

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Will Houseand/or common 3603 Rhode Island Avenue (U.S. Route 1)

2. Location

street & number 3603 Rhode Island Avenue (U.S. Route 1) not for publicationcity, town Mt. Rainier vicinity of congressional district 5state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

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

name Grover W. and Mary A. Durnellstreet & number 13101 Esworthy Road telephone no.:city, town Gaithersburg state and zip code Maryland 20878

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4664street & number Main Street folio 342city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plandate 1981 federal state county localdepository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, M-NCPPC, CAB, Rm. 401Ccity, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" 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.

3603 Rhode Island Avenue is a two-story, single-family frame dwelling with a T-shaped plan and a cross gable roof (see Slide #80). The house sits on the knoll on the south side of Rhode Island Avenue between 34th and 37th Streets. The exterior of the house is sheathed with clapboard excepting the gable-end attic and entrance porch pediment which are covered with fish-scale shingles.

The two-bay main (north) facade has a facade-wide porch with a shed roof that wraps around the north portion of the east facade at the first story. The porch is encircled by a simple wooden bannister and is supported by turned wooden newel posts. The east entrance bay of the porch is surmounted by a gable-end pediment, sheltering a single door entry that is boarded up. The west bay of the first story facade contains a single large window opening that is also boarded up. The second story facade contains two, widely spaced, 2/2 sash double-hung windows. The gable end attic has a single 6/6 sash double-hung window. The east and west facades contain 2/2 sash double-hung windows. To the rear (south) of each facade is a full-height, gable-end projection of rectangular plan.

The dwelling's plan, clapboard and shingle sheathing, fenestration, porch and newel posts appear to be original. The simple wooden railing and spindles of the porch may be replacements. The exterior is in somewhat deteriorated condition by the house appears to be structurally sound.

8. Significance

Period	Area 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/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"/> 1800-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1907 **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.

CONTRIBUTING

The single-family dwelling at 3603 Rhode Island Avenue (Block 2, Lot 12, Rhode Island Avenue Addition to Mt. Rainier) is significant as a largely intact example of early 20th century residential architecture.¹ The gable-end facade, pedimented wrap-around porch, fenestration and clapboard and shingle exterior combined with its elevated site, give the house a substantial and well-defined appearance and style. The plan and detail of the house is strikingly similar to several others in the survey area (see 3829 and 3837 34th Street and 3417 Rhode Island Avenue). Although the house is unoccupied and in somewhat of a deteriorated condition, it maintains a high degree of integrity and contributes to the character of the streetscape.

George J. Will purchased Lot 12 from Messrs. Bigelow, Spalding and Rogers in September of 1906.² The house was apparently erected by the following year when tax assessment records first indicate an improvement on the site valued at \$700.³ George Will sold the property to Julius and Ella Staats in 1911 and although it has had a succession of owners (see Chain of Title) its early configuration has remained intact.

Notes

¹ Fire insurance maps indicate that there have been no changes to the plan and materials of the house, see Sanborn Maps, 1921, p. 6; 1939, p. 202; 1939 corrected to 1954, p. 202.

² Prince George's County Land Records, 34:392.

³ Prince George's County Assessment Records, E.D. 17, 1907, p. 140.

