PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG#68-76 Building Date: Circa ~~68-76~~ 1912

Building Name: Freeman House

Location: 6122 42nd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

The Freeman House is a front-gabled frame dwelling with distinctive ornamental shingle decoration in the principal gable. It is two-and-one-half stories high and front-gabled, with entrance in the first bay of the principal east gable front, through a modern door with a small four-pane window and two-light transom. The door is framed by panels which replace the original sidelights. This gable front is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch supported by Tuscan columns on panelled wood bases painted white. The boxed cornice of the porch is punctuated by jigsawn brackets, painted the same wine-red. The original double-bevel German siding of the house is now covered with rectangular lapped shingle painted brown. Windows are generally 2/2 double-hung-sash, with plain board surrounds painted cream around wine-red sashes; there are no shutters. Ornamental shingle enlivens the surface of the gable front, both at second-story level and within the returned cornice which forms a pediment. Similar shingle treatment appears on the small third-level cross-gable on the north elevation. There are two auxiliary buildings on the lot: a garage and the "small house". The "small house" is one story high and front-gabled, and built of concrete block, with decorative details which give it an unusual and distinctive appearance.

Significance:

The Freeman House is a good example of a late Victorian period suburban dwelling type. It was built circa 1912 by Don Paxton. It is distinguished by its large size and the ornamental shingle decoration in the principal gable front. The "small house" was probably built during the 1940s during the ownership of Dr. Harold Sharpes; it incorporates some unusual older materials. Together with the distinctive "small house", the Freeman House is a prominent visual feature in this neighborhood of just north of the older part of Hyattsville.

Acreage: 17,430 square feet

Freeman House

PG#68-76

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance - AD 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Domestic/single dwelling

Design Source: unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. PG#68-76

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Paxton House

and/or common Freeman House

2. Location

street & number 6122 42nd Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Hyattsville ___ vicinity of **congressional district** 5

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 Dan & Karen Freeman

street & number 6122 42nd Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Hyattsville state and zip code MD 20781

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5089

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 698

city, town Upper Marlboro **state** MD 20772

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#68-76

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 Freeman House is a front-gabled frame dwelling with distinctive ornamental shingle decoration in the principal gable. It stands on a large town lot together with two concrete-block accessory buildings.

The house is two-and-one-half stories high and front-gabled, with entrance in the first bay of the principal east gable front. (This east gable front has three bays on the first story, and four on the second.) Entrance is through a modern door with a small four-pane window; it is surmounted by a two-light transom. The door is framed by panels which replace the original sidelights; the lines of these painted panels are picked out with a dark wine-red on cream. This gable front is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch supported by Tuscan columns on panelled wood bases painted white. The boxed cornice of the porch is punctuated by jigsawn brackets, painted the same wine-red. The porch has a wood floor, and rests on brick piers with brick infill.

The original double-bevel German siding is now covered with rectangular lapped shingle painted brown. Windows are generally 2/2 double-hung-sash, with plain board surrounds (painted cream) around wine-red sashes; there are no shutters. Ornamental shingle enlivens the surface of the gable front, both at second-story level and in the gable. The returned cornice, connected by a plain frieze board (with lower bead) painted cream, forms a pediment; in this principal gable (counting from the apex) there are six courses of clipped-corner shingles, then two courses of plain rectangular shingles; then three courses clipped-corner, three courses plain, four courses clipped-corner, and one course of plain rectangular shingles above the plain frieze board. Centered in the gable is one small 2/2 double-hung-sash window. Below the frieze board at second-story window level are four more courses of clipped-corner shingles.

A similar novelty-shingle treatment appears on the small third-level cross-gable on the north elevation: from the apex, seven courses of clipped-gable shingles, three of rectangular, three of clipped-gable, and one of plain rectangular shingles above the cream-colored frieze board which forms this secondary pediment.

In the south elevation there are two 2/2 windows on the second story; a modern 8/8 double hung sash window has been

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#68-76

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 ca 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 Freeman House is a good example of a late Victorian period suburban dwelling type. It is distinguished by its large size and the ornamental shingle decoration in the principal gable front, both of which make it a noticeable feature in this neighborhood just north of the older part of Hyattsville.

Hyattsville had its commercial beginnings at the intersection of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad with the Washington and Baltimore Turnpike. By the middle of the nineteenth century, much of the land around this intersection was owned by merchant Christopher C. Hyatt; in 1859 Hyatt was appointed postmaster of the new crossroads community which thenceforth was to bear his name.[1] Subdivision began in the 1870s in the area immediately west of the commercial center. Several more subdivisions were platted in the 1880s; fine Victorian houses were built and the community began to develop as an attractive and popular suburb. The City of Hyattsville was incorporated in 1886.

In 1890, Mary J. Nichols of Irving Park, Illinois, purchased 45 acres just north of the developing part of Hyattsville, and had the land platted for subdivision in the following year. Ten acres of this land, located on the west side of the main north-south street of Hyattsville (Wine Avenue), were platted as Block 3, and divided into ten one-acre lots. Lot 2 of Block 3 was sold, unimproved, to Edith Mangum

[1] Prince George's County Deeds JBB#1:280; JBB#2:481; JBB#4:113, 337; CSM#3:476-7.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#68-76

See notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 17,430 sq ft

Quadrangle name Washington East **Quadrangle scale**

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

		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 Commission, Prince George's County **date** March 1993

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

city or town Upper Marlboro **state** MD 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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

constructed in the first bay (kitchen), and three small adjoining single-pane windows light the staircase in the center of the south elevation.

The house rests on a poured concrete foundation which encloses a basement in the rear; it is lighted by small four-pane single-sash windows in the north and south. The ground slopes down to the west, so that the basement opens at grade level in the west. Consequently the first story in the rear of the house is accessible by a flight of steps from the rear yard up to a modern deck, through which one can enter an enclosed rear porch. Entrance is through a sliding glass door which is centered in the west enclosing wall, and flanked by two modern two-pane windows on each side. This enclosed one-story shed-roof porch rests on high concrete piers.

The second story of the rear (west) elevation is lighted by two long 6/6 windows centered in the elevation; a small modern window has been installed to the right, in the southernmost bay. Within the returned cornice, three modern 1/1 windows light the loft level: one full-size window flanked by two smaller ones.

Interior plan consists of four basic spaces. The main east entrance leads into a stairhall. The closed string stair rises along the south exterior wall to a landing, at which it turns 90 degrees and continues to the second story. The landing is lighted by the three small side-by-side windows in the south elevation. The heavy squared newel post is of dark wood; it has chamfered and applied decoration, and a pedestal top bordered by an egg-and-dart molding. The turned balusters are painted white, and the panelled spandrel has eight courses of molding.

From the stairhall, one door leads north into the front (east) parlor; a narrow diagonal hallway (probably not original) leads northwest into the rear (west) parlor. The kitchen (southwest space) is entered from this rear parlor.

Most of the interior moldings have been replaced, but one section of multi-band molding survives in storage to give evidence of what the original molding looked like. It has a convex center band flanked by narrow bead and outer backband, and is mitred at the corners without corner blocks, typical of the early twentieth century. No mantels survive in the house.

The baseboards are high and plain, with crown molding.

Two secondary buildings stand in the rear (west) of the house: a garage and the "small house". The garage is a one-story, front-gabled structure, built of concrete block; it is two bays wide, and stands to the northwest of the house.

The "small house" is also one story high and front-gabled, and built of concrete block, but it is longer than the garage, and has decorative details which give it an unusual and distinctive appearance. Entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay east gable front through a door with twelve-pane upper glazing. Two twelve-pane casement windows flank this doorway. The entrance is sheltered by an unusual semi-circular porch: a semicircular canopy with pyramidal roof is supported by two freestanding columns with Ionic volutes and egg-and-dart moldings. These columns rest on tall bases and plinths which in turn stand on a semicircular concrete slab which forms the floor of the porch. Two engaged Tuscan columns frame the doorway itself. The door has a plain board surround which, like the columns and the boxed, molded wood cornice of the porch, is painted creamy yellow.

The east gable front of the "small house" has a stepped parapet which adds another distinctive feature to its appearance. The building is six bays in length; the first and sixth bays on the north side have door openings. Some of the windows which fill the other bays are two-pane single sashes, and some are eight-pane casements. The concrete block is whitewashed throughout. There is an exterior cinder-block chimney at the west gable end.

At the rear (west) of the lot is an area of parkland, with grassy open space and mature trees. There are several large pines and maples in the front yard.

in 1901.[2]

It appears that Edith Mangum may have begun construction of a house on Lot 2; she took out two loans (one for $500, another for $250) and at the end of that year was assessed for $500 improvement value on her one-acre lot. She sold the lot in 1905, not yet having paid the outstanding debts, and the property as well as the debt was taken over by Lewis C. Millburn. The Millburns took out a mortgage on the property, defaulted on payments, and the property was sold (for $1900) at public sale in 1911. In the following year it was acquired by Don Paxton, who apparently completed construction of the subject house and made it his home for the next 15 years.[3]

During the period of Paxton's ownership, he divided his one-acre lot into three smaller building lots. Lot 2 had 165 feet of frontage on May (or Wine) Avenue, and extended 264 feet to the west in depth. In 1921, Paxton built a one-story side-gabled bungalow south of his house, and sold it and the southernmost 70 feet of Lot 2, i.e., a separate 70 by 264 foot lot fronting on Wine Avenue.[4] In 1924 he divided off a very narrow (25 feet wide) lot north of his house, and mortgaged it to a realty company.[5] He then took out a large loan on the remaining 70-foot-wide lot, the "property now occupied by [Paxton . . . and] improved by a two-story frame building."[6]

Paxton defaulted on his loan payments, and his house and 70-foot-wide lot was offered at public sale in 1928. For more than a decade it was a rental property, and in 1942 was sold to Harold and Hazel Sharpes. It was probably during the Sharpes'

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[2] Prince George's County Plat JWB#5:490 (A-24); Deeds JWB#15:717, #6:226.

[3] Prince George's County Deeds #21:529, #72:155, #84:330, #44:98; Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1901-1915.

[4] Prince George's County Deeds #169:405.

[5] Prince George's County Deed #229:91

[6] Prince George's County Deeds #229:94; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Hyattsville, 1933.

ownership that the "small house" was constructed, apparently incorporating some unusual older materials to give it a distinctive appearance. Dr. Sharpes is reported to have used the "small house" as his doctor's office.[7]

The property has changed hands several times since the Sharpes' ownership. It has been the home of the present owners since 1979, and they are attempting to restore it to its original condition. The house is noticeable for its large size and late Victorian decorative detail. Together with the distinctive "small house", the Freeman House is a prominent visual feature in this neighborhood of north Hyattsville.

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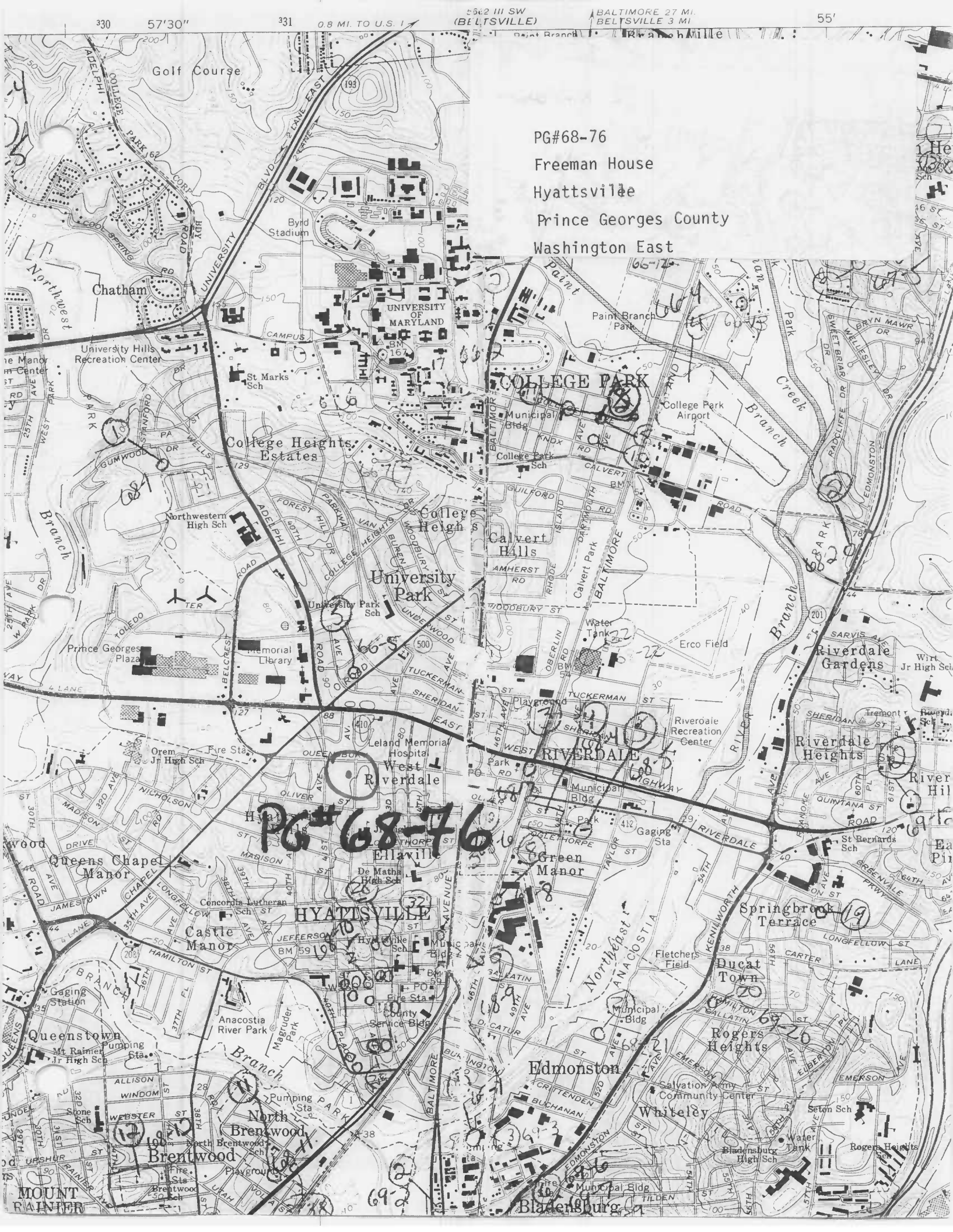
[7] Prince George's County Deeds #314:43, #400:266, #587:79, #688:83.

Nichols Addition to Hyattsville
1891
(Plat A: 24)

PG: 68-76

PG: 68-76
Sanborn Map 1933
156
CHICKEN HO.
W. MADISON AV.
161
162
163
164
WINE AV.
GROVE
ST.
NOT OPEN
GARFIELD AV.

PG# 68-76
4.22A.
P.129
P/O P 67
1.00 A
P. 94
P. 97
MAYOR & COMMON COUNCIL OF UNIV. PARK
COUNTY COMM.
2635-132
5 A.
P. 76
UNIV. PARK
0969
UNIV. PARK
0571
UNIV. PARK
0967
UNIV. PARK
0968
1263
CHAPEL
QUEENS
ROAD
PARCEL 'G'
3701
PARCEL "B"
PARCEL A
ADD TO PRIN. GEO'S PLAZA
3282
7249
E.D.17
HIGHWAY
E.D.19
E.D.16
PARCEL 'F'
ADD. TO P.G. PLAZA
3632
500
JENKINS
0582
OLD COLONY
0603
BROOKEN
0577
6568
WEST RIVERDALE
1004
EAST
DR. R.A. BENNE RESIDUE
129056
NICHOL'S ADD
0581
NICHOL'S ADD.
0579
NICHOL'S ADD
8266
QUEENSBURY
RD.
HYATTSVILLE HILLS
4213
1788
42nd
NICHOL'S ADD
1266
RHODE
0576
0402
0727
0944
ONEIDA
PARCEL 'A'
9.42 A
7153
OLIVER
ARUNDEL
0411
3334
MD REAL EST TITLE
WILLIS
0422
BELLETHORPE
TILFORD JONES
OWING
0793


PG#68-76
Freeman House
Hyattsville
Prince Georges County
Washington East
PG#68-76
330
57'30"
331
0.8 MI. TO U.S. 1
BALTIMORE 27 MI.
BELTSVILLE 3 MI
55'
Golf Course
Byrd Stadium
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
Chatham
University Hills Recreation Center
St Marks Sch
College Heights Estates
Northwestern High Sch
Paint Branch Park
COLLEGE PARK
College Park Airport
College Park Sch
Municipal Bldg
Calvert Hills
University Park
University Park Sch
Memorial Library
Prince Georges Plaza
Erco Field
Riverdale Gardens
Riverdale Recreation Center
RIVERDALE
Riverdale Heights
Leland Memorial Hospital
West Riverdale
Orem Jr High Sch
Fire Sta
Gaging Sta
St Bernards Sch
Queens Chapel Manor
Ellaville
De Matha High Sch
Green Manor
Springbrook Terrace
Concordia Lutheran Sch
HYATTSVILLE
Castle Manor
Hyattsville Jr High Sch
Fletchers Field
Ducat Town
Rogers Heights
Queenstown
Mt Rainier Pumping Sta
Anacostia River Park
Magruder Park
Pumping Sta
North Brentwood
Brentwood
Edmonston
Salvation Army Community Center
Whiteley
Seton Sch
Bladensburg High Sch
Water Tank
Rogers Heights Sch
MOUNT RAINIER
Bladensburg

Pic # 68-76

Freeman House
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan L. Pearl

April 1992
MD SHPO
East facade

1/11

PG # 68-76

Freeman House
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1992
East facade, from SE

2 of 11

PG # 68-76

East facade, from SE

2/11

Pg # 68-76

Freeman House

Prince Georges Co., MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1992

East gable detail

MD SHPO

3 of 11

East gable detail

3/11

Pg # 68-76

Pg # 68-76

Sherman House

Prince Hugh's Co. MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 92

MD SHPO

N elevation

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North elevation

4/11

Pg # 68-76

Pg # 68-76

Freeman House

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan A. Pearl

April 92

MD SHPO

NW detail (showing original siding)

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Pg # 68-76

Northwest detail

5/11

Pg # 28-76

Freeman House
Phenix Heights Co MD
Susan A. Pearl
April 1992
MD SHPO
West elevation
6 of 11

West elevation

6/11

Pg # 28-76

Pg # 68-76

Freeman House
Prince George's Co., MD
Sara L. Pearl
April 1992
MD SHPO

West with outbuildings

7 of 11

7/11

Pg # 68-76

Freeman House
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1992
MD SHPO

South elevation

8 of 11

8/11

PG # 68-76

Freeman House
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1992
MD SHPO
Small House, E facade
9 of 11

Small House, E facade

9/11

PG # 68-76

Pg # 68-76

Freeman House

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan G. Peare

April 1992

MD SHPO

Stair detail

10 of 11

Stair

10/11

Pg # 68-76

PG # 68-76
Freeman House
Prince George's Co MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1992
MD SHPO
Original interior molding
" of "

Original interior molding

11/11