Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Survey No.: M 35/116

Magi No.

DOE __ Yes __ No

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

Historic Freeny House

And/or common

2. Location

Street and number 4106 Leland Street ( ) Not for publication

City, town Chevy Chase ( )Vicinity of ( ) Congressional District

State Maryland County Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
__ District	__ Public	X Occupied	__ Agricultural	__ Museum
X Building(s)	X Private	__ Unoccupied	__ Commercial	__ Park
__ Structure	__ Both	__ Work in Progress	__ Educational	X Private Residence
__ Site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	__ Entertainment	__ Religious
__ Object	__ In process	X Yes: restricted	__ Government	__ Scientific
	__ Being considered	__ Yes: unrestricted	__ Industrial	__ Transportation
	X Not applicable	__ No	__ Military	__ Other:

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

Name Robert J. and S. S. Patch

Street and number 4106 Leland Street Telephone

City, Town Chevy Chase State and Zip 20815

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse Tax Map / Parcel HN 42 Lot P16, Block 7

Street and number 50 Maryland Avenue Liber / Folio 03239/0074

City, Town Rockville State Maryland

6. Primary Location of Additional Data

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

7. Description

Condition		Check One:	Check One:
X excellent	__ deteriorated	__ unaltered	X original site
__ good	__ ruins	X altered	__ moved - date of move:_____
__ fair	__ unexposed		

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

Description

The Freeny house is a three bay, two-and-a-half story Tudor Revival building with a cross gable roof and full width porch. The house is sited on a modest lot with a fair density of mature plantings and trees. The main elevation of the house faces Leland Street.

The stucco house has a full-width porch with a cross-gable, all supported by square piers. A half-timbering motif, most obvious in the large, front gable, is continued in the dormer and in the porch gable.

The cross-gabled roof is tiled and has a single gable dormer. The dormer is adorned with plain verge boards accented with a turned dropped pendant and brackets. Dual nine-light casement windows accent both the cross gable and the dormer. The second story has two sets of dual six-over-six sash windows flanked by operable shutters, and the first floor has two sets of French doors with decorative, full-length shutters. The entry has plain side lights.

The Freeny House represents a transition of styles within the immediate community. Grand Italian Renaissance and Mediterranean Revival buildings at the beginning of the block give way to homes with less detailing and embellishment. The Tudor Revival styling of the Freeny House acts as a cross-over, with a smaller scale building adorned with some style defining elements.

8. Significance

iod	Areas of Significance: Check and Justify Below			
__ prehistoric	__ archaeology-prehistoric	__conservation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 1400-1499	__ archaeology-historic	__economics	__ law	__ science
__ 1500-1599	__ agriculture	__education	__ literature	__ sculpture
__ 1600-1699	X architecture	__engineering	__ military	__ social/humanitarian
__ 1700-1799	__ art	__exploration / settlement	__ music	__ theater
__ 1800-1899	__ commerce	__ industry	__ philosophy	__ transportation
X 1900-	__ communications	__ invention	__ politics / govemment	__ other (specify):
	__ community planning			

Specific Dates c1919 **Builder / Architect**

Check: Applicable Criteria: (XX) A ( ) B (XX) C ( ) D
and / or
Applicable Exception: ( ) A ( ) B ( ) C ( ) D ( ) E ( ) F ( ) G

Level of Significance: ( ) national ( ) state (XX) local

Historical Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

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

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

Resources Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source:

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support:

See attached Continuation Sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached Continuation Sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9,665 square feet
Quadrangle Name _____ Quadrangle Scale _____

Verbal Boundary description and justification

Lot P16, Block 7. The lot has been directly related to this house since its construction in 1919.

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 Brian Michael Lione, Preservation Planner
organization Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Date 24 November 1999
street and number 8787 Georgia Avenue Telephone (301) 563-3400
city or town Silver Spring State Maryland

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 and infringement of individual property rights.

Return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

ıtement of Significance

The c1919 Freeny House is a Tudor Revival style building that is significant for its architectural integrity and meaning and as a representation of a grand development vision held by Fannie Barrett, the pioneering female developer of Chevy Chase Park. It is also significant for its connection to architect Reginald Geare, a well-known commercial and residential architect of the period.

The Tudor Revival style was most popular in the United States from c1890-c1940. A number of identifying features and subtypes define this style, and various period forms of the style can be found throughout the country. The Freeny House is a rare example of the style's application to a small dwelling in the early twentieth century. Previous to 1920, most residential Tudor buildings were grand, high-style landmarks. Early modest examples, such as the Freeny House, were constructed out of materials such as clapboards and stucco to avoid the high cost of masonry and merely applied Tudor detailing an otherwise plain facade. Tudor details on the Freeny House, such as half-timbering and a cross-gabled roof, are only decorative and do not address the historic implications of the Tudor name. The Freeny House is an outstanding example of the transition from Tudor landmark designs to vernacular Tudor forms. A full escalation of the small, residential Tudor was not widely seen until the 1920s, when imitative materials and veneers made it possible to build grand style houses in small scale.[1]

Fannie Barrett purchased a 120-acre tract in April 1909 and platted "Chevy Chase Park" in September 1910.[2] Though a small subdivision encompassing only eight blocks, Chevy Chase Park was ambitious, offering public amenities and substantial, well-designed model houses in an attractive park-like setting.

e the well-known Chevy Chase Land Company, Barrett built model houses to encourage potential buyers. Her first houses (c1914) were modest builder-type bungalows while later houses (1916-1918) were grand architect-designed showpieces. 4105 Leland Street is a prime example of the second phase of Barrett's development, especially due to its direct connection to Geare. The house is one of a number in the neighborhood that can be directly attributed to Geare, a noted DC architect and Barrett's designer for several homes. Geare was a well established Washington practitioner, among whose works included homes in Kalorama (1913-1914) and who later became best known for his theater designs (1917-1922).[3] Geare designed five houses in this block, all built c1917. They are located at 4101, 4103, 4106, 4108, and 4110 Leland. The Freeny House is one of Geare's designs that defies his previous classically inclined works and shows his shift in design interests from Renaissance forms to more popular styles.

Leland Street was a logical location for Barrett to locate these substantial houses. It was the only paved interior street in the vicinity (in the boundaries of what is now the Town of Chevy Chase). Newly constructed by 1915 and maintained by the county, Leland Street was an important east-west thoroughfare connecting Wisconsin and Connecticut Avenues.

Geare bought the property from developer Fannie Barrett in 1917, built the house, and sold it to William Freeny in

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[1] Details on the Tudor Style compiled from Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1997), 354-370, and Leland Roth, *A Concise History of American Architecture* (New York: Harper and Row, 1980), 232-236.

[2] Tax Assessment Record, Election District 7, Volume 39 (1910-1918), Maryland State Archives, Anapolis, Maryland.

[3] Kalorama information taken from "Kalorama Triangle Historic District Nomination," written by Traceries, 1984. Theater information taken from "Architect Dies," *Washington Post*, 21 August, 1927.

tement of Significance, continued:

1919.[4] Freeny was listed as a merchant and the owner of a taxi business during the years that he occupied the house. His business allowed him to pay a reported $16,500 for the house, a price that reflected the grand scale of the neighborhood.[5]

As platted, many of the lots in Chevy Chase Park were a substantial 100 feet wide. Most all of the properties were subdivided soon after purchase, yet the lots in general remain generous in size, providing gracious settings for the houses. In September 1919 the sale of the house was announced in the local paper and described it as having "hollow tile construction with stucco finish and exposed decorative timbering." The architectural integrity of this house is exceptional, as it has retained these and other distinctive Tudor style features during the past 80 years.

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[4] Derived from Tax Assessment Record, Volume 52 (1910-1918) pages 157, 169, and 170 and Deed Book 284 page 351. Tax Record at the Maryland State Archive, Anapolis, Maryland, and Deed Book at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.

[5] Merchant information from 1920 U.S. Census Data. Selling price reported in "Chevy Chase Property is Sold for $16,500," *The Washington Star*, 6 September 1919.

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