

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. M: 35/94

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

historic Moxley-Sprenger House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 3708 Thornapple Street \_\_\_ not for publication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 Michael Shulman and Jacqueline Judd

street & number 3708 Thornapple 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 Court- Tax Map and Parcel HN342; Lot 14, Bl. 1

city, town Rockville state Maryland Liber and Folio 11803/0796

## 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

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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.

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The Moxley-Sprenger House is significant as one of three similar Colonial Revival/Four Square style houses built by Rosalier Moxley in Otterbourne at the end of the nineteenth century.

Located on the south side of Thornapple Street (formerly Percy Street) facing north, the 2-1/2 story, 5-bay house has a slate hipped roof and the walls are covered with asbestos siding. Windows are 1/1 sash. The original full-width porch has been replaced with brick front steps and a metal railing. The front door and pedimented door frame do not appear to be original.

The house remains on its original site, Lot 14, Block 1, consisting of 6,250 square feet.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Deed TD 6:211.

# 8. Significance

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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 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 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	Builder/Architect
1899	

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

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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. 1870-1910

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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In November 1898 Rosalier Moxley purchased Lot 14, Block 1 from John Frank Ellis, one of the four original developers of Otterbourne. The house was built by the following year when the property was assessed with improvements valued at \$1,500.<sup>2</sup>

Moxley sold the property in July 1901 to Francis Sharp. In August 1901 Julia E. E. Sharp, wife of Francis, is described as an Otterbourne resident. At that time Lot 14 was the only property owned by the Sharps in this community, although they subsequently owned two other houses in Otterbourne, 3706 and 3712 Thornapple Street.<sup>3</sup> In December 1901 the Sharps sold the property to Julia Louisa Sprenger, wife of Walter J. Sprenger. The Sprengers moved from Washington to Maryland by 1902, according to Washington and Suburban directories. In 1904 Catesby A. and Marie A. Jones acquired the house and lot and resided here for more than 25 years. A native of New York, Catesby was a department store accountant.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup>

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

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<sup>2</sup>Tax Assessment Records, Series T221, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>3</sup>See MHT forms M:35/92 and M:35/93, M-NCPPC.

<sup>4</sup>Deeds TD 19:222, 2/28/1901; TD 23:81, 1902. U.S. Census, 1910 and 1920. Washington Directories, 1908, 1909. Suburban Directories, 1912, 1915, 1927. Deed TD 17:466, Lot 15, 9/16/1901.

<sup>5</sup>Equity Case #2400, 8-24-1908, describes the history of Otterbourne and its investors.

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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.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>Gwen 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.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See attached

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreeage of nominated property 6,250 Sq. Ft.

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

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

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**Verbal boundary description and justification**

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**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

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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

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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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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources:

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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.

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Fisher, Thos. J. *Chevy Chase for Homes*. Washington, D.C.: Thos. J. Fisher & C., 1916.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

94  
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VICINITY MAP FOR  
**OTTERBOURNE**

M: 35-94



Map compiled on January 13, 1998 at 10:50 AM

**NOTICE**

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Key Map

