

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:21- 238

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Mayor Dan and Kate Walder House

other 424 East Diamond Avenue

### 2. Location

street and number 424 East Diamond Avenue not for publication

city, town Gaithersburg vicinity

county Montgomery

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

name Thomas W. and S.A. Conley

street and number 23910 Clarksburg Road, #210 telephone

city, town Clarksburg state MD zip code 20871

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Judicial Center tax map and parcel FT62, P975

city, town Rockville, Md liber 9091 folio 133

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____ structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

RESOURCE TYPE: Non-Contributing

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

The house at 424 E. Diamond Avenue is located on the nearly intact north side of the 400 block of E. Diamond Avenue. It faces south on a 16,181 square foot narrow and deep rectangular lot, located in a low density commercial/residential/office area of Olde Towne Gaithersburg on two-lane East Diamond Avenue. Despite the mixed uses, East Diamond Avenue retains many large trees and deep front yards. Across the street is a section of modern commercial and industrial structures. To the west is a residence now used commercially and to the east is a house of the same era, now used commercially. Although now more commercial than residential in 2001, the area with its wide paved road, sidewalks and front yards on the north side retains the sense of a 1900-1930 residential streetscape.

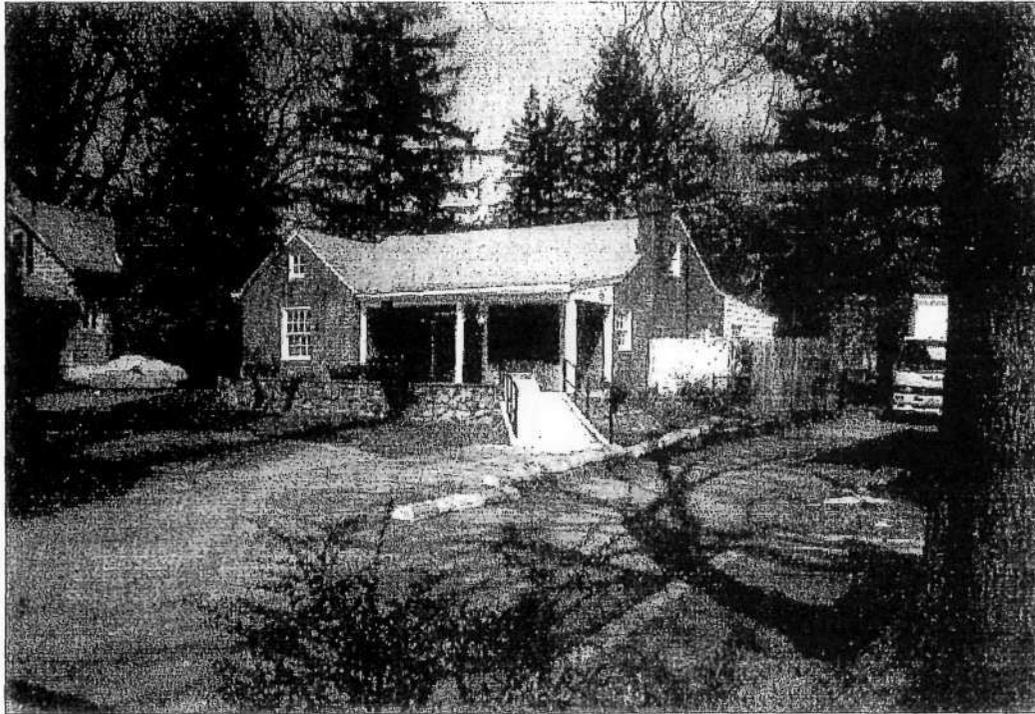
### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The subject house at #424 E. Diamond Avenue is typical of 1948 1-1/2 story brick rambler that became popular after World War II. It is a vernacular "L" shaped cross-gable house built of concrete block with brick veneer. The roof is clad with composition shingles and there is an exterior brick chimney on the east façade. The windows are 6/6 double hung sashes. The house features a shed-roofed front porch supported by three square posts on a concrete deck and a a clapboard-enclosed rear one-story shed-roofed porch. A decorative fieldstone wall planter box separates the front porch from the lawn. There is an asphalt driveway and parking pad on the east side of the house.

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Above left:

The front (south) elevation and east elevation of 424 East Diamond Avenue, showing the front porch and front-gabled south extension, the end-gabled main block, and the clapboarded rear enclosed porch. Note the handicapped ramp.



Below left:

The front (south) elevation of 424 East Diamond showing the ornamental planting box.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Significance dates 1948

Architect

Specific dates 1948

Builder Dorsey and Howard Plummer

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SIGNIFICANCE

The 1948 classic brick rambler at 424 East Diamond Avenue is one of few infill residences on this street of residences built from 1886 to 1932 on the north side of East Diamond Avenue. It was the home of a Gaithersburg Council Member who later served as Mayor of Gaithersburg. It is now used commercially.

### History and Support

After the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad was initiated in 1873, traffic surely increased as the commercial center of Gaithersburg moved from Frederick Road to near the depot at Summit and E. Diamond Avenues.

The house lot at 424 E. Diamond Avenue is part of the original Deer Park tract patented by Jeremiah Crabb in 1723 (see attached history). Much of the land that was settled in the nineteenth century as Gaithersburg and that now lies to the north and east of Route 355 in the city limits of Gaithersburg was part of Deer Park.<sup>1</sup> Generally speaking, the half of Deer Park north of Summit Avenue was associated during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the Gaither, Gloyd, Walker, Rabbitt, and Brookes families. The southern half of Deer Park was primarily associated with the Clopper/Hutton family. (Adding to the confusion is the fact that there was also another Deer Park tract in Montgomery County, located next to "Bear Garden Enlarged".)<sup>2</sup>

The Southern half of the Deer Park tract lies on both sides of much of the preferred route for Clopper's proposed Metropolitan Railroad, and surrounds the intersection of Laytonsville and Goshen Roads (now E. Diamond and Summit Avenues). Clopper stood to profit handsomely from development of this land when his railroad went through. Although he and his partners lost their charter to build the Metropolitan Railroad, after the Civil War they were able to persuade the B & O Railroad to build a new line following their surveyed route through Montgomery County and Gaithersburg. Francis C. Clopper did not require the B & O to go through the usual condemnation process for acquisition of his Deer Park

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land for the new line's tracks in 1868; he deeded right-of way to the B & O for a nominal sum plus an agreement that the B & O would construct a station and turnout siding on his property.<sup>3</sup> Francis Clopper died December 31, 1868, having survived his wife Jane Byrne who died 4/28/1865.<sup>4</sup>

Mary Augusta (Clopper) Hutton and Douglas Clopper were the surviving children and heirs of Francis Clopper. In 1855, Mary Augusta Clopper had married William Rich Hutton from Washington, D. C. (b. 3/21/1826, d. at the Woodlands 12/11/1901). William Rich Hutton served as Assistant Engineer of the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad and the Washington Aqueduct and Chief Engineer of the C & O Canal, Western Maryland Railroad, the Washington Bridge of the Harlem River in New York and the Hudson River Tunnels in New York. The Huttons' family home was the Woodlands, although William Rich Hutton spent most of his time at his New York office. They had 5 children who survived to adulthood.

At the death of Douglas Clopper in 1870, his other heirs and his sister Mary Augusta Hutton partitioned the real estate that had been left to them from Francis Clopper's estate. Mary Augusta Hutton and others got all of Francis Clopper's 229.5 acre Deer Park estate.<sup>5</sup> The Huttons started selling off lots of various sizes from their Deer Park holdings in 1877.<sup>6</sup> In 1901, William Rich Hutton died.<sup>7</sup>

In 1914, Mary Augusta Hutton, widow of William Rich Hutton, conveyed all of the Deer Park tract she had not previously sold, about 160 acres, to "Mary A. Hutton" (either herself or her daughter by the same name) and Francis C. Hutton, a son.<sup>8</sup> Mary Augusta Hutton, widow, (born January 7, 1826) died soon after on January 4, 1915, at the age of 89 years.<sup>9</sup> After 1915, when Mary Augusta the mother died, the names of all her five surviving children appear on most deeds transferring pieces of the Deer Park tract.

The three surviving Hutton children sold the lot including #424 to Ernest and Mamie B. Fraley in 1947.<sup>10</sup> According to the tax records, the Fraleys built the house in 1948. It then passed to Clarence and Jeweldene Dotson, who quickly sold it to Bernard Daniel and Kathryn Walder.<sup>11</sup> Bernard, or "Dan" Walder served as Gaithersburg Mayor from May 1976 to May 1978.<sup>12</sup> After his early death, Kathryn Walder sold it to William G. Herring, Jr., and William G. Herring III and Thomas W. Conley and Thomas G. Conley.<sup>13</sup> The other parties sold out to Thomas W. and Sally A. Conley in 1989.<sup>14</sup>

According to the Tax Assessor's Office worksheet, the house was built in 1948.



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### HISTORY OF DEER PARK LAND PATENT IN GAITHERSBURG

The Deer Park tract of 470 acres was originally granted by patent to Ralph Crabb on December 1, 1723. It was described as being "on the east ward of the Indian Park." ("Park" is probably a mistranscription by the clerk of "path") After Ralph Crabb's death, his widow Priscilla conveyed the 470 acres to her son Jeremiah Crabb on August 14, 1753.<sup>15</sup> Jeremiah Crabb is shown as living in Montgomery County near Derwood (a name possibly derived from "Deerwood") on the 1794 map of the county.<sup>16</sup> He fought in the Revolutionary War, attaining the rank of General, and served in the U. S. House of Representatives, all before the age of forty, when he died. He is buried in Derwood.<sup>17</sup>

In 1755, Jeremiah Crabb sold the twelve acres of the tract "over the main (i. e., Frederick) road on the west side "to Thomas Clarkson, of Prince George's County".<sup>18</sup> (This is the 12 acres that later became Logtown.<sup>19</sup>) On February 16, 1756, Jeremiah Crabb sold the remaining 458 acres to Williamson Bruce, the tract being described as "beginning at a glade of Muddy Branch, a little to the eastward of the Indian path running thence north."<sup>20</sup> (This point is located on a lot on Central Avenue in Oakmont.)

The next deed reference is in 1780, when John Bruce, presumed to be an heir of Williamson Bruce, conveys 229 1/2 acres (the southern half) of Deer Park to William Holmes for 12,000 pounds.<sup>21</sup>

In the 1783 tax assessment, the Deer Park tract was valued at 229 pounds, and consisted of 1 log dwelling, 1 tobacco house, 90 acres cleared, 3 acres marsh, and had middling soil. It was one of four properties owned by William Holmes. In 1790 he owned 30 slaves, but we do not know at which of his properties they lived. In 1793, the 229 acre tract was valued at about 226 pounds.

William Holmes according to Thomas Scharf's History of Western Maryland (at 665-668), served in the Maryland House of Delegates in 1786, was Judge of the Orphans' court in 1802-3, and was Associate Judge of the Circuit Court in 1803. He died in 1825 at nearly 79 years of age. His widow Eleanor Holmes and his son Richard Holmes were administrators of his will, recorded at Montgomery County Wills P/309. His son Richard, born in 1791, inherited the Deer Park tract.

Richard Holmes served as a Lieutenant with the Maryland Militia in the War of 1812. In 1823 he married Rebecca Warfield. He was known for arriving for worship at the Paint Branch Chapel (near present day Cherry Hill Road) in a decked-out carriage and for accumulating slaves. In the tax assessments for 1841-42, he was the richest man in Montgomery County. His Fourth District property, the 229 acres of Deer Park, was valued at \$3, apparently depleted as a result of tobacco cultivation. None of his slaves is listed in the Fourth District. He had five children, including his son William, born 4/23/1824. The family lived at The Home Place, Montmorency, a mansion built by Richard's father, William Holmes, and now known as Llewellyn Fields. Llewellyn Fields is a

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Montgomery County Masterplan site located at 950 Norwood Road, in Silver Spring. Richard Holmes died on 9/8/1845, following his wife's death on 4/14/1842.

His son William was Richard's estate's administrator and was required to post a \$250,000 bond with the Orphan's Court. The estate inventory of 1/12/1847 showed he owned stock in the Frederick Road and had five properties, including the "Gaithersburg farm of about 229 acres." The property had apparently deteriorated and was described as having about 20 acres in wood, land quite poor, much unenclosed, and a very indifferent dwelling, rental value \$30 per year. Evidence provided to the Chancery Court in 1847 was that he owned 5000 acres with others as tenants in common, including the "Cracklin District place" of 200 acres in Deer Park. In 1853, the trustees appointed by the Chancery Court<sup>22</sup> to sell off Richard's property conveyed the Deer Park tract to Newland Irish of New York.<sup>23 24</sup>

The deed to Newland Irish conveying Holmes' "Cracklin District place" from the trustees of the Chancery court was recorded at L/f JGH4/132 (2/24/1853). In 1860, Francis Clopper bought it from Newland and Sarah Irish,<sup>25</sup> at a time during the Depression of 1857 and on the eve of the Civil War. Clopper was a wealthy farmer and entrepreneur who had moved to Montgomery County from Philadelphia in the first half of the 1800's. His family was connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

Geographic Organization: III.) Piedmont, Montgomery County, City of Gaithersburg

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): L) Modern :1930- present

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

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment:: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/ single dwelling, frame detached residence

Known Design Source: None

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Montgomery County Land, Chancery, Equity, Plat and Tax records. Thomas Scharf, History of Western Maryland, Crabb and Hutton Family files at the Montgomery County Historical Society. U.S. Census records. Gaithersburg: The Heart of Montgomery County, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Gaithersburg; U.S.G.A. Aerial photographs.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area 16,181 SF  
 Acreage surveyed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quadrangle name Gaithersburg Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Walder's Addition to Gaithersburg. Tax Map FT62, N975.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Gail Littlefield, Historian	Judy Christensen, Architectural Historian
organization	ArcHistory 301-926-2650	Jachristen@aol.com
street & number	6 Walker Avenue	
city or town	Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2704	

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
 DHCD/DHCP  
 100 Community Place  
 Crownsville, MD 21032  
 410-514-7600

## ENDNOTES

## Endnotes Abbreviations:

MCHS = Montgomery County Historical Society

L/f = Montgomery County Land Record Liber/ Folio

MLK = Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Washington D.C.

JR L/f = Montgomery County Judgment Record Liber/folio

Edwards I or Edwards II = Phil Edwards, Washington Grove I and Washington Grove II

Heart = Gaithersburg: the Heart of Montgomery County, 1978, City of Gaithersburg, MD.

Aerial Photos = 1938 and 1951 aerial photos from U.S. Defense Mapping Agency  
1943 aerial photo from U.S. Photo Conservation Service. All are reproduced from National Archives Collection. Copies are available at the Gaithersburg Community Museum reference library.

<sup>1</sup> See inside front cover of Heart for William E. Hutchinson's overlay of the Deer Park tract on the current street map of Gaithersburg; also attached.

<sup>2</sup> Frederick Co. L/f E/1010 (2/16/1756).

<sup>3</sup> Heart at 16

<sup>4</sup> MCHS Hutton family file

<sup>5</sup> L/f EBP7/89 (1/13/1870)

<sup>6</sup> See list of sales of Deer Park through 1914 in L/f 246/97;

<sup>7</sup> MCHS Hutton family file.

<sup>8</sup> L/f 246/97, (7/23/1914).

<sup>9</sup> Janet Manuel's notes from survey of St. Rose of Lima Church Cemetery at Woodlands.

<sup>10</sup> L/f 1088/219, (7/17/1947).

<sup>11</sup> L/f 3413/421, (9/17/1965); 3657/239, (8/18/1967).

<sup>12</sup> Heart, Walder Biography, page 397-98.

<sup>13</sup> L/f 7248/686, (8/7/1986).

<sup>14</sup> L/f 9091/133, (11/1/1989).

<sup>15</sup> Frederick County L/f E/323, as abstracted by Patricia Abelard Andersen, in Frederick County Maryland Land Records—Liber E Abstracts, 1752-1756.

<sup>16</sup> MCHS

<sup>17</sup> MCHS Crabb family file

<sup>18</sup> 4/26/1755, Frederick County L/f E/732, per abstract as above

<sup>19</sup> Frederick Co. L/f M/589 (11/23/1769).

<sup>20</sup> Frederick Co. L/f E/1010 (2/16/1756).

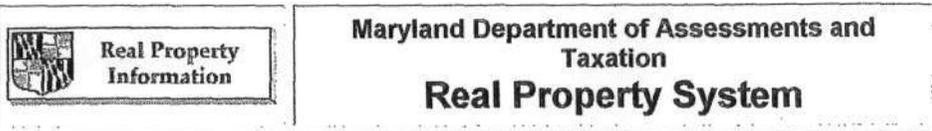
<sup>21</sup> L/f A/522 (7/6/1780).

<sup>22</sup> Montgomery County Chancery Court Records reported in L/f B171/632 (2/1847).

<sup>23</sup> Chancery case reported in L/f B171/632 (2/1847).

<sup>24</sup> All the preceding information about the Holmes family was gathered by Eleanor Cooke and contained in the Holmes family file at the MCHS

<sup>25</sup> L/f JGH8/317 (8/16/1860).



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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

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**DISTRICT: 09 ACCT NO: 02651644**

**Owner Information**

**Owner Name:** CONLEY, THOMAS W & S A **Use:** COMMERCIAL  
**Mailing Address:** 23910 CLARKSBURG RD #210 **Principal Residence:** NO  
 CLARKSBURG MD 20871

**Transferred**

**From:** **Date:** 11/21/1989 **Price:** \$73,967

**Deed Reference:** 1) / 9091/ 133 **Special Tax Recapture:**

2)

\* NONE \*

**Tax Exempt:** NO

**Location Information** [\[View Map\]](#)

**Premises Address:** 424 E DIAMOND AVE **Zoning:** RB **Legal Description:** WALDERS ADD GAITHERS BURG  
 GAITHERSBURG 20877

<b>Map</b>	<b>Grid</b>	<b>Parcel</b>	<b>Subdiv</b>	<b>Sect</b>	<b>Block</b>	<b>Lot</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Plat No:</b>
FT62		N975	201			1	82	<b>Plat Ref:</b>

**Special Tax Areas** **Town:** GAITHERSBURG

**Ad Valorem:**  
**Tax Class:** 49

**Primary Structure Data**

<b>Year Built:</b>	<b>Enclosed Area:</b>	<b>Property Land Area:</b>	<b>County Use:</b>
0000	1,506 SF	16,181.00 SF	602

**Value Information**

	<b>Base Value</b>	<b>Current Value</b>	<b>Phase-In Value</b>	<b>Phase-in Assessments</b>	
		As Of	As Of	As Of	As Of
		01/01/2000	07/01/2001	07/01/2000	07/01/2001
Land:	151,100	151,100			
Impts:	49,800	50,700			
Total:	200,900	201,800	201,500	80,480	201,500
Pref Land:	0	0	0	0	0



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Mayor Dan and Kate Walder House  
424 E. Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg  
Gaithersburg Quadrangle 1945 (Photorevised 1979)

