

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. M-35-109

1. Name of Property

historic name William G. and Bettie Offutt House
common/other name _____

2. Location

street & number 4500 Leland Street Not for publication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>1</u> | _____ | buildings |
| _____ | _____ | sites |
| _____ | _____ | structures |
| _____ | _____ | objects |
| _____ | _____ | Total |

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____ No _____

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

roof wood shingle _____

walls weatherboard-German siding _____

other _____

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Offutt House

name of property

Montgomery County, MD

county and state

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This Queen Anne-style residence was built c1892 on an acre of land between Leland and Stanford Streets, prior to the creation of the Norwood subdivision. The house, which sits on a knoll, was built to face Rockville Pike (later Wisconsin Avenue) and retains its status as a prominent neighborhood landmark.

Facing west with its north elevation fronting on Leland Street, the two and a half story, three bay frame house has a three-story octagonal tower with polygonal roof at the corner of the west and south elevations. Windows at the first and second stories of the main block are 2/2 sash with operable louvered shutters. Tower windows are 2/2 sash at all three levels, without shutters. The gable roof is clad with wood shingles. The projecting pedimented front gable is embellished with decorative sawtooth shingles while the remainder of the house is covered with German siding. The asymmetrical one-story wrap-around porch is supported by turned posts with spindlework ornamentation in the balustrade.

The Offutt House has had few exterior alterations. The most major change was the removal of that portion of the front porch that extended around the corner tower. The balustrade and porch posts differ in appearance from those in a historic photo in the Town records. After 1963, the one story rear wing was expanded from 1 bay deep to 2 bays deep.¹

The house remains at its original location on a parcel of 17,113 square feet.

¹ 1927 Sanborn map. 1927 Sanborn map was corrected to 1963.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance c1892

Significant Dates c1892

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Unknown

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Offutt House
name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

The Offutt House, with its polygonal tower, wood shingle gables and generous wrap around porch, is a fine example of the Queen Anne style and is one of the earliest suburban residences in the area.

Prominently located on Leland Street before the creation of the Norwood Heights subdivision, the substantial Queen Anne-style residence was built by William and Alice Matthews, who purchased one acre of land from John E. and Mary Landers Beall and Ralph and Jeanie Walsh in May 1892 for \$1500.²

In March 1893, William Grendage (Willie G.) and Bettie Offutt acquired the property, exchanging it for their house at 1820 G Street in Northwest Washington, DC. The move was made in the hope that the climate in Chevy Chase would improve Bettie's failing health. The one-acre property was valued at \$7,500 including a house described as being pentirely new, having ten rooms, besides an attic and cellar.³

Bettie Williams Offutt, born about 1850, was the daughter of Richard and Julia Williams, formerly of Virginia. She grew up on a 212-acre farm west of Wisconsin Avenue, which was later developed and became the community of Somerset. Her brother John M. C. (Clayton) Williams built the Williams Farmhouse.⁴ It is interesting to note that the earlier owners of the land on which the Offutt House was built, John E. Beall and Dr. Ralph Walsh, were involved in the extension of the Tenallytown and Rockville trolley line into Maryland in 1890 and the subsequent development of Somerset.⁵

William Grendage Offutt was the son of Hilleary Lyles Offutt, Sr. and Virginia Clotilda Baker Offutt. Hilleary Offutt was one of the founders of St. Johns Church, Chevy Chase.⁶

William and Bettie Offutt, who were married in 1879, raised

²Deed JA 33:303, Montgomery County Land Records.

³Deed JA 36:475; DC Supreme Court Equity Petition 13092.

⁴1850 and 1860 Census extracts, MCHS; William Offutt, *Bethesda: A Social History*, 232; MHT Form 35:13-3, Williams House.

⁵William Offutt, *Bethesda: A Social History*, 78-9, 232.

⁶Nellie Offutt Chesley, *The Offutt Family Book*, 312.

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Offutt House
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five children in the Leland Street house: William Lyles; Viola and Virginia, who became teachers; and Fred and Richard, who were house painters.⁷

A plat of subdivision for Norwood Heights dated August 22, 1893 shows the Offutt House parcel subdivided from land owned by Ralph Walsh between Stanford and Leland Streets. William and Bettie Offutt are listed in the 1915 Caldwell Directory as residents of Leland-Norwood and the 1917 Deets and Maddox Atlas shows Bettie Offutt, trustee, as the owner of the property on Leland Street, by then reduced to a 33,560-square-foot lot.

By 1920, a second house had been built on the east edge of the same lot for the Offutts' son, Frederick, and his wife and three children. Although the house had a separate address (4406 Leland Street), it was not shown as a separate subdivided lot by 1927. The 1920 census listed the Offutt House residents as William, 67, a painter/contractor; Bettie, 67; and daughters Viola, 36, a public school teacher, and Virginia, 34.⁸

William G. Offutt died in 1925.⁹ Bettie Offutt was still living in the house in 1927 and she is listed as the property owner on Klinge real estate maps of 1931 and 1941.

⁷Janet T. Manuel, marriage licenses; Wm. Offut, *History of Bethesda*, 289.

⁸Census 1920; Polk Directory 1927; Sanborn Map 1927.

⁹*Offutt Family Book*, MCHS.

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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: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function (s): Domestic/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

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Chain of Title:

May 1892: John E. and Mary Landers Beall and Ralph and
Jeanie Walsh to William and Alice Matthews. For
\$1500. (JA 33:303)

March 1893: William B. and Alice T. Matthews to Mills Dean,
trustee for William Grendage (Willie G.) Offutt.
Valued at \$7,500. (JA 36: 475) Exchanged for
William G. and Bettie Offutt's property at 1820 G
Street, N.W., Washington, DC.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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.

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

Manuel, Janet. *Marriage Licenses: Montgomery County, MD 1798-1898*. Silver Spring: Family Line Publications, 1987.

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, 1927-1963.

Secondary Sources:

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

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

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

Offutt Family Book, Montgomery County Historical Society.

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*,^b Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997.

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 5,600 sq ft

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

Parcel 768

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

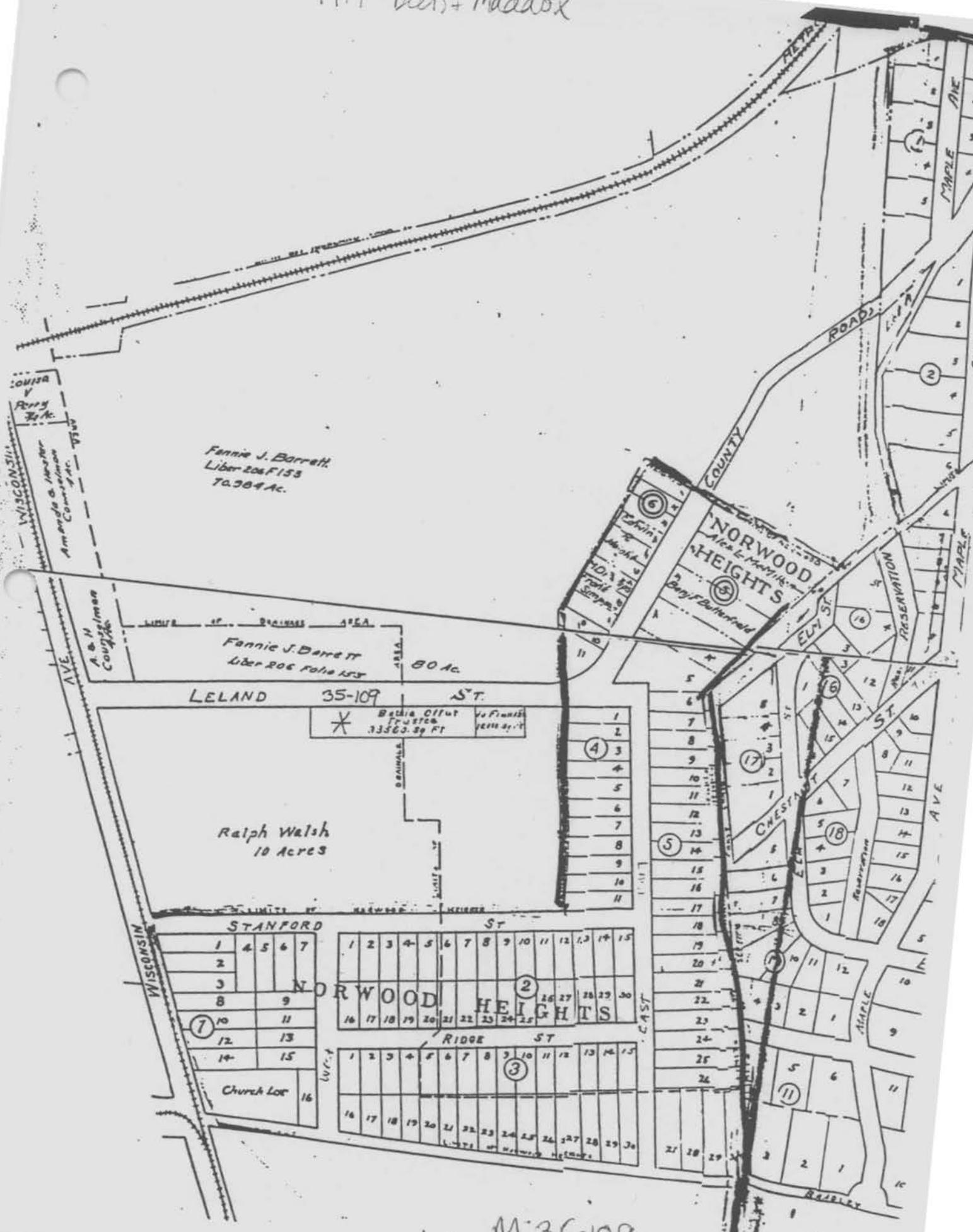
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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner
organization M-NCPPC date 10-1999
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 Lee W. Dennison
street & number 4406 Leland Street telephone _____
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815
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1917 Deets + Maddox



Fannie J. Barrett
Liber 206 F153
70.384 Ac.

Fannie J. Barrett
Liber 206 Folia 153
80 AC

Ralph Walsh
10 Acres

LELAND 35-109 ST.

STANFORD ST

NORWOOD HEIGHTS

RIDGE ST

Church Lot

1 - M:35-109



M:35-109



Offutt house

M: 35/109

MHI

4500 Leland Street