

**WORTHMILLER HOUSE**

**8104 WOODHAVEN BOULEVARD**

**BETHESDA, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD 20817**

**LOCATIONAL ATLAS & INDEX OF HISTORIC SITES**

**DESIGNATION FORM**

**JANUARY 2020**

## Table of Contents

<b>NAME OF PROPERTY.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>LOCATION OF PROPERTY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ZONING OF PROPERTY.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TYPE OF PROPERTY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FUNCTION OR USE.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<i>Site Description.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>General Architectural Description.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Applicable Designation Criteria .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Statement of Significance.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Period of Significance.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Significant Dates .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Significant Persons.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Areas of Significance.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Architect/Builder .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Narrative.....</i>	<i>4</i>
Historic Context: Brief History of Bethesda.....	4
Historic Context: Ownership of 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard.....	4
<i>Areas Exempt from Designation.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Designation Criteria.....</i>	<i>9</i>
Evaluation of Integrity .....	9
Evaluation Criterion (1): Historical and Cultural Significance .....	10
Evaluation Criterion (2): Architectural and Design Significance.....	10
<i>Conclusion .....</i>	<i>11</i>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING/GEOGRAPHICAL DATA.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>PROPERTY OWNERS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>FORM PREPARED BY.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>MAJOR SOURCES CONSULTED.....</b>	<b>11</b>

<b>APPENDIX ONE: ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING/GEOGRAPHICAL DATA.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>APPENDIX TWO: DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>APPENDIX THREE: HISTORIC MAPS .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>APPENDIX FOUR: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF 8104 WOODHAVEN BLVD .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>APPENDIX FIVE: EXTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF 8104 WOODHAVEN BLVD.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>APPENDIX SIX: MODEL OF 8104 WOODHAVEN BOULEVARD .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>APPENDIX SEVEN: HISTORIC RESOURCES EVALUATION FROM BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE MASTER PLAN (1990).....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>APPENDIX EIGHT: CHAIN OF TITLE .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>APPENDIX NINE: MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES FORM.....</b>	<b>56</b>

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

Historic Name(s): Worthmiller House; Walnut Hill  
Current Name: 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard  
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties #: 35-211

**2. LOCATION OF PROPERTY**

Address Number and Street: 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard  
County, State, Zip: Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland, 20817

**3. ZONING OF PROPERTY**

R-90: The intent of the R-90 zone is to provide designated areas of the County for moderate density residential uses. The predominant use is residential in a detached house. A limited number of other building types may be allowed under the optional method of development.

**4. TYPE OF PROPERTY**

A. Ownership of Property

- Private
- Public
- Local
- State
- Federal

B. Category of Property

- Private
- Public
- Local
- State
- Federal

C. Number of Resources within the Property

Contributing		Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Structures	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structures
<input type="checkbox"/> Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	Archaeological Sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	Total

D. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places: The property has not been evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places.

## 5. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Function(s): DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Function(s): DOMESTIC/single dwelling

## 6. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

### Site Description:

The dwelling at 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard is located within the Woodhaven subdivision, approximately two miles to the west of downtown Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland (App. 1, Fig. 1). The building remains in its original location, but in a greatly reduced parcel due to the subdivision and post-war suburban development of the surrounding land. The home is sited on an irregular T-shaped .49-acre lot (21,515 square feet) at the top of a slight hill. The property is bound by single-family dwellings to the north and south; Woodhaven Boulevard to the east; and Wahly Drive to the west.

The property is currently accessed from Woodhaven Boulevard, just north of its intersection with Thoreau Drive. A paved drive of approximately 150 feet stretches from Woodhaven Boulevard to a ca. 1964 garage at the northeastern corner of the property. The home is separated from adjoining properties to the north and south by a lawn and is set back approximately 30 feet from the public right-of-way for Wahly Drive to the west. The yard contains a twentieth-century garage, shed, and an in-ground pool to the north of the present-day façade (north elevation).

### General Architectural Description (see Appendix Five for Exterior Photographs)

John and Ann Worthmiller constructed the original portion of the dwelling now addressed at 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard in the late 1850s. The building features several phases of construction dating from its initial construction to major additions in the 1930s and late-twentieth-century alterations (App. 5, Fig. 1). The building consists of the original four-bay, two story frame dwelling and several substantial additions built ca. 1937, including a: 1) two-story, brick-veneered addition to the east; 2) two-story, gable-ell addition to the north; and 3) a two-story, wood-frame, gable addition with a screened-in, first-story porch, later enclosed, to the west. A minor, one-story, single-bay addition was made to the south of the west addition, likely at the time that the screened porches were enclosed in the late-twentieth century (App. 6, Fig. 6). These additions have significantly altered and obscured the dwelling's original form and fenestration patterns. Original roofing, wall cladding, and foundation surfaces have been removed, replaced, or covered with twentieth-century materials.

Built ca. 1857, the original dwelling consisted of a four-bay, single-pile, side-gable, wood-frame dwelling with internal paired end chimneys, which have since been removed (App. 4, Fig. 1 and 3). This section presently rests on a continuous brick foundation that is partially parged with concrete. The foundation supports a wood-frame structural system that is clad with twentieth-century wood siding and capped with a slate-shingled roof. A non-historic, central brick chimney was added concurrent with the construction of the 1937 additions. Fenestration primarily consists of a mid-twentieth-century, single-leaf, wood door with pedimented entry porch; non-historic, double-hung, wood-sash windows; a non-historic, arched window; and two four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash windows. The original four-bay fenestration pattern is no longer apparent due to significant reconfiguration of window and door openings and the likely reorientation of the façade from the south to the north elevation.

Additions to the east, west, and north elevations lengthened and widened the building to its present shallow L-shaped form. Immediately adjoining the original block to the east is a ca. 1937 two-story, two-bay addition clad in brick veneer. The addition rests on a masonry foundation clad in a brick veneer. The footprint is wider than that of the original dwelling to the north and south. It is continuously roofed with the slate-shingled original block and features a large, gable-end brick chimney. Fenestration consists primarily of: 1) two double-leaf glass doors; 2) eight-over-eight, double-hung, wood-sash windows; 3) gable wall dormers with six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows; and 4) one-over-one, attic story casement windows in the gable end.

On the north elevation, a ca. 1937 two-story, two-bay, gable-ell addition extends from the western half of the original dwelling. The wood frame structural system rests on a continuous concrete foundation and is clad in cementitious fiber board. Fenestration includes double-hung wood and vinyl windows; paired and three-part vinyl windows embellished with dentilled cornices; and a half-glass wood door. A one-story, wood-frame, porch addition extends to the west of the gable ell. The porch has a sheet metal roof.

To the west of the original block, a two-story, wood-frame addition rests on a brick pier foundation. The foundation has been infilled and covered in a stone veneer. The wood-frame structural system is clad in a combination of wood and cementitious fiber board and capped with an irregularly pitched slate-shingled roof. Fenestration includes wood and glass doors; double-hung, wood-sash windows; and one gable wall dormer with a six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window. This addition was originally constructed as a first-story, screened-in porch with a second-story bedroom. In the late-twentieth century, the porch was enclosed to create a first-story family room. Concurrently, a one-story, one-bay, asphalt-shingled, shed-roofed addition approximately eight feet in depth was constructed on the south elevation. Fenestration in the projecting rear bay includes two casement windows on the east and west elevations, and a four-part bay window on the rear (south) elevation.

See Appendix Two for a detailed architectural description of each elevation.

## **7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

- A. Applicable Designation Criteria as described in Chapter 24: Historic Resources Preservation, Section 24A-3, Montgomery County Ordinance:** The dwelling at 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard does not meet any applicable Designation Criteria listed in Section 24A-3 of the Montgomery County Ordinance. See Section J for the complete evaluation.
- B. Statement of Significance:** Historic Preservation staff is not recommending designation of the property. Therefore, no statement of significance will be included.
- C. Period of Significance:** ca. 1857
- D. Significant Dates:** ca. 1857 (construction), 1937 (addition/renovation), 1960 (subdivision)
- E. Significant Persons:** John and Ann Amelia (nee Austin) Worthmiller
- F. Areas of Significance:** N/A
- G. Architect/Builder:** Robert T. Rohrer (ca. 1937 addition)

## H. Narrative:

### ***Historic Context: Brief History of Bethesda (Excerpt from the Bethesda Downtown Plan 2017)***

“The area now known as Bethesda...was a small crossroads community surrounded by farms into the post-Civil War era. Most of the early buildings from this period were demolished as Bethesda grew, following the extension of the Tennallytown and Rockville Railroad Company streetcar line along Wisconsin Avenue to Alta Vista in 1890.

In the 1890s, the Chevy Chase Land Company began buying farmland for residential development.... The B&O Railroad’s Georgetown Branch, opened in 1910, further stimulated Bethesda’s commercial growth and led to the development of related industries, such as coal yards, lumber yards, a planing mill and an ice plant, in Bethesda.

Bethesda’s first real estate boom, from 1922 to 1926, was prompted in part by the increased popularity of automobiles as a means of commuting and led to the subdivision of more farmland and escalating land values. By the late 1920s, Bethesda had three filling stations, a drug store, a hardware store, a variety store, a grocery store, two feed stores, two barber shops and three small lunchrooms, and at the close of the 1930s, 23 auto related businesses were located in Bethesda. About a dozen early 20th-century buildings remain to reflect Bethesda’s transition in the 1920s and 1930s from a rural crossroads to an automobile-oriented, suburban community.

The development of the National Institutes of Health complex in 1938 and Bethesda Naval Hospital in 1940 spurred additional commercial activity in Bethesda during World War II. Following the war, a second wave of homebuilding took place. As Bethesda’s residential areas matured, the downtown continued to grow and prosper, with a significant number of commercial buildings being constructed using various mid-century modern architectural expressions. Bethesda experienced another wave of growth in the 1980s, following the arrival of Metrorail, with many new buildings replacing post-World War II and earlier commercial structures. The emphasis of much of this development shifted from smaller commercial activities along Wisconsin Avenue, designed to serve nearby residential areas, to offices, shops and restaurants that have made Bethesda a significant downtown for the southern part of the County, as well as a regional destination.”<sup>1</sup>

### ***Historic Context: Ownership of 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard***

#### Guy and Martha Austin (1843 – ca. 1857)

Guy Austin and Martha Yost married on April 15, 1834, in Montgomery County, Maryland.<sup>2</sup> The Austins lived in District 4 (Rockville) in 1840, but at an unknown location.<sup>3</sup> On May 8, 1843, Christopher W. Lansdale sold the Austins a 70-acre parcel of his farmland.<sup>4</sup> After the conveyance, Guy F. Austin is absent from all future records (census, deeds, etc.) until the division of his property in 1869.

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Bethesda: Downtown Plan* (May 2017), 2-3.

<sup>2</sup> Maryland Compiler Marriages, 1650-1850, “Guy F. Austin,” Ancestry.

<sup>3</sup> 1840 United States Federal Census, “Guy F. Austin,” Ancestry.

<sup>4</sup> Lansdale’s mid-nineteenth century dwelling to the northeast of the subject property is listed on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. Montgomery County Court (Land Records), “Christopher W. Lansdale to Guy F. Austin,” May 8, 1843, Liber BS 11, Folio 584-585.

In 1850, Martha Austin resided on the farm with her four children: Mahlon H., Ann Amelia, Martha V., and James W.<sup>5</sup> Ann Amelia was born ca. 1837 and married John H. Worthmiller in Washington, D.C., on July 31, 1855.<sup>6</sup>

John H. and Ann Amelia Worthmiller (ca. 1857 – ca. 1894)

Born in Prussia (Germany) ca. 1834, John Worthmiller immigrated to the United States in the mid-nineteenth century. The 1860 United States Federal Census listed him as a stone mason. The Census recorded the Worthmillers and their two children (Rebecca, 3 years old, and Mary, 8 months old) living adjacent to Martha Austin, but in a separate dwelling. The Worthmillers had no real estate and a personal estate valued at \$200.<sup>7</sup> It is presumed that the couple constructed the original section of the subject dwelling on Austin's estate between 1855 and 1870.<sup>8</sup> Deeds and tax assessments recorded suggest that Austin controlled the entirety of her husband's estate until 1869.<sup>9</sup>

The Real Property Database Record lists the subject house with an 1857 date of construction. The dwelling, however, was not recorded on the 1865 *Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland*, while an adjacent family dwelling owned by "M. Austin" was shown (App. 3, Fig. 1). While the Real Property Database Record often is inaccurate for the date of construction of nineteenth century resources, ca. 1857 will be utilized in this document based on the historical record.

Between 1869 and 1873, the children of Guy F. Austin proceeded to divide the larger property into four lots. Mahlon Austin received Lot 1 consisting of 16 acres in 1869. Five years later, James W. Austin and Martha V. Austin received Lots 2 and 3, respectively, each consisting of 16 acres. Ann Worthmiller acquired the 10-acre Lot 4, which contained the subject dwelling.<sup>10</sup> Tax assessment records noted that Mahlon Austin and the Worthmillers had \$500 improvements on their respective lots. In addition, the Worthmiller family had \$130 in livestock and \$25 dollars in household furniture.<sup>11</sup> At that time, John Worthmiller identified as a plasterer. Ann Worthmiller attended the household and raised their six children.<sup>12</sup> The subject dwelling is shown on the 1878 *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland* (App. 3, Fig. 2).

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<sup>5</sup> 1850 United States Federal Census, "Martha Austin," Ancestry.

<sup>6</sup> District of Columbia, Marriage Records, 1810-1953, "John Worthmiller," Ancestry.

<sup>7</sup> The family is listed prior to Martha Austin and enumerated in a separate dwelling. 1860 United States Federal Census, "John Worthmiller," Ancestry.

<sup>8</sup> The dwelling, however, was not on the 1865 *Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland*, while an adjacent family dwelling (such as M. Austin's house) is recorded.

<sup>9</sup> The 1870 United States Federal Census valued her real estate and personal estate at \$1,000 and \$200, respectively

<sup>10</sup> John Worthmiller is not listed on the deed. There is a discrepancy in the deed records and the tax records. The tax records noted that James Austin received 10 acres of land compared to the 16 acres noted in the deed records. Montgomery County Court (Land Records), "Martha Austin, Mahlon H. Austin and Elizabeth Austin, Martha V. Austin, and James W. Austin to Ann A. Worthmiller," March 2, 1874, Liber EBP 22, Folio 429-430; Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record, Collection T221-4, 1869-1874, 4<sup>th</sup> Election District, Folio 1.

<sup>11</sup> Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record, Collection T221-4, 1869-1874, 4<sup>th</sup> Election District, Folio 1 and 48.

<sup>12</sup> While the 1870 United States Federal Census noted the Brighton Post Office in Montgomery County, the adjacent property owners (such as Christopher Lansdale) correspond to the 1860 United States Federal Census that listed Rockville, Maryland. Therefore, the family likely remained on the subject property. The couple's children included: Rebecca (13), Mary (11), Rose (9), John (7), Edward (3), and Ann A. (3 months). 1870 United States Federal Census, "John Worthmiller," Ancestry.

John Worthmiller died on June 14, 1893. The *Evening Star* stated “a gentleman well known and highly thought of, died on Wednesday at his home near Bethesda. Deceased was sixty-seven years of age.”<sup>13</sup>

Documentation submitted to staff suggested that John Worthmiller was an active leader in the local Masonic community. The Bethesda Lodge, No. 204, however, was not formed until 1905, twelve years after the death of John Worthmiller.<sup>14</sup> Therefore, staff is unable to confirm the family’s connection to freemasonry in Bethesda or Montgomery County at this time.

#### Francis and Jane Rebecca Heffner (ca. 1894 – 1937)

After the death of her husband, Ann Worthmiller vacated the subject dwelling, but continued to own the property and resided in the area with her son-in-law and daughter, Charles W. and Anna A. Miller (App. 3, Fig 3-5).<sup>15</sup> In all likelihood, she rented the farm to Francis E. and Jane Rebecca Heffner, her other son-in-law and daughter.<sup>16</sup> Tax assessment records noted the property with a \$150 improvement in 1897.<sup>17</sup>

Jane Rebecca Worthmiller (the oldest of the children) married Francis Eugene Heffner in Washington, D.C. in 1879.<sup>18</sup> The couple rented a farm in the Berry District, Montgomery County, before moving to Worthmiller’s property.<sup>19</sup> The Heffners purchased the subject dwelling and property from Worthmiller for \$3,000 in February 1924.<sup>20</sup> Ann Worthmiller died later that year at 86 years old.<sup>21</sup>

The Heffners continued to reside at the subject dwelling for the next thirteen years (App. 3, Fig. 6).<sup>22</sup> In 1937, the Heffners conveyed the land to Donald M. and Virginia M. Wight and moved to a nearby

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<sup>13</sup> John H. Worthmiller’s headstone at Holy Rood Cemetery noted that he died at 59 years old, not 67 years old as suggested in the *Evening Star*. “Notes,” *Evening Star*, June 26, 1894, Newsbank.

<sup>14</sup> The Grand Lodge of Maryland provided dispensation on November 22, 1905. “Masons of Bethesda to Hold County Fair,” *Evening Star*, October 23, 1910, Chronicling America.

<sup>15</sup> Edward Deets and Charles Maddox, “Real Estate Atlas of Part of Montgomery County, Maryland,” (Rockville, MD: Deets and Maddox, 1916); 1900 United States Federal Census, “Ann A. Worthmiller,” Ancestry.

<sup>16</sup> 1900 United States Federal Census, “Francis E. Heffner,” Ancestry.com

<sup>17</sup> Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record, Collection T221-18, 1896-1898, 4<sup>th</sup> Election District, Folio 178.

<sup>18</sup> Born in 1854, Francis Heffner was the son of George and Frances Heffner. 1860 United States Federal Census, “George Heffner,” Ancestry.com; District of Columbia, Marriage Records, 1830-1921, “Jane Rebecca Worthmiller,” Ancestry.

<sup>19</sup> The couple had at least one child, Mary F. Heffner who was born in 1879. 1880 United States Federal Census, “Francis E. Heffner,” Ancestry.com

<sup>20</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), “Ann Amelia Worthmiller to Francis Eugene and Jane Rebecca Heffner,” February 12, 1924, Liber PBR 344, Folio 135.

<sup>21</sup> “Rockville,” *Washington Post*, November 23, 1924, ProQuest.

<sup>22</sup> Benjamin Heffner, Frank’s brother, lived and worked on the farm as well. In 1924, tax assessment records valued the farm at \$300. The 1930 United States Federal Census, however, valued the property at \$12,000. The census estimate represented the amount for which the home, including such land as belongs to it, would sell under normal conditions-not at forced sale. The census enumerators instructions warned that the assessor’s value (tax assessment) was not generally a safe guide, being usually below the market value. 1930 United States Federal Census, “Frank Heffines,” Ancestry; Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record, Collection T221-18, 1923-1927, 7<sup>th</sup> Election District A-M;

house on Wilson Lane owned by relatives.<sup>23</sup> Two years later, Jane Rebecca and Francis died on November 9, 1939, and December 8, 1939, respectively.<sup>24</sup>

#### Donald M. and Virginia W. Wight (1937 – 1959)

Donald Miller Wight was born in Washington, D.C., in 1901. He was the son of Lloyd Buchanan, a patent attorney, and Bessie M. Wight. Wight graduated from Western High School, Lehigh University, and George Washington Law School. He was a well-known patent attorney, securing patents for rayon and the electric typewriter, and was a senior partner at Baldwin, Wight, and Brown in Arlington, Virginia.<sup>25</sup> Virginia Wynkoop was born to Henry and Ada Wynkoop in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1899.<sup>26</sup> Her father served as a hotel keeper and an auctioneer. After graduating from the University of Missouri, she appeared in several musicals in New York City.<sup>27</sup>

On October 23, 1923, Donald Wight and Virginia Wynkoop married in Washington, D.C., and established a residence in the city. In 1930, the Wights lived at 1409 29<sup>th</sup> Street in Georgetown with their three-year-old daughter.<sup>28</sup> The couple purchased the 10-acre farm and subject dwelling from the Heffners for at least \$3,357 in 1937.<sup>29</sup>

When contacted as part of the research for this report, their son, Donald M. Wight, Jr., stated that his parents hired Robert T. Rohrer, a local contractor who built several homes in the nearby Bannockburn Heights, to construct the two-story brick addition and renovate the original dwelling.<sup>30</sup> The tax assessment value of the house increased from \$500 to \$4,000.<sup>31</sup> A comparison of the pre-construction photograph and present dwelling reflects the comprehensive changes to the building (App. 4, Fig. 1-4 and App. 6, Fig. 6-8). The Wights named the renovated property Walnut Hill (App. 3, Fig. 7).<sup>32</sup> In 1940, the United States Federal Census valued the property at \$20,000. The couple resided at the dwelling with their son, Donald Jr. (7) and daughter, Virginia (13), and two domestic servants: Alice Moore and John Thomas.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), “Francis and Jane Rebecca Heffner to Donald M. and Virginia W. Wight,” March 27, 1937, Liber CKW 664, Folio 24-25.

<sup>24</sup> “Bethesda Man is Killed by Hit-Run Driver,” *Evening Star*, December 9, 1939, NewsBank; “Heffner, Jane Rebecca,” *Evening Star*, November 10, 1939, NewsBank.

<sup>25</sup> “Donald M. Wight, 75, Patent Attorney,” *Washington Post*, August 6, 1976, ProQuest.

<sup>26</sup> 1900 United States Federal Census, “Virginia Winkoop,” Ancestry.

<sup>27</sup> “Wight, Virginia W.,” *Washington Post*, September 8, 1993, ProQuest.

<sup>28</sup> 1930 United States Federal Census, “Donald M. Wight,” Ancestry.

<sup>29</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), “Francis and Jane Rebecca Heffner to Donald M. and Virginia W. Wight,” March 27, 1937, Liber CKW 664, Folio 24-25; Montgomery County Court (Land Records), “Donald M. and Virginia W. Wight to Francis and Jane Rebecca Heffner,” March 27, 1937, Liber CKW 663, Folio 248-249.

<sup>30</sup> “Contractor Shoots Self in Maryland Home,” *Evening Star*, June 17, 1942, Newsbank.

<sup>31</sup> Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record, Collection T221-107, 1928-1939, 7<sup>th</sup> Election District; Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record, Collection T221-39, 1928-1939, 7<sup>th</sup> Election District A-M.

<sup>32</sup> Donald M. Wight, Jr., noted the name of the property as Walnut Hill. The name is confirmed in newspaper records listing the address of the home and historic maps. Interestingly, the Worthmiller’s named their ¾-acre property in Bethesda “Walnut Hill” as well. “Catherine C. Welch, Attorney,” *Evening Star*, January 14, 1958, NewsBank.

<sup>33</sup> 1940 United States Federal Census, “Donald M. Wight,” Ancestry.

In November 1959, the couple returned to Washington, D.C. and conveyed the subject dwelling to David L. Stearman and William Kaplan.<sup>34</sup> Donald and Virginia Wight died on August 4, 1976, and September 7, 1993, respectively.<sup>35</sup>

David L. Stearman and William Kaplan, West Bethesda Inc., Donald Fraser, and Lehr S. Wyman and Carol M. Wyman (1960 – 1993)

In 1960, developers David L Stearman and William Kaplan conveyed the land to Louis Badini, President of West Bethesda Park, Inc.<sup>36</sup> Badini incorporated the 10-acre Wight property and dwelling into the larger West Bethesda Park subdivision approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board in May 1960 (App. 3, Fig. 8).<sup>37</sup>

The subdivision resulted in suburban infill with single-family dwellings and decreased the lot associated with the subject dwelling from 10 acres to its present-day .5 acres. As part of the new circulation network, the developers provided access to the property from Wahly Drive. Aerial photographs depict a curb cut from this road in the early 1960s.<sup>38</sup>

In 1961, West Bethesda Park conveyed the subject property to Donald R. and Caroline P. Fraser.<sup>39</sup> The Frasers soon thereafter relisted the property for sale. Two advertisements in the *Evening Star* stated:

8203 WAHLY DR. Southern MD., Williamsburg or New England-type Colonial within Metropolitan Washington. 5 bedrms., 3 baths, 3 fireplaces and modern conveniences. \$57,500. Directions: Out Bradley Blvd., left on Woodhaven Blvd. to OPEN sign. – March 2, 1962.<sup>40</sup>

RESTORED NEW ENGLAND FARM HOUSE. Situated on a ½-acre knoll. Brick-and-frame charmer with an abundance of space for entertaining or for the large family. 5 bedrms, 3 tub baths, new kitchen, breakfast nook, screened porch, 3 firepls., 2 stairway. Parking space for 2 cars. Offered for \$48,500. – February 3, 1963.<sup>41</sup>

Lehr S. Wyman and Carol M. Wyman purchased the property in June 1963.<sup>42</sup> Aerial photographs show that the couple constructed the extant detached garage and amended access to the property from Wahly Drive to Woodhaven Boulevard.<sup>43</sup> Around this time, the address of the property changed to

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<sup>34</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), “Donald M. and Virginia W. Wight to David L. Stearman and William Kaplan,” November 6, 1959, Liber 2674, Folio 39-40.

<sup>35</sup> “Wight, Virginia W.,” *Washington Post*, September 8, 1993, ProQuest; “Donald M. Wight, 75, Patent Attorney,” *Washington Post*, August 6, 1976, ProQuest.

<sup>36</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), “David L. Stearman and William Kaplan to West Bethesda Park, Inc.,” May 10, 1960, Liber 2733, Folio 462-463.

<sup>37</sup> Kornegay Associates, “West Bethesda Park,” January 5, 1960, Plat No. 5949.

<sup>38</sup> *Historicaerials.com*, “8104 Woodhaven Boulevard, Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland,” (1963).

<sup>39</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), “West Bethesda Park, Inc., to Donald R. Fraser and Caroline P. Fraser” January 11, 1961, Liber 2824, Folio 159-160.

<sup>40</sup> “8203 Wahly Drive,” *Evening Star*, March 2, 1962, Newsbank.

<sup>41</sup> “Restored New England Farm House,” *Evening Star*, February 3, 1963, Newsbank.

<sup>42</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), “Donald R. Fraser and Caroline P. Fraser to Lehr S. Wyman and Carol M. Wyman,” June 13, 1963, Liber 3096, Folio 294.

<sup>43</sup> Aerial photographs from 1963 and 1964 at <http://www.historicaerials.com> show the access from Wahly Drive, amended access from Woodhaven Boulevard, and the construction of the garage.

8104 Woodhaven Boulevard. The Wymans lived at the house for 30 years until they sold the property for \$590,000 to Howard I. Flack and Deborah T. Flack in 1993.<sup>44</sup>

**I. Areas Exempt from Designation:** Historic Preservation staff is not recommending designation of the property.

**J. Designation Criteria:**

The dwelling at 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard does not meet any applicable Designation Criteria listed in Section 24A-3 of the Montgomery County Ordinance. Based on the historic context and the alterations to the character-defining features, staff determined that the property lacks historic integrity and thereby fails to embody the defining characteristics of an architectural type or period of construction. In addition, the lack of integrity does not allow the dwelling to represent the transition of Bethesda from its rural nature in the mid-nineteenth century to a suburban community in the twentieth century.

***Evaluation of Integrity***

Integrity is the ability for a property to convey its significance. Resources must retain essential physical characteristics that enable it to convey its historic identity. These physical characteristics help define both why and when a property is significant. There are seven aspects or qualities that define integrity: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. These aspects are utilized by staff in the evaluation of properties for listing in the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*.

*Location and Setting:* The property lacks integrity of location and setting. While the dwelling remains in its original location, the physical environment surrounding the property has been completely altered from its ca. 1857 construction and ca. 1937 major renovation. When John and Ann Worthmiller acquired the 10-acre estate from Ann's father, the surrounding area primarily consisted of rural farmland with scattered residences orientated towards River Road (to the west) or present-day Wilson Lane (to the southwest). The Worthmiller property was accessed from Wilson Lane as shown on early twentieth-century maps (App. 3, Fig. 4-5). The dwelling rested on a knoll and a tributary of Booze Creek (now channelized) was in the southwest corner of the parcel. Numerous agricultural buildings including a barn contributed to the landscape. When the major renovation occurred in 1937, the region had experienced a degree of suburbanization, but the adjacent properties remained rural (App. 3, Fig. 7). None of these mid-nineteenth-century or twentieth-century features or viewsheds remain evident in the surrounding landscape or on the property itself (App. 3, Fig. 8).

In 1960, the incorporation of the property into the subdivision of West Bethesda Park led to the following changes: 1) reduction in size of the property from 10 to .5 acres; 2) demolition of agricultural buildings formerly associated with the farm; 3) alteration of the surrounding circulation network; and 4) infill with single-family dwellings.

Therefore, the subject property does not retain integrity of location and setting.

*Design, Materials, and Workmanship:* The property lacks integrity of design, materials, or workmanship. The pre-1937 photograph of the south elevation of the building depicted a four-bay, single-pile, side-gable, wood-frame dwelling (App. 4, Fig. 1-3). This south-facing elevation likely served as the original façade as it addressed the former Wilson Lane and took advantage of natural

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<sup>44</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), "Lehr S. Wyman and Carol M. Wyman to Howard I. Flack and Deborah T. Flack," June 4, 1993, Liber BAS 11441, Folio 122.

sunlight. As part of the ca. 1937 renovation and addition, the orientation of the house shifted to the north elevation and the original fenestration on the south elevation (as shown in the photograph) was infilled or altered.<sup>45</sup> The north, east, and west elevations of the original dwelling were obscured by three new additions: 1) the two-story, wood-frame, gable addition with a screened-in, first-story porch to the west; 2) the two-story brick veneered addition to the east; and 3) the two-story, gable-ell addition to the north. Most of the original ca. 1857 building is no longer extant (App. 6, Fig. 6-8). The ca. 1937 renovation changed the orientation and resulted in the removal of nearly every piece of building fabric from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The new additions, replacement building materials, and reorientation of the front door resulted in a highly-altered house that no longer reflects its original form.

In the mid-to-late-twentieth century, property owners further changed the ca. 1937 additions: 1) the enclosure of the first-story porch on the west addition; 2) the enclosure of the one-story, shed roof porch on the west elevation of the north (kitchen) addition; and 3) the construction of a one-story, single-bay, square bay window with a shed roof.

The impaired integrity of design is amplified by the use of numerous building materials on the dwelling including: replacement wood siding, cementitious fiber board (or other synthetic) siding, replacement wood windows, vinyl windows with simulated-divided-light, vinyl windows with flat internal muntins (grids), and a replacement slate roof (on the ca. 1857 section). Overall, changes to the design and the bevy of non-historic materials substantially diminish the integrity of workmanship. The building does not convey its initial period of construction from the mid-nineteenth century.

Therefore, the subject property lacks integrity of design, workmanship, and materials.

*Association and Feeling:* The property lacks integrity of feeling and association. The comprehensive changes to the setting, design, and materials of the dwelling from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day do not reflect the building's original period of construction.

For these reasons, the subject property lacks integrity of association and feeling.

#### ***Evaluation Criterion (1): Historical and Cultural Significance***

The subject property fails to satisfy the requirements for historic and cultural significance. The building does not reflect the site of a historic event, identify with persons who influenced society, or exemplify the cultural, economic, social, political, or historical heritage of the county and its communities. The dwelling does not reflect the development of Bethesda from a rural to suburban community. Major additions encapsulating part of the nineteenth-century frame dwelling, alteration to the original fenestration patterns, reorientation of the façade from the south to the north elevation, reduction in the size of the parcel, demolition of former outbuildings, and other changes to the design and materials do not allow for the building to express its period of construction.

#### ***Evaluation Criterion (2): Architectural and Design Significance***

The subject property's lack of historic integrity diminishes the architectural significance of the dwelling. The building does not: 1) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master architect or builder; 3) possess high artistic value; nor 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Based on the fenestration pattern and form evident from a pre-1937 photograph, the

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<sup>45</sup> Donald Wight recalls the north elevation serving as the primary entrance for the family.

character-defining features of the building are no longer intact or are obscured by additions. The original building/architect remains unknown. Robert Rohrer, the builder of the 1937 addition, would not qualify as a master of his trade.

While the designation of the resource has support from several interested community members, the building has not been recognized as a familiar visual feature of Bethesda or the county. In 1990, the *Comprehensive Amendment to Bethesda – Chevy Chase Master Plan* recognized 12 resources on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*, the designation of 19 additional resources (17 individual properties and 2 districts) to the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*, and removed 9 resources from the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites*. The evaluation process considered multiple nineteenth-century resources (App. 7, Fig. 1-5). The subject property, however, was never evaluated or identified as part of this master plan amendment or any future processes as a community landmark. Therefore, staff does not recommend consideration under this criterion.

#### **K. Conclusion:**

Based on the building survey and archival research at local and state repositories, Historic Preservation staff does not recommend listing of 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard to the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites*. The building lacks sufficient historic integrity to convey its period of significance.

### **8. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING/GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Property Land Area:** 21,515 square feet

**Account Number:** 00438834

**District:** 07

**Environmental Setting Description:** The dwelling at 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard is in Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland. The site under consideration consists of the entire 21,515 square-foot property identified as 00438834, District 7, and as shown on the accompanying map (App. 1, Fig. 1). The property is in Block A, Lot 10, West Bethesda Park.

**Environmental Setting Justification:** N/A

### **9. PROPERTY OWNERS**

Name: Brett & Leanne Ulrich

Address: 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard, Bethesda, Maryland 20817

### **10. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name/Title: John Liebertz & Kacy Rohn, Montgomery County Planning, Historic Preservation Program

Date: January 2020

### **11. MAJOR SOURCES CONSULTED**

Ancestry.com [numerous].

*Evening Star* [numerous].

Jane C. Sween Research Library and Special Collections, Montgomery History.

Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record.

Montgomery County Land Records, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

*Washington Post* [numerous].

**APPENDIX ONE:**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING/GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Figure 1: Environmental Setting



Source: M-NCPPC GIS

**APPENDIX TWO:**  
**DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

## **Detailed Architectural Description:**

### North Elevation (façade) – App. 5, Fig. 1-4

The north elevation (from east to west) consists of four sections of the building: 1) the ca. 1937 brick veneered addition; 2) the ca. 1857 original dwelling; 3) the two-story, gable-ell addition to the north; and 4) the enclosed porch to the west. The prominent brick veneered addition to the east features two eight-over-eight, double-hung, wood-sash windows with brick sills and flat-arch brick lintels on the first story; and gable wall dormers with two, six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows on the second story. Under each first-story window, rectangular brick window wells topped by three-light metal covers admit light to the basement.

Adjacent to this addition and set back several feet is the original ca. 1857 dwelling. Only the eastern two bays remain visible on this elevation. On the first story, the easternmost bay contains the current principal entrance to the home. A mid-twentieth-century, thirty-two-paneled, single-leaf wood door is flanked by vinyl shutters and protected by a non-historic, pedimented entry porch supported by wood Doric columns. The porch is accessed by two brick stairs. Above the door, on the second story, a non-historic, three-over-three, double-hung, wood-sash window abuts the cornice and is flanked with vinyl shutters. To its west, a four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash window abuts the cornice. This window, and its counterpart at the rear of the home, may be original material.

Immediately to the west of this bay, the ca. 1937 two-story, two-bay, gable-ell addition abuts the original dwelling and projects approximately twelve feet to the north. It consists of a first-story kitchen and second-story bedroom and bathroom. On the first story, two, six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl windows feature decorative window surrounds with fluted casing and dentilled cornices. The second-story windows feature simple wood surrounds and six-over-six, double-hung, wood sashes and are flanked with vinyl shutters. A wood gable vent provides air circulation to the attic. A one-story, shed-roofed addition, originally part of the porch, extends to the west of the kitchen addition and currently serves as a breakfast nook. The north elevation features two paired six-over-six vinyl windows that are capped with a dentilled cornice. The vinyl windows with embellished window surrounds on the first story were late-twentieth-century alterations to the ca. 1937 kitchen addition.

Set back approximately ten feet from the north wall of the breakfast nook is the north elevation of the two-story frame addition to the west, which now provides a first-story living room, created by the enclosure of the porch, and a second-story bedroom. Three stone stairs provide access to a small triangular porch and a twentieth-century, six-paneled wood door with simple wood surround and vinyl shutters. Abutting the cornice on the second story is one six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window, flanked by vinyl shutters. A copper downspout at the corner provides drainage from the roof.

### West Elevation – App. 5, Fig. 4-6

The home's west elevation is comprised of the gable-ell (kitchen) northern addition with one-story shed-roofed porch (now enclosed as a breakfast nook); the two-story, wood-frame, gable end of the western addition with screened-in, first-story porch, now enclosed; and a late-twentieth-century, single-bay, single-story shed-roofed addition to the south (rear). In the gable-ell addition to the north, the shed-roofed, single-story breakfast nook features two paired six-over-six, double-hung vinyl windows and a six-light wood door flanked by vinyl shutters. The second story features a single six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window with a vinyl shutter to the left.

Fenestration in the first story of the gable end of the western addition includes a three-over-three, double-hung wood-sash window in the northern bay and a wood-framed glass door flanked by vinyl shutters in the southern bay. The second story features a six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window with simple wooden surround, flanked by vinyl shutters. To the south, a one-story, shed-roofed bay was added to the enclosed porch in a late-twentieth-century alteration. It extends approximately eight feet beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling and features a single wood-frame casement window with twelve simulated divided lights.

#### South Elevation – App. 5, Fig. 7-8

The south elevation (from west to east), consists of 1) the two-story, frame, gable western addition with bay addition to the rear; 2) the original dwelling; and 3) the ca. 1937 brick veneered addition. The western addition features a projecting first-story bay, added in the late-twentieth century, dominated by a bay window comprised of four wood-frame casement windows with twelve simulated divided lights, flanked by vinyl shutters. Fenestration on the second story is limited to a central, inset gabled dormer containing a six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window.

The four-bay fenestration pattern of the original dwelling is no longer apparent on the rear, south elevation. The current windows are irregularly sized and placed. Approximately centered in the western half of the first story is a three-part window flanked by black vinyl shutters and comprised of two, four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash windows, and a central eight-over-eight, double-hung, wood-sash window. Nearly centered above this window on the second story is an eight-over-eight, double-hung, wood-sash window abutting the cornice. To its left, nearly at the corner of the original section, is a four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash window. This window approximates the form and position of the home's original windows, and may be surviving original material. Fenestration in the eastern half of the original section includes a basement-level, three-over-three, double hung, wood-sash window and a non-historic, wood-frame, double-hung, multiple-light arched window on the second story near its juncture with the brick veneered addition.

The substantial brick veneered addition to the eastern end of the home projects approximately three feet south of the original home's south wall. Fenestration in this addition is symmetrical, with two double-leaf, wood-frame, eight-light glass doors shielded behind wood-framed, glass storm doors. Centered above each door is an inset, gabled, dormer with a six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window. Between the dormer windows, a non-original, nine-light stained-glass window abuts the cornice. Three metal downspouts provide drainage.

#### East Elevation – App. 5, Fig. 9-10

The east elevation (from south to north) of the home is comprised of 1) the two-story, frame, gable western (porch) addition, with a later bay addition to the rear; 2) the gable end of the brick veneered addition; and 3) the two-story gable-ell addition to the north. The east elevation of the porch addition projects beyond the original structure by approximately eight feet on the first story, a late-twentieth-century alteration, and two feet on the second story. Fenestration is limited to the first story and includes a single wood frame casement window with twelve simulated divided lights and a small projecting HVAC unit.

The two-story brick veneered addition obscures the entire east elevation of the original dwelling. It is visually dominated by a large, gable-end, exterior brick chimney. To the left (south) of its base, six brick stairs lead down to a below-grade, six-panel wood door. On the second story, the chimney stack is flanked

by two, six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Above these, in the attic story, are two, one-over-one, wood-frame casement windows.

In the gable-ell addition to the north, the first story features a ribbon of windows comprised of a large central stained-glass window flanked by two, double-hung vinyl windows with simulated divided lights. This focal window features decorative window surrounds with fluted casing and dentilled cornices. These windows likely replaced the original ca. 1937 windows as part of a late-twentieth-century alteration. The second story features a single, four-over-four, double-hung wood-sash window with vinyl shutters, placed close to the junction with the original dwelling.

#### Outbuildings – App. 5, Fig. 12-13

Also located on the property are several outbuildings that likely date to the latter half of the twentieth century. A ca. 1964 wood-framed, front-gabled two car-garage sits on a brick foundation at the northeastern corner of the lot, at the terminus of the paved drive. At the southeastern corner of the lot, a small, square shed rests on a masonry foundation clad in brick veneer. The wood-frame structural system is clad in cedar shingles and is capped with a pyramidal, cedar-shingled roof and copper roof cap.

**APPENDIX THREE:**  
**HISTORIC MAPS**





Figure 2: Bethesda District, No. 7, Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland, 1878. The red arrow points to the subject dwelling then owned by John and Ann Amelia Worthmiller.

Source: Library of Congress.

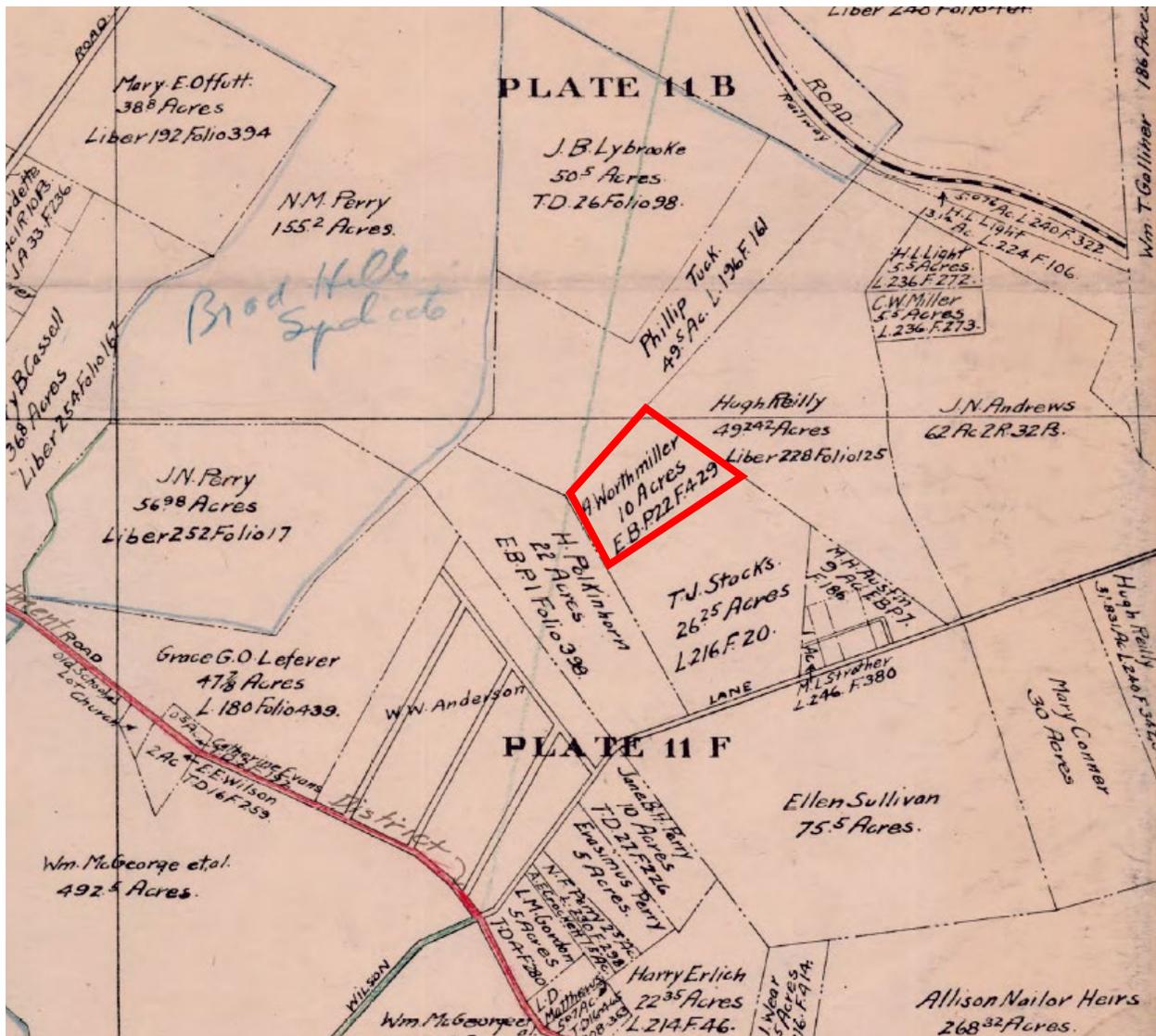


Figure 3: Real Estate Atlas of Part of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1916. The red outline shows the location of the 10-acre Worthmiller property.

Source: Historic Preservation Program Archives.

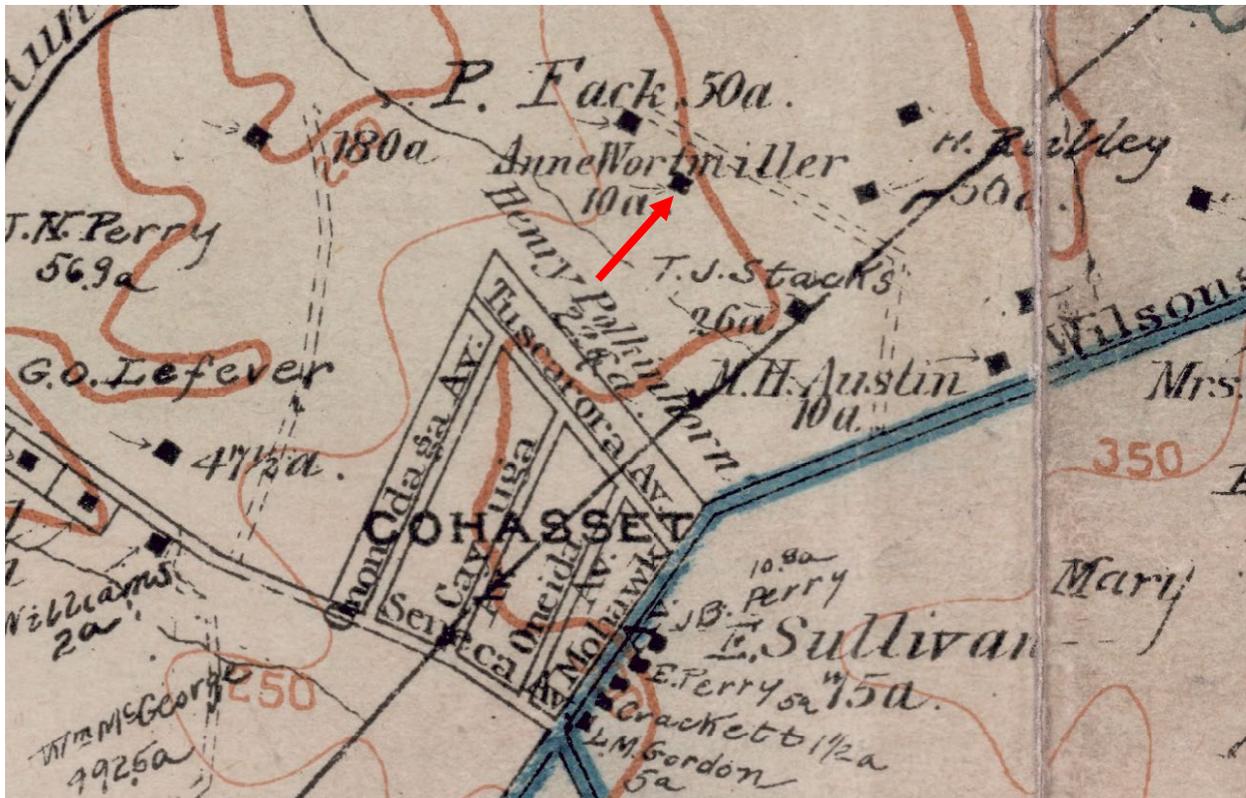


Figure 4: Baist Real Estate Plat Book of Washington & Counties, 1917. The red arrow points to the subject dwelling. Note the access to the property from Wilson Lane.  
Source: Historic Preservation Program Archives.



Figure 5: Washington and Vicinity, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, 1917. The red arrow points to the subject dwelling. Note the access to the property from Wilson Lane. Source: Library of Congress.

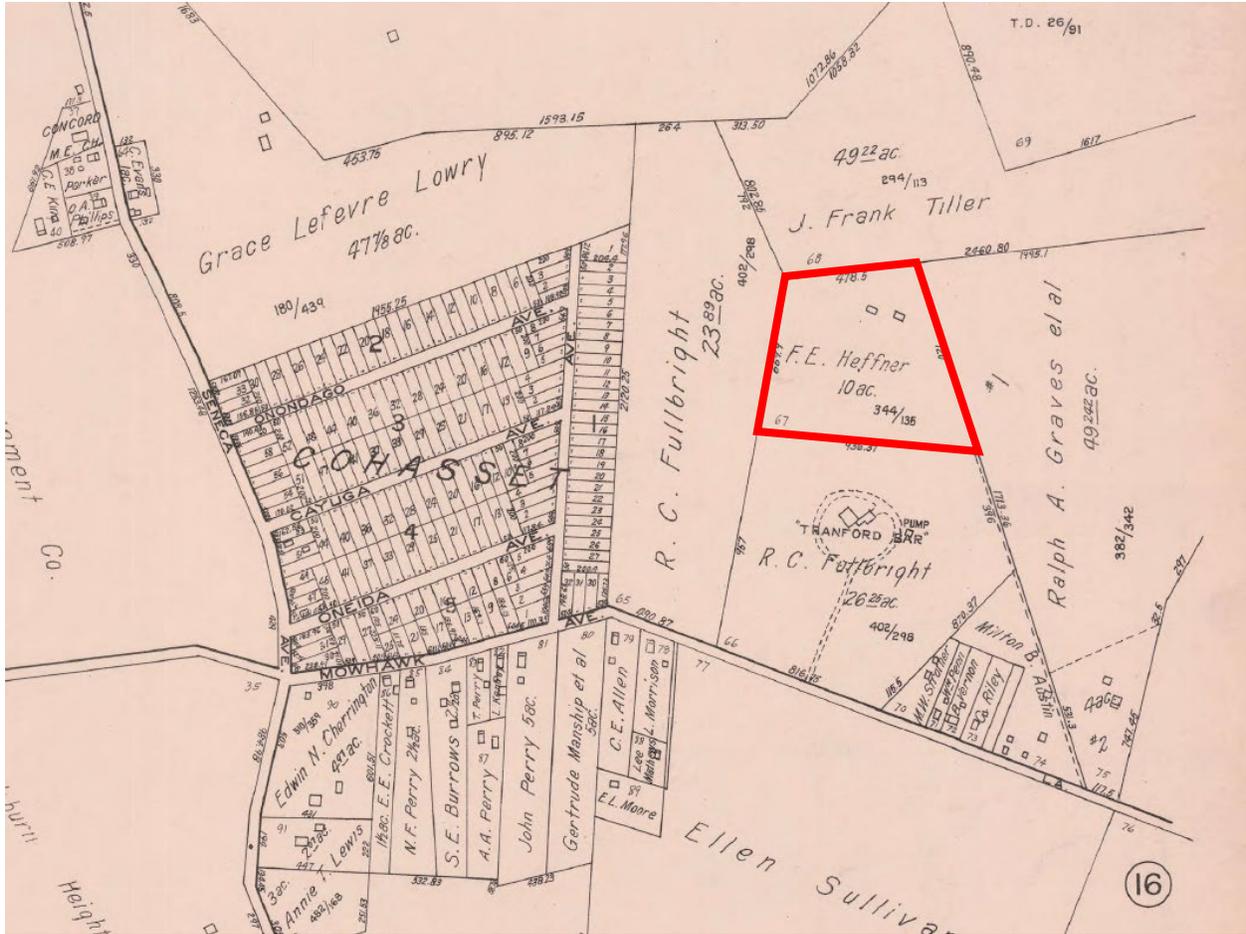


Figure 6: Klinge Atlas of Montgomery County, 1931. The red outline shows the 10-acre subject property then owned by Francis and Jane Rebecch Heffner.  
 Source: Historic Preservation Program Archives.

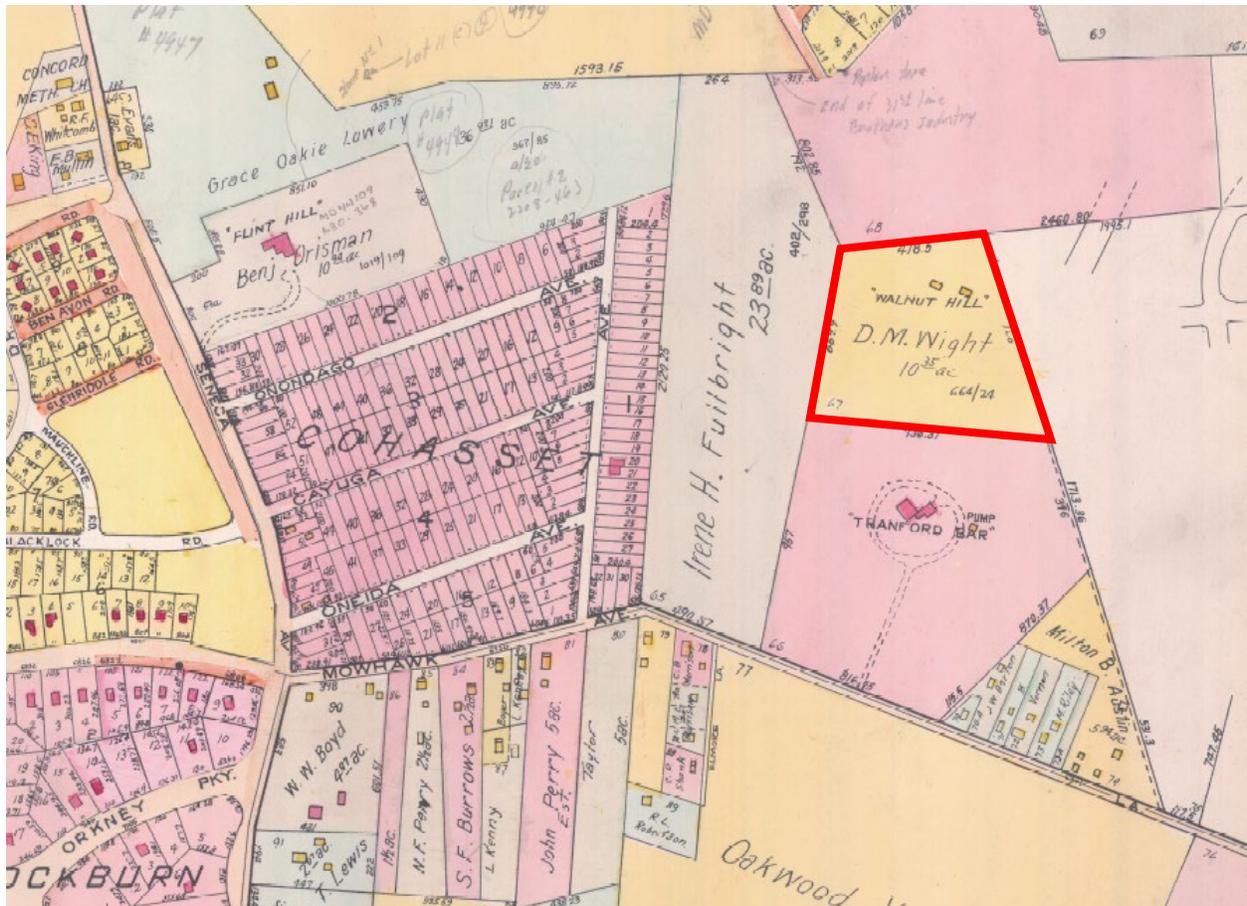


Figure 7: Klinge Atlas of Montgomery County, 1949-1953. The red outline shows the 10-acre subject property then called “Walnut Hill” owned by David and Virginia Wight.  
Source: Historic Preservation Program Archives.

PLAT No 5949

Note: The area dedicated to public use by this plat is 103,508 sq. ft.



CURVE TABLE						
BLK/NO	RAD.	Δ	ARC	CHD.	TAN	CH. BRNG.
A 1	250.00	64° 00' 00"	354.81	248.76	183.73	S 57° 45' 55" W
2	30.00	90° 00' 00"	31.42	28.38	30.00	S 27° 43' 55" W
3	718.66	80° 13' 25"	575.08	374.71	154.07	S 82° 50' 37" W
4	805.00	7° 00' 12"	28.15	28.15	14.07	N 88° 02' 46" W
5	157.16	25° 41' 55"	102.20	101.04	52.27	S 07° 57' 23" W
6	60.00	205° 55' 10"	215.64	116.24	→	S 81° 14' 05" E
B 1	10.00	75° 02' 59"	25.50	23.61	14.81	S 59° 52' 38" E
2	778.54	8° 21' 25"	115.97	115.47	36.65	S 82° 15' 22" E
C 1	495.00	20° 00' 00"	171.40	125.71	100.43	N 84° 43' 55" E
2	778.66	14° 39' 30"	126.24	126.42	22.00	N 14° 54' 40" E
3	30.00	90° 34' 35"	34.76	30.95	25.64	N 92° 32' 01" E
D 1	130.00	64° 00' 00"	185.85	180.17	102.25	S 57° 43' 55" W
2	30.00	90° 00' 00"	31.42	28.38	30.00	N 61° 10' 05" W
3	575.00	28° 00' 00"	170.17	168.71	86.58	S 52° 43' 55" W

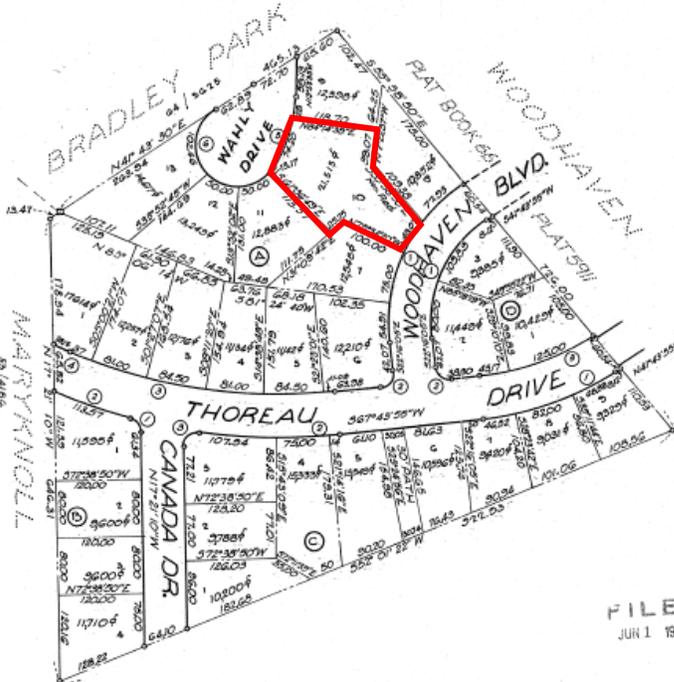
ENGINEER'S CERTIFICATE

We hereby certify that the plan shown hereon is correct and that it is a subdivision of the land conveyed by DAVID L. STEADMAN and WILLIAM KAPLAN, joint tenants, to WEST BETHESDA PARK, INC., by deed dated May 10, 1960, and recorded among the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, in Liber 2733 of Folio 462, and that iron pipes marked thus: ① and stakes marked thus: ② have been placed as shown.

KORNEGAY ASSOCIATES, INC.

Date: MAY 12, 1960

By: [Signature]  
 County Clerk, Maryland  
 Reg. Land Surveyor, Md # 3084



OWNER'S DEDICATION

We, WEST BETHESDA PARK, INC., a Maryland Corporation by LOUIS BADINI, President, and BERNARD BLANKIN, Secretary, owners of the property shown and described hereon, hereby adopt this plan of subdivision, establish the minimum building lines and dedicate the streets and path to public use.

Date: MAY 11, 1960 WEST BETHESDA PARK, INC.

Attest: [Signature] By: [Signature]

We assent to this plan of subdivision:

Date: MAY 12, 1960

[Signature] Witness  
 SOLOMON GROSSBERG, Trustee  
[Signature] Witness  
 ISADORE GULL, Trustee  
[Signature] Witness  
 WILLIAM H. REDD, Trustee  
[Signature] Witness  
 ESTELLE H. WEBB, Trustee

FILED  
 JUN 1 1960

BLOCKS A, B, C, & D  
**WEST BETHESDA PARK**  
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND  
 SCALE: 1"=100' JANUARY 5, 1960  
 KORNEGAY ASSOCIATES, INC.  
 SILVER SPRING, MD.

MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK & PLANNING COMM.  
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD  
 APPROVED: [Signature] May 25, 1960  
 CHAIRMAN  
[Signature] SECRETY-TREASURER  
 M-N-C P & P C RECORD FILE NO. 175-37

Figure 8: Plat of West Bethesda Park, 1960. The subject property is outlined in red.

**APPENDIX FOUR:**  
**HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF 8104 WOODHAVEN BLVD**



Figure 1: View of 8104 Woodhaven Blvd. looking northwest from the driveway (dirt path) off Wilson Drive, ca. 1937.

Source: Donald M. Wight, Jr.



Figure 2: View of 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard looking northwest from the driveway off Wilson Lane, ca. 1937, and model of the original side-gable section of the present-day dwelling geolocated in Google Earth. The white line on the model shows the location of the no longer extant driveway (dirt path) recorded on historic maps. The similarities between the location, form, and orientation of the dwelling in these two views supports that the historic photograph shows the original house prior to the 1937 renovation.



Figure 3: View of 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard looking northwest, ca. 1937.  
Source: Donald M. Wight.



Figure 4: View of the ca. 1937 addition, looking north from the yard. Date of the photograph is unknown.  
Source: Donald M. Wight, Jr.

**APPENDIX FIVE:**  
**EXTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF 8104 WOODHAVEN BLVD**



Figure 1: View of the façade (north elevation).



Figure 1A: Annotated view of the façade (north elevation). The red box shows the remaining visible part of the ca. 1857 house.



Figure 2: View of the current principal entrance, located in the easternmost bay of the north elevation of the original dwelling. The door and porch are twentieth-century alterations.



Figure 3: View of the north elevation of the ca. 1937 gable-ell addition with one-story, shed-roofed porch (now enclosed). The two-story, wood-frame, gable addition to the west with a screened-in, first-story porch (now enclosed) is set back to the right with visible red door.



Figure 4: View from the northwest corner of the one-story shed roofed porch, now enclosed as a breakfast nook, (left) and the two-story, gable addition to the west, with first-story porch now enclosed.



Figure 5: View of the west elevation from Wahly Drive.



Figure 6: View of the west elevation, showing enclosed first-story porch with projecting bay to the rear.



Figure 7: Partial view of the south elevation. The gable addition to the west, with late twentieth-century bay, is to the left and the original ca. 1857 dwelling is to the right.



Figure 8: Partial view of the eastern end of the south elevation. The original dwelling is to the left and the ca. 1937 brick veneered addition is to the right.



Figure 9: View of the east elevation of the ca. 1937 brick veneered addition.



Figure 10: View of the east elevation of the ca. 1937 gable-ell addition to the north.



Figure 11: The approach to the dwelling from Woodhaven Boulevard to the southeast. Only the ca. 1937 addition is visible.



Figure 12: View of the ca. 1964 garage.



Figure 13: View of the mid-twentieth-century shed.

**APPENDIX SIX:**  
**MODEL OF 8104 WOODHAVEN BOULEVARD**



Figure 1: View of the south and east elevations of the original side-gable house, ca. 1857.

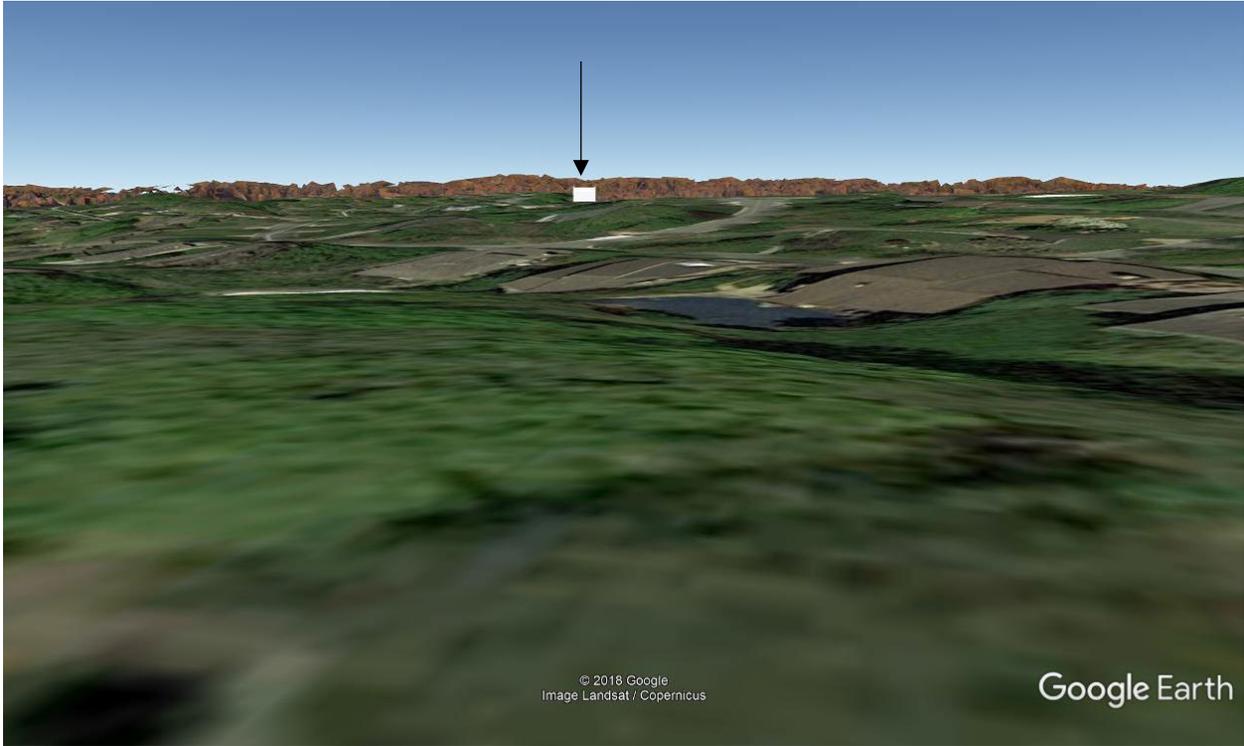


Figure 2: View of the south elevation of the original ca. 1857 house from present-day Wilson Lane looking north. The arrow points to the house in the background.

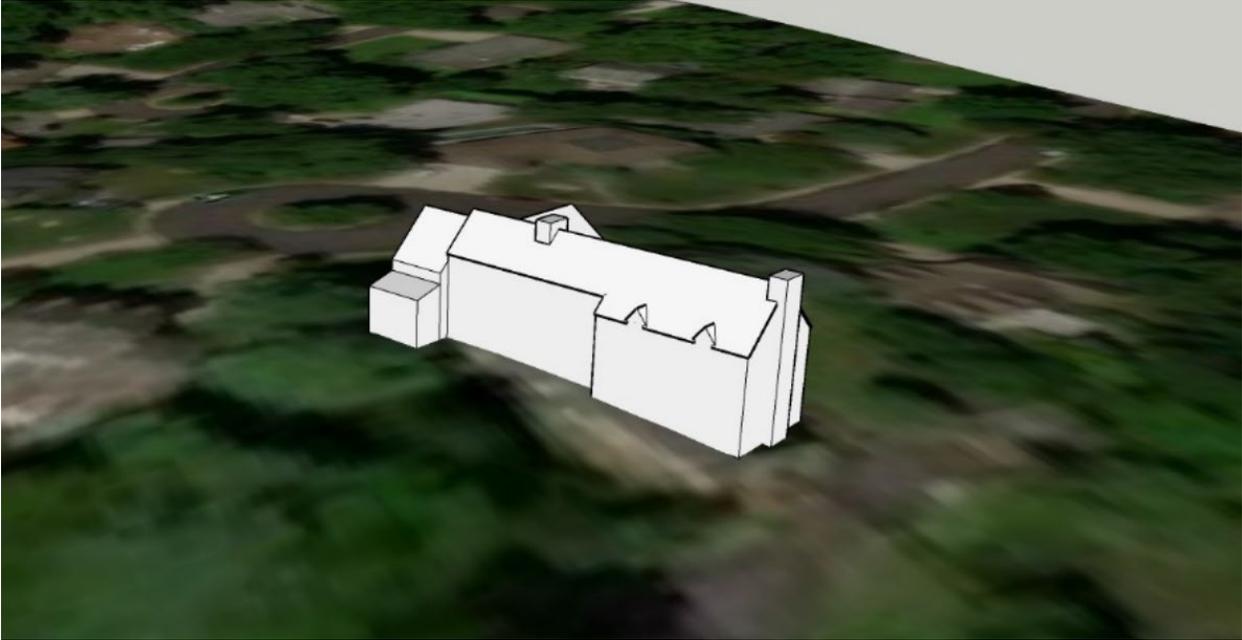


Figure 3: View of the south (present-day rear) and east elevations, 2019.

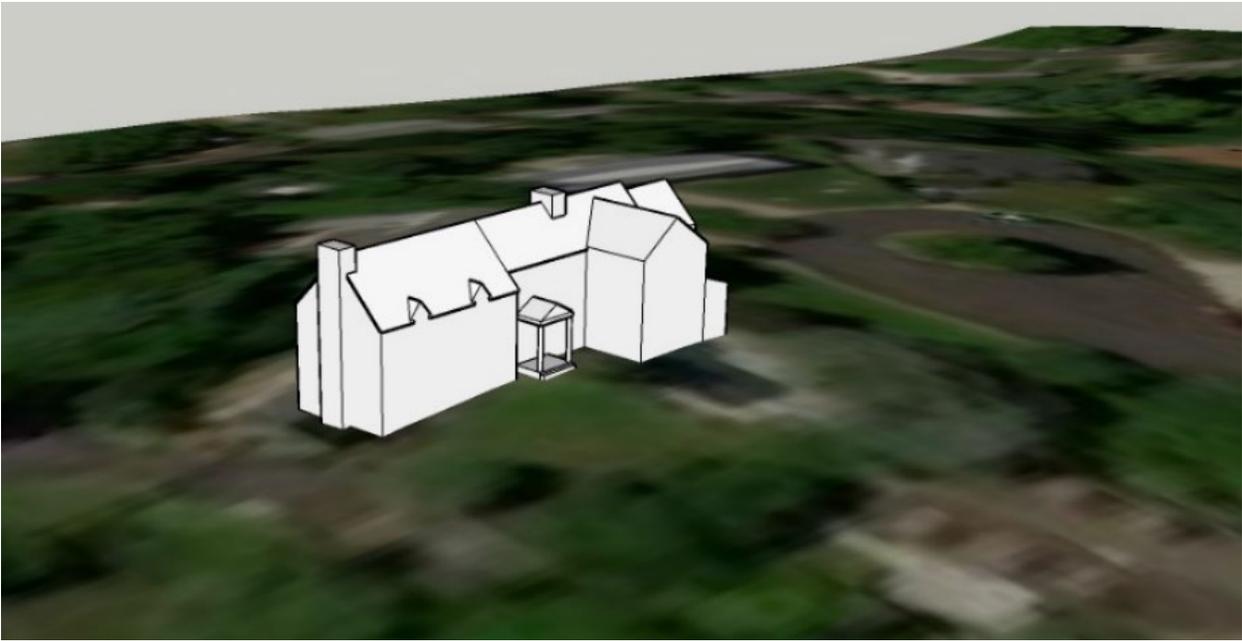


Figure 4: View of the north (present-day front) and east elevations, 2019.

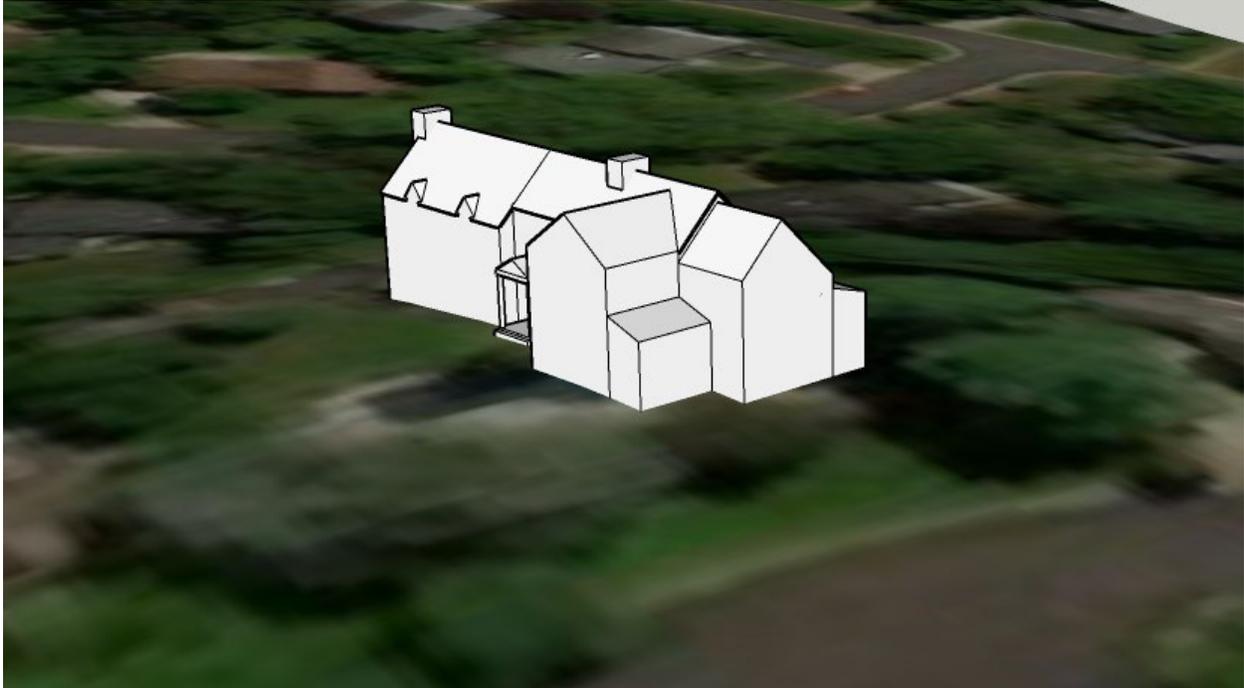


Figure 5: View of the north (present-day front) and west elevations, 2019.



Figure 6: View of the north (present-day front) and west elevations, 2019. The section shaded yellow is the ca. 1857 side-gable house, the sections shaded red are the ca. 1937 additions, and the section shaded blue is the late-twentieth-century addition.

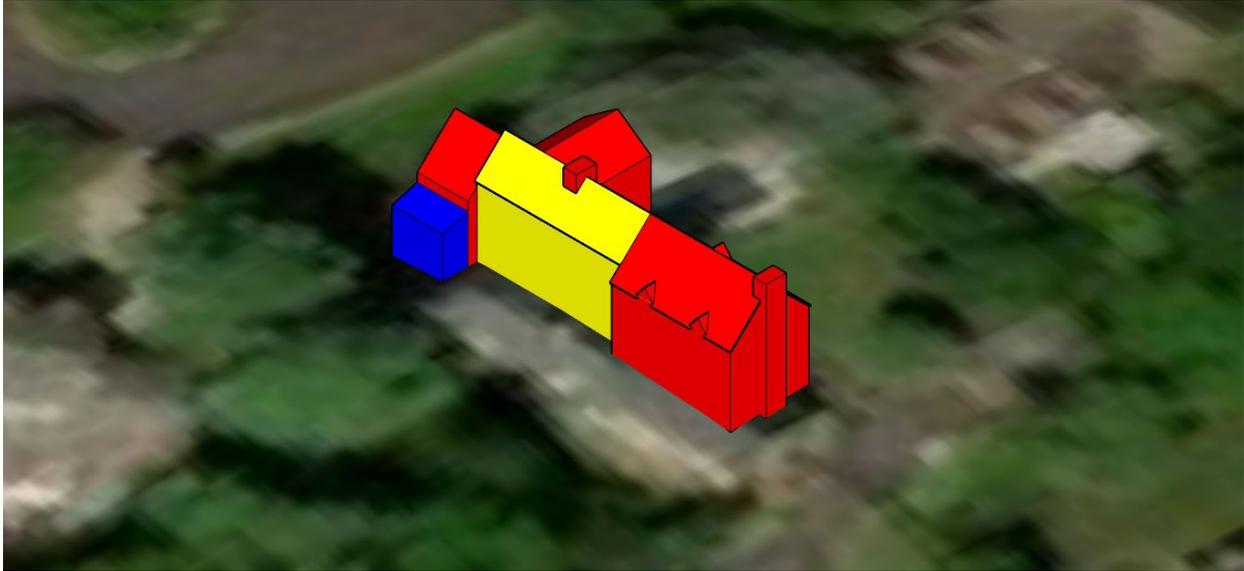


Figure 7: View of the south (present-day rear) and east elevations, 2019. The section shaded yellow is the ca. 1857 side-gable house, the sections shaded red are the ca. 1937 additions, and the section shaded blue is the late-twentieth-century addition.

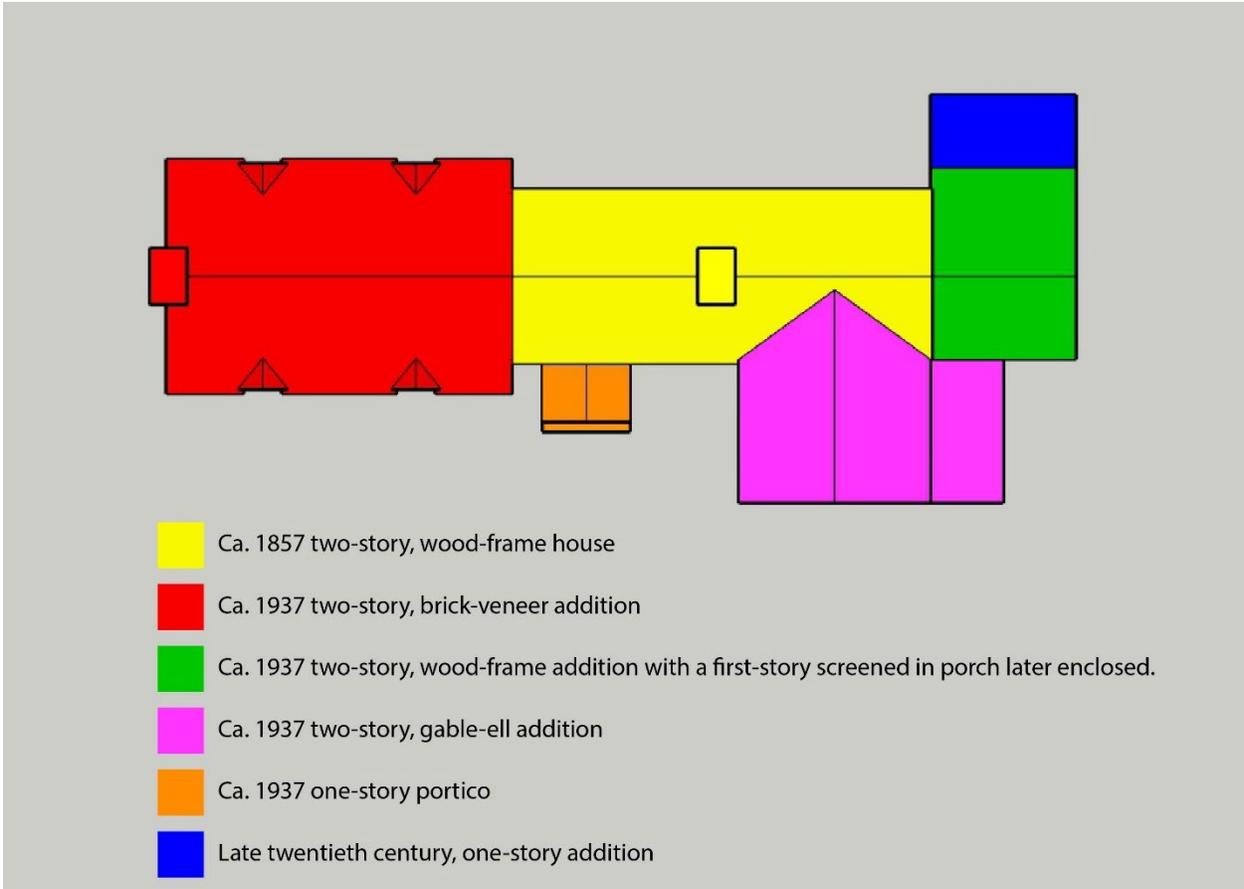


Figure 8: The plan view shows the different sections of the dwelling as described in the architectural description.

**APPENDIX SEVEN:**  
**HISTORIC RESOURCES EVALUATION**  
**FROM 1990 BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE MASTER PLAN**

**Table 16**  
**BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HISTORIC RESOURCES**  
**(Excluding Sector Plan Areas)**

Site No	Name	Address	General Comments/ Physical Condition	HPC Recommendation	Planning Board Recommendation	Designation
35/01	Bohrer House	5923 Johnson Ave Bethesda	1859 farmhouse, moved and altered, good condition	Negative	Negative	Negative
35/02	Mahlon Austin House Aylawn Farm	9104 Hempstead Ave Bethesda	Circa 1900 farmhouse, moved for inclusion in model farm, altered, excellent condition, barns demolished, several out-buildings remain on adjacent parcels	Negative	Negative	Negative
35/03	Alta Vista	5506 Beech Ave Bethesda	19th Century Victorian house, adjacent to trolley line, excellent condition	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/04	Samuel Perry House	9421 Wisconsin Ave Bethesda	Circa 1854 house/estate, home of Clark Clifford since 1950, excellent condition	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/05	Bethesda Meeting House	9400 Wisconsin Ave Bethesda	Greek Revival style church, 1850, and parsonage, circa 1851, good condition on National Register of Historic Places			Master Plan (9/79)
35/07	Stone Ridge School	9101 Rockville Pike Bethesda	1904 Georgian Revival estate, excellent condition	Positive	Positive	Negative
35/08	Bethesda Naval Hospital Tower Block	8901 Wisconsin Ave Bethesda	Built in 1939-42, inspired by a sketch by Franklin D. Roosevelt, designed by Paul Philippe Cret, excellent condition, on National Register of Historic Places			Master Plan (9/79)
35/09	George Freeland Peter Estate (NIH)	Rockville Pike Bethesda	1931 estate, designed by Walter G. Peter, includes caretaker cottage and gardens, excellent condition	Positive	Positive	Positive

**Definitions:**

**Positive:** Found to warrant historic designation.

**Negative:** Found not to warrant historic designation.

**Master Plan:** Already included on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* and, thus, protected by the provisions of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Figure 1: Bethesda-Chevy Chase historic resources evaluation summary, page 162. The survey reviewed the property of Mahlon Austin (outlined in red), a relative of John and Rebecca Worthmiller. Source: *Comprehensive Amendment to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan (1990)*.

**Table 16 (Con'td.)  
BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HISTORIC RESOURCES  
(Excluding Sector Plan Areas)**

Site No	Name	Address	General Comments/ Physical Condition	HPC Recommendation	Planning Board Recommendation	Designation
35/10	Hayes Manor	4101 Manor Rd Chevy Chase	Built circa 1767, outstanding Georgian manor house, excellent condition			Master Plan (7/84)
35/11	Chevy Chase Lake Trolley Passenger Station	Original location: 8401 Connecticut Ave Chevy Chase Present Location: Frederick County near Hyattstown	1892 brick passenger station, moved and adapted for residential use			Master Plan (9/79)
35/12	Woodend	8940 Jones Mill Rd Chevy Chase	1927 Georgian Revival estate, designed by John Russell Pope, on National Register of Historic Places			Master Plan (7/84)
35/13	Chevy Chase Historic District	(Status to be determined)				
35/13-1	Corby Mansion (Shipping)	9 Chevy Chase Cir	Built in 1893 by Senator Francis G. Newlands, developer of Chevy Chase, excellent condition	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/15	Old School House	Old Georgetown Rd Bethesda	Demolished	Negative	Negative	Negative
35/16	C.W. Lansdale House/ Landon School	6101 Wilson La Bethesda	Mid-19th century farmhouse, excellent condition, includes outbuildings, particularly stable and barn	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/18	W. Lynch House	8313 Tomlinson Ave Cabin John	1887 Gothic Revival cottage, moved and enlarged, excellent condition	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/19	William Dowling House/Graceland	6542 80th St Cabin John	Post Civil War farmhouse, greatly altered, fair condition	Negative	Negative	Negative
35/20	Lock #10 and Lockhouse	C&O Canal Cabin John	1830's stone lockhouse on historic C&O Canal, good condition	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/21	Lock #8 and	C&O Canal	1830's stone lockhouse on historic	Positive	Positive	Positive

Figure 2: Bethesda-Chevy Chase historic resources evaluation summary, page 163. The survey reviewed the property of C.W. Lansdale (outlined in red), a neighbor of John and Rebecca Worthmiller. Source: *Comprehensive Amendment to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan (1990)*.

**Table 16 (Con'td.)**  
**BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HISTORIC RESOURCES**  
**(Excluding Sector Plan Areas)**

Site No	Name	Address	General Comments/ Physical Condition	HPC Recommendation	Planning Board Recommendation	Designation
	Lockhouse	Cabin John	C&O Canal, good condition			
35/22	Rammed Earth House	6532 75th St Cabin John	Unique construction method, 1923, USDA demonstration house, excellent condition	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/23	Cabin John Hotel Gas House	MacArthur Blvd Cabin John	Brick gas house in Cabin John Creek Park, good condition			Master Plan (9/79)
35/24	Reading House (Oakdale)	44 Wellesley Cir Glen Echo	1853 Greek Revival field-stone farmhouse, excellent condition	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/25	Clara Barton House	5801 Oxford Rd Glen Echo	Home of Clara Barton, founder of Red Cross, built 1891-2, a designated National Historic Landmark, good condition			Master Plan (9/79)
35/26	Glen Echo Chautauqua	MacArthur Blvd Glen Echo	1889 Chautauqua site and amusement park, on National Register, fair condition	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/27	Lock #7 and Stone Lockhouse	C&O Canal Glen Echo	1830's stone lockhouse on historic C&O Canal, good condition	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/28	Old Sycamore Island Club	C&O Canal Glen Echo	Private boating club built in 1930's, good condition	Negative	Negative	Negative
35/29-1	Baltzley Castle	5415 Mohican Rd Glen Echo	1890 Victorian stone "castle," built by Edward & Edwin Baltzley, developers of Glen Echo Chautauqua, good condition	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/29-2	R.A. Charles Castle	5417 Mohican Rd Glen Echo	1890 Victorian stone house, one of three in Baltzley development, good condition	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/29-3	Kimmel House	5446 Mohican Rd Glen Echo	1890 Victorian house, one of three Baltzley castles, excellent condition	Positive	Positive	Positive

Figure 3: Bethesda-Chevy Chase historic resources evaluation summary, page 164.  
Source: *Comprehensive Amendment to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan (1990)*.

**Table 16 (Con'td.)  
BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HISTORIC RESOURCES  
(Excluding Sector Plan Areas)**

Site No	Name	Address	General Comments/ Physical Condition	HPC Recommendation	Planning Board Recommendation	Designation
35/30	Ft. Sumner Site	Sangamore Rd at Westpath Way	Site of historic fort, plaque only	Negative	Negative	Negative
35/31	Brookmont Trolley Right-of-Way	Georgetown to Cabin John	Abandoned trolley line	Negative	Negative	Negative
35/32	Battery Bailey/ Civil War Earthworks	Westmoreland Hills Recreation Center Little Falls	Civil War ramparts for defense of the Capital, poor condition, in County Park			Master Plan (9/79)
35/33	Shoemaker Cemetery	Behind 4705 Bayard Ave Bethesda (Westmoreland Hills)	Small 19th century family cemetery, poor condition	Negative	Negative	Negative
35/34	DC/MD Boundary Stones	Various locations along Montgomery County/DC border	Eight boundary markers from original survey of Washington in 1791-92, fair condition	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/35	Milton/ Loughborough House	5312 Allendale Rd Bethesda	1847 granite Federal house, excellent condition, on National Register of Historic Places			Master Plan (9/79)
35/36	Somerset Historic District	Approximate boundaries: Essex Ave to Cumberland Ave, Warwick Place to Surrey St, Somerset	District includes houses from 1890's and early 1900's, developed as early trolley suburb	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/37	Cabin John Aqueduct	MacArthur Blvd, over Cabin John Pkwy, Cabin John	1859-1863 single arch stone bridge carrying aqueduct and traffic, excellent condition, on National Register of Historic Places			Master Plan (9/79)
35/38	"In the Woods"	8922 Spring Valley Rd Chevy Chase	Unique 1910 home and exotic gardens of horticulturist David			Master Plan (9/79)

Figure 4: Bethesda-Chevy Chase historic resources evaluation summary, page 165.  
Source: *Comprehensive Amendment to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan (1990)*.

**Table 16 (Con'td.)  
BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HISTORIC RESOURCES  
(Excluding Sector Plan Areas)**

Site No	Name	Address	General Comments/ Physical Condition	HPC Recommendation	Planning Board Recommendation	Designation
			<b>Fairchild</b>			
35/43	Bethesda Community Store	8804 Old Georgetown Rd Bethesda	Small frame store built in 1924 on site of earlier store, good condition			Master Plan (9/86)
35/46	Walter Johnson House	Corner Oakmont and Old Georgetown Rd Bethesda	1905 OG American Foursquare house, home of baseball star Walter Johnson from 1925-36, excellent condition	Positive	Positive	Positive
35/47	Bonfield's Service Garage	624 MacArthur Blvd Bethesda	One of the oldest auto-related structures in continuous use in the County, 20th century historic resource, built in 1921, good condition	Positive	Positive	Positive

Figure 5: Bethesda-Chevy Chase historic resources evaluation summary, page 166.  
Source: *Comprehensive Amendment to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan (1990)*.

**APPENDIX EIGHT:  
CHAIN OF TITLE**

Date: June 4, 1993

Grantor: Lehr S. Wyman and Carol M. Wyman  
Grantee: Howard I. Flack and Deborah T. Flack  
Cost: \$590,000  
Acres: Lot 10, Block A, West Bethesda Park  
Liber: BAS 11441  
Folio: 122-125

Date: June 13, 1963

Grantor: Donald R. Fraser and Caroline P. Fraser  
Grantee: Lehr S. Wyman and Carol M. Wyman  
Cost: \$10  
Acres: Lot 10, Block A, West Bethesda Park  
Liber: CKW 3096  
Folio: 294

Date: January 11, 1961

Grantor: West Bethesda Park  
Grantee: Donald R. Fraser and Caroline P. Fraser  
Cost: \$10  
Acres: Lot 10, Block A, West Bethesda Park  
Liber: CKW 2824  
Folio: 159

Date: May 10, 1960

Grantor: David L. Stearman and William Kaplan  
Grantee: West Bethesda Park  
Cost: \$10  
Acres: 10.360  
Liber: CKW 2733  
Folio: 462-463

Date: November 6, 1959

Grantor: Donald M. Wight and Virginia W. Wight  
Grantee: David L. Stearman and William Kaplan  
Cost: \$10  
Acres: 10.360  
Liber: CKW 2674  
Folio: 39-40

Date: March 27, 1937

Grantor: Francis Eugene Heffner and Jane Rebecca Heffner  
Grantee: Donald M. Wight and Virginia W. Wight  
Cost: \$10  
Acres: 10.360  
Liber: CKW 664  
Folio: 24-25

Date: February 12, 1924

Grantor: Anna A. Worthmiller  
Grantee: Francis Eugene Heffner and Jane Rebecca Heffner  
Cost: \$3,000  
Acres: 10  
Liber: PBR 344  
Folio: 135

Date: March 2, 1874

Grantor: Martha Austin, Mahlon H. Austin and Elizabeth Austin, Martha V. Austin, and James Austin

Grantee: Anna A. Worthmiller

Cost: \$500

Acres: 10

Liber: EBP 22

Folio: 21-22

Date: August 7, 1843

Grantor: Christopher W. Landsdale

Grantee: Guy Austin

Cost: \$490

Acres: 70

Liber: BS 11

Folio: 584-586

**APPENDIX NINE:**  
**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES FORM**



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## 7. Description

Inventory No. 35-211

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               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.

### Site Description:

The dwelling at 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard is located within the Woodhaven subdivision, approximately two miles to the west of downtown Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland (App. 1, Fig. 1). The building remains in its original location, but in a greatly reduced parcel due to the subdivision and post-war suburban development of the surrounding land. The home is sited on an irregular T-shaped .49-acre lot (21,515 square feet) at the top of a slight hill. The property is bound by single-family dwellings to the north and south; Woodhaven Boulevard to the east; and Wahly Drive to the west.

The property is currently accessed from Woodhaven Boulevard, just north of its intersection with Thoreau Drive. A paved drive of approximately 150 feet stretches from Woodhaven Boulevard to a ca. 1964 garage at the northeastern corner of the property. The home is separated from adjoining properties to the north and south by a lawn and is set back approximately 30 feet from the public right-of-way for Wahly Drive to the west. The yard contains a twentieth-century garage, shed, and an in-ground pool to the north of the present-day façade (north elevation).

### General Architectural Description:

John and Ann Worthmiller constructed the original portion of the dwelling now addressed at 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard in the late 1850s. The building features several phases of construction dating from its initial construction to major additions in the 1930s and late-twentieth-century alterations. The building consists of the original four-bay, two story frame dwelling and several substantial additions built ca. 1937, including a: 1) two-story, brick-veneered addition to the east; 2) two-story, gable-ell addition to the north; and 3) a two-story, wood-frame, gable addition with a screened-in, first-story porch, later enclosed, to the west. A minor, one-story, single-bay addition was made to the south of the west addition, likely at the time that the screened porches were enclosed in the late-twentieth century. These additions have significantly altered and obscured the dwelling's original form and fenestration patterns. Original roofing, wall cladding, and foundation surfaces have been removed, replaced, or covered with twentieth-century materials.

Built ca. 1857, the original dwelling consisted of a four-bay, single-pile, side-gable, wood-frame dwelling with internal paired end chimneys, which have since been removed. This section presently rests on a continuous brick foundation that is partially parged with concrete. The foundation supports a wood-frame structural system that is clad with twentieth-century wood siding and capped with a slate-shingled roof. A non-historic, central brick chimney was added concurrent with the construction of the 1937 additions. Fenestration primarily consists of a mid-twentieth-century, single-leaf, wood door with pedimented entry porch; non-historic, double-hung, wood-sash windows; a non-historic, arched window; and two four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash windows. The original four-bay fenestration pattern is no longer apparent due to significant reconfiguration of window and door openings and the likely reorientation of the façade from the south to the north elevation.

Additions to the east, west, and north elevations lengthened and widened the building to its present shallow L-shaped form. Immediately adjoining the original block to the east is a ca. 1937 two-story, two-bay addition clad in brick veneer. The addition rests on a masonry foundation clad in a brick veneer. The footprint is wider than that of the original dwelling to the north and south. It is continuously roofed with the slate-shingled original block and features a large, gable-end brick chimney. Fenestration consists primarily of: 1) two double-leaf glass doors; 2) eight-over-eight, double-hung, wood-sash windows; 3) gable wall dormers with six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows; and 4) one-over-one, attic story casement windows in the gable end.

On the north elevation, a ca. 1937 two-story, two-bay, gable-ell addition extends from the western half of the original dwelling. The wood frame structural system rests on a continuous concrete foundation and is clad in cementitious fiber board. Fenestration includes double-hung wood and vinyl windows; paired and three-part vinyl windows embellished with dentilled cornices; and a half-glass wood door. A one-story, wood-frame, porch addition extends to the west of the gable ell. The porch has a sheet metal roof.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

Name

**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

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To the west of the original block, a two-story, wood-frame addition rests on a brick pier foundation. The foundation has been infilled and covered in a stone veneer. The wood-frame structural system is clad in a combination of wood and cementitious fiber board and capped with an irregularly pitched slate-shingled roof. Fenestration includes wood and glass doors; double-hung, wood-sash windows; and one gable wall dormer with a six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window. This addition was originally constructed as a first-story, screened-in porch with a second-story bedroom. In the late-twentieth century, the porch was enclosed to create a first-story family room. Concurrently, a one-story, one-bay, asphalt-shingled, shed-roofed addition approximately eight feet in depth was constructed on the south elevation. Fenestration in the projecting rear bay includes two casement windows on the east and west elevations, and a four-part bay window on the rear (south) elevation.

### **Evaluation of Integrity:**

*Location and Setting:* The property lacks integrity of location and setting. While the dwelling remains in its original location, the physical environment surrounding the property has been completely altered from its ca. 1857 construction and ca. 1937 major renovation. When John and Ann Worthmiller acquired the 10-acre estate from Ann's father, the surrounding area primarily consisted of rural farmland with scattered residences orientated towards River Road (to the west) or present-day Wilson Lane (to the southwest). The Worthmiller property was accessed from Wilson Lane as shown on early twentieth-century maps (App. 3, Fig. 4-5). The dwelling rested on a knoll and a tributary of Booze Creek (now channelized) was in the southwest corner of the parcel. Numerous agricultural buildings including a barn contributed to the landscape. When the major renovation occurred in 1937, the region had experienced a degree of suburbanization, but the adjacent properties remained rural (App. 3, Fig. 7). None of these mid-nineteenth-century or twentieth-century features or viewsheds remain evident in the surrounding landscape or on the property itself (App. 3, Fig. 8).

In 1960, the incorporation of the property into the subdivision of West Bethesda Park led to the following changes: 1) reduction in size of the property from 10 to .5 acres; 2) demolition of agricultural buildings formerly associated with the farm; 3) alteration of the surrounding circulation network; and 4) infill with single-family dwellings.

Therefore, the subject property does not retain integrity of location and setting.

*Design, Materials, and Workmanship:* The property lacks integrity of design, materials, or workmanship. The pre-1937 photograph of the south elevation of the building depicted a four-bay, single-pile, side-gable, wood-frame dwelling (App. 4, Fig. 1-3). This south-facing elevation likely served as the original façade as it addressed the former Wilson Lane and took advantage of natural sunlight. As part of the ca. 1937 renovation and addition, the orientation of the house shifted to the north elevation and the original fenestration on the south elevation (as shown in the photograph) was infilled or altered. The north, east, and west elevations of the original dwelling were obscured by three new additions: 1) the two-story, wood-frame, gable addition with a screened-in, first-story porch to the west; 2) the two-story brick veneered addition to the east; and 3) the two-story, gable-ell addition to the north. Most of the original ca. 1857 building is no longer extant (App. 6, Fig. 6-8). The ca. 1937 renovation changed the orientation and resulted in the removal of nearly every piece of building fabric from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The new additions, replacement building materials, and reorientation of the front door resulted in a highly-altered house that no longer reflects its original form.

In the mid-to-late-twentieth century, property owners further changed the ca. 1937 additions: 1) the enclosure of the first-story porch on the west addition; 2) the enclosure of the one-story, shed roof porch on the west elevation of the north (kitchen) addition; and 3) the construction of a one-story, single-bay, square bay window with a shed roof.

The impaired integrity of design is amplified by the use of numerous building materials on the dwelling including: replacement wood siding, cementitious fiber board (or other synthetic) siding, replacement wood windows, vinyl windows with simulated-divided-light, vinyl windows with flat internal muntins (grids), and a replacement slate roof (on the ca. 1857 section). Overall, changes to the design

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

Name

**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 2

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and the bevy of non-historic materials substantially diminish the integrity of workmanship. The building does not convey its initial period of construction from the mid-nineteenth century.

Therefore, the subject property lacks integrity of design, workmanship, and materials.

*Association and Feeling:* The property lacks integrity of feeling and association. The comprehensive changes to the setting, design, and materials of the dwelling from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day do not reflect the building's original period of construction.

For these reasons, the subject property lacks integrity of association and feeling.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. 35-211

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

<b>Specific dates</b>	1857, 1937, 1960	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Robert T. Rohrer (1937 addition)
<b>Construction dates</b>	1857, 1937		

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

John and Rebecca Worthmiller constructed the side-gable, wood-frame section of the subject dwelling ca. 1857. Eighty years later in 1937, Donald and Virginia Wight acquired the property and undertook a substantial renovation with multiple additions. Based on the historic context and the alterations to the character-defining features, the property lacks historic integrity and thereby fails to embody the defining characteristics of an architectural type or period of construction. In addition, the lack of integrity does not allow the dwelling to represent the transition of Bethesda from its rural nature in the mid-nineteenth century to a suburban community in the twentieth century.

***Historic Narrative: Brief History of Bethesda (Excerpt from the Bethesda Downtown Plan 2017)***

“The area now known as Bethesda...was a small crossroads community surrounded by farms into the post-Civil War era. Most of the early buildings from this period were demolished as Bethesda grew, following the extension of the Tennallytown and Rockville Railroad Company streetcar line along Wisconsin Avenue to Alta Vista in 1890.

In the 1890s, the Chevy Chase Land Company began buying farmland for residential development.... The B&O Railroad’s Georgetown Branch, opened in 1910, further stimulated Bethesda’s commercial growth and led to the development of related industries, such as coal yards, lumber yards, a planing mill and an ice plant, in Bethesda.

Bethesda’s first real estate boom, from 1922 to 1926, was prompted in part by the increased popularity of automobiles as a means of commuting and led to the subdivision of more farmland and escalating land values. By the late 1920s, Bethesda had three filling stations, a drug store, a hardware store, a variety store, a grocery store, two feed stores, two barber shops and three small lunchrooms, and at the close of the 1930s, 23 auto related businesses were located in Bethesda. About a dozen early 20th-century buildings remain to reflect Bethesda’s transition in the 1920s and 1930s from a rural crossroads to an automobile-oriented, suburban community.

The development of the National Institutes of Health complex in 1938 and Bethesda Naval Hospital in 1940 spurred additional commercial activity in Bethesda during World War II. Following the war, a second wave of homebuilding took place. As Bethesda’s residential areas matured, the downtown continued to grow and prosper, with a significant number of commercial buildings being constructed using various mid-century modern architectural expressions. Bethesda experienced another wave of growth in the 1980s, following the arrival of Metrorail, with many new buildings replacing post-World War II and earlier commercial structures. The emphasis of much of this development shifted from smaller commercial activities along Wisconsin Avenue, designed to serve nearby residential areas, to offices, shops and restaurants that have made Bethesda a significant downtown for the southern part of the County, as well as a regional destination.”<sup>1</sup>

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 35-211

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

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### *Historic Narrative: Ownership of 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard*

#### Guy and Martha Austin (1843 – ca. 1857)

Guy Austin and Martha Yost married on April 15, 1834, in Montgomery County, Maryland.<sup>2</sup> The Austins lived in District 4 (Rockville) in 1840, but at an unknown location.<sup>3</sup> On May 8, 1843, Christopher W. Lansdale sold the Austins a 70-acre parcel of his farmland.<sup>4</sup> After the conveyance, Guy F. Austin is absent from all future records (census, deeds, etc.) until the division of his property in 1869.

In 1850, Martha Austin resided on the farm with her four children: Mahlon H., Ann Amelia, Martha V., and James W.<sup>5</sup> Ann Amelia was born ca. 1837 and married John H. Worthmiller in Washington, D.C., on July 31, 1855.<sup>6</sup>

#### John H. and Ann Amelia Worthmiller (ca. 1857 – ca. 1894)

Born in Prussia (Germany) ca. 1834, John Worthmiller immigrated to the United States in the mid-nineteenth century. The 1860 United States Federal Census listed him as a stone mason. The Census recorded the Worthmillers and their two children (Rebecca, 3 years old, and Mary, 8 months old) living adjacent to Martha Austin, but in a separate dwelling. The Worthmillers had no real estate and a personal estate valued at \$200.<sup>7</sup> It is presumed that the couple constructed the original section of the subject dwelling on Austin's estate between 1855 and 1870.<sup>8</sup> Deeds and tax assessments recorded suggest that Austin controlled the entirety of her husband's estate until 1869.<sup>9</sup>

The Real Property Database Record lists the subject house with an 1857 date of construction. The dwelling, however, was not recorded on the 1865 *Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland*, while an adjacent family dwelling owned by "M. Austin" was shown (App. 3, Fig. 1). While the Real Property Database Record often is inaccurate for the date of construction of nineteenth century resources, ca. 1857 will be utilized in this document based on the historical record.

Between 1869 and 1873, the children of Guy F. Austin proceeded to divide the larger property into four lots. Mahlon Austin received Lot 1 consisting of 16 acres in 1869. Five years later, James W. Austin and Martha V. Austin received Lots 2 and 3, respectively, each consisting of 16 acres. Ann Worthmiller acquired the 10-acre Lot 4, which contained the subject dwelling.<sup>10</sup> Tax assessment records noted that Mahlon Austin and the Worthmillers had \$500 improvements on their respective lots. In addition, the Worthmiller family had \$130 in livestock and \$25 dollars in household furniture.<sup>11</sup> At that time, John Worthmiller identified as a plasterer. Ann Worthmiller attended the household and raised their six children.<sup>12</sup> The subject dwelling is shown on the 1878 *Atlas of Fifteen Miles around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland* (App. 3, Fig. 2).

John Worthmiller died on June 14, 1893. The *Evening Star* stated "a gentleman well known and highly thought of, died on Wednesday at his home near Bethesda. Deceased was sixty-seven years of age."<sup>13</sup>

Documentation submitted to staff suggested that John Worthmiller was an active leader in the local Masonic community. The Bethesda Lodge, No. 204, however, was not formed until 1905, twelve years after the death of John Worthmiller.<sup>14</sup> Therefore, staff is unable to confirm the family's connection to freemasonry in Bethesda or Montgomery County at this time.

#### Francis and Jane Rebecca Heffner (ca. 1894 – 1937)

After the death of her husband, Ann Worthmiller vacated the subject dwelling, but continued to own the property and resided in the area with her son-in-law and daughter, Charles W. and Anna A. Miller (App. 3, Fig 3-5).<sup>15</sup> In all likelihood, she rented the farm to

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 35-211

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

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Francis E. and Jane Rebecca Heffner, her other son-in-law and daughter.<sup>16</sup> Tax assessment records noted the property with a \$150 improvement in 1897.<sup>17</sup>

Jane Rebecca Worthmiller (the oldest of the children) married Francis Eugene Heffner in Washington, D.C. in 1879.<sup>18</sup> The couple rented a farm in the Berry District, Montgomery County, before moving to Worthmiller's property.<sup>19</sup> The Heffners purchased the subject dwelling and property from Worthmiller for \$3,000 in February 1924.<sup>20</sup> Ann Worthmiller died later that year at 86 years old.<sup>21</sup> The Heffners continued to reside at the subject dwelling for the next thirteen years (App. 3, Fig. 6).<sup>22</sup> In 1937, the Heffners conveyed the land to Donald M. and Virginia M. Wight and moved to a nearby house on Wilson Lane owned by relatives.<sup>23</sup> Two years later, Jane Rebecca and Francis died on November 9, 1939, and December 8, 1939, respectively.<sup>24</sup>

### Donald M. and Virginia W. Wight (1937 – 1959)

Donald Miller Wight was born in Washington, D.C., in 1901. He was the son of Lloyd Buchanan, a patent attorney, and Bessie M. Wight. Wight graduated from Western High School, Lehigh University, and George Washington Law School. He was a well-known patent attorney, securing patents for rayon and the electric typewriter, and was a senior partner at Baldwin, Wight, and Brown in Arlington, Virginia.<sup>25</sup> Virginia Wynkoop was born to Henry and Ada Wynkoop in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1899.<sup>26</sup> Her father served as a hotel keeper and an auctioneer. After graduating from the University of Missouri, she appeared in several musicals in New York City.<sup>27</sup>

On October 23, 1923, Donald Wight and Virginia Wynkoop married in Washington, D.C., and established a residence in the city. In 1930, the Wights lived at 1409 29<sup>th</sup> Street in Georgetown with their three-year-old daughter.<sup>28</sup> The couple purchased the 10-acre farm and subject dwelling from the Heffners for at least \$3,357 in 1937.<sup>29</sup>

When contacted as part of the research for this report, their son, Donald M. Wight, Jr., stated that his parents hired Robert T. Rohrer, a local contractor who built several homes in the nearby Bannockburn Heights, to construct the two-story brick addition and renovate the original dwelling.<sup>30</sup> The tax assessment value of the house increased from \$500 to \$4,000.<sup>31</sup> A comparison of the pre-construction photograph and present dwelling reflects the comprehensive changes to the building (App. 4, Fig. 1-4 and App. 6, Fig. 6-8). The Wights named the renovated property Walnut Hill (App. 3, Fig. 7).<sup>32</sup> In 1940, the United States Federal Census valued the property at \$20,000. The couple resided at the dwelling with their son, Donald Jr. (7) and daughter, Virginia (13), and two domestic servants: Alice Moore and John Thomas.<sup>33</sup>

In November 1959, the couple returned to Washington, D.C. and conveyed the subject dwelling to David L. Stearman and William Kaplan.<sup>34</sup> Donald and Virginia Wight died on August 4, 1976, and September 7, 1993, respectively.<sup>35</sup>

### David L. Stearman and William Kaplan, West Bethesda Inc., Donald Fraser, and Lehr S. Wyman and Carol M. Wyman (1960 – 1993)

In 1960, developers David L. Stearman and William Kaplan conveyed the land to Louis Badini, President of West Bethesda Park, Inc.<sup>36</sup> Badini incorporated the 10-acre Wight property and dwelling into the larger West Bethesda Park subdivision approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board in May 1960 (App. 3, Fig. 8).<sup>37</sup>

The subdivision resulted in suburban infill with single-family dwellings and decreased the lot associated with the subject dwelling from 10 acres to its present-day .5 acres. As part of the new circulation network, the developers provided access to the property from Wahly Drive. Aerial photographs depict a curb cut from this road in the early 1960s.<sup>38</sup>

In 1961, West Bethesda Park conveyed the subject property to Donald R. and Caroline P. Fraser.<sup>39</sup> The Frasers soon thereafter relisted the property for sale. Two advertisements in the *Evening Star* stated:

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 35-211

Name

**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

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8203 WAHLY DR. Southern MD., Williamsburg or New England-type Colonial within Metropolitan Washington. 5 bedrms., 3 baths, 3 fireplaces and modern conveniences. \$57,500. Directions: Out Bradley Blvd., left on Woodhaven Blvd. to OPEN sign.  
– March 2, 1962.<sup>40</sup>

RESTORED NEW ENGLAND FARM HOUSE. Situated on a ½-acre knoll. Brick-and-frame charmer with an abundance of space for entertaining or for the large family. 5 bedrms, 3 tub baths, new kitchen, breakfast nook, screened porch, 3 firepls., 2 stairway. Parking space for 2 cars. Offered for \$48,500.  
– February 3, 1963.<sup>41</sup>

Lehr S. Wyman and Carol M. Wyman purchased the property in June 1963.<sup>42</sup> Aerial photographs show that the couple constructed the extant detached garage and amended access to the property from Wahly Drive to Woodhaven Boulevard.<sup>43</sup> Around this time, the address of the property changed to 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard. The Wymans lived at the house for 30 years until they sold the property for \$590,000 to Howard I. Flack and Deborah T. Flack in 1993.<sup>44</sup>

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. 35-211

*Evening Star* [numerous].

Jane C. Sween Research Library and Special Collections, Montgomery History.

Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record.

Montgomery County Land Records, <http://www.mdlandrec.net>.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property	<u>.49</u>
Acreage of historical setting	<u>10</u>
Quadrangle name	<u>Falls Church</u>

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The dwelling at 8104 Woodhaven Boulevard is in Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland. The site consists of the entire 21,515 square-foot property identified as 00438834, District 7. The property is in Block A, Lot 10, West Bethesda Park. The boundary includes all of the remaining property once associated with the house.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	John Liebertz & Kacy Rohn		
organization	Montgomery County Planning	date	January 2020
street & number	8787 Georgia Avenue	telephone	
city or town	Silver Spring	state	Maryland

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  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-697-9591

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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 35-211

Name  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

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### Worthmiller House, M: 35-211

#### Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Bethesda: Downtown Plan* (May 2017), 2-3.

<sup>2</sup> Maryland Compiler Marriages, 1650-1850, "Guy F. Austin," Ancestry.

<sup>3</sup> 1840 United States Federal Census, "Guy F. Austin," Ancestry.

<sup>4</sup> Lansdale's mid-nineteenth century dwelling to the northeast of the subject property is listed on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. Montgomery County Court (Land Records), "Christopher W. Lansdale to Guy F. Austin," May 8, 1843, Liber BS 11, Folio 584-585.

<sup>5</sup> 1850 United States Federal Census, "Martha Austin," Ancestry.

<sup>6</sup> District of Columbia, Marriage Records, 1810-1953, "John Worthmiller," Ancestry.

<sup>7</sup> The family is listed prior to Martha Austin and enumerated in a separate dwelling. 1860 United States Federal Census, "John Worthmiller," Ancestry.

<sup>8</sup> The dwelling, however, was not on the 1865 *Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland*, while an adjacent family dwelling (such as M. Austin's house) is recorded.

<sup>9</sup> The 1870 United States Federal Census valued her real estate and personal estate at \$1,000 and \$200, respectively

<sup>10</sup> John Worthmiller is not listed on the deed. There is a discrepancy in the deed records and the tax records. The tax records noted that James Austin received 10 acres of land compared to the 16 acres noted in the deed records. Montgomery County Court (Land Records), "Martha Austin, Mahlon H. Austin and Elizabeth Austin, Martha V. Austin, and James W. Austin to Ann A. Worthmiller," March 2, 1874, Liber EBP 22, Folio 429-430; Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record, Collection T221-4, 1869-1874, 4<sup>th</sup> Election District, Folio 1.

<sup>11</sup> Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record, Collection T221-4, 1869-1874, 4<sup>th</sup> Election District, Folio 1 and 48.

<sup>12</sup> While the 1870 United States Federal Census noted the Brighton Post Office in Montgomery County, the adjacent property owners (such as Christopher Lansdale) correspond to the 1860 United States Federal Census that listed Rockville, Maryland. Therefore, the family likely remained on the subject property. The couple's children included: Rebecca (13), Mary (11), Rose (9), John (7), Edward (3), and Ann A. (3 months). 1870 United States Federal Census, "John Worthmiller," Ancestry.

<sup>13</sup> John H. Worthmiller's headstone at Holy Rood Cemetery noted that he died at 59 years old, not 67 years old as suggested in the *Evening Star*. "Notes," *Evening Star*, June 26, 1894, Newsbank.

<sup>14</sup> The Grand Lodge of Maryland provided dispensation on November 22, 1905. "Masons of Bethesda to Hold County Fair," *Evening Star*, October 23, 1910, Chronicling America.

<sup>15</sup> Edward Deets and Charles Maddox, "Real Estate Atlas of Part of Montgomery County, Maryland," (Rockville, MD: Deets and Maddox, 1916); 1900 United States Federal Census, "Ann A. Worthmiller," Ancestry.

<sup>16</sup> 1900 United States Federal Census, "Francis E. Heffner," Ancestry.com

<sup>17</sup> Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record, Collection T221-18, 1896-1898, 4<sup>th</sup> Election District, Folio 178.

<sup>18</sup> Born in 1854, Francis Heffner was the son of George and Frances Heffner. 1860 United States Federal Census, "George Heffner," Ancestry.com; District of Columbia, Marriage Records, 1830-1921, "Jane Rebecca Worthmiller," Ancestry.

<sup>19</sup> The couple had at least one child, Mary F. Heffner who was born in 1879. 1880 United States Federal Census, "Francis E. Heffner," Ancestry.com

<sup>20</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), "Ann Amelia Worthmiller to Francis Eugene and Jane Rebecca Heffner," February 12, 1924, Liber PBR 344, Folio 135.

<sup>21</sup> "Rockville," *Washington Post*, November 23, 1924, ProQuest.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 35-211

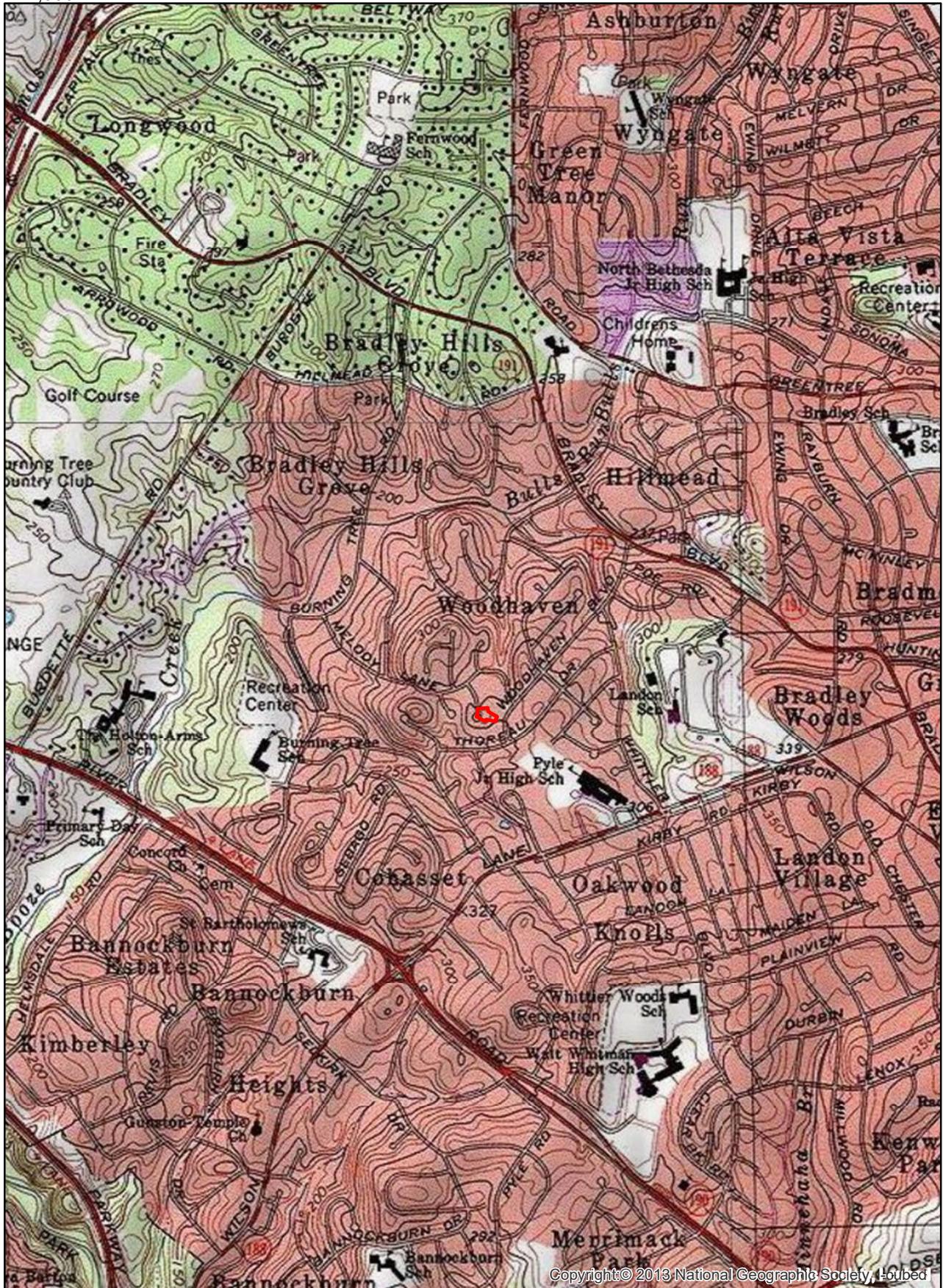
Name

**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

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- <sup>22</sup> Benjamin Heffner, Frank's brother, lived and worked on the farm as well. In 1924, tax assessment records valued the farm at \$300. The 1930 United States Federal Census, however, valued the property at \$12,000. The census estimate represented the amount for which the home, including such land as belongs to it, would sell under normal conditions-not at forced sale. The census enumerators instructions warned that the assessor's value (tax assessment) was not generally a safe guide, being usually below the market value. 1930 United States Federal Census, "Frank Heffines," Ancestry; Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record, Collection T221-18, 1923-1927, 7<sup>th</sup> Election District A-M;
- <sup>23</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), "Francis and Jane Rebecca Heffner to Donald M. and Virginia W. Wight," March 27, 1937, Liber CKW 664, Folio 24-25.
- <sup>24</sup> "Bethesda Man is Killed by Hit-Run Driver," *Evening Star*, December 9, 1939, NewsBank; "Heffner, Jane Rebecca," *Evening Star*, November 10, 1939, NewsBank.
- <sup>25</sup> "Donald M. Wight, 75, Patent Attorney," *Washington Post*, August 6, 1976, ProQuest.
- <sup>26</sup> 1900 United States Federal Census, "Virginia Winkoop," Ancestry.
- <sup>27</sup> "Wight, Virginia W.," *Washington Post*, September 8, 1993, ProQuest.
- <sup>28</sup> 1930 United States Federal Census, "Donald M. Wight," Ancestry.
- <sup>29</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), "Francis and Jane Rebecca Heffner to Donald M. and Virginia W. Wight," March 27, 1937, Liber CKW 664, Folio 24-25; Montgomery County Court (Land Records), "Donald M. and Virginia W. Wight to Francis and Jane Rebecca Heffner," March 27, 1937, Liber CKW 663, Folio 248-249.
- <sup>30</sup> "Contractor Shoots Self in Maryland Home," *Evening Star*, June 17, 1942, Newsbank.
- <sup>31</sup> Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record, Collection T221-107, 1928-1939, 7<sup>th</sup> Election District; Maryland State Archives, Department of Assessments (Montgomery County), Assessment Record, Collection T221-39, 1928-1939, 7<sup>th</sup> Election District A-M.
- <sup>32</sup> Donald M. Wight, Jr., noted the name of the property as Walnut Hill. The name is confirmed in newspaper records listing the address of the home and historic maps. Interestingly, the Worthmiller's named their ¾-acre property in Bethesda "Walnut Hill" as well. "Catherine C. Welch. Attorney," *Evening Star*, January 14, 1958, NewsBank.
- <sup>33</sup> 1940 United States Federal Census, "Donald M. Wight," Ancestry.
- <sup>34</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), "Donald M. and Virginia W. Wight to David L. Stearman and William Kaplan," November 6, 1959, Liber 2674, Folio 39-40.
- <sup>35</sup> "Wight, Virginia W.," *Washington Post*, September 8, 1993, ProQuest; "Donald M. Wight, 75, Patent Attorney," *Washington Post*, August 6, 1976, ProQuest.
- <sup>36</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), "David L. Stearman and William Kaplan to West Bethesda Park, Inc.," May 10, 1960, Liber 2733, Folio 462-463.
- <sup>37</sup> Kornegay Associates, "West Bethesda Park," January 5, 1960, Plat No. 5949.
- <sup>38</sup> Historicaerials.com, "8104 Woodhaven Boulevard, Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland," (1963).
- <sup>39</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), "West Bethesda Park, Inc., to Donald R. Fraser and Caroline P. Fraser" January 11, 1961, Liber 2824, Folio 159-160.
- <sup>40</sup> "8203 Wahly Drive," *Evening Star*, March 2, 1962, Newsbank.
- <sup>41</sup> "Restored New England Farm House," *Evening Star*, February 3, 1963, Newsbank.
- <sup>42</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), "Donald R. Fraser and Caroline P. Fraser to Lehr S. Wyman and Carol M. Wyman," June 13, 1963, Liber 3096, Folio 294.
- <sup>43</sup> Aerial photographs from 1963 and 1964 at <http://www.historicaerials.com> show the access from Wahly Drive, amended access from Woodhaven Boulevard, and the construction of the garage.
- <sup>44</sup> Montgomery County Court (Land Records), "Lehr S. Wyman and Carol M. Wyman to Howard I. Flack and Deborah T. Flack," June 4, 1993, Liber BAS 11441, Folio 122.



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