

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Aubrey and Susie Mills House

and/or common The Lopez House

## 2. Location

street & number 106 Meem Avenue  not for publication

city, town Gaithersburg  vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 9th

state Maryland county Montgomery

## 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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. H-21-116

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

This residence is an nearly unaltered example of the early 20th century compact 1-1/2 story craftsman bungalow popular from 1910 to 1930.

The 1923 bungalow faces southwest 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 four square 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 north of the house provides a parking area which connects by a walk to the steps to the north end of the front porch.

The craftsman-influenced 1-1/2 story frame bungalow is a 3-bay by 2-bay square house with a side-gabled roof with wide eaves, returns, and a central shed-roofed 3-light dormer on the front. The side gables are echoed at the center and sides of the porch roof. There is a full-width front porch and a rear addition. The single and paired windows are 1/1 wooden sashes with plain surrounds. The exterior cladding is narrow wood clapboard while the house gables, dormer sides, and porch gables are clad with wood shingles. There is an enclosed porch addition on the east (rear) facade.

The west (front) facade has three small 1/1 windows in the attic dormer. The 1st story has a pair of windows in the north and south bays and a central door with a transom light. The front porch is roofed with the the house and supported by four pairs of slender Doric columns. The most striking motif and most typical craftsman feature of the building is the slightly oversized repetition of the house gable with fishscale shingle infill and returns at the center and each end of the porch roof. The porch is accessed by two wide wooden steps at the center and each end.

The north and south facades are identical. Each has two windows in the attic gable and two evenly spaced windows on the 1st story.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. H-21-116

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"/> local history (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**      1919                      **Builder/Architect**      Aubrey Mills, Builder

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 bungalow was built in Meem's Addition by carpenter Aubrey Mills as his own home. Susie Mills' estate sold it in 1971 to Alfred and D.A. Lopez. It is virtually unaltered.

### 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 probably built the late Victorian 2-1/2 story frame house at 102 Chestnut soon after.

John Wesley Briggs also purchased most of the land on the east side of Meem from Chestnut north. 7/ In 1919 his widow sold lot 21 to Aubrey and Susie B. Mills. 8/ Aubrey Mills was a carpenter who built this house himself and built the house of his neighbor, Mr. Whalen, at 108 Meem. 9/

Continued on attachment 8.1

History (continued)  
Aubrey Mills House/ 106 Meem Avenue

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There is an identical house at 607 South Frederick Avenue which has had synthetic siding installed over the siding and fishscale shingles which suggests that the Mills house may have been a mail-order house. However, neither Aladdin Homes nor Sears show a building like this one in 1919. Mr. Mills may have built it from popular architectural plans.

In 1971, the estate of Susie B. Mills sold the house to the Alfred Lopez family who have lived there since then. 10/

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Record JGH9/228 and The Montgomery County tax assessment for 1863 which lists George Meem with 200 acres at \$5.00 per acre with no improvements.
2. Judy Christensen, "Meem's Addition to Gaithersburg", 1990, for City of Gaithersburg.
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 176/33 (1903) lots 18 and 19 and 214/401 for lots 20,21,22, and 23. (1910)
8. Land Records 278/121 (1919)
9. Interview with Daniel Robertson, May 1990. Mr. Robertson's family built 115 Meem Avenue in 1910.
10. Land Record 4043/95 (1971).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M-21-116

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; Telephone interview with Daniel Robertson, May 1990.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .414 acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 21 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 106 MEEM AVENUE  
County: Montgomery  
Gaithersburg

MHT # M-21-116  
LIBER 4043, FOLIO 95

SURVEY # 044  
LOT L21, BLOCK -

OWNER: -  
ADDRESS: -  
CITY: -

PRESENT USE: residence  
ORIGINAL USE: residence  
BUILDER: unknown

STYLE: Bungalow

DATE BUILT: c.1920

PHYS. COND: good

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

FOUNDATION: -  
WALL STRUCTURE: Balloon  
WALL COVERING: clapboard

ROOF CONSTRUCTION:

ROOF STRUCTURE: Wood Truss  
ROOF COVERING: asphalt shingle  
ROOF STYLE: gable  
EAVES: wide boxed cornice with ogee molding  
CHIMNEYS: two

APPENDAGES:

ADDITIONS: -  
ELLS: -  
PORCHES: front  
SUPPORTS: Doric  
OUTBUILDINGS: -

WINDOWS:

TYPE: d.h.s.  
LIGHTS: 1/1  
BAY WINDOWS: -  
SIDE BY SIDES: front

S> GABLE TYPES: three 1/1 d.h.s.

ENTRANCES:

LOCATION: middle  
DESCRIPTION: decorative

THREAT: none

SURROUNDINGS: residential

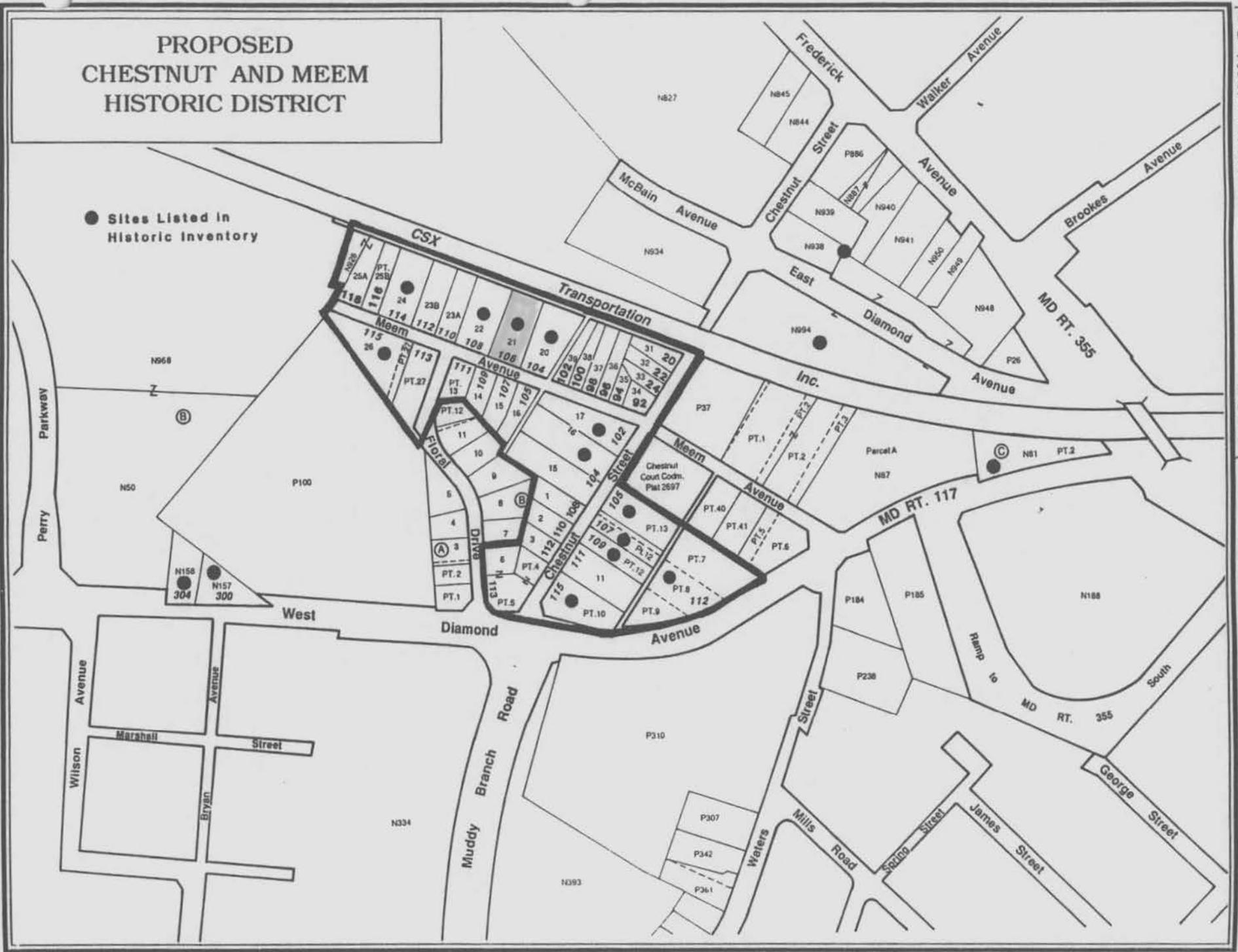
M:21-116

DESCRIPTION: Porch extends full width. Porch roof is quite exceptional. Small ornamental gable interrupts cornice. Roof supported by four sets of twin pillars (Roman-Doric). Original clapboard siding, doesn't appear to have ever had shingles. 1st level-left bay, side-by-side 1/1 d.h.s.; middle bay, original door with decorative ledges and original doorknob and plate, one-light transom; right bay, repeat left bay. Second storey-shed roof dormer in center behind gable in roof, three separate windows 1/1 evenly spaced. Gable on porch has wood shingles. Boxed cornice with ogee molding. Rear elevation-1/1 window in left bay, enclosed porch in right bay. Original pillars of porch and railing are still visible. Second storey has dormer shed roof with central window, wooden shingles. Left and right elevations have symmetrically placed 1/1 windows.

Recorded by:  
 P. Patula/C. MacFarland  
 October 9, 1982  
 Historic Inventory Task Force

# PROPOSED CHESTNUT AND MEEM HISTORIC DISTRICT

● Sites Listed in  
Historic Inventory



106 Meem Avenue

Survey No. M-21-116

Section 2.1



H-21-116

106 Meem Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
Montgomery County

Photographer Judy Christensen  
Date 1990

Front (south) facade



M-21-116

106 Meem Avenue

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Montgomery County

Photographer Judy Christensen

Date 1990

Front (south) & side (west) facades