PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

#68-61-5

Survey #: P.G. #68-~~81~~-5 Building Date: 1912

Building Name: Owings House

Location: 4535 41st Avenue, North Brentwood, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Owings House is a two-story frame dwelling; it has a shed roof with very shallow pitch, and a narrow ornamental mansard slope on the principal facade. Entrance is in the second bay of the two-bay west facade, sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch supported by metal trellis posts. The original wood siding is now covered with yellow aluminum siding, and windows are modern. The molded wood cornice survives; it is painted dark green, and is decorated by jigsawn brackets.

Significance

The subject house is an important element in the black community of North Brentwood; it is one of three houses built in 1912 by Irvin Owings as investment properties. Owings, a white man who lived in Hyattsville and was later elected Mayor of that town, purchased lots 12 through 15 in Block A, and built three identical houses fronting on Highland Avenue. All three were two stories high and two bays wide, with shallow shed roof, in a form sometimes referred to as a "free-standing rowhouse". This particular house form is distinguished from the flat-front, however, by a narrow ornamental mansard slope on the main facade, originally decorated with jigsawn brackets.

All three of these houses have been substantially altered, by the application of synthetic siding or veneer and by the construction of rear or side additions, but their original lines are clearly recognizable. The subject house is the central of the three. It served as a rental property until 1934 when it was sold to Henry Newton. Despite modern changes, it is still representative of one of the types of urban vernacular dwellings of the early twentieth century.

Acreage: 3,750 Square feet

Survey No. PG#68-61 -5

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Owings House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4535 41st Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town North Brentwood ___ vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland county Prince George's

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	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

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

name James Smith

street & number 4521 Banner Street telephone no.:

city, town North Brentwood state and zip code MD 20722

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6801

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 20

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#68-61-5

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

The Owings House is a two-story frame dwelling; it has a shed roof with very shallow pitch, and a narrow ornamental mansard slope on the principal facade. Entrance is in the second bay of the two-bay west facade, sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch supported by metal trellis posts. The original wood siding is now covered with yellow aluminum siding, and windows are modern. The molded wood cornice survives; it is painted dark green, and is decorated by jigsawn brackets.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#68-61-5

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	X 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	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1912 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B X C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __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 subject house is an important element in the black community of North Brentwood; it is one of three houses built in 1912 by Irvin Owings as investment properties. Owings, a white man who lived in Hyattsville and was later elected Mayor of that town, purchased lots 12 through 15 in Block A, and built three identical houses fronting on Highland Avenue. All three were two stories high and two bays wide, with shallow shed roof, in a form sometimes referred to as a "free-standing rowhouse". This particular house form is distinguished from the flat-front, however, by a narrow ornamental mansard slope on the main facade, originally decorated with jigsawn brackets.

All three of these houses have been substantially altered, by the application of synthetic siding or veneer and by the construction of rear or side additions, but their original lines are clearly recognizable. The subject house is the central of the three. It served as a rental property until 1934 when it was sold to Henry Newton. Despite modern changes, it is still representative of one of the types of urban vernacular dwellings of the early twentieth century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#68-61-5

Pearl, S.G., Historical Survey, North Brentwood, Maryland, MNCPPC, 1992; Prince George's County Deeds; PGC Tax Assessments; PGC Wills; PGC Estate Files; Federal Census Records for Prince George's County, MD, 1900, 1910; PGC Plats; PGC Equity Court Cases, etc.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3750 sq.ft. (Holladay, Block A, lot 13)

Quadrangle name Washington East Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

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 Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation, M-NCPPC date July 1992

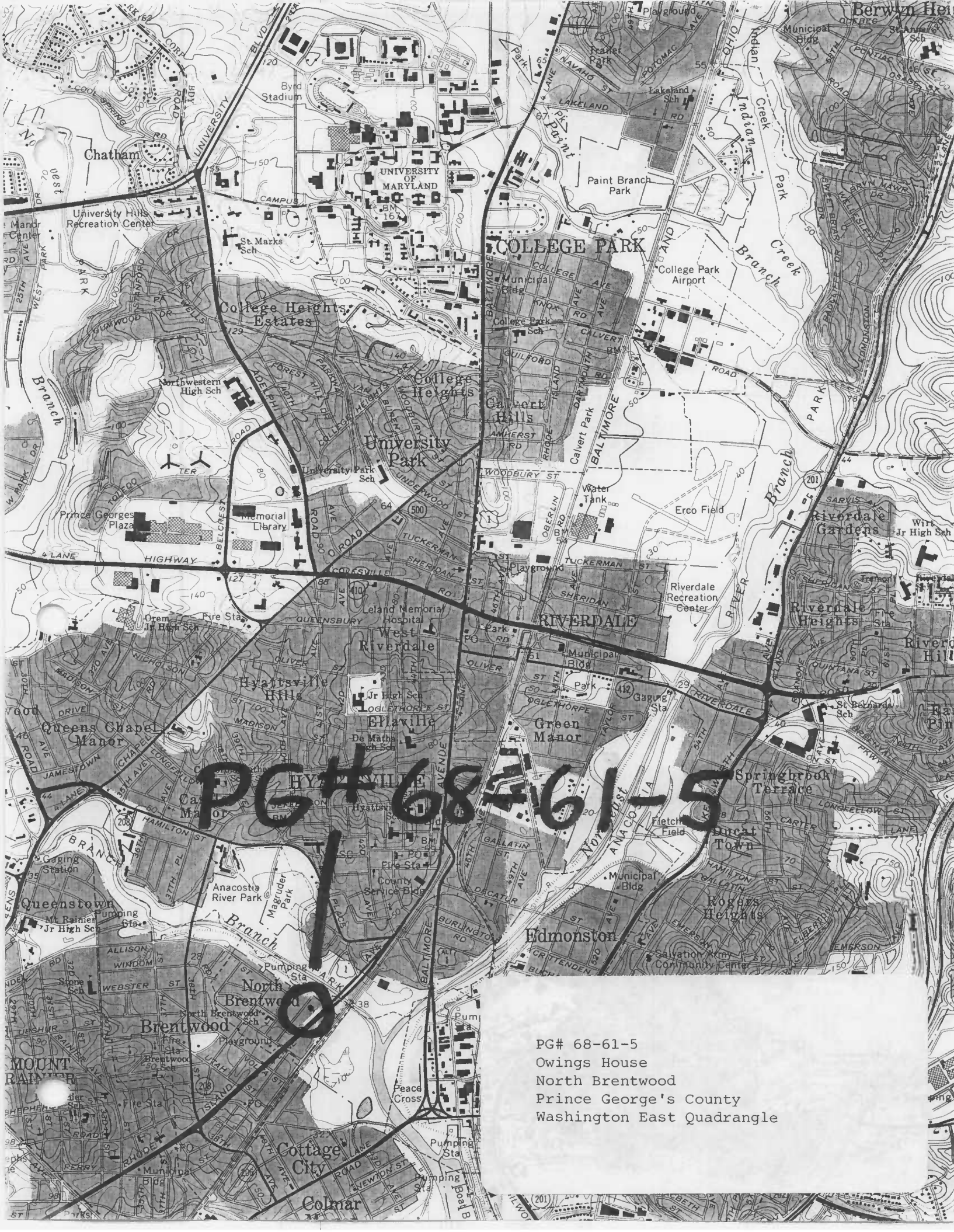
street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive telephone 301-952-3521

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



PG# 68-61-5
Owings House
North Brentwood
Prince George's County
Washington East Quadrangle

PG #68-61-5 (5)

Owings House

4535 41st Avenue, North

Brentwood, P.G. Co.

Susan G. Pearl

March 1991

Southwest 3/4 elevation

1 of 1