



68-61-13

Foursquares on Webster Street
3914, 3916 and 3918 Webster Street
North Brentwood

This is a group of three substantial dwellings of American Foursquare form, built approximately 1920 in the developing town of North Brentwood. Together they make up an impressive streetscape in this community.

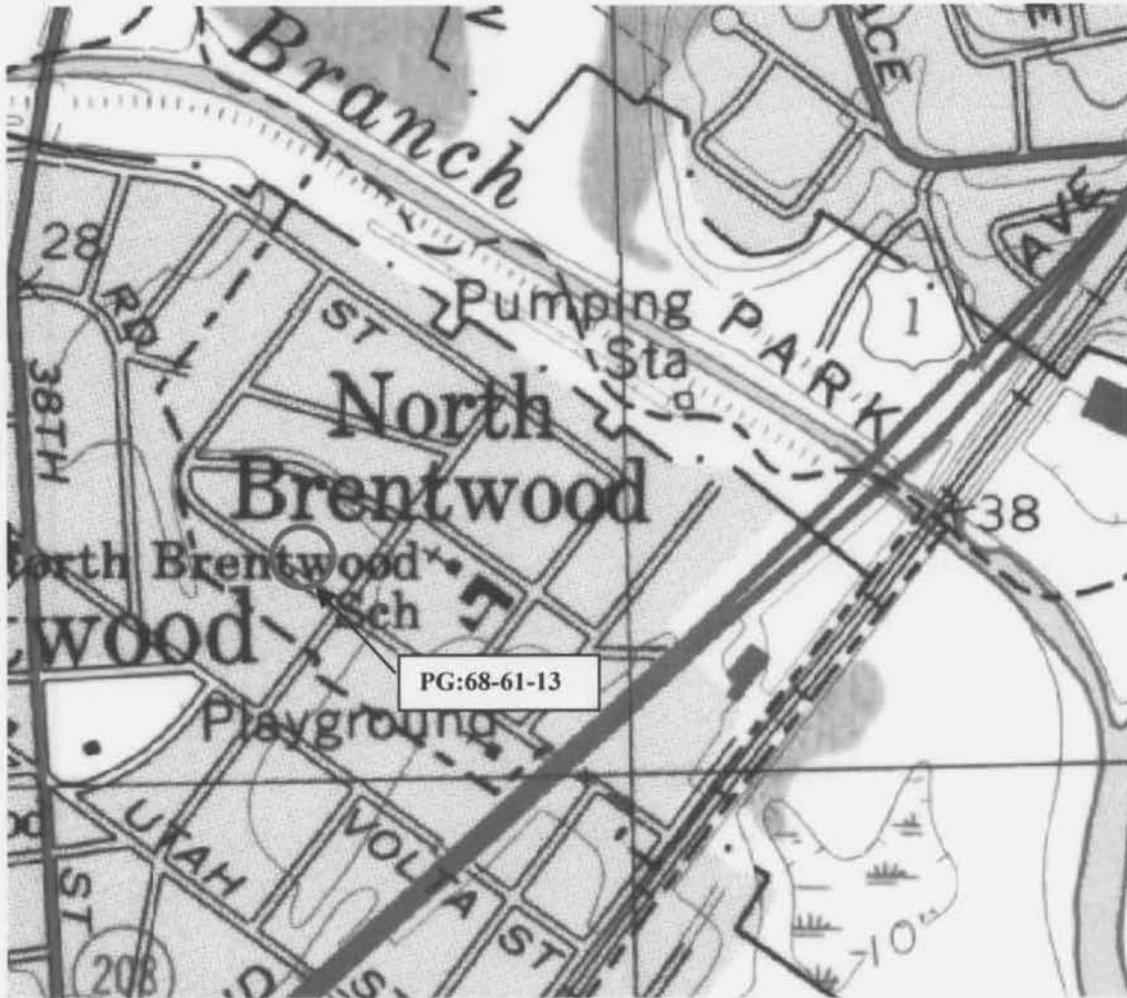
All three houses are 2½ stories high, of wood frame construction, and basically three bays by three bays; each has a brick chimney centered at the peak of the hip roof, and a hip-roof dormer centered in the principal south plane of the roof. The westernmost (3914) is sheathed with synthetic gray shingle; there is a one-story hip-roof porch across the main south facade, supported by Tuscan columns. The central (3916) has plain wood siding painted beige and a high basement of molded concrete block. The one-story hip-roof porch across the south facade has tapered columns resting on molded concrete-block bases, and wraps around part of the east elevation. Unlike the other two

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houses in the group, 3916 has paired windows and a two-story semi-octagonal projecting bay on the east elevation. The easternmost (3918) is sheathed with white and light green synthetic siding; its hip-roof porch is screen-enclosed.

These three lots were developed by Charles Lightbown, an investor/contractor who was actively involved in the development of several nearby subdivisions: Brentwood, Hyattsville and Mount Rainier. The three houses were developed by Lightbown and then sold to individual families around 1920, a period when the Foursquare was a very popular house type, particularly for larger lots in developing subdivisions. The central (3916), apparently the first of the three, was constructed in 1919 just before Lightbown sold the lot (Lot 4) to Albert Mansfield. The westernmost (3914) was constructed circa 1920 at about the time it was sold to the DeNeal family; it remained in the possession of the DeNeal heirs until 1963. The easternmost (3918) was built at about the same time and sold to Sophie Randall, who retained possession of the house until 1959. All three houses are good examples of the American Foursquare, a dwelling type which first appeared in the 1890s, and became popular in the developing subdivisions during the first quarter of this century. These three houses form an important streetscape, representing the largest and most substantial examples of the early housing stock in North Brentwood.

PG:68-61-13
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Washington East Quadrangle



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WASHINGTON EAST QUAD

