

Site M:26/10/17

Judge Anderson House

39 West Montgomery Avenue

Built: 1881, remodeled 1915 Private

Attorney Thomas Anderson is the son of the late Judge Anderson, and the third of that name to own and occupy this house. A 1915 remodeling in full-blown Colonial Revival style replaced the front hipped roof with its railed deck and transformed the Victorian verandah to pillared porch with full entablature. An east side portico was added and classical detailing applied to the windows and doors. Elaborate Adamesque plaster work exists on the interior.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Judge Anderson's house

and/or common Anderson house

2. Location

street & number 39 West Montgomery Avenue not for publication

city, town Rockville vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Thomas M. Anderson, Jr.

street & number 39 West Montgomery Avenue telephone no.: 762-2458

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 5976

street & number folio 482

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register (W. Montg. Avenue Historic District) - 1974

Locally designated historic district - 1974

date M-NCPPC - 1976

federal state county local

pository for survey records City of Rockville

city, town Rockville state Maryland 20850

7. Description

Survey No. M:26/10/17

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" 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 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 Anderson House is located at the corner of West Montgomery Avenue and North Adams Street. This large frame house is 2 1/2 stories on a stone foundation, 5 bays wide by 4 bays deep, with porches on three sides. Its plan is symmetrical, with interior chimneys on each end, and the hipped roof is covered with blue slate.

As originally constructed in 1881, the house showed features of architecture in transition, from the High Victorian edging into neo-colonial (see photo attached). Its front half was hip-roofed with a railed deck atop a symmetrical, flat wall plane broken by a central gable and projecting bay and a full-width verandah. In 1915, it was remodeled into true Colonial Revival style, resulting in the present symmetry and gables breaking into the hip roof. The classical details of columned porch with entablatures, moulded architraves on windows and fan-lit entry were also added, as well as elaborate interior plaster work. No further changes have taken place since 1915.

The front (south) facade on West Montgomery Avenue is a broad 5 bay block. A columned porch spans the full width of the first floor. The entry features fan and side lights between reeded pilasters with full entablature. The windows are two-over-two double hung sash those on the first level taller than the upper story. The focal point is the second story; a slightly projecting center pavilion has a round-headed window set off by engaged wooden arcades and half-curved louvred shutters. The ventilator at the attic peak is also round.

The east side of the house features a shallow, three-sided 2-story bay on the southeast corner, and a two bay raised porch decorated by paired columns supporting a projecting portico. The balustrade has turned posts.

At the rear (north) elevation, there are two porches. The left side has a raised service porch of one bay under a pedimented gable; this porch is screened by lattice work. The right half of the south side of the house was constructed as a two-tiered porch. The first floor is still open, the second story porch is enclosed, but both are framed with chamfered column supports. Part of the original 1881 sawn and pierced millwork remains on the west side balustrade. The back door entered from this porch has a large square glass transom.

The west side of the house borders North Adams Street and is three bays, undecorated except for a raised gable peak and round attic grill. All of the porches have brick piers and lattice work.

The entire house is enclosed by a hedge and many mature trees. There is a low stone wall on the front, and a lower stone wall heading east toward what was once the stable area and gardens.

A-B
A B

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

1915

Specific dates 1881; remodeled/ Builder/Architect T.C. Groomes (1881)

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

The Anderson House is important for its association with the family which has served Montgomery County as jurists, doctors, legislators and civic leaders since the mid-18th century.¹ This home was built in 1881, and is the residence of attorney Thomas Anderson, the third of that name to own and occupy it.

Like most of the town lots of Rockville, lots 74 & 75 had been owned by the Williams family. Upton Beall purchased lot 75 (lying opposite his own house) in 1823 for \$175, but left it unimproved. His daughter Margaret Beall sold the lots to Thomas Anderson in 1880 and the house was constructed the following year. The builder was local contractor Thomas C. Groomes.

The Andersons had come to Montgomery County in 1754, settling near Rockville. Richard, son of the first Anderson in the County, was a Justice of the Orphan's Court in 1813.² In 1826, Thomas Anderson gave one of the toasts at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Independence.³ Another fifty years later, another Thomas Anderson, builder of this house, would organize and serve as principal speaker at the centennial celebration of the same event; the festivities and County history were recorded in a book entitled Centennial Address of the Erection of Montgomery County into a Separate Municipality, at Rockville, 1876.⁴ Mr. Anderson left no children, however, so his house passed to his nephew and namesake, Thomas Minor Anderson, in 1912. Since Thomas M. Anderson was a minor, it is assumed that his father George directed the substantial alterations made to the house in 1915.

Thomas Minor Anderson was born on the site of the 1931 courthouse and moved to 39 West Montgomery when he was 12. He served as Juvenile Court Judge between 1935-1939 and Circuit Court Judge from 1954-1966. In 1966 he was appointed to the Court of Special Appeals, the first Republican Judge from Montgomery County on that panel since his maternal grandfather, Judge John Vinson. Judge Anderson died in 1981 at age of 78.

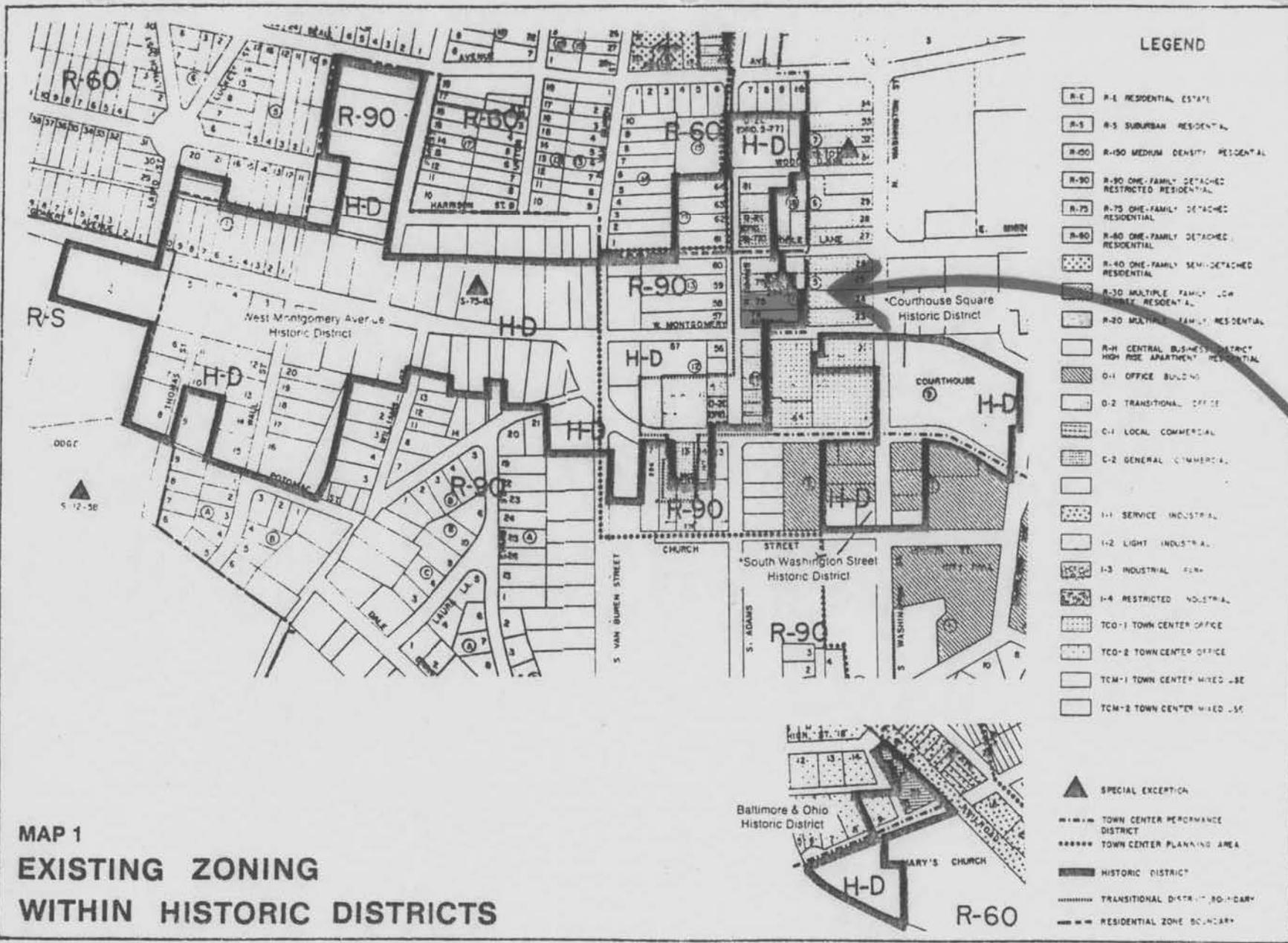
ANDERSON HOUSE
 CONTINUED ON P. A

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39 West Montgomery Ave.
Continuation Sheet 8.1
Significance

Thomas Anderson, Jr. inherited the house. Both he and his father served as officers of the Montgomery County Historical Society. The family's collection of fine antique furniture and family and County memorabilia has been loaned to the Society on many occasions, and decorates the interior of the Anderson home.

1. Much of the Anderson family history is contained in the genealogical files of Historical Society
2. Levy List for Montgomery County - 1813, Mont. Library, Reel #161
3. The True American, July 18, 25, 1826
4. Published in Baltimore, C.C. Saffell & Co. (1877)
5. Montgomery County Sentinel, various issues, 1883, 1900, 1954, 1966, 1971, 1981





*Note: For discussion and planning purposes South Washington Street and the Courthouse Square district are considered independent Historic Districts even though they are shown on the existing zoning map as one district.



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ANDERSON HOUSE

39 West Montgomery Ave.

South-Southeast elevation

Photographer: Paul Wersch

3/83



M: 26/10/17

ANDERSON HOUSE

39 West Montgomery Ave.

South elevation

Photographer: Paul Wirth
3/83