MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. M-35-104

1. Name of Property

historic name Varnell House common/other name

2. Location

street & number 7700 Connecticut Ave Not for publication X
city or town Chevy Chase vicinity X state Maryland code MD
county Montgomery code MO zip code 20815

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

X private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

X building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	___	buildings
___	___	sites
___	___	structures
___	___	objects
___	___	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?
Yes X Name of Listing Chevy Chase Historic District No___

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Residential Sub: _____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Residential Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

_____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
roof _____
walls _____
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

Built in 1925 during a burst of new construction activity in Section 4 along Connecticut Avenue, this substantial two-and-a-half story, three-bay brick residence with a tiled hipped roof is an oustanding example of the Mediterranean Revival style and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

The first story features original 4/1 sash windows in a tripartite arrangement and the front door is framed with paneled lights. Second story windows are 8/1 sash with the exception of a diamond-paned tripart window above the entrance. The full-width single-story porch is supported by Doric columns with fluted shafts.

The original brick two-bay detached garage with tiled pyramidal roof complements the architectural style of the house.

The house remains on its original setting, Lot 1, Block 3, consisting of 18,000 square feet of land.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates 1925

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

The lot on which the Varnell House is located was purchased from the Chevy Chase Land Company in 1921 by Jules E. Henderson for $4500. The property changed hands twice before it was acquired by Louise B. Varnell in 1924. The house was constructed by 1925, when tax records show that the land was valued at $2700 and improvements at $8500.[1]

Some sources link the Varnell House with the similarly designed Henderson House (#35/103), suggesting they were both built by the Henderson brothers.

Malcolm Varnell, who was in the automobile business, is listed at this address in 1927. The property remained in the ownership of Louise B. Varnell as late as 1941.[2]

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[1]Deeds 304:420 (6/8/1921); 322:33 (9/21/1921); 354:157 (3/10/1924); 354:156 (6/16/1924), Montgomery County Land Records. Tax assessment records, Annapolis, Maryland.

[2]Polk Directory 1927; Klinge Atlas 1931, 1941.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. M-35-104

name of property
Montgomery County, MD
county and state

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

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

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Individual

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function (s): Residential

Known Design Source:

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Primary Sources:

Census, U. S. 1910 and 1920.

Directories:
Boyd, *Washington City Directory*, 1900, 1905, 1912, 1913.
Caldwell, S. D. *Directory of Bethesda District* (Bethesda, Md), 1911 and 1915.
Nelson, Justus C. *Nelson's Suburban Directory* (Washington, D.C.), 1912-1913.
Polk, R. L. Polk's *Washington Suburban Directory*(Washington, D.C.) 1927-1928.

Equity Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.

Fisher, Thos. J. *Chevy Chase for Homes*. Washington, D.C.: Thos. J. Fisher & C., 1916.

Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland. Deeds and Plats.

Maps:
Caldwell, S.D. *Map of Bethesda District*, 1915
Deets and Maddox. *Real Estate Atlas*, 1917.
Fava Naeff. *Real Estate Map of the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad*, 1890.
Hopkins, G.M. *Northern Virginia and Bethesda*, 1894.
Klingé. *Real Estate Atlas*, 1931 and 1941.
Maryland Geological Survey Map. Bethesda & Vicinity, 1910.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. 1916, 1927, 1927-1959.

Proctor, John Clagett. *Washington, Past and Present: A History*. Including Biographical Sketches of Prominent Citizens. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1930.

Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital. Washington, D.C.: The Washington Times Co, 1924.

Who's Who in the Nation's Capital. Washington: W.W. Publishing Company. 1923-24.

Secondary Sources:
The American Institute of Architects, *A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter, 1887-1987*. Washington, D.C.: The

Washington Architectural Foundation Press.

George, Mary Roselle. "Developer Influence in the Suburbanization of Washington, D.C.: Francis G. Newlands and Chevy Chase." M.A. Thesis, University of Maryland, 1989.

Gowans, Alan. *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930.* Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1986.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland.* Rockville, Md: Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Lampl, Elizabeth Jo. and Kimberly Prothro Williams. *Chevy Chase: A Home Suburb for the Nation's Capital,* Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust Press, 1998.

Linehan, John. Editor. *The Town of Chevy Chase: Past and Present,* Montgomery County, MD: The Town of Chevy Chase, 1990.

Offutt, William. *Bethesda: A Social History of the Area Through World War II.* Bethesda, Md: The Innovation Game, 1995.

Smith, Kathryn Schneitder. Editor. *Washington at Home: An Illustrated History of Neighborhoods in the Nation's Capital.* Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1988

Wright, Gwen; William B. Bushong; and Clare Lise Cavicchi; "Chevy Chase, Maryland, Survey District: Survey Report: Phase Two," Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997.

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18,000 sq ft

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot 1, Block 3

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner
organization M-NCPPC date
street & number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone 301/563-3402
city or town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910

12. Property Owner

name Linda L. Glew
street & number 7700 Connecticut Ave telephone (301) 656-4690 city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

M:35-104

35|104 VARNELL HOUSE
7700 CONNECTICUT AVENUE