

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name SMITH, HARRY, HOUSE
other names/site number _____ PG: 68-4-1

2. Location

street & number 4707 Oliver Street N/A not for publication
city, town Riverdale N/A vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Prince George's code 033 zip code 20737

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. 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. See continuation sheet.
[Signature] STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 3/23/93
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. [Signature] 5/4/93
 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 of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

PG: 68-4-1

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

QUEEN ANNE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICKwalls WEATHERBOARDSHINGLEroof ASBESTOSother METAL**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Harry Smith house is a Queen Anne style frame dwelling which stands on one of the original streets platted in the 1889 subdivision of Riverdale Park. Representative of the transition in domestic architecture, between the Queen Anne style of the 1880s and the popular plan of the turn of this century, it is a noticeable landmark in the community, and an excellent example of the earliest dwellings built in this railroad suburb. It is in near-original condition. The house is two-and-one-half stories high, with hip roof, and entrance centered in the principal north facade. It is nearly square in plan, roughly three bays by three, with a shallow kitchen wing which extends to the rear. The lines of the hip roof are varied by large flush gable dormers centered in its north and east planes. Set into the northwest corner of the house is a large three-story tower which is surmounted by a domed roof. There is much surface variety in the siding of the Smith house: plain horizontal board on the first story, above which are alternating courses of novelty shingles. Windows are double-hung-sash and varied: generally 12, 9, 8 or 6 lights over 2 large lights in the lower sash. Interior plan of the house consists of a central passage flanked by two unequal parlors, a three-run stair at the rear of the passage, and a side hall which leads to the rear kitchen wing. The three-run, open-string stair has a square panelled newel, set diagonally, which has incised and molded decoration and is surmounted by an urn-shaped cap. Intermediate newels are square and chamfered, and the balusters are turned. The stair case rises, with all detail continuous, to the third story. Trim throughout the house consists of multi-band moldings with central convex band and bullseye cornerblocks. Original interior shutters survive in the first-story parlors. The Smith house stands on the central of three adjoining lots which front on Oliver, originally Washington, Street in the original subdivision of Riverdale Park. There are no outbuildings. On each side of this three-lot complex stands a frame dwelling from the early period of development of the Riverdale Park suburb.

FOR GENERAL DESCRIPTION

 See continuation sheet No. 1

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1890

Significant Dates

1890

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Harry Smith house, built in 1890, in Riverdale, Prince George's County, is significant for historic association with the development of the community and for the architectural character of the house. The Smith house was one of the first houses built in the newly developed Riverdale Park, now just known as Riverdale. The community was platted in 1889 with house construction beginning in 1890. As was typical of the time, the developer had the first houses built to stimulate sales. These first houses, including the Smith house, were generally of pattern book designs and were used as sales models. The Smith house is one of the most, if not the most, elaborate of these models built in Riverdale Park. The design source of the Smith house, however, is unknown. It was lived in by a middle class, government worker family, the Smiths, from the time when the developer sold it until the middle of this century.

See continuation sheet No. 11

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

See Footnotes under Section 8

Previous documentation on file (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 # _____

See continuation sheet No. 12

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre
USGS Quad: Washington East, DC-MD Quad

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	_____	_____	_____
---	-------	-------	-------

D	_____	_____	_____
---	-------	-------	-------

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet No. 16

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet No. 16

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian
 organization PG County Historic Preservation Commission date June 1992
 street & number 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive telephone (301) 952-3521
 city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland zip code 20772

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Continuation Sheet

Smith, Harry, House
Prince George's County
Maryland

PG: 68-4-1

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Harry Smith house is a Queen Anne style frame dwelling which stands on one of the original streets platted in the 1889 subdivision of Riverdale Park. The house is two-and-one-half stories high, with hip roof and large flush dormers, and a corner tower which is a full three stories high. It is nearly square in plan, roughly three bays by three, with a shallow kitchen wing which extends to the rear. The lines of the hip roof are varied by large gable dormers centered in its north and east planes, each dormer flush with the corresponding exterior wall of the house. Set into the northwest corner of the house is a large three-story tower which rises above the ridge of the roof, and is surmounted by a domed roof. There is a small shed dormer in the west plane of the main roof, and no dormer in the south plane.

Entrance is in the central bay of the principal north facade through a wide wooden door with nine molded panels: three long rectangular panels over two courses of smaller square panels. The door has a plain board surround, with neither transom nor sidelights. This north entrance is sheltered by a one-story, hip-roof porch which extends across the main north facade; the roof is covered with standing-seam metal, and is supported by four Tuscan wood columns, bounded by a plain rail balustrade. At the points where the porch joins the north wall of the building, the roof is supported by two engaged square posts with jigsaw brackets, remnants of the original porch. The original porch, which appears in a 1904 photograph was of the same dimensions as the present porch, but had slimmer posts between which arched openings were formed by openwork bracketing. The porch rests on concrete piers with lattice infill.

There is much surface variety in the siding of the Smith house. The first story is sided with plain horizontal board painted white. The second story and all gables are sided with alternating courses of novelty shingles: three courses of clipped-corner rectangular shingles, alternating with four courses of plain rectangular shingles, all painted white. The two lowest courses (plain rectangular shingles) of the second story flare out slightly over the horizontal board siding of the first story. The north and east dormers are fully pedimented with boxed cornice and ogee molding; within these pediments, the tympani are sided with the same alternating sequence of rectangular and clipped-corner shingles.

The northwest corner tower is similarly sided with alternating courses of rectangular and clipped-corner shingles on the second and third stories above horizontal board on the first story. As in the main block, the two lowest courses of shingles in the second story flare out over the plain board of the first story.

The kitchen wing is two stories high and two bays wide; it extends the depth of the house one bay to the south, flush with the west elevation of the main block, and inset on the east. Entrance is through a door in the east elevation of this wing, sheltered by a small one-story porch set into the

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southeast corner at the juncture of the main block and kitchen wing. The south elevation consists of two 9/2 windows in each story. The siding is the same as that of the main block: rectangular shingles on the second story, and plain horizontal board on the first. As in the other elevations, the flared lowest courses of shingle form a line of demarcation between first and second stories.

Windows in the house are double-hung-sash, but varied: generally 12, 9, 8 or 6 lights over 2 large lights in the lower sash. On the first and second stories of the main north facade, windows are 12/2, longer on the first story. They have plain board surrounds, painted white, and the upper board is decorated with six applied bullseye moldings; above these decorative upper boards are molded lintels. Beneath the pediment of the dormer which is centered in the north plane of the roof are three small 8/2 windows with plain board surrounds. Windows are 12/2 also on the first and second stories of the east elevation. Centered in the first story of the east elevation is a one-story, hip-roof, semi-octagonal projecting bay; it is lighted in its east face by a 12/2 window, flanked on each of the diagonal faces by a 9/2 window. Windows here have plain board surrounds, painted white, without the decorative features of the north facade. The large gable dormer in the east plane of the roof is lighted by two small 8/2 windows beneath the pediment.

On the first and second stories of the south and west elevations (excepting the tower), windows are 9/2. In the tower, the windows which light the first and second stories are 9/2, while the windows which light the third level are short, and 6/2. Behind the tower, in the west plane of the roof, there is a small shed dormer which lights the stairhall at third level; this small dormer encloses one small 8/2 window.

Most windows have louvered wood shutters. A pair of closed shutters disguises a false center window in the second-story of the main north facade. The dormer windows have no shutters, nor do the windows of the tower, the east projecting bay, or the south elevation.

The roofs of the principal structure, dormers and bay are covered with brown asbestos shingle. There are overhanging eaves above a boxed cornice with crown molding. A course of ogee molding continues the line of the eaves beneath the three windows of the north dormer, forming a visual separation between second and third stories. The tower is surmounted by a tall domed roof, covered with seamed, patterned metal. The 1904 photograph (cf. supra) shows a tall finial at the peak of the tower dome.

The entire structure rests on a high brick foundation, newly painted gray; the foundation encloses a full basement, lighted by six-pane single-sash windows in the west and south foundations. Exterior entrance to the basement is through a bulkhead opening in the east foundation of the main block.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

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Interior plan of the house consists of a central passage flanked by two unequal parlors, a three-run stair at the rear of the passage, and a side hall which leads to the rear kitchen wing. The principal north entrance leads into the central passage, which then runs south to the stair. The three-run, open-string stair rises four steps along the east wall of the passage, then turns 90° at a landing and rises westward along the south wall of the passage to another landing, whence it turns 90° at a second landing and rises northward to the second story. The stair has a very handsome heavy, square panelled newel, with incised decoration, and with vertical bead-and-reel molding at the corners; the newel is set diagonally, and is surmounted by an urn-shaped cap. The intermediate newels at the landings and upper stories are slimmer, square and chamfered, and have spherical caps; extending into the spandrels beneath, they are decorated with molded pendants. Balusters are turned, and all of the stair components have a natural wood stain.

An original wood mantel survives in the east (larger) parlor. The firebox is framed by narrow pilasters with molded capitals and bases, and a broad horizontally-molded frieze with one applied bullseye molding in the center. This mantel, which is painted white, frames the fireplace in the south wall of the east parlor; it is flanked by built-in bookshelves which fill the inset spaces on each side of the chimney breast. Shading the windows of the east projecting bay is a set of double-hung-sash interior shutters, probably original to the house. For each window sash, there is a movable sash of shutters: a bank of rectangular louvered panels, flanked by solid molded panels, complete with original hardware.

The mantel in the smaller west parlor has been removed, and replaced by a modern fireplace surround of gray brick. The projecting bay (formed by the corner tower) in the west parlor has the same built-in sashes of interior louvered shutters; unlike the shutters in the east parlor, which are painted white, the shutters in the west parlor have a natural wood stain.

Moldings throughout the house are typical of the late nineteenth century; multi-band moldings with central convex band and bullseye cornerblocks. All have natural wood stain. Floorboards have been replaced in the first and second stories; narrow floorboards have been installed in these two stories (2 1/4" and 1 1/2" respectively), while the original 3"-wide floorboards survive on the third story. Baseboards are high with crown molding. Interior doors on the second story have movable transoms; most doors and windows appear to have original hardware, including ornate Victorian hinges and window pulls.

Moldings are the same in the kitchen wing, which is contemporary with the main block. Narrow vertical beaded wainscoting lines the lower half of the kitchen walls. There is a pantry built into the space north of the entry porch, and an interior entrance to the basement in the north interior wall of the kitchen.

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

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The three-run stair rises, with all detail continuous, to the third story. There are four bedrooms and a bath on the second story, and three finished rooms on the third story. In the loft area in the southernmost section of the third story, a section of plaster bears the incised inscription:

W. Moore
Aug 8th 1890
of Balto
Md.

The Smith house stands on the center lot (Lot 6 of Block 54) in a group of three adjoining lots which front on Oliver (originally Washington) Street in the original 1889 platted subdivision of Riverdale Park. There is a very large old catalpa tree southwest of the house, and another to the east of the house. A large magnolia stands southeast of the house, and a large cedar and locust stand on the east lawn. A line of privet hedge frames the shallow front lawn, and there are various other shrubs dotting the lawns of the three lots. A short driveway runs south from Oliver Street immediately west of the house, but there is no garage. There are no outbuildings. On each side of this three-lot complex stands a frame dwelling from the early period of development of the Riverdale Park suburb.

The setting of the house is now half what it was when the Smith house was constructed in 1890. The southerly line of the three lots (lots 5, 6 and 7), which today form the setting/grounds of the historic house, is partially screened, however, by trees and shrubbery, so that modern infill does not drastically intrude into the present-day setting of the Smith house.

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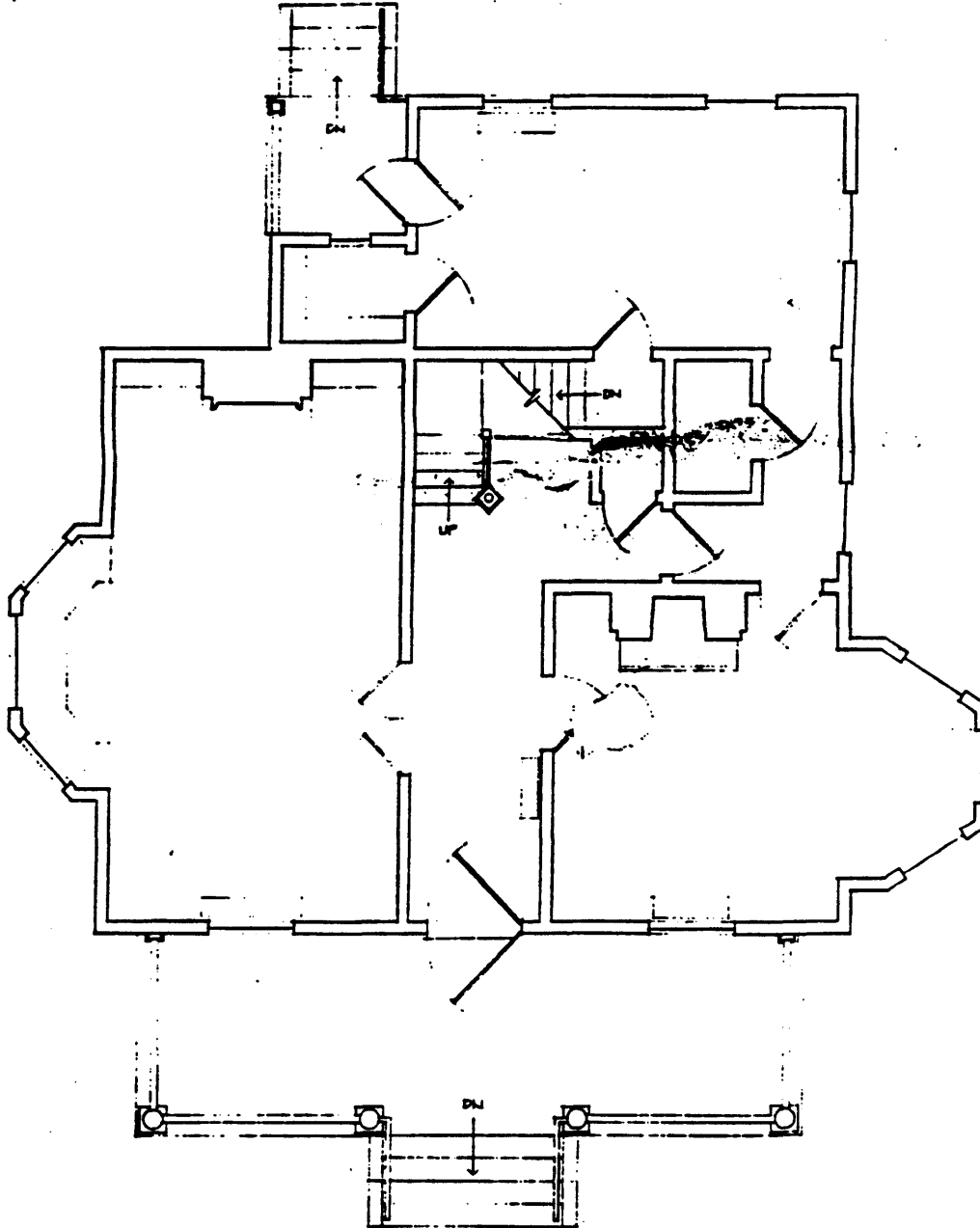
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Prince George's County
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HARRY SMITH HOUSE (PG#68-4-1)



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 0 FEET 5



See Continuation Sheet No. 6

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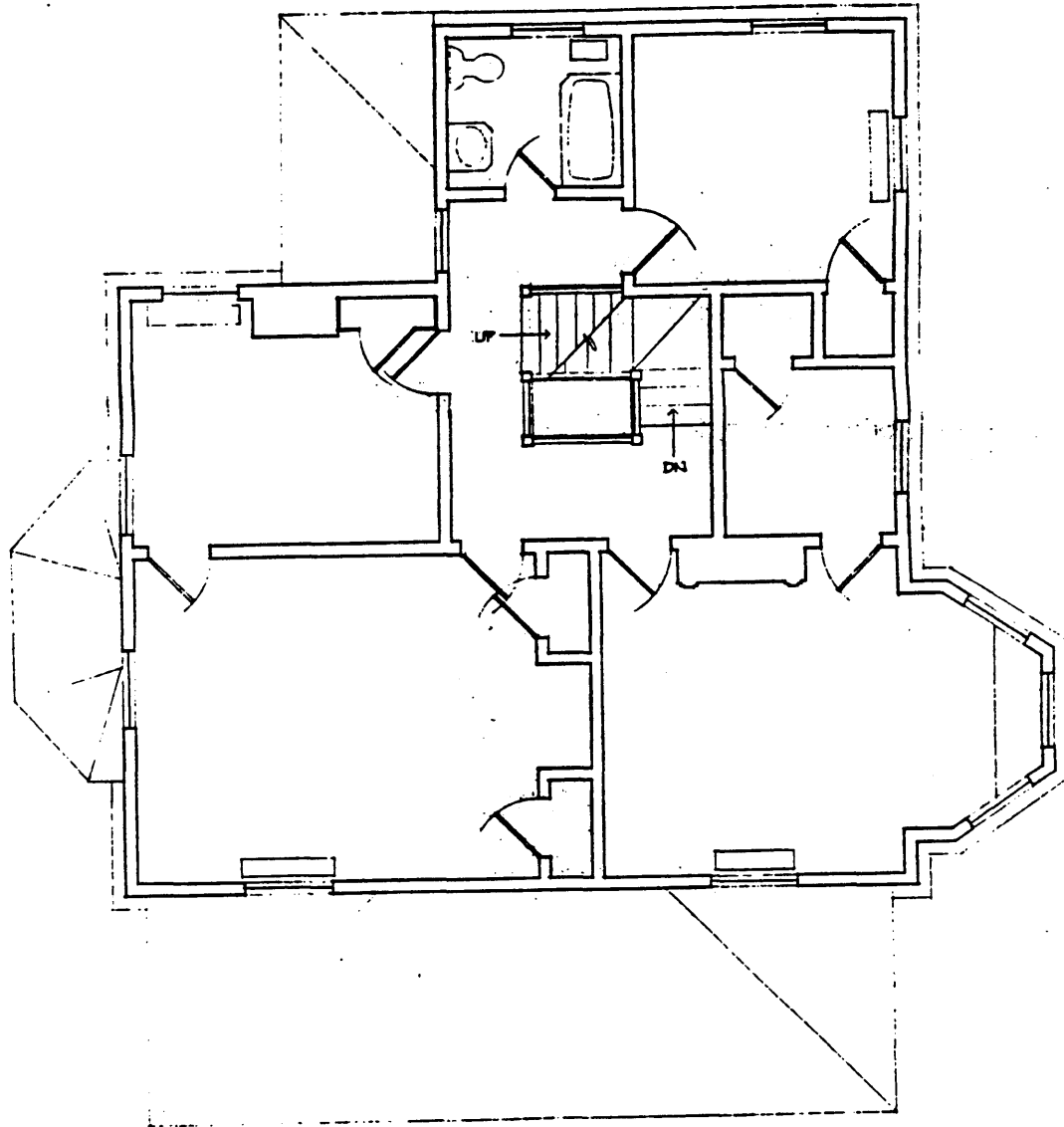
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Prince George's County
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HARRY SMITH HOUSE (PG#68-4-1)



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 0 FEET 5



See Continuation Sheet No. 7

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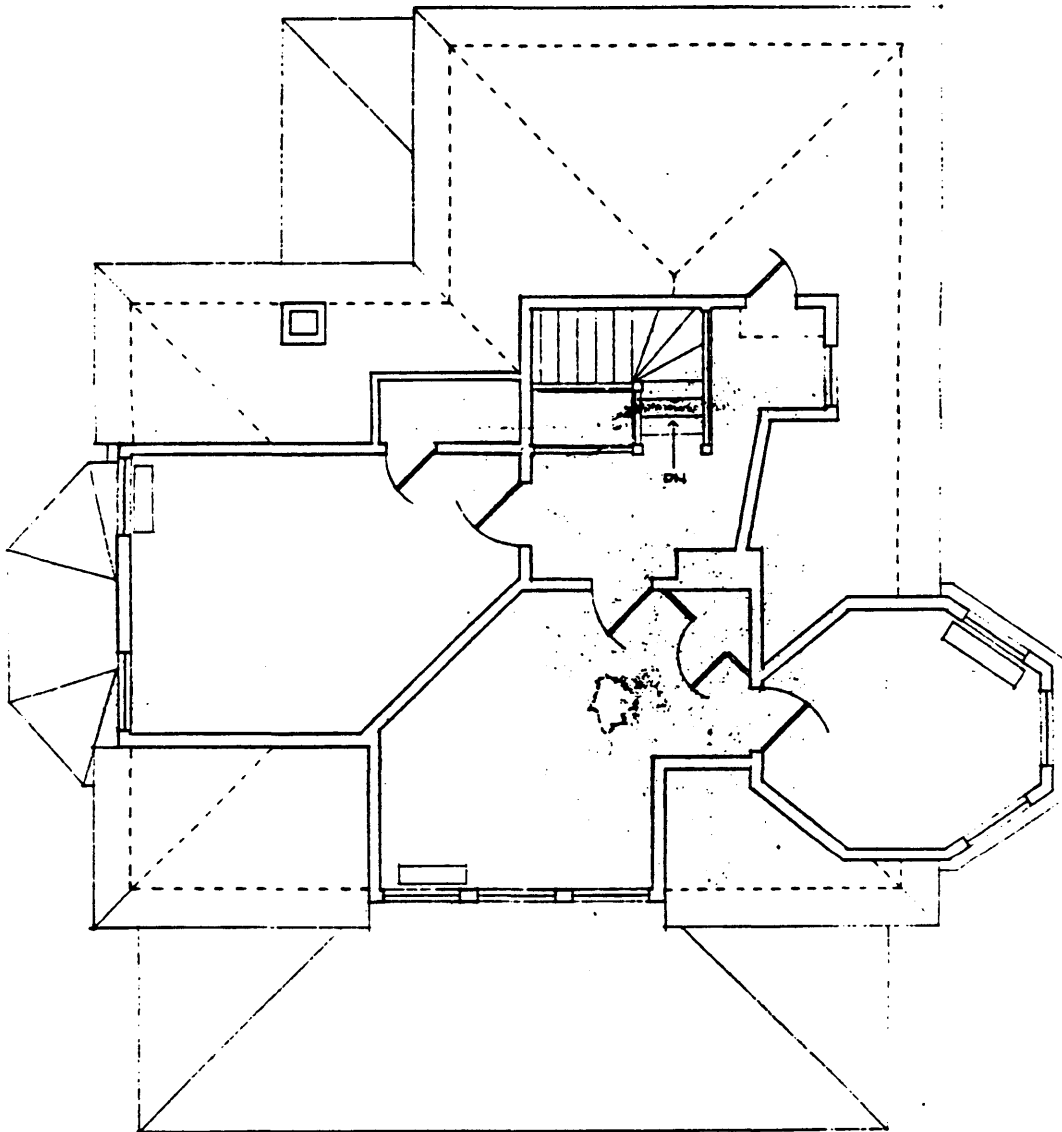
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HARRY SMITH HOUSE (PG#68-4-1)



ATTIC PLAN
SCALE 0 FEET 5



See Continuation Sheet No. 8

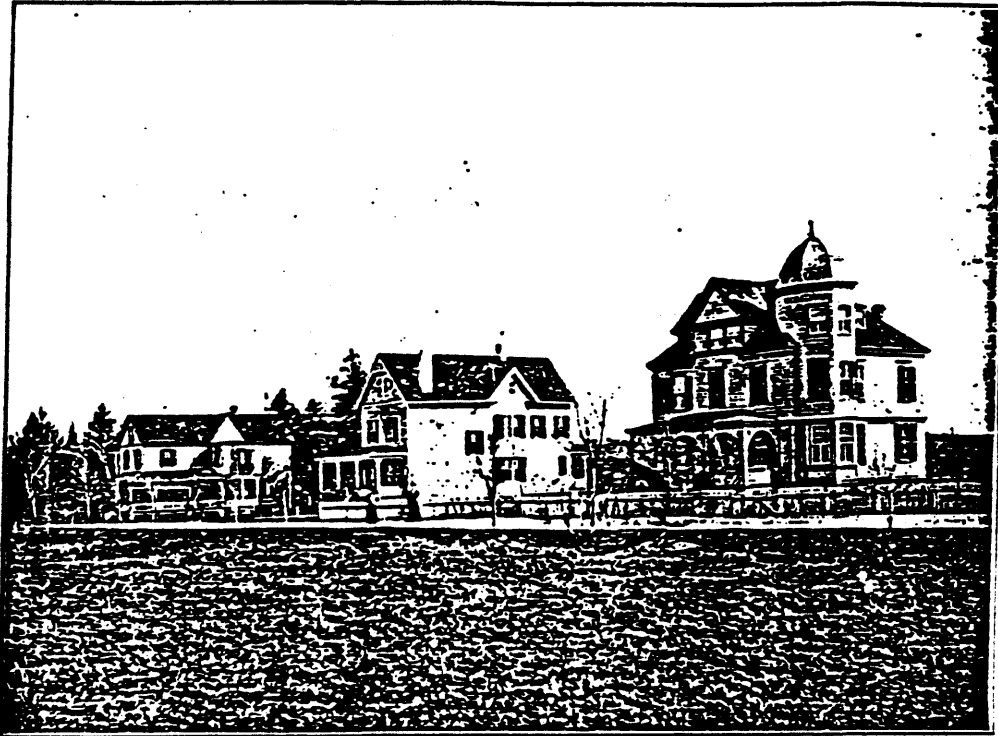
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Chas. Earl.

Wm. Wilson.

H. L. Smith.

From Riverdale Park Real Estate promotional brochure,
(circa 1904).

See Footnote #4.

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Prince George's County

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

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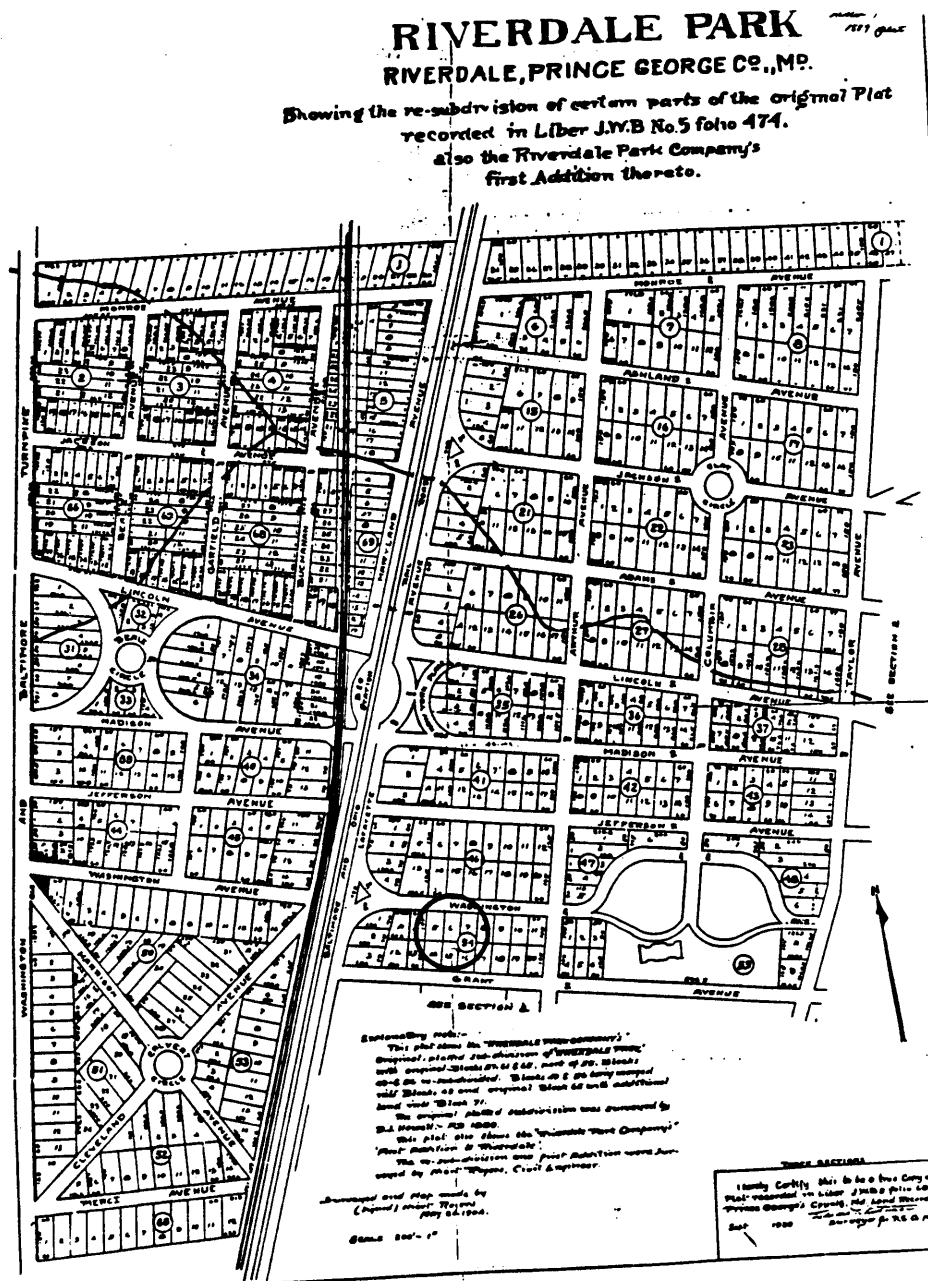
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historic plat:
block 54
lots 5, 6, & 7

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Smith, Harry, House
Prince George's County



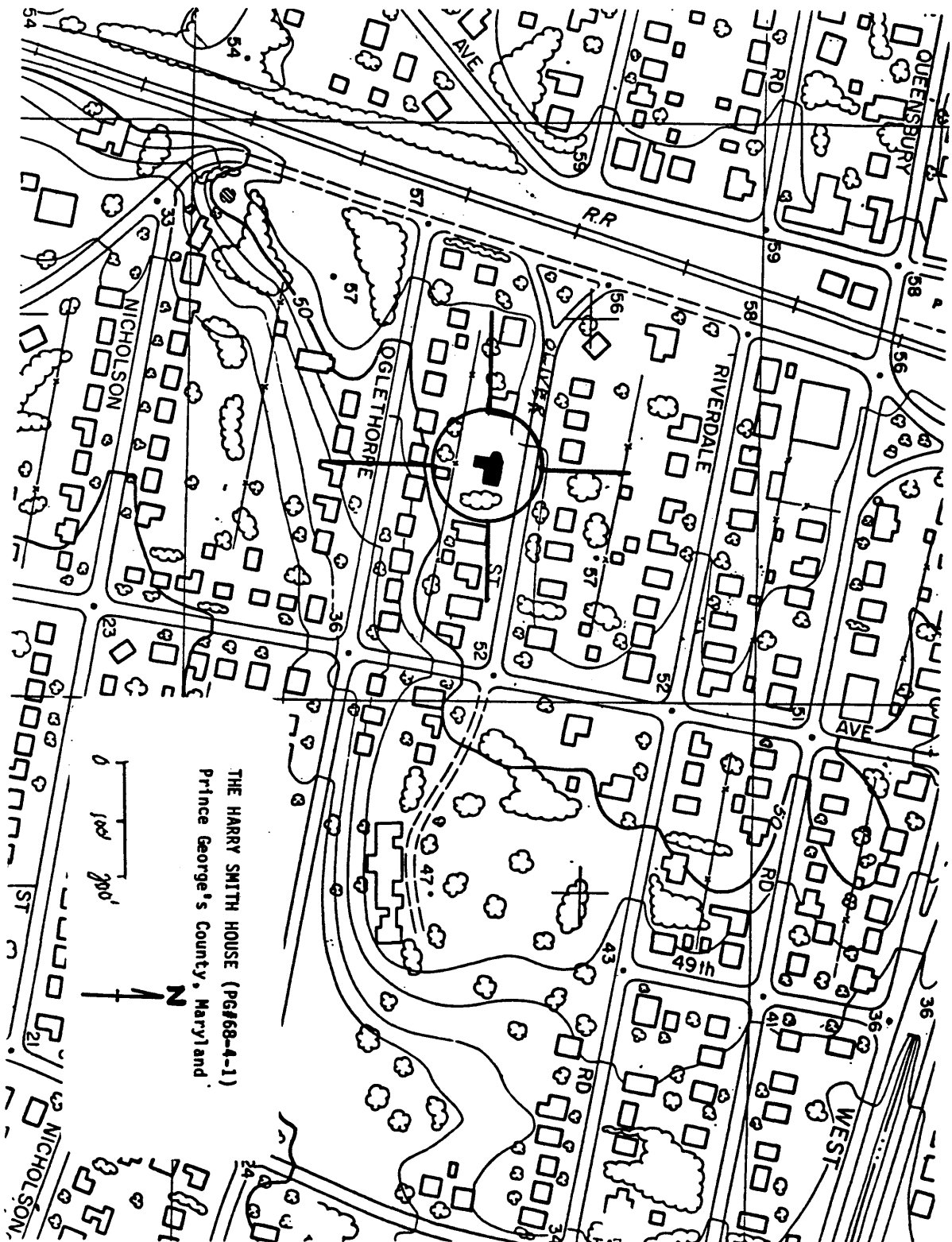
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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Design Source: Unknown
(Possible catalog pattern-book house)

See Continuation Sheet No. 12

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Smith, Harry, House
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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The Smith house was one of the first dwellings built in the suburb of Riverdale Park, now Riverdale, after it was platted in 1889. It is an excellent example of a Queen Anne style frame dwelling; it is the best surviving house of its type in Prince George's County. The house has been the home of the Smith family from the time of its construction, and was the birthplace and childhood home of a man who made a major contribution to Maryland's business community. The house design is similar to those offered at the time by Robert Shoppell and George F. Barber.

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

¹ See Pearl, S. G., Riversdale, Historic Structures Report, Part II, History: M-NCPPC, 1979.

² Prince George's County Equity #475.

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

⁴ Riverdale Park Real Estate promotional brochure, circa 1904.

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other distinguished statesmen such as Clay, Lafayette and Beale.⁵

Construction of dwellings began in 1890. All were of frame construction, and reflected the popular taste of the period, as illustrated in the house plan catalogs of that decade. Some were pyramidal-roof Foursquares, others front-gabled or cross-gabled; many were highlighted by projecting bays or corner towers, and almost all had prominent wraparound porches with jigsaw decorative detail. By the turn of the century, the new suburb had approximately 60 dwellings, a Presbyterian Church built adjacent to the old Calvert family burial ground, a handsome Victorian schoolhouse built on the grounds of the mansion, and a station building at the crossing of the railroad and one of the principal east-west streets. The latter two public buildings were built by the Riverdale Park Company. There were several general stores, and telephone and telegraph communication was available. Concrete sidewalks were constructed, and sewers were provided for the principal streets.⁶ Because of its convenient location, its efficient line of rail transportation into Washington, its primary school, and its picturesque tree-lined streets, Riverdale Park became a desirable residential suburb in the Washington area.

By 1890 when the Smith house was built, the Queen Anne style of architecture was in full flower. This was a style which accentuated the asymmetrical floor plan -- with towers, projecting bays, and wraparound porches, and which emphasized variety in surface texture -- with novelty shingles, applied panelling of various motifs, and other surface ornamentation. The Queen Anne style matured at a time of tremendous suburban expansion; in Prince George's County the densest development clustered along the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad north and northeast of Washington, D. C. As the land was subdivided, the developing companies began to build. They built not only modest frame dwellings designed for individual narrow building lots, but also larger, more noticeable dwellings in the Queen Anne style; these more substantial homes were built on groups of four to six lots, and they served as sale models in the new communities.

The Smith house was one of these model homes; it served the same purpose in the developing community of Riverdale Park as did the model homes built in the developing community of Charlton Heights. The residential community of Charlton Heights had been platted in 1888 just two miles north of what would become Riverdale Park on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad line; in 1888 the Charlton Heights Improvement Company built more than a dozen frame houses, many from house plans designed and distributed by Robert W. Shoppell's Co-

⁵ Prince George's County Plan JWB#5:747, 688; Riverdale Park Real Estate promotional brochure.

⁶ Riverdale Park Real Estate promotional brochure; see also Pearl, S.G., Victorian Pattern Book Houses in Prince George's County, Maryland, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), 1988.

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Smith, Harry, House
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operative Building Plan Association of New York City.⁷

The Smith house is a prime example of this trend - the construction by a development company of stylish and prominent dwellings to serve as model homes in an emerging residential community. It was built by the Riverdale Park Company in 1890, possibly from a pattern-book plan, although the specific design has not been identified. The Smith house was one of about six houses built by the company within the first two years of the community's development; it was certainly one of the handsomest. Several other dwellings, still standing in Riverdale, were built during the early years of the Riverdale Park subdivision.⁸ Of them, the Smith house is the most substantial, and is closer than any other to its original condition.

The Harry Smith house was built in 1890 by the Riverdale Park Company, on lot 6 of Block 54 which was located a short distance west of the Calvert mansion. It stood just west of two modest front-gabled houses which were constructed at approximately the same time. The house was rented from the very earliest years by the family of Harry L. Smith. Smith was born in Pennsylvania of parents who had immigrated from Ireland; at the end of the nineteenth century, he began working in Washington as a clerk and special agent for the Department of Labor. He and his wife raised their family in this house; in 1905 they borrowed money from the Riverdale Park Company, and purchased the house and six lots (Block 54, lots 5,6,7,14,15 and 16) surrounding it.⁹ When Smith died in 1940, he devised his Riverdale property to his eldest child, Kathleen M. Smith, who was born in 1895, and was educated at Trinity College in Washington and Harvard University. She taught English at schools in Prince George's and Montgomery counties, as well as at the University of Maryland. She resided at the family house in Riverdale until

⁷ See Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms: PG: 67-22-11, the O'Dea House (listed in the National Register of Historic Places), Shoppell Design #216; PG: 67-22-12, Chlopicki House, Shoppell Design #449; PG: 67-22-14, Gohr House, Shoppell Design #204; PG: 67-22-17. The Wolfe House (PG: 67-22-15) and the Cissel House (PG: 67-22-18) are similar fine examples of the houses built by the Charlton Heights Improvement Company in 1888, but the model has not been identified. See also Pearl, S. G., Victorian Pattern Book Houses in Prince George's County, Maryland, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1988.

⁸ See also Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms: PG: 68-4-67, the Read-Low House; PG: 68-4-76, the Wernek House; PG: 68-4-63, the Meyer House.

⁹ U.S. Census records for Prince George's County, Enumeration District #2, 1900, 1910; Tax assessments for Election District #2, 1889-1910; Prince George's County Deeds #26:333, #24:567.

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her death in 1989.¹⁰

Another prominent member of the Smith family was Alfred H. Smith, born in 1903 in the house, third son of Harry Smith. Smith was a prominent leader in the business and banking enterprises of the area. In 1925 he founded the A. H. Smith Sand and Gravel Company, and built it into one of the largest in the mid-Atlantic region. In 1933 he became a director of the Citizens Bank of Maryland; he became its president in 1945, a post which he held until 1987. Under Smith's leadership, the bank grew through the acquisition of other banks and today has more than 100 branches in Maryland. Smith was active in many regional associations involved with banking, the gravel industry, and the hunt, residing for more than forty years at his farm in the Mellwood area; he died there in August 1987.¹¹

The present owners purchased the Smith house in 1991¹² and have begun stabilization and restoration of the interior, including reinforcement of beams in the cellar. They have undertaken a number of small changes, such as creating a first-story bathroom out of a hall closet space; they have found that no major changes needed to be made in order to make the house fully livable, and the house remains in nearly original condition.

¹⁰ Prince George's County Wills WTD#6:133 and CMH#47:73; administration files #6788 and #37058; see obituary, Prince George's Journal, 8 May 1989.

¹¹ Prince George's Journal, 2 September 1987, obituary. Washington Post, 1 September 1987, obituary; see also Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form: PG: 78-13, Blythewood.

¹² Prince George's County Deed Book 7996, pages 487 and 496.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated property consists of Lots #5, #6, and #7 in Block 54 of Riverdale Park, as per plat recorded in Book JWB#5:688 in the Prince George's County Land Records, and rerecorded in Plat Book A, Plat #42. Each lot has an area of 6300 square feet, making a total of 18,900 square feet. The Smith house stands on the center lot (#6), with a vacant lot on each side.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property includes the lot (#6) on which the Smith house stands, as well as a vacant lot on each side; these two flanking lots (#5 and #7) consist of lawn and garden features. The three lots together form the setting and grounds of the house. The nominated property equals the northerly half of the six-lot property (Lots #5, #6, #7, #14, #15, and #16 in Block #54 of Riverdale Park) purchased by Harry L. Smith in 1905. The three southerly lots (#14, #15, and #16) were subsequently sold by the Smith family. Thus, the three northerly lots (#5, #6, and #7) appropriately represent the grounds historically associated with the Smith house.