

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Washington Grove Historic District (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

other names M: 21-5

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city or town Town of Washington Grove vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Montgomery code 031 zip code 20880

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
 (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

Contributing	Noncontributing	
182	58	buildings
17	0	sites
2	1	structures
0	0	objects
201	59	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

- RELIGION/religious facility
- DOMESTIC/camp
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- LANDSCAPE/forest
- LANDSCAPE/park
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility
- TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
- SOCIAL/meeting hall
- SOCIAL/clubhouse
- GOVERNMENT/post office
- GOVERNMENT/city hall
- TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
- COMMERCE/TRADE/general store
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field
- INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/manufacturing facility

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- LANDSCAPE/forest
- LANDSCAPE/park
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility
- SOCIAL/clubhouse
- SOCIAL/meeting hall
- GOVERNMENT/town hall
- GOVERNMENT/post office
- TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
- RELIGION/religious facility
- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN
 Other: Carpenter Gothic

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Tudor Revival

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT/Ranch

MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne

MODERN MOVEMENT

Other: Minimal Traditional

foundation WOOD
 CONCRETE

walls WOOD/weatherboard
 BRICK

 SYNTHETICS/Vinyl

 CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

other

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Description Summary

The Washington Grove Historic District encompasses approximately 241 acres east of Gaithersburg in central Montgomery County, Maryland. It is comprised of the entire municipal boundary of the Town of Washington Grove; a segment of the CSX Transportation, Inc. Railroad corridor (formerly the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad) that includes the Washington Grove railroad station and the Humpback Bridge; several residential and commercial properties along the railroad corridor that have strong ties to the development of Washington Grove and to the area's agricultural heritage; 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 that borders the town on the east. Within the district are 229 single-family houses, 7 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 historic district 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, or "sacred grove," that formed the setting of the outdoor religious revival from which the historic district evolved. Originally constructed as modest frame 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 the entire municipal limits of the Town of Washington Grove and key resources on its borders that contribute to its historic associations. Lastly, this amended

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

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.

This amended nomination identifies 201 contributing resources within the expanded boundaries of the Washington Grove Historic District: 182 contributing buildings, 17 contributing sites, and 2 contributing structures. 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 Washington Grove Historic District also encompasses a segment of the CSX Railroad corridor and several residential and commercial buildings along its course. These resources reflect the central role the railroad played in the establishment and growth of Washington Grove and the contributions of local businesses and commercial enterprises on the historic character of the district.

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 3

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 community during this period. The single-family homes built in Washington Grove at the time embraced the broad spectrum of residential forms and architectural styles popular in suburban communities throughout the United States. They ranged from 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 its development.

For the most part, Washington Grove's roads and avenues run in a southwest-northeast direction, and the principal streets run northwest-southeast. Thus, 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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 4

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 lining the avenues radiating from it came to be known as the Tent Department.¹ In 1877, the preacher's stand and assembly area, which was 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, and the plaza around it was 216 feet from north to south and 179 feet from west to east.² 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.³ 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.⁴ 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."⁵ In 1964, improvements included planting a red dogwood, four rhododendron, and sixty-four azaleas.⁶ 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 Sacred 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

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ "At Washington Grove," *Washington Post*, July 3, 1880.

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

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 5

the south and the Circle on the north. It was paved with crushed rock as early as 1896.⁷ 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 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, 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 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.⁸ 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.⁹ Today,

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

⁸ 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.

⁹ Philip K. Edwards, in this history of Washington Grove, 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 6

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.

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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ 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.¹² The Knotts had a

¹⁰ 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.

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

¹² Research memo prepared by Patricia Patula, Town Archivist, February 1, 2019.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 7

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.”¹³ As early as 1878, Knott Park was the location a furniture warehouse operated by Wash B. Williams, a merchant from Washington, D.C.¹⁴ 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.¹⁵ 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 1884.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ In 1915, Wade Park was also the focus of improvements by the Ladies Guild.¹⁸ A flagpole was installed and dedicated in the park in 1921.¹⁹ 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

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

¹⁴ Williams also reportedly provided postal services and operated a barber shop and lodging rooms in the building. See Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 87.

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

¹⁶ Research memo prepared by Patricia Patula, Town Archivist, February 1, 2019.

¹⁷ 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/>.

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

¹⁹ President’s Report, May 1921, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.44.03.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 8

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.

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.²⁰ 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. 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) contributed to 12,000 people attending on Sunday in 1882.²¹ The freight carried on the trains, delivered to Washington Grove's freight yard, brought camp supplies and the building materials used to construct the camp meeting cottages and later era structures. 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 on the opposite side of the tracks from the depot.²² The station house had a ticket office and separate men's and women's waiting rooms. In 1919, there were nine trains stopping at Washington Grove per day, enabling residents to commute to work. With the emergence of the automobile, use of the train declined. The station house was closed in 1954 and torn down soon after. The railroad also fostered the development of Oakmont, 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.²³

²⁰ 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.

²¹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 95.

²² Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 187.

²³ 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.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 9

Today, the **Washington Grove station (contributing site)** encompasses the segment of the 66-foot-wide railroad corridor that extends along the southern municipal boundary of Washington Grove between the intersection of Railroad Street and Oakmont Avenue on the south to the western property line of the early twentieth-century mill and feed supply complex at 671-681 East Diamond Street.²⁴ Features within the site include the railroad tracks, the landscaped berm, an original copper-wire B&O telephone pole, the current station shelter and its associated parking areas and sidewalks, and the Humpback Bridge (see below). The Washington Grove station site is an essential attribute of the historic district due to its association with the establishment of Washington Grove and its growth and development into the twentieth century. **Views in both directions along the railroad tracks from the Washington Grove station (historic associated feature) and views from the station along Railroad Street in both directions, Oakmont Avenue in both directions, and north 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.

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 (contributing structure)** 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.²⁵ By 1945, the bridge had become dilapidated, and, in response to complaints from Washington Grove residents, the railroad replaced the nineteenth-century structure with a new bridge in the same location. The new bridge was a three span, timber bridge with a humpback shape. In 1986, CSX Transportation took over ownership and authority of the B&O line, and two years later carried out a major rehabilitation that replaced the timber beams with steel I-beams. Additional changes occurred in 2001, when the bridge was re-decked and the railings were replaced, and in 2009, when the timber bents supporting the bridge superstructure were replaced in kind. The most recent rehabilitation occurred in 2014. At that time, the bridge superstructure was disconnected from the approaches and substructure and demolished. The cap timbers of the bents were replaced with new cap timbers to raise the height of the bridge and support five new curved, steel I-beams. New wood decking cut to the original 22-inch width and new laminated guardrails were also installed. The rehabilitation preserved or replaced in-kind the character-defining elements of the structure related to its dimensions, details, profile, approaches, and landscape, and did not impact its eligibility for the National

²⁴ The MHT Determination of Eligibility Form for the Metropolitan Branch, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (M: 37-16) states that the width of the Metropolitan Branch right of way is 66 feet.

²⁵ 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 10

Register. **Views from the Humpback Bridge in both directions along the railroad corridor and into Washington Grove (historic associated features)** are important attributes of the structure and contribute to the setting of the historic district.

Railroad Park (Contributing Site) is a small parcel of land on the south side of Railroad Street between Washington Grove Lane and Hickory Road. The park is owned by the town and comprised of land that was part of the original tract acquired by the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association in 1873. The park, dedicated in 2003, commemorates the community's historic ties to the B&O Railroad. It consists of a turf lawn informally planted with small trees and shrubs. Salvaged railroad ties are used as retaining walls.

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 occurred along Grove Avenue (see below), 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.²⁶ These generously sized and regularly spaced lots contrasted greatly with the small, often irregular parcels in the Tent Department. 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. The Tent and Cottage departments 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).²⁷ The Maddox plan carried over many of the concepts of the Lang 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, 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

²⁶ Montgomery County, Circuit Court Land Records, Plat Book EBP 28, Page 58. The plat is also available in the Washington Grove Archives.

²⁷ 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. 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 11

of deceased Washington Grove pioneers or active members of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association who held positions of trust.²⁸

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 northwest, Railroad Street on the southwest, Ridge Street on the southeast, and Boundary Street on the northeast. With the exception of Grove Avenue and the boundary roads that predated Washington Grove, the avenues and roads delineated in the Maddox plan were cleared and graded gradually, as residential development spread across the landscape.

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.²⁹ 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 the grounds was permitted to use for cutting grass and wood.³⁰ 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."³¹ 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.³² 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

²⁸ President's Report, May 1897, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.23.

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

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

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

³² Grove Bulletin, March 1959, WGA, Box H-2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 12

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 trees 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.³³ 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."³⁴ The first lots made available in the Cottage Department were on Grove Avenue, and, by 1885, eight cottages had been built along the route.³⁵ The lots on Grove Avenue were backed by informal alleys, which became Grove Road and Chestnut Road, and permitted wagon traffic for deliveries and for 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.³⁶ The northern section of the avenue (originally designated as Broadway) was graded and covered with fine stone in 1900.³⁷ Although the avenue was platted as 50 feet wide, records

³³ Grove Bulletin, August 1959, WGA, Box H-2.

³⁴ "Washington Grove, A Delightful Resort – the Grounds and Cottages – Opening of the Camp," *Washington Post*, August 5, 1883.

³⁵ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 91.

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 13

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 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 1905.³⁸ This was the same year that an auditorium for Chautauqua (no longer extant) was built in Woodward Park. Three years later, it 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 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 features)** contribute to the setting of the historic district.

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 14

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.³⁹ 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. It followed a linear route between Railroad and Center streets, but north of Center Street, it had an irregular path shaped by the natural contour of the terrain surrounding the Circle. The 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.

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.

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 15

Streets and Lanes

Brown Street (historic associated feature), at the southern end of Washington Grove, was originally called South Avenue. 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. The expense for clearing the avenues was made up for by selling the wood and sawlogs cut from them.⁴⁰ In 1897, the street was renamed after Reverend Benjamin Peyton Brown, one of the founders of Washington Grove.⁴¹ 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.⁴² (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 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 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.⁴³ 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 the street features an asphalt roadbed with asphalt curbs. While most of Washington Grove is lit with streetlights that are affixed to electrical poles, the eastern end of Brown Street features “shepherd’s crook” streetlights. **Views along Brown Street in both directions (historic associated features)** 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

⁴⁰ Report, Committee on Grounds and Supplies, July 1890, courtesy Wendy Harris, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission.

⁴¹ 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.

⁴² Montgomery County, Circuit Court Land Records, Plat No. 418, January 1930.

⁴³ Although the President’s Report of 1907 states that stone walks were laid along Brown Street, there does not appear to be any evidence left of this feature. See President’s Report, May 1907, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.33.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 16

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 features)** 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 renamed, was a part of the search committee that selected the site for Washington Grove.⁴⁴ 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.⁴⁵ No development occurred along the eastern half of McCauley Street, which became part of Woodward Park and the East Woods, and development

⁴⁴ McCauley (1822-1896) was named a presiding elder of the Washington District of the Methodist Church in 1870. In 1872, we 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.

⁴⁵ Notes on the July 28, 1911, Washington Grove Association Board of Trustees Minutes, courtesy Wendy Harris, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 17

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.⁴⁶ 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 features)** 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 auditorium (no longer extant) was built in Woodward Park.⁴⁷ 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 features)** are an important attribute of the historic district.

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.⁴⁸ It 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

⁴⁶ Town Council Meeting Minutes, August 13, 1945, WGA, Box D-4, File DT.00D4.05.

⁴⁷ Grounds Committee, May 1905, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.27.

⁴⁸ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 124.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 18

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 used by farmers and tradesman. 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.⁴⁹ Today, Railroad Street follows a slightly curved route and is bounded 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 crossing 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 adjacent to Railroad Park 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. 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.

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 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 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 takes a sharp turn to the 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, the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park along the east side, and the landscaped buffer along the lower section of Ridge shared with adjacent development (historic associated features)** 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

⁴⁹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 123.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 19

of Montgomery County's rural transportation network, used by farmers to transport goods to the railroad depot from points north. The majority of 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 features)** 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 broad, sweeping views across the landscape and 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 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.⁵⁰ 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 the Howard Park and its buildings (historic associated features)** 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

⁵⁰ 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 20

(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.⁵¹ 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 included removing large stones, plowing and fertilizing the soil, planting grass, paving the walks around the hotel with gravel, and enclosing the grounds with a post-and-wire fence.⁵² 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.⁵³ This 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 Church (historic associated features)** 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

⁵¹ 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.

⁵² 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.

⁵³ Sylvia Tate Horan, *A History of the Woman’s Club of Washington Grove* (Washington Grove, MD: Woman’s Club of Washington Grove, 2001): 4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 21

Washington Grove, it was officially decreed a park in 1890.⁵⁴ The park was named after Major Thomas P. Morgan (d. 1896), the second president of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association.⁵⁵ 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.⁵⁶ In the early 1980s, as part of a reforestation effort, the town planted more than three hundred 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 waiting shelter and views from the park along Grove Avenue, Grove Road, and Brown Street (historic associated features)** 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.⁵⁷ 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.⁵⁸ 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

⁵⁴ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 123.

⁵⁵ In addition to holding a leadership role at Washington Grove, Major Morgan 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.

⁵⁶ Notes on the September 3, 1915, Washington Grove Association Board of Trustees Minutes, courtesy Wendy Harris, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission.

⁵⁷ 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.

⁵⁸ The site was designated a conservation park by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 2007.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 22

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.⁵⁹ The broad, sweeping **views within and across the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park (historic associated features)** are important attributes of the historic district that reinforce the historically rural and agricultural external 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.⁶⁰ 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.

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.⁶¹ 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.⁶² This land was poorly drained and consisted of mainly thicket and bog before it was adapted for recreational use.⁶³ A plat map dated January 6, 1930, records that the lots south, west, and north of

⁵⁹ 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.

⁶⁰ “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.

⁶¹ 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.

⁶² Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 195.

⁶³ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 120.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 23

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 as well as other 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.⁶⁴ They attracted athletes from Maryland as well as from neighboring states.⁶⁵ 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 structure)**, 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 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.⁶⁶ (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.⁶⁷ Tree species include Virginia pine, pin oak, blackjack oak, white oak, swamp oak, black gum, American beech, and sycamore,

⁶⁴ “Sports at the Grove,” *Washington Post*, September 8, 1903, and “Hold Athletic Meet of Numerous Events,” *Washington Post*, September 5, 1916.

⁶⁵ 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.

⁶⁶ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 251-52.

⁶⁷ One of the architectural artifacts is an assembly of carved granite pieces salvaged from a renovation of the Washington City Post Office (1911-14) by architect Daniel Burnham.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 24

among others. The broad, sweeping **views within and across Woodward Park encompassing the vegetation, the recreational features, and nearby cottages (historic associated features)** are significant characteristics of the Grove 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, which were periodically treated with lime.⁶⁸ While the 1897 Maddox plan subdivided the area into residential lots, the historic Laundry Reserve 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. The boundaries of the East Woods reserve 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.⁶⁹ The woods are used for passive recreation, such as dog walking and nature hikes. 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. Originally platted for residential development, there are water mains and fire hydrants present in the woods. 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 features)** 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

⁶⁸ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 104.

⁶⁹ “The Forests of Washington Grove,” Town of Washington Grove website, available at <http://washingtongrovermd.org/the-forests-of-washington-grove/>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 25

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.⁷⁰ 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.⁷¹ In March 1957, five hundred seedling pines were planted against the woods around Maple Lake.⁷² 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.⁷³ 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. Within the West Woods, **periodic views through the trees of Maple Lake and the springs (historic associated features)** 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.⁷⁴ Maple Spring continues to run in the late winter and early

⁷⁰ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 221.

⁷¹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 120.

⁷² Grove Bulletin, April 1957, WGA, Box H-2, Town Publications, Grove (Town) Bulletin, 1956-1985.

⁷³ "The Forests of Washington Grove," Town of Washington Grove website, available at <http://washingtongrovermd.org/the-forests-of-washington-grove/>.

⁷⁴ 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 26

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.⁷⁵) 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.⁷⁶ 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.⁷⁷ 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 function of the lake never flourished, 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.⁷⁸ 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 features)** are an important aspect of the Grove's sylvan setting.

⁷⁵ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 330-31.

⁷⁶ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 115.

⁷⁷ Washington Grove Round Table Discussion, August 31, 2018, recording available in WGA.

⁷⁸ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 119.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 27

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 features)** 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 features)** 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.⁷⁹ The stone culvert at the northwest corner of Brown Street and 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.⁸⁰

Washington Grove's **wood street signs (historic associates 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 as part of road improvements carried out by Washington Grove's new municipal government. The signs, which had a brown field and block letters stenciled in white paint, were mounted on

⁷⁹ Gail Littlefield, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission, memo titled "System of Stormwater and other infrastructure," February 2019.

⁸⁰ Jim Fletcher, Maintenance Supervisor, "Town of Washington Grove, Inventory of Stormwater Storage and Conveyance Facilities," October 31, 2000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 28

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 animals.⁸¹ 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.⁸² 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.⁸³ The hydrants feature a pinwheel design on the hose connection cap and a higher dome than later models.

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.⁸⁴ This placed restraints on the dimensions of the building footprint

⁸¹ Gail Littlefield, memo titled "Washington Grove's system of wood street signs," dated February 2019.

⁸² Gail Littlefield, memo titled "Washington Grove Streetlights," dated February 2019.

⁸³ Gail Littlefield, memo titled "Fire Hydrants in the Woods?," February 2019.

⁸⁴ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 42.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 29

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 used this distinctive material for interior paneling, exterior siding, or porch ceilings.⁸⁵ The cottage at **127 Grove Avenue (contributing building)**, for example, features triple-beaded, tongue-and-groove 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.⁸⁶ 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 interiors. Windows in the front gables served the same purpose. Another typical feature of a Washington Grove camp meeting cottage was a front porch. The porches were built on grade or were slightly raised, and most 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 an opportunity for individual architectural expression in the decorative detailing.

Washington Grove's earliest development was clustered around the Circle, and this area is still characterized by a compact arrangement of dwellings nestled among the trees. Indeed today, the porch of the cottage at **301 First Avenue (contributing building)** wraps around a mature oak tree, and it stands just an arm's length away from its neighbor to the north. Cottages within the historic district formed a jumble of gable ends and roof ridges that blended in with the thick green foliage of the trees surrounding them. 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 quality. 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.

⁸⁵ 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.

⁸⁶ Washington Grove Round Table Discussion, August 31, 2018, recording available in WGA.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 30

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.⁸⁷ Within a few years, however, Emmons had upgraded from a tent to a permanent cottage, which was prominently located on the east side of the "Sacred Circle."⁸⁸ 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.⁸⁹ 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 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 100-year-old house that included a family room, loft, and decks. A restoration in 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 1875-85 by Richard H. Willett, a trustee of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association and co-owner of a Washington, D.C.,

⁸⁷ "Washington Grove, Opening of the Methodist Camp-meeting Tomorrow," *Washington Post*, August 6, 1879.

⁸⁸ 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.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 31

lumber firm.⁹⁰ 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 had been born in the house in 1906. Later, however, the house was extended 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 house. 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 approach to the Circle from First Avenue.

Dating to 1878-79, **313 Grove Avenue (contributing building)** is one of the earliest cottages built in Washington Grove.⁹¹ 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 one hundred 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.

⁹⁰ House History, "1 the Circle," available at <https://washingtongrovermd.org/town-history/house-histories/1-the-circle/>, accessed July 26, 2018.

⁹¹ House History, "313 Grove Avenue," Town of Washington Grove website, available at <http://washingtongrovermd.org/house-histories/313-grove-avenue/>, accessed May 14, 2018.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 32

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. 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 front-facing gable end is covered with shingles.

Development along Grove Avenue, which began in 1883 when the southern length of the avenue was subdivided for residential building lots, 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 the lots on Grove Avenue attractive to many residents despite their relative distance from the Circle. Records suggest that the one-and-a-half-story house at **112 Grove Avenue (contributing building)**, built circa 1887-90, may have been moved to its current location from what is now 2 the Circle.⁹² 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 heating and 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.⁹³

⁹² House History, "112 Grove Avenue," Town of Washington Grove website, available at <http://washingtongrovermd.org/house-histories/112-grove-avenue/>, accessed May 14, 2018.

⁹³ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 33

The practice of moving cottages from crowded areas of the Grove to newly opened avenues with less development had a lasting impact on the character of the historic district, and the history of **119 Maple Avenue (contributing building)** exemplifies the trend. The cottage was originally built on Sixth Avenue in 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.⁹⁴ 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 made to the cottage 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.

During this period, 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. In some cases, commercial buildings were constructed on land that was once part of the camp meeting grounds, but had been sold for various reasons by the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association. In 1889, Henry Beard and James G. Craighead, the founders of the subdivision of Oakmont, southwest of Washington Grove, built a two-and-a-half story, frame building on one of the subdivision lots fronting what would become Oakmont Avenue. Located at **17030 Oakmont Avenue (contributing building)**, the building operated as a general store (likely with living quarters above).⁹⁵ It faced northeast, and the main entrance was located in the front gable end on a hipped porch that wrapped around to the northwest façade. In addition, a two-story porch extended across the front façade of the side wing. The building was clad with wood siding and featured double-hung sash windows. In 1894, the Washington Grove post office moved into part of the side wing, where it remained for over eighty years until 1978.⁹⁶ The general store was operated under a variety of names by several owners through the first half of the twentieth century. By 1960, when the store was owned by Washington Grove residents Charles and Doris Hershey, the original wood siding had been refaced with faux masonry asphalt siding, the second-story porch had been removed, and the first-floor porch had been enclosed. In the 1970s, the Hersheys opened a tavern in the building and not long after closed the grocery store. Today, the building continues to operate as

⁹⁴ Edwards, *Washington Grove 1873-1937*, 203, 284, and House History, "119 Maple Avenue," Town of Washington Grove website, available at <http://washingtongrovemd.org/house-histories/119-maple-avenue/>, accessed July 20, 2018

⁹⁵ "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

⁹⁶ Edwards, *Washington Grove 1873-1937*, 170.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 34

Hershey's Restaurant. The asphalt siding has been replaced with vinyl siding, and the former ground-floor porch areas have been consolidated under a shed roof that extends across the entire front façade and wraps around to the northwest side. A shed roof extension along the front elevation shelters an outdoor eating area, and various appendages have been added to the back of the building.

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.⁹⁷ 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 consisting of 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. The building was officially dedicated as the town hall in 1973. The most recent major change to the building 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 over this section of the rear wing. The work was accomplished under a preservation easement held by the Maryland Historical Trust. The town is committee 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.

⁹⁷ 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 35

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, in 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.⁹⁸ 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.⁹⁹ The current front door and flanking windows are modern, but they replicate the placement of 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.¹⁰⁰ Reverend Osborn was an author, poet, and founder of the Washington

⁹⁸ Town of Washington Grove, "Exhibits to Deed of Easement for 409 5th Avenue," no date, WGA.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 293-94.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 36

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.¹⁰¹ 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.¹⁰² 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.

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.¹⁰³ The design of the house is attributed to architect Elliott Woods, who was appointed Architect of the Capitol in 1902 and died in office in 1923.¹⁰⁴ The original section of the house has a rectangular plan and a

¹⁰¹ Clark, Clifford Edward, Jr., *The American Family Home, 1800-1960* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986), 171.

¹⁰² *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.

¹⁰³ House History, “108 Grove Avenue,” Town of Washington Grove website, available at <http://washingtongrovemd.org/house-histories/108-grove-avenue/>, accessed May 2, 2018.

¹⁰⁴ John H. Pentecost, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, “Town of Washington Grove,” April 1980, 7:8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 37

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).¹⁰⁵ 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.¹⁰⁶ 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 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.

¹⁰⁵ House History, "103 Brown Street," Town of Washington Grove website, available at <https://washingtongrovemd.org/town-history/house-histories/103-brown-street/>, accessed May 8, 2018.

¹⁰⁶ The Walker house in Washington, D.C., still stands at 420 Constitution Avenue, NE (formerly 420 B Street).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 38

In 1897, the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association granted Thomas I. Fulks, a prominent Gaithersburg farmer and businessman, permission to operate a general store with living quarters above (no longer extant) on one of its property lots at the corner of Washington Grove Lane (formerly Laytonsville Road) and Railroad Street – just down the street from the Walker House. Fulks owned a large farm on the other side of Washington Grove Lane and property along the railroad tracks. In addition, in 1901, he purchased a 1-acre parcel on the west side of Washington Grove Lane across from the store.¹⁰⁷ At some point after, he built a two-story house on the lot. 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.¹⁰⁸ 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 a U.S. 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.¹⁰⁹ To integrate the Odd Fellows Hall with the new construction, the building was faced with brick veneer and 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, Thomas I. Fulks opened a feed supply business on his property adjacent to the railroad tracks at what is

¹⁰⁷ Fulks purchased the residential lot from the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association in 1901. See Maryland Land Records, Deed Book TD 16, page 354.

¹⁰⁸ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 45.

¹⁰⁹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 256-57.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 39

now **671-681 East Diamond Street (contributing building)**. 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.¹¹⁰ The property 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.¹¹¹ 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.¹¹² Both 200 Washington Grove Lane (built by Dove) and Day's house at 128 Washington Grove Lane were likely constructed around the mid-1920s. **200 Washington Grove Lane (contributing building)** is a two story, four-square 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.

The success of Washington Grove also drove residential development along its southern border in the subdivision of Oakmont. The early twentieth-century houses at **16960 Oakmont Avenue (contributing building)** and **16950 Oakmont Avenue (contributing building)** were developed at the north end of the Oakmont directly across the railroad tracks from Washington Grove. Today, these properties form an important part of the setting of the historic district.

Early Municipal Period (1937-1945)

¹¹⁰ 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.

¹¹¹ Maryland Land Records, Deed Book 332, page 312.

¹¹² Maryland Land Records, Deed Book 332, page 315.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 40

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 of traditional architecture and the popularity of compact, economical housing.

In 1939, a building permit was issued 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.

Its compact composition, simple roofline, and the omission of all nonessential features characterize **201 Washington Grove Lane (contributing building)** as 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 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 front door that is approached by a raised wood deck with a wood railing. A bracketed hood that has a gentle

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 41

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. The exterior walls are clad with stucco, and there is brick detailing at the window sills and below the bay window on the rear façade. 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, the club membership met in the clubhouse of the girls' athletic club, which was built in 1910 and was located 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, and it was completed in 1940 for \$1,551.¹¹³ 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 styles continued to be built, 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, Bethesda, Maryland, constructed two prefabricated houses in Washington Grove. The houses, at 104 and 106

¹¹³ Horan, *A History of the Woman's Club of Washington Grove*, 21.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 42

Pine Avenue, were built using prefabricated Cemesto wall panel.¹¹⁴ 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, 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.¹¹⁵ 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 buildings 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, which placed all the living space on one floor, 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 carport of the mirror-image house next door at 11 Center Street has been converted into an enclosed porch.)

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

¹¹⁴ 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.

¹¹⁵ Montgomery County, Circuit Court Land Records, Plat No. 4031, February 1955.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 43

and political history at George Washington University, was a member of the town council and a founding member of the planning commission. He was also an amateur architect, photographer, and an admirer of architect Frank Lloyd Wright.¹¹⁶ 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 bounded 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 bounded by a small park (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 access the door. Typical ranch house elements include a large picture window west of the front door 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

¹¹⁶ "Richard C. Haskett Dies at 75," *Washington Post*, June 7, 1994.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 44

architect John S. Samperton (1923-2014). Samperton was a Washington, D.C., native who graduated from 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.¹¹⁷ 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 church. 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, a large meeting room with a fireplace, and in the basement is a fellowship hall and kitchen.

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 (noncontributing building), 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 the eastern end of Brown Street and on 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.

¹¹⁷ Kelly, *Montgomery Modern*, 192.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 45

Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

The National Register recognizes five types of resources: buildings, districts, sites, structures, and objects. The following table identifies the contributing and noncontributing resources of the Washington Grove Historic District. Within the table, the buildings are organized alphabetically by street name and then numerically by house number. Resources under the remaining categories are organized alphabetically.

Generally, the Washington Grove Historic District has a high level of historic integrity. Integrity relates to the degree to which the characteristics that define a resource's significance are present. The seven aspects of historic integrity, as established by the National Register, include location, setting, design, material, workmanship, feeling, and association. Contributing resources add to the historic associations or historic architectural qualities for which a property is significant. Noncontributing resources were not present during the period of significance, do not relate to the documented significance of the property, or, due to alterations or other changes, they no longer possess historic integrity.

BUILDINGS				
Name/Address	Date	Style/Form	Resource Type	Contributing/ Noncontributing Status
407 Acorn Lane	ca. 1886-92	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
8300 Boundary Street	1991	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
103 Brown Street	1920	Colonial Revival	Dwelling	C
201 Brown Street	1955	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
313 Brown Street	ca. 1905-17	Gable Front	Dwelling	C
315 Brown Street	ca. 1905	Folk Victorian	Dwelling	C
317 Brown Street	ca. 1880-1900	Gable Front	Dwelling	C
319 Brown Street	1945	Ranch	Dwelling	C
401 Brown Street	1943	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
404 Brown Street	1997	Colonial Revival	Dwelling	NC
405 Brown Street	1914	Gable Front	Dwelling	C
409 Brown Street	1909	Craftsman bungalow	Dwelling	C
410 Brown Street	1913	Colonial Revival	Dwelling	C
413 Brown Street	ca. 1913	Bungalow	Dwelling	C
500 Brown Street	ca. 1997-98	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
501 Brown Street	ca. 1996-98	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
502 Brown Street	ca. 1998	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
503 Brown Street	ca. 1997-98	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
504 Brown Street	ca. 1997-98	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
505 Brown Street	ca. 1996-98	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
506 Brown Street	ca. 1998	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
507 Brown Street	ca. 1997-98	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
10 Center Street	1959	Ranch	Dwelling	C
11 Center Street	1958	Ranch	Dwelling	C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 46

12 Center Street	1956	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
13 Center Street	1958	Ranch	Dwelling	C
101 Center Street	1965	Colonial Revival	Dwelling	C
102 Center Street	before 1900	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
312 Center Street	1955	N/A	Municipal/Maintenance	C
400 Center Street	1953	Ranch	Dwelling	NC; alterations
409 Center Street	1953-54	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
410 Center Street	1949	Dutch Colonial Revival	Dwelling	C
413 Center Street	ca. 1954	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
414 Center Street	1977	Ranch	Dwelling	NC
415 Center Street	ca. 1954	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
416 Center Street	ca. 1955-60	Ranch	Dwelling	NC; alterations
417 Center Street	1965	Gable Front	Dwelling	C
201 Cherry Avenue	1991	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
111 Chestnut Avenue	1958	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
112 Chestnut Avenue	2009	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
113 Chestnut Avenue	1958	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
115 Chestnut Avenue	2009	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
118 Chestnut Avenue	1964	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
120 Chestnut Avenue	1911	Four-square	Dwelling	C
121 Chestnut Avenue	1933	Dutch Colonial Revival	Dwelling	C
122 Chestnut Avenue	ca. 1955-59	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
123 Chestnut Avenue	ca. 1910-35	Gable Front	Dwelling	C
124 Chestnut Avenue	1956	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
125 Chestnut Avenue	1960-63	Ranch	Dwelling	C
127 Chestnut Avenue	ca. 1920-35	Craftsman bungalow	Dwelling	C
128 Chestnut Avenue	ca. 1920-35	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
201 Chestnut Avenue	1952-54	Ranch	Dwelling	C
202 Chestnut Avenue	1903	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
206 Chestnut Avenue	ca. 1935-40	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
208 Chestnut Avenue	ca. 1938-45	Cross Gable	Dwelling	NC; alterations
302 Chestnut Avenue	ca. 1960-63	Ranch	Dwelling	NC; alterations
303 Chestnut Avenue	1955	Modern/A-frame	Church	C
304 Chestnut Avenue	1983	N/A	Dwelling	NC
306 Chestnut Avenue	1962	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
400 Chestnut Avenue	1963-66	Ranch	Dwelling	C
405 Chestnut Avenue	1960-63	Contemporary	Dwelling	C
407 Chestnut Avenue	1962	Ranch	Dwelling	C
409 Chestnut Avenue	1998	Postmodern	Dwelling	NC
411 Chestnut Avenue	1961	Ranch	Dwelling	C
415 Chestnut Avenue	1962	Ranch	Dwelling	C
3 Daylily Lane	1990	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
5 Daylily Lane	1990	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
7 Daylily Lane	1990	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
671-681 E. Diamond St	ca. 1910; 1942;	N/A	Commercial	C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 47

	1945;1952			
402 Fifth Avenue	by 1900	Cross gable	Dwelling	C
404 Fifth Avenue	by 1904	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
406 Fifth Avenue	ca. 1895	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
407 Fifth Avenue	by 1893	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
409 Fifth Avenue	ca. 1909	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
416 Fifth Avenue	1898	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
418 Fifth Avenue	ca. 1893	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
301 First Avenue	ca. 1880s	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
303 First Avenue	ca. 1880s	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
305 First Avenue	ca. 1880s	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
309 First Avenue	1960	Ranch	Dwelling	C
311 First Ave./311 Locust Ln.	ca. 1920-35	Gable front	Dwelling	C
402 Fourth Avenue	ca. 1942	Tudor Revival	Dwelling	C
404 Fourth Avenue	by 1895	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
408 Fourth Avenue	by 1891	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
410 Fourth Avenue	by 1894	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
412 Fourth Avenue	by 1888	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
414 Fourth Avenue	ca. 1895	Gable front	Dwelling	C
417 Fourth Avenue	ca. 1890-1920	Cross gable	Dwelling	C
419 Fourth Avenue	ca. 1885	Cross gable	Dwelling	NC; alterations
102 Grove Avenue	by 1935	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
103 Grove Avenue	by 1885	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
105 Grove Avenue	1897	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
107 Grove Avenue	ca. 1875-90	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
108 Grove Avenue	1908	Craftsman	Dwelling	C
110 Grove Avenue	1902	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
111 Grove Avenue	ca. 1880-95	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
112 Grove Avenue	ca. 1887-90	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
113 Grove Avenue	ca. 1882-84	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
114 Grove Avenue	ca. 1900-30	Side gable	Dwelling	C
117 Grove Avenue	ca. 1888-90	Cross gable	Dwelling	C
118 Grove Avenue	ca. 1917-1924	Four-square	Dwelling	C
119 Grove Avenue	1956	Side gable	Dwelling	C
122 Grove Avenue	ca. 1883-85	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
123 Grove Avenue	ca. 1875-95	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
124 Grove Avenue	ca. 1881-84	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
125 Grove Avenue	ca. 1890-1900	Cross gable	Dwelling	C
127 Grove Avenue	ca. 1883-85	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
201 Grove Avenue	ca. 1882-85	Cross gable	Dwelling	C
202 Grove Avenue	ca. 1947-50	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
203 Grove Avenue	ca. 1915	Bungalow	Dwelling	C
205 Grove Avenue	1964	Contemporary	Dwelling	C
206 Grove Avenue	ca. 1875-85	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
207 Grove Avenue	ca. 1905	Gable front	Dwelling	C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 48

213 Grove Avenue	ca. 1885-91	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
215 Grove Avenue	ca. 1880-96	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
300 Grove Avenue	1901	Octagonal	Municipal/Town Hall	C
313 Grove Avenue	1878-79	Side gable	Dwelling	C
315 Grove Avenue	by 1888	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
316 Grove Avenue	1940	Side gable	Clubhouse	C
319 Grove Avenue	ca. 1891	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
402 Grove Avenue	ca. 1875-90	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
404 Grove Avenue	ca. 1890-95	Cross gable	Dwelling	C
406 Grove Avenue	ca. 1890-1910	Gable front	Dwelling	C
411 Grove Avenue	ca. 1886-1900	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
412 Grove Avenue	ca. 1873-1900	N/A	Dwelling	NC; alterations
413 Grove Avenue	1984	Gable front	Dwelling	NC
415 Grove Avenue	by 1935	Cross gable	Dwelling	C
10 Maple Avenue	2000	Colonial Revival	Dwelling	NC
16 Maple Avenue	ca. 1905-17	Four-square	Dwelling	C
108 Maple Avenue	1941	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
109 Maple Avenue	1923	Craftsman bungalow	Dwelling	C
111 Maple Avenue	1916	Side gable	Dwelling	C
119 Maple Avenue	ca. 1885	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
127 Maple Avenue	1964	Split-level	Dwelling	C
205 Maple Avenue	ca. 1885-90	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
207 Maple Avenue	2005	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
209 Maple Avenue	ca. 1953	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
211 Maple Avenue	ca. 1953	Bungalow	Dwelling	NC; alterations
301 Maple Avenue	1955	Ranch	Dwelling	C
104 Maple Road	1966	Split-level	Dwelling	C
115 Maple Road	1979	Ranch	Dwelling	NC
121 Maple Road	1979	Ranch	Dwelling	NC
201 Maple Road	ca. 1975-78	Ranch	Dwelling	NC
203 Maple Road	ca. 1975-78	Ranch	Dwelling	NC
100 McCauley Street	1955	Ranch	Dwelling	C
333 McCauley Street	1958	Ranch	Dwelling	NC; alterations
403 McCauley Street	1956	Ranch	Dwelling	C
500 McCauley Street	ca. 1885-1915	Cross gable	Dwelling	C
503 McCauley Street	1939; 1951	Ranch	Dwelling	C
410 Oak Street	1940	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
411 Oak Street	1959	Side gable	Dwelling	C
418 Oak Street	ca. 1913-15	Cross gable	Dwelling	C
419 Oak Street	ca. 1909	Bungalow	Dwelling	C
16950 Oakmont Avenue	ca. 1930s	Hipped	Commercial	C
16960 Oakmont Avenue	ca. 1900	Cross gable	Dwelling	C
17030 Oakmont Avenue	1889	Cross gable	Commercial	C
104 Pine Avenue	ca. 1946	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
106 Pine Avenue	ca. 1946	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 49

107 Pine Avenue	1966	Colonial Revival	Dwelling	C
108 Pine Avenue	ca. 1950	Gable front	Dwelling	NC; alterations
465 Railroad Street	1933; 1952	N/A	Commercial	C
17050 Railroad Street	1908	Pyramidal	Dwelling	C
3 Ridge Road	ca. 1910-25	Bungalow	Dwelling	C
102 Ridge Road	ca. 1885-90	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
106 Ridge Road	ca. 1954	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
108 Ridge Road	1915	Side gable	Dwelling	C
110 Ridge Road	1912	Craftsman bungalow	Dwelling	C
112 Ridge Road	1912	Side gable	Dwelling	C
114 Ridge Road	1947	Gable front	Dwelling	C
116 Ridge Road	1948	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
118 Ridge Road	1954	Ranch	Dwelling	C
202 Ridge Road	1991	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
204 Ridge Road	ca. 1975-78	Ranch	Dwelling	NC
211 Ridge Road	2004	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
213 Ridge Road	2003	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
215 Ridge Road	2003	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
217 Ridge Road	2003	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
300 Ridge Road	1952	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
302 Ridge Road	ca. 1880-95	I-house	Dwelling	C
306 Ridge Road	1900	Side gable	Dwelling	C
326 Ridge Road	1952	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
330 Ridge Road	1951	Ranch	Dwelling	NC; alterations
334 Ridge Road	1955	Ranch	Dwelling	C
336 Ridge Road	2002	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
338 Ridge Road	2002	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
340 Ridge Road	2002	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
342 Ridge Road	1952	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
344 Ridge Road	2013	N/A	Dwelling	NC
346 Ridge Road	1953	Ranch	Dwelling	NC; alterations
348 Ridge Road	2004	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
350 Ridge Road	2005	New Traditional	Dwelling	NC
352 Ridge Road	2005	Millennium Mansion	Dwelling	NC
354 Ridge Road	1950	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
358 Ridge Road	1950	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	NC; alterations
203 Second Avenue	2016	Gable front	Dwelling	NC
403 Sixth Avenue	by 1895	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
405 Sixth Avenue	by 1894	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
409 Sixth Avenue	1895	Gable front	Dwelling	C
1 The Circle	ca. 1878-85	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
2 The Circle	ca. 1878-79	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
6 The Circle	ca. 1879-80	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
8 The Circle	ca. 1878-80	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
9 The Circle	1989-90	Neo-Victorian	Dwelling	NC

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 50

12 The Circle	ca. 1880-90	Side gable	Dwelling	C
13 The Circle	ca. 1875-85	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
15 The Circle	ca. 1875-85	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
17 The Circle	ca. 1875-79	Carpenter Gothic	Dwelling	C
105 Washington Grove Lane/11 Brown Street	1920	N/A	Commercial	C
109 Washington Grove Lane	1973	N/A	Commercial	NC
111-13 Washington Grove Ln	1973	N/A	Commercial	NC
115 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1930-35	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
117 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1955	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
119 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1935-40	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
121 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1947	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
123 Washington Grove Lane	1947	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
125 Washington Grove Lane	1947	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
126 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1901-1938	Four-square	Dwelling	C
127 Washington Grove Lane	1947	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
128 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1925	Bungalow	Dwelling	C
129 Washington Grove Lane	1953	N/A	Dwelling	NC; alterations
200 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1925	Four-square	Dwelling	C
201 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1940-41	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
203 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1940-42	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
204 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1915-30	Bungalow	Dwelling	C
205 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1940	Cape Cod	Dwelling	C
207 Washington Grove Lane	1941	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
208 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1915-30	Craftsman bungalow	Dwelling	C
213 Washington Grove Lane	1938	Minimal Traditional	Dwelling	C
215 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1913	Gable front	Dwelling	C
301 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1935-40	Four-square	Dwelling	C
303 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1962	Ranch	Dwelling	C
305 Washington Grove Lane	1962	Ranch	Dwelling	C
411 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1962	Ranch	Dwelling	C
413 Washington Grove Lane	1963	Ranch	Dwelling	NC; alterations
415 Washington Grove Lane	1963	Ranch	Dwelling	C
510 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1910-20	Pyramidal	Dwelling	C
511 Washington Grove Lane	1958	Ranch	Dwelling	C
513 Washington Grove Lane	ca. 1958	Ranch	Dwelling	C
515 Washington Grove Lane	1990	Ranch	Dwelling	NC
517 Washington Grove Lane	1927	Bungalow	Dwelling	C

SITES		
Name	Key Date(s)	Contributing/ Noncontributing Status
Chapel Park	1886/1897	C
East Woods	1873/1964	C
Howard Park	1886/1897	C
Jackson Park	1897	C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 51

Knott Park	1897	C
Maple Lake	1910/1927/1955	C
Maple Spring ¹¹⁸	1873	C
McCauley Park	ca. 1940-1950	C
Morgan Park	1890	C
Railroad Park	1873/2003	C
The Circle	1873	C
Wade Park	1897	C
Washington Grove station	1873	C
Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park	1873/2007	C
West Woods	1873/1964	C
Whetstone Spring ¹¹⁹	1873	C
Woodward Park	1897/1925	C

STRUCTURES

Name	Key Date(s)	Contributing/Noncontributing Status
Humpback Bridge	1870s	C
Woodward Park fireplace	1935	C
Woodward Park gazebo	1974	NC

Historic Associated Features

The following list identifies the historic associated features that contribute to the significance of the Washington Grove Historic District. The term historic associated feature is used to enumerate small-scale and landscape features not individually countable according to National Register guidelines. They are organized according to the following categories of landscape characteristics: circulation, small-scale features, topographic features, and views and viewsheds.

Circulation

- Acorn Lane
- Boundary Street
- Brown Street
- Center Street
- Cherry Avenue
- Chestnut Avenue

¹¹⁸ Although the Maple Spring predates the establishment of the camp meeting, its significance related to Washington Grove begins in 1873.

¹¹⁹ Although the Whetstone Spring predates the establishment of the camp meeting, its significance related to Washington Grove begins in 1873.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 52

Circulation (cont.)

- Chestnut Road
- Dorsey Street
- Fifth Avenue
- First Avenue
- Fourth Avenue
- Grove Avenue
- Grove Road
- Hickory Road
- Johnson Alley
- Maple Avenue
- Maple Road
- McCauley Street
- Miller Drive
- Oak Street
- Pine Avenue
- Pine Road
- Railroad Street
- Ridge Road
- The Circle path
- Third Avenue
- Second Avenue
- Sixth Avenue
- Washington Grove Lane

Small-Scale Features

- Brown Street stone perimeter wall
- Elements of the well water system
- Elements of the camp meeting-era stormwater and drainage system
- Spherical streetlights
- Historic fire hydrants
- Wood street signs

Topographic Features

- Political Hill

Views and Viewsheds

- View from the Circle along each of the radial avenues
- Views from the radial avenues toward the Circle and encompassing the cottages along them

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 53

Views and Viewsheds (cont.)

- Views in both directions along the railroad tracks from the Washington Grove station
- Views from the station along Railroad Street in both directions, Oakmont Avenue in both directions, Grove Avenue, and Grove Road
- Views from the Humpback Bridge in both directions along the railroad corridor and into Washington Grove
- Views along Chestnut Avenue in both directions
- Views along Cherry Avenue in both directions
- Views along Grove Avenue in both directions
- Views from Grove Avenue encompassing McCathran Hall and the Woman's Club in Howard Park
- View of the Washington Grove station from Grove Avenue
- Views along Maple Avenue in both directions and the broad, sweeping views from the avenue across Woodward Park
- Views north from Pine Avenue into Woodward Park
- Views from Grove Road encompassing Woodward Park
- Views along Brown Street in both directions
- Views along Center Street in both directions and views along Center Street encompassing McCathran Hall
- Views in both directions along McCauley Street
- Views along Oak Street in both directions
- Views in both directions along Railroad Street
- Views from Ridge Road encompassing the residential parcels of Washington Grove along the west side, the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park along the east side, and the landscaped buffer along the lower section of Ridge Road shared with adjacent development
- 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
- Views within Chapel Park and across the park to nearby cottages and to the Howard Park and its buildings
- 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 Church
- Views from Morgan Park toward the Washington Grove station and views from the park along Grove Avenue, Grove Road, and Brown Street
- Views within and across the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park (historic associated features)
- views within and across Woodward Park encompassing the vegetation, the recreational features, and nearby cottages
- Views through and within the East Woods
- Views within the West Woods of Maple Lake and the springs
- Views across Maple Lake into the West Woods

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)
Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Community Planning and Development
- Landscape Architecture
- Social History

Period of Significance

1873-1969

Significant Dates

1873; 1877; 1886; 1897; 1901; 1902; 1905; 1906; 1910; 1920; 1937; 1940; 1963

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

- Day, Hezekiah (builder)
- Eisinger, Constantine (builder)
- Harding, Brawner (builder)
- Harris, A. L. (architect)
- Ploger, W.S. (architect)
- Reber, George (builder)
- Samperton, John S. (architect)
- Scott, W. A. (builder)
- Woods, Elliott (architect)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Washington Grove Archives

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

Summary Statement of Significance

National Register Criterion A

Social History: The Washington Grove Historic District is significant at the state level under National Register Criterion A in the area of social history as an important example of a Methodist camp meeting founded at the height of the religious resort period of the American camp meeting movement and as a successful regional independent assembly Chautauqua. During the religious resort period, camp meetings were founded across the country and in Maryland as an alternative to the secular summer resorts that were gaining popularity among the middle and upper middle classes during the second half of the nineteenth century. Washington Grove represented the trend, drawing thousands from the Washington area to its annual outdoor revival while attracting a stable base of summer residents. Emblematic of the Chautauqua movement's long-running connection to American Methodism and camp meetings, Washington Grove established an independent assembly Chautauqua in 1902, which ushered in a new chapter of community growth and revitalization just as interest and support for camp meetings had begun to falter. The town's buildings, sites, and structures represent a continuity of the activities and traditions established in the camp meeting and Chautauqua periods that are firmly supported by residents today.

Community Planning and Development: The Washington Grove Historic District is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion A in the area of community planning and development for its association with late nineteenth/early twentieth-century suburban migration from Washington, D.C., to Montgomery County via the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. Planned as both an annual camp meeting site and a religious summer resort to serve Washington-area Methodists, Washington Grove evolved into a successful year-round community that influenced similar developments along the railroad corridor. Washington Grove is also locally significant in the area of community planning and development for its involvement in and influence on the suburbanization of Montgomery County during the post-World War II period. Washington Grove is an independent municipality whose town meeting tradition is a direct successor of the annual stockholders meeting of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association. It is one of only seven municipalities in Montgomery County with independent planning and zoning authority. In the face of unprecedented regional growth and overreaching development that threatened the social and physical fabric of established communities in the greater Washington, D.C., area, Washington Grove under home rule successfully promoted responsible growth and compatible new design while managing and protecting the physical manifestations of its camp meeting heritage.

National Register Criterion C

Architecture: The Washington Grove Historic District is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture. Washington Grove possesses a significant collection of residential buildings that embody the built tradition of the American camp meeting movement and reflect important

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

national trends in late nineteenth- and twentieth-century American domestic architecture. Of particular note is the high concentration of Carpenter Gothic cottages. These architecturally distinctive houses feature peaked, front-gable roofs and double doors that evoke the shape and massing of the canvas structures that initially made up the community and vividly express the Carpenter Gothic style using highly ornamental scrollsawn woodwork, bracketed pendants, decorative dressings over or around windows and doors, and turned or chamfered porch posts. Built using natural materials, the cottages reflect the rustic setting of Washington Grove and the importance of nature to the interpretation of the camp meeting as a place apart. Originally constructed as summer residences, these cottages were converted into year-round homes and adapted to modern living with each passing generation. The result is an architecture of accretions that gives Washington Grove's camp meeting cottages a highly eclectic and distinct character. The persistence of vernacular forms through the early twentieth century represents a continuity with the past, and the introduction of revivalist styles adds to the architectural diversity of the district. The new domestic forms and styles introduced in the modern era embody a local manifestation of national trends in residential design. In their simplicity of form, open plans, and affordability, these houses represent a continuity in design from the camp meeting era. Across the continuum of Washington Grove's residential buildings, there is an adherence to standard forms that have been altered through individual elaboration, renovations, and additions to meet the changing needs of homeowners

Community Planning and Development: The Washington Grove Historic District is locally significant under National Register Criterion C as a notable expression of two important nineteenth-century trends in community planning and development. The spatial organization of the town combines a popular nineteenth-century camp meeting form – the wheel plan – with a residential grid emblematic of railroad and streetcar suburbs across the United States. Washington Grove's physical plan continues to evoke the historic delineations of the camp meeting era Tent Department, characterized by the Circle and the radiating avenues and interstitial alleys that surround it, and the Cottage Department, which features a system of alternating avenues for pedestrian use and roads for vehicular use. This circulation system served to reinforce the sylvan character of the landscape and improve the safety and appearance of the campgrounds, and it represents an early precursor of the Radburn scheme of community planning. In addition, the balance and combination of residential divisions, open spaces for assembly and recreation, and forested preserves has been a fundamental attribute of Washington Grove since its founding and remains intact today.

Landscape Architecture: The Washington Grove Historic District is locally significant under landscape architecture as a representation of the vernacular tradition of American camp meeting planning and design. Although the site is not the work of a professional designer, gardener, or horticulturalist, the spatial organization, vegetation, circulation networks, and other physical characteristics of the landscape embody the qualities and associations of late nineteenth-century Methodist campgrounds. Washington Grove's first permanent shelter was its tree canopy, and before the construction of the tabernacle, a clearing in the woods was the setting for worship. The landscape provided a natural and healthy, inspirational and insular setting for religious activities and evolved through the twentieth century to support the residential, recreational, and social customs of a year-round community while maintaining its essential form and character.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 4

Period of Significance

The period of significance for the Washington Grove Historic District spans the years 1873 to 1969. This period begins with the establishment of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting and ends in 1969 (50 years before the present). During this period, Washington Grove achieved its design significance in the areas of architecture, community planning and development, and landscape architecture as a town founded on camp meeting principles that evolved to incorporate a range of vernacular and stylistic design trends. This period encompasses the formation and development of Washington Grove religious camp meeting, its location as an independent Chautauqua assembly, municipal organization, and the events and activities that contribute to its significance within the context of post-World War II planning and development in Montgomery County.

Resource History and Historic Context

The Founding and Early Development of Washington Grove (1873-1901)

Origins and Early Development of Camp Meetings in the United States

Religious camp meetings have been an American phenomenon for over 200 years. While no standardized definition exists, a camp meeting is an outdoor preaching event at which participants sustain themselves and camp overnight, often in tents. Camp meetings are temporary gatherings, typically lasting a few days to a week at the end of the summer. Scholars have developed several theories as to the origin of the camp meeting, and there is still debate over the location and date of the first meeting. Historian Charles Johnson, in his classic work *The Frontier Camp Meeting*, advanced the concept that the camp meeting originated on the Kentucky frontier where populations were sparse and travel and communication were difficult. While preaching outdoors was common throughout the eighteenth century in rural and backwoods areas where churches, or even basic assembly structures, were not available, the element of overnight camping, often for several nights, was missing from these gatherings. Johnson asserted that camp meetings did not achieve universal popularity or standard form until 1800, the year Presbyterian minister James McGready organized several highly successful outdoor revivals in Logan County, Kentucky.¹²⁰ More recent scholarship suggests that the earliest camp meetings did not arise from circumstances created by the frontier and were organized in the Carolinas or Georgia during the last decade of the eighteenth century.¹²¹ Many support the claim that the Rock Spring Camp Meeting near Denver, North Carolina, which dates to 1794, may have been the first camp meeting in the United States.¹²²

¹²⁰ Charles Johnson, *The Frontier Camp Meeting* (Dallas, TX: Southern Methodist University Press, 1955), 32.

¹²¹ Kenneth O. Brown, *Holy Ground: A Study of the American Camp Meeting* (New York, NY: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1992), vii.

¹²² Brown, *Holy Ground*, 6.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 5

Camp meetings, often held in clearings in the woods, allowed preachers to reach a wide audience and did not require much in terms of infrastructure or planning, as attendees were expected to provide their own food and shelter for the duration of the event.

The earliest camp meetings were the work of Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists. While the Methodist church never institutionalized the camp meeting, this form of religious revival was embraced as an important part of the practice and led to Methodist dominance in American Protestantism in the nineteenth century.¹²³ The most famous, some argue notorious, early camp meeting took place at Cane Ridge in Bourbon County, Kentucky, in 1801. It lasted nearly a week, attracted tens of thousands of participants, and received wide coverage in the press, launching the camp meeting movement onto the national stage. Preachers at Cane Ridge and other early camp meetings spread the doctrine of universal redemption, and audience members were known to manifest their salvation by shouting, falling down, “jerking,” and dancing. The religious fervor of huge crowds often created a frenzied atmosphere of heightened emotions that resulted in disorderly conditions. Following the national trend, camp meetings emerged as an important practice for Methodists in the Washington area in the first half of the nineteenth century. Washington Grove historian Philip K. Edwards states that camp meetings for the Washington District of the Methodist Church occurred as early as 1815.¹²⁴

By the 1830s, camp meetings had evolved into more sedate events, subject to rules of order, sometimes enforced by a civil officer. Attendees came for spiritual renewal and development. The revivals fostered a sense of religious kinship, and socialization and recreation became important facets of camp life. At some campgrounds, church groups erected society tents, housing church groups. Excessive socialization, however, characterized as the “pic-nic spirit,” was criticized by many of the movement’s detractors. Others, such as Reverend B. W. Gorham, author of a camp meeting manual published in 1854, embraced the extra-religious pleasures of camp meetings.¹²⁵ As historian John R. Stilgoe notes, “Much of the excitement of camp-meeting convocations derived from the pure pleasure of group activity. For families accustomed to week-long isolation and hard work, meetings offered a social release unlike that of raisings, bees, and funerals.”¹²⁶ In his camp meeting manual, Gorham also promoted the religious campground as a place of good health, forecasting the next phase of camp meeting development wherein existing camps as well as new revival sites were promoted as

¹²³ Charles H. Lippy, “The Camp Meeting in Transition: The Character and Legacy of the Late Nineteenth Century,” *Methodist History* 34, no. 1 (October 1995), 3.

¹²⁴ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 16-17. The basic units of organization of the Methodist Church are annual conferences and districts. The Washington District was one of several districts within the Baltimore Conference.

¹²⁵ Ellen Weiss, *City in the Woods: The Life and Design of an American Camp Meeting on Martha’s Vineyard* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987), 7.

¹²⁶ John R. Stilgoe, *Common Landscape of America, 1580-1845* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1982), 233.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 6

religious alternatives to secular summer resort communities. To Gorham, the “purity and constant freshness of atmosphere” was one of the many circumstances that rendered the campground “a healthful resort.”¹²⁷

Isolation was an important factor in selecting a camp meeting site because it offered an environment free from disruptions, a place apart from worldly temptations. Wesleyan Grove, founded on the island of Martha’s Vineyard in 1836, was located in a grove of oaks close to Nantucket Sound on a gentle northwest-facing slope that faced away from the water “in an introspective fashion.”¹²⁸ The camp meeting on Deal Island (initially Devil’s Island and later Deil’s Island), Maryland, in the Chesapeake Bay, was located in a dense stand of trees called “Park’s Grove.”¹²⁹ Like Wesleyan Grove and Deal Island, many camp meetings had a forest setting, where man could be one with God and nature in a “sacred grove.” The sylvan landscape, in its function as a setting for worship, became, in effect, a holy ground. At night, these forest settings, lit by firelight, were both mysterious and awe-inspiring, creating a sense of otherworldliness. Trees also served the practical purpose of providing shade, privacy, fuel, and building material. By midcentury, other factors in selecting a camp meeting site held greater weight. Gorham’s 1854 manual emphasized finding a site with a bountiful supply of good water, adequate pasturage, a tree canopy for shade and shelter from the wind, easy access from principal thoroughfares, and a level topography, among other considerations.

The physical arrangement of the earliest camp meetings were not planned. In his book, *A Short History of the Methodists in the United States of America*, published in 1810, historian Jesse Lee describes a campground arranged in the shape of an “oblong square.”¹³⁰ At the center of the camp in a clearing was the assembly area with a preacher’s stand (pulpit) or sometimes two – one at either end of the assembly space. In its simplest form, the stand was a raised, wooden platform, although covered variants were common. Benches within the assembly area, if present, were hand-hewn and backless, arranged in rows, sometimes with a central aisle. Canvas tents or “board tents” were set up around the clearing in various configurations. Historian Charles Johnson has shown that three plans were widely used for early nineteenth-century frontier revivals – rectangular, circular, and open horseshoe.¹³¹ An example of the latter was depicted by architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe (1764-1820) in his 1809 sketch of a camp meeting in Virginia. The spatial configuration of most campgrounds was the work of anonymous builders and planners. As historian Ellen Weiss has documented, the radial concentric plan at Wesleyan Grove is of particular interest because this plan type was little used in the

¹²⁷ Rev. B. W. Gorham, *Camp Meeting Manual, A Practical Book for the Camp Ground; in Two Parts* (Boston, MA: H. V. Degen, 1854), 64-65.

¹²⁸ Weiss, *City in the Woods*, 24-25.

¹²⁹ Paul Baker Touart, National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form, “Deal Island Historic District,” 2006.

¹³⁰ Jesse Lee, *A Short History of the Methodists in the United States of America* (Baltimore, MD: Magill and Clime, 1810), 360.

¹³¹ Johnson, *The Frontier Camp Meeting*, 42.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 7

United States. Its derivative, the wheel plan, however, was featured at a number of campsites across the United States by the 1870s. Campsites arranged in a wheel plan featured a central gathering space and radiating paths or streets arranged like spokes around a hub. In addition to Washington Grove, the wheel plan could be found at campgrounds in Pitman Grove, New Jersey; Lancaster, Ohio; and Plainville, Connecticut.

The earliest permanent building constructed at many campgrounds was a tabernacle. These were typically large, open, timber-frame pavilions located in a clearing at the center of camp to shelter both the pulpit and seating area. While the roof provided shade and shelter from the rain, its open sides offered natural ventilation, unrestricted sightlines, and clear transmission of the speaker's voice. Wesleyan Grove had a canvas tabernacle until 1879, when it was replaced with a permanent iron structure that could seat thousands under its three-tiered roof. The tabernacle as a building form eliminated the distinction between interior and exterior space, recognizing the campground as divine space and encouraging man's communion with nature.

Canvas tents provided the earliest and simplest form of shelter at camp meetings. They were inexpensive, easy to transport, and quick to set up and take down. As noted above, board tents, simple frame structures clad with weatherboard, were also used for temporary accommodation. Indian Fields, an active Methodist campground in Dorchester County, South Carolina, features a ring of ninety-nine board tents around a central tabernacle.¹³² Gorham objected to the use of board tents, calling them "shanties," and recommended cloth tents. He described the construction of a 12-foot-wide tent with a 9-foot ridgepole for families that provided enough space for six to eight people. For society tents, he recommended a tent measuring 20 by 30 feet. Most tents were modest constructions, reinforcing the idea of primitive simplicity. Some camp meeting sites, however, maintained a tradition of embellishing tents. Fly tarps were ornamented with scalloped and sometimes embroidered front edges, and tent walls were hung with flags, bunting, or decorations fashioned out of tree branches or other vegetation. Often the tents were built on low, wood platforms to separate the tent floor from the damp earth. At Wesleyan Grove, some families erected wood-sided tents with canvas tops – a shelter form that bridged the gap between all-canvas tents and frame cottages.¹³³

When the canvas walls of individual tents were raised or pulled aside, interior spaces became semi-public, encouraging socialization. A print depicting the Sing Sing Camp Meeting in New York in 1838 illustrates this aspect of camp life and anticipates the proliferation of front porches as tents were replaced with cottages. The owners of tents that adjoined the assembly area or tabernacle could simply open their tent to participate in religious meetings and other revival activities. Tent walls could also be manipulated to regulate sun, shade, and the circulation of air.

¹³² Caroline Dixon, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, "Indian Fields Methodist Camp Ground," July 28, 1972.

¹³³ Lester Walker, *Tiny, Tiny Houses or How to Get Away from It All* (Woodstock, NY: The Overlook Press, 1987), 47-48.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 8

Beginning in the 1840s, when the religious fervor that characterized the Second Great Awakening began to diminish, the camp meeting movement fell into a period of relative dormancy that lasted through the Civil War. Starting in the mid-1860s, however, scores of camp meeting sites were established in the East and the Midwest.¹³⁴ This period of camp meeting development is known as the Religious Resort Period, because it parallels the resort/excursion phenomenon that extended from the Civil War to World War I, when middle-class city dwellers eager to escape urban conditions retreated to lake, ocean, and mountain destinations made accessible by new forms of transportation.¹³⁵ The summer resort phenomenon had its origins in and was advanced by the development of American suburbs in the nineteenth century.

Nineteenth-Century Suburbanization and the Emergence of Summer Resorts in the Washington Region

National trends in suburban development in the nineteenth century can be linked to the evolution of transportation systems and technologies that established both intra- and intercity connections and fostered residential growth outside the urban center. The earliest suburban communities were developed during the railroad era, when railroad companies, seeking new sources of revenue, built passenger stations along their routes to connect cities with small rural villages. The residential communities that developed around the stations became semirural enclaves where the upper and upper-middle classes built fashionable villas on large lots, finding reprieve from overcrowding and other issues afflicting America's rapidly industrializing cities. As historian Kenneth T. Jackson has documented, reformers such as educator Catherine Beecher (1800-1878), landscape gardener Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852), and architect and landscape gardener Calvert Vaux (1824-1895) were highly influential in shaping American attitudes toward family life, semirural living, and domestic architecture and in romanticizing the benefits of naturalistic settings.¹³⁶ Railroad commuting was well established in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and other major urban centers before the Civil War. Horse-drawn streetcars, also known as horsecars, were developed in the early 1830s and offered another mode of transportation to the early commuter class.

Washington, D.C., lacked several key conditions that drove early suburban development in other cities across the United States. With a population in 1860 of a little over 60,000 – less than one-tenth the population of New York City at the time – the District had yet to confront many of the issues afflicting larger metropolitan areas. Manufacturing existed within a narrow range of foundries, breweries, and mills, and heavy industry was scant. The city's poor air quality was primarily due to its topography and local climate rather than a proliferation of

¹³⁴ Charles A. Parker, "The Camp Meeting on the Frontier and the Methodist Religious Resort in the East – Before 1900," *Methodist History* 18, no. 3 (April 1980), 183.

¹³⁵ Lampl and Kelly, "'A Harvest in the Open for Saving Souls,' The Camp Meetings of Montgomery County," 2004, 7.

¹³⁶ Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), 61-67.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 9

smokestacks. In 1860, only one line of horsecars operated in Washington, D.C. These omnibuses did not run on rails, however, and offered a primitive form of transit given the generally poor condition of the city's streets.¹³⁷ After the Civil War, however, living conditions within the city began to change, creating greater impetus for suburban development. The population of Washington expanded as migrants relocated to the city from surrounding rural communities and from the South. By 1870, the population had increased to over 109,000 inhabitants. Washington was located in a topographic bowl, and its low-lying areas suffered from drainage and sewage problems that were exacerbated by the city's growing numbers. The spread of malaria and other diseases was also a concern. In 1871, Alexander "Boss" Shepherd began a comprehensive public works project that included tearing up the streets to lay sewers, leveling and paving the streets and avenues, removing abandoned buildings and other nuisances, and burying the long-abandoned Washington City Canal. The prospect of semirural living offered a compelling alternative to the urban upheaval that would soon overtake the District.

Thus, by the early 1870s, suburban communities began to emerge along the major railroad lines entering Washington. These included Seabrook and Hyattsville along the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad, Huntington City (Bowie) along the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, which opened in 1872 and was operated by the Pennsylvania Railroad, and Linden on the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O, which began operations in 1873. Linden, platted in 1873, was the first railroad suburb in Montgomery County.¹³⁸ The original plan of Linden identified approximately twenty lots on about 12 acres of former farmland.¹³⁹ Ten years later, New York Congressman Benjamin F. Gilbert purchased a 90-acre tract in Montgomery County about 6 miles outside the District, which he subdivided and platted as the suburb of Takoma Park. Gilbert capitalized on the existence of convenient and affordable commuter service on B&O's Metropolitan Branch, and Takoma Park quickly attracted buyers. To promote suburban development, the B&O offered discounted freight rates for lumber destined for sites on along the Metropolitan Branch.¹⁴⁰

The first electric streetcar (or trolley) system began operations in Richmond, Virginia, in February 1888. The technology proved safe and reliable and was quickly adopted by cities across the country as a replacement for horse-drawn streetcars. Indeed, the first electric streetcar in the District – the Eckington and Soldiers' Home Railway – was chartered in June 1888 and operations began that October.¹⁴¹ Suburban streetcar lines soon

¹³⁷ LeRoy O. King, Jr., *100 Years of Capital Traction: The Story of Streetcars in the Nation's Capital* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1972), 3.

¹³⁸ Cavicchi, *Places from the Past*, 39.

¹³⁹ Michael F. 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 (amended).

¹⁴⁰ Cavicchi, *Places from the Past*, 39.

¹⁴¹ King, *100 Years of Capital Traction*, 17.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 10

followed, providing connections to nascent residential developments such as Tenleytown, Glen Echo, and others. Streetcar suburbs attracted a wide range of socioeconomic groups from the working to the upper-middle class.

While the physical plan of most early railroad and streetcar suburbs conformed to a gridiron street system, practitioners such as Downing, Vaux, and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead, Sr. (1822-1903) were strong advocates for a more naturalistic approach influenced by the English Picturesque landscape tradition. One of the most influential planned railroad suburbs inspired by the Picturesque movement was Riverside, designed by Olmstead and Vaux in 1868-69. Located outside Chicago, Riverside featured public parks and gracefully curved and sunken roads that preserved and enhanced the natural features of the land.¹⁴² Chevy Chase, a southern Montgomery County streetcar suburb that bordered the District, embraced the traits of picturesque suburban planning promoted by Olmsted.¹⁴³ The first section of Chevy Chase, platted in 1892, had an informal, sylvan character that featured curvilinear parkways and landscaped parklets.

Encouraged by the convenience of travel by commuter rail and streetcars, resort hotels and boarding houses proliferated in the countryside outside Washington, D.C., during the late nineteenth century. For those Washington residents who could not afford a permanent relocation to the suburbs, resort hotels offered the opportunity to spend their summers “in the country.”¹⁴⁴ Summer vacationers could take lodging by the week or on a more long-term basis. The High View, a resort hotel in Boyds, Maryland, built in 1887, catered to families and vacationers fleeing the hot city during the summer months.¹⁴⁵ Often, suburban real estate speculators built hotels within their communities to encourage local development. In 1893, Gilbert opened the 160-room North Takoma Hotel in Takoma Park. The developers of Chevy Chase built a hotel within one year after the community’s first residential subdivision was platted.

The Religious Resort Period of Camp Meeting Development

Given that they were often organized in locations that offered clean sources of water, fresh air, crisp breezes, and generally salubrious conditions, Methodist camp meetings were promoted as religious alternatives to secular summer resort communities in the years after the Civil War. The seaside resort of Ocean Grove, New

¹⁴² Charles W. Snell, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, “Riverside Historic District,” February 10, 1970.

¹⁴³ Kimberly Prothro Williams, Elizabeth Jo Lampl, and William B. Bushong, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, “Chevy Chase Historic District,” 7:3, draft dated October 1998.

¹⁴⁴ Jane C. Sween, *Montgomery County: Two Centuries of Change* (Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications, 1984), 95.

¹⁴⁵ Cavicchi, *Places from the Past*, 36.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 11

Jersey, founded as a Methodist camp meeting in 1869, epitomized the trend. One hundred miles to the south of Ocean Grove was the South Jersey Camp Meeting Association (established in 1875), which was located on a stop of the Cape May and Millville Railroad. Camps such as Ocean Grove and South Jersey attracted cottage owners, cottage and tent renters, and hotel guests, as well as daily excursionists.¹⁴⁶ The popularity of religious resorts is reflected in newspaper coverage of the period.

In Maryland, Methodists established camp meetings across the state, many of which became popular summer destinations. The Emory Grove Camp Meeting in Baltimore County was founded in 1868 on an elevated, wooded site along the route of the Western Maryland Railroad. Its popularity encouraged the nearby development of Glyndon (established in 1871) as a summer resort. The Emory Grove Camp Meeting is still active, hosting religious services and other events every summer. Today, the grounds consist of forty-seven cottages, a tabernacle, a hotel, which dates to 1887, and a temple built in 1909.¹⁴⁷ In Montgomery County, a group of former slaves and their descendants founded a camp meeting northeast of Gaithersburg. The gathering site was located in a grove of trees that had been used by African Americans living in the area for religious gatherings and praise services since the 1860s. By 1880, the ten-day, tent-style camp meeting, also called Emory Grove, was widely attended by people from Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and places farther afield who arrived by train and walked from the nearby Washington Grove station to the camp grounds. Until barred, part of their route from the station was through Washington Grove. Unlike many other camp meetings, Emory Grove's canvas tents were never replaced with cottages, reflecting the community's limited means. Camp meetings at Emory Grove continued into the post-World War II period, with crowds of 3,000 to 4,000 people attending in the 1950s. In 1967, the annual religious and community gathering was shut down by the local health department citing sanitation problems. By 2004, the only tangible sign of the camp meeting grounds was a small remnant grove of oak trees, located behind a baseball field in Montgomery County's Johnson's Park. In addition, a historic marker has been erected.¹⁴⁸ In the tradition of the Deal Island, Maryland, a camp meeting was established on Smith Island (Somerset County) in the Chesapeake Bay in 1887. Located in the community of Ewell, the camp meeting (incorporated as the Wilson Butler Camp Ground) was only accessible by boat. By the early twentieth century, the campground included thirty frame cottages and a large auditorium. After a fire in 1937, the camp meeting infrastructure was largely rebuilt, and annual camp meetings are still held in the historic tabernacle.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁶ Parker, "The Camp Meeting on the Frontier and the Methodist Religious Resort in the East – Before 1900," 187.

¹⁴⁷ The Emory Grove Camp Meeting (Baltimore County) is located within the Glyndon Historic District. See Rodd L. Wheaton and Nancy Miller, National Register of Historic Places Inventory, Nomination Form, "Glyndon," 1973, and Emory Grove History, available at <https://www.emorygrove.net/>, accessed May 7, 2019.

¹⁴⁸ Lampl and Kelly, "'A Harvest in the Open for Saving Souls,' The Camp Meetings of Montgomery County," 2004, 35-61.

¹⁴⁹ Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, "Ewell Survey District, S-333."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 12

At Methodist campgrounds that transitioned into summer resorts, tents, which were comfortable for temporary revivals but impractical for longer periods, were often quickly replaced with cottages. Although inherently distinct from tents due to their permanency and building material, camp meeting cottages carried over many of the key characteristics of the earlier form – the peaked shape, large front openings, uninsulated walls, and economical use of interior space.¹⁵⁰ The Gothic Revival in architecture and the writings and works of landscape gardener Andrew Jackson Downing and architect Alexander Jackson Davis (1803-1892) had a profound impact on the design of camp cottages. The style's religious symbolism made it ideally suited for the spiritual nature of Methodist camp meetings, and the scale, massing, and materials of Carpenter Gothic-style cottages formed a logical step in the transition from tents to permanent buildings. (See additional text below on Carpenter Gothic.) Typically, cottages were built on existing tent lots, limiting the dimensions of the building footprint. Porches, which simulated tent awnings, extended interior space into the public realm and provided an area for socialization. Front-gable roofs evoked tent forms and created an additional half story that allowed for extra light, ventilation, and, in some cases, a sleeping loft. Cottages could be utilitarian or fanciful, depending on the period in which they were built, local traditions, and the socio-economic standing of the owner.¹⁵¹

While at some campgrounds special sections of the site were set aside for cottages and platted with larger lots, it would not have been unusual for new cottages to stand side by side with their canvas neighbors. Some camp meetings, such as Ocean Grove, have retained their tent tradition. Approximately one hundred family tents surround the auditorium there.¹⁵²

Camp meeting associations acted as the governing body for many campgrounds during this period. Wesleyan Grove was institutionalized in 1868 when the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association was incorporated by an act of state legislature. A board of trustees and various committees were formed to order life in the community.¹⁵³ The Northport Wesleyan Grove Camp Meeting Association, formed in 1873 on Maine's Penobscot Bay, was authorized to acquire land and develop a wharf, key factors in its development as a summer colony.¹⁵⁴ These associations passed laws that regulated public conduct, commerce, the use of recreational facilities, and other aspects of camp meeting life.

¹⁵⁰ Troy Messenger, *Holy Leisure: Recreation and Religion in God's Square Mile* (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1999), 49.

¹⁵¹ Lampl and Kelly, "'A Harvest in the Open for Saving Souls,' The Camp Meetings of Montgomery County," 2004, 1.

¹⁵² Walker, *Tiny, Tiny Houses*, 58-59.

¹⁵³ Weiss, *City in the Woods*, 34.

¹⁵⁴ Kirk F. Mohney, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, "Bayside Historic District," November 8, 1996.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 13

Carpenter Gothic

In the early nineteenth century, Gothic Revival architecture emerged in the United States as a solution for Americans searching for an ideal ecclesiastical architecture. Many reasoned that because Christianity had flourished when Gothic architecture was in its prime in Europe, churches should be built in as close to the correct version of Gothic as possible.¹⁵⁵ The style was eagerly adopted for American church building, particularly in New England and the Mid-Atlantic states. American architects and builders drew inspiration from English writers such as John Ruskin (1819-1900) and Augustus Pugin (1812-1852), both of whom argued for the Gothic style in moralistic terms. Ruskin and Pugin declared that Gothic architecture should not just have decorative features like tracery, but that medieval building techniques should also be revived. Gothic Revival became a popular style for residential architecture as the nineteenth century progressed.¹⁵⁶

Among the most influential voices in translating Gothic architecture for American domestic use were landscape gardener Andrew Jackson Downing and architect Alexander Jackson Davis. Through their writings and built work, Downing and Davis freely interpreted English cottages and villas for an American audience.¹⁵⁷ Davis's enthusiasm for Gothic architecture developed early in his career, as he was drawn to romantic literature and sought to capture that aesthetic world in his designs. Working on church projects in the office of architect Ithiel Town (1784-1844) furthered Davis's enthusiasm for Gothic architecture.¹⁵⁸ In his own practice, he designed a number of houses in the style. Downing, meanwhile, as a premiere tastemaker of the mid-nineteenth century, helped to popularize the Gothic cottages and villas designed by architects like Davis.

What emerged in Downing's books was a distinct house type: a modest, picturesque cottage with Gothic decoration intended for the working class. In his book *The Architecture of Country Houses*, published in 1850, Downing devoted a chapter to cottage designs, featuring drawings by architects like Davis. Downing referred to the cottage style as English cottage, or "rural Gothic."¹⁵⁹ The houses had steeply pitched gables, board-and-batten exteriors, porches, and decorative woodwork. Downing referred to the pointed gable as the most striking feature of such cottages.¹⁶⁰ A plate from his book for a "Symmetrical Cottage," for instance, is shown with a

¹⁵⁵ David P. Handlin, *American Architecture* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1985), 87-88.

¹⁵⁶ Handlin, *American Architecture*, 87.

¹⁵⁷ Alma deC. McArdle and Deirdre Bartlett McArdle, *Carpenter Gothic: 19th Century Ornamented Houses of New England* (New York: Whitney Library of Design, 1978), 18.

¹⁵⁸ William H. Pierson, Jr., *American Architects and Their Buildings, Volume 2: Technology and the Picturesque, Corporate and the Early Gothic Styles* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1978), 271.

¹⁵⁹ Andrew Jackson Downing, *A treatise on the theory and practice of Landscape Gardening* (London: Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, 1849), 58.

¹⁶⁰ Downing, *A treatise on the theory and practice of Landscape Gardening*, 402.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 14

steeply pitched front gable fitted with decorative bargeboards and a finial and pendant. Such ornamental details were derived from English domestic architecture.¹⁶¹ Like Pugin and Ruskin, Downing and Davis recommended natural materials and the honest expression of those materials. Given its affordability compared to other materials, wood was a logical construction material. Further, new technologies like the steam-powered scroll saw and building methods such as balloon framing allowed houses to be built more quickly and economically.¹⁶²

Downing and Davis's vision was articulated in the latter's design for a gatehouse at the Blithewood estate in Barrytown, New York. Published in Davis's book *Rural Residences* in 1837, it was, according to architectural historian William H. Pierson, the first house in American architecture to be designed and published as a "cottage."¹⁶³ The gatehouse had a steeply pitched, cross-gable roof and gables fitted with bargeboards featuring tracery-like patterns, finials, and pendants. Its nearly cruciform plan was the result of two intersecting blocks. This massing, writes Pierson, "rejected altogether the single rectangular block of the classical tradition in favor of the dynamic opposition of strongly directional units."¹⁶⁴

Downing cautioned against an excess of ornamentation such as "overwrought verge boards" or "an excess of fanciful and flowing ornaments of a card-board character."¹⁶⁵ However, as historians Alma deC. McArdle and Deirdre Bartlett McArdle have described, "...in many instances the simple gables and bargeboards of Downing's unpretentious cottages quickly became a veritable riot of decoration..."¹⁶⁶ Carpenters made liberal, and at times fanciful, interpretations of the Downing/Davis cottages, partly because sourcebooks on Gothic architecture were not as widely available as those devoted to classical architecture. This interpretation of the Downing/Davis cottages by builders became known as Carpenter Gothic. The style often featured gable ends fitted with decorative bargeboards made of thin wood, the fragility of the ornament earned it the moniker "gingerbread."¹⁶⁷ The bargeboards regularly featured Gothic-like tracery, such as that found on Davis's Blithewood gatehouse. Carpenter Gothic embraced the new technology of the day, as scroll-sawn bargeboards and machine-turned knobs and spindles became common features.

¹⁶¹ Andrew Jackson Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses* (New York: Dover, 1969), 104-06.

¹⁶² James L. Garvin, *A Building History of Northern New England* (Hanover, NH: University Press of England, 2001), 23-24.

¹⁶³ Pierson, *American Architects and Their Buildings*, 305.

¹⁶⁴ Pierson, *American Architects and Their Buildings*, 307.

¹⁶⁵ Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, 85.

¹⁶⁶ McArdle and McArdle, *Carpenter Gothic: 19th Century Ornamented Houses of New England*, 21.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 15

Carpenter Gothic-style cottages found a receptive audience among Methodist camp meetings in the mid- to late nineteenth century, particularly as the physical presence of campgrounds transitioned from tents to permanent buildings. The style's religious symbolism made it ideally suited for the ethereal escape camp meeting organizers hoped to establish. Indeed, the cottages often resembled churches, with double-door entrances, steeple-like finials, and scroll-sawn bargeboard that evoked tracery.¹⁶⁸

The Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association

During the post-Civil War period, Washington's Methodist community experienced a resurgence, led in part by Reverend B. Peyton Brown (1830-1896), the enthusiastic pastor of Foundry Church between 1866 and 1869 and again in 1876-79. By 1868, Foundry was actively joining with other area churches to plan for a series of regional camp meetings. After a succession of planning meetings, a revival was held that August at Haislip's Woods near Annapolis Junction on the Washington Branch of the B&O Railroad.¹⁶⁹ Local interest in camp meetings was intensifying at this time, and three years later, Foundry helped organize another camp meeting a few miles from Annapolis Junction at Severn Circuit. Methodist leadership in Washington, however, desiring a campground that could be under their ownership and control, organized a committee to select a site for a permanent camp. The committee, which included Reverend Brown, William R. Woodward (an attorney), Flodoardo Howard (a doctor and pharmacist), and several others, likely carried out their search during the late winter and spring of 1873.¹⁷⁰ The site they decided on was a 267-acre tract in Montgomery County that comprised the corner of a farm owned by Elizabeth Magruder Cooke (1804-1886), the widow of Nathan Cooke Sr. (1803-1869). Elizabeth Cooke was described as a "consistent member and worker of the Methodist Church South."¹⁷¹ Nathan Cooke was a successful Maryland farmer, landowner, and investor. Relying in large part on slave labor, he grew crops on his farm and raised sheep and swine.¹⁷² The portion of Cooke's farm selected for the camp meeting site included two springs, wooded groves, and fields. It was ensconced in Montgomery County's agricultural landscape, yet conveniently located along the Metropolitan Branch, which commenced passenger and freight operations on May 25, 1873.

¹⁶⁸ Lampl and Kelly, "'A Harvest in the Open for Saving Souls,' The Camp Meetings of Montgomery County," 2004, 99.

¹⁶⁹ Homer L. Calkin, *Castings from the Foundry Mold: A History of Foundry Church, Washington, D.C., 1814-1964* (Nashville, TN: Parthenon Press, 1968): 107-108.

¹⁷⁰ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 30.

¹⁷¹ John Bowie Ferneyhough, ed., *Year Book of the American Clan Gregor Society* (Richmond, VA: Curtiss-Neal, Inc., 1928), 25.

¹⁷² Archives of Maryland, Biographical Series, Nathan Cooke Sr. (MSA SC 5496-035312), available at <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5400/sc5496/035300/035312/html/035312bio.html>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 16

Reverend Brown and his committee presented their choice for the camp meeting site at a meeting that took place at Foundry Church on June 16, 1873. The site met all of the criteria for a suitable camp meeting location. The heavily wooded areas of the property offered privacy, protection from the elements, lumber for building and fuel, and provisions for camping. Its meadows offered open clearings for carts, wagons, horse pens, and mercantile stands. Moreover, it was easily accessible by rail from Washington yet far enough from the city to enhance the sense for participants that the camp meeting was “a world apart” from everyday demands and routines. These last two factors were particularly important to the organizers of Washington Grove, who planned for the camp meeting to become a popular summer resort in addition to a successful religious revival.

The organizers took stock subscriptions at the June 16 meeting to raise capital for the acquisition of the property and initial improvements to the grounds. On July 3, 1873, the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association of the District of Columbia and Maryland purchased the land and the railroad right-of-way from Cooke’s widow for the sum of \$6,636.25.¹⁷³ The following day was the Fourth of July, and the association held a promotional picnic on the grounds. A description of the event read, “Yesterday a large number of Methodists of the District spent the day at the new campground – about one thousand going out on the Metropolitan branch road. The parties separated into small picnic parties, and rambled through the woods, all being well pleased with the location.”¹⁷⁴

The first camp meeting at Washington Grove began on August 13, 1873, and lasted for ten days. Although the weather was poor, with days of torrential rain, the event was declared a success. On a plateau of high ground within a clearing in the woods was the preacher’s stand and rows of wood benches. Initially, the tents at Washington Grove were arranged in a grid pattern, with their entrances facing the preacher’s stand and assembly area. This arrangement has its origins in early nineteenth-century campgrounds, which, as previously noted, were typically laid out along one of three plans – rectangular, circular, or open horseshoe. By the second camp meeting in 1874, the initial rectangular grid plan had been altered to accommodate an octagonal central gathering space. A newspaper article dated July 6, 1874, describing an excursion to Washington Grove in advance of the ten-day camp meeting read, “Numbers who are contemplating a sojourn in the grove...inspected the newly-arranged grounds, and endeavored to located their proposed homes in the woods. The stakes show that the inner court has been changed in shape from a square to an octagon, with radiating avenues entering

¹⁷³ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 35. Per research conducted and compiled by Gail Littlefield, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission, the Nathan Cooke farm was comprised of parts of several eighteenth-century land grants patented by tobacco planters. By 1829, Jesse Leach, a wealthy landowner, had accumulated the parts of the tracts that comprised most of Nathan Cooke’s farm. Cooke acquired Jesse Leach’s holdings at a public sale in 1847. The property surveyed at 512.5 acres and sold for \$1,281.25. Cooke had acquired the rest from the heirs of Jeremiah Crabb, a Revolutionary War hero, in 1846. See Montgomery County Historical Society tax rolls for 1796 (page 72) and 1813 (page 3) and Montgomery County Land Records (Deed Book STS 1, page 522 and Deed Book STS 4, page 210).

¹⁷⁴ “At the New Camp Ground,” *Evening Star*, July 5, 1873.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 17

upon it from four opposite directions.¹⁷⁵ Eventually the octagon evolved into a circle, and the camp meeting took on a wheel plan featuring a central gathering space, the “Sacred Circle,” surrounded by tent sites and six radiating paths, also lined with tent lots. The radial paths were designated First Avenue through Sixth Avenue. As previously noted, this arrangement was a derivative of the radial concentric plan most notably used at the Wesleyan Grove camp meeting on Martha’s Vineyard. Washington Grove is the only known example in Maryland of this layout. Washington Grove historian Philip K. Edwards postulates that the rectangular plan may have evolved into a wheel form due to the weather, writing that, “There must have [been] much moving about of boundaries as tents were placed where they were practical instead of in neat rows.”¹⁷⁶ The site’s topography may have also influenced the spatial configuration of the grounds. The founders of Washington Grove placed the preacher’s stand and assembly area at a high point within the site (roughly 522 feet or 159 meters above sea level), and the principal pedestrian route into the grounds (Grove Avenue) followed along the crest of a ridgeline. Because the ridgeline curved slightly east around the assembly area, the wheel plan may have been a more natural fit for the shape of the land.

A flyer distributed by the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association in advance of the first camp meeting offered three sizes of canvas tents for rent – 10 by 12 feet, 12 by 16 feet, and 14 by 20 feet.¹⁷⁷ These tents came with a fly and were erected on wood platforms. Participants could also provide their own tent, but were charged a fee to rent a lot. According to Edwards, tent lots measured 15 by 20 feet or 15 by 30 feet.¹⁷⁸ An article in the *Evening Star* newspaper from August 13, 1873, reported that tents were “mostly about 14 feet square,” perhaps indicating that most attendees furnished their own tents rather than renting them from the association.¹⁷⁹ In addition to the tents used by individual families and by church groups, open air tents were used to shelter “boarding saloons” that provided meals for campers and for daily excursionists. Market stands sold straw, furniture, perishables, and other goods. In September 1873, one month after the official opening of the camp meeting, the *Evening Star* reported that “the railroad had erected a station house at the grounds.”¹⁸⁰ (While nineteenth-century newspaper articles refer to this building as both a station house and as a depot, the term depot will be used to describe the building, which was a large frame structure with a gable roof that sheltered an open waiting area. The term station will be used to refer to the enclosed structure built across from the depot in

¹⁷⁵ “Pic-nics and Excursions,” *Evening Star*, July 6, 1874.

¹⁷⁶ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 44.

¹⁷⁷ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 39.

¹⁷⁸ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 42.

¹⁷⁹ “The Washington Grove Camp Meeting, Description of the New Grounds and Arrangements for the Meeting,” *Evening Star*, August 13, 1873. The same figure was reported by the *Baltimore Sun*. See “The Washington Grove Camp Meeting,” *Baltimore Sun*, August 15, 1873.

¹⁸⁰ *Evening Star*, September 17, 1873.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 18

1906.) In 1877, the preacher's stand and assembly space were replaced with a permanent pavilion known as the tabernacle. It was open on all sides, and heavy timber posts and beams supported a wide hipped roof. Bracing at the top of the posts resembled tree branches.

The founders of Washington Grove intended from the start that it would also operate as a summer resort. A promotional pamphlet from July 1873 read, "After the land has been plotted, it is the intention of the Trustees to issue renewable leases to sites suitable for summer residences, for which its nearness to the railroad, its elevated position...its salubrity, and numerous other advantages, renders it more desirable to the public than any other place in the vicinity of Washington."¹⁸¹ In fact, newspaper reports reveal that Washington Grove was being used as a summer retreat rather than simply a temporary revival site by many from Washington as early as 1878.¹⁸² These families set up house well before the camp meeting, making good use of the grounds and its amenities. Features such as Maple Spring were popular destinations for nature walks, picnics, and other passive recreational activities. While many resided in tents, Washington Grove had its first cottages by the summer of 1878. A newspaper account reported that they were painted white, "so as not to mar the beauty of the contrast made under the thick green foliage of the forest trees and the clear white of the tents."¹⁸³ The same article noted that the houses were "handsomely arranged with Venetian doors, and divided into rooms to suit the convenience of their families, and ornamented according to the taste of the inmates...." As was customary at Methodist camp meetings, the trees, tabernacle, and fire stands at Washington Grove were whitewashed.¹⁸⁴ This tradition encouraged a "beautiful and cleanly appearance" and allegedly protected the trees from insects and fungus.¹⁸⁵ Lamplight and moonlight reflected off the painted trunks, helping with nighttime visibility.

For those who resided at Washington Grove, whether for a week or two to attend the camp meeting or for the entire summer season, the association provided many of the civic amenities offered by contemporary suburban communities. The most viable and enduring nineteenth-century suburban developments offered a range of facilities such as hotels, schools, libraries, churches, club buildings, athletic fields, public parks, and sometimes small business districts.¹⁸⁶ The suburb of Kensington had the first public library (the Noyes Library) in the Washington, D.C., area, which opened in in 1893. Francis G. Newlands, the founder of Chevy Chase, induced

¹⁸¹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 39.

¹⁸² Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 95.

¹⁸³ "God's First Temple," *Washington Post*, August 3, 1878.

¹⁸⁴ "The Camp Meeting Season," *Evening Star*, August 11, 1881.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ Kimberly Prothro Williams, Elizabeth Jo Lampl, and William B. Bushong, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, "Chevy Chase Historic District," 8:56, draft dated October 1998.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 19

buyers to his community by providing a post office/library, public schools, a hotel, a recreational lake, and a country club. While Washington Grove did not have a school or a library, there was a hotel, a market, and open spaces for games and organized sports. The hotel (variably called the Albany Hotel or Hotel Albany) served long-staying seasonal guests as well as day-trippers. It was built in 1881 and located within Howard Park. The hotel's design and construction were supervised by one of the Grove's founding trustees, Richard H. Willet, who operated large lumberyards in Washington, D.C., and Maryland.¹⁸⁷ In 1884, the Grove could also lay claim to a barbershop and a dentist.¹⁸⁸ Starting in 1886, a seasonal post office operated out of the hotel; year-round postal service began three years later.¹⁸⁹

Although the site selected by the association possessed natural springs that sparkled with "life-invigorating properties," one of the first improvements to the landscape was to dig several wells and install pumps to draw the water.¹⁹⁰ The wells provided a reliable and convenient source of water for drinking and other daily needs. By 1886, there were at least seven pumps within or near the Tent Department. As residential development expanded to other parts of the Grove, additional wells were added. By the late nineteenth century, the list included the Allen (also known as Broadway) well, the Jackson Park well, the depot well, the Hotel Park well, the well in the superintendent's yard, the Dorsey well, the Wide well, the Platt well, the Benson well, and the Sixth Avenue well. In 1897, a water tank on a raised stand was erected in the hotel yard. Water from the hotel well was pumped into the tank and routed to a boiler in the kitchen, providing guests with hot water.¹⁹¹ In the off-season, the pumps were removed from the wells and well covers were put in place. Over time, repairs included relining the wells with terra cotta pipe, partially filling them to prevent excess standing water, and re-drilling.¹⁹²

Washington Grove had a dedicated stop on the Metropolitan Branch, and the Humpback Bridge, built by the B&O in the 1870s, greatly facilitated local travel, trade, and communication by providing a safe above-grade crossing at a blind curve in the tracks. The subdivision of Oakmont on the west side of the tracks from Washington Grove was platted in 1888 by Henry Beard and James G. Craighead of Washington, D.C. Oakmont's developers hoped to take advantage of the popularity of the camp meeting and the convenience and

¹⁸⁷ "The Camp Meeting Season," *Washington Post*, May 7, 1881, and Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 160.

¹⁸⁸ "City in the Woods: Religious Services at Washington Grove – The Guests of the Hotel," *Washington Post*, August 15, 1884.

¹⁸⁹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 169.

¹⁹⁰ "Washington Grove, A Delightful Resort – the Grounds and Cottages – Opening of the Camp," *Washington Post*, August 5, 1883.

¹⁹¹ President's Report, May 1897, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.23.

¹⁹² Grounds Committee, July 1890, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.06 and Grounds Committee, August 1897, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.19.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 20

proximity of the railroad to subdivide and sell the land for residential development. The initial plat for Oakmont included a park “dedicated for public recreation,” that was located directly across from the Washington Grove railroad depot.¹⁹³ The parcel north of the park was owned at the time by the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association. (This land was later sold.) The parcel to the south was improved in 1889 when Beard and Craighead built a two-and-a-half story, frame building on the lot, which operated as a general store (likely with living quarters above).¹⁹⁴ In 1894, the Washington Grove post office moved into a section of the store, where it remained for over eighty years until 1978.¹⁹⁵ For the residents of Washington Grove, the market and the post office were an important part of camp meeting life. As much as wholly uncommercialized suburban retreats were idealized, in reality, local merchants offered convenience and practicality that improved everyday living.

Like many religious campgrounds, the transition from tents to permanent cottages at Washington Grove took place over a number of years. While the massing and form of Washington Grove’s camp meeting-era cottages evoked the canvas structures that initially made up the community, development was strongly influenced by nineteenth-century trends in architecture and vernacular building. Nationally, the Carpenter Gothic style, which was advanced by builders as an American domestic interpretation of the Gothic Revival, was pervasive among Methodist campgrounds. At Washington Grove, this style was expressed using scroll-sawn bargeboards, bracketed pendants, decorative dressings over or around windows and doors, and turned or chamfered porch posts.¹⁹⁶

As noted above, the cottages at Washington Grove were initially built on tent lots, which constrained their size and massing. As a result, many cottages had a rectangular plan that measured 14 feet wide by 30 feet deep.¹⁹⁷ Frequently, cottages were expanded as more space was needed. A newspaper article from 1880 noted that while new cottages continued to be put up, “many of those already built have been enlarged by the addition of kitchens and dining rooms.”¹⁹⁸ Because outdoor space was limited, some families planted small gardens in front of their cottages.

¹⁹³ Montgomery County, Circuit Court Land Records, Book JA 9, page 490, June 23, 1888.

¹⁹⁴ “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, accessed March 29, 2019.

¹⁹⁵ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 170.

¹⁹⁶ According to historian Clare Lise Kelly, Washington Grove is the only intact collection of Carpenter Gothic cottages in the state and one of the few in the country.

¹⁹⁷ These dimensions represent a unifying module that has guided the development of Washington Grove, helping to maintain the modest scale of its houses.

¹⁹⁸ “At Washington Grove, Sixteen Cottages Already Occupied – Improvements During the Year” *Washington Post*, July 3, 1880.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 21

While the names of many of the carpenters and builders who worked at Washington Grove are unknown, records indicate that one “pioneer cottage builder” was W. A. Scott.¹⁹⁹ Scott was an African American who was living in the area when Washington Grove was founded. In 1883, he was appointed superintendent of the grounds and was given year-round use of a one-and-a-half-story, frame house located near the corner of Center Street and Chestnut Road (the site of the current parsonage at 101 Center Street). Behind the superintendent’s cottage were several outbuildings, fields, and pasturage.

Initially, the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association issued stock at \$20 a share. Around 1880, the association embraced the concept of “located stock,” wherein ownership of stock ensured the investor one vote at stockholders’ meetings and a tent or cottage site depending on the number of certificates she held. One share entitled the stockholder to one tent site. Once the tent site was selected, it was said to be “located.” Five shares entitled the stockholder to one cottage site. Administration of this system was difficult, as most of the Grove had not yet been platted. As Edwards has noted, this quickly created a messy state of affairs that involved “leaseholders without stock, stockholders without lots, and lots without leases.”²⁰⁰ The association corrected the situation in 1882 when it adopted a new charter and bylaws (submitted to the Maryland legislature in 1883) that included a provision for 99-year leases.

Although Washington Grove’s initial layout (comprising the Tent Department) derived from camp meeting traditions, its later development had a gridiron plan typical of many late nineteenth-century suburbs. Outside the Tent Department, the layout of the roads and the arrangement of lots within Washington Grove was primarily guided by two plans – the 1886 Lang plan and the 1897 Maddox plan. As previously mentioned, the association adopted an amended charter in 1882, which prompted an evaluation of its undeveloped lots and open spaces. Thus, around 1885, it hired surveyor and civil engineer J. C. Lang to survey and prepare a plan for the grounds. The plan, which was dated 1886, created new building lots along a system of alternating avenues (for pedestrian use) and roads (for vehicular use). This scheme reinforced the sylvan character of Washington Grove and had a beneficial impact on the health, safety, and appearance of the grounds. It can be seen as an early precursor of the Radburn scheme of community planning, which derived from Garden City principles and became popular in the late 1930s and 1940s as an alternative to standard suburban subdivisions that placed houses facing the street and sidewalks. The Radburn system utilized a circulation system that separated pedestrian and automobile traffic by grouping houses on a common green facing a network of pedestrian paths. Access roads and driveways were located at the back of the lots. In theory, this plan increased neighborhood safety by reducing traffic accidents.²⁰¹ The Lang plan also dedicated several blocks of land for public parks and set aside the

¹⁹⁹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 135-136.

²⁰⁰ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 111.

²⁰¹ Linda Flint McClelland, David L. Ames, and Sarah Dillard Pope, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, “Historic Residential Suburbs in the United States, 1830-1960,” E: 20-21.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 22

undeveloped, wooded area in the northeast quadrant of the Grove, now known as the East Woods, as a “Laundry Reserve” and “Carriage Park.”

The later plan, prepared by Montgomery County surveyor C. J. Maddox in 1897, carried over many of the concepts of the Lang plan, but took into account the entire property, with the exception of the West Woods. In the Cottage Department, the Maddox plan laid out generous building lots, measuring 50 by 150 feet or larger, 50-foot-wide avenues, and 25-foot-wide roads. The plan identified by name several small parks within the Tent Department, including Wade Park and Knott Park, and set aside three blocks within the Cottage Department as a public park named in honor of William R. Woodward, one of Washington Grove’s founding trustees. The Maddox plan eliminated many of the irregular lots of the earlier plan and defined a gridiron system. The gridiron plan was an efficient and inexpensive way to subdivide and sell, or, in the case of Washington Grove, lease the land. In this way, the physical plan of Washington Grove reflected the organization of many railroad and streetcar suburbs across the United States. As Edwards has noted, “The Maddox subdivision plan is almost indistinguishable from the present town plan, a testimony to both its sensibility and its adaptability.”²⁰²

The original, 267-acre tract of land purchased by the organizers of the Washington Grove camp meeting included nearly 47 acres on the west side of Laytonsville Road (now Washington Grove Lane). 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 woods were never platted for building lots. In fact, the West 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. A contemporary description of the West Woods read, “Beyond the buildings rustic rambles lead to the mineral springs and many other beautiful shade spots, which lie outside the fence that surrounds the settlements. It is a model picnic ground, where every spot is shady, and a pump or spring lies at every turn...”²⁰³

By the end of the nineteenth century, Washington Grove was an established resort community with hundreds of residents that made it their home for the entire summer. It boasted a popular hotel, postal service, some gravel roads, a fine collection of summer cottages, and recreational facilities, including tennis courts. One newspaper account characterized it as “a veritable *urbe un rus*, a sylvan city...nature and modern improvements combined.”²⁰⁴ While annual camp meetings were still taking place, canvas tents had become a memory of the

²⁰² Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 127.

²⁰³ “Opened by Leaguers: They Hold a Camp-Meeting at Washington Grove,” *Washington Post*, August 21, 1894.

²⁰⁴ “In the Old Fashioned Way,” *Washington Post*, August 7, 1892.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 23

past. In 1894, the *Washington Post* reported, “Not a single tent is to be seen on the ground, but those who attend the annual camps either own or rent comfortable one-story frame cottages...”²⁰⁵

As families began to extend their stays across the summer months, demand increased for a place for religious assemblies that would provide greater comfort in poor weather than the open tabernacle. In 1894, the market house that stood near the hotel in Howard Park was converted into an assembly building by creating large openings along its sides and building a platform at one end. It was used as a temporary chapel during inclement weather and later was dedicated as the “Young People’s Hall.”²⁰⁶ A permanent place of worship, however, one that was more suitable than a converted warehouse, remained a priority. To provide such a space, the association built an assembly hall (today known as McCathran Hall) at the south end of Howard Park near the hotel. It was designed by architect A. L. Harris of Washington, D.C.²⁰⁷ Completed in 1901, the assembly hall was comprised of an octagonal hall that measured 20 feet to a side and an attached meeting room that measured 20 feet square. The windows were generously proportioned to bring ample light to the interior, and at the peak of the octagonal roof was a louvered cupola. In addition to church services, the building was used for Sunday school activities and for Chautauqua, which had its first season at Washington Grove in 1902.

Washington Grove in the Early Twentieth Century (1902-1937)

Suburbanization in the Progressive Era

Historians continue to debate the nature of progressivism and the Progressive Era, which lasted roughly from 1890 to 1920, but those who identified as progressives in the early twentieth century were generally committed to enacting economic and social reforms at local, state, and federal levels on behalf of the public interest. The depression of the 1890s, increased urbanization, the closing of the American frontier, discoveries by investigative journalists of governments corrupted by the influence of business interests, and the transformation of American society through immigration led Americans to believe that existing institutions could not meet the needs of a rapidly changing country. Progressives argued that the nineteenth-century faith in unrestrained individualism and an unregulated marketplace had created a nation controlled by greed and blind social forces that were destroying American society and ideals. Progressives broadly favored intervention into economic and social life to bring industrial change under control and alleviate its worst conditions.²⁰⁸ A powerful faith in environmental determinism convinced reformers that improving the physical environment would “elevate” rural

²⁰⁵ “Washington Grove Camp,” *Washington Post*, August 21, 1894.

²⁰⁶ Grounds Committee, May 1894, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.010.

²⁰⁷ “Families in Summer Quarters,” *Washington Evening Star*, June 18, 1901.

²⁰⁸ John Whiteclay Chambers, *The Tyranny of Change: America in the Progressive Era, 1890-1920* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2006), 136.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 24

social life.²⁰⁹ Society could be improved and government could be reformed to serve the public interest, progressives argued, by employing technocratic experts who could apply their knowledge to specific problems.

At the turn of the twentieth century, American families investing in the suburbs could expect to buy a detached home in a safe and sanitary environment that offered every modern convenience. Across the country and in the region there was massive public investment in roads, storm sewers, playgrounds, and other services.²¹⁰ As the new language of illness associated with great cities, industrialism, and technological advance entered into the American consciousness, reformers advocated for “permanent residence among the trees,” writes historian John Stilgoe.²¹¹ Utilities and essential services became a prerequisite for creating the best environment for suburban living.

The Impact of Infrastructure Improvements at Washington Grove

At Washington Grove, one of the most aggressively pursued undertakings of the Progressive Era was the issue of sanitation. Widespread public belief that disease was caused by dirt, stagnant water, and “miasmas” in the air coupled with the threat of periodic summer outbreaks of cholera, dyptheria, and other diseases led the association to take active measures to maintain a clean well water supply, drain the grounds, and dry out low, swampy areas and locations prone to recurring puddling and flooding. Concurrently, the association encouraged growth in undeveloped areas of the grounds, as cramped conditions within the Tent Department were equated with urban overcrowding and raised concerns over the spread of disease and the increased risk of fire. In 1886, the president of the association warned stockholders, “Living as we do – many of us – in closely built avenues, one careless and uncleanly family might cause serious trouble for all.”²¹² As a result of increased attention to these issues, the residents of Washington Grove began to reframe their relationship with the built environment. The preference for the shelter, shade, and enclosure of the forest setting was cast aside in favor of open spaces characterized by the circulation of fresh air and penetrating sunshine.

By 1885, the association had created a Committee on Grounds and Safety, whose most pressing matter was perceived to be “the proper sanitation of the place.”²¹³ The wells were frequently inspected and the water tested to ensure a clean supply. Subsequent work included digging ditches to channel surface water, filling sunken lots

²⁰⁹ Stilgoe, *Borderland*, 196.

²¹⁰ Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier*, 131.

²¹¹ Stilgoe, *Borderland*, 189-90.

²¹² Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 131.

²¹³ “Timeline: Sanitation, Health, Disease, Clean Water, Safety, Alcohol, Fire,” prepared by Wendy Harris, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 25

and poorly drained sections of the parks, and laying terra cotta sewer pipes to facilitate drainage. Clearing the drains and culverts was the responsibility of the superintendent of the grounds, and residents were encouraged to properly dispose of their waste water. The association hired a scavenger service to remove “night soil,” and camp privies were located in the East Woods where the waste was treated with lime. One long-time scavenger was J. H. Nugent, who lived in Emory Grove.²¹⁴ The hotel’s sewerage was deposited in a cesspool in the West Woods.²¹⁵

By 1880, the Grove had installed an 18-inch drain pipe within the Circle to eliminate standing water around the tabernacle.²¹⁶ The pipe channeled water under Grove Road and into the East Woods. Early improvements such as these, however, were found insufficient. In 1905, a sewer was constructed by private means along the west side of Grove Avenue, but it only served a small number of residents. Finally, in 1912, the association installed a sewer under Grove Road with professional assistance from a sanitary engineer, and its success triggered more study of the issue. The following year, the *Washington Post* reported, “At a recent meeting of the stockholders of Washington Grove, Md., new members were elected to the board of trustees on a progressive ticket, and last week the stockholders authorized...the installation of an electric street lighting system and an examination of a civil engineer of the present sewage system with a view to making a new system.”²¹⁷ Washington Grove, however, would not have a modern water and sewer system until 1927. The design and construction of the sewer system, which would serve Gaithersburg as well as Washington Grove, was the responsibility of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, which was created in 1916. Water and sewer lines were run under the avenues, the old sewers were disconnected, and a much-needed fire hydrant system was installed. It was largest engineering project at the Grove to date. Despite the convenience of the modern system, however, some residents were slow to install indoor plumbing and connections.²¹⁸ The Grove discontinued its scavenger service around 1930, and by 1938, all of the wells were filled and most of the pumps were pulled.²¹⁹

Another essential service introduced in the Grove during this period was electricity, which was supplied by the Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) and powered an electric street lighting system. The Grove’s first streetlamps burned kerosene (coal oil) and were affixed to rough hewn wood posts. From around 1890 to 1895, gasoline lamps were used, but the cost became prohibitive. In 1896, to save money, the association reinstalled

²¹⁴ Ibid., 132.

²¹⁵ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 316.

²¹⁶ “At Washington Grove,” *Washington Post*, July 3, 1880.

²¹⁷ “Washington Grove Elects,” *Washington Post*, June 8, 1913.

²¹⁸ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 316-19.

²¹⁹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 377.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 26

its kerosene lamps so that the oil could be used during the months of May, June, September, and October, when fewer people were living on the grounds.²²⁰ Eventually, all of the gasoline lamps were sold at public auction. The Grove also had a gas lamps starting in 1891. A newspaper report noted, "In one of the cottages, that of Mr. Cissel, natural gas is employed, and he has connected his machine with two jets in the tabernacle with such satisfactory result that it has been determined to employ the gas next year."²²¹ Gas lamps would remain the primary fuel for streetlights until 1914, when they were replaced by the electric streetlights. The new system used iron poles with elegant curved tops. Power was turned on that July to fifty-one customers, including the association, which lit the assembly hall and the Chautauqua auditorium.²²² The introduction of electric streetlights was seen as an important step toward a new era of development in Washington Grove.

Yet another major infrastructure project of this period involved Washington Grove's roads. By the 1920s, the condition of the Grove's streets and alleys became a critical issue. Increased automobile ownership meant more traffic that required tougher road surfaces. During the nineteenth century, improvements to the roads and paths within Washington Grove occurred as funds became available. However, urban families wishing to relocate to the suburbs had many options, and Washington Grove needed to compete. Thus, by 1928, the Grove had all of its roads paved with a thick base of cinders (donated by the B&O) that was then packed and oiled, which acted as a binder.²²³ This vastly improved access and movement through the grounds.

Finally, reflecting national concerns shared by many American suburban families about "protecting the self and family from intrusion," improvements to the Grove's perimeter fence became a priority in the early twentieth century.²²⁴ Since the mid-1870s, fences were used to mark boundaries and land use divisions, to provide privacy and protection to participants in the camp meeting, and to deter the use and distribution of alcohol. By 1892, a "handsome and substantial fence" had been erected around the entire grounds, replacing the first generation of fencing that had fallen into disrepair. For a time, African Americans were permitted to walk through Washington Grove, using Grove Avenue, to get to Emory Grove. However, later, with Jim Crow segregation and the doctrine of "separate but equal" confirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Plessy v. Ferguson decision of 1896, the B&O trains and stations, including Washington Grove's, were segregated. Washington Grove's perimeter gates were closed to Emory Grove camp meeting attendees in 1897.²²⁵ In 1910, the

²²⁰ President's Report, May 1896, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.22.

²²¹ "Inland Asbury Park," *Washington Post*, August 17, 1891.

²²² Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 250.

²²³ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 352.

²²⁴ Stilgoe, *Borderland*, 196.

²²⁵ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 137.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 27

association enclosed entire property with “good, strong wire fencing.”²²⁶ In addition to the perimeter fence, picket, split rail wood, and wire fencing was used around public parks and buildings, to demarcate and secure pastures owned by the association, and by homeowners to delineate property lots. In 1908, a wire fence was put up around the auditorium in Woodward Park. Historically, some cottage lots were fenced, although fences between or in front of cottages within the Tent Department were less common than fences within the Cottage Department, where lot sizes were generally larger. Hedges and porch blinds were also used by families to provide privacy and protection from intruders.

Park Beautification and Recreational Amenities

This period also saw Grove residents shift their focus from the spiritual and restorative attributes of the environment to its aesthetic and recreational qualities. In suburban communities across the country, beautification efforts were seen as a moral necessity. Village improvement by beautification, Stilgoe writes, was “no whimsical pastime, but a vitally urgent effort at turning back city evil.”²²⁷ In many instances, these beautification efforts were undertaken by women’s groups, as they were perceived to be an extension into the public realm of a female’s role in the home. A growing number of American families were also privileged with increased leisure time, which came with it a growing acceptance of physical activity and sport. The benefit and value of recreation shaped the development of suburban landscapes, where “real nature was forgotten in the midst of manicured greens and all-weather tennis courts.”²²⁸

Following the construction of the assembly hall in 1902, the tabernacle in the Circle had become obsolete. In 1905, the 28-year-old timber structure was demolished. After clearing away debris, draining the space, and filling and leveling the ground, the association took steps to “beautify” the grounds of what was then called the “Plaza.” This included planting grass seed and laying drainage pipes.²²⁹ It was also around this time that the Washington Conference of the Methodists’ Ladies Guild established a tradition of park beautification projects in the Grove. The organization sponsored improvements to Knott Park, Jackson Park, Wade Park, and Morgan Park. The association carried out grounds improvements as well. In May 1913, the president boasted that two hundred fruit and shade trees had been planted over the course of the year. Later, in 1920, the Grounds Committee reported that a “landscape gardener” by the name of Mr. Murphy had visited the Grove and submitted an estimate for furnishing and planting evergreens and shrubs. These would be planted following a design by Washington Grove resident Nettie Craig, a member of the Ladies Guild.²³⁰

²²⁶ Grounds Committee, May 1910, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.38.

²²⁷ Stilgoe, *Borderland*, 214.

²²⁸ Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier*, 99.

²²⁹ Grounds Committee, June 1908, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.34.

²³⁰ Grounds Committee, September 1920, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.73.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 28

In 1905, the Woodward 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 an "Athletic Park."²³¹ This land was poorly drained and consisted of mainly thicket and bog before it was adapted for recreational use.²³² Concurrently, the eastern half of Oak Avenue and Maple Avenue were cleared and graded, and an auditorium for Chautauqua was constructed in the park. (See additional text on Chautauqua below.) In addition to the auditorium, built structures in Woodward Park 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 stone fireplace, built in 1935. Woodward 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.²³³ They attracted athletes from Maryland as well as from neighboring states.²³⁴ Private tennis courts, laid out on empty building lots, also proliferated in this era. Edwards writes that at one time there were twenty or more active courts scattered across the grounds.²³⁵

In 1910, the association initiated a project to create an "artificial lake" in the West Woods that would be fed by Maple Spring. The lake (now known as Maple Lake) was used for recreation in the summer and to harvest ice in the winter.²³⁶ However, since water sports were discouraged by the Methodists, the recreational function of the lake did not immediately flourish. Its use as an ice pond was short lived. As a result, the lake fell into disuse for a number of years until the summer of 1927, when it was briefly revitalized.

Development of the Commercial Corner

As Washington Grove and the neighboring subdivision of Oakmont developed in the last decades of the nineteenth century, the surrounding area mainly supported family operated farms. Wheat and dairy farms operating along the railroad benefitted the cheap and efficient means of transportation it offered. Laytonsville Pike (now Washington Grove Lane) was also an important part of the local transportation network, connecting

²³¹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 195.

²³² Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 120.

²³³ "Sports at the Grove," *Washington Post*, September 8, 1903, and "Hold Athletic Meet of Numerous Events," *Washington Post*, September 5, 1916.

²³⁴ 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.

²³⁵ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 177.

²³⁶ Grounds Committee, May 1910, WGA, Box H-4, File DA.00H4.38.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 29

Gaithersburg with Laytonville and points north. One local farm, which bordered Washington Grove to the west, was owned by Thomas I. Fulks, a prominent Gaithersburg farmer and businessman. South of Ridge Road was a 48-acre farm that was purchased by Washington Grove as part of the original land acquisition for the camp meeting but sold in 1890. These agricultural properties and others formed the setting of Washington Grove well into the twentieth century and contributed to its appeal to visitors and homeowners as “a place apart.”

Although platted for residential development in the 1897 Maddox plan, the lots facing the corner of Washington Grove Road and Railroad Street (Lots 1 and 2 of Block 1) had been used for a nonresidential purposes since the camp meeting era. Thomas I. Fulks owned shares of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association and located them on the corner lots. In 1897, he was granted permission by the association to operate a general store on Lot 2 with living quarters. Given the Methodists’ condemnation of “worldly habits,” Fulks was prohibited from selling alcohol from his establishment, which he called the Washington Grove Store. Five years later, in 1902, Fulks, then president of Gaithersburg Milling and Manufacturing, purchased a 238-acre farm west of Washington Grove and across Washington Grove Lane from his store. The purchase of the farm was subject to a lease of part of the property that bordered on the railroad tracks to Henry C. Miller for the period 1900 to 1906. It is not known what type of business Miller conducted on the property, but when his lease expired, Fulks did not renew it. Around 1910, Fulks rented the general store to Marshall Walker and opened a feed supply business on the property adjacent to the railroad tracks that had formerly been leased to Miller. The operation included a feed mill (built circa 1910 from an old hay barn that stood on his farm), a feed store, and an office. In addition, the property featured a rail siding and a scale, which was embedded into the ground next to the store.²³⁷ In 1919, the local Odd Fellows lodge purchased Lot 1 from Fulks, and the following year the organization built a large hall on the property for their meetings. The Odd Fellows Hall 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 1896, after the railroad freight siding was moved from the east side of the Humpback Bridge to the west side, the association sold the small triangle of land it owned between it and Railroad Avenue to John B. Diamond. Later, likely in the first decade of the twentieth century, it was acquired by the Washington Grove Manufacturing Company. Standard Oil purchased the property in 1914, and by 1933 it had been improved with a one-story brick building, adding another commercial presence to the corner of Washington Grove Lane and Railroad Street.

²³⁷ Information on Fulks, the Washington Grove Store, and the feed mill complex comes from 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 30

Decentralization and Residential Development

Taken together, concerns over health and sanitation, infrastructure improvements, the construction of the auditorium in Woodward Park, the beautification of the parks, and development of recreational facilities had the effect of encouraging residential development outside of and away from the historically sacred precinct of the Circle and represented a decentralization of community life at the opening of the twentieth century.

Several avenues platted in the Maddox plan were cleared and graded in the first decade of the twentieth century, opening up new building lots for development. While these newly opened areas were attractive to Washington Grove residents who wanted larger lots and more sanitary conditions, not everyone had the means or desire to build new homes. As such, this period witnessed a series of cottage relocations wherein residents moved existing cottages, often from the Tent Department, to new lots. In 1905, the cottage that stood next to 15 the Circle, was moved to the southeast corner of Oak and Maple. (Later, in the 1960s, this cottage was demolished.) The same year, a cottage that stood on a Circle lot that is now part of 402 Fifth Avenue was moved to 205 Maple Avenue. In 1906, a cottage in the yard of 413 Grove Avenue (the Teepee cottage) was moved to 105 Grove Avenue and renovated. Also in 1906, a cottage in the yard of 1 the Circle was relocated to 102 Center Street and renovated. In some instances, cottages were combined to create larger homes. The house at 102 Ridge Road, for example, is the result of two nineteenth-century cottages that were moved to Ridge Road in the second decade of the twentieth century and joined to form one residence. By and large, the repositioning of cottages created open pockets of space, relieved crowded conditions, and mitigated the threat of devastating house fires within the Tent Department while expanding the built environment of the Grove.

Shortly after the turn of the century, Frank R. Rynex became the first resident to build a year-round house in Washington Grove – a watershed moment marking the transition from religious summer resort to suburb. According to Edwards, Rynex, who had been living with his young family in a cottage on the Circle, purchased five shares of stock and “located” them on Chestnut Avenue. Records suggest Rynex was not alone in speculating on Chestnut Avenue. In 1903, the president of the association reported, “The lots on Chestnut Avenue are mostly taken and that avenue [is] fast building up...”²³⁸ The Rynex house at 202 Chestnut Avenue, which was completed in 1903, is a one-and-a-half-story, Carpenter Gothic-style, frame house with a cross-shaped plan and a deep, wraparound, front porch. The Rynex family enjoyed leading a “country life” at Washington Grove, and soon other “pioneers” joined them in year round living. While some families built new houses, many more winterized existing cottages and built additions to give them more space.

New residential development within Washington Grove in the early twentieth century encompassed a diverse range of architectural forms and styles, reflecting the evolving preferences of middle-class American families. Some of the new houses had vernacular forms that echoed the Carpenter Gothic architecture of the camp meeting era. Early twentieth-century pattern books, however, offered American families a wide selection of

²³⁸ President’s Report, May 1903, WGA, Box D-1, File DA.0001.30.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 31

houses at affordable prices and helped popularize Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and other styles at the local level.

Vernacular forms included the house at 409 Fifth Avenue, built in 1909, which had a gable-front-and-wing plan with a shed-roof porch located within the L made by the two wings. 405 Brown Street, built in 1914, was a two-and-a-half-story, gable front house. It was clad with German lap wood siding. While the front porch extended across the entire front façade, it lacked the Carpenter Gothic decorative details that characterized the earlier era. A more compact version of the gable front form was built at 311 First Avenue. This one-story cottage was built between 1920 and 1935.

In communities across the nation during this period, the Craftsman style peaked in popularity. This style, influenced by England's late nineteenth-century Arts and Crafts movement, emphasized simple, informal floor plans and rustic detailing and appealed to progressive ideals that stressed simplicity and efficiency. Craftsman-style bungalows typically used natural materials, such as stone or wood shingles, and featured sheltering rooflines and inviting porches. The bungalow, as well as the larger foursquare form, were sold by catalogs that offered detailed architectural plans for a small fee, a process that helped to democratize home building. The house at 127 Chestnut, built around 1920-35, is a notable example of a Craftsman-style bungalow in Washington Grove.

Although not seen as frequently as vernacular or bungalow forms, Colonial Revival-style houses were also built in the Grove. The 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. In form, the style emphasized symmetrically arranged, two-story massing under side-gabled or hipped roofs.

During the Great Depression, new construction nearly came to a standstill across the country and in Washington Grove. Locally, families put off improvements, and many of Washington Grove's cottages were leased to generate rental income or sat empty.²³⁹ In 1933, the association found itself in debt and unable to pay the salary of the superintendent. Development slowly picked up, however, around mid-decade. In a show of confidence for the next stage of Washington Grove's development, the association adopted its first street numbering system in 1935.

Chautauqua Comes to Washington Grove

The Chautauqua Movement developed in the last quarter of the nineteenth century to provide programming and courses for cultural uplift and recreation. Those who established Chautauquas across the country largely based

²³⁹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 346.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 32

their program on their namesake, the original Chautauqua Institution in western New York. The Chautauqua Institution was founded by Methodist bishop John Heyl Vincent and business leader and philanthropist Lewis Miller as a summer school for Sunday school teachers. It was located at a Methodist camp meeting facility on New York's Chautauqua Lake. Vincent and Miller's institution added an education component to the Methodist camp meeting program, and, because of these origins, Chautauquas had a long-running connection to American Methodism and camp meetings.

Vincent and Miller's interest in Enlightenment educational ideals, as well as the success of the first summer Sunday school class in 1874, led them to introduce secular courses in arts and sciences. The expanded curriculum had as antecedents the popular educational movements of the antebellum period. Lyceums, athenaeums, mechanics' institutes, mail-order book clubs, and other public-focused education programs were well attended in the nineteenth century. In addition to educational courses, the Chautauqua Institution soon offered musical performances and lectures on a variety of topics. Given the institution's natural surroundings on the lake, recreation in a healthful setting also became an important tenet of the Chautauqua ideal.²⁴⁰

In 1878, Vincent began the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle (CLSC), a four-year, mail-order reading program that provided a full curriculum, complete with textbooks and exams.²⁴¹ Participants were required to read four to six substantial books per year in literature, history, sociology, and science. Students had the choice of either reading on their own or joining a local reading circle.²⁴² By 1900, around 50,000 people had completed the program.²⁴³ At the end of the program, CLSC participants were awarded a diploma and encouraged to attend a ceremony known as "Recognition Day" at the New York Chautauqua, at an independent assembly, or at a village reading circle.²⁴⁴ Students of Chautauqua summer school programs tended to be young adults interested in teaching careers.²⁴⁵ Much of the success in building the Chautauqua Movement can be attributed to women, who dominated CLSC membership, hosted fundraisers, and led efforts in small towns to incorporate Chautauqua assemblies.²⁴⁶

²⁴⁰ Andrew C. Rieser, *The Chautauqua Moment: Protestants, Progressives, and the Culture of Modern Liberalism* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003), 101-03.

²⁴¹ Rieser, *The Chautauqua Moment*, 104.

²⁴² John C. Scott, "The Chautauqua Movement: A Revolution in Popular Higher Education," *The Journal of Higher Education* 70, no. 4 (July/August 1999), 396.

²⁴³ Martha Vail, National Historic Landmark Nomination, "Colorado Chautauqua," June 15, 2005, 47.

²⁴⁴ Theodore Morrison, *Chautauqua: A Center for Education, Religion, and the Arts in America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974), 58.

²⁴⁵ Scott, "The Chautauqua Movement: A Revolution in Popular Higher Education," 395.

²⁴⁶ Rieser, *The Chautauqua Moment*, 205.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 33

Because Vincent and Miller were not interested in franchising Chautauqua, the movement it inspired was non-hierarchical.²⁴⁷ What became the Chautauqua Movement manifested itself in two distinct forms: the independent assembly and the circuit Chautauqua. The independent assembly was intended to be in a permanent location and was modeled on the original Chautauqua Institution, with lecture and entertainment programs, academic programs, and recreation in a resort setting.²⁴⁸ By the turn of the twentieth century, more than one hundred towns hosted independent assemblies. At least twenty-two assemblies were formed on preexisting Methodist campgrounds.²⁴⁹ In many cases, Chautauquas operated alongside regular camp meeting activities. The Mountain Chautauqua, for example, was founded in 1882 by a group of Methodists as part of the summer resort community of Mountain Lake Park in Garrett County, Maryland. It was the first Chautauqua held in Maryland, and, during its heyday between the 1880s and World War I, the Chautauqua's educational and cultural activities attracted thousands to Mountain Lake Park. The annual summer program spurred the development of numerous cottages, hotels, and public buildings, many of which remain in excellent condition today.²⁵⁰

The circuit Chautauqua was a traveling production that featured a roster of entertainers and educators that visited towns across the United States for just a week or two at a time.²⁵¹ These tent shows were more entertainment focused than the independent assemblies. The first circuit Chautauqua was presented in summer 1904 in Marshalltown, Iowa.²⁵² The success of the circuit Chautauqua, however, came at the expense of the independent assemblies. Organizers of assemblies found it difficult to compete with the consumer-oriented tent shows. In response, many independent assemblies became more entertainment focused and less overtly religious. This shift drove away the Christian fundamentalists who contributed to much of the movement's early development.

The number of independent assemblies declined dramatically in the first decade of the twentieth century. They suffered from widespread budgetary problems, and Progressive Era politicians increasingly dedicated funding to establish libraries, parks, and lecture series – formally providing what Chautauqua offered in its programs

²⁴⁷ Martha Vail, National Historic Landmark Nomination, "Colorado Chautauqua," June 15, 2005, 47.

²⁴⁸ Scott, "The Chautauqua Movement: A Revolution in Popular Higher Education," 394.

²⁴⁹ Rieser, *The Chautauqua Moment*, 47.

²⁵⁰ Geoffrey B. Henry, Maryland Historical Trust, National Register of Historic Places Inventory, Nomination Form, "Mountain Lake Park," 1983.

²⁵¹ Martha Vail, National Historic Landmark Nomination, "Colorado Chautauqua," June 15, 2005, 46.

²⁵² James R. Schultz, *The Romance of Small-Town Chautauquas* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2002), 8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 34

and classes.²⁵³ By 1911, only thirty-two assemblies remained.²⁵⁴ The CLSC also declined in membership during this time, and, despite their initial popularity, circuit Chautauquas grew scarce by the late 1920s. Automobiles allowed Americans in small towns to travel to cities for entertainment and lectures, and radio brought year-round entertainment into homes.²⁵⁵ The last circuit shows folded during the Great Depression.²⁵⁶

A chapter of the CLSC was formed in the Washington, D.C., area in 1883, and interest in forming a local Chautauqua emerged in the 1890s, leading to the founding of the National Chautauqua Assembly in Glen Echo, Maryland, in 1891. The location boasted a spectacular natural setting, rustic stone buildings, an 8,000 seat amphitheater, and electric railway service from Washington, D.C. The venture, however, was short lived. The Chautauqua closed before the beginning of its second season because of a malarial fever scare.²⁵⁷ In 1901, Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association trustees, some of whom were behind the Chautauqua in Glen Echo, established an exploratory to study the feasibility of a Washington Grove Chautauqua. The committee, according to Washington Grove historian Philip Edwards, not only investigated its viability, but planned a complete season of Chautauqua programs, with camp and temperance meetings worked into the schedule. Chautauqua programming officially began at Washington Grove on July 4, 1902, to an enthusiastic reception. Approximately one hundred events were planned for the first season, which ran through the month of September. Additionally, outdoor games and recreation were encouraged.²⁵⁸ The Chautauqua concept was not entirely new to Washington Grove. Recitation, music, and reading had been a regular fixture of the association's hotel, and camp meeting speakers had engaged with social and political topics. Musical performances had also been common there since at least 1889.²⁵⁹ Before Chautauqua, the Grove was relatively quiet for much of the year, until the camp meeting attracted guests by the thousands. The arrival of Chautauqua brought new energy to the Grove and meant that its streets were busy throughout the entire summer.

Like its counterparts across the country, Washington Grove's Chautauqua offered a diverse array of programming and classes, including scientific lectures, political speeches, Stereopticon picture shows, minstrel shows, self-improvement instruction, and recitations from Shakespeare.²⁶⁰ The roster of performers and

²⁵³ Rieser, *The Chautauqua Moment*, 242-43.

²⁵⁴ Scott, "The Chautauqua Movement: A Revolution in Popular Higher Education," 395.

²⁵⁵ Schultz, *The Romance of Small-Town Chautauquas*, 147.

²⁵⁶ Rieser, *The Chautauqua Moment*, 285.

²⁵⁷ "Chautauqua Era," National Park Service, available at <https://www.nps.gov/glec/learn/historyculture/chautauqua-era.htm>.

²⁵⁸ "The Grove Chautauqua: Washington Grove, Maryland," promotional pamphlet, WGA, Box D-7.

²⁵⁹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 183.

²⁶⁰ John H. Pentecost, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, "Town of Washington Grove," April 1980, 8:8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 35

speakers included musicians, professors, and religious leaders. A 1906 program of the Washington Grove Chautauqua listed classes in physical culture, art, music, kindergarten, and self-expression.²⁶¹ At the end of the season, "Recognition Day" ceremonies were held for CLSC program graduates in the auditorium.²⁶²

After the successful first year, Chautauqua attendance remained steady at Washington Grove through the first decade of the twentieth century, bucking the trend of decline in the rest of the country. The Chautauqua Committee was skeptical of shifting towards more entertainment programming, as other independent assemblies had done. They argued to the association's board that educational features that were either historical or engaged with the latest political questions would be better received by their audience than the lighter fare that had become more common.²⁶³ The religious component of the Chautauqua also continued.²⁶⁴ In 1910, the Chautauqua Committee reported a deficit for the first time, and committee members feared that public interest had waned. It recommended introducing lighter fare, while still avoiding entertainment that ventured toward vaudeville.²⁶⁵ It is not clear, however, whether this recommendation was implemented or when Chautauqua programming officially ended at the Grove. Camp meeting attendance also began to decline during this period.

Chautauqua organizers aimed to create an exotic fantasyland of healthful recreation and learning for their guests. A variety of strategies, many borrowed from Methodist camp meeting sites, were employed to relocate guests to a "'natural' landscape to evince a recuperative state of mind."²⁶⁶ Additionally, elaborate gates, sometimes decorated with classical or biblical design elements, often welcomed guests, further suggesting that one had arrived at a sacred space.²⁶⁷ Washington Grove embraced the escapist concept as well. A promotional pamphlet from 1902 declared, "[the Grove] affords a delightful place for those who desire to escape the oppressive heat of summer and to get out into the woods and fields alongside the quieting and uplifting influence of nature."²⁶⁸

²⁶¹ "Summer Assemblies for 1906," *The Chautauquan* XLIII (March-August 1906), 479.

²⁶² "Washington Grove, MD," *Washington Post*, August 12, 1906.

²⁶³ Report to the Board of Trustees, Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association, January 6, 1908, WGA, Box D-7.

²⁶⁴ Report to the Officers of the Washington Grove Association, November 1, 1909, WGA, Box D-7.

²⁶⁵ Report to the Board of Trustees, September 15, 1910, WGA, Box D-7.

²⁶⁶ Rieser, *The Chautauqua Moment*, 70-71.

²⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁸ "The Grove Chautauqua: Washington Grove, Maryland," promotional pamphlet, WGA, Box D-7.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 36

Chautauqua assemblies' built presence varied. Spaces for cultural programming, educational instruction, and recreational purposes ranged from a single building to a resort campus. The signature building and principal focal point of many Chautauqua assemblies was the auditorium, or amphitheater.²⁶⁹ These structures were typically large, frame buildings with simple massing, usually in the form of a rectangle, circle, or polygon. The level of exterior decoration varied, but many were austere. Indeed, some were essentially wooden shells that kept out inclement weather. One assembly admitted its auditorium "makes no claims to architectural beauty."²⁷⁰ Popular cladding materials for auditoriums included wood siding or shingles. Other signature features were clerestory windows for natural light and ventilation and generous window and door openings that let in cross breezes. Creating a space that was readily open to the elements was also meant to emulate the outdoor assembly areas and open-air tabernacles of Methodist camp meetings.²⁷¹ Dissolving the divisions between exterior and interior was usually accomplished by either wall openings filled with sliding doors or leaving the walls entirely open. Auditorium interiors usually consisted of a single volume with seating and a stage. The stage was usually at one end of the building, even in those that were circular or polygonal.

In its first three years, the Washington Grove Chautauqua was held in both the camp meeting-era tabernacle and in the assembly hall. As described earlier, the hall was built as a year-round place of worship for Washington Grove residents.²⁷² However, several points raise the possibility that it might also have been planned to shelter Chautauqua guests. First, the assembly hall was formally dedicated on the opening day of Washington Grove's inaugural Chautauqua season, July 4, 1902.²⁷³ Second, newspaper articles from the period describe its anticipated use for Chautauqua assemblies. The *Evening Star* reported in May 1901, "A new assembly auditorium is to be built, octagonal in shape and inclosed [sic] on all sides, and capable of seating several hundred people. The contracts for the building will be given out next week. As soon as completed a program of summer Chautauqua schools will be arranged...."²⁷⁴ Similarly, the *Washington Post* reported in June 1901, "In this building will be held the Chautauqua assembly meetings, lectures, and concerts."²⁷⁵ Lastly, its polygonal form and materials were in keeping with trends in Chautauqua auditorium design. Although the building only

²⁶⁹ Paul M. Pearson, "The Chautauqua Movement," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 40 (March 1912), 211.

²⁷⁰ "Eighth Annual Session of the Cumberland Valley Sabbath School Assembly" (Carlisle, PA, 1892), Cumberland County Historical Society, 5. Quoted in Rieser, 77.

²⁷¹ Martha Vail, National Historic Landmark Nomination, "Colorado Chautauqua," June 15, 2005, 25.

²⁷² Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 162-65.

²⁷³ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 185, and "Washington Grove Meeting," *Washington Post*, May 25, 1902.

²⁷⁴ "Holds Annual Meeting," *Washington Evening Star*, May 31, 1901.

²⁷⁵ "Washington Grove Camp," *Washington Post*, June 1, 1901.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 37

had one principal entry point, the windows were generously proportioned to bring ample light and ventilation to the interior. A newspaper article published in May 1902, describing the dual secular and religious functions of the assembly hall read, “The past year...many improvements have been made upon the grounds and cottages, the principal one being the erection of a handsome and commodious octagonal building, known as the Assembly Hall, for the social and literary as well as religious gatherings of the community.”²⁷⁶

Washington Grove leaders soon realized, however, that the assembly hall and tabernacle were both insufficient for the number of Chautauqua events at the Grove and the size of its audiences. To provide better accommodation, the association built an auditorium specifically for Chautauqua activities in 1905. The builder was Hezekiah Day. It was located within Woodward Park, north of Oak Street. The building soon became the epicenter of public life in Washington Grove, hosting Chautauqua programming, camp meetings, and fraternal and political meetings.²⁷⁷ This had the effect of shifting the focus away from the camp meeting-era Circle and provided yet another impetus for relocating cottages from the Tent Department.

The Washington Grove auditorium had a generous rectangular plan under a gable-on-hip roof with hipped dormers. Wood siding clad the lower level of the frame building, while the upper level’s gable ends and dormers were covered with wood shingles. The lower level was fenestrated at the front and sides with large openings, each fitted with double sliding doors with divided-light glazing. When the doors were opened the building became an open-air pavilion. Divided-light, pivot windows and dormers provided light and ventilation. The roof was supported by triangular trusses supported by iron posts. Interior surfaces were left unfinished, revealing the building’s frame structure. At the back of the building was a stage flanked by men’s and women’s dressing rooms. The auditorium could be used as a theater or an arena, depending on the seating arrangement.²⁷⁸

The Conservation Movement and its Impact on Washington Grove

By the late nineteenth century, industrial forces were rapidly consuming American natural resources in the name of progress. Additionally, the U.S. Census Bureau announced in 1890 that the western frontier, previously thought of as limitless, had closed. While economic growth had expanded opportunity, many Americans began to worry that unbounded expansion had reached its limits. They argued that conserving natural resources would be needed for society’s survival.²⁷⁹ The designation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872 had marked an important departure in national policy. Whereas previous policy had been dedicated to transferring lands in the public domain to private use, the designation of Yellowstone demonstrated that the federal government was

²⁷⁶ “Washington Grove Meeting,” *Washington Post*, May 25, 1902.

²⁷⁷ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 195-203.

²⁷⁸ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 197.

²⁷⁹ Chambers, *Tyranny of Change*, 182.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 38

concerned with the management of public land.²⁸⁰ Still, such federal interventions were rare, and the timber, mining, and railroad companies, who had powerful sway in Congress, fought hard against efforts at land reclamation.²⁸¹

The term “conservation” was first proposed by U.S. Forest Service chief Gifford Pinchot (1865-1946) in 1907 to describe the goals of like-minded progressives who sought regulation of the use of nature. While the word had been previously understood in a general sense as protecting something for the future, Pinchot applied conservation explicitly to environmental concerns.²⁸² Pinchot helped define the conservation movement’s mission as advocating for the efficient, scientific management of natural resources by trained professionals.²⁸³ This message of professional management fit comfortably within the Progressive Era mindset of government-by-experts.²⁸⁴ Pinchot, who presided over the U.S. Forest Service from 1898 to 1910, was instrumental in the adoption of sustainable-yield forestry practices in the United States.²⁸⁵

One of the conservation movement’s most prominent supporters was President Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919). A known outdoors enthusiast, Roosevelt signaled early on in his administration that the conservation of forest and water resources would be a priority. Although he at times adopted moralistic rhetoric to describe the cause, Roosevelt ultimately shared Pinchot’s utilitarian view of conservation for economic benefit. He declared in his first State of the Union in 1901, “The fundamental idea of forestry is the perpetuation of the forests by use. Forest protection is not an end in itself; it is a means to increase and sustain the resources of our country and the industries which depend upon them.”²⁸⁶ Nevertheless, as president, Roosevelt took unprecedented steps to protect the environment. The U.S. Forest Service was established in 1905. Over the course of eight years, Roosevelt’s administration created five national parks, four big game preserves, fifty-one bird refuges, nearly twenty national monuments, and 150 national forests.²⁸⁷

²⁸⁰ Leroy G. Dorsey, *Theodore Roosevelt, Conservation, and the 1908 Governors' Conference* (College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2016), 36.

²⁸¹ Michael B. Smith, “The Value of a Tree: Public Debates of John Muir and Gifford Pinchot,” *The Historian* 60, no. 4 (Summer 1998): 771.

²⁸² Mark V. Barrow, Jr., “From Crisis to Consensus to Schism: Revisiting the Progressive Conservation Movement,” *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 17, no. 2 (April 2018): 416.

²⁸³ Smith, “The Value of a Tree: Public Debates of John Muir and Gifford Pinchot,” 757.

²⁸⁴ Smith, “The Value of a Tree: Public Debates of John Muir and Gifford Pinchot,” 770-71.

²⁸⁵ Smith, “The Value of a Tree: Public Debates of John Muir and Gifford Pinchot,” 762-63.

²⁸⁶ *The State of the Union Messages of the Presidents, 1790-1966*, vol. 2, ed. Fred L. Israel (New York: Chelsea House, 1967), 2026.

²⁸⁷ Dorsey, *Theodore Roosevelt, Conservation, and the 1908 Governors' Conference*, 14.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 39

The principle counterpoint to Pinchot and Roosevelt's approach within the conservation movement was provided by naturalist John Muir (1838-1914). Situated firmly in the tradition of Henry David Thoreau, Muir argued that wilderness and natural resources should be protected not to serve economic ends, but as a sanctuary for spiritual renewal and an escape from modern society. Muir's approach, however, failed to gain traction the way that Pinchot and Roosevelt's ideas had. The utilitarian approach became synonymous with conservation, a term coined by Pinchot, after all, and its goals were institutionalized by Theodore Roosevelt's presidency.²⁸⁸ The movement's influence extended to Washington Grove, where residents came to understand their woods in more managerial and economic terms. They began to see their trees as a harvestable crop. Washington Grove established a Forestry Committee in 1913 to oversee its hundreds of acres of woods and to advise on forestry management.²⁸⁹ One of Pinchot's protégés was Fred W. Besley (1872-1960), Maryland's first state forester, who visited Washington Grove and toured its woodlands in July of 1913. Besley's inspection of the Grove's forests was part of a statewide cooperative forest improvement program.²⁹⁰ Trees that were mature or past maturity, Besley wrote, required an "improvement cutting," which would bring revenue to the owner and improve the condition of young growth.²⁹¹ After dividing the Grove into sections, the forester provided recommendations for cutting, reforestation, and other custodial practices. The present-day West Woods were found to be the best source of firewood, while reforestation was recommended for Morgan Park, which was located along the southern edge of Washington Grove. A "plan of operation" was crafted based on Besley's recommendations, and the Forestry Committee recommended a balance between the need for firewood and the "injudicious [*sic*] felling of trees."²⁹² Assistants trained in scientific forestry were tasked with selecting and marking trees for cutting based on species, maturity, and marketability.²⁹³ The Grove generally followed this

²⁸⁸ Smith, "The Value of a Tree: Public Debates of John Muir and Gifford Pinchot," 760.

²⁸⁹ Document titled "Forestry Committee," November 15, 1982, WGA, and Wendy Harris, News Dispatches from Other Centuries, "Portrait of a Founding Mother: Amelia Elmore Huntley, Part Three," 2017, available at http://washingtongrovermd.org/town-history/featured-from-the-town-archives_0217.

²⁹⁰ Fred W. Besley to Washington Grove Association, 1915, WGA, Box L-4.

²⁹¹ Maryland State Board of Forestry, "Plan of Co-Operation Between Woodland Owners and the State Forester," Forestry Leaflet No. 18, WGA, Box L-7.

²⁹² Secretary of Washington Grove Association to Fred W. Besley, September 23, 1913, WGA, Box L-7; and Report of the Forestry Committee, August 1, 1913, WGA, Box L-7.

²⁹³ "Timber Marking Agreement," 1945, WGA, Box L-7.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 40

approach to maintaining its forested landscapes throughout the next half-century.²⁹⁴ Besley continued to be involved with Washington Grove in the following decades.²⁹⁵

In her study on women's contributions to the early twentieth-century conservation movement, historian Carolyn Merchant writes, "Propelled by a growing consciousness of the panacea of bucolic scenery and wilderness, coupled with the need for reform of the squalor of the cities, women burst vividly into the public arena in the early twentieth century as a force in the progressive conservation crusade."²⁹⁶ Indeed, women took a leading role in many Progressive Era causes. In Washington Grove, the mantle of conservation was carried by Amelia Elmore Huntley. In 1913, Huntley was the first woman to serve on the board of trustees of the Washington Grove Association. As a member of the Forestry Committee, she was instrumental in bringing Besley to the Grove.²⁹⁷

Early Steps Towards Incorporation

Of equal importance to the physical improvements and decentralization that transpired in the first decades of the twentieth century were the social and cultural changes affecting Washington Grove and its residents. During this period, the annual summer camp meeting lost its prominence among Washington Grove's attractions, which included Chautauqua programs, an annual track meet and other athletic events, and a kindergarten. In fact, "camp meeting" had been dropped from the association's name since 1906. Physical vestiges of early camp meeting life, including the tabernacle, the hotel, and the market house, were simply dismantled as they became deteriorated and obsolete. As interest and support for camp meetings faltered, the first open discussion of ending the gatherings came in 1922. After five decades, the tradition finally came to an end at Washington Grove around 1929.²⁹⁸

By the late 1920s, a group of stockholders, led by former president Major Samuel H. Walker and several family members, began to question the Washington Grove Association's system of government and property

²⁹⁴ Wendy Harris, News Dispatches from Other Centuries, "Our Woods and Walkways: Are They Historic? (Part Two)," 2017, available at <https://washingtongrovermd.org/town-bulletins/town-bulletin-may-2017>; Wendy Harris, News Dispatches from Other Centuries, "Our Woods and Walkways: Are They Historic? (Part One)," 2017, available at <https://washingtongrovermd.org/town-bulletins/town-bulletin-april-2017/>.

²⁹⁵ "Examination of Trees at Washington Grove," leaflet by F.W. Besley, State Forester, July 29, 1924, WGA, Box L-7.

²⁹⁶ Carolyn Merchant, "Women of the Progressive Conservation Movement: 1900-1916," *Environmental Review* 8, no. 1 (Spring 1984): 58.

²⁹⁷ Wendy Harris, News Dispatches from Other Centuries, "Portrait of a Founding Mother: Amelia Elmore Huntley, Part Three"; Wendy Harris, News Dispatches from Other Centuries, "Our Woods and Walkways: Are They Historic? (Part Two)."

²⁹⁸ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 306.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 41

ownership. As a result, in 1929, a committee was formed to investigate the matter of stockholders' rights and land titles. The committee's recommendations, delivered in August of that year, recommended a) that each property holder was to be issued a fee simple deed, not subject to the bylaws of the association, b) that the government be changed to a municipal corporation, and c) that the association be dissolved.²⁹⁹ The deeds would be subject to three covenants – houses had to conform to setback lines and cost no less than \$1,000, property could not be used for commercial activities, and property could not be sold, leased, or otherwise transferred to "anyone of a race whose death rate is of a higher percentage than that of the white or Caucasian race."³⁰⁰ While the covenant setting a minimum cost on dwellings was set forth to ensure that the community maintained a consistent character, the racially restrictive covenant was intended to prohibit African Americans and other minorities from obtaining property in Washington Grove. The use of deed restrictions to qualify prospective owners and residents based on factors such as race, ethnicity, and religion were used across the United States at the time. They would be challenged in courts by mid-century.³⁰¹ The committee's recommendations received wide support, and work continued toward planning a new government.

Washington Grove's initiative to seek incorporation followed national trends. Starting in the early twentieth century, many camp meeting associations across the country began to transition into independent municipalities or transferred their assets to other local government entities. Although Washington Grove's initial effort lost considerable momentum during the economic collapse of the Great Depression, the initiative was resumed in the mid-1930s. Finally, in 1937, the stockholders voted in favor of incorporation. The charter for the Town of Washington Grove became effective on May 30 of that year.³⁰²

The Early Municipal Period (1937-1945)

New Government and New Initiatives

As a municipal corporation under state law, the Town of Washington Grove possessed the legislative and administrative power to write its own charter, make its own ordinances, and levy taxes for much needed infrastructure improvements and modernization projects. Washington Grove's original charter "was similar in form to other town charters, but with special provisions respecting the Town Meeting tradition, which had grown out of the annual Stockholders Meetings during Association days," writes Washington Grove historian

²⁹⁹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 335-36

³⁰⁰ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 336.

³⁰¹ Linda Flint McClelland, David L. Ames, and Sarah Dillard Pope, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Residential Suburbs in the United States, 1830-1960," E: 12.

³⁰² Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, 370.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 42

Philip Edwards.³⁰³ At the first Town Meeting on July 10, 1937, Roy McCathran was elected mayor, a position he would hold for the next twenty years. Among the immediate concerns facing the new mayor and town council were the roads and walkways, the maintenance of public buildings, the town's financial health, and residential growth. Volunteer committees were established to focus on specific issues and topics. McCathran and the citizens of Washington Grove were eager to put the deprivations of the Depression behind them.

One of the first major initiatives of the new mayor and town council involved the public wells, which had supplied water to Washington Grove residents for over fifty years. Since the installation of water and sewer lines in 1927, however, the public wells had become obsolete. By 1938, all of the wells were closed, and most of the pumps were pulled.³⁰⁴ Road improvements were another priority. In 1939, the first of the Grove's roads were paved with asphalt, and changes were made to the circulation system within the Tent Department to allow for the passage of automobiles. (The pedestrian-only avenues remained unpaved.) Following the road improvement project, a local stonemason was hired to build stone culverts to route stormwater under the new pavement.³⁰⁵ Street signs and other traffic signs were posted along the roads and avenues. The street signs were wood and consisted of boards painted brown with white lettering and mounted to wood posts. The signs reflected the town's rustic and quaint character and had the added benefit of being inexpensive. This model of street signs would be replicated with few changes until the 1980s. In 1939, the Woman's Club building in Woodward Park burned, and the town decided that a new building could be constructed on the site of the old hotel in Howard Park. The builder was Brawner Harding of Gaithersburg. The clubhouse was completed in 1940 for \$1,551.³⁰⁶ The same year, the town made improvements to the assembly hall, including the construction of an addition on the north side of the meeting room.

Commercial Corner

The general store and Odd Fellows Hall that stood on the lots facing the corner of Washington Grove Road and Railroad Street were the last victims of the Depression, when, in 1940, they were seized by the First National Bank of Gaithersburg.³⁰⁷ The bank tried to market the properties as residential, but several factors made this difficult – the buildings across the street were commercial/industrial and included a large feed mill complex, the lots faced a busy intersection, and there was little buffer between the lots and the nearby railroad tracks. The bank soon appealed to the town for rezoning, and a measure was passed in 1941 approving the change and

³⁰³ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 141.

³⁰⁴ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 15.

³⁰⁵ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 33.

³⁰⁶ Horan, *A History of the Woman's Club of Washington Grove*, 21.

³⁰⁷ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 45.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 43

officially declaring Lots 1 and 2 in Block 1 a commercial zone, with restrictions against alcohol and gaming. By the late 1960s, the area, which came to be known as the commercial corner, would become the center of a long-fought battle that would test the town’s civic identity.

Thomas I. Fulks died in 1935, and the next year his farm and feed supply business were purchased by W. Lawson King. King sold the farm property in 1940, but retained the feed supply business, which he improved and incrementally expanded. King razed the feed store and built a new feed mill at the eastern end of the property in 1942. Then, in 1945, he added a farmer’s supply store at the western end of the site. King’s new four-story feed mill was built of cinderblock and corrugated metal. It had a gable roof. Four silos, constructed of concrete reinforced with steel straps, stood east of the mill. The silos were also sheltered with a gable roof. The supply store was a cinderblock building with an L-shaped plan. In 1952, he added an addition to the supply store, extending the complex to the west. At some point, King also refaced the buildings between the supply store and the mill with cinderblock. King eventually leased the feed supply operation to Sunshine Feeds, which was succeeded by Wayne Feeds and finally Gaithersburg Farmers’ Supply, which closed in 1989.³⁰⁸ While many of the feed stores that served Montgomery County communities have vanished, Gaithersburg Farmers’ Supply still stands as an important physical remnant of the regional agricultural economy that persisted into the mid-twentieth century.

In December 1944, the Standard Oil property across Railroad Street from the Odd Fellows Hall was sold to Oscar L. Evans, who established an ice cream factory in the brick building on the lot. By 1948, Evans sold the property, along with his machines and equipment, to Burtis Slaybaugh and Kenneth Reck.³⁰⁹ Their company, Rex, Inc., soon had a small retail operation that was popular with Washington Grove residents. Building on their success, the partners built an annex and opened a restaurant.

Residential Development

Mayor McCathran and the citizens of Washington Grove were eager to put the deprivations of the Depression behind them. While the early municipal period saw a gradual decrease in the abandonment of properties and lots being listed for tax sale, deferred home maintenance that had started in the Depression continued to cause concern.³¹⁰ In 1941, for example, two adjacent houses on Fourth Avenue that had not been occupied for several years were found to be “an actual and definitive menace to the health of the community” and nearly condemned.³¹¹ (The houses were ultimately preserved and, in the 1960s, were combined to become what is now

³⁰⁸ 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.

³⁰⁹ Montgomery County Land Records, Deed Book 1136, page 312.

³¹⁰ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 37-38.

³¹¹ Irving McCathran to Kate M. Purdum and Mary E. Murphy, May 21, 1941, Clare Kelly House History files, WGA.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 44

404 Fourth Avenue.) According to oral tradition, some houses in the Grove still retained canvas elements through the 1940s.³¹²

In an effort to increase municipal revenues and attract families to the community, the town began to sell off platted but unoccupied lots. As a result, Washington Grove experienced a boomlet of home improvements and new construction. Nationally, Minimal Traditional dwellings, which offered simplified versions of prewar Colonial Revival styles, were built in great numbers during this period, and this trend is reflected in Washington Grove. The Minimal Traditional style was developed largely out of necessity. During the Great Depression, banks collapsed, mortgages piled up, and many Americans lost their means to purchase new homes, bringing the housing construction industry to a virtual standstill. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) was established in 1934 under the New Deal programs of President Franklin Roosevelt to set standards for construction and insure loans banks made for home building. The FHA also produced their own technical bulletins on house design that proved influential. In fact, a number of these house plans were published in journals and pattern books in the 1930s and 1940s, promoting an economical take on the traditional house.³¹³

The FHA's technical bulletin in 1940 was called *Principles for Planning Small Houses*, which laid out a number of recommendations for an economical, efficient home. Many of the basic forms and variations of what became the Minimal Traditional style were illustrated in the pamphlet. The FHA recommended simple compositions within limited variation in form. Unnecessary gables, dormers, and breaks in the roofline were to be avoided. Instead of adding ornamentation, character and variation could be achieved through the spacing and grouping of windows, use of materials, and design of minor details.³¹⁴ "Porches, bay windows, and platform steps," the bulletin states, "are useful as a means of making small houses more livable without adding greatly to their costs."³¹⁵ Efficient floor plans that maximized available space were advised, as higher building costs increased the difficulty in qualifying for FHA loan insurance.³¹⁶

During World War II, relocating workers for proximity to defense-related factories created an immediately pressing need for small houses that could be built quickly. Builder-developers constructed nearly 2.3 million

³¹² Washington Grove Round Table Discussion, August 31, 2018, recording available in WGA.

³¹³ Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, second edition (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), 589.

³¹⁴ U.S. Federal Housing Administration, *Principles for Planning Small Houses* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1940), 37-40.

³¹⁵ U.S. Federal Housing Administration, *Principles for Planning Small Houses*, 39.

³¹⁶ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 589.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 45

homes, most in the Minimal Traditional style, for war and defense purposes between 1940 and 1945.³¹⁷ Such small houses were also a response to the wartime reduction in the supply of building materials.³¹⁸ When World War II ended in 1945, the Minimal Traditional house again proved to be the solution to a pressing national need. Housing accommodation had to be provided for the ten million returning soldiers and their families. Approximately 5.1 million new homes, many in the Minimal Traditional style, were built between 1946 and 1949.³¹⁹ Because these houses continued to be promoted by the FHA, developers could get faster approval of loans for construction to start. Much of the postwar construction in emerging suburban communities like Levittown, New York, consisted of mass-produced Minimal Traditional-style houses.³²⁰ The World War II Cottage is a variation on the Minimal Traditional style. These houses were typically a single story, simple in form, and covered by a hipped roof.³²¹

Many Minimal Traditional-style houses were built in Washington Grove during this period and after World War II. Examples can be found on Washington Grove Lane, Ridge Road, and Pine Street. Examples of World War II Cottages are located at 108 Maple Avenue, built in 1941, and 401 Brown Street. The latter, built in 1943, has a rectangular form under a moderately pitched, hip roof. These houses are representative of an important period of Washington Grove's development, when the new municipal government supported new residential growth that responded to the needs of American families. In their simplicity of form and affordability, these houses represented a continuity in design from the camp meeting era.

Post-World War II Period (1946-1969)

Post-World War II Suburbanization

The decades that followed World War II witnessed a transformation in American life brought by suburbanization. Americans returning from the war in large numbers left crowded, dense cities for detached houses with generous lawns. A strong economy, low inflation, and federal subsidies made conditions ripe for Americans to own their own homes. Such subsidies, including mortgage insurance by the Federal Housing Administration and a similar Veterans Administration mortgage program, underwrote a vast new construction

³¹⁷ Joseph B. Mason, *History of Housing in the U.S., 1930-1980* (Houston, TX: Gulf Publishing Company, 1982), 31-44.

³¹⁸ Clifford Edward Clark, Jr., *The American Family Home, 1800-1960* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986), 193.

³¹⁹ Mason, *History of Housing in the U.S., 1930-1980*, 48-49.

³²⁰ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 589.

³²¹ "WWII Era Cottage," Docomomo WEWA, available at http://docomomo-wewa.org/styles_detail.php?id=41, accessed December 6, 2018.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 46

program.³²² The Bureau of Labor Statistics conducted a survey of homebuilding in 1946-47 that revealed that suburbs accounted for 62 percent of construction in the metropolitan regions studied.

Following the national trend, Washington, D.C., suburbs in Maryland and Virginia grew exponentially after the war. In 1953, for the first time, less than half of the metropolitan region's population lived in the city proper.³²³ In the postwar era, Washington suburbs extended to areas considered remote in the nineteenth century. By the early 1950s, Montgomery County, in particular, emerged as the "bedroom of Washington," in the words of the president of the county council.³²⁴ The county's population nearly doubled between 1946 and 1950 and more than doubled between 1950 and 1960. New transportation options, particularly after the creation of the Interstate Highway System in 1956, facilitated the commuter lifestyle. By the mid-1950s, Washington was connected to Montgomery County cities via Interstate 270, a new highway that supplanted the old U.S. Route 240.³²⁵ Additionally, a bypass was built around Rockville in 1951 and the Capital Beltway opened in 1964.

The Washington suburbs were unique in that most of their residents were new to the region. County and city residents returning from the war accounted for only a small percentage of the incoming population. Many of the new Montgomery County suburbanites were professional-managerial workers, who supported the kind of professional, technocratic planning bodies leading postwar suburban development.³²⁶ New county residents not only commuted into Washington, but also took advantage of expanding opportunity in Montgomery County itself. As the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union intensified, the Truman and Eisenhower administrations oversaw a decentralization of the federal government. A government concentrated in a central city, officials reasoned, made it more vulnerable to nuclear attack.³²⁷ Federal agencies moved to the suburbs beginning in the 1950s. The Atomic Energy Commission was established in Germantown in 1955, and the National Bureau of Standards moved to Gaithersburg in 1960. Industry also expanded in the county. IBM, for instance, opened a systems development center in Bethesda and established its division headquarters in Rockville. Interstate 270, in particular, became a major corridor for industrial growth.

³²² Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier*, 233.

³²³ Zachary Schrag, *The Great Society Subway: A History of the Washington Metro* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), 17.

³²⁴ Stella B. Werner testimony, U.S. House of Representatives, *District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia Mass Transit Compact: Hearings before House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee No. 3, on H.J. Res. 402*, 86th Cong., 1st sess., 1959.

³²⁵ Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1776-1976* (Rockville, MD: Montgomery County Government, 1976), 351.

³²⁶ Isabelle Gournay and Mary Corbin Sies, "Modern Movement in Maryland," Context Essay (University of Maryland, 2002), 39.

³²⁷ MacMaster and Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1776-1976*, 351.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 47

Locally, the major planning institution was the Montgomery County Council, while the Montgomery County Planning Board served as their primary advisers.³²⁸ County residents took an active role in planning discussions and organized their own advocacy groups. Most influential among these was the Montgomery County Citizens Planning Association (MCCPA), which began in 1950, but achieved its current name in 1958.³²⁹ Regional-level planning was carried out by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which coordinated among Washington, D.C., and Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The expansion of the Washington metropolitan area had a major impact on Montgomery County. Rural areas were rezoned for high-density residential, commercial, and light industrial uses, despite an inadequate distribution of schools, hospitals, recreational areas, and basic amenities, such as grocery stores.

As a result of postwar growth, Americans across the country were becoming alarmed at how development was disrupting the natural world and the social and physical fabric of towns and cities. Unchecked development and reports from scientists on the impact of human beings on nature inspired the modern environmental movement that took shape in the early 1960s. Whereas the conservation movement of the early twentieth century had focused on the efficient management of natural resources, the environmental movement pressed for a broader, more aggressive agenda that emphasized environmental quality and ecology.³³⁰ The environmentalists of the 1960s, for instance, pushed for new protections for forests, arguing that the forest should be seen as an "environment for home, work, and play rather than as a source of commodities."³³¹ Protection of natural resources was prioritized in the policies of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. In response to growing public concern, Congress passed a host of environmental protections, including the Wilderness Act (1964), the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (1964), the Clean Air Act (1967), the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968), the National Trails System Act (1968), and the National Environmental Policy Act (1969).

In the years following World War II, many older buildings and neighborhoods were threatened by suburban development, federally funded urban renewal programs, highway building, the construction of office buildings, and other factors. In response, preservationists formed a quasi-public advocacy group that would become the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which was chartered by Congress in 1949.³³² That year, the

³²⁸ Lucile Harrigan and Alexander von Hoffman, "Forty Years of Fighting Sprawl: Montgomery County, Maryland, and Growth Control Planning in the Metropolitan Region of Washington, D.C." (Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University, October 2002), 1.

³²⁹ Schrag, *The Great Society Subway*, 225.

³³⁰ Samuel P. Hays, "The Environmental Movement," *Journal of Forest History* 25, no. 4 (October 1981): 219.

³³¹ Hays, "The Environmental Movement," 219.

³³² Robert E. Stipe, *A Richer Heritage: Historic Preservation in the Twenty-First Century* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 9.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 48

construction of the Whitehurst Freeway in Georgetown – an elevated highway along the waterfront designed to reroute high-density traffic from Georgetown’s small, crowded streets and connect to a renovated K Street – sparked protests by District residents who claimed that the bypass freeway was incompatible with the character of its neighborhood. Prompted by the freeway’s construction and an increase in the alteration of the city’s historic fabric, the Old Georgetown Act was passed in 1950 designating Georgetown as an historic district. Encouraged by the National Trust and state officials, in 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act into law. The act expanded the National Register of Historic Places, authorized state funds for surveys and preservation planning, and created the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In time, the preservation movement expanded to include historic places important to communities, not just nationally significant properties.

Regional Trends in Postwar Residential Architecture

In response to the burgeoning postwar economy, growing population, and urban housing shortages, the Washington, D.C., of the late 1940s began to spread far into the surrounding counties of Maryland and Virginia. Federal housing policies established in the early 1950s were predominantly suburban in focus. In Washington, nearly two-thirds of the mortgage guarantees were located outside of city limits.³³³ Suburban living was a desirable alternative for much of Washington’s middle class who were contending with crowded urban conditions and rising rental costs. Relocation was accessible to many families through the help of federal housing and loan programs. Following the onset of the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act (GI Bill), many families had enough money leave the city for single-family homes in the suburbs.

Locally, mass-produced residential developments appeared in Virginia and Maryland to accommodate the region’s growing number of new residents. Among the first postwar subdivisions in Montgomery County was Veirs Mill Village in Rockville. Started in 1947, the development included 1,105 identical Cape Cod houses on a 328-acre tract of former farmland.³³⁴ Several pioneering communities, such as Hollin Hills in Alexandria, Virginia, were developed as showcases of modern living. The enclave was a collaboration between the developer Robert Davenport and architect Charles Goodman (1902-1992). In planning roadways and siting houses, the developer and architect prioritized the preservation of the wooded, rolling character of the natural landscape. Houses were oriented to optimize views and maintain privacy. Typical building materials included recycled brick, stained vertical wood siding, and floor-to-ceiling window units. While much of the first wave of postwar home building (1946-55) was inexpensive and mass-produced, larger homes defined the second wave (1955-1960s).

³³³ Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier*, 212-213.

³³⁴ Kelly, *Montgomery Modern*, 42.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 49

The ranch house was the most popular American housing form during the postwar period.³³⁵ Historian Kenneth Jackson writes that Americans were drawn to ranch houses because their departure from traditional residential architecture presented “newness.”³³⁶ A survey conducted by the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1945 reported that only 14 percent of Americans were interested in renting or living in a “used” house.³³⁷ Whatever the reason for its popularity, the ranch house soon became seen as an integral part of the suburban ideal in the United States.

The “newness” of the ranch house was partly derived from its embrace of modern architecture. Modernists saw older housing models as inflexible and unsuitable for modern life. The modern houses designed by the movement’s foremost intellectual leaders, including Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier, were reduced to pure form, emphasizing lines, planes, and geometries. Technological advances were celebrated in the choice of building materials, including steel, reinforced and precast concrete, and large expanses of plate glass. Most ranch houses were never as austere as the typical modernist house, but some of the movement’s general principles became part of standard ranch design. Ranch house architecture, particularly in the earlier models, embraced modernism’s simplicity – a single roof covered the entire structure, a clear form was expressed by the rectangular massing, and ornament was minimized. The openness of the interior plan, with public rooms that seamlessly flowed into one another, was also a hallmark of modernist design. Ranch houses also embraced technology, in both their mass-produced construction and interior space devoted to the latest appliances.

The ranch house was, in a sense, Minimal Traditional-style architecture taken a step further, resulting in houses that were even more austere in form and decoration. Decorative features, such as wrought-iron railings or shutters, were applied sparingly, as lending institutions were more comfortable with traditional details they recognized.³³⁸ Window size often reflected the importance of the room.³³⁹ The living room, for instance, was commonly lit by a large picture window. A majority of first-generation ranch houses did not have projections from the main volume. This was a feature more likely to appear on post-1960 houses of the style.³⁴⁰ Ranch houses typically have a side-gable or hipped roof with deep eaves. Like Minimal Traditional-style houses, ranch houses at times had stoops or small entry porches, but larger outdoor-oriented features, like patios, were

³³⁵ Thomas C. Hubka, “The American Ranch House: Traditional Design Method in Modern Popular Culture,” *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review* 7, no. 1 (Fall 1995): 34.

³³⁶ Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier*, 240.

³³⁷ *Urban Housing Survey: The Saturday Evening Post, Ladies' Home Journal, Country Gentleman* (Philadelphia: Curtis Publishing Company, 1945).

³³⁸ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 695.

³³⁹ Hubka, “The American Ranch House: Traditional Design Method in Modern Popular Culture,” 36.

³⁴⁰ Hubka, “The American Ranch House: Traditional Design Method in Modern Popular Culture,” 34-36.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 50

relegated to the house's rear. The ranch house had a simple architectural vocabulary that could be easily repeated and its components were almost entirely mass-produced.³⁴¹

One of the most radical innovations of the form was the space devoted to the automobile. Although garages and carports had been built throughout the twentieth century, they were often either detached from the house, integrated into the basement, or connected to the house, but located on a side elevation. It was in the ranch house that space for automobiles (either garages or carports) became a primary feature of the building's footprint and took a prominent spot at the front of the house. Soon, even the path from the street to the front door, an enduring landscape feature of American lawns, was bent toward the garage and driveway.³⁴²

A variation on the ranch form was the split-level, which emerged in the 1950s and continued its popularity into the 1970s. Used to denote a form and not a formal style, the split-level generally consisted of separate, staggered levels separated by a partial flight of stairs. The bi-level split consists of two floors of living space and an intermediate-level landing between them. The tri-level split consists of a two-story mass intercepted at mid-height by another mass.³⁴³

Postwar Growth in Washington Grove and Home Rule

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 development that would enhance its appeal to homebuyers and increase its tax base. Long-time residents and newcomers alike worked to revitalize the town by renovating older cottages and building new houses that reflected modern tastes and demands. Home Rule in Maryland gave Washington Grove the power to exercise its own planning and zoning regulations. Finally, the town's plans to fill itself out could be realized.

Washington Grove attracted individuals seeking a closeness to nature and a connection to the past, a combination not available in many postwar planned communities often characterized by standardized houses set in denuded landscapes. Classified ads for new and older homes for sale in Washington Grove appealed to "tree lovers," and emphasized the Grove's reputation as a "town within a forest" that was "convenient to transportation, yet out of the hubbub."³⁴⁴ New residents included government officials, professionals, and scholars who worked in Washington, D.C., or in nearby federal facilities.³⁴⁵

³⁴¹ Hubka, "The American Ranch House: Traditional Design Method in Modern Popular Culture," 36.

³⁴² Hubka, "The American Ranch House: Traditional Design Method in Modern Popular Culture," 35-37.

³⁴³ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 613.

³⁴⁴ Classified Ads, *Washington Post*, March 15, 1959, and May 30, 1959.

³⁴⁵ *Washington Post*, July 21, 1958.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 51

The houses constructed during the post-World War II period in Washington Grove followed national trends in residential building. Although earlier styles continued to be built, new styles and forms such as the ranch house made their appearance. Architecture of the period emphasized clean lines, functional plans, modern materials and building techniques, and the integration of interior and exterior space. Stylistically, some homes featured traditional detailing, while others demonstrated the influence of modernism. The use of prefabricated materials, developed for wartime mobilization but adapted for postwar building, was also evident. Houses were constructed by merchant-builders using standardized plans, sometimes in pairs or groups, or custom designed by architects.³⁴⁶

As the town made decisions about new areas for residential growth, blocks of land became available for development. Lots were also sold by individuals.³⁴⁷ One area of new residential development was the eastern end of Center Street between Maple Avenue and Ridge Road. In 1949, a Dutch Colonial Revival-style house was constructed at 410 Center Street, and six new homes followed within the next half dozen years. 409 Center Street, built circa 1953-54, was a Cape Cod cottage with Colonial Revival detailing. 301 Maple Avenue, which faces south toward Center Street, was a one-story ranch house built in 1955. It had a low pitched, gable roof with a broad, brick center chimney. Later, Contemporary-style additions were added to the west and east facades. The houses built on the north side of Center Street, such as the Cape Cod cottage at 409 Center, were located within the historic "Laundry Reserve," which had been platted for residential development in the late nineteenth century but had, up until then, remained undeveloped. (Two fire early hydrants in the East Woods remain today as evidence of the residential growth once projected for the land.)

The deep, narrow lots that historically characterized the division of land in the Cottage Department were not planned for the low horizontal massing of modern domestic forms. In some cases, such as the pair of ranch houses at 201 and 203 Maple Road, the houses were oriented perpendicular to the roadway, rather than facing it. Other times, building lots were consolidated and subdivided into new configurations that could better accommodate modern forms. In 1955, for example, Lots 6 and 7 of Block 3 were replatted to create two lots that fronted Center Street.³⁴⁸ The one-story, brick veneer, ranch houses built on the lots in 1958 were nearly mirror images of each other (11 and 13 Center Street). The incorporation of the garage 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, represents 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 buildings lots.

³⁴⁶ Notes on Washington Grove Architectural Significance, 1937-69, courtesy Clare Lise Kelly, November 4, 2018.

³⁴⁷ Notes on Washington Grove Architectural Significance, 1937-69, courtesy Clare Lise Kelly, November 4, 2018.

³⁴⁸ Montgomery County, Circuit Court Land Records, Plat No. 4031, February 1955.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 52

To support new residential development, the town carried out road improvements. Miller Drive was put in and the northern end of Hickory Road was graded and paved with gravel, among other projects.³⁴⁹ By 1945, the Humpback Bridge crossing the B&O Railroad tracks had become dilapidated. In response to complaints from Washington Grove residents, the railroad replaced the nineteenth-century structure with a new bridge in the same location. The new bridge was a three span, timber bridge with a humpback shape.³⁵⁰ In the early 1950s, the town began the process of widening its 25-foot-wide vehicular roads to make them safer and allow for on-street parking. When public land was involved, the process was easy, but other roads, such as Chestnut, proved more difficult due to preexisting structures and fence lines.

The town also turned its attention to its public buildings and facilities. In 1951, a gabled porch was added to the front façade of the assembly hall 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, then was moved to the belfry of the tabernacle.) A few years later, in 1955, when Washington Grove United Methodist Church was completed, the assembly hall was repurposed as municipal offices. (The building was officially dedicated as the town hall in 1973.) New public facilities from this period include the town maintenance building, which was constructed in Woodward Park in 1955.

Due to a combination of factors, Maple Lake, the swimming pond in the West Woods, was not maintained during most of the 1930s and 1940s. By 1953, however, the town had chartered a Lake Committee to guide the restoration and revitalization of the site. The redesigned lake, inaugurated in 1955, featured an island and a dock. Later improvements included a bridge to the island (1962) and a perimeter fence (1973). During the winter months, the lake was used for ice skating.

The passage of Home Rule in Maryland in 1954 gave counties and towns the power to modify their own charters – the basic laws that described their powers, procedures, and services. An amendment to Home Rule, passed in 1955, gave municipalities power over planning and zoning, and Washington Grove established a Planning Commission in 1967. The commission drafted ordinances prohibiting multi-family dwellings and prepared a zoning map that included two residential zones, a forest reserve, and a local commercial zone. The town adopted its first Code of Ordinances under home rule in 1964, which included sections on zoning, building, and land use. Through the 1950s and 1960s, the Planning Commission worked with the town council to identify and sell miscellaneous parcels of land owned by the town, condemn blighted properties, and guide new development. Throughout this period, the town leveraged its independent planning and zoning authority to

³⁴⁹ Town Council Meeting Minutes, 1946, WGA, Box D-4, File DT.00D4.06.

³⁵⁰ 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 53

carefully preserve and protect the architectural resources and natural features that characterized its early history while promoting responsible growth and compatible new design.

The Auditorium Controversy

In the decades after Chautauqua activities ceased at Washington Grove, the auditorium was used to show movies and stage theatrical performances, as a meeting place for social clubs, for dances, and as a gymnasium for indoor sports, such as basketball and shuffleboard.³⁵¹

In 1948, a group of Grove residents formed a theatrical troupe called the Banbury Players that staged three one-act plays in the auditorium over the course of the year. Eager to try a short professional season the following year, the group, then known as the Washington Grove Summer Theatre, proposed a four-week season to the Town Council. The Council approved the proposal, on condition that “the organization shall be responsible for retaining control over the use of the Auditorium.” Following further discussions with Town Council about how the group could comply with this condition, a spokesman for the troupe reported that “the group was anxious to carry out the established segregation policy of the town ... although no definitive plan for enforcing a policy of exclusion had been formed.” After several months of wrangling with the Town Council and wordsmithing the proviso in the theater permission, the Washington Grove Summer Theatre withdrew its proposal, stating that it “could not and would not attempt a policy of segregation by exclusion of negroes from attendance.” The matter was dropped.³⁵²

Another proposal to the Town Council for a theater in 1962 dealt the final blow to the auditorium. This time, the proposal came from a Washington theater producer who proposed to upgrade the auditorium, which had become a burden to maintain and was a target for vandalism, and use it for theater productions for twelve weeks over the summer. The town was evenly split over the issue. On one side, some residents desired the availability of theater and other artistic pursuits in Washington Grove and saw it as a way to save the auditorium. Others saw it as a commercial venture which would bring unwanted traffic into town and tie up the auditorium. The theater proposal was put to vote at the annual town meeting of 1962, where it lost by a single vote.³⁵³ Although many Grove residents supported petitions to save the auditorium, without viable options for its use, the building was demolished in 1963. Soon after the building was razed, its site was redeveloped as part of a new Woodward Park “recreation center” with playground equipment and a multi-purpose, all-weather court. In addition, a new all-weather tennis court was built along the south side of Oak Street, across from the clay tennis courts.³⁵⁴

³⁵¹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 18.

³⁵² Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 75-84. Such a policy would be prohibited with the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

³⁵³ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 175-78.

³⁵⁴ Grove Bulletin, July 1963, WGA, Box H-2, Town Publications, Grove (Town) Bulletin, 1956-85.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 54

Community Activism

In the postwar period, Washington Grove became known as a community of activists skeptical of unchecked development, supportive of environmental causes, and protective of its historic resources and the way of life they represented.

The residents of Washington Grove advocated for strategic regional growth and emerged in the postwar period as forceful opponents of rezoning and highway construction. In 1957, Washington Grove's mayor, George A. Pughe, wrote a letter to U.S. Senator Alan Bible, Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Metropolitan Area Planning, to encourage greater cooperation among regional planning agencies. He wrote, "We recognize that the transition of the adjacent areas must take place as the metropolitan area expands. We do not resist growth. But we do believe that as a community we should have an opportunity to participate in the planning and decisions regarding adjacent areas that will directly affect our own community."³⁵⁵ When the Montgomery County Planning Board proposed rezoning eleven acres of Oakmont Avenue from rural residential to light industrial, the town opposed the plan, fearing that it could lead to rezoning a larger portion of the area just outside its borders. A proposal in 1959 for the western quadrant of nearby Redland, a town south of Washington Grove, to be redeveloped with 25,000 new housing units similarly provoked opposition. The town also fought the rezoning and development of 388 acres along Snouffer's School Road, which lay to the town's north – a plan that included the construction of the Montgomery County Airpark and an adjacent light industrial park.³⁵⁶ Although opposition to development and rezoning continued, the town lacked the clout to halt the plans. Such changes largely erased the pastoral settings that existed in the area well into the 1960s. As the result of a development-friendly county council in power from 1962 to 1966, thousands of acres of Montgomery County were rezoned for higher-density use.³⁵⁷ When a high-rise complex was proposed west of the West Woods in 1965, the town staunchly opposed the plans. Although the full scope of the proposal was not implemented, some new apartment buildings were constructed.³⁵⁸

Washington Grove residents in the 1960s and 1970s were forceful advocates for the protection of the town's natural resources. As early as 1962, residents, including Mayor Don McCathran, suggested formally dedicating the town's West Woods as a wildlife preserve to protect it from future development.³⁵⁹ The shift from thinking

³⁵⁵ Letter from Mayor George A. Pughe to Senator Alan Bible, November 19, 1957, WGA, Box H-2.

³⁵⁶ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 146-49.

³⁵⁷ MacMaster and Hiebert, *A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1776-1976*, 360.

³⁵⁸ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 200.

³⁵⁹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 192.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 55

of the woods as a *reserve* to a *preserve* reflected the conclusion that their value would not be determined from timber sales.³⁶⁰ The West Woods were officially designated a forest preserve in 1964. Despite this, in 1971, a state forester studied the East and West Woods and determined that mature tulip poplars in the West Woods could sell for \$2,000. The town's Forestry Committee agreed only to cut dead trees. When it was discovered that live trees had also been marked for cutting, a groundswell of opposition developed. Protests from angry residents at a town council meeting stopped the timber harvest and ultimately led to the resignation of Mayor Al Christie. The incident led to the establishment of a Forestry Policy Committee, which authored studies that led to a forestry policy section included in the town's Master Plan.³⁶¹ The town's forests were recognized not only for their aesthetic and recreational value, but as protection from noise and a buffer against nearby development.³⁶²

Current Period (1970-present)

The idealistic traditions of camp meetings continue to motivate the town's residents to preserve Washington Grove's culture and setting through active participation in town and community planning issues.

Preservation Efforts

In the late 1970s, Washington Grove's Planning Commission initiated two important efforts to protect the town's natural and cultural resources. First, in March 1977, the commission prepared a report to the mayor and town council recommending that the entire town be nominated for designation as an "area of critical state concern." Recent state legislation aimed at promoting balanced growth gave authorization to the Maryland Department of State Planning to work with local jurisdictions to identify areas that were of such significance that future use or development was of concern to the entire state.³⁶³ The Planning Commission's report cited threats by adjacent development and the possibility of state or county condemnation for rights-of-way through the town's woods. While the commission's report did not result in designation by the state, a separate effort to nominate the town to the National Register of Historic Places succeeded. The commission identified several areas of significance to address in the nomination: town planning and design; cultural history, with emphasis on the camp meeting, Chautauqua, and recreational clubs; and architecture.³⁶⁴ Fieldwork began in the spring of

³⁶⁰ Wendy Harris, News Dispatches from Other Centuries, "Our Woods and Walkways: Are They Historic? (Part Two)."

³⁶¹ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 221-22.

³⁶² "Report to the Washington Grove Town Council from the Forestry Committee," January 9, 1973, WGA, Box L-7.

³⁶³ Memorandum, "Areas of Critical State Concern," 1977, WGA, Box L-7.

³⁶⁴ Planning Commission Meeting Minutes, January 25, 1978, courtesy Wendy Harris, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 56

1978, and the Town of Washington Grove was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district in 1980.

The 1980 National Register designation has been of great value to the town. When McCathran Hall was in disrepair and needed additional space for municipal government functions, Washington Grove’s National Register status enabled it to obtain in 1991 a \$100,000 grant from the state conditioned upon a perpetual preservation easement on the building’s exterior and surroundings. The Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission, established in 2001, uses the National Register documentation to guide and inform decisions and policies, helping to protect the historic integrity of the district. The National Register designation has also been essential in the town’s preservation battles over increased development pressure.

Over the years, town officials and residents have successfully capitalized on the Washington Grove’s historic status to preserve and protect its historic resources, spaces, and viewshed corridors and protect against overreaching development. When development was proposed for the open land east of Ridge Road, which was part of the original tract purchased for the camp meeting and has been historically associated with Washington Grove’s agricultural setting, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission required the developer to negotiate with the town to agree on a plan that would both preserve the town’s historic context and meet their development goals. When the state proposed a design for the Intercounty Connector expressway within sight of the town, the visual and acoustical impacts of the design alternatives on the historic district were required to be examined and mitigated. Though the construction of the expressway did go forward, berms and plantings were required to minimize the impacts. In 2013, Washington Grove was listed on Preservation Maryland’s “Endangered Maryland” list of the state’s most threatened historic resources. Proposed zoning changes and incompatible high-density development along the town’s borders that threatened the historic district’s integrity were cited as the justification.

The 2014 Humpback Bridge rehabilitation project is a successful example of a positive collaboration between the town and CSX Transportation to preserve the historic railroad structure. CSX Transportation’s 2009 National Gateway project required that the historic bridge be modified to allow sufficient clearance for two stacked rail containers. Town activists’ held discussions with CSX about options to obtain the extra 20 inches of clearance while preserving the historic features of the bridge. Initially, it appeared that there was no solution short of demolition. CSX, however, developed a successful engineering and preservation solution that used single spans of rolled steel beams with an arched shape that provided the required clearance while retaining the bridge’s distinctive humpback shape.

Conflict over the Commercial Corner

One of the defining events of Washington Grove’s current past was its successful lawsuit against The Southland Corporation, an international conglomerate and parent company of the 7-Eleven chain of convenience stores. In 1971, Bobby Lee, then owner of the old general store and the Odd Fellows Hall comprising the town’s

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 57

commercial corner, requested a permit to redevelop the lots. His plan proposed demolishing the old general store and replacing it with a modern shopping center that would be anchored on the south by the Odd Fellows Hall and on the north by a 7-Eleven convenience store.³⁶⁵ The plans were approved, and the project was completed in 1973.³⁶⁶ To integrate the Odd Fellows Hall with the new construction, the front façade of molded concrete block building was faced with brick veneer and given a faux Mansard roof. The 7-Eleven was a one-story, brick veneer building with large, plate-glass windows fronting Washington Grove Lane. Its low-pitched, cross-gable roof was embellished with Colonial Revival elements, including a roof balustrade and weathervane.³⁶⁷ Among the new tenants of the shopping center was the U.S. Post Office, which relocated from Hershey's on Oakmont Avenue to the Odd Fellows Hall.

As one of the only convenience stores in the area, the 7-Eleven offered lottery tickets, pinball machines, video games, and movie rentals, attracting heavy foot and automobile traffic from all directions, but primarily along Laytonsville Road and through the town's adjacent streets and avenues. This brought complaints of litter, petty crime, and car break-ins. Young African Americans walking from nearby Emory Grove, which had been recently subjected to an urban renewal demolition project, bore the brunt of the accusations. By 1975, the store was operating twenty-four hours a day, and the commercial corner had become an epicenter for "noise, loitering, vandalism, and other illegal activities."³⁶⁸ As the years passed, the issue became more acute and battles over town control escalated. The 7-Eleven was declared a public nuisance, and the issue was frequently and passionately discussed at town meetings, special meetings, and conferences between town officials, the police, and neighboring communities. Citizens committees were formed to document the frequency and severity of problems with litter, loitering, noise, and crime and to establish a legal defense fund to cover anticipated legal fees. Finally, the town took action in 1983 when it added an article to its ordinances that regulated commercial activity, required business licenses, limited business hours, and required deposits on beverage containers. This, in effect, declared certain previously valid uses of the commercial corner to be non-conforming, resulting in a two-year legal battle with Southland. This was a formidable task for the small municipality and its cadre of activists and was viewed by many as a "David vs. Goliath" confrontation. Washington Grove's annual budget was less than \$150,000, and Southland was an international corporation that had recorded \$1 billion in sales in 1971.³⁶⁹ The town faced years of legal battles and potential ruin. The case

³⁶⁵ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 256.

³⁶⁶ "The Commercial Corner: Assessment and Recommendations," Report by the Planning Commission to the Mayor and Council of the Town of Washington Grove, March 14, 1983, WGA.

³⁶⁷ The balustrade and weathervane were lost in a recent roof repair.

³⁶⁸ Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1937-1977*, 301.

³⁶⁹ Handbook of Texas Online, Rajni Madan, "Southland Corporation," accessed August 6, 2018, available at <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dhs02>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 58

was proceeding to trial, when, in 1985, a settlement was reached in the town’s favor. Southland agreed to immediately reduce its hours of operation and to relocate within five years. In turn, the town agreed to issue a business license to Southland and agreed not to enforce its beverage container deposit requirement.³⁷⁰ The settlement left the 1983 ordinance amendment intact, demonstrating the town’s ability to respond effectively to conditions that threatened the community life, welfare, and safety of its residents.³⁷¹ A key player in the settlement was Grove resident Barbara Hawk, who joined the town council in 1979 and was elected the first female mayor in 1983. Hawk was a fearless advocate for Washington Grove during its long and bitter battle to protect the town’s character and safety, and was a key player in the successful settlement of the Southland dispute.

Town Growth

Over the past thirty years, more or less, the annexation of land into the town’s corporate limits has been used as a tool to control and coordinate with Montgomery County and adjacent jurisdictions the physical development of areas near the town’s boundaries. 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. In 1994, the town acquired 2.88 acres of land east of Ridge Road, which was laid out as an extension of Brown Street and subdivided. Between 1992 and 2000, roughly 16.5 acres of land along Ridge Road were annexed by the town in order to “protect within the Washington Grove community the historic rustic rural nature of the road and the character of these properties.”³⁷² In 2007, the town annexed a 2-acre parcel at 17050 Railroad Street adjacent to Aitchison Crossing. This is the location of a two-story, concrete-block house built in 1908 and contemporary to many cottages built in Washington Grove. The town’s development plan for the parcel allows for the addition of three additional houses that would face a pedestrian extension of Maple Avenue and requires compatible porches and detached garages. The town also annexed individual houses along Ridge Road and Washington Grove Lane as they became interested. Most recently, the town acquired a 12-acre meadow along Ridge Road that historically comprised part of a farm owned and once was part of the original boundaries of Washington Grove. The meadow’s open space and small-scale features reinforce interpretation of the Washington Grove within the context of Montgomery County’s agricultural heritage and preserve the rural, open vistas that historically formed the setting of Washington Grove. For these reasons, in 2002, the Maryland-

³⁷⁰ Press Release, July 8, 1985, WGA, Box Q-8.

³⁷¹ While the Odd Fellows Hall is identified as a contributing building of the historic district due to its age and architectural significance, the other buildings of the shopping center (109 Washington Grove Lane and 111-113 Washington Grove Lane), including the former 7-Eleven, are identified as noncontributing because they do not date to the period of significance and their historic significance relates to events that took place within the last fifty years. Consideration should be given to re-evaluating these resources when additional time has passed.

³⁷² Washington Grove Planning Commission, “2009 Master Plan, Town of Washington Grove, Maryland,” 2009, 10.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 59

National Capital Park and Planning Commission designated the meadow a Heritage Resource within its Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan.

Washington Grove's 2009 Master Plan highlights the need to preserve the town's historic character and focuses on threats to its borders "in the form of ever encroaching urbanization" and internal threats "in the form of diminished communal contribution and physical integrity."³⁷³ An example of the latter threat involved the historic street signs. In 2017, it was proposed that the town replace its deteriorating historic wood street signs with modern metal ones for better visibility by emergency vehicles and for ease of maintenance. The Town Council considered testimony from residents about their appreciation for the unique sense of place the historic street signs represented and from the Historic Preservation Commission about the history, significance, and potential rehabilitated of the street signs. A town resident came forward and organized a group of volunteers to rehabilitate or replace in-kind the deteriorated signs, maintaining their character-defining features and using reflective paint for the lettering. The historic street sign rehabilitation project was a successful demonstration of the town's volunteer "communal contribution" heritage.³⁷⁴

*Cultural Traditions*³⁷⁵

The tradition of community service has been a vital component of life in Washington Grove since its early days. The governance of the camp meeting association relied on the active participation of religious and lay leaders which evolved into a town meeting form of government wherein residents serve as elected officials and volunteers in the municipal government. The town government relies on committees whose success is dependent on the time, expertise, and dedication of its active citizenry. Many of these committees are based on the cultural traditions that have defined the community's sense of place since its inception.

Historically and today, Washington Grove is a place defined by the presence of trees. By the end of the 1880s, the camp meeting association had formed a Grounds Committee that advocated for planting new trees and preserving existing specimens. In 1913, a Forestry Committee was founded to promote the responsible management of the association's woodlands. In the 1960s, the Forestry Committee was instrumental in having the East Woods and West Woods designated as forest preserves, and a town nursery was established in southeast section of Woodward Park. In 2007, the nursery was redefined as an arboretum. These initiatives and actions demonstrate the continued tradition of preserving and protecting the tree canopy that has long defined the culture of Washington Grove.

³⁷³ Washington Grove Planning Commission, "Town of Washington Grove, Maryland, 2009 Master Plan," 2009, 5.

³⁷⁴ Information provided by Gail Littlefield, Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission, April 2019.

³⁷⁵ Adapted from text provided by Clare Lise Kelly, dated April 2, 2019.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 8 Page 60

The Recreation Committee maintains the tradition of hosting both active and passive forms of recreation within the town's open spaces and forests. Early residents and visitors participated in nature walks, and tennis was popular in Washington Grove by the 1890s. Starting in 1903, the camp meeting association hosted track and field events in Woodward Park every summer that were highly popular with residents and the public alike. Today, the Recreation Committee organizes athletic events every Labor Day weekend that culminate in an awards ceremony. Maple Lake continues to be a popular summer gathering place, offering recreational swimming and swimming lessons.

The town has a full calendar of cultural, educational, and social events that have roots in the Chautauqua tradition. Many take place in McCathran Hall, preserving the tradition started in 1901, when the building opened for church services, Sunday school activities, and, starting in 1902, for Chautauqua. Today, in addition to serving as the Town Hall, the building is the site of a film series, concerts, lectures, choir performances, a day camp for children, dance lessons, and other activities.

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. After their first clubhouse burned, the organization was given permission to build a new clubhouse in Howard Park, completed in 1940. The club continues to have active membership and hosts an annual potluck supper for all town residents.

Another cultural tradition relates to music, which is integral to the Methodist denomination. During the camp meeting era, residents celebrated with hymns, and musical events were a key feature of Chautauqua. A community band was organized in 1902, and the first public dance was held in 1920. Today, the town organizes an annual Music Weekend with evening concerts and a potluck breakfast with live music at the bandstand. Music and dance events are held in McCathran Hall regularly.

The Washington Grove United Methodist Church was organized in 1910. The congregation originally met in McCathran Hall until a new church was built on Chestnut Avenue in 1955. The church carries on the tradition of religious community gathering in Washington Grove. While a small proportion of town residents are members of the church today, the congregation has continued to bring town residents, members and non-members, together. Church events are attended and supported by individuals and families who live in Washington Grove. Examples include the Christmas service with candle-lighting and hymn singing and the Easter sunrise service at the Ridge Road meadow.

Lastly, the tradition of rail travel continues to define life in Washington Grove. With its dedicated stop at Washington Grove, the B&O carried excursionists and residents as well as building materials and supplies to the camp meeting. The railroad was instrumental in the transition of Washington Grove from a seasonal resort to a thriving suburban enclave. Residents today continue to commute to jobs in Washington, D.C., taking the train to Union Station.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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County and State

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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County and State

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

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County and State

Section 9 Page 7

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 9 Page 8

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Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 241 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1																				3	
	Zone		Easting				Northing														
2																					4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daria Gasparini and Mike Mitchell, Architectural Historians
Organization Robinson & Associates, Inc. date May 10, 2019
street & number 725 15th Street, NW, Suite 600 telephone (202) 234-2333
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20005

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Washington Grove Historic District is indicated on the attached map, which is drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

This nomination expands the boundary of the Washington Grove Historic District to include a) the entire municipal boundaries of the Town of Washington Grove, which covers 217.6 acres and includes the roughly 47-acre forest preserve west of Washington Grove Lane, b) the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park, 12 acres of land owned by the town and bordering the municipal boundary on the east that historically was part of the original land acquisition for the camp meeting, c) a segment of the historic Baltimore & Ohio Railroad corridor, including the Humpback Bridge, which played a central role in the history of Washington Grove, d) portions of the late nineteenth-century subdivision of Oakmont that contribute to the original setting of railroad station and Washington Grove, including the parkland that formed the centerpiece of the development, a former general store and post office at 17030 Oakmont Avenue, a former boarding house at 16950 Oakmont Avenue, and residence at 16960 Oakmont Avenue, e) a cluster of commercial/light industrial properties at the junction of Railroad Street, Washington Grove Lane, and East Diamond Street that reflect the region's agricultural history, are strongly tied to the commercial development at the southwest corner of Washington Grove, and contribute to historic district's setting, and f) three early twentieth-century residences on the west side of Washington Grove Lane that were developed on lots that were historically part of the original land acquisition for the camp meeting and contribute to the residential setting of the historic district. The boundary takes into account legal boundaries, the distribution of resources, and cultural features that define the physical extent and location of the historic district and encompasses the resources that contribute to its significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

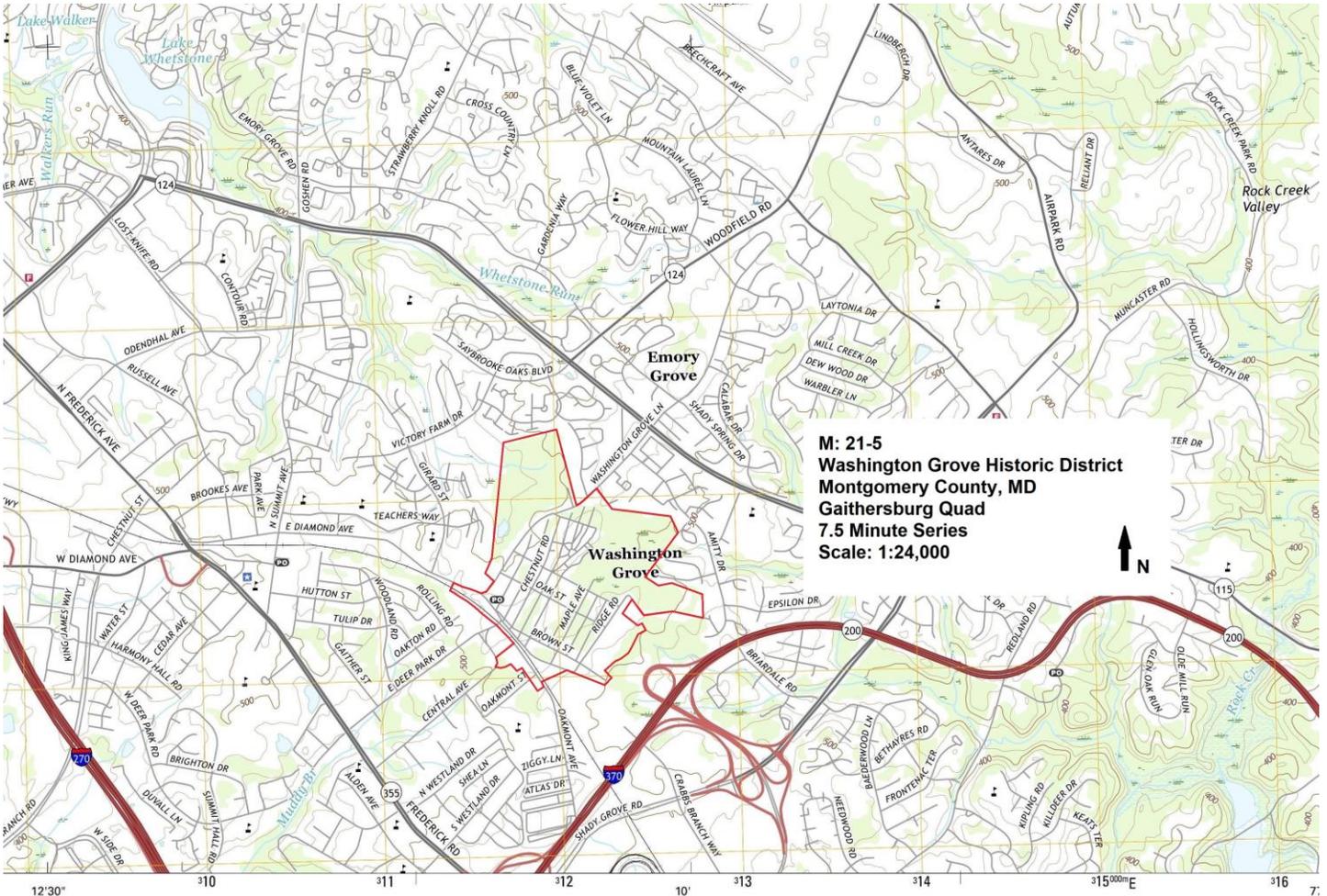
Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

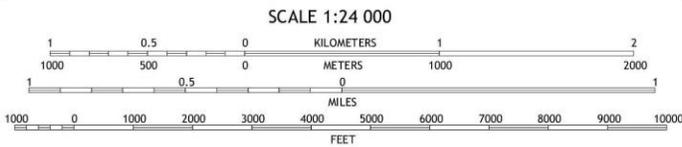
Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section MAPS



M: 21-5
Washington Grove Historic District
Montgomery County, MD
Gaithersburg Quad
7.5 Minute Series
Scale: 1:24,000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988

This map was produced to conform with the
National Geospatial Program US Topo Product Standard, 2011.
A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.6.19



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



1	2	3
4	5	
6	7	8

ADJOINING QUADRANGLES

- 1 Urbana
- 2 Damascus
- 3 Woodbine
- 4 Germantown
- 5 Sandy Spring
- 6 Seneca
- 7 Rockville
- 8 Kensington

GAITHERSBURG, MD

2016

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

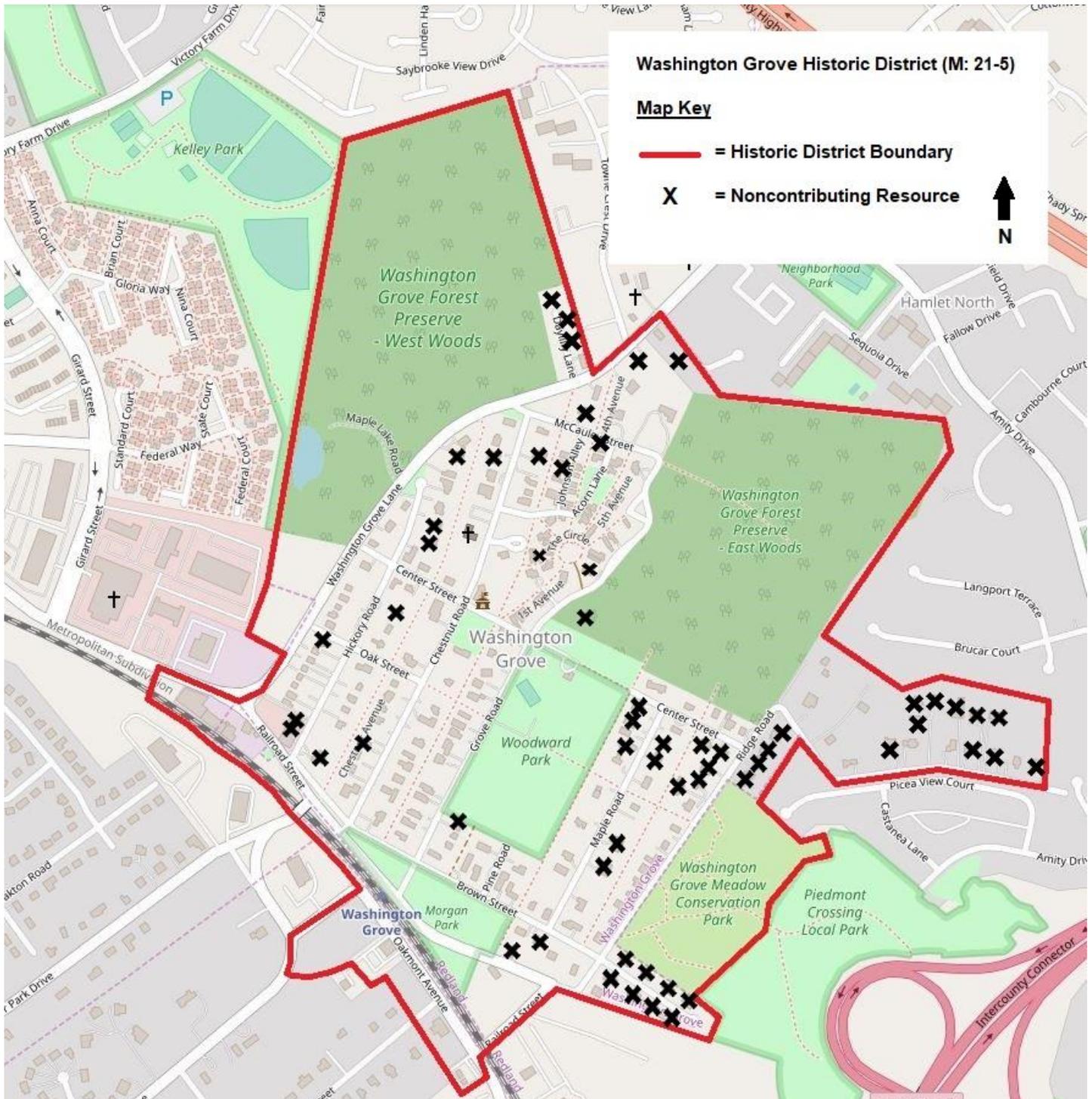
Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section MAPS



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section HISTORIC MAPS AND IMAGES Page 1

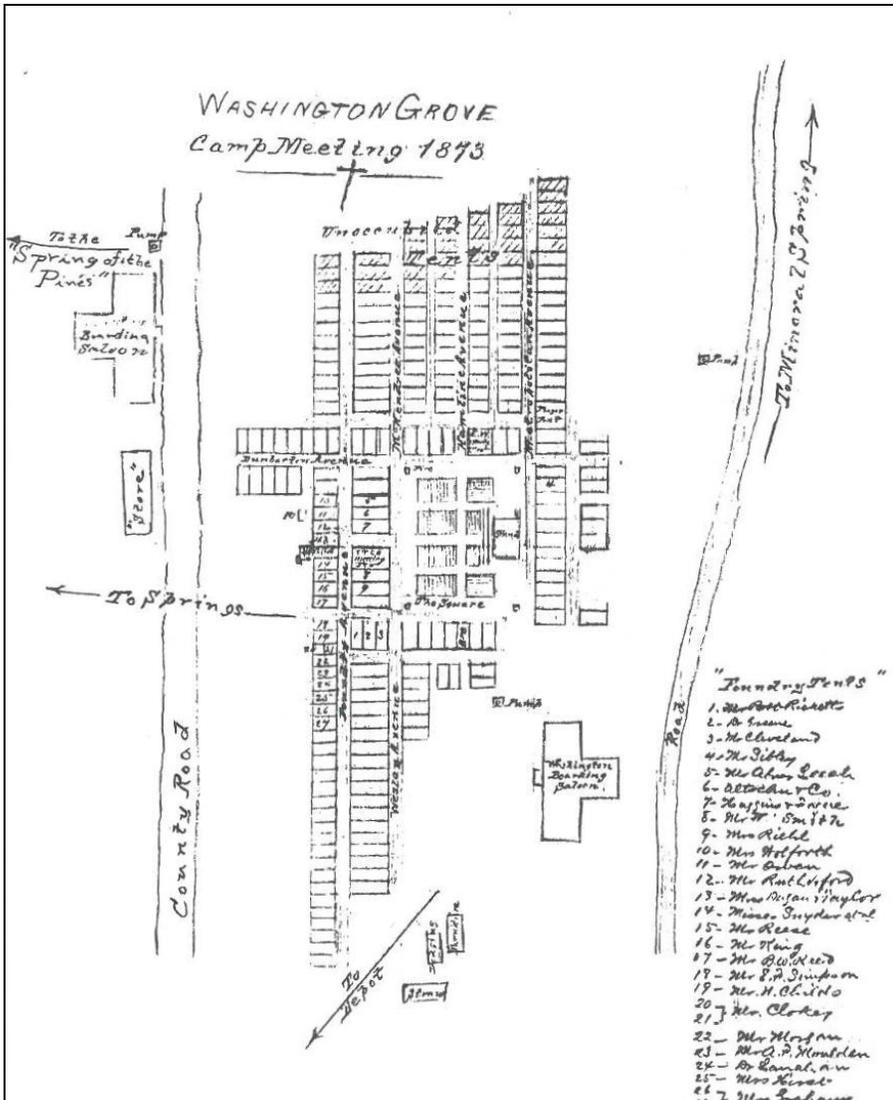


Figure 1: Sketch map by James L. Ewins of the first camp meeting in 1873. (Reproduced from Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, original copy in Washington Grove Archives, "Sketch Map by James L. Ewins, Camp Meeting in 1873" (1873), MA.000Z3.02.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section HISTORIC MAPS AND IMAGES Page 2

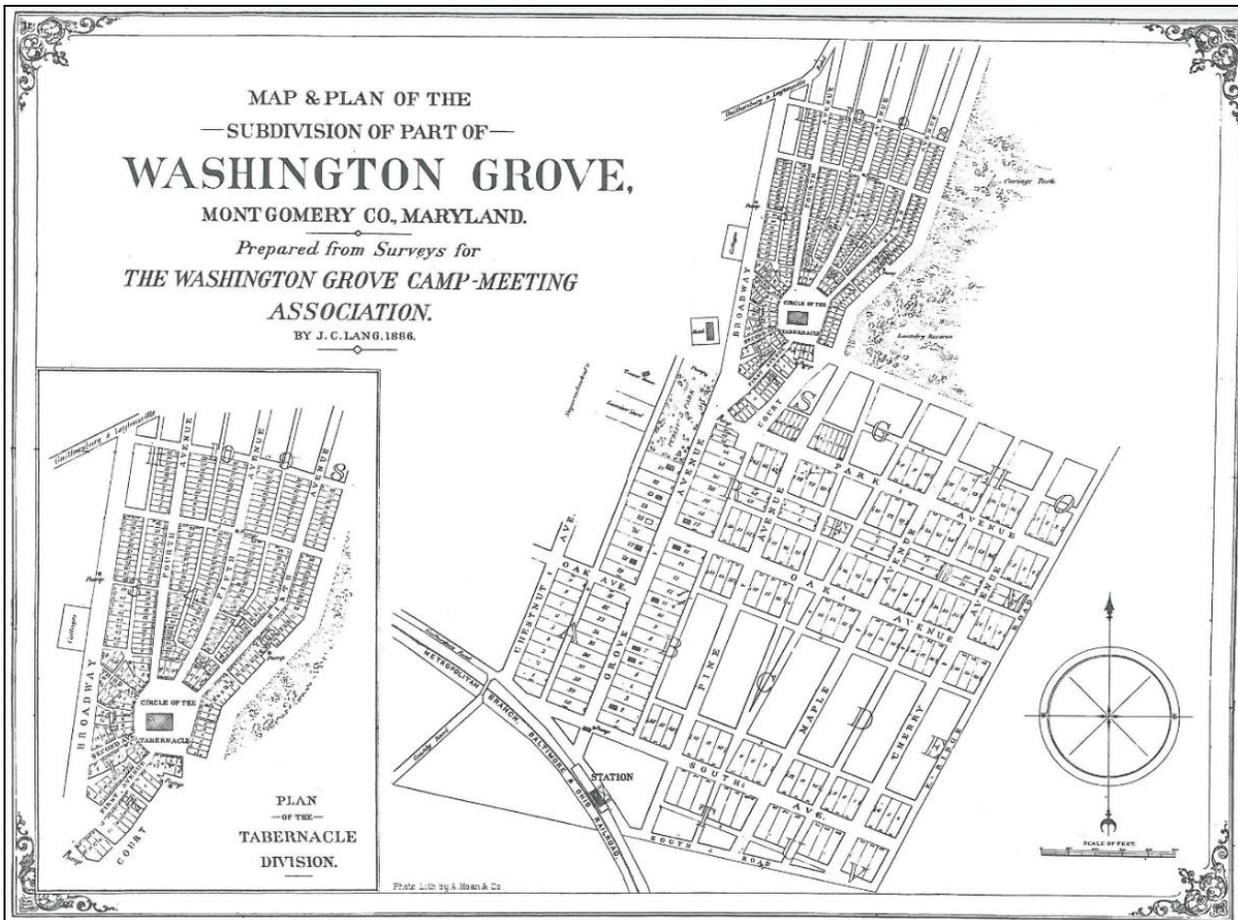


Figure 2: Map and plan of Washington Grove from surveys by J. C. Lang, 1886. (Reproduced from Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, original copy in Washington Grove Archives, "Plan of Subdivision Part of Washington Grove, Surveys by J. C. Lang, Tabernacle Division" (1886), MA.00Z3.04.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section HISTORIC MAPS AND IMAGES Page 3

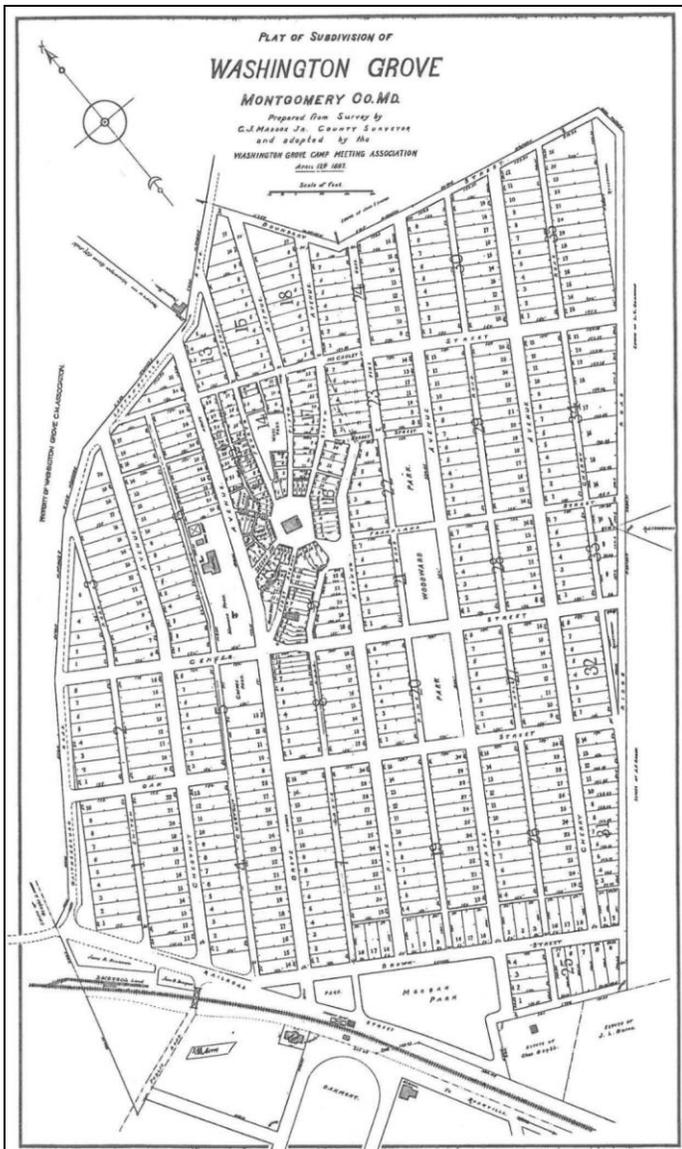


Figure 3: Plan of Washington Grove from survey by C. J. Maddox, 1897. (Reproduced from Edwards, *Washington Grove, 1873-1937*, original in Washington Grove Archives, "Plan of Subdivision with Tabernacle, Maddox Surveyor" (1897), MA.00Z3.08.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section HISTORIC MAPS AND IMAGES Page 4



Figure 4: View, circa 1910, of the Humpback Bridge from the Washington Grove station. Just visible beyond the bridge is the feed mill and supply store operated by Thomas I. Fulks (today 671-681 East Diamond Street). Also, note the fence (on right) that surrounded the Washington Grove camp meeting for many years. (Washington Grove Archives)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section HISTORIC MAPS AND IMAGES Page 5



Figure 5: View of the tabernacle at Washington Grove, built in 1877. This structure was demolished in 1905 when the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association built an auditorium for Chautauqua in Woodward Park. (Washington Grove Archives)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section HISTORIC MAPS AND IMAGES Page 6



Figure 6: View of the Circle in 1898. (Washington Grove Archives)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section HISTORIC MAPS AND IMAGES Page 7



Figure 7: Early view of Grove Avenue, no date. (Washington Grove Archives)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section HISTORIC MAPS AND IMAGES Page 8



Figure 8: Undated view of Washington Grove showing two forms of cottage construction and design. (Washington Grove Archives)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section HISTORIC MAPS AND IMAGES Page 9



Figure 9: Exterior view of the Washington Grove assembly hall (McCathran Hall). Built in 1901, it initially housed religious services. (Washington Grove Archives)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M: 21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section HISTORIC MAPS AND IMAGES Page 10



Figure 10: Exterior view of Washington Grove auditorium, built in 1905 and razed in 1963.
(Washington Grove Archives)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 1

Index to Photographs

The photographs included in the nomination are organized starting with a select number of images that depict the primary views that contribute to the resource and represent important spatial elements of the Washington Grove Historic District. Following these is a series of photographs of some of the historic associated features that contribute to the district's setting. Finally, there are a select number of photographs of contributing buildings (arranged in roughly chronological order) and representative streetscapes.

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

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Number: M: 21-5

Name of Property: Washington Grove Historic District

Location: Montgomery County, Maryland

Photographer: Robinson & Associates, Inc.

Date taken: 2018

Location of original digital files: Washington Grove Archive

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 2



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0001.tif
View looking south down Grove Avenue

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)
Name of Property

Section PHOTOS Page 3

Montgomery County, Maryland
County and State



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0002.tif
Oak Street looking southeast through Woodward Park

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 4



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0003.tif
First Avenue looking northeast toward the Circle

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 5



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0004.tif

View looking south across the Circle

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 6



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0005.tif

View of the Humpback Bridge looking northwest from the Washington Grove station

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 7



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0006.tif

View of 17030 Oakmont Avenue (Hershey's Restaurant) looking southeast from the Washington Grove station

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 8



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0007.tif

View from the Humpback Bridge looking southeast into Washington Grove

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 9



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0008.tif

View from the Humpback Bridge looking northwest toward the silos at 671-681 East Diamond Street

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 10



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0009.tif
Washington Grove Lane looking southwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 11



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0010.tif

View looking west from the south end of Hickory Road of the silos and former feed mill at 671-681 East Diamond Street

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 12



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0011.tif

Looking south across the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 13



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0012.tif

View from the eastern edge of the Washington Grove Meadow Conservation Park looking west toward the cottages in Washington Grove

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 14



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0013.tif
The Circle, looking south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 15



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0014.tif
Wade Park, looking northeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 16



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0015.tif
Maple Avenue, looking north

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 17



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0016.tif
Morgan Park and the Grove Road entrance to Washington Grove

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 18



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0017.tif
Center Street, looking west

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 19



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0018.tif
Chapel Park, looking south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 20



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0019.tif
Woodward Park

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 21



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0020.tif
East Woods

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 22



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0021.tif
West Woods

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 23



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0022.tif
Street sign, corner of Brown Street and Grove Avenue

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 24



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0023.tif
15 the Circle, looking east

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 25



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0024.tif
1 the Circle, looking south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 26



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0025.tif
313 Grove Avenue, looking northeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 27



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0026.tif
416 Fifth Avenue, looking northwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 28



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0027.tif
112 Grove Avenue, looking northwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 29



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0028.tif
119 Maple Avenue, looking southeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 30



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0029.tif
300 Grove Avenue (McCathran Hall), looking northwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 31



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0030.tif
409 Fifth Avenue, looking southeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 32



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0031.tif
109 Maple Avenue, looking southeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 33



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0032.tif
108 Grove Avenue, looking northeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 34



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0033.tif
103 Brown Street, looking northeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Section PHOTOS Page 35

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0034.tif
105 Washington Grove Lane (Odd Fellows Hall), looking east

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 36



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0035.tif
410 Oak Street, looking south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 37



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0036.tif
201 Washington Grove Lane, looking southeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 38



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0037.tif
402 Fourth Avenue, looking east

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 39



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0038.tif
316 Grove Avenue (Women's Clubhouse), looking northwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 40



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0039.tif
106 Pine Avenue, looking northwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 41



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0040.tif
13 Center Street, looking north

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 42



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0041.tif
205 Grove Avenue, looking southeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 43



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0042.tif
415 Chestnut Street, looking southeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 44



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0043.tif

313 Chestnut Avenue (Washington Grove United Methodist Church), looking west

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 45



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0044.tif
First Avenue streetscape, looking northeast from Center Street

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Washington Grove Historic District (M:21-5)

Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland

County and State

Section PHOTOS Page 46



MD_MontgomeryCounty_WashingtonGroveHD_0045.tif
Grove Avenue streetscape, looking southeast