

Site: M:26/13/8

Chestnut Grove

Built: 1912

1 Lawrence Court

Public  
Restricted Access

This farm, known as "Chestnut Grove", had been in the Braddock-Lyddane family for three generations when Gertrude Lyddane Dorsey and her husband William replaced the older farmhouse. From 1922-1980 the Christ Child Society provided convalescent and nursing care for sick children here, adding a wing and extending the columned porch with balustraded roof to a full eight bays. The elevated site and dominant double tiered porch, reminiscent of earlier Greek Revival southern plantation houses, make this a commanding landmark in the neighborhood.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M:26/13/8

Magi No. 1651355740DOE  yes  noNR eligible  yes  no  
contrib. element in H.D. 

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Chestnut Groveand/or common Christ Child Home or "Burgundy Hill"

## 2. Location

street & number 1 Lawrence Court  not for publicationcity, town Rockville  vicinity of congressional district 8state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 2)

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Montgomery County Governmentstreet & number 101 Monroe Street telephone no.:city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 5732street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 819city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Nonedate  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town  state

# 7. Description

Survey No. M:26/13/8

<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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" 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, presenting its west and north (rear) facades to Lawrence Court. Situated on the crest of a hill above street grade, the side and rear yards are proportionally small to the scale of the house, but a generous front lawn provides scale and setting to balance the mass of the front facade. Its large lot size (40,886 sq.ft., slightly less than an acre) is approximately six times the size of the tract lots which surround the site, visual evidence that the structure predated the subdivision development. The landscape consists primarily of lawn with mature shade and ornamental trees, front evergreen foundation plantings, hardy shrubs in the side yards, and established bulb and perennial beds. A flight of concrete stairs from Lawrence Court leads to a flagstone walkway to the south (front) door and to several entrances located on the north (rear) facade. A circular driveway provides automobile access from Lawrence Court, and cement walkways lead to exterior doors on the east and west ends of the rear facade. The east entrance is provided with a handi-capped ramp in addition to stairs.

This 2-1/2 story, 1912 frame structure has a five-bay by three-bay main block with a two-bay by four-bay rear wing and a two-story, three-bay west addition forming an irregular "T" in shape. The composition-shingled roof is cross-gabled on the original structure, the infill addition having a low-pitched hipped roof. The exterior cladding is beveled wood siding. Foundations are brick, and two brick corbelled interior chimneys are equally spaced on the ridgeline of the main block.

The original 1912 structure consists of a rectangular five-bay by three-bay main block with a rear wing, an adaptation of Georgian Colonial architecture. It has been greatly enlarged by a three-bay west addition and the continuation of a balustraded full-width front porch which unifies and dominates the facade, creating a first impression more reminiscent of the stereotypical Greek Revival antebellum southern plantation house. However, the classic Doric columns, 2-1/2 story mass, and symmetry common to both styles are well suited to a combination of this type, presenting a harmonious front facade while retaining the structural elements of its original smaller form.

Fenestration and surrounds are inconsistent. Original double sash windows are 6/1 and 1/1 with plain surrounds. Later windows vary. A brick cistern remains at the northwest corner of the house, and four twisted wrought iron lightning rods, two with original glass balls, are still in use on the ridgepole.

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Description (continued) : Chestnut Grove

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The structure has been used for philanthropic purposes since 1922, requiring second story fire escapes and ladders, plus an iron pipe railing around the porch roof balustrade with a ladder to the ground on the east side.

The eight-bay south (front) facade is formed of the original 2-1/2 story main block, two-story west addition and full-width two tier porch. The moderately-pitched main block side-gabled roof has three evenly spaced front-gabled dormers, each containing a single 6/1 double sash window. The five-bay second story main block has a single window in the two east and west bays, and a set of 10-light French doors in the center bay. The first story has longer single windows in the two east and west bays and an entryway with over and side lights in the center bay. The wood panel exterior door is set in a frame of reeded and capiteled pilasters supporting a full architrave. Upper panels of 18 small lights over one framed larger light form the side-lights. The overlight is constructed of 30 small panes of glass.

The three-bay west two-story addition has a pair of center-open eight-light casement windows in the first and third bays of the south facade. A set of 10-light French doors is in the center bay. The first story has single 1/1 windows similar to those in the main block in all three bays.

The full-width two-story porch is supported by brick piers infilled with lattice panels. Six wooden Doric columns linked by a plain stick and rail balustrade support the low-hipped roof and second story balustrade, stick and rail as the first. The porch is accessed by four wide wooden steps.

The six-bay west facade consists primarily of the two story addition with two main block gables showing above the addition's flat roof. A louvered panel provides ventilation in the main block attic gable behind the addition. A secondary side gable with one central window once roofed a projecting bay on the rear third of the facade, but the bay is now incorporated into the later addition.

The three north bays of the addition's second story, are one triple unit on the west facade. A door is in the fourth bay opening to a four-bay fire escape. A single larger 6/6 window is in each of the two south bays. The first story has a 1/1 window in the north and south bays, and a square projecting bay in the center with a 1/1 window on the north and south facades. Two three-light cellar windows are in the foundation.

Description (continued) : Chestnut Grove

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The north facade of the addition has three pairs of eight-light casements on the second story, and a single 2/2 window in the west bay, first story, and an exterior door in the east bay, accessed by a flight of stairs. A cellar window is in the foundation.

The north (rear) facade is complex, formed from the main block, rear two-story wing, and several small portico and porch additions on the west side of the wing. Of the main block, only the east two bays, and the westernmost bay are visible. The two east bays each have one window in the second story, a windows in the east bay, and an exterior entrance in the second bay, first story. This door is sheltered by an L-shaped shed-roofed porch wrapping around the rear wing, which has been enclosed with glazed wood panels to form an entry portico. This entrance is accessed by a concrete handicapped ramp. The westernmost bay of the mainblock has a pair of 1/1 windows on the second story. The first story is hidden by a glassed-in shed-roofed entry-way formed of 24-light panels and a 24-light door attached to the west side of the rear wing.

The rectangular rear wing's three-bay west side has three 2/2 windows on the second story, and three shed-roofed later additions with a variety of windows and sidings, generally one to a bay. The north bay addition has an exterior four-light wood panel door accessed by four steps. The two-bay north side of the rear wing has two small four-light windows evenly spaced in the attic gable. Two 2/2 windows are on the second story, and one 6/6 window is in the east bay, first story. An opening, probably a door opening, has been closed in the west bay. The east side of the rear wing has two 2/2 windows on the second story, a pair of 6/6 windows in the north bay, first story, and one window in the south bay.

The three-bay east facade has a louvered panel in the attic gable, and two evenly-spaced 1/1 windows in the gable end. The first and second stories have one window in each of the three bays. Two cellar windows are in the foundation.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/13/8

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history

**Specific dates** 1912 **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**  
 "Chestnut Grove", built in 1912, while distinctive and graceful, is a greatly expanded Georgian Colonial Revival house. The extended row of neo-classical columns on the balustraded double-tiered porch now evokes a "Southern Plantation House" rather than its Georgian prototype. Its size and scale, in contrast to the surrounding tract housing, as well as its elevated site, make it a commanding landmark in this neighborhood.

- ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:**
1. Historic context theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning
  2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, City of Rockville
  3. Chronological Period(s): Maturation and Expansion; 1873 to 1930
  4. Resource type: single family residence, now group home.

**History and Support**  
 The 632 acre land grant "Burgundy" was patented by Ignatious Diggs in 1770 and passed to Mary Diggs, the wife of Governor Thomas Sim Lee. 1/ The Governor's heirs were absentee owners, and the land was sold piecemeal during the 1830s and 1840s. George Shaw purchased 300 acres, and the Hon. Richard J. Bowie bought 38. 2/

West of these parcels, two adjacent tracts entered the Braddock family. William Austin bought 59 acres for his daughter Tabitha Austin Braddock, wife of George R. Braddock. The subject site was purchased by Rockville merchant William Braddock (Tabitha's uncle) in 1843. After William Braddock's daughter "Sally" married County Commissioner (later Judge) Stephen M. Lyddane, it became their home. 3/ The 1865 Martenet and Bond Map shows the "S.M. Lyddane" residence, and the Bowie and Shaw lands.

continued on attachment 8 page 1 (8.1)

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : Chestnut Grove

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After 1881 the farm was known as "Chestnut Grove". It contained 123 acres when the third generation of this family line built the present house; Gertrude Lyddane Dorsey and her husband William constructed this comfortable country house in 1912 to replace the older Lyddane farmhouse. <sup>4/</sup> On the tax assessment records for 1913 it was valued at \$4,450 with \$900 worth of outbuildings.

The house was constructed on an elevated site to the west of the dusty road to Norbeck. The vista from its wide verandahs was a view of fields, timberland and the neighboring estates.

The widowed Gertrude Dorsey sold the house and 20 acres in 1922 for \$25,000 to the Christ Child Society. <sup>5/</sup> The Society had been established in 1886 in the District of Columbia to provide convalescent and nursing care for sick children. At the time the Society purchased Chestnut Grove, "the Farm included a commodious house in good condition, fruit and shade trees, and overseer's house, dairy barn and stable." <sup>6/</sup> The Society grew its own vegetables and fruit on the farm, providing fresh air and sunshine as part of its nursing regimen.

As new housing subdivisions sprang up around Rockville following the Second World War, this area lost its rural character. In 1952 the Christ Child Society sold this portion of their land to Leonard Kapiloff for his real estate development "Burgundy Hills". The house was platted as lot 13 of block E, situated on 40,000 square feet of land. Another subdivision was platted on the land below the house, adjoining the Norbeck road (now Route 28.)

For the last 35 years, the house has remained a care-giving facility, first as a nursing home and since 1980 as a half-way residence for recovering working alcoholics, part of Montgomery County's extensive rehabilitation program.

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Footnotes:

1. Governor Thomas Sim Lee was the second Governor of Maryland. He had his winter home in Georgetown where his wife Mary died in 1805, but his main residence was his farm "Needwood" in Frederick County. He and his family also owned several parcels in Montgomery County.
2. Advertisements in the Maryland Journal from 1825-1849.
3. Montgomery County Land Records, STS4/158 (1849) and Tax Assessments 1843-1922. Tabitha Braddock's 59 acres was sold to Mary Horner of Horner's Mill "in her own Name" in 1865. Stephen Lyddane served as County Commissioner 1848-1852 and 1869-1875.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : Chestnut Grove

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4. "Sally Lyddane" died in 1911. She had been living on Commerce Street/West Montgomery Avenue near the site of her father's store, where the Braddock-Lyddane family owned most of the west end of that block, including the east side of Adams Street.
5. Montgomery County Land Records 322/315.
6. From unpublished history of the Society provided orally by the Administrator. Since 1963 the Society has been serving emotionally disturbed children. Their present home is on Edson Lane, Rockville.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Montgomery County Land, Will, and Tax Records. Maps and Plats, 1865, 1879, 1917, 1949. Family genealogies/histories from newspaper abstracts and biographical files of Montgomery County Historical Society. Interviews with Administrator, Christ Child Society, and Mr. Evans, Director of Programs.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property — 40,886 square feet

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

Montgomery County Plats #3263 and 3307 (1952). Lot 13 of Block E, "Burgundy Hill".

### 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	Anne Cissel	J. Christensen Arch.	description
organization	Peerless Rockville	date	November, 1986
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone	762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland 20850

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

# CITY OF ROCKVILLE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

SCALE 1" = 600'  
JANUARY 1987

M:26/13/8

2

Chestnut Grove

1 Lawrence Court





RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
424-8282  
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

M:26/13/8  
Chestnut Grove  
1 Lawrence Court  
Rockville, Md. 20850  
Dean Evangelista  
date: 6/1987 elevation: SW

11862804



RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
424-8282  
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

M:26/13/8  
Chestnut Grove  
1 Lawrence Court  
Rockville, Md. 20850  
Richard Andrews  
date: 6/1987 elevation: NE

11862805