

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 68-013-01

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Potts/Star Hall  
other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street and number 3405 Rhode Island Avenue      not for publication  
city, town Mount Rainier      vicinity  
county Prince George's

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

name City of Mount Rainier  
street and number 1 Municipal Place telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town Mount Rainier state MD zip code 20712

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 171 folio 247  
city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 49 tax parcel 4 tax ID number 17 1833185 and 17 1833177

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
 Other: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning Department

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>    </u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>    </u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			<u>1</u>

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

Potts/Star Hall is located at 3405 Rhode Island Avenue in Mount Rainier, Prince George's County, Maryland. Oriented to the northwest, the building is situated east of the Mount Rainier traffic circle at the intersection of Rhode Island Avenue, Perry Street, and 34<sup>th</sup> Street. This detached building fronts the concrete sidewalk, which extends along the southwest (side) elevation with a narrow band of grass and mature trees. A small alley extends down the northeast (side) elevation and continues to the east and south. A small area behind the building has been enclosed with a metal fence.

### POTTS/STAR HALL

#### EXTERIOR

Potts/Star Hall is a large, two-story building with a rectangular form. Set on a solid foundation, this masonry structure has five-course, American-bond brickwork. A wide metal band extends between the first and second stories, providing additional structural support. The second story has been parged. A front-gabled roof of asphalt shingles caps the building and includes a boxed cornice and thin overhanging eaves supported architecturally by brick pilasters running the height of the northeast (side) and southwest (side) elevations. Piercing the eave of the northeast elevation is a brick chimney, which mimics a pilaster. A large interior brick chimney with a parged cap pierces the western slope of the roof. A tall metal rod rises from the northwest end of the roof.

The façade (northwest elevation) has been significantly altered. The first story currently has a single-leaf, metal-frame door with light located in the western bay. This non-historic opening appears to have been installed in an original window opening that was partially enclosed with brick. Large, twin, square-window openings are located in the central bays of the first story. These large openings have been infilled with brick but retain rowlock brick sills. A large door opening with a two-course, rowlock brick segmental arch is located in the eastern bay. Metal sheets attached over plywood enclose the opening. The second story has three window openings with rowlock brick segmental arches; the openings have been enclosed with brick laid in stretcher bond. A metal sign is attached to the central window opening.

The southwest (side) elevation has also been significantly altered. Multiple air-conditioning units have been installed in original openings. Fenestration of the first story consists of a single-light window set in a narrow, square-edge wood surround with metal security bars located in the northernmost bay. A small window opening with an air-conditioning unit is located slightly above this large opening. South of this is a single-leaf metal door. The opening was originally much larger, as evidenced by a two-course, rowlock brick segmental arch and brickwork surrounding the door that is not consistent with the rest of the building. A single-light, wood-sash window is located slightly south of this opening. The two southernmost bays hold 2/2, double-hung, wood-sash windows with wood sills and two-course, rowlock brick segmental arches. The second story has multiple window openings that have been enclosed with brick. Access to the second story of the building has

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always been through a second-story door opening on the southwest (side) elevation. Originally, this opening was sheltered by a second-story enclosure accessed via an open stair with brick supports; however, in the mid-1980s the open stair was enclosed with concrete blocks and veneered with six-course, American-bond brickwork. A metal roof caps the exterior stair while four-light, metal-sash awning windows with concrete sills provide illumination to the stairwell. A single-leaf metal door provides access to the stair. Additional fenestration of the southwest (side) elevation consists of single-leaf metal door located below-grade and accessed via concrete steps beneath the enclosed stair.

The northeast (side) elevation has three first-story window openings with wood sills and three second-story window openings without sills. All of the window openings have two-course, rowlock brick segmental arches and have been enclosed with either brick or plywood. Air-conditioning units have been installed at various spots along the elevation. The first-story door opening holds a single-leaf metal door and single-light transom set in a narrow, square-edge wood surround with two-course, rowlock brick segmental arch. Metal security bars have been attached over the opening. The second story door opening holds a single-leaf, multi-light wood door, which is set in a narrow, square-edge wood surround with a two-course, rowlock brick segmental arch. A door hood shelters the opening, which is accessed via a counter-weighted metal fire stair attached to a second-story metal balcony.

The southeast (rear) elevation has two window openings with wood sills and two-course, rowlock brick segmental arches. One of the windows has been enclosed with brick while the other holds a 2/2, double-hung, wood sash. The second story has no fenestration. A two-story, one-bay appendage is located off the eastern end of the rear elevation. This original feature has five-course, American-bond brickwork and is capped by a shed roof covered with asphalt shingles. A small access opening, holding a paneled wood door with two-course, rowlock brick segmental arch, is located on the rear of the appendage. A wood-sash casement window pierces the first story of the northeast (side) elevation. A fine metal mesh and security bars have been applied over the opening. Additional window openings have been enclosed with either brick or plywood but retain their two-course, rowlock brick segmental arches.

### INTERIOR –TERMINAL SNACK BAR

The Terminal Snack Bar is located on the ground floor of the building and fronts the sidewalk along Rhode Island Avenue. The space has a linoleum tile floor, dark wood paneling, and a drop ceiling. A bar with rotating stools bisects the interior of the room. A range and kitchen appliances have been installed along the southern wall. A door opening along the southern wall provides access to the rest of the first story.

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### INTERIOR – FIRST FLOOR

A large open room with tall ceilings composes the main portion of the first floor. This centrally located room is accessed via a door opening from the Terminal Snack Bar or through a door opening in the enclosed stair. Decorative elements include a molded chair rail and metal supports for large summerbeams. A kitchen is located at the rear in the southern end of the first floor.

### INTERIOR – SECOND FLOOR

The second story is accessed via the enclosed stair. Entry is through a single-leaf door opening to a narrow hallway bisecting the second floor. The hallway has paneled wood doors providing access to closets and a cloakroom. Bathrooms are located southeast of the hallway and a large meeting room to the northwest.

Entry to the second-story meeting room is through a single-leaf wood door with Masonic knocker. The room is carpeted and has a drop ceiling with fans. The walls have been painted but reveal the location of the original window openings, which are now infilled. Decorative moldings, a chair rail, and pressed metal panels below the chair rail highlight the room. The northern end of the room is raised, holding three large wooden chairs. Two rows of leather chairs extend down the side of the room and face a small altar placed in the middle of the room.

### INTEGRITY

Potts/Star Hall is significant to the social and cultural development of Mount Rainier; however, its exterior has been altered considerably. These alterations have resulted in a deteriorated integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Although the building's form is intact, most of the original window and door openings have been obscured, infilled, or changed, vinyl siding introduced, and the exterior stair enclosed. However, many of these alterations were necessitated by the community and the numerous groups that called Potts/Star Hall home. Despite these alterations, this building has been a local landmark in Mount Rainier for nearly a century. When constructed, this building was the largest building in Mount Rainier and afforded residents a meeting place for community meetings, functions, and celebrations. Although the exterior of the building has been altered, its function as a community meeting place is unaltered and remains of utmost importance. Currently, the building is owned by the City of Mount Rainier. The city plans on utilizing this building as an extension of the City Hall building. In this capacity, Potts/Star Hall will continue to serve the residents of Mount Rainier as it was originally intended, as a community meeting place. As a result, Potts/Star Hall maintains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association.

Overall, Potts/Star Hall presents a moderate degree of integrity.

# 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Local History</u>

<b>Specific dates</b>	c. 1909	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	c. 1909, c. 1985		

Evaluation for:

National Register                       Maryland Register                       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed c. 1909, Potts/Star Hall was, and continues to be, one of the largest buildings in Mount Rainier. Completed at the beginning of the twentieth century, this vernacular building reflects the utilitarian and public use for which it was intended. Constructed for Robert E. Potts, a local businessman, the building was originally known as Potts Hall. Community and church gatherings, as well as private meetings all took place in “the largest place of meeting in Mount Rainier” while under the ownership of Potts. In 1921, Potts sold the building to The Star Hall Company, after which the building was known as Star Hall. Shortly after acquiring it, the Star Hall Company conveyed the property to Adah Chapter No. 25 of the Order of the Eastern Star of Mount Rainier. The building served as this Masonic group’s headquarters, in addition to hosting numerous other local groups. In the 1980s, the Terminal Snack Bar was established in the northern portion of the first story. Still in operation, this luncheonette serves a loyal customer base. In January 2010, trustees of the Adah Chapter No. 25 conveyed the property to the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland. The Adah Chapter and the Terminal Snack Bar now lease space in the building from the city; future plans include adapting the building for use as an annex to the City Hall. Potts/Star Hall maintains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a building associated with the social and cultural development of the City of Mount Rainier since its construction at the beginning of the twentieth century.

## HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Potts/Star Hall is located in Mount Rainier, Maryland. Incorporated in 1910, Mount Rainier is located in northwest Prince George’s County adjacent to the northeast quadrant of the District of Columbia. Oral tradition maintains that the community was named by its early developers, former army officers from Seattle, who named the area after the famed mountain in Washington state.<sup>1</sup> Mount Rainier developed as an early-twentieth-century streetcar suburb for the middle class, and the community retains a large and diverse collection of vernacular residences and commercial buildings constructed between 1900 and 1939.

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Mount Rainier remained a rural, agricultural landscape until the early 1900s. Both the 1861 Martenet map and the 1878 Hopkins map show relatively little development in the area that would become Mount Rainier. Roads leading east to Bladensburg and west to Washington, D.C., appear on the historic maps.<sup>2</sup> An early subdivision of the community in the 1890s failed, despite the arrival of a streetcar line in 1897 connecting Mount Rainier with the District of Columbia. Between 1900 and 1910, eight different subdivisions were platted by various companies, and Potts/Star Hall was constructed to serve the new residents of the community.<sup>3</sup> Construction slowly developed along the western edge of Prince George's County. Locally important real estate developers were involved in the development of Mount Rainier, including J. Harris Rogers and his brother James C. Rogers, who were also responsible for developing portions of Cottage City, Edmonston, Rogers Heights, Hyattsville, and Riverdale.<sup>4</sup> In most cases, lots were sold unimproved and contractors were retained by the new property owners to design and erect the houses. Other lots were developed by speculative investors. Further subdivisions in the 1920s and 1930s expanded the community to the north and to the east. The commercial area of what is now "downtown," developed around the streetcar station and included grocery, hardware, and supply stores, as well as a bakery, pharmacy, and tailor shop. By the 1930s, new businesses appeared along the commercial corridor of 34<sup>th</sup> Street and provided access to a movie theater, bowling alley, banking, and auto repair shops.<sup>5</sup>

### **Potts/Star Hall**

On August 16, 1909 Robert E. Potts purchased Lot 4, unimproved, from Annie L. and Horace H. White.<sup>6</sup> At this time, Potts was a resident of Brentwood, Maryland, a town adjacent to the northeast. Assessment records suggest that Potts had the building constructed by 1910, when records first indicate an improvement valued at \$2,000. Due to its large size and location along Rhode Island Avenue, just northeast of the District line, Potts Hall became a multi-functional building utilized as a local movie theater, community hall, and public meeting site. Potts served as Justice of the Peace for Mount Rainier during the first decade of the twentieth century.

The first mention in local newspapers of Potts/Star Hall, then known as Potts Hall, came in October of 1909, when Mount Rainier was still a crossroad village of a few streets and houses. A small group of Episcopalians met in the new building on Rhode Island Avenue to form St. John's Chapel of St. Matthew's Parish, Hyattsville. The officiant was Reverend Henry Thomas of St. Matthew's Parish.<sup>7</sup> The congregation conducted services in the building for three years.

In January 1910, Potts Hall was to be the site of a ten-round boxing match between Tommy Lowe and Johnny Dougherty, which was organized by local promoter Mr. Cleeland.<sup>8</sup> Potts Hall for one night became the home of the Mount Rainier Amusement and Physical Culture Club. Long before the 3 o'clock bout, more than 200 men had made their way to Potts Hall and joined the club, paying Cleeland one dollar, "which entitled the favored one to all the privileges of the organization, in including the use of the piano."

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However, there “was a sad lacking of the usual paraphernalia that is generally found in such places.” Despite this, the scene that night was lively as the “fortunate brothers were permitted to enter this gymnasium and amuse themselves as best they might until time for the ‘big doings.’” Amateur pianists took their turn entertaining, which “seemed to meet with the approval of the crowd for they were encored several times.” Unfortunately, the bout never transpired as the local Deputy Sheriff Thomas Mohler interrupted the proceedings and shut the club down claiming that a club charter had not been applied for. Membership dues were returned despite Cleeland’s best efforts to persuade the sheriff that the “club was duly organized and none but members were admitted to what was not going to be a prize fight, but merely an exhibition of the manly art of self-defense.”<sup>9</sup>

In December 1910, Potts Hall was chosen as the best place to hold an investigation and public hearing in the murder of Robert Laupp, proprietor of the Ram’s Horn Inn. This high-profile case demanded a large space for the hearing. “Because of the feeling and the intense interest aroused over the prospect of a public hearing, Justice of the Peace Robert E. Joyce yesterday announced that the investigation will be conducted in Potts Hall, the largest place of meeting in Mount Rainier. It is expected that the two factions will gather in large numbers.”<sup>10</sup>

The size and location of Potts Hall also made it an attractive venue in which to hold town meetings. In 1911, a heavily attended Mount Rainier town meeting documents the public involvement in the development of the community. An article in *The Washington Post* states, “The meeting was advertised well. Late Monday night the town was flooded by White and Plank retainers, with circulars urging all citizens and taxpayers ‘interested in the welfare of Mount Rainier’ to attend. Voters of every political complexion tested the capacity of Potts Hall.”<sup>11</sup> Feeling threatened by a changing political environment, then Mayor Robert E. Joyce, presided over the “stormiest town meeting that the oldest inhabitants could recall” with a revolver holstered at his waist. The mayor started the meeting by stating, “If any of you men brought any fireworks to this meeting, you had better take them outside, for this is not to be a political meeting.”<sup>12</sup> The tumultuous meeting commenced with little reassurance for the citizens of Mount Rainier that public services and safety would improve.

Meetings of the political scope did occur at Potts Hall. In 1912, the Progressive party held a meeting at which Senator Moses E. Clapp of Minnesota declared, “the Roosevelt policies have been carried out on a stretcher by the Taft administration.”<sup>13</sup> About 200 hundred people attended the meeting, during which Doc Garges was elected president of the Mount Rainier Progressive Club.

The building continued to play an integral role in the development of Mount Rainier through the second decade of the twentieth century. Citizens of Mount Rainier met there in 1914 to petition the Maryland legislature to bond Prince George’s County for \$15,000 to enable them either to add to the present school building or erect an additional one.<sup>14</sup> In 1915, one of the big society events of the season in Mount Rainier,

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the annual smoker and turkey drawing, was held at Potts Hall.<sup>15</sup> On Easter Sunday of 1916, the first services of the Mount Rainier Methodist Episcopal Church South were held inside Potts Hall.<sup>16</sup>

On July 14, 1916, Robert E. Potts, now a widower, conveyed the property to The Star Hall Company, at which time the building became known as Star Hall.<sup>17</sup> Shortly after taking ownership of the building, the company installed a duckpin bowling alley on the first floor, as evidenced by the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map. This function continued for many years as seen in a 1929 article in *The Washington Post* that publicized the first annual banquet of the Mount Rainier Duckpin Association, held at Potts/Star Hall.<sup>18</sup>

Although the name and owner of the building changed, its importance within the Mount Rainier community did not. Various functions were held at the building for the benefit of local organizations and groups, and not just limited to Mount Rainier. Dances were held for the benefit of the Brentwood Athletic Club, community public safety meetings for Mount Rainier and Brentwood organized at Star Hall, and financial rallies held in which \$9,000 worth of bonds were subscribed. In April of 1921, a group of Baptists met at Star Hall to organize a new Baptist church. After a sermon by Dr. Baylor, thirty people signed cards indicating their desire to become members. Star Hall provided a large, centrally located meeting place for the congregation until their first church was completed.

In June of 1921, the Star Hall Company conveyed the property to three trustees of the Adah Chapter No. 25 of the Order of the Eastern Star of Mount Rainier: William E. Tilp; Fred E. Weber; and George A. Tovey.<sup>19</sup> The Order of the Eastern Star, organized in 1876, is the largest fraternal organization to which both women and men can belong, with over 1 million members worldwide. This organization's purpose is to provide a fraternal environment where women and men with high moral and social character can contribute time, energy, and knowledge to work together for charity, truth, and loving-kindness for the good of all mankind throughout the world.<sup>20</sup>

These men, Weber, Tilp, and Tovey, were pillars of their community. Fred E. Weber was mayor of Mount Rainier in 1915 and 1916.<sup>21</sup> William E. Tilp, a resident of Mount Rainier, was a recognized expert in chicken judging, having served as an evaluator for the National Poultry and Pigeon Association show of 1917 in the Buff Leghorn chicken category. George A. Tovey, a resident of Anacostia, served as Mount Rainier Fire Chief and operated a local hardware store.<sup>22</sup>

The Prince George's County Federation of Women's Clubs and local councils of Daughters of America used the building for their meetings throughout the mid-twentieth century. Furthermore, Star Hall served as Council, No. 21 of the Daughters of America's headquarters. A chapter of the Masons began using the building as their headquarters, the West Gate Masonic Lodge #220, as early 1932.<sup>23</sup> On January 18, 2000,



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West Gate Lodge of Mount Rainier, then with 105 members, moved out of the Potts/Star Hall and merged into a nearby lodge.<sup>24</sup>

In the mid-eighties, Mr. Kim leased space on the first story of the building from the Adah Chapter and opened The Terminal Snack Bar. Still owned and operated by Mr. Kim, The Terminal Snack Bar serves a loyal customer base. According to the owner of the business, the first-story window openings were already closed when he started his business nearly 25 years ago.

On January 27, 2010, trustees of the Adah Chapter No. 25 conveyed the property to the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland for \$400,000.<sup>25</sup> The Adah Chapter and the Terminal Snack Bar now lease space in the building from the city.

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- <sup>1</sup> Howard S. Berger, "Mount Rainier Historic District," National Register of Historic Places nomination form (April 2006 and April 2007), 8:7.
- <sup>2</sup> Simon J. Martenet, "Atlas of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1861, Adapted from Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland" (Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet C.E., 1861) and G.M. Hopkins, "Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the County of Prince George Maryland" (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878).
- <sup>3</sup> Berger, "Mount Rainier," 8:8.
- <sup>4</sup> Berger, "Mount Rainier," 8:10-11.
- <sup>5</sup> Berger, "Mount Rainier," 8:13-14.
- <sup>6</sup> Annie L. and Horace H. White to Edward E. Potts, Prince George's County Land Records, 51:367.
- <sup>7</sup> St. John's Chapel, "St. John's Chapel Founded," Church History, [http://stjohnsmountrainier.org/parishinfo\\_about.html](http://stjohnsmountrainier.org/parishinfo_about.html) (accessed March 16, 2010).
- <sup>8</sup> "Fight is Stopped," *The Washington Post (1877-1922)*, January 2, 1910, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed April 2, 2010).
- <sup>9</sup> "Fight is Stopped," *The Washington Post (1877-1922)*, January 2, 1910, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed April 2, 2010).
- <sup>10</sup> "Schuler as Witness," *The Washington Post (1877-1922)*, December 2, 1910, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed April 2, 2010).
- <sup>11</sup> "Mayor 'Totes' a Gun," *The Washington Post (1877-1922)*, April 26, 1911, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed April 2, 2010).
- <sup>12</sup> "Mayor 'Totes' a Gun," *The Washington Post (1877-1922)*, April 26, 1911, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed April 2, 2010).
- <sup>13</sup> "Clapp Attacks 'Regulars'" *The Washington Post (1877-1922)*, September 28, 1912, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed April 2, 2010).
- <sup>14</sup> "City News in Brief," *The Washington Post (1877-1922)*, January 7, 1914, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed March 16, 2010).
- <sup>15</sup> "Hyattsville Society," *The Washington Post (1877-1922)*, November 28, 1915, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed March 16, 2010).
- <sup>16</sup> "Services at Churches," *The Washington Post (1877-1922)*, May 1, 1916, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed March 16, 2010).
- <sup>17</sup> Robert E. Potts to the Star Hall Company, Prince George's County Land Records, 171:180.
- <sup>18</sup> "Mt. Rainier Bowlers In Banquet Tomorrow," *The Washington Post (1923-1954)*, May 14, 1929, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed April 2, 2010).
- <sup>19</sup> Star Hall Company to William E. Tilp, Fred E. Weber, and George A. Tovey, Prince George's County Land Records, 171:247.
- <sup>20</sup> "General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star," <http://www.easternstar.org/index.html> (accessed April 6, 2010).

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<sup>21</sup> "Weber Again Mt. Rainier Mayor..." *The Washington Post (1877-1922)*, May 2, 1916, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed March 17, 2010).

<sup>22</sup> "Suburban: Mount Rainier..." *The Washington Post (1877-1922)*, February 8, 1921, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed March 17, 2010).

<sup>23</sup> "Post's Bowling Round-Up," *The Washington Post (1923-1954)*, April 16, 1933, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed April 6, 2010).

<sup>24</sup> "Collington Masonic Lodge #230 History," <http://www.collingtonmasoniclodge.org/history.html> (accessed April 6, 2010).

<sup>25</sup> Frances Bernstein, Daisy Malinosky, and Virginia Stanford to The City of Mount Rainier, Maryland, Prince George's County Land Records, 31429:453.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. PG: 68-013-01

Berger, Howard S. "Star/Potts Hall" (PG: 68-13-1) Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form, 1988.

Prince George's County Land Records.

U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule). Online: The Generations Network, Inc., 2007. Subscription database. Digital scan of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC. <http://www.ancestry.com>.

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>0.07</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>0.07</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Washington East</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Potts/Star Hall building is located in Mount Rainier on a 0.07-acre parcel. The northern boundary of the property is formed by the concrete sidewalk adjacent to Rhode Island Avenue. The eastern boundary follows a concrete alley. The southern property line extends between the building and City Hall. The western boundary is formed by a concrete walkway adjacent to a bus stop. The building has been associated with Parcel 4 on Tax Map 49 since its construction c. 1909.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul Weishar, Architectural Historian		
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc., for M-NCPPC	date	May 2010
street & number	1121 Fifth Street, NW	telephone	(202) 393-1199
city or town	Washington	state	D.C.

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

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CHAIN OF TITLE  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LAND RECORDS

Deed 37:169 December 10, 1906	W.D. Bigelow, E.S. Spalding, and J. Harris Rogers to Annie L. White. Grantors convey Lot 4 in Block 2, excepting 10 feet, front to rear of Lot 4 adjacent to Lot 5 conveyed to Annie L. Foster, December 14, 1906 (Liber 31, Folio 313).
Deed 51:367 August 16, 1909	Annie L. and Horace H. White to Robert E. Potts.
Deed 171:180 July 14, 1916	Robert E. Potts to The Star Hall Company.
Deed 171:247 June 4, 1921	Star Hall Company to William E. Tilp, Fred E. Weber, and George A. Tovey (Trustees of Adah Chapter No. 25, Order of the Eastern Star of Mount Rainier).
Deed 1015:180 February 17, 1948	William E. Tilp (Surviving trustee, Fred E. Weber and George A. Tovey, being deceased) to Florence M. Tillman, T. Weston Scott, and Robert D. Yates (Present trustees).
Deed 2014:200 June 26, 1956	Florence M. Tillman and T. Weston Scott (Surviving trustees) to Florence M. Tillman, J. Russell Sampson, and Anne M. Seymore (Present trustees).
Deed 31429:453 January 27, 2010	Frances Bernstein, Daisy Malinosky, and Virginia Stanford (Trustees of Adah Chapter No. 25 of the Order of the Eastern Star of Mount Rainier) to the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland.

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Potts/Star Hall  
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Photo: Potts/Star Hall, Mount Rainier, view of the façade (northwest elevation), looking east. (March 2010)

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Potts/Star Hall  
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Photo: Potts/Star Hall, Mount Rainier, view of the façade (northwest elevation), looking south. (March 2010)



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Potts/Star Hall  
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Photo: Potts/Star Hall, Mount Rainier, view of the southwest (side) elevation, looking north. (March 2010)

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Photo: Potts/Star Hall, Mount Rainier, view of the southeast (rear) elevation, looking northwest. (March 2010)



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Photo: Potts/Star Hall, Mount Rainier, interior of the Terminal Snack Bar, looking northeast. (March 2010)

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Photo: Potts/Star Hall, Mount Rainier, interior of the first story, looking north. (March 2010)

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Photo: Potts/Star Hall, Mount Rainier, first story, kitchen, looking south. (March 2010)

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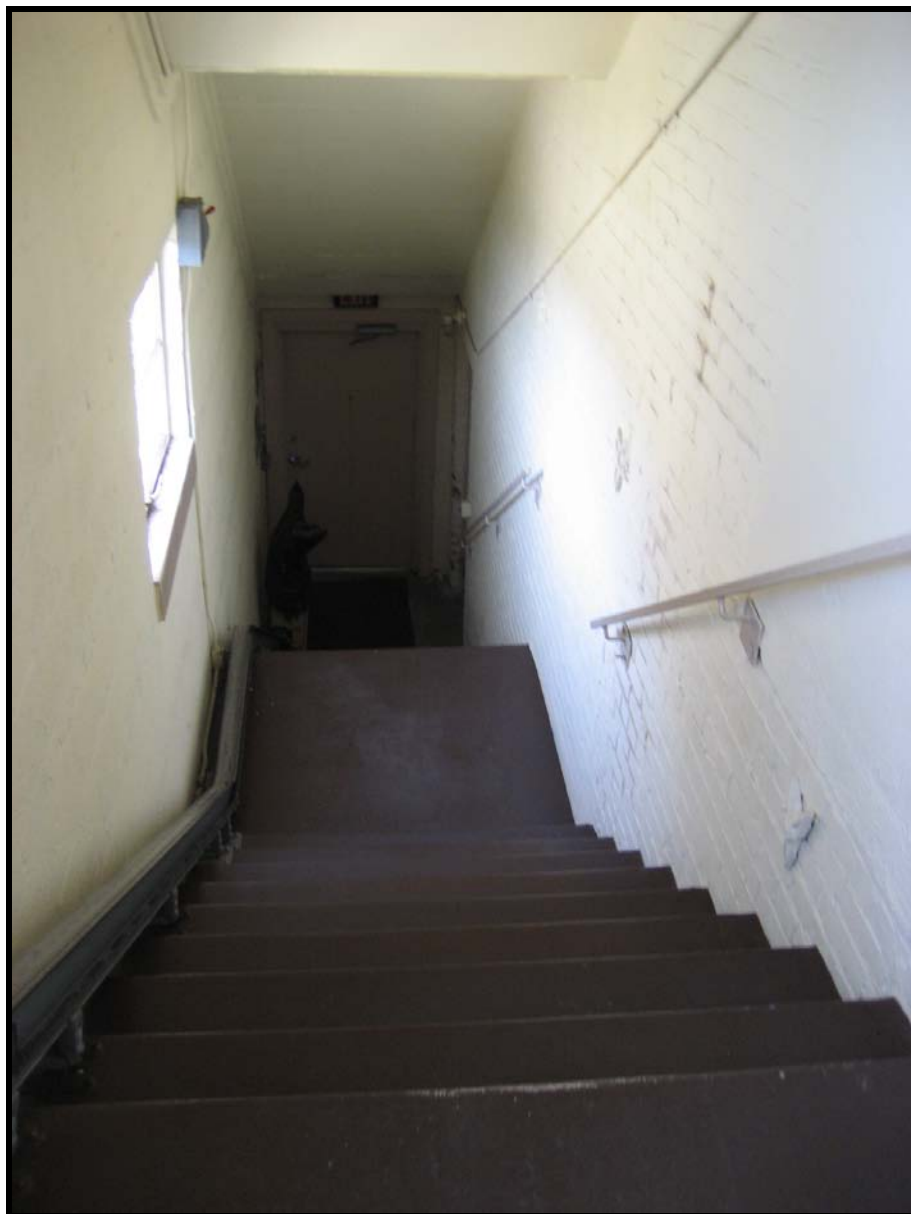


Photo: Potts/Star Hall, Mount Rainier, enclosed staircase. (March 2010)



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Continuation Sheet

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Photo: Potts/Star Hall, Mount Rainier, second story hallway, looking south. (March 2010)

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Photo: Potts/Star Hall, Mount Rainier, second story, meeting room, looking north. (March 2010)

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