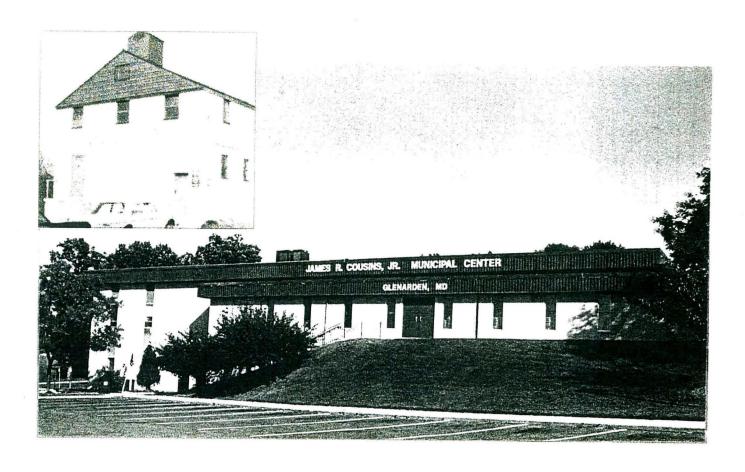
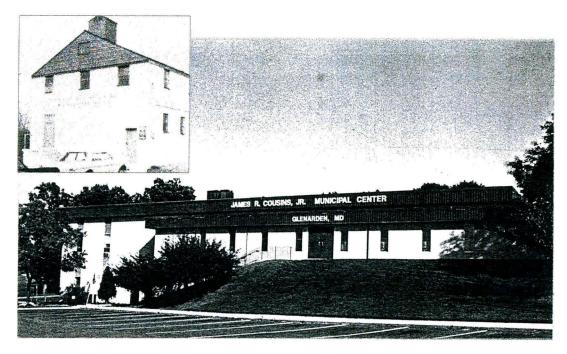
GLENARDEN

The Past in Perspective



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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK & PLANNING COMMISSION

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Abstract

TITLE:

Glenarden: The Past in Perspective

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Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning

Commission

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responsible for this report

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ABSTRACT:

This report summarizes the history and development of the Town of Glenarden, and forms a companion piece to the marketing brochure requested by the municipality. It was produced by the Historic Preservation Section of the Planning Department through the Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities Program, which produced the marketing brochure.

The report consists of a brief history of the Glenarden community, beginning with construction of the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis electric railroad in 1908, and the subdivisions which followed in 1911 and 1913. It explains the beginnings of Glenarden in the context of other African-American communities developing during the same period, and gives a demographic profile of the new community in 1920. The report is supplemented by plats dating from 1911 to 1940, as well as a transcription of the Federal Population Census for Glenarden in 1920.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

William H. Hussmann, Chairman Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Vice Chairman

Officers

Trudye Morgan Johnson, Executive Director A. Edward Navarre, Secretary-Treasurer Ronald D. Schiff, General Counsel

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is a bi-county agency, created by the General Assembly of Maryland in 1927. The Commission's geographic authority extends to the great majority of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties: the Maryland-Washington Regional District (M-NCPPC planning jurisdiction) comprises 1,001 square miles, while the Metropolitan District (parks) comprises 919 square miles, in the two counties.

The Commission has three major functions:

- the preparation, adoption, and from time to time amendment or extension of the General Plan for the physical development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District;
- · the acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of a public park system; and
- in Prince George's County only, the operation of the entire County public recreation program.

The Commission operates in each county through a Planning Board, appointed by and responsible to the county government. All local plans, recommendations on zoning amendments, administration of subdivision regulations, and general administration of parks are responsibilities of the Planning Boards.

The Prince George's County Department of Planning (M-NCPPC):

- Performs technical analyses and offers advice and recommendations regarding most matters related to existing and future...
 - ...use of land including the enhancement of the physical environment, and
 - ...provision of public facilities and services.
- Works on a set of specific projects and tasks annually set forth in a work program and budget adopted by the Prince George's County Council and performs such other tasks in response to emerging issues as resources permit.
- Works under the direction of the Prince George's County Planning Board.
- Is an organization of people that is here to serve people...our elected and appointed officials, our fellow public staffs, and our citizens...individually and/or collectively. The staff will maintain a partnership with people. It will assist and advise you, and will expect your assistance and advice.
- Maintains competent and professionally able staff to perform our duties and responsibilities.

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Appendix

Table 1 Federal Population Census for Glenarden, 1920; Prince George's County, Maryland, Enumeration District #13

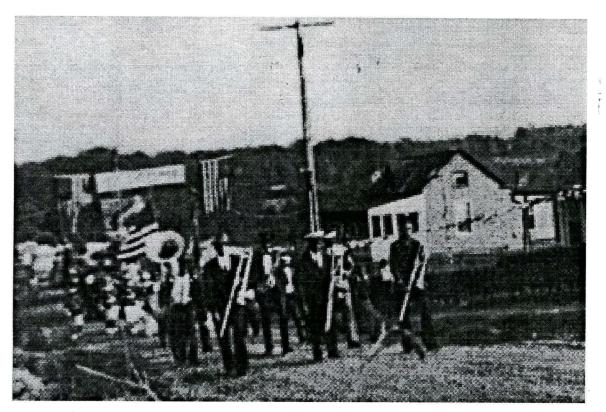


Figure 1. Early days in Glenarden: marching band in parade

History Of Glenarden

t the end of the nineteenth century, the land which today comprises the City of Glenarden was owned by members of the Bowie, Hall and Hilleary families. This land consisted of small farms, carved out of the larger plantations of the pre-Civil War period. By the beginning of the twentieth century, some of this area was beginning to be developed into residential subdivisions, a trend which had begun with the opening of the Washington line of the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1872. In the later 1870s and 1880s, several small communities had sprung up along its line, e.g., Glenn Dale, Seabrook and Lanham. In 1908, when the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis (WB&A) Electric Railroad opened,

the situation was ripe for the development of additional residential subdivisions along its line.

The WB&A was a high-speed electric inter-urban line, composed of three sections. The main section (Washington-Baltimore) ran diagonally northeast from the District of Columbia, 12 miles through Prince George's County toward Baltimore. This main line opened in February 1908, and it sparked the development of a number of new communities. Lincoln, for example, was platted in 1908 on the line of the new railroad just east of Lanham. It was promoted by Thomas J. Calloway, a prominent black Washington businessman, as a garden suburb for blacks, and many dwellings, particularly vacation homes, were built there by black professionals from Washington and Baltimore. Fairmount Heights, another black community, was located near the south end of the WB&A line as it crossed the boundary into the District of Columbia; by 1910 Fairmount Heights was well established. Its first subdivisions had been promoted by W. Sidney Pittman, Washington architect and son-in-law of Booker T. Washington. It was in this context that the plans for another black community, Glenarden, came about.2

The principal developer of Glenarden was William R. Smith of the District of Columbia. In February 1910, Smith purchased 78 acres of land near and east of the line of the WB&A railroad.³ In October of the same year, Smith purchased 76.3 acres of adjoining land (actually abutting the railroad line) from the estate of Ann H. Bowie. This land, known as Park Hall, had

Pearl, Susan G., "Railroads in Prince George's County, 1835-1935" in Historic Contexts in Prince George's County, M-NCPPC, 1991.

Pearl, Susan G., Fairmount Heights, A History: From its Beginnings (1900) to Incorporation (1935), M-NCPPC, 1991. Lincoln and Fairmount Heights survey areas in files of Historic Preservation Section, Planning Department, M-NCPPC, Upper Marlboro. See also chapters on Lincoln and Fairmount Heights in Floyd, Bianca P., Records and Recollections: Early Black History in Prince George's County, Maryland, M-NCPPC, 1989.

³ Prince George's County Deed #59:298 (1910).

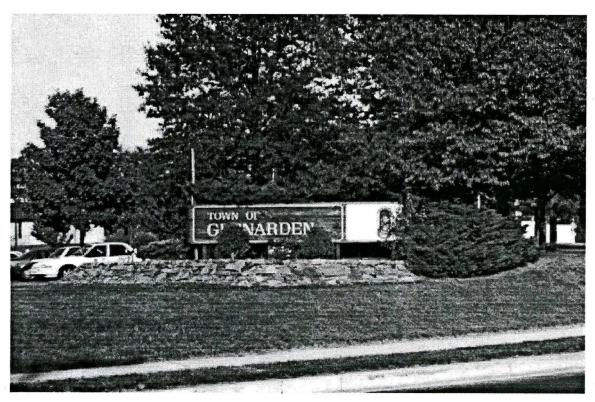


Figure 2. Entrance to Glenarden

been farmed by the Bowie family as investment property. Smith had the 78-acre parcel platted in 1911 as **Glenarden Heights** (see Figure 3). The 76.3-acre parcel of Park Hall was platted in 1913 as **Glenarden** (see Figures 4 and 5). The names were probably derived from the adjoining crossroads communities of Ardwick and Ardmore, which were based on early tract names. The Glenarden subdivision featured a circle with garden center and radiating lots at the location of the station on the WB&A line. The land on the north side of the railroad line across from Glenarden was platted in 1921 as **Ardwick Park**, and included a sizeable reservation for church property. The Ardwick Park subdivision was not recorded; it was later (in the 1950s) resubdivided as **Glenarden Woods**.

⁴ Prince George's County Deed #60:398 (1910); see also #44:14 (1907).

⁵ Prince George's County Plats #2:4, #2:20,21.

⁶ Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland, Vol. I, Franklin Survey Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1940. See also Prince George's County Plat Book #30: 42, 43, 68, 85-89, from 1950s.

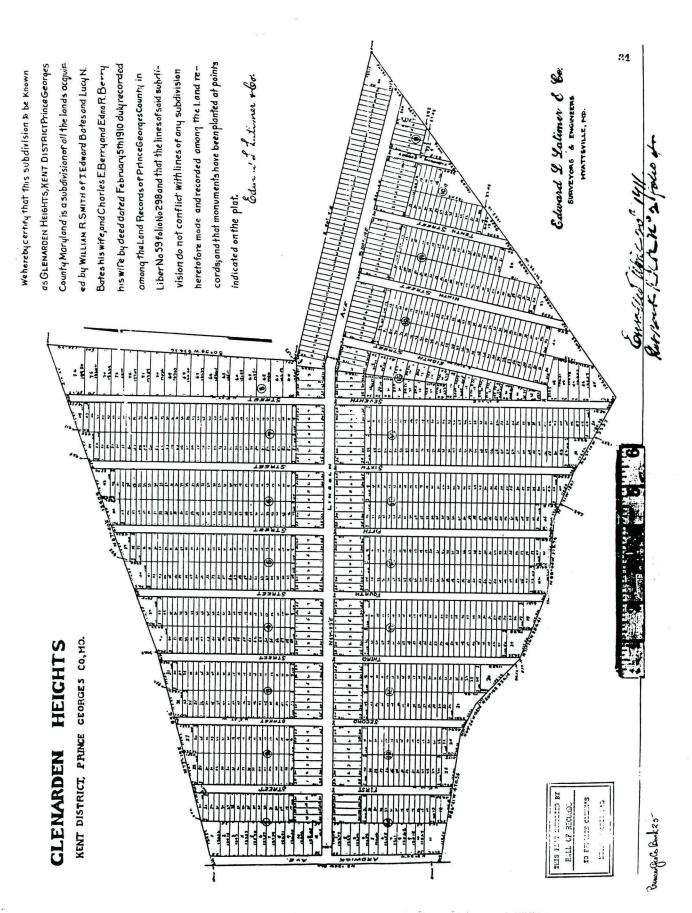


Figure 3. Plat of Glenarden Heights, 1911

Figure 4. Plat of Glenarden, 1913 (first sheet)

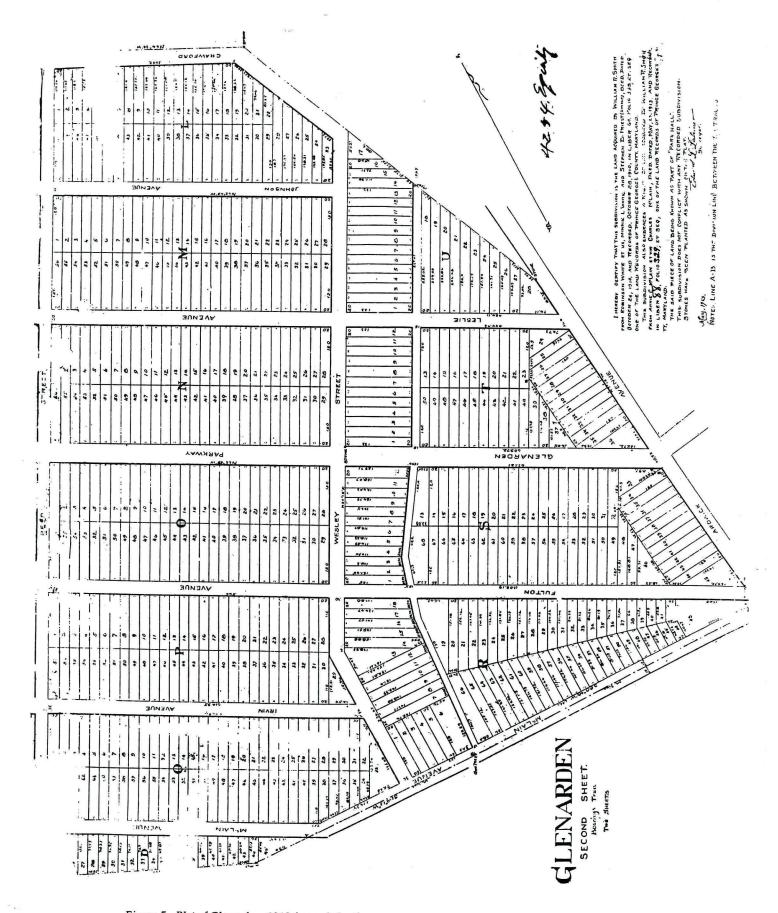


Figure 5. Plat of Glenarden, 1913 (second sheet)

The first residents of the new Glenarden community built modest houses typical of the emerging suburbs of the period: small cottages and bungalows, as well as narrow two-story front-gabled dwellings well-suited to the narrow lots. By 1920 there were 25 households in Glenarden, and a profile of the residents reflects a variety of professions and employment: the largest group (nine individuals) worked for the railroad (both the Pennsylvania and the WB&A), while five individuals worked in government offices, e.g., the Bureau of Engraving, the Government Printing Office and the Department of the Treasury; eight more men worked as laborers, six women worked in domestic jobs, two families farmed their land, and one woman was a public school teacher (see Appendix).

By the end of the 1930s approximately 60 families lived in the growing community, in 51 dwellings: 25 houses in Glenarden, 20 in Glenarden Heights, and 6 in Ardwick Park (see Figure 6 and detailed fold-out). A two-room schoolhouse (Schoolhouse #2 in District 20) was built in 1922 as part of the County's public school system. It was built on a two-acre parcel of land in the Ardwick Park section north of the WB&A line. In the same year St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church was built on a five-acre lot of land in the same area. The first mass was held in the church on Christmas Day 1922, and services continued to be held there until 1967 when the new St. Joseph's Church was built outside Glenarden's boundaries, approximately one mile to the southeast in Landover. The Glenarden Civic Association was established under the leadership of W. H. Swann. A major change in the community occurred in the late 1930s when the WB&A Electric Railroad closed down, forced out by increased use of the automobile. Its right-of-way

⁷ Windshield survey of Glenarden, January, February and March, 1994. Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland, Vol. I, Franklin Survey Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1940. Federal Population Census for Prince George's County, Maryland, Enumeration District #13, 1920.

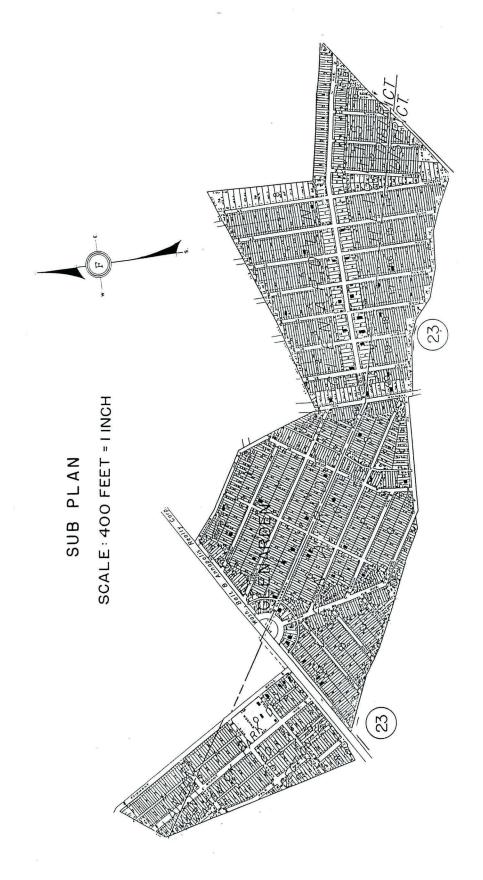


Figure 6. Map of Glenarden, Glenarden Heights, and part of Ardwick Park (later Glenarden Woods), as shown in Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland, Vol. I, published in 1940 by the Franklin Survey Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

was converted into the George Palmer Highway, now Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway.⁸

By the middle of the third decade of this century, the two other principal African-American communities in Prince George's County had achieved incorporation: North Brentwood in 1924 and Fairmount Heights in 1935. The Glenarden Civic Association, in pursuit of improved services for the community, began its own movement toward self-government as well. The campaign was successful; in 1939 the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill #851, "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Glenarden," and the third African-American municipality in the County was established. The first election was held on the first Monday in May, and W. H. Swann was elected Mayor. Improvements accomplished during his term (1939-41) included a five-man police force, home heating, gas, electricity and road surfacing. The population of Glenarden began to increase.

Further improvements followed in the 1940s: a grass-roots "Town Hall Club" raised money to build the first Town Hall (see Figure 7), water and sewerage services were instituted by the WSSC, and a local post office was established. By 1950, the two-room schoolhouse (built in 1922) was in deteriorating condition; it was closed in 1950 and Glenarden children were sent for several years to schools in Highland Park and Fairmount Heights. The area (Ardwick Park) in which the old school was located was resubdivided as Glenarden Woods, and annexed in 1956 as part of the Town. In the following year, Glenarden Woods Elementary School was opened near the site of the first school. Other small parcels to the east were annexed in

⁸ Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland, Vol. I., Franklin Survey Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1940. Closed School Files, Prince George's County Public Schools, Plant Maintenance Department, Upper Marlboro, Md. Prince George's County Deeds #175:400,415; #189:127. Conversation with Father M. King and Alice Cooper, St. Joseph's Church, Landover, Md. See also "The Town of Glenarden's 50th Anniversary Celebration" Booklet, 1989.

^{9 &}quot;The Town of Glenarden's 50th Anniversary Celebration" Booklet, 1989. Laws of Maryland 1939, Chapter 650.



Figure 7. Old Municipal Hall

the 1960s, and the main section of the present municipal building (see Figure 8), designed by Glenarden architect Anthony N. Johns, Jr., was built in $1965.^{10}$

By the late 1960s, the modest building stock of the pre-incorporation period was in deteriorating condition, and the principal developments of the 1970s revolved around a major urban renewal project. In 1974 Glenarden qualified to receive a large amount of HUD's Community Development Block Grant money for the purposes of urban renewal, dwelling rehabilitation, recreation/open space and community facilities, and economic development. A local Citizens Advisory Committee was formed to recommend projects and establish priorities. The municipal building was

[&]quot;The Town of Glenarden's 50th Anniversary Celebration" Booklet, 1989.
Conversation with Glenarden Town Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., February 1994; conversations with Mayor Sterling Gilmore, and Council members Iris McConnell and Elaine Carter, August/September 1994.

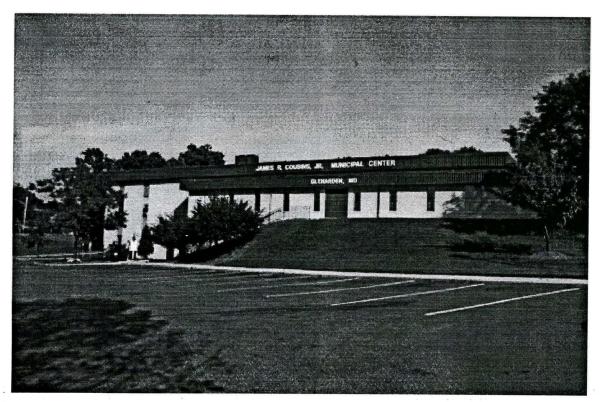


Figure 8. New Municipal Center

expanded in 1978, using both Federal grants for Senior Citizens and Youth Services, etc., and local funding for administrative offices, police and public works. Also in 1978, through the urban renewal program and County construction bonds, a local branch of the County Library system was constructed, designed by architect Johns. An Open Space grant was used to develop the old site of St. Joseph's Catholic Church into a recreational park. Much of the substandard housing was removed during the 1970s, and replaced by units of public housing and housing for the elderly, as well as modern single-family homes. During the 1980s and early 1990s new residential and commercial development continues. ¹¹

In 1994, by Town Council Resolution R-08-94, Glenarden was officially changed from its Town status to that of "City of Glenarden." This change

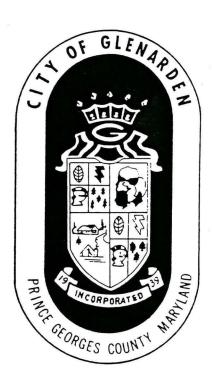
[&]quot;The Town of Glenarden's 50th Anniversary Celebration" Booklet, 1989. Files of Glenarden Branch, Prince George's County Library. Congressional Record, statement of U. S. Representative Steny Hoyer, 10 May 1984.

went into effect July 1, 1994. The Mayor is the chief executive officer of the City government, and may be elected to no more than three consecutive terms of two years. All legislative power is vested in a seven-member Council that is representative of the City's ward system. The City Manager is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council, and is the City's chief administrative officer.

Glenarden has grown substantially in the 55 years since its incorporation: from approximately 60 families, the population has increased to 5,025 persons in 1990. From the 154 acres of Glenarden and Glenarden Heights which were incorporated in 1939, the Town has grown to 725 acres in 1994. In 1988, the Town annexed a 245-acre site to the southeast, to be developed in the 1990s for residential and mixed use. In 1992, two more small properties in the easterly section were also annexed. The Town's location on a major road (MD 704, now Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway) conveniently close to the Metrorail, makes it desirable for both residential and commercial use. An article in the October 1989 *Regardie's* magazine on the occasion of Glenarden's 50th anniversary describes the Town as "the heart and hub of the black community of Prince George's County" and a "self-sustaining town with its own identity."

MAYORS OF GLENARDEN

-1970
-1975
5-1979
-1981
-1983
-1985
-1990
-1994
-1995
-
3



The Town Seal was designed in 1975 by Councilman Marvin F. Wilson in honor of former Mayor James R. Cousins, Jr. The symbols represent the following values: Man, Woman and Child - family unity; Home and Church - community and religious heritage; Single Leaf - peace and harmony; Lightning bolt - strength and leadership; Head of Armor - security; and Field of Trees - the beginning (originality).

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FEDERAL POPULATION CENSUS FOR GLENARDEN, 1920; PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND - ENUMERATION DISTRICT #13

CLENARDEN CENSUS, 1920, Enumerated by D. A. Peoples, 7 May 1920

[Information included: 1) Name; 2) Family relationship; 3) Home Owned or Rented/Free or Mortgaged; 4) Sex; 5) Color/Race: Black, White, MUlatto; 6) Age; 7) Marital status; 8) Attends school; 9) Can read; 10) Can write; 11) Place of birth; 12) Place of father's birth; 13) Place of mother's birth; 14) Speaks English; 15) Occupation; 16) Place of work; 17) Employer/Waged/Own Account]

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, E. D. #13, Kent District, Sheet #10 A, beginning with Dwelling #87, Family #89

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Ralph	Son		M	MU	4 2/12	s										
Thelma	Daughter		न	MU	2 7/12	s										
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Johnson, Edward	Father- in-law		М	ии	82	WD		z	z	VA	VA	VA	Y	NONE		
Coleman, Hattie	Head	æ	ĹĿ	MU	42	WD	i.	¥	Y	MD	MD	MD	>	FLAGWOMAN	STEAM RR CROSS	W
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·Clarence J	Son		M	MU	11	s	Y	Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
John F Jr.	Son	ü	M	MU	9	s	Y		_	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
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Beatrice	Daughter		ᅜ	MU	14	S	Y	Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
Charles E	Son		M	MU	11	s	Y	Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
Hattie M	Daughter		ī	MU	6	s	Y		,	MD	MD	MD		NONE		
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M		71	M		Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	FARMER	CENERAL	
F		71	M	1	7	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
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Henson, James A	Head	0	Z	В	33	M		z	z	MD	MD	MD	Y	LABORER	STEAM RR	W
Katie	Wife		[E ₁	В	35	M		Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
Cladys E	Daughter		ᄕᅩ	В	11	S	Y	Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	~	NONE		
Lawrence A	Son		N	В	8	S	Y	t		MD	MD	MD		NONE		
Alfonso	Son		M	В	9	S	Y	t	î	MD	MD	MD		NONE		
Catherine B	Daughter		Œ	В	2 6/12	s	,	1	ï	MD	MD	MD		NONE		
Warren, Robert	Head	0	M	В	4.5	M		Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	LABORER	BY DAY	W
Victoria M	Wife		ъ	В	51	M		Y	Y	VA	VA	VA	Y	NONE		
Maurice	Adopted Son		M	В	6	S	z			NN NS	NN US	NN US		NONE		
Henson, James	Head	R	M	В	53	M	1	Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	WATCHMAN	STEAM RR	W
Сатіе	Wife		Ţ.	В	39	Σ		Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
William D	Son		М	В	17	S	z	z	z	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
LeRoy	Son		M	В	10	S	Y	Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
Sarah B	Daughter		ī	В	6	S	~			MD	MD	MD		NONE		
Grace E	Daughter		Ţ.	В	9	S	z			MD	MD	MD		NONE		
Day, John W	Grand son		М	MU	3 4/12	s	ī	,	1	G W	QW.	MD		NONE		
Henson, Mary	Mother		ᄕᅩ	В	78	WD	1	z	z	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		

1	2	3	4	2	. 9	7	8	6	10	=	12	13	14	15	16	17
Washington, George	Head	0	M	MU	54	M	,	γ	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	UNEMPLOYED		
Mary	Wife		ഥ	В	47	M		Y	Y	PA	MD	MD	Y	LAUNDRESS	DAY WORK	W
													9			
Green, George F	Head	0	M	В	28	M		z	z	MD	MD	MD	Y	LABORER	ELECTRIC RR	W
Сатіе	Wife		ъ	В	30	M		Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
Harris, Charles	Head	0	M	В	27	M		>	Y	DC	MD	MD	Y	LABORER	GOVT PRINTING OFFICE	W
Annie	Wife		H	MU	25	M	1	Y	Y	DC	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
Carl	Son		M	MU	1 11/12	S				DC	MD	MD		NONE		
Paul	Son		M	MU	3/12	S				DC	MD	MD		NONE		
Brown, William O	Head	0	F(sic)	MU	52	, W		z	z	MD	MD	MD	Y	LABORER	STEAM RR	W
Ida	Wife		Ŧ.	MU	50	Z	,	z	z	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
Hepbume, Emma H	Daughter		Ŧ.	MU	24	M		Y		MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
Guy	Son		M	MU	27	Σ		z	1	MD	MD	MD		LABORER	FARM	
Matilda	Daughter		Ţ	MU	18	s	z	Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
Ignatius	Son		M	MU	21	S		Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
Wheeler, Arthur	Head	0	M	В	23	Æ	,	, ,	Y	MD	MD	MD	Υ	LABORER	PAPER FACTORY	W
Mary	Wife		म	В	22	M		Y	Y	MD	MD	MD	Y	NONE		
Arthur	Son		M	В	3	S				MD	MD	MD		NONE		
Магу	Daughter		ъ	æ	_	s	\neg			Û.	(IW	MD		NONE		

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Sub Plan Scale: 400 Feet = 1 inch

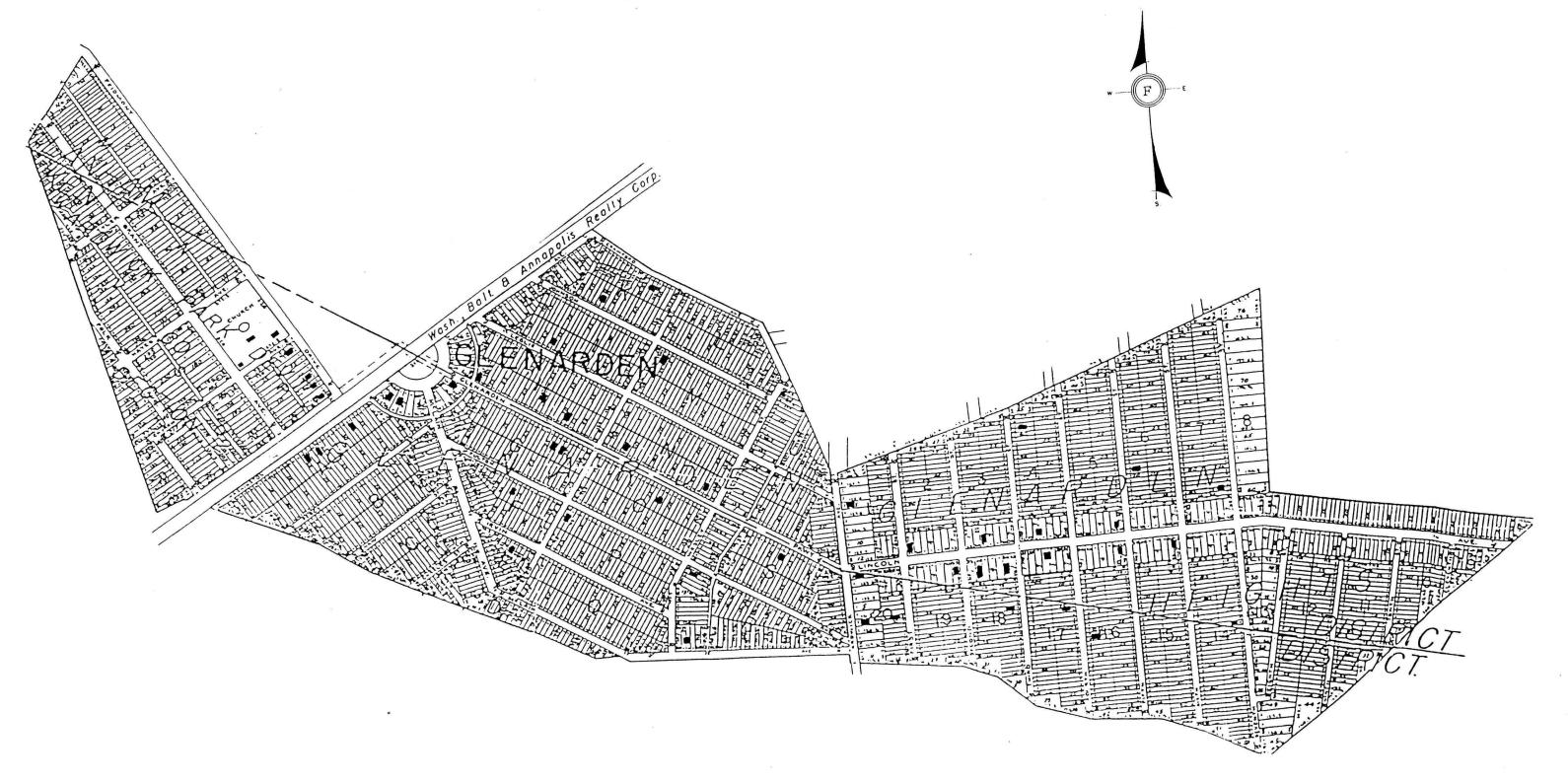


Figure 6. Map of Glenarden, Glenarden Heights, and part of Ardwick Park (later Glenarden Woods), as shown in Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland, Vol. I, published in 1940 by the Franklin Survey Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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