

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: PG:62-31 (PACS 2.8) Construction Date: circa 1870

Name: Coffin Family Property

Location: 12307 Conway Road, Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County

Private/Private Residence/Occupied/Fair/Restricted

Description: The Coffin Family Property is a 2-story, 4-bay duplex building on the west side of Conway Road in the Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County. Constructed circa 1870, the building is a single room deep with a 1-story rear addition. There is a screened porch on the front elevation.

Significance: The Coffin Family Property was built circa 1870 as part of the settlement near the intersection of Muirkirk Road and Old Baltimore Pike. Charles Coffin had purchased the Muirkirk iron furnace from the Ellicotts, and then constructed his mansion close to the site. A small community of approximately 30 worker residences, a store, and a post office to serve the needs of the iron furnace and kiln was developed on approximately 3.6 hectares (9 acres) of land close to the furnace. Charles Coffin owned the land on which the settlement was built, as well as four separate farm tracts in the area, totaling 437 hectares (1080 acres). After his death in 1905, the executor of the estate, F. Snowden Hill, held a public auction in 1913 for all of the properties owned by Charles Coffin. Separate bids for the properties totaled \$15,900, while the offer for all the parcels together received a bid for \$22,000. This bid was made by the children and heirs of Charles Coffin; Mattie Coffin, Rachel J. Coffin, Harriet Belfield, Mary Kate Cassard, and Constance Coffin. They sold the property discussed here, known as Lot 8 in an unrecorded plat of 1923, in 1944 for \$950 to the current owners; Mary Jane Jones, Naomi Ford, Helen Tongue, Estelle Clark, Jane R. Jones, Harry Jones, Bernard Jones, William Jones, James Jones, Cora Louise Manigault, and Mary Catherine Jones.

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

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Coffin Family Property (preferred)

and/or common Mary Jones Property

2. Location:

street & number 12307 Conway Road

n/a not for publication

city, town Beltsville vicinity of

congressional district

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"/> education	<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 checked="" 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"/> other:
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	

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

name Mary J. Jones et. al.

street & number 12307 Conway Road

telephone no.:

city,town Beltsville

state and zip code Maryland 20705

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records of Prince George's County

liber 726

street & number Prince George's County Judicial Center

folio 224

city,town Upper Marlboro

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___federal ___state ___county ___local

depository for survey records

city,town

state

7. Description

Survey No. PG:62-31 (PACS 2.8)

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

Resource Count: 1

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

The Coffin Family Property is a 2-story, 4-bay duplex building on the west side of Conway Road in the Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County. Constructed circa 1870, the building is a single room deep with a 1-story rear addition. There is a screened porch on the front elevation.

The structure has a side-gable roof covered in asphalt shingles, with a brick chimney centered on the rear slope of the roof. It is of wood-frame construction with aluminum siding, and it has a brick foundation. The windows are double-hung vinyl on the first floor and double-hung wood-sash on the second story. The house has a 1-story hipped roof porch which extends across the entire front elevation. The lower half of the porch is sided with aluminum siding, while the upper half has been screened.

The north, or front elevation is dominated by the porch, and faces onto a small yard next to a large modern industrial building. There are two entrances on the first story. The first entrance is in the first bay, and the second is in the fourth bay. The fenestration pattern is asymmetrical. There are two 1/1 double hung windows in the second and third bays of the first story. There are two 6/6 double-hung windows on the second story. Part of the rear addition extends beyond the main block. There is a 4-light paneled door centered on the wall of the rear addition.

The west elevation consists of the gable end of the main block and the rear addition. There is one 1/1 double hung window centered on the first floor of the main block. There is one 6/6 double-hung window on the second story. There is one 2/2 double-hung window on the west wall of the rear addition.

The south, or rear elevation consists of the 1-story rear addition and the extension of the addition. There is one 2/2 double-hung window on the south wall of the extension. The south wall of the rear addition has a symmetrical fenestration pattern. There are two sets of paired 1/1 double hung windows on first story. There are no openings on the second story. The brick chimney rises from the center of the roofline.

The east elevation consists of the east gable end of the main block and the rear addition. There is one 1/1 double-hung window centered on the first story of the main block. There is one 6/6 double-hung window on the second story. The rear addition has one 1/1 double-hung window on the east wall.

The property is located on the west side of Conway Road, with industrial property to the north, south, east, and west. There is a yard to the west of the house, separated from the industrial sites by a fence. The property's setting is altered from its historic setting. The duplex would have been in a small settlement with other worker's housing, a store, a post office, and the Muirkirk furnace and kilns. No remnant of that historic settlement exists in the modern industrial park except for this duplex.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG:62-31 (PACS 2.8)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates circa 1870

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.

The Coffin Family Property was built circa 1870 as part of the settlement near the intersection of Muirkirk Road and Old Baltimore Pike. Charles Coffin had purchased the Muirkirk iron furnace from the Ellicotts, and then constructed his mansion close to the site. A small community of approximately 30 worker residences, a store, and a post office to serve the needs of the iron furnace and kiln was developed on approximately 3.6 hectares (9 acres) of land close to the furnace. Charles Coffin owned the land on which the settlement was built, as well as four separate farm tracts in the area, totaling 437 hectares (1080 acres). After his death in 1905, the executor of the estate, F. Snowden Hill, held a public auction in 1913 for all of the properties owned by Charles Coffin. Separate bids for the properties totaled \$15,900, while the offer for all the parcels together received a bid for \$22,000. This bid was made by the children and heirs of Charles Coffin; Mattie Coffin, Rachel J. Coffin, Harriet Belfield, Mary Kate Cassard, and Constance Coffin. They sold the property discussed here, known as Lot 8 in an unrecorded plat of 1923, in 1944 for \$950 to the current owners; Mary Jane Jones, Naomi Ford, Helen Tongue, Estelle Clark, Jane R. Jones, Harry Jones, Bernard Jones, William Jones, James Jones, Cora Louise Manigault, and Mary Catherine Jones.

Muirkirk is on land originally patented to Richard Snowden in 1715 as "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" in Prince George's County. "Snowden's New Birmingham Manor" was approximately 1214 hectares (3000 acres) from Old Columbia Pike to the present city of Laurel, and from south of Greencastle and Van Dusen Roads to north of Sandy Spring Road. The 1715 patent increased the already substantial Snowden land holdings, and later additions to Snowden land eventually covered 3749 hectares (9265 acres) by 1743. (Cook 1976: 270-271).

Iron ore was noticed in the Muirkirk area about 1800, but since there is no natural source of power there and overland travel was difficult until the railroad was built, it was not until 1847 that the iron was mined (Brennan 1974: 2). The Ellicott family of Ellicott's Mills established a furnace at what is now the junction of U.S. 1 and Muirkirk Road. During the nineteenth century, the Muirkirk furnace supplied pig iron for use as gun carriages and engine cylinders. The Muirkirk MARC train station and a paint pigment manufacturing plant now occupy the site of the furnace.

The Muirkirk settlement, near the intersection of Muirkirk Road and Old Baltimore Pike, consisted of the furnace, kilns, the mansion of Charles Coffin, who owned the furnace after the Ellicotts,

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Coffin Family Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:62-31 (PACS 2.8)

ADDRESS: 12307 Conway Road, Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

approximately thirty workers residences, a store and post office. Suburban development began with the formation of the Muirkirk Land Company and the construction of electric street car lines through Muirkirk to Laurel. The furnace operated until 1911, and was one of the last furnaces operating in Maryland (Brennan 1974: 3; Prince George's County 1974: 290). There is no longer any above-ground evidence of the furnace or the surrounding development, including the mansion, other worker housing, the store or the post office.

The Muirkirk area is also known for its clay, sand, and gravel mining. Red and grey clays that are useful for making bricks have been mined in the area since the nineteenth century. Sand and gravel were also mined, and during the 1940s mining in the area increased significantly. Currently, much of the land between Laurel and Beltsville on either side of Interstate 95 consists of gravel pits and sand piles.

The Coffin Family property is an example of duplex workers housing. Large industries were dependent upon a large work force which led to the establishment of villages or towns which provided housing and other basic needs of the workers. Company housing could consist of single family residences such as Bungalows, however duplexes were most common. Company duplex housing emerged in the late nineteenth century to replace the row housing common to mill villages earlier in that century. Numerous company towns consisted of streets with long rows of these identical looking houses. They were inexpensive and easy to construct. Often they were built by the workers themselves.

Two family workers' dwellings were wood-frame structures with side gables, two stories, and four to six rooms on either side. Most featured either a single, continuous porch or two small porches on the front. Either a small shed-roof addition, or an ell wing, was frequently attached to the rear and was used as a kitchen. A central chimney, shared by both families, was a common configuration. Most dwellings were finished on the outside with weatherboard, usually nailed directly to the frame. Ornamentation was generally non-existent. Even within the same village, numerous design variations occurred. Although the side-gable duplex was most common, hipped-roof Four-square, I-house, and cross-gable duplexes were not uncommon. Such variations probably exist because houses were built at different times by different builders. Occasionally, a company hired an architect to design workers' duplexes. Such houses included features such as shed roof dormers or bracketed eaves (Bennett 1990:47).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Coffin Family Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:62-31 (PACS 2.8)

ADDRESS: 12307 Conway Road, Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed circa 1870, the Coffin Family Property 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. Though it once housed workers of the Muirkirk Iron Furnace, the building itself does not reveal the character or nature of that industry. The property reflects a portion of the Muirkirk Iron Furnace's history, but no longer conveys that association due to the loss of its historic setting and all other related parts of the Muirkirk settlement. 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 it is altered with replacement windows, aluminum siding, and a rear addition. The property no longer retains integrity of setting, feeling, association, materials, or workmanship. The property is surrounded by large modern industrial buildings. Finally, preliminary studies conducted for this project indicate the need for further assessment of the archaeological potential of this property. Therefore, no evaluation under Criterion D is being conducted at this time.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended X

Comments

Reviewer, OPS: *[Signature]*

Date: 3/3/99

Reviewer, NR Program: *[Signature]*

Date: 3/3/99

[Handwritten mark]

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. PG:62-31 (PACS 2.8)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name Beltsville, 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 Susan L. Taylor

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 purposes 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

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Coffin Family Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:62-31 (PACS 2.8)

ADDRESS: 12307 Conway Road, Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Bennett, Lola M. 1990. The Company Towns of the Rockhill Iron and Coal Company: Robertsdale and Woodvale, Pennsylvania. America's Industrial Heritage Project. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service.
- Brennan, John C. 1974. The Muirkirk Iron Mines and the 1940 WPA Maryland Guidebook. Unpublished paper.
- Brugger, Robert A. 1988. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Cook, William G. 1976. Montpelier & the Snowden Family. Privately Printed.
- Hiebert, 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 County of Prince George's, Maryland. Reprint, Riverdale, Maryland: Prince George's County Historical Society.
- Land Records of Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.
- Prince George's County Community Renewal Program. 1974. The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County. Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Prince George's County Government.
- Tindall, George Brown. 1984. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.
- Virta, Alan. 1984. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Rev. 1991. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Coffin Family Property

SURVEY NO.: PG:62-31 (PACS 2.8)

ADDRESS: 12307 Conway Road, Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s): Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Economic

RESOURCE TYPE:

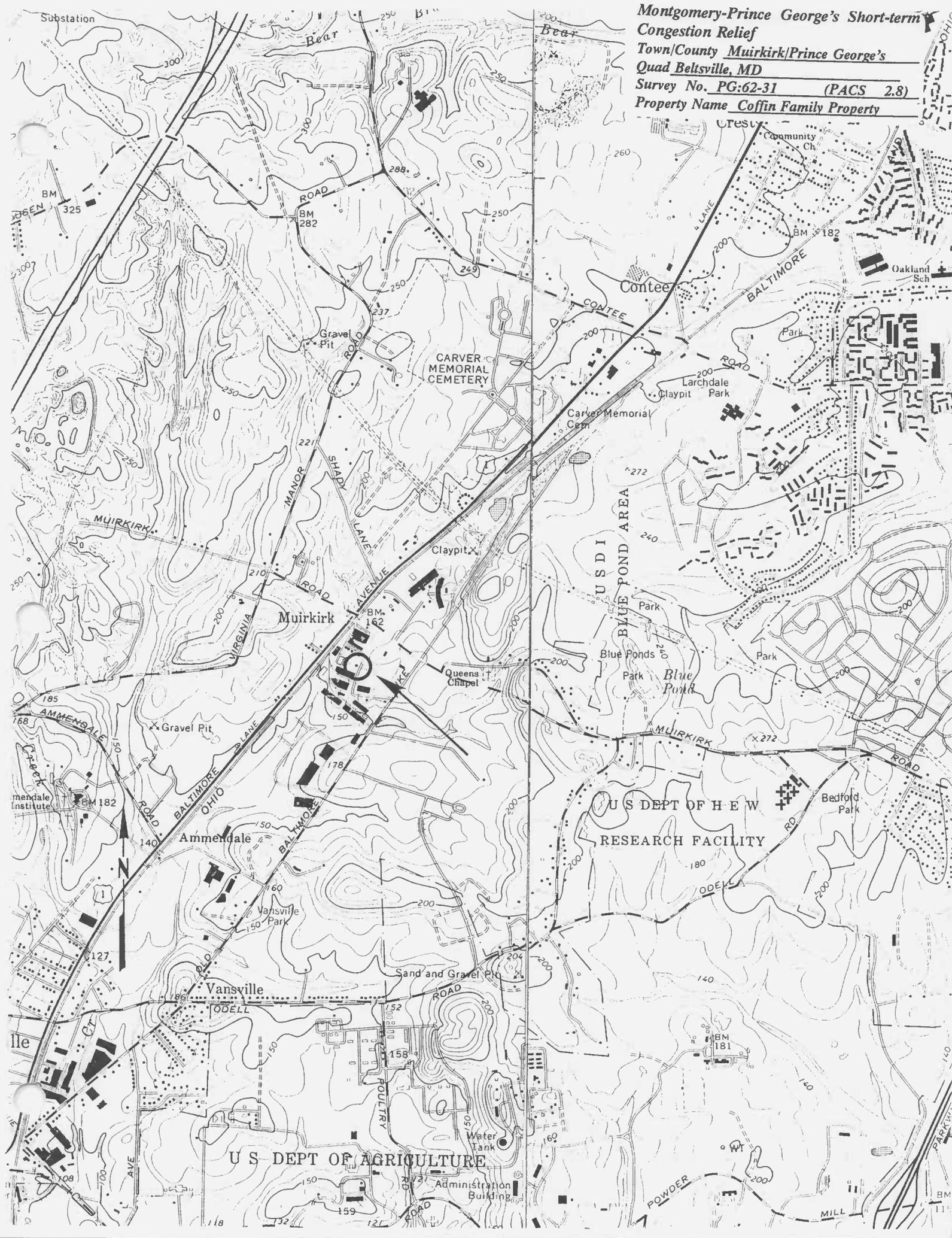
Category (see Section 3 of survey form): Building

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

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Worker's Housing

Known Design Source (write none if unknown): None

Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term
Congestion Relief
Town/County Muirkirk/Prince George's
Quad Beltsville, MD
Survey No. PG:62-31 (PACS 2.8)
Property Name Coffin Family Property





1 P6:62-31

2 12307 Conway Rd. Coffin Family Property

3 Prince Georges Co. MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5198

6 MD SHD

7 North elevation

8 1 of 8



- 1 PG: 67-31
- 2 12307 Conway Rd, Coffin Family Property
- 3 Prince Georges Co, MD
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 1/2
- 6 TID 540
- 7 NW corner
- 8 2 of 8



- 1 PG: 62 21
- 2 12307, Sweeney Rd, Cott. Park, Mo.
- 3 Prince George - Co, MD
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 MD SHPD
- 7 West elevation
- 8 3 of 8

08-2-1998 12:00 PM



- 1 PG 2 31
- 2 12307 Conway Rd. Estlin Family Property
- 3 Prince Georges Co., MD
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 MD S+PC
- 7 SW corner
- 8 4 of 8

2000 12/20/98



James Myers
Company
COMMERCIAL
PHOTOGRAPHY

1 P6162-31

2 12-04 Conway, De - Coll. Family Papers, 19

3 Prince Georges Co, MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/78

6 MD 24PL

7 S election

8 5-78

2025-01-10 12:50:02



- 1 PS 62 31
- 2 12307 Conway Rd. Cottle Farm Property
- 3 Prince Georges Co MD
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 MD STIP
- 7 SE corner
- 8 6 of 8



1 PG 62 31

2 12301 Conway Rd, Cotton Family Papers

3 Prince George's Co, MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 MD SHPB

7 @2 - deviation

2014/11/11 12:07:59

8 7-2-5



1 No 30 31

2 12321 Cor. ay. Rd, Matt. Family Property

3 Prince Georges Co, MD

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 MD 5180

7 East Corner

8 8 of 7

2000 1230 5180