Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. M:35/91

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Welsh House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3705 Underwood Street ___ not for publication

city, town Chevy Chase ___ vicinity of

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Present Use	
___ district)	___ public	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ educational	X private residence
___ site		___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object		___ government	___ scientific
		___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ military	___ other:

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

name Christopher S. and M. P. Kelly

street & number 3705 Underwood Street telephone no:

city, town Chevy Chase state and zip code Maryland 20815

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse Tax Map and Parcel HN342; Lot 11,Bl. 3

city, town Rockville state Maryland Liber and Folio 14202/0600

6. Primary Location of Additional Data

___ Individually Listed in the National Register
___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
___ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
___ Determined Eligible for the National Register
___ Recorded by HABS/HAER
___ HSR or Research report at MHT
___ Other:

7. Description

Survey No. M: 35/91

Condition

_x_ excellent ____ deteriorated
____ good ____ ruins
____ fair ____ altered

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

Resource Count:

See attached.

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/91 Welsh House (1897)
3705 Underwood Street
Section 7:2

The Welsh House, built in 1897, was the second house constructed in Otterbourne, a subdivision platted in 1894 and later absorbed into the Village of Chevy Chase, Section 5. A rare example of Victorian vernacular architecture in Chevy Chase, the house is located on the north side of Underwood Street (formerly Douglas Street), facing south.

The two-story, two-bay wood frame residence has a gable roof and narrow clapboard siding, with 2/2 sash windows and a simple front door with transom. A rear ell projects to the west. Decorative elements include brackets on both projecting eaves at the front facade. A gable fanlight appears to be a later addition.

After 1958 the original full-width front porch and separate east side porch were replaced with a wrap-around porch, which sits on concrete piers.[1]

The house remains on its original site, Lot 11, Block 3, consisting of 6,250 square feet of land.[2]

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[1]Sanborn map, 1927-1959.

[2]Deed 143:496, 2/19/1897.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 35/91

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

Specific dates 1897 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __ A __ B __ C __ D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: __ A __ B __ C __ D __ E __ F _

Level of Significance: __ national __ state X local

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870 -1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type: Individual

Category: Residential

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Residential

Known Design Source:

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/91 Welsh House (1897)
3705 Underwood Street
Section 8:2

Built in 1897 by Nicholas J. Welsh on property purchased from investor Eugene B. Clark, the Welsh house is notable as the second residence constructed in Otterbourne. It is also significant as a rare and well preserved example of vernacular architecture built in suburban Chevy Chase. The house remains on its original lot of 6,250 square feet.

In February 1897 Welsh acquired Lot 11, Block 3, which backed up to the Williams farm land. The property was assessed with $700 in improvements the same year, even though the deed contained the usual restriction of a minimum house construction cost of $2,000.[3]

Otterbourne is a subdivision established in the Chevy Chase area by four investors: Robert E. Earll, Eugene B. Clark, Raymond Geare, and John Frank Ellis. The men purchased 14.4 acres from the Williams family in 1892, two years after the Chevy Chase Land Company purchased land to the south and west. For convenience, the plat for Otterbourne was filed under Ellis' name. The H-shaped plat was made in July 1894, oriented toward Brookville Road, an important early transportation route. The investors divided the lots among themselves, each one receiving a number equivalent to their respective interest in the original tract of land. Clark and Earll were the only two of the four to build and reside in Otterbourne.[4]

Otterbourne investors clearly saw the advantage of the property's location immediately adjacent to the Land Company's development. The name Otterbourne is a reference to the medieval Ballad of Chevy Chase, which had been the origin for the name of the Chevy Chase Land Company's real estate enterprise. It was on the plains of Otterbourne in Scotland that the armies of Lord James Douglas and Sir Henry Percy met in their fabled battle. Otterbourne benefitted from its close proximity to the Rock Creek Railway (1890), which ran along the newly established Connecticut Avenue. Early residents had access to the trolley by way of a boardwalk from Delaware Street (formerly Dalkeith) to Connecticut Avenue. Otterbourne was absorbed into Section 5, and by the 1920s the east-west cross streets were extended out to Connecticut Avenue and Percy Street was renamed Thornapple Street.[5]

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[3]Deed 143:496 (2/19/1897); Tax Assessment Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

[4]Equity Case #2400, 8-24-1908, describes the history of Otterbourne and its investors.

[5]Gwen Wright et al. "Chevy Chase, Maryland, Survey District: Survey Report: Phase Two," Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997. Otterbourne Plat, Plat Book 1: Page 1 [Filed July 9, 1894]. William Offutt, *History of Bethesda*, pp. 173-4

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/91 Welsh House (1897)
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Nicholas Welsh and his wife, Daisy L. Welsh, sold the property in 1905 to Clifford James. By 1927 the house had changed hands nine times.[6]

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[6]Deeds 184:223, 210:477, 212:188, 218:263, 226:448, 238:122, 246:347, 288:94, 298:160.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M: 35/91

See attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6,250 Sq. Ft.

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

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	Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner		
organization	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission	date	1/98
street & number	8787 Georgia Avenue	telephone	301-563-3400
city or town	Silver Spring	state	Maryland 20910-3760

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/91 Welsh House (1897)
3705 Underwood Street
Section 9:2

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3705 Underwood Street
Section 9:3

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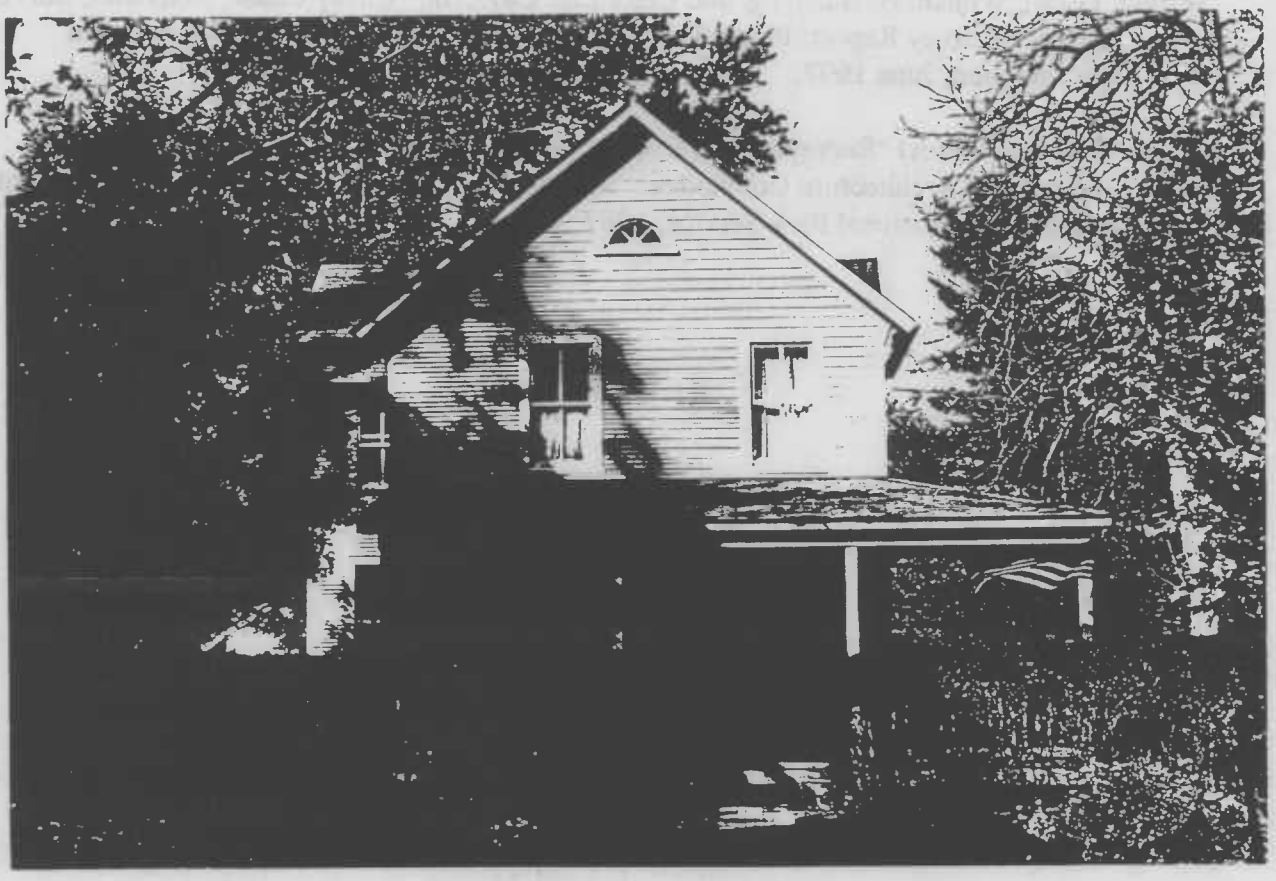
CONTINUATION SHEET

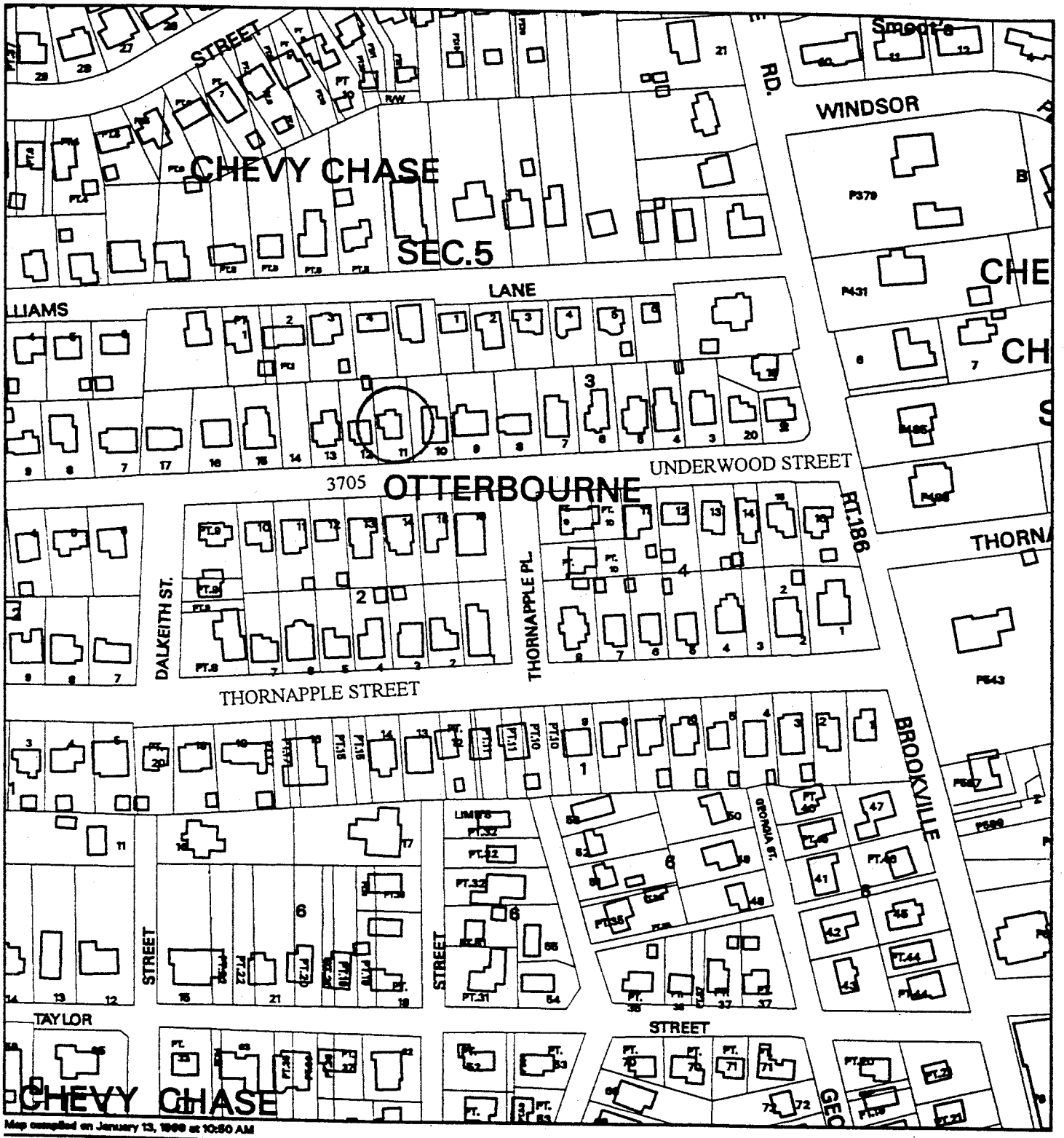
M:35/91 Welsh House (1897)
3705 Underwood Street



VICINITY MAP FOR

OTTERBOURNE

N:35-91



Map compiled on January 13, 1999 at 10:50 AM

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Key Map

N

0 200

1 : 2400

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760