

HO-1069

Eva Seward House
1694 Woodstock Road
Private

Description

The Eva Seward House is a 2 ½-story, two-bay by two-bay frame structure with a parged foundation, vinyl German siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northwest-southeast ridge. There is a cross gable on the southwest. The southwest and northwest elevations each have a one-story, shed-roofed wing. The southeast elevation has a six-panel door in the east bay and paired six-over-six sash with fake shutters in the south bay. There is a one-story, three-bay porch with square wood posts, railings with square balusters, and jig-sawn brackets. The porch extends beyond the southwest face of the house, with a hip roof here, but is not as long as the southwest wing. On the southwest elevation the wing stops short of the west bay, where there is a six-over-six sash. The second story has two six-over-six sash, and the cross gable has a single six-over-six sash.

Significance

The lot on which the Eva Seward House sits was originally 28 acres that was acquired by Elizabeth Wilson and the Bennetts in 1894. Wilson sold off portions of the 28 acres in the 1890s, and some of the neighboring houses were built at that time on these newly-created lots. The remaining land changed hands several times in the first decade of the twentieth century. It is likely that the house was built c. 1912, when the land was purchased by Woodstock merchant George Humphrey, then sold to Eva Seward. It is possible that Humphrey built the house as a speculation, since he was active in building in the area. Given that he sold the land, in its entirety, just seven months later suggests that he might have been building; otherwise, it is not clear what he hoped to gain from buying the land and selling it off so quickly. Eva Seward was single and living in Baltimore. In 1923 she was living in Howard County when she sold the property to John and Martha Seward. When it left the Seward family in the 1940s, the property had been whittled down to three acres. On the exterior the house has many affinities with the foursquare, and seems to be an early, transitional dwelling moving toward that type. Similar houses from the first decade or so of the twentieth century can be seen in Catonsville. The cross gable was a popular element for many types of houses at this period, providing more usable space in the attic, and full-width ones, as found here, are common on these early square houses.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-1069

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other

2. Location

street and number 1694 Woodstock Road __ not for publication

city, town Woodstock vicinity

county Howard

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

name Richard & Rita Mosher

street and number 1694 Woodstock Road telephone

city, town Woodstock state MD zip code 21163

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 5220 folio 193

city, town Ellicott City tax map 10 tax parcel 135 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1	2
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory 0	

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-1069

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The Eva Seward House is located at 1694 Woodstock Road, about 1 mile southwest of Woodstock, in north-central Howard County, Maryland. The house is located near the road on a generally flat site that slopes down to the northwest, and faces southeast toward the road. It is a 2 ½-story, two-bay by two-bay frame structure with a parged foundation, vinyl German siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northwest-southeast ridge. There is a cross gable on the southwest. The southwest and northwest elevations each have a one-story, shed-roofed wing.

The southeast elevation has a six-panel door in the east bay and paired six-over-six sash with fake shutters in the south bay. The southeast end of the southwest wing has a door with four lights above four panels. There is a one-story, three-bay porch with square wood posts, railings with square balusters, and jig-sawn brackets. The porch extends beyond the southwest face of the house, with a hip roof here, but is not as long as the southwest wing. The second story has two six-over-six sash with fake shutters, and there is one in the gable end. The house has box cornices with returns.

The northeast elevation has two typical six-over-six sash with fake shutters on the first story and three on the second story. The end bays are set close to the corners, leaving a wide expanse of wall between them. The center sash is set close to the north bay sash. The southwest elevation of the wing has shorter, paired six-over-six sash with fake shutters in the south bay. The wing stops short of the west bay, where there is a six-over-six sash with fake shutters. The second story has two six-over-six sash with fake shutters, and the cross gable has a single six-over-six sash with fake shutters.

The northwest elevation has a six-over-six sash in the north bay. The northwest wing has a door in the center, flanked by windows on each side. The second story has two six-over-six sash, and the gable end a single sash.

To the southwest of the house is a non-historic one-story CMU building with a gable roof that has a northwest-southeast ridge. To the northwest of the house is a modern shed.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-1069

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates N/A Architect/Builder N/A

Construction dates c. 1912

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The lot on which the Eva Seward House sits was originally 28 acres that was acquired by Elizabeth Wilson and the Bennetts in 1894. There were probably no buildings on the property at that time, since the house was on the property at 1661 Woodstock Road (see HO-1052). Wilson sold off portions of the 28 acres to Henry Fairbank, David Donovan, Annie Feeny, and the Howard County school board in the 1890s, and some of the neighboring houses were built at that time on these newly-created lots. The remaining land changed hands several times in the first decade of the twentieth century, but remained with the 24 acres across the street that held the dwelling. If the Eva Seward House was built at this time, it was intended as a rental, perhaps for the summer, since Woodstock was a popular summer resort for Baltimoreans escaping the heat of the city. However, it is more likely that the house was built c. 1912, when the land was purchased by Woodstock merchant George Humphrey, then sold to Eva Seward.

It is possible that Humphrey built the house as a speculation, since he was active in building in the area. Given that he sold the land, in its entirety, just seven months later suggests that he might have been building; otherwise, it is not clear what he hoped to gain from buying the land and selling it off so quickly (though what he paid for the land and what he sold it for are not given in the deeds). Eva Seward was single and living in Baltimore. In 1923 she was living in Howard County when she sold the property to John and Martha Seward. When it left the Seward family in the 1940s, the property had been whittled down to three acres. On the exterior the house has many affinities with the foursquare, and seems to be an early, transitional dwelling moving toward that type. Similar houses from the first decade or so of the twentieth century can be seen in Catonsville. The cross gable was a popular element for many types of houses at this period, providing more usable space in the attic, and full-width ones, as found here, are common on these early square houses.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-1069

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 3.086 A
Acreage of historical setting 13 A
Quadrangle name Sykesville

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the outlines of the property, tax map 10, parcel 135, which encompasses all of the historic buildings and features on the site.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	December 2011
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

HO-1069
Eva Seward House
1694 Woodstock Road
Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera
HP Premium Plus paper
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-1069_2011-11-02_01
Southeast elevation

HO-1069_2011-11-02_02
Southwest & southeast elevations



HO-1069

Eva Seward House

1694 Woodstock Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-11-02

MD SHPO

Southeast elevation

1 of 2



HO-1069

Eva Seward House

169H Woodstock Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-11-02

MD SHPO

Southwest + southeast elevations

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