

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: #68-61-5 P.G. #68-81-5 Building Date: 1912

Building Name: Owings House

Location: 4535 41st Avenue, North Brentwood, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Owings House is a two-story frame dwelling; it has a shed roof with very shallow pitch, and a narrow ornamental mansard slope on the principal facade. Entrance is in the second bay of the two-bay west facade, sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch supported by metal trellis posts. The original wood siding is now covered with yellow aluminum siding, and windows are modern. The molded wood cornice survives; it is painted dark green, and is decorated by jigsaw brackets.

Significance

The subject house is an important element in the black community of North Brentwood; it is one of three houses built in 1912 by Irvin Owings as investment properties. Owings, a white man who lived in Hyattsville and was later elected Mayor of that town, purchased lots 12 through 15 in Block A, and built three identical houses fronting on Highland Avenue. All three were two stories high and two bays wide, with shallow shed roof, in a form sometimes referred to as a "free-standing rowhouse". This particular house form is distinguished from the flat-front, however, by a narrow ornamental mansard slope on the main facade, originally decorated with jigsaw brackets.

All three of these houses have been substantially altered, by the application of synthetic siding or veneer and by the construction of rear or side additions, but their original lines are clearly recognizable. The subject house is the central of the three. It served as a rental property until 1934 when it was sold to Henry Newton. Despite modern changes, it is still representative of one of the types of urban vernacular dwellings of the early twentieth century.

Acreage: 3,750 Square feet

Survey No. PG#68-61 -5

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Owings House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4535 41st Avenue not for publication

city, town North Brentwood vicinity of congressional district 4

state Maryland 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 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 James Smith

street & number 4521 Banner Street telephone no.:

city, town North Brentwood state and zip code MD 20722

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6801

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 20

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

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#68-61-5

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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.

The Owings House is a two-story frame dwelling; it has a shed roof with very shallow pitch, and a narrow ornamental mansard slope on the principal facade. Entrance is in the second bay of the two-bay west facade, sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch supported by metal trellis posts. The original wood siding is now covered with yellow aluminum siding, and windows are modern. The molded wood cornice survives; it is painted dark green, and is decorated by jigsaw brackets.

8. Significance

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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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1912 Builder/Architect

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

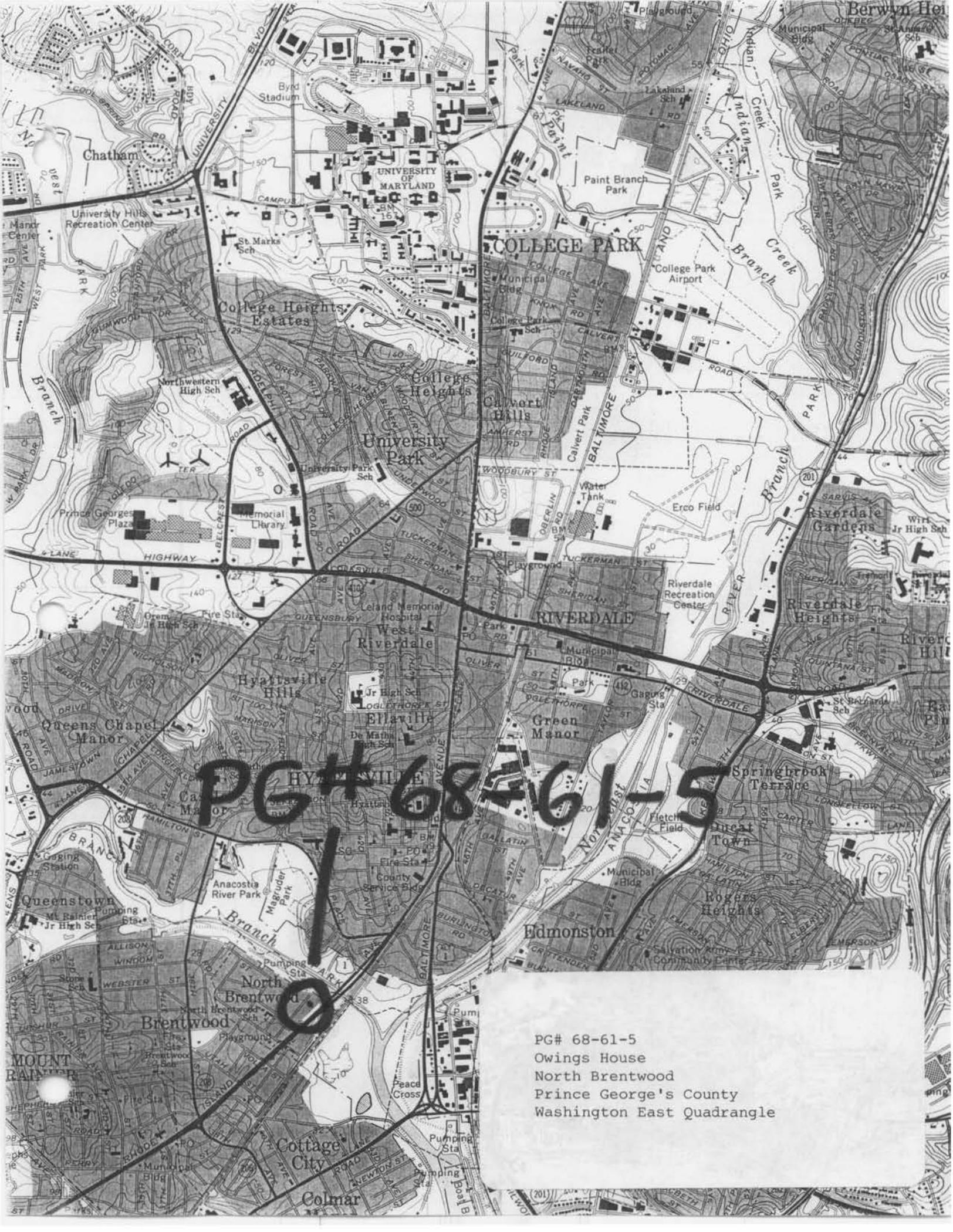
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

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

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PG# 68-61-5

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Owings House
North Brentwood
Prince George's County
Washington East Quadrangle



Reynolds House

4535 41st Avenue, North
Brentwood, P. O. Co.

Susan G. Prall

March 1991

Author at 74 elevation

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