National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

SG-17-94 DECIE / OMB No. 10024-0018 SLP-2 : 201/ Nall, Section electric Places

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Pro	operty	
historic name	Mesrobian, Mihran, Residence	
other names	M:35-99-1	
2. Location		
street & numbe	er 7410 Connecticut Avenue	n/a not for publication
city or town	Chevy Chase	n/a vicinity
state Maryla	and codeMD county Montgomery code03	1 zip code20815
3. State/Feder	ral Agency Certification	
Maryland State or Fed	Image: Construct of the second sec	
State or Fede	leral agency and bureau	
4 National Pa	ark Service Certification	
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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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Montgomery County, Maryland County and State

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Description Summary:

The Mihran Mesrobian Residence at 7410 Connecticut Avenue is located in the Town of Chevy Chase (originally Section IV), Montgomery County, Maryland, a residential subdivision that was originally developed in the early 20th century by the Chevy Chase Land Company.1 The single-family dwelling stands on the southeast corner of Woodbine Street and Connecticut Avenue, the latter being the major north-south transportation artery that bisects Chevy Chase. Mesrobian (1889-1975), the well-regarded Washington-area architect, designed the house in 1941 as his and his family's personal residence. The Art Moderne style wood-framed structure consists of two stories and a full basement.² The elevation facing Woodbine Street features a two-car garage with a den above the garage. The house is constructed of whitewashed brick that is stretchercoursed except for the stringcourses, which are set with headers. The roof is hipped and is covered with slate. Steel-frame casement windows are used throughout and have a silver color protective coating. Signature elements of the Art Moderne style structure include areas of glass block at the front entrance and both stories of the south elevation, asymmetrical massing, whitewashed brick to resemble concrete, and a 2nd-floor sun porch. Narrow brick stringcourses and inset geometric panels further define the elevations. The interior contains an entrance hall from which the common areas are accessed. The firstfloor plan is multilevel, with the formal living room, dining room, and den accessed by low rises of stairs. The second floor contains the private areas, with three bedrooms, two baths, and a sitting room that overlooks Connecticut Avenue. In 1945, Mesrobian designed a red brick and cinderblock fence with classically inspired cast-stone decoration that defines the perimeter of the property. The architect also designed the gates and railings on the property and on the interior of the house. He designed the landscape plan and selected the trees and other plantings, largely Kwanzan cherry trees, boxwoods, azaleas, ligustrum, roses, and ground ivy, a number of which survive.

General Description:

Resource List:

House (1 contributing building) Fence/Gate (1 contributing structure)

Setting

7410 Connecticut Avenue is in Subdivision 11, block 2, lot 22. The land area is 10,800 square feet.³ It was originally plated as Lot 1 and the north half of Lot 2, Block 2, Section 4, Chevy Chase, and numbered 6810 Connecticut Avenue.⁴ The property, like the neighboring houses on the west side of Connecticut Avenue, is elevated approximately 3 ½ feet from the avenue. The site is generally level except for the north side, which was grade to accommodate a driveway and entrance to the below-grade garage. The red brick fence and piers capped with classical urns are more in keeping with the Georgian Revival than the Art Moderne style of the house. The revival-style fence facilitates a visual transition with the house and the neighboring, traditional houses that line the avenue.

³ "Real Property Data Search, Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, http://sdat.dat.maryland.gov.htm (accessed 11 June 2015).

¹ Section IV was incorporated as a municipality in 1918 "History," Chevy Chase, Maryland,

http://www.townofchevychase.org/history.htm (accessed 12 May 2016).

² Regardless of whether Mesrobian considered using a steel frame, the material was in short supply due to WWII.

⁴ It is not known when or why the house number changed from 7410 to 6810.

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The main entrance to the property faces Connecticut Avenue. Concrete steps with three risers flanked by metal railings painted silver and concrete ledges rise from the public sidewalk. Variegated red brick piers capped with cast stone, classically inspired urns decorated with fruit flank the entrance to the property. One-brick deep, attached piers topped by cast stone floral decoration further articulate the piers. Semi-circular walls of stretcher bricks capped with upright runners connect the piers and entrance ensemble with the brick and cinderblock fence that encloses the property. Mesrobian's geometric-designed entrance gate features rhythmically spaced pairs of metal pickets, with one pair decorated with a stylized Greek key design; a crossbar decorated with a central rosette; and a chevron and ball finial. The gate is hinged to the north brick pier and swings into the property. An aggregate cement walkway flanked by ground ivy and boxwoods leads to the main entrance of the house.

The walls that surround the property are composed of brick in the east and north entrance areas and the garden nook on the south side of the property. Other areas have a high cinderblock base that supports a six-brick-high upper section. Brick piers capped with cast stone stand at approximately 7-to-9 foot intervals along the 5-foot-high, 8-inch-thick fence. Open areas in the shape of equal-armed crosses punctuate the upper section of the wall at regular intervals, providing visual interest to the solidity of the fence.

The south wall features a garden niche flanked by piers surmounted with cast stone classical urns and volutes. The niche faces a covered terrace that opens into the dining room. The wall fronting Woodbine Street, on the north side of the property, is punctuated by a 12-foot-span, out-swinging double metal gate painted silver. Red brick piers capped with cast stone urns and semi-circular walls define the entrance to the driveway. A narrow flagstone path rises from the driveway to the front of the house. The steps and wood railing that connect the driveway area and front of the house are not original.

Many of the plantings are original to the time of the construction of the house. The "Plot Plan," dated 20 November 1940, shows a number of trees and bushes of unspecified types articulating the front and north-east sections of the property and the medians between the public sidewalk and street (Fig. 1).⁵ Trees that were planted at Mesrobian's directive include the Yoshino cherries that line the front of the property, black walnut, dogwood, magnolia, oak, conifer, and maple. Azaleas, boxwood, ligustrum, roses, hosta, ferns, and ground ivy are also original to the building of the house.

General Description

Exterior

Designed in the Art Moderne style of whitewashed brick, the Mihran Mesrobian Residence is a two-story structure with a partially aboveground basement on a concrete slab with horizontal, asymmetrical massing and hipped, slate roof. Mesrobian's plans and elevations are extant (Figs. 2-5).⁶ The front elevation faces Connecticut Avenue and consists of five sections, four of which project incrementally from south to north. The fifth section, which contains the den and garage below it, is slightly recessed. The slightly off-center entrance is quite sculptural due to the interplay of solids and voids, recessed and projecting areas, curved glass-block window, incised and stenciled panels, and shallow stringcourses. Concrete steps with three risers and a metal railing on the south side of the steps lead to the recessed entrance. Brick chimneys flank the entrance. The one on the south side of the entrance several brick lengths from the wall of the house, while the one on the north side projects only slightly from the wall. A series of brick stringcourses define the chimneys at the entrance to the house as well as the upper areas of the chimneys. Each chimney bears a decorative cast-metal eagle located above the second story of the house. A large semi-circular window of glass block articulates the north side of the entrance, providing natural illumination and privacy. Each glass block measures 5 ¼" by 5 ¾", with a grid of 12 over 12. Mesrobian's drawing of the six-panel entrance door specifies "stencil work by owners in panels" (see Fig. 2), but the original door has been replaced by one scored with a diamond-shaped pattern. The projecting section of the 2nd story provides shelter for the entrance directly below it. Above

⁵ Mihran Mesrobian Archive, Private Collection, Washington, DC.

⁶ Ibid.

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the entrance is a rectangular, 6 over 3 light window, with vertical steel muntins articulating sections of two widths: a narrow one (1), and one that is twice the width of the narrow one (2), creating a rhythmic 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1 configuration. The two larger sections are casement; the narrower ones are fixed. The brick lintel below the window, which runs between the edges of the two chimneys, is articulated with dentil work. A 3 over 3 inset, incised panel with geometric decorative pattern is centered below the 2nd-story window. The eave between the two chimneys has a soffit with hand-painted stencil work in a geometric pattern of interlocked hexagonal rings of contrasting gray and off-white paint. All of the steel mullion windows, which are slightly recessed into the walls, have a brick sill.

The two-bay section of the front elevation to the immediate south of the entrance is slightly set back and features two 3 over 6 light windows that illuminate the living room. The center lights are twice the width of those that flank them. The lower four lights in the center form a casement window; the other lights are fixed. Shallow stringcourses delineate the areas directly above the 1st story windows and the 2nd story window, which has 3 over 4 lights to illuminate the master bedroom. Dentil work and a three-over-three inset panel with geometric decoration centered between the 1st and 2nd story windows further define the area.

The bay to the north of the front entrance comprises the first floor den and a 2nd floor bedroom. It projects from the entrance and has the same fenestration and decorative detailing as the bay to the immediate south side of the main entrance. The slightly recessed, northern-most bay is punctuated by a window that illuminates the den, with the same configuration as the one on the second story over the main entrance. It also has a 3 over 2 light basement window.

The south elevation features a large semi-circular bay window that illuminates the living room, with four wide vertical steel mullions and six narrow horizontal mullions (5 over 6). Two sections of this window are casement; the rest are fixed. Brick with dentil work and a conical slate roof define the area above the fenestration. Above the bay window is a sun porch covered by a segmented metal roof supported by metal poles. The plans for the porch floor specify a "Celotex Traffic Top," a type of cost-effective, purportedly imperious flooring material that had only recently come on the market (Fig. 6).⁷ The terrace has a precast concrete balustrade that is decoratively scored at regular intervals and features large pre-cast concrete pineapple finials at the corners. Capitals of recessed vertical, offset bricks define slightly projecting piers that support the pineapple finials. The master bedroom is accessed from the porch doors that open to the dining room. Narrow floor-length, fixed windows flank the French doors. The doors and windows have protective metal grates, which are not original to the house. The terrace floors are polished, irregularly hewn white, black, gray and variegated marble laid in cement with a brick border. A stair with four risers and metal railings connect the terraces. The lower terrace is covered with the same type of awning supported by metal poles as that used for the 2nd story terrace. The upper terrace has brick piers that connect to the metal railings. The upper terrace ceiling is plaster and has a centered light fixture composed of a globe with a metal directional. The bay on the 2nd story has a 4 over 4 light casement window centered above the terrace entryway.

The west elevation consists of the 1st and 2nd stories, a partially above-grade basement, and a 3 over 2 light window in the hipped roof. The fenestration of the elevation is asymmetrically positioned, corresponding to the functions/requirements of the living spaces, not exterior spatial aesthetics. Glass brick with a tight grid pattern of 8 over 6 blocks illuminates the dining room on the first floor. The master bath on the 2nd floor is illuminated with a 6 over 8 wavy patterned block glass. 1 over 3 light casement windows flank the glass brick dining room window. These small windows also are also used to light the bathrooms on the 1st and 2nd floors. The basement-level fenestration consists of 4 over 3 windows with a central casement and 2 over 3 fixed light windows. A brick stringcourse with dentil work defines the area beneath the 2nd floor windows, while a row of brick headers defines the area above the 1st floor.

⁷ The Celotex Corporation's brochure of 1940 boasted that the "Traffic Top" was "the most modern surfacing for exposed roof decks ... impervious to weather," Celotex Corporation, "Build Better for Less Money with Celotex Building Products" (n.p.: Celotex Corp., 1940), 24, <u>https://archive.org/details/CelotexCorporation0001</u> (accessed 20 May 2016).

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The north elevation consists of a one-bay wing on its western side that houses the garage and a den directly above the garage, an entrance to the kitchen and to the basement, and three bays on the 2nd story. The bay above the garage (facing west) has a steel casement window divided into narrow and double-width sections that duplicates the den window on the front (west) elevation. Between the den and garage levels, a cast stone eagle, wings fully spread, rises from a brick pedestal atop a brick pier, which bisects the 2-bay garage. The 2nd story den ribbon window, which runs nearly the length of the north elevation, consists of a set of casement windows that alternate with narrow 1 over 3 lights and double-width 1 over 3 lights. A short rise of concrete stairs leads from the driveway to the kitchen and basement areas. Six concrete steps lead to a narrow, railed landing to access the kitchen door, which is flanked by 1 over 4 light windows. Concrete steps lead to the basement entrance, which is sheltered by the landing leading to the kitchen entrance and a retaining wall.

According to Mesrobian's specifications, the basement walls are cinderblock up to grade, 4" brick and 8" cinderblock above grade to the 1st floor, 4" face brick and 4" cinderblock above 1st floor to roof. The plan specifies that the brick will be "bonded at every 6th course with headers."⁸ All flashing, gutters and downspouts are copper.

Regarding the fence, family history maintains that Mesrobian could not get enough brick to construct the entire fence because of a wartime shortage.⁹ Hence the use of cinderblock. The high cost of building such an extensive fence in brick may have also influenced Mesrobian's decision to incorporate cinderblock. Whatever the reason, his drawing for a "Garden Wall, 6810 Conn. Ave., C.C., MD," dated 4 January 1945, specifies the exact quantities of brick and cinderblock (Fig. 7)¹⁰. Mesrobian's drawing shows that he originally envisioned the central area of the south wall garden nook to contain a semi-circular niche with water cascading into a large, wide-lipped urn (Fig. 8) Neither the semi-circular niche nor the water feature was realized. Instead, a decorative cast stone ram's head defines the space.

Interior

The above-grade enclosed area of the dwelling is 2,534 square feet, with 480 square feet of finished basement area.¹¹ On the first floor, the primary living spaces are largely defined by differences in elevation. The entrance hall serves as a central core by which to access the rooms on the first and second floors. Indeed, the plan (Fig. 3) shows Mesrobian's mastery of the tight integration of areas, with a minimum of "wasted" space.

The entrance hall opens on the south side; here two risers descend to the 19'2" x 13'2" formal living room, which has a south-facing bay window. A fireplace with a variegated black marble surround projects at a 45-degree angle in the northeast corner of the room. On the north side of the entrance hall, a stair with two risers leads to the 18"6" x 18'6" den, which has painted knotty pine wainscoting. A fireplace with red brick surround is located in the southeast wall of the room. It appears that Mesrobian designed and furnished this living space with the interior configuration of Turkish houses in mind, a reflection of his Ottoman heritage. Banquettes of seating line part of the den, while a small operable fountain with lion's head sprout and a basin defines the center of the room. The kitchen is accessed from the den by descending a stair with three risers. The original linoleum-top table and four matching chairs define the breakfast nook in the kitchen, which has non-original linoleum flooring. The entrance to the kitchen that faces south leads on the immediate right to a half-bath with tile floor, a flight of stairs on the east side that lead to the basement, and the dining room to the south. French doors on the south side of the 13'10" x 13' dining room open to the sheltered outdoor terrace. A stair with two risers

⁸ Mihran Mesrobian Archive.

⁹ Interview of Ara Mesrobian by Caroline Mesrobian Hickman, 10 May 2016, Washington, DC.

¹⁰ Mihran Mesrobian Archive.

¹¹ "Real Property Data Search, Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, <u>http://sdat.dat.maryland.gov.htm</u> (accessed 11 June 2015).

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connects the dining and living rooms. The original steel-color iron railings at these different stair elevations were designed by Mesrobian and are intact. A door on the west side of the entrance hall leads to a coat closet and the flight of stairs leading to the basement. The landing for the staircase leading to the basement connects the stairs leading to both the entrance hall and the passage on the west side of the house that connects the kitchen and dining room.

A flight of stairs in the entrance hall leads to the second floor. The stairs rise to a landing, then turn at a ninety-degree angle to the second floor. Three bedrooms, a bathroom, and a sitting room (specified "Sewing Room" in the plan) open directly to the hall, which is open to the first floor and defined by railings designed by Mesrobian. The 13'2" x 22' master bedroom has a bathroom with a glass block window illuminating the shower/tub area. On the southeast side of the master bedroom, a door opens to the covered sun porch. The service areas (stairs, linen closet and hall bath), separate the master bedroom from the two bedrooms on the north side of the house, which measure 13' x 12' and 11'2" x 17'. The 1st and 2nd floor plans specify radio outlets in all of the living areas. Both floors have 8-foot-high ceilings, with either rough or smooth plaster ceilings.

The basement is above grade on the west and north sides of the property and is accessed by the garage as well as an exterior door reached by a flight of steps just west of the garage. In accordance with Mesrobian's drawing "Basement Plan," dated 20 November 1940,¹² the space contains a two-car garage that leads to a narrow hall and stairs to the first floor. Various utility rooms for the heating and cooling, laundry, storage and service comprise the other areas. The "Game Room," 18.6 feet long and 12.10 wide, has a fireplace located in the northeast side of the room, a semicircular niche on the south side of the room, and the original beige-and-blue panel linoleum flooring. Mesrobian's 12.2 long, 8.6 foot drafting room is located on the above-grade north-west corner of the basement, with a window each on the north and west sides of the room (Fig. 9). The basement floors are concrete or linoleum over concrete with the exception of the service room and drafting room, which are pine. The ceilings are rough or smooth plaster.

Integrity

The Mihran Mesrobian Residence is essentially unaltered from the time it was built in 1941. It retained integrity of design, workmanship, and materials during the ownership/residency of the architect (died 1975) and his wife, Zabelle (died 1982), and the subsequent ownership by their son Ara Mesrobian. None of the owners has altered or enlarged the residence. The plans and specifications completed by Mesrobian on November 20, 1940 describe in detail how the residence was to be constructed and confirm that the exterior and plan are completely unaltered. An exception is the replacement cloth and metal awnings. The interior is a "time capsule" of products available to homeowners at the beginning of WWII. Interior alterations have been limited to the installation of an air-conditioning system in 1957 and updates to the heating system. Kitchen appliances such as the stove and refrigerator were updated in the 1970s. The integrity of location is intact, with the neighboring houses having been constructed prior to the building of 7410 Connecticut Avenue. The landscaping is very similar to Mesrobian's original scheme, with most of the trees, boxwoods, azaleas, roses, and other shrubs part of the original plantings.

12 Mihran Mesrobian Archive.

8. Statement of Significance

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 pattern of our history.
- B Property 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)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36		State Historic Preservation Office
CFR 67) has been requested		Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register		Federal agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register		Local government
designated a National Historic Landmark		University
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	\boxtimes	Other
#	Name	of repository:
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	Mihran	Mesrobian Archive, Washington DC
#		

Montgomery County, Maryland County and State

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Architec	ture	
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Cultural	Affiliation	
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Archited	ct/Builder	
	Mesrobian, architect	

Primary location of additional data:

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Summary Statement of Significance:

The Mihran Mesrobian House at 7410 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland, was constructed in 1941 to the designs of the well-regarded Washington-area architect Mihran Mesrobian. Mesrobian designed the house for himself and his wife, Zabelle, in the Art Moderne style fairly late in his career. Although Mesrobian was better known for his Beaux-Arts, classically inspired designs of the 1920s, and Art Deco buildings of the 1930s, both he and Zabelle wanted a modernist residence. Preliminary drawings as well as the elevations and plans for the house as built survive. It was the only house he designed for himself and served as his residence for nearly thirty-five years, until his death in 1975. The house is a highly visible example of a Washington-area residence designed by an architect for his own use, due to its location on the major traffic artery of Connecticut Avenue. The modernist house is a striking anomaly among the traditional, revival style residences that line Connecticut Avenue and side streets of Chevy Chase, Maryland. Preliminary drawings for the residence show extensive experimentation with the Art Moderne and International Styles, demonstrating that Mesrobian considered a much more radical, modernistic design than what was built. Concessions to the Chevy Chase Land Company's conservative design covenants resulted in a significantly modified design that retains certain modernist elements such as glass block and flat roofs, while introducing less radical decoration such as denticulated brick, double stringcourses, incised geometrics, and a hipped roof. The Mihran Mesrobian House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural design, by a master architect as his own residence. It meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places as a creative example of the Art Moderne style, reflecting an informed blending of elements of modernism and classicism. The exterior and interior retain integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The house has not been altered or enlarged since its construction in 1941. The integrity of location is intact, even the basic design of the gardens and most of the original plantings.

The Period of Significance, 1941-1945, encompasses the construction date of the house (1941) and the subsequent construction of the brick fence (1945), during which the resource achieved its historic and current form and appearance.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Chevy Chase Land Company and the Town of Chevy Chase

The Mihran Mesrobian House, 7410 (originally 6810) Connecticut Avenue, is located in block number 3900, block 2, lot 22 in the Town of Chevy Chase, a self-governing municipality located in Montgomery County, Maryland (Fig. 10). The incorporated boundaries of the Town are East-West Highway on the north, Connecticut Avenue on the east, Bradley Lane on the south, and one block east of Wisconsin Avenue on the west.

The Town was part of the subdivision developed by the Chevy Chase Land Company, formed in the 1890s by Francis G. Newlands and William M. Stewart. Newlands' significant early purchase was Chevy Chase, a 305-acre plot of land on the Maryland-District of Columbia border. A trolley line connected the budding development to downtown Washington beginning in the early 1890s. The Town of Chevy Chase experienced significant development after World War I, as the automobile became a primary source of transportation and facilitated commuting to the Washington suburbs. The trolley line was discontinued in the mid-1930s.¹³

The Mihran Mesrobian House is in what was originally Section IV, which the Chevy Chase Land Company platted in 1909, a large area situated west of Connecticut Avenue and north of Bradley Lane (Fig. 11). The Land Company restrictions for Section IV stipulated a 25-foot setback and a minimum house cost of \$3,000. Only single-family residential construction was allowed. Section IV

¹³ History," Chevy Chase, Maryland, http://townofchevychase.org.htm (accessed 2 May 2016).

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was incorporated into a municipality in 1918. Houses were overwhelmingly designed in the popular Georgian and Federal Colonial Revival styles, as well as the Tudor Revival, English Cottage, and Spanish Colonial Styles.¹⁴

Mihran and Zabelle Mesrobian considered a number of locations in the Washington Metropolitan area to build their house before selecting the Chevy Chase location. They looked at property in Arlington, Virginia, overlooking the Potomac River; and a lot on Quebec Street, NW, just east of Connecticut Avenue, NW. The Chevy Chase location was preferred in large part because of its proximity to public transportation on the major artery of Connecticut Avenue. Neither Zabelle nor Mihran learned to drive a car, and Mihran frequently walked or took the bus to the shops just inside the District line.¹⁵

Although 53% (176 lots) of the lots in Section IV were purchased as early as March 1910,¹⁶ the land that Mesrobian acquired had remained unsold. He purchased the property in 1938 for \$3,600 from the Chevy Chase Land Company.¹⁷ Mihran and Zabelle Mesrobian received the deed from the Chevy Chase Land Company for Lot 1 and the north half of Lot 2, Block 2, Section 4, Chevy Chase, Montgomery County, Maryland, on 21 December 1938.¹⁸ The property as purchased ran 120 feet fronting Connecticut Avenue, and 150 feet running east to west. The Mesrobians had the land re-subdivided in October 1940 to form two lots (Fig. 12).¹⁹ They selected Lot 22 fronting Connecticut Avenue, 90 feet deep, on which to build their house. Mesrobian designed a house for Lot 21 (3902 Woodbine Street), with a frontage of 60 feet. The plans date from nearly the same time as those for 7410 Connecticut Avenue, but he chose to work with a traditional design to facilitate its sale. He sold the house on Woodbine to help offset the costs for his new residence.

It is not known why Lot 1 and the north part of Lot 2 remained unsold until the Mesrobians purchased the property. An advertisement for lots for sale in Section IV, in the *Evening Star*, 5 January 1924, shows that the southern half of the block fronting Connecticut Avenue, and bounded by Virgilia on the south and Woodbine on the north, was already improved (Fig. 13). Mesrobian's purchase of the remaining frontage on Connecticut Avenue between Virgilia and Woodbine ensured the placement of only two houses on that block of Connecticut Avenue. The 1909 real estate map (Fig. 11) listing Thomas F. Fisher and Co. as sole agents, shows that the block was originally divided into three equal sized lots, 1, 2, and 3, each with 80 feet frontage on Connecticut Avenue. The setbacks from the street/building restriction lines were 30 feet from Connecticut Avenue and 25 feet from Woodbine Street.²⁰ Ara Mesrobian, the architect's son and current owner of the house, recalls that Mesrobian had to get a variance for the garage, as it was slightly outside the setback line.²¹

20 Ibid.

¹⁴ "The Romance of Section 4," Elizabeth Jo Lampl and Kimberly Protho Williams, *Chevy Chase, a Home Suburb for the Nation's Capital* (Silver Spring, MD: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 1998), 72-75.

¹⁵ Recollection by the author. The streetcar line that traversed Connecticut Avenue from the District to Chevy Chase Lake was taken out of service in 1935; "Trolley Parks and Real Estate Development," Chevy Chase Historical Society, <u>http://chevychasehistory.org</u> (accessed 5 May 2016).

¹⁶ Lampl and Williams, 74; William G. Offutt, Bethesda: A Social History of the Area Through World War Two (Bethesda, MD: Innovation Game, 1995), 173.

¹⁷ Deed dated 21 December 1938, Chevy Chase Land Company to Mihran G. Mesrobian and Zebelle (sic) Mesrobian, 723,92, http://www.mdlandrec.net (accessed 2 June 2016).

¹⁸ The deed is recorded on Plat No. 1313, "Resubdivision of Lot 1 and Part of Lot 2, Block 2, Section 4, Chevy Chase, Montgomery County, Maryland, October 1940." Montgomery County Circuit Court (Subdivision Plats, MO) 1940/10/26, Chevy Chase, Section 4, Block 2, Lots 1-2, Resubdivision; Mihran G. Mesrobian, Plat 1313, MSA S1249-9127, <u>http://plato.mdarchives.state.md.us</u> (accessed 31 May 2016).

¹⁹ Plat No. 1313, "Resubdivision of Lot 1 and Part of Lot 2, Block 2, Section 4, Chevy Chase, Montgomery County, Maryland, October 1940."

²¹ Ara Mesrobian, conversation with Caroline Mesrobian Hickman, 20 April 2016.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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M:35-99-1 Mesrobian, Mihran, Residence Name of Property

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Modern Movement and the International and Art Moderne Styles

Three preliminary sketches for the Mihran Mesrobian House, termed here as "A," "B," and "C," show that the architect worked with a series of ideas inspired by the Art Deco, Art Moderne, and International styles (Figs. 14-16). None of the drawings, which are rendered in pencil and colored pencil on tracing paper, shows the exact design of the house as built. "A" and "B" are undated; "C" is signed and dated "Sept. 15, 1940." The two undated drawings likely predate the one that Mesrobian inscribed. All of the designs show horizontal, asymmetrical massing; white, smooth-surfaced planes that resemble concrete with little or no ornamentation; glass block windows; and extensive terraces on several levels. Sketches "A" and "B" are exclusively flat roofed, while "C" shows a hipped roof in the rear block of the house that is offset visually by the flat roofs that characterize the front blocks. The undated sketches share commonalities, particularly in the design of the entrance, where significant areas of glass block are employed. Sketch "B" and a corresponding plan and elevation (Fig. 17) show that the stepped glass block to the north of the entry was to have illuminated an interior circular staircase, for a rather dramatic effect.

Sketch "C" most closely resembles the house as constructed. Both the sketch and the house as built have a hipped roof, recessed entrance with glass block, chimneys located in the central core, and a 2nd floor sun porch on the south side of the house that overlooks the garden. Yet the house as built is not as severely massed and has more ornamentation than the design in "C."

A comparison of the fence design in rendering "B" and the red brick Georgian revival style fence as constructed in 1945 shows that Mesrobian originally envisioned a minimalist, low rectangular fence with concrete piers connected by metal railings. The pared-down design of the proposed fence further emphasizes the modernist features of the house: simplified components with no ornamentation, smooth, white planes, and an extension of the horizontal massing of the dwelling.

Why did Mesrobian significantly modify his earlier, more radical modernist designs for his residence? According to Mihran's sons Ralfe Mesrobian and Ara Mesrobian, the architect sought financing from the Chevy Chase Land Company, which refused to provide it. The Land Company felt that the design was too radical compared with the existing residences in Chevy Chase, which were overwhelmingly built in traditional, revival styles. Mesrobian therefore modified the design of his residence to conform to the Land Company's conservative preferences,²²

7410 Connecticut Avenue reflects the less radical modernism of Art Moderne than the International Style. Yet we should also evaluate Mesrobian's original modernist vision (his preliminary sketches) with Washington area "cutting-edge" architecture of the late 1930s and early 1940s.

The International Style movement had been established in Europe since the early 1920s, with such proponents as Gropius and Mies van der Rohe practicing in Germany, and Le Corbusier in France. The housing exhibition at Weissenhofsiedlung, Germany, in 1927 under the direction of Mies, saw the maturing of the International Style. "Modern Architecture: International Exhibition, the seminal exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1932, helped define the new style and strengthen its influence in the U. S. *The International Style: Architecture Since 1922*, the companion catalogue by the exhibition curators Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson, further disseminated the movement. With the closing of the Bauhaus School by Hitler in 1933, proponents of the movement such as Gropius and Mies found a more tolerant climate in the U.S to teach and practice their ideas.

²² Unfortunately their recollections cannot be verified. The Chevy Chase Land Company's archives are currently not accessible. Telephone conversation of Miti Figueredo, VP of Planning and Entitlement, Chevy Chase Land Company, and the author, 18 May 2016.

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By tradition, the Washington metropolitan area has not widely embraced modernist movements. There are relatively few examples of radical modernist houses by acclaimed International Style/Bauhaus School architects in the area, and they postdate Mesrobian's designs for his residence. For example, the two modernist houses that Walter Gropius' Architects Collaborative designed for the Hechinger family at 2832 and 2838 Chain Bridge Road, NW, date from 1952.²³ The International Style residence located at 3025 Arizona Avenue, NW, designed by Gropius student Thomas Wright, dates from 1961.

However, radical modernist houses were constructed in Bethesda beginning in the mid 1930s and were well publicized locally. The German architects Alfred Kastner (1900-1975) and Oscar Stonorov (1905-1970), who immigrated to the U.S. in 1924 and 1929 respectively, designed 8502 Jefferson and 5603 Roosevelt Streets in 1935 for Republic Steel. As Clare Kelly points out, the houses have a "distinctive European modernist sensibility with boxy modular forms, flat roofs ... and asymmetrical bands of windows" (Fig. 18).²⁴ The modernist house at 6424 Brookside Drive, constructed in 1935 in the Kenwood subdivision of Bethesda, has asymmetrical massing, flat roofs, and sun decks. This large "Motohome," a prefabricated house designed by New York architect Robert W. McLaughlin and sheathed in the newly introduced "Celotex" cement paneling, was featured in the 20 October 1935 edition of the *Washington Post* (Fig. 19).²⁵

An important source of "cutting edge" modernism for Mesrobian was the "Town of Tomorrow" at the 1939 New York World's Fair, which he and his family saw firsthand when visiting the fair.²⁶ Its model houses featured the latest in innovations in materials and products, home design and construction. As early as 1937, advance publicity about models in the "Town of Tomorrow" influenced the building of modernist houses in Montgomery County.²⁷ These and the World's Fair models themselves must have influenced Mesrobian's decision to design a modernist residence.

The widely publicized modernist "NBC House of the Future" was constructed in 1938 on a highly visible location at 5150 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, by local developer L. E. Breuninger.²⁸ The residence exhibits characteristics of both the International and Art Moderne Styles, with whitewashed brick, flat roofs, recessed entrance and round tower punctuated by glass block, corner windows, and a rooftop terrace (Fig. 20). Mesrobian must have held this building in mind during the initial phase of designing his residence. His preliminary sketch "A," and to a certain extent sketch "B" exhibit similarities with the configuration of the entrance of the Massachusetts Avenue house and the use of glass block.

Glass block was a defining architectural material of the 1930s and was used for all types of buildings. Elizabeth Fagan describes the glass as "a relatively new, mass-produced material [that] aligned with the Streamline Moderne ideals of building structures that evoked technology and the idea of the building as a machine."²⁹ An early, extensive use of the material in Washington is the Streamline Moderne Style Hecht Co. Warehouse of 1937, which is sheathed with ribbon windows of glass brick. According to Fagan,

²³ Martin Moeller, in his AIA Guide to the Architecture of Washington, D.C., 4th ed. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 2006), 341-42, evaluates the design of these houses as the first truly modern examples built in Washington.

²⁴ Clare Lise Kelly, *Montgomery Modern: Modern Architecture in Montgomery County, Maryland, 1930-1979* (Silver Spring, MD: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2015), 16-17.

²⁵ Discussed in Kelly, 19; "New American Motohome Being Built for Lee D. Butler," *Washington Post*, 20 Oct. 1935, R9, with a reproduction of the architect's presentation rendering.

²⁶ Recollection by Ara Mesrobian, 20 May 2016.

²⁷ Kelly, 21.

²⁸ Kelly, 22.

²⁹ Elizabeth Fagan, "Building Walls of Light: The Development of Glass Block and its Influence on American Architecture in the 1930s, MS thesis in Historic Preservation, Columbia University, 2015, 119. <u>http://www.Fagan.Elizabeth_GSAPPHP_2015_Thesis</u> (accessed 29 May 2016).

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by the 1940s and the decline in the popularity of Streamline Moderne, the material was used almost exclusively in small areas for residential buildings.³⁰

Mesrobian used glass block liberally in apartment and small shopping center projects that he was designing in the late 1930s and early 1940s, the same period as his residence. He highly valued the material for its volumetric, light-giving and light-emitting qualities. It provided both diffused light and privacy for the interior during daylight, and exterior light effects produced by interior illumination at night. His idea to use glass block to illuminate the tub area in the master bathroom for the Connecticut Avenue house may have derived from a similar arrangement in the "Town of Tomorrow" Pittsburgh House of Glass (model house #4) at the 1939 New York World's Fair, which he visited (Fig. 21). That model house also featured a sun porch opening from the master bedroom, a concept that likewise appears in Mesrobian's house.

Mesrobian's creative mixing of modernist and traditional motifs for 7410 Connecticut Avenue is also evident in the expansive FHAbacked garden apartment complex Lee Gardens South (1941-43, now Sheffield Court), Arlington, Virginia, which he was designing at the same time his residence was under construction. Despite the FHA's guidelines advocating the use of revival styles for garden apartment projects, Mesrobian varied the design of the 37 buildings for visual interest. Art Deco, Art Moderne and International Style motifs interplay with Colonial Revival designs. Modernist elements include glass block, casement windows, flat and cantilevered roofs, and bas-relief panels with geometric decoration (Fig. 22).³¹

Ownership of the Mihran Mesrobian House

Mihran Mesrobian (1889-1975) and Zabelle Martmanian Mesrobian (1895-1982) purchased unimproved lot number 1 and the north half of Lot 2, Block 2, Section 4, Chevy Chase, Montgomery County, Maryland, on 21 December 1938, for \$3,600 from the Chevy Chase Land Company.³² They had the property subdivided in October 1940, forming Lot 22, on which they built 7410 Connecticut Avenue (Fig. 12). Lot 21 was formed from the rest of the property; Mesrobian designed and built the house on that lot, 3902 Woodbine Street, and sold it. The Mesrobians and their two youngest sons, Ralfe and Ara, moved into the house in September 1941, a few months before the attack on Pearl Harbor and the entry of the United States into WWII. Mihran and Zabelle lived in the house until his death in 1975.

Zabelle continued to live in the house until she moved to an assisted living community in the late 1970s. Ara Mesrobian, the Mesrobians' youngest son, continued to live in the house. After Zabelle died in December 1982, Ara Mesrobian purchased the house from the estate in March 1984 and continues to make it his residence.³³

The architect kept a small record book in which he listed the ongoing costs for 7410 Connecticut Avenue, until the year before he died:

"Initial costs comprising the Lot 10,800 (sq. ft.) x 0.20 - \$2,160; Building 1941 - \$15,600; Fence Wall and Gates - \$2,455.

30 Ibid.

³¹ See Stephen A. Morris, "Lee Gardens," Historic Resources Survey Form, Arlington County, Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board, 24 Nov. 1986; Richard Striner and Melissa Blair, *Washington and Baltimore Art Deco: A Design History of Neighboring Cities* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 2014), 43-44.

³² Montgomery County Circuit Court (Land Records), CKW 783, 0473, MSA_CE63_741, <u>http://www.mdlandrec.net</u> (accessed 2 June 2016).

³³ Montgomery County Circuit Court (Land Records) 1984, HMS 6363, pp. 0205-0206, MSA CE 63-6321, MDLANDREC, http://www.mdlandrec.net (accessed 31 May 2016).

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Improvements and replacements: Basement Finish 1951 - \$785; Waterproofing 1954 - \$560; New Boiler 1957 - \$410; Air Conditioning 1957 - \$1680; Awnings (cloth) 1958 - \$380; Awnings (aluminum) 1965 - \$680; New Compressor 1959 - \$320; New Unit (air conditioning) 1968 - \$680; New compressor 1970 - \$730; New Aluminum Awnings 1974 - \$220. Total costs - \$26,660."³⁴

Architect Mihran Mesrobian

Mesrobian's projects in the Washington metropolitan area include signature hotels, office buildings, apartments, and residences constructed for a variety of socio-economic constituencies in diverse neighborhoods, for prominent and lesser-known real estate developers. Many of these buildings have been designated national and local landmarks.

Mesrobian (1889-1975) was born in Afyon Karahisar, Turkey. He graduated from the Imperial Academy of Fine Arts in Istanbul in 1908 and began a promising career as a municipal architect in Izmir, then as assistant to Vedat Tek, his former professor at the Academy, in the office of the palace architect in Istanbul. But the extraordinary circumstances under which he trained and practiced architecture in Turkey during the final years of the Ottoman Empire profoundly altered this trajectory. His graduation from the Imperial School of Fine Arts came just as the Young Turks were seizing power from the sultan, bringing about political and social reforms that would culminate in the founding of the Republic of Turkey in 1923. These upheavals and the First World War would upend his early career and compel him to practice his profession elsewhere. Mesrobian served as an army corps engineer in the Turkish army for the entirety of WWI. After the war, he returned to Istanbul and took a position as chief designer in the office of the prominent engineer Ismail Hakki, who was known for his building of apartment houses in concrete.

Mesrobian immigrated to the United States in 1921 with is wife Zabelle and two young sons. Shortly after locating in Washington, he entered the architectural office of Harry Wardman (1868-1938), then the preeminent real estate developer in the nation's capital. His quick rise to chief architect came during the developer's most ambitious building period and ended only with Wardman's death in 1938. Mesrobian also singly maintained a prolific private practice, producing well-designed buildings for a variety of clients and budgets, skillfully adapting historicist design to modern building typologies, and embracing new stylistic movements with originality.

His premier hotels for Wardman include hallmarks of Beaux-Arts classicism such as the Hay-Adams (1927, overlooking Lafayette Park and the White House), and the Carlton/St. Regis (1926, 16th at K Streets), as well as the English revival-style Wardman Tower (1928), which anchors the Marriott Wardman Park complex at Connecticut Avenue and Woodley Road, NW. Residential developments for Wardman range from the lower-middle-income Fort Stevens Ridge in upper northwest Washington to the middle-to-upper-income English Village in Woodley Park.

Mesrobian's commissions from Wardman and other developers for office and apartment buildings, and shopping centers during the 1930s and 1940s show an evolving interest in modernist design, particularly Art Deco. This new movement stimulated remarkable creativity in Mesrobian's work, especially in his use of architectural decoration. His predilection for Near-Eastern motifs during this period speaks to his Ottoman heritage and earlier practice of architecture in Turkey prior to his Washington career. Notable examples of his innovative schemes of the 1930s are 1350 Connecticut Avenue (Dupont Circle between Connecticut Avenue and 19th Street), the Nejib Hekimian Oriental rug store (18th Street at Connecticut Avenue), and Sedgwick Gardens (Connecticut Avenue at Sedgwick Street). His large-scale, Federal Housing Authority-insured garden apartment complexes in northern Virginia, which helped accommodate the influx of government workers to the Washington area during World War II, continue to provide quality housing in the 21st century. Designs for shopping centers in northern Virginia, his modernist residence in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church in Washington are significant works of the 1940s and 1950s.

³⁴ Mihran Mesrobian Archive.

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His designs for houses in Chevy Chase, Maryland, pre-and-post date his 1941 residence. 6703, 6705, 6707, and 6709 Melville Place (1935) and 6700 and 6702 Melville Place, between Bradley Lane and Raymond Street (1936), are rather pedestrian colonial revival style dwellings. They were designed for Harry Wardman, at a time when the once-prominent real estate developer was trying to make a comeback after bankruptcy following the Crash of 1929. Mesrobian's designs for the 1957 "Parkerest" subdivision of more than 50 houses off Jones Mill Road in Chevy Chase, for developer Zenith Homes/Nathan Goldberg, are modest mid-century modern, brick-clad with areas of sandstone defining the entrances.³⁵

CHAIN	OF	TIT	LE

21 December 1938:	Chevy Chase Land Company to Mihran and Zebelle (sic) Mesrobian Montgomery County, Maryland, Land Records Liber 723 Folio 92
	7 October 1940: Subdivision of lot by Mihran and Zebelle (sic) Mesrobian Montgomery County, Maryland, Land Records Liber 21 Folio 1313
30 March 1984:	Estate of Zabelle Mesrobian (deceased) to Ara Mesrobian Montgomery County, Maryland, Land Records Liber 6363 Folio 205

³⁵ Resources regarding the architecture of Mihran Mesrobian: Caroline Isabelle Mesrobian, "A Selection of the Oeuvre of Mihran Mesrobian," MA Thesis, Tulane University, 1978; Caroline Mesrobian Hickman, Forward, "The Wardman Tower" (Chevy Chase, MD: JBG Co., 2015), 12-15; "Mihran Mesrobian (1889-1975): Washington Architect," *Design Action: The Mid-Atlantic Architecture and Design Review* 2, no. 3 (May/June 1983): 1-4; "St. Regis Hotel, Washington, DC" (Carlton Hotel)," *Preservation Now: Building on the Historic* (Washington, DC: DC Preservation League, 2008, 6-10; Caroline Mesrobian Hickman and Sally Lichtenstein Berk, "Harry Wardman's Row-House Development in Early Twentieth-Century Washington," In Richard Longstreth, ed., *Housing Washington: Two Centuries of Residential Development and Planning in the National Capital* (Charlottesville, VA: Center for American Places, 2010), 41-60; "Sedgwick Gardens Apartment House & Interiors," District of Columbia, Historic Preservation Review Board, Application for Historic Landmark or Historic District Designation (Washington, DC), 2014.

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Name of Property Mihran Mesrobian Residence M:35-99-1

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"New American Motohome Being Built for Lee D. Butler," Washington Post, 20 Oct. 1935, R9.

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Name of Property Mihran Mesrobian Residence M:35-99-1

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Offutt, William G. Bethesda: A Social History of the Area Through World War Two. Bethesda, MD: Innovation Game, 1995.

"7410 Connecticut Avenue," Chevy Chase Historical Society. Celebrating our History: An Architectural Tour of the Town of Chevy Chase. (Chevy Chase, MD: Town of Chevy Chase, 2005), 22..

Striner, Richard and Melissa Blair. Washington and Baltimore Art Deco: A Design History of Neighboring Cities. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 2014.

Mesrobian, Mihran, Residence (M:35-99-1) Name of Property	Montgomery Co, MD County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property Less than one acre	
UTM References	
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)	
I TIN T DI L I	
Zone Easting Northing	3 Zone Easting Northing
2	4
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)	
Boundary Justification	
Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation shee	31)
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Caroline Mesrobian Hickman, PhD, Art &	Architectural Historian
Drganization	date September 2016
street & number 3828 Gramercy Street, NW	telephone 202 270 1519
city or town Washington	state DC zip code 20016
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the	property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties hav	ving large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the	горепу.
Additional Items	
Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
Property Owner Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)	
Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items) Property Owner Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO) Ara Mesrobian Street & number 7410 Connecticut Avenue	telephone 301 654 2980

properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Geographical Data

Lat-Long Coordinates: 38.984616, -77.077568

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Mihran Mesrobian Residence at 7410 Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase, Maryland, include all of the property as part of Lot 22 in Block 2 as noted on Tax Map GN (Maryland Department of Assessments & Taxation Map, Montgomery County, District 07, acct # 00464605), and further described among the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland in Liber 6363, Folio 205. The single-family dwelling is located on the southwest corner of Connecticut Avenue and Woodbine Street.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries represent all of the property historically associated with the resource. Mihran and Zabelle Mesrobian's original purchase of property from the Chevy Chase Land Company, dated 21 December 1938, was Lot 1 and the north half of Lot 2, Block 2, Section IV, Chevy Chase. The Mesrobians subdivided the property into two lots in October 1940. 7410 Connecticut Avenue was constructed on Lot 22, Block 2, Section IV, Chevy Chase, MD.

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Location Map



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Index to Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs which accompany this documentation:

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Number: M:35-99-1 Name of Property: Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence Location: Montgomery County, Maryland Photographer: Caroline Mesrobian Hickman Date taken: 1 August 2016 Location of original digital files [or negatives]: MD SHPO

Photo captions:

MD_Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0001.tif View of Front (East/Connecticut Ave.) Façade with Entrance Piers and Gate

MD Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0002.tif Partial View of Front (East/Connecticut Ave.) Façade

MD Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0003.tif Additional Partial View of Front (East/Connecticut Ave.) Façade

MD_Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0004.tif Front (East/Connecticut Ave.) Façade Entrance

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MD Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0005.tif Detail Above Front (East/Connecticut Ave.) Façade Entrance

MD_Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0006.tif Detail of Front (East/Connecticut Ave.) Façade Showing Setbacks

MD Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0007.tif Detail of Front (East/Connecticut Ave.) Façade Showing Den

MD_Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0008.tif View Looking Northwest

MD Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0009.tif South Façade Showing Living Room Bay Window and Porch

MD Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0010.tif South Façade Showing Porches and Sculptural Detail

MD Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0011.tif Garden Niche Facing South Façade

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MD Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0012.tif Glass Block, West Façade

MD Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0013.tif Garage, Den, and Kitchen, North Façade

MD Montgomery County Mesrobian, Mirhan, Residence 0014.tif Detail of Garage and Den, North Facade

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HISTORICAL ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustrations courtesy of the Mihran Mesrobian Archive, Private Collection, Washington, DC, unless specified

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- 2 of 22 Elevations, 20 November 1940
- 3 of 22 First Floor Plan, 20 November 1940
- 4 of 22 Second Floor Plan, 20 November 1940
- 5 of 22 Basement Plan, 20 November 1940
- 6 of 22 Advertisement for "Celotex Traffic Top," 1940 (Celotex Corp. Brochure)
- 7 of 22 Drawing for "Garden Wall," 4 January 1945
- 8 of 22 Detail, "Garden Wall," 4 January 1945
- 9 of 22 Mihran Mesrobian in his Office, 7410 Connecticut Ave., 1954, Ara Mesrobian, photographer
- 10 of 22 Current property map (Maryland Department of Planning)
- 11 of 22 Plat of Section 4, Chevy Chase, 1909 (Lampl and Williams, 73)
- 12 of 22 Plat No. 1313, Resubdivision of Lot 1 and pt of Lot 2, 1940 (MD-National Capital Park & Planning Commission)
- 13 of 22 Real Estate Advertisement for Chevy Chase, MD (Evening Star, 5 January 1924)
- 14 of 22 Sketch "A," undated (1940)
- 15 of 22 Sketch "B," undated (1940)

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16 of 22 Sketch "C," dated 15 September 1940

17 of 22 Plan and elevation for Sketch "B," undated (1940)

18 of 22 8502 Jefferson & 5603 Roosevelt Sts., Bethesda MD (Kelly, 17)

- 19 of 22 "Motohome," 6424 Brookside Drive, Bethesda, MD (Washington Post, 20 October 1935, R9)
- 20 of 22 5150 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Kelly, 22)
- 21 of 22 "Town of Tomorrow" Pittsburgh House of Glass (model house #4), 1939 New York World's Fair (Gottscho-Scheisner Collection, Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress)
- 22 of 22 Buildings within the Lee Gardens South Apartments Complex (now Sheffield Court), Arlington, VA (<u>https://farm7.staticflickr.com</u>)

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1 of 22, Detail of Plot Plan, 20 November 1940

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2 of 22, Elevations, 20 November 1940

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3 of 22, First Floor Plan, 20 November 1940

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4 of 22, Second Floor Plan, 20 November 1940

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5 of 22, Basement Plan, 20 November 1940

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If you have been considering tile or other forms for either or both of the above purposes, you will be delighted to find how much less expensive Celotex Traffic Top isand how completely it meets all requirements.

and dry rot by the exclusive, patented Feroy Process.



6 of 22, Advertisement for "Celotex" Traffic Top, 1940, (Celotex Corp. Brochure)

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> M:35-99-1 Mesrobian, Mihran, Residence Name of Property

7 of 22, Drawing for "Garden Wall," 4 January 1945

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1 × 1 × 2 DETREL PLANS wayth the art

8 of 22, Detail, "Garden Wall," 4 January 1945

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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Montgomery County District: 07 Account Number: 00464605 34 PTIS 20 STREET CT. 1751 16 F.T. 12 PTI 10 40 45 VILLAGE n 23 82 21 219 PT.2 45 ö 39 PT.2 PT.2 STREET 2 PT. PtB ð 1 0 5 4 PT.3 64 19 38 Þ٣ P37 0 PST WOODBINE P388 T,14 15 16 117 PT. 20 21 22 15 P305 PT. 2 LANE SAAND 38AND PERTIPEIN 2 241 6 τ U 4 413 PT. IPT. PT. 45 Ă 13 26 × 27 25 24 B 7 23 10 CHASE PTI VIRGILIA STREET OR Jal 57 23 979 6 P41 53 24 25 38 37 279 4 33 34 PT. PT.I з 29 PT. 2 四四期 16 3 PT.E PT.2 SEC T. PT. 0 736 12. 8 15 13 10 17 14 PT.3 12 10 18 217 PTI VILLAGE 4 UNDERWOOD ST PT.I PT. 40 PT, 38 ŝ 500 24 122 14 25 1 26 31 32 30 38 ۲I t T

The information shown on this map has been compiled from deed descriptions and plats and is not a property survey. The map should not be used for legal descriptions. Users noting errors are urged to notify the Maryland Department of Planning Mapping, 301 W Preston Street, Baltimore MD 21201

If a plat for a property is needed, contact the local Land Records office where the property is located. Plats are also available online through the Maryland State Archives at www.plata.net (http://www.plata.net).

Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning.

For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning web site at www.mdp.state.md.ua/OurProducts/OurProducts.ahtml (http://www.mdp.state.md.ua/OurProducts/OurProducts.ahtml)

10 of 22, Current Property Map (Maryland Department of Assessments & Taxation)

New Search (http://edat.dat.maryland.gov/RealProperty)

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¹¹ of 22, Plat of Section 4, Chevy Chase, 1909 (Lampl & Williams, 73)

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12 of 22, Plat No. 1313, Resubdivision of Lot 1 and pt of Lot 2, 1940 (MD-National Capital Park &

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13 of 22, Real Estate Advertisement for Chevy Chase, MD (Evening Star, 5 January 1924)

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14 of 22, Sketch "A," undated (1940)

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15 of 22, Sketch "B," undated (1940)

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16 of 22, Sketch "C," dated 15 September 1940

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17 of 22, Plan and Elevation for Sketch "B," undated (1940)

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18 of 22, 8502 Jefferson & 5603 Roosevelt Sts., Bethesda MD (Kelly, 17)

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2-Story House Of 'Motohome' Type Started: It Follows Style Evolved After Five Years of Scientific... The Washington Post (1923-1954); Oct 20, 1935; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Washington Post pg. R9



It Follows Style Evolved After Five Yours of Scientific Study.

A new type of profabricated house, estigrowth of five years' windy is scientific laboratories and the result of a movement initiated by Owen D. Yang, chairman of the board of General Electric Co., at Purdus University. to "explore the science of better living" is undor construction on Broakildo drive in Kenweod, Chevy Chao, Nil, for Leo B attice, Warsington automobile distributor, it is a twosiory American analohome, much disensed development of House. Inc. of New York: a submidlary of the General Electric Co. and is annumed as the largest in process at Science and the science of the General Electric Co. New American Motohome Being Built for Lee D. Butler



The first pre-fabricated mainhouse to be built in the Washington area is under contruction on Brackilde drive, in Kanoood, Cheve Chare, Nd., for Lev D. Butler, prominent Weshington automobile distributor. The base is built of professional distributer in which are set from or numble of compressed arbeits and concell, and in he indestinatible. The base southing is roomed to be an a 3-con proper. A meta-antia mechanism no larger than a pantry, operate the objective house heating and heat water note. The down sheetch is an artis's conception of what Mr. Butler's use home will look the wiles completed.

19 of 22, "Motohome," 6424 Brookside Drive, Bethesda, MD (Washington Post, 20 October 1935, R9)

NPS Form 10-900-a (Expires 5-31-2012)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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20 of 22, 5150 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, MD (Kelly, 22)

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21 of 22, "Town of Tomorrow" Pittsburgh House of Glass (model house #4), 1939 New York World's Fair (Gottscho-Schleisner Collection, Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress)

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22 of 22, Buildings within the Lee Gardens South Apartments Complex (now Sheffield Court), Arlington, VA (https://farm7.staticflickr.com)

































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination
Property Name:	Mesrobian, Mihran, House
Multiple Name:	
State & County:	MARYLAND, Montgomery
Date Recei 9/26/201	
Reference number:	SG100001794
Nominator:	State
Reason For Review	
X Accept	ReturnReject 11/13/2017 Date
Abstract/Summary Comments:	All procedural requirements have been met; The nomination form is adequately documented; The nomination form is technically and professionally correct and sufficient.
Recommendation/ Criteria	
Reviewer Edson	Beall Discipline Historian
Telephone	Date
DOCUMENTATION	see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF



Larry Hogan, Governor Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor Wendi W. Peters, Secretary Ewing McDowell, Deputy Secretary

RECEIVED 2280 SEP 2 6 2017 REGISTER OF HISTORIUM MATIONAL PARK NERVINA

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief National Register of Historic Places National Park Service 1201 Eye St., NW Mail Stop 2280 Washington, DC 20005

RE: Mesrobian, Mihran, Residence

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed is documentation for nominating the above-referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places. The state review board and the owners concur in my recommendation for listing. Should you have questions in this matter, please contact Peter Kurtze at peter.kurtze@maryland.gov or (410) 697-9562.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hughes Director-State Historic Preservation Officer

EAH/krk cc: State Clearinghouse # Enclosures: NR form, maps, photographs, CD/DVD

Maryland Historical Trust • 100 Community Place • Crownsville • Maryland • 21032

Tel: 410.697.9591 • toll free 877.767.6272 • TTY users: Maryland Relay • MHT.Maryland.gov