DEMOLISHED - OCTOBER 1986

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #73-21 Building Date: 1890's

Building Name: Eugene Roberts House, Fairfield

Location: 9400 Landover Road, Cheverly, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description:

The Eugene Roberts House (Fairfield), now St. Joseph's Rectory, is a two-and-one-half-story gable-roof frame building. It stands northeast of Maryland Route 202, 1/4 mile from the Capital Beltway, on the grounds of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, and is accessible by the driveway to the church. The house consists of a large square side-gabled main block with a rear kitchen wing at right angles, forming an ell. It is sheathed with German siding painted white, has 2/2 windows and green louvered shutters, and has a one-story projecting bay in each of the east and west gable ends. The house is a good, and fairly unusual, example of a plain late Victorian frame dwelling, a transition from the simple I-house to the emerging "Classic Box" style.

Significance:

The house was built in the early 1890's by Eugene Roberts, youngest of the five sons of Joseph Kent Roberts of Rose Mount. When the elder Roberts died in 1883, he devised to his sons parts of the farmland adjoining Rose Mount; Eugene received 170 acres of the tract "Brookes Grove" located southwest of Rose Mount, fronting on the old road from Upper Marlboro to Bladensburg. In 1887 Eugene Roberts married Annette Bowie, daughter of Governor Oden Bowie. In the early 1890's he constructed the subject house, a large and fairly plain farmhouse which avoided the exuberant detail of the then-popular Queen Anne style. It was an expanded version of the simple I-house plan, two parlors deep, with a functional third story, and a rear kitchen wing. Large and roughly square, it retained only the projecting bays of the Victorian style, and was highlighted by a full-facade porch with classical columns; it was in many ways a forerunner of the soon-to-be-popular "Classic Box" dwelling house plan. The Roberts called their new home Fairfield. In 1963, the property was sold to the Roman Catholic Church, for the establishment of St. Joseph's Church; the dwelling house is now used as the Rectory. It is a noticeable landmark in a rapidly developing area.

Acreage: 10 acres

PG 73-21

PG # 73-21

Fairfield, the Eugene Roberts House,(St. Joseph's Rectory) (PG#73-21) was demolished in October 1986.

sgp

Survey No. P.G. #73-21

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DEMOLISHED - OCTOBER 1986

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Eugene Roberts House, Fairfield

and/or common St. Joseph's Rectory

2. Location

street & number 9400 Landover ROad (On St. Joseph's Drive) ___ not for publication

city, town Cheverly Landover ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state MD 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	X 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 Archbishop, Washington Diocese

street & number c/o St. Joseph's Chapel, 9400 Landover Rd. telephone no.: 773-4838

city, town Cheverly state and zip code MD 20785

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #3368

street & number Main Street folio 125

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. P.G. 73-27

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ 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 Eugene Roberts House (Fairfield), now St. Joseph's Rectory, is a two-and-one-half-story gable-roof frame building. It consists of a large square side-gabled main block with a rear kitchen wing at right angles, forming an ell. The building stands northeast of Maryland Route 202, 1/4 mile from the Capital Beltway, on the grounds of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, and is accessible by the driveway to the church.

The house faces roughly east; entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay main east facade, through a door with three-pane transom. The door is sheltered by a modern one-story shed-roof entry porch with square posts, newly built to replace an earlier porch which sheltered all three bays. Above the central entrance at third level is a small central cross-gable; its cornices are returned, to enclose a small 2/2 window. A small (screen enclosed) one-story shed-roof porch shelters a rear entrance in the third bay of the west facade.

Siding of the building is German, painted white. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash with plain board surrounds and green louvered shutters. There are double windows high in the gable ends. The cornice is boxed with crown molding, and returned at the gable ends; below it is a plain board frieze. The gable roof is covered with green asphalt shingle. Two corbelled brick chimneys rise from the east plane of the roof, one on each side of the central entrance bay. There is a third chimney at the juncture of the kitchen wing and the main block. The building rests on a foundation of brick, which encloses a basement under the north half of the main block and the kitchen wing.

Each of the north and south gable ends is highlighted by a one-story semi-octagonal projecting bay. Each of these hip-roof projecting bays (first bay of the north gable end, and third bay of the south gable end) has three windows, and lights a front parlor. The interior plan consists of a central stairhall with double parlors on each side. The rear parlor on the north leads into the kitchen wing.

Extending to the west (rear) and flush with the north gable end is a two-story gable-roof kitchen wing. It is one bay wide; siding, roof, and fenestration are the same as the main block. Attached to the rear (west) gable end of the kitchen wing is a small one-story gable-roof entry vestibule which gives access to the basement.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. 73-21

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
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	X other (specify) Local History
		___ 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 Eugene Roberts House (Fairfield) is a good, and fairly unusual, example of a plain late Victorian frame dwelling, a transition from the simple I-house to the emerging "Classic Box" style. It stands a short distance northeast of Maryland Route 202, the old road between Upper Marlboro and Bladensburg. It is used today as the Rectory for St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.

The house was built in the early 1890's by Eugene Roberts soon after his marriage. Eugene Roberts was the youngest of the five sons of Joseph Kent Roberts of Rose Mount; when the elder Roberts died in 1883, he devised to his sons parts of the farmland adjoining Rose Mount. Eugene received 170 acres of the tract "Brookes Grove" located southwest of Rose Mount, fronting on the old road from Upper Marlboro to Bladensburg. (Franklin Roberts received another part of Brookes Grove east of Eugene's portion, T. Owen Roberts received "Inglewood" farm across the old road from Eugene's portion, and William Roberts inherited Rose Mount; Joseph K. Roberts, Jr., who practiced law in Upper Marlboro inherited the family land in Calvert County.)[1]

In 1887 Eugene Roberts married Annette Bowie, daughter of Governor Oden Bowie. In the early 1890's he constructed the subject house, a large and fairly plain farmhouse which avoided the exuberant detail of the then-popular Queen Anne style. It was an expanded version of the simple I-House plan, two parlors deep, with a functional third story, and a rear kitchen wing. Large and roughly square, it retained only the projecting bays of the Victorian style, and was highlighted by a full-facade porch with classical columns; it was in many ways a forerunner of the soon-to-be-popular "Classic Box" dwelling house plan. The Roberts called their new home "Fairfield."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. 73-21

Cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ~~10 acres~~

Tax Map 60, parcel A 6200

Quadrangle name Lanham, Section C

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 August 1986

street & number County Planning, MNCPPC telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro state MD

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

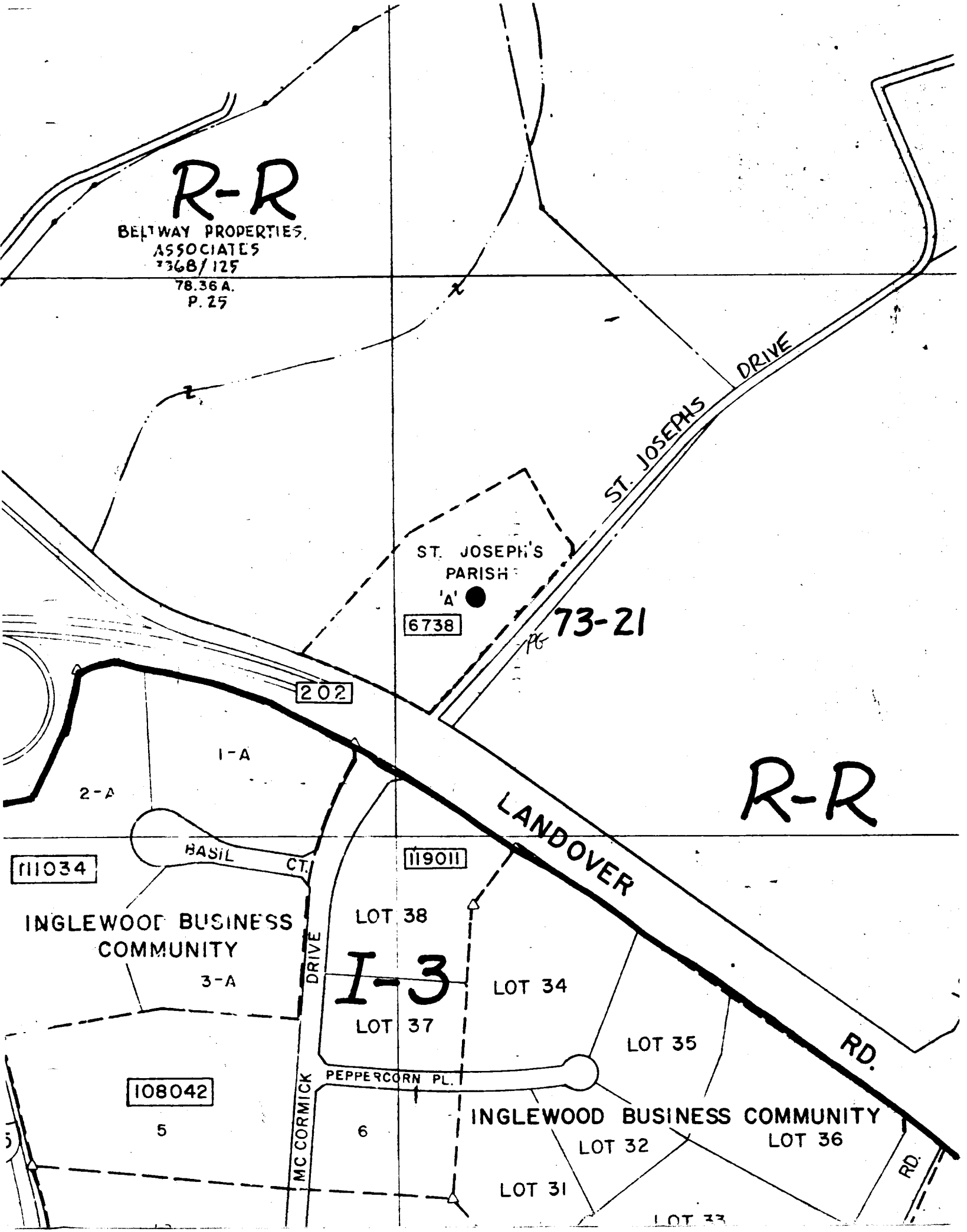
PS-2746

After the deaths of Eugene and Annette Roberts, Fairfield passed by family agreement to their son, Joseph William Roberts, who maintained his home there until the late 1950's. In 1963, the property was sold to the Roman Catholic Church, for the establishment of St. Joseph's Church.[2] The dwelling house, with new screened porch on the rear and new plain entry porch at the principal entrance, is now used as the Rectory. It is a noticeable landmark in a rapidly developing area.

Notes

1 Prince George's County Will WAJ Jr. #1:361; Prince George's Tax Assessments, 1888-1900.

2 Prince George's County Deeds #529:462; #2398:598; #2835:13; and #3368:125, interview, August 1986, with members of Roberts family.


R-R
BELTWAY PROPERTIES, ASSOCIATES
7368/125
78.36 A.
P. 25
ST. JOSEPHS DRIVE
ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH
'A'
6738
73-21
202
1-A
2-A
R-R
LANDOVER RD.
BASIL CT.
111034
119011
INGLEWOOD BUSINESS COMMUNITY
3-A
LOT 38
DRIVE
I-3
LOT 34
LOT 37
LOT 35
PEPPERCORN PL.
108042
5
6
MC CORMICK
INGLEWOOD BUSINESS COMMUNITY
LOT 32
LOT 36
RD.
LOT 31
LOT 33

PG#73-21

Fairfield (Eugene Roberts House)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

PG#73-21

Fairfield (Eugene Roberts House)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
South elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

PG#73-21

Fairfield (Eugene Roberts House)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
Northwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD

PG#73-21

Fairfield (Eugene Roberts House)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
East elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD