

c. 1901

BA 1615

Williams House

Simon and Phillipa Williams

10600 Park Heights Avenue

Owings Mills, Md. 21117

private

The Williams house is a large and well-preserved example of the American Colonial revival dating from the opening decade of the 20th century. Its Baltimore architects are known, Douglas M. Thomas and J. Harleston Parker, and its original drawings are preserved within the house.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 1615
x-875.680
y-576.070

MAGI # 0316152704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

WILLIAMS HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

10600 Park Heights Avenue

Second

CITY, TOWN

Owings Mills

--- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Simon and Phillipa Williams

Telephone #: 484-3503

STREET & NUMBER

10600 Park Heights Avenue

Maryland 21117

CITY, TOWN

Owings Mills,

--- VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore
County Courts Building

Liber #: 5665

Folio #: 625

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The WILLIAMS HOUSE is a two storey frame house covered with stucco dating from the opening decade of the twentieth century in the Colonial-revival style. Fronting south, it is five bays in length with two storey porches at either end, the whole beneath a massive hipped roof. Windows in the end and central bays are doubled 9/1 and the 9/1 windows of the intermediate bay of the first storey are grouped with the central entrance beneath a one storey Tuscan porch having a balustrade around its flat roof. The smaller 4/1 windows of the intermediate bay of the second storey are immediately above the balustrade. In the westerly half of the north facade are windows at many different elevations indicating the location of the staircase within.

A wide central hall extends through the middle of the house, a wide staircase with intermediate landings being at its north end. Formal rooms, parlor and dining room, are on either side and the kitchen is in a north wing behind the dining room, the westerly room. A chimney rises between the hall and the parlor, the easterly room, with fireplaces in each; another chimney rises at the west side of the dining room. All details are carefully designed to recall the American Colonial period in an original manner, and most original details are in place: square paneled columns screening the stair from the hall; overdoors with pulvinated friezes; paneled wainscots and chimney breasts; wood mantels, etc. Original cabinets remain in the pantry between the dining room and the kitchen, also the location of a secondary stair.

The west porch is fully glazed between the original Tuscan columns; solid walls and the ceiling are covered with a lattice over wainscotting, recalling the latticed gazebo at the west end of a little formal garden immediately west of the porch.

The second floor retains most of its original detailing, slightly simpler than that of the first storey. Several rooms have fireplaces with Adamesque mantels. The third storey is finished quite simply.

The original construction drawings are preserved within the house; they are by Douglas M. Thomas and J. Harleston Parker, architects, Baltimore, No. 910 Atlantic Trust Building. These architects are probably the same who later practiced as Parker, Thomas and Rice, a well-known early twentieth century Baltimore firm.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The WILLIAMS HOUSE is a large and well preserved example of the American Colonial revival dating from the opening decade of the twentieth century. Its Baltimore architects are known, Douglas M. Thomas and J. Harleston Parker, and its original drawings are preserved within the house.

Simon C. Williams House

During the eighteenth century the property on which the Williams House stands was once part of a large tract of land owned by Samuel Owings. Owings was among the first settlers in the Green Spring Valley. Throughout the nineteenth century, the land, along with neighboring properties, was owned by the Gent family of Come By Chance.

In 1900 Florence Gent sold to William and Julia Blackford 29 acres of the western portion of her property for the sum of \$7,000.¹ Today Park Heights Avenue almost evenly divides this land. November 29, 1901 was the date of two curious land transactions concerning this property. William and Julia Blackford sold 29 acres to Redmond Stewart, and on the same day Stewart sold the land back to the Blackfords.² This procedure may have been done to clear the title to the land.

Mrs. Blackford was the sister of Mrs. Samuel M. Shoemaker of nearby Burnside Farm. The present Williams house was built and given to the Blackfords as a wedding present.³ Architect's drawings of the structure are dated 1901. It is believed that two other buildings on the property were erected about the same time. One, which looks as though it had been a shed, is situated on the northwest corner of the property and is known today as the "Crow's Nest." The last two owners have rented the residence to John Love III. The other building, once the gardener's cottage, is located on the east side of Park Heights Avenue, and is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Brooks.⁴

Mrs. Blackford died in October 1960. Since she had no descendants, she willed the property on the west side of Park Heights (which included the present Williams House and "Crow's Nest") to her great-nephew, Bartlett Johnston, Jr. The remaining four acres, which included the gardener's cottage on the east side of Park Heights, went to Mrs. Harold Xanders, her great-niece.⁵

Bartlett Johnston, Jr., and his wife sold their 16 acre property in 1962 to his nephew of the C. and H. Holding Company. From time to time the main house was rented, but its owner did take up residence in the late 1960s and early 1970s. During those years extensive alterations were made to the main house and a swimming pool and poolhouse were added on the grounds.⁶

It wasn't until August 1976 that the main house and "Crow's Nest" finally passed out of the family through its sale to the present owners, Simon and Philippa Williams.⁸

Simon C. Williams House
Footnotes

1
Baltimore County Land Records (BCLR), Liber 243, fol. 546.
Towson Court House, Towson, Maryland.

2
BCLR, Libers 257, fols, 347, 345, Towson.

3
Sally Robinson, Burnside Farms.

4
Information supplied by Mrs. Clinton Brooks, 3 March 1979.

5
BCLR, Liber 3769, fol, 443, Towson.

6
BCLR, Liber 4062, fol. 392, Towson.

7
See note 4.

8
BCLR, Liber 5665, fol. 626, Towson.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Land Records, County Courts Bldg., Towson, Md.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James T. Wollon, Jr., A.I.A., Howard Baetjer, II, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Valley's Planning Council

2-6-80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

212 Washington Avenue

828-7807

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Towson

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



#1215
BA 1615

Williams

House

GSVHD

Pk. Hghts. Av

LEW

Md. Hist. Tr.

from SE

3-79

LE

Avns Ave

46 Ave

WST