PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71A-27 Building Date: ca. 1892

Building Name: Edward E. Perkins House (Graceland)

Location: 8007 Springfield Road, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Commercial/Unoccupied/Fair-Good/Inaccessible

## Description

The Edward E. Perkins House is a large two-and-one-half-story T-shaped frame dwelling which stands on a high point of land east of Springfield Road; it consists of a gable-roof main block with a rear kitchen wing. Entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay main west facade through a door with three-pane transom and three-pane sidelights. A small peaked entry porch now shelters the doorway; it replaces the original full-facade verandah. The windows are in sets of two 2/2 double hung sash. Above the entrance in the west facade at loft level is a central cross gable, lighted by two small 2/2 windows. The original horizontal board siding is now covered by white asbestos shingle. The cornice is boxed, with crown molding, and is returned at all gable ends. There are two interior corbelled brick chimneys at the ridge, flanking the central cross gable. At each of the north and south gable ends is a two-story rectangular projecting bay. Interior of the main block consists of central stairhall and large flanking parlors. The open string staircase has a heavy square panelled newel of the Eastlake style, with turned balusters and pendants; it rises to the third story. Attached at right angles to the rear east facade is a two-and-one-half story gable-roof kitchen wing; its materials and fenestration match the main block. The entire structure rests on a heavy foundation of local iron-bearing stone. Within 100 feet of the house are several outbuildings; a brick smokehouse, two concrete-block wagon sheds, a barn, and a complex of chicken houses now used for storage.

## Significance

The Edward E. Perkins House (Graceland) is a large late Victorian farmhouse, with interior decorative detail in the Eastlake style, handsomely sited on a knoll which once overlooked rolling farmland north of Springfield Station. The house was built by Edward E. Perkins in the early 1890's. In 1888 Perkins purchased a 300-acre tract known as "Springfield". He married Grace Thompson in 1892, and at approximately this time constructed this large and handsome dwelling. Perkins named the farm "Graceland", and it remained his home place for the rest of his life. Very active in local affairs, he provided land for local schools and churches; in 1920, he was one of a group of six prominent landowners who established the Bank of Bowie. Edward Perkins died in 1946, and Graceland remained the home of his daughter. The open farm land was gradually covered with new growth of trees. Since Miss Perkins' death in 1970, the house has had a series of tenants, and its condition has gradually deteriorated. The area around it is presently being bulldozed and graded, in preparation for a new residential subdivision. The house is again exposed to public view, a large and handsome example of Victorian vernacular architecture.

Acreage: 225.37 acres

PG 71A 27

The E. E. Perkins House (PG#71A-27) was destroyed by fire in May 1986. Grading has begun in preparation for the development of new subdivision housing on the site.

sgp

Survey No. P.G.#71A-27

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

# Maryland Historical Trust
# State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Graceland (Springfield)

and/or common Edward E. Perkins House

## 2. Location

street & number 8007 Springfield Road (Now on Driscoll Drive) ___ not for publication

city, town Bowie ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ___ district | ___ public | ___ occupied | ___ agriculture | ___ museum |
| X building(s) | X private | X unoccupied | X commercial | ___ park |
| ___ structure | ___ both | ___ work in progress | ___ educational | ___ 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 | X other: |

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

name Quad Construction Corporation

street & number 6525 Belcrest Road telephone no.: 779-4800

city, town Hyattsville state and zip code MD 20782

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's Co. Courthouse liber 6077

street & number Main Street folio 683

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

## 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#-1A-27

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

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

The Edward E. Perkins House is a large two-and-one-half-story T-shaped frame dwelling which stands on the high point of a tract of rolling land east of Springfield Road. The house consists of a gable-roof main block with a perpendicular rear kitchen wing.

The main block is ca. 50 feet by 20 feet, and the rear wing which forms the T is ca. 25 feet by 20 feet. Entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay main west facade through a door with three-pane transom and three-pane sidelights over wainscot panels. There is a four-panel Victorian door, with two round-arched deeply molded panels above two rectangular panels. Between the casing and the transom is a bead-and-reel molding. A small peaked entry porch now shelters the doorway; it replaces the original full-facade verandah. The windows are in sets of two 2/2 double hung sash, and have narrow molded surrounds. Each pair of windows on the main west facade has dark red louvered wooden shutters. Above the entrance in the west facade at loft level is a central cross gable, lighted by two small 2/2 windows. The original horizontal board siding is now covered by white asbestos shingle. The cornice is boxed, with crown molding, over a plain board frieze; it is returned at all gable ends. There are two interior corbelled brick chimneys at the ridge, flanking the central cross gable. The roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle.

At each of the north and south gable ends is a two-story rectangular projecting bay, with hip roof, and windows on all three sides. The cornice of these projecting bays, like that of the main block, is boxed with crown molding, and the eaves have a deep overhang.

Interior of the main block consists of central stairhall and large flanking parlors. Surrounds of doors and windows feature multi-band molding with bulls-eye corner blocks. The open string staircase has a heavy square panelled newel of the Eastlake style, with turned balusters and pendants. This is a two-run stair with landings between stories; the staircase rises to the third story.

Attached at right angles to the rear east facade is a two-and-one-half story gable-roof kitchen wing. Materials and fenestration of the wing match the main block. The entire structure rests on a heavy foundation of local iron-bearing stone. Beneath the rear wing this foundation encloses a basement space; a small gable-roof vestibule at the east end of the wing shelters the entrance to the basement. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney at the east gable end of the wing.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#71A-27

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

**Specific dates** ca. 1892 **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 x local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Edward E. Perkins House (Graceland) is a large late Victorian farmhouse, with interior decorative detail in the Eastlake style. It is handsomely sited on a knoll which once overlooked a 300-acre tract of rolling farmland just north of Springfield Station. The house was built by Edward E. Perkins in the early 1890's.

Edward Perkins was the second son of James Turner Perkins, whose large farm was located on the west side of the Laurel-Springfield Road. The elder Perkins had, during the Civil War, established a Methodist meeting house (later named Perkins Chapel in his honor) a short distance north of his home farm (cf. #64-5).

In 1888 Edward E. Perkins purchased from former Governor Oden Bowie a 300-acre tract known as "Springfield", located north of the Washington line of the railroad at Springfield Station. He married Grace Thompson in 1892, and at approximately this time constructed the large and handsome dwelling which is the subject house. Perkins named the farm "Graceland" in honor of his wife, and it remained his home place for the rest of his life.[1]

Edward E. Perkins was an agent of the Internal Revenue Service, and at the same time worked his farm at Springfield. In 1892, he sold 160 acres, the easterly portion of the farm, to George V. Leicester of Boston, Massachusetts; Leicester contracted to establish within six months on part of this property a major piano factory, at a cost of no less than $5,000. Leicester had the land surveyed, and in 1892 platted "Leicester Town", a residential subdivision complete with parks and esplanades, and with piano factory fronting directly on the Washington line of the Railroad. He defaulted on his mortgage payments and neither Leicester Town nor the piano factory ever materialized. Perkins recovered all of his property in 1896.[2]

When J. T. Perkins died in 1898, Edward Perkins inherited a substantial amount of additional land and wealth. During the early years of the twentieth century he was very active in local affairs, providing land for the Springfield School House in 1900, and for Methodist, Catholic and Lutheran churches in Bowie, while serving as a trustee of the Perkins Chapel which his father had established. In 1920, he was one of a group of six prominent local landowners who incorporated and established the Bank of Bowie.[3]

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#71A-27

Cf. Notes, Item #8

Cf. Chain of Title

# 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** 225.369 acres  Tax map #28, parcel 52

**Quadrangle name** Lanham section B, Laurel section H  **Quadrangle scale** _____

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 Historian

**organization** Historic Preservation Commission  **date** March 1986

**street & number** c/o County Planning, MNCPPC  **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

PS-2746

#7. Continued

There is a one-story shed-roof porch on each of the long sides of the wing, filling the corners formed by the main block and wing. The southerly of these porches is partially enclosed; in the north porch, however, there remain the original chamfered posts and jig-sawn brackets.

Southeast of the house is a three-part frame outbuilding: a two-story front-gabled central section, flanked by two one-story gable-roof sections with uneven roof pitch. This building, originally constructed as a complex of chicken houses and now used for storage, has unpainted German siding; its roof is covered with green asphalt shingle.

Northeast of the house is a twentieth century gable-roof barn with vertical board siding and standing seam tin roof. Immediately west of the barn are two small square gable-roof wagon sheds built of molded concrete block; they have green asphalt shingle on the roofs, and their eaves are punctuated with exposed rafter ends. West of the concrete block buildings is a small square brick smokehouse with pyramidal roof covered with red metal. These outbuildings stand within 100 feet of the house at the top of the knoll. Behind and to the east of this complex of buildings is a group of greenhouses.

The area around the house has recently been platted for subdivision; trees have been extensively bulldozed, and the land is being graded.

#8. Continued

Edward Perkins died in 1946, and in the years following, Graceland remained the home of his daughter, Caroline Perkins. In the later years of Miss Perkins' life, Graceland was no longer farmed, and the open land was gradually covered with new growth of trees, concealing the linden, birch and magnolia trees near the house, and the avenue of sycamores which lined the entrance lane. After Miss Perkins' death in 1970, the house had a series of tenants, and its condition gradually deteriorated. The full-facade porch across the west front was removed and replaced by a modern entry porch, and the trim was removed from the central cross gable. The latest tenant, in the 1980's, was a landscape firm known as Lasting Impressions.[4]

The area around the Perkins house is presently being bulldozed and graded, in preparation for a new residential subdivision. The house is again, therefore, exposed to public view, a large and handsome example of Victorian vernacular architecture.

Notes

1 Prince George's County Deed JWB #9:321 and plat JWB #9:323; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, E.D. #14, 1890's.

2 Prince George's County Census, E.D. #14, 1880, 1900, 1910; Prince George's County Deeds JWB #23:521, 522, 524, 528; JWB #27:275; Equity #2273, #2274.

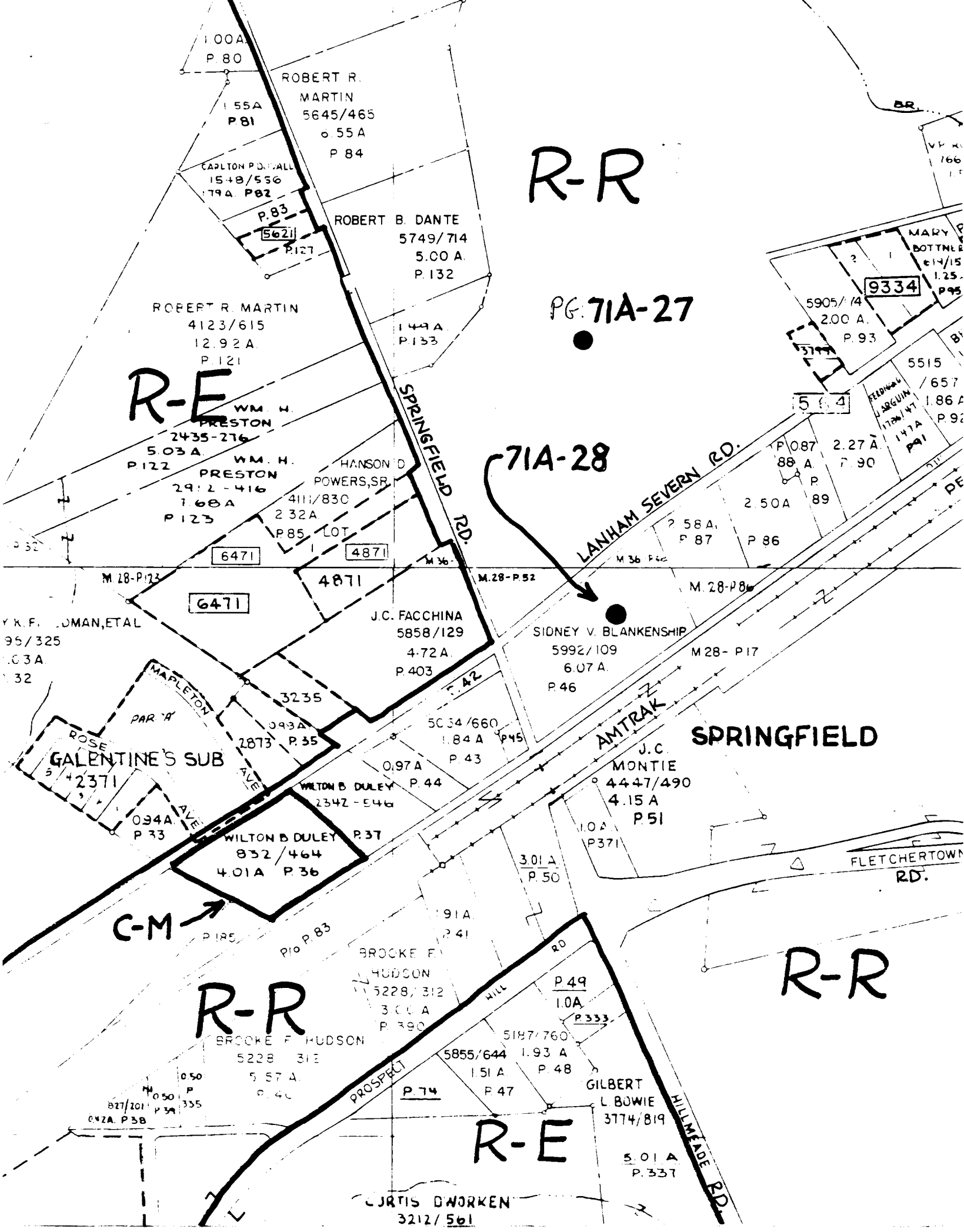
3 Prince George's County Will JBP #1:475; Prince George's County Deeds #2:384; #28:202; #47:123; #88:269; #9:476; Prince George's County Incorporation Records JBB #1:446.

4 Prince George's County Estate files #19789, #22255; interview with former resident, March 1986.

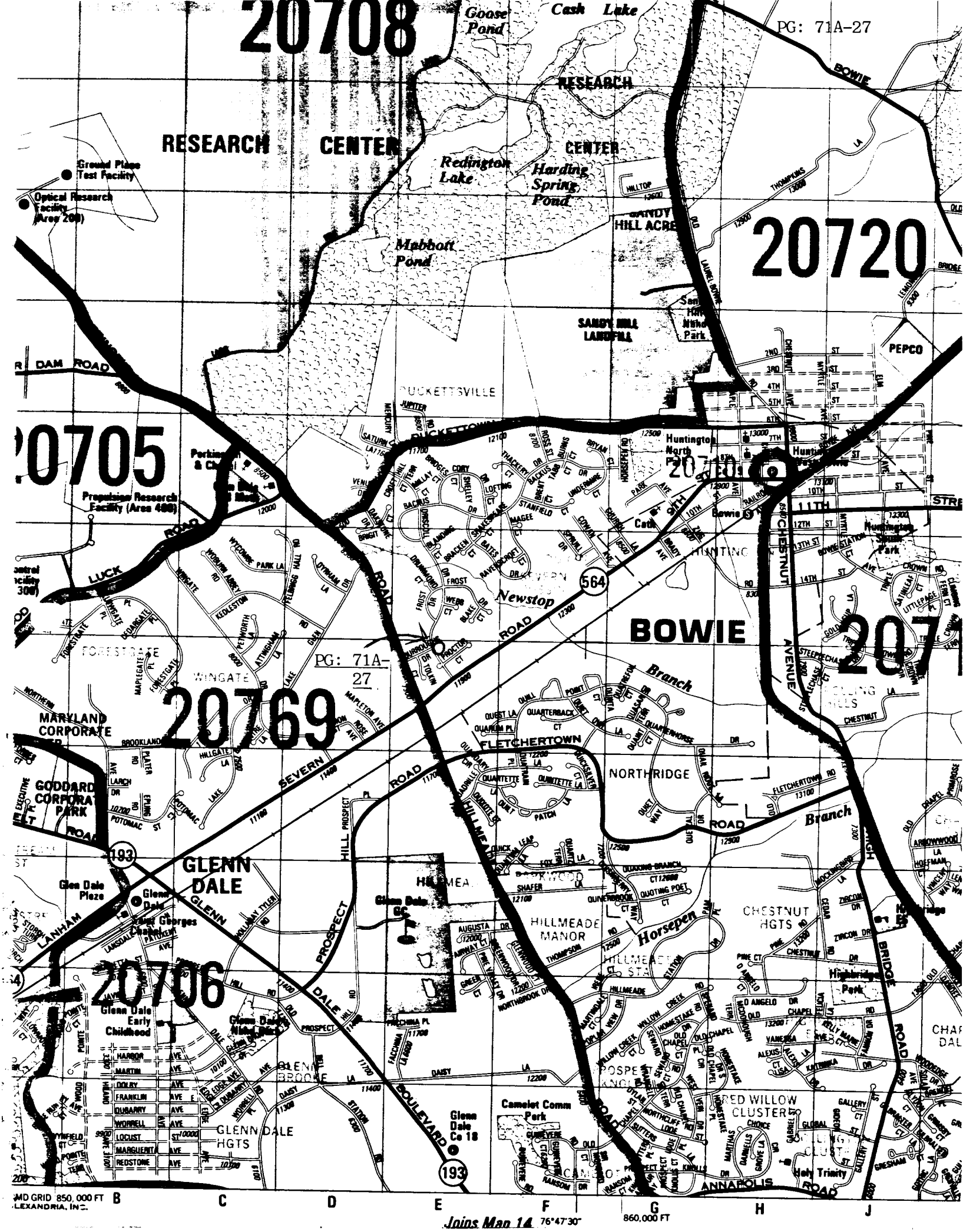
Chain of Title

E. E. Perkins House (Graceland)
P.G. # 71A-27

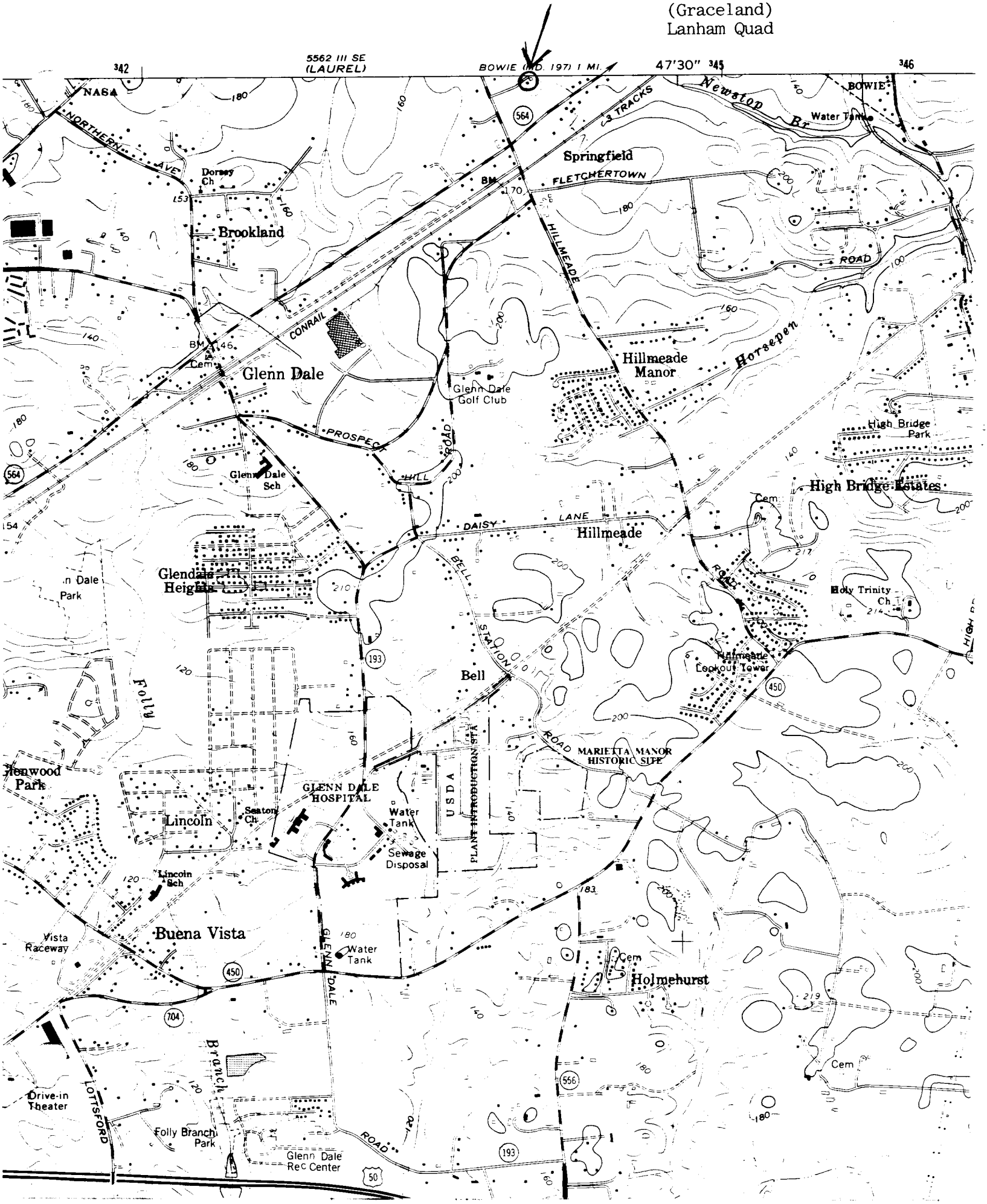
| | |
|---|---|
| #6077:683<br>1 April 1985<br>Deed | Lloyed Perkins, K. Michael, L. Levitsky, A. Lapin et al. to Quad Construction Corporation for $2,357,500; part of the real estate of Edward E. Perkins (Tax Map 28, Parcels 52 and 53), 225.369 acres. |
| #4460:880<br>21 Feb 1975<br>Deed | William T. Perkins and Hanson T. Perkins to K. Michael, L. Levitsky, A. Lapin, et al.; part of the property of heirs of E. E. Perkins, 225.369 acres, Tax Map 28, Parcels 52 and 53. |
| GSMcG #7:275<br>1970<br>Will | Testator, E. Everett Perkins, all real estate to wife, Emma Gene, and then to his children including Lloyed Perkins. |
| GSMcG #5:248<br>1970<br>Will | Testator, G. Caroline Perkins; her share of her father's estate to brothers William T. and Hanson T. Perkins. |
| #8535<br>21 Dec 1946<br>Estate File | Edward E. Perkins, died 21 December 1946, intestate, leaving children and heirs-at-law William T., Hanson T., G. Caroline, and E. Everett Perkins. |
| JWB #9:321<br>20 Mar 1888<br>Deed | Oden and Alice Bowie to Edward E. Perkins for $3,000; "Springfield" ca. 303 acres near Springfield Station. |



R-R
PG. 71A-27
71A-28
R-E
C-M
R-R
R-E
R-R
SPRINGFIELD RD.
LANHAM SEVERN RD.
AMTRAK
SPRINGFIELD
FLETCHERTOWN RD.
HILLMEADE RD.
PROSPECT HILL RD
ROBERT R. MARTIN 5645/465 6.55 A P 84
ROBERT B. DANTE 5749/714 5.00 A. P. 132
ROBERT R. MARTIN 4123/615 12.92 A. P. 121
WM. H. PRESTON 2435-276 5.03 A. P. 122
WM. H. PRESTON 2912-416 7.68 A P 123
HANSON D POWERS, SR. 4111/830 2.32 A. P. 85
J.C. FACCHINA 5858/129 4.72 A. P. 403
SIDNEY V. BLANKENSHIP 5992/109 6.07 A. P. 46
J.C. MONTIE 4447/490 4.15 A P. 51
GALENTINE'S SUB 2371
WILTON B DULEY 2342-546
WILTON B DULEY 832/464 4.01 A P. 36
BROOKE F. HUDSON 5228/312 3.00 A P. 390
BROOKE F. HUDSON 5228/312 5.57 A. P. 40
GILBERT L. BOWIE 3774/819
CURTIS D WORKEN 3212/561
5905/74 2.00 A. P. 93
5515/657 1.86 A P. 92
2.27 A. P. 90
2.50 A P. 86
2.58 A. P. 87
0.87 A. P. 89
5034/660 1.84 A P. 43
0.97 A P. 44
3.01 A P. 50
1.91 A P. 41
5187/760 1.93 A P. 48
5855/644 1.51 A P. 47
5.01 A P. 337
P. 49 1.0 A P. 333
P. 74
1.00 A P. 80
1.55 A P. 81
P. 83
5621
P. 127
1.49 A P. 133
6471
4871
3235
2873
0.93 A P. 35
0.94 A P. 33
P. 37
P. 42
P. 45
M. 28-P. 123
M. 28-P. 52
M. 28-P. 86
M. 28-P. 17
9334
5.64


20708
PG: 71A-27
Goose Pond
Cash Lake
RESEARCH
RESEARCH CENTER
CENTER
Ground Plane Test Facility
Optical Research Facility (Area 200)
Redington Lake
Harding Spring Pond
Mebbott Pond
SANDY HILL ACRES
20720
SANDY HILL LANDFILL
PEPCO
DAM ROAD
PUCKETTSVILLE
20705
Propulsion Research Facility (Area 400)
Huntington North
Newstop
BOWIE
PG: 71A-27
20769
MARYLAND CORPORATE
GODDARD CORPORATE PARK
FLETCHERTOWN
NORTHRIDGE
GLENN DALE
Glenn Dale Plaza
Glenn Dale Early Childhood
20706
HILLMEADE MANOR
CHESTNUT HGTS
Highbridge Park
GLENN DALE HGTS
Glenn Dale Ce 18
Camelot Comm Park
RED WILLOW CLUSTER
Holy Trinity
ANNAPOLIS ROAD
MD GRID 850,000 FT
ALEXANDRIA, INC.
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
J
Joins Map 14
76°47'30"
860,000 FT

PG: 71A-27
Edward E. Perkins House
(Graceland)
Lanham Quad



P.G. #71A-27

E. E. Perkins House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

P.G. #71A-27

E. E. Perkins House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

P.G. #71A-27

E. E. Perkins House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

P.G. #71A-27

E. E. Perkins House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

P.G. #71A-27

E. E. Perkins House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
West entrance
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

P.G. #71A-27

E. E. Perkins House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Newel
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

P.G. #71A-27

E. E. Perkins House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Second story landing
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

P.G. #71A-27

E. E. Perkins House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Staircase
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

P.G. #71A-27

E. E. Perkins House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Outbuildings from west
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

P.G. #71A-27

E. E. Perkins House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Outbuildings from East
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD