

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. M:35-76

1. Name of Property (Indicate preferred name)

historic Williams-Wirgman House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3806 Williams Lane not for publication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 Ante S.A. & M.M. Lundberg

street & number 3806 Williams 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; P452

city, town Rockville state Maryland Liber and Folio 03700/0587

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:35-76

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:35/76 Williams-Wirgman House (c1895)
3806 Williams Lane
Section 7:2

The Williams-Wirgman House, built c1895, is a 2 1/2 story vernacular farm house located on the south side of Williams Lane in today's Village of Chevy Chase, Section 5. The frame gable-front house has a tee shaped plan with rear wing and a one story porch that wraps around the front (north) and side (west) elevations. The structure is clad with an unusual and noteworthy type of wide drop or German siding with triple beading. The cross gable roof is protected by asphalt shingles and features a corbeled brick chimney.

The north elevation facing Williams Lane, consisting of the two-bay gable end of the front block, is the principal facade of the house. This elevation includes a single, side entry door and 2/2 window on the first story, and two 2/2 windows on the second story. A pair of windows (one 1/1 replacement and one original Queen Anne multi-light-over-one sash) is located in the attic level of the gable end. A narrow raking cornice board separates the end wall from the slightly overhanging, boxed raking cornice of the gable roof. The wrap-around porch has a half-hipped roof supported by narrow, wood columns with entasis. A spindle column porch railing spans the columns.

The east gable of the rear wing has Queen Anne multi-light over one sash. Interior details throughout the house are typical of the 1890's era, with beaded moldings, bulls-eye corner blocks, scrolled floor registers and Eastlake style turnkey doorbell.

The rear wing may have been an older hall and parlor structure. A box stair once stood at the northwest corner of the rear wing. This feature was removed after 1968, at the same time that the present cellar stairs were added. The stone foundation of the rear section has a different character from the front cellar which may have had dirt walls later reinforced with stone and more recently with concrete block. If the rear section is older, it does not predate 1883 when Clayton Williams bought the unimproved parcel. Exterior siding, windows and interior trim are today all consistent with front and rear sections. After 1968, a rear pantry and kitchen porch (southeast corner) were replaced with a rear deck, and replacement first story windows were installed on the east side of the rear wing.

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/76 Williams-Wirgman House (c1895)
3806 Williams Lane
Section 8:2

The Williams-Wirgman House is significant for its association with the Williams family, who established a 32-acre farm here before the area was transformed by suburban development. The house, built c1895, is representative of the Vernacular Victorian architecture typical of folk housing of this period, with characteristic details including Queen Anne sash (multi-light over one window) and a generous wrap-around porch.

The Williams Farm was first established in 1883, when John M. C. "Clayton" Williams bought a 33-acre property in the vicinity of Section 5. The first house on the property was the cross-gable Gothic Revival influenced house at 3707 Williams Lane where Clayton lived with his wife Eliza, whom he married in 1887. The Williams property retained a single house in 1890, according to the Fava Naeff map. In 1892, the Williams farm was reduced to 17 acres. The house at 3806 Williams Lane was built c1895.¹ The house is described in a 1905 Equity Case.² Laura Williams was assessed in 1906 for property improvements of \$1500.

Laura Williams formally acquired title to the house and lot at 3806 Williams Lane upon the settlement of her brother's estate after his death in 1905. Hallie Blum, in her 1972 article, *Williams Lane and Brookville Road*, states that 3806 Williams Lane was built as a wedding gift in the early c1870's by Richard Williams for his daughter Ariana. Williams did have a daughter Ariana who was born c1855, according to the 1860 census. No record has been found regarding such a marriage or about Ariana's adult life. Other information from the Blum article, which is subtitled "Historical Fiction Based on Actual Records," has been found to be inaccurate, including which member of the Williams family first settled on Williams Lane and when in the 19th century this occurred.³

Laura Williams, the oldest child of Richard and Julia Williams, was born c1845. She, as well as her siblings, Clayton and Bettie, grew up on the family's 211.5 acre farm on Wisconsin

¹Although the house is not shown on the 1894 G.M. Hopkins map, tax assessment records show an increase of \$1500 in 1895 for the Williams property. Tax assessment records, Maryland State Archives.

²Deed JA 36:198 (1883) cited in Equity Case 189. Plat of Otterbourne (1892), Plat Book 1, p.1. Equity Case 2172, Judgement Record JLB 3. See MHT forms for Resources #35/77, Frank Simpson House (3807 Williams Lane), and #35/13-3, Clayton Williams House (3707 Williams Lane) for more on these properties. The house at 3806 may include an older structure (rear wing) which could have been an outbuilding on the Williams property. If so, the building was completely renovated when the front structure was built. (See discussion p 7:2.)

³Blum, 1972 manuscript, MCHS.

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/76 Williams-Wirgman House (c1895)
3806 Williams Lane
Section 8:3

Avenue. The farm was later developed and became the community of Somerset.⁴

Laura and Bettie received 13 2/3 acres in the estate settlement of their brother Clayton who died in 1905. At that time the house at #3806 was valued at \$2,500, the same estimate given her brother's house at 3707 Williams Lane. The 17 acres of land on which they were both located was worth \$11,900 (\$700 per acre). In October 1905, the sisters divided their property between themselves, with Laura taking a four-acre parcel on the south side of Williams Lane, including the subject property, leaving the remainder to Bettie. Assessment records from 1906 show Laura Williams' four-acre property had improvements valued at \$1,500.⁵

Laura Anna Williams, unmarried, died in 1909 at the estimated age of 64. In the settlement of her estate it was stated that the house had been leased by the estate since Laura's death. The house and lot of approximately 12,400 square feet were valued at \$4,000.⁶

Williams Lane originally began as a private access road used by the Williams family to get from Brookville Road to their house and outbuildings. Frank Simpson was the first non-family member to buy a lot and build a house on Williams Lane, when Clayton Williams sold him a 1/5 acre lot in 1898. The Simpson House, at #3807, was built by the close of the year 1898 according to tax assessment records. Williams Lane is shown on a 1915 map by which time five residences had been built.⁷

In September, 1910, Willie G. Offutt, Laura's brother-in-law and trustee, sold Laura's house and lot to Frank Simpson for \$3,300. Simpson owned the property for seven years before he sold the house and lot to Edward H. Jones, an active realtor in the area. Two years later, in

⁴Neither Ariana nor older brother Richard (born c1848) are mentioned as heirs in the settlement of their brother Clayton's estate in 1905. Laura's birth date estimated from census records of 1850 and 1860. The Williams farm on Wisconsin Avenue is described in Offutt's *Bethesda: A Social History*, p232, and in M-NCPPC file on Somerset Historic District, #35/36. The sale of this farm was advertised in 1877 (*Sentinel* 8-31-1877, MCHS Abstract).

⁵Equity Case 2172, Judgement Record JLB 3:109+ (1905). Deed 184:191, October 1905. Tax assessment records, Maryland State Archives.

⁶Equity Case 2543, Judgement Record JLB 8:306 (1909). When she wrote her will in 1907, Laura was living in Washington D.C.

⁷1905 Equity Case, Op. Cit. MHT form 35/77, Frank Simpson House. Map of Bethesda District, Caldwell, 1915.

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/76 Williams-Wirgman House (c1895)
3806 Williams Lane
Section 8:4

1919, Jones sold the property to Henry T. and Dora Booth Wirgman.⁹

The Wirgman family lived in this residence for close to 50 years. When they bought the house, Dora was 50 years old, and Henry was 64. Henry Wirgman was a census worker for the Bureau of Commerce. By 1927, their son Stewart built a house next door where he lived with his wife Grace. In later years, a house, now #3804, was built in between the two Wirgman Houses. The Wirgman's daughter, Edith Wirgman Masters, continued to own the house at 3806 until 1968 when it was purchased by the present owner.¹⁰

c35/76

⁹Deed 216:40. The first attempt at sale to George Smith for \$3,500, in August 1910, proved unsuccessful when Smith was unable to fulfill the terms of payment. Equity Case 2543, Judgement Record JLB 8:327+ . Deeds 264:304 and 280:453.

¹⁰1920 census. 1927 Polk's Directory. Interviews with Madeline Lundberg, current owner, of 10-16-1997 and 3-31-1998.

Clayton Williams House, 3707 Williams Lane (35/13-3)

Laura Williams House, 3806 Williams Lane (35/76)

Tax Assessment Records

Key: ■■■■■

Maryland State Archives, Series T221, Fourth Election District (Rockville & Bethesda)

Date					Improve ments	Private Securities	Live stock	Household Furniture	Other Property	Transfer
1885*	Jno M C Williams	Pt of Aspin Grove Pt of Rutledge	90 acres 32 acres	\$40/ac \$40/ac	\$900 -----		\$240	300	264 Plate: 36	
1887*	Jno M C Williams	Pt of Rutledge	32 acres	\$40/ac	\$200	\$1480	\$240	300	264 Plate: 36	
1893* p.140	Jno M C Williams	Pt of Rutledge	17 ½ ac.	40/ac	200 <i>ADD'93:</i> 700	900 1600				
1895*	Jno M C Williams	Pt of Rutledge			900 <i>ADD'95:</i> 1500 ■■■■■		240	300	264 Plate: 36	
1898 ⁺	Jno M C Williams	Rutledge	18 ac.	75/ac	3000	1465	150	100	35	
1900 ⁺	Jno M C Williams	Rutledge	18 ac.	75/ac	3000	850	150	100	35	
1905 ⁺	Jno M C Williams	No Gain and Rutledge	17 ½ ac.	75/ac	3000	850	150	100	35	To: Laura Anna Williams 4 ac Eliza E Williams 3 1/3 ac Bettie Offutt Bal[ance]
1906 ⁺	Eliza E Williams Bettie Offutt	No Gain/Rutledge No Gain & etc. Equity 2172	3 1/3 ac 8 1/3 ac 1 6/10 ac	75/ac 75/ac 75/ac	1550 ----- -----					From J M C Williams From J M C Williams From J M C Williams
1906 ⁺	Laura Anna Williams	No Gain & Rutledge	4 ac	75/ac	1500 ■■■■■					From J M C Williams

*=Volume 1876-1896

+ =Volume 1896-1906

Clare Lise Cavicchi

10-1998

g:\preserve\chchase\c35-13-3tx

M:35-76

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M: 35-76

See attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 11,421 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	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:35/76 Williams-Wirgman House (c1895)
3806 Williams Lane
Section 9:2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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.

Lundberg, Madeline. Interviewed by Clare Cavicchi, 10-16-97 and 3-31-98.

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

Sentinel, Montgomery County, Abstracts, Montgomery County Historical Society.

Tax Assessment Book, 1896-1906, Election District 7, Series T221. Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/76 Williams-Wirgman House (c1895)
3806 Williams Lane
Section 9:3

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

Secondary Sources:

Blum, Hallie Lou W. "Brookville Road and Williams Lane: Oldest Streets in Chevy Chase, Maryland: Historical Fiction Based on Actual Records Researched by Francis X. Emmet." Manuscript at Montgomery County Historical Society, 1972.

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.

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

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.

LeoGrande, William M. "No Gain: Portrait of a Yeoman Family Farm in Montgomery County, Maryland." Manuscript, Chevy Chase Historical Society, 1997.

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

Stone, George W., Jr., "My Local Habitation and Its Name: Reminiscences of the Quality of Life in Martin's Third Addition to Chevy Chase, 1909-1930." Manuscript on file, Village of Martin's Additions, Office of the Village Manager, 1990.

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.

Wyatt, Barbara (Editor) "Surveying and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture." Midwest Vernacular Architecture Committee. National Register Bulletin 31, Draft. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1987.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ME35 76 Williams-Wirgman House (c1894-1905)
3806 Williams Lane





MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FORM
LOCATIONAL MAP

SURVEY NO.: 435-76
PROPERTY NAME: Williams-Wirgman House
TOWN: Section 5, Vllg of Chevy Chase
COUNTY: MONTGOMERY