

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-42 Building Date: ca. 1920

Building Name: Bass House

Location: 3705 Rhode Island Avenue, Mt. Rainier, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

3705 Rhode Island Avenue is a two story, three-by-two bay frame dwelling with a square plan. The house is sited on a south sloping lot and rests on a chamfered concrete block foundation. All facades are sheathed with clapboard. The building is surmounted by a low hipped roof and the north slope contains single, centered, hip-roofed dormer with a horizontal 4/4 sash window. The main (north) facade is fronted by a facade-wide, hip-roofed porch supported by four Doric style wooden columns. The porch is enclosed by a railing with plain wooden spindles. A centered entry with sidelights and transom is flanked on both sides by a large tripartite double-hung, combination 4/1 and 6/1 sash window. Across the facade at the second story are three evenly spaced, 6/1 double-hung sash windows with decorative shutters. The east and west facades both have single 6/1 double-hung windows defining each of their two bays. Other than the north facade entry door, first-story wrought iron window grates and second story shutters, the house's configuration and details appear to be original and are in good repair.

Significance

The freestanding, single-family clapboard dwelling at 3705 Rhode Island Avenue is significant as a virtually intact example of early 20th century residential architecture. It is important as a unique example of 1920's neo-colonial design in a suburban context. The balanced facades, center entrance, multi-paned windows and columned porch all contribute to the well-defined appearance and style of this substantial house. In 1915 Lot 1 in Block 3 was purchased by David M. Nesbit, a Mt. Rainier real estate agent. The present house apparently was not built until around 1920 when it was assessed as a new improvement valued at \$1,350. Shortly after its construction, the house was purchased by Samuel Bass, a Mt. Rainier house painter. Bass apparently made other investments and in the mid 1920's his profession was listed as "Real Estate". The house was occupied by the Bass family until 1930.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common 3705 Rhode Island Avenue

## 2. Location

street & number 3705 Rhode Island Avenue (U.S. Route 1)  not for publicationcity, town Mt. Rainier  vicinity of congressional district 5

state 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 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 Peter R., Patricia and Paul Godbout

street &amp; number 3705 Rhode Island Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Mt. Rainier state and zip code Maryland 20712

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5391

street &amp; number Main Street folio 495

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, M-NCPPC, CAB, Rm. 40

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#68-42

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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.

3705 Rhode Island Avenue is a two story, three-by-two bay frame dwelling with a square plan. The house is sited on a south sloping lot and rests on a chamfered concrete block foundation. All facades are sheathed with clapboard. The building is surmounted by a low hipped roof and the north slope contains single, centered, hip-roofed dormer with a horizontal 4/4 sash window.

The main (north) facade is fronted by a facade-wide, hip-roofed porch supported by four doric style wooden columns. The porch is enclosed by a railing with plain wooden spindles. The first story facade is a balanced composition. A centered single door entry with sidelights and transom is flanked on both sides by a large tripartite double-hung, combination 4/1 and 6/1 sash window. Across the facade at the second story are three evenly spaced, 6/1 double-hung sash windows with decorative shutters. The east and west facades both have single 6/1 double-hung windows defining each of their two bays. The north end of the east facade has an attached pair of similarly lighted windows.

Other than the north facade entry door, first-story wrought iron window grates and second story shutters, the house's configuration and details appear to be original and are in good repair.

# 8. Significance

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/ 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-	<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. 1920 **Builder/Architect**

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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 freestanding, single-family clapboard dwelling at 3705 Rhode Island Avenue (Block 3, west of 50 feet of Lot 1, Rhode Island Avenue Addition to Mt. Rainier) is significant as a virtually intact example of early 20th century residential architecture. Within the survey area the house is important as a unique example of 1920's neo-colonial design in a suburban context. The balanced facades, center entrance, multi-paned windows and columned porch all contribute to the well-defined appearance and style of this substantial house.

In 1915 Lot 1 in Block 3 was purchased from Willard and Nancy Bigelow by David M. Nesbit, a Mt. Rainier real estate agent.<sup>1</sup> The present house apparently was not built until around 1920 when it was assessed as a new improvement valued at \$1,350.<sup>2</sup> Shortly after its construction, the house was purchased by Samuel Bass, a Mt. Rainier house painter. Bass apparently made other investments and in the mid 1920's his profession was listed as "Real Estate".<sup>3</sup> The house was occupied by the Bass family until after defaulting on two mortgages, Bass attorney sold the house to Edward and Lottie Smith in 1930 (see Chain of Title).

### Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Land Records, 108:249.
- 2 Prince George's County Assessment Records, E.D., 17, 1920, p. 118.
- 3 See Nelson's Suburban Directory, 1916 and Polk's Washington Suburban Directory, 1927-1928.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#68-42

See Notes, #8

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Washington East

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

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 Howard S. Berger, Consultant

organization Historic Preservation Commission date March 1988

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive telephone (301) 952-4609

city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

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

Chain of Title  
3705 Rhode Island Avenue  
P.G.#68-42

5391:495  
8 April 1981  
Deed  
Salvatore Barranca and Salvatore A. Daniello to Peter R. and Patricia and Paul Godbout. Grantors convey west 50 feet of Lot 1, in Block 3, Rhode Island Avenue Addition to Mt. Rainier. Plat worded JWB5:694 A:6. Same obtained from Francis A. Borelli and Salvatore A. Daniello, 12 September 1978, 4990:391.

4990:391  
12 September 1978  
Deed  
Francis A. Borelli and Salvator A. Daniello to Salvatore Barranca and Salvator A. Daniello. Grantors convey part of Lot 1 in Block 3. Same obtained from J.E.L. Inc., 24 February 1971, 3918:622.

3918:622  
24 Febraury 1971  
Deed  
J.E.L. Inc. to Francis A. Borelli and Salvatore A. Daniello. Grantor conveys part of Lot 1 in Block 3. Same obtained from Edward E. and Lottie Smith, 27 March 1970, 3823:24.

3823:24  
27 March 1970  
Deed  
Edward E. and Lottie Smith to J.E.L. Inc. Grantors convey part of Lot 1 in Block 3. Same obtained from Frank M. Stephen, Attorney, 1 April 1930, 353:495.

353:495  
1 April 1930  
Deed  
Frank M. Stephen, Attorney, Samuel and Goldie Bass to Edward E. and Lottie Smith. Grantor conveys part of Lot 1 in Block 3, from Equity #7824, 1930 (default of Mortgage 327:439, 26 November 1928) and Equity #7756, 1928 (default of Mortgage 199:370, 10 September 1923). Same obtained from David M. Nesbit, 15 March 1921, 169:458.

169:458  
15 March 1921  
Deed  
David M. Nesbit to Samuel Bass. Grantor conveys part of Lot 1 in Block 3. Same obtained from Willard D. and Nancy N. Bigelow, 19 June 1915, 108:249.

108:249  
19 June 1915  
Deed  
Willard D. and Nancy N. Bigelow to David in Nesbit. Grantors convey part of Lot 1 in Block 3. To clear title, this deed is made.







P.G.# 68-42

Bas House

Prince George's County, MD

Howard Berger

Fall 1987

NE

Neg: MD Historical Trust

Annapolis, MD