

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. M:35-66

### 1. Name of Property (Indicate preferred name)

historic Gherardi House

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 3807 Bradley Lane  not for publication

city, town Chevy Chase  vicinity of

state Maryland county Montgomery

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district)	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Elinor L. Horwitz

street & number 3807 Bradley Lane telephone no:

city, town Chevy Chase state and zip code Maryland 20815

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse Tax Map and Parcel HN342; Un. No. Lot S, Bl.2

city, town Rockville state Maryland Liber and Folio 06757/0020

### 6. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Individually Listed in the National Register
- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- HSR or Research report at MHT
- Other:

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## 7. Description

Survey No.

M: 35-66

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**Condition**

excellent     deteriorated  
 good         ruins  
 fair          altered

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

Resource Count:

See attached

## CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/66: Gherardi House (1905)  
3807 Bradley Lane  
Section 7:2

Located in the Village of Chevy Chase, Section 3, the Gherardi House is situated on the north side of Bradley Lane, in the first block east of Connecticut Avenue. The 2-1/2-story, three-bay frame dwelling is T-shaped in plan, clad with wood shingles, and sheltered by a hipped roof featuring three symmetrical shed-roof dormers on the front and rear elevations and three end chimneys. The dominant style of the Gherardi House, built in 1905, is the Shingle Style, evidenced in the robust massing, smooth shingle cladding, strips of multi-pane windows, and stacked bays. Early 20th century stylistic influence is seen in the symmetrical arrangement of the front facade and low pitched, hipped roof found in Arts and Crafts and Prairie style houses of this period.

The south elevation, facing Bradley Lane, is divided into three bays: a central entry bay and flanking projecting bay windows. The central entry door with its side lights is recessed into the principal plane of the house and is protected by a hipped roof supported by wooden brackets and clad with standing seam metal. Above the entry is a tri-partite window defined by a larger, 10-light central pane and two, 10-light side panes, all enclosed within molded window trim. The flanking bays extend the full two-story height of the house and abut the soffit of the wide, overhanging roof. The projecting bays feature bay windows at both the first and second stories; each bay of the first story has 24-light casement windows, while those of the second story offer slightly shorter, 20-light casements. The hipped roof, clad with asphalt shingles, has wide eaves and projects well beyond the walls of the dwelling. Three shed roof dormers, each with a pair of 4-light casement windows, are located above the three bays of the front elevation, while two chimneys buttress each end of the principal block of the dwelling.

The north elevation is defined by the two-story rear ell projecting from on center of the main block, and covered by a hipped roof with a brick end chimney. The west elevation features a single-story porch, supported by wood Doric columns. This porch historically wrapped around to the front of the house and the west end projecting bay.

The east elevation of the main block has two 6/6 wood windows on either side of the brick chimney on the first story and a single 6/6 window on the second story (in the front bay).

In addition to the extant inset porch, the Gherardi House originally had an open porch that wrapped around the southeast corner of the house. The wraparound porch was removed by the Statons between 1940 and 1958.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Elinor Horwitz interview, 7-1998.

# 8. Significance

Survey No.

M:35-66

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

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Specific dates 1905 Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exceptions:  A  B  C  D  E  F

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT:**

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

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

Resource Type: Individual

Category: Residential

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Residential

Known Design Source:

## CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/66: Gherardi House (1905)  
3807 Bradley Lane  
Section 8:2

Prominently located on Bradley Lane, the Gherardi House is an outstanding example of a Shingle Style residence built on a grand scale. The Gherardi House is historically significant for its relationship with the adjacent Taylor-Britton House at 3815 Bradley Lane, and for its association with its prominent resident Rear Admiral Walter Gherardi.

In October 1904, Walter Rockwell Gherardi purchased a 0.6-acre lot from the Chevy Chase Land Company for \$1,875. There was clearly no house on the property at the time of this transaction, since a covenant stated that no house was to be erected at a cost less than \$3,000. Gherardi's wife was Neville Taylor Gherardi, daughter of Henry Clay Taylor and Mary Virginia McGuire Taylor. The Taylors had earlier the same year purchased the adjacent two acre tract. Less than two months later, in July, Henry Taylor had died.<sup>2</sup>

Like the Taylor property, the property connected with the Gherardi House was subdivided from the Chevy Chase Land Company's holdings before it platted Section 3. The Land Company sold the parcel to Gherardi in October 1904. Section 3 was subdivided and platted in November 1905. In that plat and in the Re-Subdivision of Section 3 dating from 1907, the Taylor and Gherardi properties are the only unnumbered parcels shown. The Land Company had owned this property, part of the No Gain estate known as the Hamilton tract, since 1890 when it was conveyed from William M. Stewart and wife.<sup>3</sup>

The Gherardi House (1905) and Taylor House (1906) share similarities in their building form and massing. Each were originally three by two bay houses with rear ells, sheltered by identical low, hipped roofs. This similarity, evident in historic documents, is less noticeable today after the Taylor House was enlarged with roof dormers and side wing additions.

The Gherardi House, assessed at \$5000, was built by November 1905. Lieutenant Walter and Neville Gherardi listed their Bradley Lane residence in the Social Register published that month. The couple moved here from the Torpedo Naval Station in Newport, Rhode Island where Gherardi was stationed since their marriage in June 1904. Neville was well acquainted with the advantages of Chevy Chase life, having resided with her parents on Lenox Street in Chevy Chase Village.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Deed 180:63. See MHT form for the Taylor-Britton House, 3815 Bradley Lane, Resource #35/65, 1998.

<sup>3</sup>Subdivision of Section 3, Chevy Chase, Plat filed November 3, 1905; certified by surveyor W. J. Boyd, October 26, 1905. Plat Book 1, Folio 71.

<sup>4</sup>Social Register, Washington, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907. *Evening Star*, June 4, 1904. The Taylor family lived on Lenox Street by November 1903 (1904 Social Register). The Gherardis

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M:35/66: Gherardi House (1905)  
3807 Bradley Lane  
Section 8:3

By the time he constructed the house, Walter Rockwell Gherardi had established a distinguished military career which was to continue through the rest of his life. He served in the Spanish-American War (1898) and by 1904 had received signal distinction, receiving gold medal awards for heroism in the saving of human lives on four occasions.<sup>5</sup>

While the Gherardi's owned the residence for nearly 40 years, naval service prevented them from residing here continuously. In 1914, Walter was assigned to the American Embassy in Berlin. He served in active duty during World War I, assuming command of a transport ship. From 1919 to 1935 Gherardi returned to Washington in administrative roles, serving first as Naval Aide to Secretary of the Navy, and then Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Hydrography. From 1938 until his death in July 1939, Gherardi served as president of the General Court Martial Board, living near San Francisco. He died two months before his scheduled retirement, at the age of 63.<sup>6</sup>

While an accomplished naval officer in his own right, Walter Rockwell Gherardi had strong familial ties to the U.S. Navy as well. He was the son of Rear Admiral Bancroft Gherardi, who served in the Civil War to capture New Orleans, and he married the daughter of Rear Admiral Henry Clay Taylor (1845-1904). Both Taylor and the younger Gherardi served in the Spanish-American war.<sup>7</sup>

While the Gherardi's were not in residence, the couple they leased the house. Naval colleague Commander Arthur Atkins and his family were living here in 1920. After the death of Walter Gherardi, the house was sold to Adolphus and Edith Blair Staton. Since 1964, the property has been owned by Norman and Elinor L. Horwitz.<sup>8</sup>

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were first assessed for improvements to the property in 1906.

<sup>5</sup>*Who Was Who in the Nation's Capital*, Vol 1. *Evening Star*, June 4, 1904.

<sup>6</sup>*Evening Star*, July 25, 1939. Library of Congress Photograph File, Division of Prints and Photographs: 45993 (1919); 38970-RU (May 6, 1924); 53265 R (Jan 19, 1926); 77821 RU (Feb 17, 1932). *Who Was Who in the Nation's Capital*, Vol 1.

<sup>7</sup>*USS Washington Cougar Scream*, Vol 1:24, November 22, 1941. Information on Henry Clay Taylor in MHT Form #35/65: Taylor-Britton House, 1998.

<sup>8</sup>"Supplementary Notes on the Story of Boxwood," including 1910 census information, on file at Montgomery County Historical Society, Historic Houses file. U.S. Census, 1920. Deed 6757:20. Interview with Eleanor Horwitz, 7-1998.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:35-66

See attached

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 27,225 Sq. Ft.

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

### 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

## Form Prepared By

name/title	Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner	Architectural description by Kim Williams
organization	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission	date November 1998
street & number	8787 Georgia Avenue	telephone 301-563-3400
city or town	Silver Spring	state Maryland 20910-3760

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/66: Gherardi House (1905)  
3807 Bradley Lane  
Section 9:2

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## CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/66: Gherardi House (1905)  
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Section 9:3

### Secondary Sources:

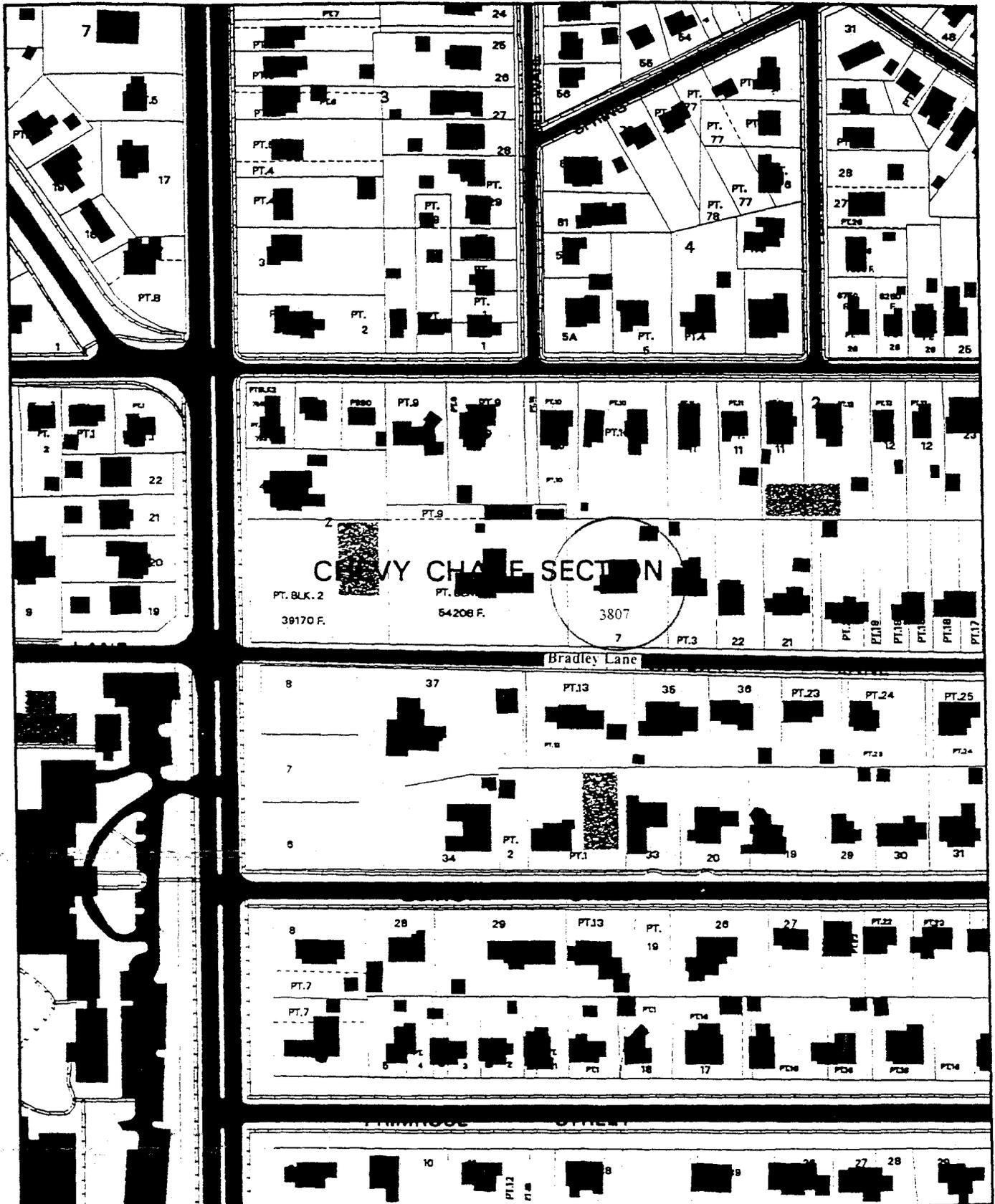
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CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/66: Gherardi House ( 1905)  
3807 Bradley Lane



# OVERALL VICINITY MAP FOR (35/66) Gherardi House



Map compiled on April 02, 1998 at 11:29 AM

### DISCLAIMER

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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING**  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
137 George Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

