

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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FEB 16 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sycamore Cottage
other names/site number Cambridge Woman's Club Headquarters

2. Location

street & number 417 High Street not for publication N/A
city, town Cambridge vicinity N/A
state Maryland code MD county Dorchester code 019 zip code 21613

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
[Signature] 2-8-88
Signature of certifying official Date
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
State or Federal agency and bureau Housing and Community Development, Maryland Historical Trust

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 3/30/88
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
club house

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Colonial
Greek Revival

foundation brick
walls weatherboard
aluminum
roof asphalt
other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Built in the eighteenth century, possibly as early as 1765, Sycamore Cottage is a one and a half story , single pile, gambrel roof frame structure with beaded weatherboards, Victorian windows, a central Colonial Revival entrance porch, 1840s Greek Revival interior decorative detailing, and a large one story meeting hall covered with aluminum siding projecting from the back. The building sets back a few feet from the side walk with modest landscaping along the front and side and a parking lot to the back.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Sycamore Cottage
Dorchester County, Maryland

(D-142)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Sycamore Cottage, c. 1765, has been located at 417 High Street, Cambridge, Maryland since 1840. Prior to that time it was located at 116 High Street. It is a three bay, 1 1/2 story, single pile, braced frame dwelling covered in beaded weatherboard. A small 1840 braced frame addition is located at the rear with a large 1932 addition attached to that wing. The wings are sided in aluminum over weatherboard.

Sycamore Cottage is located at the edge of Cambridge's business district and at the beginning of a large residential neighborhood. Directly to the north of the building is the modern office of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. The lot on the south side is a used-car lot and a small lot owned by the Woman's Club that used to contain the city water tank. To the rear or west is open space. The telephone company has been located next to Sycamore Cottage for most of this century. The first building was erected between 1911 and 1918. The used car lot occupies space that was formerly the site of a clothing factory.

Originally built as a hall-parlor dwelling, the house has had a number of changes made to it over the past years. It was thought to have been constructed of sawn planks since the exterior walls are only five inches thick. Recently, a small hole was cut through the plaster to reveal the original braced frame members. The exposed framing was hewn. The hole was cut to expose the corner post and bracing.

It has a common rafter gambrel roof. The dormers and the decorative scroll trim are original. The windows and the barge board trim are nineteenth century additions. The roof framing shows evidence of repair with nineteenth and twentieth century nails. These nails are clearly not part of the original framing.

In 1840, the house was moved from its original location. Local tradition holds that the original rear wing was left behind and incorporated into the new Greek-Revival dwelling constructed at 116 High Street (D-190). The move required that some extensive changes be made to the house. The chimneys were rebuilt, the south chimney as an interior gable-end chimney and the north chimney as a partial exterior gable-end chimney. A new rear wing was built. The wing contained the stairs and kitchen. The stairs are plain. They rise in two runs to the second floor. The banister is varnished wood with a plain turned newel post and balustrade. The exterior was resided with sawn beaded weatherboard. The interior was fitted with new mantels on each floor and a new Greek-Revival door installed on the front. The rear door is original. The first floor mantels have a three part entablature and side columns. The second floor mantels have a plain recessed entablature and side pilasters.

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Sycamore Cottage
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The two rooms on the second floor of the main block retain their original dividing wall. The south room contains a double closet and is the location of the original half-winder stair between the two floors. The wing's upper floor has a second kitchen for a tenant, a bathroom and a small sitting room. The House was updated again in the late nineteenth century. The exact date is unknown but the style, workmanship, and material is of that same period. The original windows were replaced with two over two sash. Decorative trim was added to the gable ends and a full porch was placed across the facade. The extent of these changes, especially the porch, is shown in a pre-1922 photograph at the Woman's Club.

When the Woman's Club purchased the building in 1922, they removed the interior partition to create one large room. The club also removed the porch and replaced it with the present Colonial-Revival portico and benches. In 1932, the Club added a large meeting room to the rear of the 1840 wing. It has a raised stage at the rear or west end. A series of small windows light this room. There is no decorative work or trim in this room. When originally built this wing was sided in plain weatherboard. It was aluminum sided in the early 1960s.

The original floor in the main section of the house was removed in 1946 and replaced with a concrete floor. This action was taken to correct extensive termite damage and was performed by a local contractor.

The landscaping is simple. The rear yard is designed for parking. It is unpaved as is the drive that is in the south side. There are a few trees in the front yard. There is a flower bed on the north side dividing the Woman's Club property from that of the telephone company.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture
Social History

c. 1765 - 1938

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Sycamore Cottage is architecturally and historically significant. Built possible as early as 1765, Sycamore Cottage is one of only four surviving examples of an eighteen century gambrel roof building in Dorchester County and the only one standing in Cambridge. Documentation indicates that many more were built but most were demolished over time. The building also has excellent examples of Greek Revival interior decorative detailing as seen in the mantels and trim which were installed at the time the house was moved and redecorated. Although not the only examples of this woodwork in the town, it contributes to our understanding of range of expression this style had in Cambridge. Since 1922, Sycamore Cottage has been the headquarters of the Cambridge Woman's Club, a social active organization that has had a strong impact on the town's history. Through this organization were founded such cultural and civic groups as the county historical society, library, hospital auxiliary, Red Cross chapter, and garden club.

See continuation sheet for

Historic Context and **Maryland Comprehensive Preservation Plan** data.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet No. 9.1

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet 9.1

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Cambridge Woman's Club

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .29 acres
Cambridge, MD quadrangle

UTM References

A

1	8
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4	0	5	9	7	0
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4	2	6	9	4	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination includes the rectangular city parcel upon which the building stands as described in Dorchester County Deed Book 11/300. The property boundaries are marked on the attached tax parcel map and outlined to show the 60' x 208' parcel.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The bounds included in this nomination include all that property historically associated with Sycamore Cottage since the 1840 move to its present location.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen G. Del Sordo, Historian Chairman

organization Dorchester Co. Committee/MD Historical Trust date September 1987

street & number 305 Oakley Street telephone 302-736-5685

city or town Cambridge state Maryland zip code 21613

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Sycamore Cottage (D-42)
Dorchester County, Maryland**CONTEXT:**

Sycamore Cottage, as with most cultural resources, falls into a number of historic contexts. Geographically, the property is located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. It was built during Maryland's rural agrarian intensification period and during a period when Cambridge was consolidating its control over Dorchester County's economy and its social/religious life. The house was built as a home for the County's Anglican minister. The house was moved to make way for a newer, larger dwelling during Cambridge's transition to a major shipping point and commercial center on the Eastern Shore. The late nineteenth century alterations and the purchase by the Woman's Club occurred during a period of increased industrialization in Cambridge as canneries and boatyards dominated the economy of the city. Within each period, Sycamore Cottage reflects the theme of architecture as a dwelling. In the modern period (post 1930) it represents a physical manifestation of Cambridge's colonial past as an eighteenth century building which was made more "colonial" two generations ago with the addition of its Colonial-Revival porch. In its post-1922 history, it reflects the social/educational/cultural theme as the home of the Cambridge Woman's Club.

Sycamore Cottage is significant as the headquarters of the Cambridge Woman's Club since 1922. This important Cambridge social club has helped establish a number of important local institutions such as the Dorchester County Historical Society and the Dorchester County Public Library. The club house has also been used by other community groups as their meeting place and its members have been active community leaders.

Sycamore Cottage, erected in 1765, is one of the oldest houses in Cambridge and in Dorchester County. It is one of only four gambrel roofed buildings in the county and the only one in Cambridge. While its age makes it a local landmark, the building also reflects a number of important economic and social changes in Cambridge making it a physical source book of Cambridge history.

Sycamore Cottage is believed to have been in 1765 as a house for the Reverend Daniel Maynadier, Jr. and his wife. He was the rector of the Great Choptank Parish from 1765 until his death in 1772. Maynadier was a son of the Reverend Daniel Maynadier, a rector of St. Peter's or the White Marsh Parish in Talbot County. The younger Maynadier was trained as a physician. In 1760, he was ordained into the Anglican Church. That same year he served a five week period as a curate at the Great Choptank Parish prior to an appointment as rector at St. John's Parish, Queen Anne County. In 1765, he returned to Cambridge as rector of the Great Choptank Parish. At this time he built Sycamore Cottage on his wife's land.

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Dorchester County, Maryland

(D-42)

In 1760, Maynadier, Jr. married Mary Murray. She was the daughter of James Murray. At her marriage, her father gave her the property at 116 High Street as a wedding present. At that time the parcel was known as lot 10 of the original John Kirk patent. Kirk had sold several lots including #10 in 1739 to William vans Murray. At his death in 1759, the High Street properties were left to his son James Murray.

As was common at the time, Mary Murray Maynadier's land became the responsibility of her husband. The 1766 Dorchester County Debt Book shows that the land rent was owed by the husband for the wife's land. The same Debt Book shows that Maynadier held in his own name the following properties: Cullins Interest, 114 3/4 acres, Murray's Friendship, 52 acres, Stewart's Marsh, 10 acres, and Stewart's Expectation, 274 1/2 acres. The 1767 and 1770 Debt Books show the same land holdings.

Maynadier died in 1772. His will did not survive the 1851 fire at the Dorchester County Court House. His wife continued to live in the house they had built. In 1783, the assessment record lists Mary Maynadier as holding one frame dwelling house, one kitchen and two logged houses on lot 10 in Cambridge. The property was valued at 150 pounds. This was in the middle range of assessments in Cambridge. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax does not exist for Dorchester County.

At Mary Maynadier's death the property passed to her granddaughters, Hannah and Margaret, and through them to William Murray Maynadier. In 1828, he sold the house and property to Henry Page. Page was a lawyer and politician. He served as a state senator from 1832 to 1835. In 1840, Page sold the house to Jeremiah Wright who moved the house to 417 High Street. Wright is the one for whom the 1840 changes were made.

It is unclear as to why Wright moved the house. The upper section of High Street was being developed at the same time as Cambridge expanded economically as a shipping point and commercial center on the middle Eastern Shore. The 1853 map of Cambridge that Richard Upjohn's firm drew for the County Court House he designed shows a town beginning to take shape with High Street extending to Washington Street and streets running eastward towards the Cambridge Creek. The history of the house at 417 High Street between 1840 and 1877 is not clear. In 1877, the house was tied up in the estate of William Rea. He was a very active real estate entrepreneur. The chain of title from his death backwards is lost within his estate holdings while the chain of title from Wright forward is lost within missing court house records. The house was sold in 1877 to Sallie W. Wright by Rea's estate. She held the property until 1905. It was sold and mortgaged twice until 1922 when the Cambridge Woman's Club acquired the property for \$2,000.

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The Cambridge Woman's Club was formed in 1898 as the "Literary Study Group." In 1900, the Club took its present name. It originally met in the homes of members but eventually found a home on Race Street in the Masonic Lodge. When the Lodge needed more space, the Club was forced to find other quarters in 1922. That same year the Club bought Sycamore Cottage.

The Club has always attracted socially active women. Among its early presidents were two of Maryland's first ladies, Mrs. Philips Lee Goldsborough and Mrs. Emerson C. Harrington. In 1901, the Club joined the Maryland Federation of Women's Clubs and in 1923, the Club became a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

One of the first projects of the Club was the creation of a lending library. The club had always maintained a small lending library for its members. When they moved into Sycamore Cottage, the rear wing was turned over to a library space that was available to all Cambridge residents. This library eventually became the Dorchester County Public Library. The Dorchester County Red Cross Chapter was organized in 1917. The Red Cross used Sycamore Cottage as a meeting place after 1922. The Auxiliary for the Cambridge Hospital, now the Dorchester General Hospital, was formed at Sycamore Cottage in 1921. Their meetings were held at Sycamore Cottage for a number of years. In 1930, the Dorchester Garden Club was organized by Woman's Club members interested in gardening and in the beautification of Cambridge. The Garden Club has arranged for trees to be planted along Maryland Avenue and in the downtown area. During this same time period, the local chapter of the Girl Scouts of America was formed by club member, Miss Nannie Waddell. Miss Waddell has also left a large trust fund that is used to advance the life of Dorchester County residents.

Sycamore Cottage was used extensively during World War II to produce knitted garments and surgical dressings were turned out for the war effort. Recent Woman's Club activity was the creation of the Dorchester County Historical Society in 1958. Almost all of the social and civic clubs in Cambridge have members of the Woman's Club as active members and as officers and board members. The large meeting room has been used by many local groups for their activities. Both the Salvation Army and the Rotary Club have met there. A local church presently uses the meeting room for its Sunday services and weekly meetings.

While the various changes to the building might seem to obscure the original building, the scale and massing are still that of an eighteenth century dwelling. The 1840s wing is in keeping with the bulk of the main block. The 1932 wing is low and not readily visible from the street. Sycamore Cottage is also one of just six eighteenth century buildings in

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Cambridge. All are located on lower High Street except this one. The majority of the extant buildings in Cambridge date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The significance of Sycamore Cottage rests in two areas. The first is its architectural significance as an eighteenth century dwelling in a community that is nineteenth and twentieth century in physical appearance. The second area is the use of the cottage by the Cambridge Woman's Club. This important social club and its members have been active in almost every important organization in Cambridge since the club's founding in 1889.

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Dorchester County, Maryland

Cambridge Woman's Club Brief History, (Cambridge, MD: Cambridge Woman's Club, 1968)

Dean, Gail "60 Years Service to Woman's Club" in The Daily Banner (Cambridge, MD)
CIV; 87, May 3, 1983, page 1

Dorchester County: A Pictorial History, (Cambridge, MD: Western Publishing Co, 1977)

Fire Insurance Maps of Cambridge, MD (Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1911, 1918)

Flowers, Thomas, ed Dorchester Tercentary Bay Country Festival, (Cambridge, MD, 1969)

Jones, Elias New Revised History of Dorchester County, Maryland, (Cambridge, MD:
Tidewater Publishers, 1966)

The 1877 Atlas and other Early Maps of the Easter Shore of Maryland, (Salisbury, MD:
Wicomico Bicentennial Commission, 1976)

Weeks, Christopher, ed Between the Nanticoke and the Choptank, (Baltimore, MD:
The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984)

Dorchester County Debt Books, 1766, 1767, 1770, located in the Maryland
Hall of Records

Dorchester County Assessment Book of 1783, located in the Maryland
Hall of Records

Vestry of Great Choptank Parish Great Choptank Parish, 1693-1974,
(Cambridge, MD: Vestry of Great Choptank Parish, 1975)

WACUPI
METHODIST
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH &
CEMETERY
144/551

OLIM P. CARR
150/393

GOOD SHEPHERD
ASSOCIATION INC.
239/564

SYCAMORE COTTAGE
417 HIGH STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MD
CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC
TELEPHONE CO.
101/205

HUGHES

COURT

Y
U
I
A
F

373.18

EDWARD E. WATKINS
122/406

217.75'

209.00'

DAVID W
BEAVER
223/622

167.70'

208.00'

CAMBRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB
JFD 11/300

208.00'

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC TELEPHONE CO.
102/554

207.50'

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC
TELEPHONE CO.
101/203

140.83'

CALLAHAN
&
WEST
23 14

376.90'

82.30'

48.00'

124.70'

58.00'

44.50'
423

24.00'
421

39.25'
CAMBRIDGE
WOMANS
CLUB, INC.
208/246

32.30'

38.25'

32.10'

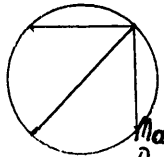
60.00'
417

42.00'

45.00'

60.00'

48.00'
411



Tax Parcel Map
Map 16

1" = 50' (map reduced from original) High Street

Map Division

Department of Assessments & Taxation

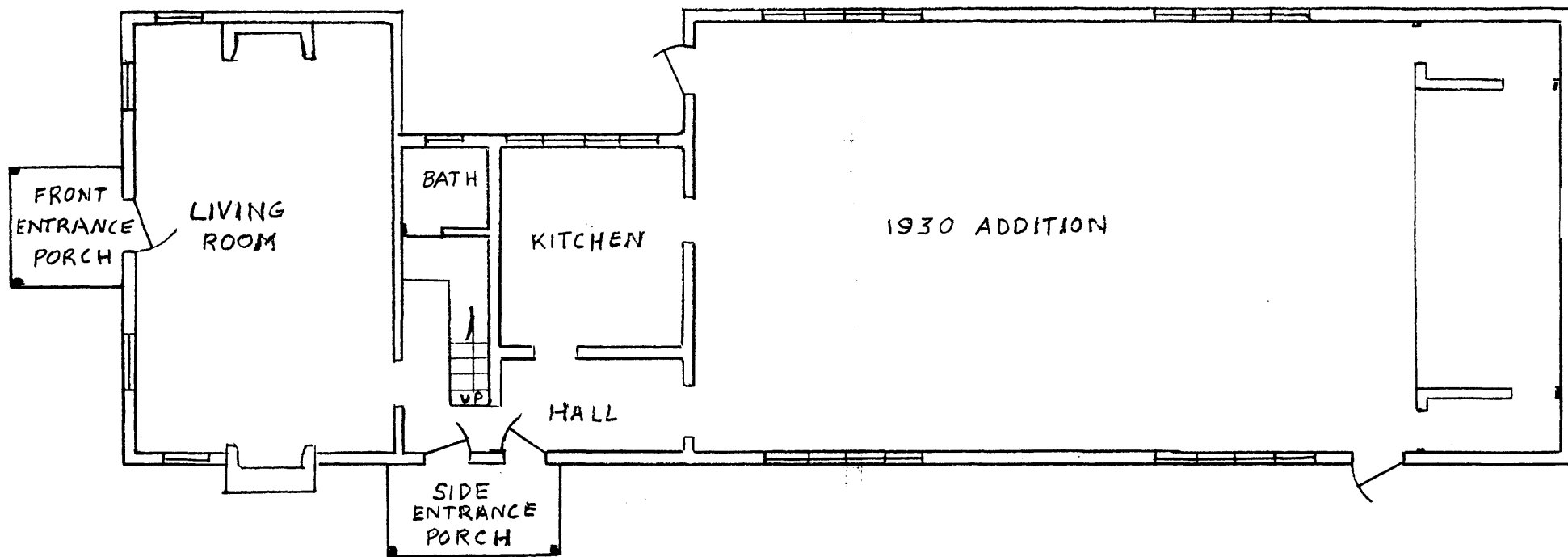
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Md. Dept. of Assess. & Tax

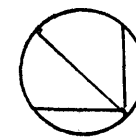
Map
16

Block
Town

STREET



SCALE: $3/32" = 1'0"$



SYCAMORE COTTAGE
CAMBRIDGE WOMAN'S CLUB
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

PAUL WINN
APRIL 20, 1987