

PH0052728

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
 COUNTY: Montgomery
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: JAN 31 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Garrett Park *hist. site*
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Garrett Park

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *Flowers Ave*
 CITY OR TOWN: ~~Town of~~ Garrett Park CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Eighth
 STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Montgomery CODE: 031

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple owners (public and private)
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

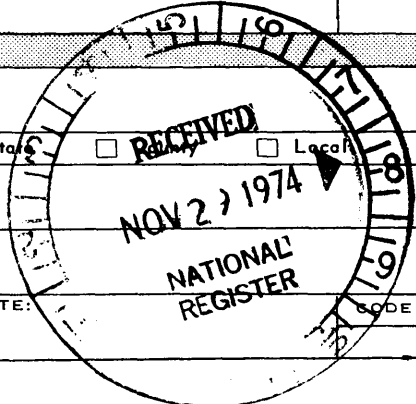
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland
 STREET AND NUMBER: Clerk's Office; Town of Garrett Park, Maryland
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: none
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Maryland
 COUNTY: Montgomery
 ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 31 1975
 DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Garrett Park is a 154-acre residential community in Montgomery County on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad south of Rockville, north of Kensington and east of the Rockville Pike. The district is bounded on the northeast by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracts; on the southeast by Rock Creek Park; on the south by the southern property lines of the properties at 10701 and 10700 Weymouth Street, Keswick Street, Shelly Court, Cleremont Avenue, Montrose Avenue (including 10696 Montrose), and Kenilworth Avenue; on the west by the western and/or southern property lines of the properties on the west and/or south side of Kenilworth Avenue.

The railroad tracks and the steep grade on the southwest which drops to Rock Creek Park form natural boundaries as well as a clear definition of the individual integrity of the district. The southern boundary is man-made consisting of cul-de-sacs. The apartment complex and other developments on the other side isolate the historic district. The separation of the district from its surroundings on the western boundary is accomplished by the limited street access to the residential neighborhood, Garrett Park Estates, on the other side. Strathmore Road consists of the sole connecting road. From the back yards of the properties on the southwest side of Kenilworth Avenue flow into the adjoining neighborhood. However, this is not evident from the street facades. The definition of the district is self-evident.

The very heterogeneity of Garrett Park in its architecture and landscape features separates it from the homogenous, if not monotonous, character of neighboring developments. These developments each contain one standard architectural style and even one species of tree.

Garrett Park today represents a fulfillment of the original development plans of the Metropolitan Investment and Building Company (1887) for a sylvan residential community. The developers divided the tract into quarter-acre lots on either side of Strathmore Road. Wishing to please all tastes, they used a grid pattern on the south side contrasted with winding, curved streets following the topography on the north side. Almost a century after its founding, Garrett Park consists of residences on lots usually a quarter-acre in size intermingled with larger lots some approaching an acre. The set back is related to the period of construction. Those of the turn of the century sit toward the center of the lot; the "Chevys" (see below) are closer to the side walk; and many of the recent residences sit on an angle to the street. The district although diverse in style and set back is united by the uniformity of landscape treatment. Tall shade trees, flowering trees and shrubs, dense plantings pervade throughout Garrett Park. During all seasons except winter, the flora dominate every streetscape of the town; the architectural

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Garrett Park embodies an American living pattern that revolutionized our use of land. The rapid transportation made available by the railroads caused profound cultural changes. The accessibility to commuter rail service enabled urban workers to live in what they felt was a rural environment. Astute businessmen capitalized on this attitude combined with the transportation revolution to create new towns far beyond the city limits. These suburbs, like Garrett Park, were virtually totally residential with the exception of a depot and perhaps one store. Commercial districts which previously had been an essential part of every community were not necessary especially with the added mobility provided by the automobile. This phenomenon which so profoundly altered the American culture is, perhaps, difficult to appreciate since it remains so much a part of our contemporary world. However, it is important to recognize places like Garrett Park as a manifestation of that phenomenon.

The Garrett Park railroad station was first established in the middle 1880's as an aid to farmers in neighboring areas and particularly as a recreational and picnic spot for Washington residents. The stop was named for John W. Garrett, president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

In 1887, Henry N. Copp, a Washington educator turned attorney, formed the Metropolitan Investment and Building Company which bought 500 acres of open land on both sides of the Garrett Park station. They advertised the development of "the suburban town of the National Capital."

(1) The M.I.B. Company had approximately 600 stockholders and reputedly spared no efforts to make Garrett Park a show-place for suburban living. Members of the M.I.B. board included John Freeman, a civil engineer who later became a principal in the Washington public schools, and William Saunders, Superintendent of Grounds for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The plan of Garrett Park is the work of William Saunders (1822-1900), a major nineteenth century American horticulturist. A Scottish immigrant, Saunders began his career in

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maps: U.S.G.S. Map of Washington and Vicinity, 1882 Clements, James E., Map of Washington City and Surrounding County, n.p. 1887.
 Garrett Park; Where It Is and What It Offers, Metropolitan Investment and Building Company, 1887.
 Garrett Park! Brief Description of Where It Is, What It Is, and What Inducements It Offers to Suburban Home Seekers and Investors. Metropolitan Investment and Building Company, 1890.

(See continuation sheet No. 12)

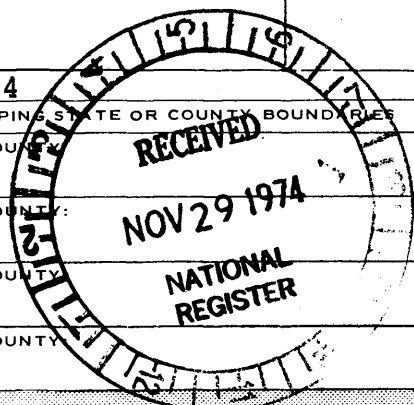
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39 °	02	37 "	77 °	05	59 "			
NE	39 °	01	58 "	77 °	05	10 "			
SE	39 °	01	49 "	77 °	05	19 "			
SW	39 °	01	59 "	77 °	05	59 "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **154**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: (See continuation sheet No. 13)
Laura C. Pratt, Chairman, Historic Preservation Committee

ORGANIZATION: **Garrett Park Citizens' Association** DATE: **April, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 158

CITY OR TOWN: **Garrett Park** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Arthur C. Townsend
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer
 Date November 26, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

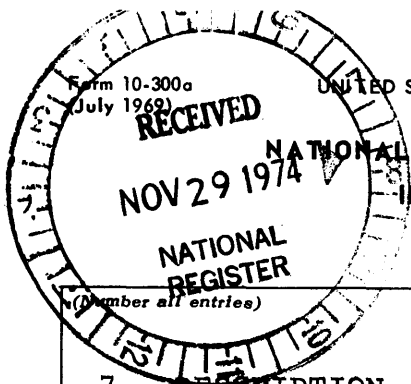
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Arthur C. Townsend
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/31/75

ATTEST:
Charles A. Adams
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date 1.30.75

HM
 18 319400 319210
 4322300 4322020
 4322300 4323540 SEE INSTRUCTIONS
 518250 318270



Form 10-300a
July 1969

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 31 1975

Garrett Park

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

elements play a secondary role. Appropriately interspaced with the setting is Wells Park, a forest with a children's playground. A second 2 1/2 acre park became municipal property after a decade long battle to preserve the open space.

The town is totally residential except for a combination post office and store--which has been serving that function since the nineteenth century--and the town hall originally constructed as an Episcopal church.

The two parks (mentioned above), three tennis courts, basketball court, baseball field, and swimming pool comprise the land put to recreational use.

Garrett Park uniquely has no intrusions. Designed as a residential community, the town has fulfilled the promises of the first development plans. The contemporary homes fit into the nineteenth century plan just as modern plumbing does in an old structure.

The overall condition of the district is good. Restoration and/or renovation has not been necessary.

The architectural character of Garrett Park represents a span of the popular, vernacular styles from the 1890's through the 1970's. The district contains approximately 340 structures roughly forty of which pre-date World War I. The majority of these relates to a vernacular interpretation of the Queen Anne style. These frame two-story houses are characterized by asymmetrical elevations corner porches, cross gable roofs, three-story towers, and large lot sizes (See descriptions of individual structures at the end of this section).

The next stage of development occurred in the 1920's with the "Chevy" houses built by Maddux, Marshall & Co. This development company constructed roughly forty houses each of which contained a Murphy bed, an Atwater-Kent radio, and, at an extra cost, a Chevrolet in the garage. These small houses (640 square feet of floor space) came in three different models: the Sylvan, the Roseland, and the Woodbine. The differences in floor plan and porch design gave a degree of individuality to the one-story frame three bay houses. The Sylvan had a jerkin head roof and an elliptical arch in the porch roof. The A-roofed Roseland model had an arbor-like porch roof. The Woodbine, unlike the others, had a centrally located door and a pedimental porch roof. The majority of these speculation houses still stand and are easily discernible although some have been enlarged.

An interpretation of the prairie style initiated most prominently by Frank Lloyd Wright is found in Post-World War II

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		JAN 31 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

Garrett Park

DESCRIPTION, continued

houses in Garrett Park. These one-story buildings principally on Weymouth and Oxford Streets have low over hanging roofs. Designed and built in the early to middle fifties by Alexander Richter, A.I.A., these houses represent the third era of building in Garrett Park. Like their Victorian, Chevy predecessors, the Richter houses reflect the dynamic development of the park and blend well into the village plan initiated by William Saunders in 1886. Similar to the fashion in which modern plumbing and electricity were fitted into the old Victorians, the Richter houses blend handsomely with the townscape of Garrett Park.

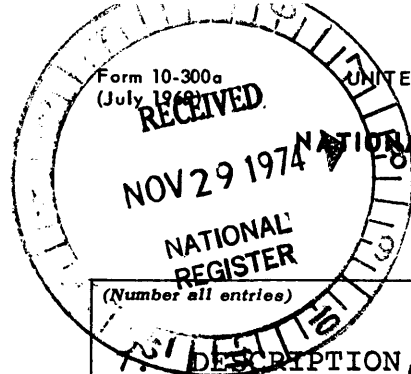
A graduate of Cooper Union in 1925, Richter's homes show the great influence of Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright on American architecture. These homes reflect much of Wright's organic and prairie style. The open plan with many intersecting spaces, different heights of elements, and projecting and receding surface all which tend to make their solid volumes exclusive. Richter's use of materials and textures, broad projecting roof over hands and superb manner in which his home blends with their surroundings have given them a timeless quality.

One of the first efforts at contemporary housing in the Washington area, these houses were particularly challenging considering the Victorian tradition which had been established a half century earlier. A drive through Garrett Park today provides the impression of a unified town held together by its variety of well designed and superbly sited homes.

The variety of architectural styles reflects Garrett Park's vital roll as a dynamic suburban community constructed over seventy-five years ago.

The popular "Neo-Colonial" or Williamsburg Revival of recent times exists both in one and one half story frame houses in what might be called a "Cape Cod style" and two story three bay buildings with low pitched A roofs, shutters and a "colonial" motif at the door.

The International Style promulgated by Walter Gropius and the Bauhaus is represented by the house on the corner of Melrose and Argyle. Constructed in 1925, it is contemporary with the naissance of the style in Europe (as well as, and in contrast, with the Chevys in Garrett Park). This building was one of ~~these~~ experimental pre-cast concrete houses in the Washington metropolitan area. Originally, it was a one-story house with poured concrete walls and pre-cast concrete beams--exposed in the living room ceiling. The house embodies Gropius' desire to incorporate art, industry, and daily life through



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Form 10-380
(July 1973)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 31 1975

(Number all entries)

Garrett Park

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

architecture. The functional, cubistic design represents the artistic element while the metal windows, including a cantilevered corner window, and the radiant slab heating are illustrative of advanced industrial technology.

Thirty years later Alexander Richter (see above) designed a frame second story following the architectural precedent of the first floor. The addition incorporated a sun deck at the second story following Bauhaus precedents.

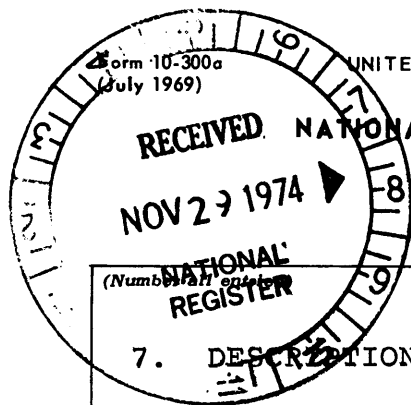
The International Style adapts to the Garrett Park streetscape through the extensive landscaping and sense tree cover which allows the diverse architectural styles of the town to co-exist.

In addition to the broad stylistic elements presented in Garrett Park several unique structures pepper the townscape. A vaguely Tudor revival stone house at 4501 Claremont Place was constructed by an employee of the Bureau of Standards in 1938 of various materials approved by the bureau. The principal facade is fieldstone while the side elevation is brick. The roof is Vermont slate on one face and another material on the other side.

At least two, and possibly three structures, qualify as "mail order" houses. Dating from the early thirties these houses came from Sears and Roebuck. Sears provided a catalog of house plans with a separate set of interior details from which to choose. Your purchase included pre-cut materials, Sears financing and a contractor. One of the Sears houses is a one-story structure at 11114 Kenilworth. It is "L" shaped with a gable-ended section projecting toward the street. One side of the roof terminates in an elongated curve extending the roof to include an entrance. The other known example, 4701 Argyle (1933), is a one-story colonial Revival structure. It is five bays long with two dormers over the second and fourth bays. The central chimney, paneled door, six over six sash windows and a four light transom add appropriate elements from the colonial style.

Contemporary with the Richter houses and of a prefabricated nature like the Sears houses are a few early Techbuilt structures. In 1954 Carl Koch of MIT produced the first Techbuilt house as an attempt to provide inexpensive housing. He felt that the attic and basement rooms were the most inexpensive rooms to construct so he designed residences consisting of just attics and basements. This thinking gave the structures their distinctive cathedral ceilings. One of the first Techbuilt houses in the Washington area stands at 10711 Kenilworth Avenue (1956). This house and 10805 Clermont Avenue served as a model for the others that followed including 10701 Shelly Court, 4709 Waverly and 11106 Kenilworth. Two other pre-fabricated houses exist at 10808 Clermont (1955) and 4800 Oxford (c.1945-1949).

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STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Montgomery
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 31 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #4

(Number) NATIONAL REGISTER

Garrett Park

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

1. J. C. Stoddard - Freiberg House. 4711 Waverly Avenue.

Built in 1889, this Victorian three-story frame house contains many of the elements which characterize the carefree spirit of Victorian architecture in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

With its irregularity of plan and massing and variety of texture of surface materials, this house is one of the finest examples of the Queen Anne style of architecture in Garrett Park.

The east facade facing Waverly Avenue is crowned with a square turret with a rounded bell-shaped roof and lightning arrester. The turret and remainder of the third floor are clad in scalloped wood shingles and project beyond the second floor below accented by the row of ornate brackets supporting that projection.

The second floor, with its clapboard siding is accented by a bay window to the master bedroom. All the windows on the second floor are large double-hung sash. The bay wears a band of shingles beneath the sill line giving further emphasis to this very important element of the facade.

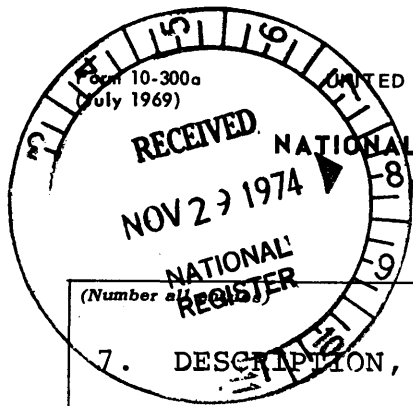
The ground floor is surrounded on two sides by an open porch accented by turned wood columns and horizontal wood balustrade.

The interior retains much of the original flavor including several elegant mantels, 7 feet by 5 feet bi-parting pocket type wood paneled doors and an elaborate staircase crowned by diagonal lattice work muntins and glass over the foyer.

The turret room on the third level is accessible through a narrow passageway and is sheathed in triple beaded tongue and groove fir paneling on walls and ceiling and brightly lit from windows on three sides.

Equally interesting is the carriage house and other out buildings clustered around the main house. Situated to the rear and side of the house the carriage house adds great interest to the property as viewed from Waverly Avenue. The ground floor is balanced symmetrically by two garage doors on either side of a single door with its 4-centered arched head leading to the second floor living quarters. The second floor, like the first, is symmetrical about the center with a double-hung window with fanlight transom window crowned by a gabled widow's walk and cupola. The gable is decorated with an exposed end truss.

The third and fourth structures on the site are a wash house and small garden gazebo both detailed similarly to the main and carriage houses.



Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #5

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 31 1975

(Number of)

Garrett Park

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

2. Mills - Abernathy House. 10909 Kenilworth Avenue.

Built prior to 1893, the house and carriage house truly reflect the suburban community intended by the Metropolitan Investment and Building Company in their brochure of 1887.

Town records show that this house was occupied for a time by the Turkish legation as a summer refuge from the heat and bustle of Washington. This property best exemplifies the type of construction befitting a community located on the main B & O line from Washington, set in the country where its occupants could enjoy a leisurely carriage ride.

The house is dominated by its tall circular turret at one corner, many gabled roofs, and varied materials. The original German siding was covered with cedar shingles about forty years ago.

The expansive porch, even reduced from its original extent, is a particularly strong element with turned wood columns, scroll brackets and elaborate rows of balustrade which form the porch rail recalling the more elaborate fenestration of the Eastlake style of Victorian architecture. Further accent is added to the porch by the fact that it is elevated above the surrounding ground by several steps and by the heavy band of plantings around its entire perimeter.

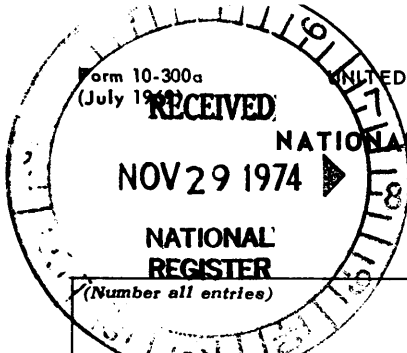
The interior is a maze of excitement with hidden back stairway and stained glass oculus. The five fireplaces have a combination of tile and marble faces crowned by ornate wood mantels. The main stairway has a double turn and is framed with a heavily decorated turned wood balustrade. Typical of all the old Victorians in Garrett Park, the bathrooms were added and are interesting in the fashion that they have been tucked into existing closets or small anterooms.

The carriage house is elegant but simple, characteristic of its function. Symmetry is accentuated by the cupola. Typical of the Queen Anne Gothic, the roof projects beyond the lower story and casts deep shadows which give emphasis to the elements which cast them. The gable is decorated by an exposed end truss. Additional texture and interest are added by the diagonal siding of the double carriage doors.

3. Gahn - Edlund House. 11210 Kenilworth Avenue.

Built in 1891 this house was the residence of Herman Hollerith, inventor of the "Hollerith Code: for use with key punch cards, used by the Bureau of Census in the 1890 and 1900 Census. Town minutes of October, 1899 note that the first telephone in town was wired to this house from "Hardesty's Store" down by the railroad depot.

The house is typical of those constructed by the Metropolitan Investment Building Company, dominated by its circular



Form 10-300a
(July 1973)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

NATIONAL REGISTER

(Number all entries)

(Continuation Sheet) #6

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 31 1975

Garrett Park

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

turret and massive porch that wraps around three sides of the house. Characteristic also are its irregularity of plan, varied materials and massing of elements.

The circular tower is capped by a steep (24 in 12) inverted cone roof which rests on a 16 inch high frieze. The tower and third floor gables are clad in scalloped wood shingles while other surfaces are covered with narrow clapboards accented by vertical wood corner boards.

The porch balustrade is interrupted by turned wood columns supporting the roof above and topped by ornate brackets and baluster type gingerbread trim under the eaves. The windows in the third floor turret and under the gabled main roof are wood double-hung with double lights on the bottom sash and an ornate muntin arrangement in the upper sash with small lights around the perimeter and a larger single light in the middle. The windows under the gable are grouped in a "Palladian" motif without the arched center section. All three windows have a common sill but the head of the center window is elevated above the flanking windows.

True to its Queen Anne influence, the house is irregular in plan and possesses much of its original charm. Four of the five original fireplaces are still in use and are adorned with ornate wood mantels. The second floor contains five bedrooms and the attic three, plus circular turret room with its three large windows looking south along Kenilworth Avenue.

4. Brady - Stephenson House. 11018 Kenilworth Avenue.

Constructed circa 1892, this is one of the more formal Victorian houses in Garrett Park. The three story and basement frame house is dominated by a gingerbread decorated porch which wraps around the front and two sides. This porch gives a horizontal look to the first floor and creates a very strong base to the contrasting vertical appearance of the second and third floors. This verticality is emphasized by the square turret and steeply pitched roof.

Typical of the thirty-seven Victorian structures in Garrett Park, this house is clad in many textures and materials which give special identity to each element. The roof of the turret and main house are of Vermont slate with alternating bands of rectangular and octagonal shaped slates. The third floor gables and turret project beyond the second floor and are clad with grey colored scalloped wood shingles. The second floor is white six inch clapboard with corner boards.

The porch has a standing seam tin roof with hipped corners painted oxide red accentuating the horizontal effect which this

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 31 1975

RECEIVED
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NOV 27 1974 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #7

(Number all entries)

Garrett Park

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

element lends to the facade. The porch is exquisitely decorated with a wood lattice type cornice supported by turned wood columns and scroll brackets, and a porch rail and pickets with intermediate horizontal rail. The solid band of azaleas and rhododendrons planted around the porch and leading up the winding front walk add further texture and color and gracefully anchor this house to its site.

5. Grace E. D. Sprigg - Huffman House. 4710 Waverly Avenue.

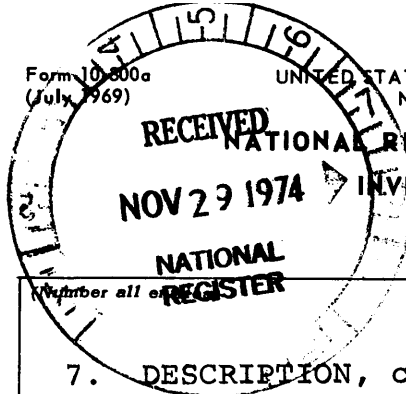
Built in 1889, the Grace E. D. Sprigg House is historically the most important home to Garrett Park. The installation of an indoor "privy-sink" in 1898 caused such an uproar amongst the local citizenry, who feared typhoid fever, that the first council was formed and Garrett Park's history of fighting for its beliefs was inaugurated. From 1901 to 1914, the house was occupied by Hart Momsen, developer of the Momsen Lung which was the forerunner of modern skin diving equipment.

Similar to other Garrett Park Victorians, this house has porches, towers, and gables lending special exterior identity to many interior elements. The original wood siding has been covered by asbestos shingle, but little of its intended charm has been lost. Although some minor exterior alterations have been made, the interior of this house has been well preserved.

The main staircase which winds its way to the second floor is exteriorly expressed by the bay windows which contain it and whose windows brilliantly light it. One of the windows is colored leaded glass at the intermediate landing above the area where the treads become winders.

The dining room is completely surrounded by a beaded wood wainscot and chair rail with ornate wallpaper above. At one side of the room is a glass topped door with a hinged shelf cupboard behind, which swings away to reveal a hidden closet under the main staircase. A magnificent alabaster lamp hangs from the ceiling at the center of the dining room.

Very few of the rooms are square or rectangular and most contain more windows and doors than wall space. Typical of Victorian planning the house is full of little surprising nooks and nonsensical spaces which make this architecture so delightful. A narrow winding staircase leads from a short second floor hallway down to the kitchen at the rear. From that same short hallway, another narrow staircase ascends to the third floor which houses two additional bedrooms. Both of these rooms afford their inhabitants a lofty view of the surrounding wooded neighborhood. One bedroom is tucked under the



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #8

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 31 1975

Garrett Park

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

eaves and the other defined by the shape of the octagonal turret above and lit by its two dormer windows projecting through the turret roof.

While the plan is characterized by its irregularity there is an amazing continuity and harmony of all the varied elements which makes these structures more homes than houses.

6. Chapel - Town Hall. 10814 Kenilworth Avenue.

Completed in 1897, this building was built by subscription of townspeople as an Episcopal Chapel and meeting hall. In 1953 it was purchased by the Potomac Conference Corporation of Seventh Day Adventists and remained as a church until the Town purchased the building as its town hall in 1968.

The Kenilworth Avenue elevation is dominated by its bell tower jutting up from the valley created where two gabled roofs come together directly over the main entrance. The two gabled ends facing Kenilworth Avenue clad in wood shingles both project beyond the building below. The larger of the two is accented by an oculus window. Each element in the church has its own identity conveying to the exterior elevations an order indicating the importance of the function each element has to the whole. The nave element, being the largest and most fenestrated, the narthex not quite so important and the bell tower adding a third element to the building.

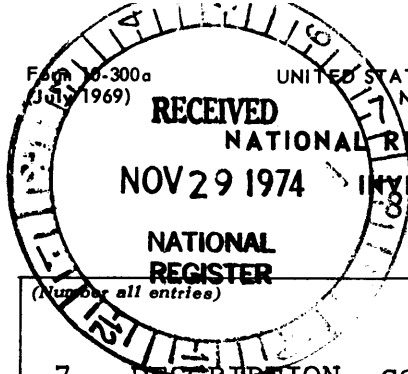
The structure is clad in narrow 4 inch clapboard siding all anchored soundly to the ground on a stone foundation.

The interior like the exterior is simple, containing three major elements. The narthex is located at the side of the nave much like a single transept intercepting a cruciform plan with the altar to one side and the pews to the other. The pews have painted white sides with a dark stained oak seat and back. The sanctuary is centered on the main aisle and raised two risers above the nave floor.

Town records show that among the many Town activities held at the Chapel was a memorial service in 1902 for the assassinated President William McKinley. The building, although now owned by the Town, is used extensively for civic services. The bell in the tower is still sounded to announce commencement of special Town events.

7. Kerr - Parsons House. 4517 Clermont Place.

Constructed between 1924 and 1926, this "Chevy" house is one of thirty-nine built and sold by Maddux, Marshall & Company, Inc. of Washington, D.C. in Garrett Park. They were known as "Chevy" houses because of the Chevrolet automobile



RECEIVED
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #9

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 31 1975

(Number all entries)

Garrett Park

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

which accompanied each house for a small additional charge. Further incentive to the potential purchaser was a two-tube, Atwater-Kent radio.

Offered in three plans and styles, the Sylvan, Roseland, and Woodbine, all were compact and efficient cottages. This second generation of development in Garrett Park is represented by many well preserved examples, of which this is one.

The Parsons' residence, a Sylvan, is typical of the "Chevys" in its simply detailed facade and functional plan. Symmetrically balanced about a front porch with an arched opening in the pediment, this house is clad in German siding with corner and rake board trim. The neo-classical influence of the Twenties is detailed in the porch pedimented roof and square Doric columns and trim.

The interior is extremely efficient with only twenty-four square feet of hall space out of approximately 640 square feet of floor. Of particular interest in the "Chevy" houses were the Murphy fold-out beds and dining alcoves off the living rooms. The spaces for both are readily evident in the Parson's neatly papered living room.

8. Talcott - Melville House. 11112 Kenilworth Avenue.

Constructed in 1892, this two-story frame Victorian is one of the best preserved houses in town. The facade and plan are quite formal and not so irregular as the typical house built by the Metropolitan Investment and Building Company.

The three large and two smaller gables at the attic are clad in wood shingles with a scalloped bottom row projecting over a broad frieze board which encircles the entire house. The gables are accentuated by the shadow cast from the projecting rakeboards and trim.

The second floor is clad in narrow wood clapboard siding with cornerboard trim and is ringed with six over two double-hung windows and louvered shutters. The first floor is dominated by the porch with its hip roof with small pedimented gable over the main entrance. The porch and first floor are elevated five risers above the ground and decorated by a dark green band of lattice.

The interior of the house is decorated in an original 1890's fashion with wainscots, chair rails and intricate patterned wallpaper. Three of the four original fireplaces remain in working order and retain their original mantels.

The staircase to the second floor has a very ornate bannister the pickets being decorated with ornate roping. A center landing allows the stair to turn back on itself and is brightly lit by three windows.

The doors to the bedrooms have glass transoms which lend additional light to the second floor hallway.

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Montgomery
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 31 1975

RECEIVED
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NOV 29 1974 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

NATIONAL REGISTER
 (Continuation Sheet) #10
 (Number all entries)

Garrett Park

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Connecticut combining landscaping and planting with writing. His essays, papers, and articles total over 3,000. In 1854 he opened a business in Philadelphia with Thomas Mechan. Two of his largest commissions--Clifton for Johns Hopkins and the Ross Winans estate--were located in Baltimore. He was responsible for a number of cemeteries, notably Rose Hill in Chicago. Saunders' reputation spread across the country. In 1862 he was called to the newly created Department of Agriculture where he remained until his death. His most outstanding projects include the National Cemetery at Gettysburg (begun the year of the Battle) and the arboretum he planted on the Mall. Until 1930 when the Mall was redesigned this was the most comprehensive arboretum in North America south of Boston.

Saunders is remembered for his introduction of exotic plants into the United States. He found a seedless orange in Brazil which became the navel orange. He brought the Australian eucalyptus globulus to California. Japanese and Russian trees and plants came to this country under his direction. This scientific interest in the flora of foreign countries and arboretums to display them is typical of nineteenth century landscape architecture. The variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers in Garrett Park today follows this theme.

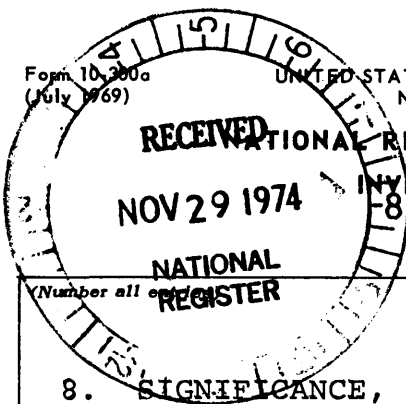
Saunders' involvement in the town is not surprising since he was on the advisory committee to the directors of the Metropolitan Investment and Building Company.

A resume of Saunders' career would be incomplete without mention of his founding of the Grange. An agricultural article of 1855 outlined the need for such an organization. Twelve years later Saunders and five others founded the Patrons of Husbandry; he wrote the constitution and chaired the organization for six years.

The second promotional brochure, printed in 1890, states that town lots "front on picturesque winding park roads in the hilly sections, so as to secure all the beauty of these elevated locations.....While on the village plateau which is but slightly rolling, they are subdivided in city style, with straight streets, etc. so that all tastes can be suited."

(2) This description is as apt today as it was then. In fact, the 1891 map differs very little from a 1974 map; one street has been added and the eastern town limits have been altered because of the formation of Rock Creek Park.

The new town depended on the railroad for transportation and the Baltimore and Ohio served well. Passenger service in 1890 was frequent and inexpensive. Twenty-one trains stopped



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) # 11

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 31 1975

Garrett Park

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

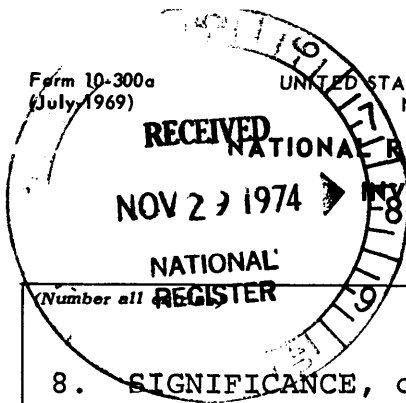
daily and a monthly ticket good for 60 rides was only \$6. Town residents who did their shopping in Washington could ship their purchases back to the village free of charge. At present, railroad passenger service consists of a modest six trains daily; but town wage earners still commute via the B & O as they did in the past.

The Metropolitan Investment and Building Company actually planted only the 154 acres which in 1898 became the incorporated town of Garrett Park. The remainder of the land was sold off, and in 1910 the Company was dissolved. By that time the town had a population of 185 and approximately forty homes.

Garrett Park grew very slowly until the second half of the 1920's when a group of four retired military men formed Maddux, Marshall and Company, Inc. to promote Garrett Park as "a mecca for home-seekers of moderate means.....in an environment fit for millionaires." (3) The Maddux, Marshall Company built approximately forty small two-bedroom cottages and doubled the population of the town. The cottages came in three styles and included an Atwater-Kent radio, a Murphy bed, and the option of garage and any model Chevrolet automobile. Some of these "Chevy" houses are in almost original condition, but many have been enlarged and remodeled beyond recognition.

The next major building wave came after World War II when Montgomery County began its period of rapid growth. Alexander Richter, a Howard University professor and town resident, developed portions of the southeast section of the town and was one of the first in the Washington area to build contemporary homes on hilly, uneven lots. Although very modern in style, these houses and the newer homes built since are very much a part of Garrett Park's uniqueness. The span of housing styles provides not only good examples of period residential architecture, but also of transitional designs and functional adaptations.

The diversity of the houses also reflects the diversity of those who have lived here. As befits a town planned as a residential suburb, the majority of residents have been middle-class Americans with jobs in "town" - Washington, D.C. Some were well-known, like Herman Hollerith, developer of the first punched card tabulating system; Jenny Wilson, Metropolitan Opera singer; and Temple Bailey, popular novelist of the 1920's; but most were not. All, however, have worked to preserve the small town sense of community and belonging that is Garrett Park's.



STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 31 1975

(Continuation Sheet) #12

Garrett Park

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

The town has a Mayor and Council, and an active Citizens' Association, both of which have consistently supported programs to protect the town from encroaching suburbia. In 1959 the town closed all local streets at the town limits to prevent through traffic and to keep the narrow streets safe for pedestrians. A church building constructed in 1897 and used for many years by both church and town groups was purchased five years ago for use as a Town Hall. Last year the town succeeded in buying, for use as a park, a 2 1/2 acre tract of land that had been zoned for thirty-one townhouses. This action was made possible by grants from both the State of Maryland and the Federal Government to help preserve the character of the town.

In May, 1973, the town of Garrett Park celebrated its 75th corporate birthday. Residents coined a new word--demi-sesquicentennial--and turned out en masse for the celebrations. A Washington Post editorial called it "living Americana, a lovely example of American civilization. There is not much left of it in our urban sprawl." (4)

Garrett Park is not a Williamsburg. It is a small suburban town that is still serving its original purpose after almost ninety years. It is a significant historic district because of the imprint of each of these ninety years, and because its nineteenth century village plan and its citizens have been able to incorporate these years of growth into a community that meets the needs of any age while maintaining its ties with the past.

- (1) M.I.B. Brochure, 1887 p.5
- (2) M.I.B. Brochure, 1890 pp. 7, 9.
- (3) Maddux, Marshall Brochure, c. 1924, p. 7.
- (4) Washington Post, May 23, 1973.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #13

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		JAN 31 1975

(Number all entries)

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