

Site: M:26/10/80

Robert Peter House

Built: 1932

102 North Adams Street

Builder: Franklin Karn & Sons

Private

Four generations of the Peter family achieved prominence as state legislators, jurists, and political leaders. Adams Street was already the locale of two Peter family homes when State's Attorney Robert Peter added this two story frame Dutch Colonial style home in 1932. It is the only remaining Adams Street house still occupied by members of that illustrious family, and has had little alteration.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common The Robert Peter House

### 2. Location

street & number 102 North Adams Street  not for publicationcity, town Rockville  vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 1)

### 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mary Tyler Peter

street &amp; number 102 North Adams Street telephone no.: 762-3947

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 532 1162

street &amp; number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 101

city, town Rockville state Maryland 417

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register of Historic Places (1974)

site City of Rockville Historic District (1974)  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records City of Rockville

city, town Rockville state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. M:26/10/80

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 subject house faces east North Adams Street at the corner of Middle Lane on a deep lot shaded with mature trees and landscaped with azaleas, shrubs, and ornamentals. A tall yew hedge screens it from Middle Lane. A two bay front gabled garage of German siding with overhead paneled doors is at the west (rear) property line, facing south and accessed from Middle Lane.

Built in 1932, this 2 story, four bay by three bay Dutch Colonial revival with side porch and rear ell is roughly L-shaped. It has a composition shingled intersecting gambrel roof with nearly full facade front shed roofed dormer and partial back dormer. It is clad with clapboard siding, rests on a brick foundation, and has a large exterior multi-flue corbelled brick chimney on the south.

The east (front) four-bay facade follows Colonial Revival style in its strong central focus with sidelit and transomed wood panel entry door. Other elements are a columned side porch, 8/8 windows flanked by pierced shutters on the first story front and 8/8 and 6/6 windows with louvered blinds (shutters) elsewhere. The facade has a four-bay dormer on the second story with a large 8/8 window flanked by louvered blinds in the north and south bays, and two smaller 6/6 windows in the two center bays. The three-bay first story has a three part window in the south bay formed of a center 8/8 window flanked by narrow eight light panels and completed with shutters pierced by a tree-shaped hole at the top. The central entry bay is slightly recessed, a lintel decorated with central wood panel and end bullseyes supports a hanging colonial styled light fixture. The solid wood panel door has side half panels with four lights, and a three-light transom with corner lights. The north bay has a 8/8 window with pierced shutters. A side porch on the south, originally open, but enclosed with aluminum siding in 1974, has a low-hipped roof supported by eight square columns and a 6/6 unshuttered window in east, south, and west facades.

The three-bay south main block has an exterior chimney in the center bay with small rectangular louvered vents on either side in the gable. One 6/6 window is in the east and west bays, second story. The side porch occupies the first story. The west (rear) facade is irregular, composed of rear ell on the north with south half of the roof gambrel with upturned eaves, the north half not hipped, and the south main block. The intersection of the two has been filled by a shed-

continued on attachment 7.1

# 8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/10/80

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local history

Specific dates 1932 Builder/Architect Franklin H. Karn & Sons

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.

**Significance**  
 Four generations of the Peter family gained prominence as State legislators, jurists and politicians. Robert B. Peter, Jr. was the third generation to build or reside on this block of Adams Street, close by the County Courthouse. The influence of this family parallels the decades when the political power of Montgomery County was based in Rockville. This is the only remaining Adams Street house still occupied by members of the Peter family.

**History and Support**

When Robert B. Peter, Jr. constructed this residence in 1932, the achievements and prestige of the Peter family already spanned a century. Mr. Peter's great-grandfather Major George Peter was a U.S. Congressman, served in the State House of Delegates and dominated the Democratic Party until his death in 1861. His son, George Peter, Jr. moved to Rockville, and made his home at (now) 106 North Adams Street, just north of the present site. His career included terms as Town Commissioner, State Senator and President of the Maryland Senate. 1/

In the next generation Robert B. Peter, Sr., Judge of the Circuit Court (1923-1932), with his brothers controlled the State and local Democratic party organization until the balance of power shifted to the urban areas of the County, and the Silver Spring-based E. Brooke Lee family gained control. 2/

Robert B. Peter, Jr. was the State's Attorney for Montgomery County when he purchased lot #61 of the original Town of Rockville, located between the historic Beall Family mansion and his grandfather's home. 3/ In the same year, he married Mary Tyler, daughter of Methodist minister Rev. Frank Tyler. 4/ The Peters hired the firm of Franklin Karn and Sons to construct this comfortable and spacious home in the Dutch Colonial style. 5/ In 1938 Mr. Peter followed in the footsteps of his grandfather when he was elected to the Maryland Senate.

continued on attachment 8.1



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The Robert Peter House  
Attachment 7.1

roofed one story extension. The ell has one small louvered vent in the gable, and two evenly spaced 6/6 windows on the second story. The first story has a shed-roofed entry portico on the north, a 6/6 window in the center, and a projecting flat roofed 6/6 bay window (three 6/6 windows) on the south. The south side of the ell has one 6/6 window. The main block second story has a wide shed-roofed dormer with one 8/8 window. The first story infill has one 8/8 window.

The three bay north facade has a small rectangular window in the gable, two evenly spaced 6/6 windows on the second story, and a large 6/6 window in the east bay, a slightly smaller one in the center, and a yet smaller window in the west bay.

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Since "Bob" Peter's death in 1951, Mary Tyler Peter and her son continued to make their residence in the subject house. The other Adams Street residences associated with the family have changed hands or been destroyed. 6/ The descendants of the Peter family intermarried with the elite of the County's professional and legal families, and take pride in their long heritage of public service.

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Footnotes:

1. The 19th century generations of the Peter family history and achievements are documented in most general County histories and genealogies and in Portrait and Biographical Record of the Sixth Congressional District (1898) pp 639-641.
2. McMaster & Hiebert, A Grateful Remembrance, (1976) 260,263
3. Montgomery County Tax Assessment Records and 1930 Plat of Rockville.
4. Montgomery County Sentinel, May 8, 1931 and April, 1951
5. Interviews with Barney Welsh, Mrs. Peter, and other members of the family.
6. See Survey Site M:26/10/13; the vacant home of Robert Peter (Sr.) on lot 83 at the end of Adam Street was destroyed by fire in 1975.

# City of Rockville

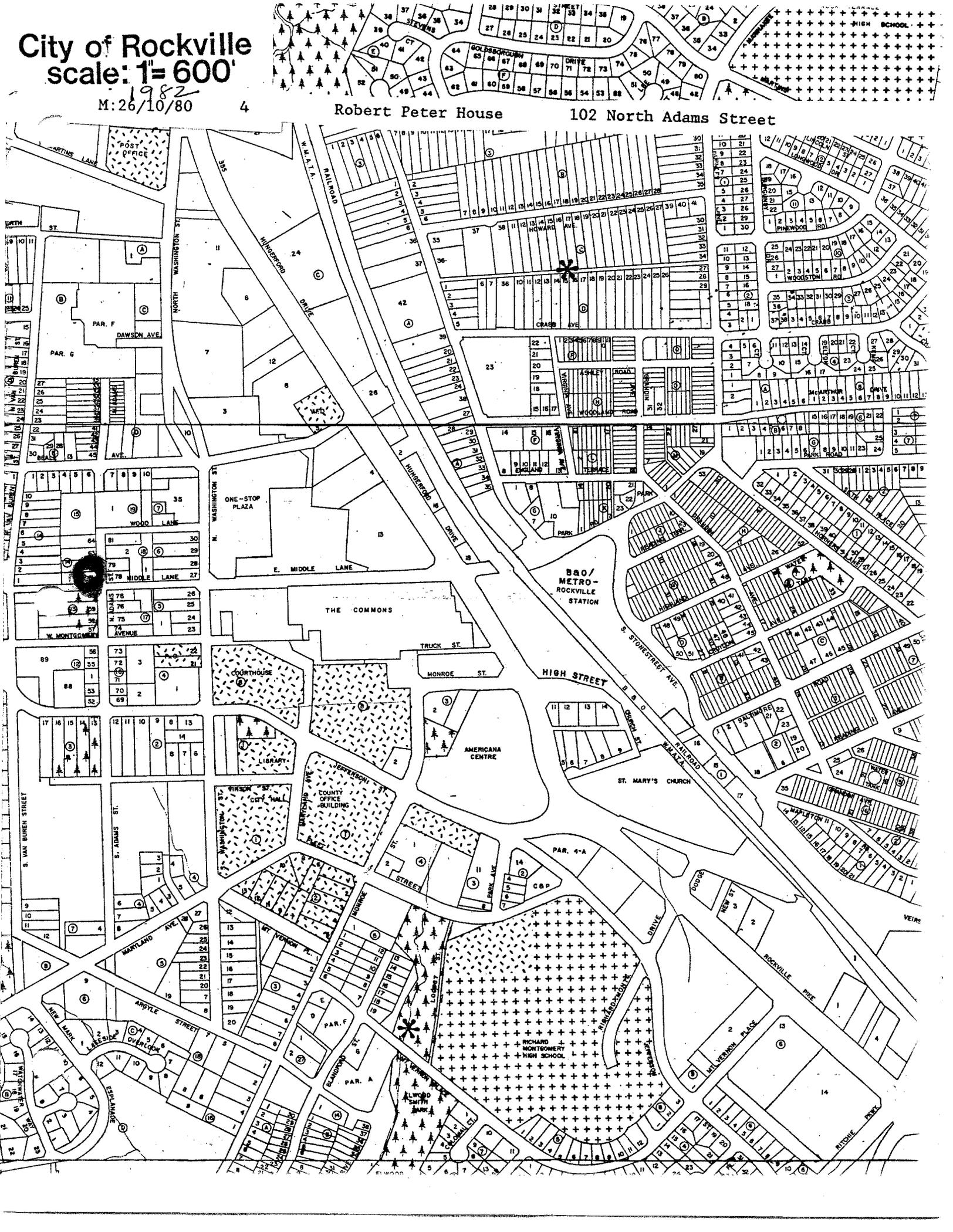
scale: 1" = 600'

1982  
M: 26/10/80

4

Robert Peter House

102 North Adams Street





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ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

04860906

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Robert Peter House  
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