

MAGI #1650222604

(Assigned 11/86)

1. Name: Speare house

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 26/10

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 15  
Coordinate F-134. Address: 208 West Montgomery Avenue  
Rockville, Md.

5. Classification Summary

Category buildingOwnership publicPublic Acquisition N/AStatus occupiedAccessible noPresent use private residence

Previous Survey Recording \_\_\_\_\_

Title and Date:

MNCPPC; 1976

Rockville Historic District Commission;  
1974

National Register; 1975

Federal x State x County x Local x

6. Date: 1878

7. Original Owner: Hattersley W. Talbott

8. Apparent Condition

a. fair b. unaltered c. original site

9. Description: This 2½ story, three bay by four bay, L-shaped frame house sits close to West Montgomery Avenue facing north. Built on brick foundations, it has olive green novelty siding. There are two-over-two double-hung windows throughout the house. There is a 2 story, 3-sided angle bay window on the west elevation; there are 2 dormer windows on the south and three dormer windows on the north elevation. The roof is mansard in style, surmounted by a low hipped roof. The mansard slope is visible only on the north and south elevations. There is an interior stove chimney centered over the front section and an interior chimney near the south end of the ell.

There are porches at the front and rear of the house. The rear porch is two-stories, with jigsawed palings and two wooden chamfered posts supporting the shed roof.

10. Significance:

The Speare house is significant for its architecture, adding to the representative Victorian styles which may be seen along West Montgomery Avenue. Rockville since its designation as the County seat in 1776 has always been a prime location for those of the legal profession. In 1877 Judge James B. Henderson purchased land on West Montgomery Avenue and sold half of it to his friend Hattersley W. Talbott. Both had fine houses constructed for them the following year; they shared a windmill on Falls Road.

During Talbott's ownership, from 1877 to 1890, he was prominent and active in Democratic Party politics on the local and State levels. Mr. Talbott prospered in the legal profession and was able to construct and move into his new, larger house at 100 Forest Avenue in 1891.

208 West Montgomery Avenue was sold for \$5,000 to the Stephen B. Lyddanes, who owned and operated a butcher shop in town. Mrs. Ethel Speare, the present occupant, is a Lyddane daughter. The City of Rockville purchased the house in 1969.

11. Researcher and date researched: Candy Reed/Architectural Description  
Eileen McGuckian Nov. 1978

12. Compiler: Eileen McGuckian

13. Date Compiled: 2/79

14. Designation  
Approval \_\_\_\_\_

15. Acreage: 66 square perches

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 26/10-6  
West Mont.  
Ave. H.D.  
MAGI#1650222604

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Speare House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

208 West Montgomery Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Rockville

Telephone #: 424-8000

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Maryland at Vinson

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 20850

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3896

Folio #: 326

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20850

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Rockville Historic District Commission

DATE

1974

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

City of Rockville Planning Department

CITY, TOWN

Rockville,

STATE

Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

M:26-10-6

## CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two and a half story, three bay by four bay, L-shaped frame house, sits close to West Montgomery Avenue facing north.

Built on brick foundations, Speare House has olive green novelty siding. The north (front) porch has a half-hipped roof supported by four wooden chamfered posts. The north (front) door is glass and wooden paneled and is surmounted by a single light transom. There is a two story porch on the east elevation, south (rear) ell. At the first level two wooden chamfered posts support the second level. The second level has jigsawed palings and two wooden chamfered posts which support the shed roof. There are two wooden paneled doors on the east elevation. The northeast corner door, however, has no steps leading up to it.

There are two-over-two double hung windows throughout the house. They are generally flanked by olive green wooden louvered shutters. On the north elevation at the first level, the two windows are longer than usual and extend down to the porch floor. On the west elevation there is a two story, three-sided angle bay window. There are two dormer windows on the south elevation and three dormer windows on the north elevation.

The Speare House has a mansard roof surmounted by a low hipped roof. The mansard slope is visible only on the north and south elevations. There is an interior stove chimney centered over the north (front) section and an interior chimney near the south (end) of the ell.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES      1878      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      John B. Edmonstone

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rockville since its designation as Montgomery County's seat of government in 1776 has always been a prime location for those of the legal profession. Judge James B. Henderson of the Montgomery County Circuit Court in 1877 purchased 141 square perches (0.88125 acre) of land on West Montgomery Avenue just inside the City limits for \$400<sup>1</sup> and sold almost half of that to his friend and fellow lawyer Hattersley W. Talbott<sup>2</sup>. Both landowners had fine houses constructed for them the following year<sup>3</sup>, as well as a windmill they shared. Hattersley and Laura Talbott kept a barn and cows in the field across Falls Road.

During Talbott's ownership, from 1877 to 1890, he was prominent and active in Democratic Party politics on the local and State levels. Mr. Talbott prospered in the legal profession and was able to construct and move into his new, larger house at 100 Forest Avenue in 1891.

208 West Montgomery Avenue was sold for \$5,000 to the Stephen B. Lyddanes<sup>4</sup>, who owned and operated a butcher shop in town. Mrs. Ethel Speare, the present occupant, is a Lyddane daughter. The City of Rockville purchased the house in 1969<sup>5</sup>.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, EBP17/251
2. Ibid, EBP17/264
3. Montgomery County Sentinel, 2/1/1878 and 2/15/1878
4. Land Records of Montgomery County, JA23/84
5. Ibid, 3896/326

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.  
 Montgomery County Sentinels.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 66 square perches

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Eileen McGuckian

Candy Reed

Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

11/28/78

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO:

~~Maryland Historical  
 The State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland  
 (301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
 Box 87, Stronghold  
 Dickerson, Md. 20753  
 (301) 926-4510



Speare House

M. 26-10-6



NAME Speare House M:26-10-6

(W. MONTGOMERY HIST. DIST.)  
M:26-10

208 W. Montgomery Ave

LOCATION S.W. CORNER, W. MONTGOMERY + FALLS RD., ROCKVILLE,  
MD.

FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 5/13/75  
m. DWYER