

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 Springland
other names/site number Dent House

2. Location

3550 Tilden Street N.W.
street & number Washington not for publication N/A
city, town Washington vicinity N/A
state District of Columbia code D.C. county N/A code DC 001 zip code 20016

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>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>1</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.
Carol P. Thompson
Signature of certifying official State Historic Preservation Officer Date 6/21/90
State or Federal agency and bureau

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 8/9/90
 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 of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic

Other: Folk Tidewater South

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Wood

roof Slate

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Springland house circa 1845 is positioned on a hill surrounded by numerous mature trees on .93 acres of land sloping down to the entrance to the house on the north and away from the house to the south. The house is constructed of brick with a slate roof. A wooden porch extends across the width of the south facade of the house. A substantial one bay addition to the house circa 1891 to the east consists of a brick basement and first floor with a second story of wood construction. Behind the house to the southeast is a peaked roof frame building, the only other structure on the property, which was a garage and has been converted into a studio. It is a noncontributing structure.

The original 1845 farmhouse was a simple 1 and 1 half-story structure, symmetrically arranged with gable end chimneys. During the middle of the nineteenth century the vernacular porch was added extending the width of the south facade of the house. According to descendents, the house was altered and added to in the 1890s when Reverend James Macbride Sterrett and Adlumia Dent Sterrett moved to Washington and settled at Springland with their five sons. Another remodeling, primarily on the interior, took place in 1929 when the Reverend Henry Hatch Dent Sterrett and his family moved into Springland. The last exterior change was the replacement of the front porch in the late 1920s.

The house retains its integrity as a vernacular structure which has been altered and added to in response to the needs of the inhabitants and the changing technological advances in heating and plumbing. An unprecedented amount of the site has been maintained around the house as open space and garden with mature trees thereby retaining the original sense of the house set in the rolling countryside outside of the growing federal city.

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)

Architecture
Philosophy
Religion

Period of Significance

1845 - 1850
1891 - 1923

Significant Dates

1845
1891
1929

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Sterrett, James Macbride

Architect/Builder

Dent, Henry Hatch

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

A. INTRODUCTION

Springland, a brick house built circa 1845, with an addition dating to circa 1891, is significant architecturally as an example of the mid-19th century gentleman/builder vernacular architecture typical of the country estates built in the rural areas outside the emerging federal city. Springland exemplifies the construction techniques, materials and layout of spaces of southern vernacular architecture of the 1840s and 1890s. It also exemplifies the pattern of extended family life in the mid-nineteenth century with the younger generation building their homes on land that is part of or near their parents' land.

Springland is significant historically in the fields of religion and philosophy because of its association with James Macbride Sterrett (1847-1923) the most significant historic individual to live at Springland. "As a philosopher Sterrett's distinctive contribution to American thought was along the line of the development of idealistic philosophy, notably the idealism of Hegel.... He was especially interested in the field where philosophy and religion touch...he turned his thought to the philosophical principles which underlie the intellectual aspect of religion.... His great work was in the field of philosophy...in which his clear, yet profound, thinking helped to give idealism a better standing as against the empirical pragmatic trend so pronounced in some quarters." [** 1] He was the author of several books written during the time he resided at Springland between 1891 and 1923: Reason and Authority in Religion; The Ethics of Hegel; The Freedom of Authority; and Modernism in Religion.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Oral Interview with Adlumia Sterrett Hagner and Sam Sterrett on Jan. 30, 1989.

Adlum, John. A Memoir on the Cultivation of the Vine in America and the Best Mode of Making Wine. Booknoll Reprints, Hopewell, New Jersey. 1971.

Peckham, Howard H., editor. Memoirs of the Life of John Adlum in the Revolutionary War. Published for The William L. Clements Library Associates by the Caxton Club, Chicago. 1968.

Peter, Grace Dunlop and Joyce D. Southwick. Cleveland Park, an Early Residential Neighborhood of the Nation's Capital. Washington D.C. 1958

Helm, Judith Beck. Tenleytown, D.C.; Country Village into City Neighborhood. Tennally Press, Washington D.C. 1981.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Martin Luther King Library
The Historical Society of Washington D.C.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .93 Acre

UTM References

A

1	8
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3	2	0	5	6	0
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4	3	1	2	0	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Springland comprises .93 acre and occupies Square 1901, Lot 801 in Northwest Washington D.C. Please refer to map shown in figure 11.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary selected for Springland is the current property line which dates from the 1920s. Over the years land from the estate was sold and subdivided. The .93 acre that remains is necessary to convey the historical setting of rolling land and trees which originally surrounded this mid-nineteenth century house set in the rural countryside.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By KATHLEEN SINCLAIR WOOD, Architectural Historian

name/title (reviewed by RUSSELL KEUNE AIA and CHARLES SZORADI AIA)

organization CHARLES SZORADI AIA Architect date August 1, 1989

street & number 128 G Street S.W. telephone 202/ 488-1557

city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20024

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The site is almost an acre which is unusual in this early twentieth century suburban area of Washington D.C. The property is a designated D.C. landmark listed on the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites as the Dent House and is located just north of the Cleveland Park Historic District. [See Figure # 1]

Springland is related to several neighboring late 18th and early 19th century country houses built in the county just outside Washington city: the frame farmhouse at Rosedale of 1795, at present the headquarters of Youth for Understanding, just six blocks south; Woodley house of brick dating circa 1800, currently part of the Maret School, a few blocks further south and east; and The Highlands also of brick built circa 1822, at present the administrative offices for Sidwell Friends School, just to the west of Springland. All of these houses were homes for gentlemen who had business in Washington, D.C. in the late 18th and early 19th centuries but wished to live in the country. Only Springland remains a private home. [See Figures # 2, 3, & 4]

To the east of Springland is a large tract of land which is currently designated for international use on which are located several embassy buildings and the large Intelsat complex. This land was originally physically connected to Springland and owned by the Dent family. It was the site of the Vineyard Estate developed by John Adlum, father of Ann Maria Adlum Dent the original owner of Springland.

To the West of Springland and immediately to the north of The Highlands, Sidwell Friends School, is the Washington Home (for Incurables) which moved to 3720 Upton Street in 1927. It is currently being totally rebuilt.

The rest of the surrounding area is suburban development laid out in a grid pattern dating from the second quarter of the twentieth century. Immediately adjacent to Springland to the east and to the south along Springland Lane (a cul-de-sac) the suburban development is more romantic in conception and the layout of roads and driveways follows the Olmsted philosophy of conforming to, rather than altering, the existing contours of the land. This allows the Springland setting to blend in with the trees and hills to the south and east thereby enhancing the historicity of the site which is not abruptly terminated at its boundaries. [See Figures # 5 & 6]

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The original house (43 feet by 29 feet) is entirely built of brick, the one bay addition (16 feet by 35 feet) has a brick first floor with frame above. Throughout the house the brick is laid in the American Common bond with 4 to 7 rows of stretchers and then a row of headers. In the original house there is no water table or belt course. The house is very simple and unornamented. The only variations in the brick work are the jack arches located above almost every door and window in the house. The porch on the south facade (43 feet by 8 feet) is of wood construction resting on brick supports. The gable roof on the original house, which also covers the porch, is slate; the roof on the addition is flat.

The north facade, which includes the main entrance to the house, consists of two parts: the original symmetrical three part facade to the west and a two story addition to the east.

The original facade consists of a three part arrangement. It has a large central section which projects slightly (about the depth of a single brick) in front of the two flanking sections each containing a single double sash window on the first story and in the dormers above. The projecting central section is capped by an overhanging peaked gable; the depth of the overhang is similar to that of the side gable on the west facade (about one foot). A half-circle window centered below the apex of the gable is trimmed with bricks accentuating the semi-circle shape of the window. The prominent entrance (approximately 12 feet by 8 feet) is centered below and has a brick jack arch above. Within the overall frame are transom and sidelights surrounding the door on three sides. The transom consists of two horizontal lights flanked by two vertical lights which are aligned with the vertical lights framing the door. The transom is separated from the lower elements by a series of projecting moldings. The sidelights flanking the door are arranged in series of three with a wood panel below of the same size. The door itself is a six panel door with two vertical panels above, smaller square panels by the door handle and smaller vertical panels below.

A brick stoop projects from this center section to form an uncovered entrance porch with eight brick steps leading up from the driveway. There is a simple wrought iron railing consisting of straight balusters alternating with twisted ones which runs around the porch and down both sides of the steps. The only decorative details are simple knobs on the corner posts and two small brass urns capping the initial posts at the first step. This porch covers the centrally located entrance to the basement. It is joined to the main facade with arches allowing access to the covered area below it.

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It is clear from inspection that this brick porch was not original to the house. This brick porch may have been added early in the twentieth century (perhaps in 1929 when the Reverend Henry Hatch Dent Sterrett and his family moved into the house). The basement door, directly beneath the front door, has a jack arch above and a small six-light casement window directly to the east of it.

Flanking the projecting central pavilion are two identical bays with doublehung sash windows with 2/2 lights on the first floor, smaller basement windows below also with 2/2 lights and two dormers on the second floor with sash windows and 2/2 lights. Throughout the house doublehung sash windows with 2/2 lights using very large panes of glass is the most common type of window treatment. The windows in the original part of the house may have been altered in the 1890s to be more in conformance with the windows in the wing that was added at that time. The dormers are not located directly above the first floor windows, in each case the dormer is located more toward the outside wall, as if they were leaning away from the central section. From the disturbance to the brickwork beneath the dormers and the cuts in the eaves of the roof it looks as if these may have been added possibly in the 1890s. The dormers are constructed to look as if the wall of the house carried up into the roof area to form the front facade of the dormers. The brick is continued around the corner for a few inches and then is replaced by slate shingles. (The dormers on the south facade are completely covered with slate shingles with no indication of brick.) The dormers have hip roofs. The original front facade is flanked by two gable end chimneys with corbeled chimney caps further enhancing the symmetrical design of the original facade.

The addition to the east projects about 1 foot beyond the face of the original facade and has the appearance of a massive tower. Its width (16 feet) is slightly greater than the width of the projecting central section with the front door (15 feet). It rises the full two stories and has a flat roof behind an entablature which forms a parapet. The basement level with its sash window, 2/2, and jack arch is separated from the first floor by a three-brick projecting water table. Eight brick layers above is another two-brick projecting molding at the level of the base of the window. These two moldings continue around the side of the addition to the east and south facades. A doublehung sash window, 2/2, of less vertical dimensions than the windows in the original facade, has a jack arch above and is centrally located on the first floor. The second story of the addition is clad with wood shingles and has a row of scalloped, fish scale, shingles at the base where the frame juts out over the brick first story. A 2/2 sash window is found on the second floor. All windows, except the dormer and basement windows, have louvered fixed shutters.

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The East facade is dominated by the large overhanging gable, similar to the one on the west end, but this one is basically for appearance because the roof behind it is flat. It does organize and unify the facade while providing some protection from rain. The facade is punctuated with a number of various size windows and a door. There is one basement window, 2/2. The first story has one large 2/2 sash window on the south, a smaller square shape 2/2 sash window and then a door with 2/2 lights in the upper half with a transom above. On the second story there are two 2/2 sash windows of varying sizes and between them is located a smaller casement window with six lights. A small bullseye window is just below the gable peak.

On the south facade the new addition terminates in a polygonal shaped bay as it joins the porch which extends across the entire width of the original garden facade of the house. Each of the three planes has a tall vertical sash window 2/2 lights. The basement has a square 2/2 window in the central bay and a solid door in the bay to the east with a jack arch above. On the second story the three-sided bay continues with one 2/2 window in the central section. The clapboards are continued with scalloped shingles at the base between the first and second stories and the top is capped by the same moldings forming an entablature that carries around all three sides of the addition. The joining of the addition to the original house is rather awkward. It is cut into the end of the porch, protruding into the expansive roof and wraps around half of the chimney which was enclosed within the roof form. The bay does not project beyond the porch-line, but rather nestles in behind it so that the complete porch form retains its integrity.

The south facade which faces the garden appears to have been given prominence equal to the north facade. On maps of the mid to late 19th century the driveway coming from Pierce Mill Road encircled the house so the carriage could stop at either entrance. [See Figures # 2 & 4] The dominant features of the south facade are the expansive overhanging slate roof and the integral porch extending across the entire width of the original house.

The house is located on a hill so that the basement level is above ground on the south but below ground on the north. The fully exposed basement level of the south facade which opens onto a brick floor under the porch and extends onto a brick terrace into the yard, has irregular fenestration. The first bay to the west is dominated by a set of stairs which make three turnings to reach the first floor. At the basement level the stairs are completely enclosed by a brick wall, which was not original to the house, and are entered through a doorway flush to the wall of the house. A square window, 3/3 lights is cut into the brick wall on the south facade to light the staircase.

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In the second bay is the door which entered into the original basement level kitchen, a typical southern feature if the kitchen was not placed in a building separate from the house. The kitchen door is set deep in the brick wall, with a jack arch above, and has four lights above and wood panels below. A modern screen door is set flush with the facade. Next to the door to the east is a square shaped window, 2/2. In the third bay is a small vertical window, 1/1, approximately 1 and 1/2 feet by 3 feet. In the fourth bay is a paneled door with no lights. In the fifth and final bay is another square window, 2/2, approximately 3 feet by 3 feet. The brick of the basement level on this facade has been painted white.

The southern porch, divided into five bays, which opens off of the first floor rooms is carried on four brick piers plus the brick wall enclosing the small back staircase (incorporating the remaining original two piers). Wooden pillars rise from the brick piers to the overhanging roof which they support. A wooden balustrade of simple spaced square pickets capped by an oval shaped handrailing encloses the porch and continues as the stair railing.

Two sets of paired doors open onto the porch from the living and dining rooms. Each of the four doors has 18 lights (six rows of three lights each). The pairs are set within a molded framework with a pier between them which is treated with flutings resembling those on a pilaster, but there is no capital or base detail. The doors are symmetrically located in the wall of the original house and are two steps above the wooden floor of the porch. Above the doors are two boxy shaped protrusions which were added to provide floorspace for the upstairs dormers. The change in the width of the floor boards in the upstairs bedrooms indicates that these were not part of the original construction of the house.

In the expansive slate roof there are two prominent hip roof dormers, symmetrically located. Each has a double-hung sash window with 2/2 lights. These dormers are completely clad in slate unlike the dormers on the front which had brick on the front facade and slate beginning one third of the way back on the sides. These southern dormers are completely enclosed in the overhanging roof and expressed as separate from the brick wall below whereas on the front of the house the designer wanted carry the brick wall up into the dormer area. Two symmetrically located gable end chimneys with corbeled chimney caps also are located within the expanse of the roof at either end of the original house. The chimney to the east was expanded when the new addition was built adjoining it and making use of it to provide an interior fireplace in the new room.

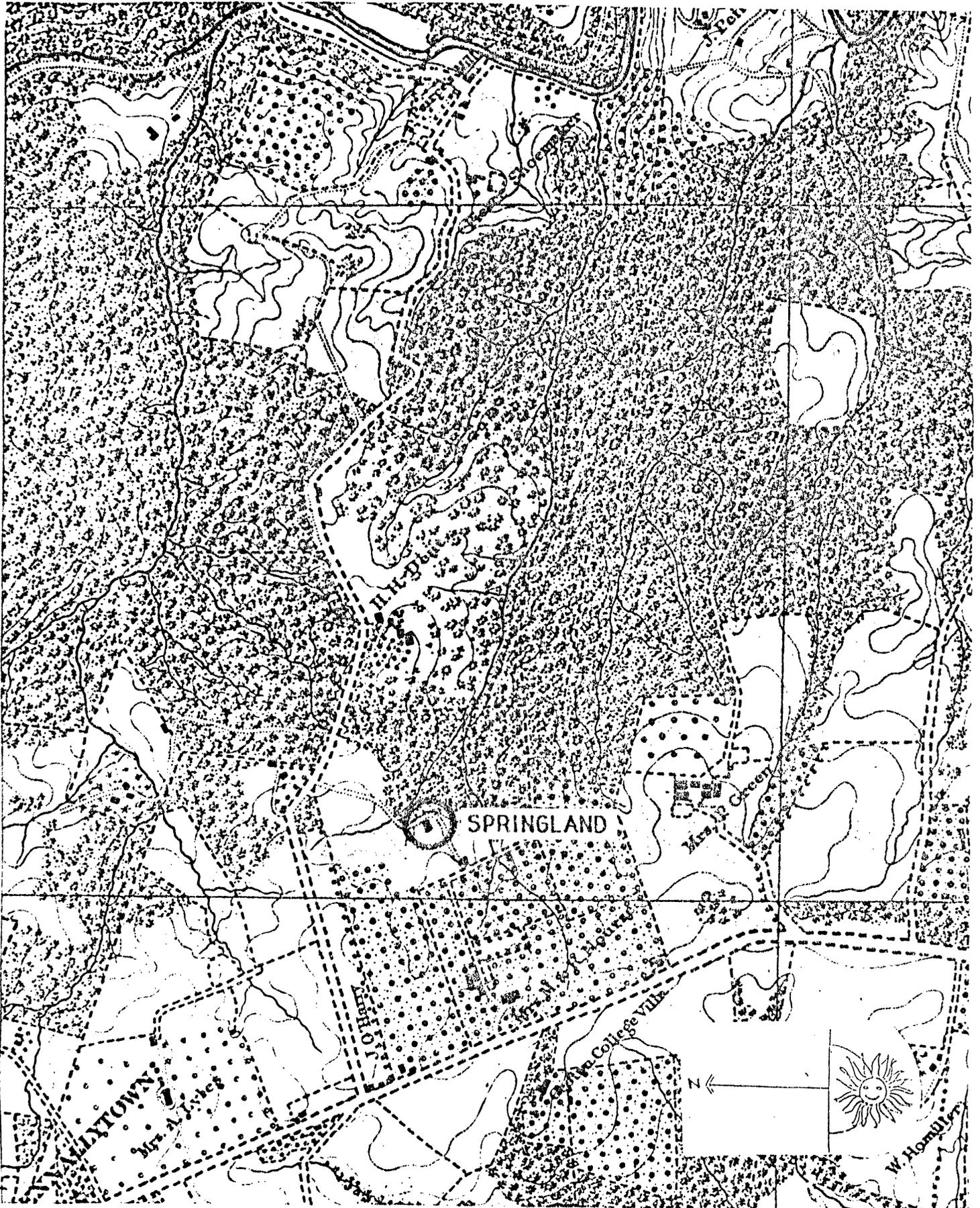
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The west facade is dominated by the gable with a lean-to form as the roof is extended to cover the porch. The overhang of the roof is about one foot. The chimneys are symmetrically organized flanking the peak of the gable and are enclosed completely within the body of the house. This facade is organized by a variety of window and door openings into the expansive brick wall, laid in American common bond. A square 2/2 window is located just beneath the peak of the gable. Below it on the second story are two identical sash windows, 2/2 lights, (with an air conditioner cut into the wall below the southern window). They both have jack arches above. On the first story two vertical sash windows, 2/2 lights, flank the chimney. These windows have a layer of narrow stretcher bricks as a lintel above each window rather than jack arches and a row of projecting bricks forming a sill. The brick around the windows appears to have been altered. All of these features which do not appear elsewhere on the house suggest that these windows were altered, perhaps in 1891 when the Sterretts moved in. A small 6 light casement window is located to the north of the pair of windows, directly below the northern window on the second story. At the basement level below the small window is a modern door to the basement set in an original opening. Immediately to the south of it is a small square window with 3/1 light. Both of these have jack arches above.

The interior has retained its original configuration of spaces with the addition of the kitchen in the 1890s on the first floor to replace the one in the basement beneath the living room (which was the dining room). The cooking fireplace for the kitchen is still intact with its swinging bracket on which cooking pots were hung over the fire. Accompanying floor plans indicate the layout of the interior spaces on all three floors. [See Figures # 7,8, & 9] The fireplaces are original although the mantels may have been changed in the 1890s when the interior was refurbished. The location of the stairs appears to be original although the balusters and handrail reflect the stylistic preferences of the 1890s. The paired doors from the dining room and the living room leading onto the porch appear to date from the 1890s.

E. CONCLUSION

The Springland house and its grounds have retained the integrity of the original site and construction dating from the 1840s. The permanent additions of the 1890s were integrated into the design of the house in response to living patterns of the occupants and their need for additional space. The house and its grounds are in good condition and well maintained. To an unusual degree in Washington the Springland house and its grounds retain the integrity of the vernacular design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.



LOCATION MAP - 1856 -

Excerpt from the Map of the District of Columbia, 1856; by A. Boschke
in the collection of The Library of Congress, Geography & Map Div.



LOCATION MAP - 1889

Excerpt from the Map of the District of Columbia, 1884; by Major Lydecker & Capt. Greene
in the collection of the National Archives, Cartography Div. Alexandria, Va.

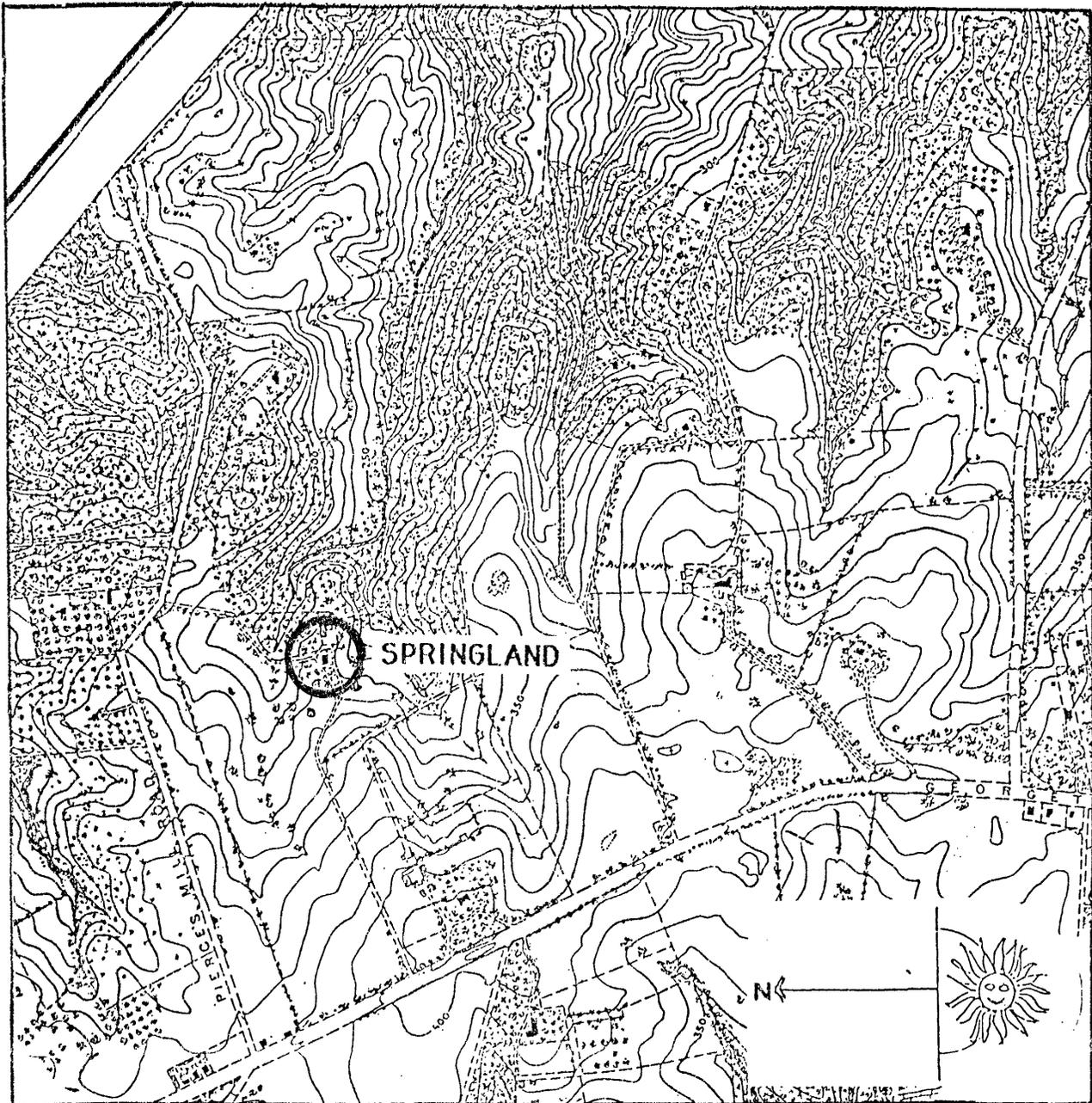
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FIGURE # 4



LOCATION MAP - 1894
Excerpt from DC Survey map 1880-1892, Sheet 3; published 1894. In the collection of
Martin Luther King Library, Washingtoniana Div. Washington DC

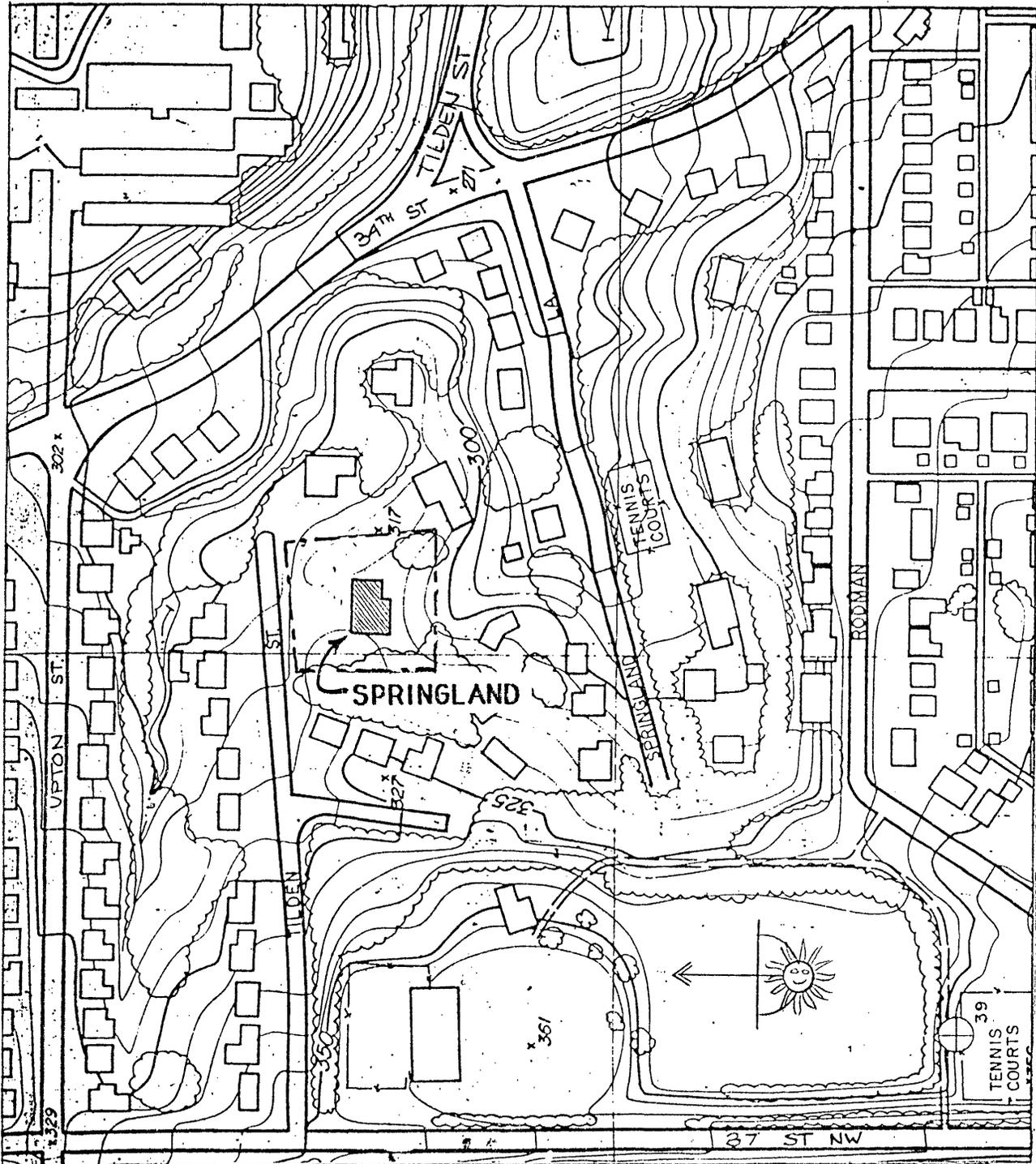
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FIGURE # 5



LOCATION MAP

Derived from National Capital Planning Comm. Map 5674, by Alster & Assoc. Wash. DC 1973

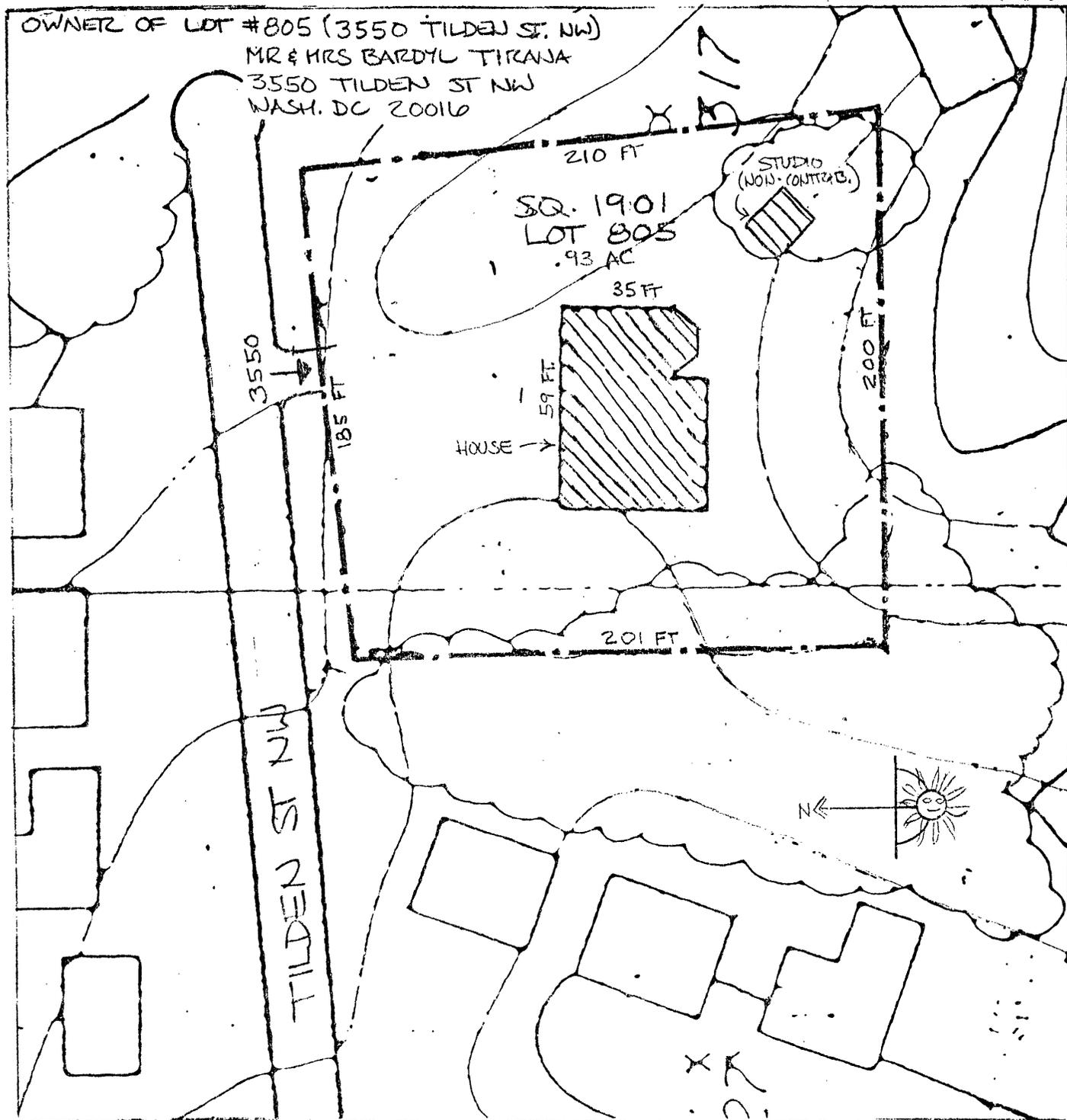
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FIGURE # 6



SITE PLAN

Derived from National Capital Planning Comm. Map # 5674, by Alster & Assoc. Wash. DC 1973

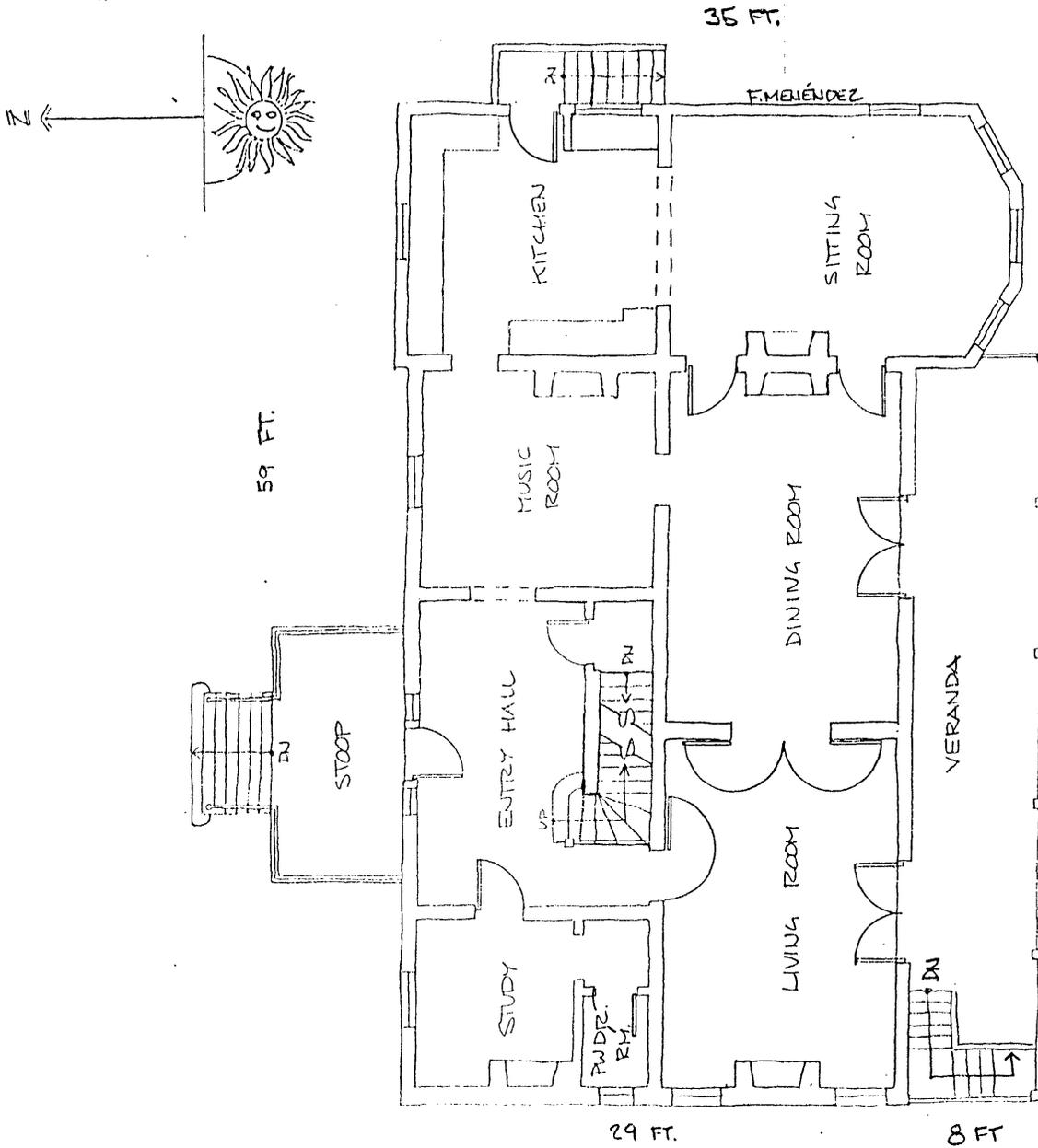
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FIGURE # 7



FIELD SKETCH - FIRST FL. (no scale)

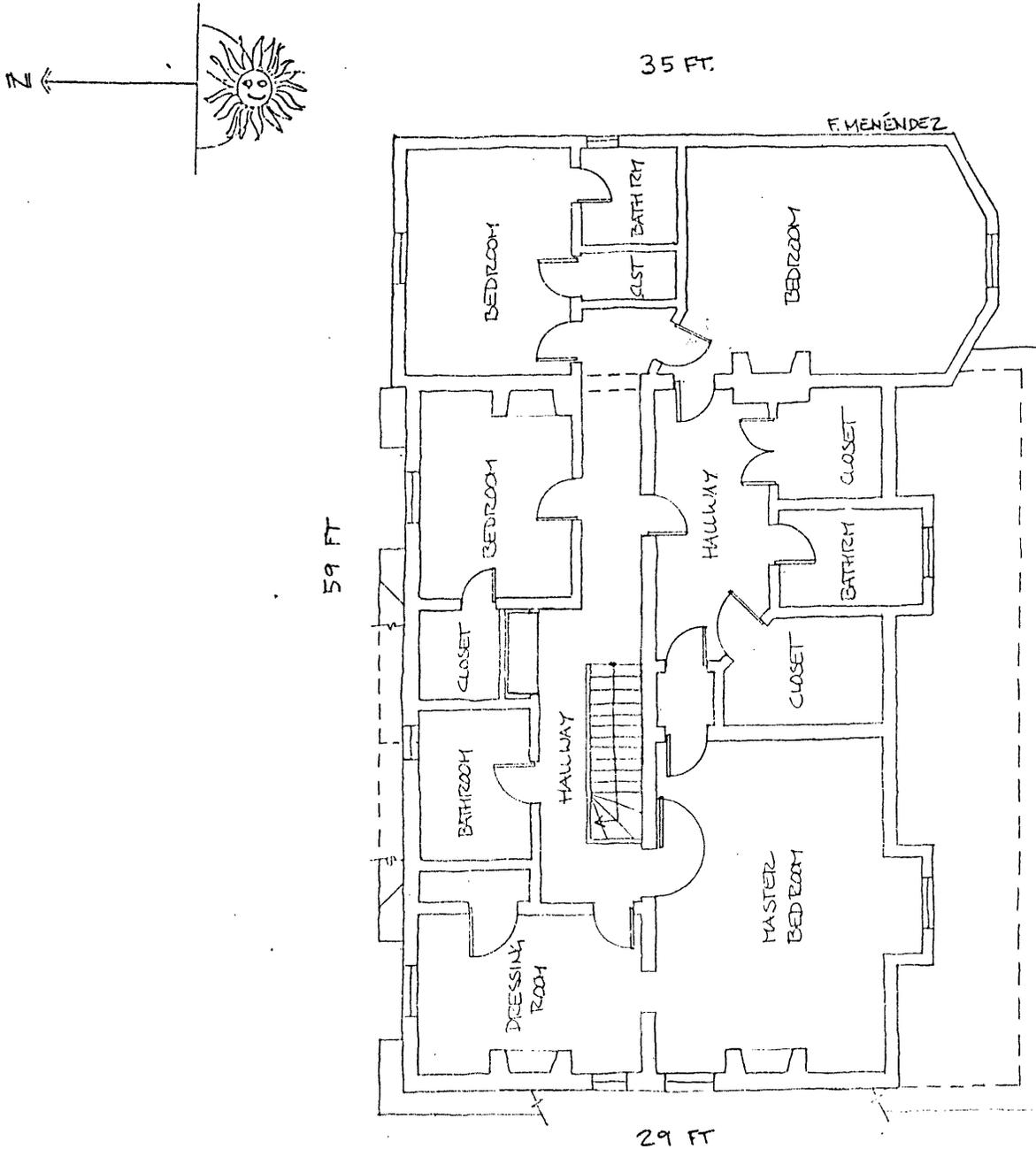
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FIGURE # 8



FIELD SKETCH - SECOND FL. (no scale)

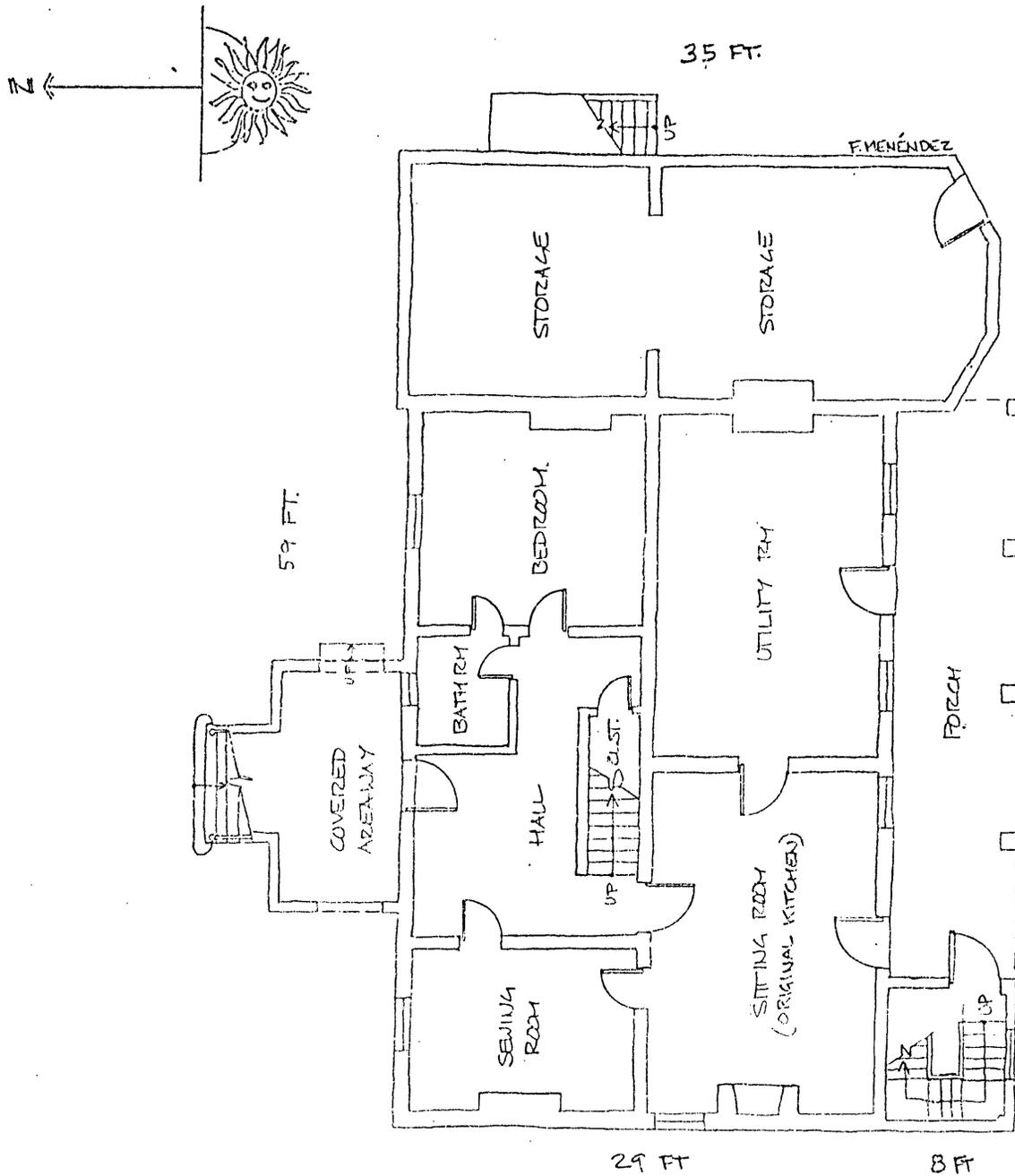
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FIGURE # 9



FIELD SKETCH - GROUND FL. (no scale)

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The only major additions and alterations to the house appear to date from the early 1890s when the Reverend James Macbride Sterrett and his wife of fifteen years Adlumia Dent Sterrett moved to Washington and settled at Springland. For almost 150 years the house has maintained its original character, setting and function to an unprecedented degree in an area where 19th century country houses have generally been demolished or converted to institutional use in which case they have been subjected to additions and substantial renovations and are now surrounded by new institutional buildings thereby severing the historic relationship between the house and its grounds. Situated on its original site surrounded by mature trees, open space and natural topography Springland continues to serve its original function as a family home. The first period of significance, 1845-50, is the period of occupancy by its owner/ builder. The second period of significance, 1891-1923, is the period during which James Macbride Sterrett lived and wrote at Springland. The significant dates are construction and alteration dates. Springland represents the period of its construction in the 1840s, and the period of its alterations in the 1890s.

Henry Hatch Dent (1815-1872), the builder of this vernacular house, was born February 11, 1815 at Bryantown, Charles County, Maryland. He graduated from Yale College in 1836 and then studied law in Washington D.C. with Francis Scott Key. On September 14, 1841 he and Ann Maria Adlum were married at her parents' adjacent estate The Vineyard. [** 2] They had five children before her death, June 10, 1849. He was a Democrat in politics and a delegate to the 1860 Convention in Charleston. He was an Episcopalian. After his wife's death he moved to Pennsylvania with his children where he lived as a gentleman farmer. He was appreciated as a good neighbor, and his eldest daughter, Margaret Katharine Dent, gave land to the Diocese of Pennsylvania for the founding of All Saints Church, Brookland, Potter County. [** 3]

Ann Maria Adlum (1815-1849), the youngest daughter of John and Margaret Adlum grew up in Washington on the Vineyard where her father was a pioneer in the study and cultivation of American grapes, especially the Catawba, and in the making of wine. "His life-long interest and his greatest service were in the cultivation, study and improvement of American grapes." [** 4] He corresponded with Thomas Jefferson about his activities and agreed with Jefferson that it was more sensible to develop native American grapes rather than try to import and grow the European varieties. Jefferson praised the wine he developed from the Catawba grape. Adlum encouraged the federal

** denotes footnotes which are listed at the conclusion of Section 8.

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government to support research institutions to benefit agriculture and the establishment of experimental farms. His ideas were not accepted at the time but were adopted by the government some ninety years later. After John Adlum's death Ann Maria acquired most of the Vineyard in 1841 when she compensated her mother and sister for their share of her father's inheritance. In 1845 her husband added to their landholdings when he purchased land from Joseph Nourse to the east and joined it to the Vineyard. Springland was the home that they built for themselves near the house at the Vineyard where Ann Maria's mother was still living. Ann Maria's funeral was held at Springland on June 12, 1849 at 4 P.M. [** 5] After her death her husband and children moved away from Washington which is confirmed by his absence from the census of 1850. Springland is all that remains today of the Vineyard where viticulture was pioneered by John Adlum.

B. HISTORIC CONTEXT

The existence of Springland contributes significantly to our understanding of this area's history during the nineteenth century before the growth of the surrounding suburbs. It is unique in retaining its original character and function amidst sufficient grounds to evoke the mid 19th century setting. When the District of Columbia was established in 1791 it included Washington City, the new federal city, designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant and the surrounding Washington County, all within the ten mile square. In 1845 Springland was constructed in Washington County which was governed by different regulations than Washington City and which was still closely tied to Maryland. Geographically, the County in northwest Washington was separated from the City by the deep chasm of Rock Creek. The Frederick Road, today Wisconsin Avenue, was the main transportation artery from Maryland passing through the County and Georgetown en route to Washington City. According to the description by English author Frances Trollope in 1830: "The country rises into a beautiful line of hills behind Washington, which form a sort of undulating terrace on to Georgetown; this terrace is almost entirely occupied by a succession of Gentlemen's seats." [** 6] Springland is the only such gentleman's seat remaining intact amidst an acre of its grounds and still used as a private residence in this northwest section of Washington D.C.

Many of these country homes have been demolished. The few that remain have been taken over by institutions and adapted to their use. The frame farmhouse of General Uriah Forrest at Rosedale built c. 1795 is at present the headquarters of Youth for Understanding. Its front lawn has been preserved but the house is surrounded on the sides and rear by brick dormitories. Philip Barton Key's brick Woodley House of circa 1800 is currently the administrative center and library for the Maret School. Its front lawn has

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been preserved but to the east and west stretch a series of buildings from various times and in varied styles constructed to house the school's many activities. The Highlands, Major Charles J. Nourse's brick country house of circa 1822, is at present the administrative offices for Sidwell Friends School. It too has retained its front lawn although tennis courts, playing fields and additional buildings flank it and alter its original setting. All of these houses were homes for gentlemen who had business in Washington D.C. in the late 18th and early 19th centuries but wished to live in the country. Springland, alone, remains a private home surrounded by open space and trees thereby invoking the 19th century ambience of a country house.

These country houses were designed and built by the owners in conjunction with the builders. These gentlemen would have had some knowledge of architecture from books and travel but were not trained as architects. The dominant style during the first half of the nineteenth century in Washington D.C. was derived from Greek, Roman and Renaissance models. Symmetry and an emphasis on a central axis were prominent features. Springland reflects both of these characteristics in its more formal north facade.

The south facade which faces the garden appears to have been given prominence equal to the north facade. This facade with its integral porch is more characteristic of the vernacular styles of the southern states in which these porches were developed as a practical response to the extremely hot and humid climate. On maps of the mid to late 19th century the driveway coming from Pierce Mill Road encircled the house so the carriage could stop at either entrance. [See Section 7; Figures # 2 & 4] The dominant features of the south facade, the expansive overhanging slate roof and the integral porch extending across the entire width of the original house, link this house with the French Colonial tradition of rural houses found in Louisiana (* Please refer to Virginia & Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, N.Y. 1984, p. 127, illustration # 6) and carried up the Atlantic coast and identified by Fred B. Kniffen as Tidewater South folk housing (* Please refer to Dell Upton, and John Michael Vlach, editors, Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture, The University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia, 1986, pp. 18 - 21, fig. 29 and 30).

Springland is unusual in that it did not follow the central hall plan of the nearby high style southern plantation houses which allows breezes to pass through and cool the center of the house. Instead the integral porch typical of Louisiana and of vernacular houses of the tidewater south was utilized. Springland also was unusual in that it was not given any of the more formal classical characteristics like moldings or columns typical of similar neighboring gentlemen's homes.

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Springland exemplifies the pattern of extended family life in the mid-nineteenth century. It was built just across the fields from Ann Maria Adlum's mother, Margaret, who continued to live at the Vineyard following the death of her husband John Adlum in 1836 and after the Vineyard estate was deeded to Ann Maria in 1841, four months prior to her marriage to H.H. Dent. This is a familiar pattern noted in the history of country estates in the vicinity of Washington, D.C. including a most illustrious example: Nelly Custis, George Washington's step granddaughter, was given a parcel of land from the Washington estate at the time of her marriage upon which Woodlawn was built, literally within view of Mount Vernon. Land from large estates was often given to daughters or sons upon their marriage so that the young couple could build a house nearby. Two other examples in the immediate vicinity are the Forrest family's 1795 Rosedale Estate and Forrest Hill built in 1868 by George Forrest Green on 23 acres of land given to him by his mother directly across the driveway from his mother's house, Rosedale. (Forrest Hill was purchased by President Grover Cleveland for use as his summer White House in 1886 and was subsequently demolished in 1927.) Joseph Nourse and his family lived at Mount Alban from 1813. In 1817 Joseph Nourse purchased land just a short distance north along the Road to Frederick on which his son, Major Charles J. Nourse, built his house The Highlands (Sidwell Friends School).

C. HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

In the 1840s Springland and the Vineyard were combined under the ownership of Ann Maria Adlum Dent and her husband Henry Hatch Dent. These two estates were carved out of large land holdings of the 18th century: The Addition to the Rock of Dumbarton patented in 1723, Gizor patented in 1763, and Friendship of 1713. [** 7] John Adlum purchased three parcels of land in 1817, 1819 and 1820 totalling 139 acres. He then developed his Vineyard Estate with his frame house and numerous outbuildings. [** 8]

After the death of John Adlum in 1836, and just prior to the marriage of his younger daughter Ann Maria to Henry Hatch Dent in 1841 the Vineyard Estate was deeded to Ann Maria for \$4,000 (It appears that this payment was to her mother and sister and brother-in-law who were to share equally in the estate left by John Adlum) The deed allowed Ann Maria's mother to remain in her house at the Vineyard and make use of the outbuildings. [** 9]

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Ann Maria's husband added to this land in 1845 by purchasing 37 acres from his immediate neighbor to the west, Mrs. Mary J. Nourse, who was experiencing financial difficulties after the death of her husband. [** 10] The Springland house was probably built in 1845 after Dent purchased the land on which the house is located. It is clearly evident on the Boschke map of 1859. It continues to appear on the late nineteenth century maps with some changes in the configuration of the driveway. Ann Maria Adlum Dent died in 1849. In 1850 Henry Hatch Dent moved away from Washington with their five children and settled in Pennsylvania. In 1852 Margaret Adlum of The Vineyard died. From the 1850s the land was occupied by tenant farmers. According to maps the two estates (Springland and The Vineyards) were both under the ownership of Henry Hatch Dent.

In 1891 H.H. Dent's fourth daughter, Adlunia Dent, moved to Washington with her husband of fifteen years James Macbride Sterrett, and they settled at Springland where they raised their five sons. At this time the bay to the east and the dormers in the north and south facades were probably added and the window lights altered. Sterrett had begun his career as an Episcopal minister and then turned to teaching philosophy. He spent ten years at Seabury Divinity School, Faribault, Minnesota. In 1891 he and his family moved to Washington, D.C. and settled at Springland to enable him to assume a professorship at Columbian (now George Washington) University. Through the publication of several books during this period he became a highly respected thinker in the field of philosophy and religion and was made professor emeritus at Columbian University in 1909. While teaching he also served as assistant minister of the Church of the Epiphany in Washington from 1892 to 1911. In 1911 he became the first rector of All Soul's Church, a church which he helped to found, and he remained in this position until 1917 when he became associate rector and his son, the Reverend Henry Hatch Dent Sterrett became the rector.

In 1929 the Reverend Henry Hatch Dent Sterrett and his wife and children moved into Springland. At this time the front porch was probably removed and replaced with the brick stoop and iron railing and the interior was redecorated. The Sterrett family remained at Springland until the 1950s. Subsequently it was rented to diplomatic families until it was sold in the mid-1970s to its present owner.

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Springland remains as the only remnant of John Adlum's (1759-1836) estate the Vineyard which was significant as an early example of an experimental farm on which grapes were experimented with for the making of wine from American Catawba grapes. Adlum's "life-long interest and his greatest service were in the cultivation, study, and improvement of American grapes." [** 11] He was a pioneer in the study of the native American grape and wine making. He was among the first to urge the federal government to give support to research institutions for the special benefit of agriculture - he asked for their support in establishing an experimental farm for the study of grapes - when refused he established the farm on his own. He concentrated on developing grapes native to North America, especially the Catawba grape. He summarized his work in two published books in which he included copies of correspondence with Thomas Jefferson who very much admired his wine and consulted Adlum for advice. "In 1824 a New England Congressman noted that the wines produced at Adlum's vineyard were "of excellent quality" and were "found upon the tables of the Secretaries and other citizens of Washington." Adlum wrote in 1826 that whiskey "destroys both body and mind," but wine "moderately enjoyed leaves a man cheerful, capable of attending to business, happy in himself & benevolent to others; it renders him a kind neighbor, an ardently affectionate husband, a good tempered pleasant companion; and it prepares his heart for the happy & virtuous influence of women." [** 12] Adlum was in communication with Thomas Jefferson who very much admired his wine and wanted information for himself.

D. CONCLUSION

Springland's architectural significance is unique in that it is the only one of several country houses built in Washington County outside the new federal city in the 19th century to remain a private residence on an ample wooded lot without the addition of institutional buildings. The house retains its integrity as a vernacular structure which has been altered and added to in response to the needs of the inhabitants and the changing technological advances in heating and plumbing.

Springland retains its historical significance as the residence of James MacBride Sterrett during the period of his prominence as a writer, thinker and professor in the fields of philosophy and religion.

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FOOTNOTES FOR SECTION 8

- **1. Malone, Dumas, editor; Dictionary of American Biography; New York; 1935; Volume IX; pp. 593-4.
- **2. Daily National Intelligence; September 16, 1841.
- **3. Newman, Harry Wright; The Maryland Dents; Richmond, Virginia; 1963; p. 161.
- **4. Johnson, Allen, editor; Dictionary of American Biography; New York; 1927; Volume I. p. 109.
- **5. Daily National Intelligence; June 11, 1949.
- **6. Smith, Kathryn Schneider, editor; Washington at Home; Windsor Publications; 1988; p. 204.
- **7. Helm, Judith Beck; Tenleytown, D.C.; Country Village into City Neighborhood; Tennally Press, Washington D.C.; 1981; p. 12.
- **8. Liber A.N. No. 38, 1817, 189/137; Deed recorded February 22, 1817.
Liber A.V. No. 46, 1819, 386/265; Deed recorded August 21, 1819.
Liber A.X. No. 48, 1820, 175/126; Deed recorded February 8, 1820.
- **9. Liber W.B. 87, 1841, 232/175; Deed recorded May 6, 1941; Deed from Cornelius Barber and Margaret Catharine, his wife, of the first part, Margaret Adlum, widow and reflect of the late John Adlum of the second part and Ann Maria Adlum of the third part. Two parcels of land (93 1/4 acres and 45 acres) sold to Anne Maria Adlum for \$4,000 by her sister, brother-in-law, and mother with the proviso that her mother can continue to live in her house on the 93 1/4 acres and use the adjoining buildings.
- **10. Lieber W.B. 120, 1845, 296/288; Deed recorded September 27, 1945. Joseph Nourse had died leaving massive debts. His land was sold and Mrs. Nourse bought it back and is selling some of it to H.H. Dent. With this deed H.H. Dent purchased 37 acres adjoining Adlum's to the west - the land between the Vineyard which his wife Ann Maria Adlum had bought in 1941 and The Highlands owned by Joseph Nourse's descendents.

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**11. Johnson, Allen, editor; Dictionary of American Biography; New York;
1927; Volume I. p. 109.

**12. The Junior League of Washington; An Illustrated History: The City of
Washington; New York; 1977; p. 294.

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Upton, Dell and John Michael Vlach, editors. Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture. The University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia and London, England. 1986.

Newman, Harry Wright. The Maryland Dents. The Dietz Press, Incorporated, Richmond, Virginia. 1963.

Newman, Harry Wright. Charles County Gentry. Published by the Author, Washington. 1940.

Johnson, Allen, editor. Dictionary of American Biography. Charles Scribner's & Sons, New York. 1927. Volume I.

Malone, Dumas, editor. Dictionary of American Biography. Charles Scribner's & Sons, New York. 1935. Volume IX.

Saul, John A. "Tree Culture, or a Sketch of Nurseries in the District of Columbia;" Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Washington D.C. Volume X. Published by the Society. 1907.

Gahn, Bessie Wilmarth. "Major John Adlum of Rock Creek;" Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Washington D.C. Volume XXXIX. Published by the Society. 1938.

DEEDS TO THE PROPERTY

Liber W.B. 87, 1841, 232/175; Deed recorded May 6, 1941.

Lieber W.B. 120, 1845, 296/288; Deed recorded September 27, 1945.

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REPOSITORIES

Recorder of Deeds

The Washingtoniana Collection at the Martin Luther King Library, Washington D.C. (Newspapers, census records, and maps)

The Map Room at the Library of Congress

The Columbia Historical Society Library, Washington D.C. (The Historical Society of Washington D.C. as of June 1989)

The National Archives, Washington D.C. (Building Permits and Tax Assessment Records)

The D.C. Courthouse (Wills)

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Daily National Intelligence; September 16, 1841, Marriage Announcement for H.H. Dent and Ann Maria Adlum.

Daily National Intelligence; Washington, June 11, 1849, Death Notice for Ann Maria Adlum.

Daily National Intelligence; Washington, November 2, 1844, Public Auction for sale of Joseph Nourse lands part of which became Springland.

Daily National Intelligence; Washington, November 9, 1844, Public Auction for sale of Joseph Nourse lands to satisfy unpaid back taxes.

The Washington Sunday Star; July 29, 1917, "The Rambler Writes of Maj. John Adlum's Vineyard," by J. Harry Shannon. (Vertical Files at the Washingtoniana Room at MLK Library)

The Washington Sunday Star; August 5, 1917, "The Rambler Finds Two Tracts," (on microfilm in the Washingtoniana Room at MLK Library; See also Nov. 15, 1914 & Feb. 7, 1915)

The Washington Star; May, 1899, "Catawba's Origin, This Grape was Named Here in the District of Columbia, Arresting Story of John Adlum, How He Developed the Best of Native Vines, A Friend of Jefferson's." (Vertical Files at the Columbia Historical Society Library)

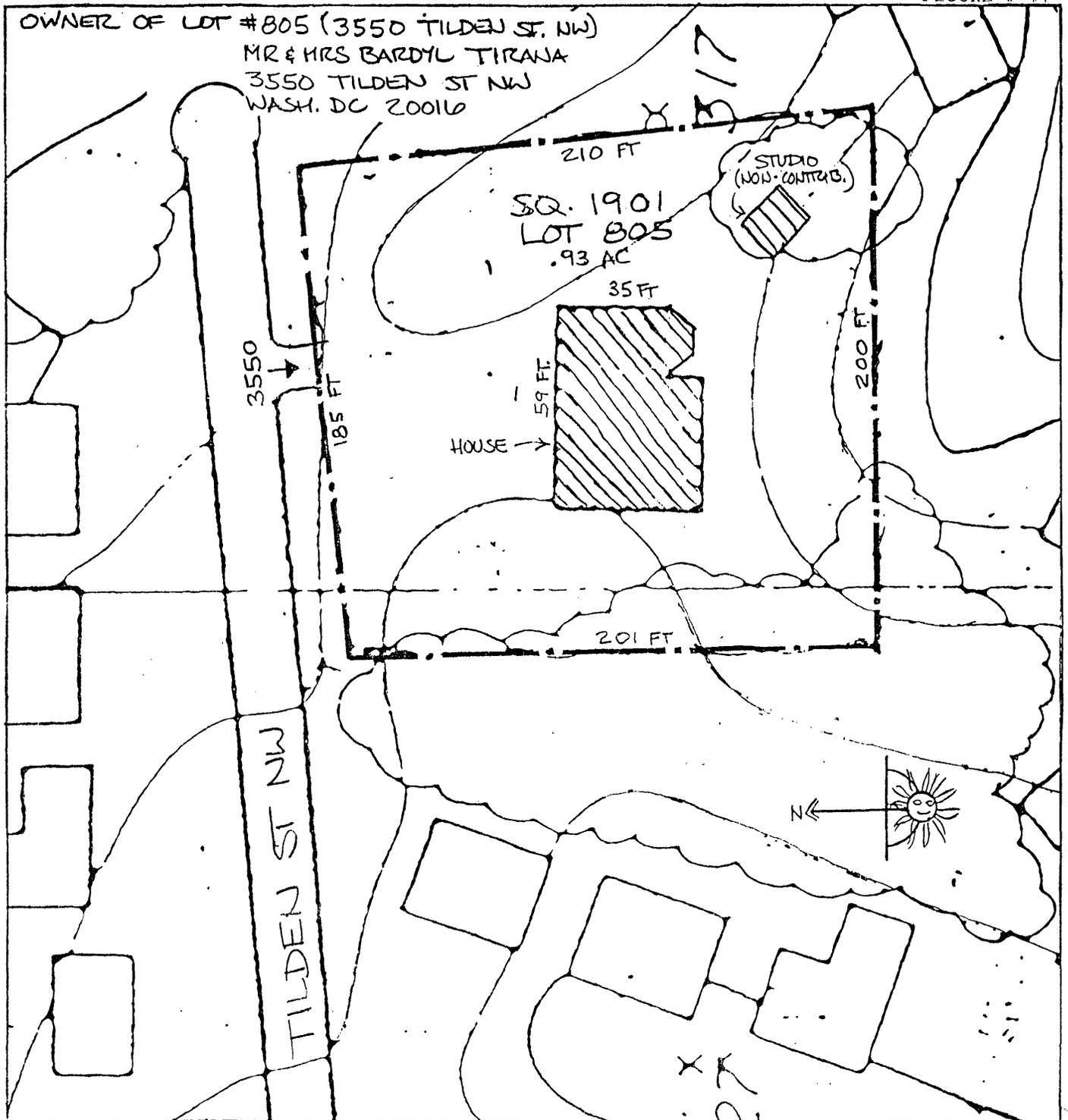
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FIGURE # 11



BOUNDARY MAP

Derived from National Capital Planning Comm. Map # 5674, by Alster & Assocs. Wash. DC 1973

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001114

Date Listed: 8/9/90

Springland
Property Name

Washington, D.C.
County

State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Jon Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

8/9/90
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

There is a discrepancy in the boundary description. The map describes the boundary as being lot #805, while the form lists it as lot #801. Glen Leiner of the DC SHPO says that lot #801 is correct.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)