



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

March 12, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Historic Preservation Commission  
**From:** Kacy Rohn, Historic Preservation Specialist  
**Subject:** Charles F. R. Ogilby House, 17 Primrose Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
National Register of Historic Places Evaluation

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**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission find that the Charles F.R. Ogilby House merits inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for local significance.

**Background:**

The Charles F.R. Ogilby House (M: 35-13-5), 17 Primrose Street, Chevy Chase, has been nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Governor's Consulting Committee on the National Register evaluated the property at a meeting held on February 18, 2020, and recommended designation.

As a Certified Local Government, the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is certified by the Maryland Historical Trust and the National Park Service to participate in the National Register nomination process. Following review of the nomination, the HPC will forward its recommendation to the County Executive, who will indicate his recommendation and forward a completed Recommendation Form to the Maryland Historical Trust to complete the local review process.

**Discussion:**

The Ogilby House is identified as an Outstanding Resource within the Montgomery County Master Plan-designed Chevy Chase Historic District (M: 35-13). The home is centrally located on a .33 acre-lot on Primrose Street between Connecticut Avenue and Brookeville Road in Chevy Chase Village.

Built in 1911 for Washington D.C. attorney Charles F.R. Ogilby, the five-bay Colonial Revival residence was designed by architect Arthur B. Heaton, a regionally prominent practitioner of the style. The two-and-a-half story frame dwelling rests on a brick foundation with a symmetrically arranged façade. It is clad in cypress shingles, and capped with a slate-shingled, hipped roof pierced by three pedimented dormers. The exterior is embellished with a modillioned cornice and

belt course, and features a prominent one-story portico supported by two sets of paired Ionic columns and two pilasters and crested with a balustrade. The portico shelters an elaborate front door surround with wood paneling, pilasters, sidelights and a fanlight crowned by a pediment.

An early twentieth century three-bay garage at the northeast corner of the property features a slate-shingled, side-gable roof with a Colonial Revival-style cupola. The garage is identified as a contributing resource in the local historic district.

As a significant example of Heaton's suburban residential Colonial Revival architecture, the home meets National Register Criterion C as embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The Ogilby House retains moderately high integrity and the façade clearly reflects Heaton's original design, with key features and materials unchanged. The home was featured in *American Architect* magazine at the time of its construction as a significant work, and today serves as an excellent example of the early twentieth century academic approach to the Colonial Revival style.

**Conclusion:**

Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission find the proposed Charles F.R. Ogilby House nomination is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as locally significant under Criterion C: embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

Attachment:  
National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation

## CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

### National Register of Historic Places Maryland Register of Historic Properties

The standards for evaluating the significance of properties were developed to recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have made a contribution to our history and heritage. The criteria are designed to guide local governments, Federal and state agencies, and others in evaluating potential entries in these Registers.

#### **Criteria for Evaluation**

The quality of significance in American and Maryland history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and:

- a. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- b. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- c. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and individual distinction; or
- d. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory of history.

Criteria considerations: Ordinarily, cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register or the Maryland Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a. a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- b. a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving historic person or event; or
- c. a birthplace or grave of an historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life;
- d. or a cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- e. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- f. a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- g. a property achieving significance within the past 50 years of it is of exceptional importance.