

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #74A-5 Building Date: ca. 1885

Building Name: Townshend House

Location: 12706 Woodmore Road, Mitchellville, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

The Townshend House is a two-story frame hip-roofed house set back circa 1,500 feet north of Woodmore Road at the end of a long lane lined with evergreens. It is nearly square, three bays by two bays, with overhanging eaves typical of the Italianate style. In the three-bay principal south facade, there is a handsome entrance in the central bay. The door surround features pilasters in the Ionic style; it has sidelights and an elliptical fanlight with tracery. There are two interior chimneys in the south plane of the roof located on each side of the central stairhall. Across the south front of the building is a one-story porch supported by plain posts with jig-sawn brackets. The siding of the house is plain horizontal board, painted white. The windows are 2/2 with louvered shutters painted dark green. The roof is of metal painted red, and the foundations are of brick. To the east of the building is a modern addition: a small square hip-roofed one-story wing, connected to the main house by a breezeway. To the northeast is a small one-story storage building, and a few hundred feet farther north is a small barn.

Significance

The Townshend House is a handsome Victorian house with Italianate details, built in the early 1880's for Alice and Grafton Townshend. It remained in the Townshend family for nearly 100 years. Alice Amelia Walker grew up in the late eighteenth century house at Pleasant Prospect which her father, Jonathan T. Walker, had acquired after the Civil War. In 1880 she married Grafton Townshend, a planter from the area south of Tee Bee known as Townshend after his family. For the first several years they lived in the Townshend area, while her father had a house built for them on the western section of Pleasant Prospect. In 1885 after the house was completed, Jonathan and Jane Walker deeded to their daughter, Alice Amelia Townshend, and her children the 163 acres of Pleasant Prospect upon which the house stood; the large and handsome house was home to Alice Townshend and later to her son Harry. When Harry Townshend died in 1968, he willed the house and 3 acres to his wife, Ruth. She sold it in 1977 to the family of Paul Zanecki, who added the breezeway and east addition.

Acreage: 4 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Townshend House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 12706 Woodmore Road (Now on Request Way) not for publication

city, town Mitchellville vicinity of Woodmore congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

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

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

name Thomas Farrington

street & number 12706 Woodmore Road telephone no.:

city, town Mitchellville state and zip code 20716

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #5787

street & number Main Street folio 69

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records History Division MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md.

7. Description

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

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

The Townshend House is a two-story frame hip-roofed house set back circa 1,500 feet north of Woodmore Road at the end of a long lane lined with evergreens. It is nearly square, three bays by two bays, with overhanging eaves typical of the Italianate style. In the three-bay principal (south) facade, there is a handsome entrance in the central bay. The door surround features pilasters in the Ionic style. The door has sidelights and an elliptical fanlight with tracery. There are two interior chimneys in the south plane of the roof located on each side of the central stairhall. Across the south front of the building is a one-story porch supported by plain posts with jig-sawn brackets. The siding of the house is plain horizontal board, painted white. The windows are 2/2 with louvered shutters painted dark green. The roof is of metal painted red, and the foundations are of brick.

To the east of the building is a small square hip-roofed one-story addition, connected to the main house by a breezeway. To the northeast is a small one-story storage building, and a few hundred feet further north is a small barn. This small farm stood for nearly a century surrounded by open farmland; in recent years, however, the new development of the Court-side Villas at Woodmore has grown up immediately west of the Townshend farm.

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"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1885 **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 Townshend House is a handsome Victorian house with Italianate details, built in the early 1880's for Alice and Grafton Townshend. It remained in the Townshend family for nearly 100 years.

Alice Amelia Walker grew up in the late eighteenth century house at Pleasant Prospect which her father, Jonathan T. Walker, had acquired after the Civil War. In 1880 she married Grafton Townshend, a planter from the area south of Tee Bee which was known as Townshend after his family. For the first several years they lived in the Townshend area, while her father had a house built for them on the western section of Pleasant Prospect.¹ In 1885 after the house was completed, Jonathan and Jane Walker deeded to their daughter, Alice Amelia Townshend, and her children the 163 acres of Pleasant Prospect upon which the house stood; the large and handsome house was home to Alice Townshend and later to her son Harry.² When Harry Townshend died in 1968, he willed the house and 3 acres to his wife, Ruth.³ She sold it in 1977 to the family of Paul Zanecki, who added the breezeway and east addition.

Notes

¹ Prince George's County Census, 1880, Brandywine District; Prince George's County Tax Assessments.

² Prince George's County Land Records, JWB #4:488; #207:344.

³ Prince George's County Will, GSMcG #4:378.

PG # 244-5
170175504

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: Woodmoor Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Mitchellville					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No					
PRESENT USE (Check One or None as Appropriate)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Townsend					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. SEARCHED IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: None					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
STATE:					

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed <small>(Check One)</small>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site <small>(Check One)</small>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The house is a square, two story, frame building with a three bay, main (south) facade. There are four chimneys for stove flues, two on either side of the hall partition walls. The roof is a low hip.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for major bibliographical references.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Blank area for acreage justification.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 7 Oct 74

STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Chain of Title

Townshend House
P.G. #74A-5

#5787:69
17 Oct 1983
Deed
V. Paul and Janine Jennie Zanecki to Thomas A. and Suellen R. Farrington; 3.00002 acres in the 7th E.D., Part 2 of 3 parts conveyed; same which grantors acquired by #4935:380.

#4935:380
2 Dec 1977
Deed
Algie M. Pulley, Jr., and Gary S. Kaveney to V. Paul and Janine Jennie Zanecki; 130,683 square feet or 3.0001 acres in the 7th E.D.; interest which grantors acquired by #4827:606.

#4827:606
23 Sept 1977
Deed
Ruth K.,Townshend to V. Paul Zanecki as to 50% interest, Algie M. Pulley, Jr. as to 25% interest, and Gary S. Kaveney as to 25% interest, all tenants in common; 130,683 square feet or 3.0001 acres in 7th E.D.; same which grantor acquired by #3868:132.

#3868:132
4 Sept 1970
Deed
Harry W. Townshend, Jr., executor of Harry W. Townshend, Sr., to Ruth K. Townshend, widow; 130,683 square feet or 3.0001 acres, with right of ingress and egress to Woodmore Road; to secure title of grantee to land devised to her by will recorded GSMcG#4:378.

GSMcG#4:378
4 Sept 1968
Wills
Harry W. Townshend, Sr., died 17 August 1968 devising to his widow, Ruth K. Townshend, "our home at the time of my death;" if the residence was on the property he owned on Woodmore Road, it was not to exceed 4 acres and was to include the dwelling and outbuildings thereon; same which deceased acquired by #207:344.

#207:344
15 Dec 1923
Deed
Grafton C. D. Townshend, widower, and the surviving children of Alice Amelia (Walker) Townshend deceased, to Harry Walter Townshend; 163 acres, 2 roads and 31 perches in Queen Anne District, part of Pleasant Prospect; same which deceased acquired by JWB#4:488.

JWB#4:488
1 Apr 1885
Deed
Jonathan T. and Jane A. Walker to Alice Amelia Townshend, their daughter, and to her children; 163 acres, 2 roads and 31 perches in Queen Anne District, part of Pleasant Prospect lying on the public road from Bladensburg to Mullikin Station; in return, grantee relinquished all rights in her parents' estate.

M. 53 - P/O P. 61

M. 53
P/O P. 61

2.47 A
P. 50

MAP 54
P. 16

111063

108025

4.00A
P. 27c

74A-5

246-218
P. 32
0.62A

PLEASANT

SPRIGGS

HARRY W TOWNSHEND, JR
1735 / 235
7A
P. 3

GOLFAMERICA CORP
OF MARYLAND
5051 / 281
M. 53 - P/O P. 61

M. 53
P/O P. 61

R-A

BOARD C
EDUCATION
3544/47
8.79 A
P. 1

WOODMORE

5306 / 653
2.96 A
P. 12

JESSE
900
1C

STEVEN
A HAAG
5011 / 243
4.52A
P. 11

CO.

ROBT. J.
DELEONIBUS
13034-550
6.51A
P. 10

TRI-DEI FARMS, INC.
4214/217
12.04 A
P. 27

AUBREY
467
2
F

R-E

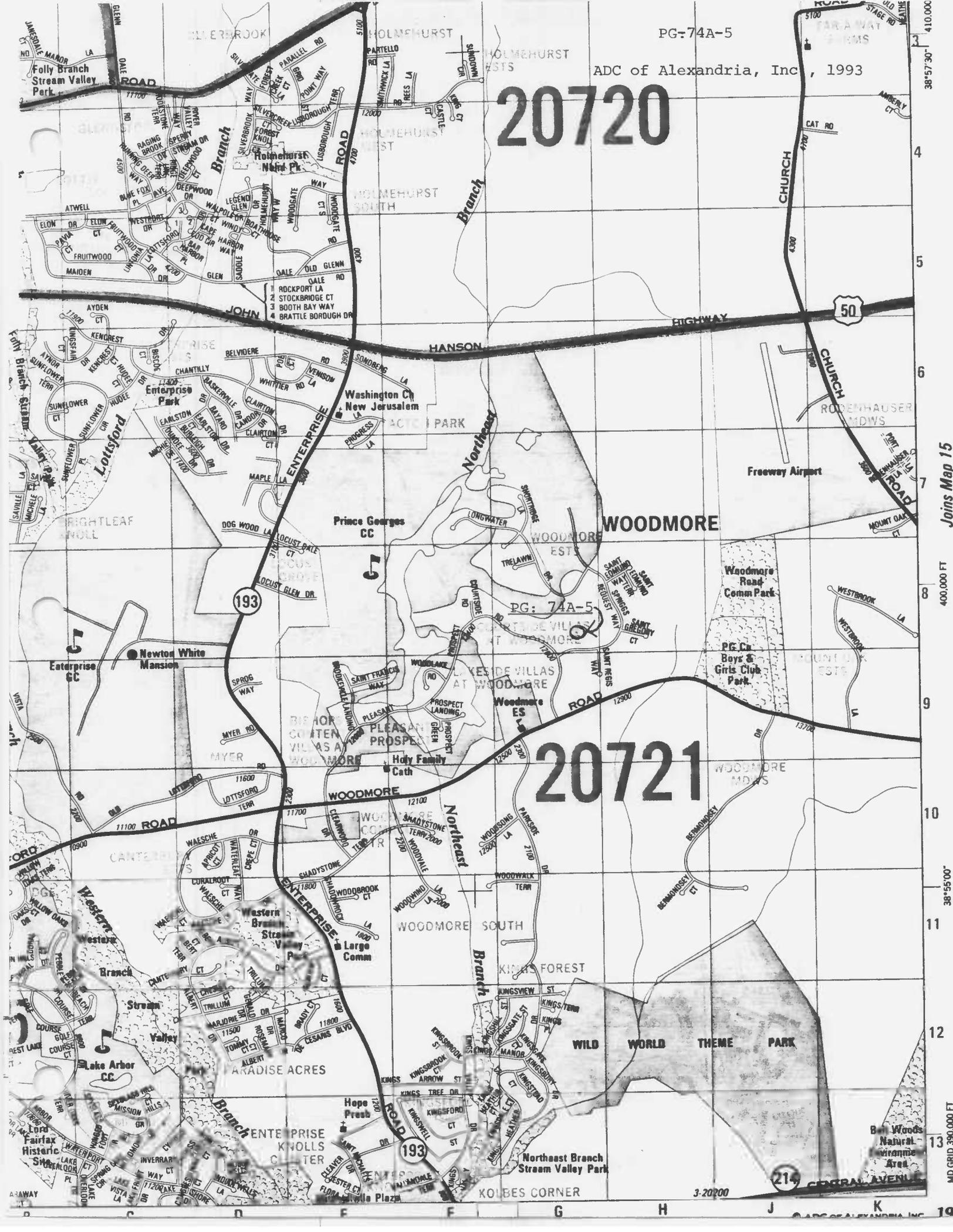
R-A

GOLFAMERICA CORP
5220 / 281
M. 53 - P/O P. 61

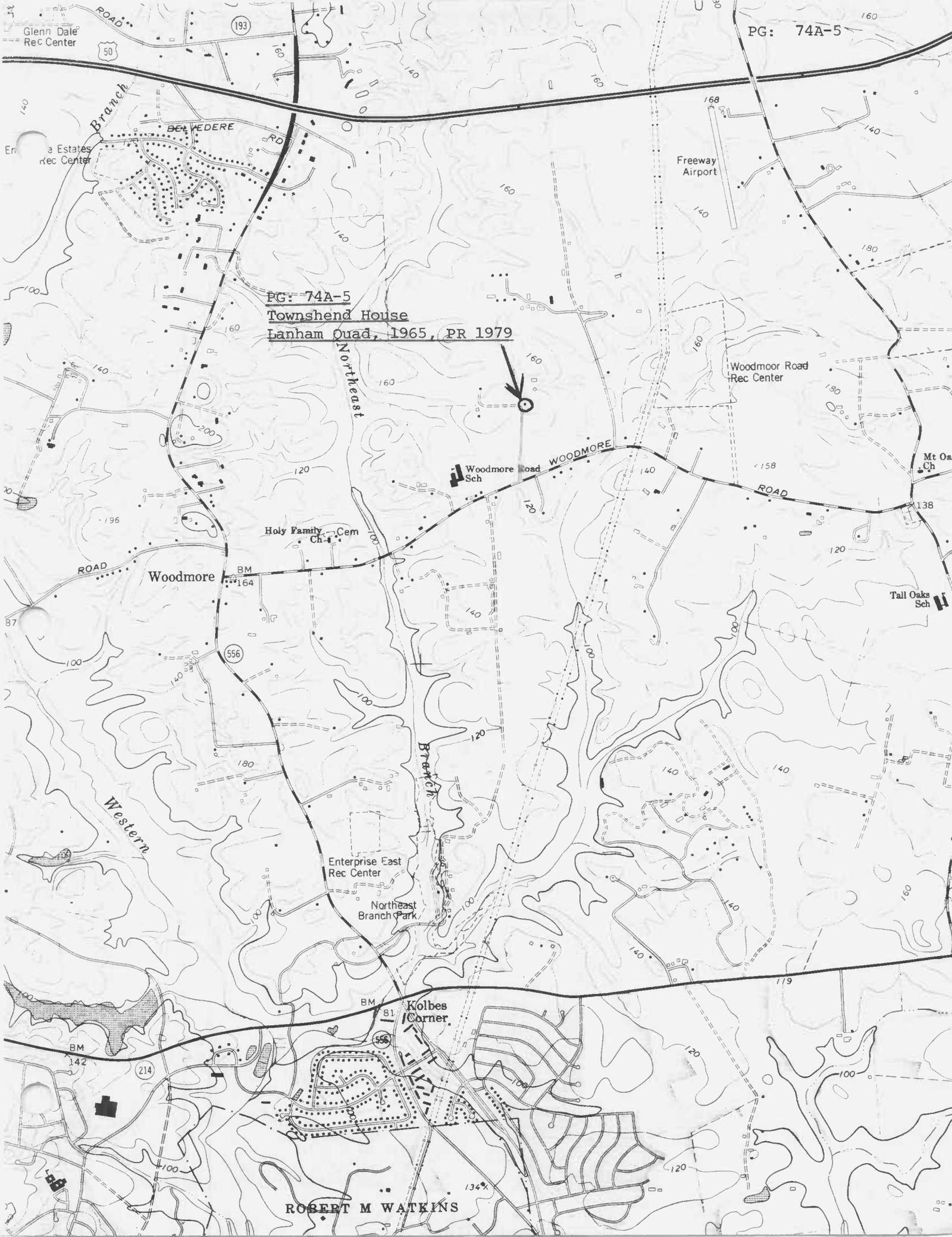
P
38

20720

20721



PG: 74A-5
Townshend House
Lanham Quad, 1965, PR 1979





NAME HOUSE (MID-ATLANTIC CORP.)
LOCATION N SIDE WOODMORE Rd WOODMORE, P.G. Co. Md
FACADE S
PHOTO TAKEN 10/7/74 MDWYER
PB: 74A-5



P.G.#74A-5

Townshend House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

March 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.