

CAPSULE SUMMARY  
5418 Old Branch Avenue (PG: 76B-23)  
Prince George's County, Maryland

The property has been in Parater family since 1933, when Gilman Lionel Parater purchased it. Constructed in circa 1930, the modest frame dwelling is an example of the Colonial Revival style houses in Prince George's County. The building closely resembles the Sears, Roebuck and Company's 'Crescent,' a modest five to seven room building sold by mail order between 1921 and 1933.

The house at 5418 Old Branch Avenue is set on a level, grassy lot that is adorned with several mature trees. The high-style Colonial Revival style house has a modest one-and-a-half stories in height and five bays in width form. It is set on a rock-faced concrete block foundation and the walls are clad in wood weatherboard. A front gable portico is centered on the façade. Two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps rise from the side gable, asphalt shingle roof that has wide enclosed eaves.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG: 76B-23

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name \_\_\_\_\_  
common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

=====

2. Location

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street & number 5418 Old Branch Avenue not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Temple Hills vicinity \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland code MD  
county Prince George's County code 33 zip code 20748

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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)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing		
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_  
No

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description  
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Rock-faced Concrete Block  
Roof Side Gable: Asphalt Shingle  
Walls Frame: Wood Weatherboard  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance  
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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.
- 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.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
5418 Old Branch Avenue  
Prince George's County, Maryland

Inventory No. PG: 76B-23  
Page 4

=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1933-1950  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates c. 1933  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

Stevenson, Katherine Cole and H. Ward Jandl. *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1986.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 36,222 square feet

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

The property at 5418 Old Branch Avenue is designated as Parcel 86, Grid F2 as indicated on Map 97.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The building at 5418 Old Branch Avenue has historically been associated with Parcel 86 since its construction in 1933.

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians  
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 8, 1999  
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283  
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

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12. Property Owner

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name Dorothy Cecilia Parater  
street & number 14535 Charles Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Charlotte Hall state MD zip code 20622

Section 7 Page 1

5418 Old Branch Avenue  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

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The house at 5418 Old Branch Avenue is set on a level, grassy lot that is adorned with several mature trees. Constructed in the 1930s, the Colonial Revival style house is one-and-a-half stories in height and five bays in width. It is set on a rock-faced concrete block foundation and the walls are clad in wood weatherboard. A front gable portico is centered on the façade. Two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps rise from the side gable, asphalt shingle roof that has wide enclosed eaves.

**EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:**

The façade or southwest elevation of the house is five bays in width. Paired Tuscan columns support the front gable portico. A pointed arch opening and a molded wood cornice further detail the portico. Beneath the centered portico is a single leaf wood paneled door with sidelights. Paired and triple windows with 6/1 and 4/1 sashes pierce the façade. Wide wood surrounds frame the windows.

A single window opening pierces the foundation on the southeast elevation. At the first story, there is a band of four 6/1 wood windows. A semi-circular window with tracery defines the gable end. The cornice has molded wood returns.

On the rear of the house, there is a projecting gable bay on a rock-faced concrete block pier foundation. It features cornice returns and a tripartite window consisting of a fixed center window flanked by 2/2 horizontal sash windows. The first story contains three sets of paired 6/1 wood windows. A 2/2 horizontal sash window pierces the side addition. Two gable dormers with paired 6/1 wood windows grace the rear roof slope

The one-story side addition extends across the full width of the northwest elevation. It has a brick pier foundation that is infilled with wood latticework. There is a one-light fixed window in the gable end.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-23

Section 8 Page 1

5418 Old Branch Avenue  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

=====

The property has been in Parater family since 1933, when Gilman Lionel Parater purchased it. Constructed in circa 1930, the modest frame dwelling is an example of the Colonial Revival style houses in Prince George's County. The building closely resembles the Sears, Roebuck and Company's ❖ Crescent,❖ a modest five to seven room building sold by mail order between 1921 and 1933.

Popular in the United States between 1880 and 1955, the Colonial Revival style resulted from the rebirth of interest in the colonial English and Dutch houses of the eastern seaboard coincident with the Philadelphia Centennial. Stylistic details in Colonial Revival domestic buildings were drawn primarily from the Georgian and Federal styles. While Colonial Revival buildings of the first quarter of the twentieth century reflected their colonial influences more clearly, those that were constructed after World War II were more simplified, with details that suggested rather than duplicated the original examples. Like many Colonial Revival style houses, this dwelling features a rectangular plan with a symmetrical façade, wood weatherboard cladding, double hung windows, and a portico supported by slender columns.

The house at 5418 Old Branch Avenue is possibly a kit house, a popular method of housing construction in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The largest, and by far the most well known, of the mail-order companies was Sears, Roebuck and Company of Chicago, Illinois. The company began to design and sell kit houses in the mid-1890s, and in its three decades of operation, Sears made a substantial contribution to 20<sup>th</sup> century housing in America. Sears, however, was not the only American company to manufacture or sell houses through mail-order catalogues, nor was it the only company to sell house designs. The late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries were ripe for entrepreneurs who sold architectural plans as well as the houses themselves. The Hodgson Company, Aladdin Homes, Ray Bennett Lumber Company and Montgomery Ward all had their start in the housing business between 1895 and 1910. One of the reasons for the popularity of Sears houses was that they consciously reflected popular American tastes for the period. All shipping was done by rail; consequently the largest concentration of mail-order houses is in the Northeast and Midwest, which were all served by more rail lines.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, *Houses By Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*, (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1986), pp. 19-30.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-23

Section 8 Page 2

5418 Old Branch Avenue  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

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The construction of this house in the 1930s signals the population growth that was occurring in Prince George's County at this time. The population rose steadily in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the population in the county nearly doubling between 1910 and 1930. Much of this growth occurred in the suburban corridors that radiated outward from the District of Columbia along the Baltimore and Potomac rail line through southern Maryland and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad located in the northwestern portion of the county. In Prince George's County, suburban development intensified around the existing communities during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries as streetcar lines and early automobiles made the suburbs accessible to the upper middle and middle classes. The automobile and corollary new road construction resulted in suburbanization of previously sparsely settled portions of northern Prince George's County. This house predates the heavy suburbanization that occurred in this region of the county. Located near Andrews Air Force Base, this area of Prince George's County was greatly impacted by the building of the military installation in 1942 and then again in the 1960s with the completion of the Capital Beltway (Interstate 495).

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-23

Section 8 Page 3

5418 Old Branch Avenue  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

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National Register Evaluation:

The house at 5418 Old Branch Avenue is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building 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 building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does 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.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility recommended _____	Not Recommended <u>  P  </u>
Comments: _____ _____ _____	
Review, OPS: <u>  C. W. ...  </u>	Date: <u>  11/4/99  </u>
Reviewer, NR Program: _____	Date: _____

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-23

5418 Old Branch Avenue  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

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**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)  
Modern Period (1930-present)

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

Architecture, Landscape, and  
Community Planning

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-23

5418 Old Branch Avenue  
name of property  
Prince George's County, MD  
county and state

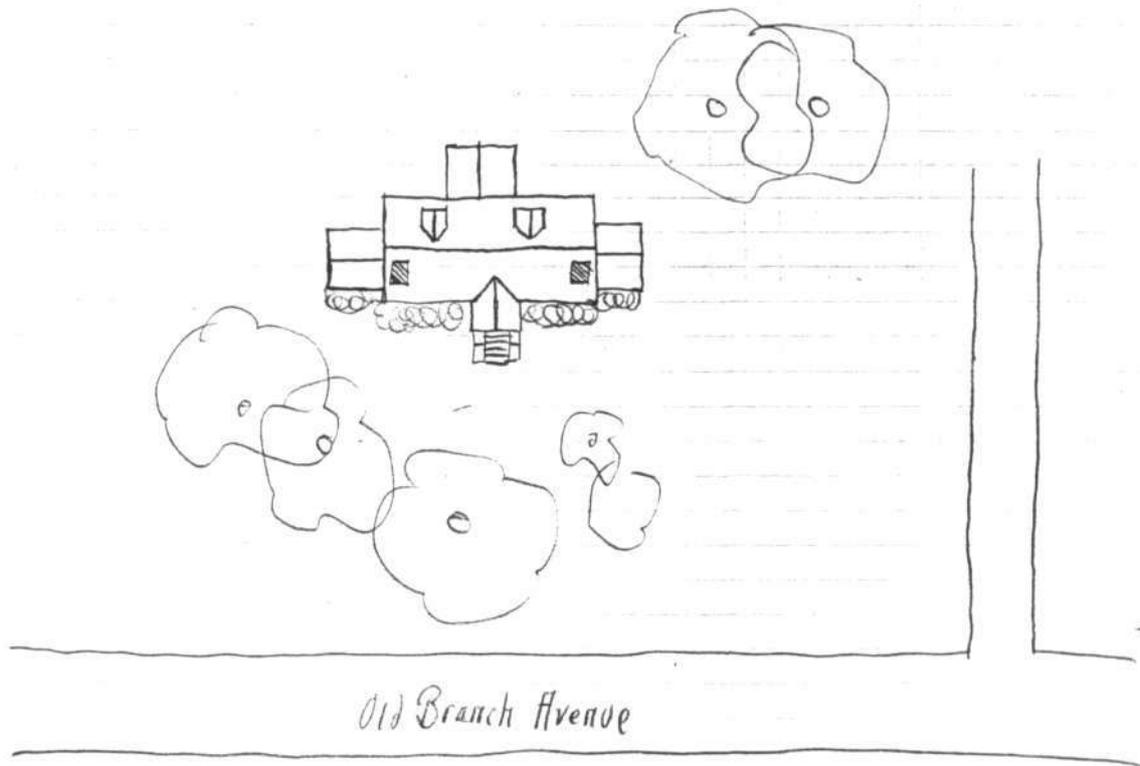
=====  
**Chain of Title:**

June 11, 1909: Edith P. Roberts to Romey F. Wood  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 44 Folio 478

February 18, 1927: Romey F. Wood and Frances I. Wood to Edson W.  
Briggs  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 289 Folio 5

June 13, 1933: Edson W. Briggs and Minnie L. Briggs to Gilman  
Lionel Parater  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 400 Folio 259

December 11, 1933: Gilman Lionel and Clara B. Parater to Gilman  
Lionel Parater, Jr. and Dorothy Cecilia  
Parater  
Land Records of Prince George's County  
Liber 402 Folio 142

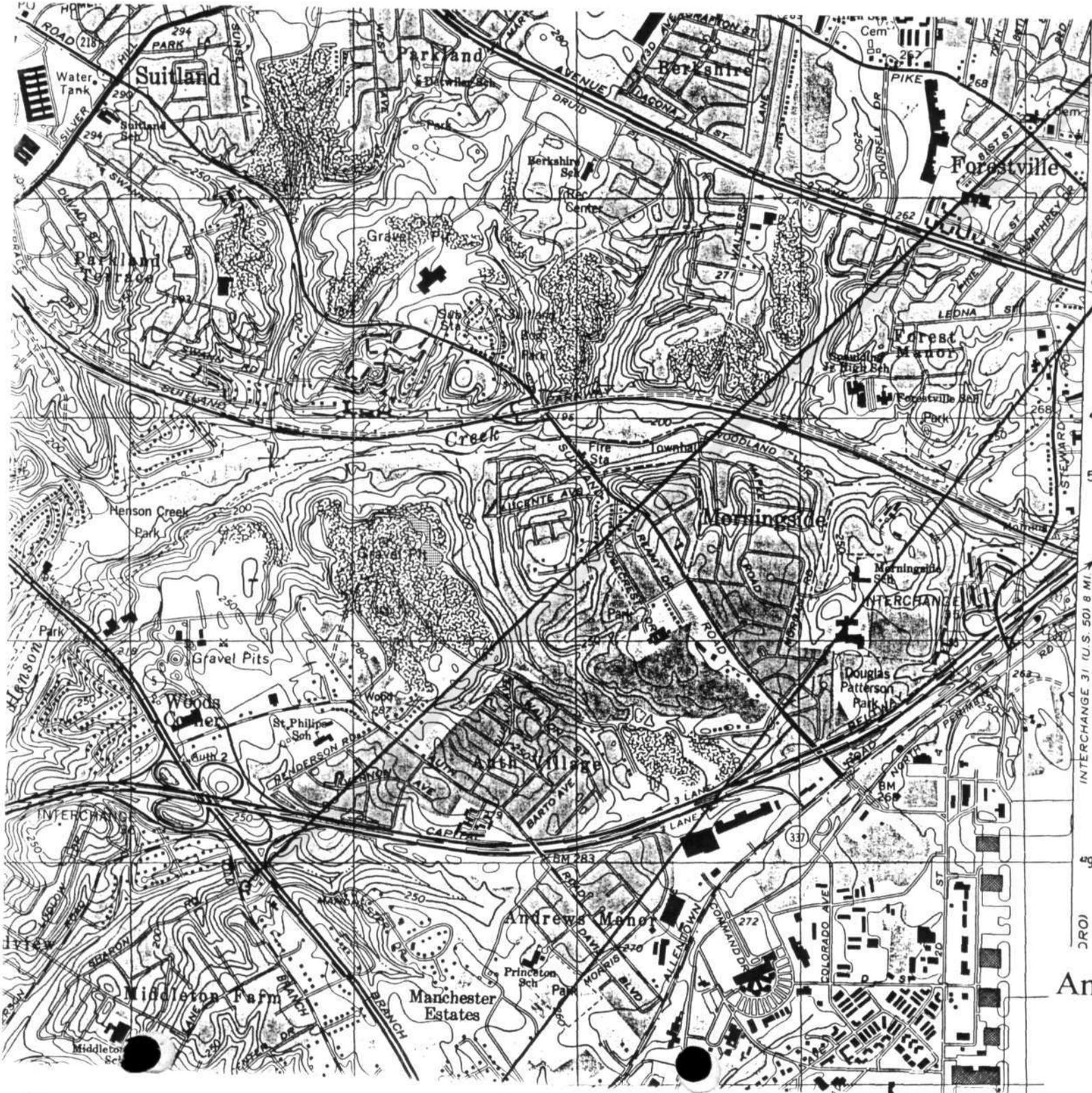


5418 Old Branch Avenue PG:76B-23

Prince George's County  
Maryland

Resource Sketch map 1999  
Not Drawn to Scale





5418 OLD BRANCH AVENUE  
PG: 76B-23

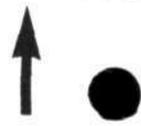
370 000  
FEET  
0.6 MI. TO INTERSTATE 95  
UPPER MARLBORO 8 MI.

6200 OLD BRANCH AVENUE  
PG: 76B-24

CONVERSION  
SCALES



Anacostia USGS Quad

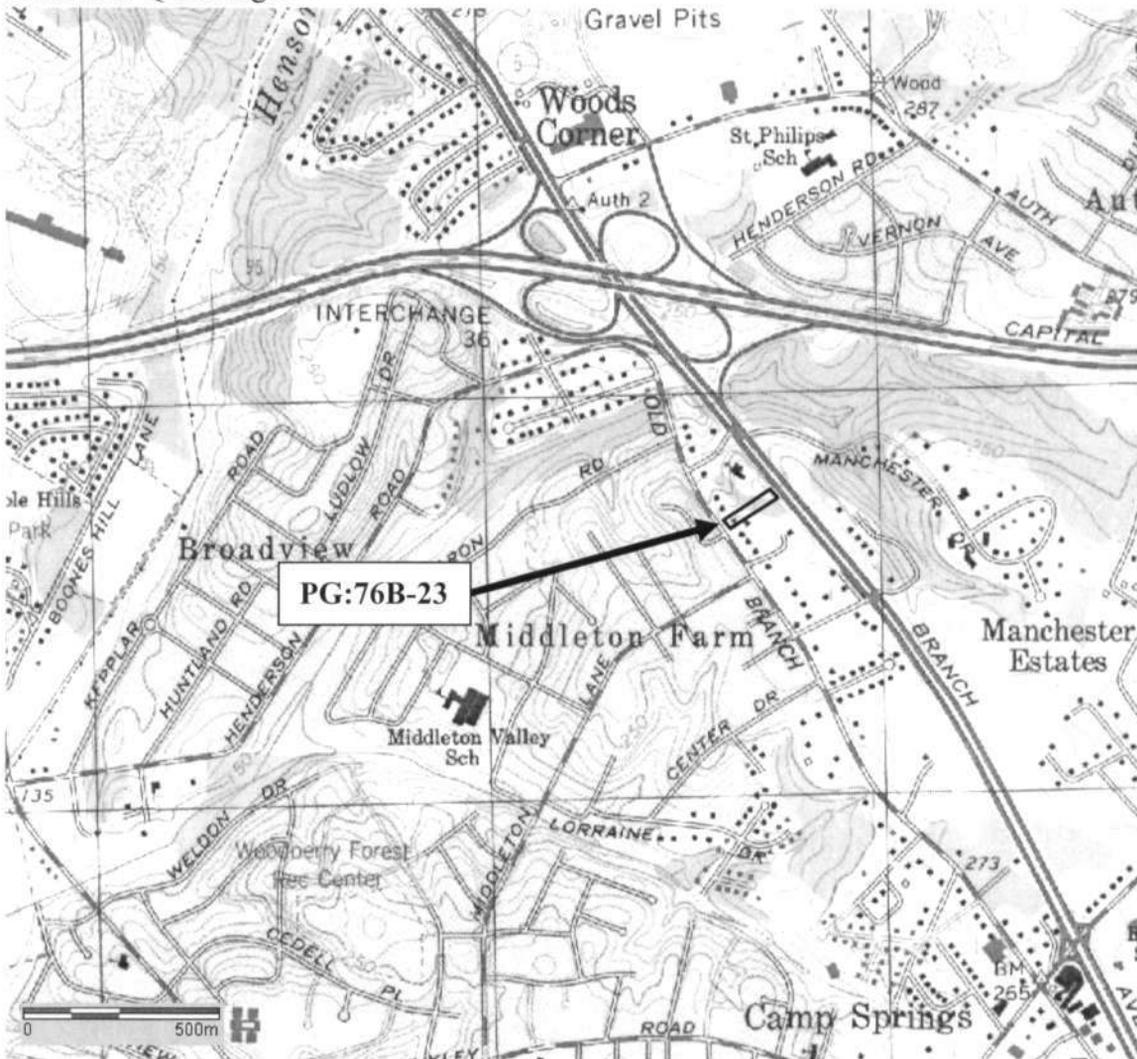


INTERCHANGE 31 (U.S. 50) 8 MI.  
DRO)

400  
50'

498

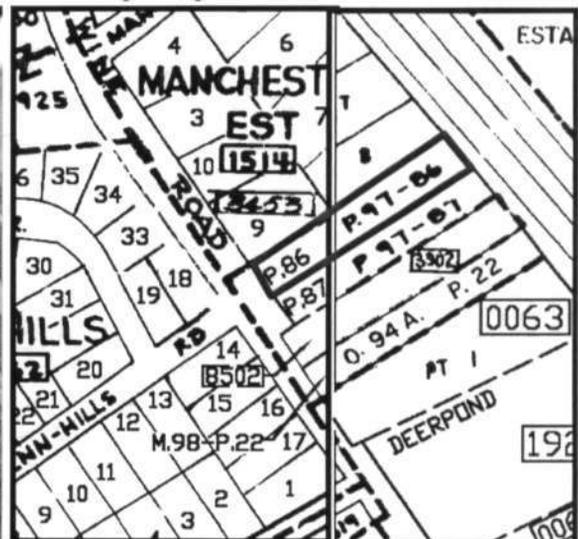
PG:76B-23  
 5418 Old Branch Avenue, Temple Hills  
 Anacostia Quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo



Tax Map 97, p. 86





PG: 768-23

5418 OLD BRANCH AVENUE

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD

TRAZERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPO

southwest elevation

1 of 4



PG:76B-23

5418 OLD BRANCH AVENUE  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD  
TRAILERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPD

South corner

2 of 4



PG: 76B-23

5418 OLD BRANCH AVENUE  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SAPO

northeast elevation

3 of 4



96:768-23

5418 OLD BRANCH AVENUE  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD  
TRAILERIES

JULY 1999

MD SAPO

west corner

4 of 4