

Site: M:26/10/74

The Chabad House

Built: 1922

311 West Montgomery Avenue

Private

This 2½ story frame house was built for Ellen duPont Meeds, the daughter of Senator T. Coleman duPont of Wilmington, Delaware. It was designed as a modern interpretation of American Georgian Colonial architecture, and features three-ranked symmetrical front and side facades, central entry with paneled door and fanlight, moderately-pitched side-gable roof with dormers, multi-light windows with shutters, cedar shake roof, and prominent end chimneys. From 1926 to 1951, the house served as the residence and office of Dr. Cyrus Hawks and family.

(contributing element in West
Montgomery NR Historic District)**Maryland Historical Trust**
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common The Chabad House

2. Locationstreet & number 311 West Montgomery Avenue not for publicationcity, town Rockville vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 4)

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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Friends of Lubavitch

street & number 311 West Montgomery Avenue telephone no.: 251-9639

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 5262

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 644

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register of Historic Places (1974)

state City of Rockville Historic District (1974) federal state county local

depository for survey records City of Rockville

city, town Rockville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. M: 26/10/74

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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 south on West Montgomery Avenue, one of a row of large houses on a tree-shaded street with large lots and deep setbacks. It has a generous lawn in front, shrubs and mature trees on sides and back. An asphalt-paved 15' right of way is at the west property line linking to an alley exiting onto Laird Street. A one-car frame garage at northwest corner of the house is accessed from West Montgomery Avenue. A frame storage shed is in the rear yard.

This 1922, 2-1/2 story, three-bay by three-bay frame Georgian Revival house has a center hall plan. It is rectangular with a 2-story addition and attached one-story entry vestibule at the rear northwest corner, one-story sun porch at the rear northeast corner, and an open porch on the east side. It rests on a brick foundation, and the side-gable dormered roof is covered with composition shingle. The house is sheathed in redwood siding. There are two brick interior end chimneys.

This house is a modern interpretation of American Georgian Colonial architecture, an interest which was popularly revived with the Chicago World Columbian Exposition in 1893. Subsequently, more regular facades and details such as fanlights, pilasters, pedimented porticoes, Doric columns and Palladian windows were extensively quoted and interpreted in the context of Queen Anne and Victorian Classic/ Colonial Revival movements. Later in the 20th century, adaptations more faithful in proportion and detail were designed and built. Chabad house is such a building, exhibiting 3-ranked symmetrical front and side facades, a central dominant architectonic entryway with wood panel door and fanlight, proportionally smaller window - to - wall ratio using multi-light windows with shutters, moderately-pitched side-gable roof with dormers, and prominent end chimneys. As built, the house had a cedar shake roof. Modern elements are the open side porch and rear porch additions. All of the windows are 6/6 double sash with flat lintels. The wooden louvered shutters remain only on the front.

The three-bay south (front) facade has symmetrical first and second-story fenestration, one window in each bay east and west. The center bay has one window on the second floor, and an entryway on the first. The entry is reached by a brick sidewalk, with two steps up to the brick stoop. The door is flanked by two Doric columns supporting a partially returned pediment. There is a fanlight above the 6-panel wood exterior door. Small, black electric light fixtures flank the columns. The roof has an interior brick chimney on the east end and two unshuttered, single-window gable-front dormers on the roof positioned between the window bays.

continued on attachment 7.1

The three-bay east side has one window centered in the gable, three evenly spaced on the second story, and exterior doors flanking the exposed back of the interior brick fireplace south and center bays, first story. The north bay has one window. An open, shed-roofed porch is accessed by the doors. It has a concrete slab floor and is supported by two sets of paired square Doric columns. A one-story sunporch has been added at the rear, with a wrought iron railing enclosing the roof deck and a pair of centered glass louvered casement windows in the east facade.

The three-bay north (rear) facade is irregular in mass due to several modern additions. One window is in the main block second story east bay; the center bay has a pair of 8-light french doors opening onto the rail-enclosed roof deck. The first floor sunporch has three sets of paired louvered casement windows extending from the east corner to a center-bay modern glass exterior door. A slightly taller one-story entry vestibule is to the west, with a central louvered glass door and an unshuttered 6-light window on its right. A two-story enclosed addition with no fenestration is behind the vestibule. The roof of this addition is steeply hipped, stopping just below and exposing the peak of a gable roof behind it. The north roof has two dormers, one above the left bay, gabled with one window as the front, and a seamed metal, shed-roofed dormer with two 4-light windows above the french doors. There is one brick interior end chimney on the west.

The three-bay west facade main block has one window centered in the gable, and one in each bay, 1st and 2nd stories. The two-story addition has one window, second story and a pair of windows, first.

Outbuildings:

There is a frame and lapped siding, front-gabled one car garage near the northwest corner of the house, accessed from the alley leading to West Montgomery. A small frame and clapboard side-gabled shed is in the rear yard, with one 4-light window in each end and a wood panelled door in the front.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 26/10/74

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

local history

Specific dates 1922 **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.

Significance

The speculation in suburban real estate by prominent Washingtonians is evident in the construction of this house, built in 1922 for an heiress to the duPont family. It is an early and faithful copy of a style of colonial architecture which became known as "Williamsburg" and which remains in vogue.

History and Support

Chabad House was built in 1922 for Ellen duPont Meeds, the heiress daughter of Senator T. Coleman duPont of Wilmington, Delaware. 1/ At the time of its construction, Ellen's father had reorganized the duPont Company as Vice President from 1902-1915 and was involved in other business pursuits, including the controlling interest in the Equitable Life Assurance Company. 2/ Ellen and Hollyday Stone Meeds, Jr. of Chevy Chase, Md. were married in 1916 and divided their time between the Washington area and Delaware. It is unknown whether they ever occupied this house or built it only for speculative purposes, although a local newspaper identified Mrs. Meeds as "of this town." 3/

Mrs. Meeds' house was probably designed by an architect and copies Georgian colonial architecture of the Virginia Tidewater. Today it would be called a "Williamsburg" style, but it predates the restoration of that colonial city by several years. 4/ The side gable with dormers, two-story form with symmetrical facade and classical detailing was a common 18th century form. This house is a more exact copy of the original Georgian era models than had heretofore been erected in Rockville as part of the fashion for Colonial Revival houses.

continued on attachment 8.1

After the Meeds moved permanently to Delaware in 1926, the house served as the residence and office of Dr. Cyrus Hawks and family until 1951. 5/ Dr. Hawks practiced medicine in Rockville from 1923 until his death in 1949; he served as Montgomery County Medical Examiner for a year and volunteered as a medical examiner for Draft Board No. 1 during World War II. From 1951 to 1978 John and Pamela Lindsey owned the property; during 1953, part of the vacant adjoining lot was added to the rear of this parcel.

The purchase of the house by the Friends of Lubavitch in 1978 caused some controversy in the West End neighborhood. 6/ The property became the residence of the Rabbi and one of the national network of study and meeting houses for the Lubavitchers, a sect of Hasidic Judaism founded in Russia in the 17th century. Alterations were made, including the replacement of the cedar shake roof with asphalt shingles.

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Tax Assessment records, and Montgomery County Sentinel (see footnote 3)
2. Information on Senator duPont and the family is taken from Who's Who in America, Vol. 15, p 686 and from Pierre S. duPont and the Making of the Modern Corporation, Harper & Rowe, (1971). Senator duPont also owned the Willard Hotel in Washington for a period of time.
3. Montgomery County Sentinel, May 5, 1922, "Mrs. Ellen Meeds of this town purchased from Otho W.H. Talbott a lot in the western section of Rockville and will soon begin the erection there of a fine residence."
4. Coincidentally, the duPont Company constructed a powder factory at Williamsburg, Va. in 1915, and over 10,000 people were employed there during World War I (Rouse, Cows on Campus: Williamsburg in Bygone Days (1973) pp164-165.
5. Montgomery County Land Records, 394/290 (1926) and 1762/237 (1951).
6. Newspaper articles 1979-80 refer to protests to the Rockville Planning Commission and City Council regarding use of the house. (Peerless Rockville files) and Washington Post 2/28/80.

City of Rockville

scale: 1" = 600'

1982

M: 26/10/74

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Chabad House

311 W. Montgomery Ave.





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