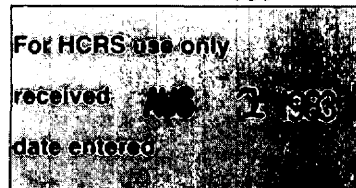


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Mountain Lake Park

and/or common  Mountain Lake Park Historic District (preferred)

**2. Location** Roughly bounded by Alleghany Dr., Oakland Mrs., D and N sts.

street & number Multiple Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Mountain Lake Park N/A vicinity of Seventh congressional district

state Maryland code 24 county Garrett code 023

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple public and private owners

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Garrett County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Oakland state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

G-IV-A-059

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Mountain Lake Park Historic District is a group of <sup>145</sup>~~212~~ buildings lying within the town of Mountain Lake Park, a residential community built beginning in the 1880's as a summer resort and important as a center of the Chautauqua movement in Maryland. The town is situated on a high plateau in the section of Garrett County known as "the Glades", three miles east of Oakland in western Maryland. The street plan of Mountain Lake Park was designed by H. E. Faul, the creator of Druid Hill Park in Baltimore, and consists of a grid of streets through which run several curving drives. These were designed primarily as scenic carriage drives, particularly Mountain Lake Drive which follows the outline of the artificial lake created in the early 1880's on the eastern edge of town. The only major change to this plan occurred in the mid-twentieth century when Maryland Route 135 was run through the center of town in an east-west direction, thereby dividing Mountain Lake Park into approximately equal halves. The district is roughly bounded by the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad on the south, Youghiogheny Drive to the east, Oakland Avenue to the north and "D Street" to the west. The area of Mountain Lake Park outside of the historic district contains both modern houses and extensively altered nineteenth century ones. The district still includes many of the houses built by summer residents of Mountain Lake Park in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The majority of these houses are frame and were built in various interpretations of the "Country Gothic" or Rural Queen Anne styles. Many are still painted in the original bright colors and are in generally good or fair condition. Several of the houses were sited to take advantage of a particular view or natural feature, and most stand on large wooded lots. Also within the district are several of the educational and recreational buildings constructed by the Mountain Lake Park Association, the Methodist-led group which owned and managed the town for many years after its founding in 1881. Notable buildings within the district include those associated with the Mountain Chautauqua program: the tabernacle, a ticket office, and the tennis clubhouse. There are also several outstanding and well maintained Queen Anne style summer residences built at the turn of the century, along with a number of boarding houses dating from the period when Mountain Lake Park was a popular summer resort on the route of the B & O Railroad.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Among the largest and best preserved residences, is the frame Queen Anne style house on the west side of "G" Street close to the B & O railroad tracks. It is a rambling two and one half story house with a wide one story porch which wraps around the south and east facades. Its irregular appearance is accentuated by a two story polygonal bay on both the south and north facades and the one story square tower with a bell cast roof which sits on the north east corner of the roof. The combination of different textures is a hallmark of the Queen Anne style; on this house there is fish scale shingling covering the northeast tower as well as on a band running between the first and second floors and there is

# 8. Significance

G-IV-A-059

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) recreation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1881 - c. 1920      **Builder/Architect** H. E. Faul, landscape architect

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Applicable Criteria: A and C

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Mountain Lake Park Historic District is significant for its association with the development of resort communities in late 19th century America, and for its cohesive collection of well-preserved buildings representing various types of resort architecture of the period. Among the resort communities which developed late in the 19th century in the mountains of Western Maryland in response to the B & O Railroad's extension of service to the area, Mountain Lake Park is unique. It was established in 1881 by a group of Methodist ministers; the religious and educational programs which the community offered, and the code of conduct which it maintained, provided vacationers with an alternative to the sinful and frivolous entertainments available in other nearby resorts which were founded as secular, speculative ventures. Among the cultural programs offered in Mountain Lake Park was the "Mountain Chautauqua," which blended religious revivalism with cultural and educational activities; in its heyday between the 1880's and World War I, this program attracted thousands to the community for symphonies, operas, plays, and nationally-prominent speakers including President Taft, Samuel Gompers, William Jennings Bryan and Billy Sunday. The popularity of Mountain Lake Park during these years spurred the construction of numerous cottages, hotels, and boarding houses, as well as public buildings; the present Historic District retains many of these buildings in excellent condition, and achieves significance for its outstanding collection of late 19th and early 20th century resort architecture. The District also retains much of its original wooded setting and street plan, designed by landscape architect H. E. Faul.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Mountain Lake Park, the site of an annual summer Chautauqua for nearly sixty years, was at one time one of the most important centers of religious, cultural and educational activity in the state. Indeed, its purpose for coming into existence as well as the prominent personalities with which it was associated, make the story of Mountain Lake Park important to the cultural history of America.<sup>1</sup> It also remains the best preserved of the once numerous resort communities which grew up along the route of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in southern Garrett County.<sup>2</sup>

The initial impetus for the establishment of Mountain Lake Park was undoubtedly the success of the nearby resort communities owned and operated by the B & O Railroad in Oakland and Deer Park.<sup>3</sup> With these two in mind, a group of five Methodist ministers from Wheeling, West Virginia formed the Mountain Lake Park Association in 1881 to purchase eight hundred acres three miles east of Oakland for the site of a resort community.<sup>4</sup> Unlike most of the other founders of speculative resorts in the area, however, these ministers sought

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 6

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approx. 110 acres

Quadrangle name Oakland, Maryland - West Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 8	6 3 9 7 2 0	4 3 6 2 2 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 8	6 3 9 9 2 0	4 3 6 2 0 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 8	6 3 9 4 7 0	4 3 6 1 4 8 0
---	-----	-------------	---------------

D	1 8	6 3 9 0 7 0	4 3 6 1 3 7 0
---	-----	-------------	---------------

E	1 8	6 3 8 9 6 0	4 3 6 2 1 4 0
---	-----	-------------	---------------

F			
---	--	--	--

G			
---	--	--	--

H			
---	--	--	--

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Boundaries are delineated on the attached map; for Boundary Justification see Continuation Sheet #6

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state		code	county	code
-------	--	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geoffrey B. Henry

organization Maryland Historical Trust date April 15, 1983

street & number 21 State Circle telephone 301-269-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] 7-7-83

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>9/1/83</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet Mountain Lake Park Historic District  
Garrett County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

half timbering in a checker-board pattern on the north and south gables. Also notable is the wooden balustrade and gallery of the porch which are in a similar geometric design.

On a similar scale is the two and one half story house built on an "L" shaped plan at the northeast corner of "I" and Cedar Streets. The house is notable for the tall diamond headed windows with matching shutters on the second story, the wrap-around porch with jigsawn brackets, and the three story tower with a cross gabled roof set between the two arms of the house.

Both this house and the Vandiver cottage at the corner of Youghioghney Drive and M Street are known locally as examples of "Missionary Gothic" because of the tall lancet windows and the fact that both were built for Methodist clergymen. The latter house is a large two and one half story frame house with steeply pitched gable roofs, "picket fence" gables, one story wrap around porch and a three story tower on the southwest corner. The tower is topped with a steeply pitched roof with flaring eaves and the recessed dormers have trapezoidal gables, also with flaring eaves. An almost exact replica of the house stands on "I" Street in the southern half of town.

Another example of the rural Gothic style is the house at the southeast corner of Oak and "G" Streets. The two and one half story house is built with board and batten and has steeply pitched roofs, irregularly placed dormers and chimneys, and a one story roof supported by crucked posts. It is one of several board and batten houses in Mountain Lake Park, another being at the southeast corner of "G" and Spruce Streets. It is notable for the way in which the vertical boards are carried up two full stories, uninterrupted by either a porch or protruding bay.

A notable example of a house built in the Colonial Revival style is the residence on the east side of "G" Street between Cedar and Oak Streets. It is a two and one half story frame house painted yellow with a symmetrical facade, shingle covered gables, and a wrap-around porch supported by plain Doric columns. A center gable roof extends over the second story and is supported by a row of Doric columns, forming a small porch on the second story. The elaborately stained glass front door is also an outstanding original feature. The circular one story wing with conical roof is a recent addition.

Of the smaller houses in Mountain Lake Park, the Baldwin Cottage on "N" Street is one of the most distinctive. The porch is this house's most outstanding feature and is covered with jig-sawn decorations in a vaguely Gothic motif. A small porch with a hooded gable roof extends from the center of the second story and a triangular hood extends over the first story entrance.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The Chautauqua Cottage at "H" and Oakland Streets was originally built as an annex to the now demolished Chatauqua Hotel and is therefore indicative of the appearance of the larger building. Plainer than the Baldwin Cottage, it is distinguished nonetheless by the three sided porch with brackets, scrolled woodwork between the posts, and jigsawn balustrade, as well as the diamond headed windows on the second story.

The Carr Cottage on Allegheny Drive is a similarly charming cottage. Very asymmetrical in its composition and roofline, the two story house has a one story porch with whimsical scrolled brackets, a projecting bay on the east facade and an incongruous French Second Empire style window on the east side of the south facade.

Of the nearly thirty hotels and boarding houses which once stood in Mountain Lake Park until 1911, only the Hotels Washington and Braethorn are still standing. The former, on Philadelphia Avenue, is a two and one half story frame house with a mansard roof and four bay wide bracketed porch with folding shutters. Actually a boarding house, the building had no lobby, but meals were served in a large dining room.

Considerably larger is the Hotel Braethorn on Oakland Avenue, a two story "T" shaped building with a high mansard roof covered with shingles and dormer windows on all four sides. A one story veranda wraps around two of the sides and is pedimented at the southwest corner over the entrance.

The Mountain Lake Park Association, which founded the town as a center of Methodist educational and cultural activity, erected a number of buildings in the town. These were used during the summer performances of the Mountain Chautauqua, held annually between 1882 and 1941. Unfortunately, the Tabernacle building on Spruce Street is the only major building connected with the Chautauqua programs still standing. Built in 1882, it has been expanded several times, most recently in the 1950's, and is still used by Methodist camp meetings. The original part is an imposing two story, seven bay wide building with a double gable roof. A three bay wide pedimented and bracketed porch frames the front entrance and there is a belfry atop the center dormer on the same facade.

Nearby is the little one story ovoid ticket office built in 1900, the same year that the magnificent circular Bashford amphitheatre was built. Other buildings formerly owned by the Park Association are the El Lobo's Restaurant, once operated as a refreshment stand, and the tennis club house, now used for the town council office. The tennis club house was at one time connected to a bowling alley, but the latter was disengaged from the club house and moved to the far northern part of town.

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Continuation sheet Mountain Lake Park Historic District  
Garrett County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 3HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

"an ideal location for a religious and educational summer resort founded upon Christian principles."<sup>5</sup> Soon after, Mountain Lake Park, "based on mountain air and idealism", was incorporated and placed under the management of the board of directors composed of prominent Maryland Methodists.<sup>6</sup> The board promulgated a code of conduct for the community which adhered closely to current Methodist doctrine and included laws forbidding the use or sale of alcohol, gambling, dancing, or card playing by Mountain Lake Park residents.<sup>7</sup> When the B & O established a railroad stop in the town that same year the Park Association even stipulated that there was to be no Sunday service.<sup>8</sup> In short, Mountain Lake Park was a sober religious community and, in the words of the Park Association, "not a place for expensive dressing and meaningless idling... (nor) a place given to social frivolities which enervate and rob a vacation of its real purpose."<sup>9</sup>

To this end, the Association in 1882 instituted the "Mountain Chautauqua," its version of the nationally famous Chautauqua program. This program, begun in 1874 in Chautauqua, New York offered a mixture of religious revivalism, with cultural and educational activities. During its heyday, between the 1880's and World War I, the Mountain Chautauqua attracted thousands to Mountain Lake Park for a month of symphonies, operas, plays and nationally prominent speakers. Among those who spoke there were Presidents William Howard Taft, Samuel Gompers, William Jennings Bryan and Billy Sunday.

The phenomenal success of these programs, (the B & O ran as many as thirteen special trains to Mountain Lake Park during the summer months)<sup>10</sup> stimulated a flurry of building activity by the Park Association. The original tabernacle, built in 1882, was expanded twelve years later to accommodate two thousand seats. By 1900, there were buildings to house a Hall of Philosophy, as well as schools of Oratory and Photography in addition to ticket officer, restaurants and refreshment stands. In that year the Bashford amphitheatre, a magnificent frame circular building, measuring 176 feet in diameter and built without center posts, was dedicated." (It was torn down in 1946.)

The Association also expended much time and money on the design of the surrounding town. H. E. Faul, the creator of Druid Hill Park in Baltimore, was employed to lay out the curving drives which wound among the numerous small hills in the town. The centerpiece of his design was the Mountain Lake itself, measuring forty acres and enlarged numerous times, created by the damming of several natural springs and streams. On the perimeter of the lake were several bathhouses, a boathouse and a scattering of rustic piers and bridges. The association also built a tennis club and bowling alley; both were connected to the railroad station and post office by boardwalks. Also on the lake was an ice house, built by the B & O to store ice cut from the lake for use on the railroad's dining cars.<sup>12</sup>

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

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Continuation sheet Mountain Lake Park Historic District  
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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

In addition to the numerous and often highly ornate cottages built by summer time residents, Mountain Lake Park held a number of large hotels and boarding houses. Among these were the Columbian, Chautauqua, Dennett, Allegany House, Briar Bend, Queenwood, Mountain Lake Park, Thoburn Hall and Braethorn Hotels, all of which advertised "either their proximity to the amphitheatre or the beautiful walk to it."<sup>13</sup> All except the Braethorn have burned or been torn down, but during their heyday were the center of social life for their residents, many of whom returned to the same hotel year after year. Along with the owners of private homes in the Park, hotel owners were forbidden to sell or have alcoholic beverages on the premises or to permit other "vices." The Loch Lynn Hotel, built in 1894 in nearby Loch Lynn Heights was not subject to these regulations and therefore attracted a number of Mountain Lake Park visitors who heeded the local saying, "if you want to sin, go to Loch Lynn."

A number of factors contributed to the end of these halcyon days in Mountain Lake Park's history. Foremost of these was the advent of automobile travel, which caused a radical change in the vacationing habits of many Americans. The B & O discontinued the operation of its hotels at Deer Park and Oakland in the 1910's and the number of visitors to the other Garrett County resorts, including Mountain Lake Park, declined. The Chautauqua programs at Mountain Lake Park, plagued by financial mismanagement and the departure of many of its leaders, lost much of its former vitality during the 1920's and '30's.<sup>15</sup> By 1941, when the last program of the Mountain Chautauqua was staged, Mountain Lake Park had become a primarily residential community, with many of its older houses either torn down or converted to year round use. The town government, which gained control of the streets and parks from the Park Association also relaxed or did away with the earlier regulations, most of which had fallen victim to changing standards of morality by the 1930's. The few summer time activities which still take place in Mountain Lake Park, an annual tennis tournament and a week long summer religious camp-meeting, are only vestiges of the numerous events which once made this a cultural center in Maryland.



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Mountain Lake Park Historic District  
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FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup>Burns, Michael U., "Mountain Lake Park Woman Saves Memories of a Resort Without 'Sin'". Baltimore Sun. December 27, 1981, p. B1.
- <sup>2</sup>"Mountain Lake Park Association", Tableland Trails, Vol. II, no. 2, Summer 1956, p. 106.
- <sup>3</sup>Schlosnagle, Stephen, et. al., Garrett County - A History of Maryland's Tableland (Parsons, West Virginia: McLain Printers) 1976, pps.278-280.
- <sup>4</sup>Hardesty, Leona "Mountain Lake Park in its 'Heyday'". Glades Star, vol. 4, no. 2, (Sept. 1969) p. 621.
- <sup>5</sup>Love, Mary I., "The Mountain Chautauqua - Mountain Lake Park 1881-1941", Glades Star vol. 5, no. 20 (March 1982) p. 386.
- <sup>6</sup>Ibid. p. 385.
- <sup>7</sup>Ibid. p. 388.
- <sup>8</sup>Schosnagle, p. 291.
- <sup>9</sup>Hardesty, p. 630.
- <sup>10</sup>Stacy, Cindy, "Mountain Lake Park - An Era Gone By," Cumberland Sunday Times (Sept. 27, 1981) p. E-1.
- <sup>11</sup>Love, p. 390.
- <sup>12</sup>Ibid. p. 392.
- <sup>13</sup>Ibid. p. 392.
- <sup>14</sup>Burns, p. B-1.
- <sup>15</sup>Ibid. p. B-1.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burns, Michael U., "Mountain Lake Park Woman Saves Memories of a Resort Without 'Sin'". Baltimore Sun, December 27, 1981.

Hardesty, Leona "Mountain Lake Park in its 'Heyday'". Glades Star, vol. 4, no. 2, September 1969.

Love, Mary I., "The Mountain Chautauqua - Mountain Lake Park 1881-1941," Glades Star vol. 5, no. 20, March 1982.

"Mountain Lake Park Association", Tableland Trails, Vol. II, no. 2, Summer 1956.

Schlosnagle, Stephen, et. al., Garrett County - A History of Maryland's Tableland, Parsons, West Virginia: McLain Pringers, 1976.

Stacy, Cindy, "Mountain Lake Park - An Era Gone By," Cumberland Sunday Times, September 27, 1981.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The area within the Mountain Lake Park Historic District contains the majority of those buildings which are of architectural and/or historic significance in Mountain Lake Park. This area has most nearly retained its late nineteenth/early twentieth century appearance. In contrast, the section of Mountain Lake Park north of the boundary is made up of generally deteriorated frame houses, vacant lots and modern houses. Although Maryland Route 135 is a modern thoroughfare, it does not seriously impair the visual integrity of the district, nor does it serve to divide the district to any great degree. A concentration of vacant lots, deteriorated frame houses, and modern residences distinguishes the areas to the east and west of the district boundary. The southern boundary of the district is defined by Alleghany Drive; beyond this line are open fields and the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

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Mountain Lake Park Historic District

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ERRATUM

The first sentence of the SUMMARY DESCRIPTION should be amended to read:

"The Mountain Lake Park Historic District is a group of 145 buildings lying within the town of Mountain Lake Park, a residential community built beginning in the 1880's as a summer resort and important as a center of the Chautauqua movement in Maryland."