

Montgomery Planning

KRESTVIEW (M:37-57)
7625 CARROLL AVENUE, TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912



**MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DESIGNATION FORM
MAY 2023**

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1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Kress House, Krestview

Current Name:

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties #: M 37-57

2. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Address Number and Street: 7625 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park

County, State, ZIP: Montgomery County, Maryland, 20912

3. ZONING OF PROPERTY

R-60: The intent of the R-60 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 type="checkbox"/> Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Sites	<input type="checkbox"/> Sites
<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 type="checkbox"/> Total	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

D. **Listing in the National Register of Historic Places:** The property has not been evaluated by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) for the National Register of Historic Places.

5. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Function(s): Domestic; Health Care

Current Function(s): Domestic

6. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Site Description: The Kress House is located on an irregularly shaped 0.73-acre lot on the south side of Carroll Avenue northeast of the historic Carroll Avenue Bridge. The lot includes the primary dwelling, a former garage, and terraced gardens. A steeply sloped wooded area abuts the property on its south and west sides, leading down to a walking trail and Sligo Creek. To the east and southeast of the property, several single-family residences are located along Carroll Avenue, Flower Avenue, and Palmer Lane. To the north, the property faces the former Washington Adventist Hospital site and the Washington Adventist University campus on the opposite side of Carroll Avenue.¹

The house is located on a plateau at the northern portion of the lot. The front yard slopes down significantly towards Carroll Avenue, where a crenellated stone retaining wall separates the yard from the public sidewalk. This irregularly coursed, rough-cut stone wall is topped with a jagged stone course. It runs along the south side of Carroll Avenue from Flower Avenue to the approximate northwest corner of the Kress House property, where it curves to the southeast and ends approximately 40 feet from the edge of the bridge. The wall varies in height, but is generally at least 8 feet tall where it fronts the subject property. (Appendix 4, Figures 7).

The front of the Kress House and the neighboring house at 7629 Carroll Avenue are accessed through an opening in the stone wall at the northeast corner of the property (App. 4, Fig. 8). The current house numbers (7625 and 7629) are posted at this entrance above the original house numbers (705 and 707, respectively), which are partially faded. A set of concrete stairs leads to a landing where the stone walled stairway splits to the east (left), providing access to 7629 Carroll Avenue, and to the west (right) to the front yard of the Kress House. The rear yard and former garage are accessed via Palmer Lane which terminates at the southeastern corner of the property. Here, a gravel driveway and parking area are shared between the 7625 and 7629 Carroll Avenue properties.

The side yard along the west elevation is only level along the house and the rest is a wooded, overgrown hillslope. The front yard of the house features a mix of vegetation including sporadic trees, ornamental bushes, vinca vine, and ivy. Two rounded concrete vases set on cobble and concrete bases are in the northern portion of the yard. Large, dense trees surround the front yard to the north along the stone retaining wall and to the west towards the creek. The front yard also features a curved concrete walkway leading from the main stairway from Carroll Avenue to the front steps of the house, where it turns and continues along the east side of the house. The east (side) yard consists of a narrow strip of

¹ This report draws upon the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form prepared by Nancy LiPira, Stantec Consulting Services, provided to Montgomery Planning under a contractual agreement.

manicured grass with long, wood-framed, rectangular planters along the property boundary, which is demarcated by the neighboring home's wood fence. Palmer Lane and the gravel parking area is accessed by continuing along the east side of the house.

The home's rear yard consists of a series of terraces with trees along the western side (App. 4, Figure 12). Some of the terraces are supported by concrete retaining walls and others by dry-laid masonry walls constructed mainly with chunks of concrete, brick, and some stones or cobbles. At least one set of concrete steps provides access between terrace levels. The lower terraces are mostly overgrown while the upper terraces have been recently used for growing vegetables. The ghost foundation of a greenhouse is present on the upper terrace and is now occupied by a wood gazebo. An open, rectangular, concrete block structure is located along the lowest terrace situated at the bottom of the slope along the southern property boundary and a natural drainage (App. 4, Figure 15). The top of the structure is flush with the level of adjacent terrace and may have been used as a cistern to collect rainwater.² The terraces were likely built by the Kress family, whose faith led them to prioritize nutrition and the consumption of whole foods such as fruits and vegetables.³ The level portion of the rear yard is located directly behind the main house and is enclosed by a modern wood fence, the southwest corner of which is supported by a dry-laid stone foundation at the top of the slope. A gate provides access to the yard on its east side. A stone pathway leads from the gate to the steps of the recently enclosed portion of the back porch.

Architectural Description: Krestview is a two-story Craftsman-style bungalow constructed in 1909. The masonry building sits on concrete piers and a concrete raised basement (App. 4, Figure 1). The house is capped by a low-pitched, side-gabled roof clad in asphalt shingles and featuring overhanging eaves. Exposed wood rafters are present on the front (north) elevation and gable ends. The front of the house features a centered shed dormer. A now-enclosed wrap-around porch spans the entire front and west elevations. The front elevation of the raised first story is clad in vertical wood boards while the remaining elevations are mostly clad in scored stucco. The upper story on the gable ends is clad in cedar shake siding, while the dormers on the front and rear elevations are covered in vinyl siding. There is an interior brick chimney along the central roof ridge. Fenestration is mostly regular on the front and east elevations and irregular on the rear and west sides. Windows are varied configurations of double-hung, casement, and hopper styles and are a mix of original wood sash with plain wood surrounds and non-historic vinyl. The Kress House also has a raised basement which is partially exposed along the north and east elevations and fully exposed on the west elevation (App. 4, Figures 3, 6).

In 2019, the property owners made significant alterations to the rear of the house including the construction of a one-story enclosed porch on the eastern half of the building, and the expansion of the existing dormer to create a fully exposed second floor. (App. 4, Figures 4-5). The reconfigured roofs of the rear modifications also exhibit overhanging eaves and are clad in asphalt shingles. All elevations of the additions are clad in vinyl siding and fenestration consists of non-historic vinyl windows and doors.

² Jeffrey Brokaw, personal communication with Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.

³ Laura Cornwell, personal communication with Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.

A mid-twentieth century, detached, three-car garage is located near the southeast corner of the property along Palmer Lane.⁴ The original rectangular plan and form remains intact except for the addition of a central single projecting bay on the façade (north elevation). The one-story building with an exposed basement on the west and south elevations is constructed into a hillside. This allows the garage to read as a single-story when viewed from the house. The wood frame rests on a poured concrete foundation and supports an asphalt shingle-clad hipped roof with overhanging eaves. The first story features non-historic vinyl siding and the exposed basement on the west and south elevations reveals the poured concrete foundation. On the three-bay façade (north elevation), sets of tri-folding wood doors flank the central projecting addition consisting of a reclaimed wood door and transom. Typical fenestration on the secondary elevations consists of double hung, fixed, and casement vinyl-sash windows with simulated divided lights, and non-historic wood and glass doors.

See Appendix Two for a detailed description of each elevation of both buildings.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A. Applicable Designation Criteria

The Kress House meets two of the nine designation criteria as described in Chapter 24A: Historic Resources Preservation, Section 24A-3, Montgomery County Code. Section J of this report includes a detailed analysis.

B. Statement of Significance

The Kress House reflects the local growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its impacts on the development of Takoma Park. The opening of the Washington Training College (today named Washington Adventist University) in 1904 and the Washington Sanitarium (later named Washington Adventist Hospital) in 1907 brought prominent Adventist leaders such as Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress to Takoma Park to oversee the new institutions' development. Many of these leaders purchased homes near these new facilities and were instrumental to the development of the overall community.

This home is significant for its association with Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress, who acquired the property in 1918. The Kresses are known for their contributions to the Seventh-day Adventist Church through their work as medical missionaries and physicians promoting faith-based healthcare. Most significantly, the home represents a significant site of women's history for its association with Dr. Laretta Kress, one of the earliest female licensed physicians and surgeons in Montgomery County. As an obstetrician and gynecologist, she played an integral role in empowering her female patients through support and education, paved the way for more women to enter the healthcare profession, and greatly expanded the maternal healthcare offered by the Washington Sanitarium. The Kress House and its associated property were central to their practice as physicians as a home medical office and also

⁴ Historic Preservation staff could not determine a precise date of construction for the garage. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps document a smaller wood-frame structure in the same general location in 1927. Later amendments to the map depict the current massing of the garage by 1963. Other sources such as the Klinge Property Atlases were unreliable with respect to this property as the maps failed to document any outbuildings near the location of the garage between 1931 and 1953. The first definitive documentation of the garage is from an aerial photograph of the Adventist campus ca. 1962. Therefore, the garage likely was built between 1927 and 1962, but an earlier date of construction contemporaneous to the house remains possible.

allowed them to make meaningful connections with the community as they provided care and service. The home's period of significance extends from 1918 – 1939, corresponding with their residency.

C. Period of Significance

1918 - 1939

D. Significant Dates

1918 (purchase of property)

E. Significant Persons

Dr. Laretta E. Kress; Dr. Daniel H. Kress

F. Areas of Significance

Women's history; Health/Medicine; Religion

G. Architect/Builder

Unknown

H. Narrative

Historic Context: Brief History of the Founding and Early Development of Takoma Park
Developer Benjamin Franklin Gilbert founded Takoma Park in 1883 as one of the first railway commuter suburbs of Washington, DC. On November 24, 1883, Gilbert purchased a ninety-three-acre tract of land from the estate of G.C. Grammar. The property straddled the borders separating the District of Columbia from Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland. This site took advantage of proximity to the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad, completed in 1873, and an ample water source in Sligo Creek. Gilbert promoted his investment with illustrated advertisements describing the newly created suburb as picturesque with amenities such as fresh spring water, high ground, a rolling landscape, trees and nature, spacious lots. Gilbert believed that large and elaborate houses would attract buyers to the new suburb despite its limited initial infrastructure. After acquiring the first parcel, Gilbert ultimately added seven additional land transactions to his original Takoma Park holdings.⁵

Gilbert's interests for the future of Takoma Park extended beyond housing. He used his substantial influence to bring both civic and commercial development and modern infrastructure to the area.⁶ By 1886, Takoma Park had a post office and a new railroad station, which allowed Gilbert to promote it as a suburb with easy access via the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O railroad to downtown Washington, DC. By 1890, the young suburb was well-established within both jurisdictions and had fifteen trains arriving per day, connecting Takoma Park to downtown Washington, DC.⁷

⁵ Perrolle, Pierre, July 30, 2019, "B.F. Gilbert Buys Himself a Town, Piece by Piece: A Takoma Park History Research Note," Courtesy of Historic Takoma with permission of the author; Robert McQuail Bachman, "Takoma Park: Railroad Suburb," in *Washington at Home*, ed. Kathryn Schneider Smith. (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010), 361-363.

⁶ "Approved and Adopted Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, Maryland: Takoma Park Historic District & Carroll Manor/Douglas House," prepared by The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, December 1991, 4-5.

⁷ Robert McQuail Bachman, "Takoma Park: Railroad Suburb," p.361-377.

The Town of Takoma Park, Maryland, was incorporated in 1890 and by 1900 had 750 residents. By 1910, the population had nearly doubled to 1,242.⁸ As the City's population grew, and development spread east of the railroad, residents in these newly subdivided areas began to seek additional improvements. Many of the requests addressed Carroll Avenue, a major thoroughfare generally running east-west and connecting Takoma Park, MD, to Takoma, DC. By 1909, Carroll Avenue was widened to forty feet and new sidewalks were constructed to provide adequate space for traveling pedestrians.⁹ In 1911, the old wooden bridge across Sligo Creek that extended Carroll Avenue to the Seventh-day Adventist sanitarium and college campuses was replaced by a modern steel and concrete bridge.¹⁰ By 1920, the population of Takoma Park had increased to 4,144 residents, making it the tenth largest incorporated town in Maryland.¹¹

The growth of Takoma Park between 1900 and 1920 was due in large part to the relocation of major Seventh-day Adventist institutions from Battle Creek, Michigan, to Takoma, DC, at the turn of the century. In Takoma Park, Maryland, the Adventists established a sanitarium and college, both of which had been important institutions at their faith-based community in Battle Creek, Michigan. By 1916, it is estimated that one-third of Takoma Park's residents were associated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.¹²

Historic Context: Origins of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

The Adventists arrived in Takoma Park to begin a new phase in their denomination's history. The decision was heavily influenced by Seventh-day Adventist co-founder Ellen G. White, who pushed for the relocation of major Adventist institutions (App. 5, Figure 8). Ellen was born as Ellen Gould Harmon in 1827 in Portland, Maine.¹³ She and her husband, James White, were among the group that first formed the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Ellen White was particularly influential to the Adventist faithful, who believed her to be the recipient of divine visions and dreams, which she presented in prolific writing. Together, the Whites amassed a large following and moved their family and followers to the rural town of Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1855.¹⁴

Ellen saw personal health as fundamental to the Seventh-day Adventist faith.¹⁵ She believed in a vegetarian diet, frequent exercise, and avoidance of drugs and alcohol. For her, healthy living was a way to achieve a higher level of cleanliness acceptable in the eyes of God.¹⁶ One of Ellen's first contributions to the Battle Creek Adventist community was the establishment of the Western Health Reform Institute on September 5, 1866.¹⁷ The institute was built to address people's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, a holistic approach which later became a trademark of Seventh-day Adventist healthcare. Ten years after the institute was opened, Dr. John Harvey Kellogg joined the institute as its superintendent

⁸ Town Council Meeting Minutes, September 20, 1928, Takoma Park Archives, City Council Meeting Minutes, Volume 8, Page 183.

⁹ "New Walk on Carroll Avenue," *The Evening Star*, April 13, 1909, 17.

¹⁰ "Steady Growth the Rule in Suburban Takoma Park": *The Evening Star*, July 1, 1911.

¹¹ Clare Lise Kelly, *Places from the Past: The Tradition of Gardez Bien in Montgomery County, Maryland*. 287.

¹² Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Approved and Adopted Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, Maryland: Takoma Park Historic District & Carroll Manor/Douglas House*, 1992, 8.

¹³ "Who Was Ellen G. White" Seventh-day Adventist Church. Accessed December 5, 2022. <https://www.adventist.org/who-was-ellen-g-white/>

¹⁴ Ron Graybill, "The Whites Comes to Battle Creek: A Turning Point in Adventist History", *Journal of Adventist History*, Vol.15, No. 2, pp. 25-27.

¹⁵ Garth Duff Stolz, "A Taste of Cereal" *Journal of Adventist History*, September 1992, 5.

¹⁶ Schwarz and Greenleaf, *Light Bearers*, 101-103.

¹⁷ Garth Duff Stolz, "A Taste of Cereal" *Journal of Adventist History*, September 1992, 6.

and renamed the facility as the Battle Creek Medical and Surgical Sanitarium (known as the Battle Creek Sanitarium).¹⁸ Kellogg's model promoted a treatment regimen of exercise, rest, nature, and abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, coffee, and tea.¹⁹

Through the latter half of the nineteenth century, Adventists debated the role of education and the proper balance of religious and secular training. Ellen White developed her own tenets for Adventist education that focused on physiology and hygiene combined with the industrial arts for men and the domestic arts for women.²⁰ Battle Creek College, today called Andrews University, was founded in 1874 as the first Adventist institute of higher education.

The Adventist community in Battle Creek experienced a series of major setbacks at the beginning of the twentieth century. In separate incidents in 1902, both the Battle Creek Sanitarium and the Review and Herald Publishing House were destroyed by fire.²¹ Only the college remained untouched. The Church took the fires as a spiritual sign that it was time to relocate their major institutions and expand their reach outside of the Battle Creek community after fifty years in the small, rural enclave.²²

Historic Context: Seventh-day Adventist Institutions in Takoma Park

Seventh-day Adventist leaders sought a location on the east coast to serve as their new headquarters. It was believed that a site near a major urban east coast city would help the church expand domestically and abroad. In July 1903, Adventist leaders visited the Washington, DC suburbs in search of a suitable site. They found an ideal location along the Sligo Creek in Takoma Park, which Adventist prophet Ellen G. White readily endorsed:

The location that has been secured for our school and sanitarium is all that could be desired. The land resembles representations that have been shown me by the Lord. It is well adapted for the purpose for which it is to be used. There is on it ample room for a school and sanitarium without crowding either institution. The atmosphere is pure and the water is pure. A beautiful stream runs right through our land from north to south. This stream is a treasure more valuable than gold or silver. The building sites are upon fine elevations with excellent drainage.²³

The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the denomination's governing body, proceeded to purchase multiple sites in portions of Takoma Park in both the District of Columbia and Maryland. A five-acre tract within the District of Columbia near the Takoma Park train station at the intersections of Carroll Avenue and Eastern Avenue was selected as the site for the General Conference headquarters and the Review and Herald Publishing House.²⁴ On August 30, 1903, the Adventists acquired a fifty-acre tract along the Sligo Creek in Block 51 of B.F. Gilbert's Addition to Takoma Park.²⁵

¹⁸ Garth Duff Stolz, "A Taste of Cereal" *Journal of Adventist History*, September 1992, 4-6.

¹⁹ Kellogg also believed in dietary regimens of grains and vegetables over animal products. Dr. Kellogg's brother, William Kellogg, who assisted his brother in his dietary experiments producing cereals, later refined these recipes for commercial distribution by the Kellogg Company. Schwarz and Greenleaf, *Light Bearers*, 101, 111-112.

²⁰ Schwarz and Greenleaf, *Light Bearers*, 116-122.

²¹ Spalding, Arthur Whitefield, *Origin and History of the Seventh-day Adventists*, (Washington, DC: Review and Herald, 1962), 68-69.

²² Spaulding, *Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists*, 80.

²³ White, Ellen G. *Last Day Events*, 104.

²⁴ Schwarz and Greenleaf, *Light Bearers*, 260.

²⁵ Montgomery County Circuit Court, Deed, Liber TD 26, Folio 462, August 3, 1903. Retrieved from mdlandrec.net

The Washington Training College (1904) and Washington Sanitarium (1907)

Adventist leadership decided the fifty-acre Lot 51 parcel was of sufficient size to house both the sanitarium and training school. Plans for the new institutions placed the Sanitarium within the western third of the fifty-acre tract while the training college was to be composed of four buildings to the east. The *Washington Post* reported that the new college campus was to be made up of a study and recitation hall, two dormitories, and a dining and domestic hall.²⁶ By May 1904, the Seventh-day Adventist Church had filed for articles of incorporation for the Washington Training College as a missionary training school, with additional coursework in language, literature, agriculture, and mechanics.²⁷ At the time of this filing, the men and women's dormitories and dining hall were underway and were expected to accommodate approximately one hundred students.²⁸ In November 1904, the school opened for enrollment (App. 5, Fig. 16).

Construction of the sanitarium began in 1906 but faced delays from inclement weather and the inability to acquire materials. The sanitarium was built on thirty-acres of the original fifty-acre tract and was located on the highest point of the property.²⁹ The original four-story frame building faced west, overlooking the Sligo Creek stream valley, and featured wide verandas where patients could take in fresh air and directly experience the area's natural beauty. Extensive grounds featured wide open space, gardens, a tennis court, and surrounding forest.³⁰ The design was planned to support the Adventists' belief in holistic healthcare, where patients could improve mind, body, and spirit. The Washington Sanitarium held its opening ceremonies on June 13, 1907 (App. 5, Fig. 17).³¹

Historic Context: Ownership of 7625 Carroll Avenue (1909 – 1918)

In addition to acquiring the 50-acre site on which the new training institute and sanitarium were planned, the Seventh-day Adventist Church purchased several other tracts which it subdivided and sold to its members for homesteads. General Conference President Arthur G. Daniells acted as a proxy for the church, assisted by Edwin R. Palmer, who oversaw the Review and Herald Publishing Association. In 1909, Palmer purchased lots 1-3 of Block 49 of B.F. Gilbert's Subdivision of Takoma Park, which included the subject property.³² This acquisition contained the land on the south side of Carroll Avenue between Flower Avenue and Sligo Creek. Palmer and Daniells subdivided the property into Lots 10-15 and sold the subsequent properties to other Seventh-day Adventist members.³³ This subdivision was particularly attractive to church members because it was located on the opposite side of Carroll Avenue from the sanitarium and college. The homes adjacent to 7625 Carroll Avenue were also occupied by Adventist families: Drs. Henry and Patience Sisco owned and lived in the house at 7629 Carroll Avenue. Dr. Henry Sisco worked at the Takoma Park sanitarium, while Dr. Patience Sisco practiced as a physician at the Adventists' nearby sanitarium on Iowa Circle in Washington, DC.³⁴ Hebert and Carolyn Votaw were

²⁶ "Takoma Park" *The Washington Post*, 17 April 1904.

²⁷ "School for Missionaries" *The Washington Post*, 29 July 1904.

²⁸ "New Building Planned" *The Evening Star*, 18 August 1904.

²⁹ "New Sanitarium," *The Evening Star*, 10 March 1907.

³⁰ "New Sanitarium," *The Evening Star*, 10 March 1907.

³¹ The original Washington Sanitarium building and many early campus buildings are no longer extant.

³² Montgomery County Circuit Court, Deed, Liber 202, Folio 114, December 15, 1908

³³ These members included Francis M. Wilcox, Wilbur Dixon Salisbury, Joel C. Rogers, and George A. Irwin.

³⁴ Kress, Daniel H. and Laurretta E., *Under the Guiding Hand, Life Experiences of the Doctors Kress* (Jasper, Oregon: Adventist Pioneer Library, 2018): 190.

Seventh-day Adventist missionaries who owned and lived at the house at 7633 Carroll Avenue. The Votaws sold the property to Washington Adventist University and the house has served as the home of the college president since 1959.

In May 1909, Palmer sold Lot 15 to George A. and Nettie Irwin (App. 5, Fig. 9). The Irwins were likewise prominent Adventist leaders: George had served as President of the General Conference from 1897 – 1901, and at the time of the home’s construction was one of two vice presidents of the General Conference. He was among the earliest Adventist leaders to arrive in Takoma Park and had significant responsibility for the establishment of the Washington Sanitarium, and spent time serving as the Sanitarium’s president and Chairman of the Board.³⁵ Nettie served at this time as matron of the Adventists’ Iowa Circle Sanitarium in Washington, DC.³⁶ Their home at 7625 Carroll Avenue was built by May of 1909, when Seventh-day Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White stayed with the Irwins while making a lengthy visit to the area for the 1909 meeting of the General Conference.³⁷ The Irwins were not residents in the new home for long before moving to the west coast and positions with the Pacific Union Conference and Loma Linda University.³⁸ Following George’s death in 1913, Nettie retained ownership of the property until selling it to Daniel and Laretta Kress in 1918. For a period of time prior to the sale, Nettie rented the home to F.M. Wilcox, who served as editor of the Adventist publication *The Review and Herald* from 1911-1944.³⁹

Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress purchased the property from Nettie Irwin in May 1918 and moved into the house on June 6 of that year.⁴⁰

Historic Context: Drs. Daniel Hartman Kress (1862 – 1956) and Laretta Eby Kress (1863 – 1955)

Drs. Daniel Hartman and Laretta Eby Kress were devotees of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who promoted faith-based healthcare around the world by serving as medical missionaries in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. They were integral to the founding and operation of Adventist sanitariums in England, Australia, and the United States, including the Washington Sanitarium in Takoma Park.

Early Life and Medical Training

Daniel H. Kress and Laretta Eby first met in 1879, before either had converted to the Adventist faith, and reconnected in 1883 when both were working in Detroit, Michigan. After courting for some time, they were married in July 1884.⁴¹ The Kresses identified themselves as Baptists in the early days of their marriage, but Laretta soon connected with members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Eventually, she persuaded her husband, who was serving as a licensed Baptist pastor, to accept the observance of

³⁵ Valentine, Gilbert M. “Irwin, George A. (1844-1913),” *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*, January 29, 2020. <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=H9JX&highlight=George|irwin>

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ “Note,” *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, May 13, 1909, 24. <https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/RH/RH19090513-V86-19.pdf>

³⁸ Valentine, n.p.

³⁹ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 205.

⁴⁰ Montgomery County Land Records, Liber 272, Folio 99, 3 May 1918; Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 205.

⁴¹ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 21-42.

the seventh-day Sabbath and resign from his preaching position in the Baptist church. Both were baptized into the Adventist faith in the summer of 1888.⁴²

Soon after joining the Seventh-day Adventist church, they relocated to Battle Creek, Michigan, to join the Adventist community. Almost immediately, the Church's beliefs about dietary restrictions and healthy living, specifically lectured by Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, sparked an interest within the couple to learn about diet and its effect on health. Adventists avoided consuming most meats, alcohol, coffee, tea, and chocolate.⁴³ Encouraged by Dr. Kellogg, they entered into a four-year program starting in 1890 at the Battle Creek Sanitarium before transferring to the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor.⁴⁴ By this time, the couple had two daughters, Eva (b. 1885) and Ora (b. 1888), and Laretta balanced the pressures of going to medical school and overseeing the Adventist dormitory on campus, while also raising her children. Both Daniel and Laretta graduated medical school in 1894 (App. 5, Figure 1). Laretta was just one of ten women in their graduating class. She specialized in obstetrics and gynecology while Daniel specialized in gastrointestinal disorders.⁴⁵ Daniel and Laretta returned to Battle Creek and worked in the sanitarium as physicians for the next five years. During this time, Laretta also had charge of the orphanage and, while the couple had two biological children, they welcomed a total of eleven children into their home at varying times and legally adopted a son, Paul (App. 5, Fig. 2-3).⁴⁶

Medical Missionaries

In the late nineteenth century, medical missionary work became a fundamental part of the Seventh-day Adventists' evangelical outreach. Ellen G. White praised those who "learn[ed] to minister to both soul and body," who through medical care could bring the Adventist message to those who might never have encountered it.⁴⁷ In 1899, the Kresses were asked to spearhead the church's medical mission in England, where they facilitated the opening of a new sanitarium near London. They were subsequently assigned to work in New Zealand and Australia, where the Kresses opened a new sanitarium and provided medical care to rural areas surrounding Sydney. The family travelled together and faced devastating losses during this period. Soon after moving to England in 1889, 14-year-old Eva died of complications from a heart condition.⁴⁸ John, born in Australia, fell from a highchair at an early age, leaving him with permanent brain damage. He required constant care for the remainder of his life.⁴⁹

Washington Sanitarium and Takoma Park

Adventist leadership needed to identify staff and directors for the Washington Sanitarium as it neared completion. Though the Drs. Kress were still stationed in Australia, George Irwin (owner of 7625 Carroll Avenue from 1909-1918) strongly recommended them, stating a conviction that "Drs. D.H. and Laretta

⁴² Joan A. Francis, "Kress, Laretta Eby (1863-1955)," in *Encyclopedia of Seventh-Day Adventists*, November 28, 2021. <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=BJFV&highlight=y>.

⁴³ Diana Kohn, "One hundred years of Adventist healthcare," in *Takoma Voice* (June 2007): 14.

⁴⁴ Francis, "Kress, Laretta Eby (1863-1955)."

⁴⁵ Fred Bischoff, "Pioneer Medical Missionaries: Doctors Daniel and Laretta Kress," *Medical Evangelist* (Spring/Summer 2013): 15.

⁴⁶ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 78.

⁴⁷ White, Ellen G. "Medical Missionary Work: Medical and Gospel Workers Bound Together by Indissoluble Ties," in *The Ministry for World Evangelism*, Vol. XXIII, No. 10, October 1955.

⁴⁸ Francis, "Kress, Laretta Eby (1863-1955)."

⁴⁹ Montgomery County Commission for Women, "Laretta Kress (1863-1955)."

Kress were needed in Washington to give a mold to the medical and spiritual work to be done there and to influence our medical work throughout the field.”⁵⁰ The doctors were seen as both experienced medical practitioners and spiritually committed to the Adventist faith. Ellen G. White endorsed this transfer once it was clear that the work in Australia would be in good hands.⁵¹

In February 1907, Elder A.G. Daniells wrote to the Kresses in Australia to advise him that the Board of the Washington Sanitarium had voted unanimously to select Dr. Daniel Kress as superintendent and urged the family to return immediately. To fund their move, the family sold their horse, cow, furniture, and other possessions they had acquired during eight years of work in Australia.⁵²

They arrived in Washington, DC, on May 2, 1907, and visited Takoma Park the next day. They found the Washington Sanitarium as a work-in-progress, situated in a beautiful location, but with much to be done before it could open.⁵³ After several weeks of intense work, the facility held its opening ceremonies on June 12, 1907. Takoma Park’s mayor, Wilber Pratt, welcomed the institution to “one of the most healthful spots in America,” while George A. Irwin, chairman of the sanitarium’s board, spoke of the good they hoped to accomplish. Dr. Daniel Kress, as the newly installed superintendent, used his remarks to promote his belief in healthy eating and drinking.⁵⁴ Dr. Laretta Kress and Dr. Patience Sisco served on the medical staff, where they were among the earliest women to practice as licensed physicians and surgeons in Montgomery County (App. 5, Fig. 4).⁵⁵ Dr. Laretta Kress obtained her Maryland medical license in February 1908, and Dr. Patience Sisco in April 1906.⁵⁶

By 1910, the Kresses were living at 59 Flower Avenue in Takoma Park with their 23-year-old daughter Ora, 14-year-old adopted son Paul, and 6-year-old son John.⁵⁷ A 53-year-old Irish boarder, Martha Mott, resided with the Kress family and likely assisted with John’s care. In 1911, the Kresses were called to teach at the College of Medical Evangelists in California. They were joined by their daughter, Ora, who had by this time graduated from medical school herself. Over the next four years, they worked at sanitariums in the Chicago area and then in Massachusetts.⁵⁸

The Kresses returned to Takoma Park in 1915, when Dr. Daniel Kress was appointed medical secretary of the Columbia Union Conference, and Dr. Laretta Kress started a home practice and served as an on-call physician for the sanitarium, attending patients as needed throughout the area.⁵⁹ When the sanitarium board asked Dr. Laretta Kress to increase her teaching of nurses, the Kresses purchased the house at 705 Carroll Avenue, now addressed 7625 Carroll Avenue, from Nettie Irwin in 1918. They named their new residence “Krestview,” and remained in the home for more than twenty-one years (App. 4, Fig. 2).⁶⁰

⁵⁰ White, Ellen G. *The Kress Collection*, Payson: AZ: Leaves-of-Autumn Books: 1985: 263.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 187.

⁵³ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 190.

⁵⁴ “Says Flour Beats Beer,” *The Washington Post*, June 13, 1907, via www.newspapers.com

⁵⁵ “District of Columbia,” *American Medical Directory*, 2nd Ed., 1909, via www.hathitrust.org

⁵⁶ Montgomery County, *Registry of Physicians and Surgeons, 1894-1913*. Maryland State Archives. Liber JA 1, Folios 20,36.

⁵⁷ U.S. Federal Census, 1910, Enumeration District: 0121, Wheaton, Montgomery County, MD; Roll: T624_566;; 15B.

⁵⁸ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 197-201.

⁵⁹ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 204.

⁶⁰ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 202-205, 210.

Kress Family Ownership and Use of 7625 Carroll Avenue

Soon after moving into the Carroll Avenue house, the Kresses found that many repairs were necessary and these were done over a period of a few years, as funds became available. The 1920 Census records Daniel and Lauretta living at Krestview with their son, John.⁶¹ Also listed as a resident of 7625 Carroll Avenue was 35-year-old Danish woman named Marie Hansen. Marie came to live with the Kresses in 1911, working as a housekeeper and caretaker for John.⁶²

In the early years of their ownership, the Kresses rented a large portion of the house to offset their expenses.⁶³ According to the 1920 Census, three additional families (amounting to eight people) lived at Krestview as renters. Boarders included two sisters employed as college teachers and a Norwegian that was working as a nurse, likely at the Sanitarium. Rollin Quinn, a Seventh-day Adventist minister and leader, and his wife Lottie, who also missioned in Australia, also resided with the Kresses for a short time. Lottie was also involved in the church and served as the Sabbath School Department Secretary.⁶⁴ Chester Holt and his wife, Harriet, were also recorded as living at Krestview in 1920. Chester was employed as a clerk for the General Conference.⁶⁵ By 1930, the Census lists Daniel, Lauretta, John, and Marie as the only residents of Krestview.⁶⁶

In 1922, the Kresses sold an approximately 610 square foot triangular parcel along the southwestern edge of the property to Harry H. Spencer.⁶⁷ The parcel was later sold to M-NCPPC in 1935 during the period when the County was acquiring land along Sligo Creek for the construction of the Sligo Creek Parkway.⁶⁸

Eventually, the house and the grounds were improved until the Kresses “had one of the beauty spots of Takoma Park” and Krestview became “a very attractive place for patients to visit and wonder about.”⁶⁹ An undated photograph of the house included in the Kress’ autobiography depicts the front wrap-around porch before it was enclosed (App. 5, Fig. 15).⁷⁰ A small one-story garage is also visible to the southeast of the house, which is no longer extant. In the spring of 1925, Lauretta remodeled the basement so it could be used as a medical office, where she kept a bed to sleep in and had “every convenience for [her] to remain downstairs.”⁷¹ Over her lifetime practice, Lauretta estimated that she had delivered more than 4,000 babies, including deliveries made at her home practice at Krestview.⁷² In 1934, the Kresses hosted a party at the house in celebration of their fiftieth anniversary and invited everyone that Lauretta had delivered as babies. Out of the 3,753 “babies” invited to the party, 602

⁶¹ U.S. Federal Census, 1920, Enumeration District: 0144, Election District 13, Takoma Park, Montgomery County, MD; Roll: T625_671; 14B.

⁶² Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 195.

⁶³ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 211.

⁶⁴ Milton Hook, “Quinn, Rollin David (1869-1928),” in *Encyclopedia of Seventh-Day Adventists*, October 3, 2020. <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=EA0C>.

⁶⁵ U.S. Federal Census, 1920.

⁶⁶ U.S. Federal Census, 1930, Enumeration District: 0035, Takoma Park, Montgomery County, Maryland; Roll: T626; 33A.

⁶⁷ Montgomery County Land Records, Deed Book PBR, Liber 324, Folio 226, 10 December 1922.

⁶⁸ Montgomery County Land Records, Deed Book CKW, Liber 588, Folio 106, 19 February 1935; Erin Hammerstedt, Sligo Creek Parkway, Maryland Inventory of Historic Places Form (MIHP No. M:32-15), 2005.

⁶⁹ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 211.

⁷⁰ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 210.

⁷¹ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 217-218.

⁷² Francis, “Kress, Lauretta Eby (1863-1955); Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 218, 256.

attended ranging from one day to 39 years old. All were captured in a massive group photograph on the hillslope next to the house (App. 5, Fig. 6-7).⁷³

In 1932, Laretta submitted a request to the Takoma Park Council to name the driveway leading to their house from Flower Lane in honor of Edwin R. Palmer. Her request was accepted, and the road was designated as “Palmer Lane.”⁷⁴ That same year, the Kresses granted a right-of-way agreement to the State Roads Commission of Maryland to improve Carroll Avenue in connection with the new bridge that would carry the road over Sligo Creek. Survey plats from this project reflect that the simple concrete retaining wall that had existed since the home’s construction would be replaced, presumably with the taller, crenellated stone retaining wall in place today.⁷⁵

The Kress Maternity Ward

In 1916, after the Kresses had been called back to work at the Washington Sanitarium, Dr. Laretta Kress became more heavily involved in the institution’s obstetrics work (App. 5, Fig. 5). She simultaneously served as the sanitarium’s chief surgeon and oversaw a new, dedicated maternity department opened in an annex that was built c. 1913.⁷⁶ In 1918, a new hospital building opened adjacent to the sanitarium. It provided modern spaces for emergency care, obstetrics, and a surgery ward called “Kress Ward” to honor the sanitarium’s first surgeon, Dr. Laretta Kress (App. 5, Fig. 12-13).⁷⁷ The maternity ward provided private rooms and baths, and a “baby room” with “sanitary cribs for the babies, baby bathtubs, scales, and all other appurtenance for the feeding and care of the new-born infant.”⁷⁸ With the opening of the acute care building in 1918, the facility officially changed its name from the “Washington Sanitarium” to the “Washington Sanitarium and Hospital,” reflecting the beginning of a transition from long-term to acute medical care.⁷⁹

By 1922, the Kress Maternity and Children’s Hospital moved to a separate building on Flower Avenue, across from the campus, with a dedicated staff of doctors and nurses (App. 5, Fig. 14). The new center met an increasing demand for professional maternity and pediatric care, as the medical profession urged a transition away from home births. An advertisement for the new hospital building declared that “[t]he day is past for the home care of the expectant mother. All records show that hospital care is safer, better, and cheaper.”⁸⁰ Dr. Laretta Kress oversaw the expansion and professionalization of maternity care at the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital, even as she personally delivered over 4,000 babies.⁸¹

Leadership in Public Health

Throughout their careers, Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress frequently gave public lectures on health-related topics and often traveled the country to do so. Laretta, and most Adventists, strongly believed

⁷³ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 257; *The Evening Star*, Washington, DC, “Doctor Greeted by 600 ‘Babies,’” July 10, 1934, A-5; Diana Kohn, “Adventist Doctors Daniel and Laretta Kress,” <https://www.historictakoma.org/AdventistDoctors.htm>.

⁷⁴ Takoma Park City Council Meeting Minutes, May 16, 1932, Takoma Park Archives, <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-clerk/takoma-park-archives/>.

⁷⁵ Right of Way Plats No. 447-448, State Roads Commission of Maryland, 1932. www.plats.msa.maryland.gov

⁷⁶ *Changes*, Washington Adventist Hospital, c. 1978, 8. Maryland Historical Trust Vertical File, M: 37:4, Washington Sanitarium.

⁷⁷ *Changes*, 8.

⁷⁸ “Dedicatorial Services of the Washington Hospital,” *Columbia Union Visitor*, Vol. 23, No. 24, June 13, 1918, 2.

⁷⁹ *Changes*, 11.

⁸⁰ “Kress Maternity and Children’s Hospital,” [Advertisement], Takoma Park City Directory, 1922. Archives of Historic Takoma, Inc.

⁸¹ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 256.

in the importance of proper nutrition and she published a cookbook in 1909 titled *Good Health Cookery Book* to share her knowledge.⁸² She was also a strong proponent of proper prenatal care and developed a parent education program in 1935.⁸³ In 1934, a *Washington Post* article reported her belief that pregnant mothers who drank alcohol or smoked during pregnancy “hurt themselves as well as their children.”⁸⁴ While controversial at the time, this view would become widely accepted decades later.

Daniel was a pioneering anti-smoking advocate, who saw the harmful effects of tobacco through firsthand experience before quitting smoking in the mid-1880s. He gave numerous lectures on the topic to students, the local community, and audiences around the country. In 1931, he wrote and distributed a pamphlet titled, *The Cigarette as a Physician Sees It*. The pamphlet specifically targeted young people, and included endorsements from celebrity non-smokers, including Walter Johnson, a pitcher for the Washington Senators Major League Baseball team.⁸⁵ To break the habit of smoking, he advised a “pure, wholesome” diet with lots of fresh water and fruit juices and no highly seasoned foods, guaranteeing the diet “will cure a smoke in a very short time.”⁸⁶ Being such strong proponents of a healthy, wholesome diet, the Kresses likely utilized the greenhouse and terraced gardens in the back yard of Krestview to grow their own fruits and vegetables.⁸⁷

Both Daniel and Laretta were frequently honored in local newspapers for their accomplishments and led various committees and organizations over the years. For example, Daniel was appointed as the Town of Takoma Park’s Health Officer in 1929.⁸⁸ He served as a member of the Washington Sanitarium’s Board of Directors throughout most of the 1920s and 1930s and as Medical Director of the Washington Sanitarium from 1937 to 1938.⁸⁹ Laretta was active for many years with local women’s clubs, and served as president of the Takoma Park Women’s Christian Temperance Union, the Montgomery County Quota Club, and the Women’s Medical Society of the District of Columbia at various points.⁹⁰

Later Life

In 1939, the Kresses retired from their work at the sanitarium after 45 years in the medical profession. Hundreds of friends and former patients gathered on the lawn of the sanitarium to wish them well and thank them for their work.⁹¹ They moved to Orlando, Florida, with their son, John. Due to a shortage of civilian doctors during World War II, they came out of retirement and worked at the Florida Sanitarium for two years.⁹² Daniel and Laretta were founding members of a new Adventist congregation in Winter

⁸² Mrs. Laretta Kress, M.D., *Good Health Cookery Book, containing a most valuable selection of choice recipes, proper food combination, tables on nutritive value of foods, etc., coupled with a treatise on general dietetic principles by Dr. D.H. Kress.* (Melbourne: Signs Pub. Co., 1909).

⁸³ Kohn, “Adventist Doctors Daniel and Laretta Kress.”

⁸⁴ “Mother’s Too Fond of Cocktails and Sports for Babies’ Health, Thinks Doctor,” *The Washington Post*, Washington, D.C June 27, 1934, 15.

⁸⁵ Daniel H. Kress, M.D., *The Cigarette As a Physician Sees It*, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1931, 47.

<https://csts.ua.edu/files/2020/01/1931-Daniel-Kress-The-Cigarette-as-the-Physician-Sees-It.pdf>

⁸⁶ *The Sligonian*, Takoma Park, DC, “Dr. Kress Presents Narcotic Habit Evils,” February 4, 1932, Volume XVII, Number 16, 1. Accessed at <https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/Sligo/Sligo19320204-V17-16.pdf>.

⁸⁷ Jeffrey Brokaw, personal communication with Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.

⁸⁸ Takoma Park City Council Meeting Minutes, June 3, 1929, Takoma Park Archives, <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-clerk/takoma-park-archives/>.

⁸⁹ Joan A. Francis, “Kress, Daniel Hartman (1862-1956),” in *Encyclopedia of Seventh-Day Adventists*, September 18, 2022,

<https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=D9MU>.

⁹⁰ “W.C.T.U. Elects Slate,” *The Evening Star*, 1932; “Heads Quota Club,” *The Evening Star*, January 19, 1933; “News of the Suburbs,” *The Washington Post*, May 13, 1928.

⁹¹ “Hundreds of Friends Honor the Drs. Kress as They Retire,” *The Washington Post*, September 11, 1939.

⁹² Francis, “Kress, Laretta Eby (1863-1955);” Bischoff, “Pioneer Medical Missionaries: Doctors Daniel and Laretta Kress,” 17.

Park, Florida. When the new congregation built a dedicated church building in 1952, members voted to name the new sanctuary ‘the Kress Church,’ to be renamed ‘the Kress Memorial Church’ after their deaths. The Kress Memorial Church still honors the contributions of the Drs. Kress as pioneering medical missionaries.⁹³ Daniel and Laretta remained in Florida for the remainder of their lives: Laretta passed away in 1955 and Daniel the following year.

Subsequent Ownership of 7625 Carroll Avenue

After the Kresses’ move to Florida in 1939, Donald and Edna Jones rented the home before eventually purchasing it in 1942.⁹⁴ By 1940, the Joneses were living at 7625 Carroll Avenue with their two-year-old son Donald G.⁹⁵ The Jones family was also associated with the Adventist church. Although the Kresses did not officially sell the property until 1942, the Joneses are listed as the owners in the 1940 census.⁹⁶ Donald Jones was employed as a dentist and worked in private practice, and likely ran his practice out of the basement medical office at the Carroll Avenue house. Edna worked as the dental assistant. By 1950, the Joneses had another child, a daughter named Kathleen, and Donald continued to own his own dental practice.⁹⁷ The Joneses lived at 7625 Carroll Avenue until 1986 when the property was purchased by Jefferson Shingleton and Christina Lego.⁹⁸ The property changed hands three times before it was sold to the current owners, Jeffrey Brokaw and Laura Cornwell, in 2015.⁹⁹ With the exception of the demolition of a greenhouse located between the main house and the rear garage at the top of the terraced back yard, which occurred at some point between 2004 and 2006, it is not known if any significant alterations were made to the house or the property between the Kress’ ownership and 2015.¹⁰⁰ In 2019, a significant addition was added to the rear of the property and the garage was extensively altered.

I. Areas Exempt from Designation

N/A

J. Designation Criteria:

The Kress House meets Designation Criteria 1A and 1C as listed in Section 24A-3 of the Montgomery County Code.

1A. The historic resource has character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the county, state, or nation.

The Kress House is associated with the growth of Seventh-day Adventist institutions in Takoma Park and their influence on the development of the local community.

⁹³ “About Us,” Kress Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church, <https://kressmemorial.org/about-us/>.

⁹⁴ Montgomery County Land Records, Deed Book CKW, Liber 889, Folio 127, 2 September 1942.

⁹⁵ U.S. Federal Census, 1940, Enumeration District: 16-44, Election District 13, Takoma Park, Montgomery County, Maryland; Roll: T627; 4B.

⁹⁶ Montgomery County Land Records, Deed Book CKW, Liber 889, Folio 127, 2 September 1942.

⁹⁷ U.S. Federal Census, 1950, Enumeration District: 16-112, Election District 13, Takoma Park, Montgomery County, Maryland; Roll:2549; 39.

⁹⁸ Montgomery County Land Records, Deed Book HMS, Liber 7482, Folio 530, 29 December 1986.

⁹⁹ Montgomery County, Land Records, Deed Book BAS, Liber 9805, Folio 391, 7 June 1991; Deed Book MQR, Liber 13423, Folio 33, 3 May 1995; Deed Book MQR, Liber 23764, Folio 138, 5 May 2003; Deed Book BHM, Liber 50892, Folio 316, 28 July 2015.

¹⁰⁰ Google Earth Aerial Imagery; Montgomery County GIS, Property Map Viewer.

The relocation of the General Conference headquarters and publishing house and the establishment of the Washington Sanitarium and the Washington Training College resulted in an in-migration of Seventh-day Adventist members to Takoma Park over the next several decades. Adventist sources estimate that upwards of 2,000 church members moved to Takoma Park in the early part of the twentieth century.¹⁰¹ Church leaders purchased and subdivided land in Takoma Park to facilitate the growth of the local Adventist community. Arthur G. Daniells and Edwin R. Palmer subdivided the lot on which the Kress House was built within six years of the Adventists' initial purchase of land in Takoma Park. It was an attractive location for members of the church community due to its proximity to the new sanitarium and college, and the block attracted prominent church members to buy and rent homes in the first third of the twentieth century.

The house at 7625 Carroll Avenue was an early residential property built specifically by Adventist leaders on land that had been purchased for that purpose. The home was occupied continuously by members of the Adventist church from its construction in 1909 through at least 1986, when it was sold by Donald B. and Edna Jones. These owners and residents included leading figures of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference, Washington Sanitarium, and the Review and Herald Publishing House, significant institutions within the local faith community and the church as a whole. The property is a strong reflection of the Adventists' influence on the development of Takoma Park and the expansion of their work to the nation's capital.

1C. The historic resource is identified with a person or group of persons who influenced society.

The Kress House reflects the work and influence of Drs. Laretta and Daniel Kress, significant Adventist leaders, doctors, and public health advocates. The Kresses were notable medical missionaries who established Seventh-day Adventist sanitariums around the world before settling in Takoma Park to lead the opening and growth of the Washington Sanitarium. As the sanitarium's first medical superintendent and first surgeon on staff, respectively, Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress were influential figures in the success of the new institution, which remained in this location until relocating in 2019.

The Kresses were residents at 7625 Carroll Avenue from 1918-1939, a significant stretch in their careers in which Dr. Daniel Kress gained prominence for his anti-smoking advocacy and Dr. Laretta Kress significantly raised the profile of the sanitarium's maternity care program. Dr. Laretta Kress has special distinction as one of the earliest women to be licensed and practice as a physician in Montgomery County. Her leadership shaped the evolution of the sanitarium's program of care and its physical development, by establishing dedicated space in the acute-care hospital building (c. 1918) and a separate maternity ward (c. 1922) for the care of expectant mothers and babies.

The Drs. Kress modified their home to suit their professional needs and their role within the community: the renovation of the basement to serve as a home medical office and their dedicated improvements to the grounds made the house a gathering place for both friends and patients.¹⁰² Their life in the home is clearly evident and declared prominently by the name "Krestview" emblazoned above the front door.

¹⁰¹ Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, "The Sligo Story", 2.

¹⁰² Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 211.

K. Conclusion:

The Kress House retains sufficient historic and physical integrity to convey its period of significance (1918 - 1939). The home has integrity of location and setting as it remains in its original location on a hilly lot above Carroll Avenue and Sligo Creek, adjacent to homes built in the same period.

The Kress House and property retains its integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Many of the early alterations to the house including the enclosure of the wrap-around porch were made during the Kress family's ownership and accommodated their wish to provide medical care and a space that welcomed the surrounding community.¹⁰³ The original materials (or those that date to the period of significance) such as the wood doors and windows and scored stucco siding remain intact. Most alterations to the design and materials are limited to the rear elevation which isn't visible from the public rights-of-way. In addition, the house retains a spatial connection to the former Adventist hospital site and the Washington Adventist University campus. Therefore, it retains its integrity of feeling and association.

The Kress House communicates the history of the Seventh-day Adventist settlement in Takoma Park and the prominent church members attracted to the area. It has special significance as a reflection of medical history and women's history as the residence and home practice of Dr. Laretta Kress, who guided the expansion and professionalization of maternity care in the Washington suburbs over a period of three decades at the beginning of the twentieth century.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING/GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Property Land Area: .73 ac

Account Number: 01067671

District: 13

Environmental Setting Description: The Kress House at 7625 Carroll Avenue occupies Lot 15 in Block 62 of Gilbert's Addition to Takoma Park in the City of Takoma Park, Maryland. The site consists of the entire 32,275 square feet of land identified as 01060657, District 13.

Environmental Setting Justification: The boundary includes the property historically associated with the home, excepting the small triangular parcel eventually sold to M-NCPPC for the development of the Sligo Creek Parkway in 1935.

9. PROPERTY OWNERS

Jeffrey Brokaw and Laura Cornwell
7625 Carroll Avenue
Takoma Park, MD

¹⁰³ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 211-214.

10. FORM PREPARED BY

Kacy Rohn, Cultural Resources Planner II
April 2023

11. MAJOR SOURCES CONSULTED

Ancestry.com [numerous]

The Center for Adventist Research, [numerous], <https://www.centerforadventistresearch.org/>

Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, [numerous], www.encyclopedia.adventist.org

The Evening Star [numerous].

Klinge Real Estate Atlases.

Kress, Daniel H. and Laretta E. *Under the Guiding Hand: Life Experiences of the Doctors Kress, 1931*, Jasper, OR: Adventist Pioneer Library, 2018 edition.

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

Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research (ASTR), General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, [numerous], www.adventistarchives.org

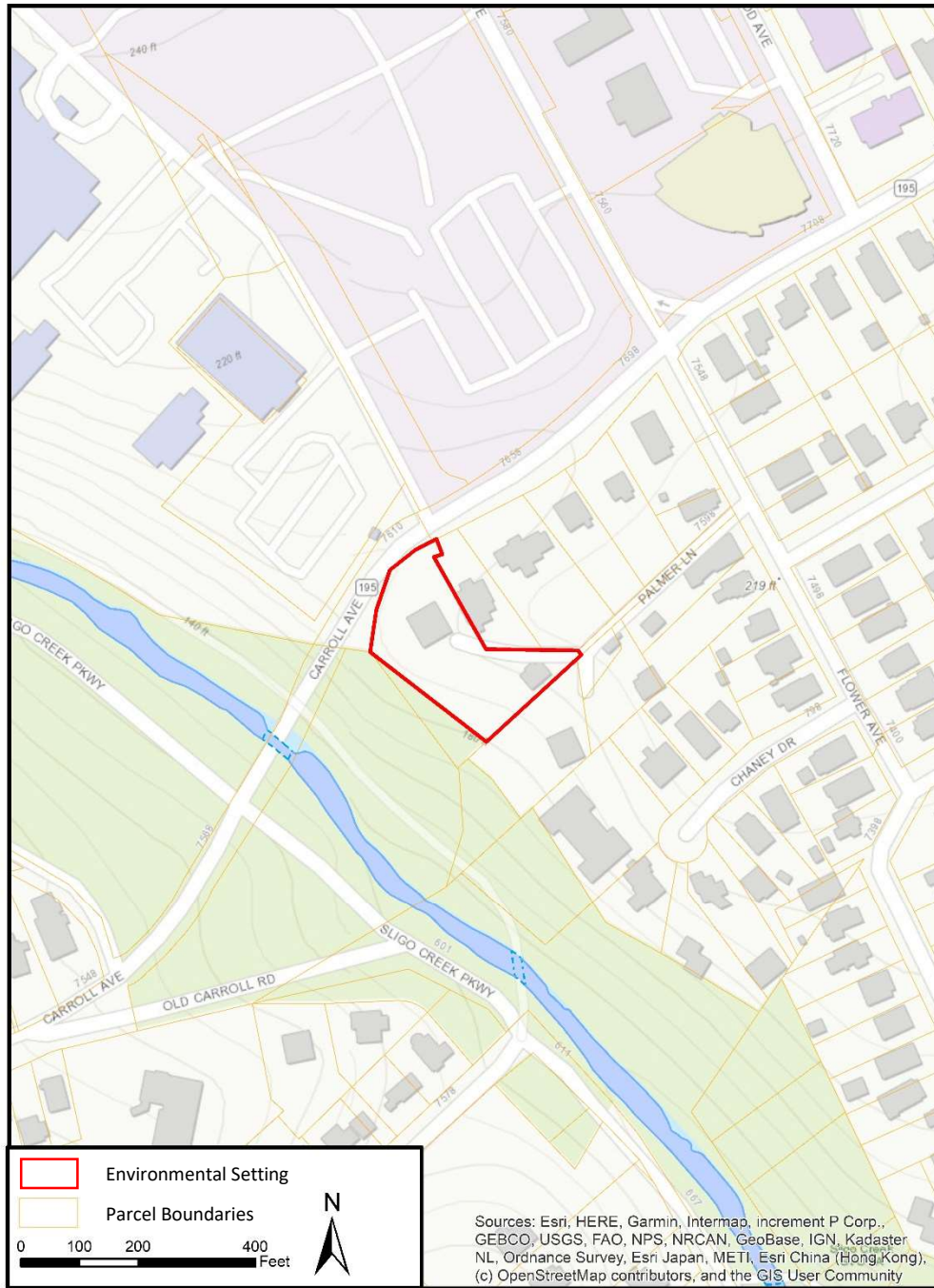
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

United States Federal Census.

The Washington Post [numerous].

APPENDIX ONE: ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING/GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Environmental Setting - 7625 Carroll Ave., Kress House, M:37-57



APPENDIX TWO: DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

North Elevation (Appendix Four, Figures 1-2)

From the front lawn, nine painted concrete steps with pipe rails and concrete pillars at the top and bottom connect a concrete walkway to the raised first story, a now-enclosed, four-bay full width porch. From east to west, the first, third, and fourth bays each consist of two pairs of wood six-over-one French casement windows. The second bay consists of two fixed, six-over-one wood sash windows flanking a three-quarter glass wood door. The eight-light, single-panel wood door features a fixed single-light, glass transom with the word "KREST VIEW" in gold lettering. This name was given by Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress. The original porch was likely enclosed during the years of the Kress ownership when they are known to have made many repairs and improvements.¹⁰⁴ Within the enclosed porch, the fenestration of what was the original exterior front façade consists of three bays of one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows and a single-leaf door with a hopper-style transom that is flanked by narrow two-over-one, single- or double-hung side lights, all of which are wood sash. The entry door is half-glass, consisting of a single pane over one horizontal and two vertical panels. The interior walls of the enclosed porch are clad in vertical beadboard and supported by five original concrete square pillars.

Above the porch, a central shed dormer with an overhanging eave roof and exposed rafters is clad in vinyl siding and features a ribbon of four single-light casement windows. Beneath the porch, wood lattice partially encloses the eastern three bays of the raised basement. The western bay is open at ground level to a small concrete slab patio covered by the front porch. The façade at basement level is clad in scored stucco and fenestration consists of a single-leaf door that provides access from the concrete slab to the basement and a one-over-one double-hung wood window. The wood door is half-glass and paneled, matching the style of the original first-floor front door.

East Elevation (Appendix Four, Figures 3)

The east (side) elevation has irregular fenestration. The first story has three double-hung wood sash windows on the main block of the house. The two southernmost windows are nine-over-two and the third, which is slightly larger, is one-over-one. The scored stucco creates a false keystone lintel above each of these windows. The northern end of the east elevation is the side of the enclosed porch. It features three grouped six-over-one wood sash windows, two of which are French casement, and one of which is fixed.

The upper story gable end is clad in evenly-coursed wood shingles in two bands of staggered rows. Fenestration consists of two matching six-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows and a small, louvered gable vent. At basement level, one small rectangular fixed single-pane window is centrally located on the main block. The window is smaller than the original square opening, which formerly served as a coal chute. At the rear (south) is the one-story, screened porch addition built circa 2019. The areas beneath both the front porch and the rear addition are enclosed with wood lattice.

South Elevation (Appendix Four, Figures 4-5)

¹⁰⁴ Daniel and Laretta Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand, Life Experiences of the Doctors Kress* (Jasper, Oregon: Adventist Pioneer Library, 2018): 211.

The south (rear) elevation underwent a significant alteration in 2019 that partially enclosed the first-floor wood porch and expanded the original shed dormer into a full second floor. On the first floor, the western two-thirds of the rear elevation consists of an open porch and pergola enclosed by a contemporary balustrade. The wood pergola is supported by two square posts. The exposed exterior of the house along the first-floor porch is scored stucco with two openings consisting of a double-leaf, non-historic French-style door and transom and a pair of non-historic windows. The eastern third of the rear elevation is occupied by a one-story gable-front enclosed porch addition. Contiguous screened windows and two double-leaf doorways, each paired with a transom, span all elevations of the first-floor addition. The doors on the addition are multi-panel, screened French-style doors. Fenestration along the original rear façade, now enclosed by the addition, consists of a nine-over-two, double-hung wood sash window, a single wood and glass door with a square four-light transom, and a small, rectangular four-light wood sash window.

On the second story, the original shed dormer was expanded to the western edge of the house and a central, full-story, protruding, front-gabled addition was constructed flush with the rear roofline. A group of three single-light vinyl windows with false divided lights, each with a paired transom, are on the gable (rear) end of the central addition. The western section of the dormer addition features a small balcony enclosed by balustrades matching the porch below. Two full-glass, French-style vinyl doors provide access to the balcony. Fenestration to the east of the central addition consists of a pair of false four-light, single-pane vinyl windows and a rectangular, single-pane vinyl window. Two sets of stairs are present along the rear elevation. A full flight of stairs leading from the first story porch to ground level was added at the southwest corner of the house during the 2019 renovations. A set of five steps lead from the back yard into the enclosed addition at the southeast corner of the house. At the basement level, the area below the rear porch and addition is enclosed with wood lattice. A vertical wood panel door is present at the western end, providing access to the basement level or exterior storage space.

West Elevation (Appendix Four, Figure 6)

On the west (side) elevation, the basement is fully exposed. Fenestration at the basement level consists of three symmetrical pairs of six-light, wood sash casement windows, with the northern pair covered with exterior screens. The bay below the front enclosed porch is open and is utilized as a ground-level patio. Evidence of the original wrap-around porch is represented by five concrete piers projecting from the exterior wall and spanning the basement level and first floor. The main story consists of the enclosed porch at the north end, mirroring the fenestration on the east elevation. The second bay includes a pair of one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows. The third and fourth bays each include a single-pane, rectangular non-historic window. A small, shed-roofed projecting bay clad in vinyl siding was added between these windows during the 2019 renovations. Fenestration on the upper story consists of a ribbon of four one-over-one, double-hung non-historic windows. While no exterior evidence is visible, the upper story of the west elevation was also originally a porch or balcony, and the original wood shake exterior cladding is present on the now interior wall.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁵ Laura Cornwell, personal communication with Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.

Detached Garage (Appendix Four, Figures 9-11)

A mid-twentieth century, detached, three-car garage is located near the southeast corner of the property along Palmer Lane. Constructed at the edge of the slope, the main level is visible and accessed from Palmer Lane on its north and east elevations only. The lower level is exposed on its west and south elevations and a concrete retaining wall extends from the northwest corner of the building towards the house. A set of concrete stairs along the retaining wall leads down to the lower-level entrance and to the terraced rear yard.

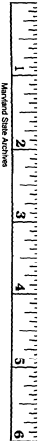
The rectangular garage is capped by an asphalt shingled, hipped roof with overhanging eaves. The original roof form has been significantly altered by the addition of a projecting shed-roof central bay. The upper level is clad in vinyl siding and the two exposed lower-level elevations reveal a poured concrete foundation. The eastern and western bays of the façade include sets of tri-folding wood doors, each panel of which includes a six-light wood sash casement window. The central bay, which has been altered by the projecting addition, features a reclaimed, single-leaf, two-paneled six-light wood door topped with a single-light wood frame transom.¹⁰⁶

The east elevation has a single-leaf, paneled wood and glass door with a single concrete and wood entrance step, accessible from ground level at Palmer Lane. The terrain slopes steeply away from the four-bay rear (south) elevation and exposes two full stories. On the upper story, the western and eastern-most bays each contain a double hung vinyl-sash window with six simulated divided lights, while the two central bays contain fixed vinyl-sash windows with four simulated divided lights. The lower level has four sets of paired, vinyl-sash casement windows with six simulated divided lights and HVAC tubing and equipment are affixed to the exterior.

Two fully exposed stories and a concrete foundation are visible on the west elevation. The three-bay upper story has two square non-historic vinyl windows and non-historic French-style doors, while the lower level includes a single-leaf non-historic door and a pair of six-over-six double-hung, wood sash windows on the lower level. The remains of a wood porch, possibly two-story, are visible on the west elevation.

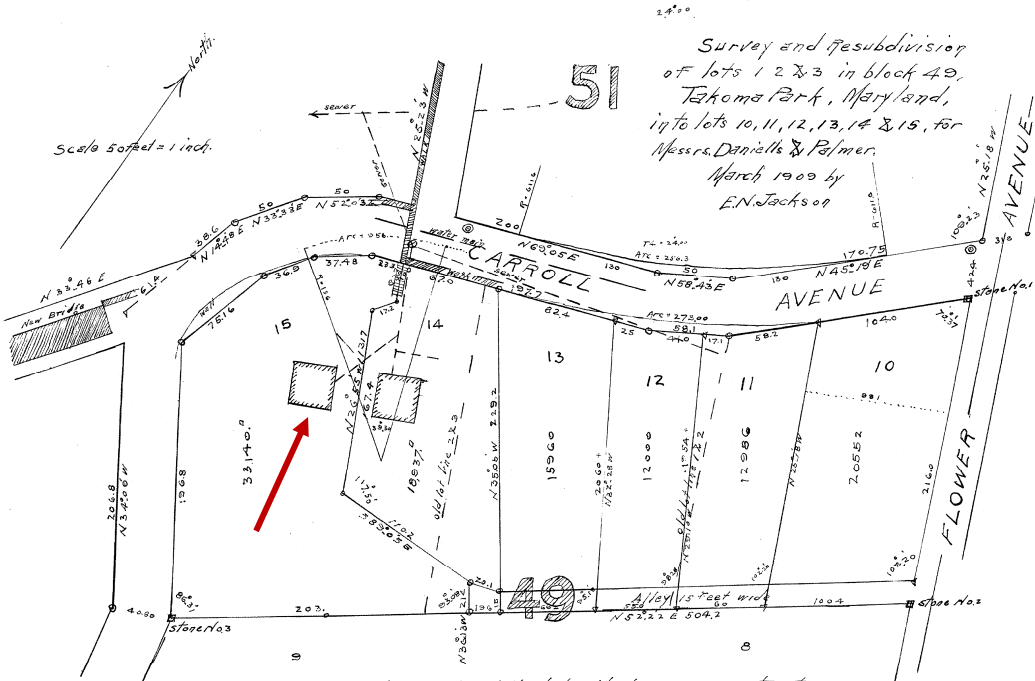
¹⁰⁶ Jeffrey Brokaw, personal communication with Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.

APPENDIX THREE: HISTORIC MAPS



I hereby certify that the foregoing Plat was duly
 filed April 30th A.D. 1909 as Plat No. 101 in Plat Book
 No. 2, one of the Plat Books of Montgomery County,
 Maryland.

John H. Bennett.
 Clerk.



Filed April 30th 1909

I hereby certify that all the lots, blocks, avenues, streets,
 roads, alleys, etc., indicated hereon, are the lots 1, 2 & 3,
 block 49, Takoma Park, Maryland, containing 115,039 sq. ft.,
 conveyed to Edwin T. Palmer, the joint maker of this plat,
 and subdivision, by Augustus C. James, the 15th day of December, 1908,
 and recorded in Liber 202, folio 114, one of the land records of
 Montgomery County, Maryland. I also certify that stones designated
 No. 1 & No. 2 on this plat, have been planted in accordance with the requirements
 of section 60B of article 16 of the code of Public Local Laws, title
 "Montgomery County," subtitle "Clerk," and that all bearings are the true meridian.

E. N. Jackson, C.E.
 March 16th 1909.

Figure 1: Takoma Park, Block 49, Lots 1-3, Resubdivision, Daniels & Palmer, Plat 101, April 30, 1909. Montgomery County Circuit Court Subdivision Plats. The Kress House is indicated by the red arrow.

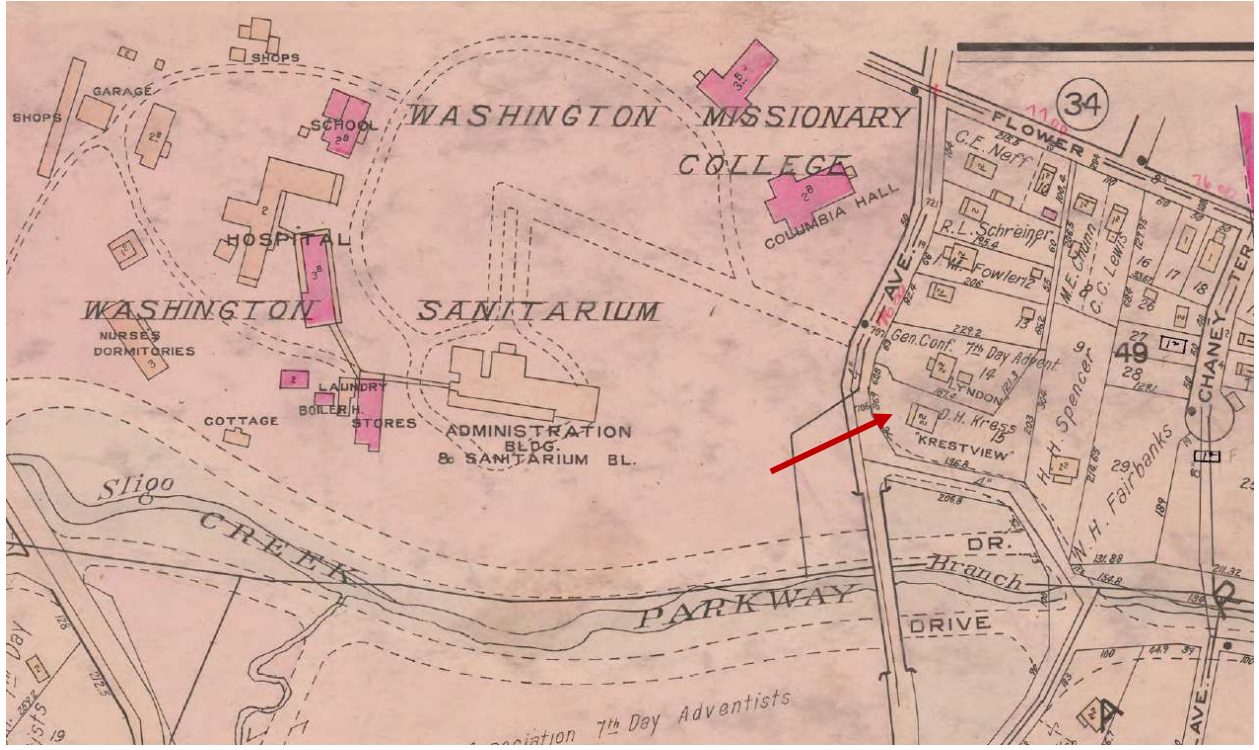


Figure 2: 1931 Klinge Atlas of Montgomery County, Volume 1, Sheet 33. Source: Historic Preservation Program Archives

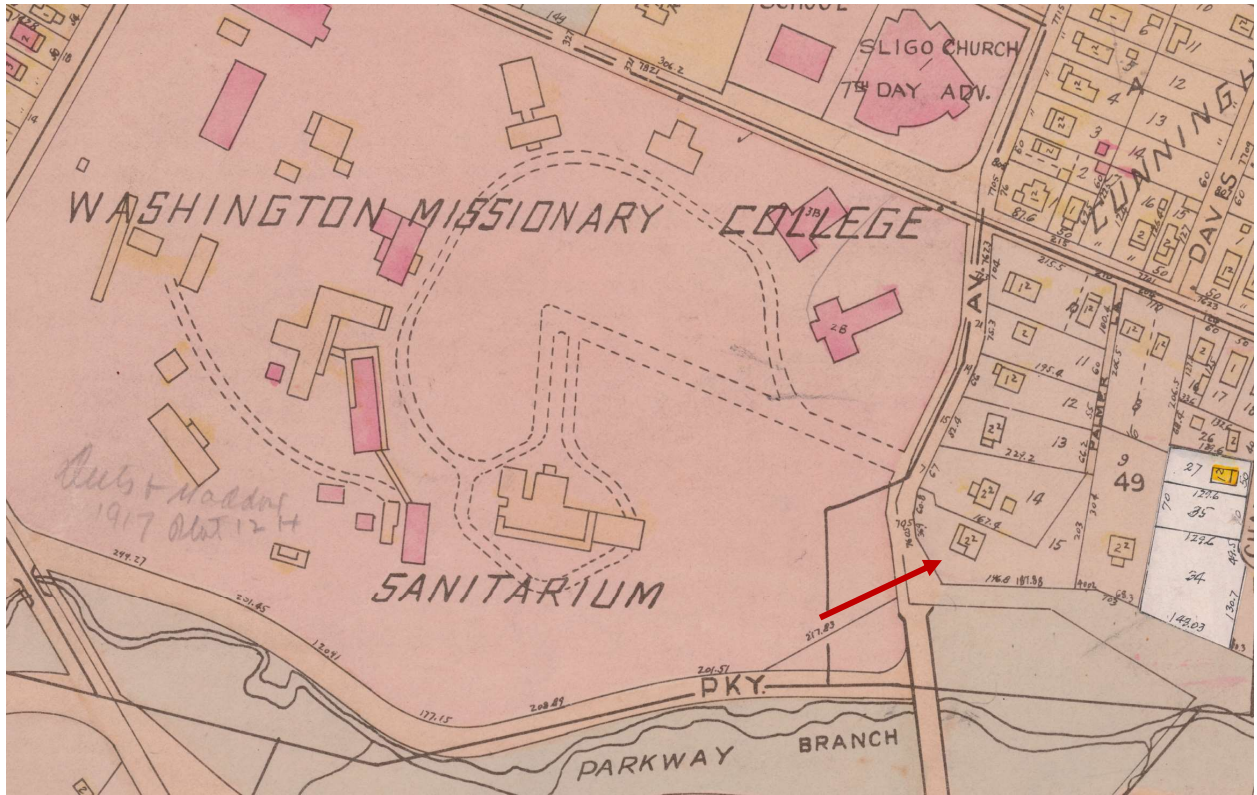


Figure 3: 1948-1953 Klinge Atlas of Montgomery County, Volume E, Sheet 07. Source: Historic Preservation Program Archives.

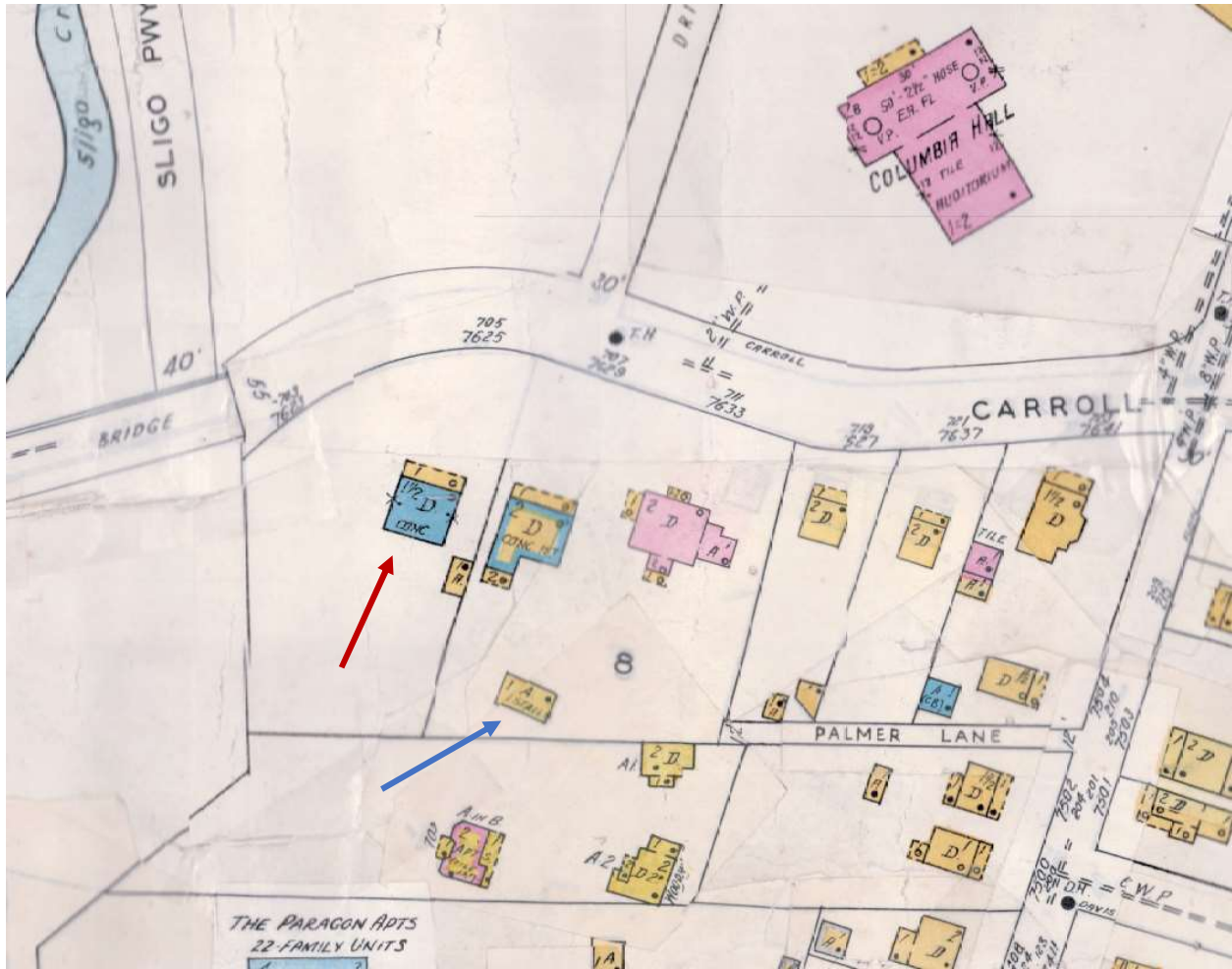


Figure 4: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Volume 1-E, Sheet 66, 1927-1963. The garage is indicated by a blue arrow. Note that the lot lines inaccurately show the garage as part of the adjacent 7629 Carroll Avenue property. Source: Historic Preservation Program Archives.

APPENDIX FOUR: EXTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE KRESS HOUSE



Figure 1: North (front) elevation of the Kress House, view to south, Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.



Figure 2: Detail of enclosed porch on front (north) elevation and transom window with “Krestview” name. Montgomery Planning, March 22, 2023.



Figure 3: East elevation of the Kress House, view to southwest, Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.



Figure 4: South (rear) elevation of the Kress House showing recent alterations, view to northwest, Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.



Figure 5: South (rear) elevation of property, viewed from the southwest corner. Montgomery Planning, March 22, 2023.



Figure 6: West elevation of the Kress House, view to east, Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.



Figure 7: Stone retaining wall along Carroll Avenue with the Kress House in background, view to east, Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.



Figure 8: The split stairway providing access to both 7625 and 7629 Carroll Avenue from the street, viewed from the northeast corner of 7625 Carroll Avenue. Montgomery Planning, March 22, 2023.



Figure 9: North (front) and east elevations of the former garage, view to southwest, Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.



Figure 10: West elevation of the former garage from terraced yard, view to east, Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.



Figure 11: Southeast corner of the former garage. Montgomery Planning, March 22, 2023.



Figure 12: Terraced rear yard, view to west, Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.



Figure 13: Example of a dry-laid masonry retaining wall in terraced rear yard, Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.



Figure 14: Former greenhouse structure (at upper left) and garden retaining walls, looking north from the terraced back garden. Montgomery Planning, March 22, 2023.



Figure 15: Possible cistern structure located along the southern property line, looking southwest. Montgomery Planning, March 22, 2023.

APPENDIX FIVE: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: Battle Creek Sanitarium's first medical class, c. 1894. Dr. Laretta Kress is seated at center in the polka-dotted dress, and Dr. Daniel Kress is seated in a chair at far right holding a hat. *Battle Creek Sanitarium's First Medical Class, c. 1894.* Center for Adventist Research Image Database. <http://centerforadventistresearch.org/photos>



Figure 2: The Kress family, with daughter Ora (standing) and sons Paul (standing) and John, c. 1906. Center for Adventist Research Image Database. <http://centerforadventistresearch.org/photos>



Figure 3: The Kresses with their children and foster children, undated. 1) Dr. Daniel Kress, 2) Dr. Laretta Kress, 3) Eva Kress, 4) Ora Kress. Appears in *Under the Guiding Hand*.



Figure 4: Washington Sanitarium Staff, undated. Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress seated in the front row, indicated by the red arrows., Ellen G. White Estate.



Figure 5: Dr. Laretta Kress (right), undated, Adventist HealthCare.



Figure 6: Drs. Laretta and Daniel Kress, Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary, 1934. Department of Archives and Special Collections, Loma Linda University.

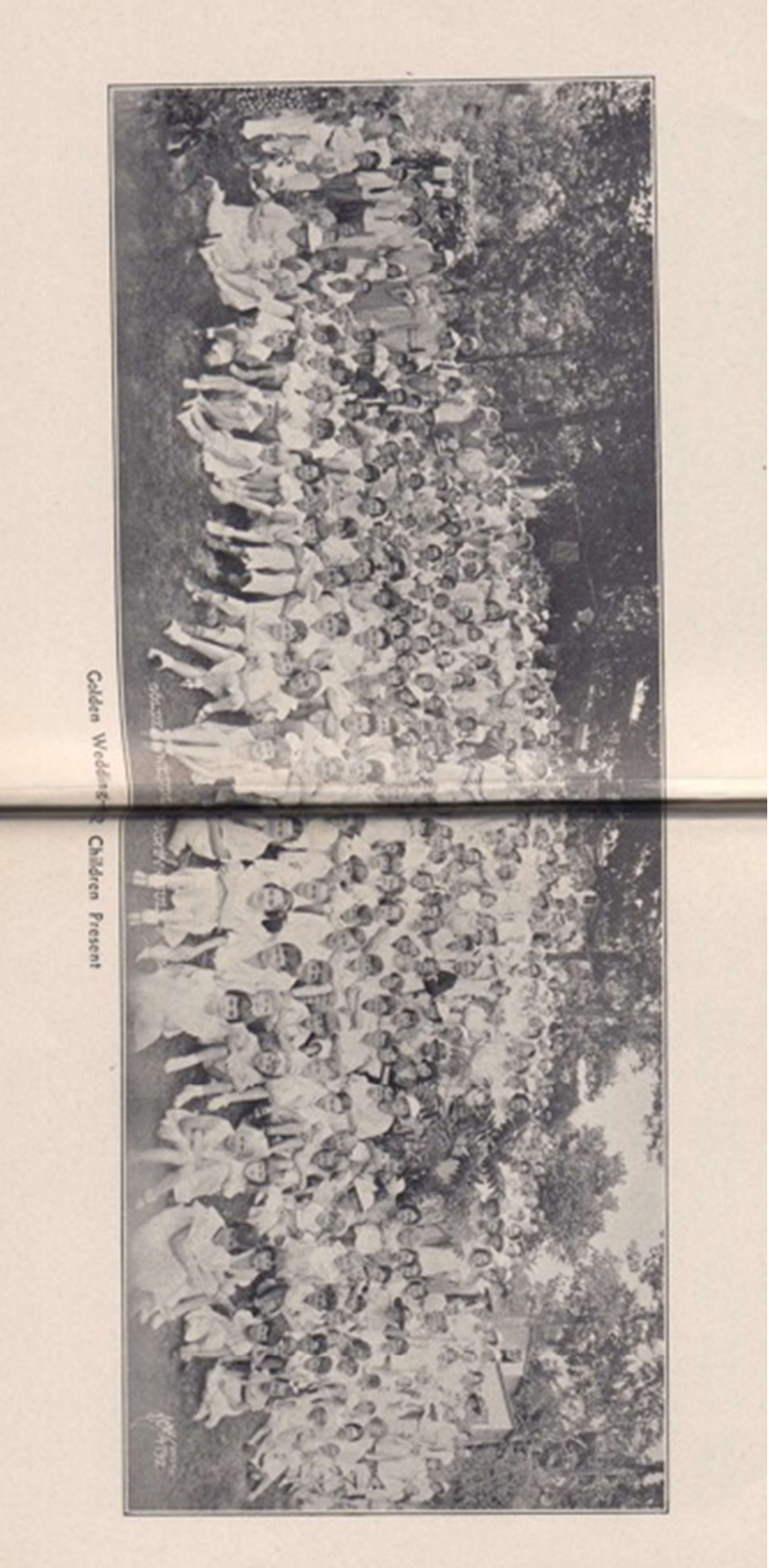


Figure 7: Drs. Lauretta and Daniel Kress Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary Party, with hundreds of guests whom Dr. Lauretta Kress had delivered as babies. Taken in the rear yard at Krestview on the terraced slope, 1934. In *Under the Guiding Hand*.



Figure 8: Portrait of Ellen G. White, Co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1864.
Photographer: G. W. Loring, New York Gallery, Battle Creek, Michigan, Ellen G. White Estate.



Figure 9: George and Nettie Irwin, undated. The Irwins were the builders and first owners of the home at 7625 Carroll Avenue. Photo courtesy of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Archives.



Figure 10: Washington Missionary College students on the roof of the Science Building, 193-. Center for Adventist Research Image Database. <http://centerforadventistresearch.org/photos>. The Kress House (indicated with a red arrow) is mostly obscured by trees. Note that the crenellated stone retaining wall has not yet been constructed.

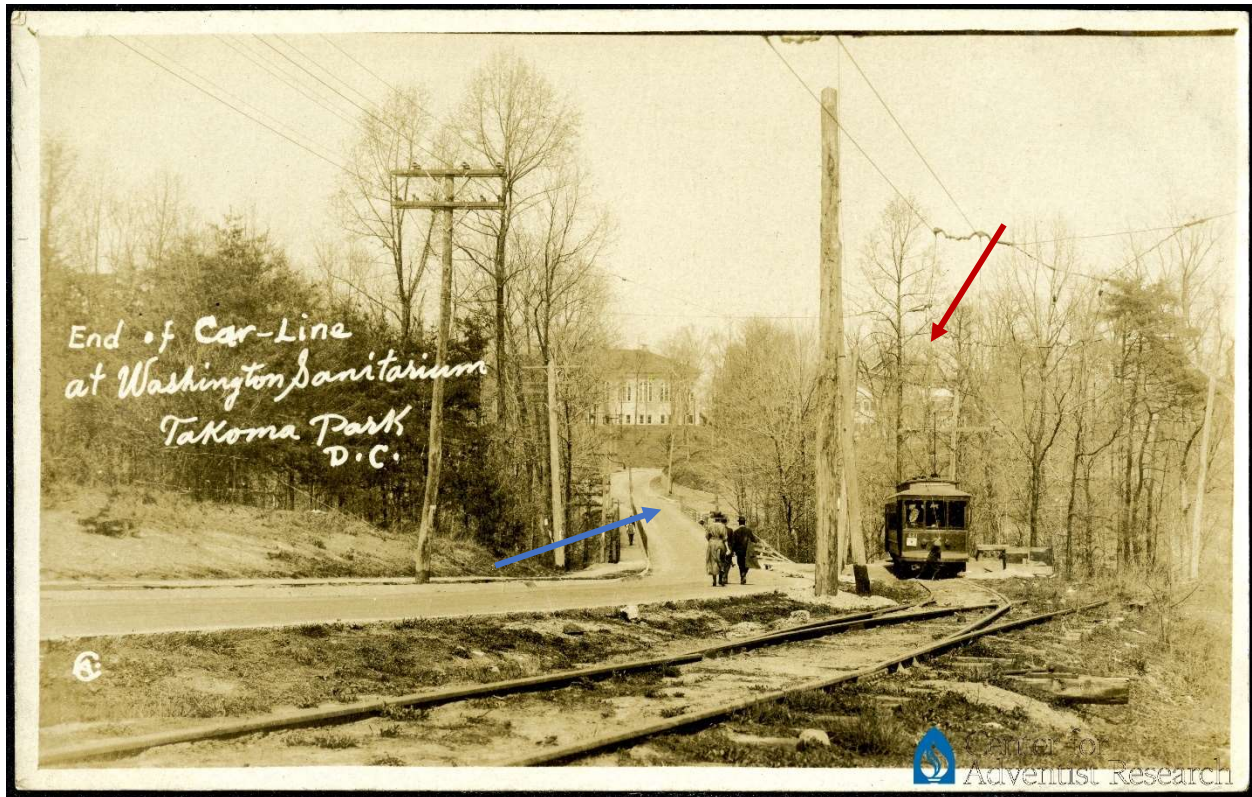
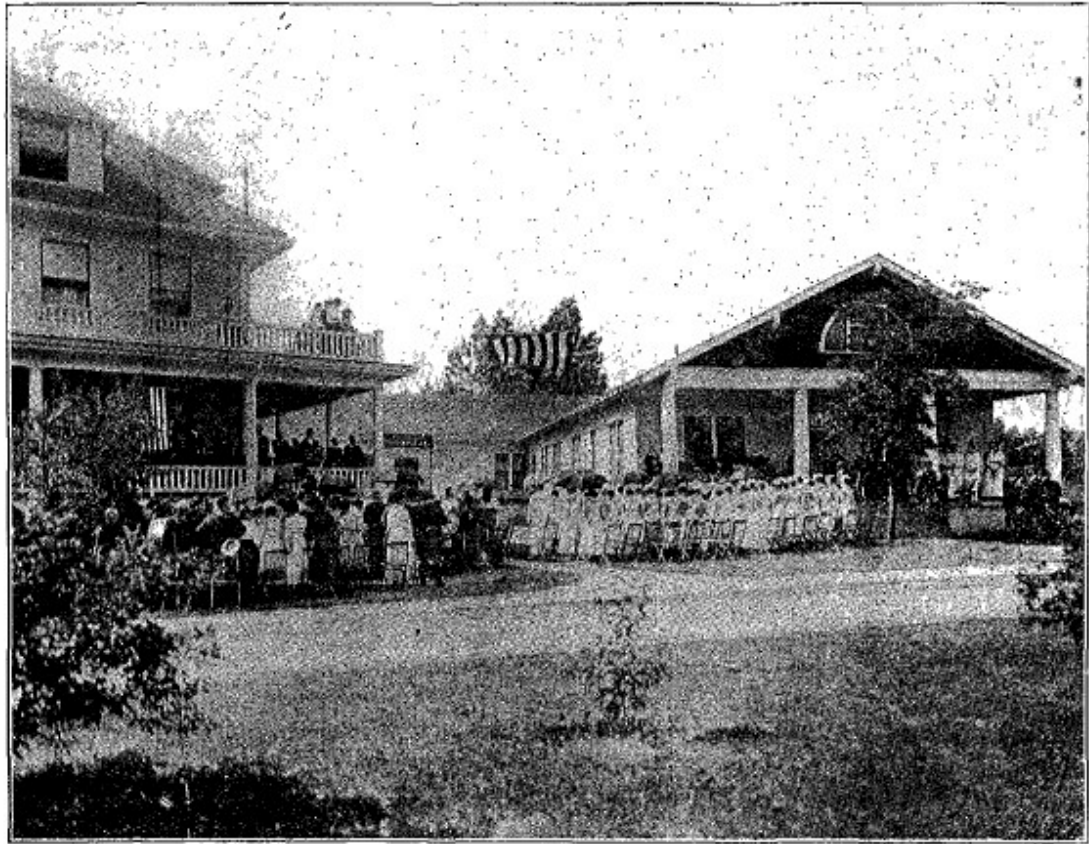


Figure 11: End of car-line at Washington Sanitarium, 190-. Center for Adventist Research Image Database. <http://centerforadventistresearch.org/photos>. Note the west elevation of the Kress House is visible on the far side of Sligo Creek (red arrow) and the low concrete retaining wall is still in place (blue arrow).



ADDITION TO WASHINGTON SANITARIUM

Figure 12: The 1918 hospital addition to the Washington Sanitarium included the "Kress Ward."
"Dedicational Services of the Washington Hospital," *Columbia Union Visitor*, Vol. 23, No. 24, June 13, 1918, 2.



The end of Kress Ward, later known as Oaklea Hall, is just visible at the end of the driveway leading from the Sanitarium.

Figure 13: The 1918 acute-care hospital building, including the Kress Ward. Undated. *Changes*, Washington Adventist Hospital, c. 1978, 11. Maryland Historical Trust Vertical File, M: 37:4, Washington Sanitarium.

Kress Maternity and Children's Hospital



There has been an increasing demand upon the University for Maternity and Children's Hospital.

To meet this increasing demand of the rapidly growing town of Takoma Park and vicinity, the University has added to its buildings and grounds a new building, known as the "Kress Maternity and Children's Hospital." The building is located on Kress Street, just opposite the College grounds, and is being liberally equipped to furnish all the most advanced medical methods in vogue at the present time.

The hospital is for the home care of the pregnant mother. All medical care that hospital care is able to give, is given.

The Maternity and Children's Hospital is a part of the University, allowing medical, surgical and nursing study as required, and having in direct charge of the hospital a team of faculty with experience and special training in the various departments of work. The women are given assistance.

Very cordially invited to consult.

For information and make calls on Director of
Washington University and Hospital
 Takoma Park, D. C.

Figure 14: Kress Maternity and Children's Hospital Advertisement. Source: Takoma Directory, 1922. Archives of Historic Takoma, Inc.



705 Carroll Avenue—"Krestview"

Figure 15: Undated photo of Krestview, north elevation, prior to enclosure of the front porch. Source: *Under the Guiding Hand*, 210.



Figure 16: The Campus, Foreign Mission Seminary, Takoma Park, 1909. The Washington Training College was renamed 'the Washington Foreign Mission Seminary' in 1907. Center for Adventist Research Image Database. <http://centerforadventistresearch.org/photos>



Figure 17: The Washington Sanitarium, Takoma Park, 1910. Center for Adventist Research Image Database. <http://centerforadventistresearch.org/photos>



Figure 18: Aerial view of the Washington Missionary College and Washington Sanitarium and Hospital, 1962. Krestview is indicated by the red arrow, the greenhouse (no longer extant) is indicated by the blue arrow, and the extant garage is indicated by the yellow arrow. Source: Center for Adventist Research Image Database. <http://centerforadventistresearch.org/photos>

APPENDIX SEVEN: CHAIN OF TITLE

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Liber/Folio	Notes
8/17/1889	Benjamin F. and Maggie S. Gilbert	Thomas E. and Laura L. Woods	JA 15/383	All of Lots 1-3 and 9 in Block 49
8/24/1889	Thomas E. and Laura L. Woods	Augusta C. James	JA 15/384	All of Lots 1-3 and 9 in Block 49
12/15/1908	Augusta C. James	Edwin R. Palmer	JLB 202/114	All of Lots 1-3 in Block 49
5/3/1909	Edwin R. Palmer and Cora E. Palmer	George A. and Nettie Irwin	JLB 206/228	Lot 15
6/18/1918	Nettie Irwin, relict of George A. Irwin	Daniel H. and Lauretta E. Kress	PBR 272/99	Lot 15
12/10/1922	Daniel H. and Lauretta E. Kress	Harry H. Spencer	PBR 324/226	610 sf, triangular parcel along southwest edge of property
9/10/1942	Daniel H. and Lauretta E. Kress	Donald Booth and Edna Parsons Jones	CKW 889/127	Lot 15
12/29/1986	Donald Booth and Edna Parsons Jones	Jefferson Shingleton and Christina Lego	HMS 7482/530	Lot 15
6/7/1991	Jefferson Shingleton and Christina Lego	Douglas A. and Christine M. Boenning	BAS 9805/391	Lot 15
5/3/1995	Douglas A. and Christine M. Boenning	Douglas A. Boenning	13423/33	Lot 15
3/7/2003	Douglas A. Boenning	Andrew R. and Anna S. Sommers	MQR 23764/138	Lot 15
7/28/2015	Andrew R. and Anna S. Sommers	Jeffrey J. Brokaw and Laura L. Cornwell	BHM 50892/316	Lot 15

APPENDIX EIGHT: MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
(MIHP) FORM

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:37-57

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Kress House
other	Krestview

2. Location

street and number	7625 Carroll Avenue	__	not for publication
city, town	Takoma Park	__	vicinity
county	Montgomery County		

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

name	Jeffrey Brokaw and Laura Cornwell			
street and number	7625 Carroll Avenue	telephone		
city, town	Takoma Park	state	MD	zip code 20912

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Montgomery County Courthouse	liber	BMH 50892	folio	316
city, town	Rockville	tax map	JN52	tax parcel	0000
		tax ID number	01067671		

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: Montgomery County Planning Department, Historic Preservation Office

6. Classification

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

7. Description

Inventory No. M: 37-57

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

SUMMARY

The Kress House, located at 7625 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park, Maryland, was built ca. early 1909. The house sits on an irregularly shaped, sloped lot on the south side of Carroll Avenue just northeast of Sligo Creek. It was originally built as a one-and-a-half story plus basement, three-bay Craftsman-style bungalow of masonry construction with a wrap-around porch. The original wrap-around porch was enclosed to expand the main block of the house, likely in the 1920s. A recent renovation enclosed a portion of the back porch and expanded the upper-floor rear dormer into a full second story. The dwelling is covered by an asphalt shingled, side-gable roof with overhanging eaves, exposed rafters, and front and rear dormers. The front of the house now reads as three stories tall, and the primary entrance is centered in the second bay to the east. A two-story, three-bay former garage or carriage house along Palmer Lane was converted to a living space during the recent renovations.

DESCRIPTION

The Kress House is located on an irregularly shaped 0.73-acre lot on the south side of Carroll Avenue northeast of the historic Carroll Avenue Bridge. A steeply sloped wooded area abuts the property on its south and west sides, leading down to a walking trail and Sligo Creek. To the east and south of the property, several single-family residences are located along Carroll Avenue, Flower Avenue, and Palmer Lane. The site containing the house is elevated above Carroll Avenue. The house is 205 feet above sea level (asl), approximately 70 feet in elevation above Sligo Creek. Across from the Kress House on the north side of Carroll Avenue are two parking lots associated with the Adventist HealthCare Alternate Care Site (formerly Washington Adventist Hospital) and Washington Adventist University. The house is north-facing and located on a high, flat portion of the lot. The lot slopes steeply to the north, west, and south. The front yard slopes down significantly towards Carroll Avenue, where a stone retaining wall separates the yard from the public sidewalk. This irregularly coursed, rough-cut ashlar wall topped with a course of jagged stones along the south side of Carroll Avenue from Flower Avenue to the approximate northwest corner of the Kress House property, where it curves to the southeast and ends approximately 40 feet from the edge of the bridge. The wall varies in height but is generally at least 8 feet tall where it fronts 7625 Carroll Avenue. The front of the Kress House and the neighboring house at 7629 Carroll Avenue are accessed from the sidewalk in the northeast corner of the property through an opening in the stone wall. Current house numbers (7625 and 7629) are posted at this entrance above the original house numbers (705 and 707, respectively), which are partially faded. A set of concrete stairs leads to a landing where the stone wall-lined stairway splits to the north (left), providing access to 7629 Carroll Avenue, and to the south (right) to the front yard of the Kress House. The rear yard and a former garage or carriage house are accessed via Palmer Lane which terminates at the southeastern corner of the property. Here, a gravel driveway and parking area is split between the 7625 and 7629 Carroll Avenue properties. The yard areas and former garage are described in detail at the end of this section.

The Kress House is a one-and-a-half- to two-story with basement, modified Craftsman-style bungalow of masonry construction set on a concrete pier foundation. The house is capped by a low-pitched, side-gabled roof with overhanging eaves clad in asphalt shingles. Exposed wood rafters are present on the front (north) elevation and gable ends. The front of the house features a centered shed dormer on the upper floor. A now-enclosed wrap-around porch spans the entire front and west elevations. The front elevation of the raised first story is clad in vertical wood boards while the remaining elevations are mostly clad in scored stucco. The upper story on the gable ends is clad in cedar shake siding, while the dormers on the front and rear elevations are covered in vinyl siding. There is an interior brick chimney along the central roof ridge. Fenestration is mostly regular on the front and east elevations and irregular on the rear and west sides. Windows are of various configurations and are a mix of original wood sash with plain wood surrounds and replacement vinyl. The Kress House also has a full basement which is partially exposed along the north and east elevations and fully exposed on the west elevation.

In 2019, significant alterations were made to the rear of the house when a portion of the back porch was enclosed, an addition was constructed off the eastern half of the rear elevation, and the upper-story dormer was expanded to the rear and to the west to create a

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M: M:37-57

Kress House (7625 Carroll Avenue)
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

fully exposed second floor. The roofs of all rear additions also exhibit overhanging eaves and are clad in asphalt shingles. All elevations of the additions are clad in vinyl siding and fenestration consists of replacement vinyl windows and doors.

The north (front) elevation spans four bays with a central shed-roof dormer. The dormer, with an overhanging eave roof with exposed rafters, is clad in non-historic vinyl siding and has a ribbon of four single-pane casement windows. A set of nine painted concrete steps with concrete pillars at the top and bottom connected by round metal handrails lead from a concrete walkway to the elevated first story, which was originally a full width porch that extended the full length of the north elevation. Fenestration on the first story enclosed porch consists of grouped six-over-one wood sash windows and a single door opening within the second bay. From east to west, the first, third, and fourth bays consist of groups of two pairs of French-style casement windows opening in opposite directions. The second bay consists of two fixed, six-over-one wood sash windows flanking a three-quarter glass wood door. The door features eight square lights over a single horizontal lower panel with a mail slot. Above the doorway is a fixed, single-pane glass transom with the word "KRESTVIEW" in gold lettering. This name was given by two of its early owners, Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress. The original porch was likely enclosed during the early years of the Kress ownership when they are known to have made many repairs and improvements, sometime after 1918.¹ It is possible that the porch was enclosed after 1927, as the Sanborn map depicts this area as a porch; however, this could still be depicting a known enclosed porch.² Within the enclosed porch, the fenestration of what was the original exterior front façade consists of three bays of one-over-one double-hung windows and a single-leaf door with a hopper-style transom that is flanked by narrow two-over-one, single- or double-hung side lights, all of which are wood sash. The entry door is half-glass, consisting of a single pane over one horizontal and two vertical panels. The now enclosed porch is clad in thin, vertical wood boards and is supported by five original concrete square pillars. The eastern three bays at the basement level are partially enclosed by wood lattice. The western bay is open at ground level to a small concrete slab porch covered by the sleeping porch. This front façade at basement level is clad in scored stucco and fenestration consists of a single-leaf door that provides access from the concrete slab to the basement and a one-over-one double-hung wood window. The wood door is half-glass and paneled, matching the style of the original first-floor front door. Most, if not all, wood windows and doors on the front elevation of the Kress House are likely original.

The east (side) elevation has irregular fenestration. The first story has three double-hung wood sash windows on the main block of the house. The two southernmost windows are nine-over-two and the third, which is slightly larger, is one-over-one. The scored stucco creates a false keystone lintel above each of these windows. The northern end of the east elevation is the side of the sleeping porch with a group of three six-over-one wood sash windows, two of which are casement, and one is fixed. At the southern (rear) end is the one-story, vinyl-clad addition with vinyl windows built circa 2019. Openings on the upper story of the east elevation consist of two matching six-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows and a small, louvered gable vent. The wood shingles on the upper-story gable end are primarily evenly coursed with two bands of staggered rows. At basement level, one small rectangular fixed single-pane window is central along the elevation of the main block. The window is smaller than the original square opening, which originally served as the coal chute. The areas beneath both the front sleeping porch and the rear addition are enclosed with wood lattice. Under the front porch, one panel of lattice opens to provide access to the crawlspace.

The south (rear) elevation has undergone significant alterations through the partial enclosure of the first-floor wood plank porch and the expansion of the upper-story dormer into a full second floor in 2019. On the first floor, the western two-thirds of the rear elevation consists of an open porch and pergola enclosed by a contemporary balustrade. The wood pergola is supported by two square posts. The exposed exterior of the house along the first-floor porch is scored stucco with two openings consisting of a double-leaf, replacement vinyl and glass French-style door and transom and a pair of replacement windows with false muntins. These replaced the original fenestration after the 2019 renovations. The eastern one-third of the rear elevation consists of the one-story gable-front enclosed porch addition. Contiguous screened windows and two double-leaf doorways, each paired with a transom, span all elevations

¹ Daniel and Laretta Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand, Life Experiences of the Doctors Kress* (Jasper, Oregon: Adventist Pioneer Library, 2018): 211.

² Sanborn Map Company. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Washington, District of Columbia*. 1927, Vol. 6, sheet 66.

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of the first-floor addition. The doors on the addition are multi-panel, screened French-style doors. Fenestration along the original rear façade now enclosed by the addition consists of a nine-over-two, double-hung wood sash window, a single wood and glass door with a square four-light transom, and a small, horizontally rectangular four-light wood sash window. The original upper-floor shed dormer was expanded to the western edge of the house and a central, full-story, protruding, front-gabled addition was constructed flush with the rear roofline. A group of three single-pane vinyl windows with false muntins that replicates six lights, each with a paired transom, are on the gable (rear) end of the central addition. The western section of the dormer addition features a small balcony enclosed by balustrades matching the porch below. Two full-glass, French-style vinyl doors provide access to the balcony. Fenestration to the east of the central addition consists of a pair of false four-light, single-pane vinyl windows and a rectangular, single-pane vinyl window. Two sets of stairs are present along the rear elevation. A full flight of stairs was added at the southwest corner of the house during the 2019 renovations and leads from the first story porch to ground level. A set of five steps lead from the back yard into the enclosed addition at the southeast corner of the house. At the basement level, the area below the rear porch and addition is enclosed with wood lattice. A vertical wood panel door is present at the western end, providing access to the basement level or exterior storage space.

On the west (side) elevation, the basement is fully exposed. Fenestration consists of three symmetrical pairs of six-light, wood sash casement windows, with the northern pair covered with exterior screens. The bay below the front enclosed porch is open and is utilized as a ground-level patio. Evidence of the original wrap-around porch is represented by five concrete piers projecting from the exterior wall and spanning the basement level and first floor. The presence of these piers along the basement level suggests that the wrap-around porch also encompassed the lower level and was also enclosed during an early expansion of the interior space. The main story consists of the enclosed porch at the north end, mirroring the fenestration on the east elevation. The remaining fenestration on the west elevation is a mix of windows including one pair of one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows and two single-pane, rectangular replacement windows. Between the two replacement windows is a small, gabled jut-out addition clad in vinyl siding. This was added during the 2019 renovations. Fenestration on the upper story consists of a ribbon of four one-over-one, double-hung replacement windows. While no exterior evidence is visible, the upper story of the west elevation was also originally a porch or balcony, and the original wood shake exterior cladding is present on the now interior wall.³ This elevation faces Sligo Creek and the surrounding woods, and the original three-level porch and balcony would have been ideal for viewing nature.

The side yard along the west elevation is only level along the house and the rest is a wooded, overgrown hillslope. The front yard of the house features a mix of vegetation including sporadic trees, ornamental bushes, vinca vine, and ivy. Two rounded concrete vases set on cobble and concrete bases were in the northern portion of the yard. Large, dense trees surround the front yard to the north along the stone retaining wall and to the west towards the creek. The front yard also features a curved concrete walkway leading from the main stairway from Carroll Avenue to the front steps of the house, where it turns and continues along the east side of the house. The east (side) yard consists of a narrow strip of manicured grass with long, wood-framed, rectangular planters along the property boundary, which is demarcated by the neighboring home's wood fence. Palmer Lane and the gravel parking area is accessed by continuing along the east side of the house.

A detached one-story, three-bay former garage, or carriage house, is located near the southeast corner of the property along Palmer Lane. Its construction date is not known; however, a structure in this approximate location appears on the 1927 Sanborn map.⁴ Constructed at the edge of the slope, the main level is visible and accessed from Palmer Lane on its north and east elevations only. The lower level is exposed on its west and south elevations and a concrete retaining wall extends from the northwest corner of the building following along the top of the slope towards the house. A set of concrete stairs along the retaining wall leads down to the lower-level entrance and to one level of the terraced rear yard. The rectangular garage is capped by an asphalt shingle-clad, hipped roof with overhanging eaves and features a projecting shed-roof central bay. All elevations of the upper level are clad in vinyl siding and the

³ Laura Cornwell, personal communication with Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.

⁴ Sanborn Map Company. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Washington, District of Columbia*. 1927, Vol. 6, sheet 66.

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two exposed lower-level elevations reveal its concrete foundation. A set of three-leaf wood folding doors, each with a six-light wood sash casement window, are on each of the two end bays of the front elevation. The central bay features a reclaimed, single-leaf, two-paneled wood door with six glass panes and topped with a wood and glass transom.⁵ Wood shingles, replicating the pattern on the gable ends of the main house, cover the front of the shed roof. The east elevation of the upper floor has a single-leaf, paneled wood and glass door with a single concrete and wood entrance step. The west elevation has two square replacement vinyl windows and a set of vinyl and glass French-style doors on the upper story and a single-leaf contemporary door and a pair of six-over-six double-hung, wood sash windows on the lower level. The remains of a wood porch, possibly two-story, are visible on the west elevation. The rear (south) elevation could not be safely viewed due to the excessive slope.

To the west of this garage is the rear yard, consisting of a series of terraces with trees along the western side. Some of the terraces are supported by concrete retaining walls and others by dry-laid masonry walls constructed mainly with chunks of concrete, brick, and some stones or cobbles. At least one set of concrete steps are located in the sloped yard area. The lower terraces are mostly overgrown while the upper terraces have been recently used for growing vegetables. The ghost foundation of the greenhouse is present on the upper terrace and is now occupied by a wood gazebo. An open, rectangular, concrete block structure is located along the lowest terrace situated at the bottom of the slope along the southern property boundary and a natural drainage. The top of the structure is flush with the level of adjacent terrace and may have been used as a cistern to collect rainwater.⁶ While the terraces have likely been modified and retaining walls added or repaired since the house was first occupied, it is likely that they were either created or used by the Kresses, as their Adventist religion led them to prioritize nutrition and the consumption of whole foods such as fruits and vegetables.⁷ The level portion of the rear yard located directly behind the main house is enclosed by a modern wood fence, the southwest corner of which is supported by a dry-laid stone foundation at the top of the slope. A gate provides access to the yard on its east side. A stone pathway leads from the gate to the steps of the recently enclosed portion of the back porch.

INTEGRITY

The Kress House and property retains its integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. The house is located where it was originally built, on a high hilltop overlooking Sligo Creek, and its suburban setting generally remains intact. It is still adjacent to a contemporaneous residence and in close proximity to the Washington Adventist University and former Washington Adventist Hospital. The terraced garden areas in the rear yard also contribute to the integrity of feeling and association. The integrity of materials and workmanship of the house is somewhat preserved through the remaining historic wood sash windows and doors as well as the exterior finishes such as the scored stucco. Modern roofing materials and vinyl siding diminish the integrity of materials. Many of the early alterations made to the house were likely made during the occupation of the Kress family, as they prioritized opening their home to the surrounding community and they wanted their home to be a place of retreat.⁸ The house also served as Laretta's medical office for some time. The most significant of these alterations was the enclosure of the wrap-around porch, which created the front enclosed porch and expanded the interior living space along the west side of the house. The enclosure of the porch with its square columns, an identifying feature of Craftsman-style architecture, significantly alters the form and massing elements of the original design. The recent expansion of the upper-floor rear dormer has altered the original one-and-a-half-story massing of the house and also impacts the overall integrity of design; however, this expansion, as well as the partial enclosure of the rear porch, is not visible from the front of the house. Most changes to or removal of original fenestration is limited to the rear elevation of the house. Despite the impacts to integrity of materials, craftsmanship, and most notably design, the Kress House retains its ability to represent its period of significance, which corresponds to the period of ownership and occupation of Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress from 1918 to 1939.

⁵ Jeffrey Brokaw, personal communication with Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.

⁶ Jeffrey Brokaw, personal communication with Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.

⁷ Laura Cornwell, personal communication with Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.

⁸ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 211-214.

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The Kress House still strongly conveys its association with this period. Prominent above the front entrance is the name given by the Kresses: "Krestview." The alterations made to the former garage have impacted its integrity of design and, to a lesser degree, materials; however, the building still maintains its three-bay, one-story massing.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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: _____

Specific dates	1918-1939 (Kress family occupation)	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	c. 1909		

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.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

While Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress were active and prominent members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the property at 7625 Carroll Avenue is not associated with significant historic events associated with the Adventist movement locally that would qualify it for listing under Criterion A.

The Kress House is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion B (persons) for its association with Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress, who played a significant role in the development of Takoma Park. The Kresses were prominent Seventh-day Adventist church members and doctors who were integral to the development and operation of the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital in the early twentieth century. The house at 7625 Carroll Avenue was constructed in early 1909 and Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress acquired the property in 1918. Daniel and Laretta Kress lived in the house until 1939. The Kresses are both known for their contributions to the growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its impacts on the development of Takoma Park through their work as medical missionaries and physicians promoting faith-based healthcare. Laretta specifically, as one of the first woman in Montgomery County to become a licensed physician, played an integral role in not only empowering her female patients through support and education but also in breaking down barriers to pave the way for more women to enter the healthcare profession. Not only did the Kresses reside at 7625 Carroll Avenue for over twenty years while they were practicing physicians, the Kress House and property was integral to their ability to make meaningful connections with the community as they provided care and service. Specifically, Laretta, who was an obstetrician and gynecologist, delivered some of the thousands of babies that she helped bring into this world over the course of her career within the Kress House.⁹ The building’s period of significance extends from 1918-1939 to correspond with the time when the house was occupied by Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress.

The stone retaining wall abutting the front of the property and the remnants of the terraced gardens in the rear yard are both significant landscape features; however, only the terraced yard specifically bolsters the ability of the house and surrounding property to represent the period of significance and its association with the Kresses under Criterion B. These terraces were likely used by the Kresses to grow their own food, as a healthy and somewhat restrictive diet was central to the Adventist Church’s beliefs.

The Kress House is recommended not eligible under NRHP Criterion C (architecture). The house no longer exhibits many of the identifying features of the Craftsman design. There are numerous examples of houses in Takoma Park that retain more of the Craftsman defining features and better exemplify the style, for example, at 7505, 7641, 7722, 7800, and 7818 Carroll Avenue and 7225 Flower Avenue. The houses at 112 and 238 Park Avenue are a few of many examples located to the west of Sligo Creek. The many alterations, both early and recent, have diminished the overall original Craftsman design of the house, making it architecturally indistinctive compared to other examples. However, the alterations made during the Kress’ ownership, including the enclosure of the

⁹ Montgomery County Commission for Women, “Laretta Kress (1863-1955).”; Francis, “Kress, Laretta Eby (1863-1955).”

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wrap-around porch, lend to the overall significance of the property under Criterion B, as the changes supported the doctors' ability to provide health care services and space for hosting special events and meetings to better serve the community.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D (archaeology).

PROPERTY HISTORY

The land on which the Kress House was constructed was part of Lot 3 in Block 49 of "B.F. Gilbert's Subdivision", which was originally platted in 1889 by developer Benjamin Franklin Gilbert.¹⁰ Shortly after Gilbert subdivided the land, Lot 3 was conveyed to Thomas E. Woods, who subsequently sold the property to Mrs. Augusta C. James.¹¹ In 1908, Mrs. James sold Lot 3, along with the two neighboring Lots 1 and 2, to Edwin R. Palmer and his wife, Cora.¹² Mr. Palmer was a prominent member of the Adventist Church and served as the head of the church's General Conference publishing department.¹³ Palmer assisted General Conference president Arthur G. Daniells in the acquisition of property to be sold to church members. It is not likely that the house was constructed during Mrs. James' ownership as deed research indicates that she was largely living out of state during her ownership of the property. When Mrs. James acquired the property in 1889, she was living in Windsor County, Vermont, and when she sold the property to the Palmers in December of 1908, she was living in Wisconsin.¹⁴ The house is also not depicted on the 1904 Baist map.¹⁵ In April 1909, a subdivision of Lots 1, 2, and 3 was initiated by Mr. Palmer, which resulted in the creation of Lot 15.¹⁶ The house at 7625 Carroll Avenue is depicted on the associated plat, thereby indicating that the house was constructed prior to the property's subdivision.¹⁷ The 1909 subdivision plat also depicts a wall fronting Lot 15 along Carroll Avenue as well as the stairs that provide access to Lots 15 and 14 (7629 Carroll Avenue); however, historic photographs show that the original wall was much lower and was later rebuilt.

In May 1909, the Palmers sold Lot 15 to Mr. George A. Irwin and his wife, Nettie. George was also a prominent member of the Adventist Church and served as president, and later as vice president, of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.¹⁸ Although the official real estate transaction between the Palmers and the Irwins did not occur until May of 1909, George and Nettie had constructed the house at 7625 Carroll Avenue by early March. The Irwins occupation of the house is documented in the minutes of the March 8 Takoma Park Council meeting where Irwin and Arthur G. Daniells requested permission from the Council to install a sewer connecting their "new residences" on Carroll Avenue to the Washington Sanitarium.¹⁹ During a visit to Takoma Park in early

¹⁰ Montgomery County Circuit Court (MCCC), Subdivision Plats, "B. F. Gilbert's Subdivision of Takoma Park, Section 1," Plat Book A, pg. 50, 27 August 1889.

¹¹ MCCC, Land Records, Deed Book JA, Liber 15, Folio 383, 17 August 1889; MCCC, Land Records, Deed Book JA, Liber 15, Folio 384, 24 August 1889.

¹² MCCC, Land Records, Deed Book JLB, Liber 202, Folio 114, 15 December 1908.

¹³ Donald R. McAdams, "Palmer, Edwin Rubin (1869-1931)", in *Encyclopedia of Seventh-Day Adventists*, January 29, 2020. Retrieved from <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=F9XN>.

¹⁴ MCCC, Land Records, Deed Book JA, Liber 15, Folio 384, 24 August 1889; MCCC, Land Records, Deed Book JLB, Liber 202, Folio 114, 15 December 1908.

¹⁵ George William Baist, *Baist's map of the vicinity of Washington, D.C.* (Philadelphia: G. Wm. Baist, 1904).

¹⁶ MCCC, Subdivision Plats, "Survey and Resubdivision of Lots 1-3 in Block 49 of Takoma Park into Lots 10-15 by Daniells and Palmer" Plat Book 2, Plat 101, 30 April 1909.

¹⁷ MCCC, Subdivision Plats, "Takoma Park, Block 49, Lots 1-3, Resubdivision; Daniells and Edwin R. Palmer," Plat 101, 30 April 1909.

¹⁸ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 158-162.

¹⁹ Takoma Park City Council Meeting Minutes, March 8, 1909, Takoma Park Archives. Retrieved from <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-clerk/takoma-park-archives/>.

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May, co-founder of the Adventist Church Ellen G. White was provided “a restful home... in Elder G. A. Irwin’s new house.”²⁰ However, the Irwins did not occupy the Carroll Avenue house for long. In early 1910, George was asked to attend the Pacific Union Conference session at Mountain View, California and soon after was appointed president of the Conference. George returned to Takoma Park to sell the Carroll Avenue house and resign from his position as president of the Washington Sanitarium. He and Nettie returned to California by mid-April of 1910. This explains why the Irwins are not listed in the 1910 Census as living at the Carroll Avenue house, or anywhere in Takoma Park. George died unexpectedly while attending the General Conference in Washington, D.C. in 1913.²¹ Nettie retained ownership of the house at 7625 Carroll Avenue until 1918 and was still living in California at the time. Prior to the sale, she rented the house to a F. M. Wilcox.²²

Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress purchased the property from Nettie Irwin in May 1918 and moved into the house on June 6 of that year.²³ The following section provides an overview of the lives of Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress and their ownership of the 7625 (705) Carroll Avenue property. Also, a detailed account of the remarkable lives of the Kresses can be found in their autobiography, titled *Under the Guiding Hand*, which was first published in 1932.²⁴

By 1940, Donald Booth Jones and his wife, Edna Parsons, were living at 7625 Carroll Avenue with their two-year-old son Donald G.²⁵ The Jones’ were also associated with the Adventist church. Although the Kresses did not officially sell the property to the Jones’ until 1942, the Jones’ are listed as the owners in the 1940 census.²⁶ Donald Jones was employed as a dentist and worked in private practice, and likely ran his practice out of the Carroll Avenue house. Edna worked as the dentist’s assistant. By 1950, the Jones’ had another child, a daughter named Kathleen, and Donald continued to own his own dental practice.²⁷ The Jones’ lived at 7625 Carroll Avenue until 1986 when the property was purchased by Jefferson Shingleton and Christina Lego.²⁸ The property changed hands three times before it was sold to the current owners, Jeffrey Brokaw and Laura Cornwell, in 2015.²⁹ With the exception of the demolition of a greenhouse located between the main house and the rear garage at the top of the terraced back yard, which occurred at some point between 2004 and 2006, it is not known if any significant alteration were made to the house or the property between the Kress’ ownership and 2015.³⁰ In 2019, a significant addition was added to the rear of the property and the garage was extensively altered.

The Kresses and “Krestview” (1918-1939)

Drs. Daniel Hartman and Laretta Eby Kress were life-long devotees to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, working as medical missionaries promoting faith-based healthcare around the world in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. They were integral

²⁰ *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, May 13, 1909, 24. Retrieved from <https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/RH/RH19090513-V86-19.pdf>.

²¹ Gilbert M. Valentine, “Irwin, George A. (1844-1913),” in *Encyclopedia of Seventh-Day Adventists*, January 29, 2020. Retrieved from <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=H9JX#fn54>.

²² Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 205.

²³ MCCC, Land Records, Deed Book PBR, Liber 272, Folio 99, 3 May 1918; Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 205.

²⁴ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*.

²⁵ United States Bureau of Census (USBC), Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, Enumeration District: 16-44, Election District 13, Takoma Park, Montgomery County, Maryland; Roll: T627; Page: 4B.

²⁶ MCCC, Land Records, Deed Book CKW, Liber 889, Folio 127, 2 September 1942.

²⁷ USBC, Population Schedules for the 1950 Census, Enumeration District: 16-112, Election District 13, Takoma Park, Montgomery County, Maryland; Roll:2549; Page: 39.

²⁸ MCCC, Land Records, Deed Book HMS, Liber 7482, Folio 530, 29 December 1986.

²⁹ MCCC, Land Records, Deed Book BAS, Liber 9805, Folio 391, 7 June 1991; Deed Book MQR, Liber 13423, Folio 33, 3 May 1995; Deed Book MQR, Liber 23764, Folio 138, 5 May 2003; Deed Book BHM, Liber 50892, Folio 316, 28 July 2015.

³⁰ Google Earth Aerial Imagery; Montgomery County GIS, Property Map Viewer.

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to the founding and operation of multiple Adventist sanitariums in England, Australia, and the United States, one of which was located in Takoma Park. The Adventist Church believed sanitariums should be places where the sick could not only get well but learn how to stay well. Laretta grew up in Michigan and met Daniel during a trip to Canada. After courting for some time, they were married in 1884.³¹ The Kresses identified themselves as Baptists in the early days of their marriage; however, Laretta soon made connections with members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and eventually persuaded her husband, who was serving as a licensed Baptist pastor and very much against the Adventist beliefs, to accept the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, resign from his preaching position in the Baptist church, and convert to Adventism.³²

Soon after joining the Seventh-day Adventist church, they relocated to Battle Creek, Michigan, where the Church was originally organized. Almost immediately, the Church's beliefs about dietary restrictions and healthy living, specifically lectured by Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, sparked an interest within the couple to learn about diet and its effect on health, leading them both to study medicine. Adventists avoided consuming most meats, alcohol, coffee, tea, and chocolate.³³ Encouraged by Dr. Kellogg, they entered into a four-year program starting in 1890 at the Battle Creek Sanitarium before transferring to the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor.³⁴ By this time, the couple already had two daughters, and Laretta balanced the pressures of going to medical school and overseeing the Adventist dormitory on campus, while also raising her children. Both Daniel and Laretta graduated in 1894. Laretta was just one of ten women in their graduating class. She specialized in obstetrics and gynecology while Daniel specialized in gastrointestinal disorders.³⁵ Daniel and Laretta returned to Battle Creek and worked in the sanitarium as physicians for the next five years. During this time, Laretta was in charge of the orphanage and, while the couple had two biological children, they welcomed a total of eleven children into their home at varying times and legally adopted a son, Paul.³⁶

Over the next decade, Daniel and Laretta supported the Adventist Church's medical missionary work in various places. They worked to open sanitariums near London, England, and Sydney, Australia, and provided medical care to rural areas surrounding Sydney. Soon after moving to England in 1889, their 14-year-old daughter Eva died of complications from a heart condition.³⁷ Their son John, born while they lived in Australia, fell from a highchair at an early age, leaving him with permanent brain damage. He required constant care for the remainder of his life.³⁸

The Kresses returned to the United States in 1907 to open yet another sanitarium, the Washington Sanitarium in Takoma Park, which overlooked Sligo Creek. The Washington Sanitarium expanded over the subsequent decades and would later be called the Washington Adventist Hospital. Daniel was appointed Medical Director of the "San," as it was popularly known, and Laretta, served as one of the staff doctors, and became one of the first woman physicians licensed to practice medicine in Montgomery County. Laretta mainly tended to women patients, expectant mothers, and children.³⁹

³¹ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 21-42.

³² Joan A. Francis, "Kress, Laretta Eby (1863-1955)," in *Encyclopedia of Seventh-Day Adventists*, November 28, 2021. Retrieved from <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=BJFV&highlight=y>.

³³ Diana Kohn, "One hundred years of Adventist healthcare," in *Takoma Voice* (June 2007): 14.

³⁴ Francis, "Kress, Laretta Eby (1863-1955).

³⁵ Fred Bischoff, "Pioneer Medical Missionaries: Doctors Daniel and Laretta Kress," *Medical Evangelist* (Spring/Summer 2013): 15.

³⁶ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 78.

³⁷ Francis, "Kress, Laretta Eby (1863-1955).

³⁸ Montgomery County Commission for Women, "Laretta Kress (1863-1955)."

³⁹ Francis, "Kress, Laretta Eby (1863-1955); Terry Forde, "Women's History Month 2021," March 12, 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.adventisthealthcare.com/living-well/womens-history-month-2021/>.

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By 1910, the Kresses had built a house and were residing at 59 Flower Avenue in Takoma Park with their children Ora, Paul, and John.⁴⁰ A 53-year-old Irish boarder, Martha Mott, resided with the Kress family and likely assisted with John's care. In 1911, the Kresses were called to teach at the College of Medical Evangelists in California. Over the next four years, they worked at sanitariums in the Chicago area and then in Massachusetts, before returning to Takoma Park in 1915. In 1916, Laretta opened a maternity ward called the "Kress Maternity and Children's Hospital", which she operated with its own staff of doctors and nurses. During her career, it is estimated that she delivered over 4,000 babies, with some sources citing over 5,000.⁴¹

Upon their return to Takoma Park in 1915, the Kresses were not financially able to rent or purchase a house. A member of the community, Mr. H. E. Rogers, offered them his house in an arrangement that allowed them to purchase the house with no down payment. The house was located at 5 Pine Avenue, approximately two blocks from the District of Columbia boundary. Wanting to be closer to the Sanitarium, which was almost one mile away, they instead purchased the house at 705 Carroll Avenue, now addressed 7625 Carroll Avenue, in 1918 and named their residence "Krestview".⁴² They purchased the property from Nettie Irwin, widower of George Irwin, with whom the Kresses became acquainted during their time in Australia.

The Kress family moved into 705 (now 7625) Carroll Avenue on June 6, 1918⁴³. In her autobiography, Laretta recalls that soon after moving into the house, they "found many repairs necessary" and these were done over a period of a few years, as funds became available.⁴⁴ The 1920 Census records Daniel and Laretta resided at Krestview with their son John.⁴⁵ They are listed as being doctors at the Sanitarium. Also listed as a resident of 7625 Carroll Avenue was 35-year-old Danish woman named Marie Hansen. Marie came to live with the Kresses in 1911, working as a housekeeper and caretaker for John.⁴⁶ In the early years of their ownership, the Kresses rented a large portion of the house as a way to become financially stable.⁴⁷ According to the 1920 Census, three additional families (amounting to eight people) lived at Krestview as renters. Boarders included two sisters employed as college teachers and a Norwegian that was working as a nurse, likely at the Sanitarium. Rollin Quinn, a Seventh-day Adventist minister and leader, and his wife Lottie, who also missioned in Australia, also resided with the Kresses for a short time. Lottie was also involved in the church and served as the Sabbath School Department Secretary.⁴⁸ Chester Holt and his wife, Harriet, were also recorded as living at Krestview in 1920. Chester was employed as a clerk for the General Conference. By 1930, the Census lists Daniel, Laretta, John, and Marie as the only residents of Krestview.⁴⁹

⁴⁰ USBC, Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Enumeration District: 0121, Wheaton, Montgomery County, Maryland; Roll: T624_566; Page: 15B.

⁴¹ Montgomery County Commission for Women, "Laretta Kress (1863-1955)."; Francis, "Kress, Laretta Eby (1863-1955); Kohn, "One hundred years of Adventist healthcare," 14; Washington Adventist Hospital, "Celebrating 100 Years." Retrieved from <https://www.adventisthealthcare.com/app/files/public/ea5ad9ec-7694-4503-84ef-52e2ecfce9c0a/pdf-WAH-100-Years-Book.pdf>.

⁴² Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 202-205, 210.

⁴³ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 205.

⁴⁴ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 211.

⁴⁵ USBC, Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Enumeration District: 0144, Election District 13, Takoma Park, Montgomery County, Maryland; Roll: T625_671; Page: 14B.

⁴⁶ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 195.

⁴⁷ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 211.

⁴⁸ Milton Hook, "Quinn, Rollin David (1869-1928)," in *Encyclopedia of Seventh-Day Adventists*, October 3, 2020. Retrieved from <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=EA0C>.

⁴⁹ USBC, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Enumeration District: 0035, Takoma Park, Montgomery County, Maryland; Roll: T626; Page: 33A.

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In 1922, the Kresses sold an approximately 610 square foot triangular parcel along the southwestern edge of the property to Harry H. Spencer.⁵⁰ The parcel was later sold to the M-NCPPC in 1935 during the period when the County was acquiring land along Sligo Creek for the construction of the Sligo Creek Parkway.⁵¹

Eventually, the house and the grounds were improved until the Kresses “had one of the beauty spots of Takoma Park” and Krestview became “a very attractive place for patients to visit and wonder about.”⁵² An undated photograph of the house included in the Kress’ autobiography depicts the front wrap-around porch before it was enclosed.⁵³ A small one-story garage is also visible to the southeast of the house, which is no longer extant. The enclosure of the porch likely occurred within the first few years of their ownership as a way to increase the amount of livable space to allow for the many boarders with which they shared their home. Even after becoming more financially stable and no longer needing to rent out large portions of their house, the Kresses continued to open their home to fellow church members, patients, and other community members over the following decades.

In the spring of 1925, Laretta remodeled the basement so it could be used as a medical office, where she kept a bed to sleep in and had “every convenience for [her] to remain downstairs.”⁵⁴ There was an issue with dampness in the basement and the Kresses were advised to install metal walls and a metal ceiling with small strips of wood between the metal sheeting and the exterior wall, which would allow for the space to dry more easily. The Kresses undertook these renovations as part of the basement remodel, providing a clean and dry space for Laretta to work.⁵⁵ This pressed metal sheeting remains on the walls and ceiling in the central portion of the basement. The remodeling was necessary for the health, safety, and comfort of her patients.⁵⁶ In 1934, the Kresses hosted a party at the house in celebration of their fiftieth anniversary and invited everyone that Laretta had delivered. Out of the 3,753 “babies” invited to the party, 602 attended ranging from one day to 39 years old. All were captured in a massive group photograph on the hillslope next to the house.⁵⁷

In 1932, Laretta submitted a request to the Takoma Park Council to name the driveway leading to their house from Flower Lane in honor of Mr. Edwin R. Palmer, prominent member of the Adventist Church who owned the property before the Irwins. Her request was accepted, and the road was designated as “Palmer Lane”.⁵⁸ It is likely that the lane was known as Palmer Lane before it was officially designated, as the 1927 Sanborn map depicts the name “Palmer Lane.”⁵⁹

Throughout their careers, Daniel and Laretta frequently gave public lectures on health-related topics and often traveled the country to do so. Laretta, and most Adventists, strongly believed in the importance of proper nutrition and she published a cookbook in 1909 titled *Good Health Cookery Book* to share her knowledge.⁶⁰ She was also a strong proponent of proper prenatal care and developed a

⁵⁰ MCCC, Land Records, Deed Book PBR, Liber 324, Folio 226, 10 December 1922.

⁵¹ MCCC, Land Records, Deed Book CKW, Liber 588, Folio 106, 19 February 1935; Erin Hammerstedt, Sligo Creek Parkway, Maryland Inventory of Historic Places Form (MIHP No. M:32-15), 2005.

⁵² Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 211.

⁵³ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 210.

⁵⁴ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 217-218.

⁵⁵ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 217-218.

⁵⁶ Francis, “Kress, Laretta Eby (1863-1955).”

⁵⁷ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 257; *The Evening Star*, Washington, D.C., “Doctor Greeted by 600 ‘Babies’,” July 10, 1934, A-5; Diana Kohn. Retrieved from “Adventist Doctors Daniel and Laretta Kress,” <https://www.historictakoma.org/AdventistDoctors.htm>.

⁵⁸ Takoma Park City Council Meeting Minutes, May 16, 1932, Takoma Park Archives. Retrieved from <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-clerk/takoma-park-archives/>.

⁵⁹ Sanborn Map Company. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Washington, District of Columbia*. 1927, Vol. 6, sheet 66.

⁶⁰ Mrs. Laretta Kress, M.D., *Good Health Cookery Book, containing a most valuable selection of choice recipes, proper food combination, tables on nutritive value of foods, etc., coupled with a treatise on general dietetic principles by Dr. D.H. Kress*. (Melbourne: Signs Pub. Co., 1909).

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parent education program in 1935.⁶¹ In 1934, a *Washington Post* article reported her belief that pregnant mothers who drink alcohol or smoke during pregnancy “hurt themselves as well as their children.”⁶² While controversial at the time, this view would become widely accepted decades later. Daniel was also ahead of his time in his conviction that tobacco use has harmful effects on the body, having given up the habit himself in the mid-1880s. He gave many lectures on the topic to students and the local community. He also created and distributed a pamphlet titled *The Cigarette as a Physician Sees It* in 1931. To break the habit of smoking, he advised a “pure, wholesome” diet with lots of fresh water and fruit juices and no highly seasoned foods, guaranteeing the diet “will cure a smoke in a very short time.”⁶³ Being such strong proponents of a healthy, wholesome diet, the Kresses utilized the terraced gardens in the backyard of Krestview to grow their own fruits and vegetables.⁶⁴

Both Daniel and Laretta were frequently honored in local newspapers for their accomplishments and served on various committees and organizations over the years. For example, Daniel was appointed as the Takoma Park Health Committee’s Health Officer in 1929.⁶⁵ He served as a member of the Washington Sanitarium’s Board of Directors throughout most of the 1920s and 1930s and as Medical Director of the Washington Sanitarium from 1937 to 1938.⁶⁶ In 1939, the Kresses retired to Florida with their son, John, where they remained active in the Adventist Church and community. At that time, they rented the property to Donald and Edna Jones, who eventually purchased the property in 1942.⁶⁷ Due to a shortage of civilian doctors during World War II, they came out of retirement and worked at the Florida Sanitarium for two years.⁶⁸ They remained in Florida for the remainder of their lives: Laretta died in 1955 and Daniel died the following year.

Drs. Daniel and Laretta Kress both have a long list of accomplishments, having had a great impact on the development and growth of the Adventist healthcare system and missionary work in Takoma Park and around the world, and on the development of Takoma Park as a whole. They were known to be a strong couple who were very supportive of each other’s pursuits. However, Laretta’s ability to rise to such great heights in her own career, being a woman in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, lends to her unmatched fortitude. In fact, Daniel attributed much of his own success to Laretta. As their son-in-law once stated, “Dr. Laretta has made Dr. Kress what he is.”⁶⁹

⁶¹ Kohn, “Adventist Doctors Daniel and Laretta Kress.”

⁶² *Washington Post*, Washington, D.C., “Mother’s Too Fond of Cocktails and Sports for Babies’ Health, Thinks Doctor,” June 27, 1934, 15.

⁶³ *The Sligonian*, Takoma Park, D.C., “Dr. Kress Presents Narcotic Habit Evils,” February 4, 1932, Volume XVII, Number 16, 1. Retrieved from <https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/Sligo/Sligo19320204-V17-16.pdf>.

⁶⁴ Jeffrey Brokaw, personal communication with Nancy LiPira, December 9, 2022.

⁶⁵ Takoma Park City Council Meeting Minutes, June 3, 1929, Takoma Park Archives. Retrieved from <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-clerk/takoma-park-archives/>.

⁶⁶ Joan A. Francis, “Kress, Daniel Hartman (1862-1956),” in *Encyclopedia of Seventh-Day Adventists*, September 18, 2022. Retrieved from <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=D9MU>.

⁶⁷ MCCC, Land Records, Deed Book CKW, Liber 889, Folio 127, 2 September 1942.

⁶⁸ Francis, “Kress, Laretta Eby (1863-1955);” Bischoff, “Pioneer Medical Missionaries: Doctors Daniel and Laretta Kress,” 17.

⁶⁹ Kress, *Under the Guiding Hand*, 271.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>0.73 acres</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>0.73 acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Washington West</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:10,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundaries for the 7625 Carroll Avenue property encompass Lot 15 in Block 49 of "B.F. Gilbert's Subdivision" after its resubdivision, excluding the 610 square foot portion along its southwest boundary sold in 1935. Historically, the property was part of Lot 3. The property fronts Carroll Avenue to the northwest. A neighboring property (7629 Carroll Avenue) is located to the east. The property backs up to a natural drainage and its southeastern boundary follows a line from Palmer Lane towards Sligo Creek. The boundary consists of the full parcel spanning approximately 0.73 acres, which contains the house, former garage or carriage house, rear, front, and side yards, a portion of the stone retaining wall, and the access steps from Carroll Avenue.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Nancy L. LiPira, Architectural Historian		
organization	Stantec Consulting Services	date	March 2023
street & number	6110 Frost Place	telephone	(240) 542-3132
city or town	Laurel	state	MD

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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