

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG#68-10-74 Building Date: 1892

Building Name: Fox's Barn

Location: 5011 42nd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

Fox's Barn is a two-and-one-half story, frame gambrel-roof dwelling which stands on one of the original platted streets of the 1882 subdivision of Hyattsville. It is distinguished by its inset porch, hip dormers and cypress shingle siding. It is roughly square in plan, four irregular bays by three; all surfaces are covered with cypress shingles painted brown. Entrance is in the third bay of the main west facade, and is sheltered by a porch which is inset beneath the second story, and which extends the total width of the main west facade. Windows are generally 12/1 or 9/1 double hung sash with plain board surrounds painted beige. There are two hip dormers in each of the west and east lower planes of the gambrel roof. The roof, which is covered with brown asphalt shingle, and has a deep overhang; the wainscot soffit is painted beige. One large brick chimney rises at the center of the ridge. Interior plan consists of four principal spaces. The main entrance leads into the southwest space which consists of a spacious stairhall; the open-string, three-run stair rises in the southwest corner along the south wall. Surrounds of doors and windows are original; in the four bedrooms on the second story, spindle friezes adorn the dormer alcoves.

Significance:

Fox's Barn is a good example of a late Victorian cottage dwelling; it is one of the earliest houses built in the residential subdivision of Hyattsville. It is distinguished by its somewhat unusual gambrel-roof profile, and its cypress shingle siding, making it a noticeable landmark in its immediate surroundings. It was built for Gilbert and Marian Fox in 1892, was the home for a quarter century of T. Hammond Welsh, one of Hyattsville's leading citizens. The house reflects the development of the suburbs of the late nineteenth century, and remains an established and attractive visual feature of the Victorian residential section of Hyattsville.

Acreage: 14560 sq. ft.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance - AD 1870 - 1930

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Domestic/Single Dwelling

Design Source: unknown

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Fox's Barn

and/or common Fox's Barn

2. Location

street & number 5011 42nd Avenue not for publicationcity, town Hyattsville vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's County

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Adams

street & number 5011 42nd Avenue telephone no.: 864-9269

city, town Hyattsville state and zip code MD 20781

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5303

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 701

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#68-10-74

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

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Fox's Barn is a two-and-one-half story, frame gambrel-roof dwelling which stands on one of the original platted streets of the 1882 subdivision of Hyattsville. It is distinguished by its inset porch, hip dormers and cypress shingle siding.

Fox's Barn is roughly square in plan, four irregular bays by three; all surfaces are covered with cypress shingles painted brown. The entrance is in the third bay of the main west facade, through a door with three horizontal panels beneath a twelve-pane glazed panel. The door has neither transom nor sidelights; it is protected by a twelve-pane storm door. The entrance is sheltered by a porch which is inset beneath the second story, and which extends the total width of the main west facade. This inset porch is supported by square tapered posts covered with the same cypress shingles which sheath all elevations of the house, as is the low parapet which bounds the porch. The porch rests on brick piers with lattice infill. A flight of four wooden steps with plain balustrade railing has recently been built to form a central access to the porch; these new steps replicate an entry flight shown in an 1895 photograph of the house.

The house is sheathed with rectangular cypress shingles, manufactured by the H. B. Short company of Lake Waccamac, North Carolina. Most of these shingles, original to the building, survive intact.

Windows are generally 12/1 or 9/1 double hung sash, with plain board surrounds painted beige. Windows on the first story of the main west facade have louvered wood shutters painted beige; there are no shutters on the windows in the gambrel ends. At loft level in the gambrel ends, the fenestration is varied: three separate small windows in the north, and one tripartite window in the south end.

The roof has a deep overhang, and the wainscot soffit is painted beige. (The deeply overhanging eaves are not original; a photograph dating from approximately 1895 shows very narrow eaves.) The gambrel roof is covered with brown asphalt shingle. One large brick chimney rises at the center of the ridge. There are two hip dormers in each of the west (front) and east (rear) lower planes of the roof. In each dormer is one 12/1 window, beneath a deep overhang with wainscot soffit.

The house rests on a brick foundation; there was originally no basement.

There is a door centered in the north gambrel end; sheltered by a shallow curved (eyebrow) canopy, it leads from the kitchen out onto a modern deck with built-in corner gazebo.

The inset porch which originally spanned the rear (east) elevation of the house has recently been enclosed, forming an addition to the living room on the south, and a bath and pantry behind the kitchen on the north. The enclosure has been carefully done. The addition is sided with shingles taken from the original east wall, and modern reproduction shingles were needed for only a small north section of the addition. The rear addition rests on a new concrete block foundation, filling in the spaces between the brick piers of the original porch, and providing a small basement space in the northeast. A small new stoop has been built onto the center rear entrance, giving access to the rear (enclosed) addition.

Interior plan of the house consists of four principal spaces. The west entrance leads into the southwest space which consists of a spacious stairhall. The open-string, three-run stair rises in the southwest corner three steps to a landing, then turns 90 degrees and rises along the south exterior wall to a second landing, where it turns again and rises to the second story. The stair has turned, spiralled balusters of two (alternating) styles; the handsome newel is also spiralled, and has a rosette motif and fluted cap. The spandrel is panelled.

There is a fireplace, now closed, situated diagonally in the northeast corner of the stairhall; a wood stove is now in place at this location. Back to back with this fireplace, situated diagonally in the northwest corner of the southeast parlor (living room), and sharing with it the large central chimney, is another fireplace with a handsome Classical Revival style wood mantel. The firebox is framed by two colonnettes with caps and bases. Above the plain frieze is an over-mantel mirror flanked by slim spiralled colonnettes, and above them is a scalloped shelf. Additional space has been added to the living room on the east by the enclosure of the original rear porch; the opening into the addition space is marked by a spindle frieze compatible with those in the second-story rooms (cf. infra).

Surrounds of doors and windows are original; each has a wide fascia with narrow backband, ogee molding and inner bead. All floors have been replaced by narrow boards, probably from the 1920s.

There is a second-story bedroom above each of the four principal spaces on the first story. (Originally, there were only three bedrooms; in the southwest space, however, part of the original stairhall has been

closed off to form a fourth bedroom.) The deep alcove created by the dormer window in each room is highlighted by a decorative valance, or spindle frieze. The two south spaces have spindle friezes of identical design, but the other two are different, making three varied designs in the four spaces. In the northeast room, window seats have been built (probably in the 1920s) into the dormer window alcove.

A rear transverse staircase which originally connected the kitchen with the second-story hall was removed many years ago; in its place, a wide opening has been created between the dining room and the kitchen, i.e., the two north spaces. A small closet has been created on the second story in the original location of this stair; above this closet, an enclosed stair rises to the finished attic space.

This handsome house stands on the northernmost of two adjoining lots. The grounds are enhanced by small fruit trees, border plantings, and a flower circle and two small oak trees in the front. In the rear of the house is a small one-story gable-roof garage building, originally built in the 1960s to provide space for furniture repair.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#68-10-74

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1892

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

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.

Fox's Barn is a good example of a late Victorian cottage dwelling; it is one of the earliest houses built in the residential subdivision of Hyattsville. It is distinguished by its somewhat unusual gambrel-roof profile, and its cypress shingle siding, making it a noticeable landmark in its immediate surroundings. It was the home for a quarter century of T. Hammond Welsh, one of Hyattsville's leading citizens.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, Christopher C. Hyatt had purchased property north of Bladensburg at the intersection of the old Washington Baltimore Turnpike and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He built his brick mansion (no longer standing) on the west side of the railroad, and opened a store directly across the tracks. In 1859, Hyatt was appointed postmaster of the new crossroads community which thenceforth was to bear his name.¹

In 1873, Hyatt had a section of his property surveyed and platted into building lots roughly 60 by 280 feet. This roughly 20-acre area was known as Hyatt's Addition to Hyattsville. By 1878, the town was developing into a desirable place of residence for commuters to the Federal City. An 1878 account describes the new town as follows: "Hyattsville, on the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, is a beautiful village, tasteful houses in the modern style of architecture, ornamented with gardens and lawns, is largely indebted, for its prosperity, to Christopher C. Hyatt, . . . it has gradually increased in beauty and prosperity until it stands as one of the foremost villages between Baltimore and Washington."²

In 1882, George Johnson and Louis Wine purchased 196 acres adjoining the original section of Hyattsville, and undertook the development of what they called "Wine and Johnson's First Addition to Hyattsville." This section was surveyed and platted by Surveyor George W. Jackson in September 1882, to create approximately 100 building lots (roughly 50 by 150 feet each), two areas of parkland, and street names honoring the developers.³

In 1891, Louis D. Wine (one of the two developers) sold to Marian J. Fox lots 63 and 64 of Wine and Johnson's First Addition, and in the following year, Mrs. Fox and her husband had the subject house built.⁴ It was a gambrel-roof cottage with basic square floor plan, with cypress shingle siding and with a facade-wide inset porch across each of the two principal elevations. The design may have been taken from one of the popular plan catalogs circulating in the 1890s, although this particular design has not been identified.

Gilbert and Marian Fox mortgaged the property to the Hyattsville Building Association in order to finance the building of the house; in 1893, after they had lived in the new house for over a year, they sold the property to a close relative, Clarence W. Fox of Saugus, Massachusetts. Gilbert and Marian Fox, however, continued to live in the Hyattsville house and raise their family. Gilbert Fox commuted to Washington where he worked as a government clerk; he died before 1910, but his widow and daughter, Frances, continued to live in the house after his death.⁵ After Clarence Fox died in Massachusetts in 1912, his widow determined to sell the property; in October 1912, Gertrude Fox, who remained in Massachusetts, sold her husband's Hyattsville property to Thomas Hammond Welsh, an up-and-coming Hyattsville map who had grown up in the house immediately north of the subject house.⁶

Thomas Hammond Welsh was the son of Charles H. Welsh, and had grown up in the house at the corner of Wine and Johnson Avenues (now 42nd Avenue and Farragut Street), the two principal streets of Hyattsville's early residential community, named after its two developers. Charles H. Welsh had purchased Lots 1 and 2 in Square A (on the corner of Wine and Johnson) and in 1889 had built the cross-gable frame house in which he raised his family. Charles H. Welsh worked as a banker and was influential in the development of Hyattsville. In 1887 he was one of a group which founded the Hyattsville Building Association, which financed much of the town's early development, and later became the Maryland Federal Savings and Loan Association. Charles Welsh served as one of the Hyattsville Town Councilmen from 1902 to 1906; he continued to serve as treasurer and as one of the Directors of the HBA until his death in 1934.⁷

Thomas Hammond Welsh, son of Charles Welsh, was born in Aquasco in 1884 (just before the family settled in Hyattsville), but grew up in the Welsh family home in Hyattsville. He followed his father into the banking business, becoming a clerk with the HBA in 1909, and its secretary in 1926. In 1912, after his marriage, he purchased the Fox house (at that time the closest house to the south of the Welsh family home), and raised his family there. Like his father, Thomas Hammond Welsh served as a Town Councilman (1916-1920), and in 1920 was elected Mayor of Hyattsville, an office which he held for one one-year term. In

1939, Welsh became the fifth president of the Hyattsville Building Association, serving in this capacity until his retirement in 1963. He retired as board chairman and director in 1966.

Welsh moved out of Hyattsville shortly before the Second World War; he retained title to the property until 1950 when he sold it to the Hyattsville Presbyterian Church, which worshipped in the handsome stone church which fronted on Farragut (originally Johnson) Street, and had built a small annex building on the corner lot (#65) just north of the Welsh's house. The church used the house as a rental dwelling for nearly a decade; after the Presbyterian Church sold its property (in 1959 to the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church), it also sold the Welsh's house to Paul and Gertrude Schoefer. It is likely that the Schoefers, who ran an upholstery business, built the rear building; it served first as a furniture workshop, and now as garage and storage.

After two more short-term owners, the present owners purchased Lots 63 and 64 in 1980. They enclosed the rear inset porch, increasing the size of the main living room, and creating a bath and pantry behind (to the east of) the kitchen; they also added a deck on the north gambrel end of the house. The house remains an established and attractive visual feature of the Victorian residential section of Hyattsville. As one of the early dwellings in this community, it reflects the development of the suburbs of the late nineteenth century and exemplifies the social, economic and historical heritage of the County. It is a good example of a late Victorian gambrel-roof cottage form, and embodies the distinctive characteristics of this period and style.

1. Prince George's County Deeds JBB#1:280; JBB#2:481; JBB#4:113,337; CSM#3:476,477.
2. G. M. Hopkins Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Prince George Maryland, 1878, "Historical Sketch".
3. Prince George's County Deed JWB#1:244; Prince George's County Plat JWB#1:286, 1882.
4. Prince George's County Deed JWB#18:589; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, Election District #2, 1890s.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#68-10-74
Section 8 Page 4

5. Prince George's County Deed JWB#26:347; Twelfth Federal Census for Prince George's County, Enumeration District #2, 1900; Thirteenth Federal Census for Prince George's County, Enumeration District #16, 1910.
6. Prince George's County Will WAM#1:407; Prince George's County Deed #84:185.
7. Cf. Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for Welsh House, PG#68-10-1; Hyattsville - Our Hometown, City of Hyattsville, 1988.
8. Prince George's Post, 8 August 1968, obituary of T. Hammond Welsh; Hyattsville - Our Hometown, City of Hyattsville, 1988; Prince George's County Deed #84:185
9. Prince George's County Deeds #1291:261, #2422:551; conversation with Thomas Hammond Welsh III, October 1991.



PG# 68-10-74

PG# 68-10-74
Fox's Barn
Hyattsville
Prince George's County
Washington East Quadrangle



Joy's Barn
Hyaltonville, Ph. Co.
Susan St. Pearl
September 1991
North elevation from West



Fox's Barn
Hyattsville, P.G. Co
Susan H. Pearl
Sept. 1971
West facade



PG # 68-10-74

Loy's Barn
Hyattsville, PG Co
Susan G. Pearl
Sept 1991
Smeethurst

399



PG # 68-10-74

Foy's Barn

Hyattsville P. O. Co.

Susan N. Pearl

Sept. 1971

Original express receipt

429



Loy's Bar

Hyattsville, PG Co

Susan L. Powell

Sept 1991

Northeast bedroom



Fox's Barn
Hyattsville, P.G. Co.
Susan H. Peall

Sept 1991

Southwest Bedroom



Lox's Barn
Hyacksville, Pa Co
Susan V. Peare
September 1971
Stair's neckl



Lox's Barn
Hyattsville, P.A. Co.
Susan H. Pearl
September 1991
Stair from north



PG # 68-10-74

Lo's Barn
Hyattsville P.G. Co
Susan H. Pearl
Sept 1971
South elevation from SE