INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Cottage City Fire Company Survey Number: PG68-92

Tax Parcel#: Block 5; Lots 27, 28, and 29 (sections of 24 and 25)

Project: MD Alt 1 (Bladensburg Rd) Planning Study from D.C. Line to 40th Ave Agency: MDOT-SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: __no __yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria: __A __B __C __D Considerations: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G __None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Cottage City Fire Company at 3840 Bladensburg Road and the 1953 addition (3814 through 3822 Bladensburg Road) are not eligible due to the fact that they do not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the buildings and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the buildings provide an example of the Colonial Revival style, they are neither unusual nor distinguished; they do not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form and MD Alt 1 (Bladensburg Rd) from D.C. Line to 40th Ave Planning Study Summary of Results

Prepared by: Traceries, 5420 Western Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815 January 1998

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services 2/28/98 Date

NR program concurrence: X yes __no __not applicable

Reviewer, NR Program 3/25/98 Date

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Cottage City Fire Company
3814-3840 Bladensburg Road
(PG 68-92)

The Cottage City-Colmar Fire Company, organized in 1922, has occupied the purpose-built firehouse located at 3840 Bladensburg Road since its construction in 1939. The Colonial Revival-style firehouse has continued to play a vital role in serving the communities of Cottage City and Colmar Manor for nearly sixty years. The building itself expresses its civic role through its pair of oversized garage door openings and its attention to stylistic detailing.

The firehouse is two and a half stories in height with a hipped asphalt shingled roof covering its rectangular footprint. Set on a solid brick foundation laid in stretcher bond, the firehouse features stretcher bond brick walls, a three-bay-wide facade, and decorative brick quoining at its corners. An elaborate wood surround embellishes the main entry, reinforcing the Colonial Revival character of the building. Two large garage door openings capped by splayed jack-arched brick lintels dominate the firehouse facade. A wood frame cupola caps the ridge of the roof, while hipped roof dormers pierce each roof face. A boxed cornice of aluminum extends around three sides of the building. A single interior brick chimney with concrete coping at its cap extends beyond the roofline at the rear of the building. In addition to the chimney, a three-story, square brick hose tower rises at the west corner. A large, one-story, commercial brick addition constructed in 1953 extends to the southwest of the firehouse.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST Inventory No. PG68-92
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Cottage City Fire Company
common/other name Cottage City-Colmar Manor Volunteer Fire Department

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2. Location

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street & number 3814-3840 Bladensburg Rd. not for publication ___
city or town Cottage City vicinity __ state Maryland code MD
county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20722

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

X private
X public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

X building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?
Yes ___ Name of Listing _____
No X

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: Fire Station

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: Fire Station
COMMERCE/TRADE Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Solid: Brick, Stretcher Bond
roof Hipped: Asphalt Shingle
walls Masonry: Brick, Stretcher Bond
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

____ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

_X_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ B removed from its original location.

____ C a birthplace or a grave.

____ D a cemetery.

____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

____ F a commemorative property.

____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Politics/Government

Period of Significance 1939-present

Significant Dates 1939
1953

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Prince George's County Land Records, Recorder of Deeds, Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Nelson's Washington Suburban Directory of Maryland and Virginia Towns Adjacent to the District of Columbia, 1923. Justus C. Nelson, 1923.

Polk's Washington Suburban Directory of Maryland and Virginia Towns Adjacent to the District of Columbia, 1930-1931. R.L. Polk & Company, Publishers, 1930.

A History of the Town of Cottage City, Maryland. Compiled by Raleigh A. Donley, Jr. for the Bicentennial Committee, May 8, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3939 plus 10,440 Square feet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The building located at 3814 through 3940 Bladensburg Road comprises two adjacent buildings sharing a party wall and standing on two legally separate properties. The property designated 3814-3838 Bladensburg Road is located on Lots 27, 28, 29, and parts of Lots 24 and 25 of Block 5 in Cottage City, Maryland. The firehouse at 3840 Bladensburg Road is designated as Lot 26 of Block 5 in Cottage City, Maryland. Both properties are illustrated on Map 50, Grid B4, Subdivision 2804.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The firehouse 3840 Bladensburg Road has historically been associated with Lot 26 of Block 5 in Cottage City, Maryland its construction in 1939. The commercial building adjacent to the firehouse, designated as 3814-3838 Bladensburg Road, has been associated with Lots 27, 28, 29 and parts of Lots 24 and 25 since its construction in 1953.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn A. Gettings, Architectural Historian
organization Traceries date Jan. 26, 1998
street &umber 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

12. Property Owner

name Fire Department No. 2 - Cottage City & Colmar Manor
street & number 3840 Bladensburg Road telephone 301-927-0189
city or town Cottage City state MD zip code 20722

The 1939 Colonial Revival-style firehouse at 3840 Bladensburg Road is two and a half stories in height with a hipped asphalt shingled roof covering its rectangular footprint. Set on a solid brick foundation laid in stretcher bond, the firehouse features stretcher bond brick walls, a three-bay-wide facade, and decorative brick quoining at its corners. An elaborate wood surround embellishes the main entry, reinforcing the Colonial Revival character of the building. Two large garage door openings capped by splayed jack-arched brick lintels dominate the firehouse facade. A wood frame cupola caps the ridge of the roof, while hipped roof dormers pierce each roof face. A boxed cornice of aluminum extends around three sides of the building. A single interior brick chimney with concrete coping at its cap extends beyond the roofline at the rear of the building. In addition to the chimney, a three-story, square brick hose tower rises at the west corner. A large, one-story, commercial brick addition constructed in 1953 extends to the southwest of the firehouse.

The firehouse occupies a level lot on the west corner of Bladensburg Road and 40th Avenue. The building is set close to the street with sidewalks at its perimeter. A single tree grows near the east corner of the building. The firehouse stands adjacent to a residential neighborhood that extends northwest along 40th Avenue. The southwest commercial addition extends along Bladensburg Road and borders on a large asphalt parking area and an unimproved lot at the rear.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The facade, or southeast elevation, of the building is dominated by two automobile bays and an elaborately detailed side-passage pedestrian entry. Two and a half stories in height, the facade contains three openings at the first story, four at the second, and a single dormer in the half story above. The two garage door openings occupy the southwesternmost bays of the facade and each contains a single roll-up replacement metal door with slit windows. These openings are embellished by prominent brick jack-arched lintels. The third bay set near the building's east corner holds the main pedestrian entry. The entry is marked by a single-leaf replacement door of flush metal with a single fixed square light. A Colonial Revival-style wood surround featuring a broken pediment and fluted pilasters highlights the entrance. Four 1/1 replacement metal sash windows pierce the second story of the main facade.

Evenly spaced, these windows are accentuated by brick rowlock sills and brick jack-arched lintels. The single hipped dormer piercing the front face of the roof contains a louvered metal vent.

The northeast elevation of the firehouse extends along the southwest side of 40th Avenue and features seven irregularly spaced openings on the first story and six evenly spaced openings on the second story. A two-story, flat-roofed brick addition is visible from this side and extends across the rear of the building adding one additional bay to the northeast elevation. Located near the rear of the original section of the firehouse, a single flush metal door with one square light provides access to the first story. This door is capped by a 4-light fixed transom and is surrounded in square-edged wood trim. Two window openings flank the entrance, one 1/1 replacement metal sash window on the southeast and two single-light sliding metal panels on the northwest. The remaining four openings, two containing 6/2 replacement metal sash, one with a fixed 1-light replacement window, and a fourth holding a replacement 1/1 metal sash window, are evenly spaced along the northeast wall extending towards the facade. Aligned with the second story bays, these window openings are marked by rowlock sills. A wide garage door opening containing a metal overhead, roll-up door with slit windows occupies the first story bay of the rear addition.

At the second story, the northeast elevation contains one 6/2 replacement metal sash window and four 1/1 windows, all evenly spaced across the original wall of the firehouse. A fifth 1/1 window pierces the second story of the two-story rear addition. The bay closest to the east corner of the building at the second story holds a single-leaf flush replacement metal door topped by a single-light transom that has been painted. The door is accessed by a fold-down metal fire escape stair. Each of the second story windows features a rowlock sill and a straight wood lintel. The roofline of the upper half story is pierced by four regularly spaced hipped-roof dormers, each containing a nine-light metal awning window set above a three-light fixed pane.

The rear, or northwest elevation, of the original firehouse has been obscured by the addition of a two-story brick extension with a flat roof. At the first story, this addition was once pierced by four window openings, two of which have been infilled with brick. The two remaining windows occupy the southwesternmost bays and each contains a single 1/1 replacement metal sash window set on a rowlock sill and capped by a thin metal lintel. The second story

of the northwest wall contains three openings filled with 1/1 replacement metal sashes. The openings are embellished by rowlock sills and straight wood lintels.

The first two stories of the southwest elevation of the firehouse have been obscured by the construction of a one-story brick commercial addition extending off the firehouse's southwest wall. The construction required that both the first and second story windows of the firehouse be infilled, leaving only the half-story windows exposed. These appear in the form of four nine-light metal awning windows set above three-light fixed panes contained within four hipped-roof dormers. A four-light metal casement window flanked by two-light sidelights pierces the third story of the brick hose tower at the west corner of the building.

The one-story brick and concrete block addition that extends southwest of the firehouse was erected in 1953 and contains six separate storefronts, each with a single-leaf entry and a fixed storefront window. The addition consists of a concrete block structure faced with brick along its facade. The flat roof is screened by a front parapet wall that is decorated with panels of herringbone brickwork.

The southeast elevation, the facade of the addition contains six single entries that originally contained flush wood doors with single lights. Two of these original doors remain, while the remaining four have been replaced with variously finished wood and metal doors. Each entry is capped by a three-light wood transom, although some have been infilled with a variety of materials. The storefront windows have also been altered, yet all retain their original rowlock sills.

The addition itself has been extended at the rear by several one-story concrete block additions that form a U-shaped footprint with the open side of the "U" pointing northeast. Many of the original paired six-light metal casement windows topped by two-light transoms remain on the rear, or northwest elevation, of the 1953 addition. The majority of the openings on the southwest elevation have been infilled with concrete block or altered with replacement materials. Several garage door openings have also been cut into the southwest wall of the addition. The rear elevation of the addition and its extensions consist of exposed concrete block walls unbroken by openings.

OUTBUILDINGS:

There are no outbuildings associated with these properties.

The Cottage City Fire Company, organized in 1922, has occupied the purpose-built firehouse located at 3840 Bladensburg Road since its construction in 1939. The Colonial Revival-style firehouse has continued to play a vital role in serving the communities of Cottage City and Colmar Manor for nearly sixty years. The building itself expresses its civic role through its pair of oversized garage door openings and its attention to stylistic detailing.

The property is located within the town of Cottage City, which was gradually developed between 1915 and 1930. The Highlands Company, incorporated in 1888, purchased approximately sixty-four acres of land lying between the B&O Railroad line and the Baltimore-Washington Turnpike; an area then known as "The Highlands."[1] In May 1906, the full sixty-four-acre tract was sold to three men, J. Harris Rogers, James C. Rogers, and Richard N. Ryon, who had the area platted under the name "Cottage City" in 1906.[2] Despite its accessibility to downtown Washington, DC via the Bladensburg Road electric streetcar line, several efforts to develop the area failed. It was not until 1915 that Charles M. Lightbown, who had begun buying up lots in the newly platted town in 1906, borrowed money to construct five modest frame "cottages" which he sold to working-class families.[3] By 1925, the town of Cottage City had developed into a substantial suburb with access to the District of Columbia via Bladensburg Road and the B&O Railroad. Today, the town contains over 322 single- and dual-family dwellings and around thirty apartment units.

The Cottage City Fire Company, as it was first known, was organized by a group of concerned residents after a fire destroyed a store opposite the present firehouse in 1922. Charles Barrick served as the first fire chief, holding this office for only a short period after which T.W. Scott, Sr. took over the post. The company's only equipment was a hand-drawn hose reel purchased with donated money. The fire company at first had no station house and the equipment was stored in various locations around the town. By April of 1923, a fundraising drive to collect money to purchase a motorized truck

[1] Land Records of Prince George's County, Liber 34, Folio 317.

[2] Land Records of Prince George's County, Liber 34, Folio 317; and Liber 57, Folio 426. The 1906 plat of Cottage City was recorded in Liber B.D.S. 1, Folio 10.

[3] *A History of the Town of Cottage City, Maryland*, p.31.

had succeeded.

Incorporated in 1926, the Cottage City Fire Company continued to grow throughout the 1920s and 1930s. The first firehouse building was erected by the volunteer firemen on 38th Avenue in 1926. The first ladder truck, purchased in 1931, served as one of the first of its kind in this region of Maryland. In the late 1920s, funding of the company solely through solicitations became difficult. In 1929, the state legislature and the townspeople approved a town fire tax, easing the funding problem.

The late 1930s saw major changes in the organization, equipment, and accommodations of the Cottage City Fire Company. A system of business officers was instituted in 1938 when Donald Pitts was elected the first president of the department. At the end of the 1930s, the fire department moved to more spacious quarters at the present firehouse and acquired a new Seagrave 500 gallon pumper.

The Cottage City Fire Company purchased Lot 26 in Block 5 of Cottage City at the corner of Bladensburg Road and 40th Avenue in June 1937. The property had been put up for public sale as the result of an equity case involving a local bank and its creditors. Plans for a new firehouse to be located on this lot were drawn up and approved in 1939. Construction was completed by early 1940. Similar to the first firehouse, much of the construction was performed by the firemen themselves. Dedicated on February 22, 1940, the new building provided improved accommodations for both the firemen and their equipment.

During the 1940s, manpower was drained by World War II. In order to solve this problem, the fire department instituted an auxiliary firemen program that became the Junior fireman program in the 1960s.

The company continued to update its equipment, acquiring its first 1000-gallon pumper in 1948. This truck was one of the first of its type serving the area and was put into use across the county and even outside its boundaries.

Over the years, the Cottage City Fire Department has hosted many community fundraising events including bingos, raffles, dances, shrimp and crab feasts, and an annual carnival.

The department continued to upgrade its services and equipment throughout the 1950s and 1960s. The first paid fireman was hired in 1964. This professional firefighting force has since grown into

a full compliment of paid firefighters, serving the towns of Cottage City and Colmar Manor from its historic firehouse at 3840 Bladensburg Road.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and Community Planning
Government/Law

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function (s): GOVERNMENT/Fire Station

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG68-92

Cottage City Fire Company
name of property
Prince George's Co., MD
county and state

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Chain of Title:

Cottage City Fire Department
3840 Bladensburg Road

June 28, 1937: T. Hammond Welsh & Charles W. Clagett, Trustees to Cottage City Fire Department
Lot 26; Block 5 Cottage City
Equity Case 7189, Montgomery County Circuit Court: Prince George's Bank & Trust Company and First National Bank of Southern Maryland, plaintiffs vs. American Security & Trust Company, Maud E. Lightbown & Hyattsville Building Association, defendants
Property sold at public auction, April 13, 1937
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 480 Folio 269

Southwest Addition
3814-1838 Bladensburg Road

July 21, 1953: Cottage City Fire Company to Raleigh A. Donley
Granting permission for Donley to use the firehouse wall as party wall for an addition to be erected
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 2223 Folio 89

August 29, 1988: Ralph A. Donley, Jr. and Gary Ashby Donley to Melville R. and Florence E. Davis, Mark J. and Lydia J. Crooks, and Steven I. and Linda N. Feldman
$400,000
Lots 27, 28, 29 and part of Lots 24 & 25; Block 5 Cottage City
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 7091 Folio 584

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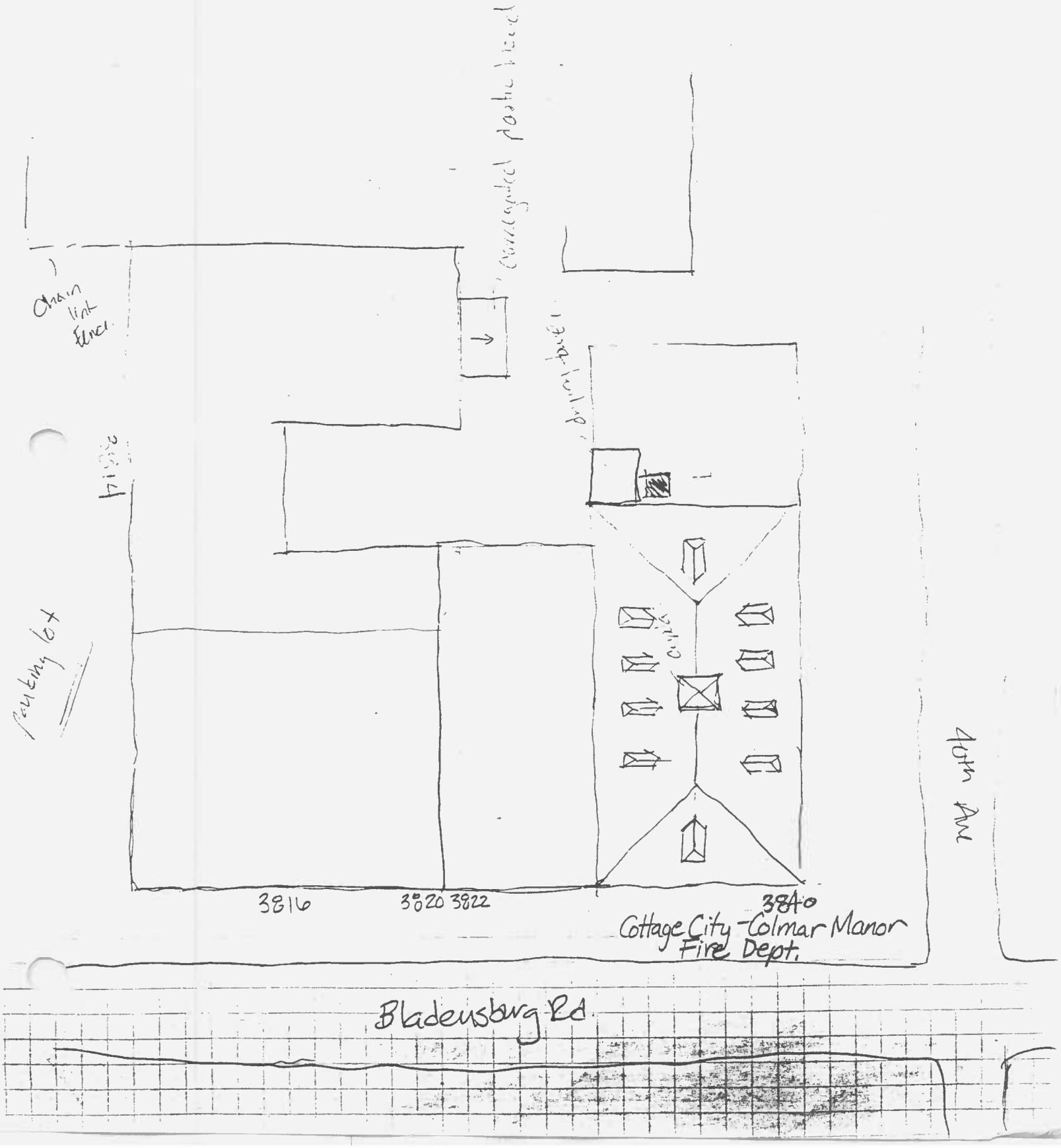
August 29, 1988: Melville R. and Florence E. Davis, Mark J. and Lydia J. Crooks, Stevan I. and Linda N. Feldman to Howard G. Dymond and Constance Britt, Trustees
Deed of Trust to secure debt of $400,000
Lots 27, 28, 29 and part of Lots 24 & 25; Block 5 Cottage City
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 7091 Folio 587

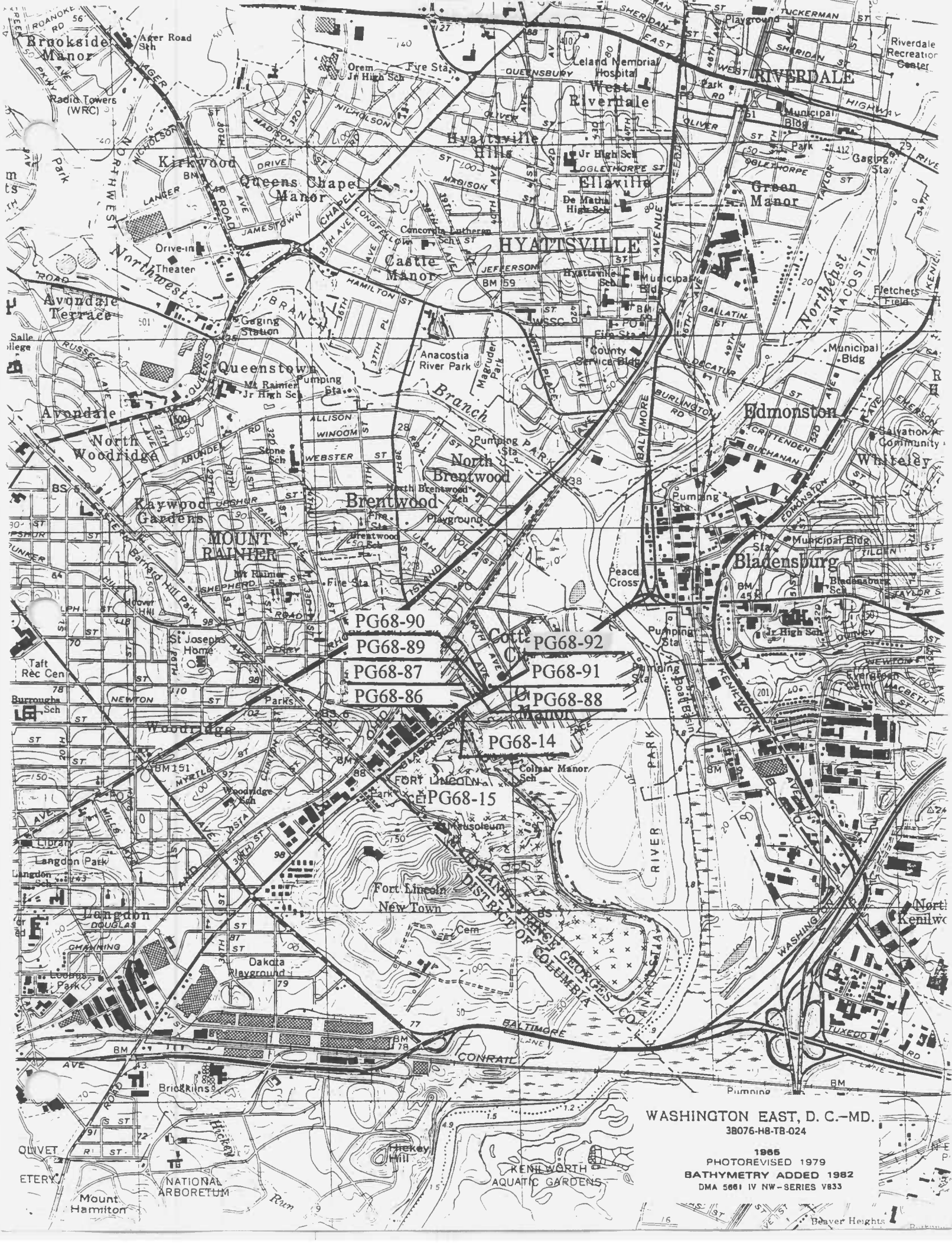
September 10, 1996: Melville R. and Florence E. Davis (Tamara A. Shockley, Trustee) to Federal Deposit Insurance Company as receiver for The National Bank of Washington
Foreclosure case: Tamara Shockley, plaintiff vs. Melville R. and Florence E. Davis, Mark J. and Lydia J. Crooks, defendants
Land sold at foreclosure sale, May 16, 1996
$433,500
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 10999 Folio 22

SKETCH MAP

3814 - 3816 - 3820 - 3822 - 3840 Bladensburg Rd. PG 68-92
Cottage City, MD
Prince George's County

Cottage City Fire Company




PG68-90
PG68-89
PG68-87
PG68-86
PG68-92
PG68-91
PG68-88
PG68-14
PG68-15
RIVERDALE
HYATTSVILLE
Brookside Manor
Kirkwood
Queens Chapel Manor
Castle Manor
Avondale Terrace
Queenstown
Avondale
North Woodridge
Kaywood Gardens
MOUNT RAINIER
Brentwood
North Brentwood
Edmonston
Whiteley
Bladensburg
Woodridge
Langdon
Fort Lincoln New Town
FORT LINCOLN
Colmar Manor
Green Manor
Ellaville
Hyattsville Hills
West Riverdale
Leland Memorial Hospital
Anacostia River Park
Peace Cross
Langdon Park
Dakota Playground
Brickkilns
Mount Hamilton
NATIONAL ARBORETUM
KENILWORTH AQUATIC GARDENS
Hickey Hill
Beaver Heights
Riverdale Recreation Center
Fletchers Field
Taft Rec Cen
St Josephs Home
Radio Towers (WRC)
Drive-in Theater
Gaging Station
Mt Rainier Jr High Sch
Orem Jr High Sch
Fire Sta
Municipal Bldg
County Service Bldg
Pumping Sta
Playground
Park
Mausoleum
Cem
CONRAIL
BALTIMORE
WASHINGTON
RIVER
PRINCE GEORGES CO
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ANACOSTIA
Northwest
Northeast
BRANCH
PARK
WASHINGTON EAST, D. C.–MD.
38076-H8-TB-024
1965
PHOTOREVISED 1979
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
DMA 5661 IV NW–SERIES V833

2
COTTAGE CITY & COLMAR MANOR

PG: 68-92
3814-3840 Bladensburg Rd - Cottage City Fire Company
Prince George's County, MD
Traceries
1/98
Maryland SHPO

PG: 68-92
3840 Bladensburg Rd — Cottage City Fire Company
Prince George's County, MD
Traceries
1/98
Maryland SHPO

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PG: 68-92
3840 Bladensbury Rd – Cottage City Fire Company
Prince George's County, MD
Traceries
1/98
Maryland SHPO

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PG: 68-92
3814-3840 Bladensburg Rd
Prince George's County, MD
Traceries
1/98
Maryland SHPO
Automobile Repair Garage, Looking SW at 3814
4 of 10

PG: 68-92
3814 - 3840 Bladensburg Rd
Prince George's County, MD
Traceries
1/98
Maryland SHPO
Stores, looking S
5 of 10

PG: 68-92
3814-3840 Bladensburg Rd
Prince George's County, MD
Traceries
1/98
Maryland SHPO
Automobile Repair Garage, Looking W at 3814
6 of 10

PG: 68-92
3814-3840 Bladensburg Rd
Prince George's County, MD
Traceries
1/98
Maryland SHPO
Automobile Repair Garage, Looking SW at 3814
1 of 10

PG: 68-92
3814-3840 Bladensburg Rd
Prince George's County, MD
Traceries
1/98
Maryland SHPO
Office, Looking S at 3814
8 of 10

PG: 68-92
3814-3840 Bladensburg Rd - Cottage City Fire Company
Prince George's County, MD
Traceries
1/98
Maryland SHPO
General view looking E
9 of 10

PG: 68-92
3814 Bladensburg Rd — Cottage City Fire Company
Prince George's County, MD
Traceries
1/98
Maryland SHPO
Automobile Repair Garage, SW Elevation
10 of 10