

ADDENDUM

CH-551
Maple Avenue Survey District
Charles County, MD
La Plata
Cathy Hardy, September 2002

7. Description

The Maple Avenue Survey District was first identified in 1999 by Tracerics, consultants for the US 301 Transportation Project. In April 2002, an F-4 tornado destroyed the entire district comprised of nine dwellings in a late-19th and early 20th century neighborhood fronting the Baltimore and Potomac railroad. All properties on Maple Avenue were either completely destroyed by the tornado, or were condemned and later demolished as a result of the damages sustained.

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Maple Avenue Survey District (CH: 551)
Charles County, Maryland

The houses in the Maple Avenue Survey District are located in a late-19th and early-20th century neighborhood in the town of La Plata, adjacent to the Baltimore and Potomac rail line on the east, and La Plata's main thoroughfare, Charles Street, on the north. These buildings reflect patterns of residential development which characterized southern Maryland and also stylistic trends in domestic architecture at the turn of the 20th century.

The houses at 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 105, and 107 Maple Avenue are located in a residential area which developed during the late-19th- and early-20th centuries in the town of La Plata. Maple Avenue runs parallel to the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad tracks, and all of the houses face the tracks from the west side. The nine properties in the survey area currently feature medium lot sizes, mature trees and shrubs, foundation plantings around the houses, and gravel driveways. This section of Maple Street was originally part of a middle-class neighborhood with modest-sized houses. Six of the houses in this group were built in the 1890s, and are two stories tall. Five of these are I-houses, or I-house derivatives, and one is a vernacular Queen Anne derivative. In the early-20th century, three one-story houses were built on this section of the street; these are vernacular derivatives of the Ranch house.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH: 551

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____
common/other name Maple Avenue Survey District

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2. Location

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street & number 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 105, 107 Maple Avenue
not for publication _____ city or town La Plata vicinity _____
state Maryland code MD county Charles code 17 zip code _____

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No X

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Maple Avenue Survey District
Maple Avenue
Charles County, Maryland

Inventory No. CH:551
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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Vernacular

Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Not Visible

Roof Gable: Standing Seam Metal, Asphalt Shingle

Walls Wood Frame: Weatherboard, Asbestos, Aluminum, Vinyl,
other Stucco

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Maple Avenue Survey District
Maple Avenue
Charles County, Maryland

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance 1890-1950

Significant Dates c. 1890-1945

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property approximately 10 acres

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

The properties at 1, 3, and 7 Maple Avenue are designated as Parcels 129, 126, and 130, Grid 7 as indicated on Map 113. The properties at 9, 11, 13, 15, 105, and 107 Maple Avenue are designated as Parcels 131, 132, 133, 134, 137, and 138, Grid 13 as indicated on Map 113.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The properties at 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 105, and 107 Maple Avenue have historically been associated with Parcels 129, 126, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 137, and 138 since the buildings' construction in the second and third quarters of the twentieth century.

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 19, 1999
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====

12. Property Owner

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name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 551

Section 7 Page 1

Maple Avenue Survey District
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

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The houses at 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 105, and 107 Maple Avenue are located in a residential area which developed during the late-19th- and early-20th centuries in the town of La Plata. Maple Avenue runs parallel to the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad tracks, and all of the houses face the tracks from the west side. The nine properties in the survey area currently feature medium lot sizes, mature trees and shrubs, foundation plantings around the houses, and gravel driveways. This section of Maple Street was originally part of a middle-class neighborhood with modest-sized houses. Six of the houses in this group were built in the 1890s, and are two stories tall. Five of these are I-houses, or I-house derivatives, and one is a vernacular Queen Anne derivative. In the early-20th century, three one-story houses were built on this section of the street; these are vernacular derivatives of the Ranch house.

The 19th-century houses in this survey group feature wood frame construction with weatherboard, asbestos shingle, aluminum, and vinyl cladding. The roofs are side gable, center gable, and cross gable, and are predominantly clad with asphalt shingles; only one house has a standing seam metal roof. The center gable was very popular on this street; four of the five I-houses have them. These same four houses (15, 11, 9, and 7 Maple Street) also have Colonial Revival, or Colonial Revival-derived, entrance porticos or door surrounds. These porticos are all one bay wide, and primarily feature columns or posts supporting a front gabled porch roof. The house at 11 Maple Street has an elliptical Tuscan portico, which was probably added. The two Colonial Revival door surrounds at 11 and 7 Maple Avenue are marked by flanking fluted pilasters. Five of the six 19th- century houses have 2/2 wood windows. The house at 107 Maple Avenue, which is possibly the oldest, has 6/6 wood windows. All of these houses have single-leaf wood doors, and all or most of these doors are replacements. Most of these houses are in good condition, though two are showing signs of deterioration, and one is vacant with window and door openings on the first floor boarded.

Modest in size, the three 20th-century houses in the survey group are three to four bays wide, and feature wood frame construction with weatherboard, asbestos shingle, or stucco cladding. While all of the roofs are clad with asphalt shingles, two are side gable, and the other is cross gable. These houses are in good condition, though the house at 1 Maple Avenue is almost completely obscured from the road by overgrown shrubs.

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The houses in the Maple Avenue Survey District are located in a late-19th and early-20th century neighborhood in the town of La Plata, adjacent to the Baltimore and Potomac rail line on the east, and La Plata's main thoroughfare, Charles Street, on the north. These buildings reflect patterns of residential development which characterized southern Maryland at the turn of the 20th century and also stylistic trends in domestic architecture during the period.

Following the Civil War, railroads made the greatest impact upon community development in southern Maryland, particularly the completion of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad's (B & P) main line from Bowie in Prince George's County to Pope's Creek in Charles County in 1872. Small towns in southern Maryland grew when they became regular stops on the B & P line, and developed as service centers for the surrounding rural areas. Some stations, however, like La Plata, developed into new communities. The B & P's La Plata station is located near the Maple Avenue Survey District at the intersection of the rail line with Charles Street. The town's first dwelling and store were erected in 1872 by local land owner Robert Chapman. La Plata averaged 150 hogshead of tobacco shipped per day during the railroad's first year. Groceries, fertilizer, hardware and agricultural implements were imported and focused trade at the new town. A cannery opened in 1883 and a grist mill began operations in 1888. The town was incorporated the same year. In 1887, La Plata contained 120 residents, two churches, five stores, a blacksmith's shop, a millinery shop, a dressmaker's shop, a shoe shop, and one hotel, in addition to the grist mill. After the county courthouse in Port Tobacco burned in 1892, La Plata was made the seat of Charles County's government in 1895. The development of La Plata represents a number of distinct periods, from the town's early establishment to the influence of Crain Highway/US 301 on commercial and residential development.

Architecturally, the houses reflect the popular single dwelling types and styles of late-19th and 20th centuries: the I-house, the Queen Anne style, and the Ranch house. A prevalent 19th-century vernacular house type across the mid-Atlantic region, the I-house was one room deep, two stories tall, and three or five bays wide, with a central entry. I-houses usually had a porch on the front elevation and a kitchen wing in the rear, due to the narrowness of the main core. On the interior, a central passage separated the two rooms on the first floor, while the second floor contained

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either two or four bedchambers. During the mid- and late-19th century, pre-cut ornamental detailing was commonly added to the traditional I-house. Toward the end of the 19th century, I-houses were also often built with center gables.

Between 1880 and 1890, the Queen Anne style became the most popular architectural idiom in the United States. This style relied on a contrast of construction materials, varied ornament, and irregular roof shapes. A variety of roof forms were possible, including a hipped roof with cross gables, a cross-gable roof, a front-gable roof, and the town house type. Half of all Queen Anne style houses demonstrate ornamental spindlework. This detailing is often found on porches and gable ends. By virtue of its cross-gable roof, the house at 13 Maple Avenue is a vernacular derivative of this style.

The Colonial Revival resulted from a rebirth of interest in the colonial English and Dutch houses of the eastern seaboard coincident with the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876. Stylistic details in Colonial Revival dwellings were drawn mainly from Georgian and Federal styles; secondary influences included Dutch Colonial and English Post-medieval types. While the Colonial Revival began to become popular in the 1880s, it reached it's height during the 1930s and 1940s. Colonial Revival houses are usually strictly rectangular I plan with few projections, and have symmetrical facades. They range from one to three stories with hipped, side-gable, cross-gable, or gambrel roofs. The house at 11 Maple Avenue was probably originally an I-house; the Colonial Revival portico and door surround appear to have been added later.

The Ranch house first appeared around 1935 but reached its peak of popularity in the 1950s. The ranch house was a distant derivation of the Prairie style and Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian houses. It was also frequently attributed to dwellings on southwestern ranches. The ranch house was nearly always one-story with a hipped, side-gable, or cross-gable roof and low, deep eaves. The exterior could feature Craftsman or Colonial Revival detail. Positioned with its long elevation facing the street, the ranch house had a *rambling* arrangement that fit on the wide lots in freeway suburbs. The houses at 1, 3, and 105 Maple Avenue are variations of this house type.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 8 Page 3

Maple Avenue Survey District
name of property
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National Register Eligibility:

The Maple Avenue survey district was included within the La Plata Historic District nomination that was submitted in 1998. Preliminary research has revealed that the survey district represents a distinguished grouping of vernacular rural architecture. The survey district is eligible under Criterion A because of the association with La Plata's development during the late 19th and early 20th century. Research does not reveal any association with the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). The Maple Avenue Survey District meets National Register Criterion C for its different examples of Colonial Revival, Queen Anne and vernacular designed houses. There is no evidence that the properties are likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). The southern boundary of the Historic District should be extended to include 105 and 107 Maple Avenue.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended X Not Recommended _____

Comments:

Review, OPS: [Signature] Date: 8/5/00

Reviewer, NR Program: [Signature] Date: 8/14/00

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Maple Avenue Survey District
name of property
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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-Present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and
Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: District

Historic Environment: Town

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown



CH:551

MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY GROUP

15 MAPLE AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

east elevation

3 of 12



CH:551

MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY GROUP

13 MAPLE AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

east elevation

4 of 12



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MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY GROUP

107 MAPLE AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

southeast corner

1 of 12



CH:551

MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY GROUP

105 MAPLE AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

southeast corner

2 of 12



CH:551

MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY GROUP

11 MAPLE AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

east elevation

5 of 12



CH:551

MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY GROUP

9 MAPLE AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

east elevation

6 of 12



2H:551

MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY GROUP

7 MAPLE AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

southeast corner

7 of 12



CH:551

MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY GROUP

3 MAPLE AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

southeast corner

8 of 12



CH-551

MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY GROUP

1 MAPLE AVENUE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

southeast corner

9 of 12



CH:551

MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY GROUP

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

view to the southwest

10 of 12



CH:551

MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY GROUP
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

view to the southwest

11 of 12



CH:551

MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY GROUP

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

view to the northwest

12 of 12