5506 Beech Avenue, Bethesda HPC Case 35/3-90A Alta Vista

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HAWP PROCESSING CHECKLIST

Case No. <u>35/</u>	36	-9	101	7						Address: 5506 Beach Avenue
Items Submitted:	WRITTEN DESCRIPTION	раојест нитемт	PROJECT PLAN	TREE SURVEY	DESIGN FEATURES	FACADES	MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS	PHOTOGRAPHS	РКОРЕКТУ ОМНЕК АВВЯ.	Other Items Submitted:
NEW CONSTRUCTION	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Copy of Application sent to
ADDITIONS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	LAP:
PARTIAL/TOTAL DEMO.	*	*	*					*	*	Appearance Advertised: <u>12-26-90</u>
DECKS/PORCHES	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	Applicant/Prop. Owners Notified: <u>12-26-90</u>
FENCES/WALLS	*	*	*		.		*	*	*	Notified: $12 - 26 - 90$
DRIVES/PARKING AREAS	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	Revisions sent to LAP:
MAJOR LANDSCAP./GRADING	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	
TREE REMOVAL	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	
SIDING/ROOFING CHANGES		Ì	*			*	(\mathbf{x})	Ð	×	
WINDOW/DOOR CHANGES	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	
ASONRY REPAIR/REPOINT	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	
SIGNS	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	
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Copy of App.	to .	Арр	lic	ant	:					Original Submission to DEP:
Decision logg	ed	on	ind	ex	card	±				
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MEMORANDUM

Robert Seely, Chief T0: Division of Construction Codes Enforcement Department of Environmental Protection

Laura E. McGrath, Planning Specialist LM FROM: Division of Community Planning and Development Department of Housing and Community Development

Historic Area Work Permit Application SUBJECT: 2-14-91

DATE:

The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, at their meeting of <u>243-91</u> reviewed the attached application by <u>Libble Lum</u> for an Historic Area Work Permit. The

app	1 i	ca	ti	on	was:

Approved	Denied
Approved with Conditions:	

The Building Permit for this project should be issued conditional upon adherence to the approved Historic Area Work Permit.

Attachments: ADD & Attacknecks 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 2020E

Historic Preservation Commission

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tructed on one of the following locations:
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THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION

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more space is needed, attach				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

ATTACH TO THIS APPLICATION (2) COPIES OF: SUCH SITE PLANS (lot dimensions, building location with dimensions, drives, walks, fences, patios, etc. proposed or existing) and/or ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS (floor plans, elevations, etc.), PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AREA AFFECTED, as are necessary to fully describe the proposed work.

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MAIL OR DELIVER THE APPLICATION AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO THE: HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION 51 MONROE STREET, SUITE 1001 ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

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Spoke with <u>Bryan Blundell</u>, Association for Preservation Technology International tar-impregnated felt - not yet available in 1852 <u>Mary Oehrlein</u> - Preservation Architect felt - not yet there in 1852; could have been in 1880 nails - if galvanized, almost definitely not there in 1880 (no technology yet) nail holes - look for multitude

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	Historic preservation commission	-
	Rockville, MD 20850	_
	Dear Laura, HISTORIC PRESERVATION	_
H	COMMISSION, MONTG CTY	-
	In response to your suggestions of some days ago, I have talked with ar. Fogel at the	
	University of Majryland about the roof here at "Alta Vista".	_
	I have not heard from him since that initial contact.	
	Initially also, I have talked with Lois	_
	Synderman, who felt she was not technically	
	qualified to comment on the roof, but who seemed to feel that the Commission gave	_
	individuals too hard a time about roofs!	
	She recommended that I try to contact the	—
	Chief of Technical Services of the Maryland	
	Historic Trust. But, as you seemed to feel	
	that the opinions of the Maryland Historic	_
	Trust people "cut little ice" with this particular commission, I neglect to	
	contact her first suggestion and instead,	
	contacted a local builder who does a lot	
	a work with historic houses her second	
	suggestion. He and I had quite a long	-
	discussion while I was recovering from the	
	flue one Sunday and I won't mention his	_
	name as he seemed very convinced that the Commission here was a bit "balmy" about	
	roofs in general. Therefore it seems	
	perhaps important to protect his privacy.	
	Other information I've managed to collect	
H	from here and there indicates very much that -	—
	the present roof has been there for 50	_
	years at least and what was there before	
	years at least and what was there before may have to remain a mystery!	
I		

<u>M E M O R A N D U M</u>

TO: Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Laura McGrath, Planning Specialist

SUBJECT: Continuation of Review of HPC Case 35/3-90A

DATE: February 6, 1991

As you may recall, the Commission, at its January 23, 1991, meeting, decided to again leave the record open on this case. The applicant agreed to do this in order to further research the original roof material on the house. At the time of distribution of this packet, the applicant had not found anyone qualified to look at the roof and make this determination. Attached, as background, are the past staff reports completed for this application.

Attachments

<u>MEMORANDUM</u>

TO: Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Laura McGrath, Planning Specialist LM
SUBJECT: Continuation of Review of HPC Case 35/3-90A
DATE: January 22, 1991

Commission consideration of this application was continued from the January 9, 1991, meeting in order for the applicant to explore alternative roofing materials and to develop an economic hardship argument for approval. Staff subsequently learned that the roofing material proposed by the applicant (Slateline - GAF Class A Asphalt Roof Shingles) was the material approved by the Commission in 1988 to replace a slate roof at 9829 Capitol View Avenue; in that case, the applicants argued that this was the only economically feasible alternative for them. Upon conference with the Chair, staff then advised the applicant that the Commission would consider the following:

- 1. Does the applicant present a genuine case of economic hardship in that the applicant cannot afford to replace the roof with slate? and
- 2. If so, is the proposed material an appropriate replacement material?

The applicant subsequently completed and returned a Financial Statement form which was forwarded to the Commission.

The monthly income/expense information provided by the applicant appears to show that expenses exceed monthly income. Some expenses listed, however, may not in reality be monthly expenses (ie. lawn care). The applicant has no mortgage on the property and has a number of other assets. Included under assets is the equity in the house itself, last assessed at \$96,810.00 (Fair Market Value of \$274,180.00). It is staff's opinion, therefore, that the applicant does have the economic ability to purchase and install the slate roof at the estimated price of \$7,000.00 by either obtaining a mortgage or home equity loan or by using one of the other existing assets. Thus, a case of economic hardship cannot be made in this instance.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

PREPARED BY:	Laura McGrath	•	<u>DATE:</u> January 2, 1991
CASE NUMBER:	35/3-90A		TYPE OF REVIEW: HAWP

<u>SITE/DISTRICT NAME:</u> Alta Vista

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 5506 Beech Avenue

TAX CREDIT ELIGIBLE: No

DISCUSSION:

4

The applicant is proposing to replace the existing slate roof on this Master Plan property with an asphalt shingle roof ("Slateline", Class A-Brand). The slates are black in color and are approximately 6"x6" in size; the replacement shingles will be black and will measure approximately 7.5"x6.5". According to the applicant, water is leaking through the roof in several places. In addition, slates regularly fall off of the roof. The applicant has stated that the continuing costs of replacing the slates as they fall or replacing the entire roof with a new slate roof are prohibitive.

Alta Vista was placed on the Master Plan as a good example of Victorian carpenter-style architecture, prevalent in the late 19th century; particularly significant elements identified were the gables, wrap-around porch, bay, and pendants. Its present appearance dates from at least 1880.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

On a field visit, staff did see a number of slates which did not look securely attached. The Secretary of the Interior's <u>Guidelines for Rehabilitation</u> recommend retaining a roof's decorative and functional features if at all possible, because of the role a roof could play in adding to the overall architectural character of a building and in further preservation of the basic structure. Also recommended is determining where a problem may lie prior to deciding to replace the exterior roofing materials (i.e., the real problem may rest in the sheathing or support structure) and, if possible, repairing and replacing slates or shingles where needed rather than replacing the entire roof. At the same time, if the present material is not protecting the house and so is not adding to the preservation of the property or if replacement with the same material is not economically feasible, then a compatible substitute material may be considered. The slate roof, according to the attached application, is not original to Alta Vista. Staff does not find that it plays an integral role in the historical significance of the house. There are no distinct decorative features, such as cupolas or turrets, associated with the roof of this house. At the same time, however, staff recognizes the existing roofing material as one of the most durable; this, in turn, aids in the continuing preservation of the entire house. The applicant notes the expense of replacing slate with slate and states that she cannot afford to do so; but no estimates are attached to make her case. The costs quoted in her application would indicate that only a partial roof replacement is contemplated, and no estimate is made as to the percentage of slate that must be replaced.

Staff recommends, therefore, that the record be left open in order for the applicant to provide additional information on the cost of replacement and cost of repair of the roof, along with the extent of damage. If it is found that the damage covers a large portion of the roof, staff would encourage the applicant to replace the roof with slate; as pointed out in Preservation Briefs #4, <u>Roofing for Historic Buildings</u> (National Park Service, 1978), the initial cost of installation of a slate roof may be high, but maintenance over 40-60 years will be minimal. If the applicant provides enough information to indicate that the cost is prohibitive, however, staff would then recommend approval of replacement with the asphalt shingles as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. HAWP Application and Attachments
- 2. Photos
- 3. Presérvation Briefs #4

MEMORANDUM

TO: Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Alison B. Vawter, M. SM

SUBJECT: HPC Case No. 35/3-90A

DATE: January 16, 1991

Attached you will find information submitted by Libbie Dumaine and received by this office on January 16, too late for inclusion in your packets for January 23.

Ms. Dumaine has provided such information related to her income and expenses as she has been able (see her letter).

Please contact Laura if you have any questions.

Libbie C. Dumaine 5506 Beech Avenue Bethesda, Maryland 20814 January 14, 1991

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Laura E. McGrath Planning Specialist HPC 51 Monroe St. Rockville, MD 20850-2419

Dear Laura,

Enclosed please find all the materials you need (hopefully) regarding my financial status. Please instruct the Commission that as the annuity from the Federal Government just began I am unable to furnish information other than my bank deposit slips as the moment to prove that. I have enclosed an attachment from my paycheck from Montgomery College.

As I mentioned to you on the telephone, the figures here are a projected budget for 1991. Also I have included some expenses for 1988 which I prepared sometime ago. They may be useful.

Please note I have included here some photocppies for Alison's file re" the french-drain, etc.

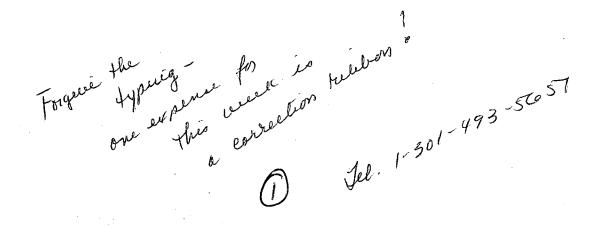
Finally, could you copy these pages and return either the originals or the copies to me by mail? I am sorry to ask this of you -- but my niece is here recovering from "walking penumonia" and my errands this week for perscriptions, etc. preclude a trip to the xerox machine.

I have prepared this with some haste in order to meet your deadline and that of the commission. Nevertheless, I think, within \$100.00 or so in either direction, the projection is accurate.

Sincerely yours,

A. Nempernie

Libbie Dumaine



MEMORANDUM

TO: Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Alison B. Vawter

SUBJECT: HPC Case No. 35/3-90A

DATE: January 16, 1991

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Property FUNU-1989-\$274, 180 Purchasel Aug 1970-\$42,500 USIZ

Libbie C. Dumaine 5506 Beech Avenue Bethosda, Maryland 20814 January 14, 1991 FmU- 89

Laura E. McGrath Planning Specialist HPC 51 Monroe St. Rockville, MD 20850-2419

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Sincerely yours,

Manalai

Libbie Dumaine

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

		Projected 1	1991 bug	lget.	Expenses Now
MONTHLY INCOME		MONTHLY EXPENSES:	Party	Children	Paid by Spouse
Gross: { Less Deductions:	\$ 1575.00. US. Juas 400.00 M.C. 1975.00	Rent House Payment	0		
Federal tax [°] State tax FICA or Retirement	275,00 126.48 16.00	Utilities: Heat, Gas & Light water,sewage Telephone	# 200,00 # 60,00		
All other deductions: County	25/ 00	Food, clean. supplies Clothing Medical, Dental wwreimbursed	₩ 400,00 ₩ 100,00 ₩ 117,00	Ň.A.	N.A.
Net Income:	\$ 1313.52	Transportation gas,oil, main. Insurance: Life	₱ <u>100,00</u> ₱ <u>35,00</u>		
Income from property	182.00	CATASTROPHIC & Health Auto			ntey paying no. for my
Income from any other sources		Other Cleaning help b	200,00	drop i	ut may
Tax Refund		Recreation \$	75,00		
Monies from spouse		Incidentals halr, nails Periodic Pymts.	100.00		
TOTAL MONIES RECEIVED	\$ 1495 52	(attach list) House Ins'. Lawn cut.ctct.#	0 32.50 105.00 726,50		

LITIES
monthly bills 5
usurance, etc.
-
LIABILITIES: \$

I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE ABOVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

e Menjami 199] (Date)

* Projected expenses house maintenance 1991 (2) 1) 1001 2) 2 point la containe states unside Sanners & sealed.

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6338 CAL LIBBIE C. DUMAINE 6-90 5506 BEECH AVENUE 223 BETHESDA, MD 20814 PAY TO THE ORDER OF 25 $\infty 2$ Jh റ DOLLARS C Crestar Bank MD Bethesda, Maryland FOR LID FOLD: 9461-402 10550027071 B090931031 022 O HARLAND 1990

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND REAL ESTATE TAX BILL-RECEIPT FULL YEAR BILL - LEVY YEAR 1990

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CURRENT 534.38	534.3		35.00			381.53
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TOTAL GROSS		DERAL TAX	49.58	FICA	_	376.52
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Montgomery County (Md.) Taxes. 2. State of MD taxes (in addition to withholding.	,407.85 65.93
Appliance Repair and Replacement.	e.
Air-Conditioner Maintenance Call (Bray and Scharf) Air-Conditioner Maintenance Call Air-Conditioner Maintenance Call	\$ 61.16 \$ 61.68 \$ 47.00
Replacement: Second Floor Airconditioner (\$ 698.38
Service call. Washer/Dryer (Sears)	\$116.67
Replace Refrigerator. (Bray/Scharf)	\$685.87.
Total appliance repair and replacement: 1988.	\$1670.76
Fireplace cleaning. Chimney Sweep. 7/2 Re-wire porch chandeliers (safety) (2)	52.50 136.50
Heating, Plumbing 1/23 Furnace on. New Thermostat. Furnace on	32.50 72.00 32.50
Snake Toilet. Powder Rm.	43.20
Lawn and Trees. Wood Acres Tree Specialists. Pruning, etc. Removal of Tree Struck by Lightenening in Aug. Labor. Grass Cutting. April-July	\$495.00 \$150. \$180.
Lawn Edger. (old one rusted) Mulch Hedge Trimmer (old one rusted) Lawn Mower Repair. (blade upside down) Lawn-Pro. Fertilizer. weed killer, winterpreparation.	44.00 15.82 49.00 46.87 266.62
Total: Heat Maintainance. Plumbing. Lawn and Trees.	1616.51.
Total: Property, Appliance Repair, replace.; Heat. Plumb	bing.
Lawn and Trees. 1988.	\$5694.12.



Allstate House Insurance (Fire/Hazard)	\$217.00
Umbrella	\$53.14
Washington Surburban Sanitary Comm. Total.1988	\$296.00
Marvland Natural Gas	\$919.45
Pepco Electric	\$871,33

	•	
Cleaning Help. Carpet Cleaning	(January-May) (Sears)	\$820.00 \$ 69.99
Locksmith.		\$150.25
Pest Control Arrest a Pest	(April) (Arab) (Arab) Total:	\$195.00 \$20.00 \$20.00 \$215.00

Montgomery County Journal

\$ 42.00

House Insurance, Utilities (excluding telephone) Cleaning Locksmith pest Control County newspaper.

Total.

3654.46

MEMORANDUM

TO: Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Laura McGrath, Planning Specialist LM

SUBJECT: Continuation of Review of HPC Case 35/3-90A

DATE: January 16, 1991

Commission consideration of this application was continued from the January 9, 1991, meeting in order for the applicant to explore alternative roofing materials and to develop an economic hardship argument for approval. Staff subsequently learned that the roofing material proposed by the applicant (Slateline - GAF Class A Asphalt Roof Shingles) was the material approved by the Commission in 1988 to replace a slate roof at 9829 Capitol View Avenue; the applicants argued that this was the only economically feasible alternative for them. Upon conference with the Chair, staff then advised the applicant that the Commission would consider the following:

1. Does the applicant present a genuine case of economic hardship in that the applicant cannot afford to replace the roof with slate? and

2. If so, is the proposed material an appropriate replacement material?

The applicant was asked to provide a variety of information in order to prove economic hardship and was sent the attached <u>Financial Statement</u> form. At the time of distribution, however, the applicant had not submitted this material. A special distribution prior to the January 23 meeting will be made when the material is received.

Attachment



Montgomery County Covernment

January 11, 1991

Libbie Dumaine 5506 Beech Avenue Bethesda, Maryland 20814-1702

RE: HPC Case 35/3-90A

Dear Ms. Dumaine:

As you know, the Historic Preservation Commission, with your agreement, decided to keep the record open regarding your application for an Historic Area Work Permit to replace the roof of your property at 5506 Beech Avenue, Bethesda and to continue the public appearance to January 23, 1991. The record was left open so that the Commission could further review your request to approve replacement of the existing slate roof with "Slateline" asphalt shingles based on economic hardship. However, the Commission needs more information from you prior to the January 23 meeting.

Enclosed please find a Financial Statement form used by the Circuit Court of Maryland. Provision of the information, with complete supporting documentation, listed on this form would greatly help the Commission, as would any other information you can provide which demonstrates your financial inability to replace the roof with slate at the estimated price you provided in your Historic Area Work Permit application. As we discussed today in our phone conversation, the Commission would also be interested in information demonstrating your inability to obtain or afford a home rehabilitation loan such as a written refusal from a lending institution.

As the Commission is scheduled to consider your application further on January 23, I would appreciate you submitting this information to me as soon as possible. My normal distribution packet for the meeting will be mailed on January 16. Please call me at 217-3625 with any questions and thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

AWA E. M. Grath

Laura E. McGrath, Planning Specialist

Attachment

2428E

Historic Preservation Commission

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

MONTHLY INCOME		MONTHLY EXPENSES:	Party	Children	Expenses Now Paid by Spouse
Gross:	\$	Rent	<u> </u>		
Less Deductions:		House Payment			
Federal tax State tax		Utilities: Heat, Gas & Light			
FICA or Retirement		Telephone	<u></u>		
All other		Food			
deductions:		Clothing			
		Medical, Dental			
Net Income:	S	Transportation			<u></u>
Income from property	×	Insurance: Life Health Auto	i		
Income from any		Other			
other sources	<u> </u>	Child Care Expense	······		
Tax Refund	<u> </u>	Recreation			
Monies from		Incidentals			
spouse Total monies Received	\$	Periodic Pymts. (attach list)			
		TOTAL EXPENSES:			

ASSETS:		LIABILITIES	
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TOTAL ASSETS:	\$	TOTAL LIABILITIES:	\$
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I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE ABOVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

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(Party)

(Date)

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page 6 May 19, 1988 HPC minutes

Misis the same type of roof material proposed by MS. Dremainer Ulass A AF-State line

3. Mr. Cantelon opened the record on application of Peter and Cynthia Rinek, 9829 Capitol View Avenue, Capitol View Park Historic District (#31/7) to install front and rear fences, and add a new roof. Mrs. Hann entered into record notice of the public hearing which had appeared in the Journal newspaper. Mrs. Hahn stated that the LAC had recommended approval for the installation of a picket fence along the front of the property line, a 9 foot lattice screen behind the house to screen this resource from an adjacent new home, and the substitution of the existing deteriorating slate roof with slate line asphalt shingle. She further noted that the Maryland Historical Trust, which holds an easement on the property, had approved of the slateline subject to the approval <u>of the HPC. Slateline has</u> a distinctive shadow effect which in many ways duplicates that of slate. The applicants presented cost est<u>im</u>ates for <u>slate, super slate, prestique</u>, and slateline, stating that slateline was the only economically feasible alternative for them. Mr. Rinek said that the metal roofing on the front and back porches and the slate on the sides of the dormer will remain. He also indicated that the fences, both front and rear, would be painted white.

MOTION: Mr. Miskin moved that the application of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rinek be approved as submitted based on 24A-8(b)(1) and(2). Mr. Karr seconded the motion, Mr. Cantelon closed the record, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Mr. Cantelon opened the record on the application of James and Margaret Cooper, 3928 Washington Street, Kensington Historic District (#31/6) to install a 6 foot fence on the rear and side of the property. The LAC recommended denial of the fence along the side of which the property on Prospect Street. Mrs. Hahn entered into the record a notice of the public hearing which had appeared in the Journal newspaper. Mrs. Hahn reported that the LAC had found that the construction of the 6 foot fence along Prospect Street would be detrimental to the established streetscape. They had recommended that the 6 foot high fence would be acceptable if it extended from the side building plane of the house to the rear property line and that a height of no greater than 3'6" would be acceptable beyond the side building plane. Dr. Cooper said that the installation of this fence was necessitated by their concern for noise from Summit Street, for the privacy and safety of their children who play in the back yard, and to provide a backyard play area which utilizes the entire area. Dr. Cooper indicated that the location of the fence would be inside the present screening. Dr. Cooper stated that he could agree to a 5 foot fence along Prospect Street, which would probably provide safety for his children. Mr. Miskin and other Commissioners suggested that a spiney bush barrier would be sufficient to deter any intruders into the property. Mr. Cantelon said that in his opinion the Wyngate style fence is not a real privacy fence and is not an appropriate style for the Kensington Historic District.

Mono Contract I Office GALLEXT HPC YPS 1. Name: Keiser House (Alta Vista) 2A 25 2. Planning Area/Site Number: 35/3 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 21 A-6 4. Address: 5506 Beech Avenue, Bethesda 5. Classification Summary building orivate Category_ Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC Ownership___ Title and Date: 1976 Inventory of Public Acquisition N/A Historical Sites Status occupied Accessible Federal____State<u>x_</u>County<u>x_</u>Local___ no Present use private residence ć. Date: 1852/1865/1880 7. Original Owner: 1852-1865 - Theodore Boucher or Thomas Homiller 5. Apparent Condition 1880 - Louis Keiser (remodel led earlier house) a. good altered _____b. c. <u>original site</u> 2. Description: This 3 bay by 4 bay, L-shaped house faces northwest. Its gabl

roofs are covered with slate shingles, and it is sheathed in dark green novelty siding. There is a shed-roofed dormer on the south facade. The house sits high off the ground, with a full fieldstone basement and lattice work under portions of the wrap-around porch. The porch extends around thr facades of the house and features turned columns and knob-shaped pendills; some porch piers are stone while the rest are of brick. The northwest (fro door is wooden paneled and has a one-light transom above. There is another door on the south facade and a basement entrance on the east. The 2-story mitred bay window on the north facade adds elegance to the house. There ar 3 windows on the first level (2/2 double-hung), 3 on the second (6/6), and small window in the gable. Knob-shaped pendills match those on the porch. Most of the windows in the house are 2/2 double-hung and are flanked by bla wooden louvered shutters. There is a small 1-story addition on the NE corn 10. Significance: Situated on land that was a prosperous farm from the 18th C., this house may be a Victorian adaptation of a house built between 1852 and 1865. Owned in the mid-18th C. by Georgetown merchant Andrew Heugh who served as representative from Frederick County to the Maryland House of Delegates between 1768 and 1770, the land was sold by his heirs c. 1810. Between 1811 and 1848, a tenant maintained the farm, then it was sold to Theodore Boucher who in 1857 sold 145 acres to Thomas Homiller. Probably either Boucher or Homiller built a new house to replace an older structure occupied by various tenants. The present house is either a completely new house constructed c. 1880 by Louis Keiser who owned the property from 1875 to 1896 or his extensive remodeling of a mid-Victorian house. During the 1895-1905 period, the electric railroad and improvement of the Rockville Turnnike made this "Alta Vista" area prime for development. This property changed hands several times, being subdivided into smaller "villa and cottage estates". The acreage fronting the house was bought for construction of the Bethesda Y.W.C.A. and the airy Victorian verandah that once looked of on 19th C. Old Georgetown Ed. now faces the 20th C. tennis courts. The trolley right-of-way immediately west of the house, abandoned in 1935, is now a bike path. Eileen McGuckian

11. Pesearcher and date researched: Anne Cissel-6/79 Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled: 10/79 14. Designation Approval 15. Acreage: 22,008 square ft.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME	• # } • *			
HISTORIC	Keiser House			
AND/OR COMMON	Perry House (Alta	Vista)		
LOCATIO	N		-	
STREET & NUMBER	5506 Beech Avenue)		
CITY, TOWN	Bethesda	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
STATE	······································		COUNTY	<u></u>
	Maryland		Montgomery	·
CLASSIFIC	JATION			
CATEGORY		STATUS	PRES	
	X_PRIVATE		COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	-WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X_ PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	YES. RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
N. * 84 5	-BEING CONSIDERED	YES. UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	CTHER
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CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK (DNE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL	SITE
X_GDOD	RUINS	X_ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			-

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three bay by four bay, L-shaped house faces northwest. Its gable roofs are covered with slate shingles, and it is sheathed in dark green novelty siding. There is a shed-roofed dormer on the south facade.

The house sits high off the ground, with a full fieldstone basement and latticework under portions of the wrap-around porch. The porch extends around three facades of the house and features turned columns and knob-shaped pendills; some porch piers are stone while the rest are of brick.

The northwest (front) door is wooden paneled and has a one-light transom above. There is another door on the south facade and a basement entrance on the east.

The two-story mitred bay window on the north facade adds elegance to the house. There are three windows on the first level (two-over-two double-hung), three on the second (six-over-six), and a small window in the gable. Knob-shaped pendills match those on the porch.

Most of the windows in the house are two-over-two double-hung and are flanked by black wooden louvered shutters. There is a small one-stor addition on the northeast corner of the house.

The attractive yard has many and varied plantings, and is enclosed with a natural split-rail fence.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEULUGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION		SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X 1800-1899 	-COMMERCE -COMMUNICATIONS	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_TRANSPORTATION X_OTHER SPECIFYI Local History

SPECIFIC DATES 1852/1865/1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the mid-18th century Georgetown merchant Andrew Heugh purchased several hundred acres of land for speculation, part of the original land grant called "Leeke Forest" (surveyed in 1688). After serving as representative from Frederick County to the Maryland House of Delegates between 1768 and 1770, Heugh retired to his land located near the road from Georgetown to Frederick.

After his death in 1788, and that of his widow Sarah twenty years later, their heirs sold this tract to Thomas Cramphin.¹

Év 1811 Martha and Zachariah McCubbin owned the land, which now was "...supposed to contain 250 acres. ...with improvements...occupied by tenant, Edward Jones,...lying on the old post-road from Georgetown to Rockville above Carey's Tavern...on each side of the road."²

The McCubbins sold the land in 1848 for \$2,711.90 to Theodore Eoucher.³ Boucher divided the farm, selling 145 acres for \$7,250 to Thomas Homiller in 1857.⁴ This large increase in value was indicative of Montgomery County's renewed prosperity after the lean 1830's and 1840's. In his <u>History of Western Maryland</u>, Scharf noted: "The saddest condition of the county was reached in the 1840's, with decaying farms...The lands bordering the Georgetown-Rockville turnpike were, with few exceptions, a succession of unenclosed fields."⁵ The 1850's and 1860's saw renewed prosperity caused by the intensive use of the newer fertilizers and the greater diversity into cereal crops.

It is probable that the second house on this property was built to replace the older structure that had been occupied by the various tenants of the McCubbin years. The McCubbins had never lived at "The Forest", preferring their home at "Huntington". The house shown on the 1865 Martenet and Bond Map was most likely built by Boucher or Homiller between 1852 and 1865.

The present house at 5506 Beech Avenue is either a completely new house constructed in the later Victorian years, circa 1880, or an extensiv remodeling and alteration of the mid-Victorian house, using only a few elements such as the foundations and double fireplaces from the earlier house. There is no way to specifically date the erection of the house, but the main architectural features and decorations are of the later Victorian period. These details include the large two-over-two windows, the "Eastlake" type bracketing and spindles on the wrap-around verandah and the knob shaped pendills decorating the two story bay.

Louis Neiser and his heirs owned the property from 1875 to 1896,⁵ and it seems likely that it was Keiser who was responsible for the reconstruction undertaken at this time. In 1896 the house and land were sold t CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

Attachment Sheet A

M: 35/3 Alta Vist

Keiser House

Joseph Ereen who defaulted on the mortgage, and the house and land were sold at public auction. The property was advertised as "A 145 acre farm...in a good neighborhood...with a comfortable, two-story frame house," fertile, well-watered fields and necessary outbuildings.⁷ The Keisers repurchased the property, but soon sold it to Thomas Ramsey.⁹

During these years, 1895-1905, the coming of the electric railroad and the improvement of the Rockville Turnpike had made this "Alta Vista" area prime for speculation and development. The trolley line, under various names and owners, had at first gone only as far as the Bethesda Park Amusement Park (owned by the line), but that had been destroyed by a hurricane. By 1900 the line extended all the way to Rockville. Between 1896 and 1907 this property and the surrounding lands changed hands several times, owned variously by the Creston Land Improvement Co., Bethesda Land Co., Capitol Cemetery Co., and Thomas Ramsey and Cyrus Meiser. Each time the land was platted, smaller and smaller "villa and cottage sites" were sold. By the time of the final plat of the Bethesda Land Company the streets were named after trees, and this property was shown as Lot 26 on Beech Avenue, containing three acres.

Between 1907 and 1937 the house and parts of Lots 26 & 27 were owned by Mary Perry or her heirs, but the property was gradually partitioned into smaller lots.

The acreage fronting the house was bought for construction of the Bethesda Y.W.C.A. and the airy Victorian verandah that once looked out on 19th century Old Georgetown Road now faces the 20th century tennis courts. Extensive interior remodeling has taken place, also. The trolley right-of-way immediately west of the house, abandoned in 1935, is now a bike path.

FOOTNOTES:

- 1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., K/141.
- 2. Ibid., P/391 (1811).
- 3. Ibid., STS 3/591 (1848).
- 4. Ibid., JGH 6/47 (1857).
- 5. Scharf, Thomas J., <u>History of Western Maryland</u>, Vol. I, <u>Philadelphia</u>: Lewis H. Everts, 1882, p. 653.
- 6. Land Records, op. cit., EEP 13/139 (1875).
- 7. Montgomery County Equity Records, Equity 1356, Judgment JA 55/95-120 (1896).
- 8. Land Records, op. cit., TD 14/237 (1900); TD 17/34 (1901).

9. Ibid., Plat 2/107 (1907).

Montgomery County Historical Society family histories and genealogies and newspaper articles on McCubbins, Needhams, Keisers, Perry familie

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Land, Plat and Judgment Pecords.

Mans: Martenet & Bond 1865; Hopkins <u>Atlas</u>, 1879; Map of Bethesda Park by Bethesda Land Company, undated (in files of Montgomery County Historical Society).

General histories of County and Eethesda, including development of trolley lines.

IIGEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____ 22,008 square feet

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

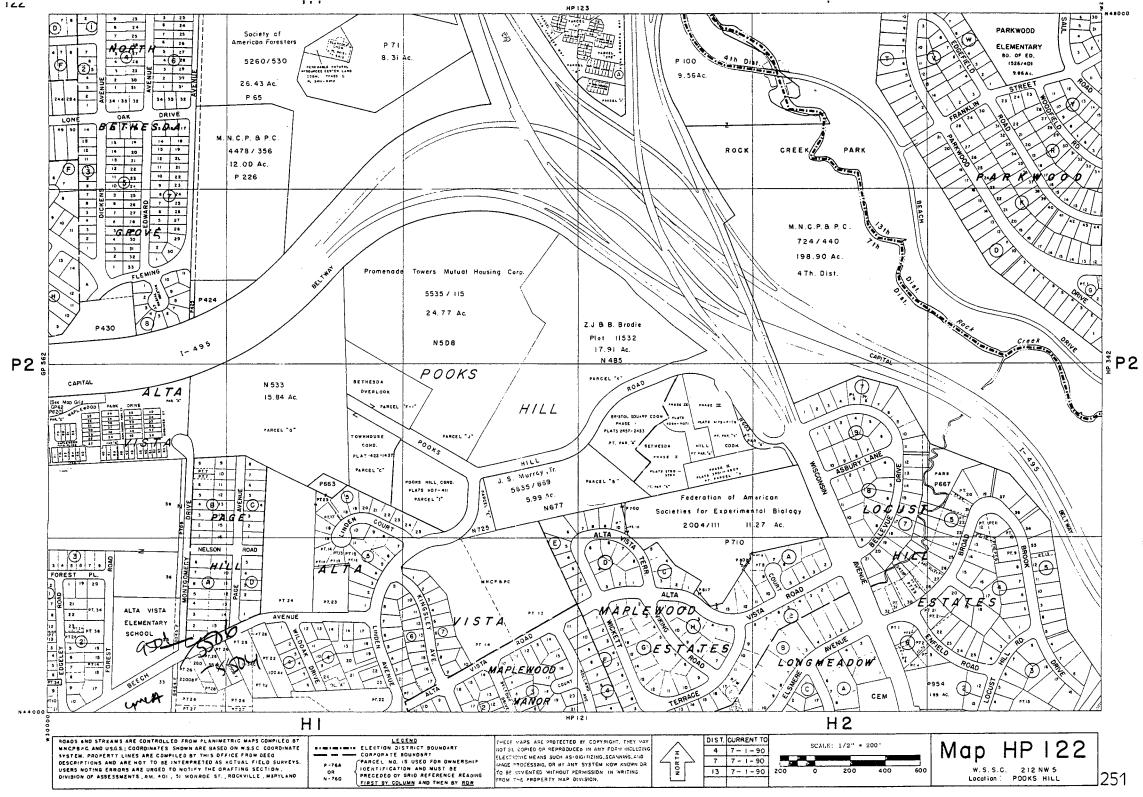
Bounded on the west by Beech Avenue. Bounded on the north by abandoned right-of-way of trolley company.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES		
STATE	COUNTY	
STATE	COUNTY	
FORM PREPARED BY		
Anne W. Cissel	Eileen McGuckian - Arch. Descripti	
ORGANIZATION	DATE	
Sugarloaf Regional Trails	June 1979	
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE	
Box 87	926-4510	
CITY OR TOWN	STATE	
Dickerson	Maryland 20753	

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 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 267-1438



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RAPID MEMO N Altavista TO: ino FROM: DHEL 17 SUBJECT: WARD 4 hetone MESSAGE UD an Me Sit unant pied to addee MAN DATE 12-29-90 SIGNED REPLY SIGNED DATE

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RETURN THIS COPY TO SENDER