Survey No. M:26-29(PACS B5.21)

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
Intercounty Connector Project

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic John Norris House

and/or common Lundsten/Poneleit Property

2. Location:

street & number 905 Viers Mill Road ___ not for publication

city, town Rockville ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___district	___public	_x_occupied	___agriculture	___museum
_x_building(s)	_x_private	___unoccupied	___commercial	___park
___structure	___both	___work in progress	___education	_x_private residence
___site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___entertainment	___religious
___object	___in process	___yes: restricted	___government	___scientific
	___being considered	___yes: unrestricted	___industrial	___other:
	___not applicable	_x_no	___military	
			___transportation	

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

name Michael Lundsten & Kathy Poneleit

street & number 905 Viers Mill Road telephone no.:

city,town Rockville state and zip code MD 20851

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Montgomery County liber 9168

street & number 50 Maryland Avenue folio 236

city,town Rockville state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___federal ___state ___county ___local

depository for survey records

city,town state

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one	
_x_excellent	___deteriorated	___unaltered	_x_original site	
___good	___ruins	_x_altered	___moved	date of move _____
___fair	___unexposed			

Resource Count: 1

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

The John Norris House, constructed in 1925, is a 2-story, 3-bay Four-square house on the south side of Viers Mill Road in Rockville, Montgomery County. The structure has an asphalt shingle, pyramidal roof with a central brick chimney. It is of wood-frame construction with vinyl siding and it has a stuccoed foundation. All windows are vinyl-clad replacement units. The house has a 1-story, full-width, hipped roof porch on the front elevation and a 1-story, shed-roof addition on the rear elevation. The front porch has wood columns, a wood railing, a wood floor and lattice skirting.

The front, or north facade has a central entrance on the first story. On each side of the entrance are glass double-doors. The second story has three, 1/1 double-hung windows.

The east elevation has two pairs of 1/1 double-hung windows on the first story. The second story has two, 1/1 double-hung windows. The east elevation of the rear addition has a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows.

The first story of the rear, or south elevation is concealed by the rear addition. The addition has glass double-doors, two pairs of 1/1 double-hung windows, and one, small 1/1 double-hung window. The second story of the rear elevation has three 1/1 double-hung windows.

The west elevation has one pair of 1/1 double-hung windows and one, single 1/1 double-hung window on the first story. The second story has two, 1/1 double-hung windows. The west elevation of the rear addition has one, 1/1 double-hung window.

Typical elements of the Four-square-style, including the symmetrical fenestration, full-width front porch, and pyramidal roof are evident in this structure. Alterations to the property include complete window replacement and the construction of a rear addition.

There are no outbuildings associated with this property.

The property is located on the south side of Viers Mill Road and the east side of First Street (Route 28). A modern townhouse development is located immediately adjacent to the rear of the structure, and there is also residential development to the east of the structure. The setting of the property is greatly altered, as the intersection of First Street and Viers Mill Road is a major intersection, with six lanes of traffic on each roadway.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
__prehistoric	__archaeology-prehistoric	__Community planning	__landscape architecture	__religion
__1400-1499	__archeology-historic	__conservation	__law	__science
__1500-1599	__agriculture	__economics	__literature	__sculpture
__1600-1699	__architecture	__education	__military	__social/ humanitarian
__1700-1799	__art	__engineering	__music	__theater
__1800-1899	__commerce	__exploration/settlement	__philosophy	__transportation
x 1900-	__communication	__industry	__politics/government	__other (specify)
		__invention		

Specific dates 1925 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: __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.

John Norris constructed the extant dwelling in 1925 on a 1.61 hectare (4 acre) parcel of land. The property remained constant in size, until 1987, when the property was subdivided and a townhouse development was constructed on the land south of the house. By 1990, when the current property owners purchased the structure, the lot size had been reduced to .07 hectare (.18 acres).

The John Norris House is located in the City of Rockville. Rockville became the County seat when Montgomery County was created in 1776. Through most of the 19th century, Rockville was a courthouse village, surrounded by agricultural land. It remained a small town until the coming of the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1873. The railroad brought summer and weekend visitors, and the resort trade encouraged the rapid expansion of Rockville, both in size and population. Many summer hotel patrons built summer residences and others became year-round residents.

Following the rapid growth from the 1870s to the 1890s, the expansion of Rockville stabilized until a second development boom after World War II. The growth of the Federal government in nearby Washington, D.C. in the years after the War, spurred considerable suburban expansion in Rockville and surrounding areas. Access to the Capital by rail and improved roadways encouraged this suburban expansion (Rockville Historic District Commission, 1973).

The Four-square house was popular in both suburban and rural areas of America from the late 1890s into the 1920s. American Four-square dwellings, such as the John Norris House, are usually two to two-and-a-half-stories tall with a simple square or rectangular plan, low-pitched, hipped roof, and a front entrance, usually off-centered, which served as the focal point of the facade. They also commonly featured dormers on all planes of the roof and a wide one-story front porch. Inside are usually four roughly equal-sized rooms on each floor, with a side stairway. Exterior wall surfaces were generally clad in clapboards or wood shingles. In vernacular examples, the Four-square often featured hipped dormers, a single-story, full-width front porch, and double-hung sash windows.

The development of the Four-square house was part of a stylistic movement known as "Rectilinear" which represented a reaction against the ornate Queen Anne style of the late 1880s. It was part of the same movement which produced the Colonial Revival style which returned to the symmetry of Georgian and Federal designs, and the Prairie School which stressed horizontal lines and intersecting, perpendicular planes. Four-square homes contain features of both the Colonial Revival and Prairie styles but the style developed independently from them (Wells 1987, 51).

8. Significance (Continued)

Like Colonial Revival houses, Four-square homes emphasize geometric forms, and like Prairie houses they have low-pitched roofs and windows that feature multi-light panels. Yet the Four-square houses also differ from these other styles in significant ways. Unlike Colonial Revival houses, Four-squares do not contain historical features such as Palladian windows, fanlights, and ornamented bracketing. They also often have off-center entrances. Designers of Four-squares also rejected the Prairie School emphasis on horizontal lines and irregular forms.

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION:

The John Norris House, an example of the Four-square style constructed in 1925, is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. The property does not meet Criterion C, as significant alteration of the fenestration pattern and the construction of the rear addition have compromised the architectural integrity of the structure. In addition, the property's setting has been significantly compromised through the growth of the intersection of Viers Mill Road and First Street, resulting in a loss of access to the property from either road. The property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended X

Comments: _____

Reviewer, OPS: E. Hannold/K. Williams Date: 11/25/1996

Reviewer, NR Program: [signature] Date: 3/4/02

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .07 hectare (.18 acres)
Quadrangle name Rockville, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Caroline Hall

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company date December 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412 telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore state Maryland

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 purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Boyd, T.H.S. The History of Montgomery County, Maryland, From its Earliest Settlement in 1650 to 1879. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1968.

Brugger, Robert A. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.

Coleman, Margaret Marshall. Montgomery County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk and Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1984, rev. 1990.

Farquhar, Roger Brooke. Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland. Washington: Judd and Detweiller, Inc., 1962.

Gowans, Alan. Styles and Types of North American Architecture. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including County of Montgomery, Maryland. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, 1879; reprint, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society, 1975.

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Martenet, Simon J. Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, Maryland. Baltimore, Maryland: Simon J. Martenet, 1865; reprint, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Historical Society.

Rockville Historic District Commission. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: West Montgomery Avenue Historic District. Rockville, Maryland, 1973.

Tindall, George Brown. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1984.

Wells, Camille, ed. Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, II, Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri, 1987.

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
December 1996

Intercounty Connector Project
Upgrade Existing Roads Alternative
Quad Rockville
Survey No. M:26-29 (PACS B5.21)
Property Name John Norris House

1. M:26-29
2. John Norris House
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P A C. Spero & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 905 Vies Mill Rd, NORTH ELEVATION
8. 1 of 4

1. M:26-29
2. John Norris House
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 905 Vieys Mill Rd, east elevation
8. 2 of 4

1. M:26-29
2. John Norris House
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 905 Vicks Hill Rd, west elevation
8. 3 of 4

1. M:26-29
2. John Norris House
3. Montgomery
4. Caroline Hall
5. July 1996
6. P.A.C. Spero & Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Towson MD 21204
7. 905 Vicus Mill Road, south elevation
8. 4 of 4