

Site M:26/7/3

Braunberg House

Private

419 West Montgomery Avenue

Built: 1890

This house was constructed by a Frederick County builder, Jacob Isanogle, for his own use following his move to Rockville to take advantage of the building boom in the late 1880's. But Isanogle lost the house to foreclosure, and it was later altered and enlarged. Without its original porches it appears somewhat stark beneath its painted, pebble dash covering. Most of the original features remain in the interior.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Braunberg house

2. Location

street & number 419 West Montgomery Avenue not for publication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 Robert C. and Shirley Braunberg

street & number 419 West Montgomery Avenue telephone no. 762-2857

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records liber 4075

street & number Montgomery County Courthouse folio 638

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register - West Montgomery Avenue historic district - 1974
~~Locally designated historic district - 1974~~

date M-NCPPC - 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records City of Rockville

city, town Rockville state Maryland 20850

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" 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
<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.

This 2 1/2 story 2 bay by 5 bay pebble-dashed house is situated on the northeast corner of Laird Street and West Montgomery Avenue. Plain in appearance, this house has an irregularly formed rectangular plan.

The house is entered through a porch on the west bay of the south-facing facade. In its present form, the porch has concrete steps and floor, square posts, and wrought iron railing. A pair of scrolled brackets appear to be original features of this altered porch. The glass and wood paneled entrance door is topped by a transom and fitted with a wooden storm door (circa 1935).

The east bay has a pair of 2-over-2 double hung wood sash windows. The second level has a small projecting windowbay above the entry and a single window to the east. A small gable end sits atop the window bay and contains a colored multi-paned square attic light. The roof is covered with brown asphalt shingles and is hipped with several small projecting gables. Plain trim and sills frame the windows, which have molded lintel boards.

The west side is dominated by a two-story projecting square bay. On the first level is a small recessed entry porch which faces south. Similar to the main entry porch in its altered appearance, this porch retains its wooden floor and steps. A new square brick chimney and rear bay are on the north side of this section.

The east side originally had recessed porches on both levels. In its present state, the first floor porch has been enclosed with large windowed wood doors and novelty siding. A two story, three sided bay retaining its brackets and diamond-shaped attic light in the gable is situated near the northeast corner of the east face. The southeastern section of the original wrap around porch has been truncated and enclosed to provide a bathroom on the first level.

The spacious corner lot contains a patio, flower beds, and a wooden one-room storage building which was moved from the lots next door to its present location east of the house.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 26/7/3

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1889 Builder/Architect Jacob Isanogle

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 expansion of residential development and construction of new houses held promise for the building trade artisans in Rockville in the late 1880s. Jacob Isanogle of Frederick County bought a double lot, built this house for himself and assisted on other contracts. Unfortunately Isanogle's fate too closely paralleled the West End Park experiment and collapse. Only this house and the one next door at 11 Laird Street are known examples of his work.¹

250 years after the West family patented land called "Two Brothers" (1719)² many of the deeds for the West End Park subdivision still contain the phrase, "subdivision of a tract generally known as the Julius West Farm." 18th and 19th century wills and deeds trace the descent of the West inheritance, the "home plantation" lying near the road to Monocacy west of Rockville. At the time of Julius West's death in 1859 he devised the land in trust to his wife and then to the benefit of the Rockville Academy.³ In 1886 the Academy trustees surveyed their bequest and rumors of development spread through the community, causing the Trustees to publicly deny their intention to sell the farm "... to a syndicate for laying out building lots".⁴ Nevertheless, they did sell over 200 acres between 1887-1889, most of it ending up as part of Henry Copp's development "West End".

Lots 9 & 10 of Section 1 were purchased for \$250 early in 1890 by Jacob Isanogle and his wife Florence; they came from Frederick County where the Isanogle family was centered. Isanogle's lots were approximately 50 X 200 feet each and fronted on Montgomery Avenue at the corner of Laird Street. Isanogle was a builder or carpenter who built his own house after getting a mortgage for \$1,200.⁵ The Tax Assessment valued his property at \$200 plus \$1,600 worth of improvements.

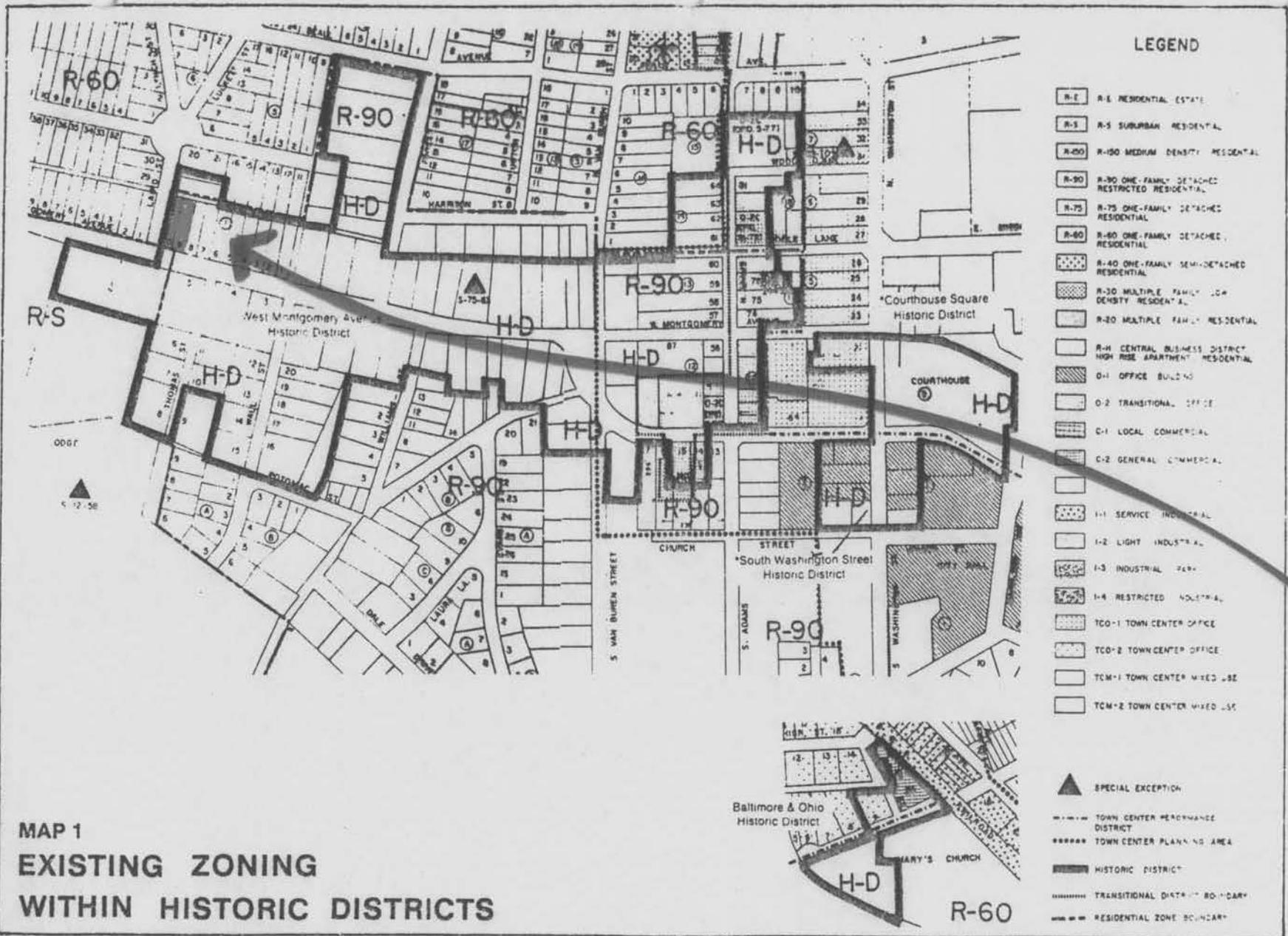
As it neared completion, the Isanogle house was pictured, in Copp's advertising brochures, Peerless Rockville. In this brochure he extolled the virtues of "West End Park" and showed examples of the types of homes being constructed and available to prospective investors and home-buyers. Later in 1890 Isanogle also built the house next door (#11 Laird Street) for William Richards, who owned the local brick yard. However, saturation of the new house market, coupled with

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the national financial panic of 1893 caused building to slow to a trickle. Copp was able to refinance his "West End Park", but Isanogle was not so lucky. He defaulted on his mortgage and the house was sold at public sale for \$2,015.⁶

George McCormick, who purchased the house, was married to one of the West family, Sarah West. They lived there until his death in 1907. At the time of the 1907 sale the property was advertised and described as "Nearly opposite entrance to Woodlawn Hotel...100 feet on Montgomery Avenue by 200 feet, with 2-story frame house of 8 rooms, bath and porches front and side".⁷ It was purchased by William E. Ward, and members of the Ward family lived here until 1957. During that time some alterations and additions to the house took place, but many of the original elements remain unaltered to the present. In 1971 current owners Robert and Shirley Braunberg purchased the house.

1. In the 1889 Estate Inventory of S. M. Lyddane, J. O. Isanogle is owed \$200 for some unspecified work. Lyddane was building three houses at the time of his death and T. C. Groomes or R. A. Clagett are listed as the contractors for these "contracts entered before death".
2. Hall of Records, Land Grants P.L. 4, p. 428
3. West family histories list several Prince George's and Montgomery County wills, including ones dated 1731, 1765 and 1778. Julius West's will at Liber JWS 1, folio 55
4. Montgomery County Sentinel, May 1887
5. Montgomery County Land Records, JA 19/98, mortgage to Evelina Poole at JA 18/310.
6. Op. Cit. JA 38/317 and Equity Case #1094
7. Montgomery County Advocate, June 14, 1907



**MAP 1
EXISTING ZONING
WITHIN HISTORIC DISTRICTS**

*Note: For discussion and planning purposes South Washington Street and the Courthouse Square district are considered independent Historic Districts even though they are shown on the existing zoning map as one district.

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 M: 26/7/3
 Braunberg House
 419 West Montgomery Ave.
 Rockville



RICHARD H. ANDREWS
1608 Farragut Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20851

M: 26/7/3 - BRAUNBERG HOUSE
419 W. Montgomery Ave.
SOUTH/SOUTHEAST ELEVATION
AUGUST, 1984

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