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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

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## Description Summary

The Washington Grove Historic District encompasses approximately 225 acres east of Gaithersburg in central Montgomery County, Maryland. It encompasses nearly all of the land within the municipal boundary of the Town of Washington Grove, as well as three early twentieth-century residential properties on the west side of Washington Grove Lane that were developed on land that was historically part of Washington Grove and the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park, which borders the town on the east. Within the district are 216 single-family houses, 3 commercial buildings, 2 municipal buildings, a community clubhouse, and a church set within a secluded, wooded landscape that vividly reflects its origins as a nineteenth-century Methodist camp meeting. The district is bound on the south by the historic Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (today CSX Transportation) and is surrounded by various types of development, including light industrial, commercial, residential, and county and municipal parkland.

The houses within the Washington Grove Historic District represent a range of late nineteenth- and twentieth-century architectural styles and forms. Of particular note is a significant collection of architecturally distinctive Carpenter Gothic cottages that, in their form, scale, and material, complement the forest – the “sacred grove” – that formed the setting of the outdoor religious revival from which the historic district evolved. Originally constructed as modest summer residences, the cottages were converted into year-round homes and adapted to modern living through additions that took various forms – side or rear wings, enclosed porches, gabled dormers – and often occurred as a sequence of renovations over years, even decades. The result is an architecture of accretions that gives Washington Grove’s camp meeting era cottages a highly eclectic and distinct character. The district’s twentieth-century residential styles and forms provide architectural diversity, reflect national trends, and represent Washington Grove’s successful transition from a camp meeting to an independent municipality. These houses include bungalows and other popular domestic forms, revivalist styles, and modern-era designs that emphasize open plans and integration with nature. Contributing to the sense of place is the landscape, which combines towering oaks, broad, pedestrian avenues, public parks, a recreational pond, and woodlands to create a sylvan suburban experience, which lends Washington Grove the moniker “A Town within a Forest.”

The Washington Grove Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) on April 9, 1980. This amended nomination reevaluates the local, state, regional, and national events and trends that have shaped the development, design, and character of Washington Grove to provide a broader context for understanding its significance. The nomination defines a period of significance of 1873 to 1969 and identifies and describes the architectural resources, landscape characteristics, and viewsheds that add to the historic associations, qualities, and values for which the historic district is significant. The nomination expands the previous limits of the historic district to encompass nearly the entire town, as well as key resources on its borders that contribute to its historic associations. Lastly, this amended nomination brings the Washington Grove Historic District documentation to current National Register standards by identifying its historic and current functions, defining a period of significance, and identifying contributing and noncontributing resources.

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This amended nomination identifies 193 contributing resources within the expanded boundaries of the Washington Grove Historic District: 177 contributing buildings, 15 contributing sites, and 1 contributing structure. In addition, this nomination identifies 64 “historic associated features” of the district. This term is used to enumerate and describe the significant features of the landscape that are not individually countable according to National Register guidelines and may apply to elements of the circulation system, views, small-scale features or systems of features, and other landscape characteristics. A table at the end of Section 7 identifying each contributing and noncontributing resource within the historic district is followed by a list of the historic associated features.

## General Description

The Washington Grove Historic District encompasses a residential landscape that began as a Methodist camp meeting in 1873, evolved into a popular suburban summer resort by the late nineteenth century, and became an independent municipality by 1937. Infrastructure improvements and a “boomlet” of new residential development characterized the early municipal period, and Washington Grove emerged in the postwar era primed to absorb a portion of the region’s increased demand for suburban housing. Concurrently, new religious and recreational facilities were introduced into the landscape, reflecting a continuum of land use patterns that originated in the late nineteenth century.

The resources within the Washington Grove Historic District are the result of five periods of development: founding and early development (1873-1901), early twentieth century (1902-1936), early municipal (1937-1945), post-World War II (1946-1969), and current (1970-present).

The founding period encompasses the establishment of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting in 1873 and its evolution in the 1880s into a summer religious resort. The site selected for the camp meeting was a 267-acre tract of wooded farmland east of Gaithersburg along the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio (B&O) Railroad. The land offered a diverse range of natural settings – sylvan paths, secluded nooks, verdure, and shade – that encouraged contemplation, renewal, relaxation, and recreation among those who attend the annual camp meetings. The location also provided all of the amenities and attractions expected from a religious resort of the time. The earliest dwellings were temporary canvas tents, which were gradually replaced by Carpenter Gothic-style cottages.

During the early twentieth century, Washington Grove transitioned from a summer religious resort into a flourishing suburb of Washington, D.C., with a growing population of year-round residents. Driven by Progressive Era reforms aimed at improving sanitation, as well as the introduction of Chautauqua and other factors, residential development substantially expanded into previously unbuilt areas of the land. The single-family homes built in Washington Grove during this period embraced the broad spectrum of residential forms and architectural styles popular in suburban communities throughout the United States. They ranged from

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modest Craftsman-style bungalows to more elaborate Colonial Revival styles. Gradually, the physical vestiges of early camp meeting life were dismantled. The diminished the role of religion within the community, changes in land use, park beautification projects, and infrastructure improvements would have an important impact on the historic district during the early twentieth century.

The Town of Washington Grove was chartered by the state of Maryland in 1937. As a municipal corporation under state law, the town possessed the legislative and administrative power to levy taxes for much needed modernization projects. Home rule gave Washington Grove control over planning and zoning, which had a significant impact on the town's development. During this period, platted but unoccupied lots were sold off, and the corner of Railroad Street and Washington Grove Lane was officially declared a commercial zone.

The period after World War II was a time of intense residential building and remodeling in Washington Grove. New architectural forms characterized the infill development, and subjects such as the changing relationship between cities and suburbs and the environmental movement shaped the physical fabric of the town. The current period is characterized by a continuation of the community's postwar efforts to preserve and protect the natural and built resources and the cultural traditions that contribute to Washington Grove's sense of place.

The following narrative first provides a description of the historic district's setting, describing landscape characteristics and identifying contributing resources and historic associated features. This is followed by a description of the district's architectural resources, covering all five periods of Washington Grove's development.

For the most part, Washington Grove's roads and avenues run in a southwest-northeast direction, and the principal streets run northwest-southeast. For ease of understanding and readability, in Section 7 and throughout the nomination, cardinal directions are used to describe the orientation of resources. As such, a building with a southeast exposure, for example, will be described as facing east.

## SETTING

### *Tent Department*

During the initial period of Washington Grove's development, the spiritual and cultural focus of the Methodist camp was the preacher's stand and its surrounding assembly area, which were located on a high point within the landscape. A sketch map of Washington Grove created in 1873, the year of the first camp meeting, reveals that the assembly area was originally a square clearing in the woods, and the canvas tents that provided the earliest form of shelter were arranged around it in a grid. This arrangement was soon replaced with a wheel plan, featuring radial paths that met at a circular assembly area, which came to be known as the "Sacred Circle," or simply the Circle. The collection of tents, and later cottages, surrounding the **Circle (contributing site)** and

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lining the avenues radiating from it came to be known as the Tent Department.<sup>1</sup> In 1877, the preacher's stand and assembly area, which were unsheltered, were replaced with a rectangular, timber-frame pavilion known as the tabernacle (no longer extant). According to a contemporary source, the tabernacle measured 48 by 70 feet.<sup>2</sup> The tabernacle sat within a circular lawn shaded with trees, and around the lawn was a pedestrian path. The Circle was the location of the first drainage improvement project at Washington Grove in 1880, when terra cotta pipes were laid under the site to prevent puddling and flooding in the vicinity of the tabernacle.<sup>3</sup> In 1905, the tabernacle was torn down (replaced by other assembly buildings), and the character of the Circle evolved once again. The grounds were "beautified" by clearing away debris, draining the site, filling and leveling the ground, and planting grass seed.<sup>4</sup> In 1913, the residents of the cottages surrounding Circle, at their own expense, had "new walks laid out, parking made in front of the cottages and grass sown in the circle space."<sup>5</sup> In 1964, improvements included planting a red dogwood, four rhododendron, and sixty-four azaleas.<sup>6</sup> Today, the Circle is composed of a turf lawn planted with new and mature trees and surrounded by a turf and gravel **path (historic associated feature)**. Four planted beds, as well as azaleas, holly, and other shrubs, create an intimate setting for two concrete and wood-slat benches and a plaque set on a concrete base that commemorates the Circle as the site of the first Washington Grove Camp Meeting. **Views from the Circle of the surrounding cottages and along each of the radial avenues (historic associated feature)** contribute to its sense of place.

The radial paths that converged at the Circle were designated First through Sixth avenues. Today, these narrow avenues retain their historic alignments, remain limited to pedestrian use, and are surfaced with gravel or a combination of turf and gravel. **First Avenue (historic associated feature)** extends between Center Street on the south and the Circle on the north. It was paved with crushed rock as early as 1896.<sup>7</sup> Today, residential development is limited to the lots along the east side of the avenue. **Second Avenue (historic associated feature)** runs between Grove Avenue on the west and the Circle on the east. The course of Second Avenue has

<sup>1</sup> The term "tent department" was in use as early as 1894. The President's Report from that year reads, "What is now termed the tent department, is the territory first used in the holding of camp-meetings...." See President's Report, May 1894, Washington Grove Archives (hereafter shortened to WGA), Box D-1, File DA.0001.21.

<sup>2</sup> T. H. S. Boyd, *The History of Montgomery County, Maryland: From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879* (Baltimore, MD: W. K. Boyle & Son, 1879), 117.

<sup>3</sup> "At Washington Grove," *Washington Post*, July 3, 1880.

<sup>4</sup> Grounds Committee Report, June 1908, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.34.

<sup>5</sup> Photocopied pages from the minutes of the Washington Grove Association annual stockholders meeting, May 30, 1913, courtesy Wendy Harris, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission.

<sup>6</sup> Information Bulletin, October 1964, WGA, Box H-2, Town Publications, Grove (Town) Bulletin, 1956-1985.

<sup>7</sup> President's Report, May 1896, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.22.

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not changed from its historic alignment, and it remains a narrow pedestrian path paved with gravel. **Third Avenue (historic associated feature)** also connects Grove Avenue with the Circle. As originally platted, **Fourth Avenue (historic associated feature)** extended north from the Circle to Laytonsville Road (today Washington Grove Lane). However, like Fifth Avenue and Sixth Avenue to the east, most development along its route occurred below McCauley Street. Today, Fourth Avenue follows a roughly linear course between the Circle and McCauley Street. Along the east side of Fourth Avenue is a small park named Wade Park. **Fifth Avenue (historic associated feature)** extends between the Circle on the south and McCauley Street on the north. It follows a slightly curved course that was likely shaped by the natural contours of the terrain. **Sixth Avenue (historic associated feature)** follows a slightly curved course between the Circle on the south and Grove Road on the north. Like Fifth Avenue, its route was likely determined by the natural contours of the land. In addition to the historically designated avenues, in recent times, the short, unpaved corridor that extends between the Circle and Grove Road (between the cottages at 1 the Circle and 9 the Circle) has been identified as Seventh Avenue. This avenue does not appear by name on the 1886 Lang plan of Washington Grove, the 1897 Maddox plan, on a 1935 house number plan, or in mapping from the mid-1950s. In its 2009 Master Plan, the town identifies the route as Seventh Avenue; however, it is not consistently identified as such on current town maps. **Views from the radial avenues toward the Circle and encompassing the cottages along them (historic associated feature)** are an important attribute of the historic district’s setting.

In addition to the radial avenues, several short, narrow, interstitial alleys once characterized the Tent Department. Today, only one remains – **Johnson Alley (historic associated feature)**. Historically, Johnson Alley provided rear access to the lots along Fourth Avenue and Broadway (now Grove Avenue). In 1898, the alley was cleared to a uniform width of 10 feet.<sup>8</sup> Today, Johnson Alley is a narrow, 8-foot-wide alley that extends from Acorn Lane on the south to McCauley Street on the north. The alley is paved with asphalt, and, while there are no curbs along the roadway, there are several short sections of metal safety rails along its length.

**Acorn Lane (historic associated feature)**, which connects Chestnut Road with McCauley Street, dates to circa 1939, when the pattern of roads around the Circle was modified to accommodate automobile traffic.<sup>9</sup> Today, Acorn Lane is a narrow, vehicular roadway that follows an east-west route between Chestnut Road and Fourth Avenue, at which point it turns north and passes through Wade Park before terminating at McCauley Street. It is an asphalt roadway without curbs. There are several small gravel parking areas along the length of the road that are associated with nearby houses or with Wade Park.

<sup>8</sup> Notes from March 11, 1898, entry in ledger entitled “Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association Records, 1893-1904,” courtesy Wendy Harris, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission.

<sup>9</sup> In his history of Washington Grove, author Philip K. Edwards states that Acorn Lane was opened up in 1939. Town Council meeting minutes, however, state that a resolution was passed in 1945 designating Acorn Lane to be opened to vehicular traffic. See Philip K. Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937: A History of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association* (Washington Grove, MD: P. K. Edwards, 1988), 379, and Town Council Meeting Minutes, June 11, 1945, WGA, Box D-4, File DT.00D4.05.

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**Miller Drive (historic associated feature)** is located north of the Woman’s Clubhouse. It is a circular drive that extends east from Chestnut Road. The road was put in immediately after World War II when the town was making a series of road and infrastructure improvements. Today, the drive is paved with asphalt and has a small section of asphalt curb. Along the length of the drive are several gravel parking areas used by the Woman’s Club and nearby residences.

During the early development of Washington Grove, several clusters of undeveloped lots within the Tent Department were dedicated as small parks. These parks provided visual and physical respite from the closely spaced dwellings that characterized the area. They also served as a gathering space for social, religious, and secular activities. Today, three of these parks remain – Jackson Park, Knott Park, and Wade Park.

**Jackson Park (contributing site)** started out as a small, irregularly shaped park east of Grove Avenue and northwest of the Circle between Third Avenue and Johnson Alley. Based on available records, it is believed the park was named in honor of Richard Plummer Jackson (1816-1891), an early stockholder of Washington Grove.<sup>10</sup> Town records indicate that there was a well and pump in Jackson Park. A local effort by the Washington Conference of Methodists’ Ladies Guild to “beautify” the park in 1916 included plans to plant shrubbery and lay walks.<sup>11</sup> Part of Jackson Park was eliminated when Acorn Lane was established (circa 1939). The space identified today as Jackson Park differs from its historic counterpart. Today, Jackson Park is comprised of what historically has been the north end of Howard Park. It is located west of Grove Avenue and bound by Acorn Lane, Chestnut Road, and Miller Drive. Along the edge of Miller Drive is a small parking area, paved with gravel. Otherwise, the park features a turf lawn planted with evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs. Small-scale features include a wood bench and a small statue of a seated girl (both located near the intersection of Chestnut Road and Acorn Lane) and signage.

**Knott Park (contributing site)** is a small, triangular park bound by Grove Avenue on the west and First Avenue on the east. It may have been named after Ignatius Knott, an active member of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association whose wife Mary was also one of the original stockholders.<sup>12</sup> The Knotts had a cottage on First Avenue that was known for its garden. A newspaper account from 1884 reads, “Perhaps the prettiest cottage in the grove is that of Mr. Ignatius Knott. It is surrounded with a miniature garden in which are tiny beds of flowers in unique design and several urns filled with flowering plants.”<sup>13</sup> As early as 1878, Knott Park was the location a furniture warehouse operated by Washington B. Williams, a merchant from

<sup>10</sup> Jackson was an attorney in Washington, D.C., and the author of a history of Georgetown. See research memo prepared by Patricia Patula, Town Archivist, February 1, 2019.

<sup>11</sup> Grounds Committee Report, April 1916, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.60.

<sup>12</sup> Research memo prepared by Patricia Patula, Town Archivist, February 1, 2019.

<sup>13</sup> “City in the Woods: Religious Services as Washington Grove – The Guests of the Hotel,” *Washington Post*, August 15, 1884.

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Washington, D.C.<sup>14</sup> This building (no longer extant) was later repurposed as a Young People's Hall. In 1902, it was moved out of Knott Park (to an unknown location) to be used in part as a stable. In 1906, the Ladies Guild requested the privilege to beautify the newly cleared park.<sup>15</sup> Today, Knott Park is planted with shade trees and shrubs, including a notable English yew. Its edges are defined by the gravel roadbeds of First Avenue and Grove Avenue.

**Wade Park (contributing site)** is located north of the Circle between Fourth Avenue on the west and Fifth Avenue on the east. It was named after John W. Wade, a founding layman member of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association and its treasurer for fourteen years beginning in 1884.<sup>16</sup> During the camp meeting period, a topographically high point in Wade Park known as **Political Hill (historic associated feature)** was a popular gathering place for politicians who attended camp meetings to make speeches and visit with constituents. A recent restoration (circa 2018) of the rock that was the centerpiece of Political Hill involved clearing overgrowth and making a path around the outcropping.<sup>17</sup> In 1915, Wade Park was also the focus of improvements by the Ladies Guild.<sup>18</sup> A flagpole was installed and dedicated in the park in 1921.<sup>19</sup> Around 1939, when Acorn Lane was established, its route passed through Wade Park, roughly bisecting the space. Today, the park features shade and evergreen trees, turf, and hedges. Small-scale features include concrete and wood-slat benches, the flagpole, and signage. Within the park are small parking areas associated with Acorn Lane. They are paved with gravel and feature timber curbs.

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<sup>14</sup> Williams also reportedly provided postal services and operated a barber shop and lodging rooms in the building. See Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 87. Edwards refers to the merchant as "Wash" B. Williams; contemporary newspaper articles provide his full name of Washington B. Williams.

<sup>15</sup> Notes on the June 23, 1906, Washington Grove Association Board of Trustees Minutes, courtesy Wendy Harris, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission.

<sup>16</sup> Research memo prepared by Patricia Patula, Town Archivist, February 1, 2019.

<sup>17</sup> The restoration focused on a rock outcropping in Wade Park located between Acorn Lane and Fifth Avenue. However, sources differ in their location of Political Hill. The first known reference to its location was written in 1927 and refers to an outcropping of rocks between Fifth and Sixth avenues. A later source gives its location as between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Wade Park. See Patricia Patula, Town Archivist, From the Archives, "'Rocks and Politicians,' The Story of Political Hill," accessed November 30, 2018, available at <https://washingtongrovemd.org/town-bulletins/town-bulletin-october-2013/>.

<sup>18</sup> Notes on the September 3, 1915, Washington Grove Association Board of Trustees Minutes, courtesy Wendy Harris, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission.

<sup>19</sup> President's Report, May 1921, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.44.03.

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## *B&O Railroad Corridor and Associated Features*

The Metropolitan Branch of the B&O, which commenced passenger and freight operations on May 25, 1873, stretched at its completion from the northwest corner of Washington, D.C., to the mouth of the Monocacy River and revolutionized transportation and trade in Montgomery County.<sup>20</sup> Washington Grove had a dedicated stop along the Metropolitan Branch, which carried excursionists and residents to the annual gatherings. In 1873, the railroad built a train depot (no longer extant) at the Washington Grove station. It was a large, frame structure that sheltered an open waiting area. In the 1870s, the B&O Railroad built a timber, pony truss bridge about 600 feet northwest of the Washington Grove station. Called the Humpback Bridge after its distinctive shape, the structure greatly facilitated local travel, trade, and communication by providing a safe above-grade crossing at a blind curve in the tracks.<sup>21</sup> Following completion of double-tracking between Washington and Gaithersburg by 1893, the railroad expanded its facilities at Washington Grove in 1906 when it built a station house (no longer extant) on the opposite side of the tracks from the depot.<sup>22</sup> The station house had a ticket office and separate men's and women's waiting rooms.

The Metropolitan Branch was integral to the development of Washington Grove. Indeed, the founders of the camp meeting deliberately selected a site that was located along the route of the railroad, and the popularity of its trains (as many as twenty Sunday excursion trains a day during camp meetings) its success.<sup>23</sup> The freight carried on the trains, delivered to Washington Grove's freight yard, brought camp supplies and building materials used to construct cottages and other structures. In 1919, there were nine trains stopping at Washington Grove per day, enabling residents to commute to work. The railroad also fostered the development of Oakmont,

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<sup>20</sup> The Metropolitan Branch of the B&O is listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (M: 37-16) and was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 2000 due to its significance in the areas of architecture, community planning, economics, engineering, exploration/settlement, industry, transportation, and local history. See Tim Tamburrino, KCI Technologies, Inc., Maryland Historical Trust Determination of Eligibility Form, "Metropolitan Branch, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (M: 37-16)," January 2000.

<sup>21</sup> In 2009, the Humpback Bridge (M: 21-220) was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A due to its significance in the areas of transportation and community planning. See AD Marble & Company, Maryland Historical Trust Determination of Eligibility Form, "Washington Grove Humpback Bridge (M: 21-220)," 2009, and Town of Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission, 2014 Montgomery County Historic Preservation Awards Nomination Form, "Washington Grove Hump Back Bridge," 2014. As one of only two bridges built by the B&O over the Metropolitan Branch, the Humpback Bridge is also significant as a scarce historic resource. The other bridge is the 1918 Talbot Avenue bridge (M: 36-33), a steel girder bridge near Silver Spring. The Talbot Avenue bridge is in the way of construction of a light rail project and is slated for demolition in 2020 or 2021.

<sup>22</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 187.

<sup>23</sup> Edwards reports that on one Sunday in 1882, 12,000 people attended the Washington Grove camp meeting. See Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 95.

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the late nineteenth-century subdivision across the tracks from Washington Grove, and the growth of Emory Grove, a nearby Methodist camp meeting established by African Americans.<sup>24</sup>

Today, a segment of the 66-foot-wide railroad corridor extends along the southern municipal boundary of Washington Grove, and the northern edge of the rail corridor forms part of the boundary of the historic district. **Views in both directions along Railroad Street of the railroad corridor and Washington Grove station, views from Railroad Street of the Humpback Bridge and its approaches, and views north from Railroad Street along Grove Avenue and Grove Road (historic associated features)** were important to the experience of arriving at or departing from Washington Grove, and these views continue to contribute to the setting of the historic district.

### *Cottage Department*

Although Washington Grove’s initial layout derived from camp meeting traditions, as the summer community grew, additional building lots were needed, which were arranged according to a gridiron system characteristic of many late nineteenth-century railroad and streetcar suburbs. The first area of expansion outside the Tent Department occurred along Grove Avenue, which served as the principal pedestrian route into the campground from the railroad station. In a plat map recorded with the county in 1883, the 1,000-foot-long avenue was divided into thirty-nine lots that measured 50 feet by 150 feet.<sup>25</sup> These generously sized and regularly spaced lots contrasted greatly with the small, often irregular parcels around the Circle. The layout of Grove Avenue influenced the subdivision of the undeveloped land outside the Tent Department, which came to be known as the Cottage Department. These different development areas are reflected in current zoning, which distinguishes between the RR2 Zone (Tent Department) with small, irregular lots of 7,500 square feet versus the RR1 Zone (Cottage Department) with lots measuring 11,250 square feet.

The development of the Cottage Department was principally guided by two plans – the 1886 Lang plan and the 1897 Maddox plan. The Lang plan created new building lots along a system of alternating avenues (for pedestrian use) and roads (for vehicular use).<sup>26</sup> The Maddox plan carried over many of the concepts of the Lang

<sup>24</sup> The Emory Grove camp meeting was located within Johnson’s Park, which is located north of the Midcounty Highway between Woodfield Road and Washington Grove Lane in Montgomery County. For a detailed history of the Emory Grove Camp Meeting and a description of the physical character of the site, see Elizabeth Jo Lampl and Clare Lise Kelly, “Historic Context Report, ‘A Harvest in the Open for Saving Souls,’ The Camp Meetings of Montgomery County,” prepared for the Maryland Historical Trust, 2004, 35-61 (hereafter shortened to Lampl and Kelly, “A Harvest in the Open for Saving Souls,” The Camp Meetings of Montgomery County,” 2004.)

<sup>25</sup> Montgomery County, Circuit Court Land Records, Plat Book EBP 28, Page 58. The plat is also available in the Washington Grove Archives.

<sup>26</sup> National Register documentation for the Linden Historic District in Montgomery County notes that, according to oral history sources, the suburban development of Linden, platted in 1873, also featured separate vehicular and pedestrian routes. See Michael F.

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plan, but took into account the entire property, with the exception of the woods west of Washington Grove Lane. Outside the Tent Department, the Maddox plan laid out generous building lots, 50-foot-wide avenues, and 25-foot-wide roads. In contrast with the Lang plan, in the Maddox plan the roads and avenues east of Grove Avenue were set parallel to it rather than parallel to Ridge Road, eliminating many of the irregular lots of the earlier plan and defining a gridiron system. With the 1897 plan, several parks, together with some streets, were given the names of deceased Washington Grove pioneers or active members of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association who held positions of trust.<sup>27</sup>

## *Cottage Department Circulation System*

As the Maddox plan was implemented, Washington Grove's north-south (pedestrian) avenues came to include Chestnut Avenue, Cherry Avenue, Grove Avenue, Maple Avenue, and Pine Avenue. The north-south (vehicular) roads included Cherry Road (no longer extant), Chestnut Road, Grove Road, Maple Road, Pine Road, and Hickory Road. Contributing to the grid were several east-west streets, including Brown Street, Center Street, McCauley Street, and Oak Street. Boundary roads included Washington Grove Lane on the west, Railroad Street on the south, Ridge Street on the east, and Boundary Street on the north. With the exception of the roads that predated Washington Grove, the pedestrian and vehicular routes delineated in the Maddox plan were cleared and graded gradually, as residential development spread across the landscape.<sup>28</sup>

## *Avenues*

**Chestnut Avenue (historic associated feature)** was platted in the 1886 Lang plan as a single block running parallel to Grove Avenue on the west with nine lots along its east side that measured 120 feet deep. The 1897 Maddox plan shifted Chestnut Avenue to the west to allow for deeper, 150-foot lots on the east side of the avenue and extended it north to Washington Grove Lane. By 1905, part of Chestnut Avenue was surfaced with crushed stone.<sup>29</sup> Construction on many Chestnut Avenue lots was hindered due to poor drainage, and, for a time, the land west of the northern end of Chestnut Avenue was left as a meadow, which the superintendent of

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Dwyer, Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, Maryland Historical Trust Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places, "Linden Historic District," June 3, 1975.

<sup>27</sup> President's Report, May 1897, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.23.

<sup>28</sup> The northern length of Grove Avenue aligned with an old country road to Laytonsville and was used by participants of the Emory Grove Camp Meeting, which predates Washington Grove. The northern length of Grove Road followed the alignment of an old trail that branched off from the country road to Laytonsville and led to Mineral Springs. See Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 32-33, 67.

<sup>29</sup> Grounds Committee, May 1905, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.27.

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the grounds was permitted to use for cutting grass and wood.<sup>30</sup> Drainage conditions along the southern end of Chestnut Avenue improved in 1910, when the area was ditched to channel away surface water. The project succeeded in creating “a demand and sale of lots that heretofore have been flooded in every heavy storm.”<sup>31</sup> By March 1959, the undeveloped land along the northern end of Chestnut Avenue had been partially cleared, and surveyors were hired to determine boundary lines for building lots, which were improved beginning in the 1960s.<sup>32</sup> The northern segment of Chestnut Avenue, however, was never cleared of the mature trees that stand along its route. Today, Chestnut Avenue is a turf pedestrian path with an uneven topography. Its alignment parallels both Grove Avenue and Chestnut Road, which follow a straight course from Brown Street to just north of Center Street where they take a slight bend to the west. At the intersection of Oak Street and Chestnut Road stands a notable shortleaf pine tree, which has the distinction of being the largest specimen of its kind in the state. Other tree species along the well-shaded route include tulip poplar, maple, and oak. An asphalt lined drainage channel, which runs east-west and roughly aligns with Acorn Lane, crosses Chestnut Avenue. **Views along Chestnut Avenue in both directions (historic associated feature)** are an important attribute of the historic district.

Initially platted on the 1886 Lang plan to run parallel to Ridge Road, the orientation of **Cherry Avenue (historic associated feature)** was revised in the 1897 Maddox plan to parallel the route of Grove Avenue. Development along the 50-foot-wide avenue was slow, and when residents began to build along Ridge Road in the 1920s and 1930s, part of Cherry Avenue became a service road for those houses. In 1959, the town’s Planning Commission recommended grading and “topping” the service road and designating the rest of the avenue as a pedestrian walkway.<sup>33</sup> Today, Cherry Avenue runs from Brown Street on the south to the East Woods on the north. While a short section of Cherry Avenue is paved with gravel, for most of its length Cherry Avenue is a turf pedestrian path. Along the paved section of the avenue are several timber curbs. The trees and other vegetation along the avenue are not cut back to a regular width, giving the route an informal character. **Views along Cherry Avenue in both directions (historic associated feature)** are an important attribute of the historic district.

The southern length of **Grove Avenue (historic associated feature)** followed along the crest of a ridgeline and provided a high, dry path for residents and excursionists entering Washington Grove on foot from the railroad station. Towering oak trees shaded the route during the hot summer months. An 1883 newspaper article described Grove Avenue as “...ever an inviting walk, because of its deep and cooling shade.”<sup>34</sup> The first lots

<sup>30</sup> Grounds Committee, September 1905, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.28.

<sup>31</sup> Grounds Committee, May 1910, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.38.

<sup>32</sup> Grove Bulletin, March 1959, WGA, Box H-2.

<sup>33</sup> Grove Bulletin, August 1959, WGA, Box H-2.

<sup>34</sup> “Washington Grove, A Delightful Resort – the Grounds and Cottages – Opening of the Camp,” *Washington Post*, August 5, 1883.

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made available in the Cottage Department were on Grove Avenue, and, by 1885, eight cottages had been built along the route.<sup>35</sup> The lots on Grove Avenue were backed by informal alleys, which became Grove Road and Chestnut Road. These service roads provided access for delivery wagons and the daily services of the scavengers, who cleaned out the privies in the back yards of the cottages. In 1890, timbers were used to curb the avenue, and, by 1896, it was paved with crushed rock.<sup>36</sup> The northern section of the avenue (originally designated as Broadway) was graded and covered with fine stone in 1900.<sup>37</sup> Although the avenue was platted as 50 feet wide, records suggest that the paved section was limited to 30 feet. Key public buildings were located along Grove Avenue, including market stalls (no longer extant), a hotel (no longer extant), and the assembly hall (today McCathran Hall). A sewer was constructed along the west side of Grove Avenue in 1905. Today, Grove Avenue is a broad, turf and gravel pedestrian path lined with majestic oaks and other shade trees. It extends from Railroad Street on the south to McCauley Street on the north. Its sylvan character is enhanced by several public parks that are located along its length. **The views along Grove Avenue in both directions, views from Grove Avenue encompassing McCathran Hall and the Woman's Clubhouse in Howard Park, and the view of the Washington Grove railroad station from Grove Avenue (historic associated features)** contribute to the setting of the historic district.

**Maple Avenue (historic associated feature)** was platted in the 1886 Lang plan as one of four residential avenues east of Grove Avenue. The 1897 Maddox plan extended the avenue north to Boundary Street and dedicated three blocks along its west side as a public park known as Woodward Park. Maple Avenue was not "opened," meaning cleared of underbrush and trees in anticipation of development, until 1905.<sup>38</sup> This was the same year that an auditorium for Chautauqua (no longer extant) was built in Woodward Park. Three years later, the avenue was graded and rolled. Maple Avenue was adjacent to a low-lying area of the Grove that had poor drainage, which was why residential development along its length was relatively slow. Today, Maple Avenue is a turf and gravel pedestrian path lined with tall shade trees. For much of its length, Maple Avenue forms the eastern edge of Woodward Park, and, with one exception (108 Maple Avenue), development is limited to the east side of the avenue. **Views along Maple Avenue in both directions and the broad, sweeping views from the avenue across Woodward Park (historic associated feature)** are an important attribute of the historic district.

**Pine Avenue (historic associated feature)** was platted in the 1886 Lang plan as one of four residential avenues east of Grove Avenue. The 1897 Maddox plan extended the avenue two blocks north of Center Street where it reached an end at Dorsey Street. The route of Pine Avenue traveled over a low-lying area of the Grove that had

<sup>35</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 91.

<sup>36</sup> President's Report, May 1896, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.22.

<sup>37</sup> President's Report, May 1900, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.26.

<sup>38</sup> Grounds Committee, May 1905, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.27.

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poor drainage, and, except for several lots at the south end of the avenue, it was never developed for residential use. Instead, it was set aside as parkland when Woodward Park was expanded west to Grove Road and when the blocks east of Grove Road, west of Maple Avenue, south of Oak Street, and north of the building lots on Brown Street were set apart for recreational purposes and designated as “Athletic Park” (now part of Woodward Park). The buildable lots at the south end of Pine Avenue were not developed until after World War II. Today, Pine Avenue extends roughly 250 feet north of Brown Street before it ends at Woodward Park. **Views north from Pine Avenue into Woodward Park (historic associated feature)** contribute to the setting of the historic district.

### *Roads*

**Chestnut Road (historic associated feature)** was laid out in the 1897 Maddox plan as a 25-foot-wide lane between Chestnut Avenue on the west and Grove Avenue on the east. It extended the length of the Grove, from Washington Grove Lane on the north to the intersection of Brown Street and Railroad Street on the south. Near the center of the Grove, the road passed two public parks – Chapel Park and Howard Park. During World War II, the town planted Victory Gardens within the lots west of Chestnut Road and north of Center Street.<sup>39</sup> Today, Chestnut Road is paved with asphalt. Above Center Street, the road abuts the Washington Grove United Methodist Church parking lot.

**Grove Road (historic associated feature)** was platted in the 1886 Lang plan of Washington Grove, but not identified by name. Eleven years later, the 1897 Maddox plan depicted it as a 25-foot-wide lane between Grove Avenue on the west and Pine Avenue on the east. Between Railroad and Center streets, Grove Road followed a linear route. In contrast, the northern length of Grove Road followed the irregular course of an old trail that branched off from the country road to Laytonsville and led to Mineral Springs.<sup>40</sup> Grove Road terminated at Dorsey Street on the north. For many years, the train depot was located on Railroad Street at the foot of Grove Road. In 1912, the association installed a sewer under Grove Road. Today, Grove Road is paved with asphalt and extends between Railroad Street on the south and McCauley Street on the north. The road passes through Morgan Park and defines the western edge of Woodward Park. It serves as a principal vehicular entrance into Washington Grove from Railroad Street. **Panoramic views from Grove Road encompassing Woodward Park (historic associated feature)** are an important attribute of the historic district.

**Hickory Road (historic associated feature)**, between Chestnut Avenue and Washington Grove Lane, was initially called Switch Road. It starts at Railroad Street on the south and terminates at a small park on the north. It is a vehicular road paved with asphalt. A short section of the south end of the road, which provides access to the back entrances of the commercial buildings along Washington Grove Lane, features concrete curbs.

<sup>39</sup> Town Council Meeting Minutes, Special Council Meeting, March 27, 1943, WGA, Box D-4, DT.00D4.03.

<sup>40</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 33.

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**Maple Road (historic associated feature)** was platted in the 1886 Lang plan, but not identified by name. It was laid out in the 1897 Maddox plan as a 25-foot-wide lane between Maple Avenue on the west and Cherry Avenue on the east. Today, Maple Road is a narrow vehicular route paved with asphalt. It follows a linear course between Brown Street on the south and the East Woods on the north and is shaded by a mature tree canopy.

The route of **Pine Road (historic associated feature)** was laid out in the 1897 Maddox plan as a 25-foot-wide lane between Pine Avenue on the west and Maple Avenue on the east. The road traveled over a low-lying area of the Grove that had poor drainage, and it was eventually incorporated into Woodward Park. Today, Pine Road is a narrow vehicular lane paved with asphalt. It extends roughly 200 feet between Brown Street on the south and Woodward Park on the north.

### *Streets and Lanes*

**Brown Street (historic associated feature)**, at the southern end of Washington Grove, was originally called South Avenue.<sup>41</sup> In the 1886 Lang plan, South Avenue extended from Chestnut Road on the west to Ridge Road on the east. South Avenue, along with Grove, Chestnut, and Maple avenues, was one of the earliest streets in Washington Grove to be opened. In 1897, the street was renamed after Reverend Benjamin Peyton Brown, one of the founders of Washington Grove.<sup>42</sup> The 1897 Maddox plan designated two parcels along the south side of Brown Street (between Chestnut Road and Maple Avenue) as parks – the larger of which was named Morgan Park. Lots with frontages along the north side of Brown Street measured 50 feet wide by 140 feet deep and backed up onto a 10-foot-wide alley. In 1929, the alley was closed, and the depth of the lots along the north side of Brown were extended by 10 feet.<sup>43</sup> (The lots along the south side of Brown Street all had different sizes due to the shape of the block.) Today, Brown Street extends from Railroad Street on the west and to an outlot on the east. For about half of its length, Brown Street forms the northern boundary of Morgan Park, which continues to serve today as a wooded buffer between the railroad tracks and Washington Grove's residential streets. A metal gate at the western end of Brown Street controls automobile access from Railroad Street and Hickory Road, and near this junction along the north side of the street are the remains of a low, **stone perimeter wall (historic associated feature)**. Farther east, at the northwest corner of Brown Street and Grove Road, there is a remnant of a stone culvert that has been carefully maintained by the town as a significant element of the historic

<sup>41</sup> In 1994, the town annexed 2.88 acres of land east of Ridge Road, which was laid out as an extension of Brown Street and subdivided for residential development. This section of Brown Street, which features eight single-family houses built in the late 1990s, is not included within the boundary of the historic district because it lacks historic integrity.

<sup>42</sup> Reverend B. Peyton Brown (1830-1896) was a pastor at several Methodist churches in Washington, D.C., including Foundry Methodist Church. He was part of the search committee that selected the site for Washington Grove.

<sup>43</sup> Montgomery County, Circuit Court Land Records, Plat No. 418, January 1930.

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landscape. (See additional text below related to the town's historic drainage system.) Between Railroad Street and Ridge Road, Brown Street is paved with asphalt, but lacks curbs and sidewalks.<sup>44</sup> **Views along Brown Street in both directions (historic associated feature)** are an important attribute of the historic district.

**Center Street (historic associated feature)** was recorded as Park Street in the 1886 Lang plan, which platted it from Grove Avenue on the west to Ridge Road on the east. The 1897 Maddox plan expanded Center Street to Washington Grove Lane on the west. Today, the aptly named street follows a roughly east-west course through the center of town between Washington Grove Lane and Ridge Road. For most of its length, Center Street is a paved asphalt road. Only a short section of the street west of Chestnut Road has an asphalt curb. A small section of the west end of the street is not paved with asphalt, as vehicular access from Center Street to Washington Grove Lane is prohibited. As Center Street passes through Woodward Park, it serves in part as a gravel access road to the town's maintenance building and in part as gravel pedestrian path. Functional transitions along the street are marked with split rail fencing, such as at the east edge of Woodward Park, and a post-and-chain barrier, such as near Washington Grove Lane. A metal gate spans Center Street near the entrance to the maintenance area. The gate hangs on timbers salvaged from the 2009 rehabilitation of the Humpback Bridge. **Views along Center Street in both directions and views along Center Street encompassing McCathran Hall (historic associated feature)** enhance the experience of the landscape and are an important attribute of the historic district.

In 1987, the town annexed a 1-acre parcel of land along Washington Grove Lane known as "Stewart's Addition," which was laid out as Daylily Lane and subdivided into four residential lots. Today, Daylily Lane (noncontributing) extends roughly 350 feet northwest from Washington Grove Lane along the eastern edge of the West Woods and terminates at a dead end. It is a narrow roadway, paved with asphalt. A single streetlamp lights the road.

**Dorsey Street (historic associated feature)** extended two blocks between Sixth Avenue and Maple Avenue in the 1897 Maddox plan of Washington Grove. The street was likely named after the Dorsey family, whose cottage was located at the west end of the street, at what is now 409 Sixth Avenue. The residential lots at the east end of the street were never developed and eventually became part of Woodward Park. Today, Dorsey Street is a vehicular road that extends the short length between Sixth Avenue and Grove Road.

In the 1897 Maddox plan of Washington Grove, **McCauley Street (historic associated feature)**, formerly called North Street, extended from Chestnut Road on the west to Ridge Road on the east. Reverend James A. McCauley, after whom the street was named, was a part of the search committee that selected the site for

<sup>44</sup> Although the President's Report of 1907 states that stone walks were laid along Brown Street, no physical evidence of this feature exists. See President's Report, May 1907, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.33.

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Washington Grove.<sup>45</sup> Since the Maddox plan oriented most of the Grove's residential lots toward the avenues, McCauley Street was likely planned as a vehicular route and few early cottages were built facing the street. For a period, the grounds north of McCauley Street were used as pasturage.<sup>46</sup> No development occurred along the eastern half of McCauley Street, which became part of Woodward Park and the East Woods, and development along the western half of the street occurred mainly in the second half of the twentieth century. In fact, for many years, the lots north of McCauley Street were beyond the town's water and sewage system.<sup>47</sup> Today, McCauley Street extends from McCauley Park on the west to Grove Road. The street is paved with asphalt. **Views in both directions along McCauley Street (historic associated feature)** contribute to the historic setting of Washington Grove.

In the 1886 Lang plan of Washington Grove, **Oak Street (historic associated feature)** was named Oak Avenue. It had a discontinuous route with a short western section (between Grove Avenue and Chestnut Avenue) that was located south of its longer eastern section (between Grove Avenue to Ridge Road). While the location of the western section was corrected (shifted north) in the 1897 Maddox plan to create a single east-west route, for many years, reluctant property owners who held the title for Lot 25 on Grove Avenue (later designated as Lot 9) refused to turn over the parcel to the city, creating an interruption between Grove Avenue and Chestnut Road. Despite this, improvements along the western half of Oak Street occurred before the eastern half, which was not opened and cleared until about 1905, the same year the Chautauqua auditorium (no longer extant) was built in Woodward Park.<sup>48</sup> Soon after, a boardwalk was laid along Oak Street that connected Grove Road with a stone pathway to the auditorium. Today, Oak Street features a variety of paving materials along its length. It is paved with asphalt at its west end, but east of Chestnut Road it is surfaced with turf except for a small section within Woodward Park that is covered with gravel where it serves as an access road to a parking lot. **Views along Oak Street in both directions (historic associated feature)** are an important attribute of the historic district.

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<sup>45</sup> McCauley (1822-1896) was named a presiding elder of the Washington District of the Methodist Church in 1870. In 1872, he was appointed president of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. See Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections, "James Andrew McCauley (1822-1896)," available at <http://archives.dickinson.edu/people/james-andrew-mccauley-1822-1896>, accessed January 30, 2019.

<sup>46</sup> Notes on the July 28, 1911, Washington Grove Association Board of Trustees Minutes, courtesy Wendy Harris, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission.

<sup>47</sup> Town Council Meeting Minutes, August 13, 1945, WGA, Box D-4, File DT.00D4.05.

<sup>48</sup> Grounds Committee, May 1905, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.27.

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### *Boundary Roads*

**Boundary Street (historic associated feature)** forms part of the northern boundary of Washington Grove. It dates to 1878, when the Grove purchased a 5-acre parcel along the east side of Washington Grove Lane.<sup>49</sup> This parcel was subdivided and platted in the 1897 Maddox plan into the west end of Boundary Street, the north ends of Fifth Avenue and Sixth Avenue, and parts of three residential blocks. The entire length of Boundary Street, as shown in the Maddox plan, was never fully opened. Instead, the central and eastern lengths of the street were absorbed into Woodward Park and the East Woods. Today, Boundary Street extends from Washington Grove Lane to the northwest corner of the Woodward Park/East Woods where it intersects with a cul-de-sac (Silver Dollar Court), which is outside the town limits. It is an asphalt road with concrete curbs.

In the 1897 Maddox plan, **Railroad Street (historic associated feature)** roughly followed the alignment of the B&O Railroad tracks. The street provided access to the train depot and to roads south of the tracks via the Humpback Bridge. It was an important offloading point for residents and visitors traveling to and from the Grove and a vital part of the local transportation network. In 1888, the camp meeting trustees designated Railroad Street to the common use of the county and the association, thus giving the public access to the depot on the Washington Grove side of the tracks.<sup>50</sup> Today, Railroad Street follows a slightly curved route and is bound for most of its length by Morgan Park and the railroad tracks. The southern length of Railroad Street turns sharply southwest where it crosses the railroad tracks before coming to an end at Oakmont Avenue. This intersection is known as Aitchison Crossing. Railroad Street is paved with asphalt and is level along most of its length with the notable exception of the approach to the Humpback Bridge, where it features a sharp rise and drop. There are two short lengths of concrete sidewalk along Railroad Street – one along the south side of the street between Washington Grove Lane and Hickory Road and a second along the north side of the street near Grove Road. The latter provides access from Grove Road to a crosswalk that accesses the waiting shelter at Washington Grove station. Other features include a pull-in parking area along the railroad station and guardrails near the approach to Humpback Bridge. The **views in both directions along Railroad Street (historic associated features)** were important to the experience of arriving at or departing from the Grove and contributes to the setting of the historic district.

Although **Ridge Road (historic associated feature)** was the easternmost road platted in the 1886 Lang plan, the Grove's landholdings initially included farmland to the east. In 1890, the 48-acre farm and a separate 16-acre parcel, both located along the east side of Ridge Road, were sold, and the street became the eastern boundary of the Grove until the current period when the town made land acquisitions that restored some of the original landholdings. As such, the 1897 Maddox plan shows Ridge Road taking a linear route from just south of Brown Street to Boundary Street. For many years, the 30-foot-wide platted road was part of Montgomery County's rural transportation network, used by farmers to transport and trade goods. While the land along the

<sup>49</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 124.

<sup>50</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 123.

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east side of Ridge remained agricultural for many years (remnants of agricultural fencing consisting of wood posts and barbed wire are still visible along Ridge Road), cottages were built along (or moved to) the west side of the road starting in the second decade of the twentieth century. Today, Ridge Road is bounded by residential development, the East Woods, and the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park. It has a dogleg-shaped route that follows a linear course between Railroad Street on the south and the East Woods on the north, turns southeast at the southeast corner of the East Woods, then turns east before terminating at a dead end. The road is paved with asphalt along its entire length, and there are several speedbumps. Near the East Woods, where Ridge Road turns southeast, there is a small section of asphalt curbing, as well as rubble to prevent road erosion. The **views from Ridge Road encompassing the residential parcels of Washington Grove along the west side and the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park along the east side (historic associated feature)** define the physical environment of Washington Grove and are important attributes of its setting.

In the 1897 Maddox plan, **Washington Grove Lane (historic associated feature)**, formerly Laytonsville Road, extended from Railroad Street on the south to Boundary Street on the north. For many years, the lane was part of Montgomery County's rural transportation network, used by farmers to transport goods to the railroad depot from points north. The Grove's landholdings west of Washington Grove Lane (comprising the West Woods) were not platted for residential development, and residential building along the east side of the street did not generally occur until the early twentieth century. In contrast, the south end of Washington Grove Lane at its intersection with Railroad Street was a commercial area since the camp meeting period. Today, the section of Washington Grove Lane that passes adjacent to and through the town follows a slightly curved route that features several speedbumps. It has a 50-foot-wide right-of-way and is paved with asphalt. Along the east side of the street is a concrete sidewalk. **Views along Washington Grove Lane in both directions encompassing the West Woods, the residential lots on both sides of the street, and the commercial and agricultural buildings along the railroad corridor (historic associated feature)** are an important attribute of the historic district.

### *Cottage Department Parks*

In addition to Wade Park and Knott Park (described above as part of the description of the Tent Department), several parks were established during the founding period of Washington Grove's development that had a significant impact on the spatial organization of the landscape. They provided clearings for recreation, created large swaths of open ground that offered visual and physical respite within crowded residential areas, and established natural buffer areas that provided protection and privacy for residents.

**Chapel Park (contributing site)** is located along the south side of Center Street between Grove Avenue and Chestnut Road. The 1886 Lang plan set aside a block of land at the western terminus of Park Avenue (later Center Street) as a public park. The 1897 Maddox plan divided this park into two separate spaces: Chapel Park, which was located south of Center Street and measured 171 feet by 150 feet, and Howard Park along the north side of Center Street. Chapel Park was set aside for a chapel, but this use was never realized. (Instead, in 1901

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an assembly hall, today McCathran Hall, was built in Howard Park.) For a period before World War II, Chapel Park was used for lawn games, including roque, croquet, and badminton.<sup>51</sup> Today, the park features mature oak trees on turf with some understory plantings, including a row of hydrangea shrubs along Grove Avenue. Small-scale features include a concrete and wood-slat bench. A pull-in parking area at the north end of the park along Center Street is paved with gravel. **Views within Chapel Park and across the park to nearby cottages and to Howard Park and its buildings (historic associated feature)** are important attributes of the historic district's setting.

**Howard Park (contributing site)** is located along the north side of Center Street between Grove Avenue and Chestnut Road. As noted above, the Lang plan set aside a block of land at the western terminus of Park Avenue (later Center Street) as a public park. The 1897 Maddox plan divided this park into Chapel Park and Howard Park (also referred to historically as Hotel Park). Howard Park was named after Dr. Flodoardo Howard, a founding trustee and the first president of the association.<sup>52</sup> Howard Park was once the site of a hotel and two commercial buildings, labeled "store" and "market" on the Maddox plan. Late nineteenth-century improvements to the park included removing large stones, plowing and fertilizing the soil, planting grass, paving the walks around the hotel with gravel, and enclosing the hotel grounds with a post-and-wire fence.<sup>53</sup> In 1901, the assembly hall (today McCathran Hall) was erected at the southern end of Howard Park. In 1927, the hotel was razed because it no longer generated revenue. In 1930, a miniature golf course was laid out on the former hotel site.<sup>54</sup> This amenity was eliminated in 1940, when a new assembly building for the Woman's Club was built on the site. Today, Howard Park extends from Center Street on the south to Miller Drive on the north between Chestnut Road and Grove Avenue. It provides a common green for McCathran Hall and the Woman's Club. Footpaths associated with the structures pass through the park, which otherwise features turf lawn, rhododendrons, oakleaf hydrangea, and other shrubs, and deciduous and evergreen trees, including holly, oak, pine, and tricolor beech. Behind the Woman's Club is a stand of cherry trees. The park has an uneven topography that slopes down to the northwest. Small-scale features include four concrete and wood-slat benches and various types of signage. **Views within Howard Park of McCathran Hall and the Woman's Club and across the park to nearby cottages, to Chapel Park, and to the Washington Grove United Methodist**

<sup>51</sup> Philip K. Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977: A History of the Town of Washington Grove, Maryland...the first forty years* (Washington Grove, MD: P. K. Edwards, 1999), 46.

<sup>52</sup> Dr. Howard (1814-1888) had a successful practice in Washington, D.C., and was one of the founders of the Georgetown Medical School (established in 1851), today the Georgetown University School of Medicine. See "Death of Dr. Flodoardo Howard," *Washington Post*, January 18, 1888.

<sup>53</sup> The walks had a clay base covered in two to three inches of crushed rock, which was then rolled. See President's Report, May 1896, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.22, and President's Report, May 1898, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.24.

<sup>54</sup> Sylvia Tate Horan, *A History of the Woman's Club of Washington Grove* (Washington Grove, MD: Woman's Club of Washington Grove, 2001): 4.

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**Church (historic associated feature)** helped define the physical environment of historic district and are important attributes of its setting.

**McCauley Park (contributing site)**, also known as Washington Grove Lane Park, is a small, triangular parcel that provides a verdant entrance to the Grove from Washington Grove Lane. McCauley Street passes through the park, which features shade trees, as well as smaller, flowering trees, including a magnolia. As the setting of the northern entrance to the Grove, there are several types of signage within the park. Along the western edge of the park is a concrete sidewalk.

**Morgan Park (contributing site)** extends between Brown Street on the north, the municipal boundary line on the south, Hickory Road on the west, and Maple Avenue on the east. With the exception of a few parcels between Pine and Maple avenues, which were platted for residential development, the majority of this area was set aside as open space in the 1886 Lang plan. Recognizing the significance of the space as the front door of Washington Grove, it was officially decreed a park in 1890.<sup>55</sup> The park was named after Major Thomas P. Morgan, the second president of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association.<sup>56</sup> The forested area provided a natural buffer between the noise and dust of the train depot and the tranquility of the camp meeting grounds. Later, as Washington Grove became a year-round community, Morgan Park also served as a transitional space between the rail corridor and the Grove's residential areas. In the early twentieth century, Morgan Park was the focus of improvements by the Washington Conference of Methodists' Ladies Guild.<sup>57</sup> In the early 1980s, as part of a reforestation effort, the town planted more than 300 evergreen trees in the park. On July 4, 2008, a plaque (affixed to a boulder) commemorating the history of Washington Grove was dedicated in Morgan Park. Today, roughly one-third of the park is emerging woodland, densely planted with trees and shrubs. A drainage ditch passes through the park from the intersection of Pine Road and Brown Street to a culvert at Railroad Street. A strip of the park along the south side of Brown Street has been cleared of understory vegetation. The section of the park traversed by Grove Road has also been cleared of understory plantings and features shade and evergreen trees on turf, flowering plants and shrubs (including rhododendrons, azaleas, and hellebores), a concrete and wood-slat bench, the commemorative plaque, and various types of signage. **Views from Morgan Park toward the Washington Grove railroad station and views from the**

<sup>55</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 123.

<sup>56</sup> In addition to holding a leadership role at Washington Grove, Major Morgan (d. 1896) served many years in public office in the District of Columbia. In 1873, Morgan was elected to the Board of Fire Commissioners, then, five years later, he was appointed Chief of Police. Between November 1879 and March 1883, he served as one of the three commissioners of the District of Columbia. See Metropolitan Police Department, "Thomas P. Morgan," available at <https://mpdc.dc.gov/biography/thomas-p-morgan>, accessed November 29, 2018.

<sup>57</sup> Notes on the September 3, 1915, Washington Grove Association Board of Trustees Minutes, courtesy Wendy Harris, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission.

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**park along Grove Avenue, Grove Road, and Brown Street (historic associated feature)** are important attributes of the historic district.

The original tract of land acquired by the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association included a 48-acre farm on the east side of Ridge Road. In 1890, the farm was sold to Andrew H. Ragan for \$2,416 to help pay off association debt.<sup>58</sup> For decades, this parcel and other agricultural resources on the fringes of the community defined its rural character and reinforced the idea of the Grove as “a place apart.” Today, the 12-acre **Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park (contributing site)**, which is located on part of the land that once comprised the 48-acre farm, is a key component of the setting of Washington Grove.<sup>59</sup> The park helps contextualize the Grove within Montgomery County’s agricultural heritage and preserves the rural, open vistas and spatial organization of the farmland that historically formed the setting of the Grove. The park also provides a critical buffer between Washington Grove’s residential streets and surrounding high-density residential and highway development. It features a native meadow habitat with forested edges and natural surface trails. Built structures are limited to park signage and an informational kiosk. After a decade long effort to preserve the meadow from development, the town purchased the property. While the town owns the land, the park is wholly maintained and operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.<sup>60</sup> The broad, sweeping **views within and across the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park (historic associated feature)** are important attributes of the historic district that reinforce the rural setting of Washington Grove.

Within the forest buffer east of the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park (and outside the boundary of the Washington Grove Historic District) is the Washington Grove Steatite Quarry Site, an archaeological site listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (Site # 18MO6221). The site is comprised of five distinct areas of archaeological interest that represent evidence of Euro-American and possibly Native American use of the area as a quarrying site. The quarry may have also been used as a source of building materials for local farmers and early residents of Washington Grove.<sup>61</sup> The land adjoining the Washington Grove Steatite Quarry Site, including, but not limited to, the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation park, should be considered archaeologically sensitive.

<sup>58</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 123, 125. Note that while Edwards describes the farm as 50 acres, deed records indicate that the boundaries encompassed 48 acres. See Maryland Land Records, Deed Book JA 23, page 70.

<sup>59</sup> The site was designated a conservation park by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 2007.

<sup>60</sup> The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission holds a deed of dedication that requires it to maintain and operate the land as an open space park, and the Town of Washington Grove owns the underlying in-fee property interest. See Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, “Washington Grove Conservation Park Operation and Use Plan,” Staff Draft, October 2013, 4.

<sup>61</sup> “Status of Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park and Cultural Resources, Part I – Washington Grove Steatite Quarry Site,” report prepared for the Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission by Wendy Harris, draft dated December 16, 2013.

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**Woodward Park (contributing site)** has its origins in the 1897 Maddox plan, which set aside three blocks along the west side of Maple Avenue as a public park named in honor of William Ryland Woodward, one of Washington Grove's founding trustees and the vice president of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association for its first fifteen years.<sup>62</sup> In 1905, the park was informally expanded west to Grove Road. That same year, the area bound by Oak Street on the north, Maple Avenue on the east, the building lots on Pine and Maple avenues on the south, and Grove Road on the west were set apart for recreational purposes and dedicated as "Athletic Park."<sup>63</sup> This land was poorly drained and consisted of mainly thicket and bog before it was adapted for recreational use.<sup>64</sup> A plat map dated January 6, 1930, records that the lots south, west, and north of Woodward Park (including the area known as Athletic Park) had been officially dedicated as "Park" by the association on May 30, 1925. This area, which extended from the private lots along Pine and Maple avenues on the south to Boundary Street on the north and roughly from Grove Road on the west to Maple Avenue on the east, matched the parcels surrounding Woodward Park that were shaded green for "Parks and Parking" in the 1897 Maddox plan. Historically, Woodward Park has provided Grove residents and visitors areas for both passive and active recreation. Between 1905 and 1963, an auditorium stood in Woodward Park north of Oak Street and east of the tennis courts. It was used for Chautauqua and other community activities. Other structures included a men's clubhouse (no longer extant), a girls' clubhouse (built in 1910), which was used by the Woman's Club before being destroyed by fire in 1939, and a large, stone **fireplace (contributing structure)**, built by the Athletic Club in 1935. The park's tennis courts and athletic fields were popular with residents and the public. For a period beginning in 1903 and continuing through at least 1916, track and field events were held in the park every summer.<sup>65</sup> They attracted athletes from Maryland as well as from neighboring states.<sup>66</sup> The tradition of athletic competition continues today with Labor Day events, including triathlon, foot and bicycle races, field events, croquet, and tennis. After drainage improvements were carried out along Center Street, a location along the south side of the street within Woodward Park was selected as the site for a town **maintenance building (contributing building)**, at 312 Center Street, which was built in 1955. Following the demolition of the auditorium in 1963, its site was redeveloped as part of a new Woodward Park "recreation center" that featured playground equipment and a multi-purpose, all-weather court. In 1965, a town nursery was

<sup>62</sup> Woodward (1819-1905) was a lawyer and the first president of the Washington Title Insurance Company. He was prominent in business and municipal affairs in the District of Columbia and was an advocate for the public school system. See "Unexpected Demise of William Ryland Woodward," *Evening Star*, August 8, 1905.

<sup>63</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 195.

<sup>64</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 120.

<sup>65</sup> "Sports at the Grove," *Washington Post*, September 8, 1903, and "Hold Athletic Meet of Numerous Events," *Washington Post*, September 5, 1916.

<sup>66</sup> Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A, *A Rural Survey in Maryland* (New York: n.p., 1912), 47; 49.

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established in southeast section of the park. (In 2007, it was redefined as an arboretum.) To commemorate the Grove's centennial, celebrated in 1974, a group of volunteers built a gazebo (noncontributing structure) in the park on a site northeast of the intersection of Grove Road and Center Street.<sup>67</sup> (Later, in 1980, this section of the park would be dedicated as Zoe Wadsworth Park.) Today, Woodward Park consists of two distinct areas. With the exception of the clearing around the gazebo in Zoe Wadsworth Park, the section of Woodward Park north of Center Street is heavily wooded and features trails that connect it with the East Woods forest preserve. South of Center Street, the park features baseball fields, a soccer field, tennis and basketball courts, horseshoe pits, playground equipment, picnic areas, and associated features, including backstops, chain-link fencing, and a shed. Other small-scale landscape features include gravel paths and parking areas, signage, concrete and wood-slat benches, drainage ditches, a flagpole, and architectural and engineering artifacts.<sup>68</sup> Tree species include Virginia pine, pin oak, blackjack oak, white oak, swamp oak, black gum, American beech, and sycamore, among others. The broad, sweeping **views within and across Woodward Park encompassing the vegetation, the recreational features, and nearby cottages (historic associated feature)** are significant characteristics of Washington Grove's landscape that help define its physical environment.

## *Forest Preserves*

The undeveloped, wooded area in the northeast quadrant of Washington Grove, now known as the **East Woods (contributing site)**, was identified in the Lang plan as a "Laundry Reserve" and "Carriage Park." Timber was harvested from the woods, and, during the early years of Washington Grove, it was the location of the camp privies and trenches for burying waste.<sup>69</sup> While the 1897 Maddox plan subdivided the area into residential lots, the land remained untouched until the late 1940s-early 1950s, when several parcels along the north side of Center Street were developed. In response to a confluence of factors related to metropolitan expansion into Montgomery County, including highway development, rezoning, and encroaching high density residential development, Washington Grove residents emerged in the 1960s as forceful defenders of their natural resources. In 1964, with the approval of the town's first zoning map, the area was designated as a forest preserve known as the East Woods. Its boundaries extended from Maple Avenue on the west to Ridge Road on the east and from Boundary Street on the north to the back of the residential lots along Center Street on the south. Immediately west of the East Woods was the northern section of Woodward Park. Today, the East Woods is a wooded area characterized by thick understory growth, swales, and trails. Tree species include oak, hickory, mulberry, and wild cherry, among others.<sup>70</sup> The woods are used for passive recreation, such as dog walking and nature hikes.

<sup>67</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 251-52.

<sup>68</sup> One of the architectural artifacts is an assembly of carved granite pieces salvaged from a renovation of the Washington City Post Office (1911-14), which was designed by architect Daniel Burnham.

<sup>69</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 104.

<sup>70</sup> "The Forests of Washington Grove," Town of Washington Grove website, available at <http://washingtongrovermd.org/the-forests-of-washington-grove/>.

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The trails are primarily dirt, but some sections are surfaced with gravel, and trail amenities include a pedestrian bridge and some timber edging. Drainage ditches pass through the East Woods to absorb the town's stormwater runoff. Water mains and fire hydrants present in the woods reflect earlier plans for residential development. Other small-scale features include signage and fencing. The woods provide an important natural buffer between the town's residential areas and surrounding high density development, helping to preserve the sylvan character of Washington Grove. In an effort to ensure its preservation, the longstanding block and lot plats within the limits of the East Woods were abandoned through a zoning amendment and no longer appear on Montgomery County zoning maps. Within the East Woods, **views within the preserve and periodic views through the trees of nearby cottages (historic associated feature)** contribute to the historic district's setting.

The original, 267-acre tract of land purchased by the organizers of Washington Grove included nearly 47 acres on the west side of Washington Grove Lane now known as the **West Woods (contributing site)**. As the location of two springs (Whetstone Spring and Maple Spring), this wooded area was a vital source of water and an essential part of the camp meeting grounds. Separated by a roadway from the Tent and Cottage departments, the West Woods were never platted for building lots. In fact, the woods were not included in the 1897 Maddox survey. Instead, the woods were harvested for timber, and camp meeting attendees and summer residents used the logging trails for picnics and excursions. In 1910, construction began on Maple Lake (see description below). Improvements were made to the picnic area near Whetstone Spring when a stone fireplace (no longer extant), similar to the one built in Woodward Park, was constructed in the late 1930s. Trees were last harvested from the West Woods in 1946, and by the early 1950s, some residents advocated for subdividing or selling the land.<sup>71</sup> After it was found that the West Woods were not officially part of the town, the municipal limits were amended in 1953 to include the land. Improvements followed, including the restoration of Maple Lake as a swimming pond in 1954-55. As part of this work, a new access road was created from the trail that led to Whetstone Spring.<sup>72</sup> In March 1957, 500 seedling pines were planted against the woods around Maple Lake.<sup>73</sup> By 1964, with the approval of the town's first zoning map, the West Woods was designated a forest preserve. A small brick sewage pumping station that once stood within the woods was demolished in 1985. Today, the West Woods are used for passive recreation, such as dog walking, bird watching, and nature hikes, as well as for swimming and fishing. Drainage channels convey the town's stormwater runoff into the woods. A gravel road and parking area provide access to Maple Lake, which is surrounded by a fence. With the exception of the Maple Lake area, the reserve is densely wooded with a thick understory that is cut through with dirt trails. Tree species include tulip poplars, oaks, and dogwood, among others.<sup>74</sup> The woods provide an important natural

<sup>71</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 221.

<sup>72</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 120.

<sup>73</sup> Grove Bulletin, April 1957, WGA, Box H-2, Town Publications, Grove (Town) Bulletin, 1956-1985.

<sup>74</sup> "The Forests of Washington Grove," Town of Washington Grove website, available at <http://washingtongrovermd.org/the-forests-of-washington-grove/>.

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buffer between the town's residential areas and surrounding high-density development, helping to preserve the sylvan character of Washington Grove. Within the West Woods, **periodic views through the trees of Maple Lake and the springs (historic associated feature)** contribute to the historic district's sylvan setting.

## *Water Features*

**Maple Spring (contributing site)** is located in the West Woods of Washington Grove. It comes up south of and historically was a feeder to Maple Lake (see description below). During the camp meeting era, the spring was an important source of potable water and a popular destination for nature walks, picnics, and other passive recreational activities. Historic photographs indicate that early improvements at the site of the spring included the construction of a tiered, masonry spring box.<sup>75</sup> Maple Spring continues to run in the late winter and early spring; however, it no longer feeds Maple Lake. (As a result of adjacent development, a well and pumping system were installed to feed the lake in the early 1990s.<sup>76</sup>) An archaeological survey may identify remnants of historic features associated with the spring, and this site should be considered archaeologically sensitive.

**Whetstone Spring (contributing site)** is located in the north end of the West Woods. While it was an important source of water for Washington Grove, its location deep in the woods and far from the center of the campground made it an inconvenient source for daily use. Instead, Whetstone Spring mainly provided a cool, shady spot for outdoor gatherings. In the late 1930s, Washington Grove hired a local mason to build a stone fireplace (no longer extant) at Whetstone Spring.<sup>77</sup> It was located along the bank opposite the spring. Additional improvements were made in 1949 when the ground around the spring was cleared and benches were installed. The dugout area of the spring was once capped with a slab of granite. According to oral tradition, the stone was removed in the 1950s, although the reason why is unknown.<sup>78</sup> Today, Whetstone Springs' waters are visible during the late winter and early spring from along one of the trails that passes through the woods. The site is also considered archaeologically sensitive, as remnants of the fireplace or other features may remain.

In 1910, the Washington Grove Association (successor to the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association) initiated a project to create an "artificial lake" by clearing and dredging the area around Maple Spring in the West Woods. **Maple Lake (contributing site)**, as it came to be known, was used for recreation in the summer and to harvest ice in the winter. Since water sports were discouraged by the Methodists, the recreational

<sup>75</sup> Documentation does not clarify whether this feature was built by Washington Grove or whether it was in place prior to the land being purchased by the camp meeting association.

<sup>76</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 330-31.

<sup>77</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 115.

<sup>78</sup> Washington Grove Round Table Discussion, August 31, 2018, recording available in WGA.

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function of the lake did not initially flourish, and its use as an ice pond was also short lived. As a result, the lake fell into disuse for a number of years until the summer of 1927, when it was revitalized and repaired. Due to a combination of factors, however, the lake basin was not maintained during most of the 1930s and 1940s. In 1953, the town chartered a Lake Committee to guide the restoration of the site. The redesigned lake, inaugurated in 1955, measured roughly 330 feet long by 160 feet wide with a depth that varied from 30 inches to 8 feet deep.<sup>79</sup> It featured an island and a dock, and a new access road was created to the lake. Later improvements included a bridge to the island (1962) and a perimeter fence (1973). As noted above, in the early 1990s, a well and pumping system were installed to feed the lake. It is periodically drained and dredged. Today, Maple Lake offers both passive and active recreational opportunities in the form of picnics, birding, fishing, and swimming. These include town-organized swimming lessons and lifeguard monitored swim times. **Panoramic views across Maple Lake into the West Woods (historic associated feature)** are an important aspect of the Grove's sylvan setting.

### *Systems of Small-Scale Features*

Small-scale features within the historic district reflect both aesthetic and functional aspects of the landscape. Elements of the well water system and the sewage and drainage system, as well as streetlights and other features, tell the story of Washington Grove's development and form an integral component of the historic district.

Washington Grove's well water system supplied water to residents for over fifty years. Remaining **elements of the well water system (historic associated feature)** comprise a group of small-scale features that contribute to the character of Washington Grove's setting. Examples include well pumps, such as those in the yard of 127 Maple Avenue and under the carport of the house at 201 Grove Avenue, and well houses. Near the back of the house at 117 Grove Avenue stands a frame well house with a hipped roof, exposed rafters, and wood siding. There is also a well house located at 12 the Circle, at the eastern end of the lot, near the Circle.

The group of small-scale features that comprise the remaining **elements of the camp meeting-era stormwater and drainage system (historic associated feature)** represents an important visible record of Washington Grove's engineered landscape and contributes to the setting of the historic district. Elements of the stormwater and drainage system, which represent several generations of infrastructure improvements, can be found throughout the landscape. Open ditches in Woodward Park and Morgan Park and associated culverts are vestiges of nineteenth-century efforts to drain the low-lying areas of the grounds. The stone retaining wall at the edge of the East Woods near Dorsey Street is part of an early system to drain the Circle. It has a flat stone vertical face and raked concrete mortar joints.<sup>80</sup> The stone culvert at the northwest corner of Brown Street and

<sup>79</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 119.

<sup>80</sup> Gail Littlefield, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission, memo titled "System of Stormwater and other infrastructure," February 2019.

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Grove Road likely dates to 1939, when a local mason was hired to build infrastructure to route stormwater under the town's newly paved roads. While these features, and others, are visible aboveground, underground drainpipes include a 20-foot-long, 7-inch-diameter, terra cotta drainage pipe under Maple Avenue; a 46-foot-long, 13-inch-diameter, terra cotta pipe under Brown Street at Grove Road; a 23-foot-long, 10-inch-diameter, terra cotta pipe under Grove Road near Dorsey Street; and a 5-foot-long, 12-inch-diameter, terra cotta pipe at McCauley Street and Chestnut Road.<sup>81</sup>

Washington Grove's **wood street signs (historic associated feature)** represent a significant system of small-scale features that contribute to the setting and character of the historic district. They were posted along the roads and avenues in the late 1930s as part of road improvements carried out by Washington Grove's new municipal government. The original signs, which had a brown field and block letters stenciled in white paint, were mounted on wood posts (painted white) with a pyramidal top. This model was replicated with few changes until 1986, when the design was slightly modified. The new signs were wood but featured routed letters (painted white) and a hand-painted picture of a native plant or animal.<sup>82</sup> As the signs deteriorate, they are restored or replaced in kind by community volunteers. The natural materials and rustic character of the signs complement the town's vernacular architecture.

Although none of Washington Grove's first generation of electric streetlights remain, a later generation of streetlights comprised of wood poles and spherical lights are evident throughout the landscape. There are fifteen in total – three stand along McCauley Street, four in the Tent Department, and eight at intersections throughout the Cottage Department.<sup>83</sup> These **spherical streetlights (historic associated feature)** are an important attribute of the historic district's setting.

Washington Grove's **historic fire hydrants (historic associated feature)** date to 1927 and represent a culmination of efforts since the founding of the camp meeting to manage the risk of fire. Two historic fire hydrants remain along the extension of Maple Avenue into the East Woods and are a reminder of the era when the forest was platted for residential development.<sup>84</sup> The hydrants feature a pinwheel design on the hose connection cap and a higher dome than later models.

<sup>81</sup> Jim Fletcher, Maintenance Supervisor, "Town of Washington Grove, Inventory of Stormwater Storage and Conveyance Facilities," October 31, 2000.

<sup>82</sup> Gail Littlefield, memo titled "Washington Grove's system of wood street signs," dated February 2019.

<sup>83</sup> Gail Littlefield, memo titled "Washington Grove Streetlights," dated February 2019.

<sup>84</sup> Gail Littlefield, memo titled "Fire Hydrants in the Woods?," February 2019.

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## ARCHITECTURE

### *Founding and Early Development (1873-1901)*

The residential buildings that characterize Washington Grove's founding period (1873-1901) represent a notable collection of Carpenter Gothic-style cottages that, in their form and massing, evoked the canvas tents that initially made up the community. The Carpenter Gothic style was developed by builders as an American domestic interpretation of the Gothic Revival. At Washington Grove, the style was expressed using scroll-sawn bargeboards, bracketed pendants, decorative dressings over or around windows and doors, and turned or chamfered porch posts. Many of the Grove's Carpenter Gothic cottages from this period have been modified and enlarged over time, yet they retain their essential form and massing and key architectural features.

Washington Grove's earliest cottages were built in the vicinity of the Circle on tent sites, which measured 15 feet wide by 20 feet deep or 15 by 30 feet.<sup>85</sup> This placed restraints on the dimensions of the building footprint with a typical cottage measuring 14 feet across and 30 feet deep. Many of the historic district's camp meeting-era cottages, such as the house at **315 Grove Avenue (contributing building)**, still retain their historic 14- by 30-foot core. The cottages were built on posts (often locust or cedar due to their resistance to decay) without foundations, and the framing was minimal, typically consisting of 2- by 4-inch studs on 54-inch centers for both walls and roof. Local builders during this period used triple-beaded, tongue-and-groove lumber, and some cottages at Washington Grove applied this distinctive material for interior paneling, exterior siding, or porch ceilings.<sup>86</sup> One example is the cottage at **127 Grove Avenue (contributing building)**, which features triple-beaded exterior siding. According to oral tradition, canvas was used to insulate and weatherproof the walls and roofs of some cottages. Canvas was also used for exterior passages between the main house and kitchen wings.<sup>87</sup> Interior spaces were high and narrow. In some cases, a loft was built to create sleeping quarters above the ground-floor level.

Washington Grove's camp meeting-era cottages often featured double doors, sometimes with flanking full-height windows. When the front doors and windows were open, much of the interior was exposed to view, evoking the character of canvas tents. Cottages in the Tent Department were frequently crowded closely together so openings on the front of the house were the primary instrument for bringing light and ventilation to the interior. Windows in the front gables served the same purpose. Another typical feature of a Washington Grove camp meeting cottage was a front porch. Porches were built on grade or were slightly raised, and most

<sup>85</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 42.

<sup>86</sup> Clare Lise Cavicchi, *Places from the Past: The Tradition of Gardez Bien in Montgomery County, Maryland* (Silver Spring, MD: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2001), 39.

<sup>87</sup> Washington Grove Round Table Discussion, August 31, 2018, recording available in WGA.

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had hipped roofs that extended across the entire front façade. Porches, which simulated tent awnings, provided a place for social interaction, connected occupants with nature, and provided the opportunity for individual architectural expression through decorative detailing.

Washington Grove's earliest dwellings were clustered around the Circle, and this area is still characterized by a compact arrangement of cottages nestled among the trees. Indeed today, the cottage at **301 First Avenue (contributing building)** stands just an arm's length away from its neighbor to the north and its front porch wraps around a mature oak tree. Cottages in the Tent Department were expanded by building rear additions that often telescoped the length of the lot, as there was no space to build additional rooms along side elevations. In contrast, dwellings in the Cottage Department stood farther apart from one another, allowing for cross gable forms with side or wraparound porches and additional window openings on the secondary façades or along the roof. The one-and-a-half-story house at **206 Grove Avenue (contributing building)**, known as "Portobello," exemplifies this condition. It has a cruciform plan, a broad, wraparound porch, tall, double-hung sash windows on all four façades, and even a bay window facing Chapel Park.

At Washington Grove's annual summer gathering in 1879, Washington, D.C., resident George E. Emmons, a member of the Twelfth Street Methodist Church on Capitol Hill, was among those camping on the grounds.<sup>88</sup> Within a few years, Emmons upgraded from a tent to a permanent cottage, which was prominently located on the east side of the "Sacred Circle."<sup>89</sup> Like many early cottages built in Washington Grove, the style, massing, and form of Emmons' cottage, today **15 the Circle (contributing building)**, was influenced by the canvas structures that initially made up the community and by nineteenth-century trends in architecture and vernacular building. It was a one-and-a-half-story, Carpenter Gothic-style cottage with a steeply pitched, front-gable roof. A slightly raised porch extended across the entire front façade, which measured 14 feet wide. The porch extended the cottage's interior space into the public realm, and, given its proximity to the tabernacle, provided a comfortable and convenient place to listen to sermons. In 1906, the owner at the time requested permission to build a porch, presumably to replace the original.<sup>90</sup> As built, it measured 8 feet deep and 22 feet across and wrapped around the north façade. A photograph from that period shows that the new porch had a hipped, standing-seam metal roof. The photograph also indicates that the cottage had a double door in the center of the front façade with full-height windows to either side and a large window opening in the front gable. One-story additions on the back of the house extended the living space. By the 1950s, shed dormers had been added to both slopes of the main roof, bringing additional natural light to the interior. In addition, the original window in the front gable had been replaced with a sash window, the front door had been moved from the center of the

<sup>88</sup> "Washington Grove, Opening of the Methodist Camp-meeting Tomorrow," *Washington Post*, August 6, 1879.

<sup>89</sup> House History, "15 the Circle," available at <http://washingtongrovm.org/house-histories/15-the-circle/>, accessed July 26, 2018. The house history lists the construction date as circa 1875-85, although it may more accurately be given as circa 1880-85.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

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façade to the south bay, and the porch posts had been replaced with square columns. New owners purchased the cottage in 1975 and made extensive changes the following year. They added a Contemporary-style addition to the nearly century-old house that included a family room, loft, and decks. A restoration circa 2005 returned the front façade closer to its original appearance by installing a central door and two-over-two, double-hung sash, wood windows on the porch and a tripartite window in the gable above. The door and window openings were framed with Carpenter Gothic-style trim. Most recently, in 2017, the 1976 addition was torn down, a back deck and stairs off the kitchen were rebuilt, and a new deck was constructed on the foundation of the demolished family room. The new work used tongue-and-groove wood siding to match the rest of the house. Characteristic of Washington Grove's late nineteenth-century cottages, 15 the Circle has been expanded and modified to meet the needs of its owners, but still retains its core form and key characteristics of the camp meeting era.

The one-and-a-half-story cottage at **1 the Circle (contributing building)** was built circa 1878-85 by Richard H. Willett, a trustee of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association and co-owner of a Washington, D.C., lumber company.<sup>91</sup> Willett's house measured 14 feet wide by 40 feet deep and had a high pitched, front-gable roof. The front façade, which faced north toward the Circle, featured a double door with tall, two-over-two, double-hung sash, wood windows to either side. Starting in the 1890s, homeowners in Washington Grove began to replace original porches with chamfered or turned posts with larger porches with classical columns. This was the case at 1 the Circle, where two original porches (one that faced the Circle and one on the west side of the house) were replaced with a curved, wraparound porch that had a hipped roof supported by round columns. Except for a one-story addition on the rear and the addition of shed-roof dormers on the west slope of the roof, few changes had been made to the narrow house by the late 1970s, when the cottage was owned by William K. Teepe, who was born in the house in 1906. Later, however, the house was enlarged with the construction of two additions on the east façade. The one-story addition to the north – a sunporch – has a flat roof topped with a wood balustrade, and the two-story addition behind has a shed roof that extends from the peak of the main roof. The additions feature decorative bargeboards and brackets to harmonize with the Gothic Revival style of the original cottage. Also off the east façade is a raised porch with a hipped roof that accesses a side door. The roof of the side porch is supported by turned posts with cutout brackets. The original core of the house is lit by two-over-two, double-hung sash, wood windows, while the rest of the dwelling has double-hung sash and fixed, vinyl windows. The front gable retains its original Carpenter Gothic-style ornamentation, including scroll-sawn bargeboards and a pendant, but the window opening in the gable has been modified. Vinyl siding clads the original house and additions. The cottage's distinctive wraparound porch enhances the view from First Avenue looking toward the Circle.

<sup>91</sup> House History, "1 the Circle," available at <https://washingtongrovesmd.org/town-history/house-histories/1-the-circle/>, accessed July 26, 2018.

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Dating to 1878-79, **313 Grove Avenue (contributing building)** is one of the earliest cottages built in Washington Grove.<sup>92</sup> It is located at the intersection of Grove Avenue and Second Avenue, southwest of the Circle. The house, known as “Locust Lodge,” was not used for year-round living until 1966, nearly 100 years after its construction. At that time, there was only one interior partition wall and the second floor was unfinished except for flooring. In addition, the house had no central heating and only an early form of electrical wiring. In 1966, the owners added a first-floor bedroom, relocated the stairway, finished the second floor, and added a second bathroom. Additional changes occurred in 1968, when the owners added a dining room and a two-car garage. Finally, a renovation in 1976 expanded the living room and created a den. Today, the main entrance to the house is on the west façade through an enclosed porch facing Grove Avenue. (Originally, the front entrance faced north toward Second Avenue.) The house is clad with vinyl siding, and its vinyl windows come in both double-hung and casement forms. Despite multiple renovations over the years, the gabled core of this camp meeting era cottage continues to recall its nineteenth century origins, and original features, including the decorative bargeboards in the gable ends of the main roof, remain intact.

**416 Fifth Avenue (contributing building)** is a typical example of a Washington Grove cottage that has taken on several additions but retains the key architectural elements that characterize the camp meeting era. It is located between Acorn Lane and Fifth Avenue along the northern edge of Wade Park. The original house, built in 1898, consisted of a one-and-a-half-story, Carpenter Gothic-style cottage with a high, peaked roof, reminiscent of the tents that originally populated the camp meeting grounds. Given the date of the house, the large wraparound porch that dominates the Fifth Avenue façade, which features round columns, a wood railing, and a wood plank floor, may also be original. On the porch is a glazed, wood, double door flanked by two-over-two, double-hung sash, wood windows. Above the porch in the gable is a stained-glass window set within a pedimented, wood surround. At some point (date unknown), a long, one-story wing was added to the rear façade, extending the cottage the entire length of the lot. One-story projections on the north and south increased the size of the cottage and enhanced the additive character of the footprint. On the south façade of the rear wing, facing Wade Park, is a gabled entry porch. With Fifth Avenue limited to pedestrian use, this has become the principal entrance to the house. While most of the cottage is clad with wood siding, the gable end facing Fifth Avenue is covered with shingles.

Development along Grove Avenue, which began in 1883 when the southern length of the avenue was platted, represented the earliest phase of growth within the Cottage Department. The generously sized and regularly spaced building lots along the avenue contrasted greatly with the small, often irregular lots within the Tent Department, making Grove Avenue attractive to many residents despite its relative distance from the Circle. Records suggest that the one-and-a-half-story house at **112 Grove Avenue (contributing building)**, built circa

<sup>92</sup> House History, “313 Grove Avenue,” Town of Washington Grove website, available at <http://washingtongrovermd.org/house-histories/313-grove-avenue/>, accessed May 14, 2018.

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1887-90, may have been moved to its current location from what is now 2 the Circle.<sup>93</sup> The central block of the house retains the characteristic form of Washington Grove's Carpenter Gothic cottages, and the steeply pitched, front-facing gable features its original sawtooth bargeboards and horizontal wood siding. A small, but finely detailed window opening pierces the front gable. In the 1920s, the cottage was bought by Laura Poole Wadsworth, who winterized the house, installed plumbing, and added side wings to accommodate bedrooms and a sunporch. Zoe Wadsworth inherited the house from her mother in the 1940s and lived in the house until her death in 1979. (In 1980, Wadsworth Park was named in her honor.) Originally, flat roofs sheltered the side wings, but at some point (date unknown) they were replaced with shed roofs to add height to the interior spaces. A raised front porch extends the full width of the front façade, which faces east toward the avenue. The front entrance exhibits the traditional configuration of double doors flanked by two-over-two, double-hung, wood windows. While the ground floor of the house is clad with vertical wood siding, the end walls of the shed-roof wings are faced with vinyl siding. There is a well under the back porch of the house and a garage at the back of the lot, which can be accessed from Chestnut Road.<sup>94</sup>

The practice of moving cottages from crowded areas to newly opened avenues with less development had a lasting impact on the character of Washington Grove, and the history of **119 Maple Avenue (contributing building)** exemplifies the trend. The cottage was originally built on Sixth Avenue around 1885 by James K. McCathran and his father-in-law, J. T. Harrison. It had a core that measured 14 by 40 feet and a front-gable roof that peaked at 17 feet. Two additional rooms and a pantry extended from the rear. In 1906, McCathran, who developed the house numbering system adopted by the town in 1935, relocated the cottage to a double lot on Maple Avenue, becoming one of the first Grove residents to settle east of Woodward Park.<sup>95</sup> The new location provided ample space to expand, and soon after the move, McCathran built a one-and-a-half-story addition on the south façade and added a raised wraparound porch along the front, which was oriented toward the avenue. The house was converted into a year-round residence in 1955. Additional modifications over the years have resulted in a house with a roughly U-shaped plan. While today 119 Maple Avenue is clad with vinyl siding and many of the original wood windows have been replaced with one-over-one, double-hung sash, vinyl windows, key elements characteristic of the camp meeting cottage that was relocated and renovated in the early twentieth century remain intact.

Through the period of Washington Grove's early development, area farmers and merchants came to rely on the B&O Railroad for the distribution of goods and supplies, and local businesses were established in the vicinity of the Washington Grove station. One extant example is Hershey's Restaurant at 17030 Oakmont Avenue. The

<sup>93</sup> House History, "112 Grove Avenue," Town of Washington Grove website, available at <http://washingtongrovermd.org/house-histories/112-grove-avenue/>, accessed May 14, 2018.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove 1873-1937*, 203, 284, and House History, "119 Maple Avenue," Town of Washington Grove website, available at <http://washingtongrovermd.org/house-histories/119-maple-avenue/>, accessed July 20, 2018

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two-and-a-half story, frame building was built in 1889 by Henry Beard and James G. Craighead, the founders of Oakmont, a subdivision located across the railroad tracks from Washington Grove. For decades, this building operated as a general store (likely with living quarters above), and, starting in 1894, the Washington Grove post office moved into part of the building, where it remained for over eighty years until 1978.<sup>96</sup> The general store was operated under a variety of names by several owners through the first half of the twentieth century. By 1960, Washington Grove residents Charles and Doris Hershey were the owners. In the 1970s, the Hersheys opened a tavern in the building and not long after closed the grocery store. Today, Hershey's Restaurant continues to serve the residents of Washington Grove and other nearby communities.

By the end of this period of development, Washington Grove had become an established summer resort community. As residents began to extend their stays past the summer months, demand increased for a place for religious assemblies that would provide greater comfort in poor weather than the open tabernacle. To provide such a space, the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association built an assembly hall at the south end of Howard Park in 1901. Designed by architect A. L. Harris of Washington, D.C., the assembly hall, today known as **McCathran Hall (contributing building)**, was comprised of an octagonal hall that measured 20 feet to a side and an attached meeting room that measured 20 feet square.<sup>97</sup> The main hall was sheltered by an octagonal roof with deep eaves, exposed rafter tails, and a louvered cupola at its peak. The building was clad with cedar shingles. The exterior walls of the octagonal hall flared at the base – a feature that was highlighted by the application of several rows of curved shingles applied in a fishscale pattern. This pattern continued along the upper walls of the square meeting room. The principal entrance, located on the east façade of the octagonal hall, was comprised of a wide opening holding paneled double doors flanked with wood paneling and a pair of three-light, transom windows above. The assembly hall was fenestrated with generously proportioned, six-over-six, double-hung sash, wood windows, which brought ample light and ventilation to the interior. In addition to church services, the building was initially used for Sunday school activities and for Chautauqua, which had its first season at Washington Grove in 1902. In 1939, an addition was constructed on the north side of the meeting room, and, in 1951, a gabled porch was added to the front façade to shelter the entrance and create a place to hang the original bell used to summon participants to camp meeting services. (The bell originally hung from a tree and then from the belfry of the tabernacle.) The porch had square posts, a wood railing, and a painted sign. In 1955, the Washington Grove United Methodist Church was completed, and the assembly hall was repurposed as municipal offices. In 1957, it was renamed McCathran Hall after Roy McCathran, who was elected the town's first mayor in 1937 and held the office for twenty years.<sup>98</sup> The building was officially dedicated as the

<sup>96</sup> "Washington Grove Restaurant a Hub since 90-year Post Office Stint," *Montgomery County Gazette*, September 9, 2009, available online at [http://www.gazette.net/stories/09092009/damanew231658\\_32546.shtml](http://www.gazette.net/stories/09092009/damanew231658_32546.shtml), and Edwards, *Washington Grove 1873-1937*, 170.

<sup>97</sup> There is little information discovered to date about the life and career of architect A. L. Harris. The attribution of McCathran Hall to Harris comes from a short article in the *Evening Star*. See "Families in Summer Quarters," *Evening Star*, June 18, 1901.

<sup>98</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 135.

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town hall in 1973. The most recent major change occurred in 1996, when the town renovated the building and constructed a one-story addition that provided office space and storage for the municipal archives. The entrance to the addition features paneled double doors with transom windows. It is sheltered under an engaged porch formed by the pyramidal roof of the rear wing. The renovation work was accomplished under a preservation easement held by the Maryland Historical Trust. The town is committed to the preservation of the building and has carried out additional work to stabilize the structure since 1996. It is regularly used for town meetings, concerts, square dancing, screenings by the town Film Society, and other events and activities.

### *Early Twentieth Century (1902-1936)*

Early twentieth century residential development within the historic district encompassed a diverse range of architectural forms and styles. While some of the new houses constructed during this period echoed the vernacular and Carpenter Gothic architecture of the camp meeting era, other styles introduced into the streetscape reflected the evolving preferences of middle-class American families. Today, the historic district features a number of vernacular gable front houses, revivalist styles, and bungalows.

By the early twentieth century, cottages with a gable-front-and-wing plan had become a popular alternative to the front-gabled, rectangular plan of the Grove's earliest dwellings. This house form offered more space, as demonstrated by the cottage at **409 Fifth Avenue (contributing building)**. As originally built around 1909, 409 Fifth Avenue was a one-and-a-half-story house with an L-shaped plan under a cross-gable roof. It faced west toward the avenue and Wade Park. The house measured 26 feet wide and 20 feet deep, and the porch extended only the width of the front façade. The front-facing gable was ornamented with Carpenter Gothic decorative details, including a finial and pendant, and on the porch was a four-paneled, wood door with windows to either side. A two-light, rectangular window in the front gable provided additional light to the interior. The house sat on the southern half of a double lot, and at the back of the adjacent lot was a small Carpenter Gothic cottage, which by 1917 was being used for storage.<sup>99</sup> In 1944, the house was purchased by Wallace and Dorothy Muir, who lived there until 1953. (The Muirs had previously resided in the house next door at 406 Fifth Avenue.) At some point before 1968 (exact date unknown), the original porch was expanded to wrap around the north side of the house. It was supported with round columns. Also, a one-story gabled addition (date unknown), measuring 26 feet wide and 21 feet deep, was added to the back. Photographs of the house indicate that by 1981, a railing had been installed on the front porch, the front door had been replaced, and the columns were substituted with square posts. Sometime since 1981, the two-light window in the front gable end was replaced with an oval window. In 1997, the one-story rear addition was raised to two stories, and the house was further expanded to the back. Around 2016, an enclosed side porch (date unknown) was taken down, and during the course of work two of the round porch columns were discovered and used as the basis for installing new round (composite) porch columns.<sup>100</sup> The current front door and flanking windows are modern, but they replicate the placement of

<sup>99</sup> Town of Washington Grove, "Exhibits to Deed of Easement for 409 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue," no date, WGA.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

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the original openings. The plain bargeboards have also been replaced with a more fanciful trim that reflects the period in which the house was originally built.

The one-and-a-half-story, Craftsman-style bungalow at **109 Maple Avenue (contributing building)** was constructed in 1923 by builder George Reber (d. 1931), himself a Washington Grove resident, for Reverend Albert Osborn and his wife Phebe.<sup>101</sup> Reverend Osborn was an author, poet, and founder of the Washington Grove United Methodist Church, where he served as pastor for twelve years starting in 1910. In 1923, one year after the reverend's retirement, the Obsorns moved from 315 Brown Street to their new home on Maple Avenue. The house was next door to their daughter Sarah and son-in-law Roy McCathran, who would become Washington Grove's first mayor. Bungalows are generally characterized by low-pitched roofs that extend to deep eaves. They are modest in size and typically set low to the ground. In the early twentieth century, the bungalow became an immensely popular house form due to its low-cost construction and informal design.<sup>102</sup> Craftsman-style bungalows, such as 109 Maple Avenue, were built using natural materials – stucco, clapboard, and wood shingles – and often featured wide, overhanging eaves, exposed rafters, and decorative brackets, which gave the appearance of handcraftsmanship, emphasizing Arts and Crafts ideals. Windows were typically double-hung sash with multiple panes in the upper sash and a single pane below. Pattern books and mail order companies offering prefabricated houses that could be purchased by catalog helped to popularize the bungalow form. In fact, 109 Maple Avenue is nearly identical to a “plan-cut” house offered by the Gordon-Van Tine Company of Davenport, Iowa. Home No. 507 from the company's 1921 catalog, later rebranded as “The Culver,” offered seven rooms, a sewing room, and bath. The one-and-a-half-story house was advertised as one of the company's most popular bungalows because of its attractive exterior and its convenient interior.<sup>103</sup> Few alterations have been made to 109 Maple Avenue since its original construction, and today the house stands as one of the Grove's finest examples of a Craftsman-style bungalow. It is a frame house clad with wood shingles. Rectangular in plan, the house has a side-gable roof with deep eaves supported by cutout brackets. At the center of the roof's front slope is a large gabled dormer. The house is orientated toward Maple Avenue, and across the full width of the front (west) façade is a raised porch with a shed roof that is supported by square, compound columns on concrete piers. A wood railing spans the spaces between the columns. The porch is approached from the side (rather than from the front as in the Gordon-Van Tine Company model), and the front door is located in the south bay, closest to the porch steps. Windows are double-hung with divided upper sash. While some original wood windows have been replaced with vinyl, the exterior has not been substantially changed.

<sup>101</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 293-94.

<sup>102</sup> Clark, Clifford Edward, Jr., *The American Family Home, 1800-1960* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986), 171.

<sup>103</sup> *Gordon-Van Tine Plan Cut Homes* (Davenport, IA, Gordon-Van Tine Company, 1931): 57, and *Gordon-Van Tine Homes* (Davenport, IA, Gordon-Van Tine Company, 1921): 50.

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The one-story house at **108 Grove Avenue (contributing building)** also features Craftsman-style elements. It was built in 1908 by Dr. E. D. Huntley to replace an earlier cottage on the lot that had been destroyed by a fire. The fire, which broke out the night of December 15, 1907, burned the house to the ground and damaged three others.<sup>104</sup> The design of the house is attributed to architect Elliott Woods, who was appointed Architect of the Capitol in 1902 and died while still in office in 1923.<sup>105</sup> The original section of the house has a rectangular plan and a hipped roof with eyebrow dormers, two front-facing, projecting gables with brackets, and exposed rafter tails. The house is clad with wood siding and rests on tapered concrete piers, which is unusual for houses in Washington Grove that typically were built on wood posts. The main entrance, facing Grove Avenue, is located off-center on the east façade and consists of a solid door flanked by French doors with louvered shutters. Six windows along the east façade feature six-over-one, double-hung, wood sash and louvered shutters. Huntley built the new house for year-round living, and it was constructed with indoor plumbing. 108 Grove Avenue has been enlarged with the addition of an enclosed porch on the south and with a one-story rear wing, which has vinyl siding and vinyl windows but replicates the hipped roof form and exposed rafter tails of the original house. At the back of the lot is a two-car garage.

The Colonial Revival-style house at **103 Brown Street (contributing building)** was built in 1920 by Major Samuel H. Walker (1844-1938) for his son Robert H. Walker (d. 1939).<sup>106</sup> The Walkers were a prominent family in Washington Grove for many years. Samuel H. Walker made his career as a developer and builder and later expanded his business interests into insurance and banking. He served as the Superintendent of Police for the District of Columbia for six months in 1886, after which he was known as Major Walker.<sup>107</sup> The family first lodged in the hotel when they spent their summers at Washington Grove, then moved into a large cottage at 202 Grove Avenue (no longer extant). In 1909, Samuel Walker was elected president of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association, a position he held for five years. His son Robert was secretary of the association for four of those years. The Robert Walker house on Brown Street was built on a triple lot, and instead of facing Chestnut Avenue, it was oriented toward Brown Avenue. Today it remains the only residence west of Grove Avenue with a Brown Street address. Colonial Revival was the most prominent residential style in the United States in the first half of the twentieth century. Colonial Revival homes in Washington Grove, as elsewhere, borrowed elements from Georgian and Federal buildings and typically featured pedimented entrances and entry porches, elaborate doorways and window treatments, plain or decorated cornices, pilasters, and roof balustrades. 103 Brown Street consists of a two-and-a-half-story main block with one-story side wings. Sheltering the house

<sup>104</sup> House History, "108 Grove Avenue," Town of Washington Grove website, available at <http://washingtongrovermd.org/house-histories/108-grove-avenue/>, accessed May 2, 2018.

<sup>105</sup> John H. Pentecost, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, "Town of Washington Grove," April 1980, 7:8.

<sup>106</sup> House History, "103 Brown Street," Town of Washington Grove website, available at <https://washingtongrovermd.org/town-history/house-histories/103-brown-street/>, accessed May 8, 2018.

<sup>107</sup> The Walker house in Washington, D.C., still stands at 420 Constitution Avenue, NE (formerly 420 B Street).

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is a hipped roof with prominent hipped dormers. The front (south) façade is symmetrically arranged. A paneled front door in the center of the façade is crowned by an entablature and pediment and flanked by pilasters. Two pairs of six-over-six, double-hung sash, vinyl windows with louvered shutters flank the entrance. This fenestration is repeated on the upper wall of the front façade. While the dormers are lit by six-over-six, double-hung sash, wood windows, most of the rest of the house has vinyl windows. The house is clad with wood siding. A modern garage with an apartment above stands northeast of the house and is connected to it by a covered walkway. It has a pyramidal roof.

In the early twentieth century, the success of Washington Grove drove residential and commercial development around its borders, particularly along the railroad tracks and at the south end of Washington Grove Lane.

In 1897, the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association granted Thomas I. Fulks, a prominent Gaithersburg farmer and businessman, permission to operate a general store (no longer extant) on one of its property lots near the corner of Washington Grove Lane and Railroad Street. Fulks owned a large farm on the west side of Washington Grove Lane and property along the railroad tracks. In addition, in 1901, he purchased a 1-acre parcel on Washington Grove Lane across from the store where he built a two-story house.<sup>108</sup> The house, at **126 Washington Grove Lane (contributing building)**, has a pyramidal roof with a hipped dormer, a full front porch with tapered wood posts that rest on concrete block piers, and paired, double-hung sash windows.

In 1920, the local Odd Fellows lodge built a large hall on the corner lot south of Fulks' general store. The **Odd Fellows Hall (contributing building)** was a two-story building designed by architect W. S. Ploger of Washington D.C. It was built of concrete block molded to resemble rusticated ashlar stone and dressed quoins and featured a stepped front-gable roof. In 1940, the corner lots were acquired by the First National Bank of Gaithersburg, which tried to market the properties as residential. Making this difficult was the fact that the lots faced a busy intersection and there was little buffer from the noise and dirt of the nearby railroad tracks. The bank soon appealed to the town for rezoning, and a measure was passed the following year approving the change.<sup>109</sup> In 1941, the town council officially declared the parcels a commercial zone. The Odd Fellows Hall, located at 105 Washington Grove Lane, was repurposed for various uses over the years, including apartments, a convenience store, and the post office. In 1973, Washington Grove's "commercial corner," as the area came to be called, was redeveloped. The old general store was demolished and replaced with a modern shopping center that was anchored on the south by the Odd Fellows Hall and on the north by a 7-Eleven convenience store.<sup>110</sup> To integrate the Odd Fellows Hall with the new construction, the building was faced with brick veneer and

<sup>108</sup> Fulks purchased the residential lot from the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association in 1901. See Maryland Land Records, Deed Book TD 16, page 354.

<sup>109</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 45.

<sup>110</sup> Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 256-57.

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given a faux Mansard roof, which projects forward from the façade and is supported by brick piers. The original concrete block remains visible along the secondary elevations. Two large, single-pane glass windows in aluminum frames are located in the ground-floor brick façade, flanking an aluminum and glass door. Paired six-over-six, double-hung, wood windows pierce the vinyl-sided mansard roof. Windows on the south façade are mainly six-over-six, double-hung, wood windows with wood shutters. A side entrance is located at the east end of the south façade.

The lots across from and diagonal to the Odd Fellows Hall were also developed during this period. Around 1910, Fulks opened a feed supply business on the property he owned that was adjacent to the railroad tracks (now 671-681 East Diamond Street). The operation included a feed mill (built circa 1910 from an old hay barn that stood on Fulks' farm), a feed store (no longer extant), an office (no longer extant), a rail siding, and a scale, which was embedded into the ground next to the store.<sup>111</sup> The property was sold to W. Lawson King in 1940, who razed the original feed store and office, built a new feed mill and silos in 1942, and made additional improvements through the early 1950s that expanded the building to the west. The property operated as a feed and farmer's supply store until 1989. Today, the building has a linear plan composed of several elements that reflect its history and use over time. At the eastern end of the complex is the former feed mill – a four-story, concrete block and corrugated metal structure with a gable roof. Next to the feed mill are four concrete silos that are reinforced with steel straps and sheltered by a gable roof. The middle section of the building contains elements of the circa 1910 feed mill. While the front façade was faced with cinderblock by King, original wood siding is visible on the back. The west end of the complex, built in 1945 with an addition in 1952, is concrete block with brick corbeling under the cornice and a flat roof.

In 1923, the Washington Grove Association sold a 1.5-acre parcel on the west side of Washington Grove Lane and north of the Fulks property to Melvin F. Dove.<sup>112</sup> The deed of sale stipulated that Dove agreed to pay an annual assessment tax to the association and to abide by its charter by-laws and regulations. One month after purchasing the lot, Dove subdivided it, selling the southern section, containing one half an acre, to Joseph A. Day.<sup>113</sup> Both 200 Washington Grove Lane (built by Dove) and Day's house at 128 Washington Grove Lane were likely constructed in the mid-1920s. **200 Washington Grove Lane (contributing building)** is a two story, foursquare house with a tall, hipped roof. The front façade features a generous hipped dormer and an elevated porch that extends across the entire façade. The porch has a cinderblock foundation and tapered wood posts that support a hipped roof. **128 Washington Grove Lane (contributing building)** is more modest, one-story bungalow. It has a side-gable roof and an integrated front porch.

<sup>111</sup> Gail Littlefield and Judy Christensen, draft Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, "Gaithersburg Farmers' Supply, Wayne Feed, Sunshine Feed, Thomas I. Fulks Store," no date. Copy provided courtesy Gail Littlefield.

<sup>112</sup> Maryland Land Records, Deed Book 332, page 312.

<sup>113</sup> Maryland Land Records, Deed Book 332, page 315.

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## *Early Municipal Period (1937-1945)*

The charter for the Town of Washington Grove became effective on May 30, 1937, as the community was emerging from the Great Depression. This period witnessed a boomlet of home improvements and new construction that included, for example, a concentration of seven new houses along Washington Grove Lane. Homebuyers at the time demanded affordable, single-family homes that reflected modern consumer preferences. Nationally, Minimal Traditional dwellings, which offered simplified versions of prewar Colonial Revival styles, were built in great numbers, and this trend is reflected in Washington Grove. Concurrently, however, revival styles continued to be built in Washington Grove, reflecting the persistence and popularity of traditional housing.

In 1939, Washington Grove issued a building permit to David and Frances Grogan to build on a double lot on Oak Street. Their Minimal Traditional-style, Cape Cod house at **410 Oak Street (contributing building)** was completed in 1940 and is representative of the type of housing built in Washington Grove in the period before World War II and continuing after. It stood a compact one-and-a-half stories on a raised basement. The main block had a rectangular plan that was sheltered by a side-gable roof. On the rear slope of the roof was a shed dormer. The front entrance faced north toward Oak Street. A set of concrete steps led up to the door, which was sheltered by a gabled entry porch supported by turned posts. Today, much of the main block is lit by one-over-one, double-hung sash, vinyl windows. The exceptions are two divided-light, casement windows on the east elevation. A sunroom extends the house to the east. An addition on the south façade, built in 2010, features a gabled roof that repeats the slope of the main roof. The house is entirely clad with vinyl siding, and there is a brick, exterior chimney on the west façade. A one-and-a-half-story, three-car garage stands behind the house. It features a gabled dormer, as well as vinyl siding and vinyl windows.

**201 Washington Grove Lane (contributing building)** is another notable example of the Minimal Traditional style in Washington Grove. It was part of a cluster of new development that went up along Washington Grove Lane during the period when the town was actively selling undeveloped lots to increase municipal revenues. The compact, one-story house, which was built around 1940-41, has a rectangular plan under a side-gable roof with a moderate pitch. The exterior is clad with horizontal siding, and the front door is located in the north bay of the west façade facing Washington Grove Lane. It is approached from a raised porch with concrete steps and a shed roof that is supported on square posts. South of the door are three six-over-six, double-hung sash, wood windows with decorative shutters. A brick exterior chimney rises up the south facade. A carport has been added to the back of the house. It has a shed roof that is supported on brick piers. At the back of the lot is a small, concrete block outbuilding with a low pitched, gable roof and an integrated porch.

The Tudor Revival cottage at **402 Fourth Avenue (contributing building)**, known as "Hearthstone," was built for Dr. Maude S. Nuttall around 1942. It is a one-and-a-half-story house on a raised basement with stucco walls, decorative half-timbering, and a cross-gable, false thatched roof. The house has not been substantially modified and has a high degree of integrity. In the center of the front façade, which faces west, is a glazed and paneled

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front door that is approached by a raised wood deck with a wood railing. A bracketed hood that has a gentle curve to its profile shelters the entrance. To either side of the door are pairs of eight-light windows, and a paired window also pierces the gable end over the door. Windows on the side and rear facades include casement windows and diamond paned windows. A raised brick porch extends from the south façade and wraps around to the back of the house to access a set of brick steps that lead to a back entrance. The roofline is pierced by a brick, exterior, end chimney on the north façade and shed-roof and gabled dormers.

The Woman's Club of Washington Grove had its first meeting in 1926, and the organization has been an integral part of Washington Grove life for nearly 100 years. Originally, members met in the clubhouse of the girls' athletic club, which was built in 1910 and stood in Woodward Park. In 1939, that building burned, and the town gave the Woman's Club permission to build a new clubhouse in Howard Park. The builder was Brawner Harding of Gaithersburg, who completed the job in 1940 for \$1,551.<sup>114</sup> The **Woman's Clubhouse (contributing building)**, located at 316 Grove Avenue, is a one-story building with an integrated, full-width, screened porch, which is located under the gently curved, south slope of the building's side-gable roof. Three pairs of French doors and one glass-and-wood door open from the porch into the building. The porch has a flagstone floor (installed in 1997). Two small dormer windows are located on the south slope of the roof. Vinyl siding sheathes the building, and vinyl sash of various types fill the window openings. A single bay, gabled wing (built in 1995) extends from the west façade. On the interior, the main room features a hand-painted mural depicting scenes of Washington Grove and a tongue-and-groove fir ceiling. A smaller kitchen area is located off the main room. The building's form and materials reflect the residential architecture that surrounds it and integrate well into the setting of Howard Park. The Woman's Club remains active today, sponsoring many events at the clubhouse and throughout town. They include charitable and social events, such as the White Elephant Sale, lectures, and the Annual Flower Show, among others.

### *Post-World War II Period (1946-1969)*

The period after World War II was a time of intense residential building and remodeling at Washington Grove. With many empty lots and many lots with dilapidated houses, the town was eager for new building stock that would enhance its appeal to homebuyers and increase its tax base. The houses constructed during the post-World War II period in Washington Grove followed national trends in residential building. They included merchant-builder houses and architect-designed residences. Although earlier residential styles continued to be popular, new styles and forms such as the ranch house made their appearance.

In the immediate postwar period, local builder Constantine Eisinger, of the Eisinger Mill and Lumber Company of Bethesda, Maryland, constructed two prefabricated houses in Washington Grove. The houses, at 104 and 106

<sup>114</sup> Horan, *A History of the Woman's Club of Washington Grove*, 21.

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Pine Avenue, were built using prefabricated Cemesto wall panels.<sup>115</sup> Cemesto, an insulating board surfaced on both sides with cement and asbestos, was manufactured by the Celotex Company. **106 Pine Avenue (contributing building)** is a one-and-a-half-story, Minimal Traditional-style Cemesto house built circa 1946. The house, which can also be described as a Cape Cod, has a side-gable roof and gabled dormers. At the south end of the front façade, which faces east toward the avenue, is a paneled door, which is sheltered by a pedimented hood with cutout brackets. The hood covers a concrete stoop with iron railings. The front façade is fenestrated with six-over-six, double-hung sash, wood windows. The same windows also light the dormers. Behind the house at the back of the lot stands a small shed.

Because the deep, narrow lots that historically characterized the division of land in the Cottage Department were unsuitable for the low horizontal forms of ranch houses and other midcentury forms, many building lots in Washington Grove were consolidated and subdivided during this period into new configurations that could accommodate modern domestic forms as well as front driveways, carports, and other suburban amenities. In 1955, for example, two east-west oriented blocks on Chestnut Avenue were replatted to create two lots that fronted Center Street.<sup>116</sup> The one-story, brick veneer, ranch houses built on the lots in 1958 were nearly mirror images of each other. The incorporation of the carport in the main block of the house, with its opening on the front façade, as well as the placement of the driveway in the front yard, represented an important shift in residential planning and design at Washington Grove, where for decades automobiles were relegated to vehicular-only roads and garages stood at the back of building lots. This evolution in planning and development facilitated Washington Grove's transition from a fledgling municipality to a thriving suburb of Washington, D.C.

With the popularity of ranch houses, low rooflines, broad chimneys, picture windows, carports, and exterior patios became common features of postwar suburban communities, including Washington Grove. The house at **13 Center Street (contributing building)** exemplifies the qualities associated with the ranch form. Built in 1958, it is a one-story house with long, horizontal massing and a low-pitched, hipped roof that extends past the west façade to create a carport. The house is clad with multicolored brick veneer on its Center Street façade and siding on the side and rear façades. A projecting bay with a three-part picture window forms the focus of the front façade. Other windows are one-over-one, double-hung sash. A shallow roof overhang shelters the front entrance, which is to the left of the picture window. Just outside the door is a concrete stoop.

The house at **205 Grove Avenue (contributing building)**, built in 1964 by Dr. Richard and Anne Haskett, is a notable example of modern-era domestic architecture in Washington Grove. Dr. Haskett, a professor of English and political history at George Washington University, was a member of the town council and a founding

<sup>115</sup> Clare Lise Kelly, *Montgomery Modern: Modern Architecture in Montgomery County, Maryland, 1930-1979* (Silver Spring, MD: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 2015), page 219, footnote 10.

<sup>116</sup> Montgomery County, Circuit Court Land Records, Plat No. 4031, February 1955.

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member of the planning commission. He was also an amateur architect, photographer, and an admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright.<sup>117</sup> Perhaps influenced by Organic architecture of the modern period, which strove to blend the built environment with nature, Haskett designed his house to face true north, at a roughly 45-degree angle to Grove Avenue, and sited it roughly at the midpoint of the lot, enveloped in trees. In this way, Haskett maximized views of nature and minimized views of neighboring houses. Otherwise, the two-story house exhibits many elements of Contemporary-style residential architecture of the period. The style emphasized the use of natural materials and the integration of outdoor views. Contemporary houses frequently featured continuous windows that contrasted with large areas of uninterrupted wall surface. These large expanses of glass helped to diminish the distinction between indoor and outdoor space. 205 Grove Avenue is a post-and-beam structure clad with lapped redwood siding. It has a low pitched, gable roof with deep eaves and exposed rafters. The front façade features double casement windows with transoms and fixed picture windows that are arranged in groups to create wide expanses of glazing on either side of the entrance. Typical of the Contemporary style, the front entrance is downplayed. In the case of the Haskett house, the entrance is nearly indiscernible from Grove Avenue. The side and back façades feature tripartite casement windows, some with transom lights. On the interior, 205 Grove Avenue has an open floor plan typical of modern era architecture. East of the house is a two-story garage with a rectangular plan under a low gable roof. It is also clad with weatherboard and features a second-story, wood deck on the south façade.

In 1961, the town filed a plat map with Montgomery County for the subdivision of the area roughly bound by Washington Grove Lane on the west, Chestnut Road on the east, and Center Street on the south. Development along the north end of Chestnut Avenue began that year and continued through the early 1960s. The lot at the far north end of the avenue measured 85 feet by 150 feet and was bound by McCauley Park on the north. (McCauley Street cuts through the park to connect with Washington Grove Lane.) In 1962, William and Mary Swyter built a one-story, side-gabled ranch house on the property. While the house had a Chestnut Avenue address, it was oriented with its front door facing north, toward McCauley Street. This was typical of the period, when, rather than facing east or west in compliance with the conventional placement of earlier building stock in the Cottage Department, ranch houses with their long, low massing, faced north or south. The Swyter house at **415 Chestnut Avenue (contributing building)** has not been substantially modified since its original construction. The house is faced with brick veneer, and it has a long roof ridge that runs parallel to the front façade and extends past the west façade to shelter a carport. The entrance is slightly recessed and framed by sidelights. A low stoop with metal railings accesses the door. Typical ranch house elements include a large picture window and a broad, low chimney. Windows include horizontally oriented, two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash.

The **Washington Grove United Methodist Church (contributing building)**, at 303 Chestnut Avenue, was constructed in 1955 in a sleek Modern style. Its notable A-frame design was the work of Bethesda-based architect John S. Samperton (1923-2014). Samperton was a Washington, D.C., native who graduated from

<sup>117</sup> "Richard C. Haskett Dies at 75," *Washington Post*, June 7, 1994.

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Catholic University with a degree in architecture in 1949. He opened his own firm in 1952, and became one of Montgomery County's leading architects. Among his early projects were the North Chevy Chase Christian Church (1961) and the Little Falls Library (1959). In 1969, Samperton formed a partnership with architect Leon Chatelain, Jr. and engineer James A. Nolan, Jr. The firm, called Chatelain, Samperton and Nolan, specialized in institutional designs.<sup>118</sup> The Washington Grove United Methodist Church features a steeply gabled nave that is faced with stone and lit by a tall, multi-light window that reaches to the apex of the roof. The stone cladding turns the corner of the gable, then gives way to stuccoed masonry for the remainder of the side and rear facades. A wing, clad in vertical board siding and featuring a stone chimney, extends from the north side of the building. The main entrance to the church is located between the nave and the wing. Two entrances are also located on the rear (west) façade. Interior spaces include the nave, which can seat 150 congregants, and a choir loft. The wing has an office/study and a large meeting room with a fireplace. There is a fellowship hall and kitchen in the basement.

### *Current Period (1970-present)*

Washington Grove's residential architecture underwent further developments in the last three decades of the twentieth century. There was a renewed interest in the preservation of older building stock, and new additions relied on historic forms and features to create compatible design. Construction included ranch houses, as well as revival styles, such as Colonial Revival and Neo-Victorian. Within the past twenty years, the New Traditional style has flourished in Washington Grove, reflecting national trends. The house at 340 Ridge Road, built in 2002, is an example of the New Traditional Colonial Revival style. While its massing is not typical of traditional Colonial Revival, the house incorporates certain historical elements that would have been found on earlier houses. The main entrance is flanked by sidelights and fluted pilasters and crowned by an entablature. Decorative features include moldings, some with keystones, above the front windows and the garage doors. Houses similar to 340 Ridge Road can be found along Daylily Lane, among other locations. In contrast with earlier periods during which residential construction emphasized simplicity of form and affordable construction, houses from the current period are more substantial, reflecting changing values and an improving regional economy.

<sup>118</sup> Kelly, *Montgomery Modern*, 192.