

Site: M: 26/10/58

The Presbyterian Manse

112 Forest Avenue

Built: 1891

Private

The Manse has served as the official residence of the Pastor of the Rockville Presbyterian Church since its construction in 1891. It reflects the growth of the congregation during the last half of the 19th century, and its continuing cultural and physical presence in the West End of Rockville. It has had only minor alterations.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Presbyterian Manse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 112 Forest Avenue not for publication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 Trustees of the Rockville Presbyterian Church

street & number 215 West Montgomery Avenue telephone no.: 762-3363

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber JA15

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 375

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. 26/10/58

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 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 Presbyterian Manse is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Forest and Beall Avenues, facing east. Boxwoods line the flagstone and cement walkway leading from Forest to the front porch. Shrubs line the east facade while several tall trees shade the south elevation. A black-top driveway runs along the north side of the house and is separated from Beall Avenue by a hedge. Approximately thirty feet behind the house are a small frame storage shed and a brick outdoor grill, and beyond that an old orchard and garden.

This 2-and-1/2-story, Victorian cottage has an L-shaped plan that forms a center-hall interior plan. The rear is almost "squared off" by the family room addition of 1976. The main block of the house sits on a stone foundation and is sheathed in German siding. The roof is covered in patterned tin, with the exception of the front porch which is seamed tin. Most of the windows are two-over-two sashes with simple wooden lintels. There are two interior brick chimneys.

The east facade has four bays with the northernmost bay occupied by a two-story, tripartite gable-topped projecting bay. Each bay of the house and each side of the projecting bay on the first and second stories have a single sash two-over-two window; those on the first floor of the first and second bays are longer than the others. A wooden exterior door with glass transom above and screen door is located in the third bay of the first story. An open, one-story porch with shed roof extends from the bay window around the southeast corner; it is supported by turned wooden columns with decorative, jig-sawn brackets. The porch is now screened at the extreme southeastern corner. A gabled dormer with two-light window is located above the first and second bays of the second story. Fish-scale shingles decorate both of the gable pediments on this facade.

The two-bay gable end south facade has single sash windows in each bay, with paired windows on the first floor in the west bay. The recessed rear addition also has a sash window.

The west facade has a one-story family room, built in 1976 by Harold Ruff, added to the inside of the main block. In order to accommodate the addition, a two-story porch was removed. The second-story windows are original and have louvered shutters. Windows on the addition and one on the rear ell are one-over-one. A rear exterior door and wooden stoop porch lead into the family room. The one-bay, rear gable ell remains with the original window on the second story.

Continued on attachment 7.1

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Attachment 7.1

The north facade has three bays with single two-over-two sash windows in each. The first and second bays on the first story are slightly longer than the other while the window in the third bay, first story is slightly shorter. A center gable breaks the roofline between the first and second bays; there is a two-light window in the center of the gable. It is surrounded with fish-scale shingles similar to the ones on the east facade.

Interior

The first floor interior of the Manse has a center-hall plan with two rooms on either side. The family room addition now extends off the rear of the hall. The living room and office/library on the south side create the effect of one continuous open space, although they can be closed off by sliding pocket doors. A fireplace in the southwest corner of the room has been closed off, but the adjacent fireplace in the office/library is still operable.

On the north side of the hall are the dining room and kitchen, which are connected by a small passageway with a bathroom, pantry, and closet. The closet was once the back stairway to the basement, mostly below the kitchen. Part of the pantry area was lost when the first floor bathroom was installed, circa 1954. The dining room, which occupies the area enclosed on the east by the projecting bay, has a built-in corner cupboard and a fireplace which has been closed. The hardwood floors throughout the first floor appear to be original. Doorways are framed with pillar and ball molding. In the center hall, a staircase with lightly turned balusters leads to the second floor which again has a center-hall plan. Four large bedrooms and a bathroom all lead from the hall. Remodeling on the second floor includes the addition of closet space in the southwest bedroom and modernization of the bathroom.

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 checked="" 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/ 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1890-1891 **Builder/Architect**

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 Manse has served as the official residence of the pastor of the Rockville Presbyterian Church since it was built in 1890-91. The land was donated by the Smith family who lived next door. The Manse reflects the growth of the Presbyterian congregation in Rockville during the last half of the 19th century, and its continuing cultural and physical presence in the West End of Rockville.

History and Support

In April, 1890, the Rev. Alfred T. Graham reported to the Presbytery that members of the Rockville branch of the Presbyterian Church "...were straining every effort to gather funds for building a parsonage...\$1,800 already subscribed". ^{1/} Although the congregation dated from the early 19th century, several early ministers lived in local homes of their own. John Mines, minister between 1822 and 1849 lived at "Rose Hill" (Survey Site #26/8). In the mid-1800s, pastors were shared by the Rockville and Bethesda branches, and the parsonage was located next to the Bethesda Church. It was only in 1890 that the Presbytery of Maryland ordered the congregations separated to accommodate the expanded population of the area. In October, 1890, the Commission of the Presbytery Meeting announced that Rockville could pay a salary of \$700 per year for a minister and "...their parsonage was nearly complete." ^{2/}

Both the Rockville and Bethesda congregations were successors to the Chapel established southwest of (later) Rockville in 1716 and called Captain John Meeting House. The Rockville members met in a small meeting house of their own until 1858 when they built a frame church on Court Street adjacent to the County Courthouse. This building burned down in 1873 and was replaced the same year. The present site of the Church is in the west end of Rockville at 215 West Montgomery Avenue; it was built in 1930 when construction of the Grey Courthouse displaced the old church.

Continued on attachment 8.1

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Attachment 8.1

Noted astronomer and scientist Edwin Smith and his wife in 1888 bought two large parcels of land in the west end of Rockville on a new street that Mrs. Smith named Forest Avenue. The Smiths generously donated the north portion of this land to the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church, "...for the purpose of erecting a parsonage thereon." ^{3/} The lot measured 100 feet by 307 feet and adjoined the Smith residence then nearing completion. The nine room, L-shaped Victorian style Manse is shown under construction in the photo in the promotional brochure published by Henry Copp and called "Peerless Rockville". This brochure advertised the advantages of investment in his development "West End Park." ^{4/}

The Manse is a comfortable house that has served the pastors and their families for 95 years. From time to time necessary modifications to the building have taken place, mostly interior.

The pastors who have served the Rockville Presbyterian Church since construction of the Manse are listed below:

Rev. Mr. William Chinn	1892-1895
Rev. Mr. Robert L. McNair	1896-1906
Rev. Mr. R.K. Mosely (supply)	1907
Rev. Mr. A.W. Shaw	1908-1911
Rev. Mr. John Henderson	1912-1924
Rev. Mr. James Murdock (supply)	1925
Rev. Mr. O.G. Davis (supply)	1926-1927
Rev. Mr. Henry K. Pasma	1927-1948
Rev. Mr. Howard Cobbs	1949-1953
Rev. Mr. James C. Fahl	1953-1974
Rev. Mr. James H. Adams III	1974-

When the pastor was unmarried, the Manse was rented out. For several years, the current pastor, Rev. Jim Adams, has served with his wife as co-pastor, the first full time husband and wife co-pastors in the Presbyterian Church.

Footnotes:

1. Quoted in Church History, Bethesda Presbyterian Church; A 250 Year Heritage (1973).
2. Quoted in The Spirit of Captain John, Eugene and Edythe Clark, Carlton Press, Inc. (1970) pp 155-156.
3. Montgomery County Land Records, JA15/375 (1889).
4. Though surrounded on three sides by Copp's West End Park, the lot was purchased directly from the Trustees of Rockville Academy as part of the Julius West estate, and was not included in platting of West End Park. See Plat Book A, pages 33 and 54-55.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Montgomery County Land and Plat Records; Church Histories published 1970 and 1973; Newspaper interviews and oral history of Miss Lucy Smith; interview with Rev. Adams (1985); "Peerless Rockville" Brochure.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ~~30,576~~ square feet

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Fronting 100 feet on the west side of Forest Avenue and 307.56 feet on the south side of Beall Avenue as per plats A55 and A56.

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	Norene Halvonik/ Anne Cissel/ Dwayne Jones		
organization	Peerless Rockville	date	June 1985
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
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M: 26/10/58
Presbyterian Manse
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8-85