

UNCLASSIFIED

(b)(3)

(U) CIA Campus Chronicles: The History of the Scattergood-Thorne Property



Submitted by the CIA Museum Staff

*"You'll have to go around Miss Scattergood."
—Stuart Udall, Secretary of Interior, to the Virginia Highway Department when it wanted to take 125 feet of the Scattergood-Thorne property to improve the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Dolley Madison Boulevard in 1956*

The 32-acre Scattergood-Thorne property [redacted]

[redacted] once was part of 2,800 acres acquired in 1719 by Thomas Lee from the Fairfax family in England. Lee named his land, which ran along the Potomac River from Little Falls to Great Falls, "Langley." After Lee's death, the land passed to his son and later was divided among the family members. By 1852, a 935-acre parcel was named Rokeby Farm. Today the CIA Headquarters occupies two-thirds of the original Rokeby Farm.

In 1933, Margaret Scattergood and Florence Thorne purchased a 20-acre tract of that farm from Mr. and Mrs. Lightbown and, in 1935, added an adjoining 12 acres. Scattergood and Thorne named their turn-of-the-century, wood-framed residence Calvert House, and the property became known as the Calvert Estate. Thorne was a direct descendent of the first Lord Baltimore, Sir George Calvert, and it is believed the house was named in his honor.

During the 1940s, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) acquired 742 acres near Georgetown Pike to be used for a research facility. In the 1950s, CIA obtained 225 acres of the FHWA property—including the Calvert estate—to house its new Headquarters, with the proviso that Scattergood and Thorne would be permitted to remain on the property until their deaths. The survivor, Scattergood, passed away in 1986 at the age of 92, and the CIA was given control of their acreage the following year.

While deciding among several suggestions for the use of the property—a conference center, a day-care center, a parking structure, a museum, or as a home for the DCI—the residence was used mainly for storage and training by the Security Protective Officers and their K-9 teams. During late 2003 and early 2004, the classic American farmhouse underwent a complete renovation to make it a state-of-the-art conference center. It is a showcase of the Georgian-Revival style with American period furnishings, including foreign gifts presented to the DCI. [redacted]

The first floor of the [redacted] conference center includes a large meeting room, which can accommodate up to 36 people, and adjoining breakout rooms that seat an additional 20. The center is completely wheelchair-accessible. [redacted]

[redacted] The newly renovated kitchen can provide refreshments. The existing porch, which overlooks most of the property toward Route 123, has been enclosed to provide additional serving and reception space. [redacted]

About The Ladies

Florence Thorne was born in 1877 and was a direct descendent of the first Lord Baltimore, Sir George Calvert. She studied philosophy and graduated from

APPROVED FOR RELEASE □
DATE: 09-26-2011



the University of Chicago in 1909. The subject of her graduate thesis was the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and, at the invitation of Samuel Gompers, President of the AFL, she became a researcher at its national headquarters in Washington, DC. In 1912, Thorne became assistant editor of *American Federalist*, and worked very closely with Gompers on his autobiography until his death in 1924. After he passed away, she finished the book, and it was published in 1926. The following year, she assembled a volunteer research staff and, in 1933, was named head of the newly created AFL Department of Research. Her work contributed to the creation of legislation inaugurating Social Security and unemployment benefits and regulating child labor. During this period, she met Margaret Scattergood. Thorne retired in 1953 and wrote another book on Samuel Gompers, which was published in 1957. She passed away in 1973.

Margaret Scattergood was born in 1894. She studied economics and graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1917. During World War I, she traveled to France with a Quaker service group to aid war refugees, and eventually worked at the AFL as a researcher, where she met Florence Thorne. In 1956, Scattergood retired from the AFL, and in 1979, she was the recipient of a humanitarian award from the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission for her work with a McLean citizens group to promote human and civil rights. She supported anti-war and liberal causes through donations from a sizable trust fund left to her by her father. Scattergood also provided sanctuary to Guatemalan and Nicaraguan refugees, and often they mistakenly showed up at CIA's front gate looking for her home. Margaret Scattergood passed away in 1986 at the age of 92.



(This article is **UNCLASSIFIED**.)

To send via email: 

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

