

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. M:35/91

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Welsh House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3705 Underwood Street not for publication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 Christopher S. and M. P. Kelly

street & number 3705 Underwood Street 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; Lot 11, Bl. 3

city, town Rockville state Maryland Liber and Folio 14202/0600

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: 35/91

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.

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3705 Underwood Street
Section 7:2

The Welsh House, built in 1897, was the second house constructed in Otterbourne, a subdivision platted in 1894 and later absorbed into the Village of Chevy Chase, Section 5. A rare example of Victorian vernacular architecture in Chevy Chase, the house is located on the north side of Underwood Street (formerly Douglas Street), facing south.

The two-story, two-bay wood frame residence has a gable roof and narrow clapboard siding, with 2/2 sash windows and a simple front door with transom. A rear ell projects to the west. Decorative elements include brackets on both projecting eaves at the front facade. A gable fanlight appears to be a later addition.

After 1958 the original full-width front porch and separate east side porch were replaced with a wrap-around porch, which sits on concrete piers.¹

The house remains on its original site, Lot 11, Block 3, consisting of 6,250 square feet of land.²

¹Sanborn map, 1927-1959.

²Deed 143:496, 2/19/1897.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 35/91

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input 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 checked="" 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
1897	

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

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Built in 1897 by Nicholas J. Welsh on property purchased from investor Eugene B. Clark, the Welsh house is notable as the second residence constructed in Otterbourne. It is also significant as a rare and well preserved example of vernacular architecture built in suburban Chevy Chase. The house remains on its original lot of 6,250 square feet.

In February 1897 Welsh acquired Lot 11, Block 3, which backed up to the Williams farm land. The property was assessed with \$700 in improvements the same year, even though the deed contained the usual restriction of a minimum house construction cost of \$2,000.³

Otterbourne is a subdivision established in the Chevy Chase area by four investors: Robert E. Earll, Eugene B. Clark, Raymond Geare, and John Frank Ellis. The men purchased 14.4 acres from the Williams family in 1892, two years after the Chevy Chase Land Company purchased land to the south and west. For convenience, the plat for Otterbourne was filed under Ellis' name. The H-shaped plat was made in July 1894, oriented toward Brookville Road, an important early transportation route. The investors divided the lots among themselves, each one receiving a number equivalent to their respective interest in the original tract of land. Clark and Earll were the only two of the four to build and reside in Otterbourne.⁴

Otterbourne investors clearly saw the advantage of the property's location immediately adjacent to the Land Company's development. The name Otterbourne is a reference to the medieval Ballad of Chevy Chase, which had been the origin for the name of the Chevy Chase Land Company's real estate enterprise. It was on the plains of Otterbourne in Scotland that the armies of Lord James Douglas and Sir Henry Percy met in their fabled battle. Otterbourne benefitted from its close proximity to the Rock Creek Railway (1890), which ran along the newly established Connecticut Avenue. Early residents had access to the trolley by way of a boardwalk from Delaware Street (formerly Dalkeith) to Connecticut Avenue. Otterbourne was absorbed into Section 5, and by the 1920s the east-west cross streets were extended out to Connecticut Avenue and Percy Street was renamed Thornapple Street.⁵

³Deed 143:496 (2/19/1897); Tax Assessment Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

⁴Equity Case #2400, 8-24-1908, describes the history of Otterbourne and its investors.

⁵Gwen Wright et al. "Chevy Chase, Maryland, Survey District: Survey Report: Phase Two," Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997. Otterbourne Plat, Plat Book 1: Page 1 [Filed July 9, 1894]. William Offutt, *History of Bethesda*, pp. 173-4

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/91 Welsh House (1897)
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Nicholas Welsh and his wife, Daisy L. Welsh, sold the property in 1905 to Clifford James. By 1927 the house had changed hands nine times.⁶

⁶Deeds 184:223, 210:477, 212:188, 218:263, 226:448, 238:122, 246:347, 288:94, 298:160.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 6,250 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
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner		
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organization	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission	date	1/98
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street & number	8787 Georgia Avenue	telephone	301-563-3400
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city or town	Silver Spring	state	Maryland 20910-3760
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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

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3705 Underwood Street
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M:35/91 Welsh House (1897)
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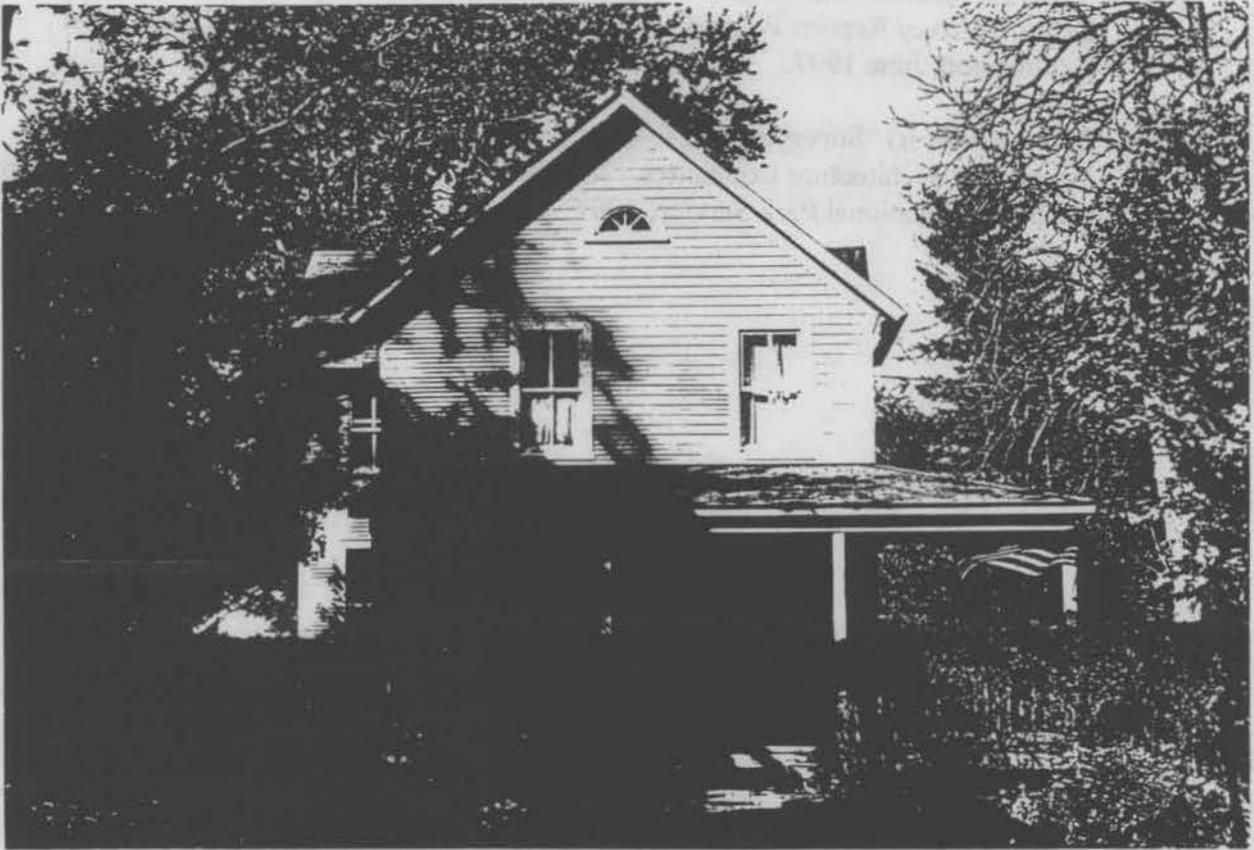
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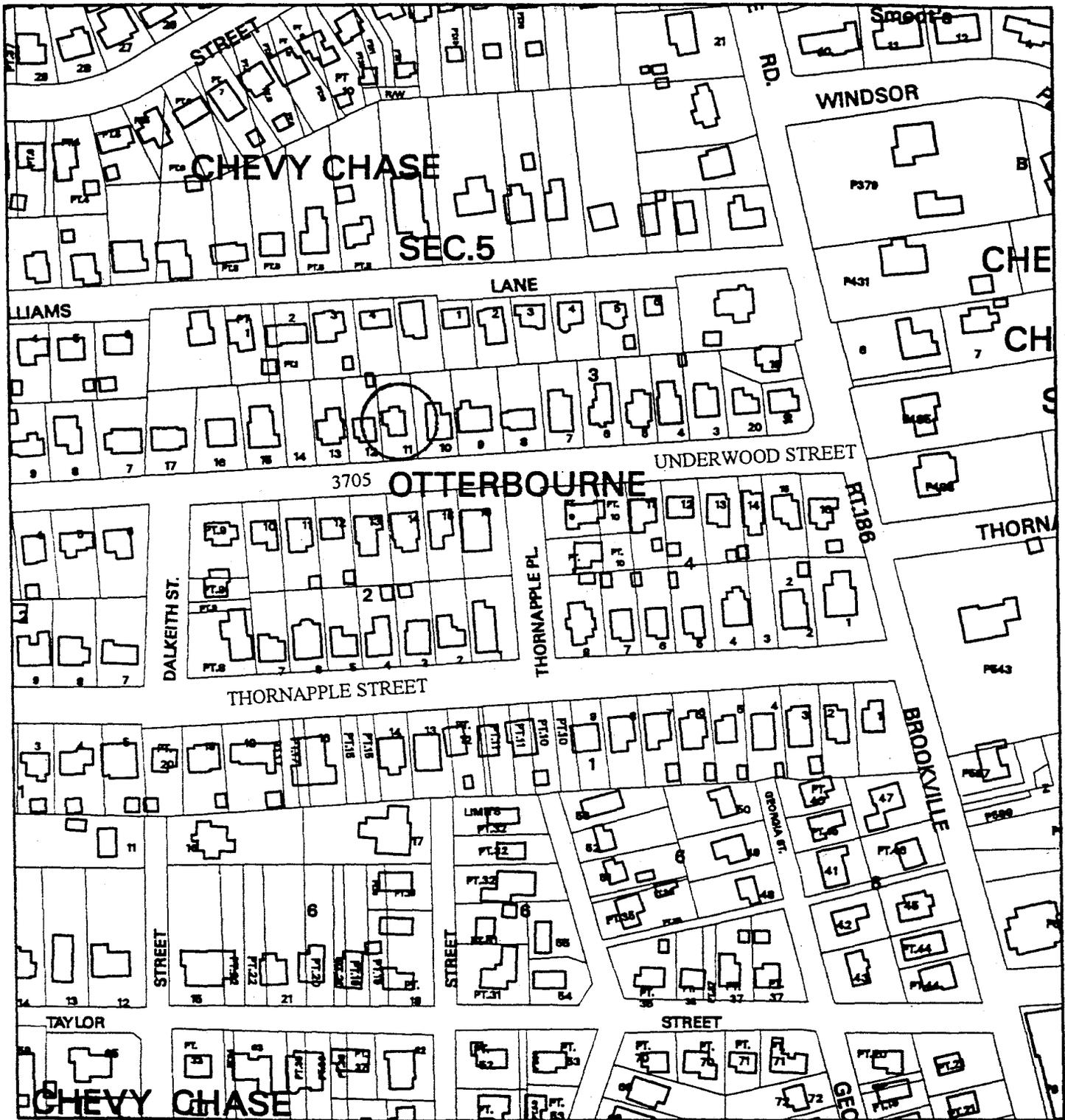
CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/91 Welsh House (1897)
3705 Underwood Street



VICINITY MAP FOR
OTTERBOURNE

M:35-91



NOTICE

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Key Map

