

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. M:35-67

1. Name of Property (Indicate preferred name)

historic Durant House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3803 Bradley Lane not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input 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 Terence T. Finn and Joyce M. Purcell

street & number 3803 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 HN341: Pt. Lot 3, Bl

city, town Rockville state Maryland Liber and Folio 14053/0396

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:

7. Description

Survey No.

M:35/67

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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:35/67 Durant House c1908
3803 Bradley Lane
Section 7:2

Built c1908, the Durant House in the Village of Chevy Chase Section 3 is located on the north side of Bradley Lane and includes the principal residence and a single-car garage. It is an imposing 2-1/2-story, three-bay, Colonial Revival style residence with an American Foursquare building form. The house is raised upon a brick foundation, has walls clad with wood shingles, is covered with a hipped roof with wide, overhanging eaves, and features a wrap-around porch. Four hipped dormers adorn each elevation of the roof, while a brick chimney with a corbelled cap projects from the center rear of the roof.

The south (front) elevation is divided into three principal bays. The first story consists of a central entry door with five-light sidelights and two wide, flanking 2/2 windows with louvred shutters. The second story has four windows: two wide 2/2 windows directly above the first story windows, and two narrower 3/1 windows in the center bay. A plain frieze board is located between the second story and the eaves of the overhanging roof. The hipped roof dormer is located on center of this elevation and, like the other dormers, features slightly battered side walls (craftsman influence), clad with wood shingles. The dormer has a group of three, four-light windows. The hipped roof of the dormer is clad with asphalt shingles. The front porch is four bays wide on the front, with steps at the second bay leading to the entrance. The porch has a shed roof, supported by square wood columns connected with plain, square balusters and railing.

The east and west elevations are two bays deep with wide 2/2 windows on both the first and second stories.

The single-car garage is located at the rear of the dwelling and is accessed by a driveway running past the west side of the house. The one-story frame garage with wood shingles and a hipped roof is contemporaneous to the house and is stylistically compatible. An overhead garage door is located on center of the structure.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:35-67

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			

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
c. 1908	

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:35/67: Durant House
3803 Bradley Lane
Section 8:2

The Durant House, built c1908, is architecturally significant as an outstanding example of a substantial Post Victorian suburban residence built in the Colonial Revival style. One of a small cluster of the earliest houses built in Section 3, the Durant House has a close relationship with the neighboring Taylor-Britton House and Gherardi House (3807 and 3815 Bradley Lane), sharing a generous setback, massive scaling, and unadorned architectural lines which distinguish them from other houses in the area. The house is historically significant for representing the importance of Bradley Lane, an early thoroughfare which served as a boundary between communities established by the Chevy Chase Land Company.

The Durant House was one of the first houses built after Section 3 was platted. The Durant family purchased this property from the Chevy Chase Land Company in March 1907. The purchase price for the 1/3 acre lot, described as Lot 3, Block 2, was \$1,381.30. The deed contained the covenant "that no house shall be erected on any lot in said Section of the Subdivision at cost less than \$3,000." The property was assessed in 1908 with improvements valued at \$3,400. Section 3 was initially platted in November 1905, but was re-subdivided in July 1907. The lot size of 70 feet wide by 197 feet deep conforms with the lots established in 1907.¹

The Durant family included James M. And Marie Durant and their three children, Wilson, Marie, and Maxwell, were living at this address. James M., a native of New York, was an attorney for the State Department.²

Bradley Lane was selected by the Chevy Chase Land Company to be the boundary between their subdivisions known as Section 2 (now the Village of Chevy Chase) and Section 3. An important early road, Bradley Lane served by 1865 as the main east-west connection between the major north-south roads of Brookville Road and Wisconsin Avenue. After the Land Company constructed Connecticut Avenue in 1890, Bradley Lane continued to serve as a major connecting street. In the first decade of the 1900s, Bradley Lane was the only paved cross street in the area. A map of 1915 shows that Bradley Lane between Connecticut Avenue and Brookville Road contained more houses than any other block in the Chevy Chase area, including Chevy Chase Village (Section 2). Though the street divides section 2 (the Village), on the south, from Section 3, on the north, both sides of the street were developed by the Chevy Chase Land Company and most Bradley Lane houses were built between 1905 and 1927.³

¹Deed 192:364. Maryland Geological Survey Map, 1910. Plat Book 1, Folios 71 and 90. Tax Assessment Records, 1908 (Vol 31-1907-1910).

²1910 Census. Caldwell Directory, 1911, 1915. Nelson's Directory, 1912. Tax Assessment records, 1908.

³Martenet and Bond Map, 1865. George W. Stone, Jr. "Reminiscences, 1909-1930," (1990). Caldwell Map of Bethesda District, 1915. M-NCPPC Database, Section 2 and Section 3. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1927.

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/67: Durant House
3803 Bradley Lane
Section 8:3

A map of 1915 shows that Bradley Lane between Connecticut Avenue and Brookville Road contained more houses than any other block in the Chevy Chase area, including Chevy Chase Village (Section 2). Though the street divided Section 2 (the Village), on the south, from Section 3, on the north, both sides of the street were developed by the Chevy Chase Land Company and most Bradley Lane houses were built between 1905 and 1927.

The Durant House is a substantial Colonial Revival style residence built on a generous scale. The massiveness of its American Foursquare form is emphasized through strong horizontal lines, found in its low, flared roof with wide, open eaves; veranda roof extending across the facade and running past the edge of the house; wide, low-slung dormers; squared porch pillars; and oversize windows on first and second levels. A product of the early 20th century, the Colonial Revival is depicted in clean simple moldings, including cornices, multi-pane windows, and sidelights of the entry door. The house is noteworthy for its outstanding integrity with original features including windows, wood shingle siding, and square porch columns.

Bearing an imminent relationship with the c1905 Gherardi House (3807) and the c1906 Taylor-Britton House (3815 Bradley Lane), the Durant House was built soon after these neighbors and with them shares similar massing, and the same generous setback. This close affiliation is emphasized in historic documents including a 1918 photograph of Bradley Lane, and 1916 Sanborn which includes only these three houses on the north side of Bradley.

James E. and Carrie Alexander acquired the property by 1924, and lived here with their three children. During their residency, the Alexanders were included in the **Blue Book**, a prestigious list of the Washington's social elite. The Alexanders continued to reside here or own the property until after 1941. The present owners acquired the property in 1996.³

³Polk's Directory, 1927. *The Blue Book of Washington*, Blue Book Publishing Company, 1924 and 1929 editions. Klingé Real Estate Atlas, 1941. Deed 14053:396 (1996).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:35-67

See attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 13,815 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		
organization	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission	date	1/98
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:35/67: Durant House
3803 Bradley Lane
Section 9:2

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The Blue Book of Washington, D.C. Washington DC: Blue Book Publishing Company, 1924 and 1929 editions.

Census, U.S. 1910 and 1920

Directories:

Boyd, *Washington City Directory*, 1900, 1905, 1912.

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. Plat Book 1, Folios 71 and 90.

Maps:

Caldwell, S.D. *Map of Bethesda District*, 1915.

Deets and Maddox, *Real Estate Atlas*, 1917.

Hopkins, G.M. *Northern Virginia and Bethesda*, 1894.

Klinge *Real Estate Atlas*, 1931 and 1941.

Martenet and Bond, *Map of Montgomery County Maryland*, 1865.

Maryland Geological Survey Map, Bethesda & Vicinity, 1910.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1916, 1927, 1928-1959.

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

Tax Assessment Records, Election District 7, Vol. 31 (1907-1910). Maryland State Archives.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/67: Durant House (c1907-1910)
3803 Bradley Lane
Section 9:3

Secondary Sources

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.

Hanchett, Thomas W. "The Four Square House Type in the United States," **Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture**, Camille Wells (Editor), Columbia, Mo: University of Missouri Press, 1987.

Henry, Samuel J. *Old Days with Horse and Hound: The Story of the Chevy Chase Hunt, 1892-1916*, 1960.

Massey, James C. and Shirley Maxwell. "The All-American Family House: A Look at the Foursquare," **Old-House Journal** (November/December 1995), 28-33.

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

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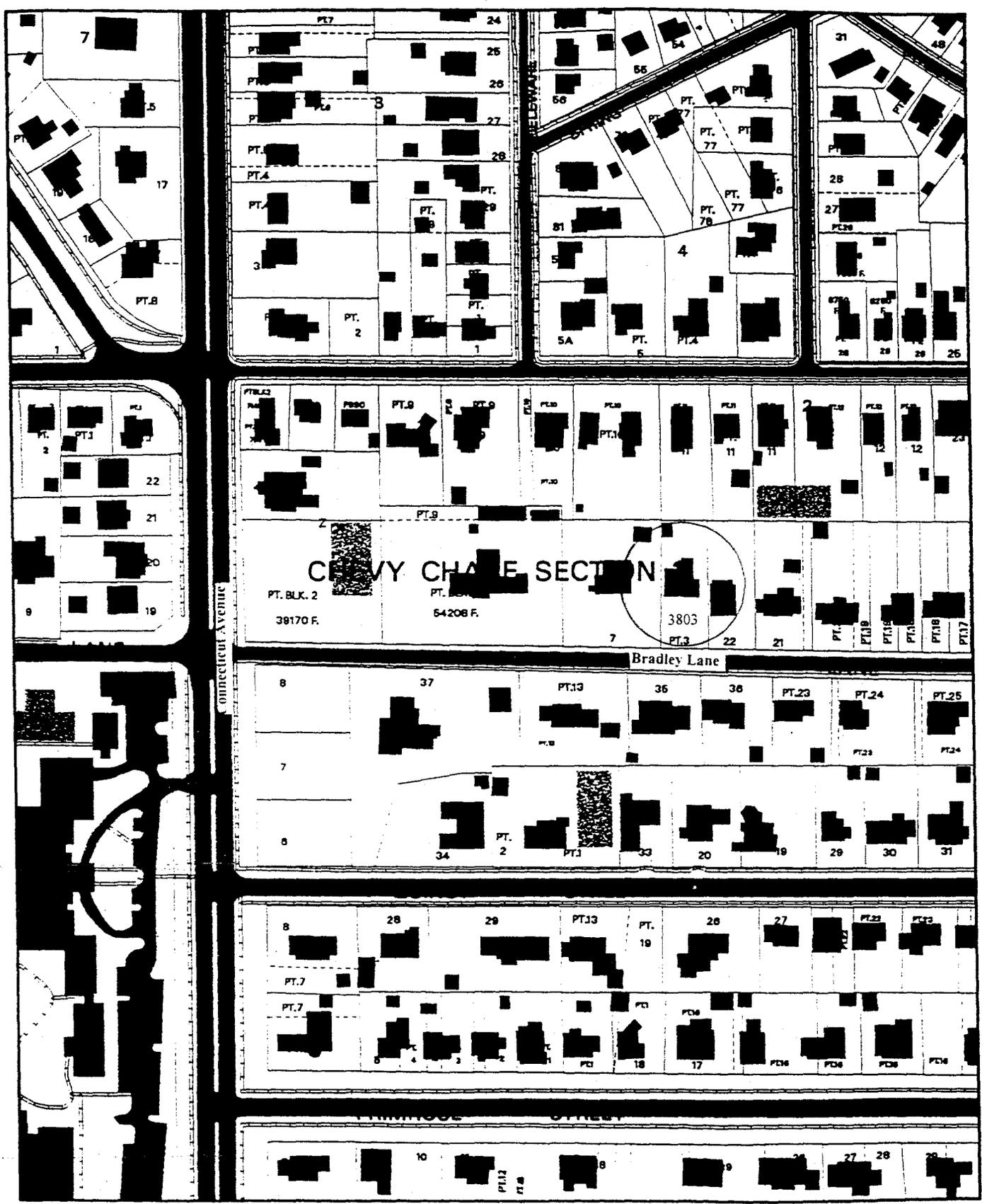
Wright, Gwen; William B. Bushong; and Clare Lise Cavicchi; "Chevy Chase, Maryland, Survey District: Survey Report: Phase Two," Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997.

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/67: Durant House (c1907)
3803 Bradley Lane



OVERALL VICINITY MAP FOR (35/67) Durant 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

