M: 26/16/17

Cole/Smith House

104 North Street, Rockville

Private

Built: 1924

This house was constructed by the Reverend James S. Cole, minister of the Rockville Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, for his son, Edgar. Rev. Cole lived in the Jerusalem M. E. Church parsonage on Wood Lane. The house demonstrates the survival of 19th century vernacular house types and household life into the 20th century. It functioned much as its prototype did in a semi-rural area without sewer or water until 1951.

Survey No. M: 26/16/17

Magi No.

DOE ___yes X no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

NR eligible: X yes ___no
Contrib. element in H.D. X

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic: Cole-Smith House

and/or common:

2. Location

street & number: 104 North Street ___ not for publication

city, town: Rockville ___ vicinity of congressional district: 8th

state: Maryland county: Montgomery

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	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

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

name: Gloria E. Smith & Ella Louise W. Smith

street & number: 104 North Street telephone no.:

city, town: Rockville state and zip code: Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: ~~Montgomery County Courthouse~~ liber ~~5960~~

street & number: folio ~~839~~

city, town: Rockville state: Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title: None

date: ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records:

city, town: state:

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

This 2-1/2 story vernacular house demonstrates the survival of 19th century vernacular house types and household life into the 20th century. Although built in the 1920s, the house is typical of mid-to-late-19th century L-shaped vernacular houses, consisting of a center-peaked side-gabled three-bay rectangular main block with rear kitchen wing, differing only in its two-bay width and the shallowness of its central front peak. It functioned much as its prototype house did in a semi-rural area without water or sewer until the 1950s. It has been modified for modern utilities and the exterior cladding and porches have been altered.

The subject house faces north on North Street on a 50' by 260' lot, one of a row of mixed twentieth century single family detached houses with similar moderate setbacks and spacing. Neighboring houses range from 2-1/2 story turn-of-the-century frame houses to modern one-story ramblers with moderate set-backs and lots. The house has a chain-link fence around the front yard and ornamental flowers and flowering shrubs in bermed planters along the drive and fence. A central concrete walkway leads down the slight grade from the street to the porch. A driveway and parking area from North Street is east of the house.

The rectangular main block has a center-peaked side gabled roof clad with composition shingles, as is the rear-gabled kitchen wing. The exterior is clad with aluminum siding but covers clapboard according to the owner. The foundation is beveled concrete block. There is one plain brick interior chimney on the south roof slope. Windows are 1/1 with plain mitred surrounds that have been spaced out with molding strips.

The three-bay north (front) has a central front-gabled attic dormer with a window which has been covered with slit siding for air movement. The second story has three evenly spaced windows. The first story has windows in the east and west bays and a central wood hollow-core exterior door with one diamond-shaped light and a brass mail slot. The full-width porch has a composition-shingled shallow hipped roof supported by four turned wooden columns. The owner says that originally it was a wood porch and decking with lattice panels on the sides, but it rotted and was replaced with the current concrete slab.

Architectural Description (continued):
104 North Street

The two-bay east facade has two evenly spaced windows on both the first and second stories.

The two-bay west facade has a window in the north bay and a small casement window in the south bay on the second story. The first story has a window in each bay, north and south..

The south (rear) facade consists of a two-story rear wing and a shed-roofed one-story rear porch, now enclosed. The rear wing has one window on the first and second stories, west facade. The south side is unrelieved. The east facade has one window on the second story and a modern exterior door centered on the first story. There is a cement slab patio at the exterior door.

The deep rear yard was once mostly vegetable garden but is now lawn with well-tended ornamental beds near the house.

James S. Cole

Lila Cole

Photographs from History of the Rockville Charge 1835-1979
by Nina H. Clarke

8. Significance

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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	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	X other (specify) local history
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1924 **Builder/Architect** NA

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.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house was constructed in 1924 by the Reverend James S. Cole, a minister of the M.E.Church. Reverend Cole, as minister of the Rockville Circuit, Washington Conference from 1923 to 1926, lived in the parsonage on Wood Lane and constructed this house for his son, Edgar.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA: Attachment 8.2
ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA: Attachment 8.2

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Before coming to Rockville, Rev. James Cole served the upper County area for about 25 years. His circuit included Mount Zion (on the Beallsville-Barnesville Road in the community known as Big Woods), Warren (in Martinsburg), Elijah's Rest (in Poolesville), and St. Paul (in Sugarland). Rev. Cole would preach at one church in the morning and another in the afternoon, covering the other churches on the circuit on alternate Sundays.

Rev. Cole was the minister at Mount Zion about 1915 when the parsonage burned; he helped build the house today used as the parsonage, sawing trees and hauling them to the sawmill for building lumber. Rev. Cole was often paid for his services in chickens, pigs, and vegetables. He owned a large quantity of land, selling off lumber and farming; he raised fruits and vegetables and sold the surplus. He and his wife Lila had a large family of nine children. 1/

Continued on Attachment 8.1

Statement of Significance/ History (continued):
104 North Street

Reverend Cole came to Rockville in 1923. His circuit included Jerusalem in Rockville and Mount Pleasant in Norbeck. The senior Coles lived in the parsonage on Wood Lane, and in 1924 purchased 13,500 square feet of land from Margaret S. Dawson, Mary K. Brooke, and Priscilla B. and Robert Farmer, heirs to the Beall-Dawson estate. Rev. Cole took out a $700 mortgage at 6% for three years and had the house at 104 North street constructed for his son, Edgar. 2/ Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Cole and their three children lived in the house for some time. Rev. Cole died of food poisoning on July 2,1926, while he lived in Jerusalem parsonage.

The property remained in Cole family ownership until 1933, when it was offered for sale as part of Rev. Coles' estate. The Montgomery Independent advertised "a house and lot situated in a subdivision improved by homes for colored people near Rockville; that the dwelling-house on said premises is largely in need of repairs and is rapidingly [sic] deteriorating and depreciating in value....a two-story six-room frame dwelling with composition shingle roof, electric lights, front and back porches and some outbuildings, ...terms of sale $1000 cash." William S. Watkins, who held the first trust lien, purchased the house for $947.25. 3/

In 1940, William Watkins' widow sold the property to Albert and Inez Smith, who in 1947 sold it to Albert's brother Warner and his wife Gertrude. 4/ Warner and Gertrude Smith lived there for some time, then resold the property to Albert in 1955. 5/

The house was vacant when Ella Smith's home on North Washington Street was demolished to make way for the One-Stop Shopping Center. She moved into a house with an outside water pump and toilet, and no central heat; kerosene and coal stoves heated specific rooms, and there was a kitchen stove to cook on. Within a few years, water and toilet were brought indoors; Mr. Albert Smith (no relation to Ella) also added aluminum siding and thermal windows to the house.

After renting for 35 years, Gloria E. and Ella Smith purchased the house from Albert Smith's estate in 1982.

Footnotes:

1. Nina Clarke, History of the 19th Century Black Churches in Maryland and Washington, D.C., 1983. pp. 187-191.
2. Montgomery County Land Records 364/84; Tax Records, 1923, where Rev. Cole is also listed as having an automobile assessed at $300; Deed of Trust: Land Records 363/472 (1924).
3. Montgomery County Judgment Records CKW56/387-410 (1933).
4. Land Records, op. cit. 797/114 (1940) and 1120/358 (1947).
5. Land Records, op.cit., 2070/446.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M: 26/16/17

Montgomery County Land, Equity, and Tax records; Nina Clarke, Black Churches, (1983) and History of the Rockville Charge: 1835-1979; Telephone interviews with Ella Smith, Rosalie Campbell, and Nina Clarke, 1988.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 13,000 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of Lot #9, block 10 in "Resubdivision of Part of Beall's Subdivision of Part of Rockville".

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Eileen McGuckian / Judy Christensen		
organization	Peerless Rockville	date	May, 1988
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

Statement of Significance/ History (continued):
104 North Street

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Settlement/Political
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: Building
Setting: Urban
Historic Function(s) or Use(s): Domestic/Single Family/Residence
Known Design Source: None

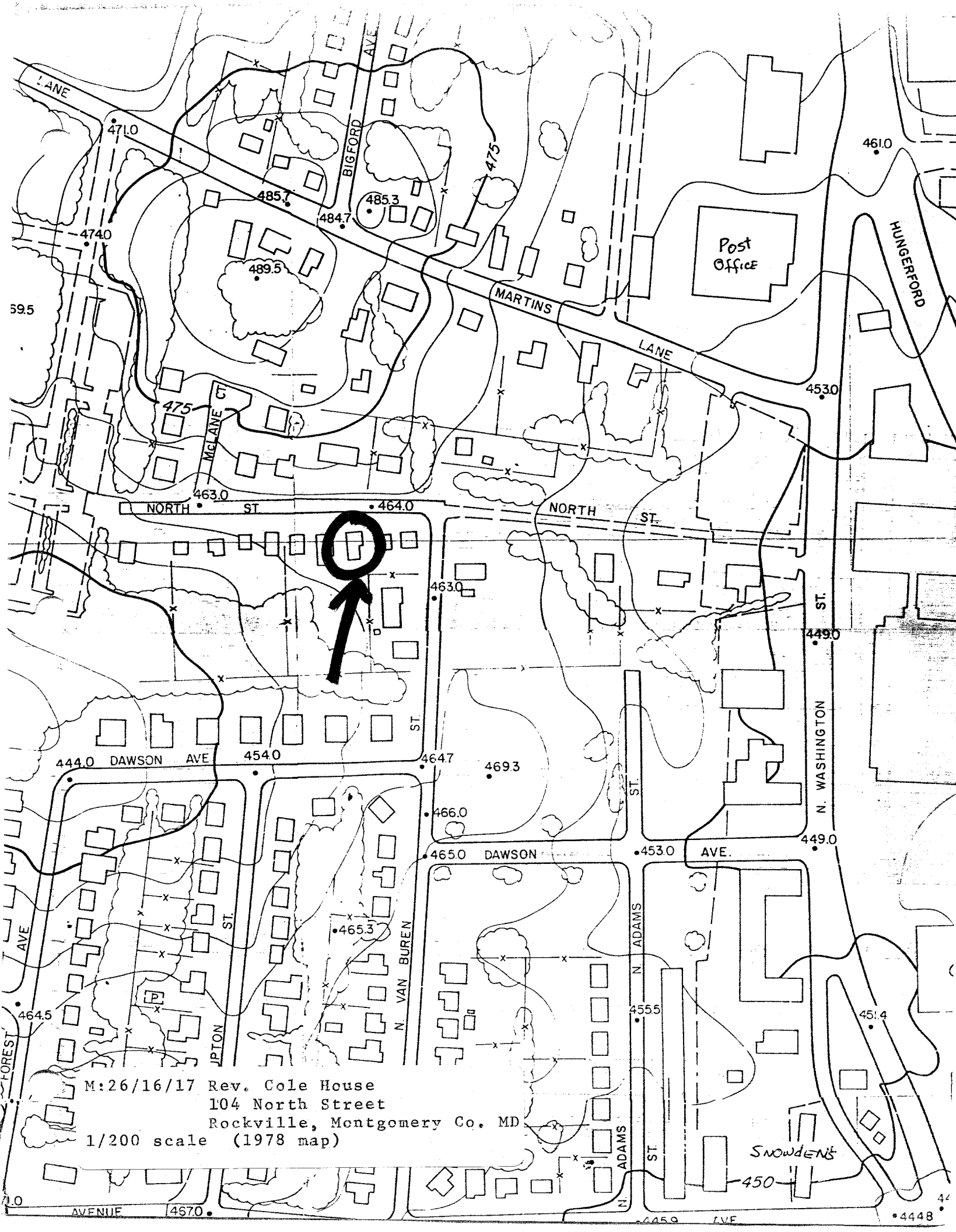
ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:

1. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, Rockville

2. Chronological Period(s):
Maturation and Expansion of the County Seat A.D.1873-1931

3. Historic Context Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning (Black History); Social/Educational/Cultural

4. Resource Type:
Category : Building
Setting: Urban
Historic Function(s) or Use: Domestic/Single Dwelling/Residence
Known Design Source: None



M:26/16/17 Rev. Cole House
104 North Street
Rockville, Montgomery Co. MD
1/200 scale (1978 map)

Cole/Smith House
M: 26/16/17
104 North Street
Rockville, Md 20850
North & front and east facade
J Christensen
5/88