

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Michael Whalen House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 108 Meem Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Gaithersburg ___ vicinity of congressional district 9th

state Maryland county Montgomery

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

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Gaithersburg state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber

street & number folio

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

None

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M-21-117

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.

This residence is a ca. 1920 example of a Craftsman-influenced 2-1/2 story commonly known as a foursquare. It was built at the peak of the type's popularity by a local carpenter and the owner. It has been altered only by the addition of wide aluminum siding on the exterior.

The subject house faces southwest on a near half-acre rectangular lot on Meem Avenue in a neighborhood of mixed architectural styles and lot sizes. Neighboring structures range from 1950 and 60 1-story ramblers on 6,000 square foot lots to 1920s craftsman bungalows on half-acre lots. The house has about a 20 foot setback from the street and is shaded by mature trees and is landscaped with foundation shrubs. A concrete walk leads from a driveway and parking area on the north side of the house to the front steps of the house.

The craftsman-influenced 2-1/2 story frame foursquare is a 2-bay by 2-bay rectangular house with a full width front porch. It has a pyramidal hipped roof with a central hipped-roof 2-light dormer on the front. The single and paired windows are 1/1 wooden sashes with plain surrounds. The exterior cladding is wide aluminum siding with cornerboards and the foundation is beveled concrete block. There is one central brick chimney.

The 2-bay west (front) facade has two small square lights in the attic dormer, one window in each bay of the 2nd story, an exterior door with transom in the north bay, 1st story, and a pair of windows in the south bay, 1st story. The full-width one-story front porch has a shallow-hipped roof supported by three square tapered wood columns resting on a plinth and concrete block piers, a hallmark of the craftsman style. The porch is screened and accessed by five wide wooden steps. A skirting of lattice panels connects the piers at the base.

The 2-bay north facade has two window on the 2nd story, a small stair light in the west bay and one window in the east bay on the 1st story. The 2-bay south facade has one window in each bay on each story. Both north and south facades have 2 rectangular basement windows in the foundation.

8. Significance

Survey No. M-21-117

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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	ca. 1920	Builder/Architect	local history
check: Applicable criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C
and/or			
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C
	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> F
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input type="checkbox"/> local

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This foursquare house was built in Meem's Addition by carpenter Aubrey Mills for Michael Whalen on J.W. Briggs' cow pasture. It is virtually unaltered.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Meem's Addition is part of 200 acres purchased by Martha A. Meem from Mary J. Bibb at \$5.00 per acre in 1862, 1/ which she began selling in parcels shortly after her husband's death in 1865. 2/

The Right of Way for Chestnut Street was first dedicated in 1873 to provide access to houses and commercial property near Wards Station on the railroad and development followed. 3/ By 1894 three fine houses were on the west end of Chestnut Street, one, at 104 Chestnut, being the new residence of the Meem Family. 4/

In 1896, the land along Chestnut, Meem, and Diamond Avenues was subdivided as "Meem's Addition to Gaithersburg" into into 30 half-acre lots adding a short unnamed street (now Floral Drive) and two alleys. 5/ A flurry of land transfers occurred between the children to clear titles and divide the estate. In 1902, a prominent retired farmer, John Wesley Briggs, bought lot 17 from Harry C. Meem 6/ and probably built the late Victorian 2-1/2 story frame house at 102 Chestnut soon after. This initial building boom of grand houses slacked until the late teens when three moderately-priced houses were built on Meem Avenue.

Continued on attachment 8.1

History (continued)

The Whalen House/ 108 Meem Avenue

John Wesley Briggs had also purchased most of the lots on the east side of Meem from Chestnut north which he used for a garden and a cow pasture. 7/ His widow, Mary, began to sell these lots for houses in the late teens. Around 1920 Mary Briggs sold lot 22 to Michael Whalen, a retired farmer from Hunting Hill. Neighbor Aubrey Mills, a carpenter, built this house for Mr. Whalen who is known to have resided here into the 1930s. 8/

The house was owned by Walter M. and Nellie Cox in the 1960s. The Coxes sold it to Marion and Takako T. Randall in 1970, 9/ who moved to Guam and sold the house to Richard and Linda Curphrey in 1972 for \$65,950. 10/ The house was sold to Michael and Cherie Connick for \$74,950 in 1978 11/ and then to the Gerald Clement family in 1979. 12/

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Record JGH9/228 and The Montgomery County the tax assessment for 1863 which lists George Meem with 200 acres at \$5.00 per acre with no improvements.
2. Judy Christensen, "Meem's Addition to Gaithersburg", 1990, for City of Gaithersburg.
3. Montgomery County Land Record EBP10/388 where Ward & Fulks purchased 3 acres by the railroad and a road right of way to the Barnesville Road. It became a public road in 1883 by petition to the County Commissioners.
4. C.J., Maddox Jr., "Map of Gaithersburg" 1894.
5. Montgomery County Plat 3/133 (1896 recorded 1910).
6. Land Record TD24/40 for lot 17 (1902)
7. Land Record 176/33 (1903) lots 18 and 19 and 214/401 for lots 20,21,22, and 23. (1910)
8. Telephone interview with Daniel Robertson, May 1990. Mr. Robertson's parents built 115 Meem Avenue in 1910. Mr. Whalen is mentioned as residing here in a Mortgage Sale Notice for 104 Meem in the Montgomery County Sentinel on March 27, 1931.
9. Land Record 3934/538 (1970)
10. Land Record 4178/555 (1972)
11. Land Record 5211/395 (1978)
12. Land Record 5381/599 (1979)

GAITHERSBURG HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
- - -

ADDRESS 108 MEEM AVENUE
County: Montgomery
Gaithersburg

MHT # M-21-117
LIBER 5381, FOLIO 599

SURVEY # 045
LOT L22, BLOCK -

OWNER: -
ADDRESS: -
CITY: -

PRESENT USE: residence
ORIGINAL USE: residence
BUILDER: unknown

STYLE: Colonial revival

DATE BUILT: c.1900

PHYS. COND: -

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

FOUNDATION: concrete block
WALL STRUCTURE: Balloon
WALL COVERING: wide clapboard

ROOF CONSTRUCTION:

ROOF STRUCTURE: Wood Truss
ROOF COVERING: asphalt shingle
ROOF STYLE: modified hip
EAVES: boxed cornice, wide soffit
CHIMNEYS: -

APPENDAGES:

ADDITIONS: -
ELLS: -
PORCHES: front
SUPPORTS: round columns
OUTBUILDINGS: -

STORIES: 2 1/2

BAYS: 2 X 2

APPROX DIMENSION: -

WINDOWS:

TYPE: d.h.s.
LIGHTS: 1/1
BAY WINDOWS: -
SIDE BY SIDES: -
GABLE TYPES: small one light

ENTRANCES:

LOCATION: left bay
DESCRIPTION: transom

THREAT: none

SURROUNDINGS: residential

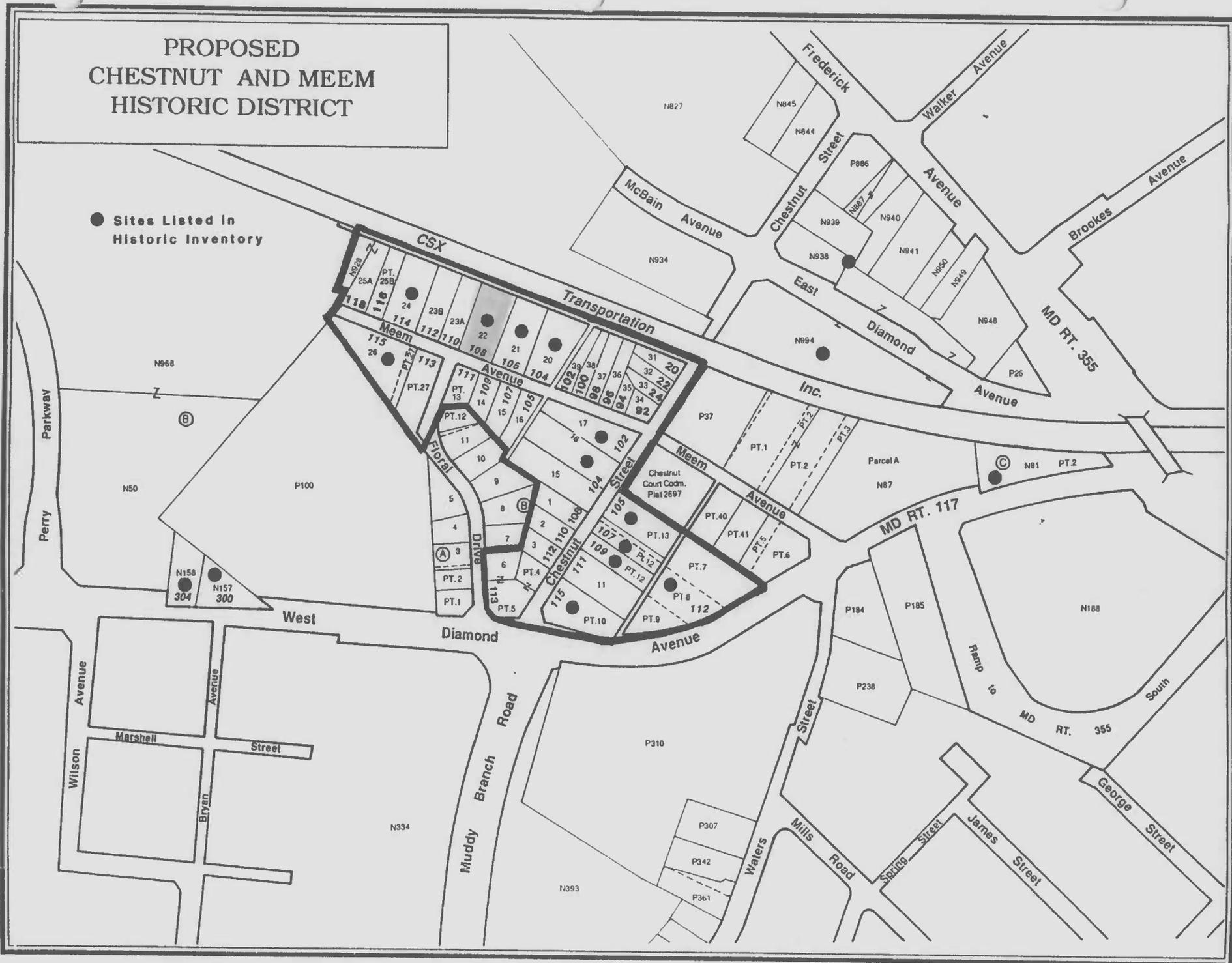
M:21-117

DESCRIPTION: Screened-in porch extends full width, high elevation from ground. Three pillars consisting of concrete block base with wooden columns support the porch. Front-door with one-light transom in left bay, side-by-side 1/1 in right bay. House has boxed cornice with wide soffit. Second story-two 1/ d.h.s. windows. Third storey-half hip roof in center with two small windows side-by-side, one light each. Right elevation-left bay, one 1/1 d.h.s.;right bay, same. Second storey is identical. Left elevation-left bay, smaller 1/1 window; right bay, very small one-light window with casement opening inside. Second story, left bay, 1/1 d.h.s. and very small one-light window with casement opening inside; right bay, 1/1 d.h.s. Rear elevation-left bay, 1/1 d.h.s.;right bay, back porch with door. Half porch is open, right half enclosed, one 1/1 d.h.s. Second story-left bay 1/1 d.h.s. No dormer in back.

Recorded by:
 P.Patula/C.MacFarland
 October 9, 1982
 Historic Inventory Task Force

PROPOSED CHESTNUT AND MEEM HISTORIC DISTRICT

● Sites Listed in
Historic Inventory



108 Meem Avenue

Surrey No. N-81-117 Section 2.1



M-21-117

108 Meem Avenue

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Montgomery County

Photographer Judy Christensen

Date 1990

Front (South) facade



M-21-117

108 Meem Avenue

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Montgomery County

Photographer Judy Christensen

Date 1990

Side (east) facade