

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #72~~X~~-19 Building Date: ca. 1890's

Building Name: Palmer-Duvall House

Location: 6815 Eads Street, Seat Pleasant, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Palmer-Duvall House is a two-story gable roof frame dwelling, three-by-two bays, of rectangular plan, situated on a 1.6 acre lot in a suburban residential area. The three bay east (main) facade has central entrance through a door surmounted by a transom. Windows are 2/2 sash. Both windows and door have a wide plain board surround. The four-bay shed roof entrance porch wraps around the northeast gable end and continues for one bay across the north facade. Its boxed cornice has decorative metal scroll pendants, and rests on square wood posts with rectangular brackets. The house is covered with asbestos shingle, has a standing seam metal roof with a boxed wood cornice on the east and west and a plain raking cornice on the north and south gable ends. The structure rests on a cement foundation. The house is set on a knoll overlooking Addison Road. There is a mature maple tree east of the house. Boxwoods line the northeast and southeast corners of the building, and there is a grape arbor to the south. West of the house is a 1 x 1 bay rectangular board and batten outbuilding with a hipped roof surmounted by a finial, which appears to date to the construction of the house.

Significance

The Palmer-Duvall house, dating from the 1890's, is significant for its vernacular architecture. It is one of the earliest houses in the Seat Pleasant subdivision. It also is significant as the summer home of George Palmer, was instrumental in the development of the village of Seat Pleasant and in the development of Prince George's County. The house was built as a suburban home by George Palmer's father, listed as a government printer in the 1900 census. Palmer acquired 13 acres, Lot 16 in Seat Pleasant in 1884. The house was built in the late 1890's. The four Palmer sons were trained in the construction trades. They were responsible for much early twentieth century house construction in Seat Pleasant. George Palmer served as a County Commissioner, chairman of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and president of the Seat Pleasant Building and Loan Association.

Acreage: 1.56 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Palmer-Duval House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6815 Eads Street ___ not for publication

city, town Seat Pleasant ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state MD county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Albert Beall

street & number 1655 Ritchie Marlboro Pike telephone no.:

city, town Upper Marlboro state and zip code MD 20772

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5986

street & number Main Street folio 170

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records History Division - MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale state MD

7. Description

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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

The Palmer-Duvall House is a two-story gable roof frame dwelling, three-by-two bays, of rectangular plan. It is situated on a 1.6 acre lot in a suburban residential area.

The three bay east (main) facade has central entrance through a door with an upper glass light and three lower panels, surmounted by a transom. Windows on the facade are 2/2 double hung sash. Both windows and door have a wide plain board surround. The four-bay shed roof entrance porch wraps around the northeast gable end and continues for one bay across the north facade. The porch rests on cement block piers and has a standing-seam metal roof. Its boxed cornice has decorative metal scroll pendants. The roof rests on square wood posts with rectangular brackets, and the porch is encircled by a balustrade.

The house is covered with asbestos shingle and has a standing seam metal roof. There is a boxed wood cornice on the east and west elevations and a plain raking cornice on the north and south gable ends. The structure rests on a cement foundation.

The two bay north gable end has entrance in the first bay, sheltered by the one bay section of the main entrance porch. The two bay south gable end has a square 2/2 sash window centered in the upper gable. There is a centered cellar entrance in the foundation, reached by a flight of stairs.

The three bay west (rear) facade has a small centered 6/1 sash window placed high on the first story level. A one bay shed roof screened porch shelters a rear entrance in the third bay. A parged chimney projects from the west roof slope.

The house is set on a knoll overlooking Addison Road. The Seat Pleasant Police Station east of the house is situated on what was the front of the Palmer lot. There is a mature maple tree east of the house. Boxwoods line the northeast and southeast corners of the building, and there is a grape arbor to the south. West of the house is a 1 x 1 bay rectangular board and batten outbuilding with a hipped roof surmounted by a finial, which appears to date to the construction of the house. It has a six light window on the north elevation and a four-panel door on the east. In close proximity is a 2 x 1 bay outbuilding with vertical board siding and a shed roof, which is of more recent construction.

8. Significance

Period	Areas 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1890's **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 Palmer-Duvall house, dating from the 1890's, is significant for its vernacular architecture. It is one of the earliest houses in the Seat Pleasant subdivision. It also is significant as the summer home of George Palmer, who during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century was instrumental in the development of the village of Seat Pleasant and in the development of Prince George's County.

The house was built either as a summer home or a suburban home by Joseph Palmer, George Palmer's father. Palmer was listed as a government printer in the 1900 census, and was aged 54 at that time. The Palmer children were all born in Washington, D.C.¹ Palmer acquired 13 acres, Lot 16 in Seat Pleasant in 1884.² The house appears to have been built in the late 1890's.³ The Palmers apparently were residents of Seat Pleasant by 1900, as they were recorded by the census there.

The Palmer sons, including George, Joseph Jr., William and Edwin were trained in the construction trades such as house carpentry and brick masonry.⁴ The Palmers subdivided their own lot into 5 lots in 1907.⁵ Two of the lots George Palmer and Joseph Palmer, Jr. built their own dwellings upon. The Palmers were also responsible for much early twentieth century house construction in Seat Pleasant. George Palmer, who served as a County Commissioner and chairman of the Board of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, also was president of the Seat Pleasant Building and Loan Association.⁶

The Palmer-Duvall house was deeded by Joseph Palmer and his wife to a daughter, Virginia Duvall, in 1923. The Duvalls and their descendents owned the property through 1984.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG: 72K-19

Section 8 Page 2

The Palmer-Duvall house is a plain vernacular dwelling with Victorian stylistic elements. Its antecedents are late nineteenth century rural farm dwellings rather than stylish Victorian suburban homes. It stands on its large lot in densely developed surroundings as a reminder of Seat Pleasant's more rural beginnings.

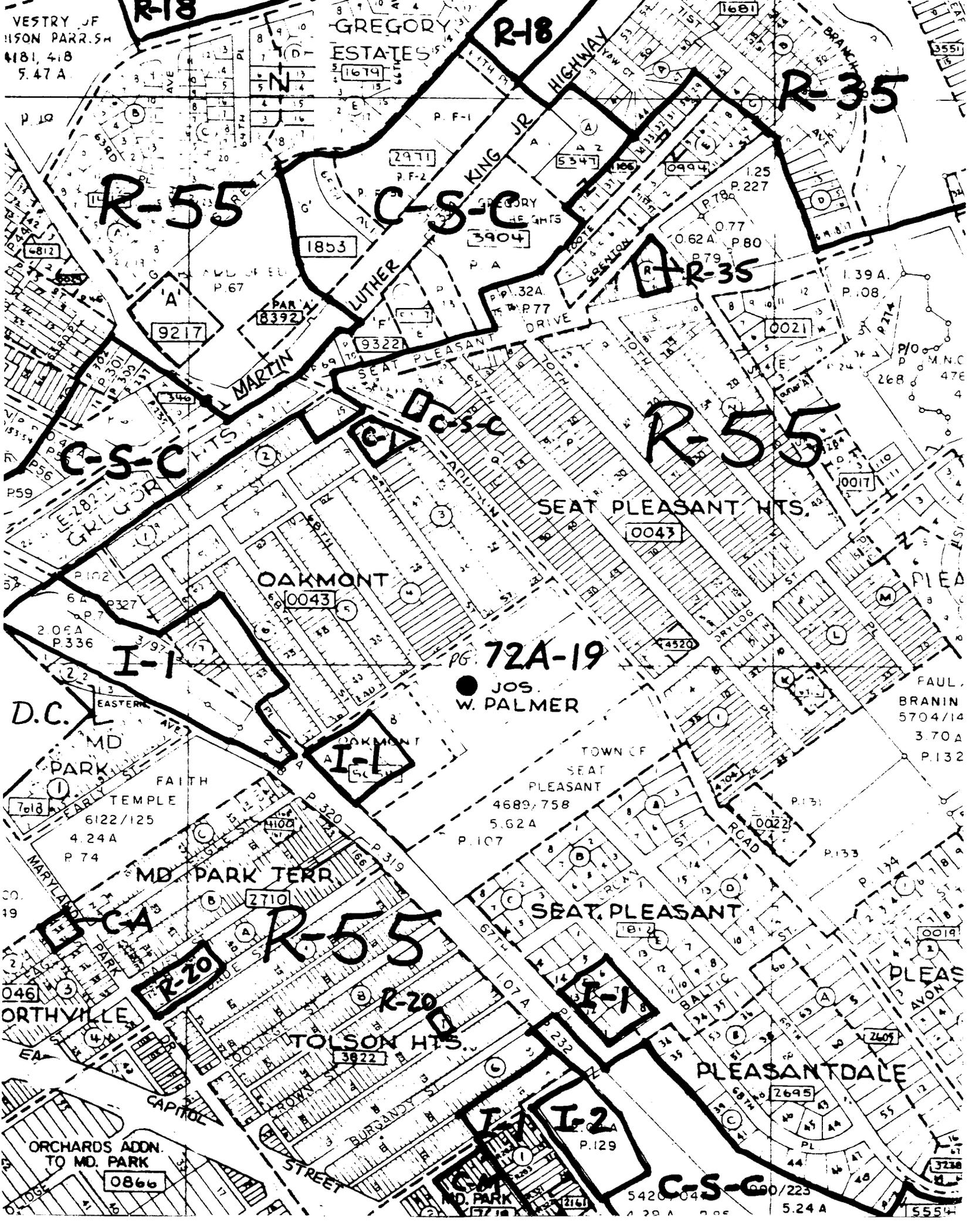
Notes

- 1 United States Census, 1900, Prince George's County, District 13, #28.
- 2 Land Records of Prince George's County, JWB 4:29.
- 3 Tax Assessments, Prince George's County, 1891, 1897, and 1900, District 13, Vol. 12219, 11061 and 12235.
- 4 United States Census, 1900.
- 5 Land Records of Prince George's County, 38:575.
- 6 Peter Pichaske, "In Search of George Palmer, Crusading Slaveholder," Prince George's Journal, January 10, 1986.

Chain of Title

Palmer-Duvall House
P.G. #72A-19

5986:170 5 Oct. 1984 Deed	Nelson and Lucille Duvall and Nelson Duvall for the estate of Frank Duvall to Albert and Stephen L. Beall. For \$10 grantors convey that property in the 18th Election District. Parcel 1: Begins at the north corner of Lot 2 of Joseph Palmer's subdivision of Lot 16, Seat Pleasant, 38:576. Contains 56,577 square feet, a part of Lot 2. Parcel 2: Beginning at southwest corner Virginia Duvall Tract, called Lot 2. Contains 11,250 square feet - remainder of Lot 2. Actual consideration paid \$47,000. Same conveyed by 204:161 and 3705:260.
3705:260 26 March 1969 Deed	Irving Machiz, District Director of I.R.S. for District of Baltimore to Nelson and Lucille Duvall. Property seized after nonpayment of taxes by Samuel R. and Vera D. Acuff of 412 69th Street, Seat Pleasant. Sold at public sale to Nelson and Lucille Duvall for \$1,500, that property of 11,250 square feet conveyed to parties of first part by Virginia N. and Frank E. Duvall, 21st March 1946.
204:161 May 1923 Deed	Joseph and Mary Palmer of Seat Pleasant to Virginia R. Duvall. For \$10 grantors convey that parcel beginning at the north corner of Lot 2 as shown on Plat 38:575.
38:575 18 Feb. 1907 Certification	Plat to certify the subdivision of Lot #16 in Seat Pleasant into 5 Lots. Edward L. Latimer, surveyor for Prince George's County.
JWB 4:29 20 Sept. 1884 Deed	John Lee and Henrietta Lee, for \$667 convey unto Joseph W. Palmer of Washington, D.C. that parcel in Seat Pleasant known as Lot 16 on plat by George W. Jackson, Civil Engineer, April 1873. Contains 13 acres.
HB 7:580 5 June 1873 Deed	Benjamin L. Jackson and wife, William B. Jackson and George Seufferle and wife to John Lee. For \$1,628.90 grantors convey a part of "Seat Pleasant", Lots 21, 14, 15 and 16, contains 47 acres.



VESTRY OF
HSON PARR.SH
#181, 418
5.47 A

GREGORY
ESTATES

R-55

C-S-C

R-35

9217

8392

1853

9322

3904

R-35

C-S-C

C-S-C

R-55

OAKMONT

0043

72A-19

JOS.
W. PALMER

D.C.

I-1

I-L

MD
PARK

6122/125
4.24 A
P.74

MD PARK TERR

2710

R-55

R-20

SEAT PLEASANT

ORTHVILLE

R-20

TOLSON HTS.

3922

I-1

PLEASANTDALE

2695

ORCHARDS ADDN.
TO MD. PARK

0866

I-2

C-S-C

5420, 04, 29 A, 005, 5.24 A

3238

5554



P.G. #72A-19

Palmer-Duval House
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
June 1986
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #72A-19

Palmer-Duvall House
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
June 1986
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #72~~A~~-19

Palmer-Duvall House
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
Juen 1986
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #72A-19

Palmer-Duvall House
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
June 1986
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#72A-19

Palmer-Duvall House
Prince George's County, MD
Marina King
June 1986
Outbuilding
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD