

21

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED 8/19/75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC BOSTWICK
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 3901 48th Street
CITY, TOWN Bladensburg VICINITY OF Fifth
STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Prince George's CODE 033
-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Felix Cristofane
STREET & NUMBER 3901 48th Street
CITY, TOWN Bladensburg VICINITY OF STATE Maryland 20710

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Prince George's County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Upper Marlboro STATE Maryland 20870

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE 1936 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN 10 First Street, S. E. STATE Washington, D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

 EXCELLENT DETERIORATED UNALTERED ORIGINAL SITE GOOD RUINS ALTERED MOVED DATE _____ FAIR UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two and one half story, brick structure laid up in Flemish bond. A basement and ground level is under the entire house. The "A" roof, with dormer windows, is slightly belled at the eaves. The main (west) facade is five bays with a central doorway. A one story porch extends across the front; the pedimented central bay of the porch projects forward. "C.L. 1746" in wrought lead painted black is embedded high in the south chimney. A three-course belt of brick marks the second floor level. The front doorway has a fanlight and side-lights, added early in the twentieth century. Originally, the hall was lighted only by a window at the staircase landing. The rear facade was once five bays; the north bay was enlarged in the early twentieth century and the present Palladian window was added to give more light to the northeast room. As with the other changes in fenestration, the signs of the earlier pattern are clearly visible in the brickwork. A frieze carries brackets in an alternating large and small pattern; at the roofline, the boxed cornice has a crown moulding. The cornice returns into the gable ends, with a brick course carrying the cornice line across the gable ends.

On the south end, windows flank the flush-gable, T-shape chimney, which is articulated with recessed arch panels in the stack. The chimney itself is buttressed by a large, triangular buttress with two small chambers in the base. This buttress was added in 1793 by Benjamin Stoddert, at the same time as the attached kitchen was added at the north end. Stoddert wanted the chambers in the base of the buttress to use as a "jail" for unruly slaves.

The kitchen wing is 1-1/2 stories with two bays on the east and west facades. At the north end is a flush gable chimney. The high base is bantered.

In plan, Bostwick has a central stairhall with two rooms on the north and one large room on the south. The northeast room has an Adamesque mantle in the northwest corner with a window on the adjacent north wall. The northwest room has a Victorian fireplace in the center of the north side and a corner cupboard in the northwest corner. The room is paneled fifty-two inches high with thirty-six inch black walnut. A large, square-headed opening now connects these two

(See continuation sheet #1)

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bostwick, presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Felix Christofane, was built by Christopher Lowndes, a prominent citizen of colonial Bladensburg. The town of Bladensburg had its origins in the Act of 1742 which authorized the town commissioners to purchase sixty acres of land to be laid out in one acre lots. The act required that a house covering at least 400 sq. ft. of ground with a brick or stone chimney be constructed within eighteen months after the sale of the lot. As of 6 June 1746, only eighteen of the lots had been improved according to the stipulations of the act. Lowndes' house and those built by David Ross and William Hilleary were among them.

Christopher Lowndes came to Maryland in 1738 as a factor for Henry and Edward Trafford of Liverpool. He soon established his own company, importing spices, building supplies, and dry goods. Lowndes and Benjamin Tasker imported Negro slaves and sold them at Bladensburg and at the Severn River. Near Bostwick, Lowndes constructed a rope-walk to manufacture cordage; at that time, ocean vessels navigated the Eastern Branch (Anacostia River) and landed at Bladensburg. During the Revolutionary War, much of the cordage needed for newly built Maryland ships was supplied by Lowndes' ropewalk. Lowndes built several other houses in Bladensburg and owned a shipyard where he built oceangoing ships. He soon became one of the leading merchants of the town.

On May 14, 1747, Lowndes married Elizabeth Tasker, daughter of Benjamin Tasker, President of the Council, and niece of Governor Thomas Bladen. In 1745, Lowndes was named Commissioner of the town of Bladensburg, and in 1753 he was appointed one of the justices of Prince George's County. He held both offices until his death in 1785.

Christopher Lowndes willed Bostwick to his daughter, Rebecca Stoddert, who in 1781 had married Benjamin Stoddert. Stoddert was

(See continuation sheet #1)

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

rooms. The hallway has a staircase rising in two runs to the second floor. The south room is the drawing room and runs through the depth of the house. An exceptionally large fireplace with mantle seven feet high and ten feet wide projects into the room. The opening has a crosssetted surround. Flanking to the surround are columns supporting a frieze course and shelf. The wall treatment is a series of rails and raised plaster panels. At the ceiling is a large coved cornice. A chairrail about one foot wide runs around the room; against its plain board field is a deep moulding.

A detached kitchen stands northeast of the house; it is laid on common bond and has an "A" roof. Southeast of the house are several outbuildings and a barn dating to the nineteenth century.

While the basic structure and plan are eighteenth century, many of the details have been added. The present porch is of nineteenth century design and bracketing was added to the cornice at a later date. The present windows are 4/4 double hung sash, although in the gable ends at the attic level, there are still 6/6 double hung sash. There are four bays of windows on the main house, west side, first floor, with windows 8 1/2 feet high, 3 1/2 feet wide, double hung sash, small glass 25/20. The rear porch is shed-roofed, with square posts. A bronze plaque honoring Benjamin Stoddert was placed on the east facade several years ago by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

born in Charles County in 1751. He served as a captain in the Revolutionary War and as a member of the Board of War. By 1783, he had become a partner in the firm of Forrest and Stoddert which made rapid progress in the postwar tobacco trade.

His house in Georgetown, Halycon House, was built on a tract of land called Pretty Prospect. Excerpts from the letters of Rebecca Lowndes Stoddert reveal her concern with family matters and the interests of their many children, while Benjamin Stoddert was occupied with the strengthening of a fledgling navy and commercial matters. Stoddert was appointed the first Secretary of the Navy by President John Adams in 1798 and organized the Navy in the "undeclared war" with France. He also established six Navy yards, reorganized the Marine Corps, and built vessels which achieved

(See continuation sheet No. 2)

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2 ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

renown in the Barbary War. During 1800 and 1801, he served as Secretary of War, and continued as Secretary of the Navy until the end of the Adams Administration in March of 1801.

Rebecca and Benjamin Stoddert moved from Georgetown to Bostwick, after which they made several changes to the building. According to the Cristofanes, Bostwick was seriously considered as a residence for the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Stoddert, who moved to Bostwick after he went bankrupt, was responsible for adding the buttress with two chambers in its base on the south end, and the kitchen, with two rooms on the second floor on the north end.

Rebecca Stoddert died at Bostwick in 1802, while her husband died there in 1813. The Stodderts, as well as Christopher Lowndes and his wife, were buried in the cemetery at Addison Chapel, where they had attended services.

During much of the 19th century, the house was owned by the Stephen family. Judge John Stephen, lawyer, member of the Governor's Council, and Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals between 1822 and 1844, and son-in-law of Col. James Brice of Annapolis, bought Bostwick in 1822.

Tradition maintains that Judge Stephen entertained Lafayette at Bostwick during his farewell trip to the United States. However, Lafayette's Secretary does not mention such a celebration in his remarkably inclusive diary, and to date, no other documentation substantiating Lafayette's attendance at Bostwick has been uncovered, except newspaper clippings and mention in Washington, City and Capital (p. 827). Following Judge Stephen's death in 1844, the property passed to his son, Nicholas Carroll Stephen, also a lawyer. At his death in 1881, his daughter Julianna, and her husband, Jules Dieudonne, acquired the property. Jules Dieudonne was a minor artist who is responsible for the painted panels in the drawing room of Bostwick. The two now remaining (the others being covered) are romantic landscapes typical of the period. Dieudonne was a spendthrift and in 1891, they defaulted on a mortgage and lost the property.

In 1904, Bostwick was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. James H. Kyner. Mr. Kyner was a Civil War veteran and railroad builder. The property now belongs to their daughter Susanna and her husband Felix E. Cristofane.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

3

ITEM NUMBER 9, 11 PAGE

3

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bowie, Effie Gwynn. Across the Years in Prince George's County.
Richmond, Va.: Garrett and Massie, Inc., 1947.

Dunlop, _____. A Portrait of Old Georgetown.

Hienton, Louise Joyner. Prince George's Heritage. Baltimore:
Maryland Historical Society, 1972.

Johnston, Christopher. "Lowndes Family." Maryland Historical
Magazine, II (September, 1951), 276-279.

Kyner, James H., as told to Hawthorne, Daniel, End of Track.
Caldwell, Idaho, 1937.

Turner, Harriott Stoddert. "Memoirs of Benjamin Stoddert,
First Secretary of the United States Navy." Records of
the Columbia Historical Society, 20, 141-166.

W.P.A. Federal Writers' Project. Washington, City and Capital.
Washington, 1937.

Interview with Felix and Susanna Cristofane.

Land Records of Prince George's County, Hall of Records, Annapolis.

Chancery Paper No. 4967, Hall of Records, Annapolis.

U.S. Navy Department Archives.

11. Form Prepared By

Frank White, Chairman
Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust
6211 60th Place
Riverdale, Maryland 20840

(See attached sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 10

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,3,1,0	4,3,1,1,4,3,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

also see continuation sheet

NAME/TITLE

Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

Sept. 16, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



414
57'30"
413
0.8 MI. TO INTERSTATE 495
ANNAPOLIS 21 MI.
412
411
(LANHAM)
5661 IV NE

Bostwick
UTM REF.
18133X310
43114

WASH. C.
824B
PG:69-09

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # 69-9 Date 1746
Building Name Bostwick
Location 3901 18th Street, Bladensburg, Md.
Open to Public yes x no

Located on a rise of land above the old port, Bostwick is Bladensburg's most imposing edifice. It is a large, yellow, painted brick structure, two-and-one-half stories high and five bays wide. The T-shaped chimneys at the ridge of the roof are flush with the end walls. The one-story, five-bay porch on the west or main facade has a pedimented central bay. The doorway has a fanlight and sidelights. A triangular shaped, one-and-one-half story buttress supports the south gable. The one-and-one-half story, two bay kitchen wing extends to the north. The original detached brick kitchen stands northeast of the house.

Bostwick was built by 1746 for Christopher Lowndes, a very successful merchant and manufacturer who served also as a town commissioner and a county justice. His son-in-law, Benjamin Stoddert, the first Secretary of the United States Navy, purchased Bostwick from Lowndes' heirs and was responsible for adding the attached kitchen and the buttress.

After Stoddert's death in 1813, Bostwick was owned through the rest of the 19th century by another prominent Maryland family, that of Judge John Stephen. Shortly after 1900, Bostwick was purchased and restored by James H. Kyner whose family still lives there.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1700832104

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME
COMMON:
AND/OR HISTORIC: BOSTWICK

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 3901 48th Street
CITY OR TOWN: Bladensburg
STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Prince George's

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Felix Cristofane
STREET AND NUMBER: 3901 48th Street
CITY OR TOWN: Bladensburg STATE: Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro STATE: Maryland

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER: 10 First Street SE
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story, brick structure laid up in Flemish bond. The "A" roof, with dormer windows, is slightly belled at the eaves. The main (west) facade is five bays with a central doorway. A one story porch extends across the front; the pedimented central bay of the porch projects forward. On both the west and east facades, a three-course belt marks the second floor level. The front doorway has a fanlight and sidelights, added early in the twentieth century and replacing a doorway without lights. The rear doorway also has sidelights, installed early in the twentieth century. Originally, the hall was lit only by a window at the staircase landing. The rear facade was once five bays; the north bay was enlarged in the early twentieth century and the present Palladian window was added to give more light to the northeast room. As with the other changes in fenestration, the signs of the earlier pattern are clearly visible in the brickwork. A frieze carries brackets in an alternating large and small pattern; at the roofline, the boxed cornice has a crown moulding. The cornice returns into the gable ends, with a brick course carrying the cornice line across the gable ends.

On the south end, windows flank the flush-gable, T-shape chimney, which is articulated with recessed arch panels in the stack. The chimney itself is buttressed by a large, triangular buttress with two small chambers in the base. This buttress was added in 1793 by Benjamin Stoddert, at the same time as the attached kitchen was added at the north end. Stoddert wanted the chambers in the base of the buttress to use as a "jail" for unruly slaves.

The kitchen wing is 1-1/2 stories with two bays on the west facade. At the north end is a flush gable chimney. The high base is bantered.

In plan, Bostwick has a central stairhall with two rooms on the north and one large room on the south. The northeast room has an Adamesque fireplace in the northwest corner with a window on the adjacent north wall. The southeast room has a Victorian fireplace in the northeast corner and a corner cupboard in the northwest corner. A large, square-headed opening now connects these two rooms. The hallway has a staircase rising in two runs to the second floor. The south room runs through the house. An exceptionally large fireplace projects in to the room. The opening has a crosssetted surround. Flanking the surround are columns supporting a frieze course and shelf. The wall treatment is a series of rails and raised plaster panels. At the ceiling is a large coved cornice. A chairrail about one foot wide runs around the room; against its plain board field is a deep moulding.

7. Description continued

A detached kitchen stands northeast of the house; it is laid in common bond and has an "A" roof. Southeast of the house are several barns dating to the nineteenth century.

While the basic structure and plan are eighteenth century, many of the details have been added. The present porch is of nineteenth-century design and bracketing was added to the cornice at a later date. The present windows are 4/4 double hung sash, although in the gable ends at the attic level, there are still 6/6 double hung sash. The rear porch is shed-roofed, with square posts.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1743-6

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bostwick, presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Felix Christofane, was built by Christopher Lowndes, a prominent citizen of colonial Bladensburg. The town of Bladensburg had its origins in the Act of 1742 which authorized town commissioners to purchase sixty acres of land to be laid out in one acre lots. The act required that a house covering at least 400 sq. ft. of ground with a brick or stone chimney be constructed within eighteen months after the sale of the lot. As of 6 June 1746 only eighteen of the lots had been improved according to the stipulations of the act. Lowndes' house and those built by David Ross and William Hilleary were among them.

Christopher Lowndes came to Maryland in 1738 as a factor for Henry and Edward Trafford of Liverpool. He soon established his own company, importing spices, building supplies, and dry goods. Lowndes and Benjamin Tasker imported Negro slaves and sold them at the Severn River. Near Bostwick, Lowndes constructed a rope-walk to manufacture cordage; at that time ocean vessels navigated the Eastern Branch (Anacostia River) and landed at Bladensburg. During the Revolutionary War, much of the cordage needed for newly built Maryland ships was supplied by Lowndes' ropewalk.

Lowndes married Elizabeth Tasker, daughter of Benjamin Tasker, and neice of Governor Thomas Bladen. In 1745 Lowndes was named a Commissioner of the town of Bladensburg and in 1753 he was appointed one of the justices of Prince George's County. He held both offices until his death in 1785.

Christopher Lowndes willed Bostwick to his daughter Rebecca Stoddert, wife of Benjamin Stoddert. Stoddert was born in Maryland in 1751 and served as a captain during the American Revolution. His house in Georgetown, Halycon House, was built on a tract of land called Pretty Prospect. Excerpts from the letters of Rebecca Lowndes Stoddert reveal her concern with family matters and the interest of their many children, while Benjamin Stoddert was occupied with the strenthening of a fledgling navy and commercial matters. Later they moved from Georgetown to Bostwick; Stoddert made many changes to the existing structure in 1793. He was responsible for adding

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(continued on white sheet)

8. Statement of Significance continued

the buttress with two chambers in its base on the south end, and the kitchen. Rebecca Stoddert died at Bostwick in 1809; her husband; four years later. The Stodderts, as well as Christopher Lowndes and his wife, were buried in the cemetery at Addison Chapel where they had attended services.

During much of the 19th century, the house was owned by the Stephen family. Judge John Stephen bought it in 1822. Tradition maintains that Judge Stephen entertained Lafayette at Bostwick during his farewell trip to the United States; however, Lafayette's Secretary does not mention such a celebration in his remarkably inclusive diary and to date, no other documentation substantiating Lafayette's attendance at Bostwick has been uncovered.

John Stephen's granddaughter, Julianna, and her husband, Jules Dieudonne, acquired the property. Jules Dieudonne was a minor artist who is responsible for the painted panels in the parlor of Bostwick; they are romantic landscapes typical of the period. Dieudonne was a spendthrift and in 1891, they defaulted on a mortgage and lost the property.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

[Empty space for major bibliographical references]

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •	
NE	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •	
SE	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •	
SW	• • •	• • •		• • •	• • •	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

[Empty space for acreage justification]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 16 Sept 74

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National State Local

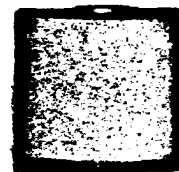
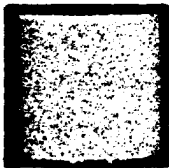
Signature _____

(old PG - 12) PG:69-9

BOSTWICK

lamp = chimney
resembles Carroll

pent - holds staircase
Barister House, ARP -



Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Prince Georges #12 TOWN STREET NO. 3901 Edmonston ave. (3910 #8 = Ave. (Rim)) ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE Private dwelling PRESENT OWNER MRS FELIX CRISTOFANE PRESENT USE Private dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick NO. OF STORIES 3 1/2	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY 2. NAME Bostwick DATE OR PERIOD 1748 STYLE COUNTRY GEORGIAN ARCHITECT BUILDER Christopher Lowndes 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
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4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

3 1/2 Stories

A-shaped roof, ~~yellow~~

one wing on north

porch addition on front

Outbuildings: two barns and shed, clapboard and board & batten, foundations appear to be early


Forrest Bowie says it has been considerably altered.

J.C. Wilfong, Jr. suggests Stoddard association (Benjamin?)

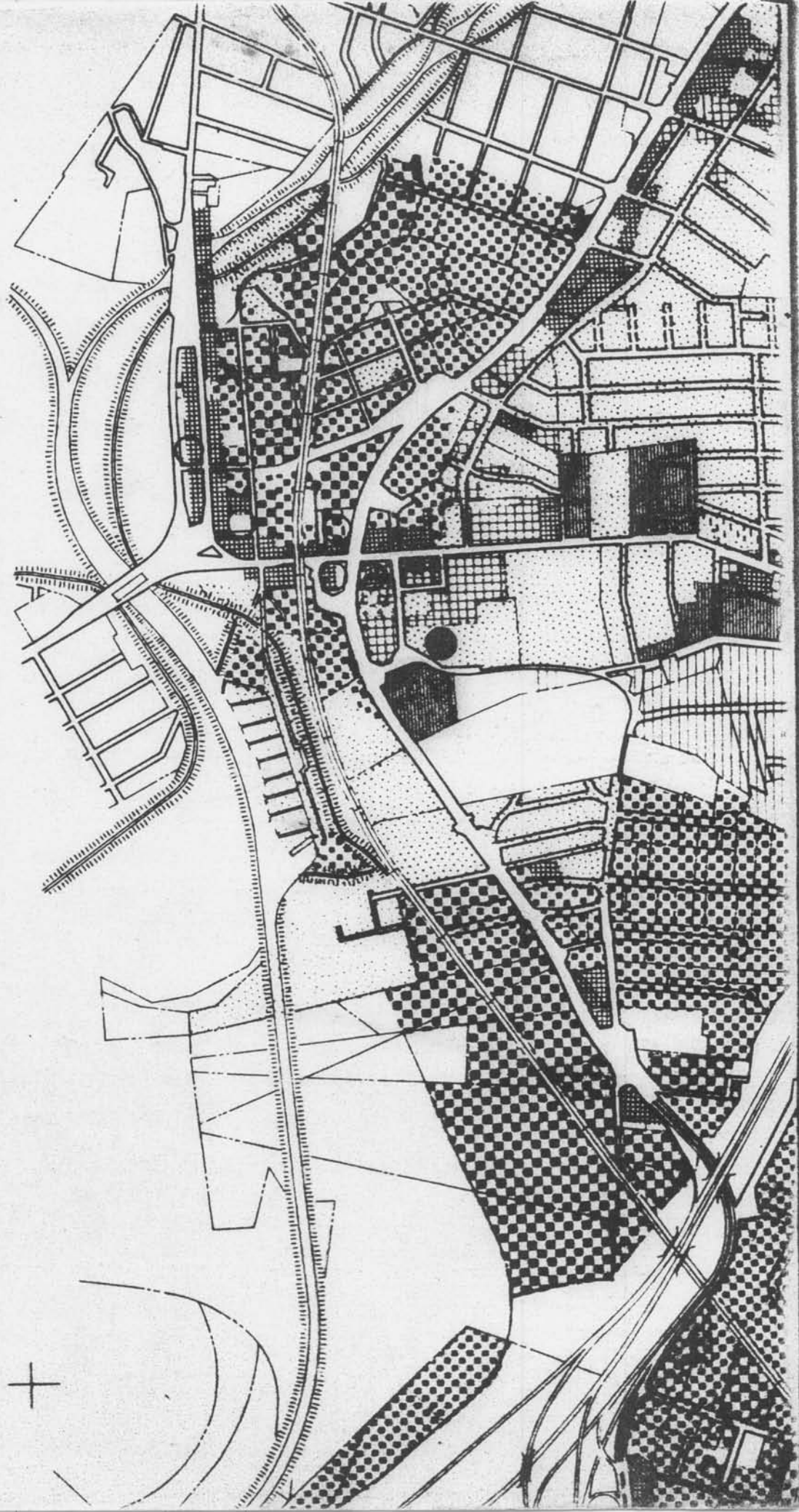
PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

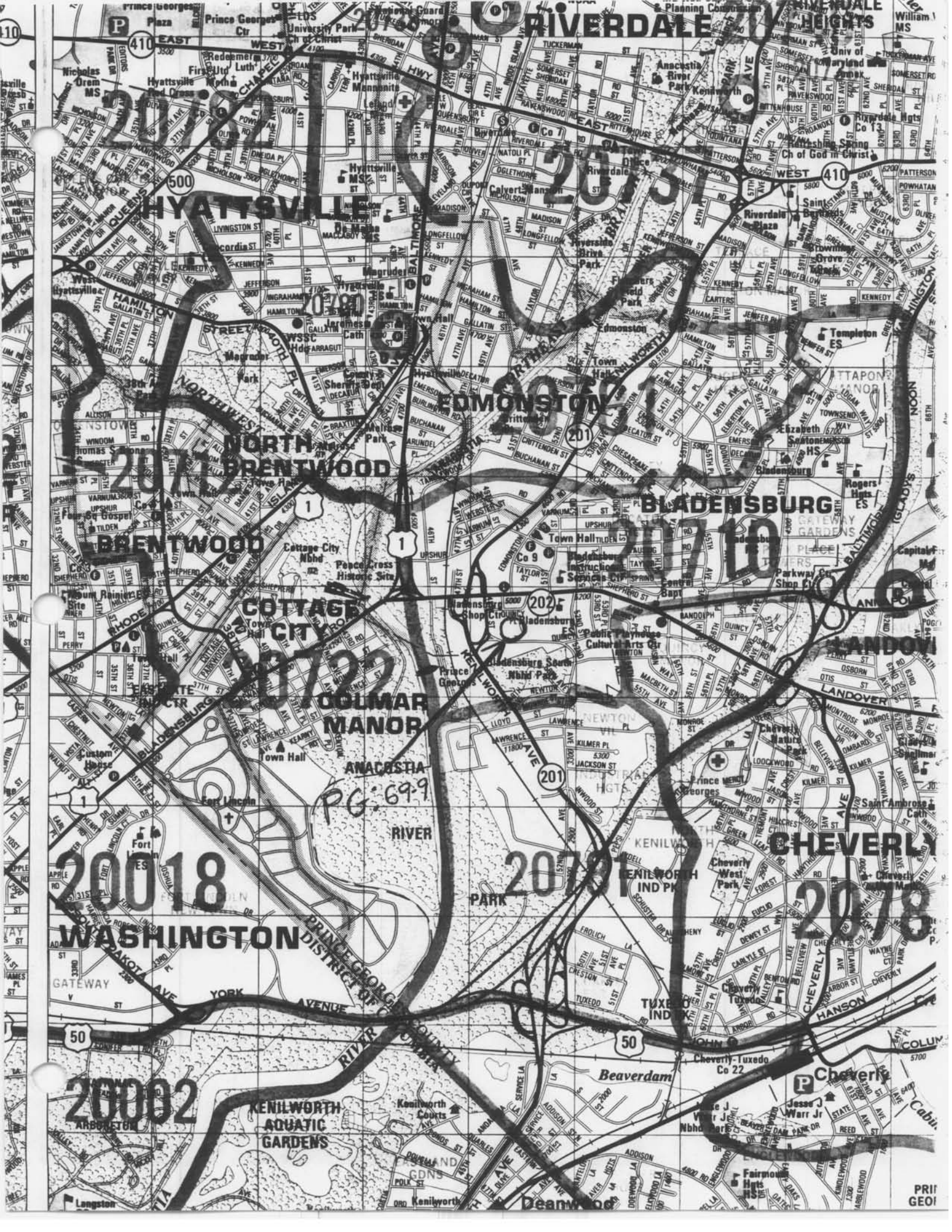
#12

Owner: Mrs. Felix Cristofane (Janita says she's very nice about showing house.) - DFR

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) HABS. - 8 photos 	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. RINN, Survey, p 61	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER DATE OF RECORD

PG:69-9
BOSTWICK (69-9)





PLANNING COMMISSION

410 EAST WEST

500

HYATTSVILLE

RIVERDALE

HEIGHTS

HYATTSVILLE

EDMONSTON

RIVERDALE

HYATTSVILLE

NORTH BRENTWOOD

EDMONSTON

RIVERDALE

BRENTWOOD

EDMONSTON

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