Survey No. PG#68-4-95

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ~~Riverdale Park~~

and/or common ~~Riverdale~~ Oliver Street Survey District

2. Location

street & number 4701 through 4717 Oliver Street ___ not for publication

city, town Riverdale ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

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	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___ not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Multiple owners (14)

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber JWB#5

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 474

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ___ federal ___ state X county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis, state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. PG#68-4-45

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

The Riverdale historic survey district (Oliver Street) is an area one block long, roughly 280,000 square feet. It is located east of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks, south of Maryland Route 410, and west of the Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River; it includes all of the buildings on both sides of Oliver Street, between 48th Avenue on the east and Lafayette Avenue on the west.

Zoning of the proposed district is R-55 (single-family detached). Fourteen (14) buildings are included and described; all are residences.

Two of these buildings were documented as part of the 1984/85 historicbuilding survey of Prince George's County:

Building Inventory #1: Warren House - P.G. #68-4b
Building Inventory #9: Smith House - P.G. #68-4a.

Inventory forms for these two buildings are submitted as part of this District survey.

The survey district includes ten contributing buildings and four non-contributing buildings. The contributing buildings range in date of construction from the 1890's (Queen Anne transitional buildings), through the 1920's and 1930's (several styles of bungalows). The non-contributing buildings are principally small dwellings built in the 1950's.

The survey district is characterized by a variety of dwelling types. The Smith House (#9) is a two-and-one-half story frame Queen Anne style house with a three-story octagonal corner tower; its surfaces are varied with ornamental shingles and medallions. The Warren House (#1) is a fine example of Colonial Revival transitional frame dwelling with Queen Anne style decorative detail. There are three front-gabled dwellings (#3, 7 and 11) typical of modest housing of the turn of the century; of them, the earliest, the Wilson House (#7), retains most of its decorative detail. There is one example (#13) of the popular "Classic Box" style, which was a standard feature in most suburbs circa 1910, and one example (#8) of Colonial Revival dwelling from a slightly later period. Three bungalows (#4, 5 and 6) exemplify this very popular house type from the 1920's and 1930's. The remaining four houses on this block of Oliver Street have been built since the late 1940's; they have filled in the spaces between the older houses, and reflect the gradual growth and development of the Riverdale residential community. The area is suburban, and consists of building lots of approximately 50 by 160 feet, fronting on streets laid out in a grid pattern. The streets are tree-lined, and there is a sidewalk along the north side of the street. Oliver Streets continues east past

48th Street through gates which mark the entrance to the grounds of the Riversdale Mansion.

A building inventory follows; it includes brief descriptions of all 14 buildings. Mayland Historical Trust Inventory forms follow for the Warren House and the Smith House.

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Building Inventory
Riverdale Historic District (Oliver Street)

A = Contributing resource with exceptionally high levels of integrity and historic and/or architectural significance.

B = Contributing resource with high level of integrity and historic and/or architectural significance.

E = A resource which does not contribute to the significance of the whole.

1. (A) Warren House, 4716 Oliver Street (north side), P.G. #68-4B, 1913, Tax Map 42, Block 46, Lots 19, 20.

Two-and-one-half story hip and gable roof frame house with a variety of fine Queen Anne style details: oriel window, projecting bays and pediments decorated with novelty shingling.

Particularly fine example of early twentieth century frame dwelling with Queen Anne style decorative detail.

2. (E) 1950's House, 4717 Oliver Street (south side), Tax Map 42, Block 54, Lot 11.

One-story side-gabled house with light blue asbestos shingles on brick veneer foundation. Four-bay, with entrance in third bay and picture window in fourth.

3. (B) Earl House, 4715 Oliver Street, (south side), ca. 1900, Tax Map 42, Block 54, Lot 10.

Two-and-one-half story front-gabled house covered with bright blue asbestos shingles. Entrance in third bay of three-bay north gable end. One-story porch with plain square posts and plain railing wraps around west facade. 2/2 windows with plain board surrounds, black trim, and black louvered shutters.

Typical of the modest front-gabled dwellings built in the suburbs at the turn of the century.

4. (B) Bungalow, 4713 Oliver Street, (south side), 1920's, Tax Map 42, Block 54, Lot 9.

One-and-one-half side-gabled bungalow with dark brown rectangular shingles and a wide shed-roof dormer with four windows across the north plane of the roof. Two-bay north facade, with entrance in the first bay. Windows 6/1 with plain yellow board surrounds and no shutters. Integral shed-roof porch with yellow Tuscan columns on stone bases across north facade.

Typical of the side-gabled bungalow style of dwelling popular in the 1920's.

5. (B) Bungalow, 4714 Oliver Street, (north side), ca. 1920's, Tax Map 42, Block 46, Lot 18.

One-and-one-half story side-gabled bungalow with a three window gable-roof dormer in the south plane of roof. House is covered with light green horizontal siding. One-story shed-roof porch with panelled, tapered dark green columns on brick bases. Five bay south facade, with a door in the center bay. Windows are 1/1 with plain board surrounds painted dark green.

Typical of the side-gabled bungalow style of dwelling popular in the 1920's.

6. (B) Bungalow, 4712 Oliver Street, (north side), ca. 1920's, Tax Map 42, Block 46, Lot 17.

One-and-one-half story side-gabled bungalow with a three-window gable-roof dormer in south plane of the roof. The house is covered with white asbestos shingle, with gray trim. Central entrance in three-bay south facade, flanked by two 9/1 triple windows with plain board surrounds painted gray; no shutters. Integral one-story porch with square panelled posts across south facade.

Typical of the side-gabled bungalow style of dwelling popular in the 1920's.

7. (B) Wilson House, 4711 Oliver Street, (south side), 1899, Tax Map 42, Block 54, Lot 8

Two-and-one-half story front-gabled house with door in the first bay of three-bay north gable end. Cream colored horizontal board siding. Windows 1/1 with molded lintels and blue louvered shutters. One-story hip-roof porch with square columns wraps around north and east facades. North and east gable ends are decorated with fish scale shingles, with perforated decorative bargeboards at eaves.

A large and substantial example of the front-gabled dwelling type popular at the turn of the century, possibly built from a pattern book design. This example retains much of its decorative detail.

8. (B) House, 4710 Oliver Street, (north side), early twentieth century, Tax Map 42, Block 46, Lots 15, 16.

Two-and-one-half story side-gabled house with white horizontal board siding and green trim. Entrance in central bay of three-bay south facade has transom and sidelights. Entrance is flanked by two 6/1 triple windows (no shutters) with plain board surrounds painted green. One-story gable-roof entry porch has pediment and plain frieze supported by Tuscan columns. Hip-roof side porch on west facade is supported by Tuscan columns. East gable end is pedimented.

Somewhat unusual modest side-gabled dwelling with pedimented gable end; unique in this community.

9. (A) Smith House, 4707 Oliver Street, (south side), P.G. #68-4a, ca. 1898, Tax Map 42, Block 54, Lots 5-7.

Two-and-one-half story frame hip-roof house with three story octagonal tower set into northwest corner. Pedimented gable dormers in north and east planes of roof. Ornmanetal siding includes fish-scale shingles and bullseye medallions. One story Tuscan porch across north facade.

Important example of a transitional Queen Anne style frame dwelling with octagonal corner tower and considerable detail, probably the oldest surviving building from the Riverdale Park Subdivision.

10. (E) 1950's House, 4706 Oliver Street, (north side), Tax Map 42, Block 46, Lot 14.

One-story side-gabled brick house. Three bay with a center entrance flanked by modern windows with louvered white shutters. Concrete steps to entrance.

11. (B) House, 4704 Oliver Street, (north side), ca. 1910, Tax Map 42, Block 46, p/o Lot 13.

Two-and-one-half story front-gabled house with white board-and-batten siding on south facade, horizontal boards on sides. Entrance in the first bay of three bay south gable end. Large 6/9 windows in second and third bay. One-story hip-roof Tuscan porch wraps around south and east facades. Stone foundation.

Front-gabled house with board-and-batten siding which is unusual for this community.

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12. (E) 1950's House, 4702 Oliver Street (north side), Tax Map 42, Block 46, p/o Lot 13.

One-and-one-half story side-gabled house with yellow horizontal synthetic siding and stone veneer. Three-by-two bay, with entrance in the center bay of the south facade. Uncovered concrete porch across south facade with steps to entrance. Two gable-roof dormers in south plane with 6/1 windows with white louvered shutters.

13. (B) Foursquare House, 4705 Oliver Street (south side), ca. 1910, Tax Map 42, Block 54, Lot A, 4.

Two-and-one-half story hip-roof white stucco-covered house with green asbestos shingled roof. Three-by-three bay with entrance in first bay of north facade. Windows 1/1 with plain board surrounds painted green. Has third level pedimented gable on east facade and hip-roof dormer in west plane of roof. A one-story hip-roof Tuscan porch across the north facade wraps around west facade. Standing-seam metal roof. The south facade (rear) has a two-story shed-roof porch. Concrete foundation.

An example of a modest "Classic Box" style dwelling, which was popular in early twentieth century suburbs of Washington.

14. (E) 1950's House, 4701 Oliver Street, (south side), Tax Map 42, Block 54, Lot 23.

One-story side-gabled house with white horizontal board siding above high brick foundation. Four bay, with entrance in fourth bay, approached by concrete steps. Modern windows and shutters, with gray trim.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#68-4-95

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	_x_ 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/humanitaria
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
_x_ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	_x_ transportati
_x_ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	_x_ other (speci
		___ invention		Local history

Specific dates 1890's to 1930'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 an support.

The Riverdale historic survey area is a one-block long section of Oliver Street, formerly Washington Avenue, one of the original streets in the 1889 residential subdivision of Riverdale Park. The 14 buildings represent the social and economic development of this late nineteenth century suburb. The period of significance of the buildings ranges from 1889, when the suburb was first platted, to the 1930's, when new bungalows were constructed on unimproved lots between the earlier dwellings. Modern cottages have subsequently been constructed, filling in the remaining spaces.

The land on which this suburb was built, had been part of the Riversdale plantation from 1801, when Henri Joseph Stier, a Belgian aristocrat, had purchased approximately 800 acres north of Bladensburg, and had begun to develop his plantation. After Stier's return to Belgium in 1803, completion of the Riverdale mansion and management of the plantation were taken over by his daughter and her husband, Rosalie and George Calvert. The Riverdale plantation became a model of its type, and remained in Calvert family possession for three generations.[1] After the death in 1864 of Charles Benedict Calvert (son of George and Rosalie Calvert), a commission was appointed to divide the plantation among his heirs; a 300-acre dower lot, including the mansion and the family burial ground to the northwest, was laid off for Calvert's widow.[2] This 300-acre dower lot (as well as the 175-acre lot adjoining it on the north) was sold in 1887 by the Calvert heirs to John Fox, president of the Riverdale Park Company, a New York real estate syndicate which then began development of the suburb of Riverdale Park.[3] The land was platted in 1889 by surveyor D.J. Howell. Streets were laid out in a grid pattern, straddling the Washington line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which ran north and south through the new community, and offered to residents easy commuting into the Federal City. Park spaces, and circles of green were provided in the plan, and parkland was reserved around the Calvert mansion which was preserved "as a sacred relic of an era replete with historic memories."[4] Streets were named for the Presidents of the United States, Washington through McKinley, as well as for other distinguished statesmen such as

Clay, Lafayette and Beale.[5]

Construction of dwellings began in the 1890's. All were of frame construction, and reflected the popular taste of the period, as illustrated in the house plan catalogs of those years. Some were pyramidal-roof Foursquares, others front-gabled or cross-gabled; many were highlighted by projecting bays or corner towers, and almost all had prominent wraparound porches with jigsawn decorative detail. By the turn of the century, the new suburb had approximately 60 dwellings, a Presbyterian Church, a handsome Victorian schoolhouse and railroad station; the latter two public buildings were built by the Riverdale Park Company. There were several general stores, and telephone and telegraph communication was available. Concrete sidewalks were constructed, and sewers were provided for the principal streets.[6] Because of its convenient location, its efficient line of transportation into the City, its primary school, and its picturesque tree-lined streets, Riverdale Park became one of the most desirable residential suburbs in the Washington area.

Three of the earliest dwellings constructed in Riverdale Park stood on the south side of Washington Avenue (now Oliver Street) just west of the Calvert Mansion. This road was laid out along the line of the old lane which led from the Washington-Baltimore Turnpike eastward to the grounds of the mansion. The eastmost block of this road, between the railroad and the entrance to the mansion grounds, comprises the Riverdale survey district. The three houses on the south side of Washington Avenue (Building Inventory #3, #7 and #9) were, until the turn of this century, the only dwellings in this immediate area. Dwellings #8, #11, and #13 were built in the first decade of this century, and in 1913, the Warren family built #1, a particularly fine Queen Anne transitional style dwelling which became a visual landmark in the community. Three bungalows (#4, #5, and #6) were built in the 1920's/1930's, and the last spaces were filled in with suburban cottages (#2, #10, #12 and #14) in the 1950's. The 14 buildings of this survey district, therefore, reflect four consecutive stages in the development of a suburban residential community.

Notes

1 See Riversdale, Historic Structures Report, 1979, Part II, History (S.G. Pearl).

2 Prince George's County Equity #475.

3 Prince George's County Deeds JWB #8:426, 520; JWB #12:484; JWB #13:614.

4 Riverdale Park Real Estate Brochure (undated), circa 1904.

5 Prince George's County Plat JWB #5:747, 688; Riverdale Park Real Estate brochure (undated) circa 1904.

6 Riverdale Park Real Estate brochure; "Riverdale Park" article, source unknown, ca. 1899.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#68-4-95

Cf..Notes, Item #8

Prince George's County Plat JWB#5:474, 688.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ca. 280,000 square feet

Quadrangle name Washington East **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/Architectural Historian

organization P.G. Co. Historic Preservation Commission **date** 1986/87

street & number #4010 C.A.B. c/o M-NCPPC **telephone** 301-952-3521

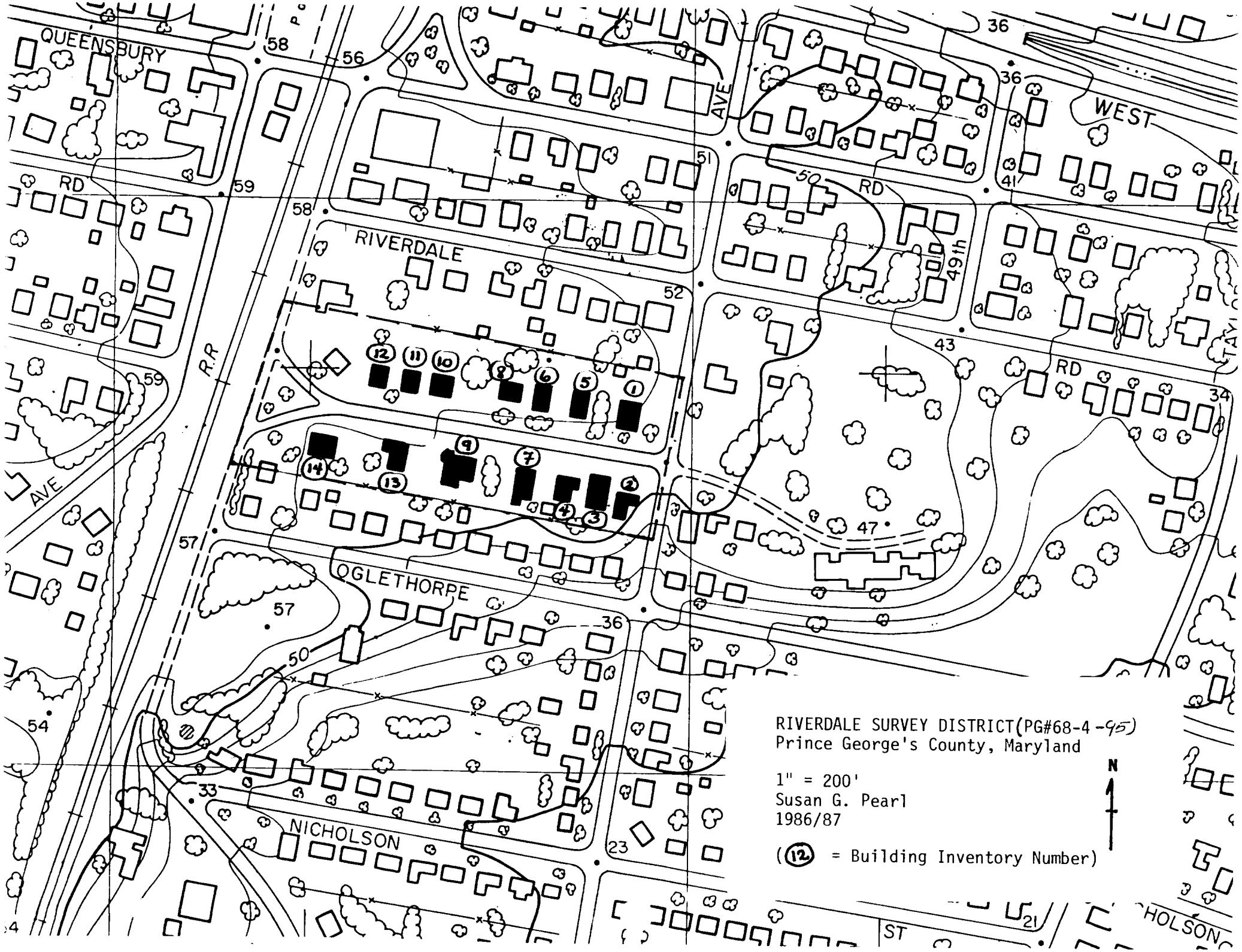
city or town Upper Marlboro, **state** Maryland 20772

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



RIVERDALE SURVEY DISTRICT(PG#68-4-95)
Prince George's County, Maryland

1" = 200'
Susan G. Pearl
1986/87

(12 = Building Inventory Number)

N

PG 63-4-95

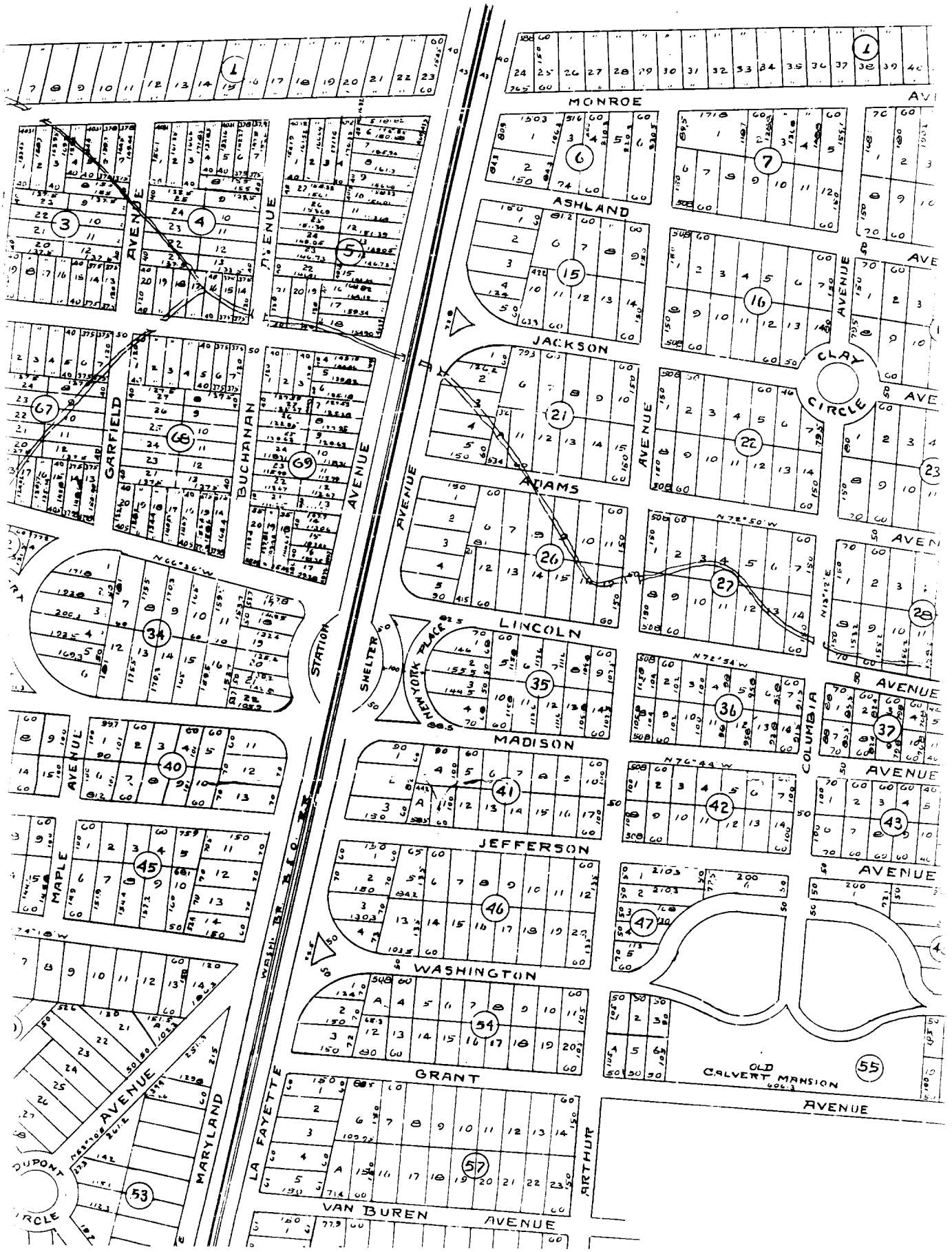
RIVERDALE

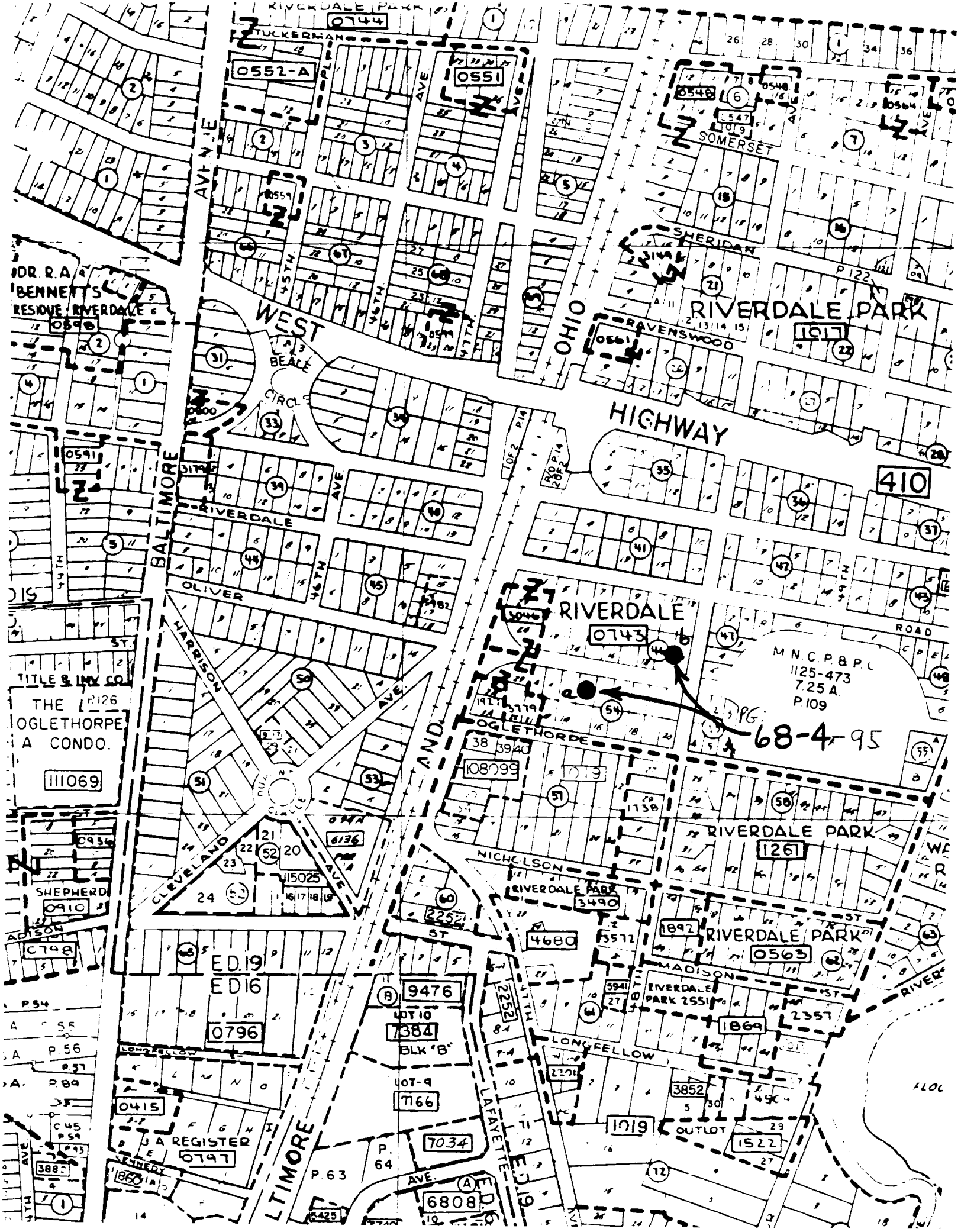
PRINCE GEORGE
MARYLAND.

6 miles from Wash. D.

Surveyed
1889.

SCALE 200'





RIVERDALE PARK
0744
TUCKERMAN
0552-A
0551
SOMERSET
SHERIDAN
RIVERDALE PARK
1017
RAVENSWOOD
OHIO
WEST
BEALE
CIRCLE
HIGHWAY
410
DR. R.A. BENNETTS
RESIDUE RIVERDALE
0598
0591
BALTIMORE
RIVERDALE
OLIVER
HARRISON
RIVERDALE
0743
M.N.C.P.&P.C.
1125-473
7.25 A.
P.109
68-4-95
OGLETHORPE
TITLE & INV CO.
THE OGLETHORPE A CONDO.
111069
CLEVELAND
SHEPHERD
0910
0798
RIVERDALE PARK
1261
NICHOLSON
RIVERDALE PARK
3490
4680
RIVERDALE PARK
0563
MADISON
RIVERDALE PARK 2551
1869
2357
ED.19
ED16
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9476
LOT 10
7384
BLK "B"
LOT-9
7166
LONGFELLOW
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P. 64
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LAFAYETTE
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OUTLOT
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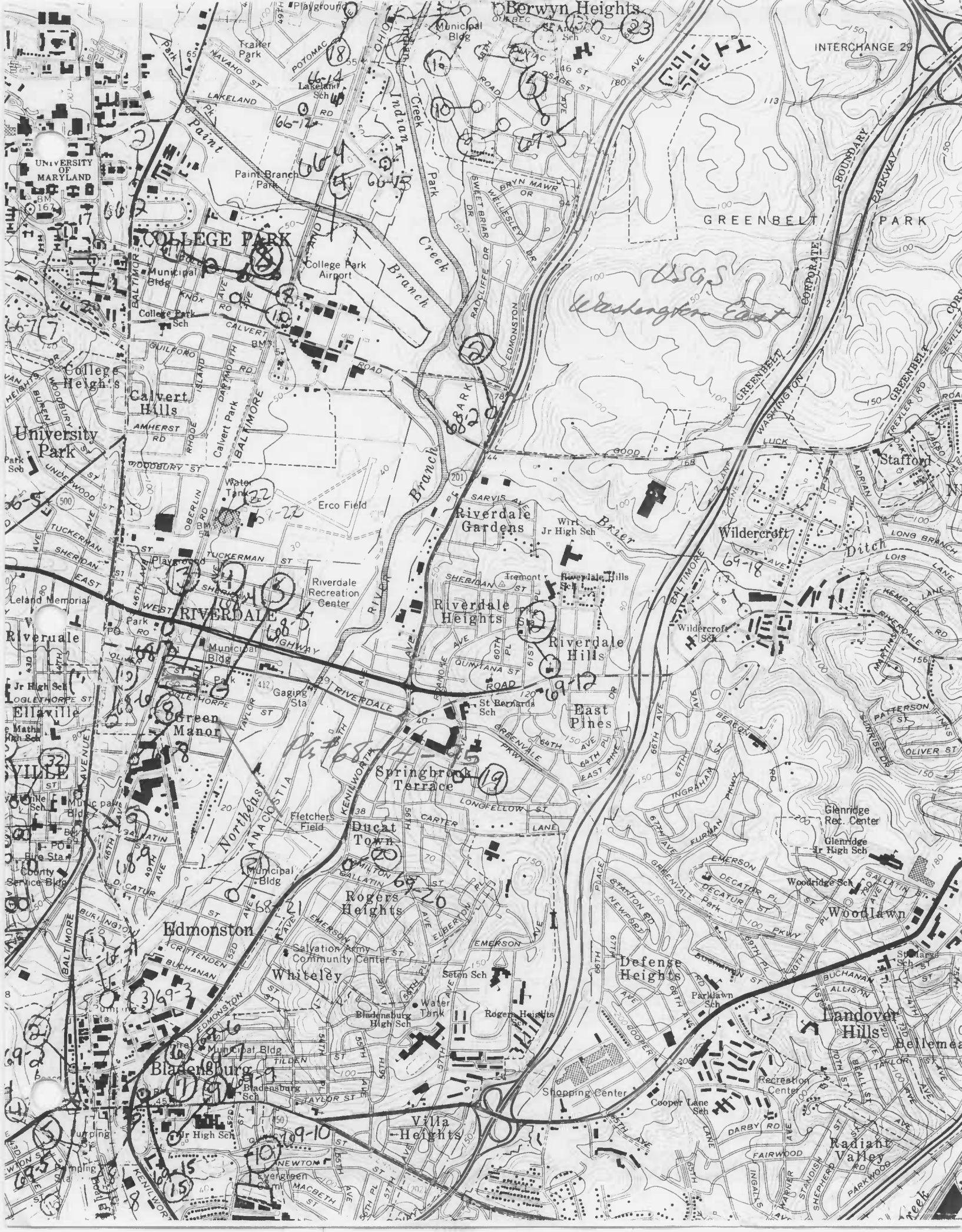

Berwyn Heights
Municipal Bldg
Trailer Park
Playground
Lakeland Sch
INTERCHANGE 29
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
Paint Branch Park
Indian Creek Park
GREENBELT PARK
COLLEGE PARK
Municipal Bldg
College Park Airport
College Park Sch
Branch
Creek
USGS Washington East
College Heights
Calvert Hills
University Park
Erco Field
Water Tank
Riverdale Gardens
Wirt Jr High Sch
Brier
Stafford
Wildercroft
Ditch
Riverdale Recreation Center
Riverdale Heights
Riverdale Hills
Riverdale Hills Sch
Wildercroft Sch
Leland Memorial
RIVERDALE
Riveruale
Municipal Bldg
Jr High Sch
Ellaville
Gaging Sta
Green Manor
St Bernards Sch
East Pines
Springbrook Terrace
Northeast
Fletchers Field
Ducat Town
Municipal Bldg
Fire Sta
County Service Bldg
Rogers Heights
Edmonston
Salvation Army Community Center
Whiteley
Seton Sch
Bladensburg High Sch
Water Tank
Rogers Heights Sch
Defense Heights
Glenridge Rec. Center
Glenridge Jr High Sch
Woodridge Sch
Woodlawn
Parklawn Sch
Landover Hills
Bellemea
Bladensburg
Municipal Bldg
Bladensburg Sch
Jr High Sch
Villa Heights
Shopping Center
Recreation Center
Cooper Lane Sch
Radiant Valley
Evergreen Cem

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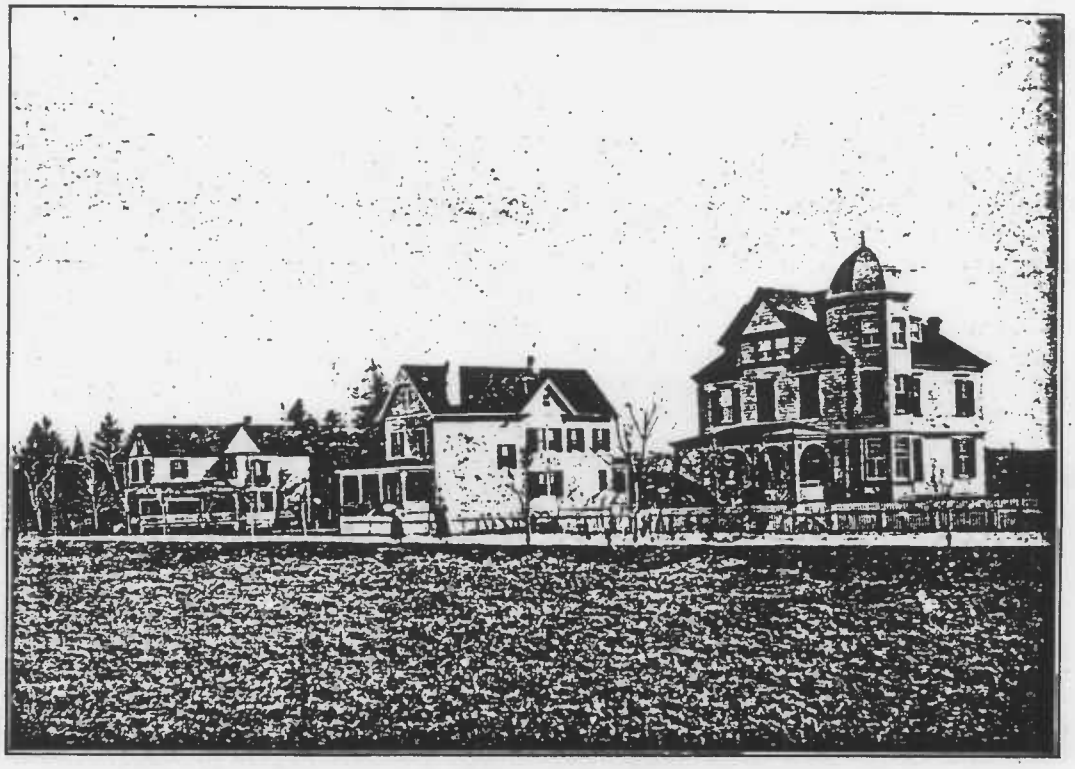

Chas. Earl. Wm. Wilson. H. L. Smith.

24

From Riverdale Park brochure (undated), ca. 1904

View of houses on the south side of Washington Avenue, now Oliver Street, from northwest.