

Site: M/26/16/1

Ross-Powell House

22 Martin's Lane

Private

Built: pre 1871

Miss Margaret Beall housed a family of her slaves in the original section of this two-story frame structure; in 1871 she sold the house to the same family, Alfred and Jane Ross, but retained control and supervision by a clause in the deed. From that humble beginning the Ross family and their Powell heirs improved and enlarged the house until it boasted the porches, bay windows and decorative elements seen on the house today.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M: 26/16/1

Magi No. 1651435504

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ross/Powell house

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 22 Martin's Lane not for publicationcity, town Rockville vicinity of Montgomery congressional district 8state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

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

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

name Warren G. and Brenda Crutchfieldstreet & number 20 Martin's Lane telephone no.:city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records liber 5733street & number Montgomery County Courthouse folio 881city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title M-NCPPCdate 1976 federal state county localrepository for survey records City of Rockvillecity, town Rockville state Maryland

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 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.

This two and one half story frame vernacular house is set back from Martin's Lane facing northwest. Green asphalt shingles cover the cross-gabled roof of the 4 bay by 2 bay rectangular core. This sprawling, German-sided house sits on a fieldstone foundation.

The north facade has a two-story flat-roofed two-bay protrusion which is nearly as wide as the house. Its four windows are 2 over 2 double hung wood sashed, as are many throughout this house. Above the protrusion is a small diamond attic light, positioned just below the ridge of the gable end.

The modest entrance is located at the northwest half of the 4 bay west facade; a tiny peaked-roofed porch supported by one square post and a wall of an adjacent lean-to shelters the entryway. The one window to the north and the two above on the second level are evenly positioned but are of unmatching dimensions, resulting in a rustic appearance. From the southwest half of the west facade, a square tin-roofed lean-to projects from the first level. On the gable-ended second floor above are two windows and a square four-paned attic light.

The south facade has a 1-bay deep first floor addition; here three windows are flanked by a door at each end.

A one story gable-roofed kitchen is situated near the southwest corner of the house. Originally a free-standing building, it is joined to the house via both the west facade lean-to and the south side addition. This kitchen, with its small interior chimney and weather board siding, retains much of its original character.

The southeast gabled block has three second floor windows and a square attic light. The northeast block has a smaller decorative attic gable with a diamond light, and two unmatched second floor windows. A hipped roof, one-story frame and screened porch spans the east facade; it has an off-center screen door.

This house, which stands vacant, reflects the rural character once found in this locale. Its condition is unstable, as a sinking foundation has resulted in much visible sagging.

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"/> 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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)

Specific dates mid-19th century 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 significance of a large number of free blacks in Rockville between 1830 and 1865 has gone largely unrecognized, although their presence had a major impact on the cultural and physical appearance of the town. As early as 1825 Samuel Martin, a free black, owned one of the original lots of Rockville and in 1831 owned an additional five acres just past the northern limits of town.¹ The latter served as a nucleus around which a Negro enclave developed. Free black farm laborers and house servants built their homes around "Martin's Lane", as did former slaves and servants from the Beall-Dawson house, this road being the dividing line between Margaret Beall's property and Samuel Martin's. The subject house dates from the mid-19th century and is representative of the tenant house which evolved through 100 years of ownership by descendants of the former slave family.

The census of 1850 recorded 1,300 free blacks in Montgomery County, comprising 8% of the population. Although there were 51 black landowners in 1860,² most of the free blacks lived in the white households as servants or in tenant house, or quarters provided for the laborers. This area of Rockville's black households was called "Haiti" (pronounced Hay-Tie). Most of the households were composed of women and children; some were the descendants of Samuel Martin (d. 1837) and some were the children of Samuel Martin, Jr. (d. 1873). Since the State of Maryland did not recognize slave marriages, it is difficult to determine before Emancipation which of the numerous Martin, Powell, Warren, and Johnson men were the husbands in these households. One clue appears in the Catholic Church records of Baptisms, marriages ("with consent of both masters") and burials. Many of the Haiti blacks were descendants of the freed slaves of the Carroll family, the pre-eminent Catholic family in the State.³ Jane Carroll Ross and her husband Alfred were the first black owners of 22 Martin's Lane.

In 1801 the Catholic Church records show that "Alfred Ross and Jane Carroll, his wife" arranged for the Baptism of their four children ranging in age from 6 years to a few weeks. The children were all Baptized on one day with "Mrs. West" as their sponsor.⁴ Neither Alfred Ross nor Jane Carroll appear on either the 1850 or 1860 Census as free. The inventory of Jane Beall's estate in 1852 lists a male slave named Alfred, and since the deed for the house from Margaret Beall to Alfred Ross in 1871 states

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that he was already occupying the house, it is probable that at least Alfred was a Beall slave.

The deed for the house made in June, 1871 and recorded in August, 1872, recited that Margaret J. Beall sold to Alfred Ross "(col'd)" for \$5.00, "The use and occupation of the house and lot lying near the Town of Rockville, and now occupied by him for the benefit of himself, his wife and children."⁵ After Alfred's death the house would pass to Jane and then to his children and heirs, but Ms. Beall inserted a clause retaining "supervision and control over the management of the house and lot...". The supervision and control clause was not removed until 1893 when she joined Jane Ross to pass the land to Jane and Alfred's children.

Alfred Ross' estate in 1893 consisted of the home on almost one-half acre and three adjoining lots of over 7,000 square feet each, bounding 288 feet on Martin's Lane to the sassafras tree.⁶ Lot #1 with the house went to Maria Eliza Ross, the only unmarried daughter, who made a home for her mother and then kept the property until her own death in 1925.⁷ In 1927 by Decree of Equity #4635 the house was advertised for sale and described as follows:

"On the west side of the Rockville-Frederick Road...about 300 yards from the road...improved by a five room dwelling house, with meat house, chicken house and fruit trees..adjoins the lands of Flora (Ross) Powell."⁸

The Trustees sold the house to Flora Powell, widow of Adam Powell and daughter of Alfred and Jane. Flora paid \$2,025.00.

The house was from time to time enlarged and modernized, but stayed in the close-knit families of Haiti. In 1966 Gertrude and Chester McKnight devised it to their granddaughter and great-granddaughter in trust.⁹ It was sold to Warren and Brenda Crutchfield in 1981.

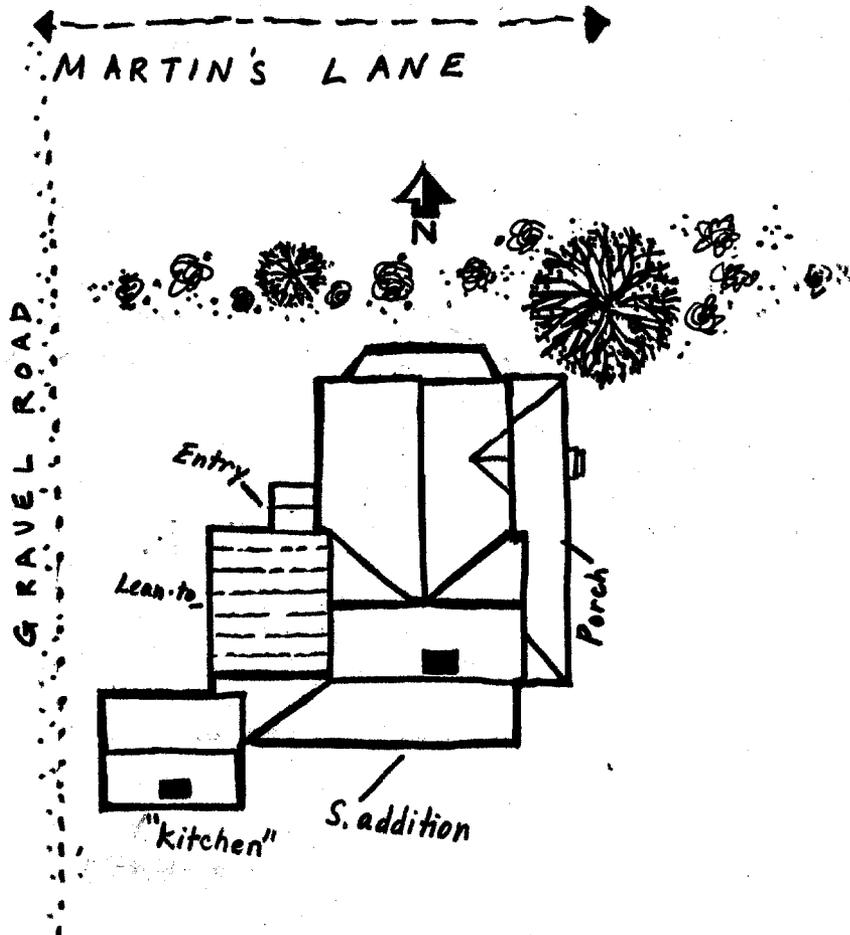
Joann Crutchfield was interviewed by the Sentinel newspaper in 1978 and spoke of the house where she was born (22 Martin's Lane) as belonging to her great-grandmother.¹⁰ Her own home next door at #20 was her grandmother's. The families of Martin Lane, like the Crutchfields, are descended from the Martins, Carrolls and Rosses. They speak of the Haiti Cemetery, where their ancestors were buried, and of church and community activities. In the 1960's, these families successfully challenged City plans to change the name of Martin's Lane.

1. Samuel Martin was listed in the 1790 Census as heading a household of 4 free non-whites.
2. James M. Wright, The Free Black in Maryland - 1634-1860. New York, Octagon Books (1971), Reprint of 1921 Edition, quoted in Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Hiebert, A Grateful Remembrance, Montgomery County Historical Society (1976), Chapter 9.
3. One descendant, was Kitty Carroll, listed as a 39 year old mulatto in the 1850 Census; owned an ambulance, hearse and two Ford autos in Rockville on the 1917 Tax Assessments of that year.

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4. Children were: Henry Ross b. 1861, Flora Ross b. 1856, Margaret Ross b. 1858 and Delia Ross b. 1855. Marie Eliza Ross the eventual owner of the house after Alfred's death was born in 1863 and baptized in 1864.
5. Montgomery County Land Records, EBP 9/477 (1872)
6. Alfred Ross had purchased additional lots from Isaiah Hatton and William Hatton, part of Beall land they had received in 1884 and 1886. Isaiah was a free mulatto, age 15 in the 1860 census.
7. Maria married after the deed was made. She married Edward S. Scott.
8. Montgomery County Advocate advertised the Sale to be held on December 18, 1926.
9. Land Records, Liber 3570, folio 381, (1966)
10. Montgomery County Sentinel, June 1, 1978 and February 15, 1979 - articles on "Haiti" and interviews with William Wood and Joann Crutchfield.



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Rockville





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Peerless Rockville Calendar, 1980



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M: 26/16/1
ROSS/POWELL HOUSE
22 Martin's Lane
SOUTH/SOUTH ~~WEST~~ ELEVATION

RICHARD H. ANDREWS
1605 Faragut Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20855

AUGUST, 1984



M: 26/16/1
ROSS/POWELL HOUSE
22 Martin's Lane
EAST ELEVATION

1020-10

RICHARD H. ANDREWS
1608 Farragut Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20851

AUGUST, 1984