

Site: M:26/10/78

Gates House

Built: ca.1876

208 Harrison Street

Private

This small, simple vernacular frame cottage may have been used as a tenant house for the extensive Beall estate. Its verticality and scale contrast it with nearby Queen Anne and Classical Revival residences. The house was modernized and pebble-dashed after its purchase by the Gates family in 1926.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Gates House

and/or common 208 Harrison Street

### 2. Location

street & number 208 Harrison Street  not for publication

city, town Rockville  vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 4)

### 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 Mrs. Lola I. Haines

street & number 208 Harrison St. telephone no.: 762-4178

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 2391

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 94

city, town Rockville state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

state  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

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

# 7. Description

Survey No. M:26/10/78

|  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____ |
| <input 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 subject house faces north on Harrison Street. It sits on a narrow, sparsely-treed, and landscaped lot. A frame, front-gable single-car garage is at the southwest corner of the lot, accessed by a driveway along the west property line from Harrison.

This simple two-bay by two-bay 1875 small vernacular house is a rectangular, frame, 2-1/2 story with one-story rear and full-width front porch. The side-gable roof is asphalt shingled. The original wood siding of the house is now finished with a pebble-dash covering. The foundation is rough-coursed fieldstone, and there are two brick interior end chimneys.

Modestly built, this utilitarian house has little remaining ornamentation other than fish-scale shingling in each gable end. It is an oddity in its present surroundings; its verticality and smaller scale separate it from its prosperous Queen Anne and Classical Revival neighbors, yet it is distinctively 19th century in character compared to adjacent later cottages. As built, it had no east-west fenestration except two small square attic windows in each gable, although windows have been added on the east facade. Both original and later windows are 2/2 with plain surrounds flanked by wood louvered shutters. The rear porch was originally half enclosed and stuccoed, while the other half was left open. The open portion is now enclosed with siding. The porch roof has horizontal courses of tin roofing.

The three-bay north (front) facade has two widely-spaced 2nd story windows, in the 1st and 3rd bays. The first floor fenestration is the same with an exterior wood and large shield-shaped glass panel door in the center bay. The full-width front porch rests upon brick piers and has a slightly-hipped asphalt-shingled roof supported by four square posts connected by a plain stick-and-rail ballustrade. The porch has been screen enclosed. Two framing members placed vertically in the 1st and 3rd bay divide them into three screen panels. The center bay is occupied by a screen door. The porch is reached by two wooden steps.

The two-bay east facade has two small square attic windows with pediment-shaped lintels widely spaced in the shingled gable. The facade below is balanced, with one window in each bay, 1st and 2nd floor. The rear, shed-roofed clapboard porch has a strip of four modern aluminum double sash 1/1 windows.

continued on attachment 7.1

# 8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/10/78

| 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 type="checkbox"/> other (Specify) |

local history

**Specific dates** c. 1876 **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

This spare, vernacular structure is associated with the prominent Beall family whose town mansion lay nearby. It was likely used as a tenant or servant house on the Beall family lands until 1926 and has been the property of the Gates family for over 60 years.

### History and Support

The subject house was described as "situated in the woods" on part of the still-undeveloped 45 acres surrounding the Beall mansion at the time of Margaret J. Beall's death in 1901. <sup>1/</sup> The house is believed to date from 1876, but its probable use as a tenant house for the white servants or estate manager of the Bealls makes its precise date uncertain. Typically in Maryland tax records, most tenant houses are not identified individually; however, the Tax Assessment office reports an addition to the Beall holdings for that year.

A comparison of this house with known tenant houses of the period points to its construction for that purpose. When it passed from the Beall family in 1926 it had two rooms up-and-down, no plumbing or running water. There was no central heating, no windows on the east or west facades, and the kitchen facilities were in a rear lean-to.<sup>2/</sup> Similar houses were built by small landowners (both black and white) until the late 19th century, but the resemblance is especially striking to the several houses built for the Bealls' slaves or financed by the family after Emancipation and located at the northern boundaries of the family land in the Haiti/Martin's lane area. <sup>3/</sup>

The subject house appears to have been built for Miss Beall concurrent with the partition of her 67 acres of gardens, orchards and woods for building lots. The 1875 survey of her estate has disappeared, and only the lots bordering Commerce Lane (West Montgomery Avenue) were numbered at that early date. This house lay behind lot 4 "in the rear of Mrs. Veirs boarding house". <sup>4/</sup>

continued on attachment 8.1



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208 Harrison  
Attachment 7.1

The three-bay south (rear) facade has an irregular massing created by a two-bay porch on the southeast corner. The left porch bay is stuccoed with one window, and the right bay former open porch has been enclosed with wood clapboard and has a wood, six light exterior door with a window to its right. There is one unshuttered mainblock window in the west bay. The 2nd floor has one window in each bay.

The west facade is only broken by two small attic windows similar to those on the east. The rear porch has one centered window.

Garage - The single car garage is frame with clapboard siding and a composition shingled gable roof. The overhead door has 6 small lights at the top and is divided into hinged sections. There is one window and a entry door on the east side, and one window on the left side.

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M:26/10/78  
208 Harrison  
Attachment 8.1

During a brief period from 1890-1893 the house was owned by Mrs. Emily C. Lefevre/LaFetre. 5/ Her relationship to the Bealls is unknown, but she deeded the property back to the family in 1893. At that time the house must have presented a stark contrast to the Queen Anne villas then being constructed on the neighboring lots in the west end of town. The Tax Assessment records show a gradual decline in value of the Harrison Street house from 1900 until its change of ownership.

Theodore Gates had rented the house for a number of years before he purchased it in 1926. He made the necessary modern improvements, installed windows on the east facade, screened the front porch and covered the deteriorated frame with pebble dash masonry. It is unaltered since that time, and is now the residence of Mr. Gates' daughter, Lola Gates Haines.

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Footnotes:

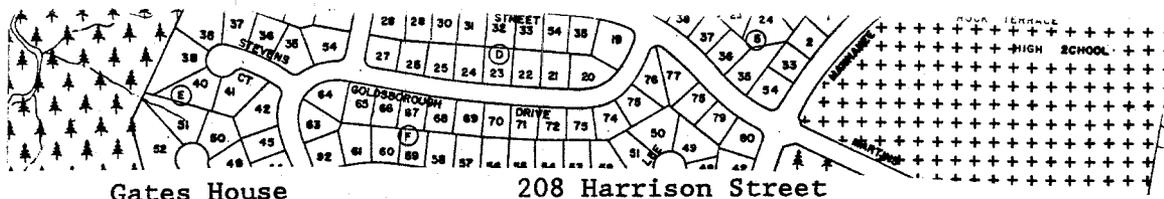
1. Montgomery County Wills GCD 12/341 (1901).
2. Interview with Mrs. George Haines (Lola Gates) 12/85.
3. Photographs of the Haiti area houses before demolition in early 1970s; see MHT Site #26/16/2.
4. Op. Cit., Will of Margaret J. Beall.
5. Montgomery County Land Records JA 17/479 (1890) records the sale of this house and lot to Mrs. Lefevre for \$400. The name is spelled both ways on the tax records; in Miss Beall's Will she is called "Laferris".

# City of Rockville

scale: 1" = 600'

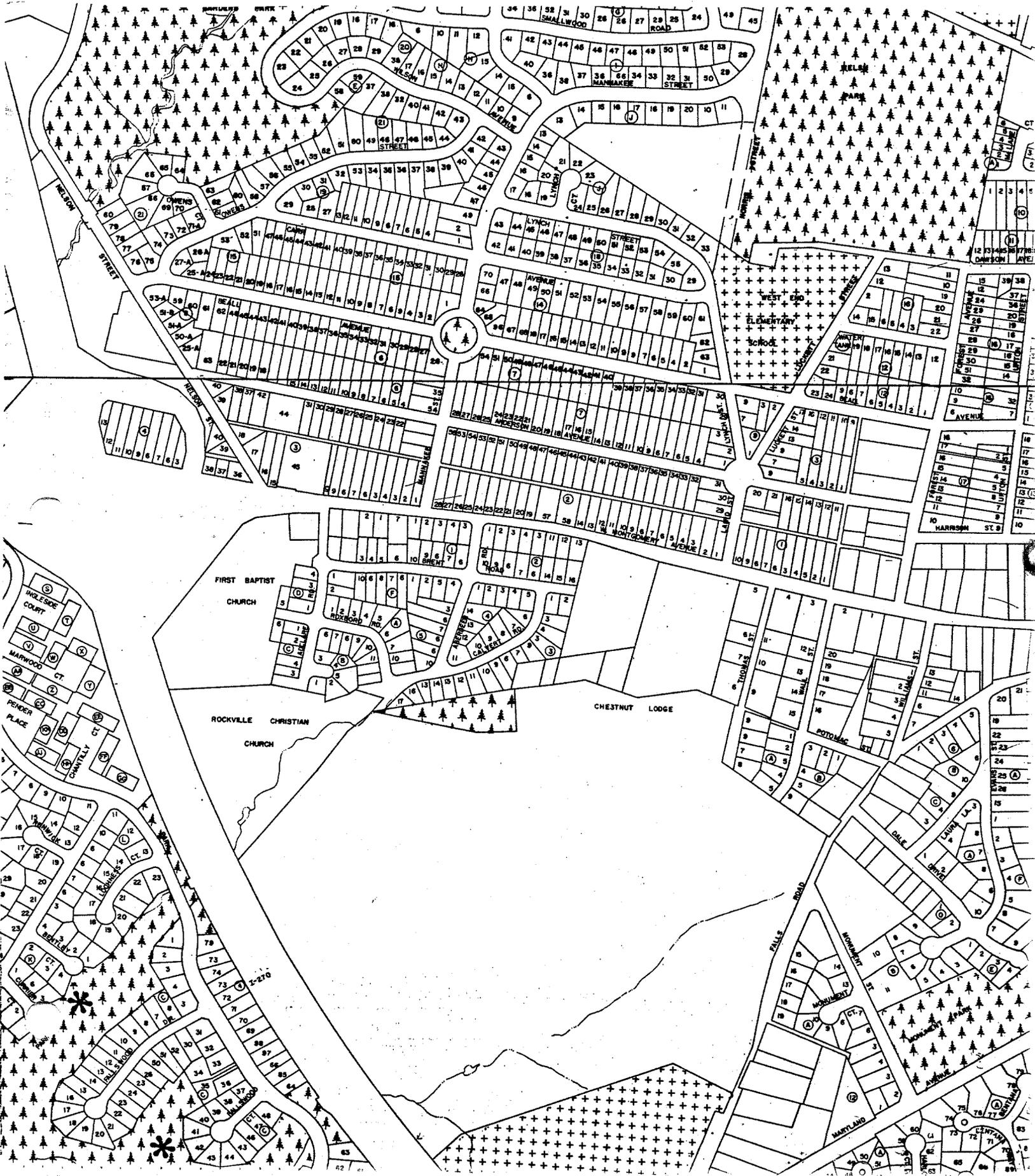
1982  
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Gates House

208 Harrison Street





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4-86

12802509

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