

Site: M:26/10/88

The Chinn House

Built: 1906

8 Thomas Street

Builder: Franklin Karn

Private

Features of the new Colonial Revival style and late Victorian vernacular architectural vocabulary are present on this 1906 American foursquare. It was one of the several stylish houses in the West End that resulted from the collaboration of builder Franklin Karn with members of the Beard family. It was associated with the Raleigh Chinn family for over 40 years.



# 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 subject house faces west on Thomas Street, situated on a spacious lot shaded with mature trees and landscaped with boxwood, magnolias and azaleas, shrubs, and evergreens. A boxwood lined herringbone brick walk, a duplicate of the remaining old public walk, leads to the house. A frame two-car garage, accessed by a driveway from Thomas Street, is on the north side of the house.

This 1906 frame, square, three-bay by three-bay, 2-1/2 story American Foursquare has a center front dormer on a hipped roof covered with patterned tin shingles. The house is sheathed in German siding finished with vertical cornerboards, rests on a fieldstone foundation, and has two corbelled interior brick chimneys on the north and south slopes.

In plan, this transitional American Foursquare is square with a three-sided bay on the north side. In detail, it combines elements of three ca. 1900 architectural styles: The neoclassical revival contributed single windows on a symmetrical front and reeded cornerboards on the dormer. The wide eave overhang, pair of windows on the south, and central 6/6 two light dormer on the low-hipped roof demonstrate an awareness of the new Prairie style, while the three-sided bay with decorative wood shingles and pent roof separating gable from siding is a feature extensively used in earlier Queen Anne designs. Previous alterations removed other late Victorian elements, gingerbread porch brackets and gable decoration, and boxed in the turned porch columns. Wooden louvered shuttered 1/1 windows with plain, slightly projecting sills and drip caps predominate.

The three-bay west (front) facade has a gabled dormer with a pair of 6/6 double sash windows. One window is in each of the three second story bays, and in the north and south first story bays. A wood panelled one light exterior door topped by a rectangular transom occupies the center bay. The full width front porch has a low-hipped seamed tin roof supported by four square columns. The ballustrade is plain stick and rail. Four wide wooden steps access the porch which rests on four brick piers infilled with slatted panels.

The north facade is irregular, broken by a two story three-sided gabled bay on the east end. The gable has clapboard siding with a small rectangular four light window in the center. A fish-scale shingled pent roof separates gable from siding. The bay has single windows on each side, both stories. The facade's west bay has a single window first and second story. A two light rectangular cellar window is in the foundation.

continued on attachment 7.1

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Attachment 7.1

The three-bay east (rear) facade has a window in each second story bay, and in the north bay, first story. An exterior wood four-light door occupies the south bay, opening into a screen-enclosed one story back porch. The porch has a low-hipped roof supported by four square posts.

The three-bay south facade has a window in the second story east and west bays, one window in the center bay mid-stories, and a window in the west bay first story. A pair of windows is in the east bay, first story. On the east bay foundation level, a concrete stairwell protected by a steel post double rail leads down to the cellar entrance.

#### Garage;

Behind the house, facing north, a two bay frame garage rests on a rusticated concrete block foundation, sheathed in German siding with a low-hipped roof. Two hinged overhead wood doors with a strip of four small lights are on the north, 6/6 double sash windows are on each side and a wood exterior door with eight lights is located on the south.

# 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

**Specific dates** 1906 **Builder/Architect** Franklin H. Karn (presumed)

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.

### Significance

Built in 1906, #8 Thomas Street is representative of the transitional architecture of the early 20th century. Features from both the late Victorian/Queen Anne design vocabulary and the newer trend toward Colonial Revival/American Foursquare are used on this structure.

### History and Support

Charles A. and Harriet Jones Beard purchased the south half of lot #4 in Mrs. Veirs' Addition to Rockville from the heirs of Dr. Flodoardo W. Howard in October of 1905. 1/ This lot was located just across Montgomery Avenue from the residence of Mrs. Jones' family at 401 Montgomery Avenue (MHT Inventory Site #M:26/10/52). According to the Montgomery County Sentinel of April 27, 1906, the "spacious residence in the west end" was being built by contractor "Mr. F.H. Conn." 2/

This 2-1/2 story frame house reinforces its symmetrical look with the entry door and gabled dormer placed in the center of the front facade. Some late 19th century Victorian elements are also present, such as the two-story, semi-octagonal bay with pent and pedimented gable located on the north flank of the house. The original turned porch supports used on the full width porch are now enclosed within boxed square posts. Although the porch bracketing and decorative gable shingling have been removed, these alterations to the house have been minor and the original silhouette, fenestration, and framing remain intact.

The Beards sold the property in 1910. Sarah Hughes, the next owner, increased the parcel to over 29,000 sq.ft. by purchasing the northern half of lot #4 (which has never been built upon). At her death in 1926 the house was purchased by a young businessman, Raleigh Chinn.

Raleigh Chinn had learned the mercantile trade as a clerk in Welsh's Store (now Wire Hardware) and made his home with the Welsh family. He purchased the house and lot in 1926 but rented it out until his marriage in 1929 to Rebecca Nourse of Dawsonville. The Chinns and their family occupied the house for over 40 years. Mr. Chinn was a salesman at Reed Brothers Dodge for many years. 4/

continued on attachment 8.1

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The house faces the broad grounds of Chestnut Lodge, a private psychiatric hospital, and was purchased by that corporation from the widowed Mrs. Chinn in 1970.

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Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Records 184/157 (1905).
2. It is believed that the paper misspelled the name and that this was the first appearance in Rockville of contractor Franklin H. Karn, active in building and politics in the City for 30 years.
3. Land Records op. cit., 214/357 (1910) and 394/219 (1926).
4. Information on the Chinn family and the original architectural detailing was provided by Jane Chinn Sween.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Montgomery County Land, Plat, Will and Tax Records. Montgomery County Sentinel abstracts. Beard, Jones, and Howard family histories. Interview with Jane Chinn Sween.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 29,400 square feet

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot #4 of R. T. Veirs' Addition to Rockville, fronting on the east side of Thomas Street.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Anne Cissel	Judy Christensen, Arch. Description
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organization	Peerless Rockville	date	December 1985
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street & number	P. O. Box 4262	telephone	762-0096
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city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland 20850
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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

1982

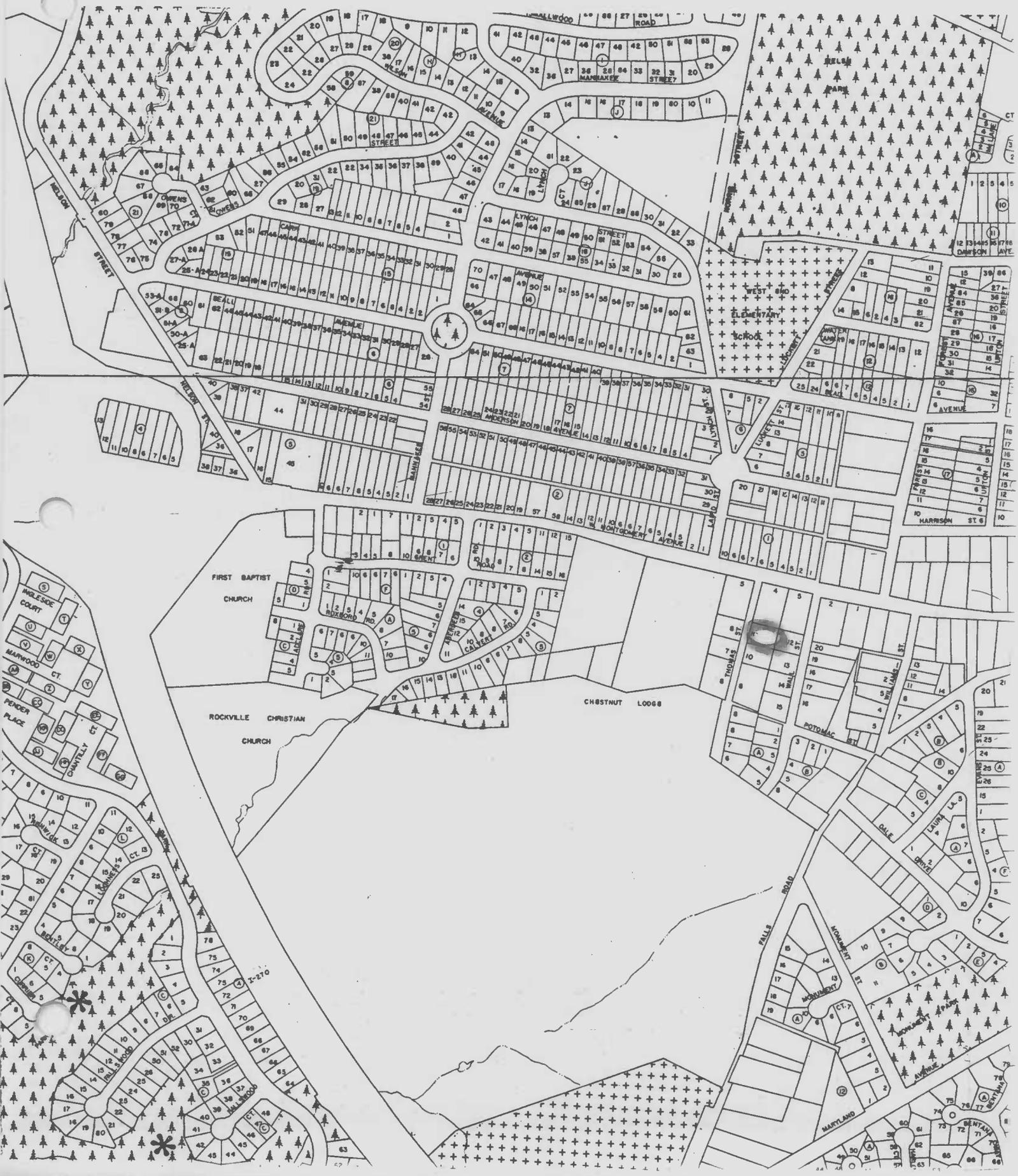
# City of Rockville scale: 1"= 600'

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Chinn House

8 Thomas Street





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04P607A11

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