

Site: M: 26/22/3

The Chambers House

140 South Adams Street

Built: 1906

Private

The families of the social/political elite in Rockville built several houses in the "Rockville Heights" section at the turn of the 20th century; only two of them remain. This 1906 house displays a transitional architectural style which combines a Queen Anne silhouette with classical detailing. It has had only minor alterations and sits on a large, landscaped lot.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common The Chambers House

2. Location

street & number 140 South Adams Street ___ not for publication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 Barbara Chambers

street & number 140 South Adams Street telephone no.: 762-3070

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 1137

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 146

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

Survey No. ^M 26/22/3

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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

The little altered Chambers house faces south overlooking Maryland Avenue at the intersection of South Adams. It has a deep setback on a large slightly elevated lot. Large deciduous trees and a few evergreens surround it. A one-car gable roofed garage is on the north side of the house and accessed by South Adams. Between the garage and house is a water pump covered with an open rustic log shed and pyramidal roof. A brick terrace is located at the northeast corner of the house, as is a brick interior chimney.

This house has a 2-1/2 story main block with broad gable front and slightly projecting east gable with a two-story rear gable wing. The roofline appears as a modified "L" shape. It rests on a stone foundation and is covered with a pressed-tin roof in a scalloped pattern. Frame lap siding sheathes the house. Moulded lintels and louvered wooden shutters surround the windows; a broad flat cornice extends around the house.

Constructed in 1906, this house bridges popular architectural styles and periods of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Consequently, this is a transitional style with asymmetrical massing borrowed from the Queen Anne and stylistic details from the Colonial Revival, such as a Palladian-inspired window and front door fanlight. The Colonial Revival influence is more evident here than the Queen Anne. Although not widely accepted, this transitional style has been referred to as a "free classic" subtype of Queen Anne style by the McAlesters in A Field Guide to American Houses.

The 2-bay south (front) facade has a wooden exterior door surrounded by a fanlight and side lights over wooden panels in the first bay, first floor. A two-story tripartite bay window projects from the second bay. Two-over-two sash windows are in each part of the bay windows and the first bay of the second story. A Palladian-inspired window is centrally located in the gable pediment, enclosed by an overhanging eave covered in pressed tin. Seven Doric columns support a one-story projecting wooden porch that wraps around to the east side of the house. The southeast corner and east side are enclosed with screen and wooden frame.

The west facade is five bays wide with an asymmetrical arrangement of 1-over-1 and 2-over-2 sash windows. Two hipped-roof dormers covered on the sides with elongated rectangular patterned tin project from the roof.

-Continued on attachment 7.1

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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1906 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.

The area south of the Rockville Academy was one of the last to be developed during Rockville's "Building Boom." Subdivided as Rockville Heights, its large lots with planned parks, lakes and boulevards appealed to the old families of Rockville.^{1/} Ella Bouic White purchased several lots and constructed this spacious house in 1906. Many of the Rockville Heights houses disappeared during the mid-20th century expansion of the nearby City government buildings, but this house has remained in near-original condition. It was owned for thirty-five years by a former Marine Corps Officer and Medal of Honor winner who retired here, and his widow still resides here.

History & Support

For most of the 19th century this area southwest of the Rockville Academy and the Courthouse remained a farm belonging to the allied Robb and then Carter families. Robert W. Carter was the Register of Wills for Montgomery County from 1862 to 1890.^{2/} He married Mary Harding, granddaughter of Adam Robb, a wealthy tavernkeeper who once owned this land. Their children predeceased their parents except Nannie, Mrs. J. Maury Dove. Mr. Dove was a wealthy hotelier and businessman in Washington, and the Doves made their home in the City in an 1898 Romanesque 15 room mansion at 1740 New Hampshire Avenue.^{3/}

The Doves subdivided the 260-acre Carter farm, platting "Rockville Heights" with wide boulevards, lakes, parks and circles, but the land was involved in litigation for several years and few houses were built before the turn of the century.

Ella Veirs Bouic White was the daughter of Judge William Veirs Bouic of Meadow Hall. She had been widowed in 1885 after only three years of marriage to Dr. Nathan Smith White. She purchased lots 5,6,7, and 8 of Block 4 in "Rockville Heights" in 1905 and began construction immediately of a house in the Free Classic style, incorporating some Queen Anne style aspects with the more classical forms of detailing that would become known as Colonial Revival. Mrs. White added adjoining lots to the north and east of her house in 1906 and 1911 until her land totaled nearly four acres.^{4/}

-Continued on attachment 8.1

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Interviews with Mrs. Chambers and Mr. V. Roddy
Albert Bouic's Memoirs, "County Lawyer - Third Generation"
Montgomery County Plats, Land, and Tax Records.
Atlases : 1879 Hopkins, 1917 Deets and Maddox

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .861 acres

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

--	--	--

D

--	--	--

E

--	--	--

F

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G

--	--	--

H

--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parts of lots 5,6, and all 7, 8 of Block 4 of "Rockville Heights"
fronting 260 feet on Maryland Avenue and 148 feet on South Adams St.

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 W. Cissel / Dwayne Jones, Architectural Description		
organization	Peerless Rockville	date	March 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: 26/22/3

The Chambers House
Attachment 7.1

The north facade is characterized by the two-story rear gable wing with a one-story projecting wooden porch supported by three turned wooden columns. A slatted balustrade connects the columns while a decorative balustrade is located above the porch. A 2-over-2 sash window is located on the second story; a four-light sash window is in the gable pediment highlighted by the return eaves. The north facade of the main block has no fenestration.

The east facade has a new bay window projecting from the rear wing and a two-story bay window projecting from the gable end of the main block. A hipped roof dormer similar to those on the west facade projects from the roof with a 1-over-1 sash window. The gable pediment has a six-light window, while 2-over-2 windows complete this facade's fenestration.

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Mrs. White was well-known as an unconventional and fun-loving woman whose exploits figure in City "tales" and in the Bouic family memoirs. She lived in the house until her death in 1931, at age 82. Her heirs sold the property to lumber merchant Leland Fisher. When Mr. Fisher sold the land to Vincent Roddy in 1946, only the homesite lots at the corner of Maryland Avenue and South Adams were included. The easternmost lots, (#1,2,3,&4) were later incorporated into a new subdivision when Leland Street was platted.

In 1948, Justice M. ("Joe") Chambers, a much-decorated Marine Corps Officer, retired from a lengthy service career that had ranged from peacetime 1929 to the battle of Iwo Jima (where he earned the Congressional Medal of Honor), and came to Rockville. After his retirement from active service he continued his career as Staff Advisor to the Congressional Armed Service Committee. He died in 1982 at age 74.6/ His widow, Barbara Chambers, is the current owner and resident.

Footnotes:

1. Rockville Heights was platted in 1889-90 (Plat A/56) but most of the houses date ca. 1900-1910. The Peter, Hunter, Vinson, Higgins and Veirs families all purchased lots.
2. Montgomery County Sentinel, May 15, 1863, and February, 1908.
3. This house is now a 14 unit deluxe condominium address known as "Dove House."
4. Montgomery County Land Records 182/225 (1905); 208/190 (Made 1906, recorded 1909); and 224/86 (1911).
5. Ibid. 1137/146 (1948)
6. Obituary of Justice Chambers, Montgomery County Sentinel August 5, 1982 and interview with Barbara Chambers, Oct. 1984.



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

0695-13-10

Chambers House
140 So. Adams St.
Rockville

E Facade

6/85 #2072

M:26-22/3



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

0685-13-9

Chambers House
140 So. Adams St.
Rockville
SW Facade

6/85 #1072

M: 26-22/3