

Site: M: 26/13/2

Riggs House

401 Baltimore Road

Built: 1905/06

Private

The Riggs House is representative of the comfortable residences constructed in the late 19th-early 20th century subdivision of "Rockville Park". Speculators from Washington, young families desiring a home in the country but close to the newly-laid Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line, local artisans, merchants, and clerks erected their homes in the latest styles. This house was built in 1905-06 for George Riggs. It displays both late Victorian and Colonial Revival elements of this transitional period.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No.
M:26/13/2
Magi No. 1651295704
DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Riggs House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 401 Baltimore Road not for publication

city, town Rockville vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

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

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

name Samuel Gutter

street & number 401 Baltimore Road telephone no.: 294-0191

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 6279

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 613

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title M-NCPPC Atlas of Historical Sites

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Park Historian's Office

city, town Derwood state Md

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 Baltimore Road at the intersection of Maple Avenue. The large corner lot allows for a slightly deeper setback than the house on adjoining properties to the east. A detached, frame garage is located at the rear southeast corner of the property with access from Maple Avenue. Clustered trees in the rear of the house shade the back yard.

In form, this is an "I" house, - 2-1/2 stories, one-room deep - with a rear ell and inside lean-to. Therefore, the house has an "L" shaped plan. The side-gable roofline is broken by a front steeply-pitched center gable. Set on a brick foundation parged with cement, the house is sheathed in horizontal clapboard and covered with a composition sheet roof. Narrow vertical cornerboards decorate each corner with the front facade cornerboards ending in simple Doric capitals; flat lintels with a narrow top molding are on each window.

Although constructed in 1904-05, the house is an eclectic vernacular dwelling borrowing stylistic elements from the late Victorian and from the contemporary Colonial Revival style. Its steeply-pitched center gable is inspired by the Gothic Revival style from the 1840s to 1870s.

The north facade is three bays wide. Elongated single 2-over-2 windows and flanking wooden shutters are in the first and third bays of the first floor. The center bay has the exterior door with Colonial Revival-style surrounds. The second-story smaller 2-over-2 windows with wooden shutters meet a wide cornice that follows the roofline on each bay. A projecting wooden front porch set on brick piers stretches across the full facade, and is supported by four turned columns with flanking Victorian-style brackets and a wooden balustrade. Wide wooden steps lead to the front door. A half-circle, two-light attic window punctuates the center gable. An interior brick flue rises to the west of the gable.

The two-bay east facade has a single 2-over-2 window with flanking wooden shutters on each floor in each bay. A 1-over-1 attic window highlights the gable pediment emphasised by the return gable eaves.

The south facade is distinguished by asymmetrical massing caused by the rear inside lean-to and 3/4-storied, gable-roofed shed attached to the ell. Two-over-two windows with wooden shutters are on the second-story rear side and on the first floor of the ell. Return gable eaves accent the ell.

On the west facade, centrally located single 2-over-2 windows with shutters are found on the gable end and on the ell. A 1-over-1 attic window highlights the gable pediment, further accented by return gable eaves.

8. Significance

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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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History

Specific dates: 1905-06 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.

The Riggs House is representative of the comfortable residences constructed in the late 19th-early 20th century subdivision of "Rockville Park". Speculators from Washington, young families desiring a home in the country but close to the newly-laid B&O line, local artisans, merchants and clerks erected their homes in the latest styles. 401 Baltimore Road was built in 1905 and displays both late Victorian and Colonial Revival elements of this transitional period.

History & Support

In May, 1884, the local paper noted that wealthy timber merchant William Reading was surveying 56 lots on two streets in the northeastern section of town -- to be called "Readington".^{1/} "Reading's 1st Addition to Rockville" was not filed until 1888, but a few years later Washington Danenhower bought up many of the unsold lots, incorporated additional acreage and renamed the subdivision "Rockville Park". The Danenhower plat formed the basis for the present "Rockville Park" and considerably reduced the size of the lots from the original Reading plats.^{2/} Several of the early houses were small five-and-six room cottages, but larger houses, like the Riggs House, were also built. The smaller lots and houses appealed to families of more modest means than those being constructed in the West End of Rockville.

The Reading family retained ownership of several contiguous lots on the prime corner locations. Joseph Reading was the local druggist and Mayor of Rockville (1896-1898).^{3/} He sold lots 23 and 24 of Block 7 at the corner of Baltimore Road and Maple Avenue to George Riggs in 1905.^{4/} The subject house was constructed then and valued in the 1906 Tax Assessments at \$1,000. George Riggs, of the prominent Brookeville family, was sixty at the time and died in 1912, but the house remained in the Riggs family until 1945. From 1945-1977 members of the Harvey Crouch family owned the house, along with the adjoining vacant lot #25 purchased in 1956.^{5/}

The present owner, Samuel Gutter, is currently repairing and renovating the house.

Continued on Attachment 8.1

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The Riggs House
Attachment 8.1

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Sentinel, May 16, 1884; "Readington" was to be located on 27 acres purchased from Dr. Stonestreet.
2. Montgomery County Plats A/47 and A/53. Baltimore Road was named John Street on these plats.
3. Joseph Reading's wife was the great-granddaughter of Chief Justice John Marshall. The Reading family owned several hundred acres bordering the C & O Canal in the present Glen Echo area.
4. Montgomery County Land Records, 184/204 (1905)
5. Land Records 980/29 (1945)



401 Baltimore Road
Rockville, Maryland 20850



RICHARD H. ANDREWS
424-8282
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

06P512-5

Riggs House
401 Baltimore Road
Rockville
No. Facade
6/85

M: 26-13/2