



PHOTO BY MIKE CALHOUN

The Magruder House

A Beautiful Clubhouse with a Notable History

THE HISTORIC VICTORIAN HOUSE IS HOME TO THE WOMAN'S CIVIC CLUB, LOCATED ON WASHINGTON STREET IN CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND.

A large portion of land on the west side of Cumberland, MD, was owned by Captain David Lynn, a prominent Revolutionary War leader. His vast estate was known as Rose Hill. Lynn's daughter, Mary, wed Jonathan Magruder and in 1853 they purchased a lot from the estate at 515 Washington Street. In 1855 they built a modest rectangular brick house there.

A Magruder daughter, Rebecca, married George Henderson who made a fortune in coal mining. In 1868 they purchased the Magruder House and hired architect, A. J. Downey, to plan a major renovation of the house. He created the much larger Gothic Revival house that we see today. A

fine example of the Gothic Revival architectural style, the home features steep gables with decorative bargeboard and brick chimneys with corbeled caps. In addition, there is a balustrade above the arched oriel windows on the third floor. Originally, there was a wrap-around veranda on the front and left side of the house and later the left side was enclosed to create a sunroom.

In 1904, the house was purchased by the McMullen family. Hugh McMullen, a prominent local merchant, served as Comptroller of the State of Maryland from 1916 to 1920. The Magruder House is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The Woman's Civic Club (WCC)



A few interior views of the Magruder House include the main dining room (above left), the second floor landing (above right) and the music room (right).

purchased the house from the McMullen estate for use as a clubhouse.

WOMEN EFFECTING CHANGE

Throughout history, women have joined together to improve the quality of their communities by effecting change and influencing those with the power and ability to achieve results.

In 1909, the Cumberland Civic Club was organized. On June 3 of the same summer the permanent organization was created with Mrs. Max Kamen as president. Other officers were Mrs. J.W. S. Cochrane, Mrs. Lloyd Lowndes and Miss Alice McMichael—1st, 2nd and 3rd vice presidents; Mrs. William Tinker, treasurer; Mrs. Albert Fowler, secretary. The directorate included Mrs. J. W. Averitt, Mrs. Alex. Thomson, Mrs. Thomas Footer, Mrs. A. H. Amick and Mrs. J. J. Wilson. Committees were appointed at this meeting, with an attendance of more than 100. Mrs. Fowler was named chairman of the humane section; Mrs. Lowndes of the philanthropic section and Mrs. R. Semmes in charge of the child labor section.

In 1925, on Dec. 5, another group of civic minded women organized a club chartered under the name of Cumberland Woman's Club with Mrs. William Claus as president.



In 1932, after much deliberation of groups and with the belief that 'In union there is strength,' the Women's Club and the Civic Club formed a merger, reorganizing under the name of Woman's Civic Club of Cumberland, electing Mrs. Franklin H. Ankeney as head.



In October 1955, the Club secured a Charter of Incorporation from the State Tax Commission of Maryland and the Club began a search for a clubhouse. The Woman's Civic Club purchased the Magruder house from the McMullen estate in 1956.

The purpose of the Club was twofold: to promote civic pride through community service and to develop the social, cultural and intellectual life of its members. Through the years, the Woman's Civic Club has had a rich history of community service. Some of these projects are:

- Promoted programs to create pure water and healthy sanitation standards in the community.
- Provided supplies and comfort to more than 3,000 servicemen during World War II at the Western Maryland Station Center.
- Promoted the county's first tourism project, Operation Gateway, and helped launch the first Heritage Days of Cumberland.



Host your next special occasion at the Magruder House, perfect for weddings, showers, parties, and events for up to 75 guests.

- Annually sponsors the opening reception for Cumberland's Heritage Days each September.
- Participated in civic beautification projects.
- Provided scholarships for young women to local colleges.
- Prepared educational materials promoting kindness to animals, later prepared workshops and print materials for Growing Up Drug Free.
- Donated wigs for cancer patients at the Schwab Cancer Center at UPMC.
- Donated to the Union Rescue Mission's new facility.

2025 REMAINING EVENTS:

- **Chef's Table — October 9, 2025** — Local Chef prepares 5 course dinner paired with appropriate wines. (Please call for reservations).



• **Victorian Christmas Open House — Refer to www.wccumberland.com for schedule —**

Step into the magic of Christmas with our 5th annual Victorian Christmas on Historic Washington Street. Wander through our beautifully decorated rooms that await to enchant you with the warmth and wonder of the season. Sip a wine and take yourself on a historical journey.

• **Teddy Bear Tea — December 13, 2025 (1–3 p.m.)**

The elves have arrived.....Crafts, story, carols, photos, refreshments. Free to children under 12.

NOW BOOKING SPECIAL EVENTS:

Host your next celebration in a setting of timeless charm. Our historic home can comfortably seat 75 for bridal or baby showers, intimate gatherings or special celebrations. Experience the warmth of a bygone era where elegance is always on the menu.

In 2021, the Club acquired its official 501©(3) Federal tax designation as a public charity in the State of Maryland. The official title is “The Jonathan and Mary Lynn Magruder Heritage House, Inc.” The Woman’s Civic Club continues to be committed to self-enrichment and responding to the ever changing needs of the community.



The elves are ready for the annual Teddy Bear Tea (top left); view beautifully trimmed trees and decorations on your self-guided tour during the Victorian Christmas Open House (above right and bottom).