

## Lakeland (66-000)

Lakeland was developed as a late-nineteenth-century resort community in northwest Prince George's County. The small neighborhood is located directly east of the University of Maryland, College Park campus, north of Old Town College Park, and south of Berwyn. Lakeland is bounded by Baltimore Avenue (Route 1) on the west and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad on the east.

Edwin A. Newman, a Washington D.C.-based real estate developer, platted the community of Lakeland in 1890.<sup>1</sup> Newman designed the community as an exclusive resort area conveniently located near Lake Artemesia and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.<sup>2</sup> Newman called the community Lakeland, "on accounts of the beautiful lake which is to form a delightful feature of its landscape. This lake will cover an area of seven acres, will be fifteen feet deep, and is to be named Lake Artemesia in honor of Mrs. [Clara Artemesia] Newman."<sup>3</sup> The lake was originally dug as a gravel extraction pit in the 1860s by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. Water for the lake was supplied by more than a hundred springs and a pipe which brought water from the Paint Branch Creek to Lake Artemesia. Newman created a park around the lake and stocked the lake with 10,000 black bass and provided residents with "pleasure boats." By April 1891, over 72 people purchased property in Lakeland and had made over \$135,000 in improvements.<sup>4</sup> Newman quickly improved the area by installing gas lights, curbs, gutters, wooden sidewalks, and dirt streets.<sup>5</sup> In 1899, *The Washington Post* reported there was "still considerable unimproved property at Lakeland, but also some comfortable houses."<sup>6</sup>

At the turn of the twentieth century, African-Americans began to move into the Lakeland community, although typically along the outer edges of the neighborhood, near the Indian Creek and Paint Branch Creek. Many new residents were seeking employment at the nearby University of Maryland.<sup>7</sup> In 1901, John Calvary Johnson became the first black resident to purchase land in the central part of the Lakeland community.<sup>8</sup> In 1903, the Embry A.M.E. Church was established in Lakeland to serve the growing African-American community.<sup>9</sup> The following year, a one-room schoolhouse for African-American children was constructed in Lakeland.<sup>10</sup> The school was quickly filled to capacity, and in 1913, Edwin Newman donated a lot for the construction of a larger school. After years of delay, a new elementary school was constructed in 1926. The school was funded by the Prince George's County Board of Education and the Julius Rosenwald Fund. In 1926, Lakeland was chosen as the site of an African-American high school that would serve the residents of Lakeland, North Brentwood, Hyattsville, Beltsville, Muirkirk, and Laurel. Lakeland High School opened in 1928 with an initial enrollment of 45 students.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Prince George's County Land Records, Circuit Court, Plat Book BB 5:51.

<sup>2</sup> Susan Pearl, "Lakeland (Rosenwald) School (PG: 66-13)," Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form (1993), 8:1.

<sup>3</sup> "Outside of the City Limits," *The Washington Post*, 19 April 1891.

<sup>4</sup> "Outside of the City Limits," *The Washington Post*, 19 April 1891.

<sup>5</sup> George Denny, Jr., *Proud Past, Promising Future: Cities and Towns in Prince George's County, Maryland* (Brentwood, MD: George D. Denny, Jr., 1997), 118.

<sup>6</sup> "Town Lot in Lakeland," *The Washington Post*, 13 June 1899.

<sup>7</sup> Pearl, "Lakeland (Rosenwald) School," 8:1.

<sup>8</sup> Susan Gervasi, "Group Shares Lesson of Past," *The Journal*, 6 August 2002.

<sup>9</sup> Embry AME Church, "Our Church," <http://embryame.org/about.html>; "Conference at Lakeland," *The Washington Post*, 16 August 1905.

<sup>10</sup> Pearl, "Lakeland (Rosenwald) School," 8:1.

<sup>11</sup> Lakeland Anniversary Committee Members, "History of Lakeland," in "Lakeland Anniversary Celebration, 1890-2001 (College Park, MD: Lakeland Anniversary Committee, 2001), 4.

In the 1930s, an attempt was made to incorporate the neighborhoods surrounding College Park, however, Lakeland and other subdivisions (including Hollywood, Daniels Park, Oak Springs, and Sunnyside) voted against the proposal. In 1945, several neighborhoods banded together in an effort to improve public services. Despite Lakeland's overwhelming resistance to incorporation, Berwyn, Calvert Hills, Old Town College Park, Lakeland, Hollywood, Daniels Park, Oak Springs, and Sunnyside were incorporated as part of the City of College Park in 1945.<sup>12</sup>

Lakeland remained a small community in the 1950s and 1960s and saw little new development. Due to repeated flooding in community, in 1969, an urban renewal project began in Lakeland. The plan included building earthenwork dikes land along Indian Creek, Paint Branch Creek, and Lake Artemesia to prohibit future flooding and demolishing existing houses that were in the flood plain. The issue divided the small community. Many feared the redevelopment would result in the displacement of families who had lived in Lakeland for years. Over a 15-year period, the \$5.7 million dollar project resulted in the demolition of 87 houses and resulted in the construction of 40 units of low income housing, 86 townhouses, seven single-family houses, and two mid-rise apartment buildings, one for senior citizens, and the other for students and faculty at the University of Maryland.<sup>13</sup>

There are currently no designated Historic Sites or Historic Resources in Lakeland.

## Windshield Survey

A windshield survey of Lakeland was conducted in November 2007. The survey area includes approximately 99 primary resources. The flat land of the community is improved by buildings that date from circa 1900 to the present. The majority of buildings date from the 1940s through the 1970s. There are a number of popular architectural styles represented in Lakeland including Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Dutch Colonial Revival, and several illustrations from the Modern Movement. Common building forms include bungalows, ranch houses, and minimal traditional houses. Although few in number, the earliest houses in the neighborhood date from the first decade of the twentieth century and are typically two-story, front-gabled, wood-frame dwellings. The majority of these houses have a one-story, full-width, or wraparound porch. Because of the urban renewal in Lakeland from the 1960s to the 1980s, there are several mid-rise apartment buildings constructed along Navahoe Street. There is also a large townhouse development located on Lakeland Road. The community is predominantly residential; however buildings in Lakeland also have religious and educational uses. Non-historic commercial development is located on the west side of the community along Baltimore Avenue (Route 1). Public buildings in Lakeland include Paint Branch Elementary School, College Park Community Center, and the College Park Volunteer Fire Department. Land east of the railroad tracks has been purchased by M-NCPPC and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and is used as parkland. Paint Branch Park is located adjacent to Paint Branch Elementary School.

## Historic District Evaluation

Lakeland represents several Prince George's County Heritage Themes including African-American history, suburban growth, and residential architectural styles. Despite the community's historic significance as a Victorian-era resort community and as an early twentieth-century African-American neighborhood, the community is not recommended eligible for listing as either a local Prince George's

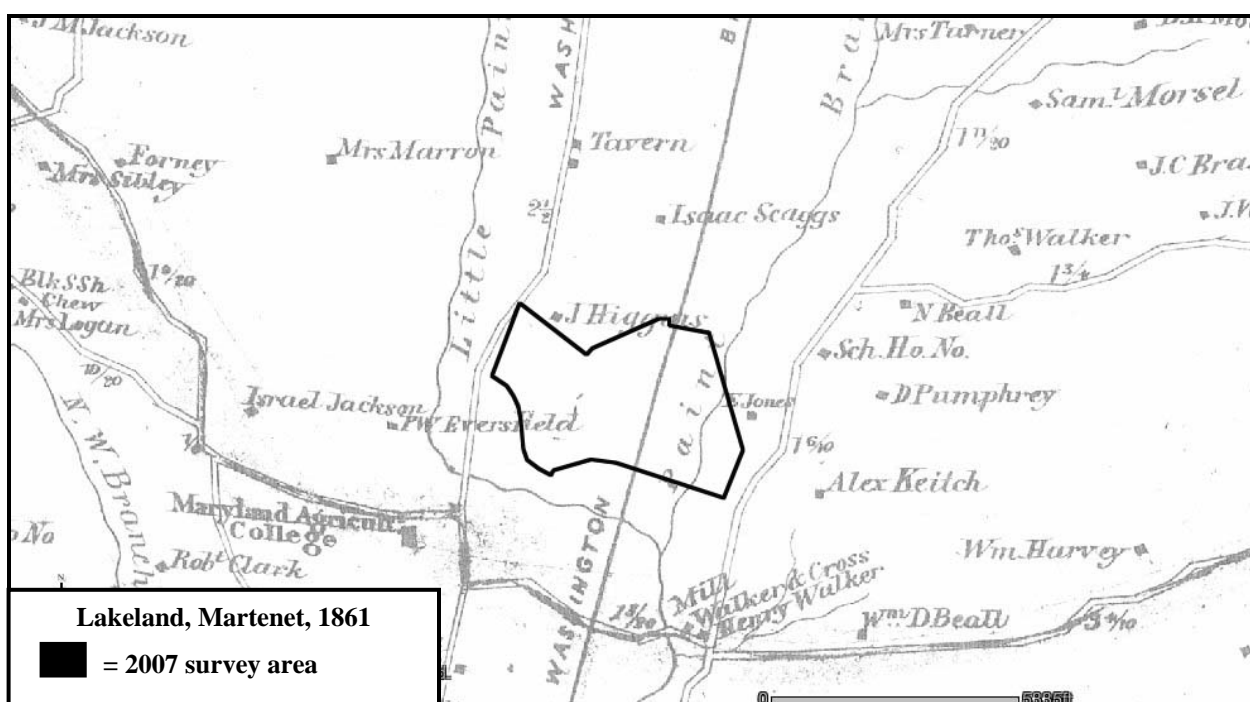
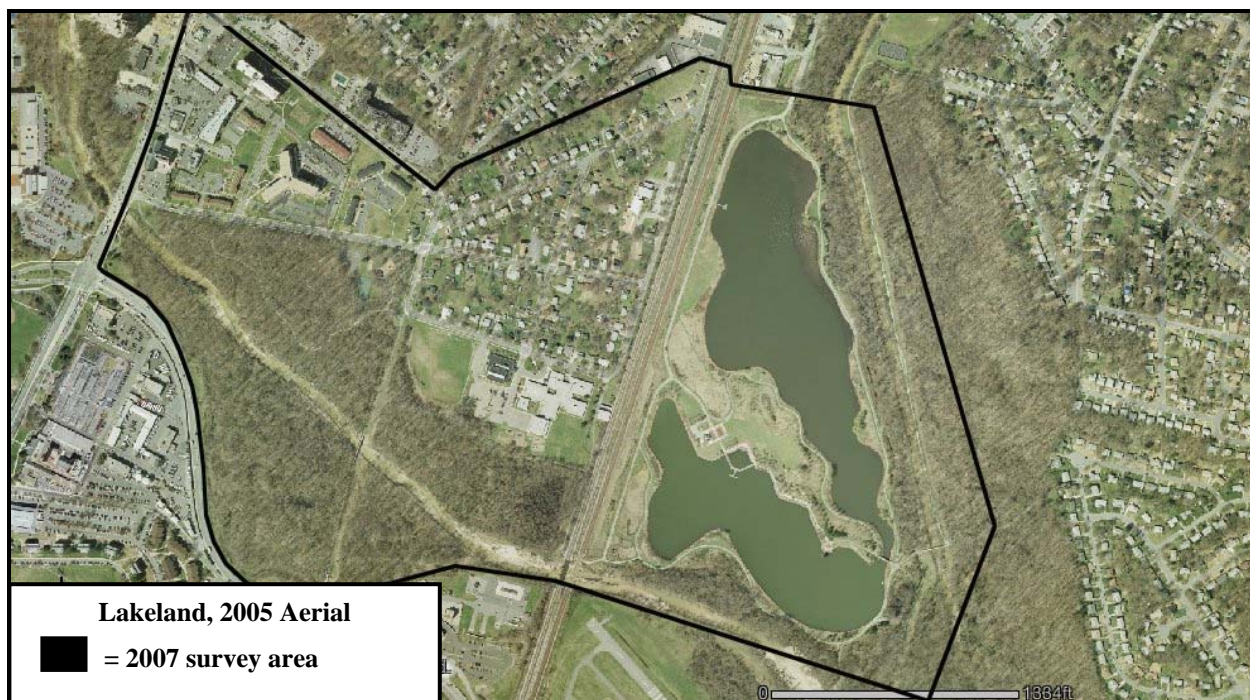
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<sup>12</sup> Denny, *Proud Past, Promising Future*, 120-121; Mark Hass, "Proud Community Faces Future," *Diamond Back*, 19 April 1978.

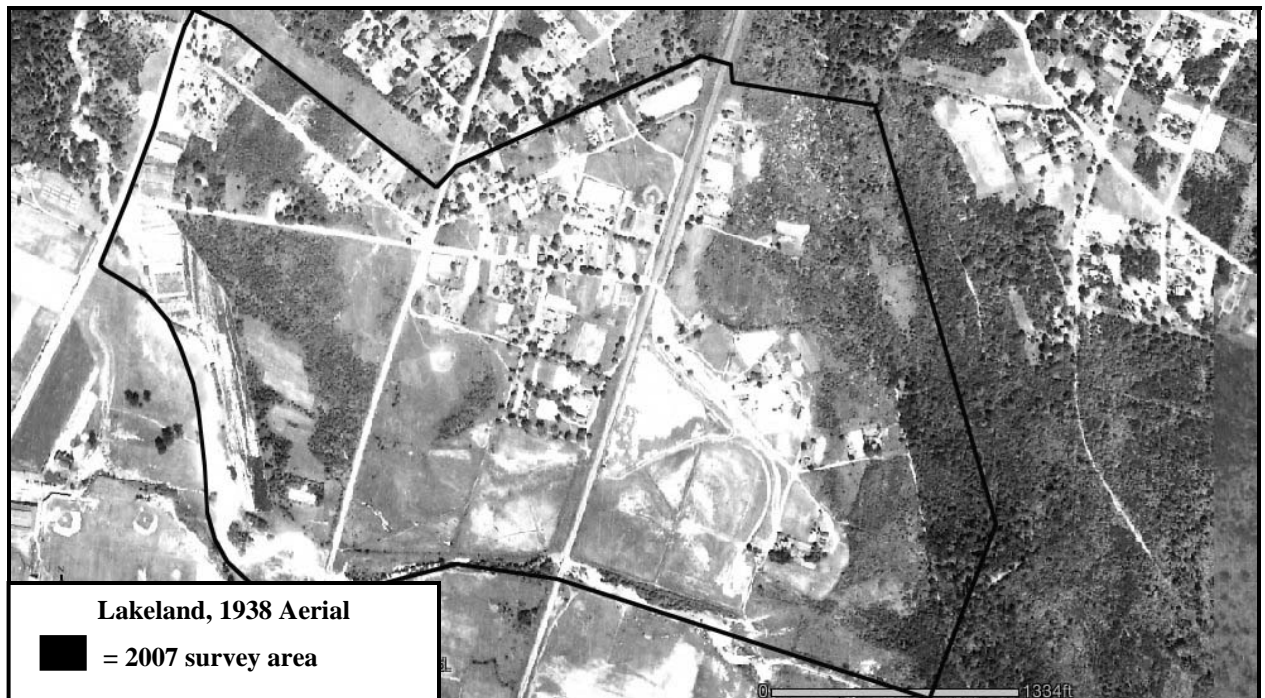
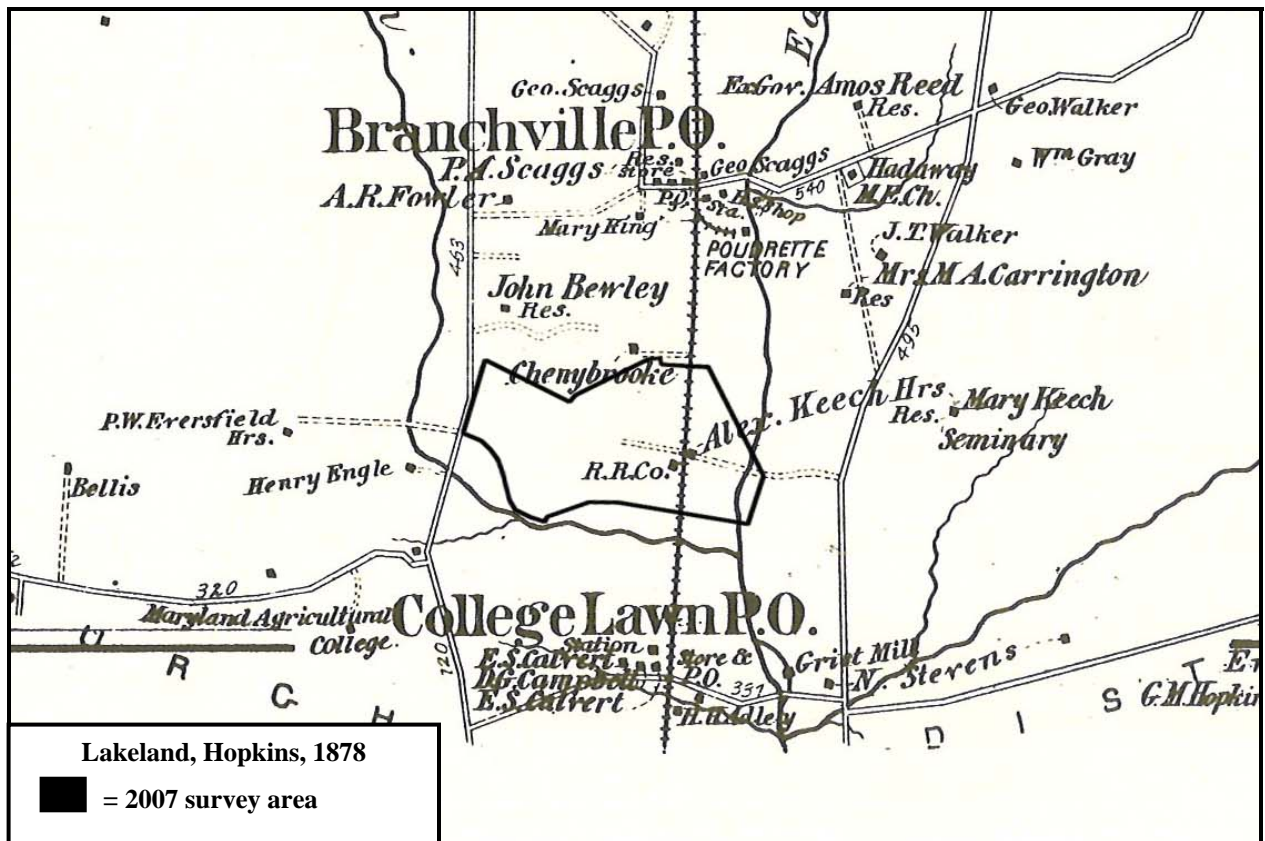
<sup>13</sup> Sharon Conway, "Lakeland Plan Upsets Residents," *The Washington Post*, 11 August 1977; Gayle Young, "College Park Completing Projects," *The Washington Post*, 29 December 1984.

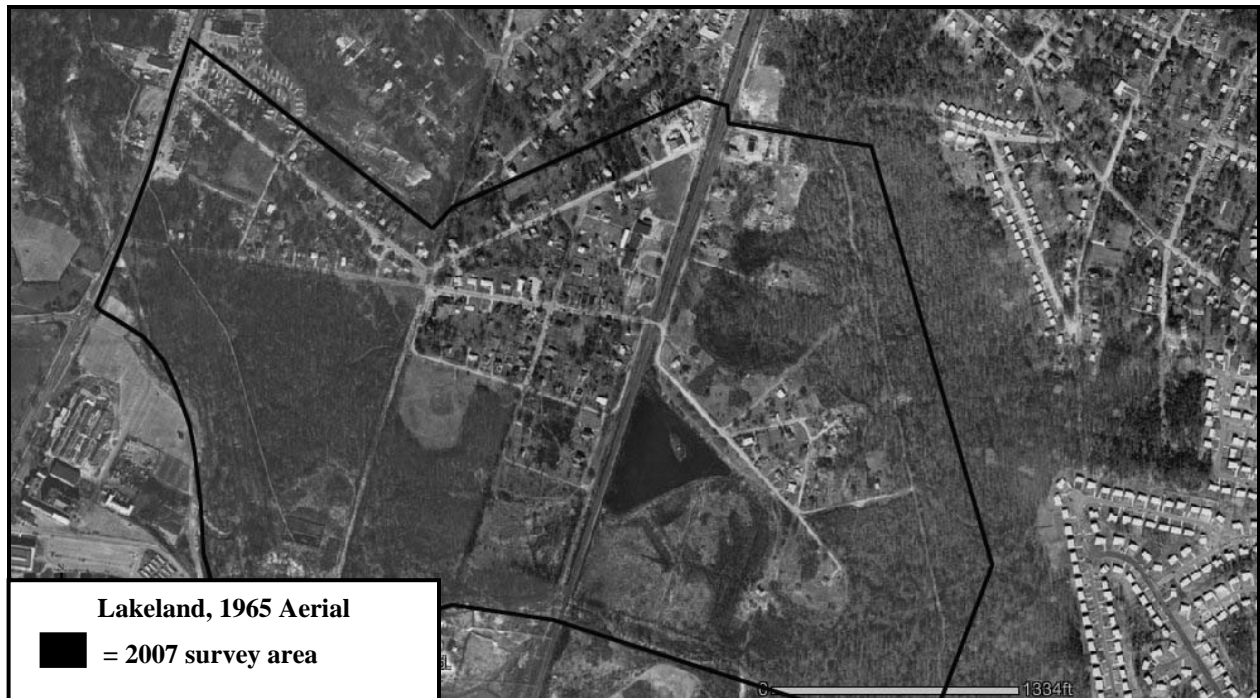
County historic district or as a National Register Historic District. Further, the community is not recommended as eligible under the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form for African-American Historic Resources in Prince George's County, Maryland. Although the community became an African-American neighborhood, Lakeland was not established as an African-American settlement. A review of the census shows that in 1910, Lakeland was predominately a white neighborhood with a few African-American families living in the community. By 1920, more African-American families moved into the neighborhood, but white families were still the majority of property owners. In 1930, only a few white families remained in Lakeland and lived primarily along the Washington-Baltimore Pike (now Baltimore Avenue/Route 1). The few extant buildings from the early twentieth century are not adequate to convey Lakeland's historic significance as either a resort community or an African-American community. Many of these buildings have been altered by additions and modern materials which has resulted in a loss of design, materials, and workmanship. The neighborhood is not cohesive and the large amount of non-historic infill dating from the second half of the twentieth century detracts from the historic character of the community. Furthermore, the urban renewal project from the 1960s through the 1980s resulted in the demolition of over 85 buildings and the construction of a large number of non-historic buildings, including several mid-rise apartment buildings and a townhouse development. Lakeland no longer retains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association.

Prepared by EHT Tracerics, Inc.  
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Looking northwest, 4742-4744 Lakeland Drive (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)





Looking northwest, 5018 Lakeland Road, First Baptist Church of College Park (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)





Looking northwest, 5101 Lakeland Road, Embry A.M.E. Church (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking northwest, 5110 Lakeland Road (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)





Looking northeast, 5111 Lakeland Road (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)





Looking west, 8108 54th Avenue, University Church (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking southwest, 5128-5126 Navahoe Street (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking northwest, 5112 Navahoe Street (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)





Looking southwest, 5021 Lakeland Road (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking west, 5101 Pierce Avenue (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)





Looking northeast, 5014 Navahoe Street (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)





Looking south, 8125 48th Avenue (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)



Looking northeast, 4800 Berwyn House Road (*EHT Traceries*, 2007)