

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. M-35-104

1. Name of Property

historic name Varnell House common/other name _____

2. Location

street & number 7700 Connecticut Ave Not for publication
city or town Chevy Chase vicinity state Maryland code MD
county Montgomery code MO zip code 20815

3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

<u>2</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes Name of Listing Chevy Chase Historic District No _____

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Residential Sub: _____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Residential Sub: _____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
roof _____
walls _____
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Inventory No. M-35-104

name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

Built in 1925 during a burst of new construction activity in Section 4 along Connecticut Avenue, this substantial two-and-a-half story, three-bay brick residence with a tiled hipped roof is an outstanding example of the Mediterranean Revival style and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

The first story features original 4/1 sash windows in a tripartite arrangement and the front door is framed with paneled lights. Second story windows are 8/1 sash with the exception of a diamond-paned tripart window above the entrance. The full-width single-story porch is supported by Doric columns with fluted shafts.

The original brick two-bay detached garage with tiled pyramidal roof complements the architectural style of the house.

The house remains on its original setting, Lot 1, Block 3, consisting of 18,000 square feet of land.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
(Name of Property)
Montgomery County, Maryland

Inventory No. M-35-104
Page 4

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance _____

Significant Dates 1925

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Section 8 Page 1

Inventory No. M-35-104

name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

The lot on which the Varnell House is located was purchased from the Chevy Chase Land Company in 1921 by Jules E. Henderson for \$4500. The property changed hands twice before it was acquired by Louise B. Varnell in 1924. The house was constructed by 1925, when tax records show that the land was valued at \$2700 and improvements at \$8500.¹

Some sources link the Varnell House with the similarly designed Henderson House (#35/103), suggesting they were both built by the Henderson brothers.

Malcolm Varnell, who was in the automobile business, is listed at this address in 1927. The property remained in the ownership of Louise B. Varnell as late as 1941.²

¹Deeds 304:420 (6/8/1921); 322:33 (9/21/1921); 354:157 (3/10/1924); 354:156 (6/16/1924), Montgomery County Land Records. Tax assessment records, Annapolis, Maryland.

²Polk Directory 1927; Klinge Atlas 1931, 1941.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-35-104

name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):
Architecture and Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Individual

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function (s): Residential

Known Design Source:

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Primary Sources:

Census, U. S. 1910 and 1920.

Directories:

- Boyd, *Washington City Directory*, 1900, 1905, 1912, 1913.
- Caldwell, S. D. *Directory of Bethesda District* (Bethesda, Md), 1911 and 1915.
- Nelson, Justus C. *Nelson's Suburban Directory* (Washington, D.C.), 1912-1913.
- Polk, R. L. *Polk's Washington Suburban Directory* (Washington, D.C.) 1927-1928.

Equity Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.

Fisher, Thos. J. *Chevy Chase for Homes*. Washington, D.C.: Thos. J. Fisher & C., 1916.

Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.
Deeds and Plats.

Maps:

- Caldwell, S.D. *Map of Bethesda District*, 1915
- Deets and Maddox. *Real Estate Atlas*, 1917.
- Fava Naeff. *Real Estate Map of the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad*, 1890.
- Hopkins, G.M. *Northern Virginia and Bethesda*, 1894.
- Klingé. *Real Estate Atlas*, 1931 and 1941.
- Maryland Geological Survey Map. Bethesda & Vicinity, 1910.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. 1916, 1927, 1927-1959.

Proctor, John Clagett. *Washington, Past and Present: A History. Including Biographical Sketches of Prominent Citizens*. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1930.

Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital. Washington, D.C.: The Washington Times Co, 1924.

Who's Who in the Nation's Capital. Washington: W.W. Publishing Company. 1923-24.

Secondary Sources:

The American Institute of Architects, *A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter, 1887-1987*. Washington, D.C.: The

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
(Name of Property)
Montgomery County, Maryland

Inventory No. M-35-104
Page 6

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George, Mary Roselle. "Developer Influence in the Suburbanization of Washington, D.C.: Francis G. Newlands and Chevy Chase." M.A. Thesis, University of Maryland, 1989.

Gowans, Alan. *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930.* Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1986.

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

Lampl, Elizabeth Jo. and Kimberly Prothro Williams. *Chevy Chase: A Home Suburb for the Nation's Capital,* Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust Press, 1998.

Linehan, John. Editor. *The Town of Chevy Chase: Past and Present,* Montgomery County, MD: The Town of Chevy Chase, 1990.

Offutt, William. *Bethesda: A Social History of the Area Through World War II.* Bethesda, Md: The Innovation Game, 1995.

Smith, Kathryn Schneitder. Editor. *Washington at Home: An Illustrated History of Neighborhoods in the Nation's Capital.* Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1988

Wright, Gwen; William B. Bushong; and Clare Lise Cavicchi; "Chevy Chase, Maryland, Survey District: Survey Report: Phase Two," Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997.

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreeage of Property 18,000 sq ft

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot 1, Block 3

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

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11. Form Prepared By
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name/title Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner
organization M-NCPPC date _____
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301/563-3402
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910

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12. Property Owner
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name Linda L. Glew
street & number 7700 Connecticut Ave telephone (301)
656-4690 city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

M.35-104



35/104 VARNELL HOUSE
7700 CONNECTICUT AVENUE