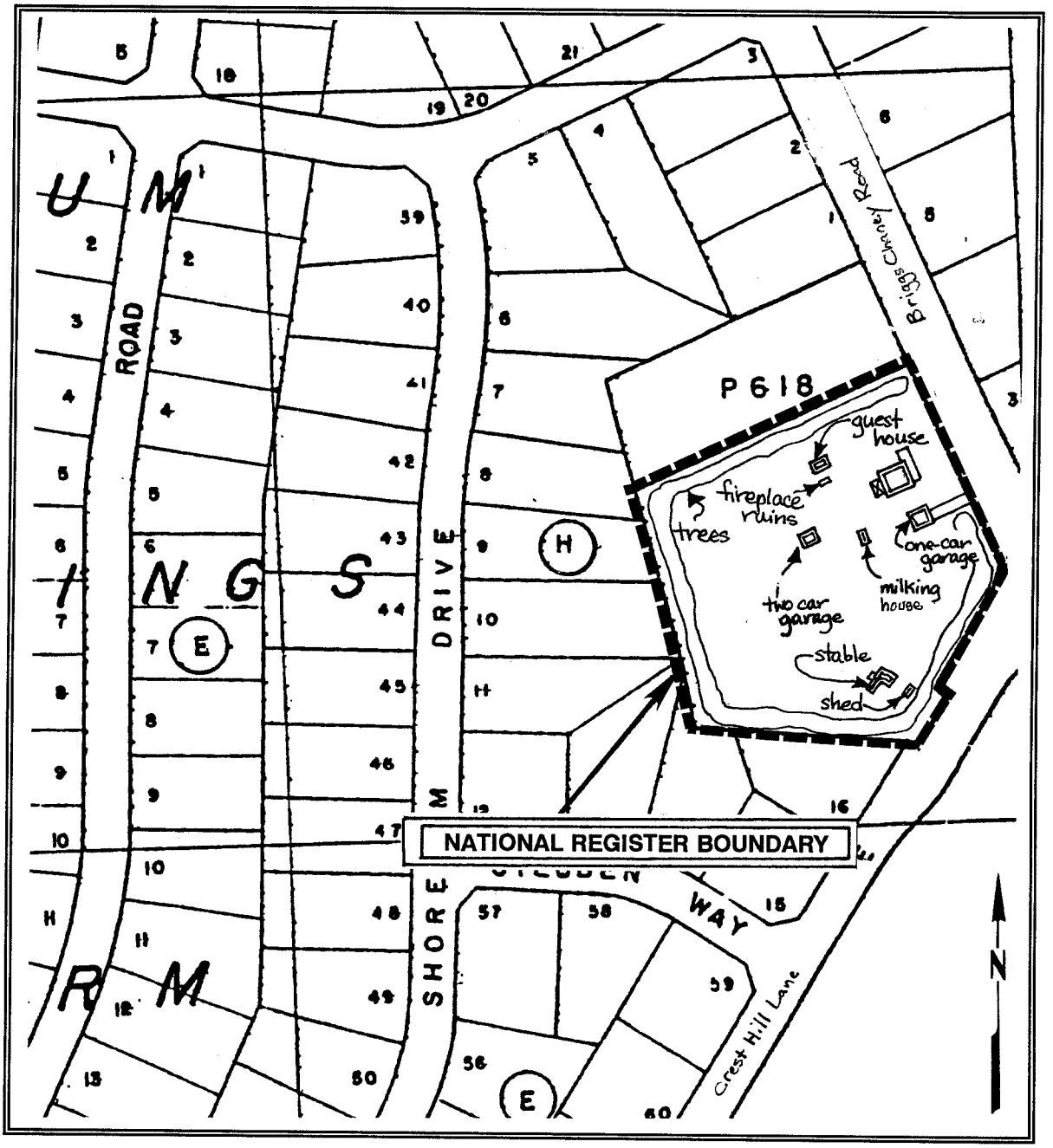
10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Verbal boundary description and justification:

The National Register boundary of the George M. Edwards Farmstead follow the current property lines of 2141 Briggs Chaney Road (Tax Map KR123, Parcel P673). This 1.70 hectare (4.21 acre) parcel is bounded on three sides by adjacent tax parcels, on the east by Briggs Chaney Road, and on the southeast by Crest Hill Lane. The boundary six structures which contribute to the significance of the property; the main house, two garages, a milking house, a guest house, the ruins of a fireplace, and a stable. In addition, one non-contributing structure, a cinderblock shed, is located within the proposed boundary. According to the Land Records of Montgomery County, the original property contained 97.94 hectares (242 acres), which was reduced to 14.97 hectares (37 acres) by the time the house was built in 1929. The parcel was subsequently subdivided over the years to its current 1.70 hectares (4.21 acres). The current parcel retains the rural character of the property.

10. Geographical Data

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

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

Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

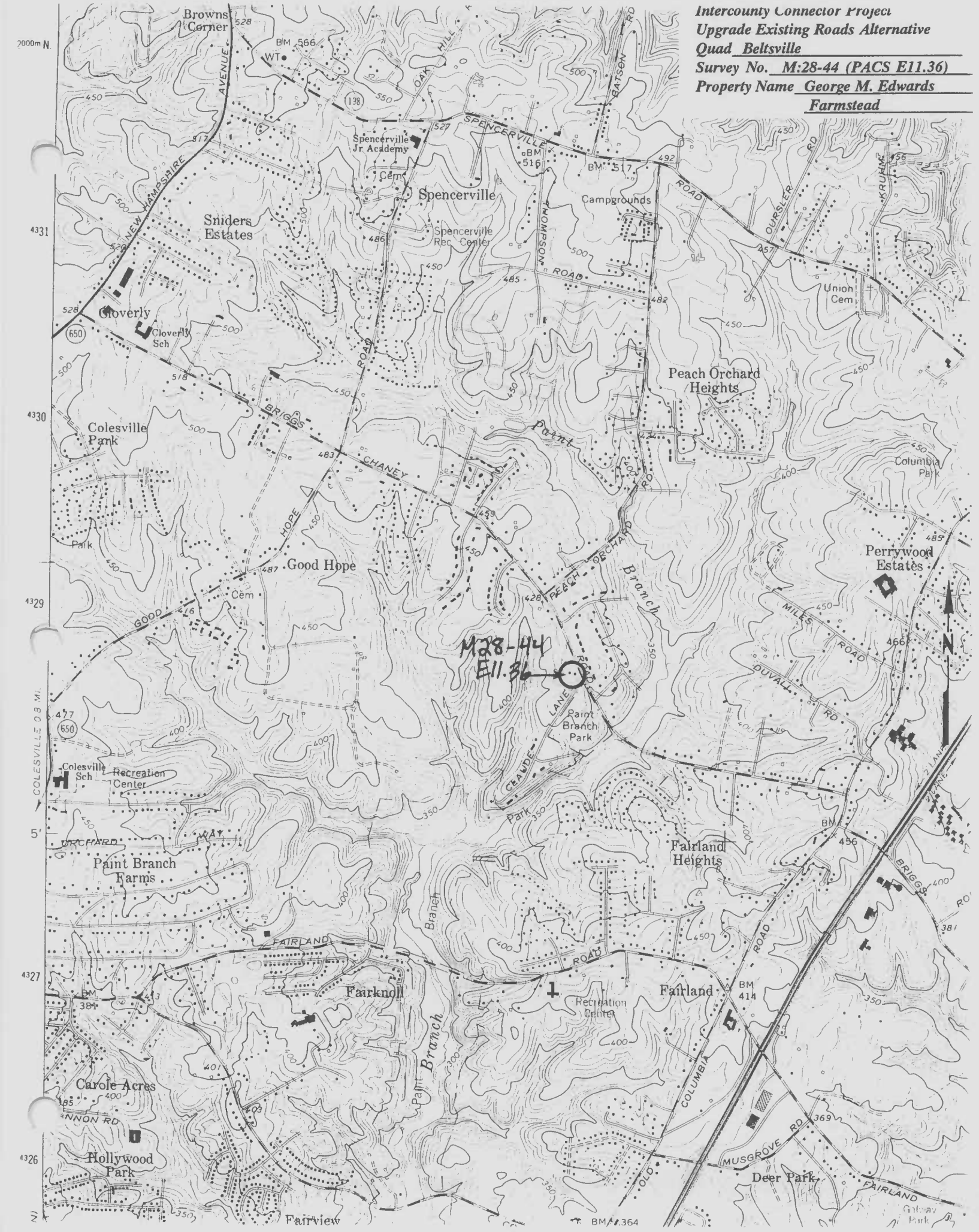
Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

reparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
December 1996

Intercounty Connector Project
Upgrade Existing Roads Alternative
Quad Beltsville
Survey No. M:28-44 (PACS E11.36)
Property Name George M. Edwards Farmstead



25 8'96

1. M: 28-44
2. George M Edwards Farmstead
3. Montgomery County
4. Ryan McKay
5. June 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero and Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave. Suite 412 Towson MD 21204
7. South and east elevation, 2141 Briggs Chaney Rd
8. 1 of 14

R
25 6 '36

1. M:28-44
2. George M. Edwards Farmstead
3. Montgomery County
4 Ryan McKay
5. June 1996
6 P.A.C. Spero and Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave. Suite 412 Towson MD 21204
7. East elevation, 2 - Briggs Chaney Rd.
8. 2 of 14

25 8'96

1. M28-44
2. George M. Edwards Farmstead
3. Montgomery County
4. Ryan McKay
5. June 1996
6. P.A.C. Spec and Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave. Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. West and south elevation, 2411 Briggs Chaney Rd.
8. 3 of 14

25 6'96

1. M-28-44
2. George H Edwards Farmstead
3. Montgomery County
4. Ryan McKay
5. June 1996
6. P.A.C. Spec and Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. North elevation, 2141 Briggs Chaney Rd.
8. 4 of 14

25 6 98

1. M28 44
2. George M Edwards Farmstead
3. Montgomery County
4. Ryan McKay
5. June 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero and Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave. Suite 1412 Towson MD 21204
7. East and North elevation, 2141 Briggs Chaney Rd.
8. 5 of 11

25 6'96

1 M:28-44

2. George M. Edwards Farmstead

3. Montgomery County

4. Ryan McKay

5. June 1996

6. P.A.C. Spero and Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave Suite 412 Towson MD 21204

7. Garage, 2441 Briggs Chaney Rd.

8. 6 of 14

25 6'96

M:28-44
2. George M. Edwards Farmstead
3. Montgomery County
4. Ryan McKay
5. June 1996
6. P.A.C Spero and Company 40 W Chesapeake Ave Suite 412 Towson MD 21204
7. Milking house, 2141 Griggs Chaney Rd
8. 7 of 14

25 6'96

1. M:28-44
2. George M. Edwards Farmstead
3 Montgomery County
4 Ryan McKay
5. June 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero and Company 40 W Chesapeake Ave. Suite 412 Towson MD 21204
7. Guest house, 21411 Briggs Chaney Rd.
8. 8 of 14

25 6 '56

1. M: 28-44
2. George M. Edwards Farmstead
3. Montgomery County
4. Ryan McKay
5. June 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero and Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave. Suite 412 Towson MD 21204
7. Fireplace ruin, 2141 Briggs Chaney Rd.
8. 9 of 14

25 8 96

1. M:28-44
2. George M. Edwards Farmstead
3. Montgomery County
4. Ryan McKay
5. June 1996
6. P.A.C. Sarro and Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave Suite 412 Towson MD 21204
7. Garage 2, 21411 Briggs Chaney Rd.
8. 10 of 14

25 6'96

1. M 28-44
2. George M. Edwards Farmstead
3. Montgomery County
4. Ryan McKay
5. June 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero and Company 40 W Chesapeake Ave. Suite 412 Towson MD 21204
7. Stable, 2141 Briggs Chaney Rd
8. 11 of 14

1. M:28-44
2. George M. Edwards farmstead
3. Montgomery County
4. Ryan McCay
5. June 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Towson, MD 21204
7. shed, 2141 Briggs Chaney Rd.
8. 12 of 14

25 6 96

1. M: 28-311
2. George H Edwards Farmstead
3. Montgomery County
4. Ryan McCarg
5. June 1996
6. P.A.C. Board Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave. Suite 412 Towson MD 21204
7. Property 2411 Briggs Chaney Rd, view east
8. 13 of 14

23 8 98

1. M 28-44
2. George M. Edwards Farmstead
3. Montgomery County
4. Ryan McKay
5. June 1996
6. P.A.C. Speroand Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave Suite 412 Towson MD 21204
7. Property, 2141 Briggs Chaney Rd, view southeast
8. 14 of 14