

Site: M:26/10/71

214 West Montgomery Avenue

Built: 1923

Private

The Rockville Development Company was formed in 1922 to stimulate house building in Rockville. This frame 2-1/2 story Colonial Revival house with Craftsman/Prairie architectural details was one of the first buildings financed by the Company. When built for State's Attorney Thomas Dawson, it was a modern addition to this block of diverse, vernacular mid-to-late 19th century houses.

(contributing element within West  
Montgomery NR Historic District)**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form****1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common 214 West Montgomery Avenue

**2. Location**street & number 214 West Montgomery Avenue  not for publicationcity, town Rockville  vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 4)

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Ray W. Murdock

street &amp; number 214 West Montgomery Avenue telephone no.: 251-8693

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records liber 7198

street &amp; number Montgomery County Courthouse folio 35

city, town Rockville state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title National Register of Historic Places (1974)

site City of Rockville Historic Dist. (1974)  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Rockville City Hall

city, town Rockville state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. M: 26/10/71

## Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

## Check one

unaltered  
 altered

## Check one

original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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

The subject house faces north on West Montgomery Avenue on a narrow lot with a driveway along the west property line leading to a rear parking area. Shrubs and hollies soften the front foundation line.

This frame, two bay by three bay, 2-1/2 story modern side-hall or two-thirds Georgian house rests on a concrete foundation. It is sheathed in wide (approximately 8 in.) wood clapboard siding, finished with vertical cornerboards and water table, and has a side-gabled slate roof. A tall multi-flue corbelled brick chimney is located on the east end of the house, a smaller chimney on the west rear slope.

This house was designed in a modern colonial revival style using details adopted from the contemporary craftsman/prairie architectural vocabulary: a wide eave overhang, paired and strip windows, and four-light shed roofed dormer. A later one-story sun porch is on the east side, an original two-story sleeping porch is on the west half of the rear and a later one-story porch is on the east rear.

The two-bay north (front) facade is symmetrical with pairs of 6/1 double-hung sash windows with wide mullions in the east and west bays second story, and east bay, first story. A nine-light wood exterior door flanked by three-light side panels and pedimented overhang with eagle in the center forms the west bay entry. It is accessed by three cement steps with brick piers on each side. A one-story sun porch is attached to the east, having a pair of 6/1 windows on the north, a strip of four windows on the east, and a pair on the south. All windows have wide, plain lintels and sills. Centered on the roof is a shed-roofed dormer with narrow clapboard on the sides, and four small single lights. This may not be original to the house.

The four-bay east facade consists of the first-story side porch and second-story main block with one window each in the two south bays, one in the far north bay, and an exterior brick chimney in the north center bay. A smaller 6/6 window is centered in the gable.

The south (rear) facade has an irregular massing created by a two story porch on the west corner and a later one-story porch on the east. The two story porch has an open first-story entry leading to an enclosed utility room, and a second-story sleeping porch. The second story sleeping porch is shed-roofed with narrow tongue and groove vertical siding from lintel to roof and enclosed lower half. Three turned posts infilled with screen panels support the roof. The first story has an open rear entry area screened on the west by lattice with a turned post at the corner. An exterior three-light door opens on the west side of the adjacent enclosed utility room with two 6/1 windows on the south. A later screen-enclosed porch is on the

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214 W. Montgomery Ave.  
Attachment 7.1

facade's southeast corner with a pair of 12-light french doors opening from the first story, east bay main block. The rear porches rest upon brick piers infilled with lattice on the west and concrete block infilled with slatted panels on the east and are reached by five steps flanked by plain post and railings on both east and southwest ends. One window is in the main block east bay, second story.

The three-bay west facade has a 6/6 window centered in the gable. The north bay, second story has one 6/1 window and a pair of windows in the south bay. A strip of four six-light casement sashes is located mid-story in the center bay. A similar strip is in the south bay, first story. A pent roof with lattice sides shelters a centrally placed shallow basement stairwell with a wood panelled door. A one-light cellar window is in the foundation.

# 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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

local history

**Specific dates** 1923 **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 south side of the 200 block of West Montgomery Avenue contains a diverse collection of 19th century architectural styles, among them some of the oldest homes in the West End. 214 West Montgomery Avenue is a 1923 example of vernacular "colonial" architecture and was, until 1985, the only 20th century addition to the block.

### History and Support

In 1909 the site of future 214 West Montgomery Avenue was part of a large lot lying between the Maus house and the Victorian home of Judge Henderson. The Maus homestead was the original Episcopal Rectory, built in 1833 and raised one story by Isaac Maus in 1887. 1/ Maus heirs included Brigadier General Marion P. Maus and Colonel Lewis Maus, Assistant Surgeon General of the Army. 2/

In 1909 this lot was the subject of several transactions. The Maus family, who had owned it since 1872, sold it to Dr. George Lewis, who intended "to erect a \$5,000 dwelling" on it. However, Dr. Lewis instead purchased the brick Owens home further west on the block, selling this lot to J. Alby Henderson, newly-elected to the Maryland House of Delegates and son of the Judge. The Maus family then repurchased it, 3/ holding the vacant lot until its sale in 1922 to the Rockville Development Company. 4/ Proceeds from the sale were used to add four rooms to the Maus residence next door.

The Rockville Development Company divided the lot into two pieces, with frontage on both Commerce Street (W. Montgomery Avenue) and Falls Road. The house numbered 215 Falls Road was built on one part, and the subject house was constructed on the north 160 feet of the lot. 5/ The two-story frame residence was built in Colonial Revival style, with balanced facade and entry focus. It was purchased by Thomas L. and Ann Dawson, while Mr. Dawson was State's Attorney for Montgomery County (1920-1924). The Dawsons occupied the house until 1937, but lost it then through financial difficulties, resulting in a creditors' sale. By this time, in the depths of the Depression years, many of the old homes on this block were occupied by the elderly descendants of the original owners, and to make ends meet, several offered small apartment units or rooms for rent. 6/

continued on attachment 8.1

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Between 1940 and 1959 the house had a succession of owners, including the Allnutts and Mohns. 7/ By the mid-1960's the once-stylish area of Judges, Generals and Doctors' residences had deteriorated, and the old Maus home was occupied by five families until it was demolished in 1965 "as an eyesore". 8/

The next decade saw rehabilitation of several of these old homes, and designation of the the West Montgomery Avenue Historic District. 9/ The subject house received minor alterations, but was well maintained by families who relished its spacious rooms and large yard.

The William Donnelly family owned the house from 1959 until 1978 when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Schorr. 10/ It was purchased by Ray W. Murdock in 1986. It is no longer the youngest house on the block, with the construction of a brick residence in 1985 on the site of the old Maus house next door.

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Footnotes:

1. Original Records of Christ Episcopal Church show the history of the Rectory until its sale to Isaac Maus. The Maus family letters discuss the price of raising the house one story. Photographs in the Historical Society collection show the house in various stages from 1870's to 1930.
2. Maus family information in genealogy file at Montgomery County Historical Society includes documents of Military Service, family letters and citations. Gen. Maus, a Medal of Honor Winner for his service in the Indian Wars, defeated Geronimo.
3. Montgomery County Sentinel of April, June and August, 1909.
4. Montgomery County Land Records, 324/311 (1922) and Tax Assessments 1922-25.
5. Other homes built by Rockville Development Company include 407 Anderson and 406 Beall.
6. Notices of Taxes Due and Advertisements for rooms and apartments appear in the local papers during the 1933-1937 period.
7. 1940-1943 Raymond Karge, 1943 to 1950 Leigh Allnutt, 1950-1959 Kermit B. Mohn.
8. 1965 newspaper clipping, "Rockville Landmarks" file, Historical Society.
9. The Anderson House at the east end of the block was demolished to make way for widening Great Falls Road. The mansard roofed Speare House was slated for demolition until the public persuaded the City to sell it to private owners.
10. Montgomery County Land Records 5171/622 (1978).



# City of Rockville

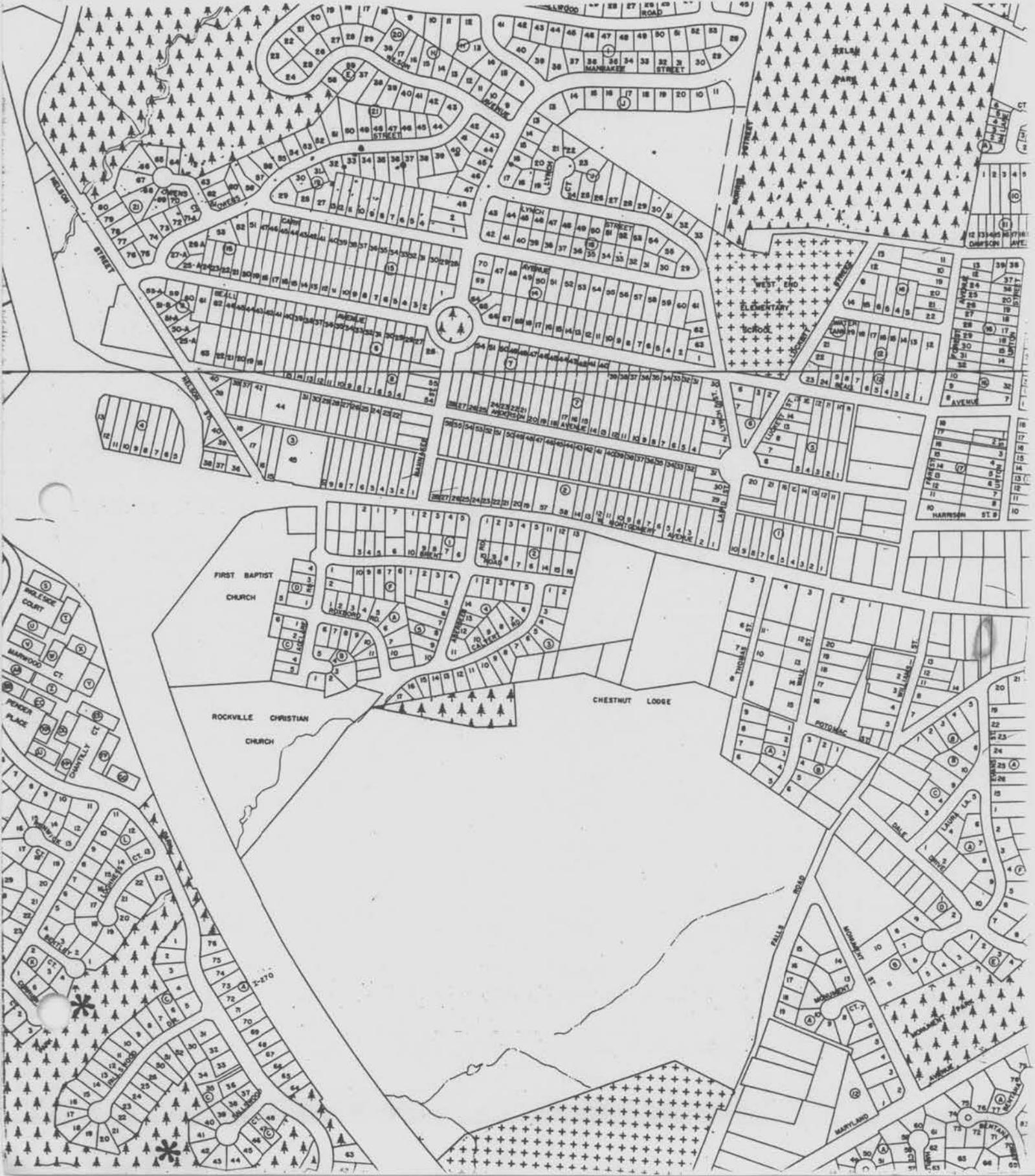
scale: 1" = 600'

1982  
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4

214 W. Montgomery

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ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

04861411

m: 26/10/71

214 W. Montgomery  
Rockville

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