

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Richardson House

2. Location

street and number 721 W. Montgomery Avenue __ not for publication

city, town Rockville __ vicinity

county Montgomery County

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

name Potomac Conference Corporation of Seventh-Day Adventists

street and number 606 Greenville Avenue telephone 540-886-0771

city, town Staunton state VA zip code 24401

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 4371 folio 286

city, town Rockville tax map GR12 tax parcel tax ID number 00232091

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: City of Rockville Dept. of Community Planning and Development Services

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	1 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	1 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

Inventory No.

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

Summary

The one-story, three-bay dwelling at 721 W. Montgomery Avenue was built c. 1935, with an addition in the early 1960s.¹ The house has a cross-gable roof and is constructed of cinder block covered with a brick veneer. Its design is consistent with the Minimal Traditional style, an architectural style popular during the years just before and after World War II. The yard drops off steeply in the front toward W. Montgomery Avenue. The expansive rear yard is open and gently slopes to the northeast. There is an alley behind the property. To the west stands the modern Rockville Seventh-Day Adventist Church building.

Comprehensive Description

The one-story, three-bay dwelling at 721 W. Montgomery Avenue was built c. 1935, according to the family. The dwelling has a cross-gable roof and was constructed of cinder block covered with a brick veneer. It is an example of the Minimal Traditional architectural style, which combines the dominant front gable and large chimney of the Tudor Revival style popular in the previous decade with a lower-pitched roof and modest ornamentation.²

Beyond the yard in front of the house, the lot slopes steeply toward W. Montgomery Avenue. The expansive rear yard is open and gently slopes to the northeast. Beyond the fence at the rear is an alley. There is a large mature tree in front of the house; several more line the east and west perimeter of the property. To the west of the dwelling stands the modern Rockville Seventh-Day Adventist Church building.



721 W. Montgomery Avenue, south elevation

¹ Pamela Richardson Harrell, youngest daughter of Clyde and Ella Richardson. Telephone interview, 3 June 2010.

² Virginia and Lee McAllister. *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), p. 478.

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Overall the building is rectangular in form, with a one-bay addition on the west elevation of the original two-bay block. On the north side of the addition is an enclosed porch or sunroom. While the addition is clad in brick, the sunroom is clad with vertical wood siding. A prominent feature of the exterior is the large, exterior end brick chimney with corbelled detail that is sandwiched between the main block and west addition. A raised planting bed constructed of concrete block runs along the south and west walls of the addition.

There is a recessed entry porch on the south (front) elevation. The square wood posts that support the roof stand on brick piers on a poured concrete deck. The front door is the most decorative feature of the exterior, constructed of vertical wood boards with a square divided light window inspired by the Tudor Revival style.



The windows are the original 6/1 wood sashes covered by aluminum storm windows. The south elevation (façade) of the addition contains a three-unit wood window, consisting of a large picture window flanked by 2/2 sashes. In the west elevation of the addition is a single aluminum slider. All of the windows have brick sills. There is a single, diamond-shaped wood window in the east gable pediment. The two exterior walls of the sunroom are enclosed with stacked, aluminum awning windows.

West elevation

East elevation



Front door



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On the north elevation is a secondary entry that is sheltered by a one-bay porch with a shed roof. This porch stands on brick piers with the space between the piers filled in with additional brick. Poured concrete steps from different periods located on the east and west sides of the porch provide access to the porch. The paneled wood entry door has divided lights and appears to be original. Access to the basement is through a modern fiberglass door under the porch that is reached by brick steps. A full-view entry door on the north side of the sunroom is accessed by a set of poured concrete steps.

There is a large gambrel-roof shed clad in vertical wood siding located northwest of the house. It is not original to the house and was likely added by the church in the past 10-20 years.



North elevation



Shed, north elevation

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>local history</u>

Specific dates	1895, 1922, 1935	Architect/Builder	Roy Richardson
Construction dates	c. 1935		

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Statement of significance

The dwelling at 721 W. Montgomery Avenue was constructed c. 1935 by Roy Richardson for his son and daughter-in-law, Clyde C. and Ella W. Richardson. The tract on which it stands is part of the West End Park subdivision, platted by Henry Copp in 1890. The lot was purchased by an investor from Washington, D.C., in 1895, and sold to a Rockville resident in 1922. The property is one of the few homes constructed in the subdivision before World War II. Built by day laborers in the depths of the Depression, the house is significant for its association with the era and with development in the town of Rockville between the two world wars.

History

In September 1890, Henry N. Copp of Washington, D.C., purchased 247 ¼ acres from John Vinton, land that was platted by Copp as part of his West End Park subdivision.³ In 1895, Henry and Mary Copp sold lot 11 in Section 3 to Emma Holder of Washington, D.C., for \$300.⁴ It is likely that Holder, the unmarried proprietor of a notions shop in the District, purchased the lot as an investment.⁵ In 1922 Holder's heirs sold the lot to J. Frank Fisher for \$100.⁶ Fisher resided in West End Park, and was the head of a large family.⁷

Fisher gave Lot 11 to his daughter, Ella William, after her 1931 marriage to Clyde C. Richardson.⁸ Fisher had given Lot 9 to another daughter, Ruth Preffitt, and her husband, and divided Lot 10 between the two sisters, according to Pamela Harrell. The subject property spans the western half of Lot 10 and the width of Lot 11.

Roy Richardson, father of Clyde C. Richardson, built the house in 1935. According to family tradition, the Richardson family had moved to the District of Columbia from West Virginia after Roy Richardson was injured working on the railroad.⁹ He began building houses in the southeastern part of the city, and was one of the first builders to work in Anacostia, according to his daughter, Mrs.

³ Deed JA21/322, 11 September 1890; Plat Book A, p. 43; Land records of Montgomery County.

⁴ JA49/327, 5 July 1895. Land records of Montgomery County. John T. Vinson, holder of Copp's mortgage on the land, released lot 11 and seven other lots in West End Park to their new owners in October 1895 (JA52/48).

⁵ Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. Schedule 1-Population. District of Columbia, Washington City. Sheet 3 B.

⁶ Deed 320/78, 9 August 1922. Land records of Montgomery County. Title to the western half of Lot 10 was conveyed to the Richardsons by Fisher's executors in 1936 (Deed 902/03, Land records of Montgomery County.)

⁷ Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920. Schedule 1—population. West End Park, part of 4th Election District. Sheet 5 A. Fisher's West End Park home at 605 Anderson Avenue still stands and is listed in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (M:26-7-4).

⁸ Deed 588/186, Land records of Montgomery County. The Richardsons were married 22 August 1931 (Fisher family file, Montgomery County Historical Society Research Library).

⁹ The 1910 census lists the Richardson family living in Cumberland. Ten years later, the 1920 census records the family living in Berkeley County, West Virginia (Thirteenth and Fourteenth censuses).

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Condit.¹⁰ Richardson constructed the house in Rockville with out of work laborers he recruited from Washington street corners, according to family tradition.

Clyde C. Richardson worked for the federal government as an employee of the District of Columbia for more than 30 years. He retired in 1964 from his post as assistant director of the budget for the D.C. government, responsible for administration of the budgets of the city's hospitals and police and fire departments.¹¹ According to family tradition, Clyde Richardson was also one of the founders of the first federal credit union in the capital. [trying to substantiate this with Pamela Harrell] Following his retirement, while working as manager of the D.C. Federal Credit Union, Richardson foiled a robbery attempt as he delivered the cash payroll to the D.C. General Hospital in 1968.¹²

Richardson and his wife raised five children in the compact dwelling, with the boys' bedroom in the attic and the bedrooms for the girls' and the couple on the first floor. Behind the house, the family kept a vegetable garden and fruit trees. The couple purchased Lot 12 on the west side of their property in 1944.¹³ With the help of friends, Clyde Richardson built the west addition to the house c. 1960, which provided dining space for their extended family and a sewing room for his wife, Ella (known to family and friends as Billie).¹⁴

In 1973, Clyde and Ella Richardson sold their house and land to the Potomac Conference Corporation of Seventh-Day Adventists. In 1974, the Richardson property and an adjacent lot to the west that had been purchased earlier by the church corporation was combined as Lot 45, Block 3, Section No. 2 of West End Park.¹⁵ A church for the Rockville Seventh-Day Adventists was constructed on the western half the property in 1987 [confirm]. The Richardson house has been used as [what] by the church for more than 35 years.

¹⁰ Condit. Telephone interview, 3 June 2010.

¹¹ Condit interview.

¹² "Nine Shots Fired in Holdup Try as Bandits Flee Empty-handed." *The Washington Post-Times Herald*, 10 February 1968, p. A3.

¹³ Deed 955/116, 4 December 1944, Land records of Montgomery County.

¹⁴ Condit interview. The exact construction date for the addition is not known, however, the sisters recalled that it was around this date.

¹⁵ Plat No. 10826, March 1974 (Land records of Montgomery County).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Land records of Montgomery County, Maryland
Federal population census for 1900, 1910 and 1920
Polk Rockville City directories, various years
Klinge Atlas for Montgomery County, Maryland. 1948
1949 and 1960 Sanborn Maps

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>Approximately 33,000 s.f.</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>Same</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Rockville</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Rosemary Faya Prola/Contractor		
organization	Rockville Dept. of Community Planning (CPDS)	date	7 June 2010
street & number	111 Maryland Avenue	telephone	240-314-8236
city or town	Rockville	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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 Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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