

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-3061**

**Edgemere African American Survey District**

**Baltimore County, MD**

**1900-1950 ca.**

The Edgemere African American Survey District encompasses all of Orth Road, Sycamore Avenue, and Oak Avenue, as well as small section of Sparrows Point Road and Lodge Farm Road. A total of fifty-two historic and eleven non-historic buildings are in the survey district. Within the boundaries this primarily residential neighborhood is supported with one church. Building types and forms in the Edgemere survey district include multiple-family dwellings, one apartment building, single-family dwellings, shotgun houses, Four Square houses, and a church. Construction materials include wood-frame and concrete block. All wood-frame dwellings are re clad with either formstone, asbestos shingles, simulated brick asphalt roll, vinyl siding, or aluminum siding. Roof types include hipped, front-gable, side-gable, shed, flat, pyramidal, cross-gable, and center-cross gable.

By 1915, Edgemere has developed into a small crossroads community lacking a formal name according to the Bromley Atlas. Sycamore Avenue is the center of the African American community in Edgemere. According to the 1920 U.S. Census of Baltimore County twenty-four households were listed on Sycamore Avenue, all African American families and Lodge Farm Road had sixteen African American families. By 1930, Sycamore Avenue increased to thirty-four households, one of them being white. Approximately half of the properties in the community were owned in both the 1920 and 1930 census reports. The majority of the African American residents originated from Maryland with several coming from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, Texas, and Georgia. A few of the white residents in the community were European immigrants. Occupations were predominantly labor intensive serving as workers on farms, contractors, mills, brickyard, iron foundry and furnaces, ship yard, and plate mill. The census details that very few of the women residents worked in addition to the men of the households.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3061

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Edgemere African American Survey District

other

### 2. Location

street and number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Edgemere \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name multiple ownership

street and number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone Not Available

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel: tax map 111

city, town Towson liber folio

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	52
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	11
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	52
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	11
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b> 0	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3061

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

The town of Edgemere is located in the Fifteenth District of Baltimore County on the Patapsco River Neck. Situated between Back River and Old Road Bay, Edgemere is a small town immediately southeast of the Baltimore Beltway with North Point Road as the main thoroughfare.

The Edgemere African American Survey District encompasses all of Orth Road, Sycamore Avenue, and Oak Avenue, as well as small section of Sparrows Point Road and Lodge Farm Road. A total of fifty-two historic and eleven non-historic buildings are in the survey district. Within the boundaries this primarily residential neighborhood is supported with one church. Bordering the community to the south, west, and east are woods, to the north and along Sparrows Point Road to the southwest are commercial businesses, and the Edgemere Elementary School is sited north of the neighborhood at the southeast corner of Sparrows Point Road and North Point Road.

The survey district consists of level grassy lots surrounded by trees, shrubs, and some with foundation plantings. Many of the properties have driveways, either paved, gravel, or dirt. Several large open grassy areas are located within the district particularly on Oak Avenue. Sycamore Avenue is the main residential avenue in the district. This wide paved street contains the majority of the historic buildings in the neighborhood and is the only street within the community with sidewalks. The dwellings on Sycamore Avenue are sited close to the street and to one another. Houses on the remaining streets are set further back from the road and several have larger lots.

Building types and forms in the Edgemere survey district include multiple-family dwellings, one apartment building, single-family dwellings, shotgun houses, and a church. Construction materials include wood-frame and concrete block. All wood-frame dwellings are re clad with either formstone, asbestos shingles, simulated brick asphalt roll, vinyl siding, or aluminum siding. Roof types include hipped, front-gable, side-gable, shed, flat, pyramidal, cross-gable, and center-cross gable.

Several Craftsman-style bungalows exist within the Edgemere survey district, 101 Oak Avenue, 2525 and 2527 Sycamore Avenue. Dating from the 1920s, the dwelling at 101 Oak Avenue is one-and-a-half stories high and three bays wide with a center entry. It stands on a raised solid rock-faced concrete-block foundation with panel-faced concrete-block quoins. Either constructed of wood-frame or concrete blocks this house is re clad with formstone. It features an inset full-width porch on the façade supported with Tuscan columns on rock-faced concrete-block piers. It is capped with a hipped roof with a hipped-roof dormer on the façade.

Two Colonial Revival-style Four Square houses exist within the survey district; 2714 Lodge Farm Road and 2709 Sparrows Point Road. The latter dwelling dates to 1924 and is constructed of rock-faced concrete blocks. It is two-stories high on a raised basement and measures three bays wide on the façade. The pyramidal roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The house features a full-width shed-roof porch on the façade supported with rock-faced concrete-block posts. The wood-frame dwelling at 2714 Lodge Farm Road currently functions as a twin dwelling. It rests on a solid rock-faced concrete-block foundation and is capped with a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. Across the full-width of the façade is an enclosed half-hipped roof porch. This house is re clad with aluminum siding and features double-hung windows, and an interior-end rock-faced concrete-block chimney.

Three shotgun houses are sited on Sparrows Point Road just north of Orth Road. Two of the dwellings are two stories high and two bays wide. The third dwelling is one story in height and three bays wide. These houses date to the early 20th century.

Several twin dwellings stand in the Edgemere African American survey district at 2507-2509 Sycamore Avenue and 2511-2513 Sycamore Avenue. Constructed in the 1920s, both wood-frame twin dwellings are two stories in height, measure four bays wide, and are capped with shed roofs. Both houses stand on a rock-faced concrete-block foundation with panel-faced concrete-block quoins. They feature full-width enclosed hipped-roof porches on the façade, interior chimneys, and stepped parapets on the side elevations. The dwelling at 2507-2509 Sycamore Avenue features a false mansard roof on the façade and is re clad with aluminum

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siding. The twin dwelling at 2511-2513 Sycamore Avenue is reclad with vinyl siding.

Constructed in 1941, the Shiloh Baptist Church at 2495-2499 Sycamore Avenue, is three bays wide and one story high on a raised solid parged basement. Constructed of rock-faced concrete blocks the church uses paneled concrete-block quoin detailing. The front-gable roof building features a gable-roof vestibule on the façade. An exterior-end concrete-block chimney rises above the asphalt-shingle roof.

One mid-20th century dwellings stands at 2517 Sycamore Avenue. It is clad with a brick stretcher-bond veneer, stands one-and-a-half stories in height, and measures three bays wide. The façade features a single-leaf center entry and a hipped-roof dormer. It is capped with a hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingles and features slightly overhanging eaves. Other features include horizontal 2/2 windows, an exterior-end corbeled brick chimney, rowlock sills, and awning basement windows.

Constructed in the 1940s, the apartment building at 2722 Lodge Farm Road is distinctive with its flat roof with stepped parapets on the front and side elevations. It is two stories in height and measures three bays across with a center entry. It is clad with stucco and features an exterior-end concrete-block chimney.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

<b>Specific dates</b>	1900-1941 ca.	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	1900-1980 ca.		

Evaluation for:

National Register                       Maryland Register                       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Edgemere African American Survey District is located in the Fifteenth District of Baltimore County. The Village of Edgemere was not developed by 1877 according to the Hopkins Atlas. The map denotes the Patapsco River Neck as sparsely populated. Sparrows Point Road is laid out as a dirt road extending from North Point Road to farms close to the water's edges. Residences in the area include Mrs. E. Lynch and J. Maurice Watkins on the north side of North Point Road. Along the south side of North Point road are Joseph Rogers, A.J. Rogers, Jonathan Chapman, and a schoolhouse. In 1877, Sparrows Point Road began as a dirt road leading from North Point Road to picnic grounds along Old Road Bay. On the north side of Sparrows Point Road is the residence of Caroline Snyder.(1)

By 1915, Edgemere has developed into a small crossroads community lacking a formal name according to the Bromley Atlas. On the north side of North Point Road are two W.R. Lynch farms one with 111 acres. After the dip southward of North Point Road A.J. Rogers with fifty-seven acres and Annie E. Stansbury maintain residences on the north side. The south side of North Point Road denotes Joseph Rodgers with 115 acres, L.A. Buschky, Turner & Schunck, J.Hisley, and a schoolhouse. Sparrows Point Road is now macadamized and the 1915 atlas shows Caroline Snyders farm called Mershon. By 1915, a small community called Fitzel developed along Sparrows Point Road. This small hamlet no longer exists due to the expansion of the Bethlehem Steel Company. The namesake of the hamlet Fitzell was E.W. Fitzell whom owned a farm on Humphreys Creek called Edgemere. In 1915, the Maryland Steel Company village was located on Sparrows Point Road southwest of Edgemere. It had an African American schoolhouse on 6th Street between J and K Streets and an African American Baptist Church at the northeast corner of 9th Street and J Street.(2)

Sycamore Avenue is the center of the African American community in Edgemere. According to the 1920 U.S. Census of Baltimore County twenty-four households were listed on Sycamore Avenue, all African American families and Lodge Farm Road had sixteen African American families. By 1930, Sycamore Avenue increased to thirty-four households, one of them being white. A few of the names listed on both the 1920 and 1930 census on Sycamore Avenue include James Jones, Charles Stearn, William Green, Isaac Coleman, and Nathaniel Williams. Approximately half of the properties in the community were owned in both the 1920 and 1930 census reports. The majority of the African American residents originated from Maryland with several coming from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, Texas, and Georgia. A few of the white residents in the community were European immigrants. Occupations were predominantly labor intensive serving as workers on farms, contractors, mills, brickyard, iron foundry and furnaces, ship yard, and plate mill. The census details that very few of the women residents worked in addition to the men of the households.(3)

In 1990, the number of African American residents in Edgemere reached a total of 386.(4) At the turn of the 21st century the Edgemere African American Survey District is no longer an entirely African American neighborhood. A sampling of the residents taken from real property assessments details that approximately forty percent of the homes are rental properties.

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### ENDNOTES

1. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).
2. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).
3. U.S. Census Bureau, 1920 and 1930 U.S. Census, (National Archives).
4. Baltimore County Census, 1990, (Baltimore County Planning Office).

### OWNERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2002

2500 Sycamore Avenue Charles U. Boyd -- tax id # 1502572090  
Map 111 Parcel 99 Baltimore County Courthouse  
Liber 16336 Folio 710

2500 H. Sycamore Avenue Carolyn Boyd -- tax id # 1512201860  
Map 111 Parcel 99 Baltimore County Courthouse  
Liber 10924 Folio 107

2502 Sycamore Avenue Shirley M. and Franklin LaFon Porter -- tax id # 1516601480  
Map 111 Parcel 99 5114 Stone Shop Circle  
Owings Mills, MD 21117-6172  
Baltimore County Courthouse  
Liber 11274 Folio 52

2502 H. Sycamore Avenue Shirley M. and Franklin LaFon -- tax id # 1516602050  
Map 111 Parcel 99 5114 Stone Shop Circle  
Owings Mills, MD 21117-6172  
Baltimore County Courthouse  
Liber 11274 Folio 47

2504 Sycamore Avenue Reuben Tucker -- tax id # 1600007434  
Map 111 Parcel 99 2006 Kennedy Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21218-6331  
Baltimore County Courthouse  
Liber 5287 Folio 638

2508 Sycamore Avenue Eugeny Golubev and Nikolay Glinchuk -- tax id # 1600007435  
Map 111 Parcel 99 2110 Eastern Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21231-3109  
Baltimore County Courthouse  
Liber 16180 Folio 255

2510 Sycamore Avenue Talena Tucker -- tax id # 1523154931

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Map 111 Parcel 100	5500 Gerland Avenue Baltimore, MD 21206-4332 Baltimore County Courthouse Liber 11694 Folio 1
2512 Sycamore Avenue Map 111 Parcel 100	Margaret Beard -- tax id # 1518473340 9811 Clanford Road Randallstown, MD 21133-2527 Baltimore County Courthouse Liber 6037 Folio 308
2514 Sycamore Avenue Map 111 Parcel 101	Mary E. and John H. Jones -- tax id # 1516600450 Baltimore County Courthouse Liber 10771 Folio 712
2520 Sycamore Avenue Map 111 Parcel 101	Viacheslav Pankratov -- tax id # 1523154934 Baltimore County Courthouse Liber 15415 Folio 586
2522 Sycamore Avenue Map 111 Parcel 101	John H. and Mary T. Brown -- tax id # 1523001720 Baltimore County Courthouse Liber 8475 Folio 563
2524 Sycamore Avenue Map 111 Parcel 101	Casper S. and Mary A. Clary --tax id # 1523154935 Baltimore County Courthouse Liber 6165 Folio 155

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 45.50 acres

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Sparrows Point, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Edgemere is located on the Patapsco River Neck and is on the south side of Back River in the Fifteenth District of Baltimore County. The African American Survey District is located east of Sparrows Point Road and west of Lodge Farm Road between Oak Avenue to the south and Dennis Lane to the north. The properties have been associated with tax map 111 since their construction.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historian

organization E.H.T. Tracerics

date 12/5/2002

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, NW

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

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Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Census, 1990. Baltimore County Planning Office, 1990.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Census of 1920, Baltimore County, Maryland. National Archives.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Census of 1930, Baltimore County, Maryland. National Archives.

























EAGLEWOOD







BA-3061  
EDGEMERE AFRICAN AMERICAN  
SURVEY DISTRICT  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

