

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. *M:21-171*

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

00038

Contributing (CON) or Non (NC) Resource: NC

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Charles and Nan Fox House

and/or common The Fox House

## 2. Location

street & number 109 Chestnut Street  not for publication

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

state Maryland county Montgomery

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Charles P. and N.R. Fox

street & number 109 Chestnut Street

telephone no.:

city, town Gaithersburg state and zip code MD 20879

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse 1995/82

street & number 50 Courthouse Square liber 716/383

city, town Rockville folio Maryland

state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

None

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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.

The subject house faces northeast on Chestnut, a two-block three-lane one-way street which was originally residential but now mixes office, commercial, and industrial with residential uses and has become a major traffic arterial. Sited on a narrow and deep rectangular 11,242 square foot lot, 109 Chestnut is one of five houses ranging from post-Victorian vernacular to 1940s one-and-a-half story frame Cape Cod style dwellings. All have a uniform moderate setback. The generous front yard has azalea shrubs planted along the house foundation and large mature evergreens which shade the rear yard. An asphalt driveway along the east property line accesses a parking area east of the house.

109 Chestnut is an end-gabled, three-bay by four-bay 1-1/2-story frame Cape Cod-style house with two wall dormers and a one-story screened porch on the west facade, and an off-set one-story rear (south) addition. The foundation is brick, the exterior is clad with wide clapboard siding and the 6/6 windows with plain surrounds stripped out, indicating the siding is installed over original material. The roof is covered with composition shingle, and there is a central brick exterior chimney on the west facade. The house is unaltered except for replacement siding and is in good condition.

The three-bay front (northeast) facade has a central exterior door with three small lights at the top. The door is accessed by a concrete stoop sheltered by a shed-roofed portico supported by two square posts. A single window flanked by decorative non-functional shutters is in each of the other two bays. Two evenly-spaced windows are in the second story.

The four-bay east facade has a window in the north bay, a smaller 6/6 window in the north central bay, a pair of similar windows in the south central bay and an exterior door sheltered by a pent roof in the south bay. There is a small narrow sash dormer in the east roof slope.

The two-bay west facade has a window in the north bay, an exterior-brick chimney with corbeled top in the center bay, and an exterior door to the screen porch in the south bay. There are two shed-roofed wall dormers with full-size windows on the second story.

# 8. Significance

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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	1938 (BP)	Builder/Architect	Unknown
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D
and/or			
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local

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

### SIGNIFICANCE

This well-kept residence is one of the first modern one-and-a-half story Cape Cod-style houses built in Meem's Subdivision. Built in 1938 by Charles and Nan Fox, the little altered house is still the home of Mrs. Fox.

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL RESOURCES MANAGMENT PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: 3) Piedmont, Montgomery County, Town/City of Gaithersburg

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): 12) Modern Period, A.D. 1930-present

Historic Period Theme(s): 2) Architecture/Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type: Building/domestic, single dwelling, residence

Category: Building/ 20th Century/ frame Cape Cod bungalow

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/single dwelling

Known Design Source: None

Continued on Attachment 8, page 1

History of 109 Chestnut Street

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The property at 109 Chestnut Street is in Meem's Addition, part of 200 acres of land purchased by Martha Meem and her husband George in 1862 from Mary J. Bibb.<sup>1</sup> Mary Bibb's husband, George Bibb, was an educated man, a lawyer, and a U.S. Senator from Kentucky. He was appointed Secretary of the U.S. Treasury in 1844 and after his term of office, practiced law in the District of Columbia and was an assistant in the office of the U.S. Attorney General. They built a house called "Pomona" which they used a summer refuge from Georgetown's heat and humidity.<sup>2</sup>

The Meems were also Georgetown residents in 1862, but built a house called "Mt. Washington" in 1865 on the present Montgomery County Fair Grounds property and became permanent residents of Gaithersburg. About 1879, the widowed Martha Meem built a new house at 104 Chestnut Street.<sup>3</sup> She had been selling house lot parcels along Chestnut Street to others since 1873, among them Charles E. Beall and his wife who built their house on the southwest corner of Chestnut and Meem.<sup>4</sup>

Their son, Charles W. Beall and his wife, Dorothy, bought the adjacent lots 12 and 13 consisting of 6/7th of an acre from the Meem heirs and built the house at 105 Chestnut Street in 1910-11.<sup>5</sup>

In 1938, Charles and Dorothy Beall sold 11,242 square feet, the south 55 feet of subdivided lot twelve to Charles P. Fox and his wife Nan R. Fox.<sup>6</sup> On the third of October in 1938, Charles P and Nellie Fox were issued building permit number 358 by the Town of Gaithersburg, granting approval to build a 26 by 28 foot frame dwelling on Chestnut Street lot 13 at an estimated cost of \$2250.<sup>7</sup> The house was probably started shortly after the permit was obtained.

Mr. Fox worked for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), whose water plant and storage tanks were behind their house and at the corner of Water Street and West Diamond Avenue. The widowed Mrs. Fox resides in the house in 1992.

History of 109 Chestnut Street

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- (1) Montgomery County Land Record JGH9/228 (1862), Mary J. Bibb to Martha A. Meem.
- (2) Gaithersburg: The Heart of Montgomery County, City of Gaithersburg, 1978. Page 338.
- (3) Judy Christensen, MHT form 21-11, 104 Chestnut Street, 1990.
- (4) Christensen, Judith A., "Meem's Addition to Gaithersburg: The History of Martha A. Meem's 200 Acres", unpublished manuscript, City of Gaithersburg, MD.
- (5) See MHT form M-21-12, 105 Chestnut Street.
- (6) Montgomery County Land Record 716/383 (1938).
- (7) Town/City of Gaithersburg building permit receipt book located at City Hall, 31 South Summit Avenue.







