

Site: M:26/10/77

Mrs. Ricketts' West End Cottage

Built: 1887

710 West Montgomery Avenue

Private

This late 19th century L-shaped frame Victorian vernacular cottage was used as summer home for almost 30 years. The Aud family adapted it for year-round use in the 1920s. The cross-gable roof with steeply pitched center front gable is covered with patterned tin shingles. The house is now surrounded by a post-World War II subdivision.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mrs. Ricketts' West End Cottage

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 710 West Montgomery Avenue  not for publication

city, town Rockville  vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery (Rockville 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 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 Steven M. Galen and Jane Shure

street & number 710 West Montgomery Avenue telephone no.: 340-1662

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 4735

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 625

city, town Rockville state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" 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 subject house faces north on West Montgomery Avenue, situated on a spacious lot shaded by mature trees and protected from street noise by a tall privet hedge. An ancient Tulip Poplar shades the front yard, and other shrubs and beds are situated around the house. A driveway from West Montgomery is on the west property line, leading to a parking area at the rear. Once a spacious suburban homesite, the original acreage is now subdivided and later development surrounds it, smaller in size and on smaller lots.

This ca. 1887 frame, L-shaped, three-bay by one-bay main block with three-bay rear wing is a 2-1/2 story vernacular Victorian with a steeply pitched center front gable. The cross gabled roof is covered with patterned tin shingles. The house is sheathed with wide aluminum siding and rests on a fieldstone foundation. It has one corbelled interior brick chimney on the west side of the main block; a matching east chimney has been removed. There is another plain brick chimney in the center of the rear kitchen wing.

In plan, this modest one-room by two-room vernacular Victorian cottage was an L-shaped building consisting of a rectangular main block, one or two story rear kitchen wing recessed on the east side with end chimney, and east side and rear porches. The regular fenestration, prominent steeply-pitched center front gable, and full-width front porch are marks of a vernacular late Victorian cottage. The Victorian trims common to this type, such as turned posts, corner brackets, front gable window and clapboard siding with decorative shingles, have been covered with aluminum siding. Wooden louvered shutters flank 2/2 windows in the original house, 6/6 windows in the later rear addition. All have plain window surrounds.

The three-bay north (front) facade has a steeply pitched front gable. This gable area was likely to have been finished with decorative shingles or siding as built, and may have a central window concealed under the siding. One window is in each of the three second-story bays. Longer windows are in the east and west first-story bays. A wood-paneled four-light exterior door with reeded door surrounds and a rectangular transom occupies the center bay. The full-width front porch has a low-hipped seamed tin roof supported by four square posts, replacements for the originals. There is no balustrade. This facade is no longer used as the entrance.

The west facade is formed of the main block and rear kitchen wing. The one-bay main block has one window in both second and first

continued on attachment 7.1

M:26/10/77  
710 West Montgomery  
Attachment 7.1

stories. The gable opening typical of this type may be covered by new siding; The three-bay wing has one window each bay in the second story, and one window in each of the two south bays, first story. The north bay has a modern flush exterior door which was installed by the owner in place of a window. The entrance is sheltered by a flat-roofed portico supported by two square posts. The foundation changes from fieldstone to brick in the south bay, indicative of the construction of a permanent kitchen on the former rear porch.

The south (rear) facade consists of the one-bay gable end of the of the kitchen wing, the unrelieved south facade of the main block, and the shed-roofed modern family room addition. The kitchen wing has a small rectangular metal ventilator in the gable and one 6/6 window on the first story. The family room addition is walled with fixed glass panels and sliding patio glass doors on the south and east facades. There is a bubble skylight in the roof.

The east facade is composed of the one bay main block, a rear extension to the main block, and two-bay kitchen wing. The main block has a small square metal ventilator in the gable, and one window in each bay of the first and second stories. There is one 6/6 in the second story extension, and one window in each bay of the second-story kitchen wing.

#### Interior

The two first-floor parlours, entry vestibule, and center hall have been opened into one large room with fireplace at each end. Only the west fireplace is operable, having a cast iron insert trademarked PEERLESS and patented July 19, 1892. The fireplace surround is new construction. The east fireplace has been closed up and the chimney removed from the roof. The mantle is a period carved wood piece. The enclosed stairway extends the length of the rear of the house, entered by a door in the southwest corner of the front parlour. A small diamond-shaped window on the west facade originally lit the stairway, but has been covered with siding on the exterior. The old kitchen is now used as a dining room and retains the wood wainscotting typical of period kitchens. The chimney stove opening is plastered up. The sloping floor of the present modern kitchen is evidence of its original function as an exterior porch.

#### Outbuildings

One outbuilding remains: a one story, side-gable sheet tin-roofed board-and-batten shed with two doors on the west side, facing the house. Brick walks and a patio connect house, garden and shed.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/10/77

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 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 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**

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

This late Victorian vernacular cottage residence, now surrounded by a modern subdivision, is a reminder of Rockville's popularity as a summer resort in the late 19th century.

### History and Support

The south side of the Rockville-Darnestown Road remained an area of scattered structures sited on multi-acre chestnut and oak groves for half a century after the subdivision and development of the north side.

One of these properties was the four-acre parcel purchased by Ulysses Ricketts in 1887, located west of the Woodlawn Hotel and Mulfinger properties and east of the 168-acre Beard farm at Watts Branch. Upon the eastern one acre of this ground, Mr. Ricketts constructed this small cottage which he transferred to his mother, Christie Ricketts.

1/

Mrs. Ricketts' cottage is an L-shaped dwelling with cross-gables, patterned tin roof and full-width front verandah. The 1890 plat advertising Henry Copp's development "West End Park" shows the footprint of both Mrs. Ricketts' cottage and a second Ricketts-built house, built for investment and enlarged after its sale to Emily Reiche. 2/

Mrs. Ricketts sold the west half of her acre to the Beards for construction of a driveway leading from the Darnestown Road to their farm a half mile away. A stone gateway was erected and later deeds refer to Mrs. Ricketts' house as "lying east of Beard's Corner." 3/ After her death in 1900 the subject cottage was sold by the Ricketts' executors to Bernard Monday for \$1000 in 1903. 4/

In 1910 Marguerite "Daisy" Beard purchased the Ricketts cottage. She and her family used the house in the summers until their purchase of a more stylish "California Bungalow" in 1915 at (now) 22 Wall Street. The old Ricketts cottage was sold in 1919 to teacher and Police Court clerk Trujean Aud.

continued on attachment 8.1

M:26/10/77  
710 West Montgomery  
Attachment 8.1

The Auds modernized the house, adding central heat and plumbing. A new two-story, one bay section containing kitchen and bath was added to the southwest, and the floors of the double parlor were replaced. Mr. Aud died in 1940, and his daughters occupied the property until 1946. 5/

The demand for new housing after World War II encouraged a building boom in Rockville. The lands south and east of the cottage were laid out as "Roxboro". Small Cape Cod and ranch-style houses were constructed by 1949. Leroy Sherman subdivided the cottage site and adjoining land in 1952. Replatted in 1966, the subject site became Lot 7 of Block 1 of Sherman's Addition to Roxboro. It is larger in size than the other lots to include the towering chestnut trees. 6/

John and Marjorie Mackey owned the house from 1952 to 1975. The present owners purchased it in 1976. The old frame sheathing was replaced with aluminum siding at the time of the sale; however, overall the house remains an example of late Victorian vocabulary and design.

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Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Records JA6/477; Tax Records 1887-1898.
2. The Reiche Cottage is 720 West Montgomery Avenue (Survey Site M:26/10/56).
3. Montgomery County Judgment Record JA19/12 (1918) contains a copy of Henry Beard's Will which describes the purchase of the west half of Mrs. Ricketts' lot. This property was sold by Mrs. Ricketts to realtor Cooke Lockett in 1890.
4. Montgomery County Will Records, Sale of Real Estate HCA 5/94 (1903).
5. Material on the Aud family from Aud genealogy and from material distributed by Montgomery County Historical Society on the occasion of a 1971 house tour in Rockville that included "Aud House."
6. Land transactions and plats for Roxboro and its various additions covered a period of almost 16 years. The subject site appears on Plat 28/1764 and Plat 81/8349.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:26/10/77

Montgomery County Land, Tax, Will, and Plat Records. Genealogies of Beard, Aud, and Ricketts families. Montgomery County Historical Society Plat and Atlas collection.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 17,249 square feet

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A            
 Zone Easting Northing

B            
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 7 of Block 1 of Sherman's Addition to Roxboro, as per plat 81/8340, fronting on West Montgomery Avenue.

## 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 Anne Cissel Judy Christensen, Arch. Description

organization Peerless Rockville date April 1986

street & number P.O. Box 4262 telephone 762-0096

city or town Rockville state Maryland 20850

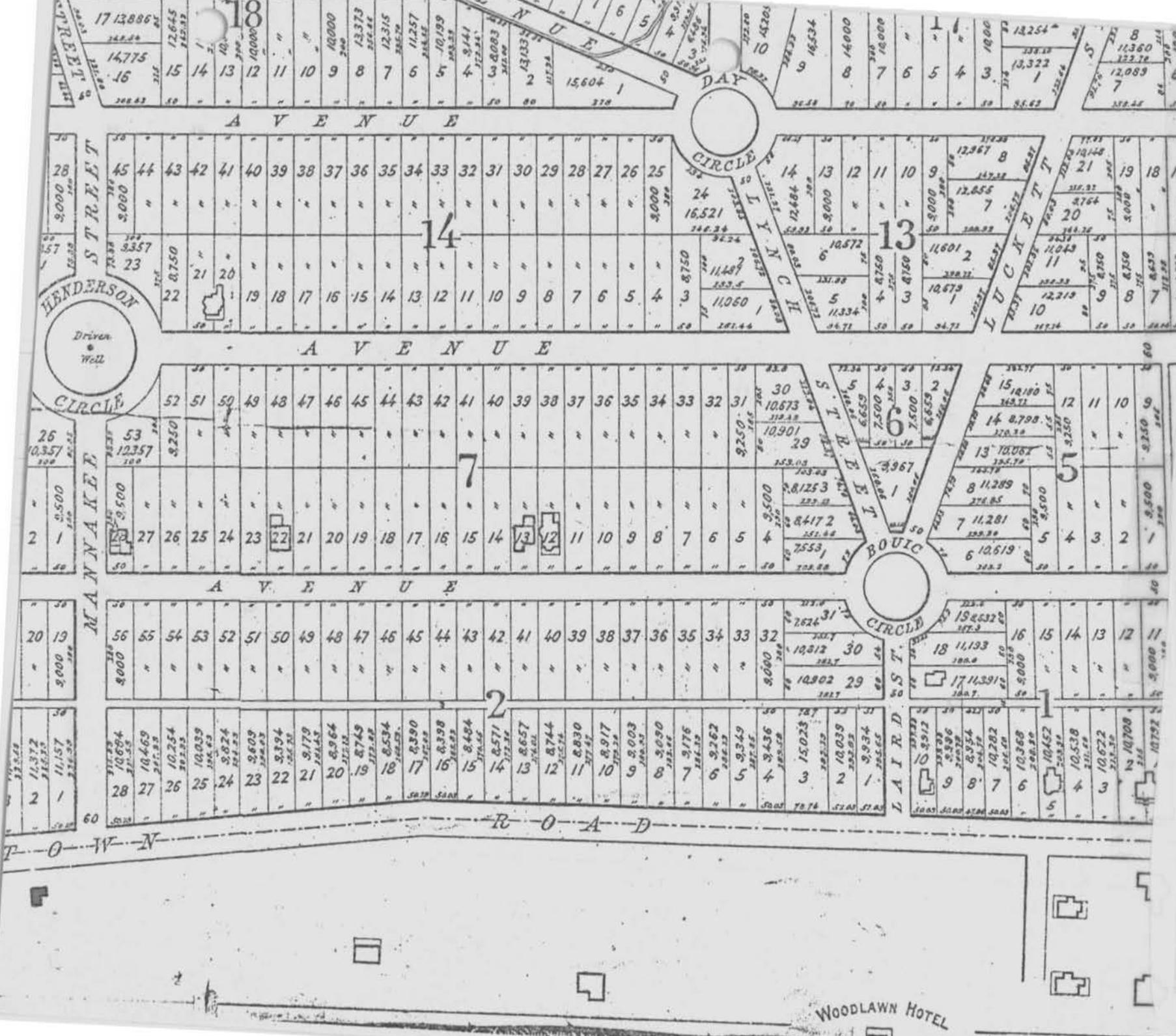
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

M:26/10/77  
710 West Montgomery Avenue  
Attachment 8.2

Detail of Henry N. Copp's Subdivision of West End Park, Montgomery County Plat 23e, 1890





Mrs. Ricketts Cottage 710 W. Montgomery Ave.

4

M:26/10/77

City of Rockville  
scale: 1"=600'

1982





RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
424-8282  
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

04860515

M: 26/10/77  
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