

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: M:26-33 (PACS 7.15) Construction Date: 1940-1955

Name: Rockcrest Neighborhood

Location: Intersection of Veirs Mill Road, First Street and Rockville Pike; Rockville,
Montgomery County

Private/Private Residences/Occupied/Good/Unrestricted

Description:

The Rockcrest Neighborhood, developed between 1940 and 1955, is a subdivision characterized by 1- and 1½-story, 2- and 3-bay cottages. The subdivision is bounded by Veirs Mill Road on the north, Gail Avenue on the west, Lewis Avenue on the south, and Parrish Drive and Okinawa Avenue on the east.

Significance:

Thomas O. DeBeck, President of the Rockcrest Realty Corporation, began acquiring the land in the Rockcrest area in the late 1930s. The first subdivision plats were filed in 1940. Joseph N. Starkley was the engineer. Rockcrest evolved beginning in the east around Gail Avenue. The properties between Gail Avenue and Edmonston Avenue were constructed between 1940 and 1950. The properties west of Edmonston Avenue were constructed beginning in 1951.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term Congestion Relief

Survey No. M:26-33 (PACS 7.15)

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic (preferred) Rockcrest Neighborhood

and/or common name

2. Location:

street & number Abbott Rd., Agnew Dr., Allison Dr., Autre Ct., Broadwood Dr., Burris Rd., Clagett Dr., Coral Sea Dr., Crawford Dr., DeBeck Dr., Edmonston Dr., Farr Rd., Gail Ave., Henry Rd., Highwood Rd., Langbrooke Pl., Lewis Ave., Okinawa Ave., Parrish Dr., Paul Dr., Rockwood Dr., Simmons Dr., Veirs Mill Rd., Wade Ave. ☐ not for publication

city, town Rockville ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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"/> education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation

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

name Multiple

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Montgomery County liber

street & number 50 Maryland Avenue folio

city, town Rockville state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

☐ repository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M:26-33 (PACS 7.15)

<u>Condition</u>		<u>Check one</u>	<u>Check one</u>	
<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			

Resource Count: approximately 750

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

The Rockcrest Neighborhood, developed between 1940 and 1955, is a subdivision characterized by 1- and 1½-story, 2- and 3-bay cottages. The subdivision is bounded by Veirs Mill Road on the north, Gail Avenue on the west, Lewis Avenue on the south, and Parrish Drive and Okinawa Avenue on the east.

The cottages in the Rockcrest Neighborhood are constructed of brick and wood-frame. Asbestos shingles and vinyl siding are common. Most of the cottages have concrete foundations and asphalt-shingle, side-gable roofs. Colonial Revival details appear on many cottages, as do rear and side additions. Most of the cottages have 6/6 double-hung windows.

There are seven basic types of cottages in this neighborhood. The first type is a 1½-story, 3-bay cottage with a center entry and a side-gable roof with two gable dormers. This type is usually constructed of wood frame. The second type is a 1½-story, 3-bay cottage with a center entry and a gable-front-and-wing form. This type is also usually constructed of wood-frame. The third type is a 1-story, 3-bay cottage with a side-gable roof and an entrance on the side elevation. This type is usually constructed of brick. The fourth type is a 1-story, 3-bay cottage with an off-center entry and a side-gable roof. This type is executed in both brick and wood-frame. The fifth type is a 1-story, 2-bay cottage with a side-gable roof and an entrance on the side elevation. This type is usually constructed of wood-frame. The sixth type is a 1-story, 3-bay cottage with a center entry and a side-gable roof. This type is usually constructed of brick. The seventh type is a 1-story, 4-bay cottage with a side-gable roof and an entry on one end of the front elevation. This type is usually constructed of wood-frame and has large, tripled double-hung windows and small fixed-sash windows.

The Rockcrest Neighborhood is located near the busy intersections of Veirs Mill Road and First Street and Rockville Pike and First Street. The subdivision has a curvilinear design and the streets are lined with deciduous trees. Hillcrest Park and Rockcrest Park are located within the neighborhood. The Rockcrest Neighborhood is located in a dense suburban area. Residential development is located to the north and east, while commercial development is located to the south and west.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<u>Pre</u> historic	<u>archaeology-prehistoric</u>	<u>Community planning</u>	<u>landscape architecture</u>	<u>religion</u>
<u>400-1499</u>	<u>archeology-historic</u>	<u>conservation</u>	<u>law</u>	<u>science</u>
<u>1500-1599</u>	<u>agriculture</u>	<u>economics</u>	<u>literature</u>	<u>sculpture</u>
<u>1600-1699</u>	<u>architecture</u>	<u>education</u>	<u>military</u>	<u>social/</u>
<u>1700-1799</u>	<u>art</u>	<u>engineering</u>	<u>music</u>	<u>humanitarian</u>
<u>1800-1899</u>	<u>commerce</u>	<u>exploration/settlement</u>	<u>philosophy</u>	<u>theater</u>
<u>X 1900-</u>	<u>communication</u>	<u>industry</u>	<u>politics/government</u>	<u>transportation</u>
		<u>invention</u>	<u>other (specify)</u>	

Specific dates 1940-1955

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
Applicable Exceptions: 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.

Thomas O. DeBeck, President of the Rockcrest Realty Corporation, began acquiring the land in the Rockcrest area in the late 1930s. The first subdivision plats were filed in 1940. Joseph N. Starkley was the engineer. Rockcrest evolved beginning in the east around Gail Avenue. The properties between Gail Avenue and Edmonston Avenue were constructed between 1940 and 1950. The properties west of Edmonston Avenue were constructed beginning in 1951.

The Rockcrest Neighborhood is located in the City of Rockville. Rockville became the County seat when Montgomery County was created in 1776. Through most of the nineteenth century, Rockville was a courthouse village, surrounded by agricultural land. It remained a small town until the coming of the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1873. The railroad brought summer and weekend visitors, and the resort trade encouraged the rapid expansion of Rockville, both in size and population. Many summer hotel patrons built summer residences and others became year-round residents.

Following the rapid growth from the 1870s to the 1890s, the expansion of Rockville stabilized until a second development boom after World War II. The growth of the Federal government in nearby Washington, D.C. in the years after the War, spurred considerable suburban expansion in Rockville and surrounding areas. Access to the Capital by rail and improved roadways encouraged this suburban expansion (Rockville Historic District Commission 1973).

The Rockcrest Neighborhood is typical of neighborhoods constructed in Montgomery County after World War II. Montgomery County experienced a rapid increase in population after World War II. Little residential construction had occurred during the Great Depression, and the shift to a wartime economy during World War II brought residential construction to a virtual stand-still. These factors combined to create a critical housing shortage by 1945 (Tindall 1984:1240). In addition, after the war, permanent housing had to be provided for returning veterans and new government workers. Many American families could afford housing which would have been beyond the reach of most Americans in any previous generation. Automobile ownership also skyrocketed in the post-war period, revolutionizing the way Americans lived. Now, most people not only had the means to buy a newer, more desirable home, but they had the mobility to live someplace where sufficient land was available to enable them to escape the congestion of the city (Relph 1967:158-162). During the 1940s, several new trends altered the character of suburban neighborhoods. After 1945, the federal government spent billions on expressways to enable people

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Rockcrest Neighborhood

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Montgomery County

8. Significance (Continued)

who lived in the suburbs to commute to work in the city. Beltways and other highways linking suburbs together were also constructed. In many cases, extensive suburban development occurred in areas which likely would have remained undeveloped were it not for the existence of these highways. After the war, however, houses in the new low-cost developments were purchased primarily by veterans and young families with little disposable income. These communities were characterized by 1½-story, front-gabled cottages and simple twentieth century architectural styles.

Rockcrest is a neighborhood of vernacular cottages. Between 1870 and 1950 the vernacular cottage style was typically built for Americans of modest means. They are characterized by simple ornamentation and mass-produced components, such as door frames, moldings, sash and window units, and porch decoration. The development of post-Civil War machinery capable of producing large amounts of standardized housing elements, such as those found in cottages, contributed greatly to the development of the modern American housing industry. Designs for vernacular cottages were obtained from popular magazines, such as House Beautiful, or carpenter's and builder's journals, such as American Builder. A variety of front-gable, side-gable, cross-gable and hipped roof frame cottages were developed in the early to mid-twentieth century. Front-gable and hipped roof cottages are primarily 1 to 1½-stories tall, 3-bays wide and several rooms deep. Side-gable and cross-gable structures are usually 2 to 2½-stories tall, are typically 2 to 3-bays in width and vary from one to three rooms deep. They usually include a porch covered with a shed roof. Porches are supported by posts often containing machine-produced Victorian ornamentation. Some cottages feature ornamentation drawn from Craftsman style or Colonial Revival architecture (Gottfried and Jennings 1988, viii-xv).

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8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed between 1940 and 1955, the Rockcrest Neighborhood is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state, or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as the cottages represent a common and indistinctive type of architecture constructed by a developer to provide low-cost housing during the period of post-war expansion. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility Not Recommended X

Comments _____

Reviewer, OPS: _____

Date: _____

Reviewer, NR Program: _____

Date: 3/1/02

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:26-33 (PACS 7.15)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name Rockville, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

e/title Julie Darsie

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date May 1998

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

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 purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

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9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Boyd, T.H.S. 1968. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company.
- Brugger, Robert A. 1988. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Coleman, Margaret Marshall. 1984. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Rev. 1990. Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers.
- Farquhar, Roger Brooke. 1962. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland. Washington: Judd and Detweiller, Inc.
- Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. 1988. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press.
- Liebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. 1976. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society.
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- Relph, Edward. 1987. The Modern Urban Landscape. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Rockville Historic District Commission. 1973. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. West Montgomery Avenue Historic District. Rockville, MD.
- Tindall, George Brown. 1984. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

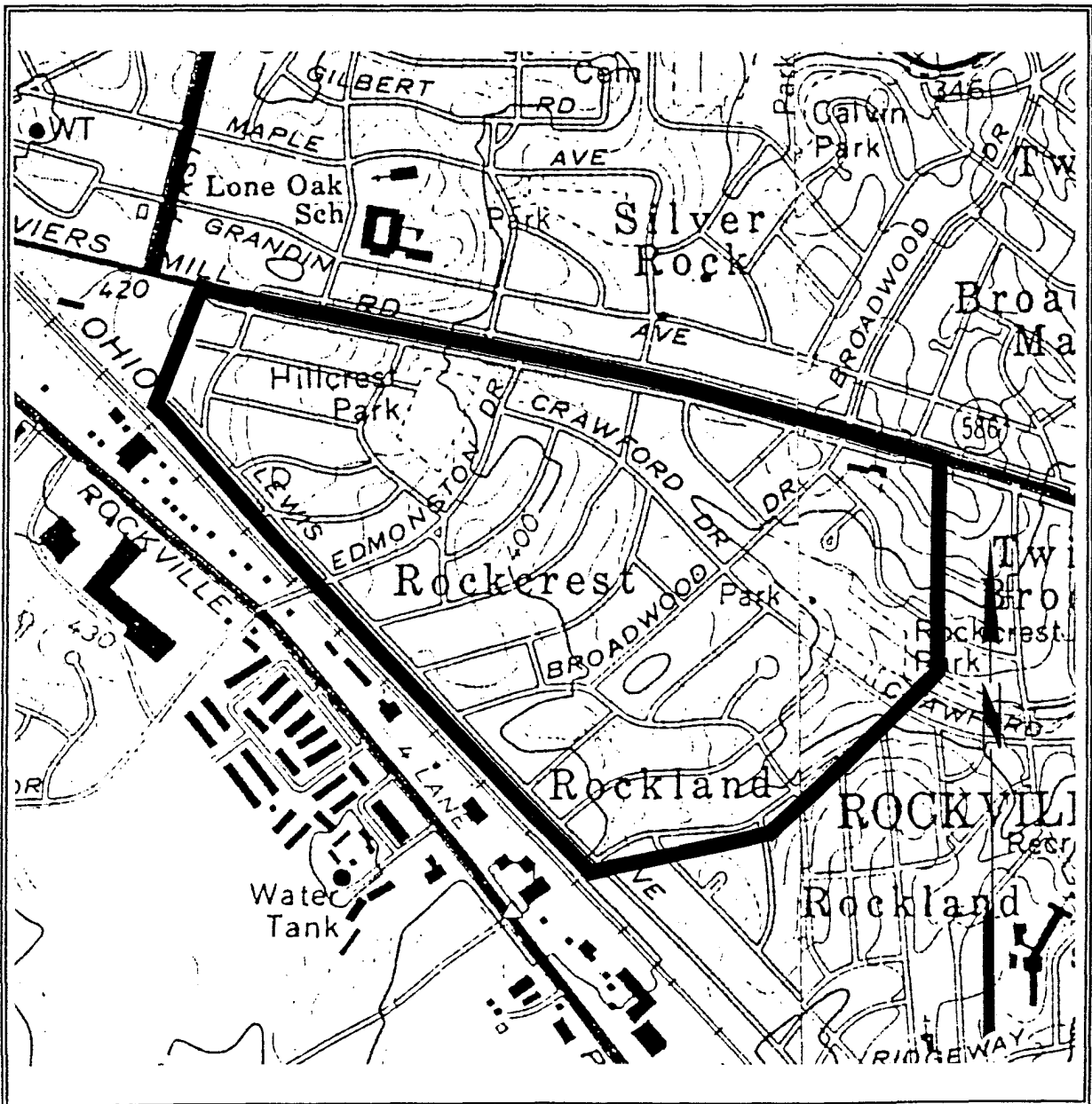
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10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map



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Montgomery County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture and Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

District

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

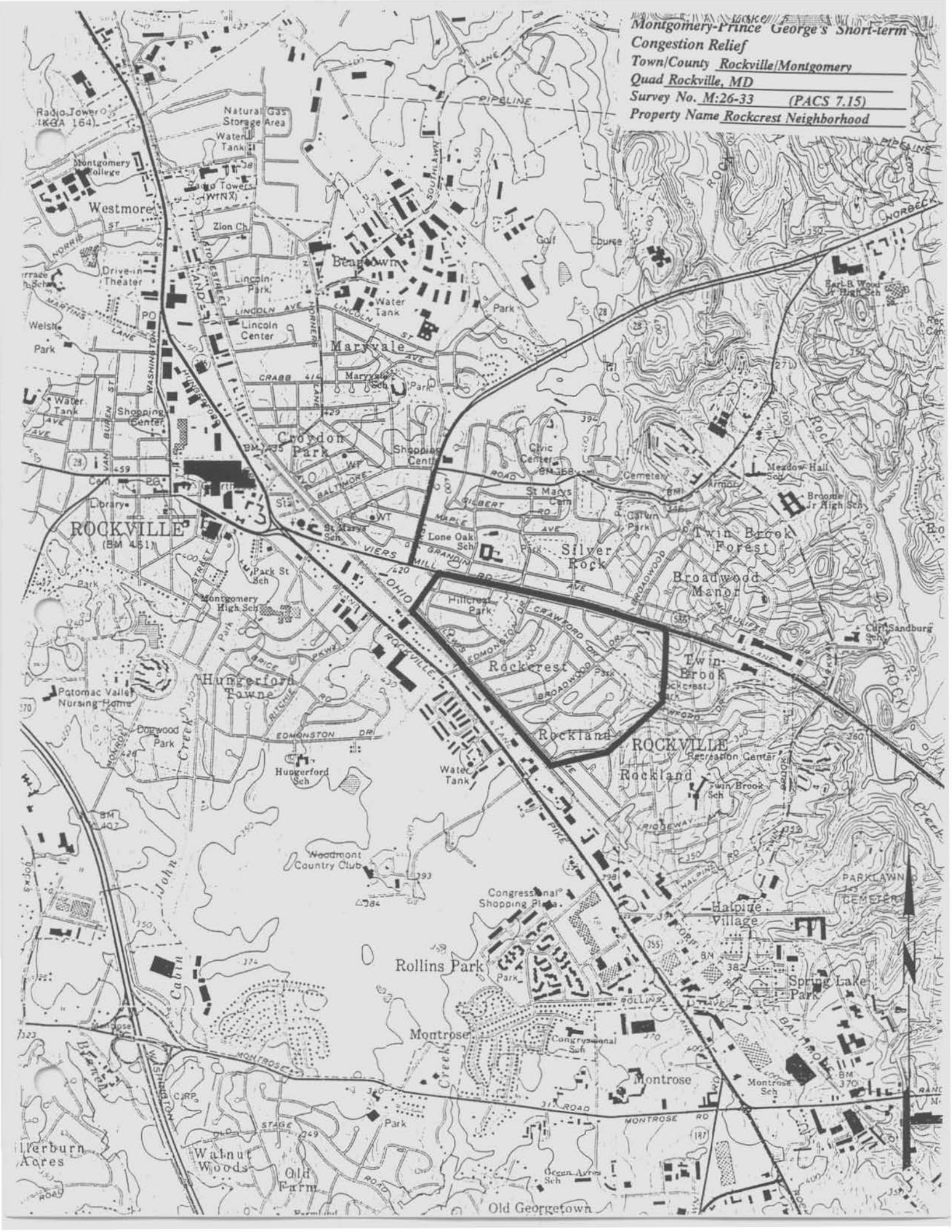
Private Residences

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer
P.A.C. Spero & Company
May 1998

Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term
Congestion Relief
Town/County Rockville/Montgomery
Quad Rockville, MD
Survey No. M:26-33 (PACS 7.15)
Property Name Rockcrest Neighborhood





1 M26-33

2 Rock Crest

3 Montgomery Blvd

4 Quaker Inn

5 5/99

6 Mid St

7 910 Lewis Ave

8 1 of 20



- 1 M. 26-33
- 2 Rock Crest
- 3 Montgomery Co. Md.
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 1000 Block Paul Dr.
- 8 2 of 20

2025 JUN 12 12:00 PM



- 1 M:26-33
- 2 Rock Crest
- 3 Montgomery & ML
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 1109 Agnew Dr., last elevation
- 8 3 of 20

SE K N R 1230 650



- 1 M: 26-33
- 2 Rock Crest
- 3 Montgomery Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5198
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 1110 Agnew Dr, NW elevation
- 8 4 of 20

STATION 120060



1 M:26-33

2 Rock Crest

3 Montgomery Co Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md. SHPO

7 1107 Agnew Dr, east. Lexington 12096

8 5 of 20



- 1 M: 26-33
- 2 Rock Creek
- 3 Montgomery Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
5. 5/98
6. Md 8/1/96
- 7 1125 Agnew Dr., east elevation
- 8 6 of 20

CCN 120368



- 1 M: 26-33
- 2 Rock Crest
- 3 Montgomery Co Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5198
- 6 Md 8140
- 7 1005 Lewis Ave, West side
- 8 7 of 20

ET N H H 1200698



- 1 M:26-33
- 2 Rock Crest
- 3 Montgomery Co. Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 1720 Henry Rd
- 8 8 of 20

200001 120086



1 M:26-33

2 Rock Creek,

3 Montgomery Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHP,

7 1009-1005 Lewis Ave Streetscape

8 9 of 20

CHN HLN 1230 68E



1 M: 26-33

2 Rock Crest

3 Montgomery A. Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 Md SHRO

7 900 Block Lewis Ave, West Side

8 100 20

ET N N N 1230668



- 1 M 26-33
- 2 Rock crest
- 3 Montgomery Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md 5+10
- 7 1006 Paul Dr
- 8 11 of 20

CC-NORTH 1250885



1 M:26-33

8

2 Rockcrest

3 Montgomery 3 Mt.

4 John Davis

5 5/98

6 Mt St. H.

7 Gail Ave

8 12 of 20



1 m 26 33

2 Rock Creek

3 Montgomery Co. Md

4 Julie Davis

5 5198

6 1 Md. 843

7 Cedar Point Ave

8 13 St 20



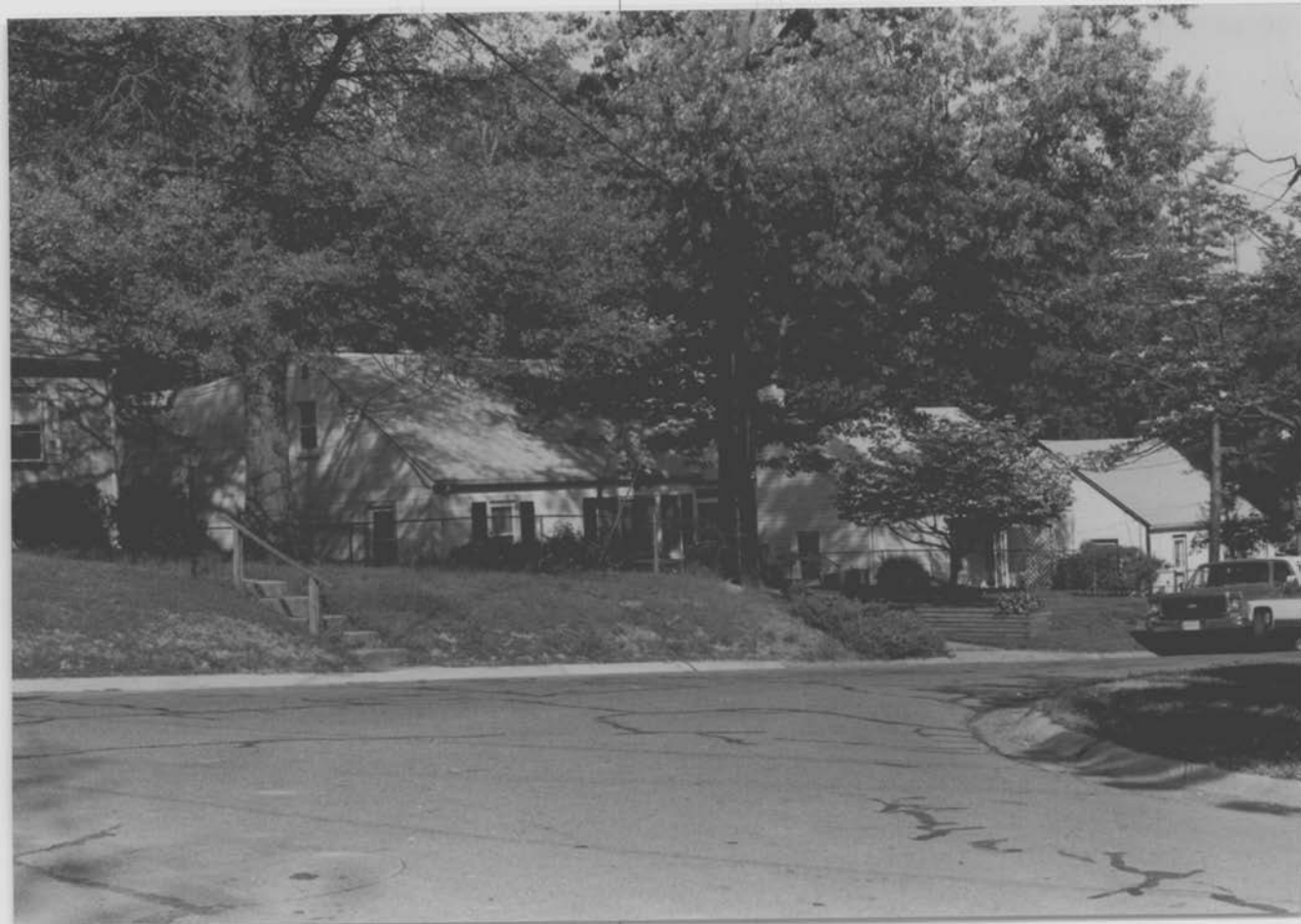
- 1 M. 24-33 13
- 2 Rockcrest
- 3 Montgomery Co. Md.
- 4 Jules Dancer
- 5 5/95
- 6 1st 2nd
- 7 View Mt. Zia
- 8 14 of 20



- 1 m. 26-23
- 2 Rockcrest
- 3 Montgomery Co. Md.
- 4 Julie Davis
- 5 5198
- 6 Md. SHP
- 7 Debeck Tr
- 8 15 at 20



- 1 M:26.33
- 2 Rockcrest
- 3 Montgomery Co Md
- 4 Jules Darso
- 5 5/98
- 6 vld SHPO
- 7 Edw Dr. App. 1998
- 8 16 of 20



1 11-26-33

2 Rockcrest

3 Montgomery Co. Md.

4 Julie Varso

5 5/98

6 Md. SHPO

7 Wade L. Varso

8 17 of 20



- 1 M. 26-33
- 2 Rock Crest
- 3 Montgomery Co Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SHPO
- 7 1133 Block: Agnew Dr, east side
- 8 18 of 20



- 1 M. 26-33
- 2 Rock Creek
- 3 Montgomery Co. Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SHPL
- 7 East Side, Crawford St.
- 8 19 of 20

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- 1 M:26-33
- 2 Rock Crest
- 3 Montgomery Co Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Md SUPD
- 7 Hill Crest Park
- 8 20 1/2 20

27 APR 1998