# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number:98000839Date Listed:7/22/98Joseph D. Lyons HouseCalvertMD

Property Name:

Calvert MD County: State:

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Signature of the Keeper

7/22/98

Amended Items in Nomination:

A Level of Significance was not selected in section 3 of the form; the State has clarified that the building is of a Local level of significance. The form is officially amended to include this information.

DISTRIBUTION: National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

	······	
NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)	RECEIVED 2280	OMB No. 10024-0011
United States Department of the Interio National Park Service	JUN 1 2 1998	o be used for entering
National Register of Historic Registration Form	Places NAT REGISTER GHISTORICPEROESETIC NATIONAL Por Bistoric Prope	he Maryland Inventory of es and the Maryland Register
National Register of Historic Places Registration Forr by entering the information requested. If an Item do architectural classification, materials, and areas of a	terminations for individual properties and districts. Se m (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each ite bes not apply to the property being documented, ente significance, enter only categories and subcategories (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processo	m by marking "x" in the appropriate box or ar "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, from the instructions. Place additional
1. Name of Property		
historic name Lyons, Joseph	D.; House	
other names/site numberCT-196		
2. Location		****
street & number 7120 Waysid	le Drive	Inot for publication
city or town Sunderland		<b>St</b> vicinity
·	$\frac{MD}{County}$ <u>Calvert</u> c	·
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	000111y 0	
e emer certa Agency certification		
meets does not meet the National Re	d professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part gister criteria. I recommend that this property be consider continuation sheet for additional comments.) 6 - 4 - 9 8	
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
State of Federal agency and bureau		
In my opinion, the property I meets I doe comments.)	es not meet the National Register criteria. (	intinuation sheet for additional
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. National Park Service Certification		
I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
entered in the National Register.	Vature Andres	7/22/98
determined eligible for the     National Register     See continuation sheet.		
determined not eligible for the National Register.	a <sub>n</sub> an	
<b>removed from the National</b> Register.		
ther, (explain:)		
	······································	

Joseph D. Lyons	House CT-196	Calvr County and	Registration F	'orm page 2
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Reso (Do not include previo	urces within Property usly listed resources in the c	ount.)
<ul> <li>private</li> <li>public-local</li> <li>public-State</li> <li>public-Federal</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>building(s)</li> <li>district</li> <li>site</li> <li>structure</li> <li>object</li> </ul>		1	sites structure objects
Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of N/A	operty listing of a multiple property listing.)	· ·	1 buting resources prev egister	
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from ins	structions)	
DOMESTIC/single dwelling		DOMESTIC/single dwelling		
AGRICULTURE/out)				
7. Description	······································			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)		
Colonial Revival		foundationCon	crete	
		walls <u>Wea</u>	therboard	
			erglass	
Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current co	ndition of the property on one or more co			

PLACE NARRATIVE ON CONTINUATION SHEETS

.

.

•

CT-196 site/inventory number lvert County, MD

B. Sta	tement	of S	ignifi	cance

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 patterns of our history.
- **B** Property is 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.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Bibilography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data: Previous documentation on file (NPS): **Ex State Historic Preservation Office** preliminary determination of individual listing (36 □ Other State agency CFR 67) has been requested **Federal agency** previously listed in the National Register □ Local government D previously determined eligible by the National University Register **K** Other designated a National Historic Landmark Name of repository: Calvert County Public recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey Library and Historical Society, recorded by Historic American Engineering Prince Frederick, MD.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

County and Juate

#### ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

**Significant Dates** 

1924

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation** 

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lyons, Gibson & Company

		)	Registration Form page 4
Joseph D. Lyons House	CT-196	Calvert Cou	nty, MD.
Name of Property	site/inventory number	County and State	•
10. Geographical Data			
Acreage of Property14.2 ac	res		
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continu	uation sheet.)		
1 1 8 3 6 0 8 0 0 4 2 8 Zone Easting Northing	12 01010	3 <u>1 8</u> <u>3 6 1</u> Zone Easting	0 <u>17 10</u> 4 <u>12 8 1 9 0 0</u> Northing
2 1 8 3 6 1 1 0 0 4 2 8	12 0 8 0	4 1 8 3 6 0 See continuation	
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a	continuation sheet.)		
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on	a continuation sheet.)		
11. Form Prepared By	•		·····
name/title J. Richard R	ivoire		
organization		date <u>June 1</u>	5, 1996
street & number 528 East Jon	es Street	telephone(919)	821-5992
city or town <u>Raleigh</u>	<u></u>	state <u>NC</u> zip c	ode <u>27601</u>
Additional Documentation			······································
Submit the following items with the completed	form:		
Continuation Sheets			
Maps			
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minu	nte series) indicating the prop	erty's location.	
A Sketch map for historic dis	tricts and properties having I	arge acreage or numerous	resources.
Photographs			
Representative black and wh	ite photographs of the prop	erty.	
Additional Items Floor Plan (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additio			
Property Owner			
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO o	FPO.)		
name <u>Alan D. and Patr</u>	icia A. Ullberg		
street & number <u>Post Office</u>	Box 69	telephone (202)	633-9259
city or town <u>Sunderland</u>		state <u>MD</u> zip c	ode <u>20689-0069</u>

Paperwork Reduction Act 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS furn	10-000-s
(8-00)	

	Assessed	Ala.	1004-0018
_			

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

### National Register of Historic Piaces Continuation Sheet

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-196

Section number 7 Page 1

١.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Approached by a U-shaped graveled drive and facing directly east toward the public road, the Joseph Lyons House is a large, two-story, frame structure with a hipped roof and full-width front and rear porches. The house is five bays in width, front and back, and four in depth on both sides, with all of the openings evenly spaced and precisely aligned at both floor levels. In addition to its perfectly symmetrical composition, the exterior features overhanging boxed eaves above a wide frieze board, bold corner boards, truncated porch columns, windows of nineover-one double-hung sash, and a glazed, double-leafed entrance door framed by full-height sidelights. The central passage, four-room plan of the first-floor is enlivened by double-leafed French doors opening onto the front rooms from the hall and between the two north living rooms. A broad stair rises to a second-floor lobby extending toward the front of the house, opening off from which are four bedrooms. A fifth room at the rear of the lobby contains a bathroom that retains all of its original fixtures and tilework. The woodwork is original throughout with its simple window and door trim matching that of the exterior. Except for the partial removal of the second-floor service stair to provide space for a small bath off the southeast bedroom about 1947, and replacement of the original metal roof with asphalt shingles in the 1930s, no noteworthy alterations have been made to the house since its construction and its historic architectural integrity remains intact. When the house was built it was the focal point of a larger working farm. A number of agricultural buildings contemporary with the house survive. These are arranged in a row a short distance northwest of the house and include a garage, several sheds and a sprawling, multi-use bankbarn.

Registration .orm: include in this title block the property name, county, and site/inventory number

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-196

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Joseph Lyons House embodies some of the characteristics of Colonial Revival architecture in its double-pile central-passage plan, embellished entry door and rigidly symmetrical fenestration. Its twentieth-century origins are clearly evident in its nine-over-one double-hung sash, low hipped roof and deep overhanging eaves, and the design of its full-width front and rear porches.

An unusually large house for the period in this locality - 45'-6" wide by 36'-5" deep - its simple architectural details combined with its obviously carefully considered proportions and symmetry give the house considerable visual appeal and physical presence.

The manner in which the house was built combined balloon-frame and timber-frame technologies, but with emphasis on the latter. Here, the carpenters erected a framework consisting of heavily braced, 6 by 8-inch corner posts that rise uninterrupted from the sills to the top wall plate. Intermediate 6 by 8-inch posts of the same height frame all of the exterior openings and are evenly spaced the length of all of the principal interior walls. Heavy girts let into the corner and interior wall posts of the front and rear walls and the the cross partitions carry the floor joists. The bearing beams carrying the walls forming the central passage extend through the house front-to-back and are supported at the cellar level by massive free-standing wood posts. All of the timbers used in the framing are mill sawn, with nailed butt joints commonly used throughout. The house was erected over poured concrete foundations enclosing a full cellar with a concrete floor

When the house was built the exterior walls were clad with horizontal, lapped cypress boards. The discovery in the late 1980s of extensive termite damage to several of the exterior walls necessitated removal of most of the original siding to facilitate repairs. Damaged siding was then replaced with custom-milled cedar boards replicating the original sheathing. With the exception of minor repair work, all of the building's existing exterior trim, doors and window sashes are original. In the late 1930s the building's metal roof sheathing was removed and replaced with asphalt shingles, also since replaced. A single, brick chimney on the south slope of the roof serviced a coal furnace as well as the kitchen stove.

Registration . An: include in this title block the property name, county, and site/inventory number

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-196

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_3

The front and rear porches of the house match in size and overall design. Both have shallow, semi-hipped roofs with overhanging, boxed eaves, poured concrete bases and steps, floors covered with unglazed ceramic tile, and truncated tapered columns with square bases. Both porches had wood balustrades but only those of the front porch survive. The balustrades of the rear porches were evidently removed when the porch was screened-in many years ago. The screens and associated framework since been removed.

At the south side of the house, toward its west end, there is a covered stairwell providing exterior access to the cellar. The poured concrete foundation walls are painted, and on the side elevations are pierced by glazed windows aligned with the openings above.

Traces of early paint on the siding and trim indicate that when the house was built the former was painted white and the latter green, a widely popular color scheme at that time. The house has been painted many times since then, the last being its present combination of dark blue siding and white trim.

The first-floor interior of the house features a spacious central stair hall extending front to back, and four flanking rooms: a double living room on the north side, and a front dining room and rear kitchen on the south. A naturally light and airy atmosphere is created by the use of double-leafed French doors opening onto the two front rooms from the hall, another double-leaf French door between the two north rooms, high ceilings and numerous over-sized windows, and the glazed doors and full-height sidelights of the front entrance. The kitchen has had no significant alterations. It has its own separate outside entrance opening onto the rear porch and convenient to a well and hand pump. Other features of the kitchen are a built-in cupboard and a small pantry in its east wall. Sandwiched between the kitchen and dining room are narrow service stairs, one over the other, the lower stair giving access to the cellar and the upper connecting the kitchen to the second floor rooms. The upper stair was partially removed in the late 1940s to allow for a small bathroom off the southeast second-floor room and a linen closet off the second-floor stair lobby. (See accompanying floor plans.)

CANE Approval No. 1004-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Registration .orm: include in this title block the property name, county, and site/inventory number

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Joseph Lyons House Calvert Ct-196

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_4

The main stair, which has a shaped rail, turned balusters, and a square, paneled newel, rises in a single flight to a second floor lobby that extends toward the front of the house and which is lighted by a large, double-unit window at that end. At the opposite end is a bathroom whose ceramic tiled floors and walls, furniture and fixtures are original to the house. The four corner bedrooms, each with four large windows, are individually accessed from the lobby. The north bedrooms are smaller than the rooms below due to the provision of closets between the two rooms.

All of the trim of the first and second-floor rooms is extremely plain, with that of the doors and windows matching the exterior facings. There is evidence that all of the woodwork, including all of the doors, was originally stained and varnished, finishes now covered by paint that was probably first applied in the late 1940s or the 1950s. Many of the building's early lighting fixtures survive, some in situ and others dismantled and stored. The radiators of the original hot-water heating system have also been preserved, as has the furnace, which has been converted from coal to oil.

In the late-1980s extensive repairs were made to the house to correct termite damage to the sills and areas of the exterior walls. Wherever possible, original framing members in the affected areas were preserved; when replacement was necessary, original features were replicated. All of this work was continuously monitored by professional architectural and historical consultants, and throughly documented photographicaly and in written reports. The repairs that were made did not compromise the historic architectural integrity of the house in any respect.

In addition to the house, the property encompasses several buildings thought to be contemporary with the house or built very shortly afterward. These stand a few hundred yards northwest of the house and are arranged in a row along the edge of a hillside and fronted by a spur leading off the north leg of the entrance drive. These buildings are all of frame construction, unpainted, and in good overall repair. Closest to the house is a small, one-story, gable-roofed structure that for most of its life has been used as a garage. Next to this is a small shed, and beyond this a rambling structure of several components, the principal one being a bank barn where the lower level was used for

Registration rorm: include in this title block the property name, county, and site/inventory number

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-196

Section number  $\underline{7}$  Page  $\underline{5}$ 

housing livestock and the upper level for both hay storage and the aircuring of tobacco. These buildings are all historically integral to the house and considered to be contributing resources.

There have been few alterations to the setting of the house or the property's overall landscape since the 1940s, though it is likely that there have been buildings and other features that have been lost and of which no evidence remains. Numerous informally arranged ornamental plantings surround the house, some of which probably have origins dating to the 1920s.

Two features integral to the house and landscaping are formed concrete walkways at the front of the house and at the rear. At the front, a wide walk extends from the front steps to the edge of the drive, with a second walk paralleling the porch and extending to the drive skirting the north side of the house. At the rear, the porch is fronted by a concrete apron that encircles the porch steps and the well. This, too, has a walk leading toward the north drive. These walks were clearly intended to organize and control traffic patterns and the concrete, together with the tile paving of the porch floors, would have considerably reduced the tracking of dirt into the house. These walks appear to be original to the house. If not, then they were installed not long after the house was built.

The only feature introduced to the property in recent years that might be considered intrusive on the historic landscape is a small, in-ground swimming pool. Located directly behind the house and screened by thick growths of ornamental shrubbery, the pool has minimal visual impact and is not necessarily a permanent alteration.

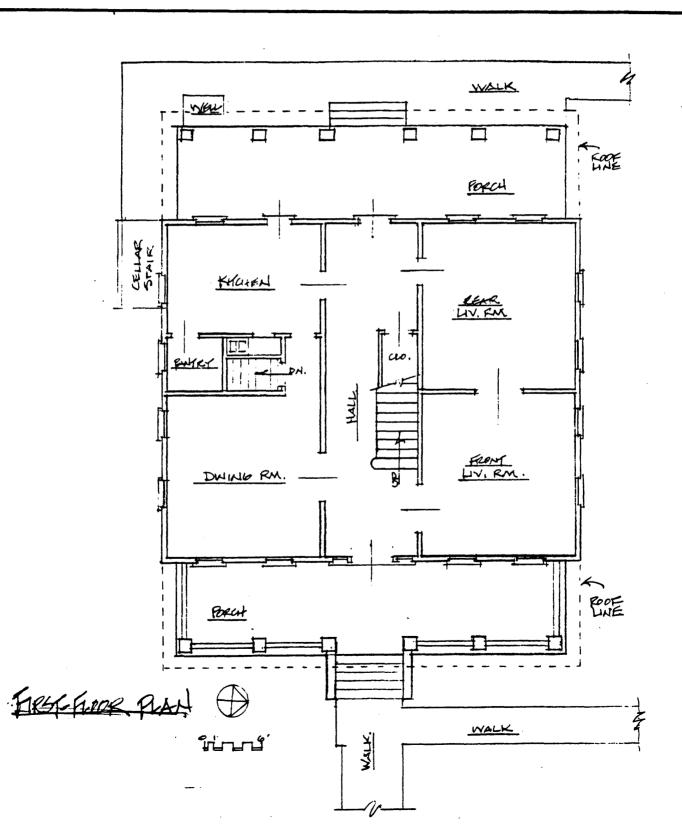
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Registration .o.w: include in this title block the property name, county, and site/inventory number

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-195

Section number 7 Page 6



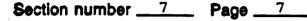
Registration include in this title block the property name, county, and site/inventory number

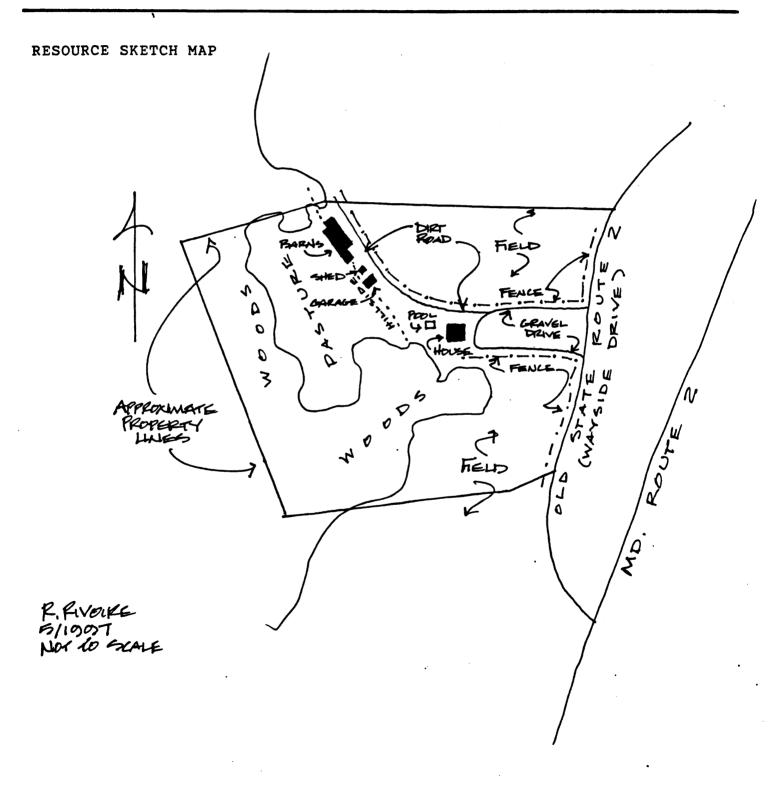
United States Department on the Interior National Park Service

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-196





Registration ..... include in this title block the property name, county, and site/inventory number

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

# National Register of Historic Piaces Continuation Sheet

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-196

Section number 8 Page 8

SIGNIFIGENCE SUMMARY:

Completed in 1924, the Joseph Lyons House was built by a local contracting firm known as Lyons, Gibson & Company who were responsible for many of Calvert County's more important early twentieth-century public buildings and private residences. Remarkably few examples of their work have survived the county's rapid growth of recent decades. The firm was active from about 1905 through the 1920s, and throughout the time the company operated they were preeminent among other local building contractors, an achievement due in large measure to the superior quality of their work. No existing building exemplifies the abilities of this firm more than the the Joseph Lyons House. Built for a relative of the firm's president in a highly visible location off a busy major thoroughfare not far from the company's offices and lumber yard, the house was in effect a billboard. Considered to be the largest and most architecturally progressive private home of its day in this locale, the house was as much a landmark then as it is today.

Registration ... include in this title block the property name, county, and site/inventory number

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-196

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>9</u>

**RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT:** 

The firm of Lyons and Gibson was established about 1905 and reorganized in 1922 as Lyons, Gibson and Company, Inc. The firm was extremely active in the local building trade from the early 1910s through the 1920s, a critical period in local socioeconomic and architectural history.

A severe economic depression in Maryland's lower counties that followed the Civil War and which continued through the opening decades of the twentieth-century, a dramatic decline in population and semi-isolation stymied the progress and growth of Calvert's sister counties of Charles and St. Mary's, and to a degree Calvert County as well, until after World War I.

While an inadequate system of inland roads and a historical dependence on water as a means of transportation and communication served to maintain the region's provincial complexion, Calvert County fared better than either Charles or St. Mary's counties. This was especially true between the 1890s and 1930s with the development of several popular resort communities bordering the Chesapeake Bay in the northeast section of the county, not far from this property. To serve an annual influx of summer vacationers, many landowners in this area began building summer cottages as income-producing investments, and more and more serviceoriented communities began to develop at convenient crossroads. Benefiting both the permanent and temporary population, a number of steamboat landings were established along the Bay, providing an easy, direct link to Baltimore, Annapolis and Washington, facilitating the shipment of agricultural goods and other commodities, and augmenting existing railroad links.

By the early 1900s there was significantly more building activity taking place in Calvert county than in its sister counties to the south. While new homes and other buildings were being erected and older homes renovated or enlarged throughout the county, the greatest concentration of new construction was in the northeast sector, particularly between Huntingtown, Plumb Point and North Beach.

Of the few local building companies known to have been operating during this period, the one that achieved the most prominence was the firm of Lyons and Gibson. Primarily a lumber yard and construction company, they were located in the small village of Huntingtown, about three miles from Sunderland. Their office building in Huntingtown (CT-103), a small frame structure that is privately owned and maintained and survives in almost pristine condition, was designed and finished to serve as an

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

property name, county, and site/inventory number

Registration

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-196

Section number 8 Page 10

.

advertisement of building materials and the construction trade. The firm is not known to have employed an architect on a regular basis, if at all. Instead, the designs of the buildings they constructed, from churches, schools and stores to private homes and summer cottages, were largely derived from builders' guides and catalogues. While the firm may have operated its own saw mill, or contracted with local mills, most of the products and materials they used were shipped by water from Baltimore and Maryland's Eastern Shore, apparently on a job-by-job basis.

The few surviving Calvert County buildings known to have been built by the Lyons and Gibson firm are invariably of a traditional design. For instance, the larger homes they built are often almost square, two-story, five-bay frame structures with hipped roofs. Regardless of their design, buildings erected by the firm seem readily identifiable by the obvious high quality of their carpentry, both in their construction and in their finish detailing. The Lyons and Gibson firm undoubtedly had a considerable impact on local architectural development during the period in which they were active, and indeed for many years afterward according to those still living who were either employed by the company or who were familiar with their work. The traditional designs and construction techniques they employed and successfully combined with contemporary tastes and functional needs, provides an important and perhaps altogether unique bridge between two significant eras in regional architecture and social history. A ca. 1927 newspaper article described the firms' principals as "..progressive and public spirited citizens, deeply interested in the growth of the county and in its proper development. Their own business has been a big factor in this development and is destined to play an even greater part in the growth of Southern Maryland."1

In this context, the Joseph Lyons House is of exceptional interest by illustrating domestic architectural trends taking place in the early part of the twentieth century, a period of paramount importance in the history of American social development and related material culture. An unusually large house compared to the majority of homes built in lower Southern Maryland during the first several decades of that century, the house exhibits many noteworthy features, not the least among them its skillfully engineered and executed framing system, the arrangement of interior spaces, and its harmonious blending of traditional customs and values with modern advances in construction technology and philosophical changes involving the form and function of domestic housing. The house truly reflects a contemporary statement that "Lyons, Gibson & Company... have built their own monument, in a score or more of structures they have erected that stand as models of modern construction."<sup>2</sup>

CARE Asserved No. 1004-0010

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

property name, county, and site/inventory number

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-196

Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>11</u>

According to members of the Lyons family still living in the area, construction of the house commenced in 1921 and was completed in 1924. While it is unlikely it took this length of time for the house to be built, it is known that it was finished and occupied by 1924. first owner/occupant was Joseph D. Lyons, a farmer-entrepreneur whose bootlegging and gambling activities were then and remain today a source of much speculative conversation.

Joseph Lyons was a cousin of the principal of the Lyons and Gibson company, whose name was also Joseph D. Lyons. Given the facts as they are presently known, it is probable that the house was built for two purposes: a respectable home for the cousin and an advertisement for the firm. If so, it successfully achieved both objectives.

Of far greater interest, however, is this building's reflection of the firm's stated purpose to "build Good Homes...using the very best grades of material [and] using the highest class of mechanics."<sup>3</sup> As described in Section 7, the house certainly illustrates the high quality of their work in all respects and gives substance to statements that "The concern... renders a service that cannot be excelled in Southern Maryland" and "the company has built more and finer buildings than any other concern in Calvert County."4

In addition to its excellent carpentry and carefull executed details, and its inclusion of such modern amenities as central heat, electricity and indoor plumbing, the building also reflects the firm's willingness to embrace then-current ideals of room function and relationship. far the most obviously progressive element of the building's design, however, was the extensive use of oversized windows and glazed interior and exterior doors which clearly responded to increased public consciousness regarding the health benefits of good natural light and ample cross ventilation.<sup>5</sup>

Again, when viewed in an appropriate historic context, the Joseph Lyons House was the most architecturally progressive private residence of its day in this locality. So much so that it is reasonable to theorize that its design, in part if not in whole, might have been influenced by the Better Homes in America Campaign of 1922-1924. In conjunction with an organized effort to combine traditional values and modern household technology in architectural design, the General Federation of Womens' Clubs built for a display a "National Better Home" near the White House in Washington, D.C. in 1922. The exhibit and the philosophy expounded by the campaign generated considerable national attention and was a

Registration ..... include in this title block the property name, county, and site/inventory number

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

# National Register of Historic Piaces Continuation Sheet

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-196

Section number \_\_\_\_8 Page \_\_\_12

major influence on American domestic life and residential architecture. The Lyons and Gibson firm could hardly have been unaffected, and it is possible that the Joseph Lyons House was an intentional response to this campaign. The house would certainly have attracted the attention of Washingtonians who summered at nearby beaches, and those who traveled the main road between the county seat and Annapolis from which the house was prominently visible.

Joseph D. Lyons, for whom the house was built, died in 1933. His widow, Viola Lyons, continued to occupy the house and manage the farm with the aid of tenants, some of whom occupied the basement of the house. Viola Lyons clearly depended on profits from the farm for her livelihood and from all accounts was an astute and capable businesswoman. She was also active in local affairs and her home was a frequent location of community meetings and social functions. The only known changes to the house during her ownership the replacement of the roof sheathing, the alteration to the service stair between the first and second floors, and probably the over-painting of the interior trim.

In 1962, Viola Lyons sold the house and farm to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Stinnett, owners of the Chesapeake Beach Amusement Park and other ventures. The Stinnetts occupied the property until 1966 when they sold the house and 14.2 acres to the present owners, Alan and Patricia Ullberg.

During repairs to the house in 1990, one of the boards of the exterior underlayment was found to bear the inscription: "G. B. Gibson." Gibson was an officer of the Lyons, Gibson Company. His name was probably used to identify a shipment of materials from a local mill or delivered to a wharf. The presence of Gibson's name in the context it was found served to confirm the Lyons family's assertion that the house was built by Lyons, Gibson & Company.

#### ENDNOTES

1. The article, possibly written as early as 1924, appeared in the <u>Calvert Journal, Historical and Progress Edition</u> (Prince Frederick, MD.) and was titled "Lyons, Gibson & Co., Inc., Dealers In Supplies And One Of Largest Building Firms In Southern Maryland." The article lists a number of schools, churches, houses and other facilities built by the firm, few if any of which still stand. These included

Registration ..... include in this title block the property name, county, and site/inventory number

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

### National Register of Historic Piaces Continuation Sheet

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-196

Section number \_\_\_\_8 Page \_\_\_13

the Calvert County High School, Prince Frederick; the Solomon's [Island] Bank of the Eastern Shore Trust Company; "three of the finest churches in the county: Mt. Harmony, Asbury and Olivet Methodist churches"; the Calvert County Hospital, Prince Frederick; and the homes of a number of locally prominent citizens. According to the article, the Lyons, Gibson & Co. firm was the county's largest employer "except the ship yard" at that time.

2. Ibid.

3. This was stated in a large promotional advertisement for the firm that also appeared in the <u>Journal</u> edition cited above.

4. See Note 1.

 See Bridgett A. May, "Progressivism and the Colonial Revival: The Modern Colonial House, 1900-1920" in <u>Winterthur Portfolio</u>, 26:2/3 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991), pp. 107-122.

 See Janet Hutchison, "The Cure for Domestic Neglect: Better Homes in America, 1922-1935" in Perspectives in <u>Vernacular Architecture II</u> (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1986), Camille Wells, ed., pp. 168-178.

Registration r. include in this title block the property name, county, and site/inventory number

------

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-196

Section number \_\_\_\_8 Page \_\_\_14

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

**Resource Type:** 

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Functions and Uses: Domestic/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: None

Multiple Property Documentation Form: include the name of the multiple property listing

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Joseph Lyons House Calvert CT-196

Section number <u>10</u> Page <u>15</u>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries of the 14.264-acre property are as recorded in Liber 84, folio 91 of the Calvert County land records, Calvert County Courthouse, Prince Frederick, MD.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The 14.264 acres constitute the property acquired by the present owners in 1966, encompass all of the identified contributing resources, and serve to protect the historic setting of the house and its original approach drive. This property comprises the remnant of the acreage historically associated with the resource.