

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #70-48 Building Date: ca. 1892

Building Name: Miller-Christensen House

Location: 9032 Stevens Lane, Lanham, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Miller-Christensen House is a two-story frame cross-gable cottage of roughly cruciform plan. The west (main) facade exhibits a variation of the gable-front-and-wing plan. The southerly portion of the gable front is cut away on first story level, and the second story is cantilevered over part of the west porch. The west facade continues south from the principal entrance, forming a one-bay-by-one-bay gable-roof wing. Sheltering the entrance and filling the southwest corner is a one-story hip-roof porch, supported by plain square posts. The porch rests on concrete piers with some lattice infill. The house is covered with German siding, painted white, but the surface is varied by the use of seven courses of lapped rectangular shingle to form a division between first and second stories. The cornice is plain and boxed, with some overhang; the rafter ends, where they are exposed, have a decorative concave profile. The principal west facade is highlighted by a small square tower with a pyramidal roof, set into the southwest corner of gable front and wing. Extending to the north on the same axis as the south wing is a one-story kitchen wing.

Significance:

The Miller-Christensen House is a good example of a suburban cottage of the late Victorian vernacular style. It is distinguished by its pyramidal-roof tower, and the use of shingles to vary the surfaces. This cottage was built in the 1890's on land which had belonged to Mary L. Stevens, postmistress of "Lanhams" in 1879. A small portion of this land, 3/5 acre, was resold to Jennie Turner in 1891, and on this lot Mrs. Turner built the subject cottage, probably as a vacation home. In 1896 the Turners sold the cottage and 3/5 acre to Daniel B. Miller. Miller's suburban cottage represents a type of dwelling which was popular at the end of the nineteenth century, when the railroad made it possible for city dwellers to escape their urban environment and maintain a part-time suburban retreat. Very few of these suburban retreat cottages have survived, and the Miller-Christensen House is an important landmark today in the railroad community of Lanham.

Acreage: 2.48 acres

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Miller House

and/or common Christensen House

2. Location

street & number 9032 Stevens Lane not for publication

city, town Lanham vicinity of congressional district 5

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 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 Christensen

street & number 9032 Stevens Lane telephone no.:

city, town Lanham state and zip code Md. 20706

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #4754

street & number Main Street folio 254

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

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.

The Miller-Christensen House is a two-story frame cross-gable cottage of roughly cruciform plan. It stands in a small rural oasis in the old railroad community of Lanham. The house is distinguished by its use of tower and dormers to vary the roofline, and shingles to enliven the wall surfaces.

The house faces west, and the west facade exhibits a variation of the gable-front-and-wing plan. In this case, however, the southerly portion of the gable front is cut away on first story level, and the second story is cantilevered over part of the west porch. Entrance is in the bay beneath the cantilevered section, through a door with single-pane transom and plain board surround.

The west facade continues south from the principal entrance, forming a one-bay-by-one-bay gable-roof wing. Sheltering the door and filling the southwest corner (formed by the gable front and south wing) is a one-story hip-roof porch, supported by plain square posts. The porch rests on concrete piers with some lattice infill. The second story window in the west facade of the south wing breaks through the eaves, forming a small cross-gable with boxed cornice.

The house is covered with German siding, painted white, but the surface is varied by the use of seven courses of lapped rectangular shingle to form a division between first and second stories. Windows are 1/1 and 2/2 double hung sash with plain board surrounds and no shutters. The cornice is plain and boxed, with some overhang; the rafter ends, where they are exposed, have a decorative concave profile. The gable roof is covered with red asphalt shingle, and is pierced by two gable dormers (at second story level) in the north plane of the gable front section. Each dormer has a plain boxed cornice, and encloses a 2/2 double hung sash window. A single central stuccoed brick chimney rises from the juncture of the cross-gable roofs. The building rests on a foundation of uncoursed local stone, which encloses a basement.

The principal west facade is highlighted by a small square tower, set into the southwest corner of gable front and wing. It has pyramidal roof covered with red asphalt shingle; a 2/2 window lights its south face and a louvered window its west face.

Extending to the north on the same axis as the south wing is a one-story kitchen wing. This north wing is flanked by later additions. A low shed-roof "mud-room" to the east is covered with unpainted shingle. To the west, a larger shed-roof addition (enclosed porch) rests on a high stone foundation, and is lighted by a bank of three modern windows on each of its north and west facades.

Directly north of the house is a one-story hip-roof cottage, roughly four bays by three, with entrance in the south facade. It is covered with board-and-batten siding painted white, has red-brown asphalt shingle on the roof, and rests on a foundation of brick and concrete block. There are two corbelled brick chimneys at the ridge. Windows in both facades of the southwest corner have been replaced with picture windows.

To the northeast, between the house and the cottage, is a small lattice garden house with pyramidal roof covered with red asphalt shingle.

This complex of buildings stands in a small rural enclave dotted with large old trees and accessible by (unpaved) Stevens Lane running west from Whitfield Chapel Road toward the Amtrak Railroad.

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

Survey No. PG#70-48

Section 8 Page 2

Notes.

1 G.M. Hopkins Map of the Vicinity Washington, D.C. 1894; Prince George's County Tax Assessments; 1888-1900; Prince George's County Deed JWB #4:671.

2 Prince George's County Deed JWB #18:72.

3 Prince George's County Deeds JWB #21:60; JWB #37:585; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1890-1915.

4 Prince George's County Deeds #17:49,508. Cf. MHT form, #70-47, Miller-Breakiron House.

C-M
7719

C-O

C-S-C
119071
ADDN. WESTGATE WOODS
LANHAM DIAL CENTER
4925
5380

C-M

WHITFIELD
R-18
5038

MILTON DIENER
2859/339
3A. P.65

WESTGATE
ESTATES
10621

WESTGATE WOODS

ANNAPOLIS ROAD
PENNSYLVANIA

8032

70-47 P.67

R. M. PERCY
JOS. H. MCCANN, JR.
5799/282
2.16A
3865/375
1.73A
P.58

70-48

JOHN W. HOWSER JR.
4120/77
P.68
443/482
P/O.P.66

TIMOTHY'S
WILLIAM
5663/63
4.0A
P.71

R-R

R-80

R-55

WHITFIELD KNOLLS

LANHAM ACRES
P.124
P.125
P.126
P.127

7593

G.F. HOWSER
5084/264
2.57A
P.137

3722
4624
3992
4031

LANHAM HTS.
0437

LANHAM ACRES
4766

JAMES P. CREIGHTON
4482/343
4.93A
P.131

CUNNINGHAM ACRES
343

LANHAM HTS.
3412

ROLLING VIEW
3559

BELTWAY

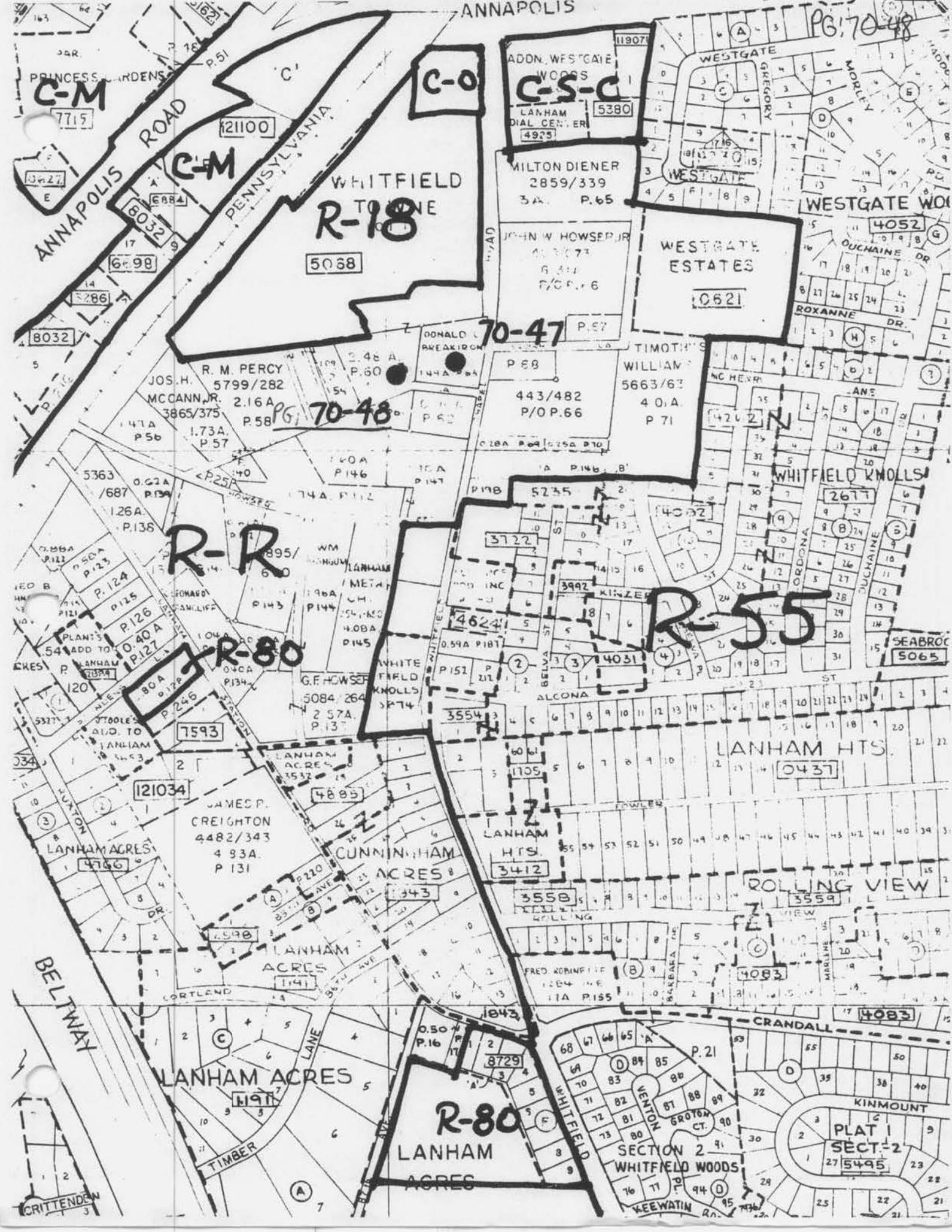
LANHAM ACRES
1141

R-80
LANHAM ACRES
8729

SECTION 2
WHITFIELD WOODS
5495

PLAT I
SECT-2
5495

CRITTENDEN





PG#70-48

Miller-Christensen House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
West elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#70-48

Miller-Christensen House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
South elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#70-48

Miller-Christensen House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
Northwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#70-48

Miller-Christensen House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#70-48

Miller-Christensen House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#70-48

Miller-Christensen House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
East elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD