

Site: M: 26/13/2

Riggs House

401 Baltimore Road

Built: 1905/06

Private

The Riggs House is representative of the comfortable residences constructed in the late 19th-early 20th century subdivision of "Rockville Park". Speculators from Washington, young families desiring a home in the country but close to the newly-laid Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line, local artisans, merchants, and clerks erected their homes in the latest styles. This house was built in 1905-06 for George Riggs. It displays both late Victorian and Colonial Revival elements of this transitional period.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No.  
M:26/13/2  
Magi No. 1651295704  
DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Riggs House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 401 Baltimore Road  not for publication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	<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 Samuel Gutter

street & number 401 Baltimore Road telephone no.: 294-0191

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 6279

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 613

city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title M-NCPPC Atlas of Historical Sites

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Park Historian's Office

city, town Derwood state Md

# 7. Description

Survey No M:26/ 13/2

<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	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 north on Baltimore Road at the intersection of Maple Avenue. The large corner lot allows for a slightly deeper setback than the house on adjoining properties to the east. A detached, frame garage is located at the rear southeast corner of the property with access from Maple Avenue. Clustered trees in the rear of the house shade the back yard.

In form, this is an "I" house, - 2-1/2 stories, one-room deep - with a rear ell and inside lean-to. Therefore, the house has an "L" shaped plan. The side-gable roofline is broken by a front steeply-pitched center gable. Set on a brick foundation parged with cement, the house is sheathed in horizontal clapboard and covered with a composition sheet roof. Narrow vertical cornerboards decorate each corner with the front facade cornerboards ending in simple Doric capitals; flat lintels with a narrow top molding are on each window.

Although constructed in 1904-05, the house is an eclectic vernacular dwelling borrowing stylistic elements from the late Victorian and from the contemporary Colonial Revival style. Its steeply-pitched center gable is inspired by the Gothic Revival style from the 1840s to 1870s.

The north facade is three bays wide. Elongated single 2-over-2 windows and flanking wooden shutters are in the first and third bays of the first floor. The center bay has the exterior door with Colonial Revival-style surrounds. The second-story smaller 2-over-2 windows with wooden shutters meet a wide cornice that follows the roofline on each bay. A projecting wooden front porch set on brick piers stretches across the full facade, and is supported by four turned columns with flanking Victorian-style brackets and a wooden balustrade. Wide wooden steps lead to the front door. A half-circle, two-light attic window punctuates the center gable. An interior brick flue rises to the west of the gable.

The two-bay east facade has a single 2-over-2 window with flanking wooden shutters on each floor in each bay. A 1-over-1 attic window highlights the gable pediment emphasised by the return gable eaves.

The south facade is distinguished by asymmetrical massing caused by the rear inside lean-to and 3/4-storied, gable-roofed shed attached to the ell. Two-over-two windows with wooden shutters are on the second-story rear side and on the first floor of the ell. Return gable eaves accent the ell.

On the west facade, centrally located single 2-over-2 windows with shutters are found on the gable end and on the ell. A 1-over-1 attic window highlights the gable pediment, further accented by return gable eaves.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:26/ 13/2

Montgomery County Land, Plat, and Tax Records  
Montgomery County Sentinel  
Reading, Riggs family genealogies

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property — 12,750 square feet

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

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

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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## Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 23, 24, and 25 of Block 7 of Rockville Park, as per plat  
A/53 fronting on Baltimore road and at east side of Maple Avenue.

## List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne W. Cissel / Dwayne Jones, architectural description

organization Peerless Rockville date January 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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

M:26/13/2  
The Riggs House  
Attachment 8.1

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Sentinel, May 16, 1884; "Readington" was to be located on 27 acres purchased from Dr. Stonestreet.
2. Montgomery County Plats A/47 and A/53. Baltimore Road was named John Street on these plats.
3. Joseph Reading's wife was the great-granddaughter of Chief Justice John Marshall. The Reading family owned several hundred acres bordering the C & O Canal in the present Glen Echo area.
4. Montgomery County Land Records, 184/204 (1905)
5. Land Records 980/29 (1945)



401 Baltimore Road  
Rockville, Maryland 20850



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

06P512-5

Riggs House  
401 Baltimore Road  
Rockville  
No. Facade  
6/85

M: 26-13/2