Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM			FOR NPS USE ONLY				
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cady House is located at 7064 Eastern Avenue, N.W., on a hill at the crossroads of Piney Branch and Eastern Avenue on the District of Columbia side of Takoma Park. The design of the Cady House reflects many qualities of the Shingle Style. The house tends to spread and flow down the hill on which it stands, aided by the slope of the roof over the veranda which in turn extends out from the scallop-shingled upper story. There is a slight overhang to the second story which adds to the downward expanding movement. The veranda partially encloses the house, lending a horizontal emphasis to the entire composition.

The house is painted grey and rises three stories above the basement. Ιt is asymmetrical in design and so irregular in shape that the facade continually varies by projecting and retreating as one circles the house. The focal point of the facade is a tower-like bay which rises at the northeast corner and separates the north and east facades. The north and east first story facades (both approximately five bays wide) are characterized by verandas containing Stick Style and Queen Anne elements. The openwork frieze is echoed in the openwork of the balustrade, giving a lightness which contrasts to the heaviness of the Queen Anne piers with openwork scalloped braces. The movement of the veranda around the house is emphasized in the exposed beams of the underside of the roof, especially in the southeast corner. The veranda is only one bay deep on the south side. facade is the weakest facade and the most varied. Two-thirds of the facade projects to form a wing, from which on the first story is found an additional ell projection, and from this yet another projection to accommodate an entrance. There is a second entrance door on the south side of the wing.

The second story and the dormer and gable ends are sheathed in grey scalloped shingles. The shingles extend down to form the roofs of porches and verandas or end in a slight overhang supported by large openwork, oversized brackets. All the windows are one-over-one light and are rectangular with simple wooden sills and lintels.

The varied roofline is also indicative of the Shingle Style. It consists of gables and cross gables crowned by finials with two brick chimneys accented by corbelled chimney caps. The north facade, broken by a series of cross gable ends and projections, has the most varied roofline. At its northwest corner is a one bay projection capped by a cross gable, with neither fenestration nor finial, which intersects a larger gable emerging This larger gable contains a double window and is crowned by a finial. Next to it is a third, smaller and unfenestrated gable which rests on the top cornice line adjacent to the tower. This heavy, moulded cornice line encircles and separates the second and third stories of the house; the cornice also defines the gables and the roofline. The tower which carries the facade around the northeast corner has now been screened at the third story so that the original openwork balustrade and frieze are no longer Originally this openwork echoed that on the first story verandas. The tower roof, itself a cross gable, is the highest point of the house, and is crowned with a finial. On the east side, there is only one cross

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	ppropriate)		
☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	🔀 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known) Constru	cted 1887	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec	k One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	☐ Education	Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	ther (Specify)
☐ Historic	Industry	losophy	Suburban
Agriculture	Invention	Science	Planning Planning
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	☐ Military	☐ Theater	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the Lucinda Cady House a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. This house was designed by a well-known local architect, Leon Dessez, and was constructed in 1887 in the commuter suburb of Takoma Park. It is an early, excellent, and largely unaltered example of Shingle Style architecture, and it was one of the largest and most imposingly sited structures in Takoma Park which was developed by B.F. Gilbert in the 1880's.

Takoma Park was developed by Benjamin F. Gilbert, who, on November 24, 1883, purchased a 90-acre tract on both the D.C. and the Maryland side of the B & O Railroad line. The logic were a relatively modest investment at 1-4 cents to 5 cents a square foot. Within three years (1886), the population of Takoma Park was 100 and sixteen houses had been completed.

The popularity and the development of Takoma Park were based on the movement away from the city in the 1880's to green open spaces located along commuter railroad lines. These suburbs are frequently described by their developers in flowery rhetoric emphasizing both health of body and mind. The name Takoma is an Indian name which means "heaven", and the promotional brochures put out by the developers drew a close parallel between alleged delights of heaven and Takoma Park. In addition, its healthful qualities were described as follows: "It is a high, healthful, convenient, and pleasant place of residence. No malaria, no mosquitos, pure air, delightful shade, and a most abundant supply of pure water." Although it was to develop into a suburb of very attractive houses and wooded lots, it did not initially live up to its promotion. An old resident describing the early days of Takoma Park has written: "It was a desolate looking place."

The Cady House was one of the finest houses of the original settlement and remains today a focal point of the community. It is located on a hill at the crossroads of Piney Branch and Eastern Avenue, a very commanding location, well suited to the design of the house. The Cady House was commissioned by Henry A. and Lucinda Cady and built in 1887. The Cadys moved to Takoma Park from Ashland, Hanover County, Virginia. Mr. Cady sold real estate in Takoma Park and South Brookland and had his office at 520-10th Street, N.W. After the death of Mrs. Lucinda Cady, the house became the property of her daughter, Mrs. Mary Cady Lee, a Takoma Park

(Continued on Form 10-300a)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Much valuable information and photographs were provided by Mrs. Allan T. Marsh of the Old Takoma Park Citizens Association.

Gilbert, B.F., Real Estate. "Homes of Takoma Park, a Suburb of Washington City." Washington: A. G. Gedney, 1888.

Scully, Vincent J., Jr. The Shingle Style and the Stick Style, New Haven Yale University Press, 1971.

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12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION			N,	ATIONAL	REGIST	RVERIF	CATION	
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

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7. Description - Continued

gable, centrally located with two windows. The roof at the south end terminates naturally into a gable which contains two windows and is topped by a finial. On the west there is one cross gable containing two windows and crowned by a finial, and a smaller gable which is the termination of the tower cross gable containing only diamond-shaped panes and crested with a finial.

Much of the interior of the house is unaltered and in very fine condition. The house has a central hall plan and is dominated by a large oak stairway with paneled wainscoting extending up to the banister, turned balusters and large, square, moulded newel posts. At the first floor landing, a leaded glass window accents the turning of the stair, as does the panelled window seat. The mantles and the overmantles throughout the house are elaborately carved with different motifs and are frequently inset with decorative tiles. The wainscoting in much of the house is still intact. Much of the hardware also remains, as can be seen in the decorative radiator grill with warming shelves in the dining room. Although the house has been converted into apartments, the main hall has not been partitioned, and little of the interior woodwork has been altered.



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTO

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Significance - Continued

school teacher. Mrs. Lee died in 1973.

The architecture of the original houses of the suburb was representative of the Stick and Shingle styles which were popular, especially on the East Coast, in the 1880's. Many of the designs of the houses in Maine, for example, were published in the American Architect. The builder of many of the houses in the suburb and of the Cady House was Frederick Dydley who moved to Takoma Park from Maine in 1884. It is possible that Dudley was exposed to examples of the Shingle Style which was then developing in Maine. The architect for several of the Takoma Park houses and for the Cady House was Leon F. Dessez, (1858-1918), a Washington architect who was trained in the office of Hornblower and Poindexter (later Hornblower and Marshall). Dessez was employed for three years on plans for the Washington Monument under the direction of Colonel Casey and also worked for three years as architect and engineering draftsman in the Washington Navy Yard. In addition to such public buildings as the Miner Normal School, he also designed the Admiral's House at the Naval Observatory, a Category III Landmark recently made the official residence of the Vice President.



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9. Bibliography - Continued

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