

Site M:26/10/31

Talbott/Abbe House

100 Forest Avenue

Built: 1890

Private

The house Thomas C. Groomes built for H.W. Talbott, three-time Mayor of Rockville and State Senator, was the most valuable house in town for twenty years. Stretching behind the symmetrical 40 foot facade, it is a spacious building with elegant detailing in its varied window treatments, contrasting surfaces and multiple gables. It has a peach blossom slate roof and cherry and oak interior woodwork. Its 1928 conversion into^a two-family house only slightly altered the original appearance.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M:26/10/31

Magi No. 1650472604

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Talbott house

and/or common Abbe house

2. Location

street & number 100 Forest Avenue not for publication

city, town Rockville vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

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

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

name Leslie M. Abbe

street & number 100 Forest Avenue telephone no. 762-2384

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records liber 1032

street & number Montgomery County Courthouse folio 114

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register - West Montgomery Ave. Historic District - 1974

M-NCPPC - 1976

date Locally designated historic district - 1974 federal state county local

pository for survey records City of Rockville

city, town Rockville state Maryland 20850

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

This large scale 5 bay by 6 bay late Victorian house faces east on Forest Avenue at the corner of Anderson and Forest Avenues. Set on a coursed stone foundation and sheathed in clapboard siding, the 2 1/2 story visually balanced house is topped by a slate-covered gable roof.

The near-symmetrical, 40 foot east (front) facade is dominated by a central pedimented bay which rises over the entry. Four steps lead to the raised tongue and groove floor of the full width hip roof porch; the porch has chamfered posts and a square balustrade. An off center entry with paired paneled doors and a transom light is flanked by a window/door combination to the southeast and two windows to the northeast.

On the second floor is a round-headed central arched tracery window flanked by paired windows on each side. A window set in the gable of this center bay has a decoration upper sash. It is surrounded by decorative feathercut shingles which articulate the 'pediment' of this bay. Two hipped-roof dormers with 20-over-1 lights project from the slate roof which has broad horizontal patterned courses. Two brick interior chimneys are located near the ridge of the roof.

On the south facade, a two bay, two story block extends off the southwest corner. A shed-roofed side entry is near the center of this facade; it is comprised of a large gable end with a gabled roof projection to the west (rear). Two 20-over-1 attic windows are positioned in a shingled 'pediment' below a trio of arched attic vents in the gable eaves.

The west (rear) facade is a series of projections and additions, including a two story, two bay southwest corner projection and a recessed porch on the northeast two bays. There are two rear entries that open onto a brick paved yard. A hipped roof, square lattice structure is used for garden storage.

A rectangular board and batten garage is located to the west of the house. With two flank gables and a gambrel roof towards the north, this building can accommodate three cars.

This grand residence, free Classic in interpretation, is in very good condition and retains most of its original appearance despite having been divided on the interior. Architectural details from a variety of styles are combined in the design. The completely white paint does not highlight the numerous details, but their generous application adds a distinct character to this grand house.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1891 **Builder/Architect** Thomas C. Groomes

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Talbott House was the home of one of the most influential families in Montgomery County. This house was the second of two notable houses built by Hattersley Worthington Talbott; the first was the 1876 mansard-roofed Victorian on West Montgomery Avenue, now known as the Speare House (Survey Site 26/10/6). In 1891 he built this comfortable and spacious house with its neo-classic detailing. While Talbott lived here, he was three times Mayor of Rockville, State Senator and Chairman of the State Democratic Party. The family owned the property until 1943; since 1946 it has been the home of the Leslie Abbe family.

In 1888-1890 Forest Avenue divided the two largest real estate developments in Rockville. Margaret Beall platted Beall's Addition on the land east of Forest Avenue, and the Trustees of the Rockville Academy had sold the Julius West farm (bequeathed to them) to Henry Copp for his West End Park subdivision which adjoined this block of Forest Avenue on the north and west. Sarah (West) McCahill had reserved 5 acres of the West Farm when she conveyed the property to the Academy. She sold 3 1/2 acres to a three-man syndicate in 1890, and shortly thereafter H. W. Talbott bought a lot 100' X 300' which fronted on the street.¹ Builder T. C. Groomes was awarded the construction contract for \$4, 950.²

The contract price was considerably more than the typical during that time and reflects the elegant details incorporated into this house. The 40 foot facade has a centered projecting pavilion set off between paired french windows and symmetrically placed hipped-roof dormers. There are two-story bays, classically columned porches and other newly fashionable "colonial" details. The roof is of "peach blossom" slate; the interior woodwork is of cherry and oak.³ This was the most expensive and valuable house in town for twenty years.

By 1890, Hattersley W. Talbott was already a successful attorney, banker, Director of the B&O Railroad and Trustee of the Rockville Academy.⁴ He would become Mayor in 1892, State Senator in 1894, then Chairman of the State Democratic Party until his election to another two terms as Mayor of Rockville from 1901 to 1906.

Mrs. Talbott was born Laura Holland, a descendant of Revolutionary General Otho Williams, and granddaughter of the Holland and Williams families who were prominent in early 19th century military and judicial careers.⁵

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100 Forest Avenue

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One of Laura Talbott's sisters was married to Judge Richard Johns Bowie and lived at "Glenview" (Site 26/17). After 1892, the Talbotts shared their Forest Avenue home with Mrs. Talbott's unmarried or widowed sisters. Mrs. Talbott's nieces and nephews lived from time to time at the old Upton Beall house a few blocks away. Her nephew W. Adair Brooke married Mary Dawson, and eventually they built a house on Forest Avenue also.

Miss Lucy Smith, a life-long resident of Forest Avenue, wrote and spoke of the quiet comfort of the street and her youth on Forest Avenue. The Talbott and Smith houses, along with the Presbyterian Manse, were the only houses on the street for several years. The trolley line ran up the center of West Montgomery Avenue as far as Chestnut Lodge, and there were tennis courts at the corner of Forest and Montgomery. The Talbott house was always full of people---"Rockville society", state and local politicians, or just the neighborhood children in for ice cream.⁶

Hattersley Talbott died in 1912 and Mrs. Talbott survived her husband by 13 years; after her death the Talbotts did not live in the house. In 1928 it was converted into two separate apartment units and rented. The doorways and partitions were rearranged, and the side porches were enclosed, but there were few exterior alterations except enlargement of the kitchen on the south side and the conversion of the french doors on that side to make another entrance. The old stable was enlarged and converted into a 3-car garage.

The Leslie Abbe family, after five years as tenants in the south side apartment, purchased the house in 1946. They moved to the larger north side of the house and continued to rent the south half to tenants.

Mr. and Mrs. Abbe continued the tradition of state and community services. Mr. Abbe helped develop and organize the County P.T.A.'s, the Rockville Planning Commission and the Rockville Historic District Commission. He was involved in the Rockville Civic Center Commission which bought "Glenview", the Bowie homestead, for use as a Civic Center by the City. Mr. and Mrs. Abbe were charter members of Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, LTD. Mrs. Abbe died in 1980, but Mr. Abbe at age 86 still keeps a lively interest in his town and its history.

1. Land Records, JA 15/444 and JA 17/357. The granite marker with initials "H.W.T" originally marked the northeast corner of the 1890 lot, but subsequent platting of Anderson Street allowed Mr. Talbott to obtain a 35 foot strip on the north side of his house in return for the street dedication on the south side. Plat Book A/54-55
2. Montgomery County Sentinel, 1890
3. A comparison of the Tax Assessments from 1890-1910 shows that this house, (valued at \$3,500) had the highest assessment in the Town of Rockville, except for the Kellogg Mansion which burned in 1898.
4. Portrait and Biographical Record of the Sixth Congressional District, Chapman Publishing (1898) p. 719
5. Montgomery County Story, Vol. 20, No. 1, February 1977, p. 4 et seq
6. Both Miss Smith and Mr. Abbe have been interviewed, and their oral histories are on file in the Rockville Public Library.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Montgomery County Land, Tax and Plat Records
Montgomery County Story, Vol. 20, #1
Genealogies & oral histories: Talbott, Holland, Smith & Abbe

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 33,823 square feet

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

110' on Forest Avenue, 307' on Anderson Street

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

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne W. Cissel/Glen Leiner, arch. desc.

organization Peerless Rockville

date September 1984

street & number P.O. Box 4262

telephone 762-0096

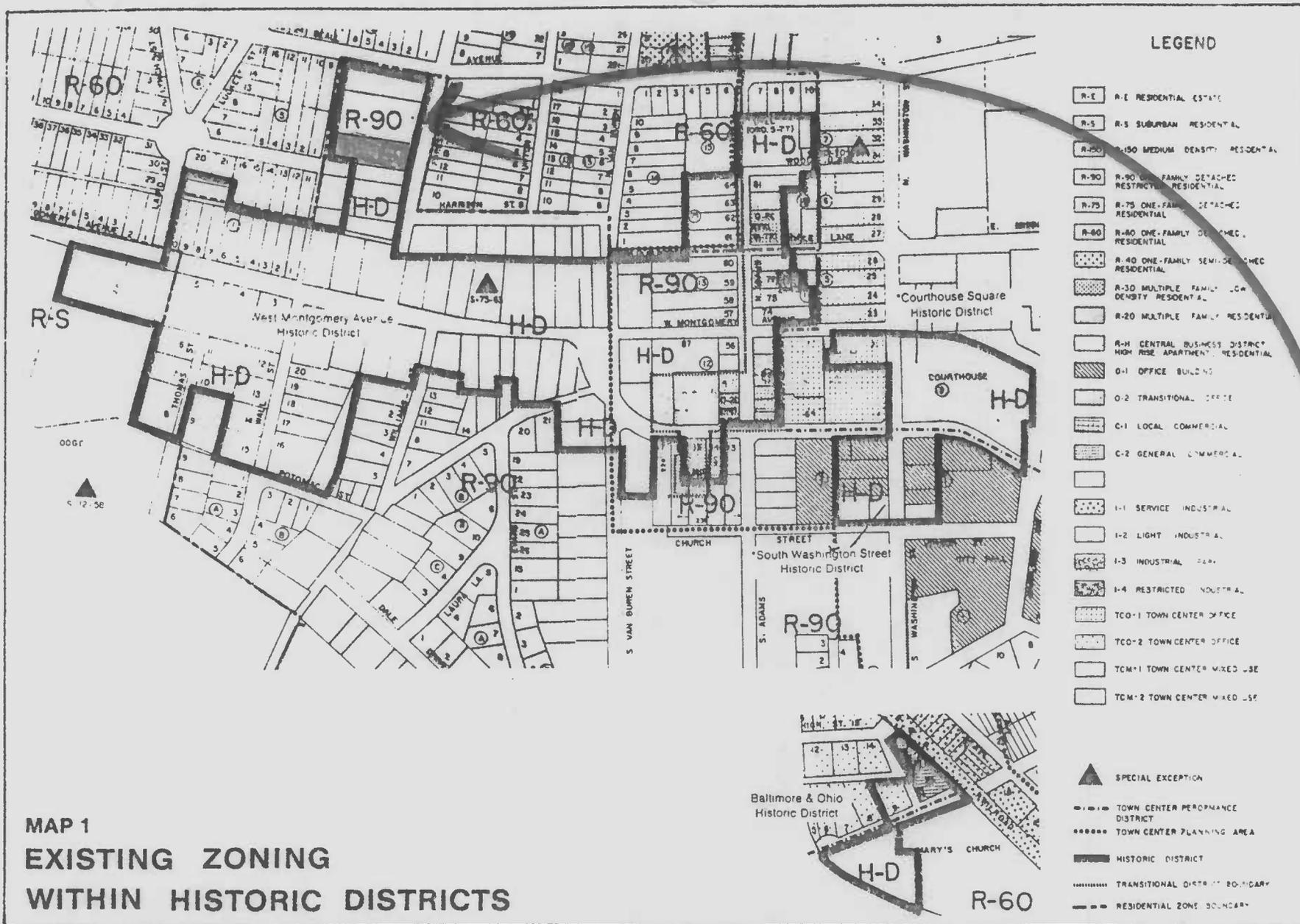
city or town Rockville

state Maryland 20850

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

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

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



*Note: For discussion and planning purposes South Washington Street and the Courthouse Square district are considered independent Historic Districts even though they are shown on the existing zoning map as one district.

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Talbot/Abbe House
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Rockville

M: 26/10/31
Talbot/Abbe House
From 1980 Peerless Rockville
calendar



100 Forest Avenue



1023-7

M: 26/10/31

TALBOTT/ABBE HOUSE
100 Forest Ave.
East elevation

RICHARD H. ANDREWS
1608 Farragut Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20851

August 1984



1023-8

M: 26/10/31
TALBOTT/ABBE HOUSE
100 Forest Ave.

South east elevation

RICHARD H. ANDREWS
1608 Farragut Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20851

August 1984



1023-9

no 26/10/31

Talbott - Abbe House

Garage - 100 Forest Avenue

South elevation

RICHARD H. ANDREWS
1608 Farragut Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20851

August 1984