

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Robertson House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 115 Meem Avenue  not for publication

city, town Gaithersburg  vicinity of congressional district 8th

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

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

name Kathleen Sentkowski

street & number 115 Meem Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Gaithersburg, Md. state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 7498

street & number folio 871

city, town Rockville, state

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. H-21-119

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 house is typical of the American Foursquare vernacular style. It is three bays wide, 2½ stories under a wide eaved hipped roof of patterned tin. Originally of frame sheathing, it has now been covered with composition shingling. The foundation is cement block.

The facade faces north and presents a symmetrical placement of centered door under a centered hipped roof dormer. A full width porch with slender doric columns and plain balustrade is slightly raised. The windows of the house are one-over-one with the exception of the dormer window, composed of three narrow casements.

An exterior chimney is located on the west side. The east side is decorated with a shallow semi-octagonal bay window on the first floor. A rear service porch opens off the kitchen in the rear/

There are many mature trees on the lot. A deteriorated vertical framed outbuilding and a garage occupy the rear of the lot.

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

**Specific dates** 1911 **Builder/Architect**

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.

The family of Gaithersburg's first Mayor sub divided part of their farm in 1896 for this residential neighborhood. Robertson house was built in 1911 on one of these lots, and is a near original example of the popular "American Foursquare" architectural style. It was owned by the Robertsons for over 60 years.

### History and Support

"Meem's Addition to Gaithersburg" was platted in 1896 on part of the 18th century Rawling's family farm. Martha Meem purchased 200 acres of "Rawling's Rest" and "Zoar" in 1862, and her family built the large Victorian home on Chestnut Street. When the land was subdivided in 1896, this lot was one of the 8 owned by George Meem.1 Mr. Meem was a driving force in the development of Gaithersburg as a mercantile and trade center. He was the first Mayor of Gaithersburg, after that system was adopted in 1898. 2

The 30 lots of "Meem's Addition" occupied a triangular area between Diamond Avenue and the B&O Railroad tracks. The lots were large, nearly 1/2 acre and heavily treed, but Meem's Addition was not a residential success, and few lots were sold, in the first decade.

In 1911 William and Lillian Robertson purchased lots 26 and 27 for \$200. A mortgage for \$1,425 paid for the construction of this house in the same year. The Robertson House is an example of a variant of the colonial revival architecture, commonly called American Foursquare. This house is typical of that style with its box shape, symmetrical arrangement and full width porch with classical columns. The house is in near original condition except for the composition shingling applied over the original frame siding.

With the death of Lillian Robertson in 1973, the 60 year occupancy by that family ended.3 During those years many of the vacant lots in Meem's Addition had been developed, and a wide variety of architectural styles are evident, with this home one of the earliest.

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Records, JGH9/228 (1862) and JA 55/105 (1896)
2. Mr. Meem was President of the Board of Commissioners for 13 years, before Mayor and Council system adopted. Two of his brothers were also active in town commercial and political affairs
3. Montgomery County Estate Records, Administration #008-09133 and Inventory

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M-21-119

Montgomery County Land, Plat, Equity and Tax Records. Gaithersburg; The Heart of Montgomery County pp.377-378

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .54 acres

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

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

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 26 and part of Lot 27 of "Meem's Addition to Gaithersburg"  
Per Montgomery County Plat 2-133

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne W. Cissel (For the City of Gaithersburg)

organization Historic Research Associates

date August, 1987

street & number 7526 Weatherby Drive

telephone (301) 330-3005

city or town Rockville, Maryland 20855

state \_\_\_\_\_

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 115 MEEM AVENUE  
County: Montgomery  
Gaithersburg

MHT # M-21-119  
LIBER 4610, FOLIO 414

SURVEY # 046  
LOT L26, BLOCK -

OWNER: -  
ADDRESS: -  
CITY: -

PRESENT USE: residence  
ORIGINAL USE: residence  
BUILDER: unknown

STYLE: Colonial revival

DATE BUILT: c.1900

PHYS. COND: fair

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

FOUNDATION: concrete covered  
WALL STRUCTURE: Balloon  
WALL COVERING: novelty siding

ROOF CONSTRUCTION:

ROOF STRUCTURE: Wood Truss  
ROOF COVERING: pressed tin  
ROOF STYLE: hip  
EAVES: boxed cornice, plain frieze  
CHIMNEYS: two

APPENDAGES:

ADDITIONS: rear  
ELLS: -  
PORCHES: front  
SUPPORTS: Doric columns  
OUTBUILDINGS: two sheds

STORIES: 2 1/2

BAYS: 2

APPROX DIMENSION: 26 x 29

WINDOWS:

TYPE: d.h.s.  
LIGHTS: 1/1  
BAY WINDOWS: -  
SIDE BY SIDES: -  
GABLE TYPES: 3 stationary horizontal

ENTRANCES:

LOCATION: center  
DESCRIPTION: decorative

THREAT: none

SURROUNDINGS: residential

046

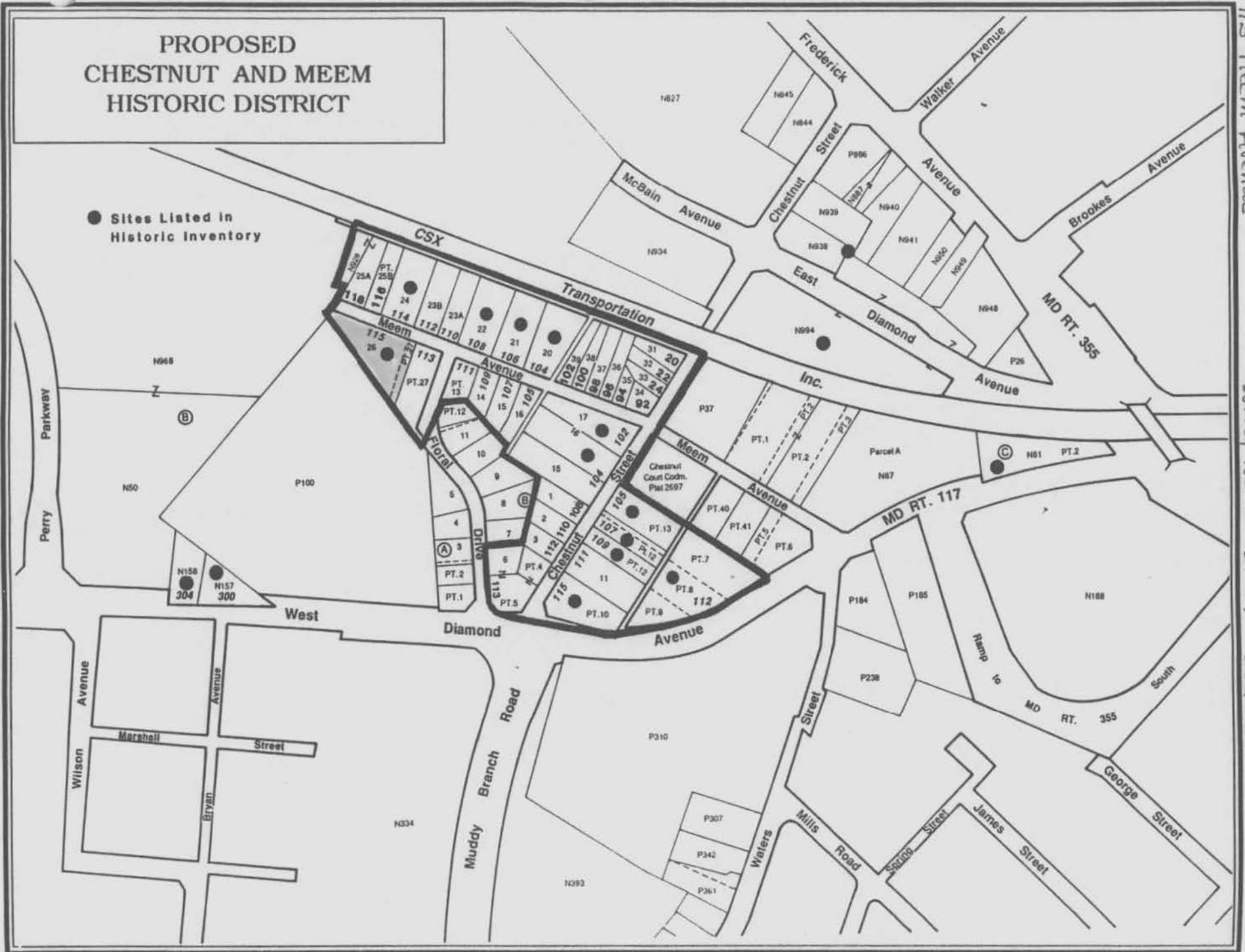
M.21-119

DESCRIPTION: Porch extends full width and is supported by four Roman-Doric columns (one missing). Porch has raised seam tin roof. Door has raised carved design, very ornate at top above half-door window. Under window is left and decorative carved design underneath. There are a series of small square raised panels, two rows of three, underneath. Front-symmetrically placed windows on second storey; 1/2 storey has dormer with three horizontal windows capped with cornice. Right elevation-symmetrically placed windows. Left elevation-rear bay has three-bay window. Rear elevation, right bays of both floors have 1/1 window, upper porch now enclosed. Shed roof extension, rafter ends curved.

Recorded by:  
P. Patula/C. MacFarland  
September 18, 1982  
Historic Inventory Task Force

# PROPOSED CHESTNUT AND MEEM HISTORIC DISTRICT

● Sites Listed in  
Historic Inventory



115 Meem Avenue  
Survey No. M-21-119 Section 2.1



105 Meem

M-21-119

Carthusbury, MD

Montgomery County

Photographer Judy Christensen

Date 1990

Front (north) facade



M-21-119

115 Heem

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Montgomery County

Photographer Judy Christensen

Date 1990

Front (north) & side (east) facades



M-21-119

115 Meem Avenue

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Montgomery County

Photographer Judy Christensen

Date 1990

Rear (south) & side (west) facade



M-21-119

115 Meem Avenue

Coithersburg, MO 20877

Montgomery County

Photographer Judy Christensen

Date 1990

Rear (south) facade