HA-1481 1886

Rebecca Evans House
612 Rock Spring
Bel Air
private

This handsome house is one of the best decorated in Town with its carved barge boards and the intricate porch brackets. It also has that Bel Air favorite, a two story hexagonal bay window on the north and south elevations of the main block. The slate Victorian mantels in the double parlors are noteworthy.

The house is so similar to the 1887 William Doxen House, 314 North Hickory, which was designed by Jacob Bull, that it is quite possible he designed this house.

ADDENDA (May 1990)

Rebecca Evans House
612 Rock Spring Avenue
HA-1481

Paragraph 2

1) Change Line 2 to read: "The first floor front is shaded by a **flat**-roof porch with molded cornice . . . "

HA-1481
1314815604

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Rebecca Evans House

AND/OR COMMON
Ringenberg House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
612 Rock Spring

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1st

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Merl G. Ringenberg

Telephone #: 838-3045

STREET & NUMBER
612 Rock Spring

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 401
Folio #: 80

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This elegant and severe, aluminum-sided Victorian house is at 612 Rock Spring in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. Its two and a half story facade is divided strongly into three bays, the center bay projecting and having its own gable roof with carved barge boards. The two chimney stacks flank this projecting bay from the roof ridge sentinel-like. This bay is also flanked by a shed-roofed dormer with a four pane casement in a moulded surround. A 2/2 double-hung sash window, segmental-arched and set in a pointed arched surround with applied decoration above the segmental arch occupies the gable of the center bay just under the barge boards. All the windows below that on the facade (east elevation) are paired, 2/2 in the second story and 2/4 long in the first story. All of the other windows in the house are 2/2 except for a pair of three pane casements in the first story rear (west) elevation. All the windows except those in the dormers are flanked by narrow shutters.

The entrance is in the projecting bay. A large Queen Anne transom and three pane over one panel sidelights flank the original four panel door. The first floor front is shaded by a hipped-roof porch with a molded cornice carried on chamfered posts and having scroll brackets and a balustrade with very slender balusters.

The side (north and south) elevations of the main block have matching two story octagonal bay windows. The four bay back building has its own gable roof and meets the rear of the main block to give the house a T shape. A third chimney stack rises through the roof ridge in the middle of the back building.

The house has three more porches, two of them the result of additions to the house. On the northwest side of the main block is a one bay second story addition with a shed roof supported on a plain square posts. It may have been planned as a bathroom. It is now a large closet. The overhanging room creates a small porch underneath, but there is no access to it from the house. Two bays were added to the back building at some time. On the ground floor the room holds the present kitchen. A small screened porch is in the southeast corner, overhung by a second story room. The third porch is on the south side of the back building. It has a shed roof and is two bays long, currently screened. It has chamfered posts and scroll brackets like the front porch. A one bay enclosed addition to the west end of the porch holds a bathroom. There is an entrance to the present dining-room (former kitchen) from this side porch. A two-pane transom and glass over panel sidelights frame a pair of pane over panel doors.

A detailed description of the house inevitably makes it sound busy. This house, while it shows a good deal of movement, is surprisingly restful in its total effect.

The main block of the house has a center hall with parlors on either side. The parlors have matching slate mantels with round openings and a cartouche. The south parlor retains that function; the north parlor has had its bay window blocked with book shelves and is used as a sitting room. The open string, dog-leg staircase rises along the north wall of the center hall. It has turned balusters and newel.

The first (east) room of the back building is now the diningroom. It was originally the kitchen. An enclosed back staircase rose against the east wall; it was removed when the present kitchen was added, and the room became a dining-room. The fireplace in the west wall has a slate mentel which matches the others. The opening, however, was originally square; therefore, some bricks show under the round opening of the present mantel.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

NR-1981

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1886 ~~BUILDER~~ ARCHITECT Jacob Bull?

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This elegantly balanced Victorian house was built for Mrs. Rebecca Evans in 1886 on land she leased that year from Mary Dallam in Dallam's Second Addition (56/405). In exterior decoration and the precise correspondence of the floor plan and the unusual corner block woodwork, it bears such a resemblance to the William Doxen house Jacob Bull designed and built on Hickory and Broadway in 1887 that it seems reasonable to attribute this house to Bull, also. There are, of course, differences. The Doxen house has different bay windows, has had a service wing added to the rear, and has more clearly Queen Anne windows. What so suggests the same hand are the interior woodwork, the double doors into the present dining-room from the side porch, the somewhat awkward placement of the back staircase (now removed in both cases), and the general look of the facade. What differences there are may be attributed to the differing tastes of the owners and the inventive manipulation of the style by Bel Air's master-builder.

Rebecca Evans was apparently the mother of John Evans, the cashier of the Harford National Bank. She transferred the property to him in 1895 (85/190). He presumably lived there until he moved to his new estate (210 Hall Street) in 1912. For a while that year Charles Dallam lived at 612 Rock Spring while renovations were made to his house. The house remained in the Evans family until 1924 when it was sold at auction as a result of an equity case. Mr. Evans apparently overextended himself in the building of his new house. James W. Davis bought the house and the lease for $4250 (186/367). The fee simple remained in the Dallam family, passing to Mary Dallam's daughter, Mary W. Nelson. Mrs. Nelson sold it to Walter B. Young in 1913 for $459 (142/189). James W. Davis acquired the fee simple the same day he bought the house and lease (186/366). He mortgaged it at that time (187/224) and defaulted on the mortgage in 1932. Jacob G. Durham, the original holder of the $3500 mortgage bought it that year (223/395). The house remained in the Durham family until 1950, when Chester H. Durham sold it to Donald G. Russell (347/473). The Russells sold it to the present owner, Merl G. Ringenberg in 1953 (401/80).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

HA-1481

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Aegis
Harford Democrat

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #114 in the Town of Bel Air, 100' x 200'

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian

DATE
21 November 1979

ORGANIZATION
Town of Bel Air

TELEPHONE
838-8700

STREET & NUMBER
39 Hickory Avenue

CITY OR TOWN
Bel Air

STATE
Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

The kitchen is west of the diningroom. It has an enclosed back staircase in the northeast corner. From the southwest corner leads a short hall with a bathroom (the enclosure west of the side porch) to the south. West of the kitchen are a pantry (north) and the rear screened porch (south).

The second story has four bedrooms, two baths, and two large storage rooms. The back building is two steps up west of the stair landing; the center hall of the main block is two steps up to the south of the landing.

The attic level has two large rooms.

The woodwork on the first floor is molded with bracket-like corner blocks, also molded and having incised circles. The rest of the woodwork is molded without the corner blocks.

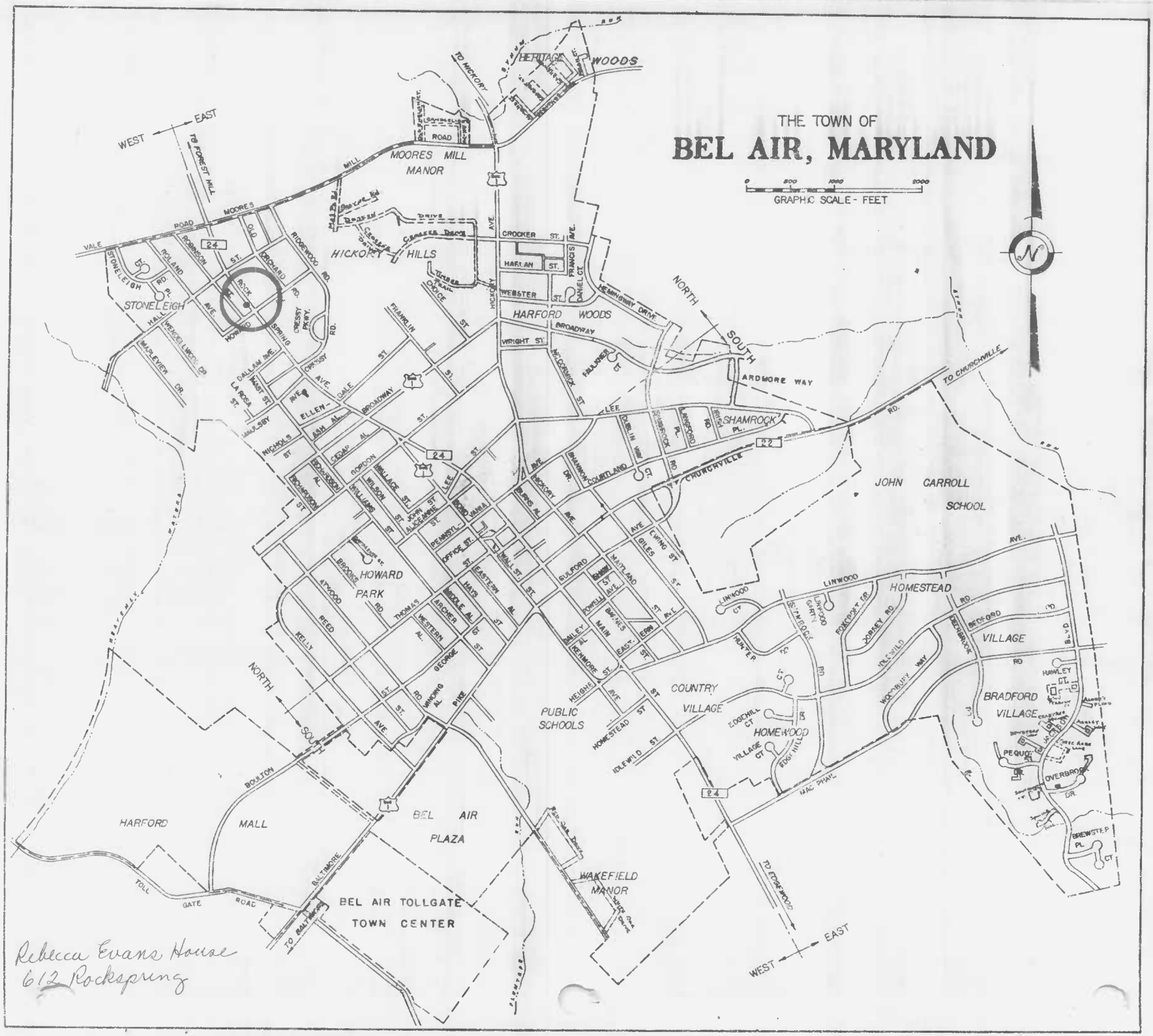
TITLE: 612 Rock Spring

401/80	2 September 1953 Donald G. Russell & Edith Jeanne to Merl G. Ringenberg & Irene
347/473	23 September 1950 Chester H. Durham & Reba to Donald G. Russell & Edith Jeanne
286/120	19 October 1944 Jacob G. Durham & Evalena to Chester Durham & Reba
223/395	11 July 1932 Philip H. Close, attorney to Jacob G. Durham defaulted mortgage James W. Davis to Jacob Durham (1924, 187/224) S. A. Williams assumed the $3500 mortgage in 1926
The fee 186/366	6 March 1924 Walter B. Young & Ethel to James W. Davis
142/189	9 September 1913 Mary W. Nelson & William to Walter B. Young $459 lands left to Mary W. Nelson & Louisa O'Brien by Mary Dallam (1905, will 13/162) Louisa O'Brien conveyed her share to Mary Nelson (1905, 115/291)

the lease
126/367 6 March 1924
S. A. Williams
to
James W. Davis
$4250
equity case S. A. Williams vs. John A. Evans

85/190 1895
Rebecca N. Evans
to
John Evans

56/405 1886
Mary Dallam
to
Rebecca Evans



HA-1481

Rebecca Evans House
612 Rockspring

HA-1481 Rebecca Evans House, 612 Rockspring, Dallas
e elev
M. Lauw, 1979

HA - 1481 Rebecca Evans House, 612 Rock Spring, Belair

n + w elev

M. Lauer, 1979

HA-1481 Rebecca Evans House, 612 Rock Spring, Bellin
w+s elev
M. Larew, 1979

HA. 1481

Rebecca Evans House, 612 Rock Springs, Billings
N. elev
M. Larson, 1979