

Site: M:26/7/4

Fisher-Winner House

605 Anderson Avenue

Built: c. 1892, Altered 1909

Private

The fortunes and failure of the late 19th century subdivision of "West End Park" are echoed in the early history of this house. Its unique combination of architectural motifs reflect the several stages of its construction. It has been beautifully rehabilitated from nearly ruinous condition by the Winner family.

Survey No. M26/7/4

Magi No. 1650105604

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common The Fisher - Winner House

2. Location

street & number 605 Anderson Avenue not for publicationcity, town Rockville vicinity of congressional district 8

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mrs. Isabelle Winner

street & number 605 Anderson Avenue telephone no.: 762-2345

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 1792

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 463

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Atlas of Historical Sites in Montgomery County

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Comm.

city, town Park Historian's Ofc, Derwood state Maryland 20855

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

The Fisher-Winner House faces south on Anderson Avenue. It is located on the center of three lots, providing the house with a spacious yard. Large trees are found at the southeastern and southwestern corners of the lot; a mix of shrubbery and evergreens is planted around the house and in the rear yard. A detached gabled roofed shed is at the northwest corner of the house. According to the present owner, a foundation for a barn was evident at the extreme rear northeastern corner of the property in the 1950s. A gravelled driveway from Anderson runs to the north at the eastern edge of the property.

This three-story, two-thirds Georgian plan house sits on a stone foundation with cement block facing. The house is roughly square in shape with a one-story portico at the northwest corner and a one-story gable-roofed entry block to the basement on the west facade. It has a gambrel roof covered in patterned tin shingles and a wrap-around front porch on the south and east facades covered in seamed tin. The original German siding on the house is now sheathed in stucco, applied before the present owners purchased the house in the 1950s. Most of the windows are two-over-two double hung sashes with flat wooden surrounds and flanking wooden louvered shutters. These shutters are replacements for those removed prior to the 1950s and believed burned.

The house appears to have evolved as the owners' families grew. This is substantiated by the mix of wood found on the third floor and comparison of late 19th century photographs. Also discovered through early photographs is the change during the early 20th century from a house with modest Italianate features to one with a predominately Colonial Revival appearance. The latter stylistic characteristics include the Doric columns supporting the front porch and the dormer windows on the third floor inset in the gambrel roof.

The three-bay south facade has an even fenestration on each floor, with two-over-two windows. In the west bay of the first story is an exterior wooden door with glass transom that opens to the one-story front porch wrapping around to the east facade. Seven Doric columns support the wide corniced porch that rests on brick piers with lattice work between them. A wooden balustrade connects the columns, except for the approach to the front and the northeast doors. The third-story dormer windows are inset in the side of the gambrel roof each with an arched pediment. A wide cornice, similar to the porch cornice, separates the second and third stories, with the latter story distinguished even further by a patterned tin roof. An exterior light hangs over the doorway.

Continued on attachment 7.1

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Attachment 7.1

The two-bay west facade has a single window on each story in each bay. These are separated by considerable distance and have no shutters. The two northern windows are two-over-two double hung sash; the southern bay has a one-over-one sash above a small square opening. A gabled, one-story basement entryway addition is centrally located; it is sheathed in German siding and covered in asphalt shingles. Partially returned eaves provide an architectural highlight to this gambrel-end facade.

The north facade is two bays wide with an even fenestration of two-over-two windows. The third-story windows are similar in design to the those on the south facade as is the patterned tin roof. A one-story porch extends from the northwest corner of the first story. It covers an exterior door, is enclosed with lattice work, and has a shed roof. A brick patio is located off this porch.

The two-bay gambrel end east facade is identical to the west one, except for the one-story slightly-projecting bay window in the north bay of the first story. This tripartite bay has an exterior door with glass transom which faces south and windows on the other sides; wide wooden steps lead to the exterior door. The third story is noted by partially returned eaves and the absence of shutters. An exterior light, similar to the one on the south facade, is attached to the house near the exterior door.

According to the present owner, the house has an almost full finished basement. This was added after the 1950s and replaced a clay-floored basement used for vegetable storage. Extensive foundation work also was required in the 1950s to level the west side of the house. At that time, trained workers lifted, by truck, the west side and place steel beams under it for support.

Detached Wash House

At the northwest corner of the main house is a wash house with gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. Two wide wooden exterior doors are on the east facade; two four-light windows are on the west one. Another exterior door is roughly outlined on the south gable end. The structure is sheathed in German siding and sits on brick piers. It is positioned near the rear porch and accessed from the brick patio at that location. The present owner uses the building for storage, but it was there in the 1950s and is believed to be a former wash house.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
Specific dates	ca.1892, alt. ca.1909	Builder/Architect	presumed Martin Heim	

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 fortunes and failure of the "West End Park" development are echoed in the early history of this house. Its unique blend of architectural motifs is the result of its building over several stages. It has been beautifully rehabilitated by the Winner family over the past 30 years.

History and Support

In the Spring of 1890, real estate promoter Henry N. Copp offered 100 lots for sale in his planned suburban development called "West End Park". The Evening Star noted that the plans included a lake, hotel, broad avenues and fine residences on the 183 acre tract -- all under the direction of Professor Francis Fava as superintendent and engineer. 1/ By the time the plat was filed with the County in 1891, a house on Lot 12, Block 7 and the West End Park Methodist Episcopal Church on Lot 28, Block 7, had been constructed. 2/ These structures bordered Anderson Avenue and lay one block south of Copp's own house on Beall Avenue.

However, another copy of the same plat, this one advertising lots for sale by the West End Park Development Co., shows buildings hand-drawn on lots 12,13, and 22 in Block 7, with a steeple-topped building on lot 28. 3/

The subject house was constructed on lot 22. That some construction began as early as 1892 is evidenced by Mr. Copp buying back the lot for \$1,000 at foreclosure sale in 1894, 4/ and the mention in the paper in that same year that Luckett had sold for Copp "to Sarah McCormick three unfinished houses in West End Park for \$2,500." 5/ Mrs. McCormick's Tax Assessments for 1895 included Lots 12,13,16,22,& 23 in Section 7, valued at \$900 with \$1,500 improvement on Lot 12 only. From this valuation it appears that any improvement on lot 22 at this time did not amount to much, although by 1898 the improvement on lot 22 and 23 was valued at \$800. 6/

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Attachment 8.1

Sarah McCormick was a member of the large West family whose ancestors had settled in this area in the late 18th century. She was the niece of Julius West whose farm became "West End Park". 7/ She had married George McCormick in 1894 at age 58. At the time of her sale of lots 22 and 23 in 1907 the deed mentioned the "same property now occupied by George Davis and family". 8/

An undated, blurred photograph of the house in the possession of the present owner shows a 2-1/2 to 3 story frame house with dormers and a full-width front porch supported by plain posts and some bracketing.

It is likely that the present configuration and detailing of the house was the product of builder Martin Heim, who owned the house for a few months in 1909. It is presumed that during Heim's ownership, the house was raised to its present full three stories by the substitution of the gambrel roof, and that the prominent arched dormers were enhanced by heavy hooded mouldings in the French style. The interior woodwork reflects the different stages by use of scrap, unmatched mouldings and woodwork on the third floor in comparison with the reeded bulls-eye moulding and door surrounds used elsewhere. However the changes to the house were mostly cosmetic; it lacked central heating and/or fireplaces as late as 1953, and the stairways are cramped and narrow. This early 20th century alteration also included the enlargement of the front porch and addition of the classical columns. The porch was extended around the east side of the house under a wide roof; the last alteration was a coat of rough pebble-dash masonry.

Martin Heim sold the house to J. Frank Fisher in 1909. 9/ Mr. Fisher was one of the 12 children of Millard Fisher, a farmer near Potomac. The younger Fisher and his wife had 9 children, all raised in this house. In addition to lots 22 and 23, Mr. Fisher purchased three lots behind the house fronting on Beall Avenue; in 1915 he bought the lot at the corner of Anderson and Mannakee, the one-time site of the West End Park Methodist Church (of which he was a trustee...the church disbanded due to lack of members). 10/

Mr. Fisher had some part in his father's truck farming enterprises, evident from a 1916 photograph of his father's truck parked in front of the subject house, and the erection of a large barn on the Anderson Avenue lots. Older residents remember that one of the Fishers sold fresh fruits and vegetables door to door from this truck. The elder Fisher retired to Rockville in 1917 and died a year later. Among his sons was Leland who later owned the lumber yard which still bears his name.

At the time of Frank Fisher's death in 1936 his heirs sold the house to Rosie Lee Nicholson, who devised it to her sister Ida Henley. In the appraisal of Mrs. Nicholson's estate in 1951, the house was in such deteriorated condition that the appraisers valued it at only \$8,750, in comparison with a one-story frame dwelling (Mrs. Nicholson's residence in Rockville Park), valued at over \$9,000. 11/ The house continued as a rental dwelling until its sale to Donald and Isabel Winner in 1953.

Continued on attachment 8.2

The Winners began rehabilitating and restoring the house in 1953, replacing the crumbling back porch and rotted flooring, installing central heating and clearing the lot, then strewn with scrap metal and lumber. The embossed tin roof was still in excellent condition. The Winners kept all existing wooden detailing and replaced porch supports, shutters, and fenestration with salvaged period material. The large two-bay frame structure outside the back door, used as a "wash house" by the Fisher family, is extant. ^{12/} The large lot on its slightly terraced elevation was planted with hedges and flower beds. Today this house and property exemplifies the attractive suburban residence that Copp envisioned almost 100 years ago.

Footnotes:

1. The Evening Star, April 7, 1890.
2. Montgomery County Plat Book B/7, plat for Section three of "West End Park."
3. Montgomery County Historical Society Plat No 23e "Lots for Sale by Henry N. Copp". Note that there is also a house drawn on Lot 13, one of the other "unfinished houses" (now 525 Anderson Avenue).
4. Montgomery County Land Records JA 44/233, July 18, 1894 records Copp's purchase for \$1000 under mortgage default of James M. Holland to Stephen Robertson and wife. Mr. Robertson was the original investor in these lots, purchased in 1891 and 1892.
5. Montgomery County Sentinel, August 10, 1894.
6. Mr. Copp's whole development was involved in litigation from 1893-1895, and further construction within "West End Park" was probably halted until the litigation was resolved in Copp's favor. Also, the national depression after 1893 made further work on the house unlikely until the increase shown in the lot's value on the 1898 assessment.
7. Mrs. McCormick was also related to builder Edwin M. West (possibly nephew) and left bequests to his children in her will of 1910. Mr. West named one of his sons Julius E. West; Mrs. McCormick also left part of her estate to her daughter Madie Fisher. (Wills HCA 8/293)
8. Land Records, op. cit., 192/148 (1907).
9. Ibid., 202/492 (1909). Lot 19, 20 & 21 were added in 1927 with a restrictive covenant "they will not convey or lease..to any person or persons of African descent..."
10. The ca. 1892 Methodist Church was probably not the same building that is presently on the lot; this bungalow is still owned by a Fisher family member.
11. Appraisal of Nicholson estate at Inventory Book WCC7/488 (1951): "detached three story frame-pebble dash with tin roof and front porch, part cellar..entrance hall, Living Room, Dining Room and kitchen..3 bedrooms and bath on second floor...third floor 3 rooms..." The house at 724 Grandin was one story frame with five rooms.
12. Interview with Mrs. Winner and private appraisal.



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