

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

- 1. Name: Noyes Library
- 2. Planning Area/Site Number: 31/6/2 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 21
Coordinate F-4
- 4. Address: 10237 Carroll Place
Kensington, Md.
- 5. Classification Summary

Category <u>structure</u>	Previous Survey Recording <u>MNCPPC</u>
Ownership <u>public</u>	Title and Date: <u>Historic Sites Inventory</u>
Public Acquisition <u>N/A</u>	1976
Status <u>occupied</u>	
Accessible <u>yes; restricted</u>	Federal <u> </u> State <u>x</u> County <u>x</u> Local <u> </u>
Present use <u>educational</u>	

- 6. Date: 1893 7. Original Owner: Noyes Library Association

- 8. Apparent Condition
 - a. excellent b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This three bay by three bay, one and a half story library has beige clapboarded exterior walls and butt shingled gambrel ends. The library faces west. Four poured concrete steps, flanked by wrought iron handrailing, lead to a gabled entryway. There are one-over-one double-hung windows on the west and east elevations and twelve-over-one double-hung windows on the south and north elevations. The library has a gambrel roof with wooden fishscale shingles. There is a cross gambrel on the west elevation with a three-dimensional eave and the words "Noyes Library" written in art nouveau script.

10. Significance: Noyes Library was the first public library in the Washington D.C. area, predating the Library of Congress by four years. It was begun by Brainard H. Warner, a Washington real estate broker and banker, and Crosby Noyes, editor and publisher of the Washington Evening Star. The two men collaborated; Warner donated the land and constructed a building on a small lot near his home, and Noyes stocked the Library with books (and continued to do so) from those received for review by the Star. The library first opened on January 10, 1893.

The purpose of the Noyes Library Association was to equip and maintain a public library and reading room in Kensington for the moral, intellectual and scientific improvement of the surrounding community. The period of its existence was set for forty years, but later this was extended by the Maryland legislature.

To become a member of the association one had to be 16 years old or over, of good moral character, living in Montgomery County and pay an annual fee of one dollar. Books could be withdrawn on the payment of a monthly fee of ten cents. Noyes Library became a center for the social as well as the educational life of Kensington. In November 1951, the County acquired the building and all "movable and immovable property" connected with the Library. Noyes Library was closed in the late 1960s, but reopened as children's lib.

- 11. Researcher and date researched: Wilma H. Hutson/May 1979 Candy Reed - Architectural Descr

- 12. Compiler: Eileen McGuckian 13. Date Compiled: Sept. 1979 14. Designation Approval
- 15. Acreage: 5,282 sq. ft.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 31/6/12
Kensington H.D.
MAGI:

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Noyes Library

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 10237 Carroll Place

CITY, TOWN

Kensington

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Montgomery County (Libraries)

Telephone #: 279-1401

STREET & NUMBER

99 Maryland Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20850

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 1652

Folio #: 252

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20850

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

—FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

This three bay by three bay, one and a half story library faces west. Built on brick foundations, it has beige clapboarding and butt shingling at the gambrel ends. On the west elevation four poured concrete steps, flanked by black wrought iron handrailing, lead to a gabled entryway. The west door is glass and wooden paneled.

There are two poured concrete steps at the northwest corner of the north elevation. These were the original steps which led to the front porch which once extended across the west elevation.

There are one-over-one double-hung windows on the west and east elevations and there are twelve over one double hung windows on the south and north elevations. These windows are all flanked by light green wooden louvered shutters. At the north and south gambrel ends there are flared projections over the louvered ventilator windows.

The library has a gambrel roof with wooden fishscale shingles. There is a cross gambrel on the west elevation with a three-dimensional owl (symbol of wisdom and learning) sitting on a branch above the art nouveau script which says "Noyes Library". There is an exterior brick chimney on the east elevation.

The west door opens into a small vestibule. An interior glass and wooden paneled door opens into the library. Immediately to the north is a small office. The rest of the room is open. There is a post which extends from floor to ceiling directly in front of the door about six feet. This post indicates the original west elevation. There was a porch on the west elevation before the library was enlarged to its present size.

The floors are now covered by wall-to-wall carpeting. Bookcases extend up to the window sills as this is a children's library. The walls are plaster over lath and wallboard. The ceiling has acoustical tiles with recessed fluorescent lights. A wooden paneled door opens into the office. The Library was remodeled about ten years ago.

Within living memory the entrance into the library was moved from the front to the side and then back around to the front. In the 1950's when the library became part of the County system, the wall was extended to include the porch making the serviceable space much larger; this allowed for a modern library type desk, storage space, plus corner toilet facilities. At one time the building was divided into smaller rooms then at some later date these walls were removed and the ceiling lowered.

Most recently (in the 1970's) a vestibule was added to the front entrance which is again located in the center of the front. In 1976 the roof was restored to wooden shingles similar to the original cypress fishscale style shingles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	—ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	—MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	—COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Warner/Noyes

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Noyes Library was the first public library in the Washington, D.C. area, predating the Library of Congress by four years. The building is located in Kensington on land known as "Joseph's Park", a grant of 4,220 acres to William Joseph in 1689.

In 1890, Brainard H. Warner, a prominent Washington real estate broker and banker, purchased from Spencer Jones about 125 acres bounded on the west by the Bethesda Road. He acquired additional land to the east from Alfred Ray and from the Knowles estate to the north,¹ then filed a plat called "Kensington".² Crosby Noyes, editor and publisher of the Washington Evening Star, was very interested in the developing movement for public libraries. Warner had been impressed with the English subscription library system when he had visited England. The two men collaborated; Warner donated the land,³ and constructed a building on a small lot near his home, and Noyes stocked the library with books (and continued to do so) from those received for review by the Washington Star.

Warner insisted on the following:

1. The library would be open 250 days a year;
2. Be kept in good order;
3. Reconstructed within a year if destroyed by fire;
4. No liquor should be sold or dispensed on the property;
5. No privy, well, drain, or cesspool was to be built unless it was built of a very durable material;
6. The footway in front of the building should be maintained.

The library first opened on January 10, 1893.⁴

The purpose of the Noyes Library Association was to equip and maintain a public library and reading room in Kensington for the moral, intellectual and scientific improvement of the surrounding community. The period of its existence was set for forty years, but later this was extended by the Maryland legislature. The library was managed by a nine member board of directors, the majority of whom had to live within a mile of Kensington station. The incorporators were Alphonso Hart, Reuben B. Detrick, Oliver R. Harr, Charles Payne Smith, Charles C. McCain, Jacob F. Stock, Albert Frego, Frederick Benjamin and John Howard Fishback.

To become a member of the association one had to be 16 years old or over, of good moral character, living in Montgomery County and pay an annual fee of one dollar. Books could be withdrawn on the payment of a monthly fee of ten cents.⁵

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attachment Sheet A

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5,282 sq. ft.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A triangular lot at the intersection of Montgomery Avenue and Carroll Place, "Kensington".

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Wilma H. Hutson	Candy Reed
ORGANIZATION	Sugarloaf Regional Trails	Architectural Description
STREET & NUMBER	Box 87	DATE May 14, 1979
CITY OR TOWN	Dickerson	TELEPHONE 926-4510
		STATE Maryland 20753

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Noyes Library

Noyes Library became a center for the social as well as the educational life of Kensington. Lectures, concerts, oyster suppers, ice cream socials, teas, and strawberry festivals were held for the benefit of the library.

In the early 1950s all independent libraries in the County were invited to join the County's new Department of Public Libraries. There was much discussion and many meetings, with the final decision to join the system.⁷

In November 1951, the County acquired the building and all "movable and immovable property" connected with the Library. The Noyes trust fund is still administered by the Noyes Library Association for the maintenance and improvement of the library.

The Noyes Library was closed in the late 1960's, and its book collection was merged with others in the area. The Kensington Park Library was built to fill the growing needs of Kensington. As a result of the storm of protest over its closure, Noyes Library was renovated and reopened as a special children's library.⁸ It was an experimental project, and one of only three in the County.⁸ A variety of programs at Noyes attracts children -- books, films, story telling, penny theater plays, music, shadow and puppet plays, craft demonstrations, juvenile dramatics and a discovery corner.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Walters, Malcolm, "The Town of Kensington", (Montgomery County Historical Society), Montgomery County Story, Vol. 7, November 1963; "Knowles Station and the Town of Kensington" by Townsend.
2. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., Plat B 4.
3. *Ibid.*, JA38/122 (May 2, 1893).
4. Noyes Library Association Record Book.
5. Montgomery County Corporation Records, EBP 1, page 187 (December 9, 1892).
6. Noyes Library Association Record Book.
7. The Record, June 15, 1951.
8. Washington Star, September 20, 1970.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Montgomery County Land and Corporation Records.
 Noyes Library Record Book, Noyes Library.
 Caplan, Nora (Librarian, Noyes Library), Interview, March 31, 1979.
 Hall, Mary E. Noyes Library 1976.
 Walters, Malcolm. "The Town of Kensington", Rockville, Montgomery County Historical Society.
 Material from the files of the Montgomery County Historical Society.
 McMaster, Richard K. and Hiebert, Ray E. A Grateful Remembrance, the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, Montgomery County Government and Montgomery County Historical Society (Rockville, 1976).

Attachment Sheet B

Noyes Library

M: 31/6/2
Kensington
Historic
District

