CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: M:26-33 (PACS 7.15) **Construction Date:** 1940-1955

Name: Rockcrest Neighborhood

Location: Intersection of Veirs Mill Road, First Street and Rockville Pike; Rockville, Montgomery County

Private/Private Residences/Occupied/Good/Unrestricted

Description:

The Rockcrest Neighborhood, developed between 1940 and 1955, is a subdivision characterized by 1- and 1½-story, 2- and 3-bay cottages. The subdivision is bounded by Veirs Mill Road on the north, Gail Avenue on the west, Lewis Avenue on the south, and Parrish Drive and Okinawa Avenue on the east.

Significance:

Thomas O. DeBeck, President of the Rockcrest Realty Corporation, began acquiring the and in the Rockcrest area in the late 1930s. The first subdivision plats were filed in 1940. Joseph N. Starkley was the engineer. Rockcrest evolved beginning in the east around Gail Avenue. The properties between Gail Avenue and Edmonston Avenue were constructed between 1940 and 1950. The properties west of Edmonston Avenue were constructed beginning in 1951.

Preparer
P.A.C. Spero & Company
May 1998

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term Congestion Relief

Survey No. M:26-33 (PACS 7.15)
DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic (preferred) Rockcrest Neighborhood

and/or common same

2. Location:

street & number Abbott Rd., Agnew Dr., Allison Dr., Autre Ct., Broadwood Dr., Burris Rd., Clagett Dr., Coral Sea Dr., Crawford Dr., DeBeck Dr., Edmonston Dr., Farr Rd., Gail Ave., Henry Rd., Highwood Rd., Langbrooke Pl., Lewis Ave., Okinawa Ave., Parrish Dr., Paul Dr., Rockwood Dr., Simmons Dr., Veirs Mill Rd., Wade Ave. ___ not for publication

city, town Rockville ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
_X_district	___public	_X_occupied	___agriculture	___museum
___building(s)	_X_private	___unoccupied	___commercial	___park
___structure	___both	___work in progress	___education	_X_private residence
___site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___entertainment	___religious
___object	___in process	___yes: restricted	___government	___scientific
	___being considered	_X_yes: unrestricted	___industrial	___other:
	_X_not applicable	___no	___military	
			___transportation	

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

name Multiple

street & number telephone no.:

city,town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Montgomery County liber

street & number 50 Maryland Avenue folio

city,town Rockville state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___federal ___state ___county ___local

)sitory for survey records

city,town state

7. Description

Survey No. M:26-33 (PACS 7.15)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
___excellent	___deteriorated	___unaltered	_X_original site	
_X_good	___ruins	_X_altered	___moved	date of move _____
___fair	___unexposed			

Resource Count: approximately 750

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

The Rockcrest Neighborhood, developed between 1940 and 1955, is a subdivision characterized by 1- and 1½-story, 2- and 3-bay cottages. The subdivision is bounded by Veirs Mill Road on the north, Gail Avenue on the west, Lewis Avenue on the south, and Parrish Drive and Okinawa Avenue on the east.

The cottages in the Rockcrest Neighborhood are constructed of brick and wood-frame. Asbestos shingles and vinyl siding are common. Most of the cottages have concrete foundations and asphalt-shingle, side-gable roofs. Colonial Revival details appear on many cottages, as do rear and side additions. Most of the cottages have 6/6 double-hung windows.

There are seven basic types of cottages in this neighborhood. The first type is a 1½-story, 3-bay cottage with a center entry and a side-gable roof with two gable dormers. This type is usually constructed of wood frame. The second type is a 1½-story, 3-bay cottage with a center entry and a gable-front-and-wing form. This type is also usually constructed of wood-frame. The third type is a 1-story, 3-bay cottage with a side-gable roof and an entrance on the side elevation. This type is usually constructed of brick. The fourth type is a 1-story, 3-bay cottage with an off-center entry and a side-gable roof. This type is executed in both brick and wood-frame. The fifth type is a 1-story, 2-bay cottage with a side-gable roof and an entrance on the side elevation. This type is usually constructed of wood-frame. The sixth type is a 1-story, 3-bay cottage with a center entry and a side-gable roof. This type is usually constructed of brick. The seventh type is a 1-story, 4-bay cottage with a side-gable roof and an entry on one end of the front elevation. This type is usually constructed of wood-frame and has large, tripled double-hung windows and small fixed-sash windows.

The Rockcrest Neighborhood is located near the busy intersections of Veirs Mill Road and First Street and Rockville Pike and First Street. The subdivision has a curvilinear design and the streets are lined with deciduous trees. Hillcrest Park and Rockcrest Park are located within the neighborhood. The Rockcrest Neighborhood is located in a dense suburban area. Residential development is located to the north and east, while commercial development is located to the south and west.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:26-33 (PACS 7.15)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
__prehistoric	__archaeology-prehistoric	__Community planning	__landscape architecture	__religion	
__ 400-1499	__archeology-historic	__conservation	__law	__science	
__1500-1599	__agriculture	__economics	__literature	__sculpture	
__1600-1699	__architecture	__education	__military	__social/ humanitarian	
__1700-1799	__art	__engineering	__music	__theater	
__1800-1899	__commerce	__exploration/settlement	__philosophy	__transportation	
X 1900-	__communication	__industry	__politics/government		
		__invention	__other (specify)		

Specific dates 1940-1955 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A___B___C___D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: ___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.

Thomas O. DeBeck, President of the Rockcrest Realty Corporation, began acquiring the land in the Rockcrest area in the late 1930s. The first subdivision plats were filed in 1940. Joseph N. Starkley was the engineer. Rockcrest evolved beginning in the east around Gail Avenue. The properties between Gail Avenue and Edmonston Avenue were constructed between 1940 and 1950. The properties west of Edmonston Avenue were constructed beginning in 1951.

The Rockcrest Neighborhood is located in the City of Rockville. Rockville became the County seat when Montgomery County was created in 1776. Through most of the nineteenth century, Rockville was a courthouse village, surrounded by agricultural land. It remained a small town until the coming of the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1873. The railroad brought summer and weekend visitors, and the resort trade encouraged the rapid expansion of Rockville, both in size and population. Many summer hotel patrons built summer residences and others became year-round residents.

Following the rapid growth from the 1870s to the 1890s, the expansion of Rockville stabilized until a second development boom after World War II. The growth of the Federal government in nearby Washington, D.C. in the years after the War, spurred considerable suburban expansion in Rockville and surrounding areas. Access to the Capital by rail and improved roadways encouraged this suburban expansion (Rockville Historic District Commission 1973).

The Rockcrest Neighborhood is typical of neighborhoods constructed in Montgomery County after World War II. Montgomery County experienced a rapid increase in population after World War II. Little residential construction had occurred during the Great Depression, and the shift to a wartime economy during World War II brought residential construction to a virtual stand-still. These factors combined to create a critical housing shortage by 1945 (Tindall 1984:1240). In addition, after the war, permanent housing had to be provided for returning veterans and new government workers. Many American families could afford housing which would have been beyond the reach of most Americans in any previous generation. Automobile ownership also skyrocketed in the post-war period, revolutionizing the way Americans lived. Now, most people not only had the means to buy a newer, more desirable home, but they had the mobility to live someplace where sufficient land was available to enable them to escape the congestion of the city (Relph 1987:158-162). During the 1940s, several new trends altered the character of suburban neighborhoods. After 1945, the federal government spent billions on expressways to enable people

8. Significance (Continued)

who lived in the suburbs to commute to work in the city. Beltways and other highways linking suburbs together were also constructed. In many cases, extensive suburban development occurred in areas which likely would have remained undeveloped were it not for the existence of these highways. After the war, however, houses in the new low-cost developments were purchased primarily by veterans and young families with little disposable income. These communities were characterized by 1½-story, front-gabled cottages and simple twentieth century architectural styles.

Rockcrest is a neighborhood of vernacular cottages. Between 1870 and 1950 the vernacular cottage style was typically built for Americans of modest means. They are characterized by simple ornamentation and mass-produced components, such as door frames, moldings, sash and window units, and porch decoration. The development of post-Civil War machinery capable of producing large amounts of standardized housing elements, such as those found in cottages, contributed greatly to the development of the modern American housing industry. Designs for vernacular cottages were obtained from popular magazines, such as House Beautiful, or carpenter's and builder's journals, such as American Builder. A variety of front-gable, side-gable, cross-gable and hipped roof frame cottages were developed in the early to mid-twentieth century. Front-gable and hipped roof cottages are primarily 1 to 1½-stories tall, 3-bays wide and several rooms deep. Side-gable and cross-gable structures are usually 2 to 2½-stories tall, are typically 2 to 3-bays in width and vary from one to three rooms deep. They usually include a porch covered with a shed roof. Porches are supported by posts often containing machine-produced Victorian ornamentation. Some cottages feature ornamentation drawn from Craftsman style or Colonial Revival architecture (Gottfried and Jennings 1988, viii-xv).

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed between 1940 and 1955, the Rockcrest Neighborhood is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state, or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as the cottages represent a common and indistinctive type of architecture constructed by a developer to provide low-cost housing during the period of post-war expansion. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended_____ Eligibility Not Recommended X

Comments

Reviewer, OPS: _____ Date: 5/29/2002

Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: 3/1/02

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:26-33 (PACS 7.15)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name Rockville, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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 Julie Darsie

organization	P.A.C. Spero & Company	date	May 1998
street & number	40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412	telephone	(410) 296-1635
city or town	Baltimore	state	Maryland

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 purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Boyd, T.H.S. 1968. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company.

Brugger, Robert A. 1988. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Coleman, Margaret Marshall. 1984. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Rev. 1990. Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. 1962. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland. Washington: Judd and Detweiller, Inc.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. 1988. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press.

Siebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. 1976. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society.

Hopkins, G.M. [1879] 1975. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including the County of Montgomery, Maryland. Reprint. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Martenet, Simon J. [1865] 1975. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Reprint. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.

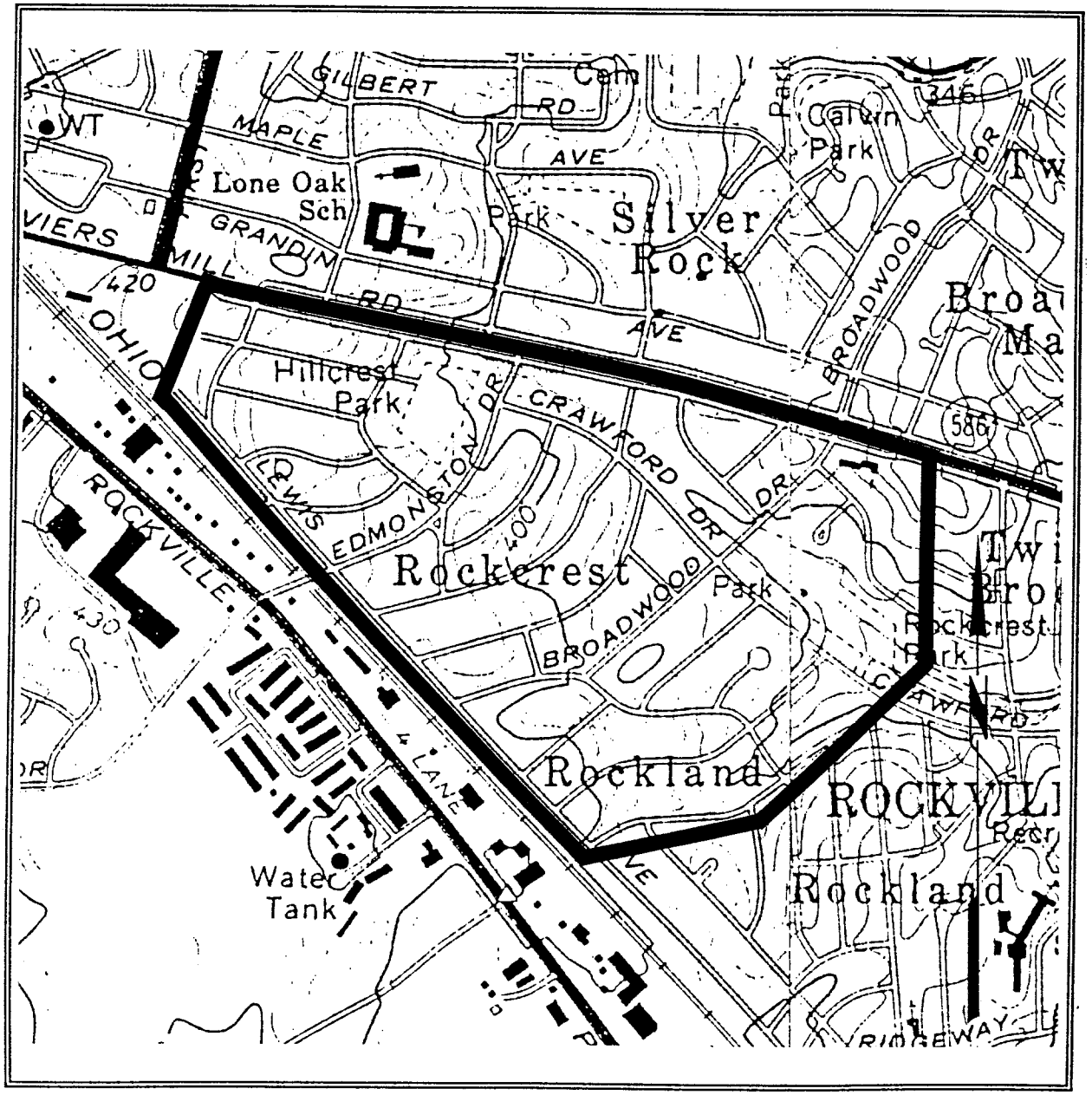
Relph, Edward. 1987. The Modern Urban Landscape. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Rockville Historic District Commission. 1973. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. West Montgomery Avenue Historic District. Rockville, MD.

Tindall, George Brown. 1984. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
RESOURCE NAME: Rockcrest Neighborhood
SURVEY NO.: M:26-33 (PACS 7.15)
ADDRESS: Intersection of Veirs Mill Road, First Street, Rockville Pike, Rockville, Montgomery County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture and Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

District

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Suburban

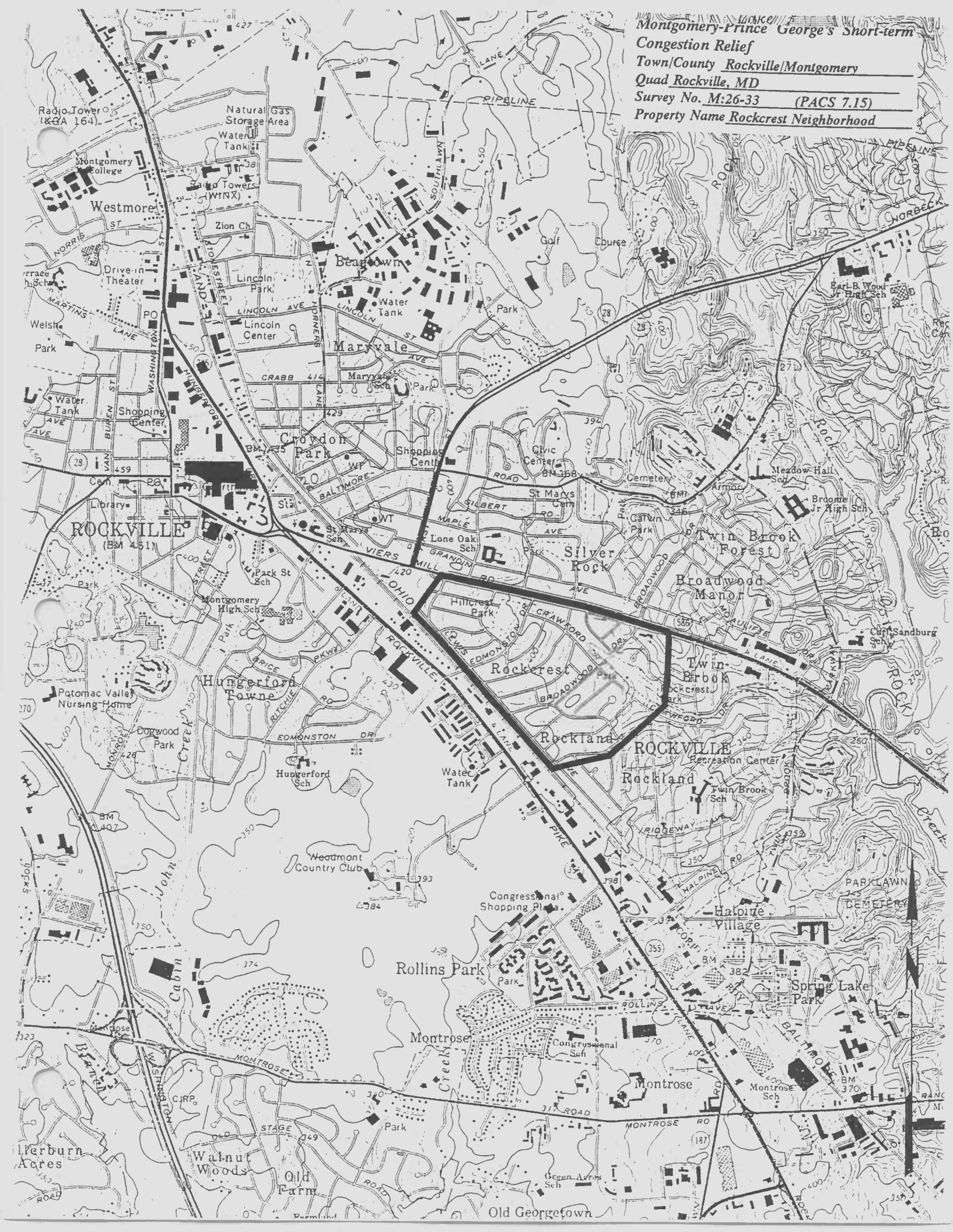
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Private Residences

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer
P.A.C. Spero & Company
May 1998


Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term Congestion Relief
Town/County Rockville/Montgomery
Quad Rockville, MD
Survey No. M:26-33 (PACS 7.15)
Property Name Rockcrest Neighborhood
Westmore
Beargrown
Marvyale
Croydon Park
ROCKVILLE
Hungerford Towne
Rockcrest
Rockland
Twin Brook Forest
Broadwood Manor
Silver Rock
Rollins Park
Montrose
Walnut Woods
Old Farm
Old Georgetown
Halpine Village
Spring Lake Park
Parklawn Cemetery
Weedmont Country Club
Congressional Shopping Plaza
Montgomery College
Radio Tower (KGA 164)
Natural Gas Storage Area
Water Tank
Sears Towers (WTNX)
Zion Ch
Drive-in Theater
Lincoln Park
Lincoln Center
Welsh Park
Shopping Center
Civic Center
Golf Course
Cemetery
Armory
Meadow Hall Sch
Broome Jr High Sch
Earl B Wood Jr High Sch
Library
St Marys Sch
St Marys Cem
Lone Oak Sch
Park St Sch
Montgomery High Sch
Hillcrest Park
Twin Brook Park
Rockcrest Park
Broadwood Park
Dogwood Park
Potomac Valley Nursing Home
Hungerford Sch
Carl Sandburg Sch
Twin Brook Sch
ROCKVILLE Recreation Center
Congressional Sch
Montrose Sch
Green Acres Sch
Cabin John Creek
Rock Creek
Watts Branch
Baltimore Road
Rockville Pike
Montrose Road
Ritchie Road
Edmonston Drive
Ridgeway Ave
Halpine Road
Rollins Ave
Gilbert Road
Crawford Drive
Twinbrook Pkwy
Viers Mill Road
Maple Ave
Lincoln Ave
Martins Lane
Crabb Lane
Southlawn Lane
Norbeck Road
Ohio Drive
Broadwood Drive
Twinbrook Drive
Meadow Hall Drive
Pipeline
Water Tank
Park
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PO
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6 Mid Stn

7 910 Lewis Ave

8 1 of 20

1 M.26-33

2 Rock Crest

3 Montgomery Co. Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHPO

7 1000 Beach Paul Dr.

8 2 of 20

[illegible] 1220668

1 M:26-33

2 Rock Creek

3 Montgomery Co MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHPO

7 1109 Agnus Dr., east elevation

8 3 of 20

1 M: 26-33
2 Rock Crest
3 Montgomery Co. Md
4 Susan Taylor
5 5198
6 Md SHPO
7 1110 Agnew Dr, NW elevation
8 4 of 20

1 [illegible]:26-33

2 Rock Creek

3 Montgomery Co Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md. SHPO

7 [illegible] Agnes Dr, east [illegible]

8 5 of 20

1 M:26-33

2 Rockcrest

3 Montgomery Co. Md

4 Susan Taylor

5. 5/98

6. Md Silver

7 1105 Agnew Dr., east Elevation [illegible]

8 6 of 20

1 M:26-33

2 Rock Crest

3 Montgomery Co. Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5198

6 Md SHPO

7 1005 Lewis Ave, West Side

8 7 of 20

1 MD:26-33

2 Rock Creek

3 Montgomery Co. Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/95

6 Md SHPO

7 1720 Henry Rd

8 8 of 20

1 M:26-33
2 Rockcreek,
3 Montgomery Co, Md
4 Susan Taylor
5 5/98
6 Md SHP,
7 1004-1005 Lewis Ave Streetscape
8 9 of 20

1 M-26-33

2 Rock Creek

3 Montgomery Co Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHPO

7 900 Block Lewis Ave, West Side

8 101 20

1 M 26-33

2 Rockcrest

3 Montgomery Co, MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHPO

7 1006 Paul Dr

8 11 of 20

1 M:26-33

2 Rockcrest

3 Montgomery 2 Md

4 [illegible] Darsie

5 5/98

6 Md Stk

7 [illegible]

8 12 of 20

1 M 26 33

2 Rockville

3 Montgomery Co. Md

4 Julia Davis

5 5198

6 Md. Stps

7 [illegible] Ave

8 [illegible] 20

1 M 26-33
2 Rockcrest
3 Montgomery Co Md
4 Julie Davis
5 [illegible]/95
6 [illegible]
7 [illegible]
8 14 of 20

1 M 26-33

2 Rockcrest

3 Montgomery Co Md.

4 Julie Da[illegible]

5 5/98

6 Md. SHPO

7 Tschech Jr

8 15 of 20

1 M:26:33

2 Rockcrest

3 Montgomery Co Ala

4 Julia Davis

5 5/95

6 Ala SHPO

7 Edmonton

8 16 of 30

1 111-26-33

2 Rockcrest

3 Montgomery Co. Md

4 Cedar Valley

5 5/98

6 Md SHPO

7 Wade Dr

8 17 of 20

1 M 26-33

2 Rock Crest

3 Montgomery Co Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 4/98

6 Md SHPO

7 1920 Block Agnes - Dr, east side

8 18 of 20

1 III-26-33

2 Rock Creek

3 Montgomery Co. Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHPO

7 East side, Crawford St.

8 19 of 20

1 M:26-33

2 Rock Creek

3 Montgomery Co. Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHPO

7 Hill Crest Park

8 20 of 20