

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

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**1. Name:** (indicate preferred name)

historic Zook Park

and/or common

**2. Location:**

street &amp; number Myrtle Avenue and Briggs Chaney Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Calverton  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Prince George's

**3. Classification:**

| Category                                     | Ownership  | Status                                       | Present Use                             |   |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
| <input 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 residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                          | <b>Accessible</b>                            | <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"/> other:                       |
|  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no       | <input type="checkbox"/> military       |   |
|  |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |   |

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

name Multiple

street &amp; number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code MD

**5. Location of Legal Description**

Land Records Office of Prince George's County liber

street &amp; number Prince George's County Judicial Center folio

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title

date \_\_\_federal \_\_\_state \_\_\_county \_\_\_local

depository for survey records

ty, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. PG:61-30(PACS E5.10)

| 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 type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |                    |

Resource Count: 17

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

Zook Park, developed in 1940 and from 1946 to 1955, is a subdivision characterized by 1½-story, 3-bay front- and side-gable cottages. The subdivision is located in the 4200 and 4300 block of Briggs Chaney Road, and the 12000 block of Myrtle Avenue.

The properties on Briggs Chaney Road consist of six front-gable cottages constructed in 1940. One additional cottage, which was constructed circa 1920, was altered by the developer in 1940. The cottages generally have a front entry and a paired window on the front elevation, and a paired window in the gable end. The cottages have a variety of siding types, including asbestos shingles, vinyl siding, and aluminum siding. Two of the cottages on the 4200 block have been altered by large additions; the other four cottages remain as originally built.

The properties on Myrtle Avenue, constructed from 1946 to 1955, consist of ten identical 1½-story, 3-bay side-gable cottages. The cottages have a front entry with a small gable entry porch and two windows on the front elevation. All cottages have an interior brick chimney located near the center of the building, and a small projecting side bay with a side entry. Two of the cottages have been altered by the addition of a full second story, while the other eight cottages remain as originally designed. The cottages have a variety of siding types, including asbestos shingle, vinyl, and aluminum.

Zook Park is located on the north side of Briggs Chaney Road and on either side of Myrtle Avenue. Myrtle Avenue is a one-block long, gravel road ending at woods north of the development. The site is generally level, with 1950s and 1960s residences to the west and east, and undeveloped woodland to the north. Briggs Chaney Road is a residential street which has become a major traffic route.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. PG:61-30(PACS E5.10)

| 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                  | 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 1940, 1946 to 1955

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.

According to members of the Zook family, Oscar and Myrtle Zook bought 3.24 hectares (8 acres) of land from the Marlow family in the mid 1930s. Zook remodeled an existing cottage on the site in 1940 and began constructing the cottages along Briggs Chaney Road, which at that time was a small gravel road from Beltsville to Fairland. Zook suspended his building during the Second World War due to a shortage of building materials. After the war, Zook began work on the subdivision again, completing four cottages on Myrtle Avenue by 1948, then constructing the remaining six during the period from 1949 to 1955. The subdivision remains the home of four members of the Zook family. During the 1950s and 1960s, the woodland around the subdivision was developed as residences. Currently, all cottages constructed by Zook remain and are occupied.

Zook Park is located on Briggs Chaney Road in the Calverton area, on land originally patented to Archibald Edmonston in 1720 as "Deer Park", which was a grant of 276 hectares (682 acres) of land between the Paint Branch and Little Paint Branch, and from approximately Randolph Road to Briggs Chaney Road (Boyd 1879: 38). Historically, Calverton was an area of rolling farmland, and grain and tobacco farming occurred in the region. Briggs Chaney Road is located in the transitional area between Beltsville and the North Beltsville gravel mines to the east and southeast, and the crossroads community of Fairland to the west. Suburban development after the Second World War, as well as improved transportation routes such as Interstate 95, made this area accessible to workers commuting to jobs in Washington. Today, much of the farmland has disappeared as this area of Prince George's County has become densely populated and intensely developed (Prince George's County Community Renewal Program, 1974: 294).

Zook Park is a subdivision consisting of small front- and side-gable cottages. 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-gable, side-gable, cross-gable, gable-front-and-wing, and hipped roof frame cottages were

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
 STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
 RESOURCE NAME: Zook Park

SURVEY NO.: PG: 61-30 (PACS E5.10)

ADDRESS: Myrtle Ave. & Briggs Chaney Rd., Calverton vicinity, Prince George's County, Maryland

8. Significance (Continued)

developed in the early to mid-twentieth century. Front gable and hipped roof cottages are one to two 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 (although the Zook Park cottages are all custom built 1½-story buildings), are typically two to three bays in width and vary from one to three rooms deep (Gottfried and Jennings 1988, viii-xv). Zook Park was constructed by the developer and his family, and represents one builder's interpretation of this common building type.

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION:

Zook Park, constructed in 1940 and from 1946 to 1955, 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. Zook Park does not represent a significant trend in the suburban development of the Washington, D.C. area and does not have a distinctive plan or architectural features which indicate an organized design. 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. It is not eligible under Criterion C; the cottages present an undistinctive example of a common, unornamented, utilitarian architectural style, constructed by a developer intending to provide low-cost housing during the period of post-war expansion. 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 X

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer, OPS: Andrew Lewis Date: 11/6/91

Reviewer, NR Program: B. King Date: 11/9/91

✓-entered

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. PG:61-30 (PACS E5.10)

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See Continuation Sheet

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
Quadrangle name Beltsville, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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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

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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

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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: Zook Park

SURVEY NO.: PG: 61-30 (PACS E5.10)

ADDRESS: Myrtle Ave. & Briggs Chaney Rd., Calverton vicinity, Prince George's County, Maryland

## 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.

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

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.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1988.

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

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including the County of Prince George (sic), Maryland. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1878; reprint, Riverdale, Maryland: Prince George's County Historical Society, 1975.

Klein, Marilyn W. and David P. Fogle. Clues to American Architecture. Washington D.C. and Philadelphia: Starrhill Press, 1986.

Land Records of Prince George's County, Maryland.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Historic Contexts in Prince George's County. n.p., 1991.

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

Merson, Norma. Personal Interview, 10 July 1996.

Prince George's County Board of Education. Aspects of the History of Maryland and Prince George's County. n.p., 1967.

Prince George's County Community Renewal Program. The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County. Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Prince George's County Government, 1974.

Rifkind, Carole. A Field Guide to American Architecture. New York: Signet Press, 1980.

Virta, Alan. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1991.

Zook, Eugene. Personal Interview, 10 July 1996.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Zook Park

SURVEY NO.: PG: 61-30 (PACS E5.10)

ADDRESS: Myrtle Ave. & Briggs Chaney Rd., Calverton vicinity, Prince George's County, Maryland

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Modern Period

A.D. 1930-present

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):

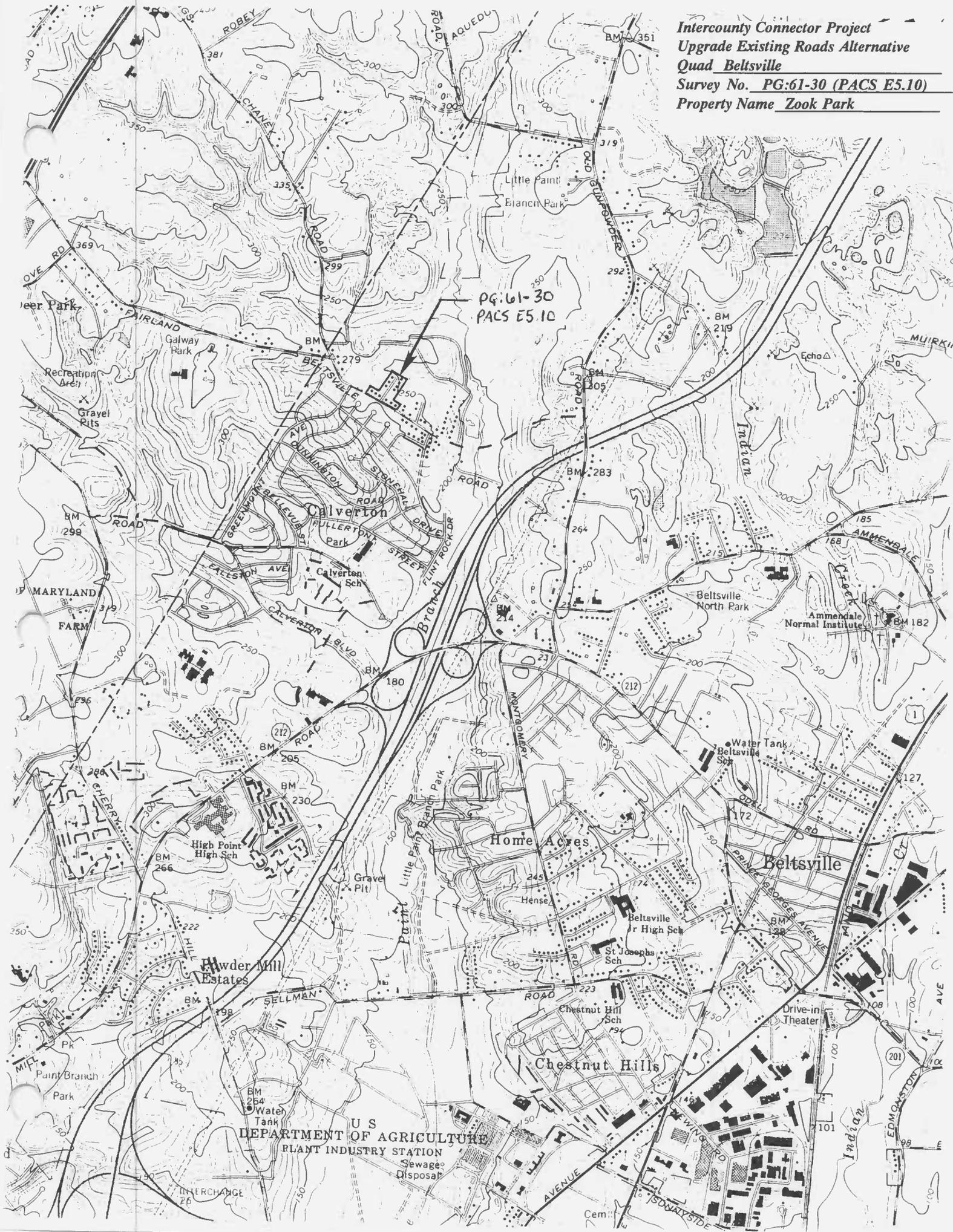
Private Residences

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

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

*Intercounty Connector Project  
Upgrade Existing Roads Alternative  
Quad Beltsville  
Survey No. PG:61-30 (PACS E5.10)  
Property Name Zook Park*



U S  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PLANT INDUSTRY STATION  
Sewage Disposal



1. PG. 101-30

2. Zook Park

3. Prince George's

4. Ryan McKay

5. July 1996

6. P.A.C. Sperry & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake  
Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204

7. Myrtle Ave and Briggs Charey Road,  
4312 Briggs Charey Road  
North elevation

8. 1 of 11



1. PG, 61-30
2. Zoo Park
3. Prince George's
4. Ryan McKay
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Sporo & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake  
Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. Myrtle Ave & Briggs Charey Road, 4518  
Briggs Charey Road  
North elevation
8. 2 of 11



1. PG. 61-30
2. Zoo Park
3. Prince George's
4. Ryan McKay
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spool & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake  
Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. Myrtle Ave & Briggs Charey load, 4300  
Block of Briggs Charey load  
North West View
8. 3 of 11



1. PG 61-30

2. Zook Park

3. Prince George's

4. Ryan McKay

5. July 1996

6. P.A.C. Sporo & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake  
Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204

7. Myrtle Ave & Briggs Charey Road, 4300  
block of Briggs Charey Road

8. 4 of 11

North west View



1. PG 61-30
2. Fort Park
3. Prince George's
4. Ryan McKay
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Sporo & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake  
Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. Myrtle Ave & Briggs Charey Road, 4300  
Block of Briggs Charey Road  
North west view
8. 5 of 11



1. PG. 61-30

2. Zook Park

3. Prince George's

4. Ryan McKay

5. July 1996

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

7. Myrtle Ave & Biggs Charey Road, 4200  
Block of Biggs Charey Road  
North west view

8. Leaf 11



1. PG 61-30
2. ~~Zoo~~ Park
3. Prince George's
4. Ryan McKay
5. July 1996
6. P. A. C. Spero & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. Myrtle Ave & Briggs Clancy Road, 12000 Block of Myrtle Ave, east side
8. 7 of 11



1. PG. 31-30

2. Zook Park.

3. Prince Georges

4. Ryan McKay

5. July 1996

6. P.A.C. Spered Company, 40 W. Chesapeake  
Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204

7. Myrtle Ave & Briggs Chaney Road,  
12000 block of Myrtle Ave, West  
side

8. 8 of 11



1. PG 61-30

2. Zoo Park

3. Prince George's

4. Ryan McKay

5. July 1996

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

7. Myrtle Ave & Biggs Charey Road, 12208  
Myrtle Ave Front  
elevation

8 9 of 11



- 1 PG 61-30
2. Zook Park
3. Prince George's
4. Ryan McKay
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company, 40 W Chesapeake  
Ave, Suite 412, Towson, MD 21204
7. Myrtle Ave & Briggs Charey Road, 4300  
Block of Briggs Charey Road  
North East View
- 8 10 of 11



1. P.O. 161-30

2. Zoo Park

3. Prince George's

4. Ryan McKay

5. July 1996

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

7. Myrtle Ave & Briggs Clancy Road, 4200  
Block Briggs Clancy Road  
North West View

8. 11 of 11