

Site: M: 26/10/48

Rosenberger House

310 West Montgomery Avenue

Built: 1887 Remodeled: 1948 Builder: T.C.Groomes Private

The 1887 Queen Anne features of this house were well publicized at the time of its construction. It was built for Philip Laird, a State legislator, financier, and later Chief of the Maryland Public Service Commission. It was later owned by Judge Stedman Prescott, whose daughter and son-in-law purchased it in 1948 and remodeled it at that time.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common The Rosenberger House

### 2. Location

street & number 310 West Montgomery Avenue  not for publicationcity, 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Dr. Gordon S. and Polly Rosenberger

street &amp; number 310 West Montgomery Avenue telephone no.: 762-3344

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records 1215 liber

street &amp; number Montgomery Co. Courthouse 401 folio

city, town Rockville state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register of Historic Places, 1974

date City of Rockville Historic District, 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records City of Rockville

city, town Rockville state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. <sup>M</sup>26/10/48

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

This 2-and-1/2-story frame house faces north on West Montgomery Avenue. When originally constructed in 1887 by T.C. Groomes, (see photo, attachment 7.2) the house was three bays by two bays with a broad cross-gable roof and lesser gables on the east and west facades. The predominant stylistic characteristics reflect a local builder's interpretation of the Queen Anne style. The house has been greatly altered, with additions and alterations completed through the 1950s and 1960s.

Small trees and closely manicured shrubs surround the house. The rear yard is accessed by a driveway that begins on Wall Street and goes eastward until it curves north toward the house. This allows the rear property to be surrounded by the backyards of several properties which face on Wall, Williams, and Potomac Streets.

The original house is set on a brick foundation, new additions on concrete. The cross gable roof and additions are covered with asphalt shingles. Stucco covers only the original house and earliest addition; aluminum siding sheathes all additions. There is one interior brick chimney in the main block and a rear exterior chimney.

The north (front) facade originally had a one-story full width porch with strapwork pedimented gable over the entry. The porch railings were square wooden posts in a cross-hatched motif. A protruding pediment with a bracketed recessed soffit and ornamental strapwork detailing also existed. A raked cornice on the pediment was embraced by two Doric endpieces supported by brackets at the front corners.

In the early 1950s, the gable was stripped of its detailing and replaced with aluminum siding. The front porch was removed in 1952, as were the two two-over-two sash windows on the first story. A bay window with four six-over-six double hung sash windows was installed, but the three second-story two-over-two sash windows and wooden louvered shutters were retained. The exterior door in the third bay of the original house and two small centrally located windows with one-over-one double hung sashes also were retained.

The east facade has a gable roofed bay at the southeast corner of the original structure. This bay is three-sided with the first-story having mitred corners and supporting on decorative brackets a rectangular second-story bay flush with the first story. Much of the wood trim along the base of the "Rockville bay" was removed during renovation. Single two-over-two sash windows are on each side of the bay's first story, while two two-over-two windows separated by a mullion are in the center and one-over-one sash windows are on either of the sides of the second story. The main cross gable has two small square, single-light windows centrally located with one vertical muntin in each window. A wood border and square inset placed in the void between the two windows creates a unifying detail. The gable now has aluminum siding where it once had decorative fishscale shingles.

Continued on attachment 7.1

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The Rosenberger House  
Attachment 7.1

Single, two-over-two windows are located at the northeast corner on both the first and second stories.

A two-story open wooden porch at the southeastern corner of the house was enclosed in 1959. Originally, the first story had a covered porch with a side kitchen entrance. The first and second story balustrades were of a decorative spindlework supported by square posts. Once the porch was enclosed with aluminum siding, two windows were installed on the second story and one on the first; they are aluminum casement windows.

The south or rear facade contains a one-story enclosed porch with the original roof pitch that was enclosed in 1959. This porch has paired casement windows on either side of a sliding glass doors. A rear semi-circular brick patio also was added. An open breezeway connecting the carport was constructed at the same time and enclosed in 1968. The gable-roofed, two-car, carport with square columns also was built in 1958, as well as the tractor shed adjacent to the west side of the carport.

A number of additions were attached to the west facade. The first addition was a two-story gable roofed study for Mr. Philip Laird. The second addition was Dr. Rosenberger's office, a small one-story recessed extension on the west side, adjacent to the first addition; this was constructed shortly after the house was purchased.

By 1950, the need to expand the office led to the extension of the front facade flush across the front with the insertion of a six-over-six double hung window and a second front door; this allowed for a larger patient waiting room. A mansard copper roof covered both front entrances. Then in 1955, the office space was doubled again in size with the construction of a large west side addition; this newer extension was one bay by four bays. The balcony was added shortly afterwards to cap the addition and to balance the centrally covered roof. All of the windows are six-over-six sashes with flanking aluminum louvered shutters.

#### Interior

This house originally had eight rooms. The interior detailing is made of Alabama cypress of a superior quality, manufactured by Messrs. W.H. King and Company, of Baltimore, Maryland, and finished in hard oil. There is much detailing in the moulded cornice. Decorative and ornately plastered ceiling medallions in the main rooms are also present. Original door trim detailing in the living room and dining room was described as having soap-stone fireplaces and panelled sliding doors between them. The hinges on the doors, fingerholes, and lock are elegantly designed brass hardware, incised with simple abstract flowers or geometric design. Panelled sliding doors divide the living and dining room.

The staircase hall is to the right of the entry and the major rooms are wrapped around this hall, forming a square plan. The second floor has a central "L-shaped" corridor, with six rooms off the corridor including the porch and bathroom.

# 8. Significance

Survey No M.26/10/48

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>			
<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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

**Specific dates** 1887 **Builder/Architect** T.C.Groomes, Arch. and Builder

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.

### Significance

The stylish features of this 1887 Queen Anne house befit its connection with owners Hon. Philip Laird and then Judge Stedman Prescott who achieved prominence in Government service. Since 1947 it has served as home and office for physician Gordon Rosenberger. Its earlier appearance and alteration since then have been documented by Mrs. Rosenberger, a member of the Prescott family.

### History and Support

There is a wealth of material concerning the construction, appearance and subsequent alterations of the Rosenberger House. Details of its construction, decorative elements and materials were first reported in the Montgomery County Sentinel of November 18, 1887. "The skilled hand of the contractor", local contractor T.C.Groomes, was noted along with the Alabama cypress trim, soap-stone fireplaces, metal shingles painted to resemble slate, and overall style and quality of the house. In 1890 Henry Copp included a photograph of the house in his real estate brochure "Peerless Rockville", which highlighted desirable residences near his new West End Park development; the house featured stick work on the front gable and porch pediment.

While the house was being constructed, Philip Laird was serving his first of three terms in the Maryland House of Delegates. 1/ Returning to private practice in Rockville in 1893, he was one of the founders of the Montgomery County Bar Association and an officer of the Farmer's Bank and Trust Company before his appointment to the Maryland Public Service Commission in 1910 (Chief 1912). Mr. and Mrs. Laird returned to this Rockville home each summer during his years of State government service. 2/

The second owner was Stedman Prescott, to that time the youngest Town Councilman in the history of Rockville; he first served in 1924 while he was still in his 20's. 3/ The Prescott family and in-laws built or owned several houses on both sides of West Montgomery Avenue, including #217, 300, and 301; Mr. Prescott's mother built 300 (Pumphrey's Funeral Home), and Mr. Prescott built his own residence at 304 (since demolished).

Continued on attachment 8.1

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Attachment 8.1

Stedman Prescott became a State Senator, later Chief Judge of the Circuit Court, and eventually was appointed to the Maryland Court of Appeals. Judge Prescott purchased 310 West Montgomery after the death of Philip's wife, Ella Laird, and sold it to his daughter, Mary Richardson Rosenberger, and son-in-law in 1948.

Dr. Gordon Rosenberger moved to Rockville in 1935, marrying Mary Richardson Prescott in 1943. He attended Georgetown Medical School and began practicing medicine in Rockville in 1947.

The need to create office and treatment space, as well as the "old fashioned" appearance of the house, caused the Rosenbergers to modernize and enlarge the house. <sup>4/</sup> A west wing with mansard copper roof, wrought iron detailing on a new front porch and railed second floor deck were added in the 1950s. Mr. Groomes' own variation of a "Rockville Bay" is extant on the east facade, but most of the decorative shingling on gables and other 1887 detailing was removed when parts of the house were covered with aluminum siding and porch enclosures were made. The interior of the house retains its Eastlake-inspired elements in incised brass hardware, woodwork, soap-stone fireplaces, and original tiles.

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Footnotes:

1. Ray Eldon Hiebert and Richard K. MacMaster, A Grateful Remembrance, Montgomery County Government, Rockville (1976) pp. 260 & 405.
2. Montgomery County Sentinel, various dates (1910, 1912, 1913, and 1914).
3. Ibid., September 29, 1955.
4. Interview with Mrs. Polly Rosenberger and notebooks kept since 1950 to document alterations to house.

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Montgomery County Sentinel  
Nov. 18, 1887

**Fine Residence.**—Mr. T. C. Grooms, of Gaithersburg, one of the most popular builders and contractors of this county, has just completed Mr. Philip D. Laird's house. The building is one of the finest and most stylish in the town, and the skilled hand of the contractor is seen at every point. It is beautifully located at the quiet western limits of the town, and is an eight-room, two-story building of the Queen Anne style of architecture, with porch extending the entire length of the main building, and back porch with upper deck communicating with a back passage in second story. The roofs of the main building and porches are metal shingles painted dark slate. The interior, doors, trim, &c., are of Alabama cypress of a very superior quality, manufactured by Messrs. W. H. King & Co., of Baltimore, Md., and finished in hard oil. The plastering was done in the neatest manner, with centres and cordice run throughout the principal story. The parlor and sitting rooms have neat solid soap-stone fire places, and sliding doors between, throwing the two rooms into one, as desired. The hardware trimmings are of good quality, and in keeping with the natural wood finish.

From 1890 "Peerless Rockville"  
brochure



M:  
The Rosenberger House  
Attachment 7.2

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M:  
The Rosenberger House  
Attachment 7.3

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M:  
The Rosenberger House  
Attachment 7.4





RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
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ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

0885-5

M: 26/10/48  
NE facade  
Rosenberger House  
310 W. Montgomery  
Rockville 8/85



RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
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0885-6

m: 26/10/48  
NW facade  
Rosenberger House  
Rockville 8/85  
310 W. Montgomery Ave.