

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Henry Garnett Briggs House

and/or common The Mullican/ Holwager/ Olson House

2. Location

street & number 104 Meem Avenue

city, town Gaithersburg

state Maryland

vicinity of

congressional district
Montgomery

county

not for publication
9th

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	Public Acquisition	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"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name

street & number

telephone no.:

city, town

Gaithersburg

state and zip code

Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Montgomery County Courthouse

liber

street & number

folio

city, town

Rockville

state

Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

None

date

federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. M-20-115

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

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

This 1917 residence is an nearly unaltered example of the early 20th century compact craftman bungalow popular from 1910 to 1930.

This early 20th century bungalow faces south west on a near half-acre rectangular lot on Meem Avenue in a neighborhood of mixed architectural styles and lot sizes. Neighboring structures range from 1950 1-story duplex cottages on 6,000 square foot lots to a 1910 foursquare house. The house has about a 20 foot setback from the street and is shaded by mature oak trees and landscaped with shrubs and flower beds. Stepping stones create a central path to the front door while a driveway south of the house provides a parking area which connects by a walk to the south side porch and principal entrance to the house.

This classic 1-1/2 story frame bungalow is a 3-bay by 2-bay square house with a pyramidal-hipped roof interrupted by a gabled bay on the south facade. An open porch, accessed by three wide wooden steps on the west and three steps on the south, wraps around the west and south sides supported by 8 evenly spaced Doric columns. The single and paired windows are 1/1 with shutters, and may be modern replacement windows. The exterior cladding is synthetic German siding with cornerboards. There is a shed-roofed addition on the east (rear) facade.

The 2-bay north facade has one window in each bay. The west (front) facade has a pair of windows in the north and south bays and a central door with a transom light. The south facade has a gabled mitered three-sided bay (usually marking the original dining room) in the west half. The bay's attic gable is clad with diamond-cut fishscale shingles and has a small central 1/1 window. There is a window in the west and south sides of the bay and an exterior door in the east side. A pair of window is in the east half of this facade.

8. Significance

Survey No. *H-21-115*

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)			
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention						

Specific dates: 1917 Builder/Architect: _____ local history _____

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D and/or Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This Craftsman-influenced bungalow was built in Meem's Addition by Henry Garnett Briggs on land owned by his father John Wesley Briggs, a wealthy retired farmer who lived nearby. It was the first house on the east side of Meem Avenue. It is altered only by synthetic siding and a rear addition.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Meem's Addition is part of 200 acres purchased by Martha A. Meem from Mary J. Bibb at \$5.00 per acre in 1862, 1/ which she began selling in parcels shortly after her husband's death in 1865. 2/

The Right of Way for Chestnut Street was first dedicated in 1873 to provide access to houses and commercial property near Wards Station on the railroad and development followed. 3/ By 1894 three fine houses were on the west end of Chestnut Street, one, at 104 Chestnut, being the new residence of the Meem Family. 4/

In 1896, the land along Chestnut, Meem, and Diamond Avenues was subdivided as "Meem's Addition to Gaithersburg" into into 30 half-acre lots adding a short unnamed street (now Floral Drive) and two alleys. 5/ A flurry of land transfers occurred between the children to clear titles and divide the estate. In 1902, a prominent retired farmer, John Wesley Briggs, bought lot 17 from Harry C. Meem 6/ and built the late Victorian 2-1/2 story frame house at 102 Chestnut.

John Wesley Briggs also purchased most of the land on the east side of Meem from Chestnut north. 7/ In 1917 his widow sold lot 20 to their son Henry Garnett Briggs and his wife Frances 8/ who built the house at 104 Meem. It may have been built earlier by Garnett on his father's land. An early resident recalls that it was the first and only house on the east side of Meem for a while. J.W. Briggs had a large garden from the house to Chestnut and a cow pasture from the house to (now) Avenel Executive Park. 9/ After the sale Garnett was able to use the property for collateral.

Significance and History (continued)

Henry Garnett Briggs House/ 104 Meem Avenue

He borrowed \$400 on lot 20 from the Perpetual Building and Loan Assn. in 1920 and was released from the debt in 1925. 10/ In 1922 he mortgaged the property to John W. Walker for \$1500, 11/ and took another mortgage from F.A. Tischiffeley for \$2500 to purchase 3.8 acres of "The Joseph". 12/

On July 28, 1928, Henry Garnett Briggs died from a heart attack. His debt to Tischiffeley was repaid 13/ but his wife Frances and his daughters contracted tuberculosis and had to go to a sanatorium for treatment. 14/ The mortgage to Walker was defaulted and legally foreclosed in March of 1931. 15/ A public sale was held on March 31, 1931 which was advertised in the Montgomery County Sentinel on March 27, 1931. The property was described as " A 5 room DWELLING HOUSE and other outbuildings and adjoins the lands of Mr. Michael Whalen and others and is now occupied by Mrs. Mary Higgins". The terms were all cash on the ratification of the contract and a deposit of \$350.00.

Evidently it did not sell immediately. The property was assigned to Albert M. Bouic as trustee 16/ and was sold to Mary E. Mullican in 1935. 17/ It was mortgaged in 1944 by Ward and Estelle Mullican to Alexander G. and Grace R. Irvine and was released in 1950. 18/ It was sold in 1975 for \$28,750 by Estelle Mullican's estate to James and Katherine Holwager 19/ who sold to Gregory and Susan Olson in 1980. 20/

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Record JGH9/228 and The Montgomery County the tax assessment for 1863 which lists George Meem with 200 acres at \$5.00 per acre with no improvements.
2. See "Meem's Addition to Gaithersburg", Judy Christensen 1990.
3. Montgomery County Land Record EBPl0/388 where Ward & Fulks purchased 3 acres by the railroad and a road right of way to the Barnesville Road. It became a public road in 1883 by petition to the County Commissioners.
4. C.J., Maddox Jr., Map of Gaithersburg 1894.
5. Montgomery County Plat 3/133 (1896 recorded 1910).
6. Land Record TD24/40 for lot 17 (1902)
7. Land Record 214/401 for lots 20,21,22, and 23. (1910) See also Gaithersburg: The Heart of Montgomery County, 1978, City of Gaithersburg; page 338-341 for the history of the Briggs Family.
8. Land Records 262/445 (1917)
9. Interview with Daniel Robertson, whose family built 115 Meem in 1910, May 1990 .
10. Land Records 296/93 (1920)
11. Land Record 323/193 (1922)
12. Land Record 319/1 (1922)
13. Land Record 319/1 (1922)
14. Interview with Daniel Robertson May 1990.
15. Foreclosure #6051, Judgement record 50/483
16. Land Record 522/68 (1931)
17. Land Record 606/375 (1935)
18. Land Record 944/55 (1944), Land Record 1420/14 (1950)
19. Land Record 4643/664 (1975)
20. Land Record 5510/878 (1980)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M-21-115

Montgomery County Land, Plat, and Assessment records. Gaithersburg: The Heart of Montgomery County, 1978, City of Gaithersburg, MD.; C.J. Maddox Jr. 1894 Map of Gaithersburg; Interview with Daniel Robertson, May 1990. The Montgomery County Sentinel Newspaper.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .429 acres

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 20 of Meem's Addition to Gaithersburg.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judy Christensen

organization for the City of Gaithersburg

date May 1990

street & number 6 Walker Avenue

telephone 926-2650

city or town Gaithersburg

state 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

GAITHERSBURG HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET

ADDRESS 104 MEEM AVENUE
County: Montgomery
Gaithersburg

MHT # M-21-115
LIBER 5510, FOLIO 878

SURVEY # 043
LOT L20, BLOCK -

OWNER: Gregory/Susan Olson
ADDRESS: same
CITY: same

PRESENT USE: residence
ORIGINAL USE: residence
BUILDER: unknown

STYLE: Bungalow

DATE BUILT: c.1917

PHYS. COND: fair

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

FOUNDATION: brick
WALL STRUCTURE: Balloon
WALL COVERING: novelty siding

ROOF CONSTRUCTION:

ROOF STRUCTURE: Wood Truss
ROOF COVERING: pressed tin
ROOF STYLE: hip
EAVES: wide boxed cornice
CHIMNEYS: -

APPENDAGES:

ADDITIONS: rear
ELLS: -
PORCHES: front L-shaped
SUPPORTS: pillars
OUTBUILDINGS: garage

STORIES: 1

BAYS: 3 x 2

APPROX DIMENSION: 34 x 28

WINDOWS:

TYPE: d.h.s.
LIGHTS: 1/1
BAY WINDOWS: right
SIDE BY SIDES: front, right
GABLE TYPES: 1/1

ENTRANCES:

LOCATION: center
DESCRIPTION: transom

THREAT: none

SURROUNDINGS: residential

M:21-115

DESCRIPTION: Bungalow style house with side-by-side d.h.s. 1/1 windows in front left bay with original double shutters. Door has two-light transom in center bay. Right bay repeats left bay. Porch extends full width of front and wraps to right elevation, with lattice work covering the support piers to the ground. Each pillar rests on brick post. Gable has decorative wood shingles and centered 1/1 d.h.s window. The rear elevation has a shed-roofed addition with side windows and door. Right elevation has bay window with door in one bay.

According to present owner, this was the first of three houses built in a row by the same man, each one larger as his family grew.

Recorded by:

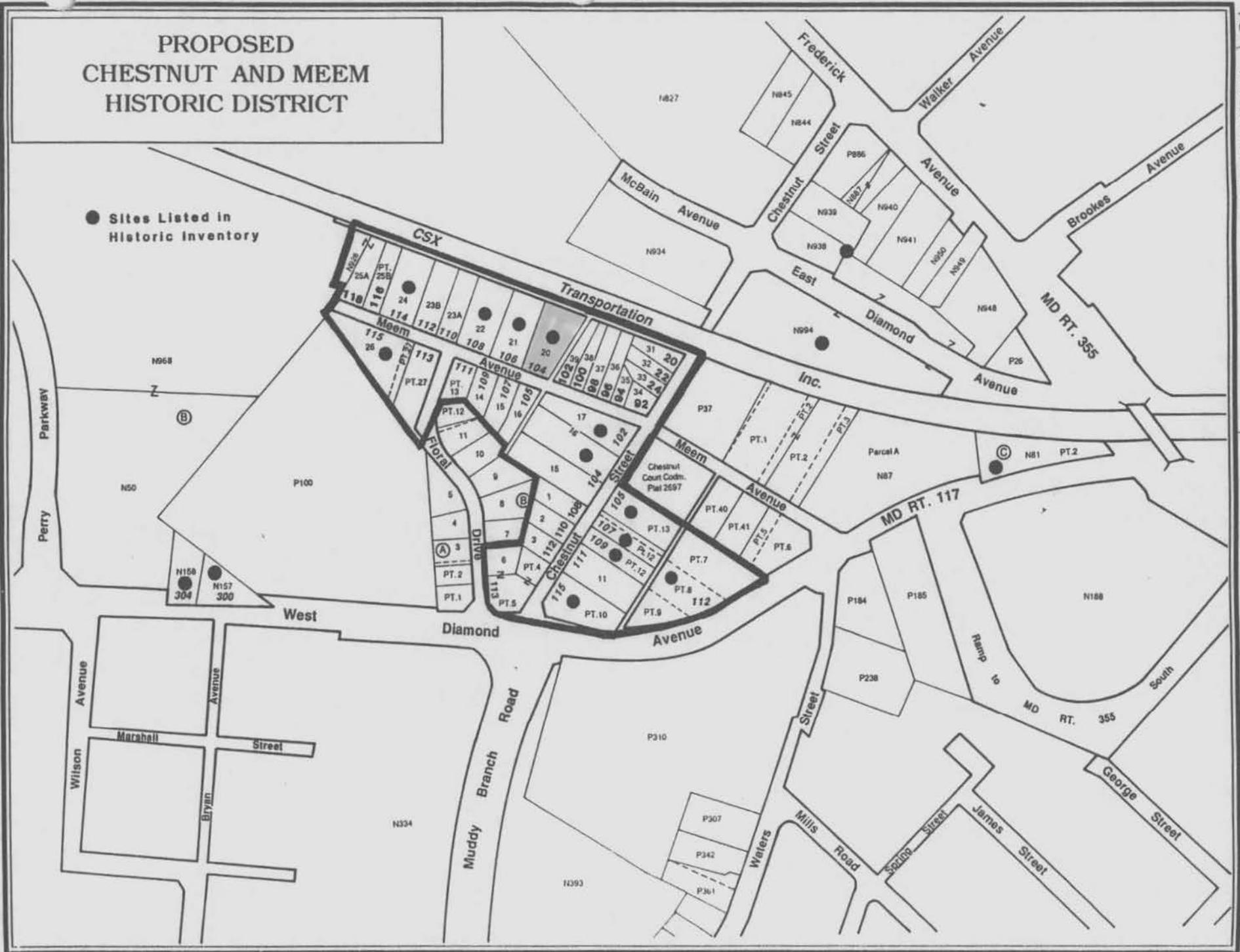
P. Patula/C. MacFarland

October 2, 1982

Historic Inventory Task Force

PROPOSED CHESTNUT AND MEEM HISTORIC DISTRICT

● Sites Listed in
Historic Inventory



104 Meem Avenue
Survey No. M-2-1-115
Section 2.1



104 Meem M-21-115

Gaithersburg, Md. 20877

Montgomery County

H. C. Meem

Photographer Judy Christensen

Date 1990

Front (south) facade



104 Meem M-21-115
Gaithersburg, Md

104 Meem 1

Montgomery County
1998

Photographer Jay Christensen
Side (west) & front (south)
facades



M-21-115

104 Mee m

Gaithersburg, Md

Montgomery County

Photographer Judy Christensen

Date 1990

Side view (east facade)