

CAPSULE SUMMARY

FOR

JOHN T. BEAN HOUSE/ESTATES OF SPRINGBROOK

400 WARRENTON DRIVE, WHITE OAK

Montgomery County Survey Prefix & Site Number: M-33/8-1

Approximate Building Date: 1903

Town or Vicinity in which Resource is Located: White Oak

Access: Private

The John T. Bean House is a two story Foursquare style structure on an approximately five acre hilly site off Warrenton Drive in the Springbrook community. The building was constructed in 1903 with Colonial Revival detailing. The resource is a distinctive local example of a Foursquare Colonial Revival style house and is highly representative of what was considered a large, fashionable farmhouse in Eastern Montgomery County in this period. Unlike many structures of this type and period in the county's eastern section, the Bean House's overall form and immediate setting remain virtually intact. The house's architecture still proudly conveys Bean's intent to express his social and economic standing within the community. The Bean House is also associated with the life and career of Blair Lee III. A distinguished member of one of the county's oldest families, Lee served in both houses of the state legislature, as a member of the state cabinet, and as acting governor during the years of his residency at the Bean house from 1952 to 1985.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John T. Bean House (Estates of Springbrook)

and/or common Blair Lee III House

2. Location

street & number 400 Warrenton Drive ___ not for publication

city, town Silver Spring ___ vicinity of congressional district 8

state MD county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mathilda B. Lee

street & number 400 Warrenton Drive telephone no.:

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 1682

street & number 51 Monroe Street folio 416

city, town Rockville state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Montgomery County Locational Atlas of Historic Sites

date 1976 ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records M-NCPPC

city, town Silver Spring state MD

7. Description

Survey No. M: 33-08 -1

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 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 John T. Bean House is a two story foursquare located on an approximately five acre hilly site off Warrenton Drive in the Springbrook community. The clapboard house has a simple cube-shaped form with a pyramidal slate roof with a slight eave overhang. The roof is flattened at the peak and finished with a parapet. The building, constructed in 1903 with Colonial Revival detailing, has a simple square plan with a one story sun porch on the south and a one story hyphen and garage attached to the house's west side. The only major change to the exterior of the house has been the application of aluminum siding during the 1950s.

The principle elevation of the house faces east toward Warrenton Drive and has a six-bay facade with symmetrical ranks of paired six-over-six windows with louvered shutters. The central entry has a transom and sidelights and is accentuated by a pedimented frame porch supported by double Tuscan columns. Two prominent hipped dormers with one-over-one sash pierce the roof and light the attic story.

The elevations of the secondary facades do not repeat the distinctive double window design. Only the front half of the north facade, visible from the drive, retains the paired windows. The remaining window openings on the main block, hyphen and garage are largely symmetrically placed ranks of single six-over-six windows with louvered shutters. There are paired hipped dormers on the south and a single hipped dormer on the west sides of the roof. A second story balustraded veranda accessed by a French door has been built on the flat sun porch roof on the south side of the house.

There are three frame board and batten outbuildings just to the west of the main house including a gable end barn converted to a garage, a side gabled stable that has been renovated into a guest house, and a small pump house.

8. Significance

Survey No.

M: 33-08-1

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 1903 Builder/Architect Unknown

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.

Summary: The 1903 John T. Bean House is a distinctive local example of a foursquare Colonial Revival style house that is highly representative of what was considered a large, fashionable farmhouse in Eastern Montgomery County in this period. Unlike many farmhouses of this type and period in the county's eastern section, the Bean House's overall form and immediate setting remain virtually intact. Although sided with aluminum, the farmhouse's architecture still proudly conveys Bean's intent to express his social and economic standing within the community.

John T. Bean first acquired land in the Colesville area between 1865 and 1878 and substantially expanded his holdings when he purchased 255 1/2 acres from William E. Shaw. He probably built his first residence off the Colesville Turnpike on land owned or leased adjacent to the Shaw property in the 1870s.¹

Bean's growing prosperity as a farmer was reflected in the construction of his 1903 residence, which broke from the traditional I-house form that had dominated the county's nineteenth century farmhouse architecture. The prefabricated building also illustrates the impact of improved transportation networks, particularly railroads, and the early development of Montgomery County as a major suburb of Washington. Classical Revival vernacular houses like the Bean farmhouse reflect the national popularity of high style Classical Revival academic monuments and residences as well as the local aesthetic influence of well-to-do late nineteenth century suburban developments of the county like Chevy Chase and Kensington.²

The Beans sold the family farm to the Woodmoor Development Corporation in 1940. George Moss, the president of the corporation, prepared a plan for the community that would retain the character of country living. The Springbrook Estates neighborhood would largely be developed between 1941 and 1955 with most of the building stock

(Continued)

Continuation Sheet

M: 33-08-1 John T. Bean House/Blair Lee III House

Section 8: SIGNIFICANCE

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being constructed after World War II. Although the development would not be considered historic at present, it would merit further evaluation as a historic district in the future. The Bean House's importance will undoubtedly be enhanced as time passes because of its historical associations with the life and career of Blair Lee III. A distinguished member of one the county's oldest political families, Lee served the public in both houses of the state legislature, as a member of the state cabinet, and as acting governor during the years of his residency at the Bean house from 1952 to 1985.³

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:33-08

See Attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.75

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 William Bushong

organization M-NCPPC date June 1994

street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone (301) 495-4570

city or town Silver Spring state MD

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 DHCP/DHCD
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
 514-7600

Continuation Sheet
M: 33-08-1 John T. Bean House/Blair Lee III House

Preservation Planning Data:

- a) Geographic Organization: Piedmont
- b) Chronological/Development Periods: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
- c) Historic Period Themes: Architecture
- d) Resource Type: Farmhouse

Chain of Title/Owner Information:

John T. Bean acquired this property, then consisting of 255 1/2 acres from William E. Shaw in 1888 (Deed EBP 23/169). The Bean family lived at the house until 1941 when the house and its acreage was sold to Woodmoor Development Corporation who subdivided the property into "estate" parcels of five to ten acres. After passing through a succession of owners, then Congressman Lloyd M. Bentsen and his wife Beryl purchased the house and nearly five acres of land in 1949. They sold the house to Blair Lee III and his wife Mathilde Boal Lee in 1952 (1682/416). After his husband's death in 1985, Mrs. Lee became the sole owner.

Endnotes

¹ Simon J. Martenet. **Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County.** Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1865. (Library of Congress) and G. M. Hopkins, **Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Montgomery, Maryland.** (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1879), 17. See also Deed 23/169, Montgomery County Land Records.

² For information on the history of the foursqaure house type, see Thomas W. Hanchett, "The Four-Square House Type in the United States," in Camille Wells, ed., **Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture.** (Paducah, Ky: Image Graphics Printers, 1982), 51-54 and Alan Gowans, **Styles and Types of North American Architecture.** (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1992), 249. For a general overview of the early 20th century architecture of Montgomery County, see Andrea Rebeck, "Montgomery County in the Early Twentieth Century," Unpublished Report. Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and Maryland Historical Trust, 1987.

³ "Blair Lee III." Biography File. Montgomery County Public Library, Rockville, MD.

Continuation Sheet
M: 33-08-† John T. Bean House/Blair Lee III House
Section 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
PAGE 9.1

Unpublished Sources

Biography File, "Blair Lee III." Montgomery County Public Library, Rockville, Maryland.

Crawford, Catherine. Maryland Historical Trust Form for the Springbrook Estates, 1984. (MHT)

Deeds, Land Records Office. (Montgomery County Courthouse)

Rebeck, Andrea. "Montgomery County in the Early Twentieth Century." Unpublished report, Maryland Historical Trust and the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, 1987.

Robinson & Associates. Locational Atlas Historical Survey of 400 Resources, Survey Form, Summer 1989.

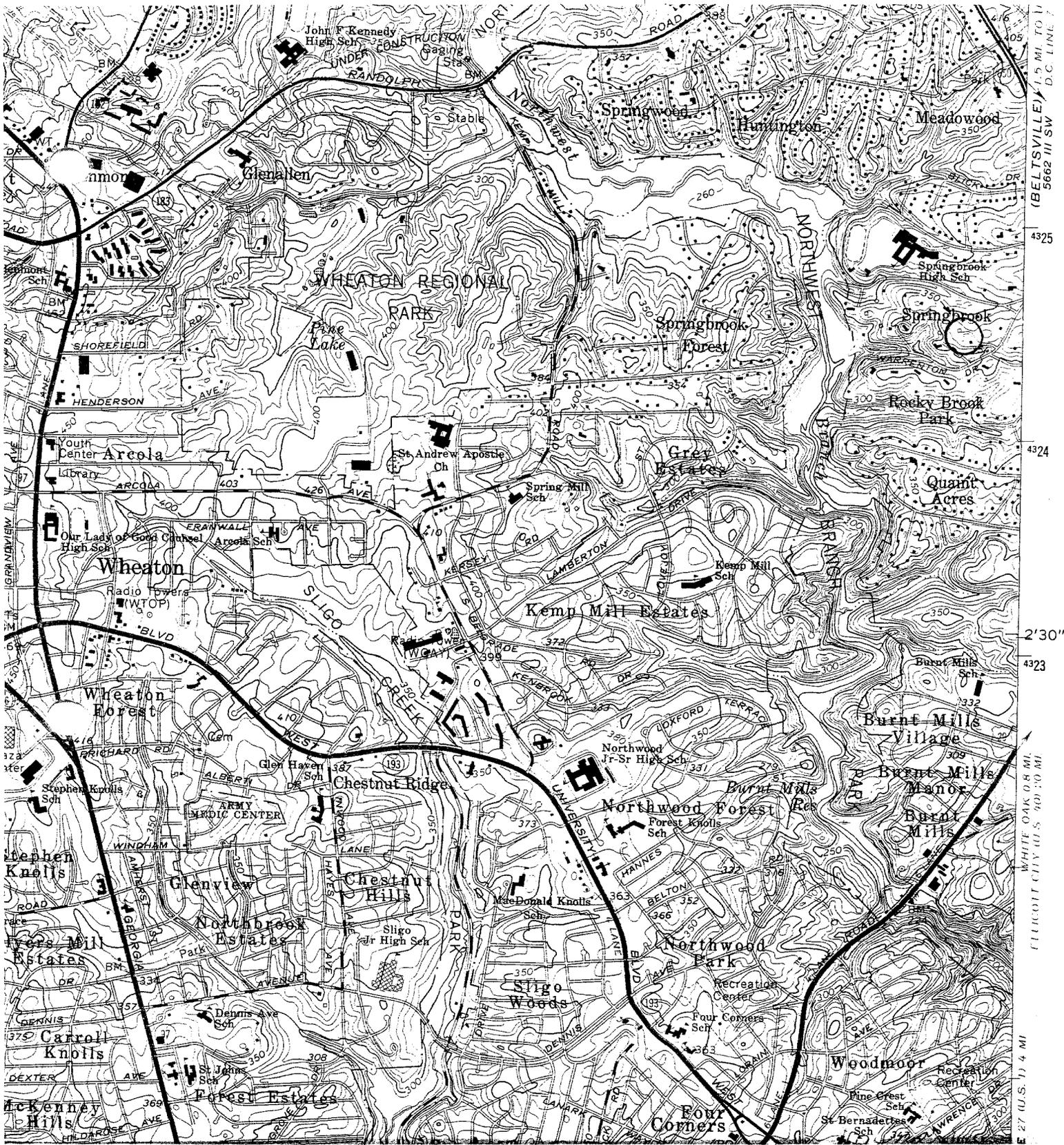
Published Sources

Hanchett, Thomas W. "The Four-Square House Type in the United States," in Camille Wells, ed., **Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture**. (Paducah, Ky: Image Graphics Printers, 1982), 51-54.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon and Richard K. MacMaster. **A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland**. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Hopkins, G.M. **Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Montgomery Maryland**. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1879. (Library of Congress; Rockville Public Library)

Martenet, Simon J. **Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County**. Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1865. (Library of Congress)



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FORM
LOCATIONAL MAP

SURVEY NO.: 33/8A-1
PROPERTY NAME: John T. Bean House
 "Estates" of Springbrook
TOWN: White Oak
COUNTY: MONTGOMERY
QUADRANGLE: Kensington, MD



M-33-8-1

BEAN HOUSE, 100 WARRENTON DR.
MONTGOMERY CO., MD

W. BUSHONG, PHOTOGRAPHER

MAY 1994

MARYLAND SHO

VIEW SW

1 OF 4



M-33-8-1

BEAN HOUSE, 100 WARRENTON DR.

MONTGOMERY CO., MD

W. BUSHONG, PHOTOGRAPHER

MAY, 1994

MARYLAND SHPO

VIEW NE

2 OF 4



M-
33-f BEANHOUSE

MONT CO, MD

MAY 1994, Wm. Bushong

VIEW

SE (NW ELEV.)

NEG. LOC: MARYLAND SHPO

3 of 4

100
WARRINGTON
DR.
SILVER SPRING
MD.



M-
33-B, BEAN HOUSE

MONT CO, MD

MAY 1994, Wm. BUSHONG

VIEW SW (NE ELEV)

NEG. LOC.: MARYLAND SHPO

4 OF 4

100 WARRENTON
DR.
SILVER SPRING,
MD.