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M:21-174

through

M:21-176

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Crawfordtown Survey Number: M:21-174-176

Project: I-270/US 15 Multimodal Study Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no ___ yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Thomas' Addition to Gaithersburg, historically known as Crawfordtown, and located at 200, 300 and 304 West Diamond Avenue in Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, MD is not considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Crawfordtown was originally part of a large 200-acre farm in the 18th century. In 1909, Charles C. Crawford purchased a 1-7/8-acre section of the former 18th-century property and in 1920, sold the property "with all buildings and improvements" to Clyde and Curtis Thomas. The Thomas' platted the acreage as five 13,000-16,000 square-foot lots including a ten-foot right-of-way above the Barnesville Road. All five of the original lots were built upon following their sale with two-story, three bay I-houses. Three of these lots (Lots 3, 4, and 5) were demolished in the 1960s and replaced by the Avenel Executive Park development. The two houses on Lots 1 and 2 still stand as 300 and 304 West Diamond Avenue.

The demolition of original buildings and the addition of contemporary resources within the limits of the original plat compromise the integrity of Crawfordtown and make it ineligible for listing on the National Register under Criteria A, B, C or D.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT Inventory Form

Prepared by: Judy Christensen

Kimberly Prothro Williams April 21, 1997
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: X yes ___ no ___ not applicable

Peter E. Kurtze 4/22/97
Reviewer, NR program Date

Jmg

Survey No. M:21-174-176

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

____	Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
____	Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
X	Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
____	Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

____	Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
____	Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
____	Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
____	Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
____	Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
____	Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
____	Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
____	Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
____	Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
____	Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
X	Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
____	Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
____	Unknown Period (___ prehistoric	___ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

____	Subsistence
____	Settlement
____	Political
____	Demographic
____	Religion
____	Technology
____	Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

____	Agriculture
X	Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
____	Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
____	Government/Law
____	Military
____	Religion
____	Social/Educational/Cultural
____	Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwellings

Known Design Source: _____

Survey No. M-21-174
200 W. Diamond
Magi No. M-21-175
300 W. Diamond
M-21-176
DOE ___yes ___no
304 W. Diamond

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Crawfordtown

and/or common Thomas' Addition to Gaithersburg/ First Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number 200, 300 and 304 West Diamond Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Gaithersburg ___ vicinity of congressional district 9th

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

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

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M-21-174,175,176

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	✓ original site
___ good	___ ruins	✓ altered	___ moved date of move _____
✓ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Thomas' Addition to Gaithersburg now consists of two of the five original houses. The two houses sit on a bank above busy two-lane West Diamond Avenue accessed by a 10 foot wide dirt lane which parallels the Avenue and ascends the crest of the bank. The 1920 plat shows the lane right-of-way, a public pump on the bank just north of 304 W. Diamond but no building footprints. The vernacular three-bay, two-story houses are comfortable with their neighbors across the street, 1910-1930 houses in Hoyles Addition, but are a distinct contrast to the Avenel Executive Park to the north and a townhouse community to the northwest. The two lots have many mature trees, shrubs such as wisteria, lilac, and privet, and are shielded from the road by trees and hollyhocks. Both have old frame outbuildings in the rear.

<u>300 West Diamond Avenue</u>

300 West Diamond is a side-gabled three-bay by one-bay 2-story vernacular frame house with a shed-roofed rear wing. This type of house was built in the U.S. for more than 200 years until inexpensive mail order houses became popular in the 20th century. The builder was generally a house carpenter who constructed from apprenticeship teaching and experience rather than architectural plans. On occasion a homeowner built the house with a crew of friends and relatives. The first individual owners of this house purchased the lot with house in 1923. It was built earlier, but the exact date is unknown.

The side-gabled roof is clad with pressed tin (terne plate) shingles. There is a central brick chimney. The exterior cladding is brick-patterned asphalt shingles while the foundation is fieldstone. The windows are 2/2 with plain surrounds. The full-width front porch has been replaced with a concrete front stoop.

The 3-bay west (front) has a window in each bay on the 2nd story and a window in the north and south bays, 1st story. There is a central exterior door. The south facade has a small rectangular light in the attic and a window in the extreme east of the facade on both stories. The north facade has a rectangular light in the attic and is otherwise unrelieved. The rear 2-story 2-bay wing has two windows on the 2nd story and a door on the south facade and a window in each bay on the north facade. There is an enclosed shed-roofed 1-story rear porch.

Continued on attachment 7.1

Architectural Description
Crawfordtown/ First Baptist Church - 300 and 304 West Diamond Avenue

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304 West Diamond Avenue

304 West Diamond is a side-gabled three-bay by one-bay 2-story frame house with an end-gabled rear wing with an attached enclosed one-story shed-roofed rear porch. There is a one-story side-gabled room addition on the north facade. The side-gabled roof of the main block is clad with modern composition shingles. There is a central brick chimney. The exterior cladding is wide aluminum siding. Windows vary from 2/2 to 6/6 with plain surrounds. There is full-width shallow-hipped front porch supported by wrought iron lattice columns.

The 3-bay west (front) has a window in each north and south bay on the 2nd story and a window in the north and south bays, 1st story. There is a central exterior door. The south facade has two small square lights in the attic gable and a central window on each story. The north facade is similar. The 1-bay rear wing has a window in the 2nd story and a modern bay window in the first story on the south and one window in the second story on the north facade. The room addition occupies the 1st story with a pair of windows on the west facade and a window on the north facade. A ramped double cellar door is on the north side of the main block.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:21-174, 175, 176

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	✓ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	✓ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
✓ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	✓ other (specify) local history
		___ invention		

Specific dates ca. 1909 **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.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Crawfordtown, now known as Thomas' Addition to Gaithersburg was platted by the Thomas family who owned the canning factory. However, the plat probably formalized a previous division. Of the five vernacular 2-story houses that originally constituted Crawfordtown, only 300 West Diamond and 304 West Diamond remain. 300 has been owned by the Fletcher family for 67 years and is little altered while 304 West Diamond has had a number of owners, aluminum siding, and a side addition. In both cases, the basic form of the house remains intact. The First Baptist Church property was originally one parcel with Crawfordtown. It was a frequent target of speculative buyers until its present use.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Crawfordtown (Thomas' Addition) and the First Baptist Church property are part of 200 acres of the 18th century farm "Zoar" purchased by Martha A. Meem from Mary J. Bibb at $5.00 per acre in 1862, 1/ She began selling parts of the 200 acres shortly after husband George Meem's death in 1865. 2/

In 1867 she sold 10 acres 9 perches on Barnesville Road to her oldest son George W. for $1100.00 3/. George immediately transferred his 10 acres 9 perches on Barnesville road to his wife, Mary Jane, 4/ who sold 1 and 7/8 acres to Catherine Cooke for $75 in 1875 5/ and the remainder to John T. Vinson and wife. 6/

Both properties changed hands rapidly. The larger 8+ acre parcel was sold to Thomas M. Lanahan for $2000, 7/ then to Juan Boyle (of Summit Hotel) for $3550, 8/ then to John Sprigg Poole in 1882. 9/ By this time it had a house, as Poole's deed includes "buildings". The longest owners were Charles and Sara C. Davies who owned the property from 1887 to 1922 and George and Hattie Ninas who owned it until 1947. 10/ According to Harry C. Meem, Jr., this property remained a dense woods until the Baptist Church purchased it in 1955 and the house and many of the outbuildings were demolished for the present church building. 11/ The property is notable for its many old hardwood trees and the environment which remains glades and groves.

Continued on attachment 8.1

History (continued)
Crawfordtown/ First Baptist Church- 300 and 304 West Diamond Avenue

The 1-7/8 acre parcel was acquired by Charles C. Crawford and his wife in 1909 through a tax sale. 12/ The land was assessed to Mary C. Neel for $25.00 which remained unsatisfied. 13/ How Ms. Neel came to be assessed with the property is unclear as the land records show no purchases by any Mary Neel after 1861. Most likely, it was a previous tax sale purchase. Crawford may have had the houses built, which would account for its historic name, Crawfordtown.

In 1920 the Crawfords sold the property "with all buildings and improvements" to Clyde and Curtis Thomas et.al 14/ who platted it as five 13-to-16,000 square foot lots including a 10 foot right of way above the Barnesville Road and a reservation at the public pump between the lane and the Road in front of lot 3. No structures are shown on the Plat. 15/

Elmer and Blanche Fletcher bought Lot 1 with the house on it in 1923. 16/ Mr. Fletcher was a greenskeeper for The Chevy Chase Club and commuted to D.C. in his car. He loved to garden and planted the wisteria and other plantings that continue to provide an impressive spring and summer display along West Diamond Avenue. Mrs. Fletcher was a homemaker. According to the Fletcher's daughter, Ellen, all five of the houses were present when her parents bought the property and the pump reservation and public right of way was necessary because all he houses obtained their water from the pump. From this, it is evident that the houses predate the Thomas ownership and the recorded plat. Ellen Fletcher's recollection is that the houses were said to have been built "after the railroad", nebulous dating but certainly earlier than 1920. 16/

The earliest original purchaser of 304 West Diamond on Lot #2 is not known. Mrs. Fletcher recalls that (Papa) Joe Gartner and his family lived there in her childhood but were perhaps the second family. He worked for the railroad. 17/ Lot 2 changed hands several times and was owned by Howard and Margaret Patterson in the 1950s through 1971 and Milton and Ida Boyd after them. 18/

The houses on Lots 3,4,and 5 were the same vernacular 3-bay by one-bay 2-story houses with a rear wing as 300 and 304. These houses were occupied by the Jeffers, Reed, and Norris families in the 1930s. 19/ In the late 1950s and early 1960s they were bought by real estate interests and demolished. 20/ The 3 lots are now part of the Avenel Executive Park development.

The Crawfordtown area also included the later Hoyle's Addition across Diamond Avenue. It had a baseball field, McGraw Field, which was located where the entrance to Londonderry is in 1990. The Gaithersburg baseball team practiced and played there. There was also a hotel, a large house, where the Willow Condominiums are now located. It was known simply as "The Hotel". Both were across Diamond Avenue in the County as was Crawfordtown when first built.

istory (continued)
rawfordtown/ First Baptist Church - 300 and 304 West Diamond Avenue

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Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Record JGH9/228 and Tax Assessment Records for 1863 which list George Meem with 200 acres at $5 per acre and no improvements.
2. Montgomery County Land Record EBP4/148 (1867)
3. Land Record EBP4/149 (1867)
4. Land Record EBP 14/107 (1875) Meem to Cooke
5. Land Record EBP 20/419 (1879) Meem to Vinson
6. Land Record EBP 23/69 Vinson to Lanahan
7. Land Record EBP 27/207 Lanahan to Boyle
8. Land Record EBP EBP 33/26 et.seq. Boyle to Poole
9. The property changed hands many times: Poole to Mary C. Carroll EBP 33/26 et.seq.- 1884, Carroll to Chas. Davies JA 5/79&80 - 1887, Davies to George Ninas Sr. 312/157-1922, Ninas to Lawson King 1144/143- 1947, King to Edgar Douglas 1421/299-1948, Douglas to Robert McKeever 1550/45-1950, Mckeever to Florence to First Baptist Church 2136/340- 1955.
10. Interview with Harry C. Meem, Jr., whose Great-uncle Albert and Grandfather Chloriviere owned property on either side of Crawfordtown. May, 1990.
11. Land Record 202/442 (1909)
12. Land Record 294/29 (1920)
13. Montgomery County Plat 3/212 (1920)
14. Land Record 364/496
16. Telephone interview with Ellen Fletcher, daughter of Blanche and Elmer Fletcher, May 1990.
17. Ibid
18. Land Record 4144/846 and 3200/28 et seq.
19. Ellen Fletcher
20. Ibid

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:21-174,175,176

Montgomery County Land, Plat, and Assessment records. Gaithersburg: The Heart of Montgomery County; G.M. Hopkins Map of Montgomery County 1878. Maddox 1894 Map of Gaithersburg, Interviews with Harry C. Meem, Jr., Daniel Robertson, and Ellen Fletcher May 1990.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10 acres 9 sq. perches

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of "Zoar". Lot 1 and 2 of Thomas' Addition to Gaithersburg.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

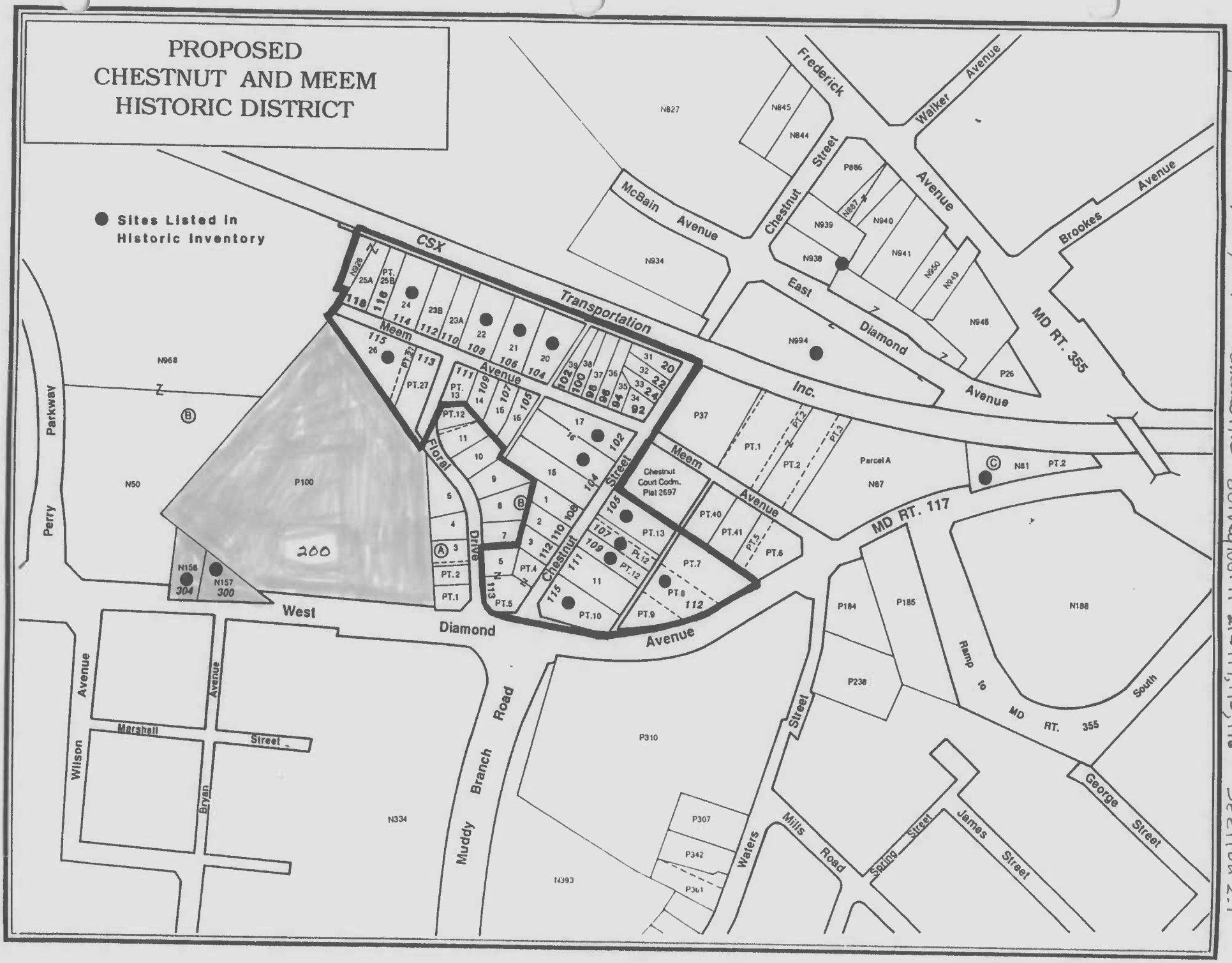
name/title	Judy Christensen		
organization	For the City of Gaithersburg	date	May 1990
street & number	6 Walker Avenue	telephone	926-2650
city or town	Gaithersburg	state	Maryland

The Maryland Historic 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 being 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, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PROPOSED CHESTNUT AND MEEM HISTORIC DISTRICT



Crawfordtown: 200, 300, 304 W. Diamond Ave Survey No. M-21-174, 175, 176 Section 2.1

Mi 21-174

200 W. Diamond Ave

M-21-174

Baptist Church 1990

500 West Diamond
Gaithersburg MD
Lot contains many historic
trees.

M-21-175

300 West Diamond Avenue

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Montgomery County

Photographer: [illegible] Christensen

Date: 1990

Eastern Facade

M-21-175

300 West Diamond Avenue

Gaithersburg MD 20877

Montgomery County

Photographer: Judy Christensen

Date: 1990

South East Facade

M-21-175
300 West Diamond Ave
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Montgomery County
Photographer: Judy Christensen
Date 1990

MBI 175

Crawford [illegible]

Mont Cly Md

2 [illegible] MD State [illegible]

[illegible]

300 [illegible]

[illegible]

1/4

STARLB 01269 NH02A

M21-175

[illegible]

Mont Cly Md

R Suffren

[illegible] State Hwy [illegible]

2/96

[illegible] Record

[illegible] (SW Co. [illegible])

2/4

STARLB 01269 NNN2A

M.21-175
Crawford Hon
Monday 1 P
R Suffrea
MN State Hwy Ter
12/96

300 W Drain
Dwelling (SE Corner)
3/4

STARLB 01269 HNH2A

M21-175
Cranfordton
Mont Cty Md
R Suffner 12/96
MD State Hwy. Admin
300 W Diamond
SE Corner
4/4

STAPLE 01269 NNK2A

M-21-176

304 W. Diamond Ave
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Montgomery County
Photographer: Judy Christensen
Date: 1990
South elevation

M-21-176

304 W. Diamond Ave
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Montgomery County
Photographer: Judy Christensen
Date: 1990
West Elevation

H-31-176

304 W. Diamond Ave
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Montgomery County
Photographer: Judy Christensen
Date: 1990

South & East Elevations

M21-176 Crawford [illegible]

304 W [illegible]

Mont Cty MD

R Suffren 12/96

MD State Hwy Admin

Dwelling

Southwest Corner

1/4

STARLB 01269 NNNAA

M21-176
Crawfordtown
Mont Cty MD
R Suffer 12/76
[illegible] State Highway
Adm
Dwelling
3/4 W. Prairie
3/4 SE Corner

STARLB 01269 MIAMA

M21-176
Crawfordtown
Montgomery Cty MD
R Suffice 12/86
MD State Hwy Adm

Dwelling
304 W. Diamond
West Elevation
214

STARLB 01269 MMM19

M21-176
Crawfordtown
Mont Cty MD
R Suffrance 12/96
MD State Highway
Admin
Dwelling
304 W. Diamond
Porch Detail
4/4 SE Corner

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