

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no X

Property Name: Magruder Sisters House Inventory Number: M:26-10-68

Address: 236 Great Falls Road City: Rockville Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

County: Montgomery USGS Topographic Map: Rockville

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Parcel #: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax parcel Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Project: MD 189 Streetscape Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT staff X no \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended X

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

Is the property located within a historic district? \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed? \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ yes District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Magruder Sisters House is a 2 story house, 3 bays wide with 6 over 6 replacement windows, constructed over a wood frame and the roof is covered in asphalt shingles. While this is a 19th century house, the building lacks integrity. SHA proposed that it along with several other houses might form an extension of the West Montgomery Avenue Historic District. However, given the lack of integrity, the Trust is of the opinion that the house and the district are not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B or C.

Prepared by: Rita M. Suffness, SHA Date Prepared: 05/05/2000

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended X

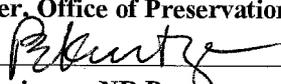
Criteria X A X B X C \_\_\_ D Considerations \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

MHT Comments:

Anne E. Bruder

September 25, 2000

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

  
Reviewer, NR Program

Date

5/2/01

Date



Site: M:26/10/68

The Magruder Sisters House

236 Falls Road

Built: ca. mid-19th century

Private

This vernacular four-room building was constructed in the mid-19th century on land owned by the Johnston-Prettyman family. It was the residence of the James Connell family for forty years, and has been owned by the Magruder family since 1922. The house has been enlarged and altered.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common The Magruder Sisters House

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 236 Falls Road \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Rockville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 8

state Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ county Montgomery

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Miss Edith P. Magruder

street &amp; number 236 Falls Road \_\_\_\_\_ telephone no.:

city, town Rockville \_\_\_\_\_ state and zip code Maryland 20850

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records \_\_\_\_\_ liber 902

street &amp; number Montgomery Co. Courthouse \_\_\_\_\_ folio 41

city, town Rockville \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

repository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state

# 7. Description

Survey No. M 26/10/68

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Magruder house faces west at the intersection of Williams and Potomac Streets and Great Falls Road. It sits close to the street on a deep, narrow lot. The yard slopes down to the eastern end of the lot. There are several large trees, but little in the way of formal plantings and no outbuildings. The other houses along Great Falls Road are closely spaced on similar narrow lots.

This two-story, frame I-house with rear two-story addition has a side-gable roof that is covered in asphalt shingles. The frame siding is sheathed now in asbestos shingles. An interior brick flue is located at the north gable end on the ridge. The house is set on a coursed rubble foundation. All of the windows are wood-frame sash of varying sizes, but generally six-over-six. Some of the window frames appear to be replacements. There are functioning wooden louvered shutters on the windows of the west and north facades.

The house represents a simple vernacular farmhouse common to the area in the mid-19th century. The modest size of the house and the absence of ornamentation add to its charm. The subject house in its original form may have been an L-shaped structure; however, considerable alterations over the years have effectively covered any exterior determination of that.

The west (front) facade has three bays. The second story has an even fenestration with six-over-six windows in each bay. Slightly longer windows are in the first and third bays of the first story. The central doorway has a glass transom, and a frame portico with triangular pediment and side benches frames the entrance. The portico appears to be a mid-20th century addition as does the wooden, eighteen-light door.

The north facade has two bays with six-over-six windows on both stories. Return gable eaves highlight this facade.

The east or rear facade is the most altered. Extensive additions and the steep slope create asymmetrical massing. A two-story gabled roof ell extends from the center of the facade. The ell is one bay wide and deep with paired four-over-four windows in the first story. A one-story lean-to supported on concrete piers squares off the southeast corner of the house; a wooden panelled door opens to the backyard from the lean-to. In the first bay, above the lean-to, is a six-over-six sash window. A one-story, screened porch stretches across the rear of the house from the ell to the edge of the north facade. It rests on cement piers with lattice work between them. The floor is wooden and the shed roof has metal awnings. Wooden steps and a screen door give access to the porch. Three wooden panelled doors lead from the house to the porch; two are located in the main block and one in the northern wall of the extension. A shallow, single bay, shed roof section extends over the porch from the ell and main block.

continued on attachment 7.1

M: 26/10/68  
The Magruder Sisters House  
Attachment 7.1

The south facade has two bays: one in the main block and another in the rear ell. The former has a single six-over-six sash window on each floor with the first story window longer than the second story one, the latter a small, square, four-light window in the center.

#### Interior

The interior has a center hall plan, with the living room and dining room to either side of the hall. The stairs are located at the back of the hall. Three bedrooms are on the main block of the second floor while the bath is in the rear ell over the kitchen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. M-26/10/68

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates c. mid-19th cent Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### Significance

The Magruder House was constructed in the mid-19th century. Its modest size and one room deep plan was once common in vernacular building, but there are few remaining in Rockville. Its original appearance and detailing have been obscured by the addition of modern materials and porches. It has been owned by the Magruder family for over 60 years.

### History and Support

The 1865 Martinet and Bond Map of Rockville area shows a house on the road to Great Falls at the approximate site of the subject house. Presumably it is a tenant or rental house belonging to the Johnston family and is located on part of its 13 acres. 1/ This land passed in 1867 to Elijah Barrett Prettyman, husband of Lydia Johnston, an educator and Principal of the Brookeville Academy at the time of his selection to serve as Clerk of the Montgomery County Circuit Court in 1863. 2/

The house contained only four rooms (and presumably a detached kitchen.) The two story frame with side gables was a common house type. Elijah Prettyman sold the house and lot to his Deputy Clerk of the Court, Reynolds J. Patterson, for only \$50 in 1873.

Mr. Patterson, a native of Gaithersburg, was the son of Thomas Patterson, scholar and Librarian of the House of Representatives (an office his other son George C. Patterson would also fill). 4/ An 1862 letter, written by James Anderson from a Union prison, singled out Reynolds Patterson as the only Marylander of 21 captured during a raid on Harper's Ferry. His bad luck continued in Rockville, where he suffered a nervous breakdown while his debts mounted, and he was forced to sell his Falls Road property to satisfy his creditors.

William Rabbitt, one of his relatives by marriage, purchased the house at public auction for \$460 in 1877 3/ and resold it for \$800 in 1881.

Continued on attachment 8.1

The house was the residence of the James Connell family for the next forty years. Although Mr. Connell was blind he managed to provide for a family of eight children as a vocal and instrumental teacher. <sup>5/</sup> His twin daughters Emma and Adelaide lived in the house until 1922. When Guy Carter bought the house in that year the newspaper reported that he intended to convert it to apartments, but one month later it was sold to Amos Magruder. Mr. Magruder had an attractive flower garden that was widely admired, although today there are few plantings around the house. Mr. Magruder was 72 when he retired from farming to live in the house. His 82nd birthday was noted in the paper at which time he was described as an "adherent of Roosevelt" and a "Charter member of the Stove League which meets daily in the old Sentinel office to discuss and reminisce." <sup>6/</sup>

There were five Magruder daughters, three of whom never married. Miss Edith Magruder, now 93, is the last member of this family to reside there.

During the 100 year occupancy by the Connells and then the Magruders several alterations were made to enlarge and elaborate on this simple house. A kitchen and bath wing were added, and later attempts were made to apply the more fashionable "period" details by construction of a pedimented portico framing an 18-light entrance. Asbestos siding covers the original frame clapboarding, and metal awnings now shade the windows.

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Footnotes:

1. This house does not appear on the Johnston or Prettyman Tax Assessments, nor does it appear under the name of Mary Sage who occupies it on the 1865 map.
2. Prettyman / Johnston family genealogy and history in files of Montgomery County Historical Society; general histories of County; Additional information on the Prettyman property in manuscripts written by William F. Prettyman in 1966 and 1973.
3. In an 1877 Equity Case it is described as "a two-story frame building ... which contains four rooms and is located near a pleasant part of town." (Judgment Record EBP7, folio 145 et seq.)
4. Gaithersburg: The Heart of Montgomery County (Gaithersburg, 1978, p.384) and various obituaries, items on Patterson family in the county newspapers.
5. Montgomery County Sentinel, September 9, 1887.
6. Ibid. December 2, 1932.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M. 26/10/68

Montgomery County Land, Tax, Equity, and Plat Records; Histories of Johnston - Prettyman families. Atlases and maps: Martinet & Bond 1865, Hopkins 1879, Deets & Maddox 1917. Montgomery County Sentinel.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 40 square perches

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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## Verbal boundary description and justification

East side of Falls Road

## List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

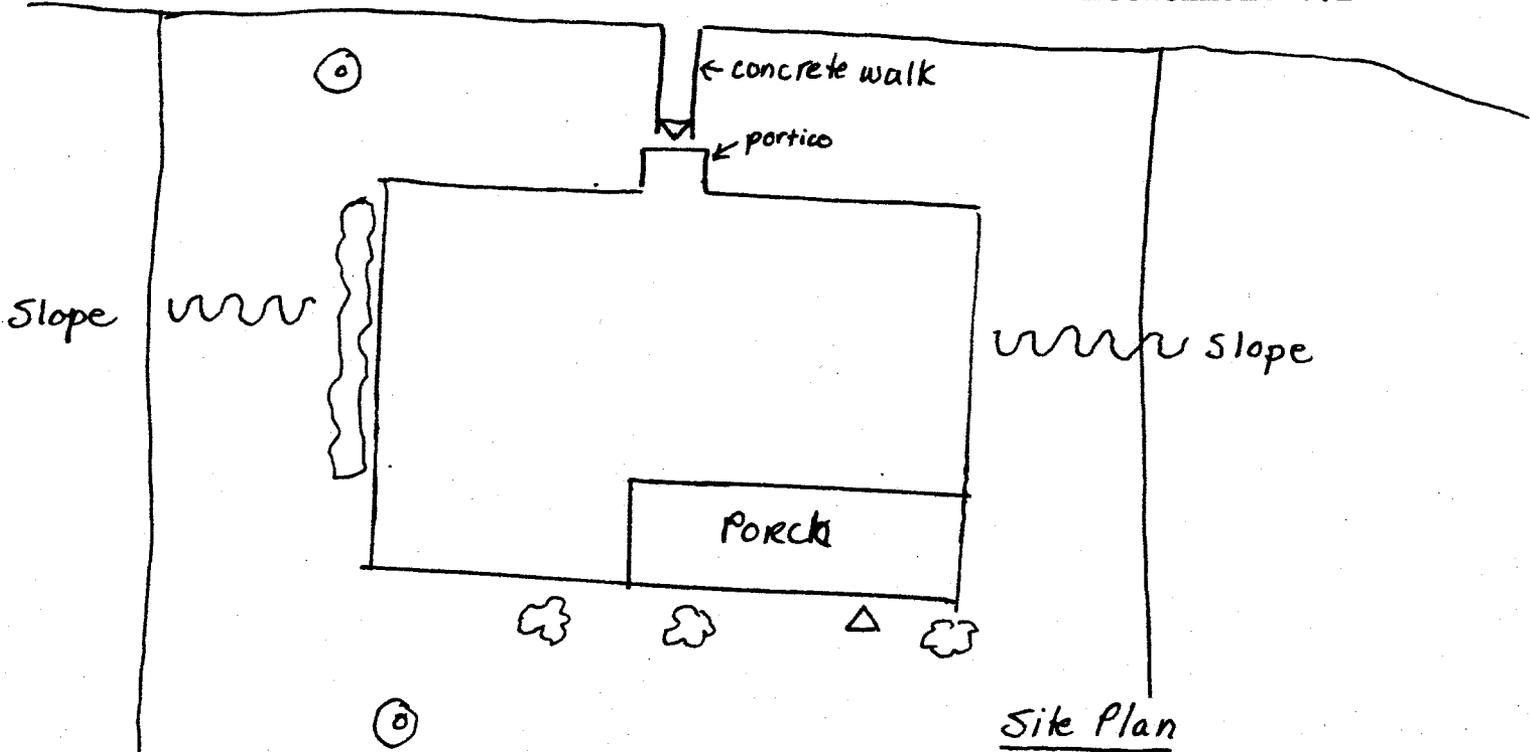
name/title	Elizabeth Hannold / Anne W. Cissel / Dwayne Jones		
organization	Peerless Rockville	date	July 1985
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone	762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland 20850

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.

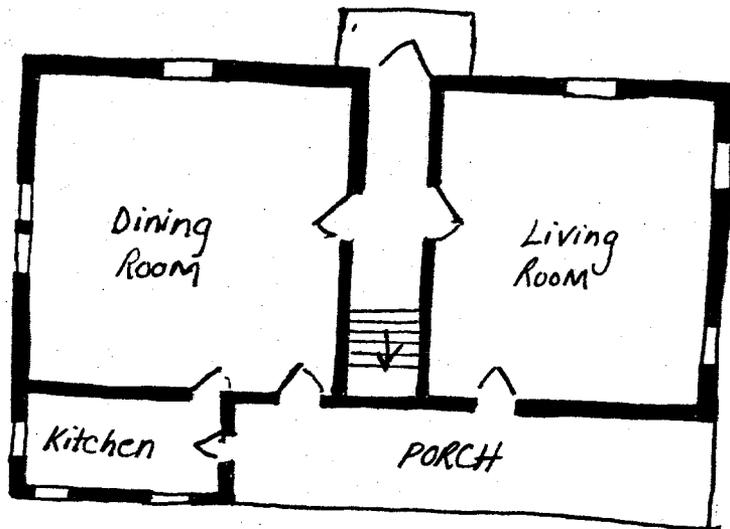
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

Great Falls Road



Site Plan

⊕ N  
Not drawn to scale



1st Floor Plan

⊕ N  
Not drawn to scale  
based on exterior  
examination + telephone  
interview w/ Miss Magruder



RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
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ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

0095-20-4

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