

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. <sup>Pg.</sup> 66-37-23

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

Maryland Historic Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

Historic Vrana House

and/or common same

**2. Location**

Street & number 4614 Drexel Avenue \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

City, town College Park \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

State Maryland County Prince George's

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<u>X</u> occupied	___ agriculture	___ Museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ Park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<u>X</u> private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ Religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ Scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ Transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>X</u> no	___ military	___ Other:

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

Name Alan Tyler

Street & number 7204 Bowdoin Ave.

Telephone no

City, town College Park

State & zip code MD 20740

**5. Location of Legal Description**

Courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Land Office

Liber 334

Street & number County Administration Building

Folio 9749

City, town College Park

State MD

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

Title N/A

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

Depository for survey records Maryland National Capital Planning Commission

City, town Upper Marlboro

State MD

## 7. Description

Survey No. <sup>P6:</sup> 66-37-23

Condition		Check One	Check One	
<input 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			

The Vrana House is Colonial Revival style. The residence is two-story, two-bay, masonry construction. The house demonstrates such common Colonial Revival features such as: symmetrical façade including balanced windows; multi-pane, double-hung wooden windows. Of the nine principal subtypes of Colonial Revival houses identified in *A Field Guide to American Houses*, this house is a typical Side-gable roof variety.<sup>1</sup> This house is a more simplified representation of the Colonial Revival style, with minimal architectural detailing.

The house has several mature hard wood trees in both the front and rear yards. An asphalt driveway has been added at the southwest corner of the lot to provide off-street parking. Slate stones provide a walkway from the driveway to the entrance of the house on the east side of the south elevation. Mature shrubs and other foundation plantings occur around all elevations of the house.

This two-story brick house is capped by a side-facing gable roof. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof. Eight-inch droplap siding covers the gable ends of the house. Windows throughout the house are wood-framed, double-hung, six-over-six light windows. A one-story, wood-framed addition has been added to the buildings' east elevation to enclose the original side entry to the house, and reorient the primary entrance of the residence to the building's main façade. A porch stoop has also been enclosed on the building's north elevation, to enclose the original backyard access to the house.

The symmetrical south elevation, or main façade, of the building contains two windows with shutters at the first and second story levels. The only decorative feature to this elevation is a brick belt course directly below the second story level, which is encompassed as the windowsills of the second story.

The west elevation of the residence contains a window, toward the south end, at the second story level. The first floor contains two windows, the window to the south side of the elevation is of the same size as those original windows throughout the house, and the window to the north side is of a smaller size. There are also two windows at the basement level contained largely within basement wells.

The east elevation is entirely obscured at the first floor level by the eastern addition. The features of the original elevation still evident consists of a centered brick exterior end chimney flanked by windows on either side at the second story level.

The eastern, one-story addition is constructed of wood-frame, covered with eight-inch droplap siding. The shed roof of the addition is covered with asphalt shingles. The south elevation of the addition contains a centered, nine-light, three-panel wood door, enclosed with a metal storm door, and accessed by 4 brick steps with metal handrail. There is also a window to the west of the door. The east elevation of the addition contains a large picture window comprised of a large, one-light window flanked immediately on both sides by a one-over-one light window. The north elevation of the addition contains two windows. This eastern addition projects beyond the extent of the north elevation. Thus a nine-light, three-panel wooden door with metal storm door is located in the west elevation of this one-story addition.

The north elevation of the building contains three six-over-six light windows at the second story level.

<sup>1</sup>Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Knopf Publishing, 1984), p. 322.

The first story contains, from east to west, the one-story eastern addition described above, a window, and a rear porch enclosure. Painted lapped siding covers the one-story, shed-roofed, wood-framed porch enclosure. The enclosure contains a six-over-six light window in each its' west and north elevations, and a three-light wooden door with storm door in the east elevation.

The interior of this house is similar to the Sears "Berkeley" model.<sup>2</sup> The only variation between the "Berkeley" model and 4614 Drexel Avenue is that the surveyed house originally had a gable end entrance, is masonry construction, and is full two stories.

Behind the house, at the northwest corner of the property is a one-story, wood-framed garage (see figure 6). Asphalt shingles cover the front-facing gable roof of the structure. Two six-light, 18-panel, wooden, overhead doors on the south elevation access the garage.

Prior to the sale of the property in 1994, Ann Vrana replaced the original roof on the house. In 1994, Alan Tyler added the one-story wood-framed addition on the residence's east elevation. Further changes made to the house at that time including replacing flooring on the first floor, painting the entire interior of the house, and waterproofing the basement. Today the property is rented to a University of Maryland professor.

**8. Significance**

Survey No.

Period	Areas of Significance – Check and justify below				Survey No.
<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 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"/> 1900-1948	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/ government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Invention			

**Specific dates:** 1940

**Builder/Architect:** (Bob) Watkins Corp./R. Webster Roth

Check:

Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  National  State  Local

<sup>2</sup>Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, Houses By Mail (New York: Preservation Press, 1986), p. 193

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

Ann Vrana and her husband bought the property and had this Colonial Revival residence constructed in 1940. She occupied the home until 1994, when Alan Tyler the current owner, purchased the property. Ann Vrana's brother, Charles Vrana's property backs up to this residence.

This house was constructed in 1940 by the Watkins Corporation and designed by the architectural firm of R. Webster Roth. This Colonial Revival house is just one in an entire section of Calvert Hills, College Park, Maryland, constructed primarily during the 1930s and 1940s. This house, even with a modern addition to the rear of the structure, maintains its integrity. The house stands as an excellent example of the Side-gable sub-variety of Colonial Revival architecture. This building, even with a modern addition to the rear of the structure, maintains its integrity. This building should be considered a contributing building to the potential historic district of Calvert Hills.

This house and the Calvert Hills neighborhood that it is part of is an excellent example of the suburban expansion that happened as an explosion in the 1930s and 1940s as a result of population boom. By 1940 suburbanites accounted for twenty percent of the nation's population.<sup>3</sup> Colonial Revival plans were especially popular from the late 1920s up to the beginning of World War II.<sup>4</sup> Schweitzer in *America's Favorite Homes* describes the typical features of the Colonial Revival houses as: one, one-and-one-half to two story homes with "Early American" motifs; three to five bays across the front; steeply pitched gable roofs facing away from the street; exterior wall surfaces with a clean look including brick or brick-veneering to achieve a more "Williamsburg" look, or white-painted brick was used to achieve the "New England" look; windows were double-hung with mullions dividing six or eight panes, sometimes grouped in pairs; moldings were simple when used at the entrances; windows, doors and cornice trim tended to be simple and minimal when used at all.<sup>5</sup> Schweitzer describes the interiors of these typical Colonial Revivals as containing: modest versions had five or six rooms with open floor plan; family room generally to the front and service rooms such as kitchen and bath to the rear; some models have entry vestibule; kitchens had up-to-date, modern conveniences.<sup>6</sup>

The compact Colonial Revival served as an excellent starter house throughout the country and was the choice of the 'average American family.'<sup>7</sup> The Colonial Revival style house provided modern conveniences packaged in a traditional, historic looking exterior. The Calvert Hills neighborhood is a representative sample of Colonial Revival construction from the 1920s to 1940s that took place throughout the nation. With numbers of intact, high integrity examples, Calvert Hills should be considered for an historic district with local significance, as a representative manifestation of Colonial Revival architecture and community during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Survey No.

- Ames, David L. "Interpreting Post-World War II Suburban Landscapes as Historic Resources," Preserving the Recent Past. Washington, DC: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1995.
- Franklin Survey Company. Franklin Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: Franklin Survey Company, 1940.
- Gowans, Alan. The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1987.
- Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Edmonston Historical Survey. Upper Marlboro: M-NCPPC,

<sup>3</sup>David Ames, Interpreting Post-World War II Suburban Landscapes as Historic Resources, (Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1995), p. 100.

Robert Schweitzer and Michael Davis, America's Favorite Homes, (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1990), p.190.

<sup>5</sup>Schweitzer and Davis, p. 191.

<sup>6</sup>Schweitzer and Davis, p. 191.

<sup>7</sup>Schweitzer and Davis, p. 191.

1993.

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Plat Maps of College Park. Upper Marlboro: M-NCPPC, 1921, 1928, 1940, 1941, 1948.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989.

Schweitzer, Robert and Michael W. R. Davis. America's Favorite Homes: Mail-Order Catalogues as a Guide to Popular Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Houses. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1990.

Stevenson, Katherine Cole and H. Ward Jandl. Houses By Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. for the Preservation Press, 1986.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7500 square feet

Map 42, Grid D1, Sub 3200, Sect. A, Block C, Lot 46,

Group 80, Plat No. A-0770

UTM References: (do not complete UTM references)

Verbal boundary description and justification

College Park Section A 3/72, Block C, Lot 46

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

State	Code	County	Code
MD		Prince George's	
State	Code	County	Code

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title Nancy Niedernhofer

Organization The George Washington University

Date 23 February 1998

Street & Number 2108 G Street, NW

Telephone (202) 994-6070

City/Town Washington

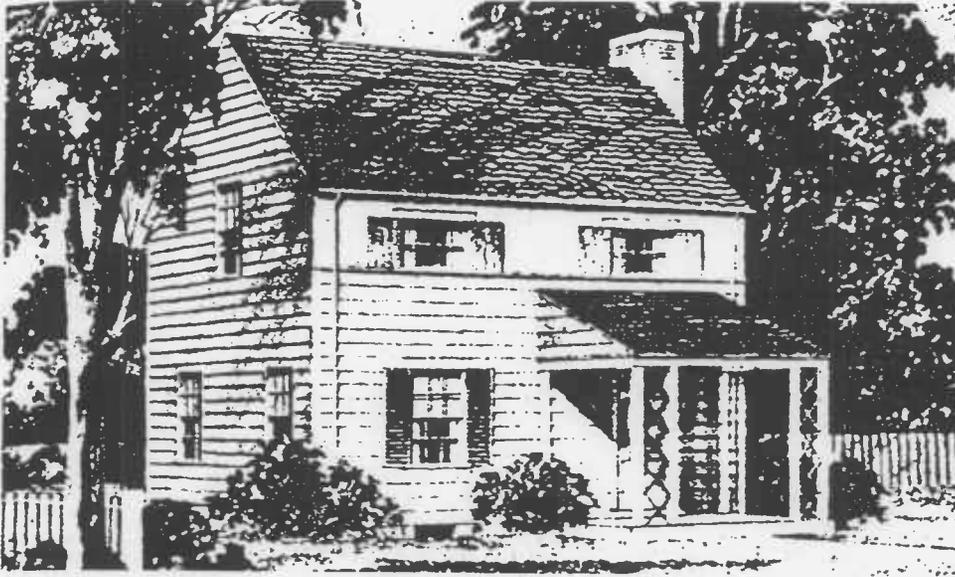
State DC

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

# THE BERKLEY

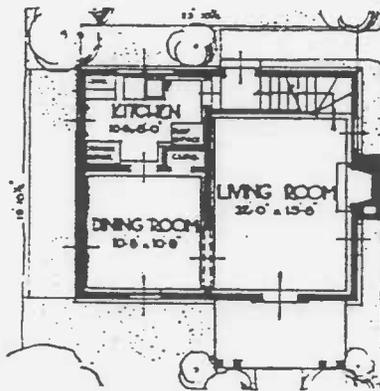


The Berkley, with its plan A and its grown-up companion, plan B, has been created to illustrate that it is possible to plan and start your home in a small way and add "as you need." It has individuality and character, largely achieved by those touches of personality which lift it out of the commonplace. The exterior walls are planned to be covered with a clear grade of siding.

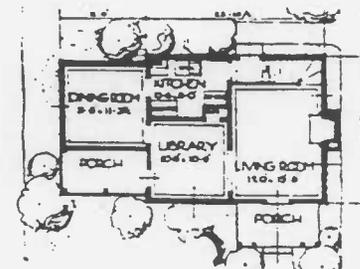
Details and features: Five or seven rooms and one bath. Latticed columns supporting front porch. Two floor plans; fireplace in living room; semiopen stairs.

Years and catalog numbers: 1934 (3401A, 3401B); 1935 (3401A, 3401B); 1937 (3401A, 3401B)

Price: \$1,110 to \$1,435



No. 3401A



No. 3401B



No. 3401B





Figure 1. 4614 Drexel Avenue – Main Façade or South Elevation.



Figure 2. 4614 Drexel Avenue – West Elevation.



Figure 3. 4614 Drexel Avenue – East Elevation.



Figure 4. 4614 Drexel Avenue – North Elevation from Northeast.



Figure 5. 4614 Drexel Avenue – North Elevation looking toward Southwest.



Figure 6. 4614 Drexel Avenue – North Elevation lookin to the South.



Figure 7. 4614 Drexel Avenue – North Elevation looking toward South.