

HA-1479

1888

Gorrell House
551 Rock Spring
Bel Air
private

This is typical front gable Victorian except for the wide overhang of the eaves and the exposed rafters. This is a fairly common Victorian element that is rare in Bel Air. The Methodist Protestant Parsonage, 125 N. Main Street, has the same kind of roof, although it is a more elaborate house.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Gorrell House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
551 Rock Spring 1st
CITY, TOWN
Bel Air VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE
Maryland COUNTY
Harford

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Albert A. Neville, Jr. Telephone #: 838-7799
STREET & NUMBER
551 Rock Spring
CITY, TOWN
Bel Air VICINITY OF STATE, zip code
Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Harford County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Bel Air STATE
Maryland

Liber #: 1041
Folio #: 143

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
_FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

NA-117?

7 DESCRIPTION

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two and a half story, three bay, frame Victorian house is at 551 Rock Spring Avenue in Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The gable roof has a wider than usual overhang and exposed rafters. The house is sided in asphalt single except for the facade (west) and a piece of enclosed porch which are shiplap. The front gable has the ubiquitous round headed 2/2 window and the rest of the windows, even those in the side gables, are also 2/2 except for the first story front windows which are 2/4. The door is in the south bay of the west elevation. The front porch has a hipped roof carried on chamfered posts on two blocks. There are decorative brackets. The north elevation shows one bay in the main block and a two back building with its own gable roof at right angles to that of the main building. The south elevation of the main block is blind except for the gable window; the back building has been added to: a sleeping porch with three pairs of casement windows is in the second story over a little recessed porch and an enclosed portion (east). Behind (east) of this addition to the south elevation of the ell is a hipped-roof porch on plain posts. Originally there was probably a porch along the whole south side.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

NA-1479

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1888 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is a smaller version of the Methodist Protestant Parsonage (124 N. Main) and is a typical Victorian house in Bel Air, save for the exposed rafters which are unusual. Its ell has been added to several times. The house was built by J. Thomas Gorrell in 1888 on land he bought from his next door neighbor to the south, James Dean (60/305) and from the heirs of Frederick Williams (62/176). Mr. Gorrell may be the J. Gorrell who had the blacksmith shop in the flat iron in 1858. By 1878 the shop was run by John Alexander. The dates make it more likely the builder of this house belonged to the next generation.

In 1904 Richard Dallam sued Gorrell's heirs and the property was sold to William L. Gorrell (113/143). In 1921 Gorrell sold it to Jessie Gorrell who assumed the \$600 mortgage (mtg. 112/366, deed 173/119). Miss Gorrell sold it to Stevenson W. Webster in 1932 (22/460). Webster, the son of R. Harry Webster and the grandson of Stevenson Williams who originally owned one of the parcels, taught in a boys' school and lived there only during the summers. He sold it to Paul Glackin, a Bel Air real estate agent, in 1969 (827/186). Glackin sold it the following year to Thomas R. Coale (844/150). Coale sold it to the present owner, Albert A. Neville, Jr., in 1977 (1041/143).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford Democrat
1858, 1878 Map

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #172 in the Town of Bel Air.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian

11 December 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

838-8700

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

TITLE: 551 Rock Spring

1041/143 15 September 1977
Thomas R. Coale & Carol
 to
Albert A. Neville, Jr. & Elizabeth
55' x 236'

844/150 13 May 1970
Paul L. Glackin & Dorothy
 to
Thomas R. Coale & Carol

827/186 30 September 1969
Stevenson W. Webster
 to
Paul L. Glackin & Dorothy

221/460 4 January 1932
Jessie Gorrell
 to
Stevenson W. Webster

173/119 9 April 1921
William L. Gorrell & Elizabeth
 to
Jessie Gorrell
assumes \$600 mortgage (112/366)

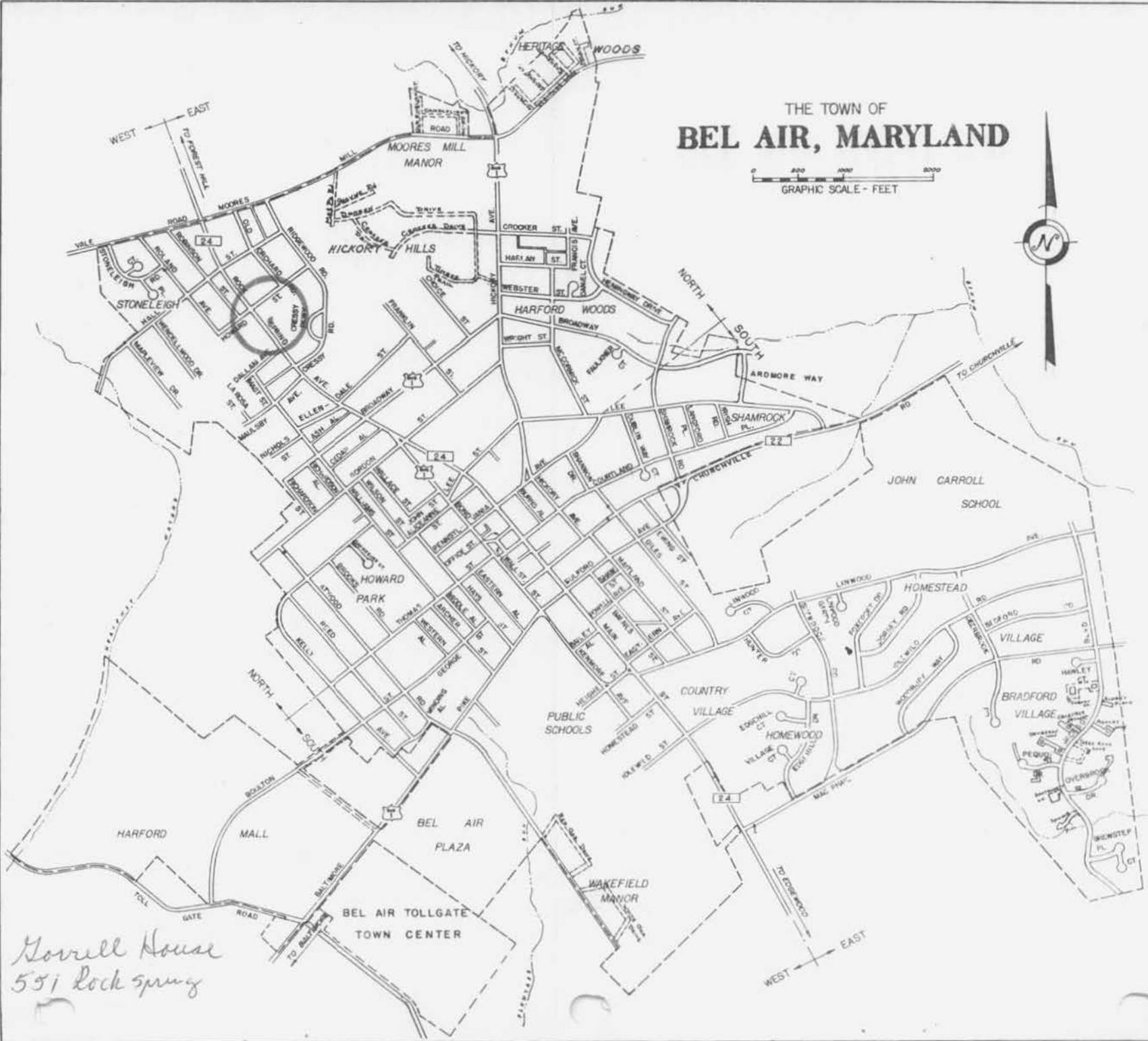
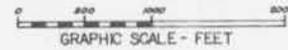
113/143 7 June 1904
Richard Dallam, Trustee
 to
William L. Gorrell
Trustee in Richard Dallam vs M. Elizabeth
Gorrell et al
2 parcels

#1
60/305 20 June 1888
James Dean & Hannah
 to
J. Thomas Gorrell

#2
62/176

21 June 1888
Stevenson A. Williams et al
to
J. Thomas Gorrell

THE TOWN OF
BEL AIR, MARYLAND



HA-1479

*Novell House
551 Rock spring*



HA-1479 Gorrell House, 551 Rock Spring Bel Air
new elev
M. Lamm, 1979



H 4-1479

Howell House, 551 Rock Spring, Bel Air

w + s elev

M. Larew, 1979