Survey No. M:31-18(PACS B2.29)

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

DOE ___yes ___no

. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Willard Straight Property

and/or common John Gagnon Property

2. Location:

street & number 4417 Gridley Road ___ not for publication

city, town Rockville _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:
	___not applicable	_x_no	___military	
			___transportation	

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

name John & C.A. Gagnon

street & number 4417 Gridley Road telephone no.:

city,town Silver Spring state and zip code MD 20906

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Montgomery County liber 12025

street & number 50 Maryland Avenue folio 63

city,town Rockville state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___federal ___state ___county ___local

depository for survey records

ty,town state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one	
___excellent	___deteriorated	___unaltered	_x_original site	
_x_good	___ruins	_x_altered	___moved	date of move _____
__fair	___unexposed			

Resource Count: 2

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

The Willard Straight Property is a 2-story, 2-bay vernacular Colonial Revival residence on the north side of Gridley Road in the Rockville vicinity, Montgomery County. Constructed in 1918, the building has a 1-story, front-gable porch on the front elevation and a 1-story, hipped roof addition on the rear elevation

The structure has an asphalt shingle, side-gable roof with an end wall brick chimney at the west elevation. It is of wood-frame construction with vinyl siding, it has a stuccoed foundation, and the windows are wood frame.

The first story of the front, or south facade has an off-center entrance with a 6-panel wood door and a triple, 6/1 double-hung window. The porch on this elevation has square wood columns, a wood railing, wood floor, and wood lattice skirting. The second story has two pairs of 6/1 double-hung windows.

The west elevation has two, 2-light sliding windows on the basement level and a wood door at grade. The first story has one, 6/1 double-hung window and one, 6-light fixed window. The second story has three, 6/1 double-hung windows and there is one, 6/1 double-hung window in the gable end.

The rear, or north elevation has a 1-story, hipped roof addition on the first story. The second story has one pair of 6/1 double-hung windows, and two, single, 6/1 double-hung windows.

The east elevation has two, 2-light sliding windows on the basement level and two, 6/1 double-hung windows on the first story. There are two, 6/1 double-hung windows on the second story and one, 6/1 double-hung window in the gable end.

Typical elements of the Colonial Revival-style, including paired and triple windows, and classical porch columns are evident in this structure.

There is one outbuilding associated with this property, a wood-frame, front-gable garage. The structure has two, overhead metal garage doors on the west elevation, and is located to the north, or rear of the house.

The property is located on the north side of Gridley Road, and the east side of Charles Road. There is residential development on all properties adjacent to this structure.

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	__architecture	__education	__military	__social/ humanitarian
__1700-1799	__art	__engineering	__music	__theater
__1800-1899	__commerce	__exploration/settlement	__philosophy	__transportation
x 1900-	__communication	__industry	__politics/government	__other (specify)
		__invention		

Specific dates 1918 **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.

Leigh Hunt and Willard Straight purchased approximately 76 hectares (188 acres) of farmland southeast of Rockville in 1914. The partnership began dividing the land into lots, however Hunt sold his half of the land to Straight in 1916. The extant house was constructed in 1918, however, little other development occurred in the area until after World War II. Straight Improvement Company, as the business became known, continued to acquire land in the area, including over 380 hectares (950 acres) in the 1930s. Finally, in the late 1940s, much of the land was sold to the Viers Mill Village Company, which began building on the adjacent lots. The Willard Straight Property is now located in Viers Mill Village on a .07 hectare (.18 acre) lot.

Rockville became the County seat when Montgomery County was created in 1776. Through most of the 19th century, Rockville was a courthouse village, surrounded by agricultural land. It remained a small town until the coming of the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1873. The railroad brought summer and weekend visitors, and the resort trade encouraged the rapid expansion of Rockville, both in size and population. Many summer hotel patrons built summer residences and others became year-round residents.

Following the rapid growth from the 1870s to the 1890s, the expansion of Rockville stabilized until a second development boom after World War II. The growth of the Federal government in nearby Washington, D.C. in the years after the War, spurred considerable suburban expansion in Rockville and surrounding areas. Access to the Capital by rail and improved roadways encouraged this suburban expansion (Rockville Historic District Commission, 1973).

While the Queen Anne, Folk Victorian and Four Square styles were at the height of popularity in the United States, the Colonial Revival style, such as the Willard Straight house, began to capture the American imagination. Popular in the years from 1880 to 1955, the Colonial Revival style resulted from a rebirth of interest in the colonial English and Dutch houses of the eastern seaboard coincident with the Philadelphia Centennial. Stylistic details in Colonial Revival dwellings were drawn predominantly from Georgian and Federal styles; secondary influences included Dutch Colonial and English Post-medieval types. Late nineteenth century examples of Colonial Revival were often asymmetrical and exhibited a combination of Queen Anne features, such as turrets and wide porches, and Colonial features such as Palladian windows and Adamesque swags and urns. Examples built from 1915 to 1935 reflected colonial precedents more closely, while those built after World War II simplified the style, with details which only suggested rather than duplicated the original examples. Various sub-styles, such as the Dutch Colonial Revival, were popular during the early to mid-twentieth century.

8. Significance (Continued)

Colonial Revival houses are usually strictly rectangular in plan with few projections, and have symmetrical facades. They range from one to three stories with hipped, side-gable, cross-gable, or gambrel roofs. Clapboard is the most popular sheathing material, although brick is not uncommon. After World War II, colonial homes frequently featured a brick-sided first story with an overhanging wood-sided second story. In more elaborate homes, a hipped roof is often topped with a flat deck, with a surrounding railing and sometimes a cupola. Pedimented doorways and fanlights are common. Some pediments evolved into porticos with slender columns. The typical form of the windows is rectangular with double-hung sash. Palladian windows are common on more sophisticated dwellings. The addition of side porches, terraces and sunrooms are modern features common to Colonial Revivals homes (McAlester 1984, 321-6).

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION:

The Willard Straight Property, a vernacular example of the Colonial Revival style constructed in 1918, is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. 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. The property does not meet Criterion C, as it is an undistinguished example of a common architectural style. Although the structure shows evidence of the influence of the Colonial Revival style, it lacks finely articulated details common to the style, including classical detailing, a front door with sidelights, and use of decorative fenestration such as the Palladian window. In addition, the integrity of the structure has been compromised through the application of vinyl siding and the construction of a rear addition. The property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended X

Comments: _____

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

Reviewer, NR Program: [signature] Date: 3/4/02

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .07 hectare (.18 acres)
Quadrangle name Kensington, MD 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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caroline Hall

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.

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

Coleman, Margaret Marshall. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1984, rev. 1990.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland. Washington: Judd and Detweiller, Inc., 1962.

Gowans, Alan. Styles and Types of North American Architecture. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.

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 County of Montgomery, Maryland. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1879; reprint, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

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.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1983.

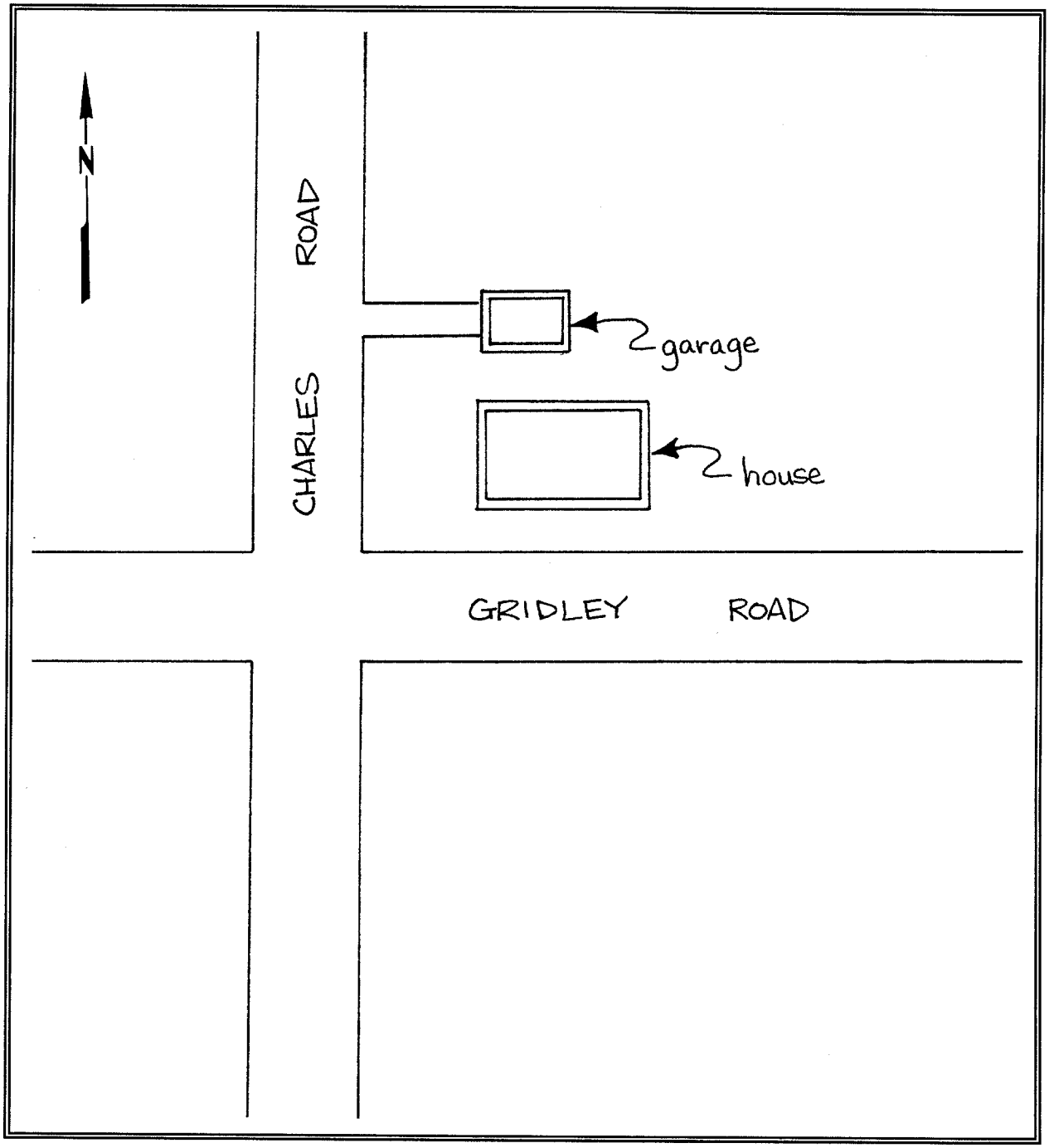
Rockville Historic District Commission. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: West Montgomery Avenue Historic District. Rockville, Maryland, 1973.

Tindall, George Brown. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1984.

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

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch 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

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

Intercounty Connector Project
Upgrade Existing Roads Alternative
Quad Kensington
Survey No. M:31-18 (PACS B2.29)
Property Name Willard Straight Property

1. M: 31-18
2. Willard Straight Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 4417 Gridley Road, South facade
8. 1055

1. M:31-18
2. Willard Straight Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412 Towson MD 21204
7. 4417 Gridley Road, East elevation
8. 2 of 5

1. M: 31-18
2. Willard Straight Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.O. Spero & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 4417 Gridley Road, west elevation
8. 3 of 5

1. M: 31-18
2. Willard Straight Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spuo & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 4417 Gridley Road, north elevation
8. 4 of 5

1. M: 31-18
2. Willard Straight Property
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. PAC Spero & Company, 40 W Chesapeake Ave. Suite 712, Towson MD 21204
7. 4417 Gridley Road, garage
8. 5 of 5