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MAGI# 0439082404

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Form Approved OMB No. 42-R1765

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Washington D.C. 20240

B-3908

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION—PART 1

Instructions: Applicant should read the instructions carefully before completing application. No certification may be made unless a completed application form has been received. Use typewriter or print clearly in dark ink to complete the application form. If additional space is needed to complete Part 1, use the reverse side or a separate plain sheet of paper clearly indicating the owner's name and mailing address. Part 1 of this application may be completed and sent to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer at anytime during the year.

PART 1 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. Name of property: 643 Melvin Drive
Address of property: Baltimore,
City Baltimore County State Maryland Zip Code 21230
Name of historic district in which property is located: Ridgely's Delight

Check here if request is for:

- XX certification (structure contributes to significance of the district)
decertification (structure does not contribute to significance of the district)
easement qualification (for donation of easement on structure or land for conservation purposes).

2. Description of Physical Appearance:

(see instructions for map and photograph requirements-use reverse side if necessary)

The house is a 2 1/2 story, infill rowhouse, located on the south side of the 600 block of Melvin Drive. The party walls and front facade are brick with a common bond. The rear wall is wood frame with plywood and roll (continued)

3. Statement of Significance:

(use reverse side if necessary)

The house derives its significance from its similarity of austere design and construction with others on its block, and the corresponding place that Melvin Drive holds in the context of the Ridgely's Delight neighborhood. During the 1840's and 1850's Ridgely's Delight was a socially and economically (con't.)

Date of construction (if known): c 1850 Original site Moved Date of alterations (if known):

4. Name and Mailing Address of Owner:

Name Melvin Four Partnership - c/o The French Company, Inc.
Street Wheaton Plaza Office Building North, Suite 403
City Wheaton State Maryland Zip Code 20902
Telephone number (during day): Area Code 301-946-3760 (Wheaton) 301-792-4019 (Baltimore)

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I am owner of the property described above

Signature Jay T. French Date 6/2/83
Social Security Number or Taxpayer Identification Number

For office use only

The structure described above is included within the boundaries of a Registered Historic District and contributes does not contribute to the character of the district.

The structure appears does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and will likely will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60).

The structure is located in a district which appears does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and will likely will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60), and appears does not appear to contribute to the character of said district or will likely will not be recommended for certification as substantially meeting National Register criteria.

Signature Date 7-25-83

NATIONAL PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION - PART I

2. roofing covering the original clapboard siding. A later added cinder block addition contains kitchen and bath facilities. The roof is a medium gable, covered with asphalt strip shingle. There are two centrally located gable roof dormers. Front openings have brick, rowlock sills and wooden lintels. The front door is sheltered with a small overhang. Generally the front facade is in fair condition, while the rear is in gross disrepair.

The interior reflects the simplicity of the facades. First and second floors are divided into front and rear rooms by a staircase that runs parallel to the front face. Each of these four rooms center on a fireplace and plain wooden mantel. The third floor and basement have limited headroom, and are primarily useful for storage. Trim is one piece, only molded for window and door casing. The doors have largely been replaced or omitted. Overall, the interior spatial organization and trim detail reflect the building's exterior appearance: plain and simple.

3. mixed neighborhood. Distinct building styles present the socio-economic strata that composed the neighborhood. Washington Boulevard, one block to the South, housed the most successful: largely medical professionals associated with the nearby University of Maryland Hospital founded in 1812. Homes such as those on Melvin Drive likely housed blue collar families employed at nearby industry and port. The absence of ornate trim, decorative moldings and marble steps or sills is characteristic of the houses located on this small street behind the more expensive and ornate houses on Washington Boulevard. It is this austerity that defines the architectural significance of 643 Melvin Drive within the larger fabric of the community as a whole.

PHOTO C: Front facade

B-3908



PHOTO D: Rear facade



PHOTOS C & D: 673 MELVIN DRIVE

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PHOTO A: 643 Melvin Drive - View looking east

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PHOTO B: 643 Melvin Drive - View looking west

PHOTOS A & B: 643 MELVIN DRIVE

B-3908
643 Melvin Drive
Block 685A Lot 081
Baltimore City
Baltimore West Quad.

