

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. 66-26 Building Date: 1925

Building Name: Columbia Apartment

Location: 7405 Columbia Avenue, College Park

Private/Multifamily/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Columbia Apartment building is a two story, five-by-three bay rectangular frame structure with a narrow mansard roof slope hiding a shallow hipped roof. The building is set on a small town lot, fronting on Columbia Avenue in Old Town College Park. The five-bay west (main) facade has central entrance in a one-story projecting vestibule. The entry door is surmounted by a wide rectangular opening infilled with siding which was probably a transom. A shed roof entrance porch crosses the first story facade. Tuscan Doric columns support a wide plain architrave and boxed overhanging eaves. The balustrade has plain rectangular balusters. The central bay of the porch roof projects, emphasizing the building's central entrance vestibule. In addition to the entrance door, the porch roof shelters an entrance in the second and fourth bays. Windows on the first and second story are two-over-two sash, six feet in height. The window and door surrounds are plain, flat boards. The frieze board at cornice level has the shadow of large dentil blocks visible in the painted surface, but the dentils have all been removed. The building is covered with lapped blue-colored vinyl siding over the original German siding. The foundation of the building is gray-painted rusticated concrete block.

Significance:

The Columbia Apartments is significant as an early 20th century suburban multifamily dwelling, a form unusual in Prince George's County. Located in College Park, the apartment building foreshadowed housing trends in that community, which is unique in the County for the influence of a transient population of university students upon the housing stock. The building was constructed in 1925 by Elmore Power, a builder and real estate developer who resided in College Park and concentrated his development activities there. The building was originally constructed to house teaching staff of the then Maryland State College of Agriculture. There is an exterior door at both first and second story levels on the four quadrants of the front elevation, indicating four apartments, two on the first story and two on the second. The building retained features of Victorian design when it was constructed and its appearance remains, despite extensive alterations. The interior retains its original stair and some moldings such as door surrounds and baseboards. Some apartments retain decorative mantels and ceiling cornice molding.

Acreage: 2,457 square feet

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Columbia Apartments

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 7405 Columbia Avenue \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town College Park \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Apartment Building

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

name Harry D. Basey

street & number 7405 Columbia Avenue, Apt. #1 telephone no.:

city, town College Park state and zip code Maryland 20740

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5501

street & number Main Street folio 547

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title NA

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Room 4010, County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

# 7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#66-26

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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		

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

The Columbia Apartment building is a two story, five-by-three bay rectangular frame structure with a narrow mansard roof slope hiding a shallow hipped roof. The building is set on a small town lot, fronting on Columbia Avenue in Old Town College Park.

The five-bay west (main) facade has central entrance in a one-story projecting vestibule. The entry door is new and has a large central rectangular glazed panel. It is flanked by rectangular sidelights surmounting wainscot panels. There are three wainscot panels below one sidelight and two below the other. The entry door is surmounted by a wide rectangular opening infilled with siding which was probably a transom that has now been covered over.

A shed roof entrance porch crosses the first story facade. Tuscan Doric columns support a wide plain architrave and boxed overhanging eaves. The balustrade has plain rectangular wooden balusters. The wooden porch floor is supported on high rusticated concrete block piers. The space between the piers is filled with wood lattice panels. The porch is reached by a central flight of concrete stairs. The central bay of the porch roof projects, emphasizing the building's central entrance vestibule, and is supported on heavy rectangular posts.

In addition to the entrance door, the porch roof shelters an entrance in the second and fourth bays. The doors are glazed with twelve glass panes. The north door is surmounted by a rectangular transom.

Windows on the first and second story are two-over-two sash, approximately six feet in height. There are old pins to support shutter hinges embedded in the window surrounds. There have been no shutters on the building for at least ten years, however. The window and door surrounds are plain, flat boards. There are multi-pane glazed doors in the second and fourth bay at second story level, with access onto the porch roof.

The wide frieze board at cornice level has the shadow of large dentil blocks still visible in the painted surface. The dentils have all been removed. There are boxed widely overhanging eaves and a narrow mansard roof slope covered with asphalt shingle.

The Columbia apartment building is covered with lapped blue-colored vinyl siding over the original German siding. The soffits of the eaves have also been covered with vinyl as have the building's corner boards. The foundation of the building is gray-painted rusticated concrete block.

The two bay south elevation has irregularly sized and spaced windows. There are two foundation windows with brick sills. The two 2/2 sash windows on the first story have wooden sills. There are three windows at second story level, a 2/2 sash and two 1/1 sash windows which are new replacements. The three story shed roof rear addition is visible from this elevation.

The two-by-three bay rear addition dominates the east (rear) facade. It is centered on but not quite as wide as the main block of the building. The lot slopes down on the east side, making the basement story of the rear addition a full above grade story. It stands on a concrete slab foundation. The window treatment is the same as that on the main block. There are boxed vinyl-covered overhanging eaves. Doors at second and third story level on the east facade are reached by a metal fire escape.

The three-bay north elevation of the main block has unevenly spaced windows. There are three foundation windows with fixed sash composed of three horizontally placed lights. A metal balcony and fire escape ladder is attached to the building at the second story northwest window.

The interior plan of the Columbia Apartments includes a central entrance hallway, with an entry to an apartment in the north, south and east walls. The open-string stair rises along the south wall in a single flight to the second story. There is a heavy, deeply turned newel post on a circular base, and two turned balusters to a step. The baseboard, door and window surrounds are a combination of original material and recent replacements. The original baseboard along the base of the stair is wide with a cap. Original door surrounds are flat, two-step surrounds with an inner bead and an outer rectangular backband. The window surrounds are similar but have heavier, bolder moldings.

The second story hall has entry to an apartment in the north, south and east walls. The south apartment on the second story has an original wooden mantel having a round-arch opening flanked by heavy rectangular pilasters on base-blocks. The parlor has a three course wooden cornice molding.

The Columbia Apartment building stands on a small lot of 2,457 square feet. A concrete block commercial building to the rear (east) stands between it and the railroad track.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#66-26

Period	Area of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-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 checked="" 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"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> political/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		Local history

Specific dates 1925 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  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 Columbia Apartments are significant as an early 20th century suburban multifamily dwelling, a form unusual in Prince George's County. Located in College Park, the apartment building foreshadowed housing trends in that community, which is unique in the County for the influence of a transient population of university students upon the housing stock. The building was constructed in 1925 by Elmore Power, a builder and real estate developer who resided in College Park and concentrated his development activities there.

The rectangular frame building was originally constructed as an apartment building, probably to house teaching staff of the then Maryland State College of Agriculture. There is an exterior door at both first and second story levels on the four quadrants of the front elevation, indicating four apartments, two on the first story and two on the second. On the interior, the large central hallway is quite closed in appearance, with no exits off of it save for three apartment doors on each level and an entrance to the basement stair. The exterior originally was quite ornamental in detail, having a slate-covered mansard roof, a bold heavy dentil band beneath the boxed overhanging cornice and an entrance porch with a balcony at second story level. All of these features have been removed. The building has been covered with vinyl siding, resulting in the flattening of the profile of the window and door surrounds. Original details that remain on the building include the first story porch, with its Tuscan Doric columns, balustrade and projecting central bay, rusticated concrete block foundation, mansard roofline and arrangement of door and window openings. The building retained features of Victorian design when it was constructed and its appearance as a late 19th-early 20th century building remains, despite extensive alterations. The interior retains its original stair and some moldings such as door surrounds and baseboards. Some apartments retain decorative mantels and ceiling cornice molding.

The apartment building was built in 1925 by Elmore Power, on Lot 6, Block 1 of Johnson and Curriden's Subdivision of College Park.<sup>1</sup> Power sold it the following year to Mary A. Murphy, retaining a mortgage for \$6,965 on the property. According to land records, the Power family regained ownership of the property in 1938. However, Elmore Power's will, - dating to 1933, instructs his wife to take up residence in the Columbia Apartments and manage them.<sup>2</sup> It is not clear how he retained control of the property when it was clearly deeded to another party from 1926 to 1938.

Power (1877-1933) was listed as a carpenter and builder in the 1910 U.S. census. He became involved in real estate in 1917 when he purchased and replatted "Fanny A. Calvert's Addition to College Park", a subdivision of 55 acres located south of Calvert Avenue and just west of and adjoining the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad track. He also acquired lots along the east side of Columbia Road, including the apartment building property.<sup>3</sup>

The building contains seven apartments, four in the main block and three in the rear addition. The addition was constructed by 1939, as it appears on the 1939 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of College Park. The building was extensively renovated by the present owner in 1979, to install new wiring and plumbing systems. The owner continues repairs to the building, as needed, so that alterations such as replacement of original 2/2 wooden sash windows by 1/1 sash windows, removal of deteriorating wood details such as the shutters and wood dentils, and the addition of vinyl siding has occurred since 1979.<sup>4</sup>

#### Notes

1 Tax Assessments of Prince George's County, Election District 21, 1923-26.

2 Land Records of Prince George's County, 278:211, 283:391, Administration Files 5226 and 5254.

3 Land Records, Plat Map 2:60, and Deeds 125:347; Tax Assessments 1917-1920, Election District 19.

4 Conversation with Harry D. Basey, November, 1988.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#66-26

See Notes, #8

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2457 sq. feet

Tax Map 33

Quadrangle name Washington East B

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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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 Marina King, Architectural Historian

Prince George's County

organization Historic Preservation Commission date June 1989

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive, Room 4010 telephone 301-952-4609

city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

Chain of Title  
Columbia Apartments  
P.G. #66-26

5501:547  
27 Feb. 1981  
Deed  
Cheri L. Rock to Harry D. Basey. Grantor conveys Lot 6 in Block 1 saving and excepting the rear 15.9 feet depth by full width which was conveyed to Gordon T. Wells, Aug. 20, 1938, 518:69.

5111:547  
6 June 1979  
Deed  
Howard Lawrence Gaspin and Rochelle G. Wolf to Harry D. Basey and Cheri L. Rock. For \$10 grantor conveys Lot 6 in Block 1, Johnson and Curriden's Subdivision of College Park. 2,457 square feet as recorded April 20, 1960, 2442:342.

2442:342  
20 April 1960  
Deed  
Wallace D. Bassford, widower, surviving tenant of Anna A.G. Bassford, grantor, and Bruce Investment Corporation. For \$10 grantor conveys part of Lot 6, 2,457 square feet reserving easement for ingress and egress from or to any other part of premises known as 7405 Columbia Avenue. Same acquired May 1, 1946, 829:55.

829:55  
1 May 1946  
Deed  
Sam and Clara Book to Wallace and Anna Bassford. For \$10 grantors convey Lot 6, saving and excepting that conveyed by Mary M. Power et al. to G.T. Wells and Sons, August 20, 1938, 518:69.

518:69  
20 Aug. 1938  
Deed  
Mary Mowatt Power, widow, et. al., heirs of Elmore and Minerva M. Power, dec'd. to Gordon T. Wells et. al. For \$10 grantors convey part of Lot 1 in College Lawn and parts of Lots 6, 7, 8 & 9 in Block 1, Johnson and Curriden's Subdivision of College Park. Includes all of rear 15.9 feet of Lot 6 which said Mary Mowatt Power obtained from J. Guy Bell, Sheriff, April 5, 1938.

499:332  
Deed  
5 April 1938  
J. Guy Bell, Sheriff, to Mary M. Power. By virtue of Circuit Court decision, 31 January 1938, S. Kann Son, Co. vs. Mary A. Murphey, #4 Judicials, April Term 1938 - title to Power of Mary A. Murphy's Lot 6, Frontage 100 feet on Columbia Ave. by of depth 124 feet. Same in deed from Elmore Power and Mary Y. Power to Mary A. Murphy, Dec. 10, 1926. 278:211.

283:391  
22 Dec. 1926  
Mortgage  
Mary A. Murphy to Elmore Power. Murphy indebted to Power for \$6,965.87, balance of purchase money for Lot 6, Block 1, 50 feet frontage on Columbia Avenue by depth of 125 feet.

278:211  
10 Dec. 1926  
Deed  
Elmore Power and Mary Power to Mary A. Murphy. For \$10 grantors convey that parcel with improvements Lot 6, Block 1.

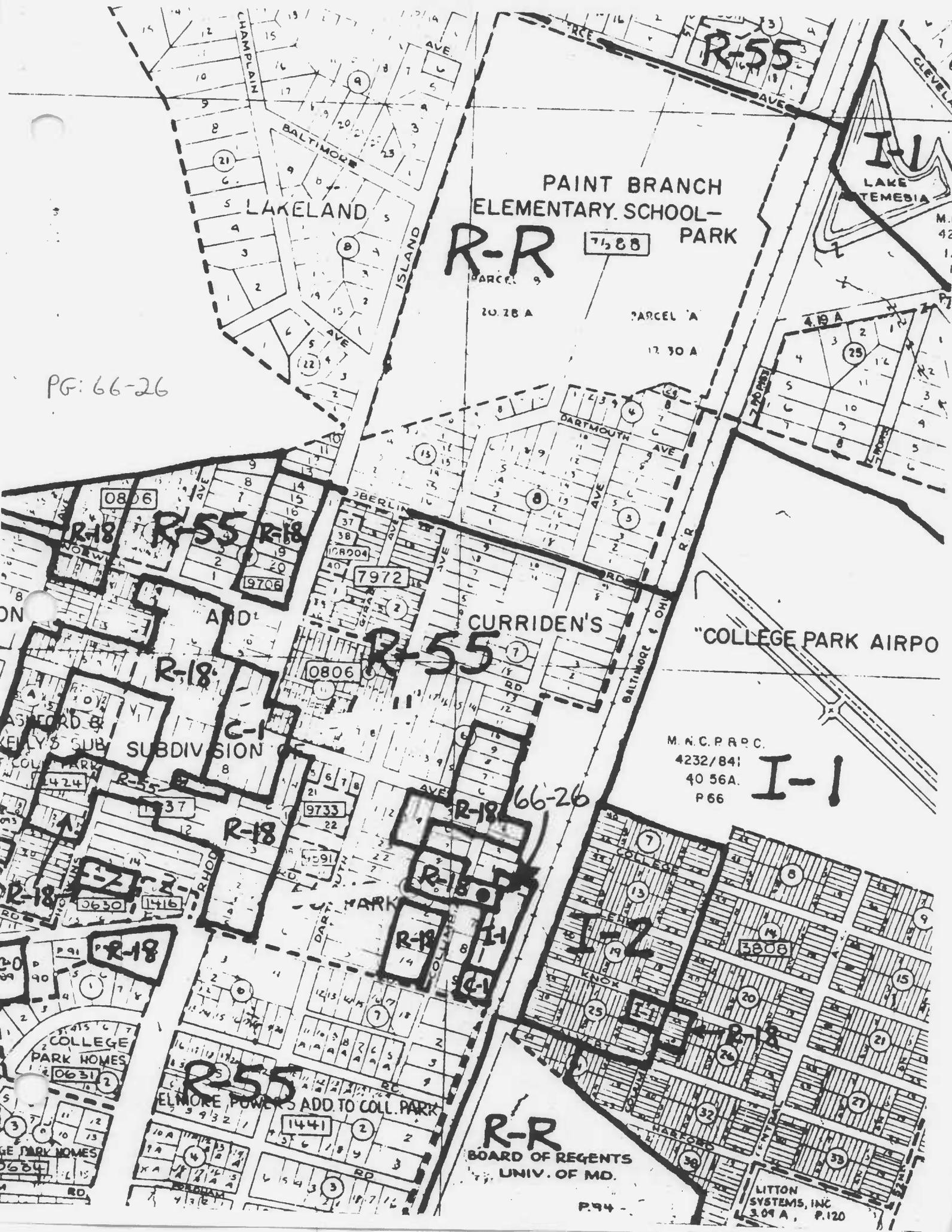
202:324  
16 July 1923  
Deed

Warren T. L. and Emily F. Taliaferro of College Park to Elmore Power. For \$10 grantors convey a part of same land Warren T. L. Taliaferro obtained from Carrie M. Leavengood 2 Sept. 1911, 63:250 - Lots 6 and 7 in Block 1.

63:250  
25 Sept. 1911  
Deed

Carrie M. Leavengood and husband, of Pennsylvania to Warren T. L. Taliaferro of College Park. For \$1000 grantors convey part of same obtained from J. Charles Leavengood and Edward D. Johnson 22 March 1911, 69:286 - Lots 1-7 in Block 1, Johnson and Curriden's Subdivision College Park.

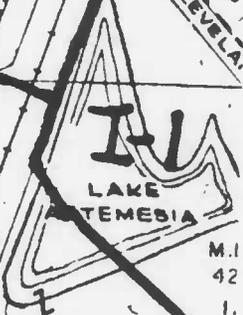
PG: 66-26



PAINT BRANCH  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-PARK  
**R-R** 7588

20.28 A PARCEL 9  
17.30 A PARCEL A

**R-55**



"COLLEGE PARK AIRPORT"

M.A.C.P.R.P.C.  
4232/84;  
40 56A.  
P66

**I-1**

CURRIDEN'S

**R-55**

**R-18**

SUBDIVISION

**R-18**

**R-18**

**R-18**

**R-18**

**R-55**

ELMORE POWER'S ADD TO COLL. PARK

**R-R**  
BOARD OF REGENTS  
UNIV. OF MD.

LITTON SYSTEMS, INC  
309 A, P.120

COLLEGE PARK HOMES

COLLEGE PARK HOMES



PG # 66-26

66-22

Washington East

Adelphi

Adelphi Park

Lewisdale

Kirkwood

North Woodridge

Chatham

College Heights Estates

Green's Chapel Manor

Queenstown

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

College Heights

Hyattsville

North Brentwood

COLLEGE PARK

Calvert Hills

West Riverdale

Edmonston

Bladensburg

Branahville

Berwyn

Paint Branch

Lakeland

College Park Airport

Erco Field

Riverdale Recreation Center

Green Manor

Spring Terrace

Ducat Town

Rogers Heights

Whitelay

Bladensburg High Sch

Bladensburg

Bladensburg

Bladensburg







7.5. 00 26

Columbia Maritime

Marina Line

Novena 988

SE

Virginia MD Historical

Trust, Annapolis















T.G. #66

bio partners  
Morris

November 1988

start case and recall

re-examine: MD Historical

with Annapolis



