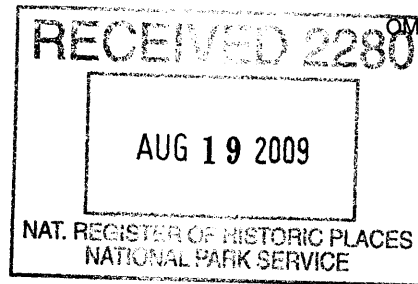


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



783

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rodgers Forge Historic District
other names BA-3238

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Stanmore Rd., Stevenson Lane, York Rd., Register Ave., and Bellona Ave. not for publication
city or town Baltimore vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Baltimore code 005 zip code 21212

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

[Signature] 8-14-09
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): _____

[Signature] 9/24/2009
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1,780		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1,780	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

Education/school

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

Education/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Tudor Revival

Colonial Revival

Modern movement

foundation Concrete, stone

walls Brick, stucco, stone, wood

roof slate

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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 pattern of our history.
- B** Property 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)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture
community planning

Period of Significance

1925 - 1957

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Frederick Beall, architect
James Keelty & Sons, builders

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Rodgers Forge Historic District (BA-3238)
Name of Property

Baltimore County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 150 acres Towson, MD quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Ellen Hayward
Organization M.E. Hayward & Associates date October 14, 2008
street & number 11408 Mays Chapel Road telephone (410) 252-3662
city or town Lutherville state Maryland zip code 21093

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Multiple private owners (more than 50)
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Rodgers Forge Historic District (BA-3238)

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Description Summary:

The Rodgers Forge Historic District is an approximately one-hundred-and-fifty acre, primarily rowhouse, early suburban community developed by the large-scale Baltimore building developer James Keely and his sons between 1931 and 1957. The District includes some thirty-eight blocks located just north of the city line in Baltimore County. The oldest section lies just west of York Road, north of Overbrook Rd. and extending to Dumbarton Rd. In the 1940s and 1950s the development grew to the west and north and is now bounded by Overbrook Rd. on the south, Bellona Avenue on the west, Stevenson Lane on the north, and York Rd. on the east. The oldest section of Rodgers Forge is distinguished by small groups of charming, well-built, and well-landscaped English-style rowhouses, erected over the course of the 1930s. As the development expanded just before and after World War II, new rows went up in the then almost universally popular Early American style. Both design trends reflect national changes in residential architectural tastes between the mid-1920s into the late 1930s. The houses also offered the modern amenity of a small, detached garage—an attractive selling point for potential buyers of property located about eight miles north of the downtown. The quality of design and construction of the early Rodgers Forge houses established the neighborhood's reputation, and it remains a highly desirable address for both young families and older couples.

General Description:

Rodgers Forge as it exists today is comprised of four distinct sections. The neighborhood includes some thirty-eight blocks and nearly 1,800 primarily group homes located just north of the city line in Baltimore County. The community was created by James Keely, Sr., one of Baltimore's major building developers, and completed by his two sons, James Keely, Jr. and Joseph Keely after their father's death in 1944. James Keely, Sr. acquired the land for the first sections of Rodgers Forge in 1924 and 1926 from the heirs of Joseph Rieman, who owned the two hundred-acre Dumbarton Farm, which extended west from York Road to Bellona Avenue opposite the new Towson suburb of Stoneleigh. The approximately eighty-six acre tract sold to Keely was located on the southern portion of the estate and a contemporary newspaper account of the transaction noted that this land was the last sizable parcel of developable land available between the city line and Towson, the Baltimore County seat. The Rieman family retained the land to the north, around the estate's mansion house, built in 1842 and still standing north of Dumbarton Road, some distance west of York Road.

Keely named his new community Rodgers Forge after a blacksmith shop located at the southeast corner of York Road and Stevenson Lane since before the Civil War. The shop was run by farrier George Rodgers and his descendants until 1947 when it was finally torn down to make way for a gas station. Although Keely initially planned to build detached houses on half-acre to one-acre lots at Rodgers Forge, by the time he finally began building in late 1932/early 1933, he had made the decision to construct

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stylish, architect-designed group homes in the then-popular “English” style (the term then used by local builders to refer to their interpretation of the Tudor Revival). Keelty and the other builders of his era called their suburban rowhouse units “group homes” to distinguish them from the long, seemingly unbroken rows of “old fashioned” rowhouses associated with city living, and also to relate them in the public’s mind with the highly fashionable and desirable “group homes” erected by the Roland Park Company on the fringes of their Guilford development in Baltimore city. Each “group” of homes was usually designed in a slightly different style from the one next door to give variety to the block face. In addition, the groups were small—in the earliest section of Rodgers Forge, Keelty built groups of only four, five, and six houses each, a major distinction from older city rows that occupied an entire block face. And if the attached houses comprised groups only four or five units long, there was much more opportunity to embellish the landscape of the development with grassy lawns, trees, and shrubbery between units, thus enhancing the desired “village” atmosphere.

The first homes Keelty erected in Rodgers Forge were located just west of York Road (served by an electric streetcar line), along the 400, 300, and 200 blocks of Hopkins Road, which extended west to Pinehurst Avenue. Group homes on Hopkins Road were built between 1933 and 1935, then Keelty built out the 400, 300, and 200 blocks of Dunkirk Road between 1936 and 1938. The first newspaper advertisement for Rodgers Forge appeared on April 22, 1934, placed directly next to an advertisement for the Roland Park Company’s four prestigious developments—Roland Park, Guilford, Homeland, and Northwood. The Rodgers Forge ad mentioned nothing about the style or size of the houses but instead noted that the new community was located on York Road “At City Limits, Adjoining Pinehurst And Adjacent to Charles Street Avenue.” The houses were close enough to the city that one could get there paying only one streetcar fare and, of course, being in the county, the taxes were low.

Before beginning work at Rodgers Forge, James Keelty had created a fairly large development of first, Daylight-type rowhouses, and then English-style group homes along West Edmondson Avenue in the western section of Baltimore. There, as in most moderately-priced rowhouse developments in the city, Keelty built groups of homes on neighboring streets that looked very much alike. For Rodgers Forge, however, he tried something new. Nearly each grouping of four, five, or six houses offered a unique design, unlike any other in the community. The builder realized that this approach was quite new and began to stress the variety of the house designs in his regular newspaper advertisements. For these earliest houses, built between 1933 Keelty and his architect Frederick Beall designed English-style rows modeled after designs popularized over the previous twenty years by Roland Park Company architects in Roland Park, Guilford, and most recently in Northwood.

Between 1938 and 1941 Keelty built out the rest of the first section of Rodgers Forge, erecting English, and then “Early American”-style houses in the 400, 300, and 200 blocks of first Murdock Road, and then Regester Avenue. The term “Early American” began to be used by Baltimore builders in the 1930s, applied to their offerings which reflected the American Colonial influences increasingly popular in

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the wake of the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. The first Early American-style group in Rodgers Forge was built at 300-8 Murdock Road in the spring of 1939, and after that date the company randomly mixed English and Early American-style groups as they built out the development. In the years between 1941 and 1950, the Keelty Company developed the second section of Rodgers Forge (part of the original tract purchased in 1924), by laying out extensions of Hopkins, Dunkirk, and Murdock roads, as well as Regester Avenue, west of Pinehurst Road to Bellona Avenue. This section, comprising the unit and 100 blocks of these roads, as well as the 100 block of Glen Argyle Road, and the south side of the 400, 300, 200, and 100 blocks of Dumbarton Road, contains substantially more houses than the original section west of York Road. Here James Keelty and, after 1944, his two sons built a mix of English-style homes and houses in the Early American style. In this section of Rodgers Forge the streets are wider and there are no garages.

After 1950, Keelty's sons continued the development north of Dumbarton Road, acquiring two new parcels of land from the Rieman family. The first parcel, which became known as "The Hill," is located north and west of Rodgers Forge Elementary School. It was developed between 1951 and 1955 with Early American style rowhouses on the 100 and 200 blocks of Brandon and Stanmore roads and Stevenson Lane, the north side of the 100 block of Dumbarton Road, and along Lanark Court. The last houses built in Rodgers Forge went up between 1955 and 1957 on the eastern section of the former Dumbarton Farm, finally sold by the Rieman heirs in 1955. The Baltimore County Board of Education acquired the mansion house, converting it into offices, and erected Dumbarton Middle School west of the house. The Keeltys bought the parcel of land that lay east of the mansion and west of York Road, building Early American style rowhouses along the 300 and 400 blocks of Old Trail, the 7000 and 7100 blocks of Heathfield Road, the 400 block of Chumleigh Road, and on Rodgers Court. They also built about thirty single Early American style houses at the same time on the west side of York Road and the south side of Stevenson Lane. This last section of Rodgers Forge was christened "The Estate" as a result of a contest held by the Rodgers Forge Community Association. The Modern elementary (1952) and middle (1956) schools, essential amenities within the community, are considered to contribute to the significance of the district.

English-Style Rows at Rodgers Forge

Keelty's English-style rows at Rodgers Forge are among the last rowhouses to be built in this style in the greater Baltimore area, but they are definitely the finest to be erected for a middle-income market, in terms of materials, design, overall size, and interior detailing. All of the 20' - 22'-wide two-story houses had tall attic stories with dormer windows containing extra bedrooms. Most of the earliest groups of homes were built of stone and brick, with stucco and some half-timbered decoration. The roofs were slate and the houses had deep front and rear yards and spacious side yards between groups. Each group contained only four, five, or six houses. Keelty outfitted most of his new houses with brick garages, also with slate roofs, located at the rear of the lot on the service alley, which ran between groups of houses.

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Keelty bragged in his early advertisements for Rodgers Forge that "no houses were alike" and he meant it. He seemed to put together a laundry list of "Old English" stylistic forms and decorative details, no doubt gleaned from observation of architect-designed houses in the popular style, and then freely arranged and re-arranged them so as to create varied groupings of English-style houses for the first blocks he built in Rodgers Forge. Although in 1924 and 1926 Keelty acquired sizable acreage from the Rieman family between York Road and Bellona Avenue, he chose first to build groups of houses near York Road. York Road was served by an electric streetcar line and was not overly far from Towson, the Baltimore County seat. On the other hand, no transportation lines went out Bellona Avenue and the area was still very rural.

A few of the "English" stylistic features he liked appeared repeatedly (though in different combinations) in many of the early groups of houses built between late 1932 and 1936 in the 400, 300, and 200 blocks of Hopkins and Dunkirk roads, just west of York Road. Others, however, like half-timbering, occurred only in the earliest rows. Some of the features that most of the groups have in common include broken, picturesque rooflines; a mix of materials, often brick, stucco, and stone; tall chimneys; shed dormers; triple and paired windows; tall end gables or clipped gables; projecting entryways with triangular, clipped, or shed-roofs; small porch roofs supported by triangular brackets, or, more often, deep front porches with hipped, shed, or triangular pedimented roofs supported by a set of three slim wooden posts.

The first two groups of houses to be built went up during the winter and early spring of 1932-33 on the northeast and southeast corners of Hopkins and Heathfield roads, a block west of York Road. Both groups contained only four 21'-foot-wide houses each. The group at 401-7 Hopkins Road (south side) has a stone-faced first story and a half-timbered second story (Figure 1). End units have steeply-pitched half-timbered end gables facing the street. The two middle units have a gable roof that extends down over the first story to cover the projecting central paired entryways. The end units have a wide second floor window made up of four narrow double-hung sash. The two center houses have a triple first floor window set beneath a paired upper window; a single sash is located above the projecting doorway and has a shed-roofed dormer above it.

The next four houses built, at 400-6 Hopkins Road (north side), are very different in appearance, being built of brick with stucco trim as well as half-timbering in the end gables. As on the south side of the street the two end houses have tall end gables, but here they are clipped gables, a design feature that is repeated in the tall, projecting (about 18") entryways. Each end house has a two-story entryway placed along the outer wall, whose surface is covered with stucco. Rough stones frame the flat-pedimented doorway and are placed randomly about the façade. The center houses have a tall, paired projecting entryway with a jerkin-head roof that rises to the top of the gable roofs over these two houses. Here the doorways are arched and framed with stone. The two center houses have two single second-floor

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windows, each of which is capped by a tall, stuccoed triangular pediment; each house also has a shed-roofed dormer window. The end houses have a triple first floor window, topped by a shed roof supported on brackets, a paired second-floor window, and a narrow, rectangular window lighting the attic story. A long shed dormer also runs the entire length of the side of the house. The chimneys are quite tall and are definitely an important part of the overall design. The houses were completed and ready to be sold in June 1933.

A few months later, a group of five houses on the northwest corner of Hopkins and Heathfield roads were completed, at 322-30 Hopkins (Figure 2). This grouping somewhat mimicked the four houses at 400-6, being built of brick with stucco and stone trim, and with a tall, central stuccoed entrance portico that extends to the top of the roofline, as well as distinctly tall chimneys. The variation here, however, was that the end and central roof gables have triangular pediments, not clipped gables. In addition, these houses have deep front porches and the first floor area of each end unit is faced with stone. The porches on the two end houses have their own tall, triangular roofs; the next two houses in have porches with hipped roofs; and the center house has a porch with a tall, steeply-pitched triangular roofline that slightly flares at the end, resembling the shape of the central feature at 400-6 Hopkins Road. And, as at 400-6, here the end houses have long shed dormers that extend across the entire side of the house.

The next group of houses to be built, on the southwest corner of Hopkins and Heathfield roads at 323-31 Hopkins, was completed in February 1934. Here the houses are brick with wooden trim instead of stucco in the end gables, and the only use of stone is around the triple first floor windows of the end houses. Nevertheless, this grouping repeats the overall composition of the houses across the street, with steeply-pitched triangular end gables on the end and center houses, and with second floor windows on the other units that have triangular pediments that break the roofline. In this design, only the three central houses have deep front porches; the center house has a hipped-roof porch; the porches to either side have shed roofs. Here, instead of a long shed-roofed dormer running along the side of the house, the side elevation is a full two stories in height and the second floor windows have triangular pediments that break the roofline like those on the front of the group. This grouping has short, almost invisible chimneys.

A few months later, in May 1934, Keelty completed a row of six houses at 310-20 Hopkins Road. Also characterized by a dramatic and broken roofline, this grouping was built of brick and had stone-faced first stories on the end houses, tall chimneys, and long shed-roofed side gables as the houses next door, at 322-30 Hopkins. The variation appeared in the fact that the end houses did not have front porches but that the center two houses did have tall porches with triangular pediments that echoed the shape of the end gables punctuating the roofline of both the end and central houses of the group. The inside houses have shed-roofed porches and paired second-floor windows with triangular pediments that also break the roofline. By the end of 1934 Keelty had put up 311-21 Hopkins Road, a group unusually identical to the houses at 323-31, with the one difference that now the row contained six units instead of five.

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Over the winter of 1934-35 Keelty built two identical groups of houses on either side of Hopkins Road, just east of Pinehurst, that introduced a new feature to Rodgers Forge. The group at 201-9, on the south side, went up first, followed by the five houses at 200-8 Hopkins. In both groups, the end houses on the corner of Pinehurst faced Pinehurst. These much larger houses took the form of traditional center hall colonials, with a central doorway and a steep gable roof with dormers facing Pinehurst. The end gable side facing Hopkins Road has a tall central chimney, flanked by demi-lunettes in the attic story. Despite the "colonial" appearance of this end house, the rest of the row showed "English" design elements—the central house in the group has a very steep triangular end gable and the dormer windows of the inside houses have very steep roofs as well. The houses have wide second-floor windows with 8/8 sash.

The next group of houses built, 301-9 Hopkins Road, were completed by April of 1935 and also have a larger end house facing the side street, in this case Dorking Road (Figure 3). Here, the end house, 301 Hopkins Road, has a triangular-pedimented entrance portico, flanked on either side by paired first floor windows. The central house in the group has a clipped gable roof over the attic story. Most of the window units on the inside three houses are paired and the houses have deep porches with a mix of shed and hipped roofs supported by three piers at the corners.

The group of houses across the street, at 300-8 Hopkins Road, built at the same time, is more English in appearance (Figure 4). The end houses have clipped-gable roofs and the central three houses have gable roofs broken by tall triangular pediments above both single and paired windows. These houses also have deep front porches. The end houses, with their clipped gable roofs have porches with a clipped-gable roof; inside houses have porches with shed roofs, and the central house has a porch with a hipped roof.

The two groups of houses at the northwest and southwest corners of Hopkins and Dorking roads were built next, in the spring and summer of 1935—and are good examples of the way Keelty routinely varied just a few architectural details to create an entirely different look. On the northwest corner, 222-30 Hopkins Rd. is a group of five houses with the end and center houses having triangular end gables facing the street, marked by a tall chimney. The inside houses have wide hipped-roof dormers and the side-facing gable roofs of the end houses have triangular dormers. The three houses with end gables have hipped-roof front porches while the inside houses have front porches with triangular pediments. The row directly across the street, at 223-31 Hopkins Rd., is also composed of five houses (Figure 5). The two end units have end gables facing the street and tall chimneys, but the central unit now has a clipped gable roof. The inside houses have an unusual paired second-floor window with a triangular pediment that breaks the roofline. Dormer windows on the side gable roof of the end houses have hipped roofs. In this row, the central unit has the triangular-pediment front porch roof, instead of the inside houses, as at 222-30 Hopkins.

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In July 1935, Keelty completed the group at 210-20 Hopkins Rd., which has the same basic features as the houses at 222-30, built in May, with slight variations, however. Here, the form of the dormers is reversed—the hipped-roof dormer is on the side gable of the end houses and a triangular dormer is used on the inside houses. The porch arrangement is also the same as at 222-30, with the end and center houses having hipped-roof porches and the inside houses having triangular-pediment porch roofs. The other difference is that in this group the two side-facing end houses have deep triangular-roofed entrance porches on their side facades. He then began building the group across the street, 211-21 Hopkins Rd., a group that took the same form as the group to the east, at 223-31, where the end houses have end gables and chimneys and the center house has a clipped gable roof. The group at 211-21 has a different appearance, however, because each end house has a projecting, stone-faced, triangular-roofed entryway with an arched opening.

Keelty completed building on Hopkins Rd. in the fall of 1935 and the spring of 1936 by erecting houses at 408-18 and 420-24 in November, 1935 and then putting up 421-27 Hopkins by February, 1936 and 409-19 by June of 1936. These groups are quite different in appearance from those built earlier because they now feature facades decorated with stucco and random patterns of brickwork, designs used by rival builder Edward J. Gallagher in Ednor Gardens in 1929-31, designs which Gallagher called "Norman." The group of four houses at 420-24 Hopkins has the traditional end houses with their end gables facing the street, with central chimneys and demi-lunette windows lighting the attic, as well as hipped-roof porches. The two central houses have gable roofs with an unusual central, paired, wide shed-roofed dormer. Paired second-floor windows have steep triangular pediments that break the roofline, as in many of his other houses. At 420-24 Hopkins, the entire second floor area of the central houses is covered with stucco decorated with random bricks. The group of six houses built to the west, 408-18 Hopkins, has brick end houses with clipped-gable roofs, inside houses with the entire façade faced with stucco and random bricks, and a central pair of brick houses with a deeply projecting, stucco-faced, paired entrance portico with arched openings and a jerkin-head roof. These houses do not have front porches, but the two inside houses have English cottage-style arched doorway pediments supported by wooden brackets. The four center houses of the group share a long gable roof that is punctuated by steep, triangular pediments set above the windows, as well as two small shed-roofed dormers.

The next group built, at 421-27 Hopkins Road, makes use of similar projecting stone and stucco-faced entrance porticoes with arched openings, but in this group the central, paired portico has a steep, triangular pediment covered with stucco, while the lower area is faced entirely with stone (Figure 6). Here, the end houses have end gables but no end chimneys. Instead, each end house also has a projecting arched entryway with triangular pediment. End houses also have stone quoins on the front facades. When he designed the next group to the west, at 409-19 Hopkins, a few months later, Keelty made use of unusual, individual, clipped-gable roofs on the center two houses, whose first-floor facades were faced with stone, while the second-floor brick façade was decorated with random stones. These center houses also have projecting entrance porticoes with triangular pediments and arched openings, but instead of

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being faced with stone, as at 421-27 Hopkins, they are brick with stone keystones and stucco pediments. The end houses in this group have end gables facing the street, stone angle quoins, and projecting entryways that resemble those of the end houses at 421-27 Hopkins.

Thus, by the summer of 1936 Keelty had built out all three blocks of Hopkins Rd. with stylish group homes influenced by the English cottage style. He then began to build similar groups of houses on Dunkirk Rd., the street directly north. He built the south side of the 300 block of Dunkirk in the spring and summer of 1936, the south side of the 400 block in the winter and spring of 1937, and the north side of both blocks in the spring and summer of 1937. He did not begin building houses in the 200 block of Dunkirk until the winter of 1937, continuing into the spring of 1938.

The groups at 323-31 and 311-21 Dunkirk, built in early 1936, are similar in appearance, with just enough variation in roofline and porch roof design to look different. Both groups represent a return to the simple red brick style with deep, open front porches used before Keelty experimented with stone and stucco decorations. The end and central houses of the group at 323-31 have steep end gables facing the street and hipped-roof porches; the inside houses have shed-roofed porches. At 311-21 Dunkirk the end houses are very similar, with their end gables and hipped-roof porches and the inside houses have shed-roofed porches. What is different is that the two central houses have extra-wide triangular dormers (instead of end gables) and porches with steeply-pitched triangular pediments. A few months later Keelty completed the group of five houses at 301-9 Dunkirk. In overall form, these resemble the group at the other end of the block, 323-31 Dunkirk, but here the house facing the side street, Dorking Rd., is one of the larger end houses with its entrance on the side street, just like at 301 Hopkins. Here the entrance has an arched triangular pediment.

Keelty next built out the south side of the 400 block of Dunkirk Rd. with groups of brick houses that have end houses with end gable roofs and wide, hipped-roof dormers on the side-facing gable roofs. The first group built, at 401-7 Dunkirk, consists of four houses. The end houses have projecting brick entryways with triangular pediments and arched openings with stone keystones and side stones. The center two houses share a double-wide central projecting entryway with triangular pediment and arched openings. On the center houses, paired second-floor windows have triangular pediments that break the gable roofline and each house also has a dormer with a triangular pediment. Although the end houses do not have end chimneys, they do have lunettes lighting the attic. Instead, a tall chimney rises along the inside wall of each end unit.

The group to the west, 409-19 Dunkirk, presents a similar, though different appearance. Here the end houses do have end chimneys and hipped-roof porches. The central two houses both have steep end gables and hipped-roof porches, and the two units project slightly, with stone quoins marking the edges. End units also project slightly and are decorated with quoins. The inside houses have an unusual second-floor bay window, shed-roofed porches, and triangular dormers. The last group on this side of Dunkirk,

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421-27, is much simpler. The end houses have end chimneys and hipped-roofed porches, the center houses have shed-roofed porches and triangular dormers. No stonework is used for decoration.

All of the houses on the north side of the 300 and 400 blocks of Dunkirk Road share similar features. They all have some stonework decoration, either on the first floor or on projecting entrance porticoes. By combining units with end gables facing the street with units whose second-floor windows have pediments breaking the roofline, as well as dormer windows, Keelty achieved a varied, picturesque quality in these groups that was augmented by the random stonework decoration. In each grouping, the end houses project forward and none of the houses have front porches.

The first two groups built, in the spring of 1937 are fairly similar. Both groups, at 322-30 and 408-16 Dunkirk, have slightly projecting end houses, with their gable ends to the street (and end chimneys), as well as slightly projecting center houses, also with end gables. At 408-16, the group contains six houses and both center houses are set beneath a double-wide end gable. Here, the paired central houses have stone-faced first floors. Paired, projecting brick entryways with arched openings and stuccoed triangular pediments are positioned along the outside bays of the central houses, so that they can serve both the central and inside houses. At 322-30 Dunkirk, there are only five houses, so that the central house has a regularly-sized end gable facing the street. In this grouping, the house at 322 Dunkirk has a side entrance. Paired, projecting entryways with arched openings and triangular pediments, just like at 408-16, serve the other four houses in the group, although here the porticos are brick with stone keystones and quoins, with a weather-bordered pediment. Each inside house of this group has a paired second-floor window whose steep, triangular pediment breaks the roofline.

The next group to the west on this block of Dunkirk, 310-20, was built next and the varied roofline is not dissimilar to that of the group at 322-30. The end houses have end gables facing the street, with end chimneys but all four inside houses have paired second-floor windows with steep, triangular pediments breaking the roofline, as well as small dormer windows. The center two houses share a paired projecting brick entryway with arched openings and a stuccoed triangular pediment. The inside houses have English cottage-style arched entrance hoods supported by triangular brackets. They also have very stylish first-floor bay windows, which have tall, ogee-shaped roofs that extend all the way up to the sill of the second-floor windows. The narrow, vertical windows of the bays are filled with multi-paned sash. These are the earliest use of bay windows in the Rodgers Forge community. Unlike the later bay windows that became a part of every row built after World War II, these bay windows were definitely modeled on English cottage-style forms. The next group built, at 400-6 Dunkirk, makes use of many of the same design elements, particularly in the treatment of the entryways (Figure 7). Here, it is one of the end houses, with their gable ends facing the street that has an English cottage-style arched entrance hood supported by brackets over the doorway. The other end house (406) has a side entrance beneath a hipped-roof porch. The central pair of houses share a stuccoed double projecting entryway with arched openings set beneath

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a triangular pediment. These houses also have overly small dormer windows and paired first and second-floor windows with multi-paned sash.

The next two groups built (completed by October, 1937) were 420-26 and 300-8 Dunkirk Rd. The group at 420-26 resembles in overall form the houses at 400-6 Dunkirk. The two central units share a double projecting entryway with arched openings set beneath a triangular pediment, but here it is built of brick with random stone decorations and only the pediment is stuccoed. In this grouping, one of the end houses also has a projecting entryway with an arched opening; the other house has its entrance on the side. The first-story area of both end houses is faced with stone, but only on the Dunkirk Rd. facades. The design of 300-8 Dunkirk resembles that of the group built a year earlier across the street at 301-9. Both the end and center houses have end gables facing the street and the end houses facing Dorking Rd. have side entrances set beneath arched, triangular entrance porches. Both end houses also have wide, hipped-roof central dormers on their entrance facades. The center house has an English cottage-style shed porch roof supported by brackets over the doorway. Each inside house has a brick projecting entryway with an arched opening with stone keystone and quoins set beneath a stuccoed triangular pediment.

Keelty began building in the 200 block of Dunkirk Rd. in the summer of 1937, completing the five houses at the southeast corner of Pinehurst Rd. by December. The other groups of houses in the 200 block, on both the south and north sides of the street, were finished by April and June 1938. Only the first group built, at 201-9 Dunkirk, has front porches, and, in fact, closely resembles the group built at 301-9 Dunkirk a year earlier, with its end and center units having end gables facing the street and hipped roof porches while the inside units have second-floor bay windows, dormer windows, and shed-roofed porches. The end units at 201-9, however, do not have end chimneys like at 301-9 Dunkirk. The next row built, 223-31, also has end and center units with end gables facing the street, but here each of these houses has an end chimney. Instead of porches, however, the doorways have an Arts-and-Crafts-style hood, supported on brackets. In this group the two inside houses have deep first floor bay windows with very tall roofs. In the middle of the south side of the block, the group of houses at 211-21 is similarly arranged with end-gabled end and center units and inside units with deeply projecting bay windows with tall roofs, but here the paired second-floor window of the inside units has a triangular pediment that breaks the roofline (Figure 8).

On the north side of the 200 block of Dunkirk Rd., the units at 210-20 and 222-30 show a variety of English-cottage doorways, but are similar in terms of overall form. Both have end-gabled end units with hipped-roof dormer windows on the side facades. At 210-20 the center two houses of the row of six share an end-gabled roof whose sides extend down to the first floor level where they meet projecting entryways with steep, stuccoed triangular pediments set above an arched brick opening. Paired first floor windows are outlined in stonework. Identical entryways are used on the end houses, while the inside houses have bay windows and a wide shed roof supported by brackets that extends over both bay window and door. These inside houses also have dormer windows. The five houses at 222-30 have a single end-gabled

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center unit, but a variety of doorways. The end house at 222 Dunkirk has a side entrance with a shed-roofed porch and a bay window on the front façade. The other end house, 230, has a hipped-roof door hood supported on brackets, as does the inside house at 224. The other inside house, 228, has a projecting brick entryway with arched opening and stuccoed triangular pediment, while the center house has an Arts-and-Crafts-style door hood supported on brackets. The five houses at 200-8 Dunkirk (Figure 9) include a side-facing house with its end gable facing the street, with an end chimney, at 200; the next house, 202, has an Arts-and-Crafts-style door and a dormer window. The center house has a tall, steep end gable, whose sides extend down to meet the projecting brick entryway, with stuccoed triangular pediment, which is double-wide and shared with 206 Dunkirk. The other end house, 208, also has its entrance on the side. It has a picturesque, asymmetrical end gable whose eastern side extends down and out to provide a covered, arched entryway at the eastern edge of the house. The front façade is marked by a bay window with tall roof and there is a hipped-roof dormer on the side façade.

After completing the 200 block of Dunkirk Road, Keelty turned his hand to building out the 200 – 400 blocks of Murdock Road, the next street north, between the summer of 1938 and the winter of 1939-40. The first houses built showed variations of the English cottage style, with bay windows, projecting entryways, or cottage-style door hoods. By the middle of 1939, however, Keelty was experimenting with classic Early American entryways, with a mixture of arched, broken, and swan's neck pediments, that presaged his post-1940 building style.

The groups at 301-9 and 401-7 Murdock Road went up first, completed in September and October of 1938, respectively. Both groups have central, paired, projecting brick entryways with tall triangular pediments and arched openings. Since there are five houses in the group at 301-9, the center and end houses have end gables facing the street and the paired entryway is shared by the center and one of the inside houses. Both of these houses also have a new style of bay window that is box-shaped and has a short shed roof. In this grouping the inside houses have dormer windows, while the end houses each have a hipped-roof dormer on the side façade. These side facades also have a pair of the older-style bay windows, with tall roofs. The houses that do not share the projecting entryway have a new style of door with a flat pediment. The group of four houses at 401-7 Murdock has end-gabled units on each side and the inside pair shares a projecting stone entryway with a tall triangular pediment and arched openings (Figure 10). These inside houses also have box-style bay windows and dormer windows. The end chimneys on each of the end houses also have stone bases. The group of four houses directly across the street at 400-6 Murdock, are identical to those at 401-7, except for the fact that the chimneys and entryways are made only of brick. The group at 420-26 Murdock, also only four houses, takes a similar form, but here the easternmost house, 426 has a clipped-end-gable facing the street and a hipped-roof front porch, while the house on the other end, 420, has a regular end gable with end chimney and a side entrance. The inside houses have bay windows, dormers, and flat-pedimented door casings.

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The two groups of six houses each, in the middle of the 400 block of Murdock Road, share similar features, though differently combined. Both groups have an end house with a clipped-end gable and one with a regular end gable roof. At 409-19 all of the inside houses have gable roofs and dormer windows, but the central pair share a projecting brick entryway with tall triangular pediment and arched openings and each has a boxed bay window. Each inside house has a larger triangular bay window, capped by a deep shed roof that also extends over the front door. The end house with the clipped end gable roof has a similar shed roof extending over the front door and bay window; the house on the other end has a front door with a colonial-style triangular pediment. At 408-18 Murdock, the end house with the clipped end gable has a hipped-roof door hood supported by brackets and a box-style bay window with short roof (Figure 11). The house at the other end has a similar bay window in front but the entrance is on the side. Inside houses have bay windows and doorways with broken pediments, while the center two houses share a steep end gable whose sides extend down to the first floor level, where arched openings lead to the doorways beyond. The other group of four houses built in the 400 block of Murdock (421-27) by April 1939, do not resemble the others on the block. The end houses project forward and have end gables facing the street and the inside houses have dormer windows, but an unusual shed-roofed porch extends across the front of the inside houses, broken by a central all-brick projecting entryway with triangular pediment and side-facing doors.

The rest of the houses in the 300 block of Murdock Road, built between the summer of 1938 and the spring of 1939, also show a mix of English cottage-style features and Early American doorways. The houses at 323-31 and 311-21, built first, have typical English-style designs, with a variety of bay windows and hooded doorway styles. The group at 323-31 has end and center units with end gables facing the street and hipped roof dormers on the side facades (Figure 12). On one end both door and window have short shed roofs supported by brackets; the house at the other end has a hipped-roof door hood supported by brackets. Each inside house has a deep shed roof extending across the bay window and doorway, while the center house has a door surround with a flat-pediment. Next door, at 311-21, only the end houses have end gables—one has a bay window with a tall roof and a hipped-roof door hood supported on brackets, the other has an end chimney and a side entrance. All of the inside houses have gable roofs and small dormer windows and the central two houses have paired second story windows with triangular pediments breaking the roofline. Each inside house has a different first floor treatment—at 313 Murdock Road the doorway has a hipped-roof hood like the end house at 321 and there is a box bay window set on a stone foundation and with a shed roof; at 315 Murdock there is a paired first floor window and the doorway has a portico with a triangular pediment; at 317 Murdock, a deep shed roof extends across the both the bay window and the doorway; and at 319 Murdock the paired first floor window has a randomly placed stone surround and the doorway has a portico with a triangular pediment like at 315 Murdock.

Across Murdock, at 310-20, the group of six houses has similar units with end gables at each end, and central houses with regular gable roofs and dormer windows. Each end house has a deep bay window with tall roof and a door casing with a broken pediment (Figure 13). The door and window treatments of

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the central four houses are not arranged symmetrically, as usual. Instead, one inside house has a projecting brick entryway with a triangular pediment and arched opening; the next house has a bay window and a doorway with a broken pediment; the third house in repeats the projecting brick entryway of the first, while the fourth has a bay window and a door with a broken pediment. To the east, the row at 322-30 Murdock shows a similar mix of doorway styles. The two end houses have end gables facing the street and hip-roofed dormers on their side facades. One of the end houses has a side entry while the easternmost has a projecting brick entryway with triangular pediment and arched opening, along with a front bay window. The next house west, 328, has a wide bay window with a tall roof and hipped-roof door hood supported by brackets. The central and westernmost inside house share a paired projecting brick entryway similar to that on the end house.

Early American Rows at Rodgers Forge

The last group of houses built in the 300 block of Murdock Road, at 300-8, in the spring of 1939, is decidedly Early American in appearance (Figure 14). End houses have hipped roofs and the center houses have low-pitched gable roofs, without dormers. Each house has a bay window with a flat roof. Doorways on the end houses have broken pediments; doorways on the inside houses have arched pediments; and the doorway of the center house has a swan's neck pediment. Keelty used the identical design for some of the groups built in the summer and fall of 1939 in the 200 block of Murdock Road. The row at the northwest corner of Murdock and Dorking (222-30) and the row to the west (210-20) are identical to the group at 300-8 Murdock, described above, with hipped-roof end units, bay windows, and a mix of colonial doorway styles. The group of five houses at 200-8 Murdock is designed so that both end houses have their entrances on the side façade. On these side facades, a doorway with an arched pediment is framed by two bay windows; three dormer windows light the attic. Each of the three inside houses also has a dormer window and a bay window, but 302 Murdock has a doorway with a broken pediment while 304 and 306 Murdock have doorways with flat pediments set beneath shed-roofed porches that also extend across the bay window.

On the south side of the 200 block of Murdock Road, two of the housing groups follow a similar Early American style, but one still makes use of an English-style bay window. Both 201-9 and 211-21 Murdock are groups with inside houses having bay windows and colonial doorways, but in this case the end houses have gable roofs, not hipped roofs as on the north side of the street. At 211-21 the end houses have doorways with swan's neck pediments and the center houses have bay windows with flat roofs and doorways with arched pediments. The group at 201-9 Murdock has a side-facing, center hall colonial on the end facing Pinehurst, while the other end house has a hipped roof, a bay window and a doorway with a broken pediment. The three inside houses have bay windows and doorways with arched pediments. The group at 223-31 Murdock (Figure 15) is composed with cross-gabled units on both ends, one having a doorway with a triangular pediment, the other has an end chimney with the entrance on the side façade.

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The central house of the group has an unusual, wide boxed-bay with a tall, flared metal roof. Inside houses have similar wide bay windows, but with flat roofs.

By the spring of 1940 Keelty had moved his building operations to the south side of the 200 to 400 blocks of Regester Ave, moving to the north side by the summer. All of these groups were decidedly simpler in design with standard Early American doorways, bay windows, and a mix of hipped and gable roofs. There was also a lot more repetition in the design of the rows and often houses on either side of the street in the same block are identical. The first group built, 211-21 Regester, has end units with end gables facing the street, which have unusual wide moldings forming the lower end of the roof triangle, set just above the second floor windows (Figure 16). Each house has a wide, boxed bay with flat roof; end houses have doorways with broken pediments while inside houses have doorways with flat pediments. Next Keelty built two identical groups on the southwest (223-31) and southeast (301-9) corners of Dorking Rd. End houses of the group have hipped roofs, central houses gable roofs and there are no dormers. Each house has a regular-sized bay window with flat roof, end houses have doorways with triangular pediments, and the inside houses have doorways with flat pediments. These same units were built at 401-7 and 400-6 Regester Ave., east of Heathfield. The next groups to the east, 408-18 and 409-19 Regester also match each other, but are different from the houses at 401-7 and 400-6. Here, end units have end gables facing the street, but otherwise the facades are the same. The groups of houses at 421-27 Regester and 420-26 also match and look like those houses at the other end of the block, with hipped roof end units.

The groups of houses at 322-30 and 310-20, and 300-8 Regester Avenue are variations on the same theme. At 322-30, the end houses have hipped roofs and the center house has its end gable facing the street. The center house has a door with an arched pediment; the inside houses have shed-roofed porches; one end house has a doorway with a triangular pediment; the other end house has a hipped-roof door hood supported on posts. Central and end houses have bay windows with flat roofs. Next door, at 310-20 Regester the end houses also have hipped roofs but it is the two inside houses that have the gable end facing the street, while the center two houses have regular gable roofs. Here, it is the two houses with end gables that have shed-roofed porches, while the other houses have bay windows. End houses have doorways with broken pediments; the center houses have doorways with arched pediments. At 300-8 Regester Avenue the design of the group is that same as that at 322-30.

The houses at 311-21 Regester (Figure 17) have a more colonial feel while those next door, at 323-31 (Figure 18) are more English in feeling, though both were built in the spring and summer of 1940. At 311-21 both of the end houses are side-facing center hall colonials, with triangular-pedimented entryways flanked by bay windows with flat roofs, and hipped-roof dormer windows. The gable end facing the street has an end chimney. Each of the four inside houses has a low-pitched, hipped-roof porch and a dormer window. Next door, however, at 323-31, each of the houses has a wide, flaring standing-seam-tin roof covering both the bay window and front door. End houses have their end gable facing the street.

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The two groups of houses on the north and south sides of Regester Avenue, east of Pinehurst, went up in the fall of 1940. Both have side-facing, center hall end houses with end chimneys. Front doors with triangular pediments are flanked by bay windows and three dormer windows light the attic. At 201-9 Regester, the end house at 201 also has a front-façade door set beneath a hipped-roof porch; at 209 the front façade has an end chimney as well as a door set beneath a flat pediment. The two inside houses have regular bay windows (with flat roofs) and doorways with flat pediments. On the north side of the street, at 200-8, the center three houses all have gable roofs with dormer windows. The center house has a wide bay window with distinctive sheet metal flared roof; the doorway has a broken pediment. Inside houses have deep, low-pitched hip-roofed porches. The two groups of houses at 222-30 and 210-20 are less interesting. The group at 222-30 has a low-pitched gable roof, without dormers, with a center house with its end gable facing the street. End houses have side chimneys and first floor bay windows; inside houses have wide shed-roofed porches. The design of the group at 210-20 is unusual, since it is the house that is second in from the western edge that has its end gable facing the street. The center two houses have low-pitched, hipped-roof porches; end houses have bay windows and doorways with broken pediments; and the inside houses have bay windows and doors with arched pediments.

The next houses Keelty built in Rodgers Forge went up on the south side of Dumbarton Rd. in the winter and spring of 1940-41. All closely resembled various groups built the previous year on the 200 to 400 blocks of Regester Avenue, with the same mix of side-facing center hall colonials, hipped-roof groups, groups whose end houses have gable ends facing the street, and groups where the center house has the gable end facing the street. All but one of the groups also have bay windows and all have colonial doorway details. Houses in the 300 block went up first. The groups at 301-9 and 323-31 are the same, both having center units with gable ends facing the street and hipped roofs. End houses have paired first floor windows and a doorway with an arched pediment, while inside houses have bay windows and doorways with broken pediments. The center group, 311-21 Dumbarton, has side-facing center hall colonials on each end of the group. The four inside houses all have dormer windows and hipped-roof porches supported by three posts on each corner.

The same basic design was used for the row at 409-19 Dumbarton, except that here the side-facing end houses have hipped-roof dormers instead of dormers with triangular pediments, as well as bay windows on either side of the front door. The two groups on either side of this row, 401-7 and 421-27, resemble each other except for the fact that their compositions are reversed. Both are groups of four houses each with hipped roofs. The house closest to the side street has a bay window on the first floor, the next two houses have hipped-roof front porches, and the last house has a paired first floor window and a doorway with a broken pediment.

The 200 block of Dumbarton was built last and here there are no front porches, but rather an emphasis on bay windows with a more dramatic design. The group at the southeast corner of Pinehurst,

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201-9 Dumbarton, has side-facing houses on either end, with hipped-roof dormer windows and bay windows flanking an entrance portico with a triangular pediment. The three inside houses also have bay windows. The center house has a wide, boxed-bay window with a flaring tin roof and a doorway with a flat pediment. The two inside houses have regular bay windows and doorways with broken pediments. At the opposite end of the block, the group of five houses at 223-31, looks quite similar, but the end houses, with their gable ends facing the street, have front entrances and there are no dormer windows. In this group the central house has the same wide boxed-bay with flared roof; the inside houses have regular bays and doors with broken pediments; and the end houses have regular bays and doors with arched pediments. The center group of six houses, at 211-21 Dumbarton, is designed with hipped-roof houses at either end and gable roofed houses in between. Each end house has a triple first floor window and a doorway with a broken pediment. Each inside house has a wide boxed-bay window with a flared tin roof and a doorway with an arched pediment, while the center two houses have regular bay windows and doorways with triangular pediments.

English and Early American-style houses west of Pinehurst Road, 1941-49

After Keelty finished building out the original section of Rodgers Forge, east of Pinehurst Road to York Road and north from Hopkins Road to Dumbarton Road, he shifted his attention to the western extensions of Dunkirk and Murdock roads, running west from Pinehurst two long blocks to Bellona Avenue. He began on Dunkirk, west of Pinehurst, in the late spring and summer of 1941, continuing along Dunkirk to Bellona in the winter and spring of 1941-42. He then began building on Murdock, east of Bellona, in the spring and summer of 1942, continuing east to Pinehurst in 1942 and early 1943. Groups of houses on Dunkirk Road, west of Pinehurst and east of Blenheim, are similar to those built on Murdock Road and Register Avenue, with colonial doorways, bay windows or porches, side-facing end houses that project dramatically from the group with end chimneys and quoins, and occasional groups with hipped roofs. Houses west of Blenheim, however, show a return to English-cottage-style derived details. The last groups built, on Murdock, east of Blenheim, are Early American in design, but simpler than the earlier colonial-style houses built. Each of these blocks contains some longer rowhouse groups, now with seven or eight houses each, and there is more repetition among designs than in the oldest sections of Rodgers Forge.

The group at 114-28 Dunkirk (Figure 19), on the northwest corner of Pinehurst, completed by September 1941, matches the group at 86-100. The house at the east end of the group has a side facing entrance, with bay windows flanking an entrance portico with a triangular pediment. The house has an end chimney and dormer windows. Inside houses have porches with triangular pediments as well as dormers with triangular pediments; the next house in has a shed-roofed porch and a hipped-roof dormer, while the center two houses have hipped-roof porches and dormers with triangular pediments. The group at 102-12 is different in that the center houses now have no dormer windows and some of the porches have been replaced by bay windows (Figure 20). Side-facing end houses on these units are the same as at

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114-28 and 86-100. In this design, the two center houses still have hipped-roof front porches, but the inside houses have a bay window and a colonial door with a flat pediment. The same composition is repeated on the north side of the street at 91-101, and at 103-17 and 75-89 Dunkirk, but the latter two groups have two additional houses each, both with bay windows and doorways with broken pediments. In order to add variety, Keelty used hipped-roof dormers on the end houses at 103-17. The south side of Dunkirk Road, east of Blenheim, was completed with two identical groups of four houses each, at 67-73 and 59-65 (Figure 21). The houses have gable roofs with hipped-roof dormers and each house has a porch with a hipped roof supported on a single post, in place of the three posts used earlier.

West of Blenheim Road, 47-57 and 31-45 Dunkirk Road are also identical. Each group has end houses with their gable ends facing the street, but instead of being brick, the gable end is covered with siding. There are no dormer windows and no porches. One of the end houses has an end chimney and a colonial door with a flat pediment; at the other end of the group, the chimney is on the side of the house and the doorway has an arched pediment. Each of the inside houses has a bay window and a doorway with a flat pediment.

The remaining groups on Dunkirk Road, east of Bellona, show a return to English cottage-style details. The group at 19-29 has hipped-roof end houses framing inside houses with gable roofs and no dormers. One end house has a triple first-floor window and a colonial door with triangular pediment; the entrance at the other end house has a portico with a triangular pediment. Inside houses have boxed-bay windows with flared tin roofs and doorways with arched pediments. The center two houses have regular bay windows and the same kind of doors. Further west, at 9-17, the group has hipped-roof end houses and tall, English-style side chimneys (Figure 22). The center house has a gable roof with its end facing the street, a regular bay window and a colonial doorway with arched pediment. Inside houses have plain shed-roofed porches, but the end houses have stylish porticoes with flared tin roofs supported by thin posts, as well as a regular bay window. The group of four gable-roofed houses at the northeast corner of Bellona Avenue, at 1-7 Dunkirk Road, has end units with dormer windows, doorways with triangular pediments, and an oversized bay window with a tall triangular roof. The two inside houses have a hipped-roof porch over the doorway, which also partially extends over the paired first floor window. The house at 7 Dunkirk also has a side, shed-roofed porch.

Directly across the street, at 2-8 and 10-16 Dunkirk, the two groups of four houses each are identical to each other. Each group has hipped-roof end houses with tall side chimneys, like the row at 9-17. End houses have wide bay windows with distinctive, tall slate roofs and doorways with triangular pediments; the inside houses have hipped-roof porches. Further east, at 18-24 Dunkirk, the group also has end houses with hipped roofs and side chimneys; these end houses have bay windows with tall, triangular roofs and doorways with triangular pediments while the inside houses have hipped-roof porches supported by posts that extend slightly over the paired first floor windows. In this group, the east end house also has a side porch.

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The group of houses at 26-36 Dunkirk has the same wide bay windows with tall roofs and the same hipped-roof porches as at 2-8 and 10-16, but here the row has a traditional gable roof, with dormers on the end houses. Now the houses with the bay windows are located at the center of the row and the houses with hipped-roof porches are the inside houses. The end houses have triple first-floor windows and doorways with triangular pediments. The group of houses at 38-52 Dunkirk is identical to that at 26-36, but is two houses longer and now it is the center pair of houses that has the hipped-roof porches. At 54-64 Dunkirk, on the northwest corner of Blenheim, the row is designed so that it is the two inside houses that have their gable ends facing the street. The inside units have the same wide bay window with tall roof as other houses on the north side of the street; doorways have flat pediments. The two center houses have hipped-roof porches, while the end houses have triple windows and doorways with triangular pediments.

East of Blenheim, at 66-72 Dunkirk, the group of four houses has hipped-roofed end units and the center two houses have hipped-roof porches. Each end house has a regular bay window and a doorway with a broken pediment. Directly east, at 74-84 Dunkirk, the row resembles the design of 54-64, with the two inside houses having their gable ends facing the street. Both end and inside houses have paired first floor windows and colonial doorways with flat pediments; the center houses have boxed-bay windows, with flared roofs, and doorways with English cottage-style hipped-roof door hoods supported by brackets. These houses on the north side of this part of Dunkirk were completed by June of 1942.

The builder then began erecting similar houses with different English cottage details on Murdock Road, east of Bellona. Many of these rows have end units, with their gable ends facing the street, that project forward of the row with angle quoins and shed-roofed porches. The distinctive new design element seen here was a first floor bay window, or simple paired window, set beneath a wide, short, shed roof that extended across the entire width of the house. This form of decoration was most often used on the second house in from the end of the row. Often, the first house in has a triple first-floor window and a doorway with an arched or triangular pediment, and center houses have hipped-roof porches.

The group at 1-15 Murdock is very similar to that at 2-16, across the street. Both have end-gabled end units with shed-roofed porches and in both groups, the house that is second in from the end has the characteristic wide shed roof over the first floor window and door. Variations appear in subtle details— at 1-15 inside houses have triple windows with flat lintels and doorways with triangular pediments and at 2-16 the triple windows have segmentally-arched lintels and the doorways have arched pediments. At 2-16 the center two houses have hipped-roof porches; at 1-15 they have no porches. The group at 17-29 Murdock takes the same basic form, but here the end houses have hipped-roof porches, not shed-roofed porches; inside units have triple windows with flat lintels and doorways with triangular pediments; and the second house in has the distinctive wide shed roof over the door and window. Further east, 31-43 Murdock (Figure 23) is a simple, gable-roofed row, where end houses have shed-roofed porches; inside

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houses have triple first-floor windows with segmentally-arched lintels and doorways with arched pediments; the next houses in have wide shed roofs over the door and window; and the center houses have hipped-roof porches.

On the north side of the street, 18-32 Murdock is identical to 31-43 and, further east, the houses at 34-48 Murdock take a similar form, except that the inside houses have triple windows with flat lintels and doorways with triangular pediments, and the center house has no porch. Further east on the north side of the street, the group at 50-64 is identical to that at 18-32 and 31-43, except for the fact that the row has a hipped rather than a gable roof. The two groups of houses on the northwest and southwest corners of Blenheim Road also almost match, resembling the group at 2-16, but the end houses of the group at 59-73 have siding on their end gables while those at 66-80 have full brick facades. The last row west of Blenheim, at 45-57 Murdock, differs from all others on the street because both the end and center houses have their gable ends facing the street. End houses have shed-roof porches, inside houses have triple windows with flat lintels, and doorways with triangular pediments, and the center house has a doorway with an arched pediment.

East of Blenheim Road, the houses on Murdock built during the winter of 1942-43, show simpler, and more economical, combinations of forms. None of these houses makes use of the design featuring a wide, short shed roof extending across the doorway and window, as seen in every row built west of Blenheim, and no bay windows are used, except on the occasional side-facing house. The first three groups built on the north side of Murdock, east of Blenheim, have simple rooflines. The row at 82-94 has hipped-roof end houses with two single windows on both floors and a doorway with a triangular pediment. The center house also has a pedimented doorway, but all of the other houses have paired first floor windows and doorways with flat pediments. The next groups, at 96-108 and 110-122 share identical doorway patterns but both groups have simple gable roofs. The only added feature is the shed-roofed porches on the center pair at 96-108. On the south side of the street, east of Blenheim, the first and third groups, 75-85 and 101-13, have end houses with their gable ends facing the street (both of which are covered with siding). End houses have shed-roofed porches, and each pair of inside houses shares a double-wide, hipped-roof porch. At 101-13 Murdock, where there is an extra house, the center house has a triple window and a doorway with arched pediment. The group between these two, 87-99 Murdock, has a hipped-roof and a center house with its gable end facing the street. End houses have shed-roofed porches, the two inside houses share a wide, hipped-roof porch, and the center house has a doorway with an arched pediment.

The four groups of houses on Murdock, just west of Pinehurst have no porches or bay windows. Both corner units—at 138-48 and 129-41 Murdock—have side-facing, center hall colonials at the eastern end of the group, facing Pinehurst Rd. Like every other side-facing unit in Rodgers Forge, these houses have dormer windows, end chimneys facing Murdock, and first-floor bay windows flanking a colonial doorway, in this case with a triangular pediment but no portico. The houses at the western end of each

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group have gable ends facing the street and doorways with triangular pediments; the inside house on the eastern end of the group has a doorway with a broken pediment while all of the other doorways have flat pediments. The next two groups to the west, 124-36 and 115-27 Murdock, match each other. The groups have end houses with gable ends facing the street two single windows on each floor and doorways with triangular pediments. The center houses also have doorways with triangular pediments, but the first-floor window is paired. The other houses in the groups have paired first-floor windows and doorways with flat pediments.

Post-War Early American Designs

After the completion of the houses on Murdock Road, building in Rodgers Forge ceased until the summer of 1949. By this time Keelty's two sons were running the company, James Keelty, Sr. having died in 1944. In 1949 they put up groups of homes on Hopkins Road, west of Pinehurst. Over the next two years, with business booming again, the company built rows of very similar houses on Overbrook Rd., just south of Hopkins; along Register Avenue and Glen Argyle Rd., west of Pinehurst; along the north side of Dumbarton Rd., west of Register; and along the south side of Stevenson Lane, east of Brandon, and around Lanark Court, south of Stevenson. By the summer of 1952, with postwar housing demands escalating, the company began to develop land north of Stevenson Lane, laid out with two curving streets, Stanmore and Brandon roads, and bisected by Lanark Road. This section of Rodgers Forge became known as "The Hill." Just to the east the new Rodgers Forge Elementary School opened on part of the old Rieman estate.

The last part of Rodgers Forge to be built lay east and north of the original Dumbarton estate house, Rodgers Forge Elementary School (1951) and the new Dumbarton Middle School (1956), on land the company did not acquire until 1955. The company laid out Heathfield Road, running north from Dumbarton to Stevenson Lane and cross streets Old Trail and Chumleigh Road. Single, colonial-style houses were also built along the west side of York Road in this area, as well as along the south side of Stevenson Lane. Houses in this last area of the community were built between the summer of 1955 and the spring of 1957. A contest held by the Community Association to name this new district came up with the designation "The Estate."

Seeking to create a more affordable product that could be put up quickly to meet postwar housing needs, the Keelty Company came up with a few basic Early American-style house designs that they repeated endlessly throughout the part of Rodgers Forge built along Register Avenue west of Pinehurst in 1950-51, as well as in all of the sections north of Stevenson Lane, built between 1951 and 1957. Although many of the other large-scale builders of Early-American style rowhouses had no qualms about erecting row after row of look-alike houses, the Keelty Company had always prided themselves on

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offering a variety of products. Many of the early advertisements for Rodgers Forge stressed that the homes were "individually designed with a view to suiting the tastes of the most discriminating of buyers"¹ and an examination of each of the housing groups in the original section of the community shows that the company kept to its word. So, as the builders developed the last sections of housing, they erected not one or two, but six different designs of Early American-style group housing. They also experimented with building a few groups of paired houses as well as two sections of small, single, colonial houses.

The six different types of housing groups, described in the order of their frequency of use, are as follows:

1. Groups with end houses having gable ends facing the street (approximately 49 groups), as seen at 127-37 Hopkins Road (Figure 24) and 300-10 Old Trail (Figure 25)
2. Groups with both end and center houses having gable (approximately 49 groups), as seen at 137-49 Stanmore Road (Figure 26)
3. Groups where only the center house has its gable end facing the street (approximately 20 groups), as seen at 9-17 Dunkirk Road (Figure 22) and 109-21 Glen Argyle Road (Figure 27)
4. Groups with gable roofs (approximately 10 groups) as seen at 59-65 Dunkirk Road (Figure 21)
5. Groups with hip roofs (approximately 6 groups) as seen at 300-8 Murdock Road (Figure 14)
6. Groups where it is the two inside houses that have their gable ends facing the street (approximately 5 groups) as seen at 310-20 Register Avenue

When groups have houses with their gable ends facing the street, these units usually project forward from the rest of the row and have angle quoins. Chimneys are short and located on the rear roof. Usually, the attic ventilators located at the top of the end gable are simple, small rectangles, not the more stylish oculus shapes used by other contemporary developers. Apart from these differences in overall roof composition, the housing groups maintained certain similarities:

1. All end units in any groups have triple first floor windows with two single windows above and doorways with triangular pediments (there are a few examples of doorways with arched pediments, but not many).
2. Usually when a center house has its gable end facing the street, it has a triple first-floor window and a doorway with an arched pediment.
3. All inside houses have bay windows and a paired and single window on the second floor; doorways have flat pediments.

¹ Baltimore *Sun*, Dec. 12, 1937

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The Keelty Company built six groups of paired houses along the west side of Stanmore Road, north of Stevenson Lane, in late 1952. These bear the numbers 108-10, 112-14, 116-18, 120-22, 124-26, and 128-30 Stanmore Road. They have either gable or hipped roofs; triple windows on the first floor and two above; and doorways with triangular pediments. Between 1955 and 1957, the company also built seven individual colonial houses on the south side of Stevenson Lane, west of Heathfield; ten east of Heathfield; and eighteen on the west side of York Road, north of Dumbarton. All were simple, four-square center hall colonials with either hip or gable roofs, angle quoins, and a chimney along one side, like those at 405 and 407 Stevenson Lane (Figure 28). The front façades have two single windows on each floor and there are two windows on each floor of the side elevations. Doorways either have broken pediments or porticoes with triangular pediments.

By 1957 the Keelty brothers were concentrating their efforts in developing even more suburban sections with the newly popular ranch and split-level-style houses. As with other large-scale builders at this time, like the Welsh Construction Company, they also began to build garden apartments in Rodgers Forge, on land east of Bellona Avenue and south of Dumbarton Road, beginning to the west of the group homes built facing Regester Avenue.

Floor plans

All of the group homes in Rodgers Forge (except for side-facing end units) have essentially the same floor plan, the typical Daylight-style plan with two rooms at the front of the house and two rooms at the rear. Most of the earlier English-style houses are 21' - wide, with corner houses often 21' 6" or 22'-wide. The later Early American style houses ranged between 19' and 20'-wide, with end units often measuring a foot wider. In most cases the front door opens directly into the living room with the staircase to the second floor only a few steps away. Sometimes there is also an entry vestibule. Many earlier houses that are a few feet wider than the later versions actually have an entry hall area, lit by a small front window next to the door. Often the rooms in these older houses also have rounded corners, an unusual feature. The staircase runs up one side of the house, just a few feet beyond the front door and is always partially open to the living room, with an attractive colonial-style newel post and balusters. The kitchen is located behind the staircase and has a rear window and often a rear porch. The dining room is located behind the living room, next to the kitchen, separated from the living room by a wide, usually arched opening. Most dining rooms have chair rail moldings. On the second floor the master bedroom occupies most of the front of the house, with the bathroom located above the front door. To the rear, there is a small bedroom at the head of the stairs, and a larger bedroom behind the master bedroom. Most Rodgers Forge houses came with finished, but not paneled basements, and all basements had an extra toilet.

Many of the houses built in the 1930s in the original section of Rodgers Forge have additional bedrooms on the third, or attic, floor, lit by dormer windows. The side-facing end units in these early groupings have center hall floor plans, with the living room occupying the entire front of the house; on the

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other side of the stairs the dining room was located at the front of the house and the kitchen at the rear. These larger houses boasted five bedrooms, three on the second floor and two in the dormered attic story. Most early houses came equipped with fireplaces, located either on the end wall of end-unit houses; on the end walls of side-facing, center hall houses; or on the front wall of some inside houses. In all cases the fireplaces have colonial-style fireplace surrounds and mantels. Few of the group houses built after 1940 have fireplaces, with the exception of the side-facing, center hall units. Most of the houses built in the 1930s also came with individual or paired one-car garages, built of brick with gabled slate roofs. Paired, hinged wooden garage doors had upper sections with 4/4 lights each. Too narrow for most modern cars, these garages are now used for storage.

Keelty always advertised "Modern Kitchens," "Hardwood Floors Throughout," and "Tile Baths with Built-In Showers." As far as heat was concerned, the early houses were heated with oil-fed radiators that by the late 1930s were built into the wall. After World War II, houses were heated with hot air systems. Over the years the tile bathrooms changed little. White tiles, 6" x 6" square lined the walls, set off by black tile trim, while geometrically-laid smaller black and white tiles provided the flooring. The "modern kitchen" consisted of a one-piece porcelain sink and drain board set over a wider metal cabinet with central door and side sections with both drawers and lower doors. An upper shelving unit that extended to the ceiling had a central unit with an upper and lower level of paired cabinets above the sink and upper and lower single cabinets to either side.

Depending upon the topography of the site, many of the groups of houses at Rodgers Forge are set above terraced lawns, each with individual sidewalks and sets of steps leading to the street. In the original section most of the houses built on the south side of the street are set higher above the street level than those groups built on the north side of the street, but this is not always the case. Most front yards are fairly deep.

Neighborhood Amenities

Two Modern-style public school buildings are centrally located within the district, and represent amenities which were integral to the neighborhood's development. Rodgers Forge Elementary School was constructed in 1952 at 250 Dumbarton Road; four years later, the Dumbarton Middle School was built immediately to its east. Both buildings are located on a parcel historically associated with the Dumbarton Mansion, which still stands behind the Middle School. Constructed ca. 1853 in a transitional Greek Revival-Italianate style, the Mansion was acquired by the Board of Education in the early 1950s, and served as offices for that agency until 1988. Since 1991, it has housed the Baltimore Actors' Theatre Conservatory. The Dumbarton Mansion contributes to the significance of the district by virtue of its educational function.

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List of Contributing Resources

Group Homes	Date of Construction
421-7 Hopkins Rd.	1936
409-19 Hopkins Rd.	1936
401-7 Hopkins Rd.	1933
420-26 Hopkins Rd.	1935
408-18 Hopkins Rd.	1935
400-6 Hopkins Rd.	1933
322-30 Hopkins Rd.	1933
310-20 Hopkins Rd.	1934
300-8 Hopkins Rd.	1935
323-31 Hopkins Rd.	1934
311-21 Hopkins Rd.	1935
301-9 Hopkins Rd.	1935
223-31 Hopkins Rd.	1935
211-21 Hopkins Rd.	1935
201-9 Hopkins Rd.	1934
222-30 Hopkins Rd.	1935
210-20 Hopkins Rd.	1935
200-8 Hopkins Rd.	1934
139-51 Hopkins Rd.	1949
127-37 Hopkins Rd.	1949
115-25 Hopkins Rd.	1950
101-13 Hopkins Rd.	1950
150-58 Hopkins Rd.	1950
136-48 Hopkins Rd.	1950
124-34 Hopkins Rd.	1950
110-22 Hopkins Rd.	1950
100-8 Hopkins Rd.	1950
100-12 Overbrook Rd.	1950
114-26 Overbrook Rd.	1950
128-40 Overbrook Rd.	1950
101-11 Overbrook Rd.	1950

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113-21 Overbrook Rd.	1950
6418-24 Pinehurst Rd.	1950
6810-20 Pinehurst Rd.	1952
421-27 Dunkirk Rd.	1937
409-19 Dunkirk Rd.	1937
401-7 Dunkirk Rd.	1937
420-26 Dunkirk Rd.	1937
408-18 Dunkirk Rd.	1937
400-6 Dunkirk Rd.	1937
323-31 Dunkirk Rd.	1936
311-21 Dunkirk Rd.	1936
301-9 Dunkirk Rd.	1936
322-30 Dunkirk Rd.	1937
310-20 Dunkirk Rd.	1937
300-8 Dunkirk Rd.	1937
223-31 Dunkirk Rd.	1936
211-21 Dunkirk Rd.	1938
201-9 Dunkirk Rd.	1937
222-30 Dunkirk Rd.	1938
210-20 Dunkirk Rd.	1938
200-8 Dunkirk Rd.	1938
103-17 Dunkirk Rd.	1941
91-101 Dunkirk Rd.	1941
75-89 Dunkirk Rd.	1941
67-73 Dunkirk Rd.	1941
59-65 Dunkirk Rd.	1941
114-28 Dunkirk Rd.	1941
102-12 Dunkirk Rd.	1941
86-100 Dunkirk Rd.	1941
74-84 Dunkirk Rd.	1942
66-72 Dunkirk Rd.	1942
47-57 Dunkirk Rd.	1941
31-45 Dunkirk Rd.	1941
19-29 Dunkirk Rd.	1941

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9-17 Dunkirk Rd.	1940
1-7 Dunkirk Rd.	1942
54-64 Dunkirk Rd.	1942
38-52 Dunkirk Rd.	1942
26-36 Dunkirk Rd.	1942
18-24 Dunkirk Rd.	1942
10-16 Dunkirk Rd.	1942
2-8 Dunkirk Rd.	1942
421-27 Murdock Rd.	1939
409-19 Murdock Rd.	1939
401-7 Murdock Rd.	1938
420-26 Murdock Rd.	1939
408-18 Murdock Rd.	1939
400-6 Murdock Rd.	1939
323-31 Murdock Rd.	1938
311-21 Murdock Rd.	1938
301-9 Murdock Rd.	1938
322-30 Murdock Rd.	1940
310-20 Murdock Rd.	1939
300-8 Murdock Rd.	1939
223-31 Murdock Rd.	1939
211-21 Murdock Rd.	1939
201-9 Murdock Rd.	1940
222-30 Murdock Rd.	1939
210-20 Murdock Rd.	1939
200-8 Murdock Rd.	1941
129-41 Murdock Rd.	1943
115-27 Murdock Rd.	1943
101-13 Murdock Rd.	1943
87-99 Murdock Rd.	1943
75-85 Murdock Rd.	1943
138-48 Murdock Rd.	1942
124-36 Murdock Rd.	1942
110-22 Murdock Rd.	1942
96-108 Murdock Rd.	1942
82-94 Murdock Rd.	1942

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59-73 Murdock Rd.	1942
45-57 Murdock Rd.	1942
31-43 Murdock Rd.	1942
17-29 Murdock Rd.	1942
1-15 Murdock Rd.	1942
66-80 Murdock Rd.	1942
50-64 Murdock Rd.	1942
34-48 Murdock Rd.	1942
18-32 Murdock Rd.	1943
2-16 Murdock Rd.	1943
421-27 Regester Ave.	1940
409-19 Regester Ave.	1940
401-7 Regester Ave.	1940
420-26 Regester Ave.	1940
408-18 Regester Ave.	1940
400-6 Regester Ave.	1940
323-31 Regester Ave.	1940
311-21 Regester Ave.	1940
301-9 Regester Ave.	1940
322-30 Regester Ave.	1940
310-20 Regester Ave.	1940
300-8 Regester Ave.	1940
223-31 Regester Ave.	1940
211-21 Regester Ave.	1940
201-9 Regester Ave.	1940
222-30 Regester Ave.	1940
210-20 Regester Ave.	1941
200-8 Regester Ave.	1941
157-69 Regester Ave.	1950
143-55 Regester Ave.	1950
133-41 Regester Ave.	1950
123-31 Regester Ave.	1950
111-21 Regester Ave.	1950
101-9 Regester Ave.	1951

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140-48 Regester Ave.	1950
128-38 Regester Ave.	1950
116-26 Regester Ave.	1950
108-14 Regester Ave.	1951
100-6 Regester Ave.	1951
110-22 Glen Argyle Rd.	1951
109-21 Glen Argyle Rd.	1951
123-35 Glen Argyle Rd.	1951
29-41 Regester Ave.	1951
15-27 Regester Ave.	1951
1-13 Regester Ave.	1951
16-28 Regester Ave.	1951
2-14 Regester Ave.	1951
421-27 Dumbarton Rd.	1941
409-19 Dumbarton Rd.	1941
401-7 Dumbarton Rd.	1941
418-26 Dumbarton Rd.	1955
410-16 Dumbarton Rd.	1955
323-31 Dumbarton Rd.	1941
311-21 Dumbarton Rd.	1941
301-9 Dumbarton Rd.	1941
330-40 Dumbarton Rd.	1955
223-31 Dumbarton Rd.	1941
211-21 Dumbarton Rd.	1941
201-9 Dumbarton Rd.	1941
6810-20 Pinehurst Rd.	1951
177-83 Dumbarton Rd.	1951
169-75 Dumbarton Rd.	1951
161-67 Dumbarton Rd.	1951
151-59 Dumbarton Rd.	1951
194-206 Dumbarton Rd.	1951
180-92 Dumbarton Rd.	1951

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166-78 Dumbarton Rd.	1951
152-64 Dumbarton Rd.	1951
138-50 Dumbarton Rd.	1951
128-36 Dumbarton Rd.	1951
101-13 Stevenson Lane	1952
115-27 Stevenson Lane	1952
129-41 Stevenson Lane	1952
143-53 Stevenson Lane	1952
122-34 Stevenson Lane	1952
136-46 Stevenson Lane	1952
148-54 Stevenson Lane	1952
7201-9 Lanark Court	1952
7211-23 Lanark Court	1952
7225-37 Lanark Court	1952
7200-12 Lanark Court	1952
7214-20 Lanark Court	1952
7222-32 Lanark Court	1952
200-6 Stevenson Lane	1954
208-20 Stevenson Lane	1954
222-34 Stevenson Lane	1955
236-42 Stevenson Lane	1955
101-7 Stanmore Rd.	1953
109-21 Stanmore Rd.	1953
123-35 Stanmore Rd.	1953
137-49 Stanmore Rd.	1953
151-63 Stanmore Rd.	1953
165-77 Stanmore Rd.	1953
179-91 Stanmore Rd.	1953
193-201 Stanmore Rd.	1953
138-48 Stanmore Rd.	1953
150-62 Stanmore Rd.	1953
164-76 Stanmore Rd.	1953
178-90 Stanmore Rd.	1953
192-204 Stanmore Rd.	1953
206-18 Stanmore Rd.	1953
220-32 Stanmore Rd.	1953

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203-15 Stanmore Rd.	1954
217-29 Stanmore Rd.	1954
231-43 Stanmore Rd.	1954
245-57 Stanmore Rd.	1954
259-65 Stanmore Rd.	1954
301-7 Stanmore Rd.	1954
309-15 Stanmore Rd.	1954
234-46 Stanmore Rd.	1954
7400-24 Stanmore Court	1955
7401-13 Stanmore Court	1955
248-60 Stanmore Rd.	1955
262-74 Stanmore Rd.	1955
276-88 Stanmore Rd.	1955
290-302 Stanmore Rd.	1955
304-16 Stanmore Rd.	1955
318-30 Stanmore Rd.	1955
332-44 Stanmore Rd.	1955
101-13 Brandon Rd.	1953
115-21 Brandon Rd.	1953
123-33 Brandon Rd.	1953
135-47 Brandon Rd.	1953
149-61 Brandon Rd.	1953
100-12 Brandon Rd.	1953
114-26 Brandon Rd.	1954
128-40 Brandon Rd.	1954
142-54 Brandon Rd.	1954
156-68 Brandon Rd.	1954
170-82 Brandon Rd.	1954
201-7 Brandon Rd.	1954
209-19 Brandon Rd.	1954
221-33 Brandon Rd.	1954
235-47 Brandon Rd.	1954
200-10 Brandon Rd.	1954
212-24 Brandon Rd.	1954
226-38 Brandon Rd.	1954
240-52 Brandon Rd.	1954

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7009-21 Heathfield Rd.	1955
7023-29 Heathfield Rd.	1955
7031-43 Heathfield Rd.	1955
7045-51 Heathfield Rd.	1955
7008-20 Heathfield Rd.	1955
7022-34 Heathfield Rd.	1955
7036-48 Heathfield Rd.	1955
417-25 Chumleigh Rd.	1955
408-16 Chumleigh Rd.	1956
418-26 Chumleigh Rd.	1956
7101-13 Heathfield Rd.	1956
7115-25 Heathfield Rd.	1956
7127-33 Heathfield Rd.	1956
7100-12 Heathfield Rd.	1956
7114-26 Heathfield Rd.	1956
7128-40 Heathfield Rd.	1956
427-39 Old Trail Rd.	1956
413-21 Old Trail Rd.	1956
428-40 Old Trail Rd.	1956
414-26 Old Trail Rd.	1956
400-12 Old Trail Rd.	1956
7109-21 Rodgers Ct.	1956
7100-08 Rodgers Ct.	1956
7110-22 Rodgers Ct.	1956
417-25 Rodgers Ct.	1956
369-77 Old Trail Rd.	1957
357-67 Old Trail Rd.	1957
345-55 Old Trail Rd.	1957
333-43 Old Trail Rd.	1957
321-31 Old Trail Rd.	1957
313-19 Old Trail Rd.	1957
301-11 Old Trail Rd.	1957
368-76 Old Trail Rd.	1957

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356-66 Old Trail Rd.	1957
344-54 Old Trail Rd.	1957
332-42 Old Trail Rd.	1957
300-10 Old Trail Rd.	1957

Paired Colonial-Style Houses

104-6 Stanmore Rd.	1953
108-10 Stanmore Rd.	1953
112-14 Stanmore Rd.	1953
116-18 Stanmore Rd.	1953
120-22 Stanmore Rd.	1953
124-26 Stanmore Rd.	1953
128-30 Stanmore Rd.	1953

Individual Colonial-Style Houses

7002 York Rd.	1955
7004 York Rd.	1955
7006 York Rd.	1955
7008 York Rd.	1955
7010 York Rd.	1955
7012 York Rd.	1955
7014 York Rd.	1955

7100 York Rd.	1956
7102 York Rd.	1956
7104 York Rd.	1956
7106 York Rd.	1956
7108 York Rd.	1956
7110 York Rd.	1956
7112 York Rd.	1956
7114 York Rd.	1956
7116 York Rd.	1956

419 Stevenson Lane	1956
417 Stevenson Lane	1956
415 Stevenson Lane	1956
413 Stevenson Lane	1956

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411 Stevenson Lane	1956
409 Stevenson Lane	1956
407 Stevenson Lane	1956
405 Stevenson Lane	1956
403 Stevenson Lane	1956
401 Stevenson Lane	1956

323 Stevenson Lane	1957
321 Stevenson Lane	1957
319 Stevenson Lane	1957
317 Stevenson Lane	1957
315 Stevenson Lane	1957
313 Stevenson Lane	1957
311 Stevenson Lane	1957

Schools

250 Dumbarton Road	1951	Rodgers Forge Elementary School
300 Dumbarton Road	1956	Dumbarton Middle School
300 Dumbarton Road	ca. 1853	Dumbarton Mansion

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Summary Statement of Significance:

The Rodgers Forge Historic District is significant under Criterion C as a prototypical example of a type of suburban rowhouse development which characterized the region during the late 1920s through the mid-1950s, and is especially noteworthy for the quality of its planning, architecture, and construction. Following stylistic trends then being set in affluent suburbs, many suburban rowhouses of the 1920s were designed in an English cottage style, with builders striving to create "the English village in the city." English-style houses continued to be built during the Depression years, but when the construction industry revived after World War II, most new neighborhoods took their stylistic cue from the recently-opened tribute to America's colonial past, Colonial Williamsburg. In the Baltimore area, with returning veterans creating an enormous demand for new housing, broad geographical areas just within and without the city's boundary filled with Early American-style rowhouses. Rodgers Forge stands as the most architecturally accomplished of all of the English and Early American style rowhouse neighborhoods built in the greater Baltimore area during these years. It derives additional significance under Criterion A for its association with the suburbanization of Baltimore during the period. Consisting primarily of attached houses, built some miles outside of the city along a major transportation route, this type of neighborhood offered residents convenient access to city jobs along with the newly attractive amenities of the suburbs—landscaped lots near healthy, open land, and a garage for the new family automobile, if they were lucky enough to have one. The district exhibits an extremely high degree of integrity. The period of significance, 1925-1957, corresponds to the period during which the Keelty Company was actively engaged in the construction of Rodgers Forge.

Resource History and Historic Context:

The Rodgers Forge Historic District is located on approximately 150 acres of land that was once part of the estate known as "Dumbarton," erected by Samuel Taylor in 1842. The original, Italian-villa-style house remains standing, north of Dumbarton Road and west of York Road, and is maintained by the Baltimore County Public School system. By 1864 the estate, known as Dumbarton Farm and comprising some two hundred acres, had become the home of Joseph H. Rieman, who remained there until his death in the early 1920s. In 1924 and 1926, the trustees of the estate sold two large parcels on the property to James Keelty (1870-1944), an already well-established Baltimore builder known for his rowhouse developments in west Baltimore.² It seems clear that Keelty wished to expand his operations into more affluent north Baltimore and neighboring Baltimore County and when this large piece of land became available, he seized the

² Getting his start in the building trades as a stone mason, Keelty began building two-story rowhouses near his family home in the Irish Tenth Ward, just east of Greenmount Avenue and north of the city jail complex. As he prospered, Keelty moved his building operations to west Baltimore, where he first built rows of two-story, bay-window, porch-front houses and then Daylight houses in the Edmondson Avenue area. By the 1920s, Keelty was one of the four largest building developers in the city, along with Edward J. Gallagher (1864-1933), the son of an Irish immigrant; Ephraim Macht (1866-1944), a German Jewish immigrant, and Frank Novak (1877-1945), of Bohemian (Czechoslovakian) birth.

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opportunity to acquire it. Initially Keelty intended to divide the land into acre and half-acre lots, which would be improved with homes costing "not less than \$10,000 each."³ Instead, the land lay undeveloped for some eight years and when it was finally improved, the builder erected stylish, but much less expensive (\$3,400 to \$4,500) group homes in the then-fashionable Tudor Revival style.

The oldest section of Rodgers Forge lies just west of York Road, between Overbrook Road on the south and Dumbarton Road on the north, and includes the 400, 300, and 200 blocks of Hopkins, Dunkirk, and Murdock roads, and Regester Avenue, which were developed between 1931 and 1940. Narrow streets improved with small groups of charming, well-built, and well-landscaped English-style rowhouses distinguish this area of Rodgers Forge, and most of the houses have rear garages facing on an alleyway. Between 1940 and 1950 the development expanded west of the original section (west of Pinehurst Road) to include the 100 and unit blocks of Overbrook, Hopkins, Dunkirk, and Murdock roads, as well as the 100 and unit blocks of Regester Avenue, the 100 block of Glen Argyle Road, and the south side of the 400, 300, 200, and 100 blocks of Dumbarton Road. Here James Keelty and his two sons built a mix of English-style homes and houses in the newly popular Early American style. In this section of Rodgers Forge the streets are wider and there are no garages.

After 1950, Keelty's sons continued the development north of Dumbarton Road, acquiring two new parcels of land from the Rieman family. The first parcel, which became known as "The Hill," is located north and west of Rodgers Forge Elementary School. It was developed between 1951 and 1955 with Early American style rowhouses on the 100 and 200 blocks of Brandon and Stanmore roads and Stevenson Lane, the north side of the 100 block of Dumbarton Road, and along Lanark Court. The last houses built in Rodgers Forge went up between 1955 and 1957 on the eastern section of the former Dumbarton Farm, finally sold by the Rieman heirs in 1955. The Baltimore County Board of Education acquired the mansion house, converting it into offices, and erected Dumbarton Middle School west of the house. The Keeltys bought the parcel of land that lay east of the mansion and west of York Road, building Early American style rowhouses along the 300 and 400 blocks of Old Trail, the 7000 and 7100 blocks of Heathfield Road, the 400 block of Chumleigh Road, and on Rodgers Court. They also built about thirty single Early American style houses at the same time on the west side of York Road and the south side of Stevenson Lane. This last section of Rodgers Forge was christened "The Estate" as a result of a contest held by the Rodgers Forge Community Association.

Both the English and Early American designs used at Rodgers Forge reflect national changes in residential architectural tastes between the mid-1920s into the late 1950s. The earlier houses also offered the modern amenity of a small, detached garage—an attractive selling point for potential residents who were now living about eight miles north of the downtown. The quality of design and construction of the early

³ Baltimore *Sun*, January 5, 1924. The article went on to say that the land was "the last large tract on the York road between Towson and the city available for development."

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Rodgers Forge houses established the neighborhood's reputation and it remains a highly desirable address for both young families and older couples.

English Village Suburbs

The earliest-built section of Rodgers Forge (1931-40) represents the finest example of a moderately-priced English Village suburb in the greater Baltimore area. The idea of building English garden suburbs was introduced to Baltimore in 1909 by architect Edward L. Palmer and his employers, the Roland Park Company. Pioneers in early suburban development, the Roland Park Company created Baltimore's first fashionable suburban community directly north of the city in the early 1890s. A group of English investors hired Kansas-city planner Edward Bouton and bought extensive acreage in what was then Baltimore County about six miles north of the city in the hilly and wooded Jones Falls Valley. They laid out lots and built sample, shingle-style houses, as well as a Tudor-style shopping center, which opened in 1895. An electric streetcar line took residents to work and home again. When the original section of Roland Park did not meet sales expectations, the developers hired Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. to design a second section of the community, which opened in 1901. For its location on the hilly slope that led up from Falls Road to Roland Avenue, Olmsted created a remarkable landscape plan with curving streets laid out along the contours of the hills. The Company made sure to retain as much of the wooded landscape as possible and this feature, coupled with the curving streets, enhanced not only the rural feel of the development but also provided the maximum privacy to individual lot holders. Soon, important Baltimore businessmen, merchants, and bankers were building lavish and stylish shingle style, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival houses in this new section of Roland Park.

The tremendous success of Roland Park led the Company to create a second high-priced and highly desirable suburban development, which opened in 1911. Named after the gracious country estate it replaced, Guilford was also designed by Olmsted, Jr. with his characteristic curving streets. The eastern edge of the Guilford parcel bordered busy and commercial York Road, so the Company instructed their architect Edward L. Palmer to design expensive "group homes" (as opposed to rowhouses) for this corridor that would form a buffer to protect the exclusive neighborhood from the outside world. While still in the planning stages for Guilford, Edward Bouton and his architect Palmer traveled to London to look at the newly popular English garden suburbs with houses designed by Edward Voysey, M. Baillie Scott, and Sir Edwin Luytens, among others. These early twentieth century developments took their cue from the earlier work of Richard Norman Shaw, the English architect who championed the honest simplicities of design, materials, and craftsmanship seen in traditional English cottages and helped create Bedford Park in 1875, that paragon of the Aesthetic movement and Queen Anne style that set the tone for the many other English garden suburbs developed at the end of the century.

Many of the new English village suburbs were very self-consciously picturesque—individual houses and groups (terraces) of houses had steep, asymmetrical rooflines, tall chimneys, and a myriad of bold

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projections, all carried out in a rich variety of local materials—red brick with glazed headers, herringbone and other patterned brick details, random ashlar stonework, stucco, half-timbered decorations, diamond-pattern and stained glass casement windows, and rough-hewn wooden ornamental details. Prime examples include Letchworth, planned in 1904 by Parker and Unwin; Hampstead Garden Suburb, planned by Parker and Unwin in 1906; and the factory towns Port Sunlight of 1888, developed for the Lever Brothers Company, and Bournville of 1895 for the Cadbury Chocolate Company.⁴

After he returned from England, Edward Palmer designed both highly picturesque and simpler English cottage groups for the Roland Park Company in Guilford. Previously, in 1909, he had offered Voyseyesque designs for a small group of rowhouses (actually built of concrete), which went up on University Parkway and for a much larger complex called the “Meadow Block,” just east of Falls Road in the second section of Roland Park. His first houses in Guilford were pairs of large, Tudor-style stucco houses with casement windows and plenty of half-timbering, arranged about an open space called Chancery Square. Next, in 1913, he designed more modest groups of all brick two-and-a-half story homes with steep slate roofs and dormer windows, built around three sides of a courtyard facing York Road, on the eastern edge of Guilford. Each grouping, called York Court I, II, and III, contained units of three houses each placed at either end of the court and two groups of three houses each placed across the back. In 1914, at Bretton Place, further south on the eastern edge of Guilford, Palmer created several groupings of large, two-and-a-half story brick English cottage-style rowhouses arranged about a central square with monumental brick entrance gates. The spacious interiors also, of course, provided space for the maid’s room and a secondary stairway. Instead of each house unit being alike, as in traditional rowhouse groupings, at Bretton Place, none of the house units looked alike because each contributed to the overall design of the group. Each “group” of three or four houses was designed as an individual architectural unit, featuring the asymmetrical massing, steep varied rooflines and tall chimneys, picturesquely arranged fenestration patterns, and decorative details of the Tudor and English Cottage styles. Palmer’s English-style group homes on the edge of Guilford set a new taste for picturesquely designed rowhouse groups that would soon be taken up by several other designers of expensive group houses in this rapidly growing new suburban area north of Baltimore.

Beginning in 1916 a developer named George R. Morris was offering similarly-sized English-style houses on the fringe of Guilford in an area he named University Homes, since the Johns Hopkins University had already announced plans to relocate their city campus to this area. Here the houses were built in pairs, or in units of three or four houses each. Hooded doorways supported by brackets, cross-gabled units, tall chimneys, and a variety of dormer styles added to the picturesque appeal.

⁴ For details, see Robert M. Stern, ed., *The Anglo-American Suburb* (London: Architectural Design, 1981) and Gavin Stamp and Andre Goulancourt, *The English House, 1860 – 1914: The Flowering of English Domestic Architecture* (Chicago: the University of Chicago Press, 1997).

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Only a few years later, local rowhouse builder Philip Mueller built much simpler, York Court-style group homes on the north side of University Parkway, along the southern edge of Guilford. This development he dubbed "Oakenshawe" after the name of the estate house torn down to build it. In large advertisements in the Baltimore *Sun*, Mueller erroneously but optimistically claimed that his houses were far superior to those built in England at Bournville or Port Sunlight.

Mueller continued to build at Oakenshawe until 1925. Only a year before the Roland Park Company's newest development, Homeland, had opened, on the old Homeland estate east of North Charles Street and west of York Road. In this very same year, two of Baltimore's largest-scale builders purchased parts of former estates for their own English-style suburban developments. These builders—Edward J. Gallagher and James Keelty—had been competing for the city's working class housing market for well over two decades now. Both men were the sons of Irish immigrants (Keelty, too, was also born in Ireland) and began their careers as stone masons working on small, two-story rowhouses in the late 1880s and early 1890s. Keelty's first ventures took place in his family's neighborhood in the old Irish Tenth Ward, east of Greenmount Avenue (York Road) and the City Jail. Gallagher began in East Baltimore, near Patterson Park.

By the early 1920s both men had become very successful rowhouse builders, specializing in small two-story houses for workingmen. Both men were also now building the new style "Daylight Houses," two-story rowhouses that instead of being three rooms deep (with a central room with no light or air), were now two rooms wide and two rooms deep, so that every room could have a window. The overwhelming appeal of the "suburbs" and the increasing popularity of Roland Park and, after 1911, Guilford, made rowhouse builders take notice. If they were to compete for the rowhouse buyer's dollar, they would really have to offer something new. The innovation took the form of a house designed very differently from the old traditional rowhouses that lacked any light or ventilation in the center room. The new-style houses were wider but shallower, with two rooms arranged across the front of the house and two rooms facing the rear yard. In this way, suddenly every room in the house had a window offering sunlight and fresh air. The design first appeared in Edward Palmer's 1909 design for the Roland Park Company's houses on University Parkway and at the Meadow Block, but was not taken up by speculative rowhouse builders until 1914.

In that year a daring builder offered a totally new kind of moderately-priced rowhouse in Baltimore that he called a "sunlight" house because each room had a window for light and fresh air. Contemporary ads asked buyers, "Do you want to live in a tunnel?" The new-style houses were wider (18' to 22' as compared with the 12' to 15'-width of three-room-deep houses), and also offered a front porch and a small front lawn. The new style "Daylight" houses, as they were most commonly called, became all the rage in no time—the first rowhouse answer to suburbia. In terms of appearance, most Daylight houses looked like brown brick "marble" houses with a front porch, although soon red-brick versions were also being built.

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Edward Gallagher built stylish two-story Daylight houses with a short mansard roof and a third-story room along the north side of the new 33rd Street Boulevard beginning in 1917. Keelty built suspiciously-similar looking houses on the south side of Edmondson Avenue in West Baltimore in these same years. The exterior design combined features of the popular Colonial Revival-style houses being built in Guilford—red brick facades with stone trim; deep front porches with white-painted Doric columns; stone door and window lintels with prominent keystones; and eight-over-eight light windows. Short mansard roofs with dormer windows suggested the effect of a full gable roof without the expense. On lesser side streets, most houses had flat roofs with modillion cornices. If the builders could purchase land near one of the recently established city parks, they did so, advertising for example that the homes were “Directly Adjoining the Beautiful Gwynn’s Falls Park.” Transportation was another important consideration. By now electric streetcar lines extended out all Baltimore’s major arteries, so builders could direct potential buyers to “take No. 9 or 14 cars to the 4100 block of Edmondson Ave”⁵ and brag that their houses were only a short fifteen or twenty-minute trip from downtown.

The 1920s saw a terrific building boom in Baltimore as row after row of new Daylight houses went up in a wide ring just outside the pre-1918 boundaries of the old city. Each year the newspapers reported more houses built than the year before. Beginning in 1923, however, builders faced restrictions as to where they could build rowhouses, as new anti-rowhouse zoning laws went into effect. The popularity of the elite suburbs of Roland Park and Guilford made Baltimoreans of more modest means also long for a front and side yard and a house that stood apart from its neighbors. But rowhouse building was so much more profitable than single house building that the city’s builders had to be restrained from filling every inch of property with rowhouses. After 1923, distinct sections along the city’s major arteries were set aside for future rowhouse development, while other sections had to be built up with individual houses. Non-rowhouse areas in the Harford and Belair Road corridor filled with small brick and masonry bungalows within the city limits and frame bungalows and cottages outside the city. In the western section, along Liberty Heights and Edmondson Avenues, more aesthetically pleasing suburbs were built in the 1920s—in Ashburton, Forest Park, Ten Hills, and Hunting Ridge. The northern section of the city remained dominated by the Roland Park Company, who began to develop Homeland, east of Charles Street and south of the city line, in 1924.

In 1923 and 1924 Edward J. Gallagher bought over ninety acres of land north of where he had been building Daylight houses along the new 33rd Street Boulevard, east of York Road, and announced plans to create a new kind of affordable, suburban neighborhood. Gallagher called his parcel, which he named Ednor Gardens after his two sons Edward, Jr. and Norman, a new “English village” suburb and the first houses went on sale in 1926.⁶ Part and parcel of the mystique of the English style was its association with “village” life. When Edward J. Gallagher first began building at Ednor Gardens, his brochures made the most of this

⁵ From an advertisement for James Keelty’s Wildwood, Baltimore *Sun*, May 31, 1931.

⁶ Ednor Gardens is already listed on the National Register of Historic Places

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romantic appeal: "With the atmosphere of old England in their architecture, this group of English type homes bids you most cordially to consider a home in Ednor Gardens."⁷

Like Gallagher, James Keelty, too, dreamed of creating his own English village suburb and in 1924 and 1926 bought two large parcels of land just north of the city line west of York Road and east of Bellona Avenue, which would become Rodgers Forge. He also purchased the old Gelston estate in west Baltimore, on the north side of Edmondson Avenue, just west of where he was building Daylight houses. In 1928 he added to the Edmondson Avenue parcel by also acquiring the next estate west, Lyndhurst, originally the home of the well-known mid-nineteenth century Baltimore lawyer and United States Senator Reverdy Johnson. On these combined Edmondson Avenue estates he laid out a wide, central, parked boulevard that ran north of Edmondson called Wildwood Parkway, which was also the name he gave the development. Lyndhurst Road became another major north-south road.

Keelty first began building at Wildwood, along Edmondson Avenue. Beginning in about 1927 he began to erect all brick English cottage-style rows modeled on Edward Palmer's designs for York Court in Guilford, or those houses built by Philip Mueller at Oakenshawe a few years later. The first rows faced the 4000 and 4100 blocks of Edmondson Avenue while other groups were built along the 600 blocks of Wildwood Parkway, Augusta and Woodington Avenues, just north of Edmondson. In all cases Keelty stressed the nearness of his new community to scenic Gwynns Falls Park (just to the north) and the fact that downtown was only a half-hour ride away by streetcar.

In 1928 Keelty began advertising the "English Group Homes" available in Wildwood, at a cost of \$7,000.⁸ These two-story group homes with tall, dormered attic stories were much larger than anything Keelty had previously built, measuring some 22'-wide by 37'-deep. They also boasted more quality features, including slate roofs, fireplaces, tiled front porches, modern kitchens and built-in garages. Each group was framed by slightly projecting end units, which had tall gable ends facing the street; inside houses had regular gable roofs with double-wide, hipped-roof dormer windows. Each house had a deep front porch, with either a shed or hipped roof. Some decorative brickwork was used on the gable ends and the facades were enhanced by glazed brick patterns.

Like the Gallaghers at Ednor Gardens, Keelty also soon began to offer a more reasonably priced English-style home near the fine brick rows at Wildwood. Although in the same community, he identified these houses as being in "Lyndhurst," since the first built went up in the 700 block of Lyndhurst Avenue. While the homes on Wildwood Parkway with built-in garages sold for \$7,000, one could move into the smaller homes on Lyndhurst for between \$4,500 and \$5,450. Like Gallagher's "Norman" style houses in Ednor Gardens, these rows, too, relied on much more superficial ornament to give an "English" effect. A long row of brick houses with pseudo gable roofs were marked every few houses by a taller, cross-gabled

⁷ Gallagher Sales Brochure, 1929, The Edward J. Gallagher Collection, University of Baltimore Archives, Langsdale Library.

⁸ Baltimore Sun, Oct. 7, 1928

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feature that broke the “gable” roofline. These ornamental cross gables were decorated with either stucco or stucco and half-timbering. Each house had a deep stone front porch, with either a triangular-shaped pediment (on the cross-gabled units) or a simple shed roof. Over the subsequent years of the 1930s Keelty continued to build these cheaper English-style houses on the narrower cross streets of Wildwood—along Gelston Drive, Cranston, and Colborne roads. By 1940, prices had dropped and such homes could be purchased for less than \$3,500. A staunch Catholic, Keelty gave back to the neighborhood he created by donating a sanctuary to the local church, St. Bernadine’s, located on the northwest corner of Wildwood Parkway and Cranston Road.

Although he had purchased the land many years earlier, Keelty did not begin to build at Rodgers Forge until 1932, but then, despite the Depression, continued construction at a steady pace until interrupted by World War II. Keelty named his development after a long-time smithy, George Rodgers, whose blacksmith shop was located at the southeast corner of York Road and Stevenson Lane. The first group homes to be offered for sale in Rodgers Forge were completed by the summer of 1933 and far surpassed, in terms of quality of design and materials, anything that Keelty, or his competitors had built earlier in the mid-price range. As Keelty advertised in early 1934, his houses were “Something Entirely New in Modern Home Development. Each Group Varies in Architectural Appearance.”⁹ The first groups erected—on the four corners of Hopkins and Heathfield roads, one block west of York Road—had English design features like half-timbering and stucco work, as well as combinations of brick, stone, and stucco and asymmetrical, cross-gabled rooflines. Keelty boasted that Rodgers Forge was “an exclusive suburban development of group homes,” because it would be a restricted development, modeled on the neighborhoods created by the Roland Park Company, where buyers had to agree to a whole list of covenants to ensure that the residential community would never be impacted by commercial or industrial uses, the annoyance of stables or wandering farm animals.

Keelty repeated in numerous advertisements that each of the groups of homes he built in Rodgers Forge were different and he was true to his word. He and his architect Frederick Beall modeled the designs on the picturesque Tudor styles used by Edward Palmer at Bretton Place, or the similarly romantic and varied designs created by architect John Ahlers for a recently built (1929-32) group of expensive group homes at the corner of Tuscany and Ridgemedede roads in the University Parkway area. As with these more expensive groups, as well as those built by Gallagher at Ednor Gardens, the proper landscaping helped create the private and rustic “village” atmosphere, and the narrow streets west of York Road, built upon in the 1930s, with their now mature trees and plantings, offer unending and surprising visual delights to the casual stroller.

Despite the Depression, Keelty continued to build at Rodgers Forge throughout the 1930s. In this period he completed groups of variously designed English-style homes in the 200, 300, and 400 blocks of

⁹ Ibid., June 17, 1934.

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Hopkins, Dunkirk, and Murdock roads, in what is now called the original section of Rodgers Forge. Homes on Hopkins Road were built between 1933 and 1935; homes on Dunkirk Road between 1936 and 1938; and those on Murdock Road in 1938 and 1939. Unlike at Wildwood on Edmondson Avenue, Keelty built no simpler and cheaper houses in Rodgers Forge. Instead, each group boasted an innovative mix of decorative features, all of which derived from the English cottage style. And like at Wildwood, the houses had a full attic story, with two extra bedrooms. Many rows were designed with end units having cross-gabled (or clipped-gable) roofs, while inside units had hipped- or shed-roofed dormers. Tall chimneys were used for decorative effect and doorways often had hoods supported by brackets, open or enclosed porticoes, or small porches.

By early 1938 Keelty was building all brick rows, more in the style of the York Court prototype. In groups on Murdock Road and Regester Ave, English-style box bays and Craftsman-style door hoods supported by brackets add interest to the more symmetrically designed facades. Some of the bay windows in the Rodgers Forge houses resemble those used by builder George Morris at University Homes before 1918; each bay has a tall, flared metal roof. Sometimes this roof also extends over the entranceway.

Early American Rows

Just as the actions/business activities of the Roland Park Company in Guilford influenced the widespread popularity of English-style group homes in Baltimore in the 1920s and 1930s, so too did the company's adoption of colonial and Early American styles in their next two developments—Homeland and Northwood—lead to its ubiquitous use by almost every rowhouse builder in the greater Baltimore area in the 1940s and 1950s.

Homeland came first, opened in 1924 on land east of North Charles Street and south of Belvedere Avenue, that had belonged to a nineteenth century country estate of the same name. Homeland lay some blocks north of Guilford and here the Roland Park Company aimed to create a slightly more affordable, though still exclusive, residential area. Although some large architect-designed homes went up along Charles Street to draw attention to the new development, most of the interior lots were built up with more modest two-story houses. Unlike in Roland Park and Guilford, the Roland Park Company did not build houses to sell in Homeland, but rather offered lots and a variety of local architects' designs to choose from for the customers to build on their own. Most buyers seemed to prefer the English cottage styles then popular, and many of the houses built have asymmetrically-designed all-stone facades; stone and stucco designs; combinations of brick, stone, and stucco; or combinations of brick or stone and Elizabethan half-timbering—all with a variety of roof pitches, picturesque dormers and entranceways, and Craftsmen-style details. Red brick colonials were less in evidence, but introduced the new forms of gable- and hipped-roofed center hall colonials, with brickwork often laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers; crisp, white-painted colonial entranceways with triangular, arched, broken, or swan's-neck pediments supported by fluted pilasters; and sometimes dormer windows. Occasionally, one also finds a Dutch Colonial design.

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With the boom real estate years of the 1920s Homeland did well and when several other nearby country estates went on the market at the end of the decade, the Roland Park Company did not hesitate to invest. Their initial plans were grandiose, as they acquired over five hundred acres east of York Road and south of Woodbourne Avenue from estates formerly owned by Gov. Thomas Swann, Enoch Pratt, A.S. Abell, and Revolutionary War and War of 1812 hero General Samuel Smith estate, who first built Montebello, now owned by Mrs. Henry Barton Jacobs, in 1800. Showing some last-minute foresight the company decided to begin development on a relatively small, southern portion of the land, which they christened "Northwood." As they had for Homeland, the company hired the Olmsted firm to lay out the hilly, wooded area with their signature pattern of wide, arterial boulevards and smaller inside curving streets to take advantage of the existing topography. Lot sizes would be smaller than in Homeland, as the new development was decidedly aimed for a more middle-class market.

By this time architect John Ahlers was working with the Roland Park Company and the sample house designs he produced for potential lot buyers maintained the standards for quality and creative design the Company's developments were known for. To kick things off, Ahlers designed two groups of four attached houses each, to be built just off the most prominent road in Northwood, Argonne Drive. Completed in 1932 on Round Hill Road, at Argonne, the Tudor-style group homes have all the style, inventiveness, and attention to detail of the houses Ahlers had designed a few years earlier for Tuscany Road in Guilford. The rest of his sample house designs featured the same mix of styles already built in Homeland, but on a smaller scale and definitely simplified in terms of both design and materials.

The impetus for "colonial" style homes seems to have come from the 1932 opening of Colonial Williamsburg, John D. Rockefeller's effort to glorify the simplicities and patriotism of the American past in the darkest days of the Great Depression. House design in Baltimore exactly conformed to these changes in taste. As early as the spring of 1931, an advertisement for Stoneleigh, a suburban development of detached homes in Towson, boasted "individual homes of English and Early American architecture," built of stone and brick, and selling for \$7,950 and above.¹⁰ A few years later the Welsh Construction Company offered "Georgian-type brick cottages" in Ashburton, while the Roland Park Company listed an "all brick colonial" in Homeland. In June 1937 an article in the real estate section of the *Sun* noted that three "houses of Williamsburg type of architecture" were being built on Witherspoon Road, near Charles, in Homeland, designed by Wrenn, Lewis, & Jencks, architects.¹¹ That fall a company that specialized in much smaller cottages and duplexes advertised new homes "in a variety of early American architectural styles" in Lakeside, north of 33rd Street at the Alameda.¹² In the spring of 1938 the Roland Park Company featured "A Manor House of Colonial Virginia," at 112 Witherspoon Road, describing the interior as representing "the best that English Georgian has given us."¹³

¹⁰ Baltimore *Sun*, March 15, 1931.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, June 13, 1937.

¹² *Ibid.*, Dec. 12, 1937.

¹³ *Ibid.*, April 3, 1938.

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A year later a new development in Mount Washington offered “Early American, Cape Cod, Williamsburg, and Dutch Colonial Homes of brick.”¹⁴

Nevertheless only a limited number of builders were introducing such new designs during a period when home building was only just beginning to recover from the Depression. As soon as prosperity returned in the late 1940s, and especially after G.I.’s returned from the war, vast neighborhoods of Early American red brick rowhouses became the rule. The change in style also reflected the country’s need to economize—all brick colonial designs, with their simpler details, were cheaper to build and could be priced lower than the more fanciful English forms.

As was true with the English-style houses and group homes designed by Roland Park Company architects, the brick colonials put up in Homeland and Original Northwood set the tone for most Baltimore-area builders’ residential rowhouse designs for the next twenty-five years. The finest examples made use of all four of the differently-styled colonial doorways found in Homeland—those with triangular, arched, broken, or swan’s neck pediments—all supported by fluted pilasters. The best houses have front bay windows and red-brick facades with randomly-placed glazed bricks, as well as slate roofs. In the more carefully designed developments, the Early American groups are articulated with cross-gabled units, which may vary in their position in the row. Most quality Early American-style houses are at least 20’-wide and over 30’-deep. The stairway has turned balusters and a stylish newel post and often a chair rail is used in the dining room. End houses have fireplaces with colonial-style mantels, but they can also be seen on selected inside houses. Almost all Early American-style houses came with finished basements, with toilets; often the builder would panel the basement for an extra charge. The best developments also offered brick garages at the rear of the lot, or, in some cases, grouped elsewhere nearby.

After the opening of the last Roland Park Company project at Northwood, the entire York Road-Alameda-Loch Raven Boulevard-Hillen Road area became ripe for development. As with the English style, the Gallagher Realty Company seems to have been the first large-scale developer to adopt the Early American style. When they resumed building at Ednor Gardens in 1936 they tried something new. Their first foray into post-Williamsburg colonial styles came in the form of six detached brick colonial houses on 50’-wide lots on the north side of the 1200 block of 36th Street, opposite Venable Park and the new City College. The only decoration was the wooden colonial doorway enframing, consisting of pilasters supporting a triangular pediment set above a multi-light transom. In 1937 the company built more detached cottages, along the 3600 block of the Alameda and the 1300 block of 36th Street. The ten houses built along the north side of 36th Street took various, simplified colonial forms, most having brick-faced first stories with frame above. All of these houses had simple front porches and plain doorways. Directly east of Loch Raven Boulevard, between 33rd and 36th Streets, Frank Novak also built brick cottages and semi-detached homes in the area now known as Lakeside.

¹⁴ Ibid., Nov. 5, 1939.

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The first Early American-style rowhouses appeared in late 1938 and early 1939, built east of Loch Raven Boulevard, just north of where Loch Raven crossed the Alameda. A fairly small-scale builder, Samuel Pistorio, erected very accomplished rows on Ralworth and Shadyside roads, just east of Loch Raven. The all brick houses are wider and longer than most; the slightly projecting end houses have hipped roofs with tall side chimneys, inside houses have gable roofs, and each house has a bay window. The units are constructed in Flemish bond with glazed headers. End houses have wide doorway enframements with fluted pilasters supporting broken pediments, while the doorways of the inside houses have alternating flat and round-arched pediments.

Further north, Ephraim Macht laid out slightly curving streets—named Lockwood, Northwick, and Sheffield roads—that extended east to Hillen Road, which he filled with substantially built Early American-style homes that, yet, still had a touch of “old-English” styling.¹⁵ The groups were designed with slightly projecting end houses with angle quoins and with their gable ends facing the street, slate roofs, first-floor bay windows, and doorways with broken pediments supported by fluted pilasters. In the first groups built however, just east of Loch Raven, end units have picturesque porticoes with flared metal roofs supported by thin columns. Another curious feature is that gable and hipped-roof units adjoin each other in the row, creating an odd roofline. In 1939 the 22'-wide new homes cost between \$4,500 (inside units) and \$5,375 (end units) and boasted two bathrooms on the second floor. In accordance with zoning regulations, Macht built similarly designed colonial-style semi-detached brick homes, with either hipped or gable roofs, facing Loch Raven Boulevard.

In essence, these new homes resembled the basic overall design of the all-brick houses designed by Edward Palmer for York Court, with their cross-gabled ends and front porches. But what announced that these houses were now in the “Early American” style instead of the “English” style were their wooden, “colonial” doorway enframements. In most cases, fluted pilasters framed the entrance and supported either a triangular, arched, broken, or swan’s neck pediment (the least likely to be seen). As with most of the “English” style houses, the red brick facades were also decorated with randomly placed glazed headers and most of the roofs were made of slate. Although many of the English-style group homes had some form of bay window (usually a boxed bay or a bay with a tall, flaring metal roof), these Early American houses had simple, triangular bay windows with nearly flat roofs. All other windows now had 6/6 double-hung sash with lintels constructed of vertically placed stretcher bricks. If the houses did not have a front bay window, it would usually have a paired first-floor window, with a matching paired window on the second floor. End houses often had bay windows in

¹⁵ Ephraim Macht, a contemporary of Edward Gallagher and James Keelty, was the son of a Russian Jewish immigrant who, because of rampant anti-semitism, built under the name of the Welsh Construction Company. He also began his career building small, two-story rowhouses in East Baltimore, then in the early years of the twentieth century, specialized in porch-front, bay window houses in West Baltimore. In 1929 he, too, created his own, though much smaller, English village suburb in West Baltimore, south of Liberty Heights Avenue and just west of Lake Ashburton. Called “Burleith” and featuring “English Group Homes,” the houses never quite approached those built by Gallagher or Keelty in quality.

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the dining room as well. Seldom was any Early American style house built with a finished attic boasting dormer windows.

At Rodgers Forge, James Keelty also shifted to Early American designs in early 1939, for three identical groups of homes he built at 300-8, 222-30, and 210-20 Murdock Road. In each group the inside houses have gable roofs and the two end houses have hipped roofs. Colonial doorways with broken, flat, and swan's neck pediments frame the entrances. The company built similar-appearing rows on the south side of the 200 block of Murdock, but in these all of the units in the group have gable roofs.

When he first switched to the new Early American style, Keelty continued to maintain his commitment to building individualized groups of homes, but with the colonial vocabulary, his choices obviously became more limited. Groups of homes built between 1938 and 1940 on the blocks of Regester Avenue and Murdock Road in the original section of Rodgers Forge (west of York Road but east of Pinehurst) featured different styles and arrangements of bay windows, colonial doorways, and rooflines.

Beginning in early 1941, however, the company began to limit the variety of its Early American designs, but still managed to give each row a somewhat different look. Between 1941 and 1943 the company built out those sections of Hopkins, Dunkirk, and Murdock roads west of Pinehurst and east of Bellona Avenue. In this newer section of the development the streets were wider and the houses were built in longer rows—with six, seven, and eight houses in most groups, as opposed to the four, five, and six houses in the groups east of Pinehurst. Certain stylistic features that formerly had varied now became standardized. Whereas in his first Early American rows Keelty had used several different styles of bay windows, now each bay window was the same—a triangular unit with short roof and doorways had either triangular or flat pediments.

After building resumed in Rodgers Forge after World War II, Keelty's sons began to build much more standardized Early American-style houses along Regester Avenue, west of Pinehurst Road and in two entirely new sections of the community, located north of Dumbarton Road. The first of the new areas, called "The Hill" for obvious reasons, is located in the northwest corner of the development, and includes homes built on the north side of Dumbarton Road, Stevenson Lane, and along Brandon and Stanmore roads. The houses in this area were built between 1951 and 1955. In the latter year the Keeltys bought the last parcel of ground in Rodgers Forge, that piece of land between the Dumbarton House and York Road, and this section became known as "The Estate" to local residents. The company built detached houses facing York Road and Stevenson Lane and Early American rows along Old Trail and Heathfield and Chumleigh roads in 1955-1957. At the same time the family sold the mansion house and its surrounding land to the Baltimore County Board of Education to become the site of Dumbarton Middle School, which opened in 1956. Land to the west had already been sold to the county for the Rodgers Forge Elementary School, built in 1951.

As opposed to the dedication to variety that James Keelty made a hallmark of the original section of Rodgers Forge, now all of the houses built by his sons in these two new sections were essentially the same. All

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of the red brick units had the same combinations of colonial doorways, paired and single window units, and bay windows—the only variations lay in the roofline configurations. Six different house types were devised. Style number one had end houses with their gable ends facing the street; style number two had both end houses and the center house with their gable ends facing the street; in style number three only the center house had its gable end facing the street; in style number four the two inside houses of the group had their gable ends facing the street; style five had a regular gable roof extending over the entire group (as at Medwick, discussed above); and style six had a hipped roof extending over the entire group. As far as window and doorway designs were concerned, all houses with end gables facing the street had doorways with triangular pediments and triple sash windows, while inside houses had doorways with flat pediments and bay windows.

Despite the relative lack of creativity of the Keelty Company's postwar building at Rodgers Forge, the design and construction of the houses nevertheless stood at the pinnacle of Early American-style rowhouse construction in the greater Baltimore area. The Gallagher brothers built only a few modest Early American rows on the eastern edges of Ednor Gardens after the war and by far the vast majority of postwar housing represented the economy model of the Early American design. The Keelty Company's only competitor in terms of quality of design was the Welsh Construction Company, who continued to erect stylish, well-built Early American homes in the Northwood/Loch Raven section; in a new development in west Baltimore north of old Edmondson Avenue called Academy Heights; and in a small group of homes just west of Rodgers Forge in a neighborhood called Gaywood.

Apart from Rodgers Forge, after World War II James Keelty's sons built only a few groups of Early American homes in Wildwood, north of the earlier English-style rows. The development got a boost in 1947 with the opening of the Edmondson Village Shopping Center, built by Joseph and Jack Meyerhoff in a clear imitation of the look of Colonial Williamsburg. The first Early American groups, on the east side of the 700, 1100 and 1200 blocks of Wildwood Parkway, are built with real gable roofs, with the end houses of rows having cross gables and each house has a bay window. Doorways on end houses have triangular pediments, those on inside houses have flat pediments. In the early 1950s the company built less well-designed homes on Kevin Road, at the 4200 block of Edmondson Avenue, or on nearby Wicklow, that nonetheless cost \$8,800 to \$9,800, with veterans required to pay only \$950 or \$850 down under the GI Bill.¹⁶ Although end and center houses had cross-gabled roofs, inside houses now had "mansard"-style roofs, short, false roofs to give the impression of a full gable roof. Instead of bay windows, there were paired windows on the first floor. A few years later Keelty opened another small development, north of the 6000 block of Frederick Road, called "Medwick," where the houses more closely resembled those at Rodgers Forge. Here, each group of homes had true gable roofs, but a triple first-floor window instead of a bay. End houses had entranceways with triangular pediments; inside houses had doorways with flat lintels. In 1955 veterans could buy a \$10,350 home on Medwick Garth, for no money down.¹⁷ These latter houses resembled types being built at the same time in Rodgers Forge.

¹⁶ A year later the veteran down payment had dropped to \$575 for the same houses.

¹⁷ Ibid., November 13, 1955

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By 1957 and 1958 there were only a handful of advertisements for new rowhouse developments in the pages of the Baltimore *Sunday Sun*. While relatively inexpensive brick rows went up in Dundalk and Essex in the first half of the 1950s, there were an equal number of both older and newly constructed cottages and bungalows on small lots from which to choose. By 1957 the majority of illustrated advertisements in the newspaper featured ranchers or "ramblers," as well as a few split-levels. All of the previous pioneer building-developers who had dominated the Baltimore real estate scene in the first half of the twentieth century were now deceased, their companies being run by a younger generation. Soon, this younger generation either got out of the building business entirely or changed their product to meet new markets. Edward Gallagher's two sons retired from building in the early 1950s and the Welsh Construction Company began to build garden apartments instead of rowhouses at the end of the decade. By the mid-1950s the Keelty Company had decided to build apartments in Rodgers Forge and split-levels and ranchers in Lutherville and Timonium at developments like Thornton and Seminary Ridge. Later the company went on to build massive numbers of townhouses and apartment units further north in Mays Chapel Village, which is still expanding.

The quality of the houses built at Rodgers Forge, both in terms of design and construction, mark them as the premier development of both English-style and Early American-style group homes in the greater Baltimore area. The builder, James Keelty, has always been prominent as one of the city's four major building-developers in the first half of the twentieth century. His career, coming to the city as an immigrant and originally building small houses for members of his own class, completely exemplifies the hopes and promises of the American dream. As his new city grew with industrialization, so too did Keelty's business expand as more and more modest homes had to be built for new immigrants arriving to work in the city's burgeoning industries. As he prospered, he made the effort to build a better product for fellow immigrants like himself—or children of immigrants—who still could not afford the best housing Baltimore could offer, but nonetheless wanted to enjoy something better than their parents experienced.

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Geographical Data

UTM References

Towson, MD USGS quad

A: 18-360726-4360636

B: 18-361578-4360374

C: 18-361357-4359462

D: 18-360408-4359459

E: 18-360401-4360318

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the intersection of Stevenson Lane and Stanmore Road, the boundary follows the rear property lines of properties fronting on Stanmore Road and Stanmore Court, then continues east along Stevenson Lane to the intersection of York Road (excluding the commercial properties on the west side of York Road, south of Stevenson Lane), and follows York Road south to the intersection of Dumbarton Road, then turns west along Dumbarton Road a half-block to the alley behind the 6600-6800 blocks of York Road, then south along this alley to Overbrook Road, following the rear property lines of properties on the south side of Overbrook Road (and including the Keelty-built duplexes in the 6400 block of Pinehurst Road), then northwest to the intersection of Blenheim Road and the rear property lines of the south side of Dunkirk Road; west along the rear property lines of the south side of Dunkirk Road to Bellona Avenue and north on Bellona to the rear property lines of the north side of Murdock Road; east on the rear property lines of the north side of Murdock Road to the rear property lines of the west side of Register Avenue and north along these rear property lines to Dumbarton Road; then west along Dumbarton Road to the place of beginning. These boundaries are depicted on the sketch map which accompanies this documentation, and a comprehensive list of properties included within these boundaries is presented in Section 7.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary encompasses the four sections of Rodgers Forge characterized by residential properties built by the Keelty Company between 1931 and 1957. It excludes commercial properties on York Road,

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and the area east of Bellona Avenue and south of Stevenson Lane that was developed with rental apartment buildings in the late 1950s.

RODGERS FORGE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
Baltimore County
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National Register
Boundary

