

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-20 Building Date: 1860's

Building Name: Cottage City House (Rural Cottage at The Highlands)

Location: 4302 Bunker Hill Road, Cottage City, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Cottage City House is a two-story frame L-shaped dwelling with mansard roof, which stands on a ca. 1/2 acre lot on the north edge of Cottage City. Entrance is through a door with plain board surround in the northeast interior corner of the ell. Filling the northeast corner of the ell is a one-story porch, which has a concrete slab floor and is supported by one square chamfered post. In the first bay of the two-bay north (main) facade is a one-story semi-octagonal projecting bay. Windows are 6/1 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds with upper head. The original plain horizontal board siding is now covered with white asbestos shingle. The cornice of the house is boxed with crown molding, and divides the first and second story. Above it is the mansard roof, covered with slate. All second story windows which pierce the vertical plane of the mansard roof are in the form of shallowly projecting dormers; they have pedimented lintels with crown molding in their raking cornices. The vertical plane of the roof is highlighted by five courses of fish-scale slate shingles. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney on the west facade. The foundation of the building is of brick.

Significance

The Cottage City house is a rare surviving example in Prince George's County of a Second Empire style, mansard roofed cottage. It was built in the 1860's on property which was soon after subdivided into the suburb of The Highlands. One hundred acres of a tract known as Yarrow were purchased in 1864 by Jeremiah Bartholow, and developed by him into a model farm. In 1870 the land was acquired by C. Eaton Creecy of D.C., and subdivided into lots which were presented to the public in an 1870 real estate publication, "The Highlands". Three dwellings stood already on the property: one, the subject house, was identified as a six-room rural cottage. This "rural cottage" stood on a two-acre lot with an outbuilding behind it and a circular drive accessible from the Bladensburg-Georgetown Road. It was sold by the Creecy Company in 1870 to Harriet Williamson, but it soon became the home of the family of Richard Nicklas. Since 1886 it has been the home of the Worch, Magie and Swindler families. In 1939 it was purchased by the City of Cottage City and was for many years a rental property. It was purchased by the present owners in 1979, and they have begun a careful restoration. The Cottage City house is a unique example of an early subdivision house. The closest parallels are the Seabrook cottages of a slightly later vintage, but the latter are representative of the Gothic Revival style. The Cottage City house may be the only surviving example in Prince George's County of an early suburban house with Second Empire stylistic features.

Acreage: 19,375 square feet

#8 (Continued)

The Cottage City house is a unique example of an early subdivision house. The closest parallels are the Seabrook cottages (#70-11, -12, and -14) of a slightly later vintage, but the latter are representative of the Gothic Revival style. The Cottage City house may be the only surviving example in Prince George's County of an early suburban house with Second Empire stylistic features.

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Deed FS #2:198; "City of the Highlands" real estate brochure, 1870.
- 2 "City of The Highlands" real estate brochure, 1870.
- 3 Plat HB #3:676.
- 4 Prince George's County Deeds HB #6:588; ATB #1:561; Equity #1368; cf. Chain of Title.
- 5 Prince George's County Deeds #542:5; #5129:272, 275.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Rural Cottage at The Highlands

and/or common "Oldest house in Cottage City", Cottage City House

2. Location

street & number 4203 Bunker Hill not for publication

city, town Cottage City _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 5

state Maryland _____ county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Jose and Ann Rivera

street & number 4203 Bunker Hill Road telephone no.: 779-5828

city, town Cottage City state and zip code MD 20722

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #5129

street & number Main Street folio 275

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

state _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Cottage City House is a two-story frame L-shaped dwelling with mansard roof, which stands on a ca. 1/2 acre lot on the north edge of Cottage City (formerly The Highlands). The house faces north toward the site of the old Carleton grist mill, which has recently been developed into a neighborhood park. Entrance is through a door with plain board surround in the northeast (interior) corner of the ell. (It leads into a stairhall which divides the house: parlour in the front, and dining room and kitchen in the rear). Filling the northeast corner of the ell is a one-story porch, which has a concrete slab floor and is supported by one square chamfered post.

In the first bay of the two-bay north (main) facade is a one-story semi-octagonal projecting bay. Windows are 6/1 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds with upper bead. The original plain horizontal board siding is now covered with white asbestos shingle.

The cornice of the house is boxed with crown molding, and divides the first and second story. Above it is the mansard roof, covered with slate. All second story windows which pierce the vertical plane of the mansard roof are in the form of shallowly projecting dormers. They have pedimented lintels with crown molding in their raking cornices. The vertical plane of the roof is highlighted by five courses of fish-scale slate shingles.

Two new two-window projecting rectangular bays have replaced original windows on the two-bay south facade, in the first bay at second story level, and the second bay at first story level. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney on the west facade, which formerly served a fireplace in the west wall of the front parlor (this fireplace has been plastered over). The southerly two bays of the west facade are slightly recessed, and that area is filled with a one-story porch; the porch has a concrete slab floor, and is supported by plain square posts.

The foundation of the building is of brick, infilled in places with concrete block. There is a full basement.

The interior of the house consists of a front parlor on the north, divided by the stairhall from the southern section of the house (dining room and kitchen). The stairs rise toward the west from the small entry hall inside the main entrance; newel and balusters appear to be mid-twentieth century replacements. All door and window surrounds are of plain board.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1860's **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Cottage City house is a rare surviving example in Prince George's County of a Second Empire style, mansard roofed cottage. It was built in the 1860's on property which was soon after subdivided into the suburb of The Highlands.

One hundred acres of a tract known as Yarrow (south and west of the old Grist Mill) were purchased in 1864 by Jeremiah Bartholow, and developed by him into a model farm.¹ In 1870 the land was acquired by C. Eaton Creecy of D.C., and subdivided into lots which were presented to the public in an 1870 real estate publication, "The Highlands". In this publication, potential buyers were offered homes convenient to but removed from the city; the local newspaper was quoted as naming this site "one of the finest if not the very best pieces of property in the state of Maryland." Extensive orchards covered much of the town site, and apple, peach, pear and plum trees were offered on individual building sites. Three dwellings stood already on the property: a mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival style house, with outbuildings, a new villa type residence, and a six-room rural cottage which is the subject house, the only one of these original buildings still standing.²

This "rural cottage" stood on a two-acre lot (#45 in Block 10), with an outbuilding behind it and a circular drive accessible from the Bladensburg-Georgetown Road.³ It was sold by the Creecy Company in 1870 to Harriet Williamson, but it soon became the home of the family of Richard Nicklas. Nicklas himself was committed in 1877 to St. Elizabeth's Hospital for the Insane, and his destitute wife appealed to the Equity Court for his real estate to be sold. It was sold, accordingly, in 1886, and has been the home of the Worch, Magie and Swindler families.⁴ In 1939 it was purchased by the City of Cottage City and was for many years a rental property. The house and part of the original lot #45 were purchased by the present owners in 1979, and they have begun a careful restoration.⁵

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #68-20

Cf. Notes, item #8

Cf. Chain of Title

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 19,375 sq. ft. Tax map #50, Lot 45, Block 10

Quadrangle name Washington East, Section E

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian

organization P.G. Co. Historic Preservation Commission date December 1985

street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPC telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Chain of Title

Cottage City House

P.G. #68-20

#5129:275
24 July 1979
Mortgage
Anne T. McIntyre and Jose Rivera to Julius Williams and Laurence Hill, trustees of Veterans Administration; mortgagors are indebted to V.A. and to secure debt, mortgage the property (Lot 45 in Block 10 in the subdivision known as Creecy and Company's Subdivision of Highland) conveyed to the Town of Cottage City by #542:5.

#5129:272
24 July 1979
Deed
Max Cleland of the Veterans Administration to Anne McIntyre and Jose Rivera of 4203 Bunker Hill Road, Lot 45 of Block 10 of Creecy and Company's Subdivision of Highland.

#542:5
14 Dec 1939
Deed
Barbara Swindler to Thomas Tongue and Elizabeth Clagett (mortgagees) and City of Cottage City; Grantor and Mortgagees convey to grantee Lot 45 in Block 10 (Highland), same conveyed in #174:321.

#174:321
15 Nov 1921
Deed
Sadie Rowe (nee Swindler) and George Rowe to Barbara Swindler; Lot 45 in Block 10, Highland (Plat HB #3:676), same acquired by #152:155.

#152:155
22 Jan 1920
Deed
Richard D. Magruder to Sadie Swindler, Lot 45 in Block 10, Highland, same acquired by #125:363.

#125:363
28 Feb 1917
Deed
Phillip J. Stubener, executor of will of Elizabeth Stubener, to Richard D. Magruder, two parcels including Lot 45 in Block 10, Highland, same acquired by Elizabeth Stubener by #40:554.

#40:554
23 Aug 1907
Deed
Lizzie J. Magie to Elizabeth Stubener, Lot 45 in Block 10, Highland (Plat HB #3:676) same acquired by JB #10:445.

JB #10:445
12 May 1900
Deed
Alfred Worch to Lizzie Magie, Lot 45 in Square 10 in Highland, same acquired by JWB #6:607.

JWB #6:607
11 June 1886
Deed
Woodbury Wheeler, trustee, to Alfred Worch; Lot 45 in Square 10 in Highland; Wheeler appointed to sell the real estate of Richard Nicklas by equity #1368.

- 2 -

#1368
1888
Deed
Petition by Annie Nicklas to sell real estate of Richard Nicklas, non compos mentis; Woodbury Wheeler appointed trustee to sell, and does sell to Worch, Lot 45 in Square 10, Highlands.

ATB #1:561
27 Oct 1879
Deed
Maurice Langhorne, attorney, to Richard Nicklas, for \$2,000, Lot 45 in Square 10, Highlands, improved to a two-story frame dwelling and outhouse.

ATB #1:559
10 Oct 1879
Deed
John B. Williamson, trustee, to M. Langhorne, attorney, for \$1,000, Lot 45 in Block 10 in Creecy and Company's subdivision of Highlands. Whereas, Harriet Williamson sold this property to John B. Williamson as trustee for his wife and children, to hold or sell for them, and they have agreed to sell (October 17, 1879), therefore, John B. Williamson now sells to Maurice Langhorne.

HB #7:133
22 Jan 1873
Deed of Trust
Harriet Williamson to John B. Williamson, as trustee for his wife and children, Lot 45 in Block 10 of Creecy and Company's subdivision of Highlands, acquired by HB #5:588, including a frame dwelling house on 9460 square feet of land, to hold or sell for them.

HB #6:588
13 Dec 1870
Deed
Charles E. and Sarah Creecy of D.C. to Harriet Williamson for \$1,200; Lot 45 in Block B, with a two-story frame dwelling house on 9,460 square feet.

HB #6:587
31 Dec 1870
Quit Claim
Henry Beard, trustee, to C. E. Creecy Company; whereas, Jeremiah Bartholow conveyed by deed of trust to Beard (to secure debt) part of Yarrow, and land has been subdivided into lots known as The Highlands; now Beard quit claims to Creecy Lot 45 in Square 10, 9,640 square feet.

HB #3:676
ca. 1870
Plat
Shows Lot 45 in Square 10, 9,430 square feet, house and outbuilding.

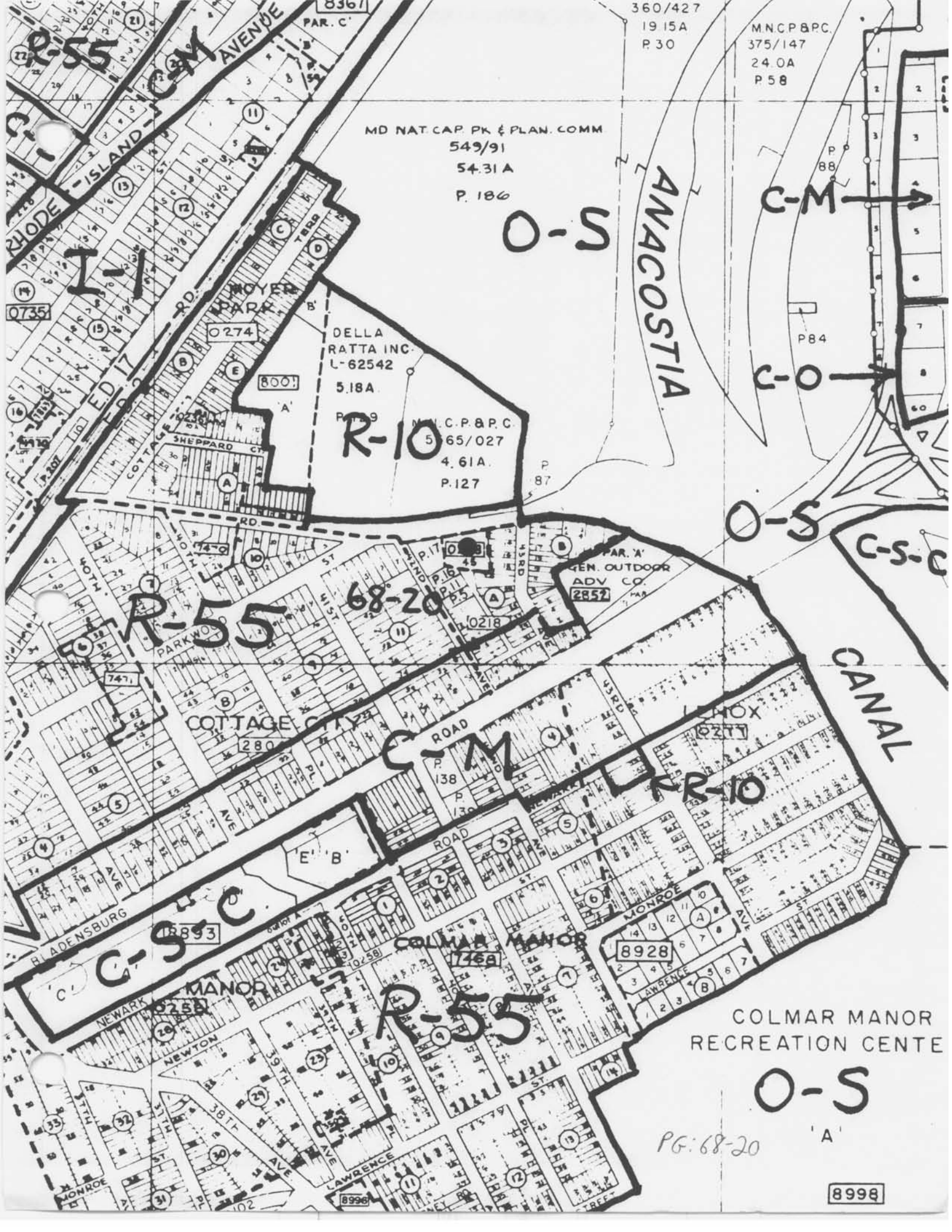
HB #3:434
4 May 1870
Deed
Jeremiah and Isabella Bartholow to C. Eaton Creecy, for \$30,000; 100 acres of Yarrow, part of land acquired by FS #2:200.

HB #2:54
27 Jan 1869
Deed of Trust
Jeremiah Bartholow to Henry Beard, to secure payment of debt, Yarrow, which grantor acquired by FS #2:200; grantor is to occupy property until default, in which case Beard may sell as much as necessary to pay debt.

- 3 -

FS #2:198
25 Oct 1864
Deed

Dr. John J. and Mary Jane Moran to J. P. Bartholow,
for \$11,000, 141 acres of Yarrow (except that part
sold to Henry Carleton, leaving 100 acres to be
hereby conveyed).



360/427
19 15A
P.30

MNCP&PC.
375/147
24.0A
P.58

MD NAT. CAP. PK. & PLAN. COMM
549/91
54.31A
P.186

O-S

DELLA RATTA INC.
L-62542
5.18A
P.129
M.N.C.P.&P.C.
565/027
4.61A
P.127

R-10

R-55

68-20

R-10

C-S-C

R-55

COLMAR MANOR RECREATION CENTE

O-S

PG: 68-20

'A'

8998



PG#68-20

Cottage City House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1985
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#68-20

Cottage City House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1985
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#68-20

Cottage City House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1985
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#68-20

Cottage City House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
December 1985
Northeast detail
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD