

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. ^{PG:} 66-37-5

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historic Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Wells House

2. Location

Street & number 4506 Beechwood Road not for publication

City, town College Park vicinity of 5th Congressional District

State MD County Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

Name Taylor Wells

Street & number 4506 Beechwood Road Telephone no 301/927-5688

City, town College Park State & zip code MD 20740

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Clerk's Office Liber 6786

Street & number Folio 132

City, town Upper Marlboro State MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

Title n/a

Date federal state county local

Depository for survey records

City, town State

7. Description

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Condition		Check One	Check One	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

This nearly two full story house is well maintained and in excellent structural condition. The house is red brick comprised of American bond. The steeply pitched side gambrel roof is slate, and has a dentil course below the eaves. There is an exposed chimney at the each end of the house each with a stringcourse around the top. The brick walkway leads to an entry porch with two brick steps on each side of the porch. There are two glazed panes above the cross and bible panels on the front entry door. The door surround has two fluted pilasters each with a Tuscan superstructure. Two cooper lanterns flank the front entry door.

The first floor front facing windows are double-hung sashes comprised of eight over eight paned glazing with decorative shutters. Each of these windows has keystone lintel. Dormer windows are situated directly above the front facing first floor windows and the center front door. All side and rear facing windows are double-hung sashes comprised of six over six paned glazing with the exception of a bay window in the breakfast room.

The front yard is very well-maintained. There is a red brick patio in the rear of the house. A driveway leads to detached one car brick garage, which sits at the rear of the property. The one and half story garage also has an entry door and one window on the upper floor.

The interior of the house is in good condition. On the first floor are a living room, dining room, and kitchen, and breakfast room. (See accompanying floor plan.) The dining room and living room each have one fireplace, and both rooms have oak hardwood flooring. The moulding and the cornice in the living room were taken from one of the 16th Street mansions in the District of Columbia. The dining room has a chair rail. There are built-in bookshelves on each side of the bay window in the breakfast room. I did not see the upper floor. The house is a total of 1,482 square feet.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance – Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology– prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology – historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/ government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates: 1934

Builder/Architect: College Park Corp./R. Webster Ross

Check:

Applicable Criteria: A B C D

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: National State Local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This property not only signifies a dominant architectural form (Colonial Revival) for domestic building nationwide during the first half of the twentieth century, but it is also a part of a more significant whole: the Calvert Hills neighborhood.

Colonial Revivals, type-houses, refers to the rebirth of interest in the early English and Dutch houses of the Atlantic seaboard. Unlike eighteenth century colonial houses, twentieth century colonial revivals were built as modern houses using form and detail inspired by colonial precedents that created eclectic mixtures. Colonial revival plans were widely disseminated by photographs in books and periodicals, such as The American Architect and Building News.

4506 Beechwood Road is a good example of steeply pitched side gambrel roof colonial revival. The center hall plan provides easy circulation throughout the first floor of the house that includes a living room, dining room, kitchen, and breakfast room. Although it shares the same floor plan as some two-story center hall houses on Beechwood, such as 4502 and 4504 Beechwood, it is unique to the street and to suburban communities. Only ten percent of colonial revival houses have gambrel roofs. This form known as the Williamsburg became a predominant form in the 1920s and 1930s. Like most of the houses on Beechwood Road it was built in the late 1930s part of the College Park Homes development in Calvert Hills.

This house contributes to the entire development of Calvert Hills as a "streetcar" suburb. Beechwood Road is easily accessible to U.S. 1, and aside from the trolley U.S. 1 provides a direct route for automobile traffic into Washington. Most of the houses in Calvert Hills were built with detached garages signifying a growth in automobile use in the late 1930s. This house along with many other College Park Homes in Calvert Hills provided a good bulk of the housing for University of Maryland faculty and staff. Calvert Hills is a cohesive community, which has retained many of its characteristics as an early twentieth century suburb without many dramatic changes.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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The Wells house. The present owner, Taylor Wells is the grandson of the original owner.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle Scale _____

Quadrangle Scale _____

UTM References: (do not complete UTM references)

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

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title	Lisa McCollough	
Organization	The George Washington University	Date March 28, 1998
Street & Number	2826 28 th Street NW	Telephone 202/518-1114
City/Town	Washington	State DC 20008

The Maryland Historical Sites Inventory 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 prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights

Return to: Maryland Historical Trust
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, MD
 21401
 (301) 269-2438

FIRST FLOOR

BC = BOOK CASE
λ = DOOR
≡ = STAIRCASE
FP = FIREPLACE
W = WINDOW



