

Site M:26/10/36

Montgomery Country Club

16 Williams Street

Built: 1915

Private

A prestigious social club built this structure for its clubhouse in 1915. The building is an eclectic mixture of styles, having a modified bungalow shape, Colonial Revival detailing and shingling over-all. This oblong structure served the Montgomery Country Club until the Depression forced foreclosure. After many years as a two-apartment residence, it has been returned to its original use by the Danish Club of Washington, D. C.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Montgomery Country Club

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 16 Williams Street ___ not for publication

city, town Rockville ___ vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Danish Club of Washington, D.C.

street & number 16 Williams Street telephone no.:

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records liber 5067

street & number Montgomery County Courthouse folio 315

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Clubhouse for the Montgomery Country Club was constructed in 1915. Facing west on Williams Street, it is situated on two lots, with the rear lot facing Great Falls Road. The shingled rectangular 1 1/2 story Bungalow style house is five bays by four bays. The rear of the house is raised one-half story to accommodate the slope of the land towards Falls Road, and features a double tiered porch across its width. The house has a low-pitched, broad-eaved roof, borne on exposed rafter ends typical of the Bungalow-style. There are two interior chimneys. Most of the other details are of the Colonial Revival style. The house remains in near-original condition.

Steps on the front (west) facade lead to a gabled porch three bays in width. The gable is supported by round tapered columns. A multi-paned door with transom and side lights is present. There are two shed dormers with paired horizontal windows on this facade; these almost flat dormer roofs are also carried out on open rafter end supports. The outer double and inner single windows on the first floor are six over six, the two outer windows having double shutters and the two interior windows in the line having single shutters.

The entire house is covered with dark brown shingles, laid in an imbricated shape on the main block and common square on the dormers, porch piers and supports. On the front facade a wide wooden band above the basement level creates a wooden "stripe" contrasting with the brown shingles.

On the northwest corner, a shingled porch that once led to the lower service floor and faced east has been turned to face the front of the house, but retains traces of the west side porch wall, with knobbed decoration on the entry gate.

The rear (east) side has undergone some alteration. Cement block piers have replaced the original shingled brick piers supporting the full width second story porch. This porch, once shingled and enclosed waist high, is now being fully enclosed by wood fencing and a window-wall on the second floor. Like the front, there are shed dormers with eight paned horizontal windows on the second floor, but in this elevation there are three such dormers.

The accompanying photo shows the clubhouse in the mid-1920's. That there has been little change is a testimonial to the bungalow's endurance as a functional style.

The Clubhouse is sited on the north end of a large triangular parcel that boasts a number of mature trees.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) | | |

Specific dates 1915 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

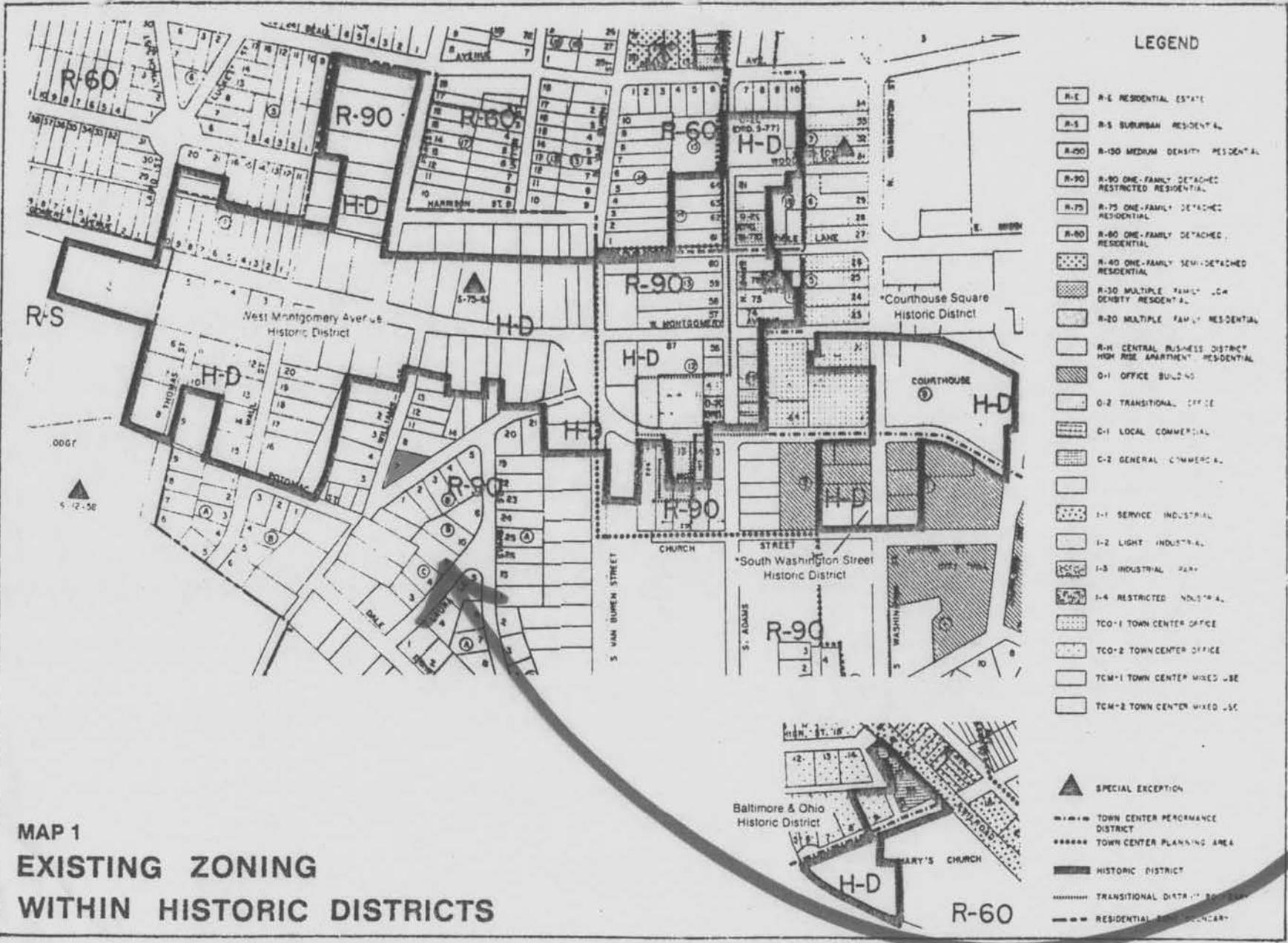
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support. This building is significant as the Clubhouse of the Montgomery Country Club, a prestigious social club in the early 20th century. The building is an eclectic mixture of architectural elements during a period of architectural transition, having a modified Bungalow shape with Colonial Revival detailing, the whole wrapped in wood shingle covering. This mixture of architectural elements served both economic and fashionable considerations. The building has retained most of its original components. It has been used as a residence, but is now the property of the Danish Club of Washington D.C., which hopes to return it to its original purpose.

The Montgomery Country Club was incorporated in 1907 by some of the most prominent men in the County.¹ In its 1920's heyday it had approximately 60 members, and the local "belles" attended weekly Friday night dances. Lectures, meetings and other social diversions were held here, although card playing for money was banned. In the early years, the Club had used rented quarters, first on Forest Avenue and later at the Prescott House (now Pumphrey's Funeral home, 300 West Montgomery Avenue). In order to build this permanent home, the members voted funds "not to exceed \$5,000" for the erection of this building.²

Two lots at the corner of Williams Street and Falls Road were purchased, and this shingled bungalow-style building was erected in 1915.³ But after 1929, in the midst of the deepening Depression, the club's membership declined to a point that the mortgage was finally foreclosed. The Public Auction held in 1933 included the sale of the club's piano, pool table and kitchen furniture.

The house was suitable for partition into two apartments, one on each level, and was so used over the next forty years. It was owned by the Ward family for many years before its sale to the Danish Club in 1978.⁴

1. Montgomery County Sentinel, various issues, 1907, 1913, 1915, 1932
2. Montgomery County Equity #6844, Judgment Record Liber 64, folio 85 et seq
3. Montgomery County Land Records, Liber 249, folio 338 and 341
4. Montgomery County Orphan's Court, Administration of Estate #035-02-77, Margaret Shine Ward



*Note: For discussion and planning purposes South Washington Street and the Courthouse Square district are considered independent Historic Districts even though they are shown on the existing zoning map as one district.

M: 26/10/36
Montgomery Country Club
16 Williams Street
Photo c. 1920
Courtesy of Montgomery County
Historical Society



Montgomery Country Club, c. 1920



RICHARD H. ANDREWS
1606 Farragut Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20851

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Montgomery Country Club
16 WILLIAMS STREET

WEST ELEVATION

AUGUST, 1984

1015-6