

Site: M:26/10/90

The Wilson-Bullard House

Built: 1929

209 Harrison Street

Private

This rectangular, three-bay by five-bay three-ranked center hall Georgian Revival house has a dominant central Tudor-English Revival projecting entry portico. Its distinctive brown-toned brick is set in a wide common bond. The Wilson-Bullard house was constructed for the Griffith family, but is most associated with W. Valentine Wilson, who purchased it at a tax sale in 1932. Wilson, a local businessman, was active in many Rockville civic and community enterprises, and is particularly noted for his founding and 33-year leadership in the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department. The current owners purchased the house in 1976.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE yes noNR eligible yes no
contrib. element in H.D.

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Wilson-Bullard House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 209 Harrison Street 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 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 checked="" 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. and Mrs. Anthony R. Bullard

street & number 209 Harrison Street telephone no.: 279-2630

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records 4870 liber

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse 582 folio

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M:26/10/90

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 subject house faces south on Harrison at its intersection with Upton, the only house on the block so oriented, deeply set back on a spacious double corner lot. The neighborhood is not uniform in age; nearby structures range from a small late 19th century two-story tenant house and sprawling Queen Anne, to a 1930 cottage and 1950 ranch house. Five mature trees of champion size shade the front and rear yards while azaleas, hollies, and evergreens break the foundation line. Ornamental flower beds, shrubs, and specimen trees are placed in the side yards. A crushed rock driveway on the east side of the house leads to a frame, front-gabled two-car garage north-east of the house. A child's playhouse is in the extreme northeast corner of the lot. Pedestrian access is by curving flagstone walkway from the driveway entrance.

This rectangular 1929 three-bay by five-bay, side-gabled center hall Georgian adaptation has a one-story sunroom wing on the east, and a central two-story extension on the rear which extends west in a one-story addition with deck. The exterior is a distinctive brown-toned brick set in a wide common bond with muted brown toned mortar. The roof covering is composition shingle; the foundation and east exterior corbeled-top chimney are brick.

Stylistically, this 1929 structure is essentially a three-ranked center hall Georgian revival with a dominant central English Revival - inspired projecting entry portico. The proportions, mass, and fenestration are typical of period Georgian revival: side-gabled roof, approximately 1:3 roof/facade (rather than the 1:2 proportion more common to Tudor and Jacobean types), paired windows, soldier rows of brick creating a water table and lintels of the 6/6 windows. Although the building is a stylistic hybrid, its well-proportioned mass, fenestration, and subtle masonry details are intended to support a strong central focus such as a Georgian entry or the dominant portico.

The three-bay south (front) facade has a single 6/6 double sash window in each bay, second story. A pair of windows occupies the east and west bays of the first story. The brick flat-roofed portico occupies the center bay, projecting about three feet and accessed from the walk by two steps. Its corbelled cornice creates a strong horizontal shadow above the slightly flattened arch with succeeding layers of reveal leading to the six-panel recessed wood door. The interior, lit by a pendant electric light fixture, can be secured by wrought iron openwork doors mounted in the portico opening. Small exterior carriage light fixtures flank the archway.

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Description (continued) : 209 Harrison

The two-bay east facade has a central exterior chimney flanked by smaller 6/6 windows in the attic gable. A 6/6 window is in the north and south bays, second story. A low-hipped roof, one-story sunroom wing occupies the first story. The wing has two 8/8 windows on the south facade, four similar windows on the east facade, and one in the east bay, north facade. A wood panel exterior door with two top panel lights is in the west bay, accessed by a six-step concrete staircase with brick balustrade.

The north (rear) facade is complex, consisting of the main block, a two story central extension, and one-story enclosed porch on the west. A 6/6 window is in the east bay, second story, and a pair of windows in the first-story east bay. Two rectangular 6-light windows are in the foundation. The shed-roofed two-story extension's east facade has one window second story, and a smaller window offset to the north on the first story. The north facade has a window in the second story and an exterior door offset to the east on the first story. The west bay of the house has a small rectangular one-light window on the second story. The first story has a shed-roofed three-bay porch enclosed with narrow vertical beaded wainscoting used as siding. A sliding patio door occupies the east bay, a small vertical three-light window is in the center bay, and a three light wood exterior door is in the west bay. The doors open onto an elevated deck constructed of brick piers connected by wrought iron railings surrounding the wood decking. Wooden stairs lead to the ground level where lattice panels enclose the underdeck structure. A modern greenhouse window unit is in the west facade of the porch.

The five-bay west facade has two small 6/6 windows evenly spaced in the gable and three evenly spaced windows in the second story. The first story fenestration is irregular. There are three smaller 6/6 windows in the north half of the facade, and two 6/6 windows evenly spaced in the south half. Three rectangular six-light windows are 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/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1929 Builder/Architect local history

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

Built to echo the image of a 16th century English manor house, this large house was the height of residential fashion and comfort in 1929. In near-original condition, it is associated with two noteworthy Rockville families.

ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:

1. Historic context theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, City of Rockville
3. Chronological Period(s): Maturation and Expansion ; 1873-1931.
4. Resource type: single family residence

History and Support

This large brick house is a skillful blend of two revival styles popular in the 1920s. Here, a dominant English Revival element is successfully combined with classic Georgian Colonial proportions and subtle brickwork. 1/ The overall effect of the subject house projects the 1929 vogue for a compact, comfortable and modern home where the ornamentation and decorative detailing evoke a more romantic "period" style.

On this house the English Revival character is evident in the entry area, outlined by a shallow, flat-topped projection. Within this projection the deeply recessed door is approached past moulded brick concentric reveals. Further period atmosphere is achieved by the use of a specially made brick of a deep rich color laid in common American Bond with a thin dark mortar. Six-over-six windows with gauged brick lintels and sills and forest shades of paint on the frame trim and enclosed service porch complete the image of an English manor house.

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Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : 209 Harrison

The nine-room house with slate roof and garage was completed in 1929. 2/ Built for "Dade" and Alice Griffith, it was lost to tax and foreclosure sale in the depression year of 1932, with over \$10,000 owed. 3/

The house is associated with the Wilsons, owners from 1932 to 1952. W. Valentine Wilson owned the Suburban Electric Company and its namesake movie theater the SECO, along with a second theater in Silver Spring. 4/ Val Wilson was active in many of the town's civic and community enterprises, and the first President of the Chamber of Commerce, but is particularly notable for his founding and leadership of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department. When the department began in 1921 it had two hand-drawn hose reels. Its partly social nature was underscored by its method of attracting attention to call the volunteers...namely the shooting of guns in the streets. 5/ Under Chief Wilson, it grew to be a respected, modern fire fighting-unit.

While director of fire protection services for the Veterans Administration, Mr. Wilson was the Chief or on the Board of Directors of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department for 33 years. In 1965 on his 75th birthday, he was honored by the City Council for his achievements. 6/

Val Wilson married his childhood sweetheart, Mildred Higgins, daughter of Frank Higgins. They raised three children in the Harrison Street house. In 1952 the house was purchased by Christ Episcopal Church for its rectory, but the church resold it when a more suitable house adjoining the Church on South Washington Street became available.

The George Kavanaughs owned the property from 1959 to 1976. they enclosed the rear service porch and built a patio/deck area. In 1976 its current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony R. Bullard, purchased the house. Dr. Bullard is the Director of the Chestnut Lodge Hospital, which his grandfather founded. The Bullards have rebuilt the patio/deck area with compatible brickwork and have added wooden fencing whose shaped and pierced pickets are consistent with post medieval ornament. Shaded by large trees on a double lot, this house maintains its original comfort and architectural interest.

Footnotes:

1. Anatole Senkevitch, Rockville Maryland Historic Districts Preliminary Preservation Plan, cites 209 Harrison as an example of the "Jacobethan" style, a term not universally accepted and more generally applied to transitional Jacobean/Queen Anne houses of the 1870s. (p.66 and p.72, footnote 33.)

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : 209 Harrison

2. Tax Assessment Records for 1928 still show a double lot, unimproved and valued at \$525 for over 20,00 square feet.
3. Montgomery County Judgment Records, 55/111 et. seq. and Montgomery County Land Records 548/389 (1932).
4. Biographies and newspaper abstracts; obituaries for Mrs. Wilson in the Washington Post Nov. 10, 1964 and for Mr. Wilson, Montgomery County Sentinel, April 13, 1969. Telephone conversations with Maude Wilson Betts, October, 1986.
5. Interviews with Mr. Wilson appearing in the Montgomery County Sentinel October 12, 1965.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Wilson family information from biographies, newspapers and interviews.
Montgomery County Land, Tax, Plat, and Judgment records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ~~21,241 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

Lots 10 and 11 of Block 13 of Beall's Subdivision, as resurveyed in 1926 at Plat Book 4/346.

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	J. Christensen Arch. description
organization	Peerless Rockville	date October, 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



City of Rockville
scale: 1" = 600'

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

M:26/10/90
Wilson-Bullard House
209 Harrison Street
Rockville, Md. 20850
Richard Andrews
date:6/1987 elevation: S

of elevation

11863/18